

FIVE MEN, FOUR BEDS

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A New Play

By

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STATEMENT/SYNOPSIS

For decades, I have been fascinated with the psychology and sociology of heterosexual men who make their livings within the erotic nightlife of gay society. In particular, men who work at gay bars wearing only underwear or shorts while serving drinks primarily to gay men. Beginning with Studio 54, (not an exclusively gay establishment) working practically naked in a bar or club became elite as well as lucrative in the right circumstances. Dancers, bartenders, waiters (even porn stars), began being seen more like celebrities as the decade's old world of gay nightlife came out of the shadows and into the public spot light. Gorgeous men with perfect bodies could gain local notoriety and status. It was competitive and in many cases, revered.

The reasons why a straight man may work in his briefs in a gay bar have changed over the years. At least within more metropolitan areas, almost everyone knows or is related to someone who is gay. Your "masculinity" isn't challenged if you have gay friends. "Gay" now crosses political lines where it's no longer only a socially liberal view. I'm not mistaking tolerance for acceptance. Bigotry is forever. But gay is as mainstream now as race or religion.

"Five Men, Four Beds," takes place over a period of approximately a year, set entirely in the loft apartment rented by five long time friends who work together in a fictional gay bar in New York City. With ages spanning 15 years, they have formed a family. Two of these men, Rudy and Heath, are gay. The other three, Sal, Jason and Apollo are not. Though the unseen backdrop of gay New York is prevalent and central to the plot, this is not specifically a "gay" play. As a dialogue driven play in two acts, this piece is "a year in life" of five men who chose to be a family.

As with many families, related or self made, there is one character, Sal, who seems to be the center, the peacekeeper, and rarely the cause of dissension among the ranks. He is 30, in a committed relationship with a woman, and has worked in gay bars for most of his adult life. He knows who he is and couldn't care less how others view him. Jason, also straight, is the oldest of the crew. As with Sal, he has spent a great deal of time working in gay bars. He likes the big money and the attention, but he lives day to day and turning 41, still hasn't grown up. He and Sal are very close and have known each other longer than the others. And of all the guys, Jason is probably the one most dependent on this family structure. Heath, age 27, is a southern born gay man, moved to a city to find emotional freedom. Unlike the others in the house, he is attractive, but not on the level of beauty that the others possess. Rudy, also gay, is Heath's lover. Rudy is 26, prettier than he is handsome, and flamboyant, with no

apologies for being who he is. He comes from a wealthy Long Island family whom he avoids as much as possible. As the play begins, Heath and Rudy are finally in a good place after an emotional betrayal that took place a year before the action of the play begins. Apollo, presumably straight, is returning home after being on the road with a musical slated to have opened on Broadway in the near future. This would have been Apollo's big break, but the show closed out of town. Apollo, age 34, is the most outwardly vulnerable of the group. With some deep emotional scars not revealed from his childhood, he's a dichotomy of strong faithfulness and fragile heart.

Other than two walk-on parts: an unnamed delivery person of either sex and a male employee from the bar named Blake, the one outside character we meet is Rudy's mother, Ruth Moskowitz. After she finds out that Rudy has been badly injured, she shows up uninvited to the loft. Though her character brings comic relief, the serious tone of a child not living up to her/his parent's expectations is front and center and something universally shared, I think.

Colorblind casting: Though Rudy and Ruth are written as being Jewish, Heath a Southern white boy and Sal, Italian, none are defined by their ethnicity. All characters can be played by actors of any background.

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Characters (in order of appearance)

HEATH McADOO

Heath is a handsome, Southern born 27 year old gay man. He, as with all the main characters, works in a very popular gay bar in New York City. He is in a committed relationship with his partner, Rudy.

RUDY MOSKOWITZ

Rudy is Heath's lover. He is very good looking, raised in great privilege on the East Coast, age 26. He is prettier than he is handsome, and unapologetically flamboyant.

JASON

Jason is a muscle bound straight man who makes his living in a gay bar. Very good looking and used to being the object of desire, he is very comfortable in his sexuality -- and sex is always on his mind. At age 40, he is not considering that his power as a nearly naked bartender will soon be compromised by aging out.

SAL KENNEDY

If there is a center of this group, it's Sal Kennedy. Straight, Italian, age 30. Trained to be a boxer, he too is built like a brick shithouse. As with all the men, he has been working half naked in a gay bar for years. He knows which side his bread is buttered on. He has a long term, serious relationship with a woman named Jill. He's an all around good and moral guy.

APOLLO (also called PLUTO)

Apollo, age 34, arguably straight. Also terribly attractive. He has been out of town working on a Musical slated for Broadway, his big break. He returns because the show closed out of town.

DELIVERY PERSON

Male or female walk-on, delivering a wedding cake.

BLAKE

Blake is a walk-on character. He works at the bar and comes to the apartment at the end of ACT I to deliver news.

RUTH MOSKOWITZ

Ruth is Rudy's mother. An impeccably dressed, wealthy woman from Long Island, in her 50's. She fits the general stereotype of overbearing mothers from every culture. In this case, she's Jewish.

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ACT I

Scene 1
Apollo Returns (Part I)

Early Morning, Present Day.....Living Room of the Loft

Scene 2
Apollo Returns (Part II)

Later, the Same Day.....Living Room of the Loft

Scene 3
A Groom, A Groom and a Broom

Two Months Later.....Living Room of the Loft

Scene 4
Two Men and a Punching Bag

Immediately Following.....Jason's Bedroom

Scene 5
Who Ya Callin' Gay?

A Couple Months Later, 1 A.M.....Living Room of the Loft

ACT II

Scene 1
Boys in Black

One Week Later, Morning.....Living Room of the Loft

Scene 2
Emanuel, I Knew You Well

A Couple of Days Later, Daytime.....Living Room of the Loft

Scene 3
Big Brother Watching Wasn't Enough

Months Later, Daytime.....Living Room of the Loft

Scene 4
The Good-Buy

Sometime Later, Very Early A.M.....Living Room of the Loft

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A NEW PLAY IN TWO ACTS

BY

ANDREW C SAREWITZ

FIVE MEN FOUR BEDS

ACT I, SCENE 1

Apollo Returns (Part I)

INT. VERY EARLY MORNING, ABOUT 4 AM. COMMUNAL AREA OF A LOFT APARTMENT IN NEW YORK CITY, SHARED BY FIVE MEN.

IT'S THE NIGHT BEFORE THE RETURN OF THEIR ROOMMATE, **APOLLO**, WHO WILL BE COMING HOME AFTER TOURING WITH A MUSICAL SHOW INTENDED FOR BROADWAY THAT CLOSED OUT OF TOWN.

LIGHTS UP. Asleep on the couch is
HEATH. age 26. Gay, Southern born,
attractive, in boxers, shirt off.

ENTER THREE MEN.

RUDY: HEATH'S LOVER, AGE 27, VERY ATTRACTIVE. PRETTIER THAN HE IS HANDSOME. FLAMBOYANT AND SECURE IN HIS SEXUALITY.

SAL: RIDICULOUSLY HANDSOME STRAIGHT MAN, AGE 30. A MALE STRIPPER'S BODY.

JASON: STRAIGHT, MASCULINE WITH VERY MUSCULAR BODY, 40 YEARS OLD. THEY ARE ALL FRIENDS AND ROOMMATES.

They are ad-libbing, loud and rowdy
until **RUDY** sees **HEATH** on the couch.

RUDY

Guys! For fuck's sake, keep it down.

JASON

Sleeping fricking beauty.

HEATH

It's okay. I'm up.

Rudy walks over to the couch, leans
over and kisses Heath on the mouth.

RUDY

Sorry babe. Why are you out here?

HEATH

Was waiting for you.

The guys all get comfortable. Take off
their coats.

Having just come from work at a gay bar, they should all be either in very tight tee-shirts or wearing something that shows off their assets. Jason might even take his shirt off.

SAL

Heathcliff. Didn't think you'd be home.

RUDY

He's not working a graveyard schedule.

HEATH

And Blake let me go early tonight. It was dead in the lower lounge.

JASON

That's fucking lucky.

HEATH

I don't know. The money wasn't great. Just a few out-of-town businessmen. Not exactly big tippers.

SAL

Sorry to hear it bud.

Jason sits down, pull out a plastic packet.

JASON

Anyone want a bump?

HEATH AND RUDY (AD LIB)

No thanks.

SAL

Jesus Jay, it's three in the morning.

JASON

So the fuck what?

Jason does a bump. Then picks up his iPhone.

JASON (CONT'D)

You want a hit?

SAL

Hell no. I need to get some sleep and I've got to hit the gym early tomorrow. (To Heath) Any word from Apollo?

HEATH

Shit, I forgot. He lands at 5:30.

SAL

P.M. I hope.

HEATH

I assume so. He's gonna take a cab from the airport.

SAL

How'd he sound?

HEATH

I didn't talk with him. Just got an email.

SAL (TO JASON, OBSESSED WITH
HIS IPHONE)

Who the hell are you texting?

RUDY

He's trying to get laid.

JASON

Fuck you.

RUDY

That means he can't find anyone on line...

JASON

Hey, it's not as easy for heteros. You boys will fuck a tree if its branches are man-scaped. And since both parties are arguably men, you're all happy to just get off and get out, no clingy drama.

SAL

He means you can't pull that crap with women. (To Jason). You know that shit you inhale makes you hornier than an adolescent watching "Show Girls."

HEATH

When it doesn't make your dick go limp.

Jason finds a profile on his phone.

JASON

Shit. Check this one out.

Sal and Rudy walk over and look at the phone.

SAL

Gotta say, she's not bad. Hard to tell from the photo, but it looks like she's got great tits. What's she holding in her arms? Is that a dog or a guinea pig?

RUDY

Looks like a Shih-tzu she's smothering. (Pause) I dunno. She's not all that. God Jason, practically every gay man at the bar falls at your feet. You can't do better than her?

JASON

What the hell do you care? You and Heathbar can go fuck your brains out. My balls are aching.

HEATH

You're such a charmer. Give it here. Let me see...

Heath gets off the couch and looks at the iPhone.

HEATH (CONT'D)

You guys are morons. She's sexy as hell. And she actually looks older than 15. And that's a Maltese she's molesting.

SAL

As long as she worships Jay Jay's body like he's Tom Brady, he don't give a crap how she looks.

JASON

That's not fucking true. Rudy worships my body --

RUDY

-- fuck you -- who's Tom Brady?

JASON

-- and he's not nearly as pretty as this chick.

HEATH

Are you kidding me? Rudy, you are much prettier.

RUDY

Thank you honey.

HEATH (TO RUDY)

I always have your back, babe.

JASON

You always have him on his back --

SAL

-- Jesus.

RUDY

Classy, Jay Jay.

JASON

Oh, man! I don't believe this. She wants to meet for coffee first. God damn it. (Drops the phone on the table). You gay boys got it so good.

SAL

I'm starving. Should've stopped at BlueJay Diner.

JASON

So order something. They deliver twenty-four/seven.

Sal goes to the kitchen area and pulls out a menu.

SAL

You want your regular?

JASON

Let me see the menu.

SAL

You always order the same thing.

JASON

Not always. I like looking at the choices. You mind?

Grabs the menu from Sal.

SAL

We all know what you're gonna get.

JASON AND SAL

Club sandwich, mayo on the side, French fries, Diet Coke.

JASON

And lemon meringue pie.

SAL

Pie?

RUDY

Are you kidding? Where the fuck does it all go?

HEATH

Not his brain...

SAL

Or his dick...

RUDY (TO JASON)

I don't know what the hell you did in a past life to deserve that body.

SAL

He's always hungry, even if he's bumped up or has a stomach flu. (To Jason) Order me a cheese burger, medium well. American cheese.

Jason texts number and begins typing in his order for food.

JASON

I haven't eaten since I started my shift. (To Sal). You want fries?

SAL

Yeah. Extra crispy. Oh, and a Vitamin Water. Orange. (To Heath and Rudy). You girls want something?

RUDY (TO HEATH)

Anything babe?

HEATH

I'm good. I just kinda wanna go to bed.

RUDY

You guys care if we bug out?

SAL

Course not. Good night boys.

JASON

Later, bitches.

RUDY AND HEATH (AD LIB)

Good night.

RUDY AND HEATH EXIT TO THEIR BEDROOM.

Jason finishes typing on iPhone.

JASON

Okay. Just texted the order. You got cash?

SAL

Just charge it.

JASON

I already placed the order.

SAL

So text them back.

JASON

Just give me 25 bucks. What's the big fucking deal? You're worse than having a girlfriend.

SAL

You're a dick, you know? (Pulls a wad of bills out of his pocket) Here. Jesus.

Jason sees the pile of cash Sal has.

JASON

Damn Sal. You scored big tonight.

SAL

This ain't even the main stash. That group of trust-fund white boys from TriBeCa sitting in the corner of the bar who kept ordering Mojitos -- what a pain in the ass to make on a busy night -- Jesus -- they forked up a load of bills.

JASON

They think you're a god. They worship at your altar.

SAL

You missed the drama at the front bar. A group of screaming girls in from Connecticut celebrating a bachelorette party at a gay bar. You know they tipped like shit.

JASON

Were any of them hot?

SAL

Dude, when I'm pouring drinks all I care about is tips. And not all the customers know I'm straight and that's the way I wanna keep it. These annoying twats were driving half the customers crazy. That group of regulars, you know, that older dude Andy and his crew, up and left when those Kardashian wannabes honed in on them.

JASON

So talk to Evan about it. It's his damn bar.

SAL

There is no way he's gonna turn down business. If girls want to stare at "the gays" or think they're cool by hanging out in a boy bar, Evan could care less. As long as the bar rings up the tab.

JASON

Such a short sighted jack ass. There are a dozen new gay bars in the hood now.

SAL

That's Evan's defense. The competition is tough so he'll take any money that walks in the door.

JASON

I wonder what he'd do if a pile of straight bachelor party frat boys started coming in each week.

SAL

You kidding? He'd love it. Rough trade. He'd offer the hot ones a bump and try to blow someone in the office. Even if he got his ass kicked, it'd just turn him on.

Jason goes for his iPhone again.

SAL (CONT'D)

Seriously dude?

JASON

I've gotta get my dick sucked tonight. I'm going crazy.

SAL

If you bump anymore of that shit your dick'll be useless.

JASON

Never happens. I could stay hard waiting on line at the DMV. I wanna get my hands on some Viagra sometime. Go for some ultimate marathon fuck-fest.

SAL

Your dick might fall off. How long do you think you can keep it up?

JASON

Keeping it up ain't the problem.

SAL

I'm serious Jay Jay. You'll be found dead with your cock hanging out your fly and patches of white powder all over your face.

JASON

What do you want from me? You're lucky Salvatore.

SAL

Why is that?

JASON

What do you mean 'why is that'? Because of Jill. You've always known what you've wanted and met the right girl early on. That's fucking lucky.

SAL

Jason, if you'd stop trying to plug every pretty girl that drools over your abs...

JASON

(drops his iPhone, frustrated)

Hey Sal, I'm not apologizing for having a good time. I spend all night serving drinks to gay men, getting my ass slapped and pecs groped and being offered bills to let someone suck my dick like I'm a whore. And let's not forget the guys who try to follow me home after work...

SAL

You won't get no sympathy from me. How much money did you pocket in tips this weekend?

JASON

Alright, I know. But sometimes these boys just cross the line. That guy...what's his fuck -- Stefan from Canada with the French accent? He's always been cool and, you know, respectful. Tips really good. Last week he got plastered and reached up my shorts.

SAL

What'd ya do?

JASON

He's a regular and I like the guy. What the fuck was I supposed to do? I'm twice his size. I could break him in two. I just cracked up, pushed him away and pretended to be complimented.

SAL

I'm sorry Jay Jay, but it's part of the gig.

JASON

What does Jill do if some shithead grabs her ass?

SAL

Jill can take care of herself. She's been dealing with agents and casting directors for years. And I know what she'd say. She'd tell you to grow a pair.

Buzzer rings.

JASON

That was fast.

Jason goes to the door, answers intercom phone.

JASON (CONT'D)

Come on up. (To Sal) Be right back.

JASON GRABS MONEY OFF THE TABLE AND EXITS OUT THE DOOR.

RUDY ENTERS FROM HIS ROOM JUST IN SHORTS.

RUDY

Who's at the door?

SAL

Just delivery from the diner. Go back to bed.

RUDY

Nah, I'm wide awake. Heath's out cold. I'll let him sleep,
the sweetheart.

JASON RE-ENTERS WITH TWO BAGS OF DINER FOOD. TAKES THEM TO
THE KITCHEN TABLE AND PULLS OUT THE FOOD.

JASON

(To Rudy)
Couldn't sleep?

RUDY

'Fraid not. I'm up...

JASON

Want some fries?

RUDY

No thanks. I'm not hungry.

Jason pulls out everything and he and
Sal start munching on their breakfast.

RUDY (CONT'D)

Shit, I guess I'll steal a few.

Rudy grabs some fries.

SAL

So predictable.

RUDY (TO JASON)

How can you eat when you're tweaked up?

JASON

I'm always hungry. If I don't finish, it'll be a snack
tomorrow.

(pause)

RUDY

You guys ready for Apollo's homecoming?

SAL

'Course.

RUDY

Cool. Just don't, you know... make a big deal out of his
coming back early.

SAL

Rudy, chill. Musicals close.

JASON (TO RUDY)

What about your man?

RUDY

Heathcliff's been over Apollo for a long time.

JASON

That's not what I mean.

SAL

He means maybe you're not over Heath's thing for Apollo.

RUDY

That's all settled now.

JASON

If you say so. (to Sal) What does Jill think?

SAL

About what? Guys hitting on me?

RUDY

Can we drop it please? For Christ's sake. And it's not the same thing. You both know who you are and what you like. Apollo is a whole different vegetable.

JASON

Or fruit...

RUDY

Jason, shut the fuck up.

JASON

Whoa. Dude, I'm kidding. Chill.

HEATH ENTERS FROM BEDROOM DOOR.

HEATH

Rudy, come back to bed. I can't sleep without you.

RUDY

Coming babe.

HEATH EXITS.

RUDY

I have to go into work at 2 tomorrow to set up. Either of you gonna be home when Apollo gets here?

SAL

I go in at 8:00 so I'm not sure. Don't worry Rudy. He knows we're around.

RUDY

I think one of us should be here.

JASON

Pluto'll be fine. Stop being his mother and go be with your boy.

RUDY

Yeah. Okay. 'Night.

RUDY EXITS TO BEDROOM

SAL

Jay, you gonna eat that pie?

JASON

Take some.

SAL

You going out after this?

JASON (MOUTHFUL OF PIE)

Hmmmm?

SAL

You going trolling?

JASON

Might hit Lola's Lounge and see if anything's pumping. They get some of those bridge and tunnel club kids late night. Hot and desperate girls.

SAL

Into worshipping your pecs.

JASON

And my nine inch dick.

SAL

Allegedly...

JASON

Sometimes I like 'em a little insecure. And a bump always helps relax a girl's tonsils. I haven't shot my spunk in days. I need to unload a wad or three.

SAL

You're too romantic, dude. Ever consider slowing down?

JASON

Hey, procrastinate, you masturbate. If that doesn't pan out, I'll go back on line and try to find some whore to ball.

Sal is staring at Jason.

JASON (CONT'D)

What...?

SAL

Nothing. I just sometimes wonder how my best friend can talk such shit about women.

JASON

Hey bro. Don't judge me.

SAL

I'm not. It's my taste in friends I'm questioning.

JASON

Oh, fuck off, Hercules.

Sal starts to clean up the leftovers on the table.

SAL

I'm gonna take a shower and hit the hay. I still have some of that shitty cologne on my neck that guy Orry from Jersey City was wearing. He always has to kiss me on both cheeks and hug me hello and goodbye. I end up stinking like Bayonne for the rest of the night. (Pause) I might miss Apollo when he gets home tomorrow. What's your schedule?

JASON

I'll be here. If I have to go in late to work, then I will.

SAL

There's the friend I recognize.

Sal walks toward his door.

SAL (CONT'D)

Have fun tonight.

JASON

That's the plan. See you tomorrow.

SAL

You mean later today.

SAL EXITS TO HIS BEDROOM.

Jason get up, looks in the mirror.

JASON (CONT'D)

Damn. I'm a rock star. A fucking rock star.

JASON EXITS THROUGH FRONT DOOR.

BLACK.

ACT I, SCENE 2

Apollo Returns (Part II)

INT. LOFT. EARLY EVENING, SAME DAY. LIGHTS UP ON LIVING AREA. BANGING ON THE DOOR. **JASON** COMES OUT OF HIS ROOM, SHORTS ON, TRYING TO PULL HIS SHIRT ON OVER HIS HEAD WHILE RUNNING TO THE DOOR.

JASON

Coming, God damnit.

Apollo (V.O.)

Shit, I can't find my keys.

JASON

Stop banging, you jack ass. I'll be right there...

JASON OPENS THE DOOR. **Apollo** ENTERS CARRYING SUITCASES AND WEARING A BACKPACK.

Apollo drops his stuff on the floor. He and Jason hug warmly. Apollo is 34, movie star looks.

Apollo

Jesus. Rush hour. The traffic from the airport was deadly.

JASON

No limo for the big star?

Apollo

You know how it is. The Rolls is in the shop.

JASON

Again?

Apollo

I'd still be stuck in traffic.

ENTER **SAL** FULLY DRESSED FROM HIS BEDROOM.

JASON

When there's a full bar and you can stretch out, who cares?

Apollo (SEEING SAL)
Salvatore...

SAL

Brothah.

Sal wraps his arms around Apollo and they embrace in a long, genuine hug.

SAL (CONT'D)

Great to have you home. God damn. You look good.

Apollo

I have some more shit by the elevator. Be right back.

Apollo EXITS

JASON

He looks like crap.

SAL

Shut up, he'll hear you.

Apollo (V.O.)

I heard you.

JASON

Shit...

Apollo RE-ENTERS WITH TWO MORE BAGS.

Apollo

Let me shower and man-scape and gargle for about 20 minutes. I haven't been to the gym in a month. And of course I couldn't sleep on the plane. There was a woman with two kids sitting across the aisle. She stared at me with a look on her face that warned, "don't fuck with me -- you try traveling by yourself with kids." I guess I was scowling at her.

Looking around.

Apollo (CONT'D)

What... What's different...? (Realizing) You painted the place!

SAL

You can blame that on Jason.

Apollo

No, it looks great.

JASON

I hated that puke yellow. Looks much better, right?

They all move to the couch and chairs and sit.

SAL (SARCASTICALLY)

Oh yeah, that's why we painted. (To Jason) Tell him the whole story.

JASON

Wasn't me.

SAL

The hell it wasn't.

Apollo (to Jason)

What'd you do?

JASON

It wasn't actually me. Some girl got mad when I asked her to leave. She started throwing shit. Beer bottles, cranberry juice. Maraschino cherries. Rudy's commemorative Princess Diana mug --

SAL

-- He almost castrated you for that --

JASON

-- Chocolate sauce.

Apollo

Chocolate sauce? What the hell were you two doing?

JASON

Let's just say I had to replace the easy chair too.
(Gesturing to a new chair) You like it?

Apollo

Holy crap. You're like a 13 year old. Or a Labrador puppy.

JASON

Hey, she was drunk and couldn't give head worth a damn and I wanted to go to sleep.

SAL

-- And another woman showed up --

JASON

-- And another woman showed up. But in my defense she was just picking up a bra and sweater she left here the night before.

Apollo

You are unbelievable.

SAL

Didn't help that she -- the chocolate sauce one -- had practically been stalking him for months. Finally one night --

JASON

-- it was after the bar closed. She was waiting for me across the street and I thought "what the hell."

Apollo

Jesus...

SAL

It's his own fault. She comes into the bar all the time with her possè of gay boys thinking she's the center of their world. Half the time she leaves crying when one of them hooks up with another dude.

Apollo (TO JASON)

You brought home a hag? What the hell is wrong with you?

JASON

She didn't fit the profile.

Apollo

Like there's a handbook.

SAL

We all hated the yellow walls -- especially the boys -- so we dug in and had a painting party. But since Jack-Off Jason was the cause --

JASON

-- The victim --

SAL

-- He shelled out half for the paint and paid for the new chair.

JASON

Which Rudolfo and Heathcliff picked out. Some stereotypes just fit. Let the gay boys choose the furniture.

SAL

And the wall colors. It was between...what was it? "Winter Mood" and...

JASON

... "Scotch Mist" --

SAL

-- And "Macaroon Cream."

Apollo

No "Barfbag Beige?" (Gesturing to the walls) And this is...?

JASON

(being sarcastic) You can't tell?

SAL

"Macaroon Cream" of course, you ignoramus.

Apollo

You are shitting me. You two have been hanging out in the gay world waaay too long.

JASON

No, it's easy to remember. Cream, for obvious reasons and macaroon in honor of Jill.

APOLLO

Jill? I don't get it.

SAL

She's Jewish.

APOLLO

Jesus.

SAL

Him too.

JASON (TO APOLLO)

You want a beer before you shower and settle in?

APOLLO

Sure.

JASON

Sal?

SAL

I'm good.

Jason gets up and goes to the fridge,
pulls out two beers.

JASON

How's it feel, being back?

Jason walks back to the living area,
throws a beer to Apollo.

APOLLO

Okay, I guess. I don't know.

JASON

Yeah, but how does it feel, you know, coming home like this?

SAL

Jay Jay...

APOLLO

I'm good. I feel good about things. My agent is very
optimistic. She's already working on a few leads for me.
One's another musical.

JASON

Good. Okay. What about in the meantime?

SAL

Jason he just walked in the door.

JASON

I can't ask about --

APOLLO

-- I'm not sure what comes next. The show was supposed to go to Chicago and then come into town in the fall for a Broadway opening. But I guess it wasn't selling tickets in San Francisco so they pulled the plug. At least for now.

JASON

Fuck them. Well your room's still waiting.

APOLLO

I wanted to say something about that...thank you, guys. You didn't have to let me come back.

SAL

I hate to break it to you, but we weren't going to rent your room out anyway. Between the four of us, covering the rent is no problem.

APOLLO

You're really okay with my coming back?

SAL

Apollo, cut it out. This is your home.

JASON

Even if we did rent your old room, you could always crash on the couch. Or squeeze in between Rudy and Heath -- which would make Heath's wet-dreams come true.

SAL

Shut up, Jason.

APOLLO

They okay? Rudy hasn't really been talking to me, except for the occasional Instagram post.

SAL

He's fine. They're both good. They're at work. Heath will probably be home pretty early.

JASON

You going to come back to the bar? Evan would hire you again in a second.

APOLLO

I don't know. This all happened so fast.

Apollo finishes his beer.

Apollo (CONT'D)

I need to use the john. You boys hanging out?

JASON

We're both working tonight but I'm here for awhile. Hey, come in to the bar with me. The crew would love to see you. Have a few beers before the late crowd invades.

Apollo

Thanks. I don't think so. I just want to eat something and maybe get some sleep, if that's okay.

JASON

Sure.

Apollo gets up, picks up a suitcase and walks to a door to his bedroom.

Apollo

Thanks guys. Good to be home.

Apollo EXITS.

JASON

Jesus...

SAL

Fuck Jay Jay, what's wrong with you? Just leave him alone for a while.

JASON

He's a mess. Like a little lost sheep. You know he thought this was his big fucking break. The show was terrible. They're not gonna revive it. And the critics crucified him in L.A.

SAL

It's not the end of the world. Acting is a tough career. He understands that.

JASON

Sal, he's 34.

SAL

So what? You're gonna be 41.

JASON

I haven't been busting my ass for 15 years trying to be a fricking star.

SAL

No, you've been making a boat load of cash slinging drinks for gay men 'cause you're a stud and get off flirting with anyone without a seeing eye dog. You can't do this forever, ya know.

JASON

Hey, I'm gonna go till my love-handles can't be sucked out anymore. You know how many gay guys are into Daddies? Shit, I'll have enough money banked by the time I'm 50 to retire.

SAL

What time you goin' in?

JASON

Ten to closing.

SAL (CHECKING THE TIME)

I'm heading out now. You wanna get a bite to eat before work?

JASON

I need to do a quick work-out. I can get an hour in if I just do cardio and abs.

SAL

You think it's okay to leave Apollo here alone tonight?

JASON

Sal, he knows how to find us.

Sal checks his iPhone for the time.

SAL

Okay. I'll be down at BlueJay's.

Sal and Jason fist bump.

JASON

Later.

SAL

See ya.

SAL GRABS HIS COAT AND EXITS THE LOFT.

Jason walks to the fridge and grabs a protein shake. Sits back down and goes through his iPhone.

ENTER **APOLLO** FROM HIS BEDROOM

JASON

You hungry? There's not much in the fridge. Some leftover kale and crap salad Heath made. Some protein drinks and stuff.

Apollo

I'll just order something a little later. Jason, seriously. Thanks for letting me come back.

JASON

Dude, it's fine.

Apollo

Can I ask...anyone seen Angelica?

JASON

Wow. You're kidding...?

Apollo

Never mind.

JASON

I'm sorry Pluto. But what's the fucking point?

Pause. Jason reluctantly answers.

JASON (CONT'D)

I saw her last Saturday at Club Rivington with that German banker she's been with. Far as I know she's still working at the gallery.

Apollo

Sal seems good.

JASON

He is. How he keeps it in his pants while Jill's away, I don't know.

Apollo

'Course you don't. So Heath and Rudy. Things really are okay?

JASON

Finally yes, as far as I can tell. But do us all a favor and don't play the broken soul around Heath.

Apollo

God Jason. You can be such an asshole.

JASON

Look, it's gotta be said. Those boys have had my back forever. You stay the fuck away from Heathcliff. You tell me you're not gay, good for you.

I don't care if you fuck boys, girls, soup cans. But don't you play the confused card with Heath.

Apollo

Jesus Christ, I'm back five minutes and of course you're a prick.

Jason

Okay. I'm a prick. Apollo, you're one of us -- family. We're all here for you, even Rudy. Maybe no one else is going to say anything because we know how hard it was coming back home this way. But I swear to God if you fuck with Heath and Rudy --

Apollo

-- I won't mess with them. And I'm not gay. And even if I was --

Jason

-- And there it is.

Apollo

I'm not!

Jason

Whatever. If you need some guy to swoon all over your vulnerable, heartbroken, Ryan Gosling self to feel better, don't do it here.

Apollo

Thanks. Thanks for your fucking support and sensitivity. You don't give a crap about any woman who climbs into your bed. You never let anyone close enough to you to feel anything.

Jason

You really gonna turn this around on me?

Apollo

As long as you're high and getting your rocks off five nights a week, all is just fine in your vapid, shallow world.

Jason

God damn it, I'm just mad at you, that's all. You did a shitty thing. (Pause) Look, I really didn't mean to get into all this the second you came home and I'm sorry about that.

Apollo

Jay Jay I get it. But whatever you may think, I never meant to lead Heath on. I swear to God. But he listens the way none of you do. I was really fucked up after Angelica --

Jason

-- I know that and Heath was there when you needed it. But look at it this way. Our boy Heathcliff is a cute gay guy.

You look like a goddamned movie idol and porn star rolled into one. Throw in you being a mess, crying in Heath's arms, and you have to see how he might have lost himself. (Pause) I'm gonna head to the gym. Pluto, get some food, take a shower and come down to the bar. I start at 10. You'll get a rousing "welcome back" that'll feel like a standing ovation.

Apollo

Let me think about it.

Jason

Just do it, bro. And tomorrow come with me to the gym. I'll kick your ass back into shape and you can scream at me because I'm an asshole.

Apollo

Okay.

Jason

Okay.

Apollo

Good.

Jason

Good.

Jason gets up.

Jason (CONT'D)

I gotta get ready. Catch you later.

JASON EXITS TO HIS ROOM

Apollo goes to the fridge and pulls out the bowl of salad.

Apollo

God, I hate Kale.

BLACK.

ACT I, SCENE 3

A GROOM, A GROOM AND A BROOM

LIGHTS FADE UP TO LOUD MUSIC.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON. INT. LOFT TWO MONTHS LATER.

Music is playing Cher's "If I Could Turn Back Time" or some classic Cher, Whitney Houston, Madonna or some pop number that most people will know. The table is set for 6. All five roomies are there, preparing the meal, making cocktails, etc. Lights up as all the men are singing the song.

**APOLLO, HEATH, JASON, RUDY,
SAL**

"I don't know why I did the things I did.
I don't know why I said the things I said.
Pride's like a knife it cuts deep inside.
Words are like weapons they wound sometimes." Etc.

Should be over the top and funny.

**The BUZZER RINGS and all the guys
SCREAM and throw their hands up in the
air!**

They turn down the music.

HEATH

It's here!

Rudy hits the buzzer

RUDY

Yay!

APOLLO

This is so stupid...

JASON

Blasphemy!

Rudy opens the door. He looks down the hall.

RUDY

I'm so excited. It's like the first time I saw an erect penis...that wasn't attached to me. (Pause). Oh shit, here it comes. Oh my God...it's the size of a small ocean liner.

ENTER A **DELIVERY PERSON** ROLLING IN AN ENORMOUS MULTI TIER WEDDING CAKE ON A CART. TWO PLASTIC GROOMSMEN ON TOP.

DELIVERY PERSON

Wedding cake for Salvatore Kennedy?

SAL

That would be me!

DELIVERY PERSON

Congratulations, sir.

JASON

He just ordered the cake. (Jason points to Rudy and Heath)
Congratulate them!

DELIVERY PERSON

Oh. I'm sorry. (To Rudy and Heath) Congratulations,
gentlemen.

RUDY

Thank you. Please just sail her over there.

DELIVERY PERSON

I hope you'll be very happy.

RUDY

That's so nice of you to say. I'm sure we will be.

**Rudy walks up to the Delivery Person,
hands him/her a tip and then kisses
him/her on the lips.**

DELIVERY PERSON

Oh. Well. Thank you. Ummmm, thank you. Have a great day.

DELIVERY PERSON EXITS

JASON

Rudy, you whore. Sexual harassment. And now that you're a married lady and everything.

HEATH

Please. He's already feeling his 7 year itch.

APOLLO

Is that in gay years?

RUDY (ELIZA DOOLITTLE ACCENT)

I'm a good girl, I am!!

HEATH (REFERENCING THE CAKE)

That thing is a monstrosity.

JASON

Hey! It's the next best thing to a cake with a stripper popping out. This one you can actually eat.

SAL (TO JASON)

I've seen you eat many a stripper...

JASON

True, but today is the boys' day. No vaginal talk. Just this extremely fattening chocolate layer cake with vanilla cream icing and frozen margaritas by the quart. Rudy, you're not knocked up are you?

RUDY

How rude. I'm a virgin.

SAL

Of course you are.

JASON

(Announcing, like a flight attendant) All bulimic behavior, please confine to one of the two and a half bathrooms.

APOLLO

You tacky, déclassé plebes. Maple-soy glazed salmon with marinated artichoke hearts, asparagus vinaigrette and mashed potatoes -- thank you, El Morocco delivery -- before dessert and regurgitation.

Everyone grabs platters and cocktails for dinner and takes them to the table as they all sit.

HEATH

Should we wait for Jill?

SAL

She said to start without her. She has no idea when she'll get out of rehearsal.

RUDY

Can you blame her for not wanting to be around this bunch? We're like an adolescent fraternity.

Everyone sits. Ad libs, taking plates of food, drinks, etc.

APOLLO

Did you call your parents to tell them your news?

RUDY

Why bother?

SAL

You don't think they might feel shafted? I know it was kind of spur of the moment, but still.

HEATH

Unless Rudy showed up in a white gown and with a working uterus, Big Daddy will be in church with his Alabama baptist klan praying for our hell-bound souls.

RUDY

You've all met Heath's father. He's very polite and genteel to my face. Always smiling. Southern fucking gentleman.

APOLLO (TO RUDY)

Well what about your mom and dad, Rudolfo?

RUDY

They've never approved of anything I do.

SAL

You don't give them enough credit. 'Specially your mom.

RUDY

Please, Salvatore. I don't even think their biggest disappointment is that Heath has a penis. That's just the cherry on top. Maybe if I was a Princeton Graduate with an MD from Yale and a private practice in Dix Hills, and throw in a Nobel Prize in physics, they might consider blessing a wedding of mine. But selling drinks to homosexuals while I'm half naked and marrying a no good white trash southern baptist? What would their friends at Temple Beth Shalom say?

JASON

Fuck 'em if they can't take a Jew.

HEATH

We wanted to keep today just for us. Maybe we'll throw a big party later on down the road.

SAL (RAISING HIS GLASS)

Men, please join me in toasting the bride and bride. (Pause). Okay. My serious face.

JASON

God, not that...

SAL

Gentlemen, this is a great day. Not just because you're able to get hitched.

JASON

-- And divorced...

SAL

It was an honor to stand up for you this morning. We've traveled a long road together. Before we met -- all of you -- well, now I know what true friendship is. I wish you both all the happiness you can handle. And when you have your first kid -- and I don't mean a Cockerdoodle puppy -- Salvatore is a very good name!

Apollo

What if it's a girl?

SAL

Salvadoretta? To Heath and Rudy!

Everyone (ad Lib)

Cheers. Congratulations.

JASON

No longer living in sin. How's it feel?

HEATH

Rudy's a little nervous.

RUDY

You know...finally giving up my purity.

SAL

Ha!

HEATH

No, it's true. We waited until we were legal in the eyes of God and the law.

Apollo

Your minister and rabbi appreciate that, I'm sure.

HEATH

Fortunately we had the talk.

RUDY

Yes, we decided to wait until the wedding night.

HEATH

You know the parable: "No 'boys for rent' until after Lent" --

JASON

-- What Testament is that from? --

RUDY

-- Except under extreme circumstances.

Apollo

Which are...?

Rudy and Heath look at each, turn and say in unison:

RUDY AND HEATH
If he looks like Chris Hemsworth.

JASON
Or if he is Chris Hemsworth.

RUDY
Then we'd have to get his wife's blessing.

SAL (TO APOLLO)
Pluto, didn't you work with his wife in a play or something?

APOLLO
That was Chris Evans. And it was his girlfriend, not his wife. But I think they've split up. And that was just a backers' audition.

JASON
Well, why don't you get Chris Evans' ex-girlfriend's blessing for you guys to get fucked by Chris Hemsworth?

HEATH
Huh?

SAL
That would make a great wedding present. But you couldn't return it if it don't fit.

RUDY
I'd make it fit.

APOLLO
Would you settle for Chris Evans?

RUDY
Settle? Let's see... Would I rather have sex with Thor or Captain America? A true dilemma.

SAL
It's a fair question. 'Specially when we're all wasted. So, if you had to choose one or the other, who would you pick? Evans or Hemsworth?

APOLLO
That's ridiculous. There's no loser! They're both hotter than Greek gods.

JASON (TO APOLLO)
Which one would you pick?

Uncomfortable silence

RUDY

Jason...

Apollo (TO JASON)

Fuck you.

JASON

No thanks. To quote Papa Sal, it's a fair question.

SAL (TO JASON)

What the hell is wrong with you?

JASON

What...? We're all family here.

HEATH

Jay what are you doing?

Apollo (TO JASON)

Why don't you answer the question yourself, you prick?

SAL

Enough guys. Jesus Christ --

JASON

-- No Sal, I'll answer it. (Pause) If Apollo does.

Heath tries to calm things down.

HEATH

How about Kerry Washington versus Kate Beckinsale?

Apollo (SEETHING)

That won't work. They're both adult women. For Jason they'd have to star on the Disney Channel.

RUDY

What the fuck is happening? Everybody shut the hell up.

JASON (TO APOLLO)

Just answer the question. Didn't you once say we all have a piece of it in us? What's the big fucking deal? Hemsworth or Evans?

Apollo gets up from the table.

JASON (CONT'D) (TO HEATH)

I'm sure Heath is dying to know. I mean, after all --

SAL

-- Shut up Jay.

HEATH

Apollo, sit the fuck down. (Apollo does) Jason, what do you want? Really. Tell us.

JASON

Nothing. Never mind.

HEATH

This is what you do. You want to go at it? You want to humiliate Rudy and make Apollo and me apologize till our fucking lips bleed?

JASON

Heath, I --

HEATH

On my fucking wedding day, you self absorbed asshole!

RUDY (TO HEATH)

Honey, calm down.

HEATH

I'd say this is just between Rudy and me --

JASON

-- and Apollo --

HEATH (EXPLODING)

-- and not you, fuck head! You seem to think it's been an open discussion for the past year. What the fuck are you so pissed about anyway? If Rudy and I can handle it like adults, why do you have to keep punishing all of us? Why don't you get a fucking life you soulless cunt.

SAL

Heathcliff! Jason! To your corners.

HEATH

Sal, I love you but I'm sick to death of Jason acting like some petulant fifteen year old girl who can't stand it if all the attention isn't on her.

JASON

You have some set of balls on you for a faggot.

SAL AND RUDY

Jason!

HEATH

Really? Faggot? Is that the best you can come up with?

JASON (TO HEATH)

(Standing up) How about I kick the shit out of you till you're knocked out cold. Bring it. Come on Apollo.

Silence

HEATH (TO JASON)

I'm Heath...

Silence.

JASON

Fuck this.

JASON EXITS TO HIS ROOM

RUDY

What just happened?

APOLLO

Guys, I'm sorry.

SAL

I'll go talk to him.

RUDY

No Sal. I'll do it.

APOLLO

I didn't mean to --

HEATH

-- Pluto, stop. You've been putting up with everyone's ass whippings and took it like a man. Actually, you took it like a friend.

RUDY

Jason wanted to pick a fight and he went for the soft target.

SAL (TO RUDY)

Let me talk to him. Maybe it shouldn't have anything to do with this but...

RUDY

What?

HEATH

Honey, Sal's straight.

SAL

Give me a few minutes.

SAL EXITS TO JASON'S ROOM

Apollo, Rudy and Heath are now all together in the living area.

RUDY

Jesus. Another round of "The Bartenders of Hells Kitchen". Listen guys, while it's just the three of us, can we agree to let this go once and for all?

APOLLO

I -- You have no idea how sorry I am.

RUDY

Yeah, we do. (Pause) Apollo, whatever was going on with you, it was a long time ago. Heath and I are good. We're solid.

HEATH

Time to forgive yourself.

RUDY

Hey, if we all can put up with Jason and his never ending bullshit --

HEATH

-- That's another dysfunctional reality show altogether!

RUDY (TO HEATH)

Tonight you were the star, babe. You were very butch.

HEATH

Thank you honey.

RUDY

So Apollo. We're good?

APOLLO

Okay. Yeah.

RUDY

Now I say we finally drop it. I had the last word, which as you all know, is just how I like it.

HEATH

Okay. Music boys. And let's hold off on mutilating the cake until our brothers finish their girl talk.

Rudy goes to turn the music back on.
"Believe" by Cher.

RUDY

Thank God for Cherilyn Sarkisian.

FADE TO BLACK.

ACT I, SCENE 4

TWO MEN AND A PUNCHING BAG

INT - JASON'S BEDROOM, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING.

Jason is working out with a speed bag
(boxing).

SAL ENTERS. SITS IN A CHAIR.

JASON

What?

SAL

I'm just sittin' here.

JASON

Yeah, and I'm just beating off.

SAL

Looks more like you're beating the crap out of someone's face.

JASON

Fuck you.

Silence.

SAL

You wanna punch me?

Jason stops sparring with the speed bag.

SAL (CONT'D)

You can if you want to.

JASON

Jesus Sal. You're a gottdamn boxer.

SAL

Yeah. Legally I'm not allowed to throw the first punch.

JASON

You're a lethal weapon.

SAL

Licensed and everything. 'Course there are no witnesses. Still, I'll let you have one -- if it'll help. Just don't bust my nose. Jill'll be really pissed. She likes my face the way it is.

JASON

I'm not gonna punch you. Jesus...

SAL

So what do you want?

Silence.

SAL (CONT'D)

We could go to Long Island City.

JASON

What?

SAL

Get an Uber and hit some of the strip clubs in Queens. Get some tits in your face.

(Pause)

JASON

Why are you here?

SAL

Why do you think?

JASON

No Sal, why are you living here? Why are you working in fucking gay bars? You and Jill --

SAL

-- Me and Jill what...? I like what I do. And I'm good at it.

JASON

It doesn't bother you? Every night...goddamn...when some guy tries to grab your dick?

SAL

Here we go again. You're a piece of work. Jason, we can walk into the hottest places anywhere and be treated like movie stars. You think I don't get it? We were lucky enough to be born with the genes our parents passed on to us.(Pause) Friday one dude from Dubai offered me ten grand to spend the weekend with him.

JASON

Damn. You consider it?

SAL

Maybe for twenty K and the use of his Lear Jet. Look, some days it drives me batshit crazy. (Pause) Since January, I've banked over fifty thousand in cash. And this has been a slow year.

I'm making more than a lot of guys with Masters degrees or Doctorates.

JASON

Sal --

SAL

We've been friends a long time. You know what I come from. You're the only one of the brothers who knows I didn't finish high school. I wasn't a good enough fighter to make it as a pro. You don't pocket this kind of money in straight bars. Maybe a lot of people think I sold out doing this, like I'm a useless piece of --

JASON

-- No one sees you like that...Jill sure as hell doesn't think that.

SAL

I can't sing, I can't act. I couldn't get a corporate job even if I wanted it. So a dude touches my pecs and tells me I look like a model. I smile and take the compliment. Maybe he thinks I'm a low rent whore and that he's better than me. I go home to my friends and my woman and I thank God I'm so lucky. And aren't you the one who said you'll do this till you retire a rich motherfucker?

JASON

Yeah, well...

SAL

Something happen? You've always been a son-of-a-bitch but even you don't usually set up your buddies. (Pause) You gotta joint?

JASON

I thought you don't smoke.

SAL

It's a special occasion. And we're in for the night.

Jason pulls out a joint and lights it.
Takes a hit and passes it to Sal.

JASON

Do you think Apollo's gay?

Sal takes a hit and hands it back to Jason.

SAL

Does it matter?

JASON

If he's a liar...

SAL

Is that what's bugging you?

JASON

I think he's full of crap. If he's into men I wish he'd get over his religious or family guilt or whatever the fuck it is.

SAL

It's more than that. I guarantee it. Stuff from when he was a kid. Whatever happened between Apollo and Heath...come on, it wasn't about getting at Heath's dick. Apollo got into bed with his best friend's lover. You don't think that reeks of self destruction?

JASON

Maybe.

Pause.

SAL

Jay, you ever been with a guy?

Jason thinks for a moment. No edge in his response.

JASON

When I was a kid, I jerked off with my neighbor in his basement a couple times.

SAL

That don't really count.

JASON

(Still thinking) You remember Stacy? When we were together, we hooked up with other couples a few times. Believe it or not it was her idea. Not really my thing. Mostly, I got off watching Stacy with another chick.

SAL

What about the other guys?

JASON

Sal, I'm not gay. But yeah, I let the boys blow me. It didn't turn me off, but I was high and my face was busy taking care of women. If you're trying to get me to feel bad for Apollo going after Heath, it's not the same thing.

SAL

I was just thinking that I don't give a crap what you've done or who you've done it with. You're an adult. But you acting like a stupid prick with people who give a damn about you...

JASON

Yeah. Sorry about that. Jesus. (Pause). You ever been with a guy?

Sal thinks for a moment.

SAL

My mom's older brother Tony is gay.

JASON

Oh shit.

SAL

No dude. Nothing happened with Uncle Tony. I always knew that Tony and his roommate Tim were a couple. My family never talked about it so growing up I didn't think anything was wrong with it. I stayed over night at their house a lot, even went on a vacation with them to the beach the summer I was fourteen.

JASON

(Sarcastic) They take you to Fire Island or Provincetown?

SAL

The next gayest thing. Rehoboth Beach. By then, they told me they were together. I guess they were very protective. If anyone wanted to hit on me, I never knew about it. When things got serious with Jill, I took her to meet Tony and Tim even before my mother. Tony is like a dad to me.

JASON

I'm guessing no-one called you a nerd or a fag growing up.

SAL

No one noticed me. I didn't have a lot of friends and I mostly kept to myself. Dad moved out just before my tenth birthday. Living with my step-father was another story. He married Mom when I was twelve. That's why I took up boxing. And when I think about it, that's also why Uncle Tony was so important in my life. I never told him my step father beat the crap out of me but I think he knew. And Uncle Tony's home was safe.

JASON

You never told me that.

SAL

Jay Jay, all of us come from some fucked up stuff. Maybe Apollo had it worst, even if he don't talk about it -- but it's not a contest. It's something that binds us together. The five of us have survival in common.

JASON

I know. (Pause) Shit. My mom lost her house.

SAL

Oh man.

JASON

The bank foreclosed.

SAL

Really sorry to hear that. Didn't you --

JASON

-- She lost all the money I've been sending. At the track, if that's even true. You know how much money I've given her?

SAL

Can you save the house?

JASON

Why should I? She fucking lied to me again. Why am I surprised? I'm done.

SAL

She's your mother.

JASON

Yeah, well she uses me and takes my money and cries and I'm always supposed to help her out?

SAL

She's an addict.

JASON

She's a manipulative liar. She's never done anything for me. The shit I had to put up with growing up. Having to be the fricking man of the house at seven years old.

SAL

You could have said something -- instead of acting like an asshole and taking it out on everybody.

JASON

Sal, can we keep this between us?

SAL

'Course. Do me a favor though. Spend some time beating the shit out of that bag, then come back in and help our friends celebrate their wedding.

JASON

Yeah, alright.

Sal gets up and walks to the door.

SAL

Good. And Jay Jay, you ever call one of the boys a faggot again, I'll beat the shit out of you myself.

JASON

Okay. Yeah..

EXIT SAL.

JASON (CONT'D)

(yelling after Sal)

Just not the nose!

BLACK.

ACT I, SCENE 5

WHO YOU CALLIN' GAY?

LIGHTS UP - LIVING ROOM OF THE LOFT, ABOUT 1 A.M., A COUPLE MONTHS LATER. DOOR OPENS AND **APOLLO**, **HEATH** AND **JASON** ENTER.

HEATH

Oh my God. You wanna explain why you had to drag us to that stick-up-your-butt snooze-fest? The only thing keeping me awake was the hot Latin cocktail waiter.

JASON

Blame Apollo. It's his possè.

APOLLO

Come on, Heath. The amount of times I put up with fifty GaGa loving gay boys at some party you made me go to, you owe me.

JASON

-- Hey, at least there were some women there --

HEATH

-- Pluto, you know me better than that. These were a bunch of right wing stuck-up pricks. I almost had a coronary keeping my mouth shut.

APOLLO

They weren't that bad.

HEATH

That group of pretentious Ivy League snotrags at our table arguing about Pence and Paul Ryan versus the Bushes and Dick Cheney. Of course none of them mentioned Obama having been the head of the law review at fucking Harvard.

JASON

They wanted to make us look stupid. Jesus if that dick-wad with the plaid tie and matching pocket square brought up his time at Oxford one more time...

APOLLO

You guys behaved very well. Thank you.

HEATH

You're welcome. Sort of. When do you hear back?

APOLLO

About the musical? I'm not sure. This was an event to schmooze possible financial backers. A lot of these guys are filthy rich.

JASON

They didn't seem much like an artsy theatre crowd to me.

Apollo

They're not. They're corporate types who love the idea of putting some money into a Broadway show, so that they can sit next to Idina Menzel or Lin-Manuel Miranda at an opening night party and actually think they're hot shit.

Heath

How can you stand it?

Apollo

It's part of the job. I'm really happy that Biff Winchell, you know, the producer, asked me to be there.

Jason

What kind of name is that anyway? His wife is gorgeous. Jesus Christ. How did he land her?

Heath

She's got to be 35 years younger than he is. Money talks, boys.

Jason

Money and power.

Apollo

You're so cynical! (Sarcastically) You can see she's madly in love with him.

Jason

What gave her away? The five karat rock on her hand or the layer of emeralds around her neck?

Heath

The Alexander McQueen couture dress.

Jason

Ah, the gay eye!

Apollo

What time is it?

Jason

Early. Not even 1. You guys want something to eat?

Apollo

I'm stuffed from dinner.

Heath

I'll wait till Rudy gets home.

Jason

Heathcliff, even if it's slow tonight, he and Sal won't get out for awhile.

HEATH

Yeah, I know. But still.

JASON

You guys are so cute. It's fricking nauseating.

HEATH

That's us. Ozzie and Harry. I'm gonna take a shower. You guys going out?

JASON

I'm in for the night.

APOLLO

Same.

JASON

I'm gonna order from Bluejay. Last chance, Heath.

HEATH

I'm good.

HEATH EXITS TO HIS ROOM

Jason gets the menu out from the kitchen.

JASON

You sure you don't want anything to eat?

APOLLO

Nothing for me.

Jason places phone call on his cell.

JASON (ON PHONE)

Hey. I'd like to place an order for delivery. It's...oh. Of course. Yeah, apartment 11F. F as in fuck.

APOLLO

Really??

JASON

I'd like the club sand -- oh. With mayo on the -- yes. And -- yeah, diet. I'll pay in cash. Okay. Thanks. (Hangs up the phone). God, when did I become so predictable?

APOLLO

You are many things Jay Jay...

JASON

I'm not sure how to take that.

(Pause)

Apollo

You feeling okay?

Jason

What? Why?

Apollo

You were actually well behaved tonight.

Jason

Why, 'cause I didn't take some woman into the john to blow me?

Apollo

You didn't go into the bathroom for any kind of blow.

Jason

I'm giving it a break.

Apollo

Glad to hear it.

Jason

The coke, not the women.

Apollo

I know what you meant.

Jason

How's it feel? Being back at work.

Apollo

It's okay. I fell back into the routine pretty quick.

Jason

You're still not seeing anyone?

Apollo

God, Jason. The second I let my guard down...

Jason

Jesus bro. I'm not attacking you. I just mean you still haven't started dating again. It's been a long time since Angelica.

Apollo

I know. I wish I could be more like you.

Jason

Ha! Don't let anyone hear you say that!

Apollo

I've never been into casual sex.

JASON

Now don't bite my head off. But maybe you should try a dating site. Or let me or Sal or Jill hook you up. A gay bar isn't exactly the place to meet women.

Apollo

Things like Tindr just feel weird to me. I guess that's strange since we work in a world where our looks are our money makers. At least in a gay bar I don't have to deal with women coming on to me all the time. That must sound really screwed up. Guys flirting with me, well since it's not what I want --

JASON

-- What do you want?

Pauses to think.

Apollo

Sometimes I wish I was gay. I'm more comfortable with men.

JASON

I'm just asking. Do you know you're not?

Apollo

God, you're a hard person to be friends with.

JASON

Pluto, I'm genuinely trying to understand. I mean it. I can't help but wonder if the reason you can't seem to make it work with women is because it's not...maybe you're not...

Apollo, very agitated.

Apollo

Do you know how much I wish that was true for me?

JASON

Apollo --

Apollo is practically shaking now.

Apollo

-- I know you don't understand it. You just see it all as getting laid. The boys see it as identity and politics and sex. But you guys didn't go through...never mind.

JASON

Okay, alright. Pluto. Sorry. (Pause) Look, if you ever want to talk --

Apollo

-- You're fucking kidding me.

JASON

I know. I've sometimes been a total jerk.

The buzzer rings

JASON (CONT'D)

Jesus. (Walks to intercom and talks into phone) Come on up.
(To Apollo) What if I just shut up and you talk.

Apollo

I don't think I...I've always had a hard time -- trusting women. You think I liked being a pretty boy around my mother's friends? It was disgusting.

JASON

Wait, Apollo... what are you saying --

Apollo

(Shaking his head) I can't. I just can't.

Knock on the door.

JASON

-- Jesus. Apollo, it's okay. Take it easy. Let me just pay for the food. Give me a minute.

Jason walks to the door. It's not the delivery person. It's a friend from the bar.

ENTER BLAKE IN A FRENZY. HE'S A YOUNG MAN WHO WORKS AT THE BAR.

JASON

Blake, what the hell? Why aren't you at the bar?

BLAKE

Where's Heath? I've been calling and texting.

JASON

He's in the shower. Washing his hair alone can take forty five minutes.

Apollo, pulling himself together

Apollo

Blake, what -- what's wrong?

HEATH ENTERS FROM HIS ROOM, LOOKING AT HIS PHONE

HEATH

Did you guys get a message from work? There are like 5 missed calls.

Heath looks up, sees Blake.

BLAKE

Heath...

HEATH

What? Oh God. Oh my God.

JASON

Blake, what the fuck is going on?

BLAKE

Um, Rudy.

HEATH

Oh God...

APOLLO

What?

BLAKE

Heath, you need to come with me. He's gonna be alright but
Rudy's been hurt.

HEATH

What the hell does that mean? Where is he?

BLAKE

They took him to the hospital.

HEATH

Oh God...

BLAKE

When he went out to get coffee, he got jumped by some
motherfuckers. They were driving by the bar and flew out of
a car and --

Jason walks behind Heath and holds him

HEATH

Where is he? Which hospital?

APOLLO

Did they catch them?

HEATH

I can't breathe.

JASON (HOLDING ONTO HEATH)

I've got you, bud. I've got you...

BLAKE

St. Vincent's. Some of the guys at the bar ran out to help.
And Sal grabbed one of the red-neck freaks.

APOLLO

Heath, we're going with you...

The guys all get their coats.

JASON

I'm sure Sal beat the living shit out of him.

BLAKE

Umm... one of the guys...oh man...

JASON

What?

BLAKE

One of the guys had a gun. He shot Sal.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT I

ACT II, SCENE 1

BOYS IN BLACK

MORNING - INT. LOFT ONE WEEK LATER.

LIGHTS UP ON **JASON** SITTING ON COUCH, HEAD IN HIS HANDS.

ENTER **APOLLO** FROM HIS BEDROOM

Apollo

Hey. You get any sleep?

Jason

Not really. My head is killing me. I made some coffee.

Apollo

You made coffee?

Jason

I pushed the button. Heath set it up last night before...God, Rudy.

Apollo

Rudy'll be fine.

Jason

Jesus, I shouldn't have had those tequila shots last night.

Apollo

I'm not your mother, but yeah, you shouldn't have.

Jason

Maybe you should be. Jesus Pluto, what the fuck was I doing?

Apollo

Okay, Jay Jay, stop punishing yourself. It's not doing anyone, least of all you, any good. I can't believe I'm saying this, but you need to chill.

Jason

Who ARE you?

Apollo

Me? Did you see Heathcliff in action? Christ, he was on fire. He wouldn't take crap from anyone at the hospital.

Jason

He was practically intimidating.

Apollo

He made them put a cot in Rudy's hospital room so he could sleep next to him. (Pause) I'm pretty sure Rudolfo's gonna need some plastic surgery.

JASON

It could have been much worse.

Apollo

He's home now, thank God.

JASON

The shit-heads haven't been caught. None of them. A crowd of witnesses videoed the bashing and no one bothered to get an image of the license plate, let alone step in to help.

Apollo

They got some of their faces I think. And there's footage from cameras outside the bar and from the deli next door.

JASON

Well, they better come up with something. It's not Nazi Germany or Chechnya or Mississ-fucking-sippi, god dammit. I mean, what the hell --

Apollo

-- Jay, calm down. You're gonna have a heart attack.

FRONT DOOR OPENS. ENTER **SAL** WITH **HEATH**. SAL'S ARM IS IN A SLING.

HEATH

Boys and girls, the prodigal mothah fuckah has returned!

Jason and Apollo cross to greet them at the door.

Apollo

Back and better than ever.

Jason gently hugs Sal.

JASON

God Sal...

SAL

Jay Jay.

HEATH

Rudy still asleep? He was still snoring when I left this morning.

Apollo

He's out cold as far as I know. I haven't seen him since I brought him a tray last night when he was watching some "Star Trek" marathon or sci-fi gay porn -- I can't remember which.

HEATH

I'll go check on him.

SAL (TO HEATH)
Thanks for getting me out today.

HEATH
Anytime. But there better not be a next time.

SAL
Yes Sir.

HEATH EXITS TO HIS BEDROOM

JASON
Where's Jill?

SAL
She took my mother to the train. She'll be over later, after she detoxes from freaked-out-mother-in-law overload.

Apollo
I thought you might want to go to her place.

JASON
Screw that. He's staying here.

SAL
Jason, relax. With her schedule right now, we decided it's better to be here at the loft.

Apollo
She can stay here.

SAL
She will. She doesn't trust you idiots to look after me.

Apollo
Crap. She knows us.

SAL
I'm gonna give her a set of keys.

JASON
'Course.

Apollo
How is she?

SAL
I can't really tell. Shaken up. And really, really pissed.

Apollo
She should be.

ENTER **HEATH** AND **RUDY** FROM THEIR BEDROOM. RUDY IS BADLY BRUISED, WITH STITCHES ACROSS HIS FACE.

HEATH

Herman Munster is awake!

Rudy walks over to Sal.

SAL

Rudolfo. Look at you! Almost butch with those stitches.

Rudy falls into Sal's arms and starts crying uncontrollably.

SAL

Whoa! Okay Rudy. Okay bro. Shhhh. Take it easy. I'm alright. It's okay. I'm home.

RUDY (THROUGH TEARS)

God Sal...I can't...

SAL

I know, I know. It's alright. Shhh. It's alright.

JASON

Rudy, stop. You're both home now.

SAL

I'm here. We're all here.

APOLLO (TO RUDY)

You're gonna be fine. Come on.

RUDY

Yeah. Whew. Jesus. Thank God. Okay. (Catching his breath, pulling himself together) Sorry about that. That's the first time I...

SAL

It's fine.

HEATH

It'll take a hell of a lot more than some fag-bashing bridge and tunnel rednecks to take down the brotherhood.

SAL

Damm right.

JASON

Can we stop talking about it?

The guys all take seats around the loft area.

SAL

Jay Jay, any beer in the fridge?

JASON

Beer? Hell yeah. You allowed?

SAL

No. So grab me one.

Jason goes to the fridge.

JASON

Anyone else want something?

Apollo, Heath and Rudy

(ad lib)

Just water for me / Dos Equus / Protein drink.

JASON

Gott damn. I'm even a bartender at home.

Jason takes drinks out and brings them to the coffee table.

Apollo (to SAL)

Shouldn't you be in bed or something?

SAL

I'm not supposed to be active for a while, whatever that means.

JASON

No sex.

Apollo

Of course you'd go there...

SAL

Jill will have to do most of the work for a while.

Jason brings drinks to the guys. Joins them.

RUDY

You hear that Heath? You'll be doing the heavy lifting for a while too.

HEATH

So basically, nothing new...

RUDY

Hey! Very rude!!

A group silence.

Apollo

Seems like a while since we've all been home at the same time.

Rudy

It's not the best we've all looked.

Heath

I don't know, babe. I kinda like this cross hatched look. Zac Efron meets the Frankenstein monster.

Apollo (TO SAL)

What'd they say about your recovery?

Sal

A lot of rest. No stress.

Jason

Uh-oh.

Sal

I go back next week. Make sure there's no infection, see how it's healing. And I have to be religious with the antibiotics. Then back at the end of the month when they'll take the bandages off permanently, I hope. And I guess to see about the nerve damage. And I've gotta start physical therapy as soon as possible.

Apollo

What?

Jason

Hold up.

Rudy

Sal...

Jason

What kind of nerve damage? I thought they said the bullet didn't hit any of the vital --

Sal

-- my shoulder has some numbness which the surgeon said is normal and shouldn't be permanent. It's my hand they're worried about.

Silence.

SAL (CONT'D)

What, no jokes about how Jill will have to...

Apollo

Sal, it's your right hand.

Sal

Yeah. So?

Heath

Come on guys. He doesn't make a living doing needle point. He'll be fine. It'll be okay.

Apollo

Well what if he can't control his --

Jason

Holy crap Pluto!

Sal

Guys, I'm not worried. It may just take some time to get back the full use of my hand.

Apollo

What did Jill say?

Jason (TO Apollo)

What is wrong with you?

Apollo

What??

Sal

Jay Jay, it's alright. I think at the moment Jill's just relieved I wasn't hurt any worse or killed.

Rudy

Oh my God, Sal.

Heath

Well, she's right.

Sal

I think she's talking more about the scene of the crime.

Heath

Why? Cause you protected Rudy?

Sal

No Heathcliff. The bar. Nightlife. The whole gig. Working late night jams, 'specially where booze and drugs are everywhere. This drove it home.

Apollo

You can't really blame her.

RUDY

No but I bet she blames me.

SAL

Rudy, don't be an idiot. She'd kill me if I hadn't done something. But it's a lot, even for her. And she had to take care of my mother and still show up on set. She only took one morning off from filming.

HEATH

What a Goddamned business. Isn't she Union? She couldn't take off time when her man was nearly killed?

SAL

She only told them I was in the hospital. She didn't want them to know about the shooting.

RUDY

Why the hell not?

SAL

I don't think she wanted to talk about it -- or have to answer a million questions. It's all over the local news.

HEATH

I guess that makes sense. You thinking of leaving the bar?

JASON

What?

SAL

I'm not thinking anything.

JASON

You're thinking about getting out.

RUDY

So what?

JASON (STILL TO SAL)

You want out don't you?

RUDY

Jason, it's just a job.

JASON

The hell it is.

APOLLO

Jason...

SAL

Cool it guys. Please. No decisions have been made.

Apollo

But you and Jill're talking about it?

Rudy

It's their life.

Jason (to Rudy)

That's funny coming from you.

Rudy

Here we go. (To Jason) What the fuck does that mean?

Jason

You and Heath have each other.

Rudy

Hey, we're still here.

Sal

Can we talk about this some other time? Pluto, grab me another beer.

Heath

You probably shouldn't mix beer with your meds...

Sal

Thank you grandma. A coupla beers won't kill me.

Silence.

Apollo

Shitty choice of words.

Rudy

Where will you go?

Jason

Jesus Christ. He's not going anywhere.

Heath (to Jason)

Jason, come on. We're just --

Jason

-- Fuck this.

JASON GETS UP AND EXITS TO HIS ROOM.

Heath

And he's off and running! For a man with a bulldozer for a mouth, he's so sensitive.

Apollo

This scared the hell out of him. And he doesn't like change.

HEATH

I guess.

Apollo

Come on. Jason's still living the Peter Pan syndrome. He sees us being together for the rest of our lives. Which is kinda funny since it seems like he does the most to push all of us away.

RUDY

Apollo's psych 101 analysis of the day.

HEATH

I think he's right, babe. And Sal, you're the one he's most afraid will leave him behind.

RUDY

True. You're the Gibraltar of the group.

SAL

Jesus...

Apollo

The father to all of us.

RUDY

And we all have daddy issues!

SAL

Not me.

HEATH

'Course not. That would be...weird.

SAL

I should get shot more often. I know. Not funny. (Pause)
I'm gonna hit the hay.

Sal stands up, with difficulty.

HEATH

You need some help?

SAL

I'm good.

Sal walks toward his bedroom.

SAL (CON'T)

Gentlemen, and I use the word loosely, it's good to be home.

SAL EXITS.

HEATH

Home.

APOLLO

Yeah. Until it isn't anymore.

FADE TO BLACK.

ACT II, SCENE 2

EMANUEL, I KNEW YOU WELL

BLACK. A FEW DAYS LATER. INTERCOM IS BUZZING. FADE IN.

Apollo (V.O.)

Coming. Hold on. Gott damn.

ENTER APOLLO FROM HIS BEDROOM.

He's completely or practically naked.
Crosses to front door. Picks up the
intercom phone.

Apollo (CONT'D)

Yeah, who is it? (Pause) I'm sorry? Who? (To himself). Oh
shit. (Into the intercom) Please come on up. When you get
out of the elevator, turn left. It's the door at the end of
the hall.

Apollo hangs up the intercom. He grabs
his cell phone and dials.

Apollo (CONT'D)

Pick up pick up pick up. Jesus. Hey, it's Apollo. Call me
back as soon as you get this -- and limp your ass home now!
(Hangs up and starts to dial another number when --)

LOUD KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

Apollo

Jesus Christ.

Apollo walks to the door, opens it.
**Standing in the door is a well dressed,
middle aged white woman.**

Apollo (CONT'D)

Mrs. Moskowitz.

AT THE DOOR IS RUTH MOSKOWITZ.

She takes one look at Apollo naked and
screams:

Ruth (COVERING HER EYES)

Ahhh!

Apollo

(In response) Ahhh! Mrs. Moskowitz! Are you alright?

Ruth

Young man, would you mind putting on some clothes, please?

APOLLO (REALIZING...)

Oh my God. Of course. Yes. I wasn't expecting... please come in and I'll go get dressed. I'm so sorry.

APOLLO EXITS TO BEDROOM. **ENTER MRS. MOSKOWITZ.**

Ruth looks around with stereotypical judgment on the horror of a bachelor pad.

APOLLO RE-ENTERS, TEE SHIRT ON, TRIPPING AS HE'S PULLING PANTS ON.

APOLLO

I'm sorry. No one told me you were --

RUTH

It's fine, young man. I've seen naked men before. You just surprised me.

APOLLO

Please sit down. (Gestures to the couch) Can I get you something to drink? I'm not sure what we have in the fridge but --

RUTH (TAKING A SEAT)

-- Pluto, would you please tell my son that I'm --

APOLLO

-- Mrs. Moskowitz, my name is Apollo.

RUTH

Oh yes, that's right. I'm sorry.

APOLLO

It's okay. Actually, the name has kind of stuck.

RUTH

Please tell Emanuel that I'm here.

APOLLO

Who?

RUTH

Eman -- oh Lord in Heaven. Will you tell Rudy that his mother is here?

APOLLO

He's not home.

THE FRONT DOOR OPENS. **ENTER HEATH.**

APOLLO (CONT'D)

Thank God.

HEATH (TO APOLLO, NOT SEEING
RUTH)

Hey bitch. How's it hanging?

APOLLO

Heath (Gesturing to Ruth) -- company.

Heath turns and sees his mother-in-law.

HEATH

Oy! What are you doing here? I, aaah, how nice to see you.

RUTH (TO HEATH)

Mr. McAdoo.

APOLLO

That she remembers...

HEATH (WALKS TO RUTH)

Ruth. Mrs. Moskowitz. Does Rudy know you're here?

RUTH

I just assumed Emmanuel would be recuperating. I know better than to expect an invitation so I decided I'd stop by.

APOLLO

Rudy -- Emanuel should be home shortly, Mrs. Moskowitz. He's at physical therapy.

RUTH

I see. Well I might have known had anybody bothered to inform me.

APOLLO

Well, if you will excuse me --

**HEATH (STAGE WHISPER TO
APOLLO)**

-- don't you dare leave me alone with George Costanza's mother --

APOLLO (TO RUTH)

-- but I need to get ready for work --

HEATH

-- You don't work until tonight --

APOLLO (TO HEATH)

-- Well, you can never shower too many times. (To Ruth) Very nice to see you again Mrs. Moskowitz. Please excuse me.

APOLLO QUICKLY EXITS TO HIS ROOM

Uncomfortable silence.

HEATH

May I get you something?

RUTH

Would you like to tell me why I had to be told that my youngest child was brutally attacked by my neighbor?

HEATH

Your neighbor attacked Rudy?

RUTH

Don't be a moron, Mr. McAdoo. I had to learn from Mrs. Sapperstein that my son was nearly killed. Her daughter Susan is friends with Manny. She told her mother who naturally assumed that I already knew. I almost fainted during little Benjamin Cohen's bar mitzvah.

HEATH

With all due respect, it wasn't for me to tell you.

RUTH

Really. You think it's perfectly acceptable that the entire congregation of Temple Beth Shalom knows my son was attacked before any of you deigned to tell me?

HEATH

Is that what's bothering you? That you were embarrassed?

RUTH

Don't you use that tone with me. I know this is something you can't possibly understand, but this is my son -- my baby we are talking about.

HEATH

I'm sorry. I know and I don't question your love for him. But it seems to me that you two don't exactly see eye to eye on much of anything. I'm trying to stay out of all this, but I'm not sure just how to do that. You don't approve of his choices, his job...you made it very clear you're not thrilled about he and I, let alone --

RUTH (INTERRUPTING)

-- That's "not thrilled with him and me --"

HEATH

-- I stand corrected. I don't want to argue with you, Mrs. Moskowitz. And I'd like to think that when something this horrible happens, well maybe we all could --

RUTH

-- Maybe we what...? We all can come together, hold hands and sing "We are the World?" Well that's a lovely sentiment. Put it on a Hallmark card.

Perhaps if you had shown me the simple courtesy of telling me my child was almost murdered --

THE FRONT DOOR OPENS WHILE RUTH IS STILL TALKING. ENTER **RUDY**. HE IMMEDIATELY SEES HIS MOTHER.

RUDY

I asked him not to call you.

HEATH

Rudy!

RUDY (TO HEATH)

I'm sorry Heath. I didn't know. I got Apollo's voicemail and came straight home. (To Ruth) Hello mother.

Ruth, genuinely tears up, walks over to her son. She sees his scars and fights back her tears.

RUTH

Your face. God in Heaven, Emanuel.

RUDY

Mom, I'm gonna be alright.

Ruth approaches her son gingerly.

RUTH

Manny, may I hug you? Are you in pain?

RUDY

A hug is fine, Mom.

Ruth embraces her son. Then she pulls back to look at him again.

RUTH

Thank God. Thank God. I don't know what I would have done...

RUDY

Mom, what are you doing here?

RUTH (PREVIOUS TONE)

Well, let's see. You almost die, no one tells your father or me about it. Hmm...?

HEATH

I'm going to leave you two alone.

RUTH

That's a good idea.

RUDY

Mom!

HEATH

It's okay.

RUTH

That was rude. But if you don't mind, I would like to spend some time with my son...alone.

RUDY

This is his home -- our home. You don't get to ask him to leave.

HEATH (FIRST TO RUDY)

She didn't ask me to leave. (TO RUTH) Mrs. Moskowitz, I know he's your son and I'm happy to give you some time together. But I would appreciate it if don't tire him out.

RUTH

Excuse me? You're telling me how to treat my child?

HEATH

I'm telling you how not to treat my husband. (To Rudy) I'll be in our bedroom if you need me.

HEATH EXITS.

RUTH

What did he just say?

RUDY

He's just over protective, Mom. He thinks I need my rest.

RUTH

He referred to you as his "husband."

RUDY

Oh. That. Yes mother, we got married.

RUTH

I see. Are there any more surprises you'd like to throw in my face?

RUDY

Mom, can we stop for a minute?

RUTH

I'd love to. But you keep doing this to me.

RUDY

Jesus Mother. Did what to you?

RUTH

Never mind.

RUDY

No mother. What?

RUTH

I don't want to wear you out. I wouldn't want Herb to get upset with me.

RUDY

His name is Heath and you know it.

RUTH

Heath. Alright. (Pauses). Emmanuel...Rudy, how do you think all this makes me feel? I'm your mother, for God's sake. You don't bother telling me you've been hospitalized. You're not only living with that southern Christian boy but you married him?

RUDY

He's not very Christian, Mom. You can see I'm going to be okay.

RUTH

You should have told us. We deserved that much. And you should be at home.

RUDY

This is home.

RUTH

You know what I mean. With your family.

RUDY

We have different ideas of what family is.

RUTH

Well, will you at least allow me to take you to Dr. Rosenfeld? He's the best plastic surgeon on the East Coast, maybe in the country. Ask Susan Lucci.

RUDY

Mom, I'm being well cared for. I have great doctors looking after me.

Ruth starts crying again.

RUTH

Why are you doing this?

RUDY

Please mom. Why don't you tell me how Dad is doing?

RUTH

How do you think he's doing? He's beside himself. He nearly cut short his Sonoma wine tasting retreat.

RUDY

Heaven forbid.

RUTH

Well what do you expect?

RUDY

I don't expect anything, Mother. I am Dad's great disappointment. He's made that abundantly clear.

RUTH

You have been angry with your father your entire life. You've never given him a chance.

RUDY

Like you ever once stood up for me?

We hear keys in the front door.

RUTH

Oh for God's sake, now what? It's like Grand Central Station.

FRONT DOOR OPENS. ENTER **JASON**.

RUDY

It's one of my other roommates, Mother.

JASON (SEEING RUTH)

Mrs. Rudy's Mother. What a surprise.

Ruth stands up.

RUTH

Yes, hello. You're one of the heterosexual boys aren't you?

JASON

We're everywhere it seems.

Jason walks over to Rudy.

JASON

Hi honey, I'm home. (**Kisses Rudy full on the lips**)

RUTH

Dear Lord.

RUDY

Hey Jay Jay.

RUTH

If you're trying to shock me --

RUDY

-- Mother, he's just --

RUTH

-- I know what he's doing. You all seem to think I live in the Dark Ages.

JASON

I'm sorry Mrs. Moskowitz. I'm just teasing you.

RUTH

You're hilarious. What a sense of humor. (To Rudy) Emanuel, is it possible to speak to you privately without all of these interruptions?

JASON

I can take a hint.

RUTH

Thank you.

JASON

Mrs. Moskowitz?

RUTH

Ugh...! What is it??

JASON

This may be none of my business but it might have been nice for you to have at least come to see your son when he was in the hospital.

RUTH (FUMING)

Why you little... You're Jason. I remember you quite well. You were twenty five minutes late for the obscenely expensive dinner my husband graciously hosted for Emanuel's friends last year at Tavern on the Green.

JASON

That sounds like me.

RUTH

It's so easy to figure someone like you out.

RUDY

Mother --

RUTH

So tell me this, you obnoxious self possessed pretty boy.

RUDY

Mom, stop it!

RUTH

How was I to come visit my child in the hospital when no one bothered to let me know he was hurt? You want to tell me that, you sanctimonious uneducated third rate don-juan?

Silence.

JASON (CALMLY)

I don't really know, Mrs. Moskowitz. I guess maybe you should ask your husband since I spoke with him on the phone the night Rudy was attacked. Harold Moskowitz. That is your husband's name? Now if you'll excuse me, I'll take my rude, ignorant gigolo self to my gorilla cage to scratch my armpits in private.

RUDY

Jay Jay --

JASON

And one last thing, lady. Your son -- this man -- is MY family. Whatever I think of you, I would never have kept this from his parents.

EXIT **JASON**. RUTH AND RUDY ARE ALONE IN THE LOFT LIVING ROOM.

RUTH

Clearly, I'll deal with your father when I see him. I'm sure he thought he was protecting me. Emanuel, I want you to come home with me.

RUDY

You can't even apologize can you?

RUTH

To him? (Gesturing to Jason's door) I will not be spoken to like that by some middle aged busboy.

RUDY

Well, I'm sorry.

RUTH

Don't apologize for him.

RUDY

I'm not sorry for what Jason said to you. I'm sorry because I shouldn't have kept you in the dark. Heath tried to get me to call you when I was in the hospital and I refused. I didn't think you and Dad deserved to know. And I didn't want all this drama or you blaming it on my being gay.

RUTH

All I wanted... All I want --

RUDY

Mom, I'd like you to go now, please. You can see I'm alright.

RUTH

Emanuel --

RUDY

-- Never during the happy times. Not when I celebrated anything important in my life were Dad and you around because I didn't live up to whatever standard you believe I should rise to.

RUTH (CORRECTING HIS
ENGLISH)

That's "to which you should rise."

RUDY

Wow. Mom. Thank you. Please leave.

RUTH

Manny --

Ruth walks to the door and stops.

RUTH (CONT'D)

When you were a little boy...

Ruth starts to exit, turns again.
Walks back to Rudy.

RUTH (CONT'D)

When you were a little boy, you were the light of my life. My heart. I can still remember how you would look at me, with those big, loving eyes. I don't know what happened... It seems you refuse to...Never mind. Take care of yourself...Rudy.

RUTH EXITS. HEATH ENTERS FROM HIS DOOR. WALKS TO RUDY, TAKES HIS HAND.

HEATH

You okay, babe?

RUDY (BEGINS TO SOB)

God damn her.

Rudy falls into Heath's arms.

FADE TO BLACK.

ACT II, SCENE 3

BIG BROTHER WATCHING WASN'T ENOUGH

A FEW MONTHS LATER. INT. AFTERNOON

APOLLO AND JASON ARE SITTING ON THE COUCH IN THE LIVING ROOM, EATING AND WATCHING TV.

ENTER **HEATH, RUDY** AND **SAL**, ALL DRESSED IN SUITS.

HEATH (TO RUDY)

Honey that's not the point.

RUDY

It is the fucking point. If we had been women, or the attackers hadn't been white, you can bet your ass that preppy prick would be doing at least 10 years.

APOLLO

What happened?

SAL

The shooter pleaded out. It was his first offense. Second Degree Aggravated Harassment, whatever that means.

JASON

Are you fucking kidding me?

SAL

The date for sentencing will be a couple of months from now.

APOLLO

What about the other dickheads?

RUDY

They weren't part of this hearing. My lawyer thinks we should sue all three of the little Klansmen for damages. And he wants to go after one of the boy's father, since it was his car. But that's civil court. And who knows when that'll be.

JASON

Sal, you okay?

SAL

Huh? Yeah. Sure.

JASON

Where's Jill?

HEATH

She's --

SAL

She went back to her apartment. You boys excuse me for a while?

SAL EXITS TO HIS ROOM

JASON

Jesus...

APOLLO

He must be furious.

RUDY

I can't tell. He's been acting weird for a while now.

JASON

What the hell do you expect?

HEATH

He should see a shrink. Rudy does. Stuff like this you can't always handle on your own.

RUDY

There's something more. Maybe he's doubting himself -- or could be some trouble in paradise.

JASON

Jill? No fricking way.

RUDY

He's been back at work for weeks now...

APOLLO

He's been weird there too. Distracted, almost like he's stoned -- which I know he isn't. And he's not taking pain meds anymore.

HEATH

He still can't lift weights let alone spar.

RUDY

I don't think that's it.

HEATH

What then?

RUDY

Look, when something like this happens, sometimes you reevaluate your life. You know, what's important.

JASON

Like I said, Jill.

RUDY

All of it.

HEATH

I'm still having nightmares.

RUDY

Babe, you didn't lose me. I'm not going anywhere. (To Jason) Maybe you're right Jay Jay. Sal and Jill can walk away.

JASON

Sal's been doing this his entire adult life.

RUDY

I'm not just talking about the job. Bars and clubs are a huge part of gay society.

APOLLO

Oh, bullshit. Maybe on the weekend or for happy hour.

RUDY

Pluto, it's much bigger than that. Things are more tolerant on the streets now, but we still come to gay bars and restaurants to be ourselves.

JASON

You think this crap doesn't happen at straight bars? Drunken assholes act up all the time. A fight over a woman or drugs or some dude is thrown out of a club and comes back with an AK-47 and lets loose.

HEATH

I don't know. Gay, straight, I don't think Sal gives a damn or even thinks about it the way we do. But Jill is more than on the sidelines -- she's part of him.

JASON

You're not asking Rudy to give this all up and take up a desk job.

HEATH

Not yet.

JASON

Wait a minute. Are you guys thinking about leaving too?
(Silence) I don't believe this.

APOLLO

Jace --

JASON

No. Fuck you. Fuck all of you. (To Apollo). What are you looking at? You'll land some role and go on the road or move to Holly-fucking-wood.

Sal and Jill will buy some split level piece of crap in the burbs. (To Rudy) And now you two will curl your tails between your legs and move where...to some gay retirement bathhouse in fricking Arizona?

RUDY

Arizona...?

Apollo

What did you think was going to happen? We'd all stay here together, happily ever after?

HEATH

Palm Springs maybe.

Apollo

Heath you're not helping.

HEATH

That's because Jason is being ridiculous. (To Jason) You spend half your time talking about how much you hate living this kind of life. No one's abandoning you. But some of us have to grow up. It's not all about you.

JASON

Stuff it Heath.

Apollo

What if Rudy and Heathcliff want to have some privacy? Raise some kids? Now, don't blow a gasket when I say this, but you know that you can't keep on working as a shirtless stud forever. You have, what, a few more good years? What then?

JASON

Then I'll retire with a shitload of cash. While you all go on and live your goddamn lives and I'll... I'll... All this crap about family not having to be about blood. It's bullshit. You're all going to leave.

RUDY

Jason, things change but seriously, we'll all still be in your life.

JASON

Sure you will. Great. Thanks.

Apollo

Did you really think we'd all just grow old in a rented loft? Jill would live in Williamsburg while Sal pays rent here?

RUDY (HAND UP TO STOP

Apollo)

Apollo... (turns to Jason) Why can't we ever just have an adult conversation, calmly and reasonably?

Jason gets up.

JASON

I'm going out.

APOLLO

Of course. Let's not finish this. Just walk out.

JASON

That's a riot coming from you.

JASON EXITS, SLAMS THE DOOR

HEATH

Jesus.

APOLLO

He does that a lot doesn't he?

RUDY

For a straight man he certainly is a drama queen.

APOLLO

I'm glad I didn't tell him.

HEATH

Tell him what?

RUDY

Spill it! One straight drama queen at a time is all I can stomach!

APOLLO

I don't want to jinx it. It's between me and one other guy for a starring role in a tv pilot. But my agent thinks I have it in the bag. Actually, it's more than a pilot. The show's already been green lit by HBO for six episodes.

HEATH

What?

RUDY

Holy crap! Why didn't you say something? That's incredible.

APOLLO

It's filming in Vancouver -- if I get it.

Heath goes to Apollo and hugs him.

HEATH

We couldn't be happier for you.

Apollo

Nothing's set. I prob'ly shouldn't have said anything.

Rudy

Oh, bullshit! You should enjoy all this excitement. And if for some reason --

Apollo

-- Don't even think it!

Rudy

Okay. Only positive thoughts.

Silence.

Heath

Jason's not wrong, you know. Everything is going to change. You've all -- we've all been together for such a long time now. If Pluto lands this gig and Sal moves in with Jill...

Rudy

This is life, honey. But it's an evolution, not an ending.

Apollo

And you two have each other.

Rudy

Right.

Heath

Okay you sentimental fools. Stop. Sal's the one always looking out for us. We need to support him, whatever's going on.

Rudy

And Jay Jay. Our tin soldier.

FADE TO BLACK.

ACT II, SCENE 4

THE GOOD BUY

INT. SOMETIME LATER. LIGHTS UP ON EMPTY LOFT, LIVING AREA. FRONT DOOR OPENS AND **RUDY, HEATH, APOLLO** AND **JASON** ENTER.

HEATH

Who wants something to eat?

Heath walks to kitchen and opens the fridge. The rest of the guys all sit in the living area, looking tired.

RUDY

Nothing for me.

HEATH

Anybody else? There's half a club sandwich -- I assume that's Jay Jay's.

JASON

You can chuck that. It's like a week old.

HEATH

Okay. I can make some pasta. I think there's enough greens to make a salad too.

APOLLO

Any protein in there?

HEATH

Lemme look.

APOLLO

Can't we just order from BlueJay?

JASON (ON HIS IPHONE)

I just want to find some booty to call.

HEATH

There's steak and chicken in the freezer. I'd have to defrost.

RUDY

These heathens don't appreciate your cooking talents anyway, honey.

JASON

If you order, I'll take my regular.

HEATH

Rudy, if I boil some linguini will you at least have some?

RUDY

Honey, I'm wiped out. How do you have the energy?

HEATH

It's easy enough.

APOLLO

Lets just order in. I'm in the mood for an open face turkey grill with that gravy.

JASON

(dropping his iPhone on the
table)

Shit, I don't see anyone on here worth tapping.

APOLLO

It's a Monday night. What'd you expect?

JASON

I expect to find some hot ass who can't sleep and wants to suck my dick. Is that alright with you?

HEATH

You all do what you want.

Heath pulls a pot out and fills it with water. Takes out pasta. Starts to prepare food.

RUDY

Honey, what are you doing?

HEATH

Well, I have to eat something.

RUDY

Come sit down.

HEATH

Cooking relaxes me.

RUDY

Heath. Turn off the damn stove!

Heath does. Walks over and sits next to Rudy.

APOLLO

What do you think Evan wants with Sal?

JASON

Who knows? He'll tell us when he gets home.

Apollo

You think he's in trouble?

Rudy

Sal? Please, girl.

Jason

There's probably nothing going on. Pluto, maybe Evan just wanted to talk to Sal about training your replacement before you head to Vancouver.

Apollo

Maybe. But why at this hour?

Jason

Like Evan cares.

Heath

You don't think he'd fire Sal, do you?

Jason

Where do you come up with this shit? He's been at the bar the longest and Evan trusts Sal more than anyone.

Rudy

You talk like Evan's playing with a full deck. He's totally unpredictable.

Jason

Except when it comes to money. And Sal's a money making machine.

Heath

Everyone's replaceable.

Jason

Not Sal.

Rudy

Or Streisand. Or Cher. But I digress.

Apollo

Evan's barely talking to me. He's pissed I'm leaving again. I don't think he'll let me come back.

Rudy

Once you've been on tv, I don't think you really can go back to slinging drinks at the bar.

Heath

He's probably just jealous.

Apollo (SARCASTICALLY)

Oh yes, that's it.

HEATH

I'm serious. You're going for your dream. Evan wanted to be the next Katy Perry.

JASON

He'd have a better chance at being the next Lisa Lisa.

APOLLO

Who?

JASON

Exactly.

RUDY

Give me a break. Can the boy even sing? You can see she once was gorgeous.

APOLLO

You remember when we used to have Karaoke Tuesdays?

JASON

The worst six months of my fucking life.

HEATH

It wasn't that bad.

APOLLO

It was right around Thanksgiving I think. Evan got wasted --

RUDY

-- You'll have to be more specific.

JASON

Oh my god. No, Pluto, I remember. He got fucked up on shots of Jagermeister --

RUDY

-- And probably multiple bumps of something --

APOLLO

He got up on stage and sang "You Light Up My Life"

The guys all start laughing. Heath picks up a beer bottle and uses it as a microphone.

HEATH (SINGING TERRIBLY)

"And you light up my life!'

FRONT DOOR OPENS, **SAL** ENTERS

HEATH AND RUDY

"You give me hope"

JASON AND APOLLO

"To carry on"

HEATH, RUDY, JASON, APOLLO
(TO SAL)

"You light up my days
and fill my nights
with song"

SAL

Wow. You guys really stink.

The guys break up, laughing. Sal hangs
his jacket.

APOLLO (TO SAL)

You hungry?

HEATH

I was gonna make some pasta.

APOLLO

Or order from BlueJay.

JASON

What'd Evan want?

SAL

Pluto, your timing is pretty good.

APOLLO

Why?

RUDY

What does that mean?

SAL

No doubt about it, Evan is a douche bag. He's closing the
bar.

JASON

Holy shit.

APOLLO

When?

SAL

The end of the year.

JASON

He can't do that. Can he do that?

SAL

He can do what he wants.

RUDY

The place is a gold mine. Why isn't he looking for someone to take over instead?

HEATH

If he lets the place go there's no guarantee it'll stay a gay bar.

APOLLO

He could sell the name. That alone must be worth a fortune as a brand. Sell the liquor license. And he could still take a percentage of future profits.

RUDY

Jesus. And what about us?

SAL

He's calling a staff meeting at the end of the month to let everyone know.

JASON

He's really just gonna walk away from all that money?

Silent Pause.

APOLLO

Sal, you should buy it.

HEATH

Shit, that's a great idea.

SAL

Buy the bar...?

APOLLO

Why not?

SAL

It's probably a shitload of money.

RUDY

If there's anyone he would let take over the place, it'd be you. Maybe that's why Evan told you first.

SAL

I don't know.

HEATH

Sal, you could do this.

SAL

I'd have to talk to Jill. We go back and forth about getting out.

Apollo

Yeah, but this would be different. It'd be yours.

SAL

I know all the vendors, the regulars, the staff --

JASON

-- uh oh, he means us --

SAL

-- and it's been good to me. He can be an asshole, but Evan's taken care of me. I don't have a business degree but I learned this from the ground up and I know how this machine runs.

Apollo

You shouldn't use up your own stash. You think a bank would give you a loan? You don't really have collateral.

SAL

Slow down. This is coming out of nowhere.

Pause

HEATH

What if we went in with you? Maybe make up some kind of partnership.

RUDY

Honey, wait a minute...

HEATH (TO RUDY)

I'm not saying we have to make a decision this second, but it could be great and something we can do together. An investment in our future.

RUDY

Babe, it's incredibly risky. Can we talk about it later, like when I can keep my eyes open?

HEATH

Sal, we could meet before we go into work Wednesday afternoon. Talk more about it.

RUDY

It would be nice to at least be awake.

SAL

Jay, you're suspiciously quiet.

JASON

I'm thinking about the roof.

RUDY

What?

JASON

For years I've tried to get that idiot to convert the roof into an open air bar. You know, for extra business -- for six months a year, even longer when the weather's nice.

APOLLO

Not a bad idea, but now you're talking renovations. You can't mess with the structure without getting permits and that would mean --

JASON

-- You wouldn't have to. There are three emergency exits. Change one into public access to the roof.

HEATH

And we could easily build some sort of gazebo-like structure in the center where the bar could be. So it's protected, you know, from rain. Jay Jay, you could talk to that guy, Dan who built the bar in the lounge. He's a contractor and knows everybody.

RUDY

You'd have to put down a new floor. The roof is tar.

SAL

Slow down boys.

APOLLO

Sal, we could do this.

JASON (TO APOLLO)

You? Dude you'll be out west becoming a fricking tv star.

APOLLO

So the hell what? You've met some of the investors I've been introduced to over the years. Maybe I can raise some capital, like silent backers. And it could give me something to depend on besides acting.

JASON

No, that's good. That's real good.

RUDY

And when you become famous, you can show up with your entourage of Justin Timberlake and Nick Jonas and we're all over social media as the gay place to hang.

HEATH

Babe, they're not gay.

RUDY

Who the hell cares? I want to meet Nick Jonas.

SAL

Let's see what Evan has to say.

JASON

Sal, this is your deal. Evan probably came to you for a reason. You need to think -- and be honest -- if you'd want to partner up with us.

SAL

Gotta talk to Jill guys.

APOLLO

She may not want you to do this.

SAL

She loves you guys, but you drive her fucking crazy. But I think she wants what I want.

JASON

Now I'm wired.

RUDY

Fuck, I'm wide awake.

HEATH

So I can boil the water for the pasta?

JASON

Let's go down to BlueJay.

RUDY

I'm in.

APOLLO

Me Too.

HEATH

You guys suck!

SAL

Let me grab a shower. Meet you down there is about twenty.

The guys get their coats and head for the front door.

JASON

God I hope that old lady from Queens isn't working tonight. She never gets the fucking orders right.

HEATH

You just have to speak up. She's half deaf.

RUDY

Please. She just can't stand Jay Jay. It's only his order
she screws up...

Apollo, Heath, Jason, Rudy EXIT

The boys still talking in the hall.

JASON (V.O.)

Bullshit. I'm adorable. She loves me.

Apollo (V.O.)

Of course she does.

Ad-lib and fade as they walk away. Sal
stands alone in the apartment.

SAL

It's a good dream.

Sal heads to his bedroom. Turns and
looks around the apartment then to the
audience.

SAL

We had a fine run, my brothers. A damn good run.

SAL EXITS.

FADE TO BLACK

END

