

D-I-Y OR DI-WO

Written by

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INT. LATE NIGHT. PIP'S LOFT CONDO.

Sound: water lightly dripping from the kitchen tap.

Large, warehouse/loft conversion, industrial-style interior very minimal, all furniture in storage offsite, except for a Le Corbusier chaise lounge (covered with a dusty canvas tarp, in front of a massive, The Wall tv, covered with plastic) in the living room. Outdoor furniture on the terrace with half-dead garden and bar-b-que. Pan toward front door, pass kitchen demolition. Wood floor ripped out, appliances removed, large island demolished, wall cabinets removed, doors removed from base cabinets, random packaged food on the shelves, pot pans, bowls and bottles of expensive booze, countertop and wall removed, a few old tools laying around. Demolition rubbish piled up, plastic and dust everywhere, except along the path to the living room and loft. New kitchen appliances and new cabinets packaged. Tiles and lighting fixtures stacked up. New granite tops leaning against the wall, off to the side. PIP totally exhausted from an Asian flight, opens the door, then switches off the alarm. Without turning on the lights, leaves behind his suitcase and camera bag (with mail shoved in), heads straight to the living room, kicks his shoes off, does a back flip onto the settee, dust flies up.

PIP: (Kevin Hart) uber cool, photographer, clever, nice guy, but stressed out

CUT TO:

INT. LATE AFTERNOON. CONDO - BEDROOM.

PIP wakes up exhausted, hears the water dripping, raises his head, looks around then drops back down for a few seconds, then gets up and storms into the kitchen. He sees the area in ruins and stands surveying the damage.

PIP

This shit is till here! Damn,
faucet! Stop...

He goes to tighten the faucet. There are pot and pans, etc. in the way, that are covering up a rusty U-shaped fastener, that's sticking up, out of the floor. PIP kicks the pots away and steps on it. It goes through his big toe. He's shouting, cursing and bleeding. PIP pulls his foot off the nail. He gets a paper towel to cover the bleeding. The tap's still dripping, he loses balance and yanks back on the lever (opening the water flow) it comes off in his hand. He tries to replace it, it won't attach, water it shooting everywhere. He panics, then gets a kitchen towel to stop it, shoves it in with a knife, it's a stop gap. He gets the home phone to call for building maintenance, no answer, he slams the phone down.

PIP (CONT'D)

Fuck! Look at this...Alexa, how do
stop a broken faucet. (Beat) Alexa!
Alexa, answer me! (Beat) You better
not be giving me the silent
treatment! I'm a free man now. I'm
not dealin' with no relationship
issues.

PIP puts a pan over the protruding fastener, hobbles the
bedroom for his phone. Then looks on YouTube for how to stop
the water, while en route back to the kitchen. He finds
everything but that. Then he sees a grainy, poorly coloured
one, with an attractive, kinda butch-looking woman, doing a
demo on how to find the water shut-off valve. The towel
loosens and the spout erupts, before he finishes the video.
He slips, drops his phone, looks for the valve under the
sink, finds the hot water, turns it the wrong way first then
the right way. The water still spouting half as much. He
grabs the phone, desperately searching, he goes back to catch
the rest of the woman's instructions for cold water valve,
then shuts both off. In the process, cuts his left hand index
finger on a piece of loose metal strap under the sink, it's
bleeding. Exhausted he drops the phone, the paper towel
bandage on his foot loosens, the blood is flowing. CUSTOMER
SERVICE AGENT is working at helpline in a women's prison. His
phone rings. He checks, it's the building maintenance
service. PIP answers.

CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENT: Awkwafina

PIP (CONT'D)

What!

CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENT

You called about an emergency
complaint, sir.

PIP

Where's, Ted?

CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENT

If Ted is a man, there are no Ted
here. But, can I help you, sir?

PIP

Help me? Are you a plumber?

CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENT

No, sir.

PIP

You a contractor?

CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENT

No, sir.

PIP

What about an electrician?

CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENT

No.

PIP

Or, a sheetrock finisher, painter, a cabinet installer? Hardware? You do flooring, any kind at all?

CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENT

No, sir.

PIP hobbles over to all the items he's calling out.

PIP

How about installing Turkish granite tops. The thick stuff that costs twice as much. You install appliances, that cost more than my car and my motorcycle? You know how to put up hand-blown Venetian lights? One, cost more than my best camera. That match the vintage Moroccan crystal, mosaic tiles and the granite? A hammered-copper bar sink. Why would you hammer a sink? Do you screw in the bulbs?

CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENT

No, sir.

PIP

No? So, what the hell do you do? Besides say, "No, sir?" Do you live in a house?

CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENT

No, I don't. I live in what you'd call a home-office-work situation? With multiple residents and shared duties at a very low pay-grade. Till my contract is completed, gets ah, renegotiated or I receive unwelcomed termination by a hostile force.

PIP

Well, you get what you pay for, most times.

CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENT

I might be going out on a limb here, but what you seem to have is major surgery. And, as I said, this service is for emergency complaints only. Me and my colleagues field customer complaints to a 24/7 helpline. After helpline does an assessment and have a solution, they send me a report with the assessment and solution. Then I get back to you, asap. Unless, you're in grave danger from electrocution or have been permanently injured, sir.

PIP

What do you do then? For the \$1000 I've been paying every month for maintenance.

CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENT

After careful consideration, I go out on a limb and make an, on the spot assessment myself and call 911 right away. But from what I've gathered, during this 1 minute and 36 second, waste of time call, you: No.1 Don't have an emergency maintenance issue. And No.2, are in no apparent danger to your health and safety. Thank you for calling, sir.

Caller disconnects. PIP puts his phone in his pocket. Then hobbles to where the fastener is, removes the pan, finds a pliers, pulls it out, then throws them in a drawer. And hobbles to the bathroom, to tend to his cuts. Cursing and complaining about how much money has been spent on the kitchen renovation by his ex-wife that's recently vacated, in enroute. In the bath, he rummages her leftover expensive beauty products, finally to finds something to clean his cuts and bandage them. His phone rings. He doesn't recognise the number, but answers.

DAM: Alec Mapa

PIP

Hello?

DAM

Hi. This is Dam Schell, from I Plan It. Is this Pip?

PIP

Yeah.

DAM

I've been trying to contact Terralyn.

PIP

My ex-wife, that's recently vacated the premises? And still left her shit behind?

DAM

Well, being that she's off the grid. (Beat) Ah, I hate to blow your surprise, but she pre-paid for our 50th Blowout Birthday Party Package.

PIP

What 50th Blowout Birthday Party Package?

PIP puts the lid down and sits on the toilet seat.

DAM

Yeah. The blowout includes: a "This Is Your Life, Pip" 20-minute video on jumbotron. That's color-hanced, edited, and ready for viewing. Plus, a séance in her office. The high ceilings, help with the underworld connection. They'll have plenty of room to move around. They don't like being trapped. Everything is low environmental footprint. So no balloons, but lots of organic confetti canons. Live performers: belly dancers and fire spitters. But, I have to make sure the roof garden is safe for them and your guests, nothing flammable. And check with your neighbor. Most times they're fine with it. They sign-off and get a free show. That's why I'm calling. Plus, I'll throw in two disco balls with lasers.

PIP

Quit fuckin' with me, man! I'm not paying for another thing for this condo! My line of credit and bank cards are maxed out. I sold every picture that was worth anything!

DAM

Don't get all... You weren't you listening? Calm down. I said it's pre-paid.

PIP

Well, I want a refund, then.

DAM

It's in two weeks time. I can't give your money back, it's too late. I'm sorry. And, everything's booked, including the catering.

PIP

Skip the belly dancers and the séance. I don't wanna see dead people. I'm battling enough demons on my own. Just, upgrade the menu. What kinda food?

DAM

She said, it's everything you like. Guest's RSVPed weeks ago. And, Deejay Bamma Jamma NYC, he specialises in 80s hits, for people of color and white people, that can dance. This is not one to be missed. I'm doing double-duty just to work the floor. Everything's done, except for the neighbor's consent form. But, the florals, the decorations, the furniture, the gift bags, she said nothing under \$500, the toilet paper, the cake. I designed it myself. She let me run wild with that one. She's been my best customer from day one. Don't you remember me?

PIP

She's got so many planners. Trying to impress and spend drifting like nothing, on these endless parties every other weekend.

DAM

So, she was cheating on me. I had my suspicions. Was she cheating on you?

PIP

Hell, if I care. I can finally have peace and quiet. Without her, "Don't mix up the cushions.

(MORE)

PIP (CONT'D)

Don't buy that color fruit. Don't cook, it stinks up the place." I'm so tired of all of the shit. And, that dog of hers. He's finally gone. I hate dogs.

DAM

Me, too. THEY stink.

PIP

You married?

DAM

Hell, no. Never. I'm an unbeliever. (Beat) I'm the one that did your wedding. It was my first gig. I was so under priced in those days. Making up for it now, though.

PIP

Wait, I remember you! You stole somebody's camera, for me to take pictures for your website.

DAM

I know and on your wedding day. I couldn't afford that photographer you had, Howdy Doody. What kinda name is that? And, by the way, I didn't steal it. She was drunk. She forgot, she loaned it to me.

PIP

Who?

DAM

Your mother-in-law.

PIP

By the way, Howdy. He's my friend and business partner.

DAM

Well, it was my first major wedding. But, Terralyn insisted on rearranging everything. And adding those huge lights, last minute like that. It wasn't me.

PIP

I know.

DAM

Those pics and the video, got me more gigs than you could ever imagine, darling. But, may I use this opportunity to apologise to you for that. I was so way out of line. Your wedding day, and all. That's why I'm throwing in the fire-spitters, for free. Ad the extra disco ball.

PIP

Nah, forget it. I shoulda known we were doomed from then. When she pushed guests, even my grandparents, out of the way, cause they were ruining the shot.

DAM

So you're officially divorced now?

PIP

Seven years too late. But, yeah. I had enough, wasting time with that. We both did. But, because I'm the one who asked for it, she pitched a fit.

(mocking his ex)

"I, never want to speak to you again, never, not ever. Even if you were the last person on Earth." Dah. But, 50/50 right down the middle. I just wanted, out.

DAM

No contest. Lucky you.

PIP

But, I've spent my last dime to but her out, for this condo, the furniture, the kitchen re-do, this party. That I didn't know about. But, I love this place. I'm the one that spotted it. The location is perfect. I'm so close to downtown where everything is happenin', for me.

DAM

You still paparazzo?

PIP

It pays way more than the bills. I only go after the big dogs.

(MORE)

PIP (CONT'D)

We get exclusives and, tip-offs way before any body else and beat the rush. I just hop on my bike. And, I'm Johnny on the spot. I put my helmet on. And, I have this extended eye-piece. So, I just raise my visor and bam. Nobody knows it's me. My partner does the rest. I check the bank. Cha-ching.

DAM

So when can I come by?

PIP

Forget about it, man. Look, I've been away on a National Geo shoot, in the South Pacific for five weeks. She said, "When you come back, it'll be over with. Like our marriage." This morning I wake up and this shit is all over the place. It bugs me. She knows it. That's probably why it ain't done, yet. One last jab.

DAM

What's taking so long?

PIP

I dunno know. I just got back last night from a 20-hour flight, two layovers. Collapsed and woke up to a dripping faucet that turned into a disaster movie, before the water broke.

DAM

You, OK?

PIP

No. No kitchen. No water in the kitchen. But, at least the bleeding stopped.

DAM

So what should I do, then? The fire-spitters, the party? I hate to see all that money go to waste. You know she never does anything under 5-figures. She's No. 1 on my MNOP client list.

PIP

MNOP?

DAM
 Money's no object, let's party.
 (Beat) Maybe things aren't as bad as
 they look, darling.

PIP
 (doubtful)
 Maybe. If I just took out the trash.
 And cleaned up.

PIP falling asleep.

DAM
 Now we're talking. That's the
 spirit. I'll lend a hand even, OK.
 (singing)
It's your birthday. We gon' party.
It's your birthday. You turn 50.
It's your birthday. Dumped your
woman.
It's your birthday. Free at last.
It's your birthday. Find some ass.
It's your birthday. Make more cash.
It's your birthday.

PIP
 Say, 10, OK.

DAM
 Fine.

DAM disconnects.

PIP
 Sorry I was so short with you. I
 just want the kitchen fixed and
 things normal. I'm so jetlagged.

PIP drops the phone.

CUT TO:

INT. MORNING. PIP'S CONDO BUILDING - FRONT ENTRANCE.

A MAN is sitting in a blacked-out, popular model car, across
 the street surveillancing the condo's front door. DAM dressed
 smartly for laborious work and carrying a portfolio. He
 presses PIP's bell. PIP goes to the kitchen to answer.
 MAN/JOSH: Ali Siddiq
 NEWBIE: Maxwell Heller, straight-acting gay, shy, clumsy

PIP
 Hey, Dam.

DAM
It's me. And, your wife.

PIP
Quit fucking with me, Dam.

The buzzer rings. DAM opens the door and enters.

CUT TO:

INT. MORNING. PIP'S CONDO.

The door is open DAM enters. PIP'S in the toilet.

PIP
(shouts)
Come in. I'll be out in a sec.

DAM looks around inspecting with nose turned up.

DAM
(under breath)
These "straights" always exaggerate.
But, it's more worse than I thought.
Why, for fuck sake, did I offer?

PIP, wearing socks and prison yard slippers. Hobbling, he enters stops at the kitchen cabinets.

PIP
Morning.

DAM
Where's all the furniture?

PIP
In storage. How you doing?

DAM
(looking around)
I'm ill. Shit happened in here.

PIP
I thought about sending you
pictures. But...

DAM
It sounded so much better on the
phone. Well one thing's for sure,
Terralyn bought top shelf.

PIP

Tell me about it. She didn't plan this cause it's my fiftieth. She timed all this. We didn't need a whole new kitchen. We don't even need a toaster. I'm the one that cooks. The only thing she knows, is the top shelf booze.

DAM approaches PIP.

DAM

I tried calling her again. No answer.

PIP

Me, too. She's switched off. She's just being shitty.

DAM

When did she move out?

PIP

The day after me.

DAM

Who's the contractor?

PIP

I don't know. She handles all that. She's a brilliant designer and planner. I give her that. But, I'm the money mule. Well, maybe when we clean this up. We'll find a number or something.

DAM

I should talk with your neighbor first. About the fire thing, darling. Cause they'll X me if I cancel on them. They're coming all the way from the UK for this.

PIP

What?! The fuckin', UK. Geez. (Beat) He might be out there having coffee, 'bout now.

DAM

I shoulda wore combat boots. This is a minefield.

PIP takes off his slipper and sock, then shows DAM, his foot and the fastener.

Then tosses the fastener on a pile of rubbish. PIP (hobbling) and DAM exit to terrace. Very large terrace, minimalist-style with luxury weathered-wooden outdoor furniture (incl. canvas umbrella), fire pit, jardinières with plants, mini-fruit trees. Concrete wall between condo terraces, with a trellis and a dense ivy covering it.

PIP

Tell me about it. I had to pull this out. Blood gushing everywhere.

DAM

Spare me, please darling. You should get a tetanus shot for that.

PIP

I just came from spending five weeks in the jungle. And been bitten by everything known and unknown, to science. I ain't worried about a rusty nail.

DAM

(lowers voice)

Wait a sec. I smell something? It smells like somebody's jerking off. Take a sniff.

PIP

How can you smell somebody jerking off?

DAM

Is your neighbor gay?

PIP

Yeah. So?

DAM

It's the same lube I use.

PIP

Come on, man.

DAM

Call him. Go, on.

PIP

If he is, I'm not gonna...Give him blue balls.

DAM

Look we don't have time to waste. What's his name?

PIP

Newbie.

DAM mouths, Newbie and laughs. PIP shrugs.

DAM

Oh, Newbie. Newbie, darling? I hate to be an *erectus interruptus*. But, me and Pip need to ask you something. Just for a minute and you can get right back, to your D-I-Y project. We promise.

NEWBIE sorts himself. Clumsily limbs up and peeks over the vine on the trellis.

NEWBIE

Pip! Hi, good morning. Sorry, I didn't hear at first. I - I...

DAM

That's OK. We're all adults. You're either a D-I-Y man or a D-I-WO man.

PIP and NEWBIE puzzled.

DAM (CONT'D)

W, O. Do it, "with others." Take your pick.

NEWBIE gets it.

DAM (CONT'D)

I'm Dam Schell. Hi. Nice to meet you.

NEWBIE

Likewise. I think.

PIP

Newbie, I hate to bother you, but Terralyn has planned this surprise birthday party for me, in two weeks.

NEWBIE

Wait, I thought she moved out. You're divorced, right?

DAM

Yeah, but she planned one last blowout before the ink dried, to impress the Joneseses, as usual.

NEWBIE

I was so, so looking forward to her leaving. Honestly, Pip - those parties. The things your guests did. If these plants could talk...I know it was ALL her. But, still.

DAM

Well, for her last fling. The shindig comes with fire-spitters. So the city ordinance says, he has to get you to sign-off on it. Just so you won't think it's a terror attack and call the CIA or Mossad, on him. She already signed a liability agreement. So the event is insured against property damage. And a massive jumbotron is going right there anyway.

PIP

How the hell, you gonna get that up here?

DAM

It's a surprise. (Beat) A crane, darling. How else. It's only two floors. And, I'll use that massive tv of yours. Don't worry, in the morning, back to normal, darling.

DAM takes the waiver from his portfolio and hands it to NEWBIE, he takes it and reads. Then DAM hands him the liability clause. NEWBIE, he takes it and reads. DAM hands him an ink pen.

NEWBIE

So, what happened with your kitchen renovation? After she moved out, silence.

DAM

He's clueless. Terralyn's either disappeared. Or, taken by the eastern European sex slave industry, for their niche market.

NEWBIE shocked.

PIP

Nah, she just won't answer her phone. I've been away for five weeks. Didn't I tell you?

NEWBIE

No, with the divorce and all, you must've forgotten. (Beat) So, you don't know what happened then.

PIP

What?

NEWBIE

Ted,

(to Dam)

That's the property manager. Who's in hock up to his gills, dropped down dead of a heart attack, two weeks ago, today. I remember cause on Monday's, my shift changes. He found out that the property owner is insolvent. And, he's out of a job and the building is going up for sale. Check your mail. There's a letter with all the details and contacts.

PIP

When did that happen?

NEWBIE

Three weeks ago.

PIP

Shit!

DAM

In this neighborhood, somebody'll snap this up in a heartbeat.

NEWBIE signs the release and hands the paperwork back to DAM.

PIP

Well no wonder I got that 800, helpline yesterday and not Ted.

NEWBIE

What happened?

PIP

The kitchen faucet broke. Water all over the place.

DAM

Don't worry about that Pip, darling. We're gonna fix it. And, all that property stuff is a long way off. We gon' party. Cause,

(MORE)

DAM (CONT'D)
 (singing)
*It's your birthday. It's your
 birthday. It's your birthday.
 You're 50, damn it!*

PIP sighs.

NEWBIE
 It's better than being a hundred.

DAM
 Oh, come on, Pip darling. This'll be
 the best thing for you, with all
 you've been through. The divorce,
 wiping out your cash, nearly eaten
 alive in the jungle, slicing your
 foot open. I'll look up some more
 single ladies and put them on the
 guest list. There's bound to be
 someone Terralyn forgot to impress.

PIP shows his hand.

DAM (CONT'D)
 Damn, multiple injuries.
 (to Newbie)
 Construction negligence. How you
 gonna sue, the contractor split.

NEWBIE
 You should get a tetanus shot.

DAM
 See. I told him.

PIP
 He's a doctor. I'm not interested in
 dating anyone. I'm too overwhelmed.

DAM
 A doctor, really! Your name's not on
 the list. Pip, it's the least you
 could do. After all the trauma he's
 been going through from the late
 night carousing. The wee hour
 orgies. And only a fence in-between.
 You must've felt like Sabrina. But,
 in two weeks we gon,
 (singing)
*Celebrate good times come on.
 It's a celebration.*

NEWBIE hands DAM his pen.

DAM (CONT'D)

No, keep it. My name and WhatsApp are there. So you don't have an excuse.

PIP'S phone rings, he looks, it's Howdy with a paparazzi tip.

PIP

Sorry guys, I gotta take this.

PIP steps away. DAM chats up NEWBIE.

PIP (CONT'D)

Yeah, where you at?...I know they're slowly coming out of the closet. It's Oscar Buzz, already. What you got?...He's up for one? Yeah but, GC is a basher. I'm not getting close to his ass. He does the ol' bait and smash. Man, I got no money for another camera and lens, like that one. Who's he with?...Really! Family! Man, that's good! You never see them together. Where are they?...What they doing?...Juicy!... Nobody, at all?... What about Shutterbug, she there?...Good. OK, I'll take the bike...Look, you drive. I hurt my foot. I'm there!

PIP disconnects.

DAM

So, who you stalkin'?

PIP

It don't matter. If I catch him in the act, it's enough to pay for another contractor to start today. Look, I gotta go. Just close the doors behind you, OK.

PIP hobbles, to exit. DAM smiles at NEWBIE. NEWBIE slips and falls.

NEWBIE

(shouts)

Get a tetanus shot, today! Come to the hospital, later. Call me when you get there, OK.

(to Dam)

He's scared of needles.

PIP
 (shouts)
 I ain't gettin' no shot. Not even
 from you.

DAM
 You can jab me in the butt, anytime.
 Newbie, darling.

Song: "Jump On It" (instrumental) The Sugar Hill Gang

CUT TO:

EXT. LATER. DOWNTOWN LA.

PIP with his helmet on and camera securely crossing his shoulder on his back, is on his motorbike (Ducate two-seater) en route to a celebrity location. Traffic is jammed. PIP negotiates his way through and stops. HOWDY puts his helmet and backpack on. PIP is passenger, HOWDY drives.

HOWDY: Romany Malco

TARGET: The Porch Pirate, Clooney lookalike

WOMAN: George Clooney's sister (Adelia Zeidler), lookalike

D-LIST CELEB: Charli D'Amelio

DOG: adult, Pomeranian (larger-sized) with a prison yard slipper fetish

HOWDY
 They're still there. I know a
 shortcut.

PIP
 Take it, man. Come, on!

HOWDY
 Hold on!

HOWDY swiftly maneuvers through the traffic and crowds on the street. As they get near TARGET'S location, HOWDY indicates to PIP keep an eye out and slows down. On their path, just ahead of them, is a D-LIST CELEB in a hired car with her DOG. She forgot to connect the DOG'S collar to the lead. She opens the door, DOG gets out, sits on the street and ignores her. HOWDY slows down to a crawl to avoid the DOG and the car door. PIP checks his camera settings. HOWDY then navigates around and drives on. The DOG chases the motorbike. D-LIST CELEB exits car, shouts and runs for DOG. PIP looks at DOG then raises his eye shield. DOG bites down on PIP'S prison slipper and won't let it go. PIP reacts to bite. HOWDY can't see DOG, he goes back to speed. PIP trying to shake DOG loose and keep an eye out for TARGET. PIP takes his helmet off and swings it at the DOG and misses. The bike shakes, HOWDY looks back and sees the situation.

HOWDY maneuvers to shake the DOG loose, it won't release. Finally, the DOG pulls the slipper off, just when PIP and HOWDY are close to TARGET. TARGET is deep in conversation with a WOMAN. HOWDY points at TARGET, PIP has camera in position, focuses and keeps shooting TARGET. The slipper flies up in the air and hits the TARGET in the nose. DOG sits on the pavement all innocent. D-LIST CELEB runs to and picks up DOG then pampers it. PIP takes shots of her with the DOG. TARGET picks up slipper throws it at PIP. PIP keeps shooting at TARGET, slipper lands on the pavement next to PIP, he grabs HOWDY'S grabs to stop. PIP hops off the bike, puts torn slipper on, hops back on bike, then puts his helmet on, visor down, secures his camera, pats HOWDY on the shoulder twice. HOWDY gives a thumb up, then hits the gas. Song ends.

CUT TO:

INT. LATER. HOSPITAL ER.

NEWBIE finished giving PIP a tetanus and rabies shot. Then checks his wounds, tends to them and bandages them. DAM is there for moral support and flirting with NEWBIE.

NURSE: Mary Lynn Rajksb

NEWBIE

The big toe is so vulnerable. You should have a cast. It'd be safer with that hazmat condo you've got. And, don't walk around without shoes.

DAM

Oh, Newbie. You have such a nice bedside manner about you.

PIP rolls his eyes at NEWBIE.

PIP

I don't want no cast. (Beat) I thought you were gonna stay at the condo and clean up.

DAM

I did stay. And, then Newbie came over for a coffee. Then I realized your machine was gone. So we forgot all about the coffee. And, we...

PIP

Don't tell me y'all had sex in my bed.

NEWBIE

I'm allergic to sheetrock dust. I had a sneezing fit.

DAM

So, WE went to his place. He quit sneezing. Then you called. And *erectus interruptus*, again. I shoulda switched my phone off.

NEWBIE is finished with the bandage on PIP'S hand.

PIP

Thanks, man.

DAM

You should check for bug bites. You could be carrying some sort of deadly exotic disease. And, drop dead before your birthday. Then I'll have to cancel across the board. And, my house and garage are gonna burn to the ground.

PIP

Damn, it! Dam. I'm fine. I had my malaria pills already.

DAM

But, it could be something else.

PIP

Don't fear porn me. I'm fine.

NEWBIE

If you get a fever, just call me.
(Beat) What happened with the pictures?

PIP

The guy was a damn good lookalike. To give Howdy the slip. But, if he gets on the A-list. I've got some winners, baby. The TikTok girl, She's, I dunno, an F, D minus. But, "People" are paying us \$3,000 for it. For their "Cute n' Cuddly" tab.

NEWBIE

But, what in the hell, made her dog attack your slipper like that?

DAM

Wait, TikTok girl. Isn't her dad a jailbird?

PIP

Yeah, DUI. Howdy was trying to convince me to shoot him when he got bounced. The daughter's barely a passing grade. He ain't even listed.

DAM

Maybe that's why the dog was after your slippers.

PIP

Quit fuckin' with me, Dam.

DAM

The, Dad. The smell. The prison slippers.

NEWBIE

So what you gonna do now?

DAM

Why don't you see if you've got something else you can sell. Didn't you used to have some real famous art photos? I remember seeing them when Terralyn had that sex toys party. The stuff they had... Darling, they put gay men to shame.

PIP

I'm not selling any of them. Nah, no, no and NO! We are not touching them. I got those, back in my early days.

PIP hobbles and closes the curtains.

DAM

What you do that for?

PIP

You never know who's listening in.

PIP puts his phone in his pocket.

PIP (CONT'D)

Anyway, that was when I was surveilling 18 hours a day.

(MORE)

PIP (CONT'D)

Hustling and hiding out, on the streets, at the beach, in the bushes, with drones. I was everywhere. I got shots of folks doing all kinds of shit in public.

DAM AND NEWBIE

Like, what?

PIP

Doing "the nasty," wardrobe malfunctions, picking their noses, eating boogers, rubbing out eye boogers, digging out earwax and checking it, drooling.

DAM and NEWBIE not convinced.

PIP (CONT'D)

I do wildlife photography. I got cameras, that can catch a flea on a zebra's tail, from like a football field away.

NEWBIE AND DAM

Wow!

DAM (CONT'D)

What's a football field?

NEWBIE

I'll show you later.

PIP

I got spray sneezes, hawking back and spitting on the sidewalk (disgusting look), scratching their asses, fixing their balls, jock and p- crotch itch, wedgie pulls, checking their stinky breath and smelly arm pits. And, my personal favorites, gum spitters and tackers. Peeing in the bushes and on the roadside. Not always drunk, either.

NEWBIE AND DAM

No! Quit fuckin' with us, Pip.

DAM (CONT'D)

You ever caught anybody doing drugs? Not herbs. I'm talkin' 'bout...

PIP

I don't do drugs, man. Just don't do them. (Beat) One time, I was at this boutique couture fashion show, in Paris. I had my real expensive video cam, the one with the real good mike. It can pick up anything. I got there real early and still had to hustle for a spot. I was in front on the corner, close to the audience. We waited and waited. Then, it was finally time to start. Man, you could hear a pin drop. I hit record. And, I taped one of the loudest, longest, funkiest, wet turd honks I ever heard in my life. I busted her, A++ and Best Dressed List, front row, end of runway, middle seat, stinking ass, like that.

(Pip snaps his fingers)

Priceless. That's how I got those Avedon's and Sherman's. Fair and square. They cannot touch me.

DAM and NEWBIE look amazed.

DAM AND NEWBIE

I had no idea.

NEWBIE (CONT'D)

Well, your hand should be better in a few days. Then you can take the bandage off. Your foot, a little longer. Keep it elevated as much as you can. (Beat) You're smart, Pip. Why not take a look at some of those D-I-Y videos. I'm sure you can figure it. I'll lend a hand. After the biohazards are removed.

DAM

Well, I gave you my word. I'll help toss the trash.

PIP gets his phone and switches it on. Then searches on YouTube for the plumbing lady videos.

PIP

First thing. I gotta get that faucet fixed. A kitchen with no water. That's like a bathroom without a toilet. This is the video I was looking at. Let me see what else she's talking about.

(MORE)

PIP (CONT'D)
It's out of focus, color and
lighting's bad, but that's her.

DAM and NEWBIE get in close to watch. NEWBIE gets paged on
the PA, he doesn't hear.

DAM
Who's she?

PIP
Miss Fix-It-All. She could be just
reading from a script, though.

NEWBIE
She sounds convincing, though.

PIP
That's how they bait you, though.

DAM taps PIP on the shoulder.

DAM
Oh, she's sexy. A little butch. But,
there's nothing like someone that
knows what they're talking about and
handy with tools.

NURSE enters the room, muffled. Then sees PIP with the phone.

NURSE
Doctor Newbie, there's a page for
you. Didn't you hear. Your office
called twice. Somebody could be
dying up in here.

PIP
It does happen. It's a hospital
ain't it. Check the whiteboard and
see how many patients died in here,
since midnight. Go on, go see.

NURSE
And, you shoulda been No.1.

NURSE exits.

NEWBIE
Guys, I have to go.

NEWBIE exits.

NURSE
No phones allowed.

DAM
He's only got the one. Mine is off,
darling.

PIP AND DAM (CONT'D)
We're leaving anyway. It's not like
we wanna hang with you.

NURSE exits.

DAM (CONT'D)
Gee! I didn't realise that plumbing
is so complicated. All those pieces
and shit.

PIP
Yeah. Looks like I'ma need to go
shopping after all. Let me see if
People paid us, yet.

PIP checks his account, then goes back to video.

PIP (CONT'D)
Cha-ching!

DAM
Well, drop me by your place, then.
I cancelled my spa today. So I might
as well make myself useful.

PIP
Let me check if I even have any of
this, shit. These hustlers make good
money off copper, by the pound.

DAM
What do ya know about hustling and
all that?

PIP
Man, my folks didn't have no money
to send me to college for photo
journalism. I hustled every which
way I could to graduate. But, it was
all legit.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. LATER. THE HOME DEPOT.

PIP hobbles to the entrance pushing a cart and holding a
footlong piece of 1" copper pipe and a long list of what he
needs, written on a piece of torn cardboard.

He enters and sees a SALES AGENT, with their back to him, checking stock and approaches.

SALES AGENT: Murray Hill

WOMAN/VESSIE ANDERS/MISS FIX-IT-ALL: Uzo Aduba

CONFUSED WOMAN: Ruth Buzzi

PIP

Hey, bro. Where do I find this stuff?

SALES AGENT turns around and takes a look at PIP and what he's carrying.

SALES AGENT

Good afternoon. Go straight down here. After you past the lighting, hang a right. PVC is on the right. Copper is on the left. The lengths, are stood on end, at the end.

PIP

(unsure)

Ah, thanks.

SALES AGENT

Happy shopping, bro.

PIP hobbles to plumbing section. Gagging over everything. Looking at CUSTOMERS and trying to act like he knows what he's doing. A CONFUSED WOMAN approaches him with a broken thermostat control, he evades her and turns down the electrical supplies aisle and continues walking.

PIP

(to himself, very low)

Man, just look at all this shit. It's like Vegas up in here. Pip, focus, don't get distracted. You need this plumbing stuff. You think any of 'em, know what they doing. I bet he don't. Or, him either.

PIP looks around, he's turned around, then sees the plumbing sign across on the other side of the store. He hobbles over. A WOMAN (Miss Fix-It-All/Vessie) is nearby, wearing a bandana (yellow background with white & black outlined drawings of various tools) head scarf tied back, artsy metal earrings, bright pink overalls and steel-toe boots and holding a handbasket, getting some butane torch cans. PIP checks her out, she's familiar.

PIP (CONT'D)

Look at her in that get-up. What she gonna do with that?

(MORE)

PIP (CONT'D)

What, burn gum off her driveway.
Looking like she knows something.
But, she is cute. Athletic. Not, too
tall. Nice earrings. But, I'm not
buying no jewelry.

PIP stares at the boxes of copper fittings, overwhelmed and clueless, then looks at his list and gets frustrated.

PIP (CONT'D)

(to himself, very low)

Shit! I shoulda made a picture file.
I can't be reading and looking for
all this. This is too much.

He looks around and sees WOMAN looking at him. They politely smile at each other. She goes back to shopping. PIP stares at WOMAN for a moment, then goes to dig in a bin, switches the pipe to his left hand, pipe drops to the floor.

PIP (CONT'D)

Sorry about that. I'm right-handed.

WOMAN

(smiling)

I'm a lefty. They keep the length
pipe on the very end. It's easy to
pass up.

PIP

OK, thanks.

WOMAN gets a bottle pipe cleaner and looks at brushes. PIP reaches up and pulls out a heavy box loaded with fittings, it falls on his foot. He does everything not to shout from the pain. WOMAN sees him and rushes over.

WOMAN

Oh, goodness. What happened?

PIP

I'm alright. I'm good. Don't...

WOMAN puts her basket down and hurries to make space for him to sit on the bottom shelf. PIP embarrassed and defensive.

WOMAN

Here, sit down. You're in pain. Come
on. You don't need to act all
heroic. I know how heavy all that
copper is. See what I wear. I just
came here cause it's near home, in-
out. I live in Redondo Beach. And,
to check out the new tools.

(MORE)

WOMAN (CONT'D)

They have way more cool gadgets in here than the trade-only places. But, I've seen so many near misses, in this place. You're just...Be glad you got a good bandage.

WOMAN helps PIP to sit. Then picks up the fittings and puts them in the box.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Just rest. I'll sort this.

PIP catches his breath from the pain.

PIP

Thank you so much. I stepped on one of those stapler nail things. It went straight through my big toe, yesterday. I pulled it out.

WOMAN

Ouch! You got a tetanus shot.

PIP

Yeah. I just came from the ER.

WOMAN sees PIP'S list and looks at it.

WOMAN

Man! You got a big project going on here. Kitchen re-do?

PIP

Yeah. Total. And, a new hammered-copper bar sink. I need it done asap.

WOMAN

What's the square footage?

PIP

Square footage? Hell, if I know. I got only one foot to be worried about at the moment.

WOMAN

You, you don't really do D-I-Y, do you?

PIP

Well, I do dabble. Here and there you know. It's just...

WOMAN

It's plumbing. I know everybody hates it.

PIP

The wet, the mess.

WOMAN puts the fitting box, back on the shelf.

WOMAN

The smell. I'm used to it. My dad was a master plumber. Most of the other, interior home improvement stuff, I picked up here-and-there. Dad and his brothers, they're all gone now. But, they taught us, almost everything we know. I'm an only child. My cousins and me, we work together. Property construction and maintenance. A big family of mostly girls, we're all partners. One's dad was a carpenter and a roofer, that's Cuz No.1. Her daughter and son, work with her. They're not kids though, their grown. She had them real young. You shoulda seen them when the were little. Running around with their plastic tools, building stuff.

PIP

(defensive sarcasm)

Cute, I bet.

WOMAN

But, he doesn't like it much. He wants to be an actor. He's always bugging me to make contacts with my clients.

PIP

You a talent agent, too?

WOMAN

Hell, no. And, there's Tabby, the youngest. She learned from my Dad. And, then from me. She had a baby and then twins. Now, she's going back to college. Working with me is helping her out, a lot. And then, my twin cousins.

PIP

Twins, too!

WOMAN

Cuz No.4, A/C and electrical, she has twins, too. Girls, and a son. But, Cuz 2 and 3, their Dad was a stonemason and their mom loved plants. But girl twin, learned gardening and landscaping, and him, stonework, bricklaying and tiling, in prison, for first degree armed robbery. They work with this community program for people finding it hard to get steady work, that's at least, rewarding. Working outdoors mostly, beautifying stuff.

PIP

What they stole?

WOMAN

My cousins? Jewelry, was their specialty. Not from my clients though. Shops in Beverly Hills.

PIP

Excellent taste.

WOMAN

But, they got themselves sorted out.

PIP

If you keep gettin' nicked, get some sense and quit.

WOMAN

And besides plumbing, I do all the estimates. Plus, it's good PR for us, to have clients see me in person.

PIP

(genuine)

Wait a second! I know you! You're Miss, Miss Fix-It-All! Yeah, that's you, on YouTube! I thought you were an actor.

WOMAN

Nope, no script needed. I do use and outline though. Just so I don't miss anything. And, I'm on Instagram, too. But yep, that's me. I'm the front person. Cause I got a knack for talking. They're all camera shy.

(MORE)

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Nice to meet a fan, viewer. Liked and subscribed, I hope.

PIP

Yeah, definitely.

VESSIE extends her hand, PIP a bit timid, shakes it.

VESSIE

We're all fully licensed and insured in building repair. Myself, a master. The first one, in the entire country.

PIP

Well, congratulations!

VESSIE

And I want there to be many more. But, I guess, I should say mistress plumber. Does it really matter. My apprenticeship was hell. I almost busted a guy's head wide open with one of them.

VESSIE points to the pipes hanging up, on display.

VESSIE (CONT'D)

An 18". Cracked his hard hat in half, right down the middle.

PIP

(timid)

Did you whack him over the head?
Or...

VESSIE

No, I threw it at that SOB.

PIP

Damn! I guess, nobody messed with you after that.

VESSIE

Damn, right! Dad and Mom supported me, every step. He used to work in Beverly Hills and Malibu. Self-taught, 50 years working, retired and died. Anyway, I inherited his business. Then I thought, why not get all us cousins together. I do property investment, too. I got in on some real good bidding tips, through my clients.

(MORE)

VESSIE (CONT'D)

And, got myself an okay lawyer. I want a better one though. One that really knows about real estate. That's what Cousin Tabby's studying.

PIP intimidated.

PIP

Nice to meet you. Pip, photo journalist. Non-handyman and warehouse condo owner. Who's building engineer has just died and no replacement in sight.

VESSIE chuckles.

VESSIE

Nice to meet you. So, what do you think of my videos?

PIP

Excellent. How to shut off the water. After you break off the lever. Flood the floor, slip and fall, impale your foot and slice your finger open.

VESSIE laughs. PIP relaxes, somewhat.

VESSIE

You didn't break the lever.

PIP

No?

VESSIE

It was loose. It just needs to be tightened. I just started doing them, the videos.

PIP

I checked. I'm just one of these kinda of people, that you know... You've got a million views. I clicked "Like" and "Subscribe" and rang the bell. That's how I got that list. I thought, since I broke the faucet and shut the water off. I'd leave it and just put new pipe and a faucet. But, coming in here, is a totally different story. Man, all this shit does my head in.

VESSIE chuckles and smiles, then gets her phone case and pulls out a business card, then hands it to PIP. PIP takes and reads it.

PIP (CONT'D)

Miss Fix-It-All. Subfloor to roof top. Inside and out. Vessie Answers.

VESSIE

I'll come and take a look. Price it out, at no charge. Don't bother buying anything. Let me see first. Text me. Just put D-I-Y guy, OK.

They both laugh. PIP tries to get up.

VESSIE (CONT'D)

Hold on! Just stay there. Let me get you a wheelchair. If you injure yourself in here. You can't sue. Enter at your own risk. It's posted at the entrance.

CUT TO:

INT. EVENING. PIP'S CONDO.

PIP enters. The rubbish is gone and the place is completely sorted. Walking paths and kitchen floor have taped-down cardboard. PIP hobbles in and looks around, then calls DAM.

PIP

Dam. Damn, you done good, man. How'd you get this place so clean. Everything in bins. And, the cardboard. Man, that's nice.

DAM

Homeless, day laborers.

PIP

Quit fuckin' with me, Dam.

DAM

No, I'm serious. I just hopped on over to Skid Row. It was half a day's work, 35 bucks each, cash in-hand. They came with their own equipment. And did extra, so I paid 'em 50. It's so worth it.

PIP

What equipment?

DAM

Rags, cardboard, shopping carts. You had tape. And there's more cardboard, if you need. I told them to make sure there were no more nails sticking out anywhere. I supervised. They bagged it and hauled it to the dumpster out back, then cleaned up. And, all those big empty bins came in handy for storing all your stuff. I hope you don't mind, I let them have the food that was there. They cooked some pasta. They had a burner, too. I hid the booze. But, I gave them the beer. They're were complaints about not having water in the kitchen, though. But, they made due hauling water from the bathroom. The African, he was really good. Didn't spill a drop.

PIP

Quit fuckin' with me, Dam.

DAM

No, I'm not. I use them all the time. To help me with events. There's never enough hands to collect trash and what not. So I get them off the streets. As long as they look decent enough. These days you never know who's homeless.

PIP

Man, you are so random.

DAM

But, I get the job done. So, how'd you do?

PIP

I went to that store and my brain exploded. Looking at all that stuff. And, I hurt my foot.

DAM

You shoulda got the cast. Newbie told you, darling.

PIP

Anyway, I met a woman.

DAM

You went though all that to meet some woman. So, that's how you "hurt" your foot.

PIP

No, Dam. It wasn't like that. It's the woman from the D-I-Y videos.

DAM

Miss-Fix-It-All? You met her? Where?

PIP

At the store. She's got a business and everything. Her name is, Vessie.

DAM

See, I told you. How does she look in person? Is she kinda butch? Were you intimidated? I bet you were. A strong black woman. After that weak white one you had. You must've peed your pants.

PIP

Well, you know. She. Her dad taught her. He's dead now. But, it's a family-owned and operated business. They do it all, all legit, licensed and everything. I checked. She told me, she'd come and have a look. Then let me know how much I'm in for.

DAM

But, how you gonna pay up?

PIP

I know. And, I can tell she's the kind that won't turn a screw, if you got no cash.

DAM

What about your safari pictures?

PIP

I still haven't even gone through them. I just slept on that plane. Those nature gigs are a bitch. Then I have to edit. Then it takes months to get my money. Them big corporate dogs take forever.

DAM

Tell me about it.

PIP

She does property investment, too. I wonder if she might be interested in this building? I checked her website. She's got clients in Beverly Hills, Malibu, La Costa, Serra Retreat, high brow, man. You should see the pictures. Gorgeous re-dos. No client names. But, I know them houses, A-listers and a couple of Bs, but...

DAM

Does she know you're paparazzo?

PIP

No, I didn't tell her about my dark side. I'm gotta feel her out first.

DAM

Well, don't waste time. You've got everything to lose. (Beat) Do you know if Newbie is allergic to anything else? He's coming over tomorrow and I want to be mindful.

PIP

No, he's not.

DAM

I don't want to blow it on our first date fuck. And don't call me, till tomorrow evening. He'll be back at work then. I don't want another *erectus interruptus*, from you.

PIP disconnects. Then gets VESSIE'S card and texts her, "Would you come by asap?" (praying hands emoji). She replies, "Tomorrow @ 11" (thumbs up emoji). PIP replies, "1742 Olympia St 90020 No.3" (faucet dripping emoji)

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. MORNING. CONDO - TERRACE.

PIP is sat under the umbrella on his laptop reviewing his National Geo photos, waiting for VESSIE. The house phone rings. He shuts down his laptop. Hobbles inside, rings her up, puts laptop in his office, tidies up the settee cover. He only finds one slipper. He looks around downstairs for the mate. Remembers the dog from yesterday. Checks that the bathroom is clean enough. Opens the front door. Then goes upstairs to look for some shoes. VESSIE enters.

He tries a couple of shoes, they all hurt his foot. VESSIE is dressed in jeans and T-shirt, hair tied with scarf. Carrying a little plastic box with Allen wrenches, a laser measurer and measuring tape (as back up) and pad/pencil and phone. They're both nervous and a bit awkward, sexual tension.

VESSIE

Hello. Hello. Pip, are you here?

PIP hobbles to the balcony.

PIP

Hey! Good morning.

VESSIE

Good morning. How's the foot?

PIP

Still here. No worse, thank goodness.

VESSIE

Thank goodness.

PIP

I'll be down in a minute. Just make yourself comfortable. Sorry, there's no furniture. It's in storage. You can sit on the terrace.

VESSIE

That's, OK. Take your time. We don't want any more injuries. Safety first. I'll take care of your faucet and take measurements till you come down.

VESSIE goes to the kitchen sink, gets the lever, fixes the faucet with a wrench, then opens shut-off valves. Opens the tap briefly and shuts it. Leaves the wrench box in a drawer. Inspects the other plumbing in the kitchen, takes pictures of the problems. Then sketches the kitchen plan and measures it.

PIP

Can I offer...Sorry, no water. Don't know where my coffee machine is. Or, a kettle even. All my small appliances are gone.

VESSIE

That's, OK. I need to get started. I have to be in Malibu this afternoon.

PIP

OK. So, this is where I am. My ex-wife is an interior designer and she planned all of this. That's all the stuff over there. There might even be plans and drawings somewhere. She showed them to me once. I'll try to find them. Anyway, this is as far as the contractor got.

VESSIE

So where's the contractor?

PIP

Oh, he split. And my ex is... I dunno, cause she won't answer her phone. I sent her an email earlier. Look, I've been away for a five weeks. On a nature shoot in Asia. I just got back day before yesterday, very late.

PIP enters barefoot and stands by the cabinets. VESSIE'S busy working and doesn't notice.

VESSIE

And this was your home sweet home welcome back. I'm guessing it was supposed to be done, before you returned.

PIP

Yeah. Cause I can't stand all this upset. My work is chaotic enough. Chasing after animals and... But, animals mostly.

VESSIE

Sounds very interesting.

PIP

Yeah. I sell to the popular magazine publishers, authors. For tv shows and films. I do video, too. My business partner, he knows who's on the hunt and tells me. So...

VESSIE

I'd love to see your work. I'm not much of a photographer. Only for my work. It helps me remember.

PIP

Your website has some great images.

VESSIE

Thanks. It cost me a fortune. Maybe you could do my next project. The one in Malibu. It's going to be amazing. A big time celeb. A+list. She wants an outdoor kitchen, cabana, patio, pool re-tiling. Beautiful crystal tiles, and landscaping. Everybody's getting in line for the summer. If they don't start now, they'll have to wait till next year. And, if I don't charge a half a million, they can't brag.

They both laugh.

VESSIE (CONT'D)

I'd like: before, during demolition, and the phases, up to completion.

PIP

Sounds good. But, that'll be awhile yet?

VESSIE looks at the building materials and appliances, impressed. She opens boxes and takes pictures of everything.

VESSIE

Yeah. She's here now, cause she's up for an award. Then she's going on vacation and then filming, somewhere. (Beat) Nice stuff, very nice, you have here. It shouldn't be too much trouble. So, it's the kitchen and...

PIP

The loft is all fine. The bathroom's down here. On the other side of the wall. The laundry/storage is next. And my office is on the end. My bedroom's upstairs. I can use her office as a studio, now. Whenever I need it. There's the terrace. Have a look around.

VESSIE exits and inspects the bathroom, tests the plumbing, the water drains slowly. She takes pictures of the plumbing. Then, flushes the toilet. PIP hobbles along behind her, carrying on with the conversation.

VESSIE

When did she move out?

PIP

A month ago. Don't know 'bout the contractor dude.

VESSIE

Do you know who he was?

PIP

No. And the property manager dropped dead suddenly, since I was gone. Man, I hope that's not connected.

VESSIE

I saw a for sale sign up?

PIP

My neighbor told me they're selling. This all happened since I left.

VESSIE

Do you know how much they're asking?

PIP

No, I haven't even gotten a chance to read the letter they sent to the condo owners. They're only four of us. All nice folks. Him, he's my doctor. His condo is nice. Terralyn did it. One of the others, I'm good friends with. She has that art gallery. I've had shows there.

VESSIE

I saw her studio. Nice.

PIP

And, she teaches art, too. She, might know about the other neighbor's plumbing. I don't see him much. But, they'll all be glad this isn't Party Central, anymore. (Beat) The owner's bankrupt, so they have to sell.

VESSIE

They'll want cash, then. There's no other building like this in the neighborhood. I like it. These tall windows with those iron frames. I'm only interested in a property that has character, something different. And has multi-use potential. It'd be my first time involved in something like this.

(MORE)

VESSIE (CONT'D)

I checked online before I came.
Everything's sealed. I think they
want to move on it, quickly.

PIP

Really!

VESSIE

Maybe they already have a buyer.
And, just going through the motions
with the sign out there. Or, well it
could be... Other things. (Beat)
But, back to your problem. I can
tell you first off, you've got a
sewer problem. Your water is
draining out, too slow. I hate to
get personal, but I've got to ask.

PIP

OK, shoot.

VESSIE

When you do a number two. Does it go
out? The first time.

PIP

Oh, it's two or three, just depends.
We had problems from the time we
moved here. But, about a year or so
it's gotten worse. Yeah, it's real
nasty sometimes. Especially with all
the parties she had. The building
engineer, the guy that...Said it was
fixed. He mismanages a lot of their
properties around town. Well, he
did.

VESSIE

How about your dishwasher?

PIP shrugs.

VESSIE (CONT'D)

They lie all the time. You pay 1000s
in fees and you just don't get the
service. He probably poured some
Draino down the sink. Made a repair
ticket. These people, the amount of
grafting.

PIP

Well, no wonder he had a heart
attack. The gravy train done left
the station.

VESSIE

What did they give you, an 800
helpline in some prison somewhere?

PIP

Prison?

VESSIE

Yeah, why not? They already handle
the phones. And they teach the other
inmates building trades. It's slave
labor. Ex-cons work with us. They
can't get jobs. I test them out, see
how they do. When my twin cousins
are sure, we let them work on the
"inside."

PIP

Good on you.

VESSIE

Just looking out for folks. That's
all. I'd like to, whenever we make
enough money. Set up a fund. Buy
some of these abandoned houses, fix
them up. So needy folks can get
money to buy a house. Some, people
don't know what that's like. Owning
property, fixing it up and keeping
it up. You know. You take it for
granted, when your folks own their
own homes.

PIP concedes.

VESSIE (CONT'D)

So, this is what I'm proposing to
you. You need your drains unclogged,
first thing. Hopefully there's no
damage to the line, OK. Cause that's
major.

PIP

All right.

VESSIE

But, I want the intel on this
building. Do your neighbors have
drain problems, too? What the other
condos look like? Any issues? (Beat)
How about, we trade services on your
clog issue, for insider information.

PIP

It's a deal! And, I can announce to them personally, that we can finally live in peace and quiet every weekend from now on. After all this, we can all celebrate, the Wicked Witch is gone.

VESSIE

Then, I'll checkout the gas and electrical. Looks like you've got a little bit of construction with the island. Running pipes for the sink, there. The installation for everything, including the flooring and the granite, tile, cabinets, appliances, lights, etc. I'll give you a quote, by this evening. How's that?

PIP

Good deal!

VESSIE

So what's the event? With these one room, re-nos it's always something. And, it's never done in time. Finish the project first, then plan the event. People always do it backwards.

PIP

My 50th birthday. I'd love to have you and a guest?

VESSIE

I'm single, at the moment.

PIP

OK, then. It was supposed to be a surprise. She planned it way in advance to impress her friends, get clients, whatever. After seven years, I have her MO, down pat.

VESSIE

OK. I get it! But, now she cut out. He cut out. And you're left with the frame.

PIP

Yup.

VESSIE

Were the two of them...

PIP

Nah. She's exploring her relationship options, that she didn't have, with me. As a man.

VESSIE

Oh, OK. How were, or are you with that? If you don't mind. I have lesbians working with me. So, I don't want...

PIP

No, issue at all. Look, between Terralyn and me, it was mutual. We separated two years prior. She was only round here to get this going. In the end, she just wished that she came up with the divorce idea first. That's all.

VESSIE

I've never been married, so...And, the contractor, guy?

PIP

Oh, him. He's just a scumbag, I guess. I don't know him. Terralyn handled all of that. She complained that he poked around too much. I hate nosey help. So, I installed hidden cameras, just in case. And she said, he tried to flirt with her. She didn't want me, why would she want him.

PIP chuckles and shakes his head.

VESSIE

What do you have in here for him to be curious about? I'm just asking for both our sakes.

PIP

Look, I'm legit. No drugs. No porn. No counterfeit. No designer knockoffs. None of that. Some of my photos are worth a lot. They're in my safe though. But, I sold most of them.

VESSIE

I didn't realise nature pictures were so valuable.

PIP

Well, it depends on the subject. The more extinct, the better for me. I study behavior patterns. Some of them are very clever. They use diversion tactics and schemes. I find their habitat, figure out their routine, stalk them, check the light, catch 'em in the act, frame, focus and shoot. You only have a second and they're gone.

VESSIE

Wow, that takes a lot of skill.

PIP

To get the Money Shot, yeah. But, I've been doing it for so long, its second nature. (Beat) So, this is about all he did. That new stuff was here before him.

VESSIE

Wait, he abandoned ship and left it looking like this?

PIP

Nah. I had this cleaned up, cause you were coming. When I came home the place was worse than I left it. He trashed it.

VESSIE

Well, let's keep our fingers crossed, OK. Cause we never know, "what evil lurks" in the subflooring and behind the walls...

PIP

"the shadow do." You know that old stuff, too.

They both chuckle.

VESSIE

I'm ol' school. No matter how many tools and gadgets I own. This work is still done the old fashioned way, by hand. (Beat) Well, I've got everything I need for now.

(MORE)

VESSIE (CONT'D)

It would be good if you get me those drawings, though.

PIP

I'll find them.

VESSIE

It all helps. That way we don't have spend more time guessing the plan.
(Beat) Well Pip, I'll be in touch later.

VESSIE walks to the front door, PIP follows.

PIP

Thank you.

VESSIE

So, when's your birthday? Wait, don't tell me, two weeks?

PIP concedes. They both laugh. PIP opens the door. VESSIE exits, PIP checks her out. VESSIE turns around.

VESSIE (CONT'D)

That's if we get right on it. Oh, by the way. Your faucet, it's fixed.

PIP

Man! I meant, woman! I thank you. My foot and my hand thank you.

CUT TO:

INT. LATER. CONDO - UPSTAIRS, TERRALYN'S OFFICE.

All of TERRALYN'S personal things are gone. An old-time, 4-drawer, legal-sized heavy metal file cabinet is in the corner, and a retro desk with an ergonomic desk chair. PIP pulls open the top drawer and sees an unlabeled file, puts it on the desk and opens it. It has invoices for all the building materials and fixtures for the condo. Then bills of lading. He comes across a contractor's business card and reads it, then dials. The number is disconnected. PIP gets a ping on his phone it's a reply to his email from his ex, via her email.

TERRALYN: Zooey Deschanel

CONTRACTOR'S AGENT/BOB'S WIFE: Penelope Cruz

CONTRACTOR/BOB AUSTON: Christopher Walken

TERRALYN

Sorry, I've been out of touch. I'm here in the jungles of Costa Rica at an ayahuasca retreat for the past 3 days. Phone service is terrible. We went into the village today to buy food, etc. So I checked my email. The contractor's name is, Bob Auston 555-0000. Bob The Builder & Son. His son Josh was doing the work. Keep me updated, OK. I'll be leaving in the morning, to go back. PS The drawings are in the bottom drawer file cabinet in my office. I've attached the jpegs. Sorry, I was such a bitch for most of our 7 years together. Doing ayahuasca has wised me up, to so much of my negative behavior. Sorry for throwing my ring at you. Take care.

PIP types a reply.

PIP

Ayahuasca? What the hell is that? Well, good thing you've seen the error of your ways. It wasn't ALL my fault. I accept your...

PIP goes to send the message, then decides to save it. He quits typing, then dials the phone number.

CONTRACTOR'S AGENT

Bob the Builder & Son.

PIP

Yeah. I live at 1742 E. Olympic Blvd 90020 No.3. And Josh Auston was hired by my ex-wife to renovate the kitchen. He worked here, then split. And all he did was: remove all the not so old appliances, none of them were broken. He halfway demolished it and left all the rubbish behind. Didn't tighten the faucet. All my small appliances are gone. Except for the tv. Well, that motherfucker is way too big. He'd be a fool to mess with that.

CONTRACTOR'S AGENT

I'm sorry to hear that, sir. What's your name, please.

PIP
Pip, it's Pip. Terralyn's ex-husband.

CONTRACTOR'S AGENT
OK. Pip. When did he start the job?

PIP
Six weeks ago.

CONTRACTOR'S AGENT
I'm just wondering why it wasn't reported sooner, please.

PIP
We divorced, she moved out a month ago and went her way. And I was overseas working for a five weeks. She handles all that stuff. It's Terralyn Meyer, interior designer.

CONTRACTOR'S AGENT
Yeah, Terralyn, OK. She's our best customer. I'm going find out what happened and we'll get back to you. We're going to sort this out for, Pip. Can I get you on this number?

PIP
Yeah. Call this one.

PIP disconnects and continues looking through the draws of the cabinet, then opens the bottom one. There are some ledger-sized drawings laying on the bottom, he takes them out, and puts them on the desk and has a look through.

PIP (CONT'D)
This is them!

PIP opens the jpegs from TERRALYN, then sends them to VESSIE. VESSIE replies with thumb up emoji.

VESSIE
Don't forget the property intel. I don't want that building to slip through my fingers.

Thumb down emoji. PIP sends smiley face. Then he goes downstairs and finds the letter from the property management office, in his luggage and reads it. It's no help. PIP looks through his phone and finds the number for Ted, and calls.

PIP

Hello. This is Pip. Is this Ted's phone?

TED'S WIDOW

Yes. This is his widow. Can I help you?

PIP

Sorry for your loss, ma'am. But, I own a condo at 1742 Olympia Street. It's a warehouse loft, in the Arts District. I just got back in town and I found out it's for sale.

TED'S WIDOW

Mister, I'm trying to deal with all of this. Everything's gone. Ted is dead. The flowers are dying. My world is falling apart. I'm 70 years old. I don't know what's going to happen. All their buildings are going to be auctioned.

PIP

Auctioned!? When?

TED'S WIDOW

As soon as they can. People keep calling me. I don't know anything else.

PIP

I'm sorry, Ma'am. Is there any other phone number for anyone that I can call to get more information, so I won't bother you? The letter is no help, at all.

TED'S WIDOW

Ah, hold on a minute. There's a number for someone. I don't know who they are. Maybe a property broker or auction house.

TED'S WIDOW looks for the information. PIP gets paper and pen ready.

TED'S WIDOW (CONT'D)

Here, it's Paradigm Properties.
Here, in LA, 555-4321.

PIP

OK, got it. Thank you so much for this. Ted was, well he was...

TED'S WIDOW

He was, a 50 year-old gigolo. Never did a decent day's work in his life. Didn't giva damn. He was a no good, two timing, grafting son of a bitch. And, he gambled so, that we barely had a roof over our heads. Now, I'm gonna have be a Wal-Mart Greeter till the day I die. When I meet up with him in the great beyond. I'm gonna beat the shit outta him.

PIP

Amen, to that.

PIP disconnects. His phone rings, it's the construction company.

PIP (CONT'D)

Yeah, hello.

CONTRACTOR

Hi, Pip. You spoke to my wife earlier. This is Bob the Builder and and soon to be my dead son. I can't even begin to apologise and deeply regret what you're going through with this, what should've been a simple renovation.

PIP

Well, I accept your apology. Now, where the hell is Josh?

CONTRACTOR

I'm going to do full disclosure here, OK. Josh has a problem with taking things that don't belong to him.

PIP

What kinda things?

CONTRACTOR

Shiny and sparkly things.

PIP

Does he do drag?

CONTRACTOR

No. As in shiny, sparkly, golden and rare things.

PIP

You mean to tell me he's fucking a jewel thief.

CONTRACTOR

I know he doesn't look it, but he is. And, I'm wondering if that's the reason he's missing. He really doesn't need the money. But, he attracts people that do. He was in rehab and he told me that he was managing it. He does brilliant construction work. I taught him from when he could barely hold a hammer. When he was small, I'd sometimes take him on small jobs with me. Later, his mother, he's my stepson, would find all sorts of real expensive jewelry in his pockets. He'd be going off, in clients private rooms, nicking them. So, I'd take them back and plant them someplace. Then, "accidentally discover" them. Of course, the customers would think they'd just misplaced it.

PIP

So, where the hell is Josh?

CONTRACTOR

That's what I don't know. But, I did find out that. He didn't do your work alone.

PIP

Man, nothing's been done. It was just piles of trash in here. He or whoever, only demolished the island, tore up the floor, pulled the wall cabinets out and took the doors off the bottom ones and the lights are gone. I'd video it, but since the tap was loose, when I put the faucet on. I had Noah's flood in here. Then I slipped, sliced my big toe and my right hand. The ones I need most.

(Pip shows Bob his foot and hand)

Anyway, it's all cleaned up now.

(MORE)

PIP (CONT'D)

What happened to all my appliances?
Even my toaster is gone.

CONTRACTOR

OK. Now, the removal of your major
appliances are all in the contract.

PIP

OK, OK.

CONTRACTOR

But, besides Josh disappearing,
Tippy his helper is gone. I only
used him for demolition and removal.
When the job is done. And, the locks
are changed and the codes, reset.

PIP

So, Tippy must be the appliance
thief?

CONTRACTOR

Yeah, and I guess he savages. We had
all the copper pipe and fittings for
your job, delivered a few days after
it started. Is there any there?

PIP

A two foot piece of 1" pipe, that's
it. Anything with a plug, is gone.
Except for the tv. That motherfucker
is way to big. It's a Samsung Wall.
He'd be a downright fool to mess
with that. (Beat) So, where do we
stand, Bob?

CONTRACTOR

Terralyn furnished us with
everything. And paid the bill in
full. I guess she didn't want any
loose ends with your divorce and
all. So, I'm reimbursing you 100%
for our labor and supplies. It's
going to take 30 days though. I just
don't have that kinda money setting
around. About the small appliances,
I'll replace them - brand new, asap.
She mentioned how much you love your
expensive kitchen gadgets.

PIP

And, I always told her, it's not
about being expensive. It's about
the quality. I buy to last.

CONTRACTOR

I got you. Just send me a detailed list with specs, model numbers, etc. Plus, I have a crate of Brazilian crystal tiles. Another customer changed her mind about using them, last minute. Maybe you can use them, if you re-do your bathroom. She had plans for that, later.

PIP

Well, you done good, Bob. I'm satisfied. Just go ahead and send the tile over. If I'm not here, my neighbor's, art studio is downstairs. She'll receive them.

CONTRACTOR

Any other problems?

PIP

No. Well, its got nothing to do with you. There's a sewer problem. It shoulda been fixed a long time ago. I've got somebody looking into it already.

CONTRACTOR

OK. All the best with that. Send me your bank details so I can transfer the money. My wife will let you know when it's been done. Pip, I'd like to sort this as soon as possible. Terralyn's been a really good client and I don't want any bad blood between us. You know this is more than Tinsel Town, it's Gossip Central. And, I don't want anyone bad mouthin' my business.

PIP

No worries. I'll get right on it.

CONTRACTOR

One more thing, Pip. Please check around and see or ask Terralyn, if any jewelry is missing.

PIP

Will do. Man, I thought cat burglars were only in the old movies. Like Cary Grant and It Takes A Thief.

CONTRACTOR

Yeah. They don't make them like they used to.

PIP

Terralyn said he was acting a little strange. So, the day after Josh came here, I installed hidden cameras. I'll take a look and let you know if I see anything.

CONTRACTOR

Well, the day Josh is really cured, is the day I remove all my cameras, facial recognition, CC-TV, and lasers from this office and my house. And get rid of my drones.

PIP

Drones? Damn. What, you moonlight for the NSA or what?

CONTRACTOR

No, just like them, I'm paranoid. All right, Pip. Thanks for being so good about all of this. Apologise to Terralyn, too. Would you?

PIP

I will.

PIP disconnects. Then continues with the email draft to TERRALYN.

PIP (CONT'D)

Apology. And Bob apologises cause his son (aka Cat Burglar), hired the other thief, his friend Tippy, (the Savage Smuggler), that stole all the plumbing stuff and the small appliances. To hock them for cash. They're both MIA. Do you have your engagement ring? If not, Josh nicked it. Let me know asap. There's a real problem with the drains backing up. I've got somebody already looking into it and finishing the kitchen for my "surprise" 50th/kitchen renovation showcase. Yeah, Dam called me and blew the whole thing. Cause he has to get a release from Doc for the fire spitters. I wish I had pictures or video of the mess they left. Dam got it sorted.

(MORE)

PIP (CONT'D)

BTW, I injured my foot and hand from dealing with the leaking faucet. I'll send you pics. And a dog attacked me on a papa shoot that turned out to be 0. PS Bob is refunding and replacing everything, including the toaster. How long are you staying on your retreat? I just want to know how to stay in contact with you, till I have a handle on things. Stressed out, emoji.

PIP sends the message. Takes pictures of his hand and foot and sends them to TERRALYN. Then writes a message to VESSIE.

PIP (CONT'D)

Some intel on the building. Paradigm Properties. In LA, 555-4321. The dead engineer's wife gave me the number. She said the property is going to be AUCTIONED ASAP! My ex is on a retreat in the jungle, but she gave me general contractor's number. His son and his friend were assigned the job, but scrambled. They're both thieves. The son was in rehab. He's been a thief before he could talk. His Dad caught him red handed, on jobs. Awkward. Bring your cat burglar kid along, cause you can't get a babysitter. Who'd mind him. Please checkout the jpegs. Talk with you soon. Good night.

PIP sends message. Then hobbles downstairs to his office. He unlocks the closet and takes out his PC and monitor and hooks them up. Then unlocks his safe and quickly goes through a box of older photos he's taken of celebs, circa 90s. He briefly stops at a closeup of Terralyn with her left hand posed on her chin, showing off her engagement ring. No photos are missing and pc is fine. Then he checks through surveillance video of the condo from the day he installed the system. MAN/JOSH AUSTON/CAT BURGLAR: Ali Siddiq TIPPY/SALVAGE SMUGGLER: Uzeyer Novruzov (from AGT, ladder acrobat)

PIP (CONT'D)

Let me see what these two fuckers were up to. Wait! More than anything, I need to get my coffee machine, first.

PIP gets a piece of paper and a pen, rewinds the video to the beginning, writes down his bank account details, then clicks "play" and gives an analysis of the scene, aloud. Writes down and calculates the total for the appliances.

PIP (CONT'D)

Alright here we go. Everything's working. This is just regular shit. OK, now. There's the kleptomaniac. She welcomes him in with his tools. Look at him staring at Terralyn's - left hand. The undercover thief as contractor, bringing in some more tools and all those bins. He exits. Me and Terralyn drama. She yanks the ring off. Let me hit slow mo for this.

(play-by-play announcer)

It's a fast ball. The pitch is high, But, it's a sinker. And just on the outside. Not bad. He ducks. And, he's safe! (Beat) Josh re-enters right after. He must have been spying and eavesdropping at the front door. I go in my office to skip her ranting. The undercover thief, working as demolition man. Skip all that. He finds Terralyn on the terrace. Having a go at her one more time. She gives him the key. He leaves for the day, OK. I leave for Asia. Skip all her stuff. She leaves for ayahuasca. Him again. Looking around. What's he looking for? He goes to the phone and buzzes his partner up. Then, he's snooping around again. There he is! Tippy, he's shorter than me! I'm a giant next to him. So the cat, let the mouse in, with a music case? Oh, for the booty. He could fit inside that. He even came with his own equipment. Then the heist meeting. This shouldn't be too long, it's only two of 'em. Man, I'd be like a fly on the wall. If had money I shoulda got the audio package. (Beat) They demolish the island. I'll skip that and come back. Klepto runs out. The cat's away, so the mouse is at play.

(play-by-play voice)

And, he's off. Just look at that little monkey, motherfucker run. Goin' in the bathroom?

(MORE)

PIP (CONT'D)

What is that, in a box? My trimmer! Damn, my Mom gave me that for Christmas! I didn't even use it, yet! Electric toothbrush? That's hers. And, that shit is nasty. All that bacteria going inside there. See, he put it back.

(play-by-play voice)

Tippy enters the lounge. Yeah, let me see you fuck with that tv. At least he had sense enough to back off. Cause four big dudes brought that motherfucker in here. Yeah, just skip my office. I woulda killed you if you touched one thing in here.

(PIP play-by-play voice)

Tippy enters the kitchen, checks the tall cabinets and the base wall cabinets without doors. Puts the trimmer in the case. Takes out the ladder. Watch him work that ladder.

PIP writes down a list of the items and prices as the video plays.

PIP (CONT'D)

No.1 a Franke Evolution 1 Step Coffee Maker - \$18,000. That's my coffee bitch and my juice: No.2 The Citrocase Fantastic Juicer - \$6,300. My smoothies: No.3 Vitamix Professional 750 Graphite Blender - \$675. Forget the kettle. He can have that. I'm gonna have an insta-hot water tap. Now for the cooking section. There goes my: No.4 Thermomix Food Processor - \$1,400. A kitchen is not a kitchen without a: No.5 Hobart N50 Mixer - \$2,223. Or, a: No.6 Purmile Immersion Blender \$250 Commercial-grade, no lumps - ever. Wait a minute, that little punk took all my attachments, too. You can't get full price if it's not the complete set. Beat. No more pasta? I'm hungry. My No.7 Marcato Pasta Machine with Motor - £145 is gone.

(to camera)

Don't look at me like that. I know my Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval Award shit. Beat.

(MORE)

PIP (CONT'D)

There he goes with: No.8 Miele
 Triflex HX1 Pro 3-in-1 Vacuum
 Cleaner, plus attachments \$800. That
 reminds me, I need to find out where
 the housekeeper is. I don't want
 this place getting outta hand. Let's
 carry on, shall we. No.9 Breville
 No-Mess - Waffle - \$178. Y'all just
 jealous cause you don't know how to
 cook. Look at him, stealing my,
 No.10 Dualit Gold Toaster - \$1100.
 And, it's good-looking, too. Plus,
 No.11 Nicewell Food Scale - \$50.
 It's battery only. But, that fool
 stole it anyway. What's that? Oh,
 her bread machine. He can have that
 for *lagniappe*. Look at how neat he
 packs everything, all careful and
 all. But, throws my stuff, all over
 the place. There he goes with the
 pipes and the pieces. He took them
 out first. At least he's organised.
 (Beat) Wait a minute.

PIP stops the video, thinks, then enters the lounge.

PIP (CONT'D)

Alexa, you here? Alexa. When did he
 take her? (Beat) No. 12 Amazon Echo
 Show 10, plus Sonos speakers, one
 upstairs, one down stairs - \$600.
 You know you're dealing with an
 asshole when your: artificial,
 virtual, computer-generated,
 personal assistant, domestic aide
 and her speakers are stolen. Some
 people have no respect for
 intelligent life on this planet.

PIP looks around for the cameras, they're gone.

PIP (CONT'D)

How in the hell did that half-pint,
 sticky-fingered, brazen, son-of-a-
 bitch, reach all the way up there.
 Without a ladder? I don't even want
 to see how he did it.

PIP returns to his office, then adds the cameras to the list
 and totals it, closes the program, then shuts down the pc.

PIP (CONT'D)
That's \$31,821. Man, just sell it.
Sell it ALL. Make a profit even. And
enjoy your life.

PIP sends BOB a picture of the list, then closes the video.
His phone rings. He checks and answers, on speaker.

PIP (CONT'D)
Howdy! What's up?

HOWDY
Get the car! We're going to Malibu.

PIP
For who?

HOWDY
Who else?

PIP
Malibu, it's gonna be a long day.

HOWDY
No, it ain't. They tipped me off.
It's an exclusive. Just get all your
shit. And, come, on!

CUT TO:

EXT. LATE AFTERNOON. CAITLYN JENNER'S HOUSE.

HOWDY is driving PIP'S Silver-colored Range Rover with a retractable sunroof, they park on the narrow road, up the hill close to the house. And, wait with both front doors open, too much in the road. PIP, changed his shirt and is stood up and has his camera out with the telephoto lens, looking around, then to the beach, taking a few pictures.

PIP
We haven't been out here in years.

HOWDY
I know.

PIP sees a lime-green van with the, Miss-Fix-It logo, painted on the side, parked on the back side of the house. Logo: a dark-skinned woman like Rosie the Riveter, wearing pink overalls and the same yellow-and-white bandana scarf on her head. PIP sits down.

PIP

Oh, fuck! I can't. Come on, let's go!

PIP puts the camera down.

HOWDY

Are you kiddin'? It's 100K for Daily Mail. We ain't going no where. Her kids and their families are coming any minute. All of them, in the same place at the same time with her. When does this happen? They're finalising their award-night strategy. Kanye's a presenter.

PIP

The whole clan can all be up on stage. I don't care. I need to go!

HOWDY

What the hell is wrong with you?

PIP

You see that van. With the black Rosie the Riveter, on the side?

HOWDY

Yeah.

PIP

That's the woman I just met yesterday, at Home Depot. She's gonna unblock my toilet and drains, in exchange for the intel I'm giving her on my building. I already sent her the auction house number.

HOWDY

And, you're trying to get her to buy your building, fix your place in time for the party. And you're trying to go out with her?

PIP shakes his head, insecure.

HOWDY (CONT'D)

And, she likes you. But she don't know you're a paparazzo. And, from what you gathered, she'd probably thinks we're scumbags.

PIP

Well, maybe not scumbags. More like pond scum. You know, disgusting on the surface, but underneath.

HOWDY

She likes photography? Is she ol' school? Is she a neat freak? She likes gadgets? Does she cook?

PIP

Don't know 'bout that last one.

HOWDY

Cause you can't stand nobody in your kitchen, anyway. She already knows how to fix everything. She'll come round.

PIP

You think so? But I don't want her to find out like this. Oh, shit she's coming! Oh, man! I shoulda been looking at her, instead of listening to you. I gotta hide.

PIP goes to hop over the seat. HOWDY takes his cap off and gives it to PIP.

HOWDY

Don't do that. You'll look stupid. With your ass up in her face. Here, put this on! Go back up. Put your camera up! Just keep taking pictures. Be a photographer. And disguise your voice or she'll know.

PIP

Man, shut up. Damn, she's coming right for us.

HOWDY closes his door and pulls to the side as much as possible, to let her by, then parks. PIP keeps taking pictures of her. As VESSIE gets closer she puts the passenger window down.

VESSIE

Road hog! Nobody's there, you scumbags. Just the staff. And, your front tire is going flat. Can you do a real job for once, and fix it? Or, do you need my help?

PIP
It's not his car. It's mine.

VESSIE
In that case...

VESSIE speeds off in the dirt, leaving a massive trail of dust. PIP is covered in dust and chokes.

PIP
She better not had fucked my camera up.

PIP sits down and blows dust off the camera, checks it out and puts it on the back seat. Then wipes his face with a wet wipe, then puts on some moisturiser. HOWDY looks at him.

HOWDY
You done with your facial, now?

PIP gets out the car. HOWDY looks at him.

PIP
She said, nobody's home.

HOWDY
They all say that. Get back in, here. Leave that for after. We're gonna miss them. They're gonna be in stretch-limos.

PIP angry, gets out of the car and looks at the front right tire, then goes to the back and opens it for the hydraulic bottle jacks, tire iron and spare. Then works on the flat.

PIP
I ain't worrying 'bout them. I'm fixing my flat. (Beat) She don't know nothin'. How does she think I can afford all that? Luxury condo, this car, my cameras, a The Wall tv, all that stuff. She's knows, ain't none of it cheap.
(mocking Vessie)
"Get a real job. Do you need my help?" Miss Fix Everything. She ain't gon be fixing me. (Beat) You know how they do. Howdy, get your ass out and help me. It's not you're some kinda pint-sized, welter weight.

HOWDY
I'm not moving! Leave it!

Song: "Pull Up To The Bumper Baby" Grace Jones

HOWDY turns the music loud and ignores PIP, looks through his phone.

PIP

Turn the engine off. You gonna run my battery down. You already ruined my tire. I'm out here with multiple injuries, fixing this. You the one bought us out here in the first place. I don't even much like Malibu Barbie Beach House. Bullshit.

HOWDY turns down the music, then opens his door. PIP has the car jacked up on both sides too high, then glares at HOWDY looking at his phone. PIP works on the flat complaining, then puts his on phone and headphones on.

HOWDY

Queen Latifah is hosting. Too many musicians presenting. I hope they're not trying to pull another LaLa Lapland.

PIP

Look at this thick ol' piece of glass, up in this tire.

PIP tries to pull it out, it won't budge. PIP goes to the back of the car for a screwdriver, finds it, returns to the tire, then tries to pry the glass chard out.

PIP (CONT'D)

I bet, if I got the forensics done. It comes from one of 'ems winery or bootlegging, bathtub moonshine, speak-easy joint.

HOWDY looks in the rearview mirror, two black stretch-limos are coming up, very fast and turns the volume down.

HOWDY

Pip! Pip! Pip, look! Man, look!

HOWDY blows the horn. PIP jumps. Curses him out. PIP points behind him. The limos are close. HOWDY gets PIP'S camera. PIP realises, drops the tire iron on his foot, hobbles to get the camera. The limos are passing very close to the SUV door, dust is blowing, PIP can't see.

HOWDY (CONT'D)

Here! Here!

PIP

Man, I can't see fucking shit. Don't drop my camera, Howdy. I will kill you if you drop it!

The dust blows away. The limos park. HOWDY stretches to pull PIP in. The Kardashian Jenner West clan, chat outside in front of the house.

HOWDY

Come on! Get in! You still get them.

PIP struggles to get in, he slips and falls, tries again.

PIP

I'm trying.

HOWDY

Why'd you jack it up so high! You need your step ladder. Come on! Move your short ass! Or, jump!

PIP finally gets in, takes the camera, points, focuses. Almost everyone's in the house and front door closes. HOWDY furious.

PIP

All right, I admit it. I shoulda got the cast. I wonder if she'll pay for my new tire. That's like 350, including installation.

Song ends.

CUT TO:

EXT. EVENING. PIP'S CONDO - TERRACE.

PIP finished eating take out. Going through his National Geo pictures and editing them, gets a text message from VESSIE.

VESSIE

I've looked into your building and I want to make an offer. I can come first thing tomorrow to work on your drains. Cuz Tabby, will come to help later. And, I also worked up your kitchen estimate. I'd rather hand deliver it, if you don't mind. PS Do you think I can get a peak at the other condos? Very discreet. It'll help me get my numbers for the bid.

Finger over lips, emoji.

PIP

Great! 9:00 would be fine. Doc, will be awake in the late afternoon. The owner with the studio is here most times. I'd have to check with the other one. Don't know him well. But, they're good friends or something.

Big question mark, emoji.

VESSIE

See you then. Please clear everything out of the bathroom cabinets with the drains. Thanks.

Big smile and sleep, emoji.

PIP, big smile and sleep, emoji, phone pings, it's HOWDY.

HOWDY

DM price \$3,000 They only want \$\$\$ shots No back of head ones QB, JZ + The Brood are planning a Great Escape tomorrow 12:00 +/- \$6-figures Details asap Put your foot up!!!

PIP

My bad. Sorry. Will do.

PIP gets an email from TERRALYN.

TERRALYN

Glad you're sorting everything. I know it's out of your realm. But, you're doing a good job. I don't have my ring. When I threw it at you, I was in such an unpleasant headspace. I'm so glad you didn't get injured. I was so selfish. If it's not in the kitchen, Josh nabbed it. I decided to stay here, in this village, until things are settled with the condo. Just trying to be helpful. Shalom PS Ayahuasca is a mixture of organics made up into a brew. You drink it under observation of native guides. And you experience your existence in other dimensions. It helps a person to unblock past trauma, guilt and fear. I'm so glad I've done it.

(MORE)

TERRALYN (CONT'D)

I'm seeing things much clearer now.
Better than any therapist I've ever
been to. Goodness knows I wore out
#therapist and Google Search.

PIP shuts down the laptop and enters his office. He sits down and turns on the pc, then opens the surveillance file and rewinds it to the point when TERRALYN throws the ring at him. He slows it down and sees it go toward the end, base cabinet.

PIP

There! That's where it went! OK. Let
me skip to next morning.

PIP fast forwards to JOSH arriving the second time. TERRALYN lets him in, with all her shit setting at the door. JOSH offers to help her load up, they finish with her stuff. JOSH re-enters the condo. He buzzes TIPPY in, they do the demolition (NIC base cabinets). TIPPY'S making more of a mess with the rubbish, he doesn't see JOSH. JOSH goes to the end base cabinet, quickly tosses everything out. He doesn't see anything on the shelves. He goes through the pots, pans and bowls on the floor. Then finds something in a small open metal container with Christmas cookie cutter shapes. PIP pauses and zooms in. All he can see is light reflecting off of something. JOSH puts the thing in his top pocket, collects his tools, puts them in his toolkit, gets his ladder, then exits.

PIP (CONT'D)

Shit! It's grainy. But, that's gotta
be it.

PIP stops the video.

PIP (CONT'D)

So, he's the one that left all my
stuff on the floor like that!

PIP'S phone rings. It's DAM. PIP answers and pauses video.

DAM

So, what's going on? Newbie said
he's been able to sleep all day. So,
that means nothing's happening.

PIP

So much is going on. Two thieves
were in here robbing me blind.

DAM

Who? Robbing you, of what? All
you've got is, that big ass tv.

PIP

No. While I was gone and Terralyn left. It was the contractor's son and his sidekick. Not only did they step-out on my job, they thieved. One of 'em stole Terralyn's ring and the other stole all my kitchen stuff. He's got enough gadgets to open his own Ebay. I've got video of the whole thing. And, my Alexa is gone.

DAM

Alexa! That's the limit. You got nobody to talk to you now. You're talking about Terralyn's pink diamond engagement ring?

PIP

Yep, he found it and took it.

DAM

How? She never takes it off. The only way I'd take that off, is if a gun was in my face. And, they'd have to prove it was loaded with real kill you dead, bullets. Them fake guns don't scare me none.

PIP

It wasn't a, life-or-death situation.

DAM

Did she have one of her fuck you, Pip, moments?

PIP

Good thing I saw it coming. Cause it woulda put my eye, my camera eye, right out.

DAM

Your camera eye? Quit fuckin' with me, Pip.

PIP

Yeah, my dominant eye. Everybody's got one.

DAM

How do you know?

PIP

You can do it right now. Put me on speaker. OK, keep your head still and focus your eyes on one thing. Anything. Now take your hand, like you're at the DMV and put it over one eye. Is the object in the same place?

DAM

Yeah.

PIP

Now, do the other eye with the other hand. Does the object move?

DAM

No.

PIP

Quit fuckin' with me, Dam. You're random anyway.

DAM

But, Newbie likes me.

PIP

I'm happy for you both. What you gonna do when he proposes? He wants kids, too.

DAM

How do you know?

PIP

Him and Terralyn were real tight.

DAM

Yeah, OK. She did his place up nice.

PIP

She told me about his surrogate mother investigation. So, we were both concerned. To say the least. We'd hoped this would stay a child-free floor.

DAM

I already started gay marriage conversion, online. I guess I'm gonna have to start, gay parent conversion therapy.

(MORE)

DAM (CONT'D)

I wonder if I can do them online, too, But, I guess they're gonna make you actually hold babies and shit. They better not pee on me. (Beat) While we're on the subject, how's Miss Fix It?

PIP

She came by. She's coming tomorrow. I have sewer problems, too.

DAM

I thought I smelled something yesterday. You straights, are so anosmic.

PIP

Quit fuckin' with me, Dam.

DAM

It means you can't smell.

PIP

And give me, The Price.

DAM

And, that's all. Strictly business, then.

PIP

I found out, undercover, that she hates paparazzi.

DAM

Well, Miss Fix vans are popping up everywhere. And, you both deal with the same kinda folks. She's bound to bust you wide open.

PIP

I need to think of a way to soften the blow.

DAM

That's easy. Just turn her into a celebrity.

PIP thinks.

PIP

Damn it, Dam! You're right! For once, you're not fuckin' with me.

DAM

It's a win, win, win - really. Cause if your kitchen doesn't get fixed and your party is cancelled. The fire spitters are gonna burn my house to the ground. You ALL, can thank me, later.

CUT TO:

INT. MORNING. PIP'S CONDO.

VESSIE is in the kitchen working on the drain, her tools and equipment around her. A letter-sized bifold portfolio with PIP'S estimate and her work schedule for the next two weeks are in a drawer. PIP is in his office editing animal images. VESSIE's phone rings. She checks, it's TABBY. VESSIE answers. TABBY: Brandy Norwood

VESSIE

Hey, where are you?...OK, good...
You can change here. I brought you some overalls. There are still problems in the bathroom. Just drop call me when you're out front, OK. I'll tell Pip to buzz you up...No.
3. See you.

VESSIE disconnects. PIP enters the kitchen.

PIP

How's it going? You've got something on your face. Just there.

PIP points. VESSIE rubs, but dark spot doesn't fade out. PIP indicates, then gently wipes it with his finger.

VESSIE

Thanks. That was my Tabby. She's almost here. Well, the kitchen drain is unclogged for now. But, sometimes, these things just - move on down the line. You know.

PIP

Like, "Whack-A-Mole."

VESSIE opens the tap and shows PIP, the water drains out properly. She gets the extra cardboard and lays it out, on the bathroom floor. Then she moves her kit into the bathroom while the conversation carries on.

VESSIE

Yeah. So, we need to check if the bathroom is worse, now.

PIP

Can I get you anything?

VESSIE

No, I'm OK. You, all right? You don't seem as talkative as before.

PIP

No, I'm alright. I feel so bad that everything is so bare. I have nothing to offer you. I was just wondering if you ladies would like to have some lunch, later? Nothing fancy. There's nothing around here.

VESSIE

That would be nice. I'm sure Tabby would like to. She's always on the run, between her kids, school and work. But, it depends on how much we get accomplished, OK.

VESSIE'S phone rings, drop call. PIP buzzes TABBY in.

VESSIE (CONT'D)

Thing is, with using these old abandoned warehouse conversion, if the owner is cutting corners, they don't increase the size of the drain lines. Or, there could be old clogs from way back when. Dead rats.

PIP

Rats! You, kiddin'?

VESSIE

I wish. Put an, Olympic swimmer and a free-style diver together and you get? A rat. Plus, they can squeeze through a hole this small. You can't get rid of them. Plus, they can get through a hole this big.

VESSIE demonstrates. The both laugh.

PIP

Damn! So, keep the lid down.

VESSIE

But about the building and the plumbing. Back in the day, there was only a restroom or two and a break room, kitchen sink at most. Now you have four residences and a business in here. Draining their bathrooms, kitchens, washing machines, dish washers. But, we hope for the best.

TABBY enters.

VESSIE (CONT'D)

Hi, Tab. You made it.

VESSIE and TABBY hug.

VESSIE (CONT'D)

Tabby, this is Pip.

PIP and TABBY greet.

VESSIE (CONT'D)

Pip wants to take us to lunch afterwards.

TABBY

Oh, I wish I could. But, I have so much studying to do, till I pick up the kids.

PIP

I got you. It may not look it, but studied photo journalism, NYU.
(Beat) You?

TABBY

USC, real estate law. I'll be the first one in the family graduating college, finally.

PIP

And law school, at that. More power.

TABBY

Thanks.

VESSIE

But, for now we need to clear your bathroom drains.

PIP

I'll be in my office, if y'all need me, OK.

TABBY and VESSIE exit to bathroom.

TABBY

He's nice, Cuz. Successful. And,
he's cute. A pint-size brother, like
you said. But, you don't bother with
heels anyway.

PIP waits till they get started working to look inside
VESSIE'S portfolio. He sees the re-do contract for \$35,000.
Holds his heart. Picks up the paper and reads.

PIP

(to himself)

Bob's was about the same, though.
She's got the rest of the demo in
there? Yeah, thank goodness. 50%
deposit. So, I need \$17,500, like
right now, today. I need to work on
her, with that.

On the pad, PIP sees schedules and breakdowns, project
addresses and customer contacts, for Miss-Fix-It current and
pending projects.

PIP quickly takes a picture of each page with his camera,
puts them back in order and replaces the estimate and closes
the portfolio. Then exits to his office and closes the door.

CUT TO:

PIP'S OFFICE.

PIP sat in his chair.

PIP

I wonder how much that ring worth,
now? Let me send Leibish an email.

PIP types an email.

PIP (CONT'D)

Hey, Leibish. How you doing, man?
You did a 3.0 tw, round argyle
purple pink with a halo side,
diamond engagement ring for me,
about 7 years ago. I can't find the
paperwork. And my wife's on
vacation, out in the jungle
somewhere, no phone. But, can you
give me an appraisal on it, asap?
I'm thinking of doing a trade-in.
Shalom, Pip the Paparazzo Guy.

(MORE)

PIP (CONT'D)

PS Please send me a close up, of it
and the details, too. I can't
remember what it looks like, ATM.
Thanks.

PIP sends the email, then gets a text from HOWDY.

HOWDY

The QB escapade is postponed for two
weeks I guess she's doing an Oscar
gig or something I'll get the intel
Anyway we can do some general
prowling tomorrow NYC and UK folks
are trickling in

PIP

Yeah, I'll let you know what time,
asap.

HOWDY, thumb up emoji. PIP downloads the images of VESSIE'S
schedule on his pc, makes an Excel spreadsheet of them, by
date and time, then their address and vicinity to each other.
Then creates a custom Route Planner & Location Markers using
Google Maps. VESSIE knocks on PIP's office door.

VESSIE

Hey, Pip.

PIP gets up and opens the door. They talk in the doorway.

PIP

Yeah. Everything alright?

VESSIE

Well, there's blockage still. We
need to do a ball test. We might
even need to send a camera down. But
we'll see. The ball might tell us
enough. We're going to need to go
back-and-forth a lot and the water's
going to be running, quite a bit.

PIP

OK. Just keep the doors open.

VESSIE

I'll put up a sign, so your
neighbors will know, OK.

PIP

Good thinking! I'll be in here. Just
holla.

PIP closes the door, then goes back to working on the Google Map file.

CUT TO:

EXT. WAREHOUSE/CONDO.

MAN is sitting in popular model, blacked-out car, across the street surveillancing the condo's front door. VESSIE and TABBY set up the work area. As soon as, they turn their backs and start working, MAN, wearing a T-shirt, jeans and sunglasses, casually and unnoticeably, goes inside.

CUT TO:

PIP'S OFFICE.

PIP at his desk just finished uploading the Google Map file to his phone and laptop. PIP shuts down pc and laptop. Then calls SHUTTERBUG.

SHUTTERBUG: Koo Stark

PIP
Hey, Shutterbug.

SHUTTERBUG
Hi, Pip. How was that nature shoot?

PIP
Well, it's been three days and no fever.

SHUTTERBUG
No diarrhea, either?

PIP
Nope. All good back there.

SHUTTERBUG
Well, you made it. I just couldn't stay away that long. A baby sitter woulda cost me a fortune. But, I was so glad you filled in. They'll never know the difference. How are the pictures, great eh!?

PIP
Yeah. I got some real good ones. I'll send them on, asap. Look ah, can you get them to pay up, pronto?

SHUTTERBUG

I'll try my best. But, you know how these ol' farts are. So, what else is going on?

PIP

I need a favor. My kitchen is still a mess. And, there's woman, she's a contractor, that can fix it. I need to create some buzz so that I might be able to get her to come down on the deposit or give me more time.

SHUTTERBUG

You're going through with it, then? The party? I RSVPed, already.

PIP

Dam can't give me the money back. And the fire dancers are threatening him with arson. He said, they torched his car one time. Cause he had to cancel them.

SHUTTERBUG

Fire dancers? Terralyn's outdone herself this time.

PIP

Yeah, she knows that now. Anyway, this woman, has these online D-I-Y videos about how to all this repair stuff at home. And a good fanbase. I met her, she's smart and practical. And, she's... So, I'm thinking if I can get her to at least a D-list status, in the next day or two...

SHUTTERBUG

Why don't you just say that, you like her and: No.1. She doesn't like you being paparazzo, No.2. If you make her an insta-celeb, she might change her mind about that, and, No.3. She might have sex with you.

PIP

Yeah, 1-3 and No.4, she'll re-do my kitchen in less than two weeks.

SHUTTERBUG

OK. Well, since I was the one that hooked you up with Terralyn.

(MORE)

SHUTTERBUG (CONT'D)

And, in all those years, you didn't attempt to kill her, not even once. I owe you. You deserve better.
(Beat) Pip, I've got something here. I gotta go. Text me, where and when. Then ping me when an A-lister shows up.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. LATER. CONDO. WAREHOUSE BUILDING.

PIP walks around the condo looking for VESSIE and TABBY. He goes up to his bedroom, looks down outside and sees VESSIE inspecting the building's exterior and taking pictures. He gets one of his cameras from his closet and goes outside to meet up with her. MAN is sitting in the blacked-out, popular car, across the street surveillancing. He sees PIP and watches him.

PIP

Here you are.

VESSIE

You gotta go?

PIP

No. I could see you from up there. I thought this might help.

VESSIE

Well, I don't know how to use it.

PIP

That's OK. You just point and I'll shoot. Where's, Tabby?

VESSIE

We found the problem and finished. She helped me load everything up. You were blocked up real good, man. No cracks, though. Thank goodness. I'm looking at what needs to be fixed. Would you take a picture of this roof drain pipe? See, where it's disconnected and came loose from the brick, at the bottom.

PIP

Yeah, OK. I'll get a close-up, too.

VESSIE

That rain water has been leaking in,
down the side of the slab.

PIP

Good thing it never rains in
California.

VESSIE

Yeah, not anymore.

PIP

You ready for lunch?

VESSIE

Yeah, I'm starving. But, I need to
get this building survey done, OK.

PIP

Can we take your van? My car is in
the shop. I got a fl... find out
what's the problem, still.

VESSIE

Yeah. That's fine if you don't mind.
It's got plumbing stuff in it. Kinda
smelly. If I wasn't doing plumbing I
woulda had my car. It would've been
so much nicer. I do love riding in a
very nice car.

PIP

Don't worry. I'll breathe through my
mouth.

VESSIE laughs. MAN starts car, then drives off.

VESSIE

And I need your help. I want to take
a look at the clean out. The sewer
drain, that runs to the street for
building.

VESSIE and PIP walk to the street, uncovers the drain cover
and there's all sorts of nasties inside.

PIP

Yuck. You deal with shit like that.

VESSIE

Pip, what else comes out of
everybody's, you know what...

PIP takes pictures of the clogged drains.

VESSIE (CONT'D)

I'll upload them on my phone. I get to the auction real early. I sniff out the ones there, to flip properties (I know most of them already, anyway). And circulate the pictures among the bidders. After they see how much work needs to be done, if they have sense, they'll drop out. There might be only a few other general contractors. I know them anyway, the same ol' folks all the time. So toward the end, it'll only be me and him bidding against each other.

PIP

Smart.

VESSIE

Can we go by the art studio, now?

PIP

Yeah, come on. Afterwards, Doc'll be up.

PIP and VESSIE walk around the building's corner. VESSIE points to other problems/damage en route. At gallery entrance (36 boxes of Brazilian crystal tiles stacked neatly). Typical minimalist interior, natural wooden furniture, loads of potted plants, half-wall height, along the window wall, where the classroom is. The restroom is to the rear. PIP and VESSIE enter the gallery with David LaChapelle photoart showing. COSMO is holding a nude drawing class with five ART STUDENTS, retired women, in their 70s. PIP is uncomfortable. VESSIE confused and stares. The MODELS change pose every 30 seconds. COSMO: Helen Mirren artsy, bohemian and nude model
ADONIS: nude model, man, 20s, black, dancer
FRISKY STUDENT: Dillie Keane, RP, dancer
JEALOUS STUDENT: Celia Imrie, Scottish accent
GOING ONCE: Adele Anderson, Irish accent, dancer
GOING TWICE: Carol Cleveland, Australian accent, dancer
SOLD: Leila Hoffman, Cockney, very cheeky, dancer
PIP and VESSIE enter gallery, then studio/classroom

PIP (CONT'D)

Hey, Cosmo. You, here?

COSMO

Yes, Pip. Is that you?

PIP

Yeah, I've got somebody with me. Is that, OK?

COSMO

Come on through, he's used to it, now. Don't forget your tiles. I don't want anything to happen to them. For the right people, that's eye candy.

PIP

I'll get them outta your way, asap.

PIP and VESSIE enter the studio, cautiously.

PIP (CONT'D)

(to Vessie)

Ah, OK. It's her and a guy this time. That means it's gonna be a nudie drawing class. Just to let you know, the brother is, fit.

COSMO

You all, know my neighbor, Pip. And his...

VESSIE

Plumber. (Beat) Vessie.

EVERYONE ELSE

Hi!

STUDENTS and ADONIS wave.

COSMO

Continue with your quick poses. I'll just be a minute.

COSMO dons a robe and approaches PIP and gives him a hug.

COSMO (CONT'D)

Nice to meet you, Vessie.

VESSIE

Likewise.

PIP

She's been working on my piping.

COSMO

Really! How is it now?

PIP

Fine, it's fine. She's interested in making an offer on the building. And since I had pipe problems, she wants to check everybody else's.

COSMO

Thank you. This was one of the first warehouse buildings in the area, from the 1880s. It used to be a boot factory.

VESSIE

How long have you lived here?

COSMO

Oh, since '75. We were the first ones that moved in here. Then, Radi and I split. And, he moved next door to me. The units were so cheap then. Half the price of yours. They weren't like yours, then either. But, the plumbing has always been shit, especially Radi's. Everything is going and flowing and then, bam. It gets blocked. Like ED. Even in here.

(pointing to the art sink)

One of the faucets knobs doesn't work. It's always the left one. And same thing with Radi's. Please, go ahead and have a look.

VESSIE

Thanks. Would I be able to check Radi's plumbing, too?

COSMO

Sure, I have the key. Pip, take her up, before he gets out of court. That case they're on is a bitch.

COSMOS fishes in her pocket for the key, then gives it to PIP.

PIP

When we're done upstairs, I'll drop them off. Oh, my birthday is in two weeks. Tell Radi, too.

COSMOS gives PIP "The Look."

PIP (CONT'D)

Terralyn already planned a big blowout. I'll drop you a reminder. Please come, it's my 50th, the last one. And I'm done with the crazy parties, OK.

ART STUDENTS

50! You're a baby.

FRISKY STUDENT

Are there going to be, single and available, black men there?

PIP

I'm not sure. Why don't you all come and check it out.

FRISKY STUDENT

(pointing to Adonis).

Can we bring, Adonis along?

PIP

Yeah, but no stripping and no pole dancin'. I know how y'all are. Get your fix, before you come.

VESSIE investigates the art studio tap and drain. PIP joins her and takes the pictures of the art studio sink problems. COSMOS takes her robe off and re-joins ADONIS.

COSMO

I got so tired of hearing myself complain. You know how Ted was.

FRISKY STUDENT

Yeah, but I miss him already. He used to come by my place. And fix things up so nice. I'd pay him extra to model for me every Monday at 9, with a full English breakfast. A man can't work on an empty stomach.

JEALOUS STUDENT

So, that's how your drawings got better than mine. How much did you pay him?

FRISKY STUDENT

50 bucks for two hours.

JEALOUS STUDENT

I paid him 55, from noon to 2. And I fixed him lunch.

GOING ONCE

I paid him 60, from 3 to 5. Just friends. No benefits.

FRISKY STUDENT

No wonder your drawings still look shitty.

GOING TWICE

I paid him 65. We had tea and biscuits at 5:15.

FRISKY STUDENT

Drastic improvement.

SOLD

Well, he saved the best for last. I paid him 75, from 7 to 9. And, I had the time of my life.

COSMO

Did you all know he's married to a woman our age?

FRISKY STUDENT

Didn't he die on a Monday night? Late?

SOLD

Well, now we know what really done him in, innit.

CUT TO:

EXT. LATER. WEST HOLLYWOOD RESTAURANT.

PIP and VESSIE are sat eating a brick oven pizza and drinking. VESSIE wearing the same yellow-and-white bandana like a fancy headband, tied in-front and wearing a contemporary mixed metal, stone-less ring on her left-hand, ring finger. Restaurant and street are very busy. SHUTTERBUG is taking pictures of VESSIE (facing the street). Before VESSIE takes a bite, PIP notices her ring and gently brings her hand closer for a better look, momentarily.

PIP

Ah, nice ring. I like the design. You're not married, right?

VESSIE

No. Keeps the flies away. But, thanks. I made it.

PIP

You're a jewelry designer, too?

VESSIE

Not really. It's something I do for fun. Gifts for family, my really good customers. When I met you, I was buying the butane that I use.
(Beat) You're into jewelry?

PIP

Kinda. I did a portrait session for this lady, she had a "boyfriend" that had given her this really expensive ring, like a one-of-a-kind, very rare stone. It intrigued me. No, it seduced me. Anyway, she wanted to make sure she had a really good headshot with her wearing it.

VESSIE digging, but playful.

VESSIE

For what?

PIP

To prove a point. I guess.

VESSIE

So, you took the picture. And what do she do with it?

PIP

She made sure, whoever she wanted, saw it. I guess.

VESSIE

Do you still take pictures, like that? Sometimes? You live in LA. You've got at least one very expensive looking camera. I'm sure there's lots more, where that came from. The pictures you took for me today are way better than the ones I've ever seen.

PIP

You mean, like that woman, no. I'm just a flat out, picture taker.

VESSIE

You know, I never come around this area. Where all these celebrities hang out. I respect their lifestyle and their privacy. It doesn't matter if I see them in public or not.

(MORE)

VESSIE (CONT'D)

How they feel about publicity, well that's their business really. But, I wouldn't want anyone hounding me.

PIP'S phone pings. He excuses himself, gets up and walks away. He looks, it's a message from Leibish.

LEIBISH

Good to hear from such a satisfied customer. Hope you're well. That ring is one of our favorites. And your stone, exceptional. If it's in the same condition, the present value is, \$50,000US. Look forward to doing more business with you. Shalom, L.

PIP noticeably pleased, then remembers that he doesn't have the ring, then sits.

VESSIE

Good news?

PIP

Yes. And, no. There's always a hitch, ya know. (Beat) So, what's it like, working in the homes of the rich and famous?

VESSIE

Fine. No substantial complaints. And, no lawsuits. Not yet, anyway. That's why I'm so supportive of Tabby. I work for them, by recommendation only.

PIP

If you got famous, like overnight, what would you do? Would you like it?

VESSIE

I'm not planning on it. And, I hardly think that's possible.

PIP

Why, not?

VESSIE

Cause, I'm not in the spotlight. And, I'm definitely not famous.

PIP

But, you're online. And you are an influencer with a niche audience. These days that's about ALL you need.

VESSIE laughs.

VESSIE

A niche? A niche is a recess in the wall, where you display stuff. Like a vase or a sculpture. What are you talking about?

PIP

You have a fan base, a specific audience of least 300,000 subscribers, I checked. A million views. And not that many thumbs down. That's great potential.

VESSIE thinks.

PIP (CONT'D)

How many women do, what you and your cousins, do, eh? If they put Martha Stewart and Bob Vila together, they still can't touch the chemistry that y'all have.

VESSIE

But, I just started doing those videos on the fly. Tabby's little brother Byron, messing around. He's an accountant and a techy. But, now he wants to go to film school. He needed something to qualify. And, so...

PIP

Oh, he's not just messing around. He's an amateur, but he's got a good eye. He just needs better lighting and color, some coaching. (Beat) Why you did it don't matter. You're a woman doing it. Look at your credentials. And a black woman with family business, at that. You've already got an A-list clientele. And, you're helping ex-cons keep meaningful work. When does ALL that happen, at once? Plus, you'd especially be saving our folks and WOMEN, money. It's empowering.

(MORE)

PIP (CONT'D)

They're sick and tired of nagging their lazy ass husbands, partners, whatever. Who don't know shit anyway. They see the results and trust you, woman-to-woman. Then, they tell their friends.

VESSIE processing. LISA RINNA stops with her daughters, AMELIA and DELILAH on the pavement near VESSIE. She finishes her phone conversation, disconnects, then looks at her daughters pointing out VESSIE.

DELILAH AND AMELIA

Look, Mom.

LISA

Vessie, is that you?

PIP pings SHUTTERBUG. SHUTTERBUG gets her phone, checks it, then sends PIP a message.

SHUTTERBUG

Random?

PIP

Totally!

SHUTTERBUG

I've got enough stills and footage on them for a feature film.

PIP

Make sure you photoshop my bandage.

SHUTTERBUG sends PIP a thump up, emoji, then shoots away.

VESSIE

Hi. Yes, it's me. In regular clothes. A little makeup. You know.

LISA

Hair down. Wow, how sexy you are, girl! It's the bandana. The girls recognised it. You wear it so well. So, who's this? The boyfriend? Or, a new boyfriend? That last one you told me about was...kinda - dodgy.

VESSIE

I broke it off. This is my new client, Pip.

PIP stands up. LISA and PIP shake hands. LISA, DELILAH and AMELIA notice PIP'S height.

AMELIA AND DELILAH

Oh! Wow!

LISA

Nice to meet you, Pip. Is that like Gladys Knight and the Pips? But only one?

PIP

Yeah, something like that.

LISA

These are my girls, Amelia and Delilah.

They all greet each other.

LISA (CONT'D)

Vessie, I've got something that I want you to come by and take a look at. No rush, OK.

VESSIE

Two weeks?

LISA

Perfect.

AMELIA

Sorry to interrupt, Mom. But, I'm really hungry.

DELILAH

And, their food is getting cold.

LISA

Anyway, nice to meet you, Pip. You treat her right. If not, I'll get my husband, Harry Hamlin on you. He knows people. And not just white people.

PIP

Duly noted.

VESSIE

Thanks, Lisa. Bye, girls.

PIP

Bye, ladies.

AMELIA and DELILAH say good-bye and walk ahead. LISA does a 'thumb up' and 'call me' gesture with her hand, to VESSIE.

VESSIE gives LISA a 'thumb up.' LISA catches up to AMELIA and DELILAH.

VESSIE
You know who that was, right.

PIP
Yeah. I know her show. The daughters are models and influencers.

VESSIE
She was my very first plumbing job.

PIP
Don't tell me, it was a hair clog.

They both laugh.

VESSIE
I don't dare inform on my clients. What goes on in their homes stays inside. By the way, how'd you know about Bob Vila and Martha Stewart?

PIP
His show came on after Car Shop. I always wanted to own my own house. Get it fixed it up. The condo is the closest I got, so far. My grandma's been following Martha Stewart since day one. I used to watch with her, when I was on break. It's good to see her, back. Some ol' farts can't stand to see a woman make good. Jealousy. Envy.

VESSIE
And, you?

PIP
Me, I'm happy to learn, not to be one.

VESSIE
Good answer.

CUT TO:

EXT. MORNING. HOUSE IN BEVERLY HILLS - GARDENHOUSE.

COUSINS NO. 2 & 3 (landscape & masonry) are at the building, to do maintenance work on plants, replacing grout and hydro-cleaning the stone paths and buffing them.

The Miss-Fix-It van is parked. Nearby, they're are extra tall ladders laying on their sides, on the pavement, a commercial-grade floor buffing machine, hydro pressure washer, and a pallet with barricades, sandbags, traffic cones and "men at work" signs, nearby. PIP disguises himself as a homeless (wearing a wig with extremely long and massive dreadlocks), needing a day job with the Miss Fix-It crew (including: two HELPERS), to help pay for his bed and food for a couple of days. But, he really wants intel on what pawn shops in LA, that Josh might've visited, to pawn the ring. The crew is just getting started on the job when he approaches. COUSINS want to give HOMELESS PIP a break. HELPERS don't. He's parked a distance away, is panhandling in enroute to get in character (ad lib) PIP soils and weathers his bandages and exaggerates his limp.

COUSIN NO.2: Kim Wayans (gardener, job manager)

COUSIN NO.3: Keenan Wayans (mason worker, deputy manager)

HELPER NO.1: woman, black, early 20s, nerdy (mason worker, rude assistant)

HELPER NO.2: Adrienne C. Moore (gardening, rude assistant)

COUSIN NO.2

(to Helper No.1)

What happened to your friend Bootsy?

HELPER NO.2

He ain't my friend! I told you already. Ask her.

HELPER NO.1

He ain't my friend, either. He's my neighbor's son. She's trying to keep him off the streets.

COUSIN NO.2

So, where is he? We have today and only today, to finish this job. You see ALL that hedging, we have the maintenance contract to keep that looking, just like that, for as long as the customer wants.

HELPER NO.1

I dunno. I called him. No answer.

HELPER NO.2

Even if he's got no credit. He can still answer. Or, call his mama. His brother. Who, ever. They're all jammed up in there like ricebox takeout. And, it stinks like sardines in a tin can. You know, like them little flat ones from commissary. Remember?

HELPER NO.1

Girl, since I got bounced, I can't stand fish. Every few months, he takes everybody's SIM cards out of their phones and saves them.

COUSIN NO.2

What are you talking about?
Everybody's phone.

HELPER NO.1

When they fall asleep. He goes round and...At the pawn shop where he worked, he stole them all the time. He's got at least a thousand of 'em.

HELPER NO.2

For what?

COUSIN NO.3

The gold. He's stupid. You need like 30,000 of 'em to get you one ounce. And, you still gotta melt it down.

HELPER NO.1

Yeah, I know. But, he also gets it out of old computers. The real old ones. His friend is supposed to be studying chemistry. But she's in the lab extracting and purifying it.

COUSIN NO.2

And nobody sees?

HELPER NO.1

Not, yet. I guess they think she's doing some crazy alchemy. Turning shit into gold. (Beat) They're saving, to rent a cabin in the Yukon, to go panning this summer. They asked me.

COUSIN NO.2

You going?

HELPER NO.1

I'm thinking about it.

HELPER NO.2

Girl, they don't have black folks in Alaska.

HELPER NO.1

How you know?

HELPER NO.2
Just ask, when you get there.

PIP approaches.

HELPER NO.2 (CONT'D)
Who's that?

HELPER NO.1
Why you asking me? I don't know no
homeless people.

COUSIN NO.3
Can we help you?

PIP
Yeah, I - I. Ah, I've been begging
all morning for my food and
accommodation for the next few days.
I really like to plan for the week,
two if I can, you know. But, I'm not
getting to...

PIP shakes his used coffee cup.

PIP (CONT'D)
Do you have any openings?

HELPER NO. 1 AND 2
Openings?

COUSIN NO.2
We could use some help trimming
vines. Can you handle one of these?

COUSIN NO.2 pulls out a grass shears and hands it to PIP.

PIP
Is this for right-handedness?

PIP is clumsy with the shears. HELPER NO.1 & 2 mumbling.

COUSIN NO.3
It don't matter.

COUSIN NO.2 points to the building.

COUSIN NO.2
You see those bushy ones? They kinda
look like afro hair.

PIP
Yes.

COUSIN NO.2

Well, we need to keep their 'fro tight. And the shaggy ones, we need to trim the flyaways. It's just surface work, no gouging. We're not doing topiary. Just keep it nice and smooth. You'll get the hang of it, in no time. It's not alchemy.

COUSIN NO.3

The ladders need to be set up. We'll do that. I don't trust your foot. You stay down, low. Alright.

PIP

Yeah, I got.

COUSIN NO.2

I'll pay you cash \$50 for the day.

HELPER NO.1

50! For the day! That's way too much. Next time he'll want 60. And, then he'll bring 'round his buddies. And, there goes my job security. I only got three months till summer.

PIP

I don't know any homeless people. Just because I look like this, it doesn't mean we're all chums and everything. I'm a maverick. I don't do community. That, all for one, Three Musketeers is rubbish. It's not in my best interest.

HELPER NO.2

You ain't homeless. I bet you're a Rasta with a trust fund. Squatting 'round and flunkin' out, on the streets. Making some kinda political statement. Where the hidden camera at? I bet he's miked, too.

HELPER NO.1

(to Helper No.2)

Look, at him he don't even know how to use 'em. And you, gon' have to go back and fix his fuck ups.

HELPER NO.2

(gives Helper No.1 the Eye and indicates the buffing machine)

(MORE)

HELPER NO.2 (CONT'D)

Why don't you take him with you? He doesn't have the kind of dexterity required for tedious landscape grooming.

HELPER NO.1

He's a lightweight, but at least he can handle the buffer. All he's gotta do is hold it steady.

COUSIN NO.3

Alright. You work with us in the atrium. But first, you and me will put out the cones and signs, OK.

COUSIN NO.2 gives PIP work gloves.

COUSIN NO.3 (CONT'D)

Put them on and follow me.

CUT TO:

LATER. PIP AND COUSIN NO.2 ON THE SIDEWALK.

PIP and COUSIN NO.2 put out signs. The others are trimming.

PIP

When I came up, I heard you all talking about panning for gold. Are you also in the gold business? On the side? A bit of moonlighting, eh?

COUSIN NO.3

No. I'm in the stone business.

PIP

You mean like gemstones? I knew a brother like you, is way too smart to be doing a straight 9-to-5, one hour lunch and two coffee breaks, gig.

COUSIN NO.3

No, I don't "moonlight" anymore.

PIP

But, you did before, eh? Like what kind of "moonlight?" Crescent, half moon, new moon? Wait, that's the same as full moon, isn't it.

COUSIN NO.3

How you know about "moonlighting?"

PIP

I was a hustler back in the day. A paparazzi. You remember that, Lupita Nyong'o Oscar dress?

COUSIN NO.3 laughing.

COUSIN NO.3

Man, you stole that? With those worthless pearls. What you thought, you hit the big time. The motherlode.

Both laugh.

PIP

No, not me. I zoomed in and took pictures of it, on the red carpet. And I told them not to. But, they did it anyway. They said they brought it to a pawn shop. I can't remember now, where it was? It was...

COUSIN NO.3

Gems, on South Santa Monica. They're so stupid, Gems is No.1. The Israeli Connection. They don't look at shit like that.

PIP

And, when Gems didn't want it, they brought it to another one. Down in Long Beach somewhere, I think.

COUSIN NO.3

No, man. They stayed in Posh Pawn Hood.

PIP

Posh, where hood?

COUSIN NO.3

Posh, you know like luxury.

PIP

Yes, get that. But, I thought you said, porn.

COUSIN NO.3

No, man. Pawn, like in chess. Anyway, they went to The Diamond Exchange, then got bounced again.

(MORE)

COUSIN NO.3 (CONT'D)

Mr. B, across the street, shooed 'em away before they got to the counter. He woulda sewn them two pearls back on and sold the dress. He knows his brands. But, they're so stupid. Calvin Klein don't make fine jewelry. And, Mr. B does not mess around, not even for a minute.

COUSIN NO.3 is feeling the itch for the pinch, goes into a trance. A bus passes with a Valentine Day colored stone jewelry ad, on it. COUSIN NO. 3 stares at it.

COUSIN NO.3 (CONT'D)

But, if they had some ice. The real stuff, colored ice. It seduces you. They'd've brought it to, respected by all, but known only to a few, as The Man. By MacArthur Park, south corner, The Alley. One light bulb, over one red door, upstairs. After midnight, but before 2. Monday to Thursday, only. Knock hard three times, a beat, then once more. And wait. He'll know.

PIP

How did you know their MO?

COUSIN NO.3 delays. PIP shakes his shoulder, he snaps out.

COUSIN NO.3

Huh. That's, the Three Stooges, man. They do the same stupid shit over-and-over. And, everybody laughs.

HELPER NO.2 approaches.

HELPER NO.2

What the hell y'all doing? Come on, it's time to make the doughnuts.

CUT TO:

The Miss Fix-It crew are at the van eating doughnuts and drinking coffee. HELPER NO.1 is checking her phone.

COUSIN NO.2

Hey, what happened to the lil' dude?

EVERYONE ELSE

I dunno.

COUSIN NO.3
I guess he cutout.

HELPER NO.2
See, I said he wasn't homeless. He don't need no money. And, he sure as hell don't do this kinda work. He probably hurt himself tryin' to be Tom the Toolman Tyler and dropped the damn thing on his foot.

HELPER NO.1
Hey! It's Vessie! She's on TMZ.
Look!

They gather close around HELPER NO.1, to see her phone.

HELPER NO.2
Well, look at "Miss Fix-It, General Contractor to the Stars," hobnobbing with B-listers in West Hollywood. I'll be damned.

COUSIN NO.2
Looka, Cuz! Let me call her. This is SO good for business.

COUSIN NO.2 goes to get her phone. COUSIN NO.3 holds her back.

COUSIN NO.2 (CONT'D)
Wait! Who's that dude she's with? Does he look familiar? Minus the dreads?

EVERYONE looks at each other.

EVERYONE
Nah, can't be. Too, short.

HELPER NO.1
And, bad teeth.

HELPER NO.2
How'd you know? What were you doin' lookin' up in his mouth for, gold?

CUT TO:

EXT. LATER. HOLLYWOOD/POSH PAWN JEWELRY HOOD.

PIP (without the wig and bandage on his hand, still hobbling a bit) holding his phone, exits Gem's.

PIP

A total waste of time.

PIP looks at his phone, then looks around for The Diamond Exchange, doesn't see the shop. He sees Mr. B's shop, then enters. MR. B is stood behind the jewelry counter.

MR. B: Jerry Seinfeld, no fuck pawnbroker

EDDIE MURPHY: Cameo

MR. B

Hi. Come on in. What ya got? What can I do for you today?

PIP

Hi. You, Mr. B?

MR. B

Yeah, that's what they call me, in the biz. Should I know you?

PIP approaches the counter.

PIP

Nah, I just came across somebody that knows your handle, that's all.

MR. B

Not, The Three Stooges? Cause if it is, I'm calling the cops.

PIP

No, B. I'm just a regular Joe, needing some dough, real quick. I've got this from my ex. And I need cash in-hand, man. Here, have a look.

PIP shows a picture of the ring, on his phone.

MR. B

What, a minute. How are you expecting me to do this, from a picture? Come, on.

PIP

Look at the brand. (Beat) You interested?

MR. B

Yeah, but how do I know this is legit. For all I know, you coulda photoshopped. Whatever.

PIP
OK, just, look. Look at the specs,
please.

PIP hands MR. B his phone, he takes a good look. PIP redacted
the amount.

MR. B
Did you divorce her or she divorced
you?

PIP
I did.

MR. B
Did she take a whack at you with it,
when it was all done?

PIP
Yeah, she did.

MR. B
Was she this close to putting your
eye out?

PIP
Yeah. (Beat) Did a short. Well, not
so tall, black guy, bald, with a
scraggily beard, come round with it?
Trying to pawn it?

MR. B gestures, "I dunno."

MR. B
Maybe so, maybe not. If the stones
are still in tact, bring it back.
We'll talk shop. I only deal with
legitimate owners. Otherwise, my
lips are sealed.

MR. B hands PIP his phone. PIP takes it and puts it in his
pocket, then exits.

PIP
(to himself)
He's been there. I know it.

PIP walks to his car and gets in. His phone rings, he checks,
it's HOWDY and answers.

PIP (CONT'D)
Yeah, man. What's up?

HOWDY

I've been calling you like crazy,
dude. Man, it's like fish in a
barrel out here, now. Where the hell
are you?

PIP

Yeah, I know. I see 'em on the
streets.

PIP takes a picture of EDDIE MURPHY, in disguise, on his
phone. As he walks pass PIP.

PIP (CONT'D)

I told you, I only want the A+ ones.
Give Shutterbug the rest. What about
QB they still bouncing?

HOWDY

No, I told you! But, The Club is
gonna be sizzlin' all night.

PIP

We go early, OK.

HOWDY

Yeah, man. I'll call you. When I get
the parking spot. But, what's going
on with you? I saw you in a picture
with this woman and Lisa Rinna, in
People and a video on TMZ.

PIP

That's the woman from Malibu Barbie
House.

HOWDY

The one that ragged on us? That's
her? She cleans up nice, huh man.

PIP

Yeah, I know. I'm coding her: B
Black, R Rosie, T the, R Riveter.
You never know who's listening in.

HOWDY

So now I see why you're kissing up
to her. The insta-celeb package.
Shutterbug took them, huh. Good
photoshop on your hand. What you
doin' now?

PIP

I'm trying to raise money to get her to start working on my place. I've got less than two weeks. So, I'm gonna pawn Terralyn's engagement ring.

HOWDY

But, you don't have the ring. And, it ain't like TERRALYN'S gonna give it to you. Unless, she had one of her temper tantrums and threw it at you.

Pregnant pause.

HOWDY (CONT'D)

She did, didn't she? You have it.

PIP

No. The contractor dude found it and stole it. I've got video. I'll send it to you. Take a look. He tried to pawn it. And, all the brokers bounced his ass. I guess they figured it was stolen. I just gotta find him.

HOWDY

Man, that could take weeks, months, years even. It could be top ten on, "Unsolved Mysteries" for all we know.

PIP

There's another pawnbroker I need to check out later. But, in the meantime, I've got her schedule, so I'm on the prowl, in BH. Phase two, more BRTR buzz.

HOWDY

Man, I can't even get intel like that and we pay for it.

PIP

Nothing but luck. I got her schedule when she came by for my plumbing. She's doing mostly estimates for outside work, pools, cabanas. (Beat) Look, I need to go home, get my cameras. And change into my camo and combat boots, if I can stand them. I'll send you the images, asap.

(MORE)

PIP (CONT'D)
 If you get any big game call me,
 while I'm at it, OK.

PIP disconnects.

Song: "Hungry Like The Wolf" Duran Duran

CUT TO:

INT. LATER. PIP'S CONDO.

PIP with his cameras on the floor, hurriedly looking for his water jug. He sees that one stack of bins has been bumped out of place. He's puzzled, then puts them right. Then continues to look for his copper jug, finds it, he removes the cap, it falls to the floor at the cabinet where the ring is hid.

CLOSE UP: ENGAGEMENT RING LAYING ON THE BOTTOM SHELF OF THE BASE CABINET, IN A JEWELRY BOX.

PIP fills the jug with water, finds the cap and puts it on. Then goes back to look for bags of dog treats in a bin, finds them, shoves them in his pocket, gets his cameras and exits.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE: (throughout the day, till sunset) PIP takes pictures of VESSIE at various celebrities homes, catching photos of her meeting with them about the projects they want done. He speaks low (ie, ASMR voice), as if telepathically telling her to move in the direction of his camera, pose and smile on cue (ie, nature shoots on tv). 1. PIP, squat in a shrub, client's DOGS, CATS and RABBIT, sniffing him out, he tosses treats to distract them, gets the photos. 2. PIP straddling a tree, branch that nearly breaks, he gets the shot. 3. Nearly, loosing his camera in a pond, he misses the shot. 4. Trying to climb a fence, his step-ladder slips, he falls, then gets up again, gets the photos. 5. Nearly, getting busted, while being chased by a two VICIOUS WATCH DOGS (on very long leashes) with a OUT OF SHAPE BODYGUARD holding the reins. PIP runs like mad and accidentally spills most of the treats in the process. The WATCH DOGS break away, stop their chase, find the treats and eats them. BODYGUARD stops, out of breath. PIP gets away, hides. Then takes pictures of the WATCH DOGS. 6. Late afternoon, PIP gets a text message from HOWDY, he's got a parking spot. 7. PIP gets loads of takeaway, parks, HOWDY gets in (with his video camera) they eat, PIP puts his prison slippers on. They stakeout across the street from a popular LA club, (METER MAID hassles them for awhile), till the wee hours.

During the stakeout, while HOWDY is sleeping, PIP takes HOWDY'S video camera, exits the car and cautiously films an argument between D-LIST CELEB'S DOG, (with prison slipper fetish) and D-LIST CELEB NO.2 and his TWIN DOG. After they get rejected by a GATEKEEPER for having their dogs. The D-LISTERS get in an argument and their similar looking DOGS (wearing the same harness), get entangled and in a fight on the sidewalk. So they can't tell which DOG is which. When they get the DOGS untangled, D-LIST CELEB'S DOG goes for PIP's slipper. D-LIST CELEB pulls DOG from PIP, DOG tears PIP'S pant's leg, PIP scurries away, hobbling. D-LISTERS argue briefly, then go separate ways. PIP re-enters the car. HOWDY'S half asleep.

BODYGUARD: Sinbad, commando

PERSISTENT METER MAID: Whoopie Goldberg, OTT-stereo-typical

HARSH GATEKEEPER: Ricky Gervais, inflexible, strict, callous

D-LIST CELEB NO.2: Perez Hilton, diva

Song ends.

PIP

I fuckin' hate dogs! I'm getting
some bitch spray. What time is it?

PIP checks his phone.

PIP (CONT'D)

1:30!

HOWDY is startled.

HOWDY

What's goin' on?

PIP

The pawnbroker! Come with me to see
this guy. It's not in a bad hood or
nothin'. It just sounds weird, all
right.

HOWDY

What pawnbroker is open this time of
night, man?

PIP

The Man.

HOWDY

Who?

PIP

I dunno. That's his handle.

HOWDY

How you know about this dude?

PIP

This guy, that did some time. But, he's done with that, now. He's a documented, tax paying citizen and all. He's legit.

HOWDY

Are you sure he's knows about what you need to know about? Cause pawnbrokers have niches, these days.

PIP

I'm hopin'. It's not like I got all these leads on cat burglar, MO. And, if I go to the police. Lord have mercy. How long that's gonna take. Just let me go see. You be the look out, just in case, OK. Nothing else, alright.

HOWDY

But, for all you know, he coulda skipped town, gone to New York, London, Antwerp, Mumbai, Hong Kong - Tel Aviv. They don't call it jewelry, for nothing. I wanna go home and go to sleep, in bed with my wife. Then wake up, get back online so I can pay for my kid's tuition.

PIP

Man, stop being so negative. It ain't helpful. Look, I know we're both tired and it's late. You got more sleep than me. I'm the one still, jetlagged. But, if I don't catch him before 2:00, he won't be back till Monday. And, I'm running out of time.

HOWDY

All right. Come on, I'll go.

PIP starts the car, does a U-turn and drives off.

HOWDY (CONT'D)

You sure that was the ring in the video. I can't make it out. I told you those cameras are too cheap.

PIP

Why am I so desperate at the moment, Howdy Dodeaux?

HOWDY
Cause you're broke.

PIP
Same as I was, when I bought them.
Again, you're not being helpful.
Just shady.

CUT TO:

LATER. DARK AND NARROW STREET.

PIP parks the car and gets out. HOWDY'S asleep. Pip opens the door, goes upstairs and knocks on the door, three times hard, waits, then once more, the buzzer rings. PIP enters a small, very modest, one-person office/accommodation (ie, Sweet Smell of Success). THE MAN is looking a large carat, deep blue stone under a light with a tweezer and his loupe. THE MAN looks up at PIP.

THE MAN: Billy Crystal, jewelry godfather

THE MAN
Hello, can I help you?

PIP
You, The Man?

THE MAN
Yes, that, I am. What'd you have for me?

PIP gets out his phone, then shows THE MAN the picture of the ring.

PIP
Would you take a look? And the next one, too.

THE MAN
Seven year itch. You and your wife, you split. And she threw you a Jackie Mitchell, sinker.

PIP
Yeah. How'd you guess?

THE MAN
I don't guess. I know diamonds and baseball. I've been in this business a long time. A young guy, taller than you. But not too tall, bald with a sketchy beard, came in here, trying to sell me.

PIP
What happened?

THE MAN
Fancy stones are my specialty. So, I had a look. They call you, like a siren, and pull you in. Before you know it, you're in The Deep. But, I knew it wasn't his. He's never been in a serious relationship. And he doesn't have a gold digger. And, he's a rapper. If he was, we'd know each other already. Besides, I know this ring. I designed it. It's their best-seller. Leibish is my cousin. I used to do some work with him. Come on, that'd be like stealing from family. He only does trade-ins.

PIP
Was it in good condition?

THE MAN
It needs cleaning. Your ex, she likes to make bread or something?

PIP
Yeah. But, the box kind in the bread machine. Not from scratch, like me.

THE MAN
She's right-handed, too.

PIP
Yeah. How'd you know?

THE MAN
I don't guess. I know these things. I've been in this business a long time.

PIP gives a look.

THE MAN (CONT'D)
I'll let you in on a trade secret. The gold, it's worn more on the inner left side, than the right. But otherwise, it's perfect. Just like I designed it. Your stone, the big one, is exceptional. Whatever, Leibish quoted you, don't take a penny less.

PIP

Alright.

THE MAN

Nobody in The Community is gonna buy that stone off him. The word is out, it's hot. Whatever the slime ball does, may he be cursed, to the third generation on his mother's side.

PIP

Any idea where a guy like this would go next?

THE MAN

Beats me. I don't steal. But, he definitely knows how much it's worth. He told me the value, up front, on the money. He's young, but he knows his stuff. He won't take less. (Beat) Unless he's desperate. But him, he don't look it. He's probably a klepto.

THE MAN'S pc chimes.

THE MAN (CONT'D)

Sorry, but I need to go online. The Asian markets are closing.

PIP

Alright, thanks Man.

THE MAN

If you find it, keep it. I know you're stressed out and all of that, right now. With the divorce and all. But, use it to trade for the ring you're gonna give the woman of your dreams, this time.

PIP looks at THE MAN puzzled.

THE MAN (CONT'D)

Ah, so you've already met. Why else would a guy be out in the middle of the night, injured, torn pants. What, a dog was chasing you or something? And tired as hell. Showing me a picture of a ring that's worth more, than what most people make in a year, after taxes.

PIP

Yeah, but she's the kind that don't go for bling. And to tell you the truth, neither do I.

THE MAN

Then consider yourself, a lucky man.
(Beat) Here, take this.

THE MAN tosses PIP a can of spray.

PIP

My dog just died.

THE MAN has a picture in a frame, of his dog on the desk.

THE MAN

He was a good watch dog. Always warned me when someone was coming up the stairs. But, he had this weird thing for guys wearing prison slippers.

CUT TO:

EXT. LATE AFTERNOON. HOUSE IN BEVERLY HILLS - FRONT YARD.

PIP is driving with the Miss Fix-It jobs schedule on the seat next to him and exasperated. He's crossed out several job locations, looking for the landscape crew, so he can talk to COUSIN NO.3, again. As he nears the next location in Studio City, he sees COUSIN NO.3 wearing repel gear and cutting branches on a massive tree. PIP passes the house, then parks around the corner. He's wearing the same top from the other landscape job with the torn camo pants from the club incident and prison slippers. He puts on the wig, exits car and walks to the job with a bit of a limp. PIP gets to the house and looks around for something to throw and get the attention of COUSIN NO.3. Everything is so tidy he can't find anything. He checks his pants, and finds a some of dog treats, then throws some, in COUSIN NO.3'S direction. COUSIN NO.3 can't hear the toss. A few treats have fallen on the sidewalk. PIP waits till the motor on the chainsaw is idling and throws more. A SLOW JOGGER with a bullhorn is passing by with their JOGGING DOG alongside. JOGGING DOG sniffs out dog treats and eats them. SLOW JOGGER comes to a trot, then jogs in place, near PIP. COUSIN NO.3 sees PIP and descends.
SLOW JOGGER: Miley Cyrus
JOGGING DOG: Terrier

SLOW JOGGER

What are you throwing them for? They don't have pets. No dogs. No cats.
(MORE)

SLOW JOGGER (CONT'D)
 (pointing to the fallen
 treats)
 You've got 'em all mixed up anyway.
 See, the red ones are for dogs. The
 brown ones, for cats. Look, he won't
 bother with 'em. (Beat) What are you
 doing out here?

PIP
 I'm just the, huh. Watcher, ya know.
 I'm here just to make sure it's all
 safe. For you athletes. I yell,
 "Timber!" "Heads up!" If he gets to
 close.

JOGGING DOG has finished eating the treats, looks around for
 more, jumps up to smell PIP'S treat pocket and right hand.
 PIP pulls his hand away and backs up, from the DOG. DOG
 sniffs PIP's prison slippers. PIP panics, the DOG sniffs his
 leg and goes to mount PIP'S leg.

SLOW JOGGER
 Yeah, alright. I thought you mighta
 been paparazzo. I was gonna call the
 cops. I've gotta special restraining
 order. They can't get within 30 feet
 from me.

PIP
 If you don't get your oversexed dog
 away from me. I'ma call the SPCA.
 (Beat) Where's my bitch spray?!

PIP checks his pockets. SLOW JOGGER pulls the DOG and jogs
 away. PIP turns in SLOW JOGGER'S direction.

PIP (CONT'D)
 I'm gonna grab your bullhorn and
 blast his ears out. Horny, pervert
 dog. What's he watching at night,
 doggie porn?

COUSIN NO.3 opens the gate, exits and approaches PIP.

COUSIN NO.3
 What are you doin' here, man? You
 skipped out on us last time. What
 are you? A stalker. How did you
 finds us?

PIP
 With all those doughnut breaks, you
 still get all these jobs done. I've
 been searching since this morning.
 (MORE)

PIP (CONT'D)

I came to apologise. I'm sorry for walking out like that. I should've said something.

COUSIN NO.3

That's alright. We gotta stack all the wood for the fireplace, mulch the branches, then spread it. We got a lot to do before they get back. We have so much work now. We need people. Tell anybody you know, to call us: 1-800-MS-FIX-IT.

PIP

I'll pass it on. But I'll pass. I'm good. I'm set for the month, at least. Look, I need some intel from you. Now, I'm just asking for a friend, all right. For my good friend, my ex-bunkie, my right hand man. My...

COUSIN NO.3

Yeah, OK. Go on.

PIP

If you had let's say, ha-, came into possession of a stone.

PIP pulls out his phone and finds the photo of the ring. And hands COUSIN NO.3 his phone.

PIP (CONT'D)

This big, what would you do with it?

COUSIN NO.3 shakes his head.

COUSIN NO.3

This! You can't unload somethin' like this. It's a Leibish, fancy diamond, their best-seller. Ain't no regular ol' pawnshop can afford to take this. The legit ones know it's hot, colored, ice. And, they know it's from their own people. They got a Code. You know, among their folks. Look, they don't call it fine, jewelry for nothing.

PIP

So what would you do with it?

COUSIN NO.3

Well, I wouldn't've taken it, in the first place. If it was the Three Stooges or somebody like that, hopefully they'd finally get some sense and put it back.

PIP

Put it back?

COUSIN NO.3

Yeah, back where they found it. Just as they found it. Some jobs just ain't worth it.

HELPER NO.2 shouts from over the hedging.

HELPER NO.2

Big Cuz! Where you at? It's time to make the doughnuts.

CUT TO:

PIP walking back to his car.

PIP

(talking to himself)
Maybe he did put it back in the cabinet. It can't be that simple.

PIP re-enters his car. Phone rings. PIP checks, it's VESSIE.

PIP (CONT'D)

Vessie!

VESSIE

Hi, Pip! How are you!?

PIP

Hi. I'm OK. Good to hear from you.
How, you doing?

VESSIE

I'm good. No, I'm better than good. First of all the auction for your building is in San Diego. The multi-use commercial properties are the last of the lot. So, I'm going to be gone most of the day. It's on your birthday, but I'll make it back in time, OK.

PIP

Yeah, cause I don't want to have to cancel cause you can't make it.

VESSIE

Oh, Pip. And, the biggest news of all. We've got business coming from everywhere. This is so good for all of us. Remember, day before yesterday at lunch, when Lisa and her girls saw us.

PIP

Yeah.

VESSIE

Well yesterday, pictures of me with her and her girls were all over the place! I didn't even know. My cousin, the gardener, told me. So I looked and there I was. Then today, more pictures. With my clients all over the place: Beverly Hills, La Costa, Serra Retreat. They're calling me, "Miss Fix You Up." "Plummer to the Stars." I'm doing an interview on ET tomorrow.

PIP

That's great! I'll check you out and see if the pictures are any good.

VESSIE

Give me feedback, OK. I don't know how they figured out where I was, though. I thought Lisa or one of her girls said something. And, I asked some other clients. But, they all said, "No." It's weird, how all these folks know each other. And, I've known them for years. But, bam! All of a sudden. I'm getting famous.

PIP

It's Youtube. Didn't I tell you.

VESSIE

Subscribers are off the charts. I'm just so amazed. (Beat) Ah, I was thinking that maybe you could come over and help my cousin, the videographer. Give him some tips with the filming. Like you told me the other day.

(MORE)

VESSIE (CONT'D)
Tabby said she'd come along and help out. If you've got time?

PIP
Yeah. I've got time.

VESSIE and PIP fist pump.

PIP (CONT'D)
Why don't we just do my kitchen. Step-by-step. You could video the whole thing. One day's work. If y'all don't do church, how's Sunday? Say, 10:00. You already know what needs to be done. Just write yourself an outline for the dialogue, OK.

VESSIE
Oh, that's brilliant! What a great idea! But, you're sure, it's not too much.

PIP
Nah. Come, on. It's nothing.

VESSIE
Look, I know how much those videos cost. Why don't you give me a price and I can deduct it from my estimate. Then write you up a new one, for the balance. I'll bring it, on Sunday. As soon as the money's, sorted out. We'll start, OK.

PIP
Fine. (Beat) What you doing tonight? I'd love to go by that restaurant, again. Maybe we could go to a club afterwards. It's walking distance. If you like that sort of thing?

VESSIE
I love that pizza. I'm usually doing a 2-for with a drink and hot wings, on Friday nights. A club, that would be nice. I can't even remember the last time I've been. And, never in that neighborhood. You sure do like posh places.

PIP
You'll have a good time. I'll meet you at the restaurant. 8:00.

VESSIE
OK. See you then.

PIP disconnects and thinks.

PIP
Why in the hell did I say a club.

CUT TO:

INT. LATER. PIP'S CONDO.

PIP rushes in, goes to the kitchen cabinet and finds the ring. He takes it out of the box and gives it a good looking over. His phone rings, he checks, it's DAM. PIP answers.

PIP
Hey, Dam! Good news!

DAM
What?

PIP
I have the ring! The thief broke in here and put it back. I need to beef up my security.

DAM
Wonderful! But, why?

PIP
The pawn shops he went to, know it's hot. The word is out. He couldn't cash in.

DAM
So now, we can move forward. I've seen what you did for Miss Fix-It. The Insta-Celeb package. Well done! So you had, The Talk.

PIP
No, but I'm working on it.

DAM
Well hurry up! Cause the clock is tickin'! And, if you don't diffuse it, there's gonna be a explosion. And me and my house and garage are gonna get vaporised! They are not playing with me. And, it's all gonna be your fault, darling.

PIP

Dam. Calm down. Nobody's gonna touch your house. You're not being helpful, you're going crazy.

DAM

I'm sorry I'm just nervous. It's the pyromaniacs. They've been leaving me more threats.

PIP

Ignore them.

DAM

So what you gonna do now?

PIP

I need to bring it to the posh pawn shop.

DAM

Mr. B? Hurry! It's Friday. He's gonna close at 6:00 today. You've got less than 15 minutes. *Mazal Tov!*

PIP

The sabbath. I forgot. I need to go.

PIP disconnects. Puts the ring in the box, closes it and shoves it in his pocket and buttons the flap.

CUT TO:

Song: "Yismechu Hashamayim" Jewish sabbath song

PARKING GARAGE. PIP'S CAR AND MOTORBIKE.

PIP goes for the car, but decides to take his bike instead. He opens the car to get his helmet, puts it on, hops on the bike and exits. PIP weaves and dodges through very heavy LA traffic, then has to stop for a red light. An Uber Eats DANGEROUS DELIVERY WOMAN speeding along, on a bike with a cart in the front, blindsides him, knocks him over. Both bikes falls over, both of them hit the ground. Food containers scattered everywhere, some open, food spilled out. Mananalu canned waters rolling around, some damaged. One of PIP'S prison slippers falls into the food. PIP checks on DELIVERY WOMAN and goes to help her up. She pulls a knife on him, then shouts at him, accusing him of taking over her delivery. PIP backs off and defends himself and tells her to give him the slipper. She rights her bike. A SMALL PASSIVE CROWD gathers one-by-one, recording them. PIP points to his slipper in the food.

While, threatening PIP with the knife, she picks up the unopened containers and puts them in the cart. When she's finished, she flings PIP his dirty slipper, then rides off. PIP finds and opens a damaged can of water, to douse it off, then uses another one. He puts his slipper on, checks his bike, and peels away. He hops the curb and parks in front of Mr. B's. Then rushes up and pulls the door, it's locked, store's closed, lights off. PIP looks around in frustration. Then looks at his phone clock, it's 5:55. PIP sees a HASIDIC JEWISH MAN hurrying along. He quickly approaches him and hurries alongside.

Song ends.

DANGEROUS DELIVERY WOMAN: Anjelah Johnson

HASIDIC MAN: Mendy Pellin

PASSERBY: Jason Momoa

PIP

Hey! You seen Mr. B?

HASIDIC MAN

B! He left early. It's his birthday.
Tomorrow, sabbat's over. Come back
same time. He'll be open.

HASIDIC MAN hurries off. PIP stops.

PIP

Fuck! What the...

PIP goes to pull the wig off, it grips, he tugs harder and harder, then slams it on the ground.

PASSERBY

Dude, I thought that was your hair.

Pointing to PASSERSBY'S hair.

PIP

I thought yours's was a weave.

CUT TO:

EXT. NIGHT. WEST HOLLYWOOD RESTAURANT

Song: "Sittin' On A Dream" Melissa Manchester (b.g.)

PIP on his motorbike, approaches the restaurant. He sees a Ferrari Aperta, painted pink with bright yellow and lime green accents (MSFIXIT license plates) pulling up to valet, in front of him. A woman gets out, very sexy.

It's VESSIE, he's stunned. He looks for a parking spot nearby, parks and enters the restaurant.

CUT TO:

EXT. LATER. WEST HOLLYWOOD.

PIP and VESSIE, nuzzle up and leisurely walk to the nearby club (ie, Sound Nightclub). VESSIE on the street side. PIP wearing sunglasses and a stylish hat, trying to do his best not to get spotted by paparazzo. VESSIE walking very close to PIP, holding his bicep having a feel.

PIP
Kids? Ah, I dunno. All the crying
and screaming when they little and
the shouting matches, when they get
big.

VESSIE laughs.

VESSIE
Yeah. But, that's not how it is ALL
the time, Pip.

PIP
I have enough trouble with dogs.

They both laugh.

PIP (CONT'D)
Look, I'm an only child. My parents
had me late in life. Its a small
family. Most of them are dead
already.

VESSIE
So, sorry to hear that.

PIP
Well, that's how it goes sometimes
for some folks. Consider yourself
lucky, having a big family alive and
well. That's really nice.

TWO GUYS driving on a 2-seater, black Vespa on the sidewalk,
come near PIP and VESSIE the one on the back, holds his
camera up and starts shooting.

DRIVER: Chris Rock

PHOTOGRAPHER: Adam Sandler

DRIVER
Hey! Miss Fix It!

DRIVER whistles. VESSIE looks their way in shock. PIP protects her.

DRIVER (CONT'D)
Yeah, over here. And her boyfriend.
(Beat) Pip!? Hey, Pip!

PHOTOGRAPHER
Long time no see, man.

PIP
Fuck off! Get outta here! You paps.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Looka you! Paparazzi Ladies Man. In the major leagues. Exclusives.

DRIVER
What you got, a hidden camera? How much they paying you, bro?

PHOTOGRAPHER
We're tall and good-looking. We need to get in on a gig like that.

Both laugh hard and speed off. Then join the small group of AGGRESSIVE PAPARAZZI, hanging out in front of the club.

VESSIE
You, bastard! You're one of them!
So, that's what this was all about!
You and me. You lowlife pond scum.
And, I even wore these goddamn heels!

PIP
I don't like heels. You don't see me wearing 'em.

VESSIE
Fuck you, Pip!

VESSIE takes her shoes off, holds them and storms back to the restaurant. PIP follows her, then catches up to her, hobbling a bit.

PIP
Please, Vessie. Please don't. I - I alright. But I don't do it like that. But, I have to, right now. Cause I've spent everything I have, to buy out my ex for the condo. Except for this.

PIP pulls out his phone and shows VESSIE the ring. VESSIE grabs PIP'S hand to steady the phone.

VESSIE
I don't want leftovers.

PARARAZZI go after PIP and VESSIE.

PIP
This!? It's not for you. I'm pawning it. To get the cash to pay you for the work. And not cancel the party and see more money go down the drain.

VESSIE gives PIP, the You Lying MFer, Eye.

PIP (CONT'D)
I won't get money from Bob the Builder for a whole month. It was his stepson that skipped out on the job. He stole this. He couldn't pawn it. So, he put it back. Now, I have it. (Beat) I know it looks. I am not lying to you.

VESSIE gives PIP, the You Lying MFer, Eye.

PIP (CONT'D)
I'm going back tomorrow to get the money. Cash in hand, for you. Ol' school. The way you do things. The way I like to do it, too.

VESSIE
I don't care what you like.

PIP
I quit hustling like that, years ago. I really don't like doing it. Most of them don't. But, they've got people depending on them, their families. People need jobs. It's an honest living. It's all celebrity PR. This fame phenomenon, its an illusion. They can't get enough. If it weren't for these desperate fans wantin' to know every move. They're' would be, no paparazzi. Look at how famous you got, in an instant. And the money your family's gonna make. And the people you're gonna help. The ex-cons, the homeless.

(MORE)

PIP (CONT'D)
Get them homes and fix their houses.
Tell me that's "not a good thing."

VESSIE stops.

VESSIE
Don't bring my family or Martha
Stewart, into this.

PIP
But, they're benefitting from it.
See the good side of it, please.

VESSIE
Get that phone outta my face and get
away from me. For all I know, you're
recording right now. You get more
money for celebs all in a rage.
When they're ready to bash, don't
you? Don't you?

PIP
Only for A-Listers.

PAPARAZZI swarm on them, they get separated. VESSIE runs into the restaurant. PIP shouts, "Beyoncé!" PAPARAZZI confused, looking for Beyonce. PIP runs to his bike and rides off.
Song ends.

CUT TO:

INT. SUNDAY MORNING. PIP'S CONDO.

PIP is wearing his boxers and a T-shirt, sitting on the terrace editing his Nat Geo pictures. The house phone rings. He goes to check. It's TABBY and her brother, BYRON. TABBY has her tool kit on wheels. BYRON has a camera bag on his back and pulling a light kit. PIP buzzes them through and opens the front door. Then rushes to get dressed.
BYRON: Ray J Norwood

TABBY and BYRON enter, then set their stuff down. PIP at the end of the stairs, dressed and wearing his prison slippers. Situation is awkward.

TABBY
Hey, Pip. Good morning.

PIP
Good morning. How you doing?

TABBY
I'm good. This is my brother.

PIP
Byron, right?

BYRON steps forward and extends his hand to PIP, they shake and greet. Pregnant pause.

TABBY
Look, we're not here to get up in your business with Cuz, OK. Where here to do your job. We just want you to be another satisfied customer.

BYRON
I talked to her. Then, all of us. And, she agreed that none of us, should miss out on work cause of what happened between you and her. Business is business. And you've been through some shit to get where you are. If you want us to work together, your job on the schedule.

TABBY goes in her toolbox and takes out the estimate for PIP'S kitchen and hands it to him, he reads it. Then hands him, her outline.

TABBY
This is your estimate. And, this is my outline for what I'm supposed to say, while we're filming.

PIP
Yeah, I'm cool with that.
(to Tabby)
I already know your work. Keep the outline and rehearse, OK.

PIP gives TABBY her outline. back.

PIP (CONT'D)
(to Byron)
And, I've seen what you can do. Don't worry I'm gonna help you out. You can set your stuff up. I'll direct you you guys. I'll be right back.

PIP exits. TABBY and BYRON set up video stuff. PIP comes back with a thick envelope filled with cash and wheeling out his desk chair for TABBY.

PIP (CONT'D)
(to Tabby)
This is for you. Have a seat. And
hold on a minute, Byron.

PIP exits to the laundry room and comes back with two
lighting kits and an audio kit.

PIP (CONT'D)
So, let's get started.

Song: "Home Improvement Theme Song" by Dan Folliart

MONTAGE: Mood lightens as the film crew works. Set-up
lighting and audio. Testing. Run through. Dialogue rehearsal.
Filming the removal of the base cabinets. Then they break.
Song ends.

PIP (CONT'D)
Cut. Let's take a break. I'll order
us something to eat.

TABBY
That's was fun! I enjoyed that! But,
I'd still rather it be Cuz. Ya know.

PIP'S phone rings, it's NEWBIE, PIP answers.

PIP
Yeah, Doc. Are we too loud?

NEWBIE
No, it's not that. I'm awake.
There's a lot of folks downstairs,
ringing my bell and wanting to come
up to the Paparazzi Guy's condo.
They said, they're with, Cuz. Should
I let them in?

PIP looks at and informs TABBY and BYRON. They're puzzled.

PIP
Yeah. Let 'em in.

NEWBIE
All your appliances came. I saw the
delivery guy downstairs on my way to
work, Friday evening. I guess they
missed you. They're all in here.
Come and get them before I go to
work this evening, OK.

PIP
For sure. Thanks, Doc.

PIP disconnects, becomes defensive.

PIP (CONT'D)

So, they've come to pay me a visit. That's alright. Look, I've gone to battle with the some of the most dangerous A-List celebrities known to paparazzi worldwide. I've had a proper tongue lashing from Justin Bieber. Camera destroyed by Alec Baldwin. Lamar Odom, is a wild and certified crazy man. Drop-kicked by Sean Penn. Assaulted by the infamous dynamic duo: Sam Worthington and Lara Bingle. Hugh Grant threatened the lives of my yet to be conceived kids. Russell Brand threw my phone through a glass window. That, landed his ass in jail. Speakin' of Brits. Chris Martin will hunt you down, even if it's just 20 feet. I was there when Bjork went, "Girls Gone Wild." Britney Spears attacked me with an umbrella. Well she almost, did it again. And Kanye, well he's hardly a badge of honor. He done took a whack at everybody. So, bring 'em on! I'm ready.

All of VESSIE'S COUSINS and ADULT CHILDREN and HELPER NO.1 & 2, enter PIP'S condo. Some dressed casual others with their Sunday Best, bringing food, drink and a change of clothes.

COUSIN NO.4: Leslie Jones

COUSIN NO.4 ADULT CHILDREN: 1.Tia, 2.Tamera, 3.Tahj Mowry

COUSIN NO.1: Marla Gibbs

COUSIN NO.1 ADULT CHILDREN: 1.Evan Ross, 2.Tracee Ross Ellis

EVERYONE

Hi, Pip!

COUSIN NO.2

Man, you look so much better without them dreads. The proportions were way off. You, here and them dreads down here.

COUSIN NO.2 demonstrates. EVERYONE laughs.

HELPER NO.2

Walkin' 'round heavy-headed. Like this.

HELPER NO.2 demonstrates. EVERYONE laughs.

PIP

But, yesterday this dude on the street. He looked like some kinda giant, caveman, fishman or something. I dunno know. He thought, that was my hair.

COUSIN NO.3

Anyway. We all know what's happened. But, we don't want that to come between you and us. Man, through your connections, we got work coming out of our ass.

HELPER NO. 2

Our phones are ringing like a QVC Hot Pick with five easy-pays. Thanks to you.

COUSIN NO.4 CHILD 1

We can start our fund to help folks buy houses.

HELPER NO.1

You can start with me and my family. And help get us out of that fleabag dump that the rats abandoned. Now that they have a deluxe apartment in the sky.

HELPER NO.2

No, huh, huh. Me first. Cause, I ain't never had a family or a home to call my own. I went straight from foster care play pen hell. Kicked out of the penalty box for Penn Jersey Roller Derby. To a cage, then a hole, in the pen. (Beat) I was set up. Hey, that's what friends are for.

COUSINS sympathise.

COUSIN NO.4

Vessie will come round. I know she will. It's hard for a woman like her. Successful, black, physically strong, black.

TABBY

Smart.

PIP

Sexy, even without heels.

COUSIN NO.1

That, too. Definitely. (Beat)
Don't X her. Not yet, Pip.

PIP

You still think see likes me? After
what she said.

COUSIN NO.1

That last boyfriend of hers...

PIP

The dodgy one?

COUSIN NO.3

Yeah, him. She switched off all his
water valves and then turned off the
water main. He was so stupid. He
couldn't figure out how to turn them
back on.

EVERYONE laughs.

PIP

Well, at least I already know how to
do that.

COUSIN NO.2

How's your foot and hand doing?

PIP

Oh, much better. I'm like 95%.

COUSIN NO.1

But, some of what she said about
paparazzi is true. They way the hunt
and provoke folks.

COUSIN NO.4 CHILD 1

Yeah. But, not all of them.

PIP

I don't condone provoking anybody.

COUSIN NO.1

Well, as long as you're legit.
You're okay by me.

PIP

I'm 100%, Cuz.

COUSIN NO.4 CHILD 1

There's good things and bad, about every job. But, no matter what, we can all be, well, more respectful.

EVERYONE agrees.

COUSIN NO.4 CHILD 2

So, how do you get your work?

PIP

Some of them call direct and set-up or stage situations. I'm not outing anybody. But, I've got numbers in my phone that I don't call. I just answer. My partner, too. Most work we get, is through an agency. But, he's like a 24/7 wiki of celeb's events, ratings, info, intel. 16/18 hours a day, he's online. He's brilliant!

COUSIN NO.4 CHILD 1

Events like what? Red carpet...

PIP

Yeah. Premieres, launches, meet and greets. I freelance for non-rag magazines, too.

COUSIN NO.4 CHILD 1

Man, I need to get with you. To further my acting career. Cause, Cuz she won't help me none.

COUSIN NO.4 CHILD 2

She won't help you none, cause Cuz knows you can't act.

EVERYONE laughs.

COUSIN NO.4 CHILD 2 (CONT'D)

But, you can sing.

COUSIN NO.4 CHILD 3

All three of us can. And, dance.

EVERYONE agrees. COUSIN NO.4 CHILDREN do a very brief song (a 'capella) and dance routine of "We Are Family"

COUSIN NO.4

All right, y'all have showed off enough.

COUSIN NO.2

The kitchen is the heart and soul of a home. And, after all he's been through, this brother deserves to finally get his kitchen fixed. Anyway, we're all here to get the job done and we got all we need downstairs to do it. Plus, a change of clothes. And, my boombox.

EVERYONE cheers. COUSIN NO.2 lifts up a massive ol' school boombox.

Song: "We are Family" Sister Sledge

COUSIN NO.1

And, plenty to eat and drink.

PIP

Thank you for understanding my situation. And, y'all come to my birthday party. Bring anybody you want.

EVERYONE happy. COUSIN NO.2 presses the play button on the boombox.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE: Time-lapse of PIP'S condo (kitchen, bathroom and new garden on the terrace) being totally renovated to completion, including the delivery and installation of his appliances, small appliances and all the cabinets re-stocked.
Song fades out.

CUT TO:

INT. MORNING. PIP'S CONDO/TERRALYN'S JUNGLE HUT.

Split screen. PIP is on the phone videoing the condo.
TERRALYN, she's talking on a satellite.

PIP

Everything's done. It's all beautiful. Well, it wouldn't of looked like this, without you. I'll send you the time-lapse video.

TERRALYN

Oh, I'd love to see it.

PIP

I finally met Bob. Him and his wife.
I met Josh, he apologised.

(MORE)

PIP (CONT'D)

They're coming to the party. Tippy's doing time. Somebody ratted him out. It wasn't me, though. Oh, Josh's going back into rehab. The government has a job for him, when he's done.

TERRALYN

Doing what?

PIP

I dunno know. They're always stealing something from somebody. Anyway, I'm glad you're staying there. It sounds like you like it.

TERRALYN

I, do. It's good for me. I'm working things through myself. Healing.

PIP

Well, good for you. Anyway, I gotta go. Dam and his crew will be here any minute.

TERRALYN

One more thing. Happy birthday! Enjoy yourself. You deserve it.

PIP

Thank you.

PIP disconnects.

CUT TO:

LATER.

Song: "Ain't Nobody" Chaka Khan

SIMULTANEOUS SPLIT-SCREEN MONTAGE/SCENE: 1 OF 2: PIP'S CONDO. DAM and his crew arrive and get the condo set for the party. The jumbotron gets delivered and installed, then tested with stills and videos of Pip's life. The DJ arrives and sets up, tests audio. Everything is ready. PIP comes downstairs dressed for the party. NEWBIE, COSMO, RADI, HOWDY and WIFE, ART STUDENTS with ADONIS, and SHUTTERBUG (with camera and flash) arrive. COUSINS and HELPERS NO.1 & 2 arrive with their guests, bearing gifts. DANCER GUESTS arrive, some bearing gifts. MONTAGE SCENE 2 OF 2. VESSIE AT A HOTEL GRAND BALLROOM IN SAN DIEGO. She's smartly dressed, all business, for the Multi-Use Building Properties section, live and online auction, sponsored by Cushman & Wakefield.

She's early, moves about the BIDDERS showing them the photos (hard copies), of the damages and plumbing troubles with the warehouse/condo. AUCTIONEER takes her place on the stage behind the lectern with AUCTIONEER ASSISTANT nearby. On the two screens above is, Lot 69, The Boot Factory building pictures (still photos and drawings) are shown, the AUCTIONEER gives spiel about the property, tells the floor the opening bid, then opens for bids. Bidding starts slow, the AUCTIONEER is urging bids. VESSIE makes a bid, TWO OTHER BIDDERS (a man and a woman) battle with her, then man drops out. VESSIE AND BIDDER WOMAN battle it out, VESSIE wins. She sends a message to TABBY about her success. TABBY approaches DAM and asks him to post "Congratulations" to VESSIE for her acquisition, on the jumbotron.

AUCTIONEER: Carla Lotz

AUCTIONEER ASSISTANT: Blaine Lotz

RADI: Nick Offerman (Robot)

BOB THE BUILDER: Christopher Walken

BOB'S WIFE: Catherine Zeta-Jones

DEEJAY BAMMA JAMMA: Rupaul Charles

HOWDY'S WIFE: Vanessa Simmons

GUESTS/DANCERS: Paula Abdul, Amy Adams, Debbie Allen, Ellen DeGeneres, Missy Elliot, Salma Hayek, Kate Hudson, Janet Jackson, Eva Longoria, Jennifer Lopez, Marie Osmond, Pink, Rihanna, Lisa Rinna, Kelly Ripa, Zoe Saldana, Jenna Dewan Tatum, Vanessa Williams, Zendaya (Break dance)

Jensen Ackles, Kevin Bacon, Christian Bale, Kevin-Prince Boateng (Moonwalk), John Cena, Jim Carrey, Vincent Cassel, Bradley Cooper, Terry Crews, Benedict Cumberbatch, JEAN-Claude Van Damme, Vin Diesel, Chris Evans, Donald Faison, Colin Farrell, Cuba Gooding Jr (Break dance), Todrick Hall, Tom Hiddleston, Tom Holland, Hugh Jackman, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Stephen Merchant, Chris Messina, Adam Perry, Chris Pratt, Alfonso Ribeiro (Carlton), Sam Rockwell, Paul Rudd, Andy Sk, Channing Tatum, Justin Timberlake, John Travolta

FIRE DANCERS performing on the terrace.

(<https://youtu.be/ZcBl8SfH6bM?t=23>) COUSIN NO.1 & 4 with PIP on the terrace, keep PIP's back to the front door, while COUSIN NO.2 & 3 sneak VESSIE in, where the birthday cake (a replica of the warehouse building with two figures like PIP and VESSIE are dancing on top) is sitting on a decorated rolling cart, they light the candles. VESSIE pushes the cake, up to PIP. Song ends.

Song medley: "Birthday Hip Hop & R-n-B Remix"

"Birthday" Twista & "In Da Club" 50 Cent

Everyone follows VESSIE and sing the traditional "Happy Birthday" lyrics part of the first song. Confetti canons go off, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" and celebrations on jumbotron.

PIP is happily surprised to see VESSIE, they kiss and dance together. Then he gives COUSIN NO.1 a thumb up and DAM, a wink and a nod. Birthday Song ends.

CUT TO:

TERRACE DANCE PARTY.

Soul Train Line dance.

Party Songs and credits:

"Best of My Love" The Emotions

"Love Shack" B-52s

"Got To Be Real" Cheryl Lynn

"Rhythm of the Night" DeBarge

"Let's Dance" Ben Liebrand Remix David Bowie

Jumbotron showing fireworks with text showing, The Miss Fix-It logo (Black Rosie the Riveter) "CONGRATULATIONS MISS FIX IT, YOU ARE NOW THE PROUD OWNER OF THE BOOT FACTORY. PLUMBING TROUBLES AND ALL." Jumbotron shows original song music videos or live performances by original artist, then split screen with credits.

Epilogue: "Prince Plumber Song" music video advert
(https://youtu.be/_A18cnmIV1g)