

BRIDGE OF SIGHS
The Jack Dandy Origin Story

Written by
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Based on a True Story

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1 INT/EXT. ITALIAN VILLA, VENICE ITALY DAY 1

(Music: Bridge of Sighs- Robin Trower)
Title screen: Venice, Italy 1755

DISSOLVE TO:

GIACOMO CASANOVA

Giacomo Casanova 30-35, GREAT SHAPE, is seen partially clothed, in the company of a beautiful woman, hastily gathering his clothes, kissing her bare breast in regretful good-bye, stealthily departing as an angry husband hunts him through the Villa.

JACK DANDY(V.O.)(O.S.)

It seems throughout history; every era has its own scoundrels.

Men, and some women for that matter, that just play better by their own rules.

Take our friend here, Giacomo Casanova...

He lived life on his own terms. Like us, he was born on a certain day, during a certain month, in a certain year. This was his Time.

He walked his city streets... just like we do. He had a family, one with issues and expectations just like ours do.

He also made several questionable decisions in his life, just like we all will.

But he was determined to control his own fate, and follow perhaps, the unconventional path of his own choosing.

CUT TO:

1A EXT. VENICE PONTE DEI SOSPIRI BRIDGE - DAY**1A**

(Music: Bridge of Sighs- Robin Trower)

We see Casanova disheveled, dirty, shackled, being prodded by armed guards.

He is marched over the "Ponte dei Sospiri", also known as the Bridge of Sighs.

This connects the New Prison (Prigioni Nuove) to the interrogation rooms in the Doge's Palace.

The view from the Bridge of Sighs is the last view of Venice that convicts see before their imprisonment and judgement.

As the guard detail waits for the gates to open, Casanova takes in his last view of freedom.

JACK DANDY(V.O)

Being a coward, I admire Casanova's courageous ways! He knew there were consequences to his choices, his lifestyle and a penance to be paid to those with power.

Standing on that Bridge, faced with losing his freedom, what must he have thought?

He knew that lost time is never found again. Did he have regrets?

How did he measure or value his Lifetime?

Was it based on memories he held from his past?

Or perhaps heaped upon the hopes, dreams, and plans for his future?

I like to think he spent his time if not wisely, at least not wastefully.

Spending his time as an Author, Lover, Gambler, Conman, Soldier, Poet, Spy, Banker among many other endeavors.

That he filled his life to overflowing.

Casanova died in 1798.

(MORE)

JACK DANDY(V.O) (cont'd)

Yet over two hundred years later, it is still a compliment in some circles, to be called a CASANOVA!

Like him, we all are very busy writing the story of our lives with every breath we take, and every move we make.

Though my life is quite different than Casanova's, and I live in a different time and a different city, it is also oh so similar.

But make no mistake, I am not a great man. I'm not an honest man, a charitable man, nor I submit, do I have the character or reputation I would encourage someone to emulate.

I'm just one trying to find my way through life. Hoping to come out on top and do more good than harm, which isn't always easy.

My name is John... but you can call me Jack...

Trust me. No one will remember my name in 200 years.

DISSOLVE TO:

2 INT/EXT. LAMB'S CLUBHOUSE, NYC 1906 - DAY 2

(Music: Born Under a Bad Sign- William Bell)
Title screen- New York City 1906

The Lambs Club is America's first professional theatrical club, organized in 1874 by a group of actors and theatre enthusiasts who met at the original Delmonico's Blue Room on 14th Street for dinner and conversation. They took their name from a similar group, the Lambs Club of London, which flourished from 1869-1879 and met earlier in the 19th century at the house of Charles Lamb, the drama critic and essayist. In its early years, the Lambs occupied a series of rented quarters, and were for many years at 70 West 36th Street.

Like all self-respecting clubs, The Lambs has its traditions. No woman may ever brighten its doors. No dramatic critic may ever become a member. Every rector of Manhattan's Church of the Transfiguration ("Little Church Around the Corner") is made an honorary member, recalling the time when an actor was denied a funeral by a snooty rector of a Fifth Avenue church, who loftily suggested they "try the little church around the corner." Ever since, the "little church" has enjoyed most of The Lambs' (and the theatre's) nuptial and funeral trade.

In 1888, the club began producing what they called "gambols" to which outsiders (with the exception of women) were invited. In 1898, the gambol went on a one-week tour to eight cities, raising \$67,000 for charity. Thereafter, at the close of the theatrical season, the club made a tour of the principal cities with gambols made up of the parts of various plays in which its principals have appeared. Historically, The Lambs has been the spawning ground of plays, friendships and partnerships.

In 1903 the Lambs Club purchased lots at 128 and 130 West 44th Street. The commission for a new clubhouse went to the firm McKim, Mead & White (all three principals were members), with Stanford White serving as architect. White designed a six-story, neo-Georgian building in brick, marble and terra cotta, with a facade ornamented with six rams' heads and two rams' profiles. On the first floor were the lobby with a bank of telephones, a grill room and billiard room; on the second floor was a banquet hall; and on the third floor a small theater. The top floors provided space for offices and sleeping quarters for members. The Lambs' clubhouse was built from 1904-05 and opened in 1905. It was THE place to see and by seen; by all theatrical personage.

Jack Dandy, mid 20's handsome, fit, is seated in a booth at the grill room, immaculately dressed, impeccably groomed.

Jack smokes after eating lunch, plates still on the table, he opens his mail with a pearl handle letter opener.

Finished, Jack gathers up his hat, pockets a beautiful green/gold large glass marble, reaches for his exquisite ebony walking stick and other personal items, then moves through the club, and exits out onto the city streets.

Confident and cocky, he walks down the street, nodding his acknowledgement to folks as he passes by. He checks himself in a storefront window and adjusts his tie-pin... in anticipation of his next opportunity to make a first impression.

JACK DANDY (V.O.)

A better man than me once said "I've been influenced by many but defined by none".

We only get one spin of life's wheel, and nobody knows how long it will go, how good it will be, or if anyone will even bear witness to us having walked on this Earth after we've passed.

Jack turns to enter the Hotel Rector. Four police officers step out of hiding, take him into custody.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Are you John Wilmer Martine?

JACK DANDY

(Struggling)

Well, most people call me Jack... or Martine.

POLICE OFFICER 1

You are coming with us. You are under arrest for theft.

A crowd of passer-byes begins to form, guests from the Hotel crowd their way outside.

POLICE OFFICER 2

All right.... everybody keep back! Nothing to see here. Back I say!

JACK DANDY

(Jack desperately trying to break free)

Whoa ! Whoa! WAIT! I can explain!!

Police officers man-handle Jack off the sidewalk, down the steps, into the alley and load him into the waiting paddy wagon.

POLICE OFFICER 3

I bet you can my friend! But it won't be today! Tell the Judge when you see him!

POLICE OFFICER 4

Assists in arrest.

Across the street standing in the shadows of a building watching the pinch go down, is Milo Myers, late 20's/early 30's, roguish in dress, unshaven, fidgeting with a toothpick in his mouth.

MILO MYERS
 (Smirk on his face,
 mumbling to himself)
 I told you boy, that first time we
 met. You don't want any of this!

Milo turns and walks off into the city

DISSOLVE TO:

3 EXT. BALTIMORE CITY STREETS 1888 - DAY 3

Title Screen: 15 years earlier, Baltimore MD

JACK DANDY V.O FLASHBACK
 There was nothing special about my
 childhood. I was the youngest of
 four. One older brother and two older
 sisters.

My parents were German immigrants,
 they came over in '67 from Saxony.
 They worked hard, but never seemed to
 get ahead.

Papa was a pretty good shoemaker,
 until he died. Mama managed the four
 of us all alone.

Image of teenage girl, BERTHA cleaning shack/house

JACK DANDY (CONT)
 Bertha, 16, was the oldest.

Mama leaned on her to help raise us.
 She always seemed angry, never happy.
 Strict too!!

Image of teenage boy, hustling through the crowded streets,
 bobbing & weaving, on the run... wearing a mischievous grin,
 occasionally glancing back at the way he had come.

JACK DANDY
 Freddie, 13 years old, is my big
 brother.

He was always smiling.
 (MORE)

JACK DANDY (cont'd)
 Forever coming up with a plan, a
 schemer that one! You ever needed
 him, he was right there for you!
 Saved my bacon a few times.

Image of young girl, holding her Mama's hand in the General
 Store, quiet, inquisitive, sucking a rock candy swizzle
 stick.

Next is IDA, eleven, dainty and
 petite.

Cute as a button. Mama's little girl.
 A curious girl that always had a
 1,000 questions.

And then there was me, nine-year-old
 Jack.... I was a loner.

Image of Jack as a child, wandering the city streets

Kept myself entertained for the most
 part. Though I always seemed to find
 my way into and out of trouble!

I came and went as I pleased; if I
 showed up at mealtime, no one really
 noticed my passing.

I spent my time watching the city and
 the people in it.

Observing life on the streets, trying
 to figure out the score.

3A EXT. BALTIMORE ALLEYWAY - DAY 3A

Group of young 5-10yo boys, poor, immigrants, playing
 marbles in alley. Dirty, loud, foul-mouthed, arguing.

An older boy, Jack's older brother FREDDIE, tall, wiry,
 pants held up by suspenders turns the corner, running down
 the street towards the group of boys.

FREDDIE
 (Out of breath, heavy
 German accent)
 JACK! JACK! Come quick!! We must go
 home, NOW!

JACK DANDY
 Freddie, slow down. What's going on?

JACK looks up at his older brother, looks back down at the game, places his green/gold glass shooter marble.

Jack aims, takes his shot at the marbles laid out in the dirt. He knocks his opponents marble out of the circle winning the contest.

He retrieves his "shooter" marble and snatches up the tin can holding some change and stands up.

FREDDIE
(Upset, scared)
It's Mutti!!

4 EXT. CEMETARY GRAVESIDE - DAY 4

(Music: See That My Grave is Well Kept- Colin James)

A crowd of mourners is silhouetted in the distance, slowly walking into a cemetery, following a black hearse being pulled by two white horses.

4A EXT. CEMETARY GRAVESIDE - DAY 4A

We see Jack & Freddie, and his two sisters: Bertha & Ida among the group of mourners, standing, dressed in black, surrounding an open grave.

As the coffin is lowered, Last Rites are given. POV shifts to the grave bottom looking up as dirt comes tumbling down.

5 INT. FAMILY COTTAGE, BALTIMORE - SAME AFTERNOON 5

Solemn and somber feel. The living room is dark, shades drawn, candles burning. Several adults converse in small groups, in GERMAN and ENGLISH.

Food items are seen on table, a sense of doom prevails. Words like KINDER, KEIN GELD, KEINE FAMILIE are heard. It is a WAKE for their mother.

BERTHA
(Dressed in black)

Bertha enters from kitchen, carrying food dishes to the table. Women in the room follow her with their eyes.

She avoids their gaze, hurriedly exits through the front door.

6 EXT. RAUSCHENBACH DOOR STOOP - DAY 6

Three children, Freddie(13), Ida(11), and Jack(9) are sitting together, consoling each other.

They look up as Bertha comes out the door.

She sits down with them, and all the children huddle closer to each other.

IDA is blonde, pigtails. Tear stains are visible, crying.

IDA

Bertha! What do they say? What will they do? What will happen to us?

First Papa died, and now Mutti! We are all alone now.

BERTHA

I don't know. They don't know. There is very little money.

There is talk of sending me to Virginia to stay with some family.

They are inquiring into the German Orphanage, for you three, here in Baltimore.

I know it feels like life is unfair, but where we start in this life does not matter.

It is up to each of us, to choose what we make with our life.

FREDDIE

Virginia!! They can't break us apart, can they? Why can't we stay here in the house?

BERTHA

Freddie, there is no money. After Papa died, Mutti struggled to make ends meet.

IDA

I have seen that Orphanage.... it is creepy, I don't want to live there!

JACK DANDY

Don't worry Ida. I will take care of
you

Inside Jack is confused, scared and feels alone and abandoned with the death of his parents. Outside he dons his familiar personality, a mask of confidence, bravado, with a dash of the devil may care, but I don't attitude.

He hopes he can continue his bluffing ways, knowing that he has always been able to wiggle his way out of trouble.

Uncertainty creeps in slowly. Jack for the first time considers his future. What will become of him?

7 EXT. STREETS OF BALTIMORE - SUNRISE 7

(Music: Link of Chain- Chris Smithers)

A carriage rolls through the city streets, led by the same two white horses, carrying Freddie, Ida, & Jack.

Older sister BERTHA is notably absent.

It pulls into a large circular drive. Rising in the distance is a HUGE Victorian mansion... to a child, it looks like something out of a nightmare.

The German Protestant Orphan Association of the City of Baltimore, Maryland, was organized in 1863 to establish and manage the German Protestant Orphan Asylum, a facility for children of German descent orphaned by the Civil War. Three years later, both the association and the orphanage underwent name changes to the General German Orphan Association and the General German Orphan Asylum, respectively. In 1874, the orphanage relocated – for the second time – to a large building on Aisquith Street where it became a landmark in East Baltimore for the next fifty years.

The children reach for each other, huddled and holding hands. Jack pulls his shooter marble from his pocket, rolling it in his hand to calm himself.

As the carriage approaches, the Orphanage/Mansion doors open and the staff walk out, lining the steps, awaiting their new charges.

Last to exit are FRAU WEISS short, frumpy, dower, followed by HEADMASTER SCHMIDT, tall, mustached, and stern.

8 INT. GERMAN ORPHAN ASYLUM, AISQUITH STREET - DAY 8

The Rauschenbach children are lined up, old to young, behind their suitcases, in the Hallway outside Headmaster's office.

Orderly chaos revolves around them as other children & staff scurry about their daily activities.

Headmaster & Frau Weiss inspect the children.

HEADMASTER

Everyone here understands the loss you have suffered.

The pain and emptiness you are feeling.

But rest assured, though we can never replace your family, we can and will provide you with a safe home and an education.

Ida fidgets, Freddie rolls his eyes slyly, Jack locks eyes with the headmaster, following him as he walks.

HEADMASTER

You will have a daily schedule to follow, meals, chores.

Classes to attend and optional sporting & leisure pursuits to round out your development.

Frau Weiss will show you to your rooms, assign you your schedules, and see you are well taken care of.

Any questions?

JACK DANDY

How old do I have to be to leave here?

Frau Weiss leads the children to their rooms

9 INT. IDA'S BEDROOM AT ORPHANAGE - LATER THAT NIGHT 9

(Music: Are you alright- Lucinda Williams)

Ida is unpacking, crying.

She retrieves a family photo that includes her big sister. She stops and sits on her bed.

IDA
(to herself)
Ooooooh Bertha! Where are you? How
are you? Why did they send you away
from us?

POV shifts, finds Freddie & Jack standing at the doorway to
their Boy's dormitory.

Uncertainty and despair on their faces.

CUT TO

9A EXT. SOMEWHERE IN VIRGINIA - SAME DAY 9A

Bertha is seen stepping down out of a carriage.

The driver dismounts and unloads her tiny suitcase.

Bertha scans her new home, filled with despair at the old
rundown farmhouse.

10 INT. ORPHANAGE - NEXT MORNING 10

Ida is seen in the middle of a crowd, being bullied by an
older boy.

He is making fun of her name.

BULLY
Rauschenbach? What a stupid name!!!
Ha ha! Sounds like "Washmyback"!

Do you want to wash my back little
girl?

Ida breaks out of the circle, runs up the stairs, and into
Freddie & Jack, who listen to her tale and try to console
her.

11 INT. ORPHANAGE BOYS DORMITORY - AFTER MIDNITE 11

Two dark figures, which resemble Freddie & Jack are
unidentifiable as they move through the quiet building,
hugging the shadows.

They pause, scouting around a corner, then stop.

Each takes a bar of hand soap and slips them into a sock,
tying a knot in the sock.

POV focuses on the sleeping bully.

Freddie & Jack slip up to the bully's bed, and stand motionless, looking down upon him. They look at each other, nod.

Freddie and Jack drop a folded blanket over the bully's head and torso, restraining him.... and both boys swing the socks like a windmill, striking the bully viciously & repeatedly.

They then escape quickly, as the bully moans & whimpers.

11A INT. ORPHANAGE DINING HALL - NEXT MORNING 11A

As Freddie, Ida, & Jack enter the Dining Hall, everyone gives the siblings a very wide berth.

The bully is seen eating alone, bruised, and battered.

There is a new level of respect evident in the orphan population.

FREDDIE

Let last night be a lesson for us all. If you are ever faced with a problem in life somewhere, sometime down the road, deal with it!

Odds are, it will not resolve itself.

If you want to come out ahead, you have to influence the game.

12 INT/EXT. GERMAN ORPHAN ASYLUM MONTAGE - DAY/NITE 12

(Music: Can't Find My Way Home- Blind Faith)

Freddie graduated and left the orphanage in 1891, taking a vaudeville job in NYC.

Ida has graduated and left also.

Their departure filled Jack with a renewed sense of abandonment, resentment, and loneliness.

But also fired a determination in himself to create his own destiny. Fifteen-year-old Jack promises himself to rise above.

- Jack and siblings are shown settling in.

- Jack is shown in the classroom.

- Jack is seen excelling at sports.
- Brother Freddie is shown graduating/departing.
- Sister Ida is shown graduating/departing.
- Several girls in a group are seen eyeing Jack.

12A INT. GERMAN ORPHAN ASYLUM - DAY 12A

Title screen- Five Years Later 1893

Jack grows & matures, studying, conversing in foreign languages, growing physically.... girls start to pay attention to fourteen yo Jack.

Jack is hauled into a linen closet by a buxom older girl, to play "Seven Minutes in Heaven", as other children watch and and listen. The closet is dark but sounds of kissing, petting, and exploration are heard.

Jack is seen working out in the gymnasium after class. He goes through a routine of stretches, kettlebells, wall-pulleys, parallel bars, climbing peg board, uneven bars, and finishes with a speed rope climb.

An assistant passes the trainer a note, and Jack is summoned to the Headmasters Office.

There is a knock at the Headmaster's door; Jack is standing in the doorway.

HEADMASTER SCHMIDT

(Sitting at his desk)

Jack, Jack.... come in, come in! Sit down please.

JACK DANDY

(Jack enters, sits)

HERR SCHMIDT

Jack.... Your progress here has been exceptional.

You have applied yourself in all your studies, mastered our language courses, and shown remarkable athletic abilities.

I want to discuss an opportunity with you that has just appeared.

(MORE)

HERR SCHMIDT (cont'd)

We have an after-school position as a Helper/Errand boy with one of our benefactors.

I feel this will help prepare you for your eventual departure from us.

By introducing you to society's demands, expectations, and standards it will provide you with a work history and hopefully a good reference from your employer.

But I want to caution you. As you mature, grow, and venture out into the world, you will face many challenges, obstacles, and temptations.

Remember this:

"Time is the coin of your Life. It is the only coin you have, and only You can determine how it is spent."

Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you."

Now, I am sending you down to meet the proprietor when we're done here.

I expect your best behavior Jack. Any questions?

JACK DANDY

Jack... grinning, shakes his head no.

13 EXT/INT. JACK'S JOB - AFTERNOON 13

(Music: Blue Collar-BTO)

Jack is hired by the Atlantic Furniture Company, 1603 Fairmont Ave.

Jack runs errands, stocks supplies, sweeps, and assists with deliveries.

In the performance of his duties Jack witnesses segregation, poverty, death, injustice, violence, hunger and extreme wealth on the streets of 1890's Baltimore.

JACK DANDY V.O.

Spending time away from the orphanage was an eye opener for me.

I gained confidence by having some responsibility at work, but even more importantly, I saw society for the first time with my own eyes.

Keeping my mouth shut and my eyes & ears open, I watched and listened to those that were successful.

Herr Schmidt was constantly pounding into my head, that hard work, dedication, doing the right thing.... would pay off for me in life. But I wasn't ready to take a bite from his apple quite yet!

I can hear him now...

HERR SCHMIDT (FLASHBACK)

Jack, yesterday is gone! Just a memory now, one that hopefully we can learn from.

Tomorrow? Tomorrow is just a wish. There is no guarantee it will ever arrive.

So that leaves us with Today! What will you do today Jack, to create the life you want?"

JACK DANDY (V.O.)CONT

In this "Land of Opportunity", from what I have seen, it's those who are looking out for #1, those that have a bit of ruthlessness in them, that seem to be succeeding.

If that success comes at the expense of someone else, I don't see them losing any sleep over it.

If they come up with an advantage, I figured why shouldn't I?

If I want the "Good Life", I am going to have to take it or make it myself.

14 EXT/INT. JACK LEAVING WORK - AFTERNOON 14

Title Screen: 1894

While taking a shortcut back to the orphanage after work, 15-year-old Jack passes a dead-end street.

Looking in, he sees an older boy, who is abusing a trapped 3-legged mongrel dog, by throwing rocks at it.

JACK DANDY
(yelling)
Hey!! What the hell? Leave that dog
alone!!

Milo Myers, older, muscular, chip on his shoulder. Turning, scowls at Jack then turning back to focus on the dog.

MILO MYERS
Mind your own business, ass.

Digging in his pocket, Jack retrieves his shooter marble, cocks his arm, throws the marble, striking Milo in the kidney.

JACK DANDY
Hey GOOP(stupid)!! How does that
feel? I said stop!

Milo stumbles from the impact, turns, and charges Jack.

Jack braces himself, realizing he is out matched in strength. They tangle, standing, trading blows.

(POV switches to second floor window, looking down at the street fight)

Jack is faster, blocks many blows, avoids some, but many find their mark. Milo grabs Jack wrestles him to the ground.

Jack breaks free using ground skills, elbows Milo as he squirms free. Milo trips up Jack, kicks him in the back, sending him face first into a wooden barrel. Jack collapses.

Milo stands and they stare at each other, panting, bruised and bleeding. Jack watches the mongrel dog beat a hasty retreat.

Milo moves to where Jack is, takes aim, kicks him in the jaw, knocking him out. Standing over Jack he mutters...

MILO MYERS
Stay out of my way boy, or you will
get much more of the same.

17 EXT/INT. BORDELLO/CITY STREETS - LATE EVENING 17

(Music: (Witchcraft- Robert Palmer)

We see the Bordello door open at the top of the stairs...

Jack stumbles out, weak, tired, sexually spent... but with a lustful grin on his face that he has learned a universal lesson.

He is no longer a virgin.

Jack staggers down the stairs, stumbling side to side.

Girls pile out the door onto the landing, others lean out the windows to get a look at Jack, obviously curious after hearing about his stamina, endowment, and flexibility.

As he enters the alleyway, the sunlight reflects off his shooter marble in the dirt, Jack retrieves it.

After leaving the Bordello, Jack starts his walk back to the orphanage.

As he skirts the edge of town, we see in the distance Merlin's Big City Circus, setting up in the fields.

The mongrel mutt from earlier trots across Jacks path, stops, eyes Jack, and scurries towards the circus.

Jack sees freaks, strongmen, high wire acts, acrobats and is mesmerized.

JACK DANDY V.O.

Something clicked inside when I saw the circus that night.

Just watching them set up filled me with a sense of camaraderie, of family, and teamwork to accomplish a goal together.

While at the same time a sense of independence and freedom.

Here was a place that I could be on my own, rely on my abilities, wit, skills and not depend on others.

I knew then and there... where I was headed.

DISSOLVE TO:

18 INT. JACK'S BED- LATER THAT NIGHT 18

Jack is laying in bed torn whether to stay or leave the orphanage

JACK DANDY V.O.
 What did I have to lose? Staying here at the orphanage would be comfortable, and safe, sure. But I knew I would just have a menial job somewhere and never more.

Freddie was gone, and so was Ida. My parents were dead. I had no clue where Bertha was.

If I was going to make something of myself, it was up to me.

18A INT. HEADMASTERS OFFICE - NEXT MORNING 18A

Jack sneaks into Headmaster Schmidt's office, deposits two letters on his desk.

One addressed to the headmaster, the other to his boss at Atlantic Furniture.

We see Jack turn, with suitcase, walking out of the orphanage into the morning mist.

19 EXT/INT. CIRCUS BIG TOP TENT - DAY 19

(Music: Oh Well- Leo Kottke)

Now its 1894. Jack, almost 15 years old, is seen walking out of town to the Circus field site.

Jack asks a hired hand where the Office is.

He ducks inside a tent, sees two men in discussion, ZIMBO, the road manager and MERLIN the owner.

JACK DANDY
 Excuse me, who do I talk to about hiring on? I am looking for work.

ZIMBO
 (Mid 30's, looks fifty, road manager)
 Sorry kid, not hiring.

JACK DANDY

Please mister, I will do anything.
I've nothing to keep me here.

I am a hard worker. I learned long
ago that if you do it right the first
time, you won't have to do it again.

Try me out. You'll see.
You only need to show me a task once.

MERLIN

(50's, graying,
Circus Owner)

Kid... nothing here is guaranteed.

If we don't put cheeks in the seats,
sell tickets, then we make no money.

We make no money, people lose their
jobs, but the animals, they still get
their dinner. Zimbo?

Merlin tosses a food scrap to the mongrel mutt.

ZIMBO

What is your name kid?

JACK DANDY

Jack sir. Well, John. But everyone
calls me Jack.

Zimbo reaches for a bottle, pours himself a glass of "Vin
Mariani" wine.

ZIMBO

I am Zimbo, the road manager, and
Merlin there, owns everything you
see.

Ever work around animals?

JACK DANDY

No sir.

ZIMBO

Been on a train?

JACK DANDY

No sir.

ZIMBO

Swing a hammer? Pitch a tent? Work a
crowd?

JACK DANDY

No sir.

ZIMBO

Zimbo takes a deep drink.

Hell, sounds like you will fit right in!! We will give you a shot.

You have got a job, starting at the bottom, until you muck it up and lose it before you can move up.

JACK DANDY

YES!! Thank you, sir!!! You will not regret it!

Jack jumps into the air and does a flawless backflip with a perfect landing.

Zimbo and Merlin both blink, exchange impressed glances.

ZIMBO

Follow me young Jack. We'll get you settled in.

Merlin tosses another scrap off his plate over his shoulder. The mongrel mutt snatches it out of the air.

20 EXT. CIRCUS GROUNDS - SAME EVENING 20

(Music: Who the Devil- Wood Brothers)

Zimbo gives Jack a walking tour of the Circus. He is introduced to key roustabouts and star performers.

Jack is shown the behind-the-scenes operations.

The Circus is stationary.... signing new acts, purchasing animals, equipment... before heading West on tour.

Prior to calling it a night, Zimbo leads Jack to the kitchen tent. Upon entering, Jack sees Milo, they recognize each other, and the two bristle.

JACK DANDY

You!!!

MILO MYERS

I thought I was rid of you! I will not make the same mistake twice...

ZIMBO

You two have met I see. Milo, I will not put up with any of your crap.

Jack has hired on for a spell, so you just let him be and don't cause any trouble.

Jack, you stay clear of this one, understand?

JACK DANDY

Trust me, I will not be starting anything, but I'm not afraid of picking up where we left off either.

ZIMBO

Milo, you head on back over to the train while I finish here with Jack.

Milo grabs his coat and takes off, staring down Jack as he leaves.

ZIMBO (cont'd)

Jack... watch yourself with that one. Not an ounce of good to be found there.

21 EXT/INT.GERMAN ORPHANAGE - SEVERAL WEEKS LATER DAY 21

Freddie is seen walking up the driveway, taking the steps two at a time, and entering through the door.

Camera finds Freddie in the Headmasters Office, having an animated conversation with Herr Schmidt

HERR SCHMIDT

Freddie, Freddie, calm down!

What was I to do? I sent notification letters of Jack's departure to both you & Ida, but they were returned to my office.

You keep on the road yourself, with your current employment.

I even tried to track down your older sister Bertha, the one in Virginia, but the family she was originally with said she had up and moved on.

FREDDIE

My God Herr Schmidt... he is only fifteen!

Joining the Circus! I mean how, why, when?

Headmaster Schmidt reaches into his desk, retrieves Jack's letter, passes it to FREDDIE.

HEADMASTER SCHMIDT

Here, read it for yourself.

You know what I know now. Other than I have the name of the Circus outfit.

You may have better luck tracking their travel itinerary than I did.

These fly by night outfits literally fly at night!

Changing destinations, routes, stops on a whim or at the first sign of trouble in a town.

I do think they are headed out West.

FREDDIE

(Mutters to himself)

Uuuggghh... Jack what did you get yourself into?

HEADMASTER SCHMIDT

Freddie.... Jack is a smart lad, though in quite a hurry to grow up.

I admit, I had quite a different vision for his life.

But I wouldn't be surprised to find out wherever he goes and whatever he does... he will make good use of his time.

Knowing Jack, he'll come up smelling like roses

Freddie folds the letter, slides it back across the desk to Herr Schmidt.

Both then stand, shake hands, and Freddie heads out of the office.

22 EXT/INT. CIRCUS WINTER CAMP MONTAGE - DAY/NIGHT 22

(Music: I like it Down Here- Will Kimbrough)

Jack takes to Circus life but runs into Milo Myers again and again. Their conflict deepens.

Jack starts to look out for #1, begins to deceive, cheat, lie.... gains skill at covering his tracks and always gets the benefit of the doubt.

Drives Milo insane with envy.

- Jack is a studly teenager, constantly working out
- Seen building booths, painting, sorting ropes, caring for animals
- Jack shadows various performers and rehearsals
- Jack beds a young woman, hired hand. Seen in bed as she lights up a Chesterfield, church-keys another beer.
- Zimbo is watching and seeks feedback on the lad from other members of the outfit.
- Jack spends time watching the performers and the acts. He wants to be under the spotlight.

23 EXT/INT. WINTER CAMP TEARDOWN - DAY/NIGHT 23

Jack begins to harden his outlook on life. He begins to live in a Cult of Self.

Seeking relationships, taking actions, making choices that promote his desires, needs, which forces others to deal with him and his ego. The circus loads up and heads out West for the Spring/Summer

24 EXT. CIRCUS BIG TOP DETROIT - DAY 24

Title Screen: Detroit 1895(spinning postcard)

The circus train pulls into town, at a hectic pace to unload and set up.

Jack is slowly given meaningless roles to perform under the Big Top.

But he wants to be a headliner.

JACK DANDY (V.O)

I have never worked so hard as since
I left the orphanage.

Circus life is fast, dirty, hard, and
unforgiving.

You must earn everything; respect,
meals, your paycheck, and your
opportunities to shine.

By the time I turned fifteen, I had
learned the game.

No one is going to give it to you, so
you better be ready to take what is
yours. Physical looks, carriage,
style have weight.

But nothing beats being an expert.

So, I practice, practice, and practice
again! No matter the task, until I
know it inside and out.

If you make a mistake, a miscue,
fail... nine times out of 10 no one
will even know it happened until you
somehow show them.

I learned every task involved with
our set up and tear down operations
and improved on a few of them.

For me, the difference between a job
and a job well done was effort.

I might fail at something, but not
for lack of trying.

But I wanted more.

I wanted to be seen, to perform, to
be the star attraction, my name in
lights!

If you can't blind them with
brilliance, then baffle them with
bullshit.

I also learned quickly that Zimbo had
both keen eyesight, and a nose for
bullshit.

25 EXT/INT. CIRCUS BIG TOP CHICAGO - DAY/NIGHT 25

Title Screen: Chicago (spinning postcard)

Jack is seen progressing in his training.

He continues daily labor chores, but constantly badgering experienced performers for tips, advice, and techniques.

JACK DANDY (V.O.)

Circus acts capture the imagination of their audiences.

Good ones create... they can induce fear, instill hope, make us laugh and wonder.

As I watched all the various shows; the trapeze teams, the animal acts, the clowns & the acrobats...

(Show various circus acts and scenes)

JACK DANDY (V.O.) (cont'd)

One act stood out and appealed the most to me, The Contortionist!!

In that act, I just need to rely on my own abilities and wits.

This act, more than any other, kept the crowd talking AFTER the performance. Did you see that!!!??? How did she do THAT!!? Is she human?

It also requires an enormous amount of dedication and commitment to perfect extreme physical techniques, and then add the artistic components on top.

This made it one of the most difficult performances to master.

Which made it perfect for me. I just needed to convince Zimbo.

25A EXT. CIRCUS CAMP - LATE AFTERNOON 25A

Jack finds Zimbo in his quarters, enters.

JACK DANDY

Zimbo, got a minute? There is something on my mind I'd like to run by you.

ZIMBO

Certainly Jack.... come on in, sit down. (Zimbo pours himself a glass of Vin Mariani, points to a seat)

JACK DANDY

Thanks.

You know I am grateful and appreciate everything you and the outfit have done and provided for me since I started here.

It has been 2 years since I signed on back in Baltimore.

I have learned so much from everyone, and feel I've been able to contribute wherever you've needed me to pitch in.

But now, I am ready for a change.

I want to work inside the tent, as part of an act, not just behind the scenes.

ZIMBO

Jack, you have done well here, no question.

But you are young, not yet sixteen!

The pressure of performing in the ring is unlike anything you have experienced.

I am not sure if you are ready yet. But.... I am not opposed to the idea.

Your youth, physical abilities, and wit may very well make you successful.

Have something in mind...?

JACK DANDY
(With a grin)
Indeed, I do....

26 EXT/INT. MERLINS TENT - NIGHT 26

Zimbo discusses elevating Jack into the show with Merlin.

ZIMBO
I do not know Merlin, I kind of like
the idea.

I think with the right training, Jack
can pull it off.

MERLIN
I will admit, he is a talented boy,
and Roscoe & Angel are past their
prime.

They have even broached leaving and
entering retirement.

I could talk with them, see if they
are up for an apprentice to train.

ZIMBO
We will need a new name for the act,
and a stage name for Jack.

MERLIN
Yes, yes... but don't get ahead of
yourself.

Let us see how he takes to the
workout Roscoe comes up for him if we
go ahead with this.

You know as well as I, it is going to
be brutal.

26A EXT. ROSCOE & ANGELS TENT - NEXT DAY 26A

Jack is introduced by Merlin & Zimbo. Roscoe gives Jack a
once over inspection, unimpressed.

MERLIN
Roscoe, Angel.... I am sure you've
run across Jack since he joined us.
(MORE)

MERLIN (cont'd)

As I discussed earlier, we want to evaluate him to perhaps 1 day take on a position as a contortionist.

We want you two, to create a training program for him, and help us decide down the road.

Roscoe, forty-two and Angel, 40, are seated on a sofa.

ROSCOE

Merlin, he looks athletic enough, but time will tell.

The effort required by him is significant, and never ending.

He is making a lifestyle choice.

ANGEL

Yes, it is true.

To be successful not only must one dedicate time & energy to master the craft, but also to maintain it for future years.

All the adults turn to Jack, awaiting his input.

JACK DANDY

I will admit, I don't know the first thing about having a career, let alone one that depends on my health and fitness.

But I love a challenge and can promise you all that I will give 100%.

ZIMBO

Well, let's talk a bit more.

Perhaps we should start youg Jack on an exercise and flexibility workout in preparation should we decide to go forward.

Roscoe and Angel, put together a schedule and we will get Jack started and go from there.

26B EXT.**WORKOUT AREA - DAY****26B**

Jack is seen prone on his back, legs extended, 6" off the ground, beads of sweat rolling off his face as he holds this position.

Jack works through a series of stretches and exercises while being supervised over the next several hours.

Roscoe and Angel are warming up and supervising Jack at the same time.

ROSCOE

Jack, take a break. We are going to spend the next several weeks working you hard on your flexibility, stretching your body's capabilities, and teaching you and it, how to grow.

ANGEL

Jack honey, here is a list of stretches we will be starting this week.

Study them, try them, and we will improve a little each day.

ROSCOE

Jack, you can do permanent harm to yourself later, learning the contortion moves, if you do not master these.

Jack reviews each: Stretches for a Split: Seated Fwd Bend, Low Lunge, Half Split,

Stretches for a "Y" Stand- Front Bend, Head to Knee, Lizard Stretch

Stretches for a Backbend- Cat/Cow, Backbend stretch, Seal Stretch,

30 Day Work Out Plan

Week 1- Front Split (Forward Bend), Back Bend (Backbend Stretch, Y Stand (Front Bend)

Week 2- Front Split (Half Split), Back Bend (Seal Stretch), Y Stand (Lizard Stretch)

Week 3- Front Split (Partial Split), Back Bend (Bridge Pose), Y Stand (Partial Y Stand)

Week 4- Front Split, Back Bend, Y Stand

27 EXT/INT. MINNEAPOLIS CIRCUS BIGTOP - DAY/NIGHT 27

(Music: Knocking The Dust Off- Pokey Lafarge)

Jack is progressing in his training. After a workout session, Zimbo enters the tent.

ZIMBO

Jack, get yourself all cleaned up when you are done here.

Meet me at the gate. We are headed to town!

Jack towels the sweat off, looks at Zimbo quizzically.

Zimbo takes Jack to visit an old friend, Charging Charlie, who runs a Wild West Horse show that is across-town.

Seated in the stands, Jack avidly watches the show, captivated by a beautiful, young, talented bareback rider, MABEL.

JACK DANDY

Zimbo! Who is that girl! She is amazing.

ZIMBO

Easy there Jack... that is Mabel, Charlie's newest act.

She is from Minneapolis. Quite a find I hear

JACK

I will say. She is beautiful!

As the act ends, Mabel gallops off screen.

ZIMBO

Come on, let's find Charlie.

Zimbo & Jack duck behind the tent flaps, cut across the show grounds, and enter a performer staging tent.

Zimbo spots Charlie reviewing Mabel's act with her, and they make their way across.

Charlie looks up as they approach.

CHARGING CHARLIE

Zimbo!!! My God it has been too long.

(MORE)

CHARGING CHARLIE (cont'd)

I knew your outfit was due in, soooo glad our paths crossed this year.

ZIMBO

Yes...yes, too long. Much has changed since we last worked together, much remains the same.

We are just here for a week, then off to Denver.

This is Jack, picked him up out of Baltimore.

Handy fellow, but still as green as a head of lettuce.

Jack blushes as Mabel catches him staring at her, but he holds her gaze.

CHARGING CHARLIE

Well, if Zimbo can't whip you into shape, no one can.

This is Mabel. You caught her act? She is looking to sign on and tour the summer with us.

Damn fine rider!

Jack, why don't you help Mabel put up Hell's-A-Poppin here (Charlie slaps the horse's rump).

We'll meet you two over in the kitchen later? Come on "Zim", let's catch up in my wagon.

Zimbo produces a bottle of Vin Mariana, grins, and the two take off.

MABEL

(Handing Jack the horse reins)

Well, pick up your chin Jack!

Take these, and let's get this horse to bed!

Mabel starts off ahead, as Jack gets to admire a great rear view.

27A EXT/INT. LOCAL AREA - LATER THAT WEEK 27A

(Music: Surely- Colin James)

Jack and Mabel are seen spending their off time together.

Dinner in town, picnics in the countryside.

Laughing, smiling, kissing, teaching Jack to ride a horse.

JACK DANDY (V.O.)

I gave away my heart that night.

I didn't know how, I didn't know
when, I surely didn't know why, but I
knew with certainty that I wanted to
be in HER life.

To watch over her as she challenged
herself.

To protect her from all the bad
decisions, choices, people, and
intentions that were due to come her
way.

I wanted to support her when she
struggled, applaud her when she was
right, and caution her when she might
be wrong.

I never felt this way about anyone
before.

Now I knew that wasn't going to be
easy, fast, or inevitable for that
matter.

But I rested my head on my pillow
that night with purpose and started
scheming how to get into her heart.

27B INT. MABEL'S WAGON - LATER THAT WEEK 27B

The room is dimly lit, candles and kerosene lamps cast
shadows.

Jack & Mabel are naked in bed, exploring each other
passionately, sometimes tenderly, sometimes selfishly.

Satiated, they rest in each others arms, sipping wine.

JACK DANDY

I'll quit dammit.

I'll just tell Zimbo I'm staying here. With you.

MABEL

(laughing)

Jack darling don't be a silly boy!

You can't just stop your training, and neither can I.

The season is just beginning, but with some planning we can get together now and then, and before you know it.... it will be winter.

Then maybe we can develop an act for us both!

JACK DANDY

Yes baby.... but I'm crazy about you.

I don't want to spend a minute apart from you! We head out next week!

I'll go nuts without you.

MABEL

(Sultry voice)

Come here then.... and give me something to make sure I can remember your name.

28 INT. MABEL'S DRESSING ROOM - SEVERAL WEEKS LATER 28

(Music: 12 Little Red Heartaches- Claudia Nygaard)

Jack's circus has pulled up stakes, departed on tour.

As her evening performance ends, Mabel returns to her room.

A dozen red roses are on her dressing table, with a letter from Jack.

She sits in front of her mirror, touching up her make up. Mabel changes her clothes, getting ready to go out.

There is a knock at the door. A male suitor arrives.

MABEL

Just 1 minute! Be right out!

Mabel gathers her purse, wraps a shawl over her shoulders, looks around for anything she forgot.

She reaches out, grabs the roses out of the vase, tosses them into the trash, as she opens the door and walks out.

29 EXT/INT. CIRCUS TENT - LATE NIGHT 29

Title Screen- 1897 Omaha

Jack is now 18. Fully trained as a contortionist.

He is billed as: **"Martine!! The Human Snake!! The Human Corkscrew!! \$1000 to his Equal!!"**

Jack is now the Headliner.

Portions of his routine include acrobatic contortions using trapeze, high wire equipment and props.

Milo, frustrated by Jack's success, is seen sneaking into the equipment storage area, tampering with Jack's equipment.

During rehearsal, Jack suffers a close call due to equipment failure/sabotage and is nearly severely injured.

He is laid up in the First-Aid Station.

MERLIN

Jack! I just heard you had a fall.
What the hell happened?

JACK DANDY

I'm not sure.

I went through my normal warm-ups,
when I got into the High Bar spin
routine, it just gave way, and I came
crashing down.

Timmy from setup, told me he had seen
Milo leaving the rehearsal tent.

Merlin sends Zimbo to find Milo, who enters.

MERLIN

Milo, what do you know about this?
What were you doing in the rehearsal
tent?

MILO

Wasn't me, I was never near there.

MERLIN

Milo, I've had it with you! Always an excuse! Never do no wrong, yet wrong just seems to follow you!

I'm cutting you loose, you're fired!

Zimbo, give him whatever money he is owed, and get him out of my sight!

Milo is escorted out, cussing everyone and their mother. Swears he will get even with Jack and Merlin.

30 EXT/INT. CIRCUS TENT AKRON - DAY/NIGHT 30

1898. Jack has had his own act for over a year, filling the tent nightly.

Sequence of scenes showing his contortionist act.

31 EXT/INT. CIRCUS TENT DETROIT - DAY/NIGHT 31

Jack is a headliner and has his own act on this tour. The house is packed at each of his performances as people are amazed at his bodily twists & turns. "MONS.MARTYNE" is the main attraction.

After completing his performance, Jack finds a letter waiting in his wagon from Freddie, updating him on family members.

32 INT/EXT. CHICAGO - NIGHT 32

(Music: Dust Bowl- Joe Bonamassa)
Screen Title- Months Later

Jack goes out on the town with fellow performers, after his evening show.

The crew discusses that the circus has money problems.

They are pulling up stakes, and moving out in the morning, heading to St. Louis. Hoping for a run of luck.

32A EXT. ST. LOUIS WHARF MISSISSIPPI RIVER - DAY 32A

Screen Title- 1899

Milo is seen, working on the river dock, unloading barges.

He spots a flyer for Merlin's Big Top being in town.

32B EXT/INT. MERLINS TENT - SAME EVENING 32B

Zimbo enters Merlin's tent, opens the tent flap, scowling,
and escorts Milo in

ZIMBO

Merlin, someone here to see you.

MERLIN

Well look what the cat drug in!

What the hell do you want? Lotta
nerve showing your face here!

MILO

I know! I know.

It's been a couple years now, and
I've changed.

I saw you were in town and wanted to
come apologize and see if I can get
my old job back.

Merlin and Zimbo look at each other then turn and stare at
Milo.

After a long silence, Merlin says.

MERLIN

Well go ahead.

MILO MYERS

(In disbelief)

Really!? You mean I got my Job??!!
Thank you! Thank you!

MERLIN

No. That is not what I mean.
I mean go ahead, let's hear your
apology.

MILO MYERS

Huh?

MERLIN

Just what I thought.

Milo, I wouldn't hire you to make a soup sandwich. After all the grief you've given me.

Get out of here, and don't come back!

Milo cussing, storms out. He hard shoulders Jack, who is outside, carrying some supplies, knocking him over.

32C EXT/INT. MERLINS TENT - AFTER MIDNITE 32C

As the circus heads to sleep, Milo is seen sneaking around in the shadows between tents.

He enters Merlin's tent, finds a steamer trunk used to handle payroll.

Milo picks the locks, rummages through the contents, and opens a lock box.

He steals an unknown sum of cash, tucking it into his shirt.

Milo covers his tracks as he exits the tent, picks up his hidden suitcase and takes off down the road, leaving the circus behind him.

33 EXT/INT. MERLIN'S CIRCUS TENT NEXT MORNING 33

The following morning, Merlin calls a meeting of all the Section Bosses.

They crowd into his tent, as tear down begins outside.

MERLIN

Come in, come in everybody.

Find a place to sit, and we'll get started.

As I'm sure most everyone along the eastern seaboard knows by now, the Circus is in trouble.

We've been losing income steadily for several months now, attendance has been dropping.

(MORE)

MERLIN (cont'd)

Folks have tightened up their free dollars, operation costs have skyrocketed, and there is more and more competition out here.

I'm sorry to announce that now, I don't even have any reserve left.

Someone took off with it last night, though we have a good idea who.

So, our next stop in Washington D.C., will be our last. I have enough left to cover payroll through D.C., but then its over.

There are several outfits due to winter over in D.C.

Many will be arriving over the next several weeks.

I've already cabled the owners and outfits, that many of you will be looking to sign on.

I hope you all will stick it out with us until then, but if anyone gets an opportunity earlier, or decides to leave early, let Zimbo know.

He'll get you in to see me.

Zimbo will stay to answer any questions.

Thank you all for your support and understanding.

34 EXT/INT. CIRCUS GROUNDS D.C - DAY/NIGHT 34

(Music: Let The Sky Fall- 10 Years After)
Title Screen- 1899

1899. The circus train cars are open, empty, and lined up. Tents, booths, animal cages are locked and inventoried.

One tent is still up, and there is a long winding line of roustabouts, performers, and artists waiting to enter to receive their "pink slips" and final paychecks.

Inside, Merlin, Zimbo and a skeleton crew will stay on until Merlin cuts his last deal at the auction.

Merlin sits at a desk across the tent and thanks each employee as he pays them and says his last goodbyes.

Zimbo, in a corner, day drinking, sits on a trunk with a bottle of Vin Mariani, half empty.

An empty bottle is visible behind the trunk.

Zimbo spots Jack as he enters, waves him over.

ZIMBO

Jack! Jack! C'mere boy!

Jack moves over, sits with him.

Jack picks up the empty wine bottle, reads the label and realizes it is infused with leaves from the highly addictive coca plant.

JACK DANDY

Whoa Zim.... slow down on that juice!

Zimbo waves his concern away like an annoying gnat.

ZIMBO

Don'tcha worry about me boy! I've been down before.

Hell, if it wasn't for bad luck, I'd have no luck at all!

Just remember; every day is a holiday, and every meal is a banquet!

JACK DANDY

Have you figured out your next move?

ZIMBO

Hell, I'm gonna stay right here in D.C., at least for a while (lifts & looks at his bottle), then probably hire on with the Tiantro Brothers when they pull into town at the end of the month.

Heard they were coming up from Florida way. What about YOU?

JACK DANDY

Think I'm heading up north, to New York City.

Try to find my brother Freddie or one of my sisters Bertha or Ida.

(MORE)

JACK DANDY (cont'd)

Figure things out from there.

Zimbo, I just want to thank you for everything.

Most of all for taking a chance on me when I was just a snot-nosed kid, and for believing in me to perform on stage.

I don't know what is next for me, maybe try Vaudeville, or theater perhaps.

I like the catcalls, rowdy nighttime crowds, and seeing my name in lights up on the marquee.

If I get tired of performing, I can spread my wings, maybe travel overseas.

ZIMBO

(drinking)

Well, if you see that scum Milo during your travels, send me word!

Seems he took off last night after looking to be re-hired.

Nowhere to be found, and Merlin's purse is a little lighter this morning.

Merlin sees the two of them, hands off payroll duties and walks over to join them.

MERLIN

Well Jack, or should we call you Martine?

Heard you have plans to take off in the morning?

JACK DANDY

Yes sir. Planning to hop a train to New York City.
I will work my way up through Philly and Jersey.

Merlin, I want to thank you for all you've done for me.

(MORE)

JACK DANDY (cont'd)

If you hadn't hired me that day, I'd be a longshoreman, or a dry goods clerk back in Baltimore.

Instead, you gave me the opportunity of a lifetime!

MERLIN

Well, I wish there was a better ending for you, hell for everyone.

But we had a great run, filled a few tents, and put many smiles on children's faces.

You've got a gift son.

Trust it, feed it, ride that wave as long as you can.

But be careful! Life has many slippery slopes and unsavory types around every corner.

Keep your guard up!

Here is your last pay, and a little extra. Take care young Jack!

We'll see you when we see you.

Merlin turns and walks back to the desk, stopping to chat with folks in line.

35 EXT. TRAIN STATION, NYC DECEMBER 1899 - DAY

35

(Music: New York City- Delbert McClinton)

NYC is ready to ring in the pending Centennial!

A train pulls into Central Station, the snow is falling. Jack, soon to turn 21, is onboard, suitcase in hand.

He turns up his collar and jumps off the train as it slows and walks through the falling snow the rest of the way into town.

We see Jack, over several days, in various auditions on Broadway, Vaudeville at Casino Theater, and Schubert's all unsuccessfully.

35A INT. SHANLEY'S IRISH BAR -**EVE****35A**

The first and last of the famous "lobster palaces" of Broadway was Shanley's. There were seven brothers in the clan and it was common jest in the early 1900s that whenever the Shanley's were about to open a new spot, they would send to Ireland for another brother. At one time there were four Shanley Restaurants operating concurrently. The head of the tribe was Tom Shanley. Tom and Barney Shanley opened a restaurant on Sixth Avenue, between 23rd and 24th Sts., then the center of the nite life in the city. The second restaurant was opened in 1896 on Broadway, between 29th and 30th St; and, thereafter, the Shanley Restaurants followed the northward tide of commerce and entertainment. In 1896, Oscar Hammerstein startled the town by opening The New York Theater on Broadway, between 44th and 45th St. Skeptics thought the impresario "crazy" for venturing above 42nd Street. The Shanley's followed suit, crossing the 42nd St."deadline" to open a restaurant on the east side of Broadway and 43rd Street.

This trail-blazing venture was the forerunner of the lobster palaces that were later to decorate the Gay White Way. Ornate chandeliers and other elegant trappings made the new Shanley's the talk of the town. The Empire Room on the main floor dazzled diners with its gilt, mahogany and mirrors. The Ladies Restaurant on the second floor was resplendent in red and green, done in the style of Louis XVI. On the third floor was the Roman Court, a sumptuous banquet room with two balconies and a ceiling 30 feet high. Mythological Roman subjects were presented in bas-relief at one end of the room.

Jack enters Shanley's, dejected, determined to teach his sorrows how to swim and celebrate the Centennial NYE.

Jack bellys up to the bar, waits as the Bartender works his way to him, while watching his showmanship and mixology skills.

BARTENDER

Happy New Year to you Ace, what can I get you?

JACK DANDY

Whiskey, make it a double. I'll be down at the end there.

Jack grabs an empty stool at the end of the bar, back to the wall so he can watch the crowd but not be a part of it.

BARTENDER
(Bartender sets down
drink)

Here you go.

You heading upstairs for dinner, or
sticking around for the party?

JACK DANDY
Not likely. Not hungry and not in the
partying mood.

Just want to go to sleep, shut the
door on '99, and wake up in a new
century.

BARTENDER
Yea.... its been a rough one for
most.

Let me know if you need anything.
It's going to get hectic here
shortly!

Bartender wanders off.

On cue the door opens and 6-8 well dressed, affluent people
are swept in, stomping their feet, blowing their hands,
shaking off the snow.

Jack gives them all at once over, then does a double take in
recognition.

Jack has a flashback to his early circus days and recalls
the youthful innocent face of one older man who just
entered.

Jack signals the barkeep, whispers in his ear, indicates the
group.

The barkeep, after making some drinks, heads over and
delivers a drink to the nameless man, who accepts it, and
looks across the bar at Jack, both break out in a grin!

The two men raise their glasses in a silent toast to each
other.

The man excuses himself from his group and heads over to
join Jack.

Willie, late 20's, wiry, in good humor, clinks glasses with
Jack as he pulls up a stool.

WILLIE

Jack, my God, I didn't recognize you!
Happy New Year to you!

Its been what, 5 years? 6? You were
just 14 or 15 I think when I first
met you!

What are you doing in NYC?

JACK

Good to see you too Willie!

Looks like you are doing well for
yourself!

No longer performing I take it?

WILLIE

No, being in the Circus was just a
pipe dream.

I soon realized running away from
home was a mistake and wired Father
for a train ticket home.

Been in NYC for about 4 years now,
working in the family business. You?

JACK DANDY

Just arrived a couple of weeks ago.

Merlin folded his tent after we
arrived in D.C.

I've been looking for work ever
since.

Auditioned for some outfits,
theaters, but no callbacks.

Some days, I'd like to just find an
8-5'er and quit this theater
business.

WILLIE

That a fact? Well, I'm not sure it's
a perfect match for a fella of your
considerable skills, but I might have
something to tide you over.

JACK

Oh, do tell! I think I've walked every street and knocked on most doors in this town.

WILLIE

Well, I don't know what the pay is, but you won't be shoveling horseshit that's for sure.

My tailor is seeking to add a salesman.

You have charm, a silver tongue, and the right attitude.

You just have to learn about men's fashion, and maybe even more importantly, learn what women want in men's fashion!

His shop is over on 5th Ave. Show him my card and tell him I am vouching for you.

Willie writes down the name & address of his Haberdashery on his personal calling card.

JACK DANDY

Willie, you're a God send!

I'll go and see him first thing after the holiday! Happy New Year! Cheers!!

36 EXT/INT. MCLAUGHLIN HABADASHERY 5TH AVE - MORNING 36

Screen Title- 1900

Image of Jack, who now introduces himself as "Martine" kicking his heels in the air as he exits, just being hired as Salesman.

He takes off down 5th Ave.

JACK DANDY (V.O.)

I know absolutely nothing about sales, or salesmanship.

I know absolutely nothing about men's fashion.

(MORE)

JACK DANDY (V.O.) (cont'd)

But my time with the circus made me a good judge of people, character, and figuring out what they need to make them happy.

This was going to be a different world for me. Men's Fashion, for the rich & famous.

If not dressed for manual labor, most men generally wore three-piece suits i.e., a jacket, trousers, and waistcoat, or a vest with high, round-collared white shirts, neckties, and all kinds of hats.

Or a sack or lounge coat was worn for both formal and semi-formal affairs.

Pants were tight, and tailored, and dress shirts often buttoned up the back instead of the front. Go figure!

Thin beards or pencil mustaches were popular, fuller beards were typically reserved for older gentlemen.

Younger men often were clean shaven.

These clients all had very large checkbooks.

Our shop had the latest and greatest selections for them to choose from.

There was so much to learn about these clothes, and the men that wore them!

37 INT. MCLAUGHLIN HABADASHERY 5TH AVE - DAY

37

(Music: Smooth Operator- Sade)

Jack is becoming a master of his craft. Transforming himself from circus contortionist to a social "Dandy".

Mixing & matching men's fashion items for his clients and himself. He is seen arriving early and leaving late.

He pays attention to every minor detail, setting up stock, correcting window displays, and being the first to greet customers.

Jack pens a pamphlet "**Martine's Ideal**", a guide for clerks in men's stores, on what it takes to be successful:

1. "To do the right thing at the right time, in the right way."
2. "To do some things better than they were ever done by others."
3. "To work for the love of the work."
4. "To master circumstances."
5. "To be broad minded."
6. "To be satisfied with nothing short of perfection."

36 EXT/INT. MCLAUGHLIN HABADASHERY 5TH AVE - MORNING 36

John D. Rockefeller and J.P. Morgan enter the store.

JACK DANDY

Good morning gentlemen. May I be of assistance?

J.P. wanders the store admiring.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

Yes indeed.

I'm in need of some summer suits for the upcoming season.

What new arrivals can you show me?

Jack leads Rockefeller to a new display.

JACK DANDY

Sir, what type of outfit are you seeking?

We have several morning, afternoon, and evening coats to choose from.

Sir, if you desire, I can take your measurements and lay out some fabric choices for you to examine?

Would you prefer barrel cuffs or detachable cuffs on your shirts?

(MORE)

JACK DANDY (cont'd)

We also have detachable collars, but a man of your stature hardly is concerned with cleaning costs.

A crisp center pleat for your pants perhaps? We have a vast selection of neckties, bow ties, and cravats for all occasions.

Additionally, might I inquire if you are in need of a matching hat, perhaps the newest Homburg? Or a Straw one for the heat of summer?

ROCKEFELLER

I haven't the time today for a fitting, but here is my card.

Please call and we'll schedule a time to have you come to the house.

J.P..... let's get a move on, we're already late.

J.P and Rockefeller bid good day and exit store.

W.A. McLaughlin walks up to Jack, picks Rockefeller's card out of his hand, and raises his eyebrow as he views Jack with renewed appreciation.

38 INT. JACKS BOARDINGHOUSE ROOM - EVENING 38

(Music: The Cigar- Elephant Revival)
Screen Title- 1901

Jack's new position and salary allow him to rent a room.

Jack is seen entering with bags and boxes from a shopping trip. He decorates, partakes in a beverage or two.

Counts his money, stores his glass marble, stashes some in an old shoe box, and places some into alligator skin wallet.
JACK IS NOW A "DANDY"

Social invitations begin stacking up on the table.

Scene of Jack grooming and pampering himself, soaking in the tub with cigar & libations

JACK DANDY(V.O)

After a year working at the Haberdashery, I've received two raises, and an annual bonus for my commissioned sales.

The nice thing is that I can now live off a budget.

The bad thing is that this budget isn't enough for me.

So, I occasionally find ways to stretch my income by not having many clothing and grooming expenses.

I've been able to get my own place, do some decorating, and even do some entertaining now.

I like to spoil and be spoiled.

When you don't have large sums of money, you must find innovative ways to get what you need.

I do favors for people, and people do favors for me. That's what I love the most about New York City.

39 INT. HABADASHERY - MORNING 39

Jack is called in, given specific directions and tasking for Rockefeller house call.

W.A. MCLAUGHLIN

Jack, Mr. Rockefeller has requested you come out to his home, to review his needs and take his measurements.

Here is the address and the trolley schedule. Don't be late!

JACK DANDY

Yes sir. I'll leave early and take several samples and style suggestions.

Jack departs, hops on a trolley car, and heads out of town.

40 EXT/INT. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER HOME -**40**

(Music: Scoundrel- Sam Burchfield)

Jack is strolling through affluent neighborhoods, occasionally scanning address numbers.

As he reaches a cross street, he pauses and looks over at HUGE fenced mansion.

He double checks the address on the paper in his hand, checks his look, steps off the curb, and walks up the driveway. A servant answers his ring.

JACK DANDY

Good morning. Mr. Martine, of
McLaughlin Haberdashery for Mr.
Rockefeller

MRS. ROCKEFELLER, 50's, stylish, meets Jack and escorts him into the Sunroom, where her friends are having tea.

MRS. ROCKEFELLER

Ladies, I would like you to meet Mr.
Martine. He has come out to help John
get his wardrobe into the 20th
Century.

John will be ready for you shortly.
Please make yourself comfortable.

Appreciative glances are tossed toward Jack as he is given the once over by the ladies of the New York 400.

Jack is seen leaving the Rockefeller estate home at dusk, heading back to the city.

Not only did he have a successful fitting, but he had also over \$500 in orders for shirts and ties.

Tapping his coat pocket, Jack also earned an invitation to a Garden Party, courtesy of Mrs. Rockefeller

41 INT. KAISER KELLER CAFE - SATURDAY MORNING 41

Jack is seated next to a street window, at a corner table, dressed to the nines.

Full of himself, anticipating showing off to his older brother, who is about to meet him for lunch.

Freddie arrives, scans the room... passes over Jack, not recognizing him, then does a double take.

Jack stands as their eyes lock, Freddie walks across the cafe, giving Jack the once over. They greet warmly.

FREDDIE

My God Jack!! You are all grown up!!
Look at you! Mr. Businessman himself!

Far cry from the circus ring, eh?

JACK DANDY

(laughing)

Freddie, good to see you too!

Keep your voice down though, no one here knows my history on the road.

I've created a whole new personality; living a whole different lifestyle since those days, and don't want to change it!

FREDDIE

Ida and I worried about you when you ran away from the orphanage.

We both tried to catch up to you, but just never could. So happy it worked out.

None of us have had an easy go of it.

I'm married now! My wife, Marie is doing an aerial Iron Jaw act, and I still make a buck on Vaudeville.

But life on the road is hard. We are saving a little when we can.

We want to get out of performing, and maybe run a small neighborhood bodega or corner store somewhere.

Maybe start a family.

But tell me about you! I want to hear everything!

JACK DANDY

Well, the outfit I signed on with closed shop last winter.

It was a smaller operation and just could not compete. But they were good to me and for me!

(MORE)

JACK DANDY (cont'd)

I learned a lot about myself, about people, and what it takes to get ahead in this country.

They trained me mentally & physically.

Now, I am selling high end men's clothing, and making money at it!!

This city has lots and lots of money, and I want my share of it.

I do well in my position, but it also allows me to be exposed to high society, powerful men.

Men like my clients sometimes need assistance if you know what I mean, and they reward handsomely.

Special favors for the rich or famous often require discretion.

FREDDIE

Jack, I hope you are being careful.

Powerful people tend to have powerful enemies.

They can turn into your powerful enemies in a New York minute!

Every one of us has struggles, and every one of us has secrets.

If you start living beyond your means, enjoying life more than you should, others may become envious of you, and seek to knock you back down a notch or two.

Be careful!

JACK DANDY

Trust me Freddie, I've got this.

Now, enough talk for the moment. Let's get a beer and a brat! Tell me about Ida!

Have you heard anything from Bertha?

42 EXT/INT. JOHN JACOB ASTOR RESIDENCE - DAY 42

(Music: Garden Party- Ricky Nelson)

Jack arrives at the residence, presents the invitation he secured from Mrs. Rockefeller.

It is an outdoor event attended by many of the NYC elite, which include the Carnegies, Oerlichs, Vanderbilts, and Stuyvestants... among others.

Jack winds his way across the lawn to the open bar.

BARTENDER

Good day sir, what can I make for you?

JACK DANDY

Well.... let's try something new today! Have you anything to recommend that will excite me?

BARTENDER

Well sir, plenty to choose from. Let's see.

Pulls out his new 1905 "The Gorman Cocktail Book"

Have you tried the "Rob Roy"?
Are you a fan of Scotch whiskey?

JACK DANDY

I'm a fan of whatever you have open!
Let's give it a try!

Bartender sets out his ingredients

BARTENDER

Certainly! We start off with 1/2 a glass of fine ice. Add two dashes of Boker's bitters.

Then 1/2 a jigger of Scotch and Italian Vermouth each. I could double that up for you if you please?

JACK DANDY

Absolutely! This might be a long afternoon.

BARTENDER

Then we strain, pour into another glass, garnish with a peel from a Myers Lemon. Here you are sir.

Bartender slides the drink over to Jack

Hopefully it is to your satisfaction?

JACK DANDY

Superb! Might just become a new favorite. Thank you indeed!

Jack slips him a tip, strolls through the guests, attracting glances.

Mrs. Rockefeller spots him, waves for him to join her and her group.

JACK DANDY (cont'd)

Ahhhhh Mrs. Rockefeller! There you are! Thank you so much for the gracious invitation! Splendid weather for a garden party!

I do say, it will be motivating for me to see so many friends and new friends showing off!

MRS. ROCKEFELLER

Mr. Martine, so glad you could join us!. Ladies, this is the young, eligible bachelor I was mentioning to you all.

He has done amazing work with John. Not just updating his wardrobe, but actually taught him a thing or two about how to wear it all!!

Come now Jack, let me show you off and introduce you to all my jealous friends!

They walk off arm in arm, chatting and mingling. Jack gives and receives calling/business cards, as well as personal phone numbers of several beautiful women.

43 EXT/INT.

NEW YORK CITY -

NIGHT

43

(Music: Pulling The Strings- Delbert McClinton)
Title screen- 1901

Jack is seen out as a man about town. He is seen in the company of a stunning redheaded woman he met at the garden party.

He joins the city's social elite at music venues, Broadway shows, nightclubs, and bars.

Eating the best foods, drinking the finest liquor, performing.... in and out of bed. A gorgeous woman always on his arm.

Flashing his style and dress, he reeks of confidence.

However, memories of Mabel interrupt his playtime.

44 INT. LAMB'S CLUBHOUSE - LUNCH 44

Jack enters and takes lunch with his boss, W.A Mclaughlin.

Club is crowded, smoke-filled, loud but in an exciting way.

W.A. MCLAUGHLIN

Jack, sit down please.

Much to discuss with you. Your work over this last year has been exceptional.

Considering your initial lack of fashion knowledge, it really is remarkable.

I could not be more pleased.

I have decided I want you to accompany me to Europe this Spring on my purchasing trip.

This will expose you to new aspects of my business, the fashion industry in general, and life on the Continent.

We will be gone for 6-8 weeks, with stops in Paris, Berlin, and London.

JACK DANDY

Europe!!?? Absolutely!!

I can complete the store inventory, review some new styles to show you and have you a forecast to review next week!!

Where will we go first? Have you set an itinerary? Are these established clients you buy from?

(MORE)

JACK DANDY (cont'd)

I have a thousand questions!

W.A. MCLAUGHLIN
All in good time Jack, all in good
time.

But Paris will be our first stop.

45 EXT. SPRING 1902 NYC PORT - AFTERNOON 45

Jack arrives at the Cunard Steamship Line port of departure to a chaotic seen.

A mass of humanity, some passengers trying to board, while others are well-wishers there to bid Bon Voyage to friends and family.

Jack fights his way through ticketing and heads up the gangplank to board, waving as he spots W.A McLaughlin on deck already.

46 EXT/INT. STEAMSHIP "ST.LOUIS" - DAY/NIGHT 46

1902. Sequence of scenes depicting the sailing from New York to Cherbourg, France.

Shots of staircases, promenade deck, dining at Captains Table, and high-class travelers.

Jack is requested to perform after dining at the Captain's Table one evening.

A beautiful dinner companion joins him in bed for a private performance.

47 INT. POST OFFICE CHERBOURG FRANCE - DAY 47

Jack disembarks and is seen purchasing post cards and mailing them to Mabel, Freddie, and Ida.

48 EXT. CHERBOURG-PARIS/TRAIN RIDE/HOTEL REGINA - DAY 48

Jack & W.A. McLaughlin take a carriage from port to the train station.

They purchase tickets to Paris; porters load their trunks.

They pull into Paris Central Station, transfer their baggage and head to the Hotel Regina.

Hôtel Regina is a grand hotel in Paris that opened in 1900. It is in the Place des Pyramides, across the Rue de Rivoli from the Jardin des Tuileries and an entrance to the Louvre. In the square in front of it is a gilded statue of Joan of Arc on horseback.

Inaugurated in 1900 for the World's Fair in Paris, the hotel is on the Place des Pyramides, which takes its name from Napoleon's victory in Egypt in 1798. The hotel's building dates from the Second Empire. Léonard Tauber and his associate Constant Bavezez built it between 1898 and 1900. It was named after Queen Victoria, symbolizing the Entente Cordiale between the French and the British.

In a sequence of scenes, we see Jack work diligently by day with his boss, so that he can indulge each night in the multiple venues of vice, entertainment, and European debauchery.

JACK DANDY (V.O.)

What a city! No other city on earth
can compare!

Beautiful architecture, amazing
cuisine, fashion, and wines.

But the women! So independent,
lively, sexual.

Every day here provides me with new
experiences and greater appreciation
of the pleasures to be enjoyed in
life.

During the day, we would visit shops,
textile manufacturers, designer
galleries.

We would gather material samples,
industry projections, design
concepts.

We would place orders and then
arrange for immediate or future
shipment depending on timelines.

It was fascinating work!

49 EXT/INT. HOUSE OF WORTH PARIS - DAY 49

McLaughlin and Jack enter the House of Worth.

Jack is introduced to Mons. Sautet, a buyer/seller that works directly for Charles Frederick Worth.

MONS. SAUTET

Gentlemen!! Gentlemen!! Please come in!

Mons. McLaughlin, so good to see you again! I trust your travel from New York was pleasant?

W.A. MCLAUGHLIN

Ahhh Pierre, thank you! Yes, tiring but pleasant!

Allow me to introduce to you my associate Mons. Martine.

Jack here is rather new to Europe and to the industry, but quite the quick study.

I will leave him in your capable hands, as alas, I must keep a financial appointment at the bank, if we are to have a successful end to our trip!

Jack, I will catch up to you at the Hotel after lunch. Don't spend all my money!

JACK DANDY (V.O.)

The "Universal Exposition of 1900" had devoted an entire building to fashion designers.

Paris fashion was dominated by the House of Worth, located on Rue de la Paix.

But over twenty high fashion houses were in competition now. Led by designers including Jeanne Paquin, Paul Poiret, Georges Doeuillet, and many, many more.

(MORE)

JACK DANDY (V.O.) (cont'd)

Some of the houses we visited only had a handful of employees, while other firms had between four hundred and nine hundred!

Everywhere we went, I took notes, gathered business and personal cards.

I wanted to enlarge my circle of European business and social contacts.

When the workday was over, McLaughlin would retire to the Hotel, but I just could not wait to soak in the tub, change my outfit, and hit the Paris nightlife full of bars, bouillons, and brasseries!

Well known haunts such as the Cafe de Flore, Les Deux Magots, Cafe de la Paix were uniquely situated.

Bouillon Chartier, in the Montparnasse district for a quick aperitif, or the Au Rocher de Canale if one desired fresh oysters.

I loved the small, hole-in-the-wall Bar de L'Entracte. Established in 1614, it was the first Parisienne bar?

The luxury and refinement was all encompassing!!

This was truly the "Belle Epoque" the Beautiful Era, and Paris was truly the world capitol of pleasure.

Eventually, my head would find a pillow. I would sleep, then get up and do it all over again!

50 EXT/INT. LONDON SAVOY HOTEL SEQUENCE - DAY/NIGHT 50

Jack & W.A McLaughlin depart Paris, board steamship and sail for London. Upon arrival it is a 2-hour train ride into London. They check into Savoy Hotel.

The Savoy was the first purpose-built deluxe hotel in Britain, when it opened in 1889, offering the comfort, luxury and service that Americans visiting London were familiar with back home. Richard D'Oyly Carte, the theatrical impresario who had built The Savoy, stayed in some of the new American hotels as he toured his Opera Company in the United States through the late 1870s and early 1880s, and he saw how these hotels were quick to adopt new technologies. How novel these technologies would surely be in the London hotel market.

He himself had already brought one innovation to London, when he built the Savoy Theater in 1881. The theater was the first public building in Britain to be completely lit by electric lights, since the commercial light bulb had just been patented in the US in 1879.

Electricity for both the hotel and the theater was steam-generated, with water provided by the hotel's own artesian wells, heated in the huge boiler house under The Savoy. The entire hotel was lit by electricity, and guests were able to turn the lights in their rooms on and off at will. Hot water from the boilers was used for the hotel's central heating system, and provided limitless supplies for the sixty-seven bathrooms. The artesian wells also supplied water for the two hydraulically-operated guest lifts to all floors. The lift mechanisms had to be imported from America, as there was no British lift supplier, but with this equipment installed, D'Oyly Carte deliberately omitted to build a main staircase in the hotel. Guests who survived the journey up to their suites, could call room service on the speaking tubes available in every room, and their requests would be brought to them by staff traveling upwards through the hotel in the four staff lifts installed for their use.

Indeed back of house was in some ways just as luxurious as the front. The kitchens were laid out with the most modern state-of-the-art equipment, and in a huge break with tradition had natural light and ventilation. In 1890 the great chef Auguste Escoffier came to The Savoy as maitre-chef, and reorganized the kitchen into stages (stations). This revolutionized the restaurant industry in Britain, and is how most large restaurant kitchens are still organized to this day.

51 EXT/INT. SOCIAL SEQUENCE LONDON - DAY 51

Jack again impresses W.A. McLaughlin with his work ethic and appetite to indulge.

Jack visits the Daly, Garrick, Savoy, Palace, and Apollo theaters. Meets British actor Lewis Waller.

52 EXT/INT. RETURN TO NEW YORK HARBOR - DAY/NIGHT 52

W.A and Jack depart England, having transacted their business, and shipped their goods.

We see luxury life aboard ship, being fully taken advantage of on this return trip.

Ship pulls into New York harbor at Sunset, Jack is out on deck, enjoying the skyline, the Statue of Liberty.

W.A. McLaughlin gives him a week off.

He picks up his held mail at the Lambs Club.

A letter from Mabel is among them, requesting they meet in D.C.

53 EXT. WILLIARD HOTEL, WASHINGTON D.C - EVENING 53

(Music: Stranded in Self Pity- Warren Haynes)

From 1847 when the enterprising Willard brothers, Henry and Edwin, first set up as innkeepers on the corner of 14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, the Willard has occupied a unique niche in the history of Washington and the nation.

In 1847 Benjamin Ogle Tayloe leased the establishment to Henry A. Willard and his brother, Edwin. Edwin withdrew from the management, to be replaced by his brother Joseph C. Willard in 1849. In 1858 the Willards expanded again, purchasing the property of Col. James Kearney on the southwest corner of 14th and F Streets. They demolished the Kearney Mansion and built a six-story addition to the hotel. Next an adjoining Presbyterian Church on F Street was acquired and converted to an auditorium known as Willard Hall. Finally, at the turn of the century, the Willard underwent a massive transformation.

The new Willard, designed by New York architect Henry Janeway Hardenbergh and erected by the George A. Fuller Company, was hailed at its opening as Washington's first skyscraper, completed in 1904.

Jack arrives in D.C., grabs a room at The Willard.

He freshens up, changes clothes, heads down to meet Mabel in the bar/grill.

Mabel is nervous and fidgety as she joins Jack.

Jack enters the hotel bar, moves across the room to where Mabel is seated.

Mabel does not get up as Jack moves in for a hug, a sign that this meeting is not going to go as he envisioned.

JACK DANDY

Mabel? Good to see you too!

MABEL

(nervous)

Hello Jack, sit down please. Thank you for coming to D.C.

I am not sure where to start, so I guess I'll just begin. I do love you, but I am unhappy. I have been for a while.

Living apart, seeing one another for just brief interludes, fun as they are, is holding me back somehow.

I do not know what I want, or what is right. I do not think you do either.

I think when we first met, we both were filled with desire, hopes, dreams of a life together.

But both our careers have taken us in different directions.

I went West, and you went East. I have come to realize that I am unsure what I want, from you or any man for that matter, as well as what I want for my life.

We are still just scratching at the surface of all the opportunities out there.

So, I need let go of you Jack. Now. Today.

(MORE)

MABEL (cont'd)

I do not know what the future will dream up , but I must find my own path out of this.

I am sorry you came all the way to D.C. for this, but I felt I had to tell you in person.

If there was an easy way to say goodbye, trust me, I'd choose it.

Goodbye Jack.

Mabel rises, hurries outside, leaving Jack alone to find his own way back to New York.

54 EXT/INT. APARTMENT/NYC FRAUNCES TAVERN - NIGHT 54

(Music: The Devil Ain't Lazy- Pokey LaFarge)

Having been spurned by Mabel, Jack cuts loose. Hits the clubs hard.

Jack has a different woman each night, sometimes two at a time, to get Mabel off his mind.

55 INT. HABADASHERY - NEXT WEEK 55

(Music: Looking Out For #1- BTO)

Jack comes back to work revitalized. Customer service is astounding!

Great reviews and great referrals flow into the shop. Store profits are up, Jack's salary is raised AGAIN.

Jack doubles down on the job, and on his social ladder climbing. Social invitations flourish.

Everyone who is anyone in New York knows "Martine".

W.A Mclaughlin has his most profitable year yet!

56 INT. Y.M.C.A HOMELESS VETERAN - MORNING 56

Music: Shaking a Cup- Too Slim & Taildraggers

Jack is seen walking the streets of NYC with scammers, thieves, extortionists, and con-men plying their trade on every corner, in every alley.

JACK DANDY (V.O.)

The eagle flew today! Everybody in New York City has a side scam, everybody!

Nobody gets by on whatever salaries companies are shelling out.

It doesn't matter if a you are a police officer, a city street sweeper, a butcher, or a bartender. Everyone is on the make in this town.

Jack spots a homeless beggar on the sidewalk, as he is going into the "YMCA".

Camera switches back and forth from Jack working out, to street people, and the beggar.

Jack finishes working out at the "YMCA". As he exits, he stops for the beggar that is shaking his cup.

VETERAN

Spare some change mister for an ol' soldier?

JACK DANDY

(Jack drops in some change)

Here you go Pops! Make sure some of that gets food and not just drink in your belly!

VETERAN

Thank you, kindly sir!

I was just a young'un, back with William Walker, during the Nicaragua Expedition back in '55.

The Filibusters we were, after he tried taking Baja.

Hell of a mess I tell you! A wannabe dictator.

(MORE)

VETERAN (cont'd)
 God Bless sir!

57 INT. DELMONICOS - NIGHT 57

In 1837, at the beginning of New York City's evolution as the financial center of the world, the genesis of what would become a world-renowned culinary institution, Delmonico's Restaurant, was set. A small shop selling classically prepared pastries, fine coffee and chocolate, bonbons, wines and liquors as well as Havana cigars was operated by the Delmonico brothers. Its success led them to purchase a triangular plot of land at the intersection of Beaver, William, and South William Streets where, in 1837, they opened the first fine dining restaurant in the country.

*Delmonico's offered an unheard of luxury – the availability of private dining rooms (located on the third floor) where **discriminate** entertaining was the order of the day. The basement held the restaurateur's treasure, the largest private wine cellar in the city, holding an impressive 1,000 bottles of the world's finest wines. It was during these early years that Chef Alessandro Fellippini began to develop the restaurant's culinary identity with the house special, Delmonico Steak.*

Jack performs in evenings socially. Performs at a friends bachelor party upstairs. Doing somersaults, flips, and contortions.

58 EXT/INT. HOTEL ROOM WASHINGTON D.C.- DAY 58

On a weekend trip to D.C., Jack is introduced to, and seduces Ruth Mason, an influential Senator's daughter.

A brief but valuable affair.

Jack is dressing in front of the mirror, while Ruth lies naked in bed, partially covered by a sheet

JACK DANDY
 Darling, last night was amazing, but a little foggy. Remind me again, who did you say your Father was?

RUTH MASON
 Silly Jack! I told you!

He was a United States Senator from the great state of Illinois!

(MORE)

RUTH MASON (cont'd)

We divide our time between D.C and home.

I do believe you and Daddy would get along just fine together.

JACK DANDY

Yes... I'm sure we would sweetie.

Though I do wish to meet him 1 day, I am much more interested in Daddy's little girl!

Jack moves over to bed, twists Ruth sideways, letting her legs dangle off the bed. Raising the sheet, he kneels and ducks underneath.

RUTH MASON

Oh my!

Ruth giggles and squirms. Her giggles stop and she slowly starts to moan with pleasure.

59 EXT/INT. EUROPEAN TRIP MONTAGE 1904 - DAY/NIGHTS 59

Title screen- 2 years later, Spring 1904

Jack is entrusted to return to Europe alone.

Making purchases of men's fashion for the Haberdashery, and to link up with W.A. later in London.

They visit:

- Milan Italy
- Vienna Austria
- Paris France
- Berlin Germany
- London England

59A INT/EXT. HOUSE OF REDFERN EDINBURGH - DAY 59A

Jack is seen placing orders, selecting textiles, garments, accessories through out Europe

A clerical error from a fashion tailoring firm in Edinburgh, Redfern & Sons, lands a windfall in Jack's favor.

Rather than correct it or inform his employer, Jack gleefully has the shipment separately sent to him in New York.

JACK DANDY

Good day to you sir. I am Mr. Martine, of W.A. McLaughlin Haberdashery, New York City.

I believe you should have received a cable regarding my purchase requirements.

If all things are in order, I would like to make payment and arrange for shipment.

CHARLES REDFERN

Aaaaahhh certainly Mr. Martine. We have been expecting your visit.

I don't believe I had the pleasure of making your acquaintance during my last visit to our 5th Avenue store?

Have you been with W.A. McLaughlin long?

JACK DANDY

Pleasure is mine, may I call you Charles, and I am Jack?

I've been in his employ since 1900, so its been just about 4 years. When were you last in New York?

CHARLES REDFERN

Oh, well that explains it! It was in '98 that I last visited.

Your goods are all ready. Everything has been processed, items packed, and crated for shipment.

Charles slides a clipboard toward Jack.

Just need your signature on the shipping documents, and complete the address information for the desired destination.

Oooh and your bank draft payment in the amount of \$13784.33 as agreed.

Jack reviews the shipping documents and inventory list, and spots large errors in the item quantities.

He opens his mouth to inform Charles, but notices the error is in his favor, as the purchase price is the agreed one.

JACK DANDY

(bored)

Looks wonderful Charles. I'll just list the warehouse address for WILL CALL

Here is bank draft for the agreed amount. Should I keep the bottom or top copies?

Jack scrawls his signature, completes the forms, passes over the bank draft. He slides back the clipboard with the draft.

Charles passes back the bottom copies of all forms

JACK DANDY (cont'd)

What is your estimate for the delivery date?

CHARLES REDFERN

We typically plan 6 weeks. 1-2 weeks overland on each side, and 3-4 crossing the Atlantic

Its been a pleasure doing business with you Jack

JACK DANDY

Excellent! Excellent! Arrival with time to spare before Spring!

Charles, the pleasure truly has been all mine!

Jack heads back to London via train

61 EXT/INT. RIVERSIDE DRIVE APARTMENT - DAY 61

(Music: Keep the Party Rolling- Too Slim & Taildraggers)
Title screen 1904

Jack returns from his second European trip and moves into a new, luxury apartment on Riverside Drive.

He hosts a housewarming late night party with high stake poker game.

Jack is seated at card table with 5 other players. A mix of women and men fill out the party. Music, liquor, drugs and sex are plentiful. Life is good, or so he thinks.

JACK DANDY

One more pot for me, then I'm out.
Ante up everyone!

Jack deals the cards. Chips fly. Cards fly. Bets are made. Cards are revealed with much table talk. Jack tosses his cards down in contempt.

JACK DANDY (cont'd)

Haven't had a decent hand all night!

Leaving the table, crosses to the bar. Grabs to champagne flutes, and a bottle in an ice bucket.

Walking toward the bedroom, he reaches out and grabs a woman by her hand, pulls her along behind as she laughs at her luck, and waves bye to her girlfriend, as he takes her to bed.

Moments later, the door opens, Jack emerges bare chested. He crosses the room to a group huddled around a high top table.

JACK DANDY (cont'd)

Pardon me, but I'll take that.

Jack reaches down, grabs a mirrored drink tray off the table that is filled with lines and piles of cocaine.

He walks back to the bedroom and closes the door behind him.

62 EXT/INT. IMPORT/EXPORT HARBOR DOCK - DAY 62

(Music: The Cat- Climax Blues Band)

Jack gets a wire his illicit shipment of clothing has arrived from London.

Posing as a Customs Agent, Jack enters office to retrieve the shipment from the holding warehouse.

JACK DANDY

Good day to you sir! I'm here to retrieve this shipment

Presents shipping receipt

How long before you can have this on the loading dock?

I've 2 wagons outside, but will require some stevedore support or we'll both be here having our supper.

SHIPPING CLERK

Let's see, that just got unloaded last night. Its still in the temporary hold lot.

I think if you move those wagons into the waiting lane, we get them out onto the dock directly.

Not a large shipment.... looks to be 10-12 crates

JACK DANDY

(smiling)

Excellent!!

Jack has the wagons sent to his rented storage locker. He stacks it with excess high quality men's clothing items from Europe.

He has the rest delivered to the Haberdashery.

He begins to sell them on the side to supplement his income and fund his extravagant lifestyle.

63 INT. PEACOCK ALLEY/WALDORF ASTORIA - NIGHT 63

(Music: Riverside Drive- Peter Wolf)

For more than 100 years, the Waldorf-Astoria has reigned as the queen of hospitality and luxury, and maintained a status of legendary proportions as an icon amongst New York City institutions. Its beginnings are more than complex, and deep-rooted in inter-family rivalry.

As the story goes, a feud arose between Mrs. Astor and her nephew and Fifth Avenue neighbor, William Waldorf Astor, who felt that if anyone was going to be society's doyenne, it ought to be his wife, not his aunt, who was continuously referred to by the press as "the Mrs. Astor". Riddled with anger, he built the Waldorf, a 13-story hotel that dwarfed his aunt's mansion in hopes to pique her irritation. Mrs. Astor and her own son retaliated by building their own hotel next door, which they named the Astoria. When rumors swirled that Mrs. Astor might replace her house with an even bigger hotel, agents of the two Astors got together and agreed on a joint hotel. Its two separate parts were connected by corridors and a hyphen: the Waldorf- Astoria, with its long, and very fashionable social promenade, known as Peacock Alley.

Faced with marble and lined with palm trees, it was the lobby-floor corridor of the original Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, which opened in 1897 at Fifth Avenue and 34th Street. (The Empire State Building sits there now.) Peacock Alley was open to anyone who looked rich and powerful and wanted to display appropriate plumage. It was built partly on the site of the most exclusive and coveted society showplace in New York: Caroline Schermerhorn Astor's ballroom, which could only ever hold about 400 guests, giving rise to the "Four Hundred" moniker and those who received her invitations were the validated members of high society. Flowing gowns, pearl necklaces, diamond tiaras, white ties and tails were its typical aesthetic cursors. Out-of- towners and New Yorkers alike were seldom as happy as when they were in Peacock Alley, either putting on a vain show or taking one in.

Jack goes out for an evening stroll about town, winding up at the Waldorf to celebrate his good fortune.

He is at the top of the social scene and thinks he has the World in his hands.

64 EXT.

NYC HARBOR - DAY

64

We see an ocean liner pulling into harbor, from London.

Once docked, the gangplank is positioned and passengers begin to disembark.

Camera roams the crowd, then swings back over some faces. It picks out a familiar face. Milo is back in town.

65 INT/EXT. CORNER BODEGA - DAY/NIGHT 65

Milo Myers is eating a sausage, spots Jack walking on the street. He exits hastily and begins tailing Jack.

Over several days, he tracks Jack to his apartment, job, and Jack visiting his storage locker.

He plots his revenge.

66 INT. HOTEL MAJESTIC ROOFTOP BAR - EARLY EVENING 66

(Music: Testify- Alan Doyle, Colin James)

Jacob Rothschild arrived in New York City at the age of 13 in 1856, "a fatherless boy," as The New York Times later commented.

By the time he retired from the millinery business around 1880, he had amassed a fortune. He now turned his attention to real estate and in 1890 began what would be his crowning achievement in that field. He started buying up the vacant plots along Central Park West between 71st and 72nd Street. Finally, on January 24, 1891, the Record & Guide reported that he had acquired the last of the 12 lots. "By these purchases, Mr. Rothschild secures the block front of 500 feet by a depth on each street of 150 feet. On the plot Mr. Rothschild will erect, it is said, a fourteen-story hotel."

If Rothschild's grandiose plan seemed far-fetched to some, it did not phase him. In May the Record & Guide updated its readers, saying that Alfred Zucker had filed plans for the \$1 million "family hotel"--the staggering cost around 29 times that much today. "It will be the most important improvement of years on the west side," said the article.

Construction on the Hotel Majestic took three years. Guests entered the 30-foot wide main entrance on 72nd Street into a marble-lined lobby, or "main hall." The 10,000-square-foot main dining room was on the 71st Street side of the first floor. Also on the first floor were "the usual parlor, drawing-rooms, reception and billiard-rooms, with private dining-room and ball-room," according to the Record & Guide.

Hotel Majestic occupied a full block site, had about 600 rooms, bowling alleys and was the first hotel to inaugurate a roof garden. The general entrance was on 72d Street. Three 11-story sections were divided by large courtyards.

Milo follows McLaughlin after work one evening, up to the rooftop bar, confronts him with Jack's circus history.

He plants seeds of doubt about trustworthiness, and how Jack can't afford his lifestyle.

McLaughlin decides to hire the Pinkerton Detectives to follow & investigate Jack.

MILO MYERS

Excuse me, you're W.A. McLaughlin correct? My name is Milo. Milo Myers.

May I join you briefly? I have some information you might be very interested in hearing.

W.A. McLaughlin indicates to an open chair

Thank you. Its concerning an employee of yours

W.A. MCLAUGHLIN

An employee you say? What's this all about Mr. Myers?

MILO MYERS

Well, you know him as "Jack". Jack Martine.

But his real name is John Rauschenbach, and he is originally from Baltimore.

I worked with him before, years ago. We were together in a Circus.

You can't trust him. Be careful or he'll rob you blind. Prolly already is!

Ask yourself, how does he live such a lavish life? Can't be just on the salary you are paying him.

W.A. MCLAUGHLIN

Well I've found him to be most reputable. My clients, and their wives adore the man!

You must be mistaken!

MILO MYERS

Don't take my word on it! Just watch him.

(MORE)

MILO MYERS (cont'd)

He puts on a great show, real sharp dresser, ladies all love him. A real dandy of a fella. Nice as can be.

He is not to be trusted. Do your own investigating, and you'll find out soon enough.

I'll take my leave of you sir, enjoy the remainder of your evening.

Milo rises and departs through the rooftop of tables.

W.A McLaughlin watches him walk away, as he scratches his chin, confused.

67 INT. 5TH AVE HABERDASHERY - DAY 67

Jack shows up for work, immediately senses he is being watched.

The detectives follow Jack for the next six months. Watching his home, outings, comings, and goings.

They will eventually discover his secret storage locker.

68 INT. US ATTORNEY SDNY OFFICE - DAY 68

A junior attorney is seen briefing DA Stimson about a Pinkerton case one of his friends is working on.

He convinces DA there may be felonies committed, international trade concerns.

He receives permission to track the Pinkerton efforts and report back as needed.

ASST. DA LAMPERT

(Knocks on door)

Excuse me Boss, got a minute?

DA STIMSON

Come in! Come in but be quick. What do'ya got?

ASST. DA LAMPERT

Well, I was just down at Central Booking and overheard something that you might be interested in.

ZIMBO
(Yells out upper
window)
Yea? Who is it?

JACK DANDY
(hesitantly)
Zimbo! It is me, Jack. Come down and
let me in

Footsteps are heard on wooden stairs. The door opens.

Zimbo is older, unkept, wearing dirty t-shirt, open robe,
pajama pants and house slippers

ZIMBO
Jack! My God, come in lad, come in!
Bit of climb to reach my nest these
days, but what 'till you see the
view. Beautiful brick wall beyond
every window!

They take the stairs slowly, with Zimbo leading the way up.
Jack passes through the open door, in filth

Sit! Sit Please, just clear yourself
a seat.

How they hell did you find me? It's
been over 5 years since Merlin folded
up.

JACK DANDY
I ran into Barney, the old ticket
master. He's still working away, out
at Dreamland on Coney Island.

He told me where you were hanging
your hat.

Jack eyes all the empty bottles

Zim, good Lord you still have a taste
for that spiked vino?

That stuff is going to kill you,
literally. Its made with an extract
of the coca plant. Its addictive so
you can't quit!

We're going work on getting you off
of that and back in shape.

(MORE)

JACK DANDY (cont'd)
 Put on a pot of coffee, and I'll
 bring you up to date of my fortunes
 and misfortunes!

Damn I missed you!

70 INT. BROWNS COFFEE HOUSE- MORNING 70

Milo is reading the weekly Variety and sees that Mabel is performing at the Casino Theater on Broadway & 39th.

He knows she was once Jack's girlfriend.

Knowing it would be a knife to the heart of Jack, Milo hatches a scheme to steal Mabel's heart.

71 EXT/INT. NIGHTCLUB/DINNER OUT - NIGHT 71

(Music: Wanna Be Your Man- Pokey LaFarge)

Milo & Mabel are seen out together, dancing, cutting the rug, ordering "Gin Rickeys.

They are laughing, whispering, holding hands.

Its clear that Milo has worked his way into her life.

72 INT. HABERDASHERY - DAY 72

Title screen 1906 MONTHS LATER

Jack is away from the store, out on a house call.

The Pinkerton detectives debrief McLaughlin of what they uncovered.

They turn over an inventory list of items that they believe he took home from the store without paying for.

PINKERTON DETECTIVE
 Morning sir. I just wanted to come by
 and drop off our final written report
 from the investigation.

You've had us watching your
 employees, this establishment, and
 Mr. Martine in particular for the
 last several months.

(MORE)

PINKERTON DETECTIVE (cont'd)

We did find several items in his apartment that do bear your label. A list is attached.

He was never actually seen to remove anything from the premises.

But, there is also the issue of his storage locker. Though the items can't be proven as yours, we feel he somehow used your firm and your trust to acquire them.

We think there is a strong case to bring charges

W.A.McLaughlin flips through the report

W.A. MCLAUGHLIN

Thank you, and your team. I will make a decision shortly about what to do.

73 INT. HABERDASHERY - DAY 73

McLaughlin is seen in his office, having a drink alone, analyzing his courses of action.

What to do about Jack? File charges against him? Fire him? He decides he must do both.

74 INT. POLICE STATION - DAY 74

McLaughlin and Pinkerton detectives swear out sworn statements and charges are written up.

DESK SGT

Next!

PINKERTON DETECTIVE

Morning to ya O'Reilly.

My client and I need to have sworn affidavits taken, regarding a theft.

Desk Sgt shuffles some papers onto clipboards. Passes them to the Detective.

DESK SGT

Take these over to Interview Room 3. Fill them out in triplicate, then around the corner, down the hallway to the Notary's office.

(MORE)

DESK SGT (cont'd)

You know the drill. She'll witness,
record, and put her seal on it

Then take it all upstairs to Robbery.

If all is squared away, one of the
detectives will accompany you over to
the Court Clerk.

They'll get it to the Judge for your
Search Warrant

Three hours later, a Judge issues a search warrant for
Jack's apartment and the storage locker.

75 INT/EXT. JACKS APARTMENT & LOCKER - NEXT MORNING 75

Jack is in bed with a beauty.

Police arrive early in the morning with a search warrant.

Simultaneous searches are conducted of his apartment and his
storage locker.

There is a loud, persistent knocking at the door.

COPS

Open the door! Police!! Search
warrant!

JACK DANDY

(hungover)

Hold your horses! I am coming, I'm
coming!

Jack gets out of bed, naked, dons a satin robe, opens door.

Several police officers in uniform and several plainclothes
detectives enter. Detective hands copy of warrant to Jack.

DETECTIVE

We are here to search for stolen
property.

The warrant also allows us to enter
the locker you are maintaining down
at the Port.

Please step aside.

JACK DANDY

I am not alone here.

(MORE)

JACK DANDY (cont'd)

Please keep your goons out of the bedroom until my guest is presentable and allowed to leave.

(Shouts into bedroom)

Baby, get dressed and head out.

I will catch up with you later.

Stunningly attractive woman appears from the bedroom, tugs down her dress, lifts her breasts, adjusts her hat.

She walks over to Jack, gropes him, then drags her gloved hand across the dropped chins of several of the police officers on her way out.

Jack pours some leftover champagne into a crystal flute, looks at the Detective.

JACK DANDY (cont'd)

You mind telling me what this is all about? What stolen property?

DETECTIVE

Your employer, MR. W.A. McLaughlin, has filed charges of theft against you.

He has been quite concerned for a long time, even hired some Pinkerton's to investigate.

He alleges you have lifted items from your place of employment, as well as made some unauthorized purchases.

Once we are done here and at the storage locker, the evidence will be turned over to the prosecuting attorney.

He will decide if charges are in order.

My advice is to get a lawyer.

76 EXT/INT. LAMB'S CLUBHOUSE OPENING SCENE - DAY 76

Jack Dandy, mid 20's handsome, fit, is seated in a booth, immaculately dressed, impeccably groomed.

Jack smokes after eating lunch, plates still on the table, he opens his mail with a pearl handle letter opener.

Finished, Jack gathers up his hat, pockets a beautiful green/gold large glass marble, reaches for his exquisite walking stick and other personal items, then moves through the club, and exits out onto the city streets.

Confident and cocky, he walks down the street, nodding his acknowledgement to folks as he passes by. He checks himself in a storefront window and adjusts his look... in anticipation of his next opportunity to make a first impression.

JACK DANDY (V.O.)

A better man than me once said "I've been influenced by many but defined by none".

We only get one spin of life's wheel, and nobody knows how long it will last, how good it will be, or if anyone will even bear witness to us having walked on this Earth after we've passed.

Jack turns to enter the Hotel Rector. Four police officers step out of hiding, take him into custody.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Are you John Wilmer Martine?

JACK DANDY

(Struggling)

Well, most people call me Jack... or Martine.

POLICE OFFICER 1

You are coming with us. You are under arrest for theft.

A crowd of passer-byes begins to form, guests from the Hotel crowd their way outside.

POLICE OFFICER 2

All right.... everybody keep back!
Nothing to see here. Back I say!

JACK DANDY
 (Jack desperately
 trying to break free)
 Whoa ! Whoa! WAIT! I can explain!!

Police officers man-handle Jack off the sidewalk, down the steps, into the alley and load him into the waiting paddy wagon.

POLICE OFFICER 3
 I bet you can my friend! But it won't be today! Tell the Judge when you see him!

POLICE OFFICER 4

Assists in arrest.

Across the street standing in the shadows of a building watching the pinch go down, is Milo Myers, late 20's/early 30's, roguish in dress, unshaven, fidgeting with a toothpick in his mouth.

MILO MYERS
 (Smirk on his face,
 mumbling to himself)
 I told you boy, that first time we met. You don't want any of this!

Milo turns and walks off into the city

77 INT. US DA SDNY OFFICE - DAY 77

Evidence seized from his apartment and storage locker searches is shared between the NYPD and the District Attorney Office for the Southern District of New York.

Documents NYPD found indicate he was impersonating a federal Treasury Officer.

While Jack is in the Tombs, he is escorted up to the DA office, interrogated but not yet charged.

DA STIMSON
 Sit down Mr. Martine, or is it Rauschenbach?

Offer you anything?
 A coffee? Water? A Butt?

JACK DANDY
 You can call me Jack.
 No, thanks. I am fine.
 (MORE)

JACK DANDY (cont'd)

What is this all about?

DA STIMSON

Well, it seems that during the search of your apartment, and your storage locker, some evidence surfaced that the NYPD passed on to us.

Looks like you have been impersonating a Federal Agent.

A U.S. Customs Officer to be exact.

Care to talk to me about it?

JACK DANDY

What kind of evidence?

DA STIMSON

It looks like you told the storage company down at the Port you wanted the locker for government operations.

You used fake documentation, identification and false business cards.

JACK DANDY

Must be a mistake is all I can say.

You got the wrong guy.

Are we done here?

DA STIMSON

Well, it would be in your best interests to cooperate.

Federal charges will be filed once we finish our investigation.

No telling where it will lead us.

Could involve tax issues, import/export violations.

Could send you up the river for quite a spell.

Bailiff!

Take Mr. Martine back to the TOMBS to finish his booking.

(MORE)

DA STIMSON (cont'd)

Nice meeting you Jack!

78 INT. CENTRAL BOOKING/TOMBS - DAY 78

(Music: Looking Out For #1- BTO)

Arrested, thrown into "Tombs". Jack sees his high society world crumbling.

His lifestyle is invaded. McLaughlin has pressed charges and fired him.

Reporters dig into his penniless, immigrant past, discover his birth identity.

Jack is unceremoniously tossed into a holding cell.

After some hours, he is issued prisoner clothes, his personal belongings are bagged and inventoried.

He is walked through the Tombs, and into a cell with the general population.

JACK DANDY (V.O.)

Well, this was a new low, even for me.

I knew I was flirting with disaster, but until you are staring down at losing your freedom, hitting rock bottom takes on a new meaning.

The public humiliation of my arrest, did tend to make a man question his decisions.

I was not just looking at petty theft charges from my boss.

The Feds were trying to make a case against me for impersonating a Treasury Agent.

Which I kind of, sort of, was! But just for bragging rights with the ladies!

No one got hurt because of it and it was not like I was trying to rob Ft. Knox.

(MORE)

JACK DANDY (V.O.) (cont'd)
Looking around me now sent a shiver
up and down my spine.

There were some hard characters
locked up in the Tombs.
Not like I would be getting any
perfumed baths anytime soon.

I need a lawyer, fast.

I need to get out of here.

79 EXT/INT. PRISON CELL, NYC TOMBS - DAY 79

Title screen- Newspaper Headlines flashing

Jack reads comments from sisters in paper, is devastated
having let them down.

Society friends abandon him is the headlines. His name is in
papers, and he is infamous now.

US District Attorney SDNY, issued a search warrant and a
second search has been conducted.

True images of Jack's dual life uncovered in apartment.

JACK DANDY (V.O.)
That damn Milo!

Not only did he set me up with
McLaughlin my boss; he also is
blabbing to the press about my circus
days.

Calling me a "Circus Freak, a Human
Snake, or a Human Corkscrew".

Didn't help that Stimson found old
flyers, postcards, photographs, and
billings of my act.

Not that I am ashamed of those days.

Hell, there is many a happy woman can
attest to my physical attributes.

But I had moved on and moved up.

So, I believed.

79A INT. PRISON CELL, NYC TOMBS - NITE 79A

Alone only with his thoughts, regrets, and anger.

Angry at himself, angry at Milo.

All this misery and misfortune, just to gain approval from people that could care less about him.

Awake, but Jack is not alone. He has a snoring, sleeping cellmate.

JACK DANDY V.O.

I'm tired of losing.

First I lost my parents.

Then our house got taken away and the 4 of us kids got separated.

Then I find a new family of sorts with Merlin, and it too is stripped away from me.

I lost Mabel.

Now I've lost my job.

My reputation.

Next, could be my actual freedom.

I could be angry, bitter, apathetic or have any number of different responses and reactions to the events of my life.

But everyone faces hardships, and obstacles.

Whether its death, poverty, hate, losing at love, racism, poor health or just a run of bad luck.

It is hard to lose. It leaves you feeling empty.

Seems you have to be lost to be found.

Losing truly makes you appreciate what you had.

Now, I'm angry.

(MORE)

JACK DANDY V.O. (cont'd)

Its time to fight.

First, I have to get out of here!

Then.... find Milo!

80 INT. LAWYER CUBICLE NYC TOMBS - DAY 80

Jack is escorted to visit with his Public Defender.

Jack has been confined for 2+ days, he is dirty, tired.

Jack wants to be rescued from this hellhole.

He lets loose an unveiled threat.

JACK DANDY

Somebody better get me outta here, or
I will spill my guts about some of
NYC's so called "finest" citizens.

I have got enough dirt to fill a
truck!

DEFENSE ATTY MITCHELL

Hello Mr. Martine. Calm down a bit
and let's talk.

You are faced with some serious
charges.

It looks as though you have made a
few enemies.

First, we need to see about getting
you out on bail.

That will require some good behavior
on your part, understand?

Then, once you are out, we can decide
the best way to put up a fight to
keep you out!

Now, tell me who to reach out to.

Family? Friends?

We are going to need a lot of help.

81 INT.

LAW OFFICE -

DAY

81

Lawyers are debating, conversing, arguing about the charges against Jack. A deal is being discussed about bail.

DEFENSE ATTY MITCHELL

Good morning, all. I am Ms. Mitchell, representing Mr. Martine here.

There are three items I would like to discuss today; bail for my client, the misdemeanor charges of petty larceny brought forward by his employer Mr. McLaughlin, and the potential federal charges you are considering Mr. Stimson.

NYC ATTORNEY

Well, the city is willing to discuss the larceny charges, and a potential lenient sentence, if your client will plead guilty and save us all time and trouble.

The city has no objection to bail, provided he can post a bond.

DA STIMSON

The government has grave concerns over Mr. Martine's behavior.

His lack of regard for and misrepresentation of the seriousness of impersonating a federal employee.

A US Custom Agent, working for the Secret Service. He falsely entered a financial contract.

Our investigation is still ongoing but expect felony charges to be filed.

DEFENSE ATTY MITCHELL

Very well.

Without objections, I will submit our request for bail to the Court this afternoon.

I will discuss further with my client how he will plead to the misdemeanor charges.

(MORE)

DEFENSE ATTY MITCHELL (cont'd)
Mr. Stimson, we will await your
investigations' findings, and any
subsequent filings.

Good day to you both.

82 INT. VISITING ROOM NYC PRISON, TOMBS - DAY 82

Freddie arrives to visit Jack, with a newborn son.

Jack for the first time, sees himself as a twenty-five yo
man.

He realizes all that he jeopardized, all that was within
reach, all the mistakes he has made.

He wants a better life, to be a better man.

Hell, he is an uncle now!

JACK DANDY
Freddie, thanks for coming. My lawyer
said she got a hold of you.

My God! Who is that little one you
have in your arms?

FREDDIE
Jack, meet your nephew!

He is going to be known as Frederick
for his pops, and his middle name is
Martine, for his uncle!

He is going to need his uncle to step
it up and help him over the years
ahead.

So, let's get you outta here.

Bail has been set, and we will have
you out by dinner!!

83 INT. JACKS APARTMENT - DAY 83

(Music: Things Have Changed- Curtis Stigers)

Jack enters. Out on bail.

He loosens his tie, pours himself a drink, rolls his glass marble rhythmically across the table and stares out the window.

He needs to focus on others, not Self.

JACK DANDY(V.O)

I used to care about other peoples opinions, gaining their approval, or acceptance.

But things have changed.

I realize that you can hurt someone, and not even know it.

Any minute now I'm expecting all hell to break loose.

I know many secrets about this city, its elite.

I've wasted so much time

There's a lot of water under the bridge, but never forget, alot of others things too.

The temperature in NYC is about to be turned up a notch or two for many of my "acquaintances".

84 INT. AN AFFLUENT HOME, VA - MORNING 84

POV is entering the kitchen.

An elegant woman, a housewife most likely, is seated having coffee and her breakfast, her back is to the camera.

She unfolds the morning paper.

As the camera gets closer, peering over her shoulder eventually to see the front-page headline:

"MARTINE IS A BALTIMORE BOY!"

She drops her fork onto her plate in surprise.

The camera pulls back and swings around gradually showing her face.

It is Bertha.

BERTHA
(Gasps)

85 EXT. PORCH SWING, IDAS BOARDINGHOUSE - DAY 85

Freddie and Jack visit Ida.

They update Ida of Jack's legal perils.

She offers her support and assistance.

JACK DANDY
I cannot thank you both enough for your support and raising my bail money.

Some good news to share!

My lawyer received a telegram from Bertha!!

Apparently, she is still living in Virginia, read about me in the papers, and will arrive tomorrow.

I think we can get the city to go easy in sentencing.

After all, I really did not steal from McLaughlin.

Milo made him believe all my items in storage were his.

I just sort of used my position to help myself out.

IDA
I still can't believe we three have been in the same city all this time!

Just shows, how big NYC is. The fact that our lives never intersected!

Not because of work, hobbies, friends.

(MORE)

IDA (cont'd)

With out that new City Directory being published, we probably would still have missed each other.

FREDDIE

Ida, it seems Jack may come out of this relatively unharmed. It is the federal charges that worry me.

Mr. Stimson is one with political aspirations and does not seem likely to deal.

JACK

I have some thoughts on that.

Some of my "friends" also have political desires.

They know others in high places that may be able to convince Mr. Stimson to rethink his decision.

I will be spending my time, now that I'm out of that hellhole, working on twisting some arms and reassuring folks that secrets remain secret.

86 INT.

KAISER KELLER -

DAY

86

Mabel is meeting with Milo for dinner.

He cannot help himself from gloating, as he recounts Jack's fate.

Milo let's it slip that he knows Jack.

MILO

Sorry I am late dear.

Been a riotous day at the Theater.

All the talk about town is about this Martine fellow.

MABEL

Ohhhh, it is just awful! I do not believe a word of it!

He is one of the kindest, trustworthy people I ever met.

There must be a mistake.

MILO

Oh no dear!! He is a scoundrel!
A conman of the greatest magnitude.
Stole from his employer and hid away
his freakish past.

I knew his spots would never change!!

MABEL

Milo, do you know him?

How long have you known him?

MILO

(Upset with himself)

Errrr... ehhhh, well yes dear.

Since we were young lads, worked
together actually.

It was his fault I was fired from my
circus outfit.

MABEL

So... you did not think it important
to share that with me?

Have you been using me all along to
get back at him!?!??

I cannot believe this!!

Mabel stands, tosses her napkin on the table, turns to
leave.

Mabel turns back, grabs a glass of water, tosses it in his
face, and walks out.

87 INT.

ZIMBOS FLAT -

DAY

87

Freddie and Jack arrive to recruit Zimbo.

Zimbo will track a few old' timers down, he and Freddie will
set up Milo for a fall.

Using old circus and carny ploys, they decide to come up
with plan a way of paying back Milo for his treachery to the
Circus and to Jack.

The mongrel mutt, older, is sleeping with one eye open, the
opposite ear perked.

JACK DANDY

Zimbo! God I am glad to see you.

You obviously have heard of my troubles.

Hell, who hasn't?

Do you remember my brother, Freddie?

FREDDIE

Great to see you again Zimbo.

ZIMBO

Likewise, Freddie.

Quite the mess our Mons. Martyne has gotten himself into.

How can I help?

JACK DANDY

Well two things concern me, that you may be able to fix.

I am happy so far with my lawyer.

She feels we can plea deal the petty larceny to probation.

But this damn DA. He wants to press forward on the federal side.

I have put together a list, of some influential people in town. Many are WELL acquainted with me.

I am wondering if any of the old crew are in town or nearby?

Someone we can trust, who could have a talk with some of the folks on this least.

Maybe encourage THEM to have a chat with the DA?

Convince him that it would be better for everyone involved, if he could rethink his position.

ZIMBO

(laughing)

Ohhhhh, you mean blackmail!!!

FREDDIE

Not the term we were thinking of, but
you got it!

JACK DANDY

The second area of concern is Milo.

This guy has been a thorn in my side
since I was in the orphanage.

He is a big reason I am in the mess I
am in.

I want to take him down. Hard.

ZIMBO

Let me do some thinking, make a few
discrete inquiries with some folks,
and get back to you.

Pretty sure we can something happen
on both counts.

88 EXT. COURTHOUSE STEPS - DAY 88

Protesters are picketing outside the Court, cars are
honking, and friends of Jack are appealing to McLaughlin to
drop the charges.

As Jack pushes up the stairs, Mabel fights through the crowd
to Jack. She hands Jack a folded note, then runs off.

89 EXT. BACK-ALLEY DOOR DELMONICOS - EVENING 89

Zimbo stands at the backdoor, in the alley.

He meets & greets 8-10 old circus friends that arrive for a
planning session.

Milo's days are numbered.

ZIMBO

My god what an ugly group of
scoundrels assembled here tonite!

But I've never been happier to see
your mugs.

I know life has been rough of many of
us since we left Merlin.

(MORE)

ZIMBO (cont'd)

All of you know Jack, and most of you know that scum Milo.

Petey & James, you two hired on after Milo was fired, which lands you a special role in this play!

I'm going to need a couple of fellas he won't recognize.

Heads nod around the room

I couldn't go into much detail about Jack's troubles in my cable to all.

So let me bring you all up to date, and then tell you what I hope to do about it

But first how about a libation to wet our whistles!

Zimbo walks about pouring drinks, slapping backs

90 INT. JACKS APARTMENT - NEXT NIGHT 90

Zimbo updates Jack on his scheme to sting Milo.

JACK DANDY

Come in, sit down Zim. What did you find out?

ZIMBO

Well after we talked, I reached out to a few of the old crew. Had a great reunion with 'em, and gathered some intel.

Seems Milo disappeared to Europe and was running a playhouse for some time in London.

Since he has been back, he's been running a Vaudeville theater over on 35th.

But get this. He is neck deep into a couple of hoods, who lent him money for renovations.

I have spoken to these lads.

(MORE)

ZIMBO (cont'd)

They have no love for Milo, all they want is their money.

He has one final payment of \$5000 left.

FREDDIE

I see where this going.

ZIMBO

If Milo were to "misplace" that \$5000, and couldn't pay, those lads would not be very friendly.

If we can get our hands on that \$5000, turn it and Milo over to them, we would be in for a grand show!

JACK DANDY

So, tell me Zim, how do you plan to do that?

91 INT. DA OFFICE - DAY 91

DA's office is a revolving door of the "high & mighty".

Social elite are worried Jack will reveal their secrets if he is prosecuted.

They begin to visit DA Stimson to urge him to reconsider charging Jack.

92 EXT. CENTRAL PARK - SUNSET 92

(Music: I want to Love You- Delbert McClinton)

Jack and Mabel are strolling through the park.

JACK DANDY

Mabel, I was so glad to see you at Court and to read your note.

I realize now that I have been chasing my tail in circles these last few years.

MABEL

Oh, Jack I have been such a fool.

I tried again and again to convince myself I was over you.

(MORE)

MABEL (cont'd)

What we shared was fleeting and could not survive the time and distance that kept us apart.

But I don't care anymore.

JACK DANDY

Honey, I have been miserable, and made such a mess of my life.

I have got to set things right with the court, with my family, and with you!

Tell me you will give me another chance. I will not let you down.

MABEL

Baby, I am here now. How can I help?

93 INT. FREDDIE'S HOUSE - DAY 93

Family meets at Freddie's to solve Jack's problems.

The family agrees, Jack must show remorse, make repairs, and convince the Court he will not repeat.

FREDDIE

Damn.... its great to have a full table again!

Only wish it was for better reasons, than one of us was in trouble.

Just a quick update then some lunch! Marie has made pasta and goulash

Marie blushes over the stove

I think we have things well in hand as far as Milo is concerned.

Jack isn't the only person he's managed to piss off.

So in some ways, we've handed that issue off to be dealt with by others hands.

My main concern is this SDNY DA, what's his name? Stimson?

JACK DANDY (cont'd)
McLaughlin realizes he was played by
Milo and has some regrets.

He knows the few items I have from
his shop, came with the job.

Now, if we can get Stimson to turn.

96 INT. LAMB'S CLUBHOUSE - NIGHT 96

Freddie & Zimbo pay off the two hoods and instruct them
where to find Milo who is hiding.

FREDDIE
Zimbo, why don't you go get Jack.

Take a nice stroll down to Pier 57
together.

ZIMBO
Excellent idea!

97 EXT. PIER 57- SUNSET 97

Zimbo and Jack walk along the warehouses and duck under the
pier.

The two goons have Milo between them, teaching him the
meaning of teamwork.

Jack and Zimbo watch silently from the shadows until the
goons are finished working over Milo and leave him crumpled
in the sand.

They walk over and stare down at Milo.

JACK DANDY
Goodness! What happened to you Milo?

Did you piss somebody off? Lose
something that does not belong to
you?

Stab someone in the back again?

ZIMBO
It is so rewarding to see scum like
you get what you deserve.

After years of screwing over people
who trusted you, to see you lose!

(MORE)

ZIMBO (cont'd)

I just wish Merlin could have been here today.

JACK DANDY

You are done in this town Milo.

Get out and don't come back, or it will be worse if there is a next time.

Jack and Zimbo walk away down the beach.

98 EXT/INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY 98

Jack and his public defender are called in for a meeting.

Jack's social pressure campaign worked!

DA Stimson, pissed beyond belief, is backing off, dropping federal charges.

Jack pushes through the crowd just uttering no comment.

DA STIMSON

Come in, take a seat. This will not take long.

Mr. Martine, against my better judgment, my office will be dismissing all charges.

I do not know what you have been doing, but some powerful and influential people have been calling on me.

You may have them on your side, but you have not fooled me.

Tread lightly in this city from now on.

No amount of social pressure will protect you forever.

Now get out of my office.

99 INT. FREDDIES HOUSE - DAY 99

Gathered around kitchen table are all four siblings, Zimbo, Mabel, and Freddie's wife, Marie.

Jack gives a sigh of relief it is over, just must turn himself in, spend 1 night in jail and then out on probation.

JACK DANDY

I just want to thank everyone here for their support, love and courage.

Its been several difficult weeks and some hard lessons learned, I promise! But I think we've squeaked out the best resolution we could.

I'll turn myself in tomorrow afternoon and face the Judge the following day.

So raise your glass and let's get this over!! To Family and true friends!

100 INT. NYC PRISON TOMBS - NITE 100

Jack surrenders himself to jail as promised.

Spends the night, wakes up to breakfast.

Has a new outlook on life.

101 INT/EXT. NYC TOMBS/ BRIDGE OF SIGHS - DAY 101

(Music: Bridge of Sighs- Robin Trower)

Jack is back in his jail cell, awaiting sentencing. Time served and probation is the agreed deal.

Jack is eventually led outside to the "Bridge of Sighs", which he must cross to learn his sentence.

Shackled, Jack steps out and looks up into the Manhattan skyline. Outside, a crowd of on-lookers forms.

The guard shoves him, but Jack just smiles, knowing that as he walks forward in time, he can handle anything fate has in store for him on the other side of the bridge.

The bailiff opens the Courtroom door and Jack steps in.

The camera pans the courtroom, which is mostly empty.

We only see the Judge, the Clerk, a grinning District Attorney Stimson and Jack's public defender, head down, furiously reading new documents.

COURT CLERK

Case# 735289 The People of New York
Vs John Wilmer Martine.

All rise! The Honorable Judge Perkins
presiding.

Gavel is hammered

Court is now in session. Please be
seated.

JUDGE

Mr. Stimson and Ms. Mitchell, do I
understand correctly that both
parties have reached a plea
agreement?

DA STIMSON

Your Honor, the US District Attorney
of the Southern District of New York
rescinds its plea agreement with the
defendant!

We request the accused be remanded
and held without bail, due to his
potential as a flight risk until we
can schedule his arraignment on new
felony charges

Jack is furious! Stomping and yelling at his lawyer

JACK DANDY

Do something!! Anything...!! I'll
spill my guts!! I swear I will!!

FADE TO BLACK

THE END