Better Days

Episode 2
"Pop Up & Go"

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FADE IN:

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

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

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

BARBARA
I know but who cares what he thinks.

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

BARBARA
So, what are you going to do?

JASON
About what?

BARBARA
Work.

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

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JASON

Yeah.

BARBARA

So, I probably know more about tools than you?

JASON

Yeah.

BARBARA

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

JASON

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

Jason continues rubbing her feet, she relaxes.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)

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

JASON

I love you.

BARBARA

This isn't about love.

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

JASON

It’s cold in here.

BARBARA

(Points to his crotch)

Look.

Jason looks down to see the problem.

JASON

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

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

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

BARBARA (V.O.)
I don’t know what it is but those
squares around his penis are hot.

JASON
What?

BARBARA
I didn’t say anything.

JASON
Yes, you did. You said “My penis
is square.”

BARBARA
Why would I say that?

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

BARBARA
Sorry...?

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

JASON
No! I want to be a real boy.

He continues pumping his fists.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

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

JASON
Oh, thank god. It was only a
dream.
CONTINUED:

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

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

Jason winks into the camera and lies back down.

INT. BASEMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

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

Close Up: The computer screen

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

JASON (O.S.)
Shit!

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

JASON (CONT'D)
Stupid piece of shit.

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

FADE OUT:

Opening Sequence

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Close Up:

An earwig slowly makes its way across the floor.

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

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Jason stops and looks down at the earwig.

   JASON
   Hello, Mr. Earwig.

Jason picks up a Kleenex box and looks at it.

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

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

INT. BASEMENT - MORNING

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

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

Jason turns on the radio.

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

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

   JOHN
   They lost.

John shakes his head, Jason mutes the radio.

   JASON
   Who?

   JOHN
   My team, they lost.

   JASON
   Why don't you watch real sports?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

John pauses for a few moments to look at Jason.

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

JASON
So, I don't have to work?

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

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

JOHN
Then where have you been going every day?

JASON
Hanging out with Barbie and Kenny around town.

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

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

JOHN
Why was he in prison anyway?

JASON
It's a long story.

JOHN
Are you going out today?

JASON
Probably, how come?
7.

CONTINUED: (2)

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

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

John gets up.

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

JASON
I'll try.

John leaves, Jason turns the radio back on.

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

Jason smiles.

INT. KENS TOOLS - DAY

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

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

KENNY
(Deep Voice)
Come with me if you want to live.

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

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

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

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

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

KENNY
Why didn’t you just say that then?

KEN SR.
I did.

KENNY
No, you said “Stop doing that, you are scaring the customers away” or something like that but still it’s patronizing.

KEN SR.
Please don’t start or I’ll fire you...

Jason enters the aisle.

KEN SR. (CONT’D)
Oh, great. It’s you.

JASON
Yeah.

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

JASON
Barbie? She’s at work.

They stand there for a few moments in silence.
CONTINUED: (2)

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

JASON
Are you offering me a job?

KENNY
Yeah, are you offering him a job?

KEN SR.
Yeah, why not. How about it Jason?

Sure.

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

Ken Sr. Walks away leaving Jason and Kenny alone.

KENNY
So, why are you really here?

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

Kenny laughs out loud.

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

Kenny makes the whipping noise and starting dancing around.

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

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

JASON
She came running back to me.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (3)

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

JASON
No.

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

They begin putting away stock.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

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

BARBARA
Let me guess, you forgot?

JASON
Yeah, sorry.

BARBARA
Don’t worry about it.

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

BARBARA (CONT’D)
There. That should stop all of those pop ups and keep your PC clean.

JASON
Cool, thanks.

BARBARA
Don’t mention it.

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

BARBARA (CONT’D)
How’s your day been going?
CONTINUED:

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

BARBARA
Kenny finally asked senior for you?

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

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

JASON
Yeah.

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

JASON
Yeah.

BARBARA
I think you’re hot.

JASON
Yeah. Wait, what?

BARBARA
I knew it, you were not even listening.

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

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

JASON
Oh, blow me. It’s not like you listen to me.
CONTINUED: (2)

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

JASON
Okay, you made your point.

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

JASON
I know that you’re a girl.

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

JASON
Whatever.

BARBARA
You know I’m right.

JASON
Yes, you are right.

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

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

BARBARA
What?

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

BARBARA
What are you on about?

(CONTINUED)
JASON
Monopoly, why?

BARBARA
I said monogamy, dumb ass.

JASON
Well, what the fuck is that?

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

JASON
Isn’t that just marriage?

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

JASON
I see.

Jason places his hand on his chin listening closely.

INT. KENS TOOLS - DAY
Ken Sr. walks out from the back area.

KEN SR.
Jason? Kenny? Where are you guys?

Kenny walks in the front door.

KEN SR. (CONT’D)
Where were you?

KENNY
Uh...

KEN SR.
Where’s the other stooge?

Kenny scratches his head.

KEN SR. (CONT’D)
Christ, first day on the job and he’s already skipping work?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

KENNY
He had some important business to attend to.

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

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

Kenny walks over to the door and looks out.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY
Jason walks out holding a chocolate milk carton, he opens it “Moo” echoes out scaring Jason enough to drop the carton to the ground spilling his chocolate milk everywhere.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY
The Clerk mops the floor, Jason enters carrying the half empty carton.

CLERK
What do you want now?

JASON
Stupid thing mooed and I dropped it.

CLERK
What do you want me to do about that?

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

CLERK
No refunds. You know this, Jason.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JASON
You can’t sell faulty “milk”

CLERK
It’s not faulty, you just won something.

JASON
I did?

Jason holds the carton up looking at it.

JASON (CONT’D)
Cool, how do I collect my prize?

CLERK
There’s probably a number to call on the carton.

JASON
Cool. What can you win?

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

Jason leaves, The Clerk goes back to work.

INT. HOUSE – KITCHEN – DAY

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

JOHN
What the... You got my smokes?

Jason dials the number.

JASON
No.

JOHN
You’re kidding right?

JASON
Sorry, I forgot.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JOHN
I ask for one simple thing, it’s not that hard.
(Beat)
I need one of those Cash For Life tickets anyway, I’ll go myself.

John drops the paper onto the table and leaves.

JASON (Into Phone)
Three weeks? Why do I have to wait so long...? Okay, yeah. Fine...
Bye.

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

JASON (CONT’D)
Shit!

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

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

INT. KENS TOOLS - DAY

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

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

MALE CUSTOMER
If it was a lazy ass bitch society, maybe.

KENNY
What did you just call me?

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

KENNY (CONT’D)
Say that again punk, I’ll slap the bitch out of you.

(Continued)
CONTINUED:

**JASON**
Man, don’t start.

**MALE CUSTOMER**
Listen to your boyfriend, you can’t win this battle.

**KENNY**
The customer is always right, right?

**MALE CUSTOMER**
If that’s how you wanna see it, than yes.

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

**KENNY**
Fucking Sasquatch.
(Beat)
Get off me, I’m fine.

Kenny pushes Jason off and goes back to work.

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

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

**JASON**
I’m not... It’s just...

**KENNY**
It’s what you do, you’re soft.

**JASON**
That’s what makes us such good pals, man.

**KENNY**
I’m the strong one and the smart one and what are you again?

**JASON**
The glue that holds you together.
I’m your Gilligan.

Kenny and Jason continue working.
INT. KENS TOOLS – BACK AREA – DAY

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

KEN SR.
What is wrong with you guys?

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

KENNY
We’re doing our jobs.

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

KENNY
Uhh... You?

KEN SR.
No, it’s supposed to be one of you two stooges.

KENNY
Oh, okay. I think we get the point.

KEN SR.
Yeah, thanks. It’s not like I’m asking you to do much.

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

INT. BAR – LATER THAT NIGHT

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

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

KENNY
What kind of dream? Please, tell me it wasn’t sexual.
It was... Kinda.

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

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

What she look like naked?

Blurry.

That’s what I thought.

What?

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

I think my story was better.

Yours was a dream, mine actually happened. I actually had to stand behind those idiots and listen to them yap, I hope you never get like that.
CONTINUED: (2)

JASON
You mean have children and talk about it endlessly?

KENNY
Yes.

JASON
Okay.

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

KENNY
Yeah, what is it?

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

GIRLS (TOGETHER)
Hi, boys.

BLONDE
Wanna have some fun with us?

KENNY
Not really, you just interrupted our conversation.

BLONDE
Whatever asshole.

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

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

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

KENNY (CONT’D)
So, tell me.

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

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

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

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

JASON
Thanks... I think.

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

JASON
I guess.

KENNY
I’m hungry, lets go get some burgers.

FADE TO BLACK.

...THE END...

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