

Le grand garçon



“Good evening, and welcome to Chez Robert’s *le grand garçon*. My name is Muffy and I will be your server this evening. May I show you our wine list?” Buzz glanced at his date. “Well, see, we was just comin’ in for a cheeseburger, wasn’t we Nance? And maybe a root beer. But ...” He shrugged. “Oh, what the heck. Whatcha got on tap?” Muffy paused to crack her gum. “We have a very nice Bordeaux, a 1787 Château Lafite. Goes real swell with the meat loaf. Also a nice white, a 1948 Montrachet from Domaine de la Romanée-Conti. I recommend that if you’re having our Tuna Noodle Dandy or the Fishwich. And my personal favorite, the Château Mouton-Rothschild 1945. Comes in a four-liter jeroboam shaped like a pancreas but we serve it in sparkly blue plastic tumblers with Chez Robert’s jerky-flavored swizzle sticks.” She lowered her voice conspiratorially. “Tastes a little like chicken, if you wanna know the truth.” Buzz sighed. He didn’t want Nancy to know that all those fancy wine words went right over his head. “Hey, Buzz,” piped up his buddy Eugene from the big white Packard. “No matter what she says, stay away from the ’51 Château Haut Brion Pessac-Léognan. Yecch, I thought I was drinkin’ Pledge!” Muffy bristled. “I told you, Eugene, *not* to have it with the cole slaw. But you wouldn’t listen, oh no! You ...” “Excuse me,” interrupted Nancy, “but I really had my heart set on a merlot. How ’bout that Petrus Pomerol I’ve heard so much about? I hear it’s extremely fruity, with suggestions of berries, vanilla, brie and oak. And that finish!” She smacked her lips. “Oh, it’s really something to wait for as it caresses the palate! Especially with *le grand garçon*’s great onion rings!” Buzz gaped at Nancy, then recovered. “Sure, that’s what we’ll have,” he said importantly. “And bring us two straws, please.” As Nancy demurely sipped her wine, savoring its power from the rich soil on which the grapes grew, Buzz absent-mindedly blew bubbles through his straw. It didn’t bode well for the relationship.