BEING JOAN

"LOCAL LEGEND"

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ACT ONE

INT. CAROL'S HIGHRISE LOFT BEDROOM- UNNAMED CITY - MORNING

CAROL MORGAN, late 50's to mid 60's, widow, die-hard rocker, asleep laying face down in bed as an ALARM CLOCK is going off. The bedroom is messy with clothes everywhere, blackout curtains cover the windows. Carol SLAMS an arm over the clock in a failed attempt to hit snooze, throws a t-shirt at it yet misses and then RIPS the alarm clock out of the wall to return to sleep.

CAROL

Nope.

INT. LIVINGROOM FRONT DOOR - SECONDS LATER

BAILEY MORGAN, mid 30's to mid 40's, lesbian, corporate executive, opens her mom's loft apartment door that showcases massive windows overlooking the city. She hears a MOAN and quietly sets a bag of groceries and a stack of mail on the kitchen counter. A man's leg drapes over the back of the couch and she hurries into her mom's bedroom where the ALARM CLOCK is blaring.

INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

BAILEY

Mom, alarm. Alarm mother. Ok, Fire!

CAROL

Didn't work last week either. Try another word. Coffee?

BAILEY

The man on the couch?

CAROL

Uncle Marti. Coffee?

BATTEY

Your alarm?

CAROL

How the hell...

Carol barely lifts her head in confusion as how the ALARM CLOCK is going off when she ripped it out of the wall. She gives up and returns face down.

Bailey RIPS open the drapes to wake and annoy her mother.

BAILEY

I bought you a second alarm last week.

CAROL

I don't smell coffee.

BAILEY

How could you? Smells like a locker room in here.

CAROL

Aspirin and coffee. Be a good daughter and fetch for mommie.

BAILEY

Explain yourself and I will give you coffee.

CAROL

Band back together. Late night gig. Coffee now?

BAILEY

And?

CAROL

3:00 a.m. rooftop pool party. Now?

The bathroom TOILET FLUSHES and a young naked man, KAMERON ACE WESTON, 25, buff, sweet, emerges into view.

INT. BEDROOM BATHROOM DOOR OPENS - MINUTES LATER

Kameron opens the bathroom door. Bailey didn't expect him to be naked.

BAILEY

Guess I should have called first? I brought groceries.

Bailey covers her eyes.

CAROL

Call yes. Groceries good.

BAILEY

Mom?

Drummer boy meet my daughter, Cruel. Won't give her mother coffee.

Bailey uncovers her eyes to address her mom.

BAILEY

You slept with your drummer?

CAROL

What's your point doesn't bring coffee?

BAILEY

He's like 20. And you're a mom, my mom.

CAROL

Closed off control freak daughter. You haven't had a what's her name in? What year is it?

Kameron wants to break the tension, CLEARS HIS THROAT to speak.

KAMERON

I turned 25 last week. Don't I need to try out for the band?

CAROL

You just did. You can bang on my drum all day.

BAILEY

Mom!

Kameron exits the bedroom to check out the groceries in the kitchen. Carol and Bailey continue to BANTER.

CAROL

Listen Cruela. I need jet fuel if I am to engage.

BAILEY

I am holding the Java hostage until you...

CAROL

Remove the stick out of your ass.

BAILEY

No thank you for the groceries?

Unless I have coffee in 2.5 seconds.

BAILEY

You're a widow and a senior citizen.

CAROL

State your point fun police.

BAILEY

Late nights. Baby drummer. 3:00 a.m. pool party.

CAROL

5, 4, 3

BAILEY

Fine. Here.

Bailey hands Carol her coffee. She'll just get another one on the way to work.

CAROL

What's for breakfast?

BAILEY

I have work. Have drummer boy cook.

CAROL

Bye Cruela.

Bailey abruptly exits the bedroom and leaves, FRONT DOOR SLAMS. Carol is still in bed. Kameron re-enters the bedroom and tries to get back in bed with Carol.

CAROL (CONT'D)

You already made the cut. Sprocket, 9:00 p.m. tonight.

Carol pushes Kameron back out of the bed as he CRASHES to the floor. Somewhat embarassed he pops up quickly.

KAMERON

I can cook breakfast?

CAROL

What other tricks can you do?

KAMERON

I make a mean French Press.

Now you're talking dirty.

KAMERON

Cream and sugar?

Carol gets up, pushes Kameron toward the bedroom door.

CAROL

Black. I'm taking a shower.

KAMERON

I could join you?

CAROL

Definitely not. I'd rather you perform in the kitchen.

Carol pushes Kameron out of the bedroom and CLOSES DOOR in his face. Kameron SHOUTS through the door.

KAMERON

My name is Kameron. Friends call me Kam.

Carol heads toward the bathroom as she is muttering to herself.

CAROL

Damn daughter. Now I'm gonna be calling him drummer boy.

INT. OUTSIDE CLOSED BEDROOM DOOR - SECONDS LATER

Kameron turns to head to the kitchen, but realizes his clothes are in the bedroom.

INT. LOFT KITCHEN - SECONDS LATER

Kameron eyes an apron, puts it on and starts CLANKING around in the kitchen.

INT. LIVINGROOM AND KITCHEN- SECONDS LATER

UNCLE MARTIN MORGAN III, "UNCLE MARTI" late 60's to early 70's, gay with southern wit and charm, STIRS on the couch and groggily lifts his head over the leather couch to see Kameron's naked butt in an apron.

UNCLE MARTI

Best part of wakin up isn't Folgers.

Uncle Marti is mesmerized with Kameron's backside. Minutes later, Uncle Marti speaks to Kameron.

UNCLE MARTI (CONT'D)

For the love of God, please tell me there's coffee and aspirin.

KAMERON

On the counter. I'm making breakfast and coffee.

UNCLE MARTI

Sweet Jesus. We seriously have to stop partying like it's 1999. 1979 in my case.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Uncle Marti walks to the kitchen counter and grabs the hangover remedy. He never takes his eyes off admiring Kameron's naked butt in the kitchen.

UNCLE MARTI

Lord, you could bounce a quarter off that.

Carol enters the kitchen in a robe and her hair in a towel.

CAROL

You can. I did.

UNCLE MARTI

And he cooks. Thank the Lord cause I need grease to soak up all the alcohol.

KAMERON

Domestic gender roles are outdated. Cooking is a love language.

UNCLE MARTI

Great, now I'm cravin some cinnamon rolls. See what ya did?

CAROL

I could go for those drummer bo...uh, Kam.

Kameron turns to smile cause Carol just called him Kam.

UNCLE MARTI

He wields that spatula like a wand.

CAROL

You should see him in the.

UNCLE MARTI

You were married to my brother for cryin out loud. God rest his soul.

CAROL

I need more coffee, a Bloody Mary or hair of the dog, maybe all 3.

Carol grabs a rubber band off the counter and puts it around her wrist and SNAPS it. Uncle Marti is curious.

UNCLE MARTI

Is that to curb your insatiable appetite for alcohol or young men? Both?

CAROL

I think you missed your calling as a comedian. Trolls get work.

Uncle Marti HOPS off his bar stool to stare up at Carol.

UNCLE MARTI

You sound like Karen Walker drowning in a martini. You remember that show?

CAROL

Thanks for the compliment, Grace. Can I get you a stool to reach your stool?

Kameron signals breakfast is ready by turning around with two cups of coffee and turns back to grab their plates. Carol and Uncle Marti decide to conspire in prolonging Kam's butt show.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Can you pass me the salt?

Kameron turns to grab the salt and turns back around.

UNCLE MARTI

I could use more pepper.

Kameron turns to grab the pepper and turns back around.

CAROL

Is there garlic?

Kameron grabs garlic and turns back around.

UNCLE MARTI

I could use some water with my coffee. On second thought, I'll have what she's havin.

Kameron gets a glass of water for Uncle Marti and turns back around.

CAROL

He doesn't service that way.

UNCLE MARTI

Have you asked?

CAROL

I would know Marti.

UNCLE MARTI

If I was Kenny Rogers as the gambler, God rest his soul, I'd say men visit his station.

CAROL

His ride has height requirements.

UNCLE MARTI

May the best woman win.

CAROL

I did.

Kameron is all smiles as he turns around with orange juice in his hand for himself and a plate of sausage in the other to share.

UNCLE MARTI

Sausage does a body good.

CAROL

I just threw up in my mouth.

UNCLE MARTI

Nastee.

CAROTI

Thumbelina.

INT. LIVING ROOM FRONT DOOR AND KITCHEN - LATER IN MORNING

The front door swings open as Bailey enters the loft again, SHUTS the front door, completes a CALL and LAYS her phone down on the hard counter.

INT. KITCHEN - SECONDS LATER

CAROL

Forget your dalmations Cruela?

BAILEY

Purse Mommie Dearest.

UNCLE MARTI

Join us for breakfast darlin?

BAILEY

Came for my purse... I smell cinnamon rolls. And coffee.

CAROL

Perceptive one.

UNCLE MARTI

Don't mind her. She's only had one cup.

Kameron hands Bailey a cup of coffee. When he turns back, Bailey notices he is naked under the apron.

BAILEY

Whole new meaning to naked and afraid.

Bailey CLEARS HER THROAT to break the awkwardness of Carol and Uncle Marti staring at Kameron's butt.

UNCLE MARTI

He makes a mean French Press.

BAILEY

Better than mine?

Uncle Marti doesn't want to hurt her feelings, he stays quiet SIPPING on his coffee.

CAROL

Jealous much?

BAILEY

I'm sure my omelets are better
anyway.

Uncle Marti keeps SIPPING his coffee and cuts his eyes up at Bailey. He picks up the plate of sausage as an offering.

UNCLE MARTI

Try the sausage darlin.

CAROL

She's a vag-aterian.

Clueless Kameron is concerned he can't offer anything vegetarian for Bailey.

KAMERON

I can make you something vegetarian?

Carol and Uncle Marti SNICKER and CLINK their coffee mugs.

BAILEY

You should have been a comedian mother.

CAROL

Just had that conversation.

UNCLE MARTI

You'd make an excellent comedian. Loads of colorful material.

CAROL

Don't throw your skittles at me rainbow bright.

BAILEY

On that note.

Bailey finishes her coffee, grabs a cinnamon roll and heads toward the door, but stops to answer Kameron.

KAMERON

Will you be at the show tonight?

CAROL

She doesn't go out on a school night.

INT. KITCHEN, FRONT DOOR, BEDROOM DOOR - SEVERAL MINUTES LATER

Carol exits the room to head back into her bedroom to fix her hair.

INT. KITCHEN AND FRONT DOOR - SECONDS LATER

BAILEY

The Sprocket isn't my style.

KAMERON

Would another cinnamon roll entice you?

BAILEY

Mom wouldn't want me there.

UNCLE MARTI

Have you heard your mother sing? She's great. We pack the house.

BAILEY

When I was little. After Dad died. We don't see eye to eye.

UNCLE MARTI

Hell, neither do we. I come up a lil short.

KAMERON

Have another coffee and roll to go while you think on it.

Bailey KISSES Uncle Marti's cheek and nods thank you to Kameron.

Carol enters the room with her hair done.

CAROL

No kiss for your mother?

BAILEY

Kiss.

Bailey gives a sarcastic AIR KISS, grabs her purse, forgets her phone on the counter and exits the loft CLOSING FRONT DOOR.

INT. KITCHEN - MINUTES LATER

Kameron REFILLS Carol's coffee mug. Uncle Marti holds his cup out as Kameron was already turning back and didn't see.

UNCLE MARTI

Well, I should be going. I need to pick up my new guitar and take a nap before tonight.

Out of power pellets Pac-Man?

UNCLE MARTI

Yes, game over until I get some shut eye.

CAROL

What are you wearing tonight?

UNCLE MARTI

You finally askin me for fashion advice?

CAROL

Not even on my death bed. You'd turn us into ABBA.

UNCLE MARTI

Someone has to bring fabulous.

CAROL

You know I don't do rainbows or glitter, RuPaul.

UNCLE MARTI

Maybe you should, black velvet.

INT. KITCHEN AND FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Uncle Marti grabs his KEYS, man bag and exits closing the front door.

CAROL

Gay Elvis has left the building.

INT. KITCHEN - SECONDS LATER

KAMERON

Can I refill your cup?

CAROL

You can refill my tank tonight.

KAMERON

I can do that now before I leave.

CAROL

Tempting, but no.

KAMERON

Wouldn't it be easier now? I saw a station up the street.

Carol realizes Kameron thinks she meant fill her car's gas tank and not what she was implying.

CAROL

You've done enough. Time to go.

INT. KITCHEN AND FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

KAMERON

Thanks for breakfast. And tryouts.

Kam leans in to kiss Carol goodbye and she pushes him out the door and CLOSES DOOR.

INT. LOFT BAR OVERLOOKING CITY - MID AFTERNOON

Carol walks to her bar, POURS vodka in her coffee, moves to take a sip and her PHONE RINGS. She answers on SPEAKER.

A woman's voice is heard on the phone.

VANESSA MORGAN (O.S.)

Is this Carol Morgan, widow to Edward James Morgan? That passed away last year?

CAROL

Who wants to know?

VANESSA MORGAN (O.S.)

This is Vanessa Morgan. I was also married to Eddie. I came across his other obituary, so I am guessing you didn't know about me either.

CAROL

Why are you calling?

VANESSA MORGAN (O.S.)

I have a new baby. Eddie was his father. I want Elijah to meet his family and only sister, Bailey.

Perplexed, Carol decides to HANG UP on Vanessa.

INT. LIVING ROOM AND BAR OVERLOOKING CITY - MID AFTERNOON

Carol hears a NOISE, turns around and sees Bailey returned and overheard.

BAILEY

I came back for my phone. You hung up on her?

CAROL

You wouldn't?

BAILEY

Maybe? Probably. How did you not know?

Bailey walks over to SIT beside her mother on the leather sofa. Carol and Bailey just stare out the loft windows, dazed.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. THE SPROCKET LOCAL BAR - NIGHT

The Sprocket is a local popular bar for live music and it is starting to fill up. Bailey walks in and finds an empty seat in the corner at the bar, facing the stage. She orders a Shirley Temple from the cute female bartender.

Patrons are excited to hear the bands, getting a little ROWDY while many are wearing black t-shirts with her mother's face and band name.

DJ (0.S.)

Get your drinks ready people cause For The Love Of Joan goes on in 5 minutes.

Bailey is in disbelief at the ROAR of the crowd and how happy everyone is for her mother's band. Lights dim as half the crowd CHANTS For The Love and the other half CHANTS Of Joan and BANTERS back and forth until.

INT. SPROCKET BAR AND STAGE - 5 MINUTES LATER

Kameron gets behind the DRUMS to warm up with a solo.

Bailey doesn't recognize the female KEYBOARD player and thinks the BASS player looks like Roger Cain. Questioning, she asks herself outloud.

BAILEY

Is that...Roger Cain?

INT. SPROCKET STAGE - SECONDS LATER

Uncle Marti comes out on stage with his new red glitter GUITAR and rainbow colored strap with platform boots and an outfit right out of Mama Mia.

Carol comes out on stage in all black. Crowd ROARS, CLAPS & WHISTLES.

For The Love Of Joan PLAYS LIVE I Love Rock and Roll, their signature opening song.

INT. SPROCKET BAR, STAGE IN DISTANCE- MINUTES LATER

BARTENDER

Can I get you another Temple?

BAILEY

That's my mother.

Bailey points to her mom on stage.

BARTENDER

Carol?

BAILEY

Yes. They're really good.

BARTENDER

Our busiest night is when they play.

BAILEY

Really?

BARTENDER

I'll be right back with your drink.

Bailey is attracted to the bartender, but doesn't know if she is into women. She decides to investigate by semi flirting and hinting. The bartender returns with her drink.

BAILEY

Thank you. Best Shirley Temple ever.

BARTENDER

You seem nervous. I can get you something stronger?

BAILEY

I don't drink. Thank you.

BARTENDER

Are you in AA or something?

BAILEY

No. Long story. Family history.

BARTENDER

That's cool. I don't drink either.

BAILEY

You work in a bar?

BARTENDER

My ex was a raging alcoholic. I stopped because of her.

Bailey wonders if she heard her right and the bartender wondered if she was obvious enough.

BAILEY

Sorry about your ex.

BARTENDER

Best decision I made was leaving her. I work here because tips are great, especially when your mom plays.

BAILEY

I haven't seen her play in a while.

BARTENDER

Your mom is a badass local legend.

The bartender goes to wait on another patron. Bailey SIPS her shirley temple and can't stop staring at the bartender. A woman comes up next to Bailey and tries to CHAT.

BAR PATRON

Been trying to get her number for a year. I just keep ordering drinks, but doesn't seem to work.

BAILEY

She might be dating someone.

BAR PATRON

She's single.

BAILEY

You know this because?

BAR PATRON

The keyboard player is my roommate. She asked.

The Bartender returns with the usual for the bar patron as she takes the drink and returns to her table of friends.

BARTENDER

She bending your ear about me?

BAILEY

Said she's been trying to get your number.

BARTENDER

I don't give my number out to bar patrons.

BAILEY

Oh.

BARTENDER

Rare exceptions only.

BAILEY

What qualifies as rare exception?

The bartender HANDS a napkin to Bailey with her name, Trish and phone number on it.

BARTENDER

You'll wanna keep that napkin.

Bailey smiles, folds the napkin as the bartender walks away. Bailey is half watching the BAND finish the song, I Hate Myself For Loving You, while eye stalking the bartender/Trish.

INT. SPROCKET STAGE - HOUR LATER

CAROL

We are going to take a little break, grab a drink and come back to finish out the night.

The crowd CHEERS, CLAPS and the band members exit the stage as Uncle Marti throws one of his guitar pics to the crowd.

INT. SPROCKET BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Carol, Uncle Marti and Kameron cozy up to the bar as Uncle Marti notices Bailey in the corner.

UNCLE MARTI

Well I'll be.

CAROL

What?

Uncle Marti motions toward the corner end of the bar. Carol can't believe Bailey is there.

KAMERON

She showed.

UNCLE MARTI

Aren't you gonna go over there?

CAROL

She should come over.

UNCLE MARTI

Let's order drinks.

Uncle Marti WHISPERS to Kameron to grab Bailey and bring her over as Carol is distracted by usual patron fans. Kameron makes his way through the crowd to Bailey.

KAMERON

You should come over.

BAILEY

I don't want to ruin her high.

KAMERON

She lit up seeing you.

BATTEY

I can't stay too late. I have work.

KAMERON

A few minutes.

Bailey grabs her shirley temple and follows Kameron to the other side of the bar. She hugs Uncle Marti and Carol turns around to notice Bailey is there.

CAROL

Surprised you came.

BATTEY

Makes two of us.

CAROL

Did you like the set?

BAILEY

It was good. Patrons seem to love it. And you.

CAROL

I can get ya a free t-shirt? I know the band.

Bailey LAUGHS for the first time since her Dad passed away and it doesn't go unnoticed. Uncle Marti is dancing for joy behind Bailey's back.

Carol LAUGHS and Bailey turns around and catches her Uncle Marti dancing.

BAILEY

What's gotten into Uncle Marti?

CAROL

Glitter overdose.

BAILEY

I like the red glitter guitar and rainbow strap.

CAROL

I will disown you if he hears you.

BAILEY

Gotta support the gays.

CAROL

I do. I had you.

BAILEY

How's the coffee here?

CAROL

Won't float your boat.

BAILEY

I met the bartender. Trish.

CAROL

She can make a decent martini.

BAILEY

She says you're a local legend.

CAROL

I don't like to brag. She's right.

BAILEY

Is your new bassist Roger Cain?

CAROL

Yep.

BAILEY

He played with Joan Jett.

CAROL

Where'd you get your intel?

BAILEY

Internet.

He didn't mention it. Probably BS.

BAILEY

I can come backstage after the show?

CAROL

Don't you have work?

BAILEY

Yes, but I want my t-shirt. Any baby sizes?

CAROL

No. Bring me a black martini with lemon rind as your backstage pass.

BAILEY

Deal. Can we talk about...

CAROL

I gotta pee and head back on stage.

BAILEY

Break a leg mom.

CAROL

So you can call me Ilean. No chance.

Mom and daughter exchange loving looks for the first time in a long time. Carol disappears to the bathroom.

Bailey hugs her Uncle Marti. Kameron is moved by Bailey coming and quickly hugs her before hopping up on stage.

INT. SPROCKET STAGE AND CLOSEST BAR SEAT - LATER EVENING

Carol WHISPERS to the band members before they start PLAYING.

CAROL

I am inspired tonight. My daughter came to the show. I wrote this for her when she was little. This is BAILEY's Song.

The crowd ROARS with APPLAUSE and CHEERS.

Carol starts SINGING. Bailey remembers and fights back tears until she can't and surrenders to emotions.

The band finishes, Carol quickly disappears to the bathroom, The keyboard and bass player CHATS with fans and then starts PACKING UP EQUIPMENT.

INT. SPROCKET BAR - LATE NIGHT

Marti heads to Bailey at the bar.

The bartender Trish is surprised to see her gorgeous mom approach the bar. Trish wants to introduce her mom to the band and escorts her over.

BARTENDER TRISH

Mom, this is Marti and Bailey. Marti is the guitarist and Bailey is the singer's daughter. This is my mom, Joan.

Carol returns from the bathroom as Joan is turning around to meet her.

JOAN

Carol?

CAROL

Joan?

BARTENDER TRISH

You two know each other?

JOAN

Fall of Sophmore year. I remember perfectly.

BARTENDER TRISH

Is that THE Carol, mom?

BAILEY

THE Carol?

JOAN

One and the same.

Bartender Trish is shocked, Carol is terrified the truth will be revealed. Carol grabs Bailey and Uncle Marti and forces them to quickly leave.

CAROL

Bailey has work and we have band stuff.

Bartender Trish and Joan are left stunned at the bar. Carol, Bailey and Uncle Marti quickly walk toward the parking lot.

EXT. SPROCKET PARKING LOT - LATE NIGHT

BAILEY

What just happened?

UNCLE MARTI

You look like you saw a ghost.

CAROL

Used to be friends. End of story.

UNCLE MARTI

I've never seen you so flustered.

CAROL

Not a word.

Carol and Marti get in their parked car. Bailey gets in her parked car next to them.

INT. CAROL'S LIVING ROOM AND BAR - 12:00 A.M.

Uncle Marti and Bailey are sitting on either ends of the leather sofa and facing Carol standing at her bar. Carol is fixing herself a drink. The bar acts as her protection.

BAILEY

Why did Trish say THE Carol?

CAROL

I got pregnant, got married, left college.

UNCLE MARTI

Spill the beans blackheart.

BAILEY

Did you fight over Dad?

CAROL

No.

UNCLE MARTI

Wait. Is this the college affair thing?

BAILEY

So it was over Dad.

CAROL

Edward told you?

UNCLE MARTI

The night before y'all got married.

CAROL

You never said a word.

UNCLE MARTI

We were drunk. I thought he was pullin my leg.

BAILEY

Mom?

CAROL

It's nothing.

UNCLE MARTI

Was college the last time you saw her?

CAROL

Yes.

UNCLE MARTI

Are you ok?

CAROL

I don't know.

BAILEY

What am I missing?

CAROL

I am only sharing this once.

BAILEY

Well, Uncle Marti already knows apparently.

Carol takes a BIG SIP and then a DEEP BREATH.

CAROL

Joan and I were best friends and lovers in college. I went to a party, met your dad, got pregnant. I dropped college to become a traditionalist.

BAILEY

You're bisexual?

CAROL

It was too long ago.

UNCLE MARTI

Is that why you started drinking?

CAROL

You judging wicked queen?

UNCLE MARTI

No darlin.

BAILEY

You need to talk about this mom.

CAROL

Grandpa said it was my fault you're gay.

Carol exits behind the bar to PLOP down between Bailey and Uncle Marti on the sofa.

UNCLE MARTI

That family of yours has more skeletons than the Nightmare Before Christmas and shouldn't be throwin stones.

BAILEY

I have an amazing therapist.

CAROL

You're seeing a therapist?

BAILEY

When Dad died. For my mental health.

Bailey opens her purse to retrieve a business card and hands it to her mom.

CAROL

I'm fine.

BAILEY

Clearly not.

UNCLE MARTI

We could go as a family?

CAROL

What, a mini Pride parade?

BAILEY

Mom.

Silent tears stream down Carol's face. Bailey grabs her mom's hand. Uncle Marti and Bailey give Carol a sandwich hug.

CAROL

I'll go if you release the Kraken.

Bailey and Uncle Marti release their hold around Carol.

END OF ACT TWO

FADE TO BLACK