

SECOND CHANCE DOG

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FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE -- DAY

IN THE HALLWAY

TWO WORKERS in collared-shirts and ties scurry down the hallway in a row of offices.

MISTER KENSEKI, an executive, stands at an intersection and surveys the scene. A LABORER carries a box in through the front.

MISTER KENSEKI

Throw them into stock and unload the other truck. Move that shipment for IBM ASAP.

The laborer scurries out to the back through two double swinging doors.

Mister Kenseki turns to charge down the hallway when he comes to face with PAULI GALLETTI who looks like he just walked three miles to work in his suit after staying up all night shopping on-line... yet Pauli still smirks.

In his 30s, Pauli good-looking bloke with an olive complexion.

MISTER KENSEKI

Pauli when you're done with the interview, we need to talk about that shipment for Bell Labs.

PAULI

Yes, sir. Bell labs. Big order.

As Pauli talks, Mister Kenseki dodges past him and moves down the hall.

Pauli stands... Around the corner walks LINDA with her dog. Linda is a receptionist or office worker.

PAULI

Wait. Linda... What is that dog doing here?

LINDA

It's bring your dog to work day Pauli, Mister Galletti.

PAULI

You can't bring your dog to work.
What if some customer is allergic?
Or he humps somebody?

LINDA

Sorry Mister Galletti. But a lot of
people did. The dogs are out in
shipping playing with each other.

PAULI

What? This is...That day is for
places like veterinarians and
parking departments. The
government. We sell very expensive
electronics.

LINDA

Well...

PAULI

Well...I wish I could have fun like
that. We need to sell and make
money.

LINDA

Could I suggest that you get a dog
Mister Galletti?

PAULI

I want to be the one who runs around
and sniffs things all day. I just
think it is a bad idea to let dogs
in here. We'll be eating all day
like the ladies in billing...I'm
kidding.

Linda frowns and the dog pulls Linda down the hallway.

Pauli shrugs and walks into an office.

INT. OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Pauli walks in from the hall.

PAULI

So, hi. I'm Pauli Galletti. I'm
one of the sales guys. And you are
Mark Trotter, here to interview for
an entry level sales position,
right?

INTERVIEWEE

Yes that's right.

PAULI

I apologize for being late. My order of hockey sticks was supposed to come here to the office. Had to check on it first thing.

Pauli picks up a piece of paper from his desk and reads it.

PAULI

I read your resume yesterday. Which of your accomplishments are you the most proud of?

INTERVIEWEE

When I was in high school, I was part of a research project at Rutgers University where we uncovered one of the causes of cervical cancer.

Pauli breaks out laughing, looking up at the interviewee.

PAULI

And that has to do with selling electronics how? You going to use a microscope to find the chance of a sale.

INTERVIEWEE

I'm not a scientist. I am studying business.

PAULI

All right. Have you ever sold anything before?

INTERVIEWEE

I have taken the first two semesters of marketing management. Plus, I work at the bookstore, where I sell clothing and books. And when I was younger, I sold magazine subscriptions door to door.

Pauli chuckles to himself.

PAULI

So, a kid comes into the book store. And he needs a book for his calculus class and you 'sell' it to him?

INTERVIEWEE

Yes.

PAULI

But, he needs the book! That will get you a job on a phone in India making fifty cents an hour. And telling me about your college classes? What does that have anything to do with the question? If someone asks you how you got to work this morning do you tell them about the breakfast that you had? I mean, they did both take place this morning. But they have nothing to do with one another.

INTERVIEWEE

I'm sorry. I'm not very good at this. I just thought that this would be simple enough.

PAULI

Ha ha! Sorry. You're sorry? No you're not very good at this. Interview over.

The Interviewee sits still.

PAULI

This is where you get up and leave.

The interviewee stands up and reaches his hand out.

INTERVIEWEE

Thanks for the opportunity.

PAULI

Hit the door kid. All right. I will say this. Ok. Magazine subscriptions door to door. That was sales. You could have done something with that. But, just make one point in one answer.

INTERVIEWEE

Do you want me to tell you about selling magazines?

PAULI

No. I'm just saying...if you get another shot at a sales job. Just stick with door-to-door magazines. That is sales. I'm trying to help you out. Plus, you didn't want to work here anyway. They short-change your commissions. Take this one as a practice shot.

INTERVIEWEE

Practice shot?

PAULI

Yeah, like basketball practice. Now beat it kid.

INT. OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER

Pauli stands alone in his office, he takes a big sigh. He walks out to the office corridor.

IN THE CORRIDOR

Pauli walks down to the next office and sticks his head in. JOHN, another sales person, sits at his desk.

PAULI

Hey, Johnny. What are you up to?

John sits at his desk, neutral to Pauli's presence.

JOHN

Not much. Just looking at the list for the shipyard deal.

PAULI

What are you doing this weekend?

JOHN

Oh, I think I'm going to take the Misses out of town.

PAULI

Where you going?

JOHN

I, I don't know yet.

John does not show his emotions.

PAULI

You wanna watch some basketball on Sunday? I know its not football, but you take what you can.

JOHN

I can't.

PAULI

Why not?

JOHN

I don't have fun doing that Pauli. You're such a smartass.

PAULI

I'm sorry. I'll keep it under control this time.

JOHN

No. I just don't want to.

PAULI

All right. All right. Fine. Maybe next time. I'll calm down. Fine? Okay?

Pauli walks out of John's office and walks down the hall, back to where he came from.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD OF PAULI'S PARENTS AND JUSTIN -- DAY

Behind the wheel of a yuppie mobile, Pauli drives through a nice, older neighborhood in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Within a green fenced yard a handsome young boy, JUSTIN, plays with an energetic, cute Labrador, GALLANT.

Justin has some similiar features to Pauli.

Pauli slows the car and watches the boy and the puppy play. He smiles.

EXT. GALLETTI'S HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

Pauli pulls into the driveway of a nice suburban home and jumps out of his car.

Pauli bounces his way up the stairs, opens the door and charges in.

INT. GALLETTI'S HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

PAULI
Hey, Mom! Paps? What's going on?

MOTHER GALLETTI (O.S.)
We're in here Pauli!

IN THE KITCHEN

PAULI
Hey! What's going on? Are you
ready for your trip? You got a week
to get ready to travel around the
world.

Pauli's MOTHER and FATHER are older people and both sit
eating breakfast.

MOTHER GALLETTI
Pauli, sit down. Eat. You look so
thin.

PAULI
I'm doing fine Mom. Hey, I saw a
boy down the street with a puppy
that looked just like Mona Lisa.

Pauli's mother gets up from the table and grabs a plate,
fork and spoon. She sets it in-front of Pauli.

PAULI
What ever happened to Mona Lisa's
puppies?

MOTHER GALLETTI
One went to the lady at the end of
the block.

Pauli's mother starts to fill-up his plate with food.

PAULI
The witch? You gave one to the
crazy witch lady with all of the
gargoyles and elves in her yard?
And the cats?

MOTHER GALLETTI
Yes.

PAULI
Oh.

MOTHER GALLETTI

And we gave one to a farmer out Kuntztown, in the countryside. And another to a banker in New York City.

PAULI

You gave one to a banker? Uggh. Why didn't you just give it to lawyer? Go all the way.

(pause)

Do you have their addresses?

MOTHER GALLETTI

They're in the filing cabinet under Dogs.

Pauli stands up and grabs himself a cup of coffee.

PAULI

I'll have to get that list from you. I'd like to get a dog.

MOTHER GALLETTI

Get a dog?

PAULI

It would be like starting over. Get one just like Mona Lisa. One of her grand kids.

FATHER GALLETTI

Start-over what? You're the sales manager at a big company.

PAULI

Hey, I got a new weekend job!

Pauli holds his hands outstretched.

His parents stare back at him?

FATHER GALLETTI

What? A new job?

PAULI

A weekend job! I am going to be a radio host on the weekends.

Pauli sits back down in front of his plate.

FATHER GALLETTI

Are they ripping you off on your commission? You gotta fight with them. Stand-up for yourself.

Pauli looks down at his plate.

PAULI

No Dad I didn't. They didn't. Listen! I'm on the radio.

MOTHER GALLETTI

On the weekends? Who listens to the radio on the weekends?

PAULI

People do. When they're working around the house and stuff. I'm going to do a talk radio show that's also funny. A lot of comedy and stuff.

Pauli is excited, whereas the faces on his parents are flat as TV screens.

FATHER GALLETTI

Comedy? You?

(pause)

I hate to tell you this Pauli. You used to be funny but you can't do that any more.

MOTHER GALLETTI

Are you sure you can handle it Pauli? Too much pressure.

PAULI

What are you talking about? I was voted class clown!

MOTHER GALLETTI

That was a long time ago Pauli. You've been so serious for so long. Don't put so much pressure on yourself. Eat.

FATHER GALLETTI

Pauli, resign yourself. Get out there and fight for your commission. You gotta have guts.

PAULI

I have courage dad. This is what I want to do. I can do this! I can be funny.

FATHER GALLETTI

Yeah?

PAULI

I can. I'm going to be the funny Pauli that I was in high school. And I'm going to get a lab, just like in high school. Listen to the show. Oh, I forgot, you'll be in the exciting countries of Israel and Switzerland. Or maybe on a bus in Turkey.

Pauli gets up and dashes out of the room. Pauli's Mom and Dad continue to eat for ten seconds. Pauli dashes back in with a piece of paper in his hand...

PAULI

Mom, can I have this list? I want to get a dog like Mona.

MOTHER GALLETTI

If you sit down and eat your carbohydrates. If there is one thing you need in this world, its carbohydrates. Do you keep Pasta in the car to snack on like I told you?

PAULI

All right Mom.

Pauli sits down in front of his plate and starts to eat.

INT. COFFEE SHOP -- DAY

Pauli stands in line in a trendy, artsy coffee shop with a PDA in one hand and a cell phone in the other.

PAULI

(to the phone)

Customer service? You call this customer service?

(nodding)

I ordered five of the Ron Jawarski figurines cause I thought they would go up in value. Three of them arrived damaged, but you charged me for five. I returned the three and I'm waiting...

His PDA rings.

PAULI

Hold on. I'm getting another call.

(to the PDA)

Kenny! Hey, you want to go to the
Phillies spring training? Hold on.

(to the other phone)

Customer service! Do you understand
me? Service!

(to the PDA)

Kenny? Oh, come on. What else have
you to do? Hold on.

(to the other phone)

Service?

(to the PDA)

What do you mean? You don't have
fun with me? I won't be a jerk.

The CUSTOMER #1 in the line in front of Pauli turns
around...

CUSTOMER #1

Excuse me. Mister Pauli. I'm
trying to order a latte and relax.

PAULI

Excuse me, I'm trying to solve some
problems.

CUSTOMER #1

The problem is that you're a jerk.

PAULI

Oh, is that the problem. You
interrupted me to tell me that. Yo,
that must feel really wonderful.

CUSTOMER #1

Please.

PAULI

Please! Hah. Hah. That's funny.

(to the phone)

Hello.

(to the PDA)

Hello. Kenny? Customer service?

Pauli taps customer #1 on the shoulder.

PAULI

Are you happy? I lost them.

The COFFEE SHOP MANAGER comes out to talk to Pauli.

COFFE SHOP MANAGER

I'm sorry. But, we only allow a positive and mellow attitude here at Namaste.

PAULI

I came in to a coffee shop named Namaste? Is this the Philly I grew up in? What is wrong with you people? Namaste?

Pauli drops his PDA.

PAULI

Now look what you made me do.

In the process of bending over to pick it up, he drops his cell phone.

PAULI

Oh, this is making me so frustrated.

CARMEN walks in the front door and walks up to Pauli.

Carmen is a college-age woman who looks similar to Pauli because she is his younger sister.

CARMEN

Hey Pauli. How's it going?

PAULI

Hey!

Pauli and Carmen hug, then Carmen pushes him back and looks him over - while he pants with nervous energy.

CARMEN

So, Pauli what's going on?

PAULI

I don't know. I'm a bit stressed out today.

CARMEN

You okay?

PAULI

Yeah, I guess so.

Pauli and Carmen get in line and get to the cashier.

They order their drinks and the cashier takes their money and their names, writing the names down on the cups.

PAULI

So, I wanted to tell you that I got a radio job, a DJ position on the weekends. I have a show.

CARMEN

A show. Your own show?

PAULI

Yeah. I got my own show. The Pauli Galletti show. You know, two hours in the afternoon on the weekend. Me rambling.

Pauli and Carmen take a seat at a table, waiting.

CARMEN

Why are you doing this? You're not turning into some middle-aged guy?

PAULI

No. It is for fun. To liven up my career. Maybe take a shot at a fulltime radio gig?

(pausing, pointing)

Don't, uh...don't tell anyone that though.

CHARITY, a young woman Carmen's age, walks up to where Pauli and Carmen sit, waiting for their coffees. She speaks with an English accent.

CHARITY

Hello, Carmen. How are you?

CARMEN

Hey, Charity! What's up? This is my brother, Pauli

PAULI

Nice, nice, nice to meet you. I'm Pauli.

CHARITY

Yes, Pauli, Charity. Nice to meet you.

(To Carmen)

I've just come in for a spot. Then, I've got to run off to biology. And I need to wake-up first. I stayed-up late last night listening to a local band.

CARMEN

Pauli just got a job on the radio.

CHARITY

Oh, yeah, really? Where at?

PAULI

WPHI. It's no big deal. You got to go to biology. I would not want to hold you up.

CHARITY

You're right. I gotta go.

Charity goes up to the counter and they have her tea waiting for her. She flips them a bill, turns and leaves.

CHARITY

Bye, Carmen. Pauli it was nice to meet you. Good luck with that radio thing.

Charity moves out of the coffee shop.

The BARRISTA calls out their names, signifying their drinks are ready. They go grab them.

PAULI

I can see I made a real impression on Charity there.

CARMEN

You told her to leave. Practically begged her to leave. Besides, she's too involved in activities and concerts to be attracted to boys.

PAULI

That's the way I was when I was young.

(pause)

So, anyway, she's pretty. But, what about you? How are your classes going?

CARMEN

Good, I didn't really want to talk about your mid-life crisis.

PAULI

I know what is important to Carmen Galletti is Carmen Galletti.

CARMEN
 Thank you. Thank you. Let's talk
 about me...

EXT. PAULI'S HOUSE -- EVENING

Pauli climbs out of his car and bounds up his front steps...On the porch are two brown packages.

PAULI
 Huh...What do you know, my Sixers
 Jerseys and the playoffs are about
 to start. Too bad they probably
 will be out in the first round.

He grabs his mail from a box. Pauli opens his front door and carries the packages in.

INT. PAULI'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Pauli puts the packages down and leafs through his envelopes.

PAULI
 Bills, bills, bills. Huh?

Pauli examines one envelope.

PAULI
 I must have missed this bill for a
 month or two. I bet it is going to
 be a lot. Why do I do this? Why?
 Why?

Pauli opens the two packages and pulls out basketball and football jerseys.

PAULI
 I really did not need to buy these.
 They look cool though.

Pauli holds a jersey up in front of himself and looks in a mirror.

PAULI
 Damn. Ice baby! That's what I'm
 talking about! Philly's coolest DJ.

INT. RADIO STATION -- DAY

Pauli walks down the hall of a radio station. A RADIO STATION EXECUTIVE walks down the hall the opposite direction with STEVE, both wearing suits and looking kinda big-shot.

Pauli starts to duck into an office...

RADIO STATION EXECUTIVE
Hey, Pauli. Come here. I want you
to meet someone.

Pauli drops his shoulders and comes into the hallway.

RADIO STATION EXECUTIVE
Pauli, this is Steve Duke.

PAULI
I know Steve. Steve and I went to
high school together. I was just
stopping by so I made sure that I
knew where the bathrooms are and
stuff for my big start next weekend.
I was even practicing.

STEVE
Hey Pauli. Isn't it ironic that
we'd end-up working at the same
radio station? You doing comedy and
me doing a serious business show.

Steve stands very erect. Pauli turns slightly away.

PAULI
Yeah, ironic.

STEVE
You're still a joker and an insult
artist. And I've moved up.

Pauli turns at Steve and stands up to him.

PAULI
My show is not all comedy. I had a
career in electronics sales. I will
discuss the issues like which
celebrity pet dresses the best. And
best album covers. Bad television.

STEVE
What's your hook?

PAULI
My hook?

STEVE

(sales voice)

I'm doing Lessons for the Green from the Green. Lessons for doing well in life - and getting rich - from golf. In fact, you and I should have a little competiion: who can get a 2-hour weekday slot. Bonus for drivetime.

PAULI

My hook is that I'm Pauli Galletti, the second Italian Stallion. And I'm ready to make Philly the city of brotherly love again.

RADIO STATION EXECUTIVE

Whoa. Now hold on. That's not the way you pitched your freebie show before.

PAULI

Come on. This is comedy. I don't know. I'll probably base the show around my mom's cooking or something. Typical Italian shtick. Though I got more than that. I'm not just Italian.

Steve starts to walk off, past Pauli and down the hall.

STEVE

Good to see you Pauli. I welcome the competition. I am going to kick your butt and get that 2 hour weekday slot. I have an office here already.

PAULI

Competition? We're not in competition.

STEVE

You're still in the world of sales, baby. Oh, oh, if you see your sister, say hi for me.

Steve and the executive leave.

PAULI

Baby? Who are you, Austin Powers?

Pauli walks down the hall the other direction.

INT. OFFICE -- DAY

Pauli sits at his desk at work. Mr. Kenseki pokes his head into Pauli's office.

MISTER KENSEKI

I need to see you, in my office.

PAULI

About what?

INT. MISTER KENSEKI'S OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER

Pauli comes in and sits down across from Mister Kenseki.

MISTER KENSEKI

Mister Galletti unfortunately we have to make some changes.

PAULI

Hold on. Mister Galletti? You've never called me that before.

MISTER KENSEKI

Pauli. The Internet boom and electronics boom are over. Jobs in electronics are going to China. We are laying off some people. Moving others around. We'd like you to take a job in Chicago.

PAULI

What? Excuse me?

MISTER KENSEKI

It was all I could do. It's either that or Detroit. Or possibly, if you're lucky, I could squeeze you in to Cleveland. Unfortunately, we're full in New York.

PAULI

But, I'm your best salesperson.

MISTER KENSEKI

Sell that to me.

PAULI

Mister Kenseki I bring in the most revenue...

MISTER KENSEKI

Ahh. But what I need is customer service. I need big happy fat customers that don't take much effort to satisfy.

PAULI

Tommy does that and I bring you new customers...

MISTER KENSEKI

You bring me a different customer every week. No. The metrics have changed. And besides, well you know.

PAULI

Tommy is the owner's nephew. And Bobby is your cousin. I don't have any one big customer cause my daddy didn't hand me one. So, I get the picture.

Pauli stands up.

PAULI

I just took a job as a radio talk show host on the weekends.

MISTER KENSEKI

You can pursue your hobby in Chicago.

PAULI

I don't know what people talk about in Chicago. Boy it sure is windy today. Yeah, it was windy yesterday too. Wonder if it'll be windy tomorrow? How about those White Sox? How do they get them so clean?

MISTER KENSEKI

I'll give you to Friday to think about it.

PAULI

This is going to be a tough decision. Toughest that I've ever had to make. Honestly, I think I might have to stay and pursue radio.

MISTER KENSEKI

Do whatever you want. It's a free country.

Pauli looks bewildered as if this really is the toughest decision he has ever faced.

Pauli wheels and walks out the office.

INT. OFFICE HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Pauli's shoulders slouch and he stumbles down the hall. He sees Linda walking towards him.

PAULI

Linda, where do I go to human resources?

LINDA

To human resources. It's in the human resources office.

PAULI

Thank you. I know where human resources is.

(pause)

I gotta do what I gotta do, you know.

EXT. OFFICE -- LATER

Pauli walks out of the building with an armful of sports memorabilia and bronze sales awards and trudges slowly across a parking lot.

He dumps his armload of crap into the trunk of his car.

EXT. POST OFFICE -- DAY

In a US post office, Pauli puts a stack of envelopes into the outgoing mail slot.

PAULI

Come on Mona, come to Pauli baby.
Good dog.

EXT. PAULI'S HOUSE -- DAY

Pauli pounds a "FOR SALE" sign into his front yard. A plumbing truck pulls up in front of Pauli's house while he SEAN THE PLUMBER steps out of the plumbing truck.

PAULI

Hey, hey. What's shaking?

SEAN THE PLUMBER

Pauli, baby. What's going on?

PAULI

Hey, I called you about gutting the old steel pipes in the hall bathroom and putting in some new PVC.

Sean the Plumber starts to get things out of his truck.

SEAN THE PLUMBER

Absolutely, man. Let's go take a lookee bro.

PAULI

Yeah. Yeah. All right.

His shoulders slouched, Pauli leads Sean the Plumber into the house.

INT. BATHROOM, PAULI'S HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

Inside the old house, Sean the Plumber pulls off the cover to the crawl-space under the house.

PAULI

Uuh. Sean. There is one thing I need to tell you.

SEAN THE PLUMBER

Oh, what's that buddy?

PAULI

This job is not guaranteed. I mean. I am not 100% sure that I'm going to do this. I'm just thinking.

SEAN THE PLUMBER

Yeah?

PAULI

I mean. I quit my job yesterday. I mean. No more job. I had planned this before you know. But they wanted me to move to Chicago. Chicago. That's almost as bad as New York.

SEAN THE PLUMBER

No problem, Pauli. You know, a lot of people think you're a jerk, like a sales guy or something. But, I see through all that. You've always been very fair to me.

PAULI

Yeah, I know people think that I'm rude. I used to be a nice guy in high school, you know? A lot of people liked me.

SEAN THE PLUMBER

Yeah. I'm sure. A lot of us have problems, you know? I got straight As in high school in math. You know? But, I just couldn't take the discipline of college. Sitting in one place and repeating some other guy's view of the universe. It just didn't seem right to me.

PAULI

Yeah.

Pauli looks at Sean as he climbs under the bathroom.

SEAN THE PLUMBER

Tell you what. I'll tell you the lowest cost that I can do it for. And then, we'll just hold off for a while.

PAULI

Yeah, we could hold off for a while.

SEAN THE PLUMBER

See if you sell the house. Or whatever.

PAULI

All right.

EXT. PAULI'S HOUSE -- DAY

In Pauli's driveway, piles of knick-knacks, sports memorabilia and collectables, much of it from Philadelphia teams cover numerous tables. All of the items priced with little tags.

Pauli sits at a small folding table near the front with a small cashbox. SEVEN GARAGE SALE CUSTOMERS wander about his small shop, picking up things and checking the prices.

CUSTOMER #1

Where did you get this hockey mask?

PAULI

That's from Gary LePar, a guy who came up for a season. Andy Sabine hit him in the stomach and he puked. He threw off the mask and I grabbed it.

CUSTOMER #1

Cool. I might get that.

Charity and Carmen walk across the lawn and quietly wave to him. They walk to the tables. Pauli jumps up and walks over to them.

PAULI

Hey, what are you doing here?

CHARITY

We thought we'd see how your garage sale is going and ask if you wanted to go to Baltimore for a concert.

PAULI

This is a bit embarrassing. I have all of this sports memorabilia out on my lawn.

CARMEN

You mean crap?

PAULI

Crap is another word for it.

Charity picks up an old tennis racquet.

CHARITY

Wow. Is this one of your famous collector's items?

PAULI

I actually used to play. But, I like team sports better.

Charity and Carmen look around at Pauli's other items for sale. Carmen picks up an old hat and sunglasses and puts them on.

CARMEN

What do you think? Early 1990s. Clinton era. You could mark them up and make them collector's items.

Charity picks up a jock-strap. In the background, a flashy car pulls up to the curb and parks.

PAULI

That belonged to Ron Jaworski.

CHARITY

Ron Jaworski? Jaws from ESPN? I met him before.

PAULI

You know ESPN?

CHARITY

ESPN is your demographic. I just know it by chance. I'm not into sports and violence.

PAULI

You must be smart. Do you know anything about dogs?

CHARITY

A little. I love dogs.

PAULI

I want to get a dog just like the dog that I used to have. And that dog has grandchildren or maybe great-grandchildren. Would they be like my old dog?

CARMEN

Pauli what does that have to do with a jock strap?

CHARITY

Do you have any art or books?

Carmen sees Steve Duke across the street.

CARMEN

Steve is coming. We have to leave. Pauli we'll call you after lunch.

Carmen grabs Charity by the arm and moves to leave.

PAULI

I have an original single of Double Dutch Bus by Frankie Smith. He's from Philly.

CHARITY

Oh. I think I already saw that one when I was at the Guggenheim.

CARMEN

Bye Pauli.

Carmen and Charity leave.

Steve walks up to the garage sale from the fancy car.

STEVE

Hey! Why'd your sister leave? Did you run her off?

PAULI

She saw you coming.

Steve glares at him.

STEVE

You're selling your house?

PAULI

Who told you?

STEVE

Your mom told my folks. I think I might buy it.

PAULI

I won't sell it to you. It's way, way too cool for you. Way. Far.

STEVE

What if I give you full price?

PAULI

You wouldn't know how to live in a house like this.

STEVE

The house is not for me. I'm going to make it a rental. I learned how to be a landlord from guess who? Donald Trump!

PAULI

Rental? I don't want renters living in my house. Having keggers and punching out the walls.

STEVE

It's money, Pauli. We can close the deal quickly. And you can move on. You go get some other sales job and maybe pay off your credit cards.

PAULI

I don't have credit card debt.

STEVE

That's not what I heard.

PAULI

Steve. I'm not selling you my house. I know my mom knows your mom and all. But I don't like you, ok? My sister doesn't like you and no matter how nice to me you are, she still won't like you. And my house is way, way, way too cool for you.

Steve stares at Pauli. He starts to grimace and growl.

PAULI

Besides, I already had an offer on the house and I'll probably take it.

CUSTOMER #2

Excuse me. Do you have one of those nineteen ninety seven collectable mugs from the Phillies?

Pauli turns to face customer #2.

PAULI

I do. Those were cool weren't they? Let me show you. Get lost Steve.

EXT. PAULI'S HOUSE -- LATER

Pauli cleans up his driveway after the garage sale. A US POSTMAN walks by and hands Pauli a stack of letters. He leafs through them.

PAULI

Bills, bills. Hey! A letter from one of the dog adopters.

Pauli opens the furiously and reads it.

PAULI

Puppies Behind Bars. They gave their recent pups to Pups Behind Bar? Pups Behind Bars dot org? Never heard of it. Growing seeing-eye dogs and making prisoners feel good...what a waste.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD OF PAULI'S PARENTS AND JUSTIN -- LATER

Pauli drives in his car and dials his phone.

PAULI

Carmen? I'm done with the garage sale and I put it all away. I was wondering if you two were still going to the concert.

Pauli pulls his car up in front of an old house at the end of the block. A number of gargoyles and figurines sit in the front garden.

Pauli gets out of the car and walks up to the garden. Pauli picks up an artistic carved stone out of the garden.

Next to the house sits an oak barrel used to catch rainwater. Pauli approaches the barrel and waves his hands over it.

PAULI

Cauldron, Cauldron boil and trouble.
Something something, blah blah blah.
Eye of newt, froggy's tumor. Give me back my sense of ...

HAZEL appears on the porch just above Pauli. Hazel is a middle-aged woman with eccentric clothes and grey hair.

HAZEL

Is there something that I can help you with?

PAULI

How you doin'?

HAZEL

I'm fine. Why do you ask?

PAULI

It's just an expression. But, I can help you. I am Pauli Galletti. I grew-up down the block. When I was sixteen, my dog had puppies. And my mom gave one of them to you. I was wondering if you still have that dog and if she had any puppies.

HAZEL

You're trampling on my elderberry.

Pauli jumps over to a small pathway.

PAULI

Ooops sorry.

HAZEL

(solemnly)

You think that you can recover your youth by having a dog a descendant of the one you had as a youth?

PAULI

It sounds silly when you say it.

HAZEL

You picked a good season. Spring is the time of rebirth.

Pauli smiles.

HAZEL

But, weren't you the little boy who put of pile of dog poop on my porch, lit it on fire and then ran away?

PAULI

Ha! Me and JC! That was funny. We laughed so hard.

HAZEL

Turns out your mother was watching you the whole time.

Pauli drops the rock on his toe.

PAULI

Ow!

HAZEL

Why don't you come inside, Pauli Galletti?

PAULI

Sure. Thanks for the invitation.

INT. HAZEL'S HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

Pauli sits at table in Hazel's kitchen with a cup of tea in front of him. An OLDER LABRADOR sits at his feet and Pauli pets her. The kitchen is decorated with herbs and natural objects.

PAULI

I can't believe I'm drinking tea. It's so...feminine.

HAZEL

You're the one who wanted things to be different.

Pauli pulls out a dog collar that has dog tags attached.

PAULI

I still carry around Mona's collar. Isn't that silly?

HAZEL

Why is that silly?

PAULI

Mona saved my life one time. I was drowning at a lake and she saved me. I carry it to remind me of courage. But it is silly.

HAZEL

Not if you loved the dog. You need a loving network to get along in this world. Our web carries us. Your mother, father, Carmen. A girlfriend wouldn't hurt.

PAULI

Let's solve the dog problem first.

HAZEL

Hm. Yes, a pet. Lady only had one liter about seven months ago. I don't think she could have another. I gave her puppy to the little boy on Prussia Street around the corner.

PAULI

The little boy with dark hair? Looks like me?

HAZEL

Yes. Her mother is a friend of mine.

PAULI

Hmm. Well, Another one of the people who adopted Mona's puppies said that his dog had puppies, but he gave them away to a program called Puppies Behind Bars. These prison inmates raise the puppies until they are two and then they become seeing-eye dogs. It doesn't seem fair that a bunch of prisoners and blind people get to have dogs.

HAZEL

I can say that Lady here is special. I can see why you would want someone genetically related to her. But, why don't you try the pound?

PAULI

The pound? Rejects end-up there. I don't know. I want the connection to the past.

HAZEL

A link to your childhood. I know that pets are magical. Could I perform a ceremony with you that would aid you on your quest.

Pauli tightens up.

PAULI

I don't know. What did you have in mind?

HAZEL

Not sex magic. No. A ritual. Like your ancestors used to participate in. We're simply asking the earth for help.

PAULI

Yeah, OK.

INT. HAZEL'S HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Hazel burns incense on a table before the empty leash and dog tags of Mona.

HAZEL

Goddess bless and aid this young man on his quest.

PAULI

I hope this works cause this incense stinks.

HAZEL

Please be positive. Be the love that you want to see in the world.

PAULI

I am open. I am love. As long as this does not take more than a half of an hour. The Sixers game is coming on.

HAZEL

We'll try to hurry the magic. I'll tell the Goddess that the Sixers are waiting.

PAULI

I bet she watches. I mean, Alan Iverson. Who wouldn't? The Goddess has to love him.

INT. COLLEGE CAMPUS -- EVENING

Pauli walks up to a GROUP OF COLLEGE STUDENTS gathered at corner in front of a dorm. He holds off from joining them. They are anxious in anticipation.

Carmen comes out of the dorm and then waives at Pauli.

Carmen comes over to grab Pauli by the arm and drag him to her friends.

CARMEN

Hey everyone this is my brother Pauli. He's going with us.

PAULI

Hi.

EVERYONE

Hi Pauli.

PAULI

I didn't know everyone was going.

CHARITY

We're all going. It will be a blast. All together.

PAULI

Oh, yeah. Rock on.
 (to Carmen)
 I feel so old.

CHARITY

Youu're not old. You're just not a
 kid any more.

PAULI

Yeah. That's the problem. But
 let's go. Rock on. Groovy.

CARMEN

Groovy? Now you're making fun.
 (to her friends)
 He doesn't really say groovy.
 Really, he doesn't.

EXT. JUSTIN'S HOUSE -- EVENING

Pauli walks along the alleyway behind Justin and Eileen's house, the house where he originally saw the boy playing with the Labrador.

Pauli starts to hunch over and sneak along. He trips and bangs into a garbage can creating a clang.

A dog barks in the distance. Pauli opens up the back gate of Justin's yard and walks in.

Pauli sneaks around the back of Justin's house to a back deck that is near the dining room.

Through the sliding glass doors, Pauli can see the Labrador puppy sitting, waiting to be let out. Pauli waves at it and it wags its tail back - some guard dog.

In the background, Eileen speaks.

Eileen is Justin's mom but she is very young, about Pauli's age.

EILEEN (O.S.)

Your teacher said that you're not
 doing well on your scales. I don't
 care if you practiced the piano
 already, Justin, get in there and
 practice the clarinet for at least a
 half an hour.

JUSTIN (O.S.)

Mom, all of the kids at school are still making fun of me. I don't want to be in the band. I hate the band.

EILEEN (O.S.)

Don't you dare say hate. Hate is a bad word. You cannot be a hater.

JUSTIN (O.S.)

I'm not good at band. I just don't get it OK? I don't get it.

Pauli sneaks forward onto the deck. A board creaks and he stops. The dog wags his tail at him.

JUSTIN

Can I take Gallant into my room to practice?

Pauli creeps forward toward the puppy.

PAULI

(To the puppy)

Shhh. Shh. You want me to rescue you pup? Want to go on a trip.

EILEEN

I suppose you can. But you practice young man. You don't be a lazy people- person like your father. You need a skill. And you need to get into Exeter like my grandfather. This family is not going down hill.

Justin appears in the screen door, crying. Tears stream down his cheeks...

Pauli stops moving.

Justin hugs the dog while tears roll and picks him up. He takes the puppy away and does not spot Pauli on the deck.

Pauli remains still on the deck. He stares at Justin.

PAULI

Who is this woman?

Pauli slowly moves back off the deck. He slips and falls off, creating a BANG and CLATTER. Pauli runs out of the yard.

Eileen comes to the door.

EILEEN

Who's there? Is there anyone there?
I'll cut your heart out if you come
near my little boy or me.

Pauli runs down the alley.

EXT. GALLETTI'S HOUSE -- LATER

Pauli sits on the front steps of his parents' house, alone.

Pauli pulls out a dog leash and collar and fondles it in his hand.

PAULI

Why can't life be simpler? I used
to have life lined-out and it seemed
so easy.

INT. DJ BOOTH - RADIO STATION -- DAY

Pauli sits in a radio booth with headphones on and microphone in front of him.

PAULI

Hey, so I'm Pauli Galletti. And
this is the Pauli Galletti
observational hour. The two hours
on Saturday afternoon where we talk
about whatever Philadelphia wants
to. I don't care if you're rude,
just don't insult my mother, you
know what I'm sayin'.

(pause)

So, as a public service
announcement, I thought I'd remind
everyone out there to adopt a dog or
a cat through either the city pound
or through the Humane Society. Pets
are good for you, they lower the
pressure of the blood -know what I'm
saying? And now, for the topic of
the day let me say that I think golf
is a completely stupid game.

Stupid. I wish Jennifer Lopez,
Martha Stewart and that idiot Mark
Burnett would go away. And that I
think music was better when Dean
Martin, Franki Avalon, Frank Sinatra
and Sammy Davis Junior were
crooning. They were melodious.
Melody-us. And if any of that upset
you, that's just the first salvo.

(pause) (Cont'd)

Pauli (Cont'd)

I have to go to a commercial already? What are you crazy? Thirty seconds and its time for a commercial? What kind of schedule is that. You're going to bore people.

(pause)

All right Philly, he's holding a plug. I guess that is a threat. We better go to commercial. We'll be right back with more of Philly's hottest talk right here on WPHI. And remember: golf is a game for losers.

The Radio Station Exec opens the door to the booth.

RADIO STATION EXECUTIVE

Hey intern, take it easy on the golf.

PAULI

It's good radio.

RADIO STATION EXECUTIVE

We have a great golf show and a great host. And speaking of that, you're going to be in our WPHI comedy showcase and Steve is going to be the host. Two weeks from today. You'll do five minutes of comedy against other pros around the city.

PAULI

What?

RADIO STATION EXECUTIVE

It's for a good cause. Little Sisters or something like that.

The Radio Station Exec closes the door.

Pauli sits alone and waits for the commercials to finish.

Pauli flips around and goes back to the microphone.

PAULI

Let's take caller two.

CALLER TWO

Pauli. I love Frank Sinatra. He was the best.

Pauli clicks him off.

PAULI

I do too. But, that's like saying air is good to breath. And pinot grigio is good to drink. I want an argument.

Pauli hits another call button.

STEVE (O.S.)

Hey, uh Pauli. What are you making fun of golfers for? Don't you know that we're smarter and make more money? We're the bomb.

PAULI

Yeah. And you take up a lot of space with your big fat asses.

STEVE (O.S.)

Screw you Pauli. You couldn't make money if you had a warehouse full of money to sell.

Pauli clicks him off. The sound engineer (#2) watches him closely through the glass.

PAULI

Yeah, well you, you couldn't sell raincoats to Eskimos! You couldn't do something original with a blank slate. You couldn't make something with a box of.....dirt. Sand.

SOUND ENGINEER #2

We're going to break again.

PAULI

Is this a long break?

SOUND ENGINEER #2

You got two minutes. Pauli throws his headset down and dashes out the door.

INT. RADIO STATION HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Pauli runs down the hallway to the door of an office. He pulls out a credit card and slides open the lock.

PAULI

Won't be using that card again anyway.

INT. STEVE'S OFFICE- RADIO STATION -- CONTINUOUS

Pauli dashes in to a small office.

He runs to the chair behind the desk, bends down, examines it, and starts to turn it. He turns and turns and turns and turns it until the seat pops off the carriage. Pauli lightly places the chair just on the top of the carriage.

The Sound Engineer #2 bursts in....Pauli turns around, sits down in the chair, falls over backwards and lies out on the floor...

SOUND ENGINEER #2
We're back from break.

PAULI
I wasn't doing anything.

SOUND ENGINEER #2
I know you weren't. You were just checking the quality of the seal.

PAULI
Can you help me up?

SOUND ENGINEER #2
All right, let's put it back the way you had it. Then, Vaseline the inside of the door. I'll go run another commercial.

The Sound Engineer helps Pauli up then leaves. Pauli sets the top of the chair back onto the carriage.

He takes out a stick of LIP BALM and greases the inside door knob of the office. Pauli tries to open the door but he cannot. His hand slips off and he is stuck inside.

EXT. CHARITY'S APARTMENT HALLWAY -- EVENING

Pauli stands in front of Charity's apartment and knocks on the door. TWO OLDER WOMEN walk down the hallway towards them.

Charity opens the door and steps out wearing a sexy dress.

Pauli looks at the women.

PAULI
I was going to say something crazy then they walked by. They blew my whole timing.

CHARITY

Thank you. Say something crazy now.

PAULI

You look so hot, like the gods carved you out of flesh with a magnifying glass and sunlight.

Charity smiles.

CHARITY

That was good. I can't believe you said that.

PAULI

I have not idea where that came from.

CHARITY

I'm just a normal girl.

PAULI

They must have brought in flowers from Tahiti to color you.

Charity puts her arm out, Pauli grabs it and they walk down the hall.

EXT. CHARITY'S APARTMENT COMPLEX -- MOMENTS LATER

Charity and Pauli walk out of the apartment and climb into Pauli's car.

From the corner Steve watches them and then he runs to climb into his upscale car. Steve follows them as they drive off.

EXT. RESTAURANT -- EVENING

Pauli parks his car and runs around to open the door for Charity. Steve watches Pauli and Charity enter the restaurant.

INT. RESTAURANT -- EVENING

Pauli sits across from Charity in a romantic restaurant. Music plays softly in the background.

The WAITER looks at them attentively from a distance. OTHER COUPLES sit staring into the softly-lit faces of their dates.

PAULI

You know some people get so rich
that they loose all respect for
humanity.

(pause)

That's how rich I want to be.

CHARITY

What is the point of that? Why?
How?

Pauli smiles as he speaks. And his face has lost that "worn
out" look, and taken-on a glow.

PAULI

So, right now I'm selling furniture
and collectables.

(pause)

It's my own furniture that I'm
selling for a living right now. But
you got to start somewhere. I'm
getting very good at selling
furniture.

CHARITY

So, you can't give a serious answer.

PAULI

To what?

CHARITY

I want to know what you're like for
example. Are you old fashioned or
open-minded?

She leans forward, awaiting his answer.

PAULI

I used to be more conservative
traditional. But, now I'm getting
open minded.

CHARITY

Why?

PAULI

Because I had some friends who you
know, were different. They were
different, but they were my old
friends and I didn't like the way
they were treated.

CHARITY

What do you mean?

PAULI

I want to go back to telling jokes.

CHARITY

I am just trying to find out a bit more about you.

PAULI

Jokes are so much easier than reality, but they reveal reality.

CHARITY

What kind of woman do you like?

PAULI

She has to have meat on her bones. So dating her is not like going on a diet. But seriously, I am open-minded. I care about other people, not just my family. I definitely enjoy sports too much. I like the teamwork of sports and everything surrounding sports. But I am trying to reduce that and get more into comedy and helping others to laugh. Right now, I don't actually know what the Sixer's record is and that is a first for me.

A WAITER approaches their table.

WAITER

Excuse me sir. But the police are at the door. Apparently, they had a tip that you're one of the FBI's ten most wanted.

PAULI

I'm Pauli Galletti.

WAITER

Sir they told me to tell you that they have the back door blockaded and come out without a fight.

PAULI

I'm not one of the FBI's ten most wanted.

WAITER

But they had a tip. Someone is at the door.

PAULI

They had a tip.

CHARITY

Well if they had a tip that's different. This isn't one of those prank TV shows is it?

PAULI

Yes. This is not one of those prank TV shows is it?

WAITER

Could you just come out front?

AT THE FRONT OF THE RESTAURANT

Pauli walks to the front of the restaurant. The door is partway open.

WAITER

There's an agent outside who wants to talk to you.

Steve is across the street waiting for Pauli.

As Pauli approaches he recognizes him.

Steve pulls out a water baloon and throws it at Pauli.

It just misses and splashes on Pauli.

STEVE

Ha! Ha! How's that funny man?

PAULI

Are you deranged? What are you doing?

The waiter comes out and grabs Pauli before he races across the street.

PAULI

I'll kick your ass. I'm on a date.

WAITER

Now sir, calm down.

Steve runs and climbs into a car. He races off.

WAITER

Sorry sir. I thought he was a cop.

INT. RESTAURANT -- LATER

Pauli sits at the table soaking wet.

PAULI

You want to get out of here? My rear-end is wet. I hate it when my rear-end is wet.

CHARITY

I think it is kind of charming. Two grown men in a battle of practical jokes.

EXT. CHARITY'S APARTMENT HALLWAY -- LATER

Pauli and Charity stand in the hallway.

PAULI

You know you caught me at a hard time in life. It's embarrassing to go out with a woman while I'm living at my parent's house.

CHARITY

As long as you have potential. That's important. I can help shape you.

PAULI

You make me want to be a better person. That's against the grain when I'm trying to be a radio talk show DJ.

Charity reaches up and kisses Pauli.

Pauli is stunned.

CHARITY

Good night, Pauli. When you see something that you want go after it.

Charity turns, opens the door and closes it quickly before Pauli can react.

Pauli pauses.

Pauli turns away and walks down the hallway.

PAULI

Yeah, go after what I want.

EXT. JUSTIN'S HOUSE -- DAY

Pauli sneaks over the fence behind Justin's house. Pauli sneaks through the yard. Pauli rounds the corner to the patio.

EILEEN

Justin get back to your piano and quit playing with that dog!

Pauli finds himself face to face with Eileen.

EILEEN

What do you want?

Eileen has a defensive posture, leaning back a bit.

PAULI

Uh, hey, I'm here because I was told to go after what I really want. I am friends with the boy's dog's grandfather. What I mean is my dog that I had when I was a young guy was the grandfather of the puppy that your son has right now.

EILEEN

So what?

PAULI

You're very pretty, you know that?

EILEEN

You are Pauli Galletti.

PAULI

Yeah. How did you know that?

EILEEN

I grew up in this neighborhood. Your whole snobby family would not even acknowledge that I exist.

PAULI

That still doesn't change the way the light shines off your eyes.

EILEEN

Now you notice?

PAULI

Are you sure you're from this neighborhood? Philadelphia. I mean if I did notice you when I was younger, I probably would have thrown rocks at you. Until that time I was a senior in high school and I hit Juliet Lombardi in the nose.

EILEEN

(to the house)

Justin, I said get to the piano now!

(to Pauli)

Wow. That's something Pauli Galletti, the class clown of nineteen ninety five hitting on me.

PAULI

Yeah. Just trying to get you you know. Say, listen maybe you could lighten up on the boy a little. Not everyone wants to be in the band you know. Sometimes it's better if you emphasize his strengths.

EILEEN

You came in my yard to tell me how to be a parent?

PAULI

No. I was going to steal your puppy.

EILEEN

My father was a band leader for Dean Martin and a lot of other. That boy has it in his blood he just don't know it yet.

PAULI

Doesn't know it. When you're out of an Italian neighborhood the word is does not know it.

EILEEN

Get out of my yard Pauli Galletti!
Or I will call the cops!

PAULI

I just got here.

EILEEN

I don't care. I don't care how cute you are or how much hair you have on your chest. Get out of my yard!

PAULI

You can kick me out. But you need to let that boy do something he wants to do. Let me allow you in on a little secret.

EILEEN

What?

PAULI

JC and I, we did pretty well in high school, right? Both of us graduated in the top five percent or so. Guess what? We never, ever did homework. Never.

EILEEN

So?

PAULI

We did what we wanted to do. We messed around. And sometimes, sometimes it aligned with schoolwork.

EILEEN

Like the time you burned down the warehouse on South.

PAULI

That was JC. I was just the cover guy.

EILEEN

What would you have me let Justin do?

PAULI

Ever ask him?

EILEEN

I'll ask him when he turns eighteen. Now get out of my yard before I call the police.

PAULI

Oh come on. I'm Pauli Galletti. I'm a cute guy. You're beautiful woman.

EILEEN

Now!

Pauli turns and runs. Eileen looks for something and grabs a broom. She shakes the broom at him as he leaves.

INT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM -- DAY

Pauli stands at the doorway to a college classroom at a community college. JC WASHINGTON is a professor and instructor standing in front of the class wearing a cardigan sweater and a bow tie. He finishes up a lecture to the students about German Settlements in Eastern Pennsylvania.

JC

So that is why the Ephrata Colony is so important to us today. Remember to read chapter 19 for Thursday's lecture and remember there will be an exam next week.

The class is finished and the students file out of the room.

JC collects his papers and briefcase.

Pauli walks in the classroom towards JC.

JC

Hey, Pauli. What are you doing here?

PAULI

Hi JC.

JC

It has been quite a while. What have you been up to?

PAULI

Sorry. I wasn't ghosting on you. I just....I don't know. I've had a rough time lately. I had to quit my job and sell my house.

JC

You sold your house? Ah! I loved that old house.

PAULI

Hey, JC. I need your help.

JC

Nothing illegal is it?

PAULI

No. No. Would I ever get you in trouble?

JC

About thirty times when we were growing up.

(pause)

What happened to you Pauli, you look so serious?

PAULI

Life kinda dropped on me.

EXT. HAZEL'S HOUSE -- DAY

Pauli knocks on the door of Hazel.

PAULI

Hi.

HAZEL

Hi. Can I help you?

PAULI

Yes. I need some advice.

HAZEL

Let's take a walk in the garden.

EXT. HAZEL'S HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

Pauli stands with Hazel and her dog, the old Labrador in the garden.

HAZEL

This is valerian. We use the roots to calm the nerves. It hasn't sprouted out yet. It will come out later. I'm surprised it has survived.

JUSTIN

My problem is that I met this young woman who is very nice to me. She's a friend of my sister's and her name is Charity.

HAZEL

So, what's the problem?

JUSTIN

She's nice and quite beautiful.
Carmen even told me that she liked
me. She must be too good for me. I
can't understand why she would like
me.

HAZEL

You never did apologize for firing
rockets at my house.

PAULI

Well, sorry. We were playing World
Vietnam and your house was Vietcong
Jungle. JC likes to play history.

(pause)

I apologize.

(pause)

Sorry.

(pause)

I was wrong.

HAZEL

That was good. That might work with
her. Be humble like that. You have
a cute smirk when you're humble.

PAULI

Thank you.

HAZEL

Like you know that you just got away
with something.

(pause)

It's not hard to be a man. Just be
nice, but be a warrior and gallant
knight. And funny. And a loving
wildman leader when kissing. And if
you get in an argument just admit
you're wrong and apologize. Plus,
be polite and courteous. It's easy.

PAULI

Got it. I really am sorry I
bothered you when I was young. I
will take your advice with women.

Pauli picks some weeds in the garden. He smirks.

PAULI

And I'll get a dog to meet more
girls, just in case it doesn't work
out with Charity.

HAZEL

Oh, come on now. Dogs are not our tools.

PAULI

I know. By the way, how well do you know Justin's mom. The lady on Prussia Street?

HAZEL

Pretty well, why?

PAULI

I was just wondering. She doesn't seem very nice.

HAZEL

You need a girlfriend? I can fix you up!

PAULI

No! No! No!

EXT. PARK -- DAY

Carmen and Charity walk in the park.

CARMEN

You are asking me to explain men to you. I can't do that. They're inexplicable.

CHARITY

Do you think he wants me to call him or something? We wouldn't do that in England.

CARMEN

You want to go on the radio with him? Let's just stop in.

CHARITY

Yeah all right. I'd love to be on the radio. I want to be famous.

CARMEN

I thought you wanted to work for a non-profit.

CHARITY

Yes. But I want to be famous doing it. Like Angelina Jolie.

INT. GALLETTI'S HOUSE -- DAY

Pauli meets with Sean the Plumber at the kitchen table. They drink coffee and eat donuts while over looking a blue print of a building. Pauli holds a piece of paper.

PAULI

OK. So, my source in the prison administration says that the puppies are all held by a group of prisoners in wing D. And he knows that they puppies from the investment banker, Mister Goldstein, went to three prisoners. First to Frankie "No Mercy" Mercino. Sounds like a fellow Italian. Second to No-real-first-name "Papo" Mendez. And third to Devon "C-Bones" Johnson. Also known as the Triggerman. Huh. Sounds like a nice bunch of young men. But, they don't deserve one of Mona's little grand kids.

SEAN THE PLUMBER

So, I have the truck outfitted with some puppy chow, water, some ropes. What else do we need?

JC

We need plumber outfits. What do plumbers wear?

PAULI

They have cleavage in their butts.

SEAN THE PLUMBER

They do not.

PAULI

You do.

SEAN THE PLUMBER

Why were you watching?

JC

Seriously. I have one of those blue-collar shirts, some blue jeans, gloves and boots. I think I should carry a pipe wrench or something.

SEAN THE PLUMBER

You're the apprentice, you should carry everything.

JC

Make Pauli the apprentice.

PAULI

We're both apprentices JC. Does your blue-collar shirt have a blue collar?

JC

I think so, yeah. Blue collar union guys wear denim shirts right?

PAULI

I'll carry the whatta you call it. Tool box thing. And that long thing you shove in the hole to push the poop out of the way.

SEAN THE PLUMBER

All right that's a plan. Just do whatever I tell you. We're union plumbers so you have to look up to me.

JC

Pauli that doesn't mean looking at his butt cleavage.

PAULI

Got it. We just have to show some courage on this one. I admit, I'm afraid of walking in to a prison to steal something.

SEAN THE PLUMBER

Pauli, we're union and as such we're not afraid of anyone. If they want to create a beef, let them bring it. I have the union hall on speed dial.

Pauli pulls out Mona's old collar and fingers it.

PAULI

All right. I'm not afraid of going after what I want.

JC

Just think of this as an interesting experiment. We might learn something.

EXT. PRISON PARKING LOT -- EVENING

In the parking lot of a prison, Pauli, Sean the Plumber and JC unload pipe wrenches, a tool box and other plumber equipment from Sean's Van.

They walk up to the front gate of the prison. A sign reads "New York State Penitentiary".

INT. PRISON PARKING LOT -- CONTINUOUS

Sean leads Pauli and JC into the prison reception area. A SERGEANT OF THE GUARD greets them.

SERGEANT OF THE GUARD

Can I help you?

SEAN THE PLUMBER

Yes. We have a union authorized work order here to fix some sinks and hot water on wing D. Were you having some problems? What part of the plumbing is broken?

The sergeant slides them a guest registration book and they sign-in. The sergeant hands them each a badge.

INT. PRISON -- MOMENTS LATER

Pauli, Sean and JC walk through the prison yard followed by the guard.

GUARD

This is kinda late to be fixing plumbing isn't it? Most of the prisoners are settling down for the evening.

A sign reads: "Wing D" "Home of the Puppies Behind Bars Program".

PAULI

Uh, well, we wouldn't want the prisoners to go another day without sewers.

GUARD

Oh, what do we care. They're prisoners. Bad guys. They deserve all of the crap they get.

Sean takes a swing at the back of the guards head with his pipe wrench but misses and the momentum throws Sean into the wall.

SEAN THE PLUMBER

Whoa! Sorry. I like to practice swinging my pipe.

JC

In case he has to fight off some prisoners.

The guard stops at a doorway.

GUARD

The access to the plumbing is behind this door. It's closed off to prisoners. We don't want them escaping through the sewers like they do in all those movies.

JC

Yeah. Those movies. They don't realize how well trained you guards are. You're bad-allecks.

The guard opens a heavy iron door with a key.

GUARD

I'll be right up the hall if you need me.

INT. PRISON PLUMBING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

The guard turns on a light, closes the door and leaves them behind. Pauli, Sean and JC look around a room full of pipes and boilers.

Pauli looks through a hole in the wall.

THROUGH THE HOLE

A group of nasty, hard prisoners huddles together.

PRISONER #1

So, C-bones. I want you to beat on Willie GP tonight.

C-BONES

Do I have to?

PRISONER #1

You'll do what you're told.

C-BONES

All right I got him. I got to take my puppy back to the kennel. He's been a very good boy today.

PRISONER #1

Take your puppy back to the kennel.

IN THE PLUMBING ROOM

Pauli pulls back from the hole.

PAULI

So, you know what to do. JC you check that hall way. I'll go this way and follow this prisoner to the kennel. Sean, you pretend to keep plumbing but listen for alarms. Remember, we want puppies 2150 through 2155.

JC

You want a boy or a girl?

PAULI

I don't want to be judgmental.

SEAN THE PLUMBER

Go.

PAULI

A girl. No a boy.

SEAN THE PLUMBER

Go.

INT. PRISON HALLWAY #1 -- MOMENTS LATER

JC sneaks down the hall way into a small office area. A guard walks around the corner.

GUARD

Hold on what are you doing here?

JC

I'm with the plumber. I just talked to you.

GUARD

I don't recognize you. Back in your cell. You low security prisoners think you're so special.

JC

What are you talking about? I'm with the plumber. You just gave me this badge.

(pointing to badge)

GUARD

You don't know how to plumb.

JC

I'm a card-carrying union apprentice. Let me show you my membership card.

The guard pulls out his night stick.

GUARD

You're probably a college boy, ain't ya? Let me teach you a lesson.

The guard approaches JC waiving his night stick. The guard swings at JC. JC turns and absorbs the blow. He uses artful exaggerated Aikido to beat-up the guard. He whips the guard then sneaks into tickle his ribs, causing the guard to convulse. He yanks on his pinky and the guard turns back and forth and smashes into a wall. He messages a small, little-known nerve in his neck and the guard hits himself with his club. At the end of the fight the guard lays against the wall with a relaxed look on his face.

INT. PRISON HALLWAY #2 -- CONTINUOUS

Pauli runs down the hallway to follow C-Bones to the kennel. Inside the kennel, C-Bones kisses his puppy on the cheek and the puppy kisses him back.

He puts the puppy way in his cage.

C-BONES

Bye puppy. Daddy has to go do some work for the boss. But, I don't want to. Maybe I won't hit him too hard, would that be OK?

(Cont'd) (Pause)

Yeah. That would be better. I wouldn't do it but he has been mis-behavin'. Maybe next week, I'll help the man get a puppy. Bye puppy.

C-Bones leave the kennel.

INT. PRISON KENNEL -- CONTINUOUS

Pauli slips into the kennel. Pauli sneaks toward the pen where C-bones dropped off his puppy.

PAULI

All right. Are you number twenty one fifty one? A prisoner comes around the corner.

PRISONER #2

What a you doin'?

PAULI

What a you doin'?

PRISONER #2

I axed you first. What a you doin'?

PAULI

Hey come on here. What does it look like I'm doin'? I'm lookin' at the puppies. I got one of those soft hearts.

PRISONER #2

Did Pauli say you could be in here?

PAULI

Pauli?

PRISONER #2

The bossman, who runs this joint. We don't let no guards or nothing run our puppies behind bars program.

PAULI

Oh. Yeah. I'm Vito Francesci. I'm a Paisano of Pauli's. But, I didn't know nothing about no program. I'm just takin' a stroll over here. You know, no guards.

PRISONER #2

Since you're a paisan, I'll let you stay. But next time, you check-in with Pauli.

PAULI

All right. I'll check in with Pauli.

The prisoner leaves. Pauli goes up to the cage where C-Bones dropped off his puppy.

He opens the cage and pulls out the dog.

PAULI

Oh, you smell just like Mona.

Pauli pulls out Mona's old dog collar and tags. He drapes it around the puppy's neck.

PAULI

Can you wear these some day? Yes you can. Yes you can. Oh, you're so sweet. Maybe I should take two.

Pauli opens the pen next to that one and pulls out another puppy. He sets down a duffel bag on the floor and opens it.

He places the puppies into the bag and shuts it.

He stands up and exits.

INT. PRISON PLUMBING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Sean, Pauli and JC gather in the plumbing room. Pauli holds up the duffel bag.

PAULI

All right. I got what I was looking for.

JC

Let's go.

PAULI

Wait, do we look plumbing enough?

SEAN THE PLUMBER

I actually spotted some valves down here that are about to rust out. I'm coming back next week with a bid.

Sean, Pauli and JC grab all of the gear and leave the room. A muffled cry is heard off screen.

INT. PRISON HALLWAY #1 -- CONTINUOUS

Pauli, JC and Sean sneak out into the hallway. At the other end of the hall, Pauli spots a GROUP OF GUARDS coming at them, wearing riot gear.

PAULI

Let's find some other way out.

Pauli, JC and Sean turn into the kennel where they find C-Bones and No-Mercy Mercino crying.

IN THE KENNEL

C-BONES

Our puppies! They just barely learned to walk.

NO-MERCY MERCINO

She just told me that she loved me. I miss her.

C-BONES

He was going to teach me how to swim!!

C-Bones and No-Mercy continue to cry.

IN THE HALLWAY

Pauli sets down his duffel bag and looks at it.

JC

What are you doing?

PAULI

I'm going to give them their dogs back.

JC

They'll kill us.

PAULI

I promised Mona I'd take of her forever. And well, I think this is best for her puppies.

JC

Big furry men who love them too much.

PAULI

Yes.

IN THE KENNEL

Pauli brings back the duffel bag with the puppies and sets it down.

PAULI

Here, I was going to steel them. But, I figure than you need them more than I do.

C-Bones and No Mercy re-unite with their puppies.

NO-MERCY MERCINO

We ought to kill you.

C-BONES

Let's break his legs.

Sean the Plumber jumps in from the hallway with a card held in front of him.

SEAN THE PLUMBER

Watch out. We're plumber's union.

NO-MERCY MERCINO

They're union. That's like a gang.

C-BONES

Well, they did bring them back.

NO-MERCY MERCINO

I suppose we could let them go.
Papo Mendez comes in.

PAULI

I used to own their grandmother when I was a boy and I wanted a puppy just like him.

C-BONES

Really? What was she like? Did she have this little white spot on her chest too? I think it is so cute.

PAPO

My puppy has a white spot on his ear.

Pauli walks forward.

C-Bones, No-Mercy and Papo Mendez show Pauli their puppies.

NO-MERCY MERCINO

My puppy has a white and a yellow spot.

JC

Pauli, we gotta go before the guards show up.

PAULI

Just hold your pants on. I'm petting the puppies.

PAPO

Yeah. Just hold your pants. He wants to see his dog's grandchildren.

Pauli pets the puppies.

INT. VAN -- NIGHT

Pauli, JC and Sean drive in the van along a dark highway.

JC

You didn't get your puppy. You might as well just go to the pound.

PAULI

I'm hopeless. I'm unemployed. My parents think I'm nuts.

JC

You still have your radio show and Charity and Carmen support you.

PAULI

What about you guys?

SEAN THE PLUMBER

We think you need to see a doctor.

JC

Yes. We think you should try therapy.

SEAN THE PLUMBER

You guys want to stop at a convenience store?

INT. HAZEL'S HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM

HAZEL

So she won't let the boy quit band?

PAULI

No.

HAZEL

Pauli there is more to this story than I am letting on. You see I am Eileen's aunt. I gave her the puppy because she's in the family. I wanted the boy to be happy. His father was very irresponsible. He stayed at work all of the time and ignored his wife and son.

PAULI

She's not letting Justin even play with the little bugger.

HAZEL

Maybe you can get to know Eileen.
Soften her up and then talk to her
about the boy.

PAULI

I don't have the courage. She
chased me off the property with a
broom.

EXT. JUSTIN'S HOUSE -- DAY

Pauli stands on the porch of Justin and Eileen's house with
a bunch of old toys in his hands: a slot car racetrack,
Twister, and some legos.

He knocks on the door. Eileen comes to the door.

EILEEN

What do you want?

Eileen glares at him.

PAULI

I wanted to make up for the other
day and say I'm sorry. I brought
over some of my favorite toys from
when I was the same age as Justin.

EILEEN

What do you want?

PAULI

I want Justin to have as much fun as
I had as a kid. I want him to have
a chance to laugh.

EILEEN

You're saying that I'm not a good
parent?

PAULI

I'm saying that you're manipulating
him. Making him be something that
he's not.

(pause)

Now you're going to send me away
aren't you? Cause you're afraid.

EILEEN

I ought to beat your ass.

Pauli smiles at her.

PAULI

Come on. I'm Pauli Galletti. Your neighbor. You can't call the cops on me.

EILEEN

All right. I admit. I am hard on him. But I don't want him to end up a dead beat, boring, uncreative loser like his father.

PAULI

Who is his father that you hate so much?

EILEEN

Steve Duke.

Pauli steps back.

PAULI

Uuuh! You dated Steve Duke? Disgusting.

EILEEN

Thanks. Jerk.

Pauli and Eileen stare at each other. Pauli breaks out laughing.

PAULI

That's funny. We all make mistakes. When we were sophomores I tried to be nice to Steve and let him do a science project with me. He told the teacher that he did all of the work. What a terd.

EILEEN

He's a totally good liar.

Pauli sighs....

PAULI

I'll teach him how to play legos, slot cars and play with the puppy at the same time. All while making jokes and watching cartoons. You can't pick the instrument for his art, it has to choose him.

EILEEN

And slot cars are an instrument of art?

PAULI

Yes. They are. Combined with the right jokes. And a tunnel hand-made from legos.

EILEEN

OK.

PAULI

And I'll teach him about girls.

EILEEN

Don't you dare.

PAULI

OK. I don't know anything anyway.

Eileen shows him into the house.

INT. JUSTIN'S HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

EILEEN

Justin! Your neighbor is here to give you a break from piano.

Justin comes in to the living room.

PAULI

Hey, I'm Pauli. The guy who tried to steal your dog. And I felt that I needed to make-up for that. I thought we might play some games.

JUSTIN

Did you really raise my puppy's grandmother?

PAULI

You bet I did. She was a very Italian Labrador Retriever. But, she even saved my life one day. In the river. You know they can swim like crazy. It's the web feet they got there. They were bred to retrieve fishing nets in the North Atlantic.

JUSTIN

Wow.

INT. JUSTIN'S HOUSE -- PLAY ROOM -- LATER

Pauli and Justin play with a number of toys at the same time while watching television. The puppy plays with them, chasing cars and playing with toys. Pauli drinks milk out of a silly straw.

PAULI

Ever drink milk up your nose?

JUSTIN

Ew. That's disgusting.

PAULI

Oh but it is possible. Want to see?

JUSTIN

No thanks.

PAULI

You see your sinuses are behind your nose but the liquid drops back into your throat. How else are you going to learn about anatomy if you don't experiment on yourself. One time I hit myself on the head with a hammer, just to see what would happen.

(pause)

So what kind of name is Gallant for a dog?

JUSTIN

I didn't name him, mom did.

PAULI

You can't let your mom name your puppy. It's your puppy not hers.

JUSTIN

I don't know about that.

PAULI

You just call him what you want to call him.

JUSTIN

What should I call him?

PAULI

I'm not going to tell you what to name your puppy. That would be a violation of the dude code.

JUSTIN

All right. I'll call him Tiger.

PAULI

That's a good name. Then when your mom is around just call him Gallant Tiger. That way she thinks that she won but she really didn't. Cause his real name is Tiger.

Pauli puts some legos underneath the slot car track.

PAULI

See with a little creativity. We can make a hill for the cars to go over. That's creativity. Not those clarinet scales and stuff.

JUSTIN

How do these cars run?

Pauli pick up a slot car and hands it to him.

PAULI

Take it apart.

JUSTIN

Mom wouldn't like that.

PAULI

So what? Just put it back together. Most of the stuff I did when I was your age, my mom didn't like.

Justin takes apart his car.

PAULI

See the current in the track is alternating. It goes up and down up and down really fast. So the alternate sides of the engine are positive and negative, but really fast. So, it pulls around this magnetic wheel. And the wheel is connected to the tires by this gear. And it makes the car go. All because the current in the track is alternating. Just like a woman's brain. It goes back and forth, back and forth, back and forth. You know a guy from Croatia invented this kind of current that goes back and forth. His name was Tesla.

JUSTIN

How do know all of this stuff?

PAULI

I don't know. Back in high school I used to be really smart. Then I tried to be successful. And have a lot of possessions. And I got dumber and dumber and dumber. And here I am.

Pauli grabs a dog toy.

PAULI

You have any tape? We'll tape the toy to the roof of the car and see if Tiger will chase it around the track.

JUSTIN

Yeeahh. Justin jumps up and runs to go get some tape.

INT. JUSTIN'S HOUSE -- PLAY ROOM -- LATER

Pauli and Justin have built a lego fort over the race track. Eileen walks into the hallway and watches them play for twenty seconds.

Pauli and Justin play with great enthusiasm.

EILEEN

Justin, it's time to go now. You have to wash your hands for dinner.

JUSTIN

Aww mom. We were just having the racecar driver try to smash through the lego castle.

PAULI

Yeah. I gotta go. Your mom is right. You want me to leave the toys here? I can pick them up in a couple weeks when he gets bored with them.

Eileen stares at Pauli.

EILEEN

That would be fine.

PAULI

Would it be possible to go to the park on Monday. It's a holiday. No school. And I don't have to work.

EILEEN

Maybe. You can stop by and see.

Pauli gets up and walks toward the door.

PAULI

I gotta go kiddo. See you later. No long good byes.

JUSTIN

Bye. Please come back some time.

Pauli walks out.

INT. DJ BOOTH - RADIO STATION -- DAY

Pauli sits with Carmen and Charity in the DJ booth. Each of them wears headphones and has a microphone.

PAULI

Today I have my lovely sister, Carmen Galletti and our friend Charity Winchester. Charity is from England, across the pond so everyone be nice.

Charity and Carmen say "hello" into the microphones.

Pauli clicks on a caller.

CALLER THREE

Hey, Pauli I jumped right in. I wondered if you have a picture of the ladies.

Pauli clicks off the caller.

PAULI

No. And besides on this show we judge women by their personalities and their intellect. We want to know what makes them special. Not just their bodies.

CHARITY

Thank you Pauli. Next time I can wear a swimsuit or something.

PAULI

We are not trying to get attention from you.

CHARITY

I love attention. I'll wear a bathing suit. I'll go naked.

CARMEN

So do I Pauli. Let's do it. We'll get a web site and we'll pose in our bathing suits as Pauli girls.

Pauli holds up his hand as if to say "woa".

PAULI

Really we should talk about our topics today which I have chosen. I chose them in part because you ladies were coming on the show. I thought we'd talk about crocheting, the latest trend in fashion. Or the other one would be we could talk about God and Yoga.

CARMEN

Pauli. This is radio. We came here to be famous. And for people to adore us.

Pauli groans.

PAULI

All right. But you give my listeners an inch and they will take miles.

Pauli clicks on a caller.

CALLER FOUR

I like to crochet. It is very fashionable.

PAULI

That's what I'm talking about.

CALLER FOUR

And I'm a woman and I want to see the ladies in swimsuits.

CLICK.

INT. DIFFERENT RADIO STATION -- DAY

Steve meets with a DJ outside of a radio station.

RADIO DJ

So you want me to tell my audience that Pauli Galletti is boring?

STEVE

Yes. I want you to tell them he is not cool. Like you know when you DJs tell people what to listen to and what clothes to wear. I want you to tell everyone that Pauli is not cool.

RADIO DJ

Can I ask why?

STEVE

Because I hate Pauli Galletti and I always have since he made fun of me during our home room during our sophomore year in high school. I will defeat him some day. One day he will lay down in the gutter, look up at me and beg.

Steve rubs his hands together.

RADIO DJ

All right. Whatever. For two thousand buck I'll say anything. If you want me to call him a New Yorker I'll even to that. But you know that will probably touch off a war.

STEVE

Yeah. Tell everyone it's like he's from New York City or something. That ought to finish him.

EXT. SHOPPING DISTRICT -- DAY

Pauli and Charity hold hands as they walk past a group of chic shops and look through the windows. Charity pulls Pauli into a girly clothing store.

INT. TRENDY WOMAN'S CLOTHING STORE -- CONTINUOUS

Charity pulls Pauli into a store that sells trendy young women's clothes, lingerie, and shoes.

Pauli is reluctant, with drooping shoulders.

PAULI

If you want someone to be sensitive or appreciative then you should have brought my sister along.

CHARITY

I want to see what kind of man you are.

PAULI

What are you talking about?

CHARITY

I want to see if you can tell what cool clothes look like and what perfume smells best.

PAULI

Really I have no clue. This whole thing started because I wanted to get a puppy.

Charity tries on a bright pink dress and comes out of the changing room.

CHARITY

What do you think?

PAULI

That's neat. Do you know what I'm saying. Puppies smell like rotting Cheerios and I'm attracted to that. No so much the perfumes from Paris.

CHARITY

Neat.

PAULI

Really, I'm from South Philly. Women in my parent's neighborhood would not wear that. But, I think it is great that you can. It's almost a religious experience. Beautiful and emotive. Like the sunrise over a coral sand beach in the tropics.

CHARITY

When you buy a box of crayons in South Philly, does it come with a pink one?

PAULI

Yes.

CHARITY

Then this dress should be all right.

PAULI

It's awesome. It's perfect. Very cool. Cooler than a Philadelphia Eagles Jersey. And that is saying a lot. Of course, you'll need some shoes to go with it.

CHARITY

Shoes are the next step. Are you putting me on?

PAULI

You bet I am.

EXT. GALLETTI'S HOUSE -- DAY

Steve carries a crate of eggs up to Pauli's car, kneels and sets the crate of eggs down. He pulls out an egg and puts it into Pauli's tailpipe. Steve kneels behind Pauli's car and twists off the cap to his rear tire. He starts to let the air out.

JC walks up behind Steve.

JC

Steve. How's it going? Did you come over to talk to Pauli?

Steve quickly stands up and turns around.

JC

I know you two did not get along in high school very well. But now you're working with him.

STEVE

Yeah. What are you doing here?

JC

We're going to go to the park. You wanna go?

STEVE

No. I have a lot to do.

JC bends down and picks an egg out of the exhaust pipe.

JC

How did that get in here? That's odd. That could have caused some damage.

STEVE

Yes. Good thing you spotted it.

JC

Say Steve, I'm finishing up my education with a PhD. You've done well financially do you suggest I get my PhD in history or sociology. I am doing my dissertation on the social history of small German towns in Eastern Pennsylvania.

STEVE

Oh I'm sure you'll do fine whatever you choose. You always were smart. You and Pauli always went after and got what you wanted.

JC

Right now all Pauli wants is that girl Charity.

STEVE

Really? That's his big hope?

JC

Yes. He's interested in radio. But, he really just wants her.

STEVE

I gotta go. Have fun at the park.

JC

Are you sure that you don't want to say hi to Pauli?

Steve dashes across the street to his car.

IN THE BACKGROUND

Hazel walks her dog and sees the conversation between JC and Steve.

BY PAULI'S CAR

JC

Boy, what are these eggs doing here on the pavement.

JC picks up the eggs and heads towards the door.

EXT. PARK -- LATER

Pauli, Justin and JC play with the puppy Tiger in the park.
Pauli runs from the puppy.

PAULI

Come and get me big guy. Come on.
Come on.

JC

Come on doggy. Doggy doggy doggy.

PAULI

You're just a killer tiger aren't
you? Yes a killer tiger.

JC

Can you play fetch? JC gets a stick
and throws it for the puppy.

Pauli tries to do a cartwheel on the grass.

PAULI

Did you hear the joke about the
dog...What do dogs have that no
other animal has? Puppy Dogs! Ha
ha. When is the most likely time a
stray dog will walk into your house?
When the door is open. Ha ha. Why
can't dogs dance? Cause they have
two left feet. Ha ha.

Justin watches JC and Pauli.

EXT. JUSTIN'S HOUSE -- LATER

Eileen, Justin and Gallant the dog walk into the house.
Justin carries a leash and some dog toys.

EILEEN

Did you enjoy your time with Pauli
and the dog?

JUSTIN

Yeah, it was great mom.

EILEEN

What is the best part about it?

JUSTIN

I can be myself. And laugh and make
jokes. Pauli is funny.

Justin puts away the leash and dog toys.

EILEEN

What do you mean be yourself?

JUSTIN

I don't know mom. I just don't feel so much pressure, like I do at school.

INT. DJ BOOTH - RADIO STATION -- DAY

Pauli wears a headset and sits behind the microphone.

PAULI

Hey. This is Pauli Galletti filling in for Dave the Wave. I am very honored to be sitting in his chair. I mean it's covered with body sweat and long grey hairs. And they just called me up out of the blue and asked me if I was available to sit in for Dave the Wave. Wow.

(Pause)

You're listening to Philadelphia's best classic rock. Heck the East coast's best classic rock. One of the greatest radio stations in the world. Home of Dave the Wave. And where we think golf is for little sissy guys. Yes we think golf courses are just big tracks of land that take up too much water. Where white guys with no athletic talent try to make up for years of inadequacy at real sports like basketball and football...so they make it just too expensive for other people to play. And anyone who would have a golf radio show must be the devil himself or a girl.

Pauli clicks the music on and classic rock starts playing. Pauli gets up and does a dance.

PAULI

I can't believe I'm filling in for Dave the Wave! This is like subbing for Allen Iverson.

(pause)

Except I couldn't do that. And I think that I can do this.

EXT. RADIO STATION -- LATER

Eileen pulls up in her car, gets out and walks toward the door. Pauli comes bopping out the door.

EILEEN

There you are. I loved your show.

PAULI

Oh hi Miss Eileen. How are you?

EILEEN

I just wanted to stop by and say how much I loved your show. And I have allowed Justin to quit the band, just like you advised. Thanks for your input. He's still playing the piano though and he's even playing better now that he gets his puppy involved.

PAULI

No problem. Does Justin seem happier?

EILEEN

Oh absolutely.

Eileen reaches up and puts her hand on Pauli's shoulder.

EILEEN

I was just so focused on proving that my son had talent and that he wasn't a loser like his father, I forgot the reason that we listen to music in the first place. Emotions and art. You know my father was a concert violinist.

AT THE DRIVEWAY TO THE LOT

Charity drives up in her car.

She sees Eileen and Pauli standing close and talking. Charity gets mad and turns the car around.

CHARITY

(mumbling)

Men. You can never trust them.

NEAR THE BACK DOOR

Pauli smiles and he slowly takes Eileen's hand off of his shoulder and holds.

PAULI

I am very glad that I could help Justin out.

EILEEN

You know since we live so close to one another, we should get to know each other. You can come over and spend some time with Justin.

PAULI

I am just starting a relationship with another young woman.

Eileen drops his hand and backs away.

EILEEN

That's what you guys always say. Not interested. Still the same old snotty Pauli Galletti.

PAULI

Come on. Please be happy for me. She's a great girl. You had one once.

EILEEN

I did have one once. But he was scum!

PAULI

Nice to see you. We should chat some time. Or maybe you should chat with your aunt Hazel more often. She made me feel a lot better.

EILEEN

Yeah. I know. Pauli moves to walk off.

PAULI

Do you want a hug?

EILEEN

Oh, all right.

Pauli gives her a hug and squeezes her hard.

Eileen smiles and hugs him back.

INT. DIFFERENT RADIO STATION -- DJ BOOTH -- DAY

A RADIO DJ sits behind the microphone.

RADIO DJ

I just wanted to let everyone out there know something. We are officially branding radio talk show host Pauli Galletti as not cool. I repeat, that is a not cool rating for talk show host Pauli Galletti. So all you minions out there if you were listening to him on the weekends you have to stop. And nobody, I mean no body goes and finds out who he is or what the show is about. He's not cool. Thank you.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS -- DAY

Carmen walks up to Charity on campus.

CARMEN

I just heard that Hot One Hundred DJs declared that Pauli is not cool.

CHARITY

I don't care.

CARMEN

What do you mean you don't care? This is big. This means he'll have to become an underground star like Sean Penn, Kurt Cobain, or or ...Conan O'Brien.

CHARITY

Yeah.

(pause)

I don't care.

CARMEN

You don't care?

CHARITY

I don't care.

CARMEN

What's up honey?

CHARITY

I saw him with another woman.

CARMEN

What? Are you sure? Pauli?

CHARITY

Yes. I spotted him at the radio station with another dame.

CARMEN

Couldn't be. Pauli's not the type to play around or attract a lot of women. Especially now that he's been labeled as not cool.

CHARITY

Thanks a lot.

CARMEN

I didn't mean it that way. It's just that, you have to get to know him.

CHARITY

He was with that little boy's mother.

CARMEN

He was just helping her out. Helping the little boy out.

CHARITY

I'm not so sure. My heart is all tied-up in knots.

INT. GALLETTI'S HOUSE -- DAY

Pauli sits with JC in the living room of his parents. JC is dressed like an academic nerd.

JC

I can't believe that Power One Hundred declared that you aren't cool. That's gotta hurt.

PAULI

Especially since I went to their giveaway remote for a two thousand two Hyundai hatchback. I mean I should declare them not cool.

JC

And why won't your boss let you do your Saturday radio show?

PAULI

He said they're closed for remodeling on Saturday. But I think something is up there too.

JC

I don't know Pauli. I have to think about myself here. I have to get a post-doctorate assignment somewhere. I can't be hanging around a guy who is unemployed and lives at his parent's house.

PAULI

Just last week I was filling in for Dave the Wave.

JC

I know. And now, I am too cool to hang out with you. Wow. You really are hurting.

PAULI

So leave.

JC

All right.

JC stands up.

PAULI

Just get out of here. Go. Leave. I don't care.

JC

All right then.

JC leaves.

Pauli sits on an old couch in his parent's house alone...without Charity without JC without a puppy without a job. And the town of Philadelphia thinks he is not cool.

Pauli pulls out Mona's old collar and twirls it around.

PAULI

Girl when everything would go wrong like this, you and me could still go the park and play Frisbee. Remember that?

Pauli gets up, puts on his coat and steps outside, carrying Mona's collar in his hand.

EXT. HAZEL'S HOUSE -- LATER

Pauli knocks on Hazel's door. No one answers.

EXT. COMEDY CLUB -- LATER

Pauli walks past the front of a comedy club and looks at the posters on the wall. The club is not open yet and no activity can be seen.

Pauli longingly stares at the list of headliners coming to the club.

A bird flying over craps and poop drops right next to him. He looks down and there is poop splattered on his shoe.

PAULI

Hey, it almost missed.

EXT. ELECTRONICS COMPANY -- DAY

Dressed up and wearing a suit, Pauli drives up in front of an electronics company. He climbs out of his car and looks at the building. In his hand he carries a piece of paper.

Pauli walks back and forth in front of his car.

PAULI

Nah. I'm not doing this. I'm not.

(pause)

How am I going to pay the rent? I gotta move out of my parent's house.

Pauli climbs back into his car, starts the car and drives out of the lot.

EXT. PAULI'S PARENT'S HOUSE -- DAY

Eileen knocks hard and repeatedly on the door of Pauli's parent's house then she carefully walks down the steps.

She stands five feet in front of the steps to the house.

Pauli opens the door, wearing pajamas that are printed with pictures of dogs. The PJs are too small for him and worn thin.

PAULI

Can I help you?

EILEEN

Did you tell Justin that he should sign-up for baseball?

PAULI

I just told him it was a fun game.

EILEEN

We got into an argument over baseball. Then his little dog ran away. And Justin ran off to find him.

Eileen starts to cry.

Pauli stands in his pajamas for five seconds.

Pauli moves down the steps and gives her a hug.

PAULI

It's all right. I'm sure it is hard to be a parent. I think you're doing a great job. A great job. He has great character.

Pauli hugs her.

PAULI

Let me put some clothes on and then we'll go find him. Tell you what, why don't you just start knocking on doors and asking the neighbors and I'll run right over.

EILEEN

I can't just knock on their doors.

PAULI

Forget polite. Just do it. We need to get moving and get leads, now. Knock!

EXT. PAULI'S PARENT'S HOUSE -- LATER

Pauli comes out and crosses the street where Eileen just finished talking with a NEIGHBOR.

PAULI

OK. The first thing I want you to do is drive the police station and file a report.

EILEEN

They won't take a report yet. It has not been twenty four hours.

PAULI

You just give them the information and be ready when the time comes. Plus, maybe Justin went there to find his dog.

EILEEN

But what if they don't listen?

PAULI

This is Philadelphia. The city of Brotherly love. If a police officer does not listen to a citizen, you form a fist and hit him right on the chin.

EILEEN

They still won't listen.

PAULI

We have to split up. Get stuff done. I'll get a message out on to the radio. You go to the police and fire departments.

EILEEN

Are you sure you can do that?

PAULI

Yes. I can speak very clearly and slowly. I used to be in radio. Here's my card. It has my cell phone on it. I have your number.

Pauli hands her a card. She stares at it.

PAULI

Go!

EILEEN

Aaagh. You scared me. Pauli turns to the house and runs to his car.

Eileen turns and runs toward her home.

EXT. RADIO STATION -- LATER

Pauli gets out of his car and storms toward the radio station.

INT. RADIO BOOTH -- LATER

Pauli opens the door. An older DJ, Dave the Wave, picks his fingernails and listens to the music.

PAULI

Mister Wave?

DAVE THE WAVE

What do you want?

PAULI

I'm Pauli Galletti. I filled in for you a couple times when you were sick.

DAVE THE WAVE

OK. I think you're the guy who did a bit too good of a job. You made me look uninteresting.

PAULI

Sorry about that.

DAVE THE WAVE

I listened to you. You threw in a Molly Hatchet song and some Thin Lizzy. Not a lot of kids know about Thin Lizzy. It was good. But with that you should have thrown down some good old Zeppelin to bring the people back to what they know.

PAULI

I don't even know what a Thin Lizzy is either. Or Molly Hatchet. Or even a Steely Dan.

DAVE THE WAVE

I'll have to ask the manager why you're not still filling in for me.

PAULI

I came here because a little boy is missing and I have to make an announcement.

Dave looks at him bug-eyed.

DAVE THE WAVE

You better make that announcement.

Dave makes room and turns the mic to Pauli.

Pauli sits down.

Dave stands up and puts headphones on Pauli. The music stops.

PAULI

Attention Philadelphia. I have an announcement to make.

EXT. PHILADELPHIA -- CONTINUOUS

All over Philadelphia, people stop what they are doing. An announcement is about to be made.

EXT. RADIO BOOTH -- CONTINUOUS

PAULI

Attention Philadelphia. This is a missing persons alert. Please be on the lookout for a little boy and his Labrador retriever. Justin is about four feet and six inches tall with brown hair. Which one hundred and thirty seven centimeters. He was last seen in Manayunk. At a park near the Schuylkill River and Wissahickon Creek. He is wearing a blue sweater and blue pants. And I know - kids should wear brighter clothes. And his hair is brown. The puppy is a cut little lab that likes to take risks.

Pauli turns off the mic and goes to commercial

PAULI

How was that?

Pauli picks up a pen and paper from a table. He scribbles his phone # down.

DAVE THE WAVE

Good. Great.

SOUND ENGINEER

Great. Awesome.

PAULI

I better go. Here is my cell phone and his mother's number in case we get any leads.

Pauli gets up. He hands Dave a piece of paper and a business card.

EXT. PARK -- LATER

Pauli walks briskly through the park.

PAULI

Justin? Justin!

His cell phone rings and he answers it.

PAULI
 Hey, Dave. Yeah. Actually I'm near
 the river right now. Someone saw
 him there? OK. Right. I will head
 down there.

Pauli hangs up his cell phone and starts to jog. Pauli jogs
 to a park near the river.

EXT. RIVERSIDE PARK -- MOMENTS LATER

Pauli pushes his way through thick brush and overgrowth
 along trail along the river.

PAULI
 Justin! Justin! Justin!

The creek roars in the background. Pauli pushes and trudges
 his way up to a cliff and looks down. No one is there.

He keeps trudging through the brush.

Pauli comes up to another cliff and looks down.

Justin is at the bottom of the cliff, huddled against the
 river bank, holding onto Gallant Tiger.

PAULI
 Justin.

JUSTIN
 Pauli!

PAULI
 Hang-on. I'll climb down and get
 you.

Pauli looks around in the bushes. He moves up stream and
 starts to climb down in the bushes.

He climbs and falls down to the river bank, but still
 upstream from Justin.

PAULI
 How did you get over there?

JUSTIN
 We swam. I jumped in after him.
 But he's tired now. If you get over
 here, I think we can lift the dog up
 the cliff.

PAULI

I can't swim. I'm afraid of the water.

JUSTIN

What?

PAULI

I'm afraid of the water. We all have to be afraid of something. Some people are afraid of other people's opinions. Me, I'm afraid of the water. I almost drowned once and Mona saved me.

JUSTIN

How did you find me?

PAULI

My dog ran away to this same park several times. They mean to come back, but the water makes them crazy. It just gets in their brain draws them on, like being put under a magic spell.

Pauli walks into the water towards Justin.

ON THE FAR BANK

A NEWSCREW breaks out of the bushes on the far bank and sets up their camera. The REPORTER is yelling.

REPORTER

Right there. Get that shot. Not too wide. Get close. Get a close up. I want to see the worry on his face. Let me see the worry. The agony!

IN THE CREEK

Pauli makes it over to Justin and the dog.

Pauli gathers up the dog and Justin. He picks them up then he falls down in the muck. The puppy plays.

ON THE FAR BANK

REPORTER

Boy, that looks dangerous down there. You wouldn't catch me down there. I like to watch the news, not make it.

(pause)

Oh. Oh. It looks like they are going to make it. For a minute there, I thought we'd have a drowning. But, I think we better go get an interview for a hero story.

The camera crew rushes down the creek to intercept Pauli and Justin.

IN THE RIVER

Pauli struggles to keep Justin and the dog's heads above water. He moves them toward the shore and calmer water.

The three of them move down stream.

He gets them into shallow water.

They come to rest on a river bank and climb out of the river, each of them soaking wet.

Justin gives Pauli a high-five.

JUSTIN

Thanks Dude. Pauli.

EXT. RIVERBANK -- CONTINUOUS

Justin and Pauli walk up to flat area above the river, where the river is held back by a CEMENT EMBANKMENT. There is a large flat spot where they stop and rest. Pauli sits down.

The water here rushes by much stronger than where they were.

JUSTIN

Thanks for coming to get us. That was awesome. I was so scared.

Pauli digs out Mona's leash from his pocket. He fondles the leash and tags in his hand.

PAULI

Justin, why don't you two head towards the parking lot.

Justin and Gallant Tiger walk off toward the parking lot.

Pauli looks down at Mona's old collar. He fondles it.

Pauli stands up and walks over to the water.

PAULI

You know what? I don't need this any more. Thanks for everything Mona, especially the courage. But I think that I found my own courage.

Pauli reaches back and throws Mona's old collar into the river.

The collar arcs and sails through the air and lands with a SPLASH...

Tiger dashes off toward the river to retrieve the collar, dashing like a crazy tiger.

PAULI

Tiger! No!

JUSTIN

No! No!!!!!!

Tiger leaps off the embankment into the stream. Tiger swims out in the river.

The river is more rapid and violent.

Pauli runs downstream.

JUSTIN

He's floating downstream!

Pauli jumps into the rushing river. He swims and swims out into the current.

Pauli rescues the dog who was starting to get pulled down the river.

Pauli really has to struggle to get the dog to shore.

The news crew appears on the bank as Pauli pulls the dog out of the water.

Charity, JC and Sean the Plumber show up and help pull Pauli out of the river.

Eileen shows up and hugs Justin, stopping him from going in the water.

The news crew comes over to interview Pauli. Pauli drags himself up onto the shore and lies down, out of breath and wet.

Pauli lies on the shore exhausted while the puppy jumps on him.

REPORTER

Wow that was some rescue. Do you even know how to swim? Cause you didn't look like it?

PAULI

No. I don't. I used to know. Then I forgot. I was afraid of the water for a long time.

REPORTER

What made you do that?

PAULI

I guess I wanted to give the puppy a chance to grow and be his own dog some day.

REPORTER

What is your name and what do you do?

PAULI

I'm Pauli Galletti. I'm unemployed. But, I am looking for work as a radio talk show host or comedian.

REPORTER

Oh, so you want to be in the business?

PAULI

I was in the business. And I'm trying to find a new position.

Charity comes up to Pauli and grabs him.

CHARITY

Hey, Pauli. I am sorry that I did not believe you. You really were just trying to help that woman out.

PAULI

Of course I was. I wasn't messing around.

CHARITY

Can we get back together?

PAULI

Maybe if you're lucky. And things go right.

CHARITY

I am sorry. I apologize.

PAULI

OK. We'll how it goes.

CHARITY

See how it goes?

PAULI

We can go swimming together now. I've lost my fear of hot tubs. And you can wear a bathing suit on the show.

Pauli turns to Justin.

PAULI

See you around, Justin.

JUSTIN

See you around.

Pauli starts to walk to the parking lot. Charity, JC, and Sean follow.

The reporter and the news corner Eileen, Justin and the dog. The reporter sticks his microphone in Justin's face.

INT. TODAY SHOW -- DAY

Pauli is welcomed to the Today show and sits with Matt Lauer on the home set.

MATT LAUER

So today we are welcoming Pauli Galletti who dramatically rescued a little boy and his dog from the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia. And it just so happens that it was caught on tape.

PAULI

Good morning Matt.

MATT LAUER

Tell us, you knew this little. He's from your neighborhood. And you're an unemployed electronics salesman. And you were a member of over-spender's anonymous.

PAULI

Let's tell them some more. I play video games. And I'm addicted to collecting sports memorabilia. And I live at my parent's house too. And Hot 100 branded me as a loser.

MATT LAUER

And didn't you give up a shot at a comedy show that was happening at the same time.

PAULI

You're doing a great job. I can tell your team has done their research.

MATT LAUER

Thanks. Yes.

PAULI

But really I'm not an electronic salesperson. I left that to take a job in radio. And I lost my radio gig right before this incident took place. I just lost it. Couldn't find it.

MATT LAUER

I'm sure you were good at radio. You have a very calming voice.

PAULI

Why thank you. You can relax and I'll take it from here. Why don't we look at the clip? To set it up, this is me pulling my neighbor boy and his dog from the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia. We have very tough Rivers there. Rude and gruff. Much harder than New York. Anyway after I got them out, I threw my old dog collar back in the river and puppy jumped in to retrieve it. Cause I used to carry the dog collar around with me.

(CONT'D)

PAULI (CONT'D)

Anyway, I had to pull him out again.
And this time the rapids were a bit
worse.

MATT LAUER

Let's take a look at the clip. Roll
it!

The video of Pauli's rescue plays.

EXT. GALLETTI'S HOUSE -- DAY

Pauli moves his stuff out of a moving van and into a new house in the same neighborhood where he grew-up. JC and Sean the Plumber help him carry things. Pauli's cell phone rings.

JC

Someone calling with another DJ
position?

PAULI

Probably.

SEAN THE PLUMBER

How many talk show host jobs have
you got this week?

PAULI

I think I have had five. Five solid
offers.

(to the phone)

Hello.

(pause)

I'm always open to listening. But,
I think I'm going to take a drive-
time position here in Philly. Yeah.
Thanks. I appreciate the good
wishes. Yeah. Good wishes to you
also. Let's all do great.

Pauli, JC and Sean the Plumber keep unloading the van. Hazel walks by on the street while walking her dog. She waves at them.

JC

So what are you going to do about
the chick, Charity?

PAULI

Unless she makes me take the Sixers
statue out of the bedroom - I think
I'll give her that second chance.
She helps keep me young at heart.

FADE OUT:

THE END