

# 3 CARD STUD

by  
Ronnie Larsen

A new play about three Queens in search of an Ace.

(Male Version)

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#### Character Breakdown

Shelly - A gay man, 60's - 70's

Guy - A gay man 60's - 70's

Bill - A gay man 70's - 80's

Michael - A gay man, Shelly's son, 30's

Richard - A gay man, in great physical shape, 20's

The play is set in South Florida - Present day.

The set should be extremely simple and abstract.

All the furniture and areas are shared for all locations as needed. The less realistic the better.

#### SCENE 1: CARDS

Music Cue - Blue Skies by Della Reese

As the song begins the house lights fade to black and the stage lights fade to black.

Lights up on Shelly, a man in his 70's, scurrying around the house getting ready for his soon-arriving guests. Opens a bottle of wine.

Gets glasses. Sets the round table. One by one his two male friends enter, get comfortable, drink wine, sit down and begin to play cards. The three older gentlemen sit at a round table playing cards.

Song ends.

There is a lull in the action and they each study their cards. After a long silence.

BILL  
I got nothing

GUY  
I got nothing

Suddenly a naked young stud enters from a bedroom door. He doesn't see them. He goes to the fridge, removes a gallon of milk.

The three men playing cards don't move except to slowly and in unison shift their focus from their cards to this gift from God.

The stud drinks from the jug, as he does milk dribbles down his stomach and down to his dick. The three card players are dumb-struck...and in love.

SHELLY  
Royal Flush

GUY  
God, I wish I weren't lactose intolerant.

BILL  
I wish I were a milk man right now.

SHELLY  
This reminds me of when I was a little boy and every morning I had to milk the cow. But our cows weren't as cute as that.

(MORE)

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Well some were, I mean when you're really horny, you know...but that's another story.

BILL

If cows looked like that I'd buy a farm and be a full-time milk maid.

Richard sees them. He's speechless and quickly covers himself with the jug.

BILL (CONT'D)

Hey, Milkman, you wanna play cards?

RICHARD

What are you playing?

SHELLY

Old Maid.

GUY

Go Fish.

SHELLY

Strip Poker and you lost.

RICHARD

So who's winning?

BILL

All of us?

RICHARD

I'll let you guys go. I'm really sorry.

GUY

From what I see you have nothing to apologize for.

BILL

You really don't.

SHELLY  
You really don't.

GUY  
From what I see your parents  
did a very good job.

BILL  
From what I see I'm guessing  
your Dad was a longshoreman.

GUY  
Or a sausage maker.

SHELLY  
Or an African-American.

BILL  
That's racist. Some black guys  
have small dicks.

SHELLY  
Oh please, honey, a small black  
dick is a big white one.

RICHARD  
I'm really sorry for drinking  
outta the container. I didn't  
know he had roommates.

BILL  
Honey, you can drink out of my  
container anytime.

GUY  
He wants fresh milk not sour  
cream.

SHELLY  
So what's your name?

RICHARD  
Richard.

BILL  
Richard?

RICHARD

Richard, but my friends call me...

GUY

Dick. Hi, Dick.

BILL

Nice to meet you, Dick.

RICHARD

Rich, actually. My friends call me Rich.

SHELLY

So Dick, I'm assuming you met my son.

Richard takes out his phone...reads...

RICHARD

Is your son a "submissive bottom, looking for fun times, no strings attached, with a swimmers build and a taste for leather"

SHELLY

That's my boy!

RICHARD

He's a little boring in bed.

SHELLY

He got that from the Mother's side of the family.

RICHARD

But he's a great cocksucker.

SHELLY

He got that from my side. We come from a long line of cocksuckers.

(MORE)

SHELLY (CONT'D)

In fact our family crest has a picture of a car bumper missing all it's chrome. My grandfather's name was Jedidah Noteeth. He was the county dentist.

RICHARD

Well, your son seems like a nice guy.

SHELLY

Cause you don't know him.

RICHARD

Well, he seems nice.

GUY

So did Cosby.

RICHARD

I better get going.

GUY

No, no, no...the games just beginning.

BILL

Come have a seat.

GUY

Come on. We don't bite.

BILL

Well I would if I had teeth.

GUY

I prefer to nibble...but never on the first date...so you're safe...for now.

RICHARD

Maybe I should put some clothes on.

SHELLY

Boring.

GUY

Wrong answer.

BILL

Survey says, BUZZKILL!

SHELLY

Lets just pretend it's your birthday and you're dressed appropriately.

BILL

Come play a round with us.

RICHARD

And what are we playing?

SHELLY

3 Card Stud, stud.

BILL

You're studdering.

SHELLY

F-F-F-Fuck you.

RICHARD

I never played 3 Card Stud.

BILL

It's very simple. We play cards and you just sit there naked. Whoever gets your phone number first, wins.

SHELLY

Deal me in.

GUY

So, do you like older men,  
(glancing at his dick)  
Dick?

BILL  
Yeah, does it?  
(looking at his dick)  
Hello? Wake up. We're talking  
to you.

RICHARD  
It's sleeping.

GUY  
Nice sleeping bag.

SHELLY  
Stop!

BILL  
"It's fallen and it cant get  
up."

GUY  
So, seriously, do you like  
older men?

RICHARD  
I've never been with one.

SHELLY  
A man or an older?

RICHARD  
Older. I usually date people  
my own age.

GUY  
Dating? Who said anything  
about dating? I can take  
myself to dinner and a movie, I  
don't need you for that.

BILL  
So what does that mean, "I  
usually date people my own  
age."

RICHARD

It means I usually date people  
my own age but...

SHELLY

When you say "people" do you  
mean "people" or do you mean,  
"male people".

RICHARD

I'm open to anyone. Gay,  
straight, bi, male, female,  
younger...

(looks at Shelly)

older...

(looking at Guy,  
grinning)

...old...

(looking at Billy)

...really old.

BILL

Oh my God, my Life Alert just  
went off.

SHELLY

(hyperventilating)

Pass the metamucil.

GUY

Fuck me, honey, I just had both  
hips replaced so I am good to  
go...smells like a new car down  
there.

SHELLY

With leather interior.

GUY

Hateful.

SHELLY

So what's the oldest you've  
ever been with?

RICHARD  
I don't know.

GUY  
40?

RICHARD  
Yeah, 40.

BILL  
40, wow do I hear? 60?

RICHARD  
60?

GUY  
60!

BILL  
60! Do I hear 70?

RICHARD  
70???

BILL  
Do I hear 80?

GUY  
80!

RICHARD  
Sure, why not?

BILL  
Sold to the oldest bidder. Ok,  
what's your number? I wanna  
text you...

Bill takes out his phone and begins typing.

BILL (CONT'D)  
...eggplant, eggplant,  
eggplant...

Showing him his phone.

BILL (CONT'D)  
...and here's a picture of my  
hip before they put it in. And  
here I am without my teeth.

RICHARD  
954-522-

ALL  
Wait!

They all take out their phones.

ALL (CONT'D)  
Okay go...954

RICHARD  
954...

SHELLY  
No, stop, this isn't right...we  
can't hook up with my son's  
hook up.

GUY  
Why not?

SHELLY  
I don't know...okay...start  
over...954...

RICHARD  
954-522...

Shelly's son, Michael, suddenly enters.

MICHAEL  
Richard, what are you doing out  
here?

RICHARD  
I was thirsty.

GUY

And so are we so go back to bed  
and you can have him when we're  
done.

MICHAEL

Richard, can you come in here,  
please?

RICHARD

Ladies, it's been fun, but I  
better let you go.

BILL

Wait, I didn't get the last 4  
digits.

SHELLY

You can find him on Grindr.

The men whip out their phones again.

BILL

"HungTop"

GUY

Got him.

BILL

Bingo.

SHELLY

Jackpot. This is you?

RICHARD

Winner Winner, Chicken Dinner!

BILL

God, I love chicken.

SHELLY

I thought you were vegetarian.

BILL

I'll make an exception for  
Richard.

GUY  
It says HungTop is 3  
centimeters away.

Richard smiles. Guy leans in closer.

GUY (CONT'D)  
It says Hung Top is 2  
centimeters away.

Guy inches in closer again.

GUY (CONT'D)  
1 centimeter.

Guy inches closer again.

GUY (CONT'D)  
That's weird, now it says  
HungTop is 8 inches away.

BILL  
9 inches.

RICHARD  
9 and half actually.

GUY  
And sissybottom is 3 feet away.

They all look at Shelly.

SHELLY  
Don't look at me.

They all look at his son.

SHELLY (CONT'D)  
Oh son, how could you?  
Everyone called you sissy in  
high school but I didn't think  
you liked it!

MICHAEL  
Okay, enough...come on Richard,  
let's go back to bed.

BILL

Remember, Richard, only one person in this house has dentures and it's not Michael.

Richard and Michael leave. The older men are stunned.

GUY

Shelly, I need to tell you something. I think your son might be gay.

SHELLY

Thank you, Nancy Drew. What was your first clue?

GUY

Just a hunch. I have excellent gaydar. You know when I was a hustler back in Vegas in the 60's I hooked up with a lot of closeted celebrities. Liberace, Rock Hudson, Dinah Shore.

BILL

You fucked Dinah Shore???

GUY

Just once.

BILL

How was it?

GUY

Not good. She took me to her golf tournament and I spent the whole week trying to hit a hole in one...but my golf club wasn't working, if you know what I mean.

BILL

Cause you needed a driver not a putter.

GUY

Fuck you. I was a wild boy in my youth. I was bi for a while. I fucked anyone and everyone but Dinah Shore made me gay.

SHELLY

So who was a better lover, George Washington or Neanderthal?

BILL

Come on, let's play. Shuffle the cards, I'm feeling lucky.

GUY

Hold on. I'm updating my profile. "Older man seeks milk-drinking younger man named Dick. I may be old but I'm very hip. Two in fact. Brand new. Eggplant, Eggplant Eggplant."

SCENE 2: MICHAEL AND RICHARD

MICHAEL

Do you always wander around naked in strangers apartments.

RICHARD

As often as I can.

MICHAEL

Well you put on a quite show.

RICHARD

They didn't seem to mind.

MICHAEL

They see it every day. They keep all the local stripclubs in business. My Dad has a rewards card for Le Boy.

RICHARD

So your Dad's gay?

MICHAEL

You have to ask?

RICHARD

Where's your Mom?

MICHAEL

She passed away.

RICHARD

I'm sorry about that.

MICHAEL

It was a long time ago.

RICHARD

So who came out first, you or your Dad.

MICHAEL

We came out on the same day, actually. It was crazy. I remember it well.

Sound Cue: Flashback Music - Harp

Bill walks out with a sign that says FLASHBACK.

SCENE 3: FLASHBACK 1 - SHELLY AND MICHAEL

SHELLY

Son, sit down I need to discuss something very personal with you.

MICHAEL  
Dad, I know what it is.

SHELLY  
You do?

MICHAEL  
I do.

SHELLY  
I've been wanting to tell you  
for a long time but it never  
seemed like the right time.

MICHAEL  
Wait, you know what I want to  
talk about or you have  
something to tell me?

SHELLY  
Both, but go on...tell me what?

MICHAEL  
No, you go first. What do you  
want to discuss.

SHELLY  
No. You go.

MICHAEL  
No, You go.

MICHAEL/SHELLY  
(at the same time)  
Ok, I'll go.  
(beat)  
Just go.  
(beat)  
I'm gay.  
(beat)  
What?  
(beat)  
I'm gay.  
(beat)  
You're gay?  
(beat)  
(MORE)

MICHAEL/SHELLY (CONT'D)

I'm gay.  
 (beat)  
 Oh my God.  
 (beat)  
 I had no idea.  
 (beat)  
 Wow.  
 (beat)  
 I'm speechless.  
 (beat)  
 You're gay?  
 (beat)  
 I'm gay.  
 (beat)  
 Wow.  
 (beat)  
 Well, that was easy.

SHELLY

Okay, so what do you want for dinner.

Sound Cue: Flashback Music - Harp

SCENE 4: END OF FLASHBACK 1

RICHARD

And that was it?

MICHAEL

That was it.

Bill flips the sign over and now it says, MORE FLASHBACK.

SCENE 5: FLASHBACK 2 - SHELLY AND GUY

SHELLY

I just told Michael. Just now.  
 He's totally fine with it.

GUY

Shelly, how could he not be?  
 He's gay too.

SHELLY

Do you think I caused it?

GUY

You did, my friend. Unless his Mother slept with the neighborhood florist.

SHELLY

Oh, please, she barely slept with me.

GUY

Well, enough to give you Michael.

SHELLY

Do you think I made him gay somehow?

GUY

Absolutely...it's all your fault. It's your genes. Your DNA. You made him.

SHELLY

I made a gay son. I'm so proud. I was always afraid I'd come out one day and my son would grow up to be a homophobic Republican and we'd hate each other. My worst nightmare. I'm so relieved.

GUY

You don't have to sneak around anymore. No more pretending to go on dates with women. No more pretending to like sports. You did it, Shelly. Congratulations!

(beat)

It's a gay!

Sound Cue: Flashback music plays.

Bill exits with his FLASHBACK sign.

We are back in present day.

SCENE 6: MICHAEL'S BEDROOM

Richard is finishing getting dressed.

MICHAEL

I'd like to see you again.

RICHARD

I'm sorry. I'm more of a one night stand guy. Sorry. But it was fun. Thanks. See ya around.

MICHAEL

Cunt.

Richard goes in to the living room.

SHELLY

You taking off.

RICHARD

Yep. Thanks for the milk.

SHELLY

Mi casa su casa.

RICHARD

Really?

SHELLY

Sure.

RICHARD

No. Really?

SHELLY

Really what?

RICHARD

Your casa mi casa?

SHELLY  
Sure, why not?

RICHARD  
So I can come back?

SHELLY  
Sure?

RICHARD  
As your guest?

SHELLY  
Sure?

RICHARD  
Your son won't be jealous?

SHELLY  
Jealous? What you talkin'  
about Willis?

RICHARD  
Your cute? You're funny. You  
know, I never thought about  
being with an older guy before  
but you got me thinking.  
Thinking hard. Real hard. I  
bet you're experienced? I bet  
you know what you're doing. I  
bet you know things that  
younger guys don't. I'm  
intrigued.

SHELLY  
Ummmmm...okaaaay...

RICHARD  
So, call me. You have my  
number.

SHELLY  
I have your number.

RICHARD

Can I ask you a personal question,

SHELLY

Sure.

RICHARD

Do your teeth come out.

SHELLY

Um...no...sadly...no...I'm sorry.

RICHARD

That's okay. I'm still interested.

SHELLY

Well that's good cause I've never been rejected before for having teeth.

RICHARD

So call me.

SHELLY

Okay.

Richard walks over and gives him a kiss. Michael enters while they are kissing. Michael freezes, repulsed. He steps back in to the room peaking his head around the door. They don't see him.

RICHARD

Wow. Don't tell him I said this but you are a much much better kisser than your son.

SHELLY

Really?

RICHARD

Absolutely. It's like he's never kissed before.

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
He tightens his lips up like a chicken. You should give him some lessons.

SHELLY  
I'll get right on that.

MICHAEL  
(mouthing, no sound)  
Oh, you fucking cunt!

RICHARD  
Can I have another one, Cassanova?

SHELLY  
Sure, why not. But this is the last one.  
(playfully)  
I don't want you to think I'm easy.

They suddenly kiss passionately.

MICHAEL  
What the fuck?!?!

Black-Out (only for 3 seconds)

Music Cue: Make Someone Happy by Jimmy Durante

SCENE 7: RICHARD AND BILL

Spotlight on Bill.

Bill enters wearing a bathrobe. He takes it off to reveal he is wearing a white tank top, long black socks and a pair of Depends. He sits, gets comfortable. Takes out his phone. Begins to dial.

Richard appears in a spotlight on the opposite side of the stage - two spotlights.

RICHARD  
Hey... "Daddy"... you there?

BILL  
I'm here..."son".

RICHARD  
Mmmmm, Daddy, what are you wearing?

BILL  
Depends.

RICHARD  
Depends on what?

BILL  
Just depends.

RICHARD  
On what? Depends on what?

BILL  
Depends on...bare skin.

RICHARD  
What are you doing right now?

BILL  
I'm getting ready for bed.  
Hold on.

He takes his teeth out and puts them in a glass of water on the table.

BILL (CONT'D)  
(beat)  
I just took my teeth out.

RICHARD  
Mmmmmmm. That's hot. Tell me what you want to do to me.

He says all this with no teeth (lips over teeth).

BILL

Well first I want get on my knees and rub my face all over your crotch then I'd slowly unzip your pants then I'd pull your big cock out and stare at it. Then I'd take my teeth out and put them on the nightstand and I'd take your big cock in my mouth and lick it all around with my tongue then I'd jam it all the way down my throat.

RICHARD

Oh fuck, that's so hot!

BILL

Yeah, you like that?

RICHARD

Oh yeah.

BILL

You like Daddy's big dick?

RICHARD

Don't you mean, "Grand Daddy"?

BILL

Yeah, you like Grandpa's big dick?

RICHARD

Oh yes. So hot. Oh fuck

BILL

Come on. Cum on Grandpa's face.

RICHARD

Oh, yes.

BILL

Louder

RICHARD  
Oh yes.

BILL  
Louder

Sound Cue: Beeeeeeeeeeep

RICHARD  
What is that? Fuck?

BILL  
Sorry, that's my hearing aid?

RICHARD  
Fuck dude that's a buzzkill.  
Turn it down.

BILL  
What?

RICHARD  
Turn it down.

BILL  
What?

RICHARD  
Turn it down!!!

Beeeeeeeeeeep.

BILL  
You can't yell.

RICHARD  
Turn it down.

BILL  
What?

RICHARD  
Turn down your hearing aid.

He does and the beeping ends.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
That's better. Ok. So where  
were we, Grandpa?

BILL  
What?

RICHARD  
(louder)  
You were sucking my dick.

BILL  
What?

RICHARD  
(louder)  
You were sucking my dick.

BILL  
What???

RICHARD  
Turn up your hearing aid.

He does and we hear a very loud, "screeeeech".

Sound Cue: Beeeeeeeeeeep.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
Jesus Christ, I'll call you  
tomorrow!

Richard hangs up. His spotlight goes out.

BILL  
What???  
(beat)  
What??????  
(beat)  
Richard are you there???

His spotlight goes out.

## SCENE 8: MICHAEL AND SHELLY

Lights up on Michael and Shelly sitting at the round table center stage.

MICHAEL

Well, that's a first. I never thought I'd hear the words, "You're a much better kisser than your son."

SHELLY

Don't be jealous. It's not attractive.

MICHAEL

I'm not jealous. I'm creeped out.

SHELLY

Why? Because an attractive guy finds me attractive? You should be happy for me?

MICHAEL

You want my leftovers? My sloppy seconds? That's disgusting.

SHELLY

You met him on Grindr. He's everybody's leftovers. Don't get all uppity.

MICHAEL

You cant fuck the same guys I fuck. That's like having a threesome with your Dad. That's so gross.

SHELLY

When did you become such a prude?

MICHAEL

When did you become such a whore?

SHELLY

I'm 72. Time is not on my side. You can have any guy you want. You don't need him. I'm tired of paying for dick at Boardwalk. I want to be desired by someone I'm not paying. I want to be wanted. Just like you. What's wrong with that?

MICHAEL

It just feels wrong.

SHELLY

Why?

MICHAEL

It just does.

SHELLY

Get over yourself, Michael. It's 2018. We're two gay men living in Wilton Manors. We both have Grindr accounts. We both bring guys home. We couldn't be more liberal right now unless we were rimming Bernie Sanders. Relax. Let's just have fun. Jealousy is so boring. Be happy for me. Be happy for your Old Man. He's still got it.

MICHAEL

Can you just not have him over here when I'm home. I really liked him but he's not interested. He said I was just a one night stand.

SHELLY

Well at least he's honest.  
That's a good thing.

MICHAEL

Just please don't bring him  
over here when I'm here.

SHELLY

No problem. You got it. Fine.  
It's a deal.

SCENE 9: BILL AND RICHARD

Music Cue - Elegant Doorbell

Bill answers the door.

BILL

Come on in.

RICHARD

Hey.

BILL

Hey. Wassup, homie?

RICHARD

How are you sexy?

BILL

I'm good.

RICHARD

Nice apartment.

BILL

Thank you. Have a seat. I'll  
be right back.

Billy exits to the kitchen. Richard studies the  
plastic covered furniture. Finally he sits on it,  
awkwardly. Billy returns with hors d'oeuvres.

BILL (CONT'D)  
I made some "whores  
doors"...get it..."whores  
doors"

RICHARD  
Uh, no, actually...

BILL  
Forget it.

Richard sits on a chair covered in plastic.

RICHARD  
Why do you have plastic on your  
furniture?

BILL  
It protects them

RICHARD  
From what?

BILL  
Fluids.

RICHARD  
(confused)  
What?  
(beat)  
Ohhhhhh...got it...that's  
hot....smart...I should get  
these for my house...

BILL  
Here, try this....it's high in  
fiber...

RICHARD  
Needs salt.

BILL  
No. No sodium. Very healthy.

RICHARD  
What are these?

BILL  
Prunes. They're delicious.  
And they keep me regular.

RICHARD  
HMMMMMM. I never had these  
before.

BILL  
Try this...it's so good.

RICHARD  
What is it?

BILL  
Ensure. It's delicious. And  
really good for you. It's sort  
of like a milkshake with no  
sugar, no milk and no ice  
cream. Try it.

RICHARD  
What's this blue pill for?

BILL  
That's for me. It's for  
my...ugh...blood pressure...my  
penis blood pressure....ha ha.

RICHARD  
Viagra. Does it work?

BILL  
Every time!

RICHARD  
Take it.

BILL  
You sure?

RICHARD  
Sure.

BILL  
I get rock hard.

RICHARD  
Take it!

BILL  
Four 5 hours.

RICHARD  
Take half.

BILL  
Okay, here we go. I warned  
you.

He takes it. Goes to the kitchen and gets the egg  
timer. Sets it for 20 minutes

They sit for a long time.

RICHARD  
Anything yet?

BILL  
Not yet.

They sit.

RICHARD  
How bout now?

BILL  
Nada. Be patient.  
(beat)  
Have some melba toast?

They wait some more.

RICHARD  
How bout now?

BILL  
Not yet. Wait. Yes. Take off  
your shirt.

He does.

BILL (CONT'D)  
Mmmmm. The dragon is stirring.  
Take off your pants.

He does.

BILL (CONT'D)  
NASA, we have lift off. Take  
off your underwear.

He does.

Billy stands up to reveal a boner tenting his  
underwear.

BILL (CONT'D)  
Bingo!

Music Cue: Love to Love You Baby

Richard flashes a wicked smile for the first 5  
seconds of the song.

Lights fade to black as Shelly enters in a  
ridiculously "hip" outfit and a plate of candles that  
he begins placing around the stage.

Michael enters and music fades out.

#### SCENE 10: FIRST DATE

MICHAEL  
Dad, what is going on in here.  
Are you having a seance  
tonight?

SHELLY  
You gotta go. He just sent me  
a text. He's 10 minutes away.

MICHAEL  
This is insane.

Michael turns on the lights.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Dad, what are you wearing?

SHELLY

I want to look hip.

MICHAEL

You look like Mitch McConnell  
at a circuit party.

SHELLY

I want to look young. Doesn't  
everyone?

MICHAEL

No I just want to look like me.

SHELLY

Yeah, cause you're young.

MICHAEL

I'm 35, That's like 70 in gay  
years.

SHELLY

And I'm 72, in gay years that's  
dead.

MICHAEL

In straight years, too. You  
lived a long life. It's not a  
bad thing.

SHELLY

But I'm tired of being  
invisible. I go to The Drive  
and sit in the bar and I'm  
invisible. You don't know what  
that's like. But you will.  
Just wait. I hold the door  
open for these young kids and  
they don't even look at me.  
They just stroll on by staring  
at their phones. I want people  
to look at me again.

MICHAEL

In that outfit that wont be a problem.

SHELLY

You gotta go. He's 5 minutes away.

MICHAEL

Let me grab my jacket.

Michael exits.

Shelly exits.

Kock-knock-knock.

They both re-enter fast. Nervous.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Will this is awkward.

SHELLY

Can you go out the window, please.

MICHAEL

We live on the third floor.

SHELLY

So, you're tough. You have Obamacare.

MICHAEL

Jumping out the window to avoid seeing a guy I slept with who is now sleeping with my Dad is NOT a pre-existing condition.

SHELLY

Well, it should be.

(beat)

Michael, please. I really don't want him to see you.

MICHAEL  
He's already seen me.

SHELLY  
Please, Michael.

MICHAEL  
He knows I live here.

SHELLY  
You promised me!

MICHAEL  
We had sex in THAT room!

SHELLY  
You make everything so  
difficult.

Knock-knock-knock.

SHELLY (CONT'D)  
GO! You're a buzzkill, son.  
I'm sorry, please go.

Shelly lowers the lights.

MICHAEL  
I'll go in the bedroom and lock  
the door.

SHELLY  
I don't want you listening to  
us.

MICHAEL  
I'll wear headphones.

Knock-knock-knock.

SHELLY  
I'm gonna kill you.

MICHAEL  
He's waiting.

SHELLY

Go. And shut your door.

Knock-knock-knock.

Michael exits.

Shelly answers the door. Richard is standing there with a bouquet of flowers and a wine bag.

RICHARD

Well, hello.

SHELLY

Well, hello.

RICHARD

Can I come in.

SHELLY

Yes, you may.

RICHARD

Ummmm. Candles. Romantic.  
And these are for you.

He gives him the bouquet.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

And I brought drinks.

He takes a bottle of ensure out of the wine bag.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Ensure. My friend turned me on  
to these. They're really good.

SHELLY

I prefer wine but...it's the  
thought that counts.

They kiss.

RICHARD

Hmmmmmm. I've been thinking  
about you a lot.

SHELLY

Me too.

RICHARD

Where's your son.

SHELLY

Oh, I don't know, he's out for the night.

RICHARD

He doesn't mind.

SHELLY

No, no, not at all. He's happy for us.

RICHARD

What's with this outfit?

SHELLY

You don't like it?

RICHARD

It's cute, I guess...but...

SHELLY

What?

RICHARD

Its like you're trying to look young.

SHELLY

Yeah...

RICHARD

You're not young.

SHELLY

I'm not.

RICHARD

Be your age. Embrace it.  
That's what makes you sexy.  
That's what turns me on.

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

You've lived. You've aged.  
Like a fine wine. I want you  
to do something for me. Will  
you do something for me? I  
want you to go in your bedroom  
and find the oldest clothes you  
have and put them on and then  
come out and show me. Can you  
do that for me. What's the  
oldest outfit you have in your  
closet?

SHELLY

I was a pilgrim last Halloween.

RICHARD

Oh fuck yes. That's so fucking  
hot. Will you wear that for  
me? Will you be my pilgrim  
daddy.

SHELLY

Are you serious?

RICHARD

Totally.

SHELLY

One second.

He leaves.

Richard's phone rings. Michael's door slowly opens  
and he spies on Richard.

RICHARD

(whispering)

Hello?

BILL

What are you doing?

RICHARD

(still whispering)

I'm in bed. I don't feel well.

BILL

Oh no. Do you want me to bring you some chicken soup, kiddo.

RICHARD

No, I'm okay, but thanks...Grandpa.

BILL

Your Grandpa just made a new batch of chicken soup and it's delicious. I could be over in 15 minutes.

RICHARD

Oh, thanks, but I'm not up for it tonight. I'm gonna go back to sleep.

SHELLY

Are we still on for tomorrow night?

RICHARD

Absolutely. 100%.

BILL

I still have a half a pill left.

RICHARD

Oh, boy!

BILL

Ok kiddo, try and get some sleep.

RICHARD

Good night...Grandpa. I love you.

He hangs up.

SHELLY

(offstage)

You ready?

RICHARD

I'm ready.

Shelly comes out dressed as a Pilgrim Quaker with a white wig and everything.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Fuck. Fuck yes. Damn. Yes.  
That is so hot.

Michael is watching. He begins to gag.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Oh yeah, get over here. Damn,  
you're hot. That's really  
turning me on. Are you my  
pilgrim whore? Yeah, come on.  
Give me a lap dance. Come on  
shake that pilgrim booty.

SHELLY

I don't think pilgrims went to  
strip clubs.

RICHARD

Come on. Move your ass,  
Pilgrim.

SHELLY

You sound like John Wayne.

RICHARD

Who's that?

SHELLY

He's dead.

RICHARD

That's hot. Come on baby, show  
me what you got. Go.

Awkwardly, Shelly starts to strip but without music so he improvises.

SHELLY

(singing)

"I'm your pilgrim dancer. A pilgrim for money. Do what you want me to do. Just your pilgrim dancer...a pilgrim for money and any old farthing will do....

RICHARD

No, no, no wait. Here. Let me put on some old music. Ok, here we go. Take it off baby.

Music Cue: Stars and Stripes Forever

He dances and strips down to a turkey g-string or Thanksgiving boxers.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Oh my god. I'm rock hard.

SHELLY

Seriously.

RICHARD

That was so hot.

SHELLY

Are you joking?

RICHARD

No. Why do you think I'm joking.

SHELLY

I just never met anyone with a pilgrim fetish.

RICHARD

It's not a pilgrim fetish. I like older things. When I was 14. This is gonna sound weird but when I was 14 I had a paper route and I delivered papers to this old run down trailer park.

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

And about this time I started to figure out that I wasn't normal...I knew I was different....so I delivered these papers and then once a month I had to go collect the money. And all these old men would invite me in and ask me questions and show me pictures of them when they were young...a lot of them were veterans...and one guy showed me a picture of him from some war he was in and he was so handsome and I started to get turned on...none of these men ever hit on me...or touched me...or talked about sex...they were just lonely and wanted to talk...but it was erotic...being alone with them. And I became friends with some of these old men.

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

We'd hang out and talk and they were interesting...more interesting than guys my own age...but then I grew up...and we moved away...and I lost touch with them...and I guess I sort of repressed those feelings or forgot about 'em but the other morning when I saw you all playing cards...it triggered something in me...something I'd forgotten...don't take this wrong but fucking an old guy is like fucking a time machine....it's a connection with the past...I'm a kid again and I'm delivering papers...and figuring out who I am...it's exciting...and maybe because they showed me pictures of them when they were younger I started seeing them as young guys who had lived...does that make sense....when I looked at them I started to see them as the guy in the picture...do you have a picture of you...when you were younger? Can I see? Can I see you when you were younger?

SHELLY

I was a good looking guy. Even better looking than my son.

Michael, who has been spying the whole time, reacts negatively, mouthing silently "Fuck you".

Shelly exits.

Richard's iPhone rings again.

Richard answers it.

RICHARD

Hey, wassup, I was about to doze off.

BILL

I forgot to tell you something.

RICHARD

Wassup?

BILL

(mumbling)

I just took my teeth out.

RICHARD

Mmmmmmm. So hot. Hey, Grandpa, can I call you back? I'm getting another call.

BILL

Call me back, sonny.

He hangs up.

Shelly brings out a scrapbook, sits.

SHELLY

Ok, here we go, memory lane. I always took a lot of photos.

RICHARD

Is that your wife?

SHELLY

Yep.

RICHARD

Wow, she's beautiful...how did she die?

SHELLY

Cancer. It was horrible. We were crazy in love.

RICHARD

So you were straight and then you weren't or what?

SHELLY

That's a very long story.

RICHARD

I have time.

SHELLY

My coming out was a very long process.

RICHARD

Did you know you were gay when you got married.

SHELLY

No. I didn't. I really didn't. People always talk about being born that way and maybe I was but I loved women...I loved my wife...I loved having sex with her...we had a great sex life.

Michael gags again and closes his door.

RICHARD

So when did you discover men.

SHELLY

You might not believe this but it's the truth. It was after she died. Two years later. I tried dating other women but I felt nothing. I had zero interest. I'd go on dates with women and I was bored.

(MORE)

SHELLY (CONT'D)

I thought maybe I was still in mourning....I thought, "maybe it's too soon"...I couldn't get hard...I tried, but, nothing...then one day...I'm at the gym...in the steamroom...relaxing...it was so steamy...you couldn't see anything...then suddenly I felt a hand on my thigh...it slowly moved up my leg...it was a very light touch...like a woman but it was a man's hand...I was paralyzed...I was terrified...and suddenly, rock hard...my life changed in that moment...my life changed in that steamroom...something in me woke up...I always joke that I didn't come out of a closet I came out of a steamroom. My life began again in a steamroom. And I just never looked back.

RICHARD

And how long until you told your son?

SHELLY

About 10 years. Almost 11 years.

RICHARD

He told me you guys came out to each other on the same day. That's so cool.

SHELLY

It was crazy. But a huge relief.

RICHARD

And now you're roommates in  
Wilton Manors and you both have  
Grindr profiles and you've both  
hooked up with the same guy.  
What a family. Modern family.

SHELLY

Just like the Brady Bunch...but  
less gay.

RICHARD

What's the Brady Brunch?

Knock-knock-knock.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Are you expecting someone?

Knock-knock-knock.

SHELLY

No....but why don't you wait in  
the bedroom....could look a  
little weird if it's one of my  
neighbors.

Richard goes in the bedroom.

Shelly answers the door.

Michael enters limping.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

What the hell happened to you.

MICHAEL

I forgot my keys.

SHELLY

Are you okay?

MICHAEL

And my phone?

SHELLY  
What happened?

MICHAEL  
I jumped out the window.

SHELLY  
When?

MICHAEL  
10 seconds after you started  
talking about sex with Mom.

SHELLY  
Were you spying on us?

MICHAEL  
No.

SHELLY  
Were you?

MICHAEL  
Yes. If Plymouth Rock had a  
gay strip club you would have  
made a fortune.

SHELLY  
Oh my God.

MICHAEL  
This whole thing is so wrong.

SHELLY  
Why is it wrong?

MICHAEL  
You have to ask.

SHELLY  
Why is it wrong? Tell me.  
It's wrong because somebody for  
the first time in 10 years  
actually finds me attractive.  
Does that kill you?

(MORE)

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Do I not fit into your stereotype of an old gay man living in Wilton Manors. It doesn't bother you when I'm getting lapdances at Le Boy and Johnson's and Boardwalk...but when somebody hot...and young...genuinely likes me, or chooses me over you...you can't take it...you're jealous...it's so obvious...

MICHAEL

I'm gonna grab my phone and let you get on with Thanksgiving.

SHELLY

Fuck you, Michael. Fuck you and your condescension. I was you once. I was young Michael. I was hot. I was wanted. We all get old. You'd be lucky to grow old. I wanted to watch your Mother grow old. Aging is beautiful. When he looks at me he doesn't see an old man, he sees a a young man who has lived a nice long life.

MICHAEL

I know. I heard. I'm happy for you. I am.

SHELLY

No, you're not.

MICHAEL

I can be happy for you and jealous at the same time.

SHELLY

So you admit you're jealous.

MICHAEL

Of course I'm jealous. I want someone to talk to me the way he talks to you.

SHELLY

"Move that pilgrim booty".

MICHAEL

Well not that part but...you know what I mean.

SHELLY

Just let me have fun. Please. Let me feel handsome again. Let me feel wanted.

MICHAEL

You're handsome, Dad. You're wanted. I'm gonna leave you alone for the night. I'll crash at Guy's place. Have fun.

Michael leaves.

Shelly stands alone and thinks. Exits in to the bedroom. We hear a knock at the door.

We are now in Guy's house. Late at night.

SCENE 11: GUY'S HOUSE

Guy enters in a bathrobe. Answers the door.

GUY

Hey Michael, what are you doing?

MICHAEL

Can I crash here tonight?

GUY

Sure. Are you okay?

MICHAEL

Am I interrupting you?

GUY

No. No. Not at all. I was just watching a movie in the bedroom. Sit down, sit down. Why are you limping?

MICHAEL

I jumped out my window.

GUY

Why???

MICHAEL

Dad was dressed up as a Pilgrim and giving a guy a lapdance in our living room. I couldn't take it.

GUY

So you tried to kill yourself?

MICHAEL

No, no, no. It's only the third floor. I just had to get out of the house.

GUY

I didn't know there was such a thing as a Pilgrim fetish.

MICHAEL

Apparently.

GUY

Weird. Well everybody has their kink I guess.

Slowly the door behind Guy opens and a guy in full leather and hood peaks out and observes. We have no idea who it is.

They continue to talk with their back to the door as the stranger watches.

MICHAEL  
Guy, do you find me attractive.

GUY  
What?

MICHAEL  
Do you find me attractive?

GUY  
Of course.

MICHAEL  
No, I mean like do I turn you  
on? If we hooked up would you  
want to see me again?

GUY  
Of course.

MICHAEL  
Every time I meet a guy on  
Grindr it's a one time thing.  
I never get repeats. I never  
get a second date.

GUY  
Grindr isn't for dating it's  
for hooking up.

MICHAEL  
But they don't even want to  
hook up with me a second time.  
I want someone to want me for  
more than one night.

GUY  
Oh Michael. I don't know what  
to tell you.

MICHAEL  
Tell me I'm hot.

GUY  
What?

MICHAEL  
Tell me I'm hot.

GUY  
Michael.

MICHAEL  
Tell me.

GUY  
Michael, you're my Godson.

MICHAEL  
What does that mean. It  
doesn't mean anything.

GUY  
You're like family.

Michael rips his own shirt off.

MICHAEL  
Look at that! Tell me you  
don't want that.

GUY  
Michael, I don't want that I'm  
sorry.

MICHAEL  
Put on some music.

GUY  
Michael.

MICHAEL  
Put on some music. Anything.  
Just put on the last thing you  
listened to. I can dance to  
anything.

Guy picks up his phone and presses a button.

Music Cue: I Am A Woman In Love

MUSIC

I am a woman in love  
And I'll do anything

MICHAEL

Not that.

Guy pushes the button again.

We hear the first 6 seconds of:

Music Cue: Evergreen

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

NO! Come on.

Guy pushes the button, again, we hear the first 5 seconds of:

Music Cue: The Way We Were

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Don't you have anything other  
than Barbara Fucking  
Streisand???

GUY

Um, no actually, I'm sorry.

MICHAEL

What? Gimme that.

Michael grabs Guy's phone and scrolls thru...Michael is shocked. We hear the chorus of:

Music Cue: The Main Event

MUSIC

The main  
Eveeeeeeeent

MICHAEL

Noooooooooo.

He tries to turn it off but he can't and the note goes on forever....

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
I can't turn it off.

He keeps trying and the note continues.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
Make it stop.

Guy grabs the iPhone. Turns off the music.

GUY  
Michael, get a hold of  
yourself. Michael. Breathe.  
Relax. I love you, Michael,  
but I'm too old for sex. I  
like to joke around but sex is  
so much work. And I'm a  
bottom. You know how hard it  
is to find a Top in Ft.  
Lauderdale. I have to import  
them from Pompano Beach. It's  
exhausting. I've given up on  
sex. Michael take the couch.  
Enjoy yourself. I'm going back  
to bed. I'll see you in the  
morning. Gimme a hug.

They hug for a while. It is touching.

Guy goes back to the bedroom.

Michael lays down on the couch. Grabs a throw rug.  
Gets comfortable. He starts to doze off as we hear  
the sound of loud porno coming from the bedroom.  
Michael sits up. More porn sounds. He lies down and  
covers his ears with a pillow. Louder porn and the  
sound of spanking. Michael sits up. Listens. Gets  
up. Gets naked. Goes to Guy's bedroom door.  
Listens. He is shocked but excited. He opens the  
door. He is really shocked.

MICHAEL  
What the fuck?!?1 Guy!!!

All off-stage sounds suddenly cease. Dead quiet.

Offstage.

GUY

I'm so sorry, Michael, were we  
being too loud? Um, Frank,  
let's, uh, call it a night.

The guy in the leather and hood, who never speaks,  
starts to leave followed by Guy holding a paddle and  
a whip.

GUY (CONT'D)

Uh, Frank, you forgot this.

He hands him the paddle. Frank starts to leave.

GUY (CONT'D)

And this.

He hands him the whip. Frank takes it and heads to  
the door. Turns back for one final look, awkwardness  
ensues, Frank exits.

Guy looks at Michael. Michael is stunned.

MICHAEL

Who was that?

GUY

My accountant. Tax season is  
right around the corner, ya  
know.

(beat)

So is the couch okay? Do you  
need more pillows?

(beat, awkward)

Okay, good night.

Guy exits.

Michael is shocked. Sits on the sofa. Thinks.  
Confused.

## SCENE 12: SHELLY AND RICHARD - MORNING

The next morning, Shelly enters getting dressed.

RICHARD  
Hey, where you going?

SHELLY  
I gotta go. Go back to sleep.  
You can stay as long as you  
want but I gotta run.

RICHARD  
Where ya going?

SHELLY  
It's Saturday. It's my day to  
feed the penguins.

RICHARD  
Feed what penguins?

SHELLY  
At Seaquarium in Miami.

RICHARD  
I thought you were retired?

SHELLY  
I am. I do it cause I love it.

RICHARD  
You love feeding penguins?

SHELLY  
It's fabulous.

RICHARD  
Come back to bed...you can feed  
this penguin.

SHELLY  
You're bad...I would love to  
but...

RICHARD

Come on.

SHELLY

I can't?

RICHARD

Why not?

SHELLY

They need me?

RICHARD

I need you.

SHELLY

You don't need me.

RICHARD

Why do you say that?

SHELLY

I gotta run. I'm gonna be late.

RICHARD

No. Why do you say that? Why do you say I don't need you.

SHELLY

Because you don't, because there are plenty of guys for you in Wilton Manors. Because I'm three times your age because...I have to go...

RICHARD

You don't have to go, you want to go.

SHELLY

You're right, I do want to go. I've been doing this for 3 years. I love my routine. I love my penguins. Being with them is a gift.

RICHARD  
And being with me isn't?

SHELLY  
What are you talking about?

RICHARD  
I feel like I'm competing with  
a penguin.

SHELLY  
There's no competition, but...I  
just...I have to go...I'm gonna  
be late...

RICHARD  
Call in sick.

SHELLY  
Richard...

RICHARD  
Call in sick...

SHELLY  
I can't...

RICHARD  
Of course you can. You think  
the penguins are gonna starve  
if you don't show up. Someone  
else will feed them. They'll  
be fine. They don't need you,  
I do. Come on, let's go back  
to bed.

SHELLY  
Richard, darling...I'm  
sorry...I just, I can't...

RICHARD  
Are you not into me? Are you  
just using me for sex? You  
don't really feel anything for  
me, do you? Are you playing  
me?

SHELLY  
Playing you? No. I like  
you...

RICHARD  
But...

SHELLY  
I like you...

RICHARD  
But....

SHELLY  
But what...?

RICHARD  
But you don't love me?

SHELLY  
Love you??? Richard, I just  
met you.

RICHARD  
So you don't feel it? You  
don't feel this connection that  
we have?

SHELLY  
Richard...

RICHARD  
Shelly...

SHELLY  
I'm gonna be so late...

RICHARD  
I'm falling in love with you...

SHELLY  
What?

RICHARD  
I'm falling in love with you.

SHELLY

I don't know what to say.

RICHARD

Say, "you're falling in love  
with me, too."

SHELLY

Richard, I'm sorry but you are  
really showing your age right  
now...and...I have to go.

RICHARD

Enjoy your penguins.

Richard goes back to the bedroom and shuts the door.

Shelly stands there stunned. Shelly exits.

SCENE 13: ZOO

Two adult penguins, played by Bill and Guy in adult penguin costumes, approach each other from either side of the stage. They perform an odd penguin mating ritual while we listen to a voice over narration from a penguin documentary about penguins and monogamy.

NARRATION

Penguins form monogamous pairs for a breeding season, though the rate the same pair recouples varies drastically. Most penguins lay two eggs in a clutch, although the two largest species, the emperor and the king penguins, lay only one. When emperor penguin mothers lose a chick, they sometimes attempt to "steal" another mother's chick, usually unsuccessfully as other females in the vicinity assist the defending mother in keeping her chick.

(MORE)

## NARRATION (CONT'D)

In the mid-2000s, penguins became one of the most publicized species of animals that form lasting homosexual couples. A children's book, *And Tango Makes Three*, was written about one such penguin family in the New York Zoo.

Two more penguins enter, played by Michael and Richard.

The penguins socialize.

Finally, Shelly enters in yellow wading pants or yellow goulashes and a silver bucket filled with fish. The penguins get excited and see him and gather round. He begins to feed them.

## SHELLY

Hey guys! I missed you guys.

In between each of his lines the penguins squawk and he reacts as if he understands their language.

## SHELLY (CONT'D)

How you all been? Any excitement this week?

(beat, squawk)

Oh, that's good!

(beat, squawk)

Oh, that sounds fun.

(beat, squawk)

Me???

(beat, squawk)

No. Same old, same old.

(beat, squawk)

Well, that's not totally true.

I met this kid on Grindr and, well that's not totally true either, my son met him, my son met a kid on Grindr and then I sort of stole him and...

(beat, squawk)

(MORE)

SHELLY (CONT'D)

No, no, no, oh hell no, not a real kid...he's 20 something...but he's young...way too young...at least for me....I like him but he's just too damn young.

(beat, squawk)

And I am waaaay too old...but he's cute...but he's also exhausting...I can't keep up...

(beat, squawk)

He's basically turned me into his sex slave...there's no escape...he wants it every day three times a day...I can't do that. And he always wants to be together.

(beat, squawk)

Yes, I know you mate for life...but it's not for me...I actually mated for life once...and she died...so that didn't really work out the way I hoped and I'm not up for that again...that was way too painful.

Suddenly one penguin starts talking like a normal person.

PENGUIN 1 - MICHAEL

So you really miss her?

SHELLY

Yeah, I really, what the....?  
You speak English.

PENGUIN 1 - MICHAEL

Fuck you! Of course, I speak English. What do you think, I'm a stupid pigeon or a parakeet? I'm a mother-fucking' penguin!

(MORE)

PENGUIN 1 - MICHAEL (CONT'D)

You think I'm just a some dumb old bird who waddles around all day waiting for some retired homosexual to throw me a fish? Fuck that. I'm in here for life. I'm probably never going home...I'll die in prison but that don't mean I don't wanna better myself. I already taught myself English and I'm working on my real estate license. Maybe one day I'll be released for good behavior. A bird can dream, right?

SHELLY

You make it sound like you're in prison.

PENGUIN 2 - RICHARD

You think we chose to come here? You think we choose to stay? You think we chose this life?

PENGUIN 3 - BILL

Why would anyone choose this?

PENGUIN 1 - MICHAEL

I lived like an Emperor out there. I had a million friends, I had the whole ocean. Why would you think I'd want to live like this? Trapped. In this cell?

PENGUIN 2 - RICHARD

I had a wife, I'll probably never see her again...I think about her everyday. Oh, I'm sorry, am I depressing you...let me cheer you up...

He waddles around making squawking noises.

PENGUIN 2 - RICHARD (CONT'D)

Squawk, squawk, squawk...look  
at me...aren't I adorable...in  
my tuxedo...look at my cute  
arms...fuck you...throw me  
another fish, butt pirate...

SHELLY

Did you say butt pirate?

PENGUIN 1 - GUY

Butt pirate, fudge packer, anal  
crusader, national butt dart  
champion...

SHELLY

What the hell is wrong with you  
guys??? I meet one talking  
penguin in my whole life and he  
turns out to be a homophobe...

PENGUIN 2 - BILL

Make America Great Again!

SHELLY

No more fish for you.

PENGUIN 2 - MICHAEL

Oh come on, we're just joking  
around.

SHELLY

Nope, sorry...no fish for  
assholes...

ALL PENGUINS

Come on, come on, come  
on...squawk, squawk,  
squawk...fish, fish, fish,  
fish...

Music Cue - Harp Music

SHELLY

Nooooooooooooo...no, no,  
no...stop...help...get me outta  
here...anybody...

The lights flicker. Shelly tears off his zoo clothes, throws them off stage, he is floating, tossing and turning, out of control, as if in a tornado...

Creep-dreamy music continues to play.

The squawking of the penguins fades away.

SCENE 14: SHELLY WAKES UP

Shelly is now on the couch at his home, tossing and turning...

SHELLY

No...no...no...

Finally he bolts up. He is terrified. Panting and looking around. Thank God, it was a just a dream.

Michael enters, notices something is wrong.

MICHAEL

Dad?

(beat)

You okay.

SHELLY

No. I'm not. I just had a nightmare I was at the zoo feeding my penguins and they all turned out to be homophobes. It was horrifying. And one of them kept talking about feeling trapped as if the zoo were a prison which really shocked me cause the zoo is so nice. It was really upsetting. What do you think it means?

MICHAEL

Dad, don't think. People who don't think are much happier.

Richard enters carrying a bouquet of flowers.

RICHARD

Hey ya'll, anybody home?

MICHAEL

Case in point. Hi Richard, how are you?

RICHARD

I'm great. I'm young and in love. What more could I possibly I need?

Richard hands the flowers to Shelly.

MICHAEL

How bout that thing the wizard gave the scarecrow.

RICHARD

Courage?

MICHAEL

Exactly, courage...have fun you two.

He heads off singing.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

"If I only had a brain."

Richard sits next to Shelly.

RICHARD

I don't think your son likes me.

SHELLY

Of course he does. And these are beautiful.

RICHARD  
Nah, I don't think he does.

SHELLY  
He likes you. He really likes  
you.

Michael pops out.

MICHAEL  
Sally Field, 1972.

RICHARD  
Who's Sally Field?

SHELLY  
"Don't speak, don't speak."

Michael pops out again.

MICHAEL  
Diane Weist, Bullets Over  
Broadway. 1994

SHELLY  
If you want to join the  
conversation can you please  
stay in the fucking room?  
You're like a gay cuckoo clock.

RICHARD  
Michael, why don't you like me?

MICHAEL  
I like you fine.

RICHARD  
I don't think so.

MICHAEL  
Does it matter if I like you.

RICHARD  
It would be nice.

MICHAEL

But not really important, in  
the long term.

RICHARD

I disagree. I've had lots of  
friends who hated their stepdad  
or their stepmom...I would hate  
that to happen to us.

MICHAEL

Did I miss something?

Richard gets down on his knees.

RICHARD

Shelly, I want you to marry me.  
Every moment I'm with you I'm  
so happy. I never want to be  
away from you. I feel at peace  
when I'm with you. I feel  
safe. Will you marry me?

Shelly is stunned and speechless.

MICHAEL

Awkward.

SHELLY

Richard...we...ummmm...we've  
known each other less than a  
month.

RICHARD

So...

SHELLY

So, it takes a really long time  
to get to know someone...to  
really know them...

RICHARD

So.

SHELLY

So?

MICHAEL

So is anyone else creeped out by the fact that I slept with my future stepdad after meeting him on Grindr cause I find that pretty fuckin' disturbing. American Horror Story: Wilton Manors.

SHELLY

I think it's very progressive.

MICHAEL

It's progressive and creepy, like a Jill Stein voter. You don't think this is creepy? "Oh Shelly, your fiance is so charming how did you two meet?" "Well after he fucked my son he gave me his number and I called him and we just hit off."

RICHARD

So what do you think?

SHELLY

Richsrdr...no, we are not getting married. I'm sorry. I can't marry you. You're 24. I'm 114.

MICHAEL

That's like an iPhone dating a smoke signal.

SHELLY

Michael.

MICHAEL

You're Hamilton, he's Showboat.

SHELLY

Enough.

MICHAEL  
He's Woody Allen, you're Soon  
Yi.

RICHARD  
And they've been married 25  
years.

MICHAEL  
Okay, that was a bad example.

SHELLY  
You're 24, how do you know  
Woody Allen?

RICHARD  
He's hot. I use to jerk off to  
Hannah and her Sisters. So  
what?

MICHAEL  
I am totally speechless.

SHELLY  
For once in your life.

MICHAEL  
Oh honey, I've got some great  
porn for you...write this  
down...Grumpy Old Men with  
Walter Mathhau and/

RICHARD  
(overlapping)  
/and Jack Lemmon. Fuck you. I  
already own it. You think  
you're so hilarious, Michael.

MICHAEL  
I'm pretty funny.

RICHARD  
Not even a little bit.

SHELLY  
Stop it.

RICHARD

You're just an asshole.

MICHAEL

You know, there's a movie you'd really love with George Burns called Oh God cause when you watch it you'll go..

(he mimes jerking)

Oh God, oh God.

Shelly slams his hand down on the table.

SHELLY

Enough! Both of you! Stop.  
Come on, just stop. Please.

RICHARD

Your son really is an asshole.

MICHAEL

That's stepson, to you, Mister.

Shelly shoots him a look. All are silent.

SHELLY

Richard. I like you. I like you a lot. I like having fun with you...but my marriage days are behind me. I'm very flattered but...no...I'm really sorry...we are not getting married...not now...not ever...

MICHAEL

So what are you saying?

SHELLY

What am I saying?

RICHARD

What are you saying?

SHELLY

I just said it.

RICHARD  
Say it again.

SHELLY  
Did you not hear what I said?

RICHARD  
I think I heard you but I'm a  
little confused.

MICHAEL  
Say it slower, Dad.

SHELLY  
Shut up, Michael.

MICHAEL  
Maybe say it phonetically.

SHELLY  
Michael go to your room.

MICHAEL  
I'm 32.

SHELLY  
Please, Michael.

RICHARD  
No seriously, I'm really  
confused. Are you saying you  
don't feel what I feel.

SHELLY  
Richard, I like you so much.

RICHARD  
But...you don't love me?

SHELLY  
I don't know you.

RICHARD  
Then how do you know you don't  
love me if you don't know me?

MICHAEL

Wait, what?

SHELLY

What are you saying?

RICHARD

What am I saying?

SHELLY

What are you saying?

RICHARD

I just said it.

SHELLY

Say it again.

RICHARD

Did you not hear what I said?

SHELLY

I think I heard you but I'm a little confused.

MICHAEL

What did he say?

RICHARD

I said...

(big beat)

"how do you know you don't love me if you don't know me."

Everyone is stumped.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Oh my God, I think that actually makes sense.

SHELLY

"How do I know I don't love you if I don't know you?" I don't know. No one's ever asked me that before.

RICHARD

Love is faith, Shelly. A leap of faith. You have to listen to your gut. My gut tells me something is happening here. You don't feel that something's happening here? You don't feel it in your gut. Listen to your gut...don't push me away before you know me. What do you feel?

Long pause...

SHELLY

I feel...I feel...I feel like you're very young.

RICHARD

What do you mean you feel like I'm very young. I am very young. That's no secret. So what? How old were you when you met your wife?

SHELLY

I was 23.

RICHARD

And I'm 24.

MICHAEL

Can we not to talk about my Mom, right now?

RICHARD

I think you're afraid, Shelly. I think you're afraid of love. Because you're old. Your ego is gone. You don't think you deserve a hot guy like me.

MICHAEL

Did he really just say that?

RICHARD

You're closed off. You're afraid to feel so you put a wall around your heart.

MICHAEL

It's called cholesterol.

Shelly shoots him a look.

RICHARD

You think there's a catch here, or I'm gonna leave you, or I'm after your money...or, I don't know...you can't just be loved...for you...that's sad...you'd rather play cards with your friends or feed penguins or read a book than just be loved. You're always going, going, going and I'm right here in front of you...in love with you...and you don't even see it...you won't allow yourself to see it...I hope I never turn into you.

SHELLY

Richard. I am not afraid of love. I love many people...I love my life...I love my friends...I love my penguins...I love my books...I love my son...most of the time, I love my son...and I love my alone time...and I love the time you and I spend together...but I'm not in love with you...I love what we have but I don't want more...I'm sorry.

RICHARD

So you just want a fuck buddy?

SHELLY

No.

RICHARD

Yeah, you just want a fuckbuddy once a week? Is that it? I come over on Mondays, we eat dinner, we fuck and I go home?

SHELLY

No.

MICHAEL

That's what I want. Can I take Tuesdays.

RICHARD

Like father like son. I'm gonna take off.

SHELLY

Richard.

RICHARD

No. I get it. I'm gonna go. I was trying to be sincere here. I was trying to share something with you both. How I feel. But I'm just a joke to you guys. I'm sure you'll have a good laugh after I'm gone. I can hear it now, "something's not right with him. He's cute but he's pathetic." Enjoy making fun of me. Don't call me.

MICHAEL

So does that mean Tuesday's not happening?

RICHARD

Michael, trust me, you won't disrespect me when I'm your stepdad.

Richard leaves. Shelly and Michael sit in silence.

SHELLY AND MICHAEL  
(to each other)  
Something's not right with him.

MICHAEL  
He's cute...but...

SHELLY  
Don't say it.

RICHARD  
(whisper)  
...he's pathetic.

Blackout

Music Cue: Puppy Love by Paul Anka

Lights up

SCENE 15: PUPPY LOVE

Lights up

Guy enters with a bag of groceries. He puts them away. Takes out a bag of dog food. Opens it. Gets the dog bowl. Pours a bowl of food. Suddenly his "shirtless puppy" appears wearing a puppy play BDSM mask. Google it. The "puppy" is standing on two feet but acting like a dog with his paws up. He nuzzles Guy. Pretends to eat his food out of the bowl. It should not be overly cartoony, it should be funny but sincere.

Song ends.

There is a knock at the door.

Knock-knock-knock.

The puppy perks up and gets excited.

GUY  
(to puppy)  
Stay.

The puppy becomes still.

GUY (CONT'D)  
(to puppy)  
Sit.

The puppy sits. Guy goes to the door. He opens it slightly.

SHELLY  
Hey. Sorry to just drop in but  
I was coming home from Publix  
and I saw your car and...can I  
come in?

GUY  
Uhhhh...is it an emergency?

SHELLY  
Well...sort of.

GUY  
Oh...cause I'm sort of in the  
middle of something...you know  
what I mean?

SHELLY  
Are you having sex?

GUY  
(whispering)  
No...but...my puppy's here.

SHELLY  
Your puppy? I thought he ran  
away.

GUY  
I got a new one.

SHELLY

Well, are you and the new puppy  
having sex?

GUY

No.

SHELLY

So put him in his cage. I  
really need to talk to you.  
I'm very upset. I don't care  
if he listens...he doesn't know  
me...

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Ummm...ok...one sec.

Guy comes in.

GUY

(to puppy)  
Go to sleep, boy.

The puppy gets in a the doggy nap position and "goes  
to sleep".

GUY (CONT'D)

Good boy. Ok, come in. He's  
sleeping.

Shelly starts to pour wine.

SHELLY

He's cute. Is he really  
asleep? What's his name?

GUY

Fido.  
(beat)  
So, what are you upset about?

SHELLY

Where did you get him?

GUY

Petsmart.

SHELLY  
No seriously.

GUY  
Craigslislist.

SHELLY  
I'm serious where did you get  
him?

GUY  
I actually did get my last  
puppy off Craigslislist before  
they closed the personals  
section. Fucking Trump.

SHELLY  
So where did you get, "Fido"?

GUY  
I, um...actially...I uhh...I  
won him in a card game.

SHELLY  
Seriously?

GUY  
Sort of.

SHELLY  
That's kinda hot actually.  
Does he bite?

GUY  
Did you come to talk to me or  
play with the dog?

SHELLY  
Hey Fido, you're cute...who's a  
good doggy?

Shelly reaches out to pet him....

FIDO  
Grrrrrrrrrr.

Shelly is scared and amused. But he tries again.

FIDO (CONT'D)  
(more intense)  
Grrrrrrrrr.

GUY  
Wow, he must really hate you  
I've never seen him act like  
that. Fido, go back to sleep.

Fido goes back to sleep.

SHELLY  
Does he get along with other  
dogs?

GUY  
Apparently not.

SHELLY  
Fuck you.

GUY  
So what's up. Why are you  
depressed.

SHELLY  
I've been depressed for two  
weeks. I keep waiting for it  
to lift but...it's just  
stupid...but...

GUY  
Tell me.

SHELLY  
Remember that cute guy, that  
morning, from the card game, 3  
Card Stud, the naked guy, the  
milk drinker...cute kid but not  
too bright....

FIDO  
Grrrrrrrrrrr.

GUY

Fido. Down.

SHELLY

So after you guys left we started talking and he actually hit on me and, you won't believe this but he actually likes older guys. So we kissed and then we started seeing each other...

GUY

What?

SHELLY

I know...it was crazy...I thought it was silly. I was gonna tell you but I didn't want you guys to know about it. I was sort of embarrassed. He's 24 for Goddsake. It happened way too fast. After a week he was practically living at the house.

GUY

Wow. That is VERY interesting. Isn't that interesting...Fido?

SHELLY

Well it wasn't interestng...really...I mean it was, but...you know, he's just a kid...we ran out of things to talk about...I was getting bored...and he started to get really possessive...like a little puppy dog.

FIDO

Grrrrrrrrrrr.

SHELLY

No offense, Fido.

GUY

Down boy!

SHELLY

It was all too much...and just when I thought it was winding down he asked me to marry him.

GUY

What????

FIDO

(barks)

Ruff, ruff.

GUY

Bad dog. Go to your room!  
Now! Fido, go.

FIDO

(whimpers)

Mmmmmmm.....mmmmmmmm.....mmmmmmmm

Fido stays and Fido is nervous.

SHELLY

Anyway I finally told him it was basically over and he flipped out and told me I'm heartless and I'm in denial and I should be grateful that someone hot wants me. But I realized, I'm too old for all that nonsense. I thought I wanted it but I don't. I'm very content. I have my friends, I have my penguins, I have my books, I like my alone time. I guess I really hurt him but I've only known him a month and he wants to get married, *after a month*...I mean who does that???

GUY

Elizabeth Taylor.

SHELLY

Besides her.

GUY

Liza Minnelli.

SHELLY

Besides her.

GUY

Larry King.

SHELLY

Besides her.

GUY

Lesbians.

SHELLY

Besides them.

GUY

Shelly, it's actually not that weird. Fido and I talked about getting married. But Fido isn't housebroken...he lied to me...he told me he was fixed but now I worry he wants to fuck every old dog in the neighborhood.

SHELLY

Oh, he still has his balls? You gotta cut those off or they try to fuck everyone and everything.

FIDO

Yelp.

GUY

Fido, do I need to cut your balls off...Fido?

FIDO  
 (whimpers)  
 Mmmmmmm...mmmmmm...mmmmmm.

He starts to shake like a little scared chihuahua.

SHELLY  
 Oh, you're scaring him.

GUY  
 Or maybe I should just put a  
 micro chip in him so I know  
 where he is all the time. What  
 do you think about that, Fido?

Fido, tilts his head to the side as if he's confused.

GUY (CONT'D)  
 Don't act confused. You heard  
 me.

SHELLY  
 Oh my God. He's just like  
 Richard.

GUY  
 Who?

SHELLY  
 Richard, the stud, from 3 Card  
 Stud, the milkman...

GUY  
 Oh, yes, I forgot his name.

SHELLY  
 Whenever I'd say something he  
 didn't like he'd act confused.  
 It got really old.

FIDO  
 Grrrrrrrrrrrr.

GUY  
 Wow, he really doesn't like  
 you.

SHELLY

Are you sure he's a male dog  
cause he's acting like a bitch.

Shelly laughs at his own joke.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Now that's funny.

Knock-knock-knock.

FIDO

(realistic barking)  
Ruff. Ruff. Ruff.

SHELLY

You having a party?

FIDO

(realstic barking)  
Ruff, ruff, ruff.

GUY

I'll get it. Can you put him  
on the patio?

Shelly goes and grabs Fido and slides out a screen door from the side. Fido stands behind the glass or screen and watches. Bill enters.

BILL

You guys playing cards behind  
my back. I was coming home  
from Publix and I saw Shelly's  
car outside.

Shelly comes back from the patio.

SHELLY

Hey, Bill. How you been?

BILL

I'm a mess. I really need to  
talk...I need some wine...I  
need my friends...

GUY

What's going on?

BILL

Okay, I started seeing this guy...he's so hot...but he's a handful...I'm worn out...he's way too young for me and ever since I met him my blood pressure is way up...I can't keep up with him...I finally tried to end it and when I was about to tell him he asked me to marry him. I've only known this kid a month but it's crazy...I can't keep seeing him...I'm gonna overdose on viagra or have a heart attack in the middle of sex. It's never enough for him. I'm not a sex machine. And you know the older you get your asshole doesn't just snap back after two hours of fucking. I had to start wearing thicker depends. I gotta be careful. He was literally killing me. So I finally ended it. And he was so mad at me. And I'm so stressed. I need a drink.

GUY

Coming up.

Guy starts to pour wine.

Suddenly, Fido starts pawing at the glass frantically.

BILL

Oh, you got a new dog? Cute.  
What is he?

GUY

A mutt. And he's been a bad boy so I put him outside.

(MORE)

GUY (CONT'D)  
Just ignore him. He's been a  
very bad boy.

They turn their back on him.

FIDO  
(realistic barking)  
Ruff. Ruff.

GUY  
Come on, let's go in the den.  
I need to hear more about your  
gentleman caller. What's his  
name.

BILL  
Oh, it's not important.

GUY  
Oh, I think his name is very  
important.

They all go off.

Music Cue: Hound Dog

Fido stares forward thru glass. Stops pawing. Stops  
acting like a dog. Slides the glass open. Enters  
sits. Thinks.

Music fades out.

Richard slowly removes the puppy mask. He is sad.  
Dejected. A little scared. The game is over.

Slowly the men re-enter. They are shocked but also  
amused. They are too old for drama, but still, it's  
a weird situation. They all stare at Richard who  
looks down, embarrassed. He can not face them.

SHELLY  
Richard.

Finally, Richard looks up at Shelly.

BILL

Dick?

Richard looks at Bill.

GUY

Fido.

Richard looks at Guy.

GUY (CONT'D)

You two-timing dog.

RICHARD

I'm sorry.

BILL

You asked me to marry you?

SHELLY

You asked ME to marry you.

GUY

You peed on my rug. Then you asked me to marry you.

SHELLY

Richard, this is insane. How many elderly men in Wilton Manors have you asked to marry you this month?

RICHARD

8. And one in Plantation. So I guess 9.

They look at each other in shock.

SHELLY

9??? Which number was I? No don't tell me.

GUY

9???

RICHARD

No. I'm sorry. 10. I forgot  
one in Coral Springs. 10. I  
like round numbers.

BILL

10????? Why not get a Bakers  
Dozen?

GUY

This is crazy...Richard...what  
are you like...a Mormon?

Silence. No response. The men look at each other.  
Richard still doesn't say anything.

SHELLY

Richard? Really? Are you  
Mormon?

Richard, looks up at them as if he's really been  
found out now.

BILL

Richard? Are you actually a  
Mormon.

Guy, Richard and Shelly realize they may be on to  
something.

GUY

Oh, God no.

SHELLY

You're scaring us.

BILL

He's a Mormon.

GUY

Richard? Where were you born?

SHELLY

Richard?

GUY

Fido, where were you born?

RICHARD

(embarrassed)

Utah.

All three men are in shock, they look at each other.

SHELLY

Oh my God, we're Sister Wives.

GUY

Richard, are you really a Mormon?

RICHARD

I was. I'm not now. But I was. Well not total Mormon. Only a few Mormons practice polygamy now..it's like an off-shoot...but yes, I grew up with 6 Moms. My Dad was so happy. I just wanted what my Dad had.

BILL

Oh my God.

SHELLY

I need another drink.

GUY

I'm in shock.

SHELLY

Were you really gonna try and marry us all???

RICHARD

No. I don't know. Maybe. No. Probably. Yes. Of course not. I just liked the feeling. I like the feeling. It felt like home to me. When I came out my family disowned me. So I said fuck 'em.

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

I'm moving to the gayest place  
in the country...with  
affordable housing.

SHELLY

So not San Francisco.

GUY

And not New York.

BILL

Probably not West Hollywood,  
either.

SHELLY

Welcome to Wilton Manors.

RICHARD

Oakland Park, actually.

SHELLY

Oakland Park. Only in South  
Florida can you live in a gay  
ghetto that is actually a  
ghetto.

RICHARD

I drove here with nothing.  
Just a few hundred bucks. I  
slept in my car for the first  
few months but I hung out on  
The Drive...and I felt like I  
was home....but I didn't know  
anyone...I started meeting  
people fast...I met you guys  
the third week I was here...and  
when I saw you all playing  
cards...3 Card Stud...my  
Grandpa use to play 3 Card Stud  
with my Uncles...I just felt a  
connection...I didn't think you  
guys would actually  
call...but...it all just  
happened so fast...I didn't  
even know what BDSM was til I  
met Guy.

SHELLY

Congrats, Guy, you turned  
another one to the dark side.

GUY

Luke, I am your Father.

RICHARD

I'm gonna go. I'm sorry.

SHELLY

Richard, hold on. Sit down.  
Come here. I understand. I  
do.

They all sit at the table.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

(gently)

You're a love addict.

(empathetic.)

You're addicted to love.

BILL

(sincere)

You're a Robert Palmer song.

GUY

I went thru a time like that  
back in Vegas. I was  
searching. I was desperate for  
connection. And money. So I  
started hustling. I was  
confused. Like you. I was  
looking for love in all the  
wrong places.

BILL

Like Dinah Shore's vagina?

SHELLY

The point is you don't have to  
get married to find love. I  
love these guys as much as I  
love anyone. Sex comes and  
goes.

(MORE)

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Marriage is unpredictable. But these guys. This is my family. My friends are my family. Your family disowned you but you can build another family here in Florida without marrying every guy in Ft. Lauderdale.

BILL

You don't have to be married to be loved or to have a family.

GUY

You have a lot of time to find Mr. Right. There's no rush. First you need friends, Richard. The average marriage lasts about 7 years but friends are forever.

BILL

And look you found three already.

RICHARD

So you guys don't hate me?

SHELLY

No.

BILL

No.

GUY

A little. You owe me a rug.

RICHARD

You guys really want to be friends?

GUY, SHELLY AND BILL

Yes!!!!!!! Exactly, that's the point. That's what we're saying. So much easier.

RICHARD  
Friends with benefits?

Bill raises his hand.

SHELLY  
No!  
(beat)  
Maybe.

BILL  
I'll take Tuesdays!

SHELLY  
I'll take Sundays.

GUY  
Every Monday, you and me at the  
dog park!

SHELLY  
No, no, no. No more sex. You  
don't fuck your friends. You  
love your friends and you fuck  
strangers. That's what  
strangers are for. You don't  
fuck your friends and you don't  
fall in love with strangers.  
But maybe one day you and that  
stranger won't be strangers  
anymore and after you get to  
know each other over a very  
long time...maybe...MAYBE  
something'll happen. Maybe.  
But don't rush into it. Take  
your time. You're so young.  
And in the mean time. You've  
got three new friends.

Michael bursts in.

MICHAEL  
Dad, are you here?

GUY  
Four friends.

SHELLY  
3 and half.

MICHAEL  
What's going on, I was driving  
home from Publix and I saw all  
your cars but...

SHELLY  
We're about to play cards. You  
want to join us. Here, come  
sit next to your stepdad.

They all sit around the round table center stage.

MICHAEL  
Hey, Dad.

RICHARD  
Hey, son.

MICHAEL  
Are we joking?

SHELLY  
We'll explain later. Gentlemen.  
The game is 3 Card Stud.

He deals the cards. They all take their cards and  
look at them for a while. No one says anything.  
Finally.

SHELLY (CONT'D)  
I got nothing.

GUY  
I got nothing.

BILL  
I got nothing.

They all look at Richard. Richard looks at the three  
older men who are on his right.

RICHARD  
I got three Queens...

Then he looks at Michael who is the only one on his left.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

And an Ace.

He winks at Michael. Takes one last look at the guys.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

I win!

They all laugh.

Music cue: Blue Skies

Fade to black as they continue to play the game.

The stage is black by the 6 second mark...lights up on the first lyric of Blue Skies.

Curtain call.

Music plays as the audience leaves.