

MANNY

A Radical Comedy
Written by

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INT. PLAIN ROOM - DAY

Close-up on DARREN, handsome, 30s. He speaks in a heavy Southern accent.

DARREN

I've known quite a few pretty ladies in my day, but I must say miss, you absolutely take my breath away.

Intercut an adorable 2-year-old girl, ELPHEBA. She sits quietly in a chair against a blank wall. No expression.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Now, what d'ya say you 'n I grab a six pack 'a somethin' classy and head down to the beach. Just you 'n me 'n the big ol' moon.

The girl tilts her head.

READER

(mouth full)

I don't think that's such a good idea.

A READER sits flatly behind a camcorder holding pages, and eating a sandwich.

DARREN

Well come on, don't you see how beautiful the air is, let me open this winda'. It's practically a perfect night.

Darren mimes very specifically opening a curtain, unlatching a window and letting the air in.

READER

No, don't.

DARREN

Why? What's the matter -

Darren stops suddenly. His eyes wide, as if he's seeing a monster. He screams, throws himself on the ground as if being attacked, struggles. For a while.

JUMP TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Precocious and blonde 5-year-old GLINDA in a cape and mask. She swings a toy sword around the room.

GLINDA

There is a saying, a very old
saying: when the pupil is ready the
master will appear!

Reveal little sister, Elpheba, her only audience member, against the blank kitchen wall. She is in rapture, yet oblivious.

JUMP BACK TO:

INT. PLAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

DARREN

Aghhhhh! AAaaaaaghhhh!

Darren gasps for breath, still rolling on the ground.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Maryanne! Maryanne! Who are you?!
WHAT ARE YOU!??

Darren struggles for breath one more time, then 'dies' in silence.

Three casually dressed casting officials adjust in their seats. Are they bored? Darren finally stands again with a smile, nervous energy courses through him. Quite charming, in fact.

Everyone looks to the lead CASTING DIRECTOR for a response. He speaks, finally.

CASTING DIRECTOR

Was that a southern accent?

DARREN

Well, the character's name *is*
Billy. I was just sort of feelin'
'Good 'ol Mississippi boy'. Really
felt right.

CASTING DIRECTOR

Okay. I think we're looking for
'sexy, surfer Billy.'
(glances at page)
...like in the breakdown.

Darren adopts a surfer accent and 'tude.

DARREN

Well then alright bro, let's go for it one more time!

CASTING DIRECTOR

No, No. That's okay.

(to other)

I think we've seen enough?

OTHER CASTING DIRECTOR

It's up to you.

Darren, hopeful.

CASTING DIRECTOR

I think we've seen enough. Thank you!

DARREN

(sincerely)

Thank you, for the opportunity, and good to meet you. Really. Cowabunga!

CASTING DIRECTOR

Yeah - for future reference, you're better off to just come in and be yourself. Say the lines.

The others nod.

DARREN

Well, I hate to be the one filling you in on this, but this *IS acting*. If I was being myself, I'd have punched that she-wolf right in her hairy face!

(then, sincerely)

But I see what you mean. No, yeah - couldn't agree more. Be myself.

Darren gathers his things, including his dropped pages.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Thanks again.

A beat after he leaves, the CD takes a swig of coffee.

CASTING DIRECTOR

A star on the rise.

The others laugh and sigh.

CASTING DIRECTOR (CONT'D)
Who's is he again?

OTHER CASTING DIRECTOR
(references headshot)
Uhhh... Terry Terrino Talent?

INT. TERRY TERRINO TALENT - DAY

TERRY TERRINO, cut-throat and high-energy, paces his office, on the phone.

TERRY
Hi, are we focusing on failing less today?
(then, toward door)
Stephanie, am I getting my coffee when you're done thoroughly bleaching your anus? Pick it up!

INT. TIFFANY'S BEVERLY HILLS MANSION - KITCHEN - DAY

James deftly chops tomatoes. He simultaneously uses his feet to stop little Glinda from getting into every shelf.

GLINDA
I need a real sword!

JAMES
You neeeeeed to take a seat at the table. Sweetie, *now*.

He sets down the knife and lifts her into a booster seat at the nearby kitchen table. As she removes her mask, he sets Elpheba in a high chair next to her.

GLINDA
Fine. Intermission.

James gives her a peck on the cheek and takes the sword from in front of her.

JAMES
Swashbuckling after breakfast.

Glinda gives an excited smile as food is set in front of her.

GLINDA
Cucumber SALAD!!!

INT. DARREN'S CAR - DAY

Zippering through LA traffic is a spunky orange Corvette. Darren talks on the phone as he drives. Intercut Terry in his office.

DARREN
I thought it was pretty good.

TERRY
Good?! Really?

DARREN
Pretty Good.

TERRY
I need to see you in my office today. When can you get here?

DARREN
Uhhhh...five?

TERRY
Four. See you then.

Click. Darren gives a questioning look at the phone, shrugs it off. He turns up his music, which he sings along with. An oldie: "Goin' to the Chapel"

DARREN
...GOIN' TO THE CHAPEL AND WE'RE
GONNA GET MAAAARIED
GEE I REALLY LOVE YOU AND WE'RE
GONNA GET MARRIED
GOIN' TO THE CHAPEL OF LOVE

As he sings and drives, Darren distractedly searches for a couple of items: an iPhone arm band and a colorful headband.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The song continues over the girls playfully eating. James helps Elpheba cut up her omelette, laughing as she makes funny faces and animatedly chews.

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS STREET - DAY

Mansions and palm trees. Darren looks extra cute in shorts and a tank, jogging along with the chapel song.

He stops on a corner to wait for a light.

He longingly stares at a FAMILY WITH YOUNG CHILDREN walking across the street.

The light turns to walk.

He jogs by a particularly beautiful home. This is Tiffany's Beverly Hills Mansion.

CUT INSIDE TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

James lets the girls loose from the table. He handily cleans up as the girls run around him, playing. The kitchen goes from disarray to spotless.

He lifts a giggling Elpheba and nuzzles her.

JAMES

Are you ready for the swings?!

A quick peck.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Let's go.

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS STREET - DAY

Darren cheerily finishes his jog as we hear the final lyrics: "GOIN' TO THE CHAPEL OF LOVE"

His Corvette is parked on the street. He unlocks it and crawls in.

EXT. TERRY TERRINO TALENT - DAY

In the parking lot, Darren's Corvette speeds into a spot. He jumps out of the car wearing a cute new outfit.

He hears a child's scream in the distance, looks across the lot.

There's a small park a few hundred feet away. Darren witnesses James pushing a stroller and chasing Glinda across a green area.

JAMES

Glinda! Slow down, pill bug!

She falls on the grass, rolling and screaming in laughter.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Shush, you're gonna get the cops called.

Glinda screams again.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I said shush!

He playfully tackles her. Elpheba screams in joy too, trying to jump out of the stroller. James catches the stroller just before it tips over.

From his seated position, he lifts little Elpheba out and holds her to the sky. Glinda tackles him in return, creating an adorable dog-pile of the three of them.

Darren laughs. They look like they're having so much fun.

Suddenly James is attempting to grab his cell phone, and Glinda steals it from him and runs.

James looks up and catches Darren's gaze.

Having been caught, Darren looks away and quickly continues toward the agency door.

INT. RODEO BOUTIQUE - DAY

TIFFANY, a 40ish sexy housewife is a bit crassly dressed in a very expensive outfit, and glancing through a rack. A sign above reads "FAUX FUR". A CLERK lingers nearby.

TIFFANY

(into phone)

Ugh. Heyy James, I'm skipping four o'clock Thai Pilates. My ass already has Jimmy Choo burn anyway. Make sure you're home with the girls.

(to clerk, RE: the sign)

Excuse me, is this real fox?

INT. TERRY TERRINO TALENT - DAY

TERRY, an intimidating man with a sneer, towers over him.

TERRY

A charming. Southern. Accent.

DARREN

I know, it wasn't what they were looking for, but-

TERRY

Ah ah. You can stop right there. If it's not what they're looking for, then why deviate?

DARREN

I thought it would be fun for them to see something different.

TERRY

Fun?! Different? Darren. You're an actor. Your job is not to be fun. And especially not to be different. Your only job is to show casting exactly what the scene will look like in the final product.

Terry has a thought, then slowly shakes his head.

DARREN

What - why are you doing that? Why are you shaking your head like that?

TERRY

I'm not feeling good about this, mister Brock. We hit a lucky streak with the Venus Man series. But out of tights, no one wants to touch you. These shows want gritty. Real. Not *fun*.

DARREN

I can be gritty.

Terry cocks his head and gives a sympathetic sigh.

Riiiiing. Terry holds eye contact with Darren, picks up the phone.

TERRY

Speaking.

A beat. Darren looks down.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Oh, productive are we? Got it. Thanks, Steph.

Terry takes a quick note, hangs up.

TERRY (CONT'D)
OK thank God. Another thing, last
minute.

Terry hands him a note, which he studies.

DARREN
On the Fox lot?

Darren checks the time.

DARREN (CONT'D)
I only have twenty minutes! Thank
you!

He gives Terry an excited smile and dashes out the door.

TERRY
Don't get your hopes up!

Terry picks up the phone.

TERRY (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Hey Steph, I just remembered - can
you schedule me another bleaching?

EXT. TERRY TERRINO TALENT - DAY

The Corvette drives through the lot. Darren is entering an
address into his phone.

Nearby, in the same lot, James straps Elpheba into her car
seat. Glinda skips about, waving a frisbee in the air.

JAMES
Glinda! In your car seat!
(then, to Elpheba)
How are you such an angel?

In the background, we see the frisbee escape Glinda's grasp
and roll away. She thinks for a moment, then bolts after it,
further into the parking lot.

James turns to see Glinda running after the frisbee just as
the orange Corvette barrels toward her.

His eyes wide, he springs into action, hurling the stroller
forward and jumping toward Glinda.

From Darren's perspective, he is still glancing at his phone
when he smashes into the large stroller, crushing it.

Screeeeech. He looks up, panicked. Jumps out of the car.

DARREN
Oh my God! Oh my God!

James is on the ground next to the Corvette. Little Glinda is safe beneath him, in shock.

Darren sees the scene, and the crushed stroller beneath the car.

DARREN (CONT'D)
Your baby!!

JAMES
She's fine. We're fine. That was really close - but we're okay.

James sees the horror in Darren's face.

JAMES (CONT'D)
It's empty. Everyone's safe.

A huge sigh of relief.

DARREN
I am so sorry! I wasn't looking -

JAMES
It's- it's okay. A certain little girl should've been watching where she was going.

Darren watches closely as James kneels on the pavement, chastising Glinda.

JAMES (CONT'D)
We never run out into the street.

GLINDA
This isn't a street.

JAMES
Well anywhere there are cars. You stay by my side. Right?

Glinda nods.

DARREN
I'll replace the stroller.

JAMES
That's kind of you. Thanks.

James begins to stand, Darren rushes over to help him up. A wave of familiarity falls over James' face.

DARREN

I'm Darren.

They shake hands.

JAMES

Yeah I know - Oh my gosh, I've seen every Venus Man like six times.

DARREN

I'm so embarrassed. And who is this little nymph?

JAMES

This is Glinda. And her sister, Elpheba is in the car.

James and Darren exchange a certain smirk.

JAMES (CONT'D)

From 'Wicked' - yup, you guessed it.

They each laugh, Darren still sighing with relief.

JAMES (CONT'D)

(to Glinda)

That's Darren Brock. He's a movie star!

DARREN

It's actually Brockstein. But don't tell anyone.

(points to his nose)

James smiles, smitten.

DARREN (CONT'D)

I suppose you have a name?

JAMES

Oh! James! My name is James - it's - it's actually *Jamestein*. No, that's a lie, no it was a joke, but it came out more like a lie. Because it's not funny.

DARREN

James.

JAMES

You rang?

James laughs. There's an awkward beat as Darren glances back to his car.

DARREN

Um. I don't know where to buy this kind of stroller.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

JAMES

Darren Brock invited me on a date!
Sort of.

James brandishes a phone number scrawled on a small card. Pitts, who is walking in with a stack of DVD's drops everything and runs to him. She grabs the number eagerly.

PITTS

Whaaaaaat!?? Wait - sort of?

In the background, we see the girls playing. James doesn't notice that Elpheba is happily being tied up by Glinda.

JAMES

It felt like he was asking me out.
Is that possible? Well, he ran over Elpheba's stroller first. Anyway, he wants to go shopping tomorrow to replace it. Together! Is he even gay?

PITTS

Totally. Haven't you heard the rumors?

(RE: the number)

Oh my god James - it's a 555 number, just like in the movies!

They don't see Glinda grabbing a large knife from the counter and heading back to her sister.

JAMES

Wait, how would he know *I* was gay?

PITTS

Possibly the rainbow on your shirt.

James looks at his shirt, which is blank. Pitts laughs.

PITTS (CONT'D)
Made you look.

JAMES
I can't be awake! I'm - Pitts, I'm
dreaming, aren't I? Tell me I'm
dreaming.

PITTS
(looks at number)
Well according to this, you have a
date with a movie star. It must be
a dream. But I'm glad I'm here to
enjoy it with you.

They scream and jump up and down.

Elpheba also screams.

GLINDA
A nymph sacrifice!

They turn to see her on the kitchen floor. She is wrapped in
string and covered in tomato drippings. Glinda holds the
scary-looking knife over her.

JAMES
Sweetie! What are you doing?! No no
no, give me that.

He takes the knife.

GLINDA
What? It's not even real ketchup.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

TIFFANY
Great news!

Tiffany sits across from James in her stylish living room.
There are a dozen fresh Rodeo Drive shopping bags strewn
about.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)
We're renting out the guest house.

A beat. Glinda zooms between them dragging a balloon,
screaming. She is appeared and gone in a flash. Neither take
notice.

JAMES
Where am I going to live?

TIFFANY

Wherever you want! We found a live-in Nanny from Croatia. She's going to work for room and board.

Glinda zooms by again.

JAMES

Wait, I'm losing my job, too? How is this good news?!

TIFFANY

Because she's a lot cheaper...

James reels.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

Oh, I see - how is this good news for you? It's not. We're going to let you go at the end of the summer.

James is dumbfounded. Glinda zooms.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

Oh! I got you a gift.

She reaches into one of the shopping bags.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

It's a bow *tie*.

James looks at the bow tie. It's very cute.

Glinda screams past.

INT. IAGO'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Pitts polishes off a pint of beer and slams the glass down on the bar.

PITTS

Fuck her.

JAMES

Ew.

We see James sitting beside her at the swanky bar. She's simultaneously drinking and counting a pile of cash - tips from her shift. The bar is mostly empty.

PITTS

She doesn't know how much you mean to those kids. Hell, you're the only mother Elpheba has known. They'd be lost without you.

JAMES

I feel like you're reading that out of a best friend manual.

PITTS

Listen, she's a fuckin' idiot. If you'd like, I'll slap some sense into her ugly gay face.

She takes a swig of a second pint.

JAMES

Really, Pitts? Are you sure you'd do that? You're like the most passive person I know.

PITTS

You're right. Okay, maybe I'd write an anonymous hate letter and slip it under her door.

JAMES

Thanks. Gay face?

PITTS

Yeah 'gay face' as in 'stupid face'.

JAMES

You really shouldn't use the word that way.

PITTS

You're right. I'm sorry.

James abruptly stands up from the bar, frustrated.

PITTS (CONT'D)

What? I won't use the word!

JAMES

Pitts. My dad was right. I'm losing a job usually done by middle-aged foreign women. I have no income. I have no boyfriend. I'm actually the definition of failure.

Pitts tilts her head, sorrowfully.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Now is the time to break out that manual.

Pitts gives him a hug.

PITTS

Oh, Jamesy-bear. You're not a failure. You're the fucking best person I know. And I'm from Chicago!

JAMES

Lies.

PITTS

Truths! Truths! You're a rock! You treat those girls like they're your own. You're going to make an awesome dad someday.

JAMES

I know.

PITTS

Hey, think about *this* - I've been in LA for *8 years*, and I'm still, you know...

JAMES

...waiting tables and looking for a girlfriend?

Pitts cringes.

JAMES (CONT'D)

You're the best thing in my life.

PITTS

I love you no matter what!

A huge hug.

A phone alert is heard. Pitts eagerly grabs her phone.

JAMES

Who's that?

PITTS

Oh! I have a first date tomorrow, too. Check this out.

Pitts shows him an OkCupid profile on her phone.

JAMES

She is hot.

PITTS

I know, it's never gonna work out. She's gonna think I'm ugly, and boring, and give me the second half of her drink as she struts out of the bar. Then I'll come home alone, eat half a gallon of chocolate peanut-butter chunk and anticipate your call telling me how your amazing night was.

A beat of sincerity.

JAMES

You have this all planned out.

PITTS

Uh-hunh.

JAMES

Wow that got really dark.

PITTS

But I'm excited for you!

JAMES

Aw, yay!

EXT. THE GROVE - DAY

James pushes an empty stroller alongside Darren. TWO WOMEN walk by, staring. James makes a show of talking to an invisible baby.

JAMES

Phoebe, ignore them. You're beautiful.

Darren laughs loudly.

DARREN

Where did you come from?!

JAMES

Probably some other planet.

DARREN

God, you're good with kids.

JAMES

You say that like you're terrible
with them.

DARREN

No, I love kids. What grade are you
in?

JAMES

Sixth. I know - I look young for my
age.

They laugh together. Darren can't help but study James' eyes.
Eventually, James takes notice.

JAMES (CONT'D)

What?

DARREN

I want to show you something.

EXT. GROVE PARKING GARAGE ROOF - DAY

It's near twilight. James pushes the stroller as Darren leads
him to the far edge.

DARREN

It sounds silly, but this is one of
my favorite views of the city.

It really is a spectacular view. The sunset colors the sky.

JAMES

Wow!

Darren watches James' face.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Hey you can see where people line
up for The Price is Right!

James is cut off by an abrupt kiss from Darren. When he pulls
back, James is in shock.

DARREN

I've been wanting to do that this
whole time.

James can only nod. Darren looks around to make sure no one
is around.

DARREN (CONT'D)
Was that okay?

Nod.

DARREN (CONT'D)
Are you married?

Head shake "no"

Darren swoops in for another kiss. A deep kiss.

DARREN (CONT'D)
Just say you're not an actor, and
my heart is yours.

They laugh.

JAMES
I'm not an actor. I'm not anything,
really. In constant re-examination
of my life.

DARREN
I know what you mean. I usually
feel like I'm just floating around
being whatever others expect from
me. Sometimes I wish I was free of
all responsibility. Of course, your
ultimate responsibility is to those
girls.

JAMES
Right.

DARREN
How often are you with them?

JAMES
They take up most of my time.

DARREN
Wow. That's gotta be the hardest
job in the world.

JAMES
Well-

DARREN
Being a father.

Darren gets closer to James.

DARREN (CONT'D)

It takes heart to be who you are,
James. A selfless man.

JAMES

I wouldn't say selfless.

DARREN

No, of course you wouldn't. That
would be contradictory I think.
Heh. You are incredibly handsome,
James. Or should I call you daddy?

JAMES

I don't know how appropriate that
would be.

DARREN

It's funny. If I had only seen your
pretty face, I probably wouldn't
have looked twice- well maybe
twice. But then you with those
kids... You're the man I didn't
think could exist. A real man, with
a story. It's probably too good to
be true.

JAMES

Probably.

DARREN

I'm not gonna lie to you, James.
I've got secrets.

JAMES

Right.

DARREN

Big secrets, small secrets.

JAMES

Like what?

DARREN

Like I'm drunk right now.

JAMES

You're drunk.

DARREN

I'm not an alcoholic or anything. I
was just really nervous about being
with you.

Darren brandishes a flask.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Here.

James takes the flask. Hesitantly, he takes a swig.

JAMES

Thanks.

He puckers.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Oh! That's really good, what is that?

DARREN

Jäger.

James coughs. Darren grabs the flask, takes another swig and hands it back to James.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Where are the kids tonight?

JAMES

They're with Bob.

(struggles)

Bob....the babysitter. Babysitter
Bob.

DARREN

A male baby sitter? Only in LA.

JAMES

I know, right?!

James takes a swig.

INT. DARREN'S HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

The sun glares on James' face. He wakes up suddenly. Where is he?

Alone in a beautiful large white bedroom. Harshly modern decor. Through a sliding glass door is a small pool.

Darren walks in. He brushes his teeth in the nude.

DARREN

Good morning, daddy.

JAMES

Oh my god. Oh my *god*-

DARREN

Oh! Sorry - you said not to call you that.

James searches for his clothes.

JAMES

No no no no. I have to go.

DARREN

You said the sitter would stay the night with the girls.

JAMES

No! I - Yes, I did. But I'm supposed to be there at eight.

Darren looks confused, glances at his phone.

DARREN

Okay, well it's only 8:30.

JAMES

Shit.

James finds and throws his clothes on. Darren tries to slow him down with kisses on his back.

DARREN

What are you so worried about? It's a half-hour.

JAMES

I'm addicted to punctuality.

DARREN

I'll give you a ride.

James stops for a moment. He looks at the clock. He looks at Darren.

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS - DAY

The topless orange Corvette speeds down a beautiful palm-lined residential hood.

JAMES

Right here.

Darren pulls up to the curb in front of Tiffany's large, beautiful house.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Thanks.

DARREN

Hey this is pretty close. You're not gonna invite me in?

JAMES

Um. Next time.

DARREN

Come on, at least let me take you and the kids to breakfast.

JAMES

Sorry! I'll call you later!

James jumps out of the convertible, leaving Darren deflated.

Darren puts the car in gear, looks toward the front door as James runs in.

INT. TIFFANY'S BEVERLY HILLS MANSION - DAY

James comes in quickly, struggles to close the awkwardly baby-proofed door.

A distant two-year-old's piercing scream can be heard.

JAMES

I'm here! I'm here!

Tiffany rushes out of nowhere - all set to go. She already has her sunglasses on, and is on the phone.

TIFFANY

Oh thank god.

(covering the phone)

I'm late for a breakfast. Bob left a check for the gardeners on the fridge. Glinda refuses to eat her waffles.

Tiffany hands James the car key.

GLINDA

(Screaming)

It's Gaaaalinda!

TIFFANY

Elpheba is in her crib, as I'm sure
you can hear.

Another distant scream.

Her ear goes back to her cell.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

I dunno just surprise me. I'll send
back the ones I don't want.

She looks at James.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

You look like hell. Are you okay?

JAMES

I'm fine- just slept in.

Tiffany opens the front door.

TIFFANY

(into phone)

Oh my God. I gotta call you back.

She hangs up and whips back around.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

Darren Brock is on my front lawn.

JAMES

No way.

Tiffany exits the house, James rushes to intervene.

EXT. TIFFANY'S HOUSE - LAWN - DAY

On the lawn, Darren walks up to Tiffany, who quickly removes
her sunglasses.

TIFFANY

Hiiii.

JAMES

Darren! This is Tiffany... Glinda
and Elpheba's mom.

DARREN

Oh? Oh! Lovely to meet you, mom.

TIFFANY

Tiffany. I love your le- work.

She stumbles over words, then laughs out loud.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

I was going to say legs! I love your legs, too.

DARREN

Thanks, Tiffany.

TIFFANY

How do you know James?

DARREN

We just - ran into each other. At the park down the street. I met your girls.

TIFFANY

Oh! That's fantastic! I'd love to have you and your girlfriend, Lindsay over for dinner some time. I've always wanted to meet her.

Darren blushes.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

It was in US Weekly! Oh, I have to rush to breakfast. I'll have James put me in touch with you. Ta-ta!

DARREN

Ta-ta!

Tiffany jumps into the back of a Towncar, which promptly zooms off. Darren turns with apologetic grimace.

JAMES

I didn't know she was going to be here.

DARREN

No, no. I understand better than you know.

JAMES

You do?

GLINDA

Whoa! Cool car!

Glinda has appeared on the lawn behind them, staring at the orange Corvette.

DARREN
You wanna go for a spin with Daddy?

GLINDA
With Daddy?

DARREN
Yeah!

GLINDA
I wanna go in a spin with you!

Darren looks to James, who sighs.

INT. DARREN'S CAR - DAY

Top down, James, Darren, and the two girls (in car seats) zip through the sunset strip.

DARREN
(Scottish)
Hang on, lassies!

Glinda screams for joy with her hands in the air. Elpheba pathetically tries to follow suit.

EXT. SUNSET STRIP RESTAURANT - DAY

They are seated at a cute outdoor table, eating.

GLINDA
These waffles are a lot better.

James helps Elpheba cut up her breakfast. She's very messy, but in a good mood.

DARREN
So - hear me out before you say no.
(aside, toward Elpheba)
That really is the cutest thing
I've ever seen.

GLINDA
What's a nymph?

JAMES
It's a - actually I don't know.

DARREN

Well, in Greek mythology, they're divine female spirits who dance and sing and spread joy wherever they go.

GLINDA

I'm a NYMPH!!

Everyone looks at them. James laughs but tries to calm her.

JAMES

Shhh.

DARREN

(back to topic at hand)
Anyway - I was thinking of heading up the coast next week. How about a little camping trip with you and the girls?

James contemplates.

Glinda stops eating, looks to James with a super-excited face, open-mouthed.

JAMES

You look insane.

Darren smiles.

INT. JAMES' ROOM - DAY

Pitts and James in front of a mirror. She tries on wigs/adopts characters as she speaks.

Pitts starts with a Rasta wig, and James in a long blonde one.

PITTS

(Rasta)
You got yo'self in a bad spot, man. If ya come clean now, he'll dump you on de spot fer bein' a liar. If ya don't, ya gon' be one.

JAMES

I knowwwwww. I'm horrible.

PITTS

(Rasta)
But don' give up, me brotha'.
(MORE)

PITTS (CONT'D)

You could always adopt a disguise,
and run into him as another person,
and fall in love all over again.

JAMES

That's just it. Pitts - he can't be
in love - he doesn't know who I am.
He thinks I'm some rich dad with a
mansion and a family.

Pitts switches to a blonde wig.

PITTS

(Valley Girl)

Well, you don't even want to know
what I would do.

JAMES

What's that?

PITTS

(Valley Girl)

Well If I had lied...

JAMES

Yeah...

PITTS

(Valley)

Been in a totally like mistaken
identity crisis.

JAMES

Yeah...

PITTS

(Valley)

And completely devalued my
integrity, highlighted by half-
assed attempts toward honesty...

JAMES

hmp.

PITTS

(normal voice)

I'd probably crawl under a rock and
die.

James looks saddened.

PITTS (CONT'D)

(Valley Girl, giggles)

But that's just me.

James sighs.

PITTS (CONT'D)
What do you want?

JAMES
I want to give this a chance.

PITTS
Then I'll support you.

INT. TIFFANY'S BEVERLY HILLS MANSION - KID'S ROOM - DAY

Elpheba and Glinda sit on a bed, as James stands over them holding a baggy of jelly beans.

GLINDA
Dad.

James hands her a jelly bean, which is happily gobbled up.

GLINDA (CONT'D)
Dad.

Again.

GLINDA (CONT'D)
Daddy.

Again.

ELPHEBA
Mommy!

Both girls laugh. Then Glinda with the most energy she can muster:

GLINDA
Daddy times a Kabillion-Tra-
Trillion!!!

Glinda holds her hands out.

EXT. HIGHWAY 1 - DAY

The familiar orange Corvette winds along the coast.

INT. DARREN'S CAR - DAY

Darren drives. Elpheba watches as Glinda plays with an iPad in the back.

DARREN

What did you do to convince their mom?

JAMES

It was tough. It was really tough- I had to tell her she wouldn't have to deal with her kids for a night.

Darren laughs.

DARREN

(to kids)

Well, I think you girls are awesome!

Glinda hands her iPad to James.

GLINDA

Daddy look! I drew you and Darren.

James looks at the iPad, which features two stick figures kissing with hearts all around them. James tries to hide it from Darren.

JAMES

What is this? Glinda!

DARREN

Let me see.

He does.

JAMES

I don't know why-

DARREN

It's impeccable. It's incredibly accurate. Look at that - Daddy and Uncle Darren.

(then to Glinda)

Well done, little lady!

Glinda smiles huge. The men share a meaningful look.

Glinda whispers to Elpheba.

GLINDA

I didn't know we had an uncle.

EXT. MALIBU CANYON - DAY

Twilight. On a patch of grass overlooking the water, the boys have a private picnic spread outside of a tent. The sun is setting, and the view is just perfect.

On the tent, we can see the shadow of Glinda telling a story to Elpheba.

JAMES

This is so surreal.

There is an empty bottle of wine between them. James is clearly tipsy.

DARREN

(British)

You impress me, James.

JAMES

(Also British)

I can't imagine why.

DARREN

It's those kids - they love you...

JAMES

Yeah, well...

James pauses.

DARREN

What's wrong.

JAMES

I love them too. I don't know what I would do without them.

DARREN

Probably get a lot more sleep.

James looks to him. Cracks up.

JAMES

Shut up.

They kiss against the setting sun.

DARREN

I've always wanted a family.

JAMES

I said shut up.

The kiss continues until they topple onto the blanket.

EXT. MALIBU CANYON - DAY

Darren straps the girls into their carseats.

GLINDA
Can James drive us home?

Darren is taken aback for a moment.

DARREN
You mean your Dad?

Glinda looks to James, who is approaching the car with the last of the camping supplies, thinks for a moment.

GLINDA
Can our dad drive us home?

DARREN
Do you want him to?

They each finish packing the car and get in.

GLINDA
I think he drives better than you.

DARREN
Does he?!

James laughs.

JAMES
I swear I didn't pay her to say
that.

INT. DARREN'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Days later, James and Darren face each other, sitting together in crystal clear tub water. Pot smoke fills the room. Darren takes a puff on a joint and passes it to James.

DARREN
Didn't you find the lobster a
little dry tonight?

JAMES
The lobster?

James takes a drag.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Oh yeah. A little dry.

James begins to crack a smile. The weed is beginning to take effect.

DARREN

You've never had lobster before,
have you?

James' smile fades. Has he been found out?

Darren suddenly lets a laugh burst forth.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Your face right now! You are so
fucking high.

JAMES

(rote)

You're so fucking high.

They burst out laughing.

DARREN

You know, the first time I smoked a
joint my Dad found the roach in my
room.

JAMES

No.

DARREN

Yes. Yes! And he sat me down and we
had a very serious talk. Maybe the
first time we talked face-to-face -
ever, I don't know. And he already
knew I wanted to move out and do
the Hollywood thing, and he never
ever believed I could make it work.
And finding that joint in my room
was proof somehow that I would be
desperately poor, flushing my life
away in California, doing drugs,
and remaining unhappy forever and
ever.

JAMES

Well, clearly you proved him wrong.

A beat.

DARREN

Yeah. But he was right, too. About some things. And when I dropped out of acting school, man, was he pissed. Not that it was his money.

JAMES

No?

DARREN

Hell no! I got loans, I was on my own. Even slept on the street for a few weeks, til some guy generously let me stay on his couch while I looked for work.

James scoffs.

DARREN (CONT'D)

What?

JAMES

It's just funny. It' so easy to see all the success, the movies and the money or whatever. And forget about the uglier stuff.

DARREN

There are no sure things in life. And everyone has a past.

JAMES

Everyone has a present.

DARREN

You're so deep.

They laugh.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Well shit, you're doing pretty well for yourself. You've got those beautiful girls.

JAMES

Yeah.

Darren gets closer, with a certain gleam in his eyes.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I am not your next meal.

Darren licks his lips.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Noooo.

They kiss and laugh. Darren reaches under the water.

DARREN

What do we have here, Mr. Mom?

Darren reaches under the water.

JAMES

Don't call me that.

DARREN

I think I found a snake. Mama.

JAMES

Okay, officially disturbed.

Darren emphasizes each word with a gentle tug.

DARREN

I can't believe you've made two babies.

He leans closer again, fixating on James' eyes.

DARREN (CONT'D)

But I'm so happy you did.

A beautiful kiss. Then, Darren leans down toward James' crotch.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Let me get to know you better.

Darren submerges.

JAMES

If you drown, I'm going to kill you!

INT. DARREN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

James is passed out. Darren sits next to him on the bed. He scrolls through shows on the TV. He decides to tuck James in.

He stands. James is motionless as Darren pulls his socks off. He notices they are full of holes. He gives James a curious look, throws them in the trash.

INT. DARREN'S KITCHEN - DAY

In early morning light, James saunters out of the bedroom and finds Darren french-pressing coffee. Darren's phone buzzes.

JAMES

I couldn't find my socks, so I stole a pair of yours.

DARREN

Oh.

He reaches for the phone. James observes.

INT. TERRY TERRINO TALENT - DAY

Intercut Terry on the phone.

TERRY

I told you they'd love you! This is gonna be huge if we can pull this off.

DARREN

Yeah?

TERRY

Yup. There is one thing, though... I spoke with one of the producers... they're worried about *the rumor*.

DARREN

Come on.

TERRY

Don't make me say it, Brock. We've beaten this to death like a baby seal.

DARREN

Yeah, I know. I'm heading to breakfast at the Ivy now.

TERRY

That's my star.

Click.

INT. DARREN'S KITCHEN - DAY

JAMES
Oh?

DARREN
It's Lindsay.

James nods.

DARREN (CONT'D)
What?

JAMES
Nothing.

Darren hands James the coffee. He smells it - delicious.

Darren sits and stares while James takes a sip, smiles.

DARREN
Who are you, James?

James nearly spills.

JAMES
What do you mean?

DARREN
Tell me who you really are. How did
you make all your money?

James sets the mug down.

JAMES
The truth?

Darren nods.

JAMES (CONT'D)
This is embarrassing. But.

DARREN
It's okay. You can tell me.

James sighs.

JAMES
Married into it.

DARREN
You're kidding.

JAMES

No, it's true. She's got all the money. I wanted to tell you, before.

DARREN

Well, you know what?

James waits.

DARREN (CONT'D)

I think you could do anything you wanted to.

Darren looks at James. Gives him a peck on the cheek, and goes.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Make sure to lock up.

INT. TIFFANY'S BEVERLY HILLS MANSION - KITCHEN

James is deftly cooking dinner for the kids - veggie patties and steamed spinach. Elpheba is playing with a cardboard box nearby, and Glinda is drawing on the kitchen floor with markers. He sings to a loud track, and Glinda attempts to join in at parts.

JAMES

I GOT THIS BURNIN' BURNIN' BURNIN'
FEELIN' INSIDE ME
OOOOH I CAN'T HELP MYSELF
I LOVE YOU AND NOBODY ELSE

James' phone rings on the counter. He turns down the music to answer.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Hello?

INT. BOUTIQUE CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Tiffany judgmentally picks thru clothes.

TIFFANY

(passing each dress)

Ew. Ew. Oh! Ew.

(into phone)

Oh hey, can you set the table and make sure the kitchen is clean when I get home? Chef Jay is cooking for the dinner tonight.

JAMES (V.O.)
The dinner? What dinner?

TIFFANY
Yeah, with Brock and Lindsay? It's
a Godsend that Bob is out of town
on business, tell Jay it'll just be
three of us.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Intercut as necessary. James looks up to see Glinda dancing
on the counter.

JAMES
(quietly)
Get down, down!

He puts Glinda back on the floor, who promptly resumes
coloring the floor.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Uhhh. uhhhm. Won't you need me to
take care of the kids then?

TIFFANY
Well I'm putting them to bed at
7:30, so not really. Elpheba's a
dream with a little Nyquil. See ya
in an hour.

She hangs up.

JAMES
Ohhhhh shhhh-azam.

He looks down to see the colorful floor, where Elpheba has
joined in with markers.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Hey! Maybe let's not do this!

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Tiffany walks in laughing. CHEF JAY, a handsome and muscled
Latino man, steps behind her. She flirts, drinking white
wine.

TIFFANY
And I thought - wait, Thai food
isn't from Taiwan?!
(MORE)

TIFFANY (CONT'D)
And everybody laughed - just like
that. Just like you're doing.

Chef Jay is laughing, unloading two bags of food.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)
Shower time.

She leaves.

James stands up from the kitchen floor, wearing rubber gloves
and holding two steel wool pads.

Elpheba and Glinda are at the kitchen table, eating.

CHEF JAY
James! How've you been?

JAMES
Hey Chef. Great! Thanks.

CHEF JAY
Here, give me a hand with this.

Chef Jay hands a couple items to James, who proceeds to make
room on the counter for them, and organize.

JAMES
Oh, are these heirloom tomatoes?

CHEF JAY
Little slices of heaven.

James indicates the little girls with a gesture.

JAMES
Hey...do you mind...?

CHEF JAY
Not at all.

James sneaks away.

INT. TIFFANY'S BEVERLY HILLS MANSION - STAIRS - DAY

James comes up the stairs.

JAMES
Tiffany?

INT. TIFFANY'S BEVERLY HILLS MANSION - HALLYWAY - DAY

James sneaks behind her toward the bathroom door - he hears Tiffany in the bedroom nearby, and peaks over.

He can see Tiffany walking through the room, taking out her earrings.

James sneaks into the master bathroom.

INT. TIFFANY'S BEVERLY HILLS MANSION - BATHROOM - DAY

James looks through the medicine cabinet, grabs a bottle of Visine. He then squeezes a few drops into a glass of sparkling water on the counter. There's an open bottle of Perrier next to it.

He then decides to empty the rest of the eye drops into the bottle.

Tiffany comes into the bathroom wearing only a towel.

TIFFANY

What's up?

James quickly covers what he's doing, pretends to zip up his pants. Gives a fake 'sigh of relief'.

JAMES

Ahhhhh. Hi! Wondering...

She waits for him to spit out the words.

JAMES (CONT'D)

If I could join you all for dinner tonight, you know - it's little weird, don't you think - after introducing you to Darren and everything.

Tiffany sighs.

TIFFANY

You'll take care of the girls if they wake up?

JAMES

Yeah, anything.

TIFFANY

Fine. Tell Chef Jay.

Tiffany pushes past James toward the shower. He walks out.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)
And you'll help him out with
anything he needs!

Tiffany approaches the shower and turns on the water. She then tops off her glass of Perrier.

She puts it to her mouth, but decides she's in a hurry.

She sets the glass down and gets in.

EXT. TIFFANY'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

James runs toward his room in the guest quarters.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Chef Jay is chopping vegetables. The girls sit close by watching and eating.

CHEF JAY
Your dinner looks good. Is that a
soy patty?

GLINDA
What you're making looks far
superior.

CHEF JAY
Well, this meal is for Mommy.

GLINDA
I don't think I've ever seen her
eat.
(then, to Elpheba)
Have you?

Elpheba shrugs.

GLINDA (CONT'D)
I've seen her drink a lot.

CHEF JAY
Oh yeah?

GLINDA
Yeah. Like a lot a lot.

Chef Jay laughs.

INT. TIFFANY'S BEVERLY HILLS MANSION - BATHROOM - DAY

Tiffany comes out of the shower, grabs a towel, wraps it. Then, she picks up the glass of water once again. Looking in the mirror, she brushes back her hair with her one free hand.

INT. JAMES' ROOM - DAY

James is putting finishing touches on a sexy outfit. Bowtie included.

INT. TIFFANY'S BEVERLY HILLS MANSION - KID'S ROOM - NIGHT

James sits with a book reading to the kids. Elpheba is in her crib, and Glinda in her tiny bed.

JAMES

Good night moon. Good night, girls.

James checks his face in the mirror on the way out of the room.

GLINDA

James?

He returns to the bedside.

JAMES

Yeah?

GLINDA

I love you.

A moment.

JAMES

I love you both very much. Good night.

INT. TIFFANY'S BEVERLY HILLS MANSION - BATHROOM - DAY

Tiffany takes a sip of the Perrier. Then, she chugs it, breathes, then chugs again.

She pours the rest of the bottle into the glass and chugs the whole thing.

Burps loudly.

Then, smiles and starts putting on her face.

INT. TIFFANY'S BEVERLY HILLS MANSION - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

James swaggers into the room showing off his outfit. Chef finishes the table setting by lighting a few candles.

JAMES
What d'ya think?

CHEF JAY
It's very European.

JAMES
(German accent)
Vell Of course it is, Chef! I am European tonight! Zer are times in your life you must play a certain role, ver other's opinions must be swept aside and -
(hesitates)
How long have you been standing zer?

Darren appears with a tall twenty-something woman in a stunning dress. This is LINDSAY. A too-perfect feminine beard.

LINDSAY
We just walked in.

Silence and stillness from all parties except

LINDSAY (CONT'D)
(laughs)
You're funny.

Lindsay stops laughing.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Later, all four sit around the table: James, who is most uncomfortable, sits across from Lindsay. Tiffany sits next to James and across from Darren. They've already begun eating.

James eyes Tiffany. She looks chipper.

TIFFANY
I could never write a book.

JAMES
Don't be so hard on yourself!

Laughs.

LINDSAY

To tell the truth, I was
practically forced into it.

TIFFANY

What's the title?

LINDSAY

It's going to be called
"Eliminated: A memoir of a former
American Gladiator"

TIFFANY

I am so happy you still have your
beautiful face after all that
pounding!

LINDSAY

Well, there were a lot of safety
precautions taken. It seems silly,
but it was a very professional
environment.

TIFFANY

That's so great. I'm pretty sure
Glinda is on track to become a
gladiator. She's only five, but
trust me. Right, James?

JAMES

Mmm. Mmhmm.

LINDSAY

James. What is it you do for work?

James, in shock.

JAMES

As little as possible.

Everyone laughs.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I was thinking about being a
gladiator, but it's no longer a
show.

LINDSAY

What, really, though?

JAMES

Nothing of interest.

LINDSAY

Come on.

JAMES

Well, the kids. They're a full time job in themselves - you know, I watch the children- that's what I do.

TIFFANY

He's wonderful with them.

LINDSAY

That is so sweet.

TIFFANY

I'm curious, how did you two meet?

LINDSAY

Well, back when I lived in New York, I was just out jogging.

DARREN

Central Park - and of course, it was fall. The trees.

Lindsay giggles, charmingly continues the story.

LINDSAY

Thousands of people jog there every day. Imagine the chances.

They share an intimate smile.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

I had to stop and tie my shoe and...

DARREN

And I saw her... and I saw her...

It sounds like he might say "And the Rest is History", but Darren can't come up with the words.

DARREN (CONT'D)

...I - I saw her...

LINDSAY

(happily shrugs)
He saw me.

DARREN

(matter-of-fact)
I saw her.

They share another intimate smile. Tiffany has a sudden burp, covers her mouth.

TIFFANY
Oh, sorry.

LINDSAY
How about you two?

Tiffany glances to James.

TIFFANY
Us - Oh, oh James? Me and James?

LINDSAY
Yeah, how did you first meet? Was it just magic?

TIFFANY
Ha! Hardly.

JAMES
Y'know, we met in the- the usual way...people meet.

TIFFANY
(overlapping)
Actually I put out a - a craigslist ad, didn't I? And you responded.

JAMES
Yes! That was it.

LINDSAY
Really? Craigslist? Tell me more.

JAMES
It was Craigslist! What else is there to tell? Lindsay, what was it like being on TV? Tell us more about the gladiators.

TIFFANY
Yes! I really was such a big fan of that show.

LINDSAY
Oh! Thank you.

James stands and grabs an empty wine bottle.

JAMES
Darren, could you help me choose a bottle?

Darren gets up swiftly to help.

DARREN

Oh sure!

They go toward the kitchen.

TIFFANY

(to Lindsay)

He's right. It was pretty straightforward. He was the first to respond to the ad, he came over, seemed like a perfect fit, and he's been here ever since.

Lindsay nods.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Darren and James drop the dishes next to the sink, and Darren grabs James.

DARREN

Ugh - I thought we'd never get out of that small talk hell.

Darren begins kissing James.

JAMES

I don't think we should-

DARREN

I know. Ughhhh it's so hard to keep my mouth off of you.

JAMES

Lindsay doesn't know about you, does she?

DARREN

About me...? Fuck no! What do you mean? Does your wife know about you?

JAMES

Yes! And she's not my wife!

Darren tilts his head. James has a moment. He hesitates.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I mean Tiffany is not my wife...anymore.

(MORE)

JAMES (CONT'D)

We're separated, I - we both still live here obviously - but I sleep in the guest quarters out back - she's nothing more than the mother of my children at this point. And I'm moving out at the end of summer.

Darren's face turns dark.

DARREN

Did you tell her about us?

JAMES

No!

DARREN

Okay, I respect your... being - but NO ONE needs to know about this, okay? We discussed this.

James nods.

DARREN (CONT'D)

I knew you'd understand.

Darren grabs the flask from his jacket and takes a swig.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Tiffany and Lindsay across from one another.

TIFFANY

You seem so in love.

LINDSAY

We are! I mean - I think we are! So do you.

TIFFANY

Hm?

LINDSAY

You and James!

TIFFANY

Oh! You think James and I -

She laughs, and lets out a small burp.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

Gosh, excuse me. James is just-

Another burp - She holds her chest. Another large burp.

Lindsay's eyes widen.

Tiffany becomes dizzy and nauseous.

LINDSAY

Are you okay?

TIFFANY

I'm sorry, I think I -

A loud belch. Tiffany abruptly stands away from the table, holding back vomit.

Lindsay stands to help her.

James enters as Tiffany hunches over the table. Lindsay moves to rub her back.

LINDSAY

She's ill or something.

Tiffany stands, tries to remain composed. Darren comes in.

TIFFANY

It's okay - I think it might be food poisoning.

Lindsay examines Tiffany's face.

LINDSAY

Gosh, you're beautiful up close.

James takes note of the strange interaction.

Suddenly, Tiffany opens her mouth and a fountain of liquid vomit empties onto Lindsay's face.

Lindsay screams. Tiffany runs upstairs, heaving.

James dashes and returns with towels for Lindsay, while Darren tries to comfort her.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

Oh, my god. I wanna go.

DARREN

You'll be okay.

LINDSAY

I don't like this. I don't like this.

JAMES

I guess you'd better bring her home.

Darren looks at James, disappointed.

JAMES (CONT'D)

(re: heaving upstairs)
She sounds really sick.

DARREN

(To Lindsay)
Come on, you'll be okay.

They move toward the door.

JAMES

So sorry. We'll have to do this another night.

INT. JAMES' ROOM - NIGHT

It's late. James stares straight ahead.

JAMES

There's something I haven't told you.

He stretches his mouth, clears his throat.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I wanna - I wanna come clean. I'm a nanny actually.

(laughs)

I know - it's crazy. I'm just a nanny.

BANG. His door bursts open, scaring James, whom we now see was addressing himself in a mirror on the wall.

It's Darren, looking drunk but happy.

DARREN

Am I interrupting something?

JAMES

Hey!

DARREN

Sorry. Who were you talking to?

JAMES

Um. I was rehearsing.

DARREN
For a play?

James spots a Shakespeare book on his shelf.

JAMES
No, just a speech. Shakespeare. For fun.

Darren saunters to James, indicates the house.

DARREN
How is...uh...?

JAMES
Oh! She'll be fine. She was asleep by the time I cleaned up a week's worth of wheat grass.

DARREN
Poor thing. So what's the speech?

They get closer and closer. A small kiss.

JAMES
I don't know. A big movie star like you. Makes me nervous.

Darren grabs James, and they collapse onto the bed, James straddling Darren.

DARREN
I'll go easy. Promise.

JAMES
Oh yeah?

DARREN
Oh yeah.

They tear each other's shirts off.

DARREN (CONT'D)
Give it to me.

JAMES
Are you sure?

DARREN
More than anything.

James straightens up.

JAMES

"Other slow arts entirely keep the
brain, and therefore, finding
barren practitioners scarce show a
harvest of their heavy toil..."

DARREN

Come here!

Darren pulls James down onto him, laughing.

Heat. Passion. Intensity.

More clothes are ripped off as we...

JUMP TO:

INT. JAMES' ROOM - DAY

Knock knock knock.

James opens his sleepy eyes. Darren is asleep next to him. He smiles.

Knock knock knock.

Darren's eyes widen, and he springs out of bed, panicked.

DARREN

Who is that?!

Darren looks around for clothes, but quickly gives up, jumping toward the nearby closet.

DARREN (CONT'D)

How do you close this thing?

It's filled with too many clothes for the door to stay shut. James pushes and Darren pulls.

Suddenly, James' bedroom door swings open with a force just as James steps in front of the mostly-shut closet door.

As she walks in, Pitts speaks.

PITTS

Shaved my legs last night. *Big*
mistake... What the hey - You never
sleep in -

Suddenly, she realizes what's happening. James still holding the closet door, where there is a bit of shuffling noise.

PITTS (CONT'D)
(whispers)
Is he in the closet right now?

James nods.

PITTS (CONT'D)
Oh, that's priceless.

James shares a silent laugh with her. Pitts motions that she'll come back in a minute. James gives a thumbs up.

She exits. James opens the door to reveal Darren's contorted nude backside. He steps out.

DARREN
My place from now on.

JAMES
My thoughts exactly.

Darren begins to dress.

INT. BEVERLY CENTER - DAY

James holds Glinda's hands as he pushes a stroller through the large mall. Pitts is walking beside them, with Elpheba in her arms.

PITTS
Where is the Hot Topic? I need a new studded belt.

JAMES
Oh, just right up here. I think you have to take a left at 2005.

They come to a kid's play area, and let the girls go.

PITTS
So do you want to talk about...?

JAMES
Not here.

PITTS
...'the laundry'?

JAMES
I don't have anything to say about the laundry.

PITTS

Really oughta come clean by now.

JAMES

You know what, Pitts? I can't come clean - good pun, by the way - because when I do, he'll realize he has no idea who I am.

PITTS

Yeah, I guess you're right.

James thinks for a moment.

JAMES

No. No, *you're right*. Stop doing that.

PITTS

What?

JAMES

You just agree with me no matter how idiotic I'm being.

PITTS

You're right.

JAMES

I- I mean, all this stuff with... him.

PITTS

The dirty laundry.

JAMES

It's like everything is revolving around this freaking lie, and - and I don't even know how *your* dating life is going.

PITTS

There isn't one. Now you know.

JAMES

See?! I should be supporting you too, and yet, everything you do is for me or the kids.

PITTS

James. No one is forcing me to be your confidante.

JAMES

I know, I just... I've feel so selfish.

PITTS

But you'll come out of it.

JAMES

How?

PITTS

Spin cycle.

A look.

James nods in agreement.

INT. JAMES' ROOM - NIGHT

James stands facing the mirror. He is memorizing something out of his Shakespeare book.

JAMES

Other slow arts entirely keep the
brain,
and therefore finding barren
practicers scarce show a harvest of
their heavy toil,
but love...

(big breath)

But love, first learned in a lady's
eyes,
Lives not alone immured in the
brain,
But, with the motion of all
elements,
Courses as swift as thought in
every power,
And gives to every power a double
power,
Above their functions and their
offices.

James is alone in his room. He looks at his image in the mirror for a while.

He throws the book down.

JAMES (CONT'D)

You can't do this. You're a coward.

He grabs a glass of whiskey and guzzles. Pours more. Guzzles more.

JAMES (CONT'D)
You're a fucking coward!
(breathes)
No you're not. You're a nanny.
You're a *great* fucking nanny - and
that takes *balls*! James Messler,
nanny, is no fucking coward.

James glances to his bicycle, which is propped against the wall. He takes one last swig of whiskey and sets the glass down.

EXT. DARREN'S HOME - NIGHT

James rides his bike up, crashing it into some garbage cans near the driveway. He knows the gate code. He goes to Darren's door and knocks. Looks through the window. Nothing.

He decides to go around the back.

EXT. DARREN'S HOME - POOLSIDE - NIGHT

James finds the sliding glass door open, doesn't notice the remnants of people having been in the hottub. Towels, empty glasses, etcetera.

JAMES
Darren!

No reply. He sneaks through the door.

INT. DARREN'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

James slowly enters the dark room. A man lies on his stomach, naked on the bed. James looks on, sympathetically. James drunkenly plops down next to him.

JAMES
Darr! It's me.

James rubs the man's back, who is motionless.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I'm such an idiot. I've been lying to you. I thought - I mean. It was an accident at first - you saw me with the girls and...okay - I'm just their Nanny. I'm not a father. I'm so sorry, Darr. As much as I wish those girls were mine, I'm just their nanny.
(MORE)

JAMES (CONT'D)

And a fucking liar. I don't own a Beverly Hills mansion. And I don't own that car - I ride a fucking bicycle - which I think I just crashed outside.

The man sits up a bit, coming out of a deep sleep. It's not Darren, it's a dreary-eyed JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE.

A moment of eye contact.

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE

A bicycle? Well that's environmentally conscious of you.

James jumps up.

JAMES

Who are you?

A beat.

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE

I'm Justin Timberlake-

JAMES

No, I know who you are - what the fuck is going on?

Darren strides in from taking a shower, holding a towel.

DARREN

James!

JAMES

Hey.

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE

(to James)

Damn, boy. You are sexy.

JAMES

I see you're in the middle of something here.

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE

Actually, we just finished. But I'd be down for another round.

Justin Timberlake's hand reaches for James' ass, who slaps it away.

JAMES

What the FUCK.

DARREN

James -

James goes to run out, hitting his face on the glass door.

JAMES

Ugh.

He slides the door open. Darren chases him outside.

EXT. DARREN'S HOME - POOLSIDE - NIGHT

Darren catches James by the arm.

DARREN

James, Don't go. I'm confused, okay? I'm confused. This is - this is just sex, you know? I think you of all people can understand that.

JAMES

Well you think wrong, movie star.

DARREN

Hey! I fucked up okay? I fucked up.

JAMES

How long has this been going on?

DARREN

What this?

JAMES

I don't know, how long have you been fucking Justin Timberlake? I don't know - who else are you fucking around with?

(a beat)

No. Don't answer that.

DARREN

No one! James, I don't want anyone except you!

JAMES

You know. I was really falling for you. A stupid fucking fantasy I guess.

DARREN

No! No, it's not - James! I'm falling for you, too. This has never happened to me before.

A moment.

JAMES
You drive me crazy.

James continues running away.

DARREN
Please - How can I make it up to
you? I'll do anything.

JAMES
Anything...
(thinks)
Come out. Tell everyone who you
really are.

Darren hesitates.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Didn't think so.

James turns to leave.

DARREN
James, you know I can't do that!

JAMES
Yeah, I know. The world would come
to an end!

Darren, still naked, stops on his driveway and watches James
ride away on his bike.

INT TIFFANY'S BEVERLY HILLS MANSION - DAY

James carries a crying Elpheba, who is in pajamas.

JAMES
Glinda! Get back here and apologize
to your sister! GLINDA!

Glinda runs. Elpheba screams.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Shh shhh, you're okay. Where does
it hurt?

Elpheba points to her head through screams.

James goes to Tiffany. She sits at the kitchen counter
blandly taking a sip of her martini.

JAMES (CONT'D)
(to Tiffany)
Where did she go?

TIFFANY
Thank god Bob is back in town this weekend. Help me put them to bed?

JAMES
If I can find Glinda.
(then)
Glinda!

EXT. TIFFANY'S BEVERLY HILLS MANSION - DAY

Darren stops his car in front of the house. He grabs a bouquet of flowers and exits the car, heading toward the house.

INT. TIFFANY'S BEVERLY HILLS MANSION - DAY

James starts up the stairs.

JAMES
Glinda!

Ding Dong.

TIFFANY (O.S.)
James!

JAMES
Coming!

With Elpheba still in his arms, he turns around, descends the stairs and answers the front door.

Darren holding flowers.

JAMES (CONT'D)
No.

James panics, tries to shut the door. Elpheba screams.

Darren stops the door, and pushes it open.

JAMES (CONT'D)
This is not a good time!

DARREN
Please, I just want to apologize!

JAMES

This isn't a good time, okay? I said NO!

DARREN

Hear me out, please! I just want to apologize!

JAMES

Not right now!

TIFFANY

James. What has gotten into you!?

Silence. Both men panicked, they turn to Tiffany, who has appeared steps away.

JAMES

(To Darren)

Um. *Not right now* we don't ummm have anything going on.

Tiffany staggers over with her martini and grabs the flowers out of Darren's hands.

TIFFANY

I should be the one apologizing, but it's a beautiful gesture. And I'm so sorry I haven't invited you over again. I was embarrassed I guess. We were just about to put the kids to bed. Stay for a drink?

Darren looks to James.

JAMES

Actually he was just saying he had to run-

DARREN

But I'd love to get together another night-

JAMES

Or not.

DARREN

Or definitely. I'd like to make it up to you.

TIFFANY

Please. We can all laugh about it now.

JAMES

Well, that's very sweet of you,
Darren. Thanks for stopping by.

James practically forces Darren out the door.

DARREN

But we'll definitely be in touch
soon, and I can't wait. And don't
be a stranger.

TIFFANY

Okay! Thanks again, Mr. Brock!

Tiffany goes to put the flowers in the kitchen.

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

Oh, and you'll get to meet Bob!

DARREN

Bob?
(to James)
The babysitter?

JAMES

Yeah. He's like family. Goodbye.

James shuts the door on him.

JAMES (CONT'D)

(yells to Tiffany)
It's actually Brockstein, by the
way!

James heads up the stairs with Elpheba.

TIFFANY

(to herself)
Oh. That makes sense.

INT. IAGO'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Lindsay sits at the bar alone, crying over a beer.

Pitts approaches with a tray of dishes. She grimaces, and
moves on, trying not to make a sound.

The restaurant is near closing time.

LINDSAY

Hey!

Pitts stops in her tracks.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)
Aren't you going to ask me what's wrong?

PITTS
Um, no I was just gonna finish bussing my tables.

LINDSAY
Well don't you want to know why I'm here all alone?

PITTS
It's really none of my business.

LINDSAY
Then I'll tell you.

Pitts is trapped. She sets the tray down and listens.

PITTS
Is this about a man?

LINDSAY
Isn't it always?

PITTS
Well...

LINDSAY
I think he's cheating on me.

Pitts grimaces. Lindsay bursts out crying.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)
That's not what I'm upset about.

PITTS
Of course not.

LINDSAY
I don't want to be with him. I mean - I want the lifestyle and the attention that will come with being with him, but...

She waves Pitts closer.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)
Can we go for a walk or something?

Pitts thinks.

PITTS

Look. You're clearly an incredibly beautiful woman, and you're just wasted right now. We're going to end up walking til you sober up, I'll develop some unhealthy crush on you, and under some better lighting you'll say good night and I'll never see you again. And anyway, I'm sure whoever this guy is, he's really really into you, and that's something to be grateful for, and if it's a lifestyle you're looking for, I bet you could learn to love him in time. I mean that sounds like a dream to me.

LINDSAY

My God you are cynical.

PITTS

You're right. But it's gotten me this far.

Lindsay takes the last swig of beer.

LINDSAY

Can I get the check?

PITTS

Don't worry about it.

Lindsay sighs, gets up and walks toward the exit. Pitts watches her for a moment, then goes back to bussing tables.

Lindsay turns once more.

LINDSAY

Thank you. You've been really helpful.

Pitts hesitates.

PITTS

What's your name?

Lindsay smiles.

LINDSAY

Good night.

She leaves.

Pitts, defeated.

INT. TERRY TERRINO TALENT - DAY

Darren is quietly sitting across from Terry.

TERRY
I'm not calling them back until I
hear it from you.

Terry sets down two photos on his desk.

One is of James and Darren walking through the Grove with an empty stroller.

The other is Darren and Lindsay eating at the Ivy.

TERRY (CONT'D)
She called me in tears.

DARREN
Are you telling me to lie low?

TERRY
I'm telling you to make a choice.

Darren studies the pictures. In his image standing next to James, Darren appears laughing and full of life. In the other, he stares at his plate.

Terry points to the picture with Lindsay.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Is Darren Brock still a movie star?

Darren thinks.

INT. TIFFANY'S BEVERLY HILLS MANSION - KITCHEN - DAY

James cooks for the kids. Elpheba in the high chair. Glinda running around.

JAMES
At the table! Now!

Glinda doesn't listen.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Sit down, missy! Glinda. Sit!

Glinda instead pushes a chair over and to the ground, sticks her tongue out at James.

GLINDA
You're not my Daddy.

James is done. He points.

JAMES
Corner. Two minutes. Now.

Glinda hesitates.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Three minutes.

Glinda cries as she heads to the corner.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I don't wanna hear it.

Glances to Elpheba and hands her a strawberry.

James turns his attention back to cooking.

EXT. TIFFANY'S BEVERLY HILLS MANSION - DAY

The familiar orange Corvette pulls up to the curb.

Darren sees a silver BMW that has just pulled into the driveway.

He watches as BOB, a handsome businessman steps out of the car, loosens his tie and enters the front door.

INT. TIFFANY'S BEVERLY HILLS MANSION - KITCHEN

Glinda and Elpheba are at the counter. James is serving them dinner.

Bob runs in to give them hugs.

GLINDA
Daddy!

ELPHEBA
Daddy!

BOB
How are my two favorite princesses?
Did you miss me?

ELPHEBA
Yes!

GLINDA
Daddy, guess what?

BOB
Are you eating all of your
vegetables?

GLINDA
Daddy, guess what?! James is our
Daddy too!

Bob looks to James, who shrugs. Bob comes over to James and
puts his hands on James' shoulders.

BOB
What are you talking about? James
is the *Nanny*. Which sounds a *lot*
like Daddy, but it's completely
different, trust me.

GLINDA
No fair! I want two Daddies!

Bob gives James another look.

JAMES
Kids.

BOB
(to Glinda)
Maybe in another lifetime, kiddo.

He gives her another kiss on the forehead.

BOB (CONT'D)
Now *Daddy* is going to grab the rest
of his things out of the car.

He goes. James starts to clean up the kitchen.

Bob opens the door. Darren is standing there, emotional.

A moment of confusion.

BOB (CONT'D)
Can I help you?

DARREN
I'm here to see James.

BOB
Uhhh.
(calls out)
James?
(then, to Darren)
Hey, are you that actor?

James appears.

JAMES

Darren.

BOB

Darren Brock! That's right! I -

Darren pushes past Bob and grabs James.

DARREN

I've been a complete fool. I see
that now. I can't stand the thought
of you sleeping with him
(re: Bob)
or anyone else.

Elpheba and Glinda run in.

GLINDA

Uncle Darren!

BOB

Excuse me? James what the hell is
this?

James pulls on Darren.

JAMES

Let's talk about this in the back.

DARREN

No! I don't care who knows it now.

Darren kneels to the girls.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Glinda, Elpheba- I'm in love with
your father.

BOB

WHAT?!

Darren turns to Bob, approaching with a gleeful smile.

DARREN

That's right. You heard me.

Bob, horrified as Darren gets closer and closer.

DARREN (CONT'D)

He's the kindest, most gentle, most
beautiful person I've ever met.

Darren cradles Bob's face.

DARREN (CONT'D)

He's my man. And nobody is going to
come between us.

JAMES

Darren-

Darren, aggressive, squeezes Bob's head as James tries to
tear them apart. A small struggle, Bob loses his balance and
knocks over a picture frame.

GLINDA

Daddy!

Glinda runs to Bob, who stands his ground. She clings to his
leg, scared. Elpheba follows suit.

BOB

Who the HELL ARE YOU?!

DARREN

Who the hell are you?

BOB

I'M BOB.

DARREN

Bob... babysitter Bob?

JAMES

No. Darren, this is Bob... Glinda
and Elpheba's dad. Their... real
dad.

DARREN

Their...

A beat.

Darren steps back.

DARREN (CONT'D)

I mean, you're -

Darren has to contemplate for a moment. His gaze darts from
the girls to James, to Bob and back again.

BOB

Get out of my house.

Darren looks to James.

JAMES

Let me explain.

Darren runs back out the front door, slamming it behind him. James starts after him.

BOB

JAMES. You can start by *explaining* to ME.

James turns to Bob, who shields both the girls. They have looks of horror on their faces.

James overwhelmed collapses against the door, trying to breathe. He can't speak.

Glinda slowly releases her hold of Bob's leg and comes to James, gives him a hug. He cradles her.

JAMES

I'm so, so sorry.

INT. MARKET - DAY

James walks with Pitts, who pushes a shopping cart. She seems to be buying the most random things. She throws another item in the cart.

PITTS

Oh, that's a pretty red.

JAMES

You gotta stop choosing your diet based on the color of the packaging.

PITTS

You've gotta stop choosing your men based on their complete unavailability.

Another item goes in the cart.

JAMES

He seemed changed. But it was too late.

PITTS

It was only a few weeks, J. If you're looking to change a man, can you please date my fat lazy brother?

JAMES

I'm just saying he wanted to come
out with the truth. He was sincere.

PITTS

Um. James.

Pitts is looking at the magazine rack.

The cover of US WEEKLY shows Darren and Lindsay: "SHE SAID
YES!!! Darren Brock Engaged to Former Gladiator."

PITTS (CONT'D)

Now that seems sincere.

James picks up the magazine.

PITTS (CONT'D)

Ew don't touch it.

INT. JAMES' ROOM - NIGHT

James puts in a DVD and grabs a microphone. It's a Kiddie
Karaoke toy that connects to his TV screen. Pitts is on his
bed, eating popcorn and reading a magazine.

"When Love Is Gone" from A Muppet's Christmas Carol plays.
James sings.

JAMES

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I WAS SURE
THAT YOU AND I WERE TRULY ONE
THAT OUR FUTURE WAS FOREVER
AND WOULD NEVER COME UNDONE

Pitts rolls her eyes.

JAMES (CONT'D)

AND WE CAME SO CLOSE
TO BEING CLOSE
AND THOUGH YOU CARED FOR ME
THERE'S DISTANCE IN YOUR EYES
TONIGHT
AND WE'RE NOT MEANT TO BE

MONTAGE: James cooking for the kids, being his super-nanny
self. James walking by a Darren Brock billboard.

JAMES (CONT'D)
WHEN LOVE IS GONE
WHEN LOVE IS GONE
THE SWEETEST DREAM THAT WE HAVE
EVER KNOWN
WHEN LOVE IS GONE
WHEN LOVE IS GONE
I WISH YOU WELL
BUT I MUST LEAVE YOU NOW ALONE

Now, Pitts looks up from her book. She is engaged in James' song.

The Montage continues in a BOOK STORE - James chases Glinda around with Elpheba in tow. Gives up.

JAMES (CONT'D)
THERE COMES A MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE
LIKE A WINDOW AND YOU SEE
YOUR FUTURE THERE BEFORE YOU
AND HOW PERFECT LIFE CAN BE
BUT ADVENTURE CALLS WITH UNKNOWN
VOICES
PULLING YOU AWAY
BE CAREFUL OR YOUR MAY REGRET
THE CHOICE YOU MADE SOMEDAY

Pitts comes up behind him and rubs his shoulder.

JAMES (CONT'D)
WHEN LOVE IS GONE
WHEN LOVE IS GONE
THE SWEETEST DREAM THAT WE HAVE
EVER KNOWN
WHEN LOVE IS GONE
WHEN LOVE IS GONE
I WISH YOU WELL
BUT I MUST LEAVE YOU NOW ALONE

INT. JAMES' ROOM - NIGHT

Pitts and James watch TV.

PITTS
He looks fat.

It's Conan O'Brien interviewing Darren. He doesn't look fat.

INT. CONAN O'BRIEN SHOW

CONAN O'BRIEN

Well, you already got Venus Man going, so... You don the suit, and you're good to go. You just dye it from red to black, and save a few bucks.

DARREN

Yeah. yeah.

CONAN O'BRIEN

This is gonna be a big role for you - your biggest yet.

DARREN

Yeah, yeah. If it happens, it'll be huge.

CONAN O'BRIEN

Oh! You don't sound so sure... Also... You've probably heard about this by now, but Darren Brock just got engaged!

Audience reacts.

DARREN

I did. Yeah.

CONAN O'BRIEN

So, tell us how you popped the question?

DARREN

It was just uh - down the beach from my house, in Malibu.

CONAN O'BRIEN

So you were out surfing, and what, pulled a ring out of your wet suit?

Audience laughs.

CONAN O'BRIEN (CONT'D)

Here you go! Sorry, it might be a little salty. It's a pearl, actually. I just found it.

DARREN

No, no. It was at sunset, we had a picnic laid out.

(MORE)

DARREN (CONT'D)

And everything just felt exactly right. It's hard to explain.

CONAN O'BRIEN

It's a hard thing to explain love. Isn't it, Andy? Oh - nevermind.

Audience laughs.

ANDY

I've been married!

CONAN O'BRIEN

Have you? How much money did you pay her?

ANDY

Two million.

CONAN O'BRIEN

Well, if you're a young lady, we're very sad to report that Darren Brock has found his true love. And if you're a young man, sorry to finally put these gay rumors to a rest.

Conan shakes his hand.

CONAN O'BRIEN (CONT'D)

Congrats, Buddy.

DARREN

Thanks, James - Thanks Conan.

CONAN O'BRIEN

James?! Who did you think I was there? Hahaha.

DARREN

Sorry.

Pitts looks to James.

PITTS

Oh my God.

CONAN O'BRIEN

I am the Ghost of James Lipton! Welcome to inside the Actor's Studio.

ANDY

I don't think he's dead yet.

PITTS

He just said your name on national TV! Holy shit.

CONAN O'BRIEN

No? James Lipton's not dead yet, hunh? Well, soon enough...

Audience laughs. James solemnly watches Darren's face.

We see a pixilated close-up of Darren, melancholic. Everyone around him laughs.

James empathizes.

PITTS

What an asshole.

INT. JAMES' ROOM - NIGHT

It's the middle of the night. James is at his desk writing a letter - the old fashioned way, with a pen and paper. He also glances at his phone, which is on the desk. Finally, he decides to make a call. Waits through a voicemail.

JAMES

Hey, it's me again. I don't know, maybe you're still in New York, but I just want a chance to explain myself. It's- I- I just. I want to see you, so call me. Please?

INT. IAGO'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Pitts is in her waiter garb - a men's button up, tie, and apron. She is snacking on something and yelling at the kitchen.

PITTS

Hey! Can I get my nuts while it's still pre-apocolyptic out here?

An annoyed MANAGER appears.

MANAGER

Amber, I just sat a four-top on twenty-two. Super VIP.

PITTS

V.I. Pull my dick. Why?

MANAGER
See for yourself.

Pitts guffaws, turns back to the kitchen.

PITTS
I'll be back for those nuts!

INT. IAGO'S RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Pitts approaches a table of suits. She sees the faces of a middle aged PRODUCER and his ASSISTANT.

PITTS
Good evening Gentlemen. My name is
Amber
(indicates nametag)
...in case you can't read. I'll be-

One of them turns around - it's Lindsay sitting next to Darren. Pitts trips over her words.

PITTS (CONT'D)
I'll be your- Hey, Hi there. Um -
Can I get you started with some
drinks?

Without breaking eye contact, she sets down four napkins on the table.

The most important-looking man at the table speaks up.

PRODUCER
A bottle of the o-four Bordeaux.
Thanks.

PITTS
Sure thing. Back in a flash.

She rushes back.

INT. CAR - DAY

James in the Audi with the kids.

His phone rings, and he checks it.

Glinda kicks the seat.

JAMES
Hey! What did I say about that?

GLINDA
Kick the seat softer?

She does. James shakes his head, defeated, he answers the phone.

JAMES
Yo.

INT. IAGO'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Pitts is intercut as needed.

PITTS
Guess who's eating at Iago's *right now?*

INT. CAR - DAY

JAMES
(into phone)
Are you at work?

PITTS (V.O.)
It's your boyfriend. He's at one of my tables.

JAMES
Jesus

PITTS (V.O.)
No, it's Darren. Oh shit my supervisor is coming.

JAMES
Wait - is he alone?

Click. James contemplates.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Hey girls, we gotta make a quick stop on the way home.

GLINDA
Why?

JAMES
It's not important. It'll only be a minute.

GLINDA
Why?

JAMES
Just because.

GLINDA
WHY?

JAMES
Because I said so! Oh my God, never
thought I'd say that.

INT. IAGO'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Pitts is putting her phone away, being watched by the
Manager.

PITTS
My mother's dying again. I know
tragic.

She gets back to her busy work.

INT. IAGO'S RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM - DAY

James walks with the kids, and sees Darren at the table,
talking with the other men. He stops the kids, and gets on
their level.

JAMES
Okay. Remember what I said about
behaving? It's never been more
important than this moment right
now.

GLINDA
You say that a lot.

JAMES
Yes. But this time I really mean
it.

GLINDA
So you were lying before?

JAMES
No I - just behave, okay? It'll
only be a minute.

GLINDA
You're a liar.

At the table, Darren looks up and sees James with the girls.

PRODUCER

Obviously, we see this as a huge franchise opportunity. We'll likely be filming all three back-to-back, saving some cost.

The Producer nods in agreement.

DARREN

Excuse me for just a moment.

Darren stands and heads toward the bathroom, motioning James to join him in the corner. James drags the girls in that direction.

DARREN (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

Pitts appears across the room, heading toward the table with a basket. She sees Darren and James.

JAMES

I know I lied, but I wanted a chance to -

DARREN

It's a little late. I'm in the middle of possibly the most important meeting of my career.

JAMES

Darren. You don't have to go through with this wedding.

DARREN

I'm not talking about the wedding. I'm talking about my LIFE.

Meanwhile, at the table, Pitts drops something off for them.

PITTS

Warm nuts. On the house.

In the corner...

DARREN

Did you stop to think that maybe this is what I want?

JAMES

No. I guess not.

A moment of vulnerability. Darren breathes. Makes sure no one is looking.

DARREN
I don't know what I'm doing here.

JAMES
Me neither.

GLINDA
James I'm hungry!

JAMES
Shush.

GLINDA
Jaaaaaaames!

James hands him an envelope scrawled with the name "Darren".

JAMES
Here. This will explain everything.

GLINDA
You said it would only be a minute!

JAMES
Just WAIT!

Darren is speechless.

GLINDA
You're a LIAR! LIARRRRRR!

PRODUCER
Darren, who is this?

Lindsay appears with the Producer and Assistant. James looks to Darren.

Darren thoughtfully looks at the envelope. Pulls out a sharpie. Robotically signs the envelope - his movie star signature over his own hand-written name.

DARREN
(into James' eyes)
I don't know.
(smiles)
Here ya go - Hey! I usually don't do this, but I'm making an exception for your beautiful girls.

Darren hands him the autographed envelope.

James in shock, takes it back. Darren pats him impersonally on the shoulder.

DARREN (CONT'D)

I've got to get back to my meeting.

Darren pats the head of Glinda, who retreats, disgusted.

Darren begins to walk away with the Producer and others.

GLINDA

Uncle Darren, what's wrong?

They all stop and turn around.

Darren is solemn.

James picks up Glinda. Breathes.

JAMES

Please. It's not too late.

James approaches them.

PRODUCER

Whoah, whoah.

TWO MEN stop James, eventually holding him back by his shoulders. The crowd watches.

PRODUCER (CONT'D)

We all get excited to see our favorite stars, Buddy. Let's just calm down.

JAMES

Darren. Tell them who I am. Just tell them. You can DO THIS. Lindsay?

Lindsay feigns ignorance.

Producer looks to Darren, who shakes his head.

DARREN

I'm sorry, but I have no idea who you are.

PRODUCER

Hey, will you take care of this guy?

The men drag James and Glinda away from them. Pitts follows.

EXT. IAGO'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

James is dragged outside.

Pitts, holding Elpheba, follows him out.

PITTS

Hey! Let him go! Let him GO.

The Manager appears with a phone.

MANAGER

Excuse me, the police are on their way.

Pitts comforts James.

MANAGER (CONT'D)

Amber?! Get back inside!

Pitts has a thought, sets Elpheba down, unties her apron.

PITTS

The name is Pitts.

She throws her apron at the Manager, who guffaws and goes back inside.

INT. JAMES' ROOM - DAY

Glinda and Elpheba are staring at an iPad on James' bed. Pitts is sitting with them. James finishes putting a t-shirt on, turns to them.

PITTS

I like it. Casual, but not trying to be straight. You look like... you.

James smiles. He goes to the girls, gets on their level.

JAMES

Hey. I wanted to tell you that I love you very much, and even though this is the last day we'll all be together, I'm still gonna come by at least once a week, and check in. So you'd better be good to the new nanny, okay?

Glinda looks depressed.

GLINDA

But I don't want a new nanny.

JAMES

I know. I know it isn't fair. I wish I could stay too, but your mommy and daddy, they're just trying to do what's best for you.

Pitts shakes her head.

JAMES (CONT'D)

And I'm still gonna be around, okay?

Glinda nods. James kisses Elpheba and her.

ELPHEBA

I love you.

JAMES

I love you, too, angel. And you, pillbug. Pitts has a surprise for us! Let's go have some fun, okay?!

Pitts watches them, tearful.

He picks them up, and they head for the door.

INT. THE TYRA SHOW - DAY

James sits in the audience with Pitts, Glinda, and Elpheba. It's the show's intro. Everyone is clapping.

TYRA

I am so excited about today's show. We've got one cancer survivor's incredible makeover. And later, star of the upcoming Vulture Chronicles, *Darren Brock* is here.

Cheers.

TYRA (CONT'D)

Yeah, remember him? The hunk is going to divulge everything that's been happening in his life lately...

In the audience, James stabs Pitts with his elbow.

JAMES

You knew about this!

Pitts, indignant. James shakes his head.

JUMP TO:

INT. THE TYRA SHOW - DAY

Tyra is mid-interview with Darren. The women all make a sad Awwwww, and then cheer.

TYRA
Off the market, ladies! Sorry 'bout
it!

She laughs. They all laugh. Darren is out of place.

TYRA (CONT'D)
Look at his face. He's not sorry.
That gorgeous face.

There are woots and hollers from women in the audience. We see Darren, unresponsive. Intercut James' reaction from the audience.

TYRA (CONT'D)
(to Darren)
Career, check. Looks, Check. Love,
check. You must be walking on
clouds right now.

He nods.

TYRA (CONT'D)
So how is it with Lindsay? What's
the dynamic?

DARREN
It's wonderful, she's wonderful.

TYRA
Well, I hope so. Is this your first
time?

DARREN
Um.

Darren looks out into the audience, feigning embarrassment. He spies James. They make eye contact. Darren loses his focus.

TYRA
I happen to be one who believes in
signs.

(MORE)

TYRA (CONT'D)

Things in your life - you don't know why it's going in one direction, then another. Aimless, right? Then, these signs subtly start appearing, until it's just like BAM. You know. How did you know with Lindsay? What was the moment you knew, like, this is the one?

Darren, blank.

TYRA (CONT'D)

Well if you have to think that hard about it. I mean I'm not gonna force you to answer the question.

Laughter. Something changes in Darren.

DARREN

No. I...

A beat. We wait.

TYRA

And with that, we have to go to a commercial. When we come back, we're gonna dish more with Darren Brock. We're gonna find out just what makes this movie star hunk tick, and what his biggest turn-ons and turn-offs are. We'll be right back.

The lights dim as they go to commercial. Producers are visible, and someone runs in to touch-up Tyra's make-up.

James turns to Pitts.

JAMES

We should go.

PITTS

No.

JAMES

Pitts, he knows I'm here. Come on girls, let's go.

Pitts tries to keep him from going, but eventually chases them.

GLINDA

I don't wanna go.

James struggles with Glinda. The show starts up again.
Lights, Applause.

TYRA

So, back to you and Lindsay. What
were the signs it was true love?

Darren watches James get up and head out with the girls,
followed by Pitts.

DARREN

No. There weren't any signs. Well,
signs, yes. Everywhere actually.

Darren is figuring something out inside his head. James has
disappeared.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Every day, even. There were... but
not for Lindsay.

A moment. Tyra, taken aback.

TYRA

Are you saying what I think you're
saying?

Darren thinks for a long moment. The audience anticipates.

DARREN

I'm saying...I have to go.

Darren gets up and takes his sound pack off.

TYRA

Whoah, whoah hold on. You have to
go now?!

Darren walks off stage, toward where he saw James leave.
There is some confusion between people. Tyra looks at the
audience with a funny face and shrugs.

TYRA (CONT'D)

Darren Brock, everyone! He has
somewhere to be! I dunno.

They laugh.

TYRA (CONT'D)

These celebrities and their busy
lives!

A TELEVISION PRODUCER near where Darren is escaping motions
to a cameraman and a boom guy.

TELEVISION PRODUCER
Come on, quick. Get your gear.

EXT. STUDIO LOT - DAY

Darren catches up to James and the girls on their way through the parking lot.

DARREN
James!

James picks up Elpheba and hands her to Pitts.

JAMES
Take them to the car.

Pitts disappears with the girls. James turns to Darren, coldly.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, this wasn't my idea.

DARREN
It doesn't matter. I came to say I made a mistake.

JAMES
Darren, I finally had the courage to tell you the full truth, and you made a fool of me.

DARREN
I know. And now I see what an ass I've been, and I'm going to get on my knees now.
(he does)
And beg for your forgiveness.

JAMES
What are you doing?

DARREN
James, seeing your face when I denied that I knew you - that image will haunt me forever.

The small crew catches up to them; the camera is rolling, and the boom is shoved above Darren as he continues.

JAMES
And somehow, you are suddenly ready for a relationship like this?

DARREN

How could I be ready for you,
James? I saw so much of myself in
you, it scared me. But if I can
forgive myself, then goddamnit I
can sure as hell forgive you. I'm
asking for another chance. A third
chance.

Camera crew is entranced.

JAMES

As wonderfully dramatic as this is,
it's poor timing. I've moved on. I
had to move on. And I think you
should too.

DARREN

No, Please please, no.

Darren breaks down on the ground as James heads toward the
kids. Darren sits alone on the ground, defeated.

The television producer and crew look at each other. The
camera shifts to:

Glinda appears, calmly standing before Darren. He looks up at
her.

GLINDA

You got boogers in your nose.

Darren stands and scoops her off the ground.

DARREN

Hey, princess.

James appears. We see Pitts holding Elpheba in the
background.

A moment.

DARREN (CONT'D)

I love these little girls. More
than words can say. And only
recently did I realize I loved them
so much because I thought they were
a part of you. It wasn't your
family I fell in love with, James.
It was you. It was always you. You
were the first person I've met who
taught me I could be myself and
still be happy.

JAMES

Well. You've just revealed yourself to the world, more or less. Are you gonna be happy?

Darren thinks.

DARREN

James. I won't be happy til I get to wrap my arms around you. And never let you go.

He comes toward James, who finally opens himself up.

They embrace, with Glinda between. The camera catches every moment.

INT. THE TYRA SHOW - DAY

On the big screen, the live audience watches the scene unfold. Tyra is crying. The audience suddenly bursts out into a HUGE CHEER. Everyone is teary-eyed.

EXT. STUDIO LOT - DAY

GLINDA

Ugh I'm being squished!

Darren retracts, sets Glinda down, then returns to his tearful embrace. Gives James a kiss. Pitts is also emotional.

PITTS

I'm sweating in this heat!

They all laugh. James grabs Glinda's hand, then Darren's hand.

EXT. ALTAR - DAY

A Priest with a large hat on raises his hands above an audience full of people dressed in their best wedding attire.

James and Darren, both in white tuxedos, lovingly gaze into each-others eyes.

PRIEST

And by the power vested in me -
which I'm told is quite something -
I now pronounce you...

PATCHOWWW. A laser beam divides the Priest in half, and his guts land on James' and Darren's white tuxedos.

James ducks and Darren pulls out a large laser gun, protecting him.

Finally in a wide angle, we see we are on a different planet, and aliens of different races are attending the wedding, which has now become battle and mayhem.

Darren does a jump and roll, avoiding green laser fire.

Lindsay, in a Pseudo-gladiator outfit jumps in to protect them, deflecting laser beams off of her Gladiator's Pugil stick.

FREEZE FRAME: Darren in battle pose.

SUPER: DARREN BROCK AS BARTOG

FREEZE FRAME: Lindsay in costume.

SUPER: LINDSAY MEYERS AS LIGANDRA

FREEZE FRAME: James in character, with a torn shirt.

SUPER: INTRODUCING...JAMES MESSLER as...PRINCE SARGLO

EXT. ON SET - DAY

James and Darren in torn-up battle costumes walk to each other.

DARREN
How is it you look sexier every
day?

JAMES
I'm learning from the best!

They kiss.

Suddenly, Terry Terrino appears, trying to get past a couple of security guards. He breaks free of them when he sees Darren..

TERRY
(to guards)
Oh there he is.
(to Darren)
HEYY!

He runs to catch up with them.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Darren, how are you dear?! Looking great, looking great. I've been thinking.

DARREN

Careful, you might hurt yourself.

TERRY

(laughs)

Good one! Listen, I wanted to discuss your representation.

PITTS

You're gonna have to speak to his manager about that.

Pitts appears between them, wearing a powerful suit, and a new awesome hairdo. She's more confident than ever.

TERRY

Who are you?

James and Darren escape while Pitts stands her ground. Cool, collected.

PITTS

Mister Brock's manager. And I'd like to ask you to exit the premises.

Terry fumbles to remain dignified, stepping forward.

TERRY

Well. I'm sure Darren would like to hear what-

Pitts growls loudly.

PITTS

Step your ugly gay face back, or I'll report you to SAG for harassment of a *former* client.

Terry retreats.

TERRY

Great meeting... I'll have my people call your people. We'll set it up.

Once Terry is out of sight, Pitts explodes in excitement.

PITTS

HA! Did you SEE THAT?! James!

James isn't there. Lindsay appears, also in costume.

LINDSAY

That was awesome.

PITTS

Oh!

The women share a flirtatious look and walk back toward the set together.

PITTS (CONT'D)

I'm glad somebody saw that.

LINDSAY

I love your hair.

PITTS

Oh, shut the fuck up!

(reconsiders)

I mean, thank you!

EXT. KNOTT'S BERRY FARM - DAY

Tiffany, Bob, James, Darren, Lindsay, and Pitts have all taken Elpheba and Glinda out for a day at the theme park. Glinda pulls the group toward a log ride.

EXT. LOG RIDE - DAY

Everyone braces as the log prepares to go down a long chute, Glinda out front.

GLINDA

THIS IS CRAZY!!!

They all scream on the way down.

THE END.