

The Translating Parakeet
PARAKEET, WALTZ, SUMATRA

an original effing scene
by
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FADE IN:

EXT. HOTEL BAR - AFTERNOON

An open-air bar in the fishing village of Pulo Ache Island, off the Northern tip of Sumatra.

A DOZEN LOCALS gather around a TV at one end, mesmerized by a couple performing the waltz on Dancing With the Stars.

An Alexandrine Parakeet sits on a wooden perch at the opposite end of the bar.

Anthony (40) a snobbish Englishman, walks up to the bar.

The BARTENDER quickly glances at Anthony but ignores him.

ANTHONY

Excuse me sir, at what time does the
ferry for the main island depart?

The Bartender motions for Anthony to wait a minute.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Don't you understand English?

Annoyed, the Bartender turns to the Parakeet.

BARTENDER

(in Minangaban)

Tell him to wait until this is over.

ANTHONY

I'm sorry, I don't speak...

PARAKEET

(in perfect English)

He asks if would you please wait
until the program has ended.

Wide-eyed and scared Anthony slowly turns to the parakeet.

ANTHONY

Did you say something?

PARAKEET

Yes, would you care for a beverage
while you wait for the ferry.

ANTHONY

Oh my, a translating parakeet.

Anthony faints.

PARAKEET

Tourists.