

1,000 Oysters
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CAST: 2 (1 female, 1 male)

Virginia: female; 20's; an oyster eater looking for a pearl

Porter: male; 20's; a reporter looking for a story

PLACE: Chesapeake Bay, Virginia (Can be played with)

TIME: "Oyster eating" months – so any month with an "r" in it

SYNOPSIS: If you eat 1,000 oysters, you should find one pearl. That's what they say. We'll see.

TAGS: Virginia, oysters, pearls, Chesapeake Bay

(Lights up on Virginia in some sort of oyster shack – eating oysters of course. She is being interviewed by Porter, a reporter. She is shucking oyster like a pro and slurping them down.)

PORTER

How long have you been doing this?

VIRGINIA

Five years.

PORTER

And you still expect to find a pearl.

VIRGINIA

They say that you need to eat 1,000 oysters to find a pearl.

PORTER

That could get expensive.

VIRGINIA

Sometimes I go hunting for them on my own. There's a ton waiting for you by the sea. Just sunning themselves in the sand not knowing they're a sitting tasty treat. Those are really briny. Love those suckers. The Lower Bay has a nice savory finish. But my favorite might be the Upper Bay. They are so creamy and buttery – melty goodness. Of course the Tidewaters are pretty remarkable. They're very salty and then somehow turn to sweet as you swallow.

PORTER

Virginia ... might if I call you Ginny?

VIRGINIA

Yes.

PORTER

So, Virginia – why don't you just buy some pearls. It's more cost-effective than downing 1,000 oysters.

VIRGINIA

Where's the thrill in that? I want to get my pearls the old-fashioned way. I want to slurp for them! I'm working on number 999. Here we go.

(SHE shucks an oyster.)

Nope. Oh well. Down the hatch.

(SHE eats it.)

And 1,000

PORTER

This is it folks. Get ready for the close-up!

(VIRGINIA opens her 1,000th oyster.)

VIRGINIA

And ... nothing. Oh well. I disproved that theory. Probably made up by some fisherman who wanted to sell 1,000 oysters every day. And I'm done. You can have my leftovers. I need a juicy steak ... any thick, red, artery-clogging beef cut will do.

PORTER

Is there anything you want to tell the folks at home?

VIRGINIA

Eat oysters – not for the pearls but your bone density will be at an all-time high. Plus, you get to be a slobbering mess for a while. And that's all anyone really wants, right? To dig in the sand and slurp down your food!

PORTER

(Shucking an oyster.)

Well, whaddya know? Maybe the world is my oyster after all. I hate oysters. Want it?

VIRGINIA

It's cracked. Leave the pearl, take the oyster.

(VIRGINIA exits. Lights fade.)

END OF PLAY

