FADE IN:

INT - GROCERY STORE

ZACK, a clean cut male in his late 20’s strolls through the grocery store he manages. The store is very neat and he takes great pride in being a manager. His employees respect him a great deal and he is very meticulous and planned in his career.

ZACK
Margaret? The lemons? Can you please stack them neatly?

STORE WORKER #1
Sorry ZACK.

ZACK
Bobby, nice cereal placement.

STORE WORKER #3
Thanks ZACK!

STORE WORKER #2
Hey Bobby, you got a little something on your nose?

STORE WORKER #3
Where? here?

STORE WORKER #2
Yeah it looks like you got your nose up inside ZACK’S ass and it’s all covered in shit.

STORE WORKER #3
Sorry if I take pride in my work.

STORE WORKER #2
Yeah you take pride in ZACK’S ass.

ZACK
Hey! knock it off. MRS. JOHNSON! How are you? How were those organic prune?

MRS. JOHNSON
Oh ZACKY, let’s just say my toilet has seen better days. One way trip to Brownsville.

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
Well... good to hear MRS. JOHNSON

MRS. JOHNSON
ZACKY, have you found yourself a girlfriend yet?

ZACK
No MRS. JOHNSON, I haven’t but I’ll let you know when I do.

MRS. JOHNSON
If I was only a few years younger, I would make you squeal like a pig!

STORE WORKER #1 & #2 both make a grossed out face.

ZACK
Always a pleasure MRS. JOHNSON

INT - ZACK’S OFFICE

Walking into dingy and dusty office. ZACK looks up briefly at photo of him in cooking school.

DAVEY, his assistant manager, a short chubby male with red hair walks by.

ZACK
DAVEY?

DAVEY (ASSISTANT MANAGER)
Yeah ZACK?

ZACK
Come here for a second.

DAVEY walks in and sits down at ZACK’s desk.

ZACK
Did you hear anything about corporate making a surprise visit in a few days?

DAVEY (ASSISTANT MANAGER)
No, haven’t heard anything.

ZACK
I have been applying for District Manager for the Northeast Region for a while. You know what that means?

DAVEY shakes his head side to side confused.

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
It means you are going to be bumped up to General Manager of this store.

ZACK stares at DAVEY for a minute.
Do me a favor, go around and let the team know that we need this store extra spotless for the next few days. They might pop in at anytime and I want to make sure the store looks perfect, got it?

DAVEY (ASSISTANT MANAGER)
Yes sir, I will get on it.

ZACK picks up the phone to call his dad.

INT - HARVEY’S HOUSE

HARVEY, ZACK’s dad, a short Italian man, stands in his kitchen in his underwear.

ZACK
(into phone)
Hey dad, what are you doing tonight?

HARVEY
(into phone)
I was thinking about going dancing, what do you think I’m doing numb nuts? I do as least as possible so I don’t break a hip.

INTERCUT with ZACK’S Office

ZACK
(into phone)
I was thinking of coming by and making some dinner. Kind of celebrating.

INTERCUT with HARVEY’S house

HARVEY
(into phone)
Yeah come on by ZACK. Just don’t be bringing by any of those turkey burgers you made last time. Turkey is for skirts, make a real mans meal this time.

INTERCUT with ZACK’S office

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
(into phone)
I’ll be by around 6.

INTERCUT with HARVEY’S house.

HARVEY
(into phone)
Can you grab my mail when you get here? I haven’t showered in like a week and I don’t want to scare anyone.

INTERCUT with ZACK’S office.

ZACK
(into phone)
Dad, please go take a shower.

INTERCUT with HARVEY’S house.

HARVEY
(into phone)
Yeah, Yeah, I’ll make sure to powder my balls before you get here.

INTERCUT with ZACK’S office.

ZACK
(into phone)
See in a bit.

HARVEY
(into phone)
Remember, no pussy food!

ZACK
Yeah, yeah I got it.

ZACK hangs up the phone and shakes his head.

MONTAGE VARIOUS

-ZACK rides on the subway to his dad’s apartment just looking out the window.

- Walking up out of subway.

- Walking down sidewalk holding grocery bag.

- ZACK walks into apartment building.
INT - BUILDING LOBBY

ZACK walks over to the mail box to get his dads mail. He sees a very beautiful girl getting her mail as well and he is kind of stunned. He continues to stare at her while fiddling with the mailbox.

DODI looks over at him.

DODI
Excuse me?

ZACK keeps staring.

DODI
What are you staring at?

ZACK snaps back from his gaze.

ZACK
Oh geez, i’m sorry. I was looking at the magazine under you hand, Chef Magazine, that is my favorite.

DODI
Yeah, it’s a popular magazine. Lot’s of people read it.

DODI looks down at her mail.

DODI
Who’s Harvey Price?

ZACK
Oh that’s my dad. I think the mail man mixed up boxes.

DODI
Looks like they gave me one of yours. Here you go. The mailman on this route really sucks.

An elderly man putting mail in the boxes looks over in disgust. DODI hands ZACK a Playboy. He looks down at it and shock.

ZACK
No, no this isn’t mine.

DODI
It’s OK. You get it for the articles right?
CONTINUED: (2)

ZACK
It’s actually my dad's. I’m just getting his mail for him.

DODI
Don’t worry, your secret is safe with me.

ZACK
I’m Zack by the way.

DODI
I’m Dodi, nice to meet you Zack. I gotta run but enjoy your magazine.

ZACK nods and smiles as she walks out of the mail room. He notices she left her scarf. ZACK grabs the scarf and starts running up the stairs as DODI is in the elevator. He makes it to the 4th floor right when the elevator door opens.

ZACK
(out of breath)
You left your scarf?

DODI
Wow your a quick one. Thanks.

ZACK
Yeah no problem.

INT - HARVEY’S HOUSE - SAME DAY

ZACK walks into HARVEY’S house. He looks at his dad in an agitated look.

HARVEY is standing in his underwear.

ZACK
Dad, will you please put some pants on?

HARVEY
What? a man can’t walk around in his tiny whiteies in his own home?

ZACK
Just go put on some pants please.

HARVEY
What are we eating today?

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
I’m going to make a filet with some truffle butter baby potatoes.

HARVEY
Good. Men were made to eat meat and potatoes.

HARVEY walks off to get dressed. ZACK starts pulling the groceries out of the bag and putting them on the counter.

INT - DINING ROOM TABLE

HARVEY
So what are you celebrating?

ZACK
I think I’m getting a promotion.

HARVEY
Really? That’s good. I would have thought you would have left that store by now.

ZACK
I love the store, why would I leave?

HARVEY
ZACK, look at this meal you made? You belong in a kitchen not some shitty little office behind a grocery store.

ZACK
I don’t know. It’s just...

HARVEY
I’m just saying, you should think about it. You have a talent that is just going to waste.

ZACK
I’ll give it some thought.

HARVEY
How’s your boyfriend Billy doing?

ZACK
Billy is...well you know, Billy.

(CONTINUED)
HARVEY
People are going to start thinking you two are gays.

ZACK
It’s just "gay" dad not "gays" and no we’re not gay.

HARVEY
In my day if you were a poof you kept it quite. The world was not as tolerant as it is today.

ZACK
We’re not poofs dad. Have you seen this new girl in the building recently?

HARVEY
The cute little brunette with the nectarine ass? Yes, I’ve seen her. Why?

ZACK
I met her down stairs, she is nice.

HARVEY
Well, did you ask her out?

ZACK
I just met her in the mail room? I didn’t want to come off all creepy and weird. Plus she saw your Playboy and things got awkward.

HARVEY
Give me a break. She’s probably flicking her bean to one of her own right now.

ZACK
Dad? Come on? Seriously?

HARVEY looks under the table.

ZACK
What are you doing?

HARVEY
Just checking to see if your nuts are still there.

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
Listen, I just met her. You want me to pounce on her already?

HARVEY
Someone will if you don’t. All you have to do is ask her out, that’s it. You walk up to her, tell her she has a nice caboose, and then ask her out for coffee. Always go coffee first.

ZACK
Why coffee?

HARVEY
If she ends being as useless as tits on a bull you only have coffee to finish. Other wise your stuck until dessert is over to make your escape. Trust me, save yourself a few bucks and do coffee first.

ZACK
In some strange and twisted way that makes a lot of sense.

HARVEY
That’s how I got your mother.

ZACK
I’m trying to eat.

HARVEY
I’m just saying these days it’s all complicated, texting, Facebooking, tweet facing, faxing..

ZACK
Nobody faxes anymore dad.

HARVEY
Keep it old school. Old school always works.

ZACK
Why am I taking dating advice from my dad?

HARVEY
Because you know I’m right.

They both keep eating.
INT - GROCERY STORE

ZACK sits in his office at his desk ruffling through papers. DAVEY runs into his office out of breath.

DAVEY
They’re here!

ZACK
Who’s here?

DAVEY
Corporate!

ZACK scrambles and starts fixing his desk. He hops up out of his desk fixing his tie very quickly.

ZACK
Shit!, OK. Tighten up your tie let’s go out there.

Three men in suits and briefcases storm into the grocery store with a fast paced walk.

ZACK
Mr. Sanders, how are you today? Can I get you some -

MR. SANDERS - CORPORATE EXEC.
No, i’m just here on business. Let’s go in your office. I don’t have much time.

They start making their way through to the back of the store.

ZACK
Of course. Can I ask what brings you to our store today? It was kind of last minute.

MR. SANDERS - CORPORATE EXEC.
They like to do these things quickly.

They walk into the office. Mr. SANDERS sits down in his chair.
ZACK
Oh, OK, yeah you can sit there.

MR. SANDERS - CORPORATE EXEC.
Zack, I’m not going to beat around your bush here.

ZACK
It’s actually THE bush, not your--

MR. SANDERS - CORPORATE EXEC.
That’s not important, you’re being let go.

ZACK
Let go? What do you mean let go?

MR. SANDERS - CORPORATE EXEC.
How do I put this gently, you’re getting fired. Well not fired, laid-off, sort of.

ZACK
I don’t understand? I have been putting in for a promotion for the District Manager position for months? I thought that is why you are here?

MR. SANDERS - CORPORATE EXEC.
Yeah about that, that’s not happening. Listen Zack, we are getting bought out by City Foods and there is some down sizing happening. It’s not personal, it’s just business.

ZACK
Business? I know almost every customer that comes in by their first name! I know that Mrs. Johnson shits when she eats organic prunes, a lot! I know Harold Jenkins doesn’t like the salted nuts because they give him heart burn! Do you think any of your corporate goons are going to know any of that?

MR. SANDERS - CORPORATE EXEC.
I don’t doubt that you are a good store manager but this is done Zack. You have to sign this paper

(MORE)
MR. SANDERS - CORPORATE EXEC. (cont’d)
work and you have to clear out your
office by the end of the day.

ZACK
End of the day? And if I don’t
sign?

MR. SANDERS - CORPORATE EXEC.
Trust me, that last thing you want
is the City Foods legal team
chomping at your heals. They live
for this shit.

ZACK
I’ve been shining those lemons for
10 years out there.

ZACK looks at the paper work and scribbles his signature.

MR. SANDERS - CORPORATE EXEC.
That’s your problem Zack, you’ve
had lemons in your hand for ten
years, did you ever think about
making some lemonade with them?

MR. SANDERS clicks his briefcase shut and stands up.

MR. SANDERS - CORPORATE EXEC.
Best of luck. I’m late for a ten
o’clock tee time.

EXT - PARK BENCH

ZACK sits on a park bench with his stuff in a box. He picks up his phone to text his friend.

ZACK (TEXT)
Got laid off today.

BILLY (TEXT)
Are you fucking serious?

ZACK (TEXT)
You working?

BILLY (TEXT)
Yeah but I can take a break. Grab a drink?

ZACK (TEXT)
HARP?

(CONTINUED)
Billy (Text)
Meet you there in a few. Are you crying?

Zack (Text)
No!

Billy (Text)
OK, you better not be crying.

INT - SITTING AT A BAR

Zack and Billy sit at a bar.

Billy
So what the hell happened?

Zack
Corporate came in and let me go.

Billy
What did they say?

Zack
That I was being let go due to some corporate merger with City Foods.

Billy
Fucking City Foods, corporate assholes ruin everything.

Zack
Are you drinking scotch?

Billy
Yeah, why?

Zack
Because you are working?

Billy
Dude, I’ve been drinking since 10 AM. They can suck my balls. I’m thinking about quitting anyways.

Zack
I thought you liked that place?

Billy
I work at a TGI Fridays?
ZACK
So?

BILLY
Corporate restaurant’s are the worst! Their idea of a creative special is mozzarella sticks over rice. Fuck TGIF Zack, we need to look at this as an opportunity.

ZACK
How is this an opportunity?

BILLY
Life has handed you lemons!

ZACK
Why do people keep talking about these lemons?

BILLY
You know what you have to do now?

ZACK
Make lemonade?

BILLY
No, make lemon drops!

BILLY signals the bar tender for two shots.

BILLY
Listen, life is about chapters, the more you open and close the better.

ZACK
Oh like you? You’ve been on like a 100 chapters in the last 5 years?

BILLY
Better than being on the same fucking chapter for 10?

ZACK
Yeah maybe.

BILLY
All i’m saying is that you’ve always wanted to be in a kitchen cooking. This could be your chance to do it.

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
I don’t know, culinary school was rough.

An attractive Spanish woman walks by.

BILLY
Sweetie? My friend here is having a bad day, can you give him a hug?

SPANISH FEMALE
I guess?

ZACK
It’s OK mam, you don have to---

SPANISH FEMALE
(Thick Boston accent)
Who the fuck you calling mam? What, do I look like your grandmother?

ZACK
No no, that’s not what I’m---

BILLY
Oh mami cita. Dude? what is wrong with you? She was hot!

ZACK
What are you doing man?

BILLY
OK, listen. I’m going to get back to work. Don’t sit here rubbing your vagina all day. What are you doing later?

ZACK
Gonna swing by my dads for a bit.

BILLY
Tell him to blow me.

ZACK
I’m sure he’ll be thrilled to.

INT - APARTMENT ELEVATOR

HARVEY in elevator with DODI.

HARVEY
Nice bass.
CONTINUED: (2)

DODI

Excuse me?

Pointing to grocery bag.

HARVEY

Your fish, looks like a nice bass.

DODI

Oh, i’m sorry. I thought you sai–

HARVEY

You thought I said nice ass? You got a nice caboose too.

HARVEY walks off the elevator and gives a slight wave.

HARVEY

Enjoy your fish.

INT - ZACK’S APARTMENT

ZACK sits in his apartment watching TV. He sees a commercial with KENT FLORENTINE, his nemesis from culinary school on TV doing a commercial.

He throws his box of Chinese food at the TV.

INT - BANK

ZACK stands in front of bank teller. Bank teller looks un-amused to be working there.

TELLER

How can I help you sir?

ZACK

Just need to make a withdrawal.

TELLER types aggressively smacking gum.

ZACK

Is there a problem?

TELLER

Yeah, you’re broke.

ZACK

Excuse me? Do you have to be so loud?

(CONTINUED)
TELLER
Sorry, your account is negative.
Can’t give you any moolah.

ZACK
That’s impossible. Check again.

TELLER starts aggressively typing again.

TELLER
Okay, yeah here it is. Yup, still broke.

ZACK walks out with devastated look on his face.

INT - DAD’S APARTMENT

ZACK stands at his dads door with his suitcases.

HARVEY
Hey Zack, what’s with the suitcases?

ZACK
Dad, I have to stay with you for a bit.

HARVEY
Why?

ZACK
I’m having a few financial hiccups right now.

HARVEY
You broke?

ZACK
Sort of.

HARVEY
Okay, come in. No free rides though. You clean up after yourself and you cook me dinner. Got it?

ZACK
Yeah sure dad.
INT - SITTING ON COUCH

ZACK sits on the couch reading a cooking magazine. He sees an advertisement for an audition to be on Chopped. He tosses the magazine on the side table and gives the magazine a lingering stare.

INT - KITCHEN AT BILLY’S WORK

ZACK walks in through the back door as he always does.

BILLY
Zack! You look like shit.

ZACK
Thanks. That’s what I’m working towards, shit. What are you doing on prep today? Don’t you work the line?

BILLY
Yeah I guess it’s frowned up to splash hot oil on someone. Stupid fucking rules.

ZACK
Yeah that will do it. Listen, I have an idea. Meet me at the bar after work?

BILLY
How about now?

BILLY throws down his knife and takes off his apron and throws into a pot of boiling soup.

ZACK
What are you doing?

BILLY
Just get ready to run.

Hey Jim, guess what? I fucking quit. Oh and by the way Jim, your wife gave me a tug job at the Christmas party! Boom!

BILLY and ZACK run out the back of the kitchen. JIM, BILLY’s boss comes running out after them with a meat cleaver.

ZACK
(Out of breath)
What the hell is wrong with you?

(CONTINUED)
BILLY
Man that felt great. That guy is a dick anyways.

ZACK
You banged his wife?

BILLY
I would never do that. She just gave me a tuggy.

INT - SITTING AT A BAR - SAME DAY

ZACK
I wish I could go out like that. How do you have the balls to do that?

BILLY
It’s actually pretty easy. It’s not like I was going to retire there. Onto my next chapter. So what did you want to talk to me about?

ZACK drops the magazine on the bar top to the page with the Chopped audition.

BILLY
A magazine?

ZACK
No, look at the ad?

BILLY
An audition for Chopped? Dude! That’s it!

ZACK
You think?

BILLY
Fuck yeah! If there is anyone that can do this it’s you.

ZACK
Yeah maybe, it does sound fun. Well first I have to make the first audition.

BILLY
What do you have to do?
ZACK
I got to send in a video.

BILLY
I’ll be by your place a little later and we will make one.

ZACK
OK, but come by my dads.

BILLY
Your dads?

ZACK
Yeah, staying with him right now for a bit.

BILLY
Take a shower and clean yourself up. They’re not going to want someone that looks homeless on the show.

INT - DAD’S APARTMENT - SAME DAY

ZACK and BILLY fiddle with the camera.

BILLY
Okay, you ready? Remember you are doing this for us.

ZACK
Us?

BILLY
Yeah man, I quit my job today for you.

BILLY
For me? How do you figure?

HARVEY walks into the room.

HARVEY
Hey, if it isn’t twinkle toes. Catch any aids lately?

BILLY
Hey old man, are you lost? Wonder off again from the group?
HARVEY
Yeah go pound sand you fruit.

ZACK
OK, just to start recording.

ZACK fixes his hair quickly and starts speaking into the camera.

INT - SITTING AT COMPUTER
ZACK sits in front of computer emailing his video.

INT - APARTMENT LOBBY
ZACK and HARVEY walk out front door.

ZACK
Oh hey Dodi?

DODI
Hey Zack.

HARVEY
Hello sweetie.

DODI
Don’t tell me this is your dad?

ZACK looks at his dad and gives him a strange look.

ZACK
What did you do this time?

HARVEY
What? I didn’t do anything. Can’t I guy give a lady a compliment?

ZACK
Dodi, you’ll have to excuse my dad. He’s escaped the nursing home more than once.

DODI
Hey, remember who’s apartment you’re living in.

ZACK
Dad, can you give me and Dodi a second?

HARVEY walks off.

(CONTINUED)
HARVEY
Remember coffee first!

ZACK
I’m sorry about him. He can be a little rough around the edges sometimes. I wanted to ask you, do you want to grab a bite sometime?

DODI
Well, that depends.

ZACK
On?

DODI
How far did the apple fall from the tree?

ZACK
Oh him? Yeah don’t worry. I don’t even think he’s my real dad. I’m still hoping i’m adopted.

DODI smiles and gives a small laugh.

DODI
Well tell you what, I will go out with you. I will be in LA for the next few weeks or so but when I get back?

ZACK
Yeah that sounds great.

DODI walks off.

EXT - OUTDOOR FARMERS MARKET

ZACK shops at a farmers market. His phone rings, ZACK answers phone.

ZACK
Hey man.

BILLY(V.O)
Yoo, what’re you doing?

ZACK
I’m at the farmers market?

(Continued)
BILLY (V.O)
People really go to those? How many pairs of skinny jeans and mustahces do you see there?

ZACK
What do you want Billy?

BILLY (V.O)
Listen, we’re going to have some fun tonight.

ZACK
That scares me.

BILLY (V.O)
Can you stop being a pussy for 5 minutes? We are going out tonight. I got a couple of girls coming out.

ZACK
I don’t know, I was going to stay in tonight.

BILLY (V.O)
And do what? Play with yourself all night? Come out tonight and get your dick wet.

ZACK
Fine, i’ll come out but I’m not getting anything wet.

BILLY (V.O)
That I believe.

ZACK hangs up the phone.

INT - THE CLUB - NIGHT

ZACK and BILLY sit at a table in a club surrounded with a group of annoying loud girls.

BILLY
Zack, meet Mindy and Tammy.

ZACK
Hey.

ZACK leans in and whispers to BILLY.

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
Those names are really slutty.

BILLY
Why do you think they’re here?

ZACK
So Mindy, what do you do?

MINDY
I have a really important job.

ZACK
Which is?

MINDY
I’m a hair stylist.

ZACK
Wow, that is an important job.

MINDY
Right? It’s important to have nice hair. Like, if you meet the president and your hair looks like shit...um you’re going to look like a Mormon.

ZACK
Don’t you mean moron?

MINDY
Yeah that’s what I said.

ZACK leans in and whispers to BILLY.

ZACK
She’s a dumb shit.

BILLY
That’s the point.

ZACK
I’m not feeling this right now man.

BILLY
Listen, I’m going to get some shots. When I get back you better be on the same page.

MONTAGE
- Taking shots

(CONTINUED)
- Drinks spilling
- Dancing
- Girls laughing

BACK TO SCENE

BILLY, ZACK and the girls stand on the sidewalk looking for a cab.

BILLY
See I told you’d have fun.

One of the girls throws up on the sidewalk.

ZACK
Umm yeah, it was a good time.

BILLY
What do you mean was? You’re not going anywhere yet.

BILLY whistles for a cab.

INT - BILLY’S APARTMENT

ZACK, BILLY and the 2 girls go upstairs.

BILLY
You can crash in the other room. If I don’t hear that headboard slapping that wall i’m going to go in there and punch you right in the dick.

ZACK
Will you just go away already?

BILLY and TAMMY go in other bedroom and close door.

MINDY
So, what do you want to do.

MINDY slaps ZACK in the face and hops on his lap.

ZACK
Why’d you slap me?

MINDY
Shut up, i’m horny.

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
You smell like puke.

MINDY
What are you gay or something?

ZACK
Can you at least brush your teeth?
I can taste your lunch.

MINDY
Whatever dude.

MINDY storms over to BILLY’s room and pounds on the door and walks in.

MINDY
Yoo, your boy is gay. I’m out.
Tammy you good?

BILLY is standing in the middle of the room with a superman cape and just his boxers.

TAMMY
Yeah, i’m good.

TAMMY walks to the door to walk out.

ZACK
It was nice mee---

MINDY
(Thick Boston accent)
Go fuck ya self.

ZACK
Right, yup.

INT - SITTING AT A BAR (NEXT DAY)

BILLY
I have to thank you.

ZACK
For what?

BILLY
For leaving last night.

ZACK
I thought you would disappointed.

(CONTINUED)
BILLY
Two words, menage trois.

But I thought MINDY left?

BILLY
She did, she came back later on. I guess she was looking for a real man.

ZACK
You’re unbelievable.

BILLY
Anything from the video you sent in?

ZACK
Not yet. It’s probably a long shot.

BILLY
Have faith man.

BARTENDER #1
Hey Billy? you planning on paying your bar tab today you scum bag?

BILLY
I’m still waiting for your mom to pay me for her weekly munching.

INT - APARTMENT BUILDING LOBBY

ZACK gets his mail. He sees a letter from the Food Network. ZACK takes the letter and rips it open, it reads:

ZACK
"Dear Mr. Price. We are writing to let you know that you have been chosen for the first round of our auditions for Chopped. The auditions will be held in Las Vegas on August 15. If you wish to be a part please respond back to the contact below to schedule your arrival. Thanks"

ZACK’s eyes widen in amazement.

ZACK
Holy fucking shit.

ZACK grabs his phone and starts texting BILLY.
ZACK (TEXT)
Holy shit! I got on!

BILLY (TEXT)
Got on what?

ZACK (TEXT)
The show! The cooking show!

BILLY (TEXT)
Holy shit! Are you kidding?

ZACK (TEXT)
Gotta get through first audition but yes I got on.

BILLY (TEXT)
You at home?

ZACK (TEXT)
Yeah.

BILLY (TEXT)
Be there in ten.

INT - ZACK AND HARVEY’S APARTMENT

Door knocks.

BILLY
Let me see the letter.

BILLY grabs it out of his hands and starts reading.

BILLY
Dude, you know what this means?

ZACK
What?

BILLY
Mothafuckin road trip!

HARVEY
What are you two broads yapping about?

ZACK
Remember that video we were making?

HARVEY
Yeah.

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
Well it was for an audition for Chopped and I got chosen for the first round.

BILLY
Yeah boy! We’re going to Vegas.

HARVEY
Fantastic, when do we leave?

ZACK
Dad, you’re not going.

BILLY
Yeah old man, you’re staying here. There’s no room for your diapers in the trunk.

HARVEY
If you try to stop me from getting in that car with you, you’re both gonna smacked across the mouth

BILLY
He does have a little fight in him. We might need him?

ZACK
Fine, we leave tomorrow. That should give us about 5 days to get to Vegas.

BILLY
Who’s car we taking?

EXT - FRONT OF STORAGE UNIT

Standing in front of storage unit. HARVEY opens garage door to storage unit he has opened in quite a long time.

HARVEY
There she is.

ZACK
You still have this thing?

HARVEY
Yup, been saving it for just the right occasion.

(CONTINUED)
BILLY
Are you sure it will even make it out of the parking lot?

HARVEY
America muscle V8. Gas pedal will pull the little whiskers of your nuts.

BILLY
Well i’m digging it.

ZACK
Doesn’t look like we have much of a choice.

HARVEY
You know Zack, you were made right in that back seat.

ZACK
Come on dad, I don’t want to hear that.

HARVEY
What? It’s a natural thing. Oh was your mother in love.

BILLY
We need road trip supplies.

INT - GROCERY STORE MONTAGE
- Walking into grocery store
- Billy grabbing sun glasses
- Zack grabbing chips
- Harvey throwing Metamucil and prune juice into cart
- Random items getting thrown into cart

END OF MONTAGE

EXT - STANDING IN FRONT OF CAR
All three stand in front of car looking at it and talking.

BILLY
So who’s driving this pig?
HARVEY
If you two idiots thinking you’re getting behind that wheel you’re crazy. I’m driving.

ZACK
I haven’t seen you drive a car in like ten years?

HARVEY walks over to drivers side.

HARVEY
Get in.

EXT - DRIVING IN CAR ON HIGHWAY

They pull onto the highway, HARVEY is driving very slow. Cars honking all around them.

BILLY
Harvey, is your foot even on the gas?

ZACK
Dad you’re going 35 MPH.

HARVEY
I don’t want to get pulled over.

BILLY
You know the speed limit on the highway hasn’t been 35 for like 40 years?

HARVEY
What is the speed limit?

ZACK
65 dad.

HARVEY
Are you shitting me?

ZACK
When was the last time you drove?

HARVEY
1983.

ZACK
Pull over, I’m driving.

(CONTINUED)
HARVEY
Fine.

They pull the car over and HARVEY and ZACK switch seats.

EXT - MONTAGE VARIOUS
- Zack driving.
- Billy sleeping.
- Driving down highway.
- Harvey looking out the window.
- Sign that says welcome to Pennsylvania.
- Driving by Amish.
- Sign that says welcome to Ohio.

EXT - PULLING INTO GAS STATION

ZACK
Hey guys, wake up.

BILLY
Are we in Vegas?

ZACK
No man Ohio.

HARVEY
I need to take a wicked leak.

BILLY
Yeah me too.

ZACK pumps gas. BILLY walks into gas station store and sees a sign for a top less diner just up the road on the highway.

BILLY
Hey man, I think I should drive.

ZACK
No

BILLY
Dude, you’ve been driving for like 15 straight hours. Move over before you kill us all.
HARVEY
You get one scratch on her and you’re going to end up in a drainage ditch face down.

BILLY
Relax old man, you’re in good hands.

EXT - DRIVING IN CAR ON HIGHWAY (SAME DAY)

BILLY and ZACK sit on front seats driving. ZACK plays around with a map.

BILLY
Why do you have a map?

ZACK
So we don’t get lost. We’re on a strict schedule.

BILLY grabs the map and crumples it up and throws it out the window.

ZACK
What the hell man?

BILLY
We don’t need a stupid map. Do you think Columbus had a map?

ZACK
YES! He did actually.

BILLY
You can’t plan every step of your life.

ZACK
I’m not trying.

BILLY
Do yourself a favor and enjoy this trip. Sometimes you just have to let the wind take you where you need to go.

BILLY looks over at the sign.

BILLY
Ahh, the winds have spoken.

BILLY takes the exit.

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
What are you doing?

BILLY
Just trust me for once.

HARVEY
If I did that I’d probably wake up with a cock in my mouth.

EXT - PARKING LOT OF TOPLESS DINER
All three stand in a row staring at the run down beat up topless diner in a dirt parking lot.

ZACK
Is this a joke?

BILLY
Well it’s not what I expected but we’re here so let’s go.

HARVEY
It’s never a good sign when the parking lot already smells like fish.

ZACK
I’m not going in there.

BILLY
Why not?

ZACK
For starters it’s a dirt parking lot.

BILLY
So?

ZACK
You never go into a bar that has a dirt parking lot. Especially in sticks of Ohio.

HARVEY
Might be fun.

BILLY and HARVEY start walking up to the door. Annoyed ZACK catches up to them.
EXT - STANDING IN FRONT OF TOPLESS DINER DOOR

They stand and stare at the door.

    HARVEY
    Well, you going in?

    BILLY
    I think you have to knock first?

    ZACK
    Classy.

    BILLY
    (Knocking on door)
    Hello?

A slit in the door slides open with eye balls looking them up and down.

    DOORMAN
    Password?

BILLY looks and everyone shrugs their shoulders.

    BILLY
    Boobs?

    DOORMAN
    Yeah ok, that’ll work.

    ZACK
    How the hell did you know that?

    BILLY
    I didn’t.

    HARVEY
    I would have thought you’d say dicks.

INT - TOPLESS DINER (SAME DAY)

They walking into the topless diner. It is very dark, random guys sit at tables in the shadows. They grab a seat at the stage and read through the menu.

    ZACK
    I can’t believe we’re in here.

    HARVEY
    It could be worse.

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
How could it be worse?

BILLY
There could be dudes on the stage.

HARVEY
Well i’m going to get some coffee.

BILLY
I would have thought there’d be roller skating chicks in here and 60’s music. Man, I was way off.

ZACK
Can we just get this over with?

WAITRESS
Can I get you somtin?

BILLY
3 coffees please.

WAITRESS
Yeah OK.

A girl walks out onto the stage and starts dancing. She is covered in bad tattoos and a bit white trash.

HARVEY
Ain’t that some razor burn.

BILLY
Looks like she shaved with a cheese grader.

WAITRESS
Here’s your coffees.

The dancers finished up her dance.

ZACK
Should we give her a tip?

BILLY
Here’s a tip, buy better razors.

ZACK pulls out a 20 and 1 dollar bill.

DANCER
(pointing to the $20)
Can I have that one?

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
Nah. Here you go.
ZACK throws the $1 bill on the stage.
HARVEY looks over at a poster for a guys night and lingers a bit looking at her.

HARVEY
Hey guys, I gotta take a leak.
HARVEY walks towards the bathroom.

INT - DINER BATHROOM
HARVEY walks into the bathroom and bumps into a local townie with a chip on his shoulder.

HARVEY
Excuse me buddy.

TOWNIE #1
Excuse me? You just made me spill my beer!
TOWNIE #1 standing in denim jeans and a denim shirt.

HARVEY
I’m sorry did it get another stain on your Canadian suit?

TOWNIE #1
Who you calling a Canadian old man?

HARVEY finishes peeing at the urinal and zips up his fly.

HARVEY
I would hate for you to choke on your dip but I have to get going.

TOWNIE #1
Hey old man, don’t walk away from me when i’m talking to you.

TOWNIE #1 walks out after HARVEY.

INT - INSIDE TOPLESS DINER
HARVEY walks back into the bar area.

HARVEY
OK, boys I think we’ve over stayed our welcome.
TOWNIE #1
(Redneck accent)

Hey, old man. We got something to discuss.

BILLY looks at TOWNIE #1.

BILLY
You sure you want to do this?

TOWNIE #1
(Redneck accent)

Shut the fuck up four eyes.

BILLY gives a confused look.

BILLY
I’m not even wearing glasses?

ZACK
Whoa fellas, there has to be a misunderstanding?

HARVEY
I think Billy Ray Cyrus here has a bit too much inbred DNA in him.

TOWNIE #1 looks over at the front door bouncer.

TOWNIE #1
(Redneck accent)

Jim? Lock that door will ya?

The bouncer locks the door and some of the patrons get up and stand off to the side.

ZACK
Oh no.

BILLY
So it’s like that huh?

TOWNIE #1
Sure is city boy. Which one of you wants to get acquainted with my fist first?

HARVEY
I got a proposition for you.
TOWNIE #1
(Redneck accent)
I’m listenin.

HARVEY
Punch for punch. I win, we walk out of here. You win, you can do anything you want to us.

TOWNIE #1 and all his goons burst out laughing.

TOWNIE #1
I haven’t laughed like that since pa got his dick stuck in the goat.

HARVEY
That doesn’t even shock me. Do we have a deal?

ZACK
Dad, what the hell are you doing?

BILLY
This is going to be awesome.

ZACK
Awesome?...Awesome???

BILLY
You’re dad knows what he’s doing.

EXT - BEHIND THE TOPLESS DINER

Everyone stands behind the diner in a circle.

TOWNIE #1
Don’t think I’m going easy on you.

HARVEY
You going to keep flapping your gums or you gonna take a swing?

TOWNIE #1 throws a punch and knocks HARVEY to the ground.

ZACK
Dad!! Fuck man! He’s just an old man.

HARVEY
Shut up Zack.

HARVEY puts his hand up to ZACK to stay back. TOWNIE #1 high fives his friends like he won the fight. HARVEY stands back up.

(CONTINUED)
HARVEY
What you celebrating about Billy Bob? I’m still standing ain’t I?

TOWNIE #1
Old man, you should stay down before I break your hip.

HARVEY starts a sinister laugh.

HARVEY
We’re just getting started sister fucker.

TOWNIE #1 throws a punch, HARVEY ducks and gives TOWNIE #1 a devastating body blow that drops him to the floor.

BILLY
Holy shit! Your dads a bad ass.

TOWNIE #1 stands up and takes another swing and HARVEY dodges the punch and strikes TOWNIE #1 in the face lays him flat out cold.

BILLY
Run!!!

BILLY, HARVEY and ZACK run to the front door. BILLY punches the bouncer in the face and knocks him to the ground. They unlock the door and sprint for the car hop and tear off through the dirt parking lot.

INT - ROADSIDE RESTAURANT

BILLY, HARVEY and ZACK sit at a truck stop diner discussing the events.

BILLY
Dude your dad is a bad ass! I told we would need him.

ZACK
He came in handy after all.

BILLY
What’s wrong with you?

ZACK
Nothing man, it’s just that all this shit is not part of the plan.
HARVEY
Zack, fuck your plan right now.

BILLY
Yeah exactly.

ZACK
You two are unbelievable.

HARVEY
You’re not the only one on this trip you know.

BILLY
1 cup of coffee at the strip club, 2 bucks, getting a lap dance, 1 buck, 80 year old man beating up a townie, priceless.

ZACK stares at his food and cracks a small smile.

ZACK
It was pretty cool to see you throw down like that dad.

BILLY
If I knew you could fight like that I would have never made fun of you all these years. Where did you learn how to fight?

HARVEY
I grew up in Southie during the 70’s. You either fought or you didn’t. I don’t think I have to tell you what happened to the ones that didn’t.

MONTAGE VARIOUS
- Driving down highway.
- Billy driving.
- Harvey and Zack sleeping.
- Billy looking at roadside buildings.

BACK TO SCENE
They pull up to a motel.

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
Hey guys, wake up.

BILLY and HARVEY open their eyes and stretch out a bit.

ZACK
Last motel for 100 miles, let’s crash here for the night.

BILLY
I swear I’ve seen horror movies that start like this.

HARVEY
We’ll be luck if we walk out of here with our kidneys.

He points to a neon sign.

ZACK
They got free cable, that’s a good sign right?

INT - MOTEL LOBBY

All three walk into a dirty seedy motel.

BILLY
We seriously sleeping here?

ZACK
Let’s just get a few hours in.

BILLY taps the front desk bell repeatedly.

BILLY
Norman, you here? Norman?

ZACK
Cut the shit.

The front desk person comes around the corner. A dirty balding man with a wad of dip in his lip and his belly hanging out.

FRONT DESK PERSON
(Redneck accent)
You tap that bell a bit more it might just cum.

ZACK
We just need a room.
FRONT DESK PERSON
(Redneck accent)
Yall ai’m’t gonna be doing any weird shit in there are you?

BILLY
Weird?

FRONT DESK PERSON
Yeah, urinating on each other, bestiality? I don’t wantchu messin up my sheets.

ZACK
What? No. We’re on our way to Las Vegas we just need to crash for a few hours.

FRONT DESK PERSON looks out the window at their car.

FRONT DESK PERSON
(Redneck accent)
Nice ride.

HARVEY
Yeah thanks.

FRONT DESK PERSON
(Redneck accent)
Got a girl pregnant in one of those once.

HARVEY
Lucky girl.

FRONT DESK PERSON spits his chew in his cup and accidentally splashes the room key.

FRONT DESK PERSON
Here you go boys. Room 7. I’ll be watching you!

BILLY leans over and whispers at ZACK.

BILLY
What does that even mean?

ZACK
Let’s just get this over with.

ZACK grabs the keys with two fingers as he just noticed some of his spit hit the key.
INT - MOTEL ROOM

They walk up to the motel room door.

    BILLY
    Can’t wait to see what this looks like.

They open the door slowly.

    ZACK
    Oh jesus! What is that smell?

    BILLY
    Smells like an Asian whorehouse after Chinese New Year.

    HARVEY
    You’ll be right at home then Billy.

    ZACK
    Uh oh?

    BILLY
    What?

    ZACK
    One bed.

    HARVEY
    I call side.

    BILLY
    Me too!

    ZACK
    Shit.

INT - LAYING IN MOTEL BED

BILLY lays on one side, HARVEY on the other and ZACK lays in the middle.

    BILLY
    Harvey, don’t go getting morning wood.

    HARVEY
    I haven’t gotten wood since 1987.

    ZACK
    Can we just stop talking about wood please?

(CONTINUED)
HARVEY lets out a fart.

ZACK
Seriously dad?

HARVEY
What? I’m not getting a belly ache.

INT - MOTEL LOBBY

FRONT DESK PERSON gets on the phone.

FRONT DESK PERSON
(into phone)
Hey Tracy, was it 3 guys in an old Camaro you were looking for?

FRONT DESK PERSON lets out a small smile.

FRONT DESK PERSON
Room 17.

FRONT DESK PERSON hangs up the phone. An old lady comes around the corner.

OLD LADY
Henry? What have you done now? I told you no more!

FRONT DESK PERSON
Shut up ma, go back to bed and eat your plums.

EXT - MOTEL ROOM

ZACK, HARVEY and BILLY walk out of the motel room. They are instantly greeted by a shotgun and TOWNIE #1 and his gang.

TOWNIE #1
Well looky here. Where you going ladies?

HARVEY
Oh geez, not this guy again.

TOWNIE #1
I’ll give it to you old man, you got a good punch.

HARVEY
Do you want me to show you again?

(CONTINUED)
TOWNIE #1
Shut up!

TOWNIE #1 stands around looking nervous. His two goons look back and forth at each other.

TOWNIE #1
All of you, get in the van.

BILLY
You don’t have any 7 year old’s tied up back there do you?

TOWNIE #1 whacks him in the back of the leg with the butt of the shotgun.

BILLY
What the fuck man? Was that necessary?

TOWNIE #1 gets up close to his face.

TOWNIE #1
If you don’t stop talking i’m gonna put a dress on you and stud you out on the corner. You ever had a truck driver dick in your mouth?

BILLY
I’m guessing you have?

TOWNIE #1
I have! And it smells like shit.

They all hop into the truck and drive off.

INT - VAN

They drive down a bumpy dirt road tied up in the back of the van. One of the goons follows behind in their car.

ZACK
Oh my god, we’re gonna die.

BILLY
We’re not gonna die. The two goons are more likely to blow off their toe, well he’s got some muscle but the brains of goldfish.

HARVEY
This reminds me of this time in Vietnam when my platoon got caught and brought back to a village.

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
Did they all get away?

HARVEY
Oh, no. Most were burned to death and then hung from trees to scare the rest of us.

ZACK
Oh jesus, oh jesus, oh jesus.

TOWNIE #1
Will yall stop gabbing like a bunch of school girls back there.

Van pulls into a farm house and into a large barn.

INT - BARN

Everyone steps out of the van. The goons walk them into a barn.

TOWNIE #1
Sit your asses down until boss man gets here.

ZACK
Boss man?

BILLY
I have a feeling things are gonna get a bit more exciting around here.

GOON #1
Tracy, you want us to tie them up?

BILLY
(chuckling)
Your name is Tracy?

TOWNIE #1
Is something funny city boy?

BILLY
Nothing at all...Tracy.

TOWNIE #1
Lots of men are named Tracy!

BILLY
No, lots of women are named Tracy.

ZACK gives BILLY a stern look.

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
Are you trying to die?

BILLY
What? I’m just saying. Tracy’s a girls name.

HARVEY
He’s right.

INT - SITTING TIED UP IN THE BARN

ZACK, HARVEY and BILLY sit tied up in the barn while TOWNIE #1 and his goons attempt to make some food on the grill close by.

ZACK looks at BILLY.

ZACK
This is all your fault!

BILLY
How is this my fault?

ZACK
You really need an answer for that? Nothing good has ever come from a roadside topless diner. You always get me into this shit.

BILLY
Well at least you had a little excitement in your life for once you fuddy duddy.

ZACK
Excitement? We are going to die sitting in a pile of horse shit. I have plenty of excitement in my life if you must know.

BILLY
I have seen more excitement come from a paraplegic.

ZACK
Using big words now I see.

BILLY
You know what? fuck you Zack. If it wasn’t for me your life would be about as fun as sitting on a pine cone.

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
Yeah well at least I would be alive.

BILLY
You’re present, not alive. Two very different things.

ZACK being very agitated looks over at TOWNIE #1. TOWNIE #1 is cooking and slapping the meat trying to cook it faster.

ZACK
Can you stop doing that please?

TOWNIE #1 looks over at ZACK.

TOWNIE #1
You say somtin you lil turd?

ZACK
You should stop pounding the meat.

TOWNIE #1
You ain’t gonna tell me how to pound my meat!

ZACK
Well it’s never going to cook right if you can keep slapping it like that.

TOWNIE #1
Holy shit fellas! We got ourselves a regular yen can cook ova here.

TOWNIE #1 unties ZACK and hands the spatula to him.

TOWNIE #1
Be my guest turd.

ZACK abruptly grabs the spatula from his hands and walks over to the grill.

INT - IN FRONT OF GRILL

ZACK stands in front of the grill and starts slowly moving the meat around.
EXT - PICNIC BENCH BEHIND BARN

TOWNIE #1 and his goons sit and eat amazed at how great the food tastes.

TOWNIE #1
Not bad turd. Not bad at all.

The leader of the group walks into the barn.

TRIGGER JENKINS
Who the hell are these people?

TOWNIE #1
Hey boss.

TRIGGER JENKINS
Don’t hey boss me. Who the fuck is this and what are they doing in my barn?

TOWNIE #1
They own that sweet Camaro I told you we got.

TRIGGER JENKINS
We steal cars not people you idiot! Repeat after me, c-a-rs not p-e-o-p-l-e.

TOWNIE #1 takes his hat off and looks down at the ground.

TOWNIE #1
Sorry Trigger.

TRIGGER JENKINS
Well they’re here now.

ZACK
If you let us go I promise we’ll just be on our way. No law required.

TRIGGER JENKINS
Well see that’s the problem. You’ve seen me and you’ve seen my barn and this poses a slight problem.

TOWNIE #1 points at HARVEY.

TOWNIE #1
I got my eye on you old man.

(CONTINUED)
TRIGGER JENKINS
Come on Tracy, that’s no way to treat the elderly.

HARVEY
Who you calling old man sister fucker?

TRIGGER JENKINS
Wow! The relic has a little fight in him. You didn’t by chance give my associate here that shiner now did ya?

HARVEY
You bet your redneck ass I did.

TRIGGER JENKINS points to GOON #1.

TRIGGER JENKINS
You, come here and untie gramps.

GOON #1 unties HARVEY.

TRIGGER JENKINS
Gramps, I want you take a punch from our fine colleague over here and you can react to that punch however you wish. Sound fair?

HARVEY
You want me to fight this bozo?

ZACK
This is ridiculous.

TOWNIE #1
Shut up turd.

GOON #1 and HARVEY square off. GOON #1 throws a punch and HARVEY bobs and weaves out of the way.

GOON #1
Best lay down gramps if you don’t want to get hurt.

HARVEY
Pull up your skirt and get your hands up.

TRIGGER JENKINS
Yes, a good ole fashion cock fight. Splendid.
HARVEY takes a punch and stumbles back. HARVEY regains his footing and takes a step forward and knocks out GOON #1 with one punch.

    TRIGGER JENKINS
    Fantastic!

    HARVEY
    How did you know I could even fight him?

    TRIGGER JENKINS
    It’s really simple.

TRIGGER walks up HARVEY and rips off his golden glove necklace.

    TRIGGER JENKINS
    Life is all about clues. This was the only clue I needed. I have proposition for you my dear old man.

    HARVEY
    I’m listening.

    TRIGGER JENKINS
    There is a bare knuckle fight tomorrow night. You will fight on my behalf. If you win, you get your car and you and your friends get to keep their lives.

    HARVEY
    If I say no?

    TRIGGER JENKINS
    That’s easy, we bury you in the dessert and let the birds pick off your bones.

HARVEY looks over at ZACK and BILLY.

    HARVEY
    I guess I don’t really have a choice do I?

    TRIGGER JENKINS
    That’s the spirit!

TRIGGER looks at his team of goons.

(CONTINUED)
TRIGGER JENKINS
Boys, show these gentleman into the house and give them something to eat. They are going to need their energy.

EXT - BARN FIGHT
The goons pull up to a barn in their van that has many cars parked around it.

ZACK
Dad, you don’t have to do this.

HARVEY
We don’t have any other options right now Zack.

ZACK
Let me talk to them.

HARVEY
They don’t seem like the kind that like to chat.

They get out of the van and walk into the barn.

INT - INSIDE FIGHTING BARN
They all walk into the barn together. They look around to see a large number of people cheering on the current fight. A large Mexican fighter and his crew walks up to TRIGGER.

MEXICAN FIGHTER
Yo vato? Hope you brought someone that can last more than one round this time.

TRIGGER JENKINS
Don’t worry about who I put in the ring puta.

MEXICAN FIGHTER
Yoo holmes, you better watch who you call puta.

ZACK and BILLY glance at each other.

BILLY
The last guy only lasted one round?

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
This is not good.

BILLY
What happened to the last guy?

TRIGGER JENKINS
Let’s just say he took a long nap.

TRIGGER pats HARVEY on the back and gives him a slight nudge to get into the ring.

MEXICAN FIGHTER
Who’s this your grandpa? I think you’re lost little old man.

MEXICAN FIGHTER and his entourage erupt in laughter.

HARVEY
Your motha got lost on the way to the abortion clinic.

The entourage stops laughing.

MEXICAN FIGHTER
Trig, is this a joke man?

TRIGGER JENKINS
Should be an easy paycheck then ey?

MEXICAN FIGHTER
Whateva gringo. Let’s do this. I’m sorry gramps but you’re getting hurt today. That I promise you.

MONTAGE - INSIDE THE RING
- The MEXICAN FIGHTER and HARVEY start circling each other slowly in the ring.
- HARVEY taking a hard punch
- HARVEY taking a hard punch again.
- HARVEY dropping to the floor.
- MEXICAN fighter laughing.
- Crowd cheering.
- TRIGGER smiling.

END OF MONTAGE
INT - CORNER OF THE RING

BILLY
Dude, we got to do something. He’s going to get killed in there.

ZACK
I know, i’m thinking.

The bell rings. HARVEY comes back to his corner.

BILLY
You know, it’s called boxing. You have to throw a punch.

HARVEY
I’m studying my opponent.

BILLY
Well study faster.

ZACK
Dad, just go down and take the fall.

HARVEY
No fucking chance. If he’s gonna beat me he’s gonna beat me. I’m not laying down for nobody.

Bell rings and HARVEY jumps back in.

INT - INSIDE RING

HARVEY notices that the MEXICAN FIGHTER winces when he throws a punch. He notices a scar on his rib cage. He realizes that is an injury.

HARVEY dances around the fighter, the fighter takes a punch he dodges it and HARVEY gives him a body blow to the scar that sends the MEXICAN FIGHTER to the floor on one knee. HARVEY comes down hard with a right hook as the MEXICAN FIGHTER is getting back up.

The referee starts his count. The MEXICAN FIGHTER does not stand back up. The crowd goes quiet.

TRIGGER JENKINS
OK boys, let’s go. Get in the truck.

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
But you sai-

TRIGGER JENKINS
Get your asses in the fucking truck.

REDNECK #1
Hey Trig, I think someone owes me some money.

TRIGGER JENKINS
I’ll get you tomorrow.

REDNECK #1
You got 24 hours Trig.

TRIGGER and his goons drag HARVEY, BILLY & ZACK back into the van and drive off aggressively.

The MEXICAN FIGHTER runs out to see the back of the truck speeding down the dirt road.

MEXICAN FIGHTER
Fucking gringos.

EXT - INSIDE BARN
HARVEY, ZACK and BILLY sit tied up in the barn.

ZACK
You said you would let us go.

TRIGGER JENKINS
Yes, yes I did but there is a problem.

BILLY
What’s the problem?

TRIGGER JENKINS
Well, I didn’t think gramps would win.

HARVEY
You bet against me?

TRIGGER paces back and forth thinking.

TRIGGER JENKINS
Precisely old man.

TRIGGER pulls out his gun and cocks the trigger.

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
What are you doing?

TRIGGER JENKINS
I really don’t see any other choice fellas. You didn’t really think I would let you drive off into the sunset now did you? Like the 3 amigos with the wind you your hair.

ZACK
Yeah we did!

TOWNIE #1
Aww that’s cute.

TOWNIE #1 goons start chuckling and laughing.

TRIGGER JENKINS
Sorry to do this to you boys but it’s time to go.

A low rider driven by the MEXICAN FIGHTER comes crashing through the barn door.

MEXICAN FIGHTER
Oh hey Trig, I think you owe me some dinero vato.

BILLY, ZACK and HARVEY look at each other.

BILLY
Let’s go! Run!

Gun shots start firing through the barn, BILLY, ZACK and HARVEY run out one of the back doors. BILLY trips over a propane line on the side of the building and it starts spewing propane but keeps running.

TRIGGER JENKINS
Are you waiting to grow teeth? Go get those sons of bitches.

TOWNIE #1
Yes sir!

TOWNIE #1 runs out the back door after them. He sees them a few feet ahead of them.
EXT - BACK OF BARN

TOWNIE #1
Eyy! You little turds where you think you’re going?

BILLY, ZACK and HARVEY stop running and turn around.

TOWNIE #1
You girls are cute thinking you can outsmart us.

BILLY
I’m pretty sure a 3 year old can outsmart you.

TOWNIE #1
Shut up and get down on your knees.

BILLY, ZACK and HARVEY get down on their knees.

TOWNIE #1
Any last words?

HARVEY
Watch out behind you.

TOWNIE #1
Like I’m gonna fall for that?

OLD LADY walks up behind him and whacks TOWNIE #1 across the back of the head with a 2x4. He drops to the ground unconscious.

ZACK
Who the hell are you?

OLD LADY
Trig’s my son, my other idiot sons owns the motel.

They all look at each other and figure out where she is from.

BILLY
Ohhh, okay. Well, thanks for helping us.

ZACK
We need our car. Do you know where the keys are?

(CONTINUED)
OLD LADY
Yeah follow me, stay close.

INT - INSIDE BARN

They all tip toe back into barn where everyone is fighting each other.

OLD LADY
Right there. He keeps all the keys in that room.

BILLY, ZACK and HARVEY run into the office only to be greeted by a shotgun barrel.

TRIGGER JENKINS
You guys really are dumber than a bag of nickles aren’t you? You had a chance to get away an you came back. Seriously boys, i’m touched.

ZACK
Please, we just need our keys and you’ll never see us again.

TRIGGER starts obsessively laughing.

TRIGGER JENKINS
Oh keys? Yeah yeah sure. you guys want me to fix you up some sandwiches for the road? Shut the fuck up.

ZACK pretends to see someone behind him.

BILLY
Who’s that behind you?

TRIGGER turns for a second and ZACK gives him a right hook, then a left, one to the gut and then an upper cut. TRIGGER flies up and lands flat on his back on the ground.

BILLY
I didn’t think that would work twice.

ZACK
That felt great.

HARVEY
That’s my boy.

HARVEY walks over to TRIGGER laying on the ground and rips his golden glove necklace of his neck that he stole earlier.

(CONTINUED)
HARVEY
I think this belongs to me.

ZACK
Quick let’s get to the car and get out of here.

BILLY
Hey do you smell that?

ZACK
Yeah, smells like -

The barn explodes from the propane gas that has seeped into the air.

EXT - LAYING IN THE DIRT

They lay in the dirt and see that their car has been blow up along with most of the barn.

HARVEY looks at the car with a sad face.

HARVEY
My baby.

ZACK
Well I think it’s safe to say we’re not getting to vegas on time. I have to be there in 3 hours.

BILLY
Oh yes we are.

They glance over at a barn on the property with a horse eating hay.

MONTAGE VARIOUS
- All three riding on the back of a horse through dessert
- Vegas skyline in distance
- Billy attaching a GPS device on the horse’s main
- Sprinting through the desert on the horse towards vegas
- Horse jumping over rocks
- ZACK’s face and teeth covered in sand.
- The horse running through the main strip of vegas
- Horse walking

(CONTINUED)
END OF MONTAGE

They are riding the horse down the main strip of vegas in full galop with a cop on horse chasing them.

EXT - BELLAGIO HOTEL VALET

They come roaring up to the hotel on the horse with the horse cop not far behind them.

BILLY
Quick, get off.

ZACK
What are you doing?

BILLY
I’m sick of always breaking things. For once I would like to fix it.

ZACK
You sure you want to do this.

BILLY
Very sure. Now get off and get in there!

ZACK and HARVEY get off the horse.

BILLY
Get in there and do your thing man.

BILLY turns the horse around and see the horse cop heading towards him. When the cop is about 20 feet away he slaps the reigns of the horse so the horse gets up on his hind feet.

BILLY
Hey cop? Why don’t you suck my horses dick!!

The horse comes back down and BILLY takes off running. The horse cop turns as well as he rides by him and chases him off down the street.

HARVEY
He’s a good kid.
INT - BELLAGIO HOTEL LOBBY

ZACK and HARVEY are running through hallways and reading signs that say studios. They run up to one that says "Chopped". They burst through the door.

INT - PRODUCTION STUDIO

STUDIO WORKER #1
Um excuse me? Who are you?

ZACK
I’m Zack Price, sorry I’m late.

STUDIO WORKER #1
You’re the no show?

ZACK
I need to get cleaned up.

STUDIO WORKER #1
No can do amigo. We are about to start filming. Let’s go.

STUDIO WORKER #1 rushes ZACK up to the stage where the other two contestants are waiting.

STUDIO WORKER #1
He’s here!

STUDIO WORKER #2
You smell like horse shit dude.

ZACK
Yeah, sorry about that.

The host, TED ALLEN comes around the corner. He looks at HARVEY and smiles, HARVEY smiles back.

TED ALLEN
What the hell is that smell?

ZACK
Sorry sir, that’s me. I can explain-

TED ALLEN
No time, get on the stage.

ZACK runs up onto the stage. TED ALLEN takes his position next to the judges.
ZACK’s name is called out and he runs out onto the stage and gets behind his station. He looks up to see DODI JONES as one of the judges and his arch-nemesis KENT FLORENTINE as one of the contestants on the show.

KENT grabs his nose.

KENT FLORENTINE
Hello Zack, smells like you shit your pants but looks like you’re doing well.

ZACK
Good to see you cunt, I mean Kent.

ZACK looks at DODI and gives a smile and a slight wave. DODI gives back a surprised look.

TED ALLEN
Welcome to Chopped folks. Today we have a unique show for you. Our contestants are all here from an online contest where each one sent in a personal video which were then judged by our panel. Contestants will be playing for 50,000 dollars which they can use to put towards their own restaurant or opening a new one. Let’s get started. Our first contestant is Kent Florentine. Kent owns numerous successful restaurants in the Northeast, has been featured in multiple industry publications and is starring in up coming cooking show.

KENT waves and smiles at the camera, a taller fella with a chiseled face and confident look.

INT - BACKSTAGE

HARVEY stands with his arms folded.

HARVEY
10 pounds of douche in a 5 pound bag.

BILLY comes running in huffing and puffing and all out of breath.

(CONTINUED)
HARVEY
Where the hell did you go? Did you lose him?

BILLY
Umm, yeah. I’d rather not talk about it though.

HARVEY
Okay.

BILLY
Hey Harvey?

HARVEY
Yeah?

BILLY
I might be going to jail for a little while.

HARVEY
I figured that much.

INT - STAGE

TED ALLEN
Our next contestant is Ralph Johnson. Ralph operates a successful BBQ stand in the Bayou of Louisiana.

RALPH stands expressionless giving the judges a piercing direct stare.

TED ALLEN
OK then. Our Third contestant Maggie Smith, she is a cafeteria cook at Oakwood Elementary in Higgins Alabama.

MAGGIE waves at the judges and gives a nice big smile. She looks over at ZACK and whispers.

MAGGIE SMITH
Hope you brought your A game shit breath.

TED ALLEN
And last but not least we have ZACK PRICE, a recently laid off grocery store manager from Boston eager to rekindle his career as a chef.
ZACK nods at the judges.

TED ALLEN
Our judges for today are Dodi Jones, award winning foodie writer. Hilda Rushmire, owner of the highly acclaimed (restaurant name) in NYC and Pedro Foranga, operates a fleet of successful food trucks from coast to coast.

INT - BACKSTAGE

BILLY stares at HILDA.

BILLY
Now that’s a women.

HARVEY stares at TED ALLEN.

HARVEY
It sure is.

INT - STAGE

All 4 stand on stage and get ready for their first basket.

TED ALLEN
Chefs, please open your baskets.

Chefs vigorously open their baskets and start pulling out their ingredients.

TED ALLEN (V.O)
The first ingredient is black beans, black rice, an over ripe avocado and black pudding.

RALPH JOHNSON becomes irate.

RALPH JOHNSON
Oh cute, was this basket meant for me? I see, give the black man a basket of black ingredients. It’s not even black history month?

TED ALLEN
I assure you Ralph that was not the intention.

RALPH JOHNSON
Intention my ass you friggin corn muffin.

(CONTINUED)
RALPH JOHNSON looks very irritated giving dead stares at all the judges.

TED ALLEN
OK, 20 minutes on the clock and go.

Chefs start scrambling through their baskets and running around.

INT - STAGE COOKING & BACK PANTRY

The contestants are filling their hands with cooking items. MAGGIE SMITH and ZACK get into a confrontation.

ZACK reaches for the same flour MAGGIE does.

MAGGIE SMITH
Don’t even think about fuck face.

ZACK
You talk to your students with that mouth?

MAGGIE SMITH
Go blow a truck driver.

MAGGIE SMITH knees ZACK in the groin. ZACK falls to the ground but manages to get up and grab his ingredients.

KENT FLORENTINE runs by.

ZACK
(Laughing)
Just like culinary school, huh
Zacky boy? On the floor holding your dick.

The end of the round buzzer goes off.

INT - STANDING IN FRONT OF JUDGES

All four contestants stand in front of the judges. RALPH JOHNSON goes first.

TED ALLEN
OK Ralph, what did you make for us?

RALPH JOHNSON
I made you my famous blackened grilled chicken cuz I know how much you guys just loooove black food.
JUDGE #1 - PEDRO FORANGA
Ralph, I’m a little confused? You didn’t use any of the basket ingredients?

RALPH JOHNSON
You callin me a liar?

JUDGE #1 - PEDRO FORANGA
I’m not call you anything, I’m stating an observation.

RALPH JOHNSON
Well here’s an observation for you! I bet I can woop your ass quicker than you can get your Mexican ass out of that chair?

TED ALLEN looks over at security and calls them over.

TED ALLEN
OK Ralph, we are going to have to ask you to calm down.

RALPH JOHNSON runs off the stage and charges for PEDRO. PEDRO screams and starts running. The security guard grabs RALPH and drags him off stage.

JUDGE #2 - HILDA RUSHMIRE
(German accent)
Ya, iz good Chicken. Vat no B-B-Q?

TED ALLEN
Well that was exciting. OK, we now have 3.

TED ALLEN puts a finger to his ear.

TED ALLEN
Oh wait, we just got word that MAGGIE unfortunately you are getting disqualified.

MAGGIE SMITH
Oh horse shit. Why?

TED ALLEN
Well, you assaulted Zack during the round, a clear violation of Chopped rules.

MAGGIE SMITH walks off stage and looks at ZACK.
MAGGIE SMITH
You little pansy.

ZACK
Good luck in your cafeteria lunch lady.

TED ALLEN
And then there were two.

TED ALLEN touches his ear piece for a second time.

TED ALLEN
The word from upstairs is that we have a small issue. It appears that according to show rules there must be an elimination based on judging each round. Since these were disqualifications we will have to start the cook off over. Zack, Kent you will be going head to head in a cook off tomorrow. Winner gets the cake.

KENT looks over at ZACK.

KENT FLORENTINE
(Laughing)
Well doesn’t really seem fair -- for you Zacky. Hey miracles do happen am I right?

INT -BACKSTAGE

BILLY and HARVEY stand and wait as ZACK walks over.

ZACK
This blows.

HARVEY
What are you talking about?

ZACK
I had him.

HARVEY
Trust me when I tell you that you didn’t.

ZACK
What are you talking about?

(CONTINUED)
HARVEY
Listen Zack, you were sluggish, up all night, unfocused and you smell like a horses ass. Use tonight to get your head straight and get some rest.

ZACK
Maybe you’re right.

ZACK looks at BILLY.

ZACK
Do I even ask how you lost the cop?

BILLY
No.

BILLY looks over and makes eye contact with HILDA.

BILLY
Hey guys, I’ll catch up with you in a bit.

ZACK
Where you going?

BILLY
Just don’t wait up for me.

DODI runs up to ZACK.

DODI
Zack? What are you doing here?

ZACK
I entered to be in this thing a while back.

DODI
Why do you smell like horse shit though?

ZACK
You would never believe me if I told you.

DODI
Well it sounds like you had fun getting here.
ZACK
Not sure if fun is the right word.
Hey, what are you doing in a little bit?

DODI
Umm..didn’t really have any plans.
You want to grab a bite to eat?

ZACK
Well, My dad----

HARVEY bumps into ZACK on purpose.

HARVEY
Zack, don’t worry about me.

HARVEY and TED ALLEN look at each other and make eye contact.

HARVEY
I think I can keep myself busy for one night.

ZACK
Okay, gonna take a quick a shower, meet you down stairs in an hour or so?

DODI
And get rid of that amazing scent you have?

ZACK
Ha ha, very funny.

INT - HOTEL ROOM (SAME DAY)

ZACK takes a shower and get’s ready to meet DODI down stairs. He has the TV playing in the back ground where they are talking about someone running lose in the streets with a horse. He takes a peek from around the corner while brushing his teeth to see the news footage.

INT - LOBBY RESTAURANT

ZACK sits at the bar waiting for DODI.

BARTENDER #2
What’ll you have?

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
Just a club soda.

DIDI walks into the room. ZACK looks at her stunned from her beauty and speechless.

ZACK
Wow, you look beautiful.

DIDI
Why thank you. So let me ask you something. I had no idea you can cook like that?

ZACK
Well, still not really sure if I can but who knows. Small world though huh?

DIDI
Sure is.

ZACK
The truth is I went to culinary school but dropped out. That douche on the stage, Kent? He was my nemesis.

DIDI
You went to school with Kent Florentine?

ZACK
Yeah, he was a dick then too. Put me through hell. He’s one of the reasons I quit.

DIDI
Well i’m sure things are different now that you’re adults.

ZACK
Not really, he still the same ole prick I remember and I get to go head to head with him tomorrow and relive my misery.

BARTENDER #2
Hi sweetie, what’ll you have?

DIDI
Dirty martini please.
ZACK
Make that two.

DODI
There you go! Have a little fun.

ZACK
So you gonna be a judge tomorrow?

DODI
Yeah but don’t expect any favors.

ZACK
I would never.

DODI
Don’t worry you will be fine. I saw you today. You did great during the first two rounds. Maybe even better then Kent.

BILLY and HILDA stumble into the bar laughing.

HILDA
(German accent)
Two shots of rumplemintz my vittle honey strudel.

They take their shots.

HILDA
(German accent)
Come vittle boy, I’ll show you how a German women parties.

BILLY looks at ZACK as they walk by.

BILLY
I’m in love.

DODI
She’s gonna chew him up and spit him out, you know that right?

ZACK
That’s what he likes.

DODI
You know what, fuck it. I don’t come to Vegas often.

She points at his martini.
DODI
Chug that and let’s go.

ZACK
Where we going?

DODI
Have our own fun.

INT - MONTAGE VARIOUS
- Playing black jack
- Playing roulette
- Chugging drinks
- Dancing
- Walking and laughing
- Running through the Belagio fountains

INT - CASINO
They bump into KENT FLORENTINE walking through the casino.

KENT FLORENTINE
Oh look at this. If it isn’t the loser. You ready for tomorrow loser?

DODI
Go pound sand Florentine.

KENT FLORENTINE
Oh the little bird has a mouth on her ay? Listen sweetie, why don’t you ditch the zero and get with a hero?

ZACK
Come on, let’s go. He ain’t worth it.

KENT FLORENTINE
Hey Zacky, you should pack up now cuz you aint winning any of that chedda tomorrow.

DODI
We’ll see about that cunt.

(CONTINUED)
KENT FLORENTINE
(agitated voice)
It’s Kent god damn it!

ZACK
Sure it is.

ZACK and DODI walk off laughing.

DODI
What a douche.

ZACK
You have no idea.

DODI
Come on, I want to show you something.

EXT - BELAGIO ROOF

They go through a shaft and climb out onto the roof of the hotel.

ZACK
Wow look at this view.

DODI
Yeah isn’t it great?

ZACK
Sure is.

DODI
So what are your plans after the show?

ZACK
I’ve always wanted my own restaurant but not sure if it’s ever going to happen. If I won the money sure would help.

DODI
Hey, positive thinking OK?

ZACK
Yeah my positive thinking got me to the unemployment line.

DODI
That’s just gods plan.

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
How do you figure?

DODI
Well, if you didn’t get laid off from your job do you think you would be here?

ZACK
Probably not.

DODI
See? He has a plan for all of us. You are following that plan right now and I have faith in you Zack Price.

ZACK
What about you? What’s your story?

DODI
Well I didn’t go to culinary school, I actually majored in writing. I have always wanted to be a pastry chef though.

ZACK
Ugh, pastries and dessert are impossible for me.

DODI
Really? They just always came naturally to me.

ZACK
So why didn’t you pursue it?

DODI
I did, for a little while. I guess I was too young and immature to hold a job in my earlier years.

ZACK
It’s never too late to get back on that horse (he chuckles).

DODI
What’s so funny?

ZACK
Nothing, it’s just the last few days have been really strange that’s all. You know I learned (MORE)
CONTINUED: (3) 76.

ZACK (cont’d)
something really important this week.

DODI
What’s that?

ZACK
It doesn’t matter how much you plan out your life and think you have everything under control, you’re in control of nothing.

DODI
To a certain extent I do believe that. It’s like our destiny is predetermined and you’re walking that path no matter what.

ZACK
I can’t believe Billy was right this whole time.

DODI
Let’s go, you need to get some rest for tomorrow.

DODI starts walking away and ZACK follows.

INT - HOTEL ROOM IN MORNING

DODI and ZACK wake up in the hotel room in the morning. He looks at his watch.

ZACK
Shit! I’m going to be late.

DODI
What time is it?

ZACK
Time for me to find everyone and get down stairs.

ZACK looks around the room frantically.

ZACK
Where is everyone?

DODI
Looks like everyone realized they they’re in Vegas too.
ZACK
I gotta call my dad.

ZACK picks up the phone and it starts ringing. He can hear his dads phone ringing just down the hall.

ZACK
Do you hear that?

DODI
Hear what?

ZACK
It’s a phone ringing?

ZACK walks out into the hallway to hear a phone ringing a few doors down from them. He starts to knock.

ZACK
Hello? Dad? You in there?

TED ALLEN answers the door in nothing more than a bed sheet. ZACK peaks into the room and sees his dad pop his head out from under the covers.

ZACK
Dad? What the hell is going on? Ar-- are you gay?

TED ALLEN
I think i’m going to get going now.

ZACK storms in and sits on the bed.

ZACK
What the hell? You’re gay?

HARVEY
It appears so Zack.

ZACK
But I always hear you talking about women?

HARVEY
I grew up in the 50’s. In my time if you were gay you might as well be dead.

ZACK
Yeah but I’m your son you could have told me?
HARVEY
Trust me Zack, there were so many times I wish I did. I just didn’t have the courage. It’s just not an easy thing to discuss when you are at my age.

ZACK
Well, fuck it. The cats out of the bag now. Don’t hide shit from me ever again. You hear me?

HARVEY
I won’t son.

ZACK
Have you seen Billy?

HILDA walks into the room with BILLY draped across his shoulder and drops him on the bed.

BILLY
(mumbling loudly)
No more rumplemintz for the love of god! No more!

HILDA
(German accent)
Dat waz fun ya? Rest up, we do it again soon.

HILDA storms out of the room.

BILLY
I think i’m in love.

ZACK
I think the cops are looking for you Billy.

BILLY
Oh yeah, about that. They are.

ZACK
Come on, let’s get down stairs. We’ll figure out your prison trip after.
INT - SHOW STAGE

ZACK and KENT stand up on stage waiting for the show to begin.

TED ALLEN
OK let’s get things started shall we? In turn of recent events our two contestants will be playing the 3 rounds by themselves. At the end of each round they will be scored. The winner with the highest score after the dessert round will win the grand prize.

TED ALLEN looks over at the contestants.

TED ALLEN
You guys ready? OK, let’s open your mystery basket of ingredients.

ZACK and KENT open the basket.

TED ALLEN
In your basket we have almonds, avocado, frog legs and garbanzo beans. Lets out 30 minutes on the clock and go!

ZACK and KENT run towards the pantry.

JUDGE #2 - HILDA RUSHMIRE (O.S) (German accent)
They sure have some pep in their step today ya?

KENT and ZACK both meet in same location.

KENT FLORENTINE
Why are you even here fuck nut? Go back to your grocery store.

ZACK points.

ZACK
What is that?

KENT looks over and ZACK grabs the ingredient KENT was going to grab.

ZACK
Sucker.

(Continued)
Classic snatch and grab.

INT - MONTAGE VARIOUS
- Zack cooking
- Close up of Kent’s face looking over
- Zack running to pantry
- Kent wiping sweat from forehead
- Both looking up at the clock.
- Both plating their food.

INT - STANDING ON STAGE IN FRONT OF JUDGES

TED ALLEN
We have ten seconds left on the clock....and time!

ZACK and KENT put their hands.

KENT FLORENTINE
You call that cooking?

ZACK
Eat shit.

KENT FLORENTINE
Give me your plate.

TED ALLEN
Ok, kids no fighting now. Kent, what did you make for us today?

KENT FLORENTINE
What I have here for you chefs is an almond crusted frog leg, a garbanzo bean salad with avocado.

JUDGE #2 - HILDA RUSHMIRE
(German accent)
The texture of the salad is so creamy, reminds me of dis sailor boy I once met at port.

TED ALLEN
OK, moving on. Chef Pedro?

(CONTINUED)
JUDGE #1 - PEDRO FORANGA
Fantastic flavor. I would have liked a bit more heat. I like to feel my balls sweat when I eat.

TED ALLEN
And last but not least, the beautiful Dodi.

JUDGE #3 - DODI JONES
The frog legs could certainly use a bit of salt.

KENT FLORENTINE
Oh bull shit! You don’t like em because your banging little pansy boy over here!

DODI stands up and walks over to KENT and slaps him across the face.

JUDGE #3 - DODI JONES
Oh i’m sorry, you had a fly on your cheek. My b.

JUDGE #1 - PEDRO FORANGA
Yeah baby! It’s gettin hot in here now.

TED ALLEN
OK Zack, what did you prepare for us today.

KENT FLORENTINE
(mumbling under his breath)
Horse shit.

ZACK
What I have for you chefs is a garbanzo bean puree, deep fried frog less with an avocado glaze. Enjoy

JUDGE #1 - PEDRO FORANGA
It’s good man. I see you put a little heat in there to. You know I like it hot!

TED ALLEN
Yes, Chef Pedro, we all know you like it hot. You’ve made that very clear.

HILDA sucks the juice off the frog leg the long way.

(CONTINUED)
JUDGE #2 - HILDA RUSHMIRE  
(German accent)  
Vezy yummy, yah?

JUDGE #3 - DODI JONES  
Not the best I’ve had but very good.

TED ALLEN  
Well there you have it. Chefs you can go in the back room while the judges deliberate on the winner of the first round.

INT - BACK ROOM OF STAGE  
ZACK and KENT sit at a table facing each other in the weighting room.

ZACK  
You know, if I could I would cut your throat.

KENT FLORENTINE  
Uhh, I’m so scared, pansy boy.

ZACK  
I’m serious man, why you always such a dick?

KENT FLORENTINE  
You want to know why?

ZACK  
Yeah I just asked?

KENT FLORENTINE  
Cuz dicks win.

ZACK  
Dicks win? Dicks win what?

KENT FLORENTINE  
Dicks win everything! Dicks win the hot wife, the big house the nice cars. You know what pussy’s win?

ZACK  
What?

KENT FLORENTINE  
Studio apartments and herpes. That’s what pussies win. You my (MORE)
KENT FLORENTINE (cont’d)
friend are a pussy. You couldn’t
win ten years ago in culinary
school and you won’t win today
either.

ZACK
I’m not your friend and if you
haven’t noticed, I won the first
round. Who’s the pussy now?

ZACK stands up to walk back out onto the stage.

MONTAGE VARIOUS
- Opening mystery box of ingredients
- Both contestants scrambling around
- Zack wiping sweat from forehead
- Hilda’s face in slow motion with weird smile
- Contestants glaring at each other as they walk to the
waiting room in the back.

INT – BACK ROOM OF STAGE

ZACK and KENT sit at a table facing each other in the
weighting room.

KENT FLORENTINE
You ready to give up yet?

ZACK
Give up? Why would I do that?

KENT FLORENTINE
You’re never going to win. What you
don’t think these things are
rigged?

ZACK
What are you talking about?

KENT FLORENTINE
Contracts, promises, handshakes!
You still not getting it huh? You
think i’m here by chance?

ZACK
I just assum---
KENT FLORENTINE
Listen homeboy, this is the industry. I already have a contract in place to win. I can serve dog turds and I would still win.

ZACK
You have been serving dog turds.

KENT FLORENTINE
Whatever man. You have a lot to learn if you want to be in this industry.

ZACK
Well maybe I do but that doesn’t change the fact that I can cook your pants off any day?

KENT FLORENTINE
You want to cook my pants off?

ZACK
I’ll see you on the stage.

INT - STAGE
KENT and ZACK are about to cook the last round.

TED ALLEN
OK fellas, are you ready? Please open your baskets. In the dessert round you have Dr. Pepper soda, brownie mix, jalapenos and watermelon gummy candy. You have 20 minutes on the clock, and go!

KENT and ZACK both run into the pantry, KENT elbows zack in the rib.

KENT FLORENTINE
You should quit now. It’s in the bag baby.

ZACK
Why you still trying then?

KENT FLORENTINE
What can I say? I’m a showman.
MONTAGE VARIOUS

- Zack whipping his batter
- Kent looking over with funny look on his face
- Zack smiling back
- Kent whipping his batter faster
- Zack running back to pantry
- Kent tripping Zack and laughing

KENT walks by and turns up the heat on ZACK’s stove when ZACK isn’t looking.

KENT FLORENTINE
I don’t think the judges are looking for brownies Zacky poo.

ZACK
Don’t you worry about what i’m making.

ZACK takes his cake out of the oven and smoke fills stage.

JUDGE #2 - HILDA RUSHMIRE
(German accent)
Oh he haz ze fire in ze brownies!

DODI covers her mouth.

JUDGE #1 - PEDRO FORANGA
I like it hot but damn homeboy! Not that hot!

ZACK stares at the burnt cake while KENT laughs obsessively.

KENT FLORENTINE
(laughing)
Looks like you burnt it.

ZACK looks over at KENT in disgust. He looks down at his food breathing very heavy.

FLASHBACK TO:
INT - CULINARY SCHOOL (10 YEARS PRIOR)

ZACK and his culinary teacher are talking.

CULINARY TEACHER
Zack, gourmet food is whatever you want it to be.

ZACK
What do you mean chef?

CULINARY TEACHER
People don’t know good, you have to show them what good is!

ZACK stares at the chef with a perplexed look. The chef slaps ZACK across the face?

CULINARY TEACHER
Think boy! What do you do if something is burnt?

ZACK
...put butter on it?

CULINARY TEACHER
Yes boy! Give it a butter bath. You can burn a turd but if you have enough butter the people will eat!

BACK TO PRESENT:

ZACK stares at the plate with burnt food. He glances over at the butter and grabs it.

KENT glances over at ZACK and curiously looks over.

MONTAGE VARIOUS
- Zack grabs the butter
- Zack smiles over at Kent
- Zack starts frying up butter

JUDGE #2 - HILDA RUSHMIRE
(German accent)
Vat is dat boy doing viz so much buzza?

DODI
He’s giving it a butter bath.

(CONTINUED)
TED ALLEN
Brilliant! 1 minute on the clock gentleman, time to start plating.

KENT and ZACK start plating their food.

TED ALLEN
Ok what a round. Zack you seemed like you had some troubles there.

ZACK glances over at KENT.

ZACK
Yeah it seems that someone turned up my oven.

KENT stands chuckling to himself.

TED ALLEN
ZACK tells us what you made for us today.

ZACK
I made a sweet butter watermelon sauce with chocolate covered jalapenos with Dr. Pepper candied cookies.

The judges all glance at themselves when they pick up the cookies.

JUDGE #3 - DODI JONES
I’ll be honest when I saw the smoke I wasn’t sure you could pull it off but the butter bath saved it.

JUDGE #2 - HILDA RUSHMIRE
(German accent)
The buzza was a good choice. Dis dessert iz on point!

JUDGE #1 - PEDRO FORANGA
Two words my dude, FOOD PORN!

TED ALLEN
Well there you have it. Kent, tell us about your dish.

KENT stumbles around with his words a bit.

KENT FLORENTINE
Umm. I made you today some delicious brownies with a

(MORE)
KENT FLORENTINE (cont’d)
watermelon slice drizzled in a jalapeno chocolate sauce.

KENT wipes his forehead.

JUDGE #3 - DODI JONES
Well brownies would be the obvious choice but not very original Kent? What gives?

JUDGE #2 - HILDA RUSHMIRE
(German accent)
Why did you put ze sauce on de watermelon?

KENT FLORENTINE
I was hoping the sauce would harden on the melon.

JUDGE #2 - HILDA RUSHMIRE
(German accent)
I vink maybe you bumped your melon.

KENT FLORENTINE
Not sure what that means.

JUDGE #1 - PEDRO FORANGA
It means the dessert failed home slice! Your brownies are dry too. I would’ve expected much more from you.

KENT FLORENTINE
That is my grandmother’s recipe! How dare you?

JUDGE #1 - PEDRO FORANGA
No offense, but grandma needs to revise her recipe.

TED ALLEN
Ok boys, head back stage and don’t kill each other while the judges deliberate on the winner.

ZACK
I thought the winner was already chosen?

TED ALLEN
Not sure what you mean Zack, this is a competition?
ZACK looks over at KENT, KENT smiles back.

INT - WALKING BACK TO STAGE

KENT and ZACK walk back to the stage.

KENT FLORENTINE
This should be the nail in the coffin for your cooking career.

ZACK
We’ll see.

KENT FLORENTINE
You know who I am right? I’m Kent motha fuckin Florentine. I don’t lose.

INT - STAGE

KENT and ZACK stand on stage waiting for the final decision.

TED ALLEN
It all comes down to this, who will be chopped today?

KENT gives ZACK a smirk.

JUDGE #2 - HILDA RUSHMIRE
(German accent)
This was truly a vezy tough decision.

KENT FLORENTINE
What was so difficult about it? I clearly won.

JUDGE #3 - DODI JONES
Not so fast their Mr. Kent Florentine. You’re opponent cooked very well, maybe even better.

JUDGE #1 - PEDRO FORANGA
I agree. This was not a clear decision for us but in the end the better chef today won the challenge.

KENT FLORENTINE
Whatever. Just give me the prize money so I can leave already. I haven’t hug out with so many amateurs since culinary school.
INT - SIDE OF STAGE

HARVEY and BILLY stand on side of the stage.

    HARVEY
    Man, this guy is a grade A douche.

    BILLY
    He takes the cake when it comes to douchery. No pun intended.

    HARVEY
    No, non taken.

    BILLY
    Huh?

INT - STAGE

KENT and ZACK stand and wait.

    TED ALLEN
    And the winner of today’s chopped event goes to....

ZACK stares at the dish that is about to be uncovered. KENT takes a step forward like he’s about to except the award.

    TED ALLEN
    I’m sorry Kent, you are chopped.

KENT has a very perplexed look on his face.

    KENT FLORENTINE
    Are you fucking joking me?

    ZACK
    Sorry sucka.

    KENT FLORENTINE
    You ass wipes wouldn’t know good cooking if it was smeared across your upper lip!

    TED ALLEN
    Now now Kent, no need to act like a third grader.

    KENT FLORENTINE
    I’m out of here. If you need me I’ll be getting blowie in my new Ferrari.

ZACK looks over at KENT.

(CONTINUED)
ZACK
Who’s the lucky guy?

KENT storms off stage.

TED ALLEN
Well Zack, what are you going to do with your Fifty thousand dollars?

ZACK
Something I should have done a long time ago.

DODI smiles at ZACK.

INT - RESTAURANT KITCHEN

ZACK cooking in commercial kitchen. He gives DODI a try of the food he is making.

ZACK
Hey babe?

DODI is same kitchen preparing pastries.

DODI
What is it?

ZACK
Tonight’s special. What do you think?

DODI
I think it will be a hit.

ZACK looks over at BILLY.

ZACK
How you doing over there Billy?

BILLY
Stop micro-managing me.

BILLY looks over at HILDA sitting at bar. HILDA waves.

BILLY
That women can start a fire in my loins.

ZACK
Hey dad?

HARVEY and TED ALLEN stand in the kitchen.

(CONTINUED)
HARVEY
Yeah Zack?

ZACK
How’s the soup taste?

HARVEY feeds TED ALLEN a soup spoon of broth.

TED ALLEN
It’s perfect Zack stop worrying so much. You’re going to have a great opening night.

ZACK waves at everyone to come over.

ZACK
Come’ on let’s eat.

ZACK looks at his team in the kitchen.

ZACK
You guys got this for a few minutes?

The kitchen team looks over and nods.

HARVEY
How’s it feel?

ZACK
Beautiful.

HARVEY, ZACK, DODI, TED ALLEN and BILLY walk out of the kitchen where they all sit at a farm house style table in the restaurant and start eating and laughing and picking food from the table.

FADE OUT: