

# BARBARA'S FART CREATES A FRACAS

JILL ROSENTHAL

TONY SALETAN

Lexington, Massachusetts

We read address, swerved, veered car at West Exeter Street; we were at Barbara's fete, as were Vera, Bert, Bart, Dave, Fred, Sara, Steve. Actress Barbara, a faded stage star, fretted re: fat, crafted decreased-fat fare. Barbara bragged extra grease was extracted--carved deer, zebra stew, beer bread, watercress, grated feta, brew, sweet dessert served were fat-free.

Fred was Barbara's ex. Fred states Barbara feared sex; Barbara swears Fred's fat, wears a bra. Steve was Barbara's date. We saw seat cards--Fred was seated at Steve's seat. We traded seats fast, averted a bad scare. After grace, we started. Fred craved fat, feared Barbara's excesses--Fred stated fat-free fare was garbage, begged Barbara cede

were served tea.

At tea, Fred's radar, ever aware, detected extravasated fart at Barbara's address. Traces festered, wafted at eaters--effect was, we were stressed--we sweated, waved scarves. Barbara's retarded cat, Rat-eater, was attracted. Rat-eater, a crass cat, defecated; act added feces (cat caca). Steve feared Barbara's cat was crazed, swatted at cat. Barbara grew scared revered beast was stressed; Barbara caressed cat, freed cat.

Barbara stated bad gas was Steve's; brave Sara was aware, dared attest fact Barbara excreted fart. Fred tested fart, averred t'was Barbara's. We stared, awed. Barbara was vexed. Aggravated, Barbara grabbed Sara's tresses, grabbed dagger, stabbed Sara, severed Sara's carcass's ears, grazed Fred's beard. Fred's face was scarred. Sara's sweater was red, Sara's dress redder--Sara was dead--wasted! Dave's career was as a Fed; Dave arrested Barbara--Fred's arse was saved. After severe fracas ceased, we retreated, sad at dear, sweet, dead Sara's fate.

At Red Sea, as waves crested, receded, we excavated a vast crater as Sara's grave. We set asters, seeded trees; we watered grass, we weeded. We rested. We were affected; faces were wet as tears cascaded. We drew straws; Fred was awarded Barbara's cat. Barbara bartered, was freed after a few tests stated aged actress was crazed. We faxed Fred "We are screwed--Barbara rages, wages war--better beware!" Et cetera...