FADE IN:

EXT. MAIN STREET ROME NORTH DAKOTA - DAY

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

INT. HARRY'S PET SHOP - DAY

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

MICKEY
How's my little bunny wunnies? You all look so cute wutsie as always.
(to his fish)
How's my fishy wishies? All swimming around in their tankie wankies.

JAMES RILEY (JIMMY), born and bred Irishman, looking and acting like old Irishmen do. His wrinkled face to his careless manner suggests he doesn't give a damn about anything.

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

MICKEY (CONT'D)
Is there some sort of problem? Despite the fact that you're sober.

The phone rings.

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

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

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

The phone stops ringing.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
Do you have any interest at all? I mean anything. Your brother cared for this store, he cared for the animals.
(picking up a puppy)
Isn't that right Poopsie.

Jimmy leaps up from his chair in a dramatic fashion.
It was his last dying wish that I look after you and this shithole, the selfish bastard! I have my own life.

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

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

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

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

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

Pog mo thoin, pog mo thoin.

Mickey gives Jimmy the evil eye.

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

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

Jimmy marches over to where Mickey is standing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MICKEY
Hi there, can I help you with something?

LITTLE BOY
I need a bunny rabbit.

Mickey walks the boy over to the rabbits.

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

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

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

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

LITTLE BOY
Honestly, I don't think my python gives a shit, they all taste the same to him, although Fluffster does look the fattest.
Jimmy tries to keep his cool, but can barely restrain his laughter.

JIMMY
Take the parrot too, he tastes like chicken.

MICKEY
Get out Jimmy!

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

MICKEY (CONT'D)
These rabbits are not for sale.

LITTLE BOY
What`s your problem?

JIMMY
He has a small penis.

LITTLE BOY
That`ll do it.

EXT. OUTSIDE PET SHOP - DAY
Mickey stands at the door and Jimmy slithers out behind him.

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

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

Jimmy leaps back in overacting theatrical mode.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Your Dad`s back to haunt me...
(waving to Mickey)
I`m off to Murphy`s, think you can handle all the customers on your own?

INT. MURPHY`S BAR - DAY
BRAD and BOB, just two ordinary looking guys, likeable, but with the brains of a mosquito, are rooted to two bar stools at the counter.

BRAD
I can`t believe it.

BOB
I know.
BRAD
You know what?

BOB
I know you can`t believe it, neither can I.

BRAD
What can`t you believe?

BOB
The same thing as you.

BRAD
Really, so you also can`t believe that if you drop a penny from the Empire State Building, it would kill a person, if it landed on their head?

BOB
Yep, can`t believe it.

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

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

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

CHAD
Geet out! We do not serve dronks.

BOB
(looking at Brad)
The irony being that they serve sober people until they get drunk.

BRAD
Aha touche.

BOB
What?

BRAD
You know touche.

BOB
What`s a touche?

BRAD
You know, when I say something smart, then you have an even smarter reply.
BOB
Aha...Only one problem though.

BRAD
What`s that?

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

BRAD
Aha touche.

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

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

CHAD
Jimmy, wou you rike a dlink?

JIMMY
Are we gonna start the day off with stupid questions?

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

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

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

BRAD
(boozed up)
I will answer your questions in no specific order, cuz I can`t remember which came first...
(takes a sip of beer)
We are talking to you because you are Jimmy, the world famous Irish traveler and uncle of the our not so famous and very sad, depressive, stubborn, small penis friend Mickey.

Brad goes back to drinking his beer.

Jimmy waits impatiently for the other answers.

The drunk enters the bar again, this time through the side door.
DRUNK
(slurring his speech)
I wanna Jack Daniels... straight up.

CHAD
I toll you awready, get out of here!

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

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

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

Brad puts his hands behind his head and leans back.

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

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

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

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

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

DRUNK
Hey you, I wanna Jack Daniels straight up.

CHAD
(shouting)
I'm tires ov you, geet out!
DRUNK
(stumbling around and wagging his finger)
Holy shit, how many freaking bars do you work in?

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

He then sits back down while dusting himself off.

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

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

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

CHAD
I know, I dlide the radies klazy.

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

INT. PET SHOP - DAY
Mickey is sweeping the floor and talking to his animals.

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

INTERCUT - PET SHOP/MURPHY'S BAR

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

MICKEY
Aren't you supposed to be working?

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

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

BOB
Well, you know where you can find us.
Jimmy, who as usual can`t help himself, leans in towards Bob`s conversation.

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

**MICKEY**
Well there`s the first reason why I`m not going over.

Brad leans in from the other side.

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

**MICKEY**
And there`s the other. Good-bye Bob.

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

He steps outside onto Main Street.

**EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY**

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

As he turns to the right again, he jumps.

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

**SALLY**
Yeah this town is just one big PMS circus.

**MICKEY**
Wow, where the hell did you come from?

**SALLY**
I was standing next to your pet shop.

**MICKEY**
No. No way I would have... I would have seen you... I mean not in a bad way, like I wouldn`t have missed you or anything because your... you know horizontally challenged.
SALLY
Wow. You have a beautiful way with words, please do go on.

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

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

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

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

Mickey opens the door as wide as he can.

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

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

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

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

SALLY
Do you have a dart frog?

MICKEY
No.

SALLY
Do you have a Brazilian wandering spider?

MICKEY
No.

SALLY
Do you have a king cobra?

MICKEY
No. We used to.
(thinking)
Hmm... I wonder whatever happened.
Mickey starts trailing off in his own dreamworld.

SALLY
Hello, are you still there?

MICKEY
Oops sorry.

SALLY
Well, thanks for your patience.

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

INT MURPHY’S BAR - DAY

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

BRAD
I think it’s time to go.

BOB
Yeah, let’s go see Mickey.

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

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

BRAD
That was beautiful Bob, really touching.

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

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

CHAD
A dolra, tank you, now I can get that paper crip I alra:s wanted...

(MORE)
CHAD (CONT'D)

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

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

EXT. OUTSIDE PET SHOP - EVENING

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

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

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

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

He reads it out loud to himself.

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

BACK TO MICKEY

Mickey stares blankly at the floor in shock.

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

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

EXT. BRAD AND BOBS APARTMENT - EVENING

A taxi pulls up outside their two bedroom apartment, that
belonged to Bob's parents, before they divorced and moved
away.
INT. BRAD AND BOBS APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

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

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

BOB
I think somebody broke in.

BRAD
Why's that?

BOB
Look at this place, it's trashed.

BRAD
It's always trashed.

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

BRAD
That's true I don't, I remember them on the table, next to the open window, that's spooky.

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

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

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

BRAD
Oh no.

BOB
What is it?

BRAD
Someone has taken all our beer.

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

Brad and Bob sit back down on the couch deflated.
BRAD
Oh yeah, so we have no beer, no jobs, no girls, in order of importance.

BOB
I got a little bit of Mary J left.

BRAD
Coooooolllllllllll and soon everything becomes ok.

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

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

BOB
So how do we pay for this place?

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

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

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

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

Suddenly Bob snaps his fingers and they stop laughing.

BOB
We need to get some work and money.

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

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

BOB
Who are you calling?

BRAD
Sshhh. Hello Diane how are you?

DIANE is Bob`s older sister and an ex-girlfriend of Brad, she is doing very well for herself at a Pharmaceutical company.
BOB
Dude, you're calling my sister! Not a good idea.

DIANE
Brad, What the hell do you want?

BRAD
(sounding sincere)
I was calling to apologize for all the bad things I did to you.

DIANE
Why?

BRAD
I need a job.

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

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

DIANE (CONT'D)
No! With a capital FU.

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

DIANE
How?

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

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

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

DIANE
Just be prepared for your drug test, that'll be in the morning, ok?
BRAD
Great, It's my favorite subject, I should know all the answers.

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

BRAD
I know.

BOB
Well, what did she say?

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

BOB
You better start studying, here.

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

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

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

INT. MICKEY'S HOUSE - EVENING

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

MICKEY
I don't believe this, who the hell is this now?

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

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

TAXI DRIVER
(sarcastic)
Thank you for my dollar tip, now I can finally get the air freshener I wanted.
Mickey shuts the door and turns around to face the guys, who are completely stoned.

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

MICKEY
Get up. You`re squashing my dog.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Brad spits it out as Bob laughs uncontrollably.

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

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

MICKEY
What interview?

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

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

(MORE)
MICKEY (CONT'D)

it to the hood of the car and parading you up and down main street?

BOB

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

BRAD

What should I do?

MICKEY

How about you both go and be stupid somewhere else. How you both don't fall down more, I'll never know.

Brad and Bob are very confused.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Diane no longer wants to kill you, she saw Dr. Hamilton.

The guys are even more confused.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

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

BRAD

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

MICKEY

She is not giving you drugs, she is making sure there are no drugs in your body and you're completely clean...

(raising an eyebrow)

In other words you haven't smoked marijuana in the last few days, so have you smoked dope in the last few days?

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

BOB

How about the last few hours.

MICKEY

Well congratulations, you are about to fail the drug test, which means no job.
BRAD
Isn't it all multiple choice questions?

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

BRAD
Oohhh, How do I pass that then?

Brad and Bob exchange looks at Mickey.

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

BOB
You have to pee in the cup for him.

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

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

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

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

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

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

BRAD
Thanks dude, I owe you one.

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

MICKEY
You expect me to do it right now? I can`t pee under pressure, just stop at the pet shop on your way to the test and I`ll give it to you.

IN THE KITCHEN

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

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

BOB
Hey Mickey, What`s all the crosses for?

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

BOB
Do they go to heaven too?.

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

BOB
I`ll pass on that.

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

BOB
It`s long and boring, It makes you appreciate the DMV and then there`s that Jesus guy, I mean c`mon, turns water into wine, David Copperfield made a helicopter disappear, you don`t see any churches worshipping him.
BRAD
I'm more of an evolution man myself, you know fish become ducks, ducks become bats and bats become vampires kind of thing.

INT. MURPHY'S BAR - NIGHT

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

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

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

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

THE BAR CROWD
Yah.

CHAD
What do you want to hear?

THE BAR CROWD
Free bird! No, Roxanne!

CHAD
No fee bud, ok I sing for you.

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

CHAD (CONT'D)
Rozanne... ooo don wanna put on a rey lit, those deys are ova, ye don wanna sell your boda to the nit, Rozanne.

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

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

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

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

CHAD (CONT'D)
Hey the tree stooges are here.
MICKEY
I can't believe you dragged me here.

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

AT THE BAR COUNTER

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mickey does a double-take.

BARTENDER
What can I get you?

SALLY
Just a ginger ale please.

MICKEY
(raising his hand to the bartender)
I'll get that.

SALLY
You don't have to.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BRAD
(whispering loudly to Bob)
Wow dude, I can`t even fit this between them, I think she`s going to kiss him.

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

MICKEY
It`s alright, nothing a few tic-tacs wouldn`t cure.

SALLY
Excuse me.

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

BOB
And you are single why?

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

He is also friends with Bob, Brad and Mickey, which means he doesn`t get away with anything from Jimmy.
ON BAR STAGE

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

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

CHAD (CONT'D)
I hope there's no smokas in here, I
would get a lotta trouba.

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

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

ON THE BAR FLOOR

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

1ST GIRL
You ask him.

2ND GIRL
No, you ask him.

1ST GIRL
Ok,ok I`ll ask him.

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

1ST GIRL (CONT'D)
(to 2nd girl)
How do I look?

2ND GIRL
Beautiful as usual.

AT THE BAR COUNTER

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

Jake watches as she approaches him, so he starts combing his
hair like the Fonz.
JAKE
Well hello, and what can I do you for?

1ST GIRL
You are Jake Edwards aren`t you?

JAKE
The one and only.

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

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

JIMMY
Keep watching boys you might learn something from him.

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

2ND GIRL
(shouting at the 1st girl)
Well, is it him.

1ST GIRL
Yeah it`s him.

JAKE
Oooohhh a threesome.

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

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

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

2ND GIRL
(shouting)
You son of the devil`s sperm, you broke my sister`s heart, you promised her the world and then finished when you had your way.

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

MICKEY
Ooohh yeah, I will definitely learn from that.

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

JAKE
Thanks guys, I can`t please them all.
(looking at Mickey)
What about you Doctor Doolittle? Pleasing anybody these days, are you even pleasing yourself?

MICKEY
Sorry Jake, we weren`t all born with the good looks and personality that you so awesomely possess.

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

MICKEY
Yeah, who`s that?

JAKE
Me of course. Why don`t you go mingle? Spread your wings and use that Riley charm.

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

JIMMY
Now now, be nice boys, he is cursed.

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

Mickey jumps down off the barstool.

JAKE
Who is this fine piece of femininity?

MICKEY
(pointing to Sally)
She`s sitting right there.
JAKE
Aha just remember one thing. Beauty is just a light switch away.

MICKEY
I'm just surrounded by assholes.

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

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

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

BRAD
You know her?

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

JIMMY
Well, at least they have something in common.

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

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

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

BRAD
Awesome idea.

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

BRAD (CONT'D)
One hundred bucks if you can take her home.

BOB
What are you doing? We can't afford to be taking unnecessary risks, at such great odds.
BRAD
It`s ok, I trust Jimmy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

JAKE (CONT`D)
Never doubt the Jakester.

BRAD
(to Jimmy)
I thought this was a no lose bet.

JIMMY
For me it was.

EXT. OUTSIDE MURPHY`S BAR - NIGHT
Jake and the girl are standing outside laughing.

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

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

JAKE
Sweet.

INT. INSIDE MURPHY`S BAR - NIGHT
Mickey leans forward on the table and gazes into Sally`s eyes.
SALLY
I'm sorry, was I sitting too close to you? Would you like me to move to... Alaska?

MICKEY
You know sarcasm is the lowest form of humor.

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

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

SALLY
What do you really want?

MICKEY
No, truly, I want to apologize and maybe start over.
   (reaching out his hand)
I'm Mickey Riley, I'm 29, I live with a dog, a cat, a parrot, a tortoise, a hamster and a cold-blooded reptile called Jimmy.

Mickey takes a deep breath and sighs.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
My dad died when I was young and left me his Pet Shop...Well it is about to be closed in less than a month if I can't pull ten thousand dollars out of my ass...
   (puts his hands in the air)
I'm a complete failure in everything I do, my life sucks and I feel like I can't do anything right, how about you?

SALLY
Wow, well thank you soooo much for cheering me up. My turn now...
   (Sally moves in closer)
My name is Sally Weston, I live in a one bedroom apartment in the shit end of town, my landlord is a pimp, a crack dealer and the local mechanic all rolled into one.

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

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

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

MICKEY
Interesting.

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

MICKEY
(playing along)
No, it's not.

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

MICKEY
Obviously not.

SALLY
I haven't had a boyfriend in five years, guess what happened to him?

Mickey remains quiet.

SALLY (CONT'D)
That's right, killed himself, first time too, lucky bastard! Happy you're getting to know me?

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

MICKEY
So that's why you were looking for poisonous animals in my store... I can't really help you there. The most poisonous thing in my store is my uncle's mouth.
Mickey and Sally are silent, they exchange looks of who had the worst story. Sally won.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
Why don`t you get some professional help, someone who will listen?

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

MICKEY
So why do you go?

SALLY
There`s nobody else that will listen to me.

MICKEY
What about your parents?

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

AT THE BAR COUNTER

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

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

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

Bob smiles and props himself up.

BOB
(to the girl)
Can I get you a drink?

GIRL 2
How about two drinks? I`ll have a Margarita and a Sam Adams.

BOB
(calls bartender)
I`ll have a Margarita and a Sam Adams for the lovely lady.

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

A man walks into the bar and sits down next to her. She smiles at him and hands him the beer.
GIRL 2
Good timing honey, this nice gentleman just bought us drinks.

MAN
(raising the glass to Bob)
Thanks man.

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

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

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

ON THE BAR FLOOR

SALLY
(confused)
Should I ask?

Mickey shakes his head and Sally smiles.

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

INT. JAKE`S GIRL`S APARTMENT - NIGHT

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

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

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

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

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

JAKE
Holy crap, is that your husband?

GIRL
No silly, that was me two years ago.

JAKE
What the fuck! I'm gonna kill Jimmy.
Jake pulls up his boxers and pants, puts his shirt on and runs out of the apartment, the girl runs behind him.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

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

JAKE
(running down the street)
Leave me alone!

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

INT. MURPHY’S BAR - NIGHT

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

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

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

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

SALLY
Wow, well thank you.

CHAD
I hae jush la song.

Chad turns around and sets up the karaoke.

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

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

MICKEY
Oh I'm sorry.

SALLY
I'm just joking.

Sally puts her head on Mickey’s shoulder and signal’s to Chad for the song.
Chad smiles back as he puts on the "THEME TUNE TO MASH".

CHAD
Suici is painwess it bwings on many...

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

MICKEY AND SALLY
Let`s get outta here.

EXT. OUTSIDE SALLY`S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

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

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

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

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

MICKEY
(reaching his hand out to shake Berts)
Hi, nice to meet you, some pretty nice jewelry you got there.

BERT
(clenching his fist for a fist pump)
Good to meet you little man, want one of my ho`s for the night.

SALLY
Excuse me Bert, he is spoken for.

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

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

SALLY
He will get instant gratification from me.
BERT

He will?

MICKEY

(raising his eyebrows)

I will?

SALLY

C`mon lets go.

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

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

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

SALLY (CONT`D)

Hi Winston, how was your day?

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

INT. SALLY`S APARTMENT - NIGHT

MICKEY

What`s wrong with that guy?

SALLY

I don`t know, I`ve been here three years and all I got from him was "Winston"...Make yourself at home.

Mickey walks over to the t.v. and looks at the list of dvds next to it, they read: "Suicide for the Small-Minded", "123 Jump", "Poison the People`s Friend" and "The Weston`s Summer Holiday in New York".

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

SALLY (CONT`D)

Would you like a glass of wine?

MICKEY

Sure; everything alright in there?

SALLY

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

MICKEY

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

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

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

SALLY
What. No that`s too embarrassing.

MICKEY
Why?

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

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

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

SALLY
I think I`ll slip into something more comfortable.

MICKEY
Can`t wait.

ON THE TV

The Weston family are at the beach.

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

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

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

Sally tries to run in front of the camera, as Mr.Weston continues to swing it from side to side.
SALLY
Ok hold it there dad.
(grabbing her mom by
the hand)
C`mon over here mom, don`t be shy.

MRS.WESTON
How do I look?

MR.WESTON
Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

BACK TO SCENE

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

ON THE TV

Mrs.Weston begins to take her bikini top off.

BACK TO SCENE

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

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

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

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

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

MICKEY
Well, except your dad.

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

Mickey walks out the door and Sally slams it behind him, she then lowers herself to the floor puts her hands over her face and starts to cry.
EXT. SALLY`S APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

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

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

Winston rolls his eyes and groans.

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

Winston shrugs his shoulders.

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

INT. SALLY`S APARTMENT - NIGHT

BEDROOM

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

DINING ROOM

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

EXT. SALLY`S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

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

INT. SALLY`S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

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

EXT. OUTSIDE SALLY`S WINDOW - CONTINUOUS

SALLY
Good-bye cruel world.

Sally jumps, the noose tightens slowly. The table slowly slides to the window under Sally’s weight, lowering her to the ground.
EXT. OUTSIDE SALLY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

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

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

Sally removes the noose from her neck.

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

SALLY
(furious)
Men, they are all just disgusting, sex-craving, dick for brains.

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

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

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

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

BERT
Did he offer you an explanation?

SALLY
I didn't let him.

BERT
Ahh maybe your right Sally, now go get him.
Sally walks past him and into the building.

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

EXT. SALLY’S APARTMENT DOOR - NIGHT

Mickey is banging on the door.

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

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

Mickey looks surprised at Winston for talking.

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

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

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

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

MICKEY
(his jaw drops)
Hundreds.

WINSTON
Don’t hold it against yourself, if
she decided to, you know, end it.

MICKEY
Well thanks. If I don't see you again,
you were an inspiration, maybe you
should get out a little more. You
look like you need some air.
Mickey and Winston turn their heads, as they hear footsteps coming up the stairs.

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

WINSTON
Go get her son.

MICKEY
Sally, thank God you’re alive.

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

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

SALLY
(looking over at Winston)
What do you think Winston, should I give him another try, he seems like the most genuine one yet.

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

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

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

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

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

Winston smiles.

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

INT. SALLY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

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

The holiday movie is still playing on the T.V.
Mickey looks over at the movie, bemused at the people wearing long black cloaks, funny round hats, with long curly hair below their ears.

MICKEY
Who or what is that on their heads?

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

MICKEY
Why are they screaming at each other?

SALLY
Well apparently somebody stole some hats and now there is a shortage, they are blaming each other...
(frustrated)
Is this what you want to watch...or me.

Mickey grabs the remote and turns off the movie.

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

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

SALLY (CONT'D)
You know what I want don`t you?

MICKEY
The whole bed by the looks of it.

SALLY
Do a dance for me and take your clothes off.

MICKEY
I ain`t dancing.

SALLY
Go on, it`s just me.

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

SALLY (CONT'D)
Well c`mon then, show me the purple headed warrior.

Mickey sighs and drops his underwear.
Sally stares, then stares some more, then squints her eyes.

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

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

MICKEY
Well my self-esteem is incredibly high right now.

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

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

SALLY (CONT'D)
Quick put it in me.

MICKEY
(annoyed)
It has been in you.

SALLY
(trying to humor him)
I know I`m just kidding.

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

MICKEY
Are you faking it?

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

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

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

MICKEY
Fuckkkkkkkkkkkkkkkking yeah.

Then he collapses to the other side of the bed. Lying next to each other staring at the ceiling, although trying to conceal it, there is a bit of dissatisfaction on their faces.
MICKEY (CONT'D)
(reaching out his
hand to shake Sally's)
Thank you.

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

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

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

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

BRAD
Your nephew.

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

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

JIMMY
What kind of favor? Maybe I can help.

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

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

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

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

Jake storms in, all pissed off.

BRAD
So how did it go, Casanova?

JAKE
Where is Jimmy? That son a bitch set
me up with a transvestite.
BRAD
(laughing)
Well did you expect anything different from him, he is always pulling stunts to fuck with us, maybe you'll learn the next time.

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

JIMMY
(acting sincere)
There you go Brad. Mickey had left it in the back room, with a little note, it said to give it to you if I see you first.
(looking at Jake)
And here's Jake, did you get one up the arse last night?

BRAD
Thanks Jimmy, I'll see you later.

Brad leaves the pet shop.

JAKE
Screw you old man, that's just not right...
(changing his tone)
By the way where's Mickey?

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

JAKE
Yeah, yeah, yeah whatever.

INT. SALLY'S APARTMENT - DAY

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

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

Jimmy smiles at Jake and shakes his head.

The phone rings, Jimmy picks it up.

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

JIMMY
Hello, Riley pet shop, no pet too dull or common for your own good.
MICKEY
That`s how you answer the phone when I'm not around? Why do I keep you?
its no wonder we are closing.

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

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

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

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

JIMMY
You know what son? I quit.

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

They both hang up simultaneously.

INT. RECEPTION DESK AT BRAD`S INTERVIEW - DAY
Brad enters the door and approaches the receptionist.
He is sweating and looking nervous.
He keeps one hand below the desk holding onto the cup of pee.

RECEPTIONIST
Can I help you?

BRAD
I'm here for my job interview

RECEPTIONIST
Ok, what`s your name?

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

The receptionist hands Brad the form and a cup.

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

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

BRAD
(handing over the cup and form)
There you go, one cup of my urine, actually not your ine more my ine.

RECEPTIONIST
(staring at him straight faced)
First door on the left.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

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

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

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

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

CHARLIE
(looking at Frank)
Oh that’s what you said last night.

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

FRANK
(nudging Charlie)
I’ll make your’s hard.
DIANE
Guys. Sorry Brad, this is Frank and Charlie they are going to ask you some questions, I can’t question you as it would be a conflict of interest.

BRAD
It’s ok I understand...I think.

CHARLIE
(waving his finger between Diane and Brad)
Did you guys have disgusting straight people sex?

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

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

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

BRAD
Well I --

CHARLIE
(sarcastic)
-- Wow that is such a great question, how predictable.

FRANK
Excuse me.

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

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

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

BRAD
Well with the times being hard and the company’s profits spiraling each quarter, they had to make adjustments to turn things around and they let me go.
CHARLIE
(sarcastic)
Because usually companies who are struggling let their best workers go first.

FRANK
You are soooo mean.

CHARLIE
Sorry for stating the obvious.

FRANK
You make me so mad sometimes.

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

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

BRAD
Sure, piece of cake.

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

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

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

BRAD
(bewildered)
Ok, well, give me the bad news first.

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

BRAD
So what's my good news.

DIANE
Well it seems you are about to give birth to a litter of puppies...Congratulations... At least use human urine if you plan on cheating.
BRAD
(to himself)
Jimmy, you bastard.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

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

Jake is pacing back and forth on the floor.

JIMMY
Why are you still here?

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

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

Bob enters the shop checking out the aisles.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jake then puts his hand over Bob`s mouth to keep him quiet.
JAKE
Why don't we all calm down and agree that everyone has a right to believe in what religion, faith or spirits they want to.

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

The phone rings.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
See I told you that little maggot would call back.

Jimmy picks it up expecting it to be Mickey.

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

Jimmy hangs up.

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

BOB
What's the animal rescue?

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

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

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

JIMMY
Help! This place is long past saving, he should let it go and find something he might succeed at like...
  (clicking his fingers)
...let me think for an hour or two.

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

JIMMY
And what`s your point?

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

JIMMY (CONT'D)
I'm getting tired of this shit.

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

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

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

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

BOB
Hello.

BRAD
(driving his car)
Hi Jimmy you bastard, you set me up --

BOB
-- Brad it`s me, Bob.

BRAD
Sorry Bob, I must have dialed the wrong number, I was actually looking for Mickey.
BOB
Ok, no wait, this is the pet shop, I just picked up the phone cuz Mickey's not here and Jimmy is resting his hands.

Brad continues to tell Bob what Jimmy did to him.

Bob gives Jimmy the evil eye.

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

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

BOB (CONT'D)
(talking into the phone)
Hello, hello Brad are you still there?

BRAD
(standing in the pet shop)
I'm here Bob.

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

BRAD
ok I will.

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

BOB
(to Jimmy)
He should be here soon.

Bob turns around and notices Brad, he jumps back.

Jake and Brad laughs.

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

BRAD
(to Jimmy)
You owe me a job.

JAKe
Yeah me too. I think.
BOB
Not really me, but I`ll take it.

JIMMY
What type of job would you like, a handjob, a blowjob?...
(sits up in his chair and puts his hands on the counter)
I`ll tell you what, as this place doesn't have long to go before it becomes just another squatters paradise, you three can take my job, because I quit.

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

JIMMY
No I swear to God almighty himself...
(acting concerned)
He needs your help, you're his friends aren't you?

BRAD, BOB AND JAKE
Yeah.

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

JIMMY
Oohh don't challenge yourselves too much.

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

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Wow! That was so...gay.

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

JIMMY (CONT'D)
(to Brad)
Here is your first assignment. This is Mrs.Clark's address. Little Scratchy is stuck up a tree, usually Mickey takes care of this, but as he is not here right now...prove yourself and take the Antichrist with you.
(turning to Jake)
I have something else for you.
(MORE)
JIMMY (CONT'D)
(looking at Brad and Bob)
Well go on then, you won't get much done standing here.

EXT. HARRY'S PET SHOP - DAY

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

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

MICKEY
(to Jimmy)
Why are you still here?

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

Mickey looks at Jake who shrugs his shoulders. Jimmy sets off towards Murphy's bar.

MICKEY (shouting back)
Yeah right asshole.
(turning to Jake)
You know, I've heard stories he used to be happy when he was younger.

Mickey and Jake continue to hold the pets.

JAKE
(smiling)
Well hello Casanova.

MICKEY
(awkward)
Oh yeah.

JAKE
Well did you?

MICKEY
(no enthusiasm)
Yeah.

JAKE
You must be the only guy I know who's not on a high after sex.
MICKEY
Well to be honest
(breathing deeply)
I feel bad.

JAKE
Why, didn`t you orgasm?

MICKEY
I did, but I know she faked hers.

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

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

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

MICKEY
What? Are you for real? I don`t need
to get no prostitute.

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

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

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

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

Both girls start to laugh. Jake enjoys the attention.

Moving onto Mickey, he blushes.

1ST GIRL
(turning her face up)
Ewww disgusting.
They continue walking.

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

The girls turn around.

1ST GIRL
Oh, you have a dog? I didn't see him.

MICKEY
Piss off!

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

Jake has a smirk on his face.

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

JAKE
Dude, you need to relax, this can't be good for your blood pressure...You know what your problem is? You think too much, you let things get the better of you.

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

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

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

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

JAKE
No, George Burns.
MICKEY
Ahhh, anyway I need help, serious help.

Jake reaches into his pocket and hands Mickey a card.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
(reading the card)
Thanks Jake, but I don't think I need a free hard taco combo meal.

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

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

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

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

MICKEY
Hey thanks Jake, your a good friend.

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

MICKEY
George Burns?

JAKE
Barney.

EXT. MRS. CLARK'S HOUSE - DAY

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

BRAD
This is it.

BOB
Ok, lets save the kitty cat.

Mrs. Clark, is a elderly lady, very frail looking, with a walker. She is standing in front of a tall tree.
Bob and Brad strut towards Mrs. Clark with two huge smiles on their faces.

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

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

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

Bob starts pleading with her.

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

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

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

**BOB**
He's busy with his lady friend.

Brad digs Bob in the ribs.

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

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

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

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

**BRAD (CONT'D)**
Heads or tails?

**BOB**
Tails never fails.
Brad flips the coin in the air. He flips it so high it lands on a branch in the tree.

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

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

BRAD
This is harder than it looks.

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

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

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

BOB
Can you see it yet?

BRAD
Nearly.

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

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

He is now within reach of Scratchy.

BRAD
It looks like tails failed; it was heads.

BOB
Shit.

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

Brad descends down to the ground.

BRAD
Got it.

MRS. CLARK
My Scratchy?

BRAD
No my coin. Get up Bob you loser.
Bob begins to climb the ladder.

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

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

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

Bob pulls Scratchy out and descends down the ladder.

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

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

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

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

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

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

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

MICKEY
That asshole.

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

MICKEY
Not Mrs. Clark, my uncle you dumbass, he set you up again, Mrs. Clark suffers from Dementia, she thinks the squirrel is a cat and wonders why it constantly goes up the tree.
MICKEY (CONT'D)
You guys did question that right?

BRAD
(nodding)
Oh yeah sure.

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

BOB
Look out!

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

BRAD
Are you still there?

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

Brad passes the phone to Bob.

BOB
Hello, this is Bob.

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

BOB
Ok, hold on.
   (Bob presses the speaker button)
You're on speaker Mickey.

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

BRAD AND BOB
Yeah sure.

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

Bob goes quiet as he is looking out his window at a big breasted hot chick jogging towards him in the distance.
Pointing her out to Brad, Brad stares, taking his eyes off the road.

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

BOB
(still staring at the jogger)
Yeah Mickey, we are still with you; we love animals; I'm looking at two beautiful puppies right now.

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

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

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

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

MICKEY
(shouting)
Guys! Guys what is going on? Somebody tell me what`s happening?

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

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

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

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

BRAD
Yeah, you can trust us.

BOB
Whatever you need.

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

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

BOB
Switch off, got it.

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

BOB
One cat and one dog delivered. Got it.

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

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

INT. MURPHY'S BAR - DAY

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

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

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

CHAD
Why rong face Jimmy?

JIMMY
The pet shop.

CHAD
So rots the pobem?

JIMMY
My brother's store is closing in a few weeks and I left it in the hands (MORE)
JIMMY (CONT'D)
of a depressive idiot and the three stooges.

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

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

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

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

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

JIMMY
Just another immigrant taking advantage of the system.
   (holding his phone in the air)
All it takes is one phone call and you'll be back in the paddy fields picking rice.

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

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

He stares at his pint, his face gets closer and closer to the glass as if he sees something. Suddenly he pushes himself out from the bar counter.
Chad looks at him as if he is ready to fight. He puts his fists up as Jimmy makes way for the front door. Jimmy turns around, eyes Chad up and down, then walks out; slamming the door behind him.

EXT. MR AND MRS WESTONS HOUSE - DAY

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

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

INT. INSIDE MR AND MRS WESTONS HOUSE - DAY

With all the charisma of a game show host, Mr. Weston makes his way to the door aided by his cane. He stops at the door and feels around for the peep hole. He moves the metal cover back and looks out.

MR. WESTON
Who is it?

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

MR. WESTON
Me who?

SALLY
Me Sally, stop playing around.

Mr. Weston opens the door.

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

MR. WESTON
What brings you around here? I haven't seen you since...aww just a little blind humor.

SALLY
I have good news.

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

SALLY
Dad it's ok, I know you guys love me and I love you too.
Sally takes her Dad's hand and walks him into the kitchen; her mother has her back to them, washing dishes.

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

SALLY (CONT'D)
Guess who?

MRS. WESTON
Is that my darling Sally?

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

MR. WESTON
Sally has some good news for us.

MRS. WESTON
Well dear what is it?

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

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

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

MRS. WESTON
Riley... Why do I know that name?

MR. WESTON
It sounds familiar; what does he do?

SALLY
He owns the pet shop on Main Street.

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

SALLY (CONT'D)
What is it? What's wrong with Michael?

MR. WESTON
Nothing dear, its just that...

David comes running down the stairs excitedly. Sally puts her arms out and picks him up giving him a big kiss on the cheek.
DAVID WESTON
You look beautiful in green; it really suits you.

Sally is dressed all in red.

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

MRS. WESTON
Good luck, we are really happy for you.

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

She then closes the door behind her.

MR. WESTON
Shouldn’t we tell her?

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

MR. WESTON
(angry)
But they are the reason we’re blind.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

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

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

JAKE
I’ll be ok.
(picking up a bunny)
I’ll look after the little cutsie wootsies.

Mickey smiles and puts his coat on.

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

Mickey walks out of the pet shop.
EXT. MICKEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Brad and Bob pull up outside Mickey's house.

Brad holds Bob back for a second.

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

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

INT. MICKEY'S HOUSE - DAY

LIVING ROOM

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

BOB
What the hell? Unnecessary coldness

BRAD
You could crack my nuts with a spoon.

Brad walks over to the thermostat and turns it up.

BRAD (CONT'D)
Ok, let's take care of these pets.

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

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

Brad walks upstairs to get the cat.

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

KITCHEN

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

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

The tortoise starts to move very slowly.
Bob begins to panic. He pulls off some duct tape from the counter and puts it across the crack on the tortoise`s back.

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

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

MICKEY`S BEDROOM

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

BRAD
Here kitty kitty, where are you kitty cat?

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

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

BRAD (CONT'D)
Ewwwww, come out here cat.

STAIRS

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

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

BRAD (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

KITCHEN

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

BOB
What the hell is that thing?

BRAD
Apparently it`s Mickey`s cat.

BOB
Well find somewhere to put it; we have a bigger problem over here.

Brad puts the cat in a cardboard box and walks over to the hamster cage. The hamster is just lying there motionless.
BOB (CONT'D)
What do we do? I've poked the little
guy and he doesn't seem to respond.

BRAD
There is only one thing we can do.

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

EXT. BACK YARD OF MICKEY'S HOUSE - DAY

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

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

BRAD
(confused)
What are you doing?

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

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

BOB
Like the freaks at the YMCA.

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

They both stand with their hands behind their backs.

BRAD (CONT'D)
Well, go on, say some words.

BOB
I don't know what to say, you say
something.
BRAD
(taking a deep breath)
Here lies a hamster, who spent his life as a hamster, doing hamster stuff and eating hamster food.

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

BOB
Beautiful, I loved that little guy.

INT. MICKEY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

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

Brad carries the cat, while Bob has the dog.

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

BOB
(holding the cage up to his face)
What is wrong with you? Are you possessed?

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

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

BOB
(checking out the car)
Dude, this car is filthy, when is the last time you cleaned it?

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

INT. DR. HAMILTON'S OFFICE - DAY

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

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

DR. EDWARDS
You must be Michael Riley. Please c'mon in.
MICKEY
(shaking his hand)
Thanks, I'm not too sure if I need
to be here, I've never done this
before.

DR. EDWARDS
That's what they all say, It's ok
nothing to be ashamed of...
(pulling out the chair)
Here, take a load off.

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

DR. EDWARDS (CONT'D)
So, what brings you here Michael?

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

DR. EDWARDS
(talking softly)
Not necessarily.

MICKEY
What?

DR. EDWARDS
Nothing, please do go on.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY
Jake is sitting behind the counter with his feet up and his
hands behind his head, mimicking Jimmy.

Sally enters with a confused look.

SALLY
Where's Mickey?

JAKE
He's with my uncle.

SALLY
Why would Mickey want to see your
uncle?

JAKE
He seemed very depressed.

SALLY
Why didn't he come talk to me?
JAKE
(sarcastic)
Ohhh I don't know, maybe because
your answer is always the quick way
out.

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

A customer peers at him from one of the aisles.

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

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

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

JAKE
So why go to him?

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

JAKE
(lowering his head)
-- Sorry.

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

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

Jake falls to the ground in agony, holding himself.

CUSTOMER
You oughta be ashamed of yourself.
(in a quieter tone)
Now can somebody help me, my grandson
wants a goldfish.
Sally glances down at Jake, then looks at the customer and smiles.

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

INT. DR. HAMILTON`S OFFICE - DAY
Mickey continues to talk. Dr.Edward`s back is turned to him;
he has fallen asleep unbeknownst to Mickey.

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

Dr.Edwards leaps up from his chair.

DR. EDWARDS
What, Where am I?
(Turning around to
face Mickey)
What? Noooooo, I wasn`t sleeping. I
was thinking; I was in deep thought
about everything you said.

MICKEY
Good, then can you give me some
advice?

DR. EDWARDS
Do you masturbate Mr. Riley?

MICKEY
Excuse me!

DR.EDWARDS
You know, do you grease your bone?

MICKEY
What?

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

MICKEY
-- Enough, is any of this even
necessary?
DR. EDWARDS

(smiling)
Answer the bone-a-phone.

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

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

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

Mickey takes his seat again.

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

MICKEY
Yes, my family is from Ireland.

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

MICKEY
No.

DR. EDWARDS
Do you like to fight alot?

MICKEY
What? No.

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

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

MICKEY
No, I am not a Riverdancer.

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

Mickey is completely silent and still, he doesn`t know whether he wants to punch him or throw something at him.
DR. EDWARDS (CONT'D)
Hmmm. So what is wrong with being small? Is it the humiliation, the lack of self-esteem or the fact that you feel you can never satisfy any woman?

MICKEY
Well... So far it's this conversation.

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

Mickey picks the bottle up.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
What's this?

DR. EDWARDS
This will help your little problem.

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

MICKEY
I won't be back here again.

DR. EDWARDS
Good, then my work is done.

INT. MURPHY'S BAR - DAY

Chad is looking through CDs; the bar is empty.

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

CHAD
Wha can I geet yo?

INS MAN
(very composed)
Ohh, let me see... How about a green card?

CHAD
Excuse me?

INS MAN
.puts his INS badge on the counter
You know, proof that you are legal to live and work in this country?

Chad gives the badge a once-over, then looks up at the stranger.
CHAD
(talking softly)
I`ll kill that modda fucka.

INS MAN
Excuse me?

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

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

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

EXT. BEHIND MURPHY`S BAR - CONTINUOUS

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

INT. MURPHY`S BAR - CONTINUOUS

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

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

EXT. BEHIND MURPHY`S BAR - CONTINUOUS

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

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

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

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

JAKE
What is going on here?

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

BOB
And this dog is just possessed.

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

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

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

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

Bob loses, so he gets into position.

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

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

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

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

JIMMY
(screaming)
Get up you idiots!

The boys jump up and turn sheet white with fear.

BRAD
Don't hit us!

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

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

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

Jimmy rings up and customer and wishes him well.

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

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

BOB
Yeah, he also told us to feed the hamster and tortoise and make sure
(MORE)
the switch is off for
(looking at the dog)
sorry puppy.

Jimmy groans.

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

JIMMY
(sarcastically)
No way, you guys?

BOB
(panicking)
The tortoise fell out of his tank,
so I put him back in with the fish,
but I couldn`t save the hamster, he
was sitting their motionless, it
didn`t help that your house was colder
than the Arctic.

JIMMY
Brad give me the keys to your car.

Brad hands them over no questions asked.

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

JAKE
Hey Jimmy, why the sudden change of
heart?

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

Jimmy leaves; Brad and Bob tag along a couple of paces behind.
EXT. SALLY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

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

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

MICKEY
I came to see Sally.

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

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

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

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

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

BERT
-- But what?

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

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

MICKEY
Thanks for that Bert.

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

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

MICKEY
Not a word to Sally, I'm only doing this for her.
BERT
    (sounding sincere)
    I know you are little cracker, I
know you are.

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

INT. DR. HAMILTON'S OFFICE - DAY

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

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

    DR. EDWARDS
    Come in.

The door opens, it is Sally.

    DR. EDWARDS (CONT'D)
    Well, well, well, suicide Sally,
    what brings you here? I don't have
    you on my schedule for at least...
    Actually I don't put you down on my
    schedule, I never think you're going
to make it.

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

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

    SALLY
    Are you finished again? I hope you
didn't lead him off track.

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

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

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

SALLY
(angry)
I will never set foot in this place again.

DR. EDWARDS
Then my work here is done.

Sally walks out furious, slamming the door behind her.

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

EXT. OUTSIDE MICKEY’S HOUSE - DAY

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

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

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

The guys remain tight lipped.

JIMMY (CONT’D)
You can breathe you know.

Together they both let out a huge breath.

JIMMY (CONT’D)
I raised that boy as if he was my own... I might come across as a hard ass but at the end of the day he’s family.

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

After a few awkward moments Brad breaks the silence.
BRAD
So, why do you want the pet shop to fail?

JIMMY
(angrily)
Excuse me! I do not want the pet shop to fail.

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

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

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

BOB
Did you ever tell Mickey this?

JIMMY
No. I felt he would have quit.

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

Jimmy lifts his head up smiling.

BRAD
Was the pet shop ever successful?

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

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

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Do you guys know the difference between a tortoise and a turtle.

Brad and Bob look like a couple of deer caught in headlights.
Turtles have flatter backs than tortoises and spend most of their lives underwater.

INT. INSIDE MICKEY’S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

KITCHEN

In the kitchen they see the tortoise struggling in the water. Jimmy gently lifts it out. He places the tortoise on the ground, takes the duct tape off the shell and gives him some lettuce to eat.

JIMMY
Tortoises live entirely on land... Above water! They can`t swim and they could drown.
(pointing to the crack)
This does not require duct tape, it is in fact the design of the shell.

Bob puts his head in his hands.

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

JIMMY
(knocking on the shell)
It would take more than your dumb ass to break this shell.

BOB
We are very sorry Jimmy.

BRAD
Yes Jimmy, we were just trying to help.

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

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

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

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

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

BOB
You mean like a lamp or a chair.

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

They have that deer in the headlights look again.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
I'll take that as a no.

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

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

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

BRAD AND BOB
Ok.

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

MICKEY'S BEDROOM
Brad and Bob see the parrot and go over to pick him up.
Brad stops and grabs Bob by the arm. Bob is taken back.

BRAD
(whispering)
I know what we've got to do.

BOB
Me too.

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

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

BOB (confused)

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

BRAD AND BOB
Ted!

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

Brad picks up his phone and starts dialing.

BRAD (CONT'D)
Hello uncle Ted.

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

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

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

Gunshots are behind Ted.

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

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

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

Brad and Ted are still talking.
TED
You need what from me?

BRAD
I need some exotic animals, to be brought to Harry's pet shop, I'll pay you back, I promise.

TED
Your breaking up Brad.. You want animals you say. What kind of animals?

With the gunshots, Ted is finding it difficult to hear Brad.

Bob is still showing the picture of the centerfold to the parrot.

BOB
And look at that nice beaver.

HARRY THE PARROT
(screaming loudly)
Beaver, beaver, nice beaver!

Bob and Brad try to quiet the bird.

TED
I'll see what I can do.

Ted hangs up and Brad looks at the phone.

BRAD
Hello, hello anyone there?

Brad shrugs his shoulders.

KITCHEN WINDOW

Jimmy is outside removing the rock and digging up the box, he then takes off the lid to reveal the hamster, who is still lying there motionless.

Placing the hamster in the sunlight, he returns quickly and quietly back to the house.

The guys are walking downstairs, with the parrot in the cage.

Jimmy acts like he did nothing.

JIMMY
Good job, you got him, I think we are all done here...Didn't something else happen while you were here?

BOB
Yeah, the poor little hamster died.
Bob walks over towards Jimmy and points out the window to the grave.

BOB (CONT'D)
We buried him right....

Bob signals Brad over and they both look at the grave.

JIMMY
(acting inconspicuous)
What is it Bob?

Bob opens the door and walks out, followed by Brad and Jimmy.

EXT. BACK YARD MICKEY`S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Bob puts his hands over his mouth in disbelief.

The hamster opens his eyes; then starts to twitch. Bob looks closer at him; then he reaches his hands into the box and gently picks him up. A tear rolls down Bob`s face.

Brad picks up the rock that was removed.

Brad and Bob look at it intensely.

BRAD AND BOB
He has risen from the dead.

Bob holds the hamster up so they are eye to eye.

BOB
You are him, you are Jesus.

He then raises him as high as he can, into the sky.

BOB (CONT'D)
Our savior has returned!

EXT. OUTSIDE SALLY`S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Sally ascends the steps, where she is met by Bert and a prostitute.

SALLY
Just one prostitute today Bert, is Desiree starting early?

BERT
Yeah, you could say that, what you up to?

SALLY
You didn`t see Mickey around did you? I thought he might have come here to see me.
BERT
(a abruptly)
No.no.no. I haven`t seen the little cracker.

Bert puts his arm across the doorway, blocking Sally.

SALLY
(a a little confused)
Excuse me Bert, can I get past you?

Bert removes his arm.

Sally ignores the elevator and walks towards the stairs at the back, right past Bert's apartment.

BERT
The elevator is working you know.

SALLY
(turning around)
I need the exercise.

INT. BERT'S APARTMENT 1A - CONTINUOUS

HALLWAY
The door of 1A opens and Desiree walks out.

Sally is standing right in front of it.

SALLY
You taught some old dog new tricks?

Desiree looks disgusted, shakes her head and pushes the door open; then walks towards Bert.

Mickey is sitting on a chair facing the door, boxer shorts on, staring at the ceiling. He drops his head, only to see Sally staring back with her mouth open wide and the most horrified look on her face.

Mickey leaps up from the couch, Sally glaring at his boxers, notices that he is bigger than usual.

Sally doesn`t know whether to be mortified or confused. She then sniffs an awful smell.

MICKEY
(holding the bottle of pills)
Apparently anal seepage is a side effect.

Sally puts one hand over her face, screams and runs up to her apartment.
MICKEY (CONT'D)
(putting his clothes back on)
Sally, I can explain.

EXT. OUTSIDE SALLY’S APARTMENT - LATER

Mickey is outside Sally’s door; Weston is on the floor with his head down.

WINSTON
Boy, you are dumb.

MICKEY
I have no time for your insults. Did Sally go in here or not?

WINSTON
Yeah she’s in there, doing what, I don’t know.

Mickey starts banging on the door with haste.

MICKEY
Sally open up, I can explain, please this time give me a chance to...
(slowing down the knocking on the door)
...Sally it was for you.

Mickey slowly slides down the door until he is level with Winston.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
I keep messing up. I don’t want to hurt her, I just want to make things better so she will appreciate me more.

The door unlocks and Mickey jumps up and opens it. He puts his head around the corner and looks in.

INT. SALLY’S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Sally is sitting on the couch watching T.V., being completely quiet.

Mickey walks slowly towards her, practically creeping.

MICKEY
Sally...I'm sorry Sally, listen I don't want to hurt you.

SALLY
(Jumping up off the couch)
So you keep telling me.
MICKEY
I did it for you.

SALLY
(raising her voice)
Oh well thank you, fucking a prostitute for me how very nice. You could have just brought me flowers.
(eyes tearing up)
Instead of herpes.

There is a knock at the door, Sally and Mickey turn around and see Winston standing there.

WINSTON
May I come in?

MICKEY
We are kind of in the middle of something.

SALLY
You can come in Winston, you’re always welcome in my home.

Mickey gives Sally an evil look. Winston walks over to a chair next to the couch.

WINSTON
(Gesturing with his hands)
Please sit, you are making me uncomfortable.

Separated by a cushion, they both sit on the couch with their arms folded.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
I don’t really know you guys too well. I feel like I should, so why don’t you tell me something I don’t know...You go first Mickey.

Mickey is visibly confused, but starts to talk anyway.

MICKEY
Well Winston, where do I start...I am a few days from putting a closed for good sign in front of my pet shop...

Winston leans forward.

WINSTON
I'm sorry, what happened?
MICKEY
When I was six my mom died. So my dad who was a veterinarian, decided to open a pet shop to get over my mom’s death...

(eyes are a little misty)

...Well his brother Jimmy decided to land over from Ireland and help out. Needless to say they both spent most of the time arguing over how to make it successful.

Mickey stops for a minute and catches his breath.

Sally watches his face and notices sadness in his voice.

WINSTON
Take your time.

MICKEY
My Dad died a year later, apparently bitten by one of his animals, a yellow fattail scorpion...For some reason he decided to bring in exotic animals, he said it would create character and bring in more business.

Sally puts her hand over her mouth and tears start to stream from her eyes.

SALLY
(consoling Mickey)
Oh my God, when I first met you I asked you for some of the most poisonous animals in the world, so I could kill myself, you must have felt I was --

MICKEY
-- It's alright, you didn't know.

Winston starts to bleed out of one nostril. Mickey points it out to him and he wipes it with his sleeve.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
Well since my dad died, Jimmy has become more of a recluse. My dad’s last wish was for him to look after me...It feels like the other way around. He doesn’t care about the pet shop, or me...

WINSTON (interrupting)
Now that's not true. Your uncle loves you very much and I'm sure he would not let his brother's pet shop fail.
MICKEY
I'm sorry, you're wrong there Winston, if you knew my uncle Jimmy, you would know what a mean-hearted bastard he is.

Winston jumps up wagging his finger in fury at Mickey.

Mickey is taken aback by Winston's actions.

Winston starts to pace back and forth in front of Sally and Mickey; their heads follow him.

SALLY
Is something the matter Winston?

Winston is biting down on his hand, to keep from talking and then he finally breaks.

WINSTON
I do know your uncle, in fact I know him very well... You see he was a patient of mine..

MICKEY
(confused)
Patient. What do you mean patient?

WINSTON
(takes a deep breath)
Jimmy used to see me twice a week after your dad died, I was his psychiatrist. He was very depressed and only ever talked about doing what`s right for you.

MICKEY
This is the same uncle Jimmy?

Winston sits back down as Sally and Mickey move to the edge of the couch.

Winston starts to bleed out the other nostril, Sally hands him a tissue.

WINSTON
Thanks Sally...Yes James Riley, the very same. You see it was Jimmy's idea to bring in exotic pets to the store, because your dad's business was slowing down like it is now...Well, your dad was reluctant, but then decided it couldn't hurt...Well obviously it did a lot more than hurt... it killed him.

SALLY
That`s horrible.
WINSTON
And with your mom gone, all
responsibilities fell on Jimmy.
Including you. He also felt
responsible for your dad’s death.

MICKEY
He didn’t know a scorpion was going
to bite him.
(turning to Sally)
Wow, he was actually trying to save
the business.

WINSTON
Yes he was and it was attracting a
lot of customers. Although there was
one other incident, which didn’t
help Jimmy at all.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

Jimmy is alone in the pet shop, he is starting to remove all
the exotic pets and as he is handling two cobras, the door
bell rings, he forgets to close the lid on the tank.

The two snakes slither out of the tank and hide in the store.

The Westons enter looking very mischievous.

JIMMY
Do you need any help with anything?

MR. WESTON
No we are just looking.

The Westons walk towards the back of the store. Jimmy walks
over to the box were he put the cobras and notices them
missing.

Jimmy gets down on his hands and knees and looks around the
floor.

A young Mickey Riley comes running in through the front door.
Jimmy grabs him by the scruff of the neck and throws him
outside.

EXT. PET SHOP - CONTINUOUS - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

JIMMY
Get out of here Mickey. This is no
place for you to be right now.

MICKEY
Jesus Christ! Uncle Jimmy go easy.

JIMMY
(wagging his finger)
Don't you ever use the Lor...
Jimmy hears a scream inside and then another.

INT. PET SHOP - CONTINUOUS - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

He quickly runs to the back of the store. Both Mr and Mrs. Weston are holding their eyes.

    MR. WESTON
    (in agony)
    It burns, it burns.

Jimmy sees the two cobras hissing in the corner, he manages to get them back in the box and calls an ambulance.

    MR. WESTON (CONT'D)
    (threatening)
    You have not heard the last of us.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

    SALLY
    (mortified)
    That's my parents. That's how they both became blind.
    (looking at Mickey)
    Your son of a bitch uncle blinded my parents.

    MICKEY
    (shouting back)
    What! No. Wait a minute, the cobras blinded your parents.
    (getting defensive)
    Anyway if your parents were able to see, they might not have taken you in as child.

    SALLY
    (shouting)
    For what you lack in penis, you make up for in asshole!

Sally and Mickey are right in each others faces.

Winston steps in and pushes them apart.

    WINSTON
    Settle down you two, you are completely off track.

They both pout.

    WINSTON (CONT'D)
    Now Mickey you love the pet store and the animals correct?

    MICKEY
    Yes.
WINSTON
Its about to close down correct?

MICKEY
Thanks for the update. You know that, what are you saying?

WINSTON
What are you doing here? ... I mean if your business is closing down and you love it so much, why aren’t you down there trying to save it?

Mickey turns and looks at Sally with puppy dog eyes.

MICKEY
There’s something that’s just as important to me in life and if I can’t save both, I choose Sally.

Sally puts her hand over her heart and smiles.

SALLY
But if you love me so much, why were you having sex with a prostitute?

Mickey removes the pills from his pocket.

MICKEY
I wanted to be more satisfying for you, so I figured the whore could teach me some moves.

Sally looks deeply into Mickey’s eyes.

SALLY
That is one of the most romantic things any guy has ever done for me.

They kiss passionately.

Mickey is still holding the bottle in his hand, when Winston grabs it from him and starts to read the label.

WINSTON
Sorry to interrupt, but where did you get these?

MICKEY
From Dr. Edwards.

WINSTON
(snarling)
Dr. Edwards eh. That son of a bitch.

MICKEY
You know him.
WINSTON
Know him. I taught him.

Mickey and Sally look at each other, then at Winston.

MICKEY AND SALLY
You're Dr. Hamilton.

WINSTON
The one and only...
(sits back)
I ran out on your Uncle Jimmy, that's when I finally cracked...
(sighing)
Everyday I was hearing more sad and depressing stories, but none like Jimmy's. I feel terrible for what I did, but I think it made him stronger.

Mickey nods head in approval.

MICKEY
Well, I suppose we should get going and prepare for the worst.

Mickey and Sally walk hand in hand towards the door.

WINSTON
Hey guys.

They stop and turn around.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
Everything works out in the end. If it hasn't worked out, it's not the end.

They both smile.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

The front door opens. Jimmy, Brad carrying the parrot and Bob with the hamster in his pocket, walk through.

Jake is sitting behind the counter, he just hung up the phone.

JIMMY
Anything happen since we were gone?

JAKe
Not much. Apart from Chad calling, threatening to cut your nuts off...
(thinking)
Oh yeah, we also received a crate out back with a lot of noise rustling around... and those two people
(MORE)
JAKE (CONT'D)
(pointing down the aisle)
seemed very interested in Mickey and yourself.

Jimmy looks down the aisle and sees the Westons banging into the shelves. He has not seen them since the cobra incident.

JIMMY
(sighing)
Well, don't know what Chad`s problem is?. You guys figure out the crate.
(taking a deep breath)
I`ll take care of these two.

The three guys walk out towards the back of the store to where the crate is.

The Westons turn their attention to Jimmy`s voice.

MR. WESTON
It may have been quite a few years ago, but I still recognize that voice.

Mr. Weston is waving his cane back and forth across the aisle, banging into cages.

JIMMY
Please, your upsetting the animals.

MR. WESTON
(shouting back)
Upsetting them, my wife and I are blinded for life because of them!

Jimmy walks backwards and trips over himself.

Mr. Weston realizes Jimmy fell over and stands over the top of him ready to strike him with his cane.

As Jimmy holds his hands up to protect himself, the front door opens.

Mickey and Sally storm in.

SALLY
(Screaming)
Dad no.

Mr. Weston looks over in the direction of Sally`s voice. He is still holding his cane in the air. Sally walks over and takes the cane from him, Mickey helps his uncle up.

SALLY (CONT'D)
He is not responsible for your blindness, you are.
Her parents gasp in amazement.

MRS. WESTON
Sally, how could you say such a thing?

SALLY
The only way a cobra would have spit at you, was if you cornered it. Snakes are afraid of humans.

MRS. WESTON
(sighing)
You’re right Sally. We were messing around and we noticed the two snakes escaping --

MR. WESTON
-- We followed them to the back of the store, while Jimmy was protecting some little boy, probably his son...

Mickey looks proudly at Jimmy.

MR. WESTON (CONT'D)
...From getting bit.

MRS. WESTON
Then we cornered them, they just rose up and we stood there in awe. Before we knew it, we were both holding our eyes in agony. We never told Sally what happened, we felt dumb.

MR. WESTON
So the easiest thing was to blame the shop owner, when it was our own stupidity...

(holding out his hand)
...I'm sorry Jimmy.

Jimmy reaches out and shakes his hand.

JIMMY
(turning to Sally)
If you didn’t know and I never told Mickey how did --

A voice is heard from the background.

WINSTON
-- I told them.

Jimmy looks like he has seen a ghost.

JIMMY
Dr. Winston Hamilton where did you go?
WINSTON
Ohh Jimmy it`s a long story.

Jake, Bob and Brad enter from the back door, they look at everyone and everyone looks at them, except the Westons who are looking at the ceiling.

JAKE
(to Mickey and Jimmy)
You gotta come see this.

Everyone makes their way out the back door, they stand in front of a huge crate.

Jake removes the lid of the crate, Jimmy, Mickey and Sally all look in. It is full of live beavers.

MICKEY
Why is there a crate full of live beavers?

All eyes go to Brad and Bob.

BRAD
Wait a minute. You don't think we have anything to do with this.

Jimmy pulls a note off the side of the crate.

All eyes go to Jimmy.

JIMMY
(reading the note)
Brad, here are the nice beavers you wanted, strange request, I hope you have fun with them. Ted.

All eyes go back to Brad and Bob.

BRAD
(pointing to Mickey)
It was your parrot!

Jimmy turns around to Mickey, completely ignoring Brad's comment.

He puts out his hand. There is an awkward silent moment, everyone is smiling uncomfortably.

JIMMY
I'm sorry kid. I should have been more honest.

MICKEY
No Uncle Jimmy I'm sorry. I respect you for everything you have done for me.
Mickey leans in and gives him a huge hug.

Simultaneously looking up the heavens, as if Harry is giving them a big thumbs up.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
I think we should go more exotic with our animals. You know drum up more business.

JIMMY
I was afraid you would say that.

MICKEY
It's ok, Winston told me everything. You're not responsible for my dad's death.

JIMMY
I was hoping you would say that.

A rustling noise can be heard from behind a garbage can; Chad appears.

CHAD
(angry)
I'll be responibill for youa deaf.

Chad is aiming a meat cleaver at Jimmy.

Jimmy puts his hands up and walks backwards.

MICKEY
What are you doing Chad? Put down the knife.

CHAD
He call immigration on me.

JIMMY
I swear on the Lord I didn't.

MICKEY
See Chad. He never swears on the Lord unless he means it.

CHAD
Well if he didn't, who did?

Chad points the meat cleaver at everyone, they all back off.

Everyone shakes their head in denial.

Chad's cell phone rings, it has the ringtone "BORN IN THE U.S.A" by Bruce Springsteen. He looks at the caller id, it is his brother from the Chinese government.
Nervously as he answers it, shouting in Chinese, he then hangs up and drops the cleaver.

JAKE
Everything ok, there buddy?

CHAD
Ram sorri Jimmy, my bruva calld immigration.

JAKE
Your brother, why would he do that?

CHAD
China cut down lot of trees ery day. We use big machines and chainsaws, that give off lot of gases, hurt environment.

(angry)
He gay me one yea in America to find solution. I find wok at bar and sing karaoke, not green man. Now INS after me.

Mickey and Jimmy look at each other as if they have just won the lottery.

MICKEY
(to Chad)
We may have something for you.

Mickey removes the lid of the crate, Chad looks in and sees the beavers.

CHAD
Beavas?

MICKEY
Yes beavas, I mean beavers, mother nature`s very own chainsaws, environmentally friendly and at a decent price.

INT. PET SHOP - NIGHT

Mickey, Jimmy and Sally remain in the pet shop as they are getting ready to lock up. The Westons and Winston are the last to leave.

Jimmy stops Winston as he is going out the door.

JIMMY
Would you like a drink?...On me.

Winston smiles.

WINSTON
Sure, I promise I won`t run out.
Jimmy grabs his coat, as they go off to Murphy's bar.

Mickey and Sally are talking to the Westons.

    MR. WESTON
    Take care of my little girl please.

    MICKEY
    (putting his arms
     around Sally)
    Sure thing Mr. Weston.

Mickey puts his hand in his pocket and pulls out a Rubik's cube.

    MICKEY (CONT'D)
    Here, give this to David for me.

    MRS. WESTON
    Why that's very thoughtful of you
    Michael. He's a keeper, Sally.

They all hug, then the Westons leave.

Mickey swings the open sign around to read closed, then he puts the lock on.

He holds Sally around her waist.

    MICKEY
    I can't believe in two days we are
    going to have $30,000 wired to us.
    We can finally pay off the debt,
    bring in exotic animals, spruce the
    place up a bit...Winston is right,
    it does work out in the end.

Mickey gives Sally a huge kiss.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

Mickey turns the closed sign to open. He is very happy like a kid on Christmas morning as things are finally coming together.

Brad, Bob and Jake walk in together. Mickey greets them with a hearty handshake.

    MICKEY
    Isn't it a wonderful day guys.

    JAKE
    (confused)
    I suppose so... Where is Jimmy?

    MICKEY
    Ohh. Jimmy. He's taking a well earned rest.
Then Mickey hugs Brad. Brad has a terrified look on his face. He continues to hold him.

Brad makes a signal to the other guys to get him off. Mickey then releases.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
You and those beavers, you have just helped save my business. It`s a miracle.

BOB
This is the miracle.

Bob pulls the hamster out of his pocket.

MICKEY
(pointing to the hamster)
Why have you got my hamster in your pocket?

BOB
It`s not just a hamster...It`s Jesus.

Mickey looks over at Jake in confusion, Jake shrugs his shoulders not knowing anything.

MICKEY
Ok then...
(rubbing his hands)
Well today we get our money.

The pet shop door opens, it`s Winston. He is carrying a note and hands it over to Mickey.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
What`s this?

WINSTON
It`s from your uncle, he asked me to give it to you.

Mickey reads the note aloud.

MICKEY
Dear Mickey, I am so proud of you, as your dad would be. I can no longer continue to look after the pet shop with you. I am getting too old for it and you seem to have everything under control. I`m going back home to Ireland, my work is done here.
Love Uncle Jimmy.

Mickey takes a seat, his face changes from happy to sad, like his world has been flipped upside down.
WINSTON
He was really impressed with you, he wants you to fly and spread your wings and fly on your own. You have great friends around you and a great girl. Keep your head up son.

Winston turns and walks out the door.

A tear starts to roll from Mickey`s eye. He looks up at the guys.

The hamster climbs out of Bob`s pocket and makes his way onto Mickey`s lap.

BOB
Jesus is with you too.

Suddenly they all hear a screeching sound out back.

EXT. BACK OF PET SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Outside Chad is dropping off the crate in a pick-up truck full of hay.

MICKEY
What`s going on? Why are you returning the crate and where is my money?

CHAD
Ok too many questions. No money ok. The beavers all die on first day in China, no goo wiv Chinese air. Now my brola wan me back in China even more, I have to reave America, goodbye.

Chad speeds off in the pick-up truck, as the guy`s jaws all drop.

Jake removes the lid from the crate. There is a great stench from it as he looks in.

The beavers are all dead.

Mickey walks slowly back into the pet shop, looking dejected. Everyone follows.

INT. PET SHOP - CONTINUOUS

The parrot is flying around the store, Brad catches the parrot and holds him.

MICKEY
I don`t get it. Ten minutes ago I was on top of the world, I had great plans for my uncle.

(MORE)
MICKEY (CONT'D)
Now I feel like someone just took a huge dump on me and then poured concrete over it, just to make sure it was encased.

Brad signals to Bob to go to the other side of the counter.

BRAD
This will cheer you up.

Brad starts swinging the parrot against the counter, re-doing the dead parrot sketch from Monty Python.

BRAD (CONT'D)
This parrot is dead.

BOB
It's not dead.

Brad continues to hit the parrot against the counter, Brad and Bob laugh.

Mickey is incredulous.

MICKEY
What the fuck are you doing? You are really killing my bird.

Brad stops swinging him, the parrot is motionless.

Mickey gets up and walks out of the store.

BRAD
Where are you going?

MICKEY
(flipping him off)
Here's a bird for you.

INT. PET SHOP - LATER
Sally walks into the pet shop and notices the three guys standing around dumfounded.

SALLY
Well, where is my ray of sunshine?

JAKE
We don't know, he left in a very depressed mood about an hour ago and hasn't returned.

SALLY
What? And you never thought to stop him.
   (looking at the parrot)
What's wrong with him?
Suddenly there is a scream from outside the store, an old lady is pointing above the store.

Sally, Brad, Bob and Jake quickly run outside, they look up and see Mickey standing on a ledge three stories up.

A crowd starts to gather...

SALLY (CONT'D)
Mickey get down from there, you could kill yourself.

MICKEY
(sarcastically)
You of all people, should know that's the point.

Sally is disgusted and folds her arms in rage.

The crowd begins to grow. A T.V. crew gets set up in the background.

TV REPORTER
I am standing in front of Harry's pet shop...

Bob puts his hand in his pocket.

BOB
It's ok Mickey, Jesus will save you.

Bob holds the hamster up high.

MICKEY
Bob, you are an idiot! The hamster is not Jesus, he is just a hamster, who happened to go into a torpor state when he got cold.

Bob looks confused.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
He was hibernating and you buried him alive.

Bob puts his hands over the hamster's ears. He is also disgusted.

BOB
(to the hamster)
Non-believer.

BRAD
We just want to help you, Mickey.

MICKEY
Help me! Help me!
(MORE)
MICKEY (CONT'D)
You call killing my parrot helping me, or shocking the hell out of my dog, ordering a crate full of beaver carcasses as exotic animals. Ooooohhhh that should bring in more business.

Now Brad is angered at him.
Mickey is taking no prisoners.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
(to Jake sarcastically)
Thank you Jake, for your uncle`s number, he was a great help, I would get better advice from Kurt Cobain!

He nearly slips on the ledge, but catches himself, the crowd gasps.

Winston steps out from the crowd.

WINSTON
So this is what it all comes down to.

MICKEY
This must be the end then Winston.

WINSTON
So you insult your friends, your girlfriend and your uncle.

MICKEY
My uncle?

WINSTON
Your uncle raised you, when you had nobody, he poured his savings and his heart into giving you a chance in life and taking care of your dad`s store and this is the thanks he gets.

Mickey`s eyes start to tear up.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
And look at your friends. You know what, they might have failed in what they tried to do, but they did try and they did it for you.

SALLY
I love you Mickey, you saved my life, now don`t waste yours.

Mickey looks down at all his friends and smiles. Realizing he is making a mistake, his heart softens and he apologizes to everyone.
He starts to make his way back to the open window he came out of, when he slips and falls.

SLOW MOTION

Mickey is plummeting towards the ground, everyone has a look of panic on their face, except Bob.

Bob whispers in the hamster's ear and then holds him up.

The crowd begin to part like the Red Sea.

Chad appears from nowhere in his pick-up truck full of hay and backs it up to the Pet Shop.

Mickey lands on the hay in the back of the truck.

BACK TO NORMAL

The crowd cheer.

Sally runs over to Mickey and gives him a big hug.

   SALLY
   I knew you would be ok.

   MICKEY
   Why's that?

   SALLY
   You weren't high enough, you need to go up at least another level next time.

   MICKEY
   I'll keep that in mind.

Brad, Jake and the rest of the crowd are congratulating Chad.

Bob holds the hamster at eye level.

   BOB
   I know it's you Jesus.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

The crowd has dispersed, while Mickey, Sally, Brad, Bob, Jake and Chad all hang out joking and laughing.

The door opens and INS man walks in. Everyone stands in front of Chad.

   JAKE
   You can't have him.

   INS MAN
   Chad Smith I want to talk to you.
Chad appears from behind his friends; he looks very sad. He reassures them and walks over to the INS man with his hands held out ready to be handcuffed.

The INS puts his hand in his back pocket and pulls out a piece of paper. He begins to read it.

INS MAN (CONT'D)

Dear Chad Smith, it is with great honor that I grant you citizenship to the United States of America for your heroic role in saving another human beings life. Yours truly the president.

CHAD
(dancing)
I can stay.

The INS Man hands the paper over to Chad, everyone jumps up and down with excitement.

INT. PET SHOP - LATER

Chad has left the store, Mickey is standing over the counter looking at Harry the parrot who is still lying unconscious.

MICKEY
He was my old man`s first pet.

Sally puts her arm around him.

SALLY
Sometimes you have just got to move on and let the past go.

Mickey takes a deep breath and sighs, as he pulls out a shoebox.

Bob is whispering to the hamster again, this time Jesus the hamster crawls down Bob`s arm and onto the counter were the bird lays. All eyes are focused on him.

He approaches the parrot and nudges him. The parrot opens one eye, then the other and stands up.

Everyone is amazed except Bob. Mickey has a big smile on his face again.

MICKEY
Hold on to that hamster Bob, you could have something there.

The stench of the dead beavers makes it`s way into the pet shop. Everyone holds their breath.
BRAD
You know what, after today I think I need a holiday.

Everyone agrees, then Mickey and Sally turn and face each other as if they both just discovered a cure for cancer.

MICKEY AND SALLY
(Jumping up and down excitedly)
Holiday Movie!

EXT. PET SHOP — DAY

It is a beautiful sunny day, Mickey has his hands on his hips as he looks up at the "HARRY’s PET SHOP" sign which has a new look, the store has a fresh coat of paint and looks brand new.

He walks inside.

INT. PET SHOP — DAY

The Pet Shop is crowded with customers. There are all sorts of exotic animals on display.

Mickey, Sally, Brad, Bob and Jake are all standing around the counter.

MICKEY
No more debt, we now own the building.
I sent Uncle Jimmy his retirement money. Now this is the end.

JAKE
You never did tell us were you got the money from.

EXT. BROOKLYN NEW YORK — DAY

Hasidic Jews gather around the crate as one of them opens the lid. They dance with joy and pray to God, as they start handing out the beaver carcasses for hats.

INT. PET SHOP — CONTINUOUS

JAKE
Ohhhhhh. If only it could have been a little easier.

Jesus the hamster is crawling all over Bob, he then climbs into Bob’s back pocket and pulls out a card.

MICKEY
What`s he got there Bob?

Bob picks it up and looks at it.
BOB
(laughing)
Oh yeah. My ticket, this is the reason why I stopped working. I won the lotto. I forgot about this.

Bob looks up just in time to see Sally`s fist coming at his face.

FADE OUT.