

ROOSTER JOOSE

"Pilot" - 'Herb and Honey'

By

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LOGLINE-

A CONSERVATIVE, FORMER "A" LIST ACTRESS WHO WAS A BAD MOTHER, GETS A SECOND CHANCE AFTER SHE'S BLACKLISTED FROM HOLLYWOOD THUS SENDING HER TO FLORIDA TO LIVE WITH HER WIDOWER PROGRESSIVE, SON-IN-LAW AND TWO GRANDAUGHTERS.

MAIN CAST OF CHARACTERS

HERBERT OSCAR NEIL EDWARD STEVEN TREVOR YOUNG, JUNIOR, AKA "ROOSTER JOOSE".

- (33 yrs) OWNER OF "ROOSTER JOOSE" A JUICE & SMOOTHIE BAR-SNACK SHACK LOCATED ON THE STRIP OF SIESTA KEY BEACH, SARASOTA, FL. EX-PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL PLAYER. A NEWLY SUBJECTED WIDOWER OF HONEY MOORE YOUNG WHO LOST HER LIFE TO CANCER. YOUTHFUL FREE SPIRIT. META-PHYSICAL. WISECRACKER BUT NOT ARROGANT OR CONDENSENDING. GENEROUS, CARING AND EMPATHETIC. FATHER OF TWO GIRLS, LIV AND LUV.

MILDRED MOORE

- (61 yrs) MOTHER-IN-LAW OF HERB. DEVOUT CATHOLIC. CONSERVATIVE FORMER "A" LIST ACTRESS IN THE 80'S AND 90'S. MOTHER OF HONEY. BLACKLISTED IN HOLLYWOOD AFTER 7TH DIVORCE FROM A PROMINANT MOVIE PRODUCER. WAS ACTING IN "B" LOW BUDGET MOVIES. SNOB. ARROGANT. PREJUDICE. ANGRY. BITTER. NO EMPATHY. NO MOTHERLY OR NUTURING TRAITS.

EDWARD LONG - AKA UNCLE ED

- (61 yrs) PERMANENT FIXTURE AT ROOSTER JOOSE. RETIRED PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL PLAYER. 6'2" - 6'5". 250-300LB BLACK MAN. WAS BEST FRIENDS WITH LEGENDARY QB HERBERT YOUNG, AKA "THE ROOSTER", WHO HE PLAYED CENTER TACKLE FOR. NOW UNCLE ED TO HERB. DIVORCED. SWEET AND SIMPLE. APOLITICAL, BIG TEDDY BEAR LIKE. NON-THREATENING. HAPPY IN THE MOMENT.

CINDY

- (19 yrs) EMPLOYEE OF ROOSTER JOOSE. AISAN AMERICAN. ATTRACTIVE BRAINIACK. OVERACHIEVER. INDEPENDENT. NO BOYFRIEND CAN MEASURE UP. WAS HOME SCHOOLED AND RAISED BY GRANDPARENTS BECAUSE PARENTS DIED IN CAR CRASH. ADVENTURER AND EXPLORER. PASSION FOR LIFE. TAKING COLLEGE COURSES IN PRE-MED.

KIFFER

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

- (26 yrs) EMPLOYEE OF ROOSTER JOOSE. WHITE JAMAICAN, POT SMOKING SKATER HIPPIE WITH DREADS. SELF-PROCLAIMED MEDICINE MAN WITH MASTERS DEGREE IN HERBALISM. MELLOW, ARTISTIC, AND CULTURED. VERY SATISFIED AND DOING EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTS. CARING AND PATIENT.

JUAN

- (35 yrs) STRUGGLING LATINO COMEDIAN TRYING TO FULFILL HIS DREAM OF STARDOM. WORKS FOR A "DOOR DASH" RIVAL CALLED "KWIK FIX", DELIVERING FOOD DURING THE DAY TO MAKE ENDS MEET. PERFORMS FLORIDA CLUBS AT NIGHT. ALWAYS TRYING OUT NEW MATERIAL WHEN PRESENT. MARRIED WITH 4 KIDS.

LIV YOUNG

- (8 yrs) DAUGHTER OF HERB. TOMBOY. ATHLETE. HERB'S MINI-ME. SARCASTIC. REBELLIOUS.

LUV YOUNG

- (6 yrs) DAUGHTER OF HERB. PRINCESS. DRAMA-QUEEN.

EPISODE CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

- 1- HERB
- 2- ED
- 3- DIVA
- 4- JUAN
- 5- CINDY
- 6- UPS WOMAN
- 7- LADY 1
- 8- LADY 2
- 9- MILDRED
- 10- KIFFER
- 11- MARY

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

12- LUV

13- LIV

FADE IN:

EXT. SIESTA KEY BEACH SARASOTA, FL.

SLOW AERIAL SHOT OF THE BEACH AND THE STRIP THAT RUNS PARALLEL TO IT.

CUT TO:

EXT. SMOOTHIE BAR/SNACK SHACK - DAY

A STAND-ALONE, TWO-STORY BUILDING HAS A LARGE STORE WINDOW WITH THE ROOSTER JOOSE LOGO PAINTED ON IT, DOUBLE ENTRANCE DOORS FACING THE STRIP AND WINDOWS FROM APARTMENTS ON THE SECOND FLOOR. A SIGN ON THE BUILDING READS: "ROOSTER JOOSE".

CUT TO:

INT. ROOSTER JOOSE - DAY

BEACH THEME VIBE WITH PASTEL COLORS. A SURFBOARD COUNTER TOP BAR WITH STOOLS IS NEAR THE SIDE WALL. A DOOR TO THE KITCHEN IS BEHIND THE BAR. A FEW CAFE TABLES ARE OFF TO THE OTHER SIDE WALL. SELF SERVING FOOD CANISTERS WITH NUTS AND WHOLE FOOD SNACKS ARE TOWARDS THE BACK. SPECIALTY FOODS LIKE HONEY AND JAMS ARE DISPLAYED ON SHELVES THROUGHOUT THE STORE. HERB IS WEARING A SUIT, FILLING A CANISTER WITH TEA LEAVES BEHIND THE BAR. ED IS ALSO IN A SUIT, DRINKING A SMOOTHIE ON A STOOL AT THE END OF THE BAR.

ED

How you holding up?

HERB

Still vertical.

ED

You have a strong core. Like your old man.

HERB

Well today has definitely taken it's

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

toll. Especially on the girls.

ED

It was a nice service. Look Herb. As long as you keep Honey here, (TAPS HEART) She'll always be...(OPENS ARMS OUT) here.

HERB

(NODS)

Thanks Uncle Ed.

AN OLDER, OVER-ACCESSORISED DIVA ENTERS AND POMPOUSLY WALKS TO BAR.

DIVA

Excuse me? Where is your honey? I want nothing less than your sweetest honey.

HERB FREEZES, DROPS HEAD AND WALKS SLOWLY TO BACK OF STORE. DIVA LOOKS AT ED.

What'd I say?

ED

It's not what you said lady. It's how you said it. Don't you have a heart?

HERB CREEPS BACK SLOWLY, HOLDING JARS OF HONEY IN EACH HAND. HE STOPS IN FRONT OF DIVA.

HERB

(SLOW AND IN ANGUISH)

There are many varieties of honey. Some have a mild spicy note and floral aroma. Some, a slight tang and fruity flavor. Some can be dark and a little nutty.

ED

And some can be rich and thick, making them pungent and bitter. (TO HERB) Sorry Herb.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HERB

But the best honey? The honey you pray you never run out of. The kind that, every morning you're privileged to enjoy it's sweetness. Each night you're blessed with its purity. That honey? Well it's no longer available. And no matter how much I want it back, it's not coming back. Ever. And I have to live with that, every day, for the rest of my life. That honey, is gone.

HERB TURNS AND WALKS AWAY IN SORROW. WOMAN IS FROZEN IN THOUGHT.

DIVA

(FLASH)

Can I get it online?

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLE
ROOSTER JOOSE
ACT I

FADE IN:

INT. ROOSTER JOOSE - DAY

(ROOSTER CROW SOUND FX) ONE MONTH LATER...HERB STANDS AT BAR AND POURS DARK GREEN SMOOTHIE MIXTURE INTO 2 PAPER CUPS. JUAN ENTERS AND WALKS TO BAR WITH COOLER BAG THAT READS: "KWIK FIX".

JUAN

Kwik Fix.

HERB

Almost done.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HERB GRINDS CINNAMON OVER TOP OF DRINKS. JUAN SQUINTS AND READS PHONE.

JUAN

Two Cinna-Spinach Delights for Doctor Wilde. Rapido.

HERB PUTS LIDS ON CUPS.

HERB

Don't wanna keep the Doctor waiting.

ED

That's for us patients.

HERB

Hence practice patience.

ED

Green things to those who wait.

JUAN

Speaking of Doctors. I finally got my eyes checked.

ED

We're you not dotting them? (CHUCKLES)

JUAN

No I was using tittles.

ED

Well there's your problem. In the English language we use dots, not titties.

JUAN

They're called, tittles.

ED

In America, we call 'em titties.

JUAN

(SHAKES IT OFF)

So I get to the office and the guy keeps telling me, my eyes are wonderful. They're beautiful. Perfect

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

just the way they are. Doesn't do a thing.

ED
Sounds like a quack to me.

HERB HANDS OVER DRINKS. JUAN PUTS THEM IN COOLER.

HERB
Tell Doc to drink one now, one at bedtime, and call me in the morning.

JUAN
(NODS AND SMILES)
It turns out, I was in the wrong office. The guy wasn't an Optometrist. He was an Optimist. Kwik Fix out.

JUAN HEADS FOR THE EXIT.

ED
Maybe "he" can find the good in mixing cinnamon with spinach.

JUAN EXITS.

CUT TO:

LATER

ED STRETCHES HIS BACK WHILE GROANING. CINDY IS WIPING DOWN BAR.

CINDY
Back again huh?

ED
It's killing me.

CINDY
You know sitting for extended periods of time shrinks your hip flexor muscles, thus stretching your glutes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ED

Well I can't afford to have my glutes stretched. How will I fit into my skinny jeans?

CINDY

It makes them weak Ed. It also pulls your lower spine out of alignment. You need to move more.

ED

You're right. It's time for a change.

(SLAPS BAR TOP) Starting now.

ED STANDS AND STRETCHES. STOOL IS SUNK 6 INCHES LOWER THAN THE OTHER STOOLS. CINDY IS INSPIRED.

CINDY

Look at you.

ED

Oh yeah. That's what I'm talking about.

CINDY

You took the first step into becoming a better you.

ED TAKES 2 STEPS.

ED

Wow. I haven't felt this good since...I don't remember.

CINDY WALKS OFF TO ATTEND TO ANOTHER CUSTOMER.

ED (CONT'D)

And if I don't remember...then I don't know what I'm missing. So what the hell am I doing?

ED SITS ON NEXT STOOL OVER. HE'S HIGHER UP.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ED (CONT'D)
Ohhh yeahhh. That's what I'm talking
about.

HERB ENTERS FROM KITCHEN AND LOOKS AT ED.

HERB
You switched seats. And got...taller?

ED
I thought it was time for a change.
Now as I sit here, I realize, I hate change.

ED MOVES TO ORIGINAL STOOL.

ED (CONT'D)
Ohhh yeahhhh. That's what I'm
talking about. I haven't felt this
good since...I don't remember.

HERB PUTS INGREDIENTS IN BLENDER.

ED (CONT'D)
So is Cindy a Doctor now?

HERB
Working on it.

ED
I thought she was gonna be a Pilot?

HERB
She did that 6 months ago. After she
got her blackbelt in Jude-astics.

ED
Jude-astics?

HERB
It's a cross between Judo and
Gymnastics.

ED
Oh clever. They combined the words to
make it easier to say.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HERB

Gotta nice ring to it don't yah think?
"Jude-astics".

ED

Sure. Could've made it even easier and
just called it, "Jics".

HERB

Yesterday, I saw her do a Kibisu
Gaeshi, back handspring, step out, full
twisting layout.

ED

She was competing?

HERB

She was bringing me the milk.

ED

And I just sit here. Day in, day out.
No ambition.

HERB

Makes yah think, doesn't it?

ED

It sure does. That poor girl doesn't
know what she's missing.

ED TWEAKS HIS BACK. HERB BLENDS.

ED (CONT'D)

Although, if I knew I'd hurt this bad
in my golden years, I would've hung up
the helmet much sooner. Pursued my true
passion.

HERB

What's that?

ED

Riverdance. Didn't you know?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

HERB
I pegged you more as, Ballroom
material.

ED
You confused me with my jockstrap.
Nope, it's Lord of the Dance for me.
My Irish brothers call me, Ed Astaire.

HERB
Because of your moves?

ED
No I had an accident. I was dancing on
the veranda and someone yelled, "LOOK
OUT ED, A STAIR!" Nasty fall.

HERB POURS SMOOTHIE INTO GLASS.

HERB
Here. Try this.

ED
What is it?

HERB
Just try.

ED SIPS. CRINGES IN DISGUST.

ED
Disgusting.

HERB
It's an anti-inflammatory.

ED
Tastes worse than a...garlic milkshake.

ED CONTINUES CRINGING AND MAKES "YUCK" FACES.

HERB
It reduces blood pressure. Improves
cholesterol. Detoxifies the body.

ED
What is it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ED GRABS BANANA FROM FRUIT BOWL AND PEELS.

HERB

Garlic milkshake.

ED

Well if football didn't kill me, this certainly will.

HERB

Cinna-Spinach looks pretty good right now, doesn't it?

ED

Delightful. You know back when your Dad and I were playing, a smoothie, was a raw egg dropped in a shot of whiskey.

HERB

(CRINGES)

Sounds hard to swallow.

ED

Got easier after we cracked the egg first. Thus, the original Rooster Joose was born. Created by the Rooster himself. Your Dad.

ED TOASTS HIS GLASS TO A PICTURE OF HERBERT YOUNG SENIOR IN A FOOTBALL UNIFORM, HUNG BEHIND THE BAR. IT READS: "THE ROOSTER".

HERB

You know Uncle Ed, Dad always said he wouldn't have had half the career if it wasn't for you at Center.

ED

You're Dad only had half a career.

HERB

Because you were his Center. And now you're mine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

THEY SMILE AT EACH OTHER, FROZEN IN SILENCE FOR WHAT SEEMS TO BE ETERNITY.

ED

I don't have to hug you now, do I?

HERB

Please don't.

ED

Whew. Well it wasn't just me. It was the entire offensive line. That's why he named you after all of us.

CINDY OVERHEARS AS SHE WALKS BY. ED EATS BANANA.

CINDY

What? What's this? What, line?

HERB

Nothing.

ED

I don't know why it embarrasses you.

U.P.S. DELIVERY WOMAN ENTERS WITH PACKAGE AND WALKS TO HERB.

HERB

Let's not talk about it, alright.

CINDY

What's your name?

HERB

Herb.

ED

It's a cool name.

U.P.S. WOMAN

Now is it pronounced Herb or Erb?

CINDY

What's after Herb?

HERB

Bert.

ED

There's a lot of meaning behind it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

U.P.S. WOMAN
Because with Honey it's always Honey.
It's never, uhney.

CINDY
What's your full name?

ED
There's more meaning than I think you
even know.

U.P.S. WOMAN
I honestly would like to out why
some words have a silent "H" and some
don't.

HERB SIGNS FOR THE PACKAGE.

HERB
I "haw-nestly", "ope" you do.

CINDY
What's your name?

*HERB BEGINS TO OPEN PACKAGE. U.P.S. WOMAN EXITS. 2
YOUNG LADIES ENTER AND WALK BACK TO THE FOOD
CANISTERS.*

HERB
Herbert.

CINDY
Forget it.

ED
Herbert Oscar Neil Edward Steven
Trevor Young. Junior. That was Herb
Seniors "O" line. And nothing could
penetrate it.

HERB
Not Junior. I hate Junior. People hear
Junior and think some immature kid
that takes nothing serious.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

HERB BECOMES SUPER EXCITED.

HERB (CONT'D)
My Nerf Zombie Strike Force Master
Blaster.

HERB PULLS OUT NERF GUN. LOOKS BACK IN BOX.

HERB (CONT'D)
With Airsoft Tactical Helmet.

*HERB PULLS OUT HELMET AND PUTS IT ON HIS HEAD. ED
STARES IN CONTEMPT.*

ED
Are you serious? After what you just
said about Junior.

CINDY
I know right?

ED LOOKS INTO BOX.

ED
And you have the audacity, to stand there
with your toys, and hold out on my...
(PULLS OUT GUN) Black Ops Dart
Dodger Pellet Prowler with Sniper
Scope. God love those Non Expanding
Recreational Foam...genii.

THEY PLAY WITH THEIR GUNS.

CINDY
Geniuses Ed. Not genii. It's not like
fungus and fungi.

ED
I'll show you fun guy.

ED SHOOTS CINDY ONCE.

CINDY
Great.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

HERB

Fun guys.

HERB SHOOTS CINDY ONCE.

CINDY

So now we have a Senior and a Junior,
both acting like Freshmen.

*HERB AND ED TAKE A RETALIATORY STANCE TOWARDS CINDY,
GUNS DRAWN.*

ED

Take that back.

HERB

Yeah.

ED

We're not Fresh men.

HERB

Yeah.

ED

We're...

*THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER, THEN AT CINDY. MILDRED MOORE
ENTERS THE ESTABLISHMENT BEHIND THEM UN-NOTICED.*

HERB/ED (CONT'D)

SOFT MORES!

*THEY UNLOAD ON CINDY. SHE WALKS AWAY BEING BLASTED
WITH FOAM PELLETS AND EXITS INTO KITCHEN.*

MILDRED

I was thinking...

THEY TURN AND SEE MILDRED.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

Kindergarten.

THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER, DEFLATED.

HERB

Romper, bomper, stomper, boo.

ED

Tell me, tell me, tell me, do.

FADE OUT.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

END OF ACT 1
ACT 2

FADE IN:

INT. ROOSTER JOOSE - DAY

(ROOSTER CROW SOUND FX) CONTINUATION OF SCENE.

MILDRED

Less than a month after I put my
child six feet under, her under six
feet husband celebrates with his, pet
Gorilla.

*ED APPROACHES MILDRED SLOW AND SERIOUS, EATING HIS
BANANA.*

ED

Gorilla huh? 'Cause I'm black?

MILDRED

(FLASH)

You are? Oh...now I see. Somehow I
missed it at the funeral. Of course I
made an observation based on you being
big and hairy with a banana in your
mouth but go ahead, turn it into a
race thing.

*ED LOOKS AT BANANA, SCRATCHES HIS HEAD AND DROPS HIS
JAW. MILDRED SKEDADDLES BY, THEN TURNS BACK TO HIM.*

MILDRED (CONT'D)

Oh, and gorillas aren't too bright either.

ED

I will have you know, that a gorilla,
is a highly intelligent primate.

MILDRED

Oh? Then I'm sorry for calling you a

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

gorilla. I was wrong.

ED

Thank you.

MILDRED

Of course, bright, does have many definitions. Take my son in law for example. Shining like the North Star on a moonless night.

HERB

It's called levity. You should try it.

MILDRED

If it's all the same with you, I'll try respect instead.

HERB

Respect?

MILDRED

Sure. Respect. You've heard of it.

HERB

Respect?

MILDRED

(sings)

R E S P E C T. Find out what it means to me. (OPENS ARMS) EVERYBODY! Aretha spells it out so any dimwitted jock can follow along.

HERB

You show up now, after years of being nothing but a voice on the phone. And you call that respect?

MILDRED

I made my contributions.

HERB

Where were you during the Chemo

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

treatments?

MILDRED

Taking care of the important things,
you couldn't.

HERB

Where were your kisses, sweeter than
honey?

MILDRED

Coming from the lips of Presidents, on
my money.

HERB

What about the three a.m. vomit
cycles?

MILDRED

Treatment cost money Herb. Who's going
to pay? You? A runt football jock wannabe
that gets ousted because he can't take
a hit.

HERB

Oh I can take a hit. I've been taking
them for years.

MILDRED

You run a lemonade stand on the most
expensive real estate in South West
Florida.

HERB

People want us here. They like us. Can
you say the same?

MILDRED

You can barely pay the rent.

HERB

You don't know what I can pay. You

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

don't know anything about this business. And frankly, it's none of your business.

MILDRED

Oh it's my business.

HERB

Oh. So is realtor now on your pretentious acting resume?

MILDRED

No it's on my regular resume. Next to Property Owner...oh, and Alectromancy Fortune Teller.

HERB

What are you talking about?

MILDRED

I'm a certified Alectromancy Fortune Teller. It's making predictions by observing a rooster, pecking at grain.

HERB

I meant about, property owner?

HERB (CONT'D)

I own this building.

HERB (CONT'D)

Say again?

MILDRED

After Honey got sick, I bought this building.

HERB

Which building?

MILDRED

This building.

HERB

This building?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

MILDRED

(SINGS)

B U I L D I N G . Find out it be-longs
to me. (OPENS ARMS) AGAIN EVERYBODY!

HERB

B U I L D I N G ?

MILDRED

You've been staying here for free.

HERB

No, no, no. I've been sending my
checks.

HERB GRABS CHECK BOOK AND SHOWS MILDRED RECEIPTS.

HERB (CONT'D)

Look. Says right here. Red Mild Real
Estate Group. Red Mild.

MILDRED

I used a name I thought you could
relate to.

HERB

Red Mild?

MILDRED

To put it, "blunt".

HERB

And I'm just supposed to believe
you're Red Mild?

MILDRED

Say it backwards.

HERB

What?

MILDRED

Say what you just said, only
backwards.

HERB TURNS AROUND.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

HERB

Red Mild.

MILDRED

THE WORDS! Backwards.

HERB

Mild red. (LOOKS AT MILDRED) So, Mild
red. So what?

MILDRED

Mil dred.

HERB

Mil dred? (LOOKS AT RECEIPT) Mildred.
Realist Hate Group.

MILDRED

(CLAPS)

Good job. All the same letters. Just,
in a different order.

HERB

Not bad for a dimwitted jock that
can't follow along.

MILDRED

You've been sending me the checks...

HERB

Is this really happening?

MILDRED

I've been putting them into Honeys
account.

HERB

Or is it the premise of some...twisted
Sitcom?

MILDRED

Didn't you notice the checking
balance?

HERB

I thought the bank had killer interest

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

rates.

CINDY COMES OUT FROM THE KITCHEN.

CINDY

Where is Kiffer?

HERB

He'll be here.

CINDY GOES BACK IN KITCHEN.

MILDRED

I didn't want my daughter to endure
any financial burden.

*THE 2 YOUNG LADIES APPROACH WITH BAGS OF TRAILMIX.
THEY SEE MILDRED AND GET EXCITED. A GREEN LIGHT
ILLUMINATES OVER A COMPUTER SCREEN. CINDY COMES OUT
FROM THE KITCHEN AGAIN.*

CINDY

He needs to get a car.

HERB

I've told him.

CINDY

We have a Kwik Fix.

*CINDY POINTS TO LIGHT THEN GOES BACK IN KITCHEN. HERB
LOOKS AT COMPUTER SCREEN AND BEGINS TO MAKE A JUICE.
THE LADIES APPROACH MILDRED. EACH HAS THERE OWN
CONVERSATION WITH HER.*

LADY 1

Excuse me. I am such a huge fan.

LADY 2

And I'm a huge fan. Huge fan.

LADY 1

I've seen all your movies.

LADY 2

And I don't care what the tabloids say
about you.

LADY 1

Your portrayal of Meanie Queenie in
One Hundred And One Weiner Doodles...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

LADY 2
That stuff you did, doesn't matter.

LADY 1
...it was groundbreaking.

LADY 2
So you've been blacklisted from
Hollywood.

LADY 1
It was number two on the Watch Hit
(PRONOUNCED WATCH SHIT) list for a whole
day in a row.

LADY 2
So what. Like it really matters.

LADY 1
Will there be One Hundred And Two...

LADY 2
So you caught your husband, smoking
sausage.

LADY 1
Weiner Doodles?

LADY 2
I'd be upset if my man was smoking
sausage.

LADY 1
(FLASH)
Is it true you're in Sharkadile 8,
Tally Wagger Bait?

LADY 2
So you embezzled funds from your husband's
production company to get back at him. Set
his Picasso on fire. Sent his first edition
Magna Carta through a paper shredder. And

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

took a sledgehammer to his, one of 36,
1963 Ferrari 250 GTO's.

LADY 1
The release is just weeks away.

LADY 2
I mean, who hasn't?

LADY 1
Can I ask a personal question?

LADY 2
So he's going to have you arrested if
you ever step foot in California
again.

LADY 1
It's something me and all of your fans
are dying to know.

LADY 2
Is that really anything to be concerned
about?

LADY 1
Where do you keep your 3 Razzies?

MILDRED
PISS OFF!

*LADIES JUMP BACK. THEY EACH TOSS A 5 DOLLAR BILL ON
THE BAR AND RUN OFF. MILDRED SITS ON A CHAIR AT A
TABLE AND LOWERS HER HEAD. HERB IS FINISHING THE Juice
FOR KWIK FIX.*

MILDRED (CONT'D)
I'm finished. My days of living the
highlife are over. I'm in Florida. The
low life. A state flatter than my
performance as Sandy Dee in Grease
three, Zuko has E. D..

ED
Tell Zuko, grease is the word.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

MILDRED

A state where people slowly wilt away
leaving behind a rotting corpse and
forgotten memory.

ED

But the sunsets are killer.

JUAN ENTERS.

JUAN

Kwik Fix

HERB

Banannarama Slamma. Ready to go.

JUAN

Woe slow down. I just got here.

HERB

Slow down? You're Kwik fix. Rapido.

Rapido.

JUAN

I just got back from my therapist.

HERB

Oh, sorry. You ok?

JUAN

She said I have Double Negative
Syndrome. I'm taking it pretty hard.

HERB

Well if you're that upset, get a
second opinion.

JUAN

You're right. I'll get a second
opinion. And prove, she don't know
nothing. She-don't-know-nothing.

HERB

So you're saying she's right? Right?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

JUAN

Yeah pretty much. Kwik Fix out.

JUAN EXITS.

MILDRED

Back in the day, I'd have tea with Meryl and Jack. Cookouts with Dusty and Babs. Yes, that's Streisand to you. And now that no good sorry of a man betrays me with his meat packer. I would've preferred he was gay. But to come out after all these years being Vegan and tell me he's been consuming carcass. It's unforgiveable.

HERB

He was literally smoking sausage?

CINDY COMES OUT FROM KITCHEN. SHE WIPES DOWN BAR

MILDRED

With Butcher to the Stars and meat beater beef eater, Jimmy Ding.

HERB

You mean, Jimmy Dean?

MILDRED

Jimmy Ding. The Chinese Kielbasa King. He has that new cooking show on the Discovery channel.

ED

(NODDING)

Oh yeah. Mystery Bags. I heard it's phat.

HERB

Oh yeah. Right before, Naked and Afraid.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

MILDRED

I caught him with a half pound banger
stuffed tighter than a VW bug at a
clown convention.

*CINDY BECOMES FREAKED OUT. APPROACHES MILDRED. ED
WAVES IN HERB.*

CINDY

They have clown conventions?

ED

Is she talking about Honey's father?

CINDY

Why do they have clown conventions?

HERB

Honey never knew her father. She was
conceived by some nameless Hollywood
hotshot, after an after Oscar
afterparty.

CINDY

Why are clowns convening?

ED

After an afterparty?

CINDY APPROACHES HERB.

CINDY

Excuse me are you aware of this clown
thing?

HERB BREAKS BACK TO ED.

HERB

The party after the party of the Oscar
afterparty. It was some guy she met at
a pre, pre Oscar preparty.

CINDY

(TO EVERYBODY)

Does Homeland Security know that

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (12)

clowns are convening?

ED

With all those parties you'd think
she'd get a name.

HERB

They don't go by names in Hollywood.
Just IMDb credits. She only knew her
father as, Second Assistant Director.

ED

So Honey never had a Dad?

HERB SHAKES HIS HEAD.

HERB

No D. A. D.. Just a, second A. D..

CINDY

I need to make a phone call.

CINDY GOES BACK INTO KITCHEN.

HERB

Her husband is Jay Shitzsteen. The Movie Producer.

ED

Wow. He's pretty big. But I think it's
Shitzstain.

HERB

No I'm pretty sure it's Shitzsteen.

ED

I don't think so. Last time I saw his
name was on a movie poster for
Showgirls 4 - A New Hope. It was a
"Shitzstain Production".

HERB

I'll look it up, but I'm sticking to
Shitzsteen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (13)

ED

Well I'm sticking to Shitzstain.

MILDRED

SCHITZSTINE you idiots. SCHITZSTINE!

SCHITZSTINE!

ED

I guess that Shitzstain was a typo.

Production wasn't.

MILDRED

(PULLS SCRIPT FROM PURSE)

So much for my transition to voice

over work. I'm supposed to be in the

studio tomorrow.

ED

Transition huh? That takes balls.

*MILDRED GETS UP FROM TABLE AND TOSSES SCRIPT ON BAR.
ED RETRIEVES IT AND LOOKS AT COVER. SHE SITS ON A
STOOL AND DROOPS IN SORROW.*

MILDRED

It was going to be my big comeback.

ED

Chug Chug Chewie. The life of a

Tormented Teddy Bear and his Pet Train

with Missing Caboose.

MILDRED

(EMOTIONAL)

I was gonna play the Evil Beaver who

steals the caboose because Teddy lied

about eating his peas when he hid them

under the mashed potatoes.

ED

Sound's like a Psychological Thriller.

KIFFER ENTERS STONED, HOLDING HIS SKATEBOARD.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (14)

KIFFER

Sorry I'm late.

CINDY JETS OUT FROM KITCHEN AND TAKES OFF APRON.

CINDY

YOU'RE LATE!

KIFFER

Like I said. I'm late...oh and, sorry.

CINDY

Don't you understand that you being late makes me late. And I hate being late having people wait. We straight?

KIFFER

Woe. To the contrary a little askew.

CINDY

Are you also aware that Sarasota is the clown capital of the world. Ringling Brothers. Barnum and Bailey. Do you know they are planning something big? BIG! I have to get home and prepare for the worst.

CINDY TAKES OFF. KIFFERS MIND IS BLOWN.

KIFFER

That chick is freakin' trippy.

HERB

What happened?

KIFFER

It's like; you know that red sign that like, pops out of a school bus when it pulls over to drop off the kiddies.

HERB

(NODS)

Uhm...Stop?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (15)

KIFFER
(LONG PAUSE)

Ok.

KIFFER WALKS OFF.

HERB
Kiff, if you're gonna be late, just
call.

KIFFER
Yeah but like I don't use my phone
when I'm skateboarding. It's too dangerous.

HERB
You do Board Slides and Blunts.

ED
Kickflips and Grinds.

KIFFER
Don't forget Caspers and Indy Grabs.

HERB
But using the phone is too dangerous?

KIFFER
Absolutely.

ED
How's that?

KIFFER
Well it's like this, none of those
tricks require me to focus on a hand
held cellular device while I pass
through an intersection of 2 ton, 4
wheeled metal caskets being driven by
half blind senior citizens who don't
have enough time on earth to care
about using that stick thing on the
steering column we younger generation
like to call, turn signals.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (16)

MILDRED STANDS. SHE WALKS TO DOOR IN SORROW.

MILDRED

I'm gonna go. I just wanted to see the girls before I left. If they even know who I am?

HERB

Ok.

MILDRED

Can you tell them, Herb? Who I am and that I came by?

HERB

Where are you going?

MILDRED

I don't know. Maybe I'll take some shuffleboard lessons as I slowly die alone. Isn't that what I'm supposed to do in Florida?

HERB

That or bridge club.

MILDRED

What's bridge club? Cards?

HERB

No bridges. I figured if you're ready to call it quits, there are much easier ways.

MILDRED

Is that sarcasm? Or reverse psychology to ease the despair of your hopeless Mother-In-Law?

HERB

Listen. The kids will be home soon. If you want to hang out with them, you're

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (17)

welcome to stay here tonight.

MILDRED
(EXCITED)

Really?

HERB
I want Liv and Luv to learn the
importance of family.

MILDRED
Ok. I'm gonna...

HERB
...and, respecting family.

MILDRED
Ok. I'm gonna...

HERB
...and, appreciating family.

MILDRED
Ok. I'm gonna...

HERB
...and, helping family.

MILDRED FRUSTRATED, STOPS AND STARES INTENSLY AT HERB.

MILDRED
Ok. I'm...

HERB
And, you're family.

MILDRED
YOU THROUGH?

HERB
(THINKS)
And, tolerate family. Ok I'm done.

MILDRED
I'm gonna get my things. I'll be back.

MILDRED EXITS AS MARY ENTERS.

HERB
Hi Mary.

MARY
Hey Herb. How are you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (18)

HERB
Staying strong. You know, the kids.

MARY
Good. That's good. Look uhm. This is
for you. (HANDS OVER LETTER). Honey
wanted me to give it to you after
everything, you know.

HERB
I know.

MARY
Ok. Well I'm gonna go. Take care of
yourself, alright Herb.

HERB
I will. Thanks.

*MARY EXITS. HERB WALKS TO CORNER OF STORE AND READS
LETTER.*

HONEY(VOICE OVER)
My Dearest Herb, Never could I have
imagined a Man so loving as you. You
define Husband and delineate Dad. It's
your humility, patience and
understanding which I was blessed with
during my time in Heaven on Earth. Now
as I travel through this universal
conduit, I ask but one thing. If a
moment should present itself where a
reconciliation with my Mother seems
just, view it as a window to a star
and pass through as the light that you
are. If anyone can wake a dark soul from
which they reside, it is you Herb. Find

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (19)

a common thread. Could be the simplest thing. And tug to release the love, of a knotted heartstring. Your Love, Honey.

HERB WALKS BACK TO BAR.

ED

You ok?

HERB

Yeah.

ED

What are you thinking?

HERB

That I'm about to do something really dumb.

ED

Hey, that's what I'm always thinking.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT 2
ACT 3

INT. ROOSTER JOOSE - DAY

(ROOSTER CROW SOUND FX) MILDRED IS WITH LUV WHO IS SITTING ON THE BAR WITH HER FEET ON A STOOL DRESSED LIKE A PRINCESS. MILDRED IS GIVING ACTING LESSONS ON HOW TO DO A PROPER SCREAM.

MILDRED

Bring one shoulder up and forward and the other one down and back. Then use both hands like you're blocking the sun. Watch.

MILDRED DEMONSTRATES THE ACTIONS AND THEN SCREAMS.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

See how I did that? (DEMONSTRATES AGAIN)

Ok. Now you try.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUV MIMICS THE ACTIONS AND THEN SCREAMS.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

Good. That scream got me the part as Ann Darrow in King Kong, Planet of the Kongs. I'll reenact my famous scene with Johnny Sable who played Jack Driscoll. And no we did not have a torrid love affair while filming on location.

MILDRED ACTS OUT SCENE.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

What...what's going on Jack? (PLAYS JACK) There's more than one Kong. (PLAYS ANN) You mean, there's two Kongs? (PLAYS JACK) More. (PLAYS ANN) You mean, there's three Kongs? (PLAYS JACK) More. (PLAYS ANN) You mean, four Kongs? (PLAYS JACK) There's thousands of Kongs. Because we are no longer on Earth. (PLAYS ANN) What are you saying Jack? (PLAYS JACK) We are on a different planet. A planet of Kongs. (PLAYS ANN) No! No it can't be. It can't be. NO MORE KONGS!(SHE TURNS AND REPEATS SCREAM) End. Scene.

LUV CLAPS. MILDRED BOWS. HERB AND LIV ENTER, DIRTIED UP HOLDING BASEBALL EQUIPMENT.

LIV

I hit two ribbies and a four bagger.

LIV LAUGHS AT LUV.

Don't laugh. LUV

Sorry Princess. LIV

HERB
Hey go clean up. It's almost bedtime.
(TO LIV) You too sweetheart.

HERB TAKES LUV OFF OF BAR.

MILDRED
Later I'll show you how to hold a
glass of wine. It only takes two
fingers and a charismatic smile.

*MILDRED PICKS UP GLASS OF WINE BETWEEN INDEX AND
MIDDLE FINGERS AND SMILES. THE GIRLS EXIT INTO
KITCHEN.*

HERB
I don't mind you getting to know the
girls but please limit you're personal
influences.

MILDRED
Which influences are you referring to?

MILDRED SIPS WINE.

HERB
Honey and I want the girls to dip
their toes into lots of things until
they find out what connects. We don't
mold them into what we want. We
support what they want which will
ultimately make them happy.

MILDRED
You really believe that crap?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HERB

Do you know a truly happy person
that's not doing exactly what they
want?

MILDRED

So you're saying I'm not happy because
I'm not doing what I want?

HERB

I didn't say that. You said that.

MILDRED

Ok Herb. What do I want?

HERB

That's for you to figure out.

HERB EXITS INTO KITCHEN.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - NIGHT

HERB ENTERS. BOXES ARE PILED ON A BED WITH A BARE MATTRESS AGAINST THE WALL. OTHER BOXES ARE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE ROOM. GOLF CLUBS, TENNIS RACKETS AND OTHER SPORTS EQUIPMENT ARE ON A COUCH. HERB WALKS INTO SMALL KITCHEN AND OPENS REFRIDGERATOR. IT'S FILLED WITH LEFTOVER PIZZA BOXES. HE WALKS TO SINK AND TURNS ON FAUCET.. WATER SPITS OUT, THEN FLOWS.

HERB

Why is this here? What's the reason?
If it was just a storage room, there
wouldn't be this little kitchen. If it
was just for storage than why does it
have a full bathroom? It's as if this
place is asking to be lived in. Should
I deny it's inherent nature any longer?
And why am I talking to myself? Why
don't I stop before things get out of

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

hand and I start to answer myself? Your
right Herb. You better stop because once
you answer yourself...Oh crap. Too late.

HERB EXITS.

CUT TO:

INT. HERB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

HERB ENTERS. LIV AND LUV ARE IN HIS BED.

HERB
You brush your teeth?

LIV/LOV
Uh huh./ Yup.

HERB
Ok big hugs.

HERB HUGS LIV.

LIV
I love you Daddy.

HERB
Love you too sweetheart.

LIV
Can we go to the park again.

HERB
Of course we can.

LIV
I want to be The Babe again.

HERB
You will be.

HERB WAITS TO HUG LUV WHO HAS COVERS UP TO HER CHIN.

HERB (CONT'D)
Come on Luv bug.

*LUV ESCAPES FROM COVERS AND HUGS HERB. A FINGERNAIL
SCRATCHES HIM.*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HERB (CONT'D)

Oww. What the...

*HERB TAKES HER HAND. SHE HAS GIANT, GLITTER PAINTED,
FAKE NAILS ON HER FINGER TIPS.*

LUV

It's my finger bling.

HERB LOOKS AT LIV.

HERB

Did you know about this?

LIV

That lady told me not to tell.

HERB

And you listened to her.

LIV

She gave me this.

LIV PULLS OUT A HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL.

LIV (CONT'D)

She said I can buy a thousand Gummy
Bears.

HERB

(ANGERED)

Gummy bears?

LIV

Look at her feet.

*HERB PULLS OFF COVER. LUV'S TOENAILS MATCH HER
FINGERNAILS.*

HERB

Are you serious?

LIV

So when she dips her toes into lots of
things.

LUV

They're pretty like my finger bling.

LIV

That's what the lady said.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HERB
So much for limiting influence.

HERB STORMS OFF.

CUT TO:

IN HALLWAY

HERB WALKS UP TO DOOR WHICH IS OPENED A CRACK. MILDRED IS ON HER KNEES, PRAYING, AT ONE OF THE TWO BEDS. HERB LISTENS.

CUT TO:

INT. KIDS BEDROOM - NIGHT

MILDRED
Sorry I wasn't much of a Mom. That I didn't know how to make bologna (PRONOUNCES BO LOG NAH) sandwiches. That I thought P. B. and J. was Precious Bullion and Jewels. I'm sorry you got lost in the Barbie Dream house for 2 days. I thought you'd enjoy one actual size. I wish I could make up for all the things I did wrong. Get a second chance. Maybe Herb will give me that chance with the girls. I see now why you married him. Herb is a good man. And a good Father. No. No he's a good, Dad...Even though he is a runt.

CUT TO:

IN HALLWAY

HERB IS STILL LISTENING. LIV IS STANDING AT BEDROOM DOOR.

Daddy?

LIV

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HERB WALKS OVER, PICKS HER UP. ENTERS BEDROOM.

CUT TO:

INT. HERB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

HERB BRINGS HER BACK TO BED AND LAYS DOWN WITH THEM.

LUV

When is that lady leaving? I want my room back.

HERB

That lady is your Grandma. And she's gonna stay with us for a while.

LIV

She's gonna take our room?

HERB

No you get your room back. Tomorrow we'll clear out the storage room and she can stay there.

LUV

Daddy what's a Grandma?

HERB

A Grandma is like a Mother, who gets a second chance.

HERB LIES DOWN AND CUDDLES DAUGHTERS INTO EACH SIDE.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOSTER JOOSE - NIGHT

THE STORE IS DARK. MILDRED ENTERS FROM KITCHEN AND WALKS TO BEVERAGE REFRIDGERATOR. SHE PULLS OUT A CAN OF VEGGIE JUICE. OPENS IT AND DRINKS. ED IS SITTING ON STOOL.

ED

Thirsty?

MILDRED SCREAMS AND THROWS CAN. IT LANDS ON FLOOR BY WALL.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ED (CONT'D)

Sorry.

MILDRED

You're still here. What are you glued to that thing?

ED

No I stick around without adhesives.

MILDRED

Sounds like you've been sniffing adhesives.

ED GETS OFF STOOL AND TURNS LIGHTS ON.

ED

I hope you can appreciate what Herb's going through? What he's been through?

MILDRED

Is it tougher than football? Oh, he wouldn't know. He was cut from the team.

ED

Herb quit football. He quit.

MILDRED

He was let go because of, Osteogenesis Imperfecta.

ED

Osteo what?

MILDRED

He has Brittle Bone Disease. Honey told me.

ED

He quit because every time he stepped on that field, Honey would worry. He loved the game. And he was good. But

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

he loved her more. He knew that if he quit because she wanted him to, she would always feel guilty about not letting him do what he loved. So he made it up. There's nothing wrong with his bones.

MILDRED

I saw the X-ray.

ED

IT WAS MY NEPHEWS! My nephew has Brittle Bone Disease. Not Herb.

MILDRED

So you're telling me that X-ray, was of a black man?

ED

That's what's great about X-rays. It doesn't matter what color you are. Inside, we're all bones. Unless you're a snake.

MILDRED

So Herb could've been successful?

SHAKES HEAD IN DISGUST. TURNS TO STOOL.

ED

See that stool?

MILDRED

The one sunk into the floor?

ED

Next one over.

MILDRED

What about it?

ED

That's for you. There's no adhesives.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

But maybe you'll stick around anyways.

So you can see, he always has been.

HERB ENTERS.

HERB

What's going on? I heard a scream.

MILDRED

Nothing. I came down to get a drink
and, surprise.

ED

I scared her.

MILDRED

You didn't scare me. You startled me.

*HERB WALKS TO FRIDGE AND PULLS OUT A CAN OF THE SAME
VEGGIE JUICE THAT MILDRED HAD. OPENS IT AND DRINKS.*

ED

I startle lots of women.

HERB

I should've told you.

MILDRED

That he startles lots of women?

ED

That I startle lots of women?

HERB

No. That Ed likes to be here, a lot.

MILDRED

Define a lot?

HERB

I don't know?

HERB LOOKS AT ED.

ED

2, maybe 3 hours.

MILDRED

That's not much.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

HERB

Is when he's not here. You do the math.

MILDRED

So where's your family?

ED

Under this roof.

MILDRED

Ok then. Well I've had enough trauma today to last me 5 facelifts, so I'll call it a night.

ED

I'd say don't let the bed bugs bite but something tells me, they'd be terrified to.

MILDRED

(CHOKES UP)

You're now getting to know me.

MILDRED EXITS INTO KITCHEN.

ED

You know what you're getting yourself into, right?

HERB NOTICES CANS ON THE FLOOR.

HERB

Find a common thread.

HERB WALKS OVER AND PICKS IT UP.

ED

What you're thinking is gonna effect everybody in and around this building.

HERB

Could be the simplest thing.

HE SMIRKS AND PUTS THE TWO IDENTICAL CANS SIDE BY SIDE AND SMILES. HE WALKS TOWARDS THE KITCHEN DOOR.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ED

If you do what I think you're going
do, life as we know it, is going to
change.

HERB

And tug to release the love...

*HERB GETS TO KITCHEN DOOR AND TURNS TO ED. HE DROPS
CANS INTO A RECYCLE BIN AND PUTS HIS HAND ON
LIGHTSWITCH.*

ED

Herb?

HERB

...of a knotted heartstring.

ED

Are you prepared for that?

HERB TURNS LIGHT SWITCH OFF. BLACK SCREEN.

HERB(VOICE OVER)

We'll see.

THE END