SITCOM PILOT

Written by

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WGA Registration Number: 1662567 Copyright 2013, IrreveNation Studios SITCOM PILOT: EPISODE 1-6

FADE IN (EPISODE 1)

INT. - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Two men are asleep in strange positions on furniture, as though they've fallen from a great height. Both are late 20's-early 30's and look COMPLETELY generic.

JACK slumps in a recliner, head by the ground, feet in the air. GEORGE is over the sofa's edge, covered in cushions, legs curled awkwardly against the floor.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Sitcom Pilot is filmed in front of a live studio audience.

The two men wake at the voice and look around, confused.

JACK

Why am I upside down?

He awkwardly falls off the recliner.

GEORGE

I think I'm drowning!

He flails uselessly at the cushions as Jack stands.

JACK

What did you do to me?

He rips a cushion off George's head. George looks up, dazed.

GEORGE JACK

Who are you? What am I doing Who are you? Did you roofie here? me?

GEORGE JACK

What? What?

JACK (CONT'D)

I said, did you put something in my drink to take advantage of me?

He grabs George and pulls him to his feet.

GEORGE

Let me go! I didn't do anything.

JACK

Listen, jerk--

I have a name!

JACK

Great, I'll add it to my statement.

GEORGE

I'm ---

He pauses, thinks, looks shocked and a little frightened.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I can't remember.

JACK

You're lying.

GEORGE

I'm not. I can't remember anything-my name or how I got here.

JACK

That's awfully convenient.

GEORGE

It's the truth. Do you know how you got here?

JACK

Nope.

GEORGE

Same. Now, what's YOUR name?

JACK

Easy. I'm--

Jack tries three times to say a name without success.

JACK (CONT'D)

Well, ain't THAT a kick in the pants.

There is a burst of loud laughter as though from a studio audience. Both men leap backward in shock.

JACK (CONT'D)

What the heck was that?

A second burst of laughter. The men look around.

GEORGE

Do you see anyone?

JACK

No.

GEORGE

Any speakers? Monitors? A stereo?

JACK

I don't see anything.

GEORGE

That can only mean one thing.

JACK

What?

GEORGE

I have no idea.

An even larger burst of laughter crests into clapping.

JACK

And that's my cue.

GEORGE

What do you mean?

JACK

I've seen Saw.

He heads for the front door.

GEORGE

You want to play on a see-saw?

More laughter.

JACK

No, I have SEEN the movie SAW.

GEORGE

What does that have to do with us?

JACK

I'm not chopping my foot off.

GEORGE

Could that happen?

More laughter. It sounds almost malevolent.

Jack reaches for the front door. It won't open.

JACK

What the H? The door won't open.

Try unlocking it.

JACK

It doesn't have a lock.

GEORGE

Oh my God, we're trapped.

JACK

There must be a way to open it.

GEORGE

My mother told me if I didn't change my ways, I'd get trapped.

JACK

Maybe I can get the pins out.

GEORGE

Boy, was SHE ever right!

Loud and long laughter that bursts into applause.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Why are they doing that?

Jack starts pounding on the door.

JACK

Let us out of here!

George runs up behind him and starts pounding as well.

GEORGE

I'm not a good comedian. I have stage fright.

The door flies open, knocking both to the ground, Jack on top and their legs entwined.

The landlord MR. DRUMMOND (early 60's) sticks his head in.

MR. DRUMMOND

Is everybody decent?

Applause from the invisible audience. Drummond looks down at the two men (who seem to be in a very compromising position).

MR. DRUMMOND (CONT'D)

Wrestling! I was all-star in high school.

Drummond walks inside, slamming the door shut before Jack can get free of George and reach it.

MR. DRUMMOND (CONT'D)

I tell you, the sport of kings. No helmets, no pads, no equipment. Just good old elbow grease.

Jack finally gets loose and storms towards Drummond.

JACK

I don't know who you are--

MR. DRUMMOND

The best possible exercise, too. Straining against another man, proving your worth every battle.

GEORGE

Excuse us? Sir, can you tell us why we're here?

MR. DRUMMOND

That's a good question, Brian!

JACK

Brian, huh?

George shakes his head.

GEORGE

I don't think that's my name.

MR. DRUMMOND

Why aren't you boys at work yet?

JACK

I don't understand the question.

MR. DRUMMOND

Is the tanning salon closed today?

Jack and George stare for a long moment, then Jake shrugs.

JACK

Yes?

MR. DRUMMOND

Well, that's peachy perfect!

GEORGE

Peachy perfect? I mean, it is?

MR. DRUMMOND

I know you've been looking for a third roommate to help with bills.

Jack is now watching Drummond with fascination.

JACK

I've seen this set-up before.

MR. DRUMMOND

I was surfing this morning and there he was, staring at the waves like he'd never seen one before.

Jack glances around the room and snaps his fingers.

JACK

It's a sitcom. I'm standing in the middle of a television set. And not the ironic, edgy, good ones.

MR. DRUMMOND

He looked so sad and I thought, "There's a perfectly good bedroom here waiting for the right person."

JACK

This is a crappy, TGIF one.

Laughter. Jack turns to whisper to George.

JACK (CONT'D)

I've got a plan.

GEORGE

You're crazy.

JACK

No, but I think he is. So we just let him talk until he opens the door again.

GEORGE

And then we scream for help?

JACK

Then we bust past him and escape.

GEORGE

What if he has a gun or something?

JACK

We die trying to save ourselves.

I don't want to die at all.

JACK

Trust me.

GEORGE

Trust you? I don't even KNOW you.

Laughter. George jumps. Jack nods in confirmation.

JACK

We could use the extra money.

MR. DRUMMOND

That was my thought. He should be here any minute.

GEORGE

Th-thank you, Mr...um---

He looks at Jack, panicking.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I don't know his name, either!

Mr. Drummond looks at them. Jack leaps into the silence.

JACK

Thanks, buddy. We appreciate it.

MR. DRUMMOND

Buddy?

He grabs Jack in a big bear hug against Jack's will.

MR. DRUMMOND (CONT'D)

I'm touched, Benny. I try to be a good landlord.

GEORGE

Benny?

JACK

There's no way that's my name.

Laughter.

MR. DRUMMOND

That you think of me as a friend and not just the person who gets your rent means the world to me.

JACK

Well, you're so...

GEORGE

(whispering)

Crazy.

JACK

FRIENDLY. What else could we possibly think of you?

GEORGE

(whispering)

You drugged us and put us here while you play Don Knotts?

Laughter. Jack elbows George to shut him up.

JACK

What can you tell us about our potential new roomie?

The doorbell RINGS.

MR. DRUMMOND

Why tell you when I can show you?

He dances like a drunk elf to the front door and opens it.

Walking into the room is LARRY, also 20's-30's, also generic.

MR. DRUMMOND (CONT'D)

Fellas, meet Dave.

LARRY

I don't think that's my name.

Laughter. Larry's eyebrows shoot up.

MR. DRUMMOND

Since you boys are both gay, I thought another man-lover would be perfect.

GEORGE

Hang on. I'm not gay.

JACK

Neither am I.

George gasps.

GEORGE

I wouldn't be so sure about that.

JACK

Why?

George points down.

GEORGE

Check out your clothing.

Jack looks. He's suddenly in very flamboyant 70's clothing.

JACK

What the <bleep>?

Audience gasps.

GEORGE

Say that again.

MR. DRUMMOND

If you were all straight, there'd be far too much sex in this apartment for me to live with.

JACK

What the

bleep> happened to my clothes?

Audience gasps again.

MR. DRUMMOND

But with three gay men together, the last thing I have to worry about is too much sex.

Laughter and applause.

LARRY

Dude, you're bleeping.

JACK

I know I am. I just don't
<bleep>ing know why.

LARRY

That's pretty amazing, man.

MR. DRUMMOND

You guys get to know each other. I'll see how it's going tomorrow.

He exits out. Jack races to the door. Larry's in the way.

LARRY

I wouldn't go out there, man.

Jack pushes Larry aside.

JACK

Just let me get out of here.

LARRY

That's the point, man. There is no out of here.

Jack looks back at Larry, hits his head on the door edge, promptly doing a pratfall. Laughter. The door shuts.

GEORGE

No way out?

LARRY

It was amazing, man. I could see painted stars. The waves were wood, turning on some mechanical device.

JACK

We're on a soundstage or something.

LARRY

I thought so, too, until I saw the sand.

GEORGE

What was wrong with it?

LARRY

It kept shifting.

JACK

Sand does that.

LARRY

From blue to green to pink?

Laughter.

GEORGE

This is completely <bleep>ing nuts.

LARRY

Now you're bleeping. Cool, man.

JACK

I don't know how, but I'm sure it's a trick.

My mother used to say that real magic exists and, if you weren't careful, it would capture you.

JACK

This isn't magic. It's a delusional millionaire playing sick games with unwitting subjects.

LARRY

Or the world broke and we've fallen through a crack in space-time.

JACK

No one's fallen through anywhere.

Jack starts moving towards one of the two bedroom doors.

JACK (CONT'D)

It's a prison. We find the emergency exit and we're home free--

He walks into one bedroom, immediately walks out the other.

JACK (CONT'D)

--and we sue the <bleep>...

He stops dead. He looks from one door to the other.

LARRY

Unless YOU'RE a magician, dude, maybe we better rethink the mom's words.

Laughter.

GEORGE

Boy, was SHE ever right.

Laughter increases.

The door Jack walked through opens. Two women stick their heads out--DIANE and RACHEL, late 20's, generically pretty.

DIANE

Is Mr. Drummond gone?

GEORGE

(faintly)

Yes.

RACHEL

Good, we thought he'd never leave.

DIANE

And we can't make love the way we want to when he's around.

LARRY

Make love? Are you two lesbians?

RACHEL

What are you talking about, silly?

DIANE

We meant with Benny.

JACK

Who?

The two girls giggle and latch onto him.

RACHEL

You're such a tease.

DIANE

You sure are. But in the bedroom, it's our turn.

The ladies wrap their arms around each other and give Jack seriously sexy looks.

JACK

Well, ain't THAT a kick in the pants.

Laughter, applause. The girls laugh. The men start laughing suddenly, as though they had no intention of doing so.

Everyone freezes in place for credits.

FADE OUT

FADE IN (EPISODE 2)

INT. - LIVING ROOM - DAY

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Scenes from an Italian Restaurant is filmed in front of a live studio audience.

George is wrapped in a blanket, eyes closed, rocking back and forth on the recliner.

(whispering)

There's no place like home, there's no place like home.

Larry exits bedroom #1, holding a full head Raggedy Andy mask on his shoulder.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

This is nothing but a dream, an illusion. I will open my eyes and see everything as it really is.

LARRY

Meditation. Nice.

GEORGE

Look, you delusion --

He opens his eyes to turn to Larry and comes face-to-face with the Raggedy Andy mask.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Jeezy Creezy!

He tumbles backwards off the recliner in fear. Laughter erupts from the non-existent audience.

LARRY

Cool mask, huh?

GEORGE

Why would you scare me like that?

LARRY

That was unintentional, man. I found it in the closet in our room.

GEORGE

The bedroom closet?

T.ARRY

Yeah. Just sitting on the dresser. I figured you got it for me.

GEORGE

How would I get you the mask anyway? We can't leave.

LARRY

I forgot about that.

How could you forget about being supernaturally locked into an apartment with a laugh track?

LARRY

I found pot in the closet, too.

Huge laughter. George flinches at it. Larry waves at no one.

GEORGE

What the heck are you doing?

LARRY

Giving them a show.

GEORGE

But there's no one there!

LARRY

I choose to believe in a larger reality, filled with probability waves that can and do collapse into infinite choices and which allow for a vast, complicated universe where everything can and does happen and where the fact that I can't see the laughing invisible audience doesn't mean they don't exist in a different frequency.

Larry pauses. George looks at him for a long moment.

GEORGE

That must be really good weed.

Laughter.

LARRY

Any weed you can walk away from is good weed.

Bigger laughter, clapping. Larry waves. George slaps him.

GEORGE

Snap out of it!

TARRY

Hey, man, I'm just here, you know?

Audience ROARS laughing; that's clearly Larry's catch-phrase.

Bedroom #2 opens. Jack storms out, holding a robot head mask.

JACK

Who put this on my bed?

GEORGE

It wasn't us! He's got one as well.

Larry lifts his mask.

JACK

How about you? Did you get one?

GEORGE

I sat out here all night.

LARRY

You want me to check?

GEORGE

Not in any way. Nope.

JACK

Yes. See if there's one for him.

Larry opens the door to Bedroom #1.

LARRY

Wow. That wasn't there, like, two minutes ago.

JACK

Now things just appear. We're being forced to play these stupid parts.

GEORGE

But why costumes? What are we supposed to do with them?

The front door opens and MRS. GARRETT, 60's and jolly, pushes in a cart carrying a bowl of liquid and dry ice. She's dressed like Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz.

MRS. GARRETT

Is everybody decent?

Audience ROARS its laughter. Mrs. Garrett preens slightly. The three men glance at each other, confused.

MRS. GARRETT (CONT'D)

Happy Halloween!

JACK

Who are you?

LARRY

That's Dorothy, man.

MRS. GARRETT

The store-owner said it was a great costume, but wow. It's me, your landlady. Mrs. Garrett.

LARRY

See the red slippers?

JACK

Landlady? Where's Mr. Drummond?

LARRY

I think Toto's in the punch bowl.

MRS. GARRETT

Benny. Never joking about the dead.

GEORGE

He died? Since yesterday?

JACK

That doesn't seem very sitcom.

MRS. GARRETT

Help me get the witch's brew ready for the party. The girls will be here any moment.

JACK

The girls? Just what we need.

GEORGE

You went to bed with them both.

Jack suddenly turns and slams George against the wall.

JACK

We will never speak about that moment. Never. Do you get me?

GEORGE

(stuttering)

Sure. My mother used to say that a gentleman never talks about a lady and a friend never asks.

Jack lets him go and shakes his head.

JACK

(whispering harshly)
They were like piranha.

He goes to help Mrs. Garrett with the punch.

GEORGE

Boy, was SHE ever right.

HUGE laughter. George flips the non-existence audience off.

Diane enters at the front door, also looking like Dorothy.

DIANE

Hi, boys. Miss me?

She skips to George, wraps her arms around him, kisses him.

DIANE (CONT'D)

How's my bestest boyfriend ever?

GEORGE

What?

JACK

What?

LARRY

Free love is awesome.

DIANE

You were incredible last night.

GEORGE

I think you have the wrong guy.

He points to Jack.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Don't you?

DIANE

No one's ever made me feel that way. And I've had lots of practice.

GEORGE

I think I've lost the plot.

JACK

Fantastic. Now the characters are
<ble>
<bre>
<bre>bleep>ing shifting, too.

LARRY

You're bleeping again.

MRS. GARRETT

Diane, you're got the same costume.

JACK

Good. Why don't you both <bleep> <bleep> all the <bleep> <bleep> to Emerald City.

DTANE

I guess good minds think alike.

LARRY

I don't think you can actually do that to your own mother.

MRS. GARRETT

How will the boys tell us apart?

JACK

Get me whoever is responsible for this. I'll make it happen anyway.

DIANE

My puppykins will be able to tell, won't you, sweetie?

She suddenly looks down at his clothes.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Why aren't you in your costume yet?

George pushes her away.

GEORGE

Nope. Not going to happen.

MRS. GARRETT

Brian, it IS a Halloween party.

GEORGE

I'm done. I'm not doing this anymore. Out. Finito. Kaput.

DIANE

I could help you get undressed, if you want. In the bedroom.

The audience "00000HS". She takes a sultry step towards him and he leaps over the sofa away.

GEORGE

No, thanks. I am just...just...

He looks around frantically and spots the bathroom door.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I'm just going to step in here for a moment. Pay no attention to me.

DIANE

Don't be a spoilsport.

T, ARRY

The universe impacts you how it wants to anyway, man, you know?

GEORGE

I'd prefer it impact me tomorrow.

LARRY

Pride goeth before a fall, that's all I'm saying.

GEORGE

There's no pride. There's no pride here at all. I'm just not going to be part of this insanity anymore.

He opens the bathroom door.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

You all have your fun, play your parts, whatever. I'll be in here until the party's over and done.

He enters the bathroom and slams the door.

JACK

I wonder if that'll work.

Audience laughs. The bathroom door opens and George walks out, wearing a werewolf costume.

GEORGE

I hate this place.

Louder laughter.

JACK

Well, ain't THAT a kick in the pants.

Audience laughs and claps. The front door opens again and Rachel enters, ALSO wearing a Dorothy costume.

RACHEL

Let's get this party started!

DIANE

Oh, no, not her too.

RACHEL

Why are you both in my costume?

MRS. GARRETT

Oh, boy. I don't think we're in Kansas anymore.

Laughter.

DIANE

No one will be able to tell which of us is which.

JACK

What are you talking about?

RACHEL

This could be a problem. Let's test it. Ladies, come here. Men, close your eyes.

The women all come together. Larry closes his eyes calmly.

JACK

But I can see your faces.

GEORGE

We're never getting out of here until we just do what it wants.

JACK

Fine.

He and George close their eyes.

RACHEL

Circle around each other until the boys are confused.

The women run around each other several times.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Benny, open your eyes and tell me which is which. Three, two, one.

Jack opens his eyes, points to the correct ones in turn.

JACK

Rachel, Diane, Mrs. Garrett.

DIANE

Gosh, you're right. It's super confusing.

JACK

No, I got it right. George, open your eyes and call them out.

George also points correctly.

GEORGE

Rachel, Diane, Mrs. Garrett.

RACHEL

Wait a minute. This could be fun.

JACK

But we know who you all are. Larry!

Larry opens his eyes.

LARRY

Whoa. I'm totally blown away.

DIANE

What do you mean?

GEORGE

The apartment's taking him over.

RACHEL

I mean, Brian IS cute.

LARRY

Three beautiful women, man. I'm blown away by three lovely visions.

RACHEL

And you've always said you thought Benny might be a great kisser.

JACK

But can you tell which is which?

DIANE

So you're saying we use the party as a chance to...compare notes.

LARRY

What's in a name, man? Labels are so restrictive.

RACHEL

With Mrs. Garrett as tie-breaker.

JACK

Just point to Rachel.

MRS. GARRETT

It has been over a decade since I got some sugar.

Laughter.

LARRY

At this moment in the space-time continuum, that one's Rachel.

He points correctly.

DIANE

Then you're in luck, Mrs. G., because Brian is totally sweet.

Laughter.

GEORGE

Benny?

JACK

That's not my name.

GEORGE

And this isn't the time to worry about that. I think we should be paying attention to the plot.

RACHEL

He may be sweet, but Benny will give you diabetes!

Laughter.

JACK

(to George)

One second.

(To Larry)

What are you talking about?

MRS. GARRETT

Then let's get to the evidence!

Laughter.

LARRY

Names are connected to a given moment in time, man. Change your name, you change who you are.

Seriously, Jack.

DTANE

Okay, ladies, round one!

She grabs Jack.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Hi, boyfriend. Let's go make out!

JACK

What are you talking about?

GEORGE

Told you it was important.

DIANE

Don't you want a moment alone with Rachel, the love of your life?

JACK

I know you're Diane.

She drags him into Bedroom #2. Rachel turns to George.

RACHEL

Brian, do you want some special time with me, Diane?

GEORGE

I don't think what I want matters very much in this hellhole.

Big laughter as she drags him into Bedroom #1.

Mrs. Garrett turns to Larry.

MRS. GARRETT

There's one room left.

She points to the bathroom door. Larry shrugs.

LARRY

I'm just here, man, you know?

Laughter and clapping as she drags him into the bathroom.

Several silent seconds. Then the women all dash out of their various rooms and step into a second room.

Silence again. Then they all switch to the third room.

All three doors open and the men traipse out. They are fully in costume now--Raggedy Andy, The Robot and the Werewolf. They calmly walk to the sofa and recliner, sit down.

The women all come out of the bathroom, giggling.

MRS. GARRETT

I hereby proclaim that all three of our boys are equally excellent.

RACHEL

You'll get no argument from me.

Laughter.

DIANE

I have a serious sweet tooth now.

More laughter.

MRS. GARRETT

I need to wet my whistle.

Laughter. The women head to the punch bowl.

Jack pulls off his mask.

JACK

I have never been so humiliated.

George pulls off his mask.

GEORGE

I think Mrs. Garrett's tongue was forked.

Larry pulls off his mask.

LARRY

I thought it was luminary.

The other two stare at him.

LARRY (CONT'D)

We've got two choices here, fellas. We can fight what's happening or we can recognize that life is a journey and accept this as what we deserve from the universe.

Jack stares at him for a long moment.

JACK

Go <bleep> yourself.

LARRY

You're a fighter. I can grok that.

GEORGE

I'm not a fighter or an accepter. I'm a coward. I want to go home.

LARRY

You are home, man.

GEORGE

Don't you ever say that!

LARRY

Just pay no attention to the man behind the curtain.

GEORGE

There's a man behind the curtain?

He leaps to his feet and runs to pull the curtain aside.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

My mother told me never to listen to addicts.

JACK

Boy, was SHE ever right.

Laughter, turns to serious clapping. The ladies stroll back.

DIANE

Boys, we have a little secret.

JACK

You switched around and all kissed all of us.

RACHEL

We switched around and all kissed all of you.

LARRY

Whoa. That means when I was in the bathroom, you were there—and you were there.

He points to each lady in turn.

MRS. GARRETT

That's right. We're sorry we tricked you. We couldn't resist it when we all looked alike.

Diane wraps her arms around George, Rachel around Jack.

RACHEL

Do you forgive us?

GEORGE

Do I have a choice?

DIANE

We'll make it up to you tonight.

JACK

You forced us to kiss all three of you for a contest, couldn't decide which was the best and now pay no

>bleep>ing attention to the fact that we knew who was who all along.

MRS. GARRETT

Halloween is for tricks and treats.

Clapping.

JACK

And you want us to be okay with this because it's acceptable behavior for some sadistic entity?

RACHEL

You can wear the dress later, pookie. I know you'll like that.

Jack stares at her.

GEORGE

Well, ain't THAT a kick in the pants.

The characters all laugh as the audience cheers. They freeze in place--but the men can still move their eyes.

Credits roll.

FADE OUT

FADE IN (EPISODE 3)

INT. - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Larry sleeps on the sofa, still wearing werewolf gloves.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

When I Think About You, I Touch Myself is filmed in front of a live studio audience.

Larry sits up at voice, see no one else, speaks to the air.

T.ARRY

Okay, omnipotent dude. It's just you and me. Can we have a heart to heart about why we're here?

He listens for an answer.

LARRY (CONT'D)

I accept that this might be purgatory and we are expiating our sins before our next reality.

There is no response.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Or this could be a multidimensional shift to an alien world where reality appears as a threecamera, one-location situational comedy for the amusement of interdimensional beings that are far beyond our understanding.

No answer.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Or perhaps you're simply some demonically psychotic screenwriter who's torturing us as the premise for his streaming web series. Whatever the answer, I am ready for illumination in whatever form.

A banana peel falls past him from somewhere above and lands on the floor. Larry stares at it.

The Narrator clears his throat before speaking again.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

I Got Friends in Low Place is filmed before a live studio audience.

LARRY

Knowledge through action. I dig it.

He stands up, takes a deep, calming breath and intentionally steps on the peel, sliding off his feet and onto his back.

Laughter rolls out.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(from the ground)

At least I know THAT action hurt.

Bigger laughter and clapping.

Bedroom Door #1 opens and Rachel steps out quietly, dressed in a French maid's outfit. She sneaks for the front door.

The front door lock turns and she leaps over the sofa, landing flat on top of Larry.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Whoa. This is far cooler than the banana peel.

RACHEL

Quiet, Dave!

The front door opens and Mr. Drummond sticks his head in.

MR. DRUMMOND

Is everybody decent?

Big laughter.

LARRY

Decent? Hey, I'm just here, man, you know?

Bigger laughter and whistling.

Rachel claps her hand over Larry's mouth. Mr. Drummond walks into the room, holding a case of beer.

MR. DRUMMOND

I've got the beer for the poker game tonight. Hello? Boys?

Not seeing anyone, he heads for the kitchen table.

MR. DRUMMOND (CONT'D)

I'll just leave the case here for when they get back from the salon.

Rachel gets up and starts trying to sneak back into the bedroom, just as Mr. Drummond turns around.

MR. DRUMMOND (CONT'D)

Goodness! Who are you? What are you doing in here?

Rachel turns to him with a big plastered smile.

RACHEL

Voulez-vous coucher avec moi ce soir?

MR. DRUMMOND

Goodness! Are you here to upholster the couch?

Laughter. Larry leaps to his feet.

LARRY

Mr. Drummond, I didn't hear you come in.

MR. DRUMMOND

Goodness!

Laughter.

MR. DRUMMOND (CONT'D)

I didn't know you'd hired a maid.

Larry steps over to Rachel.

LARRY

She's new. Her name is Babette.

RACHEL

(smiling wide)

Tu aurais envie de faire l'amour ce soir?

MR. DRUMMOND

Well, envie de faire to you!.

Larry gives her his costume gloves.

LARRY

Here's the dusters you wanted. If you could clean in the bedroom, next, that would be super awesome.

RACHEL

Sacré bleu, soupe du jour.

She dashes into Bedroom #1 just as Bedroom #2's door opens. Diane attempts to sneak out, wearing a sexy nurse's outfit.

MR. DRUMMOND

Goodness Gracious! Is Jack sick?

Larry spots Diane, who freezes with a plastered smile on her face, then turns back to Mr. Drummond.

LARRY

I'm bad at deception, man. You're gonna have to ask her on this one.

Laughter. Diane steps forward and speaks authoritatively.

DIANE

Jack has a severe case of LOD.

MR. DRUMMOND

LOD?

DIANE

Longnightus Overstimulitory Disease.

MR. DRUMMOND

My word. Is that serious?

DIANE

It causes dehydration, blurred vision and lethargy in men.

MR. DRUMMOND

Will he be up for our game tonight?

DIANE

A blue pill, 30 minutes--all set.

Laughter.

MR. DRUMMOND

Then I'll leave you to it, Nurse...

DIANE

Ratchet.

Laughter. She shakes Mr. Drummond's hand firmly and only then realizes that she has handcuffs attached.

MR. DRUMMOND

What are those for?

She looks at them for a long moment.

DIANE

These are family tree bracelets for close families.

LARRY

Diane and I are cousins, man. See?

He reaches over and snaps the other handcuff onto his wrist. Laughter.

LARRY (CONT'D)

So we remember we're related.

MR. DRUMMOND

Well, ain't THAT a kick in the pants.

Huge laughter. Mr. Drummond departs.

Larry suddenly stares down at his wrist.

T.ARRY

DIANE

Why did I do that?

Why did you do that?

LARRY

Free will is an imperative, and yet I acted like Dave for a moment.

DTANE

We lost the keys last night!

LARRY

If I no longer control my actions, this is going to be a real bummer.

Bedroom Door #1 opens for Rachel and George.

GEORGE

But why were you in MY room?

RACHEL

You were not THAT drunk, loveypoo.

GEORGE

You were dating Jack yesterday.

RACHEL

I wore this because you asked me.

Audience "oooohhhs".

GEORGE

This is getting so confusing.

RACHEL

You're telling me. I've never let a man do that to me before.

Audience "oooohhhs".

Bedroom Door #2 opens for Jack.

JACK

Anyone know why I woke up with a thermometer enema?

Laughter.

JACK (CONT'D)

Shut up, audience!

Audience "oooohhhs".

LARRY

They're really active this time.

GEORGE

It's like a pack of hyenas.

RACHEL

Benny, did you find the handcuffs?

GEORGE

Or coyotes sensing fresh road kill.

JACK

No idea what you're talking about.

GEORGE

Or a pack of wild, feral, rabid dogs when we've got broken legs.

Audience "oooohhhs" and George leaps behind the sofa with a frightened YELP. Everyone else ignores him.

DIANE

Mr. Drummond saw me in the outfit you bought for me and Dave got handcuffed to me by accident trying to save your "gay" cover.

JACK

So we're dating.

DIANE

Like you don't know that!

JACK

And Rachel, you're dating George?

RACHEL

Not if he keeps treating me like he just did, after I persuaded your landlord I was the new French maid.

JACK

And Mr. Drummond is back again, even though he was dead yesterday.

LARRY

It freaked me out, too, man, but I saw him with my own eyes.

JACK

Well, that sounds completely right.

GEORGE

(from behind the sofa)

It does?

JACK

Yep. Absolutely

sleep>ing

from the previous story.

GEORGE

When you put it that way.

He stands up.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

So what are we going to do? I don't think I can stand this any longer.

DIANE

We have to find the handcuff keys.

JACK

If the landlord met the girls and they're pretending not to be our girlfriends, that means we're in a mistaken identity plot.

DIANE

Benny, check the living room.

GEORGE

Those stories are terrible. Someone always ends up wearing a dress.

RACHEL

Brian and I used the handcuffs last week. I'll check our bedroom.

It's going to be me.

TARRY

I have two important bits of news.

Rachel goes into Bedroom Door #1. Diane starts walking to Bedroom Door #2, dragging Larry.

JACK

A good plan requires intel. Go.

LARRY

One--

Diane enters Bedroom #2. Larry grabs the door frame.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Mr. Drummond is supposed to play poker with us tonight.

JACK

I imagine that's when the comedy gold is supposed to begin.

GEORGE

Pearls and heels, I just know it.

LARRY

Two--something changed today. I--

DIANE (O.S.)

Dave, help me lift the bed!

Larry abruptly disappears backwards into the bedroom.

LARRY (O.S.)

She's violently strong for her size.

Both doors shut. We move to a close up on Jack and George in the following dialogue.

JACK

I used to watch shows like this all the time when I was a kid.

GEORGE

I wasn't allowed to watch TV. Then I got my mother admitted. That helped.

JACK

The important thing in a plot like this is that the story won't end until the handcuffs come off.

GEORGE

So?

JACK

So we're going to have to leave Larry behind.

GEORGE

But that's terrible.

JACK

It's necessary. Mr. Drummond is going to come back. We'll play poker which he'll win. The girls will barely succeed in keeping their cover. Only after he's gone will either someone find the key or they'll pop off on their own.

GEORGE

This all seems so contrived.

JACK

Sitcoms always are. If we want out, we have to break the system.

GEORGE

We've tried that already and it didn't work.

JACK

This time we know what's coming. We wait by the door. When Drummond comes in, we rush him backwards and break the story completely.

GEORGE

I don't know if I can do violence. It frightens me.

JACK

Then I'll go without you.

GEORGE

You wouldn't!

JACK

I damn well would. What's it going to be, Whoever Your Name is?

JACK (CONT'D)

Are you going to stand up with me or are you going to fold?

We pull back and everyone now sits at the poker table, with cards, chips and beer. The game's been going on for a while.

GEORGE

I fold.

He tosses his cards down and only then realizes where he is. He whimpers softly and passes out.

MR. DRUMMOND

Benny, the bet's \$200 to you.

Jack looks into the air.

JACK

When I find the man responsible, put that \$200 on me.

Audience "oooohhhs." Jack growls to shut them up.

MR. DRUMMOND

How long have you been in the United States, Babette?

RACHEL

Ménage à trois, merci beaucoup.

LARRY

I think that means three years.

George suddenly screams in his sleep.

GEORGE

My God, it's full of stars!

He jerks violently awake, knocking the chips off the table. Rachel bends over to pick them up and Mr. Drummond's eyes go wide as he sees under her skirt.

MR. DRUMMOND

Goodness, goodness gracious!

Jack glances over and his eyes go wide, too.

JACK

Rachel--Babette, please stand up.

Why, monsieur?

MR. DRUMMOND

Why are you bare under your skirt?

Rachel leaps to her feet, yanking her skirt down.

GEORGE

(weakly)

In France, they don't wear panties when it's over 60 degrees.

MR. DRUMMOND

Really?

LARRY

It's a cultural difference, man. It makes the world so beautiful.

JACK

(sarcastically)

Besides, what do we care? We're gay, right? Oh, and I fold.

Laughter.

JACK (CONT'D)

I will get you all.

MR. DRUMMOND

That's true, Only a straight man would have found that interesting.

An awkward pause.

MR. DRUMMOND (CONT'D)

So how much does she cost again?

Larger laughter.

LARRY

Under duress of my diminishing free will, I know that the answer to that question is \$50 a day.

GEORGE

Why do you ask?

Mr. Drummond shows his hand.

MR. DRUMMOND

Full house. That's a week's salary.

Laughter.

MR. DRUMMOND (CONT'D)

And boy, is my apartment dirty.

Audience "oooohhhs". Jack starts coughing at the phrasing.

MR. DRUMMOND (CONT'D)

Nurse, get your pills!

Diane holds up the handcuffs, still attached to Lenny. Mr Drummond picks up a thermometer.

MR. DRUMMOND (CONT'D)

Then let's take your temperature.

Before Jack can stop him, Drummond sticks the thermometer from earlier in Jack's mouth. He gags and spits it out.

Audience laughs.

LARRY

They're winning, man. We are being coopted by the system.

JACK

Not while I'm standing.

GEORGE

What if we don't have any control? What if this goes on forever?

JACK

It'll fail at some point. And when it does, we'll be ready.

Mr. Drummond stands up.

MR. DRUMMOND

Here's \$50, Babette. Come work for me tonight.

Rachel looks at the men in panic. They just look back at her, unwilling to help in any way.

RACHEL

Faux pas, fait accompli.

Laughter. Rachel and Mr. Drummond leave.

GEORGE

My mother used to say that TV was the devil's realm. And his playground, too. Jack looks at George for a long moment. He looks back.

Suddenly the handcuffs fall off both Rachel and Larry's wrists at the same time.

JACK

GEORGE

Boy, was SHE ever right.

Boy, was SHE ever right.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Even if her metaphors were a little confused.

Everyone freezes. Credits roll. As the audience sclap, Jack glares at the camera and the claps slowly die off to nothing.

FADE OUT

FADE IN (EPISODE 4)

Dim lights. A large blanket covers something on the sofa.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Your Cheating Heart is filmed in front of a live studio audience.

Movement under the blanket. Jack's head pops out at one end, Diane's at the other.

JACK/DIANE

I don't remember ending up here.

DIANE

Oh, no, Benny. What have we done?

JACK

Oh, no. What do you mean?

DIANE

What did we do last night?

JACK

As far as I know, nothing. The last thing I remember was the poker game.

Both of them have the blanket tucked close around their necks. Diane lifts the blanket to look down at herself.

DIANE

Then why am I naked?

Jack lifts the blanket to look down at himself.

JACK

I could ask you the same question.

Audience laughs. Jack's head snaps up.

JACK (CONT'D)

And here we go again.

Audience laughs louder.

JACK (CONT'D)

Let's just do the exposition fast, Diane, if you don't mind.

DIANE

I can't believe I let this happen.

JACK

So who are you dating right now?

DIANE

How could you ask that question?

JACK

So not me, then.

DIANE

You know I love Brian.

JACK

But we've had intense sexual tension building for weeks, right?

Audience "oooohhhs". Jack snaps his fingers.

JACK (CONT'D)

You all stay out of it.

DIANE

Yes, but we refused to act on it.

JACK

Because you have Brian.

DIANE

And you have Rachel.

JACK

And you remember drinking a lot last night, don't you?

DIANE

I remember having some drinks, yes.

JACK

And was there some fight or unresolved issue between you and whatever-his-real-name-is?

DIANE

I told him I loved him and he just said, "Right back at ya."

Audience laughs, stops abruptly as Jack points at the camera.

TACK

Last <bleep>ing warning.

Audience "oooohhhs". Jack shrugs.

JACK (CONT'D)

I'll give you that one.

He turns back to Diane.

JACK (CONT'D)

Good news. We've haven't done anything wrong.

DIANE

How can you say that? We're both naked. Under a blanket. Together.

JACK

Doesn't matter.

DIANE

I know that I've wanted you.

JACK

Irrelevant.

DIANE

And you've wanted me.

JACK

Previously, I've already had you.

DIANE

I think we have to accept that we made love.

JACK

And that's where the comedy is supposed to come in. Couldn't this universe at least have an original narrative?

He stands up, leaving the blanket behind, and is in boxers. Diane remains under the covers.

DTANE

Benny, drop the blanket! I'm naked!

Jack looks at her confused as she grabs for nothing on the floor and bundles it around her as though the blanket had come off her, instead of remaining exactly where it was.

JACK

Interesting. If you move fast, the world can't keep up.

He looks at the camera.

JACK (CONT'D)

I've got you now.

He continues looking at the camera.

JACK (CONT'D)

And I just told you your weakness.

Audience laughs. It sounds gleeful and perhaps malevolent.

Bedroom Door #2 opens and George walks out.

GEORGE

Here we go again, I assume.

Diane quickly covers herself with the blanket.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Let me guess. I'm not supposed to see her, right?

JACK

She's naked and thinks she cheated on you with me.

GEORGE

Sure. That makes sense.

He drops heavily onto the chair.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

The ongoing switches make me dizzy.

JACK

They're making me angry.

GEORGE

Really? How's that going for you?

JACK

Impotently.

GEORGE

So did you sleep with her?

JACK

No, I'm sure that was the same.

The front door opens and Mrs. Garrett sticks her head inside.

MRS. GARRETT

Is everybody decent?

Audience laughs and claps.

JACK

You tell me.

He flashes his boxers at her. She ignores him and enters.

MRS. GARRETT

George, why do you look so dejected?

GEORGE

There's like a dozen reasons.

MRS. GARRETT

I'm sure she'll come back as soon as she's calmed down.

GEORGE

What?

MRS. GARRETT

I'm sure she'll come back as soon as she's calmed down.

GEORGE

Who will?

MRS. GARRETT

I'm sure she'll come back as soon as she's calmed down.

George shrugs at Jack. Jack steps in front of Mrs. Garrett.

JACK

Mrs. G. Do you like my boxers?

No response. He jumps up and down.

No response. He flings his hips back and forth.

JACK (CONT'D)

It's like she's frozen.

GEORGE

Or a robot.

JACK

There has to be a way to get a rise out of her.

He starts to yank down the boxers.

The screen suddenly cuts to an old black and white card that says "Please Stand By"

NARRATOR (V.O.)

We are experiencing technical difficulties. Please stand by.

Cut back to Jack, his boxers up, wearing a blonde rocker wig and a feather boa around his neck. He's wrapped around George, who now is also in boxers with a strap-on dildo attached to his forehead.

The two look at each other for a long, long moment.

JACK

<ble><ble>>.

GEORGE

Maybe I should just answer Mrs. G?

JACK

And never mention this again.

GEORGE

Right.

JACK

Ever.

GEORGE

Nope.

They stare at each other for another long, long moment.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

<ble>
bleep>

MRS. GARRETT

I'm sure she'll come back as soon as she's calmed down.

Suddenly George is back in clothing and Jack is back under the blanket, just his head visible. He YELPS and Mrs. Garrett turns to look at him just as he covers himself completely.

GEORGE

(pulling her attention)
You mean Diane? I don't know. She was pretty...

He tilts his head towards the blanket.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

(whispering)

What did I do?

JACK

(from under the blanket)
Gave her the idiot stereotypical
male response to "I Love You."

George thinks for a moment.

GEORGE

I gave her a fake name and never called her again?

There is a pause.

JACK

Close enough.

George turns back to Mrs. Garrett.

GEORGE

She was pretty mad.

MRS. GARRETT

But you love her and she knows that. She'll come around.

GEORGE

Um...okay?

MRS. GARRETT

You do love her, right?

George looks at her. Grabs a coin from his pocket, flips it.

GEORGE

I call tails.

MRS. GARRETT

You do love her, right?

GEORGE

Hang on, hang on. Working on it.

He checks the coin.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Damn.

MRS. GARRETT

You do love--

GEORGE

Yes!

Diane gasps. Mrs. Garrett turns to the sofa.

MRS. GARRETT

What was that?

GEORGE

Nothing. At least, I think that's what I'm supposed to say.

MRS. GARRETT

I can see something moving under that blanket.

GEORGE

I don't see anything. Did you forget your glasses?

Audience laughs.

MRS. GARRETT

Don't be impertinent, young man. I am your landlord. you will explain what is going on this instant.

Diane BARKS from beneath the blanket.

GEORGE

It's a dog.

MRS. GARRETT

A dog?

Then Jack barks, but his sounds angry.

GEORGE

Two dogs. We're babysitting two dogs for a friend on vacation.

MRS. GARRETT

Dogs are against your lease, Brian.

Diane whimpers sympathetically.

GEORGE

Yes, yes, I, um, know that. Or the story demands it or something. But can't you hear how cute the dog is?

Jack growls.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

See? Sounds so sweet.

Audience laughs.

MRS. GARRETT

Why are they under the blanket?

She moves to remove the blanket. George intercepts her.

GEORGE

They're having a litter, so we gave them some privacy.

Diane makes several different baby dog noises.

MRS. GARRETT

Well, it sounds like they're done.

She attempts to lift the blanket again and Jack speak barks.

JACK

Back off!

She drops the blanket.

MRS. GARRETT

Oh, my goodness!

GEORGE

The father's there, too, and really protective of his female.

JACK

(speak barking)
That's right, bitch.

Audience laughs. Jack yanks his head out and glares at the world. Mrs. Garrett turns to George and fails to see him.

MRS. GARRETT

I guess it was nice of you boys to give the dogs a safe birthing room.

She turns to the blanket and George draws her attention back.

GEORGE

Our friend's coming back tonight. I promise they'll be gone as soon as he gets here.

Mrs. Garrett reaches behind her to pet the blanket just as Jack sticks his head out again.

JACK

Get her out of here, George.

MRS. GARRETT

It's not a good idea to move puppies too soon, Brian.

GEORGE

Why is she holding her hand right above your head?

MRS. GARRETT

They can stay here until Monday.

JACK

Obviously, I'm supposed to pretend I'm a dog and lick it.

MRS. GARRETT

But I want the sofa professionally cleaned when they're gone.

GEORGE

Just do it. I don't want to see her get stuck again. It's freaky.

JACK

Someone is going to pay for this.

He bares his teeth as though he's going to bite her hand and then licks it once instead.

JACK (CONT'D)

(disgusted)

Oh God, she tastes like spinach.

Audience laughs. He yanks his head back under as she turns.

MRS. GARRETT

You take care of those puppies, doggies.

GEORGE

We'll take good care of them.

She starts to walk to the front door.

MRS. GARRETT

Tell your friend if he wants to sell a puppy to let me know.

JACK

(speak barking)

Just get out!

Mrs. Garrett turns back.

MRS. GARRETT

What did you say?

GEORGE

Just get out...of town. I didn't know you liked puppies!

Audience laughs.

MRS. GARRETT

They're not just MAN's best friend, young man.

Audience laughs louder as she leaves.

Jack and Diane both drop the blanket from their head.

DIANE

Brian, you do love me!

George just stands there.

JACK

Well, say something.

GEORGE

Why are you under a blanket, Diane?

DIANE

I...I...I...

She breaks into sobs.

GEORGE

This is not my best area.

JACK

Just hug her so we can move on to a new and hopefully better episode. I need time to think.

George awkwardly moves to hug Diane.

DIANE

I think I've ruined everything!

GEORGE

I'm sure everything's fine?

DIANE

Benny, tell him what we did.

JACK

Nothing.

DIANE

But we're both naked under the same blanket!

JACK

Still nothing. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

DIANE

Can you ever forgive me?

GEORGE

This is far too stressful for me. My mother always told me getting involved in conflict would hurt me.

The blanket moves again and suddenly Rachel's head pokes up, in between Jack and Diane. George SCREAMS at the sudden extra character and leaps backward, trips and falls over the chair.

RACHEL

Could you all PLEASE keep it down? I'm trying to sleep here.

DIANE

(suddenly quietly)
Boy, was SHE ever right!

Audience hoots and claps.

JACK

You were there the whole time?

RACHEL

Of course I was.

JACK

Well, ain't THAT a kick in the pants.

Audience howls with delight.

JACK (CONT'D)

Dammit, now I'm doing it.

RACHEL

We all fell asleep together.

JACK

Are you naked, too?

RACHEL

What else would I be?

DIANE

It's worse than I thought.

JACK

Hang on. What happened last night?

RACHEL

After Diane helped Mr. Drummond and Brian passed out, the three of us decided to play strip poker.

JACK

I thought as much.

RACHEL

You won, of course, but just barely. Not that I don't love the sight of you in just those boxers I bought you for Christmas.

Audience "oooohhhs". Jack looks out at them.

JACK

At least you recognize sexy when you see it.

Audience laughs.

GEORGE

Don't encourage them!

JACK

Right, sorry.

DIANE

So nothing else happened?

RACHEL

Of course not. You both passed out. I was too tired to move anyone to a bedroom.

(MORE)

RACHEL (CONT'D)

So I just grabbed a blanket to keep us from getting cold.

DTANE

Oh, Brian! Everything's okay!

GEORGE

At least from your point of view.

RACHEL

Yep, everything's perfect.

She snuggles close to Jack, who recoils from the touch.

GEORGE

All I see is things getting weirder by the moment.

JACK

Speaking of weird, where the heck is Whatever-his-name-is?

GEORGE

You mean Dave?

JACK

That's not his name. But yes.

GEORGE

I don't know.

Suddenly the bathroom door flies open and Larry bursts in. He looks like Tom Hanks from Castaway. Barefoot, clothes shredded, bushy beard, straggly hair. There's even sand.

LARRY

That was not awesome.

GEORGE

What happened to you?

Larry dashes to George and grabs him. Sand falls everywhere.

LARRY

I wasn't in the episode.

GEORGE

We know.

Larry leans in closer and speaks intensely.

LARRY

Don't ever not be in the episode.

GEORGE

You mean--

T.ARRY

I was just not here, man, you know?

Audience laughs louder than ever before. Jack slips out from Rachel's embrace.

JACK

We've got to make a plan soon.

GEORGE

Yeah, this is getting dangerous.

LARRY

Getting? Man, it's way past got.

DIANE

You know what would help right now?

The three men slowly turn to look at her.

GEORGE

What?

DIANE

Let's play strip poker again! Now where are my clothes?

She and Rachel laugh and freeze in place.

LARRY

Well, ain't THAT--

And then they freeze too, straining to keep moving and failing. The audience claps as the Credits Roll.

FADE OUT

FADE IN (EPISODE 5)

INT. - LIVING ROOM - DAY

George sits on one side of the sofa, Rachel in his lap. Jack sits on the other edge of the sofa. Larry sits on the chair.

Everyone is apparently asleep.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

As Time Goes By is filmed in front of a live studio audience.

Everyone's eyes snap open. Rachel begins acting in midstream.

RACHEL

--and that's when I knew I was in love with you, snookiepuns.

She kisses George deeply. His eyes go wide as she snuggles.

GEORGE

(whispering)

Help.

JACK

I am getting really sick and tired of these lapses in time.

LARRY

Well, man, mediated entertainment is reliant on edits.

JACK

What?

RACHEL

I never believed in "the one," Brian, until you came along.

LARRY

Film and television use cuts to move directly to the action, man.

GEORGE

Help.

LARRY

I mean, that's how it works.

JACK

We're time jumping just to get to the next important plot moment?

RACHEL

Speaking of the one, when are you going to give Diane the ring, Dave?

LARRY

What?

JACK

Hold up. HE's dating Diane, now?

GEORGE

Help.

You've had it for weeks. Are you getting cold feet?

LARRY

Um...um...

JACK

I guess that was the next important moment in the story, huh?

LARRY

I'm just here, man, you know?

Audience howls. Larry flinches as he looks out at nothing.

RACHEL

She's not going to wait forever.

She turns to George and smiles prettily.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Neither am I.

GEORGE

Get the <bleep> off me!

He leaps to his feet, dropping Rachel on her ass. She continues to act as though she's on his lap.

RACHEL

Do you remember the day we all met?

GEORGE

Yeah, it was like 30 minutes ago.

RACHEL

Diane and I were both soaked from that unexpected downpour.

She snuggles closer to where George would be, if she were still in his lap.

JACK

That is <bleep>ing creepy.

Audience laughs.

LARRY

I think something's wrong.

GEORGE

I think so, too.

JACK

When isn't something wrong?

Audience laughs louder.

RACHEL

You were all wearing goofy bowling league shirts that were too small.

T.ARRY

Do you hear the audience? They're responding to everything we say.

GEORGE

It's much worse than that.

RACHEL

You let us into the apartment and said--

GEORGE/RACHEL

We've never had women who were this wet in here before.

George claps his hands over his mouth in horror.

GEORGE

I remember it happening. There's a brand new memory in my head.

LARRY

Wow. I remember that, too, now.

JACK

Oh, crap.

He drops his head into his hands.

GEORGE

What is it? What's happening to us?

JACK

It's a clip episode.

Audience laughs and then the world goes blurry as we

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The front door opens with the sound of RAIN. Jack, George and Larry dash into the room, wearing "Purgatory Bowling League" shirts that are far too small.

Rachel and Diane follow, soaked and in COSplay outfits. Lightning/THUNDER follows.

GEORGE

We've never had women who were this wet in here before.

DIANE

With you guys' sense of style, I find that hard to believe.

Audience laughs.

JACK

These aren't our shirts. They belong to the women's team.

RACHEL

Here's where you tell us you charmed the ladies out of them.

GEORGE

Here's where we tell you they stole our clothes from the locker room.

Audience laughs, as do Rachel and Diane.

LARRY

They were not nice ladies.

DIANE

They stole all your clothes?

JACK

No, of course not.

GEORGE

Yes, every single piece.

RACHEL

Then whose pants are you wearing?

A long beat. Thunder/Lightning. Another long beat.

JACK

Those homeless guys were already passed out.

GEORGE

We'll get deloused in the morning.

DIANE

Oh, my god.

Did you take their underwear, too?

The men look at each other.

DIANE

Did you?

JACK

They didn't have any on.

GEORGE

But there was this pile of G-strings next to them.

LARRY

I think they got them from the strip club they were sleeping behind.

The girls shriek and dash back out the front door.

Audience laughs loudly as the world goes blurry and we

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The three men are seated again. Rachel is in George's lap.

RACHEL

--swore I'd never see you again.

She kisses George. This time he just bears it.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

I'm so glad I changed my mind,
aren't you?

GEORGE

Can I answer when I'm no longer nauseous?

LARRY

Wow. I totally remember it now.

GEORGE

And we've spacially reset to zero.

JACK

I do not like this.

Rachel kisses George on the mouth, a deep passionate kiss. When she pulls back, George looks truly about to vomit.

GEORGE

You don't like it? I've got a woman draped over my lap, kissing me every time I turn around and nuzzling one hand against my crotch every couple of seconds.

The other two men look at George, then his crotch. Rachel's hand sneaks down behind her hip. All three men watch.

LARRY

You're not enjoying that?

GEORGE

<bleep>. Maybe I am gay.

Audience laughs.

From Bedroom #1, Diane's voice is heard.

DIANE

I'm finally out of the shower!

RACHEL

Dave, do it now. It's your 6-month anniversary, right?

LARRY

I don't think I've ever been with a woman for that long.

JACK

Really?

LARRY

I'm a tumbleweed, man. I blow with the wind.

Audience laughs. Diane walks out, wearing a silk robe, hair under a towel. She kisses Larry and settles onto his lap.

DIANE

So did you tell them?

T.ARRY

Did I tell them what?

DIANE

The big surprise.

Ooh, I love surprises.

GEORGE

I don't.

LARRY

Surprises are when life is most interesting, I think.

DIANE

That's not what you said our first night together.

LARRY

JACK

Really? What did I say? No! Don't let her start another story!

DIANE (CONT'D)

I'd just put on the handcuffs after getting onto the bed.

The world blurs once more as we

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Diane lies on her back on a bed, hands tied to the bedpost with pink, fuzzy handcuffs.

Oh, no, it's Eager Beagle, come to ravage my virginity!

LARRY (O.S.)

I do not enjoy surprises like this.

He's wearing a full dog suit minus the head he's holding.

Whatever shall I do? He's going to start playing with his bone.

Audience laughs. The sneering undertones cannot be ignored.

LARRY

Can we just stop for a moment and talk about this?

RACHEL (O.S.)

Don't be such a coward, Dave!

Rachel has a camera aimed at the bed. George stands next to her, his neck chained to her wrist, in a Snow White costume.

T.ARRY

This is almost worse than not being in the episode.

Audience laughs.

RACHEL

If we get done by 11, I can upload this to AltSexTube by midnight.

DIANE

You will NOT make us miss the contest deadline, sweetheart.

LARRY

I won't?

DIANE

Not if you still want to go to the bathroom standing up.

Audience laughs.

Larry looks at Diane and then at the head.

LARRY

Can I take a moment to decide which
is worse?

Audience laughs.

GEORGE

My mother told me never to date a woman with a tongue piercing because I'd get in over my head.

RACHEL

Once more, from the top.

GEORGE

Boy, was she ever right.

Audience CLAPS and SCREAMS its delight.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

(weakly)

Help.

RACHEL

Chained

Take 5. Action.

Larry sighs, put the head on and BARKS.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Everyone is back in their same place.

DIANE

--sixteen takes to get it right!

She and Rachel both laugh.

JACK

What happened? I wasn't in that flashback.

GEORGE LARRY

Nothing.

Nothing.

JACK (CONT'D)
We have GOT to get out of here, and
I mean right now.

He gets up to do just that as the front door opens and Mr. Drummond sticks his head into the room.

MR. DRUMMOND

Is everybody decent?

Audience HOWLS as the ladies immediately leap off the men and start frantically kissing on the floor.

JACK

There's nothing decent going on here, ever.

Audience laughs. Mr. Drummond spots the women.

MR. DRUMMOND

That's nice, Benny.

JACK

Not my name.

MR. DRUMMOND

I just came by to see if you boys were willing to...

He trails off as he enters the room, watching the women who are getting more passionate in an entirely fake way.

JACK

To?

MR. DRUMMOND

To...

He walks to the fridge.

LARRY

Mr. Dummond, are you okay?

MR. DRUMMOND

Oh, yes, fine, fine.

He gets a beer and starts walking back.

GEORGE

Sir, we're a little busy here.

JACK

What did you want to tell us?

Mr. Drummond sits on the chair, watching the women.

MR. DRUMMOND

I've completely forgotten.

Audience laughs.

JACK

Then why don't you come back when you remember?

He holds open the door and gestures out.

MR. DRUMMOND

It'll come back to me. One second.

He watches the women, who are now completely at a loss as to what they can do without it becoming graphic.

JACK

We do pay rent. Unless you have reason, we're asking you to leave.

MR. DRUMMOND

ONE MORE MINUTE, Benny!

GEORGE

There's no reason to yell.

MR. DRUMMOND

You don't know how long it's been since I've had something this stimulating to watch.

Audience laughs.

MR. DRUMMOND (CONT'D)

The Vampire Housewives of O.C. just doesn't cut it.

Audience laughs louder.

LARRY

This is getting exploitative, man. I think you should go.

MR. DRUMMOND

You boys don't understand. Not only are you young, but you're not energized by the same things I am.

JACK

Well, they're lesbians. Not interested in men at any age.

MR. DRUMMOND

Well, that just makes it harder.

Audience laughs.

GEORGE

What?

MR. DRUMMOND

To leave. Harder to leave. But I think I can help you understand.

JACK

Stop him!

He leaps over the sofa to shut Mr. Drummond up but gets tangled into George, who's trying to do the same. Then they both trip over the women.

MR. DRUMMOND

You remember that time I came in and you boys were wrestling?

LARRY

This is going to be bad, man.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mr. Drummond opens the front door and sticks his head in.

MR. DRUMMOND

Is everybody decent?

The camera pulls pack and all three main characters are wearing only underwear, covered in baby oil and wrapped around each other, heads in each other crotches.

ALL THREE:

NO!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Everyone's where they were.

MR. DRUMMOND

--that the Twister game had slid under the sofa!

Audience laughs.

JACK

Enough. Is. Enough.

He stands slowly, picking George up as he goes.

JACK (CONT'D)

We are done with this charade.

MR. DRUMMOND

Now if you'll excuse me.

GEORGE

We are?

JACK

I know what we have to do.

MR. DRUMMOND

Don't you boys have a spa to run?

TARRY

Far out, man. I'm up for whatever after this episode.

MR. DRUMMOND

I can lock up after we're--I mean they're--done.

Audience laughs.

JACK

Get your girlfriends.

George and Larry pull the girls apart. Suddenly, the girls actually look scared, their words at odds with their tone.

RACHEL

She tastes yummy.

DIANE

Yes, I'm only into women, for sure.

JACK

Mr. Drummond?

MR. DRUMMOND

Let nature take its course, Benny.

Audience laughs.

JACK

That is NOT my name. My name is--

He pauses.

JACK (CONT'D)

Well,

bleep>, I still can't remember, but I do know this much.

He points to each person in turn.

JACK (CONT'D)

Brian is dating Rachel. Dave is dating Diane. I've dated them both previously and no one in this entire room is gay or lesbian.

There is dead silence in the room. Then, quite suddenly, Rachel grabs Jack and speaks in an entirely different voice.

RACHEL

What the

That's not in the script.

JACK

I'm getting us cancelled. Wait--why are you talking to me that way?

Diane suddenly also speaks in a totally different voice.

DIANE

You're making a serious mistake, Jack.

JACK

Jack! That's my name!

GEORGE

How do you know his real name?

LARRY

Do you remember mine?

DIANE

You get punished if you leave the script, you

bleep>, and so do we.

GEORGE

We who?

RACHEL

Us. Everyone in the whole episode.

MR. DRUMMOND

You're not gay?

He suddenly grasps his chest, has a heart attack and dies.

RACHEL

Did you think you were the only ones brought here?

Jack looks at the girls, at the men and then at Mr. Drummond.

JACK

Well, ain't THAT a kick in the pants!

Audience claps and laughs and howls as everyone once more freezes. The audience sounds like a hungry pack of animals, waiting to tear everyone apart.

FADE OUT

FADE IN (Episode 6)

INT. - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The apartment is empty.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Tonight's 'Very Special Episode' of The Show Must Go On is filmed in front of a live studio audience.

The living room remains empty. Then, slowly, Bedroom Door #1 opens and George sticks his head out.

GEORGE

Anyone know what we're doing now?

Audience laughs softly.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Hello?

He walks into the room, looking everywhere for anyone else.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Anyone here? On the sofa--no. Kitchen...Bathroom?

No one else appears.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Okay, look, whoever you are. Don't make this episode be just me. I'm no good at making long speeches.

Nothing.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I mean, my brother got married and when I made the Best Man speech, all I came up with was: 'Well, at least you didn't HAVE to get married because she was pregnant."

Audience laughs, again softly.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Are you getting the point? I'm not good solo. If I were Hamlet, I'd just stand there for, like, twenty minutes saying "I know there's something I'm supposed to say now."

Audience laughs a little louder.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Fine. Just don't get angry with me if this episode's ratings are low.

He takes a deep breath.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

To be--

Bedroom Door #2 opens and Jack walks out.

JACK

You still want to get out of here?

GEORGE

Oh, thank God.

Audience laughs.

JACK

Here's the plan. Playing along hasn't gotten us anywhere.

GEORGE

Nope.

JACK

Trying to change the story didn't work, either.

GEORGE

Right.

JACK

So the only answer is to refuse to do anything, no matter what anyone else does to make us.

GEORGE

Do you think that'll really work?

The bathroom door opens and Larry walks out.

LARRY

I figured out how to get out of here, dudes.

GEORGE

How did you get in the bathroom? I just checked there.

LARRY

The universe provides.

GEORGE

What does that mean?

LARRY

It means I wasn't there until the narrative needed me there.

JACK

That's the most dangerous part of this whole nightmare. If we do ANYTHING, the universe—or whoever's behind this—tries to force our actions into the plot.

T.ARRY

Totally.

GEORGE

So the answer is to do nothing?

LARRY

Action changes the world, man. If we stop acting, the narrative dies and we'll slip back into the real world.

JACK

Exactly.

He sits on the floor.

JACK (CONT'D)

From here on out, we remain in one position, not speaking, no matter what.

GEORGE

At this point, I'll try anything.

He sits on the sofa. Larry immediately goes into a lotus position on the chair.

LARRY

Copacetic. No matter what happens-- I'm just here, man, you know?

Audience claps and laughs.

JACK

No catch phrases!

LARRY

Sorry.

JACK

No interaction. At. All.

They sit there, trying not to do or say anything.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Tonight's 'Very Special Épisode' of Dancing with Mr. D. is filmed in front of a live studio audience.

GEORGE

God, it's starting all over again.

Audience laughs.

JACK

Quiet.

LARRY

Yeah, this happened to me once before. It was major freaky.

Audience laughs.

JACK

Ignore them. Ignore everything.

Another moment of doing nothing. Then the front door opens and Rachel and Diane enter, both wearing black dresses.

RACHEL

Well, boys, I hope you're happy.

DIANE

You couldn't even come down there?

Audience "oooohhhs."

The women wait for the men to respond. They don't.

RACHEL

I've never been so embarrassed by a boyfriend before, Benny.

JACK

Not my--

He shuts his mouth, going still once more.

DIANE

And after everything she did for you, Brian.

GEORGE

What she did? Wait, who are we--

Jack snaps fingers. George claps his hands over his mouth.

The audience snickers.

And as for YOU, Dave.

She walks over and slaps his face.

LARRY

Ouch!

Diane does the same.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Not cool.

She tries to slap him again and he, instead, flicks her nose. She YELPS as the audience laughs.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Not cool!

Jack throws his shoe at Larry and he gloweringly returns to his lotus position. The audience snickers.

RACHEL

Well, if that's the way you're going to be, perhaps I'd better rethink who I'm dating.

She storms out the front door.

DIANE

Yeah.

She starts walking to the door, turns back.

DIANE (CONT'D)

I mean, what she said.

Two more steps, turns back.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Ditto. Except about who I'm dating, not her--oh, you know what I mean.

Audience laughs as she exits.

The three men continue to do nothing. And continue.

GEORGE

Do you think we--

JACK

Shhh. There'll be another round.

Rachel storms back in, points her finger at Jack.

She's a sweet old lady and you're horrible. I never want to see you again!

She storms out.

JACK

See? Told you--

Diane storms in and points at George.

Audience laughs.

DIANE

As for you, Mr. Insensitive. You never asked her about her legal problem. I can't forgive that.

She storms out.

GEORGE

Do you think they're talking about Mrs. Garrett--

Both ladies storm in.

Audience laughs.

RACHEL

As for the three-way we had planned for your birthday, Dave...

DIANE

Consider that party in your pants cancelled as well!

Audience laughs. The girls storm out.

LARRY

I wonder how they knew it was my birthday.

Audience laughs louder.

LARRY (CONT'D)

I don't even know my own name.

Audience laughs louder still.

The two girls walk back inside. They both look like they're about to cry. When they talk, they sound different again.

Do you know you've ruined us both?

DTANE

He doesn't like it when someone foils his plans.

The three men look at each other.

GEORGE

Who doesn't like it?

JACK

We can't interact.

RACHEL

She's already twisting us. I can feel it.

JACK

I'm sorry.

LARRY

This isn't right. You shouldn't be punished for what we're doing.

GEORGE

Yeah, I feel terrible.

JACK

We have to stay strong.

RACHEL

Oh, <bleep>. My backstory is changing.

DIANE

Mine, too. God, now WE'RE the roommates.

JACK

Break free, ladies. Stop interacting and come with us.

RACHEL

We've been here too long.

DIANE

Yeah, she's calling us.

RACHEL

I hate when he starts a new pilot.

GEORGE

Rachel. Diane. Fight it.

When the women speak next, their voices have taken on a Midwestern accent.

DIANE

Time to go. We've got a shift.

RACHEL

I hate that city. All people do there is eat cheese.

The audience laughs. The women exit, legs locked in step.

GEORGE

That was horrible, Jack.

JACK

That's it!

GEORGE

What?

Jack leaps to his feet.

JACK

We're still stuck here narratively because you two only know your character names.

LARRY

But a name is just a label, man. It can't hold you unless you let it.

Audience laughs.

JACK

I wonder if that's true.

He heads to the front door and pulls on it. It opens this time, but only as long as his hand is on the knob.

JACK (CONT'D)

I think I could get out now.

He lets go of the door and it slams shut once more.

JACK (CONT'D)

Well, ain't THAT a kick in the--

Audience laughs and claps, but it dies off as they realize he didn't finish the phrase.

JACK (CONT'D)

Who's the <bleep>ing <bleep> now? You, the <bleep>ing audience, that's who.

Audience "oooohhhs". It sounds ominous.

GEORGE

Don't antagonize them, Jack.

LARRY

Yeah, man, I may be a pacifist, but even I know better than to piss off a hyena pack.

Audience laughs -- and it does sound somewhat like that.

JACK

Let's just focus on getting you both your names back. I'm not leaving without you both.

He turns to Larry.

JACK (CONT'D)

What's your real name? Ignore the Dave creeping around in your skull.

LARRY

That name is loud, man.

JACK

Look deeper. When I heard my name, I realized it'd been sitting in the farthest part of my head, just waiting for me to spot it.

LARRY

I am good at meditation.

JACK

So use that. Breath deep.

LARRY

I'm also good at tantric sex.

JACK

I won't help you with that.

Audience laughs.

LARRY

I can see my third eye opening.

JACK

(whispering)

Keep going.

LARRY

I see a white suit. Large lapels.

JACK

Connect the dots.

LARRY

A big gold chain. And lots of chest hair, for some reason.

GEORGE

That's a leisure suit.

LARRY

My name is Larry!

Audience laughs.

GEORGE

By George, I think he's got it! By George, my name is George!

Audience laughs louder.

JACK

Nice to meet you, Larry and George.

LARRY

GEORGE

Pleasure, dudes.

We finally know who we are.

JACK (CONT'D)

Now let's bail before they stop us.

GEORGE

I think Mrs. Garrett has cancer.

LARRY

Or she died when Mr. Drummond died.

JACK

I think a very special episode could be dangerous for all of us.

GEORGE

That is the level of crazy here.

The audience laughs, but it's wavery and out-of-sync.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Listen to that. They're fading.

LARRY

No, man. I think they're losing us. Dropping out of sync.

JACK

Then let's punch through this jail once and for all.

The three men step to the front door and touch the handle.

JACK (CONT'D)

One.

GEORGE

Two.

LARRY

Three to inifity times infinity.

Audience laughs, but it can barely be heard and sounds backwards. The other two look at Larry.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Might as well cover all the bases.

They pull the door open and run through it as we

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - STREET - NIGHT

All three men are on a sidewalk. There are people walking by, cars driving by and everything looks very, very real.

JACK

We did it!

GEORGE

I need to call my wife--my God, I have a wife!

LARRY

Huh. I was in jail for making meth. Wonder how the guards handled this.

Jack is patting his pockets.

JACK

I don't have keys or a phone or a wallet. How about you guys?

They both check themselves.

GEORGE LARRY

Nothing.

Nada, man.

JACK (CONT'D)

Then we need a phone somewhere.

They look up and down the street.

JACK (CONT'D)

It's 2013. The payphones are gone.

GEORGE

What about there?

He points to a 50's-style diner on the corner.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I bet they'd let us use the phone.

LARRY

I am in serious need of food. Like I haven't eaten in weeks.

JACK

We don't have any money, remember?

LARRY

The universe provides, man.

He pulls a big bag of weed out of his pockets.

GEORGE

You've got no wallet but you somehow have that?

LARRY

Me and the universe have an understanding.

JACK

Let's just call it a gift, be glad it's not heroin and don't look it in the mouth.

They head to the door and open it.

GEORGE

My mother used to say that in times of need, people really showed the best of themselves.

As George steps inside, the light inside blows out the frame.

TITLE CARD: ON THE NEXT SEASON OF "SITCOM PILOT"

NARRATOR (V.O.)

(sounding like Ron Howard)
On the next season of Sitcom Pilot.

INT. - DINER - NIGHT

George walks into the diner, suddenly looking like a prepschool student, cardigan and checkered pants.

Larry enters, looking like a beach bum, with dockers, a t-shirt and a white Gilligan hat.

Jack enters, hair slicked back, leather jacket, smokes in the arms of his shirt.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

George, Larry and Jack all come to a massive realization.

The three men look at each other.

An old Asian man in a chef hat walks out from the kitchen.

CHEF

About time you arrive! You always late for dinner.

ALL THREE

Boy, was SHE ever wrong.

CHEF

I always say: Late for Wong is never Wight--always Wong!

He giggles madly as he wanders back into the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. - CITY HALL - DAY

Mrs. Garrett stands next to another old lady, MRS. C, a County Clerk in front of them. Mrs. G. holds an urn with Mr. Drummond's picture on it.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Meanwhile, Mrs. Garrett, who had asked the boys to come down to see her get married after Prop 8 was declared unconstitutional, remained very angry at them all.

MRS. GARRETT

I'm very angry at them all.

MRS. C

I know, dear.

CUT TO:

INT. - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mrs. C and Mrs. Garrett are in bed together, Mrs. C curled in Mrs. Garrett's arms. Mrs. Garrett's watching television.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And on her wedding night, when she was watching a little post-coital entertainment, she had a very dangerous idea.

On the TV is the Ep. 5 porn video, "The Chained <Bleep>".

LARRY

(from the television)
I can't help it. I hump legs.
That's what dogs do.

MRS. GARRETT

I'll get you, my pretty boys. And your little dog, too.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Oh, this won't be good.

FADE OUT