

Two and a Half Men
"Anger Management"

by

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FADE IN:

COLD OPEN

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

The church has been set up for an anger management class. There are about fifteen people in attendance, scattered all over the room on folding chairs. Near the back are CHARLIE and ALAN. Standing in front of them all is an extremely attractive 30-something woman called, JESSICA, who is in the middle of telling a story.

JESSICA

Anyway, to cut a long story short, I'm now single again, no longer trusted around knives, and am back living with my friend and her lover.... on the couch.

ANGLE ON: CHARLIE AND ALAN.

ALAN

Wow.

CHARLIE

I know. She's really hot, too.

ALAN

You gotta be kidding me? You did just hear what she said, right?

CHARLIE

All I heard was her saying she's single.

ALAN

Unbelievable. Only you can come to an anger management class to try and pull.

ANGLE ON: JESSICA.

JESSICA

I've never been very good at controlling my anger, hence why I'm here today. Every little thing seems to get under my skin and I lash out without thinking. I was starting to manage it though, until I caught my fiancée in bed with that great big fat cow!

(composing herself)

But I want to change. I want to be a better person. I want to be someone others can be proud of.

Everyone applauds.

ANGLE ON: CHARLIE AND ALAN.

ALAN

What are they clapping for?

CHARLIE

Shut up.

ANGLE ON: JESSICA.

JESSICA

I guess, when life gives you lemons
you have to do your best to make
lemonade.

ANGLE ON: CHARLIE AND ALAN.

ALAN

Oh God, what crappy quote book did
she get that from?

CHARLIE

Do you want me to punch you?

ALAN

Oh come on, Charlie. What are we
even doing here? Let's go out and
have some fun.

CHARLIE

I'd already be having fun if you
weren't here with me.

ALAN

Well, excuse me for not wanting you
to get caught for drink
driving..... Again.

CHARLIE

Just shut up. It was you that
wanted me to come here in the first
place, and now I'm here that's not
good enough either.

ALAN

You and I both know you're not here
to help better yourself. You're
just looking for vulnerable and
troubled women to take advantage
of.

CHARLIE

You make it sound so vulgar.

(then)

And so what if I am? That's the
difference between you and me,
Alan. I go and get what I want,
while you just talk about things
and then sulk about how your latest
marriage ended.

ALAN

Hey. Do not speak ill of the dead.

CHARLIE

I'm not speaking ill of the dead.
I'm speaking about you, the guy who
makes people wish they were dead.

ALAN

(hurt)

You know, sometimes you just say
mean things for no good reason.

CHARLIE

Just be quiet, I'm trying to listen
to Jessica.

ALAN

Trying to picture her naked more
like.

ANGLE ON: JESSICA.

JESSICA

Anyway, I think that's enough from
me. Sorry if I've bored any of you.
This is my first time at one of
these classes, so I'm kinda
nervous.

(then)

Okay, so.... Thanks.

Everyone applauds. Jessica spots Charlie at the back of the
room and they give each other a smile. She sits down.

CHARLIE

Man, she is so hot.

ALAN

Yeah, I guess. She seems a little
superficial for my liking, though.

CHARLIE

Better that than inflatable like
your choice of woman.

ALAN

Stay out of my room!

MAIN
TITLES

ACT ONEEXT. CHURCH - A SHORT WHILE LATER

The meeting has ended and people are exiting. Charlie and Alan are just heading out of the doors.

ALAN

So, did all that sharing help?
Where did you get all that rubbish
from anyway?

CHARLIE

Do you actually wanna live on the
street?

ALAN

You wouldn't throw your own brother
out on the street, Charlie.

CHARLIE

Try me.

They spot Jessica walking towards them.

CHARLIE

Alan, make yourself scarce.

ALAN

What? Why? Just so you can flirt
with her some more? What am I even
supposed to do?

CHARLIE

I don't know, go spend some time
with your girlfriend.

ALAN

I don't have a girlfriend.

CHARLIE

Oh, really? When did you break up
with your hand?

ALAN

(not amused)

You're not funny, Charlie.

Jessica approaches them.

JESSICA

(to Charlie)

Hey. I just wanted to say I found
your story really inspiring.

CHARLIE

I could say the same about you.
Your story even brought a tear to
my eye.

ALAN
(under his breath)
Oh, God.

JESSICA
Oh, thank you. My name's Jessica,
by the way.

CHARLIE
(shaking her hand)
Charlie Harper. Pleasure to meet
you.

JESSICA
You too.
(then)
Wait. You wouldn't be the same
Charlie Harper who wrote and sung
the Maple Loops song, would you?

CHARLIE
Well, yes actually I am. It's not
bad, I guess. Why, do you like it?

JESSICA
I love it. My little niece sings it
every morning. She won't eat
breakfast without it.

ALAN
(under his breath)
You gotta be kidding me.

JESSICA
I think you're a really talented
musician.

CHARLIE
Well.... I just try my best.

ALAN
(to Charlie)
Are you at least going to introduce
me, or am I gonna just continue
standing here like a sore thumb?

CHARLIE
(sighs)
This idiot next to me is sadly my
brother, Alan

JESSICA
(shaking Alan's hand)
Nice to meet you. Are you part of
this class too?

ALAN

No way, I'm no loony. I mean, I just gave Charlie a ride because he dr--

Charlie elbows Alan in the ribs to stop him from finishing his sentence.

CHARLIE

-- He was just gonna say I drive him everywhere so he wanted to return the favour for once.

JESSICA

Aww, that's so nice of you.

(then)

This might be a little pushy, and you can shoot me down if you like, but I teach a class for aspiring musicians and I was wondering if you wouldn't mind coming along to say a few words?

CHARLIE

Oh, I don't know about that. I wouldn't really have much to say to them. I mean, I've got a lot going on, and besides it was only one song and it weren't that great.

JESSICA

Nonsense. That song you wrote was amazing.

ALAN

And nearly twenty years old.

JESSICA

So what? Musicians don't win awards for nothing.

(then)

Charlie, I would absolutely love it if you said yes.

CHARLIE

I don't know. The thing is I'm really busy these days.

Jessica looks sad, and Charlie suddenly has a lightbulb moment.

CHARLIE

Okay, I tell you what. Why don't you just give me your number and I'll call you to arrange something?

JESSICA

Really?! That would be amazing.

ALAN

Oh, look how that worked out.

Charlie glares at Alan before Jessica hands him her business card with her number on.

JESSICA

Okay, then. I best be off. I hope to hear from you soon.

CHARLIE

Yeah, I'll call you.

JESSICA

I look forward to it. Okay, bye.

CHARLIE

Bye.

Jessica walks off.

CHARLIE

Come on, Alan. Lets go.

ALAN

Oh, are we leaving?

CHARLIE

Yeah, it's kinda what happens when someone says goodbye. But I wouldn't expect you to get that considering you've never quite grasped the concept of leaving. Like you were only meant to stay with me for a few weeks. That was fifteen years ago!

INT. CHARLIE'S CAR - A FEW DAYS LATER

A nervous looking Charlie is sitting in the car with Alan, outside a large college with an even bigger campus. Lots of people are entering and exiting the building.

ALAN

Oh God, this brings back a lot of bad memories.

CHARLIE

What you going on about now?

ALAN

This place. It reminds me of school.

CHARLIE

Not all this again.

ALAN

It was a very traumatic time for me, Charlie. While you were off kissing girl after girl, I was getting my head flushed down toilets.

CHARLIE

Well, I blame you. You always bring out the worst in people. It's just your nature.

(then)

Now, enough about you. I'm nervous.

ALAN

What for?

CHARLIE

You know I don't like talking in front of people. Especially spotty know-it-all teenagers. What am I gonna do?

ALAN

Relax, everything will be fine. That's one thing that's always assured with you. Regardless of the predicament you find yourself in, you always come out of it smelling like roses. But me, I just keep smelling of crap.

CHARLIE

You're right, I just have to be myself.

(then)

How do I look?

ALAN

(without looking)

You look fine. And anyway, she's only asked you to speak at this music class of hers, it's not a date or anything.

CHARLIE

But if I play my cards right, anything is possible. Girls have always flocked to me like moths to a flame.

ALAN

Yeah, I know. I don't get it. But then again, I don't have a vagina.

CHARLIE

That might be the most disturbing thing I've ever heard you say.

ALAN

What am I even doing here anyway?

CHARLIE

I didn't wanna come alone.

ALAN

Didn't it occur to you that I may have things planned of my own to do today?

CHARLIE

Do you?

ALAN

No, but you didn't know for sure.

CHARLIE

I need you with me because I don't know what I'm getting myself into.

ALAN

I think I have a pretty good idea what, or rather who, you wanna get yourself into.

CHARLIE

You gotta stop reading all those dirty magazines, it's turning you into a creepy bastard.

INT. COLLEGE. MUSIC CLASS - A FEW MINUTES LATER

A class of about twenty aspiring musicians, all varying in age. Jessica and Charlie are stood at the front. Alan is looking on from the back of the room.

JESSICA

Okay, everyone. I have a very special surprise for you today.

One teenage boy, MATT, gets a very silly grin on his face.

MATT

Are you gonna take your top off?

Some of the others laugh.

JESSICA

Okay, okay. Enough of that. I would like you all to welcome one of America's finest musicians, Mr. Charlie Harper.

MATT

Who?

There's a mutter of applause.

CHARLIE

No need for all that. Okay, I'm not really sure what to say... I guess I could start by telling you that the music industry is one of the hardest professions in the world. Trust me, this will drive you to drink quicker than anything.

MATT

I can see why. If you sing like you talk, I'd wanna drink too.

JESSICA

Matt, that's enough.

CHARLIE

No, it's fine. Shows the kid's got guts. Just a shame about the brains.

Another student, a girl called AMY, speaks up.

AMY

Excuse me, are you the guy who wrote the Maple Loops song?

CHARLIE

(all cocky)

Uh-huh. You a fan?

AMY.

No, I thought it was crap.

Alan chuckles to himself in the background.

CHARLIE

Everyone's a critic these days.

JESSICA

Okay, anyone else have a question for Mr. Harper?

A nerdy-looking guy, CARL, in a sweater vest puts his hand up.

JESSICA

Yes, Carl?

CARL

(to Charlie)

What does it feel like to be a one hit wonder?

JESSICA

Okay, I think it's best we leave the questions for now.

CHARLIE

No, this is quite fun. I've never been insulted by a guy in a sweater vest before.

(to Carl)

Judging by your taste in clothes, I'm guessing you still live in the same bedroom you've had since you were a child. The walls covered in Star Wars posters, and your shelves filled with chess trophies that your mom promised would attract the girls, but we all know that was a lie. You've probably never even felt the touch of a woman, have you? And no, your mother don't count.

Carl starts to cry. Alan puts his head in his hands.

CHARLIE

Not so easy to take the hits back, is it?

JESSICA

You know, I really think it's best if we stop the questions for today.

CHARLIE

(shrugs)

You're the boss.

END OF ACT
ONE.

ACT TWOEXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - SHORT TIME LATER

Charlie and Jessica are standing together, talking. Alan can be seen in the parked car near the entrance.

JESSICA

Thanks again for doing this. I think they got a lot from it, I certainly did.

(then)

I know they can be a tough bunch, but I thought you did a great job. But there is something I wanted to ask you.

CHARLIE

Ask away.

JESSICA

What made you want to become a musician in the first place?

CHARLIE

It's a long story. I don't have much planned for tonight if you wanted to listen to it over dinner? Just a thought.

(quick as a sharp)

You have really beautiful eyes, by the way.

JESSICA

(laughs)

You're a real charmer, aren't you?

CHARLIE

I just say what I see. So, how about it? Maybe we could go back to my place afterwards, too? Gotta be better than your friend's sofa.

JESSICA

It's a nice thought and I'm really flattered, but honestly I don't know. My life is just too complicated at the moment. Just three weeks ago I was picking out venues for my wedding, and now I'm sleeping on my friend's sofa. My life is a whirlwind, and I need to get it in order before I even think about anything else. I don't believe getting involved with someone else right now is such a good idea.

CHARLIE

Ah, I see.

JESSICA

I hope you understand. Maybe we can do it some other time? Preferably when I'm not a walking time-bomb.

CHARLIE

I guess, but like I said before, I'm a busy guy. I'll see you round.

Charlie heads off towards the car.

JESSICA

Yeah.... I hope so.

Jessica enters the college.

INT. CHARLIE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Charlie enters the car with a face like thunder, slamming the door shut.

ALAN

So, did you ask her out?
(off Charlie's look)
Don't tell me she turned the
almighty Charlie Harper down?

CHARLIE

You don't have to look so smug
about it. Just drive.

Alan can't wipe the smirk off his face as he starts the car. He begins to drive off as Charlie looks back at the college. Suddenly, he grabs Alan's arm.

CHARLIE

Stop the car. I gotta do something.

ALAN

(stopping the car)
Charlie, she's already turned you
down. What do you want, a second
opinion?

CHARLIE

Charlie Harper doesn't give up.
It's time for me to make some
lemonade.

INT. COLLEGE. MUSIC CLASS - FEW MOMENTS LATER

Jessica is speaking to her class.

JESSICA

Okay, for our next assignment I want you to write a chorus. It can be about whatever you want, but I need to feel it has come from the heart.

Charlie enters the room. Everyone stares at him.

JESSICA

Charlie?

Charlie looks around the class, and then at Jessica. He has suddenly lost his nerve.

CHARLIE

(to himself)

This is a lot easier when you're drunk.

(then)

Uh.... I just wanted to tell the class to always remember their good punctuation when writing music.

JESSICA

Yeah, that's good advice....

CHARLIE

It's invaluable. I forgot to mention it earlier, what with all the questions and all.

(then)

Alright then, take care. And remember to follow your heart when writing.

MATT

You're a loser.

CHARLIE

(getting in Matt's face)

Another cute remark. One more like that and you get a slap from me for free.

(to Jessica)

Only kidding. You got a great class. Okay then, bye.

JESSICA

Bye.

Charlie exits, as Jessica smiles.

MATT

Do you fancy him?

JESSICA

That's none of your business. Now start your assignments.

MATT
(to the class)
Yeah, she likes him.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE. FRONT ROOM - NIGHT

Charlie is sitting on the sofa, a slew of alcoholic beverages fill the coffee table. He grabs one of the bottles and starts to drink it. Alan enters through the front door, shocked at what he sees.

ALAN
Charlie, what the hell is all this?!

CHARLIE
(clearly drunk)
Did you know that Berta makes deliveries now? Berta's such a sweet girl.

ALAN
Charlie, what the hell are you doing?!

CHARLIE
I'm having my dinner, what does it look like?

ALAN
Is it your last dinner? For God sake, Charlie! One woman turns you down and you turn into your old self again!

CHARLIE
Just leave me alone, Alan.

ALAN
I wouldn't be a very good brother if I did that.

Alan grabs the bottle out of Charlie's hands and, without thinking, smashes it onto the floor.

CHARLIE
Hey! What the hell are you playing at?!

ALAN
I don't know, but I do know I'm doing it for your own good. You don't wanna go down this road again, Charlie.

CHARLIE
You do know there's a table full of drinks there, right?

ALAN

I'll smash every single one of them if I have to. You don't wanna become the old Charlie again. The old Charlie sucked.

CHARLIE

Well, I was quite fond of the old Charlie, thank you very much. And I don't know why you're making such a big deal, I'm only having a few drinks.

ALAN

A few drinks? Charlie, breweries stock less alcohol than this!

CHARLIE

She turned me down right to my face, Alan. I've never experienced that before. No one has ever rejected me. I'm Charlie Harper, I'm supposed to do the rejecting.

ALAN

I guess now you know how it feels to be me.

CHARLIE

I wouldn't say that. I still have my pride.

ALAN

(sarcastic)

Looks like it.

CHARLIE

I headed straight back into that class ready to make her an offer she couldn't refuse, but I froze and said something stupid about writing from the heart instead. It's her fault for knocking me off my game.

ALAN

You really talked about writing from the heart? The guy who wrote the Maple Loops song?

CHARLIE

Shut up.

ALAN

Oh, come on Charlie. You're not a young man any more. You're not as desirable to women as you used to be. Younger guys are taking your
(MORE)

ALAN (cont'd)
place, that's just the circle of
life.

CHARLIE
(sarcastic)
If you're trying to cheer me up,
it's not working.

ALAN
Anyway, why are you so hung up on
this Jessica woman? You usually
just go from one girl to the next
without even bothering to learn
their name.

CHARLIE
I don't know. I can't explain it.
All I've done since I met her is
think about her. I can't stop
thinking about her. Day and night.
I'm crazy about her.

ALAN
You got the crazy part nailed down
anyway. You know, I was like this
when I met Hannah. I genuinely
thought we were going to spend the
rest of our lives together. But
sadly God had other ideas. May she
rest in peace.

CHARLIE
Alan, don't go poisoning any of
this romantic stuff with the talk
of marriage.

END OF ACT
TWO.

ACT THREEINT. CHURCH - SEVERAL DAYS LATER

Another anger management meeting is in progress. Jessica is addressing the group. Charlie is absent.

JESSICA

The truth is, I guess I use anger as a source of comfort. It's the only thing I've ever known. You know, no one forced me to jam a fork into my sister's hand over the last bit of spaghetti as kids, or repeatedly ram a cab driver's head into the steering wheel when he wouldn't let me in because I was two cents short. But the point is, I made those decisions and I regret them deeply now.

Everyone applauds.

JESSICA

Okay, I think that's enough from me for another week. Would anyone else like to share?

A man in his sixties stands up, and Jessica gives him the floor. As the guy begins speaking, Jessica checks her watch and looks out of the window, presumably wondering where Charlie is.

INT. CHARLIE'S CAR - SAME TIME

Alan pulls up outside the church with Charlie.

ALAN

You're really a glutton for punishment, you know that? What are you even gonna say to her this time?

CHARLIE

I don't know yet, but I'll think of something. I can't let her slip through my fingers. Now, come on.

ALAN

Why have I gotta come in with you?

CHARLIE

I need a distraction if this goes wrong, and you're the perfect foil.

ALAN

Am I just a pawn in your game of life?

CHARLIE
Pretty much, yeah.

They exit the car.

INT. CHURCH - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

The man is still speaking when Charlie and Alan enter. Jessica sees them and smiles at Charlie. He gives her a little wave. She heads to the back of the room to speak to him.

JESSICA
I didn't think you were gonna
bother showing up.

CHARLIE
Did you miss me? I know I'm your
favourite here.

JESSICA
I don't have a favourite.

CHARLIE
But if you did, I'd be top of the
list, right?

She laughs.

CHARLIE
Can we talk outside?

JESSICA
Sure.

CHARLIE
(to Alan)
We won't be long.

ALAN
Charlie, what am I supposed to do
here?

CHARLIE
You're surrounded by a bunch of
lunatics, you'll fit right in.

Charlie and Jessica exit.

EXT. CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

As they exit:

JESSICA
What's wrong?

CHARLIE
Uh... Well... Here's the thing...
(MORE)

CHARLIE (cont'd)
(doesn't know what to say
again)

Did you know there's some rock
concert taking place this weekend?

JESSICA

Yes, I had heard about it, and I'd
have loved to have gone, but
tickets sold out quick.

CHARLIE

I can get tickets, no problem. If
you fancy coming with me? Only as
friends though, of course.

JESSICA

Just friends?

CHARLIE

You have my word. Come on, how
often do you get the chance to
watch a rock concert with an
award-winning musician?

Jessica laughs. Suddenly, a car SCREECHES to a halt in front
of them. Inside is a stressed looking tattooed woman called
BELINDA, wearing next to nothing. Charlie likes what he
sees, but quickly snaps himself out of it. Belinda winds
down the window to speak to Jessica.

BELINDA.

Jess! We gotta go! Come on!

JESSICA

What? Why? What's happened?

BELINDA.

I haven't got time to explain.
We're losing valuable seconds. We
gotta get back to the apartment.
Now, come on!

JESSICA

Alright, calm down.
(to Charlie)
I'm so sorry, I gotta leave.

CHARLIE

It's fine, go.

She rushes off into the car. Charlie watches her go.

INT. CHURCH - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Charlie re-enters the church and is surprised to see Alan
talking to the group.

ALAN

So then, Charlie got so drunk that he took all of his clothes off and began climbing the street light like some monkey. He started swinging from the top of it, while his "banana" swung back and forth in the wind. He eventually slid back down, and then passed out on the front lawn for the rest of the night. The mailman had a nasty shock the next morning, I can tell you.

Everyone laughs. Charlie walks up to Alan.

ALAN

Oh, Charlie. I didn't see you there.

Charlie looks at Alan, then surprises his brother by wrapping him in a big hug.

CHARLIE

(whispers to Alan)

Don't ever talk about me behind my back again.

He gives his brother one almighty wedgie, and Alan screams out in shock and pain.

INT. CHARLIE'S CAR - A SHORT TIME LATER

Charlie and Alan are driving down the street when they suddenly see Jessica and Belinda fighting with two teenage kids.

CHARLIE

What the hell is this? Stop the car.

ALAN

What?

CHARLIE

Stop the car. We gotta help.

ALAN

(stopping the car)

I was thinking the complete opposite, but it's your car.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Charlie and Alan get out of the car.

CHARLIE

(shouting)

Hey!

The teenagers look at him, and leg it. Belinda goes after them.

CHARLIE
Alan, get after them.

ALAN
Hey?!

Charlie gives him a stern look, and Alan backs down.

ALAN
Fine, but if I get hurt I'm blaming you.

CHARLIE
Just go. I'm sure that woman will protect you.

Alan goes chasing after the teenagers as Charlie goes to check on Jessica.

CHARLIE
Are you okay?

JESSICA
I've been better.

CHARLIE
Are they robbers?

JESSICA
Something like that.

CHARLIE
Don't worry, my brother will catch them for you. He may not look it, but he can be quite the tough guy when he wants to be.
(then)
So, have you had time to think about my offer for that trip to the concert?

JESSICA
(laughs)
You sure do have good timing.
(then)
Yeah, okay. I'd love to, but only as friends.

CHARLIE
Of course. I'll pick you up tomorrow night around 8, if that's okay?

JESSICA
Sounds good to me.

They smile at each other. Alan then comes running back down the street SCREAMING as the teenagers chase him, while Belinda runs after them with a bat in hand. Charlie can't believe what he's seeing. He just shakes his head in disbelief.

END OF ACT
THREE.

TAGEXT. ROCK CONCERT VENUE - NIGHT

Charlie and Jessica, both dressed nicely, are standing together outside the venue in line waiting to go in.

JESSICA

So, who you looking forward to seeing?

CHARLIE

I don't really mind, I just hope it's a good night. And it will be because I'm with you.

JESSICA

Aww, that's sweet, but what happened to just friends?

CHARLIE

I blame you for looking so incredibly gorgeous. I only have so much will power.

Jessica laughs.

Suddenly, an ELDERLY MAN walks up to Charlie and Jessica, and shoves them completely out of the way before taking their place in line. Charlie and Jessica stare at each other in disbelief.

JESSICA

(tapping the man on the shoulder)

Excuse me. I'm sorry, but you just took our place in the queue, and basically assaulted us in the process.

ELDERLY MAN

Um, no. I don't think so. You must be mistaken.

JESSICA

I'm very much not mistaken. In fact, I got the bruise to prove it. We were standing right where you are now when you pushed us straight out of the way.

ELDERLY MAN

I don't think so.

JESSICA

(to Charlie)

Can you take over? I'm so close to exploding right now.

CHARLIE

(to the elderly man)

Excuse me, what my friend is trying to say is that we were waiting in the queue when you arrived.

ELDERLY MAN

Well, it looked like you were just talking. So I thought--

CHARLIE

-- Oh, you thought, did you? Yeah, well that didn't really work out too well for you, did it? You idiot!! What are you?! A moron! Huh?! We were standing right there! Okay?! Look where you're going next time!! Don't just go bumping into people like some Stevie Wonder wannabe!

ELDERLY MAN

I'm sorry, I didn't know.

CHARLIE

Oh, stop with the excuses and get out of here!!

The elderly man staggers away.

CHARLIE

(to Jessica, calmly)

So, do you have a favourite artist?

JESSICA

Oooh, I don't know. Too many to choose from.

CHARLIE

Say, what's your favourite song of all time, apart from mine of course?

JESSICA

Oooh, I don't know that one either. I do like Mamma Mia. I love a good song I can dance to.

CHARLIE

That is a good song.

They enter the venue as we:

FADE OUT.

END OF
EPISODE.