

FIFI AND HUNTER FOREVER!

BY

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CUA Drama

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### Cast of Characters

<u>Clair</u> :	40s
<u>Fifi</u> :	20s
<u>Henry</u> :	20s
<u>Daniel</u> :	20s
<u>Herman</u> :	50s
<u>Male Ensemble</u> :	20s (Characters: Male Intern, Antonin, Rainer, Gilbert, Sandy Koufax, Chester, Bankrobber)
<u>Female Ensemble</u> :	20s (Characters: Misty, Female Intern, Waitress, Paolo)

### Scene

Hollywood: various locations.

### Time

Present (AUTHOR'S NOTE: Tabloid culture is, regrettably, an affliction that no doubt will outlive me and my play's many references to contemporary Hollywood tabloid fodder. In the future, feel free to update my references with the names of your more relevant celebrities.)

ACT ONE

SCENE I

Lights on MISTY, 30s, an entertainment reporter. Supplement with projections or video.

MISTY

Hello lovelies, and welcome to another edition of *Hollywood Voyeur*. I'm Misty Winters. Tonight's headlines:

Demi Moore: the downward spiral continues. Now a shuttered recluse, just how many cats *does* she have? *Hollywood Voyeur* has the exclusive.

Plus: we catch up with Khloe Kardashian, whose shocking transition to Roman Catholic nun has inspired a new line from Ralph Lauren. We'll explain how *you* can resurrect your wardrobe and drop the bad habits.

But first we begin with a sad story - the tattered career of one of Hollywood's most promising former child stars. Have we seen the last of Fifi De Milo?

Enter CLAIR, 40s, with a bright silver remote control. She pauses Misty.

CLAIR

A brief history lesson: 2,000 years ago the peons of the world were all about gossip. They couldn't help themselves. Between shopping for the latest and most fashionable new togas and, most likely, copulating with sheep, the only way these plebes found meaning in their pointless lives was through gossip. Because fashion and sex can only get you so far. But gossip - gossip is a vicarious action. Gossip allows for escape. It is the greatest and most powerful distraction this world has ever, and will ever, know.

So our peons gossiped. About whom, you might ask? The gods. Zeus and Poseidon. Hera and Aphrodite. Gods who shifted shape, who deceived their lovers, who could control the world and reduce it to rubble, and who crashed and burned when they got too close to the sun.

That plebe civilization, as plebe civilizations tend to do, advanced ever so slightly, bit by bit. The gods are dead, replaced as gossip fodder by subjects less imaginary. Not necessarily more real. Just a little less imaginary.

That's where I come in. Cupid. Clair Cupid. Take my card. Go ahead. I have thousands of them. Who am I, exactly? I'm the one with this.

She holds up her remote.

And my job is to give the people what they want.

Clair rewinds Misty and pushes play. Clair sits at her desk.

MISTY

Tonight on *Hollywood Voyeur*: the remarkable resurgence of Fifi De Milo.

SCENE II

Clair's Office.

Enter FIFI (22). The head of Jean Paul, her tiny dog, peeks out from her handbag.

FIFI

You look wonderful, Clair.

CLAIR

I know.

FIFI

I love that outfit. Versace? And your hair. I see you visited Jacques as I suggested. You look absolutely marvelous. Gorgeous. Drop-dead, runway model, irresistible siren--

CLAIR

Do you like art, Feef?

Clair snaps her fingers.

Interns!

Two INTERNS carry in a large painting.

FIFI

Oh! It's nice. Very nice even. I would definitely say very nice. What's that, Jean-Paul? Oh, Jean-Paul finds it very nice as well.

CLAIR

Who?

FIFI

Jean-Paul, silly. He has smart opinions and refined taste. He is an existentialist.

CLAIR

What have I told you about bringing that mutt in here, Feef?

FIFI

Jean-Paul is not a mutt. With all due respect, of course. He is the product of regal breeding.

CLAIR

Don't bring that animal in here again, Feef. I don't like animals. I don't like tiny things. Unless it's your waistline we're talking about which, by the way...

FIFI

Art! This painting! Is this something new for your collection?

CLAIR

This here cost me \$5 million. An original Jasper Johns. You heard of him?

FIFI

Yes. Um... Of course. He was most certainly a genius. Isn't that right, Jean-Paul?

Clair kicks a hole through the painting. She snaps her fingers and the interns march off with it.

CLAIR

Why would I pay so much money for a painting to do something like that? Do you know why, Feef?

FIFI

I'm certain it was for a good reason, Clair.

CLAIR

Because that painting is a painting that Reese Witherspoon loves and I hate Reese Witherspoon.

FIFI

Oh.

CLAIR

Feef, I own thirty-seven signed baseballs for which Kevin Costner, in a heartbeat, would trade his two completely undeserved Oscars. Six copies of Superman #1 for which Nic Cage would trade his oddly-named first-born child. This thing:

FIFI

Is that a rattle?

CLAIR

Diamond encrusted. 24 karat gold handle. Snatched it up right before Beyoncé could. Do you get what I'm getting at here?

FIFI

You weren't invited to the baby shower?

CLAIR

Hate's got expensive taste, Feef. How am I supposed to pay for a diamond encrusted, 24 karat gold rattle? How am I going to afford the chandelier made out of retro Coke bottles that Quentin Tarantino wants so bad?

FIFI

Your clients?

CLAIR

One client, Feef. There is one client who is supposed to be my golden goose. One client who is supposed to be shitting solid gold eggs so that I can buy things that I don't want.

FIFI

Clair.

CLAIR

But golden goose ain't been shitting eggs these days, has she?

FIFI

It's funny you should mention...

CLAIR

It's not happening.

FIFI

You don't even know what I'm going to ask.

CLAIR

Don't insult me, Feef. I got the memo this morning. They're casting for that arthouse film. The one with the oyster.

FIFI

It's an Anderson, Clair.

CLAIR

Wes or Paul Thomas? Oh. Wait. It doesn't matter because no one's gonna' see it.

FIFI

People will see it, Clair. The right people. The Academy.

CLAIR

We did this once, Feef. You got your nomination. You lost.

FIFI

I was 12 years old.

CLAIR

And Meryl Streep beat your itty-bitty little ass into the ground, didn't she?

FIFI

Clair, I have to say. Those shoes are just dazzling. They really make your butt look good.

CLAIR

N-O. No, Feef.

FIFI

Please, Clair. I'll beg. Do you want me to beg? Look. I'm begging. Pleeeeeeeeeeeeeeease.

CLAIR

Get up, Feef. It's one thing that you're washed up. It's a whole other if you're dirtying my office rug.

FIFI

I am not.

CLAIR

Babygirl, that smudge wasn't there before.

FIFI

Washed up. I am not washed up.

CLAIR

Girl, you're on the tail-end of a spin-cycle. And you know it. Because I know it. And because Mr. Hunky Country Honey Bunny Music Star damn well knew it.

FIFI

Don't you say his name!

CLAIR

Whoa there. I didn't say his name. Unwind yourself and sit your sweet ass down. Christ, take a Valium or something. I mean it. Take one. I got plenty.

FIFI

It upsets Jean-Paul to hear his name.

CLAIR

Sure it does. Doesn't change the fact that despite the bevy of tabloid fodder, the peasants just ain't buying your

CLAIR  
 covers, Feef. And now, here you stand - Fifi De Milo: old news, wrong side of 20, hasn't made back a budget since she was a teenager, inches of skin where there used to be centimeters, woefully and conspicuously single--

FIFI  
 I don't need to put up with this.

CLAIR  
 That's the thing, Feef. Neither do I.

FIFI  
 Is that it? Are you going to fire me? Can you fire me? You can't fire me!

CLAIR  
 No, Feef.

Clair presses a button on her remote control and a movie script falls from the sky onto her desk.

But I can save you.

SCENE III

A Hollywood dive bar.

HENRY and DANIEL (mid 20s) behind the bar.

DANIEL  
*Bridge on the River Kwai.*

HENRY  
 William Holden.

DANIEL  
 Who starred in *Network*.

HENRY  
 Alongside Faye Dunaway.

DANIEL  
*Chinatown.*

HENRY  
 John Huston.

DANIEL  
 Ooh, good one. Could've sworn you'd go with Nicholson. I'd have gone with Nicholson. Personally, I mean.



HENRY

You're stalling.

DANIEL

*The Treasure of the Sierra Madre.*

HENRY

That was Walter Huston. John directed. Drink.

DANIEL

*Au contraire.* John made an uncredited appearance as the White Suit American Tampico Man.

HENRY

Did he?

DANIEL

Surprised you didn't know that.

HENRY

Fine. Bogart then.

DANIEL

Don't wanna' go with Walter Huston?

HENRY

That's a trap. I'm goin' Bogey.

DANIEL

*The African Queen.*

HENRY

Oh no. Um... Hepburn.

DANIEL

But which one?

HENRY

Ka...

DANIEL

Hm?

HENRY

Audrey.

DANIEL

Drink.

HENRY

Always with the Hepburns.

Henry drinks one of the drinks.

DANIEL

Any and all tips, surplus, and gratuity go to Daniel, the winner and still Movie Game champion.

HENRY

Best 4 out of 7?

DANIEL

I'd beat you 99 times out of a hundred, Hen.

HENRY

Some day, Danny. My one will come.

DANIEL

Not tonight though. And with our best customer coming in...

HERMAN (50s) enters. Or rather, stumbles.

Right on cue.

HERMAN

Ahoy mateys!

DANIEL & HENRY

Ahoy captain.

HERMAN

Boys, I've got good news. Great news even. Best news I've had in a long, long while.

DANIEL

I've heard that before. He's all yours. Just remember where the tips are going.

HENRY

My ears are always open for good news, Herm. Have a seat. It'd be nice to talk to someone who won't think to mention the White Suit American Tampico Man.

HERMAN

The what now?

HENRY

What's the beat?

HERMAN

The beat?

HENRY

What's your good news?

HERMAN  
My what now?

DANIEL  
Don't you remember? You said you had good news, Herm.

HENRY  
Great news even.

HERMAN  
Oh yes. I, uh...

DANIEL  
Hm?

HERMAN  
Boys, I must be losing my wits.

DANIEL  
It shocks me he still has wits to lose.

HERMAN  
Maybe a drink? To joggle the memory a little bit.

HENRY  
The usual?

HERMAN  
Good boy.

He makes Herman a drink.

Funny thing about this town. It'll make you forget.

HENRY  
A lot of folks come here to forget, Herm.

HERMAN  
Forget what you want, forget what you need, forget who you are.

Henry serves the drink.

Of course this can go on my tab.

HENRY  
Of course, Herm.

HERMAN  
Such a good boy. Raised by a good mother, God rest her soul. Here's a little something for your trouble. Don't think I don't know how the working man's got it in a place like this.

HENRY

You're too kind.

Herman tips Henry a dollar. Daniel plucks it away. He pulls out a wad of cash and counts.

I'm eager to hear your good news, Herman.

DANIEL

I think he needs another drink.

HERMAN

It's all still a little hazy.

Henry serves him another.

Such a good boy. Take another, take another. Maybe one day when you're a bigshot millionaire you can remember that it was good ol' Herm that never jipped you a tip.

HENRY

Believe me. You're not the forgettable type.

Daniel snags the second dollar and adds it to his wad.

HERMAN

You've got the magic touch, kid. Perfect amount of gin. Perfect amount of ginger. Can't get a good drink in this town, not if you don't know where to go.

DANIEL

It's a good thing you stopped by, Herm. I've got something for you.

Daniel gives Herman the money.

That should cover my rent through the month.

Herman hugs Daniel. Henry pilfers Herman's keys.

HERMAN

You're an angel, Danny. An honest to god saint.

DANIEL

Don't know if Rabbi Welton would approve of sainthood but what the hell, you're the best agent money can buy, Herm.

HERMAN

Do let that roommate of yours know I'm still waiting on last month's rent.

HENRY  
I'm still working on it, Herm.

HERMAN  
Kid, the cash just slips right through your fingers.

HENRY  
You don't know the half of it.

HERMAN  
Look at yourself, Henry. Body of an Olympian. A world-class athlete. You were a shortstop, right? Or a third baseman?

HENRY  
Point guard.

HERMAN  
I love football! A natural born leader, you are, Henry. To have grown up like you did up in snowy Minnesota.

HENRY  
Michigan.

HERMAN  
What's that?

DANIEL  
He grew up in Michigan.

HERMAN  
A big fish in a small pond! Oh, if only your mother, God rest her soul, could see you now.

HENRY  
Herm, my mother is still...

HERMAN  
What's that?

HENRY  
Nah, don't worry about it.

HERMAN  
Your poor mother. I'm only her cousin's, sister-in-law's, uncle's half-brother but that don't mean we're not family, Henry. To have you here. To have you renting my duplex. I have to say it. I would hate myself if I didn't say it because then I wouldn't be right and honest and if there's anything you can do to keep yourself sane in a loony bin like L.A. it's being right and honest and true to yourself. So I gotta say it. I love you, kid.

HENRY

I love you too, Herm.

HERMAN

Which is why I gotta' say it, because I love you, kid. It's disappointing that you're behind on your payments.

HENRY

I'm sorry, Herm. It's those Hepburns that do it to me.

DANIEL

What about me, Herm? What nice things you got to say about good ol' Daniel Roth-Goldschmidt?

HERMAN

You got a face. Cheekbones like Olivier. A jaw like Henry Fonda. The nose of Peter Lorre.

HENRY

Peter Lorre, Daniel.

HERMAN

You two together. You two could be stars. Stars? Stars! Oh, I remember. I remember!

HENRY

What?

HERMAN

My great news. Your great news!

DANIEL

Spit it out.

HERMAN

I got you boys an audition!

SCENE IV

Lights back up on Fifi and Clair.

FIFI

An audition?

CLAIR

You bet your sweet ass, an audition. Fresh meat straight from the butcher, Feef, and we get our pick of the cuts.

FIFI

No.

CLAIR

Oh honey, you did not just 'no' me.

FIFI

I mean, let's talk about me here. Just for a second, let's talk about me.

CLAIR

Okay, Feef. Let's talk about you. For once. Because we never talk about you. Never.

FIFI

Any plan of yours should utilize my many talents.

CLAIR

Your talent is reading other people's words into a camera.

FIFI

I have other talents.

CLAIR

You couldn't even qualify for *Dancing with the Stars*. And you still got both legs.

FIFI

Well, then consider my needs.

CLAIR

I did. What you need is a reboot. This is how we do it.

FIFI

But this is not the road to a successful reboot. A nomination would send me straight to the top.

CLAIR

Feef, what's my job?

FIFI

And then come the endorsements and the interviews and all that fun stuff.

CLAIR

Feef.

FIFI

And then Jean-Paul and I can live happily ever--

CLAIR

Feef, I'm not going to ask again. What. Is. My. Job?

FIFI

To give the people what they want.

CLAIR

And what is your job?

FIFI

To make you money.

CLAIR

To be what the people want, Feef. They want you. They've always wanted you. They just don't know it yet. That's where I come in. You want to be loved, don't you?

FIFI

I don't need any more love, Clair. I have Jean-Paul for that.

CLAIR

Look. You gotta' give if you're looking to get. Sandra Bullock? Doesn't win that Oscar if she ain't first Miss Congeniality. Reese Witherspoon -- that bitch -- doesn't get June Carter Cash until she's done being Elle Woods. I'll get what you want, Feef. I just need you to drink the Kool-Aid a little first.

FIFI

You promise? Clair, I need your word.

CLAIR

Sure. Whatever. Starting tomorrow we're rebooting you.

FIFI

Can we not call it a reboot?

CLAIR

Call it what you like.

FIFI

I'd like to call it a comeback then. This is not a reboot of Fifi De Milo. This is her comeback.

CLAIR

Whatever it is, read that script tonight. It's gold. We'll start auditioning for your opposite in the morning.

FIFI

Clair, about that. Maybe we can--

CLAIR

It's been six months, Feef. Garret has moved on. You need to move on as well.

FIFI

I told you not to say his name! Jean-Paul can't bear the pain!



CLAIR

Feef. Listen. Do the big flick now and it's only a matter of time before "and the Oscar goes to..."

SCENE V

Henry and Daniel outside the audition performing actor warm-up exercises.

HENRY

Fifi De Milo. Hadn't heard that name in ages. Isn't she the one dating the country singer?

DANIEL

Was dating. Poor thing.

HENRY

She was sort of a big deal.

DANIEL

I still don't believe it.

HENRY

Really? I can see it. I mean, hey she's kind of cute.

DANIEL

The audition. I don't believe the audition. I think we should bail.

HENRY

Herm says it's legit.

DANIEL

That's why I don't believe it.

Lights up on Herman at the bar.

HERMAN

Let me set the scene. Phone rings. No, wait, no! First, I'm sitting. I'm drinking RC Cola and watching *MASH* because there's a marathon on TV Land. I'm comfortable. I'm ready. THEN the phone rings and I answer it because I got a feeling about this one. A good feeling. "Herman Murray," I say. Cool. Casual. Just in case it's the Chinese delivery guy lost again needing directions. But it's not. I know it's not.

Lights up on Female Intern.

F. INTERN

Herman Murray, the Hollywood agent?

HERMAN

...says the voice on the other end. I had her. Hook, line, and sinker. I knew exactly what to say next. "Yes, that's me." Woo, ice water in these veins. It was like the old days, boys. Like I'd never been away from the game.

HENRY

He said it was from Clair Cupid.

DANIEL

But it wasn't Clair Cupid.

HERMAN

Clair Cupid knew better than to call me herself. It was one of her sacrificial lambs.

F. INTERN

Excuse me?

HERMAN

Said she was calling up all the top Hollywood agents

F. INTERN

I didn't say "top."

HERMAN

With an audition. This audition. *Venus and Adonis* opposite Fifi De Milo. What did I do? I pounced. I worked her like I hadn't worked in years.

F. INTERN

At this point I realized the phone list I was using was from 1986.

HERMAN

She says to send all my clients. I say I got only two. She says for my clients to show up at 10 A.M. I say they'll be there at 9:55. She was scared stiff, this kid.

F. INTERN

Hah!

Female Intern hangs up, exits.

HERMAN

The deal got done. An agent's not an agent if he can't make dreams come true. This is your dream, right boys?

Lights down on Herman.

HENRY

Ever since I was little.

DANIEL

Can't say the deck's not stacked against us.

HENRY

To write autographs and pose in photographs.

DANIEL

And Hollywood does weird things to people.

HENRY

When we play the movie game, I want to make you say my name.

DANIEL

This is what I mean, Hen. I'm not going to say your name and no one's gonna' say mine.

HENRY

You're a defeatist.

DANIEL

I'm a realist. Yes, I'd love to become a famous movie actor. Yes, I wish I could be an action star. Yes, I've seen *Die Hard* so many times that I've developed phobias of Germans, skyscrapers, and Germans in skyscrapers.

HENRY

And when I was a kid all my imaginary friends were Ewoks. The movies made us, Danny. And we want to make movies.

DANIEL

But you're Henry Gwiazda and I am Daniel Roth-Goldschmidt.

HENRY

What does that have to do with anything?

DANIEL

First, we're nobodies.

HENRY

We're unknowns. There's a difference.

DANIEL

Second. Have you ever heard of Frederick Austerlitz?

HENRY

No.

DANIEL

He's more famously known as Fred Astaire. Natalie Herschlag?

HENRY

No.

DANIEL

She goes by Portman these days. Jerome Silberman became Gene Wilder. Mel Brooks is really Mel Kaminsky. Mel Brooks! He's the closest thing the Jews have to the Pope and he doesn't even use his real name.

HENRY

To be fair, neither does the Pope.

DANIEL

No one's ever gonna' play that game and say the names Daniel Roth-Goldschmidt and Henry Gwiazda.

HENRY

I'm not Jewish. And Gwiazda's a great name. It's Polish for 'star.'

DANIEL

The only Poles in Hollywood have got failed actresses dancing on them. At least I've got a chance to have my identity ripped away.

HENRY

Why are you even here then?

DANIEL

Because I'm positing whether it's worth not being Daniel Roth-Goldschmidt. It's like Sandy Koufax pitching on Yom Kippur.

HENRY

I'm not sure I know what that means.

Female Intern enters. She holds up a big paper audition number. "150."

F. INTERN

All right. We've only got time for one more audition today and it's gonna' be... Herman Murray Client #1.

DANIEL

That's me.

HENRY

Wait a second.

F. INTERN

Which one of you is #1?

HENRY

It doesn't say?

F. INTERN

The old man didn't give me any names.

DANIEL

Well, since I've paid my rent I suppose I'm higher priority.

HENRY

You just said you didn't know if it's worth it.

DANIEL

I've reconsidered.

HENRY

Herman *is* my mother's cousin's something-or-another.

F. INTERN

It's either one of you or none of you but it's gonna' be decided in the next 30 seconds.

HENRY

I'll play you for it.

DANIEL

You're kidding.

HENRY

Best one out of one.

F. INTERN

Ahem.

DANIEL

*To Live and Die in L.A.*

HENRY

Um... William Petersen.

DANIEL

*Thief.*

HENRY

James Caan.

DANIEL

*The Godfather.*

HENRY

Al Pa-- No. Robert Duvall.

DANIEL

*To Kill a Mockingbird.*

Uh oh. HENRY

What's that? DANIEL

Gregory Peck. HENRY

*Roman Holiday.* DANIEL

Hepburn... HENRY

Lights out.

NEXT! CLAIR

SCENE VI

Fifi and Clair in the audition room.

Enter NUNZIO (20s, a big hulking Guido Italian). A paper with "149" is affixed to his chest.

Kill me. Kill me now. CLAIR

You want I should like read from the script? NUNZIO

Does he have to? FIFI

It's what you're here to do, big guy. CLAIR

Nunzio prepares to read by doing push-ups. He stands. He reads.

"It is I must do. I am responsibility for the citizens of..." NUNZIO

Greece. CLAIR

NUNZIO

"...Greece."

CLAIR

Sometime before Christmas, Feef.

FIFI

"But you mustn't, Adonis. I hold fear in my heart that the army of boars shall strike you down."

NUNZIO

"Fear not, Vennus. For I, Add-oh-niss, shall cut off their balls."

FIFI

What?

NUNZIO

I ad-libbed that last part. Boom!

FIFI

I think I've seen enough, Clair.

CLAIR

What did you say your name was again, 149?

NUNZIO

Nunzio. Li'l Nunzio. Wanna' hear me tell some jokes? I tell some great jokes.

CLAIR

I think that's enough for today. Thank you, Nunzio.

NUNZIO

You'll like call me and shit?

CLAIR

Buh-bye.

Exit Nunzio.

Another audition like that and we'd be in violation of the Geneva Convention. How could they all be so bad?

FIFI

It's a bad script.

CLAIR

Hey, don't badmouth the script. That's the only winner so far.

FIFI

It's an action movie. Venus and Adonis in an action movie?

CLAIR

Yes, Feef. In an action movie.

FIFI

It's awful.

CLAIR

They're awful. All 149 of them. Wait until I get my hands on that intern.

FIFI

Perhaps this plan of yours just wasn't meant to work out.

CLAIR

Are you doubting me?

FIFI

No. Of course not. You're so smart, Clair. So very smart.

CLAIR

You're doubting me, Feef. You think this is all babytown frolics, right? Send the next one in! Our perfect guy is in here, Feef, and you can bet your sweet, wrinkling ass...

FIFI

Wrinkling?!

CLAIR

...I WILL FIND HIM.

FIFI

But Clair!

CLAIR

Feef, I swear to Satan if you say another word I will put you in a movie with Johnny Knoxville.

Enter Henry.

HENRY

Thank you, Audrey Hepburn.

CLAIR

Hello there, Mr. 150.

HENRY

Oh. Uh. Hello.



CLAIR

Let's get reading. Feef? Feef? Oh jeez, are you holding your breath? Why? I said don't speak not don't breathe. Ugh, I retract what I said about Johnny Knoxville.

Fifi gasps for breath.

Christ, Feef.

FIFI

I wasn't taking any chances.

HENRY

You held your breath pretty long there. I'm impressed with you, Ms. De Milo. With lungs like that I am sure you could blow forev-what am I saying?

FIFI

What are you saying?

HENRY

Should I begin?

CLAIR

Let's do that, 150. Go ahead.

HENRY

"It is what I must do. I am responsible for all citizens of Greece."

FIFI

This one at least knows how to read.

CLAIR

Knoxville!

FIFI

"But you mustn't, Adonis. I hold fear in my heart that the army of boars shall strike you down."

HENRY

"Fear not, Venus. For I, Adonis, shall overcome anything they throw at me. Our love is the shield that shall deliver all of Greece to freedom."

CLAIR

Hey, not bad. A little narcoleptic on the delivery but that can be fixed.

FIFI

Literacy helps.

HENRY  
Ms. De Milo, you read very well too.

FIFI  
It's cute that he's trying to be polite.

CLAIR  
Stand up straight, kid.

HENRY  
Oh sure, sorry.

FIFI  
But his apologizing is very unprofessional. I think I've seen enough, Clair. I would like to leave.

HENRY  
Wait, wait. I retract my apology. Whatever you like. Whatever you want.

CLAIR  
Whatever I want, huh?

HENRY  
I am here to serve.

CLAIR  
Stand up straight. Straighter. Smile. Smile with your jaw. Tilt your head. Okay.

FIFI  
What are you doing?

CLAIR  
He's malleable. What do you do, kid?

HENRY  
I'm a bartender.

CLAIR  
Do you sing?

HENRY  
I don't.

CLAIR  
Do magic tricks?

HENRY  
Nothing like that.

Puppets?

CLAIR

No.

HENRY

Look at him, Feef. There is nothing at all wrong with this kid.

CLAIR

There's nothing right about him.

FIFI

Untrue.

CLAIR

He doesn't do anything.

FIFI

Which is perfect, I prefer my leading men to be mannequins.

CLAIR

I'm right here.

HENRY

I know. What's your name?

CLAIR

Henry. Henry Gwiazda. It's--

HENRY

That won't do.

CLAIR

It's Polish for "star."

HENRY

It don't mean a thing unless I say it does. That's the first rule of working with Clair Cupid. You want to work with Clair Cupid, right?

CLAIR

Yes.

HENRY

Which means you'd do what I say.

CLAIR

Yes. Yes, ma'am.

HENRY

CLAIR

Because what I say goes. I don't put up with any disobedience. You got a problem with that?

HENRY

No. Not at all.

CLAIR

Well then. Fifi, I told you I'd do it. You doubted me but...

HENRY

Does this mean...?

CLAIR

Kid, you got the part.

FIFI

He what?!

SCENE VII

Daniel and Henry in the bar.

Herman pops champagne. He pours for Daniel and himself.

HERMAN

He got the part!

DANIEL

Woohoo.

HERMAN

Let me tell you. I can't wait for the negotiations. She'll try to rip him off. They always do. But me and Henry are going to roll in there like a dynamic duo. Batman and Robin. Lewis and Clark. Dr. Quinn and the Medicine Woman.

DANIEL

I'm pretty sure Dr. Quinn was the Medicine Woman.

HERMAN

And we'll play it tough. Poker faces. We're no 2-7 off-suit but we definitely ain't got Pocket Kings goin' in against these Pocket Queens so we're just gonna put it all on black and let it ride. Wowee, what is in this drink?

DANIEL

When are you going to say this to him?

HERMAN

We're bringing the full assault. Take no prisoners. Bombing the casino! Because me and Henry. We're a team. And there's

HERMAN  
no breaking up the team. That's rule #1 of the team, you know?

DANIEL  
Really?

HERMAN  
You bet. Where is he anyway?

SCENE VIII

Clair's Office.

Clair, Fifi, and Henry.

CLAIR  
Let's talk.

HENRY  
Should my agent be here with me?

CLAIR  
Dump him.

HENRY  
I can't dump Herman.

CLAIR  
Is he your relative?

HENRY  
Not technically.

CLAIR  
You can dump anyone as long as they're not family and even at that you can probably still dump family.

HENRY  
Can't he just take a backseat for the movie?

CLAIR  
That's what we're here to talk about. Feef?

FIFI  
Hm.

CLAIR  
That's some tone you're taking there, Feef.

FIFI  
What can I do for you, Clair?

CLAIR

That's much better. Why don't you go sit next to your new beau?

FIFI

Ugh. Do I have to?

HENRY

Her what?

CLAIR

Feef.

FIFI

What?!

CLAIR

When I make a request of you it's not actually a request. Take notes here, loverboy. Sit next to the kid, Feef. Or no Anderson.

Fifi drags herself next to Henry.

All right. We've got a lot to go over. First things first.

Clair snaps her fingers. The two interns wheelbarrow in a gigantic contract. One of them hands Henry a pen.

Your contract. You may, as they say, sign on the line that is dotted.

HENRY

Can I read it first?

CLAIR

I'll give you thirty seconds to skim. Second thirty-one and you're out the door.

HENRY

That doesn't seem fair.

CLAIR

Twenty-nine, twenty-eight...

Henry peruses the contract.

FIFI

Clair, I have an appointment at 3. I'm confident we'll be done by then?

Fat chance.

CLAIR

I've got work at 3.

HENRY

You don't work there anymore. Read.

CLAIR

I haven't given notice.

HENRY

Nineteen, eighteen...

CLAIR

He reads.

FIFI

I can't push it back.

CLAIR

Can't wait an extra day for a little botox therapy?

FIFI

What? Me? Botox? No...

HENRY

What's this here about "maintenance of assumed legal persona?"

FIFI

She's renaming you.

HENRY

What?

CLAIR

Nine, eight...

HENRY

Hold on. This whole thing: "confidentiality of artificial interpersonal confederacy."

CLAIR

Don't worry about that. My lawyers wrote that.

HENRY

It says Fifi and I are in a relationship.

CLAIR

That's what you're signing up for.

HENRY

Oh wow. *That's* what I'm signing up for?

FIFI

I know, right? I don't think he's up for it.

CLAIR

Three, two...

HENRY

I'll sign. There, look. The pen is touching the paper. I'm almost there. But I want to know exactly what I'm getting into before I make it law.

FIFI

Ugh, he's an idiot. She's making us a thing.

HENRY

A thing?

FIFI

Yes. A thing. A 12-month sentence. Long enough to ride the *Venus and Adonis* wave.

CLAIR

Though to the tabloids you'll be Fifi and Henry forever. Though that doesn't have much of a ring to it.

HENRY

I'm sorry. This is a lot to digest. Wasn't this supposed to be about making a movie? About acting?

FIFI

He doesn't know the first thing about being rich and famous, Clair.

CLAIR

The movie is an afterthought. The real acting gig, the true performance, isn't on a movie set. It's on the red carpets. And the talk shows.

FIFI

And the Awards Shows!

HENRY

And for an entire year?

CLAIR

Ashton and Demi managed to stretch theirs six. That's six years just printing money.



HENRY

I don't know if I'm comfortable with that kind of commitment.

FIFI

You think *you're* not comfortable.

CLAIR

I'm going to make this real clear to you, kid, because I really don't want to have to audition another clown college like the last one. Only an ass would turn down an opportunity like this.

FIFI

Though if you're an ass, be an ass.

CLAIR

You know Ryan Reynolds? The moment his agent Aris...

FIFI

The mystery man.

CLAIR

Shut up. Aris put Reynolds next to Scarlett Johansson on a red carpet and he took off like a rocket ship. He got a role in an X-Men movie, then he was Green Lantern. He ends up opposite Sandra Bullock.

FIFI

...Sexiest Man Alive.

CLAIR

*People's* Sexiest Man 2010. Don't know how Aris pulled that one off. He kind of looks like a bell pepper, that Reynolds. The gist here is -- and open your ears here for three seconds, Feef -- they got each others' bump.

FIFI

That's the theory.

CLAIR

It's the law. The Law of Celebrity Symbiosis. ScarJo and Mr. Bell Pepper. Ashton and Demi. Hell, Katie Holmes' agent was so desperate for the bump he sold her off to Scientology. It all comes back to the number one imperative.

FIFI

Give the people what they want.

CLAIR

And they want a cute, boring dude to stand next to Scarlett. And Demi. And Fifi.

HENRY  
Boring?

FIFI  
And you're the perfect fit, Harry.

HENRY  
Henry.

FIFI  
Whatever. Won't matter.

CLAIR  
Kid, the people want to imagine you're bumping uglies. We're going to let them imagine it. And then we're going to take their money.

HENRY  
But we're not actually - you know, doing the bumping. Right?

FIFI  
Clair, he doesn't know the second thing about being rich and famous.

CLAIR  
It's a facade, kid. That's the deal. And it's money. So are you going to sign or do I need to make some more calls?

HENRY  
Well, I --

FIFI  
He doesn't want it, Clair.

HENRY  
I didn't say that.

CLAIR  
You either want to be great or you don't. There's nothing else to consider.

HENRY  
This is how you get your name in the game.

CLAIR  
Whatever you want to call it. The pen, Mr. Henry.

He moves to sign but stops abruptly.

HENRY  
I have one request.

CLAIR

I wasn't aware this was a negotiation.

HENRY

There's a guy I know. Daniel. He wants to be an action star. I want him to have a role in the film. Nothing big. It should be a small role. Someone my character defeats.

CLAIR

Your moxie is adorable in a pathetic kind of way. Why oh why should I even consider saying yes?

HENRY

Because otherwise you'd have to audition another clown college.

CLAIR

Ooh. I've eaten people alive for saying less than that to me, kid. But I agree to your terms. Sign the paper.

HENRY

I want it in writing.

Clair writes a quick note on stationary. She tosses it away like it's nothing.

CLAIR

There.

Henry signs.

FIFI

And my death warrant is signed.

CLAIR

Bitch, that's your new birth certificate. Congratulations, Hunter.

Clair pulls a gin and tonic out from her desk.

HENRY

Hunter?

CLAIR

Page 4, Section 3, Paragraph 2. You're Adonis now. You need the name of a dreamboat. You need the name of a warrior. You need the name... Hunter Spears.

HENRY

Hunter Spears?

FIFI

You really should read contracts before you sign.

CLAIR

It'll look great on a movie poster.

HENRY

I'm getting billed on the poster?

FIFI

At least three inches below Fifi De Milo. That's stipulated in my contract, which I read.

CLAIR

That's a name that'll get you on all the good talk shows.

HENRY

Whoa, talk shows?

FIFI

If Letterman asks if you want to see inside the *real* green room, trust me, just say no.

CLAIR

I gotta call *People* and leak the news. Real talk: you can be the box office champion bringing home award after award for squinting pretty into a movie camera but if the stay-at-home-mommies at the community Safeway aren't buying your covers, you'll never be a god in this town.

FIFI

It better be a full cover this time, Clair, and not one of those top right corner jobs. No one puts Fifi in a corner.

CLAIR

Not no more they don't, Feef. Not with Hunter here.

FIFI

As long as he knows his place.

CLAIR

He's like clay. We shape him any way we want. Right, kid?

HENRY

I guess I'm here to be shaped.

CLAIR

That's the bargain.

FIFI

In that case: Clair, it's time to celebrate. I am going shopping.

CLAIR

Do what you gotta do, babe.

FIFI

I hope next time I see him he'll be a little more... presentable?

CLAIR

We're getting started right away.

FIFI

Wonderful.

Fifi grabs her purse. She looks inside.

Jean-Paul! Why didn't you tell me you were in there? I better not catch you eating my Ambiens again. Come now.

Fifi exits.

HENRY

Jean-Paul?

CLAIR

Don't worry about it. Let's get you out of those clothes.

HENRY

You don't like my clothes?

Clair presses a button on her remote. Lights switch. Clothes racks appear.

ANTONIN AUBERGINE, a tailor, enters. He measures Henry (starting, naturally, at the crotch) and begins disrobing him.

Hey! What's this all about?

CLAIR

*Antonin, c'est Hunter. Il est mon nouveau projet.*

ANTONIN

*Bonjour.*

CLAIR

Hunter, this is Antonin Aubergine. He is your swanky French wardrober. Say hello to Antonin.

HENRY

Hello.

ANTONIN

*Bonjour.*

CLAIR

*Ne faites rien d'extraordinaire. Seulement assez.*

ANTONIN

*Bonjour.*

HENRY

What are you saying to him?

CLAIR

Don't worry about it.

Antonin plucks a hair from Henry's head.

HENRY

Ouch. What was that for?

CLAIR

Shush. Antonin is a genius. *Le vrai génie, Antonin.*

ANTONIN

*Bonjour.*

HENRY

He just keeps saying hello.

ANTONIN

*Bonjour.*

HENRY

There is no way he's really French.

CLAIR

Of course he's French. Look at his beret. I told you to keep quiet.

HENRY

Are you really French?

Beat.

ANTONIN

*Oui?*

CLAIR

There.

Antonin studies the hair follicle and exits.

CLAIR

What was the name of this friend of yours?

Daniel enters. He plays with a baseball.

HENRY

Daniel Roth-Goldschmidt.

CLAIR

That won't do.

HENRY

Could he keep the name? He's got this whole thing with the name. Fred Astaire and Natalie Portman.

DANIEL

And Mel Brooks.

HENRY

Mel Brooks too. He's like the Jewish pope.

CLAIR

Ask him again.

HENRY

Ask him what?

CLAIR

About his name.

HENRY

I told you. He won't change his name.

CLAIR

Ask.

HENRY

(to Daniel)

You're all about your name, right?

DANIEL

Daniel Roth-Goldschmidt will never be in a movie.

CLAIR

Smart friend.

HENRY

What's with the baseball?

Daniel tosses the baseball to Henry.

DANIEL

Signed by Sandy Koufax. A hero of mine. Sat out the first game of the 1965 World Series because it fell on Yom Kippur.

CLAIR

What's taking so long, kid?

HENRY

I think he's making a metaphor.

CLAIR

I ain't got no time for metaphors! Does he want it or not?

Henry tosses the ball back to Daniel.

DANIEL

Daniel Roth-Goldschmidt will never be a movie star.

HENRY

What if we try something else?

DANIEL

Like?

CLAIR

Dash Ransom.

HENRY

Dash Ransom?

CLAIR

I've been waiting to use that one for years. Dash Ransom. Mega action star. How does that sound to your schlemiel friend?

HENRY

Dash Ransom.

DANIEL

Dash Ransom.

HENRY

It's got a ring to it.

DANIEL

Not Dash Roth-Goldschmidt?

CLAIR

Nope.



HENRY

It's a compromise.

DANIEL

Rabbi Welton won't be happy.

CLAIR

The world's full of unhappy people. You may only get one chance to not be one of them.

HENRY

What do you say?

DANIEL

Fine. I'll take it.

Antonin returns carrying clothes and a cylindrical container. He takes the baseball and dresses Daniel in a leather jacket with sunglasses. Daniel practices kung fu.

CLAIR

He needs a catchphrase.

DANIEL

I'm here to kick some ass and eat some matzoh ball soup. And I'm all outta' soup.

CLAIR

It's a work in progress.

Daniel kung fus his way offstage as Antonin begins dressing Henry.

ANTONIN

*Bonjour.*

HENRY

These clothes are amazing. They fit perfectly.

CLAIR

I told you the man's a genius.

Antonin shows off a purple tie.

*Pas de violet! Je vous ai déjà de violet, j'aime pas le violet!*

ANTONIN

(with disdain)

*Bonjour.*

CLAIR

A genius, yet still lamentably French.

Antonin pockets the purple tie. He fixes a black one around Henry's neck. Fifi enters wearing diamond-studded heels.

Looking good, Feef.

HENRY

Wow. Those are some heels.

FIFI

The red carpet loves me in diamonds.

HENRY

(jokingly)

I wasn't aware we were hitting the red carpet on day one.

Antonin opens the container to reveal a rolled-up red carpet. He unfurls it upon the stage.

Clair presses a button on her remote control and the scene shifts to a red carpet premiere.

Wait, we're really doing the carpet?

FIFI

God, you know how to pick the dumb ones, Clair.

HENRY

Isn't it a little too soon for that?

FIFI

He doesn't know the third - and most important - thing about being rich and famous.

CLAIR

You never need an excuse to step onto the red carpet.  
*Antonin!*

ANTONIN

*Bonjour?*

CLAIR

*Les cheveux!*

ANTONIN

*Eh?*

CLAIR

*Les cheveux, imbécile! Les Cheveux!*

Clair points at Henry's hair.

ANTONIN

*Ah!*

Antonin exits only to reappear very quickly sans beret and wearing glasses. He is now RAINER.

RAINER

*Guten Tag!*

CLAIR

*Rainer, mein Schatz!* Hunter, meet Rainer Gurke, your mod German stylist.

HENRY

You gotta' be kidding me.

CLAIR

*Bitte beheben sein Haar, Rainer. Es ist Scheiße jetzt.*

RAINER

*Guten Tag!*

Rainer goes to work on Henry's hair.

FIFI

Clair, you haven't paid attention to me in like two minutes.

CLAIR

I know. I'm sorry, Feef baby. Let's do the briefing while Rainer does his magic. Tell me, what do you say if anyone on the carpet asks you about your dress?

FIFI

Oh, just a little old thing I had hanging around. You like it? It's shiny and fun, right?

CLAIR

Good. Cute, flirty. I like it. Your hair?

FIFI

Oh, I was so indecisive. I had like three hairdos before I felt confident enough to come out tonight. Oh, I'm so embarrassed.

CLAIR

Bashful, casual, and modest. Modest alone ought to net you the Oscar. Be sure to bat those \$30,000 lashes. Great. Beautiful. Magic. And you, loverboy. What do you say if anyone asks you anything?

HENRY

I... uh...

CLAIR

That's perfect. Just smile. You're happy to be here. You're happy to be in love. *Rainer!*

RAINER

*Guten Tag.*

CLAIR

*Fertig?* Doesn't matter. It's time to go. *Auf Wiedersehen, Rainer! Tschüss!*

RAINER

*Guten Tag!*

Rainer exits.

CLAIR

Isn't he a riot? Okay. Go time. You ready, Feef?

FIFI

I was ready ten minutes ago.

CLAIR

Right. And you, kid?

HENRY

Honestly? No. Not at all.

CLAIR

Too bad. Off you go. Don't get too comfortable out there. We start filming in a week.

HENRY

A week? We're starting next week?

CLAIR

You got it. Ta-ta. *Bonsoir! Auf Wiedersehen!*

Fifi steps onto the carpet.

FIFI

Are you coming or what?

Henry joins her on the carpet.

FIFI

You're going to make sure you remember who the real star is here. Right?

Flash bulbs burst as they emerge onto the scene.

Lights switch to the bar, where Herman sits dollar in hand. He waits. And waits. And waits.

Finally, he looks up as the lights begin to fade.

HERMAN

Henry? Daniel? Boys?

SCENE IX

Special on Fifi.

She's on the phone. Voicemail.

FIFI

Hello. Hi. Garret, it's me. Congratulations on your CMA. I know that must have been really nice. And the new video, um. She's cute. The girl. In the video. The girl that you grope. And she gropes you. I really like the song. It's very catchy. Jean-Paul says hello, um. He thinks it's catchy too.

The reason I'm calling. I just don't want you to get blindsided... I'm in love. I'm very much in love. I am so very, very, very much in love. And not with you. There's someone new. And you're probably going to hear all about it very soon so I just didn't want you to be blindsided is all. His name is Hunter. He's very... he's an actor. Like me. And we are going to be very happy.

Garret, do you remember when you said you couldn't do it without me and to trust you and that everything would be okay? Do you remember it, Garret? Because I... I... Oh goodness. I don't know where I was going with that or where I'm going with thi-- I, uh.. Goodbye Garret. I... I cherish your friendship.

It's Fifi by the way. You knew that. Ugh.

She hangs up in tears. She collects herself, checks herself in the mirror. She doesn't like what she sees. She pops a pill. She stares back into the mirror.

FIFI

They're going to love you.

She exits.

SCENE X

The movie shoot.

Henry and Daniel enter in their Ancient Greece costumes. Daniel practices his kung fu moves.

HENRY

I wasn't prepared.

DANIEL

Not me. You saw those sweet moves I pulled off? Flying lotus. Fujian White Crane. Devil's Shadowless Hands. I was prepped for whatever they were gonna' throw at me.

HENRY

I think I liked it.

DANIEL

I'm glad you're impressed.

HENRY

What? No, what are you talking about?

DANIEL

Hung Ga Kuen, Henry.

HENRY

Hunter.

DANIEL

Yes. Hunter. Right. Whatever. Martial arts, dude. Kung fu grips. Electric chops. I did my research for this role. Tell me: how does my back look here? I'm supposed to be straight. Ugh. Needs some work. If this is gonna' be my breakout I've got to go full Bruce Lee.

HENRY

We're in Ancient Greece.

DANIEL

Dude. Silk Road. That shit got around.

HENRY

I'm not talking about karate.

DANIEL

Kung fu.

HENRY

Yes. Kung fu. Right. Whatever. I'm talking autographs. Random people waiting outside the studio. All wanting photos and autographs. They knew my name. Not my name. They knew Hunter.

DANIEL

Isn't that what you wanted?

HENRY

But I haven't even done anything yet.

DANIEL

Just wait until they meet you as Adonis.

HENRY

I've got to get used to all these names. What character did they give you again?

DANIEL

Chris.

HENRY

Chris?

DANIEL

That's right. Chris. Chris of Ancient Greece.

HENRY

This is a terrible script.

DANIEL

It's an awful script. It's going to be such a hit.

Clair enters.

CLAIR

There's my boy. Hunter, baby. You look great. Fix your sandals. Good. Right.

DANIEL

Hello Miss Cupid.

CLAIR

What's your name again?

DANIEL

My real name or the one you gave me?

CLAIR

Either?

DANIEL

Dash Ransom.

CLAIR

Right. Dash Ransom. That's a good one, isn't it? You may shut up now.

Hunter, baby. The red carpet was fantastic. Couldn't have gone better. *The Superficial* picked up the photos. Same thing with *Star Magazine*. Whatever you're doing, keep doing it.

HENRY

I didn't think I did anything. Wait, I'm in *Star Magazine*?

Daniel pulls out a copy of *Star*.

DANIEL

Yep. Right here. Page three. "Hunter Spears Introduces Himself to Hollywood."

HENRY

Let me see that. Why do you have this anyway?

DANIEL

Everyone's got their secret shames. Ooh, you did look sharp last night. Those pants fit you real well. That's not weird of me to say, is it?

HENRY

No, I guess not.

DANIEL

Ugh. No. Dudes don't say that about other dudes. I'm so stupid sometimes. No matter. Just strike it from the record.

CLAIR

It's struck. Whatever. Shut up. Hunter, baby, things are going just swimmingly, right?

HENRY

I guess so. I'm having a lot of fun.

CLAIR

Good. Fun is a good emotion. So I've heard. Do you see how rewarding it is working with Clair Cupid?

HENRY

I can't complain.



CLAIR

I know. It's in your contract. But that's what I like about you, Hunter baby. You are low maintenance. Unlike... ugh, that reminds me, where's Feef? And where is the director? Let's get to this icky business of actually shooting the film. My least favorite part of making movies is actually making the movies.

She walks off.

DANIEL

You know, I don't like her all that much.

HENRY

I can't believe I'm in a celebrity magazine. I've heard of overnight success but this is ridiculous.

DANIEL

I find her off-putting and rude.

HENRY

There are a lot of photos of me. Not so many of Fifi. Just the one where she forced a nip slip.

DANIEL

Hello?

HENRY

Yes?

Fifi enters. She observes the two.

DANIEL

She's not very nice.

HENRY

Which one?

DANIEL

Our agent. Fifi's all right so far. I guess.

Fifi approaches.

FIFI

Outrage! This is an outrage! I have never been more insulted in my life. Where is Clair? I have got a long laundry list of gripes for her.

HENRY

She just passed through.

DANIEL

Looking for you, actually.

FIFI

This is unacceptable. I cannot work under these conditions.

HENRY

What's wrong, Feef?

FIFI

Ooh. That's a casual tone. I believe I recall informing you that backstage you are not to be casual with me.

HENRY

Um... what is the extent of your affliction... madam?

FIFI

I specifically requested there be little pumpkin scones in my trailer and as of this morning there were no scones. I don't know how you two amateurs work but I need to be in character and if there is anything I know about my character it's that she loves pumpkin scones.

HENRY

Is that it?

FIFI

Is that not an outrageous request?

DANIEL

Eh, seems within reason.

FIFI

Ugh. Well, the towels in my trailer were all the same colors. Am I expected to simply use the same color linens? Are we barbarians?

DANIEL

I'm sure they could fetch some different colors.

HENRY

Yeah, that's not really a big deal.

FIFI

Not a big deal? Not a big deal? Well... Jean-Paul needs his own trailer!

DANIEL

Jean-Paul?

HENRY

That one's a little outrageous.

FIFI

Perfect! If Jean Paul is not comfortable, I am not comfortable. If I am not comfortable, we do not make this movie. This is why I need to find Clair. She needs to do her job. Clair! There will be no movie magic until I am satisfied.

(to herself)

They're going to love you.

Fifi exits.

DANIEL

Who is Jean-Paul?

HENRY

I don't think you want to know.

GILBERT, 20s and sloppily dressed,  
enters.

GILBERT

Oh sweet ravioli. Is she gone yet? She is just frightening to me.

DANIEL

Yeah, looks like she's gone alright.

HENRY

Who are you?

GILBERT

Holy cannoli! You're Hunter Spears! I am a huge fan of yours. I read about you in *People*!

HENRY

I'm in *People*?

Daniel pulls out another magazine.

DANIEL

Yup. Front page. Headline: "Meet Fifi's New Squeeze."

HENRY

Where are you hiding all those magazines?

GILBERT

It is an honor to meet you, Mister Spears. Can I have your autograph?

HENRY

Um, sure. No problem.

Henry snatches Daniel's magazine and autographs it.

How did you get in here?

GILBERT

Oh, I've never been so happy! Sweet spaghetti, it's like a dream come true. Twitpic!

Gilbert takes a self-photo with Henry.

And Tweeted. My mom's gonna be so excited. Hunter, did I tell you I read your profile in *Us Weekly*...

Daniel pulls this one out too. Gilbert grabs it.

...and I saw that your favorite color, boy oh boy, it's blue!

HENRY

It is?

DANIEL

If it's in *Us Weekly* then it must be true.

GILBERT

Well, here's the meatballs in the marinara. My favorite color is also blue! Isn't that incredible?

HENRY

Who are you again?

GILBERT

Oh, I'm Gilbert. I'm the director.

Daniel rushes in to shake Gilbert's hand.

DANIEL

Dash Ransom. Good to meet you sir. I'm a big fan of your work.

GILBERT

A fan? Brilliant!

HENRY

You're the director?

GILBERT

Oh! Yes! This reminds me. Places, everyone! Where's the PA?

Herman slumps in. He carries the clipboard.

DANIEL

Herm?

HERMAN

(to Henry)

Kid, I gotta be honest and right with you. I am not thrilled about this.

HENRY

Herm, I told you I'd get you on the set. You're always talking about the team. We're making movie magic. The three of us. As a team.

HERMAN

I can't be doing PA work.

HENRY

C'mon, Herm. This is the only way.

GILBERT

PA, let's get shooting before that dreadful Ms. De Milo returns. Places, everyone!

HENRY

Places? We don't even know what we're shooting.

GILBERT

We're going out of order. We'll start with the monumental battle scene between Adonis and Chris of Ancient Greece. That's you, right?

DANIEL

That's me. Chris. Of Ancient Greece.

GILBERT

I love this edgy script. What was your name again?

DANIEL

Dash Ransom.

GILBERT

That's a great name! Let's get you guys together. Are you warmed up? No? Let's warm you up! Jumping jacks! No, not jumping jacks. Vocal folds! Say "ahhhhhh."

DANIEL & HENRY

Aaaaahhhh...

GILBERT

Let me just peek in these mouths of yours. Sweet Gouda cheese, you both have beautiful tonsils. These are the tonsils of stars right here! Okay, done with warm-ups. How do you feel? Wait. Don't speak. Let's save this energy. You two look as delicious as a basket of bottomless breadsticks! PA!

Herman holds up the clapboard.

Lights, camera...

HERMAN

*Venus and Adonis*. Fight scene. Take one.

GILBERT

And action!

They stand around.

HENRY

Are we going?

GILBERT

Good! Good! I like this choice. Indecision. Internal drama. Good. Work with it.

HENRY

Should we go back and start the take again?

GILBERT

We can fix it in post. Now... action!

DANIEL

You're only here because you got lucky with the Hepburns, Adonis! Now you must face the wrath of Monkey Style Kung Fu!

HENRY

What? That's not in the script.

DANIEL

It should be me that bagged Venus. I should be the star.

HENRY

Wait, what?

GILBERT

Fantastic! I can feel the resentment. Close up on Dash! PA, go tell the scriptwriter to make Chris of Ancient Greece's part in this flick bigger. And bring me a cappuccino. I'm jonesin' like *Trainspotting* up in here.

Herman exits.

HENRY

This is just a little ridiculous.

GILBERT

Good! You're confounded. Use that. Work it. Close up on the two of them!

DANIEL

Hi-yah!

Daniel kicks Henry in the chest.  
Henry hits the ground.

Whoa. Too much. Sorry, Henry.

GILBERT

Hunter! Way to sell that one!

HENRY

Ow.

Clair and Fifi enter. Clair mutters into her phone, ignoring Fifi. She paces upstage.

Daniel helps Henry to his feet.

FIFI

He needs a cabinet to keep his toys and another for his treats and his own stylist and a minibar and a snack table but with no dark chocolate because Jean-Paul does not care for dark chocolate Do you hear me? Only white chocolate for Jean-Paul! What are you doing on the floor, Hunter? You're going to get dusty.

CLAIR

(looking up from her phone)

Uh-huh. I'm totally listening Feef.

GILBERT

Oh gorgonzola, it's her.

FIFI

Gilbert! Gilbert Sullivan! What is Gilbert Sullivan doing here?

DANIEL

He's our director. And a very talented director if I do say so myself.

FIFI

He's a hack! We have a history.

GILBERT

And it's a doozy.

FIFI

This is unacceptable, Clair. First, Jean-Paul has no trailer... are you listening?

DANIEL

For the last time, who is Jean-Paul?

HENRY

It's her dog. Oof, I think you broke a rib.

DANIEL

Her *dog* needs a trailer?

FIFI

...and now you expect me to work with this hack! This after you set me up with a fake boyfriend who has the personality of a concrete sidewalk and gave a role in this movie to the Karate Kid over there.

Herman enters and hands a cappuccino to Gilbert. Clair eyes him from upstage.

HERMAN

The scriptwriter says no bigger part for Chris of Ancient Greece.

FIFI

The scriptwriter? Why are we talking about the scriptwriter? Screw the scriptwriter!

DANIEL

Actually, I agree. Screw the scriptwriter.

GILBERT

Screw him!

HENRY

Let's not go screwing anybody just yet.

FIFI

Wait! Gilbert, you little goblin, have you been filming without me? I said no trailer for Jean-Paul, no movie magic.

DANIEL

A trailer? For your dog? You have three! I've heard of Hollywood excess but--



FIFI

Don't speak to me like that, peasant. I need those three trailers. And Jean-Paul needs a base camp.

HERMAN

Maybe the PA can help.

HENRY

No no no, the PA cannot help.

HERMAN

But the PA is great at solving your problems, Henry.

HENRY

Hunter!

HERMAN

You want me to hunt her? Is she the most dangerous game?

GILBERT

If I may butt in...

FIFI

No, Gilbert! You may not butt in!

HENRY

Everyone stop it!

Everyone stops.

CLAIR

(into phone)

Let me call you back...

Clair hangs up the phone and snatches Gilbert's cappuccino but doesn't drink.

HENRY

Oh boy, you're all listening to me. I'm not used to this. Uh... well, we're not getting anything done here...

FIFI

Duh.

HENRY

But what if I propose a solution? Clair, do I have a trailer?

FIFI

Double duh.

GILBERT

You can't speak to Hunter Spears that way.

FIFI

I'll speak to you that way if you don't watch it.

HENRY

Clair? Do I have my own trailer?

CLAIR

What Feef said.

HENRY

Okay. Here we go. I'm going to solve this problem. PA...

HERMAN

Reporting for duty, sir.

HENRY

Clean out my trailer and make sure Jean-Paul is comfortable when he moves in. Can you do this for me, PA?

HERMAN

I'm on it.

HENRY

Good. Does this satisfy you, Feef, er... Ms. De Milo?

FIFI

It's not the optimal solution.

HENRY

But it's a solution. Good. Now as for you and Gilbert, you two have to bury the hatchet. We're all going to work well with each other or else this movie isn't getting made. And if this movie isn't getting made, what becomes of Fifi and Hunter?

FIFI

I refuse to...

HENRY

If she can't work with Gilbert then she's never going to work in this town at all, right Clair?

CLAIR

The kid's right, Feef.

HENRY

Trust me, Fifi. I can't do this without you.

FIFI  
Everything will be okay.

HENRY  
Good. Daniel...

DANIEL  
Dash.

HENRY  
Try not to break any more of my ribs and I'll make sure your part will get bigger.

DANIEL  
Can you even do that?

Henry looks at Clair.

HENRY  
I think so. I'm Hunter freaking Spears, aren't I.

CLAIR  
That's for sure.

HENRY  
Then it's going to happen. I'm apparently rich and famous now, And Gilbert, you're going to have to tone down this whole crazy person thing.

GILBERT  
Yes, Hunter. Anything for you.

HENRY  
Good. Um, everybody's happy? Okay? Good. That was easy. I guess, um, let's make this movie!

GILBERT  
Okay! Places everyone! Places!

FIFI  
Hunter.

HENRY  
Yes, Ms. De Milo?

FIFI  
What was it you said to me just now?

HENRY  
That I can't do this without you?

FIFI

Yes, that.

HENRY

Is there something you want to say to me, Ms. De Milo?

FIFI

Make sure that PA is kind and gentle with my dear little Jean-Paul.

HENRY

I'll make sure.

FIFI

And just call me Fifi. It's not that big a deal.

HENRY

Sure thing, Fifi.

Fifi exits.

DANIEL

Gilbert, let me show you some of these moves I was thinking I'd bust out during the chariot scene. Full on John Woo.

GILBERT

Right on.

Daniel and Gilbert exit.

While carrying Gilbert's cappuccino, Clair grabs Herman by the collar and approaches Henry.

CLAIR

What is this, kid?

HENRY

That's Herman. He's our new production assistant. I read through my contract. There's nothing there that says I can't bring on my own production assistant.

HERMAN

More like a personal assistant, if you ask me. A personal assistant with some agency.

HENRY

Maybe not agency.

HERMAN

Maybe agency.

CLAIR

So he's your personal assistant.

HENRY

Yep. He's my personal assistant.

CLAIR

And not your agent.

HENRY

He's not.

CLAIR

And as your personal assistant, he needs to do what you say, right? Or else he'd be fired.

HENRY

Well, I don't think we have to worry about that, right Herm?

Clair spills the cappuccino on the ground.

CLAIR

Tell your personal assistant to clean this up.

HENRY

Clair, that's not--

CLAIR

Tell. Your. Personal. Assistant. To clean this up.

HENRY

Herm, would you mind?

HERMAN

Henry. You don't have to do this.

HENRY

It's Hunter now, Herm. And I need you to clean this up for me. For the team.

Herman walks off only to return with a mop. He cleans the spill.

CLAIR

Good. Lovely form you've got there, Mr. PA. Hunter, a word?

Clair walks Henry away from Herman.

Aris is trying to screw us. He's pushing a new movie: *Apollo and Dionysus*. A buddy flick. It's this thing movie people do to piss each other off. Make another movie exactly like the one you're making.

HENRY

Well, what do we do about it?

CLAIR

We're going to make sure that we're *Armageddon* and Aris is *Deep Impact*. That means speeding up the shoot. And upping the PR. And killing the distractions, which leads me to...

HERMAN

I'm all done here.

CLAIR

Well I think you have a trailer to clean out, don't you?

HERMAN

Henr... Hunter?

HENRY

I'll be right there to help out.

CLAIR

No you won't. You have got a movie to make. Distractions, Hunter.

HENRY

Can you just take care of it, Herm?

HERMAN

I'll do it for you, Henry.

HENRY

Hun--

HERMAN

I know. I know.

Herman exits.

CLAIR

Ditch the old man or I ditch you.

Clair exits. Henry stands alone before following her out.

Lights out.

#### SCENE XI

Herman sits at the bar. He picks up a remote control and presses the power button.

Enter Misty.

MISTY

Hello, lovelies. Tonight on *Hollywood Voyeur*!

Fifi, Henry, and Daniel enter in costume.

We take you on a behind the scenes look into the making of *Venus and Adonis*, a hot new film directed by Gilbert Sullivan.

Gilbert enters.

GILBERT

Hey, that's me!

Fifi and Henry embrace upstage.

Gilbert walks downstage for the interview.

MISTY

Gilbert, tell us what it's like working with Fifi De Milo.

FIFI

If your shot makes my butt look big I'm going to wring your skinny little neck.

GILBERT

Fifi's a sweetheart.

FIFI

Hunter, please tell Gilbert to stop being a terrible director. He listens to you.

GILBERT

Working with Fifi is just a dream come true. You know the kind of dreams I'm talking about.

HENRY

Maybe we can try this shot from a new angle, Gil?

GILBERT

But that Hunter Spears is the real deal.

(turning to Henry)

Whatever you say, Hunter!

MISTY

That's right. *Venus and Adonis* marks the debut of Hollywood's newest and most mysterious young dreamboat: Hunter Spears, who stars as a very studly Adonis.

HENRY

Fear not, Venus, for one day all of Greece shall shower you in small golden statues.

FIFI

Adonis, your words are music to mine ears.

Fifi walks downstage. Gilbert walks upstage to direct an action scene with Henry and Daniel.

MISTY

We asked Fifi about her new co-star and, if the tabloids are to be believed - *and they are to be believed* - her new beau!

FIFI

He *is* cute, isn't he? I'm so lucky to have found such a nice guy. Truth be told, I am so happy with Hunter that I can't even recall the name of the last guy I was with.

MISTY

You mean your ex-fiancé, country music superstar Garret Klesko?

FIFI

Like I said, can't even recall.

GILBERT

All right, fight scene at the Acropolis. Action!

MISTY

Like a good action movie? *Venus and Adonis* is sure to have the kinds of thrills that will satisfy even the most ardent action cinephiles. Is that kung fu we see? How exciting!

Daniel uses kung fu. Henry stands still.

DANIEL

Watch out, Adonis, because Chris of Ancient Greece is here to steal the show.

HENRY

Is that what you think?

DANIEL

Since being inexplicably promoted to captain of the boar army, I've had my sights set on you. Feel the wrath of drunken boar form kung fu!

Daniel kicks. Henry catches his foot and flips him over.



HENRY

Not this time, Chris of Ancient Greece. Now get out of here before I beat the Hellas out of you.

Daniel walks downstage. Fifi rejoins Henry.

MISTY

Ladies, keep an eye out for another newcomer: Dash Ransom, who plays the diabolical Chris of Ancient Greece.

DANIEL

I'm really excited about how the fight scenes are coming. I've always been about action and fights and other cool dude things. You know what I'm talking about, right? Dude things.

MISTY

Dash is really into dudes' things.

DANIEL

No no no. I didn't say that. Dude things. Like awesome fights and stuff. And, um, even though Adonis has got the better catchphrases...

HENRY

I like my tzatziki sauce like I like my fugitives. On the lamb.

DANIEL

...I think Chris is really going to resonate with audiences. There's more to him than meets the eye. I recommend that all audiences come and see it. Especially you, Jason Statham. Call me, bro.

MISTY

But at its heart, is *Venus and Adonis* really all about the action?

Daniel looks over at Henry.

DANIEL

I guess at its heart, this is a love story.

FIFI

Please don't go. You mustn't leave me. You'll destroy yourself.

HENRY

It is my destiny, Venus. It's my destiny to go.

MISTY

But ladies, don't you worry. We at *Hollywood Voyeur* got the scoop on the Hellenic Hunk himself, Tinseltown's newest

MISTY  
 shooting star, Hunter Spears. Though not alone, as Fifi never left his side as long as the cameras were rolling. That's some dedication, folks.

Henry and Fifi walk downstage.  
 Daniel walks upstage.

FIFI  
 Scooch, Hunter love. Let's make sure I'm in the shot.

MISTY  
 Hunter, your public is dying to know, what makes you tick?

HENRY  
 Well, first, my affection for Fifi. She's just brilliant and tactful and caring.

Daniel throws a glance at Fifi.  
 Fifi notices.

FIFI  
 What are you staring at, you serf?  
 (realizing)  
 You're going to cut that, right?

MISTY  
 We don't want to hear about Fifi, though. We want to hear about you.

Fifi grips onto Henry.

HENRY  
 That's kind of you, but I can't put Fifi in a corner. I owe my career to her. Oh, and my agent... Clair Cupid.

FIFI  
 Hunter baby, you make me so happy. Eskimo kiss?

They eskimo kiss.

I believe we have a love scene to film.

Oh boy!

GILBERT

Henry and Fifi rejoin Daniel and Gilbert.

MISTY  
 Speaking of Clair Cupid. Gilbert! Gilbert, one last question. What's it like working for the infamous Clair Cupid, who is making her producing debut on this film?

GILBERT

Miss Cupid is very, very involved in the creative process.

Lights up on Clair's in the office.  
A shower of cash falls on her.

Now if you'll excuse us, we've got a movie to make.

Henry, Fifi, Daniel, and Gilbert  
exit.

MISTY

You heard him, ladies and gentlemen. *Venus and Adonis* has almost wrapped up shooting. By the time this airs, the premiere will be right around the corner. Continue watching *Hollywood Voyeur* for all news Dash Ransom, Fifi De Milo, and - especially - Hunter Spears. For *Hollywood Voyeur*, I'm Misty Winters. Goodnight, lovelies.

Clair uses her remote to turn Misty off. Herman sits confused. He looks in Clair's direction as she turns the lights off on him as well.

Lights out.

Intermission.

ACT TWOSCENE I

A montage scene. Musical backing.

A rose falls from the sky into Clair's hands. She gives it to Henry, who hands it to Fifi.

Herman in the bar drinking away his sorrows.

Clair hands Fifi and Henry a sign that reads "Free Tibet." Fifi and Henry protest. Misty interviews.

Daniel strolls along, baseball in hand, melancholy. He runs into Herm. They hug but Daniel has to get somewhere. He exits. Herm slumps away.

Clair hands Fifi and Henry a pair of matching house keys. They saunter off arm in arm.

At the bar: Herman tosses a glass away and leaves in a huff.

Daniel watches as Fifi and Henry are photographed by the paparazzi. He waves but is not noticed. He kung fus in frustration.

Antonin dresses Clair, Fifi, Henry, and Daniel for a swanky Hollywood party.

SCENE II

The swanky Hollywood party.

Clair, Henry, Daniel, and Fifi around a cocktail table.

CLAIR

I feel like toasting. Do you guys feel like a toast? Actually, I don't care what you think. Raise 'em.

They raise their glasses.

Well, we did it. We made the movie. The premiere went off without a hitch. We're up to 24% on Rotten Tomatoes and the

CLAIR  
 early box office forecasts predict nothing but dollar signs,  
 kids. To Fifi and Hunter. To me. And to rubbing Aris' face  
 in it. Cheers.

ALL  
 Cheers.

They drink. Clair finishes hers.

CLAIR  
 Let's get another round. Where's the waitress?

DANIEL  
 Up for a round of the movie game?

HENRY  
 You bet. I'll start. Dash Ransom.

DANIEL  
*Venus and Adonis.*

HENRY  
 Hunter Spears.

DANIEL  
 You win. No other movie. Not yet at least.

HENRY  
 I told you we'd make it.

DANIEL  
 It's not *Gwiazda* and Roth-Goldschmidt.

HENRY  
 But it's us.

DANIEL  
 I don't know. I just don't feel right. Did I tell you I've  
 started seeing someone?

HENRY  
 A lucky lady?

DANIEL  
 What? No. Of course not. A shrink. Sort of.

HENRY  
 Sort of a shrink?

DANIEL  
 Sort of a spiritual healer. His name is Sensei George.

HENRY

Dash Ransom going Hollywood.

DANIEL

Sensei George has really helped me get in touch with my internal metaphysical spirit guide. It's really helped me out. I can get you in touch...

HENRY

I'm pretty happy with where I am.

A WAITRESS (20s), enters with another tray. Three martinis and one highball.

WAITRESS

Ready for another round?

CLAIR

Took you long enough. Glorious, glorious liquor. Feef, be sure to watch yourself.

FIFI

I'm okay, Clair.

CLAIR

From your point of view, maybe. From where I'm standing, in this universe, you need to pace yourself. You're not a professional...

Clair gulps her martini.

...like me.

The waitress hands the highball to Henry.

WAITRESS

This drink was ordered special for you, Mr. Spears. I understand it's just how you like it. Perfect amount of gin. Perfect amount of ginger.

HENRY

You don't say.

Henry takes out his wallet.

CLAIR

Hunter, we don't tip the help.

Henry gives the waitress a huge wad of money.

HENRY

Half that's for you. The other half is for the man who ordered that drink.

WAITRESS

Thank you, Mr. Spears.

HENRY

I prefer Hunter.

WAITRESS

Whatever you like, sir.

Waitress exits.

CLAIR

Now that the peon is gone. I think it's time we start discussing the next step in the Fifi and Hunter saga. We have to keep giving the people what they want and, luckily for you two, I think I know what that is.

FIFI

Let's hear it, Clair.

CLAIR

This is something I want to discuss with Hunter.

HENRY

With me?

CLAIR

What do you say we take a walk?

HENRY

I mean... what do you say, Fifi?

FIFI

I trust you.

CLAIR

I love it when you're obedient, Feef. It's your best quality. Come on, loverboy. Let's take that walk.

Clair and Henry exit. Awkward silence between Daniel and Fifi.

DANIEL

You're really good at keeping this act up.

FIFI

Are you trying to say something to me?

DANIEL

No, just an observation. It's just... I always thought you were an okay actress. I mean, you were good when you were 12. But I had never taken you for a really phenomenal talent. That is, until this whole *Fifi and Hunter* thing. The charade. The fake romance. It was iffy at first but now... wow. Like really, I kind of wish they could give Oscars for this sort of thing because sister, you'd be a shoo-in. Your masterpiece performance, Fifi. It's like you're actually in love with him.

Beat. Waitress returns with four more martinis.

FIFI

Hah! How funny. You think it's real.

DANIEL

It's all you, Fifi. I'm sorry I doubted you. You are a tremendous actress. Between you and me, it's just too bad he's not of your caliber.

FIFI

Well, I... I mean. Thanks, I suppose. It's really a long, arduous process to, uh, fake these feelings and -- oh wow, more martinis!

Fifi double fists a pair of martinis and drinks them both.

I think I should call the dogsitter now. Make sure poor little Jean-Paul is comfortable. And happy. And understands what kinds of emotions are running through her body right now.

DANIEL

Her?

FIFI

His. Definitely his body. Not mine. His body. Um...

Fifi exits. Waitress clears away glasses.

WAITRESS

Short straw. Always the short straw.

DANIEL

What's that?

WAITRESS

Nothing, Mr. Ransom. Think nothing of it.



DANIEL

No, no. I'm interested in what you've got to say.

WAITRESS

The staff here draws straws on nights when your lot come in.

DANIEL

You guys don't fight for the right to serve the stars?

WAITRESS

This might shock you but not everyone is happy to be your doormat.

DANIEL

Wait...

He hands her a martini.

For you.

WAITRESS

No one's ever handed me a drink at one of these things.

DANIEL

It's the least I can do for the short straw.

He toasts.

To the doormats of the world. May they never encounter stinky feet.

WAITRESS

Cheers.

DANIEL

Mazel tov.

They cheers and drink. Herman approaches.

DANIEL

Herman. I don't think they'll be happy to see you. I, on the other hand, think you're a sight for sore eyes.

HERMAN

It's good to see you, Danny. I still appreciate your help with that dog trailer mess.

DANIEL

Gladly, though I gotta remind you that it's Dash these days.

HERMAN  
I'm not calling you that.

DANIEL  
That's okay.

HERMAN  
Where's Henry?  
(to Waitress)  
You give him his drink?

WAITRESS  
If you mean Hunter Spears, I sure did.

HERMAN  
Good. He knows I'm here then.

WAITRESS  
Can I get you something, sir?

HERMAN  
Tell you what. Bring me two glasses. First one, fill that  
lady up with tonic water and a dap of squeezed lemon.

WAITRESS  
The other?

HERMAN  
Bombay Sapphire. To the top.

WAITRESS  
No ginger?

HERMAN  
Let's hope we won't need that one.

WAITRESS  
Sounds good. Coming right up. Thanks again for the drink,  
Mr. Ransom. Or Dash?

DANIEL  
Daniel.

WAITRESS  
Daniel?

DANIEL  
That is my name.

Waitress exits.

DANIEL

Clair in particular is going to be pissed.

HERMAN

I can't find it in myself to care what she thinks, Danny.

DANIEL

You don't know how happy it makes me to hear someone -- anyone -- say that.

HERMAN

It's the sobriety speaking.

Fifi enters, stumbling. She's been crying.

FIFI

Hunter? Come now, Feef. Stand straight.  
(seeing Herman)

You?

HERMAN

Hi there, darling.

DANIEL

You all right there, Fifi?

FIFI

Where's Hunter?

Clair and Henry enter.

HERMAN

Ahoy.

HENRY

Ahoy there, captain.

CLAIR

How did he get in here?

FIFI

It's the nice PA who took such good care of Jean-Paul. He did love the white-chocolate. It made him poop funny though. Clair, help me I'm drunk.

CLAIR

What did I say, Fifi?

FIFI

Can you hold my hair?

CLAIR

Oh Christ, come on Feef.

Clair leads Fifi off.

He better be gone by the time I'm back, kid.

HERMAN

She wants you to get rid of me again, Henry.

HENRY

How *did* you get in here?

HERMAN

It's amazing what a steady hand and a pair of wire cutters can do, kid. I've got something for you.

HENRY

I told you to keep the security deposit, Herm.

Herman places Alcoholics Anonymous sobriety chips on the cocktail table.

HERMAN

Silver. That's a day. Red. That's a month. They call this one dark gold but I think it's the color of puke. Two months. Green. 90 days. Purple. Four months. Pink, a delightful little color, five months. And finally - a blue chip for my number one blue chipper. Six months. Six months since the last day I saw you, Henry.

HENRY

Herm, I don't know what to say.

HERMAN

Those are my chips, kid. I'm going all in.

HENRY

I've never seen you like this, Herm. We really should catch up some time.

HERMAN

There's no time except now, kid. Like I said. You're the house. My chips are on your table. I'm introducing you, for the first time, to a Herman Murray who will never embarrass you in front of your rich and famous friends.

HENRY

Herm, you gotta know how proud I am of you.

HERMAN

I'm also introducing you to a Herman Murray who will never clean out your trailer. Who won't put up with being treated like less than human. Who has no interest in debasing himself to amuse you, or appease you, or keep you from getting in trouble with the queen bee herself. This is the Herman Murray on the table with those chips, Henry.

HENRY

I'm sorry, Herm, but you're asking something that just can't be done right now.

HERMAN

Can't be done?

HENRY

We're about to take the next big step with Fifi and Hunter Forever.

HERMAN

What about Herm and Henry Forever, kid? What about the team? That wasn't just some drunken hallucination of mine. That was real.

HENRY

I'm sorry, Herman.

HERMAN

Look. Henry. You're bigger than Jesus right now. If Danny's Rock Hudson you're Cary Grant.

DANIEL

Why am I Rock Hudson?

HERMAN

You don't need that woman, Henry. Either of them. You can ride this wave all the way to Oahu if you need. And I can get back in the game. I still have friends in this town. I'll make it work.

HENRY

We could be the team again.

HERMAN

You bet your ass we can.

Clair enters. She props Fifi up.

HENRY

Maybe I *can* ride the wave.

CLAIR  
Straight to the bottom of the sea.

FIFI  
Will there be lobster? I love lobster.

CLAIR  
Dash, hold this for me.

Daniel props up Fifi.

HENRY  
Herm and I were just talking.

CLAIR  
I know what this is about, kid. Your chump wants you back.

HERMAN  
Not a chump anymore, Miss Cupid. And if I may say...

CLAIR  
You may not.

HERMAN  
...you look particularly dreadful tonight.

FIFI  
Them's fightin' words, Clair.

CLAIR  
Hunter's thinking of leaving, Feef.

FIFI  
No, he can't!

CLAIR  
I know he can't.

HERMAN  
What's stopping him, Miss? Does he really need you anymore?

CLAIR  
Does he need us, Feef?

FIFI  
We certainly need him. Please don't go, Hunter.

CLAIR  
He's not going anywhere.

HENRY  
How are you so sure?

CLAIR  
Because you're loyal, Hunter.

HENRY  
Maybe I'm loyal to Herm.

HERMAN  
As he should be.

CLAIR  
He's got a contract.

HERMAN  
Screw his contract.

CLAIR  
He owes his fame to me.

HERMAN  
Screw you, then.

CLAIR  
And he doesn't want to become the next Shia LaBeouf.

Beat.

DANIEL  
If no else is going to say it, I will. Screw Shia LaBeouf.

HERMAN  
Oh, I've seen this play before. Old tactic.

CLAIR  
Remember when Shia was on top of the world? That sure came and went quickly, didn't it? Who do you think was responsible for that?

HERMAN  
She's bluffing, Henry. Don't listen.

CLAIR  
Shia thought he could pull a fast one on dumb ol' Clair Cupid.

HERMAN  
This is a desperation move.

CLAIR  
All it took was a few calls to the cops, some planted drugs, and a role in *Wall Street 2*... He came crawling back.

HERMAN

She's lying.

CLAIR

Hunter, it's important to me that you don't screw up and make me have to punish you. I don't want that. You don't want that. Feef certainly doesn't.

FIFI

Don't go, Hunter. Stick around and drink martinis. I should get a doggy bag martini for Jean-Paul. Do they have those?

Waitress enters with the two drinks.

Waitress, do you have doggy bag martinis for fluffy little doggies left at home?

Waitress looks at Daniel.

WAITRESS

Short straw.

(to Herman)

Here are your drinks, mister.

HERMAN

Thanks, hon. So what's it gonna' be, Henry? You heard my pitch. You heard hers. Who sold you?

HENRY

Herm, I can't. I made a deal with Clair.

HERMAN

Who's the drunk now, kid?

HENRY

I'm sorry, Herm. This is what's best. We're on different sides of the fence now.

HERMAN

(to Waitress)

Which one's the tonic water?

Waitress hands him the glass.  
Herman takes it over to Fifi.

Here you are, darling. You need this much more than I do. Drink it up.

FIFI

Thank you, PA. Wait, I'm not supposed to thank the PAs. Don't tell anyone.



HERMAN

You can count on me.

Herman takes the glass of gin.

Funny thing about this town. It'll make you forget. Forget what you want, forget what you need, forget who you are.

Herman moves to gulp the entire thing but Daniel stops him.

DANIEL

You don't want to do that, Herm. Come on. I'll walk you out.

CLAIR

Take him to the curb where he belongs, Dash.

Herman pulls out his wallet and puts it on Waitress's tray.

HERMAN

Here, kid. Maybe when you're a bigshot millionaire you can remember that it was this poor old sap that never jipped you a tip.

Daniel walks Herman offstage.

FIFI

Did something important just happen?

CLAIR

I'd say.

Daniel re-enters.

DANIEL

I feel like I've been punched in the gut. How could you do that to him?

HENRY

I...

Daniel grabs the wallet. He pulls out the cash and leaves it on the tray.

DANIEL

(to Waitress)

I need this. You can have that.

(to Henry)

How could you do it, Henry?

HENRY

It's Hunter, Dash. My name is Hunter!

Daniel exits with the wallet.

CLAIR

Well, now that we're through with the sentimentality, how about we get on with the program? Hunter? Don't you have something to ask Fifi?

HENRY

I... uh, right.

FIFI

Something to ask me? What is it? Clair, you haven't prepped me. I don't know my lines.

CLAIR

Hold on, Feef. Waitress, what are you still doing here?

WAITRESS

Oh.

Waitress exits.

Clair waits. She checks her watch.

PAOLO, a Portuguese photographer (20s), enters. Paolo is played by the same actor who played Waitress. He should be about 75% finished with his costume switch when he comes out.

CLAIR

*Por que você é tão tarde, Paolo?*

PAOLO

*Olá.*

CLAIR

*Estou-me nas tintas sobre dela alpaca doente!*

PAOLO

*Olá!*

Clair rolls her eyes as Paolo sets up his camera.

CLAIR

Okay, Hunter. Go ahead.

HENRY

Well, Fifi, I think we've really done a great job working together on this movie. Fifi and Hunter is a dream team. And, uh...

CLAIR

You're killing me, Smalls.

Clair holds up a cue card. Henry reads.

HENRY

I believe we can make this dream an even bigger reality so get down on your knee.

CLAIR

That's a stage direction, idiot.

HENRY

Oh. Got it.

Henry gets down on a knee. Clair squeals. Daniel re-enters.

DANIEL

Oh no.

HENRY

Fifi De Milo, will you marry me?

FIFI

Of course!

CLAIR

Smile, kids.

PAOLO

*Olá!*

Paolo snaps a photo of the moment. His camera flashes and the lights go out.

SCENE III

Lights on Daniel and Henry.

DANIEL

What were you thinking?

HENRY

She told me it's what I needed to do.

DANIEL

You don't need to do *anything*.

HENRY

Aris is catching up.

DANIEL

Why does Aris catching up mean you have to get married?

HENRY

This is the next step of Fifi and Hunter Forever.

DANIEL

Well it's working great in that sense.

Tabloid magazines fall around them.

Lights on Fifi and Clair.

FIFI

What was I thinking?

CLAIR

You probably weren't. You were drunk.

FIFI

I wasn't of a clear mind.

CLAIR

Camera didn't care.

FIFI

It's everywhere.

CLAIR

You're everywhere. You're shooting through the roof, Feef baby.

FIFI

I read the headlines. A lot of them are awful. They say what we're doing is wrong.

CLAIR

They're jealous of you, babe. How could they not be?

FIFI

I don't know if I can go through with this.

Lights on Daniel and Henry.

DANIEL

There's is no way you can go through with this.

HENRY

It's for Fifi and Hunter Forever.

DANIEL

But marriage is supposed to be, like, legit forever.

HENRY

Maybe that's not a bad thing.

DANIEL

That's it. You're cuckoo. You're straight up cuckoo for cocoa puffs.

HENRY

Maybe I'm just happy. Thought of that? Maybe for the first time I feel like I've made a splash and it wasn't in the kiddie pool.

DANIEL

But you're becoming a sideshow.

HENRY

I wouldn't say that.

DANIEL

She's making the thing a --

Lights on Fifi and Clair.

FIFI

A television special? Clair, isn't that just too much?

CLAIR

Nothing is too much for you, Feef baby. Did I tell you who left a message with the intern this morning?

FIFI

No.

CLAIR

A Mister Anderson.

FIFI

Wes or Paul Thomas?

CLAIR

It doesn't matter. They're not getting a call back unless...

FIFI

You're using that to make me go through with this.

CLAIR

That's the deal, Feef. What's wrong? Don't you like Hunter?

FIFI

I do, but...

CLAIR

It was he who suggested it in the first place.

FIFI

Really?

CLAIR

Would I lie to you?

FIFI

Yes. Yes you would.

CLAIR

You're going to marry the kid. You're going to knuckle down and do the right thing.

FIFI

How is a fake wedding ceremony as a primetime television special the right thing?

CLAIR

Because this is how we secure next week. And the week after that.

Lights on Daniel and Henry.

HENRY

And so-on and so-forth.

DANIEL

You've lost yourself, Henry. You've been swallowed up.

HENRY

Tell me about how I've lost myself, Mr. Kettle. Tell me all about how Dash Ransom stands on a firm enough foundation to dare call me swallowed up. By what? Fame? My dream? What about you, Mr. Roth-Goldschmidt?

DANIEL

You're right.

HENRY

And furthermore -- wait, what?

DANIEL

I threw away my dignity for a chance to kick some ass in front of a camera. It's something I've been fighting over with my internal metaphysical spirit guide.

HENRY

Now you're talking crazy.

DANIEL

Am I? Sandy!

SANDY KOUFAX, pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers (circa 1965, 20s) enters, a baseball glove on his left hand.

SANDY KOUFAX

Shalom, Daniel.

DANIEL

Henry, meet Sandy Koufax. The greatest Jewish athlete of all time. Also, my internal metaphysical spirit guide.

SANDY KOUFAX

Shalom, Henry.

HENRY

It's Hunter.

DANIEL

Sandy, I've let you down. I-- Wait a second. Sandy Koufax is left-handed.

SANDY KOUFAX

Daniel, I'm just a rhetorical device plucked from your imaginative subconscious. Does it really matter what hand I throw with?

DANIEL

If you're Sandy Freaking Koufax it does.

SANDY KOUFAX

*Oy Vey, meshugener.* Hold on a second.

Sandy tosses his mitt offstage. A left-handed mitt is tossed on.

Happy?

DANIEL

Yes.

SANDY KOUFAX

Okay. So what are you going to do to rectify this sham life you've been living?

Lights on Daniel, Henry, Fifi, Clair, and Sandy Koufax.

DANIEL  
I quit.

CLAIR  
Okay, that's nice.

DANIEL  
I'm serious.

CLAIR  
Sure you are.

DANIEL  
I mean it. I'm quitting. I no longer want you as my agent.

HENRY  
I don't think he's joking, Clair.

CLAIR  
He best be joking, for his sake.

DANIEL  
It's over between us. I find you reprehensible. I'm done kissing your ass. I'm done not being who I really am.

CLAIR  
Were you not here for the whole Shia LaBeouf thing?

DANIEL  
I'm going to hope that Herman was right. That you were bluffing. And that this part in the new Jason Statham film I was offered when I was Dash Ransom will still be on the table when I show up as Daniel Roth-Goldschmidt.

SANDY KOUFAX  
That's some high heat right there, Danny.

FIFI  
Who is that man?

HENRY  
Sandy Koufax. Circa 1965.

FIFI  
Oh, okay.

CLAIR  
Fine. You want to go, go. Leave. Nothing's keeping you here. In fact.

Clair pulls out the remote and pushes a button. A contract falls from the ceiling.



CLAIR

Your contract.

She rips it up and tosses the pieces in his face.

To think that I wasted one of my best names on an ungrateful little twerp like you. Enjoy your self-gratitude. Have fun with the whole "knowing who you are" thing. And have fun trying to find work in this town after you walk out that door.

DANIEL

I'll take that risk. Sandy?

SANDY KOUFAX

Isn't there something you're forgetting?

DANIEL

What's that?

SANDY KOUFAX

Danny, it's nice that you've redeemed yourself as a Jew. I'm sure your mother will be very proud. But you can't just pick and choose how you stay true to yourself. You gotta wear it all out on your sleeves no matter how scared you are.

FIFI

*(sotto voce, to Clair)*

Sandy Koufax is a really good spirit guide.

DANIEL

You're right, Sandy.

SANDY KOUFAX

Feh! Of course I'm right. I've got four no-hitters, Danny. Don't you think I know a thing or two about feeling comfortable in my own skin?

CLAIR

I'm losing my patience with you, bub.

DANIEL

Here goes nothing.

SANDY KOUFAX

Go get 'em, Tiger.

Daniel kisses Henry.

While everyone else is distracted, Sandy takes the remote from Clair's desk.

DANIEL

There it is. It's all out now.

CLAIR

In a manner of speaking.

FIFI

Whoa nelly.

DANIEL

Let's get out of here, Sandy.

SANDY KOUFAX

You've done well, Danny. Let's do lunch. Maybe you can help explain to me this Tommy John elbow surgery I keep hearing so much about.

Daniel and Sandy Koufax exit.

HENRY

I don't know what to say.

CLAIR

There's nothing to be said.

Clair dials into her phone.

HENRY

He kissed me.

FIFI

I know! Did you like it?

HENRY

Not particularly.

FIFI

That's a relief. He's really kind of cute. For a peasant.

CLAIR

(into phone)

Intern. Do you remember that pinball machine we discussed a few days ago? Yes, the one that Justin Bieber wants so badly. Buy it. I don't care how much it costs. And make sure Justin knows where it's ended up too. What? Oh, put in my basement. Yes. Good. NO I AM NOT IN A BAD MOOD!

FIFI

Retail therapy.

HENRY

Ah.

CLAIR

GOODBYE!

She hangs up.

What are you two meat puppets looking at?

FIFI

Do you need to talk, Clair?

Clair points at Henry.

CLAIR

You. Loverboy. Change into a suit. You're going on *The Goodnight Show* tonight.

HENRY

I am?

FIFI

I don't remember that being in the schedule.

Clair dials.

CLAIR

Chester - Clair. Right. I don't care. Who's your guest tonight? The governor? Not anymore. I'm sending Hunter Spears over. Yes you *will* bump the governor, Chester, or else Mrs. Lozano is going to find out all about your adventures in Phuket. I'm glad you see things my way.

She hangs up.

It's in the schedule now, Feef.

FIFI

We were going to have lunch at *La Grenouille*. It's a lunch date, Clair.

CLAIR

It's a press date now. Hunter, you're going to push the TV special.

HENRY

Right.

CLAIR

FOX. Two weeks from Friday. 8pm. The best televised wedding since the last time *The Deer Hunter* was on AMC.

HENRY

Got it. You can count on me, Clair.

FIFI

Hunter baby, what about *La Grenouille*?

HENRY

Fifi, we can get reservations there any time.

FIFI

I know that.

HENRY

So we can go any time. It's not like the press knows we're going to be there anyway.

FIFI

That's kind of the point.

CLAIR

Hunter, what time does *The Goodnight Show* tape?

HENRY

2pm, right?

CLAIR

And what time is it now?

HENRY

Um... 1:15.

CLAIR

Final question: why are not running?

HENRY

I'll catch you later, Fifi. I gotta go.

FIFI

Well, maybe we can do dinner then?

HENRY

Maybe.

FIFI

Call me.

Henry exits.

CLAIR

Don't think I don't know what you're thinking, Feef.

FIFI

Don't think you know what I'm thinking.

Clair sifts through her desk drawer.

CLAIR

Just remember where he came from, Feef. Remember who gave him to you. Remember who can take him awa--

FIFI

What's that?

CLAIR

Where is it?

FIFI

Huh?

CLAIR

WHERE IS IT???

Lights switch.

SCENE IV

Daniel speaks toward the audience,  
but not to the audience.

DANIEL

So you see what I'm up against, right? It's a pretty fancy grave I've dug myself into. But I'm not ashamed. In fact, I've come to appreciate it. It's dug to my specifications. I can move my arms in all possible directions. For the first time in a long time, I'm comfortable. But there's one thing that keeps irking me. One thing I can't get / straight.

Lights on CHESTER LOZANO, 40s, a  
late night talk show host.

CHESTER

Straight from Tinseltown herself, please welcome the hilarious, the gregarious, the handsomely-coiffed-yet-not-the-governor stud muffin extraordinaire... HUNTER SPEARS!

Hunter enters. He flirts with the  
studio audience before sitting.

How are you tonight, Hunter?

HENRY

I'm good, I'm good. Thanks for making time to see me.

CHESTER

Oh it was nothing. Really. Nothing at all. So I hear you're out promoting what's being billed as the year's must-see television event. Your--

Lights shift to Daniel.

DANIEL

Wedding! Can you believe that? It's already bad enough that half the people who even get married get divorced, and that a large segment of the population doesn't even have the right to, you know. But now this. How does this not make a mockery of the institution? How is this not--

Lights shift to Henry and Chester.

HENRY

--the TV event you'd be crazy not to see. And it'll all be happening on FOX.

CHESTER

Our rival network. Naturally.

HENRY

Two weeks from Friday at 8pm eastern. Though the pre-game show starts at 7:30.

Chester picks up notecards on his desk.

CHESTER

I understand from these meticulously organized notecards that have been generously provided to me by your people that a panel of marriage experts will be on hand to provide insight and analysis of all the proceedings.

HENRY

Right you are, Chester.

CHESTER

Don't I love being right.

HENRY

That's not even the best part. All you have to do is go--

Lights switch to Daniel.

DANIEL

--to [www.FifiandHunterWeddingExtravaganza.net](http://www.FifiandHunterWeddingExtravaganza.net) in order to purchase any and all necessary Fifi and Hunter merchandise, including commemorative items from the wedding ceremony itself. What decadence. What gall. Do you see what I'm trying to say? Fifi and Hunter are bad for America. Fifi and Hunter / have got to go.

Lights switch to Chester and Henry.

CHESTER

--have got to go. But before we do, I'd like to thank Hunter Spears again for interfering us -- whoops, I mean -- gracing us with his presence. Thank you Hunter. Do let your fiancée know that we'll be invoicing her shortly for the damages to the green room the last time she was here.

HENRY

Um, sure thing. Chester. Just want to remind everyone that the Fifi and Hunter Wedding Extravaganza is two Fridays from--

CHESTER

And that's all the time we have, but stay tuned because we've got a very funny comedian here tonight from Brooklyn, New York to tell you all some very funny jokes after the commercial break. So stick around for the one and only Li'l Nunzio. We'll be right back.

Lights switch to Daniel.

DANIEL

Look, I know you've got a way of doing things. But the only way to fight fire is with fire, right? And I think I know just the type of fire we need to sink Fifi and Hunter and Clair Cupid all in one fell swoop and maybe save my friend. You know - it appears even Clair has got secrets...

He holds out the remote control.

Do we have a deal?

Lights out.

SCENE V

Clair's office. She sits by her phone. Shell-shocked, a feeling with which she is both uncomfortable and unfamiliar.

Her phone rings. She answers.

CLAIR

Send him in. She's here too? Christ. No, it's fine. Send them both in.

She hangs up. Fifi and Henry enter. Henry holds out Fifi's chair for her. Jean-Paul is in Fifi's bag.

I said just you, Hunter. And Feef, today of all days is the day I can't deal with the dog. Either it goes or you do.

HENRY

Now, Clair.

CLAIR

No. There is no "now, Clairing" today, Buster Brown.

FIFI

She's just ornery, baby doll. Don't let the big mean lady scare you.

Fifi puts her purse (with dog) on Clair's desk. Clair snaps her fingers and looks up. Nothing happens. She tries again. Nothing.

CLAIR

I hate everything.

Clair stomps on the ground. Tabloid magazines fall on her desk. Henry deftly rescues the dog before it is crushed.

FIFI

Jean-Paul! Hunter, you're so heroic.

CLAIR

The obituaries, ladies and gentlemen.

FIFI

How dare you endanger Jean-Paul! Hunter, dear, make her apologize!

HENRY

What's this?

He drops the purse on the ground and runs toward the magazines.

CLAIR

America's finest journalism.

She plops one down in front of them.

Big news out of Brentwood.

FIFI

Is that Dash?



HENRY

Oh my god.

CLAIR

All over the wire. TMZ. Perez. Front page of the *LA Times*. There are bombs falling on Damascus right now and the front page of the *LA Times* is all Dash Ransom. It's beautiful. In a Fall of Modern Civilization kind of way.

FIFI

And with such a butch.

HENRY

That's not a woman, Feef.

FIFI

Oh my goodness. Oh.

HENRY

He's on every single cover. How could he be on every cover? The wedding is this week.

CLAIR

Not just covers. Dash Ransom, or rather -- ugh, Daniel Roth-Goldschmidt -- his coming out is the biggest news story of the year.

FIFI

It won't be bigger than the wedding.

CLAIR

Do you see this cover, Feef? They pulled it off right out under my nose. The full shabang. It's masterful.

HENRY

They?

CLAIR

He and his agent.

HENRY

Was it Aris?

CLAIR

Of course it wasn't Aris, you idiot.

FIFI

Don't talk to him like that, Clair.

HENRY

I mean. With how you describe how this happened. It sounds like how you've always described Aris.

CLAIR

You haven't been snooping through my desk lately, right Hunter? You wouldn't steal from me, would you?

FIFI

How could you accuse him of that?

HENRY

Why would I steal from you?

CLAIR

It's just strange. Daniel's new agent is...

Lights up on Daniel and Herman.  
Daniel is dressed to the nines. He hands he remote to Herman, who laughs. They shake hands.

DANIEL

Herman Murray.

Herman uses the remote control to take the lights off from he and Daniel.

HENRY

We have to fight back.

CLAIR

The way I see it, our only chance is to do it the old fashioned way.

HENRY

Are you thinking...?

CLAIR

That's exactly what I'm thinking.

FIFI

Oh no. We are not calling the wedding off. Not after all we've planned. Not after all we've done. We'd look like fools after that whole PR tour you put us through, Clair.

HENRY

I don't think that's the big issue here, Fifi.

FIFI

What could be bigger than our wedding, Hunter?

CLAIR

Everything.

FIFI

Everything?

HENRY

It's the only way to get past Daniel. We've got to blow it up.

FIFI

I am very sure that I don't understand what you're getting at, Hunter. Clair, tell him he's talking nonsense.

CLAIR

He's talking business, Feef. It's over.

FIFI

Fifi and Hunter are forever!

CLAIR

Fifi and Hunter are not forever because Fifi and Hunter...

HENRY

...are breaking up.

FIFI

That's not happening.

CLAIR

It was a decent run. You each got what you wanted. Hunter's a star now. And Feef, you did good too. I'm getting you on for this Anderson. Mission accomplished. If there's anything those peons down there love more than a wedding, it's a bloody funeral.

FIFI

No.

CLAIR

Was that a 'no' I heard from you, Feef? Because it's funny -- I thought I heard a 'no' out of you.

FIFI

The contract!

HENRY

What does the contract say?

FIFI

I've read my contract, Clair. Section 17, Line 3. "The forced separation of the two entities may only be completed with the consent of at least one of the aforementioned entities." Hunter, don't let her convince you that this is what we need. Because it's not. We need each other.

CLAIR

Feef, what's my job?

FIFI

We are not doing that again.

CLAIR

Tell me what my job is.

FIFI

No, Clair.

CLAIR

WHAT'S MY JOB, FELICIA?

Beat.

FIFI

What did you just call me?

HENRY

Felicia?

CLAIR

Felicia Beatrice Delvecchio. Age 22. From Denton, Texas. Emancipated from her parents at 17. Not even a natural brunette.

FIFI

Stop it, Clair. Just stop it. Hunter, don't listen. Play with Jean-Paul. Read a magazine. Ignore her. STOP IT, CLAIR!

CLAIR

I'll stop it when you tell me what my job is, Felicia. Huh? It's certainly not to give the people Felicia Beatrice Delvecchio, is it?

HENRY

Clair, you gotta calm down.

CLAIR

And what about you, Henry Gwiazda? Age 25. Former bartender at The Establishing Shot. Hailing from Kalkaska, Michigan. Played point guard. Not third base.

HENRY

How do you know about that?

CLAIR

I know everything about you because I made you, Hunter Spears. In fact, I made you Hunter Spears. I turned your name into a trisyllabic sentence. I did! I gave you Adonis. I gave you the starlet. I gave you magazine covers. And I *will* take it away.

HENRY  
If we break it up...

FIFI  
Don't even suggest it.

HENRY  
...we'll for sure beat Herm and Daniel? We'll get the magazine covers?

FIFI  
We'll get them together.

CLAIR  
You two will be bigger than Aniston and Pitt. Of course, we'll just have to concoct a reason. I've long thought that maybe you were a perfect candidate for a heel turn, Hunter.

FIFI  
No! Not a heel turn! He doesn't need a heel turn, Clair, because we care about each other. And we need each other.

HENRY  
Do we, Fifi?

CLAIR  
Hunter... Henry. Please.

HENRY  
(to Clair)  
I want another action movie after this next one coming up.

CLAIR  
It can be done.

FIFI  
No.

HENRY  
I want to go up against Daniel.

CLAIR  
You want to be the best.

FIFI  
You're already the best.

HENRY  
Maybe you should step outside, Fifi.

FIFI  
But we love each other.

HENRY

Feef, before me your last film credit was an Addams Family movie. In a month you'll be Jackie Kennedy. In two months I'll be in a Terence Malick film. In four I'll be Teddy Roosevelt: Ninja Warrior. I'm getting what I need. You're getting the Anderson.

FIFI

It was never about the Anderson, Henry. It was never about the movies. It was about--

HENRY

I'm not Henry, Feef. I'm Hunter Spears. And you're going to be just fine.

CLAIR

Ta-ta, Feef.

Lights out. The sound of a door slamming shut.

SCENE VI

The sound of a TV turning on.

Projected images on the wall.  
Tabloid covers. Paparazzi photos.

Enter Misty.

MISTY

Hello, lovelies. Tonight on *Hollywood Voyeur*. The shocking truth about the man who may be Hollywood's most notorious bad boy: Hunter Spears. Hear how he cheated on Fifi De Milo with no fewer than 37 women. At once!

Speaking of poor Fifi, there was a silver lining to the sad little raincloud that is her life at the moment. Perhaps in a gesture that signified pity more than merit, Fifi has been honored with an Academy Award nomination for her comeback role as Venus in *Venus and Adonis*. Maybe even sad stories can have a happy ending.

This was certainly the case with openly-gay action star Daniel Roth-Goldschmidt, formerly known as Dash Ransom. Roth-Goldschmidt has just signed on to be in the next installment of *The Expendables* franchise and is now reportedly dating a mysterious new man. Here at *Hollywood Voyeur* -- we have our own little theory: Jason. Statham. Scaaaaaandalous!

And lovelies, after the break we'll hear a cut off Hunter Spears' debut rap album, *Big Hunter Style*. It's sure to be,

MISTY  
 as the kids say on the playground, off the hook. Stay tuned to *Hollywood Voyeur* for all the news that matters.

Daniel enters into the light.

DANIEL  
 This is going better than I imagined.

Herman enters behind him, holding the remote control.

HERMAN  
 We got 'em by the balls now, kid.

Herman presses a button on the remote and the lights go dark.

SCENE VII

Fifi, backstage, in front of her mirror. She makes a call on her phone.

FIFI  
 Hi Hunter. Henry. It's me. Can we talk? I feel like you owe me some answers. Maybe you don't owe me anything. I just need some answers. I just...

Why don't you love me? It's like you never cared at all. I'm foolish to think that, right? Right? I have no idea. I have no idea how to know what to feel.

I'm not calling to say I've met someone new. I haven't. I just - do you remember when you said you couldn't do it without me and to trust you and that everything would be okay? Do you remember it, Hunter? Because I... I...

(to herself)

I've been here before. And I sound pathetic.

Either you loved me or you didn't and if I don't know now there's only one way to find out. I'm going to find out. I'm going to.

It's Fifi by the way. Screw you if you didn't know.

She hangs up. She collects herself, checks herself in the mirror. She likes what she sees. She picks up a container of pills and tosses them offstage. She stares back into the mirror. She is strong.

CLAIR!!!

FIFI

Lights shift to Clair's office.

Clair at her desk.

CLAIR

Feef! Long time no see.

Fifi plops her contract down on Clair's desk.

What's this?

FIFI

Section 32. Line 41. "A compulsory sequel to *Venus and Adonis* shall automatically be optioned upon the aforementioned film's accumulation of \$500 million total gross."

CLAIR

Which means?

FIFI

Clair, there comes a point in every woman's life where she can stare into the eyes of her mortal enemy, cackle, and lay down some honest to god truth. This is that time for me.

Fifi stares at Clair and cackles.

Fifi and Hunter are obligated by contract to make *Venus and Adonis 2*. We're making another movie, Clair. And the tabloids will eat it up when they find out...

CLAIR

...Fifi and Hunter are getting back together. Oh Christ, Feef. We're going to be rich.

FIFI

We're already rich.

CLAIR

Richer. Where's Loverboy?

Lights shift.



SCENE VIII

Henry is in the recording studio.  
He has transformed his image into a  
much more "bad-boy" style. It would  
be fantastic if he were dressed  
like Justin Bieber.

HENRY

All right, tech guy. Let's drop that beat again.

MALE VOICEOVER

Hunter, you've got some visitors here.

HENRY

I said no visitors when I'm making my art. Drop that beat.

A beat fills the studio. Henry  
raps. Badly.

They call me H to the -unter,  
S to the -pears,  
Babe won't 'chu gimme yo number,  
I'll be the best you had in years.

The beat cuts out.

Hey! What gives? That was my best take so far.

MALE VOICEOVER

She says she owns you.

HENRY

Ah hell. Come in.

Fifi and Clair enter.

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. No more than one biyatch in  
the studio at a time, ladies.

CLAIR

Oh cut the crap. This bad boy thing's gone to your head.

HENRY

What's this ho doing here?

Clair smacks Henry.

CLAIR

I said cut it out.

HENRY

Sorry. But seriously. What's she doing here?

CLAIR

Fifi has brought to my attention an unforeseen circumstance with regard to *Venus and Adonis*.

FIFI

It's right there in the contract. Section 32, Line--

CLAIR

No one cares what line, Feef. What matters is it says you're obligated to do a sequel and make a shit ton more money and do the whole thing over if you gross this much again.

HENRY

A sequel? I died at the end of the movie. It's *Venus and Adonis*.

CLAIR

We'll bring you back to life. Time machine or something. Aliens. Tardis. Who cares. What matters is...

FIFI

Fifi and Hunter is back on. At least temporarily.

HENRY

Hah!

CLAIR

I didn't hear a joke. Did you hear a joke there, Feef?

FIFI

No, Clair. No joke to be heard.

HENRY

I'm not going back to her. That's all behind me now. I'm a Hollywood bad boy now. Listen.

(to the tech guy)

Hey homeslice, play back some of that shit we recorded.

Henry's terrible rap song plays.

"Back it up, girl,  
on a tilt-a-whirl,  
back it up fo' yo' man Adonis.  
Ain't no sin,  
wit' the colors of the wind,  
I'm the John Smith to yo'  
Pocahontas!"

That shit's money, Clair. I've already pre-sold 100,000 albums. I'm doin' what you taught me to. I'm givin' the people what they want.

CLAIR

Ooh, babe. You're not the one who gives the people what they want. That's my job.

HENRY

Really? Because the news on the street is that it ain't that way no more.

CLAIR

Listen, chump. *Venus and Adonis 2* starts shooting in three weeks. I've already cleared your schedules.

HENRY

It's not happening.

FIFI

Please, Henry.

HENRY

Don't call me that.

FIFI

I can't do this without you.

Beat.

HENRY

Well, you're gonna' have to cuz Clair ain't the boss of me no more.

CLAIR

Oh really?

HENRY

I have a new benefactor now.

MALE VOICEOVER TWO

How you doin' in there, H-diggity?

CLAIR

Who is that?

HENRY

These two were just leaving, Mister Aris.

FIFI

He's with Aris now?

CLAIR

Hah! That's impossible.

HENRY

Best believe it, Clair baby. And if I were you, I'd get out of here in the next forty-five seconds.

FIFI

Why?

Sounds of sirens.

HENRY

Publicity.

MALE VOICEOVER TWO

The cocaine is in your jacket, H-diggity. I'll be there to bail you out tonight.

HENRY

Sounds good, boss.

(to Fifi and Clair)

You two should go.

CLAIR

I don't know what you think is going on here but I can't go down again. Let's skedaddle, Feef.

Clair flees.

FIFI

Henry. It doesn't have to be this way.

HENRY

I don't need you no more, Feef.

FIFI

And I don't want you either.

The sirens grow louder.

Fifi exits.

The lights dim. Sounds of handcuffs and a jail door.

SCENE IX

Clair's office.

She hurries in, pleading into her cell phone.

CLAIR

Listen, Shia. Remember how I promised you the Coen Brothers flick? No, of course it didn't fall through. What makes you

CLAIR

think it fell through? Who told you it fell through? Okay, it fell through. Big deal. Shia, love - the next one will be even bigger. I promise. I-- Hello? Hello?

He's hung up. A cell phone rings.  
She pulls another from her desk.

Reese, baby. How are you, love? Lovely lady? Lovely lucky lady! I just got off the phone with Sony and do they have the part for you! You what? Switching agents? To *Herman Murray*? You don't want to do that, Reese. You really, really don't want to do tha-- Hello? Reese? You bitch.

A third cell phone rings. Clair answers.

Ryan! Ryan Reynolds, my darling. My baby. My supernova. My-- You heard what? Ryan! A bell pepper? Of course I would never say that about you. Trust me, if you're any type of pepper, Ryan baby, you're a habañero. Ryan? Ryan wait?

Clair smashes her phones.

No no no no no no.

Clair's land line rings. She waits it out, contemplating whether to answer.

It's over, Clair. It's over.

The phone stops ringing. Lights up on Henry in jail making his phone call.

HENRY

Clair? Clair, are you there? Um... Hi Clair! How are you? I, uh... Just wanted to let you know I was totally kidding back there. With the whole recording studio thing... um... Clair, you've just been Punk'd! I don't know why Ashton didn't jump out when he said he would. Crazy, huh? Um... Clair, you gotta get me out of here. Aris has left me out to dry.

Lights on Herman and Daniel in the bar.

DANIEL

Are you gonna' tell him?

HERMAN

Tell him what? That we set him up?

DANIEL

Yeah, I guess.

Enter Fifi with Jean-Paul in bag.

FIFI

Today is the first day of the rest of your life, Jean-Paul. Starting today, no more white chocolate. No more ambiens. You are on a diet, Jean-Paul.

Fifi's phone rings.

And no more talking on the phone. We're whipping you into shape, Jean Paul. Because this is the first day of the rest of your life.

Fifi ignores the call. Lights back on Henry, on the phone.

HENRY

Feef. I, uh... Fifi, I'm in trouble and I need help. Can you help me? I know we've had a bumpy few months but... I can't do this without you. Wait... Fifi. Felicia. Nevermind. You were right. I'm sorry.

Daniel and Herman back at the bar. Daniel's phone is on the bar.

DANIEL

Isn't this kind of cruel?

HERMAN

It's the only way, Danny.

DANIEL

I think we should tell him.

HERMAN

That Cupid invented a fake rival? That Aris was her all along? Until it wasn't?

DANIEL

That we got him tossed into jail.

Daniel's phone rings. They both stare at it.

HERMAN

Don't do it, Danny. Let it go.

DANIEL

He's my friend, Herm.

HERMAN

Not yet he isn't. Almost. But not yet.

Daniel lifts the phone. He ignores the call.

Lights back on Henry, who hangs up the phone.

HENRY

What have I done?

Lights down on Henry.

At the bar, Herman picks up his phone. He dials.

HERMAN

(into phone)

This is Herman Murray calling for Sgt. Urbanus. Yes, I'll hold.

DANIEL

Herm, if we're not going to tell him the truth what are we going to tell him?

HERMAN

(into phone)

Jonny? It's Herman Murray. Good good, yourself? And the wife? Lovely, lovely. Jonny, listen. You got an inmate over there I'm looking to bail out. Kid named Gwiazda. Right. You're a good man, Urbanus. I'll see you in an hour.

He hangs up.

DANIEL

Herm, what are we going to tell him?

HERMAN

We won't have to tell him anything, Danny. The grapevine will do the talking.

Herman holds up the remote. He presses a button.

Enter Misty.

MISTY

Hello lovelies, and welcome to another edition of *Hollywood Voyeur*. Tonight we detail the sad saga of one of Hollywood's most notorious fallen stars: Hunter Spears. At one point, Spears was top dog in Tinseltown. But where is he now? We'll hear from those who know him best and dig deep to uncover the truth behind his spectacular fall from grace.

Enter Clair, who has really gone off the deep end.

CLAIR

The kid was a loose cannon. No doubt about it. If you can't control yourself in this town, if you can't handle your addictions, well - you're just going to get burned. His was a rough case. I decided to retire after what happened to him. You could say we all lost something from the Hunter Spears ordeal.

Enter Daniel.

DANIEL

Henry -- I knew him as Henry -- was one of my first friends in Hollywood. We exchanged our dreams with each other. Where each of us wanted to end up in life. It turns out that neither of us really wanted the dreams we had dreamt for ourselves. Henry figured this one out too late.

Enter Gilbert.

GILBERT

Holy Macaroni was he an abominable person to work with. I remember fondly my time with Clair Cupid and Fifi De Milo and that handsome Daniel Roth-Goldschmidt, but all I can think of when I think of Hunter Spears is how much he disgusted me at first sight.

Enter Fifi.

FIFI

We wanted the best for him. I wanted the best for us. And I thought, in the end, maybe we'd have it. Something happened to the Hunter I admired. He disappeared. Like dust.

CLAIR

He was a burnout.

DANIEL

A dreamer.

GILBERT

A monster.

FIFI

A lover.

FIFI/CLAIR/DANIEL/GILBERT

He was Hunter Spears.



MISTY

And now, my lovelies, where is Hunter Spears?

Herman uses the remote to turn off Hollywood Voyeur. Lights down on Fifi, Clair, Daniel, and Gilbert.

Henry enters the bar.

HENRY

What do I do now?

HERMAN

I've got a place you can live. Rent's cheap. It's a duplex.

HENRY

I can't pay you.

HERMAN

I understand they're hiring here.

Henry gets up and starts making drinks.

HENRY

The usual, Herm?

HERMAN

Maybe the new usual. Shirley Temple. Two cherries. Not one.

Lights on Fifi, backstage, in front of her mirror. She's on her phone.

FIFI

It's kind of you to call and congratulate me, Garret. But it's just a Golden Globe... well yes, they often do translate to Oscars come February but... well, I really owe it all to Mr. Anderson.

Lights on Daniel, fighting with a BANKROBBER. He manages to use kung fu to subdue the bankrobber.

DANIEL

Think twice next time before you try and rob my favorite delicatessen. Because I come here to kick ass and eat some matzoh ball soup. And they're all outta' soup.

Lights on Clair, sifting through remote controls at an antique shop.

CLAIR

Where is it? Where could it be? Where? Where? Where?

FIFI

That's a kind offer but I've got a date with Jean-Paul tonight. No, no. I'm happy.

Daniel helps the bankrobber up.

DANIEL

That was a great take. Are you happy? If you're happy, I'm happy.

Clair knocks over the box of remotes. She yells into the air.

CLAIR

That's it. I hope you're happy!

Lights out on all except the bar.

Herman puts his hand on Henry's shoulder.

HERMAN

What was that game you and Danny would play?

HENRY

Alternate movies and actors.

HERMAN

Fifi De Milo.

HENRY

*The Oyster.*

HERMAN

Co-starring Ryan Gosling.

HENRY

Who's in *Teddy Roosevelt: Ninja Warrior.*

HERMAN

Opposite Daniel Roth-Goldschmidt.

HENRY

Who was in *Venus and Adonis.*

HERMAN

With Hunter Spears.

HENRY

I lose.

HERMAN

Nice thing about Hollywood, kid. Everything comes in twos and threes. We got comebacks, reboots, revivals. We've blown up two Death Stars, reanimated three dozen of Frankenstein's monsters, and made more superhero movies than we know what to do with.

And that's okay, because we are what the people want. They want love. They want action. They want winners and losers and twists and turns.

And they want redemption. Forgiveness. Pity. Maybe it's because they don't get it in their own lives. I'm no judge. I'm just the entertainer. But I've got a nicer way of looking at things than the last entertainer.

There's beauty in the fact, kid, that you're right where you began. A blank slate. A chance to do it again. The nice thing about Hollywood, Henry -- there's always room for a sequel.

Herman turns out the lights with the remote.

END OF PLAY.