

JACKED UP

Written by

Greg Malins

Network Multi-Cam Draft
February 11, 2013

COLD OPENINT. JACK'S KITCHEN/TV ROOM AREA - DAY

CLOSE ON A TV. A PLAYSTATION BASEBALL VIDEO GAME IS BEING PLAYED ON IT.

VIDEO GAME ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Strike three looking! Jack Wheeler
has just won the World Series for the
Atlanta Braves!

JACK WHEELER (A PATRICK WARBURTON TYPE) SITS IN FRONT OF THE TV, GAME CONTROLLER IN HAND. HE'S IN SWEATS, AN ATLANTA BRAVES T-SHIRT AND A BACKWARDS BASEBALL CAP. HE LOOKS LIKE HE HASN'T SHOWERED IN A FEW DAYS.

JACK

Pitched in the majors for twenty
years, never won a World Series. Been
retired three days, already won twice.

MYRA, (LATE 20S, POLITE, INNOCENT) JACK'S RECENTLY HIRED HOUSEKEEPER STANDS BEHIND HIM.

MYRA

That's very good for you, Mr. Jack.

JACK

Thanks, Myra. And you don't need to
call me "Mr. Jack."

MYRA

My mother told me white people like to
be called that way.

JACK

Not this white person. And there
doesn't need to be any of that, "I'm
white, you're Hispanic" stuff. I

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

played Major League Baseball. I have more Hispanic friends than white friends. (THEN) Well, not really but you get my point.

MYRA

Yes. Thank you.

JACK

And I don't want there to be any weirdness between us, okay? None of that I'm up here and you're down there stuff. You and I, we're both just people. The same. You call me Jack, I call you Myra. Okay?

MYRA

Thank you, Jack.

JACK

Of course. Oh, and Myra? I like my underwear laid out flat. Not folded. Don't like that crease. Thanks.

MYRA

So, now that you're retired, what are your plans, what are you going to do?

JACK

I'm going to find a wife. (OFF HER SURPRISED LOOK) Don't worry, I'm going to shower first.

FADE OUT.

ACT ONEINT. COURTSIDE EATS SPORTS BAR - DAY

IT'S A SMALL BUT COOL BAR. BOOTHS, TABLES, LOTS OF SPORTS MEMORABILIA ON THE WALLS, ETC. JACK ENTERS WEARING SHORTS AND A TOMMY BAHAMA STYLE RETIRED GUY SHIRT. HE'S GREETED BY THE OWNER AND HIS BEST FRIEND, BARRY (40ISH, ENERGETIC AND IN GREAT SHAPE).

BARRY

There he is!

BARRY AND JACK SHARE A BIG BEAR HUG. JACK LOOKS BARRY OVER.

JACK

Jesus. Look at you. I don't see you in six months and you look like a different person. You look better than you did when we played together in college.

BARRY

I have to, big man. I'm single now. Re-invented myself. I'm eating right, ride my bike everywhere, work out everyday, popped a few 'roids... You want a beer?

BARRY MOVES BEHIND THE BAR TO GET THE BEERS.

JACK

You took steroids? Really? Where do you even get that stuff?

BARRY

From this professional bowler who comes in here a lot.

JACK

Those guys juice?

BARRY

Like crazy. No testing in bowling.

JACK

Lucky bastards.

BARRY HANDS JACK A GLASS OF BEER.

BARRY

It's called "Courtside Eats Ale." I
brew it myself in-house.

JACK TRIES IT. HE DOESN'T LIKE IT.

JACK

It tastes like old apples and mustard.

BARRY

I throw in stuff I have leftover.
Gives it "intriguing undertones."
(THEN) Oh! Come here. I want to
show you something.

BARRY SHOWS JACK A BOOTH.

BARRY (CONT'D)

When you're a big baseball star and
your best friend owns a sports bar...
Read the plaque.

JACK LEANS DOWN AND READS A GOLDEN PLAQUE THAT'S EMBEDDED IN
THE TABLETOP.

JACK

"Reserved for Jack Wheeler."

BARRY

How many people have their own
permanent booth in a sports bar?
Amaze balls, right?

JACK

"Unless otherwise occupied."

BARRY

Well, if there's people sitting in it
I'm not going to kick them out.

JACK

So, it's permanently reserved for me
unless someone else is sitting there.
That's a real honor, Barry.

THEY SIT.

BARRY

So, "Jack Wheeler" finally retired.
What are you going to do with all the
free time you have now?

JACK

Nothing. I am just going to enjoy
life, my friend.

BARRY

Jack Wheeler, the hardest working man
in baseball, is now just going to do
nothing and "enjoy life?" I don't buy
it.

JACK

I'm going to read, start a garden...
(ALMOST DREAMY) ...take nice walks.
Meet new people. Enjoy a leisurely
cup of tea in a local bistro or a
park...

BARRY

You've thought about this a lot.

JACK

Visualizing my retirement was part of
my pregame warm up. Sometimes a dog
comes up and licks my face when I'm at
the park. And sometimes I can fly and
I fly into space and fight robots.
Depends on how deep into the
meditation I get.

BARRY

You're really not going to look for
some kind of work?

JACK

I'm retired. ESPN asked if I wanted
to be an analyst for the playoffs.
But it's "me time." Not ESPN time.
Plus I have to find a wife, don't
forget.

BARRY

Right. Your find a wife plan. I hate that plan. Marriage was the worst decision I ever made.

JACK

Really? You made beer out of garbage.

BARRY

You may as well just find a woman you hate, beg her for sex that she'll never give you, then give her your house, half your money and watch her spend it with D'ryl, the douchebag "apprentice chef" who was giving her cooking lessons.

JACK

Your marriage didn't work out and I'm sorry. But --

BARRY

Don't be. I'm not. The new Barry doesn't miss Beth at all. New Barry is out there hittin' em and quittin' em. Big time.

JACK

I did that for twenty years and I'm done with it. It was incredible, don't get me wrong. I had every kind of sex with every kind of woman in

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

every place in this country. I was like the EPCOT of sex. But now, I want a family, kids, the big wedding. Probably in the fall. I just like the colors better, you know? Browns and golds. A woman I hooked up with once said I'm an Autumn.

BARRY

Oh, yeah. You're full on Autumn, Believe it or not, I'm a Spring.

JACK

(GENUINE) I can see that.

JACK'S OLDER SISTER KATE (40S, SMART, FUNNY AND CARING) ENTERS. SHE HUGS JACK AND KISSES HIM ON THE CHEEK.

KATE

Your nieces and nephews were out of control this morning. Haley wet her pants again because she said it makes her feel "all warm," Evan kicked a soccer ball into my face because it's "good practice to hit a moving target," and I caught Grace ordering twenty-four hunting knives off QVC with my credit card because "Someone's got to protect this family." She's eight. Hi, Barry.

BARRY

Hi, Kate.

BARRY HUGS HER EVEN THOUGH SHE DOESN'T WANT IT AND GENTLY PUSHES HIM AWAY.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Sorry. You smell like my ex-wife.

KATE

I smell like pee and apple juice.

BARRY

It's intoxicating.

JACK

It's your next beer.

KATE

(TO BARRY) Hey, I heard from a mom at school that you went on a date the other night with a woman but ended up crying the whole night about how much you missed your ex-wife.

BARRY

Yeah. That. Sometimes old Barry comes out. He bums women out.

KATE

Jack, I have a list of stuff for you to sign. Having you back home makes running your foundation so much easier. And the golf tournament raised enough money to put lights in that little league field in Van Nuys.

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

Here's a list of the donors. The ceremony is next Thursday. I brought a list of things you can say in your speech.

JACK

Thursday. I think I'm free that day.

KATE

"Think you're free?" You're retired. You literally have nothing to do.

JACK

I have a lot to do. I have to go the pharmacy tomorrow. I have to buy a shovel. Probably do that Friday since tomorrow I have the pharmacy thing.

BARRY

Don't forget about sitting in a park drinking tea.

KATE

If you really have that much to do I can put together a list so you --

JACK

Not everything needs to be on a list, Kate. I got it.

KATE

Well, at least you found time to come by and spend time with my kids. They were so happy to see you.

JACK

I love those little monsters. They're getting so big.

KATE

Come on, Jack. You know they're not. They're tiny little children. Because I married a tiny little man who's only five-five. (THEN) But he's big where it counts, if you know what I mean.

JACK

I do because you always find a way to bring it up.

KATE

Oh, I can bring it up. What?? She nailed it!

SHE PUTS HER HAND UP FOR A HIGH FIVE.

JACK

Stop it! I'm your brother, not your college roommate. I've asked you many times to respect the line.

BARRY SLAPS HER HAND.

BARRY

(SHRUGGING) I liked it.

KATE

(WIPING HER HAND) Your hands were sweaty before I said that, right?

CUT TO:

SCENE BEXT. 3RD DEGREE URN COFFEE SHOP - DAY

IT'S A NICE DAY. THE SUN IS OUT. JACK SITS AT AN OUTSIDE TABLE AT THE QUAIN T BISTRO, LOOKING HAPPY AS A CLAM. ENJOYING HIS LIFE IN SHORTS AND A DIFFERENT TOMMY BAHAMA-STYLE SHIRT. AN OLDER GENTLEMAN PASSES BY.

JACK

Good afternoon, sir. How are you
today?

OLDER GENTLEMAN

(ANGRY) I don't have any change.

HE WALKS AWAY. JACK, UNDAUNTED, SIPS HIS TEA WITH A CONTENTED SMILE ON HIS FACE. A WOMAN WALKS BY.

JACK

Hello, ma'am. May I say that is a
lovely handbag.

SCARED, SHE CLUTCHES IT CLOSE TO HER BODY AND HURRIES AWAY. A WOMAN WALKING WITH A LITTLE GIRL STOPS NEAR JACK. SHE LOOKS IN HER PURSE FOR SOMETHING BUT THE GIRL STARES AT JACK.

JACK (CONT'D)

Hello, little girl. I have a niece
about your age. What's your name?

LITTLE GIRL

Stranger danger! Stranger danger!

THE WOMAN GRABS THE GIRL AND HURRIES OFF, GLARING AT JACK. A WAITRESS COMES OUT.

WAITRESS

You're going to have to order another
drink if you want to keep sitting
here. The rule is one drink per hour.

JACK

Have I been here an hour already? I
have to get to the pharmacy. This day
has totally gotten away from me. Does
that ever happen to you when you're--

THE WAITRESS IS NO LONGER THERE.

CUT TO:

SCENE CINT. PHARMACY - DAY

THE PHARMACIST HANDS JACK A BAG WITH HIS PRESCRIPTION IN IT.

JACK

Thank you, Emesta.

EMESTA

Sure.

JACK

So. Working in a pharmacy. What's that like? Interesting, I bet. So many different kinds of people coming -
-

EMESTA

(CALLING) Next! (TO JACK) Oh and that's the last one we can fill. You'll have to find a local doctor to write your next one.

JACK

Great tip, Emesta. Love it. Getting a tip from a neighborhood pharmacist. That what life's --

EMESTA

Next!

JACK

Okay. Good talk.

CUT TO:

SCENE DINT. DR. WILLARDS'S OFFICE - DAY

JACK AND KATE SIT ACROSS FROM DR. WILLARD (60'S)

KATE

Dr. Willard has been Tim and my
doctor for years and we love him. (TO
DOCTOR) Jack just moved back home and
he needs to find a local doctor.
(PULLS OUT LISTS) I have a list of
all the doctors he saw in Atlanta, a
list of all his surgeries, a grocery
list and list of my life goals but you
don't need those.

JACK

She loves lists.

DR. WILLARD

You've just always used the team
doctor up til now?

JACK

Yes. Doctor Mackoff. Obviously we
called him Dr. Jackoff. Sometimes
"Wackoff..." I miss him...

DR. WILLARD

Why don't we schedule a physical. Get
you on the treadmill to check the
heart, do some blood work... (RE

(MORE)

DR. WILLARD (CONT'D)

CHART) I see you're forty now so we'd need to do a prostate exam.

JACK

Wait. What? Really? Jackoff never said anything about that before.

DR. WILLARD

You should have your prostate checked yearly once you turn forty.

JACK

Wow. Is there another way to get in there to check it or just... the one... way?

KATE

Oh my god, all you guys do is beg us to let you do stuff to us back there but the second someone wants to do it to you, it's like the end of the world.

JACK

Kate. Please. Respect the line.

DR. WILLARD

Why don't you make an appointment with Michelle and we'll see you in a week or so.

THEY STAND AND SHAKE HANDS. AS THEY DO, JACK LOOKS DOWN AND SEES THE DOCTOR'S HANDS. HIS FINGERS ARE COMICALLY HUGE. (MAYBE EVEN PROSTHETICALLY ENHANCED) JACK'S EYES GO WIDE.

RESET TO:

INT. DR. WILLARDS'S OUTER OFFICE - DAY

AS THEY ENTER FROM DR. WILLARD'S OFFICE...

JACK

No way I'm using him. Did you see those sausages? I'll find another doctor. And won't stop until I find one with fingers like golf pencils.

MICHELLE

So are we setting up an appointment for you today?

JACK

No. Not today.

MICHELLE

(SMILES, FLIRTY) That's too bad.

KATE PULLS JACK ASIDE.

KATE

Ask her out.

JACK

What?

KATE

You want to find a wife, right? Well, you're going to have to ask women out. She's cute, no ring... Why not? Gotta start somewhere.

JACK

I haven't even showered today.

KATE

You need to get better about that, by the way. Now go ask her.

JACK

I haven't asked a woman out in years. I was a baseball player. They always asked me out.

KATE

Stop being a baby and do it.

JACK CLEARS HIS THROAT, TAKES A DEEP BREATH, AND APPROACHES MICHELLE.

JACK

(nervous)

Say, Michelle, I was wondering if you'd like to go out to dinner with me sometime.

HIS NERVES MADE HIS VOICE GET HIGHER AS HE SPOKE. SO MUCH SO THAT "SOMETIME" WAS SAID ALMOST IN A FALSETTO.

MICHELLE

I'd like that. Let me give you my number.

AS SHE WRITES IT DOWN...

KATE

(HIGH VOICE, MOCKING HIM) "Go out to dinner with me sometime?"

JACK

Shut up.

CUT TO:

SCENE EINT. JACK'S KITCHEN/TV ROOM AREA - EVENING

JACK'S DRESSED FOR HIS DATE. MYRA IS IN THE KITCHEN.

JACK

What do you think?

MYRA

Very nice.

JACK

It's my first real date in almost twenty years. I hope I'm not too rusty.

MYRA

I know you will be just great.

JACK

Thanks, Myra. I hope that over time we become more than just housekeeper and homeowner, we become friends.

MYRA

I would like that.

JACK

Me, too. Oh, and Myra. Make sure when you replace the toilet paper, the paper comes over the top of the roll, not under. Under just bugs me, you know? Thanks.

JACK CROSSES AWAY.

CUT TO:

SCENE HINT. HASTA LA PASTA ITALIAN RESTAURANT - LATER

JACK AND MICHELLE ARE FINISHING DINNER.

JACK

Favorite movie? I'd have to say a tie
between Die Hard and E.T.

MICHELLE

E.T.? Really?

JACK

Yeah. (EMOTIONAL) The little guy
just wanted to go home, you know?

MICHELLE

So, now that you don't play baseball
anymore, what do you do?

JACK

I live life, Michelle. Enjoy myself.
I read, I garden, meet people --

MICHELLE

So you don't have a job?

JACK

Well, not per se, but I keep very
busy. I went to the pharmacy, I
bought a shovel, I met you... pretty
full week. I'm kind of exhausted.

MICHELLE

(FLIRTY) Hopefully not too exhausted.

CUT TO:

SCENE JINT. MICHELLE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

MICHELLE

So this is my living room.

JACK

You have a teddy bear on your couch.

That's cute.

MICHELLE

Wait til you see my bedroom.

RESET TO:

INT. MICHELLE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

THE PLACE IS FILLED WITH STUFFED ANIMALS. COMPLETELY COVERING THE BED, ON SPECIALLY BUILT SHELVES ON EVERY WALL, ON THE FLOOR, THE DESK, HANGING FROM THE CEILING... JACK TAKES IT ALL IN, SHOCKED.

MICHELLE

These are all my animal friends. And you have to meet them all before we, you know, do anything. This is Ruffles. He was my very first bear. And this is Gigi Giraffe, she's French and married to Doogie Dog. You'd think he's lucky to have someone like her but it's really the other way around (SECRETIVE) 'cause she's a bitch. This is Christopher. And you better watch out 'cause he's a bit of a scoundrel.

CUT TO:

SCENE KEXT. JACK'S BACKYARD - THE NEXT DAY

JACK DIGS A HOLE WITH HIS NEW SHOVEL.

JACK

It was like an out of control zoo.
You know how hard it is to have sex with
hundreds of stuffed animals watching?

BARRY

You had sex with her anyway?

JACK

You can't just go cold turkey.

BARRY

(RE HOLE) Nice hole.

JACK

It's a garden. And never say that me
again.

MYRA COMES OUT OF THE HOUSE.

MYRA

Jack, your mother is here.

MYRA WALKS BACK INSIDE.

JACK

My Mom wants to set me up on a date.
Daughter of a friend or something.
She wants to show me what she
described as "a very enticing picture"
of her.

CUT TO:

SCENE MINT. JACK'S KITCHEN/TV ROOM AREA - CONTINUOUS

THEY GREET JACK'S MOTHER, ANNE (70S, SWEET WITH A KIND Demeanor).

JACK

(KISSING HER CHEEK) Hi Mom!

BARRY

Hello, Anne.

ANNE

Barry Harrison. I think of you so often. Back when you two were in college and I converted you to Christianity -- one of my proudest days as a Christian.

BARRY

The best day of my life, too, Anne.

JACK ROLLS HIS EYES, KNOWING THAT BARRY'S FULL OF SHIT.

ANNE

Is Jesus in your heart today?

BARRY

Oh, you bet. He's all up in there.
(RE DIFFERENT PARTS OF HIS BODY) Oh, wait, now he's over here. No, there he is. He's frisky today.

ANNE

Don't mock the Lord, Barry. He might mock you back. And you know what

(MORE)

ANNE (CONT'D)

happens when He mocks you back? He gives you AIDS.

BARRY

I'm sorry, Anne. (TO SKY) Sorry.

ANNE

Jack, I assume you haven't been to church since you've been home because of your nasty allergy to candles.

BARRY

(ASIDE TO JACK) Genius.

ANNE

Is that getting any better?

JACK

Worse actually.

MYRA PASSES BY.

JACK (CONT'D)

Mom. This is Myra. She's my new housekeeper.

ANNE

Well, hello, Myra. I bet you're a regular church go-er.

MYRA

Oh, yes. Every week.

ANNE

I knew it. I could tell by your Hispanic appearance.

MYRA NODS AND EXITS, NOT SURE WHETHER SHE SHOULD BE OFFENDED OR NOT.

ANNE (CONT'D)

I like her.

JACK

I do, too. She's just a good person. And she's really good at cleaning out the gunk from under the fridge.

ANNE

Now. Here's a picture of the woman I want you to go out with.

JACK

Oh, she's actually quite fetching. But why would you call this photo "enticing?" Her dress goes all the way from her ankles to the top of her neck.

ANNE

But it's a bit tight. You can almost make out the shape of her bosom. Here's her number. And I just spoke to her mother at my "Faith and Family First" group meeting and her daughter is very excited to meet you.

BARRY

So, what's your group working on these days?

ANNE

Oh, we're still doing our letter writing. Trying to get them to take that awful "Family Guy" show off the air.

JACK

Mom, Family Guy is not an awful show.

ANNE

It's vile and subversive. It's corrupting our youth and poisoning this country. Why do you think we've had so many hurricanes in the last few years?

JACK

Because of "Family Guy?"

ANNE

We call it "Devil's Guy."

BARRY NODS IN AGREEMENT. JACK ROLLS HIS EYES.

CUT TO:

SCENE PINT. DR. BEYER'S OFFICE - DAY

DR. BEYER HAS HIS HANDS UNDER HIS DESK.

DR. BEYER

I don't have a lot of patients. I'm not one of those "get 'em in, get 'em out" factory doctors. I like a lot of time with my patients.

JACK

That sounds great. High five.

JACK PUTS HIS HAND UP. THE DOCTOR HIGH FIVES HIM. JACK GRABS HIS WRIST AND REALLY EXAMINES HIS FINGERS.

JACK (CONT'D)

Wow. Skinny.

DR. BEYER

Oh, I get it. This is a prostate exam thing. I know a lot of men are nervous about it but it's really nothing.

JACK

It's just, the last doctor I met had these crazy Jabba the Hut fingers.

DR. BEYER

Yipes. You can't trust a doctor like that. Look at what he did to Han Solo.

JACK

Star Wars fan, skinny fingers, I think
I found my new doctor.

DR. BEYER

Great. And my boyfriend Gideon is a
big baseball fan. He'll be so excited
you're a patient.

JACK STOPS SHORT NOT SURE WHAT TO MAKE OF THAT.

CUT TO:

SCENE REXT. STREET - NIGHT

JACK AND JULIE ARE WALKING DOWN THE STREET.

JACK

I would never have thought a woman my mom set me up with would be so cool.

JULIE

The feeling's mutual. And that play was amazing. Except for the annoying kids in the row in front of us.

JACK

They were a little loud but very cute.

JULIE

Not to me. I don't like kids.

JACK

But you'd probably like them if they were your kids.

JULIE

Oh, I'm never having kids. Messy, annoying, expensive... yech.

JACK

(DISAPPOINTED) I bet you didn't like E.T. either, did you?

JULIE

That stinker? I was like "Hey, puppet. Stay, go, die, do something. You're getting pretty annoying."

JACK

(GRAVE) Do you even have a heart?

CUT TO:

SCENE TINT. JACK'S KITCHEN/TV ROOM AREA - MORNING

JACK IS ON THE COUCH. MYRA IS NEARBY.

JACK

...and she didn't want kids. The whole date was a waste.

MYRA

I'm sorry, Jack. Can I get you something?

JACK

No, thanks, Myra. I'm just going to relax and read for a bit. I've been so busy lately with the pharmacy, finding a new doctor...

MYRA

And buying the shovel.

JACK

Of course, that too. But today I start my official retirement. Enjoy my life and relax. Me time.

MYRA NODS AND EXITS. JACK GETS COMFORTABLE. HE OPENS THE BOOK AND STARTS TO READ. AFTER A BEAT, HE LOOKS UP, BORED. HE LOOKS AT THE TV, THEN SHAKES HIS HEAD AND GOES BACK TO HIS BOOK. AFTER ANOTHER BEAT HE LOOKS UP AGAIN.

CUT TO:

JACK'S RETIREMENT SEQUENCE:INT. JACK'S KITCHEN/TV ROOM AREA - A FEW MINUTES LATER

JACK IS PLAYING A VIDEO GAME IN HIS SWEATS AND T-SHIRT.

EXT. JACK'S BACKYARD - DAY

HE'S TRYING TO PUT UP A GARDEN FENCE AROUND THE HOLE HE DUG. THE LITTLE POSTS DON'T SEEM TO WANT TO GO IN. HE LOOKS UP AT THE SKY AND WIPES HIS BROW, THEN GIVES UP.

INT. JACK'S KITCHEN/TV ROOM AREA - MINUTES LATER

JACK'S PLAYING A VIDEO GAME IN THE SWEATS AND T-SHIRT AGAIN.

EXT. PARK - DAY

JACK, CARRYING A FOLDING CHAIR AND A THERMOS, CROSSES THE PARK. HE FINDS A NICE SHADY SPOT UNDER A TREE. HE SETS UP HIS CHAIR, SITS, POURS SOME TEA INTO A MUG AND PREPARES TO JUST ENJOY THE DAY. AFTER A FEW BEATS OF DOING NOTHING, HE STANDS AND STARTS TO FOLD UP HIS CHAIR.

INT. JACK'S KITCHEN/TV ROOM AREA - AN HOUR LATER

JACK IS PLAYING VIDEO GAMES, AGAIN IN THE SWEATS AND TEE. MYRA APPROACHES, CARRYING HER PURSE.

MYRA

I'm going to go home now, Jack.

JACK

(NOT LOOKING UP) Okay, Myra, enjoy
your night.

MYRA EXITS. IT STARTS TO GET DARK IN THE ROOM. THEN AFTER A FEW SECONDS, IT STARTS TO GET LIGHT AGAIN. JACK NOTICES NONE OF IT, TOO INTO HIS VIDEO GAME. MYRA ENTERS.

JACK (CONT'D)

Oh, Myra. What happened? Did you
forget something?

MYRA

Jack. It is the next day.

JACK LOOKS AROUND AND REALIZES SHE'S RIGHT.

JACK

Oh, my god. (REALLY REALIZING) Oh,
my god.

INT. JACK'S BATHROOM - SECONDS LATER

JACK STARES AT HIS SCRUFFY AND SLIGHTLY PUFFY FACE. HE DOESN'T LIKE WHAT HE SEES.

JACK

Oh, my god.

INT. JACK'S KITCHEN/TV ROOM AREA - SECONDS LATER

JACK COMES OUT IN A ROBE.

JACK

Myra, "me time" sucks. I'm done with it. Today, I find something to do with my life. Please throw these away for me.

He hands her his sweats and T-shirt.

MYRA

Of course. (THEN HAPPY) And Jack, good for you.

JACK

Thanks, Myra. You're a good friend.
(THEN) Oh, and Myra? In the bathroom? Make sure you really clean the floor around the toilet. I'm tall so there's quite a bit of splashing.
Thanks.

JACK EXITS. MYRA SHAKES HER HEAD AND EXITS AS WELL.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. COURTSIDE EATS - EVENING

JACK, BARRY AND KATE SIT IN A BOOTH HAVING LUNCH. BUT NOT JACK'S BOOTH BECAUSE IT'S OCCUPIED. BARRY APPROACHES WITH THREE GLASSES OF BEER. HE'S WEARING A CRAZY ED HARDY SHIRT.

BARRY

Hey. Who wants a beer? I brewed up a new one. I call it "Courtside Eats Red Ale."

JACK

Why is it red?

BARRY

I don't know. It just came out that way.

JACK/KATE

Pass.

JACK

Listen. I had to come up with a new plan. Barry, you were right. I can't just do nothing.

BARRY

What happened to "plant a garden and drink tea in a park and meet new people?"

JACK

Gardens apparently take a year to grow, parks smell and people suck.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

So here it is. I need something to do, right? And I want to find a wife, right? So why not turn them into one thing? I date. Like crazy. Day dates, night dates, breakfast dates.

BARRY

Double dates.

JACK

No. (LOOKS AT HIS SHIRT, THEN) No. (THEN) Remember that thing they always used to tell us when we played? You'll never find your swing until you've swung at 50,000 pitches. It's like that. But hopefully less than 50,000. I can't take that many women only ordering a Cesar salad and water.

KATE

This is a bad idea. Falling in love isn't the same as baseball.

JACK

Hold on. There's more. And you're going to like it. A list.

KATE

I do love lists. Go on.

JACK

A list of all the things I'm looking for in a wife. It will help me narrow

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

down the options so I don't have to waste dates with women who don't want kids. Or a big wedding. Or doesn't like E.T.

KATE

You keep saying you want a wife but what you're really looking for is love. And you can't find love on a list.

JACK

Kate. You're the queen of lists. Will you help me make a wife list?

KATE

(BEAT) Damn! I wish I didn't love lists so much!

KATE TAKES OUT A PEN AND BEGINS TO WRITE ON A NAPKIN.

KATE (CONT'D)

Okay. Jack's list for a wife. Has only been married once. One kid is okay but must want more. Likes musicals and no more than one pet. Single women with a lot of pets are damaged. That's just science.

BARRY

And smells nice. Like flowers or cake. (OFF LOOKS) Beth smelled like that.

JACK

She has to be able to sing. There's nothing better than a woman with a beautiful singing voice. She can sing to our kids!

JACK/KATE

(MOVED) Aww...

KATE

And no twins. Twins are creepy.

JACK

Remember those twins that lived down the street from us? I remember thinking, "Look. We barely need one of you. We certainly don't need two. I think one of you needs to go."

BARRY

And once we have the list, I know where to go. We need to take it and go to the hottest singles bar in Calabasas. AB After Dark.

JACK

What's that?

BARRY

It's Applebees after nine P.M. Tomorrow is Thursday and Thursday nights there are swimming with single women. And their spinach and arty dip

(MORE)

BARRY (CONT'D)

is off the chiz-ain! (OFF LOOKS)

That doesn't work on me?

JACK

Nope. And neither does the shirt.

BARRY

Too gay?

JACK

(REMEMBERING) Hey. Did I tell you I found a doctor I like? And he's gay. How great is that?

KATE

That's great. But why does it matter that he's gay?

JACK

I was nervous about the whole prostate thing, right? That's why I didn't go with the first Fred Flintstone guy.

KATE

Do gay people have small fingers? If that's true, I wish I knew it in college. Would've saved me a lot of time.

BARRY

(TO JACK) I don't get why you're less nervous.

JACK

(LEADING) Because... Dr. Beyer is...
more "familiar with the area."

BARRY

(GETTING IT) He's more familiar with
the area.

KATE

"More familiar with the area?"

JACK

More familiar with the area.

KATE

That's insane.

JACK

Call it what you want but I'm a lot
less nervous about my exam now.

KATE

It's not that big a deal. Geez, I've
had a lot worse than a finger--

JACK

The line! Respect the line!

CUT TO:

SCENE WINT. DR. BEYER'S OFFICE - DAY

JACK SITS ON THE TABLE, ALONE IN THE ROOM IN HIS BLUE PATIENT GOWN. AN OLDER MAN ENTERS. THIS IS DR. BLOCK (50S). HE PUSHES THE DOOR BUT IT DOESN'T CLOSE ALL THE WAY.

DR. BLOCK

Hello. Unfortunately, Dr. Beyer had a patient emergency and had to rush down to the hospital. I'm one of the partners at the practice and he asked me to finish your physical for him.

JACK

What? But I wanted him.

DR. BLOCK

(RE CHART) Jack Wheeler. The pitcher. I thought I recognized you. Okay, lets see what else is there to do... Just a few things in here, then we'll get you on the treadmill. I'm kind of a baseball nut. Play a lot of fantasy baseball.

JACK

Oh?

DR. BLOCK

Won my league trophy the last five years actually.

JACK

Congratulations.

DR. BLOCK

But not this past year.

HE HITS JACK'S KNEE WITH THAT LITTLE REFLEX HAMMER DOCTOR'S USE. HE DOES IT A LITTLE HARDER THAN WOULD BE CONSIDERED NORMAL. JACK WINCES.

DR. BLOCK (CONT'D)

Had you on my team. You were the first pitcher I took in the draft.

And you only had two wins. Killed me.

HE HITS JACK'S OTHER KNEE. HE WINCES AGAIN.

JACK

Well, I had some cartilage problems in my shoulder. They said I shouldn't play another year but I wanted the whole farewell tour thing, you know?

DR. BLOCK

Bad shoulder, huh? Would've been nice if I knew about that. Maybe Sam Dewey wouldn't have the trophy that I had in my living room for the last five years.

HE SWITCHES TO THE POINTY LIGHTED THING THAT IS USED TO LOOK IN EARS. HE PUTS IN JACK'S EAR, AGAIN NOT GENTLY.

JACK

(WINCING) Are you supposed to stick it in that far?

DR. BLOCK

It's funny. I thought I was over it.
But talking about it again just gets
me--

HE STICKS IT IN THE OTHER EAR, QUITE ROUGHLY.

JACK

Hey. Come on. You can't blame me.

DR. BLOCK

Why not? (RE CHART) What else. Ah,
yes. The prostate exam.

JACK'S EYES GO WIDE. AND FROM THE HALLWAY ALL WE SEE IS THE
DOOR SLAM SHUT.

CUT TO:

SCENE XINT. AB AFTER DARK - NIGHT

IT'S CROWDED, A FULL-ON SCENE. PEOPLE DRINKING, TALKING, LAUGHING, FLIRTING. JACK AND BARRY TAKE IN THE SCENE.

BARRY

Here it is. The Mecca of single women
in the West Valley.

JACK

Alright. I think we should split up.
Cover more ground that way.

BARRY

Oh, hey. How'd it go at the gay
doctor's today?

JACK

He wasn't there. It was another guy.
He was a bad man. A very bad man.

BARRY

What happened?

JACK

I don't want to talk about it. (THEN)
You got your list?

BARRY

Yep.

JACK

Let's do this.

JACK MOVES AWAY FORM BARRY AND HIS PATH IS IMMEDIATELY
BLOCKED BY A WOMAN.

WOMAN #1

Pretty crowded, huh?

JACK

It is. And I just got here because I was walking my dogs.

WOMAN #1

You have dogs? I have three dogs!

JACK

(WALKING AWAY) Excuse me.

DISSOLVE TO:

JACK CHATS WITH A WOMAN AT A HIGH TABLE.

JACK (CONT'D)

So you had a big wedding. And that's the only one you've had?

WOMAN #2

It is. What about you?

JACK

Never been married. Do you like musicals?

WOMAN #2

Love them. My twin sister and I go all the --

JACK

It was very nice to meet you.

JACK CROSSES AWAY, LEAVING THE WOMAN CONFUSED.

DISSOLVE TO:

BARRY APPROACHES A WOMAN ALONE AT A TABLE. HE SNIFFS HER.

BARRY

Yipes.

HE MOVES ON.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE PLACE HAS THINNED OUT A BIT. JACK IS WITH ANOTHER WOMAN.

JACK

Do you have any kids?

WOMAN #3

Here it comes. The moment where you
get scared off like all the other
guys.

JACK

How many do you have?

WOMAN #3

Two.

JACK

Two? That might be okay. I love
kids.

WOMAN #3

Really? That's great because I lied.

I have six.

BARRY LEANS IN.

BARRY

I got a "likes musicals, one divorce,"
and "smells nice" over there.

JACK

(TO WOMAN) Sorry. I have to go.

DISSOLVE TO:

IT'S ALMOST EMPTY NOW, SAVE FOR A FEW COUPLES STILL TRYING TO CLOSE THE DEAL. BUT JACK HASN'T NOTICED. HE'S SITTING WITH A PRETTY WOMAN, SLOANE. THEY SEEM TO BE HAVING A GREAT TIME.

JACK (CONT'D)

I can't believe you saw that game.

SLOANE

I thought you were going to rip that umpire's head off. You have a little bit of a temper, huh?

JACK

Only sometimes. Another drink?

SLOANE

They called last call twenty minutes ago.

JACK

Really? How long have we been talking?

SLOANE

Over an hour.

JACK

Do you want to have dinner sometime?
I don't mean to be this forward but
I've just never met a woman who --

SLOANE

I don't think so.

JACK

What? Why not? We've been having a great time.

SLOANE

(DEEP BREATH) Okay. Here's the thing. I have this list. Of things I want in a guy and, well, you match a couple things, but not enough.

JACK

What? Really? What's on your list that I'm not?

SLOANE

Too tall... no job, you obviously have a temper... I'm sorry.

SHE CROSSES AWAY. JACK IS THROWN. HE DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING.

JACK

(CALLING) You can't get love from a list, you know!

CUT TO:

SCENE YEXT. BASEBALL FIELD - NIGHT

IT'S AN INNER CITY FIELD DECKED OUT FOR A CELEBRATION - KIDS RUNNING AROUND, FOOD, MUSIC, ETC. JACK AND KATE STAND ON A PODIUM.

JACK

This whole time I've only thought of whether they're what I want. I never realized that I also have to be what they want.

KATE

That's a pretty big part of it.

JACK

All these things I used to day dream about when I was playing - that I'd come home and really enjoy wearing shorts everyday doing nothing. That it would be easy to find a wife... I know it's only been a couple weeks but it's just not turning out the way I visualized it.

KATE

Nothing ever does. But on the wife thing, you can't force it. It's not like baseball. Trying harder, working harder, doesn't help. It's the kind of thing that just happens. But there's always that magic moment when

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

you just know. You need to stop looking. And when you do, love will find you.

JACK

That was... pretty lame.

KATE

It's from a Journey song.

JACK

Oh. Then I like it.

KATE

So what are you going to do about the other thing -- being bored off your ass.

JACK

I'm not sure. ESPN called my agent again. But I'd have to move to Connecticut for three months.

KATE

But you just got back.

JACK

I know but what am I going to do? I can't just sit around and do nothing. I thought I could, but I can't. You know the gardeners filled in my garden. They thought it was just a hole some raccoons dug.

KATE

Did you tell ESPN you'd do it?

JACK

Not yet. Probably tomorrow.

ANNOUNCER

It's time folks! It's time to turn on the lights at Jefferson field for the first time thanks to the incredible Jack Wheeler and his Jack Wheeler Foundation!

JACK STEPS OVER AND SPEAKS INTO THE MICROPHONE.

JACK

I'm so happy to be able to do this for all you wonderful people and all the amazing little ballplayers we have here today! Here we go! One, two, three... play ball!

JACK PUSHES A BUTTON AND THE FIELD IS INSTANTLY LIT UP. IT'S BEAUTIFUL. ALMOST LIKE A MAJOR LEAGUE STADIUM. EVERYONE CHEERS. THE KIDS GRAB THEIR BATS AND BALLS, EXCITED TO PLAY ON THEIR NEWLY LIT FIELD.

KATE

You did good work here. Giving these kids a place to go at night instead of wandering the streets... It's a big deal.

JACK

You did all this. I only put my name on it. Good job, Kate.

A YOUNG KID ABOUT ELEVEN APPROACHES.

KID

Hey Jack Wheeler. Can you pitch some
to us?

JACK

You think you can handle major league
pitching?

DISSOLVE TO:

JACK STANDS ON THE MOUND. THE KID IN THE BOX, BAT READY.
JACK LOBS ONE TO HIM. THE KID SMACKS IT. IT'S A GREAT HIT.

KID

I just hit major league pitching!

ANOTHER KID STEPS INTO THE BOX. JACK WINDS UP AND LOBS
ANOTHER. SOON, THERE'S A WHOLE LINE OF KIDS WAITING TO HIT
OFF JACK. IT LOOKS LIKE JACK'S HAVING ALMOST AS MUCH FUN AS
THE KIDS. WHEN THEY'VE ALL HIT, HE STARTS TO WALK BACK TO
KATE, BUT THE FIRST KID STOPS HIM.

KID (CONT'D)

Hey, Jack Wheeler. Do you think you
can come to our practice? You're
pretty good at pitching.

JACK

Well, thanks, slugger but --

AN ATTRACTIVE WOMAN, LISA STEPS IN.

LISA

It sure would be great. I know you
must be really busy but these kids,
they need some inspiration. Most of
them don't have dads around. I mean,
I'm the coach. (OFFERS HAND) Lisa.

JACK

Very nice to meet you.

THE KIDS HAVE STARTED TO GATHER AROUND HIM. "WILL YOU COME TO OUR PRACTICE?" "PLEASE, MR. WHEELER?" JACK IS NOT ONLY MOVED BY THE KIDS AND THEIR EXCITEMENT TO HAVE HIM AROUND, HE'S CLEARLY INTRIGUED BY LISA. HE TAKES IN THE SCENE, TAKES A BEAT... AND MAKES A DECISION.

JACK (CONT'D)

I'd love to come.

THE KIDS CHEER AND RUN OFF.

LISA

Thank you so much. You have no idea what a difference you're going to make.

LISA MOVES AWAY AS KATE APPROACHES.

KATE

So... gonna stick around?

JACK

I am. What just happened right there? With the kids? I never visualized that. But I should have.

KATE

And that Lisa's pretty hot. Maybe when you get home you visualize her going --

JACK TAKES HIS GLOVED HAND AND PUTS IT OVER HER FACE TO STOP HER FROM TALKING.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

INT. COURTSIDE EATS - DAY

JACK, KATE, BARRY AND ANNE ARE IN A BOOTH.

JACK

So I'll work with the kids, and if it means chatting up a few hot single moms? Well, that's just sweet gravy. You know, guys, it really does pay to do charity work.

ANNE

I knew I taught you something. Well, I better go. My Faith and Family group is meeting at the mall to pass out these pamphlets on the sins of masturbation. (RE PAMPHLETS) Barry, maybe I can leave some and you'll pass them out to the patrons?

BARRY

You know I will.

ANNE EXITS.

BARRY (CONT'D)

(READING PAMPHLET) Not true. Not true. (LOOKS AT PALM, THEN) Not true. (READING AGAIN) Kinda true.

KATE GRABS ONE AND READS IT.

KATE

(READING) "And remember. He's always watching you." Boy, if that's true he's getting quite a show. Sometimes two a day. That weekend Tim took the kids skiing there was a show every --

JACK

(COVERING EARS) Ahh! Respect the line! Respect! The! Line!

END OF SHOW