

happy endings.

Episode 107

Mein Coming Out

Written by

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(pg. 1,1A,10,12,21,26,30,31)
(pg. 13)

Table Draft	10/19/10
Shooting Script	10/20/10
Shooting Script (Blue Rev.)	10/21/10
<u>Shooting Script (Pink Rev.)</u>	<u>10/21/10</u>

CAST

JANE Eliza Coupe
ALEX Elisha Cuthbert
DAVE Zachary Knighton
MAX Adam Pally
BRAD Damon Wayans, Jr.
PENNY Casey Wilson

DOUG Greg Cromer
HOWARD BLUM Alan Rachins
PAULINE BLUM Caroline Aaron
ROGER TBD
WAITER TBD

Happy Endings
Shooting Script

"Mein Coming Out" [107]
10/20/10

b.

SETS

INTERIORS

JANE & BRAD'S APARTMENT
MAX & DAVE'S APARTMENT
PENNY'S APARTMENT
RESTAURANT
BAR
ROSALITA'S

EXTERIORS

CHICAGO STREET
SIDEWALK

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

1 INT. JANE & BRAD'S APARTMENT - MORNING (DAY 1) 1

Saturday afternoon. A nice brunch spread is laid out. The friends load up plates and lie around.

ALEX
Jane, this brunch looks amazing.

JANE
Please, I just threw together whatever looked fun.

BRAD
(sotto to group)
She's been up since five.
Compliment the candied walnuts or she's gonna snap.

ALEX/DAVE/MAX
(too quickly)
Yum, walnuts!/So good./Christmas in my mouth.

PENNY
Guys, I hate to be the girl who makes every conversation about her, but who am I kidding? I am that girl. I have a blind date tonight with the most amazing-sounding guy, Roger.

BRAD
Are people still named Roger?

MAX
Cancel it. You already have a date tonight with me. Remember? My parents are in town, you're my girlfriend of three years?

PENNY
Oh my god, Max, I totally forgot they were coming. I'm so sorry, I can't be your beard.

MAX
Really? You're saying a single date with some stranger is more important than what we fake have?

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

PENNY

Yeah. And honestly, I'm also sick
of being your beard. For someone
who behaves nothing like a gay guy,
you have even less of an idea how
to act like a straight guy.

POP TO:

2 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

2

Max, Penny, and Max's PARENTS sit at a table.

MAX

(re: Penny's boobs)
And how about these, huh? Am I
right?

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: 2
Off Penny, aghast:
3 INT. JANE & BRAD'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS 3

PENNY
Then you finished it off with...
(motioning)
"And don't get me started with
whatever's going on down there."

MAX
Great. What am I going to do now?

DAVE
You could actually come out.

MAX
Uch, coming out is so gay. And why
should I? They only visit like
once every two years. *

ALEX
I'll be your beard. I wanna be
named Larissa, and I'm a
sculptress. *

MAX
(beat, then)
Jane, will you do it?

JANE
Why me?

ALEX
Why not me?

MAX
(to Jane) *

ALEX
I just offered. *

MAX
(to Jane) *

ALEX
Can no one hear me? Am I a ghost? *

MAX

It's nothing personal; it's just
that you personally wouldn't be as
good as Jane.

ALEX

How is that not personal?

JANE

It's true. I'd be an awesome
beard. Parents love me. *

MAX *

So you'll do it?

JANE

No. Not 'cause I wouldn't crush
this, but 'cause I think it's time
for you to finally come out. *

DAVE *

Jane's right. *

MAX

I really hear you guys. *

(to Alex)

So, you wanna do it?

ALEX

No! I offered three times, and you
insulted me to my face.

MAX

Only because I thought I had
someone better.

As Alex moves off... *

FADE OUT. *

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 EXT. SIDEWALK - A LITTLE LATER (DAY 1)

4

Max and Dave walk and talk.

MAX

So how am I gonna find a girl who's willing to be a convincing beard by seven?

DAVE

Hey, I have a crazy thought--

MAX

Put you in a dress and wig like sexy Bugs Bunny?

DAVE

Idiot, come out to your parents. It won't be that bad. They're sweet, liberal Jews.

MAX

First of all, who knows how they'll react? Secondly, all they ever talk about is grandchildren. They're gonna be crushed that I'll never have kids.

DAVE

You can still have kids.

MAX

Ech, I don't wanna have kids.

DAVE

Max, these are all just excuses. I know it's hard, but come on. Tell them tonight. I'll come with you. For moral support.

MAX

You'd do that for me?

DAVE

Yeah, buddy. I love you.

MAX

Plus you know my dad will pay.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

DAVE

I'm gonna get two apps and probably
a steak.

*
*
*

5 INT. JANE & BRAD'S APARTMENT - A LITTLE LATER

5

*

Jane and Brad clean up.

JANE

Unbelievable. I spent three hours,
and no one even noticed the
homemade napkin rings made from
ric-rac.

BRAD

I noticed.

JANE

(challenging)

Can you point to them on this
table?

BRAD

Why you gotta do that?

JANE

(sighs)

Was that wrong that I wouldn't be
Max's beard? I just think he'd be
so much happier if he were honest
with his parents.

BRAD

Totally. Just curious, didn't you
wait like six months until you told
your parents you were living with a
black guy?

JANE

That had nothing to do with race.
My parents don't see color. They
just see "sleeping with their
daughter."

(then)

I just needed to tell them in my
own time.

BRAD

As opposed to Max, who needs to
tell his parents he's gay tonight
because his straight friend thinks
he should?

5 CONTINUED:

5

JANE
That's totally different.

BRAD
How?

JANE
Why you gotta do that?

Off Jane, considering, we...

6 INT. ROSALITA'S - A LITTLE LATER

6

Penny moves through the bar, scanning for her date. A cute guy, DOUG, approaches her. Penny smiles, excited.

DOUG
Hi, are you Sarah?

PENNY
No, and I'm guessing you're not Roger.

DOUG
Is it too late to say I am?

PENNY
Is it too early to say, "How do you like your eggs?"
(then)
I'm sorry. When I get nervous I turn into Blanche from "Golden Girls."

DOUG
I'm a Sofia man, myself. Doug.

PENNY
I'm Penny. You're waiting for a blind date, too?

DOUG
I was, but it's been half an hour, and I think I've been stood up.

*

Penny notices ROGER, a nebbishy, bald guy scanning the room for her. He calls out:

ROGER
Penny? Penny Hartz?

Penny looks at her date, then at Doug.

6 CONTINUED:

6

PENNY

Looks like I've been stood up, too.

*

Penny and Doug smile at each other. It's a date.

7 INT. RESTAURANT - BAR - SAME TIME (NIGHT 1)

7

Max and Dave enter the restaurant. Pauline and Howard wave enthusiastically from the bar.

Max! PAULINE

Maxy! HOWARD

MAX

(to Dave)

Nope. They're not here. Let's go.

DAVE

It's gonna be fine. Now man up,
and tell 'em you like dudes.

As Dave steers a reluctant Max toward them:

PAULINE

Sweetheart, hello!

MAX

Hey, Mom. Dad.

*

They hug.

PAULINE

And David, what a surprise.

She hugs Dave.

*

HOWARD

Where's Penny? We were so excited
to see her.

MAX

She couldn't come.

HOWARD

Why?

*

She's busy. MAX

They broke up. DAVE

HOWARD

Which is it? Busy or broken up?

7 CONTINUED:

7

MAX

Ooh. The subject of a break-up is still a little bit of a hot button for this guy.

PAULINE

Aw, Dave, you wanna talk about it?

DAVE

Actually, Max is the one who really has something to talk to you about. *

PAULINE

You know, from what Max has told us, that Alex girl leaving you was the best thing that could have happened. *

DAVE

That's what I've been saying.

PAULINE

Now you're free to be who you are-- *

DAVE

Exactly--

PAULINE

And find happiness with men.

DAVE

Yes.

(then, realizing)

Wait, how's that with the men thing? *

MAX

Excuse us for a second.

Max pulls a confused Dave aside as Pauline flags a waiter.

MAX

Quick sidebar: my parents think you're gay. *

DAVE

What?

MAX

Like super gay.

DAVE

Why?!

(CONTINUED)

MAX

Mostly your Ellen haircut. But also 'cause when you and I were living together after college, my mom found my porn under my mattress. I panicked; told them it was yours.

DAVE

Why would my porn be under your mattress?

*

MAX

Panicked again, told them you used to lie in my bed because you were obsessed with me.

DAVE

You are not good under pressure.

MAX

I know!

DAVE

(steers Max to the table)
We're clearing this up once and for all. Pauline, Howard -- Max has something he's been meaning to tell you for a long time.

Howard and Pauline look to Max, who takes a deep breath.

MAX

This is really hard for me. Dave's gay.

*

PAULINE

We knew that.

Dave elbows Max sharply.

MAX

There's a reason I'm not dating Penny anymore. And that's because I'm --

At that moment, Jane sweeps in, rushing to Max's side.

JANE

Hey, Boo! Sorry I'm late.

*

They look at Jane, mystified. Max, taking a free pass:

7 CONTINUED: (3)

7

MAX

-- dating Jane now.

(then, re: Jane's boobs)

... and get a load of these...

*

*

As Max awkwardly indicates Jane's boobs...

*

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

8 INT. RESTAURANT - A LITTLE LATER (NIGHT 1) 8

Dave, Howard, and Pauline are seated at the table. Max and Jane stand beside it, about to sit down.

MAX

Mom, Dad, I'm so happy you get to meet my new girlfriend.

(to Jane)

Honey, I'm so happy you're here. Let me get you a chair.

DAVE

Let me help you with that chair. Jane? You're not gonna help with your own chair? *

Max, Dave, and Jane step aside and talk sotto.

HOWARD

Must be quite a chair. *

DAVE

(to Jane)

What are you doing here? I thought we agreed Max should come out.

JANE

I thought about it. And it's not up to us to push him if he's not ready.

DAVE

So you're just gonna help him live a lie? That sucks.

MAX

Don't talk to my girlfriend like that. *

(then, to Jane)

Now, Jane, if we're gonna do this, let me give you some background info.

JANE

(cocky)

Max, don't worry. I'm gonna crush it. I'm parent heroin.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

Jane, Max and Dave head back to the table. As they sit:

JANE (CONT'D)

Pauline! Howard! So great to finally meet you. I have an awesome weekend planned. Pauline, tomorrow morning -- me, you -- outlet malls, then at noon Howard and I tee off. Bring your wallet, 'cause I am not gonna take it easy on you.

HOWARD

(delighted)

Really? That sounds great. You're not too busy?

JANE

I'd do anything for the people who made this guy possible.

Jane grabs Max and kisses him. It goes on too long. Pauline notices that Dave looks annoyed. She leans in to him:

PAULINE

Don't be jealous. You'll find your knight in shining armor.

DAVE

Not jealous, 'cause I'm not gay.

A waiter arrives and puts down drinks.

WAITER

Four scotches--
(gives Dave drink)
--and here's your daiquiri.

*

DAVE

Really, guy, that's your timing?!

9 INT. ROSALITA'S - A LITTLE LATER

9

Penny and Doug are finishing a drink and laughing.

PENNY

... I can't believe we just met.
You're so easy to talk to.

DOUG

You, too. Usually on first dates, I feel so much pressure to pretend I read.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

PENNY
I know! I hate reading!

The waiter puts the check on the table. Penny reaches for her purse, as Doug pulls out his wallet.

DOUG
Let me get this.

PENNY
So sweet.

DOUG
Hey, can I take you to dinner tomorrow? I mean, this bar is fine for some blind date, but you deserve to be taken somewhere exceptional.

PENNY
Wow. How are you still single?

Doug tosses his credit card on the table and gets up to go.

DOUG
I could ask the same of you.
Excuse me a second.

As Doug exits, Penny picks up his credit card.

PENNY
Ooh, a black card. Are you
enjoying your reward points,
Mister--
(noticing name, dismayed)
Hitler?

*

Off Penny, troubled...

10 INT. JANE & BRAD'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

10

Jane enters, excited. Brad is reading.

JANE
So, they loved me.

BRAD
I knew they would.

JANE
I mean, I'm not surprised. I was
funny, warm, affectionate--

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

BRAD

That's great.
(then, a little piqued)
How affectionate?

JANE

Oh, you know. We held hands, light
nuzzling, kissed once or twice--

BRAD

You kissed Max?

JANE

Yeah, had to sell it. I worked in
some Yiddish, a little golf talk--

*
*

BRAD

So, like, "kiss" kiss? Was there
tongue?

*

JANE

Why are you being so weird about
this? He's gay.

BRAD

Is he now? Seems convenient.

JANE

Is this really bothering you?

BRAD

(beat)
No. I'm not really jealous. I
know I'm your only Boo--

Jane's phone rings. She picks up.

JANE

Hey, Boo.
(to Brad, whispers)
It's Max.
(back to Max)
So...?

INTERCUT WITH:

11 INT. MAX & DAVE'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

11 *

MAX

You nailed it.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

JANE

I knew it! Parent heroin. They've got a Jane addiction, and it's bad. We're talking "shaking at a bus stop, willing to do downstairs stuff for a nickel bag of me" bad.

(off Brad's look)

So tomorrow I'll pick your mom up at nine--

MAX

That's what I was calling about. My dad had this huge business thing come up. So they have a six AM flight.

JANE

Oh, that's too bad.

MAX

Yeah, they're bummed. But I'm telling you, Operation: Beard? Huge success. I owe you big time. If you ever wanna get into a country club and need a fake white husband, I'm your guy.

Jane hangs up.

JANE

They're leaving early. I was really looking forward to hanging out with them tomorrow.

She goes to hug Brad. He steps back.

*

BRAD

(spurned)

No. It feels dirty now.

*

*

12 INT. ROSALITA'S - SAME TIME

12

Penny watches as Doug signs the check.

PENNY

So, that's an interesting name: Hiy-
tler.

DOUG

It's Hitler.

PENNY

It's not pronounced "Hiy-tler"?

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

DOUG

No.

PENNY

Could it be?

DOUG

Uch, this always happens. Girls
hear my name, and all they can
think is, "Is he related to that
Hitler?"

*
*
*

PENNY

I'm not thinking that.
(then)
Are you?

DOUG

No! Of course not. No relation at
all.

PENNY

Did your family ever consider
changing the name?

*
*

DOUG

Because the American Hitlers came
to this country two hundred years
ago. We're regular, solid
citizens. My cousin, Ron Hitler,
owns the second largest mattress
chain in the midwest.

PENNY

Does he sell a lot of "Mein-
Kampforters"?

DOUG

(laughs)
Look, you seem cool, and I swear,
I'm normal. Can't we go back to
when you were just Penny and I was
just Doug, a guy hoping you'd have
dinner with him tomorrow night?

Penny looks at him: he's so cute and sincere.

PENNY

Yes, I would love to have dinner
with you, Doug Hiii... Doug.

Penny gives him an awkward smile.

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

DOUG

Takes some getting used to, huh?

*

PENNY

Yes, it does.

13 EXT. CHICAGO STREET - NEXT MORNING (DAY 2)

13

Penny and Jane walk down the street.

PENNY

I had the weirdest date last night.

JANE

I made out with Max in front of his parents, so you might not want to play "weird date poker" with me.

PENNY

You decided to go? How was it?

JANE

Nailed it. They loved me, but they had to leave early. Max said they were devastated they didn't get to see me again.

They turn the corner. Emma's diner comes into view.

PENNY

Really? 'Cause they look like they're doing okay to me.

Penny points. Max and his parents are having breakfast at an outdoor table. Off Jane's betrayed expression...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

14 INT. MAX & DAVE'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT DAY (DAY 2) 14

Max enters his apartment. It's dark. As he moves through the living room:

JANE (O.S.)
Hello, Max.

Max jumps, startled. Jane, seated in an armchair, switches on a nearby lamp. *

JANE (CONT'D) *
Oh, I'm sorry, did I startle you? *

MAX *
You're not sorry. You're sitting *
in my apartment in the dark. I'm *
pretty sure you meant to do that. *

JANE
Just wanted to come by, make sure
your parents got off all right.

Max tenses.

MAX
...Yeah. Great. Fine.

JANE
You sure? No long lines at the
terminal? No delays?

MAX
Nope. It was all... smooth.

JANE *
Oh, good, good, good. Because
there can be such a long wait
for... a table at Emma's!

MAX
Yeah, I know, it's gotten crazy
ever since that review in--
(breaking)
Okay, fine! They didn't leave.
They're staying 'til tonight.

14 CONTINUED:

14

JANE

Then why did you tell me they were
leaving? They loved me.

(off Max's silence)

They didn't love me? But I killed.

FLASHBACK TO:

15 INT. RESTAURANT - THE NIGHT BEFORE (FLASHBACK)

15

We see Jane, Max, and Dave eating with Pauline and Howard.
Jane finishes up a story.

JANE

So the other night, me and Maxie
got in our first fight, and I tried
to stay mad at him...

(squeezes Max's face)

But look at this punim. How do you
stay mad at this punim?

Still squeezing Max's face, Jane kisses him for way too long.
Jane stands.

JANE (CONT'D)

(to Pauline, re: Howard)

You know how it is, since he gets
it from this one.

Jane squeezes Howard's face and kisses the top of his head as
Howard and Pauline laugh.

JANE

'Scuse me, this shiksa's gotta
pish.

HOWARD

Pish. She's even learning Yiddish!

PAULINE

She's a keeper!

Jane exits. Then:

PAULINE

Oh my god, I hate that woman.

MAX

What? I thought you liked her.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

HOWARD

What did you think we liked? The
bizarre amount of times she French
kissed you in public?

PAULINE

Or her continued use of Yiddish,
which was borderline anti-Semitic.

*

HOWARD

That girl is so --

*

Jane returns.

JANE

Hey! Forgot my purse.

HOWARD

Hey!

PAULINE

We need to put a bell on you!

BACK TO:

16 INT. MAX & DAVE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

16

JANE

They really didn't love me?

MAX

I'm sorry.

JANE

I thought I was doing you a
mitzvah.

MAX

Enough with the Yiddish.

Off Jane's distress...

17 INT. PENNY'S APARTMENT - A LITTLE LATER

17

Alex is in Penny's apartment. Penny enters from the bedroom,
wearing one dress and holding another.

PENNY

(re: dresses)

This one, or this one?

ALEX

I'd go with pants. Gives you more
freedom to goose-step.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

PENNY

I don't find that funny.

ALEX

C'mon, I Wiki'd World War Two just for this conversation. So, what are you and Hitler doing tonight? Dinner? Movie? Invading Poland?

*

PENNY

You done?

ALEX

Just one more. I hope he's Mr. Reich.

PENNY

Do you think I'm crazy, going out with him? I mean, if we get married, this is my future.

Penny holds up the pad. CLOSE ON: PENNY HITLER. MRS. PENNY HITLER. MR. AND MRS. PENNY HITLER. MR. AND MRS. DOUG AND PENNY HITLER written over and over again in loopy script, fancy letters, bubble writing.

PENNY

(reading)

Penny Hitler. Doug and Penny Hitler. Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Hitler.

ALEX

The Douglas helps a little.

(then)

You could keep Penny Hartz. Or hyphenate it.

PENNY

Penny Hartz-Hitler. That's the winner.

ALEX

Look, if this guy's last name is the worst thing about him, that's not bad. He sounds like a pretty great guy.

PENNY

You know what, you're right. What's his name matter?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

PENNY (CONT'D)
I mean, who cares? I once dated a
Turkish guy named Ahneed Jirnutz.

*

ALEX
I liked A.J.
(her phone rings)
Hey, Max.

INTERCUT WITH:

18 INT. MAX & DAVE'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

18

MAX
Is this Alex? Or should I say,
Larissa the sculptress?

ALEX
What happened to Jane?

MAX
She tanked. You were right, I
should've asked you from the
beginning. Please, I really need
your help, Al.

ALEX
That's all I needed to hear. Give
me the deets, Larissa's on her way.

Alex turns the page of Penny's pad. Out loud, writing:

ALEX (CONT'D)
Eight-thirty. Okay.

*

MAX
And go easy on the Jewish stuff.
Jane tried it-- not well-received.

Alex finishes writing and hangs up, excited.

ALEX
Nice. I'm gonna be Max's beard.
Have fun with Hitler tonight.
Don't let him get in your Panzer.
(celebrating)
Boom!

*

*

Back on Max and Dave.

DAVE
Why do you need another beard?
Your parents already think you're
straight.

18 CONTINUED:

18

MAX

Dude, my mom's Jewish. If I don't find someone she likes quick, she's gonna start setting me up with every one of her friends' "fun" single daughters.

DAVE

Then just come out. Your parents are cool with me being gay. Your dad will not stop telling me how much he loves Mamma Mia.

*
*
*

MAX

Yeah, you're not their son. Listen, they're here for four more hours. It's just easier this way.

DAVE

Really? 'Cause it seems like a lot of work.

MAX

Work? Try going on a six-hour architectural tour with Miriam Schecter's niece, Chuchel.

DAVE

(beat, then)

Chuchel Schecter's Jewish?

19 INT. JANE & BRAD'S APARTMENT - EVENING (NIGHT 2)

19

JANE

How could they not like me?

BRAD

I like you, and that's all that matters, right?

*

JANE

Of course.
(then, still on it)
I know what happened.

*

*

BRAD

Here we go.

JANE

I just tried too hard. Probably came off a little needy. I should go over there and show them easy breezy Jane.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

BRAD

There's an easy breezy Jane? *

JANE

Ha. Should I wear pearls? *

BRAD

Don't do this.

JANE

You're right. No pearls. Keep it simple.

BRAD

Babe, you did your job. His parents think he's straight. Don't go over there. This isn't about you. *

JANE

You're right, this isn't about me.
(they kiss)
Now why don't you go upstairs...
(re: clothes)
...lose all that, and let me make it all about you.

Excited, Brad immediately drops his pants and walks up the stairs. Jane exits the apartment quickly. Brad turns, sees she's gone. *

BRAD

Damnit. Jane, don't do this! *

Brad, his pants at his ankles, starts after her, trips and FALLS HARD off screen. *

20 INT. PENNY'S APARTMENT - A LITTLE LATER

20

Penny opens the door. It's Doug. As he enters:

DOUG

Hi.

PENNY

Hey. Come on in.

DOUG

Thanks. Look, Penny, I'm really glad you decided to go out with me.

PENNY

Me too. You know, I was being silly. I don't actually have any problem with your name. In fact, I kinda like it. Doug Hitler. I'm gonna go grab my bag and go on a date with Hitler! Sound good to you, Hitler?

*
*

DOUG

Uh, sure.

*

Penny exits into the bedroom.

DOUG

So I made us a reservation at this cute little --

As Doug sits down, he sees the pad that Penny was writing on before. He stops, unsettled, as Penny reenters.

PENNY

Is something wrong?

Doug holds up the pad.

DOUG

What's this?

PENNY

Oh, nothing.

DOUG

Are you obsessed with me or something?

PENNY

No, I was just trying to see if I could get on board with your name.

*
*

DOUG

(re: pad)
Yeah, you seem a little too on board with it.

*
*
*
*

PENNY

I was just trying to imagine what it would be like in the future.

*
*
*

DOUG

After one drink?
(realizing)
Oh, I see what's going on.
(MORE)

*
*
*
*

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

DOUG (CONT'D)

You're one of those Hitler freaks.
And I'm the ultimate piece of
memorabilia. You weirdos always
find me. What, you wanna take me
to some rally and show me off or
something?

PENNY

No, it's not what it looks like.

Penny rips the sheet off. REVEAL Alex's note from earlier:
"8:30" and then the word "Jews" with a CIRCLE AND SLASH
THROUGH IT.

PENNY

Now... that's gonna be hard to
explain.

21 INT. ROSALITA'S - NIGHT

21

Max and Dave are carrying drinks to a bar table where Pauline
and Howard are waiting. *

MAX

Where the hell is Alex? She was
supposed to be here twenty minutes
ago.

DAVE

It's better. Now this dinner can
be about you coming out and me
coming in. *

They reach the table.

PAULINE

So, Maxie, I know you're
technically still with Jane, but
Barry Schkolnick's niece, Barrie
Schkolnick, just graduated Brandeis
and is looking for someone to show
her around.

HOWARD

Just as friends. But who knows?

Howard takes the drink from Dave.

HOWARD

Thanks, Dave. Your next daiquiri's
on me.

21 CONTINUED:

21

DAVE

Thanks.

(then, realizing)

Stop that.

(then, to Max)

So, Max, anything you feel like
talking about?

MAX

(sighs, then)

Mom, Dad, I have something to tell
you.

Jane bursts in.

JANE

Howard, Pauline, you have to give
me a second chance!

Max, again seeing a free pass:

MAX

Yeah, give Jane a second chance! I
love her!

DAVE

Max...

Brad enters.

BRAD

Jane, you're only gonna make things
worse --

REVEAL: Max and Jane are kissing.

BRAD

Dude, c'mon, stop Frenching my
wife!

PAULINE

(to Jane)

You're married?

MAX

(to Jane, faux shocked)

How could you? Who is this man?!

DAVE

Max...

Max sits up, takes a deep breath. He knows it's time.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

Okay, I don't love Jane. I was lying. Because the truth is really hard to say.

PAULINE

Why? What could be so hard?

Alex enters.

ALEX

Hey, babe, sorry I'm late. Huge problem sculptressing.

MAX

This is my new girlfriend.

DAVE

(fed up)

Max...

Alex and Max kiss.

JANE

(to Max)

You called Alex?

ALEX

I'm not Alex. I'm Larissa.

DAVE

Alex...

HOWARD

This is Alex? The Alex who left you?

DAVE

Yes.

HOWARD

(to Max, disapproving)

So you're cheating on your married girlfriend with your best friend's ex-fiancée? That's why she left him?

PAULINE

(to Alex, re: Dave)

Also, 'cause he's gay.

DAVE

I'm not gay!

21 CONTINUED: (3)

21

HOWARD

This is all so strange.

(sighs)

Max, you should have just stayed
with that Penny. She was a nice,
normal girl.

Penny bursts in.

PENNY

Guess what? I finally decide I'm
into Hitler, and turns out, I'm too
much of a Nazi for him.

PAULINE/HOWARD

What?!

PENNY

Oh, hey, Mr. and Mrs. Blum.

HOWARD

Two sluts and a Nazi? What are you
into, Max?

MAX

Dudes... I'm into dudes.

At this, everyone is suddenly quiet.

PAULINE

What?

HOWARD

What did you say?

MAX

I'm gay.

A long beat. Then:

PAULINE

You're gay?

HOWARD

Oh.

MAX

I know I should have told you
before, but I was scared things
would change.

Long beat.

HOWARD

Let me get this straight. You're
not dating any of these women?

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (4)

21

MAX

I'm not.

HOWARD

Oh, thank god.

PAULINE

What a relief.

MAX

Really? You're not upset?

PAULINE

Sweetheart, you never have to be scared to tell us anything. All that matters to us is that you're happy. And that you're surrounded by people who love you.

*

JANE

I do love you, Max. I'm sorry I was such a terrible beard.

*

MAX

Not gonna lie, you sucked. But you did help me get here. So thanks.

HOWARD

Come here, tataleh.

Jane steps forward for a hug.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Not you.

Howard, Pauline and Max hug. The friends "awwww." Over his parents' shoulders, to friends:

MAX

I told you coming out would be gay.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

FADE IN:

22 INT. MAX & DAVE'S APARTMENT - LATER

22

Max and Dave are there with Pauline and Howard.

PAULINE

Ooh, you know who's gay? Rhoda Kaplan's son. He owns a discotheque. And Irma Schaefer's nephew, he just came out too. He has three kids.

(to Howard)

We'd have grandchildren!

MAX

Oh, boy.

Dave, seeing Max is in hell, steps up.

DAVE

Actually, he's spoken for.

Dave puts his arm around Max, kisses him.

PAULINE

(thrilled)

I knew it!

Pauline and Howard "awwww" as Dave hugs Max tighter.

MAX

(wriggling free, sotto to Dave)

All right, that's enough. I'm gay;
I'm not queer.

*

As Max smiles, happy despite his protests, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW