

Eating Oranges in the Shower 🍊

A remix of The Bathhouse. With the blessing of its wonderful author, Rei England.

The Bathhouse was a tale of queerness, gods and the intimacy of taking a bath together.

Eating Oranges in the Shower 🍊 is about the queer joy that can be found in online communities and the connections that can be found in stories on those platforms. Players will begin with their characters bonding the way they know best - debating recent reddit posts. In the middle of the game, players will go off and take a shower - during which they will eat an orange. They will then return and talk about how they found the experience.

For this larp you will need:

- The ability to take a shower or to feel running water over yourself.
- An orange, one that you can open using your hands and/or teeth.
- A platform for text communication like a WhatsApp chat, a forum or a discord server that allows a group chat and individual side chats.

What is this larp about?

r/ShowerOrange was a subreddit dedicated to the practice of eating oranges in the shower. There was meant to be something emotional about the practice - feeling the juices run down you at the same time the water ran down over you. Washing away the stickiness. It became a health trend, a meditation tool, some weird perversion and it is still to this day having articles written about its benefits.

Online communities have always been really important to me, as they are to many queer people. When everything is awful IRL, they are a space where you can define who you are, meet people who feel similarly. Though they are often awful in their own right, it is so powerful to find your people. The players in this game are a group of friends who have met over an online community they will define. At first they just mingled about on a more open forum but eventually they made a private space just for themselves. Today, they are going to end up bonding over r/ShowerOrange.

On page 2, you will find information about game setup and character creation.

On page 3, you will find information about Act 1, where you meet, share internet ephemera with one another and get to debate the latest reddit stories that you've found recently.

On page 4, you will find out information about The Shower and the wrap-up conversations.

Page 5-7 contain sample reddit stories and characters.

Setup

One player, potentially the person initiating this game, should act as the Facilitator. Their role is to make sure the game progresses through the steps in this setup.

Gather the nerds: First, gather some friends who can be available together for around 2-3 hours. There is no lower or upper limit to this though in my experience, 4-8 are the best number for an online larp. I recommend doodle poll to facilitate this. Decide on the platform you'll use for text communication. You can also opt to use a voice call to calibrate at the start of the game. Once you've started the session, briefly explain the concept of the game and how it will go down. Ask everyone to find a GIF or sticker that represents their day and post it in the chat. That's the sign that everyone's ready to begin.

Safety Tools - On page 5, you will find reddit stories that are used to frame some of the discussion within this game. They come with certain content warnings. Paste the list of content warnings in the chat. Everyone has a chance to veto any of those themes and the stories they apply to. Participants can also add other topics that they do not wish to discuss. This doesn't need to be a trigger or a phobia but maybe a participant doesn't want to talk about family drama or a breakup that day. That is totally fine.

- If, during play, a player touches on a topic that someone wants to remove from game or is in the veto'd themes list they can type **[SCRUB]** to take it out. They can also specify such as **[SCRUB - chat of ducks]**

Define your group - Your group has moved from a public forum to a more private space. Talk together to decide what your common interest is or what the forum was about.

Define your character. You will next take the opportunity to choose and introduce your various characters. You can either pick one of the characters on page 7 or create your own in the structure Name/Pronouns/What brings this character joy. Take some time to introduce them as you might do if you'd just hopped into a Discord server and were rocking up to the **#introductions** channel. Proceed when everyone has done this.

Relationships - You should take 5-10 minutes to define a relationship with at least two other people. Look to the participant list of your chat. You will be forging relationships with the person above you and below you in that list. If you are the top of the list, this will be with the person at the bottom of the list and if you are at the bottom, it will be with the person at the top of the list.

Chat Lingo - There's certain chat lingo that you all use. "Brb" is be right back and indicates that someone is stepping away from the game space. Including something in square brackets [LIKE THIS] indicate that something is out of character and can be used to calibrate, make silly side-jokes or anything generally out of character. Feel free to define any important chat lingo your group uses.

The next page will tell you about initiating the group chat.

Act 1 - The Group Chat

Act 1 comes in two parts. **Saw this and thought of you!** is about players engaging their individual relationships in small conversations. Characters will send memes, GIFS or articles to their relationships and have an initial chat. During **You All Need To See This**, the Facilitator will pick a reddit story from page 5 (styled around r/AITA or r/relationships) and paste it in the group chat and everyone will share some thoughts on the story. The Act will end when someone posts about this new subreddit they've found **r/ShowerOrange**.

The Facilitator should make sure they choose the reddit story before they begin in line with the vetoed topics discussed within the setup.

When everyone is clear and happy to begin, they should paste a GIF or sticker of something orange in the chat.

Saw this and thought of you! [10 mins] - Thinking back to the relationships you defined at the start of the game, find a GIF, meme or internet curiosity and send it in a private chat to the relevant character. You can then chat with that character or find more internet ephemera to send one another. If anyone finds something PARTICULARLY cool, they can also post it in the group chat and talk there as well.

You all need to see this [20-30 minutes] - After 10 minutes, the **Facilitator** should then pick one of the stories on page 5 and post it in the chat with a statement such as "hey folks, look what I found". Everyone should read this story and share some thoughts on it. They are welcome to still talk to their individual relationships but should all make sure to make at least some comments on the story and what they think about it.

r/ShowerOrange [10 minutes]

Once conversation has died down, or 30-40 minutes has passed since the start of the game, the **Facilitator** will post the following story (that they are welcome to rewrite).

"please don't talk to me until you've eaten a whole orange in the shower"

Okay, so this is going to sound real weird but bear with me. I heard about this thing on reddit and I was a bit like no that's weird but I got a whole massive box of tangerines yesterday and had to try it out. So, I took the orange into the shower and just fully ripped my teeth into it. You can feel like the juices of the orange but with the soothing warm water. It's literally changed my life. Liberating, gentle, citrussy"

Players should read through the story and once more talk about it and react to it. They can have initial reactions to it however they like but they should eventually come to the conclusion that they are all going to give it a go and report back.

Everyone should write some variant of "brb" then proceed to the next stage.

Act 2 - The Shower

Each player will now go off and take their shower. Remember to take your orange - a type that can be easily opened in the shower. If it's hard to open, that's no bother. Just imagine that's a mistake your character made.

Everyone takes different amounts of time to have a shower and for some, showering is harder than others. This act will last up to 60 minutes but you can opt for a shorter amount of time if you need it. Being so intimately close to your physical body during what is an essentially an online experience will feel strange and you can either lean into that or just treat it as an intermission for the game. The purpose of this act is to have a shared experience despite your distance and give you some time to reflect.

Here are some prompts you can think of during this time.

- How does this feel? Do you feel anything or is it just eating an orange and being wet? Would any other type of fruit feel better or worse?
- What is so refreshing about your relationships?
- Why is this group so special and what does it mean to you?

When everyone is ready to resume, they should paste an orange GIF in the chat.

Act 3 - Sharing your experience

Once everyone has indicated that they are ready to resume play, they should write their reflections in the chat. What did the experience feel like? Would you do it again? Did you have any great revelations or epiphanies in the shower? This is also a good opportunity to chat to the people you have individual relationships. What have you realised about yourself? How have things changed?

Continue having these discussions, sharing internet ephemera and reflecting. This section should last around 15 minutes but you are welcome to extend it. Once you have finished, find a way to write in the chat that you are logging off. Maybe it's time for bed or time for work. Either way, you're finishing up.

Debrief

Start a separate chat called debrief. Not everyone enjoys a debrief and that's fine. This is a chat to travel between our character and our player. Everyone can reflect on the following questions.

- What brought your character joy?
- What brings your player joy?
- What in the game was wonderful, strange or will stick with you?

Reddit stories

The first set of these stories were written by the author. The second set are real stories from Reddit. There is nothing stopping you from finding or writing new stories as long as the content can be calibrated with others.

List of content topics: *family, health, disbelieving health problems, coming out stories, financial woes, relationship drama, babies, breastfeeding, inappropriate workplace things, animals (not in danger).*

Stories by game author

AITA for telling my sister-in-law not to attend my wedding, after she says she caught rabies.

So, it's my wedding this weekend. Last weekend, I had a hen do and invited my sister-in-law [21F]. It was a great day, I don't drink much but we had a spa day and went out for a big meal. I paid a lot of money for the spa day and so was upset when I got a text from my SIL saying that she was in the hospital after a raccoon bit her and she caught rabies. I'm pretty sure this can't be true and that she just lied to get out of it. However, I definitely don't want her coming to my wedding this weekend if she does have rabies so I told her she shouldn't come. Now my fiancée's family is upset at me for telling her she couldn't come. AITA?

Content - *family, health, disbelieving health problems.*

AITA for not sharing my lottery winnings with my brother who brought me a lottery ticket for my birthday

I recently came out to my brother. We come from quite a religious family and we're both estranged from the rest of our family so I've always been super close to him but that didn't stop it being scary telling. Obviously, I had nothing to worry about - he was super happy for me and the next day he got me a bunch of gifts including some rainbow socks and a lottery ticket with a note that read "I'm really lucky to have you as my brother". Well, it was lucky because I won £12,000! I used the money to pay off a bunch of debts as well as get a new laptop as mine is broken. However, when I told him, he seemed kind of sad and sort of asked if I'd thought to share any of that money with him. Now I feel bad. AITA?

Content: Coming out stories, family drama, financial woes.

AITA for asking my friends to help me have a surprise party for my cat

I love my cat, Alan, so much. He's a ginger cat with silly chubby cheeks and absolutely zero paw-eye coordination. He turned 10 years old today and I wanted to make it special so I asked my friends to come help me prep a surprise party. I know they love Alan too so I asked them if some of them could bring party hats/confetti/some cake. I thought the party went really well and Alan had no clue what was happening but it was great. However, one of

my friends texted me in the morning saying I should have never asked for her to contribute to a surprise party for a cat. AITA for asking?

Content: Animals (not in danger)

Stories from Reddit

AITA for asking my coworker what would happen if I drank her breastmilk →

https://www.reddit.com/r/AmltheAsshole/comments/1771bhe/aita_for_asking_my_coworker_what_would_happen_if/

Content - babies, breastfeeding, inappropriate workplace things

AITA for refusing to propose to my boyfriend →

https://old.reddit.com/r/BestofRedditorUpdates/comments/1700bb1/aita_for_refusing_to_propose_to_my_boyfriend_the/

Content - Relationships

AITA for refusing to share my family recipe with someone I don't consider family →

https://www.reddit.com/r/AmltheAsshole/comments/1770z8p/aita_for_not_sharing_a_family_recipe_with_someone/

Content - Family, relationships

AITA for calling people LARPer →

https://www.reddit.com/r/AmltheAsshole/comments/176r27x/aita_for_calling_people_larpers/

Characters

Choose a character prompt from and then fill them out further. You should give them pronouns but you may want to build them out with more interests, fears, identities.

Alice - finds joy in watching POV videos of parkour and other dangerous things. Loves the freedom and exhilaration of discovering their true self.

Bilal - finds joy in the warm feeling of seeing wholesome things on the internet. Animals, love stories, mushy stuff like that. Loves feeling like they are accepted and can share their love as they see fit.

Connor - finds joy in feeling like they make a difference by fighting the good fight on the internet. Knows that in a shit world, sometimes you can change things in your small circle.

Dmitry - finds joy in quiet reading, in losing themselves in a cool story. You never know true immersion like holding a book feeling like you are in that world. Without expectations of how you need to act and what you need to do, you can be anything.

Esme - finds joy in partying, in losing themselves in the noise. Identity is a creation and it's wonderful to be able to create.

Felix - finds joy in art, in drawing, doodling and creating. Loves the feeling of doing silly things with friends. You can always share the joys in life.

Ghost - finds joy in solving little puzzles. It's a wonderful thing trying to find the answer, even if the process is incredibly messy. Especially if it is messy.

Halima - finds joy in gathering, in bringing people together through happenings, occurrences, parties and events. Loves helping people realise who they could be.

Other names: Inge, Josef, Koharu, Leonardo, Musa, Nova, Oskar, Priyanka, Qi, Raya, Samuel, Tuesday, Ubah, Vicente, William, Xena, Young, Zachary.