

RICKY STANICKY

Written by

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TITLE CARD: "1990"

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Halloween night. Trick or treating is long over. The only kids still out are the trouble makers. Here are three of them, walking through the woods, still in costume. TED 10, is Maverick from Top Gun. JT, 10, is Freddie Kruger and WES, 10, is a dog. Ted and JT wear jackets over their costumes. Ted carries a paper bag of dog poo and a lighter.

JT
(to Wes)
A dog? That's your costume? Lame.

WES
Not just a dog. A dog with a boner. Check it out.

He points down to his crotch where he has attached a retractable red sharpie. He pushes the button and the red tip comes out.

TED
Shh! This is the place.

Ted indicates a house.

EXT. HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Lights in the windows and the SOUND of a television. Ted places the bag on the porch and lights it. JT presses the doorbell. They dash off into the bushes, barely able to contain themselves.

A BEAT. No one answers.

Ted runs up and rings the bell again. Still no answer. The fire in the bag grows.

WES
That fire is kinda big. Should we put it out?

TED
Nah. The guy will answer in a second.

A gust of wind lifts the flaming bag into the wooden front door. It bursts into flames.

TED (CONT'D)

Okay, put it out. Put it out.

They run up to stamp it out but the whole porch is now in flames.

TED (CONT'D)

Never mind. Run away. Run away.

They run back to the woods.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

The boys look back at the fiery house, just a few yards away.

WES

We're so dead.

JT

Oh yeah. We're going to jail and the older kids are going to make us their bitches.

WES

I'm too young to be a bitch.

TED

Wait. I got an idea. JT give me your jacket.

JT

Use your own shitty jacket. This is a North Face. Cost like 200 dollars.

Ted shows him his name tag is sewn in.

TED

It can't have a name tag. Come on. The firemen will be here any minute.

(off JT's resistance)

Do you want to be someone's bitch?!

Jt takes off his jacket and gives it to Ted.

TED (CONT'D)

Now we need a pen.

(realizing)

Wes, your dick!

Wes tries to take the sharpie off his costume's crotch, but it's stuck.

WES

It's stuck. I can't get it off.

TED

Fine, you write.

He places the Jacket with the tag exposed below Wes.

TED (CONT'D)

We need a common name...

WES

Uh... Ricky.

TED

That's good. Write that.

Wes writes "RICKY" on the tag.

TED (CONT'D)

And a last name. Uh...

Ted looks over at the street sign now illuminated by the burning house. "STANLEY DRIVE."

TED (CONT'D)

Stan --

JT

(suddenly)

Stanicky.

TED

Don't write th--

Wes has written it already.

WES

k-y. Stanicky!

Ted looks at JT like what was that.

JT

It's a common enough name.

SIRENS are starting in the background. Ted grabs the jacket and runs back to the house. He touches the jacket to the fire. It burns for a few moments. He then stamps it out and throws it on the bushes and runs off. We hold on the jacket. PUSH IN ON THE HANDWRITTEN NAME TAG. "RICKY STANICKY."

PULL OUT ON THE NAME TAG. A fire CHIEF is lifting the jacket off the bushes.

EXT. HOUSE - A FEW HOURS LATER

The house is burnt to the ground. Firemen douse some still smouldering sections. Locals in pajamas and kids still in costumes mill around, observing. The chief holds up the jacket to another fireman.

CHIEF

Judging from the size of this jacket, we got a junior arsonist on our hands. Kid probably caught himself on fire during his prank, peeled it off and left it. And here's the best part. His mother wrote his name in it.

He points to the name tag.

FIREMAN #1

Ricky Stanicky? What kind of name is that?

CHIEF

Sounds like a punk to me. I'll call it in to the police.

The chief walks off. From the woods, the boys look on amazed.

EXT. ANOTHER STREET - LATER

The boys walk alone.

WES

That was the greatest thing ever.

JT

Yeah, we should use that excuse all the time. We could be like, "Ricky Stanicky stole my homework. Or Ricky Stanicky took the car out."

TED

Are you crazy? It's way too dangerous. We're never using that name again. Agreed?

A beat. Wes and JT nod.

WES/JT

Agreed.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

"20 YEARS LATER"

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

A well furnished apartment. On one wall is a glass case of Swarovsky collectible miniatures. ERIN, 28, sets the table for a dinner party. TED, now 29, enters carrying a few shopping bags. He drops his blackberry on the table.

TED

I got the wine and the cheese. And I slipped the tomato guy an extra ten bucks so he'd give me the heirloom tomatoes from his secret stash. Smell this.

He takes out a gorgeous tomato. She takes a whiff.

ERIN

My god. I want to fuck that tomato.

She puts it on the cutting board, ready to chop.

TED

Whoa. Maybe we should save this baby for later. When we're alone.

She snatches it back, playfully.

ERIN

Ted, I really appreciate this. I know you wanted to see the fight tonight.

TED

You've been planning this for weeks. And your boss is coming. Who cares about some silly fight?

Erin kisses Ted. As Ted carries the shopping bags over to the fridge, his blackberry (still on the table), BUZZES. Erin looks over at it.

On the screen: A text message reads: CALL ME. SENDER: Ricky Stanicky. Erin looks concerned.

ERIN

It's Ricky.

TED

I'll call him later.

ERIN

But Ted, he's been so sick.

TED

Don't worry about Ricky. He's a fighter.

ERIN

But... the cancer. It might have come out of remission.

TED

How much damage can cancer do in one night? It's more of a long excruciating illness.

JT, 20's and SUSAN, 20's enter. JT carries a small container of Fleur de Sel.

JT

We got your French salt. Fleur de Sel. Shit was expensive.

SUSAN

It wasn't that bad.

JT

Really? Why does salt cost 28 bucks? Did some French knight climb some dragon infested cliff and scrape it off with his raper.

SUSAN

Raper?

JT

You know. It's a French sword.

SUSAN

That's a rapier, JT. A rapier.

JT

I took French for 6 years, Suze. Fleur de Sel. Raper.

SUSAN

You're a moron.

They stop, seeing Erin's concerned look.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

ERIN

It's Ricky. He texted Ted but Ted won't call him back.

JT

Dude. You gotta call him. What about the cancer?

TED

It's cancer okay? Not the cancer. Don't make it sound worse than it is. It's not like, I don't know, swine flu. That shit kills people.

ERIN

So does cancer.

TED

I'll call him but it's going to be quick. We've got a dinner party.

Ted picks up the phone and dials. A beat.

TED (CONT'D)

What's up?... Surgery?... Tonight?... they're going to remove the testicle?... Oh man...

ERIN

Oh my God.

Ted listens in.

TED

(to Erin)

He said don't worry. That's why God gave us two.

JT

True. Look at what Lance Armstrong did. Biked over the Alps on one ball.

Susan looks at JT.

SUSAN

Is it sheer desperation that made me marry you?

TED

(then to phone)

Our prayers are with you, brother.
Tomorrow morning, first thing, I'm
getting into the car and driving up
to San Francisco. I'll bring you a
French dip sandwich from
Pierre's... Sure JT'll come...
He'll bring the clown nose and do
the "Patch Adams..." Okay cool...
I love you too, man.

Ted holds up his arm. He's wearing a a Livestrong bracelet.

TED (CONT'D)

I'm holding up the bracelet. You
know I am.

Ted hangs up.

ERIN

You have to go up there tonight.
He's going in for a major
operation.

TED

It's just a ball. You can live
without those. Look at JT.

JT

Dude.

ERIN

I'll come with you. I've never met
him anyway so it'll be a chance for
us to get acquainted.

TED

Your boss is coming. You have to
be here.

A beat.

ERIN

You can't drive alone. Take JT.

JT

I don't know. I was looking
forward to that 28 dollar salt.

SUSAN

Yeah, you don't need to go. We're
supposed to go antiquing.

TED

It's fine. I'll drink some Red Bull. It's only a five hour drive. Maybe seven with Friday night traffic.

ERIN

Susan, you've got to let JT go. Last time we took a road trip up the Five, Ted nodded off.

TED

It was just a cat nap. I woke up on the shoulder.

Erin looks at Susan, pleading. Susan looks at JT.

SUSAN

Aaah. Just go.

JT

Suze, you're the best.

JT kisses Susan.

TED

Ricky is going to appreciate this so much.

Ted gives Erin a kiss. Ted and JT are halfway out the door when Ted stops.

TED (CONT'D)

Almost forgot.

He walks to the closet and pulls out a red clown nose. He pops it on JT's nose and they exit.

INT. APARTMENT CARPORT - CONTINUOUS

Ted and JT open the Ted's car door we hear COUGHING and a cloud of smoke wafts out. In the backseat is WES, now grown up (29). He's chubby, rumped and baked. He holds a fat joint in one hand and the cellphone that sent the "Ricky Stanicky" text messages in the other.

WES

What took you so long? Flight's in a half hour.

TED

Didn't I tell you no weed in my car?

WES

I blew the smoke out of the window.

Ted raps his knuckles on the glass.

TED

The window is closed.

WES

God damn it, I'm high.

EXT. BURBANK AIRPORT - LATER

Ted, Wes and JT weave through the terminal and pull up to the valet parking area.

INT. BURBANK AIRPORT - MOMENTS LATER

The guys race past the terminals until they reach a gate with a sign that says, "FLIGHT 131 to LAS VEGAS".

NOW BOARDING

The flight attendant is about to close the gate. The guys race up with their boarding passes.

EXT. SKY - DAY

A plane banks over the Las Vegas Strip.

EXT. STRIP - DAY

A limo pulls up to the MGM grand. The guys climb out. They look psyched.

INT. MGM GRAND BOXING ARENA - CONTINUOUS

A LARGE MARQUEE READS: UFC CHAMPIONSHIP.

The guys are ringside, watching the fight.

They drink beers and cheer. A mouthpiece flies into Wes' beer. He fishes it out and holds it up like he caught a foul ball.

A fighter connects with a perfect round house kick knocking the other fighter out cold. Ted, Wes and JT leap to their feet, cheering.

The guys stroll out holding beers. On top of the world. Ted raises his cup.

TED

To Ricky Stanicky, the best friend
we never had.

The guys clink cups.

INT. BAR - LATER

JT, Wes and Ted make their way to the bar. They are still pumped from the fight.

WES

I'm buying this round.

Wes takes out his only credit card and is about to hand it to the bartender when Ted snatches it away.

TED

Rule number eight of Ricky
Stanicky, never leave a paper
trail. Besides you don't even have
a job.

Ted hands Wes back his credit card. But Wes pulls out a wad of scrunched up bills.

WES

That's all about to change. Today I had a huge breakthrough. I was flipping channels and ended up on Sesame Street and suddenly Cookie Monster turns to me and says, "Wes, we need to talk to you. Me think you need to change your life." Normally I wouldn't be that interested in the advice of a talking puppet but it's ten am on a Friday, I'm holding a six foot bong and I've just eaten a box of cold hot pockets. So I'm like, "Me think that too. But what should me do?" And he's like, "me think you need to write a children's book about pot." Then he lifts up Prairie Dawn, flips open her foam scalp and takes a huge bong hit from her head.

JT

Wow.

WES

I know. It's the idea of the century. A pot themed kid's book. It's going to teach kids about pot when they're young so by the time they grow up and become our future law makers and leaders they can legalize it. I'm not talking about some "Curious George" picture book shit. I'm talking about a political movement.

TED

Inspired by cookie monster?

WES

Don't you get it!? This is so much bigger than cookie monster.

JT

Wes, what parent would ever buy that for their kid?

ROD (O.S.)

I'd buy that book for my kid.

ROD, 30, a very drunk man wearing a pirate costume and an eye patch sits at the bar in front of an empty glass. He has about 3000 dollars worth of dead sports book tickets in front of him. And the remains of a plate of ribs.

ROD (CONT'D)

Even if it turns out that he's not mine. I'm still waiting on the test results.

TED

Looks like you got the pirate parent audience.

ROD

So let's make a deal. Buy me a drink now and I promise to buy your book later.

TED

Maybe next time, Captain.

ROD

Wish I was the Captain. I'm Pirate #3 from Treasure Island's "Fightin' Buccaneers" show. I should be Pirate #1. But Milt Conrad JR. won't give me a chance.

(MORE)

ROD (CONT'D)

Stupid directors think they know everything.

TED

Right. Milt Conrad, JR. Okay, have a good one.

Ted and Rod and Wes return to their drinks. Rod is not done yet. He chews a rib thoughtfully, then...

ROD

I get it. Why should you just buy me a drink for free? What have I done to earn it? But you're in luck. I'm an actor. I'll perform for it.

JT

Cool. Act like Sling Blade.

TED

My two year old nephew can do Billy Bob from "Sling Blade." Do Shakespeare.

ROD

The Bard. Good choice.

Rod looks at the BARTENDER.

ROD (CONT'D)

Greg, turn down the music for a second, I'm going to perform.

BARTENDER

No. I threw you out of here two days ago.

Ted takes out a twenty and puts it on the bar.

TED

Let him do it. Then throw him out again.

Annoyed, the bartender lowers the volume. Rod stands silently. Lost in thought.

TED (CONT'D)

Pirate #3?

ROD

What?

TED

You going to do Shakespeare?

ROD

Oh yeah. Sorry.

Another long beat.

TED

Dude, the "Bard?"

ROD

Oh yeah, right.

Another long beat.

TED

This isn't happening. Let's go
find seats.

The guys grab their drinks and are walking off when --

ROD

(perfect English accent)
But soft! What light through
yonder window breaks! It is the
East, and Juliet is the sun!

The guys are stunned. Rod is amazing.

WES

Wow.

TED

Now do it as Sling Blade.

ROD

(Sling Blade voice)
That thou her maid art far more
fair than she, be not her maid,
since she is envious

JT

Christopher Walken.

ROD

(as Christopher Walken)
her bestial livery is but sick and
green and none but fools do wear
it. Cast it off. It is my lady!

WES

Optimus Prime.

ROD
(as Optimus Prime)
O, it is my love! O, that she knew
she were!

JT
Harvey Keitel.

ROD
Who the fuck is Harvey Keitel?

TED
A pirate!

ROD
(as a pirate)
Aargh, two of the fairest stars in
all the heaven, Havin' some
business do entreat her eyes to
twinkle --

WES
Chewbacca!

ROD
(indecipherable Chewbacca
speak)

The bar erupts in APPLAUSE.

TED
That was the greatest thing I've
ever seen.

ROD
Thank, you. You are too kind.

Rod takes a bow and falls over. The guys help him back up.

TED
Buy that pirate whatever he wants.

ROD
Three Heinekens, a whiskey chaser
and a rack of ribs. And instead of
the side of veggies, can I get a
side of ribs?

BARTENDER
Whatever.

The bartender hands the order to a server. He then serves
Rod's four drinks. Rod does the shot and downs a Heineken.

JT

You look like you could use some
vegetables.

ROD

Fool! Pirates don't eat vegetables!
(then)
Hey, if you ever need my services,
take this.

Rod takes out his wallet. It's mainly empty except for some
funny money from Spearmint Rhino. He removes a dirty
business card.

IT READS: ROD, ENTERTAINER! ~~555-2738~~. The number is crossed
out in pen. Under it the number 555 3967 is hand written.

TED

Uh thanks... Rod.

A waiter brings up the plate of ribs. Rod spots a
bachelorette party in the corner of the bar.

ROD

Oooh, bachelorette party. Gotta
run.
("duty calls")
Booty calls!
(he laughs really hard at
his joke, then, confused)
Why the fuck am I laughing?

Rods gathers up his beer and ribs and exits towards the
bachelorettes.

EXT. BAR - LATER

It's late. The place is nearly empty. Ted is on the phone
with Erin. Wes sits behind him making the sound of a heart
monitor.

WES

Boo wip. Boo wip.

TED

Ricky really appreciated it, Erin.
He's resting now but he came
through with flying colors.

ERIN

Good. Well, we missed you but it
was great. And my boss loved the
tomato.

TED

I'm really glad it worked out.

ERIN

Ted, it's so amazing what you did for Ricky. You're awesome.

TED

No. It really wasn't that big a deal.

ERIN

No. You worked long hours all week. For my dad, who's not the easiest person. Then you drove all night to be at your friend's side. You missed the fight. You won't get to see any football tomorrow. Your whole weekend got ruined so I went on Stub Hub and got you two tickets to see Pearl Jam tomorrow night.

This girl is awesome. Ted feels terrible.

TED

Pearl Jam?

ERIN

They were really expensive but I know they're your favorite band. And if you want to take JT or Wes and just hang with the guys, I totally understand. I don't need to go. I just wanted you to have some fun.

TED

Erin, that's... uh... that's... I... I love you.

ERIN

I love you, too.

Some drunk girls walk past in the B.G.

DRUNK GIRL

(screams)

I'll fuck anybody in here.

ERIN

What was that?

TED

They were uh... rolling a girl up to the burn ward... I don't think she's going to make it... and she just wants one final chance at love.

ERIN

That's so sad. Maybe you should get Wes together with her. He really needs to get laid.

WES

Hey, that's not --.

JT elbows him.

WES (CONT'D)

BOO WIP.

TED

I think Ricky's waking up. I have to go.

Ted hangs up.

TED (CONT'D)

Did you just hear that? Tickets to Pearl Jam. I'm a bastard. The biggest bastard that ever lived.

JT

Take me. Wes always gets claustrophobic at concerts.

WES

That was one time at U2. And someone got trampled to death.

TED

That's the coolest thing anyone has ever done for me. I lied my ass off and she bought me Pearl Jam tickets!

JT

So you're taking me?

TED

No.

JT

Dick.

WES

Yes!!

(sings)

OH I'M STILL ALIVE / I'M...

TED

Not you either. I'm taking Erin.
Now give me the bible.

JT

Now, let's see some strippers.

TED

You know how this works. In the bible we record every detail of what we said about Ricky to whom we said it as soon as possible. So we never ever contradict our story. That's why we never get caught.

Wes takes out a ragged notebook with "Ricky Stanicky" on the cover. Ted grabs it and flips through the pages looking for a blank one. JT peers over Ted's shoulder looking at the entries.

JT

(re: the bible)

Remember when you told Maureen Mahoney that you were in love with Ricky Stanicky and you were moving to Thailand to get married.

Wes LAUGHS.

WES

Oh and remember when we told Susan that --

TED

Can we focus, please?

(writing)

June 20, 2009. Told Erin that Ricky had testicular cancer. Removed one ball, left,... What did I say he said about it... earlier?

JT

Uh... I think it was "it's okay, that's why god gave us two."

Ted writes that down.

WES

Don't forget the Livestrong bracelet... You held it up.

JT

That was a nice touch.

TED

Okay. Good.

Ted stops writing. He closes the bible.

TED (CONT'D)

Okay, this is officially the final entry in the long and infamous history of Ricky Stanicky.

WES

What?

TED

I'm done. I'm not doing it anymore.

JT

Why?

TED

Because I don't want to lie to Erin.

JT

What's the big deal? You've been using the Ricky excuse with your girlfriends since 7th grade.

TED

But they were never as cool as Erin. She's so funny and strong and intelligent. And the Pearl Jam tickets.

JT

I bet when she's not around you actually jerk off to her.

WES

I know I do.

TED

(to Wes)

Please don't do that anymore.

WES

Okay.

TED

Talking to her tonight, I realized that I don't want to lie to her and I don't have to. She's that cool. I'm gonna marry her.

JT

Then you definitely can't retire Ricky. He's the only thing that keeps my marriage alive.

WES

You need to think this one through, Ted. You've been drinking.

JT

Don't worry, Wes. He's said this before. Like right after we burnt down that house on Halloween.

JT snatches the bible and holds it up, leafing through all the pages.

JT (CONT'D)

We only used it like forty five times after that.

Ted snatches the bible back.

TED

This time it's over. Wes, hand over the Ricky phone.

Wes grudgingly hands Ted the cell phone. Ted pockets it.

TED (CONT'D)

Gentlemen. It's the end of an era. Let's have one final toast. To Ricky Stanicky, the best friend we never had.

Wes and JT grudgingly raise their glasses. Ted looks satisfied. He's made the right choice.

EXT. LAMBERT AND LAMBERT - DAY

A SIGN READS: LAMBERT AND LAMBERT: A FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

A group of men and women sit around a massive conference room table in a glass walled room with a view of the city.

HAROLD LAMBERT, 50's, imposing is addressing the group. He holds up a Mont Blanc Pen.

LAMBERT

This is the same pen that I gave Jimmy Robbins when I made him head of sales. It's a fine writing instrument. Perfectly weighted, gold inlaid, solid onyx. And then Robbins betrayed me. The man who I considered family took four major clients and went to Garson and Taylor. Let me just say this, if I ever see Jimmy Robbins again, I will jam this fine writing instrument into his heart and I will drink his blood as it spurts out of his aorta. Now, we need a replacement. I would like to promote from within. Remember, I cherish loyalty. But if you betray me.

He jams the pen repeatedly into a Danish. ANGLE ON Ted and JT, dressed business casual, watching, mildly horrified.

LAMBERT (CONT'D)

That's all for now, people. Ted.
My office.

INT. LAMBERT'S OFFICE - DAY

Lambert sits in an incredible office overlooking Los Angeles. Ted tries to get comfortable in the chair across from him. There is a serious looking family picture of Lambert, his daughters, Erin and Sarah, and his wife, Clare.

LAMBERT

Uncomfortable?

TED

No. I'm good.

LAMBERT

You're sitting in the most uncomfortable chair I could find.

(MORE)

LAMBERT (CONT'D)

I bought it because I want the person across from me to be uncomfortable.

TED

Really?

LAMBERT

Make people uncomfortable and they know you're in control. When you're in control you own them. So how's my daughter?

TED

Great...

Lambert looks at him hard.

LAMBERT

What's wrong?

TED

The chair...

LAMBERT

She speaks very highly of you.

TED

Thanks. She's a great girl.

LAMBERT

I've never met a man that's good enough for her. And I'm certain it's not you.

TED

I appreciate your honesty, chief.

LAMBERT

No you don't. But you seem like a good employee. And Erin likes you a great deal. Her opinion is important to me. Ted, you keep this up, you could end up as the new head of sales. Just don't disappoint me. Or --

Lambert slashes his pen viciously through the air.

INT. TED'S HOUSE - DAY

JT and Wes are playing WII. Ted is reading a magazine.

WES

What did we do before Wii?

JT

Honestly, I don't remember.

Erin and Susan enter.

TED

You guys have fun at the outlets?

Ted gives Erin a kiss.

ERIN

So fun. I got you a shirt and some jeans.

TED

Thanks.

ERIN

And while we were out, Susan had the best idea. We want to invite Ricky to your 30th birthday party.

TED

Ricky?

SUSAN

You guys are always talking about him. How much a part of your lives he is. But we've never met him. Which is a little bit odd, don't you think?

WES

Nah.

ERIN

And this is a big birthday. Thirty. He has to come.

TED

It's not that big. Forty is the real milestone these days.

SUSAN

He has to. Especially since he couldn't be at our wedding, which seems a little strange, don't you think, JT?

JT

Uh...

TED

We might have to wait months. I think his missionary work in South America lasts until the spring.

SUSAN

That's funny, because JT was out with him just the other night.

JT

He flew back in early. The Amazon flooded and washed away the village.

Ted looks at JT.

ERIN

So you'll have him come right?

TED

Uh... well... I'll do my best.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

Ted, Wes and JT are sitting in a booth.

JT

Susan caught me coming back from a strip club. So I told her that I was there with Ricky. We were trying to rescue some girl from a life of sin and bring her back to her family.

TED

What is wrong with you?

JT

You try getting married. It's the same woman day after day. Month after month. Year after year.

TED

You've only been married five months!

JT

It's not normal! We never have sex. And when we do, it's with each other!

TED

You know the rules! We always use Ricky as a group. Never alone. We only use it in cases of emergency. And we never use it to cheat or to go strip clubs. Also, he was supposed to be retired!

JT

Well you weren't using him anymore so I just said F the rules.

TED

The rules were the only thing that kept something like this from happening. At least Wes has the sense to follow them.

Wes is still silent.

TED (CONT'D)

Oh no. What did you do?

WES

Uh, here's the thing... Nana has busted me with some stuff over the past few months.

QUICK CUT TO:

INT. NANA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sitting in a wheel chair. Wes's grandma, NANA holds up a bong. Her cane lies across her lap.

WES

That's Ricky Stanicky's bong.

JUMP CUT TO:

Nana holds up a samurai sword.

WES (CONT'D)

That's Ricky Stanicky's sword.

JUMP CUT TO:

Nana holds a flesh colored, rubbery "Pocket Pussy."

WES (CONT'D)

That's Ricky Stanicky's pocket pussy.

NANA

Watch your mouth!!

Nana hits Wes with her cane.

WES

Pocket vagina, I mean.

She hits him again.

NANA

Wesley!

WES

Vagina's a medical term!

She hits him again so hard she breaks her cane.

WES (CONT'D)

God damn it, Nana.

She grabs the pocket pussy and wails on him with it.

BACK TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Wes is still talking.

WES

If Nana finds out I've been lying to her she'll kick me out of the house. She kicked my cousin Oliver out last year because he gave away the ending of an episode of "Murder She Wrote."

JT

Nana'll find out if Susan and Erin do. Susan will call her just to spite us.

TED

Just when I think I'm out, you pull me back in.

(then)

Because you guys suck so hard, she's going to find out that I've been lying to her and she's going to leave me.

WES

What about all those golf rounds with Ricky that you charged to the company?

TED

I did that before we retired him. And you guys played too!

JT

Lambert finds out about those and the lies you told his daughter and he's going give you a Mont Blanc tracheotomy.

TED

(a beat)

Maybe I can tell Erin the truth. Beg her for forgiveness. Buy her tickets to the ballet. She loves the ballet. And I always blow it off.

JT

That'll work. She'll forgive you. Right before she leaves you for a richer, better looking guy who's not a total asshole.

TED

I don't have much of a choice.

WES

What about us? If this comes out I'll end up living in a cardboard box.

JT

If this comes out, my dick will end up in a cardboard box.

TED

But --

WES

Ted, please --

TED

Okay... let me think.

A beat. The waiter walks up with the check. Ted opens his wallet and takes out his credit card. As he does, Rod's grimy business card falls out. He looks at it.

ROD

"ENTERTAINER"

INT. GOLD COAST ROOM - LATER

A cellphone RINGS somewhere in a trashed suite. A hand digs through an avalanche of beer bottles and drink cups and finds the phone, partially submerged in a warm cup of beer.

The hand brings the dripping wet phone up to its ear. Widen to REVEAL Rod holding the phone. He's face down and bare assed, lying in between two naked girls from a bachelorette party. He wears a penis shape balloon around his head.

ROD

This is Pirate number three.

INT. AIRPORT - LATER

The guys stand at the gate watching the people mover.

JT

It'll never work. He's a mess.

TED

You saw the performance he gave at the bar.

WES

But he's not like Ricky at all. He's a total fraud.

TED

All we need is a few good hours out of him. We sober him up, we dress him up. We teach him everything he needs to know. He comes to the party. Tells a couple of stories. Then we pay him a thousand bucks, put him on a plane and send him home. And we never use the excuse again.

In the distance we see Rod on the people mover. Four days beard growth. Shades. A duffle bag over his shoulder. He sees them and waves enthusiastically.

TED (CONT'D)

See, it's going to be great.

The waving is apparently too strenuous and he falls over on the people mover. JT and Wes look really worried. Ted forces a smile.

INT. NANA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ted, Wes and JT bring Rod inside. As they do Ted hands Rod five hundred dollars.

TED

... Remember the deal. Five hundred dollars up front. And five hundred when you complete your services.

ROD

Can I get the other five hundred in gold doubloons?

Teri crosses on his way out.

TERI

Wes, I got two days off. If Nana needs to use the bed pan, make sure you wipe her better. She's starting to look like a baboon during mating season.

WES

Thanks for the imagery.

ROD

What's the big deal? I've wiped a baboon during mating season.

Teri exits.

TED

Rod, we got a lot of prep to do for this birthday party. You ready?

ROD

Yeah.

Rod takes out his iPhone. He hits a button on the menu activating the built in voice recorder.

ROD (CONT'D)

Do you mind if I record this. It's a memorization technique that I use for my character studies.

TED

Whatever works. Now, let's get to work. First of all, Ricky Stanicky is a clean cut guy...

BEGIN MONTAGE

INT. HAIR SALON - DAY

Rod is getting a short hair cut and a shave as Ted looks on. He gives the woman cutting Ricky's hair instructions. JT sits off to the side in salon chairs pretending to read Cosmo while checking out women getting hair cuts. Wes is actually reading Vogue intrigued by an article titled, "10 WAYS TO HOLD ONTO YOUR MAN."

INT. NANA'S BASEMENT - DAY

Ted, JT and Wes struggle down the stairs with a brand new exercise treadmill in a box.

TED (V.O.)

Despite his illness, Ricky is in incredible physical shape. He has been training with the AIDS project in San Francisco to do the run for a cure.

INT. NANA'S BASEMENT - LATER

Rod jogs on the assembled treadmill. The guys surround him.

ROD

Dude, I need a break.

TED

You've run for one minute and twelve seconds.

ROD

Okay, I'll push through.

Rod takes two more steps, then pushes the stop button. The treadmill stops. He bends over and pukes.

JT

(dismayed)

We were going to return that thing after we were done with it.

WES

You're really this out of shape?

ROD

I run better if I'm drunk.

TED

No. No. No. Ricky is a teetotaller. He doesn't drink.

Rod goes pale. And pukes again.

INT. NANA'S HOUSE - DAY

Rod is sweating like a pig, drinking a sports drink and smoking a cigarette. Ted takes the smoke out of Ricky's hand.

TED

Ricky doesn't smoke.

Wes comes over with a box of nicotine patches and puts one on Rod's arm. A beat. Rod sits for a second.

ROD

Nothing. Hit me again.

WES

I think that's above the recommended dosage.

TED

Hey, whatever it takes.

Wes puts another patch on Rod's arm.

INT. BARNEY'S - DAY

TED (V.O.)

Ricky is a snappy dresser.

Rod walks out of the dressing room wearing some skinny jeans and a shirt.

JT

This place is not cheap.

TED

He's got to look the part.

Rod comes over in the jeans.

ROD

These jeans are so tight, my junk
is migrating back into my trunk.

WES

Skinny jeans always crush my balls.

TED

Ball. Ricky only has one ball.

ROD

Really? Why?

TED

Testicular cancer.

JT

They just removed it.

ROD

Okay, if there's some girl I need
to get on, I'll just suck it back
in.

JT

What?!

ROD

The human body is capable of
incredible things.

TED

That won't be necessary. Ricky
took an abstinence pledge. He's
saving himself for marriage.

ROD

What? No booze, no smokes, no
pussy. Next thing you're going to
tell me the guy's a vegetarian.

WES

Vegan.

Rod gags.

TED

Not on the Armani shirts.

Ted covers Rod's mouth. Rod composes himself. Then puke
shoots out of his nose and all over the shirt rack. A sales
person looks at them shocked.

TED (CONT'D)

Wrap that up and add it to our bill.

INT. NANA'S HOUSE - LATER

Now Rod has two nicotine patches on each shoulder. They look at him. Is it working?

ROD

Hit me again!

INT. NANA'S BASEMENT - DAY

Rod is running while Ted watches. JT and Wes sit in torn up recliners playing Wii.

TED

Looking good.

ROD

Yeah, I got this. This is really a lot --

Rod falls over, and the tread mill throws him into the wall so hard it leaves a Rod shaped dent in the dry wall. Ted shakes his head.

INT. NANA'S HOUSE - LATER

Both of Rod's arms are covered in nic patches again.

WES

Where am I supposed to put another one?

Rod drop his pants. Wes sticks one on his ass. A beat.

ROD

Ooh, that's the spot.

INT. NANA'S BASEMENT - DAY

Rod is running now. Focused. Locked on. Ted pushes the speed up button. Rod speeds up. No problem. Ted nods.

TED

Wes, I think you can get some plaster and fix your wall.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Erin sits alone checking her watch. A MAN, 30's, comes up next to her.

MAN
Is this seat taken?

ERIN
Uh... yeah. My boyfriend's coming.

MAN
That is a lucky guy. You are incredible.

ERIN
Thanks.

MAN
Just in case, let me give you this.

He quickly writes his number on the cocktail napkin and slides it to her. She hands it back to him. Ted watches this from the doorway.

ERIN
No thanks.

The guy turns and exits passing Ted. Ted sits down with Erin.

TED
Was that guy just trying to pick you up?

ERIN
Yeah. I gave him the Heisman, though.

She poses like the Heisman Trophy, arm extended to ward off tacklers.

ERIN (CONT'D)
I have to use the ladies. Then let's eat.

Erin exits. The man walks up to Ted.

GUY
How the hell did you end up with that?

The guy shakes his head and exits. Through the window, Ted sees him hand a valet a ticket. After a beat, the valet pulls up in a Ferrari and climbs out. The guy gets in.

EXT. GOLF RANGE - NIGHT

Ted stands with Ricky, at the golf range. Rod takes out his iPhone and presses record. He places it on the divider between the booths in the driving range.

TED

Erin rented out this range for the party because golf is my favorite sport.

ROD

Aww, that's sweet.

TED

Yeah she's awesome. She's the best thing that ever happened to me. She's smart, and funny and beautiful and so cool. It's weird. I spent most of my life using Ricky to ditch my girlfriends so I could hang out with my boys. But after I got to know Erin, I realized if I could, I would've used Ricky to ditch my boys and hang out with her. I've never felt that way about any woman before.

ROD

Wow. Don't worry, I won't mess this up for you. I'm a pro.

TED

Good. Now, Ricky is an excellent golfer. People will probably expect him to hit a couple of balls at the party.

Ted hands Rod a club. Rod walks up to the ball. Addresses it confidently. He hacks at it violently, whiffing. The club flies from his hands out onto the range. Rod runs out and grabs it, ducking out of the way of errant shots.

TED (CONT'D)

You've never played before have you?

ROD
(impressed)
How'd you know?

TED
The only thing you need to hit is a
5 iron. Watch me.

Ted takes the club, addresses the ball and takes an easy swing. He hands Rod back the club. Rod hacks violently again. Rod hits the ball, this time both the club and ball go flying. Still the club makes it past the ball.

EXT. GOLF RANGE

Rod hits a dribbler. But manages to hold onto his club. Ted nods. He walks around and corrects Rod's grip.

EXT. GOLF RANGE - LATER

Ted watches as Rod hits a passable shot. Nothing great but contact.

ROD
You are like the Milt Conrad Jr. of
golf.

TED
Milt Conrad Jr.?

ROD
My director. He's a genius.

TED
Uh... thanks.
(then)
If I could, I'd just play golf. No
high pressure sales job. No crazy
ass boss. My favorite time is when
I'm swinging a club.

ROD
You should do it.

TED
Erin would never be with a guy who
was a golf bum.

ROD

You never know. I'm just a homeless actor and I've dated some pretty incredible women, including Trishell from the "Real World Vegas," and Emma Kariopa.

TED

Who's Emma Kariopa?

ROD

Her tits were in a scene on "Entourage." Seriously, look it up. She's listed on IMDB.

TED

No. I got to keep this job.

ROD

Sometimes you got to follow your dream. Like me. I'm an actor. And Ricky might be my greatest role. Even greater than Leissl in "The Sound of Music."

TED

Isn't Leissl a girl?

ROD

A 15 year old girl.

INT. NANA'S HOUSE - DAY

CLOSE ON A DRIVERS LICENSE

A picture of Rod. It reads "RICHARD J. STANICKY".

TED (O.S.)

This is good, Wes.

WIDEN TO REVEAL Ted, Wes and looking at the photo.

WES

Thanks. That graphic design degree is finally paying off.

Rod enters wearing skinny jeans and a stylish shirt. His hair is short and neat, he's clean shaven. He even looks healthier. Wes hands Rod the fake license.

ROD

A license! I haven't had one of these since the nineties.

TED

Let's go through this once more.

Ted grabs the bible off a table.

TED (CONT'D)

Okay, you currently work for...

ROD

IRG, a small investment firm that handles money for mainly non profit organizations and charities.

TED

And two January's ago where were you?

ROD

I was in New Orleans helping with the Katrina clean up.

WES

Good.

ROD

Why Katrina? Why not something else?

TED

Super Bowl was in New Orleans that year. So we just told my ex girlfriend and Susan that Ricky was still working on the reconstruction.

ROD

Right. You guys are genius.

WES

Your favorite ice cream is?

ROD

Whole Foods free range, sustainably grown Rocky Road.

JT

What if Wes' grandma asks you if you're the proud owner of a pocket pussy?

ROD

Ricky would never use a pocket pussy.

TED

It depends on who you're talking to. See thanks to Wes, Ricky is different things to different people. Which makes your job harder. The Ricky that Wes has told his grandmother about is a lot closer to how you are now. But the Ricky that we've told Erin and Susan about is a saint.

ROD

I get it. So if it's Nana I tell her a pocket pussy is how I keep my dick warm every night.

TED

(continuing, to Rod)
And if it's Erin?

ROD

Then a pocket pussy is the tiny kitten that I rescued from a roof of a house in New Orleans and carried home in my pocket.

TED

Excellent, Ricky.

Rod stares blankly, not reacting to the name.

TED (CONT'D)

You're Ricky!

Rod takes out the license from his pocket and looks at it.

ROD

Right. My bad.

The guys look worried. Ted throws Ricky the "bible."

TED

Spend the afternoon studying this. In three hours it's show time. JT and I have to get ready for dinner.

WES

Don't worry. I'll make him study.

JT and Ted exit.

INT. WES' ROOM - LATER

The bible rests on Rod's lap. Wes is showing Rod his book on the computer. He clicks on a page

WES
(reading from the book)
All daddy's have hobbies. Some
like to go bowling

A picture of a daddy bowling.

WES (CONT'D)
Some like to watch sports.

A picture of a daddy watching a game on tv.

WES (CONT'D)
My daddy likes to build bong.

A picture of a daddy holding up a bong.

WES (CONT'D)
The letter B is for bong. Can you
say bong?

ROD
Bong.

Wes continues reading.

WES
(reading again)
My daddy's really creative. He
makes bong out of old plastic
bottles. He makes them out of soda
cans. He even made a bong out of
an apple once and after he used it
to smoke marijuana, he ate it.

A picture of the daddy smoking out of an apple. The next picture shows the daddy's eyes swirling.

WES (CONT'D)
He said, "I'm so high I can see
Jesus." Some day when I grow up, I
want to build bong just like my
daddy.

RICKY
(moved)
I love stories about Dads.

NANA (O.S.)

Wesley. I need help. Wipe me.

WES

I can't believe this. Nana, I'm trying to work in here!!

(to Rod)

Seriously, do you think Dr. Seuss had to wipe some old lady's ass when he was writing?

ROD

It's possible. He was a doctor.

NANA (O.S.)

Wesley!

ROD

Keep the creative juices flowing. Ricky Stanicky has got this.

Rod exits.

INT. NANA'S ROOM - DAY

Nana is in her hospital bed. Rod enters.

NANA

Who are you?

ROD

I'm Ricky Stanicky.

NANA

I was starting to think that Wesley had just made you up.

ROD

He would never do that. Although he has a heck of an imagination. Some day he's going to be a famous writer.

NANA

He always told me you were a pathological liar. It's nice to know that occasionally he tells the truth.

ROD

You'll see.

(then)

Now we got a tush to wipe.

(MORE)

ROD (CONT'D)

And let me say for older woman,
that thing is holding up nicely.

Nana smiles. Rod looks over at a night table and sees the
wipes next to about thirty bottles of pills.

ROD (CONT'D)

Is that Oxycontin?

NANA

For my hip.
(then conspiratorially)
If you take two of those, you feel
like your floating on the bubbles
on the "Lawrence Welk Show."

ROD

I love bubbles.

WES' ROOM - LATER

Wes is still working on his book. He checks his phone.

WES

Shit. We gotta go.

He looks around.

WES (CONT'D)

Rod?

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - LATER

Wes walks into Nana's room. Rod and Nana are dancing VERY
slowly to a Lawrence Welk song. They are both very high.

Wes walks over to his phone. He quickly texts a message to
Ted. Close on the text.

WES: ROD ATE NANA'S PILLS. WE ARE FKED

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

Ted, Erin, JT and Susan sit around a table. Ted is looking
down at his phone. He reads the text and chokes on his food.

JT

You okay, dude?

Ted slides the phone over to JT who looks at the text message
and also starts choking.

EXT. GOLF RANGE - NIGHT

Erin, Ted, Susan and JT walk up to the golf range. It is decorated with streamers. Some of his friends are hitting balls and having drinks.

TED
(looking around for Ricky)
This is great. I love how you decorated.

ERIN
I knew you would.

SUSAN
Yeah. Freaking great. Where's Ricky?

ANGLE ON Wes in a stall, his arm around Rod to support him. Rod waves.

ROD
Ted!!

Rod nearly falls over.

ERIN
I thought he didn't drink.

SUSAN
Seriously, what the hell is going on?

JT looks away.

TED
Yeah, uh --

Rod lets go of Wes, staggers forward and picks up a five iron. He grabs the railing to steady himself.

ROD
Check out this fiver iron.

He gets in position and dramatically waggles. It's almost sexual. Rod finally takes his club back knocking the ball off the tee.

TED
Erin, there's something I have to tell you.

JT begins shaking his head "no," pleading. But Ted sees no way out.

TED (CONT'D)

The thing is Ricky is --

ROD

Before I hit this, I want to tell you all a story about Ted. After Katrina, I volunteered in New Orleans. One weekend Ted and Wes and JT came down to help. While I was in a boat rescuing stranded people off of roof tops, they were back at base camp serving coffee and soup. Saturday afternoon, my boat was so full of people that the gunwale was only about six inches above the water.

His delivery is so compelling suddenly we're there seeing it with him, as if it were real.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Rod sits in a boat packed with rescued people wrapped in blankets. A local man drives. They coast up to a submerged house. ON the roof is an old woman (AUNT ESTHER) with a menagerie of animals. Dogs, birds, a three legged kitten.

ROD (V.O.)

On top of one house an old lady was stranded. She didn't want to leave without her pets. They were her family. But the boat was full.

Rod climbs off to help her, but she won't budge. Rod begins pleading with her. The boat driver shakes his head. Sadly, the woman steps off the roof. She gets in the boat. Rod gets on his cellphone and calls back to base.

ROD (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I called base camp to see if we could get another boat for the animals.

EXT. RED CROSS BASE CAMP - DAY

INTERCUT RED CROSS BASE CAMP - DAY / HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

JT, Wes, and Ted ladle hot soup out to cold, wet rescuees. Ted watches a Red cross OFFICIAL on the phone with Rod. The official explains why they can't save the pets.

ROD (V.O.)

But all the boats had to be used to rescue people.

Ted stares at the official thinking.

END INTERCUT

EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The woman looks mournfully at her pets and they drift off.

ROD (V.O.)

Then something amazing happened.

EXT. RED CROSS BASE CAMP - LATER

Wes, and JT serve the rescued people hot cups of coffee. Aunt Esther sobs on Rod's shoulder. Then Ted appears rowing a tiny leaky canoe packed with the animals. Dogs take up the floor space. A parrot rests on one shoulder, a rabbit on another, and in his lap is a three legged kitten.

ROD (V.O.)

Ted found the worst boat in New Orleans and brought back those animals on his own.

He pulls up to shore. The dogs leap out and run to their owner. She hugs them overjoyed.

BACK TO:

EXT. GOLF RANGE - CONTINUOUS

People are moved. Some dab their eyes.

ROD

That's Ted. Always doing stuff for other people. Tonight, we're doing something for you. Happy birthday, buddy.

Rod swings and crushes it, his follow through turns him away from the group for a moment.

ROD (CONT'D)
(to himself; facing away
from the group)
And scene.

ERIN
What a great story.

TED
(shocked)
Yeah.

ERIN
What'd you want to tell me?

TED
Uh... just that uh... sometimes
Ricky's meds make him seem a little
bit tipsy. Side effects.

Rod approaches them and hugs Ted. Then grabs Erin by the hands.

ROD
Erin. You are so much more
beautiful than the photos that Ted
is always showing us. I mean
always. He never stops.

TED
Why would I? She's so hot.

Erin blushes.

ROD
This guy loves you. Seriously.
Loves. Okay, I don't want to
embarrass him. Erin, let's get a
virgin daiquiri and I'll tell you
about how he never stops talking
about you.

Susan walks up, deliberately and grabs Rod's hand.

SUSAN
Let me do it. Erin, you stay with
the birthday boy.

Susan starts to walk off with Rod. Ted spots the edge of a nicotine patch just protruding over the top of Rod's collar.

TED
Wait.

Ted grabs Rod into a hug.

TED (CONT'D)
So good to see you, bro.

As they part Ted COUGHS and deftly rips the patch off Rod's neck.

ROD
(whimper)

ANGLE ON Rod and Susan. Susan holds a cosmo. Rod holds a virgin daiquiri.

SUSAN
Seriously, what kind of name is Stanicky? It sounds made up.

ROD
(deftly)
Stanicky's not really my last name. When my grandparents came through Ellis island, after fleeing the purges of the Bolsheviks, they misheard it. The real last name is Stravinsky.

SUSAN
(intrigued)
Like Igor Stravinsky? The composer?

ROD
My great great Uncle.

SUSAN
You know I work at the concert hall?

ROD
You know my favorite book is "The Guernesey Literary and Potato Peel Pie society."

A beat. Susan LAUGHS.

SUSAN
You're hilarious.

MUSIC CUE: SOMETHING UPBEAT

SINGLE BEATS OF RICKY WORKING THE PARTY

ANGLE ON CLARE and SARAH (Erin's sister and Mom) and some of Ted and JT's coworkers, listening intently to Rod.

ROD

My idols are Jesus Christ, George Bush and George Bush Jr.

ANGLE ON Ted, Wes AND JT, Looking on in amazement.

ANGLE ON Erin, hitting golf balls. Rod stands next to her.

ROD (CONT'D)

When I pulled that three legged cat off of her roof and gave it back to Aunt Esther, that was the greatest feeling I've ever had. Except when it gave birth to a litter of three legged kittens.

ANGLE ON Rod and Susan

ROD (CONT'D)

Few people know it but Stravinsky wasn't just a musician. He also invented Russian dressing.

Susan nods, fascinated.

ANGLE ON Rod and Lambert

ROD (CONT'D)

Buy low and sell high. That's my motto.

LAMBERT

That is a good motto.

ROD

It nearly helped the Duke Brothers corner the frozen concentrated orange juice market.

LAMBERT

"Trading Places!" One of my all time favorites. Ricky, you are a card.

ROD

Thanks. But seriously, it's also a sound investing philosophy.

Lambert nods.

EXT. GOLF RANGE PARKING LOT - LATER

People are leaving. Everyone is in good spirits. Mr. Lambert and Clare and Erin's sister, SARAH, 20's, a wild girl, stop on the way out.

ERIN

Thanks for coming.

CLAIRE

It was a great party.

MR. LAMBERT

Ted, that Ricky is very impressive. Most of your friends are complete idiots, but Ricky, he's like a breath of fresh air.

SARAH

He's hot, too.

TED

I'm glad you all like him.

MR. LAMBERT

By the way, I want to see you in my office first thing on Monday. There's something big I need to discuss with you.

The Lamberts leave. Erin squeezes Ted's hand.

TED

I think I'm about to get a promotion.

ERIN

I think you're also about to get a blow job.

TED

Best birthday ever.

INT. LAX - MORNING

Ted, Wes and JT shake Rod's hand. Ted gives Rod five more hundreds.

ROD

Pleasure doing business with you all. Anytime you need me back, I'd be happy to come.

TED

We'll keep it in mind.

LAMBERT'S OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - LATER

Ted sits in the uncomfortable chair. Lambert seems to be in good spirits. He is straightening a framed picture of he and Hilary Clinton smoking fat cigars.

TED

Hilary Clinton never struck me as a cigar smoker.

LAMBERT

Oh yeah. Three double coronas a day. Anyway, I was reviewing some records with the guys from accounting. You played a lot of rounds of golf with Ricky haven't you?

TED

A few.

LAMBERT

Close to four times over the past year.

Ted looks worried.

TED

Was it that many?

LAMBERT

One round at PGA West came out to four hundred and eighty dollars in greens fees alone.

TED

Yeah but there's a lot of potential there. With Ricky. And golf's important for client relations.

LAMBERT

I agree and Ricky is quite a guy. That's why I'm not mad at you.

Ted is relieved.

LAMBERT (CONT'D)

And I think we both agree that sometimes you have to pay to recruit a piece of talent like that. Whether they be golf rounds or fancy dinners.

TED

I'm sorry?

LAMBERT

Our new head of sales is going to be Ricky Stanicky.

TED

Rod-rrruh rruh Ricky?

LAMBERT

That's the exciting news I told you about. I called him last night. Booked him on a plane back to LA. I thought you'd be thrilled.

TED

Oh...I am... I

LAMBERT

I know, you wanted to take over the department. But your skills lie more in traditional business. Ricky is a total original. He's the type of guy who one day might end up as CEO.

TED

CEO?

Rod walks in a business suit with a big grin on his face.

ROD

Ted. Mr. Lambert.

(then)

I am so psyched to be working with you, bro.

LAMBERT'S OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Rod and Ted walk past Lambert's assistant to the elevator.

ROD

Working with my best friend in the world. Wow.

The elevator door opens. They walk in.

ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

The elevator is empty. As soon as the doors close, Ted turns to Rod.

TED
What are you doing?

ROD
I know this seems a little crazy.

TED
A little? You're not Ricky Stanicky.

RICKY
Look at it from my perspective. You guys paid me a thousand dollars. Which was awesome. But Lambert offered me 150,000 dollars a year.

TED
150,000!!!! That's sixty grand more than I make.

RICKY
I know. I didn't take it though. I got him up to 164 plus bonus.

TED
How?

RICKY
It said in the bible that Ricky once worked as a hostage negotiator so I played hard ball. Lambert also threw in a corporate car.

TED
A corporate car?!

The door opens and two people enter. Ted is silent again, fuming.

TED (CONT'D)
(on a dime, gritting his teeth)
That's great about the corporate car. Really great... really great...

The elevator descends. The two people get out. Alone again.

TED (CONT'D)

...except it was supposed to be my
fucking car.

ROD

We're going to be working together.
Maybe they'll get us matching ones.

TED

Matching cars?

ROD

Look, the money and the car are
great. But really it's about the
role. Ricky Stanicky is the kind
of character that I've always
wanted to play. He's a saint, but
underneath his perfect exterior
there's a bottomless well of
pathos.

TED

This is not a show. This is real
life. My life.

ROD

Ricky is Rod's best friend. Ricky
makes Rod's life better. At least
that's how it works in the script.

TED

What script?

ROD

The bible! You wrote it.

TED

You can't do this. Do you even
know what we do here?

ROD

I was meaning to ask you that.

TED

People will find out the truth.
You'll drag both of us down.

ROD

The truth? I'm an actor. The only
truth is in the character.

The door opens again. Another person walks in. Ted puts on
a fake smile.

TED
Mr. Prentiss.

PRENTISS
Ted. And you must be Ricky.

ROD
Mr. P.

PRENTISS
Hey, I've got a golf game with Mr. Lambert and Toyo Yamashido next week. Perhaps you could step in and join our threesome.

ROD
I'd love to join your three way. But only if Ted gets to come too.

PRENTISS
We could always use a caddy.

Prentiss and Rod Share a long knowing LAUGH. The car goes down another floor. Prentiss gets off. The car is empty for a beat.

TED
Toyo Yamashido? I've been trying to get that guy in a meeting forever..

ROD
And now you get to drive him around in a golf cart! See it's all working out.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Mr. Lambert and a couple of corporate heavies sit at one side of the table. Ted, Ricky, JT and five other sales associates are on the other side of the table.

MR. LAMBERT
Ted, why don't you run us through the sales strategy for the second quarter of this year?

TED
I was thinking that Ricky might want to lead the meeting.

MR. LAMBERT
Already? He just started.

TED

But he's got great ideas. Tons of them. That's why we brought him in.

MR. LAMBERT

Okay. Ricky, what do you have?

ROD

Thanks for the vote of confidence Ted, but I think you should run this meeting. I'm not up to speed.

MR. LAMBERT

Seems smart.

ROD

(to Mr. Lambert)

I like to delegate.

MR. LAMBERT

Ted. Go ahead.

TED

Ricky's going to run the department. I think it's good to just hand him the rudder and let him steer. And people do their best work when they're uncomfortable.

MR. LAMBERT

Love that. Ricky, you're up.

ROD

But --

MR. LAMBERT

Ricky. I have a lunch in an hour.

Rod takes a deep breath and stands up in front of people.

ROD

Well, we sell financial services correct?

MR. LAMBERT

Right.

Rod sighs relieved. He crosses himself quickly.

ROD

My background is in the area of non profit humanitarian work.

(MORE)

ROD (CONT'D)

So why not bring my background to the world of investment products. Gentlemen, I ask you this -- does non profit have to be non profit?

MR. LAMBERT

What are you saying?

ROD

I mean, why can't we make profit off of non profit?

MR. LAMBERT

I'm not sure if I understand that.

TED

I know I don't.

ROD

Non profit charitable stuff. Humanitarian stuff. But for money.

A long beat. Another coworker GARY pipes in.

GARY

Wait, I think I get it. You're saying just like companies will make profits off the Obama administration's green initiative... making energy friendly cars and recyclable products that perhaps we can make a profit in traditionally non profit fields?

ROD

Bingo. It's feel good investing.

MR. LAMBERT

Feel good investing. What a catch phrase!

TED

It's catchy, but is there anything there that will actually make us money.

Lambert stands up. He looks excited.

MR. LAMBERT

With a catch phrase like that how can't we make money? Feel good investing. It pops.

ROD
Snap crackle, sir.

MR. LAMBERT
People have lost faith in the financial sector. We need something really out of the box to sell investors these days.

TED
This is wildly so.

MR. LAMBERT
Next month is our sales conference at the Bellagio in Las Vegas. We've got all of our big clients and potential investors coming in. We wine them and dine them and present our big ideas for next year. Ricky, I want you to present feel good investing there. But we need something concrete, with real details to it. Can you do it?

ROD
As long as I've got Ted on my team.

MR. LAMBERT
You got whoever you want.

Mr. Lambert gets up and exits.

ROD
(to himself)
And scene.

HALLWAY - DAY

Ted and Rod walk out of the conference room. Ted is pissed.

ROD
That was so great. You set me up. I knock it down. Teamwork. In acting they call that listening.

TED
I was supposed to be giving that presentation. I was supposed to be the head of sales. You're screwing everything up.

ROD
Feel good investing! It pops!

TED

Feel good investing? That's
bullshit. We can't make money off
of non profit?

ROD

Why not?

TED

Because the whole point of non
profit is not to make money!

ROD

Details! We're going straight to
the top amigo. You are not going to
believe how out of hand it's going
to be.

TED

Jesus, that's a quote from "Saint
Elmo's Fire."

INT. TED'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Ted sits with his head in his hands.

INT. TED'S CAR / INT. TED'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Ted is driving home on the phone. Erin is on the phone in
the house.

TED

Erin... uh...so, weird story. I
didn't get the promotion. Ricky
did..

ERIN

I know. He's here. He told me
everything. Don't worry, my dad
still loves you.

TED

Ricky's at our house?

ERIN

He stopped by for book group. I
invited him at your party.

TED

But --

ERIN

Come home. We'll talk about it then.

END INTERCUT

Erin hangs up and returns to her book group. A group of women including Susan, Erin and Sarah lounge around with copies of novels. They snack on coffee and scones.

ROD

I feel like this book is really about the domination of women by a male paternalistic society.

SARAH

I never thought of "Shopaholic Ties the Knot" as a feminist text.

ROD

Oh it is. Oprah said so.

EXT. TED'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Ted pulls up in his car behind a gleaming new BMW. A vanity license plate reads: "HDOFSLES"

TED

A fucking BMW!

He climbs out and heads to the front door with a head of steam.

INT. TED'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Ted walks inside. Everyone says hi to Ted.

TED

Ricky, can I talk to you for a second?

ROD

Sure. But I don't want us to be late.

ERIN

We're all going to the new Charlize Theron Richard Gere movie, "Heart Murmur."

SARAH

It was Ricky's idea.

ROD

It's about a woman with a life threatening heart murmur. And how she uses her few remaining beats to find love.

TED

Heart Murmur?

Rod grabs the Calendar section from the table and opens up to a full page ad.

ROD

(reading)

Heart Murmur will make your heart soar, Owen Gleiberman. Entertainment Weekly.

ERIN

The last time you were going to come with me to something romantic you had to go visit Ricky. But now he lives here. So we got the best of both worlds.

TED

(miserable)

Great. Can't wait to see it.

ROD

We should get Wes and JT to go, too.

SUSAN

JT would hate that movie.

(then, excited)

I'll call him.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - LATER

The theater is filled with women. The only guys there are Wes, JT, Ted and Ricky. Ricky sits on one side of Erin while Ted sits on the other.

JT

There goes our excuse to get out of chick flicks.

TED

Next time maybe you assholes should listen to me and stop using the excuse.

JT

You're the one that came up with
Ricky in the first place. Stop
blaming others for your bad ideas.

WES

We did kind of mess up.

JT

Shut up. You don't even have to be
here. You could just go home.

WES

But now I'm into the movie.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - LATER

TED

Seriously, she's going to get
together with the guy at the end.
And then she's going to die. Of a
heart murmur. Who dies of a heart
murmur?

ROD

It's the most deadly heart murmur
ever diagnosed.

TED

There's no such thing as a DEADLY
HEART MURMUR.

ERIN AND SUSAN

Shh!!!

ANGLE ON the movie screen

ACTRESS

I'm not in love with you. I'm in
love with Bernard.

ANGLE ON Rod and Erin. Rod pumps his fist defiantly.

ROD

I called that one!

Ted looks over at JT. He makes a gun out of his finger and
pretends to shoot himself. Wes is happily eating popcorn.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - LATER

Ted has dozed off. The music swells. Erin is dabbing her eyes with a tissue. Rod puts his arm soothingly around her. It's platonic but if it was your girlfriend, would you care? Ted wakes up and sees this. He looks genuinely worried.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

Ted, sits with Wes and JT.

TED

Did you see that? He's moving in on Erin. I can't believe this.

WES

This blows.

JT

Seriously. How the heck am I going to see strippers with Ricky here?

TED

You're not supposed to use the excuse to see strippers. That's why we're in this mess in the first place.

JT

Stripper addiction is a real illness. It's in medical books.

TED

That's a lie.

JT

The longer he stays the greater the chance he slips up and blabs to Susan and I spend the rest of my life as a eunuch.

WES

How are we going to get rid of him? If we out him, we out ourselves.

Ted is trying to keep it together. He thinks.

TED

Wait a minute. There's no way Rod can actually like being Ricky. Ricky doesn't eat meat, Ricky doesn't drink, Ricky doesn't smoke, Ricky doesn't fuck.

(MORE)

TED (CONT'D)

Up until four days ago, Rod did all of that. To excess. He handled one night of it. But can he handle a week of it? Two weeks... Eventually he's going to melt down.

JT

I don't think we have time to wait for him to flame out.

TED

Yeah. You're right. You've heard of de tox right?

WES

Yeah.

TED

Let's put him through re tox.

EXT. TED'S BACK YARD - LATER

MUSIC CUE: BILLY JOEL'S PRESSURE

Ted carries a load of red meat out toward a grill. He starts tossing steaks, burgers and sausages on the grill. Next to it is a closed "meat smoker."

Ted, JT, Susan, Sarah all hanging out in the backyard. Rod enters. They exchange greetings. Ted uses his spatula to press a steak against the grates. The odor of grilled meat wafts up.

ROD

Wow. That smells excellent.

SUSAN

I thought you're a vegan.

ROD

I am. But sometimes the smell of meat can make you hungry, even if you object to the killing of animals on moral and environmental grounds...

Wes enters with a cooler of cold beer. JT cracks a beer open. The bottle beads with cool perspiration. RACK FOCUS TO ROD'S FOREHEAD beading the same way. He stares at the beer, longingly.

JT

Cold and refreshing. I could drink like fifty of these in this heat.

ROD

Can I get a diet coke or something?

WES

I forgot the soda. All I bought was beer, wine and clamato juice.

Ted takes a long pull on his beer.

TED

Boy, it's a hot one.

Ricky GULPS, parched. Some of the SMOKERS from the office, walk up, taking out cigarettes.

SMOKER

You mind if we smoke back here?

ERIN

Do you have to? It's kind of crowded.

TED

Do we have a choice? You guys are going to have to do it. Right? You're addicted.

The smoker lights up. They move a little away. The smoke wafts into Ricky's face.

ERIN

I'm going inside to see if we have any non alcoholic drinks.

ROD

I'll come with you.

Rod is about to walk in after her when Ted opens the rib smoker. A rack of ribs is slow cooking on it. Rod can't stop looking at it.

TED

Ricky, help me here for a second. I need an extra set of hands with these ribs.

Ted shoves a dripping "rib mop into Rod's hand and opens up the grill. The smell of slow cooked meat wafts in. Ted takes some spices out and starts putting them in a bowl of bbq sauce.

TED (CONT'D)

Mop while I taste this sauce.

Ted uses a spoon to taste it.

TED (CONT'D)

Damn that's good. The secret is
slow cooked bacon.

Ted "accidentally" flips some sauce off the spoon onto
Ricky's chin. Some of it lands right on his bottom lip.
Ricky tries desperately not to lick it off.

TED (CONT'D)

I think the ribs are ready.

Ted pulls a rib off the bbq and holds it up very close to
Rod's face. Ted takes a bite, bbq sauce dripping down his
chin. His hands are covered in it.

Ted slowly, licks his fingers. Rod reflexively grabs Ted's
hand and starts bringing his bbq'ed sauce finger to his
mouth. He licks it.

TED (CONT'D)

(to Ricky)

You don't want to really keep up
with this. You want to go back to
being Rod. To pirate shows and
bachelorette parties. And an all
rib diet.

ROD

I'm Ricky. Rod is dead. I cut off
his fingers, pulled out his teeth
and buried him in an unmarked grave
up here.

He taps himself on the head. Ted watches as Sarah walks
inside the house. Ted hands Ricky a long bbq fork.

TED

Suit yourself. Watch the grill. I
gotta get something.

INT. TED'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Sarah is in the kitchen getting a beer. Ted walks up to her.

TED

So, Sar. I think Ricky digs you.

SARAH

Really? He is cute.

TED

And you know what they say about
guys with one testicle?

(Lowering his voice)

Supposed to be amazing lovers.

SARAH

Really?

TED

They compensate in various ways for
their deficiency. Work harder to
satisfy a woman.

SARAH

I never heard of that.

TED

It's in medical books.

SARAH

But doesn't Ricky have an
abstinence pledge?

TED

That only covers intercourse. You
just need to be creative.

Ted exits. Sarah is momentarily lost in thought.

EXT. TED'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Rod sneakily dips his finger in the sauce and is about to
lick it when...

PARTY GUEST

Ricky, can I get a burger?

Caught by surprised, Rod knocks over the bowl and presses his
hand onto the hot the grill. He screams. He looks around.
People are staring him.

ROD

Aah!!!

Rod runs inside.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rod is running his hand under cold water. Ted walks up behind him.

TED
Something for the pain?

Ted opens the cabinet and pulls out a bottle of painkillers. Rod pushes them away.

ROD
This isn't fair. You're going to make me lose everything!

TED
No. I'm going to make Ricky lose everything. But you're not Ricky. You're Rod. Go home, Rod. You're ruining my life.

ROD
No, I'm going to help you. I promise. I'll make your life better.

TED
By taking my job and fucking my girlfriend?

ROD
I didn't fuck her. I haven't even tried to fuck her. Do you want me to fuck her? I'll do whatever you want. I'm your best friend.

TED
You're not my best friend. You're some crazy dude who won't leave.

ROD
That's mean. Ricky Stanicky is Ted Garvin's best friend. That's what it says in the bible. We shouldn't be fighting. We need to make up. Let's hug it out.

Rod goes to hug Ted. Ted shakes his head and exits. Rod stands for a minute with his arms opened for a hug.

HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Ted walks past Sara who is waiting for the bathroom drinking a beer.

TED

Ricky's in there. He burnt his hand. Could use some TLC.

Sarah enters the bathroom.

BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ricky is staring at the bottle of pills. He turns to face Sarah, quickly hiding it behind his back.

ROD

Be out in a second.

SARAH

So, is it true what they say about guys with one ball?

ROD

Excuse me?

Sarah moves, seductively toward Rod and kisses him on the lips.

ROD (CONT'D)

I can't. I have an abstinence pledge.

SARAH

I understand. Just fuck my mouth.

She drops to the ground and starts unzipping his pants.

HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Ricky bursts from the bathroom door with his pants around his ankles clutching the bottle of pills. Erin watches in shock. Sarah comes out after him.

SARAH

Ricky! Come back.

Rod trips and falls into Erin's display case of Swarovsky miniatures. Shattering them all. Pills roll everywhere.

ERIN

Are you all right?

She helps him up. The horn of a shattered glass unicorn is lodged in his head. Sarah just stands there. He pulls a glass horn from his head.

ERIN (CONT'D)

Were you guys taking pills and having sex?

SARAH

Technically, mouth fucking is not sex.

Sarah exits. Erin looks at Rod, confused.

ROD

(earnest)

Erin, I need to tell you something.

EXT. TED'S PATIO - DAY

Ted, JT and Wes stand by the BBQ.

TED

I should probably check on Sarah and Rod.

Ted heads in.

INT. TED'S HOUSE - LATER

Ted walks into find Erin gently bandaging Rod's head. She sees him.

ERIN

Ted, I can't believe you.

TED

What?

ERIN

You knew Ricky had a substance abuse problem but you still invited smokers and served alcohol at the party.

TED

Substance abuse problem?

ROD

You don't need to cover for me anymore. He was the one who checked me into Promises.

(MORE)

ROD (CONT'D)

Ted said enough of the substance
abuse and the group sex.

TED

Group sex?

ROD

My name's Ricky Stanicky and I'm an
alcoholic and a sex addict. And a
shopaholic.

Ted is staggered.

ROD (CONT'D)

I'm not mad at you, man. I'm the
one with the lack of willpower.
You saved me in the first place.
I'm just sorry I brought everyone
down.

ERIN

Please. It's not a will power
issue. Addiction's a disease.
You should know that, Ted.

TED

No, seriously --

ERIN

You owe him an apology.

TED

But --

ERIN

Ted!

Ted SIGHS.

TED

I'm sorry, Ricky.

ROD

It's okay, Ted. Let's hug it out.

Ted tentatively hugs Rod.

ROD (CONT'D)

(sing songy, in Ted's ear)
Best friends.

INT. TED'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Ted, Erin and Rod walk back into the room where the wreckage from the crystal animals remains. Susan, JT and Wes are picking up the shards.

ROD

I should go. Erin will you come to a meeting with me tomorrow? As my sponsor.

ERIN

Of course. But shouldn't Ted do that?

ROD

After today, I'd prefer if you went.

Rod looks at Ted pointedly, then takes out his keys.

SUSAN

Ricky, can you give me a ride? I have to take care of some stuff back at the house.

JT

I'll drive you, babe.

SUSAN

That's okay. You stay and help clean up the mess.

Susan and Rod exit. Erin looks at Ted disappointed.

INT. SUSAN'S VOLVO - LATER

Susan drives. Rod sits in the passenger seat.

SUSAN

I know what's going on. I know about the lies.

Rod blanches.

ROD

Excuse me?

Rod is speechless for once.

SUSAN

Don't act dumb. JT has been going to strip clubs.

(MORE)

SUSAN (CONT'D)

And then he says he's with you
rescuing some hapless girl. And
you cover for him.

Rod is relieved.

ROD

How do you know he's going to strip
clubs?

SUSAN

I found charges on his credit
statement to Lacecapades and some
place called Jumbo's Clown Room.
Tonight, while he's sleeping, I'm
going to the kitchen to get a knife
and in the morning he's going to
have one less testicle than you
have.

(then)

No offense.

ROD

I covered for him. I was wrong.

Susan softens a little.

SUSAN

I'm not mad at you. You're just a
good friend. But he's such a
cheating bastard --

ROD

Susan, what guy goes to a strip
club and uses a credit card?

SUSAN

My brain dead husband?

ROD

A guy that wants to get caught.
This is a cry for help. Are you
guys intimate in your relationship?

SUSAN

That's none of your business.

ROD

You're right. I've overstepped.

SUSAN

We don't have sex as much since we
got married. But we both work.
We're tired.

ROD

The passion is gone. You're in a rut.

SUSAN

That's no excuse for what he did.

ROD

No, but perhaps you need to spice things up a little. Look, I'm a Christian who signed an abstinence pledge but when I was in the Peace Corps in Africa some of my liberal colleagues used to do some things so their sexual relations wouldn't get boring... dressing up in costumes, nipple clamps, dildos, strap ons, sheisse videos, transgender midget gang bangs, sex in "Bed Bath and Beyond," little things that would make things more fun. At least that's what they told me.

SUSAN

You think that's the problem?

ROD

If you love someone you have to try new things. He has no excuse, but love is a two way street and sometimes we have to meet at the double yellow line.

Susan is silent. A beat.

SUSAN

There's a "Bed Bath and Beyond" in Africa?

ROD

They just opened one in Nairobi. But they call it
(perfect accent)
"Kitanda, Oga na Beyond."

INT. BED BATH AND BEYOND - AFTERNOON

Susan wears a long trench coat. JT walks pushes a shopping cart down the aisle.

JT

Do we really need another soap dispenser? Let's go eat.

Susan is gone.

JT (CONT'D)

Suz? Where'd you go?

SUSAN

(o.s.)

Over here.

BATHROOM DISPLAY - CONTINUOUS

Susan is on her back in a claw foot bathtub. She opens up her trench coat. She's naked underneath.

SUSAN

Get in here. Fast.

JT moves for the tub. They start groping each other.

JT

You want me to talk dirty or speak in French or --

Susan shoves a loofah in JT's mouth. As they go at it, a couple of ten year old boys peek around the corner.

TEN YEAR OLD

(to friend)

Told you this place was better than the mall.

INT. TED'S HOUSE - THE SAME TIME

Ted and Erin sit in bed reading.

TED

Er --

ERIN

I don't want to talk to you.

TED

We don't have to talk. I can get the tomato.

ERIN

Ecch.

Erin rolls away from Ted and turns out the light.

INT. RICKY'S OFFICE - DAY

Rod sits looking out at the Hollywood sign. Ted enters.

TED
Look, Rod --

ROD
Ricky.

TED
Ricky. Er. I'm sorry about what
happened at the BBQ. I feel like,
why shouldn't we get along? Work
together. I mean
(sing songy)
Best friends.
(then)
Right?

ROD
Right.

TED
Grab your stuff, we got a meeting.

EXT. LAKEVIEW GOLF COURSE - DAY

Ted pulls up to Lakeview golf course.

ROD
Why are we here?

TED
Toyo Yamashidi. Remember? Prentiss
invited you to play golf with him.

ROD
But I can't play --

PRENTISS and Mr. Lambert walk up with TOYO Yamashidi.

PRENTISS
Ricky! Ted. This is Toyo
Yamashidi. He's interested in
offering our investment products to
the Japanese market.

Toyo shakes hands with them.

TOYO

I hear great things about you.

ROD

Domo Arrigato.

LAMBERT

Ted was telling us about the flop shot you hit with the 60 degree. He says you can make it stop dead on a ball mark.

TOYO

I can't wait to see that.

TED

Oh don't worry, you will. He could hit that shot in his sleep.

PRENTISS

Okay, tee time in twenty. See you there.

Rod starts to sweat a little.

ROD

I can't play golf. You set me up.

TED

If you really are Ricky Stanicky, you should have no problem.

EXT. FIRST TEE - DAY

Prentiss hits a perfect shot.

LAMBERT

You got all of that.

TED

Yeah. That'll play.

PRENTISS

Ricky, you're up.

Rod walks up to the tee. He tees the ball up. He stands over the ball for a long beat.

ROD

Damn! Forgot something in my car.

Rod drops his club and goes running off.

LAMBERT

But our tee time... there's a group
behind us--

Rod is gone.

TED

I'll get him back.

Ted follows Rod.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Rod walks up to the valet and gives him his ticket. Ted
follows him. The valet runs over and gets Rod's car.

TED

So it's over. You're finally
walking away?

The valet pulls up, gets out and opens the door for Rod. Rod
puts his hand in the open doorway and slams the door on it.

ROD

Aaaaaah!!! My hand!

Ted and the valet are stunned.

TED

Holy crap.

Rod hands the keys back to the valet and a ten dollar bill.

ROD

Okay, I'm good. Just wipe the
blood off the keys.

Rod heads back toward the tee with his hand. He smiles at Ted
whose jaw hangs open in utter shock.

ROD (CONT'D)

Role of a life time, Ted. Role of
a life time.

The valet looks at Ted and shakes his head.

VALET

(in Spanish)

That motherfucker is crazy.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - FIRST HOLE

Rod's hand is bandaged. Rod is in a cart with Toyo. Toyo is with Prentiss. Ted holds onto the back with the bags. He's at a complete loss.

PRENTISS

I can't believe that valet slammed your hand in the door.

LAMBERT

You should have him fired.

ROD

Come on, he's got a family. Besides maybe some day he could be one of our biggest investors.

TED

Yeah, right.

TOYO

As a boy, I worked as a valet in Japan. Parking cars for rich people. And look at me now.

ROD

Look at him! Everybody's got a secret. Right, Ted?

Ted is silent.

TOYO

Lambert. You hire good people. That makes me think that you've got good products. After our game my bank and I would like to talk to you about an investment commitment.

Ted nearly falls off the cart. Lambert shakes Toyo's hand.

LAMBERT

We can do that for sure, Toyo.

Lambert steps out of the cart and grabs a club.

LAMBERT (CONT'D)

Okay, Ted. Run up to the bend and keep an eye on my ball.

TED

(shocked)

You want me to caddy for real?

ROD

Maybe we should fire Ted instead.

Everyone LAUGHS. Ted jogs off, fuming.

INT. TED'S OFFICE - DAY

Ted is in his office with JT.

JT

Rod brought in three million in business from Toyo?

TED

He also slammed his own hand in the door of his car so he wouldn't get discovered. He's psycho.

JT

Why are you so hostile to him? Ricky's good people.

TED

His name is Rod. And you said if he stuck around, he was going to get you in trouble with Susan.

JT

Yeah, but then he got Susan to fuck me in "Bed Bath and Beyond."

TED

You're selling me out because you had sex in a home furnishing store?

JT

It was so freaking awesome. Next week she's going to blow me on top of a giant paper towel bundle in Cost Co.

TED

Wow. At least Wes agrees that we need to get rid of him.

JT

Really? Let's get him on the phone and ask.

Jt goes over to Ted's phone. He dials an internal number.

WES (O.S.)

Ricky Stanicky's office.

JT

Wes, come down to Ted's office.

WES

Sure thing, JT.

JT hangs up. Ted looks confused. Wes enters wearing khakis and an Izod shirt.

WES (CONT'D)

I'm rocking the business casual.
You like?

TED

Ricky hired you as his assistant?

WES

He thought I was getting creatively stifled living with Nana. But with the money I'm making, I'm going to be able to get my own place. And the best part is he's helping me with my pot themed kid's books. Lining up investors.

TED

But I thought we were trying to get rid of him.

WES

How could I? The guy is like my own real life cookie monster. He even pitched me the idea for my second book. "Mommy Bakes with Special Herbs."

JT

Ted, you need to relax and go along with this ride.

WES

Seriously, You cannot believe how out of hand this is going to be.

JT and Wes exit. Ted doesn't know what to do.

KITCHEN AREA - LATER

Ricky is making himself a cup of coffee and talking to Erin.

ERIN

My dad said you brought in a three million dollar deal yesterday.

ROD

It was nothing.

ERIN

This business means everything to him. To my whole family. We're really grateful.

ROD

I'm just glad I can help.

ERIN

You are such a good guy.

Erin kisses Rod on the cheek as Ted enters.

TED

What the hell is going on?

ERIN

I came to have lunch with both of my guys.

TED

Both of your guys?

ROD

I set it up. Nice surprise, huh? But that's what friends are for.

TED

I don't want to go lunch.

ERIN

If you're too busy, Ricky and I will go together.

TED

Okay, this has to end. Erin, I need to tell you the truth. He's not really Ricky Stanicky. He's some out of work actor from Vegas named Rod.

ERIN

Huh?

TED

I used a made up friend to get out of some things like your dinner party and I was afraid if you found out, you'd never forgive me. So I covered by bringing Rod in to pretend to be Ricky.

(MORE)

TED (CONT'D)

He was only supposed to be here for a couple of days, but things got out of hand.

ERIN

That's the craziest thing I ever heard.

ROD

Totally nuts!

TED

Why would I make that up?

ROD

You're clearly jealous of our relationship. I'm not a threat, amigo.

TED

I'm telling you the truth. We've been using this excuse for years. I used it with all of my girlfriends before you. And the LA fire department.

ERIN

And you never got caught?

TED

We were careful. We destroyed any incriminating evidence.

ERIN

Convenient.

ROD

Yeah, I'd say.

TED

Shut up, Rod.

ERIN

His name is Ricky.

TED

But I have the bible.

ERIN

The bible?

TED

It's a meticulous account of all the lies I've ever told.

ERIN
(not sold at all)
And where is this bible?

TED
Well, Rod has it. Rod, where did
you put the bible?

Rod takes out a dog eared pocket size King James bible.

ROD
I always keep it right here, next
to my heart.

Ted grabs the bible and hits Rod in the head with it.

TED
You know the bible I'm talking
about it.

ROD
The audio one that Samuel L.
Jackson reads? He is seriously
righteous.
(as Samuel L. Jackson)
And God said let there be light.
And there --

Ted hits Rod again.

ERIN
Ted, calm down.

Ted hits him again.

ROD
You know I don't fight. I follow
the non violent teachings of Gandhi
and Doctor King.

Ted jumps on Rod, tackling him into the water cooler.

TED
That's not you. That's Ricky
fucking Stanicky.

A group of office mates come rushing to the door including
JT, Wes, Prentiss, Shmidt and Mr. Lambert. Rod and Ted still
struggle.

MR. LAMBERT
What is going on here?

TED
He's not Ricky Stanicky.

MR. LAMBERT
Of course he is.

TED
I'll prove it. Look, he has two balls. He has two balls.

Ted pulls down Rod's pants and pulls out Rod's Dick. CLOSE ON THE SACK, floppy and deflated. **ONE BALL.** Erin stares at Ted in shock.

TED (CONT'D)
He... he was supposed to... have two...
(weak)
balls. I --

ROD
I was sick. I had it removed.
(to Ted, pointed)
For real.

MR. LAMBERT
Ted, what is wrong with you? I like making people uncomfortable but this is a little beyond.

Wes and JT pull Ted off of Rod as security rushes in. Security grabs Ted dragging him out.

TED
You had a ball removed to make this seem real?

ERIN
Ted! Listen to yourself.

Ted is silent. Rod looks at him.

ROD
(in near tears, to Ted)
You bastard. I loved you the most.

A beat. Ted looks pleadingly at JT and Wes.

TED
Guys, please.

JT
Ted. This is way out of line.

WES
(guilty as hell)
Yeah. Seriously.

LAMBERT
Get him out of here.

As they drag Ted out he turns to Erin.

TED
Erin, you've got to believe me.

ERIN
Just go. I think we need some time
apart.

TED
But --

Erin just shakes her head. Too upset to talk. Lambert pulls out his pen and waves it threateningly at Ted as security drags him out.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE - DAY

Ted gets in his car.

TED
I have to find that bible.

Ted pulls away skidding around a parking attendant.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Ted races down the road.

TED
Where is it? Where is it?
(then)
Nana's house!

EXT. NANA'S HOUSE - DAY

Ted parks in front of Nana's house, racing towards it. As he reaches the door. His blackberry bings.

He looks down at it.

MESSAGE FROM RICKY STANICKY

"IS THIS THE BIBLE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?"

A video clip opens. It's the bible in a trash can in flames.

Ted is shocked. Speechless. A beat. Teri answers the door. He looks at Ted.

TERI

You all right? You look terrible.

TED

Teri... um... I'm going to need to stay here for a little bit.

INT. NANA'S HOUSE - DAY

Ted sits on the couch in his sweat pants drinking a beer. Wes walks up pulling a roller suitcase.

WES

Hey, uh... I like your sweat pants.

TED

These are my suicide pants.

WES

Once I get back from the sales conference we'll fix everything. Ricky will make it better.

Ted doesn't even answer.

WES (CONT'D)

Come on. Don't be mad at me.

TED

I appreciate you letting me stay here, but, it's hard for me to be friends with someone who sold me out for a fake guy who removed his own ball.

WES

I'm pretty sure he was just sucking it in.

TED

Wes, listen to yourself.

WES

Ted, I have some really excellent weed in the house. Smoke it. I have porn. Watch it. I have a pocket pussy. Fuck it. The place is yours. Try to make the best of it.

Wes exits. Wes heads for the door.

NANA

Wes, wipe me.

WES

Shoot, Teri's not back 'til
tomorrow morning. Could you do it?
I'm gonna miss my flight.

TED

But --

Wes exits before Ted can finish his sentence. Ted gets up.

INT. NANA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Ted walks into Nana's room.

NANA

Ted. Sorry to hear about Erin.
How are you?

TED

Terrible. She was the best thing
that ever happened to me.

NANA

She was very sweet. I know that
Wesley was quite fond of her too.
Had a picture of her in his room
right above his box of tissues.

TED

(disgusted)
Really?
(then)
Well, she's gone. I blew it.

NANA

Maybe I can help you out. See Ted,
I'm 87 years old. Can't walk too
well. Can't hear too well. Can't
even kneel at church without losing
circulation in my legs. But I have
one thing that always buoys my
spirits.

She reaches for her bible, then pushes it aside revealing a
fresh bottle of Oxycontin.

NANA (CONT'D)

Give me a good cleaning back there
and I'll let you join the fun.

No fight left, he grabs a box of wipes as Nana rolls over and starts pulling down her pants.

NANA (CONT'D)

Dig deep like you're looking for
buried treasure.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

JT, Susan, Wes, Erin and Rod walk through the hotel. Rod is talking to Susan and Erin. Wes and JT walk behind.

SUSAN

It's good that you came here, Erin.
Get your mind off of Ted.

ERIN

Yeah. I never expected him to flip
out like that. The other day, he
seemed so... lost.

Rod puts his arm around her.

ROD

But there's hope. I was once lost.
too. Yay though I walk in the
valley of death I shall fear no --

ANGLE ON JT and Wes

WES

You should've seen him when I left.
He was a mess. I don't know if I
can do this anymore.

JT

Do not fuck this up for me. When we
get back from Vegas, Susan said
she'd pee on me in the Gap.

INT. NANA'S ROOM - LATER

Ted lies next to Nana on the bed with perma grin on his face.
The TV is on.

TED

I feel like I'm floating inside a cloud that's floating inside another cloud hovering above a rainbow that's being projected from the horn of a unicorn...

NANA

On the Lawrence Welk show! That's exactly what Ricky said.

(then)

He has his vices. But he's a terrific dancer. And an even better actor.

TED

Best actor I've ever seen.

NANA

Yeah. I saw him on this show. He was a pirate. Like Bob Hope.

TED

A pirate? Where'd you see the show?

NANA

On the tv. Travel Channel.

Ted grabs the remote. He pushes guide.

TED

Do you remember what it was called?

NANA

Nope. It was late at night.

Ted looks disappointed.

NANA (CONT'D)

I did record it on the DVR.

Ted's eyes go wide.

ON TV -

SAMANTHA BROWN'S GREAT WEEKENDS (or some other similar travel themed show).

Samantha Brown is in a casino. She holds an empty coin cup.

SAMANTHA BROWN

Looks like I dropped a few too many nickels in the slots. But I know how to cheer myself up.

EXT. TREASURE ISLAND CASINO - CONTINUOUS

A group of Pirates are taking part in the famous treasure island show.

A pirate draws his sword and charges another very drunken pirate who holds a bottle of rum. Although in a hat and eye patch this guy is Rod. He drunkenly fights with the sober pirate. It's an excellent Jackie Chan style drunken fight.

ROD (AS DRUNK PIRATE)

Shiver me timbers. No scalliwag gets in the way of me rummin'

Rod belches.

ANGLE ON Samantha Brown, laughing a little too hard.

SAMANTHA BROWN

What a hoot!

INT. TREASURE ISLAND - CONTINUOUS

Samantha Brown, now dressed for a night out, strolls through the casino.

ANGLE ON Ted and Nana

NANA

Wasn't he terrific? He's like Errol Flynn. But drunker.

TED

You can barely tell it's him. I need more.

Samantha's commentary continues.

SAMANTHA BROWN (O.S.)

Tonight I'm having dinner at "Reef" Treasure Island's four star steak house with the director of the World Famous Treasure Island Pirate Show, Milt Conrad, Jr.

INT. STEAK HOUSE - DAY

Samantha sits across from MILT CONRAD JR now, long haired, odd, and flamboyant.

SAMANTHA BROWN

Milt, I can't believe a Las Vegas Legend like yourself agreed to have dinner with me.

MILT

Me neither. I won three Tonies in the eighties. But hey, you guys are paying.

Samantha Brown LAUGHS way to long again.

SAMANTHA BROWN

You're a hoot!

ANGLE ON Ted

TED

Milt Conrad Jr! He can prove Rod's a fake. I gotta go. See you Nana. Let's go, unicorn.

A unicorn walks up. Ted gets on.

TED (CONT'D)

Giddyup mother fucker.

FROM NANA'S POV we see Ted who thinks he's astride the back of a unicorn. Of course there's nothing there. She shakes her head.

NANA

I'll call you a cab.

EXT. LAX - DAY

A cab pull up to the terminal at LAX. Ted hops out.

EXT. LAS VEGAS STRIP - LATER

Ted steps out of a cab in front of the Treasure Island Hotel. He runs past carrying a suitcase.

EXT. TREASURE ISLAND - LATER

Ted runs past the empty pirate ship and to the Treasure Island.

INT. TREASURE ISLAND - DAY

Ted is talking to a WOMAN in guest services.

TED

I'm here to see Milt Conrad.

WOMAN

Who should I say is calling?

She picks up the phone to call Milt's office.

TED

Pirate number 3.

INT. MILT CONRAD'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

The walls are covered with Las Vegas and Broadway posters. Milt Conrad sits on a couch.

MILT

Rod is the most committed actor I've ever seen.

TED

Oh you have no idea.

MILT

I do. He became an alcoholic to make his performance as Pirate #3 more compelling. Then he tried to fight a real duel with the guy that played his mortal enemy Mr. Wainscott. Luckily he was so drunk he shot and stabbed himself.

TED

Well, he had a testicle removed to play Ricky Stanicky.

MILT

Wow. That's a whole new level.

TED

How do I get rid of him?

MILT

No easy task. He wore the pirate costume and came to rehearsal for three months after I fired him. I had to have him banned from the hotel. After that he slept in the crow's nest of the fake pirate ship until security found him.

(then)

If you could give him a big finale. One great climactic scene he might feel like the role is complete. But that's easier said than done.

TED

Might be easier to just get his real identity and expose him. You have access to personnel files? A copy of a birth certificate or a drivers license --

MILT

He signed his working papers as Rod Cozette. Apparently he just finished a run on Les Mis. Hell of an actor though.

TED

No one will believe me unless I have some real info on the guy.

MILT

I'd like to help you. God knows he drove me crazy every day saying he should be Pirate #1.

TED

What about you and the guys that worked with him? Will you admit that Rod is a fraud?

MILT

When do you need us?

Ted checks his watch.

TED

In about fifteen minutes.

MILT

We have a show in a half hour. I'm sorry. I can't help you.

TED

Please. I need to do this, or I'll never be able to prove to my ex girlfriend that I'm a lying deceitful bastard.

MILT

Why would you want to do that?

TED

Because I love her. More than anything.

MILT

This is one I've never heard. I'll get the guys.

INT. HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Lambert is at a podium speaking to a group of heavy hitters.

LAMBERT

Now, it's my pleasure to introduce the newest and certainly one of the most integral members of our team, Ricky Stanicky.

Rod walks up on stage. Applause dies down and he takes out some note cards. Wes stands over by a laptop working a power point presentation.

ROD

Thank you. Today I want to talk to you about Feel Good Investing. As you know I'm a man who spent many years trying to give back to the community doing non profit. And I wondered why can't not for profit be for profit.

A power point graphic comes up.

NOT FOR PROFIT=PROFIT

ROD (CONT'D)

Why can't we make money and do good for people at the same time? Let's start with the housing sector. We're going to sell feel good building bonds.

A CHART COMES UP THAT SAYS "FEEL GOOD BUILDING BONDS"

ROD (CONT'D)

Our investors buy bonds where all of the money will be used to buy housing for people who lost their homes in natural disasters. Then in two years, people will think we're so great they're going to invest in our building companies.

An investor raises his hand.

INVESTOR

But how will you pay back your investors for the free houses?

ROD

We don't.

ANGLE ON Wes

WES

(to himself)

He's nailing it.

ANGLE ON the crowd, murmuring, confused. Lambert is worried. He sits next to Erin, Sarah and Clare.

LAMBERT

Is he joking? We can't sell bonds with no return.

ERIN

Maybe there's an explanation.

ROD

It's charity. We're just laying the groundwork.

A LARGE GRAPHIC COMES UP that says 0 PERCENT = 100 PERCENT=1000 PERCENT

INVESTOR #2

These are investment products right?

ROD

Correct! Ten points to the man in the conservative blue suit. But this is just a small piece of the puzzle.

As Rod speaks Ted stealthily moves into position followed by Milt and ten guys in pirate costumes.

ROD (CONT'D)

Our next thing is going to make us big money. And it's the brain child of my new assistant, Wes Chamberlain.

A GRAPHIC comes up with illustrations from Wes' books. One is called, "DON'T BOGART THAT SPLIFF: A BOOK ABOUT SHARING." And shows two little kids on the play ground taking turns with a joint. Another one is called, "UNCLE EDDIE'S GREEN THUMB." And it shows an uncle growing pot plants.

ROD (CONT'D)

Pot themed children's books.

LAMBERT

Oh my god.

ANGLE ON Ted and the Pirates.

TED

I might not even need you guys. He's ruining everything on his own.

MILT

This happens when he goes off book. I let him re write his own scene once. At the end he married the Pope and moved to Narnia.

ROD

We believe legalizing marijuana is not just a good thing for people who are sick like I was. It can lead to big profit. And these books will give us a foothold in the legal marijuana market for years to come.

Toyo has walked up next to Lambert.

TOYO

Lambert. Tell me this is some kind of joke.

LAMBERT

Er... I...

INVESTOR #2

How are these investment products?

ROD

I believe I answered your question the first time.

INVESTOR #3

How are you going to make us money
with this?

ROD

We'll corner the legal pot market.
It all starts with our new
publishing company "WESPUB".

A slide changes on the power point presentation. It reads
WESPUB. Wes looks on proudly. Another slide pops up with
IPO in big block letters.

ROD (CONT'D)

Best part. We're going to have an
eye-po.

INVESTOR #3

That's an I-P-O. It stands for
initial publica offering.

ROD

Where I went to business school we
say eye-po.

ANGLE ON Erin, looking at her father. He is totally
distraught.

LAMBERT

(low voiced, in shock)
My company. I'm ruined.

ERIN

Daddy, I'm sorry.

Erin looks around not sure what to do. She sees Ted in the
back with the pirates. Their eyes meet. She looks at him,
pleadingly.

MILT

(checks his watch)
We got to out him now if we're
going to make the show. Though I
would love to watch this play out.

TED

Uh... I was thinking, maybe
something a little more dramatic.

Milt looks intrigued.

ANGLE ON Rod, fielding questions

INVESTOR #4

Are you aware that marijuana isn't even legal yet?

ROD

Look, I know what I'm doing here.

Investors starting heading for the doors.

ROD (CONT'D)

We haven't even gotten to the coolest pie chart. Wes please hand out the 3-D glasses.

Wes starts trying to hand out 3-D glasses to the departing guests. Suddenly Ted, dressed as a pirate swings in from off stage left on a rope.

TED

Avast ye, Ricky Stanicky.

Rod looks at him stunned. The other pirates charge the stage, swords drawn. The audience stops. Ted turns to them.

TED (CONT'D)

This impostor has hijacked Lambert and Lambert and is steering our ship into dangerous financial waters.

ROD

(low voiced)

What are you doing?

TED

(low voiced)

Bailing your ass out.

(to audience)

We're the free trade pirates protecting investors from impostor products and gimmicks.

(low voiced, Rod)

Just go with it.

ROD

(low voiced)

Why?

TED

(low voiced)

Because if you don't you'll have ruined your greatest performance. Not to mention Erin's dad's company.

A long beat. Suddenly Rod jumps into character.

ROD
How'd ye find me out?

TED
Who offers a pot friendly
children's book as an investment
product!?

The audience LAUGHS.

ROD
It'll work, I tell ye. And so will
me eeyepo!

The audience LAUGHS again. The investors murmur starting to
get it.

TOYO
It is a joke. Thank god.

LAMBERT
(still unsure)
Uh... it's a Vegas thing.

Investors nod their heads appreciatively. Lambert still
looks nervous.

ROD
You'll never take me alive.

A pirate runs up to Rod. Rod expertly disarms him. Ted and
Rod start to duel on stage. Rod is awesome, he pushes Ted
back to the corner. All five pirates come for Rod at once.

TED
This is the problem with the
financial markets. People get
swayed by "big ideas." "Hype."
"The next big thing" can overwhelm
even the smartest financial
thinkers.

Off stage Milt nods to Rod. Rod disarms all three pirates.

ROD
Avast ye scalliwags.

TED
But at Lambert and Lambert our idea of
feel good investing isn't some silly
gimmick.

(MORE)

TED (CONT'D)

Feel good investing is buying products that you feel good about because you're not going to lose all of your money on something ridiculous like a housing bond that never pays you back. Or a mortgage backed security. Fundamentals!

Rod easily disarms the remaining pirates except for Ted. Rod charges toward Toyo with his sword. Ted leaps from the stage and runs him through. Rod dramatically falls to the ground.

TED (CONT'D)

At Lambert and Lambert we got your back.

Rod flops around still dying. Milt gives him a throat cutting move.

TED (CONT'D)

And to give you some more of those details, here's our CEO Jack Lambert.

The crowd explodes in applause. Jack walks up the aisle, noticeably relieved. Erin beams at Ted. Lambert steps up to the mic.

LAMBERT

Well that gets the point across doesn't it! My sales team. Always messing with me.

The crowd applauds.

LAMBERT (CONT'D)

But seriously. Let's talk about some solid investment products we're going to offer over the next few years that will keep pace with a down economy. These are --

Ted and Rod walk off followed by the pirates and Milt.

ROD

There is nothing better than live theater.

INT. OFFSTAGE - LATER

The investors are congratulating Rod and Ted and the pirates. Lambert walks up.

LAMBERT

That was superb. Ted, call me on Monday and we'll talk about bringing you back to work with a big salary bump.

(to the crowd)

Let's head over to the hotel for a light supper.

The investors spend a moment shaking hands and patting Ted and Rod on the back. JT and Wes and Erin are in the group.

ERIN

That was amazing.

ROD

It's all happening again. We're going to be co-heads of sales. with matching corporate cars and...

TED

Rod, it's over. That was the performance of a life time right there. That last scene was a masterpiece. You can't top that.

ROD

It was pretty compelling.

MILT

Totally climactic.

TED

I did that for you. Now do this for me. Stop being Ricky Stanicky.

ROD

Is that what you really want?

JT

No. Definitely not.

WES

Yeah, just do it.

TED

Please.

ROD

(Rod nods)

And, fade to black.

Rod bows proudly.

ERIN

It's true what you were saying at the office. That's why Ricky's presentation was so bad. Because he's a complete fraud who doesn't know anything about finance.

ROD

My real name is Rod Brickhouse. I'm trained in classical theater, staged fighting, accents and mime.

Rod quickly makes a box around himself.

WES

That's so fucking cool. Can you show me how to suck in my testicle like you did?

ROD

I had it removed. Lambert and Lambert has superb medical coverage.

ERIN

How could you do this to me?

ROD

Erin, a guy like me will do a lot for a 164,000 dollars a year and the role of a life time.

ERIN

I'm talking to Ted.

TED

I used the Ricky excuse with you before I realized how great you were. But when I tried to stop, it was just too late. All those lies just caught up to me. So I brought in Rod. But there's one thing you need to understand. I only brought in Rod so I wouldn't lose you. Because I can't lose you. You're the most important thing in the world to me.

ERIN

I'd like to believe you Ted. But this is so huge.

TED

I know. But try. Please.

ERIN

Thanks for saving my dad's company.
The whole family is very grateful.

Erin exits.

ROD

(teary eyed)
I thought you had her.

Ted is silent.

ROD (CONT'D)

Ted, I'm sorry it went down this
way. I wasn't kidding when I said
I loved you the most of all.

TED

I don't know what to say that.

ROD

Don't say anything. Just hug it out.

Ted hugs Rod.

ROD (CONT'D)

(sing songy)
Best friends.

Susan appears with a head of steam staring straight at JT.
Erin turns and walks out. Wes, Susan and JT stand silent for
a beat.

JT

Isn't this great Susan? Everybody
telling the truth.

Susan savagely kicks JT in the nuts.

SUSAN

And I was going to let you fuck me
in the ass at Linens and Things!

Susan walks out.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

"SIX MONTHS LATER"

EXT. BALLET - NIGHT

Ted walks up to the ticket window.

TICKET TAKER

Hey, man.

TED

Did Erin ever pick up the ticket I left for her?

The ticket taker checks through a pile of stuff.

TICKET TAKER

Nope. Same as last time. You want to take the extra?

TED

Leave it. Maybe she'll come late.

Ted walks inside.

INT. BALLET - NIGHT

Ted sits in his seat watching. The seat next to him is empty.

Erin walks up. Ted does a double take. But it's not her, just a woman who looks like Erin.

WOMAN

Excuse me.

She walks past. He sighs and watches.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Erin sits at a desk dressed for work. Her assistant enters with her mail.

ASSISTANT

You got another tomato.

She hands her an heirloom tomato. A note is taped to it. It says, "THERE'S AN EXTRA TICKET FOR THE BALLET AT THE BOX OFFICE AGAIN TONIGHT... IF YOU WANT. TED."

ERIN

Thanks.

The assistant exits. Erin looks at the note, shakes her head and tosses the tomato in the trash.

She sifts through the rest of the mail. She sees a large manilla envelope with no return address.

Erin opens the envelope and takes out a letter. As she reads the letter we hear Rod's voice.

ROD (V.O.)

My dearest Erin, I can't help but thinking I played a small part in what happened between you and Ted. I just want you to know, that every lie Ted told, he told for you. I've been around the block a few times and there are a few things I've learned in this life. One, Milt Conrad is a genius. Two, "Saint Elmo's Fire" is a truly underrated film. And three, Ted loves Erin. I know this might be hard for you to believe because I'm just an off off Broadway character actor, and because I pretended to be a another person for two months. But all I can give you is my word. And this.

Erin takes out Rod's iPhone. A message on the screen reads, "PUSH PLAY."

EXT. GOLF RANGE - DAY

Ted stands in the pro's box at the end of the range with a cigarette tucked behind his ear. NICK, 12, also with a cigarette tucked behind his ear, hits balls. Nick's MOM, stands off to the side.

TED

Better. Now I want you to relax your hands more. Just let the club do the work.

Ted uses his club to roll another ball in front of Nick. Nick hits a decent shot.

TED (CONT'D)

There you go. Okay, time's up. Next week.

Nick and Ted bro-shake and Nick exits. Ted starts to walk off the tee. A golf course manager, DAVE, 40's walks up to him.

DAVE

Where you going? You got a 5
o'clock.

TED

Really? With who?

DAVE

Uh...

Dave looks down at a blackberry.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Name's uh... Ricky Sta-nicky? Did
I type that right?

TED

Oh Jesus. Tell Booker to cover for
me. I gotta run.

Ted starts to walk away.

DAVE

What's the big deal? She's here
right now.

Ted stops.

TED

She?

He turns back and sees Erin standing in the stall. In her
cutest golf outfit. She waves shyly. He approaches her.

TED (CONT'D)

Uh... hey. Nice fake name.

ERIN

You made it up.

TED

It was kind of a group effort.

(a beat)

Why'd you come back?

ERIN

Who said I'm back? I'm just here
for a lesson.

TED

Oh okay. Grab the five iron.

She grabs her club. He pushes a ball to her feet on the mat.

ERIN

My Dad would love to have you back at work. He still doesn't understand why you never took up his offer.

TED

That's not me. The only reason I worked there in the first place was I thought I wouldn't be good enough for you if I was some loser golf pro.

ERIN

That's pretty dumb.

Ted nods.

ERIN (CONT'D)

Look, I got your messages. I know about the ballet. But that's not why I came.

TED

Was it the tomato?

Erin takes out Ricky's iPhone. She pops in the headphones and holds up one ear bud to him while she puts the other in her ear. He pops it in. She pushes play.

TED (V.O.) (CONT'D)

(pre recorded)

Yeah she's awesome. She's the best thing that ever happened to me. She's smart and funny and beautiful and so cool. It's weird. I spent most of my life using Ricky to ditch my girlfriends so I could hang out with my boys. But after I got to know Erin, I realized if I could, I would've used Ricky to ditch my boys and hang out with her. I've never felt that way about any woman before.

ERIN

You might have told a lot of lies, but that... that feels true.

TED

It is true.

ERIN

Still?

TED
Always. I'll never get over you.

ERIN
Good answer.

Erin kisses Ted. Suddenly her phone DINGS. She pulls away.

TED
What's wrong?

She looks at her phone. ON SCREEN is a calendar reminder. It reads "BARBARA'S BABY SHOWER".

ERIN
(annoyed)
I gotta go to San Diego for my college roommate's annoying baby shower. I should've left already.

TED
Go. I'll call you tomorrow. We'll have dinner.

Erin picks up the phone and dials.

ERIN
I should tell her I'm running late.
(a beat, to phone)
Hi, Barb.
(a beat, listening, Erin looks at Ted)
Uh... look, I'm not going to be able to make it. My friend was in a terrible accident and I have to fly up to San Francisco to see him.
(a beat)
Ricky Stanicky...
(a beat)
Deep sea fishing accident...
(a beat)
Yep, without a life jacket.
(a beat)
Thanks so much for understanding.

She hangs up.

TED
(smiles)
You devious bitch!

ERIN
But that's the last time we ever use it.

They share a look. Erin grabs her clubs, puts her arm in Ted's and they walk off.

FADE OUT.

OVER CREDITS

INT. CAESAR'S HOFFBRAU HOUSE - DAY

Ted, Erin, Wes and JT sit in the theater. "THE SOUND OF MUSIC" is being performed by a troop of actors. MARIA, is on stage.

MARIA

Now that there's just us. Would
you please tell me all your names
again and how old you are.

ANGLE ON THE VON TRAP Kids. There's BRIGITTA, MARTA, KURT, GRETLE and Rod dressed as LIESL.

ROD

I'm Liesl. I'm 16 years old and I
don't need a governess.

Rod steps forward and starts to sing.

ROD (CONT'D)

I AM 16 / GOING ON 17...

As he does we ANGLE ON Milt Conrad, Jr. mouthing the words with him.