

This is a story about Barry. Barry is not an interesting person. If someone were to write a book about Barry's entire life no-one would buy it. This story is only about a single event in Barry's life. It is a very short story.

It's not worth giving you very much back story to Barry but I'll give you a little. Barry is 38 years old, he's fairly overweight, he lives with his loving parents and he does not have a job. However, yesterday Barry was accepted to take the training course with his city's bus transit company. If Barry passes this training course, he will be offered a job as a bus driver. This is the greatest thing that's ever happened to Barry.

Today Barry and his parents are planning a party for Barry. For an average person, getting a job is nice, but it's not worth having a big party and celebrating. Barry's parents are so excited about Barry getting a job that they can barely sleep at night. This party that they're planning is mostly for themselves but Barry doesn't know that.

"I think that probably two bags of Cheetos will be enough. I personally love Cheetos but I've found through my experiences that other people enjoy only a couple of Cheetos and then they move on to another snack. It would probably be best if instead of three bags of Cheetos we get only two bags and then we get maybe a bag of taco chips. What do you guys think? It's a BBQ right? So people will probably be into taco chips." Barry said to his parents who are standing on either side of him while Barry is sitting at the table working on a list of snacks for the party.

"That sounds good Barry. Usually we only have three bags of snack-items for our parties but I think that this party is special. We'll let you pick five bags if you want." Answered Barry's mom, while

smiling at her husband.

"Oh sweet. Five bags of snacks eh? What about ripple chips with a dip? Does that count as one or two snacks?" asked Barry.

OK. Jesus. I said that this story would be short. This family is insanely boring. Let's say that Barry and his parents successfully picked out all the snacks and the party has been planned. Let's fast-forward to the actual party now. Actually, let's fast-forward to about half an hour into the party. Barry has already finished half a bag of Cheetos.

"Who's ready for cake?" asked Barry's mother.

"Oh! I think we're all ready for some cake. What a good idea mother." Answered Barry, beaming with a false sense of pride.

"I'll go get it!" said Barry's mother as she walked into the house.

It was a gorgeous day and almost everyone who was invited showed up. The people who were at Barry's party were: Barry, Barry's father, Barry's mother, Barry's grandmother (his mother's mother) and Barry's aunt (his mother's sister). Everyone in Barry's father's family probably had better things to do so they weren't invited. Barry's uncle (his mother's brother) was invited but he said that he was too hung over.

The cake was huge. As Barry's mother opened the backdoor to come back outside she started to sing "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow". Barry was still beaming with pride. After the song was sung, Barry's father began to start a speech. Barry was excited.

“Hello everyone, I know that this is a big day for Barry, but I thought it would be the best time for me to make an announcement.” Barry’s father spoke slowly and Barry was not complaining. Although he was excited to have some cake, Barry wanted to enjoy every moment of this day.

“Since everyone is here, and I want to make sure that everyone hears it from my lips. Okay. I’m so sorry. I love everyone here so much. Okay. I. Okay. I’m gay. I’m so sorry.” Barry’s father quivered as he made this shocking announcement. The whole family stood still and quiet, they were having difficulty processing this surprising news. They were not at all ready for this. It was a terrible time for Barry’s father to come out of the closet.

“Linda, I’m going to be asking you for a divorce. I have most of my stuff packed. I’ll be staying at your brother’s tonight.” Barry’s father was not letting his wife down easy. Her brother had come out of the closet a few years ago. It was quite apparent that her husband and her brother were more than just fencing partners. She fell over but didn’t quite faint. She tried to get back up but she threw up in the grass. It was pretty gross.

“I hate you dad! You’ve ruined my party! How could you do this to me? How the fuck could you do this to me?” Barry stared at his dad and said each word sternly. He really embellished the word *fuck* because he didn’t swear very often and he felt this was an appropriate time.

Barry got up and threw the cake to the grass. I don’t envy whoever would be mowing the lawn next. It was a mess. Barry

stormed into the house and ran to his bedroom. He couldn’t remember the last time he cried so much.

Don’t get Barry’s family wrong, they’re not homophobic, but this was a devastating bit of news. Barry’s mother questioned if the whole marriage had been a lie and Barry was still concerned that his party’s focus had been moved away from him.

Barry ended up not going to the training course. He felt as though he should stay at home and take care of his mom and he mistakenly thought that his dad would be providing child support payments. Barry’s dad could be not happier. He felt as though he was finally free to be who he really was. A huge weight had been lifted from his chest.

That’s the whole story about an event in Barry’s life.

--Written By Eli Sesso