

# Better Days

Episode 2  
"Pop Up & Go"

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FADE IN:

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Jason and Barbara sit on the futon, Barbara with her feet on Jason's lap. Jason rubs them.

JASON

You know Kenny will eat this up with jokes about how we love each other and all that.

BARBARA

I know but who cares what he thinks.

JASON

We just can't stay mad at each other, all of these years we've been friends.

BARBARA

So, what are you going to do?

JASON

About what?

BARBARA

Work.

JASON

Who knows, it's not as easy as just walking outside and someone gives you a job, it doesn't work that way in this competitive world.

BARBARA

Ask Kenny, his father would probably give you a job if Kenny asked.

JASON

Yeah, but I don't know if I actually want to work in a hardware store. I don't even know the difference between a hacksaw and a jigsaw.

BARBARA

I thought all men secretly loved tools, hmm... Guess we always learn new things.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JASON

Yeah.

BARBARA

So, I probably know more about tools than you?

JASON

Yeah.

BARBARA

That's sad. You think we should tell Kenny that we're not fighting anymore?

JASON

No, he'll find out eventually so until than screw it.

Jason continues rubbing her feet, she relaxes.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Jason and Barbara stand in mid floor, a slow love song plays and they both slowly begin to undress.

JASON

I love you.

BARBARA

This isn't about love.

Jason now only dressed in his shiny happy face boxers, Barbara in a black bra and skimpy panties. Jason drops his boxers to the floor and his lower half is pixilated, Barbara stares at it with her mouth open.

JASON

It's cold in here.

BARBARA

(Points to his crotch)

Look.

Jason looks down to see the problem.

JASON

Holy s\*\*t, what the f\*\*k is going on here? Are we prime time cable actors? Is this a soap opera?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARBARA

We can't be in a soap opera, we don't talk to ourselves to give the audience the story.

JASON

What if we do but don't know it.  
(Beat)  
Mother f\*\*ker.

BARBARA (V.O.)

I don't know what it is but those squares around his penis are hot.

JASON

What?

BARBARA

I didn't say anything.

JASON

Yes, you did. You said "My penis is square."

BARBARA

Why would I say that?

JASON

I don't know but it's not nice to make fun of my current... Situation.

BARBARA

Sorry..?

Jason still nude and pixilated drops to his knees, he pumps his fists and cries out.

JASON

No! I want to be a real boy.

He continues pumping his fists.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jason sits up in his futon sweating with a horrified look on his face.

JASON

Oh, thank god. It was only a dream.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jason looks down the front of his pants and than sighs in relief.

JASON (CONT'D)  
I have to stop watching Days of  
Our Lives... Every weekday at one.

Jason winks into the camera and lies back down.

INT. BASEMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

Everything is dark, a clock reads 1:00am. The soft light of a computer screen softly lights the corner of the room, Jason sits in front of it.

Close Up: The computer screen

On the screen is a chat room, a bunch of names show up on screen in a conversation when a pop up add comes up in the center of the screen.

JASON (O.S.)  
Shit!

He closes the pop up and than another comes up over to the left, he smacks the side of the computer and pulls it back in pain.

JASON (CONT'D)  
Stupid piece of shit.

Hundreds of pop ups now fill the screen as Jason frantically tries to delete them but isn't quick enough, he pulls the plug and disappears in the darkness of the room.

FADE OUT:

Opening Sequence

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Close Up:

An earwig slowly makes its way across the floor.

Jason pours himself a cup of Dr. Zip cola, than places the bottle back in the refrigerator and closes the door.

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CONTINUED:

Jason stops and looks down at the earwig.

JASON  
Hello, Mr. Earwig.

Jason picks up a Kleenex box and looks at it.

JASON (CONT'D)  
Mr. Earwig, meet Mr. Kleenex box.

Jason crushes the earwig with the side of the box and puts it back.

INT. BASEMENT - MORNING

Jason sits on his futon, grabs his phone and dials.

JASON  
Hey, Kenny, man. Call me back.  
I'll be home until later, okay  
bye.

Jason turns on the radio.

RADIO DJ  
This is Dj Fresh Boots and today  
we will have for you an exclusive  
interview with controversial new  
rapper Pimp Daddy Rain and a  
sample of his new song "Bitches on  
my dick, yall" Every other station  
has black balled this man but I  
will play it because frankly I  
don't care.

Jason laughs to himself, his father comes down and sits beside him.

JOHN  
They lost.

John shakes his head, Jason mutes the radio.

JASON  
Who?

JOHN  
My team, they lost.

JASON  
Why don't you watch real sports?

(CONTINUED)

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John pauses for a few moments to look at Jason.

JOHN

I never told you this but I have been betting on the games for ten years now, I probably have fifty thousand dollars hidden away in banks so your mother couldn't screw us.

JASON

So, I don't have to work?

JOHN

No, but I'd like you to anyway so that you can have some money when I'm gone.

JASON

I have to be honest as well, I don't actually have a job. I got fired months ago.

JOHN

Then where have you been going every day?

JASON

Hanging out with Barbie and Kenny around town.

JOHN

Don't you ever get tired of that deadbeat jailbird? I mean he has probably had more sex in the few months in prison than I have ever with your mom.

JASON

Dad, too much information for me to take this early.

JOHN

Why was he in prison anyway?

JASON

It's a long story.

JOHN

Are you going out today?

JASON

Probably, how come?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN

I was going to watch the game down here and tape football upstairs.

JASON

Yeah, that's fine. I'm just waiting for Kenny to call back.

John gets up.

JOHN

Well, have a good day and let's see if we can't get a job today, yeah?

JASON

I'll try.

John leaves, Jason turns the radio back on.

RADIO DJ

In a perfect world the legal age of consent would be fifteen, if you think about it they are already fucking preteen and well this way there wouldn't be so many "rapists" running around. You just can't tell anymore whose who and I'm tired of getting a boner and hiding it because the girl may not be eighteen, god for bid.

Jason smiles.

INT. KENS TOOLS - DAY

Inside the store are five separate aisles of different products, at the front of the store by the entrance/exit is a teller booth with Ken Sr. Behind it.

In an aisle Kenny holds an electric hand drill as if it were a gun, he begins making shooting noises.

KENNY

(Deep Voice)

Come with me if you want to live.

He continues making the firing noises as Ken Sr. joins him in the aisle.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KEN SR.

Stop doing that, you could scare away my customers and than I'd have to fire you.

KENNY

I'm a grown man, dad. I would stop if I felt it was inappropriate and frankly I don't think it is.

KEN SR.

You're using a power tool as a gun and pretending there's a girl to save. Men don't act like that, son.

KENNY

Why didn't you just say that than?

KEN SR.

I did.

KENNY

No, you said "Stop doing that, you are scaring the customers away" or something like that but still it's patronizing.

KEN SR.

Please don't start or I'll fire you...

Jason enters the aisle.

KEN SR. (CONT'D)

Oh, great. It's you.

JASON

Yeah.

KEN SR.

So, why is the other stooge here today? Where is the other stooge, Baby Spice?

JASON

Barbie? She's at work.

They stand there for a few moments in silence.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KEN SR.

Hey, I have an idea. Since you're always hanging out in here and bothering the customers why don't you just collect a paycheck and help them without annoying me?

JASON

Are you offering me a job?

KENNY

Yeah, are you offering him a job?

KEN SR.

Yeah, why not. How about it Jason?

JASON

Sure.

KEN SR.

Okay. Make yourself useful. Grab a tool and be James Bond like Connery over here.

Ken Sr. Walks away leaving Jason and Kenny alone.

KENNY

So, why are you really here?

JASON

My computer screwed up, just needed to waste time before meeting Barbie.

Kenny laughs out loud.

KENNY

You guys talking again already? I knew it, you're whipped.

Kenny makes the whipping noise and starting dancing around.

JASON

She's smart and knows stuff, face it. We need her.

KENNY

I'll give you that, but come on man, show some sack.

JASON

She came running back to me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

KENNY

You probably called her ten minutes after I left last night, didn't you?

JASON

No.

KENNY

Yeah, right. Anyway help me put some of this crap away and then you can go play with your girlfriend.

They begin putting away stock.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Barbara works at the computer, Jason comes down the stairs and sees her.

BARBARA

Let me guess, you forgot?

JASON

Yeah, sorry.

BARBARA

Don't worry about it.

Barbara gets up, flicks off the screen and turns to Jason.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

There. That should stop all of those pop ups and keep your PC clean.

JASON

Cool, thanks.

BARBARA

Don't mention it.

They sit on the futon, Jason turns the Television on to "Days Of Our Lives"

BARBARA (CONT'D)

How's your day been going?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JASON

Ah. You know, I got a job. That's cool, I guess.

BARBARA

Kenny finally asked senior for you?

JASON

No, senior asked me himself. He was like "Since you're always here why not collect a paycheck" and I was all like really? And he was like "Yeah" and I was like...

BARBARA

Okay, okay, I get it. So, is he still calling us the three stooges?

JASON

Yeah.

BARBARA

I couldn't imagine being any of them, they're men for one and they're all ugly.

JASON

Yeah.

BARBARA

I think you're hot.

JASON

Yeah. Wait, what?

BARBARA

I knew it, you were not even listening.

JASON

Yes, I was. It's just that comment caught me off guard.

BARBARA

Yeah, right. You don't listen to me but expect me to listen to your problems, typical male.

JASON

Oh, blow me. It's not like you listen to me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BARBARA

Really? How about the time you pulled me away from a customer at the barber shop saying "My penis is broken" and it was just a pimple. Or how about...

JASON

Okay, you made your point.

BARBARA

No, my point is that you are incapable of listening and storing vital information like the rest of us.

JASON

I know that you're a girl.

BARBARA

I'm a woman, Jason. Girls wear belly tops and attract older men.

JASON

Whatever.

BARBARA

You know I'm right.

JASON

Yes, you are right.

BARBARA

I was watching this program about the wonders of monogamy and that Celebrities must be really bad at this, don't you think?

JASON

I'm not that good at it myself, too much thinking involved.

BARBARA

What?

JASON

All that buying and selling of property and little metal pieces that always get lost, it's a bitch and I hate it.

BARBARA

What are you on about?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JASON

Monopoly, why?

BARBARA

I said monogamy, dumb ass.

JASON

Well, what the fuck is that?

BARBARA

It's the practice of having only one partner for a long time or life.

JASON

Isn't that just marriage?

BARBARA

Not really, you can cheat in marriage. Monogamy is like a lifestyle to always be faithful to one person.

JASON

I see.

Jason places his hand on his chin listening closely.

INT. KENS TOOLS - DAY

Ken Sr. walks out from the back area.

KEN SR.

Jason? Kenny? Where are you guys?

Kenny walks in the front door.

KEN SR. (CONT'D)

Where were you?

KENNY

Uh...

KEN SR.

Where's the other stooge?

Kenny scratches his head.

KEN SR. (CONT'D)

Christ, first day on the job and he's already skipping work?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNY

He had some important business to attend to.

KEN SR.

You guys are testing my last nerve here, this is coming out of your pay. Keep Larry in check or I'll fire the two of you.

KENNY

He'll be right back, he's probably right down the street.

Kenny walks over to the door and looks out.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Jason walks out holding a chocolate milk carton, he opens it "Moo" echoes out scaring Jason enough to drop the carton to the ground spilling his chocolate milk everywhere.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

The Clerk mops the floor, Jason enters carrying the half empty carton.

CLERK

What do you want now?

JASON

Stupid thing moosed and I dropped it.

CLERK

What do you want me to do about that?

JASON

Give me my money back and do it fast because I have to get back to work.

CLERK

No refunds. You know this, Jason.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JASON

You can't sell faulty "milk"

CLERK

It's not faulty, you just won something.

JASON

I did?

Jason holds the carton up looking at it.

JASON (CONT'D)

Cool, how do I collect my prize?

CLERK

There's probably a number to call on the carton.

JASON

Cool. What can you win?

CLERK

Things like a car or a lot of money and things of that nature. Now please, get out of the store, unlike you I have to work for a living.

Jason leaves, The Clerk goes back to work.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

John sits at the table reading the paper, Jason bursts through the door with the carton in hand and heads over to the phone.

JOHN

What the... You got my smokes?

Jason dials the number.

JASON

No.

JOHN

You're kidding right?

JASON

Sorry, I forgot.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN

I ask for one simple thing, it's not that hard.

(Beat)

I need one of those Cash For Life tickets anyway, I'll go myself.

John drops the paper onto the table and leaves.

JASON

(Into Phone)

Three weeks? Why do I have to wait so long...? Okay, yeah. Fine...  
Bye.

Jason hangs up the phone and sits in a chair, he checks the clock on the wall.

JASON (CONT'D)

Shit!

He jumps up and rushes out the door leaving it open.

A homeless man walks in, he looks around expecting someone to be home. He waits for a few seconds and goes into the refrigerator.

INT. KENS TOOLS - DAY

Kenny and Jason sit across from each other in one of the aisles, customers walk over there legs and shake their heads.

KENNY

What, I am a good hard working member of society.

MALE CUSTOMER

If it was a lazy ass bitch society, maybe.

KENNY

What did you just call me?

Kenny gets to his feet and in the man's face.

KENNY (CONT'D)

Say that again punk, I'll slap the bitch out of you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JASON

Man, don't start.

MALE CUSTOMER

Listen to your boyfriend, you can't win this battle.

KENNY

The customer is always right, right?

MALE CUSTOMER

If that's how you wanna see it, than yes.

Jason holds Kenny back as the customer walks away down the aisle taunting him.

KENNY

Fucking Sasquatch.

(Beat)

Get off me, I'm fine.

Kenny pushes Jason off and goes back to work.

JASON

You shouldn't let people get to you like that, unless you want to go back to jail.

KENNY

No, but people like that prick make it worth it. Why are you always being so nice?

JASON

I'm not... It's just...

KENNY

It's what you do, you're soft.

JASON

That's what makes us such good pals, man.

KENNY

I'm the strong one and the smart one and what are you again?

JASON

The glue that holds you together. I'm your Gilligan.

Kenny and Jason continue working.

CONTINUED: (2)

INT. KENS TOOLS - BACK AREA - DAY

Jason and Kenny sort through inventory, Ken Sr. joins them in the back.

KEN SR.

What is wrong with you guys?

They stop and look at him, Kenny shrugs his shoulders.

KENNY

We're doing our jobs.

KEN SR.

Yes, you are and I thank you for that but who's on the floor waiting to help customers?

KENNY

Uhh... You?

KEN SR.

No, it's supposed to be one of you two stooges.

KENNY

Oh, okay. I think we get the point.

KEN SR.

Yeah, thanks. It's not like I'm asking you to do much.

Jason smiles and slips by Ken Sr. out onto the floor.

INT. BAR - LATER THAT NIGHT

Jason and Kenny sit at the bar on stools, they knock back beer as they talk.

JASON

Man, I had this crazy ass dream about Barbie last night.

KENNY

What kind of dream? Please, tell me it wasn't sexual.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JASON

It was... Kinda.

KENNY

Oh god, I'm shocked... No, not really.

JASON

But that wasn't even the worst part of the dream, we got naked and our body parts were blocked out and my swearing was beeped. Almost like we were on prime time television.

KENNY

What she look like naked?

JASON

Blurry.

KENNY

That's what I thought.

JASON

What?

KENNY

Your dream, it sucks. If that is the range of your dreams than you really need a life, fast. Here is a better story that is almost pathetic. Today, I got stuck in line behind these two happy go lucky fathers who just talked about there babies endlessly and how they can now walk and all that boring shit. Anyway that got me to thinking "No, they can walk now you idiots, they can now get into everything." Stupid people in this world we live in, I'm telling you.

JASON

I think my story was better.

KENNY

Yours was a dream, mine actually happened. I actually had to stand behind those idiots and listen to them yap, I hope you never get like that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JASON

You mean have children and talk  
about it endlessly?

KENNY

Yes.

JASON

Okay.

(Beat)

I have something to tell you but I  
need you to promise not to mention  
it to anyone until I know for  
sure. Will you keep a secret?

KENNY

Yeah, what is it?

Two hot girls, one blonde and a brunette dressed in  
skimpy black skirts and halter tops interrupt their  
conversation.

GIRLS (TOGETHER)

Hi, boys.

BLONDE

Wanna have some fun with us?

KENNY

Not really, you just interrupted  
our conversation.

BLONDE

Whatever asshole.

She scoffs, they flip their hair back over there  
shoulders and walk away.

KENNY

Hooker! Slut! Tramp! Go back to  
your pimp and tell him to invest  
in some manners and maybe an  
education.

Kenny Takes a sip of his beer, waits for everyone to stop  
looking and...

KENNY (CONT'D)

So, tell me.

JASON

You just ran off two hot women to  
hear my secret? We could have  
gotten laid.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

KENNY

We can buy ass like that any day of the week, you can only tell me a secret once. Now get talking.

JASON

Okay, well today I bought some chocolate milk from the convenience store and it freakin' moored. I was pissed thinking they tainted it and all but in actual fact I won something, possibly a cash prize of one point five million dollars.

KENNY

That's fucking awesome brother, some people get all the luck and I'm glad it's you and not some stupid fat old house wife in Texas with three nipples.

JASON

Thanks... I think.

KENNY

Now aren't you glad we passed up them hookers for that? I sure am.

JASON

I guess.

KENNY

I'm hungry, lets go get some burgers.

FADE TO BLACK.

**...THE END...**

END OF EPISODE 2, STAY TUNED FOR THE NEXT EPISODE.