

Jerome Irelevant

by

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Jerome Irrelevant

"Nanna's Cookies"

TEASER

EST. UPPER MANHATTAN NEW YORK CITY- EARLY MORNING

*LUPE FIASCO* TRACK PLAYS and the sun rises over upper Manhattan New York City. The uptown skyline consist of tree line streets and mid-story pre-war buildings. The vast green space feels like a million miles from the busy streets downtown. Runners and bikers line the park walkways.

INT. APARTMENT BEDROOM- CONTINUOUS

Music FADES as JEROME BENTON, (32) bi-racial lies in bed masturbating to Porn.

FEMALE VOICE(O.S.)

Yes Daddy, yes! Oh, oh!

Suddenly Jerome is abruptly interrupted WHINING from his dog FUBU (6).

Jerome turns the volume up but the WHINING intensifies and now includes intermittent barks that builds to a crescendo. Jerome turns off the porn.

JEROME

("Florida Evans")

Damn! Damn! Damn!

Jerome crawls to the end of his bed and looks at FUBU- now jumping excitedly.

JEROME (CONT'D)

Okay, okay I'm up, dammit.

(looking down at  
himself)

Well not anymore. Let's go outside.

Fubu leaps in excitement as Jerome exits from bed.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY- LATER

Jerome and Fubu stand at the elevator.

Next door neighbor RICHARD KEE, (34), Asian American enters the hallway.

JEROME

Morning Grant.

GRANT

It was for some of us.

The elevator door opens and Jerome gets in holding the door for Grant to enter.

Fubu begins to BARK and WHINE- Grant stops in his tracks.

GRANT (CONT'D)  
I'll take the stairs.

The elevator door closes leaving Jerome puzzled.

EXT. BUILDING SIDEWALK- CONTINUOUS

Jerome exits and Fubu pulls him to the curb and releases himself. Jerome takes out a cigarette- lights it and takes a hard drag to calm himself as Fubu pees.

Jerome notices ANN MARCHBANK, (32) and her female dog PEACHES practically skipping in his direction.

Jerome attempts to leave but Fubu assumes the position for number 2. Jerome- even more disturbed- takes one last strong drag then throws the cigarette out and turns his back hoping she doesn't see him.

JEROME  
(to Fubu)  
Could you hurry up?

Ann notices them and quickens her pace.

ANN  
Jerome!

Fubu finishes.

JEROME  
Dammit! Now you're finished?

Ann approaches them as Fubu and Peaches engage in play.

ANN  
Didn't you hear me calling you?

JEROME  
No I had my headphones on.

ANN  
Your not wearing any head phones?

JEROME  
They're the new invisible ones.

ANN  
Oh... Where you just smoking?

JEROME  
No... Yes.

ANN  
I thought you stopped?

Ann notices Fubu waste.

ANN (CONT'D)  
Aren't you going to pick that up?

JEROME  
Isn't it a little early for twenty  
two questions?

Jerome makes a face, puts on a pair of gloves then picks up  
Fubu's waste with a dog baggy.

ANN  
(amused)  
That's it.

Jerome quickly the bag then tosses in the trash.

ANN (CONT'D)  
Anyway today's a special day- Peaches  
is nearly done with cycle. I know I  
should have spayed her already but  
after this I will.

JEROME  
I never realized she wasn't fixed.  
Neither is Fubu.

ANN  
What?

SPLIT SCREEN:

They realize- look down to notice Fubu's mounted Peaches.

ANN (CONT'D)  
Oh my god, Peaches!

JEROME  
Fubu!!!

END OF TEASER

## ACT ONE

INT. JEROME'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM- MORNING

Jerome enters the apartment with Fubu and unleashes him. Fubu makes a b-line for his water bowl and starts lapping.

JEROME

(To Fubu)

You need a cigarette too?

Just then Jerome's cell RINGS.

JEROME (CONT'D)

Hello?

INT. GYM- CONTINUOUS

TYLER KELLY, (32), Irish American walks the gym on the phone.

TYLER

What's up...

(singing Cher)

Half breed?

SPLIT SCREEN:

JEROME

Would you stop with that?

TYLER

I been calling you half breed since we were in grade school an now it bothers you?

JEROME

It's always bothered me...

TYLER

It's better than germ boy. Remember that one?

JEROME

I do now.

Tyler is checking out the women in the gym.

TYLER

Hey did you come up with a pitch for CARTER?

JEROME

What pitch for Carter?

TYLER

Dude, we have a pitch meeting for the September issue?

JEROME

That's today?

TYLER

Yeah man we talked about it yesterday.

JEROME

No we didn't... You were telling me about some chick you picked up.

TYLER

Oh yeah that's right- that didn't sound like me anyway. Well I got my pitch ready.

JEROME

What are you pitching?

TYLER

Man spread.

JEROME

What?

TYLER

They're arresting people for that crap now. Men all around the city are being arrested because of our junk.

JEROME

That's not real.

TYLER

Yes it is and it's better than what you have- which is nothing. You have to get a story for him today you know he's already on your ass.

JEROME

I don't know why he's zeroes in on me.

TYLER

It's probably that weird mole on your face. Look come to the gym and get a good work out in- always clears my head.

JEROME

I'd better get in early.

TYLER

Okay bud- I guess I'll come in early too I've got some ideas that can help you... What's in it for me?

JEROME

Really? Nanna made a fresh batch of cookies.

TYLER

You're black Nanna or your Jewish one?

JEROME

The Jewish one.

TYLER

Oh man I'm in. When did she get out of prison?

Tyler notices a woman and hangs up.

INT. JEROME'S APARTMENT- CONTINUOUS

JEROME

Tyler?

Jerome heads for the door to exit when Fubu starts growling at the couch.

DJUAN BENTON (25), bi-racial pops up from the couch shirtless.

JEROME (CONT'D)

What the hell?!!

DJUAN

Hey dude. Hey Fub's.

Fubu continues to GROWL.

JEROME

How the hell did you get in here?

DJUAN

I used my key.

JEROME

I took those back.

DJUAN

Not before I made a copy... Duh.

Djauan gets off the couch and heads to the kitchen.

JEROME

Aren't you supposed to be at work!

Jerome HEARS Djauan RUSTLING through the kitchen.

DJUAN (O.S.)

I got fired so I came over to get some of Nanna's cookies.

Jerome hurries to the kitchen to find Djauan munching.

JEROME

Your hands in my jar?!  
(Jerome snatches the  
cookie)

There mine- Nanna made them special  
for me. When did you get fired?

DJUAN

Liar! Nanna only makes them for  
special occasions?

JEROME

We sat Shiva for uncle Mitt. Nanna  
made some then gave me what was left  
over?

DJUAN

Uncle Mitt died last year and I was  
there for Shiva. I remember cause I  
got a splinter.

JEROME

Okay take two cookies and get out.  
I've got into go to work early.

DJUAN

Work?

JEROME

You know that magical place where  
people go. It has computers and pay  
checks?

DJUAN

(his mouth is full)  
See that's why I quit my job. All  
that pressure.

Jerome grabs the half eaten cookie from his hand.

JEROME

What? Why did you quit your job?

Djauan snatches the cookie back.

DJUAN

I'm a dreamer and they wanted a  
thinker. Thinkers think and dreamers  
do.

Djauan grabs an extra cookie from the tin and begins to eat  
as he exits to the living room.

JEROME

Look you got your cookies and your  
dreams so take your ignorant ass up  
out of here.



DJUAN

I'm hurt Jerome by your carelessness. This is a very important stage in my life. I'm going to be thirty in a couple of years and I have a lot to contemplate.

JEROME

Contemplate at your apartment.

DJUAN

I would but I don't live there anymore. I Got evicted.

JEROME

Evicted?!

DJUAN

Besides I like your crib. It's so relaxing here. You're near the park, and trees and birds... I want to listen to birds and relax too Jerome.

JEROME

I don't have time for this.

Jerome grabs him up.

DJUAN

Where am I supposed to go?

JEROME

Go outside and dream about it.

Jerome pushes him to the door but Djuan stops him.

DJUAN

Okay the truth is you live right around the corner from COCO.

JEROME

Who the hell is Coco? Why am I asking this?

DJUAN

Only the most amazing Latina you'll ever lay eyes on.

JEROME

You mean never lay eyes on. I'm not interested in meeting one of your Tinder hookups.

DJUAN

What are you talking about she's not the type of girl that would be on Tinder. I met her on "SnapSext".

JEROME

You were planning on bringing her here while I was gone weren't you?

DJUAN

No! Okay Maybe. Would that be a bad thing?

Fubu growls then barks.

DJUAN (CONT'D)

And you need to do something about that beast he tried to bite me when I came in last night.

JEROME

He should have eaten you.

DJUAN

What's his problem anyway?

JEROME

I think he might have knocked up Peaches.

DJUAN

Oh that's what I'm talking about. Can I get a high five Fubs?

Fubu GROWLS and snaps at him and Djauan quickly pulls back.

DJUAN (CONT'D)

When are you going to get him fixed?

JEROME

That's what everybody keeps asking me about you. Your not bringing anybody here.

DJUAN

Man you think so little of me. I'm not some moocher- I was going to pay you but since you're going to be so petty I'll leave.

(starts to exit, then)

Hey can I bum a cigarette off you?

JEROME

I stopped smoking...

Djuan heads over to the night table and takes out Jerome's pack of cigarettes.

JEROME (CONT'D)

Take one and leave.

DJUAN

You won't even remember I was here.

Djuan exits lighting his cigarette.

JEROME

Hold the elevator I'm right behind you.

DJUAN (O.S.)

Okay.

Jerome gathers his keys and bag and hurries to exits. Jerome approaches the elevator just as Djuan lets the door close in his face.

EST. NEW AMSTERDAM MAGAZINE'S BUILDING- CONTINUOUS

INT. CUBICLE- CONTINUOUS

Jerome lays on his desk asleep in front of his computer screen displaying a fubu screen saver and an office post-it stuck to his forehead.

Tyler's head pops up over Jerome's cubicle wall.

TYLER

"Romey Rome"?

JEROME

You really have to stop doing that.

(noticing the time)

Oh my god- how long have I been asleep.

TYLER

A little after you got here.

JEROME

You let me sleep that entire time?

I thought you were going to help me?

TYLER

I did.

Tyler points to the post-it. Jerome removes the post-it from his forehead which reads "DO NOT DISTURB".

JEROME

How the hell is this helping me?

TYLER

I didn't want anyone to bother you while you were thinking.

JEROME

Thinking? I was sleeping you idiot.

TYLER

Then what was all that loud whispering  
you were doing? "Peaches... Fubu...  
Oh no"!

JEROME

I'm gonna need you to stall for me  
while I come up with something.

TYLER

Okay "Lucy" but Carter is probably  
gonna fire you.

JEROME

I've got some ideas but I need a  
minute.

Tyler looks over at Jerome's Fubu screen saver but Jerome  
quickly closes it.

TYLER

Your pitching Fubu?

Tyler looks at his watch.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Okay I'll stall as long as I can.

JEROME

Yeah you stall and I'll be in the  
Stall, stalling.

Tyler and Jerome exit.

INT. MEN'S ROOM STALL- MOMENTS LATER

Jerome enters the stall, cleans the seat with sanitizer then  
covers it with multiple toilet seat guards.

Jerome un-ravels toilet paper then meticulously places it  
over the seat guards.

Jerome carefully sits then pulls out the news paper and begins  
to skim through.

CU NEWSPAPER: "GLIMMER OF HOPE FOR MISSING TEENS".

JEROME

No.

He flips the page again.

CU NEWSPAPER: "*MAN IN QUEENS RAISES FARM GOATS*".

JEROME (CONT'D)

Come on now really?

He flips the page again and stops to notice.

CU NEWSPAPER: *"TRANSGENDER COUPLE EX-MAYOR CRHISTINE DINOFRIO AND HER HUSBAND ERIC DINOFRIO SET TO HOST TOMORROW NIGHT'S ANNUAL BALLS AWAY GALA"*.

Jerome skims through the article and lands on a picture of college friend CRYSTAL YOUNG with the Dinofrio's.

CU CAPTION: *"CRYSTAL YOUNG- DIRECTOR OF EVENTS FOR THE FOUNDATION WILL CO- HOST THE NIGHT CREATED TO ACKNOWLEDGE EXCELLENCE IN THE L.G.B.T.Q COMMUNITY"*.

Jerome tears the page out of the paper and places it in his folder then quickly exits.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM- MOMENTS LATER

CATER HYDE, (35)- THOR good looks- casually sits at the head of the table with his feet up and the staff at attention.

CARTER

(perplexed)

Man spread what the hell is that?  
Does anyone know Where Jerome is?

TYLER

He's in the bathroom. You know morning diarrhea. Too much coffee. He spent the night with me working on my pitch.

CARTER

Obviously great minds think alike.

TYLER

Yeah I figured we could get a comment from N.Y.P.D...

CARTER

Ditch the pitch- it sucks!

TYLER

That's exactly what I was thinking.

CARTER

If it was exactly what you were thinking why did you pitch this crap in the first place?

Jerome enters.

TYLER

Filler until the big boy got in. We was working on a different pitch.

Jerome stops for a moment to take in Tyler's bull.

JEROME

Morning.

CARTER  
Cool of you to take time out of your  
bathroom schedule.

JEROME  
My train was late.

They look at Tyler questioning.

TYLER  
(signaling Jerome)  
Jerome you don't have to be  
embarrassed. I already told them  
you were in the bathroom.

Jerome takes a seat as Tyler extends for a fist pump but  
Jerome just gives him a look.

CARTER  
Okay who's up next? Sheryl what you  
got?

SHERYL  
They're these Goat farms popping up  
in the outer boroughs. You know a  
goat farmer in New York City...

CARTER  
First the man-spreading and now goats?  
No. Alicia you're up?

ALICIA  
It's primary season in New York so I  
wanted to interview poll workers...

CARTER  
No.

ALICIA  
But you haven't even heard my full  
idea.

CARTER  
I've heard enough and it's still no.  
Okay Jerome give me something.

TYLER  
Okay here we go.

JEROME  
You know how the L.G.B.T.Q Community  
holds their annual Balls Drop gala?

CARTER  
Yes... And?

JEROME

Ex-Mayor Chris Dinofrio now Christine Dinofrio and his/ her wife Erica, now husband Eric are hosting the event.

SHERYL

The double Transgender couple?

CARTER

Okay besides making my head spin?

JEROME

I was going to cover the event along with an exclusive interview with the Ex Mayor and Mrs Dinofrio.

Everybody looks at Jerome mouths open.

TYLER

That's what you come up with?

CARTER

This could be ground breaking.

TYLER

That's exactly why we thought of it.

Jerome gives Tyler a look.

CARTER

Every magazine and news outlet in the country would crap their pants for an interview with the Dinofrio's. I believe we have our cover. Let's concentrate all our resources on this. Tyler you assist Jerome anything he needs.

TYLER

Already on it boss.

Carter cuts him a look.

CARTER

Let's get going with this.

Everyone remains in their seat.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Do I have to ring a cow bell? Go!

They all scurry to exit.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Jerome?

JEROME

Yes?

CARTER

The New York Times couldn't get an interview with the Dinofrio's- how did you manage to pull that off?

JEROME

I have an inside connect.

CARTER

An inside connect huh? I guess we're going to the ball together?

JEROME

You're going?

CARTER

Of course I'm going. It's the event of the year for New York's elite- which I am. If you're worried about me getting in the way- don't because I will. I respect your journalistic acumen but I don't trust you yet. What could possibly go anyway?

Carter exits leaving Jerome to contemplate.

JEROME

Famous last words.

Jerome exits.

END OF ACT ONE



## ACT TWO

INT. JEROME'S APARTMENT BEDROOM- LATER

Djauan and COCO GARCIA, (25) are on the bed half naked making out. Just then a loud SCRATCHING sound is HEARD.

COCO  
What's that sound?

DJUAN  
My heart.

SCRATCHING begins again but this time more intense. Coco pushes Djauan off her- he flies off the bed and onto the floor-hitting his head on the knight stand on the way down.

DJUAN (O.S) (CONT'D)  
Ow!

COCO  
That wasn't your heart.

DJUAN  
No that was my head...

COCO  
Not that, stupid. That sound.

The SCRATCHING starts again but this time with BARKING. Coco leaps up pulling the top sheet to cover her mostly naked body.

COCO (CONT'D)  
That's a dog!

Djauan gets up still recovering.

DJUAN  
Don't pay any attention to that-  
it's the neighbors dog.

He pulls her back onto the bed and begins again as the SCRATCHING and BARKING starts up anew.

Coco pushes him harder than the last and he flies off the bed hitting his head again.

DJUAN (CONT'D)  
Whimper...

COCO  
That sound is coming from inside  
this apartment.

Coco gets up to investigate but Djauan leaps to stop her.

DJUAN  
Baby come back to bed.

Coco puts her hands to his mouth. SCRATCHING and BARKING is heard again.

COCO  
What do you torture dogs or something?

DJUAN  
I don't torture dogs. He's just locked up.

COCO  
Locked up?

The sounds continue as Coco search intensifies.

She Opens the dresser's draws where she finds a stash of porn. Coco pulls one of the DVD's out and puts it in his face.

She continues her search in the bedroom closet but finds nothing. Coco exits the room.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM- CONTINUOUS

Coco follows the sounds to a closet in the hallway and slowly begins to open it but Djauan stops her.

DJUAN  
Don't open that door.

COCO  
Why not?

DJUAN  
He's locked up for a reason.

COCO  
I think you need to be locked up.

Coco reaches for the door but DJUAN stops her again.

DJUAN  
You open that door you're going to unleash a fury like you've never seen before.

COCO  
(pushing him)  
Move!

Coco opens the closet door to find Fubu. Djauan races off.

COCO (CONT'D)  
Oh my god look at you.  
(MORE)

COCO (CONT'D)

How could anybody lock away such an adorable animal?

(to Fubu)

Did the mean stupid man lock you up?

Coco goes to reach for Fubu but stops as he GROWLS.

Coco backs up then trips and falls to the ground as Fubu races in to attack.

Djauan quickly returns with a bone in hand.

DJUAN

Hey Fubu!?

Djauan throws the Bone- Fubu races for it as Djauan and Coco race into the the living room and up onto the couch.

Suddenly Fubu comes racing in and leaps to knock Djauan off the couch.

Coco watches as Pillows and fist are thrown at Fubu but to no avail- Djauan SCREAMS as Fubu inserts his teeth into his buttocks.

Djauan pushes Fubu away then holds him at bay with a pillow.

DJUAN (CONT'D)

Don't just stand there help me?!

COCO

I'm not coming down there.

DJUAN

Get to the bathroom while I hold him off!

Coco races to the bathroom and Djauan quickly follows with Fubu on his heels.

They enters and slams the door behind them as Fubu SCRATCHES and BARKS.

DJUAN (CONT'D)

Ah ha!

COCO

Ah ha? We're stuck in here! What are we going to do now? I have to be to work in an hour.

DJUAN

An hour... Girl I thought I told you I'm not no minute man...

Coco takes a swing at him.

DJUAN (CONT'D)

Okay why don't you go out there and distract him.

(gets up on the toilet seat)

You'll lead him back in here...

He looks around for a second then grabs the plunger from the side of the toilet

DJUAN (CONT'D)

Then I'll whack him with this.

COCO

What are you going to do with that flush him down the toilet? Pendejo es stupido! That's your dog why don't you just control him?

DJUAN

Technically that's not my dog.

COCO

What?

On Coco's reaction we,

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE JEROME'S APARTMENT- CONTINUOUS

Princes Hot thing PLAYS as the elevator door opens and MAURICE BENTON,(30), Bi-racial steps out the elevator dressed to the nine marching like a run way diva.

MAURICE

Think you can hide Nanna's cookies from me?

The MUSIC stops as Maurice approaches the door and HEARS Fubu BARKING. He quickly pulls out keys and opens the door.

INT. JEROME'S APARTMENT- CONTINUOUS

Maurice races in and grabs a bat from behind the door. He then races Down the hallway to the bathroom and grabs Fubu up.

MAURICE

It's okay Fubu. Whoever's in there you better come out now! I've got a knife a gun and this vicious dog!

DJUAN (O.S.)

Maurice?

MAURICE

Djauan?

Maurice opens the bathroom door to find DJUAN and Coco half dressed standing on the toilet.

MAURICE (CONT'D)

What the hell are you doing here?

Fubu starts GROWLING.

MAURICE (CONT'D)

You've got five seconds to explain yourself before I let him down?

DJUAN

Okay, okay wait? I was here just hanging with my friend Coco. Maurice this is Coco, Coco this is my brother Maurice.

Maurice looks her up and down.

MAURICE

Does Jerome know you're here with "Monday"?

(pulls out his phone)

Let's see what he has to say, shall we?

DJUAN

Wait- what are you doing here?

MAURICE

I came to check on Fubu.

Maurice starts dialing.

DJUAN

Go ahead and call him- I know the real reason you're here. JOYCE told you Nanna made cookies for Jerome.

COCO

David, I thought this was your apartment? Who's Jerome?

MAURICE

Who's David?

COCO

He's David.

MAURICE

Oh, "Monday".

COCO

David why does he keep calling me Monday?

Maurice gives her a "Coco for coco puffs" look as we,

INT. NEW AMSTERDAM MAGAZINE- CONTINUOUS

Jerome sits at his desk while Tyler stands with his head over the cubicle wall again.

TYLER

So you made the entire thing up?

JEROME

Not the entire thing. The Ball's real.

TYLER

That doesn't mean anything, Jerome. How in the hell are you going to get an interview?

JEROME

You remember CRYSTAL YOUNG from college?

TYLER

Of course- you used to follow her around like a lost puppy.

JEROME

She Dated my brother in college.

TYLER

Djauan was like fourteen when we were in college.

JEROME

Not Djauan, Maurice.

TYLER

Mo? He's gay.

JEROME

He called it his "Days of confusion past."

Tyler looks at him confused.

JEROME (CONT'D)

You know like xmen- "Days of future past"?

Tyler still looks confused.

JEROME (CONT'D)

Anyway she's director of events for the Dinofrio's.

Jerome pulls out the newspaper and shows it to him.

TYLER

(looking at the article)  
This has to be dumbest idea you've ever had... She ignored you in college and went out with your brother who turned out to be gay. What makes you think she's gonna even give you the time of day now?

JEROME

I'm gonna ask Maurice.

Tyler is reviewing the news paper.

TYLER

Well you don't have a lot of time. Dude, the ball is tomorrow night and the article says that they're flying to Europe right after the gala for a five country speaking tour.

Jerome pulls out his cell and makes a call.

INT. JEROME'S APARTMENT- CONTINUOUS

Maurice's is holding Fubu while DJUAN and Coco cower in the bathroom.

COCO

So your name isn't David? What else don't I know about you?

MAURICE

He wasn't born a man.

Maurice's cell phone RINGS.

MAURICE (CONT'D)

Oh no it's Jerome. You're gonna be in a serious relationship with Mount Sinai hospital doctors if Jerome finds out you're here with Monday. Now I suggest we work together.

COCO

Oh my god stop calling me Monday!

Maurice ignores her and answers the phone.

MAURICE

Hey Rome.

INT. JEROME'S CUBICLE- CONTINUOUS

Jerome sits at his cubicle with Tyler's head still over the wall.

SPLIT SCREEN

JEROME  
Rome? Why are you being so nice?

MAURICE (O.S.)  
I'm always nice to my big brother.

JEROME  
Well I'm going to need you to prove that today.

Fubu BARKS.

JEROME (CONT'D)  
Was that Fubu?

MAURICE  
Dog what dog?

Fubu barks again and Maurice covers Fubu's mouth.

JEROME  
How the hell did you get in my apartment?

MAURICE  
I have a key.

JEROME  
I took that back.

MAURICE  
I made a copy- Duh!

Djauan gives Maurice a pound.

JEROME  
Okay whatever. Listen I need a big favor and I need you to say yes.

MAURICE  
I'm listening.

JEROME  
By any chance are you still in touch with Crystal Young from college?

MAURICE  
Chrys? Of course dummy- she's my best friend. Why?

JEROME  
Best friend?  
(covers the phone)  
I didn't even know she was still in the city... Does she live in Brooklyn?



MAURICE

Calm down "scooter" she's in a relationship and still out of your league.

JEROME

My league? If she dated you- how far out of her league can I be?

MAURICE

Please tell me there a purpose to your prattling?

JEROME

Did you know she works for the Dinofrio's?

MAURICE

What do you want Jerome?

JEROME

An interview with the Dinofrio's?

MAURICE

And I want a "g-zillion" dollars for my space ship to Uranus. The Dinofrio's aren't doing any press.

JEROME

Maurice Please? I just need you to ask.

MAURICE

Why is this so important?

JEROME

I told my editor that I got the interview and he gave me the cover.

Maurice starts eating cookies.

MAURICE

That sound's like a personal problem to me.

JEROME

Come on "Mo" what was I supposed to do?

MAURICE

Tell the truth.

JEROME

I can't it's already been slated for next months cover. If I don't get this interview I could loose my job.

MAURICE

Have you forgotten that I was born  
without the without the capacity to  
care?

Maurice continues eating.

JEROME

What are you munching on?

Maurice stops.

MAURICE

(cookies in mouth)  
Nothing.

JEROME

Liar- I can hear you crunching. Why  
don't you try that "truth" thing  
out?

Tyler tries to listen in.

MAURICE

Is he eating Nanna's cookies? Oh my.  
I must have stubbled across Nanna's  
cookies. How's that for truth?

JEROME

How did you find out?

Djauan tries to stop him.

MAURICE

Djauan told me.

JEROME

I knew I shouldn't have trusted that  
clown.

MAURICE

I'll tell you what, I'll make the  
call for the cookies.

JEROME

Okay Dammit! You can have the  
cookies.

TYLER

No!

JEROME

(To Maurice)  
We have a deal right?

MAURICE

(munching)  
Yes we have a deal.

Maurice disconnects and continues with the cookies.

INT. JEROME'S APARTMENT- CONTINUOUS

Djauan stands in surprise as Maurice enjoys his cookies.

FULL SCREEN

INT. JEROME'S APARTMENT- CONTINUOUS

Maurice is eating cookies as Djauan and Coco enter.

DJUAN

You're gonna eat those by yourself?

MAURICE

Yes. Get dressed get out and take Ms. Chanel with you.

COCO

(reminding Maurice)

Coco.

On their look we,

INT. JEROME'S CUBICLE- CONTINUOUS

TYLER

Damn he was really enjoying those cookies. Oatmeal? .

JEROME

No chocolate chip.

TYLER

Damn! You said you were gonna give me Nanna's cookies for helping you.

JEROME

Really?

Carter listens in from the other side of the cubicle then slithers away.

INT. CRYSTAL'S OFFICE- LATER

Crystal Young (32)red head- attractive sits at her desk on the phone.

CRYSTAL

The governors table is full... Of course we appreciate the generous contributions you've made to the foundation but the table is still full.

(pause)

Okay thank you for the advice.

(MORE)

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

(pause)

Yes- I'll remember to pull the stick from my ass. Have a good day.

She hangs up and rolls her eyes frustration.

CELL PHONE RINGS.

She picks it up looks at it and answers.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

Hey what's up?

SPLIT SCREEN

MAURICE

Hey you. What are you doing?

CRYSTAL

Spent half the day putting out fires before the event and the other half pulling a stick from my ass. You're still coming to the ball right?

MAURICE

A room full of New York's best dressed, drunk celebrities and single, successful gay men? Missing that would be like missing Joan Rivers funeral.

CRYSTAL

Good.

MAURICE

Speaking of the ball- do you remember my brother Jerome?

CRYSTAL

The weirdo who stalked me for four years?

MAURICE

He doesn't do that anymore.

CRYSTAL

Didn't he have O.C.D.? Did he ever get rid of his retainers? And what was up with those bi-focals.

MAURICE

If you're going to list all of his problems I'm never going to get to my point before I have to shave.

CRYSTAL

I'm sorry.

MAURICE

He's a writer for The New Amsterdam.

CRYSTAL

Really? What ever happened to that weird dude who used to follow him around like a puppy dog?

MAURICE

Tyler. You used to call him "Tyler-oh no"!

CRYSTAL

(laughing)

That's right. I remember Jerome could hardly talk through those braces. Used to give me shivers when he'd call my name... "CRYSTAL"... Still gives me chills.

MAURICE

If you're done reading him- I just sent you his bio.

Crystal gets an alert and opens it. She looks closer to notice.

CRYSTAL

That's Jerome? Wow?

MAURICE

Wow? What do you mean wow?

CRYSTAL

I read an article he wrote last month- I didn't realize it was him. He's a good writer.

MAURICE

Well that brings me to my next question.

CRYSTAL

Okay?

MAURICE

He wanted to pitch them next months cover and an interview.

CRYSTAL

The New Amsterdam magazine cover?

MAURICE

Yes girl.

CRYSTAL

I Don't know.

Maurice is slowly chewing a cookie.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

What are you munching on? Wait did you get your hands on Nanna's cookies?

MAURICE

Uh huh.

CRYSTAL

How the hell did you get your hands on those?

MAURICE

I'd tell you but I'd have to kill you. But I will share them with you if Jerome can get that interview.

CRYSTAL

Oatmeal?

MAURICE

Chocolate chip.

CRYSTAL

Oh my god- my mouth is watering.

MAURICE

These cookies aren't going to eat themselves.

CRYSTAL

I'll call you right back.

They hang up.

EST. NEW AMSTERDAM MAGAZINE- LATER

INT. OFFICE HALLWAY

Jerome exits into the hall as his phone rings and he answers.

JEROME

Hello?

INT. CRYSTAL'S OFFICE- CONTINUOUS

CRYSTAL

Jerome?

JEROME(V.O)

This is Jerome.

SPLIT SCREEN

CRYSTAL

Hey it's Crystal young.

JEROME  
 (like he used to say  
 her name)  
 Crystal Young!  
 (Crystal flinches)  
 Hey- long time. How are you?

CRYSTAL  
 I'm good. I'm good.

JEROME  
 I don't have braces anymore.

CRYSTAL  
 Okay- actually, I was calling because  
 your brother told me about your pitch.  
 An interview with the Dinofrio's at  
 the ball.

JEROME  
 That's right? You know I don't have  
 bifocals anymore.

CRYSTAL  
 I'm happy for you. I wanted to tell  
 you I pitched the idea to them and  
 they said yes.

JEROME  
 What? Are you serious?

CRYSTAL  
 They loved your piece on runaway gay  
 teens in East L.A. They think you'd  
 be the perfect person to tell their  
 story. Now there are some ground  
 rules.

JEROME  
 Of course.

CRYSTAL  
 Take notes.

Jerome holds his cell to his ear, places his bag on the desk  
 and pulls out a pen and pad as his wallet slips out onto the  
 floor.

JEROME  
 Okay I'm ready.

CRYSTAL  
 No questions about sex or physical  
 parts.

JEROME  
 Okay.

CRYSTAL

They have a flight to catch so you'll only have an hour and a half at best.

JEROME

Not a problem that's all I'll need. Thank you so much. It's really good to catch up... Will you be there? Stupid question of course you'll be there...

DIAL TONE.

JEROME (CONT'D)

Hello?

INT. CARTER'S OFFICE- LATER

Carter sits staring through a looking glass at a contact sheet.

Jerome enters.

JEROME

Sorry to interrupt but it's late and I wanted you to know I was heading home.

CARTER

You're just the dude I wanted to see. Come in for a minute.

Jerome steps in.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Look at the mockup cover the graphics team created.

Jerome takes the eyeglass and scans.

JEROME

Nice.

CARTER

I was looking at your questions- very interesting how you manage to inquire without sounding intrusive.

JEROME

Thank you.

CARTER

Do you have any kids Jerome?

JEROME

I have a dog but he's kind of like my son.



Carter gives him a look.

CARTER  
I never had children.

JEROME  
Well you're only what thirty? I'm  
sure you still have...

CARTER  
That wasn't some desperate attempt  
to garner sympathy, Jerome. I never  
had children because I don't need  
them and you know why? It's cause  
My career is my child. I've worked  
hard to get here.

JEROME  
(clueless)  
I'm sure it Doesn't hurt that your  
family owns the magazine either.

Carter's cuts him another look.

JEROME (CONT'D)  
That's not the point you were trying  
to make, was it?

CARTER  
The point I'm making is that I didn't  
get here alone. I had help.

JEROME  
(still clueless)  
I know- from your family?

Carter cuts him another look.

JEROME (CONT'D)  
Again not your point.

CARTER  
You know my colleagues would tell  
you the most important part of being  
a good journalist is integrity- but  
I say screw that. It's team work-  
one hand washes the other.

JEROME  
Okay I'll take that.

CARTER  
I want you to think about that while  
you climb your ladder.

Jerome takes it in.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Get some rest you're going to need  
it for tomorrow night.

JEROME

Yeah I better head out.

Jerome exits as Carter returns to scanning.

## ACT THREE

INT. NEW YORK CITY SUBWAY TRAIN CAR- LATER-- 7:00PM

Jerome sits on semi crowded train heading uptown scrolling through his phone when suddenly a group of hip hop dancers enter from another train car.

HIP HOP DANCER#1  
What time is it!?

HIP HOP DANCERS  
Show time!

HIP HOP DANCER#1  
That's right live and direct!

Passengers move out the way and continue to their devices as the street performers rage on.

No one on the train is even fazed by the ruckus- Jerome returns to his phone.

INT. NEW YORK CITY SUBWAY TRAIN CAR- LATER-- 7:30PM

The train has thinned out as a man in drag performs African dance in the middle of the train car to the beat of a drummer.

Jerome notices a stain on the floor under him and puts his feet up on an empty chair besides him to avoid the stain.

INT. NEW YORK CITY SUBWAY TRAIN CAR- LATER-- 7:45PM

The train heading uptown is nearly empty of passengers as Jerome plays a game on his phone and a mariachi band SINGS.

The train stops and the band exits.

Jerome- feet still on the chair- looks up to notice the train doors have remained open.

JEROME  
I don't have time for the MTA hour.

Jerome closes his eyes and settles in- stretching his legs out over the seat for comfort when suddenly he is startled by TAPPING.

Jerome looks up to find two police officers standing over him.

OFFICER#1  
Get off the train.

Jerome looks around, then.

JEROME  
Who me?

OFFICER#2

What are you deaf? Get off the train now!

Jerome hurries to collect his things and exits the train with the officers as they signal to the conductor to close the train doors and leave the station.

OFFICER#1

Your Identification, sir?

Jerome starts to search for his wallet but doesn't find it.

JEROME

I know I had it on me. Oh no I must have left it at the office.

OFFICER#1

Okay put your hands behind your back.

JEROME

Wait your arresting me?

OFFICER#1

We'll have to straighten out your identification at the police station.

JEROME

I don't even know why I was taken off the train?

OFFICER#1

Man spreading. You were occupying two seats.

JEROME

Man spread. what the?

(to himself)

Damn you Tyler.

(to officer)

Officer is this that serious? Can't you just give me a ticket? Officer I'm a writer with the New Amsterdam Magazine and I have a interview with Mayor and Ms. Dinofrio tomorrow night.

OFFICER#1

I don't care if your Diane Sawyer about to interview President Trump the only place your going is to the station until we can verify your identification. Now put your hands behind your back.

JEROME

Are those clean?

OFFICER#1  
Put your hands behind your back now!

Officer handcuffs him.

JEROME  
Oh come on.

OFFICER#1  
Don't worry Mr. Chuck Todd, I'm sure  
you'll be out in a couple of hours.  
Long before your meet the press show  
on Sunday.

They exit with Jerome in handcuffs.

EXT. WALDORF ASTORIA- THE NEXT NIGHT--6:30PM

The Hotel's entrance is buzzed with press, paparazzi and and  
celebrities traipsing down the red carpet's step and repeat.

INT. WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL BALLROOM- MOMENTS LATER

The Waldorf Astoria hotel's grand ballroom is filled to the  
brim with celebrities and the elite flow through a decked  
out ballroom.

INT. BALL ROOM- CONTINUOUS

Christine and Eric Dinofrio sit in a private smoke room off  
the main ball room where only the Elite of the elite are  
allowed conversing with a small group.

Crystal sits with Maurice as he gawks at the crowd.

MAURICE  
Oh my god there are so many famous  
people here the only person I don't  
recognize is me.

Christine signals Crystal.

CRYSTAL  
Show time.

Crystal hurries to Christine.

CHRISTINE  
Everything looks perfect.

CRYSTAL  
Thank you.

CHRISTINE  
What about the gift bags?

CRYSTAL  
Check.

Carter and Tyler enter the room and approaches.

CHIRSTINE

Carter it's so good to see you?

CARTER

Thank you Crystine- It's so good to see you... And Eric your looking handsome.

CHIRSTINE

Allow me to introduce you to our director of events, Crystal Young.

Carter takes in Crystal.

CARTER

Very nice to meet you.

CRYSTAL

Like wise I'm a fan.

CARTER

Are you?

CRYSTAL

Yes... The way you've transformed the New Amsterdam... Making it more streamline and completely accessible to on-line users.

CARTER

Wow... I appreciate that. Christine I might have to steel her form you.

TYLER

Hey Maurice...

MAURICE

Hello Tyler

TYLER

Hey Crystal. Remember me?

CRYSTAL

Do I have to?

TYLER

Tyler from college?

Crystal starts to get hives.

CRYSTAL

Oh my god. Okay.

TYLER

Yeah me and "Rome" where partners in college and now we're partners at the New Amsterdam.

ERIC

So where is the aspiring writer-Jerome Benton?

CRYSTAL

I thought he'd be here by now? I'm sure he's on his way.

Catherine exits with Christine and Eric.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

He is on his way isn't he?

MAURICE

I haven't been able to reach him on the phone all day

CRYSTAL

Is that normal?

MAURICE

No I just figured he was getting himself together for tonight. I'm sure he's on his way if something was wrong I would have known by now.

CRYSTAL

Lets hope for my sake he is.

INT. JAIL CELL CENTRAL BOOKING NEW YORK CITY- 7:00PM

Jerome sits in the corner disheveled in a small dilapidated cell- hands covered with sleeves accompanied by fifteen other cell mates.

FEMALE COURT CLERK Approaches the cell pushing a desk on wheels with a computer.

CLERK

Jerome Benton?

Jerome leaps to his feet and approaches her from the other side of the cell.

JEROME

Can I go now?

CLERK

I'm just collecting information.

JEROME

What the hell!

CELLMATE#1 (O.S.)

I gonna crap my pants!!

JEROME

Oh my god! I have to get out of here- it's unsanitary.

CLERK

Well unless someone can come vouch for you, princess- you're going to be in here until you see the judge. Date of birth?

JEROME

April twenty first nineteen eighty five. I called my brother but he didn't pickup. Can I try him again?

CLERK

This isn't the Hyatt and I'm not room service. Address?

JEROME

Six eighty nine west one hundred and eightieth street, New York, New York- one zero, three, three four.

CLERK

Thank you.

Clerk Pushes her cart to the next cell-mate.

JEROME

Is there anyway you can get me some sanitary wipes?

Jennifer ignores him and continues on. Jerome returns to his seat where cell mate#1 is squatting over the bench and then lets out an audible BOWEL MOVEMENT.

CELL MATE#1

I craped on myself!

The entire cell erupts.

Jerome Recoils as CELL MATE#2 Approaches.

CELL MATE#2

Yo man you need to clean that up!

CELL MATE#3 (O.S.)

Leave the man alone. Can't you see he's got a mental problem

CELL MATE#2

(to Jerome)

Who are you his therapist?



JEROME

No. I didn't say anything.

CELL MATE#2

Maybe you're his bitch?

JEROME

No.

CELL MATE#2

Maybe you could be my bitch?

Jerome slides to the bars and attempts to put his hands on them then realizes and pulls away. On Jerome's look we,

END OF ACT THREE

## ACT FOUR

INT. WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL BALLROOM- LATER-- 7:30PM

The night has progressed and the attendees are dancing to orchestra music.

Crystal is at the bar with Maurice and Tyler who are both frantic on their cell phone.

CRYSTAL

He's over an hour late. I can't come up with any more excuses.

TYLER

I'm still not getting an answer.

Carter approaches with the Dinofrio's.

ERIC

Tyler where is Jerome?

CHIRSTINE

If he's not here by nine we can't do the interview.

MAURICE

He's definitely on his way.

CARTER

Who are you?

CRYSTAL

Oh I'm sorry, this is Maurice Jerome's brother. He's been in contact with Jerome all day.

CARTER

Really because I haven't been able to reach him at all.

MAURICE

Yeah you know he had to go to the cleaners to get his suit but the cleaners was closed early... Jewish holiday you know...

ERIC

What Jewish holiday? There's no Jewish holiday.

MAURICE

Are you sure? I mean my Nanna made cookies.

TYLER

(under his breath)  
Oh Jerome...

ERIC

I'm sure of it... I'm Jewish I'd know if it were a holiday.

MAURICE

Did I say Jewish? My bad I meant Rastafarian.

CHIRSTINE

How did you confuse Jewish with Rastafarian?

MAURICE

Well my grandmother's Jewish and my fathers Jamaican... Rastafarian Jamaican.

They stair at Maurice confused.

MAURICE (CONT'D)

Yeah my grandmother a sixty five year old, previously incarcerated, Jewish Lesbian. My mother married a Rastafarian who converted to Christianity.

He starts to laugh to himself as everyone continues to stare-confused.

Two high profile guest approach and greet Eric and Christine and they begin to converse.

CARTER

(to Maurice)

Your clown act was very entertaining but let me tell you something directly so you wont get confused- Tyler if Jerome messes this up I'll not only fire the both of you I'll make sure he the only place you'll write for is the circular at Rite Aid.

Carter exits leaving Maurice and Crystal.

MAURICE

What a bitch!

Just then Maurice's cell vibrates and he opens the message.

MAURICE (CONT'D)

Oh god!

Maurice starts to drag them to the bar.

CRYSTAL

Where are you taking me?

MAURICE

To the bar, cause when you hear this  
your going to need a drink.

TYLER

Is it Jerome?

MAURICE

Yes and he's in jail.

CRYSTAL

(Gary Coleman)

What are you talking about Maurice?

MAURICE

I just got a text from his lawyer  
who said Jerome was arrested last  
night and she was going to bail him  
out.

CRYSTAL

Arrested for what?

MAURICE

Man spread.

CRYSTAL

What!

TYLER

Dammit!

CRYSTAL

The hell Maurice? I put my career  
on the line for you. I'm getting  
hives.

MAURICE

Look you stall the Dinofrio's I'll  
go get him.

TYLER

I'll come with you.

MAURICE

No I'm going to need you to handle  
Satan. Just give me thirty minutes.

Maurice starts to peel out and on Crystal's reaction we,

INT. JAIL CELL CENTRAL BOOKING NEW YORK CITY- LATER--8:15PM

Jerome sits in the cell with his shirt covering his nose  
while next to cell mate#1.

COURT OFFICER approaches with Jerome's attorney ABBY SOLOMON  
(40) and he opens the door.

COURT OFFICER  
Jerome Benton?

Jerome leaps to his feet and quickly approaches. Abby covers her face to protect her from the offensive smell.

JEROME  
I'm Jerome Benton.

DANIELS  
Your attorney's here.

ABBY  
Oh my god Jerome are you alright?

JEROME  
I'm fine. I've got to get out of here.

They start walking.

ABBY  
I've posted bail and your brother is waiting for you outside.

They exit.

EXT. COURTHOUSE STEPS- MOMENTS LATER-- 8:30PM

Jerome speeds up again to approach Maurice whose standing at the streets corner.

MAURICE  
Oh my god what happened to you?

JEROME  
It's a long nightmare and one I don't have time to go into right now- I've got to get to the Waldorf.

They start to hail for a cab but the first cab flies past them to pickup a white passenger.

JEROME (CONT'D)  
(to the cab)  
Damn you! Black lives matter!

MAURICE  
(returns to hailing)  
Crystal is stalling the Dinofrio's and Tyler's keeping the beast of a boss of yours at bay. But you can't go looking or smelling like that Jerome. Maybe we could run by my apartment...

JEROME

There's no time! I've got thirty minutes to get across town and if I don't get there I'm going to lose that interview and I can't lose that interview.

Just then a cab stops and they hop in.

JEROME (CONT'D)

To the Waldorf Astoria please and I'll give you a twenty dollar tip if you step on it.

The drivers speeds off.

JEROME (CONT'D)

All right, that's what I'm talking about! We'll be there in no time.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET- CONTINUOUS

The cab comes to a dead stop in gridlock.

JEROME (O.S)

Dammit!

INT. JEROME'S APARTMENT- CONTINUOUS

Djuan and Coco sneak into Jerome's dark apartment.

COCO

What about Cujo?

DJUAN

Fubu. Don't worry about him he gets put in a kennel at night. We're safe.

They start to pull their clothes off and make out but just then Coco pulls back.

COCO

What about your brother?

DJUAN

Oh he's in jail. His attorney left me a message earlier but I waited to text my brother Maurice about it.

COCO

You left your brother in jail?

DJUAN

It's just central booking. He'll be fine.

COCO

Oh I can do central **booking in my  
nap.**

They start to go at it again but Coco pulls back.

COCO (CONT'D)

Wait if your brother is locked up,  
then who put Cujo in his cage?

They hear a GROWL.

## ACT FIVE

INT. NEW YORK CITY CAB- CONTINUOUS

Jerome and Maurice sit in the back of the cab heading across town.

MAURICE

We should be there in less than ten minutes.

Maurice phone rings and he answers.

DJUAN (O.S)

Help! Help!

MAURICE

Djauan, what's wrong?

DJUAN (O.S)

No run back into the bathroom!

JEROME

Is that Djauan?

GROWLING and BARKING is heard.

COCO

Ahhh!

MAURICE

Djauan!

JEROME

Is that Fubu? Give me that phone.  
(grabs the phone)  
Djauan what the hell is going on?!

INT. JEROME'S APARTMENT BATHROOM- CONTINUOUS

Djauan and Coco are locked in the bathroom terrified and half dressed as Fubu bangs on the door.

DJUAN

I thought Maurice locked fubu up but he didn't- He's attacking us. Help!

INT. NEW YORK CITY CAB- CONTINUOUS

JEROME

What? Didn't I tell you not to bring anybody back to my apartment?

Coco and Djauan SCREAM as Fubu SNAPS and GROWLS.

JEROME (CONT'D)

I don't have time for this. Maurice you gotta take care of this.



MAURICE

Me? Don't put this on me, I got you the interview.

JEROME

I'm not stupid- you knew that clown was at my crib earlier and you didn't say anything.

MAURICE

I'm not going to be blamed for this...

The cab comes to a stop at the light.

JEROME

Get out!

MAURICE

But we're in the middle of the street?

Jerome reaches over and opens the door then pushes Maurice out of the cab.

JEROME

I don't care! Head back to my apartment and take care of it.

The cab pulls off.

MAURICE(O.S)

I got you the interview!

INT. WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL BALLROOM- LATER-- 9:00PM

Crystal is sitting at a table with Carter and the Dinofrio's. Just then the entire room comes to a screeching halt as Jerome races into the ballroom- cloths tattered and smelling worse.

JEROME

Hello Mr. and Mrs Dinofrio, Carter...  
(noticing)  
Crystal, hey.

Crystal starts to scratch.

CRYSTAL

Jerome...

JEROME

You all are not going to believe what happened to me but I'm sure when I tell you you'll see it's was just one big misunderstanding.

TYLER

Yeah I was telling them that you were in the bathroom. You know that problem you have...

JEROME

Shut up Tyler!

He starts to laugh but no one is laughing with him.

DAVID

I don't know what type of shit show you're running Carter. You assured us this would be handled delicately and professionally and you have this deranged homeless man show up late? I'm sorry...

They start to walk off.

JEROME

What?! Who the hell are you calling a homeless person?!

CARTER

Jerome stop now! Christine, Eric my sincerest apologies I assure you that this in no way should reflect on the Magazine.

CRYSTAL

Jerome maybe we should go get a drink.

JEROME

No, I've got something to say.

CARTER

Say one more word and you're fired.

JEROME

Blow me Carter- if you want to fire me then fire me. Mrs. Dinofrio with all due respect this is all your fault.

Eric takes Christine by the arm to exit.

CHRISTINE

Wait Eric, I want to hear what he has to say.

JEROME

I know I smell and I look crazy but if you only knew what I had to go through to get here. I had to push my brother out of a cab in the middle of the street so he could keep my dog from tearing my other brother and some jump off he met on Tinder apart because I wasn't home to put my dog in his kennel. You know why? Well I'll tell you why- I was arrested last night.

CARTER

Arrested?

JEROME

That's right Carter arrested- something your privilege ass would never understand. And you know what for?

CARTER

No but I'm sure your about to tell us.

JEROME

Man spread. Yeah you all are looking about as confused as I was to find that a black man can't even relax on the train after a hard days work.

(Jerome turns to a black guest)

You know what I'm talking about brother? Can I get a high five?

Jerome reaches out to a black guest for a high five and the guest reluctantly obliges.

Maurice approaches Crystal disheveled.

MAURICE

What did I miss?

CRYSTAL

Just my life passing before my eyes.

JEROME

I'm a good journalist and all I wanted to do was tell your story. A story about your struggle to be yourself no matter what the rest of the world thinks. Well I'm in that struggle to. The struggle to be a man who doesn't have to close his legs tight on an empty train just to appease a bunch of no name idiotic bureaucrats who have no idea what it means to be me. These are laws that your administration enacted. Laws that impeded me from being here on time.

The crowd erupts with cheers.

GUEST(O.S)

Let him be free!

JEROME

That's right and you owe me and every man in the city this interview.

The crowd erupts again with cheers and claps. Catherine approaches Christine.

CARTER

I assure you that The New Amsterdam had nothing to do with this...

CHRISTINE

Bite me Carter. You know Jerome, no one has ever talked to me like that before...

(everyone pauses)

Your raw and honest- down in the trenches where most of these elite ass holes could never understand. Go clean yourself up and meet us at our hotel room. Crystal if you would be so kind as to find us the next available flight.

CRYSTAL

Of course.

The Dinofrio's exit.

JEROME

(to Crystal)

Thank you.

(to Carter)

I'm really sorry.

CARTER

Team work Jerome that's all that matters. But if you ever talk to me like that again I will fire you.

JEROME

That's fare.

Carter exits.

CRYSTAL

Let's get you cleaned up.

They exit.

INT. HOTEL ROOM- LATER

Sound track PLAYS as jerome interviews the Dinofrio's.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET CORNER- SEPTEMBER

Music PLAYS as The New Amsterdam Magazine's September issue displayed at a corner news stand with Jerome's story on the front cover.

INT. NEW AMSTERDAM MAGAZINE- LATER

Music PLAYS as Alicia sits at her cubicle watching everyone reading the months issue with Jerome article front cover.

JEROME (V.O)

Life doesn't always go as planned.

INT. CARTER'S OFFICE- CONTINUOUS

Music PLAYS as Carter is victoriously looking through the months issue.

JEROME (V.O)

No matter how good the intention  
sometimes things fall apart before  
they get pieced back together.

INT. VETERINARY OFFICE- DAY

Jerome sits with Fubu as a Vet technician approaches. Jerome gives Fubu a hug before Fubu is taken to the back.

JEROME (V.O.)

I think I'm learning that when things  
don't go your way or as planned you  
don't give up you figure it out.

INT. JEROME'S APARTMENT- EVENING

Jerome sits on the couch eating Nanna's cookies while watching TV with Fubu wearing a cone around his neck and watching him eat. Jerome breaks off a piece of the cookie and gives it to Fubu.

JEROME (V.O.)

Just remember a plane takes off  
against the wind not with it.

\*

THE END