

FANTASY LIFE

"Pilot"

written by

Tim McAuliffe

Jan. 27, 2015

Network Draft

4th Revised

All rights reserved. Copyright 2015 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. No portion of this script may be performed, published, reproduced, sold, or distributed by any means or quoted or published in any medium, including on any website, without the prior written consent of Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. Disposal of this script copy does not alter any of the restrictions set forth above.

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

1

INT. FOX SPORTS - LOBBY/ELEVATOR/HALLWAY - DAY
(MITCH, TERRY, RECEPTIONIST)

1

MITCH ENTERS THE BRIGHT AND EXCITING LOBBY. HE'S AWESTRUCK BY THE SUPERSTARS, TROPHY CASES, AND TV SCREENS. HE SURREPTITIOUSLY TAKES A SELFIE. IT'S A PINCH ME MOMENT. HE LOOKS AT IT, SHAKES HEAD, DELETES IT, TRIES AGAIN, LOOKS, DELETES IT AND SHAKES HEAD. HE TAKES A BREATH AND THEN, SUMMONING CONFIDENCE FROM DEEP, STEPS TO THE SECURITY DESK.

MITCH

Hi, I'm Mitch Berry and I'm starting
work here today.

THE RECEPTIONIST LOOKS FOR HIS NAME. HE CAN SEE HIS NAME ON THE SHEET BUT DOESN'T WANT TO POINT.

MITCH (CONT'D)
(awkward, as she looks)

I only got the job Friday afternoon.
So weird. Mitch Berry. I was just
sitting in my cubicle selling
insurance and FOX Sports calls and
offers me - Mitch Berry, third column -
my dream job running and starring on a
fantasy football show. Next thing you
know I'm here in LA and Mitch Berry -
third column, fourth down - is being
paid to do what he loves - talk
fantasy football under the given name
Mitch, surname Berry.

RECEPTIONIST

I'm sorry, you're confusing me. Just give me your full name.

TERRY (O.S.)

Mitch Berry!

TERRY (FEMALE, 40'S, ATTRACTIVE, BOLD WITH PINPOINT FOCUS, PRAGMATIC, UNAPOLOGETICALLY CAUSTIC, AND APOLOGETICALLY COMPASSIONATE) APPROACHES.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Terry Wilson, Senior VP programming. We're excited to have you on board. Your videos and podcasts are really impressive. You really know your stuff.

MITCH

Thanks. I try to--

TERRY

--Exactly. Walk fast. The show starts in five days and we're way behind. We don't have a title sponsor and our graphics look like a My Little Pony commercial.
(then, pointing)

Let's cut through here.

2

INT. FOX FOOTBALL STUDIO/BACKSTAGE/CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS
(MITCH, TERRY, HOST, CHUCK)

MITCH AND TERRY CUT ACROSS THE FAKE FOOTBALL FIELD IN THE FOX FOOTBALL STUDIO. MITCH IS BLOWN AWAY.

MITCH
(wide eyed)

Wow!

AS TERRY AND MITCH CROSS, REVEAL A HOST, JIM (AFRICAN AMERICAN, 30'S) DOING A 'STAND AND TALK' TO CAMERA. USE POV OF FOX FOOTBALL STUDIO CAMERA.

JIM

And, then we move over to the east
where the Falcons and Titans meet up--

TERRY

Jim, fix your tie. You look like an
insurance salesman.
(to Mitch)

No offense.

MITCH
(fixing hair)

Were we just on TV?

THEY ROUND A CORNER AND, THERE STANDING IN FRONT OF THEM, IS THE LEGENDARY, PLAYER/COACH CHUCK BYRNE (LATE 50'S, TOUGH).

TERRY

Mitch, this is--

MITCH
(in complete awe)

Chuck Byrne! Wow!
(collecting himself)

My dad and I were your biggest fans.

CHUCK

Men who cheer for men are ladies.

MITCH

Totally.

TERRY

I just added Chuck to the Fox Football broadcast. Chuck, meet Mitch Berry, FOX Sports' new fantasy guy.

CHUCK
(looking him over)

I think we can do better.

MITCH

Fantasy *football*.

CHUCK

Fantasy football?! Next thing you know golf will be a sport.

MITCH
(laughs, trying to joke back)

And, fencing!

CHUCK GIVES HIM A STERN, JUDGING LOOK.

CHUCK

I love fencing.

MITCH

You know they have fantasy fencing, you should try--
(off Chuck's stare)

Again, great meeting you.

THEY LEAVE CHUCK AND MOVE TO THE DOOR OF THE CONTROL ROOM.

TERRY

Mitch, last week, our network chairman looked at a boardroom full of people and explained how much money fantasy football makes, and asked why we were the only network without a fantasy football show. I stepped up and told him I'd start a show right away. I did that because I have a long track record of succeeding. Failure's just never been an option for me. I'm telling you this because you're the key component in my recipe for 'not failing.' And, so I need you to do me a 'solid' and not let me down. Can you do me that solid?

MITCH

I think I can.

TERRY

I'm going to need you to do better than that.

MITCH

I'm sure I can.

TERRY

(still not fully satisfied
with the answer)

Okay, almost there.
(then)

Let's move.

SHE LEADS HIM INTO THE CONTROL ROOM.

3

INT. FOX SPORTS - HALLWAY/CONTROL ROOM
(MITCH, TERRY, ABBY)

3

THEY POP INTO THE CONTROL ROOM. A MUTED MITCH IS ON SCREEN.

TERRY

Oh look, there you are on the big
screen. We've been using temp footage
from your podcast to test out the
graphics. See what I mean about the
My Little Pony commercial?

TERRY HITS A KNOB ON THE PODCAST THAT MADE MITCH A FANTASY
FOOTBALL GURU. THE GRAPHICS ARE OVER-THE-TOP AND ODDLY-
ANIMATED. THE CONTENT OF MITCH'S PODCAST IS EXCELLENT.

MITCH

(on screen)

Remember, Over the last five weeks, no
team in the NFL has given up more
yards after contact than the Houston
Texans, making Chris Ivory a solid
number two running back this week--

TERRY

This is what I want from you on the
show. Focused, smart, almost Rain Man-
esque commentary.
(then)

Okay, here is your team starting with
your host...

PLAYS A CLIP FEATURING SUMMER DALE (MID 20'S, HOT).

SUMMER
(on the monitor)

Hi and welcome to FOX Fantasy, we've
got a big show for you--

MITCH

Summer Dale.

TERRY

She's one of our network president's
top three most talented daughters.
(then)

Summer is like an iPhone you dropped
in water. When the light comes on
you're happier than ever - even if
there's a lot of data missing.

TERRY CUES UP A NEW CLIP.

TERRY (CONT'D)

This is one of your analysts, Michael
Coleman the second.

PLAYS CLIP OF MICHAEL COLEMAN II AKA MC2 (30'S, AFRICAN
AMERICAN, THINK CUBA GOODING JR.).

MITCH

MC2. Career 4.9 Yards per carry, 6
time Pro Bowler, team rushing record--

TERRY

Never won a Super Bowl.

MITCH

But, still, an amazing player.

TERRY

An amazing player wins. You see what I'm getting at here? To me, anything short of a win is a failure. Growing up, my dad had a saying: "Win." He was a man of few words but that piece of advice always resonated with me and my five brothers. And, that's why I'm at this point. I like to win. And, I'm hoping that same sentiment propels you over the next five days.

ABBY TANNER (MID 20'S, STRONG, CONFIDENT) ENTERS THE CONTROL ROOM WEARING AN EAGLES T-SHIRT.

ABBY

(to whole control room)

Hit 'em low, hit 'em high, and watch our Eagles fly, fly, fly! Did somebody in this room bet that the Patriots would beat the Eagles? Never root against the city of brotherly love, friends!

ABBY HANDS OUT EAGLES JERSEYS.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Wear them for the entire day in good health and profound shame.

THEY ALL START PUTTING THEM ON. ABBY EXITS.

TERRY

(to Mitch)

That's Abby Tanner.

(MORE)

TERRY (CONT'D)

Your other analyst. Can you tell
she's from Philly?

MITCH
(he knows her background)

Born and raised but spent time at the
FOX affiliate in Boston before--

TERRY

Mitch, you already have the job.
Let's go meet your team.

4

INT. FOX SPORTS - BOARDROOM - CONTINUOUS
(TERRY, MITCH, ABBY, MC2, SUMMER)

4

MITCH AND TERRY ENTER. IN THE ROOM ARE MC2, ABBY (WHO IS
JUST ARRIVING), AND SUMMER.

TERRY

Everyone, I'd like to introduce your
new boss, the man who will put us on
the fantasy football map, Mitch Berry.
Mitch, tell them about yourself.

MITCH

Okay, well, um... I've been playing
fantasy football for years and, you
know, I really enjoy it.

TERRY

Come on, buddy. Reassure me that I
made the right decision.

MITCH

Um, I have a popular blog, three million Twitter followers, one of the top podcasts on iTunes.

TERRY

Okay, now I feel good.

ABBY

Where were you working before this?--

MC2

(on ipad)

Dude, I just looked you up. You ranked me seventh three years in a row.

SUMMER

--I just tweeted you got the job and now all sorts of nerds are sending me messages. Can you tell your followers to ease up on the 'junk' mail?

MITCH

Okay, I'll address these in order.
(to Abby)

Abby I'm from the insurance industry. But I also ran a network of 20 freelance writers for my blog while doing a podcast, YouTube series and writing a column. Fox is different than a blog but this is my passion and, if I've learned one thing in insurance, it's to never underestimate-

MITCH PAUSES, WAITING FOR A LAUGH. NOTHING.

MITCH (CONT'D)

Sorry. Bad insurance joke.
(then, doubling down)

Maybe I need to make an *adjustment*.

NO ONE RESPONDS.

MITCH (CONT'D)

That used to kill.

FLASH TO:

5 INT. INSURANCE COMPANY - DAY
(MITCH, DRU, OTHER PEOPLE)

5

MITCH IS TALKING TO A GROUP OF PEOPLE IN THE INSURANCE OFFICE.

MITCH

And, so I said to him, maybe you need
to make an *adjustment*.

EVERYONE DIES OF LAUGHTER.

FLASH BACK TO:

6 INT. FOX SPORTS - BOARDROOM - CONTINUOUS
(TERRY, MITCH, ABBY, MC2, SUMMER)

6

MITCH

In all seriousness, MC2, um, you were
a great player but you were injured a
lot and you never had, you know,
double digit touchdowns in a season
and, well... you have small hands.

MC2
(then, looking at his hands)

I prefer to think of my hands as half-
full.

MITCH

And, Summer, I will definitely tell my followers to stop sending you graphic pictures of their privates.

SUMMER

I just said 'ease up.'

MITCH

I guess I'm just asking you to trust me for a short while --

TERRY

That's an order.

MITCH

--Because nothing in the world is as important to me as this job. You've taken my fantasy and made it a reality and I thank you for that.

THEY LOOK AT MITCH, UNSURE.

TERRY

Corny but true. I need everyone listening to this guy. Okay, let's get back to work.
(laughing, to Mitch)

'Taken my fantasy and turned it into a reality?' Wow! For a second I thought I hired a Disney princess.

7

INT. FOX SPORTS - MITCH'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER
(MITCH, TERRY, MAX, CHUCK)

7

MITCH AND TERRY ENTER MITCH'S OFFICE. IT'S BIG AND IMPRESSIVE. MAX (25, NERDY) IS SITTING AT MITCH'S DESK.

TERRY

So, this is your office. You can put
down your...
(looking in box)

Plain white mug and Tide Stick in
here.

MAX

Mitch Berry! I can't believe I'm
meeting you!

TERRY

Mitch, meet our IT guy...
(guessing)

Tom Davis?

MAX

Max Allen. I was your 43rd Twitter
follower. You might know me by my
handle "at max on, max off."
(then)

I know this might be a little early,
but I've taken the liberty of placing
a clickable hotlink to my LinkedIn on
your task bar. If you ever need a
personal assistant, I could easily
become the Samwise to your Frodo,
Peeta to your Katniss. Max to your
Mitch. M& M? Nope? Too aggressive.
Mom was right.

TERRY

You see, Mitch, this is why we're doing a fantasy football show. You've got a committed audience when hobbies replace sex.

MITCH

That's the stereotype but the truth is everyone plays. Demographic research shows the playing audience is actually a very wide range. Even Jay Z plays. He's got 99 problems but a QB ain't one.

MITCH HATES THE JOKE. MAX LAUGHS WAY TOO HARD AT IT. TERRY SMILES.

MAX

That's great. Hilarious!

MITCH

I guess, what I'm saying is fantasy football isn't just for nerds.

MAX

My team is called "Luke, I am your punter."

MAX HAS A JERSEY CUSTOM-MADE FOR HIS TEAM. THEY GLARE AT HIM. MITCH SIGHS.

MITCH

(upbeat)

But, yes, nerds also play.

MITCH GETS ON THE ELEVATOR. MC2 IS ON IT WITH A CART OF MC2 MERCHANDISE. HE'S WEARING A SHIRT WITH THE CAPTION 'ME=MC2'.

MITCH

Oh, hey man! I got all your texts apologizing for asking about being picked seventh.

MC2

So sorry, I get insecure about my work.

MITCH

You get insecure?! I'm an outsider trying to fit in with world-class athletes and big time broadcasters!

MC2

We've all been outsiders. I grew up in an all-white neighborhood in Connecticut. You've just got to figure out a way to fit in.

FLASH BACK TO:

9

INT. MC2'S HIGH SCHOOL - DAY
(MC2, WHITE KID, DORKY WHITE KID)

9

SHOT OF A FLYER BEING TAPED TO A WALL, READING "HANG OUT WITH A BLACK GUY. \$20 AN HOUR." PULL BACK TO REVEAL A YOUNG MC2. TWO DIFFERENT KIDS ARE STANDING THERE.

WHITE KID

Hey man, do you have two hours on the 5th?

MC2

I can do four to six but I have a hard
out at six-thirty.

DORKY WHITE KID

What if I wanted you to come to a bat
mitzvah?

MC2

Take a seat, Berkowitz. Let's talk
numbers.

FLASH TO:

10

INT. FOX SPORTS - ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS
(MITCH, MC2)

10

MITCH

I would have been your first customer.

MC2

Haha! This is gonna be great. We're
going to be buds. I can feel it. No
charge.

MITCH

(re: promo items, joking)

You having a yard sale?

MC2

(genuinely laughing)

Oh my God, you're nuts!
(then, serious)

But, seriously, I only endorse things
I truly believe in.

MITCH

Is that a Salad Spinner?

REVEAL A SALAD SPINNER WITH MC2'S FACE ON IT.

MC2

It is. I won't tell you the slogan.

Okay, fine, it's 'Let's all throw a
kale Mary.'
(then)

Hey, let me ask you this, do you think
it would be cool if I maybe brought
some of these products on the show?
You know, get a little exposure.

MITCH

If it doesn't affect the content, I
can't see how it would hurt.

MC2

Cool, man! Have a Powerale. It's an
energy drink that's also a beer.

MITCH

Thanks. I'll drink this whenever I
want to get drunk and fight a tiger.

MC2

(genuinely laughing again)

Is this Steve Harvey I'm looking at?
Get this man a purple suit. Wow, man,
you're a clown.
(then)

Not in a bad way. A lovable clown.

Like Bozo or the guy who owns
McDonald's.

MITCH

Cool, bro-- man--
(exiting, to self)

I need more black friends.

MC2

(overhearing, calling after)

I've got a short window from 5:30-6.

11 INT. FOX SPORTS - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS
(MITCH, TERRY)

11

MITCH GETS OFF THE ELEVATOR AND STARTS WALKING DOWN THE HALLWAY. TERRY APPROACHES.

TERRY

Mitch, I have some good news! I've secured a title sponsor for the show. It's a restaurant chain called Cha Cha's. The sales department describes them as a less-stuffy Hooters. Here's their info.

TERRY HANDS OVER A BROCHURE, WHICH IS ENTIRELY BLURRED OUT BECAUSE OF ITS RACY PHOTOS.

MITCH

Whoa. I'm on my way to a show meeting. I'll tell everyone about--

TERRY

(re: TV monitor behind Mitch)

Shh. Shh.

TERRY TURNS UP THE VOLUME ON THE FOX FOOTBALL BROADCAST.

TERRY (CONT'D)

I've been hearing that Chuck's not fitting in. Which is odd because I very rarely make mistakes.

12

INT. FOX FOOTBALL STUDIO - DAY
(CHUCK, JIM)

12

JIM

Chuck, you played an entire game with a broken bone sticking out of your thigh, what do you think of Gronkowski sitting out today with the flu?

CHUCK

I didn't realize having the sniffles made your nuts shrink.

NERVOUS LAUGHTER FROM JIM.

JIM

I'm sure he'll be happy to hear that.
(then, continuing)

Aaron Rodgers just signed a deal worth 22 Million dollars.

CHUCK

22 million?! For what? To be protected by linemen? For all the flack Michael Sam got for being the only guy in the league who played for the wrong team, about how he was a little light in the cleats, at least he was tough.

(MORE)

CHUCK (CONT'D)

Sure I wouldn't want that bone
collector taking a snap from me, if
you know what I mean, but--

MORE NERVOUS LAUGHTER. TERRY TURNS IT OFF.

TERRY

I may have made a mistake.

13

INT. BOARDROOM - DAY
(MITCH, MC2, ABBY, SUMMER, CHUCK)

13

MITCH ENTERS THE BOARDROOM. THE GANG IS THERE.

MITCH

Our new sponsor, Cha Cha's, has sent
us their wardrobe guidelines,
promotional requirements, that sort of
thing.

ABBY

Wardrobe guidelines?
(grabs sheet and reads)
Mitch, it says women should wear
'clothing that is reflective of the
Cha Cha's brand' which they describe
as 'urban escort.' I'm not dressing
like one of MC2's girlfriends.

MITCH

And, no one expects you to.
(to MC2)
I'm not saying your girlfriend or
girlfriends dress inappropriately.

MC2

It's cool. They do.

SUMMER

I used to work at Cha Cha's. They may seem wild but they watch out for the girls. Watch you close. I mean, even the dressing rooms had cameras.

ABBY

You used to work there? Your dad is president of the network?!

SUMMER

I want to be a self-made woman. That's why I auditioned for this job. I got it on my own merit, right guys?

ALL

Totally/For sure/Definitely.

MC2

Wait, if there's a title sponsor, does that affect my ability to work in plugs for my products?

MITCH

Yeah, I guess it does.

ABBY

It says here 'the breast must be visible from all angles.' The nipple can be obstructed.

SUMMER

See? They look out for you.

ABBY

Mitch, what's the deal?

MC2

Dude, come on you've got to fix this.
Remember the laughs we had on the
elevator?

MITCH

Everyone relax. It's all going to be
okay.

CHUCK ENTERS.

CHUCK

Is this the fake sports department?
I've been added to your team.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

14 INT. FOX SPORTS - LOBBY/ELEVATOR - DAY
(MITCH, MAX, ABBY, TERRY)

14

MITCH IS WALKING IN TO WORK THE NEXT DAY. MAX IS THERE,
PRETENDING TO DO SOMETHING BUT REALLY JUST WAITING FOR MITCH.

MAX

So, you freaking out about that guy,
Chuck Byrne? If you want, I can put
some weird shit on his computer, get
him fired. And, kept away from
schools.

MITCH

I think it's great he's on the team.

MAX

Ugh. So what if he played 20 years in
the NFL without missing a game because
of injury. Or, that he has two purple
hearts. Doesn't impress me. Pick up a
third-string running back off waivers
three minutes before game time and
have him rush for 200 yards. Then I'm
impressed.

MITCH

You know, no game he played or coached
was ever rained on? People said that
'rain' was afraid of him.

MAX

It's all BS. It's not real. Fantasy
is real.

TERRY, WHO IS TALKING TO SOMEONE, SEES MITCH AND LEAVES THE PERSON WHILE THEY'RE IN MID SENTENCE.

TERRY

Mitch.

TERRY JOINS MITCH (AND MAX). THEY GET ON THE ELEVATOR.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Give me a quick update. Where are we
at? You excited about Chuck?

MAX

No--

MITCH
(cuts off Max)

I think it's going as well as can--

JUST THEN, ABBY RUNS AND GETS ON TOO. SHE'S WEARING FRUMPY CLOTHING, AND IS NOT MADE UP.

TERRY

You doing radio today?

ABBY
(trying to be casual/tough)

This is my outfit for the show! It
shouldn't matter what I look like. The
quality of my work is all that should
be relevant to the viewer.

THE DOORS OPEN AND ABBY STORMS OUT, TERRY AND MITCH FOLLOW.

MITCH

I'm brand new, and I assume I have
very little clout--

TERRY

None.

MITCH

--but, I'd appreciate it if you could
let Abby dress like... well, you.

TERRY

I appreciate the compliment but, Cha
Cha's was the only company interested
in sponsoring the show. With no
sponsor, there's no show. With no
show, there's no Mitch. With no
Mitch, there very well might be no
Terry. And, that's the one I care
about.

(then)

Is this too much for you, State Farm?

MITCH

I've got it under control. You hired
me to do a job and I can do it.

15

INT. FOX SPORTS - MITCH'S OFFICE - D2
(CHUCK, MITCH)

15

MITCH ENTERS HIS OFFICE. SURPRISINGLY, CHUCK IS THERE.

MITCH

Oh, hey--

CHUCK

Thanks for moving out for me. You left a plain, white mug and a Tide Stick here, so I put them over there.

CHUCK POINTS TO THE GARBAGE.

MITCH

I didn't--
(off Chuck's stern look)
--want you to feel unwelcome.

MAX ENTERS, HOLDING A COMPUTER, WHICH HE PLUGS INTO THE FULL WALL OF TVS. HE SEES CHUCK SITTING AT MITCH'S DESK.

MAX

Hop out. That's Mitch's chair--

MITCH

(to Max)

Max, have you loaded up the document I sent you last night?

MAX

Does the Sarlacc have fifteen rows of razor sharp teeth?

MITCH

Do you have some time for a tutorial on fantasy football, Chuck?

CHUCK

Mitch, my father was 'Chuck'. I'm Mr. Byrne. And, I only have ten minutes. I'm doing a charity thing called 'Parts for Hearts'.

(MORE)

CHUCK (CONT'D)

Everyone builds a part of a car, and then they put it all together and sell it to a wealthy jackass who won't drive it. My buddy and I are building a carburetor.

MAX

You mean 'rebuilding' a carburetor.

CHUCK

No, son. I mean building. Rebuilding means another man has already done the real work.

MITCH

Okay, here goes.

MITCH HITS THE SPACE BAR ON HIS COMPUTER. A GRAPHIC BEFITTING A HIGH BUDGET ACTION MOVIE COMES ON THE SCREEN. IT SAYS, 'THE BERRY BEST: A FANTASY FOOTBALL GUIDE.'

MITCH (CONT'D)

What's this?

MAX

I took the opportunity to spruce it up a little. Trying to prove that I would be an asset to the team.

MITCH

Well, thanks--

MITCH HITS THE SPACE BAR. WITH MORE EXPLOSIONS AND HIGH INTENSITY GRAPHICS, THE CONTENT IS NOW MORE EXCITING. MAX IS MOUTHING ALONG TO WHAT MITCH IS SAYING ON SCREEN.

MITCH (CONT'D)

Fantasy football is a game played
between a group of twelve people.

HE HITS THE SPACE BAR AGAIN. THE SONG, 'Y'ALL READY FOR
THIS' STARTS. TWELVE PLAYERS COME ON SCREEN BUT FREEZE.

MAX

Shoot, I crashed the system.
(then, running out)

I've got to reboot.

MITCH PULLS OUT A MARKER, STARTS WRITING ON THE WHITE BOARD.

MITCH

Okay, here's how it works. Fantasy
football is an internet-based
competition in which users compete
against each other--

CHUCK

I'm sorry. I heard the words internet
and football next to each other, and
something inside me died. I played
real football. Suffered real pain.
Got hit so hard I lost control of my
real bowels.

MITCH

Cool. I'll start over then. Fantasy
football is--

JUST THEN, A RACE CAR DRIVER COMES TO THE DOOR.

RACE CAR DRIVER

Chuck, you ready to build that
carburetor?

CHUCK

Sorry, Mitch, I've got to go.

MITCH LOOKS DEJECTED AS CHUCK LEAVES.

16

INT. FOX SPORTS COMMISSARY - MOMENTS LATER
(MITCH, ABBY, DALLAS COWBOYS CHEERLEADERS)

16

MITCH IS GETTING LUNCH IN THE COMMISSARY. HE'S IN LINE
SERVING HIMSELF FROM THE ROW OF FRIDGES. ABBY COMES UP NEXT
TO HIM. THEY SLIDE THEIR TRAYS ALONG.

ABBY

Hey, Mitch. Before our rehearsal, I
just want to talk to you about the
wardrobe issue.

A GROUP OF DALLAS COWBOYS CHEERLEADERS COME UP BEHIND THEM IN
LINE. MITCH NOTICES THEM. HIS HIGH-SCHOOL SELF IS FREAKING
OUT INSIDE. AS THEY ARE BEHIND ABBY, SHE DOESN'T SEE THEM.

ABBY (CONT'D)

It's tough enough to be a woman in
sports as is.
(deep voice)

"You never played the game, girlie."
(then, normal)

And having to wear an outfit that
shows off my legs and breasts only
undermines that hard to earn
credibility.

MITCH

(trying to keep it quiet)

Yes, totally, but there's also a time
and a place where it could feasibly--

ABBY

--I worked my way up. I have a brain.
I'm not some empty headed Barbie with
no life skills and low self esteem
that the only thing I can do is jiggle
my breasts around on live TV
(turning to get a dessert,
noticing cheerleaders,
playing it off)

I love your hair.
(then, sotto back to Mitch)

Now that I have my shot, I want to
succeed or fail on my talent, not my
looks.

SHE WALKS OFF WITH HER FOOD LEAVING MITCH WITH THE
CHEERLEADERS.

MITCH

(in Cheerleader rhythm)

Can you give me a D...SSERT.
(then, hating his joke)

Sorry. I'll just pop out.

17

INT. FOX SPORTS - STUDIO - MOMENTS LATER
(MITCH, MC2, SUMMER)

17

MITCH WALKS INTO THE FOX FANTASY STUDIO, HOLDING HIS FOOD.
MC2 AND SUMMER ARE ALREADY THERE. SUMMER (WITH SKIMPY
CLOTHING) IS SITTING AT THE FOX FANTASY DESK, HOLDING A CAN
OF MC2'S POWERALE, READING COPY OFF A TELEPROMPTER.

SUMMER

Welcome to Fox Fantasy, brought to you
by Cha Cha's...
(then, louder and more
powerful)
...but powered by MC2's All-new
Powerale.

MC2

Thanks Summer. Well, let me start off
by saying that there's no better place
to sit back, relax, and enjoy a nice
family meal than Cha Cha's. Their
brand new...
(reading)
36 Double-D, hairless Chicken Breast
sandwich is amazing. Enjoy it with...
(reading)
Two big, bulging jugs of Cold Coke
or...
(pulling out Powerale)
Did somebody say Powerale?

MITCH

Hey guys! I'm not sure that this is
going to work.

MC2
(opens Mitch's lunch)

Hey, man, mind if I have a fry?

THROUGH THE REST OF THE SCENE, MC2 EATS HIS FRIES.

MC2 (CONT'D)

I figured if I wasn't allowed to promote my energy beer, I'd try to slip it in.

MITCH

Sorry, man. It's a no go.

MC2

But, this is why I took the gig. It isn't for the money. They're only paying me \$3.8 Million a year. No one can survive on that. As it is, I can barely afford to feed my giraffes.
(then, almost emotional)

No. I took it for a deeper, more noble reason..
(then, normal again)

...To tap into the market share that 35 million fantasy football players, most of whom are 18-34 with an average income of \$87,000 a year, deliver.

SUMMER STARTS EATING MITCH'S FRIES, TOO.

SUMMER

If you want me to talk to the Cha Cha's people I will. Some of the girls mentioned they had a special trick that helped them get what they wanted from the bosses.

MITCH

My hands are tied.

SUMMER

Yeah, that was part of the trick.

MC2

Mitch, come on! You've got to stand
up to Terry.

MITCH

I'm sorry.

MC2 AND SUMMER GRAB HANDFULS OF FRIES AND WALK OFF, UPSET.
MITCH STANDS FOR A BEAT. HE GETS A TEXT. WE SEE THE TEXT IS
FROM MC2 AND IT JUST SAYS, "SORRY. YOU'RE STILL MY BOY."

18

INT. FOX SPORTS - HALL OF FAME ROOM - MOMENTS LATER
(MITCH, CHUCK)

18

MITCH ENTERS TO FIND CHUCK SITTING ON A BENCH LOOKING AT A
DISPLAY OF AN OLD UNIFORM.

MITCH

Mr. Byrne, I typed you up some notes
on fantasy football last night.

CHUCK

Mitch, you see that helmet there?

THERE'S AN OLD, INCREDIBLY BEAT-UP HELMET IN A DISPLAY CASE.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

That's my helmet from the first six
years I played in the NFL. You see
that hole on the casing?

(MORE)

CHUCK (CONT'D)

That's when a players cleat popped through the lining, rupturing my cerebral cortex and penetrating the part of the brain used for creativity and arts-related stuff. So, no damage.

MITCH

I watched that play live.

FLASH BACK TO:

19 EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY 19
(YOUNGER CHUCK, REFS, ANNOUNCER)

A FEW REFEREES TRY TO PULL A PLAYER'S LEG OUT OF CHUCK'S HELMET.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

And, it looks like the refs are trying to corkscrew the cleat out of Chuck's head! It appears Chuck is smiling.

FLASH BACK TO:

20 INT. FOX SPORTS - HALL OF FAME ROOM - CONTINUOUS 20
(MITCH, CHUCK)

CHUCK

Mitch, the way I see it, football is a sport played by a team. I see fantasy as a fake game played by one sad man on his computer. That's not a team.

MITCH

My dad had similar... irritations.

21 INT. MITCH'S CHIDHOOD HOME - DAY 21
(7 YEAR-OLD MITCH, MITCH'S DAD)

A SEVEN YEAR-OLD MITCH IS SITTING IN FRONT OF THE TV WITH A BUNCH OF PAPERS, PENS AND A REALLY OLD COMPUTER.

MITCH'S DAD

Mitch, turn off that computer. You can crunch numbers all day but the thing you need to realize is that if you're not getting your head mashed in by eleven 300 pound men running directly at you with the force of a Mack truck, you're not playing. Now, crunch the numbers on getting me a new Bud Light?

22 INT. FOX SPORTS - HALL OF FAME ROOM - CONTINUOUS 22
(MITCH, CHUCK)

CHUCK

He was right. Drank a ladies beer, but he was right.
(then, pointing to a monitor)
See those hits I took? That's real football.

23 EXT. VARIOUS FOOTBALL FIELDS - DAY/NIGHT 23
(CHUCK, FOOTBALL PLAYERS)

ON A TV SCREEN, A MONTAGE OF HITS CHUCK TOOK. EACH ONE IS WORSE THAN THE OTHER. ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE IN FORCE.

24 INT. FOX SPORTS - HALL OF FAME ROOM - CONTINUOUS 24
(CHUCK, MITCH)

CHUCK

On that last hit, doctors diagnosed me with 'a mild death.' My brain stopped for three minutes.

(MORE)

CHUCK (CONT'D)

It really affected my play in the
second half. I still can't pronounce
the letter--
(then, trying)

Urrrrnnngghh.
(then)

I guess what I'm saying is in the game
I played, the only stats that mattered
was if there was a win or a loss.

That's what it was all about. But, I
like you Mitch and I want it to work.
Leave the notes and I'll try to read
them A-S-A-
(trying to say P)

Urrrrnnngghh.

MITCH

Thanks.

MITCH LEAVES SOME MORE FANTASY NOTES FOR CHUCK.

25 INT. FOX SPORTS - BULLPEN - DAY
(MITCH, ABBY, MC2, MAX)

25

MITCH ENTERS THE BULLPEN. MAX IS TALKING TO MC2.

MAX

How much to come to Comic-con with me?

MITCH

Max, leave MC2 alone. I have a job
for you.

MAX

You're adding me to the team?!
(then, in Yoda voice)
(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)

Always two there are, a master and an apprentice.

MITCH

Stop it.
(to the gang)

Everyone, please welcome our new researcher, Max Allen.

MC2

You're hiring the nerd?
(to Max)

No offense, my man. You're a good dude.

MITCH

I'm adding him because he'll complement the dynamic. Think of Max as our kicker. On paper, he doesn't fit in. In reality, he doesn't fit in. And, sure, no one... "likes him." But, he'll get the team points. And, that's why I'm hiring him.

MAX
(almost emotional)

I'm just so happy to be one of Mitch Berry's picks.
(then to gang)

I feel so--

MITCH

Okay, people, let's all head to the studio. This is our last rehearsal before the show.

ABBY (O.C.)

What the hell!

MITCH LOOKS TO SEE THE COMMOTION. ABBY IS HOLDING A VERY SKIMPY, ALMOST NON-EXISTENT OUTFIT.

ABBY (CONT'D)

This is wrong! Just wrong!

SUMMER

It so is! Why do you get to wear such a cute outfit?

ABBY

Would you please excuse me for a sec?

COLLECTED, SHE WALKS INTO THE ELEVATOR. THE DOORS CLOSE.

ABBY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Aaaaaarrrrrgghhh!

AFTER A FEW BEATS, THE ELEVATOR DOORS OPEN AND ABBY, FULLY COLLECTED, POPS HER HEAD OUT.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Mitch, can I see you for a second?

MITCH WALKS OVER AND GETS ON THE ELEVATOR WITH ABBY. GARY FROM THE CONTROL ROOM IS ON THE ELEVATOR. SHE PULLS THE STOP BUTTON. HE LOOKS SCARED.

ABBY (CONT'D)

(to Gary)

Gary, this'll just take a second. I'm upset so I might go full Philly on you here.

(MORE)

ABBY (CONT'D)
(then, in Philly accent)

Oi'm not wearing dis outfit. Oi'm not
sure if dis means oi'm fired but oi'm
not doing dat. Oi'm taking a stand.

JUST THEN, MC2'S HANDS POP INTO THE ELEVATOR DOOR.

MC2

Wow! I was just able to open it.

Small hands.
(then, serious)

Mitch, I know this isn't the best
time, but if I can't promote my merch,
I'm going to have to bail too. We can
still be best buds but, at the end of
the day, I pay the condo fees for
almost all of my girlfriends.

ABBY GETS OFF AND THE DOORS CLOSE ON MITCH AND GARY.

MITCH
(to Gary)

So, which floor?

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

26 INT. FOX SPORTS - BULLPEN - NIGHT
(ABBY, TERRY)

26

ABBY EXITS AN EDITING SUITE AND WALKS PAST TERRY'S OFFICE.

TERRY

Abby, can you pop in for a second?

ABBY

Terry.

TERRY

Have a seat.

ABBY

Are you watching Say Yes to The Dress?

TERRY

No. The remote's broken.
(smiles, changes subject)

Look, about the wardrobe issue, I don't like it any more than you do but we can't do the show without a sponsor and Cha Cha's is all we have.

ABBY

So, you understand my frustration.

TERRY

Of course. No one understands it better. But, we differ on ways to fix it. I've always believed that you're not going to affect real change unless you're at the top.

(MORE)

TERRY (CONT'D)

And, in this business you're not going to get to the top unless you're twice as tough and good as any man. And, you have to play the game.

ABBY

But, that shouldn't be.

TERRY

Of course it shouldn't be. I've been dealing with this glass ceiling since it was made of corrugated metal. I've always been the only female. At director level. At VP level. At SVP level. Always. Our president is retiring soon and I'm going to be the first female head of a sports network. And, once I get there, you better believe there's going to be some change.

ABBY

That's nice to hear. Really. But, what if all us women - all twenty-six in this fifteen floor building - decided not to play the game. We could make a big change.

SUMMER WALKS BY. SHE'S WEARING AN EVEN SKIMPIER OUTFIT THAN BEFORE.

SUMMER

Hey girls!

BOTH TERRY AND ABBY PROVIDE THE REQUISITE SMILE.

ABBY

I'm not saying it's going to be easy.

27

INT. FOX SPORTS - BULLPEN - NIGHT
(MITCH, ABBY)

27

MITCH IS SITTING AT HIS DESK. HE'S LOOKING AT A SPREADSHEET ON HIS COMPUTER MONITOR, TRYING TO FIGURE IT ALL OUT. ABBY ENTERS.

ABBY

Hey. I should apologize for earlier.

MITCH

For what?

ABBY

For losing my cool on the elevator.

MITCH

If it weren't for the screaming, the fist pounding and the abrupt sound of the elevator screeching to a halt, I wouldn't even have noticed.

ABBY SMILES.

ABBY

I've just worked so hard to get here,
that I want to be taken seriously.

MITCH PICKS UP THE HORRIBLY REVEALING PAIR OF SHORTS.

MITCH
(jokingly)

And, so you feel this won't help you
be taken seriously?
(reading label)

I mean, it's from The Tart Mart.

ABBY
(pointing to the label)

If you look on the label, it actually
warns you that the shorts aren't
edible.

MITCH AND ABBY LAUGH. THE LIGHTS GO OUT.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Oh, shoot. The lights in here are on
sensors. When they go off, you need
to do this.

SHE WAVES HER ARMS IN THE AIR. MITCH JOINS IN. THEY LAUGH.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Ever since I started working here,
people only look at my breasts.

MITCH ACTIVELY SHOOTS HIS GLARE UP TO HER FOREHEAD.

MITCH

That's gotta suck.

ABBY

You don't have to look at my forehead.

HE OVERCOMPENSATES AND STARTS LOOKING AT HER BREASTS.

ABBY (CONT'D)

That's not an invitation to look at my
breasts.

MITCH LOOKS HER IN THE EYE, LAUGHS.

MITCH
(laughing)

I don't know where to look!

ABBY LAUGHS, PULLS OUT A FEW POWERALES FROM MC2'S DESK.

ABBY

Powerale?

MITCH ACCEPTS. THEY BOTH TAKE A SIP AND RECOIL.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Mitch, I see myself out there on the big broadcast on Sunday's, but, as I just told Terry, I'm not gonna cheapen myself to do it.

MITCH

You're passionate. I get that. I spent my life dreaming about a job like this. And, I want to do it properly, too. This is my only shot to do fantasy football, full time, which I've always felt was my destiny.

SMASH CUT TO:

28

INT. HOTEL BALLROOM - DAY
(MITCH)

28

A SIXTEEN YEAR-OLD MITCH IS SITTING AT THE HEAD OF A TABLE IN A HOTEL BOARDROOM SURROUNDED BY EXTREMELY NERDY OLDER MEN. IT'S 1990 AND THE CLOTHING STYLES ARE REFLECTIVE. HE'S WEARING ZUBAZ PANTS.

MITCH

If you think I'm giving up Jim Kelly you're out of your mind, Mike.

(MORE)

MITCH (CONT'D)

As Dana Carvey says...
(doing a bad George HW Bush,
'not going to do it')

Nat Ga da! Wouldn't be prudent at
this juncture.

29

INT. FOX SPORTS - BULLPEN - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS
(MITCH, ABBY)

29

MITCH

I'm a recovering nerd.

ABBY SMILES, TAKES A SIP, LETS OUT A HUGE BURP.

ABBY

Wow! This stuff is strong!

MITCH

Are your teeth vibrating?

THE LIGHTS GO OUT AGAIN. THEY SHAKE THEIR ARMS. THE LIGHTS
COME BACK ON.

ABBY

Mitch, in fantasy, you're known for
seeing stats and matchups that no one
else sees. Why are you so stumped on
how to solve these problems? You,
more than anyone know how to make
teams work. Sure, they're fake teams,
but they're still a group of people
with individual strengths and
weaknesses. This is a matchup. What
is no one else seeing?

MITCH
(lightbulb)

You're right.

ABBY AND MITCH SHARE A SMILE.

ABBY

I'm going to go. In the eventuality
that I have to be on TV tomorrow, I
want to be sharp.

AS SHE GETS UP, SHE KNOCKS THE BEER OUT OF HIS HAND WHILE
HE'S TAKING A SIP.

ABBY (CONT'D)

I'm doing you a favor.

MITCH
(looking at beer spill)

Oh, it's burning through the carpet.

ABBY SMILES, THEN EXITS LEAVING MITCH ALONE.

30 INT. FOX SPORTS - BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS 30

IT'S MORNING. MITCH WALKS INTO THE BULLPEN ON A MISSION AND
GOES DIRECTLY TO CHUCK'S OFFICE.

31 INT. FOX SPORTS - CHUCK'S OFFICE - DAY 31
(MITCH, CHUCK)

CHUCK HAS HIS CARBERATOR OUT ON THE DESK.

MITCH
(Forceful)

Mr. Byrne, I need to talk to you!

CHUCK

Hand me the torque wrench.

MITCH PANICS. HE HAS NO IDEA WHICH ONE IS THE TORQUE WRENCH.
HE HANDS CHUCK A BUNCH OF TOOLS. CHUCK REACHES OVER AND
GRABS ONE OF THE TOOLS MITCH DIDN'T PASS.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

What's on your mind, son.

MITCH
(as if on script)

Mr. Byrne, the Mr. Byrne my dad and I loved - as us ladies do - never shied away from a challenge. Before my dad died, when he was sick, he told me that the way he dealt with his illness was to approach it like the legendary Chuck Byrne did when he got injured. Never say never. Never admit defeat. And, when the pain got too bad, to push even harder. And so, that's what I want from you. To play through the pain of playing a fake sport.

CHUCK LOOKS UP.

MITCH (CONT'D)

You told me the only stat that mattered was a win. Well I need you to help our team win. And, I kind of need you to do it now. What do you say?

LONG BEAT. MITCH STARTS TO LEAVE. CHUCK STOPS HIM.

CHUCK

You can call me Chuck.

MITCH SMILES.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

Never smile at a man.

MITCH MAKES AN ODD, STRAIGHT FACE.

MITCH

Right. Thanks, Chuck.

32

INT. FOX SPORTS - BOARDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

32

MITCH STARTS DRAWING ON THE WHITEBOARD.

MITCH

Everybody, huddle up.
(then)

Fantasy football analysis is mostly about evaluating player tendencies in certain situations as well as tremendous research. With my new assistant, Max's help I've looked at how Terry has responded to every major issue since 2003.

MAX

Thank you, Mitch--

MITCH

(to Max)

Not now.
(then)

87% of them are solved by what generates the most revenue and public perception. The primary driving force for players to tune into a fantasy advice show is credibility.

(MORE)

MITCH (CONT'D)

Explains why my YouTube channel had a million subscribers and I never wore pants.

MAX LAUGHS. MITCH GIVES HIM A LOOK AND CONTINUES.

MITCH (CONT'D)

They'll never take Abby seriously dressed like that and I have the data for Terry to back it up.
(takes breath)

In terms of revenue, MC2, this show needs to be profitable, so it needs a sponsor. I can't have you plugging your energy beer on air... unless you're the title sponsor. Your contract gives you a bonus for any new show you are on. You can use that bonus to cover the cost.
(then, to Abby)

Abby, give Summer your outfit--
(then, to Summer)

Max, as the only member of the team I can afford to lose to possible death, I need you to brief Chuck on what he can and can't say on the air.

MAX

I will make it my mission, Obi Wan.

MITCH

And, Summer, you're in charge of the show's social media campaign. Twitter, Youtube, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, and whatever new one there is this week.

SUMMER

ThoughtDump.
(then)

Do you mind if I just post pictures of myself in different outfits?

MITCH

Perfect.

THEY ALL LOOK AT MITCH LIKE HE'S A SOLID LEADER.

MITCH (CONT'D)

Guys, five days ago, I asked you to put your trust in me. And, you did. I think. Now, if you could just keep that going for the next two hours and forty-five minutes, I promise we'll all get what we want out of it.

ABBY

What about Chuck? How are you going to teach him about fantasy?

MITCH

I have a plan for that.

EVERYONE IS SEATED AT THE DESK. THE LOGO ON THE FRONT IS FOR MC2'S POWERALE. THERE'S A POWERALE IN FRONT OF HIM ON HIS DESK. THE MUSIC STARTS. GRAPHICS PACKAGE INTO THE SHOW.

SUMMER

Hi there and welcome to FOX Fantasy brought to you by Powerale - a drink the FDA calls 'almost approved.' I'm Summer Dale and joining me are Abby Tanner, Michael Coleman II, Chuck Byrne and Mitch Berry. Mitch, welcome to FOX sports.

MITCH TAKES IT ALL IN.

MITCH
(after a beat)

Thanks Summer. I can't tell you how happy I am to be here.

MITCH SMILES AND LOOKS AT THE PEOPLE ON THE DESK.

MITCH (CONT'D)

Okay, let's start with a big NFC matchup--

FLASH TO:

34

INT. FOX SPORTS - FOX FANTASY SET - MOMENTS LATER
(MC2)

34

MC2

I'm going to have to go with Dez Bryant this week. He's been on fire. It's like he's been chugging Powerale! Now available at Kroeger.

FLASH TO:

35 INT. FOX SPORTS - FOX FANTASY SET - MOMENTS LATER
 (ABBY)

35

ABBY IS DRESSED IN HER NORMAL CLOTHING.

ABBY

And, if you look at his yards per
attempt since they implemented the
zone read, he's been a top ten back
and continues to be a tough tackle.

ANGLE ON: TERRY AND MAX WATCHING HER.

MAX
(really impressed, he might
have a crush)

She's really good! Just. Really.
Good.

TERRY

You're good at stats, right?

MAX

Yes.

TERRY

Word of warning. Don't calculate the
odds of someone like you ending up
with someone like her.

FLASH TO:

36 INT. FOX SPORTS - FOX FANTASY SET - MOMENTS LATER
 (CHUCK, SUMMER)

36

SUMMER

And, lastly, let's check in with the
legendary Chuck Byrne.

CHUCK

(beat of silence as everyone
waits to see how he'll do)

I really don't understand fantasy

football.

(beat, panic)

MITCH JUMPS IN.

MITCH

So, tell me, this weekend, how do you
think the Cowboys will do against the
Chiefs?

CHUCK

(considers)

They'll do well. Dallas will dominate
the line of scrimmage. They're going
to murder Kansas City, and...
(trying to say Pee)

Urrrrghhh on their graves.

MITCH

So you'd expect a heavy dose of
DeMarco Murray in this game and a more
conservative passing game approach?

CHUCK

Yes.

MITCH

That's a great fantasy analysis.
Totally agree. Big day for DeMarco
Murray, he's a top 3 running back this
week while lower expectations for Tony
Romo.

(MORE)

MITCH (CONT'D)

Chuck, Eagles are on a bye this week
but who should Philly use as their QB,
Nick Foles or Mark Sanchez?

CHUCK

I prefer Sanchez over Foles. He's
better at pre-snap recognition than
Foles, which is a key element of Chip
Kelly's offense and my buddies on the
team tell me he works his tail off.
Totally against the Mexican stereotype-

-

37

INT. FOX SPORTS - STAGE - LATER

37

(MITCH, MC2, ABBY, SUMMER, MAX, TERRY, CHUCK, TROY AIKMAN)

PULL BACK FROM A BUNCH OF CHAMPAGNE GLASSES BEING CLINKED
TOGETHER. THE WHOLE GANG IS TOGETHER ON THE STAGE, POST
SHOW. CHUCK IS ON ONE SIDE OF MITCH. MC2 ON THE OTHER.

MC2

To Mitch! Our new leader!
(then going for a hug)

Bring it in, big guy.

EVERYONE CHEERS, CLINKS GLASSES. CHUCK HAS A FULL TUMBLER OF
WHISKEY. HE DRINKS THE WHOLE THING.

MC2 (CONT'D)

So, is this everything you hoped it
would be?

MITCH

It's been amazing! It's all been a
blur.

MC2

A blur? Oh, shoot, that's probably
the Powerale.

ANGLE ON: ABBY AND TERRY.

TERRY

You looked really good out there. Put
a little scratch in the glass ceiling.
A tiny, almost insignificant little
scratch.

ABBY

(smiles)

Thanks.

TERRY

(to Summer)

Summer, you don't need to wear clothes
like that any more.

SUMMER

No, I'm good.

ANGLE ON: MITCH. ABBY COMES OVER.

ABBY

(to Mitch)

Looks like you've turned your fantasy
into a reality.

MITCH

(surveying the group)

Yeah, I guess so.

MITCH NOTICES THAT ABBY IS DRESSED IN A SEXY OUTFIT.

MITCH (CONT'D)

Oh, hey!

NERVOUS, HE IMMEDIATELY ANGLES HIS EYES AT HER FOREHEAD.

MITCH (CONT'D)

You did a great job on the show.

ABBY

(re: eyes on forehead)

It's okay. I can be eye candy
sometimes.

SHE WALKS AWAY, MITCH WATCHES HER GO. CHUCK COMES OVER.

CHUCK

Alright, Mitch, now that you've had
your fantasy...
(Replaces his light beer with
dark scotch)

... let me give you a dose of reality.

MITCH TAKES A SIP. WOW! STRONG!

CHUCK (CONT'D)

It's a bathtub whiskey I distilled in
a rusty wheelbarrow behind my shed.

MITCH TRIES TO SAY THANKS BUT A WEIRD NOISE COMES FROM HIS
THROAT. CHUCK PATS HIM ON THE SHOULDER, LAUGHING.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

I'll show you how to be a man.

CHUCK LEAVES. TERRY COMES OVER.

TERRY

I bet big on you and it paid off. You
achieved your goal - of making sure I
didn't fail.

MITCH

Yeah, I think it went well.

TERRY

Don't get too cocky. My dad had a saying about being too proud of your accomplishments. He'd say... 'Don't be.'

MITCH

He really was a man of few words.

TERRY

Now that we've got the show off the ground, I have a new assignment for you: make the show number one.
(beat)

By next week.
(then, as she walks away)

Oh, and fire Chuck.

OFF MITCH'S PANICKED LOOK, WE...

END OF SHOW

*
*