

PURPLE FINGERS

by John Judy

(Written for February 1st 2005 for "Big News.")

(Lights up on three Iraqis, JAMAL (a Sunni), HAMID (a Kurd), and MACHMOOD (a Shiite) at a food distribution center. MACHMOOD keeps his right hand in his pocket.)

JAMAL

Man, this election was bullshit.

HAMID

True dat, buddy-boy.

JAMAL

We Sunnis got fucked in ass.

MACHMOOD

I am really sorry about that, Jamal.

JAMAL

Oh thank-you so much, Machmood. You make it all better being sorry for poor Sunni me. Fuck your Shiite face.

HAMID

Hey, dude! Un-cool! Machmood is trying to be nice.

MACHMOOD

Yeah!

HAMID

Is not his fault he is future Shiite dictator.

MACHMOOD

Hey, Hamid, fuck you. You are not even Sunni. You are fucking No-Fly Zone hiding-in Kurd!

HAMID

Oh well, pardon me Machmood. I will just stand over here and breathe nerve gas with other fucking Kurds!

JAMAL

Dudes, chill out. Save shit for Uncle Sam, American, permanent base-building bastards, am I right?

HAMID

Word up, dawg.

MACHMOOD

I don't know, dudes. They got rid of Saddam and as Shiite I got to give the props, "whoop-whoop!"

JAMAL

Hello, dude? I am Sunni like Saddam and I didn't like him or his sons.

HAMID

You got funny way of showing it, dude.

MACHMOOD

Yeah, that is whole point: Nice job over-throwing him, Jamal.

JAMAL

Hey, why don't you both give hand-job to American Marine you like so much?

(A WOMAN enters in a burkah. The men are visibly uncomfortable.)

WOMAN

Is food distribution center open yet?

MACHMOOD

Yeah, I see sign in window says "open", see?

(MACHMOOD points, revealing the purple voters ink on his right index finger. WOMAN exits.)

HAMID

Whoa!

JAMAL

Son of bitch!

MACHMOOD

What?

JAMAL

What you mean "what?" You got ink on finger! You voted in bullshit election!

MACHMOOD
Maybe...

HAMID
What you mean "maybe" dude? You got purple ink!

JAMAL
Yeah, "maybe" you been finger-fucking American purple dinosaur....

HAMID
"Barney."

JAMAL
Yeah, "Barney" or maybe you vote with other collaborators!

HAMID
Man, we thought you were "down" with the homies, but you just another Shiite.

MACHMOOD
Oh yeah, I am big, bad Shiite! "Shiite have all the money! Shiite have all the power!" What, do I look like, Jew to you?

HAMID
Dude, we all look like Jew. We are Semitic people....

(Beat. MACHMOOD and JAMAL both look at HAMID.)

JAMAL
Oh no you did not! You did not say we are Jews!

HAMID
No, I just say we are distantly related...

JAMAL
I am going "medieval" on your ass!

MACHMOOD
Dude, we are already medieval!

JAMAL
I am going "Byzantine" on your ass!

(WOMAN returns.)

WOMAN

Thank-you for you help. You are nice men. I have food now.

(WOMAN exits.)

JAMAL

She was looking at me.

MACHMOOD

No way, dude, I told where food was.

HAMID

God damn it, I am pitching tent over here now.

MACHMOOD and JAMAL

Me too.

JAMAL

Huge tent....

MACHMOOD

Dude, you could fit camel in this tent I am pitching....

HAMID

No man, seriously: I'm pitching tent. Remember? Americans blew up my fucking house.

(BLACKOUT.)