

CLIPSTERS

"Pilot"

written by

David Kohan

&

Max Mutchnick

WRITERS' REVISED DRAFT

MAY 1, 2013

ACT ONE

SCENE A

INT. BUZZY'S BARBER SHOP - MORNING

(BEN, DANNI, A.J., MO, JOY, BUZZY, CHARMAINE, EXTRAS)

A BARBER SHOP IN WORCESTER, MASS. IT LOOKS LIKE A TYPICAL BARBER SHOP FROM THE 50'S BECAUSE THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT IS. EXCEPT NOW THE WALLS ARE COVERED IN THOUSANDS OF IMAGES FROM MAGAZINES THAT REFLECT THE INTERESTS AND TASTES OF THE BARBERS THAT WORK THERE. THEY ARE:

DANNI, MID 20'S. SHE'S ONE OF THE GUYS BUT STILL TOTALLY SEXY WITHOUT REALLY TRYING. OF THE WHOLE GANG, YOU GET THE SENSE THAT DANNI WOULD DO THE BEST OUT THERE IN THE REAL WORLD, BUT LOYALTY TO HER AILING FATHER AND MAYBE A LITTLE BIT OF FEAR KEEP HER IN WORCESTER.

A.J., LATE 20'S. HE WAS ONCE THE BEST HOCKEY PLAYER IN A TOWN WHERE HOCKEY TRULY MATTERS. HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A COCKY, INSUFFERABLE SPORTS HERO HAD A DEVASTATING KNEE INJURY NOT HUMBLING HIM.

BEN, LATE 20'S. THE OWNER OF BUZZY'S. HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A SMARMY, ASSISTANT MANAGER OF A DUNKIN' DONUTS HAD AN INSURANCE SETTLEMENT RESULTING FROM AN ACCIDENT IN HIS GRANDMA'S SHOWER NOT TURNED HIM INTO A COCKY, INSUFFERABLE BARBER SHOP OWNER.

MO, LATE 20'S. BEN'S BEST FRIEND AND PERSONALITY PHOTO-NEGATIVE (THOUGH FOR SOME REASON, BEN INSISTS THAT NO ONE CAN KNOW THAT THEY'RE BEST BUDS). HE'S SWEET, NAIVE, MAY NOT 'GET THE JOKE' THE FIRST TIME, BUT MAY NOT GET IT THE SECOND TIME EITHER.

JOY, LATE 20'S. AS HER NAME IMPLIES. SHE IS AN ETERNAL OPTIMIST, KIND, GIVING, ALWAYS THINKING OF OTHERS, SHE'S BASICALLY JESUS IN THE FORM OF A PLUMPISH YOUNG WOMAN IN THRIFT STORE FLOWER DRESSES AND CARDIGANS. SHE IS THE RECEPTIONIST AT THE BARBER SHOP.

CHARMAINE, LATE 20'S, BLACK, JEWISH. SHE'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING ELSE YOU NEED TO KNOW.

BUZZY, 70. THE FORMER OWNER OF THE SHOP. A NICE GUY, ALWAYS UP FOR A CONVERSATION BUT HE HAS ONE TRAGIC FLAW: HE IS AN INVETERATE GAMBLER WHO'S INABILITY TO GUESS CORRECTLY DEFIES THE LAWS OF PROBABILITY.

CUSTOMERS ARE EITHER HAVING THEIR HAIR CUT OR WAITING TO HAVE THEIR HAIR CUT. BUZZY'S IS BUSY AND LOUD. LIKE EVERY DAY, THERE IS CONSTANT CONVERSATION AMONG THE BARBERS WHO TALK AND CUT HAIR AT THE SAME TIME. IT'S SECOND NATURE. A.J. REMOVES THE HAIR CAPE FROM A CUSTOMER HE'S JUST "BUZZED" AND CALLS OVER GLEN, A COP. HE'S THE NEXT CUSTOMER IN LINE.

A.J.

Okay, Glen you're up.

GLEN CROSSES OVER AND SITS IN A.J.'S CHAIR, A.J. PUTS A CAPE ON HIM AND GETS TO WORK.

A.J. (CONT'D)

(TO GANG) Guess who drove by the shop last night when we were locking up?

DANNI

Why?

A.J.

I don't know... just, cause you'll never guess.

DANNI

Well if we'll never guess then what's the point of guessing?

A.J.

Cause it's fun.

DANNI

Tom Brady.

A.J.

No.

DANNI

(DRY) Yeah. That was fun.

MO

(I'VE GOT IT!) Jewel!

A.J.

Why Jewel?

MO

I panicked.

A.J.

Mr. Koi. Remember Mr. Koi?

DANNI

Mr. Koi. I had him for freshman geometry. He used to hump the file cabinet. (TO CUSTOMER, RE: CLIPPING NECK) Head down, please.

BEN

Yeah, he was always humpin' that file cabinet.

A.J.

He did not hump the file cabinet.

MO

Every day. Up and down on the corner of that thing.

A.J.

Those were pull ups.

DANNI

You guys all make excuses for each other. You're probably gonna tell me the file cabinet was asking for it.

JOY

I didn't mind the file cabinet humping. I just thought he was lonely. You can be a good math teacher and still be horny.

A.J.

He was doing pull ups.

DANNI

That occasionally gave him a boner.

A.J.

Leave the guy alone. Mr. Koi was alright.

BEN

Everyone was alright with you, A.J., because everyone in high school loved you.

A.J.

(WHAT CAN I SAY?) C'mon, everyone?

Everyone's a big number. Not everyone in high school loved me.

A.J. INADVERTENTLY LOOKS AT DANNI AFTER HE SAYS THIS. SHE STARES AT HIM AND RAISES AN EYEBROW. UNCOMFORTABLE, HE LOOKS AWAY.

BEN

I hated Koi. You know he gave me an "F+" on my report card. Has anyone ever gotten that grade in their life? I mean, what the hell is an "F+"?

BUZZY

I'm guessing an "F+" is more or less
an "F-U."

BEN

Why don't you cut someone's hair?

SFX: BEN'S CELLPHONE

BEN ANSWERS HIS PHONE IN THE WAY THAT DOUCHE-Y GUYS ALWAYS
ANSWER THE PHONE.

BEN (CONT'D)

Ya got Ben.

BUZZY LEANS IN TO ASK CHARMAINE A QUESTION. CHARMAINE
DOESN'T LOOK UP FROM THE CUSTOMER SHE'S WORKING ON.

BUZZY

(TO CHARMAINE) Hey, uh... (SEARCHING)

CHARMAINE

Charmaine.

BUZZY

You've been here two weeks, you don't
think I know your name? (THEN) So,
uh... (SEARCHING AGAIN)

CHARMAINE

Charmaine.

BUZZY

Charmaine, you don't have an opinion
about this teacher that allegedly had
relations with office furniture?

CHARMAINE

I didn't go to school with these guys.
(TO CUSTOMER) Tilt your head this way
please.

BUZZY

Yeah, I had a feeling you weren't a
local girl. I'll betcha a dollar
you're from Rhode Island, am I right?

HE HOLDS OUT A DOLLAR BILL.

CHARMAINE

(SNATCHING BILL) Massachusetts.

BUZZY

(HOLDS OUT ANOTHER DOLLAR) Bet you're
from Roxbury.

CHARMAINE

(SNATCHING) Brookline.

BUZZY

Yeah? (ANOTHER DOLLAR) Betcha you went
to the United Baptist on Harvard
Street.

CHARMAINE

(SNATCHING) I'm Jewish.

BUZZY

Well, uh, Mazel Tov there. (ANOTHER
DOLLAR) Betcha converted, Charmaine
uh...

CHARMAINE

(SNATCHING) Fleishman. Adopted.

BUZZY

(ANOTHER DOLLAR) Betcha -

CHARMAINE

Stop! I don't like to take from those
who shouldn't be giving.

BUZZY

(SING-SONGY) I'll bet I know who
you're quoting...

HE HOLDS OUT A DOLLAR.

CHARMAINE

My Bubbie Claire?

BUZZY

(CONFIDENT) The Old Testament!

SHE ANGRILY TAKES HIS LAST DOLLAR.

CHARMAINE

My Bubbie Claire! I gave you the
answer!!

ANGLE ON:

A.J.

I should really stop by the high
school one of these days and say hi to
Mr. Koi. He was always good to me.

JOY

Why don't you?

A.J.

I don't... I mean, what am I gonna say?

DANNI

Um... you know something like,
...thanks. You were always good to me.

A.J.

Yeah, I'm not doing that.

DANNI

You're right, A.J. Wouldn't want to give anyone the idea that you had an actual feeling. Wouldn't want to show someone that you cared about them. Or that the thing that you shared actually meant something to you. You're too cool for that, A.J.,
(LOSING IT A LITTLE) You're just way too cool for that!!

EVERYONE STOPS AND LOOKS AT DANNI FOR A BEAT.

MO

Wow, you really care a lot about Mr. Koi.

A.J.

(TO DANNI) What are you getting so worked up about...?

(MORE)

A.J. (CONT'D)

We weren't that close. It's not like I'm his wife. Or his file cabinet.

DANNI

Never mind. Guys aren't... human.

JOY

I think it's scary for a lot of guys to show people how they really feel. I mean, when they're little boys they're like angels. But then they grow up and the world tells them they have to hide their feelings. But they're still those sweet little boys, only now they're trapped inside this hard, hard shell.

MO

Sometimes I want say to how I really feel. But I don't because I'm embarrassed.

DANNI

Mo, say whatever you want to say.

JOY

No one here is going to judge you.
(TO CUSTOMER IN HER CHAIR) You can pay at the front.

BUZZY

Come on, Kid, it's us.

MO

Well, okay... um, sometimes when I come to the shop in the morning, I think to myself, I'm happier here with you guys than I am with my own family.

CHARMAINE

Wow.

BUZZY

That sounds like something a girl would say, doesn't it?

BEN RE-ENTERS.

BEN

Okay, that was the management company on the phone. I've got good news and bad news. The bad news is my lease just went up five percent.

JOY

What's the good news?

BEN

The good news is it doesn't really affect me cause I'm passing the cost on to you guys.

MO

Phew. (THEN, REALIZING) Wait.

DANNI

What are you talking about?

BEN

As of tomorrow, your chair fee is going up ten dollars a day.

JOY

I can't afford to give you that much money every week.

BEN

Don't think of it as you giving money to me. Think of it as me taking money from you.

DANNI

Better.

A.J.

I don't understand. You're the owner, Ben. It's your name on the lease. Why is this our problem?

BEN

Whoa, whoa, whoa. Everything here is our problem because we are a team. I don't think of this as (GESTURING TO HIMSELF) Owner, (GESTURING TO THEM) Workers, (TO HIMSELF) Management, (TO THEM) Labor, (HIMSELF) Winner, (THEM) Losers, okay? It's not like that. It's our problem because we are all in this together!

DANNI

But I use every dollar of my paycheck,
Ben. What, are you going to make me
choose between food and my Pop's meds?

BEN

Danni, Danni... calm down. Listen to
me, look at me, listen to me. Gimme
some smile. Come on. Little smile.

HE HOLDS HER BY THE SHOULDERS. HER FACE DOES NOT MOVE.

BEN (CONT'D)

There we go. (THEN) How long have we
known each other? Since, Junior High,
right? (SHE DOESN'T REACT) She
nodded. (THEN, TO ROOM) Most of us
have known each other since we're
kids. And with any luck we'll all
know each other for many more years to
come. We'll be there for each other's
weddings, we'll be there for Buzzy's
funeral and Buzzy's wake.

JOY

Aww, Buzzy.

BEN

Maybe just the wake. (THEN) We'll be
there when times are tough and we'll
be there for the birth of our
children.

HE INDICATES DANNI AND HIMSELF.

DANNI

I'm not having children with you!

BEN

I was speaking generally and you never know.

DANNI

I know. I would sooner tie my tubes with my bare hands.

BEN

Not sure that you're sure. Point is, we're in this together. Any problem that happens here is our problem. Never forget that.

JOY

But about the pay cut...

BEN

(AS HE EXITS) Not my problem.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE B

INT. BUZZY'S BARBER SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

(DANNI, A.J., MO, JOY, BUZZY, CHARMAINE, EXTRAS)

THE GANG IS REELING FROM THE BOMB THAT BEN JUST DROPPED. MO IS AT THE FRONT DOOR. HE TURNS THE SIGN AROUND TO SAY, "OUT TO LUNCH." EVERYONE SITS IN THEIR CHAIR EATING THE LUNCH THEY BROUGHT FROM HOME. FOOD COMES OUT OF BROWN BAGS, LUNCH BOXES, TUPPERWARE, ETC.

CHARMAINE

So somehow we have to come up with an extra three hundred dollars a week just to make as much as we do now? Why would Ben do this?

A.J.

Because he was a loser in high school and now he's getting everyone back.

MO

Oh, he's not that bad.

DANNI

You don't always have to defend him.

MO

He's my best friend.

CHARMAINE

He is?

MO

Well, yeah. I mean, whenever my parents were fighting and I had to get out of the house, Ben would always let me sleep on the floor in his bedroom.

A.J.

Didn't he have bunk beds?

MO

The top bunk was taken...

DANNI

He's an only child.

MO

... by his cat. (THEN) The floor was fine. Better for my back. A little cold maybe, but I know if he had a third blanket he'd have given it to me. You guys don't know. He's got a big heart.

CHARMAINE

You're like the Grinch's dog.

JOY

Wait a minute. Do you think the real reason Ben is taking a hard line with us is because --

MO

No!

JOY

Maybe I'm wrong.

MO

You are.

A.J.

Wait, what were you going to say?

MO

JOY

That he has a small penis. That he's broke.

A.J. (CONT'D)

Excellent!

DANNI

He's doing this because he has a small
penis?

MO

I said he's not doing this because he
has a small penis.

CHARMAINE

So he has a small penis?

MO

That's not what I said!

DANNI

But does he?

MO

I don't remember!

DANNI

Pack of Mentos?

MO

I'm not doing this.

A.J.

Rolos?

MO

Come on, you guys!

BUZZY

Chapstick!

MO JUST LOOKS DOWN. THEY ALL AD LIB, "CHAPSTICK."

MO

The point is, I think he's doing this because he thinks it's what's fair.

BUZZY

Well not all of can afford his sense of fairness.

JOY

You know what? I'll take a pay cut. I can take on more hours at the women's shelter.

MO

Joy, they don't pay you. You're a volunteer.

JOY

I know. Those were really two separate thoughts.

DANNI

No one here can afford a pay cut... except Buzzy.

BUZZY

Me?! I can't take a pay cut. You take a pay cut.

DANNI

Every penny I make goes to food, rent,
household essentials and my dad's
medical bills.

A.J.

And a little bit of weed.

DANNI

(TO A.J.) Right, household
essentials. (THEN) Come on, Buzz,
what happened to all the money you got
when you sold this place to Ben?

BUZZY

It's nobody's business.

CHARMAINE

I bet I can guess where the money
went.

BUZZY

I'll take that bet. How much?

CHARMAINE LOOKS AT BUZZY FOR A BEAT. SHE'S MADE HER POINT.
THEN,

CHARMAINE

Okay, there are five of us cutting
about eighty heads a day. That's an
average of about sixteen haircuts per
person. We need to average twenty
haircuts per person in order to make
up the costs.

(MORE)

CHARMAINE (CONT'D)

In order to do that we'd need to add twenty customers a day. Or we could figure out another way to make extra money.

MO

(EXCITED) You know what we could do, we could -- (BAILS) forget it. It's a dumb idea.

DANNI

Mo, say what you were going to say.

JOY

There are no dumb ideas.

BUZZY

Come on, Kid, it's us.

MO

I was just thinking maybe we could take the hair from the floor... and, you know... make pillows, to sell... from hair. Hair pillows.

JOY

(TRYING TO BE SWEET) Hmm...?

JOY'S PITY IS TOO MUCH TO BEAR. MO STOPS HER.

MO

Don't.

BUZZY

What if we can't find more customers?

DANNI

Well... we could always...

SHE STOPS HERSELF.

JOY

What, Danni?

DANNI

We could always... lose one barber.

BUZZY

Aw that would terrible. Poor

Charmaine just got here.

CHARMAINE

Me?! Why me?

BUZZY

Well, you're the newest.

CHARMAINE

You're the least productive!

DANNI

Guy, guys... It was a bad idea.

We'll figure something out. (THEN,
NOTICING A.J. SMILING) What are you
smiling at, Mona Lisa?

A.J.

No, it's just weird that this is
coming up, because I happen to have
something going on right now that
would take care of this problem.

MO

What?

A.J.

I don't want to talk about it, it
might jinx it.

THEY ALL LOOK AT HIM FOR A BEAT.

A.J. (CONT'D)

I don't want to... I can't...

DANNI

It's nothing. Go on, Charmaine.

CHARMAINE

We could bring in more revenue by
adding new services, like --

A.J.

It would really take care of this
problem. You know, if it happens.

MO

If what happens?

A.J.

I-ya... Not now.

NOT PLAYING ALONG. THEY CONTINUE TALKING.

JOY

(TO CHARMAINE) What kind of services?
Like manicures? Because we'd have to
get licensed --

A.J.

I'm just saying if I got this thing,
you guys wouldn't have to have this
conversation.

BUZZY

Are you talking to another Barber
Shop, A.J.?

A.J.

No. It's got nothing to do with
cutting hair. It has do with a
certain skill set I have, but that's
all I'm saying.

MO

Gigolo?

JOY

Nude model?

DANNI

Crash test dummy?

A.J.

Look, you'll know soon enough. I
can't talk about it.

DANNI

Then stop talking about it!

A.J.

I'm not talking about it! You guys
are talking about it!

(MORE)

A.J. (CONT'D)

I told you I can't talk about it! So
let's just talk about something else.

CHARMAINE

(TO JOY) How many hours would we have
to put in to get a license -

A.J.

Guys, I'm gonna play pro hockey!

THEY ALL RE-ACT. "WHAT?" "WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?"

A.J. (CONT'D)

Bobby Blumoff called me last week.
I'm having lunch with him tomorrow.

DANNI

Who's Bobby Blumoff?

A.J.

You don't know who Bobby Blumoff is!?

DANNI

No.

JOY

I don't know who he is.

MO

I can't believe you guys don't know
who Bobby Blumoff is.

DANNI

Who is he, Mo?

MO CAN'T SPEAK, DEER IN HEADLIGHTS.

JOY

(TO MO) That was the hard hard shell talking.

A.J.

Bobby Blumoff is like the biggest hockey agent in New England and he's taking me to lunch tomorrow.

BEN ENTERS.

BEN

Who's taking you to lunch?

MO

Bobby Freaking Blumoff! Maybe you've heard of him? He's only the biggest hockey agent in New England.

BEN

Yeah, I know who he is. Why's he taking you to lunch?

A.J.

He's a hockey agent, I'm a hockey player...

BEN

You were a hockey player.

A.J.

I play five nights a week.

BEN

You train with your little brother,
and you play in a rec league with a
bunch of burnouts, blacks, Jews and
women. (THEN, OFF CHARMAINE'S GLARE)
What? You're not a burnout.

A.J.

I'm probably better now than I was
before I tore up my knee. I'm gonna
play in the NHL.

BEN

No, you're not. You know why you're
not? Cause you're a barber.

A.J.

I'm a hockey player, Ben.

BEN

The mouth says one thing, but the
scissors and apron say something very
different.

A.J.

This is temporary and you know it,
okay? I've got bigger plans.

DANNI

You too good to cut hair, A.J.?

A.J.

You know that's not what I'm sayin'.

CHARMAINE

It sounds like it's what you're
sayin'.

BEN

Well here's what I'm saying. Whether
Gretzky clocks in next week or not,
the chair fee at this shop goes up.

BEN EXITS.

BUZZY

(TO A.J.) I hope this works out for
you, Kid.

JOY

But if it doesn't, we'll figure
something out.

MO

(TO DANNI) Hair Pillows was really
embarrassing, wasn't it?

DANNI

Hey, it was better than dandruff snow
globes.

MO

Thanks.

END OF ACT I

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE C

INT. BLUMOFF RECEPTION AREA - THE NEXT DAY
(A.J., BLUMOFF)

A.J. IS IN THE RECEPTION AREA OF THE BLUMOFF COMPANY. HE'S CHECKING OUT THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALL THE HOCKEY GREATS THAT ADORN THE WALL. RAMONA, 40, THE PROVOCATIVELY DRESSED SECRETARY WITH A LARGE NAME PLATE THAT SIMPLY READS "RAMONA" IS AT THE DESK WATCHING A.J..

A.J.

You know all these guys... (NOTICING)

Ramona?

RAMONA

I dated most of 'em.

A.J.

Oh, yeah...?

RAMONA

Well, not date so much as I slept with them after they broke up with their girlfriends.

A.J.

Huh. Kind of like "Ramona gets the rebound and scores."

RAMONA

You're cute, you gotta girlfriend?

A.J.

No.

RAMONA

Well, when you get one and break up with her -- gimme a call.

A.J. SMILES AS THE DOOR TO THE INNER OFFICE OPENS AND BOBBY BLUMOFF, A SHORT, ENTHUSIASTIC, BORN SALESMAN IN HIS EARLY 50'S ENTERS THE RECEPTION AREA.

BLUMOFF

A.J. Salerno! The kid who took the
"wuss" out of "Worcester!"

A.J.

(HOLDING OUT HAND) Mr. Blumoff, nice
to --

BLUMOFF SLAPS HIS HAND AWAY AND PULLS HIM INTO A BEAR HUG.

BLUMOFF

(RE: HAND) Get outta here with that.

A.J.

(IN THE HUG) Um... have we met
before?

BLUMOFF

We have not, we have not. Come into
my office. What do you want to drink?
You like ginger ale? We've got really
nice ginger ale.

A.J.

Um, sure.

BLUMOFF

Get the kid a ginger ale on the rocks
and I'll have the same.

A.J. CROSSES OFF INTO THE OFFICE. BLUMOFF LEANS IN TO
RAMONA.

BLUMOFF (CONT'D)

Put some vodka in mine first, and then
don't pour any ginger ale in.

BLUMOFF EXITS INTO HIS OFFICE.

RESET TO:

INT. BLUMOFF'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS
(BLUMOFF, A.J.)

BLUMOFF

So it's six years ago, and I'm sitting
in the stands at Springfield College
watching the state quarter final game
between North High and Shrewsbury and
I can't believe what I'm seeing. This
one kid scores a hat trick and assists
on a fourth goal and single-handedly
beats the number two ranked team in
the state. So I turn to the student
sitting next to me - she was heavy-set
but in a very attractive way, but,
seventeen years old, nothing I could
do, doesn't matter - anyway I turn to
her and I say, "who is that kid?" And
she says, with her very big bosoms she
says, "that's A.J. Salerno."

BLUMOFF SITS BACK, SATISFIED, WAITING FOR A.J. TO REACT.

A.J.

I remember.

BLUMOFF

The girl?

A.J.

The game.

BLUMOFF

Right, listen, A.J., I know you've been through a lot since high school and -- (BACK THE GIRL) Hey, if I described to you exactly what I think that girl looks like today, do you think you would know who I was talking about?

A.J.

Um, I don't --

BLUMOFF

You're right it doesn't matter. Besides, I'm dating Ramona and we're exclusive.

RAMONA ENTERS WITH THE DRINKS.

RAMONA

Here you go, Boys.

BLUMOFF

Thank you, Honey.

SHE EXITS.

BLUMOFF (CONT'D)

So you're still working at Buzzy's?

A.J.

Um, well, yeah. I mean, I had to make some money while I was rehabbing, and -

BLUMOFF

Loved that place. My Dad used to take me. They used to have a receptionist there, kind of a big girl -- doesn't matter. So let me tell you why I called. Last week, I get this call from the assistant GM in Calgary and he's looking for a right wing.

A.J.

Yeah...

BLUMOFF

Someone fast and tough, and, you know, hungry.

A.J.

I'm starving...

BLUMOFF

I immediately think this team could use an A.J. Salerno type.

A.J.

That's good.

BLUMOFF

Now where can I find an A.J. Salerno type?

A.J.

I know where you can find an A.J.
Salerno type.

BLUMOFF

I know you do. (THEN) I think you
know where I'm going here.

A.J.

I think I do, I think I do.

BLUMOFF

So I tell him, I know someone who
would be perfect, but I haven't signed
him yet. And that's why you're here.

A.J.

I'm lovin' this, Mr. Blumoff.

BLUMOFF

You think we can do this?

A.J.

I do.

BLUMOFF

And your folks are going to be on
board?

A.J.

There's nothing they want more...

BLUMOFF

Good. (THEN) So you'll call Johnny?

A.J.

Johnny?

BLUMOFF

Your brother Johnny. He'll listen to you.

A.J.

(DEVASTATED) Of course he will. He's my baby brother.

BLUMOFF

He doesn't need to play in college and risk a career ending injury. I mean, look what happened to you.

A.J.

Yeah... (HIDING HIS SHOCK) So, you want to sign my brother.

BLUMOFF

Yeah, who else... (THEN, REALIZING)
Oh, did you think I was talking about you?

A.J.

No, no, no...

BLUMOFF

I didn't even know you were still playin' since the knee and...

A.J.

I, I don't. I mean, I play in a rec league but that's just for fun.

BLUMOFF

So you'll call him?

A.J.

Sure.

BLUMOFF GETS UP TO GET SOMETHING.

BLUMOFF

(OFF A.J.) You sure you're okay?

A.J.

I'm... I'm fine.

BLUMOFF

You did think I called to talk about
you, didn't you?

A.J.

I think you called to talk about a
hockey player.

BLUMOFF

Aren't you a hockey player?

A.J.

I'm a barber.

BLUMOFF

Fair enough. (THEN) You know what?
Take my ginger ale. I think you need
it.

BLUMOFF SWITCHES HIS GINGER ALE (VODKA) FOR A.J.'S GINGER
ALE. AND EXITS. A.J. DROPS HIS FACE INTO HIS HANDS AS WE...

ACT THREE

SCENE D

INT. BARBER SHOP - END OF THE DAY

(DANNI, A.J., MO, JOY, BUZZY, CHARMAINE, EXTRAS)

THE GANG IS CLOSING UP SHOP, PUTTING AWAY THINGS AT THEIR STATIONS, ETC. BEN IS COUNTING RECEIPTS FROM THE DAY AT THE CASH REGISTER. THERE IS TENSION IN THE AIR.

BEN

We did really well today. Good job,
everyone. Really good work.

NO ONE SAYS A WORD.

BEN (CONT'D)

Okay, I get it. You're pissed because
I raised your chair fee. What you
don't know is that this is harder for
me emotionally than it is for you
financially. Okay? Much harder.
Much much harder. But I don't expect
you to understand that so... (DOING
SCARFACE IMPRESSION) *Say hello to the
bad guy.* (THEN) Okay, that was a
really good impression. Quiz: Who was
it? *Say hello to the bad guy.*

DANNI

Drew Barrymore in "He's Just not that
Into You."

BEN

What? No. Eighties movie. A
classic. *Say hello to the bad guy.*

JOY

Drew Barrymore in "E.T."?

BEN

Say hello to the bad guy! Think Cuban druglord in Miami with a scar on his face.

MO

(I'VE GOT IT!) Tina Fey?

BEN

It's not a girl, Mo! Come on, we watched this movie together like a hundred times when we were kids!

MO

"Little Mermaid"?

BEN

I never watched that movie with you! You watched it and I was just in the room.

MO

That's not true. Remember? I always wanted to play "Call of Duty" but you made us watch until Ariel's flipper turned into feet.

A.J. ENTERS. THE GROUP RE-ACTS.

DANNI

Hey! How'd it go?

A.J.

He signed me.

BUZZY

He did?

A.J.

Yep. I'm going to Calgary.

DANNI

Wow.

BEN

What do you mean, you're going to
Calgary?

A.J.

To play hockey.

BEN

What about your job?

A.J.

I'm leaving. So problem solved. My
salary will cover the cost of the
chair fee for you guys.

DANNI

I can't believe you're leaving.

JOY

Congratulations, A.J.

BEN

(INCREDULOUS) They wanted a 26-year-
old rookie?

A.J.

They did.

MO

It's amazing, A.J.

A.J.

Thanks.

MO

How cool is it that I'm going to know
a professional hockey player?

BEN

(RE: HIMSELF) And a business owner.

DANNI

When are you leaving?

A.J.

Right away, I guess.

BUZZY

Well, we should celebrate. Come on,
let's go next door to Molly's. Who's
payin'?

BEN

One-two-three. Not it!

BUZZY

Not it.

JOY/DANNI/CHARMAINE

Not it.

MO

Not -- dammit.

BEN

Gotta be ready for that, Mo. We
talked about this. Hope you got your
Mom's credit card.

EVERYONE FILES OUT EXCEPT DANNI WHO TAKES A.J.'S ARM AND
HOLDS HIM UNTIL THE OTHERS LEAVE.

A.J.

What's up?

DANNI

A big time hockey player needs a big
time haircut. Let me give you one on
the house.

A.J.

Cool.

SHE SITS A.J. IN HER CHAIR AND PUTS A CAPE AROUND HIS NECK.
SHE RUNS HER FINGERS THROUGH HIS HAIR. IT'S SEXY. THEY TALK
TO EACH OTHER AS THEY BOTH FACE THE MIRROR.

DANNI

(IMPRESSED) So how 'bout you.

A.J.

Yeah.

DANNI

I mean, one day you're cutting hair in
Worcester and the next you're moving
to Calgary to play hockey.

A.J.

I know, crazy, right?

DANNI

I love Calgary. I've spent some time up there. Where you going to stay?

A.J.

Ah... they're puttin' me up at one of the hotels in town.

DANNI

Oh yeah. Which one? You know, there are only three decent hotels: The Dobby, The Slughorn or The McGonagall.

A.J.

I'm pretty sure it's the, ah Slughorn.

DANNI

Really? The Slughorn?

A.J.

No, wait, it's the McGonagall.

Definitely the McGonagall.

DANNI

You sure?

A.J.

I'm positive. It's the McGonagall.

DANNI

You know what's weird about that?

A.J.

What?

DANNI

Those aren't hotels. They're characters from Harry Potter.

A.J.

(BEAT, THEN) Huh. (THEN) What are the chances?

DANNI

You didn't really sign with that agent, did you?

A.J.

Um... what?

DANNI

You didn't really sign with that agent, did you?

A.J.

Um... what?

DANNI

Look, I've got a scissors in my hand. I could make you look like Ellen DeGeneres in two snips.

A.J.

Fine, fine. I didn't get signed.

DANNI

Why'd you lie?

A.J.

You want to know the truth? I did it because I didn't want anyone else to have to quit.

DANNI

I can't believe it.

A.J.

I'll figure something out. But at least you guys will be okay.

DANNI

So you did this for us...

A.J.

Well, yeah.

DANNI

Really? If that's true, that would make you like a... hero.

A.J.

I don't know about that...

DANNI

What else do you call a person who sacrifices his own well being just to help his friends?

A.J.

I guess hero works.

DANNI

It does work except for one thing.

A.J.

What?

DANNI

It's not true.

A.J.

Huh?

DANNI

You didn't do it for us. You did it because you're too "proud" to admit things didn't work out. And you would rather quit a job you need than let people see that you're... human.

A.J.

I kind of like hero better.

DANNI

You don't need to do this, A.J.

A.J.

But I already did.

DANNI

We'll just tell everyone what really happened and --

A.J.

No. I can't handle that.

DANNI

But, A.J. --

HE TURNS AROUND IN THE CHAIR AND LOOKS AT HER.

A.J.

Please, Danni. Just gimme this.

SHE SIGHS HER ASSENT.

A.J. (CONT'D)

Tomorrow, I'll just come in here, get my stuff, say my goodbyes and let everyone think I'm off to Calgary.

DANNI

If that's what you want.

A.J.

That's what I want. So promise me you're not going to say anything.

DANNI

C'mon, Aje. I think I'm pretty good at keeping your secrets.

A.J.

No, Dan, you're terrible at it. Rachel Filipelli?

DANNI

You took my virginity, A.J.! I think your girlfriend had a right to know.

A.J.

On prom night?!

DANNI

That's when we did it!

A.J.

Alright, look, can you just try to
keep this secret between us?

DANNI

A.J., that was a long time ago. I
think I've learned how to keep my
mouth shut.

SMASH CUT TO:

ACT THREE

SCENE E

INT. BARBER SHOP - THE NEXT MORNING

(BEN, DANNI, A.J., MO, JOY, BUZZY, CHARMAINE, EXTRAS)

DANNI IS IN THE MIDDLE OF TELLING EVERYONE EXACTLY WHAT SHE PROMISED A.J. SHE WOULDN'T.

DANNI

... and he was too ashamed to tell everyone, so that's why he just quit!

JOY

Poor guy.

DANNI

Right?

MO

I still think he's awesome.

BEN

For the record, I said he had no chance and I was right. I win again! It's sad, you know? He was such a big deal in high school and I was whatever-

DANNI

A loser.

BEN

Whatever. And now I'm a really big deal and he's the loser. (THINKS) I guess it's mostly just sad for him.

DANNI REACHES INTO HER POCKET AND PULLS OUT A CHAPSTICK.

DANNI

(OFFERING) Chapstick?

BEN

No, I got.

DANNI

Yeah, we heard.

BEN

What?

DANNI

What?

A.J. ENTERS. EVERYONE LOOKS AT HIM FULL OF PAINED SYMPATHY EXCEPT FOR BUZZY WHO'S BEAMING.

A.J.

Hey, Guys. (THEY JUST STARE AT HIM)

I'm just going to grab my things.

(JOY SHAKES HER HEAD) And then I'm going to hit the road. (MO'S FACE IS FULL OF PITY) Off to Calgary. (BEN SQUEEZES A.J.'s SHOULDER) Here I go.

(NO ONE SPEAKS, IT'S ALL STARES) I'm going to miss you guys. We've had a lot of good -- (TO DANNI) you told them everything didn't you?

DANNI

They got it out of me!

A.J.

How?

DANNI

I don't know, by... listening.

A.J.

Great! (TO ROOM) Everybody happy? I got nothing. I'm a loser.

CHARMAINE

I don't think that.

MO

Me neither.

JOY

You could never be a loser to me, A.J.

No one in this place is a loser.

BUZZY REACT TO SOMETHING ON HIS PHONE.

BUZZY

Son-of-a-bitch! I should've taken the over.

CHARMAINE

Almost none of us.

A.J. CROSSES BACK TO HIS STATION. HE'S COLLECTING HIS THINGS.

JOY

You know, we still have a problem. None of us can not afford a higher chair fee.

DANNI

Yeah, I don't know how I'm going to make this work.

MO

Ben, you're the only one who can afford this increase.

BEN

You know what, I hear what you guys are saying. And because I hear what you're saying, I'll tell you what I'm going to do. I'm going to start wearing headphones. Shop opens in five minutes so set up your stations.

A.J. STARTS TO CROSS OUT CARRYING ALL OF HIS STUFF.

BEN (CONT'D)

A.J., what are you doing?

A.J.

I told you, I quit.

DANNI

What do you mean you quit? Everybody knows you're not going to Calgary.

A.J.

I'm still quitting.

DANNI

But you don't have to save face.

A.J.

I'm not doing it to save face. (THEN)

I'll tell Mr. Koi you say "hi."

HE EXITS. THE GANG TAKES THIS IN.

BEN

What the hell is he doing?

DANNI

(THINKING OUT LOUD) He's making a sacrifice.

MO

Wow.

JOY

You know, there's a word for people who do that.

BEN

Yeah, "Schmucks!" (THEN) Okay, we're down one barber, so that solves your chair fee problem. Everyone --

DANNI

Actually Ben, you're down two barbers. I quit.

DANNI GRABS HER THINGS AND CROSSES TO EXIT.

BEN

Okay we're down two --

JOY

Make that three, Ben.

JOY GRABS HER STUFF AND STARTS TO EXIT.

CHARMAINE

Oy vey. (THEN) Four.

CHARMAINE EXITS.

BUZZY

It's ending at four. I've got a wife
and kids to feed.

JOY

You do?

BUZZY

Well, my bookies' wife and kids.

MO

It's not ending at four.

BEN

You?! You can't quit. We're best
friends. Where's your loyalty?

MO

My loyalty?! Where's your loyalty?!
I should been on the top bunk, not Mr.
Tubbs!

BEN

What are you talking about?

MO

(GETTING WORKED UP) You know every
time people said, "Ben's a jerk" or
"Ben talks too close" or "why does Ben
carry his Chapstick in his underwear,"
I always defended you. I'd say, "you
just don't know Ben.

(MORE)

MO (CONT'D)

He's not such a bad guy." But if you can do this to people who you've known your whole life --

BEN

I've only known Charmaine a couple weeks.

MO

And Charmaine.

BEN

Did you know she's Jewish?

MO

Really? She doesn't look Jewish.
(THEN, SAME ENERGY) If you can do this to people you've known your entire life. And Charmaine. Then maybe you are a jerk.

BEN

What are you saying?

MO

I quit, Ben.

MO GRABS HIS THINGS AND LEAVES. IT'S JUST BEN AND BUZZY. THEY STARE AT EACH OTHER.

BUZZY

Don't worry about it. You did the right thing. As a business owner you can never let your friendships get in the way of your profits.

(MORE)

BUZZY (CONT'D)

That's the credo I lived by and look
how I turned out.

BEN STARES AT BUZZY AS HE PICKS HIS TEETH WITH A COMB. AFTER
A BEAT BEN TAKES OFF OUT THE DOOR CALLING AFTER THE GANG.

BEN

(CALLING OFF) Guys, wait. Come back
to work. I'll pay for it myself!!

END OF SHOW