

Roman's Empire
by
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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. AIRPORT - MORNING

We PAN ACROSS a busy airport. We hear GRUNTING AND THRASHING.

LEO (V.O.)

This is a story about love...

The camera rests on LEO PARK, a real go-getter, think a young Michael J. Fox. He is angrily shoving a bouquet of flowers through a frustratingly small hole on top of a trash can.

LEO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And what happens when love slips away from you and sort of turns on you, biting and biting, like some rabid, vicious dog... of love.

An old woman stops Leo and points: "Cans Only." Leo sheepishly digs the flower pieces out of the tiny hole.

LEO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

You see, I have a problem; this is Nikki, the girl I love.

EXT. PARK

CLOSE ON fifteen year old NIKKI PRETTY. She has pigtails and braces and smiles at the camera.

LEO (V.O.)

I mean, that WAS her. At fifteen. It's cool, I was fifteen too.

We see Leo at fifteen; a smiling Goth kid with braces.

LEO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

We were young and stupid, but that didn't make it any less real...

Nikki leans in, SLOW-MOTION, and kisses him on the cheek. Leo is over the moon.

LEO (CONT'D)

We fell madly, hopelessly in love. My folks were on another of their mommy-and-daddy-need-alone-time-in-Reno-you-understand-don't-you-sweetie trips, so Nikki and I spent that whole summer together.

SUPER-8 SHOTS OF NIKKI AND LEO

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He plays guitar while she dances around.

Sharing ice-cream, they look very happy.

LEO (CONT'D)

Those days in the park were some of the happiest of my life. We laughed, we cried, we talked about our dreams; Her's to be an actress on Broadway and mine to make music. It was just her and I... that is until she said, "daddy wanted to meet me."

EXT. PRETTY MANSION

CLOSE ON DOOR

Nikki nervously walks up with Leo and she knocks on the door.

QUICK PULL OUT: SUPER-WIDE SHOT

We see that they are entering a HUGE MANSION.

LEO (V.O.)

You see Nikki was Nikki Pretty, middle daughter of Roman Pretty, one of the richest men in America.

QUICK ZOOM BACK

The door is opened by ROMAN PRETTY, a supremely confident billionaire. He looks at Leo up and down.

LEO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Since their mother passed away, Roman was very protective of his three daughters. But he seemed to take to me right away.

Roman smiles and gives Leo a great big hug. He pulls him inside leaving Nikki alone on the porch.

INT. MANSION KITCHEN

Roman sits laughing at the counter with Leo. Leo, eating, has food on his chin. Roman tries to point this out.

LEO (V.O.)

When Roman loved you, he loved you fully. Intensely. Some might even say, inappropriately. But it was just how Roman showed his love.

Roman takes a napkin, wipes Leo's chin, then tucks it into Leo's shirt. He starts to feed Leo with a spoon.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And boy did he love me. Roman treated me like the son he never had. I entered his life at fifteen and never left.

INT. NIKKI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Roman tucks Leo into bed and gives him a kiss on the forehead.

We REVEAL that Nikki is also in bed with Leo. Roman gives her a wave. Nikki waves back, a little uncomfortable.

INT. ROMAN'S OFFICE

Roman sits working hard at his desk.

LEO (V.O.)

Although a loving family man, Roman took his work seriously. Since splitting with his brother Jesus he's had to run the Pretty family real estate empire all by himself. So, he always seemed to enjoy it when I stopped by...

Leo, still dressed like a punk, sits strumming his guitar. He is curious to what Roman is working on. Roman waves him over.

LEO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

In fact he soon took me under his wing... and held me there. Really tightly. But in a teaching/smothering/loving kind of way.

Leo walks over. Roman immediately throws Leo's guitar to the side, excitedly showing Leo business plans and blueprints.

INT. MANSION - LATER

Roman puts his arm out and his three daughters (NIKKI, KELLY and JENNY) flock to him. He gives them each a kiss on the head then waves Leo over for his kiss.

LEO (V.O.)

We were one big happy family. Just me, Roman and his three beautiful daughters. Jenny, his oldest, was a bit of an earth mother...

INT. MANSION FOYER

ON JENNY PRETTY

She is beautiful, has braided hair and wears a batik dress.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO (V.O.)

I thought she would be perfect for my friend
Jace, who's a bit of a free-spirit himself.

JACE, a bearded hippie-type, enters frame and embraces Jenny.
He smiles as he looks around the incredible mansion.

LEO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Jenny was a principled girl who recycled,
reduced and reused.

Jenny takes the awestruck Jace through her beautiful mansion.

LEO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Rejecting all the trappings of wealth,
she virtually lived off the grid in the
West Wing of the Pretty Mansion.

Jenny opens a door to reveal her place: A cramped hovel
filled with ratty furniture, thrift-store paintings and
sixteen recycle bins. Jace's face falls.

EXT. STREET - DAY

We see KELLY PRETTY, a gorgeous Paris Hilton-type. She wears
oversized sunglasses and carries a tiny dog.

LEO (V.O.)

Kelly was the youngest Pretty daughter.
They say it's wrong to label your
children, but I have no idea what it does
when they're labelled wrongly. Roman
called Kelly his "little genius."

Kelly makes kissy-faces at her dog.

KELLY

Does Brandon have to go poo-poo? Will
Brandon make poo-poo for mommy?

Kelly puts the tiny, shakey dog down and it starts to do it's
business. Suddenly flashes light it up.

WIDE - We see that Kelly is surrounded by a horde of
paparazzi. Kelly "tsks" and puts a tiny privacy-screen
around her dog. The paparazzi follow her every move.

LEO (V.O.)

And then there's Nikki. My sweet Nikki.
Smart, beautiful, down-to-earth, she dreamed
of being on the stage and that's why she
came to my office three months ago...

INT. LEO'S OFFICE - THREE MONTHS AGO.

Leo, now dressed conservatively, is busy at work at his desk.

NIKKI

Leo, do you have a minute?

LEO

Just one, hon, your dad needs these figures by tomorrow.

NIKKI

I've been offered a play, Leo, it's called "Wrestling with my Demons."

LEO

That's wonderful! See, I told you if you just put yourself out there it would happen. Congrat--

NIKKI

It's in Berlin and I'll be gone for three months.

LEO

Oh.

NIKKI

I know, it's a really long time.

Nikki looks into Leo's eyes.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Leo, just say the word and I won't go.

Leo takes her face in his hands.

LEO

Listen. Nikki. This is what you've always dreamed of... I want you to do this play.

FREEZE ON LEO'S FACE

LEO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And that was the worst mistake of my life...

INT. BERLIN THEATER

SHOT OF AVANT-GARDE GERMAN POSTER

The stylized poster is labelled: "Ich bin Lässt der Pochende Teufel! Nackte Frau, Ringen uns!"

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO (V.O.)
Apparently the title "Wrestling with my Demons" was a very loose translation.

The translation shows up underneath: "I am the Throbbing Devil! Naked Woman, Let us Wrestle!"

LEO (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The play was basically an hour and a half of Nikki, nude, wrestling with a guy covered in red paint.

END OF THE PLAY

Avant-garde, bespectacled Germans quietly clap as a nude, red-smearred Nikki takes a bow next to guy in a big devil head.

Roman is in the audience, proud.

ROMAN
(tearily in perfect German)
Das ist meine nackte Tochter dort drin.

Translation under: *That's my naked daughter up there.*

INT. AIRPORT - EARLIER TODAY

Leo, carrying flowers rushes through the airport.

LEO (V.O.)
And here we are three months later. Me waiting for the girl I love to get off that plane.

There is a commotion as a crowd pours from the gate. The crowd parts and Leo spots the beautiful Nikki exiting.

ROMAN (O.S.)
Nikki!

NIKKI
Daddy!

Roman appears as if by magic.

LEO
I guess I should have told them I was coming.

LEO (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I was always amazed that Roman, with all his business and wealth, still had time to pick up his children from the airport.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Roman rushes over, hugs Nikki then kisses her on the lips... for an uncomfortably long time. Roman ends the kiss then notices Leo.

ROMAN

Ah, Leo my boy!

Roman comes over and kisses Leo on the mouth for an uncomfortably long time. Roman turns back to Nikki.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

How was your trip? Three months! That's a lifetime! Tell me all about it!

LEO

Eh-hem.

Leo sheepishly motions to his flowers.

ROMAN

Oh, I'm sorry.

LEO

(smiling)

Welcome home, Nikki.

NIKKI

(sorry)

Oh, Leo. I really should have called...

SEB (O.S.)

There you are.

A large, handsome, preppy-looking guy, SEB, grabs Nikki in his arms and bends her back with a passionate kiss.

SEB (CONT'D)

I thought I lost you, Sweetie.

Leo is in shock.

NIKKI

Everyone this is Seb, my... my new boyfriend.

SEB

Gentlemen.

Leo blinks, still in shock.

ROMAN

Wow. This is quite a shocker... But, I'm double parked, so we should get those bags.

(CONTINUED)

Roman grabs Seb's bag and they head off.

NIKKI

I'm sorry, Leo. I didn't mean for this
to happen, it just did.

Leo can't speak. Nikki exits.

ON ROMAN AND SEB - We see Leo behind them.

ROMAN

(to Seb)

Wait, don't I know you from somewhere?

Seb mimes horns on his head and does a little wrestling move.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

You're that red devil!

SEB

Jawohl!

ROMAN

Well, what do you know.

WE PUSH PAST them to Leo who starts beating his flowers
against the tiny-holed trash can.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. PRETTY MANSION

We hear laughing.

SEB (O.S.)
...then I said, "I didn't know nipples had feelings." And that's when your daughter punched me right in the Adam's apple.

INT. PRETTY MANSION

The family is gathered around Seb and Nikki. Leo watches from the sidelines, angry.

SEB
But after that first rehearsal we got along just fine.

Leo approaches Nikki.

LEO
Can I talk to you?

NIKKI
Not now.

Leo heads back to the sidelines.

ROMAN
So, Seb, how much acting have you done?

SEB
Seriously? I'm not technically an "actor." Basically, I was shopping at Ambercombe and some German guy asked me if I wanted to wrestle naked.

ROMAN
Well, that's a fine howdy-do.

KELLY
What did you do?

SEB
I called the cops. I've been in too many situations like that that have ended badly.

Leo goes over to Nikki again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO
Nikki? A minute?

NIKKI
Leo, please.

He heads back.

SEB
So, at the station house he explained what the play was and showed me a picture of Nikki. I said when do I start? I mean, she not only looks great but this gal can wrestle. Mama's got some thighs!

Seb grabs a chunk of Nikki's thigh. She squeals.

ROMAN
Mama sure does.

Roman heads over to get another drink and passes by Leo.

ROMAN (CONT'D)
Sorry about all this, Leo. But you can't blame yourself. It's not you, It's Seb. He's just so damn rugged and charming! Nobody can compete with that.

LEO
Charming in a loud, ass-y sort of way.

ROMAN
Exactly. Can I get you a beer-tini?

LEO (V.O.)
Through a series of loans and consolidations, Roman was about to open the most expensive restaurant on the East Coast. Everything had to be perfect and he was taken by the whole Martini craze.

INT. RESTAURANT

Roman holds a martini glass and talks with a consultant.

ROMAN
So, all we have to do is put it in the glass and we can call it a 'tini'? Amazing. So then we'll have a water-tini, a napkin-tini. Can we do a butter-tini?

The consultant nods.

(CONTINUED)

ROMAN (CONT'D)

Fantastic!

INT. MANSION - MOMENTS LATER

Seb still chats up Nikki and Kelly.

SEB

I guess deep down I'm sort of an
exhibitionist.

(to Nikki)

Should I show them my party trick?

NIKKI

I don't know...

KELLY

Oh, please, I want to see it.

SEB

Alright, I suppose.

(calling)

Hey, Rome, you're going to want to check
this. -- I call it "Stormy Night in Paris."

Seb takes a sip of a his beer-tini and turns around. He unzips his pants and when he turns back he has his penis stretched out with his hands. Seb spits his drink onto it.

SEB (CONT'D)

(pleased)

It's raining on the Eiffel Tower, get it?

ON THE SHOCKED FAMILY

LEO

I can't believe--

The whole family erupts into laughter and applause.

KELLY

Amazing!

LEO

But, it's his penis.

ROMAN

By god, it is! And it looks just like
the Eiffel Tower! Here, let me show you
girls where I ate there last summer. It
was on the second platform...

Leo can't believe it as Roman goes to show the family where he ate, using Seb's penis as a guide.

INT. MANSION - JENNY AND JACE'S PLACE - LATER

Leo rants around the room. Jace sits on his crappy couch.

LEO

No warning, no call, no anything. You should have seen him at dinner, Eating and carrying on, everyone pretending to laugh. And Nikki? She won't even talk to me. Like it's my fault or something.

JACE

So what you're saying is, you're free.

LEO

What?

JACE

You can leave here. We could both go. We could disappear into a foreign jungle. It would be like we never existed.

LEO (V.O.)

Jace had been acting a little strange lately...

EXT. PRETTY MANSION WEST WING

We follow an extension cord from the main house into a window where we see Jace, hiding in his bedroom, playing an X-Box.

LEO (V.O.)

I think living so close, yet so far, from all that wealth drove Jace a little crazy. Plus, there was the issue of Jenny's "wonderful news."

Jenny bursts into the room, excited. She shoves a pregnancy stick into Jace's face. He sees the dreaded plus sign.

LEO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And of course they're going to get married.

Jace drops the X-BOX controller and immediately flees.

LEO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

At least that's what Jace decided after a little soul-searching in Argentina.

EXT. ARGENTINIAN FARM

Argentinian solders pull a bearded Jace out of a dusty rat-hole (a la Saddam Hussein.)

CONTINUED:

JACE

(ranting)

Great! You had hordes of Nazis here forever and yet you can't hide one freaked-out hippie?! Unbelievable!

Roman walks up, smiling, and puts an arm around him.

ROMAN

Let's go home, son.

INT. PRETTY MANSION WEST WING - MOMENTS LATER

Jace stares off.

JACE

A quick twenty hour flight and we're in Southeast Asia, where women are cheaper than rice.

LEO

(beat)

You're not going to be a good sounding board for me today, are you?

INT. BATHROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Leo stares into the mirror and splashes water in his face.

LEO (V.O.)

Nikki and I couldn't end like this. I had to see her, I had to get through to her somehow.

There is a knock on the door.

SEB (O.S.)

Knock-knock.

LEO

Occupied!

Seb enters anyway carrying a shaving kit.

SEB

Hey, Man, this place is so huge I got lost twice. I'm wiped out from the flight - we joined the Mile High club like five times... Cool if I shave in here?

Seb pushes past Leo and goes to the other sink.

SEB (CONT'D)

So I hear you used to go out with Nikki.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO

Oh, so she actually mentioned me.

SEB

Yeah, all the time. To be honest I thought you were her dog or something.

LEO

I'm not her dog. I'm her boyfriend of ten years.

SEB

Ten years? Wow. Stuff must have really slowed down in the bedroom, huh?

LEO

I didn't say that! Did Nikki? -- It's none of your business.

A big smile spreads across Seb's face.

SEB

Aw, come on. I'm just messing with you!

Seb laughs and gives Leo a playful smack on the behind. His hand stays there. Leo looks to the hand then back to Seb.

LEO

Your hand's on my ass.

SEB

What? You think I'm trying to pick your pocket, Bro? Ha! I wouldn't do that to you.

Seb laughs and playfully hits Leo on the behind again. His hand stays there and he stares at Leo, serious.

INT. KELLY'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Leo, crept out, hurries down the hallway past Kelly's open door. Kelly is going through her closet.

LEO

Kelly, I need your help.

KELLY

Leo, I don't have time. Daddy's restaurant opens next week and I have no idea what to wear. I want to look good for Andre.

LEO (V.O.)

Andre was Roman's celebrity chef, Andre Agassi.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I think Roman meant to get Emeril Lagasse but like everything else Roman does, it worked. It turns out, Andre could actually cook...

INT. RESTAURANT KITCHEN

ANDRE AGASSI, dressed like a chef, overhands some spice violently onto a plate.

ANDRE AGASSI

(with attitude)

Doosh! Serve THAT, bitch!

INT. KELLY'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kelly pulls out numerous tiny dresses from her closet.

LEO

You have to help me talk to Nikki. Something must have happened in Berlin and to tell you the truth...

(low)

I think there is something really off with this Seb guy.

KELLY

I think that about people all the time, but usually it turns out they're just foreign. Do you think Seb's foreign?

LEO

He's not foreign. He's odd. A minute ago he burst into my bathroom and put his hand on my ass. For a very long time. And he looked me in the eye while doing it. What kind of person does that? If you look someone in the eye, you want something. Something dirty.

KELLY

Hold that thought.

Kelly holds up a little plastic display filled with what look like fake mustaches and beards.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Which of these should I wear to the opening?

LEO

That's the fashion now? Fake mustaches?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KELLY

No, silly, it's not for my lip, it's for when I step out of that low limo. Completely trimmed is so 2006.

LEO

That's disgusting.

KELLY

Listen, Leo, I know you got dumped or crushed or whatever, but you don't have to be rude. We've all got problems. How do you think I feel? My friends are getting all the magazines covers. Me? Nothing. Last week I made love on top of a taxi and I didn't even get a blind item. It's like they're always doing something worse.

Kelly pulls Leo down to sit on her bed.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Can I tell you something?
(dramatic)

Last week I lost another paparazzo. That's three in the last six months. There's something going on, Leo. Something big.

LEO

So, it's not that these girls are just bigger attention loving whores with less morals than you, it's some giant conspiracy?

KELLY

Exactly!

LEO (V.O.)

And this is Roman's "little genius."

LEO (CONT'D)

Kelly, you're young and rich. Don't you think you have more constructive things to do with your life than vie for tabloid covers? Is that really benefitting society?

Kelly thinks for a moment, then.

KELLY

Well, you know, by living vicariously through these broken superstars it, like, gives people comfort to know that we're as flawed and messed up as they are. Now with the decline and disenchantment of religions people need solace.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KELLY (CONT'D)

The tabloids are essentially the new opiate of the masses so in that way, yes, I do feel like I'm benefitting society.

Leo is stunned.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Or you know, whatever. Oh, and about your sitch with Nikki. Just know, it's not you... Seb is just so handsome and fun! You can't compete with that.

Kelly holds up her little mustaches and puts on a "won't you help me" pouty face. Leo, still stunned, points to one.

INT. NIKKI'S BEDROOM

Nikki, finishing unpacking, hears a noise at the window.

Leo is inching the window up from the outside. He smiles, triumphant. Nikki calmly goes over to the window and pushes it back down, unknowingly trapping Leo's fingers.

LEO

Ow! Ow! Ow!

NIKKI

Oh!

She quickly pushes up the window and helps Leo in.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Are you alright?

LEO

(through the pain)

So. Now you're talking to me?

NIKKI

Yes.

LEO

(angry)

Good! What in the hell were you thinking?! In three months you throw away everything we had?! For some meathead painted red who thinks playing with himself is a fun party game?!

NIKKI

Leo--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO

How could you do this to me?! With him
of all people.

NIKKI

It's not about--

LEO

I know!

(mocking)

It's not about you, Leo, it's Seb, he's
just soooo cool and fun!

NIKKI

(snapping)

No. It IS about you!

LEO

I don't see how that's possible--

NIKKI

We were together ten years, Leo. Ten
years. Did you ever think once about
asking me to marry you?

A beat. Leo drops to one knee.

LEO

Nikki, will you--

NIKKI

Get up!

He quickly gets up, chastened.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

We were so close once. It was us against
the world. But the closer you were, living
here with Jenny and Kelly, working with my
father, the farther away you got from me.

LEO

That's not true!

NIKKI

It is true. Think about it, every time
my family needs something you're there.

Leo thinks.

INT. MANSION - IN THE PAST

Roman stands in the middle of the Foyer pantsless and confused. Leo quickly wheels past him with a cart and one of Jenny's recycle bins. After a beat he wheels back with a passed out Kelly now on the cart. He hands Roman his pants. Nikki, dressed nicely, stands to the side looking at her watch, disappointed.

INT. NIKKI'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

LEO
(not as convinced)
It's not true...

NIKKI
You drop everything to help them, Leo.
And that everything was me. Along the
way I lost you. I lost you to my family.

LEO
I... But...

LEO (V.O.) (CONT'D)
There was nothing I could say, it was all
true.

Seb enters the room totally nude.

SEB
Hey, dude.

Seb, completely at ease, starts to do calisthenics right in Leo's eye-line.

SEB (CONT'D)
You want in?

LEO
(disturbed)
I should go.

Nikki nods.

SEB (O.S.)
(bending)
And toes... and toes... and toes...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. LEO'S PARENTS APARTMENT

We PAN ACROSS a moving van to reveal Leo unloading boxes.

LEO (V.O.)
Without Nikki, there was no use staying with the Prettys. Luckily, my parents, just before leaving on a three months "couples cruise", said that my old room was available, although they were now using it for storage.

INT. LEO'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Leo carries his box into a room filled with various sex equipment; chains on the wall, a sex swing, blow-up doll, etc. He sets his box down next to a vat of love lotion.

LEO (V.O.)
That was that. Ten years of my life, gone. I was done with the Prettys forever....

EXT. LEO'S PARENTS APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Leo goes for another box as A BLACK LIMO pulls up to the curb. The back window rolls down and UNCLE JESUS' snakey head peers out, think Christopher Guest in "The Princess Bride".

LEO
(as if swearing)
Uncle Jesus.

LEO (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The most nefarious Pretty. He and Roman used to be business partners; both shepherding the original hardscrabble family fortune...

CUT TO: An old-timey ad of a SMILING SLAVE'S HEAD: "Pretty's Slave-White Tooth Polish. Made with REAL slave teeth!"

INT. ROMAN'S OFFICE - YEARS EARLIER

We see a younger Roman with Uncle Jesus.

LEO (V.O.)
The business thrived under their leadership but soon Jesus tired of sharing the lime-light with his brother.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

We see Jesus arguing with Roman.

LEO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And when Roman wanted to diversify the company and concentrate on commercial real estate, Jesus split, taking with him their core business: household family products.

Jesus grabs a product mock-up: "Holy Smokes Floor Cleaner: Made With Real Guatemalan Nun's Blood!" He storms out.

LEO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Roman soon built one of the largest real estate empires in the Western Hemisphere and Jesus, now racked by jealousy, covets everything Roman has achieved; his house, his family, even the caps on his teeth.

SHOT OF JESUS wringing hands.

JESUS

Ooo, they're such a lovely shade of white, one day I will have them!

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

Jesus leans out and beckons to Leo.

JESUS

Yoo-hoo, Leo!

LEO

What is it, Jesus?

JESUS

Hello, Leo. So good to see you, too. I heard about you and Nikki.

(hollow concern)

How you holding up, buddy?

LEO

Nice. Feels like the same concern I'd get trapped in a pit in your basement.

Jesus hands him a business card.

JESUS

Very funny. Listen, I've got a little business to discuss with you, my dear. But let's not do it out here with all the tramps and trash.

Leo looks around and sees the street is clean and empty.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESUS (CONT'D)

Meet me at that address tomorrow at two.
Oh, and Leo...

PUSH IN ON JESUS, OMINOUS.

JESUS (CONT'D)

You mustn't tell anyone about this.

LEO

No.

JESUS

What?

LEO

I'm not going to meet you.

JESUS

Ha! Why Leo, I think you don't trust me.

LEO

How observant of you.

JESUS

My dear, trust is a two way street. Let me
show you something I learned a very long
time ago. Put out your hand. Go on.

Leo sticks out his palm. Jesus pulls out three, hundred
dollar bills and lays them on Leo's fingers.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Now, put your wallet right beside the bills.

Confused, Leo takes his wallet and puts it by the bills.
Jesus quickly grabs the wallet and money.

JESUS (CONT'D)

(screams)

Drive!

LEO

Hey, my wallet!

The limo peels out and down the street.

JESUS (O.S.)

You can pick it up tomorrow at two!!

INT. LEO'S ROOM - NIGHT

Leo is trying to sleep but his "mattress" has extra holes, a headboard filled with ties and handcuffs, and oddly wedged pillows. He finally settles into a compromised position.

LEO (V.O.)

It was going to be rough, but starting over was the best thing for me right now. A new job, a new life. I just needed to concentrate on separating myself from Nikki and her family...

TIME DISSOLVE - MORNING

ROMAN (O.S.)

Good morning sleepy head.

Leo opens his eyes. A large man in a leather zipper mask leans over him (he also wears a harness on his waist.)

LEO

Ahhh!

ROMAN

No worries, Leo. It's just me. You've got quite the collection here, my boy.

LEO

It's not mine. It's my parents.

ROMAN

I'm so very sorry. -- What's the dilly-o with this harness and tail?

Roman waggles his bottom.

LEO

That's not a tail, it goes the other way.

ROMAN

(looking at 'tail', disgusted)
Oh, lord...

Roman tries removing the harness through-out the scene.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

Well, I've just come to tell you, bravo. Congratulations, you've got my attention. This whole "moving out" stunt has done its job. You can come back home now.

LEO

It wasn't a stunt. I've moved out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROMAN

So you say. Come on, let's go.

LEO

Roman, I can't thank you enough for all that you've done for me. But, I thought I explained it to you. Nikki and I are over.

ROMAN

I'll talk to Nikki.

LEO

She won't listen.

ROMAN

I'll offer her money.

LEO

She doesn't need it.

ROMAN

I'll offer you money.

LEO

I don't want your money.

ROMAN

Leo, you must come home. I don't mean want to alarm you but... there's been a murder.

LEO

No there hasn't.

ROMAN

But there could have been. Because you aren't there to protect us. The place is falling apart without you.

LEO

It's been two days.

ROMAN

Two and a half. It's a madhouse. The girls are very upset. Kelly's so worked up about this she inconsolable.

LEO (V.O.)

That wasn't exactly true. Kelly was upset, but it wasn't about me....

INT. HIGH-END STORE

This store is so hip it only sells three items: a SHOE, SOMETHING PLASTIC FROM JAPAN and a FONZIE LUNCHBOX.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kelly enters, followed by bored paparazzi. Fed up with no press, she grabs the Fonzie lunchbox and shoves it into her tiny purse.

This perks up the paparazzi. She's going to shoplift! Suddenly another paparazzo enters yelling something in Italian. The other paparazzi exit, leaving a crushed Kelly.

Kelly looks and sees them crowded around her socialite friend LINDSEY LOGAN, making out with a HOMELESS PERSON. She spots Kelly and waves.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING

ROMAN

Fine. If that's the way you want it. Move out. I guess I'll just see you at the restaurant opening. It's going to be great, Leo, bottom floor of a brand new building, it will be the flagship of my empire.

Roman still tries to remove the harness.

LEO

No. Roman, I won't be at the opening. I can't work for you either.

Roman stops cold.

ROMAN

You're really trying to hurt me, aren't you?

LEO

No, it's not about you.--

ROMAN

Nonsense. It's always about me. But if you insist on this foolishness, so be it. We got along without you before, we'll get along without you now. We're Pretty's, we don't need help from anyone...

Roman tires of struggling with the harness.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

Oh, for God's sake, get this horrible thing off me!

EXT. STREET - LATER THAT MORNING

Leo is walking, looking for an address. He finds it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEO (V.O.)

Having worked with Roman made getting a new job easier than I thought. I had an interview at a Razor manufacturer at three but I couldn't do anything until I got my wallet back from Jesus.

Leo rings the bell.

JESUS (O.S.)

(through intercom)

Come in.

INT. JESUS' HOUSE FOYER

LEO

Hello?

JESUS (O.S.)

We're back here!

Leo heads towards the voice.

INT. JESUS' HOUSE SPA

Leo peers around the corner and sees Jesus standing completely naked in the middle of the room. Beside him is MR. SOLO, an albino dwarf, holding a beer.

LEO

Oh! I'm sorry!

Leo goes to duck back out.

JESUS

Nonsense, come in. I just need to finish up my skin treatments. It won't be a minute.

Mr. Solo takes a swig of beer and spits it out in a fine spray all over Jesus. He rubs it into Jesus' skin.

JESUS (CONT'D)

In Japan they do this procedure to their Wagyu cattle to produce the tenderness of all meat. The Kobe beef. I've been told I have the skin of a fourteen year old. Would you like to feel it?

LEO

No thanks.

JESUS

Oh, don't worry about Mr. Solo he won't bite you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESUS (CONT'D)

In Javanese culture, albino dwarves were said to be imbued with great wahyu. Great spiritual significance.

LEO

Is he Javanese?

JESUS

(angry)

Does he look Javanese to you?

LEO

I don't know what Javanese is.

JESUS

Listen, Leo. Obviously you've come here for something.

LEO

Yes, my wallet.

JESUS

Yes, the wallet. But maybe there's something else. -- Solo, my robe.

Mr. Solo hands Jesus his robe. Jesus drapes the robe across a chair and sits. He is still completely nude.

JESUS (CONT'D)

I see a spirit in you Leo. You remind me of myself.

LEO

That's a horrible thing to say.

JESUS

That's exactly what I would have said.

LEO

Please. --

JESUS/LEO

I doubt that very much./I doubt that very much.

Leo stops, weirded out.

JESUS

Now that you've seen the light and removed yourself from that horrible man, I thought it the perfect time to bring you into my little plan to humiliate Roman once and for all--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Mr. Solo takes another swig of beer and spits it all over Jesus' face. Jesus goes to reprimand him, but just continues.

JESUS (CONT'D)

I'm going to destroy Roman's most delicate asset. His ego. This weekend I will sink the flagship of his empire. It's such a simple yet brilliant plan--

LEO

Let me stop you right there. I don't want to hear any more. I've moved on with my life.

JESUS

Really?... Well, maybe this will help you listen. I'm prepared to offer this much to work for me...

Jesus slides a piece of paper over to Leo. Leo reads it.

LEO

(shocked) Wow?! Seriously?

Jesus, scared, immediately grabs the paper back and reads it.

JESUS

There's supposed to be a decimal in there. (to Mr. Solo) There's supposed to be -- What did I tell you?

LEO

Jesus, do whatever you want. I don't care. I'm through with the family. Done. I've had a good run but it's time for me to get on with my life.

JESUS

You're really through with the family? Seriously? Even Nikki? You seemed crazy about her. I mean, really ga-ga. Whipped even.

LEO

No! Nikki and I are done. Now, if you don't mind, I would like my wallet back.

JESUS

Fine. But, you're going to miss out. Mr. Solo, his wallet.

Mr. Solo hands over the wallet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JESUS (CONT'D)

When this all goes down I do expect you to join me. I'm looking for a good minion.

LEO

No.

JESUS

That no sounds like a maybe.

LEO

That no sounds like no.

JESUS

I'm putting you down for a maybe.

LEO

(looks in wallet)

There was forty dollars in here.

Jesus smiles smugly. He eyes dart back and forth to the dwarf. After a silent minute he violently throws an empty beer bottle Mr. Solo, Mr. Solo doesn't flinch.

JESUS

(breaking)

Give him the forty dollars!

Solo shrugs and pulls the money from his loincloth. Leo grabs the money and exits.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN.

INT. LEO'S NEW JOB - MORNING

Leo sits at a desk working. Numerous people pass by.

LEO (V.O.)

I couldn't worry about Jesus. I had a new job, a new life. I finally felt like I had put the entire Pretty family behind me. Especially Nikki. I could finally put Nikki completely out of my mind.

A janitor walks by with a 'Nicky' name tag.

NICKY

Morning, Leo.

LEO

Morning, Nicky.

NICOLLETTE

Morning, Leo.

LEO

Nicollette.

NICOLLETTE

Call me Nikki.

An Asian guy walks past.

LEO

Morning, Nikei.

NIKEI

Is pronounced 'Nikki.'

WIDE: We see that Leo is working at Nick Gone Shaver Co. "Six Blades: Live a Nickless Life!" Leo sighs.

SFX: Cellphone rings.

Leo answers his cellphone.

LEO

Hello?

NIKKI (ON PHONE)

...Leo?

(CONTINUED)

LEO

Nikki?

All three coworkers turn.

NICKY/NICOLLETTE/NIKEI
Yes?/Huh?/Hai?

Leo points to his cellphone and continues.

LEO

Nikki, is that you?

ON NIKKI - Dressed nicely, on her cellphone

NIKKI

Oh, Leo... I'm at the restaurant. I'm so
sorry about all this. I... I need you,
Leo. Can you come?

LEO (ON PHONE)

Listen, I have a life now, Nikki, I can't
just drop everything and come running
back to you. Life doesn't work like that
-- Do I turn right or left on Highland?

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Leo, sweaty, is running down the street.

NIKKI (ON PHONE)

Left. Oh, Leo, I knew I could count on you.

LEO

Nikki, I--

She has hung up the phone.

EXT. RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER

Paparazzi and people mill about. Leo runs past and into the
restaurant as a limo drives up.

ON LIMO - The window rolls down and we see Kelly looking out.

ON PAPARAZZI - They are gathered around Kim Mardashian
pulling Britney Pears on a leash. She smacks Britney's
bottom and the paparazzi go crazy.

ON LIMO - Kelly, frustrated, motions the driver to drive on.

INT. RESTAURANT - GRAND OPENING - MOMENTS LATER

Leo, out of breath, pushes through the paparazzi and enters the bustling restaurant. Nikki runs up.

NIKKI

Oh, Leo. I'm so glad you're here.

LEO

So am I.

NIKKI

Daddy's been so down since you left. This is his big moment and it's my fault you're not here to share it with him. He's going to be so happy to see you.

LEO

Wait. You called me here for your father?

NIKKI

He's miserable.

LEO

Isn't that what you complained about, Nikki? Me and your father? Isn't that exactly what you think is wrong with us?

NIKKI

Leo, I know what I said, but maybe I was wrong. All I know is, the house hasn't been the same without you. And Seb...

LEO

He's weird, right?

NIKKI

No, he's fine. But, he oddly misses you. We all do... I do.

LEO

Nikki... I can't. I can't do this.

Leo turns and makes his way through the crowd. An overweight woman steps right in his path.

JESUS

Enjoying the party, Leo?

Leo looks closer at the fat lady. It is Jesus in disguise.

LEO

Jesus?

CONTINUED:

JESUS

It's nice of you to join us on such a special occasion. The total humiliation of my brother Roman.

LEO

What are you talking about?

JESUS

You didn't let me explain at our little get together. Without you watching out for Roman, I have managed to infiltrate this place at the highest levels. What should be his shining moment shall instead be the worse embarrassment of his career.... The hors d'evours are coming out, why don't you try a canape?

Jesus slinks back into the crowd. Leo grabs a canape.

LEO

Ewww!

Leo sees other customers trying the horrible hors d'evours. Jenny walks up with Jace, who is in an itchy hemp suit.

JACE

I feel like a fool in this suit.

JENNY

It's hemp. You look wonderful.

JACE

I smell like my cousin's basement. Leo, did you try the food? I've step in stuff better than this.

Nikki and Seb run up.

NIKKI

What's going on? This food is terrible!

SEB

(creepily)

Hey, Leo.

Roman walks up and gives Leo a big hug

ROMAN

Leo! I'm so glad you could make it!

LEO

Roman, is everything all right?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ROMAN

(still cheery)

Not at all. Andre is going crazy in the kitchen and the food tastes like poo. But don't worry, my boy, you have a good time.

Roman gives him a weak smile. Leo surveys the Pretty family all looking to him expectantly.

LEO (V.O.)

They were the most over privileged, spoiled, out of touch group of people I had ever met. They drove me crazy but what could I do? They were family...

Leo goes into action. He sees people starting to leave.

LEO (CONT'D)

All right, we can deal with this. First off, we need to get that food thrown away.

Roman and Jenny head off to do this.

LEO (CONT'D)

Now, we have to keep them entertained while we come up with a new menu.

SEB

I could do m' wang shapes.

Seb immediately pulls out his wiener.

SEB (CONT'D)

I call this the miracle of birth.

LEO

Eww.

Nikki tilts Leo's head. He now sees it and melts.

LEO (CONT'D)

(like seeing a sweet baby)

Oh.

(then, catching himself)

No. We need something else--

Jace is smiling and starts to back away.

LEO (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

CONTINUED: (3)

JACE

This could be it. Roman's failed. First the restaurant, then the building, the empire... I could be free.

Jace heads towards the door.

JACE (CONT'D)

I'm free!

Jace is immediately set upon by a pair of drug sniffing dogs.

JACE (CONT'D)

No! It's hemp! Nice puppies-- Ahhh!!!

A crowd gathers to watch as the dogs continue their attack.

LEO

All right, we've got them entertained. Nikki, Seb, we need some more food, run out and get what you can. Where's Kelly?

NIKKI

She's said something crazy about paparazzi and making a grand entrance.

LEO

I can't worry about that, I've got go see if I can help Andre Agassi save this damn restaurant. Let's move!

INT. KITCHEN

ANDRE AGASSI

No! No! No! This is the third time one of you bitches stunk up my demi-glace!

Andre Agassi dumps out a big pot of sauce. Leo runs in.

LEO

Andre, your kitchen's been infiltrated. There's someone here who has been sabotaging you...

WE PAN ACROSS the motley looking crew.

LEO (CONT'D)

I've got to think if Jesus said anything to give me a clue who it could be...

THE CAMERA STOPS at a gap between cooks. PAN DOWN - We see Mr. Solo, dressed as a chef, looking around nervously.

INT. OUTSIDE KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Andre Agassi throws Mr. Solo out on his ass.

INT. KITCHEN - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

Leo stands with Andre and Roman. Nikki and Seb come in with bags of food.

NIKKI

We're back.

LEO

Great! -- Wait, what is all this?

Leo pulls out doughnuts, Slurpees and various jerkies.

SEB

It was great, there's a 7-11 on the corner. We bought them out. -- Dude, those lottery tickets are mine.

Seb takes the tickets from Andre. Roman is crushed.

ROMAN

Well, there's always a first time for failure. It'll be all right. I'll be fine. -- What's it mean when your arm goes numb?

LEO

Roman, you'll be okay... We can deal with this. -- Andre, Roman has told me for six months how great of a cook you are. We're two sets down, man. We need this. Is anything you can do?

Andre stares intently at the food then holds up his hand.

ANDRE AGASSI

Whisk me.

QUICK DISSOLVES of Andre cooking, possessed. He finally paints the plate with a swath of sauce.

ANDRE AGASSI (CONT'D)

We have jalapeño-burger-beef-dog done in three ways. Sauced with a blue woo-hoo! slurpee reduction accompanied by a Slim-Jim and maple log ragout.

They all watch expectantly as Roman takes a bite.

ROMAN

Amazing.

CONTINUED:

ANDRE AGASSI
Serve it up, bitches.

INT. RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER

The party is in full swing. People are having a great time with the new food.

LEO (V.O.)
With Andre's amazing food, the restaurant was a complete success. Oh, and Kelly finally made her entrance...

INT. LIMO

Kelly, still thinking, grabs a soda from the mini-bar. She notices that the plastic label peels off and gets an idea.

EXT. RESTAURANT

Jesus and Mr. Solo are trying to make their escape as a LIMO drives into frame knocking them to the ground. Kelly opens the door to the limo. She steps one foot out and stays there, smiling. The paparazzi go crazy.

PAPARAZZO #1
Does that say what I think it does?

PAPARAZZO #2
Coke/Zero. She put product placement on her-

PAPARAZZO #1
Fantastico!

INT. RESTAURANT

LEO (V.O.)
She was on the covers for three weeks.
Doing what she could for mankind...

Leo walks up to Roman. Roman is on his cellphone.

ROMAN
Tell Wolfgang I won't be needing his food tonight.

LEO
Wait, you had Wolfgang Puck lined up for the food? Roman, you could have handled this. Why did you let me...

Roman smiles and motions with his head. Leo turns as Nikki runs up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NIKKI

Oh, thank you, Leo!

Just like at the beginning of the show, Nikki leans in, SLOW-MOTION, and kisses Leo on the cheek. Leo smiles.

LEO (V.O.)

And that was that. No matter how hard I tried I knew I would be part of the Pretty family for a very, very long time.

Roman puts his arm around Leo.

ROMAN

Welcome home, son.

As Leo still holds his cheek, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE