

I HATE YOU DAD

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Revisions
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SUPER: NEW JERSEY - 1984

INT. GRADE SCHOOL - MORNING

15 YEAR OLD DONNY stands with his BUDDIES at his locker. He pulls out TWO CONCERT TICKETS -- the Buddies ADMIRE them.

15 YEAR OLD DONNY
Read em and weep. Springsteen at
the Meadowlands. Third row. I
bagged a lot of groceries to get
these. Now all I need is a date.

Donny looks across the hall: A group of GIGGLING GIRLS talk by their lockers. The boys evaluate them.

BUDDY
You should take Jolene, man. I bet
she'd let you feel her up.

15 YEAR OLD DONNY
Jolene has a Rick Springfield
backpack. This is The Boss. Get
serious. Ugh, I think I'm just not
into girls anymore.
(off his buddies' SHOCK)
I'm into *women*.

Donny NODS toward the end of the hall -- they turn --

SLOW-MOTION: The sea of kids parts -- in STRUTS the hottest teacher of the 1980s, MARY MCGARRICLE.

Buddy SHIVERS -- then covers his crotch with an "A-TEAM" folder. Donny SMILES coolly, steps forward.

15 YEAR OLD DONNY (CONT'D) (cont'd)
Hey Mary, you're lookin smokin hot
today. Got two tickets to
Springsteen this weekend, you in?

MARY MCGARRICLE
(incredulous)
It's "Miss McGarricle," Donny. And
I appreciate the offer, but I think
you're a little young for me.

15 YEAR OLD DONNY
C'mon, I've seen the way you look
at me in my gym shorts. It's okay.
Let yourself have this.

He kisses his bicep.

MARY MCGARRICLE

Quite a swagger you have there,
young man. But I'm your teacher,
not your girlfriend.

15 YEAR OLD DONNY

Whoa, whoa, Miss McGarricle, who
said anything about "girlfriend?"
Let's just start with a summer
fling - a couple of HJ's, rock the
wild thang, no expectations - see
where it goes. Don't get all psycho
on me right away.

His buddies laugh -- Mary McGarricle's pissed.

MARY MCGARRICLE

If by "HJ's" you mean "handjobs," I
usually only give handjobs to guys
that've gone through puberty.

BUDDIES

Ooooooh!/Burned!/She knows what it
means!

15 YEAR OLD DONNY

(goes red, embarrassed)
Oh yeah? Well...um...
(PULLS down his shorts
just enough)
What time should I pick you up!?

Donny laughs but no one else does. Miss McGarricle is pissed.
His laughter dies down as he realizes he went too far...

INT. MARY MCGARRICLE'S CLASSROOM - AFTER SCHOOL

Donny sits at a desk, the only student in the classroom. Miss
McGarricle grades a paper at her desk. Donny enters -- she
doesn't look up, she just keeps writing.

15 YEAR OLD DONNY

Can I go to the bathroom?

MARY MCGARRICLE

No! No talking in detention, Mr.
Levine.

15 YEAR OLD DONNY

I'm sorry for what I did, okay? I
promise I won't do it again.

MARY MCGARRICLE

What were your intentions? What were you trying to do? Impress your friends by mocking the teacher?

15 YEAR OLD DONNY

(shy)

I guess I just...wanted to look cool, I dunno.

MARY MCGARRICLE

And you think it's cool to hit on me.

15 YEAR OLD DONNY

I guess it was a stupid thing to do.

MARY MCGARRICLE

Was it?

15 YEAR OLD DONNY

Huh?

MARY MCGARRICLE

Well, are you attracted me or not?

15 YEAR OLD DONNY

No! I mean, you know, I guess. Enough.

MARY MCGARRICLE

A real man doesn't say something unless he can back it up.

15 YEAR OLD DONNY

(confused)

Okay...

MARY MCGARRICLE

It's like that commercial: "Where's the beef?" Do you know that commerical, Donny?

15 YEAR OLD DONNY

Uhhh, yeah.

MARY MCGARRICLE

So then I'm asking you...

She pulls down the shade blocking the window to the hallway.

MARY MCGARRICLE (cont'd)

Where's the beef?

15 YEAR OLD DONNY
Ah...ahh...I dunno.

She goes over and sits right next to him.

MARY MCGARRICLE
You're in a lot of trouble, Donny.

15 YEAR OLD DONNY
(scared like a kid)
Wait, you're not gonna call my dad,
are you? He'll kick my ass.
Seriously. C'mon, I was just
kidding around.

MARY MCGARRICLE
So you don't want me?

15 YEAR OLD DONNY
What? No. I mean, yeah. I'm not
sure what I'm supposed to say here.

Mary leans in closer to him.

MARY MCGARRICLE
I've been watching you for a long
time. You may have the pubic mound
of a fifteen-year-old, but I can
see in your eyes that you have a
soul of a man...

15 YEAR OLD DONNY
(insanely nervous)
Maybe because I'm wearing contacts?

MARY MCGARRICLE
(whispering)
I graded your paper...

She shows him the paper she was "grading", hands it to him:
it's covered in junior high style love doodles (Mary+Donny 4
Ever; hearts; etc.) Donny's eyes WIDEN. She LETS DOWN HER
HAIR.

15 YEAR OLD DONNY
Ohmigod, is this happening?

MARY MCGARRICLE
Oh it's happening, Donny. Right
now.

She puts a HAND through his hair -- he rambles nervously.

15 YEAR OLD DONNY

Okay, yeah, awesome. I'm totally in. But, um, so how do you wanna do it? I mean - I've made love before - a lot of ways. How should we start? Just go straight to handjobs, or --

She puts a finger to his lips. She takes her glasses off.

15 YEAR OLD DONNY (cont'd)

Oh...actually do you mind keeping the glasses on?

She puts the glasses back on. Leans in.

His voice cracks --

15 YEAR OLD DONNY (CONT'D) (cont'd)

I'm - a virgin.

MARY MCGARRICLE

Don't worry. I'm not.

HER LIPS APPROACH HIS LIPS--

15 YEAR OLD DONNY

...teach me everything...

SMASH CUT TO:

"HOT FOR TEACHER" by Van Halen kicks in. Credits begin over the following MONTAGE:

--STREET: Donny speeds down a suburban street on his bicycle, arrives at Mary's house, runs to the back.

--MARY'S BACKYARD: Mary's waiting for Donny in her steaming HOT TUB. Donny approaches, slo-mo, a four-pack of BARTLES & JAYMES wine coolers in hand.

--CLASSROOM: Mary and Donny sneak secret looks to each other in class.

--DRIVE-IN: Mary pulls into a drive-in movie, buys a ticket, then sneaks Donny out of the trunk of her car.

--DRIVE-IN: *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock* is on the screen. Mary's car windows are completely fogged up.

--TEMPLE: Donny speaks at his Hebrew school confirmation, his father MARVIN by his side. In the back, Mary shows up, taking off her coat to reveal a HOT DRESS.

--TEMPLE: Later at the confirmation, Donny opens Mary's gift: It's a game cartridge of FROGGER. Under the cartridge is her second gift: "Joy of Sex"

--TEACHER'S LOUNGE: The FOOTBALL COACH is flirting with Mary. She turns away and throws up in the waste basket.

--CLASSROOM: Mary can no longer hide her pregnant belly. The PRINCIPAL interrupts the class and asks to speak with her.

--SCHOOL ENTRANCE: THE COPS handcuff Mary and take her away, kicking and screaming. Donny watches, the school monitor holding him back.

"HOT FOR TEACHER" continues under A SERIES OF OVERLAPPING SOUND-BYTES AND IMAGES:

--NEWS FOOTAGE of the same scene of Mary getting taken away.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

Mary Beth McGarricle, a middle school teacher was arrested on suspicion of an improper relationship with a fifteen year old student...

--WOMAN ON THE STREET - INTERVIEW

WOMAN ON STREET

...this is what we pay our teachers to do? What happened to teaching math? What about science? What about English? What about history? Do I need to go on? What about French? What about gym?

--DIFFERENT NEWS FOOTAGE - COURTROOM:

Mary rises for her sentencing...

NEWS ANCHOR 2 (V.O.)

...was found guilty today on fifteen counts of statutory rape...

--MAN-ON-STREET INTERVIEW:

GUY ON STREET

...don't know 'bout you, but this is every fifteen-year-old boy's fantasy as far as I'm concerned. End of story. Where was she when I was 15? End of story...

--SCHOOL YARD - Kids listen to their Walkmans before school.

HOWARD STERN (V.O.)
 So Robin, turns out Mary the Sex
 Teacher's going to the big house
 for thirty years.

ROBIN QUIVERS (V.O.)
 Serves her right.

HOWARD STERN (V.O.)
 (sexual)
 Oh man what I would do to her...

--COURTROOM - The JUDGE addresses Mary, Donny and Marvin.

JUDGE
 ...furthermore, the court grants
 custody of the unborn child to
 Donny Levine's father, Marvinin
 Levine, until Donny is 18, at which
 time, he will assume full custody.

Marvin SLAPS Donny on the back of the head.

MARVIN
 What part of "If you're gonna dip
 your donkey you slap on a raincoat"
 don't you understand?

DONNY
 All parts of it.

Flashbulbs go off. The crowd erupts in chatter.

HOWARD STERN (V.O.)
 So hot girl, ex-teacher, 29 years
 old, locked up in there... how soon
 till she goes full-on lesbo?

ROBIN QUIVERS (V.O.)
 Can we finish the news?

HOWARD STERN (V.O.)
 One day? A week? Ohh, girl on
 girl...

Reporters descend as the bailiff pulls Mary away. She turns
 back toward the courtroom.

MARY MCGARRICLE
 TAKE CARE OF OUR SON, DONNY!

"Hot for Teacher" and CREDITS continue...

--ANGLE ON MARVIN (Donny's father) holding the little BABY.

--REVEAL Marvin in the wings of a TV STUDIO, the MORTON DOWNEY JR. SHOW is already in progress. The audience is up on their feet yelling and screaming.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Donny! You the man! You're my hero!

--SALLY JESSY RAPHAEL SHOW

SALLY JESSY

What's it like being a father at 14?

DONNY

It's cool I guess.

--Donny on various 80's LOW-BROW TALK SHOWS (Thicke of the Night, Al Goldstein, Robin Byrd, Joe Franklin)

--BRUCE SPRINSTEEN CONCERT: Donny is swarmed by fans wanting his autograph.

--Trivial Pursuit commercial: A family playing "Trivial Pursuit"

MOM

Arts & Literature!

SON

Who chronicled his private lessons in the 1985 book "Head in the Class?"

MOM

Donny Levine!

--DONNY'S SECOND BOOK RELEASE PARTY - at Grandpa's, the NYC Italian Restaurant. Donny and Munsters star "Grandpa" Al Lewis pose for pictures with an enlarged cover of the new book: "EXTRA CREDIT: More Of The Donny Levine Story"

--BUD LIGHT COMMERCIAL

The Bud Light dog SPUDS MACKENZIE rides in a red convertible.

ROBIN LEACH (V.O.)

Every party animal needs a designated driver - even Spuds MacKenzie!

Reveal DONNY driving.

DONNY

I've got my learning permit, so
until I turn 21, this is how I
party!

Cut to Spuds surrounded by Donny and three BIKINI GIRLS
dancing as the BUD LIGHT LOGO.

--A CLIP FROM A MADE-FOR-TV MOVIE, about Donny's story.
Starring Ian Ziering from "90210" as Donny, and Heather
Thomas ("Fall Guy") as Miss McGarricle.

--DONNY'S HOUSE - Marvin is changing the (now two-year-old)
baby's diaper, an annoyed look on his face. He glances at the
TV in the other room, and sees:

--WWF WRESTLING SHOW: Hulk Hogan fights Superfly Snuka.
Superfly has Hulk in a headlock, then from out of nowhere,
Donny enters the ring and sneaks up behind Snuka and hits him
in the back of the head with a folding chair. Hulk spins
around and pins Snuka for a three count. He then picks up
Donny over his head. Everyone chants "DONNY, DONNY".

As "Hot for Teacher" comes to a triumphant end, Donny raises
his arms in the air and soaks in the adoration of the
masses...

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. NEW JERSEY - DAY

CLOSE ON DONNY, now 40 years old. Warn, tired, unshaven, out
of shape.

He sits on a folding chair, in tight jeans, nursing a Bud
Light. A long, quiet, awkward, sad moment.

PULL OUT TO REVEAL a shitty lot full of hot tubs: "DONNY
LEVINE'S HOT FOR TEACHER USED HOT TUBS".

A COUPLE walks by, scanning the place, confused.

DONNY

We're open, we're open!

WIFE

Oh, that's okay. We're just taking
a peek.

DONNY

Hey, hey, wait! Listen. I know what
you're thinking.

(MORE)

DONNY (cont'd)

You're thinking, "Oh my God, it's Donny Levine." Yes, I was one of People Magazine's most intriguing people of 1985. I'm not saying, I'm just saying. But that's not the reason you should buy this hot tub.

He hands them a copy of his book.

DONNY (CONT'D) (cont'd)

And, this signed copy of my second novel, that's my gift to you just for stopping by.

HUSBAND

That's okay.

DONNY

It's a gift. No charge. It's a pretty serious potential eBay gem.

The couple examines the book, glances at the back...

WIFE

No thanks. We're good.

DONNY (CONT'D)

Look this isn't about me, or my novel. This is about you becoming the proud owner of a brand new used hot tub! Look at this Whirlington. Nothing holds up as good this baby. Eight dual core jets; three speeds...

(caresses the paint)

Baby blue splatter celebration finish. This baby is mint!

WIFE

(inspecting the tub)

Is that a blood stain?

DONNY

Yeah. No. Possibly. Probably. Who can say?

HUSBAND

Uh...we're really not interested.

They start to walk away.

DONNY

Wait, wait, please buy a hot tub. Lemme bottom line it for you.

(MORE)

DONNY (cont'd)
I'm having serious personal
problems. I owe the IRS a lot of
money.

HUSBAND
(walking faster)
Sorry.

WIFE
And thank you for the book.

DONNY
Ian Ziering played me in a movie of
the week. You know, Steve Sanders
from 90210? We still hang out
socially. Fine. Who do you hang out
with from 90210? I'm guessing none
of them! I don't need you. I've got
life time supply of Bud Light. I
can get more any time I want. Free.
What do you get for free? Maybe
water. That's about it, I'm
guessing. Jerk!

EXT. 1-800 LAWYERS - ESTABLISHING - DAY

A strip-mall law office.

Donny (O.S.)
What'd the IRS say, Craig?

INT. 1-800-LAWYERS - SAME

Donny sits across from his crappy lawyer, CRAIG (40's).

DONNY
Are they taking my hot tub
dealership?

CRAIG
Uh, yes...and. It's "yes, and" kind
of thing.

DONNY
(deep breath)
Okay, "Yes and...???"

CRAIG
...and three years in prison.

DONNY
Three years!? You son of a bitch.

CRAIG

You haven't paid taxes since '94.

DONNY

I thought they were taking it out automatically. Did you even tell them that?

CRAIG

I told them that's what you thought, and they didn't care. But there is some good news. If you can pay off the interest, they'll suspend the sentence. For now.

DONNY

Okay, okay. There you go. What're we talking? Throw it at me --

CRAIG

\$43,346.

Donny THROWS his chair against the wall.

DONNY

I thought you were gonna say like 300 bucks!

CRAIG

And...you only have til Monday to come up with the cash. Wait, actually, I got that totally wrong...my mistake.

DONNY

Okay thank god, I thought so...

CRAIG

Monday's Memorial Day, so you don't need the money till Tuesday.

DONNY

Oh, then it's fine, that'll gimme time to sell my diamond Lamborghini!

Donny KICKS the wall -- his entire leg goes THROUGH the cheap wood panelling. He awkwardly struggles to free himself.

CRAIG

I'm assuming you're kidding about the diamond Lamborghini, right?

(MORE)

CRAIG (cont'd)

Because if you're not, and you do have one to sell, it would be enormously helpful.

Donny stares at him, fuming, his foot still stuck.

CRAIG (cont'd)

You are kidding. It was a joke. Okay. So by Tuesday, then. The 43 grand.

DONNY

I have three dollars in my pocket, Craig. There's no way in hell.

CRAIG

What about your family? Is there anyone you can call?

DONNY

No, no one I'm really in touch with...

Donny thinks to himself...

INT. DONNY'S HOUSE - FLASHBACK - 1989

Marvin (Donny's dad) sits at the breakfast table, with a cake and candles. Donny's son HAN (now 4) is drawing on the wall. Donny (18) stumbles in, hungover. He sees the cake.

MARVIN

There he is! The birthday boy!

Donny sits at the table, confused.

18 YEAR OLD DONNY

You never do anything for my birthday.

MARVIN

Oh son, I've been planning this one for years. You're eighteen today! And you know what that means, don't you? This little boy--my grandson, your son--is legally YOUR responsibility, not mine, starting today!

18 YEAR OLD DONNY

Oh, shit.

MARVIN

"Oh shit" is right! And it's a true win-win for me, Donny, because starting today, MY son is no longer MY responsibility, because he's eighteen years old. That's you, loser! I'm not dealing with this shit a minute more than I'm legally required to.

18 YEAR OLD DONNY

You're kicking me out?

MARVIN

No, no, no. That would be totally irresponsible. You know, like an idiot impregnating his teacher, for example.

Marvin gets up and picks up several BAGS that he's already packed.

MARVIN (cont'd)

So this is your house now. Make sure you pay the rent each month. All the bills, everything you need, it's all in here for you.
(hands him a binder)
So good luck, have a blast, keep it real...

Marvin KISSES the little boy.

MARVIN (cont'd)

...Grandpa loves you.

Marvin goes outside.

4 YEAR OLD HAN

(crying)
Where's Grandpa going?

18 YEAR OLD DONNY

Don't know, buddy. But don't cry, okay?

He grabs an OVEN MIT and puts in on his hand like a puppet.

18 YEAR OLD DONNY (cont'd)

(high puppet voice)
Hi there, little boy! I'm an oven mitt, and my name is...
(looking around the room)
(MORE)

18 YEAR OLD DONNY (cont'd)
 ...Cereal Box! I'm Mr. Cereal Box.
 Let's race! Can you catch me?

Donny THROWS the oven mitt across the kitchen. Han runs after it. Donny goes outside.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS - FLASHBACK - 1989

Marvin packs up the car.

18 YEAR OLD DONNY
 Where are you going?

MARVIN
 Dunno. Some place tropical, Costa Rica maybe. Gonna start a Tiki Bar or something. But you got more important things to worry about now that you're an adult. Time to man up!

18 YEAR OLD DONNY
 How can you do this to me? You're my father!

MARVIN
 Then I'll give you some fatherly advice: Whether it's family, friends or whoever, when push comes to shove, no one's gonna look out for you, so you gotta look out for yourself. I'll write you guys a postcard if I get a chance.

Don's now in the driver's seat. He ZOOMS off. Han comes up.

4 YEAR OLD HAN
 Daddy, I made poo poo on the toaster.

A look of FEAR on Donny's face.

INT. 1-800-LAWYERS - BACK TO PRESENT

CRAIG
 Talk about "tough love." What about your son?

DONNY
 Nah, he's... I don't know where he is - I haven't seen him in a long time...

INT. DONNY'S HOUSE - NIGHT FLASHBACK - 2003

The house is a disastrous mess. Donny (now 32) comes in after a night of partying. He's with a TRASHY GIRL.

TRASHY GIRL

Hey wait, you said Ian Ziering was gonna be here?

32 YEAR OLD DONNY

Probably later.

She sees a bunch of CAKE and CANDLES on the coffee table.

TRASHY GIRL

Is it somebody's birthday?

32 YEAR OLD DONNY

Not that I know of.

Trashy Girl picks up a NOTE off the table and reads it aloud:

TRASHY GIRL

"Dear Dad, you probably didn't know it was my 18th birthday. But it was, so I moved out. I'm not putting up with his bullshit a minute more than I'm legally required to. Thanks for very little! P.S. You're a dick." Hmm.

(then)

So do you want to doink on the couch or on your waterbed?

32 YEAR OLD DONNY

(depressed)

Man, I can't believe he's already 18.

TRASHY GIRL

Either way I'm ready to doink. But let's doink before I pass out.

Donny just stares at the letter, lost in thought.

INT. 1-800-LAWYERS - BACK TO PRESENT

DONNY

I didn't even get to say goodbye.

CRAIG

Mmm. That's tough. So tell me the truth. Be honest. Did you doink her or not?

DONNY

I don't want to go to jail.

CRAIG

I get it. Jail--almost by design--sucks. There must be a way for you to get some money in a pinch?

INT. "MAURY" PRODUCTION OFFICE - LATER THAT DAY

Donny, in an old pastel dress shirt, approaches the receptionist.

DONNY

Hey baby. Yeah, it's me. Let's get that out of the way. So is Janice around? Just let her know I'm here.

RECEPTIONIST

Who?

DONNY

Janice? Maury's producer?

RECEPTIONIST

If you're talking about Janice Gerber, she passed away around five years ago.

DONNY

Oh...bummer. So who books the guests then? Because I'd like to offer Maury an exclusive one-hour interview with me for the low, low price of 43 thousand--

RECEPTIONIST

Wait a minute, are you Donny Levine?

DONNY

Yeah, that's right. Took you a second to recognize the face huh?

RECEPTIONIST

No, it's funny, we have your picture right here with this little note saying how you, under no circumstances, are allowed to be on the show.

DONNY

Can I see that?

She gives him a slip of paper. He reads it over.

DONNY (cont'd)

That's pretty...unambiguous.

EXT. MONTEL TV STUDIO - DAY

Donny waits outside until MONTEL WILLIAMS leaves the building, heading for his limo.

DONNY

Montel! Montel! It's Donny Levine!
How about an exclusive--

MONTEL

--Sorry my brother, you're like an old piece of bread...

He jumps in the limo, then cracks the window open.

MONTEL (cont'd)

...stale.

Donny watches the limo drive away.

INT. UPPER EAST SIDE APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

It's pouring rain. Donny hits a button marked "Raphael".

SALLY JESSY (ON INTERCOM)

Hello?

Donny

Hey Sally Jessy, it's me, Donny Levine.

SALLY JESSY (ON INTERCOM)

Go away.

DONNY

I've got more stories to tell on your show.

(MORE)

DONNY (cont'd)

I never talked about how Miss McGaricle and I did it in the nurse's office, right that table thing with the deli paper on it.

SALLY JESSY (ON INTERCOM)

I'm not talking to you, Donny! For one thing you gave me hepatitis C, and for another thing I haven't been on TV for eight years.

Beat.

DONNY

Well then can I just come up? I'm so tired.

Beat.

The door BUZZES, letting him inside.

INT. SALLY JESSY'S APARTMENT - LATER

Donny is in a robe with an embroidered "Sally Jessy Raphael" logo, flipping the channels on TV. In the bathroom we can see the silhouette of Sally Jessy taking a shower.

DONNY

I'm pathetic, Sally. I can't believe I'm 40 years old, estranged from the only family I have, losing my business, going to jail. I only ever tried to be a good guy...but no one ever taught me how to do that. I made one mistake when I was fifteen... capitalized on it for couple decades...I feel horrible.

SALLY JESSY (O.S.)

Are you saying something?

DONNY

Uh, no, forget it.

SALLY JESSY

Sorry, can't hear you - a lot of washing to do.

As he flips past ABC Family Channel, something catches his eye. It's the made-for-tv movie starring Ian Ziering. We see a short bit of it:

IAN ZIERING (AS DONNY)
 Who cares what the world thinks?
 Don't be scared. Treat yourself.

HEATHER THOMAS (AS MARY)
 Teach me... everything.

As he watches them kiss, Donny yells to the bathroom.

DONNY
 Hey SJR - I gotta bolt. Gotta catch
 up with an old friend.

Donny starts getting dressed. Sally yells from the shower.

SALLY JESSY (O.S.)
 We're both adults, Donny. You don't
 have to make excuses. You know
 where my buzzer is...and you seem
 to still know where my G-spot is
 too!

EXT. MOTEL ROOM - LATER

Still raining. Donny PACES outside a shitty motel room,
 nervous. He takes a deep breath, then KNOCKS. Ian Ziering
 (44, unshaven, briefs) answers, not happy to see Donny. Tense
 silence. Then --

DONNY
 Whaazzzuuuuuuuup?
 (Ziering nods defiantly)
 Hey, Ziering! What's the low down
 my brotha-from-anotha-mutha! Long
 time no see!

ZIERING
 Yeah, I'm not talking to you.

DONNY
 I thought you were just busy with
 stuff.

Ziering tries to SLAM the door -- Donny catches it!

DONNY (CONT'D) (cont'd)
 We have a twenty year friendship!
 Listen dude, I'm in real trouble. I
 need money. Fast.

Ziering just stares, disgusted.

DONNY (cont'd)

Oh, c'mon, Ziering! You've got that sweet 90210 cash!

ZIERING

That money's long gone. I live in this motel, man. I work at the ice rink! I deep-fry chicken nuggets.

He tries to PUSH the door shut -- Donny holds it open.

DONNY

Come on, man! "Tramps like us, baby we were born to run!"

ZIERING

Yeah, well...I'm not into Springsteen anymore --

SHOCKED, Donny PUNCHES him in the face.

ZIERING (cont'd)

'the fuck dude?!

DONNY

Don't dis the boss. So come on, man, I really need the money!

Ziering punches Donny back.

ZIERING

That's for having sex with my mom!

Ziering SLAMS the door.

DONNY (TO THE CLOSED DOOR)

She told you about that? We were on shrooms, otherwise nothing would have happened!

EXT. STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

Now very late at night, Donny pulls up in his '88 Fiero to a rundown strip club. The sign says: "CLASSY RICK'S NAKED LADY EMPORIUM" and a smaller sign beneath that says "NOW SERVING BRUNCH 24-7"

Before he gets out of the car, he FLIPS DOWN the visor. An old PHOTO: YOUNG DONNY and his YOUNG SON. He smiles.

INT. CLASSY RICK'S - MOMENTS LATER

The most depressing strip club/buffet on earth. We hear the UNSEEN DEEP VOICED DJ:

DEEP VOICED DJ (O.C.)
Coming to the the stage, give it up
for Natalie, gettin' down, down and
dirty to "Key Largo!"

A STRIPPER IN AN ARM CAST dances the pole clumsily.

Donny gets a nonchalant sexless lap dance from CHAMPALE (50, worn, Jersey smoker's voice). They talk casually throughout, like she's his shrink.

CHAMPALE
Don, honey, everything happens for
a reason. You're gonna be okay.

DONNY
But the only thing I'm good at is
being Donny Levine. And no one
wants to pay for the Donny Levine
story anymore.
(sighs)
I guess there's always gonna be a
younger, better looking kid...who
got fucked by his teacher.

She pats his shoulder, sympathetic. Donny picks up the New York Times.

DONNY (cont'd)
What are you doing with the Times?
The Post has a way better sports
section.

CHAMPALE
Sorry, I'm addicted to the
crossword.

DONNY
I guess better that than being
addicted to heroin, huh?

CHAMPALE
(under breath)
Yeah, well, or both.

The food waitress, BRIE, 29, comes over. She's young and attractive, unlike anyone else in the club.

BRIE

(handing a plate of eggs)
 Hey Mom, do you want some
 breakfast? It's technically
 morning. Or do you want to finish
 your dance...?

CHAMPALE

Oh, no honey, Donny doesn't mind,
 do you Donny?

DONNY

No please, eat while it's hot.

Champale eats her eggs while still giving Donny a lap dance.

BRIE

Hey Mom, do you think I could dance
 on stage next shift?

CHAMPALE

No, honey, I've told you, you're
 not stripper material.

BRIE

Why not? I have a great body, I'm
 super flexible, I'm uninhibited.

CHAMPALE

(laughing, to Donny)
 So cute, my daughter thinks that's
 all it takes.

Something in the Times catches Donny's eye.

DONNY (CONT'D)

Holy shit, it's my son.

CHAMPALE

Are you sure?

DONNY

It's been eight years. He's lost a
 ton of weight...but that's him.

BRIE

(takes it, reads)
 "Todd Peterson to wed Stacey
 Hayward this Sunday at The
 Waldorf." Todd Peterson?

DONNY

He changed his name! Why? What was
 wrong with his real name?

BRIE

"Peterson, an up-and-coming financial executive at Hayward Industries, was orphaned at age nine, when both his parents died in a horrific explosion."

CHAMPALE

Ooh. Sorry, sweetie.

DONNY

I didn't explode! He's lying!

CHAMPALE

This could be a blessing in disguise. Your son's getting married. Go and reconcile with him, be honest about your situation, and I bet he helps you out.

DONNY

I just don't see him doing that. And to be honest, I'd be much more comfortable coming up with some kind of lie to get the money...

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CLUB - MOMENTS LATER

Donny dials his cell phone...

INT. MONTEL WILLIAMS APARTMENT - INTERCUT

MONTEL answers the phone, half asleep.

MONTEL WILLIAMS

Hello? Who's this?

Donny

Here's the pitch: All three of us, mother, father and son, interviewed together, live from Jersey State Prison. Fresh right?

MONTEL WILLIAMS

Who's this?

DONNY

Donny Levine!

MONTEL WILLIAMS

I have to admit I'm intrigued. But your son, he's up for doing this?

DONNY

Oh yeah. He's...pumped.

Donny stares again at the NY Times Wedding announcement. Todd and Stacey in a posed photo. Todd with an awkward smile.

CUT TO:

EXT. MANHATTAN - UPPER EAST SIDE TOWNHOUSE - SAME

CLOSE ON TODD (26) with the same awkward smile, looking at himself in the mirror, in his walk-in closet/dressing area.

TODD

(nervous)

Natural. Relaxed. Big weekend. Just keep it together. Just don't be yourself.

He pops a Xanax, then takes out a SPARE PAIR OF UNDERWEAR from a drawer and puts it in his inside jacket pocket.

Todd pulls a shirt from his suffocatingly neat, color-coded closet as STACEY (24, attractive) skips in.

STACEY

How excited are you right now!?

TODD

I'd say off the charts, or, like, right at the edge of the charts.

She shows him the New York Times announcement.

TODD (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Wow. I just - I still don't get why we did this. Who announces their wedding in the paper? I feel like that only happens on "Sex and the City".

STACEY

It's the cover of the Memorial Day weekend wedding section. Forget us, this is huge for my mother.

(no response)

C'mon, look how great we look...

TODD

(examines the photo)

Yeah...I guess we look good, but...

STACEY

(kisses his cheek)

We look like your typical perfect happy couple! I always dreamed about opening up the paper and seeing my wedding announcement.

TODD

I just - I mean, this thing's got our names, and our picture. I just don't want people knowing how to...find us.

STACEY

How to find us? Honey, did you take your Xanax today?

TODD

Yes. Two.

STACEY

Did you have your spare underpants? I know that makes you feel secure.

TODD

There are weirder things than carrying an extra pair for an emergency.

STACEY

I'm sure there are.

TODD

Like, there's a guy at my office, he NEVER eats bread.

STACEY

Maybe he's on a no-carb diet?

TODD

I could find out.

The INTERCOM buzzes.

STACEY

That's Mom & Dad with Antonio.

TODD

How many times do we have to meet with that wedding coordinator? He rubs me the wrong way.

STACEY

We're lucky to have Antonio. He's the the best. His waiting list is over a year long, and without my mom pulling strings we would have never gotten him.

TODD

Okay, okay. I do want this weekend to be perfect.

STACEY

Stop worrying. We're gonna have the best wedding ever.

She heads downstairs.

STACEY (O.S.) (cont'd)

Coming...!

INT. TOWNHOUSE - FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

Todd comes downstairs to greet Stacey's mother HELEN (40's, well dressed) and her quiet, balding father GERALD (40's).

HELEN

There's the groom! Who's "Mister-New-York-Times"??

TODD

That's me! Good to see you Mrs. Hayward.

HELEN

Todd I'm not gonna tell you again. When we're at the office, I'm Mrs. Hayward. But as your mother-in-law to be, I prefer "Helen."

GERALD

And of course you can always call me Gerald. I don't have an office.

HELEN

He doesn't want an office. He knows damn well I'd give him a job if he wanted it.

GERALD

(resigned)
I'm a house husband.

TODD

So where's Antonio?

Out of the bathroom comes ANTONIO, the wedding coordinator, in an oversized Knicks jersey, baseball cap and goatee. He speaks with a heavy Long Island accent:

ANTONIO

Oooh boy. Don't anybody go in there for a few minutes. (then) Hey anybody listen to Stern today?

All shake their heads no.

ANTONIO (cont'd)

Oh, you missed a good one. You guys gotta listen to Stern. "Ba ba boogie!" Nothing? Nobody? Not a Stern crowd? "Fla fla flo-ham"?

STACEY

So Antonio, I had this thought this morning - what if we have those "Black Bat" flowers from Thailand - just like you and Dad had at your wedding?

HELEN

Honey, that's a nice idea but we're two days away. It would take weeks to import--

ANTONIO

Hold on!

Antonio pulls out his Blackberry and taps away for a few seconds.

ANTONIO (cont'd)

Okay... I got you 40 Southeast Asian Tacca Chantrieri "Black Bat" flowers. They'll be at the church, 2pm on Sunday. Crunch time, MY TIME! Boo-yah!!!

TODD

I've got to admit, he's good.

ANTONIO

(checking Blackberry)
Your brother's landing in an hour, go pick him up at LaGuardia.

HELEN

Oh right, Troy's coming! Let's go!

ANTONIO

I'm gonna get your house ready for the most undeniably awesome cocktail party any bride has ever seen. Gonna be tremendous.

INT. LA GUARDIA AIRPORT - WALKWAY

Helen, Gerald, Todd and Stacey walk to the arrivals area.

STACEY

I don't know why you're always so nervous around my parents. They love you.

TODD

I feel like when your mom looks at me, she doesn't see a CPA, she just sees is my penis going into your vagina.

STACEY

Todd!

TODD

I'm just a nice, normal guy, right?

STACEY

I wouldn't be marrying you if you weren't a nicest... normalest... handsomest... sweetest (KISSES HIM) guy.

(then)

Wow you're pretty clammy. Just relax.

TODD

I'm nervous, okay?

INT. ARRIVALS AREA - MOMENTS LATER

TODD

It's crazy that it's been three years and I'm just meeting your brother now.

Stacey notices Helen is choked up.

STACEY

Aww, Mom, are you crying already?

HELEN

My baby's getting married. This is a big moment in a mother's life.

(to Todd)

Sorry honey, I know this whole thing must be bittersweet for you.

TODD

Why?

HELEN

You know...because of your parents. The explosion.

TODD

Oh, no, please, don't worry. It was a long time ago.

HELEN

Well, I know they'll be smiling down from heaven all weekend.

TODD

(fake chokes up)

Yeah. From heaven.

Helen hugs him. Todd smiles.

GERALD

We're all the family you need. What are you doin' next Friday? You want to play some catch?

STACEY

(clapping)

There he is! Troy!

Emerging from the crowd of tourists is TROY (26), super muscular, buzz cut, in Marine Corps service uniform.

Stacey, Gerald and Helen all run to greet him, hugging him. Todd twirls Stacey around.

TROY

Hey Stace, Mom, Dad.

HELEN

Welcome home, son.

STACEY

TROY, this is my fiancé, Todd.

Todd makes a huge SALUTE to Troy. Troy doesn't salute back.

TROY
Are you a soldier?

TODD
No.

TROY
Are you a sailor?

TODD
No.

TROY
Are you a pilot?

TODD
No.

TROY
Are you or are you not in the armed
forces?

TODD
No, no, I'm a certified public-

TROY
-then I'd prefer you get your
fingers away from your forehead,
shake my hand like the civilian
that you are, and say "thank you
and God bless."

TODD
(shaking his hand)
Thank you and god bless.

TROY
Welcome to the family, Todd.

Troy wipes Todd's sweat off his hand.

TROY (cont'd)
Your hand is dank.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Preparations are happening for the cocktail party. Antonio
talks to Todd and Stacey.

ANTONIO

Listen I don't want yous guys to worry 'bout nothin' okay? Gonna be off the rails!

TODD

Okay are you sure?

ANTONIO

Todd! What did I tell you? What's my motto?

TODD

Stick with you and you'll have us farting through silk.

ANTONIO

(as he heads to kitchen)

That's right. That's my guy! Babba-boogie! No worries! Perfect weekend.

TODD

Okie doke. Who wants a drink? Gerald - what can I get you?

GERALD

A reason to get up in the morning? Just kidding of course. I'll have a scotch if you have it.

TODD

Comin' up. How about you, TROY? What's your poison?

Troy walks over to Todd and speaks quietly to him.

TROY

(intense)

You listen to me, Civilian. My sister's everything to me. If you ever lie to her, or do anything to hurt her, I will take my government issued service pistol, and shoot you with it.

TODD

Okay, got it.

TROY

Okay. I'll have a sea breeze.

TODD

And Mrs. Hayward - Mrs. Helen - Hayward. (deep breath) HELEN!

(MORE)

TODD (cont'd)
I've got your two fingers of Rose's
Limejuice and soda water.

HELEN
The kid knows my drink! Stacey -
marry this man!

Everyone chuckles.

STACEY
Good idea, Mom! I think I will!

Bigger laugh.

TODD
How about on Sunday?

HUGE laugh.

TROY
I'll admit, Todd, you got me with
that one.

The DOORBELL rings.

TODD
(trying a little too hard)
Let me get that, family! Starting
Sunday, that is!

Todd laughs as he scurries out of the room.

INT. FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Todd answers the door. It's Donny, holding two six-packs of
Bud Light. The smile (and the color) immediately drains from
Todd's face.

DONNY
Whazzzup?

TODD
What the fuck are you doing here?

DONNY
(suddenly grave)
Your mother is sick.

TODD
I don't *have* a mother.

DONNY

Yes you do, and your imprisoned mother, Miss McGarricle, has a chronic... illness disease. And her last request, is to see her son Han this one time.

TODD

(through his teeth)

There is no longer any Han. My name is Todd Peterson. You are not part of my life anymore, and I hate you.

DONNY

Is that any way to talk to your father?

TODD

It's the way to talk to a douchebag.

DONNY

You're a douchebag!

Stacey comes over Donny.

STACEY

Hey, who's this?

DONNY

Whazzzupp! You must be Stacey. You're hotter than you look in the Times.

STACEY

And you must be...

DONNY

Donny.

(off her silence)

Han's never even mentioned me?

STACEY

Who's Han?

TODD

You mean Todd, right?

DONNY

(annoyed)

Yes, Todd.

STACEY

I don't remember a Donny...

DONNY

Wait, where are my manners?
 Congratulations! I don't have my
 wedding gift with me right now, but
 I'm making you guys a mix tape.

Helen comes over.

HELEN

Hello, I don't know you. I'm Helen,
 Stacey's mother.

DONNY (CONT'D)

Donny Levine. Todd's dad.

Helen looks at Todd CONFUSED.

HELEN

I thought your parents were dead.

TODD

(covers poorly)
 No, they are. So dead. He's
 hilarious. "My dad." This is my old
 friend from the...
 (can't think of anything)
 Whazzzuumup!? We're trying to bring
 that back. It's been out of the
 zietgeist for too long....
 whazzzupp...

He grabs Donny's hand and tries to fake an elaborate scripted
 handshake. Donny doesn't cooperate, upset by the lie.

TODD (CONT'D) (cont'd)

See, we've got this joke where he
 tells people he's my dad...and it's
 hilarious cause as you know, my
 parents actually died. In that
 explosion.

HELEN

That doesn't sound funny.

TODD

Well, yeah, you had to be there.

HELEN

...at the explosion?

TODD

No, at the inception of the joke -
 Donny, I can't believe you made it!
 (MORE)

TODD (cont'd)

Yes!! Hey, come with me I'll get you a drink!

DONNY

(re: his Bud Light)

Okay. Open bar, I assume, right? If not I can just crush a few these in the bathroom, then come back when I got a nice little buzz on...?

AT THE BAR

Donny and Todd approach the bar, separating from the group. They yell at each other in a LOUD WHISPER throughout.

TODD (CONT'D)

You have to leave. Get out of my house!

DONNY

Why do you keep telling everyone I exploded!?

TODD

I wish you would explode!

DONNY

(hurt)

...God. Really? But...you're not even the least bit excited to have your dad here for your special weekend?

TODD

You are not my dad!

DONNY

Am too! You are the direct result of who-knows-which-one of fifteen hot screw sessions I had with Miss McGaricle.

Todd grabs his arm.

TODD

Listen to me: She'll call off the wedding if she finds out I've been lying. And I'm just barely starting to win her family over. Please. Just pretend to be my "friend?" I've never asked you for anything.

DONNY

That's not true. You've asked me
for thousands of things.

TODD

(getting louder)
But you never came through on any
of them!

DONNY

(staring down, then)
Well played. Fine, I'm your
"friend", "Todd."

Helen, Gerald, Stacey and Troy come over to the bar.

STACEY

Hey what is this, a bar room brawl,
or what?

TROY

Do we have a situation here?

TODD

Sorry. I was just so excited cause
he'd told me he wasn't gonna make
it, and now he's here. But that's
so him. Classic him. Oh...him.

GERALD

Aren't you gonna introduce us?

TODD

Yes, this my future father-in-law,
Gerald; and of course Troy, one of
our great heroes out there on the
front lines.

DONNY

Oh...

Donny starts to SALUTE Troy, Todd slams his hand down.

TODD

But don't salute him--in case you
didn't know that--just say "God
bless."

(awkward beat)

Troy, this is my old friend, Donny.

DONNY

Best friend.

STACEY
Your best friend?

TODD
(forced to play along)
Yeah.

Todd PUNCHES Donny in the arm, hard.

DONNY
Ow!!!

STACEY
Todd?

TODD
No yeah, we have this funny thing
where we always punch each other,
as a joke!

DONNY
That's right! That's what these
best best friends...DO!

Donny PUNCHES Todd, even HARDER.

TODD
(trying to hide the pain)
Ahh...yeah!!! Yep, yep.

STACEY
I'm surprised I never heard about
this "best friend"...

TODD
You remember the stories I told you
about all those times we had?

Donny hits him AGAIN.

TODD (cont'd)
Ahh! Out of turn! Good one buddy!

STACEY
I don't recall any mention of him?

TODD
Yeah...we met when...

DONNY
-- I saved his life.

STACEY
What? Really?

TODD

Well, more metaphorically --

DONNY

It was one of those subway deals. He dropped a shrimp burrito on the tracks, and when he went to grab it, the train was coming. I pushed him outta the way. We've been best friends ever since.

Everyone is really blown away.

HELEN

Wow. That's so brave.

DONNY

It wasn't really me. It was something working through me....

STACEY

Todd, I can't believe you never told me this story.

TODD

(glares at Donny)

Yeah, well...it was a little embarrassing that I would go onto the subway tracks to pick up a shrimp burrito.

TROY

Why didn't you just get another one?

TODD

I know. That's one of the many parts of that story that's pretty hard to believe.

STACEY

(to Donny)

I guess this wedding woulda never happened without you. Where are you staying?

DONNY

I'll probably head over to the Y.

STACEY

Absolutely not. You can sleep on the pull-out couch in Todd's study. We won't take no for an answer.

DONNY

Then I have to say yes!

Todd's eyes WIDEN with fear.

TODD

Ohh that's AWESOME!

Todd PUNCHES Donny, super hard, in the kidney. Donny FALLS.

DONNY

(wind knocked out of him)
Ah, ah, oh!!! Good times!

STACEY

Jesus, Todd...

TODD

No, no, it's our thing. Best friends!

From the floor, Donny PUNCHES Todd in the groin. Now both writhing in pain:

DONNY

(with great effort)
Best friends.

TODD

(in pain)
Best friends!

*
*
*

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Now the cocktail party is in full swing. About fifty people, including some of Stacey's bridesmaids, some work people, etc.

Gerald brings over her GRANDMA DELORES to meet Donny.

GERALD

I want you to meet my mother, Delores. Donny is Todd's best friend!

DONNY

(kissing her on the hand)
I'm enchanted!

GRANDMA DELORES

Oh, what a gentleman!

Antonio comes over to Donny.

ANTONIO

Wait a minute, get outta here!
You're Donny friggin' Levine!
(MORE)

ANTONIO (cont'd)

(to group)

Remember that kid that got his
teacher prego in Newark?

(to Donny)

Man, you were a god to me and my
friends. She was so hot, bro.

People start gathering around Donny.

DONNY

Thanks. It's great to meet a fan.
Here, have a copy of my first
novel.

He hands him an autographed copy of "Head in the Class."

DONNY (cont'd)

I came up with the title myself.

ANTONIO

Classic play on words. So whatever
happened to the baby?

DONNY

(glares at Todd)

Him? Oh he went crazy. He's in a
padded cell somewhere in Europe.

ANTONIO

Oh, shit.

DONNY

Ehh, he was always a little
tweaked, so...

TODD

Why don't I show you your room?

DONNY

Later. Gettin' know the fam here!

INT. PARTY - LATER

Todd talks with Helen.

TODD

Sorry about Donny, Helen, I know
that you've been working hard on
making sure everything goes
smoothly...

HELEN

Todd, relax! I'm not your boss this weekend, and I certainly don't want to be the crazy mother-in-law from hell, waiting for you to make the slightest misstep so I can pounce on it. That's not my agenda! Okay?

TODD

Okay, thanks.

HELEN

You believe me right?

TODD

Yes.

HELEN

Then good.

She walks away, leaving Todd unsure of what just happened.

INT. PARTY - LATER

Donny dances with everyone, the hit of the party, while Todd sulks in the corner.

INT. PARTY - AT THE BAR - LATER

Gerald (loosened up, brandy in hand), saddles up to Donny.

GERALD

Man, I woulda killed to have had just one afternoon of passion with Mrs. Cohn, 8th grade Biology. I used to dream about dissecting her with my penis. True story. It's weird what's going on in your head when you hit puberty.

Another guy, PHIL, chimes in.

PHIL

I know. I stole the librarian's glasses to wear them while I masturbated. What's that about?

GRANDMA DELORES

I gave my arithmetic instructor a rigorous hand job in his Studebaker.

INT. PARTY - LATER

Gerald is toasting Stacey, CHOKED UP.

GERALD (CONT'D)

...and on Sunday I'll give my baby girl away to the new man in her life. Stace, of all the things I've ever been, Daddy's by far the best. And anyone who's ever been a Daddy, knows exactly what I mean.

Donny's touched.

STACEY

I love you, Daddy!

Donny watches Gerald and Stacey hug. Donny flashes a PEACE SIGN to Todd. Todd ignores him and mopes into the kitchen.

KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Donny finds Todd in the kitchen, binge eating.

DONNY

Stacey's dad, huh? Great speech.

No response from Todd.

DONNY (cont'd)

He was telling me before that you're a certified public accountant. Who knew? My son is *certified!* Just hope you're not certifiably insane, like Crazy Eddie. That guy's practically giving it all away.

No response.

DONNY (cont'd)

Too dated? Too local? Both?

TODD

I HATE YOU!

DONNY

Are we at the same party? They're literally toasting me.

TODD

Why don't you tell them some REAL stories?

(MORE)

TODD (cont'd)

Like the one about when you fell asleep driving me to school!

DONNY

We didn't even get in an accident!

TODD

Yes we did!

DONNY

But nobody got hurt.

TODD

You smashed into a bus! Three people went to the hospital!

DONNY

Did you or did you not get to school?

TODD

I did not!

DONNY

I thought you did. There was a lot of chaos that day. Didn't I do good things for you? I taught you shit!

TODD

Oh yeah, like what? I don't even know how to ride a bike. You know how embarrassing that is? Maybe you could just tell everyone something really important came up at work and you gotta go.

DONNY

(hurt)

Why don't we just acknowledge the big white elephant room which is that you want me to leave.

TODD

I just wanna be NORMAL! --

DONNY

You *are* normal.

TODD

No, my life is finally *approaching* normal. And it took getting away from you and years of therapy.

(MORE)

TODD (cont'd)
So I'd really like to marry Stacey
before she realizes I'm from a
family of freaks.

Donny's cell phone rings.

DONNY
Sorry one sec...

Donny answers.

DONNY (cont'd)
(answering phone)
Montel!
(then catching himself)
Uh...Montel...Greenberg. My uh...
orthodontist. How's everything
going with the big, uh, "braces"
appointment? ... Whazzat? ... Oh
yeah, don't worry about my teeth.
My teeth'll be there. You just make
sure you got my braces. Okay.
Latah!

Donny hangs up.

DONNY (cont'd)
You know who that was?

TODD
Your orthodontist?

DONNY
Yep. So I mentioned your Mom's sick
right?

TODD
Yes you did.

DONNY
Well, they don't know how long
she's got and...I told her you'd
come visit her. I shoulda asked you
before I got her hopes up, but I
stupidly thought you'd wanna see
her...

TODD
(long beat, affected)
Really?

DONNY

Yeah. Sunday's the last time she can have visitors before the big surgery.

TODD

(incredulous/annoyed)

So, you want me to go see my dying mother in prison, for the first time in twenty years, the day before my wedding?

DONNY

Hey, I just thought you should know. Maybe part of me hoped we could go together. I get it though. You've got a better family now.

TODD

That's right, I do.

Stacey runs into the room with Phil.

STACEY

We just had the best idea! Donny, you can be Todd's best man!

TODD

What? No! Phil's my best man.

STACEY

No, we talked about it - he doesn't mind!

PHIL

It's fine, really. It's not like we're close. You should have your best friend. The whole thing with the shrimp burrito, and--

DONNY

(jumping up)

I'll do it!!

Todd PUNCHES Donny. Everyone loves it.

PHIL

Ha!! That's their thing!

INT. TODD'S HOME OFFICE - LATER THAT NIGHT - PARTY IS OVER

Todd brings Donny into the study.

TODD

It's a pull-out couch. Good night.

DONNY

You guys wouldn't happen to have a waterbed? No big deal, either way is fine. It's just I haven't slept on a mattress in 15 years.

TODD

Wow. You've figured out a way to be creepy even while you sleep.

Donny takes off his shirt and pants, and throws everything on the floor, until he's just in his underwear.

TODD (cont'd)

Why are you here, Don? Money? You heard I'm doing well, you thought you could show up after eight years, and I'd give you a hand out? I'll give you money. I'll write you a check.

DONNY

How dare you? I don't want your money! I came here to tell you about your sick mother, and your family graciously invited me to be a part of your wonderful festivities, and how much money did you have in mind?

TODD

(pulling out check book)
Here. I'll give you...a thousand bucks.

DONNY

(under his breath)
That's not nearly enough.

TODD

What did you say?

DONNY

I said I'm here because your mother is sick!

TODD

She's not my mother, you're not my
You're not my father.

DONNY

Just try calling me "Dad." See how it feels.

TODD

Listen, Don, I'll show you how it feels to be your son. I feel it every day in my ass.

Todd grabs TEN SYRINGES from the desk, shows them to Donny.

DONNY

...Oh, no. You're a junkie?

TODD

It's insulin. I'm diabetic because you had me on a diet of nothing but twizzlers, Dr. Pepper and brown sugar from a zip-lock bag.

DONNY

You loved it!

TODD

Yeah, I guess I did. And it destroyed my metabolism, you dipshit! I only eat a thousand calories a day now. That's like half a sandwich and seven carrots!

DONNY

Well, you look great.

TODD

If only losing weight would erase my Vedder tattoo.

Todd PULLS his shirt off and turns to reveal he does in fact have a 17-inch EDDIE VEDDER covering his entire back.

DONNY

You begged me for that thing!

TODD

I WAS FIFTEEN! You were supposed to say no! --

Stacey enters.

STACEY

Hey brought you some sheets...

She see Todd and Donny (both shirtless) in each other's faces, and breathing heavy.

STACEY (cont'd)
 ...everything okay?

TODD
 Yeah, just showing Donny my ink.

STACEY
 Ugh, I hate that thing.

DONNY
 Nah, it's great. All the cool kids
 are doin' it...

Donny turns to reveal a huge, faded TATTOO OF SPRINGSTEEN.

DONNY (cont'd)
 The Boss.

STACEY
 Wow. You guys are so alike.
 (looks at them sideways)
 You even kinda look alike.

TODD
 That's white people for ya!

She LEAVES. Donny hops on the couch.

DONNY
 Listen I'm beat. Do you mind
 hitting the light?

Todd hesitates, then FLICKS OFF the light and walks out.

INT. TODD'S BEDROOM - LATER

Todd sits at the end of the bed, staring at an OLD PHOTO: 4
 YEAR OLD TODD and YOUNG DONNY smile with MARY MCGARRICLE
 (who's behind a GLASS PARTITION), an odd family photo.

Stacey comes to the doorway -- Todd hides the picture.

STACEY
 What's going on with you, Todd?
 You're acting strangely tonight.

TODD
 Nothing. I'm sorry. I just--Doesn't
 part of you just wanna go down to
 City Hall tomorrow and just get
 married two days early without
 telling anyone?

STACEY

...No, that sounds terrible. I want you to just stop acting weird.

TODD

Fine, I just thought it would relieve some of the stress, but, no if you're all for it, then I am too. Let's do it!

STACEY

Good. Because we have 200 people coming, my brother got a weekend leave from Kabul...

TODD

By the way - your brother Troy - he's a pretty serious dude.

STACEY

He comes off a little intense, but once you get to know him, he's a pussycat.

She starts KISSING his neck.

TODD

To me he's less of a pussycat and more of a...pussycat with a gun.

She laughs, then STRADDLES him.

STACEY

Right so just feed him, pet him, tickle him under the neck, and he won't shoot you!

TODD

I'm not big on tickling other dudes, but...

STACEY

Troy's a Marine - he's just being protective.

She unbuttons Todd's pants.

STACEY (cont'd)

Hey, look who's standing at attention.

TODD
 Whatever you do, don't salute it,
 just shake its hand, like the
 civilian that you are.

INT. TODD'S HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Donny snoops around Todd's office, still in his underwear.

DONNY
 Can't sleep...gotta rub one out.

He turns on Todd's COMPUTER. The monitor comes up, asking for a PASSWORD.

DONNY (cont'd)
 Oh, god. How am I supposed to--

He rifles through magazines and books on Todd's desk, looking for anything with a picture on it. First *The Economist* and *Business Week*.

DONNY (cont'd)
 No go.

Then he finds a Brooks Brothers Catalog.

DONNY (cont'd)
 Come on! Any woman...

Finally he finds a copy of *MacWorld*. He flips to the back, finds a quarter page ad for a computer mail-order company, with a tiny picture of a reasonably attractive phone operator in a sleeveless shirt. The caption says "Call me and order today!"

DONNY (cont'd)
 Okay. Beggars can't be choosers.
 We'll make it work.

He brings the magazine over the the couch, grabs some tissue and lies down and puts his hands in his underwear, as we...

INT. TODD'S HOME OFFICE - THE NEXT MORNING

As the sun streams in the window, Donny's asleep, the *MacWorld* on his chest, his hand in his underwear. He opens his eyes, groggy. Looks around and sees Stacey's GRANDMA DELORES standing there, just looking at him.

DONNY
(casually)
Good morning Delores.

GRANDMA DELORES
Good morning, Donny. You sleep
okay?

DONNY
I'd give it a C-plus. I'm used to
the waterbed.

GRANDMA DELORES
Well I've been watching you for a
while and you seemed to be sleeping
fine.

STACEY
(entering)
Let's go everyone, we have to be at
the church for rehearsal in 45
minutes.

DONNY
Sounds good! Let me just clean up
shop and I'm good to go.

INT. TODD'S BEDROOM - LATER

Donny enters the room, in his same ratty t-shirt and jeans.

TODD
No, no, no. We're going to church,
not Kenny Rogers Roasters. You're
not wearing a t-shirt. Put on a
tie.

Todd grabs a shirt and tie from his closet.

DONNY
First off, you can't tell me what
to do. I'm the dad. And second,
I've literally never worn a tie.
It's a 40 year streak. I'm like
Robert Blake.

No response.

DONNY (cont'd)
From *Baretta*? Too dated? Too
inside?

TODD
(GRABS Donny by the shirt)
PUT ON A TIE AND COMB YOUR HAIR!

DONNY
I'LL NEVER SELLOUT!

They WRESTLE clumsily...

INT. TODD'S MERCEDES - LATER

Todd drives, Donny's in shotgun, in a shirt and tie. "Your Body is a Wonderland" plays on the stereo.

DONNY
This music sounds like what Phil Collins would put on before he makes love to Richard Marx.

TODD
Yeah, well, John Mayer's sold about 30 million records, so, you don't know what you're talking about.

DONNY
What I'm talking about is Phil Collins putting this song on, before he takes off his Rugby shirt, and fucks Richard Marx. God, sometimes I can't believe you came outta my penis. I've got two words for you: Spring. Steen. Listen to him.

TODD
I've actually heard Bruce Springsteen. It was playing in the house constantly for the first 18 years of my life.

DONNY
Maybe you've heard him, but you've never really *listened* to him. Do yourself a favor. Really *listen* to just one song.

Donny pulls out a CASSETTE TAPE: "Springsteen Intro Mix."
Todd takes the tape and kinda BANGS it against his stereo.

TODD
Oh, wait, that's right, I left my tape player in 1987. I'll go back in time and get it for you.

(MORE)

TODD (cont'd)
And while I'm there, I'll pick you
up another pair of those jeans.

EXT. MAGNIFICENT CHURCH - DAY

Todd and Donny pull up in the car. Helen, Gerald, Troy,
Stacey and Antonio are waiting outside.

STACEY
Where have you guys been?

TODD
Sorry, sorry.

DONNY
It was my bad - I wouldn't put a
tie on so we ended up wrestling for
a while.

HELEN
(annoyed)
Let's go inside.

INT. MAGNIFICENT CHURCH - LATER

Todd anxiously stares up at a HUGE BLOODY crucifix above the
altar.

An ANGRY PRIEST (50) prepares to address the WEDDING PARTY,
who stand silently in rigid formation for the rehearsal.
Antonio watches from the side.

ANGRY PRIEST
I'm so pleased that the Groom and
the Best Man finally decided to
grace us with their presense.

TODD
My apologies father--we were--

ANGRY PRIEST
--Hey, I get it, it's Manhattan out
there. Everyone's having sex and
lattes, and God's a big joke,
right? While you're in my church,
you will respect Jesus. No
giggling, no gum chewing, and no
cell phones, no blackberries, no
PDA's, no pagers, no Sidekicks, no
GameBoys...

TODD
Very thorough.

ANGRY PRIEST
You don't think I'm hooked in, Mr. Peterson? I'm hooked in.

DONNY
Is this a funeral?

ANGRY PRIEST
Best man, is that a real question?

DONNY
No, I was just kidding. You know, cause you're so serious.

The Priest just continues, annoyed.

ANGRY PRIEST
Marriage is serious. Now then, the choir will begin, you'll come down the aisle, pause at the altar, genuflect, then move to the side. Everyone got that?

Donny raises his hand -- the Priest looks at him, annoyed.

DONNY
Sorry, just wanna be clear. By genuflect, you mean "think about how great it is that they're getting married," right?

ANGRY PRIEST
No...by "genuflect," I mean bow to one knee and make the signal of the cross.

DONNY
Right. Got it. So, should Todd and I do that too, though?

ANGRY PRIEST
What do you mean?

TODD
Wait, Don --

DONNY
Cause we're Jewish.

Everyone's stunned.

DONNY (CONT'D) (cont'd)
 I mean, I don't care. I'm a team
 player on this thing. What do we do
 here? (making sign of the cross)
 Up, down, left, right? Isn't that
 how you guys do the thing?

Everyone looks at Todd -- he laughs nervously.

TODD
 Donny, I'm not Jewish. I'm
 Catholic.

DONNY
 What?
 (tries to recover)
 Oh, yeah...right. I always get
 those two mixed up.

ANGRY PRIEST
 (suspicious)
 Mr. Peterson, when was your last
 communion?

TODD
 (laughing/stalling)
 "When was my last communion?" Is
 this guy kidding? Stacey do you
 hear this? He's asking when my last
 communion was. Now that's funny. I
 mean, Jay Leno might want to step
 aside and let this guy do the
 jokes! Ha... "When was your last
 communion."

ANGRY PRIEST
 What *is* communion?

TODD
 You know.

ANGRY PRIEST
 Yes, I do know.

TODD
 It's...like a dance ritual...

Priest stares, head shaking.

TODD (cont'd)
 ...in the backyard...of God. In
 God's backyard.
 (beat)
 Metaphorically.
 (MORE)

TODD (cont'd)
 (beat)
 It's open to interpretation.

Off the Angry Priest's angry look --

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CHURCH - LATER

Donny, Troy, and the parents stand to the side as Stacey and Todd argue.

STACEY
 You lied to me!

TODD
 Yes...but out of love. I knew it was important to your family. It was a love lie. Like faking an orgasm.

HELEN
 (coming over)
 He'll just have to convert. Father Kelly can baptize him right before the ceremony.

TODD
 Wait, like convert, like convert my religion? Isn't the fact that we love each other enough?

STACEY
 Yes, as long as you get baptized before the wedding, and become a catholic.

TODD
 Okay so love isn't enough.

STACEY
 I'm not the one who lied.

Stacey gets in a taxi with her family.

HELEN
 (to Todd)
 You're really disappointing me.

TODD
 Helen...

HELEN
 Mrs. Hayward is fine.

Before getting in the cab, Troy whispers into Todd's ear.

TROY

Ask me how many men I've killed in combat.

TODD

How many men have you killed in combat.

TROY

(whispering even quieter)
...six.

He jumps in the cab and they're off, leaving a furious Todd alone with Donny outside the church.

DONNY

I'm sorry man, but you didn't give me a handbook with all the things you're lying about, you know? And who lies about being Jewish? Even just from a business standpoint, you're leaving a ton of clients on the table.

TODD

I guess I should have told you I was pretending to be a goy. But now I guess I'm actually gonna be one.

DONNY

Well wait a minute, don't let anyone tell you what to do. You need to decide for yourself. By blood you're half-n-half but you were raised as a Jew.

TODD

Hardly.

DONNY

What are you talking about? Don't you remember your Bar Mitzva?

TODD

As I recall, you threw a party at the house with all of YOUR friends, and at the end you told me it was my Bar Mitzva!

DONNY

Did you or did you not have your first beer that night?

TODD

I did.

DONNY

So you became a man. That, my son,
is the Talmudic definition Bar
Mitzva.

TODD

What is "Talmudic"?

DONNY

(no idea)
It's Jewish.

TODD

Uh huh. I might as well become a
Catholic.

DONNY

Hey, your call. Your mom is
Catholic, so I support whatever
decision you make.

TODD

It's not like being Jewish did
anything for you.

DONNY

But I want you to be a better
person than me.

TODD

Maybe I'll start by not
impregnating my 7th grade teacher!

DONNY

Okay, that's a great start. What
else?

TODD

Do something good for the
community? Maybe work in a soup
kitchen?

DONNY

TWO great ideas!

They LAUGH together, for the first time in a decade.

TODD

(laughing)
Who am I kidding?
(MORE)

TODD (cont'd)
I'm neurotic mess -- I have to stay Jewish. I'm not converting.

DONNY
That's my boy, the Levines live on!
Mazel Tov!

Todd's cell phone rings. The ring tone is Britney Spears "Hit Me Baby One More Time." Donny's look says "are you kidding?"

TODD (INTO PHONE)
Hi honey. I know. I'm sorry too.
Yes, I promise. Yeah... uh huh.
Because I was thinking maybe...
...uh huh...okay...okay. I will. I love you too. See you at home.

Todd hangs up.

TODD (cont'd)
That was Lisa.

DONNY
You're converting.

TODD
Yep.

INT. TUX SHOP - LATER

A TAILOR fits Donny and Todd for TUXES.

DONNY
I was thinking, what if instead of "whipped cream", they called it "pussy whipped cream"...

TAILOR
Hold still, arms by your side.

TODD
She's not really wrong on this, Don. I lied to her.

DONNY
No, I wasn't thinking about the way you let your fiancé cut your balls off. It was a completely separate thought about whether they should call whipped cream "pussy-whipped cream."

TODD

So I'll be Catholic, what's the big deal? Al Roker's Catholic and he seems very happy.

DONNY

How do you know that?

TODD

Stacey and I are obsessed with the Today Show. We TiVo it every day.

DONNY

Really.

TODD

Oh yeah. Matt Lauer's Protestant, Meredith Vieira's Methodist, Willard Scott's Unitarian and Gene Shalit's a Jew.

DONNY

I'm sold. You're obviously a Today-ophile. Look, I don't care if you're Jewish or not. I just hate seeing you twist yourself into a pretzel just so some rich family thinks you're like them.

TODD

You see, in an adult relationship, you make sacrifices for each other. It's not always about you.

DONNY

Ehh, gonna have to agree to disagree on that one.

TAILOR

(re: Donny's pants crotch)
How's this?

DONNY

Let's go a little tighter. Don't be afraid to get up in there.

TODD

I should have just been honest with Stacey in the first place.

DONNY

Absolutely. So hey, are you coming with me to see your Mom tomorrow before her big operation?

TODD

I don't even know the woman.
Haven't seen her since I was a
little kid...Can you imagine what
what it would be like to be locked
up in a jail cell?

DONNY

Trying not to think about it.

TODD

Day in, day out, the world goes by
without you...

DONNY

Please come with me tomorrow, Todd.
Please. I'm begging you!

TODD

(re Donny's pants)
Whoa, those are way too tight. It's
a tux, not a wet-suit.

DONNY

I could go even tighter. Todd?

TODD

Don, I can literally see the rim of
your penis.

DONNY

Barely.

A shot of Donny's crotch - like a penis in shrink wrap.

TODD

I'll go.

DONNY

You'll go?

TODD

Yes I'll go with you tomorrow to
see Miss McGarricle. As long as
we're back by noon.

DONNY

(hugging him)
Wow, thank you, that's my boy!

TAILOR

Okay, take a look. Two handsome
gentlemen!

Todd and Donny look in the mirror, side by side in their tuxes. Donny puts his arm around Todd. Todd shakes it off.

TAILOR (cont'd)

By the way, I've given some thought to the "pussy-whipped cream" idea. I don't think it would pass muster in most grocery stores because "pussy" sometimes means "vagina."

EXT. MAGNOLIA BAKERY - LATER

Todd and Donny wait in an insanely long line outside the famous tiny bakery.

DONNY

25 minutes on a line for cupcakes?
How good can they possibly be?

Some PATRONS look at Donny oddly.

TODD

Stacey loves them, and it's my go-to apology gift. Stacey would rather eat a Magnolia red velvet than have me eat her out.

DONNY

God, I hate Manhattan.

They finally reach the counter.

TODD

We'll take a dozen red velvets.

MAGNOLIA CLERK

That'll be \$31.55.

Donny makes a ridiculously fake "attempt" to find his wallet, patting all over his body. Todd just watches him -- which forces Donny to keep the charade going for a while.

TODD

Alright, Alligator Arms, take it easy, I got it.

DONNY

What? I was legitimately looking for my wallet.

They get the cupcakes and make their way out.

EXT. BLEECKER STREET - CONTINUOUS

DONNY
I want to give you some advice,
father to son...

TODD
You're not my father.

DONNY
I'm givin' it to you anyway...

DONNY (cont'd)
Here it is: Stop carrying around
the extra pair of underwear.
(takes a bite)
THIS IS THE WORST CUPCAKE I'VE EVER
HAD IN MY LIFE!

INT. TODD AND STACEY'S ROOM - DAY

Todd and Donny walks in to find Stacey looking at her wedding dress with Antonio, Helen and some girlfriends.

TODD
Stace...

STACEY
Close your eyes! You're not allowed
to see the dress!

She puts the dress away.

TODD
Listen, I have a few things to say.
One, I got red velvet cupcakes for
everyone.

STACEY (O.S.)
From where?

TODD
Magnolia.

HELEN
That place is THE BEST. THE. BEST.

DONNY
My idea!

Helen grabs a cupcake and passes some to the others.

TODD

Number two: I'm really psyched to be Catholic.

(whispers, aside)

I even stopped masturbating. And three, I'm sorry I lied. And I won't do it again. And I love you.

STACEY

(whispering)

I love you too, Todd, but this is our wedding. And ever since your friend Donny showed up, you're being really strange.

TODD

I'm sorry, everything's back on track now. Gonna be great. Okay?

STACEY

(softening)

Okay, sweetie. And good work on the red velvets.

TODD

I know all your secret little pleasures!

They kiss, and turn to the group.

ANTONIO

Okay people, I don't want to bust your balls here, but your bachelorette party bus gets here in an hour you gotta do your hair. Helen, it's a night out, not a bridge game, lose the pants suit. Doll yourself, chop suey, let's dooey!

(to Donny & Todd)

And you two: big bachelor night starts in T-minus twenty minutes.

DONNY

Bachelor party! Now you're speaking my lingo. Titties, booze, drugs...

STACEY

No, no - Todd's not into that kind of stuff, so I set up a really cool evening for all you guys tonight.

INT. NICKEL MEN'S SPA - NIGHT

An ultra modern, sleek spa lobby. The bachelor party walks in (Donny, Todd, Gerald, Troy, Phil and a few others).

It's filled with weird decorative cylinders and spheres, and above them is an enormous HANGING GLASS TANK filled with Koi fish, rocks and vegetation.

They are greeted by MRS. RAVENSDALE (50), in a white labcoat.

MRS. RAVENSDALE

Good evening gentlemen, I'm Mrs. Ravensdale. Welcome to your bachelor party package at the Nickel Spa for Men! We'll get you set up in plush robes, then a full evening of massage, skin and nail treatments, refreshing private or communal showering. Then we'll be sending you home with samples of our house-made lavender scrub!

DONNY

Saaaayyy... what the fuck?

TODD

Stacey thought we'd enjoy having time to chill and mellow.

PHIL

My wife and I have burning it on both ends all week with the pre-school applications and I am ready to be PAMPERED!

A SERVER brings a tray of drinks.

DONNY

Okay here we go! Drinky drinky let's get stinky!

Donny takes a drink, which has a cucumber slice floating at the top. He takes a sip. Then SPITS it back into glass.

DONNY (cont'd)

What is this? Water and a cucumber in here...smells like an air freshener or a flower--what IS this? And why in God's name are we drinking water at a bachelor party?

MRS. RAVENSDALE

It's water infused with cucumber,
rose pedals and harvest sandalwood.

DONNY

Well it's a really stupid idea. No
offense.

INT. MASSAGE ROOM - LATER

Donny's on a bed made entirely of long BAMBOO STICKS, getting
massaged by a female masseuse.

DONNY

What's with the bed made out of
sticks?

MASSEUSE

Very theraputic. Bamboo is imported
from Shandong province in China.

DONNY

How about importing a normal
mattress from Waterbed City. I'm
gonna have stick marks on my balls.

MASSEUSE

Okay turn over.

DONNY

Now you're talking. Yankee yakee
pull my hankie.

MASSEUSE

Sorry?

DONNY

How much for the full package?

MASSEUSE

\$150 extra.

DONNY

Ooh that's steep.

MASSEUSE

It includes scalp treatment,
reflexology--

DONNY

--no baby, how much is it gonna
cost me to get Mrs. Kringle down to
the South Pole?

MASSEUSE

Sorry?

DONNY

To jerk me off! How much does it cost?

TODD (O.S.)

Donny! This isn't a brothel!

Reveal that Todd and all the others are getting massages in this same room. Gerald and Troy look at Donny suspiciously.

DONNY

Alright, then I'm *completely* confused why where here.

INT. NAIL CARE ROOM - LATER

The six guys are sitting in a circle, all wearing white robes and getting MANICURES and PEDICURES.

Troy is staring DAGGERS at Todd.

TODD

What? Did I do something wrong?

TROY

I don't know. You tell me.

TODD

No, I didn't.

TROY

We'll see.

PHIL

(to manicurist)

I've been growing my toenails for three weeks waiting for this. Go to town, sister!

DONNY

So then we're done and we actually go out and drink, right?

TODD

No. We have the rehearsal dinner tomorrow night and we all want to be in good shape for it.

DONNY

Then I can officially say this is the worst bachelor party--wait a minute. This is not a party, this is six guys getting their nails done on a Friday night. What *happened?*

MRS. RAVENSDALE

Five minutes till everyone gets their choice of *two* kinds of chocolate!!

TODD

Ooh! Kill me now why don't you? It's like "death by chocolate!"

GERALD

¡Muerto de chocolato!

PHIL

What about Hebrew? *Mah vet mee sukahriaht ha mahvet!* Who knew that a summer in Israel would actually pay off?

TROY

In Farsi it would be *Lotfan yaddasht konid.*

PHIL

Perfect! So many languages, so much fun!

Everyone laughs.

DONNY

No! Opposite of fun! Opposite of fun!

TODD

Calm down, Donny!

DONNY

I will not calm down! That's it. I'm the best man, and I'm putting my foot down! This is NOT a bachelor party! We shouldn't be drinking cucumber juice!

PHIL

Correction Donny it's not juice. It's water *infused* with cucumber, sandalwood--

Donny takes a BAMBOO STICK from a stack of them leaning against the wall.

DONNY

And these bamboo sticks everywhere? Who cares if they're imported from China? All the shittiest stuff is from China, right?

PHIL

Ahh-not necessarily anymore. These days China has very much caught up with the U.S. in the manufacture of quality--

DONNY

--Are you done?

PHIL

I can be. Do you want me to be?

DONNY

Yes I do. What the fuck guys? This is Donny's last night of freedom and we're getting manicures? And massages with sad endings? This is his last time up to the plate as a free man! Bases are loaded! Do you play small ball? Loop a single? No!

He holds the bamboo stick like it's a baseball bat.

DONNY (cont'd)

You swing for the fences! You get all Albert Pujois on it! You see that pitch coming and you size it up and you CRUSH IT!

BANG! Donny SWINGS the bamboo stick. It connects, like a baseball bat, to a ceramic SPHERE that's part of one of the sculptures.

TODD

Donny!!!

The guys cower. The sphere FLIES up in the air and BANGS into the hanging koi fish tank, then plinks to the ground.

The guys breathe a sigh of relief.

GERALD

Well that could have been worse.

MRS. RAVENSDALE
 (rushing in)
 What happened?

DONNY
 Nothing. (picking up the sphere)
 This fell off.

MRS. RAVENSDALE
 Oh, we can fix that.

A CRACKING SOUND. All look up to see a small but growing
 FIZZURE in the hanging fish tank.

TROY
 That's not good.

PHIL
 It looks sort of like when the
 Mississippi flows into its
 tributaries - all those little
 cracks, multiplying...

DONNY
 I'd try to fix it but at this
 point, it's out of our hands.

GERALD
 We all know where this is headed,
 right?

TODD
 Yeah.

BOOM! The tank SHATTERS into a million pieces. Water, fish,
 rocks splashing over the whole lobby, ruining the artwork,
 rugs, etc.

EXT. STREET - LATER

The guys wait outside. Antonio emerges from the spa.

ANTONIO
 I smoothed it over. Sweet talked
 the old lady, made her feel good,
 did my thing. We're all good.

GERALD
 We don't even have to pay for
 damages?

ANTONIO

Nah, I pulled some favors, it's all gonna get fixed. That's all you need to know.

TODD

You really are the best.

ANTONIO

It's my cross to bare.

TODD

We've had enough excitement for one night. I say we wrap it up.

PHIL

Amen to that.

DONNY

Wait, what? We're just getting started! We finally had some action tonight! It's not a bachelor party if you don't do a little damage.

TODD

We're done Donny.

DONNY

I'm not taking no for an answer. Give me one hour. If we're not all having a blast, everyone can go home. Everyone get in the car! You too Antonio!

The guys reluctantly pile back into the limo.

TODD

Where are you taking us?

DONNY

We're going a place where the only cucumbers they have are your fuckin' dicks!

(to the driver)

Go to the Lincoln Tunnel!

MUSIC KICKS IN...

EXT. MANHATTAN SKYLINE - NIGHT

As we pull AWAY from the lights of Manhattan, the limo emerges from the Lincoln Tunnel into New Jersey.

EXT. CLASSY RICK'S NAKED LADY EMPORIUM - NIGHT

A couple of guys are beating each other up in the parking lot. Another guy is throwing up into a dumpster. A woman is standing right at the entrance, under a bright light, SHOOTING UP.

The limo pulls up.

DONNY

Now we're talking. Oooh and it's Saturday night - they got Denver omelets, they're crazy good.

INT. CLASSY RICK'S NAKED LADY EMPORIUM - NIGHT

The group comes in. It's Saturday night at Rick's - about as hopping as a skanky low-end Jersey strip club gets.

TODD

No, Don. No way. This will ruin me with Stacey's family--

GERALD

--Todd, relax. This gonna be great. And you know that what happens at the bachelor party stays at the bachelor party. Right Troy?

TROY

I'm human. I enjoy nudity.

Champale comes over.

CHAMPALE

Donny! You brought a group, we're gonna treat you good!

DONNY

Thanks Champale!

CHAMPALE

(re Todd)

And you must be Donny's-

DONNY

-friend. This is my friend Todd, remember I saved his life?

They exchange a look.

CHAMPALE

Oh, yeah, sure, yeah. Oh and you brought a military man. What's your name soldier?

TROY

Troy Hayward, Private First Class US Marine Corps.

CHAMPALE

Mmm, mmm, mmm! That sounded like a whole lotta words to me. You must be a general or somethin'!

DONNY

And this is--

CHAMPALE

--you're the father-in-law to be. You know how I can tell? You're old.

GERALD

Very good!

PHIL

I'm Phil. I was the best man until Donny showed up.

CHAMPALE

That's too bad for you. As a consolation prize you'll be getting extra looks at my pussy tonight.

INT. BACK OF THE CLUB - CONTINUOUS

Todd heads to the back and sees Brie manning the buffet.

TODD

Where's the men's room?

BRIE

Over there. Save room for some eggs!

TODD

Oh I wasn't planning on eating anything in there.

BRIE

Oh, duh, right. Other way around, right?

TODD

Yeah...

BRIE

Oh - you're Donny's son, aren't you? Don't worry, Donny told filled me in, your secret's safe.

TODD

I appreciate that. I'm Todd. Well that's sort of like my stage name.

BRIE

I'm Brie. My stage name is Linda Starr, but I never get to use it.

TODD

Why not?

BRIE

Eh, protective mom...

She points across the room to Champale who is gyrating around the pole.

BRIE (cont'd)

Anyway, long story. Go piss, I'll fry you up a couple.

Todd smiles and heads to the bathroom.

AT THE STAGE AREA:

The rest of the guys are sitting at a table with drinks. Donny brings over six beers.

DONNY

This is called "a shot of Whiskey". It's whiskey infused with whiskey. And a little essence of nothing else.

ANTONIO

Dude, this place is AWESOME!

DONNY

I know, right?

ANTONIO

I'm so godamm busy with weddings these days I don't get to go out to the places I like anymore.

DONNY

Well soak it in! You're a cool dude, Antonio. I gotta admit, I kind of thought all wedding planners were gay.

ANTONIO

Oh, I'm totally gay.

DONNY

No, like literally homosexual.

ANTONIO

Yeah, right, I am.

DONNY

No shit! Really?

ANTONIO

We come in all flavors, dawg.

DONNY

Yeah, what flavor are you?

ANTONIO

New York Super Fudge Chunk.

BACK AT THE BUFFET:

Todd is now standing and eating his eggs.

TODD

You really want to be a stripper? Isn't that a hard life?

BRIE

Listen my Mom's been doing it for 60-odd years now, and she's always had enough money to keep a roof over our heads, she paid for me to go to Jersey State. And look at her!

They watch Champale pressing Phill's face between her legs.

CHAMPALE

Don't be shy, boy! Get a good look!

BRIE

She's still excited to wake up every day and live her life. How many people can say that?

TODD

Not me.

BRIE

For years, I worked as a legal secretary, hoping I'd be a lawyer someday.

TODD

Oh that sounds like a good goal. Lawyers definitely make a lot of money and--

BRIE

But I hated it, Todd!

TODD

(backtracking)

Ooh, I know. Lawyers are scumbags. It's like the old joke - what's the difference between a lawyer and a snake?

BRIE

What? What's the difference?

TODD

I don't remember the punchline but essentially it's like a lawyer is, uh, like a snake, or something along those lines.

BRIE

Right, exactly. And that's no fun, so I thought, "Screw it - I'll work in a dirty strip club off the Jersey Turnpike and let people judge me. Because guess what? I'd take my mom's life, sans the heroin addiction, any day. I'm happy and they're not.

TODD

Hard to argue with happiness. Although crippling depression has its merits too. Both have pros and cons.

Brie laughs.

TODD (cont'd)

I don't know why I'm telling you this, but I have to carry around a second pair of underwear.

BRIE
You are so funny.

TODD
Yeah. I wish I was joking.

INT. STRIP CLUB - A BIT LATER

Troy is demonstrating Jujitsu moves for Phil and Gerald.

GERALD
Hey not bad Troy!
(to Phil)
My son could kill you in one move
if he had to, right Troy?

TROY
Only if you were the enemy. I've
killed six guys. Two with my hands,
two with my weapon, and one just
because he got in my face.

PHIL
The one who got in your face--did
you get him with your hands or your
gun? And what happened to the sixth
guy?

TROY
You can ask him when you get to
hell. OH OH OH! I'm kiddin' around
of course, Phil. You're a good guy.

AT THE BAR:

Donny and Antonio watching the others.

DONNY
See, a little booze, a few boobs,
everyone's having fun.

ANTONIO
Hey can I just be an annoying fan
for a second?

DONNY
No such thing. Donny Levine fans
are the best in the world. Without
the fans, I'd be just another schmo
that nobody cares about.

ANTONIO

Okay so my partner Eric and I,
we've always had this thing. We
each have one "celebrity screw" --
the one guy we can cheat with, if
we ever get the chance. And for
like two weeks, back in the 80s,
for me, it was you!

DONNY

So who's your "celebrity screw"
now?

ANTONIO

Zac Efron. And Eric's is Paul Rudd.

DONNY

Boy you guys have been together a
long time. Everytime I get into a
relationship, I tank it before it
goes anywhere. How do you do it?

ANTONIO

It's like planning a wedding.
There's no shortcut to putting in
the time. Every hour I spend with
my man, I get to know him more
deeply.

Donny's looking over at Todd, who talking to Brie.

ANTONIO (cont'd)

(handing him a card)

Here's my private number. Anything
you need, anything you can think
of. I can get, in a heartbeat.
Yankee tickets, dinner at Lugers,
whatever. That's what I do.

EXT. CLASSY RICK'S NAKED LADY EMPORIUM - NIGHT

Antonio's getting Gerald, Troy and Phil back into the limo.

ANTONIO

Okay, night's over. Gotta be bright
and bushy tomorrow, let's go...

He gives Donny a thumbs up, gets in as the limo SPEEDS OFF.

INT. CLASSY RICK'S NAKED LADY EMPORIUM - CONTINUOUS

Todd comes back to the table where Donny's now sitting alone.

DONNY

Hey hey hey - do I sense a little love connection between you and Brie? She's a fine piece of somethin' somethin' huh?

TODD

(ignoring him)
Where'd everyone go?

DONNY

Antonio's taking them home. I thought it'd be good to have a little time with just the best man and the groom.

TODD

Really? Can't we go home?

DONNY

No, I gotta give you your wedding present.

TODD

You got me a present?

DONNY

I'm gonna give you something I shoulda given you a long time ago.

He grabs an ARMFUL OF CASSETTES from his bag.

DONNY (cont'd)

You've gotten the wrong idea about Springsteen.

TODD

I know, Bruce Springsteen, Bon Jovi.

DONNY

Already you're way off. Two totally different things. I mean I love Jovi, don't get me wrong. I also like a good burger, but when I want a steak I don't go to a burger place, you know? Springsteen is filet mignon served on a white table cloth by a condescending old man in a bow tie. The man wrote "Thunder Road"!

(MORE)

DONNY (cont'd)

In fact, that really should be your first wedding dance - it's embarrassing that it's not, but, I get it, no one's ever played you The Boss.

He looks through his tapes.

DONNY (cont'd)

There's so many ways into this. I could hit you with "Nebraska", but too sad as a starter. "Greetings;" "Darkness;" "The Wild, The Innocent"; You're gonna wanna be buried with all of them, but...

He holds one tape up up...

DONNY (cont'd)

"Born To Run." When my LaserTag franchise went under and you were eating all the money I had left... this is the only thing that stroked my hair and said, "Shhhhh."

TODD

At least when the LaserTag shut down we had all that frozen pizza for the next few years.

DONNY

So finally it hit me:

He holds up "THE RIVER."

DONNY (cont'd)

The River. The year you ran away I wore out three copies of this tape. Fact: The River is about everybody's life ever. That's what The Boss does best. He writes about your life. Literally.

Todd laughs, puts up his hands in surrender. Donny nods to the DJ in the booth.

DONNY (cont'd)

This tape popped my cherry, now it's gonna pop yours. The Levine boys have always been lone eagles. But, tonight, we're not alone...

DEEP VOICED DJ (V.O.)
 Steppin' up the stage once again,
 Champale, this one's for Todd and
 Donny...It's Jersey's own, Bruce
 "you are the boss of me"
 Springsteen, with "Two Hearts."

The heroic intro to "Two Hearts" BEGINS. Champale dances wildly. Donny holds his drink out for a toast. Todd smiles. They TOUCH CANS as the song EXPLODES into a MONTAGE:

--DONNY'S BOARDED UP HOT TUB LOT: Donny opens a door marked "WOMEN'S ROOM - OUT OF ORDER" - inside, cases of Bud Light are stacked wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling.

--OUTSIDE: They shotgun beers. Todd's explodes in his face. Donny laughs, then teaches him. Todd tries again, success!

--FRONT DRIVEWAY of their old house. They play basketball, one-on-one, vigorous, yelling, pushing. The CURRENT OWNER of the house comes out with a BAT and chases them away.

--SIDEWALK: Donny spots a KID'S BIKE. CUT TO: Donny HOLDS the seat as Todd now rides the bike. Donny then lets go. Todd wobbles then BANGS into a parked car.

--PORN SHOP: Donny holds a DILDO and a FAKE VAGINA demonstrating sex to Todd.

TODD
 I know how to have sex.

DONNY
 But I'm teaching you how to do it
 Donny-style.

--BATHROOM: Donny and Todd have a "swordfight" at a urinal, their streams criss-crossing back and forth.

--BOARDWALK: They walk past all the closed-down rides and booths.

SPRINGSTEEN
*"...two Hearts are better than
 one!"*

EXT. ZIERING'S MOTEL - NIGHT

"Two Hearts" FADES DOWN as Todd pulls a reluctant Donny to the door. Donny doesn't wanna knock. Todd knocks. Ian Ziering answers then tries to SLAM the door. Todd holds it open.

TODD

Wait!

Todd elbows Donny, who finally speaks.

DONNY

So, I'm really sorry I had anal
with your Mom.

ZIERING

That's all I've been waiting for
all these years. A simple apology.
Water under the bridge.

TODD

So I'm getting married.

ZIERING

I read the Times.

TODD

You're like my uncle! I need you at
my wedding!

ZIERING

All you had to do was ask, my boy.
Uncle Ian will be there with bells
on.

DONNY

(holding up a Bud Light)
Hey, we have a head start on you,
but do you have any desire to get
really really wasted?

ZIERING

More than life itself. And by the
way I think I might be the one with
the head start.

Reveal in Ziering's right hand is a half-empty bottle of gin.
They laugh as "Two Hearts" MONTAGE KICKS BACK IN...

--BOARDWALK: They drink beer on the boardwalk, they see see
two girls.

--DONNY'S HOT TUB LOT: Ziering has a threesome with the two
girls in an empty hot tub, while Donny and Todd do beer spins
(shotgun beers, spin around, try to stay upright) and fall
into separate tubs.

--BEACH: The three of them run into the ocean with just their
tighty-whities, yelling, laughing.

EXT. BEACH - DAWN

"Two Hearts" FADES. The sun rises as Donny and Todd CRASH onto the sand.

Ziering finishes one last beer before PASSING OUT.

TODD

Can I tell you something, you can't tell anyone? Especially Stacey?

(Donny locks his lips)

I hate my job. I don't wanna move up corporate ladder. Some days I think about losing Helen's money so she has to fire me.

DONNY

Then quit. I can teach you how.

TODD

Don't you see I'm trying to be not like you?

Then Donny LOOKS at Todd, gets pensive, SERIOUS.

DONNY

I gotta tell you something Todd. I'm a bad guy.

TODD

No you're not, man. You just weren't ready to be a dad. You were young.

Ziering awakens for a moment...

ZIERING

You guys ready to party or what!!?
Hey Donny stay way from my mom or I'll--

...and passes out again.

INT. TODD'S HOME OFFICE - LATER

They stand at Donny's door, awkwardly, like the end of a really great first date. Both still really drunk.

DONNY

So...classic night. I had a great time, Todd.

TODD
Yeah. Me too.

They stand there awkwardly, not sure how to end it.

TODD (cont'd)
Good night, Don.

DONNY
(smiles)
How 'bout, "Good night, Dad"? I mean, you could just see how it feels...

TODD
(laughs, smiles)
Good night, Don.

DONNY
Too soon. I get it. That's cool.

Todd leaves. Donny flops on the bed, smiling.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

Todd leans against the office door, smiling the same smile.

INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Todd stumbles into the bedroom. He goes into the closet/dressing area to take off his clothes. Sees the WEDDING DRESS. He goes to HUG the wedding dress.

TODD
(drunk)
Oh...my beautiful bride...dance with me?

Todd then PUKES all over the wedding dress.

TODD (cont'd)
I'll clean that up later...gotta sleep.

INT. HOME OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Donny undresses to his briefs, throwing his clothes on the floor. Then rethinks - he picks up his clothes, and cleans up the room.

GRANDMA DELORES (O.S.)
Just finished your novel.

Startled, Donny turns to see Grandma Delores standing there in her nightgown, Donny's novel in her hand.

DONNY
Oh hi, Grandma Delores!

GRANDMA DELORES
I was particularly intrigued by the passage on page 37.

DONNY
Yeah that part's pretty sweet? The stuff about my dick, right?

GRANDMA DELORES
(moving closer to him)
I've got a sinking suspicion that this novel's based on your real life.

DONNY
(downplaying)
Well it's really exaggerated. It's not like I just hook up with any woman who's way older than me.

GRANDMA DELORES
(points to his crotch)
We'll have to see about that. Take it out. Lemme see it.

DONNY
Yeah, I don't know...

GRANDMA DELORES
Let me be very clear. If you don't, I'll say you did. But if you do, I'll say you didn't.

DONNY
Wow that's...that...

GRANDMA DELORES
Just relax...

Grandma Delores opens Donny's pants (off camera) and KNEELS DOWN out of frame.

GRANDMA DELORES (O.S.) (cont'd)
Oooh...Your writing doesn't do you justice.

Donny smiles. Uncomfortable, but proud.

EXT. TODD & STACEY'S TOWNHOUSE - EARLY MORNING

A lone JOGGER passes by the house. Kids walk to school.

Suddenly, a SHRILL SCREAM ERUPTS from the house. People on the street look up.

STACEY (O.S.)
 AHHHHHH!! OH MY GOD!!

INT. TODD & STACEY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The scream WAKES Todd UP from a deep slumber.

Stacey runs in YELLING, holding her DRESS!

TODD
 What happened?

STACEY
 My dress!!!

Todd thinks back...remembers, then Donny, in Grandma's robe, RUSHES in making frantic Karate moves.

DONNY
 AAAHHHH!
 (looks around, beat)
 Whoa, sorry. I thought someone was
 killing Stacey. What's going on?

STACEY
 (to Todd)
 I can't believe you PUKED ON MY
 WEDDING DRESS!

TODD
 Whoa, whoa. No, Stace. I'm sorry,
 but, it was-

DONNY
 (covers for Todd)
 -a huge mistake. I was so drunk and-
 -I stumbled into your closet--and I
 booted all over your lovely gown.
 I'm really, really sorry.

STACEY
 Just go away. You are disgusting.
 And my wedding is ruined!

TODD
 (surprised by her anger)
 Stace, relax. I mean, it was
 clearly an accident, and he --

STACEY
 WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON, TODD!!?

Ziering sprints in the room, nude, weilding a LAMP...

ZIERING
 Who's getting killed?!

...then realizes everything's okay.

ZIERING (cont'd)
 Oh sorry. You...must be the bride.
 (uncomfortable beat)
 Whaazzzuuuuuuup?

STACEY
 (so confused)
 Steve Sanders?

ZIERING
 Thanks. Yeah. The real name's Ian
 Ziering. I could sign something for
 you if you want or...

STACEY
 (to Todd)
 Why is Steve Sanders cupping his
 junk in my bedroom right now?

TODD
 Um...he's...

ZIERING
 (thinking he's smooth)
 I'm his uncle.

STACEY
 What?!

TODD
 He's like an uncle...figure.

STACEY
 So...you never mentioned to me that
 Ian Ziering is like an uncle figure
 to you?

TODD

I think you were tired but I did mention it.

Antonio comes into the room. Takes in the situation for a few beats.

STACEY

Antonio--my dress. Donny was drunk and-

ANTONIO

-I don't want to know. We have a wedding in 36 hours. The dress...
 (he taps his blackberry)
 ...will be cleaned and perfect by the morning, so don't worry about that. I got this covered. Crunch time, my time! Booyah! All you gotta do, Stacey--go to yoga, take deep breaths, and be dressed for the rehearsal dinner by six.

Antonio throws the dress in a plastic bag.

ANTONIO (cont'd)

Todd and Donny you just make sure you're washed, dressed and sober by tonight. And Ian Ziering, I don't know why you're here, and I don't need to know, but I'm a big fan.

STACEY

(to Todd)

When I get back, can you please be the normal Todd from three days ago?

Stacey and Antonio LEAVE.

ZIERING

(to Todd)

Hey - I approve!

He mimes an "hourglass" indicating he thinks Stacey has a good body.

INT. BREAKFAST ROOM - LATER

Ziering, Todd and Donny eat pancakes and sausage.

ZIERING

Mmm! Great flapjacks.

GRANDMA DELORES

You boys enjoy, I'm gonna go upstairs and brush my teeth.

She goes, sneaking a brush of her hand across Donny's back.

TODD

Hey, we gotta hurry if we're gonna make it to the prison.

DONNY

What? You still wanna go?

TODD

Yeah. As long as we get back in time for the rehearsal dinner. She *is* my mother. Might be my last chance to see her.

ZIERING

Hey you guys mind if I opt out of this family trip?

DONNY

Uh, yeah you weren't really invited anyway so that works out perfectly.

ZIERING

Cool! I'm gonna go up and hang with Grandma D.

INT. TODD'S MERCEDES - LATER

Todd drives with Donny. Neither is talking.

DONNY

So you didn't miss me at all, over the past eight years?

TODD

No.

DONNY

Was I *that* bad?

TODD

(long beat, sighs)

I got tired of getting called "Rape Baby" all the time, you know?

DONNY

Yeah, I can see how that would grate on you after a while.

Beat.

TODD

What was she like anyway?

DONNY

Your mom? Miss McGarricle? I mean what can I say, she was a really cool lady, she was the hottest teacher in the school.

TODD

That's not what I'm asking you.

DONNY

I don't know, it's been a lotta years. It's fuzzy. I just remember we were in love.

TODD

And it didn't occur to you that that's totally fucked up?

DONNY

Honestly, no. Not for a second.

TODD

Well just in case no one's told you yet, that's totally fucked up.

DONNY

I never thought about how this would play out - I was a horny, nerdy, Jewish fifteen-year-old. I didn't think about how this would affect me now! I couldn't even conceive of being 42 years old then. But I was doing this secret made me feel special. My friends were all virgins, I mean except for Tyler Monroe, but he was born in Europe, so that's different.

TODD

Yeah, they got a whole other thing goin' on over there - they don't shower, school kids drinking wine at breakfast, Nutella...

DONNY

Oh, Nutella, that's the stuff. So look I know it was fucked up, but I'm telling you there was still something real there.

(MORE)

DONNY (cont'd)

If only I'd waited three years. But when you mix love, with the fact that I got hard every time I shifted my weight, then common sense--and the law--went out the window.

Todd nods, taking it in.

EXT. NEW JERSEY STATE WOMEN'S PENITENTIARY - DAY

They get out of the car and head toward the security gate.

DONNY

We had some good times when you were young, right? I bought you beer, I snuck you into R-rated movies...remember "Silence of The Lambs"?

TODD

I had nightmares for years.

DONNY

God I was terrible dad, wasn't I?

TODD

Look...the honest answer is, yes.

DONNY

(sincere)
I'm sorry.

TODD

If you'd been my older brother, you would have been awesome.

DONNY

(to himself)
...I was a terrible dad.

TODD

Last night wasn't terrible. I had a great time.

DONNY

What're friends for? Or brothers, or fathers, or whatever we are.

TODD

When you showed up the other day, I was sure you just wanted money.

(MORE)

TODD (cont'd)

But--I can't believe I'm saying
this--I'm glad you're gonna be at
my wedding tomorrow.

Donny's so touched. Thinks, then STOPS WALKING.

DONNY

You know what? Let's blow this off.
Let's go to an R-rated movie!

TODD

What are you talking about? We're
here, we gotta do this.

DONNY

No, I changed my mind. I don't
wanna go in. She'll probably
survive. Modern medicine gets
better every day.

TODD

Come on, Don, I know you're
nervous, you haven't seen her in a
long time, but the woman's sick.
It'll be good for both of us. It's
the right thing to do.

Donny at the entrance gate, SO CONFLICTED, as walk inside.

INT. JERSEY STATE PRISON - ENTRANCE AREA - LATER

They wait for the VISITORS DOOR to open. They're both
nervous. Donny looks around anxiously.

DONNY

Todd. I - I'm sorry.

TODD

It's okay. You were just a kid and
you didn't know any better. I
believe your heart was always in
the right place.

Todd HUGS him clumsily. Donny's SO TOUCHED. The DOOR OPENS.
Todd walks into the visitors room. Donny trails, hesitantly.

INT. VISITING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

MARY MCGARRICLE enters, now 53 but still sexy.

MARY MCGARRICLE

Mmm. Look at you. Donny Levine.

DONNY
Hi Miss McGarricle.

They press their hands together with the glass in between.

MARY MCGARRICLE
You look...did you get beat up?

DONNY
No just about 20 years older than
last time we saw each other.

MARY MCGARRICLE
Okay, yeah, that's what it is.

DONNY
You still look freaky sexy.

MARY MCGARRICLE
I have a lot of time to exercise.
Plus I got one of those juicers,
which I'm addicted to.
(to Todd)
And you, you're all grown up.

TODD
(nervous)
Hi.

MARY MCGARRICLE
As you can see I survived the
explosion.

TODD
Oh, you saw--

MARY MCGARRICLE
You don't think I read the Times?
(then) I didn't know if I'd ever
see you again. Crazy, you've got my
ears. You really are my son.

TODD
(looking at her face)
I can see the bridge of my nose
right there.

MARY MCGARRICLE
You're beautiful.

TODD
Thanks, Mary. Can I ask you
something?

MARY MCGARRICLE

Anything.

TODD

I know you're sick and all but just curious, what possessed you to pork a ninth grader?

MARY MCGARRICLE

I was really scrambled in the head. It's taken me years to get straightened out, but I'm better now. Not sick anymore.

TODD

Oh no I was talking about your cancer.

MARY MCGARRICLE

Huh?

MONTEL WILLIAMS (O.S.)

(quietly)

It must be quite a shocker to be face to face with the woman who gave birth to you after all these years.

Reveal MONTEL WILLIAMS is sitting right next to them, microphone in hand. In the corner is a CAMERA CREW.

TODD

What the hell is going on?!

DONNY

Montel! What a weird coincidence.

MONTEL WILLIAMS

Can you describe what you're feeling?

Todd jumps up, furious.

TODD

What is this?

MONTEL WILLIAMS

Donny? Are we not all on board or...?

DONNY

Yes! No! Just one second...

(whispers to Todd)

Before you get mad.

(MORE)

DONNY (cont'd)

I'm getting fifty grand out of this. 43 and change goes to the IRS and the other seven - that's all for you! What do you think?

TODD

I - I can't believe you...
(re: Mary)
Is she even dying?

A pause as Donny searches for an answer.

DONNY

(defeated)
She is not.

No response from anyone. Todd STORMS OUT. Donny CHASES AFTER.

INT. PRISON ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Donny catches up to Todd.

TODD

Wow. I'm actually impressed. This is an amazing new low for you.

DONNY

They would only pay big if it was the whole family. But, I set this up before me and you started, you know...loving each other again --

TODD

I never loved you! I blew you up!!

DONNY

I'm in a lot of trouble, okay? I need to money or I'm going to jail!

TODD

So you thought you could ambush me with a camera crew and suddenly I'd be like "oh sure, let's do an interview!"

DONNY

-I DIDN'T REALLY THINK IT THROUGH, OKAY?!

TODD

If you needed money so bad why didn't you just ask me?!!

DONNY

Fine! Will you give me 43 grand?!?

TODD

NO!

DONNY

I DON'T WANNA GO TO PRISON!
 (to the a passing INMATE)
 No offense.

INMATE

None taken.

TODD

Every minute I've been in this
 world I've been fighting against
 you trying to destroy me. I can't
 believe I entertained the idea of --
 (stops himself)
 Really, can you spend just one day
 not trying to ruin my life?!

DONNY

Yeah, well, you ruined my life!
 Don't you think I had dreams!? If
 you weren't born I probably woulda
 been a pro baseball player. But,
 yay! It's a baby! Have a cigar!
 What a blessing!

TODD

Oh I guess I owe YOU an apology for
 being born. I should have thought
 about it more carefully when I was
 a sperm in your balls. I was
 talking to the other sperm and I
 was like, "What can I do to fuck up
 Donnie's life?" Stupid me, my bad!

DONNY

Was I supposed to just put my whole
 life aside for you!?

TODD

YES! It's called parenting! How do
 you live with yourself?

DONNY

How do you live with yourself? Oh
 that's right, you don't. You leave
 your birth-family, make up a fake
 boring name... "

(MORE)

DONNY (cont'd)
 Todd Peterson" Jesus! You talk to
 me about lying? Your whole
 existence is a lie!

TODD
 God, I wish you weren't my dad!

DONNY
 Don't you talk to your father like
 that!

Todd KICKS Donny -- Donny CATCHES his leg and PULLS him down.
 They roll around WRESTLING. Todd gets on top, CHOKES Donny.

The Guard TASERS them -- they SEIZURE apart, SHIVER in pain!

TODD	DONNY
Oh my god that hurts!	I'm dying!

Montel comes into the room. Todd recovers, CRAWLS to the
 door.

DONNY (cont'd)
 Todd, I'm sorry! You have to
 forgive me!

TODD
 Get out of my life. I never want to
 see you again.

Todd LEAVES. Montel kneels down to Donny, still on the floor,
 in pain.

MONTEL WILLIAMS
 Must be tough to hear that from
 your boy huh? "Get out of my
 life... never want to see you
 again?"

DONNY
 Yeah.

MONTEL WILLIAMS
 Well that goes double for me,
 motherfucker.
 (to crew)
 Pack it up, guys!

INT. TODD'S HOUSE - LATER

Todd, in a suit, stares at himself in the mirror. He pulls
 out a fresh pair of UNDERWEAR and stuffs it in his breast
 pocket.

STACEY
You look handsome, honey.

TODD
Thanks Stace.

STACEY
Sorry to hear about Donny being
called away to Scuba Diving camp.
Maybe it's easier without him.

TODD
Yeah, maybe it is.

STACEY
Everything's back to normal now
right?

TODD
Yeah, back to normal.

STACEY
Got your underwear?

TODD
Right here.

Stacey KISSES him.

STACEY
Let's go to the rehearsal dinner.

Stacey leaves the room. Todd opens a drawer, digs to the back and pulls out the OVEN MITT from when he was 4. Written on it with marker in child's handwriting is "Mister Cereal Box"

INT. TAVERN ON THE GREEN - THAT NIGHT

The formal REHEARSAL DINNER is in progress. Helen, dressed to the nines, stands a microphone and addresses the large crowd.

HELEN
So now we welcome Todd Peterson to
the Hayward family. And I'll take
this time to tell you all, I've
decided to make Todd our new VP of
finance at Hayward Media!

Applause. Todd looks surprised. He forces a smile.

HELEN (cont'd)
 To Todd & Stacey: Hopefully by
 paying Todd more money, I'll be
 lending Stacey less money!

Big laughter.

HELEN (cont'd)
 Sorry kids, I had to do it! Now for
 a few words from Todd's best man!

Phil comes up to the mic.

PHIL
 (reading index cards)
 Thank you Mrs. Hayward. I'm sort of
 the David Lee Roth of best men: I
 had the gig, lost it, then got it
 back again! Anyhoo....

Phil flips to his next index card.

EXT. TAVERN ON THE GREEN - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Donny and Ian Ziering sit on a DUMPSTER watching the
 rehearsal dinner through the window. They drink Bud Lights.

PHIL (CONT'D)
 I really don't know Todd all that
 well, but he seems like a real good
 guy...

DONNY
 I blew it, Ian. He'll never forgive
 me.

IAN ZIERING
 Come on man, he's your son. He'll
 come around.

DONNY
 I just want him to be happy. Maybe
 it's better I'm not at the wedding
 to screw that up too.

IAN ZIERING
 This isn't a healthy way to deal
 with your pain. Let's go do some
 blow.

DONNY
 Nah I don't do that stuff anymore.

Beat.

DONNY (cont'd)
Why do you have some?

IAN ZIERING
No, I was hoping you did.

DONNY
Let's just stay. Even if I can't be
in there with him, I just want to
watch.

IAN ZIERING
That's cool. (beat) Did I ask you
if you had any blow?

EXT. TAVERN ON THE GREEN - LATER

The rehearsal dinner group is pouring out of the restaurant.

STACEY
(to various guests)
Good night! See you tomorrow! Get
home safe!

TODD
I'm pretty spent. We got a great
room at the Waldorf with a big
jacuzzi tub. I'm gonna head over
there and crash out!

TROY
Uh, I don't think so.

TODD
You don't think so?

TROY
Common custom is for bride and
groom to be separate the night
before the wedding. Antonio?

ANTONIO
That's the custom. Bad juju to
sleep in the same room the night
before. Don't worry you'll be
together every night till your
dead. Arrright?

AT THE DUMPSTER, Ian and Donny are watching this, able to
hear the conversation.

IAN ZIERING

There you go, this is your chance!

DONNY

I told you, he won't talk to me.

IAN ZIERING

No, you gotta talk to Stacey.

DONNY

Huh?

IAN ZIERING

Listen, during the rehearsal period of Dancing With The Stars, I'm hanging out in the green room one day with John Ratzenberger, Joey Fatone and Leeza Gibbons. And Ratzenberger's like, "I don't want to do this, I'm not a dancer, I'm quitting." We couldn't convince him. He wouldn't listen to reason. But then Fatone, you know what he did? That crazy SOB went and talked to Ratz's wife. Tells the WIFE how much we all want him to stay. Next day, John "Cliff Clavin" Ratzenberger, walks in the door, dance shoes on, it's like he's a regular Justin Timberlake now-

DONNY

-what's your point?

IAN ZIERING

My point is: Win Stacey over. She'll convince Todd to take you back. "Talk to the wife, you're in for life."

INT. WALDORF HOTEL - LATER

Donny goes up to the reception desk.

DONNY

Hi I'm Todd Peterson, what room is my fiancé in again?

RECEPTION GUY

Checking...3214.

DONNY

Thank you so much.

INT. 32ND FLOOR - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Donny walks down the hall from the elevator.

DONNY
 (to himself)
 "Talk to the wife, in for life..."

He arrives at room 3214. He's about to knock, but stops himself when he hears Stacey MOANING:

STACEY (O.C.)
 Oh, yes! Go, like that! I'm so close! I'm coming!

DONNY
 (to himself)
 Oh my god.

He looks around. Sees the room next door is being cleaned.

INT. ROOM NEXT DOOR TO STACEY'S - SAME

He goes in room, sees the CLEANING WOMAN

CLEANING WOMAN
 Sir?

DONNY
 Hi, don't mind me, I'm just...

EXT. BALCONY - SAME

Donny goes out to the balcony, and LEANS his body across to the other balcony but can't quite get himself far enough to see what's going on.

He catches his breath. Looks down thirty-two floors to the ground. Finally decides, the hell with it, and JUMPS ACROSS TO STACEY'S BALCONY.

He gets up and opens the sliding balcony doors just enough to see Stacey ON TOP OF HER BROTHER TROY, full-on fucking him.

STACEY
 Oh, yeah, Troy. Come on! Ram me!

TROY
 Ahh, ohh, ahh. I'm doing my best!

DONNY
(to himself)
Eewwww!!!!

INT. STACEY'S HOTEL ROOM - SAME

Donny bursts in the room.

DONNY
Hey Stacey is this a good time
or...?

Stacy and Troy jump up.

DONNY (cont'd)
I was coming here to ask for your
help, but, now, wow! Just wow!

STACEY
Look, Donny. You don't understand
the situation. And it's none of
your business.

DONNY
I can't believe what I'm seeing
here. You're cheating on Todd...
with your brother...

STACEY
Listen, I love Todd. And we're
gonna be married and have a great
life together. And yes, I have sex
with my brother from time to time.

TROY
(breaking down)
But this was gonna be the last
time. I would never carry on like
this with a married woman!

DONNY
You know that incest is way worse
than adultery, right?

STACEY
What about statutory rape?

DONNY
Fucked up, no doubt. But we're
talking about you guys right now.

TROY

You don't understand. Being a Marine is so stressful.

STACEY

...and who's it harming, exactly? It's just sex. Todd is my life partner, Troy is my booty-brother.

DONNY

(heading for the door)
I'm going to talk to Todd.

STACEY

Stop!

DONNY

All Todd wants is to have a normal life. And this: NOT normal. Nowhere near.

TROY

(crying)
Oh God, I'm mortified. I hope you can someday forgive me! I'm paralyzed with shame.

STACEY

Troy, not helpful! Take a jacuzzi.
(to Donny)
You're really gonna ruin this for Todd? I make him happy, and I'm gonna keep making him happy. He doesn't need to know about any of this.

Donny opens the door to leave. Stacey grabs her checkbook, writes a check.

STACEY (cont'd)

I have \$100,000 in my personal account. I'm writing you a check and dating it for Tuesday.

DONNY

I'm not taking your bribe.

STACEY

Donny! Take the money, keep your mouth shut, disappear forever, and everybody wins.

DONNY

Except Todd.

STACEY

Todd wants to be married and happy and have no drama. And that's what he'll have unless you ruin it for him.

DONNY

Yeah except YOU FUCKED YOUR BROTHER IN THE BRIDAL SUITE!

STACEY

(handing him the check)
Maybe so, but when push comes to shove you gotta look out for yourself, right?

Donny ponders the check. Troy, now in the jacuzzi, starts the NOISY JETS.

EXT. CHURCH - NEXT MORNING

Todd, in his tuxedo, stares up at the imposing church spire.

Stacey and Helen come up behind him, carrying the wedding dress.

STACEY

Good morning, "almost husband"

HELEN

Good morning, "almost Catholic"!

TODD

Hey, right. Big changes today.

STACEY

Don't be nervous! Everything's all set - all you have to do is smile and say "I do".

TODD

"I do." Copy that. How was your last night alone?

STACEY

Boring without you.

She kisses him.

TODD

Hey, I was thinking about our first dance. Have you ever heard "Thunder Road?" It's-

STACEY

-we're not having our first dance as a married couple to Bon Jovi.

TODD

It's Springsteen.

STACEY

Same difference. Wait you're being serious aren't you?

TODD

...no.

Antonio comes out.

ANTONIO

Yo, we're on a clock here folks. Stacey, Helen - I need you inside getting ready. Todd come with me....

INT. CLASSY RICK'S STRIP CLUB - SAME

Donny picks at a plate of breakfast, using the stripper stage as a table. Rock bottom.

DEEP VOICED DJ (O.S.)

Coming to the stage just as soon as she parks her car and takes off her coat, the splendiforous -
CHAMPALE...

Donny gives a half hearted hand clap.

DEEP VOICED DJ (O.S.) (cont'd)

How you holdin' up, Donny? I'll be honest with you, you've looked better.

DONNY

Been a rough couple of days.

DEEP VOICED DJ (O.S.)

Preachin' to the choir my man. Welcome to my world, welcome to my world.

Donny sulks as he eats his eggs. Champale rushes in, taking off her coat.

CHAMPALE

(frantic)

Sorry, sorry, my grandson's birthday party today, one of the ones you can't miss, the big 3-0...

DEEP VOICED DJ

There she is, gents! And now...without further ado...the splendiferous CHAMPALE!

Music starts. She starts DANCING in front of Donny.

CHAMPALE

Hey aren't you supposed to be at your son's wedding?

Brie enters and refills Donny's coffee.

DONNY

I sorta got dis-invited.

BRIE

Why? What happened?

DONNY (CONT'D)

He's marrying her for all the wrong reasons. He's so desperate to be normal that he's forgotten who he really is! I blew it with my only son.

CHAMPALE

So he didn't give you the money you need?

DONNY

No, but his fiancé did. She offered me a hundred grand to keep quiet about how she's been having sex with her brother.

DEEP VOICED DJ (O.S.)

Oh yeah, the last taboo. Been there, my friend. We've all been there.

BRIE

He can't marry that girl!

CHAMPALE

What kind of sleazebag bottomfeeder
does she think you are?

DONNY

I took the money.

CHAMPALE

Oh, Donny, you sleazebag
bottomfeeder.

DONNY

I had to! I can't go to jail!

No one answers.

DONNY (cont'd)

Right?

CHAMPALE

The real question is: Donny, are
you gonna be a dick? Or are you
gonna be a Dad?

He leans back and thinks...then --

EXT. CLASSY RICK'S BACON AND LEGGS - MOMENTS LATER

"Born To Run" EXPLODES as Donny SPRINTS to his Fiero. He
yells back to Brie & Champale.

DONNY

The wedding's in twenty minutes! I
can make it if I haul ass!

He SLIDES across the hood, gets in and PEELS out of the lot.

INT. CHURCH SIDE ROOM - LATER

Todd is getting ready with Troy, Gerald, Phil and Antonio.
Antonio ravenously reads Donny's novel "Head in the Class".

ANTONIO

Dude, your friend Donny's story is
outrageously redonkulous!

TODD

Never had a chance to read it.

GERALD

Now look, Todd. I'm "with it". I know that you and my daughter have most likely already had relations.

TODD

Well, I don't want to... talk about...

GERALD

I'm under no illusions that tonight will be your first time, but either way, as your new father, I'm asking you to be a gentleman, when in the bed chamber.

TROY

Dad, it's their private life, leave it alone!

Troy PUNCHES the table, hard, smashing his knuckles.

GERALD

Troy!

TROY

I'm sorry Dad, I just...sorry Todd.

Troy starts WEEPING.

GERALD

Aww. He doesn't want to lose his big sis. Don't worry son, you're just gaining a brother.

TROY

(under his breath)
...and losing a lover...

GERALD

Whazzat?

TROY

Hmm? Nothing.

Antonio's Blackberry buzzes, he snaps to attention.

ANTONIO

Guests are here! Everybody up! Time to usher, now!

Everyone hustles out. Todd stays behind, pensive. He picks up Donny's novel that Antonio left behind. He flips to dedication on the first page:

*To Han:
 "Every father has dreams and schemes for his
 own kid/
 And dreaming it ain't been declared no capital
 crime."
 --Bruce Springsteen*

Todd smiles.

INT. DONNY'S FIERO - LATER

"Born To Run" REIGNITES as Donny struggles to put on his tux while driving. He SCREAMS ALONG to the song.

SPRINGSTEEN/DONNY
 I GOTTA KNOW HOW IT FEELS...
 I WANNA KNOW IF LOVE IS WILD, I
 WANNA KNOW IF LOVE IS REAL!

INT. CHURCH - LATER

The CHURCH CHOIR PLAYS as the guests take their seats. Gerald and Todd stand in the back scanning the room. There's no family on Todd's side of the aisle.

GERALD
 I can tell some of our cousins to
 scoot over to your side, even it
 out a bit.

TODD
 Oh, that's okay, Gerald.

GERALD
 From now on, if you'd like, I want
 you to call me "Dad".

TODD
 (hesitant, unsure)
 Uh, sure, okay, I will, Gerald.

Gerald goes to greet some guests, leaving Todd alone.

Todd hears a gruff VOICE:

VOICE (O.S.)
 Your Grandma would have loved this.

Todd turns to see MARVIN, now 60's, sloppy jacket and tie.

MARVIN
She loved weddings.

TODD
(whispering)
Grandpa? What are you doing here?

MARVIN
You don't think I read the Times? I mean I stopped getting it delivered years ago. Now I read it on my Kindle! But I saw my grandson's getting hitched, I wanted be here.

Todd doesn't know how to respond.

MARVIN (cont'd)
You're still mad at me? Is that it? Because I abandoned you and your Dad. Hindsight being 20/20, I was a selfish prick, okay? I'm not perfect. Nobody's perfect. Except Cheryl Tiegs.

TODD
Cheryl Tiegs?

MARVIN
Too dated?
(then)
You want me to leave? I should go.

Antonio and the Priest frantically wave to Todd "Get down here!"

TODD
No, no, stay. Just sit down and, let me get this over with.

The processional MUSIC begins.

INT. DONNY'S FIERO - NEW JERSEY ROAD - LATER

Donny RACING to the Church. Checks his watch--he just might make it!

THEN right at the moment of the BREAKDOWN in the "Born to Run", the CASSETTE PLAYER starts WARBLING.

DONNY
(banging the stereo)
Come on, come on! Don't you die on me, Bruce! Not today!

No luck. The tape just hisses and warbles to a stop. Donny PULLS over to the side. He pulls out the cassette - a tangle of loose tape.

He throws open the glove compartment, fishes a PENCIL out, and quickly, expertly REPAIRS the cassette. He puts it back in and the song KICKS BACK IN, just as Springsteen counts off...

SPRINGSTEEN
One! Two! Three! Four!

...kicking us back into the song.

SPRINGSTEEN (cont'd)
*THE HIGHWAY'S JAMMED WITH BROKEN
HEROES ON A LAST CHANCE POWER
DRIVE!*

Donny's PUMPED, not watching where he's going...he SAILS into a HUGE CONSTRUCTION PIT and CRASH LANDS in a ditch.

Smoke hisses from the hood. He's fucked. He thinks for a minute, then pulls out ANTONIO'S CARD. Dials his phone.

DONNY
Hey it's Donny Levine. Remember you said you could get me anything I want?

ANTONIO (ON PHONE)
What do you need bubelah?

DONNY
A ride. I'm on the Jersey side of the Lincoln Tunnel.

ANTONIO (ON PHONE)
Done.

DONNY
Thanks, man. The sooner the better--hello? Hello? Did you hang up?

A LIMO pulls up and screeches to a halt.

LIMO DRIVER
Donny Levine?

DONNY
(to himself)
He really is the best.

INT. CHURCH - LATER

Stacey and Todd stand on the altar. Todd anxiously looks up at the HUGE CRUCIFIX.

ANGRY PRIEST

Family is the most important thing
in the world. Because without it,
life has no meaning.

Todd looks to the empty groom's side of the church, sad.

ANGRY PRIEST (cont'd)

But before your two families become
one, it's time for Todd to join an
even bigger family. The family of
Jesus.

TODD

(exhales)
Oh, Christ.

Priest, annoyed, grabs Todd's head and guides it toward a small BASIN OF WATER. Todd resists a bit.

The CHURCH DOORS BURST OPEN! Everyone turns--it's Ian Ziering. He ushers in: MARY MCGARRICLE, in handcuffs with a U.S. MARSHALL, and SALLY JESSY RAPHAEL. They sit on the groom's side.

HELEN

(whispering to Gerald)
Who the hell are those people?

GERALD

(whispering)
Let's see... Ian Ziering...Sally
Jessy Raphael...don't know who the
female prisoner is.

HELEN

What are they doing here?

GERALD

I can only assume they're here for
the wedding.

Todd sees the new guests, shakes his head in disbelief.

He DUNKS his head in the water, as if burying his head in the sand.

ANGRY PRIEST

There we go my son.

EXT. MANHATTAN STREETS/CHURCH - DAY

"Born To Run" COMES BACK IN. The limo races to the church and stops right in front.

Donny tries to open the limo door but it's LOCKED.

DONNY

My man, can you open the door?

LIMO DRIVER

I'm hitting the button - should be unlocked.

DONNY

It's not.

LIMO DRIVER

Yeah the power locks on these town cars can be really funky.

DONNY

Kinda in a rush here. Can you just get out and open it manually?

LIMO DRIVER

There shouldn't be any need to. I should be able to control all the doors from here. Give me a minute.

DONNY

Dude. I need to get in there, now!

LIMO DRIVER

(fiddling with controls)
I'm telling you, this should work.

DONNY

JUST GET OUT OF THE CAR AND OPEN
THE FUCKING DOOR FOR ME!!!

The driver turns around to addresses Donny:

LIMO DRIVER

(slowly, calmly)
Sir, I do not respond to that tone of voice. If you'd like me to do something for you, simply ask me.

INT. CHURCH - SAME

Todd faces Stacey, his hair still wet, clenching his extra pair of underwear in his pocket.

ANGRY PRIEST

Do you Stacey Hayward, take Todd Peterson to be your lawfully wedded husband, to have and to hold, forsaking all others, till death do you part?

STACEY

I do.

A tear streams down Troy's face.

ANGRY PRIEST

And do you, Todd Peterson, take Stacey to be your lawfully wedded wife?

DONNY (O.S.)

-YOU DON'T!!

Everyone TURNS to see Donny standing there, out of breath.

STACEY

God dammit.
(to Todd)
Yes you do.
(to Priest)
He does.

DONNY

He doesn't!

TODD

Donny, don't!

Todd notices Miss McMarricle, Marvin, Sally and Ian.

IAN ZIERING

(whispering to Todd)
I got your mom a furlough. I thought you might want to have her here.

TODD

(whispering to Ziering)
Why would you think THAT?!

DONNY

Todd, I'm so sorry for everything I've done this weekend, and in the past. And I'm even more sorry for the things I didn't do. I always chose myself over you, but now I'm here.

SALLY JESSY

(to Marvin)

He and I bootie-call each other
from time to time.

DONNY

I don't care what happens to me, I
don't care if I get beaten daily by
a group of skinheads from Cell
Block D, just because I'm happen to
be a Jew. None of it matters, as
long as I know I've done everything
I can to save you from making a
huge mistake. You can't marry this
woman!

TODD

Oh no? And why is that Donny?

DONNY

Among other reasons, you shouldn't
marry someone just to escape your
past, or because you hate *me*. You
shouldn't marry anyone until you
own up to YOU really ARE!

HELEN

Troy, will you get that lunatic out
of here?

TROY

Yes, mother.

Troy GRABS Donny by the arm and starts to PULL HIM away.

TROY (cont'd)

(whispers to Donny)

She can cancel that check, you
know.

DONNY

I don't want the check!

Donny pulls out and RIPS up the check.

DONNY (cont'd)

I don't want Stacey's bribe money!
I just want to be back in your
life, Todd!

HELEN

(to Priest)

Sorry about all this Father. Please
continue.

TODD
What bribe money?

STACEY
(to Todd)
Nothing. Ignore him. Look at me.
(to Priest)
Let's go.
(to Todd)
Remember, our future. Our life.

Todd isn't listening, just watching Donny being pulled away.

TODD
WAIT!! Let him stay!

HELEN
That crazed lunatic is not part of
this wedding!

TODD
Yes he is. THAT CRAZED LUNATIC IS
MY DAD!

Gasps from the crowd.

ANTONIO
No SHIT!!

TODD
My parents didn't die in an
explosion. I've been living a lie
for the last eight years! As self-
obsessed, delusional and pathetic
as he is, for better or for worse,
Donny Levine is my father!

DONNY
(gushing with pride)
He called me Dad!

TODD
And that incarcerated former
pedophile, with the pouty lips, is
my mother. I'm not Todd Peterson.
There is no such person! My name is
Han Solo Levine!

MARVIN
(to Sally)
Donny was a Star Wars freak.

TODD

And I'm the proud product of an inappropriate teacher-student sexual relationship. I'm not a normal guy. And I'm okay with that.

MARY MCGARRICLE

That chutzpa, that comes from me.

TODD

I'm sorry I lied to all of you. Mrs. Hayward, you'll have my resignation in the morning. Of course I will stay on and help find a suitable replacement.

HELEN

No, you're fired.

TODD

Fine, find the new guy on your own, because I did offer to stay. And Stacey I know you wanted a normal husband and a perfect future, I wish I was that guy, but I'm not.

STACEY

(whispering)

Todd we can still get married. I'm not normal either.

TODD

(whispering)

Of course you are. Look at your family, all this--

STACEY

(whispering)

No, we're more alike than you think. I'm totally fucked up.

TODD

No you're not.

Stacy whispers extra quietly into Todd's ear.

TODD (cont'd)

WHAT?! Really? Ewww! WHAT?!!!

STACEY

(whispering)

I'm fucked up, you're fucked up so let's do this.

TODD
 (undoing is bow tie)
 Nah, you might want to deal that on
 your own. I need a little time with
 my family.

Todd walks down the aisle.

TODD (cont'd)
 Thanks, Dad.

Donny smiles proudly. They hug. Their posse CHEERS.

EXT. CHURCH STEPS - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone's leaving the church as Champale and Brie drive up.

CHAMPALE
 Hey what happened?

TODD
 I didn't do it. My dad saved my
 ass.

CHAMPALE
 Nice going, Donny.

DONNY
 (arm around Todd)
 We do what we can.

CHAMPALE
 (arm around Brie)
 Don't I know it.

BRIE
 I think you made the right choice,
 Todd.

TODD
 Actually my name is Han Solo.

BRIE
 Cool.

They share a warm smile. Marvin comes up to Donny.

DONNY
 So Dad, where have you been?

MARVIN
 Eh, the Costa Rica thing didn't
 work out.

(MORE)

MARVIN (cont'd)

I actually live about a mile away from you in Jersey. Been meaning to call you for years, to apologize and make up, but you know how it is: Life happens when you're making plans.

DONNY

Can I tell you somethign from one dad to another? That "look out for yourself" thing? Shitty advice.

MARVIN

Nobody knew any better back then. It was the 80's -- Watergate, Vietnam, Y2K...

DONNY

Well I'm glad you made it. Good to see you, Dad.

MARVIN

Hey...family's family.

Ziering and Mary join the group.

MARY MCGARRICLE

I gotta get back, but we're doing Christmas at my place 2017. You're all invited. Is it a date?

MARVIN

We're Jewish.

MARY MCGARRICLE

Great then you won't have other plans.

TODD

Actually, I'm newly Catholic.

TODD (cont'd)

We'll come visit, Mom!

She gets on the prison bus with the Marshall and she's off.

IAN ZIERING

Anybody wanna get a beer?

TODD

I don't have any plans.

EXT. JERSEY BOARDWALK - SUNSET

The four guys sit on the beach, their shirts off, eating hot dogs and drinking Bud Lights.

TODD

Look Dad, I got some cash saved up,
I can take care of this IRS thing
for you, keep you out of jail.

DONNY

Thank you Han. You make a father
proud. You're a good son.

TODD

And you were, hands down, the worst
dad ever.

DONNY

(holds up his beer)
Whatta ya gonna do?

They laugh and toast, as we PULL back behind them, revealing Todd's Eddie Vedder tattoo, Donny's Bruce Springsteen tattoo, and Marvin's FRANK SINATRA tattoo. Reveal Champale and Brie nearby manning a hibachi grill. Further in the distance Antonio and Sally Jessy play Kadima.

The music comes up.

SINATRA

*That's life/that's what all the
people say....*

THE END *