

The Do-Gooder

By

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An Original Screenplay

INT. DUNKIN' DONUTS- CHICAGO, IL.- EAST OHIO STREET- EARLY WEDNESDAY MORNING

WENDY CARLYLE (mid 50's, female) is waiting at the counter for a baker to finish preparing twenty-four donuts. Moments later, a baker brings out two large box containing twenty-four mixed variety donuts in each box.

BAKER

I don't know how many times I have to say it, but the faculty isn't paying you enough for your services.

WENDY

I know, another member of the school board should be grabbing the donuts, but they don't want to, so therefore I have to do it.

BAKER

That says a lot about you as a person, you're always willing to do jobs that no one else would.

WENDY

Well, what's most important is that I get to walk into a classroom full of high school students every week day and motivate them to be better than they think they are. So, waking up early to grab donuts for my co-workers is a small price to pay.

Wendy pays for the donuts using a credit card and leaves the baker a tip before leaving.

INT. STUDENT LOUNGE- HIRSCH METROPOLITAN HIGH SCHOOL- NOON

Wendy and four other teachers are in the lounge helping teenagers who are struggling with their homework. Wendy is devoting her time to a teenage boy who is feeling agitated and hopeless over doing his English homework.

WENDY

I know you could do this Gareth, why did Adrienne Rich make her poem about Marie Curie?

(CONTINUED)

GARETH

Because she experimented radium, radioactivity, and other elements till the point where it was causing her harm.

WENDY

And what does Marie Curry's story have in common with Ronald Wright's lecture?

GARETH

I suck at interpreting poems! Its one of my weaknesses. And even if I do come up with an answer, everyone else's response is going to be much smarter than mines.

WENDY

How about this, Gareth, I will buy you Perogies from the cafeteria tomorrow if you at least try to come up with some sort of response to this. Don't use the word weakness because you can always turn anything you aren't good at into a strength somehow. Come on, buddy, don't let your insecurities prevent you from coming up with ideas.

Wendy leaves Gareth on his own while he thinks of a response to the question. Meanwhile, a teenage girl raises her hand as if she was going to ask a question.

AMY

Mrs. Carlyle, why are you making the time during lunch hour to help us with our homework? You could be in the teacher's lounge relaxing or out having lunch, but you're here helping us.

WENDY

Its not about personal amusement, Amy. I started this noon-hour program because I wanted to help people who couldn't help themselves. I want you guys to have all the success in the world, and not allow your guys' learning disabilities prevent you from achieving greatness. My personal

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WENDY (cont'd)  
amusement comes from walking you  
guys leave smiling knowing that  
your homework is finished.

Wendy walks over to Gareth's table and sees that he's  
beginning to write something.

WENDY  
Do it for the perogies, pal. Do it  
for the free food.

EXT. W. PIERCE AVENUE- WICKER PARK- HALF PAST NOON

Jacob Carlyle (mid-50's, sharp dressed) is having a  
conversation with a married couple about opening up a  
restaurant on Pierce Avenue. They are standing outside a  
1500 square foot retail space that's currently for lease.

JACOB  
I just have two more questions for  
you, Mr. Ricci. Why do you and your  
wife want to manage an Italian  
restaurant?

MR. RICCI  
I want to share our culture with  
everyone in town. Also, everyone  
loves food, so I figured that it'd  
be a safe bet.

JACOB  
Why do you want to open one up here  
though? Why not downtown, you'd get  
plenty of more people coming in if  
you opened one up there.

MR. RICCI  
The lease is way too high down  
there, my wife and I can't afford  
it. Also, this place is just  
fifteen minutes away from where we  
live.

JACOB  
Great, I'm just asking you these  
questions to ensure that you guys  
aren't setting yourselves up for  
failure. 60% of restaurants fail  
within the first year, but judging  
from your responses, I think you  
guys are going to be one of the  
more successful businesses.

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MR. RICCI

I'll just need a report of your business plan if you have one.

Mrs. Ricci opens her suitcase and takes out a laminated folder containing pages of documents for Jacob to read.

JACOB

Wow, you guys seem like you're all set. Who helped you become this prepared?

MR. RICCI

Our son, Nikko, he has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management, and he'll be helping us run this place once this restaurant is complete.

JACOB

Sounds like you guys have your future all planned out for you. I'll look over your business plans tonight, and if it pleases me, I'll get you a permit and have the construction crew refurbish this place however way you wish.

MR. RICCI

Thank you Mr. Carlyle, when do we expect to hear back from you?

JACOB

Please call me Jacob. I'll give you a call a week from today, and we'll discuss further.

Jacob walks back to his Ford SUV, which contains a decal of Jacob's commercial real estate business on the side of the vehicle. He enters his car and takes out his cell-phone from the glove compartment.

INT. STUDENT LOUNGE- HIGH SCHOOL- HALF PAST NOON

Wendy receives a phone call from Jacob, but she is too busy helping Gareth to answer it. When her phone keeps on ringing, it begins irritating the other students.

GARETH

It's alright, Mrs. Carlyle, answer it. It must be something important if it keeps on ringing.

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WENDY

No, I'm on duty, and answering the phone isn't professional.

AMY

Who knows, it could be from your hubby. Its rude to ignore a call from the love of your life.

WENDY

Alright then, guys, I'll only take a minute, I promise.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY- HALF PAST NOON

Wendy answers the call in an agitated voice.

WENDY

What was so important that you needed to interrupt me during work?

JACOB

I just called Beth, and her and I feel like having speghetti and meatballs for dinner tonight. Please don't forget to stop by the supermarket to pick up some ground beef on your way home.

WENDY

Oh, is that all?

JACOB

I'm going to be up late tonight looking over documents so I won't have time for intercourse after dinner...kay, bye.

Jacob hangs up, leaving Wendy even more agitated.

WENDY

Why did I even marry you in the first place?

EXT. S. STONY AVENUE- SOUTH CHICAGO- RUSH HOUR

Wendy is stuck in traffic impatiently waiting for the vehicles on a three way lane to her left to pass by. She hits the gas pedal after vehicles on two of the lanes come to a halt, unaware that a tank truck on the third lane is moving at a rapid pace. The truck collides head on with

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Wendy's vehicle; the driver of the truck remains unharmed, but Wendy remains unconscious with life threatening injuries. The driver and the bystanders help pull Wendy out of the vehicle before the camera fades away.

INT. BARNES & NOBLE- 1130 N STATE ST- THURSDAY MORNING

ROGER FELDSTEIN- (mid 50's, awkward/shy personality) is at the counter ringing up children books for a five year girl accompanied by her mom.

ROGER

*Oh the Places You'll Go* by Dr. Seuss is a great choice, even though I know you'll be going lots of places when you're older.

The five year old grins while her mom grins at how Roger is amusing her daughter. Just before Roger is about to tell the mother how much is owed, a man in his mid-fifties skips past the line in order to join the lady. While Roger is in the process of ringing up the multiple books the mother is purchasing, Roger's boss shouts orders at him.

BOSS

Feldstein! I need you to store all the new books we just got in on the shelves in proper order after lunch. Someone's always gotta do the job that no one else wants to do.

ROGER

You've got it, Mr. Zeggars!

HUSBAND

Wait a minute...Roger Feldstein?

ROGER

I'm sorry, have we met before?

HUSBAND

It's Craig Yarton from High School. Don't worry, I won't expect you to remember given how much I've aged.

Roger has a look of disdain on his face as he ignores Craig and continues ringing in all the books.

WIFE

Wait...you two know each other?

(CONTINUED)

CRAIG

Yeah, we went to Wendell Phillip's High together. I remember since this guy always finished last in gym class.

Roger has just finished ringing in all the books and checks the lady's total on the computer screen.

ROGER

That'll be \$125.50 altogether, please.

Craig's wife pays the balance on the debit machine while Craig stares at Roger as if he was looking for trouble.

CRAIG

Why are you dressed up like you're campaigning to play The Riddler in the next Batman movie?

ROGER

For the record, light green is my favorite color, so that's why I chose this uniform.

CRAIG

That doesn't mean that you have to let the whole world perceive you as unfuckable.

The payment transaction is complete and Roger looks away as Craig and his family leave the store.

INT. LOU MALNATI'S PIZZERIA- NOON

Roger is alone as he stares out a window and daydreams. Enter RACHEL MEEKS- (nerdy, energetic, late-thirties.) She sees him sitting alone in the pizzeria and joins him for lunch.

RACHEL

It looks like you could use some company. You have that iconic sad, lonely, hopeless look on you again.

ROGER

I have this look on me everyday, that doesn't mean anything.

(CONTINUED)



RACHEL

Don't lie to me, I'm your co-worker, I observe you for thirty hours a week. And I know that when you start to remind me of the old man from *Up*, its not a good sign at all.

ROGER

OK fine, if you really want to know, someone who bullied me in high school was one of my customers earlier.

RACHEL

No kidding, I used to run into high school bullies all the time at my first job.

ROGER

This wasn't just any type of bully, this guy really had a neck for tormenting me. I finished last every time because him and his buddies would intentionally push me out of the line whenever we had to run circles in gym class.

RACHEL

I've got an idea, we track down where he lives and we run him over with a car during one of his early morning jogs.

ROGER

No, that'd be attempted murder. I'd much rather be involved in a revenge plot that doesn't end up with us behind bars.

RACHEL

Then what are you going to do, just let this wear you out for the rest of the day?

ROGER

Look, I'll manage to get over this eventually. I'm an adult, there are bigger things to be concerned about at my age.

EXT. FLASHBACK SEQUENCE- E. PERSHING ROAD- AFTERNOON- 1978

As Roger is walking home from school, he's ambushed by Craig and his group of friends who are on bikes. They block all his paths of escaping, and intend on hurting him.

CRAIG

We're not in gym class anymore,  
Fagstein! That means we could do  
more than just push you out of the  
running line.

ROGER

Please don't do this today, I have  
a massive headache already.

CRAIG

You should have thought of that  
before you made such a big deal  
about your bruised ankle during gym  
class, you stupid fuck.

BULLY # 1

Now lie down on the floor like you  
were doing sit ups!

One of the bullies lifts up his bike and threatens to use it to beat up Roger unless he cooperates. Roger does as he's told, leading Craig to pour a bottle of alcohol all over Roger's face. Roger has his mouth closed the entire time, and feels as if he's suffocating, but the bullies kick him in the chest to get him to open his mouth.

INT. SINGLE BEDROOM APARTMENT- CHATHAM APARTMENTS- SOUTH CHICAGO- FRIDAY- EARLY MORNING

Roger wakes up panicking from the nightmare. After washing his face in the bathroom sink, he turns on the TV which it tuned into CNN. A reporter is covering a top story on how Barnes & Noble will be closing down all its locations.

REPORTER

Last year's revenues were down  
fifteen percent, when compared to  
its competitor Amazon Kindle,  
forcing the company's CEO to make  
the announcement that it will  
indeed be declaring for  
bankruptcy.

Roger watches the coverage with a startled and heartbroken look just as he receives a phone call from his boss.

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BOSS (OVER THE PHONE)

Look I'm sorry about the bad timing, but we need all the support we can in order to help close up shop.

ROGER

No worries, I'll see you in half an hour.

INT. BARNES & NOBLE- 1130 N STATE ST- MORNING

Roger and his co-workers are organizing the store's inventory in order to prepare for the closing sale that's set to begin the following day. Roger is conversing with one of his co-workers in his early sixties while placing discount stickers on books.

CO-WORKER

So after this place goes for sale, what are you going to do for work?

ROGER

I have a second job that I do during Saturdays & Sundays, so I'll be fine. What about you though, are you going to be alright, Steve?

CO-WORKER

I think I might as well retire. I fit the age group, so I might as well do what people expect of me.

ROGER

Well, I don't think anyone should give up on what they're passionate about when they reach a certain age. But hey, there's always a reasonable explanation for everything.

CO-WORKER

I've always been meaning to ask, why'd you choose to work here? You could have been a lawyer or a teacher and made five times the income, but instead you chose to be a sales clerk.

ROGER

Lets just say that I've always had a passion for books and

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ROGER (cont'd)  
storytelling, and I wanted a job in  
which I could help provide that for  
people.

CO-WORKER  
Did you ever try writing and  
publishing works of your own?

ROGER  
Now that you've mentioned it, I do  
write freelancingly; I've just  
found it difficult getting my name  
out there after all this time.

CO-WORKER  
Well, I hope you find all that  
you're looking for soon since then  
you won't have to work another  
shift like this again.

INT. STARBUCKS- 38 E ONTARIO ST- NIGHT

Roger is asleep with his head rested on his arms while  
sitting at a coffee table.

INT. FLASHBACK SEQUENCE- WENDELL PHILLIPS HIGH SCHOOL-  
CAFETERIA- NOON HOUR- 1979

Roger is sitting in the cafeteria alone eating his lunch,  
and decides to walk over to a table where seven teenagers  
are having a conversation. One of the people at the table is  
Wendy, and she becomes irritated when she sees Roger.

ROGER  
Do you guys mind if I sit here just  
for today?

WENDY  
Fuck off Roger, its a Monday.  
Everybody's under enough stress  
already, so don't be more of a pain  
in the ass to bare.

ROGER  
I have no one to sit with over at  
my table, so I wanted to see if I  
could dine at this table.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

Find an empty seat at another table because you aren't welcome here!

ROGER

OK, then why do Jason, Kevin, and Mike get to sit here and I don't?!

WENDY

They're my friends, its pretty self explanatory, dumbass!

ROGER

I'm your friend, why can't I...

WENDY

Don't ever say something that retarded again! You aren't my friend! We were never friends! I don't want anything to do with someone who tries so hard to be my friend that its like he's obsessed with me. Do you know how weird and uncomfortable that makes a person feel? Think about others, and respect their personal space!

ROGER

Why can't you be nice to me, I just want a friend. Can't you see that?!

WENDY

I'm not blind, pea brain. I just don't want to be nice to you because I don't ever want to get to know you. You creep me out, you irritate the hell out of me, and the only complaint I have about my Social Studies class is that you're in my class! Get this through your thick, perverted skull, we will never be friends! I will never, ever be nice to you, not even after graduation! So fuck off and find someone who actually had a brain who could tolerate you.

Roger walks away, and is taunted and ridiculed by those at Wendy's table as he does so.

INT. STARBUCKS- NIGHT

He awakens from the nightmare screaming, which startles everyone around him. After Roger manages to calm himself down, he starts typing on his laptop; he is working on a fictional novel entitled *Leave the Front Door Open*.

INT. THERAPISTS' OFFICE- MONDAY MORNING

Roger is lying back on a chaise longue as he confesses what's been traumatizing him to his therapist.

THERAPIST

So, these nightmares, how long has it been since they've been occurring on a regular basis?

ROGER

Since my encounter with Craig at the bookstore last Thursday.

THERAPIST

And which bullies in particular appear in these dreams of yours?

ROGER

All my dreams feature various people who've bullied or ridiculed me in the past humiliating me as an adult. They're either mocking me in front of my face or embarrassing me in public while everyone laughs.

THERAPIST

Are they different people each time, or are there some reoccurring ones as well?

ROGER

Mostly they're reoccurring, but there's one person in particular who appears in every single dream.

THERAPIST

Look Roger, this might be hard for you to accept, but I think the best way to deal with this situation is by establishing connection with the people in your past who were cruel to you and speaking with them face to face so that you could at least try burying the hatchet with them.

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ROGER

And how do you suggest I do that when I don't have my yearbook?

THERAPIST

Pay a visit to your alma mater. I suggest you leave now that way you might be able to visit the school during lunch hour when everyone's out of class.

Roger gets up and leaves the office while the therapist shouts at the receptionist to bring in his next patient.

INT. WENDELL PHILLIPS HIGH- ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE- NOON

Roger walks into the principal's office and waits in line to speak with the receptionist lady. The lady is grumpy and clearly having a miserable day, leading Roger to bare witness to her hastiness when he approaches her.

RECEPTIONIST

Are you here to pick up your kid?

ROGER

No actually, I'm here to pick up a yearbook from the graduating class of 1980.

RECEPTIONIST

We don't have anymore prints of yearbooks dated back then, sorry.

ROGER

Well, could you at least check? I mean, I came all this way.

RECEPTIONIST

Look, don't make me repeat myself, it only pisses me off more.

ROGER

Look, could I just leave my name and number here so that you could refer to me when you could help me?

RECEPTIONIST

I don't see how much help it could do, but fine.

Principal THOMAS SHEPPARD (mid 50's, beard, authoritative) opens the door to his office and escorts a troubled teenager back to his classroom.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

Its Roger Feldstein; F-E-L-D...

Thomas pauses and stares at Roger once he hears the name "Roger Feldstein."

THOMAS

Hold on, you're Roger Feldstein?

Roger stares at Thomas, but doesn't recognize him at all.

ROGER

I'm sorry, have we met before?

THOMAS

I'm Thomas Sheppard, we graduated together in the 80's. You may remember me as Tobacco Tom.

ROGER

I remember you, you used to smoke cigars on the football bleachers during lunch. You'd always carry two cigars with you, one for you and the other for a lucky individual, earning you the nickname.

THOMAS

Please don't repeat that out loud again, it may get me fired.

ROGER

My apologies, it was my understanding that everyone around here knew already.

THOMAS

Well they don't, but I'll let you off with a warning this time. What brings you here, Rog?

ROGER

I was looking for a yearbook of our graduating class, I was hoping you guys still kept those here.

THOMAS

They're highly limited, but fortunately for you, I have one in my office. Just let me get this punk back to his classroom and I'll be right with you.



INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE- NOON

Roger follows Thomas into his office, and Thomas takes out a yearbook in one of his drawers. He hands it to Thomas for him to take a look at.

THOMAS

I kept it all this time for memorabilia reasons.

ROGER

Do you think I could make a copy of the pages featuring all the graduates? I need it for a project I'm working on.

THOMAS

I'll tell what, since you're going to make better use of it than me, I'll let you hold onto it until you're done. It deserves a better purpose than hiding inside a drawer most of the time.

Roger takes the book and is about to leave, but Thomas prevents him from doing so.

THOMAS

Woah, hold on a second, partner. You think I'm just going to let you walk off with a limited edition yearbook without some kind of collateral?

ROGER

You're right, what do you want in return?

THOMAS

Well, given that it's highly valuable, you might as well slip me a hundred bucks. Plus I need insurance in the case of damages.

Roger takes out his wallet and slips Thomas a one hundred dollar bill before walking away.

INT. ANTIQUES SHOP- WEST RIDGE- CHICAGO- AFTERNOON

CAROL MCDUGALL (early-forties, African-American, curly-hair) is providing customer service as Roger walks into a two-storied antiques shop. After aiding the customers, Carol approaches Roger and offers to assist him.

ROGER

Hi, do you know if a Carol McDougall works here?

CAROL

You're speaking to her, hon.

ROGER

I'm Roger Feldstein. Three years ago, when I was at the State Fair, I walked into the tent you had set up and you performed palmistry on me. You said that I would become successful if I became more open to trying new things. And also, you gave me your business card in the case that I wanted to buy antiques from you.

Roger shows Carol the card she gave him three years back, and Carol begins to recognize him.

CAROL

Wait a minute, I remember you. Where did my advice lead you?

ROGER

I started writing novels since the last time we met. It hasn't led me anywhere though since I keep getting rejected by talent agencies.

CAROL

Just give it more time; its only been three years. It usually takes writers five years to get noticed.

ROGER

My patience isn't wearing off, that's the good news. But I came to visit you today since I was wondering if you'd be open to doing another palm reading for me. I have \$60 in my wallet if you charge for your services.

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CAROL

No, keep your money, you're a good person and I like doing good things for good people.

INT. CAROL'S OFFICE- UPSTAIRS- AFTERNOON

Carol escorts Roger into a room upstairs complete with a table containing a crystal ball. Roger takes a seat on Carol's leather chair as they begin the process.

ROGER

Is there any reason why we need that crystal ball?

CAROL

Some fates can't be foretold simply by palmistry, so therefore the crystal ball serves as backup.

Carol begins reading Roger's palm after they've both sat down. By reading his palm, Carol senses that Roger will cross paths with someone from his past really soon.

CAROL

You will be visited by someone from your past sooner than you hope, and this person will change your life in some way.

ROGER

Could you give me some more information? Like is it a relative or one of my former colleagues?

CAROL

We need to consort with the crystal ball in order to get more info.

ROGER

Great, let's see what the orb has in store for...

CAROL

I prefer that no one be inside the room if I conduct my business with the crystal ball so that no one could replicate anything I do. Head downstairs, I'll come get you when it's all over.

Carol consorts with the crystal ball once Roger leaves the room. Within minutes she is connected with the spirit of Wendy. She hears Wendy's voice coming from the afterlife and sees her spirit displayed inside the ball.

INT. ANTIQUE'S SHOP- GROUND FLOOR- AFTERNOON

An hour later, Roger is looking at antique dishes/plates before Carol sneaks up from behind him.

CAROL

That right there is Chinese  
Porcelain you're looking at. Its  
\$85 if you're interested.

Roger is startled by Carol, and he comes incredibly close to knocking over the plates stored on the shelf behind him, but Carol restrains him.

ROGER

Please don't startle me like that  
ever again.

CAROL

My mistake, I thought you'd be  
someone who'd be used to jump  
scares. Anyway, I was able to find  
the answers you were looking for,  
but you're going to need to follow  
me upstairs.

INT. CAROL'S OFFICE- UPSTAIRS- AFTERNOON

Carol hands Roger a small jar of tea leaves.

CAROL

The visitor will come when the time  
is right. I won't tell you the  
exact information I obtained from  
the crystal ball since that'll ruin  
the surprise, but I will tell you  
that the cup of tea that you're  
holding will reduce stress levels  
inside your body. Make sure you  
drink it because your blood  
pressure was abnormal last time I  
checked.

ROGER

So I'm just supposed to meet this  
random person from my past by fate?

(CONTINUED)

CAROL

Yes, where's the fun in not  
discovering the surprise if you  
don't experience things by chance?

ROGER

You're exactly right, I'll check  
back in after my encounter.

CAROL

Yeah, and bring a bag of Chinese  
Food too so that we could have a  
long discussion about it over  
lunch. I love Orange Chicken, don't  
forget!

INT. ROGER'S APARTMENT- KITCHEN- NIGHT

Roger is examining the pages on the yearbook that contain photos of graduates, and finds Wendy's portrait. He looks up Wendy's name on his laptop, only to find articles on how she died of a vicious car accident days ago. Roger starts yawning after digging deeper into Wendy's accident, and decides to prepare himself for bed. Before he starts preparing himself for bed, he pours a glass of tea, and drinks it down to the last drop. Roger starts heading towards the bathroom afterwards, but begins feeling lightheaded and weak while he is walking, leading him to eventually pass out on the carpet.

INT. FLASHBACK SEQUENCE- GYMNASIUM- MORNING- 1979

During Phys'ed class, Roger is running alongside twenty-five other classmates. Just when Roger catches up with the rest of his classmates, Craig pushes him out of line, causing Roger to fall and sprain his ankle. All his classmates stop and laugh at Roger while Craig gets high-fived.

INT. LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

Roger wakes up screaming again following the nightmare. He rushes to the kitchen to check the clock and sees that he's only been asleep for forty-five minutes.

INT. BATHTUB- NIGHT

Roger is scrubbing his armpits with soap while he is taking a shower. As he continues with his weird habits, Wendy appears from behind him and is disgusted as she watches him brush his armpits with soap.

WENDY

Eww...don't tell me that you're going to do that to your balls next!

Roger is so startled by Wendy's presence that he screams like a little girl and falls back, hitting his head.

INT. BATHTUB- PAST MIDNIGHT

The landlord finds Roger knocked out in the bathtub, and desperately tries to wake him up. When Roger wakes up, he looks confused and clueless as to what had happened.

LANDLORD

Mrs. Nicholson filed a report of you screaming and came rushing to me, begging me to come make sure you were alright.

ROGER

How the hell did you get in here?

LANDLORD

The landlord has a key to every room in the case of an emergency. Now get up, you're not a toddler.

After the landlord helps Roger up, Roger sees a vision of Wendy standing behind the landlord. Wendy immediately makes a gesture to him asking him to zip his mouth shut while the landlord is in the room.

LANDLORD

Now do you want to tell me what this is all about?

ROGER

The water got boiling hot all of a sudden while I was taking a shower. I freaked out since who wouldn't be startled by that, especially in the middle of a shower?

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LANDLORD

I'll call a plumber to come by and take a look in the morning. Was there anything else you need?

ROGER

No, that'll be all. Now if you'll excuse me, I need to rest. I have a big day ahead of me.

Once the landlord leaves the apartment, Roger confronts Wendy. He tries to grab her arm but realizes that his arm just goes straight past her.

ROGER

Oh god, I'm still in a dream!

Roger tries desperately to knock himself out again, but Wendy tries to calm him down.

WENDY

Stop behaving like a complete idiot and just listen!

ROGER

You aren't going to try and extract information from my subconscious!

WENDY

Are you trying to get the landlord to return? Just calm the fuck down.

ROGER

Why are you here?! I went on Google, I saw the article of you being the victim in that car crash!

WENDY

Look, I won't be able to explain everything when you're like this. Could you please try and relax? We'll have this conversation after you prove to me that you're calm.

ROGER

The tea is making me hallucinate, I passed out right after drinking it.

Roger rushes to the kitchen to dump the tea leaves down the sink while Wendy lies down on the floor and takes a nap.

INT. LIVING ROOM- MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

After Roger has managed to calm himself, he walks over to Wendy and wakes her up.

ROGER

I'd really like to know what's going on here.

WENDY

And I'd really like to know if you have clean water in this apartment.

Roger walks over to the sink and pours Wendy a glass of water. When he hands Wendy the glass, she is unable to pick up the glass using her palms given that she is a spirit. Wendy is amused to see her hands just pass through the glass, and continues doing it to amuse herself.

ROGER

Stop trying to waste my fucking time. Explain to me why you're here.

WENDY

Shortly after I was pronounced dead, I was amongst the line of deceased people awaiting to enter heaven. When my turn came up, I was deemed not qualified to enter due to all the mistakes I've made in the past, particularly...

ROGER

Bullying me. I thought I'd finish that sentence for you.

WENDY

How very kind, but would you let me continue? Anyway, being a complete prick to people had put me in a tight spot with the man upstairs, and it took four days of resting outside St. Peter in order for him and I to reach an agreement.

ROGER

What about sending you down to hell? Did God consider that to be a solution?

Wendy stares angrily at Roger, and Roger apologizes to Wendy for the harsh comment he made.

(CONTINUED)



WENDY

In order to grant entry into heaven, I must change the lives of three people whose lives I've destroyed in the past. It was under suggestion that you were one of my clients.

ROGER

So let me get this straight...god beamed you back down here so that you could change my life forever? What made them think that I needed saving anyways?

WENDY

You're about to lose your main job, you haven't had any luck with your aspiring career as a writer, and you've never been married once. Does anything about that seem even remotely alright to you?

ROGER

Fine, you got me...but what makes you so sure that you can help me?

WENDY

The lord almighty isn't going to allow me into heaven until I can help set you on the path to success, so you might as well use me since I'm not going anywhere until he says that I'm done with you.

ROGER

Alright, then where do we start?

INT. BEDROOM- MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Roger is lying in his king-sized bed while being haunted by Wendy's ghostly presence. Wendy is sitting on a chair right beside the bed reading a Dan Brown novel.

ROGER

Could you sleep on the living room sofa? It's not making me feel comfortable at all with you being here while I sleep.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

You have a copy of Fifty Shades of Grey on your bookshelf; you should be used to feeling uncomfortable.

ROGER

OK, first off, I was going to give it away as a gift!

WENDY

And what stopped you from doing so?

ROGER

Lonely people were using it as a tool to spice up their sex life, so I thought I'd give it a shot too.

WENDY

Eww...please stop before I feel even more pity for you.

ROGER

Well, then at least help me spice up my love life while you're around.

WENDY

I'll make a note of it on the checklist, pal.

ROGER

Great, now could you please leave me by myself? I just can't fall asleep knowing that a ghost is watching me.

Wendy leaves the room while Roger stares up at the ceiling. Following twenty minutes of staring at the ceiling, Roger decides to get out of bed and spend time with Wendy.

INT. KITCHEN- MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Wendy is in the kitchen staring at the sink. When Roger arrives, she asks him for a favor.

WENDY

Do you think you could turn on the tap for me? I'm a little dehydrated and I need some water.

After Roger turns on the tap, Wendy places her head beside the faucet in order to consume water.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

I'll get you a baby bottle tomorrow, that way you could drink water while sucking on the pacifier and it won't spill on the floor or anything.

WENDY

Now that you're up, I was hoping we could review the stages we're going to go through to enhance your life.

ROGER

Please, it's the reason why I woke up in the first place.

Wendy and Roger sit down at the kitchen table as they to discuss the step by step process in giving Roger a makeover.

WENDY

First, I'm going to help enroll you into the Bachelor's of Ed department at U of C. Teaching English and Literature to students is much more satisfactory than working at a library or a book shop. Then, we're going to work on your sex appeal. You can't go your entire life without settling down because you need someone besides your family whose going to be there beside you on your death bed. And finally, we're going to work on confronting all the bullies from your past. To do that, I'm going to man you up and help you develop a tough guy personality so that no one will perceive you as a pussy anymore.

ROGER

Did you come up with all that by yourself just like that?

WENDY

No, the man upstairs gave me a list of chores before he beamed me down to heaven.

Wendy hands Roger the list of chores that God handed to her for him to take a look at. The list deals specifically with tasks to help Roger reach success.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

How did the man upstairs know specifically that I needed to work on these areas?

WENDY

The man upstairs watches you...he watches everyone.

ROGER

Well, that about explains everything. Get some rest, we're heading down to U of C first thing tomorrow morning.

WENDY

I won't be able to get a proper rest if you wake me up in the middle of the night with your screaming.

ROGER

Then sleep on the street because my nightmares are something that's beyond my control.

Wendy gets up and steals a blanket from Roger's bedroom before leaving the apartment. She walks straight through the door without even having to open it, and chooses to sleep on the lawn outside.

INT. KITCHEN- TUESDAY MORNING

Roger is feeding Wendy breakfast cereal by shoving spoonfuls of cereal in her mouth.

WENDY

Alright, I think I've had enough cereal for today. Now, let's call your boss to tell him that you're quitting work.

ROGER

I still have to help the staff during the closing sale, I can't resign now.

WENDY

Come on, its not like they're going to miss you at all. Just tell them that you received a job offer that requires you to work from 9 - 5 on weekdays, they'll understand.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

Its kind of a slap in the face to my boss and co-workers, but alright.

Roger picks up the phone and calls his boss while Wendy waits in the kitchen.

ROGER

Hi, Tim; I hate to be the barer of bad news but I got a call back regarding a job offer this past weekend, and they want me to come back to work at 10 AM.

TIM

Don't worry about it, I'll get Frankie to cover your shift today.

ROGER

Yeah, that's the other thing, my new job requires me to work from ten to nine from Tuesday's to Saturday's. Grocery markets...you know.

TIM

So, you just want me to give Frankie all your shifts until the store permanently closes?

ROGER

That would be much appreciated.

TIM

Shouldn't be a problem...Frankie could use more shifts anyway.

ROGER

Well, I won't argue about that. Its been a pleasure working for you, Tim. Give the staff my regards.

Roger hangs up the phone and grabs his keys while Wendy follows him.

WENDY

Hold on, you need to change out of that light green sweater of your's You're going to apply for college, not attending the St. Patrick's Day Parade so take that sweater off.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

Then what do you suggest I wear? I need to wear a sweater since its the beginning of October!

WENDY

Anything, hell prance around shirtless if you need to, just don't wear anything that makes you look like a Leprechaun.

ROGER

I have one other sweater left, so don't bitch about this next one or else we're never leaving this fucking place.

Roger storms back to his room while Wendy stares at the living room clock.

INT. UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO- REGISTRATION OFFICE- MORNING

Roger is wearing a ridiculous Christmas sweater as he walks up to the registration desk where a lady in her mid-fifties is going over documents.

ROGER

Hi, I'd like to register for the Bachelor Ed program next fall.

LADY

Aren't you a bit old to be going back to college?

ROGER

Well, I'm about to get laid off at work, so I thought, why not go back to college where I could work towards finding a new career that I won't hate.

LADY

Then I'll need you to fill out this registration form.

The lady hands Roger a registration form. Roger grabs the form and sits on a bench where he fills out the form. After filling out the form, Roger hands it over to the lady. Roger is about to head out, but Wendy prevents him from doing so.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

Pen and a piece of a piece of paper, ask the lady for those two things.

ROGER

Excuse me, ma'am, may I have a pen and a piece of paper, please?

The lady hands Roger a pen and a piece of paper, and tells him to keep them both.

WENDY

Great, now lets get to the cafeteria, we have some work to do.

INT. MAIN CAFETERIA- MORNING

Roger and Wendy are discussing what to do next as they're sitting at a bench drinking coffee.

WENDY

If its alright with you, I'd like to go check up on my daughter Violet to see if she's doing alright.

ROGER

Couldn't you have done that before you decided to terrorize me last night?

WENDY

I couldn't because god made specific plans to ensure that you were the only person who could see me before he beamed me back to earth.

ROGER

Then should we pay Carol McDougall a visit and ask for more of that special tea she gave me? If it worked on me, it should work for your daughter too.

WENDY

That'd be the obvious choice, smartass.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

Then why did you suggest that we go to the caf instead of the bus stop?

WENDY

I want you to write a letter and deliver it to my daughter.

ROGER

I could deliver it to her, but can't you write it yourself?

WENDY

Did you forget that I'm a ghost?

ROGER

Jeez, that always slips my mind. What do you want me to write down?

INT. ANTIQUE'S SHOP- GROUND FLOOR- NOON

Roger walks into the Carol's Antique's Shop while Carol is helping a customer. After the customer is helped, Carol turns around and is surprised to see that Roger has returned.

CAROL

Damn, I wasn't expecting you to come back so soon.

ROGER

I'm being followed by the ghost you warned me about yesterday, and I need some more of that herbal tea you gave me so that her wife and child can connect with her too.

Carol looks down and sees Roger carrying a box of Chinese Food big enough to fill four entrees in a plastic bag.

CAROL

Hand me that bag, then we'll talk.

Carol opens the box of food after Roger hands her the bag, and is mostly impressed with the entrees.

CAROL

I could have done without Beef and Broccoli, but since I love Sweet and Sour Pork, and you remembered Orange Chicken, I'll help you. Just give me five minutes.



Carol heads upstairs to get the tea that Roger requested.

INT. MIDDLE-CLASS APARTMENT COMPLEX- HALLWAY- CLIFTON AVE,  
LINCOLN PARK- AFTERNOON

Roger knocks on the door to an apartment, and Jacob opens the door mid-way to speak to Roger.

ROGER

Hi, is Bethany home?

JACOB

Why do you want to know?

ROGER

Look, I'll be completely honest with you. I'm a friend of your late wife.

Jacob immediately shuts the door on Roger, while Roger stands in the hallway with a look of disdain.

ROGER

Jacob, your wife was a close friend of mine, and I heard about the accident. I wanted to make sure that you guys were coping alright.

JACOB

If you want to ensure that we're coping alright, then just leave.

Roger slips an envelope under the door just as Beth (average height, wavy brown hair, teenager) joins Jacob to see what's going on. Beth opens the envelope and begins reading the letter that's inside. Roger is still waiting in the hallway looking devastated, as he watches Wendy cry over the fact that she's seeing her family again in person.

WENDY (SOBBING)

Please lord, give my family the opportunity to see me again. I want to brush my daughter's hair just like she likes it, please let the tea work.

Beth breaks down in tears mid-way into reading the letter, prompting Jacob to start reading the letter too.

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT- LIVING ROOM- MID-AFTERNOON

Roger, Beth, and Jacob are sitting in the living room, as they have a conversation about Wendy.

JACOB

So, you're telling me that my wife has returned to earth as a spirit, but you're the only one that could see her, right?

ROGER

Believe me, I wished that things turned out differently, you have no idea how much I wished she could be with you guys right now.

JACOB

But if we drink the tea you brought for us, we'll be able to connect with her again, right?

ROGER

I'm not completely certain that it will work, but we need to try.

Roger takes out two teabags stored in a paper bag from his backpack. Jacob starts making the tea in the kitchen while Roger sits still on the couch.

BETH

Why did your mom come down here to follow you, exactly?

ROGER

I mean absolutely no ill towards your mom, but she bullied me back in high school, and god sent her down to follow me as a way for her to bury the hatchet with me.

BETH

What kind of hatchet is there still left to bury, I mean you seem to be doing perfectly fine.

ROGER

I was a salesman at Barnes and Noble by North State Street, and...

BETH

Stop right there, that's all I really need to know to feel sorry for you.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

You heard about our closing sale, huh?

BETH

Yeah, but don't worry, I'll be there tomorrow to buy some books.

ROGER

Don't worry, I quit my job after this situation occurred; just don't tell my landlord.

JACOB

How did my late wife torment you back in high school?

ROGER

I won't answer that since I don't want to cause any trouble.

JACOB

No, I swear, I'm perfectly fine listening to the story. Just open up, if you don't mind reminiscing about the past.

ROGER

I actually do mind, but for you guys I'll open up. We both went to Wendell Phillips High together, she was the popular girl in school that everyone wanted to be around. And I was the shy, lonely, and awkward kid that people barely paid attention to. I actually repeatedly tried to befriend your wife, because I thought it'd make me look cool you know, being able to have a natural conversation with the coolest girl in school, if people saw that, they'd be coming up to me and asking me to be part of their group. But she always shunned me away, and left me with more problems to cry about whenever I tried to befriend her.

JACOB

I'm sorry, my wife can get like that sometimes. Whenever it happened, it agitated the hell out of me.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

But you still put up with her no matter what, that's true love.

JACOB

I had to, it was cheaper if we stayed married.

Roger, Beth, and Jacob have a laugh over the joke as they continue bonding in the living room.

INT. KITCHEN- MID AFTERNOON

Beth and Jacob are seated down at the dinner table as they take a sip of the tea while Roger is in the bathroom.

ROGER

Now I have to warn you guys that...

Roger returns to find that Beth and Jacob are passed out after having drank the tea.

WENDY

Maybe you should have warned them while you were pouring them the tea.

ROGER

Why should you care, you're about to see them in about five minutes.

WENDY

Likely...likely about to see them. Plus, that was five minutes for you, while it means about...

ROGER

Six hours for them...fuck!

WENDY

What the hell do we do for six hours?

WENDY

Well, I've always had trouble picking up women, maybe you could teach me some tricks since its on your checklist after all.

INT. LIVING ROOM- MID AFTERNOON

Roger feeds Wendy water via a baby bottle; Wendy is able to suck from the pacifier while Roger holds onto the bottle. Afterwards, Wendy begins to teach Roger how to flirt with women.

WENDY

Lets begin by the art of dance.

ROGER

What's there to learn about that, I've seen the prom scene in *Napoleon Dynamite*.

WENDY

The slow dance is a boring, stereotypical way to win a girl's heart. Trust me, I even tried it with Stevie Wonder playing in the background, I was never amused once. I'm going to tell you a trick to seducing a woman during a dance...randomly pick her up in your arms. She won't see it coming, and be flattered by it because it means she doesn't have to stand in high heels anymore.

ROGER

Jeez, so much for giving me shit about forgetting that you're a ghost earlier, how do you expect me to pick you up in my arms?

WENDY

Lift up my family's counter top table, then. Remember, do it fast and treat it like it was the most gorgeous woman alive.

Roger quickly lifts up the glass counter top table, and spends ten seconds looking at it gracefully before he accidentally drops it, causing all the glass within the table to be shattered.

WENDY

Would it kill you to do cardio once in a while?!

ROGER

Don't blame me, it was Made from China!

(CONTINUED)

Moments later, Wendy is teaching Roger about how to properly kiss a lady.

WENDY

Now I want you to kiss the TV slowly, and not at all passionately. Take your time while you're doing so because you want to savor the kiss like a moment you won't remember.

Roger slowly leans into the flat-screen TV, and slowly kisses the screen. Saliva spills all over the carpet while he kisses the TV which disgusts Wendy.

WENDY

Have you never kissed a woman before, ever?

ROGER

I kissed a woman on a TV screen once. I was really into Baywatch in the eighties, and...

WENDY

And did you drool all over the carpet during the kiss?!

ROGER

There might have been, I can't remember exactly.

For Roger's final lesson, Wendy teaches Roger how to properly embrace a woman. Roger and the neighbor next door, a lady in her early thirties share a slow dance together while Wendy guides Roger through the procedure.

WENDY

Remember, nowhere near the waist, try the chest area.

Roger is about to grab the woman's breasts while she isn't looking, but Wendy prevents him from doing so.

WENDY

Back chest, dumbass! You should be thankful that her eyes are closed.

Roger holds on tightly to the back chest area as he continues to slowly dance with the lady.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

Jesus, why don't you unstrap her  
bra while you're at it?!

Roger ignores Wendy's advice as he continues to enjoy his first ever slow dance.

INT. KITCHEN- LATE EVENING

Jacob awakens from his dream, and sees Wendy's spirit standing right next to him. He wakes up Beth, and Beth is also able to see Wendy's spirit. All three of them reach in to share three-way hug with each other while they cry tears of joy since they have finally been reunited. The three of them spend the evening playing Twister and laughing their heads off as they watch Looney Tunes skits.

INT. BETH'S BEDROOM- PAST MIDNIGHT

Wendy watches as Beth lies in bed, tucked in her blanket.

BETH

Mom, could you read the letter you wrote me earlier out loud to me?

WENDY

I can, but you have to promise me that you aren't going to break down in tears while I do so.

BETH

Anything for you mom.

Wendy starts reciting the words to the letter she wrote for Beth earlier in the day.

WENDY

My darling, Beth; if you're reading this, it means that I was blessed with the opportunity to be with you one last time. I hope with all my soul that I stay with you longer, but if that doesn't happen, I want you to know that the most miraculous opportunity that I was ever given was the chance to raise you. You have grown into everything I dreamed that you'd become, so if you still feel that you need to do right by me, don't bother because its my job to do right by you, not

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WENDY (cont'd)  
the other way around. So instead of doing right by me, I ask that you do right by others and make sure you treat everyone you meet with care since some of them might not have the same opportunities you and I have had. I know you'll do right by them, my Little Bee, I've know it since the day you were born.

Wendy brushes Beth's hair just like the way she used to while Beth is sound asleep.

INT. KITCHEN- PAST MIDNIGHT

Wendy finds Jacob in the kitchen crying, and tries to relieve him of stress.

WENDY  
Don't do anything I wouldn't do when I'm gone. Our daughter is counting on you since she can't count on me anymore. Always look out for her and don't worry about me because I'm going to be fine as long as you two are alright, is that understood?

JACOB  
Understood, mademoiselle.

WENDY  
You've been working on your French, how very charming.

Jacob continues to flirt with Wendy, leading to an intimate moment between them.

INT. HALLWAY- PAST MIDNIGHT

Wendy walks past the door and finds Roger sitting outside the neighbor's apartment.

WENDY  
What happened, did she kick you out?

ROGER  
No, I decided that I'd rather wait out here and listen to you guys'

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



ROGER (cont'd)  
reunion than spend my first  
intimate evening with someone.

WENDY  
That's very thoughtful of you.

ROGER  
Sounds like you guys had a great  
night. It just would have been  
perfect if I could've been part of  
it, you know?

Wendy walks away looking unamused by Roger's joke.

INT. ROGER'S APARTMENT- BEDROOM- PAST MIDNIGHT

Roger is lying in his bed staring at the ceiling. Wendy  
decides to break the silence by making small talk.

WENDY  
I can't tell you how much I  
appreciate you helping me  
re-connect with my family today.

ROGER  
I wanted to ensure that you had the  
opportunities that I never had just  
so that you could end up happier  
than I am now.

WENDY  
Yeah, well hopefully I'll be around  
to see you at your happiest moment.

Wendy sits down on the unoccupied side of the bed.

ROGER  
You could lie down if you want, I  
don't mind.

WENDY  
No that'll be awkward being that  
I'm married with a child.

ROGER  
Pfft...Mulder and Scully weren't  
married, yet they still lied next  
to each other in bed.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

Very well, we'll do it your way.

Wendy lies down on the pillow on the other side of the bed.

WENDY

Why do you have an extra pillow and a king sized bed? Its not like anyone else lives here.

ROGER

Well, in the case that I do end up married one day, I'd like to make sure I'm well prepared.

WENDY

Don't worry, I'm going to make sure that you find someone to share this bed with.

ROGER

I hope so because I'm going to end up selling this bed if I can't find someone to share it with.

WENDY

Its a win-win situation really since you could get an even six-hundred on Craigslist if you decide to sell this bed.

Roger tilts his head and sees that Wendy is slightly distressed, causing him to confront her.

ROGER

You look slightly distressed. Please open up to me, I'm not going to be able to fall asleep knowing that you're in that kind of mood.

WENDY

When you opened up to my husband about our past earlier today, it made me feel something.

ROGER

Regret...that feeling's called regret. Everyone feels it once in a while, so get over it.

WENDY

Look, I'm sorry I was mean to you back in high school. I didn't even

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WENDY (cont'd)

take the chance to get to know you because I was a bad person. I was the most popular person girl in school, but I didn't deserve half the praise that people gave to me.

ROGER

Its the decisions that we make now that matter. You think everyone was perfect growing up? No, because if you're human, you have flaws.

WENDY

But I tormented you for four years straight, and you've been having nightmares because of it.

ROGER

Now's your chance to make up for all of it, right? All that matters is the decisions you make now, and if you keep letting your mistakes haunt you, you're never going to achieve what you want.

WENDY

Hopefully when all this is over, you can finally be able to forgive me for all I did to hurt you.

ROGER

I'll forgive you right now if you manage to find a way to cheer me up. It seems like we both need a little bit of humor to heal us now. I know you could think of something.

Wendy takes a moment to think of ways to cheer up Roger.

WENDY

How about if I blurt out as many pick-up lines as I can until you can fall asleep.

ROGER

That sounds perfect, my friend.

INT. BEDROOM- MORNING

Roger is awoken when the phone in his bedroom starts ringing. Roger picks up the phone, and answers with a worn-down voice.

ROGER

Good morning, how may I be of service?

HEADMASTER

Good morning, am I speaking with Roger Feldstein?

ROGER

Indeed you are, what's this about?

HEADMASTER

Mr. Feldstein, I'm Craig Conway, the head of the Education program at the University. We understand that you applied for our Bachelor of Education program yesterday.

ROGER

Yes, I did, did I get in?

CRAIG

We'll see...we need you to come in and do a self evaluation since its been three decades since you've been back to school. The evaluation will consist of a written test that will test your knowledge on English, Science, Mathematics, and Social Studies. This will determine whether or not you're qualified to become a student at the university.

ROGER

Great, when would you like to come in and do that?

CRAIG

It just so happens that the only available spot we have is at 1 P.M. today. That's why I'm phoning you now instead of waiting until next week to do so.

ROGER

Could we wait until next month in order to do this?

(CONTINUED)

CRAIG

Next month is November, our program's schedule is jam-packed during the holiday season with finals galore. Today is your best hope, Mr. Feldstein, do it today or consider your application denied.

The dean immediately hangs up the phone, causing Roger to break into a panic attack.

INT. LIVING ROOM- WEDNESDAY MORNING

Roger finds Wendy in the living room doing yoga, and interrupts her session in order to break the news.

WENDY

Wow, you got through those past five hours without waking up screaming from a nightmare. I guess my presence really is welcome.

ROGER

Well, I have some unwelcoming news. We have to be at the University by 1 P.M; the head of the program is forcing me to do a written evaluation today!

WENDY

Great...the sooner we get this over with, the more relaxed you'll be.

ROGER

You don't understand, I haven't been back to school in three decades! God knows how much has changed with the subjects since then!

WENDY

Relax Kemosabe, I teach English at a high school at nights, I think I can help you.

ROGER

Wow, that's about the most useless thing you've said yet since English is the most pointless subject.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

You should also know that I was a Straight-A student, and that was one of the reasons why I was named the most popular student in school.

ROGER

Yeah, but that was back in the 80's.

WENDY

I also had to attend University in order to obtain my teaching degree. In order to grant admittance into the program, they also had to make me write an exam that tested my knowledge on high school subjects. That was eighteen years ago, but believe me, my mind isn't as fogged as you think.

ROGER

You mean, you could help me out with Math and Science equations, as well as World Geography?

WENDY

I'm going to try to help you achieve a mark of 73% on the written exam, how does that sound?

ROGER

And if I don't?

WENDY

Then you don't have to pay \$100,000 worth of college tuition, so its a win-win situation really.

ROGER

I'd feel awful about cheating, but fine, I'll go along with this.

WENDY

Its not cheating if I'm a ghost. Just remember to believe everything, and I mean everything I tell you, and you'll be fine.

INT. STUDY ROOM- UNIVERSITY- AFTERNOON

Roger is seated down Wooden School Desk, and on the desk is an heavy exam paper. Aside from another instructor, Roger is the only person in the room. Free Your Mind by En Vogue plays in the background during a sequence in which Wendy is giving Roger the answers to to all the question on the exam.

INT. BARNES AND NOBLE- 1130 N. STATE STREET- MID-AFTERNOON

Roger walks into the Barnes and Noble, and his boss is surprised to see that he's returned.

MR. ZEGGERS

Feldstein, you're back. Don't you have a shift at the supermarket you needed to get to?

ROGER

I booked today off because I needed to drop in my college application.

Roger takes a copy of his college application out of his laptop bag for Mr. Zeggars to take a look at. After helping out a customer, Rachel is surprised to see Roger, and Roger approaches her in order to chat.

ROGER

What has this place been like without me for the past twenty-four hours.

RACHEL

Quiet...in fact so quiet that you can't even hear the birds chirping on that tree outside anymore.

ROGER

Well, it is fall after all so maybe they began migrating to Canada.

Rachel laughs at Roger's joke, and Roger begins to get something off his chest.

ROGER

What does your schedule look like for the weekend?

RACHEL

I'm off on Sunday, why do you ask?

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

I was thinking of going to Dave and Busters this weekend, would you care to join me?

RACHEL

Are you asking me out on a date?

ROGER

Would you like it to be a date?

RACHEL

No, I'll cover the bill since you only just started working at the grocery place. They don't pay a lot to beginners.

ROGER

That's very kind of you...I can't wait to spend an entire afternoon playing games with you, unless there's something you have to do with your child or husband?

RACHEL

No, my boyfriend and I broke up six months ago and I'd rather not keep in touch with him so you're good.

ROGER

It was a trick question...see you on Sunday.

Roger takes back the copy of his college application from Mr. Zegers and leaves the bookstore.

INT. GIBSONS BAR & STEAKHOUSE- 1028 N RUSH ST- MID-AFTERNOON

Roger is sitting at a table looking at a menu; Wendy is confused as to why he choice to go to a Steakhouse.

WENDY

Is there any reason why you picked to go to a Steakhouse?

ROGER

I need a Sirloin Steak. I think I deserve one after that debacle I went through today.

A waitress approaches Roger to take his order.

(CONTINUED)



WAITRESS

Have you decided on which course  
meal you'll be having?

ROGER

I'll have the inter-course, please.

The waitress walks away feeling offended while Wendy looks  
at Roger absolutely disgusted.

WENDY

Why the fuck would you pull  
something like that off in public.  
What are you Pee-Wee Herman?!

ROGER

What, I was being charming and I  
took her by surprise just like you  
wanted me to.

WENDY

I didn't tell you to do it to a  
random stranger!

ROGER

Trust me, she loved it.

EXT. GIBSON'S STEAKHOUSE- MID-AFTERNOON

Roger is kicked out of the steakhouse a mere moments later.

WENDY

You still sure she loved it?

ROGER

Yep, she just couldn't show it  
since she's at work. Now come on,  
let's get some tacos.

EXT. VELVET TACO- 1110 N. STATE STREET- MID-AFTERNOON

There are five tacos set on the table; Roger has just  
started biting into one when he sees Wendy looking under the  
weather. To cheer her up, he tries to make small talk with  
her.

ROGER

Be honest with me, why did you want  
me to apply for the Bachelor's Ed  
program? You could have easily  
persuaded me to keep trying to get

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROGER (cont'd)  
my written projects published, and  
it would have saved me the hassle  
of having to write an exam.

WENDY  
I need someone who's as good as me  
to step in my shoes as a teacher at  
Hirsch Metropolitan. I don't trust  
any of the new teachers they have  
at the school since teachers need  
to look inside their students to  
try and understand them instead of  
just trying to educate them, and  
the new teachers at the school  
don't take the time to do that.

ROGER  
What makes you think I'll be able  
to do that?

WENDY  
You've experienced what its like to  
be rejected and bullied, therefore  
if you've been hurt before, you  
have it in your blood to never hurt  
them.

ROGER  
If you don't mind my asking, what  
made you want to become a high  
school teacher in the first place?

WENDY  
I went back to college eighteen  
years ago because I wanted to do  
right by my three year old  
daughter. I wanted her to grow up  
and see that her mom actually  
accomplished something with her  
life, and I wanted to ensure that  
she had the brightest future I  
could ever imagine. That  
realization grew into a desire to  
help all kids who were struggling  
with school so that they could end  
up being more successful than they  
thought they'd be. I worked extra  
hard to obtain my masters in  
English and Literature and six  
months later, I was hired as a  
stand-in at Hirsch Metropolitan.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

Wow...so that explains why your personality has changed drastically since high school.

WENDY

Your entire life changes once your firstborn arrives, and I'm forever grateful that I had the opportunity to be a mom since I was able to rethink my life choices because I became a mom.

ROGER

Yeah, lets just hope that Rachel will follow in your footsteps as a mom one day.

WENDY

That's an awkward thing to say, how are you sure that you two will end up together one day?

ROGER

Its just a hunch I have, and most of my hunches are accurate.

WENDY

Don't be so sure because love takes patience, hard work, and dedication.

ROGER

Is that how you and Jacob ended up together...with patience, hard work, and dedication?

WENDY

Precisely; Jacob and I met when I was working as a Starbucks barista. He would come in order coffee every Wednesday, and it would take four months before he finally asked me out since he was already so used to seeing me around so he figured "why not have her around for the rest of my life?"

ROGER

That's an interesting story...you two meeting randomly.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

Some of the best things in life happen randomly, because you don't see them coming.

ROGER

I'll try to remember that; but hey look, my taco's are getting cold, so would you mind just sitting there and watching me devour these for the next ten minutes?

WENDY

On the condition that we go visit Beth and Jacob afterwards.

ROGER

Sure, you go visit them, I'll catch a cab home.

WENDY

No, you're coming with me, pal.

ROGER

Are you sure you want that? I don't want to interfere on family matters.

WENDY

Nonsense, you're part of the family now, so you're more than welcome to join in on the fun.

Roger is slightly touched by Wendy's remarks.

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT- LIVING ROOM- LATE EVENING

Roger, Jacob, and Beth are watching Wendy perform a karaoke version of *Want to Want Me* by Jason Derulo; Roger is holding the microphone for Wendy. After she is done performing, *Photograph* by Ringo Starr is next on the karaoke machine.

BETH

Roger, I think you should perform this one for us.

WENDY

I agree, its time to take center stage, old sport.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

I don't have any experience with singing so I think I'll pass.

WENDY

Come on, you're in your mid-fifties, what is there left to be afraid of? You only miss 100% of the shots you don't take, so get on up here.

Roger takes the microphone and begins singing *What is Life* by George Harrison. His singing is too high-pitched and gnarly, but Wendy, Jacob, and Beth cheer him on regardless. When the song ends, Roger is applauded for his performance.

ROGER

Why the hell are you clapping, I obviously suck at this.

WENDY

You still got up, conquered your fears, and gave it your best shot. It takes courage to do that, the same kind of courage I expect to see more of from you.

ROGER

What, all I did was be myself.

WENDY

Being yourself is enough; remember that come Sunday when you take your love interest on that date.

ROGER

So I should just show off how much of a book and film buff I am and talk about all the novel ideas I have in mind?

WENDY

Exactly, she wants to get to know the real you, so lay it all out there for her to see.

INT. ROGER'S BEDROOM- PAST MIDNIGHT

Wendy walks in on Roger typing on his laptop.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

We're going to the Republic Bank at 120 Madison St. tomorrow morning and we're going to build a trust fund to pay for your college tuition.

ROGER

Wait, shouldn't that money be saved for your family?

WENDY

Jacob and I have a lot of shared family. One of them could take care of Beth and Jacob when they reach rock bottom, I guarantee it.

ROGER

No, I can't have you do that for me.

WENDY

Let me remind you that I was beamed back to earth to do all I can to make sure you have a better life. So, if you don't accept my help then I can't get what I want either.

ROGER

Fine...in exchange, I'll look after your family when they're desperate.

WENDY

Its a deal.

Wendy sits on the bed and watches Roger work on *Leave the Front Door Open*.

WENDY

What's this project all about?

ROGER

Its about a married couple who move into a new home, only unbeknown to the husband, its actually a ghost house. The wife knew all along since its part of her elaborate scheme to get revenge on him for cheating on her for the past four months.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

That's a unique spin to the horror genre. Have you ever thought of self publishing this on Amazon?

ROGER

No, because I've been rejected by everyone who I sent my previous manuscripts to, therefore I just didn't feel that paying one grand to self publish something that people will likely hate was worth it.

WENDY

You'll have enough money in your bank account to self publish this tomorrow. When that happens, I want you to keep perusing your ambitions without acknowledging the fear of what's yet to come.

ROGER

And it also crossed my mind, how are you going to open a savings account when they can't see you and you can't even write your own name?

WENDY

Aimee Cahill is my financial consultant, I'm sure you remember her from high school.

ROGER

The name rings a bell, yes. So what, are we just going to go to her house, drug her tea, and ask her to help us create a trust fund?

WENDY

Yep, I have half-a-million dollars stored in my savings account that I was going to use to pay for Beth's college tuition. So, we'll just get Aimee to transfer my assets into a trust fund for you.

ROGER

Sounds like a great plans, but its a bummer that you can't put your daughter through college anymore.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

Jacob will start a GoFundMe page to raise the money...you'll see. Now, get some rest, we have an early morning ahead of us.

ROGER

I think I'll pull an all nighter to work on my novel.

WENDY

You have enough energy in you to pull that off?

ROGER

I had two bottles of Coca-Cola at Jacob's apartment, so I'm definitely not going to be able to fall asleep tonight.

EXT. 7737 S EVANS AVE- WEST WOODLAWN- THURSDAY MORNING

Aimee Cahill (Early-50's, African-American, sharp dressed) opens the front door to her house after the mail man knocks on the door.

AIMEE

Morning, Kevin...why didn't you just drop my mail off in my mailbox like you usually do?

Kevin hands Aimee a Styrofoam cup containing tea along with her mail.

KEVIN

I wanted to bring a cup of tea for my favorite customer.

AIMEE

That's very gracious of you, much appreciated. Now, run off before my neighbors find out.

Aimee takes a sip of her tea after Kevin runs off to do his mail route. Aimee takes a likeness to the tea and takes another sip of it; before she knows is, she passes out on her living room carpet.



INT. AIMEE'S HOME- NOON

Aimee wakes up feeling nauseous and confused as to what had happened. She stands up and checks her analog clock, realizing that she's four hours late for work. As she rushes to get ready, she is haunted by Wendy's spirit, which causes her to fall on her back.

AIMEE

You're supposed to be dead!

WENDY

Well...that's not a welcoming way to treat a dear friend, is it?

AIMEE

Explain yourself, bitch!

WENDY

OK, long story short...god sent me back to earth in order to complete a list of tasks. I need to complete the tasks in order to gain entry into heaven, and one of these tasks require your help.

AIMEE

How the fuck do I have the power to see you right now?

WENDY

Its the tea, Aims.

AIMEE

Fucking Kevin...I'm calling Chicago PD, he gon' have his court date set by Friday!

WENDY

No, I set Kevin up to deliver the tea. It was the only way I could get your attention.

AIMEE

Just tell me what you want so I could get this hallucination trip over with.

WENDY

I need you to open up a trust fund and transfer the assets in my savings account to the trust fund. Think you could do that for me?

(CONTINUED)

AIMEE

Shit girl, of course I could. Was it really worth trespassing into my home and scaring me to death?!

WENDY

Probably not, and for that I apologize. But just do me this simple favor and you'll never have to see me again, I swear.

INT. REPUBLIC BANK- 120 W MADISON ST- MID-AFTERNOON

Aimee is sitting in her desk and typing on her computer as she's transferring the assets in Wendy's savings account into a trust fund.

AIMEE

Half a grand is a big allowance, she must have really done a lot to destroy your life.

ROGER

Yes, but she's doing what she can to owe up to her mistakes, and that's what matters.

Aimee is able to transfer the assets in Wendy's savings account into a trust fund for Roger.

AIMEE

I did it...you now have half a mil in your trust fund.

Roger jumps up with joy and kisses Aimee on the cheek.

INT. APPLEBEE'S- 6656 W. GRAND AVE- EVENING

Roger celebrates by devouring a big plate of steak while Wendy watches in disgust.

WENDY

Don't let the fact that you have half a million in your trust fund persuade you to buy a bunch of shit you don't need. Spend it wisely because I've worked an entire decade to achieve it all.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

Would you relax, you told me that college tuition is only fifty grand an year, right? The average course is five years max, so I'll only be burning through half your shit.

WENDY

Yes, but what about rent and stuff? You spend money on say a flat screen, then you've burned through an entire months worth of rent.

ROGER

Now that you bring it up, how do you guys pay for rent? The average teacher makes fifty-grand an year, and you've worked for more than ten years, meaning that you've acquired the assets for my trust fund over the course of ten years. That doesn't give you enough to cover affordable living expenses.

WENDY

Jacob works in commercial real estate, which pays over Three-Hundred K. per year.

ROGER

Ahh, so that's where I recognized his face; I remember seeing his ads at the bus stop years back.

WENDY

Yeah, he was already in the game when we first met. He was working on a hotel project downtown which explains how we met since I worked at the Starbucks on Michigan Avenue.

ROGER

And what was it that instantly made you fall in love with him?

WENDY

He was charming, well-mannered, successful, and he already his entire life plan set. I just knew that someone sharp and successful was going to change my life for the better, so I agreed to go on a date with him.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

So, look for the qualities of a person that will make you a better person. That might be the most important piece of advice that I've ever received.

WENDY

Oh come on, I'm sure the lessons you'll learn from Rachel will be more useful.

ROGER

I'm sure she will. But hey, I think I'm going to go to the bar and order an alcoholic beverage to celebrate.

WENDY

Are you sure that's a good idea? I mean how long has it been since you've had alcohol?

ROGER

Not since the staff Christmas party last year, but I'm sure you can call god to come and help me if I get too out of line.

Wendy looks concerned as Roger walks over to the bar to order an alcoholic beverage. When he waits in line to order at the crowded bar, he discovers that Craig is standing right in front of him. He tries to get out of the line, but someone behind him begins questioning his motives.

GUY BEHIND ROGER

Hey buddy, are you sure you want to me to go in front of you? There's going to be tons of people waiting in line in front of you if you try to get back in.

Craig turns around and sees Roger. He hollers his name, causing Roger to freeze with horror.

CRAIG

Hey, Feldstein! Can't believe I didn't recognize you man, come on, let me buy you a drink.

Roger turns around and addresses Craig after being noticed.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

Hey man, I just didn't want to wait in line for a glass of beer. Its not worth the hassle or the money.

CRAIG

I'll order you a beer and bring it over to you. Then we could spend some time chatting, how does that sound?

ROGER

Sounds great, Craig.

CRAIG

Hey, where are you seated?

Roger reluctantly points to the direction of his seat. When Craig turns around, Roger rushes to the men's room which Wendy notices.

INT. APPLEBEE'S MEN'S ROOM- EVENING

Roger locks himself inside a toilet room and pretends like he's taking a dump; Wendy joins him shortly afterwards. There is only one other guy in the men's room, and he is standing next to a urinal with his pants zipped down. He is texting on his phone while he is taking a piss.

ROGER

What the hell are you doing here, this is the men's room!

GUY ON URINAL

I am a man, you dickweed!

ROGER

Not you...I was talking to my imaginary friend!

GUY ON URINAL

You sound a little old to still have imaginary friend.

ROGER

You sound a little old to be texting while using the urinal!

A group of friends walk into the men's room and see the guy next to the urinal checking his phone. They laugh hysterically at him, causing him to put away his phone and walk off feeling embaressed. Wendy and Roger continue to have their conversation, using their whispering voice.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

What the fuck are you doing in here? You just had the audacity to order a beer, be a grown man and face the consequences of your actions!

ROGER

I bumped into Craig Yarton in the lineup, and he's coming over to our table after he gets his beer.

WENDY

Oh fuck, what did you do this time?

ROGER

Nothing, I saw him in the line and tried to escape, but he caught me, offered to buy me a beer, and insisted that he join me for dinner.

WENDY

So what are you going to do, just stand in here and hide? Who knows, he might not be such a jerk after all, especially if he's offered to pay for beer.

ROGER

Yeah, what if its all just a rouse? He seems nice and kind at the beginning to gain acceptance, and then he ends up tearing me apart as the night goes on?

WENDY

If that comes to be, I have a few insults you could use towards him. But for now, would you please give him a chance? You never know what's going to happen unless you're willing to take risks.

ROGER

Fine, but if he pulls out a knife and stabs me, I'm telling god that he should send you to hell as soon as I meet you up there.

INT. CRAIG'S TABLE- MID-EVENING

Craig returns to his table and finds Craig already sitting at the table with two pints of beer.

CRAIG

That took bathroom trip took longer than I expected. You aren't afraid of me are ya, little buddy?

ROGER

Of course not, I'm fifty-six years old, I'm capable of letting go of the past.

CRAIG

Yeah, let go of the past and make new memories.

Roger sits down and takes an unusually large sip of his beer.

CRAIG

Well, don't fucking vomit on me later. This sweater is a birthday present from my wife, and the warranty is expired.

ROGER

Don't worry, I could control myself when I'm drunk, so I'm not going to dwell into idiotic territory on your watch.

CRAIG

Yeah, I doubt that anything would be as idiotic as that pathetic green sweater you were wearing last week.

ROGER

Hey, where are your wife and kids tonight? I didn't see them around, so I'm curious.

CRAIG

Oh, my wife is at a book club and my sister's at home watching the kids.

ROGER

Yeah, that's the perfect excuse for someone who got kicked out of his

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROGER (cont'd)  
own house because he can't please  
his wife.

CRAIG  
What the fuck did you say to me,  
Fuckstein?!

ROGER  
I hope your sister produces a lot  
of milk in her boobies because  
breastfeeding your kids beer is  
improper parenting.

Craig dumps his bottle of beer on Roger. Afterwards, Roger begins to feel nauseous, and eventually ends up vomiting on Craig's sweater, causing him to get fired up.

CRAIG  
Fucking asshole, you did that on  
purpose! You would have aimed for  
the floor if you didn't.

ROGER  
No, I swear to god, I...

CRAIG  
You don't have to swear to shit,  
you know why, because we're going  
to settle this shit in the parking  
lot like a couple of men. I don't  
have all night, fuckhead, so don't  
make me force you to come.

ROGER  
Its nice that you're wearing a New  
England Patriots Jersey. I didn't  
know you supported a team that  
drafted a convicted murderer,  
that's nice. Are you and Aaron  
Hernandez pen pals too? Does he  
write letters to you on toilet  
paper from prison?

CRAIG  
Buying time with insults isn't  
going to work, Fuckstein. One more  
insult and I'll break your fucking  
arm, right here in front of the  
whole fucking audience here.

Roger follows Craig to the parking lot, looking frightened for his life while doing so.



EXT. APPLEBEE'S PARKING LOT- EVENNG

Craig punches Roger in the stomach as soon as they make it to the parking lot.

CRAIG

That ought to make you spill out  
the beer I bought you.

Roger starts to run away from the scene, but Craig prevents him from leaving.

CRAIG

Where the fuck do you think you're  
going? Its not polite to lose focus  
when someone's talking to you.

Craig punches Roger in the gut, causing him to fall to the floor. Drivers just pulling into the parking lot begin honking their horn at Craig.

CRAIG

Don't worry guys, I'll move as soon  
as fuckstick here has learned his  
lesson!

Roger begins crawling away from the scene, but Craig grabs him by the foot and stomps his left leg.

CRAIG

I gave you the chance to strike  
back, you should have taken it.

Roger finally decides to strike back by aiming for Craig's crotch, but Craig blocks his counter-attack and punches him in the cheek. Roger immediately starts escaping the situation once again, prompting Craig to restrain Roger. However, the bystanders get out of their vehicles and team up to restrain Craig. One of the bystanders calls the police, while the others keep Craig under control until they arrive.

EXT. APPLEBEE'S PARKING LOT- EVENING

Local police and medical units have arrived on scene. Craig is being taken into custody, while Roger's wounds are being treated by a doctor.

DOCTOR

Be thankful that people stepped in  
before that guy killed you.

(CONTINUED)

Roger gracefully looks at the people who have stayed behind to save him from Craig.

FEMALE SAVIOR

Why didn't you bother striking back during the fight?

ROGER

Let's just say that I've had a horrible history when it comes to defending myself.

MALE SAVIOR

I teach a Karate class if you need to improve your self defense skills.

ROGER

I'm sorry guys, I'm too traumatized to think tonight. Could one of you call me an Uber? I appreciated what all of you have done, but right now, I just want to go home.

FEMALE SAVIOR

My boyfriend and I will give you a lift home. Come on babe, let's help lift him up.

The lady and her boyfriend help Roger up and escort him to their vehicle.

ROGER

I'm sorry I ruined date night for you guys.

EXT. DREAM SEQUENCE- INTERSECTION- EVENING

A young boy is standing in front of a wrecked vehicle following a car collision. The boy turns around with a sinister, heartbroken look.

YOUNG BOY

You could have saved us, Roger.

INT. ROGER'S APARTMENT- BEDROOM- MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Roger wakes up from his dream screaming helplessly, forcing Wendy to rush into the room.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

What the hell happened, did spiders make their way onto the bed?

Roger begins to feel hopeless and starts crying.

WENDY

Look, I'm sorry about what happened earlier tonight. I wasn't thinking when I suggested that you said all those things to Craig.

ROGER

Its has nothing to do with that. I had another nightmare, only this one had to deal with something that happened in my childhood that left me traumatized.

WENDY

Do you feel like opening up to me?

ROGER

It'd be better if you saw what happened to me as a child for yourself. It'll explain why I was ab insecure, awkward, annoying kid back in high school.

WENDY

Fine, we leave for Carol's tomorrow morning? Maybe she has something that could help us resolve this.

ROGER

I don't think this is something that could ever be resolved; childhood traumas can never be resolved.

WENDY

True, but the least we could do is find an opportunity for you to confront it.

ROGER

I'm not really sure how to confront it just yet. I've spent my entire life running away from it just like how I run away from all conflicts.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

You're approaching sixty, you can't spend the rest of your life hiding from problems you can't solve.

ROGER

Well, who said that my life had anything to do with your's?!

WENDY

God did, because don't forget that he won't allow me into heaven unless all your problems are solved. And by the sounds of it, this seems like its the mother of all problems.

ROGER

You've already done so much for me, I'm sure god will allow you into heaven regardless.

WENDY

True, but I'm going to be up there looking back to our time together in a few years, and I'm going to have a really hard time getting over the fact that there was one issue that I couldn't help you with. Don't make me make such a big fuss about a little thing, and let me help you.

ROGER

Fine...Carol's shop opens at ten tomorrow morning.

Roger lies back on his pillow and tries to go to sleep again, but Wendy prevents him from doing so.

WENDY

Are you seriously trying to give me another heart attack. Come on, get up and talk to me.

INT. KITCHEN- MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Roger is sitting in the kitchen doing work on *Leave the Front Door Open* while Wendy is standing beside him giving him pointers on story development.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

So as it turns out, there's a book of curses in the house that Diana has been using to control the evil spirits that haunt Bennett. Therefore, Bennett has to find a way to take the book out of Diana's hands and learn to how to control the spirits in order to kill her.

WENDY

Well, Bennett cheated on his wife and isn't at all grateful for what he has, so taking that direction makes the readers root for Bennett.

ROGER

So you want me just to go the traditional route where the evil spirits terrorize Bennett till the point where he starts to realize how much of an asshole he is?

WENDY

No, because then Bennett wouldn't face any consequence of his actions and would walk away clean.

ROGER

How about if the evil spirits just haunt Roger till the point where he's driven insane which eventually leads to his death?

WENDY

That idea sounds perfect, let's go with that.

Roger continues typing on his laptop while Wendy takes a nap on the sofa. After Roger notices that Wendy is asleep in the living room, he shuts down his laptop and promptly rests his head on the kitchen table.

EXT. DREAM SEQUENCE- SCHOOL PLAYGROUND- MORNING- 1970

Roger finds Wendy in his dream; they are unnoticed by everyone as they stand in front of a swing set.

ROGER

I remember this day. That's the eight-year old me on the swing set.

(CONTINUED)

While Roger is enjoying himself on the swing, a bully grabs hold of both chains on his swing. Three other boys watch as the bully taunts Roger.

BULLY

This seat is reserved for cool  
people only!

Roger steps off the swing and allows the bully to hop on. The three boys laugh as Roger walks away.

BULLY

Yeah, continue being the wuss that  
you are, Feldstein! You're just  
walking off because you're afraid  
of me so you can't fight back!

Roger turns back and engages in a fight with the bully. Other kids gather around to watch, and one kid in particular is cheering on Roger.

ROGER

That kid who's cheering me on,  
that's my brother Trevor.

WENDY

Why couldn't you defend yourself  
like this against Jacob earlier?

ROGER

I've chosen not to for the past  
forty-seven years; hopefully you'll  
get to understand why.

Teachers arrive to break up the fight moments later; Roger and the bully both have bruises as a result of the fight.

INT. ROGER'S CHILDHOOD HOME- LIVING ROOM- AFTER SCHOOL

Roger's father is criticizing Roger for the fight at school.

ROGER'S DAD

I was in the middle of an important  
business meeting, and you just had  
to mess it up by getting yourself  
into trouble, didn't you?!

ROGER (AGE 8)

He was the one who started it!

(CONTINUED)

ROGER'S DAD

It doesn't matter who started it,  
what matters is what you did in  
retaliation! Actions have  
consequences, don't you realize  
that you stupid kid!

ROGER (AGE 8)

Then what was I supposed to do?!

ROGER'S DAD

You should have just walked away!  
Whenever you're face a conflict,  
you can simply end it by running  
away and hiding! Why is it so  
difficult for you to learn that?!

ROGER (AGE 8)

I'm sorry I...

ROGER'S DAD

You should be, if you had just  
ignored the people you can't stand  
a chance against?! Why do you  
always let everything go through  
that thick head of your's, and make  
a big deal of everything?! Had you  
done that, your mom wouldn't have  
skipped an hour of her shift to go  
to school and pick you up! You know  
how much money that just cost us!

ROGER (AGE 8)

I can try being better next time,  
just give me a chance!

ROGER'S DAD

Go to your room! There's no supper  
for you tonight either, so get used  
to starving yourself for the rest  
of the day!

Roger runs back to his room as his father grabs a cabinet door and slams it multiple times. Roger watches the flashback with pity and distress.

INT. ROGER'S CHILDHOOD HOME- SATUDAY EVENING

Roger's family grab their jackets from the closet as they prepare to head out.

(CONTINUED)

TREVOR

But dad, what about Roger? Its been three days already, he deserves to join in on the fun.

ROGER'S DAD

I gave him permission to eat for the past two days. He should be grateful that I'm not allowing him to starve while he's still grounded.

ROGER'S MOM

Garrett, your son is right, maybe...

ROGER'S MOM

He's still grounded, Mary! Unless you teach him discipline, he's never going to learn from his mistakes.

Roger's family head out while Roger is in his room feeling devastated over how he let down his family. Roger grows even more distressed over watching the flashbacks, prompting Wendy to rest her head on his shoulders.

INT. ROGER'S CHILDHOOD HOME- LATE SATURDAY NIGHT

Roger opens the door, allowing three police officers to come inside. Two of the officers try to comfort Roger while one of them is left to break the tragic news to him.

OFFICER

Son, I'm sorry to be the one to break this to you, but your parents and your brother were involved in a horrible car accident that claimed their lives.

Roger breaks down in tears as he relives the flashback. He collapses to the ground, but Wendy does all she can to try and comfort him.

ROGER

I should have been there with them! Why did I choose to fight back? I should have died with them, and I didn't!

Tears come out of Wendy as she continues to comfort Roger.



INT. ROGER'S APARTMENT- FRIDAY MORNING

Wendy awakens from the dream and finds that Roger is already awake; he is crying uncontrollably over the flashback.

ROGER

Now you know why I always ran away from conflicts. If I didn't initiate that fight, then I'd still be with my family right now. It was the only way I could do them proud, by choosing not to fight back or stand up for myself whenever I was verbally or physically abused.

Wendy begins tearing up, feeling regret over how she treated Roger in the past.

WENDY

I really hate myself for being too mean and judgmental of you.

ROGER

Well, now you know my story.

WENDY

There's still a way we could re-write your story to make it less depressing, though.

ROGER

I doubt that their opinions of me have changed since then. I was a loser then, and I'm still a loser. I mean look at me, I'm hopeless, I'm alone, and I lack self confidence. They're going to see that not one bit of me has changed, and turn their backs on me.

Seeing how hopeless Roger feels, Wendy begins to tell a story of her own.

WENDY

You know, my parents got divorced when I was seven. My dad didn't want to get to know me, therefore he didn't take the time to try and understand me. I think it was due to the fact that he never planned on raising a child, so he didn't want to take responsibility for his actions. But if I had another

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WENDY (cont'd)

chance to speak to him, I'd take the time to try and understand him, even if he never took the time to do the same for me. No matter how many scars his actions have inflicted on me, I'm still going to search for him once I get up there and have an open conversation with him. We only have one shot to face our fears, so why not seize the opportunity just to get it over with?

ROGER

Are you sure you're not making this stuff up to motivate me?

WENDY

If I was lying, I'd be blowing all my chances of entering heaven. Do you think I'd blow an opportunity like that?

ROGER

I'm just not really sure how to confront them yet. What do I do, what do I say, how do I express the misery I've felt for the past forty-seven years?

WENDY

Speak from your heart, not from your mind. Be honest and upfront with them and they'll know how you feel.

INT. ANTIQUE'S SHOP- GROUND FLOOR- MORNING

Roger enters the Antique's Shop carrying a bag of Chinese Food, and Carol is astonished to see that Roger has returned.

CAROL

These visits are starting to become a habit, hon.

ROGER

One last favor to ask, and then you'll never hear from me again unless its to buy antiques.

(CONTINUED)

CAROL

Do you need some more of that tea?

ROGER

No, I need you to help me connect with three people who are in the afterlife? Its possible to connect with more than one spirit, right?

CAROL

In a dream state, its possible. You need to be heavily sedated in order for you to connect with more than one person.

ROGER

I'm up to the challenge...just tell me what I need to do.

INT. CAROL'S OFFICE- MORNING

After sitting down on a leather chair, Roger takes interest in pictures of Carol's parents and grandparents on her desk.

ROGER

Seems like you have a loving family.

CAROL

I did, but all of them passed away. That's why I have the special tea, its the only way I could connect with them in spirit.

ROGER

I'm sorry I wasted all that tea; I had no idea how much your family meant so much to you.

CAROL

My family does mean a lot to me, but the opportunity to give others a final chance to connect with their loved ones is far more important. Sometimes we have to sacrifice things in order to look out for those who are less fortunate.

Carol takes out a wooden box containing a bag of cannabis and a cigarette from her drawer which concerns Roger.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

I've never smoked pot once in my life, so I'm not sure how I feel about all of this.

CAROL

Look, if you aren't going to do the work, how are you going to get paid? Its just this once and its for an important cause, so why don't you just go along for the ride.

ROGER

Can you promise that I won't become an addict after this?

CAROL

Relax, this weed is for medicinal purposes only.

After Carol lights up the cigarette, Roger smokes the cigarette inhaling all the smoke while he does so.

WENDY

See, first time smoking a joint and you're already a natural at this.

ROGER

Yeah, I've seen videos on Youtube.

Roger passes out moments after smoking the reefer, and immediately enters a dream state.

INT. DREAM SEQUENCE- PRESUMABLY HEAVEN- AFTERNOON

Roger is sent to a place that bares resemblance to heaven. As Roger takes time to admire the beauty of the location, he is interrupted by a kid who sneaks up on him. Roger recognizes the kid as Trevor, and proceeds to hugging him to death.

TREVOR

Calm down, its only been forty-seven years, Rog.

ROGER

What, that doesn't seem like a long time for you?

(CONTINUED)

TREVOR

Not really since time flies by when you're in heaven. You'll see once you come up here in thirty years.

ROGER

How do you know that I'll be up here thirty years from now?

TREVOR

If you keep eating taco's, pizza, and steak, you'll only have thirty more years ahead of you. Try going vegetarian, you'll live longer.

Roger's parents arrive shortly afterwards and greet Roger with open arms. Roger cries tears of joy over finally being embraced by his parents after so long.

MARY

There's no reason to cry anymore...we're finally united as a family again.

ROGER

Its just that I've spent most of my life trying to do right by you the best I could. But I still feel like I need to do more.

GARRETT

That's because you haven't spend enough time looking over yourself, son. You live so much in the past and act as if you owe us something, but you don't.

ROGER

Don't kid yourself, I let you guys down by starting that fight at school. I let you guys down, and I wasn't granted the chance to make it up to you guys.

GARRETT

Its time for you to move on, son. If we keep focusing on the past, we can't build a future for ourselves because our minds would be in the wrong place.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

Don't worry about us anymore, son. Look at us, we're in a better place, we're as happy as we could ever be, and now we've experienced one of the most perfect moments in our lives. Now its time for you to create your own path to happiness.

ROGER

Are you sure you guys are perfectly content with staying up here?

MARY

We're up in the most beautiful place known to mankind. What else could we possibly ask for?

GARRETT

Do us proud by focusing on yourself, son. You're a middle-aged man and don't have a lot of years left on you. So, there's no better time than right now for you to start living.

ROGER

If I'll be doing you guys proud by doing so, then I promise to start right away.

GARRETT

We love you, son. I know we don't always tell you or show it, but you're our boy, and we'll always be proud to call you our flesh and blood. Nothing is ever going to change that, kid.

Roger breaks down in tears and says goodbye to his family by sharing a group hug with them.

INT. CAROL'S OFFICE- NOON

Roger calmly awakens from his dream, grinning as he does so.

WENDY

I'm taking it that you found all the answers that you were looking for.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

Yes, I'm as perfect as one could ever be right now.

WENDY

Great, now let's focus on making my life perfect. I still have two tasks I need to accomplish; helping you come face to face with a bully from your past and guiding you through your date on Sunday.

ROGER

Right you are. Carol, do you have a laptop? I need to use Google Maps.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX- NORTHWEST CHICAGO- AFTERNOON

Craig's wife opens the door to her apartment and is astonished to see Roger at her door.

ROGER

Hello, Mrs. Yarton, I was wondering which prison Craig was being locked up in. I'm the guy he beat up the other night.

CRAIG'S WIFE

First off, don't call me Mrs. Yarton, its Kelly. Also, Craig's mother bailed him out of prison after the incident. If you want to know where Craig is, talk to his mom, Regina. She lives on 6223 South Morgan Street.

ROGER

Thank you, I was planning on having an open discussion with him.

KELLY

If you want my advice, don't engage in conversation with him. He has a short fuse, so its best that you just kick his ass once you see him.

ROGER

Will do, thanks for your help.

Once Kelly knocks the door, Roger asks Wendy for help.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

Please tell me you have a plan on how I could defeat him.

WENDY

Once we track him down, do exactly what I say, when I say it.

EXT. MOTEL 6 CHICAGO- ELK GROVE- FRIDAY EVENING

With Regina's help, Roger is able to track Craig down to a cheap motel; Craig is astonished to see that Roger has paid him a visit.

CRAIG

Fuckstein...how did you find out where I was staying?

ROGER

Your wife told me after I fucked her brains out.

CRAIG

Do you really want to go down that road again, dumbass?

ROGER

I'd prefer to go down that road again since I felt I wasn't properly prepared the last time.

CRAIG

Fine, then come on inside where we could settle this with no one watching us.

Roger comes inside, and immediately after Craig shuts the door, he proceeds to striking Roger.

WENDY

Oh my god, duck!

Roger is able to evade Craig's punch with Wendy's assistance. Roger promptly follows up with a counter-attack of his own by manipulating Craig and making it seem like he's about to punch him in the crotch with his left fist when really, he pulls back midway and uses his right fist to punch him in the crotch. Craig drops to his knees afterwards, and is astonished by Roger's counter move.

(CONTINUED)



ROGER

What, I thought you were already  
used to getting punched in the dick  
by your wife.

Not wanting to back down from the fight, Craig rises up and  
tries to strike Roger.

WENDY

Now run around the room like you're  
Dash from *The Incredibles!*

Roger runs around the room forcing Craig to chase after him.  
Roger randomly stops running after a while, catching Craig  
off guard; Roger seizes the opportunity to punch Craig four  
times in the chest. Craig once again drops to his knees,  
forcing Roger to confront him.

ROGER

Here's what you're going to do;  
you're going to act your age and  
not taunt me the next time we run  
into each other, or you'll get to  
experience more of my fury. Have we  
reached an understanding?!

CRAIG

Whatever you wish, Feldstein.

ROGER

And also, don't call me Feldstein  
anymore; we know each other well  
enough to address each other on a  
first name basis.

Roger storms out of the room while Craig lies on the floor  
trying to recover from his injuries.

INT. DAVE AND BUSTERS- 1030 N CLARK ST- SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Roger enters the restaurant and is astonished to find that  
Rachel has already arrived.

ROGER

What a surprise, usually I'm the  
first one to arrive at an event.

RACHEL

I had to arrive early to book us a  
table, dummy.

Roger follows Rachel to their table, and a waiter arrives to  
take their orders moments later.

(CONTINUED)

WAITER

What could I get you guys?

RACHEL

I'll have the Spaghetti and  
Meatballs along with a Sprite.

ROGER

I'll have what she's having.

WAITER

Great, I'll be back in fifteen  
minutes with your order.

The waiter rushes off to get their orders ready.

RACHEL

I got us the Eat & Play Combo, so  
what do you say we have a round of  
basketball before our food is  
ready?

ROGER

That's perfect, but we have to hold  
hands on our way there being that  
its a date.

Roger stands up and offers Rachel his hand as they make their way to the gaming station. After grabbing hold of Rachel's hand, Roger picks her up in his arms and carries her to the basketball station; Rachel is surprised and flattered by Roger's actions. Roger slips a chip into the machine, and allows Rachel shoot the first basket. Rachel misses her shot, and the ball bounces back, hitting Roger in the face. A worried Rachel gets close to Roger to make sure he's alright, and in return, Roger passionately kisses Rachel.

ROGER

That wasn't a bad time, was it?

RACHEL

Absolutely not, I like to be swept  
off my feet by surprise.

Roger and Rachel kiss again, prompting onlookers to take out their phones and film the romantic encounter while Wendy watches with the widest grin on her face.

EXT. JACOB'S APARTMENT BUILDING- TUESDAY MORNING

Roger is helping Jacob and Beth store their bags in the back of their SUV.

JACOB

That's the last of the bags; thanks for your help.

ROGER

Anytime, my friend. Do you mind if I have a moment with your wife before you guys take off?

JACOB

Not at all, just don't be long.

Jacob and Beth get inside an SUV as they prepare to go on a road trip. Roger takes time to say goodbye to Wendy before she takes off with her family.

WENDY

Its been quite the interesting week hasn't it partner?

ROGER

Yeah, its definitely some of the best moments I've ever experienced.

WENDY

I'm pleased to know that I could be of assistance.

ROGER

And now you're about to head out do Denver to fix the life of someone else who you were unfair to.

WENDY

Yeah, Kevin Billingsly...hopefully he'll be happy to see me.

ROGER

I know he will. How will I know once you've made it to heaven?

WENDY

I'll come and visit after I serve my final client, how does that sound?

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

I'm already looking forward to it,  
just please don't startle me like  
you did when you first appeared.

WENDY

Absolutely, you're in your  
mid-fifties, a heart attack is the  
last thing you want.

ROGER

I don't know how to thank you for  
saving my life.

WENDY

Don't thank me. I created a living  
hell for you back in high school,  
so its only fitting that I built a  
heaven for you to live in now.  
Sorry I'm forty years late, though.

ROGER

Well, better late than never.

Wendy and Roger share a final laugh before Wendy walks  
towards the SUV.

ROGER

I'll see you in a few weeks.

WENDY

Hopefully I'll be back by then.

Roger has a giant grin on his face as he watches Wendy  
departs with her family. *I Can See Clearly Now* by Johnny  
Nash plays in the background as the camera pans out from a  
bright, sunny, October day in Chicago.

CAST

Sandra Bullock	Wendy
Steve Carell	Roger
Tiffany Haddish	Carol
Ellie Kemper	Rachel
Tom Cruise	Craig
Mark Ruffalo	Jacob