

THE LIFE OF RILEY
by
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FADE IN:

EXT. MAIN STREET ROME NORTH DAKOTA - DAY

A sign on an ivy-covered building reads: "HARRY`s PET SHOP", it is old and rusted. The "H" of HARRY`s leans to one side, hanging by a thread.

INT. HARRY`s PET SHOP - DAY

MICHAEL RILEY(MICKEY), average looking guy, with all the characteristics of Eeyore the donkey, strides down the aisles of the Pet Shop stopping to look, wave and smile at every animal just as he does every morning, kind of like a ritual.

MICKEY

How`s my little bunny wunnies? You
all look so cutsie wutsie as always.

(to his fish)

How`s my fishy wishies? All swimming
around in their tankie wankies.

JAMES RILEY(JIMMY), born and bred Irishman, looking and acting like old Irishmen do. His wrinkled face to his careless manner suggests he doesn`t give a damn about anything.

He kicks back on an old torn leather office chair, tapping the counter furiously as if he needs something.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Is there some sort of problem? Despite
the fact that you're sober.

The phone rings.

Jimmy refuses to pick it up, acting like nothing's happening.

Mickey is watching in fury and holds his hands up in the air.

Jimmy glances up at Mickey, puts one hand on the phone and slides it forward to the edge of the counter.

The phone stops ringing.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Do you have any interest at all? I
mean anything. Your brother cared
for this store, he cared for the
animals.

(picking up a puppy)

Isn`t that right Poopsie.

Jimmy leaps up from his chair in a dramatic fashion.

JIMMY

It was his last dying wish that I
look after you and this shithole,
the selfish bastard! I have my own
life.

He drops back down on the chair again catching his breath.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Harry had no life, just like you. He
was always depressed, just like you;
and apparently unlike me, he had the
Irish curse. Well, you know the
rest.

MICKEY

I don't have a small penis, thank
you very much.

Mickey strolls over to a parrot; it belonged to his father.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Talk to me Harry, who was daddy's
favorite bird? Give me an intelligent
conversation, that doesn't involve
my penis.

HARRY THE PARROT

Pog mo thoin, pog mo thoin.

Mickey gives Jimmy the evil eye.

His face starts to turn red with anger, as he clutches his
fists and raises his voice.

MICKEY

Pog mo thoin! You taught my parrot
to say "kiss my ass" in Irish. Sweet
Jesus!

Jimmy marches over to where Mickey is standing.

JIMMY

Number one, I was showing an interest.
Number two, don't ever take the Lord's
name in vain, or God save you I'll
come down on you like a ton of bricks
and number three, at least somebody
else speaks Irish around here.

MICKEY

Number one, I wanted you to get an
interest in something else in life,
rather than the bottom of a whiskey
bottle.

(MORE)

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Number two I will make a personal apology to the Lord himself as I do every Sunday every week and number three, the reason I don't speak Irish nor did I attempt to learn it, is that I just thought it wouldn't be very useful here in North Dakota. Its not even the first language in Ireland!

JIMMY

You disrespect me, you disrespect the Lord and you disrespect the old country. If your Dad was alive, he'd be turning in his grave.

Mickey with a blank stare, puts his hands over his face and shakes his head. He repeatedly slaps his own face with his hands.

The bell rings from the pet shop door, Mickey and Jimmy look up to see their first customer of the day.

A little boy around eight years old enters, he looks like he wouldn't be out of place in the Little Rascals.

MICKEY

Hi there, can I help you with something?

LITTLE BOY

I need a bunny rabbit.

Mickey walks the boy over to the rabbits.

MICKEY

Which color would you like, we have this little black one, or this white one, or my favorite this cutesy wutesy brown one I call "Fluffster".

Mickey holds the brown rabbit up to his face, giving him Eskimo kisses, the rabbit's back legs kick excitedly.

Jimmy shoves one finger down his throat as if to hurl, the boy laughs at Jimmy.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Just ignore him, he hasn't had his meds yet. Well, have you decided which one you would like?

LITTLE BOY

Honestly, I don't think my python gives a shit, they all taste the same to him, although Fluffster does look the fattest.

Jimmy tries to keep his cool, but can barely restrain his laughter.

JIMMY

Take the parrot too, he tastes like chicken.

MICKEY

Get out Jimmy!

Mickey grabs the boy by the arm and drags him out the door.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

These rabbits are not for sale.

LITTLE BOY

What`s your problem?

JIMMY

He has a small penis.

LITTLE BOY

That`ll do it.

EXT. OUTSIDE PET SHOP - DAY

Mickey stands at the door and Jimmy slithers out behind him.

JIMMY

At least your dad could sell a pet or two, you need a miracle to keep this place alive.

Suddenly they hear a creaking sound, they look up to see the "H" of HARRY`s PET SHOP sign fall to the ground.

Jimmy leaps back in overacting theatrical mode.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Your Dad`s back to haunt me...

(waving to Mickey)

I'm off to Murphy`s, think you can handle all the customers on your own?

INT. MURPHY`S BAR - DAY

BRAD and BOB, just two ordinary looking guys, likeable, but with the brains of a mosquito, are rooted to two bar stools at the counter.

BRAD

I can`t believe it.

BOB

I know.

BRAD

You know what?

BOB

I know you can't believe it, neither can I.

BRAD

What can't you believe?

BOB

The same thing as you.

BRAD

Really, so you also can't believe that if you drop a penny from the Empire State Building, it would kill a person, if it landed on their head?

BOB

Yep, can't believe it.

A DRUNK man staggers in through the front door to the bar counter and confronts the bartender.

DRUNK

(slurring his speech)

I wanna Jack, straight up.

The Bartender is CHAD SMITH an illegal immigrant from China, who bought a social security card from Brad, speaks broken English and loves karaoke.

CHAD

Geet out! We do not serve dronks.

BOB

(looking at Brad)

The irony being that they serve sober people until they get drunk.

BRAD

Aha touche.

BOB

What?

BRAD

You know touche.

BOB

What's a touche?

BRAD

You know, when I say something smart, then you have an even smarter reply.

BOB

Aha...Only one problem though.

BRAD

What`s that?

BOB

You didn`t actually say anything first, for me to reply with a smarter answer.

BRAD

Aha touche.

Chad grabs hold of the drunk man by the scruff of his neck and throws him out the door.

Jimmy slips in past him and finds a seat next to Brad and Bob.

CHAD

Jimmy, wou you rike a dlink?

JIMMY

Are we gonna start the day off with stupid questions?

Brad and Bob both turn and face Jimmy, he tries to ignore them.

BOB

I have a stupid question for you Jimmy, If a man talks in the woods, is he still wrong?

JIMMY

Three things... Why are you both in here? Why aren`t you working? And why are you talking to me?

BRAD

(boozed up)

I will answer your questions in no specific order, cuz I can`t remember which came first...

(takes a sip of beer)

We are talking to you because you are Jimmy, the world famous Irish traveler and uncle of the our not so famous and very sad, depressive, stubborn, small penis friend Mickey.

Brad goes back to drinking his beer.

Jimmy waits impatiently for the other answers.

The drunk enters the bar again, this time through the side door.

DRUNK
 (slurring his speech)
 I wanna Jack Daniels... straight up.

CHAD
 I toll you awready, get out of here!

Chad grabs the drunk and throws him out the side door.

JIMMY
 (to himself)
 I don't know who I understand
 better...
 (to Brad and Bob)
 So are you going to tell me why you
 are not working and why you are here?

BRAD
 Well I received a phone call from my
 boss this morning, telling me I did
 such a great job yesterday that they
 have no need for me for the rest of
 the week.

Brad puts his hands behind his head and leans back.

BRAD (CONT'D)
 Sometimes you have it and sometimes
 you don't.

JIMMY
 Wow! There really is no beginning to
 your talents Brad.
 (to Bob)
 So what's your butt doing in here?

BOB
 Well it's a long story, it all started
 when --

JIMMY
 -- That's great Bob keep it to
 yourself, I stopped caring when I
 sat down.

The drunk returns through the back door, he stumbles over to
 the bar counter.

DRUNK
 Hey you, I wanna Jack Daniels straight
 up.

CHAD
 (shouting)
 I'm tires ov you, geet out!

DRUNK
 (stumbling around and
 wagging his finger)
 Holy shit, how many freaking bars do
 you work in?

Jimmy gets off his seat and helps Chad throw the drunk out.

He then sits back down while dusting himself off.

JIMMY
 Why don't you guys make yourself
 useful and get that nephew of mine
 out of that pet shop.

CHAD
 Bling him in here tonight...
 (singing)
 it's karaoke night.

BRAD
 Chad, you're the only one who sings.

CHAD
 I know, I dlive the radies klazy.

Bob pulls out his cell phone and starts punching in Mickey`s
 number .

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

Mickey is sweeping the floor and talking to his animals.

His cell phone rings, he puts his hand in his pocket and
 pulls it out, it's covered in cat hair, he starts picking
 off the hair.

INTERCUT - PET SHOP/MURPHY`S BAR

BOB
 Hey Mickey it`s Bob, are you coming
 down to Murphy`s for a wee drink?.

MICKEY
 Aren`t you supposed to be working?

BOB
 It`s a long story. It all started
 when --

MICKEY
 -- Sorry Bob, gotta go, I got a
 business to run.

BOB
 Well, you know where you can find
 us.

Jimmy, who as usual can't help himself, leans in towards Bob's conversation.

JIMMY

Tell the king of depression to wait for twenty minutes, then happy hour will be over. He can tell us all his wonderful stories about dog shit and dead fish.

MICKEY

Well there's the first reason why I'm not going over.

Brad leans in from the other side.

BRAD

Hey Mickey, you depressive, stubborn, Christian loving, pube for a penis jackass, get down here so we can make fun of you.

MICKEY

And there's the other. Good-bye Bob.

Mickey flips the phone shut, drops his forehead into his hands, rubs his eyes and sighs.

He steps outside onto Main Street.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

He looks to his right and then to his left, just a Shoe Store, a Taco Bell, Ted's Grocers and the Laundromat.

As he turns to the right again, he jumps.

A heavysset girl, SALLY appears. She is easy on the eye, but a very close talker.

SALLY

Yeah this town is just one big PMS circus.

MICKEY

Wow, where the hell did you come from?

SALLY

I was standing next to your pet shop.

MICKEY

No. No way I would have... I would have seen you... I mean not in a bad way, like I wouldn't have missed you or anything because your... you know horizontally challenged.

SALLY

Wow. You have a beautiful way with words, please do go on.

Sally takes one step forward so that she is now nose to nose with Mickey making serious eye contact.

MICKEY

Are you trying to sniff my brain?
You're a little on the close side,
don't you think?

Sally steps back two paces as a tear starts to trickle down her face.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I'm acting like an ass,
it's my friends and my uncle, they
have me all wired up. Were you looking
for a pet?

Mickey opens the door as wide as he can.

Sally responds by holding her breath and walking in sideways, doing it sarcastically as it was not required, she is not that big.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

SALLY

I'm sure you don't have the type of
pet I'm looking for.

MICKEY

I have a vast array of animals, fish,
dogs, cats, birds, bunnies...Please
feel free to look around the store.

SALLY

Do you have a dart frog?

MICKEY

No.

SALLY

Do you have a Brazilian wandering
spider?

MICKEY

No.

SALLY

Do you have a king cobra?

MICKEY

No. We used to.
(thinking)
Hmm... I wonder whatever happened.

Mickey starts trailing off in his own dreamworld.

SALLY
Hello, are you still there?

MICKEY
Oops sorry.

SALLY
Well, thanks for your patience.

Sally smiles and waves at Mickey, then strides sideways out the door.

INT MURPHY`S BAR - DAY

Brad and Bob are a little drunk, to say the least, they help each other off their bar stools.

BRAD
I think it`s time to go.

BOB
Yeah, let`s go see Mickey.

JIMMY
Oh I'm sure he'll be happy to see you two bums.

BOB
(really drunk)
You know something Jimmy, let me tell you something, that I'm going to tell you about something that I know that you don't know about your nephew. He`s kind of alright and if you had just a wee bit of heart in you, you`d notice it too.

BRAD
That was beautiful Bob, really touching.

BRAD (CONT'D)
(signaling to Chad)
We are out of here Chad, thank you for your wonderful service and delightful company and take this for your troubles.

Brad opens up his wallet and proudly pulls out a dollar bill which he throws onto the counter with a big smile, like he is doing something good.

CHAD
A dolra, tank you, now I can get that paper crisp I always wanted...
(MORE)

CHAD (CONT'D)

(shouting)

Prease come back tonight for karaoke,
there will be radies here and if you
bling your flend Mickey, ter him to
reave sad face outside.

Brad and Bob stumble out off the bar and hail a taxi.

EXT. OUTSIDE PET SHOP - EVENING

Mickey closes the pet shop and gets in his fiat pinto and drives home. His parrot is in a cage in the passenger seat with a seat belt around it.

He pulls up to his two bedroom house that he shares with his uncle Jimmy and takes his mail out of his mailbox.

He carries his parrot inside, places the cage on a table and opens the cage door, the parrot jumps out and flies around the house. His dog, a Chihuahua named Herman, begins to yelp with excitement.

Mickey sits down on the couch next to him, pets him on the head and begins to go through his mail, he stops at one envelope that has the Landlord's return address in the corner, he opens it.

He reads it out loud to himself.

MICKEY

Dear Mr. Riley, The lease on the property located at 911 Main Street Rome, is currently in forfeiture. Please remit payment in the amount of \$10,000 within 30 days to avoid eviction. Have a great day, M. Moore.

BACK TO MICKEY

Mickey stares blankly at the floor in shock.

He then gets on his knees and looks up to the heavens.

MICKEY

Dad I'm so sorry, I don't know what to do, I am a failure. Please give me some guidance... Are you and mom up there having fun?

EXT. BRAD AND BOBS APARTMENT - EVENING

A taxi pulls up outside their two bedroom apartment, that belonged to Bob's parents, before they divorced and moved away.

INT. BRAD AND BOBS APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

The apartment is completely trashed, bottles broken, clothes everywhere, drawers opened.

Bob and Brad look horrified, throwing themselves down on the couch.

BOB
I think somebody broke in.

BRAD
Why`s that?

BOB
Look at this place, it`s trashed.

BRAD
It`s always trashed.

BOB
Yeah but I don't remember those candy wrappers being on the floor before, do you?

BRAD
That`s true I don`t, I remember them on the table, next to the open window, that`s spooky.

BOB
We better check to see if anything else is missing.

Brad and Bob get up from the couch and walk around the apartment slowly, in case somebody is still in there.

Opening all the doors really slowly, including the refrigerator as if someone is going to hide in there and jump out.

BRAD
Oh no.

BOB
What is it?

BRAD
Someone has taken all our beer.

BOB
Bastards... Wait a minute, we took all our beer.

Brad and Bob sit back down on the couch deflated.

BRAD

Oh yeah, so we have no beer, no jobs,
no girls, in order of importance.

BOB

I got a little bit of Mary J left.

BRAD

Cooooo1111111111 and soon everything
becomes ok.

They both kick back on the couch and smoke the joint.

One hour goes by and they are both stoned, smiling from ear
to ear with their eyes closing.

BOB

So how do we pay for this place?

BRAD

Play in space, I would love to play
in space, you know just, just, just
kinda floating around saying hi to
the aliens.

BOB

You mean like Chad, he is an alien,
he has antennas and stuff.

BRAD

No no no, he`s an illegal alien, he
speaks very weird, he calls me Blad.

Bob gives a little nod, they both go into uncontrollable
laughter.

Suddenly Bob snaps his fingers and they stop laughing.

BOB

We need to get some work and money.

BRAD

Don't worry about it, I`ll take care
of it.

Brad picks up the phone and starts to dial some numbers.

BOB

Who are you calling?

BRAD

Sshhh. Hello Diane how are you?

DIANE is Bob`s older sister and an ex-girlfriend of Brad,
she is doing very well for herself at a Pharmaceutical
company.

BOB

Dude, you're calling my sister! Not a good idea.

DIANE

Brad, What the hell do you want?

BRAD

(sounding sincere)

I was calling to apologize for all the bad things I did to you.

DIANE

Why?

BRAD

I need a job.

DIANE

Let me think about it...We dated for two years, you spent all our savings, destroyed my car, slept with my best friend and led my brother astray.

Bob looks at Brad with a thumbs up, Brad returns the gesture with a big smile.

DIANE (CONT'D)

No! With a capital FU.

BRAD

Wait a minute, I've forgiven you, even though you've spent the last five years trying to make me jealous.

DIANE

How?

BRAD

Going out and getting married to some banker and having two kids. You know you need to get on with your life too.

DIANE

You know what Brad, only because you were great in bed, I'll let you come for an interview.

BRAD

Well thank you Diane, your not a complete bitch after all.

DIANE

Just be prepared for your drug test, that'll be in the morning, ok?

BRAD

Great, It`s my favorite subject, I should know all the answers.

DIANE

You know your going to add this to your list of failed job attempts.

BRAD

I know.

BOB

Well, what did she say?

BRAD

She said I have to do a drug test in the morning.

BOB

You better start studying, here.

Bob hands Brad the remainder of the joint, Brad kicks back on the couch and puts his feet up.

BRAD

Happy days. Well, I am starving, let`s go out for something to eat and celebrate.

BOB

Sounds like a plan, where do you want to go?

INT. MICKEY`S HOUSE - EVENING

Mickey walks around his house with one hand on his forehead and the other holding the letter.

Suddenly his doorbell rings.

MICKEY

I don`t believe this, who the hell is this now?

Mickey opens the door and Brad and Bob push past him, they go straight to the cabinet with the snacks, they grab a bag of potato chips.

Mickey continues to stare out his front door as if nothing happened, the taxi driver rants.

TAXI DRIVER

(sarcastic)

Thank you for my dollar tip, now I can finally get the air freshener I wanted.

Mickey shuts the door and turns around to face the guys, who are completely stoned.

Brad leaps onto the couch from behind, only to hear a yelp.

MICKEY

Get up. You`re squashing my dog.

Brad lifts one butt cheek up and the dog crawls out beneath him, shaken.

Mickey picks HERMAN up and gives him Eskimo kisses. Herman`s back legs kick furiously.

BRAD

What the hell is that thing dude?
I`ve seen rats bigger.

MICKEY

This is my dog, Herman, he`s my security.

BOB

What happens if a burglar breaks in,
is he gonna yelp him to death?

Brad opens his mouth really wide, yawning, Harry the parrot flies over head and craps directly into his mouth.

Brad spits it out as Bob laughs uncontrollably.

BRAD

What the hell, you have more animals
in here than the Bronx Zoo.

BOB

It`s considered good luck, If a bird
craps on you, maybe it`s a good sign
for your interview tomorrow.

MICKEY

What interview?

BRAD

Diane is giving me an interview
tomorrow; she obviously knows I have
something.

MICKEY

Diane Lane! Bob`s sister, the one
who`s life you practically destroyed?
The same Diane that told you that
she would drug you and cut your nuts
off with a meat cleaver and nail
them to your forehead, while stapling
your ass cheeks together and taking
your lifeless body and duct taping

(MORE)

MICKEY (CONT'D)
it to the hood of the car and parading
you up and down main street?

BOB
Holy shit dude, that`s why she wanted
you to take a drug test.

BRAD
What should I do?

MICKEY
How about you both go and be stupid
somewhere else. How you both don`t
fall down more, I`ll never know.

Brad and Bob are very confused.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
Diane no longer wants to kill you,
she saw Dr. Hamilton.

The guys are even more confused.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
You know the psychiatrist, who
apparently got her through her
depression and hatred of you, then
walked off on some poor soul's
counseling session, never to be seen
again.

BRAD
Well what about the drug test, explain
that Mr.Smarty Smartason.

MICKEY
She is not giving you drugs, she is
making sure there are no drugs in
your body and you`re completely
clean...
(raising an eyebrow)
In other words you haven`t smoked
marijuana in the last few days, so
have you smoked dope in the last few
days?

Potato chips are being shoveled into Brad and Bob`s mouths.

BOB
How about the last few hours.

MICKEY
Well congratulations, you are about
to fail the drug test, which means
no job.

BRAD

Isn't it all multiple choice questions?

MICKEY

There are no written questions, no papers, all you have to do is pee in a cup, then they send your pee sample off and they can tell from that if you have drugs in your system.

BRAD

Oohhh, How do I pass that then?

Brad and Bob exchange looks at Mickey.

MICKEY

No, no, no, no, no, NO!

BOB

You have to pee in the cup for him.

MICKEY

No I have nothing to do with it, I have my own problems.

BOB

What problems have you got, apart from the obvious, you're stubborn, depression, you haven't had a girlfriend in like three years, you have a small penis and you pray to a God that never existed, what else have you got?

Mickey starts steaming up at Bob, about to ring his neck, so Brad intervenes.

BRAD

Come on Mickey, you don't smoke, you're clean, you're a good Catholic boy that goes to church every week, It's not considered bad, you're doing a good deed.

MICKEY

No. It's immoral and I would be helping with a lie.

BRAD

I don't think one of the ten commandments said, I shall not pee into a cup to help a friend get past his drug test, so he can proceed onto the next step to getting a worthwhile job.

MICKEY

I can't believe I'm going to do this.

BRAD

Thanks dude, I owe you one.

The two guys stare at Mickey, then look down at his pants.

MICKEY

You expect me to do it right now? I can't pee under pressure, just stop at the pet shop on your way to the test and I'll give it to you.

IN THE KITCHEN

A tortoise is eating lettuce on the floor, while a hamster is in his cage running in the wheel. In the corner there are tropical fish in a huge tank.

Bob looks out the window towards the back yard and notices dozens of small crosses all in a row, neatly organized.

BOB

Hey Mickey, What's all the crosses for?

MICKEY

Well Bob, sadly animals die and that is where I bury them and pay my respects.

BOB

Do they go to heaven too?.

MICKEY

No Bob, animals don't have souls. Why don't you come to church with me on Sunday? You might learn something.

BOB

I'll pass on that.

MICKEY

What have you got against church, is it the whole atheist thing?

BOB

It's long and boring, It makes you appreciate the DMV and then there's that Jesus guy, I mean c'mon, turns water into wine, David Copperfield made a helicopter disappear, you don't see any churches worshipping him.

BRAD

I'm more of an evolution man myself,
you know fish become ducks, ducks
become bats and bats become vampires
kind of thing.

INT. MURPHY`S BAR - NIGHT

Chad Smith gets his karaoke machine ready, the bar has a big crowd and people continue to flood in.

Karaoke night is a big night and Chad is adored by everyone.

He sits on a bar stool, on the little stage at the front of the bar looking really relaxed, emulating Neil Diamond, telling stories to anybody willing to listen.

CHAD

Erybody ready foa karaok, let me
hear you say yah.

THE BAR CROWD

Yah.

CHAD

What do you want to hear?

THE BAR CROWD

Free bird! No, Roxanne!

CHAD

No fee bud, ok I sing for you.

Chad turns around and puts on "ROXANNE" by the Police and then picks up the microphone, the intro starts and crowd in the bar all face the front of the stage.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Rozanne... ooo don wanna put on a
rey lit, those deys are ova, ye don
wanna sell your boda to the nit,
Rozanne.

The crowd goes wild. Some stand up giving him a drunken sarcastic standing ovation.

The front door opens as Mickey, Bob and Brad walk in.

Mickey is looking incredibly uncomfortable, Bob and Brad look wasted.

In the middle of singing Roxanne, Chad looks up at the front door.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Hey the tree stooges are here.

MICKEY

I can't believe you dragged me here.

BOB

You needed to get out, you were
depressing us and what better way to
cure depression than alcohol.

AT THE BAR COUNTER

Mickey, Bob and Brad make their way to the bar counter and
find three stools.

Unbelievably, Jimmy is still sitting there in the same bar
stool, the boys worst nightmare and he has a big smile on
his face.

JIMMY

Ah, you're back guys. I see you
brought top shelf with you. What are
you having boys? Let me just get my
check book out here.

MICKEY

Number one, I don't always choose a
drink from the top shelf and number
two, sarcasm is the lowest form of
humor.

JIMMY

Really? Well, number one you don't
get from the top shelf when you're
buying and number two, you obviously
haven't been to a circus.

Just then the bar door opens and Sally walks in alone, she
makes her way to the counter where Mickey is sitting.

Mickey does a double-take.

BARTENDER

What can I get you?

SALLY

Just a ginger ale please.

MICKEY

(raising his hand to
the bartender)

I'll get that.

SALLY

You don't have to.

JIMMY

If it's under a dollar he does, which
means when your ready to buy one

(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)
back, prepare to take out a 2nd
mortgage.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
(looking at Mickey's
angry face)
If you want me to shut up, just ask.

MICKEY
The easy part is asking you to shut
up, it's getting you to actually
shut up, that's were the problem
lies.

Mickey turns back to Sally, her face is close to his face
again, they just stare.

Sally's lips are now just an inch from his.

Brad picks up a beer coaster and tries to put it between
their noses.

BRAD
(whispering loudly to
Bob)
Wow dude, I can't even fit this
between them, I think she's going to
kiss him.

SALLY
(taking a step back)
I'm sorry again, I'm a really close
talker.

MICKEY
It's alright, nothing a few tic-tacs
wouldn't cure.

SALLY
Excuse me.

Sally walks off and finds a table to herself. Bob looks at
Mickey and puts his arm around him in a drunken state.

BOB
And you are single why?

Suddenly the bar door opens and in walks JAKE, a man who can
do no wrong, perfect hair, perfect eyes, perfect smile all
the ladies want him and the guys want to be like him.

He is also friends with Bob, Brad and Mickey, which means he
doesn't get away with anything from Jimmy.

ON BAR STAGE

CHAD

Hey erybody es gorgeous Jake, look
how hamsome he iz, hey Jake I sing a
song just for youuuuuuuuuuuuu.

Chad turns around and starts playing with the karaoke machine, setting the song he wants to sing. He then lowers the lights in the bar and on cue everybody in the bar brings out a lighter.

CHAD (CONT'D)

I hope there`s no smokas in here, I
would get a lotta trouba.

The intro to James Blunts "YOUR BEAUTIFUL" comes on, he sings:

CHAD (CONT'D)

My rife is brilliant, My rove is
pure, I saw an angel, of that I'm
sure, She smeled at me on the sobway,
she was weef anotha man, but I wont
lose no sleep on rat, cus I jotta
plan...Hey Jake, your bootafull,
your bootafull its twooo.

ON THE BAR FLOOR

Two girls sitting together at a table, start nudging each other and glance over at Jake.

1ST GIRL

You ask him.

2ND GIRL

No, you ask him.

1ST GIRL

Ok,ok I`ll ask him.

The girl pushes her seat back and stands up, she then fixes her hair and touches up her lipstick.

1ST GIRL (CONT'D)

(to 2nd girl)

How do I look?

2ND GIRL

Beautiful as usual.

AT THE BAR COUNTER

She then makes her way across the bar, with her eyes fixed solely on Jake.

Jake watches as she approaches him, so he starts combing his hair like the Fonz.

JAKE

Well hello, and what can I do you for?

1ST GIRL

You are Jake Edwards aren't you?

JAKE

The one and only.

Bob, Brad, and Mickey raise their eyebrows in disbelief, they have the look of "why not me"?

BOB

How does he do it? He's barely in the bar one minute and girls are just walking right up to him.

JIMMY

Keep watching boys you might learn something from him.

Jake is beaming from ear to ear and full of himself.

2ND GIRL

(shouting at the 1st girl)

Well, is it him.

1ST GIRL

Yeah it's him.

JAKE

Oooooohhhh a threesome.

The second girl leaves her seat and makes her way up to Jake. He glances over his shoulder to see if the three friends were watching him turn on the style.

As he was looking at them, the second girl swings her foot back and kicks Jake right in the balls, Jake falls to the ground in agony.

Mickey, Brad and Bob all screw there faces up making the oooooooooooooo sound and then turning simultaneously, face the bar all sipping their drink at the same time.

2ND GIRL

(shouting)

You son of the devil's sperm, you broke my sister's heart, you promised her the world and then finished when you had your way.

The girls leave the bar, with Jake still lying on the ground holding himself, the 2nd girl comes back in to give him one more kick before she leaves.

Chad continues to sing your bootafull in the background.

MICKEY

Ooohh yeah, I will definitely learn from that.

Bob and Brad get off their seats and pick Jake up, the bartender hands him an ice-pack from behind the bar.

JAKE

Thanks guys, I can't please them all.

(looking at Mickey)

What about you Doctor Doolittle? Pleasing anybody these days, are you even pleasing yourself?

MICKEY

Sorry Jake, we weren't all born with the good looks and personality that you so awesomely possess.

JAKE

I sense a little bit of animosity. You need just a little piece of advice from a friend that cares.

MICKEY

Yeah, who's that?

JAKE

Me of course. Why don't you go mingle? Spread your wings and use that Riley charm.

BOB

Yeah go Mickey, use all your charm, all four inches.

JIMMY

Now now, be nice boys, he is cursed.

MICKEY

Why are we talking about by penis, that's it screw you guys, I got a girl I have to talk to.

Mickey jumps down off the barstool.

JAKE

Who is this fine piece of femininity?

MICKEY

(pointing to Sally)
She's sitting right there.

JAKE

Aha just remember one thing. Beauty is just a light switch away.

MICKEY

I'm just surrounded by assholes.

Mickey gets up and makes his way over to the table that Sally is sitting at, he pulls out a chair and sits down.

Brad, Bob, Jake and Jimmy are watching Mickey with curiosity.

JAKE

Be gentle with him Sally, he's very breakable.

BRAD

You know her?

JAKE

She's one of my uncle's patients. If there is one human being on this planet that's duller than lead paint and more depressing than day time soap opera's, it's Sally.

JIMMY

Well, at least they have something in common.

Jake cracks his knuckles and stretches his arms out, he appears overly confident.

JAKE

I'll bet you guys any amount of money I can get any girl in this bar and you can pick her out.

JIMMY

How about I pick her out and you two guys put the money up?

BRAD

Awesome idea.

Jimmy points to a beautiful girl with long legs, perfect breasts and a big smile.

BRAD (CONT'D)

One hundred bucks if you can take her home.

BOB

What are you doing? We can't afford to be taking unnecessary risks, at such great odds.

BRAD

It`s ok, I trust Jimmy.

JIMMY

That`s right Brad, it`s a no lose bet.

JAKE

Ok Cheech and Chong, watch me turn on the style.

ON THE BAR FLOOR

Jake flicks his hair back and strides over to the girl, he leans in over her shoulder and whispers in her ear.

She turns around and smiles at Jake and whispers into his ear.

No sooner than he walked into the bar, he is now walking out with a beautiful girl.

Jake puts his hand out and Brad hands him the one hundred bucks.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Never doubt the Jakester.

BRAD

(to Jimmy)

I thought this was a no lose bet.

JIMMY

For me it was.

EXT. OUTSIDE MURPHY`S BAR - NIGHT

Jake and the girl are standing outside laughing.

JAKE

Here you go fifty for you and fifty for me. Told you it was easy.

GIRL

Very smooth, I like your style, you know I don`t need the money, I only need you.

JAKE

Sweet.

INT. INSIDE MURPHY`S BAR - NIGHT

Mickey leans forward on the table and gazes into Sally`s eyes.

SALLY

I'm sorry, was I sitting too close to you? Would you like me to move to... Alaska?

MICKEY

You know sarcasm is the lowest form of humor.

SALLY

Really, well you obviously haven't been to a circus.

MICKEY

Cute, I came here to apologize, about my deplorable behavior.

SALLY

What do you really want?

MICKEY

No, truly, I want to apologize and maybe start over.

(reaching out his hand)

I'm Mickey Riley, I'm 29, I live with a dog, a cat, a parrot, a tortoise, a hamster and a cold-blooded reptile called Jimmy.

Mickey takes a deep breath and sighs.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

My dad died when I was young and left me his Pet Shop...Well it is about to be closed in less than a month if I can't pull ten thousand dollars out of my ass...

(puts his hands in the air)

I'm a complete failure in everything I do, my life sucks and I feel like I can't do anything right, how about you?

SALLY

Wow, well thank you soooo much for cheering me up. My turn now...

(Sally moves in closer)

My name is Sally Weston, I live in a one bedroom apartment in the shit end of town, my landlord is a pimp, a crack dealer and the local mechanic all rolled into one.

MICKEY

That's handy.

SALLY

I was a bastard child, a prom baby, left on the steps of the local church, who apparently picked me up, took one look at me and moved me onto the steps of the Westons.

MICKEY

Your beauty was probably too much to handle for the church. I`m sure the Westons recognized that.

SALLY

Well, the Westons are both blind and the only way they found me, was when Mr. Weston tripped over me going out for a walk.

MICKEY

Interesting.

SALLY

I have a younger half brother, who is color blind, so that`s not too bad.

MICKEY

(playing along)

No, it`s not.

SALLY

I`ve attempted suicide at least twelve times, I am not very successful at that, am I?

MICKEY

Obviously not.

SALLY

I haven`t had a boyfriend in five years, guess what happened to him?

Mickey remains quiet.

SALLY (CONT'D)

That's right, killed himself, first time too, lucky bastard! Happy you`re getting to know me?

Mickey sits back in the chair, rubbing his chin with one hand and tapping the table with the other.

MICKEY

So that`s why you were looking for poisonous animals in my store... I can`t really help you there. The most poisonous thing in my store is my uncle`s mouth.

Mickey and Sally are silent, they exchange looks of who had the worst story. Sally won.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Why don't you get some professional help, someone who will listen?

SALLY

Oh please, I see Jake's uncle Dr. Edwards, that's as professional as it gets around here.

MICKEY

So why do you go?

SALLY

There's nobody else that will listen to me.

MICKEY

What about your parents?

SALLY

It's hard to take them seriously when they don't look at me while I'm talking to them.

AT THE BAR COUNTER

Jimmy stands up from his stool and puts his coat on.

JIMMY

Well I'm outta here, I'm having too much excitement.

Jimmy strides out the door, a girl sits down in Jimmy's seat, next to Bob.

Bob smiles and props himself up.

BOB

(to the girl)

Can I get you a drink?

GIRL 2

How about two drinks? I'll have a Margarita and a Sam Adams.

BOB

(calls bartender)

I'll have a Margarita and a Sam Adams for the lovely lady.

The bartender gets both drinks and gives them to the girl.

A man walks into the bar and sits down next to her. She smiles at him and hands him the beer.

GIRL 2
 Good timing honey, this nice gentleman
 just bought us drinks.

MAN
 (raising the glass to
 Bob)
 Thanks man.

Bob bottom lip starts to quiver. Brad shakes his head.

BRAD
 Let`s get outta here, I need to sober
 up for that interview in the morning.

As they are leaving; Brad signals to Mickey and holds his
 empty pint glass to the front of his pants, gesturing to pee
 in it.

ON THE BAR FLOOR

SALLY
 (confused)
 Should I ask?

Mickey shakes his head and Sally smiles.

MICKEY
 Oh you do smile and it`s gentle and
 pleasant.

INT. JAKE`S GIRL`S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jake and the girl get into passionate kissing in the entrance
 way of the apartment.

Jake puts both hands on her ass cheeks and picks her up, she
 points the way to the bedroom while still kissing, their
 tongues are lashing around.

Jake drops her down onto the bed and starts taking off his
 clothes, the girl looks down at his penis and smiles an
 impressive smile.

She takes her top off to reveal her breasts, Jake smiles an
 impressive smile like he has hit the big time with this one.

Glancing at the nightstand, he notices a photograph of a
 man.

JAKE
 Holy crap, is that your husband?

GIRL
 No silly, that was me two years ago.

JAKE
 What the fuck! I'm gonna kill Jimmy.

Jake pulls up his boxers and pants, puts his shirt on and runs out of the apartment, the girl runs behind him.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

GIRL
(screaming)
Wait, I'm all fixed, you wouldn't even notice!

JAKE
(running down the street)
Leave me alone!

Jake flags down a taxi and jumps inside, the sweat is running down his face, he starts cursing to himself.

INT. MURPHY'S BAR - NIGHT

Mickey and Sally are the only two people left in the bar.

Chad is full of sweat and has his collar up he continues to sing karaoke, he wouldn't look out of place as a lounge singer.

Mickey and Sally continue talking and laughing with each other, Mickey then stands up and reaches his hand out to Sally.

MICKEY
(to Chad)
How about one last song? A nice slow one, just for me and this beautiful lady.

SALLY
Wow, well thank you.

CHAD
I hae jush la song.

Chad turns around and sets up the karaoke.

Mickey puts his arms around Sally he moves in closer to her.

SALLY
Wow a little close there don't you think?

MICKEY
Oh I'm sorry.

SALLY
I'm just joking.

Sally puts her head on Mickey's shoulder and signal's to Chad for the song.

Chad smiles back as he puts on the "THEME TUNE TO MASH".

CHAD

Suici is painness it bwings on many...

As Chad continues to sing in the background, Mickey and Sally make way for the door.

MICKEY AND SALLY

Let`s get outta here.

EXT. OUTSIDE SALLY`S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Mickey and Sally are standing on the stoop of Sally`s apartment building gazing into each other`s eyes like love struck teenage kids.

Sally`s landlord BERT, a very heavy, fifty something year old white man, who acts and talks like he`s ghetto, opens the main door to the apartment building, with a girl on either side and plenty of bling around his neck and arms.

BERT

Yo Sally what`s up, what`s you up to? I see you found yourself a man, a little cracker no less.

SALLY

Mickey, this is Bert my landlord, the blackest white man you`ll ever meet.

MICKEY

(reaching his hand
out to shake Berts)

Hi, nice to meet you, some pretty nice jewelry you got there.

BERT

(clenching his fist
for a fist pump)

Good to meet you little man, want one of my ho`s for the night.

SALLY

Excuse me Bert, he is spoken for.

MICKEY

Yeah, thanks for the offer, but I'm with Sally.

BERT

Didn`t mean to offend, just you know, if you need instant gratification.

SALLY

He will get instant gratification from me.

BERT

He will?

MICKEY

(raising his eyebrows)

I will?

SALLY

C`mon lets go.

Sally grabs Mickey by the hand and leads him up the stairs past Bert and the ho`s to her apartment.

They walk past more ho`s in the corridor and crack-heads on the floor, Mickey steps around them like they are visible germs.

Outside Sally`s door lays one crack-head, WINSTON. He`s there every day, doesn`t say a word, just rolls his eyes.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Hi Winston, how was your day?

Sally pulls the key out to her apartment and opens the door.

INT. SALLY`S APARTMENT - NIGHT

MICKEY

What`s wrong with that guy?

SALLY

I don't know, I've been here three years and all I got from him was "Winston"...Make yourself at home.

Mickey walks over to the t.v. and looks at the list of dvds next to it, they read: "Suicide for the Small-Minded", "123 Jump", "Poison the People`s Friend" and "The Weston's Summer Holiday in New York".

Mickey grabs the summer holiday video as Sally makes her way to the bathroom. She opens the medicine cabinet and tons of pills fall out. She tries closing it while keeping a conversation going with Mickey.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Would you like a glass of wine?

MICKEY

Sure; everything alright in there?

SALLY

Oh yeah, everything`s just rosy, red or white.

MICKEY

Red will do nicely.

After cleaning up the pills, Sally makes her way to the kitchen and checks a cabinet for red wine, more pills fall out, she quickly shuts the cabinet and glances at Mickey.

SALLY

Red you said right?
 (still searching)
 you know your not like other guys,
 usually guys would be trying to bone
 me by now.

MICKEY

Thanks I think.
 (holding the video
 in the air)
 How about we watch this?

SALLY

What. No that`s too embarrassing.

MICKEY

Why?

SALLY

That`s our holiday movie and it`s
 not very flattering.

MICKEY

Oh c`mon it can`t be that bad.

Mickey pops the video in the machine and sits down on the couch, Sally brings him a glass of wine and then walks back to her bedroom.

SALLY

I think I`ll slip into something
 more comfortable.

MICKEY

Can`t wait.

ON THE TV

The Weston family are at the beach.

Mr. Weston is holding the camera, as he is blind, he points it in every direction, not focusing on anything in particular.

SALLY

Dad, are you sure you don`t want me
 to take the camera?

MR.WESTON

No, honey I got it, just keep looking
 pretty.

Sally tries to run in front of the camera, as Mr.Weston continues to swing it from side to side.

SALLY

Ok hold it there dad.
 (grabbing her mom by
 the hand)
 C`mon over here mom, don`t be shy.

MRS.WESTON

How do I look?

MR.WESTON

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

BACK TO SCENE

Mickey smiles to himself and picks up his glass of wine.

ON THE TV

Mrs.Weston begins to take her bikini top off.

BACK TO SCENE

Mickey chokes on his wine and spills it on his crotch, he then grabs a box of tissues and tries to wipe it off vigorously.

Sally walks in, wearing a little night gown, she sees what she thinks is Mickey jerking off.

SALLY

What the hell? Your masturbating to my blind mom! Oh my God, oh my God, you asshole! Get out, get out now!

MICKEY

Sally, No it`s not what it seems, let me explain.

SALLY

Explain, you have tissues in your hand and your hand on your dick and my mom is flopping her boobies all over the beach for everyone to see.

MICKEY

Well, except your dad.

SALLY

You insensitive prick, get out, you are just like every other man I`ve ever met in my life.

Mickey walks out the door and Sally slams it behind him, she then lowers herself to the floor puts her hands over her face and starts to cry.

EXT. SALLY`S APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

Mickey lowers himself to the floor in the hallway, next to Winston, he puts his hands over his head.

MICKEY
I am such an idiot Winston
(shouting to Sally
through the door)
it was an accident.

Winston rolls his eyes and groans.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
(looking at Winston)
Why am I even talking to you.

Winston shrugs his shoulders.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
Really huh.
(screaming)
Sally open the door please, I'm not
like other guys, I really like you.

INT. SALLY`S APARTMENT - NIGHT

BEDROOM

With tears in her eyes, she looks under her bed and pulls out some rope.

DINING ROOM

She ties one end to the dining room table and makes a noose for herself on the other end.

EXT. SALLY`S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

MICKEY
(standing up again)
Sally it`s very quiet in there, don`t
do anything stupid, open the door.

INT. SALLY`S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Sally opens the window, stands on the ledge and puts the noose around her neck.

EXT. OUTSIDE SALLY`S WINDOW - CONTINUOUS

SALLY
Good-bye cruel world.

Sally jumps, the noose tightens slowly. The table slowly slides to the window under Sally`s weight, lowering her to the ground.

EXT. OUTSIDE SALLY`S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

She lands safely with her feet touching the ground, she draws a huge sigh, another unsuccessful suicide attempt.

Bert is still standing outside with the two ho`s.

Sally removes the noose from her neck.

BERT

I know the elevator is broken, but the stairs are a lot safer, you could die doing that, or something worse.

SALLY

(furious)

Men, they are all just disgusting, sex-craving, dick for brains.

BERT

Whoa whoa what exactly is your point here?... Where is that new guy of yours, Mickey right? Did he hurt you? Cuz I`ll kill him.

SALLY

No, I just caught him jerking off to my mom, from an old holiday video.

BERT

Is your mom hot?...I mean seriously, you actually caught him with his peepee in his hand?

SALLY

Well no, not exactly, he had tissues and he was rubbing the front of his pants.

BERT

Did he offer you an explanation?

SALLY

I didn`t let him.

(thinking)

Oh I gotta go up and see him.

(she takes a deep
breath)

You know Bert, for a pimp, a crack dealer and a mechanic, you do have a soft side to you, maybe you should settle down, find yourself a nice woman.

BERT

Ahh maybe your right Sally, now go get him.

Sally walks past him and into the building.

BERT (CONT'D)
 (to the prostitutes)
 Ok whores, go do your tricks, bring
 daddy back some Mr Lincolns.

EXT. SALLY`S APARTMENT DOOR - NIGHT

Mickey is banging on the door.

MICKEY
 Sally are you ok, Sally please talk
 to me, say something.

WINSTON
 She is a little edgy, maybe you should
 have left her at the front door with
 a good-night kiss.

Mickey looks surprised at Winston for talking.

MICKEY
 Oh you do talk, very nice statement,
 only lose the foam coming out of
 your mouth and I might take you
 seriously. Why are you talking to me
 anyway?

WINSTON
 Believe it or not you seem like a
 nice fella, like you might genuinely
 care about Sally.

MICKEY
 You`re very observant for a crack-
 head.

WINSTON
 I`ve seen hundreds of guys walk into
 this apartment with Sally and they
 are only after one thing...
 (stops for breath)
 ...then they walk out.

MICKEY
 (his jaw drops)
 Hundreds.

WINSTON
 Don`t hold it against yourself, if
 she decided to, you know, end it.

MICKEY
 Well thanks. If I don't see you again,
 you were an inspiration, maybe you
 should get out a little more. You
 look like you need some air.

Mickey and Winston turn their heads, as they hear footsteps coming up the stairs.

Sally appears around the corner, glancing at Mickey she smiles, then runs to him and embraces him.

WINSTON

Go get her son.

MICKEY

Sally, thank God you're alive.

SALLY

I'm sorry, I should have let you explain, I am so used to getting abused and cheated on by men.

MICKEY

I really want to get to know you better and I don't want to hurt you. Can we try again?

SALLY

(looking over at Winston)

What do you think Winston, should I give him another try, he seems like the most genuine one yet.

Winston gives a big thumbs up, as Mickey and Sally smile.

MICKEY

I think I should go home, let's call it a night before anything else goes wrong.

At that he leans in to kiss Sally, she hesitates for a second, then goes full tongue.

All the crack addicts in the hallway start to clap and cheer, then simultaneously start to cough.

Sally grabs Mickey by the hand and opens the door to her apartment and invites him in.

Winston smiles.

WINSTON

(whispers to Mickey)
Don't blow it kid.

INT. SALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sally takes Mickey by the hand and brings him to the bedroom.

The holiday movie is still playing on the T.V.

Mickey looks over at the movie, bemused at the people wearing long black cloaks, funny round hats, with long curly hair below their ears.

MICKEY

Who or what is that on their heads?

SALLY

They are called "Hasidics" and the big fur hat is called a Shtreimel, I think the bigger the hat the more powerful they are... I found it fascinating so I filmed them.

MICKEY

Why are they screaming at each other?

SALLY

Well apparently somebody stole some hats and now there is a shortage, they are blaming each other...

(frustrated)

Is this what you want to watch...or me.

Mickey grabs the remote and turns off the movie.

Sally then pushes him into the bedroom and starts to undress in front of him, then jumps on the bed and spreads her legs wide.

Mickey stands there speechless, as Sally makes a gesture to him to remove his clothes.

SALLY (CONT'D)

You know what I want don't you?

MICKEY

The whole bed by the looks of it.

SALLY

Do a dance for me and take your clothes off.

MICKEY

I ain't dancing.

SALLY

Go on, it's just me.

Mickey starts to dance awkwardly, while removing his clothes, leaving only his underwear on.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Well c'mon then, show me the purple headed warrior.

Mickey sighs and drops his underwear.

Sally stares, then stares some more, then squints her eyes.

MICKEY

What the hell! Is it necessary to squint, it`s not that small.

SALLY

No, no its not, bring it over here along with the rest of you.

MICKEY

Well my self-esteem is incredibly high right now.

SALLY

Just come here stud muffin, it`s all about how you use it.

Mickey climbs on top of Sally in the missionary position they begin to kiss slowly, building up to more passionate kissing.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Quick put it in me.

MICKEY

(annoyed)

It has been in you.

SALLY

(trying to humor him)

I know I'm just kidding.

As Mickey frantically rocks back and forth, Sally begins to fake orgasm getting louder and louder, Mickey stops and looks at her with a sense of bewilderment.

MICKEY

Are you faking it?

SALLY

No, why did you stop? Keep going or you will lose your rhythm.

After a brief moment of uncertainty, he shifts around a bit, trying to get back into position.

As Mickey puts his head down again next to Sally`s, she rolls her eyes to the sky in utter disappointment as he starts to orgasm.

MICKEY

Fuckkkkkkkkkkkkkking yeah.

Then he collapses to the other side of the bed. Lying next to each other staring at the ceiling, although trying to conceal it, there is a bit of dissatisfaction on their faces.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
 (reaching out his
 hand to shake Sally`s)
 Thank you.

Then being a true man, Mickey rolls over and falls asleep.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

Brad runs through the front door, he looks up and down the aisles, only Jimmy is sitting behind the counter.

JIMMY
 Can I help you with something, any particular animal?

BRAD
 Your nephew.

JIMMY
 Yeah he`s of the non human form alright. Well the bad news for you is that he is not here, the good news for me is that he is not here.

BRAD
 (panicking)
 Not here, he was supposed to do me a favor and I am running late for my job interview.

JIMMY
 What kind of favor? Maybe I can help.

BRAD
 He was supposed to piss in a cup for me, so that I could use it for my drug test.

Jimmy starts to plot in his head and rubs his chin.

JIMMY
 I do remember him saying something about it, wait here, I`ll be right back.

Jimmy walks into the back of the store, as Brad paces back and forth.

Jake storms in, all pissed off.

BRAD
 So how did it go, Casanova?

JAKE
 Where is Jimmy? That son a bitch set me up with a transvestite.

BRAD

(laughing)

Well did you expect anything different from him, he is always pulling stunts to fuck with us, maybe you'll learn the next time.

Jimmy returns with a cup full of piss, he hands it over to Brad.

JIMMY

(acting sincere)

There you go Brad. Mickey had left it in the back room, with a little note, it said to give it to you if I see you first.

(looking at Jake)

And here's Jake, did you get one up the arse last night?

BRAD

Thanks Jimmy, I'll see you later.

Brad leaves the pet shop.

JAKE

Screw you old man, that's just not right...

(changing his tone)

By the way where's Mickey?

JIMMY

Mickey spent the night with a real woman, you know the kind with real female parts, all natural...

JAKE

Yeah, yeah, yeah whatever.

INT. SALLY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Mickey wakes up and reaches for the alarm clock, then noticing he is late, makes a quick dash for his cell phone and dials.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

Jimmy smiles at Jake and shakes his head.

The phone rings, Jimmy picks it up.

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

JIMMY

Hello, Riley pet shop, no pet too dull or common for your own good.

MICKEY

That`s how you answer the phone when I'm not around? Why do I keep you? its no wonder we are closing.

JIMMY

Yeah, I saw the letter you left on the table, it`s probably for the best.

MICKEY

For the best, you asshole, you don't care for the animals and you don't care about my dad...or me.

JIMMY

Now listen here, you little shit! I`ve done what he asked of me, which was to keep you alive. And I've had nothing in return but grief, staring at your miserable sad little face every morning, day and night.

MICKEY

Well here`s news for you, I`ve never needed you, not since the moment they shoveled the last piece of dirt onto his coffin.

JIMMY

You know what son? I quit.

MICKEY

That`s the nicest thing you have ever said to me.

They both hang up simultaneously.

INT. RECEPTION DESK AT BRAD`S INTERVIEW - DAY

Brad enters the door and approaches the receptionist.

He is sweating and looking nervous.

He keeps one hand below the desk holding onto the cup of pee.

RECEPTIONIST

Can I help you?

BRAD

I'm here for my job interview

RECEPTIONIST

Ok, what`s your name?

BRAD

Brad, Brad Mason.

RECEPTIONIST

Ah yes, Diane has been waiting for you, we need you to fill out a form and provide us with a urine sample.

The receptionist hands Brad the form and a cup.

She points to the bathroom with a bewildered look on her face, as Brad never lifts his other hand.

He struts into the bathroom very nonchalant, then returns a minute later with the cup full of pee and the form filled out.

BRAD

(handing over the cup
and form)

There you go, one cup of my urine,
actually not your ine more my ine.

RECEPTIONIST

(staring at him
straight faced)

First door on the left.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

The room is enormous but empty, three people sit behind a desk in the middle of the floor, they each have a notepad and pen. There is one lonely chair in front of them.

Diane is one of them, dressed in a very professional manner. The other two are CHARLIE and FRANK, associates of Diane and also gay lovers.

Diane gestures to Brad to sit down on the chair in front of them.

DIANE

Hi Brad, it`s been a while since
I`ve seen you, I gotta give you
credit, I never thought you would
come.

CHARLIE

(looking at Frank)

Oh that`s what you said last night.

DIANE

Guys. Please, this is an interview,
don't make this hard.

FRANK

(nudging Charlie)

I`ll make your`s hard.

DIANE

Guys. Sorry Brad, this is Frank and Charlie they are going to ask you some questions, I cant question you as it would be a conflict of interest.

BRAD

It`s ok I understand...I think.

CHARLIE

(waving his finger
between Diane and
Brad)

Did you guys have disgusting straight people sex?

Brad and Diane glimpse at each other and then Diane looks down and groans.

Frank and Charlie start messing with the papers in front of them, trying to look professional.

FRANK

Ok then, so Brad why do you think your qualified for this job?

BRAD

Well I --

CHARLIE

(sarcastic)

-- Wow that is such a great question, how predictable.

FRANK

Excuse me.

CHARLIE

Why don't you just ask him what his favorite flower is while you`re at it.

FRANK

I knew you were going to do this, you know you can be so mean when you want to be... ok you ask a question.

CHARLIE

Ok, so Brad what happened in the last company you worked for?

BRAD

Well with the times being hard and the company`s profits spiraling each quarter, they had to make adjustments to turn things around and they let me go.

CHARLIE

(sarcastic)

Because usually companies who are struggling let their best workers go first.

FRANK

You are soooo mean.

CHARLIE

Sorry for stating the obvious.

FRANK

You make me so mad sometimes.

Frank and Charlie continue to argue back and forth in the background as Diane decides to talk to Brad over the top of them.

DIANE

Being a pharmaceutical company, we do have our own lab, so the drug test really doesn't take that long, are you confident?

BRAD

Sure, piece of cake.

The door opens and a laboratory assistant walks in and hands Diane a piece of paper, she checks the results.

Brad is sweating from the brow, Diane smiles, a mischievous smile, only because the results don't surprise her.

DIANE

Well Brad Mason it seems we have some good news and some bad news.

BRAD

(bewildered)

Ok, well, give me the bad news first.

DIANE

You failed your drug test, you tried to cheat and with modern technology it is very easy to prove, no surprise there.

BRAD

So what's my good news.

DIANE

Well it seems you are about to give birth to a litter of puppies...Congratulations... At least use human urine if you plan on cheating .

BRAD
(to himself)
Jimmy, you bastard.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

Jimmy relaxes with his feet on the counter, reading the paper, carefree.

Jake is pacing back and forth on the floor.

JIMMY
Why are you still here?

JAKE
From that phone call with Mickey,
why are you still here?

JIMMY
Mickey will be over here soon to
apologize, the little wimp.

Bob enters the shop checking out the aisles.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Can I help you heathen? Are you
looking for something or someone,
maybe a guiding light, God perhaps,
or his great son Jesus who died for
your sins, that you commit every day
you walk on this earth.

BOB
Well preacherman, it`s actually hard
to find someone that doesn`t exist.

JIMMY
You`re a blasphemer, you will burn
in hell.

JAKE
Those are very strong words Mr Riley,
isn`t Bob allowed to believe in what
he wants?

BOB
Yeah, just because I think Jesus is
about as real as Pamela Anderson`s
breasts, which I would much rather
pray to. Anyway I'm looking for the
working half of this relationship,
you know Mickey.

Jimmy stands up and starts pointing at Bob, his cheeks start to turn red in anger.

Jake then puts his hand over Bob`s mouth to keep him quiet.

JAKE

Why don't we all calm down and agree that everyone has a right to believe in what religion, faith or spirits they want to.

JIMMY

Just you wait boy, Jesus will walk among us again and you'll be begging for mercy.

The phone rings.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

See I told you that little maggot would call back.

Jimmy picks it up expecting it to be Mickey.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Calling to apologize you little shit
(putting his hand
over his face)
Oh I'm sorry Mrs.Clark, I thought you were someone else. How are you? What can we trouble you with today?
(smiling to himself)
Ok Mrs.Clark I'll send Mickey right over.

Jimmy hangs up.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Mickey, what has he gotten himself into? He wants to run a pet shop and an animal rescue at the same time, and he is here for neither.

BOB

What's the animal rescue?

JIMMY

Well you see Lucifer, Mickey started a little side project, to be like his old man... He loved rescuing animals, he loved taking care of them and saving their lives. His old man was a vet.

BOB

Wow, I didn't know he was in Vietnam.

JIMMY

A veterinarian dumbass, whereas Mickey is nothing, this pet shop is in the midst of closing and he thinks that adding a little rescue service to it will somehow help.

JAKE

What are you doing to help?

JIMMY

Help! This place is long past saving, he should let it go and find something he might succeed at like...

(clicking his fingers)

...let me think for an hour or two.

BOB

If there is a God, why do you think that the gates of heaven would be open to you? There is no sign of decency, no sign of remorse, your just an ignorant, old drunken, poor excuse for a human being.

JIMMY

And what`s your point?

The phone rings again, it keeps ringing. This time Jimmy ignores it.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I'm getting tired of this shit.

JAKE

Awww, it must be hard leaning over and picking up the handset, don`t go outta your way, it`s not like it`s your job or anything.

JIMMY

You couldn`t do my job, none of you could, in fact you, Beelzebub and Lassie combined could not do my job.

Bob walks over and picks up the phone. Jimmy watches with interest.

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

BOB

Hello.

BRAD

(driving his car)

Hi Jimmy you bastard, you set me up --

BOB

-- Brad it`s me, Bob.

BRAD

Sorry Bob, I must have dialed the wrong number, I was actually looking for Mickey.

BOB

Ok, no wait, this is the pet shop, I just picked up the phone cuz Mickey`s not here and Jimmy is resting his hands.

Brad continues to tell Bob what Jimmy did to him.

Bob gives Jimmy the evil eye.

Jimmy smiles proudly to himself and then starts barking like a dog.

Just then a car pulls up outside and Brad walks through the front door and closes his cell phone, Bob is still holding the phone, facing the opposite way.

BOB (CONT'D)

(talking into the phone)

Hello, hello Brad are you still there?

BRAD

(standing in the pet shop)

I'm here Bob.

BOB

Wow, your voice is so much clearer, why don't you stop by the pet shop? Jake is here too.

BRAD

ok I will.

Jimmy raises his eyebrows to acknowledge the stupidity he`s witnessing.

BOB

(to Jimmy)

He should be here soon.

Bob turns around and notices Brad, he jumps back.

Jake and Brad laughs.

JIMMY

Well, this is most crowded I`ve seen. this store in months.

BRAD

(to Jimmy)

You owe me a job.

JAKE

Yeah me too. I think.

BOB

Not really me, but I'll take it.

JIMMY

What type of job would you like, a handjob, a blowjob?...

(sits up in his chair
and puts his hands
on the counter)

I'll tell you what, as this place doesn't have long to go before it becomes just another squatters paradise, you three can take my job, because I quit.

BRAD

This ain't another one of your stupid stunts is it?

JIMMY

No I swear to God almighty himself...
(acting concerned)

He needs your help, you're his friends aren't you?

BRAD, BOB AND JAKE

Yeah.

BOB

We gotta help him out, we gotta put our brains together.

JIMMY

Oohh don't challenge yourselves too much.

The three guys all put one hand out on top of each others, like the musketeers.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Wow! That was so...gay.

Jimmy writes on a piece of paper and then walks around the counter and hands it to Brad.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

(to Brad)

Here is your first assignment. This is Mrs.Clark's address. Little Scratchy is stuck up a tree, usually Mickey takes care of this, but as he is not here right now...prove yourself and take the Antichrist with you.

(turning to Jake)

I have something else for you.

(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

(looking at Brad and
Bob)

Well go on then, you won't get much
done standing here.

EXT. HARRY'S PET SHOP - DAY

Brad and Bob get into Brad's car and drive off, just as Mickey
is getting out of a cab.

Jimmy is holding a puppy, while Jake is holding a kitten.
Mickey approaches them and snatches the puppy off Jimmy.

MICKEY

(to Jimmy)

Why are you still here?

JIMMY

Ohhh easy there Rocky, I'm actually
just leaving...oh by the way I hired
your three friends to replace me.

Mickey looks at Jake who shrugs his shoulders.

Jimmy sets off towards Murphy's bar.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Good luck kid.

MICKEY

(shouting back)

Yeah right asshole.

(turning to Jake)

You know, I've heard stories he used
to be happy when he was younger.

Mickey and Jake continue to hold the pets.

JAKE

(smiling)

Well hello Casanova.

MICKEY

(awkward)

Oh yeah.

JAKE

Well did you?

MICKEY

(no enthusiasm)

Yeah.

JAKE

You must be the only guy I know who's
not on a high after sex.

MICKEY

Well to be honest
(breathing deeply)
I feel bad.

JAKE

Why, didn't you orgasm?

MICKEY

I did, but I know she faked hers.

JAKE

(looking stunned)
And your point is?... You know woman
only fake orgasms because they think
men care.

MICKEY

I do care and if I want to continue
a relationship with her I would like
to satisfy her every need.

JAKE

Have you been reading
cosmopolitan...Listen why don't you
get some practice in? You know, maybe
get yourself a prostitute.

MICKEY

What? Are you for real? I don't need
to get no prostitute.

JAKE

Well, just trying to help, they could
teach you a few things for the next
time, if there will be a next time.

MICKEY

Well I don't need your help in that
department, thank you.

Two beautiful girls approach Jake; his face lights up and he
starts to put on his charm.

JAKE

Well hello ladies, we have a special
on today, buy one of these adorable
kittens and you get to take me home
to.

Both girls start to laugh. Jake enjoys the attention.

Moving onto Mickey, he blushes.

1ST GIRL

(turning her face up)
Ewww disgusting.

They continue walking.

MICKEY
(shouting at them)
It`s just a puppy, have a heart.

The girls turn around.

1ST GIRL
Oh, you have a dog? I didn`t see
him.

MICKEY
Piss off!

The girls turn around again and walk off laughing to each other.

Jake has a smirk on his face.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
What are you smiling at?

JAKE
Dude, you need to relax, this can`t
be good for your blood pressure...You
know what your problem is? You think
too much, you let things get the
better of you.

MICKEY
Jake, my business is a few weeks
away from closing; I fired my
pretentious prick of an uncle; I
can`t satisfy my suicidal girlfriend;
I'm hung like a gerbil; I'm a complete
failure at everything I do and you
would like me to relax.

JAKE
Let me ask you something. Would you
rather be a success at something you
hate or a failure at something you
love.

Mickey is a little taken aback by Jake`s question and thinks for a while.

MICKEY
That was a very deep question coming
from you Jake Think of it all by
yourself?

JAKE
No, George Burns.

MICKEY

Ahhh, anyway I need help, serious help.

Jake reaches into his pocket and hands Mickey a card.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

(reading the card)

Thanks Jake, but I don't think I need a free hard taco combo meal.

Jake snatches the card back out of Mickey's hand and looks through his wallet, then hands him another card.

JAKE

It's my uncle, Dr. Edwards the psychiatrist. Talk to him he'll take good care of you. He's a very educated man, he studied under the great Dr. Hamilton.

MICKEY

Dr. Hamilton. Isn't that the guy that one day just wandered off during someone's counseling session never to be seen again?

JAKE

Yep the one and only. Go see him. Just mention my name.

MICKEY

Hey thanks Jake, your a good friend.

JAKE

Hey that's what friends are for, when you've fallen down, friends are there to help you up on your feet.

MICKEY

George Burns?

JAKE

Barney.

EXT. MRS. CLARK'S HOUSE - DAY

Brad and Bob step out of the car. Brad looks at the address on the piece of paper, then checks the mailbox.

BRAD

This is it.

BOB

Ok, lets save the kitty cat.

Mrs. Clark, is a elderly lady, very frail looking, with a walker. She is standing in front of a tall tree.

Bob and Brad strut towards Mrs. Clark with two huge smiles on their faces.

BRAD
 (talking out the side
 of his mouth to Bob)
 Look professional.

Mrs. Clark starts to panic as Bob and Brad approach her. She picks up her walker and starts swinging it like a golf club.

MRS. CLARK
 Get back, I'm not afraid to use this.

Bob starts pleading with her.

BOB
 Calm down old lady; we are here to
 save little scratchy.

BRAD
 Yes, we are from Harry's pet shop,
 Jimmy sent us.

MRS. CLARK
 Where's young Michael, he's such a
 good boy, always caring about everyone
 else.

BOB
 He's busy with his lady friend.

Brad digs Bob in the ribs.

BOB (CONT'D)
 Oww! What the hell man?

BRAD
 (talking out the side
 of his mouth again)
 Inappropriate, I don't think she
 needs to know that...
 (to Mrs. Clark)
 Ok then, where is the little fella?

She pointed to the top of the huge tree, where in the distance you could just make out the tail amongst all the leaves.

Brad points to Bob and Bob points to Brad, then Brad pulls out a coin.

BRAD (CONT'D)
 Heads or tails?

BOB
 Tails never fails.

Brad flips the coin in the air. He flips it so high it lands on a branch in the tree.

BOB (CONT'D)
You flipped it, why don't you go get it?

Brad starts awkwardly climbing the tree. He gasps as he climbs:

BRAD
This is harder than it looks.

He falls at the first attempt. Trying again, he falls once more.

Bob offers him assistance by bending over and letting him climb on his back. Brad gets up onto the first branch.

The coin is on the next branch, while the tail of the animal sticks out from the branch above it.

BOB
Can you see it yet?

BRAD
Nearly.

MRS. CLARK
Ooohh, please don't hurt little Scratchy.

At this point Brad has branches stuck in his ears and eyes. With his last bit of strength he pulls himself up onto the branch where the coin is.

He is now within reach of Scratchy.

BRAD
It looks like tails failed; it was heads.

BOB
Shit.

Bob walks behind a fence, pulls out a huge extension ladder and places it against the branch Brad is on.

Brad descends down to the ground.

BRAD
Got it.

MRS. CLARK
My Scratchy?

BRAD
No my coin. Get up Bob you loser.

Bob begins to climb the ladder.

BOB
It`s ok Scratchy, I'm coming.

Bob reaches the branch Scratchy is on; he puts his hands in amongst the leaves to grab him. The animal puts up a huge fight.

BOB (CONT'D)
C`mon you little shit, play easy now; I'm here to save you.

Bob pulls Scratchy out and descends down the ladder.

BOB (CONT'D)
Here you go ma`am.

Bob hands her a squirrel. Mrs. Clark takes the squirrel and starts wagging her finger at it.

MRS. CLARK
I`ve told you a hundred times no more running up trees.
(looking at the guys)
He just doesn`t listen.

Brad and Bob high five each other and jump in the car. Just as Brad starts driving, his cell phone rings. He picks it up; it`s Mickey.

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

MICKEY
Hey, what has my uncle got you guys doing?

BRAD
(still driving)
We were helping Mrs. Clark get Scratchy down from the tree.

MICKEY
That asshole.

BRAD
Wow, that`s a little rough, she seemed pretty nice to us, maybe we got her on a good day.

MICKEY
Not Mrs. Clark, my uncle you dumbass, he set you up again, Mrs. Clark suffers from Dementia, she thinks the squirrel is a cat and wonders why it constantly goes up the tree.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

You guys did question that right?

BRAD

(nodding)

Oh yeah sure.

Brad drops the phone and leans down below the steering wheel to pick it up.

BOB

Look out!

Brad pulls himself up to find he is in the wrong lane. He swerves back into the right lane, putting the phone back up to his ear.

BRAD

Are you still there?

MICKEY

What the hell? Are you on the cell phone while driving? Give the phone to Bob.

Brad passes the phone to Bob.

BOB

Hello, this is Bob.

MICKEY

I know Bob. Hey, put me on speaker phone so you can both hear.

BOB

Ok, hold on.

(Bob presses the speaker button)

You're on speaker Mickey.

MICKEY

Thanks Bob. Ok guys, I don't have a lot of confidence that this will work...Can I trust you guys to help with the animals for the last few weeks?

BRAD AND BOB

Yeah sure.

BRAD

You can count on us, we love animals don't we Bob.

Bob goes quiet as he is looking out his window at a big breasted hot chick jogging towards him in the distance.

Pointing her out to Brad, Brad stares, taking his eyes off the road.

MICKEY

Guys are you still with me, your not making me feel any more confident.

BOB

(still staring at the jogger)

Yeah Mickey, we are still with you; we love animals; I'm looking at two beautiful puppies right now.

The jogger gets closer and the guys get more excited as they can't keep their eyes off her.

Suddenly she stops and lets out a scream as she points to the front of the car.

Brad and Bob look forward and see an old lady crossing the road with a little dog trailing behind on a leash.

Bob leans over to grab the wheel. The boy's eyes light up. They let out a shriek.

MICKEY

(shouting)

Guys! Guys what is going on? Somebody tell me what's happening?

They manage to swerve around the old lady, but hear a thump they run over the dog's hind legs.

Brad checks back in his rear view mirror, the old lady continues across the road, undaunted; dragging her damaged dog across the road.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

I'm putting all my faith in you two, to help take care of my animals I know you wont bring any harm to them.

Both their eyes are as wide as saucers and they are visibly shaken.

BRAD

Yeah, you can trust us.

BOB

Whatever you need.

MICKEY

Good. I have not been home, so can you guys go to my house and take care of my animals? It will be good practice.

BRAD AND BOB

Sure thing.

MICKEY

Ok listen up. I have an electric fence that shocks my dog's collar if he goes past it, it is controlled by the switch inside the door next to the light switch. It is clearly marked; please make sure it is off.

BOB

Switch off, got it.

MICKEY

Bring him and my cat to the store; they need to get their shots. The cat usually hides in my bedroom; don't worry he wont bite. He's more scared of you.

BOB

One cat and one dog delivered. Got it.

MICKEY

Also, feed my hamster and my tortoise ...Oh, one more thing; you might need to turn the heat up. Uncle Jimmy usually keeps it cold to save heating bills. Thanks again guys.

Mickey hangs up. The guys look dopey eyed at each other.

INT. MURPHY'S BAR - DAY

Jimmy is the only customer in the bar, as usual, that early in the morning.

Chad is taking down the chairs from the tables and wiping them off with a cloth while whistling "CHINA GIRL" by Iggy Pop and David Bowie.

Jimmy has his early morning pint of stout in front of him.

CHAD

Why rong face Jimmy?

JIMMY

The pet shop.

CHAD

So rots the pobem?

JIMMY

My brother's store is closing in a few weeks and I left it in the hands

(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

of a depressive idiot and the three stooges.

CHAD

Why you so hod on Lem? ley seem lik nice guys.

JIMMY

Nice guys finish last, if you didn't know and I don't expect you to know coming off the boat from China.. How did you get here?

CHAD

My brother wok in government, he big envirement guy, you kno, cleen air, save seals, stuff like that. He got me on one, of his boats.

JIMMY

Shouldn't have bothered; you're just taking another job away from an American. Why come here? Why not cross into another country closer to you?

CHAD

You insensitive pick! Why do I come here? If you cross North Korean border you get 12 yeas hawd laba, if you cross Chinese borda you will dissapea for good... Cross into America, I get job, I get I.D card, credit cards and an apatment, lis is the greatest place evea.

JIMMY

Just another immigrant taking advantage of the system.

(holding his phone in the air)

All it takes is one phone call and you'll be back in the paddy fields picking rice.

CHAD

Oh Yeah and wha pawt ov America is Irland fom, you junking potato eata. I wouldn't piss on you if you were on fire.

Jimmy's face starts turning red and then he breathes deeply in and out, like a relaxation technique.

He stares at his pint, his face gets closer and closer to the glass as if he sees something. Suddenly he pushes himself out from the bar counter.

Chad looks at him as if he is ready to fight. He puts his fists up as Jimmy makes way for the front door. Jimmy turns around, eyes Chad up and down, then walks out; slamming the door behind him.

EXT. MR AND MRS WESTONS HOUSE - DAY

Sally approaches her parent`s house; she seems relatively happy.

She stops and looks down at the steps where her Dad tripped over her. She smiles some more and rings the bell.

INT. INSIDE MR AND MRS WESTONS HOUSE - DAY

With all the charisma of a game show host, Mr. Weston makes his way to the door aided by his cane. makes his way to the door with the aide of his cane.

He stops at the door and feels around for the peep hole. He moves the metal cover back and looks out.

MR. WESTON

Who is it?

SALLY

(shouting from outside)
C`mon Dad, you know it`s me.

MR. WESTON

Me who?

SALLY

Me Sally, stop playing around.

Mr. Weston opens the door.

Sally walks in puts her arms around her Dad and squeezes him tightly. He does the same to her.

MR. WESTON

What brings you around here? I haven`t seen you since...aww just a little blind humor.

SALLY

I have good news.

MR. WESTON

Well come in; your mother is inside somewhere; I can hear her. And of course David will be sooo excited to see you. In reality he`s the only one who will... Not that I mean...

SALLY

Dad it`s ok, I know you guys love me and I love you too.

Sally takes her Dad's hand and walks him into the kitchen; her mother has her back to them, washing dishes.

Sally sneaks up behind her and puts her hands over her mom's eyes.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Guess who?

MRS. WESTON

Is that my darling Sally?

Sally removes her hands, Mrs. Weston also being blind, touches Sally's face.

MR. WESTON

Sally has some good news for us.

MRS. WESTON

Well dear what is it?

SALLY

I have a new man in my life and before you say anything, he is not like all the others. He is sweet, kind and respectful.

MRS. WESTON

What's his name and when can we meet him?

SALLY

His name is Michael Riley and you can meet him soon.

MRS. WESTON

Riley... Why do I know that name?

MR. WESTON

It sounds familiar; what does he do?

SALLY

He owns the pet shop on Main Street.

Mr and Mrs. Weston look in each other's general direction. Sally looks back and forth at them, as they have gone very quiet.

SALLY (CONT'D)

What is it? What's wrong with Michael?

MR. WESTON

Nothing dear, its just that...

David comes running down the stairs excitedly. Sally puts her arms out and picks him up giving him a big kiss on the cheek.

DAVID WESTON

You look beautiful in green; it really suits you.

Sally is dressed all in red.

SALLY

Thank you David, you are turning into a mighty fine young gentleman if I do say so myself...Well, sorry I can't stay long, I'm going down to the pet shop to surprise Mickey and tell him how happy he makes me.

MRS. WESTON

Good luck, we are really happy for you.

Sally walks out of the house, waving good-bye.

She then closes the door behind her.

MR. WESTON

Shouldn't we tell her?

MRS. WESTON

No. I can hear the happiness in her voice, that's something we haven't heard in years.

MR. WESTON

(angry)

But they are the reason we're blind.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

Mickey is hanging up the phone, as Jake is sweeping the floors.

MICKEY

Ok. Your uncle said he could fit me in now if I wanted, but that means leaving you in charge of the shop.

JAKE

I'll be ok.

(picking up a bunny)

I'll look after the little cutsie wootsies.

Mickey smiles and puts his coat on.

MICKEY

Well, I've got nothing to lose either way; give me a call if you have a problem.

Mickey walks out of the pet shop.

EXT. MICKEY`S HOUSE - DAY

Brad and Bob pull up outside Mickey`s house.

Brad holds Bob back for a second.

BRAD

Now, before we go in here, be careful,
watch out for the guard dog.

They both start laughing, as Bob slowly opens the door. He puts his head inside and looks around. It is dark, so he flips a switch; unwittingly turning on the electric fence and then he switches on the light.

INT. MICKEY`S HOUSE - DAY

LIVING ROOM

Brad and Bob step inside and close the door. They can see their own breath as they start to shiver.

BOB

What the hell? Unnecessary coldness

BRAD

You could crack my nuts with a spoon.

Brad walks over to the thermostat and turns it up.

BRAD (CONT'D)

Ok, let`s take care of these pets.

Suddenly Herman comes yelping out from behind the couch, Brad and Bob jump back as if there being attacked by a pitbull. Noticing a little cage in the corner of the room they pick the dog up and put him in it.

BOB

One more to get, two more to feed...
You go find the cat, I`ll feed the
other two.

Brad walks upstairs to get the cat.

Bob walks into the kitchen looking for the tortoise and the hamster.

KITCHEN

Bob steps on tortoise crap and slips, landing right on top of the tortoise.

He gets up and looks at it. There is a crack in the middle of it`s shell.

The tortoise starts to move very slowly.

Bob begins to panic. He pulls off some duct tape from the counter and puts it across the crack on the tortoise's back.

Picking up the tortoise, he puts it in the goldfish tank.

BOB

You must have escaped from here somehow. Silly tortoise, back to your natural setting.

MICKEY'S BEDROOM

Brad pushes open the door to the bedroom. It is immaculate, nothing is out of place.

BRAD

Here kitty kitty, where are you kitty cat?

He hears a noise from under the bed, he gets down on his knees and lifts up the bedskirt, two eyes are looking back at him.

He stretches his hand in to grab the cat and he pulls out an old pair of tighty whiteys instead. He holds them up in disgust.

BRAD (CONT'D)

Ewwwww, come out here cat.

STAIRS

Brad holding what looks like a bad excuse for a cat at full arms length. It's the kind of cat you find in a dumpster all mangy with leaves stuck in it's fur.

Brad is squinting his eyes and holding his breath, carries the cat downstairs.

BRAD (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

KITCHEN

Bob turns around and jumps back when he sees the cat.

BOB

What the hell is that thing?

BRAD

Apparently it's Mickey's cat.

BOB

We'll find somewhere to put it; we have a bigger problem over here.

Brad puts the cat in a cardboard box and walks over to the hamster cage. The hamster is just lying there motionless.

BOB (CONT'D)

What do we do? I've poked the little guy and he doesn't seem to respond.

BRAD

There is only one thing we can do.

They both turn their heads and look out towards the back yard at all the little crosses.

EXT. BACK YARD OF MICKEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Brad starts digging a little hole with a shovel, as Bob places the hamster in a shoe box and puts the lid on it.

Bob places the shoe box in the hole and Brad shovels some dirt on it. He picks up a rock and places it over the grave.

BRAD

(confused)

What are you doing?

BOB

I don't know, I figured it was some kind of Catholic thing, you know, when they like...placed Jesus in a tomb and put the rock in front.

BRAD

You are aware one is a hamster, a four-legged rodent that spends his time in a cage with a running wheel and drinks water from a water bottle.

BOB

Like the freaks at the YMCA.

BRAD

Exactly. The other, according to Wikipedia, is the savior of all humanity, believed to be God incarnate and a human being; who was crucified by the Romans and resurrected three days after his death.

They both stand with their hands behind their backs.

BRAD (CONT'D)

Well, go on, say some words.

BOB

I don't know what to say, you say something.

BRAD

(taking a deep breath)

Here lies a hamster, who spent his
life as a hamster, doing hamster
stuff and eating hamster food.

A tear starts to trickle down from one of Bob`s eyes.

BOB

Beautiful, I loved that little guy.

INT. MICKEY`S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Grabbing the dog and the cat, they walk out the front door,
forgetting to turn off the switch.

Brad carries the cat, while Bob has the dog.

As soon as they step outside the electric fence, the dog
goes crazy, barking and howling.

BOB

(holding the cage up
to his face)

What is wrong with you? Are you
possessed?

BRAD

Quick, let`s get them back to the
pet shop.

They place the dog and cat in the back seat, the dog is still
howling, the cat has tensed up.

BOB

(checking out the car)

Dude, this car is filthy, when is
the last time you cleaned it?

BRAD

Yeah, you`re right. Wally`s automatic
car-wash is on the way, we will go
in there quickly.

INT. DR. HAMILTON`S OFFICE - DAY

Mickey arrives to get some counseling from Jake`s uncle, DR.
EDWARDS.

He knocks on the door, it opens. Standing in front of him is
DR. EDWARDS, a very easy going, laid back gentleman, in fact,
too laid back to be a psychiatrist.

DR. EDWARDS

You must be Michael Riley. Please
c`mon in.

MICKEY

(shaking his hand)

Thanks, I'm not too sure if I need to be here, I've never done this before.

DR. EDWARDS

That's what they all say, It's ok nothing to be ashamed of...

(pulling out the chair)

Here, take a load off.

Mickey sits down as Dr.Edwards pulls a chair up for himself.

DR. EDWARDS (CONT'D)

So, what brings you here Michael?

MICKEY

Well, to be honest, I'm not so sure. I think I just need someone to talk to, you know sometimes I just feel like nobody likes me, you know, but it could be me just being paranoid.

DR. EDWARDS

(talking softly)

Not necessarily.

MICKEY

What?

DR. EDWARDS

Nothing, please do go on.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

Jake is sitting behind the counter with his feet up and his hands behind his head, mimicking Jimmy.

Sally enters with a confused look.

SALLY

Where's Mickey?

JAKE

He's with my uncle.

SALLY

Why would Mickey want to see your uncle?

JAKE

He seemed very depressed.

SALLY

Why didn't he come talk to me?

JAKE
 (sarcastic)
 Ohhh I don't know, maybe because
 your answer is always the quick way
 out.

Jake starts to imitate suicide attempts, pretending to tie a noose around his neck and then slashing his wrists with his finger.

A customer peers at him from one of the aisles.

SALLY
 Well your Uncle is definitely not
 the person he should be talking to.
 He`s not even a real Doctor, he`s a
 disgrace to the reputation Dr.
 Hamilton left.

JAKE
 Wait just a minute. He`s been helping
 you out.

SALLY
 Are you fucking kidding me? I`ve
 attempted suicide more times since I
 talked to him than I did before.

JAKE
 So why go to him?

SALLY
 Why? I felt I had to talk to someone
 and he was supposed to be a...
 (air quotes)
 "professional". After years of being
 treated like carpet with guys, you
 included --

JAKE
 (lowering his head)
 -- Sorry.

SALLY
 I finally met someone I could say:
 "I can trust you".

The customer steps forward and stands in front of Jake and Sally, she swings her leg back and kicks him square in the nuts.

Jake falls to the ground in agony, holding himself.

CUSTOMER
 You oughta be ashamed of yourself.
 (in a quieter tone)
 Now can somebody help me, my grandson
 wants a goldfish.

Sally glances down at Jake, then looks at the customer and smiles.

SALLY

He will help you ma'am, I gotta go
save my boyfriend.

INT. DR. HAMILTON'S OFFICE - DAY

Mickey continues to talk. Dr.Edward's back is turned to him; he has fallen asleep unbeknownst to Mickey.

MICKEY

And a lot of the time, when I do
talk I feel like I bore people, you
know, I never have anything
interesting to say Doctor...
(raising his voice)
Doctor! Are you sleeping?

Dr.Edwards leaps up from his chair.

DR. EDWARDS

What, Where am I?
(Turning around to
face Mickey)
What? Noooooo, I wasn't sleeping. I
was thinking; I was in deep thought
about everything you said.

MICKEY

Good, then can you give me some
advice?

DR. EDWARDS

Do you masturbate Mr. Riley?

MICKEY

Excuse me!

DR.EDWARDS

You know, do you grease your bone?

MICKEY

What?

DR.EDWARDS

Hold your sausage hostage, Choke
Charlie till he throws up, pump the
python, the five knuckle shuffle,
crank the shank, tease the python --

MICKEY

-- Enough, is any of this even
necessary?

DR.EDWARDS
 (smiling)
 Answer the bone-a-phone.

Mickey jumps up and starts waving his finger angrily at Dr. Edwards.

MICKEY
 That`s it, you`re a nutcase. I'm worse off now than before I came in.

DR.EDWARDS
 I'm sorry, I could see your very stressed out and masturbation is a way of releasing stress...Please sit down.

Mickey takes his seat again.

DR.EDWARDS (CONT'D)
 Let`s start from the start. So, Michael Riley is that an Irish name.

MICKEY
 Yes, my family is from Ireland.

DR.EDWARDS
 Not to sound stereotypical, but are you a heavy drinker.

MICKEY
 No.

DR.EDWARDS
 Do you like to fight alot?

MICKEY
 What? No.

DR.EDWARDS
 Do you like to tap dance vigorously in one spot with your pants up the crack of your ass and your arms straight down by your side.

Mickey raises an eyebrow and gives the Doctor an evil look.

MICKEY
 No, I am not a Riverdancer.

DR.EDWARDS
 C`mon, help me out here; I am trying to find the root of your problem and you`re not helping... Dare I ask, are you microphalic?

Mickey is completely silent and still, he doesn`t know whether he wants to punch him or throw something at him.

DR.EDWARDS (CONT'D)

Hmmm. So what is wrong with being small? Is it the humiliation, the lack of self-esteem or the fact that you feel you can never satisfy any woman?

MICKEY

Well... So far it`s this conversation.

Dr.Edwards stares at him and then stands up. He turns around and opens a cabinet. He lifts out a bottle of tablets and puts them down in front of Mickey.

Mickey picks the bottle up.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

What`s this?

DR.EDWARDS

This will help your little problem.

Mickey puts the bottle in his pocket and gets up to leave.

MICKEY

I won`t be back here again.

DR.EDWARDS

Good, then my work is done.

INT. MURPHY`S BAR - DAY

Chad is looking through cds; the bar is empty.

The bar door opens, a business man walks in. He has dark sunglasses and a very smart looking suit. He pulls a stool out and sits down.

CHAD

Wha can I geet yo?

INS MAN

(very composed)

Ohh, let me see... How about a green card?

CHAD

Excuse me?

INS MAN

(puts his INS badge
on the counter)

You know, proof that you are legal
to live and work in this country?

Chad gives the badge a once-over, then looks up at the stranger.

CHAD
 (talking softly)
 I'll kill that modda fucka.

INS MAN
 Excuse me?

CHAD
 Oh notink, I be righ bak wif my papas.

Chad speed walks to the back door of the bar, as the INS man watches.

He starts whistling "BORN TO RUN" by Bruce Springsteen and then pushes open the door.

EXT. BEHIND MURPHY`S BAR - CONTINUOUS

Chad runs for his life down main street, screaming Jimmy`s name at the top of his voice.

INT. MURPHY`S BAR - CONTINUOUS

The INS man sits all alone in the bar. He looks at his watch and then to the door that Chad ran out off.

He gets up and makes his way to the door, slowly pushing it open.

EXT. BEHIND MURPHY`S BAR - CONTINUOUS

The INS man stares into Main street, realizing he had just been had.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

Jake is helping a customer get a canary when the door opens; it`s Brad and Bob.

They both have scratches all over their faces and the dog is howling worse than ever.

JAKE
 What is going on here?

BRAD
 Well apparently it`s not a good idea to take a cat through a car wash.

BOB
 And this dog is just possessed.

JAKE
 There`s probably something stuck in his throat. Did you try the Heimlich?
 (MORE)

JAKE (CONT'D)
 (Turning to the
 customer)
 I'm sorry I'll be with you in a
 moment.

Brad puts the cat down and it runs off through the store.

Bob then puts the dog on his back; all three guys get down
 on their knees. They do rock, paper, scissors.

Bob loses, so he gets into position.

The customer is watches in disbelief, unaware that the cat
 is getting into the canary.

Brad holds the dog's legs and Bob opens the dog's mouth;
 exposing it's teeth and slobbering tongue.

Bob begins to stick his fingers in the mouth, to clear the
 airway. The dog's breath is rasping and horrible.

Suddenly the door swings open, this time it is Jimmy.

JIMMY
 (screaming)
 Get up you idiots!

The boys jump up and turn sheet white with fear.

BRAD
 Don't hit us!

Jimmy picks up the dog and removes his collar. The dog stops
 howling.

He then barges through the guys to the cage where the cat
 is, about to get at the canary, he lifts him out just in
 time.

Jimmy assists with the customer, as the guys look on in
 amazement at how compassionate and in control he is.

Jimmy rings up and customer and wishes him well.

JIMMY
 (Turning to Brad and
 Bob)
 Why are the cat and dog here?

BRAD
 Mickey asked us to bring them over
 for their shots.

BOB
 Yeah, he also told us to feed the
 hamster and tortoise and make sure
 (MORE)

BOB (CONT'D)
 the switch is off for
 the...electric...fence
 (looking at the dog)
 sorry puppy.

Jimmy groans.

BOB (CONT'D)
 We also have some bad news.

JIMMY
 (sarcastically)
 No way, you guys?

BOB
 (panicking)
 The tortoise fell out of his tank,
 so I put him back in with the fish,
 but I couldn't save the hamster, he
 was sitting their motionless, it
 didn't help that your house was colder
 than the Arctic.

JIMMY
 Brad give me the keys to your car.

Brad hands them over no questions asked.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
 (pointing to Bob and
 Brad)
 You two come with me. I am going to
 ask you to do one thing and one thing
 only... Nothing... I don't want you
 to speak, unless spoken to,
 (turning to Jake)
 Sell pets, do whatever you gotta do,
 let's save this place, it's got too
 many memories to let go.

JAKE
 Hey Jimmy, why the sudden change of
 heart?

JIMMY
 Well Jake, I stared into an empty
 beer glass and saw my brother's face
 looking back at me...
 (looking sincere)
 Someone once told me everything works
 out in the end. If it hasn't worked
 out, it's not the end.

Jimmy leaves; Brad and Bob tag along a couple of paces
 behind.

EXT. SALLY`S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Mickey approaches the building. Bert is standing in front like he always does, with a prostitute on either side.

BERT

Hi there Mickey, what brings you around to my fine establishment?

MICKEY

I came to see Sally.

BERT

I saw Sally leave a while ago; I think she went to her parents house.

Mickey looking at one of the prostitutes, has a deep thought, then he shakes his head.

BERT (CONT'D)

You like her don't you Mickey? She'll take care of you...Don't worry I won't tell Sally.

The prostitute walks down the steps to Mickey and puts her arm around him. Mickey releases himself from her grasp.

MICKEY

No. I can't do it, I love Sally...but --

BERT

-- But what?

MICKEY

I don't believe I'm going to say this...I need more practice.

BERT

Ohhh I see, not performing to Sally`s standards. Well, she has had plenty of practice.

MICKEY

Thanks for that Bert.

BERT

Listen, take Desiree and go into my place, apartment 1A. She'll give you all the practice you need.

DESIREE puts her arm around Mickey and walks him up the steps past Bert and the other prostitute.

MICKEY

Not a word to Sally, I'm only doing this for her.

BERT

(sounding sincere)

I know you are little cracker, I
know you are.

Mickey takes a pill out from the bottle and pops it in his
mouth.

INT. DR.HAMILTON`S OFFICE - DAY

Dr.Edwards is playing a handheld video game, cursing at it,
every time he loses. His shirt is hanging over his pants,
his shoes are off and his feet are up on the desk.

There is a knock on the door, so he puts the game down and
straightens himself up.

DR.EDWARDS

Come in.

The door opens, it is Sally.

DR.EDWARDS (CONT'D)

Well, well, well, suicide Sally,
what brings you here? I don`t have
you on my schedule for at least...
Actually I don`t put you down on my
schedule, I never think you`re going
to make it.

SALLY

Are you finished? I am looking for
Mickey, Michael Riley, apparently he
came here to see you.

DR.EDWARDS

Ohhh, You and Michael are an item.
Its like two worlds colliding...
(imitating a bomb)
Boooooommm.

SALLY

Are you finished again? I hope you
didn`t lead him off track.

DR.EDWARDS

Nooooo, me? Have you tried going to
your apartment? Maybe he`s going to
see you, or maybe have you tried...
(sarcastic)
What do you call that again, when
someone has one of those talking
devices and another person has one
too, then one person punches in
numbers that belongs to the device
of the other and he/she answers it
and then they talk, sometimes asking
where are you? Oh yeah a phone.

Sally rolls her eyes to the heavens and shakes her head.

SALLY

Dr.Hamilton must have been proud of you, anyway, I can't call him, because I forgot to get his phone number.

DR.EDWARDS

Oohh silly Sally, silly suicide Sally. Try saying that three times fast.

SALLY

(angry)

I will never set foot in this place again.

DR.EDWARDS

Then my work here is done.

Sally walks out furious, slamming the door behind her.

Dr. Edwards sits down, noticing a piece of paper with Michael Riley's number on it, he crumbles it up and throws it like a basketball at the garbage can, misses and shrugs his shoulders.

EXT. OUTSIDE MICKEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Jimmy, Brad and Bob pull up outside of Mickey's house.

Jimmy looks at Brad who is sitting next to him and then turns to the backseat where Bob is sitting. They both have their lips sealed as if they are glued together.

JIMMY

You guys think I don't care about Mickey, don't ya?

The guys remain tight lipped.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

You can breathe you know.

Together they both let out a huge breath.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I raised that boy as if he was my own...I might come across as a hard ass but at the end of the day he's family.

Jimmy is in deep thought staring at the steering wheel, as Brad and Bob sit there puzzled.

After a few awkward moments Brad breaks the silence.

BRAD

So, why do you want the pet shop to fail?

JIMMY

(angrily)

Excuse me! I do not want the pet shop to fail.

Brad cowers into the seat. Jimmy hits the steering wheel, then breathes, once again using his relaxation technique.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

After his father died, I carried that place and Mickey on my own... He was just a kid. I put a lot of my savings into it, it's lucky to have survived this far. I have nothing left.

(looking somber)

The pet shop became my life and once Mickey grew old enough to look after it, I decided to take a backseat and watch. It wasn't that I didn't do anything... I felt I had done everything.

BOB

Did you ever tell Mickey this?

JIMMY

No. I felt he would have quit.

BOB

I don't think you're as mean as you pretend to be.

Jimmy lifts his head up smiling.

BRAD

Was the pet shop ever successful?

JIMMY

Oh yes, there was a time when we had all kinds of animals, not just what you see now. I mean exotic and that fascinated people, brought them in from all over.

They all get out of the car and start walking up to the house, Brad and Bob lag behind.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Do you guys know the difference between a tortoise and a turtle.

Brad and Bob look like a couple of deer caught in headlights.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

(As he is turning the
key to the front
door)

Turtles have flatter backs than
tortoises and spend most of their
lives underwater.

INT. INSIDE MICKEY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

KITCHEN

In the kitchen they see the tortoise struggling in the water.

Jimmy gently lifts it out. He places the tortoise on the
ground, takes the duct tape off the shell and gives him some
lettuce to eat.

JIMMY

Tortoises live entirely on land...
Above water! They can't swim and
they could drown.

(pointing to the crack)

This does not require duct tape, it
is in fact the design of the shell.

Bob puts his head in his hands.

BOB

But I fell on him and I thought I
broke it.

JIMMY

(knocking on the shell)

It would take more than your dumb
ass to break this shell.

BOB

We are very sorry Jimmy.

BRAD

Yes Jimmy, we were just trying to
help.

Jimmy pats the two guys on the back, trying to make them
feel better.

JIMMY

It's ok lads; I know your trying,
that's half the problem. I'm sure
God will forgive you too.

BOB

Where is God?

JIMMY

Ohh Bob, God is everywhere, watching all we do. He is very forgiving, I believe his son Jesus is among us.

BRAD

What? You think I'm Jesus, or Bob or are you... Jesus?

JIMMY

I meant spiritually halfwit! He is the all powerful, he could come back as anything.

BOB

You mean like a lamp or a chair.

JIMMY

Anything with a soul... Now do either of you guys know what torpor is?

They have that deer in the headlights look again.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I'll take that as a no.

Jimmy looks outside and sees a freshly dug grave with a little cross and a rock over it.

Jimmy thinks to himself and then a devilish grin spreads across his face.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Why don't you guys check upstairs to see if the Parrot is around, I want to bring it to the shop.

BRAD AND BOB

Ok.

Brad and Bob make their way upstairs, as Jimmy opens the back door and goes out to the grave.

MICKEY`S BEDROOM

Brad and Bob see the parrot and go over to pick him up.

Brad stops and grabs Bob by the arm. Bob is taken back.

BRAD

(whispering)

I know what we've got to do.

BOB

Me too.

(MORE)

BOB (CONT'D)
 (speaking slowly and
 sarcastically)
 Lift the parrot and bring him
 downstairs.

BRAD
 No dumbass, exotic animals.
 (looking excited)
 We have got to get exotic animals in
 the pet store.

BOB
 (confused)
 Yeah. How? Let`s think.

They both do their impressions of "the thinker" by Rodin.

BRAD AND BOB
 Ted!

BRAD
 My uncle Ted. He`s always collecting
 wild animals. He`s the best hunter,
 trapper, collector guy thingy in the
 state. At least that`s what he tells
 me.

Brad picks up his phone and starts dialing.

BRAD (CONT'D)
 Hello uncle Ted.

TED
 Hello who is this? I can barely hear
 you.

BRAD
 It`s me Brad, your nephew, I need a
 favor from you.

TED
 (struggling to hear)
 I'm sorry the boys and I are out
 hunting, turkey season you know.

Gunshots are behind Ted.

Bob notices a playboy mag sticking out from under Mickey`s
 bed. He picks it up and flips through the pages.

He stops at the centerfold and shows it to Harry the parrot.

BOB
 (to the parrot)
 Look at the rack on her.

Brad and Ted are still talking.

TED

You need what from me?

BRAD

I need some exotic animals, to be brought to Harry's pet shop, I'll pay you back, I promise.

TED

Your breaking up Brad.. You want animals you say. What kind of animals?

With the gunshots, Ted is finding it difficult to hear Brad.

Bob is still showing the picture of the centerfold to the parrot.

BOB

And look at that nice beaver.

HARRY THE PARROT

(screaming loudly)

Beaver, beaver, nice beaver!

Bob and Brad try to quiet the bird.

TED

I'll see what I can do.

Ted hangs up and Brad looks at the phone.

BRAD

Hello, hello anyone there?

Brad shrugs his shoulders.

KITCHEN WINDOW

Jimmy is outside removing the rock and digging up the box, he then takes off the lid to reveal the hamster, who is still lying there motionless.

Placing the hamster in the sunlight, he returns quickly and quietly back to the house.

The guys are walking downstairs, with the parrot in the cage.

Jimmy acts like he did nothing.

JIMMY

Good job, you got him, I think we are all done here...Didn't something else happen while you were here?

BOB

Yeah, the poor little hamster died.

Bob walks over towards Jimmy and points out the window to the grave.

BOB (CONT'D)
We buried him right....

Bob signals Brad over and they both look at the grave.

JIMMY
(acting inconspicuous)
What is it Bob?

Bob opens the door and walks out, followed by Brad and Jimmy.

EXT. BACK YARD MICKEY`S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Bob puts his hands over his mouth in disbelief.

The hamster opens his eyes; then starts to twitch. Bob looks closer at him; then he reaches his hands into the box and gently picks him up. A tear rolls down Bob`s face.

Brad picks up the rock that was removed.

Brad and Bob look at it intensely.

BRAD AND BOB
He has risen from the dead.

Bob holds the hamster up so they are eye to eye.

BOB
You are him, you are Jesus.

He then raises him as high as he can, into the sky.

BOB (CONT'D)
Our savior has returned!

EXT. OUTSIDE SALLY`S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Sally ascends the steps, where she is met by Bert and a prostitute.

SALLY
Just one prostitute today Bert, is Desiree starting early?

BERT
Yeah, you could say that, what you up to?

SALLY
You didn`t see Mickey around did you? I thought he might have come here to see me.

BERT
 (abruptly)
 No.no.no. I haven't seen the little
 cracker.

Bert puts his arm across the doorway, blocking Sally.

SALLY
 (a little confused)
 Excuse me Bert, can I get past you?

Bert removes his arm.

Sally ignores the elevator and walks towards the stairs at the back, right past Bert's apartment.

BERT
 The elevator is working you know.

SALLY
 (turning around)
 I need the exercise.

INT. BERT'S APARTMENT 1A - CONTINUOUS

HALLWAY

The door of 1A opens and Desiree walks out.

Sally is standing right in front of it.

SALLY
 You taught some old dog new tricks?

Desiree looks disgusted, shakes her head and pushes the door open; then walks towards Bert..

Mickey is sitting on a chair facing the door, boxer shorts on, staring at the ceiling. He drops his head, only to see Sally staring back with her mouth open wide and the most horrified look on her face.

Mickey leaps up from the couch, Sally glaring at his boxers, notices that he is bigger than usual.

Sally doesn't know whether to be mortified or confused. She then sniffs an awful smell.

MICKEY
 (holding the bottle
 of pills)
 Apparently anal seepage is a side
 effect.

Sally puts one hand over her face, screams and runs up to her apartment.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
 (putting his clothes
 back on)
 Sally, I can explain.

EXT. OUTSIDE SALLY'S APARTMENT - LATER

Mickey is outside Sally's door; Weston is on the floor with his head down.

WINSTON
 Boy, you are dumb.

MICKEY
 I have no time for your insults. Did
 Sally go in here or not?

WINSTON
 Yeah she's in there, doing what, I
 don't know.

Mickey starts banging on the door with haste.

MICKEY
 Sally open up, I can explain, please
 this time give me a chance to...
 (slowing down the
 knocking on the door)
 ...Sally it was for you.

Mickey slowly slides down the door until he is level with
 Winston.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
 I keep messing up. I don't want to
 hurt her, I just want to make things
 better so she will appreciate me
 more.

The door unlocks and Mickey jumps up and opens it. He puts
 his head around the corner and looks in.

INT. SALLY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Sally is sitting on the couch watching T.V., being completely
 quiet.

Mickey walks slowly towards her, practically creeping.

MICKEY
 Sally...I'm sorry Sally, listen I
 don't want to hurt you.

SALLY
 (Jumping up off the
 couch)
 So you keep telling me.

MICKEY

I did it for you.

SALLY

(raising her voice)

Oh well thank you, fucking a
prostitute for me how very nice. You
could have just brought me flowers.

(eyes tearing up)

Instead of herpes.

There is a knock at the door, Sally and Mickey turn around
and see Winston standing there.

WINSTON

May I come in?

MICKEY

We are kind of in the middle of
something.

SALLY

You can come in Winston, you`re always
welcome in my home.

Mickey gives Sally an evil look. Winston walks over to a
chair next to the couch.

WINSTON

(Gesturing with his
hands)

Please sit, you are making me
uncomfortable.

Separated by a cushion, they both sit on the couch with their
arms folded.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

I don`t really know you guys too
well. I feel like I should, so why
don`t you tell me something I don`t
know...You go first Mickey.

Mickey is visibly confused, but starts to talk anyway.

MICKEY

Well Winston, where do I start...I
am a few days from putting a closed
for good sign in front of my pet
shop...

Winston leans forward.

WINSTON

I'm sorry, what happened?

MICKEY

When I was six my mom died. So my dad who was a veterinarian, decided to open a pet shop to get over my mom's death...

(eyes are a little misty)

...Well his brother Jimmy decided to land over from Ireland and help out. Needless to say they both spent most of the time arguing over how to make it successful.

Mickey stops for a minute and catches his breath.

Sally watches his face and notices sadness in his voice.

WINSTON

Take your time.

MICKEY

My Dad died a year later, apparently bitten by one of his animals, a yellow fattail scorpion...For some reason he decided to bring in exotic animals, he said it would create character and bring in more business.

Sally puts her hand over her mouth and tears start to stream from her eyes.

SALLY

(consoling Mickey)

Oh my God, when I first met you I asked you for some of the most poisonous animals in the world, so I could kill myself, you must have felt I was --

MICKEY

-- Its alright, you didn't know.

Winston starts to bleed out of one nostril. Mickey points it out to him and he wipes it with his sleeve.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Well since my dad died, Jimmy has become more of a recluse. My dad's last wish was for him to look after me...It feels like the other way around. He doesn't care about the pet shop, or me...

WINSTON

(interrupting)

Now that's not true. Your uncle loves you very much and I'm sure he would not let his brother's pet shop fail.

MICKEY

I'm sorry, you're wrong there Winston,
if you knew my uncle Jimmy, you would
know what a mean-hearted bastard he
is.

Winston jumps up wagging his finger in fury at Mickey.

Mickey is taken aback by Winston's actions.

Winston starts to pace back and forth in front of Sally and
Mickey; their heads follow him.

SALLY

Is something the matter Winston?

Winston is biting down on his hand, to keep from talking and
then he finally breaks.

WINSTON

I do know your uncle, in fact I know
him very well... You see he was a
patient of mine..

MICKEY

(confused)

Patient. What do you mean patient?

WINSTON

(takes a deep breath)

Jimmy used to see me twice a week
after your dad died, I was his
psychiatrist. He was very depressed
and only ever talked about doing
what's right for you.

MICKEY

This is the same uncle Jimmy?

Winston sits back down as Sally and Mickey move to the edge
of the couch.

Winston starts to bleed out the other nostril, Sally hands
him a tissue.

WINSTON

Thanks Sally...Yes James Riley, the
very same. You see it was Jimmy's
idea to bring in exotic pets to the
store, because your dad's business
was slowing down like it is
now...Well, your dad was reluctant,
but then decided it couldn't
hurt...Well obviously it did a lot
more than hurt... it killed him.

SALLY

That's horrible.

WINSTON

And with your mom gone, all responsibilities fell on Jimmy. Including you. He also felt responsible for your dad's death.

MICKEY

He didn't know a scorpion was going to bite him.

(turning to Sally)

Wow, he was actually trying to save the business.

WINSTON

Yes he was and it was attracting a lot of customers. Although there was one other incident, which didn't help Jimmy at all.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

Jimmy is alone in the pet shop, he is starting to remove all the exotic pets and as he is handling two cobras, the door bell rings, he forgets to close the lid on the tank.

The two snakes slither out of the tank and hide in the store.

The Westons enter looking very mischievous.

JIMMY

Do you need any help with anything?

MR. WESTON

No we are just looking.

The Westons walk towards the back of the store. Jimmy walks over to the box where he put the cobras and notices them missing.

Jimmy gets down on his hands and knees and looks around the floor.

A young Mickey Riley comes running in through the front door. Jimmy grabs him by the scruff of the neck and throws him outside.

EXT. PET SHOP - CONTINUOUS - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

JIMMY

Get out of here Mickey. This is no place for you to be right now.

MICKEY

Jesus Christ! Uncle Jimmy go easy.

JIMMY

(wagging his finger)

Don't you ever use the Lor...

Jimmy hears a scream inside and then another.

INT. PET SHOP - CONTINUOUS - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

He quickly runs to the back of the store. Both Mr and Mrs. Weston are holding their eyes.

MR. WESTON

(in agony)

It burns, it burns.

Jimmy sees the two cobras hissing in the corner, he manages to get them back in the box and calls an ambulance.

MR. WESTON (CONT'D)

(threatening)

You have not heard the last of us.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

SALLY

(mortified)

That`s my parents. that`s how they both became blind.

(looking at Mickey)

Your son of a bitch uncle blinded my parents.

MICKEY

(shouting back)

What! No. Wait a minute, the cobras blinded your parents.

(getting defensive)

Anyway if your parents were able to see, they might not have taken you in as child.

SALLY

(shouting)

For what you lack in penis, you make up for in asshole!

Sally and Mickey are right in each others faces.

Winston steps in and pushes them apart.

WINSTON

Settle down you two, you are completely off track.

They both pout.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

Now Mickey you love the pet store and the animals correct?

MICKEY

Yes.

WINSTON

Its about to close down correct?

MICKEY

Thanks for the update.You know that,
what are you saying?

WINSTON

What are you doing here?... I mean
if your business is closing down and
you love it so much, why aren't you
down there trying to save it?

Mickey turns and looks at Sally with puppy dog eyes.

MICKEY

There`s something that`s just as
important to me in life and if I
can't save both, I choose Sally.

Sally puts her hand over her heart and smiles.

SALLY

But if you love me so much, why were
you having sex with a prostitute?

Mickey removes the pills from his pocket.

MICKEY

I wanted to be more satisfying for
you, so I figured the whore could
teach me some moves.

Sally looks deeply into Mickey`s eyes.

SALLY

That is one of the most romantic
things any guy has ever done for me.

They kiss passionately.

Mickey is still holding the bottle in his hand, when Winston
grabs it from him and starts to read the label.

WINSTON

Sorry to interrupt, but where did
you get these?

MICKEY

From Dr.Edwards.

WINSTON

(snarling)
Dr. Edwards eh. That son of a bitch.

MICKEY

You know him.

WINSTON

Know him. I taught him.

Mickey and Sally look at each other, then at Winston.

MICKEY AND SALLY

You're Dr. Hamilton.

WINSTON

The one and only...

(sits back)

I ran out on your Uncle Jimmy, that's when I finally cracked...

(sighing)

Everyday I was hearing more sad and depressing stories, but none like Jimmy's. I feel terrible for what I did, but I think it made him stronger.

Mickey nods head in approval.

MICKEY

Well, I suppose we should get going and prepare for the worst.

Mickey and Sally walk hand in hand towards the door.

WINSTON

Hey guys.

They stop and turn around.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

Everything works out in the end. If it hasn't worked out, it's not the end.

They both smile.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

The front door opens. Jimmy, Brad carrying the parrot and Bob with the hamster in his pocket, walk through.

Jake is sitting behind the counter, he just hung up the phone.

JIMMY

Anything happen since we were gone?

JAKE

Not much. Apart from Chad calling, threatening to cut your nuts off..

(thinking)

Oh yeah, we also received a crate out back with a lot of noise rustling around... and those two people

(MORE)

JAKE (CONT'D)
 (pointing down the
 aisle)
 seemed very interested in Mickey and
 yourself.

Jimmy looks down the aisle and sees the Westons banging into
 the shelves. He has not seen them since the cobra incident.

JIMMY
 (sighing)
 Well, don't know what Chad's problem
 is?. You guys figure out the crate.
 (taking a deep breath)
 I'll take care of these two.

The three guys walk out towards the back of the store to
 where the crate is.

The Westons turn their attention to Jimmy's voice.

MR. WESTON
 It may have been quite a few years
 ago, but I still recognize that voice.

Mr. Weston is waving his cane back and forth across the aisle,
 banging into cages.

JIMMY
 Please, your upsetting the animals.

MR. WESTON
 (shouting back)
 Upsetting them, my wife and I are
 blinded for life because of them!

Jimmy walks backwards and trips over himself.

Mr. Weston realizes Jimmy fell over and stands over the top
 of him ready to strike him with his cane.

As Jimmy holds his hands up to protect himself, the front
 door opens.

Mickey and Sally storm in.

SALLY
 (Screaming)
 Dad no.

Mr. Weston looks over in the direction of Sally's voice. He
 is still holding his cane in the air. Sally walks over and
 takes the cane from him, Mickey helps his uncle up.

SALLY (CONT'D)
 He is not responsible for your
 blindness, you are.

Her parents gasp in amazement.

MRS. WESTON

Sally, how could you say such a thing?

SALLY

The only way a cobra would have spit at you, was if you cornered it. Snakes are afraid of humans.

MRS. WESTON

(sighing)

You're right Sally. We were messing around and we noticed the two snakes escaping --

MR. WESTON

-- We followed them to the back of the store, while Jimmy was protecting some little boy, probably his son...

Mickey looks proudly at Jimmy.

MR. WESTON (CONT'D)

...From getting bit.

MRS. WESTON

Then we cornered them, they just rose up and we stood there in awe. Before we knew it, we were both holding our eyes in agony. We never told Sally what happened, we felt dumb.

MR. WESTON

So the easiest thing was to blame the shop owner, when it was our own stupidity...

(holding out his hand)

...I'm sorry Jimmy.

Jimmy reaches out and shakes his hand.

JIMMY

(turning to Sally)

If you didn't know and I never told Mickey how did --

A voice is heard from the background.

WINSTON

-- I told them.

Jimmy looks like he has seen a ghost.

JIMMY

Dr. Winston Hamilton where did you go?

WINSTON

Ohh Jimmy it`s a long story.

Jake, Bob and Brad enter from the back door, they look at everyone and everyone looks at them, except the Westons who are looking at the ceiling.

JAKE

(to Mickey and Jimmy)

You gotta come see this.

Everyone makes their way out the back door, they stand in front of a huge crate.

Jake removes the lid of the crate, Jimmy, Mickey and Sally all look in. It is full of live beavers.

MICKEY

Why is there a crate full of live beavers?

All eyes go to Brad and Bob.

BRAD

Wait a minute. You don't think we have anything to do with this.

Jimmy pulls a note off the side of the crate.

All eyes go to Jimmy.

JIMMY

(reading the note)

Brad, here are the nice beavers you wanted, strange request, I hope you have fun with them. Ted.

All eyes go back to Brad and Bob.

BRAD

(pointing to Mickey)

It was your parrot!

Jimmy turns around to Mickey, completely ignoring Brad`s comment.

He puts out his hand. There is an awkward silent moment, everyone is smiling uncomfortably.

JIMMY

I'm sorry kid. I should have been more honest.

MICKEY

No Uncle Jimmy I'm sorry. I respect you for everything you have done for me.

Mickey leans in and gives him a huge hug.

Simultaneously looking up the heavens, as if Harry is giving them a big thumbs up.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

I think we should go more exotic with our animals. You know drum up more business.

JIMMY

I was afraid you would say that.

MICKEY

It's ok, Winston told me everything. You're not responsible for my dad's death.

JIMMY

I was hoping you would say that.

A rustling noise can be heard from behind a garbage can; Chad appears.

CHAD

(angry)

I'll be responibill for youa deaf.

Chad is aiming a meat cleaver at Jimmy.

Jimmy puts his hands up and walks backwards.

MICKEY

What are you doing Chad? Put down the knife.

CHAD

He call immigration on me.

JIMMY

I swear on the Lord I didn't.

MICKEY

See Chad. He never swears on the Lord unless he means it.

CHAD

Well if he didn't, who did?

Chad points the meat cleaver at everyone, they all back off.

Everyone shakes their head in denial.

Chad's cell phone rings, it has the ringtone "BORN IN THE U.S.A" by Bruce Springsteen. He looks at the caller id, it is his brother from the Chinese government.

Nervously as he answers it, shouting in Chinese, he then hangs up and drops the cleaver.

JAKE

Everything ok, there buddy?

CHAD

Ram sorri Jimmy, my bruva calld immigration.

JAKE

Your brother, why would he do that?

CHAD

China cut down lot of trees ery day. We use big machines and chainsaws, that give off lot of gases, hurt environment.

(angry)

He gay me one yea in America to find solution. I find wok at bar and sing karaoke, not green man. Now INS after me.

Mickey and Jimmy look at each other as if they have just won the lottery.

MICKEY

(to Chad)

We may have something for you.

Mickey removes the lid of the crate, Chad looks in and sees the beavers.

CHAD

Beavas?

MICKEY

Yes beavas, I mean beavers, mother nature`s very own chainsaws, environmentally friendly and at a decent price.

INT. PET SHOP - NIGHT

Mickey, Jimmy and Sally remain in the pet shop as they are getting ready to lock up. The Westons and Winston are the last to leave.

Jimmy stops Winston as he is going out the door.

JIMMY

Would you like a drink?...On me.

Winston smiles.

WINSTON

Sure, I promise I won`t run out.

Jimmy grabs his coat, as they go off to Murphy's bar.

Mickey and Sally are talking to the Westons.

MR. WESTON

Take care of my little girl please.

MICKEY

(putting his arms
around Sally)

Sure thing Mr. Weston.

Mickey puts his hand in his pocket and pulls out a Rubik's cube.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Here, give this to David for me.

MRS. WESTON

Why that's very thoughtful of you
Michael. He's a keeper, Sally.

They all hug, then the Westons leave.

Mickey swings the open sign around to read closed, then he puts the lock on.

He holds Sally around her waist.

MICKEY

I can't believe in two days we are
going to have \$30,000 wired to us.
We can finally pay off the debt,
bring in exotic animals, spruce the
place up a bit...Winston is right,
it does work out in the end.

Mickey gives Sally a huge kiss.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

Mickey turns the closed sign to open. He is very happy like a kid on Christmas morning as things are finally coming together.

Brad, Bob and Jake walk in together. Mickey greets them with a hearty handshake.

MICKEY

Isn't it a wonderful day guys.

JAKE

(confused)

I suppose so... Where is Jimmy?

MICKEY

Ohh. Jimmy. He's taking a well earned rest.

Then Mickey hugs Brad. Brad has a terrified look on his face. He continues to hold him.

Brad makes a signal to the other guys to get him off. Mickey then releases.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

You and those beavers, you have just helped save my business. It's a miracle.

BOB

This is the miracle.

Bob pulls the hamster out of his pocket.

MICKEY

(pointing to the hamster)

Why have you got my hamster in your pocket?

BOB

It's not just a hamster...It's Jesus.

Mickey looks over at Jake in confusion, Jake shrugs his shoulders not knowing anything.

MICKEY

Ok then...

(rubbing his hands)

Well today we get our money.

The pet shop door opens, it's Winston. He is carrying a note and hands it over to Mickey.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

What's this?

WINSTON

It's from your uncle, he asked me to give it to you.

Mickey reads the note aloud.

MICKEY

Dear Mickey, I am so proud of you, as your dad would be. I can no longer continue to look after the pet shop with you. I am getting too old for it and you seem to have everything under control. I'm going back home to Ireland, my work is done here. Love Uncle Jimmy.

Mickey takes a seat, his face changes from happy to sad, like his world has been flipped upside down.

WINSTON

He was really impressed with you, he wants you to fly and spread your wings and fly on your own. You have great friends around you and a great girl. Keep your head up son.

Winston turns and walks out the door.

A tear starts to roll from Mickey's eye. He looks up at the guys.

The hamster climbs out of Bob's pocket and makes his way onto Mickey's lap.

BOB

Jesus is with you too.

Suddenly they all hear a screeching sound out back.

EXT. BACK OF PET SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Outside Chad is dropping off the crate in a pick-up truck full of hay.

MICKEY

What's going on? Why are you returning the crate and where is my money?

CHAD

Ok too many questions. No money ok. The beavas all die on first day in China, no goo wiv Chinese air. Now my brola wan me back in China even more, I have to reave America, goodbye.

Chad speeds off in the pick-up truck, as the guy's jaws all drop.

Jake removes the lid from the crate. There is a great stench from it as he looks in.

The beavers are all dead.

Mickey walks slowly back into the pet shop, looking dejected. Everyone follows.

INT. PET SHOP - CONTINUOUS

The parrot is flying around the store, Brad catches the parrot and holds him.

MICKEY

I don't get it. Ten minutes ago I was on top of the world, I had great plans for my uncle.

(MORE)

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Now I feel like someone just took a huge dump on me and then poured concrete over it, just to make sure it was encased.

Brad signals to Bob to go to the other side of the counter.

BRAD

This will cheer you up.

Brad starts swinging the parrot against the counter, re-doing the dead parrot sketch from Monty Python.

BRAD (CONT'D)

This parrot is dead.

BOB

It`s not dead.

Brad continues to hit the parrot against the counter, Brad and Bob laugh.

Mickey is incredulous.

MICKEY

What the fuck are you doing? You are really killing my bird.

Brad stops swinging him, the parrot is motionless.

Mickey gets up and walks out of the store.

BRAD

Where are you going?

MICKEY

(flipping him off)
Here`s a bird for you.

INT. PET SHOP - LATER

Sally walks into the pet shop and notices the three guys standing around dumfounded.

SALLY

Well, where is my ray of sunshine?

JAKE

We don`t know, he left in a very depressed mood about an hour ago and hasn`t returned.

SALLY

What? And you never thought to stop him.

(looking at the parrot)
What`s wrong with him?

Suddenly there is a scream from outside the store, an old lady is pointing above the store.

Sally, Brad, Bob and Jake quickly run outside, they look up and see Mickey standing on a ledge three stories up.

A crowd starts to gather..

SALLY (CONT'D)

Mickey get down from there, you could kill yourself.

MICKEY

(sarcastically)

You of all people, should know that`s the point.

Sally is disgusted and folds her arms in rage.

The crowd begins to grow. A T.V. crew gets set up in the background.

TV REPORTER

I am standing in front of Harry`s pet shop...

Bob puts his hand in his pocket.

BOB

It`s ok Mickey, Jesus will save you.

Bob holds the hamster up high.

MICKEY

Bob, you are an idiot! The hamster is not Jesus, he is just a hamster, who happened to go into a torpor state when he got cold.

Bob looks confused.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

He was hibernating and you buried him alive.

Bob puts his hands over the hamster`s ears. He is also disgusted.

BOB

(to the hamster)

Non-believer.

BRAD

We just want to help you, Mickey.

MICKEY

Help me! Help me!

(MORE)

MICKEY (CONT'D)

You call killing my parrot helping me, or shocking the hell out of my dog, ordering a crate full of beaver carcasses as exotic animals. Oooooohhhh that should bring in more business.

Now Brad is angered at him.

Mickey is taking no prisoners.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

(to Jake sarcastically)

Thank you Jake, for your uncle's number, he was a great help, I would get better advice from Kurt Cobain!

He nearly slips on the ledge, but catches himself, the crowd gasps.

Winston steps out from the crowd.

WINSTON

So this is what it all comes down to.

MICKEY

This must be the end then Winston.

WINSTON

So you insult your friends, your girlfriend and your uncle.

MICKEY

My uncle?

WINSTON

Your uncle raised you, when you had nobody, he poured his savings and his heart into giving you a chance in life and taking care of your dad's store and this is the thanks he gets.

Mickey's eyes start to tear up.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

And look at your friends. You know what, they might have failed in what they tried to do, but they did try and they did it for you.

SALLY

I love you Mickey, you saved my life, now don't waste yours.

Mickey looks down at all his friends and smiles. Realizing he is making a mistake, his heart softens and he apologizes to everyone.

He starts to make his way back to the open window he came out of, when he slips and falls.

SLOW MOTION

Mickey is plummeting towards the ground, everyone has a look of panic on their face, except Bob.

Bob whispers in the hamsters ear and then holds him up.

The crowd begin to part like the Red Sea.

Chad appears from nowhere in his pick-up truck full of hay and backs it up to the Pet Shop.

Mickey lands on the hay in the back of the truck.

BACK TO NORMAL

The crowd cheer.

Sally runs over to Mickey and gives him a big hug.

SALLY

I knew you would be ok.

MICKEY

Why`s that?

SALLY

You weren`t high enough, you need to go up at least another level next time.

MICKEY

I`ll keep that in mind.

Brad, Jake and the rest of the crowd are congratulating Chad.

Bob holds the hamster at eye level.

BOB

I know it`s you Jesus.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

The crowd has dispersed, while Mickey, Sally, Brad, Bob, Jake and Chad all hang out joking and laughing.

The door opens and INS man walks in. Everyone stands in front of Chad.

JAKE

You can`t have him.

INS MAN

Chad Smith I want to talk to you.

Chad appears from behind his friends; he looks very sad. He reassures them and walks over to the INS man with his hands held out ready to be handcuffed.

The INS puts his hand in his back pocket and pulls out a piece of paper. He begins to read it.

INS MAN (CONT'D)

Dear Chad Smith, it is with great honor that I grant you citizenship to the United States of America for your heroic role in saving another human beings life. Yours truly the president.

CHAD

(dancing)

I can stay.

The INS Man hands the paper over to Chad, everyone jumps up and down with excitement.

INT. PET SHOP - LATER

Chad has left the store, Mickey is standing over the counter looking at Harry the parrot who is still lying unconscious.

MICKEY

He was my old man`s first pet.

Sally puts her arm around him.

SALLY

Sometimes you have just got to move on and let the past go.

Mickey takes a deep breath and sighs, as he pulls out a shoebox.

Bob is whispering to the hamster again, this time Jesus the hamster crawls down Bob`s arm and onto the counter were the bird lays. All eyes are focused on him.

He approaches the parrot and nudges him. The parrot opens one eye, then the other and stands up.

Everyone is amazed except Bob. Mickey has a big smile on his face again.

MICKEY

Hold on to that hamster Bob, you could have something there.

The stench of the dead beavers makes it`s way into the pet shop. Everyone holds their breath.

BRAD

You know what, after today I think I
need a holiday.

Everyone agrees, then Mickey and Sally turn and face each other as if they both just discovered a cure for cancer.

MICKEY AND SALLY

(Jumping up and down
excitedly)

Holiday Movie!

EXT. PET SHOP - DAY

It is a beautiful sunny day, Mickey has his hands on his hips as he looks up at the "HARRY'S PET SHOP" sign which has a new look, the store has a fresh coat of paint and looks brand new.

He walks inside.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

The Pet Shop is crowded with customers. There are all sorts of exotic animals on display.

Mickey, Sally, Brad, Bob and Jake are all standing around the counter.

MICKEY

No more debt, we now own the building.
I sent Uncle Jimmy his retirement
money. Now this is the end.

JAKE

You never did tell us where you got
the money from.

EXT. BROOKLYN NEW YORK - DAY

Hasidic Jews gather around the crate as one of them opens the lid. They dance with joy and pray to God, as they start handing out the beaver carcasses for hats.

INT. PET SHOP - CONTINUOUS

JAKE

Ohhhhhh. If only it could have been
a little easier.

Jesus the hamster is crawling all over Bob, he then climbs into Bob's back pocket and pulls out a card.

MICKEY

What's he got there Bob?

Bob picks it up and looks at it.

BOB

(laughing)

Oh yeah. My ticket, this is the reason
why I stopped working. I won the
lotto. I forgot about this.

Bob looks up just in time to see Sally`s fist coming at his
face.

FADE OUT.