

THE GRADUATION

CAST: Professor D.D. Alcoholism
Mary Jane Maintenance
Buddy Weiser
Patty Powerful
Mr. Keepinit Complicated
Serena Humble

“Pomp and Circumstance” plays over sound system and the “Graduates”, all dressed in caps and Gowns file down the center aisle. They all take their places to one side of the podium, facing the Audience, as Mr. Alcoholism, the last in the procession, takes his place at the microphone.

Prof. DD.: Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am Professor D.D. Alcoholism, but let’s not be too formal, you can call me D.D., or as my friends call me, Dry Drunk.

And here tonight, at the College of Half Measures, we wish to welcome you all to our graduation ceremony. This is a special event for our class, and it is my pleasure to be awarding the diplomas tonight. I’m sure you are all aware of the amount of effort, manipulation and exhausting denial that is required to earn one of these diplomas; and I am truly proud of our graduates. Now, as I call your name, please step forward to receive your diploma.

(He picks up the first diploma, and reads the name) Mary Jane Maintenance.

(She steps forward as Prof. Al. unrolls the scroll and reads) Let it be known to all and sundry that Mary Jane Maintenance has taken HALF-STEPS whenever possible; and has reached this TURNING POINT completely on her own—without relying on ANYONE. Having sponsored herself, she stands apart from all those around her and is hereby awarded the very special degree of U.T. – UNIQUENESS TERMINOOSE.

(She accepts her diploma with a handshake, leans into the microphone with a giggle and says)

Mary Jane M. BITCHIN’ !!! (giggles again)

Prof. DD: Well said, young lady. And what are your plans after graduation?

Mary Jane M: Right back to bartendin', Professor! I sure am missing those big tips!(giggles)

Prof DD: Excellent! Another graduate rehabilitated into society. (She giggles and moves to new position on the other side of podium. Prof. Al picks up 2nd diploma, reads:) Mr. Buddy Weiser. (Buddy steps forward, Prof. Al. reads:) Mr. Buddy Weiser has steadfastly clung to his singleness of purpose, which is to Consistently search for an easier, softer way. And now, as a result, he is Hereby awarded the degree of M.C.I. –Master of the Constitutionall Incapable.

Buddy W. (takes his diploma, greets the audience) LET'S PAR—TEE!!!

Prof DD: Another success story, folks...(Gestures for Buddy to join Mary Jane, then Prof. Picks up next diploma, announces:) Miss Patty Powerful. (she steps forward) Our little Miss Patty Powerful has always been.....

Patty P. (interrupts) Hey Professor! (Grabs diploma) GIVE me that! (pushes Prof. Al. out of the way and speaks into mic.) I AM the VALEDICTORIAN, for cryin' out loud, so let's FORGO the reading of the diploma, OK? I'm in a damn big hurry, here! Listen, guys, I've READ all 12 of those steps, and seriously, there's NOTHIN' TO IT! I mean, COME ON!! " Admit this, admit that, forgive this, surrender that"... Of course, I never actually WORKED the steps, because I'm smarter than most, but I got the general idea... and now I'm ready to MOVE ON, baby...

Prof DD: Wonderful! And what's next for you, Patty Powerful

Patty P: Think I'll go professional – become a RECOVERY THEARAPIST. Could be some big bucks in that. But first I'll take a crack at re-writing this Big Book, I mean it's waaay long. Might call it "Patty's Petite Book." Something compact, you know,

and.....MANAGEABLE!! Something that will actually fit in your purse, you know what I'm sayin'? (she joins other grads)

Prof. DD.: Isn't she great, folks? Now, let's see, who's next? Ah, yes. Our next graduate is Mr.Keepinit Complicated, Who has asked to read his own diploma. (hands diploma to Mr. K.C.)

Mr. K.Complicated: (he reads very fast, but with excellent diction) Whereas the Party of the 1st part, Hereinafter called Mr. Keepinit Complicated, and the Party of the 2nd Part, hereinafter called Prof DD Alcoholism, have entered into an agreement in order to Party Hearty, and Therefore E. Pluribus Unum, and Yakity Yak, (don't talk back), it would be in the Best interest of our mutual equilibrium to confer upon the aforementioned Party Animal, Mr. Keepinit Complicated, the very high honor, (and I DO mean HIGH) and the Special distinction (and I DO mean stink) ... an advanced degree in: Supercalafragilisticexpialidocious. (he rolls up his diploma, takes a bow, joins grads)

Prof. DD.: And finally, (picks up last diploma) Miss Serena Humble. (she steps forward meekly) Miss Serena Humble has been honest, open-minded, and willing since coming to AA. (Other grads stifle giggles) She works the 12 steps with her sponsor, who is another Woman in recovery, and she attends AA meetings regularly. (other grads can't help but Laugh) Wait a second... this doesn't sound like someone who's ready to Graduate! (He continues to read)

She makes conscious contact with a God of her Understanding through Regular prayer and meditation. (grads roll their eyes and ad lib their impatience)

Oh, this is NOT GOOD! (reads) She has recently been seen trying to help other

alcoholics... ACHIEVE SOBRIETY!! (Grads gasp) This is very awkward. But there seems to be no evidence here that you are even CLOSE to graduating. Perhaps there is some mistake. Serena, have you learned NOTHING at the College of Half Measures?

Serena Humble: Well, I've learned that I actually know very little. I guess I'm a work in progress.

Prof DD: But what about GRADUATION?

Serena : Well, I'd like to keep LEARNING. There seems to be so much that I don't know yet.

Prof DD: What? Keep Learning? For how long?

Serena Humble: Oh, I don't know... maybe for another 20 or 30 years... (the graduates gasp) Maybe after a while I can tutor the underclassmen, you know? (starts to remove her cap and gown) I feel like I BELONG in AA, not in some quickie, half-measures college that tries to push me to "graduate" and just return to my former life and my former habits! As a matter of fact, I don't EVER want to graduate! (loud gasps and groans from grads.... Some actually faint)

Prof DD: This is highly irregular. And I should like to apologize to the assembled drunks and dignitaries for this unintentional embarrassment. Ahem! We hereby declare your diploma to be NULL and VOID, young lady! And ladies and gentlemen, this concludes our ceremony. GRADUATES: THE CLASS SONG!

(Graduates begin singing "99 Bottles of beer on the wall..." and march off , as Serena shakes Her head and with a smile, waves goodbye to the "graduates".

THE END