

The Iguana in the Parking Lot

Written by
Charles Baran

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Draft 1: December 30, 2018

Charles Baran
230 West End Avenue, #3D
New York, NY 10023
(646)263-1122
charles@charlesbaran.com

INT. LIVING ROOM OF JOE REILLY'S HOME - EARLY MORNING

CAMERA PANS AROUND LIVING ROOM

The Living Room of an average and modest house on a quiet street in Dania, Florida. The Living Room is comfortable, and tidy. The furnishings are not expensive or modern, more of a mish-mosh of styles. On a table under the front window is a half completed jigsaw puzzle of Van Gogh's Starry Night. In the corner of the room next to another window is a covered bird cage. JOE REILLY (55) enters the room, dressed in a pair of plain blue pants, a white short sleeve button down shirt and a tie. He goes to the bird cage.

JOE

(taking cover off the cage)

Good morning Sofia! How are we doing today?

Joe puts fresh seeds in the cup.

JOE (cont'd)

Here. Here you go. Now you have a lovely day and make sure you tell me if anyone calls.

EXT. DRIVEWAY OF JOE REILLY'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Joe unlocks the door of his 2015 gray Honda Accord and gets in. The car pulls out of the driveway and heads down the block.

EXT. A STRETCH OF NORTH FEDERAL HIGHWAY IN FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA - SAME MORNING A SHORT WHILE LATER

Cars passing by in both directions. Joe's gray Honda waits at the light at NE 18th Street. When the light changes the Honda makes a right onto North Federal Highway.

CUT TO:

INT: FRONT SEAT OF GRAY HONDA

Joe is driving to work. The radio is on and the morning news is broadcasting. "The stock market is expected to open down this morning due to the President's announcement that steep tariff's will be imposed on China, Canada and Mexico following discussions at the recent summit."

Joe makes a U-Turn at NE 13th Street and pulls into the parking lot of Medic Surgical Supply. Adonis Gym is next door and shares the parking lot.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY AND ADONIS GYM

Joe parks and exits his car. The parking lot borders on a canal. He looks over to the edge of the parking lot and sees an Iguana sitting there staring at him. Joe stares back. It doesn't surprise Joe. Joe sees the Iguana everyday.

INT. MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY

Joe walks through the store towards the back office.

INT. BACK OFFICE OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY

Vivian Geddes is at her desk working on orders. As Joe passes her desk he drops a bag containing a danish in front of her.

VIVIAN

Well, lordy, lordy! Sustenance has arrived!

JOE

Morning Viv. Happy Monday!

VIVIAN

Is this the one with the cherry?

JOE

But of course.

VIVIAN

How'd I get so lucky. If only you were straight I'd marry ya.

JOE

Tom around?

VIVIAN

Nah. He had to take his kids to school. The wife's up north visiting her mother.

JOE

(looking over at
Tom's messy desk)
How many days she's away?

VIVIAN
(looks at Tom's desk)
All week. I know.

Joe and Vivian share a chuckle. On that Tom enters and throws his briefcase on the desk and puts down his coffee. The coffee doesn't sit evenly and spills all over the mess on his desk.

TOM
Jesus Christ!

VIVIAN
Morning Tom.

JOE
Morning Tom.

TOM
What's good about it?

VIVIAN
We didn't say it was good. Do we ever say it's good? Want some cherry danish?

TOM
No. I've had my fill of sticky sweet stuff. The kids only want Cap'n Crunch with Chocolate Milk for breakfast.

VIVIAN
Sarah know you feedin' em that?

TOM
No. And mums the word. I figured if I can keep em happy I can keep em quiet. Joe, you have the sales figures from last week?

JOE
They're on your desk.

All three of them stare at the mess on Tom's desk.

JOE (cont'd)
Somewhere.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY AND ADONIS GYM - MIDDAY

Joe sits on a folding chair at the edge of the parking lot overlooking the canal eating his lunch. He takes a sandwich out of a brown paper bag. The Iguana sits a few yards away watching him. Joe watches the Iguana as he eats his sandwich. The silence is broken by a motorcycle pulling into the parking lot. ADAM FORENTE, a muscular man of 33 gets off the motorcycle and walks into the gym. Joe follows him with his eyes as he eats his sandwich. The Iguana watches Joe.

INT. LIVING ROOM OF JOE REILLY'S HOME - EVENING

Joe sits at the table working on the jigsaw puzzle of Van Gogh's Starry Night. On the TV is Cary Grant and Katherine Hepburn in Bringing Up Baby. Joe half watches. He's seen the movie many times before.

JOE
(quoting Katherine
Hepburn)

"There is a leopard on your roof and
it's my leopard and to get it I have
to sing."

Joe smiles to himself as he places a critical piece on the puzzle.

EXT. BACK OFFICE OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY - NEXT DAY

Joe works at his desk and Vivian works at her desk

VIVIAN
People must really be stressed out
these days. I can't keep these blood
pressure monitors in stock.

JOE
Last year it was DNA kits.

VIVIAN
Now I can't give em away. I over-
ordered and now we're stuck with em.

JOE
Speaking of that, any results on your
test yet?

VIVIAN
I only sent it in last week. It
takes about a month.

JOE
You nervous?

VIVIAN
If you're asking me if the thought of
finding out where I came from and who
my parents are has kept me up at
night, then yes, I'm nervous.

JOE
Viv, it's not that big of a deal.

VIVIAN
Maybe to you it isn't but you knew
who your parents were.

JOE
And now they're gone. And do I miss
them? Yeah, sometimes. But life goes
on. You adjust.

VIVIAN
Yeah, right adjust. I don't think
you're the poster child for
adjustment.

JOE
What's that supposed to mean?

VIVIAN
Look at yourself Joe. You're middle
aged. Alone. Lonely. No boyfriend.
Can I ask you something?

JOE
Go ahead.

VIVIAN
When was the last time you had a
date?

JOE
I don't know.

VIVIAN
See? You dress like you're stuck in
1978. When was the last time you
bought a new pair of pants?

JOE

I can't remember. I don't care about clothes.

VIVIAN

Well Joe, maybe it's time you started caring. I worry about you Joe. Sometimes I think I'm your only friend.

JOE

I have Sofia.

VIVIAN

Yeah, right, Sofia. I forgot about her. Oh, and let's not forget your other friend. The one in the parking lot. You got the kind of friends that you only find on Sesame Street.

JOE

And what's wrong with that?

Viv rolls her eyes and shakes her head.

Tom enters.

TOM

Viv, just got a call from Coral Reef Care. They need 10 new walkers. How's our stock?

VIVIAN

Good. I'll get Robert to run them over later.

TOM

Better throw in some tennis balls.

JOE

Tennis balls?

VIVIAN

For the front legs.

Joe looks confused.

VIVIAN (cont'd)

So they slide easier.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY AND ADONIS GYM -
MIDDAY

Joe sits in the folding chair eating his sandwich. The Iguana sits a few yards away but in a different location from last time and watches Joe. Joe stares back while calming eating. The silence is once again broken by the motorcycle coming into the parking lot. Adam gets off the motorcycle. Joe watches him. Adam heads into the gym.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF PETE'S - A GAY BAR ON WILTON DRIVE -
10PM THAT EVENING

Joe's gray Honda pulls into the parking lot and parks. Joe gets out. Loud music can be heard coming from the bar. Joe heads inside.

INT. PETE'S

The bar is crowded. Joe's goes up to the bar to order a soda. The bartender turns around. It is Adam from the Gym parking lot. Joe recognizes him right away.

ADAM

What can I get you?

JOE

Oh, uh, just a club soda.

ADAM

Lime with that?

JOE

Yeah, sure.

Adam pours a club soda with lime and places it on the bar.

ADAM

Three dollars.

JOE

(handing him a five)

Here. Keep it.

ADAM

Thanks man. Just so you know,
refills on the house.

JOE

Yeah, I know. I've been here before.

ADAM
Sorry, I'm new. Just started last week.

JOE
New in town?

ADAM
Yeah.

JOE
Where from?

ADAM
From Texas.

JOE
Really, where? I have a few friends there.

ADAM
A little town near Houston. No one's heard of it.

JOE
Try me.

ADAM
Pecan Grove.

JOE
You're right, I never heard of it. But I do like Pecans. Pecan Pie.

ADAM
Not me. I'm allergic to nuts.

JOE
(trying to be funny)
Well then you wouldn't like me.

ADAM
(not getting the joke)
Huh?

JOE
Never mind.

ADAM
Excuse me I have to get these guys drinks.

JOE
Oh yeah, sure.

ADAM
(walking away)
Remember, free refills.

Adam walks towards the other end of the bar. Joe watches him for a few seconds and downs his soda. He leaves.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY AND ADONIS GYM -
NEXT MORNING.

Joe pulls his Honda into the parking lot and gets out. Instead of going right into Medic Surgical Supply he takes a minute to stare at the gym. The Iguana watches Joe.

INT. BACK OFFICE OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY

Joe enters the office and drops a bag on Viv's desk.

VIVIAN
Cherry?

JOE
No. All out. Pineapple.

VIVIAN
Pineapple?

JOE
Yeah, sorry.

VIVIAN
I want a divorce.

Vivian takes the danish out of the bag and takes a bite.

VIVIAN (cont'd)
Not bad.

JOE
See. It doesn't hurt to try something new.

VIVIAN
Don't make it a habit. Stick to the cherry.

JOE
Will do.

Joe turns on his computer and looks through papers in his inbox while Vivian enjoys her danish.

JOE (cont'd)

Hey Viv?

VIVIAN

Yeah?

JOE

Do you work out?

VIVIAN

Pardon?

JOE

Work out. Exercise.

VIVIAN

Not at all. Oh, unless you call chasing my cat around the living room to get a Palmetto bug out of his mouth exercise, then no. Why you ask?

JOE

Well, I've been noticing that gym next door and I thought maybe I'd give it a try.

VIVIAN

Can't hurt. And you might meet someone. I hear you gay guys like to hang out in gyms.

JOE

That's stereotyping.

VIVIAN

It's also true.

JOE

Yeah, well maybe I'll go over there at lunch and get some information.

VIVIAN

What! And miss your lunch date with Kermit the Frog out there? You'll break his heart.

JOE

How do you know if it's a he?

VIVIAN
I don't and I don't care. Those things creep me out.

JOE
Aw, he, she, is cute.

VIVIAN
When he, she bites you we'll see how cute he, she is.

Vivian gets up and takes some boxes off her desk.

VIVIAN (cont'd)
I'm running to the Post Office to get these orders out. See you in bit. And let me know if you're gonna start working out so we can widen the doorways.

JOE
Later.

VIVIAN
Later.

Vivian exits. Joe pulls up Google and searches "exercising". The first link that pops up says "Change your body in 90 days".

INT. FRONT DESK AREA OF ADONIS GYM - MIDDAY

Joe enters the gym and goes up to the front desk. JENNIFER (27), African American, is at the desk. A buff female body builder type.

JENNIFER
Can I help you?

JOE
Yeah, I'm thinking about joining.

JENNIFER
Cool. What kind of membership you interested in?

JOE
What kind do you have?

JENNIFER

Full annual membership is \$800 per year. Includes free classes. Here's a list. We have Yoga, Pilates...

As Jennifer is explaining this, the door opens and Adam walks in and passes behind Joe.

ADAM

Hey, Jen.

JENNIFER

Hey Adam.

Joe is distracted and turns his head to watch Adam walk into the gym and towards the locker room.

JENNIFER (cont'd)

And we have a Core Training class that is really popular but it starts at 6am and...hey, are you OK?

Joe turns back around.

JOE

Oh, yeah. Sorry. I thought I knew him.

JENNIFER

Adam? He's great. Everybody knows Adam. Anyway, we also offer month to month memberships. They're \$60 per month. And we do have a weekly rate. Tourists usually take those, and last, a daily rate.

JOE

Um, I'll sign up for the year.

JENNIFER

Great.

JOE

Do I have to pay all at once?

JENNIFER

No, we have a three pay plan. I can charge a third now on your card and every 60 days I'll charge another third until you're paid up. Sound OK?

JOE

Great.

JENNIFER

OK, just fill this out.

As Joe fills out the form, Adam comes out from the locker room and starts working out. Joe shifts his stance so he can watch Adam. Joe fills out the form at the same time.

JENNIFER (cont'd)

Can I have your card?

JOE

Huh?

JENNIFER

Your Credit Card?

JOE

Oh yeah, here.

Jennifer takes the card and goes to the register to run it. When she comes back Joe has finished filling out the form and hands the papers to Jennifer.

JENNIFER

Here you go. All set. Here's your receipt and your membership card and a key tag. Scan that over there each time you come in. You working out now?

JOE

Uh, no. I don't have any stuff with me. I'll come in tomorrow.

JENNIFER

OK, see you then. Welcome to Adonis Gym.

JOE

Thanks.

Joe turns once more to get a quick glance at Adam then exits.

EXT. MOVIE THEATER IN FORT LAUDERDALE - EVENING

Joe and Vivian are coming out of the theater.

VIVIAN
Well, I did not see that coming.

JOE
Me too.

VIVIAN
All along I'm thinking that guy's gonna turn out to be her father and then he's the scumbag that actually murdered her father and hunted her down years later. Where do they come up with this stuff.

JOE
Cate Blanchett was good as the Social Worker.

VIVIAN
She's always good. Hey, you joined that gym?

JOE
Yeah, I did.

VIVIAN
Wow. Congratulations...I guess. Did you work out today?

JOE
No. I will tomorrow. Shoot...I need sneakers.

VIVIAN
(indicating the Walmart across the parking lot)
Your prayers are answered. Knock yourself out.

JOE
Great. See you tomorrow.

VIVIAN
Bye, love.

Vivian gets in her car and before she pulls away rolls down the window.

VIVIAN (cont'd)
Hey...

Joe turns around

VIVIAN (cont'd)
 (singing)
 Y M C A it's fun to stay at the Y M C
 A!

Joe smiles and waves as Vivian drives off.

INT. ADONIS GYM WEIGHT FLOOR - NEXT DAY NOON

Joe exits the locker room wearing baggy shorts, a faded Star Wars T Shirt and a pair of Converse Black Chuck Taylor's. Joe looks around for a bench to work out on. He spots one next to a beefy guy grunting and groaning lifting heavy weights. In order to look "cool" Joe puts 25 pound plates on each side of the bar. He lays down and tries to lift them but can't. Suddenly...

ADAM
 You know if you're liftin' heavy you
 should use clips.

JOE
 Huh?

Joe looks up from the bench and standing over him is Adam. Joe is startled and blushes.

ADAM
 I said, If you're lifting heavy you
 should use clips. Here.

Adam hands Joe a set of clips.

ADAM (cont'd)
 The weights can slide off and that's,
 well, that's just embarrassing.

JOE
 (taking the clips)
 Thanks.

Adam begins to walk away.

JOE (cont'd)
 Hey.

Adam turns around.

JOE (cont'd)
 You don't remember me do you?

ADAM
Sorry. Where we meet?

JOE
Pete's. The other night.

ADAM
Oh yeah. You kinda look familiar.
Adam.

Adam extends his hand. Joe shakes it.

JOE
Joe.

ADAM
Nice to meet you Joe.

JOE
You too.

ADAM
Have a good workout. And remember.
Use those clips.

JOE
Got it.

Adam walks away and Joe smiles to himself.

INT. BACK OFFICE OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY

Tom is on the phone with a supplier negotiating the price of surgical tape.

TOM
Bill, the Medipore tape doesn't sell
as well as the Transpore. I know
you're trying to push it, but
everyone likes the Transpore. And
it's hypoallergenic.

Joe enters and goes over to his desk.

VIVIAN
How'd the work out go?

JOE
Good.

VIVIAN
What you do?

JOE
Oh, you know. The usual.

VIVIAN
The usual? You only started today.

JOE
I'm a fast learner.

VIVIAN
OK, so did you work on your pecs,
your lats, or your gluts?

JOE
Huh?

VIVIAN
Fast learner my ass.

Vivian throws a pencil at Joe but he ducks and the pencil passes Joe's desk and hits Tom. Tom, still on the phone, looks at them both with a WTF expression.

INT. LIVING ROOM OF JOE REILLY'S HOME - THAT EVENING

Joe is on his laptop watching a YouTube video on weightlifting.

VOICE ON VIDEO
So in order to increase effectiveness and build muscle, do 3 to 4 sets of each exercise with 10 to 12 reps per set. Each set should become increasingly difficult. On your last set, don't get discouraged if you can only get to 8 reps. Remember, if you want to go heavy, use a spotter and always use clips.

INT. ADONIS GYM WEIGHT FLOOR - NEXT DAY NOON

Joe is on the gym floor and sets up weights on the bench press. He see Adam across the floor. He takes a chance and walks over to Adam.

JOE
Hey, Adam, excuse me. Can you give me a spot.

ADAM
Yeah, sure. Jim. Right?

JOE
Joe.

ADAM
Joe. Right.

JOE
It's OK.

Joe and Adam walk over to Joe's bench. Joe has less weight on the bar than yesterday and has the clips on.

ADAM
I see you've taken my advice and put those clips on.

JOE
Yeah, well, don't want to embarrass myself.

ADAM
How many reps you doing?

JOE
Twelve.

ADAM
OK. Let's go.

Joe lifts the bar off and Adam counts and encourages him.

ADAM (cont'd)
One, Two, Three, Four, come on, Five, Six, you got this, Seven, Eight, Nine, Ten, two more, Eleven, Twelve.

Joe rests.

JOE
Thanks.

ADAM
No problem. Anytime. You know if you can do twelve that easily you probably didn't need a spot.

JOE
Yeah probably.

ADAM
But that's OK. Go a little heavier. I'm around if you need me.

JOE
Thanks Adam.

ADAM
Later.

JOE
Later.

Adam gives Joe a fist pump but Joe is awkward in reciprocating. Adam is amused and walks away. Joe starts another set. This time he counts himself and repeats Adams exact words.

JOE (cont'd)
One, Two, Three, Four, come on, Five,
Six, you got this, Seven, Eight,
Nine, Ten, two more, Eleven, Twelve.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY AND ADONIS GYM

Joe exits the gym. He carries a new gym bag and has a slight spring in his step. He see the Iguana looking at him from his usual spot at the edge of the parking lot. They stare at each other.

JOE
(to the Iguana)
What? I'm not allowed to have fun?

INT. PETE'S - LATER THAT EVENING

Joe enters and walks through the crowd to the bar. He has a new black T Shirt on and has combed his hair in a slightly different way. Adam is not behind the bar. STEVE (26) another bartender comes up to him.

STEVE
What can I get you?

JOE
Club Soda.

Steve pours a club soda and returns. Joe hands him a five.

JOE (cont'd)
Keep it.

STEVE
Thanks.

JOE
Hey, Adam working tonight?

STEVE
Nah. Tuesdays and Wednesdays he's off. Flew to Texas for a few days I think. You his friend?

JOE
Yeah. Kinda. I know him from the gym.

STEVE
Cool. Well take care man.

JOE
Yeah. You too.

Joe drinks his soda and looks around. Joe checks his watch and leaves after a few minutes.

EXT. WILTON DRIVE - IMMEDIATELY AFTER

Joe exits Pete's and walks down Wilton Drive. He passes several gay bars, each with people outside laughing and smoking. He stops in front of Boxers, a club that features Go Go Boys. He goes inside.

INT. BOXERS

Joe enters.

BOXER'S DOORMAN
That's ten dollars.

Joe gives the guy ten dollars and he walks into the club. Loud music is playing and Go Go Boys are on a stage dancing in boxer shorts or briefs. It's somewhat crowded with lot's of older gay men sitting close to the stage. The Go Go Boys that are not dancing mingle in the crowd. CONNOR (31) a Go Go Boy spots Joe and comes up to him.

CONNOR
Hey handsome.

JOE
Hi.

CONNOR
What brings you out tonight?

JOE
Not much. Just hanging out.

CONNOR
Yeah? Wanna see something else hang out?

JOE
(not understanding)
What?

CONNOR
Interested in a private dance?

JOE
I don't know.

CONNOR
Come on. It's 20 bucks a song. We'd go in the back. It's private.

JOE
Well...

Connor starts rubbing his groin against Joe's thigh. Joe is nervous but also excited at the same time. Connor puts on the hard sell.

CONNOR
Come on. I'll show you where. We'll have fun.

JOE
OK.

Connor leads Joe to the back area where there is a bouncer monitoring the back rooms. Connor gives the bouncer a nod and passes with Joe to a booth. They enter the booth and Connor draws the curtain.

INT. BOXERS PRIVATE BOOTH

The booth is dimly lit and small. Connor pushes Joe gently down on the bench and immediately starts to gyrate and unzip his pants. He turns around and sits on Joe's lap and pushes his ass into Joe's crotch. Joe is conflicted. One moment smiling and touching Connor, the next moment a look of pain and desperation on his face. This goes on for a few minutes and finally Joe ends it.

JOE
OK. Thank you.

CONNOR
Huh?

JOE
That was fun. Thanks.

CONNOR
There's more man.

JOE
No, I'm OK.

CONNOR
You sure? Come on.

JOE
No I'm good.

Connor's demeanor immediately changes. He's suddenly very business like.

CONNOR
OK man, that's 60 dollars.

JOE
I thought you said 20?

CONNOR
20 per song. That was 3 songs.

JOE
It was?

CONNOR
Sure was.

Joe opens his wallet. Connor sees the cash and starts taking twenties out of Joe's wallet.

CONNOR (cont'd)
1, 2, 3 and one more for a tip.

JOE
Uh.

Connor pulls up his pants and pockets the money and gives Joe a quick peck on the cheek. Connor exits the booth. Joe sits there for a few seconds feeling stupid and taken advantage of. Joe exits the booth.

EXT. FRONT ENTRANCE OF BOXERS - IMMEDIATELY AFTER

Joe exits Boxers and walks down the block a few feet.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP ON JOE'S FACE AS HE WALKS

As Joe walks down Wilton Drive tears well up in his eyes until he can no longer see. He gets to his car in the parking lot of Pete's.

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT SEAT OF GRAY HONDA

Joe gets into the Honda and puts his head down on the steering wheel and sobs.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY AND ADONIS GYM -
NEXT MORNING

Joe's Honda pulls into the parking lot. Joe gets out of the Honda and hurriedly walks into Medic Surgical Supply without looking at the gym.

INT. BACK OFFICE OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY

Joe enters and goes right to his desk without saying hello to Tom or Vivian. He doesn't have a danish for Vivian. Vivian and Tom give each other a look as if to say "What's up with him?"

VIVIAN

You OK Joe?

JOE

Yeah, just great.

VIVIAN

Something happen? Your car OK?

JOE

My car is fine.

TOM

Rough night?

Joe snaps.

JOE
Look. I'm fine.

Tom and Vivian back off.

VIVIAN
OK, OK.

TOM
No problem Joe.

They all go about their work in silence with Vivian occasionally looking over at Joe to check on him.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY AND ADONIS GYM -
MIDDAY

Joe sits on the folding chair at the edge of the parking lot. He is back to eating his sandwich. The Iguana sits near him and watches him eat. The sound of a motorcycle is heard coming into the parking lot. Adam parks his bike and gets off. Joe hears the motorcycle but does not turn around. As Adam heads into the gym he notices Joe eating his sandwich. Adam walks over to Joe.

ADAM
Hey.

Joe pretends that he doesn't hear Adam.

ADAM (cont'd)
Hey. Joe. Right?

On hearing his name Joe turns around.

JOE
Yeah. Hi.

ADAM
Hi.

Silence.

ADAM (cont'd)
Nice spot for lunch.

JOE
Thanks.

ADAM
Working out today?

JOE
(beat)
Naw.

ADAM
Oh.

Silence.

ADAM (cont'd)
Well, I'll see you around.

JOE
Yeah.

Adam begins to walk away and then turns around.

ADAM
Hey.

Joe turns back to look at Adam but doesn't say anything.

ADAM (cont'd)
If you want help, you know, training,
let me know. I'm here almost
everyday and it's no big whoop. I can
give you some pointers.

JOE
Thanks.

ADAM
See you then.

JOE
See you.

Adam starts to walk away but now Joe stops him.

JOE (cont'd)
You here tomorrow?

ADAM
Yeah. I'll be here.

JOE
OK. I'll see you tomorrow.

ADAM
(smiling)
Tomorrow then.

JOE

Tomorrow.

Adam notices the Iguana.

ADAM

Hey, watch out for your sandwich.
He's lookin' mighty hungry.

They both smile as Adam heads into the gym.

INT. ADONIS GYM WEIGHT FLOOR - NEXT DAY

The gym floor is active with people working out. Adam is seen across the floor working out on a Chest Press Machine. Joe comes out of the locker room and looks around and spots him. He hesitates briefly, finds his nerve, then heads over.

Joe waits until Adam has finished his set.

JOE

Hey there.

ADAM

Well hello. Glad to see you made it.

JOE

Well, gotta use the membership after paying for it.

ADAM

That's one way of looking at it.
Wanna work in?

JOE

Uh, yeah, sure.

Adam gets up and offers the seat to Joe. Adam adjusts the weights.

ADAM

Well, Mighty Mouse, I think we should start you at 60 and see how that feels. Now, keep your head back, elbows straight down. This isn't too much weight so I think you can do it. Go on. Give me 12.

Joe starts to press. Adam counts.

ADAM (cont'd)
One, Two, Three..nice. Four, slowly,
not too fast...Five, Six, Seven,
Eight, Nine, Ten, Eleven, Twelve.
Good job.

JOE
Thanks!

Joe gets up and Adam sits.

JOE (cont'd)
What weight?

ADAM
Set it for 110.

Joe sets the machine. Adam does his set.

ADAM (cont'd)
OK, now you. Heavier this time.

Joe sits and Adam adjusts the machine.

ADAM (cont'd)
80.

Joe does his set.

ADAM (cont'd)
One, Two, Three, slowly...

JOE
Adam?

ADAM
Yeah? Four, Five, Six...

JOE
How old were you when you started
working out?

ADAM
15. Seven, Eight, Nine...

JOE
What made you want to do it?

ADAM
I was a skinny kid. Ten, Eleven,
Twelve. Good set.

JOE

Really?

ADAM

Yup. I had three older brothers that picked on me all the time. I'd lock myself in my room and look at bodybuilder magazines.

JOE

Huh.

ADAM

At first it was because I liked the pictures. Attracted to the guys. Then it dawned on me that I could be one of them. So I started working out in my friends basement. His Dad had weights.

JOE

Did it take you long to look like that?

ADAM

It wasn't overnight. But I kept at it. It was something I could do by myself and see results pretty fast. Hey, we're talking too much and not working out. Move.

Joe gets up and Adam gets in the seat.

ADAM (cont'd)

120.

JOE

Got it. (beat) So...you think I could...one day...maybe.

ADAM

(stopping his set)

How old are you?

JOE

55.

ADAM

Listen, at 55, enjoy the fact that you can still work out. Don't expect too much. Then every result you see will make you happy.

(MORE)

ADAM (cont'd)
Now be quiet and let me finish this
set or I'll send you over to the
stretching mats.

Joe looks over to the stretching mats and sees an overweight
man on the floor trying to touch his toes.

JOE
Zipping it.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY AND ADONIS GYM

Adam and Joe exit the gym after the work out. Adam is
putting on his helmet and getting on his motorcycle.

JOE
Thanks for the work out Adam.

ADAM
No prob.

JOE
You around tomorrow?

ADAM
Sure. Same time.

JOE
Great. See you then.

Adam starts the motorcycle.

ADAM
Oh, tomorrow is leg day. Squats.

JOE
Oh, OK.

Adam looks down at Joe's Converse sneakers.

ADAM
You have better sneakers than that?

JOE
(embarrassed and
lying)
Yeah, at home.

ADAM
Well, wear em'. Those have no
support.

JOE
OK. Will do!

As Adam drives off.

JOE (cont'd)
Later!

Adam waves his hand up as he drives off. Joe turns around and see the Iguana staring at him.

JOE (cont'd)
(to the Iguana)
What?

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM - 11PM THAT NIGHT.

Joe is in bed asleep. The bedroom is dark except for the glow from his clock radio on the bedside table. His cell phone is on the dresser on the other side of the room. It rings. Joe stirs and gets out of bed and crosses to the cell phone.

JOE
Hello?

VIVIAN (V.O.)
Joe? Did I wake you?

JOE
Huh? Yeah? What's up?

CUT TO:

INT. VIVIAN'S LIVING ROOM

Vivian is at her desk looking at her computer screen.

VIVIAN
I'm sorry. I can talk to you tomorrow.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM

JOE
No, it's alright. What is it?

CUT TO:

INT. VIVIAN'S LIVING ROOM

VIVIAN
I got a hit.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM

JOE
A hit?

CUT TO:

INT. VIVIAN'S LIVING ROOM

VIVIAN
I mean a match. On Ancestry.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM

Joe realizes the importance of this.

JOE
Oh. (beat) Wow.

VIVIAN (V.O.)
I know.

JOE
You excited?

VIVIAN (V.O.)
Yeah. Kinda.

JOE
You think it's your parents?

CUT TO:

INT. VIVIAN'S LIVING ROOM

VIVIAN
No. I think it's a brother.

JOE (V.O.)
A brother huh?

VIVIAN
Yeah. It says the confidence level
is extremely high. But not a parent.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM

JOE
Wow. You gonna call him?

CUT TO:

INT. VIVIAN'S LIVING ROOM

VIVIAN
I can't. They only give you an email
address.

JOE (V.O.)
Oh.

VIVIAN
Well, goodnight Joe.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM

JOE
That's it? You're going to bed?
This is big news.

CUT TO:

INT. VIVIAN'S LIVING ROOM

VIVIAN
Yeah, I guess it is. I'm tired. I
just need to sleep.

JOE (V.O.)
OK. Goodnight.

VIVIAN
See you tomorrow. Can you get me a
cherry danish? I'll need it.

JOE (V.O.)
Anything for you princess.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM

VIVIAN (V.O.)
Thanks hon. You're a pal.
Goodnight.

JOE
Goodnight.

Joe hangs up his phone. Thinks for a second and then goes to back to sleep.

INT. CHRISTINA'S BAKERY DANIA, FLORIDA - NEXT MORNING

Joe enters the bakery. There is one customer at the register. EMILY (27) is behind the counter ringing up the sale.

EMILY
Good morning Joe. The usual?

JOE
Yeah, cherry danish. Make it two.

As Emily goes to get the danish, Joe peruses the case with other items. He sees a sign that says "Healthy Cranberry Bran Muffins - sugar free".

JOE (cont'd)
Oh and give me one of those Cranberry Muffins. The sugar free ones.

EMILY
Trying something new?

JOE
For a friend.

EMILY
Oh a friend. A friend friend?

JOE
Just a friend.

Emily rings Joe up.

EMILY
Want the Cran Bran in a separate bag
for your friend?

JOE
Yeah. That's a good idea.

EMILY
Here you go.

JOE
Thanks.

EMILY
You know Joe, you look different.

JOE
I do?

EMILY
Yeah.

JOE
How?

EMILY
I don't know. I can't put my finger
on it.

JOE
Well, I've been working out.

EMILY
Whoa. Look at you! Glad to see you
got a hobby.

JOE
Yeah. Me too. Bye Emily.

EMILY
Bye Joe.

Joe leaves.

INT. BACK OFFICE OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY

Joe comes bounding in whistling and energetic. Viv is on
the phone.

VIVIAN
We'll send that order out today. I'm
sorry it took so long but the scopes
were on back order since the summer.

Joe drops the danish in front of Viv and he kisses her on
the cheek.

VIVIAN (cont'd)
Thank you and sorry again about the
wait.

Viv hangs up.

VIVIAN (cont'd)
You're looking spry this morning.
Maybe I should wake you up all the
time. It seems to improve your
outlook.

JOE
It wasn't your call that did it.
It's just my new outlook.

VIVIAN
New outlook huh?

Viv looks in the bag.

VIVIAN (cont'd)
Hey, what's this?

JOE
Oh, sorry! Wrong bag!

Joe hands her the bag with the Cherry Danish.

JOE (cont'd)
There are two in there and one is for
me.

VIVIAN
Then who's the muffin for?

JOE
Someone.

VIVIAN
Someone? You don't know any
someones.

JOE
I might.

VIVIAN

Yeah, who?

JOE

Let's just say that you no longer have the honor of being the only speaking friend I have.

VIVIAN

Well, I'm glad to hear that. It takes so much pressure off me.

JOE

Want to know who it is?

VIVIAN

Please don't make me guess. I'm in no mood for games.

JOE

His names Adam.

VIVIAN

Adam huh? Where you meet him?

JOE

At. The. Gym.

VIVIAN

I see. Tell me about this Adam.

JOE

Well, he's nice. He's very into the gym. And he's helping me train.

VIVIAN

Oh, he's a trainer?

JOE

No, not really. He's just helping me.

VIVIAN

For free?

JOE

Yeah, for free.

VIVIAN

How old is Adam?

JOE

I donno. Maybe 28. Or 30.

VIVIAN
Joe! 28 or 30!

JOE
What?

VIVIAN
No good can come of this. Can't you
find someone your own age?

JOE
Why? We're just friends.

VIVIAN
What does this Adam look like?

JOE
Well, he's big. Really big. Solid
muscle. And handsome. Kinda like
that actor that played Thor in the
movie.

VIVIAN
Chris Hemsworth?

JOE
Yeah, only more handsome.

VIVIAN
More handsome than Chris Hemsworth?
This I gotta see. What time are you
working out.

JOE
You're not invited.

VIVIAN
Joe, when I told you you needed to
find a boyfriend I meant a realistic
boyfriend. Not a superhero.

JOE
Look Viv. We're just friends. Only
friends.

VIVIAN
Be careful my friend. Be careful.

INT. ADONIS GYM WEIGHT FLOOR

Joe comes out of the locker room. He is wearing a new pair of sneakers and holding the brown bag with the Cran Bran muffin in it. He looks around and spots Adam by the squat machines.

Joe approaches as Adam is in the middle of the his set.

ADAM
You're late.

JOE
Had a busy morning. Here, I got you something.

ADAM
(eyeing the bag)
What is it?

JOE
A healthy Cran Bran muffin.

ADAM
I don't do carbs.

Adam sees Joe is a bit hurt by this. He rethinks his response.

ADAM (cont'd)
But, once in a while it's OK. Thanks.
I'll enjoy it.

JOE
You're welcome.

Adam looks at Joe's sneakers. They are exactly the same pair Adam is wearing.

ADAM
I see you followed my advice yet again. Funny, how we have the same taste in sneakers.

JOE
Yeah, funny.

ADAM
OK. Let's get started. Get in the seat.

JOE
How do you get in this contraption?

ADAM

Sit back and put your feet up here.
I'll put 25 pounds on each side and
just raise and lower your legs. Do
12.

JOE

OK.

ADAM

Here we go.

JOE

Here we go.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF MEDIC SUPPLY AND ADONIS GYM -
IMMEDIATELY AFTER

Joe and Adam sit in the parking lot together. Joe sits in his folding chair and eats his lunch and Adam leans on the seat of his motorcycle and eats the Cran Bran muffin and has a bottle of water. The Iguana watches the scene from a safe distance.

JOE

Wow. My legs feel funny. I am not
gonna be able to get up from this
chair.

ADAM

(amused)

That's cause it's the first time in
your life you ever used those
muscles.

JOE

Yeah, I guess.

ADAM

So Joe, tell me something about
yourself.

JOE

Well, I've never joined a gym before.

ADAM

I know that. Something I don't know.
Where you from?

JOE

I grew up in Cleveland, but my family
moved to Florida when I was a kid.

(MORE)

JOE (cont'd)

My dad was an engineer and there was a lot of work in Florida when tourism was first taking off.

ADAM

Ever had a boyfriend.

Joe is quiet.

ADAM (cont'd)

I'll take that as a no.

JOE

Well, once, a long time ago, when I was in school, High School...

ADAM

That is a long time ago.

JOE

Hey. Well, I had a friend. Paul. Everyone called him banana because he always had a banana in his lunch bag. Anyway, banana and me had this, well...thing, for one summer. It started in June and ended in September. When school started back up. We were so close. Did everything together. I guess you could say we were boyfriends. Although I don't know if banana would call it that.

ADAM

What happened to banana?

JOE

Moved away. Went to college up north. Married a girl from a waspy Connecticut family. He's a partner now at a big law firm in Manhattan.

ADAM

How'd you find all that out?

JOE

He actually showed up at our 25th High School Reunion. He said he was in town for some business. Showed me photos of his kids.

ADAM

You lonely Joe?

JOE
That's blunt.

ADAM
Well, are you?

JOE
I guess. Sometimes at night. Or on a Friday. Friday's are always lonely. How about you?

ADAM
Nope. I've had a few relationships and right now I am enjoying the freedom of doing what I want, when I want and where I want. I work out, go to the beach, make good money at Pete's and enjoy my life.

JOE
Wow. Wish my life was that exciting.

ADAM
It can be. It's all about your attitude. And if you ask me, it's time you start adjusting yours.

JOE
What does that mean?

ADAM
Well, first of all, you have to start taking better care of yourself.

JOE
I'm working out.

ADAM
Yeah, OK that's a start. But it's more than that. Your hair cut, your eyeglasses. They could use some adjustment. And what are you eating?

JOE
A chicken salad on rye.

ADAM
Loaded with Mayo. No, we are going to get you a fresh look my friend. Starting with that haircut. My friend Steve cuts hair on Los Olas. Here's his number.

Adam takes out a business card from his wallet.

JOE

Thanks.

ADAM

Don't mention it. Just go. Tell Steve your my special project and that he should take care of you. I want you fly by Pride.

JOE

Huh?

ADAM

Never mind. That's another lesson. I gotta run. See you tomorrow.

Adam gets on his motorcycle.

ADAM (cont'd)

And tomorrow - chest and back!

JOE

I'll make sure I bring them.

ADAM

You crack me up Joe! Later!

Adam drives off as Joe watches.

THE FOLLOWING FOUR SCENES SHOULD HAVE MUSIC UNDERSCORED -
FLORENCE AND THE MACHINE'S HUNGER

EXT. HAIR SALON ON LOS OLAS DRIVE - THAT EVENING

We see through the window of the Salon that Joe is getting his hair cut by Steve.

CUT TO:

INT. VIVIAN'S LIVING ROOM - SAME EVENING

Cell phone on the coffee table rings. Vivian runs into the room to get it. We see, but do not hear, Vivian's conversation. Vivian is obviously overjoyed with the conversation and when she hangs up the phone she breaks down and cries but her crying is joyful.

CUT TO:

EXT. HAIR SALON ON LOS OLAS DRIVE - SAME EVENING

Joe exits the Salon with his new haircut.

CUT TO:

INT. PETE'S PUB

Adam is ending his evening and counting out tips. A co-worker passes him and pats him on the back as he leaves.

INT. BACK OFFICE OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY - NEXT MORNING

Joe and Vivian are working at their desks.

VIVIAN

I gotta say Joe, that haircut is really becoming on you.

JOE

Thank you Viv. And, this weekend I'm going shopping for new glasses. Wanna come? I could really use your fashion sense.

VIVIAN

Sure. You know, in some parts I'm known as the Kim Kardashian of South Florida.

JOE

Yeah? Can I see those parts?

VIVIAN

Shut up. So, how's the workouts going?

JOE

Great. I'm sorry I didn't join a long time ago.

VIVIAN

When can I meet your friend?

JOE

Adam?

VIVIAN

No, Kermit the Frog. Yes, Adam.

JOE
I dunno. Tomorrow? Wanna have lunch?

VIVIAN
In the parking lot? No thanks. I
like air conditioning.

Joe sends something to print and he gets up to retrieve it.
He picks up his print out and also one that Vivian had
printed earlier. He reads Vivian's.

JOE
Hey, what's this?

Vivian realizes it is her document.

VIVIAN
Give me that.

JOE
Eric Hodges, huh?

VIVIAN
Give me that.

JOE
That's your brother's name?

VIVIAN
Yes.

JOE
(continuing reading)
Wow, he lives in Colorado.

VIVIAN
Yeah. Fort Collins.

JOE
Where's that?

VIVIAN
North of Denver.

JOE
You gonna meet him?

VIVIAN
He wants me to come visit.

JOE
Are you?

VIVIAN

Yes. He wants me to come this summer while the kids are out of school. They have a cabin on a lake and a boat.

JOE

Wow!

VIVIAN

Joe, I have nieces and nephews!! Two nieces and three nephews!! There's Robert, Benjamin, they call him Benny, Trisha, Aurora, and Mason, he's the baby.

JOE

Vivian! That's fantastic. I am so happy for you. So Hodges is your real name?

VIVIAN

No. Eric was adopted too. It seems our parents were always in trouble. Financially and legally. Drugs.

JOE

I'm sorry to hear that.

VIVIAN

I still want to find them. Eric has information on them and he'll fill me in. Gosh, Joe, just a week ago things were so different for us. Now I have a family and you have a boyfriend...

JOE

He is not my boyfriend!

VIVIAN

OK, OK. You have a friend. A friend that helped you get a new haircut. A new outlook. Boosted your low self esteem.

JOE

I do not have low self esteem.

VIVIAN

Com' on Joe. This is me you're talking to.

JOE

Hey, you want me to see if Adam wants to have dinner next Tuesday? He's off.

VIVIAN

Sure. I'd like that. We can celebrate all around.

JOE

Yeah, I'd like you to meet him.

VIVIAN

And I'd like to meet him. I'm real happy for you Joe.

INT. TEE JAY THAI RESTAURANT ON WILTON DRIVE - FOLLOWING TUESDAY

Joe, Adam and Vivian are seated in a booth.

VIVIAN

I am so glad Joe met you Adam and stopped hanging out with the lizard in the parking lot.

JOE

It's an Iguana.

VIVIAN

It's ugly. (to Adam) You're much easier on the eyes.

JOE

Viv!

VIVIAN

What? He is.

JOE

You've had enough to drink. You need to switch to Club Soda.

ADAM

No, it's cool. Viv's having fun and I'm enjoying watching her.

VIVIAN

Why, thank you Adam. I can see we're gonna be good friends.

ADAM

I better enjoy you now before your new family takes over your life.

VIVIAN

Yeah, right? I can see it already, Christmas in Colorado, Thanksgiving in Florida with all my little nieces and nephews. I better get a bigger place.

JOE

Or at least a bigger table.

VIVIAN

These dumplings are good. What are they?

ADAM

Tofu, Bok Choy and Scallion.

VIVIAN

OK. I know what one of those three things are. But they still taste good.

ADAM

Joe, you tell Vivian the news?

VIVIAN

What news?

JOE

Not yet.

VIVIAN

What news?

ADAM

Go ahead.

VIVIAN

Tell me!

JOE

No. I'm not sure I'm gonna do it.

VIVIAN

Do what?

ADAM

Tell her Joe!

VIVIAN
Tell me Joe!

ADAM
If you don't I will.

JOE
OK. OK.

VIVIAN
Well??

ADAM
Joe is entering the National LGBT
Powerlifting Competition.

VIVIAN
Joe! That's great!

JOE
I'm not sure yet.

ADAM
What do you mean you're not sure yet?
We talked about it. (to Vivian) He's
doing it and I'm coaching him.

VIVIAN
Joe! I'm so proud of you! When is
it?

JOE
September.

VIVIAN
Where?

ADAM
Right here in Fort Lauderdale.

VIVIAN
I'm there! Front and center to cheer
you on.

ADAM
Let's get the Green Tea Ice Cream to
celebrate!

JOE
Adam! What about carbs?

ADAM
To hell with the diet. Here's to
Joe!

JOE
To Adam! My trainer!

VIVIAN
To us!

They raise their drinks and toast.

FADE OUT

EXT. PARKING LOT OF TEE JAYS THAI

Joe and Vivian are heading towards their cars. Adam is getting on his motorcycle.

JOE
Viv, you OK to drive?

VIVIAN
Of course I am. The second Ice Cream sobered me up.

ADAM
Joe! I'll see you tomorrow. We start our training and no slacking off.

VIVIAN
He'll be there if I have to walk him there myself!

ADAM
Later.

JOE
Later.

Adam pulls out of the parking lot.

VIVIAN
Joe, you are one lucky guy to have a friend like him.

JOE
And a friend like you.

VIVIAN

You know in some parts I'm known as the Ellen DeGeneres of South Florida.

JOE

I'd like to...

VIVIAN

I know, I know. You'd like to see those parts. Go home. See you tomorrow.

JOE

Goodnight princess.

Joe and Vivian get in their cars and drive off.

INT. ADONIS GYM WEIGHT FLOOR - NEXT DAY

Joe comes out of the locker room and looks around for Adam. He doesn't see him. Joe checks his watch. Joe makes his way over to a weight bench and starts to work out. He hears the front door open and someone saying hi to Jennifer. Joe quickly looks up to see if it is Adam. It isn't. Joe checks his watch again. Joe goes back to aimlessly lifting weights.

CUT TO:

INT. BACK OFFICE OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY - AN HOUR LATER

Joe returns from his lunch work out. He puts his gym bag on the chair next to his desk. Vivian looks up.

VIVIAN

I think there was a lotta salt in those dumplings. I've been drinking water all day.

JOE

Maybe you're dehydrated from the four glasses of wine.

VIVIAN

(sensing a bit of a bite to his tone)
You're in a foul mood. Bad workout.

JOE

Adam didn't show.

VIVIAN
Huh. He call you?

JOE
No. I texted him but didn't hear
back.

VIVIAN
Maybe something came up.

JOE
You don't know Adam. He runs like a
Swiss watch.

VIVIAN
Give him a bit. He'll text you.

Joe half smiles.

FADE OUT

INT. BACK OFFICE OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY - AN HOUR LATER

Joe tries to work at his desk but he is distracted. He
keeps checking his watch.

FADE OUT

EXT. PARKING LOT OF MEDIC SUPPLY AND ADONIS GYM - 6PM

Joe is in the parking lot heading towards his car. He stops
and looks around for Adam's Motorcycle hoping to see it. He
gets in his car and pulls away.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT OF PETE'S PUB ON WILTON DRIVE - SHORTLY
AFTER

Joe's gray Honda is seen pulling into Pete's lot. Joe parks
the car and gets out. He heads towards the entrance to
Pete's.

CUT TO:

INT. PETE'S PUB

Joe enters. The after-work bar crowd is sparse. Joe sees
Steve behind the bar and heads over to him.

STEVE
Hey, how you doing? Club soda?

JOE
Naw. I'm looking for Adam. He here yet?

STEVE
Your his friend right?

JOE
Yeah.

STEVE
You didn't hear?

JOE
Hear what?

STEVE
(calling over to the other Bartender)
Tony, cover for me. (to Joe) Let's go over here man.

Steve leads Joe to a booth towards the back.

JOE
(growing concern)
What's up? What's wrong. Somethings wrong.

STEVE
Man I hate to tell you.

JOE
What? What?

STEVE
There was an accident.

JOE
An accident? What kind of accident?

STEVE
Last night. You didn't hear?

JOE
No. What? Tell me!

STEVE
Adam got hit on his bike on 95 heading home. Around 10.

Joe realizes this was right after they had dinner at Tee Jay Thai.

JOE
Oh my god. Is he alright?

STEVE
He's in bad shape. He's at Holy Cross on North Federal.

JOE
I'm going there.

STEVE
He's still in ICU.

JOE
Thank you.

Joe races out of the bar and gets into his car and pulls out of the lot.

CUT TO:

EXT. NORTH FEDERAL HIGHWAY - SUNSET

Cars heading in both directions. We see Joe's gray Honda speed by.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL - FRONT ENTRANCE

Joe enters the lobby and heads up to the front desk.

FRONT DESK ATTENDANT
May I help you?

JOE
I'm looking for a patient. Adam Forente.

The Front Desk Attendant checks the computer. She locates the record.

FRONT DESK ATTENDANT
He's in ICU. You can go down that corridor, make a left at the end and they can help you at the desk.

JOE
Thank you.

Joe races down the hall. He approaches the desk at the ICU ward.

JOE (cont'd)
Excuse me. I'm looking for an Adam Forente.

ICU DESK ATTENDANT
He's resting now. I'm not sure if you can go in. Are you family?

JOE
No. No. Just a friend. A very close friend.

ICU DESK ATTENDANT
Let me see what I can do.

The ICU Desk Attendant stops a Nurse passing.

ICU DESK ATTENDANT (cont'd)
Melanie, can he see Adam Forente?

MELANIE looks Joe over.

MELANIE
He's resting now, but come with me and you can go in for a few minutes.

Joe follows Melanie down the hall.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

Joe and Melanie enter Adam's room. Joe sees Adam in the bed hooked up to monitors and oxygen. He is sleeping.

JOE
(to Melanie)
Thank you. I'll only take a minute.

Melanie exits the room.

JOE (cont'd)
(to Adam)
Hey Adam. It's Joe. Can you hear me?

Adam doesn't respond.

JOE (cont'd)
Adam, I want you to know I'm here.
If you need anything you can just ask
for me. OK?

Adam still lays there.

JOE (cont'd)
I was looking for you at the gym
today. It was lonely without you.

Joe takes Adam's hand.

JOE (cont'd)
Adam, I want you to get better. No, I
need you to get better. You see,
I've never had a friend like you.
You've been so wonderful to me. You
accept me just the way I am. (beat)
Well...almost. I mean you did make
me get a haircut. But everyone says
it looks really good on me so, I want
to say, thank you. Thank you for
looking out for me. And thank you,
Adam, for your friendship.

Melanie comes back in the room.

MELANIE
I'm sorry. You need to go now.

JOE
(to Melanie)
Sure. Sure.

JOE (cont'd)
(to Adam)
Hey Adam. I'm going now. Get better
OK? I'll be back. Tomorrow. You
like that?

CLOSE UP ON JOE'S HAND HOLDING ADAM'S HAND

Adam squeezes Joe's hand.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM SHOT OF JOE AND ADAM.

Joe has gotten emotional knowing that Adam knows he's there.

JOE (cont'd)
Adam, I'll be back. You hang in there and don't worry. Everything will be OK.

Joe exits the room.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY OF ICU WARD

Melanie is in the hallway with Joe.

MELANIE
You should know that his injuries are pretty bad.

JOE
How bad?

MELANIE
Well, we're not sure yet of how extensive the damage to his spinal cord...

JOE
His spinal cord?

MELANIE
Yes, it's pretty severe.

JOE
Are you saying he may not walk again?

MELANIE
We're not sure.

Joe stands in silence for a moment taking all this in.

MELANIE (cont'd)
Look, why don't you come back tomorrow. The Doctor in charge makes his rounds around 3 in the afternoon. His name is Doctor Lee. He can give you more information.

JOE
Thank you. I will. Thank you for letting me see him.

MELANIE

Sure. I could tell you were a good friend.

JOE

You could?

MELANIE

It was written all over your face. He'll need you. Go home, get some rest.

JOE

Thank you.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - 3PM NEXT DAY

Doctor Lee is standing next to the bed speaking to Adam. A nurse is with them. Joe enters the room carrying a big bunch of flowers.

JOE

Knock knock. Can I come in?

DOCTOR LEE

Yes. Please.

DOCTOR LEE (cont'd)

(to Adam)

Adam, you have a visitor.

Joe approaches the bed.

JOE

(to Adam)

Hey, Adam. It's me. How you doin'?

Adam gives a weak smile at seeing Joe and the flowers. He tries to mouth a hello but his lips and mouth are dry. The nurse gives him some water from a cup with a straw.

ADAM

Hey.

JOE

I brought you some flowers. I'll put them where you can see them. OK?

The nurse takes them and puts them on the table across from the bed.

DOCTOR LEE

(to Joe)

Adam and I were just speaking about his accident.

DOCTOR LEE (cont'd)

(to Adam)

Adam, is it OK if your friend stays here while I tell you a few things?

Adam nods his head "yes".

DOCTOR LEE (cont'd)

OK. Well, Adam, I was starting to say, the MRI of your spinal cord shows extensive damage. It doesn't look very promising. (beat) I'm afraid that your ability to walk has been compromised.

Adam gives a quizzical look to the Doctor as if to say "What are you telling me?"

DOCTOR LEE (cont'd)

Adam, we're not 100% sure of course until we can do more tests, but what I'm telling you is that you may not be able to walk.

Adam's eyes well up and he turns his head away from the Doctor and Joe. Joe takes Adam's hand.

JOE

Hey, Adam, hey. I'm here. It's going to be OK. I'll help you through this.

Adam still looks the other way.

JOE (cont'd)

Look, Adam. I'll let you speak to the Doctor. I'll be sitting right over there.

Adam doesn't respond.

JOE (cont'd)

OK. I'm not leaving. I'll stay right here.

Joe takes a seat in the chair on the other side of the room as Doctor Lee continues to speak to Adam.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - 4 HOURS LATER

The lights in the room are dim. We see Adam asleep in the bed. The camera pans to the other side of the room and we see Joe asleep in the chair.

CUT TO:

INT. BACK OFFICE OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY - NEXT DAY

Joe is sitting at his desk. Tom and Vivian stand over Joe.

JOE

That's what the Doctor said. But he's not 100% sure.

VIVIAN

Of course he's not. They need to run more tests. Get Adam out of that bed.

TOM

Maybe he'll be fine.

VIVIAN

Sure. The Doctor probably wanted to paint the worst case scenario just in case. They always do that.

JOE

They do?

Vivian realizes she may have misled Joe and given him false hopes but still remains encouraging.

VIVIAN

Yeah, I think they do. Right Tom?

TOM

Right. Yeah. I remember when they told my wife's mother she had cancer, they made it sound really bad, like she had 4 months to live. Well...that was six years ago and I haven't gotten rid of her yet.

Tom finds this funny but Vivian and Joe just stare at him.

JOE
Well, I'm going back after work and
I'll see what's up. Maybe they'll
have better news.

VIVIAN
Good idea. I'll come with you.

JOE
Thanks Viv. That would be great.

VIVIAN
I'm happy to. Now, let's finish this
day and send out these boxes of
goddamn surgical tape and get over to
where we're really needed.

JOE
Right.

TOM
Right!

Joe, Tom and Vivian all go back to work but there remains a
general cloud over the office.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER THAT DAY

Adam is sitting up in bed while a nurse takes his vitals,
reads monitors and adjusts the IV drip. The door opens and
Joe peeks his head in.

JOE
Hey there! You're up! Can I come
in?

Adam gives a little smile and nods his head.

JOE (cont'd)
And...I've brought someone with me.

Vivian follows Joe into the room

VIVIAN
Surprise! It's me! Your Thai Food
friend!

Adam smiles.

JOE
I hope you don't mind Viv tagged
along. She insisted.

VIVIAN
I insisted.

JOE
Absolutely. Her idea.

VIVIAN
My idea.

ADAM
No problem. It's good to see you
both.

Awkwardness.

JOE
So what's new? Any updates?

VIVIAN
(making small talk)
Adam told me you took a bad fall on
your bike.

JOE
But you're OK. You're going to be
just fine.

VIVIAN
That's great. You look great. The
color is back in your face. I mean I
didn't see you before but I'm
assuming that you're better now than
yesterday.

JOE
Oh yeah. He looks a lot better now.
Much.

ADAM
Hey.

VIVIAN
I'm glad. Glad to see you up. You
like your room?

JOE
It's got a nice view.

ADAM
Hey. Stop it.

Silence falls over the room.

ADAM (cont'd)
I'm not OK. It's not OK.

Joe and Vivian stare at Adam.

ADAM (cont'd)
I can't walk.

JOE
Well, right now you can't walk but
when you...

ADAM
Stop it. I won't walk. Ever.

JOE
Well, don't say ever.

ADAM
Never.

Silence again.

JOE
Adam, (beat) I'm so sorry.

Adam starts to cry. Vivian and Joe stand there not knowing what to do. Vivian grabs tissues from the nightstand and hands them to Adam. Her motherly instincts kick in and they are appropriate and help diffuse the situation. She sits on the side of the bed.

JOE (cont'd)
Adam, I don't know what to say.

ADAM
There's nothing to say. My life is
over.

JOE
No it's not.

VIVIAN
No honey. It's not. Don't say that.

ADAM
It is.

VIVIAN
No. You'll be OK. We'll help you.

JOE
Of course we will. As you get better
and better we'll be with you every
step of the way.

Vivian shoots Joe a look upon hearing the insensitivity of
the statement.

ADAM
I don't want to live.

JOE
Adam, please don't say that.

ADAM
I don't. If I can't walk I don't.

JOE
We'll help you.

ADAM
Help me what?

JOE
Help you with what you need.

ADAM
Help me die. That you can help me
with.

JOE
Well I won't do that.

ADAM
If you were my friend you would.

JOE
Adam, this is bad. I know that. I
don't know how I'd feel but I'm sure
I'd feel the same way as you if I
found out I couldn't walk. But I
won't let you do that. We won't let
you do that. Right Viv.

VIVIAN
Right. We will help you.

JOE
(to Vivian)
Viv, can I have a minute alone with Adam?

VIVIAN
Sure hon. I'll be in the hall.
Goodnight Adam. You rest.

Adam doesn't reply. Vivian exits.

JOE
Adam.

ADAM
What?

JOE
I need you.

ADAM
For what?

JOE
For just about everything.

ADAM
Huh.

JOE
Don't you see.

ADAM
See what?

JOE
You gave me something Adam. Something I never had.

ADAM
What's that?

JOE
Belief. Belief in myself. I was nothing before I met you. I didn't care about myself. I hated myself. I hated that I was 55 years old, and alone. And unattractive. And nobody talked to me. Nobody looked at me. But then you came along. And showed me I was somebody. A somebody just like you, and all the other guys like you.

(MORE)

JOE (cont'd)

You made me feel so much better about myself than I ever felt in my life. Now I get up every morning and I can't wait to start the day. My life is exciting. All because of you. You gave me that Adam. And I can't, I won't let you go. Ever. (beat) And if I have to carry you around on my back for the rest of my life goddamn it I will.

Adam is silent.

JOE (cont'd)

So I want you to think about that. I'm gonna go now. But I want you to think about what I just said. And think about what you would do to me if you weren't around. And I'll be back tomorrow. And tomorrow. And the day after that. And tomorrow we're gonna face this thing head on. Goodnight Adam.

Joe goes to the door to leave.

ADAM

Joe?

JOE

Yeah?

ADAM

See you tomorrow.

JOE

Get some rest. Goodnight.

ADAM

Goodnight Joe.

Joe exits.

FADE OUT

EXT. FORT LAUDERDALE AIRPORT - NEXT DAY

Joe is getting Vivian's luggage out of the trunk of the car in the departure drop off area.

VIVIAN

So you'll be OK Joe?

JOE
Yeah, I'm fine.

VIVIAN
You call me if you want to talk.

JOE
I will.

VIVIAN
What time are you picking Adam up
from the hospital?

JOE
Four o'clock.

VIVIAN
Can you handle getting him home and
in and out of the car?

JOE
Yeah, I'll be fine.

VIVIAN
I wish I had lent you my car. It has
a bigger trunk for the wheelchair.

JOE
No, it'll fit. It's all good.

VIVIAN
Well, I better run. I hate going
through security.

JOE
Bye Viv.

Vivian gives Joe a kiss on his cheek.

VIVIAN
Stay strong. I am just a phone call
away.

JOE
Let me know how it goes with your
brother and the family.

VIVIAN
I will. I got each of them Florida T
shirts and Pelican flip flops! I
hope they like them.

JOE
I'm sure they'll love them.

VIVIAN
I hope they like me!!

JOE
That is a no brain-er! Now get going!

Vivian rushes off with her luggage to the entrance doors. Joe gets in his car and drives away.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - 4PM

Joe is standing with Melanie who is going over a check list with Joe.

MELANIE
Here are two prescriptions. One is for pain, the other is a sleep aid. He'll probably experience some flash backs of the accident from time to time. This usually happens.

JOE
Thank you. What's this for?

MELANIE
He'll need to have the dressing changed on his right shoulder blade every night. It's healing nicely but keep an eye on it. Is he going to be alone at night?

JOE
No, no. He's staying with me for a while.

MELANIE
That's good.

Another nurse wheels Adam out of the room.

JOE
Well, looks like you're ready. You have everything?

ADAM
Yeah.

MELANIE

Goodbye Adam. You take care. OK?

ADAM

Bye.

JOE

OK, we're off. Next stop my place.

Joe wheels Adam down the hall towards the exit.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL - PARKING AREA

Joe is helping Adam into his Honda. After Adam is situated in the front seat Joe puts the wheelchair in the trunk. Joe gets in the car and they drive off.

FADE OUT

INT. LIVING ROOM OF JOE REILLY'S HOME - LATER THAT EVENING

Joe and Adam are at the table which still has the Starry Night jigsaw puzzle on it but pushed to the side. The table is set for dinner and they are both eating.

JOE

I know you don't want carbs, but I thought a Lasagna would be good for tonight. It's my mother's recipe. Lasagna OK?

ADAM

It doesn't matter.

JOE

What doesn't matter?

ADAM

If I eat carbs or not. Who cares.

JOE

What's that supposed to mean?

ADAM

I don't have to worry what I eat. No one will ever see me out of this chair.

Awkwardness.

JOE

Well, you can't just let yourself get fat. You're still a very handsome man and people will always look at you.

ADAM

Yeah, they'll look at me and feel sorry for me.

JOE

No they won't. They won't even notice that chair. They'll just see a really nice...

ADAM

Stop it!! Shut up. Shut up. Shut up.

Adam throws his fork down and starts to cry.

JOE

Hey, hey. It's OK. Get it out.

Joe moves over to Adam to comfort him.

ADAM

Help me die Joe. Please, help me. I don't want to live this way.

Joe hugs Adam in the chair as Adam sobs.

JOE

Let it out. Go ahead. I'm here.

FADE OUT

INT. FRONT DESK AREA OF ADONIS GYM - SEVERAL DAYS LATER

Joe is talking to Jennifer at the desk.

JOE

So I'll come tomorrow with Adam but we'll need to figure a way to get him up those steps.

JENNIFER

I can have Bill make a quick ramp. I'll call him and get him on it.

JOE

That would be great.

JENNIFER

It will be great to have Adam back.
Everyone's been asking about him.

JOE

He's been so depressed. He hasn't
gone outside since I brought him
home.

JENNIFER

You get him back in here. I'll have
that ramp put up by tomorrow
afternoon.

JOE

Thanks.

Joe turns to leave.

JENNIFER

Joe.

JOE

What?

JENNIFER

You're an amazing person. That's
all. I just wanted to tell you that.

Joe pauses and just looks at Jennifer.

JOE

Thanks Jen. But I'm not doing this
for me.

JENNIFER

I know that. That's what makes you
amazing.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM OF JOE REILLY'S HOME - THAT EVENING

Joe and Adam are having dinner.

JOE

Is the squash OK? I hope I didn't
overcook it. I just used a little
olive oil and pepper. No salt.

ADAM

It's fine.

JOE
You hardly touched it.

ADAM
I'm not that hungry.

JOE
Maybe some salt would help? I know
the doctor said you should watch your
salt intake but a little wouldn't
hurt.

ADAM
I'm fine.

JOE
How about some of these beets?

ADAM
I said I'm fine.

JOE
OK.

They sit in silence.

JOE (cont'd)
Adam, you know, I was thinking. I
really can't remember all the
exercises you showed me, so I really
need your help. I thought maybe
tomorrow after work you could come
with me to the gym and help me.

Adam looks at Joe.

JOE (cont'd)
I mean, you could train me like you
were doing. I haven't been going...
much. Back to eating lunch in the
parking lot.

Adam just stares.

JOE (cont'd)
Would that be OK? Would you be
interested in still helping me.

ADAM
I don't think so.

JOE
I'm not very motivated on my own. I really need someone to help. Push me.

ADAM
I don't think you understand.

JOE
Huh?

ADAM
I don't want to be seen right now.

JOE
Oh.

ADAM
I don't.

JOE
Feeling sorry for yourself.

ADAM
What did you say.

JOE
Oh, nothing.

ADAM
I don't want to go to the gym.

JOE
Sure. OK.

ADAM
...and see everybody stare at me and feel sorry for me. I don't need sympathy or saying "oh Adam, how are you, you look great, ready to get back to the gym." What the hell do I want that for?

Joe has had enough. He explodes.

JOE
So what? You want to sit here all day and just feel sorry for yourself? Is that it? Well, you can just do that. See if I care.

ADAM
Fuck you Joe.

JOE
Yeah. Wallow in self pity. Fuck you too.

They sit in uncomfortable silence. Finally...

JOE (cont'd)
I'm just trying to help. OK?

Adam doesn't respond. Joe starts to clear the table.

ADAM
Can I have more squash?

Joe turns around.

JOE
Sure.

ADAM
It's good.

JOE
Yeah. It is, isn't it?

Joe sits back down and they continue to eat in silence.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM - NEXT MORNING

Adam is asleep in the bed. Joe opens the door and sticks his head in.

JOE
(whispering)
Adam? Adam?

Joe senses Adam is sound asleep and he closes the door.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S HOUSE IN DANIA, FLORIDA - FRONT HALL

Joe is standing by the console and writing a note. It reads "Left for work. See you later. I'll call and check in. Joe".

Joe takes the note and heads down the hall.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM

Joe comes back in the bedroom and leaves the note on the bedside table where Adam can see it. Joe leaves the room.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY AND ADONIS GYM - SHORTLY AFTER

Joe's Honda pulls into the lot. He gets out of the car. Joe sees two workers installing a ramp over a section of the steps into the gym. Jennifer is standing outside watching. Joe waves to Jennifer. She gives Joe two thumbs up. Joe notices the Iguana watching from a safe distance. Joe heads into Medic Surgical Supply.

CUT TO:

INT. BACK OFFICE OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY - MOMENTS LATER

Joe races to his desk. Tom is already working at his desk.

TOM
Hi Joe.

JOE
Hi.

TOM
You're excited. What's up?

JOE
They're putting in that ramp next door, so Adam can get up the stairs. To the gym. I can't wait to tell him.

Joe takes his cell phone out and starts to dial but changes his mind.

JOE (cont'd)
He's still sleeping. I'll call him in a little bit.

Joe puts his phone back.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM

CLOSE UP ON THE BED.

Adam is no longer in the bed.

CAMERA PANS 180 TO THE BEDROOM DOOR AND TRACKS DOWN THE HALL TO THE BATHROOM.

Adam is in the bathroom in his wheelchair. He is looking at the prescription bottle of sleeping pills the nurse had given him when he left the hospital. Adam takes them and heads down the hall to the pantry closet. He looks in the closet and pulls out a plastic bag. He goes to the refrigerator and takes out a bottle of water. He wheels back down the hall to the bedroom. He goes in the bedroom and closes the door.

CAMERA SHOULD REMAIN ON THE CLOSED DOOR FOR SEVERAL SECONDS

CUT TO:

INT. BACK OFFICE OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY - A SHORT WHILE LATER

Joe is fidgety. He can't concentrate. Joe picks up his cell phone and dials Adam.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM

Adam is sitting on the edge of the bed. He is holding the bottle of pills in one hand. The plastic bag is on the bed next to him. Adam's cell phone starts ringing on the night stand. Adam looks at the phone and sees it's Joe calling. Adam shuts the phone off.

CUT TO:

INT. BACK OFFICE OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY

Joe hangs up the phone. He senses something's not right. He dials again. The phone immediately goes into voicemail.

Joe hangs up. He's got a bad feeling about this.

JOE

Hey, Tom. I'll be back. I forgot something at home.

Tom looks up.

TOM
OK. Yeah, sure.

Joe leaves the office. Tom watches him go.

CUT TO:

EXT. NORTH FEDERAL HIGHWAY

Joe's Honda is heading down the highway.

CUT TO:

EXT. DRIVEWAY OF JOE REILLY'S HOME

Joe pulls his car into his driveway and hurries to the front door.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S HOUSE IN DANIA, FLORIDA - FRONT HALL

Joe enters the house.

JOE
Adam? Adam?

Joe heads down the hall to the closed bedroom door.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM

Joe enters the bedroom. Adam is in the bed with the plastic bag over his face. Joe races to the bed.

JOE
Adam! Adam!! Oh my God.

Joe pulls the bag off Adams face and performs CPR on the Adam. After a few seconds Adam gasps for breath.

Joe hugs Adam.

JOE (cont'd)
Adam. Adam. You're OK. I got you.
It's OK.

Adam starts coughing and it turns into crying. He sobs on Joe's shoulders.

ADAM
Why didn't you let me die. Let me die.

JOE
No. No. Adam. It will be OK. It will be OK.

Joe sits on the bed holding Adam rocking back and forth.

FADE OUT

INT. BACK OFFICE OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY - NEXT DAY

Joe is at his desk and Tom is at his desk. Vivian comes in.

VIVIAN
Hello! I'm back!

JOE
Vivian! Welcome back.

TOM
I am sure glad to see you.

JOE
Yeah, Tom tried to hold things together while you were in Colorado but not sure he was too successful.

TOM
Yes, you are needed around here.

VIVIAN
Well, I'm glad to be back and glad to be needed.

Vivian puts her bag down and starts looking through mail and papers on her desk. Tom and Joe stare at her expectantly.

Finally

JOE
Well?

VIVIAN
Well what?

JOE
How was the trip?

VIVIAN
You know, I'd rather not talk about
it.

JOE
Huh?

TOM
It wasn't good?

VIVIAN
I'd rather not discuss it right now.
Maybe later. (indicating the papers
on her desk) There's a lot to catch
up on.

TOM
Sure. Sure.

Joe, Vivian and Tom go about their work in silence.

CUT TO:

INT. POLLO TROPICAL ON NORTH FEDERAL HIGHWAY

Joe and Vivian are sitting in a booth having lunch.

JOE
Want coffee?

VIVIAN
Yeah, I'll have a cup.

JOE
(to waitress passing)
Can we have two cups of coffee
please? (to Vivian) I'm sorry you
had such an awful time.

VIVIAN
My expectations were too high. I
thought we were going to be this
wonderful family just like that.

JOE
Families are complicated things Viv.

VIVIAN

Or maybe we make them that. I guess they are decent people, but they just think so different than I do. On almost every issue. Eric is totally pro NRA, Second Amendment, doesn't believe in any gun control. Samantha, his wife, thinks Planned Parenthood should be abolished. What I worry about is the kids. How they'll grow up. They're being home schooled. They have no interactions with other kids, they're not allowed to listen to music, watch TV. The only shows that Eric and Samantha approve of are reruns of Home Improvement and Family Matters. Every night at dinner we all thanked Jesus that I was delivered safely back into their family. No alcohol. None. After two days I desperately needed a very strong Gin and Tonic, and I hate Gin. I contemplated drinking the mouthwash, believe me, I did.

JOE

Do you think you'll see them again.

VIVIAN

Not anytime soon. I mean, we'll stay in touch. I'll send them a card at Christmas, and put a check in it for the kids, but Aunt Vivian will be a much better Aunt from a safe distance where I'm not tempted to say something that I may regret later.

JOE

Maybe it's for the best.

VIVIAN

Yeah, well. Enough about me. What's really important is how Adam's doing. I was so worried when you called me.

JOE

It was the worst thing I ever went through in my life.

VIVIAN

I want to see him.

JOE

He'd like that. I think. He's a little better today. He's eating. Wanted to watch the news this morning.

VIVIAN

You talk to him about helping you at the gym? Any chance of that?

JOE

Yeah, there is. I bring it up gently. He seems...OK, maybe, with the idea.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE'S HOUSE IN DANIA, FLORIDA - THAT EVENING

Joe and Adam are sitting around the dinner table eating. The mood is markedly better than previous dinner times.

ADAM

Wow. Vivian's trip sounds horrible.

JOE

Yeah. I wouldn't want to meet em.

ADAM

When's Vivian coming over? So we can all hang out?

JOE

Yeah, Vivian was asking about you today too.

ADAM

Cool.

JOE

I was thinking, I had an idea, how about I pick you up tomorrow at the end of the day. I can bring you over to Medic. You can say hello to Viv and Tom.

ADAM

Yeah.

JOE

Would that be OK?

ADAM
I guess so.

JOE
We wouldn't have to stay long. Just
a quick hello.

ADAM
OK.

JOE
Great. Hey, pass me those Brussels
Sprouts would you?

Adam passes the Brussels Sprouts.

FADE OUT

INT. BACK OFFICE OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY - FOLLOWING
AFTERNOON

Joe, Vivian and Tom are at their desks. Tom is on the
phone.

JOE
(checking his watch)
OK, I'm gonna go pick up Adam.

VIVIAN
Great. I got a Key Lime Pie in the
fridge.

JOE
See you in a bit.

VIVIAN
We'll be here.

CUT TO:

EXT. DRIVEWAY OF JOE REILLY'S HOME - SHORTLY AFTERWARD

Joe is helping Adam into his Honda. Joe folds the wheelchair
and puts it in the trunk. Joe gets in the car and pulls out
of the driveway.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY AND ADONIS GYM -
IMMEDIATELY AFTER

Joe's Honda pulls into the lot. Joe gets out. Joe opens the trunk and gets the wheelchair out. Joe opens the wheelchair. He goes up to the passenger door and opens it and helps Adam get out and in the chair. Adam notices the Iguana.

ADAM
Hey, there's your friend.

Another Iguana comes walking into the frame. The two Iguanas are side by side.

ADAM (cont'd)
Looks like he got a friend.

The Iguanas stare at Adam and Joe for a few seconds then jump into the canal. Joe and Adam laugh.

JOE
Wow!

ADAM
I guess I scared them.

JOE
Yeah, you did!

Adam wheels himself towards the entrance to Medic Surgical Supply. Adam stops abruptly. He sees the ramp leading up to the gym entrance. Adam stares at it.

JOE (cont'd)
You OK?

ADAM
Yeah. Yeah. I'm fine.

Adam wheels over to the entrance of Medic Surgical Supply. Joe holds the door open and they go in.

CUT TO:

INT. BACK OFFICE OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY

Joe and Adam come into the office.

JOE
Look who's here!

VIVIAN

Adam!

Vivian runs over to Adam and gives him a big hug.

VIVIAN (cont'd)

Hi honey.

TOM

Hi Adam. I'm Tom.

Tom and Adam shake hands.

TOM (cont'd)

I'm glad to meet you. Joe talks all the time about you.

ADAM

He should be working!

TOM

That's what I tell him.

VIVIAN

Hey, we have a Key Lime Pie. Want a piece?

ADAM

Sure.

JOE

Sounds great.

TOM

I'll make some coffee.

JOE

Thanks. I'll get the pie.

Joe heads over the kitchenette area with Tom. Vivian pulls up a chair next to Adam.

VIVIAN

Adam, tell, me, how's it going? You doing OK?

ADAM

It's hard.

VIVIAN

I know. I can only imagine what you're going through.

ADAM

Viv, I didn't want to live.

VIVIAN

I know. Joe told me.

ADAM

I'm not sure I still do.

VIVIAN

Well, if it makes any difference, we want you to. Joe really wants you to. Sometimes maybe, we find reasons to go on in other people. Listen, I know Joe for a few years now, and I never saw him happier than he is now. Now that he met you.

Suddenly the office door opens and Steve the Bartender from Pete's comes in with two other workers from the bar.

STEVE

Hey! Is this where the party is?

Joe looks over from the Kitchenette.

JOE

What the! Viv?

VIVIAN

I made a phone call! Hi guys, come on in!

Steve is carrying a couple bags of chips.

ADAM

Oh my god! Hi Steve! Randy! Paul!

VIVIAN

I thought we needed a little excitement around here. I haven't been this close to such hot men since I had my Living Room painted four years ago by those Italian guys.

JOE

Weren't they brothers?

VIVIAN

Yeah, and their father wasn't too bad either. He kept calling me Bella.

JOE
(to Adam and Steve)
Lugosi

VIVIAN
Shut up!

Vivian playfully hits him and they all laugh. Tom enters carrying the Pie and plates.

TOM
Key Lime Pie is served!

FADE OUT

EXT. PARKING LOT OF MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY AND ADONIS GYM -
AN HOUR LATER

Everyone is leaving. Vivian and Tom head to their cars. Steve and his two buddies pile into one car. Joe and Adam are left in the parking lot. Joe waves them off. He turns and catches Adam looking at the gym entrance.

JOE
Wanna go in? Say hello?

ADAM
Yeah. Sure.

Adam and Joe head over. Adam wheels up the ramp.

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT DESK AREA OF ADONIS GYM

Jennifer is at the desk talking to a gym member. She sees Adam and Joe come through the door.

JENNIFER
Adam!! Oh my God!! It's great to see
you.

Jennifer comes out from behind the desk and gives Adam a big bear hug.

ADAM
OW! You've been training!

JENNIFER
(to the gym floor)
Hey everyone, look who's back!! Adam!

Other gym members come over and shake Adams hand, pat his shoulder, kiss his cheek, etc.

JOE
See Adam! See how much you're missed.

MARTIN (58) comes over

MARTIN
Hey, Adam! So great to see you!

ADAM
Martin! Joe, I want you to meet Martin. Martin, Joe. Martin was my first friend when I first got into town.

MARTIN
Yeah, now you got a million.

Martin looks at Joe and it's noticed instantly by Adam and Jennifer that there is an attraction between the two.

MARTIN (cont'd)
(shaking Joe's hand)
Nice to meet you Joe.

JOE
You too Martin.

The silence is broken by Jennifer.

JENNIFER
So, Adam. When you coming back? I put your membership on hold, just waiting for me to click "active" in the computer.

ADAM
I dunno.

JENNIFER
OK. When you're ready.

Awkward silence.

JENNIFER (cont'd)
Joe, you still entering the contest? There's still time.

Jennifer indicates the poster on the wall.

JOE

Well, I'd like to. But I'll need a trainer. How about you Jennifer. Can you help me?

JENNIFER

Sure. I'll help you. We can start tomorrow. I'll stay after my shift and we can do an hour and a half each day. We have to do almost everyday though to make up for lost time. You should have started training a month ago.

JOE

How much do you charge?

JENNIFER

I usually charge \$75 an hour but for you I'll do \$60 an hour.

Adam has been taking all this in.

ADAM

Wait, wait. Working everyday with you is going to cost Joe a fortune.

JENNIFER

Yeah, I guess.

JOE

It sure will. Plus I'll be here every night, not home until 9 or so.

ADAM

No way. Thanks Jen, but I can train him. Jen, where is the entry form.

JENNIFER

Right here.

ADAM

Joe we start tomorrow.

JOE

Well, I guess we do.

CUT TO:

INT. ADONIS GYM WEIGHT FLOOR - NEXT DAY

Joe is doing bench presses while Adam barks encouragement to him.

ADAM

Come on Joe. You can do it. Push harder.

Joe finishes the set.

JOE

God that was hard.

ADAM

We went up 20 pounds.

Adam hands Joe two thirty pound dumb bells.

ADAM (cont'd)

Lay down. Flies.

Joe does chest flies while Adam counts.

ADAM (cont'd)

That's right give me 10 reps. One, two, three, ...

FADE OUT

FOLLOWING IS A MONTAGE OF JOE AND ADAM OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. SHOTS OF JOE AND ADAM AT THE GYM. JOE ON A TREADMILL WHILE ADAM TIMES HIM. JOE AND ADAM EATING LUNCH IN A CAFE. END MONTAGE WITH JOE AND ADAM COMING INTO JOE'S HOUSE IN THE EVENING - JOE'S EXHAUSTED AND PLOPS DOWN ON THE COUCH.

INT. JOE'S HOUSE IN DANIA, FLORIDA - EVENING

Joe and Adam are eating at the table. The mood is light. They are both hungry.

ADAM

So, this is the big weekend. You feel ready.

JOE

Yeah, I actually do.

ADAM

Wait. I got a surprise for you.

Adam wheels down the hall and comes out with a brown box.

JOE
What's this.

ADAM
Open it.

JOE
Adam, what did you get me?

Joe opens the box and pulls out a new pair of sneakers, a singlet, a matching T-Shirt and a weight belt.

ADAM
Got to have you lookin' dope up there!

JOE
I don't know what to say. Thank you Adam.

ADAM
It was nothing.

They sit for a moment looking at each other.

JOE
Well...I guess no dessert for me tonight.

ADAM
Cantaloupe. You can have some cantaloupe.

JOE
I'm sick of cantaloupe! I want ice cream!

ADAM
Next week!!

They raise their water glasses and toast.

CUT TO:

INT. MEDIC SURGICAL SUPPLY - NEXT DAY

Vivian is at her desk sorting through the mail. Joe comes in carrying his gym bag.

VIVIAN
One last workout before the big day?

JOE
Yeah. I'll be glad when this is over
and I can take it easy. I've never
worked so hard in my life.

VIVIAN
You've never had a reason to.

Vivian comes across an envelope addressed to her.

VIVIAN (cont'd)
Huh.

JOE
What?

VIVIAN
My brother sent me something.

JOE
What is it?

Vivian opens the envelope. It is a 5 x 7 photo of her
brother, his wife and the five kids. On the back is written
"To Aunt Viv, we miss you. Come back and see us again
soon." It is signed by each of the five kids.

JOE (cont'd)
(looking over her
shoulder)
Wow, that's kinda nice. Sweet.

Vivian has a half smile. She holds the photo not knowing
what to do. Joe walks away. After a beat, Vivian props up
the photo against her desk lamp where she can easily see it.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM OF LAUDERHILL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER -
SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The stage is set with three platforms for each of the three
lifts: Squat, Bench Press and Dead Lift. Audience members
fill the auditorium. A group in one row hold up a sign that
says "LGBT Atlanta loves you Robbie!" Judges enter and take
their places around the squat platform.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
Welcome to the National LGBT
Powerlifting meet! Thank you Fort
Lauderdale for hosting us!

Crowd cheers

ANNOUNCER (O.S.) (cont'd)
Each participating athlete will have
three attempts on each of the
required powerlifts, squat, bench
press and dead lift.

CLOSE UP ON ADAM AND VIVIAN

VIVIAN
This is exciting! Where's Joe?

ADAM
He's in the back. Warming up.

VIVIAN
When does he go on?

ADAM
He's in the first flight. The 83
kilogram weight class.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
We will begin with the squat.
Contestants please enter.

Seven contestants enter and line up. Joe is second.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.) (cont'd)
First contestant Stewart Andrews of
Philadelphia PA!

JUDGE
Platform ready.

Contestant Stewart Andrews takes his place.

JUDGE (cont'd)
Clock starting

Stewart unracks the weight bar and moves back.

JUDGE (cont'd)
Squat!

Stewart squats. He struggles with the weight. It's a
sloppy squat.

JUDGE (cont'd)

Rack!

The scoreboard lights up. Stewart gets one white light and two reds.

ADAM

That's too bad.

VIVIAN

What happened?

ADAM

He went too heavy on his opener.

VIVIAN

Is he disqualified?

ADAM

No, he gets two more tries.

Stewart continues and on his second and third try he does much better. He gets two white lights on the second lift and three white lights on his third lift. The crowd cheers.

ANNOUNCER

Second contestant Joe Reilly of Fort Lauderdale Florida!

Joe comes to the platform.

JUDGE

Platform ready!

Joe takes his place on the platform. Unracks the bar and moves back.

JUDGE (cont'd)

Squat!

Joe's form is perfect.

JUDGE (cont'd)

Rack!

Joe racks. He gets three white lights. Adam and Vivian cheer wildly! Joe gets ready for his second squat.

ADAM

(to himself)

Come on , Joe. Concentrate!

JUDGE
Platform ready!

Joe unracks the bar and moves back.

JUDGE (cont'd)
Squat!

Joe does another perfect squat.

JUDGE (cont'd)
Rack!

Joe racks the bar and waits for the judges results. Again, three white lights. Adam and Vivian cheer. Martin comes down the aisle and slides in the row and sits next to Adam and Vivian.

MARTIN
Hope I'm not too late!

ADAM
No, Joe has one more squat.

VIVIAN
He's doing great!

JUDGE
Platform ready!

Joe unracks and moves back.

JUDGE (cont'd)
Squat!

Joe struggles a bit on this last squat. It's not as clean.

JUDGE (cont'd)
Rack!

Joe racks and waits for the results. There is a tension in the air. Joe gets two white lights and one red. The crowd claps but not as enthusiastically.

VIVIAN
Oh no!

ADAM
It's still OK. The lift still counts. You can get one red light and still be OK.

VIVIAN
(yelling to the stage)
Go Joe!!!

CUT TO:

EXT. ENTRANCE TO LAUDERHILL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER - THREE
HOURS LATER

Audience members and contestants are leaving the building.
Joe, Vivian, Adam and Martin exit. Joe is holding a trophy.

ADAM
Well, congratulations "Mister Best
Lifter in his weight class!"

VIVIAN
Joe, I'm so proud of you.

JOE
Gosh, I have never won anything in my
life.

VIVIAN
That's not true. You won that turkey
at Publix two Thanksgivings ago.
Remember?

JOE
Yeah, right. It was 20 pounds and we
were eating turkey for weeks. Hey,
speaking of eating, I'm starving.
Let's all get something to eat.

MARTIN
I'm in.

Adam and Vivian exchange a quick look.

VIVIAN
You know, while I'd love to celebrate
with you, I'm exhausted. I didn't
realize these things were all day
affairs.

ADAM
Yeah, I'm kinda beat too. Why don't
you two grab a bite.

VIVIAN
I'll drop you off Adam.

ADAM
That would be great.

JOE
You sure?

ADAM
Yeah, we're sure.

Adams exchanges a look with Martin.

JOE
OK, lets go Martin. I know of a great Mexican on North Federal and 23rd Street.

MARTIN
I know that place. I love it. I'll meet you there.

Joe and Martin head off to their cars. Vivian and Adam watch. Joe turns around to look at Adam and Vivian. Vivian waves.

After a few seconds.

VIVIAN
You know what I'm thinking Adam?

ADAM
That they make a good couple?

VIVIAN
No. I'm thinking about those dumplings from the Thai place and how good they'd taste right about now.

ADAM
Thai?

VIVIAN
Thought you'd never ask.

ADAM
Dinner on me.

VIVIAN
Oh sweetie. Really?

ADAM
Absolutely.

VIVIAN

Honey, if you were straight, I'd
marry ya.

Vivian wheels Adam to her car as they laugh and talk.

THE END

The Iguana in the Parking Lot