

RESCUE ME

"Immortal"

Episode #109

Written by

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FADE IN:

1 INT. TOMMY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING 1

Tommy sleeps peacefully on the couch. Slowly, someone's shoulder enters the frame. Can't see his face. He carefully and quietly starts to pour some kind of fluid onto Tommy's leg, then circling Tommy completely. He stands aside. It's Jimmy. He kicks Tommy hard.

JIMMY

Hey!

Tommy stutters awake.

TOMMY

Wha-

Jimmy lights a match.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Jimmy - wait!

JIMMY

So - yer bangin' my wife hah?

TOMMY

Jimmy, lemme explain.

Jimmy puts out the match. Tommy catches his breath.

JIMMY

G'ahead. Explain away.

TOMMY

Okay - okay. Look-

JIMMY

(can tell Tommy's lying)

Ahh!

TOMMY

What?

Jimmy lights another match.

JIMMY

Kiss my ass.

TOMMY

Jim-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JIMMY

Heard it in yer voice Tom saw it in
yer eyes I know you like you know
you only better 'cause I always got
ta see yer face when you were lyin',
which you are most definitely doin'
right now you goddam - unh!

TOMMY

(exploding)

Lemme explain Jim!

Jimmy looks at him. Douses the second match. Nods.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

She was - she wanted ta-

The third match gets lit.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

You won't let me-

JIMMY

Ahhh!

TOMMY

-explain Jimm-

JIMMY

BULLSHIT! BULLSHIT! Explain what?
Explain how sweet her tits tasted?
You goddam scumbag! My cousin! My
best goddam friend! You worthless
piece of shit!

He tosses the match -

TOMMY

No Jimmy-

BOOM! Tommy's leg erupts as he is encircled in flames.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

AHHH!

JIMMY

Burn in hell, asshole.

Jimmy sits down and lights a cigarette, calmly watching his
cousin scream in agony and attempt to put out the fire.
There is furious knocking on the front door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHEILA (O.S.)

Tommy! TOMMY!

TOMMY

Help me Sheila! HELP ME!

Tommy rolls on the floor in a furious attempt to put his leg out. Sheila keeps screaming and banging. Jimmy just watching the entire affair as it builds to a crescendo and:

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Unh!

BANG! he slams into some furniture and comes up to his knees to find he's not on fire and Janet is staring at him from the kitchen. The dog is barking like a maniac.

JANET

What're you doing?

TOMMY

(collecting himself)

I - I had a bad dream. What-

JANET

I was knocking and you said you were on fire so-

TOMMY

In the dream I was.

JANET

Jesus.

TOMMY

(to the dog)

S'okay Asshole. S'okay.

He bends down to pet it and the dog relaxes.

JANET

Asshole?

TOMMY

He likes it.

The dog skitters off to play with his favorite toy, which Tommy has just handed him.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Ya want coffee?

(CONTINUED)

JANET

No. Look I went to charge something at the mall last night and not only did they refuse my Mastercard they also refused my American Express and this morning I get a call from the bank saying that you missed two car payments and last month's mortgage payment.

TOMMY

(caught)
Shit.

JANET

What's going on?

TOMMY

I was - I had to finish rebuilding this place after the fire and I was floatin' everythin' until - uhh. I screwed up. Shit.

Janet lets him drink some orange juice. Now:

JANET

I need at least four thousand dollars just to make the mortgage the car and American Express.

TOMMY

Four grand? Where the hell'm I gonna get four grand?

JANET

What about your side jobs?

TOMMY

I got nothin' on the schedule til next week - next week I got two roofs'n a swimming pool to install next week I'm golden but-

Janet sighs deeply.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

What?

JANET

(meaning something)
Nothing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOMMY

Y'know - the kids're at school from what eight in the mornin' til - with soccer'n baseball'n blah blah blah at least four thirty'n you can't get a job?

JANET

I suppose I could hire a housekeeper to clean up after them and vacuum and do the laundry and a cook to make all the lunches and breakfast and dinner but by then whatever salary I earned would already be spent on my two new probably Mexican employees who would really just screw up the entire foundation of my household system because they wouldn't be able to speak a word of goddam English.

TOMMY

(dripping with sarcasm)
The foundation of yer household system?

She stares right into him.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Goddammit. I told you we should've bought a smaller house for you.

JANET

You wanted the big house.

TOMMY

Bullshit. I wanted ta keep the kids close so it would be easier for you when it came ta sharin' 'em 'n drivin' 'em around - you chose the biggest house on the goddam block.

JANET

I wanted enough space for three kids to run around and each have their own room and grow up nor-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOMMY

Hey! When I was growin' up we had
eight kids and three bedrooms I
slept with-

JANET

-your three brothers in one bedroom
I know this poor ass Irish speech
by heart-

TOMMY

It's true!

JANET

Who cares? I ended up across the
street you ended up spying on me
and ruining my relationship with
Roger and-

TOMMY

Roger was an asshole'n I saved you
from-

JANET

You had no right! You had no
goddam right!

She pushes Tommy hard and slaps at his arms in frustration.

JANET (CONT'D)

It was a relationship! Even - even
if it was going nowhere it was my
life, my mistakes - my lesson to
learn! Goddam you!

She collects herself. Turns to leave.

TOMMY

(closest he'll come to an
apology)
I thought I was helping.

She stops:

JANET

Ya wanna help? Get me my four
grand. Fast.

She turns to leave again. Tommy stops her with:

TOMMY

Typical.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JANET

(stopping)

What.

TOMMY

Cash. That's all I mean to you.

JANET

At this point? Pretty much. Yeah.
Then again - thank God we bought
the biggest house on the goddam
block because I could put it on the
market this afternoon and make a
profit of at least two hundred
grand. No regrets, right?

She is done and on her way out.

TOMMY

Hey. Hey!

She stops. Hangs for a second.

JANET

(tight)

Yeah.

TOMMY

What - uhh. What would you do if -
I got killed at work today're
dropped dead five seconds from now.

Janet sighs again. Turns back. Steps up to him.

JANET

One Mississippi, two Mississippi-

TOMMY

Very funny.

(he gets pissed now)

What would you do? For money.

(CONTINUED)

1

CONTINUED:

1

JANET

(quick and true)

Sell your truck and this house for starters.

She said it so quickly that Tommy is thrown.

JANET (CONT'D)

You have an unhealthy obsession with leaving this life Tommy.

TOMMY

No I-

JANET

Yes you do. You have some kind of death wish going on?

TOMMY

I ain't afraid ta die, if that's what yer askin'. 'Cause wherever it is we're goin', I know I'm gonna see Jimmy'n Billy'n-

JANET

Yeah yeah yeah. Keep it up and you'll get there pretty goddam fast. Because just like Billy's ex said at his service - you are not immortal.

TOMMY

No. But apparently my wallet is.

She's leaving.

JANET

Get me the cash.

TOMMY

Or else.

JANET

I could always call Roger.

She slams the door. Tommy almost explodes - instead throwing his coffee cup across the room where it smashes into a million pieces.

2 EXT. CITY STREET - LATER

2

Tommy drives in anger. Speeding. Muttering to himself about Janet. Now he notices a yellow light at a very busy intersection up ahead. He eyeballs the situation and there's no way to skip through. Suddenly - he guns it. Barreling toward a certain crash:

FLASHBACK - Billy, one second before his death:

BILLY

See ya on the other side, brother.

BACK TO PRESENT: Tommy slices through the intersection swerving past one car and barely avoiding two others coming in the opposite direction. Horns blare and brakes screech but Tommy jubilantly keeps going. Lets out a war cry. And then - he hears the siren. Rearview mirror check reveals: cop.

3 EXT. CITY STREET - CURB - SAME

3

As Tommy and the cop car pull over. The cop gets out and walks up to Tommy's window. Tommy takes out his wallet - which also holds his shiny firefighter's badge.

TOMMY

(recognizing him)

Hey - Collins. What's up?

COLLINS

Better have a good excuse Gavin.

TOMMY

Look-

COLLINS

That was daredevil shit back there.

Tommy realizes he's not getting off easy on this one.

TOMMY

(thinking fast)

My mom. She had a heart attack about twenty minutes ago and-

COLLINS

Bullshit.

TOMMY

She had a heart attack Col-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COLLINS

Gimme yer license'n reg.

TOMMY

I gotta get to the hos-

COLLINS

Now! The honeymoon's over Gavin.
Tell yer friends all the hero
worship you cocksuckers got after
9/11 ain't gettin' paid any due
from us no more. No more lookin'
the other way. We lost guys
downtown too but nobody talks about
us. 343 firemen. Hey - there were
almost a hundred cops!

TOMMY

Yup. S'true.

Collins doesn't know how to read that response: sympathetic?
sarcastic? ironic? He decides it wasn't good.

COLLINS

Guess what - you drive drunk you
speed you get in a bar brawl you so
much as look at a cop the wrong way
- yer payin' the price. The
firehouse ain't no sanctuary
anymore asshole.

Tommy lets that sit inside his head for a second.

TOMMY

You know this is just gonna come
back'n haunt you Collins. We got
another hockey game comin' up.

COLLINS

What was the final last time? Cops
eight firefighters two? Ya - I'm
real concerned about the payback.

He takes the paperwork and heads to his car.

COLLINS (CONT'D)

Hope ya Mom don't die while I'm
writin' this up.

INT. FIREHOUSE - APPARATUS FLOOR - DAY

Laura's walking in. Chief checking the board.

(CONTINUED)

JERRY

Yer early. Tour starts in half an hour.

LAURA

I wanted to get acclimated. Listen, I um - in my last house they gave me my own sleeping quarters.

JERRY

Not a problem.

LAURA

And they also gave me my own bathroom.

(off his reaction)

You can't expect me to shower and - shave - with the guys.

JERRY

Okay - listen. You expect ta fight fires with these guys - life'n death - side by side right?

LAURA

Yeah.

JERRY

That was yer choice.

LAURA

Yeah.

JERRY

Then you figure out when ta take a shit'n when not to.

He goes back to his work, turning a cold shoulder.

LAURA

Okay. Now - you listen. You were brought up on charges recently for beating a gay ex-fireman who ended up in a coma. Right?

JERRY

(tightly)

Yeah.

4

CONTINUED:

4

LAURA

That and a few other nefarious bits of behavior put this house in the spotlight and that's what led to me *getting assigned here after Billy Warren's death.* Right?

JERRY

(real tight)

Um-hmm.

LAURA

So just think how quick the response would be if I called headquarters and reported that I was getting the cold shoulder from Chief Reilly over something as trivial as a personal hygiene request.

(off his look)

Thank you.

5

EXT. FIREHOUSE - SAME

5

As Tommy's truck pulls up. He parks and his cell rings.

SPLITSCREEN WITH:

6

INT. JANET'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME

6

TOMMY

Yeah.

COLLEEN

Dad - Jennifer still won't call me back.

TOMMY

Honey - give it some time.

COLLEEN

(crying now)

It's been two whole weeks Daddy! I see her in the hallway at school and she turns and heads in the other direction.

TOMMY

Honey-

(CONTINUED)

COLLEEN

(heavy sob)

I - I think I'm in love Dad.

TOMMY

Okay okay. Gimme her cell number.

COLLEEN

She doesn't have a cell phone.

TOMMY

Awright - gimme her home number.

COLLEEN

What're you gonna do? What if her mother answers?

TOMMY

Is her Mom a lesbian?

COLLEEN

No. She's separated. Just like you'n Mom.

TOMMY

And does her Mom hate the idea of her daughter dating another girl?

COLLEEN

Omigod - she like, hates my guts.

TOMMY

Perfect.

Wider angle as the probie steps out, drinking a cup of coffee and stretching - he just got up. And guess who's coming down the sidewalk?

ANDREW

Hey, Mike!

*

Mike turns and jumps back at the sight.

*

MIKE THE PROBIE

Hey - hey. Don't start any shit Andy, the guys are right in-

ANDREW

No no - I came to apologize.

CONTINUED:

MIKE THE PROBIE

Don't start any shit.

Several Firefighters step out of the house and back Mike up.

ANDREW

Guys! Guys! I'm here to -

FIREFIGHTER #1

You okay, Mike?

ANDREW

I'm here to apologize.

FIREFIGHTER #2

You want me to kick this guy's ass?

ANDREW

(to Firefighters)

Guys, can I just get five minutes.

(to Mike)

Mike, I'm here to apologize... I just need five minutes. I'm not here to start any trouble.

Off Mike's nod the firefighters walk back inside.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Mike, I'm - I was way outta line Mike. I was wrong to do what I did to you.

He punches himself in the chest.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

I'm such an asshole. God!

MIKE THE PROBIE

I'm not gonna argue with you on that front.

ANDREW

Mikey, Geneva freaked out about this whole thing'n, she - moved out.

MIKE THE PROBIE

Shit. Really?

ANDREW

Yeah. Blows, man.

(tearing up)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDREW (CONT'D)

I was totally in love with her. I loved that chick. But she totally twisted my head around. I've never been in a three-way before. I've never hit anyone. I'm a pacifist, man. I'm a conscientious objector.

*
*
*
*
*
*

MIKE THE PROBIE

What?

*
*

ANDREW

A conscientious objector, man. I'm non-violent. I would never hurt anyone. Dude - I just wanted to make amends. You save my life I screw up yours.

*
*
*
*

MIKE THE PROBIE

And your own.

ANDREW

I know.
(hits himself)
Unh! Asshole!

TOMMY

(passing by)
Still sleepin' here hah?

MIKE THE PROBIE

Yeah. Can't find a cheap new place.

TOMMY

Find another forty-year-old broad with a nice apartment and start bangin' her. Her - not her daughter.

(off Andrew)
Everything cool here?

*
*

MIKE THE PROBIE

Yeah. Thanks, Tommy.

*
*

Tommy's gone inside. An awkward pause between Andrew and Mike. Now, Mike starts to explain:

ANDREW

(holding up his hand)

Dude - I get it.

(a revelation)

I was meant to come down here this morning and do this. Yer movin' in with me.

MIKE THE PROBIE

What? No no-

ANDREW

Dude - yes, dude, yes! I take the bedroom you take the couch in the living room-

*
*

MIKE THE PROBIE

No, I couldn't, I-

*

ANDREW

Dude, It's free of charge. We are totally doing this.

*
*

MIKE THE PROBIE

Bro.

*

ANDREW

Dude.

*

MIKE THE PROBIE

Bro

*

ANDREW

(a beat)

Dude.

*

A long pause as the idea plays across Mike's face.

MIKE THE PROBIE

You gotta let me pay for-

ANDREW

You're not paying for anything.

*

7

CONTINUED:

7

MIKE THE PROBIE

Well, maybe just until -

ANDREW

Til you get back on yer feet -
dude, I get it I get it.

(putting a hand up)

Go high bro!

Mike slaps him a high five. Andrew heads off smiling.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Dude - we are gonna get laid like
crazy! It's gonna be a pussy
palace - that's the new name of our
pad! The pussy palace! A
firefighter and a welder - Jesus
Christ it's like some kinda insane
kinda weird - French goddam foreign
film. See ya tanite! Roomie!

8

INT. FIREHOUSE - APPARATUS FLOOR - SAME

8

Lou at his locker. Tommy comes over.

LOU

Goddam Jets. It's like they've all
got vaginas.

TOMMY

Yeah. Hey - you gotta roofin' job
this weekend?

LOU

Shit. I already got Garrity'n
Franco'n my brother-in-law.

TOMMY

Awright - keep me in mind?

LOU

Yeah. Need some cash?

TOMMY

I need four g's.

LOU

Whoa.

Lou's cell rings - he and Tommy both glance down and see the
name 'Sondra' pop up. Lou doesn't make a move to answer it.
He looks at Tommy, then reaches over and turns his cell off.

(CONTINUED)

8

CONTINUED:

8

TOMMY

(blunt)

Did it just say Sondra on your phone?

LOU

What if it did?

TOMMY

Billy's ex? THAT Sondra?

LOU

We're just friends.

TOMMY

You know the rules about widows.

LOU

Listen to me - she's only a widow in the most technical of terms. They were married for six weeks fifteen years ago. Okay Columbo?

TOMMY

(walking away)

Okay.

LOU

Not that it matters to me.

TOMMY

Of course not.

9

INT. FIREHOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME

9

Franco enters from the t.v. room as Sean eats.

SEAN

S'up?

FRANCO

One guess.

SEAN

Um-

He's really trying to come up with something.

FRANCO

(sighing)

Twins.

(CONTINUED)

SEAN

The Minnesota Twins?

FRANCO

Twins! Twins Sean! Both of whom saw a sneak preview of the calendar on some weird Internet site'n one of whom is very attracted to - guess who?

SEAN

Whom?

Franco thought for a second Sean might be making a little joke. He's not. He was trying to sound smart.

FRANCO

You.

SEAN

Really?

FRANCO

Really

SEAN

Wait - these are women we're talkin' about, right?

FRANCO

Hell yeah. Hot blooded American twin women.

SEAN

'Cuz the Internet man - I been readin' the papers'n the Internet's like a - hotbed've, gay sex'n transvestites'n chicks with dicks'n men with tits - it's bad.

FRANCO

(taking in that last statement)

These are chicks goddammit! Chicks with tits. Chicks with vaginas. Trust me - the only dicks involved in this equation would be ours.

SEAN

Yer sure.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANCO

Yes. Remember I met 'em in that bar after the chief's acquittal Heather and Brittany'n I gave them my number'n they saw the calendar'n they called me last night Heather wants me'n Brittany wants you!

SEAN

Brittany. She's cute.

(CONTINUED)

FRANCO

A five foot eleven inch blue-eyed raven-haired hottie with an ass like Elizabeth Hurley's yeah I'd say she's cute.

SEAN

Jesus Franco - sounds like you wanna bang her.

FRANCO

I do. They're identical twins. I don't care which one I get - they're both unbelievable.

SEAN

Okay but -let's just make sure early on that they don't have Adams apples, okay?

FRANCO

Okay.

SEAN

Or cocks.

LAURA (O.S.)

Sorry to interrupt.

They turn to see Laura - who probably entered the kitchen early enough to have heard that last exchange.

SEAN

(covering)

We were just talking about-

LAURA

Cocks. I heard.

SEAN

Not our cocks. These girls we're -

FRANCO

(very quickly)

They don't have cocks.

LAURA

I don't care.

TOMMY

(entering)

Hey.

(CONTINUED)

FRANCO

Hey.

Tommy crosses to the counter and starts to assemble the most rudimentary sandwich imaginable.

TOMMY

Anyone got any side jobs this week - roofs, decks, landscapin'.

FRANCO

Lou's got a roof-

TOMMY

Talked to him. Full up.

SEAN

Hey - Donny Keough over at 71 Truck's puttin' up a garage fa someone - he was lookin' fa guys.

TOMMY

Maybe I'll give him a call.

LAURA

(off the sandwich)
Whaddaya doin'?

TOMMY

Makin' a sandwich.

LAURA

That is not a sandwich. It's an introduction to colon cancer. Here-
(she takes it away)
I brought some stuff. May I?

TOMMY

Sure.

She delves into the fridge and starts to pull out various items she brought herself - all in very organized Tupperware containers. She's even got some fresh baguettes. As the guys watch her work from behind, they engage in fake conversation while making eyeballs and hand gestures about her ass, face and tits.

FRANCO

Jets look like shit this year.

TOMMY

Give 'em some time.

(CONTINUED)

Lou enters.

FRANCO

Giants look great though.

TOMMY

Manning's a bum.

LOU

(getting it)

He's young. These rookie QB's they gotta get beat up for a couple seasons.

SEAN

(head in the paper,
unaware)

You see this shit Bush said about Kerry?

(off the others looks)
What?

TOMMY

I'm stickin' with my Packers.

FRANCO

Farve. He's like an animal.

LAURA

(back still turned)

I know you guys're talkin' about my tits and my ass.

They all freeze. Long beat as she keeps working.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Just in case yer wondering - I'm a 34 C cup my left tit is a little bit bigger than my right I have slightly larger than normal size nipples which stand up like tophats at the slightest hint of arousal my ass is as tight as a snare drum but still soft to the touch and I don't believe in a full Brazilian bikini wax so my pussy is that of a normal happy 30 year old woman - and it matches the hair on my head.

She drops a magnificent looking sandwich in front of Tommy.

(CONTINUED)

LAURA (CONT'D)

Any other questions?

SEAN

Um -

(off the sandwich)

- can I get one a those?

LAURA

Nope.

She exits.

SEAN

(off the sandwich)

Look at that thing.

TOMMY

Did she say tophats?

FRANCO

Yes she did.

LOU

I've always been a big fan a formal wear.

The alarm sounds. On their way out:

TOMMY

(indicating the sandwich)

Told ya she wanted me.

FRANCO

Hey - she gave you a sandwich asshole. Not a blow job.

TOMMY

The sandwich is not a sandwich.

The sandwich is a - a symbol.

10 EXT. MANHATTAN STREETS - MOMENTS LATER 10

The trucks speeding along.

11 INT. 62 TRUCK - SAME 11

Tommy munches on his sandwich.

TOMMY

This is one of the best sandwiches I've ever had. Seriously.

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

Thanks. Yer not worried about an
upset stomach?

TOMMY

From what?

LAURA

We're on our way to a fire.

TOMMY

Baby - I'm golden right now. I
could eat an entire pizza five
plates fulla shrimp tempura'n
sixteen red hot hot dogs'n still
run right into the goddam bitch.

LAURA

Superman, huh?

FRANCO

He's close.

A beat as they watch Tommy eat: for Laura it's almost like
watching an endangered species. She's studying him closely.

SEAN

Bitch means fire, by the-

LAURA

(quick and curt)
I know what bitch means.

EXT. UPPER WEST SIDE STREET - MOMENTS LATER

*Black smoke pouring from the windows ten stories up as they
jump off the truck. The Chief barking orders.*

Tommy gets ready to head in with the others when they all
hear a child screaming at the top of her lungs. They look up
to see a small girl hanging out of a window, flames and smoke
right behind her - she obviously is in trouble. Tommy looks
up:

*TOMMY'S POV: he sees first the little girl with the kitten,
then the Asian girl and now returns to the actual girl.*

BACK TO REALITY: Tommy drops his tank.

TOMMY

Get that ladder up!

(CONTINUED)

JERRY

We're gettin' it up.

TOMMY

Now goddammit! NOW!

Tommy starts to climb the back end of the truck. The chief starts to say something when: Laura steps in.

LAURA

Yer not gonna stunt jump that ladder.

TOMMY

Yes I am.

LAURA

That move was outlawed almost a decade ago.

TOMMY

Get outta my way!

LAURA

There's plenty of time to-

TOMMY

Get yer ass in the building and off this goddam truck!

He pushes her aside and climbs onto the very end of the ladder - he's gonna ride it straight up ten stories - an incredibly dangerous and illegal tactic.

JERRY

Tommy!

Everyone else is heading in.

LAURA

He's insane Chief.

JERRY

(to Laura)
Never mind him! Get inside!

The ladder rotates to the right off the back of the truck and simultaneously shoots straight up into the sky with Tommy hanging on for dear life. The girl is screaming at the top of her lungs.

(CONTINUED)

TOMMY'S POV: he sees the little girl with the kitten and the Asian girl and now -

BACK TO REALITY as he reaches the actual girl and she jumps into his arms and bear hugs him - he almost falls off.

DOWN ON THE STREET: The Chief loses his breath.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Holy Christ.

BACK IN THE AIR: Tommy rights himself, secures the kid and signals down. The ladder starts to lower a little.

TOMMY

Anybody else in your apartment sweetie?

KID

No. My mommy was at the store and my brother made it out before the wall came down.

TOMMY

Are you sure?

KID

Yes.
(looking down, pointing)
That's him there.

TOMMY

Don't point honey - hang on tight.
The one with the orange shirt?
That's yer brother?

KID

Yes.

TOMMY

Good girl.

DOWN ON THE STREET: people cheer at the sight. The Chief exhales.

JERRY

That is one lucky sunuvabitch.

13 INT. UPPER WEST SIDE BUILDING - SAME

13

Franco and Laura run down a smoky hallway - she's out of breath and lagging way behind. Franco stops at a door.

FRANCO

Gimme that halligan! C'mon!
C'mon!

LAURA

I can do it.

FRANCO

Be my guest.

She drops the halligan. Picks it up. Tries to pop the door. Once. Twice. Franco pushes her aside.

FRANCO (CONT'D)

Gimme that.

BANG! he pops it and smoke blasts out. He closes it and puts on his mask. She starts to.

FRANCO (CONT'D)

You stay here.

LAURA

I'm coming in.

FRANCO

I said stay here!

In he goes. She coughs a couple times. Pissed off at herself - her first time with this crew and she fucked it up.

LAURA

(to herself)

Goddammit.

14 EXT. UPPER WEST SIDE BUILDING - HALF AN HOUR LATER

14

The fire is out, everyone is safe.

JERRY

(to Franco)

Everythin' go awright in there?

FRANCO

She was worse than a goddam probie.
Droppin' tools, outta breath.

(CONTINUED)

JERRY

Welcome to the new FDNY.

LOU

(passing by)

She screwed the pooch, right?

The Chief reacts, reaches into his pocket and pulls out cash.
Lou takes it and leaves. Off Franco's face:

JERRY

I went with the underdog fa once.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRUCK:

Tommy gets ready to jump back on the truck. Laura's got a long face.

TOMMY

You pass the physical test at the academy?

LAURA

I don't believe the physical test includes pulling illegal stunts.

TOMMY

Yeah - well I didn't pass the bar exam sweetheart I passed the physical fire test with flying goddam colors'n the next time you get in my way while there's a person who needs to be saved - through legal means or illegal means - yer gonna find yerself on yer tight snare drum little ass. Ya follow?

He jumps in. She collects herself.

Tommy and the guys post-fire.

LOU

No offense Probie Wan Kanobi but today that broad made even you look like you knew what you were doin'.

FRANCO

If I got stuck in a real jam up there I woulda been on my own.

15

CONTINUED:

15

Tommy's cell rings.

SPLITSCREEN WITH:

16

INT. LINGERIE STORE - SAME

16

Sheila trying on lingerie and talking.

TOMMY

Yeah.

SHEILA

Hey foxy.

TOMMY

Whassup?

SHEILA

I'm buying lingerie. Thinkin've you.

TOMMY

Oh really.

SHEILA

Wanna come over tonight?

TOMMY

Yeah.

(remembering his dream)

No.

SHEILA

What?

TOMMY

Not to your place. Let's - y'know, do sumthin' different.

SHEILA

Oh. Should I come over to yer-

TOMMY

No no. Um-

SHEILA

What's goin' on?

TOMMY

(lower, as a cover)

I'm at work.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

16

CONTINUED:

16

TOMMY (CONT'D)

(thinking quick)

How 'bout a hotel?

SHEILA

Oooh. Which one dream lover?

TOMMY

It's called the Gaansevort. It's a hip new place down on 14th. I'll meet you there around eight-thirty. Order up some Dom Perignon, caviar - the whole nine yards.

SHEILA

What should I wear?

TOMMY

Yer at the lingerie store?

SHEILA

Yup.

TOMMY

Bring four different outfits.

17

INT. FIREHOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME

17

Laura sits at the table drinking coffee and thinking about the fire. Lou enters. Says nothing. Grabs a donut. Regards her. Leaves. Franco enters. Sees her. Leaves empty-handed. Sean enters. Sees her. Leaves. After a beat - he sticks his head back in.

SEAN

Um - so, there's really no chance've me, um - gettin' one a those-

LAURA

Sandwiches?

Sean nods yes. She grabs an ashtray off the table and starts to throw it - Sean disappears. She puts the ashtray down.

18 INT. FIREHOUSE - THE CAGE - SAME 18

Tommy's punching a number from a piece of paper into his cell.

SPLITSCREEN WITH:

19 INT. JENNIFER'S HOUSE - SAME 19

Jennifer's Mom answers the phone.

MOM

Hello.

TOMMY

(disguising his voice just
a little bit)

Could I speak with Jennifer please?

MOM

Who's calling?

TOMMY

Um - this is Bobby Timilty from her
Science class?

MOM

(to Jennifer)

It's a Bobby Timilty?

Jennifer makes an 'I don't know him' face.

MOM (CONT'D)

It's a boy - talk to him.

JENNIFER

(totally disgusted)

Hello.

TOMMY

Jennifer it's Colleen's Dad don't
say a word don't hang up look - yer
mom hates you being a lesbian I
understand how you feel about
Colleen and the Murphy kid but
Colleen was telling the truth
nothing happened and she's totally
in love with you-

JENNIFER

She-

(CONTINUED)

TOMMY

-don't say "she" just say oh how ya
doin' Bobby so yer mom thinks yer
talkin' ta Bobby Timilty okay.

A beat as Jennifer thinks.

JENNIFER

Oh - how ya doin' Bobby?

Her mom smiles.

TOMMY

Yer Mom just smiled didn't she?

JENNIFER

Yup.

TOMMY

Perfect.

Laura alone. In comes the Chief. Regards her. Sits down.

JERRY

How ya doin'?

LAURA

(funny)

Fantastic.

JERRY

Look - I gotta ask ya. You know
the routine.

LAURA

(been there)

I can do this job. I was nervous -
new crew, takin' shit from the
guys, all eyeballs on me. I shit
the bed Chief, but believe me I've
done this all before.

Jerry lets that sit there.

JERRY

What about bein' outta breath ten
stories up.

(no response)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JERRY (CONT'D)

I can call around n find about ya rep but that would just embarrass ya. Worse than already I mean.

LAURA

(giving in)

Franco's a lot faster than the last couple guys I worked with.

Off the Chief's reaction.

LAURA (CONT'D)

I'll increase my cardio.

The Chief puts up a finger.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Let me work with Lou. I know-

JERRY

Ah ah ah - that's the last thing you want.

He lights up a cigar. Leans in close.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Bathroom or no bathroom - I gotta know the real deal with you. Otherwise - you don't have sumthin' positive ta add ta this crew they're just gonna squeeze you out. Fat skinny tits're no tits - you gotta have some special skill.

He gets up and fetches two cups of coffee.

JERRY (CONT'D)

After 9/11 there was this chick I worked with years ago never passed the physical test got grandfathered in because she sued the city anyways she says to the New York Post that she looked at the list've the 343 heroes who gave their lives that day'n she was disgusted - disgusted - because not one've the names was a female.

He brings both cups back. Sits down. Offers her one.

(CONTINUED)

JERRY (CONT'D)

Think about that. Insteada
thinkin' 'n 'bout the kids 'n the
widows 'n - all the rest - she was
thinkin' about - broads. Herself -
'n other broads. Ya believe this
shit?

LAURA

Actually - I heard about that.

JERRY

Yeah well - point bein' this: the
mayor the governor the courts Jesus
Christ himself can dictate that you
have a right ta be here but unless
you can help the team - you ain't
got a chance. S' life 'n death
sweetheart. You think about that
'n get back ta me. Awright?

LAURA

Alright.

The Chief gets up and crosses toward the door.

JERRY

I'll have yer bathroom set up in
two days, by the way.

LAURA

Thank you.

JERRY

Ya welcome.

He exits. She sits there and considers her situation.

21

INT. TOMMY'S TRUCK - DUSK

21

Tommy makes a call as he drives.

SPLITSCEEEN WITH:

22

EXT. STREET - SAME

22

TIMO

D.A. Detective Squad - Detective
Gavin.

TOMMY

S'me. I got stopped by a cop named
Collins this mornin . Prick. I
tried everything - even told him ma
had a heart attack and I was on my
way to the hospital -

(CONTINUED)

TIMO
Red Collins?

TOMMY
Yeah. Can you-

TIMO
Not a chance. Collins'ze the
number one cop railin' against the
Fire Department right now -
didn'cha beat his ass black'n blue
in some hockey game last year.

TOMMY
(thinking)
Goddam it yeah. Yeah I did.
(thinking more)
Hey - didn't you tell me some story
about how you fixed a problem with
the night manager over at that new
hotel? The Gaansevort?

TIMO
Yeah. Little problem with the
rooftop club and a couple a punks
in a brawl. Why?

TOMMY
So he owes you a favor, right?

TIMO
Yup. Couple favors.

TOMMY
I need one.

TIMO
What?

TOMMY
Timo.

TIMO
Tommy.

TOMMY
I need you ta call him'n get me a
room for the next three hours.

TIMO
No.

(CONTINUED)

TOMMY

Timo.

TIMO

Those're MY favors Tommy. For me.

TOMMY

It would be terrible if that nightclub got closed down tanite because've a violation've fire safety rules.

TIMO

Prick.

TOMMY

Douche bag. 'N make sure all the booze'n food is comped too.

TIMO

No way Tommy, that's ridic-

Tommy already hung up.

Franco and Sean and one've the twins are dying laughing at something. The second twin smiles - she doesn't get it. As the others just begin to stop laughing:

HEATHER

I don't get it.

FRANCO

See - _____.

SEAN

(suddenly, he doesn't really get it)

Oh. Ohh.

The girls signal each other.

HEATHER

Excuse us?

FRANCO

(having the greatest time)

Yes yes yes m'lady.

SEAN
(as Brittany gets up)
There you go you -
(into her ear)
- sweet sexy girl.

As the girls head down the hallway, Franco and Sean smile and wave like the two happiest guys in the world.

FRANCO
Yer twin has a great ass.

SEAN
So does yers man. Wow.

FRANCO
Yeah, but - yer twin's is, it's just - perfect.

SEAN
Did you notice the eyes on yer twin - how they're kinda a little darker than my twin's.

FRANCO
(he doesn't like them)
Uh-huh.

SEAN
That's hot. Plus those lips.

FRANCO
Yeah. They're a little - small.

SEAN
See - I like that.

They stand in silence for a beat - staring at each other.

FRANCO
We gotta switch.

SEAN
Yup. Oh yeah.

FRANCO
You gotta take Heather'n-

SEAN
You gotta have Brittany.

23

CONTINUED:

23

FRANCO

Yup. Absogoddamlutely.

SEAN

But - how?

FRANCO

(truly stuck)

I dunno.

24

INT. TOMMY'S TRUCK - NIGHT

24

His cell rings.

SPLITSCREEN WITH:

25

INT. TOMMY'S DAD'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME

25

TOMMY

Yeah.

DAD

S'me.

TOMMY

Hey Dad - how's it goin'.

DAD

Good. Good.

SUBTITLE: "Horrible."

TOMMY

How's Ma?

DAD

She went out ta the grocery store.
She's makin' her famous chicken
casserole tanite, God help us.

SUBTITLE: "First peace and quiet I've had all week."

TOMMY

Yah. Whaddaya need?

SUBTITLE: "I'm a little busy right now."

(CONTINUED)

DAD

I want some a them shooters'n a little mini-fridge like Teddy had - ya could stick it down the basement'n ya mother'd never know the difference.

TOMMY

Dad.

SUBTITLE: "You're nuts."

DAD

Tommy.

SUBTITLE: "So what."

TOMMY

Awright - I'll see what I can do.

DAD

Shit - here she comes. Thanks Tom.

They both hang up as Tommy shakes his head - 'my life'.

Andrew is helping Mike settle in with his stuff. They're both drinking beers.

ANDREW

Here's yer key. Take it.

Mike takes the key and puts it onto his key ring.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Dude - this is gonna rock.

MIKE THE PROBIE

Yeah.

ANDREW

You want a fluffy pillow - small, tight pillow - what?

MIKE THE PROBIE

Um - fluffy's good.

ANDREW

Omigod - I'm fluffy, too. Go high bro.

(CONTINUED)

They high five.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Now tanite - first night in - ya
wanna go out someplace're just
hang. S'completely up ta you.

MIKE THE PROBIE

Well - I had a long day plus, I
been sleepin' in the firehouse'n I
got the rookie bed which is like
sleepin' on concrete, so-

ANDREW

Dude - no problem. The Mickey
Mantle documentary is bein'
repeated on Fox Sportsnet tanite.

MIKE THE PROBIE

The hour-long version?

ANDREW

The hour-long version.

They both can't believe it.

MIKE THE PROBIE

You go high, bro.

They do.

ANDREW

Now go low.

They high five low. Andrew crosses to the fridge, opens it
up.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

'N ta top it all off? Guess what?

MIKE THE PROBIE

What?

ANDREW

(pulling something out)
Jello shots!

MIKE THE PROBIE

Jesus! You think've everything!

ANDREW

We got lemon, raspberry and grape.

(CONTINUED)

26

CONTINUED:

26

MIKE THE PROBIE

You don't scare me. Bring it on.

SFX: Loud POP!

27

INT. GAANSEVORT HOTEL SUITE - NIGHT

27

Sheila pops a bottle of Dom Perignon - there are several in a large bucket of ice, plus a spread of caviar and cheeses and fruit along with whipped cream and ice cream. Tommy's already at the ice cream and Sheila hands him the bottle of champagne which he immediately starts to chug. She takes it from him - kissing him wildly - and chugs some herself.

She's dressed in one of her lingerie outfits and is now beginning to open Tommy's shirt. He laces some ice cream and whipped cream around a couple of his fingers and sticks it into her mouth and - they're off:

QUICK CUTS AND PANS: wild sex as Tommy takes her on the couch while he kneels on the floor - he carries her across the room and takes her up against the wall - he sprays whipped cream on her tits and licks it off - (she's in a different outfit now) - he takes her from behind against a piece of furniture - he lies on the floor while she pours champagne down his throat and sits on top of him - he sprays whipped cream down her belly and licks it off, ending up in her crotch.

28

INT. HIP MANHATTAN CAFE - NIGHT

28

The conversation continues as another eruption of laughter occurs. We are many drinks in now. The girls seem nice and loose. Each of them leaning into and toying with the boys.

FRANCO

Excuse me Heather - I gotta use the little boys room. Sean?

SEAN

(oblivious)

Yeah?

Franco gives him a head nod.

SEAN (CONT'D)

What?

(off Franco's eyes)

Oh yeah yeah. Be right back ladies.

(CONTINUED)

They head down the hallway and turn a corner, pretending to be in the Men's Room they are just gaining a vantage point.

SEAN (CONT'D)

You don't have ta piss?

FRANCO

No. Now look. Here's what I think. We get the check here'n go to another place - at the other place you sit down on the side of the table where Heather sits'n I'll do the same with Brittany.

SEAN

Think they'll get the hint?

FRANCO

How could they not?

SEAN

What if they get pissed off?

FRANCO

Well - then we'll just act like we got - confused'n - we'll have ta try'n have sex with - our original assignments. Although I don't know how I'm gonna get around that little mole Heather has on her cheek.

SEAN

Once again - makes me hot. S'like - a Cindy Crawford tribute.

FRANCO

(heading back)

C'mon.

(off Sean's face)

What?

SEAN

I really gotta go now.

Just as he turns toward the Men's room door, someone goes in and he has to start doing a little dance to hold it.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Shit.

29 INT. GAANSEVORT HOTEL SUITE - NIGHT

29

Sheila's in her third outfit and Tommy has her in some unbelievably acrobatic position on the couch:

MORE QUICK CUTS: alternating at first between her third and fourth outfits and then superfast between all four outfits in various positions and places in the suite and different kinds of food and sexual positions including oral - at one point she seems to be blowing Tommy while he eats and drinks stuff off the table full of food and drink.

It all comes to an end with various shots of her moaning and moaning over food and coming in several different positions intercut with various shots of Tommy screaming and moaning and moaning over food and coming in an operatic crescendo of sex, food and booze.

30 INT. ANDREW'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

30

A narrator's voice is taking us through the powerful highlights of Mickey Mantle's early great years. Andrew and Mike are downing jello shots and sucking back beer.

ANDREW

Goddam! What a physical specimen he was hah?

MIKE THE PROBIE

Look - his forearms're the size a my legs!

ANDREW

Unbelievable. He's like a rock - like he was made outta granite.

As they concentrate on the t.v., Andrew smoothly pulls out a pot pipe and lights up. Holding it in. Mantle hits an amazing home run. Andrew exhales.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Holy shit! Look at that power.

He offers the pipe to Mike.

MIKE THE PROBIE

No thanks. Department policy.

ANDREW

Oh right - Dude, sorry. You don't mind if I-

(CONTINUED)

MIKE THE PROBIE

No no. Knock yerself out.
(off the t.v.)
Holy shit - d'you see that catch.

ANDREW

Wow.
(picking up a shot)
Here's to the Mick bro.

Mike picks up a jello shot - they toast.

MIKE THE PROBIE

Mickey Mantle!

INT. GAANSEVORT HOTEL SUITE - NIGHT

Sheila and Tommy lay on the carpet. She's curled up in his arms - both sated and exhausted.

SHEILA

Oh my God. My legs are like rubber.

TOMMY

My legs. My arms. My-

SHEILA

Cock?

She kisses his neck. He loves it. He's got a big smile on his face as she plays with his chest hair. His eyes close.

SHEILA (CONT'D)

So - I was talkin' ta Lisa last night, my friend the psychic.

TOMMY

Mm-hmm.

SHEILA

'N she said when she first met you that time in the supermarket when she touched yer hand.

TOMMY

Mm-hmm.

SHEILA

She said she - she thinks you might be a - ghost magnet.

Tommy's eyes snap open.

TOMMY

What?

SHEILA

She's really really empowered Tommy
she is almost never wrong'n she
said she got a vibe from you that-

TOMMY

What vibe? I don't have a vibe. I
can't afford a vibe. Jesus Christ.

He stands, pulls up his pants, zips them shut.

SHEILA

Take it easy.

TOMMY

I'm fine.

SHEILA

Look - she said people like you are
- open vessels, yer-

TOMMY

Yeah yeah - I'm a vessel. I'm a -
boat! I'm a goddam ship fulla -
goddam ghosts.

SHEILA

She said you are prone to - visits.
Visitations I think she said. She
felt like Jimmy was close to you.

This shit is really freaking Tommy out because it's so right
on the goddam money.

TOMMY

When?

SHEILA

Now.

TOMMY

I - I dunno what she's - she's
smokin' sumthin' cause I - I'm a
magnet I'm a vessel I'm a mess is
what I am Jesus Christ.

(off Sheila's face)

What?

(CONTINUED)

SHEILA

(dead straight)

Have you seen Jimmy?

TOMMY

(unprepared)

No.

SHEILA

Tommy - don't lie ta me. You know
how much it means ta me. Look me
straight in the eye'n tell me you
haven't seen him.

Tommy takes a long pull of champagne - this is gonna take
some acting. He kneels down in front of her, takes her face
in his hand, kisses her deeply. Then, right in her eyes:

TOMMY

I have not seen Jimmy. You know
how much it would mean ta me if I
could. I am not a magnet I am not a
ship-

SHEILA

Vessel-

TOMMY

-whatever. I'm me. Just me.

SHEILA

(accepting it)

Okay.

TOMMY

(double-checking)

Okay?

SHEILA

(she's sure now)

Okay.

TOMMY

Now let's get goin'.

He walks away and her look on his back lingers - she eyeballs
him closely in slo-motion as he puts on his shirt and grabs
his coat. She's in love. Trouble with a capital T.

32 INT. ANDREW'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

32

The narrator is leading us through the last beats of Mickey Mantle's life, when he had become such a drunk that they had to give him a liver transplant. It didn't take and he died a terribly young and painful death. Our boys, meanwhile, have tears running down their cheeks as they watch and listen - still consuming jello shots and beer, although much more slowly than before. Andrew takes another hit of pot and then something really sad on the TV makes them both sniff very loudly. They look at each other and then very slowly - very somberly - high five each other and wipe away the tears.

33 EXT. MANHATTAN SIDEWALK CAFE - NIGHT

33

As they are seated by a hostess, Sean and Franco take pains to make sure Franco sits next to Brittany and Sean sits next to Heather. They pull it off. Settle in. And the girls don't seem to mind.

FRANCO

Another round a vodka tonics for everyone?

Agreement all around.

FRANCO (CONT'D)

(to the hostess)

Four vodka tonics - all with a lemon wedge on the side? Thank you.

The hostess heads off.

FRANCO (CONT'D)

So.

SEAN

This is - this place is nice.

FRANCO

Yeah. It's new. So...

SEAN

So...

HEATHER

What?

Sean and Franco look at each other.

(CONTINUED)

BRITTANY

What guys? What is it?

FRANCO

You guys don't mind?

HEATHER

Mind what?

Sean and Franco look at each other again.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Spit it out guys.

Sean and Franco try to decide who should go first.

SEAN

You go.

FRANCO

Um - we switched up the seating arrangement for a reason.

HEATHER

Really.

SEAN

(talking to the twin next to Franco)

No offense Brittany - I mean yer really really cute but I just - I have a thing for not tiny but slightly smaller than yer sister's - than yer lips'n - well, the mole - Jesus the mole is just-

FRANCO

(talking to the same twin)

'N I just fell in love with your ass Mel - it just, sorry -

(to Heather)

Heather - you have a great ass too but Mel's - her ass was just - right up my alley.

BRITTANY

I'm Heather.

A beat.

FRANCO

What?

(CONTINUED)

HEATHER

She's Heather. I'm Brittany.

Sean and Franco panic for a second - then they quickly glance and we see close-ups of: the mole, both girls eyes, both girls lips - Franco and Sean's POVs. Then, the guys realize the girls are joking and they start laughing. The girls laugh along with them. It was a joke. Then:

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Check Brittany's mole.

SEAN

What?

BRITTANY

Check my mole.

They do. She's got the same one as Heather only on the other side.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)

Look at our lips.

Quick shots of both sets of lips - the same.

FRANCO

Shit.

The girls suddenly stand up. Turn around.

HEATHER

Check out our asses.

The guys do. They seem to be exactly the same.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

This is our standard operating procedure on a double date. We pull a switch before the guys ask us to. That way we know first who the assholes really are.

BRITTANY

You blew it guys.

(to Sean)

Too bad, too. 'Cause I was gonna bang yer brains out.

They turn and storm off. Franco and Sean are speechless as they watch them go. The drinks arrive. They forlornly take huge gulps of vodka and tonic. Don't speak for a beat.

(CONTINUED)

Some kind of unwritten guy code: too early in the night to admit defeat - even after such a large landmine has gone off.

FRANCO

(staring off in one direction)

There's a really hot redhead comin' up behind you at six o'clock.

SEAN

(staring in the opposite direction)

Smokin' dark-skinned Hispanic chick approaching you at the three o'clock position.

FRANCO

Flex?

Sean smiles back at him.

SEAN

Flex.

They both try to act natural while flexing their muscles a little as they sit there - big, unbothered smiles.

FRANCO

Fake laugh on three.

SEAN

One two-

They both throw their heads back in fake laughter and flex. Sad, really. But both girls are approaching.

Mike is in bed on the fold-out couch. Drunk. Andrew is making sure he's all set. He's drunk and high.

ANDREW

Okay, bro. Like I said - su casa is mi casa. Ya want sum-

MIKE THE PROBIE

Yup. Su casa?

ANDREW

Hah?

MIKE THE PROBIE

I got it.

ANDREW

Okay. The Mick!

MIKE THE PROBIE

Mickey Mantle!

ANDREW

G'night bro!

MIKE THE PROBIE

Night.

Andrew disappears into his room. The light goes off in Andrew's room. Mike turns off the light next to the couch. Total darkness. For a long, long beat.

ANDREW

I gotta say bro - how awesome was that speech about how 'I screwed up my life I'm not a hero kids don't be like me' hah?

MIKE THE PROBIE

Awesome.
(an afterthought)
Dude.

Total silence again.

ANDREW

Awright. Night.

MIKE THE PROBIE

Night.

Another long long beat. In total darkness. Mike is almost completely gone. Now: BANG! The kitchen light snaps on.

ANDREW

Awright awright - this ain't what it looks like dude.

Andrew is completely naked and has a huge hard on.

MIKE THE PROBIE

Holy shit bro - what-

ANDREW

I'm not gay Mike.

He's right on top of Mike.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE THE PROBIE

Hey!

ANDREW

(as Mike scrambles away)
Bro - I'm not gay I'm tellin' ya
honestly dude yer the only guy I've
ever had a hard-on for - literally.

He's got his hands on Mike and is overpowering him now.

MIKE THE PROBIE

Andrew! Hey bro! Stop!

ANDREW

Dude. I just wanna thank you bro.

He's banging Mike against the wall.

MIKE THE PROBIE

Hey! HEY!

ANDREW

Just pretend I'm the Mick Mike.
Just pretend-

BAM! Mike hits him with all he has. Andrew takes it - then
laughs.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Dude - you got nuthin'.

He punches Mike and Mike falls to the floor.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Now I'm gonna be Mickey Mantle'n
you can be - um, whoever the hell
ya wanna be. Nomar. Cam Neely.
Bobby Goddam Orr. Yer A Red Sox
fan right?

He starts dragging Mike by the hair toward his bedroom.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Yer gonna spend the night with a
true fan've the New York Yankees my
friend.

Mike is half-dead, unable to fight back.

34

CONTINUED:

34

ANDREW (CONT'D)

It'll be fun. Tell ya what - ta
make it easier on ya bro? I'll be
the broad, awright? I'll take it
in the ass'n you can be the guy?
Awright?

BAM! Andrew didn't realize that Mike had grabbed a nearby
baseball bat and has just planted it into his face. Andrew
goes down like a ton of bricks. Mike stands up. Looks down
at Andrew - who's out but alive. Glances at the bat.
Squints in at the autographed logo.

MIKE THE PROBIE

(totally straight)

Hah. A Mickey Mantle model.
That's funny.

He tosses the bat aside. Takes the key off his key ring and
sticks it into Andrew's mouth. Andrew coughs it up.

35

INT. TOMMY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

35

Tommy comes in the door and tosses his keys on the sideboard.
Starts to take his jacket off when he hears a voice. Someone
muttering to himself. Tommy freaks - shit. Is it Jimmy? He
turns the corner to look in the living room and - surprise -
there's a drunk and high Uncle Teddy. On the couch.
Surrounded by weed and booze.

TOMMY

Hey!

Teddy looks as surprised to see Tommy as Tommy is to see him.

UNCLE TEDDY

Tom. I was just talkin' about you.

TOMMY

Ta who?

UNCLE TEDDY

Myself.

Uncle Teddy's lighting the small end of a cigar with a giant
snap-lighter you would normally use to light a pilot light or
an outdoor grill. He's wiping the sweat off himself with a
giant FDNY handkerchief.

TOMMY

What's goin' on?

(CONTINUED)

UNCLE TEDDY

I got - I got no place ta go T. I
lost the house.

TOMMY

How?

UNCLE TEDDY

Atlantic City.

TOMMY

Jesus.

UNCLE TEDDY

I was on a roll'n next thing I know
- I got no house. Called yer Aunt
Peg'n - you'll never believe this.
She met somebody. Another broad!

TOMMY

She's a-

UNCLE TEDDY

Dyke! Makes total sense ta me now.
Forty years a marriage with no sex -
I knew she had ta be a dyke. How
could a woman live with a hot-
blooded heterosexual like me - a
fireman ta boot - 'n not wanna have
sex?

Tommy doesn't wanna answer that.

UNCLE TEDDY (CONT'D)

Don't answer that question! Anyway
- I got nowhere ta go T. Ya mind?

TOMMY

Awright. But I usually sleep on
the couch.

UNCLE TEDDY

C'mon T - I'm fat. I'm gonna hit
four hundred long before anyone in
major league baseball does again.
Don't make me walk upstairs.

TOMMY

Awright awright.
(off a gym bag he sees)
What'zat?

(CONTINUED)

It's got money in it. A lot of money.

UNCLE TEDDY

S'all I got left. I knew Peg was gonna screw me one day so I put aside a little cash. Six grand.

Tommy's eyes won't leave the money.

TOMMY

Holy shit.

UNCLE TEDDY

Look - if anythin' happens ta me give half a this ta ya cousin Mick for his church'n give the other half ta ya kids.

TOMMY

What about yer kids.

UNCLE TEDDY

My kids're assholes.

TOMMY

Ya want me ta put that someplace safe for ya.

UNCLE TEDDY

Na na - this stays right with me.

TOMMY

Awright. Whatever. Night.

UNCLE TEDDY

Thanks kid.

TOMMY

See ya in the mornin'.

UNCLE TEDDY

Hey T?

TOMMY

Yeah.

UNCLE TEDDY

(unusually serious)
Love ya.

TOMMY

Love you too.

36 INT. TOMMY'S GARAGE - LATE NIGHT

36

The side door opens - bursting in with moonlight. Teddy is silhouetted against it. He hits a light. He's carrying a stretch of lawn hose.

QUICK CUTS: he slices through the hose with a hacksaw - making a separate length for himself. He sticks one end in the tailpipe of his own car. Takes the other end around and into the driver's seat with him. Puts up the window high enough to hold the hose in place. Lights up a cigar. And now he starts the engine. Puts the seat back into the ultimate reclining position. Closes his eyes. Takes a puff off the cigar.

UNCLE TEDDY
(quiet, ironic)
Goodbye cruel world.

He settles in really really comfortable now.

UNCLE TEDDY (CONT'D)
(side of the mouth)
Tell my wife she can kiss my ass.

As Teddy starts to leave this world - FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

37 INT. TOMMY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

37

Tommy comes down dressed to leave. It's dead quiet. He tiptoes quietly toward the couch. He can see the bag of cash. Tiptoes even more carefully: that 6 grand could change his life. He arrives at the bag. Opens it - it's empty. Looks up at the couch: Teddy's gone. The phone rings.

TOMMY
Shit.
(answering)
Yeah.

SPLITSCREEN WITH:

38 INT. JANET'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME

38

JANET
How we doin' on the money front?

Tommy can't believe the timing - it's as if the devil is literally on his shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

TOMMY

Jesus Christ Janet.

JANET

Yer never home. I saw the truck I
saw ya moving around upstairs.

TOMMY

Look-

JANET

I need the money Tom.

*Tommy heads into the kitchen. Gives the dog some food.
Looks out the window into the back yard.*

JANET (CONT'D)

Listen - ya can't get it, ya-

TOMMY

I'm tryin' okay? I called Lou I
called this guy Keough nobody's got
any openings this week - I'm short
til my next check from the city.

JANET

Great.

TOMMY

Jesus. How fast d'ya need it?

*TOMMY'S POV: Uncle Teddy's giant FDNY handkerchief lies on
the grass just a few feet from the side door of the garage.*

JANET

Gotta get the garage done before
December. The ground gets hard?

TOMMY

(sarcastic)
Didn't know that. Guess it's a
good thing I didn't die last night.

JANET

Depends on how ya look at it.

*TOMMY'S POV: he notices the windows on the front end of the
garage - they are fogged up.*

TOMMY

I'm just say-

(CONTINUED)

JANET

Actually if you had died last night
between your truck the house and
the tiny little life insurance plan
you were able to get-

TOMMY'S POV: his eyes go back to the handkerchief.

JANET (CONT'D)

-because of your occupation I would
have at least a hundred and fifty
thousand dollars in my hands within
two weeks.

Tommy hangs up. Runs out the door.

INT. TOMMY'S GARAGE - SECONDS LATER

As Tommy arrives inside to find a Uncle Teddy - half a smile
on his face, cigar burned out - dead in the front seat of the
car, which has stopped running. The smell of the air makes
Tommy grimace. He pulls the hose out of the window, opens
the door and starts slapping Uncle Teddy in the face over and
over again.

TOMMY

Teddy! TEDDY!

Again and again he slaps him. Finally he hauls off and
punches Teddy in the face as hard as he can and IMMEDIATELY
Teddy's body coils and he punches Tommy in the face so hard
it sends him off the nearby side wall and down onto the
garage floor. Slowly Tommy climbs back up. Teddy seems
surprised to see him.

UNCLE TEDDY

Jesus Christ - whaddayou doin'
here?

TOMMY

Whaddaya mean?

UNCLE TEDDY

(low, tell me a secret)
Where's Elvis?

TOMMY

What?

UNCLE TEDDY

Is this heaven?

(CONTINUED)

TOMMY

No - it's my garage.

UNCLE TEDDY

Oh goddammit! I'm alive! Shit.
(off the gas gauge)

I only had an eighth of a tank - I
thought I could make it. Shit!
Plus I woulda had ta drive ta that
goddam towelhead's gas station'n
the goddam gas is almost three
bucks a gallon. Christ!

Tommy doesn't know what to say.

UNCLE TEDDY (CONT'D)

(change of plans)

Screw it.

He climbs out of the car.

UNCLE TEDDY (CONT'D)

This is a sign T. My luck is
changin'. Big time.

Teddy opens the side door.

TOMMY

Where ya goin'?

UNCLE TEDDY

Ta the track! I'm golden, brother!

TOMMY

Where's all the cabbage?

UNCLE TEDDY

(indicating all of his
pockets)

Right here. I was takin' it with
me. See ya later.

And he's gone. Tommy nurses his face. SFX: Sirens.

As the ladder roars up to a scene full of cop cars and
spectators, everyone pointing and talking about two people
trapped way high up in a tree: one in a thong and halter top
the other in just his underwear. The two of them are
screaming bloody murder at the cops. Everyone hops off the
truck.

JERRY

Never gonna believe this one.

LOU

Try me.

JERRY

The one on the right's a seventeen-year-old from Brooklyn - ran away from home two days ago. Mother reported him missing. Last seen with the one on the left - his boyfriend slash girlfriend.

(off the reactions)

He's got fake tits'n he's savin' up ta get a vagina.

TOMMY

Who isn't?

JERRY

They been up in the tree for over an hour gropin' and blowin' each other-

TOMMY

Jesus.

JERRY

Yeah, it's ugly. Traumatized a couple Roller bladers. But every time a cop gets brave enough start climbin' up, the lovebirds climb even higher.

FRANCO

Two fags and a tree.

LOU

It's a treesome.

COP

(walking over)

Who's goin' up? The one in the thong's afraid a heights so ya know he/she/it's gonna be a real hugger onna way back down.

Jerry looks at the crew. The crew turns to the probie.

MIKE THE PROBIE

Please guys - no. Please?

(CONTINUED)

Laura steps forward.

LAURA

I'll go.

(to Jerry)

This might be one've my skills.

The guys watch as Laura calmly climbs up the ladder. Meanwhile the two lovebirds have resumed screaming and ranting at her. Not realizing she's a woman.

LOU

I got a double sawbuck says she don't bring 'em down. All the way down. On the ground.

FRANCO

I'm in. No way she can do it.

SEAN

In.

MIKE THE PROBIE

In.

Tommy's cellphone rings.

SPLITSCREEN WITH:

INT. RACE TRACK HALLWAY - SAME

TOMMY

Yeah.

UNCLE TEDDY

Good news kid. I'm on a roll! I turned 3 grand into 12 large!

TOMMY

(nods yes on the Laura bet)

Holy shit.

UNCLE TEDDY

Now look - that other 3 I said was fa ya kids? Still got it. If ya want, I could play it for ya.

LOU

Chief.

JERRY

I dunno Lou. Y'know I'd like nuthin' better'n ta have her screw up'n give us one more reason ta get her outta the house but... shit. I got a gut feelin' on this. Purely on a gamblin' level.

(CONTINUED)

41

CONTINUED:

41

LOU

Whatever. Chief's odd man out!

UNCLE TEDDY

Tommy, you still with me? Make the call now kid - window's closin'.

TOMMY

(fuck it)

Let it ride.

UNCLE TEDDY

Good boy.

A42

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - CONTINUOUS

A42

Laura is there and the two lovers have started to climb even higher -

LOU

Yeah Daddy.

FRANCO

Get ready to pay up Chief.

- until Laura takes off her helmet and shakes out her hair. The lovers stop climbing. Laura starts talking.

LOU

Shit.

SEAN

Isn't that unfair? The hair thing?

The lovers are really listening to Laura. She beckons them to come closer. They do.

JERRY

Yeah baby yeah. Come ta papa.

Now the lovers are climbing onto the ladder. The seventeen-year-old goes first, Laura helping him off the tree and he starts to climb down the ladder on his own. The one with the thong is the scared one - clinging to Laura as she brings him/her/it back to safety. The crowd applauds.

LOU

(off Jerry's smile)

On the ground. That's the bet.

Tommy pops a couple a pills. Then a couple extra.

(CONTINUED)

A42

CONTINUED:

A42

FRANCO

(noticing)

Pain pills?

TOMMY

Superman pills.

FRANCO

Better watch that shit Gav. They
can lead to errors a judgement.

TOMMY

(try me)

Yeah?

FRANCO

(tight, hard)

Yeah.

Laura's down - the crowd erupts again. She hands off the
thong grab and heads over to the truck as:

LOU

Goddam broads.

JERRY

(big smile on the payoff)

She pulled it off Lou.

(turning to see her)

Hey.

LAURA

Hey.

JERRY

Nice job.

LAURA

Thanks.

JERRY

Whad'ja say up there?

LAURA

I said look I already have a vagina
- I know at least one've you two is
hoping ta get one so let's get our
feet back on the ground and talk
about this like girlfriends do. I
promised I'd buy 'em a drink'n make
sure no charges were pressed.

(CONTINUED)

A42

CONTINUED:

A42

SEAN

'N why would they buy that?

LAURA

Because two of us already had tits.
(to Jerry)
Did I prove I could bring sumthin'
to the team here?

TOMMY

Oh yeah. Two fags need ta be
talked out 've a tree - we get
six're seven a those calls a week.

LAURA

Kiss my ass Gavin.

FRANCO

You'd love that wouldn't ya?

Jerry separates Laura and Franco. The fact that she had the balls to step up to him gets Franco a little hot.

JERRY

(calming her down)
Hey. Got yer Irish up hah?

LAURA

Goddam assholes - you think one a
them coulda brought those two-

JERRY

Hey hey hey - no, no I don't. But
this ain't a sprint sweetie. Ya
won this battle but the war goes
on. Tuck this one under yer belt'n
let's move on'n win the next one.

LAURA

Tommy Gavin - he's dangerous Chief.

JERRY

Listen - stay outta Tommy's way.

LAURA

He's crazy, Chief.

JERRY

In the fire department there's
crazy good'n there's crazy bad.
Right now - Tommy's crazy good.

(CONTINUED)

A42

CONTINUED:

A42

Jerry makes her walk away. She glances back at Tommy over Jerry's shoulder: Tommy smiles and waves at her. His cellphone rings. [NOTE: these previous scenes should have been REAL TIME SCENES meaning that since he placed the bet with Teddy, the audience should be able to believe that just now he's hearing the results. Pretty much - smudge smudge - for real].

TOMMY (V.O.)

Honey I'm home!

SMASHCUT INTO:

42

INT. JANET'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

42

Tommy's already in and pouring himself a large vodka. Janet enters. Frowns at the sight.

JANET

So - you ARE drinking again.

TOMMY

Yup.

He downs a healthy slug.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Ahhh.

He takes another wallop. She winces. Now:

JANET

There's been a lotta talk. That you've been seeing Sheila. A lot.

TOMMY

Mm-hmm.

Janet gives up. Moving on:

JANET

(sighing)

Uhh. Colleen hooked back up with Jennifer and I - I couldn't deal with it so-

TOMMY

Ya sent 'em over ta my house I know I was just there.

He takes another hit of vodka. Not funny to Janet.

(CONTINUED)

JANET

I really really disapprove of that situation and I would greatly appreciate it if you would help me to get it under control.

TOMMY

(off the vodka)

Mm-mm-mm.

JANET

(trying to ignore that)

It's obviously just a phase that I'm really gonna need yer help to-

TOMMY

You call Roger?

She is stopped solid in her tracks.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

(sucking on some ice)

Did ya hear what I-

JANET

(quick and hard)

Yes.

(no lie)

Yes. I called him.

TOMMY

'N did he come through?

She hates that he's got her in this position. Tommy still chewing on his ice - which is rattling Janet's nerves. Now:

JANET

(repeating what Roger's secretary probably told her)

He's, travelling right now - on his way to - Philadelphia. I was - just expecting him to call, actually - when you, barged in.

Tommy digests that. Smiles to himself. Chuckles. Reaches into his jacket and pulls out something. Flips it up and:

(CONTINUED)

A GREEN RAIN OF DOLLAR BILLS flourishes across the kitchen sky - tens and twenties and fifties and hundred dollar bills twisting and turning and above all twirling and floating and falling and lingering only seconds before they land on top of the counter and the toaster and the fridge and the telephone and the stove and the clean, crisp surface of Janet's perfect hardwood floor.

TOMMY

You wanted - what was it? 4 grand?

(off the money)

I think there must be almost -
around six're seven grand here.

He turns to leave. Janet knows he's passed a test tonight - a test she thought he had no chance on.

JANET

(very very clear)

Where'd you get it Tom.

Tommy turns. Smiles.

TOMMY

Harder I work?

(right into her eyes)

Luckier I goddam get.

(dripping with sarcasm)

G'night!

He's gone. She stands there staring at what she asked for. And then some. As she starts to frantically pick up the money and organize it:

SMASHCUT TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE.