COLD OPENING - A

FADE IN:

<u>INT. THE OAK - NIGHT (FLASHFORWARD)</u>
(DAVID, TED, TANIA, BEN, EMILY, JERRY)

A BUSY PUB. THE GANG SITS AT THEIR USUAL TABLE.

DAVID (25, WELL-DRESSED, HANDSOME) STARES AT A LINE OF FULL SHOT GLASSES.

HE LOOKS PLEADINGLY AT TANIA (24, BEAUTIFUL). SHE SHAKES HER HEAD.

TANIA

Bet's a bet.

DAVID SHAKES HIS HEAD, TURNS TO TED (19, SUIT, NERVOUS).

DAVID

You did this.

TED

I didn't do anything!

DAVID

Well... You kinda did.

TANIA

Drink, boy.

JERRY (45, RUGGED) TENDS THE BAR.

JERRY

The pansy is going to drink like a

man? I gotta see this!

EMILY (28) TOUCHES DAVID ON THE ARM.

EMILY

Don't forget you have work tomorrow.

DAVID ROLLS HIS EYES, PICKS UP A SHOT GLASS, DOWNS IT. HE GULPS THE OTHERS IN QUICK SUCCESSION.

A QUICK CHEER.

JERRY

Are you going to be sick? Does the pansy want a bib or a bouquet (bookay)?

TED

A bouquet?

JERRY SLAMS A BUCKET ON THE BAR.

JERRY

(with a French accent)

Bucket (boo-kay).

BEN (33, A XXL LARGE MAN) RAISES HIS GLASS TO TED.

BEN

Congrats, Ted, on your first day at Snips... The new guy buys, right?

TED EXHALES.

TED

Okay, but I'm short until payday...

BEN

Emily, can you give Ted an advance?

EMILY

Sure, how much do you need? \$100?

TED

That would be fine, thank you.

EMILY GIVES THE CASH TO TED, WALKS OFF. BEN QUICKLY GRABS THE CASH, HANDS IT TO JERRY.

TED IS SURPRISED. JERRY IS PLEASED. BEN HAS A SLY SMILE.

BEN

Attention Snips employees. Ted has just put down \$50 on our bar tab tonight.

THE GROUP CHEERS.

TED

But you gave the bartender \$100 of my money!

BEN LAUGHS, SLAPS TED ON THE BACK.

BEN

Lesson learned: You only get half of what you pay for at Snips...

SNIPS

ACT I

<u>INT. SNIPS - MORNING</u>

(TANIA, DAVID, CUSTOMER #1, CUSTOMER #2)

DAVID CUTS HAIR (CUSTOMER #1) AS DOES TANIA (CUSTOMER #2).

TANIA

All I'm saying is that it's easier for a gay.

DAVID

A gay. Nice. And it's not any easier than a straight.

TANIA

What? Of course it is! Because women like sex in different times of the day and in different ways. For men, it's all the same.

DAVID

So, are you saying -

TANIA

I'm saying that two men have the same wants and needs. There's no complications. You both finish at the same time and -

DAVID

What, so gay men can't finish prematurely?

TANIA SIGHS.

TANIA

All men have premature ejaculation problems.

DAVID AND TANIA IGNORE THEIR HAIRCUTS, AGITATED. BOTH CUSTOMERS EXCHANGE WORRIED LOOKS.

All men?! What you on about! Never once have I been a pronto pony, a two-stroke Tony, a -

TANIA

I don't see the point. If it's just two guys, what does it matter? Is there anything magical about a couple of poofters piping off at the same time? I think not.

CUSTOMER #1

Excuse me, are you able to continue cutting my hair please?!

TANIA AND DAVID STEP BACK.

DAVID

Whoa.

TANIA

Wow.

DAVID

Um, where did that come from?

TANIA

This is awkward.

DAVID

Dunno what to say really. Is it normal for your people... your customers to interrupt a conversation?

CUSTOMER #1

I'm sorry, I just -

Or is it because I'm gay?!

TANIA

'Pick on the poofter' day is it?!

CUSTOMER #1

No, I just thought that -

DAVID

You just thought! (beat)

Get out.

DAVID POINTS TO THE DOOR.

CUSTOMER #1

But I... You've only cut half my hair!

DAVID

I said get out!

CUSTOMER #1 STANDS UP AND SHUFFLES TO THE DOOR. HE LOOKS BACK AT DAVID.

DAVID DISMISSES CUSTOMER #1 WITH A ROYAL WAVE OF HIS HAND.

DAVID TURNS TO TANIA.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Where were we? Right. Girls like sex as much as men, and you, my dear, know it.

INT. SNIPS - BACKROOM
(BEN, EMILY)

BEN AND EMILY ORDER SUPPLIES.

EMILY

Do you remember playing in this room when we were kids?

BEN

Yeah, Dad used to call it the baby sitter. One turn of the lock and he never had to pay for day care.

EMILY

He did not. Mom did it.

BEN

Well, we'll never know because we were locked in!

BEN SWITCHES OFF THE LIGHT.

BEN (CONT'D)

I also remember you were afraid of the dark.

EMILY SIGHS.

EMILY SWITCHES ON THE LIGHT.

EMILY

That's a natural fear and perfectly standard.

BEN

(lightly)

Yes, you've always been standard.

EMILY

That's not want I meant.

EMILY LOOKS AT HER WATCH.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Hey, our new apprentice should be here any minute now.

BEN RUBS HIS HANDS TOGETHER.

BEN

New blood!

EMILY

Be nice!

BEN

I own half this place Em, I can be whatever I feel like. And I feel like being... deaf.

EMILY

What?

BEN CUPS HIS EAR TOWARDS EMILY.

BEN

What?

EMILY SIGHS, EXITS.

INT. SNIPS - MOMENTS LATER
 (EMILY, DAVID, TANIA, TED, BEN, CUSTOMER #3, #4, #5)

EMILY ENTERS, WALKS OVER TO DAVID AND TANIA.

EMILY

Okay, my little divas, the new apprentice is turning up any minute, best behaviour please.

DAVID STOPS CUTTING HAIR ON CUSTOMER #3.

DAVID

How come I haven't heard about this!

Is it a he?

TANIA POPS UP THE OTHER SIDE OF EMILY.

TANIA

Please say it's a he.

EMILY

It is a he.

TANIA

I bet he's taken though. Married. Or worse, widowed.

DAVID

Widowed is fine by me - experience is always fine by me.

EMILY

Listen to you two! Being widowed is a terrible thing to happen to a person.

TANIA

Whatever.

(Tania looks at David)

Keep your dirty little squirrel claws away from his acorns, he's mine.

DAVID

Listen to yourself, you sound like a fox chasing a chicken. Put your paws down and stop baring your teeth.

Haven't we gone through this? Stop.

Being. So. Desperate.

TANIA

Ha, I don't need your advice, it's all
rubbish anyway. He's mine, and that's
it.

DAVID

If he's under 50, he's mine.

THEY STARE AT EACH OTHER.

EMILY

He is neither of yours, so to speak.

We are going to give him a nice

welcome, and -

EMILY TURNS, BUT TANIA AND DAVID HAVE WALKED OFF.

EMILY (CONT'D)
(shouting)

Ben! We need some rules in this place, the first one being, don't fuck the new guy!

TED ENTERS.

TED

Hello, name's Ted. I was told to report here to Snips to begin my apprenticeship? I must say, this is a lovely, quaint salon.

EMILY

Well, thank you Ted. I am Emily, this is my brother Ben, we're the owners-BEN PRETENDS TO BE DEAF AND A BIT DUMB.

BEN

Nice to be you Bed. I'm part boner here. You need something, don't ask me... I won't hear you.

TED

Nice to meet you, boss-es-es?

DAVID AND TANIA WATCH WHILE CUTTING THE HAIR OF CUSTOMERS #4
AND #5.

DAVID

Oh, look at him. Lovely, lovely.

TANIA

Low self-esteem and so innocent. Quite perfect. The thing is -

DAVID RUSHES OVER AND OFFERS HIS OUTSTRETCHED HAND TO TED.

DAVID

(with flair)

Hello Ted. I am David. Watch me. Learn from me. I will teach you the art of hair sculpting, help you master the breaking of hearts.

TED

Yes, sir. I'll do my best -

TANIA

(sensually)

Hi, Teddy Bear. I'm Tania. You and I have some unusual names. Ted and Tania... TNT. I think we will have a bang working together.

TED

Um -

DAVID

Oh please... I'm going to be sick.

EMILY

Best behaviour please, you two.

Welcome, Ted.

TED

My first day as a sculptor of hair!

TED GOES TO THE EMPTY CHAIR AND SETS UP HIS SCISSORS AND TOOLS.

THE CHAIR IS TOO LOW. TED BENDS OVER TO ADJUST IT.

Nice.

TANIA

Very nice.

DAVID

Remember, he's mine.

TANIA

What do you say we make a bet?

DAVID

First one to blow Ted?

TANIA

Nope, too easy for you.

DAVID

First one to shag Ted? Nope, too easy for you.

SILENCE. TANIA AND DAVID IN THOUGHT.

TANIA

I got it, it's perfect.

<u>INT. SNIPS, BACKROOM - LATER</u> (EMILY, BEN, TED, DAVID, TANIA)

EMILY STANDS IN FRONT OF EVERYONE.

EMILY

We are a small salon but we are big on professionalism. Since Ted is starting today, we'll institute a code of conduct -

BEN EATS FROM A BOWL OF PASTA.

BEN

Please, not another bunch of corporate kiss-my-ass rules -

EMILY

Ben, we agreed on this. We need to be united on the code of conduct.

BEN

I agreed to some rules not -

EMILY

Will you let me tell you the rules first?

BEN MOTIONS FOR EMILY TO CONTINUE.

BEN

(to himself)

I never met a rule I liked.

EMILY REFERS TO A CHECKLIST ON A CLIP BOARD.

EMILY

Number one. All team members at Snips will strive to give the best service possible.

TANIA

We already do that.

DAVID

Everyday.

TANIA

All the time.

EMILY

There has been times when you two haven't been... well... civilised human beings.

DAVID

Whatever. Acting like wild animals is good once in a while.

DAVID WINKS AT TED. TED QUICKLY LOOKS AWAY. EMILY GIVES DAVID A DIRTY LOOK, CONTINUES.

EMILY

Number two. Each member of Snips will treat the customer and each other with respect.

TED

You mean the Golden Rule, right?

EMILY

Yes, Ted. Exactly. Finally, someone around here is listening! Now, if I can only get the other two -

BEN

What's the point of all this? Let them cut hair and make money. As long as their chairs are full, I don't think we need a lot of rules.

EMILY

I knew you wouldn't back me on this.

BEN

Okay, Emily, what else you got?
Remember, keep it simple for the working stiffs.

DAVID

Stiffs?

EMILY REVIEWS HER CHECKLIST AND THROWS IT DOWN.

EMILY

No boobs! No booty! No shagging! And no sexy... sex talk.

May as well cut off my manhood. By the way, you'll need something a lot bigger and sharper than a butter knife.

EMILY

I'm serious, David. I'm sick of your far from subtle innuendo. Tania, no more low cut tops, and having sex with customers in the toilets.

TANIA FAKES SHOCK.

TANIA

Well, where else can I go then?!

BEN

My house?

EMILY

Ben! Please!

TANIA WALKS OVER TO BEN, BITES HIS EAR. BEN GRINS.

TANIA

Oh, I bet you like it rough. Don't you, big boy?

EMILY

Right! That's it! Meeting is over, get back to work. And don't forget the rules!

INT. SNIPS, BACKROOM
(TED, DAVID, TANIA)

TED POURS HIMSELF A COFFEE.

DAVID WALKS UP BEHIND HIM, PUTS A HAND ON HIS SHOULDER.

Hey, Ted.

TED

Oh, hello.

DAVID

You know what they say about rules?

TED

That they are vital to keep order and organisation in a community environment?

DAVID PAUSES.

DAVID

Well, yeah. But they also say rules are there to be broken.

TED

Oh, okay.

DAVID MOVES CLOSER TO TED.

DAVID

Have you ever... been with a man, Ted?

TED

Well, I'm not gay you see. So no, I have not.

DAVID

Who said anything about being gay, Ted? Sexuality is overrated these days. We live in a relaxed society where the lines between gay and straight are blurred.

TED

Really?

Of course! The 21st century is here,
Ted. People are always looking for
something new.

DAVID LEANS CLOSER TO TED AS TANIA ENTERS.

DAVID ROLLS HIS EYES AND BACKS OFF TED.

TANTA

Having fun, boys?

TED

No! We were just chatting about centuries... and stuff.

TANIA

Oh, David gave you the 'lines between gay and straight blurred' speech, right?

DAVID

I'm warning you, Tania...

TANIA

(to Ted)

It's rubbish, Teddy Bear. The differences between a gay person and a straight one are, in this modern society, more different than ever.

DAVID

Not true.

TANIA

True.

TANIA WINKS AT TED, WALKS AWAY, TURNS AROUND AS SHE REACHES THE DOOR.

TANIA (CONT'D)

Stick with what ya know, slugger.

SHE EXITS, DAVID SCOFFS.

TED

So that means... (beat)

That means... you're gay.

DAVID

Yes, I am gay.

DAVID LOOKS DEFIANTLY AT TED.

TED

Oh, okay.

DAVID

Does it matter to you?

TED

It's the 21st century, why should it?

INT. SNIPS

(BEN, EMILY, DAVID)

BEN READS A NEWSPAPER WHILE IN THE CUSTOMER WAITING AREA. DAVID SITS IN HIS CHAIR.

BEN

(loudly with a laugh)

Hey, David. Says here that Pronto Pony

is favored to whinny in the fifth race

by two strokes. What do you think?

DAVID GIVES BEN A NASTY SNEER.

DAVID

(to himself)

Fat asses never whinny.

EMILY ENTERS FROM THE BACKROOM. BEN STILL LOOKS AT THE PAPER.

EMILY

I'm worried about Ted.

BEN

Who?

EMILY

The new guy! He seems like such a nice guy. I don't think he'll survive our two prima donnas.

BEN PUTS THE PAPER DOWN.

BEN

You like him.

EMILY

Of course, I like him. And don't you roll your eyes at me, you know what I mean. He's polite, intelligent, understands the commitment to running a professional shop -

BEN

You like him cause he's an ass kissing rule follower and you don't want to lose him to Stop 'N' Chop.

EMILY

Yes. Plus, I think David and Tania are up to something. A bet or something.

BEN

I say we let Ted alone for now. I want to see if he can handle his own ladle in the kitchen. **EMILY**

Okay. For now. But if things start to heat up I'm going to pull his ass out of their fire and into my frying pan.

INT. SNIPS
 (DAVID, TANIA, TED)

DAVID AND TED STAND OVER TANIA WHO SITS IN A CHAIR.

DAVID

Okay, Mr. Tedward Scissorhands, go for it.

TED

Um, okay.
 (to Tania)

Hello there, Miss -

TANIA

(in character)

I'm married.

TED

What? No, I just called you that

because it's polite, and -

DAVID

Never assume Ted, never.

TED

Okay. Well. Hello there... lady -

DAVID

Never assume! Didn't I just say that!

TED

But, Tania's a woman!

DAVID

Is she? Have you checked down there?

TED

What! Why would I -

DAVID

Forget it. Forget the intro, move along with the cut.

TED SIGHS.

TED

Right. Now. (to Tania)

What can I do for you today?

TANIA

(in character)

Oh, I don't know, do whatever you think looks good and isn't too expensive!

TED

Sure.

DAVID

Sure? SURE?! What is this?!

TED

Well, she said do whatever!

DAVID

She didn't mean it. Customers lie Ted.

They know what they want, especially

women. You just have you guide them

towards a cut. An expensive cut. (beat)

Now. Offer to wash the hair.

TED

(to Tania)

Would you like me to wash your hair?

TANIA

(in character)

I'm fine thanks, just a cut.

TED

Okay -

DAVID

No! No, no, no, no, no.

TED

She said she didn't want a wash!

DAVID

They all want a wash. And we charge

\$15 for a wash. So wash their hair.

TED

(to Tania)

Um, I think a wash would be good.

TANIA

(in character)

Really, I'm fine.

TED

Sure -

DAVID THROWS HIS HANDS IN THE AIR, LEANS OVER TANIA.

DAVID

But my dear, the shampoo we use will fix all these disgusting split ends you have.

TED

She doesn't have split ends...

DAVID

All customers have split ends Ted. All

customers. Now, wash her hair.

TED MOVES CLOSER TO TANIA, GATHERS HER HAIR TO WASH IT.

TANIA

(in character)

And please don't scald me like you did last time. That was horrible. And don't drool on my boobs.

SHE THRUSTS HER BUST UP TO TED'S ATTENTION.

DAVID

Ted?

TED

Yes?

DAVID

There's a lesson here. If a customer is annoying, it's okay to snip her ear. A little slip is all it takes.

TANIA COVERS HER EARS WITH HER HANDS.

TANIA

Oh, no you don't.

SHE SCRAMBLES OUT OF THE CHAIR TO THE BACKROOM.

TED

Tania, wait!

TED FOLLOWS HER.

DAVID

She'll be fine.

INT. SNIPS, BACKROOM
(TANIA, TED)

TANIA ENTERS. TED FOLLOWS.

TANIA

That, that poofter. Always treating me like rubbish.

TED

I don't think he's mean on purpose. He's just, just an artist.

TANIA

I know you're different.

TANIA MOVES CLOSE TO TED.

TED

Uh...

TANIA

A man like you would treat me right.

TED

Uh...

INT. SNIPS
(DAVID)

DAVID RELAXES IN HIS CHAIR.

DAVID

(to himself)

I can't believe she thought I was going to snip her ear. Silly thing.

DAVID LOOKS AT THE BACKROOM DOOR, GULPS.

DAVID (CONT'D)

The little bitch tricked... Tania!
Ted!

HE RUNS TO THE BACKROOM DOOR.

INT. SNIPS, BACKROOM
 (DAVID, TANIA, TED)

TANIA LEANS CLOSER TO TED.

TANIA

I would treat that man like he was my prince and I was his... princess.

TED, HYPNOTIZED, MOVES HIS LIPS CLOSER TO TANIA'S LIPS.

IN SLOW MOTION:

DAVID OPENS THE DOOR.

DAVID

No.

HE RUNS IN TO PREVENT THE KISS BY INSERTING HIS HAND BETWEEN THEIR FACES. FOREHEADS AND HAND COLLIDE. CONTACT DENIED.

END SLOW MOTION.

TANIA

Ew! What are you doing?

DAVID

Breaking a few rules, are we?

TED

I'm sorry, it won't happen again. Uh,

I'd like to go wash up.

TED EXITS.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. SNIPS

(DAVID, TANIA, TED, MRS. BROWN, MYRTLE)

NO CUSTOMERS IN THE SALON. TANIA AND DAVID SIT IN THEIR CHAIRS.

TANIA HAS A MAGAZINE AND DAVID IS TWIRLING HIS SCISSORS.

THEY IGNORE EACH OTHER UNTIL DAVID SPEAKS.

DAVTD

I should have known the fox would get her paws on the prey in the backroom.

TANIA

Like you're any better.

DAVID

Why don't you quit if you're so upset?

TANIA

Went over to Stop 'N' Chop the other day. They have business cards for each hairdresser.

DAVID

Oh... that would be nice. Very nice.

TANIA

And the scissors are gold plated.

DAVID

Uhhhh, so much class. We really need to move there soon. Except, it's so much fun working here. No rules -

TANIA

Duh, David! Oh, I do like the sound of that, Duhvid.

You were saying, "Tongue ya?" TANIA STICKS HER TONGUE OUT.

TANIA

Anyway, you heard Emily buzzing about a code of conduct. Whatever that is.

DAVTD

Don't worry about Emily, Ben will -

MRS. BROWN (80), WELL-DRESSED ARISTOCRAT, WALKS INTO THE SHOP.

DAVID DROPS HIS SCISSORS, RUNS TOWARDS HER.

TANIA DROPS HER MAGAZINE, RUNS TOWARDS HER.

TANIA/DAVID

Mrs. Brown!

DAVID

What can I do for you today, Mrs.

Brown?

TANIA

Just the usual today, Mrs. Brown?

DAVID AND TANIA PUSH EACH OTHER TO MAINTAIN EYE CONTACT WITH MRS. BROWN.

TED ENTERS FROM THE BACKROOM, RUBS HIS FOREHEAD, WATCHES.

DAVID

You did her last time! My tip!

TANIA

First come, first serve, stop being such a whiney little bitch!

DAVID

Little bitch?! Look. I was here first,
AND it's my turn.

MRS. BROWN

Must you behave so? Like two wolves fighting for the last lick of the bone.

(beat)

David, I do believe it is your turn to regale me with the latest gossip. My iPad is not working at the moment.

SHE HANDS HER SCARF TO TANIA.

MRS. BROWN (CONT'D)

Ta, Tania.

DAVID

Ta, Tania.

TANIA HISSES AT DAVID.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Right Mrs. Brown, it's just you and me. The usual? Oh no, it looks like your split ends have returned...

DAVID TURNS TO TED.

DAVID (CONT'D) (with flair)

Learn from me.

DAVID OFFERS HIS ARM TO MRS. BROWN, ACCOMPANIES HER TO HIS CHAIR.

MRS. BROWN

Speaking of gossip, who is that handsome young man?

DAVID

That is our latest morsel du jour... Quite vexing, really.

INT. SNIPS - LATER

MYRTLE (ELDERLY, UNCERTAIN) ENTERS.

MYRTLE

Hello. My name is... is...

TANIA

Myrtle! So good to see you.

MYRTLE

When was the last time I got my hair cut?

TANIA

Umm, a month ago. Or so, hard to remember really, it was so long ago.

MYRTLE

Oh. It feels like yesterday -

TANIA

Nope. Wasn't yesterday. Definitely not yesterday! I would tell you if it was. That would be a waste of money, wouldn't it! Paying for your hair to be cut two days in a row!

MYRTLE

You're probably right. I'm losing my memory dear.

TANIA

Actually, I think that birdie flew off a long time ago.

INT. THE UGLY MUG COFFEE SHOP
(BEE, BEN, DAVID, EMILY, TANIA, TED)

DAVID, TANIA AND TED SIT AT A TABLE.

BEE (28) WAITS TO TAKE THEIR ORDER.

TANIA

Hello, Bee. Large latte, please.

BEE

Latte for the lady.

DAVID

Coffee. Short black.

BEE

And the usual for the man.

DAVID

That's not my usual.

BEE

What?

DAVID

That's not my usual. I'm having something different today, I usually have a cappuccino.

BEE

You usually - always, have a short black.

DAVID

Umm, no I don't.

BEE

Oh, sorry. I must have mistaken you with the other one.

DAVID

The other one?

BEE

Umm. You know. The other one.

BEE MOVES CLOSER TO DAVID, WHISPERS IN HIS EAR. SHE NODS AT TED.

BEE (CONT'D)

The other gay one.

TED GASPS.

TED

What?! This is my first time here. I'm not gay. He's the other gay one. Not me!

DAVID ENJOYS TED'S TORMENT.

DAVID

Right. Which would make you the gay one or the other gay one.

TED

I'm not the other gay one.

DAVID

So, you're just the gay one then?

TED

No!

PAUSE.

TED (CONT'D)

(coughs)

I'd like a coffee, too please.

Cappuccino.

BEE

(sensually as if talking
 about herself)

Although, if I was one of you, I would probably want it long, hot and black with a spot of cream. But some of you would like it short and black, I dunno how it works.

Are you implying my taste of coffee is similar if not exactly the same as my taste in men?

BEE

Yes. That's what I just said. (to Tania)

Bit slow, isn't he!

BEE LAUGHS.

BEE (CONT'D) (purposely slow, to David)

Your coffee will be coming soon.

BEE WALKS OFF.

DAVID SIGHS, SHAKES HIS HEAD.

DAVID

Latte. Why so much milk?

TANIA

Apparently, it makes your boobs bigger.

DAVID

Yeah, and it makes the rest of you bigger too.

TANIA

What like your hips and thighs?

DAVID

Damn right -

TANIA

Rubbish. It goes straight to my tits.
TANIA PUSHES HER BREASTS UP.

TANIA (CONT'D)

(laughs)

It's a tit enhancer. I'd drink milk straight but I'm afraid my boobs would bust... bust a boob!

DAVID

You really are disgusting, you know that?

TANIA

Jealous, eh? Mister Jealous Man. Wish you had a pair of these juicy melons - BEN AND EMILY ENTER.

EMILY

Ben has a pair of juicy man melons, don't ya champ?! Well, they're more like grape fruits. With David's over ripe banana, you guys could have a real fruit salad!

BEN GIVES EMILY A HURT LOOK.

EMILY (CONT'D)

What? I can't be a funster?

TED

(in encyclopedia mode)

You wouldn't have grape fruits in a fruit salad. The acidity overpowers the other subtle flavours, such as strawberry and peach.

PAUSE.

BEE APPROACHES THE TABLE, TRAY IN HAND.

BEE PUTS DRINKS DOWN IN FRONT OF EVERYONE.

BEE

Here you go...

Cappuccino.

(by David)

Short black.

(by Tania)

Latte.

(by Ted)

Hot chocolate... with marshmallows.

(by Ben)

Water for the big spender.

(by Emily)

THE GANG MURMURS "THANKS" BUT NO ONE TOUCHES THEIR DRINKS.

BEE (CONT'D)

Right! And who said I need to write

stuff down.

BEE PROUDLY WALKS OFF. AS SOON AS SHE IS OUT OF SIGHT, THEY ALL TAKE THE DRINK FROM THE PERSON ON THE RIGHT.

TED TOUCHES TANIA'S HAND.

TED

Is she trying to scare off the

customers?

TANIA

She is a bit odd but we adore her.

TED CHEWS HIS LIP.

TED

Can I have the latte?

TANIA

What? You ordered a cappuccino.

TED

I know. But before what you were

saying about milk.

TANIA

That it makes your...

TED

Yeah. It might make my... you know... bigger.

AWKWARD PAUSE. EVERYONE STARES AT TED.

TED (CONT'D)

It's okay, I'll just have what I ordered.

INT. SNIPS

(EMILY, TANIA, CUSTOMER #6)

A SMILING EMILY WELCOMES CUSTOMER #6 (LARGE MALE).

EMILY

Hello! What can I do for you today? CUSTOMER #6 SIGHS.

CUSTOMER #6

What do you think, love?

EMILY

Well, a haircut?

CUSTOMER #6

(sarcastically)

5 points, 3 gold stars, hit the nail on the head, well done.

EMILY

Umm, okay, well if you just want to take a seat -

CUSTOMER #6

I will, but I wanna get my hair cut by her.

CUSTOMER #6 POINTS AT TANIA.

EMILY

Well sir, I've been cutting hair all

my life and am perfectly capable of -

CUSTOMER #6 WALKS OFF TO SIT IN THE CHAIR IN FRONT OF TANIA. EMILY SIGHS.

INT. SNIPS, BACKROOM
 (BEN, EMILY)

EMILY ENTERS. BEN SITS AT A DESK READING A BOOK. HE CAT CALL WHISTLES "WERT WHIRL" AT EMILY.

EMILY

What on earth was that for?

BEN

Did you know that the wolf whistle is based on the phrase 'Hello Nurse' from vaudeville.

BEN LOOKS AT HER, IMITATES GROUCHO MARX.

BEN (CONT'D)

Hello, Nurse!

EMILY

(sarcastically)

No Ben, I did not. Thank you for enlightening me and making me better as a person.

PAUSE.

BEN

You're welcome.

BEN GOES BACK TO HIS BOOK.

EMILY

Why don't people want me to cut their hair, Ben?

BEN

Umm, because you try too hard and don't relax enough?

EMILY

I don't do it on purpose though.

BEN

I know. It's just the way you are.

Lighten up, unbutton your top button,
and you'll do fine.

EMILY

Really?

EMILY EXITS.

BEN

(to himself)

Yeah, that will work like nailing

Jello to a tree. (beat)

Without a hammer. (beat)

KAPOW! I'm writing that one down.

INT. SNIPS

(EMILY, TANIA, CUSTOMER #6, #7)

TANIA CONTINUES TO CUT THE HAIR OF CUSTOMER #6.

EMILY CUTS THE HAIR OF A MAN, CUSTOMER #7. EMILY LOOKS OVER AT TANIA'S LOW CUT TOP, REARRANGES HERS SO IT LOOKS SIMILAR.

EMILY BENDS OVER THE MAN SUGGESTIVELY BUT AWKWARDLY.

TANIA

What are you doing?

EMILY

I am just tired of being invisible to the customers. I thought showing a little cleavage might help. TANIA

You look like a Barbie doll before implants. It doesn't work for you. And don't tell me Barbie isn't a bimbo. I don't believe it.

EMILY SNIFFLES.

EMILY

What can I do? I never had to worry about this in the corporate world.

TANIA

So, that's why you're so anal about the rules.

EMILY COVERS HER CLEAVAGE BUT LEAVES A BUTTON UNDONE.

EMILY

Thank you... Can I ask you about the new guy?

TANIA

Who? Oh, Ted. Sure.

EMILY

What's the bet?

TANIA

What bet?

EMILY

You two have a habit of going over board in your fight for top diva.

TANIA

What?

EMILY

Tell me. Or, I'll tell Ted there is a bet, or something, that'll ruin it for you too. So?

TANIA

Okay. Okay.

SHE WHISPERS IN EMILY'S EAR.

EMILY

I'm impressed. Still against the rules.

EMILY EXITS.

INT. SNIPS, BACKROOM
 (EMILY)

EMILY ENTERS, CLOSES THE DOOR. SATISFIES HERSELF THAT NO ONE ELSE IS THERE.

SHE PANICS.

EMILY

This is big, Emily. This is really big. Do you help Ted or do you burn David and Tania? The rules are the rules. But, just once, I'd like to be the clever one.

SHE PACES. STOPS. OPENS CRACKS OPEN THE DOOR. CLOSES IT.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Or, I could mind my own beeswax, be above it all.

SHE MULLS IT OVER.

EMILY (CONT'D)

No, princess going rouge, here.

INT. SNIPS
(BEN, DAVID, EMILY, TANIA, TED, CUSTOMER #8, #9)

TED CUTS THE HAIR OF CUSTOMER #8 WHILE DAVID OFFERS TIPS ON HIS CUTTING. TANIA CUTS THE HAIR OF CUSTOMER #9.

BEN STANDS WATCHING TED.

BEN

Feather it in...

TED SWEATS, MOVES HIS SCISSORS. BEN SMILES.

DAVID

No chatter while the new bat boy's swinging his lumber.

TED

It's batter, not bat boy. Don't you go the ballpark?

DAVID

A gay man at a ballpark? Nope, but it does sound like fun...

EMILY ENTERS FROM THE BACKROOM.

EMILY

Ted. Do you have a minute? We need to go over some paperwork. In the backroom.

TED

Sure, as soon as I am done here.

DAVID

Go on, you and Emily chat... while I work... with Ben and Tania... who wish they could be talented as I -

BEN

Shut it, Duhvid.

TANIA EYES DAVID, SMIRKS.

TED EXITS WITH EMILY TO THE BACKROOM.

INT. SNIPS, BACKROOM
 (EMILY, TED)

EMILY CLOSES THE DOOR BEHIND TED.

EMILY

This isn't about paperwork. It's about Tania and David. They're not corporate types but they mean well. That's why I tried to set up a code of conduct today. Your first day.

TED

And?

EMILY

Well, I like you Ted and I think David and Tania, and Ben too, we like you too...

TED

I am confused.

EMILY

I want you to do something for me. If you could choose not to pay attention to David and Tania...

TED

I am still confused. Do you want me to file sexual harassment charges against them?

EMILY

No. No! You weren't going to do that, were you?

TED

Uh, nope?

EMILY

Good answer. No, great answer.

TED

What can I do to help you?

EMILY

You want to help me punk David and

Tania?

TED

Uh, sure. But, won't we breaking the rules?

A SLY SMILE FROM EMILY.

EMILY

There are exceptions to every rule. If you're with the boss you can't get fired.

TED

Oh, okay.

INT. SNIPS

(BEN, DAVID, EMILY, TANIA, TED, CUSTOMER #10, #11)

TANIA PREPARES TO WASH THE HAIR OF CUSTOMER #10. DAVID CUTS THE HIGH, SPIKED HAIR OF CUSTOMER #11.

EMILY ENTERS FROM THE BACKROOM, WALKS OVER BY BEN.

BEN

Is there a little something-something going on?

EMILY

Shush.

TED WALKS OUT OF THE BACKROOM. SPOTS TANIA. WALKS DIRECTLY TO HER.

TANIA

Hi, Ted. Care to spend some more time
in the backroom?

DAVID FURROWS HIS BROW. HIS SCISSORS SLIP.

CUSTOMER #11

Ow, that freaking hurt!

DAVID

It happens, get used to it.

TANIA

Better still, be a dear and wash the hair for my customer?

TED

Be glad to.

DAVID WATCHES TED, CONTINUES TO CUT THE HAIR OF CUSTOMER #11.

TED STANDS BY THE WASH STATION. TED GATHERS THE HAIR OF CUSTOMER #10. HE SOAPS THE HAIR.

TANIA

That's very good, Ted. But, I find the customer relaxes more if you gently massage their temple like this. Here, you try.

BOTH TED AND TANIA KNOCK HEADS. THEY RECOVER WITH A CUTE GIGGLE FROM TANIA. THE CUSTOMER GRINS.

TED

Is it okay if I kiss you?

EMILY GRABS BEN'S ARM, SHAKES IT EXCITEDLY. BEN REMOVES HER HAND.

TANIA

Yes, I bet you've been waiting all day to do this.

TANIA BRINGS HER ARMS UP TO WRAP AROUND TED'S NECK. SHE GETS HER BOOBS WET WITH SHAMPOO JUST BEFORE SHE EMBRACES TED. THEY KISS.

DAVID CUTS A LONG GASH IN HIS CUSTOMER'S SPIKED HAIR.

DAVID

Damn!

INT. THE OAK

(BEN, EMILY, JERRY, DAVID, TANIA, TED)

JERRY WATCHES THE SNIPS CREW FROM THE BAR. HE SHOWS OFF HIS BUCKET ONE MORE TIME.

JERRY

How's diva D, doing? What, you never

noticed that David spelled backwards

is... Blind be ye all.

JERRY DISMISSES THEIR IGNORANCE WITH A WAVE. EMILY STANDS UP.

EMILY

I might head home then.

TANIA

Home? Already?! It's still early...

EMILY SMILES.

EMILY

Well, if you want me to stay...

EMILY SITS DOWN AGAIN. THE GROUP IS SILENT.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Fine then, I'll go!

BEN

We're just kidding round, stay for one

more drink, Ems.

TED ARRIVES AT THE TABLE WITH A TRAY OF DRINKS.

EMILY

Hey David, want to know a secret?

DAVID

Is it private?

EMILY

Aren't all secrets private?

DAVID

Yeah, I suppose so.

EMILY

Ted knew about the bet.

DAVID

(to Ted)

You knew?!

TED SMILES.

TANIA

But that means...

TED NODS AGAIN.

DAVID

That means I didn't really lose!

Because you knew about it!

TANIA

What!? No way. He kissed me. I won.

Fair and square.

DAVID

Ted, would you have kissed Tania if

you didn't know about the bet?

PAUSE.

TED

(awkwardly)

She's not really my type...

DAVID BANGS HIS FIST ON THE TABLE.

DAVID

I don't believe you! So unfair! Thanks
Emily!

EMILY

Serves you right for going against the rules.

BEN

She's got you there, diva D. God, I love that name, I have to share that with my bowling team.

DAVID

I can see it now, Ben and his beerguzzling bowling butt buddies, "Teehee, this Jerome fellow, excuse my
faux pas, Jerry, referred to him as
diva D. Absolutely hilarious... can't
believe you never noticed it before."

EMILY

All right, that's enough you two.

Let's show Ted how we pay off our

bets. David you can start...

DAVID

I'd rather kiss Ben.

BEN GLOWERS AT DAVID.

BEN

Yeah, you're lips, my tip.

EMILY

That's enough you two.

SHE LOOKS TO BEN AND DAVID, NODS AT TANIA.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Go on, Tania. You can go up on one,

too.

TANIA

I so don't want to do this.

BEN

I think we need a few more drinks...

JERRY POPS UP TO THE TABLE WITH A TRAY OF SHOT GLASSES, STARTLING THE GROUP. HE SERVES THEM A SHOT EACH.

JERRY

Try these, my paid up amigos.

BEN NUDGES TED.

TED

You're welcome.

JERRY

These are my designer Penalty Shots.

THE GROUP SLAMS THEIR SHOTS DOWN ON THE TABLE EXCEPT FOR EMILY WHO CAN'T GET IT PAST HER NOSE.

EMILY

This is horrid. I won't do it. I

can't.

JERRY BEAMS.

JERRY

And you don't know what's in it.

HE WALKS AWAY.

DAVID AND TANIA WOBBLE AS THEY CLIMB ON THEIR SEATS, AND SING "I'M A LITTLE TEAPOT" WITH THE TRADITIONAL SPOUT AND HANDLE MOVEMENTS.

DAVID/TANIA

I'm a little teapot/short and
stout/here is my handle/here is my
spout -

TANIA

You too, Emily and Ted! Come on, then.

You were in on it too.

THE FOUR OF THEM CONTINUE THE TEAPOT DANCE STANDING ON THEIR SEATS.

DAVID/TANIA/TED/EMILY

When I get all steamed up/hear me shout/"Tip me over/and pour me out" JERRY GRINS.

JERRY

You know the rule. If you dance in my bar, it's pants off!

FOUR PAIRS OF PANTS SAIL THROUGH THE AIR TO LAND BESIDE BEN.

JERRY TURNS ON SOME FUNKY DANCE MUSIC. THE CREW DANCES SEXY NOW.

BEN RAISES A BEER BOTTLE TO HIS CREW. NODS AT JERRY.

BEN

Now, that's a rule I like.

END OF ACT II

<u>TAG</u>

INT. THE OAK - NIGHT - LATER
(BEN, TED, JERRY)

BEN AND TED SIT ALONE AT THE BAR. TIRED, ALCOHOL INDUCED.

TED

Boss... I did okay today?

BEN

Yes, yes you did.

TED

Anything you can clue me in on?

BEN

Yes. Never let me or anyone else take what you've earned.

BEN HANDS TED \$50.

BEN (CONT'D)

Square?

TED

Yeah.

TED WALKS AWAY.

BEN SITS ALONE.

JERRY

Emily figured it out, huh?

BEN

Yup, probably the last \$50 I see for a while.

END OF TAG