THE COMEDIAN

Story By
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Screenplay By
ART LINSON & JEFF ROSS and
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LEWIS FRIEDMAN
EXT: 7TH AVE & 34TH ST, NYC - WINTER - DUSK

Snow and ice with big chill winds hit the streets but it doesn’t slow down the throngs of New Yorkers heading toward the Long Island Railroad entrance of PENN STATION.

The Camera settles on ONE MAN walking alone fighting the crowds and the weather. We meet JACKIE BURKE.

INT: ESCALATOR - LIR - PENN STATION - DUSK

Jackie, carrying a small sports bag, rides the escalator down into Penn Station, stoic, oblivious to the harried commuters around him.

INT. LONG ISLAND RAIL ROAD TRAIN - LATER - DAY

Jackie sits alone on the train. He reads the NY Times, every once in a while circling an item, scribbling notes.

An MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN across from him stares. Jackie offers a brief glimpse then turns away.

OLD WOMAN
Excuse me? I know you . . . Don’t
I know you?

JACKIE
No!

Jackie returns to his notes. The Old Woman, speechless, goes back to minding her own business.

EXT: LIR HICKSVILLE STATION SIGN - DAY

The train pulls into Hicksville, Long Island.

EXT. GOVERNOR’S COMEDY CLUB - RAINY - LATE AFTERNOON

A “Long Island Taxi” drives through a suburban shopping mall parking lot behind Petco, P.C. Richards, Staples, bringing us to two small, isolated buildings: A tiny drive-thru “Dairy Mart”, and a red cement-block bunker with the word “COMEDY” printed across the front.

INT. TAXI - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Jackie glances at the Marquee through the window...
NOSTALGIA NITE!!  
Starring  
BRETT BUTLER from “GRACE UNDER FIRE”  
JACKIE BURKE from “Eddie’s Place”  
Hosted by  
JIMMIE “DYNO MITE” WALKER  

Jackie, expressionless, wraps his scarf around his neck and reads the computer screen: cash or credit.  

CABBIE  
(in rear-view mirror)  
I knew I knew you. “Eddie”. You’re “Eddie”. My wife and I were just watching one of the old shows. She said you died. I says, no I think he’s alive. We had a fight.  

Jackie throws the driver a $20 and exits the cab.  
He runs through the pouring rain to the front door.  

7  
INT. GOVERNOR’S COMEDY CLUB BAR - NIGHT  
Jackie enters carrying his sports bag to find his female agent/manager MILLER waiting for him.  

MILLER  
Are you cold? You need something to warm you up?  

JACKIE  
You could torch the club so I don’t have to do this shit.  

MILLER  
Be prepared - it’s not as big a house as they thought. I think the weather kept people home.  

JACKIE  
You sure it’s not the marquee? Reads like Night of the Living Dead.  

8  
INT. KITCHEN AREA - GOVERNOR’S CLUB - CONTINUOUS  
Miller leads Jackie through a busy kitchen. Jackie strips off his peacoat as they pass the kitchen help.  

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JACKIE
I should fire you for this.

MILLER
You said anything. You need money.

Jackie sets down his sports bag on a kitchen table, and Jackie starts shedding his winter garb: He takes off his hat and gives it to Miller. He unzips his sports bag and pulls out a pair of tennis shoes - kicking off his rubber snow boots, he slides on the loafers.

MILLER
Oh, CBS passed on the pilot.

JACKIE
They give a reason?

MILLER
They didn’t like it.

JACKIE
You tell me this before I go on? What you do before you fuck your boyfriend? Watch a Holocaust movie?

MILLER
At least I have a boyfriend. What relationship do you have?

We can see the half-filled showroom through the kitchen door. We hear laughter from the showroom.

JACKIE
(points at audience)
I’ve got them . . . the audience.

MILLER
You want to say hi to JJ?

JACKIE
No.

He walks out of the kitchen toward the showroom. Miller follows.

8-A  GOVERNOR’S CLUB – SHOWROOM – SIMULTANEOUS

JIMMIE “JJ” WALKER stands in the back of the half-filled room, watching Brett Butler performing on stage.
Jackie & Miller appear through the kitchen door.

JIMMIE WALKER
Jackie B!

JACKIE
JJ.

JIMMIE WALKER
Good to see you, man. Thanks for coming.

JACKIE
Thanks for having me.

JIMMIE WALKER
It’s a small house but they’re lively.

JACKIE
I only need one person to play. Sometimes I just play with myself.

JIMMIE WALKER
Dy-no-mite!

Jimmie nods, and moves toward the stage as Brett Butler finishes her act.

Finally, Jackie takes a small mirror out of the sports bag and hands it to Miller, who now holds all of Jackie’s discarded cloths. She holds up the mirror so Jackie can arrange his hair.

JIMMIE WALKER (V.O.)
She’s still “UNDER FIRE”, let’s hear it once again for Brett Butler! DY-NO-MITE!!!

JACKIE
You staying?

MILLER
I’ll drive you home.

Brett Butler exits past Jackie. They hug and shake hands.

BRETT BUTLER
If you ever see me at one these again shoot me in the head.
CONTINUED: (2)

JACKIE
I’ll do us both with one bullet.

Brett exits.

ON STAGE:

JIMMIE WALKER
So now please welcome a guy you might remember if you fought in World War II, from the sitcom “EDDIE’S HOME”...a true black belt in bustin balls..don’t adjust your set--this guy was on TV before there was color. Here he is...Mister Jackie Burke.

Applause. The Audience is chanting, “EDDIE! EDDIE!”

Jackie takes the mic from JJ Walker and puts on his show face.

JACKIE
Let’s hear it for the great JJ Walker.

Jackie sizes up the crowd. He takes a deep breath and lets it out slowly, ending with a quick shudder. We’ll come to recognize this as Jackie’s tic when he’s about to erupt into comedy -- a fighter coming out of his corner.

The chanting grows louder: “EDDIE! EDDIE!”

Jackie takes the stage. Grabs the mic.

JACKIE
Give it up for JJ WALKER. This guy was on TV before there was colored.

Jackie sizes up the crowd.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
It looks like everybody here is with someone.

He steals a quick look back to Miller in the wings.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
Lots of couples. A few singles.
(@ some young women)
What are you celebrating?
ONE OF THE GIRLS
Bachelorette party!

JACKIE
Bachelorette party!

JACKIE IN GIRL’S VOICE
Heather, I told you we should have
gone to Chippendales! I don’t
care if they’re all gay.

JACKIE
Okay, how many first dates in the house?

Crowd reaction.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
Quite a few.
(looks at a Table)
J-Date?
(table nods)
I thought so.
(then to WAITRESS)
Table 14 – separate checks.
(audience laughs)
How ‘bout married couples?
(several shouts)
Oh, quite a few . . .

Jackie turns around so he’s facing the Back Wall. He
talks into the mic sotto voce – an internal dialogue.

JACKIE TO HIMSELF
Maybe I shouldn’t do any marriage
jokes. Everyone’s is a good mood.
They just saw Brett Fucking
* Butler, they’re happy. I can’t
* crush their world with bleak shit
about marriage. Keep it light,
right?

Jackie turns around and faces the audience.

JACKIE
(growling into Mic)
Marriage will suck every speck of
life from your soul until there’s
nothing left but one giant
festering sore! No, really. I’m a
big fan of marriage, Hicksville.
I must be; I’ve been married four
times.

(MORE)
I don’t think it’s just me. I don’t think human beings were meant to be together. Want a relationship? Get a canary. Get a fish. Don’t get a cat -- that’s too sad. But get a hamster. Get a dog. A dog’s always happy to see you. A dog don’t judge. Like when You’re late?

JACKIE AS DOG
Hey, Jackie, no big deal. WOOF.

JACKIE
You forget to feed them.

JACKIE AS DOG
It’s okay, Jackie, I’ll manage. WOOF.

JACKIE
You can even come home smelling like pussy, and they’ll love you even more.

JACKIE AS DOG
(sniff, sniff)
Jackie, my man! WOOF WOOF...
(sniff)
...Dawg, you smell great! You been into some cool shit. WOOF.

JACKIE
You can even bring another dog home. Sure, your steady dog might get a little jealous, but the worst he’s gonna do is pee on your carpet, shit on the floor, maybe chew up a shoe or two. My third wife did all those things. But then she went and did what all wives do -- she got a lawyer. A dog will never do that. A dog will never go out and get a lawyer. And here’s another thing a dog will never do. When a dog dies, it will not be resurrected 25 years later on “Nostalgia Night.” Now I’m not suggesting anything, but if you get the right kind of dog--
Jackie is interrupted by a HECKLER seated in front with his BLONDE GIRLFRIEND.

HECKLER
(shouting)
Enough of this dog shit! Come on, do Eddie!

JACKIE
Not now pal, I’m working out some new stuff here.

HECKLER
Yeah, no, I didn’t pay to hear new material. I paid to see “Eddie”.

As before, Jackie turns his back to the audience, and speaks into the mic sotto voce — Internal dialogue:

JACKIE TO HIMSELF
Oh Christ, a heckler. This must be the infamous Hicksville Heckler I’ve been warned about. Big, loud, stupid ... I could destroy him, but I might lose the audience. They’re on my side now. I’m on a roll. I’ll kill him with kindness, go on with the bit, see where it leads.

(turns back to Audience & Heckler)
My friend, this is a place of peace where brothers and sisters gather together to nourish their souls with comedy and refreshments. You’ve come into this, and—

Now YELLING AT THE TOP OF HIS LUNGS

JACKIE (CONT’D)
DESTROYED IT ALL YOU SNIVELING, FUCKING PIECE OF SHIT CUNT, YOU SCUM SUCKING HIDEOUS FOUL DETESTABLE POOR EXCUSE FOR A LIFE FORM. YOU UNEVOLVED, LOATHSOME, VULGAR REPUGNANT ZIT ON THE ASS OF MANKIND.

Jackie abruptly turns around again to his “Internal Dialogue” position.
CONTINUED: (6)

JACKIE TO HIMSELF
I think it’s working; I’m getting through to him. That’s what we comedians do, fix it all with a joke . . . with our wit.

HECKLER
(yells from Audience)
Hey. I’m the audience. You’re here to entertain me! You work for me.

JACKIE
(to the audience)
You hear that, I work for him.

He turns back to the Heckler.

JACKIE
(yelling)
YOU SCROFULOUS, PUSTULAR, DISEASED
DICK OF A CUM CHUGGING, MOTHER
FUCKING, SCAT MUNCHING, ASS
LICKING PILE OF RANCID SHIT.
(then)
Please enjoy the rest of the show.

Jackie hears the Heckler speak triumphantly to his *
girlfriend.

HECKLER
You getting this all, Amy?

Jackie peers past the lights and sees a woman adjusting a GoPro Camera on a professional GoPro Steadi-Stick.

AMY
I don’t want all that in our show.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
Are you recording this?

HECKLER
Welcome to:
(into Go Pro)
“STANDUP TAKEDOWN”.

AMY
(from behind camera)
Webisode 19.

Jackie gets off the stage and walks towards to the Heckler’s Table,
JACKIE (CONT’D)
(walking)
Webisode? You’re making your own show?

HECKLER
(into the camera)
THIS IS STAND-UP TAKE-DOWN; JACKIE BURKE EDITION!

JACKIE
Really? You’re recording my show?

HECKLER
This is my show! I did Carrot Top last week. Brought-him-down!

Jackie gets off the stage and walks to Heckler’s table.

JACKIE
You went down on Carrot Top?

Heckler grabs Jackie’s mic and faces Go-Pro.

HECKLER
Blow job jokes? A sign of weakness.

Jackie tries to pull his mic out of Heckler’s hands.

JACKIE
Don’t touch the mic.

HECKLER
(into the camera)
This is Archie Severin challenging Jackie Burke to a comic-face-off.

JACKIE
(pulling at mic)
Let go of my mic.

HECKLER
(holds onto mic)
Bet they’d rather hear my act than yours. I challenge you to a comic-face-off.

JACKIE
(overlap)
Not with my mic.

(CONTINUED)
HECKLER
(overlap)
What? You too chicken-shit to throw down with me?

JACKIE
OK, you want the mic - here.

Jackie uses the Heckler’s own force to bang the mic against the Heckler’s head and face...

HECKLER
OW...STOP

JACKIE
HERE! YOU WANT THE MIC ... YOU WANT THE FUCKING MIC...EAT IT!!!

JACKIE POUNDS THE HECKLER WITH THE MIC -

Blood spurts from the Heckler’s nose, Jackie rips the mic out of the Hecklers hands and pushes him over the table onto his girlfriend, who screams.

Jackie grabs the Go Pro and speaks into it in the cadence of his stand-up:

JACKIE
And if you do get a dog, don’t take it to a comedy club.
(turns to audience)
I see my time is up. Thank you everyone. Don’t forget to tip your waitresses, and be careful not to step in the puddles of blood on your way out. GOOD NIGHT!

The audience is in shock, but a few shout their approval.
Jackie crosses to Miller and rushes out with her.

CUT TO:

CLOSE-UP: DIGITAL IMAGE ON AN I-PAD

We see the shaky image of Jackie from the Go-Pro’s POV, hitting the Heckler (MR. SEVERIN) with the mic.

JACKIE (ON GO-PRO)
You want the mic..you want the fucking mic..Eat it!!!

The video stops.
INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Jackie’s Attorney stands before the JUDGE, Judith Mansfield, showing her the video on the I-Pad. The Prosecutor stands beside him also watching.

JACKIE’S ATTORNEY
Your Honor, as you can clearly see, Mr. Severin grabbed Mr. Burkowitz first. Mr. Burkowitz warned Mr. Severin several times to desist, and he refused.

Jackie sits at the defense table. Miller sits behind him. The “victim” (Severin) with a bandage over his nose and bruised eye, sits behind the Prosecutor’s table.

JUDGE MANSFIELD
Any objection to probation?

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
With a strong Public Apology and substantial Community Service.

Nods to her Clerk. Attorneys return to their clients. Jackie’s attorney gives him a “we won” thumbs up.

COURT CLERK
Will the defendant please rise.

Jackie stands.

JUDGE MANSFIELD
Jonathan Burkowitz, the court understands there are mitigating circumstances, but nothing excuses your retaliation. It is in the judgement of the court that you will serve 100 hours of community service, attend 10 anger management sessions and make an allocution and apology. Do you understand, Mr. Burkowitz?

JACKIE
Yes, Your Honor.

JUDGE MANSFIELD
And in accordance with the agreement, are you prepared to change your plea from ‘not guilty’ to ‘guilty.’
CONTINUED:

Jackie looks at his Attorney who nods.

JACKIE
Yes, Your Honor.

The Attorney hands Jackie a sheet of paper. Jackie reads;

JACKIE (CONT’D)
I admit to assault and battery on Mr. Severin. I recognize that I acted in a weak and violent manner, and I will aggressively take steps to ensure that it will never happen again.

Jackie glances over at the Heckler who smiles smugly.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
I also apologize to the court and to my fans.

JUDGE MANSFIELD
Do you have something to say to Mr. Severin?

JACKIE
(reluctantly)
I’m sorry.

Severin leans across the railing and whispers to the DA, as if to say “that’s not good enough”. The DA turns and addresses the judge.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Excuse me, your Honor, but I think the defendant can do a little better than that. Mr. Severin could have suffered brain damage.

JUDGE MANSFIELD
Mr. Burkowitz, you want to try that again?

Jackie looks over to Severin - who has a shit-eating grin, as if to say “I win, asshole”.

Jackie takes a deep breath and lets it out slowly.

JACKIE
No.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY/JUDGE MANSFIELD
No?
Miller covers her face. She knows what’s coming.

JACKIE
No. You see, your Honor, there’s no way Mr. Severin could have suffered brain damage because, according to the law as I understand it, it has not been proven in this courtroom that Mr. Severin in fact has a brain.

Shock and laughter from COURTROOM SPECTATORS.

JUDGE MANSFIELD
Careful, Mr. Burkowitz.

Too late. Miller covers her face.

JACKIE
I mean, as soon as the guy opened his mouth, it was like Gorillas in the Mist - Look at him - You could tell by his face. You know, Judge, the look like Donald Trump fucked Alfred E Newman after a night of snorting thalidomide.

More laughter. The Judge pounds her gavel for order.

SEVERIN
(to DA)
Can he say that to me?

JACKIE
Look at him right now, struggling to understand what I’m saying.

JUDGE MANSFIELD
Stop right now. I’m warning you--

JACKIE
This is more than just about me, Judge. I think humanity’s fate is in your hands. Remember, he was with a female that night. What if they breed?

Spectators laugh and cheer “You tell’em Jackie!”. The Judge pounds her gavel. Prosecutor starts shouting. Severin is on his feet shouting.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (3) 15.

JUDGE MANSFIELD
YOU’RE IN CONTEMPT, MR. BERKOWITZ.
30 DAYS in the Nassau County
Correctional Center—TAKE HIM AWAY.

The BAILIFFS roughly grab Jackie and lead him away.

As Jackie passes Miller, he WINKS at her.

JACKIE
(continuing)
One day there could be thousands
of these one-eyed brainless
idiots. It’s up to you, Your
Honor; the fate of the world is in
your hands. Finish what I started.
Save the world. Lock him up!

CUT TO

11 EXT. NASSAU COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER - DAY

Rolls of Razor Wire glisten in the sunlight.

12 INT. CELL BLOCK - DAY

Jackie, in an orange uniform, is escorted by a prison

guard into a double-tiered cell bloc.

Two naked, totally tattooed Latino inmates take showers

in an open shower stall. They eye Jackie — “New Meat”.

GUARD
(shouts to inmates)
OK gentlemen, let’s give a warm
welcome to our newest resident.

Jackie hears from all the cells, inmates voices singing:

GUARDS & INMATES
“When your head gets in that
cranky place...watch EDDIE’S
HOME...EDDIE’S HOME...EDDIE’S
HOME...

Jackie walks into his temporary home:

DISSOLVE TO:
13 EXT. NASSAU COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER - DUSK
30-Days-Later: Jackie, in same clothes he wore in court, walks down a long ramp. He holds a clear plastic bag filled with his possessions. Miller waits by her car.

14 EXT: QUEENS-SIDE ENTRANCE TO 59TH ST BRIDGE - DUSK

JACKIE (V.O.)
I wrote new material on the inside. Good stuff.

15 INT. MILLER’S CAR - BRIDGE - DAY
Miller drives as Jackie looks out the window;

JACKIE
I’d try it on you but you have no sense of humor.

MILLER
No, I don’t.

JACKIE
I have never seen you laugh.

MILLER
No you haven’t.

JACKIE
How can that be? You represent comics.

MILLER
You just answered your own question. Can you imagine how fucking painful my life would be if I had to act like an audience with all my comics? “You laughed more at his joke, than ya did at mine” “You think he’s funny, he’s not funny”. So I don’t react to anyone and everyone feels equal.

JACKIE
And you call that personal management? Your father had affection for his clients.
MILLER
Which his clients didn’t have. He got you that TV show and you fired him.

JACKIE
It was a William Morris package deal. Your father understood.

MILLER
Just don’t talk to me about affection.

JACKIE
I don’t need your affection. You know what I need? I need to work. I want a New York club.

MILLER
(rolls her eyes)
Yeah, that’ll get you out of the hole you’re in - $30 a show at the Comedy Cellar ... You do that 540 times you might have the money to pay your attorney fees.

JACKIE
I’m hot now. I’m viral. Your father knew how to take advantage of opportunities like this...
(with affection)
“Millah the Killah” I used to call him.

MILLER
He loved when you called him that. (beat) It killed him when you stopped.

Jackie looks out the window at NYC approaching.

EXT: 59TH STREET BRIDGE - DAY
Cars on bridge stream into the heart of Manhattan.

EXT. INDUSTRIAL BUSHWICK NEIGHBORHOOD - MORNING
HARMONY exits an old red brick building, dressed for the cold.
MAC (O.S.)

HEY!

Harmony stops, sees: MAC SCHUTZ, sitting in the back seat of a limo at the curb. Mac is in his late 60’s with a jaw cut like a Marine, drenched in a Florida tan.

HARMONY
(surprised)

What are you doing here?

MAC

Happy Thanksgiving.

HARMONY

I thought you weren’t coming?

MAC

I flew in last night. Get in the car. I’ll drive you to work.

HARMONY

No.

MAC

It’s freezing! Get in the fucking car!

HARMONY

I’m not driving to a soup kitchen in a limo. Forget it.

Harmony walks away down the sidewalk.

MAC

Goddamn it.

(to driver)

I’m getting out. Follow me.

Mac gets out and catches up to Harmony, who is walking towards the elevated “F” train on Broadway.

MAC

Jesus. It’s 80 in Boca.

HARMONY

Then go home.

MAC

Let me make this simple for you. I need you to come back. Is that what you want to hear?
HARMONY
I don’t want to hear anything.

MAC
The place doesn’t work the same
without you. Those old people
aren’t happy unless you’re there
to take care of them. We finally
found something you’re good at.
Why walk away from that?

HARMONY
See! That’s what I mean. You say
things like that...

MAC
I meant it as a compliment.

HARMONY
It’s not! I appreciate it but it’s
not. You make me sound like I’m
this problem you have to solve.

HARMONY
Like I can’t do anything
without you. I can’t take
care of myself. Love? This
is love?

MAC
You are my problem. You’ll
always be my problem.
Because I love you.

HARMONY
DAD! Please, let’s not do this on
the street. I’ve got to GO.

MAC
Oh, and I got my lawyer to work
out an arrangement with the court
so you can finish your community
service in Florida.

HARMONY
(angry)
Without asking me?!

MAC
Honey. I think it’s a good idea.
What do you want from me? Shoot
me. Can I borrow your gun? What’s
in NY for you? You got cheated on.
You got dumped. You got arrested.
These are not signs of success in
this city.

Harmony faces Mac, trying to contain her rage:

(continued)
CONTINUED: (3)

HARMONY
Go home, Dad.

She turns and walks down Broadway to catch the El.

MAC
A week from Monday’s my birthday
and you’re having dinner with me.
No ifs, ands or buts...

Mac smiles and sings to her like she was a little girl.

MAC
“You ARE THE SUNSHINE OF MY
LIFE...THAT’S WHY I’LL ALWAYS BE
AROUND...YOU ARE THE APPLE OF MY
EYE”....

HARMONY
(over her shoulder)
OK! Dinner. Just don’t sing!

MAC
(teasing her)
And having dinner with me is not a
gift. I want a gift too.

HARMONY
Fucking hell.

Leslie runs across Broadway to catch the “F’ Train.

MAC
“You ARE THE SUNSHINE OF MY
LIFE...FOREVER YOU’LL STAY IN MY
HEART...”

Mac watches her run up the stairs to the “EL”. And then
gets back inside his Escalade.

EXT. BEN’S BEST DELI - LOWER EASE SIDE, NYC - DAY

Busy traffic jams the intersection of Norfolk Ave &
Houston - even on Thanksgiving Day.

Jackie leans against an icy wind as he ducks into a deli.
INT. BEN’S BEST DELI - CONTINUOUS - THANKSGIVING DAY

Jackie enters. On the back wall are several 8 x 10’s of minor celebrities who have frequented the store, including a signed Jackie Burke photo in the center.

JAMES BERKOWITZ - Jackie’s younger brother - is working behind the counter. He sees Jackie and removes his apron.

JAMES
Here he is. The prick who came in from the cold.

JACKIE
Place looks good. It smells more Jewish than I remembered.

James turns to his few customers.

JAMES
My famous brother, ladies and gentlemen. Probably needs money.

JACKIE
Can I talk to you?

JAMES
(surprised)
I’m right? Jesus, I was kidding.

James leads Jackie to a tiny office in the back.

INT. JAMES’ KITCHEN/OFFICE - BERKOWITZ DELI - CONTINUOUS

James sits behind his desk. Jackie takes a seat.

JAMES
So, you need money?

JACKIE
No, no it’s fine. I’m fine. I’m doing my community service at the Bowery Mission, so I’m in the neighborhood - Figured I come in and say hello.

JAMES
Community service? Oh yeah, saw the video. How could you let a heckler get to you like that?
CONTINUED:

JACKIE
It wasn’t the heckling. It was the goddamn camera. These fuckers were making their own show out of my show. It was nuts.

JAMES
You looked nuts.

JACKIE
So how are you?

JAMES
Good. You?

JACKIE
Good.

Awkward Beat. James waits. Jackie hesitates. Then:

JACKIE
Look, the thing is, I lost a lot of gigs in the last four weeks cause of what happened, and I’m tapped out. Miller’s re-booking them so I need, ya know, walking-around money, just to--

They both start talking simultaneous, overlapping each other.

JAMES (overlapping)
You got some fucking nerve.
I don’t see you. I don’t hear from you. Nothing. I gotta read in Google News that you were arrested.
Like I’m nothing to you.
Like my family is nothing to you.

JACKIE (overlapping)
No listen, it’s nothing.
Look, it happened so fast.
They take your cell phone away in prison. It was like OZ. Lotta naked men. I was very occupied staying single.

FLO, James’ wife enters and the two brothers immediately stop talking. Flo commands the space.

FLO
Jackie. How nice you’re here.

JACKIE
Hello Flo.
FLO
Happy Thanksgiving. We haven’t seen you in how long?

JAMES
I don’t even remember.

JACKIE
I was in prison.

FLO
No it was long before that. So nice to see you.

JACKIE
How’re the kids?  *

JAMES  *
One kid. We got one kid.

FLO  *
She’s an adult now.

JAMES  *
She’s getting married.

JACKIE  *
Really, Brit’s getting married?

FLO  *
Brittany.

JACKIE  *
I thought she was a dyke.

JAMES  *
You call’em lesbians, ya prick!

JACKIE  *
All right. Gay. Sorry. JAMES  *
And they get married. They can get married.

FLO  *
You don’t have to come.  *
(to James)  *
He doesn’t have to come.

JAMES  *
We sent you an invitation. We didn’t hear nothing.

JACKIE
I was in prison.

(continued)
JAMES

BEFORE THAT!

FLO
He’s doesn’t have to come if he’s too busy. If it’s too much trouble, don’t come...

JACKIE
I didn’t say it was too much trouble....

Jimmy starts to realize that Flo didn’t send Jackie an invitation.

FLO
(overlapping)
No, if it’s too much trouble, don’t come. I don’t need the extra aggravation if it’s gonna mean trouble for you. I don’t need it to become a thing.

JACKIE
(overlapping)
I never said it’s...It’s not a thing.

JAMES
(overlapping)
I don’t think it’s a thing.

FLO
(overlapping)
If it’s gonna be a thing, then don’t bother.

JACKIE
(surrenders)
IT’S NO TROUBLE! It’s not a thing! I’d love to come. I’ll be there.

JAMES

It’s a week from Sunday.

FLO
(forcing herself)
You want to stay and have Thanksgiving dinner with us after we close?

Jackie knows she’s forcing the invite;

(CONTINUED)
JACKIE
Not really. And I’ll give ya a good excuse. I’m working the mission. I get double the hours taken off my sentence for working Thanksgiving.

FLO
God forbid you do it ‘cause it’s a nice thing..
(to James)
I need to speak to you when you two are finished.

She exits. The two brothers look to each other.

JACKIE
She hates me.

JAMES
She doesn’t hate you.

JACKIE
She doesn’t?

JAMES
Nah, I was just fucking with you. Of course she hates you. You only show up when you need something.

JACKIE
That’s it? Sensitive bitch. None of my wives hated you.

JAMES
You weren’t married to any of the them long enough to meet me. (then)
So how much do you need?

JACKIE
I don’t even remember now. I’m exhausted.

Walks over and looks up to his father’s portrait.

JACKIE
Pop liked me best.

JAMES
No he didn’t.
CONTINUED: (5)

JACKIE
No, he didn’t.
(then)
Five thousand. No big deal. You know I’ll get it back to you.

James writes out a check.

JAMES
My daughter idolizes you. Her famous uncle.
(hands him the check)
You better show up.

JACKIE
Thanks.

JAMES
And bring a gift.

Jackie hands back the check to James.

JACKIE
Okay, but that’ll cost you extra.

CUT TO:

20-A INT. BURKOWITZ DELI - CASH REGISTER - DAY

Flo is speaking with KAROLA, a STATUESQUE German BLOND - beautiful, but tough as nails.

FLO
We paid a $30,000 deposit.

KAROLA
Yes, and the second $30,000 is due today.

FLO
(digging in her heals)
We’ll pay the balance on the day of the ceremony.

KAROLA
(shaking her head)
No.

James is walking Jackie out and recognizes Karola and turns on the charm.
JIMMY
Whoa, look who’s here ...
(kisses her hand)
Karola, meet my famous brother, Jackie Burke
(turns to Jackie)
Jackie, this beautiful fraulein runs Da Mikele Illagio, where Brittany is getting hitched.
Jackie – Karola Muller.

KAROLA
(a seductive smile)
Oh, we already know each other.

Jackie looks at her quizzically

KAROLA (CONT’D)
You don’t remember?

JACKIE
(baffled)
Sorry ...

KAROLA
You & me .. after one of your shows at Caroline’s . . .

JACKIE
I haven’t played Caroline’s in ten years.
(shaking his head)
Sorry, I was drinking a lot in those days.

KAROLA
(knowingly)
Yes you were . . .

JACKIE
(ducking past her)
Sorry, gotta run -- big lunch date at the Bowery Mission.
(stage whisper)
The food is much better there.
(then)
Auf wiedersehen

Jackie runs out of the Deli. Karola is miffed, but Jimmy tries to smooth things over.
JIMMY
   (turning to Karola)
Can I get you anything?
   (seductively)
Latka?

FLO
Cool it, Don Juan, the “Enforcer”
is here to collect another 30
grand.

KAROLA
It’s in the contract.

FLO
You think I read all 70 pages of
that ferkakta contract.

KAROLA
   (standing her ground)
Yes, I expect your to.

JIMMY
   (cuts her off)
Florie, their check is in the
register. Just give it to Karola.

Flo takes a CHECK our of the Cash Register.

FLO
   (feigning surprise)
Oh, here it is. At least you
saved me a stamp.

Karola leans down and hugs Jimmy. He can’t help looking
into her ample cleavage. She stands back up and says:

KAROLA
Now, I’d like a bowl of your Matza
Ball Soup.

FLO
Sure a big bowl. It costs $30
Grand.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE BOWERY MISSION - THANKSGIVING DAY
A sign above the door: “He that cometh to me shall never
hunger”. Camera tracks down a long line of HOMELESS
PEOPLE, mostly men, stretching down the sidewalk.
CONTINUED:

JACKIE (V.O.)
Growing up, my family observed all the Thanksgiving traditions. My favorite was my Uncle Moshit telling the Thanksgiving Story.

INT. THE BOWERY MISSION - CONTINUOUS - DAY

The cramped space is filled with hungry vets, hookers, trannies, etc...some still shivering from the cold.

Jackie, wearing a black hair net underneath a sanitary hat, is dishing out food. While dishing out food, he speaks into a microphone on a stand;

JACKIE
Uncle Moshit told me that before the first Thanksgiving, Pilgrims thought turkeys were sex objects. They couldn’t fly and “gobble gobble” was Puritan for “blowjob”. When the Indians showed up – right after the Macy’s Parade – they brought turkeys all trussed up. The Pilgrims were pissed. They were like “They’re eating our fuck birds”. But being Puritans, they didn’t want to be rude. And it turned out, turkeys tasted better than going down on their wives.

Beyond the line of homeless, Jackie can’t help notice –

HARMONY, refilling ice tea and cups of coffee – laughs at Jackie’s routine along with the crowd.

JACKIE
So the Puritans stopped fucking the turkeys and started fucking the Indians instead. And that’s how we stole their country and made the turkey our national bird.

Scattered applause and laughs. Jackie’s eye follows Harmony across the room, filling the coffee cups of two vets as she talks to them. She’s full of energy. Everyone seems to like her. Including Jackie.
23 INT. THE BOWERY MISSION - LATER THAT DAY

Wide Shot; Volunteers are cleaning up. Jackie is holding his paperwork. We see him ask one of the VOLUNTEERS where the supervisor is. The Volunteer points upstairs.

Jackie walks up a flight of stairs to the chapel office in the balcony, featuring a stained glass window.

24 INT. CHAPEL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The office’s door is ajar. Jackie pauses when he hears an one sided argument from inside the office:

HARMONY (O.S.)
YOU REALLY ARE A PIECE OF SHIT,
GEORGE, YOU KNOW THAT...OH
REALLY?...HOW IS THIS ALL MY FAULT
NOW! TELL ME!.....

Jackie inches the door open to see Harmony pacing behind a desk while on the phone.

HARMONY
OH PLEASE, I DIDN’T IT THROW AT
HER, I WAS THROWING IT AT YOU AND
SHE WALKED IN FRONT OF IT. THAT’S
ON HER, THAT’S NOT ON ME. WHO DOES
THAT!??...ARE YOU STILL SEEING
HER? SO SHE’S NOT THERE! OH
REALLY? I FOLLOW YOU ON INSTAGRAM,
YOU MORON!...GRATEFUL?! GRATEFUL
FOR WHAT, GEORGE! FUCK YOU. FUCK
YOU WITH YOUR STUPID HAIR...NO I’M
TAKING THE HIGH ROAD!!!...So you
want to get together or is this
over?

Slamming the phone down, she is startled by Jackie.

HARMONY
What the fuck are you doing, standing there listening to a private conversation?

JACKIE
Sorry, they told me I need you to sign the paperwork for my hours.

HARMONY
I’m not the supervisor. You want Bobbi. She’s at the store.

(CONTINUED)
JACKIE
Oh sorry, I just assumed--

HARMONY
I’m allowed to use the office! We don’t get cell service in here.

JACKIE
OK.

HARMONY
But don’t say anything.

JACKIE
Nope. I won’t say anything. I’m not messing with you, lady. I’m just glad I’m not George.

HARMONY
What do you know about George?

JACKIE
(protectiong himself)
He’s a piece of shit!

HARMONY
You got that right.

Jackie smirks, disarming Harmony a bit. She softens.

HARMONY
I know you.

JACKIE
Oh yeah?

HARMONY
You’re Jackie Burke. My Dad loved your show. I’ve seen every episode.

JACKIE
Always nice to meet a fan.

HARMONY
Not really. We only had one TV.

This deflects Jackie for a moment.

JACKIE
What’s your name?

(CONTINUED)
HARMONY
Harmony Schutz.

JACKIE
Harmony Schutz? Were your parents in a Nazi Barbershop Quartet?

HARMONY
That’s so funny.

JACKIE
(flirty)
Well, you know, they say once you make a woman laugh, you can make her do anything.

Harmony stops laughing, more fascinated than insulted.

HARMONY
Is that an old saying?

JACKIE
Well--
As Harmony exits...

HARMONY
(interrupting)
As in very, very old?

End on Jackie - he’s intrigued.

25-A CLOSE-UP: A HIGH FIDELITY NEEDLE IS LOWERED ONTO AN LP

25 INT. JACKIE’S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A nice, but cluttered two-bedroom apartment that hasn’t been redecorated in decades. Lots of books, notebooks, videos. Through the window e can see the brick building next door.

Jackie stands in his boxer shorts and a tee shirt, ironing a pair of pants. As he listens to Art Blakey’s “Meet You At The Jazz Corner Of The World Vol. 2” As the famous midget, Pee Wee Marquette introduces the band, Jackie mouths the words perfectly:

(CONTINUED)
PEE WEE MARQUETTE
Ladies & Gentlemen, we are now
beginning the 3rd Set with the
terrific Art Blakey and his Jazz
Messengers from the Jazz Corner of
The World. Lee Morgan on Trumpet,
Wayne Shorter on the Tenor
Saxophone, Bobby Timmons on the
piano and Jimmy Merritt on the
bass, Soul Brothers on this scene
now, Gonna really do a cool one
for ya. How bout a nice hand,
everyone together, for the one and
only Art Blakey and his Jazz
Messengers
(Jackie changes his
deliver as Art
Blakey speaks)
Thanks you very much Ladies &
Gentlemen for your kind attention
and your generous applause. At
this time we’d like to do a tune
composed and arranged by Hank
Mobley: High Modes.

EXT. COMEDY CELLAR - MACDOUGAL STREET - NIGHT
Rain pelts a Hip Crowd lined up on the sidewalk. Jackie
passes them, nodding to the door man, and descending the
funky stairs into this Comedy Mecca.

INT. COMEDY CELLAR - UPSTAIRS BAR AREA - NIGHT
Walks into this mecca of Comedy. He approaches the
‘comics table’ where several well-known comics sit
kibitzing. They ignore him - it’s clear that there’s no
room at this ‘hip’ table for Jackie. He moves on to:

A BLACK COMEDIAN, GREER BARNES, tries out new material on
a tiny stage.

Jackie paces slowly in the back aisle, checking out the
competition. He never laughs, occasionally nods approval.

INT. USED CLOTHING LOCKER - THE BOWERY MISSION - DAY
Jackie hands out used clothing to a homeless group.
JACKIE (PLACE-HOLDER)
I have a question? If you’re all “the homeless” then where are all “the bums”? I mean, I get you’re all having a hard time, but where are the guys who just don’t want to fucking work? Where do they eat? A bum asked me, “Give me ten dollars til payday” I said “When’s payday?”, Bum says, “I don’t know you’re the one working”...

The Homeless crowd laughs - they like him, and so does Harmony who was watching unseen in the doorway.

Harmony walks past Jackie and the homeless men into the Store Room, Jackie excuses himself and follows her.

INT. STORAGE ROOM - THE BOWERY MISSION - SIMULTANEOUS

Jackie enters this large storage area, crammed with donated can good. Harmony is taking inventory.

JACKIE
* How ya doin? *

Harmony is startled.

HARMONY
*

JACKIE
* Force of habit. An Emcee usually does an intro.

HARMONY (re: The Homeless)
* They like you out there.

(off Jackie’s nod)
I saw that You Tube video - for what it’s worth, I thought you were right for knocking the guy out, but my dad’s an ex-con so I may not be the best judge.

JACKIE
Thanks.

HARMONY
* How many hours did they give you?

(Continued)
JACKIE
100. You?

HARMONY
250. What charge?

JACKIE
Assault.

HARMONY
Me too. How come I got 150 more hours? That’s not fair. You could’ve caused brain damage. What did you get, a celebrity discount? I mean, not that I mind helping out but it’s the principal. Why should a woman get more than a man?

JACKIE
Well, I was provoked.

HARMONY
I was provoked too.

JACKIE
What, you caught him in bed with someone?

HARMONY
How did you know?

JACKIE
I’ve been there. I recognized the key you were screaming in. What did you do?

HARMONY
I dislocated his jaw.

JACKIE
Woah. And the woman?

HARMONY
I threw a lamp at her.

(Jackie’s impressed)
It wasn’t a big lamp. And it wouldn’t have broken her wrist if she didn’t try to block it.

(Jackie laughs)
Look, I’m sorry if I overreacted the other day--
CONTINUED: (2)

JACKIE
No, no, I hope you don’t think I was comin’ on too strong or anything. I just figure, we’re gonna be doing time together, we cons should stick together.

Harmony drops a jar of olives. She loses it.

HARMONY
GODDAMN IT!...CHRIST!

Jackie can see Harmony’s between crying & laughing, at her lowest point...

HARMONY
I can’t catch a fucking break.
(tries to clean it)

JACKIE
Here, wait...

HARMONY
(touches glass)
Ow.

Jackie grabs a roll of paper towels and kneels beside her and helps.

JACKIE
Watch the glass.

As they clean mess.

HARMONY
Sorry. You must think I’m such a mess.

JACKIE
Forget it. Are you free tonight?

HARMONY
(beat)
Unbelievable. Jackie, look, it’s nothing personally but I’m not having sex with you.

JACKIE
Who asked? I have a better idea.
INT: COMEDY CELLAR STAGE - NIGHT

JESSICA KIRSON is on the tiny stage doing her outrageous comedy routine - She’s very funny.

Jackie escorts Harmony along the back aisle toward a table, but then Jessica’s eye catches sight of Jackie.

JESSICA KIRSON
Wait a minute, I see a fellow Jerseyite. Is that Jackie Burke?
Give it up everybody for Jackie Burke.

People’s head turn. People start applauding.

JESSICA KIRSON
It’s so nice when the big stars come and bring their hookers with them, isn’t it? Look at her.
(to Harmony)
Have you swallowed anything beside protein this year, darling?

Though the butt of the joke, Harmony is having fun being part of the scene.

JESSICA KIRSON
Jackie, would you fuck a woman with more real estate, like me?

JACKIE
Jesus, I did fuck you. You didn’t even notice. I fucked you up the ass, all I got was a burp.

Jessica and the audience laughs.

JACKIE
Remember? I went down on you, took me four days to find my way out.

JESSICA KIRSON
Get up here!

Jackie rises and goes to the stage with Jessica, grabbing a second mic. Everyone cheers and applauds. Harmony is having a great time, forgetting her troubles, being in Jackie’s company.

(NOTE: WORK WITH JESSICA TO CREATE JACKIE AND JESSICA IMPROV BIT WITH HARMONY HAVING A PUNCH LINE)
EXT. WEST VILLAGE ST. - NIGHT

Jackie and Harmony are walking from the Comedy Cellar. Harmony is hyped up;

HARMONY
That’s was amazing! I feel like I’m high, ya know. Getting laughs makes you feel high, doesn’t it?
(Jackie smiles)
You’re so much funnier than “Eddie”. And so fast. Did you come up all that on the spot?

Jackie likes her even more for that.

JACKIE
(flattered)
Some of it...Hey, uh...you free Saturday?

HARMONY
(taking it wrong)
Aw, Jackie, look, I ---

JACKIE
No,no,no...I got this wedding. My niece’s wedding. I gotta go, but I don’t want to go alone. I just thought...you’d be a great wingman, we could have a few laughs...

Harmony stops and looks at Jackie for a beat.

HARMONY
OK.

JACKIE
Really? You’re free Saturday? What, you got no life?

Harmony ignores the insult, knowing Jackie better;

HARMONY
But you’ve gotta do something for me. My dad’s birthday is Monday. Come to dinner with us. He asked me for a gift, and you’re it.

JACKIE
Deal.

CUT TO:
32 A SPECTACULAR VIEW OF LOWER MANHATTAN FROM THE WINDOW OF:

33 INT. RAW TV NETWORK LOBBY – DAY

Jackie, wearing a cool, pork-pie hat stands with Miller in the ultra hip lobby of RAW TV – All cement and glass. An ultra-hip/ultra-young “Development Exec” arrives and shakes Jackie’s hand. She ignores Miller.

ASHLEY
Hello, I’m Ashley Nathan, Carol Bock’s associate. It’s an honor to meet you, Mr.Burke. ‘Eddie’s Home’ was a television milestone.

JACKIE
Thanks for reading my Wikipedia page.

He looks at all the austere hipness.

JACKIE (CONT’ (CONT’D)
You sure this is a TV network? Looks more like the waiting room for a Hipster Hospice.

ASHLEY
(proudly)
We like to think RAW TV is the progressive alternative to Networks.

JACKIE
Sorry, you lost me on “we like to think.”

MILLER
Jackie.

ASHLEY
(unfazed)
Maybe you should watch RAW. “Naked Boot Camp” is the most watched new show on Basic Cable.

She puts two botles of water on the conference table.

ASHLEY (CONT’D)
(exiting)
Carol Bock will be right with you.

After Ashley leaves and Jackie looks after her. (CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JACKIE
‘Raw’ as in half baked?

MILLER
‘Raw’ as in ‘rough.’ For them, going viral cause you beat the shit out of someone is a plus.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP: A PAIR OF STYLISH COMBAT BOOTS ON THE CONFERENCE TABLE.

JACKIE (V.O.)
. . . in his third year of a 15-year sentence for manslaughter for beating a heckler to death.

INT: RAW TV CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

The combat boots belong to: CAROL BOCK, President of Comedy for Raw TV. To compliment her combat boots, Carol wears a hip, designer “Day Of The Dead” shirt. Six people in their late 20’s-early 30’s are strategically placed around their leader at the table listening to Jackie’s pitch. Miller sits next to Jackie.

CAROL
(smiles)
Where did that idea come from?

JACKIE
I don’t know. Things just come outta me...

CAROL
(laughs)
Of course. Go on.

JACKIE
He becomes like the convict king of the prison, runs everything from drugs to women to revenge. The jailhouse gangs report to him — the Crips, Aryan Nation, Mexican Mafia, all of them. He’s funny -- and ruthless. It’s like “Breaking Bad” on acid. Only funnier.

MILLER
And pure Jackie Burke.

(continues)
CAROL
You’ll write?

JACKIE
I’ll write the pilot and punch up all the scripts.

CAROL
Our channel’s target audience is 18-24.

MILLER
He plays to that demo all the time. They will eat this up.

CAROL
You’ve got a title?

JACKIE
“Burke on the Block.” No, you know your audience. I’m open to anything.

CAROL
“Burke on the Block.” Funny.

All the execs look at each other with nodding smiles.

CAROL
OK. Great...I’ve just got to say, Eddie...God, sorry, I mean Jackie. Can’t believe I said that.

JACKIE
No worries.

CAROL
It’s a delicious idea. And your You Tube video has gotten a lot of views. Let me posse with my group here. There’s a lot of stuff here to consider.

MILLER
How much time do you need?

Carol ignores Miller.

CAROL
I have to tell you, Jackie - you are the reason I’m in television. In television comedy.

(MORE)
When I was a kid, I remember laughing so hard at you, I couldn’t wait to grow up. It is so great to meet you.

JACKIE
Thanks. Thank you.

CAROL
But, listen the idea is terrific and we’ll--

JACKIE
But? Did I hear a “but”? I heard a “but”. Is that the same as “I need some time”? (looking at group) I know there are a lot of “buts” sitting here, but...

The execs are laughing with a slight tension in the room.

CAROL
Jackie, “but” is part of my job description.

JACKIE
Well, then I don’t need you to go past “but”...it’s not necessary. Time is not on anyone’s side here. ESPECIALLY MINE.

MILLER
Carol just explaining the process of trying to get something--

JACKIE (overlaps)
You don’t need to explain any process “but”. What am I, seventeen? No, let’s not play more nonsense.

CAROL (nods, unimpressed)
Understood. Thanks for coming in.

As Jackie stands abruptly to storm out of the room:

ASHLEY
You forgot your hat.
CONTINUED: (3)

Jackie grabs his hat and exits. Miller follows. Carol & her posse shake their heads in hipper-than-thou style.

INT. CENTRAL STAIRWAY/RAW TV LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Jackie bounds down the stairs in anger. Miller races to catch up.

   JACKIE
   What am I a Rent-A-Comic?

   MILLER
   She’s a fan who runs a cable network.

   JACKIE
   There was a neon sign on her forehead that said “NO. You didn’t see it?”

   MILLER
   There are new executives out there. You have to cultivate them. They say no this time, you come back with another idea.

   JACKIE
   I come back and tap dance some more for these fucking jerks without an ounce of talent between them. They’re gonna tell me what’s funny and what’s not?

   MILLER
   Being funny isn’t enough anymore.

This sacrilegious remark stops Jackie cold.

   JACKIE
   (dead serious)
   Now you’re fired.

Jackie turns and walks away, leaving Miller standing.

EXT. DA MIKELE ILLAGIO - QUEENS - DAY

A catering/reception venue. A sleety winter day. Taxi pulls up. Jackie and Harmony, dressed in overcoats, battle the sleet from the cab to the front door.
INT. DA MIKELE ILLAGIO LOBBY/STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Karola is pacing back and forth, on the telephone.

KAROLA
(officious)
I need 12 more cases of Champagne delivered to the Versailles Room. No the Spanish stuff, they’re Pureto Rican.

Jackie and Harmony run in, shedding their over coats.

KAROLA (CONT’D)
(enunciating every syllable)
Mr. Jackie Berk-o-witz. (appraising Harmony)
And Friend.
(turns to her assistant)
Take their things. (they hand off their things)
You’re late. It’s already started.

Karola leads Jackie & Harmony up a grand staircase.

HARMONY
They haven’t done the glass breaking yet, have they?

ADALGISA
The Ceremony was an hour ago. We’re about to present the Brides.

Jackie, follows the women up the stairs, eyeing Harmony’s stylish, form-fitting cocktail dress that leaves nothing to the imagination. She’s got a great body.

JACKIE
Nice dress. Too bad they didn’t have it in your size? How do you get in and out of it?

HARMONY
(over shoulder)
You’ll never find out. (Looking back reproachful)
Ah ... we missed the ceremony ... the glass breaking is my favorite part.
CONTINUED:

JACKIE
When my sister-in-law sees you in that dress, she's libel to break something else.

INT. DA MIKELE ILLAGIO RECEPTION HALL - DAY

A dazzling, Over-The-Top ballroom featuring tracer LED lights in the ceiling. A 5-piece wedding band strikes up the familiar intro of Journey’s “Don’t Stop Belivin’”, as Brittany & her new bride, Frankie dance together in the middle of a circle of tables. The audience applauds.

KAROLA
(at the mic)

WEDDING BAND
“Just a small town girl,
Livin’ in a lonely world
She took the midnight train
Goin’ Anywhere.

In the rear of the hall, Harmony offers enthusiastic applause while Jackie is motionless.

Karola interrupts James, who is accepting congrats from family, and points to Jackie & Harmony. He rushes over.

JAMES
You’re here.

JACKIE
Harmony this is my brother Jimmy.

HARMONY
Pleasure. Congratulations.

James is knocked out by Harmony’s body as well.

JAMES
Thank you...uh...
(calls OS)
Florie, look who’s here!

Flo approaches, sees Jackie and frowns.

JACKIE
Hello Flo.
CONTINUED:

She ignores him.

JAMES
Florie, this is Jackie’s friend, Harmony. This is my wife, Florence.

HARMONY
Congratulations.

FLO
Thank you.
(looks at her nipples)
Cold out there, huh?

Brittany and her wife, Frankie, rush over.

BRITTANY
Uncle Jackie!! Oh my God! I’m so glad you came.
(They embrace)
This is my wife, Frankie. Frankie, this is my famous uncle Jackie.

JACKIE
(kisses Brittany)
Congratulations kid...

Jackie shakes Frankie’s hand, feigning surprise.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
You’re a lesbian!

FRANKIE
(defiant)
Is there a problem with that?

JACKIE
Actually, yeah, we always hoped Brittany would marry a straight woman.

Frankie can’t help herself. She smiles. Jackie hugs her.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
Congratulations, Frankie, you got yourself a helluva fella.

FRANKIE
Thanks, Uncle Jackie.
(then)

(MORE)
CONTINUED: (2)

FRANKIE (CONT’D)

Come meet our friends.

(shouts to friends)

Guys!

Frankie and Brittany’s FRIENDS enter the scene and crowd around Jackie.

FRANKIE (CONT’D)

Mr. Burke, this is Nathan, this is Cat, Lissa, ..(Continues O.S.)

James, Flo and Harmony get shoved to the side on their own, watching by the sidelines.

HARMONY

She looks beautiful. I love the dress.

FLO

Kleinfelds.

HARMONY

And Frankie has a different one.

FLO

They’re partners, not twins.

Have you known Jackie long?

JAMES

Flo...

HARMONY

We’re just friends.

FLO

Where did you meet?

HARMONY

I picked him up at a homeless shelter.

FLO

Oh, I’m so sorry. A pretty girl like you on the streets ...

HARMONY

No, no. I work there.

FLO

Oh how nice. What a nice thing.

(to James)

Ya hear what she does?

(continues)
CONTINUED: (3)

James tries not to stare at her body.

JAMES
A nice thing.

BRITTANY
Uncle Jackie, you’re gonna get up
a say a few words, right? Please.

JACKIE
No, no, I’m just a guest today.

JAMES
(panicked)
No, no baby. He’s a guest.
Leave him alone.

FLO
(panicked)
Yeah, Brittany no... we
don’t wanna have a whole thing.

BRITTANY
(ignoring them)
Aw, come on, Uncle Jackie. Ya
gotta. For me. Come on ... please!

Jackie eyes James and Flo who clearly do not want him to
“say a few words”. He looks to Harmony, who beams him a
smile, fully aware of the discomfort he’s in. Then to
Brittany, expectant, hopeful. He smiles.

JACKIE
Sure kid.

TIME CUT TO:

THE WEDDING BAND STRIKES UP THE ‘HORA’.

INT. DANCE FLOOR - DA MIKELE ILLAGIO - LATER - DAY

Everybody holds hands and dances around the Bride and
Groom. Jackie is in misery but Harmony loves it.

HARMONY
Come-on.

JACKIE
(shakes his head)
You go ahead. Physical comedy’s
not my thing.
Conti: Harmony jumps in between Jimmy & his aged uncle, Seymour. Harmony’ having a ball and Uncle Seymour & Jimmy dig her. As Jackie stands outside the circle watching, Karola comes up beside him.

**KAROLA**
You really don’t remember me?

**JACKIE**
(brushing her off)
No I honestly don’t.

**KAROLE**
(turns cold)
Well, they say that the memory is the first thing to at go with age.

**JACKIE**
(right back at her)
I only remember the good ones.
(steps toward the circle)
Excuse me.

As the bride and groom exit the circle, UNCLE SEYMOUR jumps in the middle and dances the old Russian steps; legs kicks with arms over his chest. The crowd loves it.

Suddenly, Uncle Seymour goes over and pulls Harmony onto the dance floor.

Jackie and James and Flo watch with respective interest and judgement.

Although Harmony’s steps have nothing to do with the Uncle’s steps, the crowd gets bigger and the claps get louder. The Uncle is spurred on by the excitement of Harmony dancing with him, starts to go faster and faster, until he leaps backwards and crashes to the floor.

The crowd gasps and applauds simultaneously. Harmony immediately moves to help the old man to his feet, but Karola slices in, not wanting a liability suit.

**KAROLE**
(attentive)
Are you all right!

(Continued)
The Uncle Seymour realizes that he’s got two beautiful women catering to him, so he goes limp, pressing against their bodies, trying to touch them as much as he can as they help him up; his hand finding Karola’s breast.

KAROLE (CONT’D)
(slaps his hand away)
It’s not my heart we’re worried about.

Harmony looks at Karola and laughs out loud.

Jackie can’t take his eyes off of Harmony...

CUT TO:

WEDDING BAND PLAYS BILLY JOEL’S “JUST THE WAY YOU ARE”

INT. JACKIE & HARMONY’S TABLE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Karola escorts Harmony back to the table where Jackie awaits. Karola smiles at him as she says:

KAROLA
(to Harmony)
How long have you been dating?

HARMONY
This isn’t a date.

KAROLA
Don’t expect too much from him.

Karola looks right at Jackie and makes a sign with her thumb & index finger - an inch apart.

KAROLA
Kleine Schwanz . . .

She turns and walks away.

HARMONY
(to Jackie)
I don’t speak German, but I think that means--

JACKIE
(interrupting)
I know what it means!
Before Harmony can sit down, two little boys run buy shouting at the top of their lungs, almost knowing her down.

HARMONY
Little Shits.

JACKIE
No maternal instinct?

HARMONY
No, my maternal instinct starts when they’re 25.

JACKIE
Ever been married?

HARMONY
No.

JACKIE
How can a girl like you be unattached? I don’t get it.

HARMONY
Oh I’ve been attached plenty of times. Just never stuck.

We hear the clink-clink of champagne glasses. Brittany, the bride, is on the bandstand talking into the mic.

BRITTANY
Can I have your attention everybody?

The guests quiet down.

BRITTANY (CONT’D)
You can’t imagine how happy I am that you all came to share this incredible day with us.

Harmony leans into Jackie.

HARMONY
She seems like a nice kid.

JACKIE
I don’t know her that well.

(CONTINUED)
You may have noticed that my uncle Jackie Burke is here.

Harmony checks Jackie’s reaction. Some people applaud.

Some of you may recognize him as Eddie from “Home With Eddie”. But I’ve known him all my life. I still remember him teaching me dirty jokes when I was a kid. Before I could say “da da”, I could say “ca ca”. He taught me the “B” word...the “S” word...the “F” word...all of them.

People laugh. Jackie leans back to Harmony.

I didn’t need to teach her the “C” word -- she picked that up all by herself.

And it means so much to me that he’s here today after way too many years. So please - give a welcome - to my uncle Jackie whose gonna come up and say a few words. Jackie Burke!

The Crowd Applauds. Florie & James - immediately on edge.

Careful up there. We’re outnumbered.

He steps up to the bandstand, gives Brittany a big showy hug, then takes the mic and lifts his glass. We see him gird himself with a shudder shake of his head.

I’m so honored to be here to celebrate Brittany and Frankie’s wedding.

Jackie slips into his persona with great ease. He loves a good crowd.
JACKIE (CONT’D)
Flo, thank you and Jimmy for inviting me to this beautiful occasion. And all the other family members - many of whom I thought were dead. Most of whom hoped I was dead.

Big laughs. Harmony is enjoying him. So is James.

FLO
You better not be laughing.

JAMES
(cought)
No!

JACKIE
Family...family...

He pauses. You can see him thinking. Is he going sentimental on us. James knows he’s not, murmuring;

JAMES
Oh shit.

JACKIE
No one can fuck you up like family.


JACKIE (CONT’D)
I had a tragic childhood. My father molested my little brother and the bastard never touched me. I mean, look at Jimmy and look at me - his growth stunted, but I woulda changed places anytime. Do you know what it’s like growing up feeling unwanted? Knowing your father doesn’t find you attractive enough to fondle? Would it have been so terrible for him to play with my dick a little?...I don’t know Frankie very well, but I hope she’s a better parent than ours and violates all their children. Not just the cute ones. Meeskites need love too.
Many of the guests are shocked. James covers his face. Flo wants to kill, but Brittany, Frankie, and their friends love it.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
I know we’re supposed to pretend that there’s nothing unusual about this event -- just another middle class Jewish wedding.
(sarcastic)
Right.
(them)
So let me address the eight hundred pound gorilla in the room.
(beat)
That would be Flo.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
Flo, it’s okay. It is just another middle class Jewish wedding. And just like all Jewish marriages, once the ceremony is over, there will be no blow jobs. Ever. But somehow I don’t think that’s going to be a problem here.

Let me be serious for just one moment . . . If we’re honest, we all have to admit that Frankie isn’t what we wanted as a mate for our Brittany.

Gasp from the Crowd.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
It’s an abomination. Really, Brittany . . . a shiksa?

Laughter and relief.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
Now before the couple cuts the giant vagina cake --
(aside)
Save me some vulva.
(them)
-- they’ve asked me to announce that they’re registered at Sak’s Bridal Registry, Marty’s House of Flannel, and Papa Jess’s Sperm Bank. Now don’t get carried away and swallow.

(MORE)
CONTINUED: (5)

JACKIE (CONT’D)
And I want to thank my own father *
for dying before he could sue me *
for slander. Love you, pop! *
(raises glass)
L’chaim!

Jackie puts down the mic and walks off the bandstand. *
Brittany, Frankie, and their young friends give him a *
standing ovation. Guests are either appalled or howling. *

Jackie grabs an applauding, laughing Harmony and pulls *
her out the door.

The crowd’s now evenly split between the lovers & haters. *

JACKIE
I want to thank my own father for *
dying before he could sue me for *
slander. Love you, pop! *
(raises glass)
L’chaim!

Jackie puts down the mic and walks off the bandstand. *
Brittany, Alan and their young friends give him a *
standing ovation. Guests are either appalled or howling. *

Jackie grabs an applauding, laughing Harmony and pulls *
her out the door.

INT. UPSTAIRS STAIRWAY LANDING - CONTINUOUS *

Before Jackie & Harmony can descend the stairs, James and *
Flo intercept them.

JAMES
You just couldn’t stop yourself, *
could ya?

FLO
This low life motherfucking *
brother of yours takes a dump at *
our kid’s wedding and that’s all *
you’re gonna say?

JAMES
What do you want me to say? This *
was clean compared to Mom’s *
funeral.
CONTINUED:

HARMONY
Wait a minute. What are you
yelling at him for? Brittany
wanted Jackie Burke and she loved
it. He did it for her.

Flo and Harmony overlap and get aggressive with each other;

FLO (overlaps) HARMONY (overlaps)
Who the fuck are you to talk to me like that? Who invited you, with the no underwear dress...
...(CONTINUES...)

Suddenly, Karola appears, trying to restore order.

KAROLA
It’s time to cut the cake.

No response. She clears her throat loudly.

KAROLE
It’s time to CUT THE CAKE!

James and Jackie each take their woman and try to prevent them from fighting.

JAMES
Flo, let’s go cut the cake.

FLO (to Jackie)
You’re lucky I don’t have my brothers cut your nut sack off before you get to the tunnel.

JACKIE (to them all)
I don’t see the problem. I killed.

Flo goes at Jackie, but James and Adalgisa grab her.

KAROLA (loud whisper)
Please, Mrs Berkowitz, remember, you’re the mother of the bride.

FLO
Shut the fuck up, Heidi, I’m paying for this circus!

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

James and Karola pull Flo back into the party.

As Jackie & Harmony start down the stairs, Harmony breaks out laughing.

HARMONY
Wow. Flo’s a scary bitch.
(imitates Flo)
“YOU’RE LUCKY MY BROTHERS DON’T CUT YOUR NUTSACK OFF BEFORE YOU GET TO THE TUNNEL”.

JACKIE
(Impressed, smiles)
Hey that’s good.

HARMONY
Are her brothers in the mob?

JACKIE
No, they own a dry cleaners. Same thing.

(NOTE; JACKIE AND HARMONY IMPROV, MAKING EACH OTHER LAUGH AS THEY EXIT).

HARMONY
(laughs)
Dry cleaners are mobsters?

JACKIE
Yeah, that’s where the expression, “I’m gonna hang ya out to dry” comes from.

HARMONY
(laughs, pushing him)
It does not...

They continues down the stairs, laughing and teasing each other.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPARKS STEAK HOUSE - EAST 46TH ST - NIGHT

A cab pulls up in front of the restaurant. Jackie and Harmony get out.

HARMONY
Thanks for doing this.

(CONTINUED)
Harmony suddenly takes a deep breath ... fighting nerves.

JACKIE
Hey, take it easy.

HARMONY
Easy for you to say.

JACKIE
(totally sincere)
You look beautiful.

She appreciates that.

INT. SPARKS HOUSE STEAK HOUSE - NIGHT

Mac, dressed in an expensive suit, sits in a back booth with a too young Puerto Rican girl. Mac sees them enter and can’t believe his eyes. He abruptly rises, pecks Rosie on the lips, smacks her ass out of the booth. Rosie passes Jackie and Harmony as they arrive.

Mac does a double take when he sees Jackie.

MAC
Whoa. Oh my God, are you kidding me? Is this who I think it is? Is it Eddie? My God, it’s Eddie. Boy you did it this time, baby... (kisses/hugs Harmony)
What a birthday surprise. “ARLEEENE!”...

Before anyone can react, Mac rises, hugs Jackie, gives him an aggressive welcoming while continuing:

MAC
Thank you. Thank you for all the countless laughs Eddie. Countless.

JACKIE
Happy Birthday. It’s Jackie by the way.

MAC
(overlapping)
Can’t count’em. Man o’man I’ve enjoyed you. In fact, so much - I can do you. I can! Did she tell you?
HARMONY
He can do you.

MAC
I’ve been doing you in the
bathroom and at parties for
decades.

JACKIE
You got a better manager than I
do.

Mac finally lets go, encouraging everyone to sit down as
he signals the waiter for more drinks.

MAC
Sit. Sit. Jesus, I don’t believe
this! What a birthday present!
(calls)
Gino! Ring the register. Eddie’s
here!
(to Jackie)
What are you drinking?

JACKIE
Chivas on the rocks.

MAC
(kisses her cheek)
My baby drinks martinis...

MAC
(to Jackie)
Hey, how about giving us a big
ARLEENE...WHERE ARE YOU...Do it,
come on.

HARMONY
Dad, don’t.

MAC
Hey, I don’t expect anybody to
work for free.

Mac places a WAD OF CASH on the table.

HARMONY
(shoves back money)
Will you stop.
(to Jackie)
I’m sorry.
MAC
No, for what? No, you
misunderstand. I don’t want to
embarrass you Eddie. I’ll tell you
what, let me do it. Let me do you.
I got you down.

Jackie pulls out a wad of cash and puts it on the table.

JACKIE
I’ll pay ya not to.

MAC
That’s funny, but you don’t want
to get into a pissing contest with
me about money.

Harmony glances at Jackie, grateful for his indulgence.

MAC
Come on, let’s have some fun. This
is me being respectful. You’re my
favorite.

Mac slightly rises from the banquette and begins shaping
his face like “Eddie”, then attempts “Eddie”’s voice:

MAC
“ARLEEENE..WHOSE VIBRATOR IS THIS?
DID YOU TAKE THE BATTERIES OUTTA
THE SMOKE ALARM AGAIN?”

ALTERNATE LINES FOR HARVEY TO QUOTE “EDDIE’S HOME”:

MAC
ARLEEENE! Don’t serve me any
foreign food ... only Hamburgers,
Hot Dogs and Egg Rolls.

MAC
AREEEEEN! If God wanted us to eat
Potato pancakes, he would have
made Jesus a Jew.

As drinks arrive, Harmony grabs hers and drinks it down.

HARMONY
OK. Show’s over. Let’s order.

MAC
How about the timing? Give me some
imput.
JACKIE
I thought you were me for a second. Try it again while you’re drinking a glass of water.

MAC
I got more... ‘ARLEEENE... Eddie junior here is wearing a tutu! A tutu! Hahahaha. God you were great... Jackie gives Harmony a look as if to say “this is fucking hell”.

HARMONY
Have another drink. It helps.

Mac sees Harmony slide her drink to Jackie.

MAC
So how did you two meet?

HARMONY
We do community service at the Mission.

MAC
Oh right. Yeah well, that’s all over, baby. I got’em to transfer your hours to Florida.

Harmony reacts angrily. Jackie clocks her reaction.

HARMONY
We talked about that. What if I don’t want to go to Florida?

MAC
You don’t know what you want. (to Jackie) She’s always been a troubled girl.

HARMONY
I’m still at the table!

MAC
(to Harmony) Look, it’s done. I chartered a plane. We leave tomorrow.

Jackie watches Harmony, upset, down her drink. Jackie slides his scotch over to her. She drinks that.
Jackie sees an opportunity to back her up and irritate Mac, so he sets Mac up:

JACKIE
What’s in Florida?

MAC
I own this retirement community in Del Rey Beach. We help the elderly live out their lives with some dignity.

HARMONY
Be nice to get through dinner with some dignity.

MAC
She’s so good with the old people. She’s got a magic touch.

Jackie takes her hand, much to Mac’s distress:

JACKIE
Well, she’s a wonderful person.
(to Harmony)
It’s OK Honey. We’ll wait till your back from Florida before we find a place.

HARMONY/MAC
What?

Jackie now gets revenge by irking Mac.

JACKIE
We’re moving in together. Is it OK if I call you Dad?

MAC
You’re a funny man. But this is my daughter.

JACKIE
Every woman’s somebody’s daughter. I pretty sure that Puerto Rican girl was somebody’s granddaughter.

MAC
Harmony’s my daughter. She’s not somebody’s punch line. She’s special.

Harmony lets out an sarcastic laugh.
HARMONY
I want another drink.

Jackie rubs Harmony’s hand comfortably.

JACKIE
Whatever you want baby.

He gestures the Waiter. Mac is seething.

MAC
I don’t like what I’m seeing here.

JACKIE
Maybe you should wear glasses.

MAC
No offense but you look much older than I pictured you.

JACKIE
That’s funny, cause you look much older but I never pictured you.

MAC
When I see you looking at my daughter and the way she’s looking at you...

HARMONY
How am I looking at him?

MAC
I want to know what are your expectations here?

JACKIE
(overlap)
My expectations?

MAC
(overlap)
Expectations. Yeah. With my daughter?

Harmony knows where Jackie’s going with this.

HARMONY
(under her breath)
Oh shit.
JACKIE
To fuck her brains out. After that, we’ll see.

A new martini arrives. Harmony downs it.

MAC
You know, I’m a sucker for a clown.

JACKIE
And I’m a sucker for a girl with daddy issues.

Harmony’s had enough.

HARMONY
Jackie? Would you wait at the bar for me?

Jackie rises, looking at Mac.

JACKIE
Sure. You’ve been a terrific crowd. See ya Pop.

Jackie exits OK. Mac turns to Harmony.

MAC
Don’t tell me you’re interested in that schmuck?

HARMONY
No. And if you would have shut the fuck up for a second, you would’ve known that. But you never stop talking.

MAC
Oh. OK. So my driver’ll pick you up at 9, we leave at noon.

HARMONY
Unbelievable.

Harmony rises. IMPROV OVERLAP HARMONY/MAC:

MAC
Where are you going? He’s an asshole. Let him go. I do this because I love you. I’m always the bad guy. I don’t get it.

HARMONY
I’m leaving. You’re the asshole. He has nothing to do with it. How could talk about me like that. I’ve had it with you...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (7)

Harmony stops Mac...

HARMONY
Stop. I’m not doing this in a
steak house.
(kisses him)
Happy Birthday.

Harmony exits. Mac pulls out his cell phone.

MAC
Rosa? Come back.

EXT: THE ELEVATED TRAIN PASSES THROUGH BUSHWICK - NIGHT

INT. HARMONY’S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jackie and Harmony come off the stairs into the hall.

HARMONY
You should have seen the look on
your face when Mack yelled --
(imitating Mack
imitating Jackie
doing Eddie)
ARLEEEEEEEN!!

Jackie shakes his head. Winces.

They walk into the living room.

JACKIE
Hey, this is nice. It’s worth
risking your life every time you
step outside. Are you sure you
want to leave?

HARMONY
I have to. My community service
has been officially moved to the
Sunshine State. All I have is
bourbon.

Harmony points to a BOTTLE OF BOURBON on a tray with two
glasses, and begins rummaging through a HALF PACKED
SUITCASE.

HARMONY (CONT’D)
I’ll be up all night packing.
JACKIE
Don’t pack now. Relax.

HARMONY
I’m not packing; I’m looking for my weed.
You know, Florida’s actually not so bad for me. I do enjoy working with the old people. And I’m good at it. And Florida has a lot to offer.

JACKIE
Like what besides skin cancer?

Harmony laughs.

HARMONY
You know what I loved. I loved how you pissed off Mack.

JACKIE
Why do let him talk to you like that?

HARMONY
He always has. That’s Mack.

JACKIE
What about your mother?

HARMONY
She left when I was four. Mack never told me why.

JACKIE
Because she was married to him. I met the guy for fifteen minutes and I was ready to leave.

Harmony laughs.

HARMONY
I can’t leave. He controls everything I do.

JACKIE
Mack can be a dick, but at least he’s there.
(she nods)
I wasn’t for my kid.
HARMONY (1ST VERSION)
After we met, I googled you ... I read about your son passing away. I’m so sorry.

HARMONY (VERSION 2) (CONT’D)
You have children?

JACKIE
I had a son ... He passed away.

HARMONY
Oh God, I’m so sorry.

JACKIE
I wasn’t any kind of father. And I have to live with that.

HARMONY
How do you get through something like that?

JACKIE
I’m a comedian. I did jokes about his horrible mother.

HARMONY
Come on. Do one now!

She stands and takes the Bourbon Bottle and holds it like a microphone.

HARMONY (CONT’D)
Ladies and gentlemen, Jackie Burke!

JACKIE
Naa.

HARMONY
Come on.

JACKIE
Will it get me laid?

HARMONY
Depends how funny it is.

Jackie takes the “microphone.”

JACKIE
Hello everybody. Looks like a good crowd tonight.

(MORE)
[PLACE HOLDER JOKE]  I was never religious until I met my third wife. Then I prayed every day for her to get hit by a fuckin’ bus.  
(Jackie Improv)

HARMONY

Eh . . .

JACKIE

Okay, try this: Did you hear about the daddy’s girl who fucked the 67-year-old comedian?

HARMONY

You’re only 67? I thought you were 70.

Jackie Shugs, or adlibs.

HARMONY (CONT’D)

You killed. Come here.

Jackie sits down beside on the couch.

Suddenly, Harmony rolls over atop of Jackie, straddling him. She starts to unbutton her dress.

HARMONY (CONT’D)

This doesn’t mean anything.

JACKIE

OK.

HARMONY

It’s just something I feel like doing right now.

JACKIE

Be gentle. It’s my first time

Harmony pulls her dress down to her waist, revealing here lovely Perla bra.

HARMONY

And you’re not staying the night.

JACKIE

Why don’t I just leave my dick here and pick it up in the morning.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (4)

HARMONY

HA! If only.

She kisses him and pulls Jackie down OFF SCREEN.

She laughs.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. HARMONY’S APARTMENT -- MORNING

Morning light easing through the blinds, Jackie stirs. He swings his arm around and realizes no one is there. He walks from the bedroom to the living room, making a quick recon, Harmony and her suitcases are gone.

Jackie is disappointed. He sees her note:

“Dear Jackie.
Thanks for the laugh.
Love, HARMONY.”

Jackie feels good. It was a great night. But he knows it’s over. Never to happen again. He gets dressed.

EXT. FRIAR’S CLUB - DAYS LATER.

Jackie’s got on a casual coat and boots - a bit bohemian. He walks up to the ornate Friars Club entrance.

INT. FRIAR’S CLUB - MILTON BERLE BAR - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Stain Glass Windows set a classy tone. Tables are filled with comics and Broadway types playing cards & kibitzing. Portraits of great entertainers line the walls.

Miller sits at the bar alone, going over notes.

BARTENDER
(hand her a phone)
FRIAR MILLER?

Miller listens;

MILLER
Yeah, it’s fine. Send him up.
Jackie stands waiting for the elevator in the Friar’s Club Vaulted Lobby - the place reeks of old world class.

A Chinese waiter walks up carrying a covered dish on a tray. Jackie leans down and takes a whiff.

JACKIE
Chow mein?

The waiter lifts the metal top, revealing a hamburger.

CHINESE WAITER
Fuck you.

JACKIE
I guess so.

The elevator opens and Jackie and the Waiter enter, but before the door closes, BILLY CRYSTAL slips into the elevator and presses the button for the 3nd floor.

CHINESE WAITER
Good afternoon, Friar Crystal.

BILLY CRYSTAL
Hello Teddy. Hi ya, Jackie.

JACKIE
Hey Billy. How’s life?

BILLY CRYSTAL
Not bad. Gonna grab a haircut before I do Fallon tonight. How bout you?

JACKIE
(deadpan)
Chow mein.

Billy nods. The Waiter laughs. The elevator opens.

BILLY CRYSTAL
Be good.

JACKIE
See ya, Billy.

Jackie exits onto the 2nd Floor where we see the ornately carved oak staircase.
INT. FRIAR’S CLUB - MILTON BERLE BAR - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Jackie spots Miller - who waves him over, but suddenly, he hears a familiar voice

D’ANGELO
Hey, look who’s here?

Jackie turns and sees a table of comics playing cards in the corner, including his rival DICK D’ANGELO.

FREDDY ROMAN
Look who it is - Jackie boy!

Jackie has to stop and be pleasant.

D’ANGELO
Still funny?

JACKIE
No, I’m doing your jokes now.

They all laugh. D’Angelo grabs Jackie’s arm.

D’ANGELO
Sit for a second.

JACKIE
I’m in a rush.

D’Angelo rises, playing to the guys at the table.

D’ANGELO
Heard you’ve been having a rough time. If you need anything, we’re here.

JACKIE
Sure, if I ever catch syphilas I’ll get in touch.

D’ANGELO
You hear that Freddy, why isn’t there more love in the world.

FREDDY ROMAN
There’s too much ... Syphilas!

JACKIE
Why aren’t there more great comedians in the world.
D’ANGELO
Are we still holding a grudge?

JACKIE
Are you still doin’ my act, Dick?

D’ANGELO
Only the good bits.

The guys at the table laugh ... knowing Jackie’s right.

Jackie walks over to Miller at the bar.

JACKIE
I fired you.

MILLER
(nods to bartender)
Chivas on the rocks for Mr. Burke.
A drop a water.

Jackie sits.

MILLER
I’ve got a possible gig.

JACKIE
What? I dress up as “Eddie” for a children’s birthday party?

MILLER
You want a job or you want to be asshole?

JACKIE
I have to choose?

MILLER
I’m the Treasurer here. We had a meeting last night. We’re doing a big tribute to May Connor February 1. Big event. TV special. Network thinks they’ll pull 7 million viewers.

He looks up to a portrait of MAY CONNOR - legendary entertainer. The portrait was painted during her heyday.

JACKIE
May Conner ... Love her.

(CONTINUED)
MILLER
D’Angelo is responsible for the program. He’s calling the shots. And as of now, it’s overbooked.

JACKIE
Great. Is Billy doing it?

MILLER
As of now, he’s not available but we’re hoping that changes.

JACKIE
And if that changes, it’s not overbooked for him.

MILLER
Billy Crystal is royalty. You’re not even a member anymore. You can’t show up once in a blue moon and expect to be on the dais. You gotta rejoin. (nods at D’Angelo) Kiss the ring. Just this once.

Jackie swallows - he doesn’t say ‘No”, so Miller seizes the opportunity, calling out to D’Angelo.

MILLER
Dick, you got a minute.

D’Angelo rises nonchalantly and walks over. Jackie knowing he’s been set-up, whispers to Miller.*

JACKIE
What a shit fucking world this is. (dead serious) Listen - I want a good spot in the rotation (D’Angelo approaches) and I don’t want to go after this fuck, because he’ll have already destroyed my best jokes.

D’ANGELO
(arriving) You want a spot on May’s tribute?

JACKIE
Miller mentioned it. Actually, I’d be honored to do it.

He looks up at the photo of May Conner on the wall. *
JACKIE
She’s a barely living legend.

D’Angelo clocks Jackie’s line.

D’ANGELO
(deadpan)
Funny.
(puts hand on Jackie’s shoulder)
Well, I’m not saying for sure – it’s overbooked now – but anything is possible.

Jackie unexpectedly takes D’Angelo’s hand and kisses it. They are both amused. D’Angelo leans in.

D’ANGELO
Miller told me you’re thinking about rejoining. If you did, that would go a long way. But, since I’m also head of the membership committee, I need to ask you a serious question.

JACKIE
OK Dick. Shoot.

D’ANGELO
Is your parole officer joining the club with you? Because I can get you a couples membership.

D’Angelo smiles coldly. Jackie forces a smile.

D’ANGELO
(to Miller)
Tell Lydia to give him an application on the way out.

D’Angelo returns to his table. Miller looks at Jackie.

MILLER
You did good. Didn’t so hurt so much, did it?

JACKIE
I need a power wash.

MILLER
Can I tell you something I bet you don’t know?

(MORE)
CONTINUED: (4)

MILLER (CONT'D)

About ten years after “Home With Eddie”, Dad said to me “I’m sorry I ever got Jackie that sitcom. It ruined him. He could’ve been so much more”.

Jackie didn’t expect this.

CUT TO:

INT. JACKIE’S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jackie preparing for the May Connor roast event. Grooming. Practising lines. He pours himself a Jamison’s Harmony. He checks his CELL TEXT FILES.

ON JACKIE’ CELL: We see THREE OR FOUR TEXTS TO HARMONY sent over the past two months that have been delivered but never answered by her.

Jackie goes to his laptop. Brings up GOLDEN VISTA VILLAGE - Mac’s Empire is very impressive. He dials the number into his cell...waits .... gets Harmony’s answering maching:

JACKIE
Hey Harmony... how you doin’. * 
I’ve left a couple of messages - * 
you OK? I’m doin’ a big TV thing * 
tonight ... it could be good ... * 
Tell Mac to go “fuck-off”.

Jackie hangs up and continues to dress.

INT. EDISON BALLROOM HOTEL BALCONY - NIGHT

Jackie walks into an Art-Deco Balcony where VIPS are gathered for a Pre-Show Reception. Photographers are shooting various combos of comics who take turns standing beside the guest of honor:

MAY Connor - 93 - dressed to the nines. Sitting with an Attendant standing by her.

MAY
Can we take a break with the pictures? I need a martini.

Jackie enters. He greets the other comics as he makes his way to May. He kneels over and gives her a kiss.

(CONTINUED)
Hey kid!

May, what an honor to be ripping you a new one in the name of such a worthy cause.

MAY
Mind if I smoke?

JACKIE
I don’t care if you burn.

MAY
(laughs hard)
I always loved that line.

JACKIE
I loved Gleason.

MAY
Gleason loved my tits.

ASSISTANT
I don’t think you can smoke inside.

MAY
I’m 95. If I want to smoke, piss on the sidewalk and say the N word, I’ll fucking do it.
(to Jackie)
The world today! So goddamn serious about everything.

JACKIE
I’m going to the bar. Martini? One olive?

MAY
God bless you.

Jackie crosses to the bar, meeting up with Miller, D’Angelo and RICHARD BELZER.

RICHARD BELZER
Oh my God, the comic from Alcatraz.
They all laugh. Throughout the scene, D’Angelo is eating from a small bowl of nuts.

RICHARD BELZER
Good to have you back, Jackie.

JACKIE
Thanks Rich.

MILLER
You look nice. How you holdin up?

JACKIE
Better than D’Angelo’s act. So what’s the order tonight?

MILLER
Well, Richie has to make a late flight. Dick has to get up for an early call...

D’ANGELO
I got a day on a Spielberg movie.

JACKIE
You playing a dick or a corpse? Either way you don’t have to act.

D’Angelo chuckles, knowing he set himself up.

MILLER
So you get to close out the show.

JACKIE
What? I thought I told you--

MILLER
There was nothing I could do.

JACKIE
You know, this is why I stopped being a member. I get fucked every time with you guys. You invite me to one of these things, you put me on last and I lose.

D’ANGELO
It’s a tribute, not a competition. We’re all in this together.
JACKIE
Fuck you. Then you go on last. By the time Belzer introduces me, every joke about this old broad will have been told fifteen times.

D’ANGELO
That’s why we need you to close. You’re at your best when you’re working without a net.

JACKIE
Again, Fuck you!

D’ANGELO
That’s not nice.

A YOUNGER COMIC passes by, reaches over and grabs some nuts out of D’Angelo’s bowl. D’Angelo loses his calm.

D’ANGELO
Who told you you could eat my nuts? These are my nuts! You don’t touch them.

The young comic looks at D’Angelo like he’s old dirt. Then he purposely drops the nuts back into the bowl;

YOUNGER COMIC
(cold & cynical)
Sorry MR. D’Angelo.

He exits.

JACKIE
Why don’t you put him on last?

D’ANGELO
He pulls in the Comedy Central crowd.

D’Angelo walks over to get a new bowl of nuts.

MILLER
Jackie, this is still good. You’re getting tremendous visibility. Just knock’em all outta the game.

JACKIE
Miller, please. Don’t play pep talk guy - it doesn’t suit you.
CONTINUED: (4)

MILLER  
(signs)  
Ok, Jackie. You got notes you  
want me put on the teleprompter.  

JACKIE  
No.  

Jackie turns to Haitian Bartender as Miller exits O.S.

JACKIE  
Gimme a martini, one olive and a  
double chivas on the rocks.

BARTENDER  
My man, “Eddie”. Wow. What’s up  
“Eddie”?

JACKIE  
Everything’s up. My blood  
pressure. My dick. Your work visa.

BARTENDER  
(cracks up)  
I still love watching your show,  
Eddie. I eat my dinner and watch  
it late at night after work.

JACKIE  
Yeah, well, sorry you don’t have  
more of a life. And just for the  
record, my name is Jackie - so  
fuck off and die in whatever  
country you swam here.

BARTENDER  
(eating it up)  
You always sooo crazy.

CUT TO;

A LARGE DISC HANGS FROM THE CEILING WITH MAY’S PHOTO IN  
THE MIDDLE – AROUND THE OUTSIDE: “MAY CONNER TRIBUTE”

INT. EDISON BALLROOM – NIGHT  

The event is in full swing. The dais is filled with  
recognizable talents. Jackie is seated at the far end,  
looking over his notes. You can tell his blood is up.  
Richard Belzer is Master of Ceremonies, seated to the  
right of the podium. May is seated to the right.

(continues)
May is drinking another martini. There is a microphone in front of her.

Dick D’Angelo is at the podium finishing his spot.

   D’ANGELO
   May, listen to me okay? I’m your friend, okay? It’s over. You’re finished. Finito! Your movies are on the History Channel.

Mild audience laughter. May nods, rolling her eyes - she’s heard that one many times before. She leans into her microphone.

   MAY
   And your movies -- oh wait, you don’t have any movies.

Big laughs from the audience.

   D’ANGELO
   All joking aside...

   MAY
   What jokes?

   D’ANGELO
   You truly are one of the greatest talents in this business. What can I say? You’re barely a living legend.

Laughs. Jackie recognizes his own joke. His impulses take over...Before D’Angelo can say another word Jackie appears and pushes him hard out of the way -- essentially highjacking the podium and the fourth spot...

   JACKIE
   That’s enough Dick...
   (to audience)
   Wake up people. The “Whatever-Happened-To” portion of the evening is officially over.

The audience applauds. They think it’s planned.

   D’ANGELO
   Go to hell Jackie. Or do you need your parole officer’s permission to get there?

Big laughs. D’Angelo sits down. Belzer leans into mic:

(CONTINUED)
RICHARD BELZER
Folks, please welcome back to the Friars Jackie Burkie, also known as “Eddie”, also known as prisoner 942828.

Applause. Jackie takes control at the podium. No notes.

JACKIE
Yeah, I did a little time. But my thirty days seems short compared to your having to listen to D’Angelo for five minutes.

Laughs. He turns to May.

JACKIE
May. Oh May. We’ve heard a lot about your many accomplishments tonight, but no one’s really talked about how tough it was for you starting out. Today you can get the part just by blowing the director. God, when I think of the things you had to do...

May breaks up.

JACKIE
Whatever you did worked because you played some of the most iconic roles in the history of film. And me, Jackie Burke, was with you all the way ... When you played the title role in “The Battleship Potemkin”. I was one of the sailors you took on. You remember me - I came in the porthole.

Big laughs. May included.

JACKIE
Then we were re-united in “Wizard of Oz”. Does this sound familiar? (sings high pitched Munchkin voice)
Ding dong the witch is dead...And even though we are inbred...You gave a hundred munchkins head!

Laughs are building. May coughs laughing. Drinks water.

(CONTINUED)
JACKIE
And then who could ever forget when we were together in the original “Poseidon Adventure”. You as the Poseidon. Me as a cabin boy. Remember my audition?

Jackie puts his hand on the front top of his head simulating hair and flicks his tongue rapidly...

MAY
(through laughter)
Yes! And you got the part!

Applause and laughter. Audience is loving Jackie.

JACKIE
And I learned how to make the Poseidon capsize.

The Audience is eating it up. May is convulsed.

JACKIE
Yes, May O’Connor, you chewed a lot of scenery in your time...and apparently swallowed.

MAY
Swallowed!

JACKIE
In all seriousness, May Connor is not only the greatest actress of our generation - and, okay, the several generations preceding this one -- she’s a great sport. Thanks to May, we’re raising a ton of money tonight for Meals on Wheels. (Jackie leads Applause.)

Wait: “May”...“a ton”...“meals on wheels”...Add in an Oscar and fucking more young boys than the entire Los Angeles Archdiocese and you’ve got May’s whole biography.

May laughing hard and wheezing now.

MAY
Jackie! Stop!

Jackie puts an affectionate hand on May’s shoulder. The crowd applauds wildly.
May looks like she’s laughing out of control - but is also writhing in her chair, as if something might be wrong. Jackie just goes with it.

JACKIE
Seriously May? An orgasm? Now?

Her body trembles. She motions for him to stop. Suddenly, May slumps over. Her head hits the table hard, right in front of her mic. Everyone gasps, leaping to their feet.

Richard Belzer and others hurry to help her. No one is paying attention to Jackie. The dais guests gather around May. Jackie is dazed, still in his comic high mode:

JACKIE
Its OK, May, don’t worry.
D’Angelo’s not coming back.

Richard Belzer pulls the mic away from Jackie to yell:

RICHARD BELZER
Is there a doctor in the house?

But May is gone. Her body surrounded by crying people.

As EMT workers move onto the dais Jackie is pushed back and bumps into D’Angelo.

D’ANGELO
Wow. You killed.

JACKIE
I didn’t even get to my best stuff.

INT. JACKIE’S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jackie sits on his bed, still dressed in his dinner jacket, eating Chinese out of a paper container. He flips on the TV.

NEW YORK ONE ANCHOR
Doctors confirmed Miss Connor’s heart attack was preceded by a serious of illnesses including diabetes and two strokes.."

The screen cuts to Dick D’Angelo being interviewed:

(CONTINUED)
D’ANGELO ON TV
We lost a great one tonight ...
I’m devastated ... May and I were
more than just friends - we were

Jackie sits there watching D’Angelo steal his moment. He
flips the channel and there’s D’Angelo again.

D’ANGELO ON TV
“Fans all over the world will be
mourning her death. She was truly
America’s Queen of Comedy...

Jackie Flips again:

D’ANGELO ON TV
“...Family members requested that
the Friars cancel the broadcast,
and of course, we agreed.

Jackie shuts off the TV. He just stares at the black
screen for a moment, then he reaches over and grabs a VHS
tape off the shelf. He inserts the cassette into an old
video player and presses play. He watches a clip of:

“HOME WITH EDDIE*: EDDIE, A WORKING CLASS EVERYMAN, TALKS TO HIS TV WIFE, ARLENE, AS SHE CARVES OUT A PUMPKIN FOR HALLOWEEN.

“EDDIE”
Arlene, when you son decides to
dress up as a ballerina, it’s no
longer about trick or treating.

CANNED LAUGHTER.

“ARLENE”
Oh Eddie, he’s only nine. Give him
a chance to find himself. He needs
to explore.

“EDDIE”
Explore what Arlene? His friends’
rectum...

CANNED LAUGHTER. EDDIE JUNIOR enters, dressed in a pink
tutu with purple tights. Jackie watches from his bed with
the concentration of a masochist receiving his beating.

“EDDIE JUNIOR”
Hi Mom. Hi Dad.
"EDDIE"

Hey son. How was your day?

"EDDIE JUNIOR"

(effeminate)

Fabulous

CANNED LAUGHTER. Eddie grabs a football and tosses it to Eddie Junior. It whizzes by the kid who makes no attempt to catch it.

"EDDIE"

ARLEEEEENE...

Jackie shuts off the TV. He sits in darkness. Silence.

INT. BERKOWITZ DELI - DAY

Jackie meets with Miller over lunch.

MILLER

Not in NY. No club work.

James brings Miller a sandwich, Jackie a cup of coffee.

JAMES

(to Jackie)

Nothing for you?

Jackie shakes his head. James exits.

MILLER

I’ve gotten three offers for appearances. In Wisconsin, there’s a Democratic fund raiser. *

JACKIE

An hour of bashing Republicans - a Comedian’s dream. What else. *

MILLER

There’s a three day master comedy class seminar at SOAS College. It’s in London. And the third - you’re not going to like but it pays the most - it’s a television classics autograph convention in West Palm Beach - doing “Eddie”. *

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JACKIE
How much they pay in Wisconsin?

MILLER
$3000, plus expenses. *

JACKIE
London?

MILLER
$5000, but you’ve got to pay for your own ticket. *

JACKIE
Florida?

MILLER
$25,000 plus expenses.

Her cell rings. She checks screen.

MILLER
I’ve got to take this.

She rises and exits O.S. Jackie sits alone contemplating the shit turn his life is taking. James appears.

JAMES
She finished with this?

JACKIE
No, she’s coming back.

James sits opposite Jackie as Florie enters. James’s eyes go wide. Flo crosses and stops when she sees Jackie.

JACKIE
Flo. You look nice.

Flo stares at him a beat, then turns to James;

FLO
Please tell your brother if I ever see him in here again, I’ll cut off his dick and pickle it like a herring.

She walks off. James and Jackie take a beat, then:

JAMES
You got thirty days, I got life.

(CONTINUED)
JACKIE
Does she know? Cause, now with what happened, you gotta tell her it’s going to be a little longer before I can pay you back.

JAMES
She knows. And we both agree, we don’t want you to pay us back.

JACKIE
No, come on. Don’t be like that. It’s gonna be a issue...

JAMES
No, no, it’s not. I want you to keep that money ’cause then I’m free and clear.

JACKIE
What does that mean?

James says the following louder so Flo can hear him:

JAMES
It means I’m done with this. You don’t show up again out of the blue asking for anything again. OK?

JACKIE
What are you mad about now?

JAMES
(quiet) I’m not mad.
(louder) Nobody’s wrong here. People don’t change...

JACKIE
Oh please, ya singing the same fucking song ya always sing.

JAMES
People are who they are, my brother. And that’s that.

Beat. James leans in, speaking in a quieter tone;

JAMES
OK. The truth is you see how it is with her. You’ve become a thing.
JACKIE
(overlap)
I’m a thing now...?

JAMES
Yeah. You’re a thing. And I can’t
do it. I can’t take the
aggravation. So please. Let it be.
(beat)
I thought you killed at the
wedding. Brittany loved it. If
you’re ever performing, you let me
know...we’ll have a beer.

Miller returns.

MILLER
So what’s it going to be?
Wisconsin, London or Florida?

EXT. GOLDEN VISTA VILLAGE - WEST PALM BEACH - DAY

Jackie drives a convertible along the Intercoastal
waterway - Palm trees and dense tropical foliege
everywhere.

PRE-LAP:

MAC (V.O))
We have a really special treat for
everyone today here at Golden
Vista!

INT. GOLDEN VISTA VILLAGE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Mac is speaking on a mic in front of the residents who
are spread out round the tables. A little stage with an
electronic piano with a mic is set up behind Mac.

MAC
A wonderful entertainer who’s
playing the lead in the musical
“Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” over at
the Mitzi Gaynor Theater in Coral
Gables. Let’s give a hand to Devin
O’Donnor.

DEVIN O’DONNOLL appears - 40’s, every inch the performer
who never made it past regional theater. His enthusiasm
is phony. His attitude patronizing. And he is clueless
about his transparent ego. He thinks he’s a star.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

DEVON
Thank you so, so much, Mac. What a beautiful audience. I want to tell you, even though we’re performing to packed houses at “The Mitzie”, I was looking forward to this performance more than any other...

Devon cues a PIANIST at an electronic piano, who underscores;

DEVON (CONT’D)
...Because being here with you, makes me feel...alive.

DEVON STARTS TO SING SONDHEIM’S “BEING ALIVE”:

DEVON (CONT’D)
“SOMEBODY HOLD ME TO CLOSE...SOMEBODY HURT ME TOO DEEP”

Various Cut-aways to elderly characters, some we will come to know as MIRIAM, ADELE, HERMAN and BERNIE. Some are paying attention. Others are falling asleep.

Harmony moves between the tables - obviously well liked.

INT. GOLDEN VISTA ATRIUM - DAY

Jackie approaches the RECEPTIONIST.

JACKIE
Where can I find Harmony Schutz?

Jackie looks into the lobby and out through the windows at a beautiful swimming pool right on the Intercoastal. Mac’s spread is very impressive.

RECEPTIONIST
Oh, you’re here for the dinner?

JACKIE
Dinner? Yeah. When does it start?

RECEPTIONIST
It’s over. They’re having their entertainment now - Out at the Beach Club.

Jackie heads back out the door..

CUT TO:
EXT: OCEAN FRONT - DAY

Jackie walks along a pathway next to a beautiful beach, feature surf and azure water.

INT. GOLDEN VISTA CLUB HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Devon is still singing “Being Alive”.

Jackie enters the room, behind the residents who are all facing Devon.

Harmony sees Jackie from across the room. He smiles and waves her over. Harmony is shocked to see him. As she crosses to him, Mac appears at his side first;

MAC
Look whose here. The laugh a minute. What the fuck are you doing here?

JACKIE
Calm down. I was in the neighborhood and I--...

Harmony appears:

JACKIE (CONT’D)
(to Harmony)
Hi...I was just saying...

Jackie leans in to kiss her hello but Harmony leans away, abruptly asking;

HARMONY
Why are you here? What are you doing here? Why are you here?

JACKIE
(surprised)
Is Alzheimer’s contagious? I was just saying I was---

BACK TO: Devon hitting his final big notes on:

DEVON
“BEEEEIIING...ALIIIIIIIVE!!”

Appreciative applause from the audience. Devon starts a condescending patter with the elderly, while Jackie, Mac and Harmony continue talking...
DEVON (CONT’D)
Thank you. Thank you so much. You
know we often don’t take the time

* to hear the stories and wisdom of
our elders and it’s a shame. So
*I’d like to take this time to get
* to know some of you wonderful
* people.

A woman, returning to her seat, notices Jackie at the
back of the room.

JACKIE
(to Harmony)
I’m in town for a convention. I
thought we could have dinner.

HARMONY
(curts)
I can’t. I’m really busy. I’m
sorry. You should have called.

JACKIE
(closes her unease)
What’s wrong?

HARMONY
Nothing.

The woman who recognized Jackie is pointing him out to
her friends who turn around and looking at Jackie.

BACK TO DEVON:

DEVON
And what’s your name sweetheart?

ADELE
Adele.

DEVON
Tell us a little about yourself.

ADELE
I was a gym teacher for 42 years.

DEVON
Wow. An educator. Such an
important job and so undervalued
in our society. Thank you Adele.

There’s a buzz in the back of the room as word travels of
a celebrity in their midst. Someone yells out:

(CONTINUED)
Woman

Hey, it’s Eddie!

Mac looks around and starts to realize that there’s an “Eddie Buzz” starting to happen among his residents.

Mac

(nudges Harmony)
Will you look at that. They want Eddie. Who’d a thought?

Harmony & Jackie look around as the crowd buzzes: “Hey, Eddie’s here!” “Eddie, tell some jokes!”

Mac (Cont’d)
Go out there, Jackie, they want you.

Jackie
Not my audience, Mac.

Mac
Come-on Give ‘em what they want.
(turns to Harmony)
Give him a goose, baby.

Harmony
(wants Jackie to go)
No, this is definitely not his kind of crowd.

Mac takes off, making a bee-line toward Devon.

Back to Devon:

He’s a little annoyed that he’s losing the crowd to the Eddie buzz.

Miriam
I’m Miriam.

Devon
Miriam. Tell us about yourself.

Miriam
Well, I was a dancer. I was on Broadway once.

Devon
Wow. A Broadway star in our midst. Can I have your autograph?

Mack approaches Devon and takes the Mic from him.

(Continued)
Hey Folks, I’ve got a real surprise for ya! Just in from New York. Television star & personal friend, Eddie from “EDDIE’S HOME”.

Applause for the surprise celebrity guest.

Jackie is caught off guard. He looks at Harmony, who shrugs:

HARMONY
(deadpan)
Better beat it out of here as fast as you can.

Jackie checks her out ... she’s not kidding. Somehow he accepts her challenge, and walks out to Mac, who hands him the mic. Then Mac escorts a confused Devon out.

JACKIE
Hello everyone, I’m Jackie Burke.

Applause and anticipation from the crowd.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
(to Miriam)
So you’re a dancer? I always wanted to ask, when you’re hanging upside down on those poles, how do you stop your tits from smacking you in the face?

A GASP from the Audience. A couple of nervous laughs. A little growling.

Harmony and Mac go wide eyed - not knowing what the reaction will be.

Meriam isn’t phased ... a tough broad.

MIRIAM
I wasn’t that kind of dancer. I was a chorus girl.

JACKIE
Miriam, it was my boyhood fantasy to fuck a chorus girl. Maybe if you’re free after your enema.

More rumbling from the audience over:
MIRIAM
Is that supposed to be funny?

Harmony watches Jackie slowly die.

JACKIE
You’re a good sport Meriam, I’ll
meet you in your room after I get
some condoms fro Adele. Gym
teachers always have condoms,
right Adele?

Adele goes crimson red. Jackie is bombing.

Jackie escapes to a group of men including, Herman and
Bernie.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
What’s the deal with these three?
Look at this. What’s your name?

HERMAN
Herman.

JACKIE
Herman, nobody’s called that
anymore?
(Herman smiles, nods)
You three all hang out together?

HERMAN
Mostly.

JACKIE
Oh, I get it. The last one left
alive keeps the porn collection.
Whose got the best pussy shots?

Points to a balding man at the table.

HERMAN
Bernie.

Everybody breaks out laughing at Herman’s admission.

JACKIE
What’s your name, sir?

BERNIE
Bernie! I’m curious. Are you a
breast man? A leg man? What?
BERNIE (CONT’D)
I like tucheses.

JACKIE
Tuckeses? Bernie, they haven’t been called tuckeses since Dachau closed down. You won’t get any ass like that. It’s booty, badunkadonk. Come on!

Bernie doesn’t like the Dachau reference. The Audience is turning hostile.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
Have you met Adele the gym teacher? She used to be able to climb up a rope with just her ass. (to Adele) Adele, I got a live one for ya. Wait, let me check.

Jackie feels Bernie’s pulse.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
Yep, still ticking.

Crickets. A few people edge towards the exit.

A YOUNG AIDE takes out his cell phone and video records Jackie.

Jackie notices a OLD GUY walking out.

JACKIE (CONT’D) (to Old Guy)
Hey don’t leave -- I hear there’s seconds on rice pudding.

JACOB
No, no. I’ve got to go to the bathroom!

JACKIE
What’s your name, sir?

Jacob.

JACOB
Jacob. Number 1 or number 2, Jacob?
JACOB
(thinks for a beat)
Number 3.

Laughs. Finally.

JACKIE
Number 3! The Mac Schultz Special!

More laughs. Jackie’s flop sweat is taking a break.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
God speed, Jacob.

Ladies and gentlemen, give it up for Jacob!

Jacob laughs, enjoying the attention. Audience laughs and applauds.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
Okay, I see what you like . . .

You know, Golden Vista Village is so much more than just a place for waiting to die. It’s also a place for waiting to go to the bathroom. So when the opportunity comes, you gotta go for it. Like Jacob.

Jackie has a thought.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
Hey, do you all know the song “Makin Whoopee”? The audience shouts out “yes”, “of course”, “sure”.

Jackie cues the piano player, who nods.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
OK, let’s try it, all together, except when I point to you for the chorus, you all sing “Not Makin Poopy”. Can you do that?

Enthusiastic response.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
(to piano player) OK, Maestro - let’s try it.
JACKIE & AUDIENCE

(singing)

"NOT MAKIN POOPY".

Jackie sings the song haltingly, as he makes up the lyrics as he goes along.

JACKIE

Great. Okay, here goes:

(singing)

Another fear,

Another year,

Another enema in your rear;

Elimination . . .

Constipation . . .

JACKIE AND AUDIENCE

Not makin’ poopy.

Harmony and Mack are joining in on the chorus now.

Jackie leaves the small stage and continues singing as he walks through the Audience.

JACKIE

Pee-pee is fine,

Except it leaks;

What’d you except

From wrinkled deeks?”

It’s so abusive;

Stools are elusive . . .

Jackie hold the Mic in the face of the one of the Oldsters.

OLDSTER AND AUDIENCE

Not makin poopy.

JACKIE

Prune juice, Mira-Lax and Ex --

Loosin’ you up and how.

Dumping is better than sex,

Which bring us up to now . . .

You’re on the toilet,

From nine to five --

Holy Shit, it’s good to be alive!

It’s all a breeze now,

But please don’t sneeze now . . .

Oops!

You’re makin poopy!

(big finish)

Not being loopy;

(MORE)
JACKIE (CONT'D)
Better than “whoopie,”
(everybody sings)
I’m makin’ poopy!

Mad laughter and applause. Jackie takes his bow.

Harmony applauds as well. Mac appears beside her.

MAC
I want to hire him.

HARMONY
What?

Mac sits with Jackie on the back of his luxury yacht which is moored next to Golden Vista Village.

MAC
We got this benefit coming up. It’s a big PR thing. I’ll pay a nice figure. And maybe, we can work out an arrangement where you make regular appearances. You can still do your own gigs. They’re all asleep by 8.

JACKIE
I don’t know. When’s the benefit?

MAC
Saturday night. When’s your convention?

JACKIE
Tomorrow. I leave tomorrow night.

MAC
I’ll make it worth your while to stay a few more days - all expenses paid - I’ll put you up in a nice condo with a view of the Intercoastal.

JACKIE
OK. $10,000.

MAC
$7500.

(CONTINUED)
JACKIE
Deal.

As Jackie steps onto the dock, Mac flags down a young staff member passing by.

MAC
Jerry, tell the front desk to put Mr. Jackie Burke in Suite 535 ... until next Sunday.

JERRY
Yes, MR. Shiltz

Jackie waves to Mac.

JACKIE
I’m gonna check out of the West Palm Hilton ... be be back in a couple of hours.

Jackie walks to the end of the dock where he sees Harmony sitting by the pool with Meriam.

EXT: POOLSIDE - DAY

Several of the seniors swim in the pool. Harmon & Meriam kitbitz.

MERIAM
A breath of fresh air.

HARMONY
More like a hurricane.

MERIAM
How do you know him.

HARMONY
We used to work together ... in New York ... community service.

MERIAM
(laughs)
Yeah, he’s a real “community service” type.

JACKIE
(interrupting)
Watch it, Meriam. I may cancel our date.

(MORE)
CONTINUED:

JACKIE (CONT'D)
(to Harmony)  *
You got a moment?  *

Harmony excuses herself and talks with Jackie to the edge of the patio.

JACKIE (CONT'D)  *
Maybe we can get a cup of coffee --  *

HARMONY  *
(overlaps)  *
Look, Jackie, it’s nice to see you but I don’t know what you’re doing here. What happened with us - it’s not going to ever happen again. Ever.

JACKIE  *
Hey, all I did was invite you to dinner...  *

HARMONY  *
I know, but--  *

JACKIE  *
It’s just a dinner.

HARMONY  *
I’m sorry, I...

JACKIE  *
And maybe a hand job.

HARMONY  *
SEE!

JACKIE  *
I’m kidding! Jesus! What’s going on with you?

HARMONY  *
Nothing.

JACKIE  *
I just wanted to stop to say hello. Is that so wrong?

Harmony calms down a bit. Jackie’s being genuine.

HARMONY  *
No. It’s just ... I haven’t been feeling that great.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

JACKIE
What’s wrong?

HARMONY
Nothing, just tired. Look, don’t feel obligated to do this thing for Mac. I can tell him you’ve got work going on in NY.

JACKIE
Eh, it might be fun. Tell you the truth, I could use a break. This May Connor thing was a bust. I’m like the John Wilkes Booth of comedy.

HARMONY
OK. Maybe we can have dinner tomorrow.

JACKIE
You sure? ‘Cause I don’t want to give you any impression that I’m available. Me, Adele and Miriam are gonna have a three-way. But you can always join us.

HARMONY
(WALKS AWAY)
Oh shut-up.

EXT. WEST PALM BEACH CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

BANNER; TELEVISION CLASSICS.COM. Convention attendees arrive in all many of dress, looking like their favorite TV characters from the past.

INT. CONVENTION HALL - DAY

The convention hall is filled with fans dressed as their favorite characters. There are stands with logos from past television shows where actors who are no longer working sign autographs and merch. from their shows.

Jackie, dressed as “EDDIE”, sits with a MIDDLE AGED FAN also dressed as “EDDIE”.

JACKIE
It’s like looking in a mirror.

(CONTINUED)
FAN
Are you still friends with the other actors? Arlene and your son?

JACKIE
Uh, no, we haven’t kept in touch. Let me ask you something, doesn’t it get old? I mean, how can it be funny if you know all the jokes? Does it still make you laugh?

FAN
Sometimes. Not like it did but—It’s like when you’re little and you want someone to read you the same story every night the same way. It’s like...I don’t know...comforting.

Jackie doesn’t know how to respond. The Fan is clearly a lonely guy. Guileless and genuine.

JACKIE
Well thanks very much for coming.

FAN
Thanks for being “Eddie”.

Jackie nods. The Fan rises and exits. Jackie can’t wait for this to be over.

EXT. HARMONY’S CONDO/PATIO ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Jackie is dressed for dinner. He appears on the patio entrance and knocks on the glass patio doors.

The doors slide open to reveal Harmony - dressed in sweats and a T-Shirt. She looks worn out.

JACKIE
(enters)
Hey, Ready?

HARMONY
Oh, no. I’m sorry, Jackie. I should have called you. I’m really tired. I think I’m just gonna stay in tonight.

JACKIE
(suspicious)
OK.

(Continued)
HARMONY
You look nice.

JACKIE
Thanks.

Awkward beat. Harmony doesn’t invite him in.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
Are you sure everything’s all right?

HARMONY
Yeah. Why?

JACKIE
I don’t know. We had a nice time and now, something feels off. Are you seeing somebody?

HARMONY
No.

JACKIE
Did I do something wrong?

HARMONY
No...Not really.

JACKIE
Not really? What?

Harmony takes a beat, looks at Jackie, sighs and turns. She crosses him to sit on her patio chair.

HARMONY
Oh man. This would have been so much easier if you didn’t show up.

JACKIE
What?

(Beat)
I’m pregnant.

JACKIE
(surprised)
What! -

He stops. Harmony is staring at him. Jackie starts to calculate. His mind races.

(CONTINUED)
Yeah.

JACKIE

Me?

Yeah.

JACKIE

Your sure?

HARMONY

Yeah. The timing’s right. I haven’t been with anybody since.

Jackie is momentarily speechless.

HARMONY (CONT’D)

Listen, I wasn’t going to tell you...

JACKIE

You’re sure it’s mine?

HARMONY

Yes, I am. Believe me, I’m as surprised as you are.

JACKIE

No, I don’t think you are.

HARMONY

I wasn’t going to at first. I had the appointment at the clinic all set. Drove myself down there. But I couldn’t get out of the car...I kept thinking about that night with you...and talking about my Mom...and, all of a sudden, I just couldn’t do it. I couldn’t let this baby feel unwanted the way I did. And, for like the first time, I felt really clear about something, ya know? Weird, huh? And it’s probably my last chance so... I’m scared, but I want to give it a shot.

JACKIE

And what about me?
HARMONY
What about you?

JACKIE
Don’t I have any say in this?

HARMONY
What do you want to say?

JACKIE
Maybe I don’t want to be a father again.

HARMONY
Nobody’s asking you to be.

JACKIE
You’re having my kid, that makes me a father ... an older father of a little Baby ... The well-being of this kid, I cannot guarantee, cause I may not be here.

HARMONY
Yes, that’s true, but what I’m doing isn’t a whim - It’s me coming to a decision about my life.

JACKIE
You’re having my kid without my permission and I’m not supposed to get upset?

HARMONY
Your permission? This isn’t about you!

HIS CELL RINGS. The phone screen reads: MILLER. Jackie presses IGNORE.

JACKIE
You can’t just decide this on your own like it doesn’t affect me.

HARMONY
I didn’t ask you come to here. And I didn’t have to tell you. But I liked you. So, ya know what, just forget it. This baby is my choice, for my life.

(MORE)
HARMONY (CONT’D)
If you don’t want to have anything to do with it, then don’t.

JACKIE’S CELL RINGS AGAIN. AGAIN IT’S MILLER.

HARMONY (CONT’D)
You should take that.

Harmony closes the sliding doors, locking it.
Jackie’s left locked outside. He takes a beat. Then walks out toward the Intercoastal and answers his cell.

JACKIE
Yeah?

MILLER (ON PHONE)
You’re viral again.
(looking at her computer)
You’re singing some “Poopie” song to a bunch of senior citizens.

INT. MILLER’S OFFICE - DAY

Miller sits at a table in front of her laptop, with a coffee, watching a YOU TUBE VIDEO of his singing “Making Poopy” with the residents. It’s been overdubbed with A HIP HOP BEAT.

MILLER
Over three million views in eight hours and it keeps climbing.
You’re on Kimmel. You’re on Conan.
Carol from RAW TV called me. She needs a host for a reality show pilot. They shoot on Monday in NY?

INTERCUT JACKIE:

JACKIE
Monday? Why so fast?

MILLER
They had D’Angelo signed but he had to drop out last minute.

JACKIE
Why? He got a better deal?

MILLER
He’s got pancreatic cancer.
CONTINUED:

JACKIE
Finally, I catch a fuckin’ break in this business.

68
INT. FRIAR’S CLUB – DAY

Miller sits at a table in front of her laptop, with a coffee, watching a YOU TUBE VIDEO of his singing “Making Poopy” with the residents. It’s been overdubbed with a HIP HOP BEAT.

MILLER
Over three million views in eight hours and it keeps climbing. You’re on Kimmel. You’re on Conan. Carol from RAW TV called me. She needs a host for a reality show pilot. They shoot on Monday in NY?

INTERCUT JACKIE:

JACKIE
Monday? Why so fast?

MILLER
They had D’Angelo signed but he had to drop out last minute.

JACKIE
Why? He got a better deal?

MILLER
He’s got pancreatic cancer.

JACKIE
Finally, I catch a fuckin’ break in this business.

69
EXT. GOLDEN VISTA VILLAGE – POOL/GOLF COURSE – DAY

Mac sits on the deck of his Yacht talking with Larry, when he sees Jackie walking with his bags to the Condo Office.

MAC
(calls out)
What have we here? The Comedian Slithering out.
JACKIE
Yeah. Sorry. I left you a message.
I got a gig in NY.

MAC
Welching on our deal - I’m not surprised - Fool me once, It’s on you ... Fool me twice, I’m the schmuck.

JACKIE
This is an important gig ... a TV pilot.

MAC
Let me tell you something, Back in the day, when I was makin’ book, I knew who was gonna lose and who was gonna win. I had an instinct. The losers - I’d deposit their money before the race ran. Now get the fuck outta here.

Mac’s implication that Jackie is a loser pisses Jackie off. Jackie stops.

JACKIE
I hear you’re gonna be a grandpa.

MAC
(annoye)
Yeah.

JACKIE
Well, congratulations. Only, don’t be surprised if your grand kid’s doing one liners, holding his dick like a microphone. See ya at the bris.

Mac stands-up from his deck chair, momentarily stunned. Jackie walks back toward the office.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
ARRLEEEEENE!!!!!

Mac doesn’t know how to respond.

INT. HARMONY’S CONDO - PATIO - DAY
Harmony is sitting in a chair reading a Magazine. Mac, red-faced, charges in.
MAC
You’re having Eddie’s baby!??!

Harmony, completely unruffled gazes up at Mac who notices the change.

HARMONY
No, I’m having my baby.

MAC
You told me it was a sperm donor!

HARMONY
Well, in a way, it was.

MAC
That’s not funny! Jackie Eddie Burke! What did I do? Wasn’t I always there for you? Didn’t I do everything for you?

HARMONY
You did the best you could in your way. And I appreciate it. Now it’s my turn.

MAC
What does that mean!?

HARMONY
You know what it means. Making my own decisions and living with them, without you.

MAC
Without me? You’re going over a cliff again sweetheart.

HARMONY
Do you hear yourself? It’s like you want me to fail. Why?

MAC
How can you say that? I’ve always been there for you. I had to be a mother and a father. I did the best I could. I don’t deserve this.

HARMONY
Why did my mother leave?
Pause. Mac sees in Harmony’s expression that this time she wants an answer.

MAC
I don’t know...Maybe I wasn’t the best husband. Maybe I pushed her into things she didn’t really want.

HARMONY
Like being a mother?

Mac sits

MAC
I don’t know. She left. I stayed.... Don’t go, kid.

Harmony senses a vulnerability in him she’s never seen.

HARMONY
It can’t be the way it’s been, Mac. Not anymore.

MAC
All right.

HARMONY
I’m having my baby. And you don’t have a Goddamn thing to say about it.

Mac nods. Harmony stands. Mac, quietly;

MAC
All right. Let it be. Whatever you want... Only don’t leave me.

His head bowed, he takes her hand. Harmony feels compassion. She strokes his head.

INT. SOUND STAGE - NEW YORK - WEEKS LATER - DAY

The television taping is underway. Jackie is addressing a studio audience. He wears an expensive suit.
JACKIE
Hello everybody. I’m Uncle Jackie Burke and welcome to “SAY UNCLE”, the new reality show where we actually torture people until they say, “Uncle”. Our first contestant is Mark Chapel from Brookline, Massachusetts. How you doing today, Mark?

MARK
Great.

Reveal MARK - a middle aged dad wearing only goggles and a bathing suit. TWO SEXY, SCANTILY-CLAD MODELS are painting his body with molasses.

His wife and kids watch from the front row.

Miller stands with Carol and two of her RIOT TV execs behind the monitor.

JACKIE
Right now our two anthropology majors from Camel Toe U are basting you with molasses. When they’re done, all you have to do is lay down in this geese pen and we’ll release these hungry birds.

Reveal a GEESE PEN full of squawking geese. Mark lays down. A small picket fence separates him from the birds.

JACKIE
Don’t forget Mark. If you last two minutes with the geese, you’ll win this new hybrid car and a Carribbean vacation for you and your entire family.

Mark’s family jumps up and down. Jackie takes notice. One kid - around three - has no idea what’s happening.

JACKIE
You’re sure you’re ready?

MARK
Yes, Uncle Jackie.

JACKIE
Are you wearing a protective cup?

(CONTINUED)
MARK
No.

JACKIE
Okay then Mark, you better hold on tight to those butter balls as I release the angry birds.

Jackie pulls a lever and a wall in the pen lifts up. The audience cheers as the geese begin pecking at Mark’s skin. At first it tickles. The audience is laughing.

JACKIE
Hang in there Mark! You’re halfway home.

Mark begins rolling around frantically as the birds become more aggressive. The contestant is clearly bleeding from numerous cuts. He squeals in pain.

In the front row, his children are scared. Jackie sees Mark’s three old starts to cry. Jackie see

MARK
Ahhh! Ahhh!

JACKIE
You can do it, Mark. This time next week, you’ll be in the Bahamas with your beautiful family.

His family winces, upset and scared. Jackie fights off the disgust he feels. He looks over to Miller. Everyone around her is cheering, but she knows Jackie so well.

MARK
AHHH!AHHH! UNCLE! UNCLE!

The cheering suddenly stops as Mark leaps out of the pen. He is covered in hay, brown sugar and splotches of blood. His family is horrified. Jackie puts his arms around Mark, along with a towel and robe, and looks into camera.

JACKIE
“Say Uncle” will be right back. But as for me, I’d rather have Stevie Wonder shave my testicles with a butcher knife than be part of a this reality shit. So this is Jackie Burke saying “Uncle”, and Riot TV can go fuck itself!!!!

(CONTINUED)
Jackie steps off the set. The crew and audience stare in disbelief. As he crosses Carol, Jackie says:

JACKIE
And I’m keeping the suit.

Miller looks to Carol, then exits after Jackie.

EXT. RAW-TV STUDIO - 54TH ST - DAY

Jackie walks out onto the sidewalk. He’s not bummed - in fact, he’s exhilarated. He smiles as he walks away.

CLOSE UP: Jackie’s shoes - There’s a spring in his step.

MATCH CUT TO:

CLOSE-UP: JACKIE’S LEATHER TENNIS SHOES WITH THE SAME SPRING IN HIS STEP WALKING THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION -

EXT. MACDOUGAL STREET - THE VILLAGE - NIGHT

Jackie walks through the rush of Village hipsters. He turns and descends down the familiar stairs.

INT. UPSTAIRS AT COMEDY CELLAR - NIGHT

Jackie enters. He feels at home here. A safe haven. Miller sits at the ‘comics table’ kibitzing with several clients before they go on.

ESTEE, The COMEDY CELLAR Booker leans over.

ESTEE
Jackie, sit. You going on tonight?

Jackie senses a change. They’re all smiling.

ESTEE
Any spot you want. Let me know.

JACKIE
What gives?

COMEDIAN
That video went viral like crazy.

JACKIE
What video?
Miller takes out her phone, hits Safari and plays: *  
JACKIE’S FULL WALK-OUT FROM THE REALITY SHOW. *  

MILLER  
Six million views and counting. *  

JACKIE  
How’d you get the tape?

Miller, just bobs her eyebrows. He kisses her.

INT. COMEDY CELLAR - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT  
HOST takes the mic;  

HOST  
We have a surprise guest with us tonight. The man of the hour who told Raw TV to go fuck itself.  
Let’s give it up for Jackie Burke.

The crowd goes wild. Applause. Some stand. Some hold out their phones with the video playing. Cheers. But no one is more surprised that Jackie. He takes the mic;  

JACKIE  
I’m a hit. Who the fuck knew?

CUT TO:

EXT. POOL/GOLDEN VISTA VILLAGE - DAY  
Harmony sits with Meriam talking about the community. *  
Harmony - a few months pregnant now, starting to show *  
Jackie appears carrying a box towards Harmony. When *  
Harmony sees Jackie she is surprised. Jackie is equally surprised by Harmony’s condition. *  

JACKIE  
Wow. You look you. How are ya? *  

HARMONY  
I’m fine.... *  

Harmony is about to ask “what are you doing here?”... *  

JACKIE  
Look, I...I don’t want to cause a thing. I... *  

(MORE)  

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JACKIE (CONT'D)
I wanted to call and find out how you were but it felt strange to just call after the way we left things...and I wanted to give you something anyway so I flew in. You look great.

HARMONY
Thanks. What’s that?

Jackie takes out some photos from the box.

JACKIE
I leave this to your decision. But I thought - whether I’m in the kid’s life or not,

Jackie hands her the box ... an old wooden wine box.

JACKIE (CONT’D)
Just photos of me and my family ... he or she may want to know some things about me.

HARMONY
Wow ... Thanks.

Beat.

JACKIE
I just want to say, I’d like to be a part of the kid’s life in any way you’re comfortable with. You make the rules. Whatever you decide. Think about it. Don’t say anything now, OK?

HARMONY
OK.

Jackie and Harmony have a silent beat.

JACKIE
Take care of yourself.

HARMONY
You too.

Without another word Jackie walks away. Harmony watches him leave. Then she looks down into the box:
We see a whole treasure trove of photos of Jackie’s family life ... not his career ... his family. Jackie as a young boy, Jimmy and Britany when she was a little girl, etc. The only momento of his career is one of his albums: “Inside Jackie Burke”.

Harmony looks after Jackie who has disappeared.

EIGHT-TEN YEARS LATER.

EXT. FLORIDA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY

A parking lot of cars. A CAB OR TOWN CAR drives up to the entrance and stops (carrying Jackie from the airport - we may or may not see him exit)

INT. FLORIDA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY

A BANNER READS: TALENT SHOW. The audiences is filled with parents with video cameras or phones, recording their kids. A LITTLE GIRL is on stage singing, off key.

Harmony is sitting with the new man in her life. We’ll call him GARY - age appropriate. Working class style. Nice, down to earth guy. They holds hands. AN EMPTY SEAT waits beside Harmony.

From the back of the auditorium, Jackie enters with a carry-on bag. He spots Harmony and sits in the empty seat. They whisper as the kid on stage sings:

(NOTE: THE GENDER OF JACKIE AND HARMONY’S KID WILL BE SUBJECT TO CASTING. FOR THE SCRIPT, IT WILL READ HE/SHE or HER/HIM).

HARMONY
Oh good you made it.

JACKIE
My flight got delayed. Hi Gary.

GARY
Hey Jackie.

JACKIE
Did I miss her/him?

HARMONY
She/he’s next.
The kid on stage finishes on a sour note but everyone applauds and cheers. Over the Loud Speaker, we hear:

TALENT SHOW VOICE
OUR NEXT TALENTED YOUNGSTER IS...
(NAME PENDING CASTING).

Jackie, Harmony and Gary applaud with the audience.

Jackie and Harmony’s 8 year old crosses to center stage, stands before a microphone to do a stand-up routine.

JACKIE/HARMONY’S KID
So what’s the deal with chores and allowances? I turn eight and my mom says “I’ll give you ten dollars a week to make your room, wash the dishes and clean the cat’s litter box”. Ten dollars? That’s slave labor. I go to our neighbor’s house and I say, “What’ll you give me if I make your room, wash your dishes and clean your cat’s litter box?” Neighbor says I don’t have a cat. So I piss in her hallway and say, “You go to 15 a week and I’ll supply the pussy”.

Various shots of stunned parents, appalled and shocked.

ON JACKIE and HARMONY - laughs, beaming with pride.

BACK ON THE KID. Not getting a response, he/she taps the microphone.

JACKIE/HARMONY’S KID
This fucking thing on?

Jackie and Harmony smile proudly.

THE END