

SPEC SCRIPT FOR "CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM"

"Fantastic Dad"

Written by

Mariia Rudenko

FADE IN:

INT. KOI LOS ANGELES RESTAURANT - NIGHT

LARRY and TINA are in a fancy restaurant with calm classical music and dim light. Tina is in her fifties, good-looking, dressed up casually, with taste.

LARRY

They say to impress a woman a gesture is needed.

TINA

So where is your gesture?

LARRY

(looking around)  
This! A ridiculously expensive restaurant!

Tina laughs. They open menus. Larry frowns.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Do you understand anything?

TINA

Not a word!

Larry waves to WAITER. Waiter comes to their table.

WAITER

Are you ready to order, sir?

TINA

We would if your menu was in English.

WAITER

It is, ma'am.

TINA

Really? What's "miso infused spinach with gorgonzola syrup"?

WAITER

It's spinach that...

Larry waves his hands at him.

LARRY

Okay okay! Just bring us the best thing you have!

Waiter nods, leaves. Tina looks at Larry with adoration.

TINA

You're a risky man, Larry.

LARRY

As Marty Funkhouser once said,  
"let's live it up"!

Larry raises his glass with wine. Tina raises hers.

LARRY (CONT'D)

To living it up in a wonderful  
company of my new beautiful  
neighbor!

Larry and Tina clink glasses, sip wine.

LARRY (CONT'D)

By the way, I once again apologize  
that my groceries were delivered to  
you by mistake.

Tina smiles, takes Larry's hand.

TINA

That surprise was nice, as it led  
me to you.

Larry smiles back.

LARRY

Pretty, pretty, pretty good  
coincidence.

Tina comes back to her glass of wine, looks away.

TINA

But I have a confession to make. I  
ate your raspberry jam.

Larry stares at her, raises his eyebrows.

LARRY

You ate my jam?

TINA

I couldn't help it! Granny's Garden  
is my favorite brand!

LARRY

No way! I yelled at the grocery  
shop manager for including it in  
the bill and not delivering it!

Tina again takes Larry's hand, looks into his eyes.

TINA  
I promise, I'll pay you back!

LARRY  
Really?

The intimate moment is interrupted by WAITER, who brings food, puts dishes in front of Tina and Larry. Larry notices an unpleasant smell.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
What stinks?

Tina smells food on her plate, moves away.

TINA  
God! It's our food!

Larry checks his plate, his face contorts.

LARRY  
What the fuck is that?!

TINA  
Maybe it's like Swiss cheese? The smell is awful, but it tastes good.

LARRY  
Meh.. Let's see.

Both dig in, cut a piece, start chewing. Larry grimaces in disgust, makes an effort to swallow it, moves his plate away. Tina spits her piece into a napkin.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
It's just disgusting.

TINA  
The fish went bad!

Larry waves to the Waiter. Waiter comes.

LARRY  
I asked you to bring the best thing you have.

WAITER  
I did, sir.

LARRY  
It's a rotten fish!

WAITER

It's a fermented Baltic Sea herring  
on a bruschetta with a strawberry  
coulis topping.

Larry cringes in disgust.

LARRY

Fermented fish and strawberry? Are  
you insane?

WAITER

It's the best we have today.

TINA

You had to warn us!

LARRY

It costs \$95.99 for god's sake!

Waiter shows zero emotions, shrugs.

WAITER

People like it.

TINA

And no one complained?

WAITER

No one. In fact Ted Danson ordered  
it few times already.

LARRY

Ted Danson? He's just an old  
pretentious snob.

Larry moves his plate closer to Waiter.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Try it!

WAITER

No, thank you, sir.

Waiter frowns at the foul smell.

LARRY

I'll tip 100% if you try!

WAITER

(covering their nose)  
I can't.

LARRY  
Take it away!

Waiter grabs the plate and hurries away.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
(to Tina)  
Can you believe it?

TINA  
Right?! I thought the best thing  
they have would be a giant lobster  
or something!  
(looking around)  
Maybe that's why we're the only  
people here. Everyone else got  
poisoning.

Suddenly restaurant's staff turns the bright lights on.  
Waiter puts bill on the table.

LARRY  
What is going on? Why the lights  
are on?

TINA  
The worst dining experience ever!

WAITER  
We're closing... for you!

LARRY  
For us?

WAITER  
Yes. You're banned! Our chef's  
feelings are hurt.

Larry loudly laughs.

LARRY  
Get out of here! My stomach is  
hurt! I'll send your chef the bill  
from my gastroenterologist!

Larry puts cash on the bill.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
And here's your zero percent tip.  
How about that?!  
(to Tina)  
Let's go from this shithole.

Larry and Tina go to the exit.

WAITER  
 Hope, you'll get diarrhea.

INT. LARRY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Larry and Tina are on the couch making out.

MAX (O.S.)  
 Daddy!

Larry is startled and stunned. MAX is going across the living room right at him. He's in his 30s, looks very fit, wears slim jeans, a t-shirt so tight, his six-pack abs show through it, and a hipster style hat. Larry tries to dodge, but Max gives him a tight hug.

MAX (CONT'D)  
 Finally I have a dad!

Larry pushes him away, yells.

LARRY  
 Who the fuck are you?! Get out of here! It's a private property!

TINA  
 Larry, wait!

LEON storms into the living room holding baseball bat.

LEON  
 What happened?

Leon notices Max, jumps to him. Tina stands between them.

TINA  
 Stop! He's with me!

LEON  
 (to Tina)  
 Who the hell are you?  
 (to Larry)  
 Who are these people?

LARRY  
 I have no idea!

Leon grabs the bat again.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
 I mean  
 (pointing at Tina)  
 Tina is my date.

Leon changes in face, examines Tina.

LEON  
I apologize, madame.

LARRY  
(pointing at Max)  
But this one is some crazy guy from  
the street.

Leon grabs his bat once again.

MAX	TINA
(to Larry)	He's my son!
I'm your son!	

Larry and Leon look at each other confused.

LARRY	LEON
What?	What?

Tina comes to Max, hugs him.

TINA  
This is my son Max. I told you  
about him. He's a bit eccentric.  
(lowering her voice,  
discretely)  
He has a condition.

Larry looks at Tina with a question in his eyes.

TINA (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
He has ADHD. And he always dreamed  
of having a real dad.

Max hugs Larry again. Larry pushes him away.

LARRY  
Don't you touch me!  
(to Tina)  
What do I have to do with it?

LEON  
(rolling his eyes)  
Okay. I'm outta here.

Leon leaves.

LARRY  
How does he know we're here?



TINA

I told him!

MAX

Of course! We tell everything to each other. I always know where mommy is.

Larry flops down on the sofa.

LARRY

This is ridiculous.

TINA

We're very close with Max. He's a good boy. You'll see.

LARRY

I don't wanna see or know your good boy!

Tina sits next to Larry.

TINA

Please, give him a chance.

Larry wants to say something in a protesting movement.

MAX

Mommy, we gotta go. You promised me to watch Avatar 2. I already made popcorn!

Tina quickly stands up from the couch.

TINA

Yes yes, I promised. And it's always important to keep a word given to your kid.

LARRY

Kid? Are you joking?

Tina kisses Larry's forehead.

TINA

See you, Larry.

MAX

See you, dad.

LARRY

I'm not your dad!

Door closes behind Tina and Max. Larry sits with sour face.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
Weirdos.

INT. LARRY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Leon puts jam on a toast. Larry sits at a table, eats cereal.

LEON  
Tapped that ass?

LARRY  
Nah. No one tapped anything. She went home with her clown son.

Leon shrugs, bites his toast.

LEON  
Gonna tap that ass?

Larry puts empty bowl into the sink.

LARRY  
I don't know. She's gorgeous.

LEON  
Fucking yeah she is.

LARRY  
Very smart. And hates people just like I do.

LEON  
Ideal!

Larry pours coffee.

LARRY  
But it's a freak show! She is totally okay with her idiot son calling me daddy. What the hell?

Leon keeps chewing his toast.

LEON  
She's hot. You're old.

Larry shrugs, nods.

LEON (CONT'D)  
Sometimes you gotta suck it up and go an extra mile to tap that ass.

INT. 71ABOVE RESTAURANT - DAY

Larry walks in, notices Tina and Max at a table, who are already in the middle of lunch. Larry's face expression shifts from happy to disappointed. He comes to their table.

LARRY  
(sitting on a chair,  
pointing at Max)  
What is he doing here? I thought it  
was a date.

TINA  
Max insisted on joining. He's such  
a big fan of yours!

Larry rolls his eyes, opens menu.

MAX  
We were just remembering Leslie  
Richards. I dated her. Not too  
smart, but pretty good at arts.

Larry is yawning.

TINA  
Oh right! Leslie! I liked her. Too  
bad it didn't work out.

Max devours steak from his plate.

MAX  
Well, yeah... She said she was  
looking for better options.

LARRY  
I bet.

TINA  
What?

LARRY  
(to Max)  
So have you ever worked?

Max empties his glass of Margherita.

MAX  
You mean for money? No. It's not my  
thing. I'm looking for something  
that matters.

TINA

He's a very spiritual person. He wouldn't do something just out of greed.

Larry shrugs.

LARRY

But he needs to pay for food.  
(to Max)  
Will you pay for this lunch, champ?

Max is choosing a dessert from the menu.

MAX

Why would I if I finally have my dad?

LARRY

I'm not your dad. I hate kids. I never want kids. Especially grown men who can't pay for their lunch.

Tina puts her hand on Larry's shoulder.

TINA

(to Max)  
Larry doesn't mean it.

LARRY

Of course I mean it!  
(to Tina)  
You spoiled your son. I don't remember when my parents paid for my steak.  
(to Max)  
I started working in our local grocery shop to be able to take Sophie Smith to a date!

Max listens to Larry with empathy.

MAX

Poor dad. Your talent probably wasn't as obvious as mine. No shame in that!

Larry frowns.

LARRY

Shame? Talent? Are you both laughing at me?

Tina's eyes sparkle with an idea.

TINA

Larry hasn't seen your work yet.

MAX

Right! Daddy! Guess what I have for you!

Larry is bored, makes a sign to their Waiter.

LARRY

I am not your daddy!

MAX

I wrote a screenplay!

LARRY

(indifferent)  
Of course you did.

Max fishes out a thick screenplay from his backpack, puts it in front of Larry.

MAX

It's my memoir about my way to Hollywood. It was a hard one.

Larry laughs.

LARRY

Your memoir? What are you? 30?

MAX

(offended)  
Yes. So? My path had many obstacles!

TINA

He's been through a lot, Larry!

MAX

Yes, I was. I have ADHD, you know. Life's been tough on me.

Larry rolls his eyes, makes impatient sign to their Waiter.

LARRY

Please! What have you been through?

MAX

(with breaking voice)  
Aaron Sorkin didn't like my script.

Larry is stunned.

LARRY

How did you get Aaron to read your script?

TINA

Oh, not important. He's an old friend of mine.

Tina takes Larry's hand, looks into his eyes.

TINA (CONT'D)

Would you find time to read Fabulous Max?

LARRY

Fabulous Max?

MAX

Yes! It's my script's name.

LARRY

Oh dear God.

TINA

Please Larry. It would mean a world to me. And to Max.

Max takes another Larry's hand, looks into his eyes.

MAX

Yes. Please daddy.

Larry is disgusted, pulls both of his hands away.

LARRY

One more time. Don't you dad me! Where's your real dad, by the way?

Max gets emotional, his chin shakes.

MAX

He's dead for me! He cut me off, because that monster is motivated purely by greed.

Tina, sits closer to Max, hugs him, Max starts sobbing.

LARRY

(nearly laughing)

Oh I understand that poor man.

Tina throws a "shame on you" look at Larry.

TINA

Larry, please. Will you read his screenplay?

LARRY

Jesus. Okay. I'll read it.

Max wipes his tears off, makes a win move.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to Tina)

But only for you.

(to Max)

And don't call me daddy. Ever.

INT. LARRY'S OFFICE - DAY

Larry sits at his desk, reads Max's screenplay. He's rubbing his eyes, not to fall asleep, sighs, and yawns.

LARRY

Oh boy, this is horrible.

INT. LARRY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Larry's on the couch snoring. Screenplay is on the floor.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Larry is at a table, torture on his face, keeps reading Fantastic Max. He sips coffee, winces at the terrible taste.

LARRY

It's just as bad as this read.

Larry turns the last page, finishes reading, drops his head on his hands, starts crying.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Oh my god, what was this crap?

Waitress ZINA comes to his table with unhappy face. Her nose is pierced. She wears a super mini skirt, has pink hair.

ZINA

Sir? Can you cry quieter? You're scaring our clients.

LARRY

Your shitty coffee scares them away.

ZINA

Do you have a complaint?

LARRY

Yes, I actually do. Your coffee tastes like piss. And I wish your skirt were longer, so that I couldn't see your underwear!

Zina is shocked, pulls the skirt down to make it longer.

ZINA

Are you look shaming me?!

LARRY

No! I am underwear shaming you! I don't want it next to my drinks!

Zina is appalled, goes away. Larry still sobs a bit, pushes the screenplay away. MARCOS comes into the coffee shop, notices Larry. He's wearing a classic suit with a tie.

MARCOS

(seeing Larry)

Hello, my old friend L.D.

(noticing Larry's tears)

Are you crying?

Marcos takes Fantastic Max from Larry's table.

MARCOS (CONT'D)

Were you weeping over a screenplay? Is it good? Because if it is, you must share it with me! I'm a producer now, hunting for talents.

Larry slightly smiles.

LARRY

You don't say?

MARCOS

And you thought making tacos was the only thing I was good at?

Larry shrugs. Marcos looks at the screenplay's front page.

MARCOS (CONT'D)

So is Fantastic Max good?



LARRY

Yes, yes, it's actually very good. It touched me so much, I will need to go to some yoga retreat to spend few days away from people and rethink my life choices.

Marcos is turning screenplay's pages.

MARCOS

Really?

LARRY

Oh yeah. 300 pages of joy, deep senses and revelations.

Marcos sits next to Larry, grabs his arm.

MARCOS

Let me read it!

Larry artificially hesitates.

LARRY

I don't know. The author is in a very high demand. Even Aaron Sorkin read it. You don't have a chance.

Marcos' eyes sparkle.

MARCOS

Please! For old times' sake.

LARRY

What the hell! Okay. Take it.

Marcos grabs Larry's face and kisses both his cheeks. Larry pushes him away.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Please. Just take it and go!

Marcos leaves, screenplay in hands. Larry laughs, notices Zina watching him. She's already wearing pants.

ZINA

You hated the screenplay.

Larry points at her pants.

LARRY

You changed into pants.

Both Zina and Larry are making "I'm watching you" gesture.

INT. SUSIE'S CATCH AS CAFTAN SHOW ROOM - NIGHT

Larry comes to Susie's show room where she's having her new clothes collection opening. Guests, champagne in hands, mingle. Bright colored clothes on hangers are everywhere. Larry notices Susie, dressed in something bright and feathery, and Jeff talking to Marcos. Larry comes closer.

LARRY

Well hello, good people!

(to Susie)

I see a lot of classy outfits here!

Congratulations on your new

collection!

Susie doesn't get the sarcasm.

SUSIE

Thank you, Lar.

MARCOS

What a luck to catch you again!

LARRY

Second time in two days!

JEFF

Marcos is a big fan of Susie's shop.

LARRY

(with irony)

Marcos can spot a talent.

MARCOS

Thank you, man.

Marcos hugs Susie, kisses her cheek.

MARCOS (CONT'D)

She's a star!

(to Larry)

Thank you for your trust, brother.

I started reading "Fantastic Max".

It's something out of this world.

Couldn't hold back my tears.

LARRY

(giggling)

I knew you'd appreciate.

MARCOS

I'll go mingle. Producing is not an easy job. Gotta talk to people.

Marcos leaves.

JEFF  
What Fantastic Max?

LARRY  
Meh.. you don't wanna know. It's  
Tina's son's script.

Susie looks attentively and with a bit of disgust at Larry.

SUSIE  
That new neighbor of yours? You  
look like shit, Lar. What happened  
to you?

LARRY  
Didn't really sleep. Was reading  
that screenplay.

SUSIE  
Wow, you must really like her to  
agree to do something nice for  
another human being.

LARRY  
She's hot.

SUSIE  
Yeah, absolutely out of your  
league.

JEFF  
Good read?

LARRY  
Hideous! Just like her retarded  
ADHD son.

Susie is appalled.

SUSIE  
How dare you call someone with ADHD  
retarded?! It's inappropriate.

LARRY  
Oh give me a break. It's not even a  
thing! Most people nowadays have  
ADHD! I have ADHD! You most  
certainly have ADHD!  
(mimicking Tina)  
"He has a condition!" Condition!  
Nowadays every goddamn person has a  
condition!

Jeff discretely giggles.

SUSIE

Shut up, Larry! You're just a grumpy old fuck, who has zero knowledge about mental illnesses!

Larry laughs.

LARRY

Mental illnesses? He's just a parasite, who's never worked a day in his life. He likes watching Avatar with his mommy!

SUSIE

What's wrong with Avatar?

LARRY

Everything! AI could write it!

SUSIE

What?

JEFF

Artificial intelligence.

Susie waves at Larry.

SUSIE

Oh shut up. Avatar is a masterpiece!

Larry loudly laughs.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

And don't be so quick to judge that boy. You weren't a big fan of Sammy's singing, remember?

LARRY

I'm still not really.

Jeff winks at Larry in an "agree" sign the way Susie doesn't see it.

JEFF

How dare you?! Sammy is one of a kind! If she wasn't talented I would never pay a fortune for her Music school!

SUSIE

You have no idea what real genius  
is!

Larry waves at them.

LARRY

Get out of here! Look around! That  
screenplay is just as awful as this  
new collection of yours!

Jeff discretely laughs. Susie grabs some dress from a hanger  
and starts hitting Larry with it.

SUSIE

Get the fuck out of my shop you  
bald fuck!

LARRY

Okay.

Walking away Larry sees Zina watching the whole scene. She is  
dressed as a waitress.

LARRY (CONT'D)

You again! What are you doing here?

Zina giggles.

ZINA

Mrs. Greene hired me after visiting  
our coffee shop!

LARRY

Really?

ZINA

She loved our coffee and my style!

LARRY

(slightly laughs)  
Bummer!

Larry takes champagne from Zina's tray, sips, frowns, puts  
the glass back.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Sour crap.

Zina watches Larry with interest.

ZINA

I was right. You hate that script!

LARRY  
Pardon me?

ZINA  
The script you cried over.

Larry rolls his eyes, moves Zina from the way, leaves.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

Larry hits a ball with a golf club and misses.

JEFF  
Not your day.

LARRY  
Yeah, I'm done.

Larry and Jeff sit on a bench. A golf cart with CHERYL and TED DANSON passes by. They notice Larry and Jeff, stop.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
(surprised)  
What the hell? You never played  
golf!

Ted and Cheryl get out of the cart. Ted Danson shrugs.

TED DANSON  
I like trying new things.

CHERYL  
By the way, I saw Maria-Sofia. She  
said Marcos was now producing a  
screenplay you had given him.

LARRY  
(grunts)  
I bet he does.

CHERYL  
She'll play Susanna! Were you  
planning to tell me about it? You  
know I'm an actress, right?

Larry is genuinely stunned, starts laughing.

LARRY  
She'll play Max's love interest?  
It's a perfect role for her!

TED DANSON  
You could let us know. We're old  
friends after all.

Larry and Jeff start laughing together.

LARRY  
(to Ted)  
First of all, you're not my friend.  
(to Cheryl)  
Second of all it's a tacky  
talentless 300 pages read written  
by a son of my girlfriend. She  
asked me to look at it as a favor.

CHERYL  
Why did you give it to Marcos then?

LARRY  
Because I hate him! Him and his  
retarded daughter!

Cheryl looks appalled, strictly points at Larry.

CHERYL  
You can't say this word!

LARRY  
Of course I can! You forgot Maria-  
Sofia beating the shit out of you  
two when she thought you stole her  
jacket?

JEFF  
(laughs)  
Right! I forgot about the jacket.  
Let alone Marcos blackmailing Larry  
to get a role for Maria-Sofia.

Ted Danson slightly smiles, gets back into the golf cart.

TED DANSON  
What will you do? Showbiz.

Cheryl gets into the golf cart.

CHERYL  
It doesn't matter anyway. Marcos  
promised me the role of Max's mom.

TED DANSON  
I'm gonna play Aaron Sorkin.

Larry is stunned, laughs even harder.

LARRY

Oh my God! I must be dreaming. Are you out of your mind?! Marcos will never find financing for this shit show!

CHERYL

He already did! Les McCrabb agreed to work on it.

Jeff laughs. Larry flops down on the bench.

LARRY

Les McCrabb?! Don't you care at all what people to work with?!

TED DANSON

Well. I'm too old to care. I like trying new things.

Golf cart with Ted Danson and Cheryl is slowly driving away.

LARRY

(screaming to Ted)  
You ARE too old! Keep ordering rotten fish!

TED DANSON

(turning his head)  
What? I never ordered rotten fish.

LARRY

(screams)  
In a KOI fucking restaurant you moron!

TED DANSON

Fuck you, Larry!

Golf cart drives away.

EXT. STREET NEAR LARRY'S OFFICE - DAY

Larry walks out of his office, notices Max, Maria-Sofia and Marcos giving interview to few reporters and operators with cameras.

REPORTER

(into the camera)  
We're here at the production office of Larry David, who found a new brilliant writer Maximo Mancini.



Larry tries to hide, but Max notices him.

MAX  
 Hey, dad! Come here!  
 (to reporters)  
 This is my dad Larry David!

Everyone turns to Larry. Max drags him in front of the cameras.

REPORTER  
 Larry David has a son?!

MAX  
 Without dad I would never be able to find such a remarkable producer and a lead actress! Having my ADHD condition it's hard to get noticed without help.

Reporters and Operators are looking at Max with sympathy. Larry rolls his eyes, moves away from Max.

LARRY  
 Are you stalking me? What's all this?

Marcos starts laughing, everyone joins him.

MARCOS  
 (smiling into cameras)  
 Just a small surprise for my brother. I decided to give an exclusive interview about Larry David's new project "Fantastic Max".

LARRY  
 It's not my project!  
 (pointing at Max)  
 And I'm not his dad! I don't have kids and never plan to! It's an official statement!

Reporter makes a sign to Operator to focus on Larry.

REPORTER  
 So Maximo Mancini is not your biological son?

LARRY  
 Of course not! This is just a grownup man trying to use me to sell his screenplay.

Everyone takes it for a joke, laughs.

MAX

I definitely inherited your sense of humor, daddy!

LARRY

I met your mom a month ago! I don't even know your middle name!

Everyone laughs even harder.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Why are you all laughing?

MARCOS

Come on, brother. Don't fight it. You discovered a superstar! Take your win!

REPORTER

Mr. Estrada is right. First you found Maria-Sofia, now Mr. Mancini. Have you thought of opening a talent agency, Larry?

LARRY

That's it. You are tiring me.

Everyone laughs. Larry rolls his eyes.

MARIA-SOFIA

I just want to say one thing. We're honored to meet your son, Larry.

Marcos hugs Maria-Sofia.

MARCOS

Children are indeed more talented than their parents. Soon you'll see it in "Fantastic Max".

REPORTER

We wish you best of luck, Mr. Estrada!

LARRY

He's not my son!

Everyone laughs again. Larry goes away.

INT. TINA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Tina and Larry are sitting on a couch holding glasses with wine.

LARRY

Thank you for inviting me to dinner.

TINA

This is the least I can do for a person helping my son with his career.

Larry doesn't fight it as he likes being a hero.

LARRY

I'm just trying to be a decent man.

Larry and Tina clink glasses, sip wine.

TINA

I think we should take a trip to lake Tahoe.

LARRY

Why not? Just two of us.

TINA

Just two of us.

Tina moves closer to Larry looking for a kiss. Suddenly Max and Zina come. Max is wearing pants as short as his ankles, socks with Playboy sign and a leopard printed shirt over a tight t-shirt. Zina is in a very bright pink dress. Larry unhappily sighs, then sees Zina. He's shocked. Zina victoriously looks at Larry.

MAX

Dad, mom! We're home. Please meet my girlfriend Zina.

Tina stands up from the couch, goes to greet Zina.

TINA

Welcome, dear. Nice to meet you.

ZINA

Delighted to be here! I heard so much of you, Mrs. Mancini.

(looking at Larry)

And you...

Larry discretely signals to Zina to not tell them anything.

ZINA (CONT'D)  
(playing along)  
Mr. David? Am I right?

Larry nods, exhales with relief.

LARRY  
How did you two meet?

MAX  
At Mrs. Greene's shop! I love her  
new collection! Zina helped me with  
this exact outfit.

Max spins around to show his outfit.

LARRY  
(to Zina)  
So you work at Susie's shop now.

ZINA  
Yes, I do. And I also know  
everything about Max's genius  
screenplay!

LARRY  
No shit.

Tina waves to everyone.

TINA  
Dinner's ready. Come to the table.

Everyone moves to the dining area. Larry signals to Zina to  
slow down.

LARRY  
Thanks for not saying anything.

ZINA  
Saying what?

LARRY  
Good. Keep it this way.

ZINA  
(after a moment of  
thinking)  
No problem. 1000 bucks.

Larry is appalled. He whisper-screams.

LARRY  
What?!

ZINA

I also heard you called Max retarded. Shame on you! He has a condition!

LARRY

Fuck. It's not a condition! Okay. I'll write you a check.

Zina extends her hand waiting for the check. Larry discretely writes a check, gives it to Zina. She hides it in her bra, wants to turn around to leave, but stops.

ZINA

And a role of Susanna in Fantastic Max! I'm an actress after all!

LARRY

What a quick career growth! Coffee shop waitress, Susie's sales assistant, and now an actress? Biting off more than you can chew?

ZINA

Okay then.

Zina turns to go join Max and Tina. Larry grabs her elbow.

LARRY

Wait. Okay okay. I'll see what I can do. But this role is already Maria-Sofia's.

ZINA

Your problem!

LARRY

Ask your boyfriend!

ZINA

I'm an independent woman! I'll never ask a man for a job.

LARRY

Oh my God! Okay. Fine. I'll talk to Marcos.

TINA (O.S.)

Larry, Zina, dinner's on the table!

ZINA

(in a sweet voice)  
Coming, Mrs. Mancini!

Zina hurries to the table. Larry also goes dragging his feet.

INT. MARCOS' OFFICE - DAY

Larry comes to Marco's office. There's a huge portrait of Maria-Sofia on the wall and pictures of Marcos shaking hands with Hollywood people: Ted Danson and Cheryl, Les McCrabb, streaming services executives etc. Marcos stands up from behind his desk, comes to Larry with his arms wide open.

MARCOS

My friend L.D.! What can I do for you? Please come, sit.

Larry looks around.

LARRY

Look at you. It's like a godfather's office. Important people on the walls, a lot of gold.

Marcos sits in his armchair, smiles.

MARCOS

Only the best for the family!

LARRY

You bet.

MARCOS

What brought you here? I'll do anything for my brother.

LARRY

It's quick. I have a perfect fit for the role of Susanna!

Marcos waves his hands.

MARCOS

No, no, no! That I can't do. It belongs to Maria-Sofia.

LARRY

Hear me out. I've been in this business for decades. Believe me, it's a horrible role for your daughter.

MARCOS

Why?

LARRY

Just trust me. It'll ruin her career. Maria-Sofia is too... Hm... Special for this part.

MARCOS

What are you talking about? She was born to play Susanna!

LARRY

I promise to find another part for her. Aaron Sorkin is working on a very promising project!

MARCOS

No, no, no, hermano. Thank you for your opinion, but I don't agree.

Larry stands up.

LARRY

Okay. Loud and clear. And you're not my brother.

MARCOS

What's that?

LARRY

(yells)

You're not my brother! Good day!

Larry slams the door.

INT. MARCOS' TAQUERIA - NIGHT

"Fantastic Max" celebration night. Waiters with trays full of drinks and snacks, gangsters style posters on the walls, golden balloons everywhere. Marcos, Maria-Sofia, Ted Danson, Cheryl, Susie, Jeff, Max, Zina, Tina, Les McCrabb, everyone is here. Larry and Leon enter the room. Someone tosses a golden confetti cannon right in front of them. Larry yells.

LARRY

What the fuck?!

Max runs to Larry, grabs his shoulder, drags him to Les McCrabb. He's in a leather coat with a scarf around his neck.

MAX

Daddy, I have a surprise for you!

LARRY  
For the millionth time. I'm not  
your daddy! Stop it!

Les McCrabb hugs Larry. He speaks with British accent.

LES MCCRABB  
Hello, my dear friend! And again  
you found a rising star!

Larry smiles, shrugs.

LARRY  
Oh well. You know...

LES MCCRABB  
I always knew you had taste! You  
were one of not many who really dug  
my autobiography "Hang a Lantern On  
It".

LARRY  
I remember that one! Unforgettable  
piece of.. work!

Marcos wearing a big golden chain and sunglasses, joins them.

MARCOS  
(to Les McCrabb)  
Maybe it'll be our next project!

LES MCCRABB  
Only if Larry agrees to turn it  
into a screenplay.

LARRY  
It will cost you a fortune!

Tina comes to Larry, kisses his cheek.

TINA  
And it will be worth every penny  
spent!

Marcos turns to the crowd, taps a spoon on his wine glass.

MARCOS  
I want to thank you all for coming.  
It's a big honor to celebrate the  
start of our project with you guys!

Everyone cheers.



MARCOS (CONT'D)

First of all I'd like to drink for Larry.

(looking at Larry)

Without you I would never discover our talented screenwriter and the lead actor Maximo Mancini!

Everyone applauds. Max comes forward, bows.

MARCOS (CONT'D)

I also want to raise this glass to remarkable people joining this project. Les McCrabb, who agreed to invest and direct this movie!

Everyone claps. Les McCrabb slightly bows.

MARCOS (CONT'D)

Susie Greene as a decorator and designer!

Larry loudly claps, laughs.

LARRY

Not surprised! Well deserved!

MARCOS

Our superstar Ted Danson, who will play the main villain Aaron Sorkin.

Larry hysterically laughs.

LARRY

Villain! He's the only sane person in this story.

No one hears him. Everyone claps.

MARCOS

Beautiful Cheryl as Tina.

Everyone claps. Tina claps most of all.

MARCOS (CONT'D)

And last, but not least, the lead actress who will play Susanna! We prepared a little promo video. Please look at the screen.

Zina looks confused. Everyone looks at the big screen on the wall. Lights go off, trailer starts.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

A) Max is crying in Cheryl's hands.

MAX

I will never make it to Hollywood!  
What do I do mommy?!

B) Ted Danson throws a screenplay into Max's face.

TED DANSON

Take away this rubbish, you idiot!  
And never show it to anyone!

C) Max is crying in Cheryl's hands.

MAX

He was my role model! How could he  
betray me?!

D) Maria-Sofia is hugging Max.

MARIA-SOFIA

It will be okay, my love. We will  
go through this.

Maria-Sofia and Max kiss. Lights turn on. Everyone claps.

LEON

(to Larry)

What the fuck was this crap?

LARRY

You told me to go extra mile.

MARCOS

Please welcome talented, one of a  
kind Maria-Sofia as Susanna!

Maria-Sofia comes to the middle of the room, bows.

MARIA-SOFIA

Thank you, my darlings!

Zina is appalled, her face turns red, she points at Larry.

ZINA

You asshole! You promised me that  
part!

Everyone is shocked, gets silent, watches Zina and Larry.

MARIA-SOFIA

Excuse me?!

LARRY

I didn't promise. I said I'd try.

ZINA

He is a liar! He lied about liking "Fantastic Max"! I heard him saying the script was hideous. He also called Max retarded!

Everyone gasps.

ZINA (CONT'D)

He paid me to keep it a secret!

Everyone gasps again.

MAX

(to Zina)

You two met before?

(to Larry)

Daddy, how could you?

Max pushes Zina away, sobs. Tina looks at Larry with disgust.

TINA

Forget about Tahoe!

Tina hugs Max. Everyone judgmentally mumbles. Susie and Cheryl are shaking their heads. Larry rolls his eyes.

LARRY

Okay okay okay. I think I owe everyone an apology.

All eyes are on Larry.

LARRY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I didn't tell you earlier the following. Max is a 30 year old talentless spoilt brat who's never earned a dollar in his life.

Max sobs even louder.

MAX

Mommy!

LARRY

Marcos is a taqueria owner who became a producer accidentally.

(MORE)

LARRY (CONT'D)

He blackmailed me after his brother  
tried to break into my house, but  
unluckily for him drowned in my  
pool. Maria-Sofia is not gifted.  
She's just as bad as Max!

Everyone gasps again. Marcos is furious.

MARCOS

You bastard! Get out of my  
restaurant!

Marcos tries to push Larry out.

LARRY

(yells pointing at Zina)  
Return my 1000 dollars!  
(pointing at Tina)  
And you owe me raspberry jam!  
(keeps yelling)  
You all stink!

Marcos throws Larry out of the restaurant. Everyone is  
appalled. The crowd roars. Except for Ted Danson. He smiles.

TED DANSON

Showbiz.

EXT. STREET NEAR MARCOS' TAQUERIA - NIGHT

Larry fixes his jacket, notices AARON SORKIN walking to him.

AARON SORKIN

Larry! How are you?

LARRY

What are you doing here?

AARON SORKIN

Just had a dinner. You look shaken.  
Are you alright?

LARRY

Absolutely! Let me ask you a  
question.

AARON SORKIN

Sure.

LARRY

Did you really read "Fantastic  
Max"?

Aaron Sorkin looks worried and annoyed.

AARON SORKIN  
Who told you this?

LARRY  
Tina.

AARON SORKIN  
How do you know her?

LARRY  
We dated. Actually she dumped me  
just a minute ago.

AARON SORKIN  
Gosh I hate that woman and her  
retarded son!

Larry smiles, looks at Aaron with interest.

LARRY  
Is it so?!

AARON SORKIN  
She dates guys and makes them read  
her son's crap!

LARRY  
I respect you man. You right away  
said his script sucked.

AARON SORKIN  
Not right away.

LARRY  
How so?

AARON SORKIN  
(shrugs)  
Sometimes you gotta tap that ass.

Leon comes out of the restaurant, sees Larry and Aaron.

AARON SORKIN (CONT'D)  
(to Leon)  
You're too here?!

Leon hugs Aaron Sorkin.

LEON  
My man.

FADE OUT.

