

HOLD ALL TICKETS!

A Play

by

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Cast of Characters

Hal: Age mid-thirties, married, employed at the Home Fixer, a home improvement store located in Valley Stream, Nassau County, Long Island, N.Y.

Vic: Age mid-thirties, Hal's best friend and co-worker.

Michelle: Age mid-thirties, Hal's wife.

Benny: Hal and Vic's slightly dim-witted co-worker and friend.

Phyllis: Michelle's Acerbic sister.

Lyle: Vile store manager.

Track Announcer: Off stage.

SCENE

Various locations around Nassau County, Long Island New York.

TIME

The Present.

ACT 1Scene 1

SETTING: Inside Home Fixer store there is a very large sign reading Valley Stream Home Fixer. All employees wear a blue work apron excluding management.

AT RISE: Hal and Benny standing in store aisle.

HAL

Look at e'm Benny they hover all around e'm, He's like a magnet I tell ya.

BENNY

It's a gift, he's got a gift . . and it's not just the customers, you see the way the cashiers look at him? And Barbara, over in, home décor, she follows him around like a puppy dog.

HAL

It's unbelievable these women are just drawn to him.

BENNY

Yeah Hal, like moths to a flame.

HAL

Right, like moths.

BENNY

Like aah bees to honey.

HAL

Exactly.

BENNY

Like a politician to a fundraiser . . like a dog to a bone . . like a chef to a kitchen, Like a . . .

HAL

Are you done?

BENNY

Yeah.

HAL

And you know Ben, the thing about VIC, he's such a great guy a solid guy . . . but I'll tell you this, even with his good looks and all that charisma if he were an asshole people would want nothin' to do with him . . . they'd resent him.

BENNY

Your right, it's a known fact people resent assholes.

HAL

I still remember the first day he started here . . . fit right in.

BENNY

He came over from the Hicksville store, didn't he?

HAL

Yeah.

BENNY

Shit, that's gotta be what five, six years ago?

HAL

Seven.

BENNY

Damn . . . and you guys have been friends ever since.

HAL

Best friends, look he was the best man at my wedding remember?

BENNY

Yeah, I remember he caught the garter belt, right?

HAL

(pretending to catch
a baseball)

Yup, like willie Mays.

BENNY

Then Vic's slidin' the belt up the girl's leg. . .

HAL

My wife's sister Phyllis.

BENNY

That's right she caught the bouquet . . . He gets to about her knee, she's so excited she turns white as a ghost and passes out, falls right off the fuckin' chair.

HAL

(Laughing)

and one of her boobs popped out of her dress.

BENNY

Hysterical . . . highlight of the wedding.

HAL

I was gonna send the wedding video to that funniest video show.

BENNY

Why didn't you?

HAL

(sighing)

In a nutshell . . . aah, she threatened a lawsuit.

BENNY

So, what's she doin' now?

HAL

Phyllis has been married and divorced since then, matter of fact, she's been after Michelle and me to set her up with Vic.

BENNY

Hal the matchmaker.

HAL

You believe this shit? I mean I don't wanna hound the guy.

BENNY

So, you asked him?

HAL

Oh yeah, couple of times.

BENNY

Not interested?

HAL

I don't know if he has the time for her. I mean you hear him . . . all these broads he meets at the clubs.

BENNY

He goes into the city, right?

HAL

Yeah, and that's another thing he's hookin' up with these girls who live in the city they got big time jobs you know career girls . . what's Vic want with my dopey sister-in-law from Long Island?

BENNY

What's wrong with Long Island girls? Were both married to them.

HAL

There's nothing wrong with 'em there's just a difference between the two.

BENNY

City girls are ahhhh . . . Cosmopolitan.

HAL

Balls on accurate! That's the word Benny cosmopolitan. They walk different, talk different, even dress different. They shop at those little fancy boutiques.

BENNY

No Roosevelt Field mall?

HAL

Please . . . and they go to museums.

BENNY

(agreeing with Hal)

Not yard sales.

HAL

They go to charity events.

BENNY

Not P.T.A. bake sales.

HAL

They sip fine wine.

BENNY

and not out of a box.

HAL

They . . . They . . .

BENNY

Would have nothing to do with guys like us.

HAL

Again . . . balls on accurate.

(pause)

oh, shit look who's at the front of the store.

BENNY

Yup, it's Lyle the store manager.

HAL

You mean Lyle the store douchebag.

BENNY

Easy Hal, his uncle's the regional director for all the stores in the whole northeast.

HAL

I know, but two minutes with him and I feel like I gotta take a shower he's so vile.

BENNY

Oh, He's vile alright . . . Vile Lyle.

HAL

(grinning)

Not bad.

BENNY

He's comein' down the aisle.

HAL

I'd love to just pop'em one

BENNY

Yeah, and you'd be shit canned before he hit the ground.

LYLE

(Lyle enters)

Come on fucknuckles another union break?

BENNY

We ain't got a union.

LYLE

That's right, you're at the mercy of management you could be fired at any time.

HAL

You haven't reminded us of that in what two, three days?

LYLE

Come on guys, I get rid of you who's balls would I break?

HAL

I have faith in you Lyle, you'd find someone.

LYLE

Where's your buddy?

HAL

(turning around)

Down at the end of the aisle. He's helping a customer.

LYLE

(leering)

ooh, Yes, he is . . . look at that firm, tight little dumper on her.

BENNY

She is in excellent shape for her age, and I like those boots she's wearing their sexy I gotta get a pair for my wife.

LYLE

Hunh . . . What are you talkin' about boots?

BENNY

I'm talkin' about the boo . . . oh no who are you looking at?

LYLE

Red sweater, tight little ass.

BENNY

(disgusted)

Lyle, that's gotta be the woman's daughter she's a kid!

HAL

Fourteen, fifteen years old tops.

LYLE

Yeah so? Hey, grass on the infield
(pretending to swing a bat)
it's time to play ball.

HAL

Told ya Ben, shower I need a shower!!!

VIC

(Vic enters)

Hey guys, what's goin' on? . . Oh, Lyle the clear caulking there's only like two, three cases left we're going to have to re-order.

LYLE

Yeah, yeah never mind that shit, listen this weekend you goin' into the city?

VIC

aah, yeah, I think so.

HAL

Come on Lyle give it a rest you know he likes to fly solo.

VIC

(apologetic)

It's just that I've got something set up for this weekend.

BENNY

I bet this something is a real knockout.

VIC

As a matter of fact.

LYLE

OK Fuck it . . doesn't matter I'm setting up another little trip down to south America.

BENNY

Again? You go down there a lot.

LYLE

That's right . . sun, beach and did I mention plenty of young beaver.

HAL

(sarcastic)

And I'm sure their all of legal age.

LYLE

(walking away)

Let's just say they're not sticklers for rules down there.

HAL

(sighing, shaking his head)

Benny listen I've got some new merchandise out in my minivan ya interested?

BENNY

Maybe whatdaya got?

VIC

Oh, he's got a little of everything it's like a Walmart on wheels.

HAL

That's right this month I have quite an array of goods. I got some jeans, sweaters, some kitchenware, couple of different golf clubs, I even have a few small appliances left.

BENNY

Oh, speaking of small appliances . . . UM do you have a liberal return policy?

VIC

(laughing)

Ooh boy.

HAL

(annoyed)

No . . . No, I don't. Extremely conservative why?

BENNY

It's just that the blender . . .

HAL

That blender is top of the line. It's got every bell and fuckin' whistle come on Benny I practically gave that thing away.

BENNY

Hal my wife's pissed I came home with a blender with no top.

HAL

Tin foil Benny, A piece of tin foil!

BENNY

Hmmm . . . That's an idea I'll run it past her.

VIC:

(chuckling)

See problem solved.

BENNY

Where do you get all this shit from anyway?

HAL

I told ya I know this guy at the airport.

BENNY

So, the stuffs HOT?

HAL

No, I don't think so I don't ask a lot of questions so . .

BENNY

It's HOT.

HAL

No . . . who knows maybe could be, ya know a little like aahhh lukewarm.

VIC

Come on it's time to go.

BENNY

You guys still car-pooling? . . ah that's nice.

HAL

(shoots Benny an annoyed look)

BENNY

What?

HAL

Listen Vic, gotta make a little detour on the way home.

VIC

AHH come on Hal!

HAL

I gotta stop at the track . . . Belmont is what five minutes out of the way?

VIC

Yeah, alright.

(Hal and Vic begin walking)

HAL

I just wanna catch the ninth . . . I got a horse.

VIC

You always do.

(CURTAIN)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT-1Scene 2

SETTING: Belmont Racetrack Long
Island NY

AT RISE: Hal and Vic Standing Near the
Rail, Hal Holding Ticket

HAL

OK, good we got some time before the race goes off.

VIC

(sarcastic)

No better place to kill time . . . That guy who walked past us
before he stunk like a mule.

HAL

(shaking his head)

I apologize the tracks a weird cocktail ya got your blue blood
owners up in the clubhouse, and then there's that guy who
obviously needs a bath.

VIC

(pointing)

What the hell's that guy doin'?

HAL

OOH, He's a stooper. He goes around stooped over like that
pickin' up discarded tickets off the floor.

VIC

Poor guy . . . What's he like a little off you know mentally?

HAL

(laughing)

No, No he's fine as a fiddle.

VIC

Really?

HAL

Yeah, these guys every so often find a winning ticket that
someone threw away by accident.

VIC

I guess they're poor or homeless or something.

HAL

No, that's not the case . . . see the stooper over there.

(pointing)

A while back I seen him driving outta' the parking lot in a brand new, Cadillac.

VIC

No Shit!

HAL

Let me tell ya Vic

(waving ticket)

If this, seven horse comes in there's no way one of those stoopers is getting his grubby hands on this ticket.

VIC

How much did you put on em'?

HAL

Fifty, but the odds are eight to one, as long as he doesn't get bet down it will be a nice hit.

VIC

(jokingly)

Yeah, and then you can retire.

HAL

Yeah right, not even close . . . besides I don't want to retire I just want to make some real money and it would be nice to do it on my own terms.

VIC

Ahh shit, here we go.

HAL

What?

VIC

The meat truck again!

Hal

You mean the boars head route?

VIC

Let it go.

HAL

You have to admit it makes sense we'd be makein' double what we make now. You and me partners . . . We deliver cold cuts to delis and supermarkets knock it out in the morning, early afternoon and the rest of the day is ours. Our own business Vic our own fuckin' business.

VIC

You said yourself those routes go for between two hundred fifty to three hundred thousand. We don't have that kind of money so just get it outta your fuckin' head it ain't gonna happen.

HAL

(Downcast)

Why do you have to piss

(moving his hips side to side
pretending to urinate)

all over my dream?

VIC

Wait a minute your dream is to sling cold cuts around Nassau County?

HAL

There is another way . . . The SUPERFECTA pays huge! We hit that it'd be plenty for a nice down payment on the truck and route. Then we could work out an affordable monthly payment plan Hmmmmmm . . .

VIC

Superfecta?

HAL

Yeah, ya gotta pick the first four horses to cross the finish line.

VIC

(Sarcastic)

Piece of cake.

HAL

No, I've come close plenty of times, it always comes down to one horse I'm not sure about . . . I need more info, some inside info, now that would be nice.

VIC

You know what would be nice, Hal, if for just once you'd be content with your life . . . ya got a nice wife, nice house, nice decent job.

HAL

Content, Decent, Nice . . you can add depressed to the list.
What the hell kinda pep talk was that?

VIC

It wasn't meant to be.

Hal

I'm confused was it just general ball-breaking?

VIC

No . . . No ball-breaking not general, not specific no breaking
of balls of any kind!

HAL

So?

VIC

I was just listing some things you should be grateful for; you
know the house the . . .

HAL

OK the house needs a shit load of work and I don't have the
money to fix it. My job, you know how I feel about that and my
. . .

VIC

Your wife's a saint. You do know your living with a saint.

HAL

Oh, I know, but do you know what its like living with a
saint? . . It's a living hell!!

VIC

What's wrong with you? Not once have I heard Michelle give you
a hard time about anything, you know how many wives do nothing
but bitch and complain?

HAL

That's just it! I think she's holding it in.

VIC

Your nuts, unlike you maybe she's happy and content with her
life.

HAL

Bullshit! . . How could she be? Dental Hygienist? Come on
cleaning gum out of kids braces, pickin' food outta people's

teeth then come home to Hal the big successful Home Fixer sales associate.

VIC

Puttin' up with a nut job like you. Like I said a saint, a real saint.

HAL

Actually the saint has been nudging me again lately about her sister Phyllis and you maybe goin' on some kind of date I hate to keep askin' but . . .

VIC

No, I want to it's just every weekend's been packed but maybe . . .

HAL

Damn it! While we're standing here bullshitting the race went off there coming down the stretch already.

VIC

The seven horse, right?

HAL

Yeah, Fleet Gucci

(off stage track announcer
heard)

Deep stretch, its Boo-Boo's Back and Fleet Gucci separating from the rest of the field.

HAL

Come on Fleet Gucci

(track announcer)

Fleet Gucci in front by a half-length but Boo-Boo's Back is driving!

HAL

Come on Gucci hold'em off!!!

(track announcer)

Fleet Gucci and Boo-Boo's Back. Boo-Boo's Back and Fleet Gucci battling!

HAL

NO, NO!!

(track announcer)

At the wire!

HAL

(yelling)

Shit No, No!!

(track announcer)
It's Boo-Boo's Back the winner by a neck!

HAL

(Screaming)
F. Murray Abraham!!!
(Hal rips his ticket and
throws it to the ground)

VIC

What?

HAL

Let's go.
(Hal and Vic walking away)

VIC

(confused)
Wait, I don't get . . . you mean . . . the actor?

(CURTAIN)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT 1Scene 3

SETTING: Hal and Michelle's kitchen Valley Stream Long Island, NY

AT RISE: Phyllis sitting at table
Michelle leaning against counter.

PHYLLIS

Listen, I'm not saying he's a total bum cause he's not.

MICHELLE

(sarcastic)
Husband's not a total bum, ok . . . that's a relief.

PHYLLIS

You didn't take that the wrong way did ya?

MICHELLE

(sarcastic)
Nah . . . not at all.

PHYLLIS

Cause I'm tryin' to be constructive.

MICHELLE

(sarcastic)
As always Phyllis.

PHYLLIS

I mean really Michelle who knows bums better than me? . . . Joey my ex world class bum. And since I've been back in circulation nothin' but a parade of bums, Oh, don't get me started.

MICHELLE

Wouldn't think of it.

PHYLLIS

So, getting back to Hal.

MICHELLE

Do we have to?

PHYLLIS

(ignoring)
Look Shelly, He's got pluses and a few minuses. Plus number one he brings in a salary not great, but a salary . . . Also, he sells

that crap out of his van, and of course your working so ya getting by right?

MICHELLE

(sarcastic)

Of course, thank god for that crap sellin'.

PHYLLIS

Right . . . But ya know I've noticed Hal does like to play the ponies and that's a waste of money youz don't need.

MICHELLE

Hal doesn't spend a lot on the horses, you know he just dreams of hitting it big one day.

PHYLLIS

You know what they say about dreams . . . there so effing overrated.

MICHELLE

Tell me again Phyllis we're related right?

PHYLLIS

Sisters, sweetie, sisters.

MICHELLE

Well, me and Hal have dreams and there not as you put it, effing overrated.

PHYLLIS

Please, tell me one of these dreams has me finally becoming an Aunt.

MICHELLE

(pensive, speaks quietly)

Yeah, of course that's number one on our list.

(Hal enters thru side kitchen
Door)

MICHELLE

OH, Hi honey.

(Michelle gives Hal a peck on
the lips)

HAL

Hey, Phyllis.

PHYLLIS

Speak of the devil . . . we were just talkin' about how you're not really a bum. It's just that you need a little push in the right direction, once in a while.

MICHELLE

Not we Phyllis!! Hal . . .

HAL

It's ok Shelly, this bum doesn't take your whacky sister seriously anyway

PHYLLIS

Wait Hal, I said not really a bum.

HAL

Oh, sorry to misquote you, and what's this no direction shit? Cause I don't see a compass hangin' off your ass!

PHYLLIS

(confused)

What the hell is that supposed to mean?

HAL

It means I don't need this crap when I walk in the door.

PHYLLIS

Well anyway you could help with my direction by talking to your friend Vic, how many times I gotta ask?

HAL

First of all, I gave'em your phone number but you know he's a . . . you know a busy guy.

PHYLLIS

He's avoiding me like the plague!!

HAL

No, that's not it, you know I've got a theory.

PHYLLIS

(distrustful)

Oh, you got a theory.

HAL

Yeah, it's kinda like thoroughbred horse racing.

PHYLLIS

You hear this Michelle he's going to compare me to a horse.

MICHELLE

Hal be nice.

HAL

(walking around kitchen)

What I'm saying is and don't forget this is my theory not Vic's he don't know shit about horses. OK, now when it comes to horses there's different classes

(Phyllis standing with arms

crossed annoyed look on her face)

Ya got ya stakes horses they run in big races for big money some of them can enter the Kentucky Derby, Preakness, Belmont Stakes, their, the cream of the crop. Then you have the horses that run in the allowance races still good horses that run for pretty large purses. Then there's the claimers, these horses tend to be older they've won some, lost some but there certainly not in their prime . . . matter of fact the owners put them up for claim meaning anyone can buy them. Now my theory when it comes to Vic is that maybe we've got you entered in the wrong race! Vic, we can all agree, belongs in the stakes, where, as you Phyllis belong in the . . .

MICHELLE

OK, That's enough Hal.

PHYLLIS

You know what my theory is Hal? That you're a horse's ass!!!

(Phyllis walking towards the door)

Listen are you going to talk to him or not?

HAL

Yeah, Yeah OK I'll talk to him.

PHYLLIS

Michelle I'll talk to you soon

(shaking her head)

sweetie I don't know how you put up with this guy.

(Phyllis leaves)

HAL

I'll tell ya that sister of yours.

MICHELLE

She's going through a little rough patch that's all.

HAL

She comes over here and her mouth just takes your ears hostage.

MICHELLE

I don't understand she's got a lot going for her, and she did lose that weight.

HAL

(chuckling)

I'm sure she'll find it soon enough.

MICHELLE

(ignoring)

But you'll talk to Vic?

HAL

Jeez, I said I'll talk to him. What's for dinner?

MICHELLE

I think I'll whip up a meatloaf. It's quick we can eat in an hour or so.

HAL

Ya know if you don't feel like cooking maybe we should go out to eat.

MICHELLE

No, That's a waste of money.

HAL

Look at us, always scrimping and saving maybe your dopey sister was right how do you put up with me?

MICHELLE

Honey, there's absolutely nothing wrong with you. Just relax we'll be fine, remember, "All good things come to those who wait."

HAL

You know that is a nice little saying.

MICHELLE

See . . . you feel better, now don't you?

HAL

(Sarcastic)

Oh Yeah, ya know instead of driving to work tomorrow maybe I'll just skip the whole way there.

MICHELLE

Come here ya big lug.

(Hal and Michelle embrace,
rocking side to side)

(CURTAIN)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT 1Scene 4

SETTING: Inside Home Fixer store.

AT RISE: Hal and Vic in store aisle. Hal pacing back and forth, a nervous wreck.

VIC

Ya gotta calm down man, your going to give yourself a heart attack!

HAL

It's just not the right time for this, Vic, maybe down the road but not now.

VIC

You're really jumping to conclusions. How late is Michelle?

HAL

I don't know, a few days, I think.

VIC

So, you don't know shit at this point she may not even be pregnant.

HAL

I'm waiting on Phyllis to call she ran down to the pharmacy to get one of those test kits. She sez Michelle's a nervous wreck also.

VIC

Well relax, all-right?

HAL

How the hell can I relax, this really upsets the apple cart . . . Shit this knocks the Hal and Michelle cart right the fuck over!! The apples are rollin' down the street, there they go! Down the southern state parkway, look.

(pointing)

There's some rollin' down Hempstead Turnpike, there's a lot of traffic. Their gonna get squished . . I tell ya their gonna get squished! What am I going to do with squished apples Vic hunh?

VIC

Aah, I guess you could make applesauce.

HAL

(ignoring)

Gotta think . . . gotta think.

(calming down a bit)

Stay calm . . . stay focused . . . ok Shelly can keep working for a while, right? There's no heavy lifting, but she will have to stop at some point to have the baby. Quick, how long is maternity leave?

VIC

Now, how the hell am I supposed to know that?

HAL

Ok, there's the store and sellin' stuff outta the van . . . but I'm gonna need a third income. Think . . . think . . . wait that app. thing on your phone, it's like a taxi but you use your own car.

VIC

Ok, but what do you tell the passengers, don't mind all the top less blenders fallin' on your head.

HAL

Oooh, your right . . . shit can that idea. Ok, what else, think . . . think, ya know I saw an ad for telemarketing. I could probably make my own hours. Hmmm . . . how hard could that be . . . make some phone calls, whatdaya think?

VIC

Ahh, I don't know ya gotta be kind of cheery and upbeat and you have to have a certain amount of patience. I don't think that's your strong suit.

HAL

Hey, whatever I gotta do to make ends meet I'll do.

VIC

Ok, let's do a little run through, see how you do. What are ya selling?

HAL

Lets see . . . um they're always calling about cleaning your chimney. Let's go with that.

VIC

Alright chimney cleaning service . . . here we go.

(Vic and Hal pretending to
talk on their cell phones)

Ring . . . ring hello.

HAL

Yes, I'm calling from ABC Chimney Cleaning, how are you today?

VIC

Good, listen I don't have much time.

HAL

Well this won't take long, when was the last time you had your chimney cleaned?

VIC

I don't know, I can't remember.

HAL

Well sir, it sounds like it may have been a long time ago and you know dangerous soot can build up in your chimney. Not to mention, maybe a bird's nest or some varmint crawls in there and clogs it up.

VIC

Well I'm sure my chimney's just fine so . . .

HAL

Listen asshole, a fire can start up there and burn your whole freakin' house down!!!

VIC

Oookay, that's enough of that experiment . . . lets see, your always down at the track is there a job for ya there?

HAL

Wait . . let me think.

VIC

Hey! What about shoveling horse shit outta the stalls?

HAL

(indignant)

Please a man of my stature.

VIC

(chuckling)

First of all, I was only kidding. Second of all, you have no stature.

HAL

(pacing back and forth)

Actually, your kinda right, about no stature. But never mind that shit, we might have to move.

VIC

What! What are you talking about, where?

HAL

I might have to transfer to one of the stores down south, maybe the Carolinas. Then you won't be seein' much of your buddy Hal anymore.

VIC

That's starting to look good right about now.

HAL

A lot cheaper to live down there. You know that, come on these New York taxes are insane!

VIC

You're getting way ahead of yourself.

HAL

Hey, when y'all come down to visit me, I'll have a southern accent . . maybe even chewin' some tobacco.

VIC

Your crazy, it's not like that there's plenty of New Yorkers down there.

HAL

And do you know why?

VIC

Aaah, the weather?

HAL

(yelling)

No, it's the damn taxes!!!

(benny enters)

BENNY

Hey boys what's the good word?

(Hal pacing again)

VIC

Don't ask, Hal's been pacing up and down the aisle like a lunatic for the last ten minutes.

BENNY

Why, what's the matter?

VIC

Michelle's late.

BENNY

Hey Hal, don't worry she's probably just stuck in traffic.

HAL

Hunh.

(Hal waves Benny off)

BENNY

Ya know Vic, I haven't seen Michelle for a while. It'll be nice to see . . .

VIC

Benny!! Not that kinda late.

BENNY

(upset)

Oh my god, you don't mean when they say the late so and so?

VIC

Jeez, I'm talkin' about girl stuff ya know, the period . . late meaning she could be pregnant.

BENNY

Ooh . . . yo Hal congratulations.
(Hal waves him off again)

VIC

Ben, he's not exactly happy, he figures he can't afford a baby right now he's barely scraping by.

BENNY

Come here Hal.

(Hal walks over)

Listen, when our daughter was born, I didn't have a pot to piss in.

HAL

Is that right?

BENNY

Oh yeah . . let me tell ya, I don't know why but things just seem to work out. I'm not saying it won't be tough but trust me you'll get through it and everything will be just fine.

HAL

(sincere)

Thanks Ben, I appreciate that I'm feelin' a little better already.

VIC

Good job Ben.

(Vic pats Benny on the back)

HAL

Yeah, but still what do I know about babies there's diapers, and bottles and crying and sick, that's right! What the hell am I gonna do if the kid gets sick?

BENNY

(chuckling)

Ya take'em to the pediatrician. There's nothing to worry about . . . listen you'll be fine. It'll all work out I got faith in you.

HAL

Ok, let's see next stage is toddler, right? And before ya know it they're in school. Now, if the kid's real smart and their getting good grades, then everything's all fine and dandy. But what if the kid's a little dopey. What if their struggling in the class room? Ya gotta hire a tutor and they don't come cheap.

BENNY

I never had a tutor.

HAL

God bless ya Benny but ya just made my point.

BENNY

(cheerfully)

Oh good, anytime I can help.

HAL

Let's see now, if it's a boy I'll probably sign him up to play some sports. I'll teach'em how to catch and throw. I played a little bit, not all that much, but . . . wait, wait Vic you were a star athlete in high school, right?

VIC

I was okay, I guess.

HAL

That's bullshit you were the big man on campus.

VIC

(laughing)

Yeah right.

HAL

(excited)

Oh no, I remember now, there was that guy from your old high school, he was shopping in the store and you guys were catchin' up talking about the good old days. That was what, a year . . year and a half ago?

VIC

Yeah, I remember.

HAL

And he kept goin' on about how you were the best pitcher on the varsity baseball team. Nobody could get a hit off ya. . . And football you were the star quarterback, you even won some big award.

VIC

All - Nassau County.

HAL

Right, right and the girls forget about it. That guy said they followed you all around the school . . . and the cheerleaders used to wait outside of the locker room for ya . . you could have the pick of the litter.

BENNY

(somber)

Sounds like the complete antithesis of my high school years.

(Hal and Vic whip their heads
around and look at Benny in
astonishment)

What?

HAL

(confused look on his face)

Nevermind . . . listen Vic ya gotta do this, ya gotta coach the kid. This could maybe mean a scholarship to college. Promise me you'll do it.

VIC

Ok, if and when the time comes I'll coach the boy . . teach him all the fundamentals, alright?

HAL

Good, thanks . . . ok, that's all settled. The only fly in the ointment would be if it's a girl.

(turning to Benny)

What did you do when you had your daughter?

BENNY

(chuckling)

Well actually my wife had her, I was out in the waiting room.

HAL

Come on you know what I mean, if we have a girl what can I expect. What do I have to do?

BENNY

Um, let's see, when she was little there were a lot of dance classes and recitals.

HAL

Well that's gonna be Shelly's department.

BENNY

Oh no, ya gotta show some interest or they get their feelings hurt. I don't know how many of those recitals I filmed over the years.

HAL

Show some interest, got it.

BENNY

Now later on she played with the, girls softball team.

(Hal turns to Vic with his
Arms stretched out)

VIC

Yeah, yeah, don't worry I'll coach her.

BENNY

Just recently she entered a brand-new stage.

HAL

What's that?

BENNY

Boys.

HAL

Oh jeez.

BENNY

Yup, nothing to serious, one kid took her to the movies and she went on a date to an Islanders game with a different boy . . . She's got a curfew, so far so good, no problems.

VIC

Sounds like ya got it all under control.

BENNY

Well, there was this one kid awhile back, he comes to the door and he's got this nose ring.

HAL

No shit.

BENNY

Yup, nose ring.

VIC

So, what happened?

BENNY

Well, I go inside, and I get the dogs leash. I clipped it onto the nose ring and took the young lad for a stroll down the block.

HAL

Noooooo!!

VIC

No way!!

BENNY

Kidding guys . . . just kidding. She wasn't home and the kid just left. But she sez she's not interested at all, he's not her type . . . but anyway Hal, boy, girl it doesn't matter. Like I said you'll be a great dad.

HAL

(excited)

Ya know guy's, if this happens, I'm startin' to think that maybe I can handle it, whatdaya think?

VIC

Shit yeah! Like Benny said, don't worry Hal, you'll be a great dad.

(Lyle enters)

LYLE

What the fuck . . . did I hear that right, Hal's gonna be a dad?

HAL

I don't know maybe. I'm waiting on a phone call to see.

LYLE

Yeah, well you should hope not. I hear these women do nothin' but bust your balls, askin' for all kinds of weird shit when their pregnant. They get cravings, ya know, not to mention how big and fat they get. Plus, they get these stretch marks all over their body. Gotta be fuckin' disgusting right? . . . On top of that something else gets all stretched out if ya get my drift and that may not snap back to form.

VIC

Alright Lyle, come on giv'em a break.

(Hal's cell phone rings and he answers it.)

HAL

Hello Phyllis! Yeah ok, so what's the verdict? Ya sure? Um alright. And ahh how's Michelle doin'? . . . so tell her I'm leaving work soon and I'll come right home, ok Phyllis . . . yeah bye.

BENNY

Well?

HAL

False alarm . . . not pregnant.

LYLE

You lucky bastard!! Ya know I gotta tell ya you would have been one miserable fuck.

(Vic pretending there's a
Problem in the store in order
To get Lyle away from Hal)

VIC

Hey Lyle I think the fork lift over in the garden department is leaking hydraulic fluid . . . right Benny?

BENNY

Hunh? Oh, oh right, yeah, the fork-lift.

LYLE

Great. Some asshole slips on the fluid and sues the fuckin' store.

VIC

Come on Benny, let's show Lyle where the fork lift is.

(Vic Benny and Lyle walk
away Hal standing alone in
the aisle with a sad and
dejected look on his face)

(CURTAIN)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT 1Scene 5

SETTING: Hal and Vic at their favorite local pub.

AT RISE: Hal and Vic sitting at the bar having a drink.

HAL

Un . . . Be . . . Lievable, Un . . . Fuckin' Believable

VIC

What?

HAL

Did you see what Wally did?

VIC

AAH Bring us drinks.

HAL

No, no, no before that.

VIC

No what?

HAL

Wally asked you "whatdaya drinkin' Vic?"

VIC

And I told him, so?

HAL

He didn't ask me he just brought me a beer . . . a god damn beer.

VIC

Yeah, but that's what you drink. Like me, I mix it up beer, mixed drink even wine once in a while.

HAL

OK, let me get this straight I've become so predictable, that when I walk into the bar Wally's already reachin' for the average Joe Blow, basic domestic beer.

VIC

I've tried to get you to branch out, try an import you know what you told me?

HAL

AAH, tastes like piss?

VIC

Right, piss that's what you said . . . you know your just bringing up stupid shit for no reason it's like you got this bug up your ass.

HAL

I don't know, maybe your right but I feel like I'm on this treadmill I'm just not going anywhere . . . I'm striving man, but I just can't get there.

VIC

(chuckling)

Striving?

HAL

(agitated)

Why? Is there a freakin' New York State law against striving?

VIC

No, I don't believe so . . . listen I don't want to go over the same shit again, but I think you got it pretty good ya know, life's not perfect but I think you're on the right track.

HAL

Tell me you're not drunk on one drink.

VIC

I'm not drunk.

HAL

OK, the thing is I'm not getting down that track fast enough.

VIC

Patience my man patience.

HAL

All of sudden Michelle's talkin' about having kids . . . Shit I want kids myself, but I don't see it in the near future. I mean I'm thirty-six, she's thirty-four come on Vic do the math.

VIC

Let's see that'd be AAH . . . seventy.

HAL

Oh, . . right, right good one, jokes that's what you got for me jokes. I'm pouring my heart out to you and . . .

VIC

Ya know you used to be a lot more fun you take things too seriously now, you gotta chill out.

HAL

Chill out, life's got my nuts in a vice and it keeps
 (pretending to
 turn a vice)
 turning and turning and . . .

VIC

Drink up! Come on let's change the subject whatdaya doin' this weekend anything? Any big plans?

HAL

No, not really Saturday I got stuff to do around the house, but AH, Sunday I'm gonna try to get over to the track there's a few good races I want to see, whatdaya say, wanna go?

VIC

Um, yeah maybe . . .

HAL

We'll have a nice relaxing day which you'll need after your long Saturday night of romance.

VIC

(laughing)

Yeah right.

HAL

Come on I was talking to Benny about it. When it comes to attracting the ladies, you got it.

VIC

I got it.

HAL

(In a teasing manner)

Yeah, and you hook up with those high-class city girls don't'cha? Vic's been getting those high-class ladies, come on now it's a known fact you can admit it.

VIC

(laughing)

You're an idiot.

HAL

Now on the total other end of the spectrum there's my sister in law Phyllis.

VIC

Come on now, is that nice?

HAL

I can't worry about nice I'm stuck in the middle here.. you know what if you don't want to take her out . . .

VIC

No, No It's just that AAH . . .

HAL

Forget it, I'll tell her to fuck off, she's got no shot with you anyway, she'll understand.

VIC

No! What are you crazy? You can't say that.

HAL

Don't worry about it I'll take care of it. It's done.

VIC

(nervous)

Wait, wait um . . I gotta talk to you.

HAL

It's done.

VIC

Um, I've been meaning to talk to you about something it's, you know um . . it's not just Phyllis.

HAL

Done Deal, Relax.

VIC

Listen to me I'm serious I AH . . . want to tell you something but I don't want ya to . . you know freak out.

HAL

I'm not freakin' out, what do I care she'll have to find someone on her own . . . What am I her fuckin' matchmaker?

VIC

No, it's AH . . . what you were saying about . . . about the girls and all, you know me having it.

HAL

Shit yeah, that's right you got it, hey I'm a happily married man that's my thing but . . .

VIC

The girls, It's all bullshit.

HAL

What? What's bullshit?

VIC

The girls Hal, it's bullshit, bullshit, bullshit! OK.

HAL

I have no idea what you're talking about but if you think I'm gonna feel sorry for you, cause you can't keep up with all this ass you're getting, your talkin' to the wrong guy cause . . .

VIC

No, NO . . . That's not it your way off.

HAL

Wait a minute, please you're not gonna give me that "I'm tired of going out with all these broads. I wanna settle down." Horse-shit are you? Because that's not you I know you and that's not you.

VIC

I just, you know . . . I Ah . . . don't know if you can handle this.

HAL

Fuck you, I can't handle . . . OH, No, no VIC tell me you didn't knock up one of these girls is that what all this is about?

VIC

Just shut up for a second alright. I didn't knock anybody up. I . . . I well you know um, here it goes I'm gay, ok I'm gay.

HAL

(big smile)

Your gay?

VIC

(nodding his head)

Yeah, I'm gay.

HAL

(laughing out loud)

That's funny! I know funny and that's fuckin' hysterical. Hey Wally, ya gotta hear this guess who's . . .

VIC

(grabbing Hal)

Shhh . . .

HAL

(laughing)

What? Wally will get a kick outta that.

VIC

I'm serious, don't say a fuckin' word about this.

HAL

How long you gonna keep this up ya forgetting I've known ya for years seen you with plenty of girls. Shit you've double dated with me and Michelle. Hey, I give you credit though that was funny, that was a good one.

VIC

(hushed voice)

I know. I've gone on dates but it's all bullshit it's all a lie. It's not who I am.

HAL

OK already, you could stop pulling my chain.

VIC

I'm not pulling your chain.

HAL

Come on your in the city all the time goin' to those clubs and all.

VIC

I do go to clubs but aah . . . you know they're a different type of club.

HAL

Eww, come on man your startin' to scare me.

VIC

Look, I'm serious I swear to god it's true. I felt like I was gonna burst. I couldn't keep it from you anymore.

HAL

Holy shit, you're not kidding this is for real?

VIC

(choking up)

Yeah, yeah it is it's real.

HAL

(sighing)

Well, F. Murray Abraham.

VIC

Again, with that. I don't get it whatdaya mea . . .

HAL

Damn it! Ya know I just . . . I just don't need this on my plate right now.

VIC

What's my sexuality got to do with your plate.

HAL

(holding his head)

My head's fuckin' spinning.

VIC

Hey, listen if you don't want to be friends anymore . . ya know I get it, I understand.

HAL

Um, no aah . . . we're friends still ya know as long as that's all you got in mind.

VIC

Don't worry, you're not my type . . too crude.

HAL

Is that so . . . well that's a relief . . man I just can't believe it. Vic . . Vic, Vic, Vic . . Vic likes dick.

VIC

(looking around)

Shhh! Come on Hal . . obviously don't mention this to anyone ya know the store or even Michelle. I'm just not ready yet maybe . . .

HAL

(sarcastic)

Right, that's what I'm gonna do, stand right the fuck in the middle of Roosevelt Field mall and yell my best friends a gay guy.

VIC

(sheepishly)

Yeah, um ok. Aah point taken.

HAL

But, now with this latest development I will have to speak to Wally about having gazing guards installed in the men's room.

VIC

What?

HAL

Ya know, those things, those aah partitions between the urinals.

VIC

(chuckling, shaking his head)

You're an asshole.

HAL

(smiling)

An also crude.

VIC

What do they call that at the track, an exacta?

HAL

Yup.

VIC

Yes, you've got the exacta.

(Hal puts his arm around Vic)

(CURTAIN)

(END OF ACT)

ACT IIScene 1

SETTING: Laundry room, Hal and Michelle's home.

AT RISE: Michelle talking to Phyllis on her cell phone.

MICHELLE

I know . . . I know Phyllis I don't understand it either no . . . no, you look great that's not it what? Your personality um . . . well you have a strong personality but you know some guys like that . . . well I can't think of anyone offhand but . . . what's that I got lucky . . . right I won the prize with HAL. Yeah I know Phyllis . . . your just kidding. Listen I gotta go I have a ton of laundry to do. No, no I'm ok but it's that time of the month. Yes . . . yes I have my friend, well I'm exhausted and I have a splitting headache . . . ok sweetie I will yeah . . . love you too bye.

(Michelle leaning against washer/dryer rubbing both of her temples. Hal enters still wearing his blue work apron)

HAL

(worried look on face)

Oh shit, it's going down!

MICHELLE

Please Hal.

HAL

Look at you . . . you can't take it anymore. You've had enough of this, enough of me, right?

MICHELLE

Oh, not this again.

HAL

(imitating race-track announcer)

She's in the gate and there off! And it's disappointed breaking well . . . followed by regret oh regret looking very strong, but wait! It's I never should have married him making a bold move on the outside!!

MICHELLE

(shaking head)

Come on Hal knock it off.

HAL

Well it's obvious you've had it mentally, physically the stress of trying to make ends meet, and you having to go to work and we still can't afford to have a baby . . . Ah come on you know it, I know it we're just shoveling shit against the tide. Wait, look at this.

(fumbling for his wallet
then opening it and
pointing)

Whatdaya see Shelly HunH?

MICHELLE

(exhausted look on face)

Our wedding, picture.

HAL

(slight cry in his voice)

Right, and what am I wearing?

MICHELLE

Um . . a tux.

HAL

A tux . . a tux with a cummerbund. See not this dopey apron, let's face it you signed up for the guy with the cummerbund, the guy with a future, the guy with a legitimate career not just a job . . The guy you could proudly introduce at a cocktail party . .

MICHELLE

Cocktail Party?

HAL

The guy . . .

MICHELLE

Hal it's that time!!

HAL

Hunh?

MICHELLE

That time, ya know that time of the month.

HAL

Ooh, boy.

MICHELLE

Honey, I'm just really tired ok?

HAL

Yeah, ok um . . .you know what, why don't we just go to the diner tonight no cooking whatdaya think?

MICHELLE

Sounds good sweetie.

(Hal and Michelle walk
toward each other)

(CURTAIN)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT 2Scene 2

SETTING: At Belmont Racetrack.

AT RISE: Hal sitting on a bench horse
Players milling about. Benny
Enters sits next to Hal.

BENNY

OK Hal, I got your racing form and a pen so teach me how to bet horses.

(Handing form to Hal)

HAL

First of all, Benny you're not just betting horses your handicapping, it's an art form.

BENNY

Ok an art form got it.

(handing pen to Hal)

Hey how come they only sell red or green pens over there?

HAL

Well what color is the print on the form?

BENNY

(starring at form)

Aah, black.

HAL

OK, so why would you want a different color ink?

BENNY

Hmmm, let's see Hmmm

HAL

Come on Ben, think . . nothing? . . . so, it stands out!! So, the color ink stands out from the black ink on the page.

BENNY

Ooh, OK . .I'm gunna consider that a lesson my first lesson of the day.

HAL

(shaking head)

Oh shit, this has the makings of a looong day.

BENNY

Hey, where's Vic?

HAL

Oh, he's over there at the paddock.

(pointing)

They walk the horses around before the race so you can see what they look like.

BENNY

(chuckling)

Come on, everyone knows what a horse looks like.

HAL

(ignoring)

OK, let's get back to business. I think we'll keep it nice and basic no exotic wagers yet ok?

BENNY

Just wanna cash a winning ticket.

HAL

So, we'll stick to some of these favorites.

(pointing)

See this column this is what the horse did in his previous races, see the two horse, he won his last three races . .

BENNY

That's the one! That's the one I wanna bet.

HAL

Easy now, this two-horse, is moving up in class. In this race he'll be running for more money but against much better competition I don't like'em . . But, this five-horse, he's dropping in class and a decent price at four to one. Yup this is the one for you Ben and make sure you bet'em for win, place and show. This way you cash a ticket whether he comes in first, second or third got it?

BENNY

Got it!

HAL

Now go put it in.

(Benny trots off. Hal scribbles furiously in Racing form as Vic approaches)

Hal

Hey, there he is . . so, how's things lookin' over at the paddock?

VIC

Well, I was admiring the one horse he's a big really beautiful grey horse. Lotta muscle, nice shiny coat, looks like he's full of energy, but then outta nowhere his tail goes up and plop, plop, plop.

HAL

Wait the one horse took a big dump?

VIC

Yeah, and let me tell ya it was pretty gross.

HAL

Thanks buddy,

(writing in form)

I'll make note of that.

VIC

What?

HAL

It's all about acquiring information hey that one horse is a couple of pounds lighter now, maybe a little quicker no?

VIC

Um, I guess.

HAL

That's what I'm tryin' to tell ya the more info the better.

VIC

You know, ya might be looking a little too far into this shit . . no pun intended.

(chuckling)

Oh, I was talking to this guy over at the paddock, I think he has something to do with the track, seems like he knows a lot about horses. Nice guy, real nice guy . . we aah, really hit it off well.

(smiling broadly)

HAL

(looking up from racing form)

Hey, that's great, Vic met a new friend at the track now can we get back to dopein' out these horses before the damn race goes

off!! . . Hey what's with the big shit eatin' grin . . Oh no, wait he's not that kind of new friend, is he?

VIC

Um, I don't know could be. He wants to meet up later . . . But I did get a real strong vibe.

HAL

The track? This kind of hijinks at the track I can't believe it.

VIC

What's the location have to do with it?

HAL

Never mind where is this guy? . . point'em out.

VIC

Oh, there he is he's still at the paddock. Kinda tall blue sports jacket.

HAL

Holy shit! Vic you sure, you positive that's him?

VIC

Yeah, why?

HAL

That's Neil Baily, one of the top trainers in all of horse racing . . wait he's ranked number one this year. This is crazy.

VIC

Well like I said, seems like a real nice guy.

HAL

And you two really hit it off . . you said something about meeting up with him later, right?

VIC

Yeah maybe, he said something about hanging out in the city ya know get something to eat.

HAL

(excited)

That's good, you love the city, so you have a nice meal. Have a good time very good, excellent idea.

VIC

Yeah I hope so, AHH . . I guess it should go OK.

HAL

I tell ya what you're at the store tomorrow right?

VIC

Yeah.

HAL

I'm off tomorrow but if you're out late or whatever I could work for ya.

VIC

(surprised)

Really?

HAL

Yup, no problem.

VIC

(suspicious)

Hmmm . . . OK but you really like your days off so I can't figure why you . . hold on wait, wait, wait does this have to do with Neil knowing about horses?

HAL

First of all, I know about horses, but this is a whole different deal this guy's an absolute authority.

VIC

I knew it! You always have something up your sleeve, what kind of scheme are you workin' on?

HAL

No scheme . . just maybe ya know a little info.

VIC

You think I'm gunna ask Neil for a tip on a horse?

HAL

Absolutely not . . .

(sheepish)

Ok, yeah, I need a tip.

VIC

No way, it's degrading I won't do it.

HAL

Listen, I'll take care of the other three horses in the superfecta what I need from Baily is a long shot to throw in the mix that way we're guaranteed a big pay out.

VIC

Holy shit Hal, we didn't even go out yet what if we don't hit it off what if he doesn't like me?

HAL

(getting up from bench putting
his arm around Vic)

Come on Buddy, what's not to like? Ya got the looks, ya got the style, you're in great shape, all that and your rich too.

VIC

(confused)

I'm not rich.

HAL

You will be if you can get that fuckin' long shot from Bailey!!

VIC

(shaking his head)

There's really something wrong with you you're not normal, you're not even close to normal.

HAL

(pretending to steer a truck)

Hey buddy, can you see us? Our own route delivering high quality meats and cheeses baby . . . just need that long shot can ya see it Vic?

VIC

No, but I can see you checkin' into the nut house.

HAL

(pleading)

Come on Vic.

VIC

I don't know . . . maybe, alright clam up here comes Benny.

(CURTAIN)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT IIScene 3

SETTING: At Belmont Racetrack.

AT RISE: Hal and Vic standing at the rail.

HAL

Hey, it's almost a month with you two love birds. I guess things are working out.

VIC

(smiling broadly)

Yeah, as a matter of fact things are going great.

HAL

(sarcastic)

So glad to hear that, so aah . . . can we get to the nuts and bolts already you sure Neil likes the seven as a good long shot?

VIC

Yeah, I guess.

HAL

Whoa, you can't guess I put some serious money on the seven to come in fourth in our super.

VIC

Neil said he liked'em.

Hal

As a long shot, right?

VIC

I said I wanted to put a few bucks on a long shot and see what happens and this is what he suggested.

HAL

(nervous)

The seven O'shea's Lass, right?

VIC

Holy shit Hal, maybe you should've asked him yourself, because I don't feel right going behind his back like this.

HAL

No, No I don't think he likes me. That's kinda the vibe I got.

VIC

Ya met'em for less than five minutes and you wouldn't stop fawning over him. He probably felt uncomfortable.

HAL

That's bullshit, I wasn't fawning.

VIC

You were fawning.

HAL

I was just complementing him.

VIC

Faaawning.

HAL

Complementing . . I mean he really knows his shit with race-horses I gotta tell ya.

VIC

(excited)

It's not just horses, we were watching Jeopardy the other night and Bam Bam Bam he was getting all the questions right.

HAL

(annoyed)

So that's where you've been hanging out watching Jeopardy.

VIC

HunH, what the hell you're not jealous are you?

HAL

(laughing)

Yeah right, I'm jealous of you and your new aah . . how do I say friend.

VIC

Well than what's up?

HAL

No, it's just you haven't been around much. Wally at the bar has been askin' about you, and even Michelle's noticed you haven't stopped by the house lately.

VIC

Yeah, I've been busy and all, but you're right I'm spending a lot of time with Neil, so I see your point.

HAL

(sincerely)

I'm just saying ya gotta leave a little time for your straight friends ya know?

VIC

(laughing)

That sounds funny coming from your mouth, but ok, I will . . . I'll make a point of it.

(track announcer)

There in the gate . . . and they're off!!

HAL

OK, here we go!

(Hal pulls small binoculars
from his pocket and looks out
on the track)

Now let's see, aah good, good our favorite the two horse is sitin' nice in fourth place.

VIC

Fourth! What's so nice about that?

HAL

No, it's ok, the two likes to sit back and wait till the stretch then she'll make her move.

VIC

How bout the other three?

HAL

Well, the four and six are in the middle of the pack, which is ok, but the seven practically walked out of the gate and is dead last! I hope this long shot isn't too damn long . . . one . . . two . . . three . . . four.

VIC

What are you counting?

HAL

I'm seein' if this nags got all four of its legs.

VIC

(laughing)

Oh shit, I hope so.

HAL

OK, they're in the stretch! . . . and there goes the two, look at her run like her ass is on fire. I told ya she was a closer! She's gone no one's catchin' her.

VIC

What about the rest of the horses?

HAL

Aaah, let's see . . yes! The four is flyin' on the rail she's definitely got second . . . and it looks like the six is making a move she's gotta pass the ten horse . . aaand she does! Holy shit Vic, that's three in the bank it's all going to plan!

VIC

(excited)

The seven, the seven O'shea's lass what about her?

HAL

She's still back a wayz . . wait she's startin' to come on. Go, go run you dog run!

VIC

Stop calling her names it's bad luck.

HAL

Come on seven you can do it just get up for fourth you son of a . . .

VIC

Hal!!

HAL

Ok, ok I didn't say it. Run, run she's gunna do it run! . . . Yes she got fourth by a nose Vic we did it!!!

VIC

We did it!!

(Hal and Vic jumping and hugging each other)

Oh shit!

(Vic pulls away from Hal)

What? HAL

VIC
(yelling)
Wait!! . . . Neil hold on. Wait a second, dammit.

(Turning to Hal)
That's why you should have asked him for the tip. I gotta go
Neil looked really pissed off.

HAL
Who gives a shit we won!

VIC
I'll see ya later.
(Vic runs off)

HAL
(Hal waving ticket)
Yes! Unbelievable yes!

TRACK ANNOUNCER
HOLD ALL TICKETS! We have a steward's inquiry. A claim of foul
against the number seven, O'shea's Lass apparently in mid-
stretch. Ladies, and gentleman, please hold all tickets.

HAL
(stunned)
Hooly shit.

(CURTAIN)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT IIScene 4

SETTING: Back alley of local bar.

AT RISE: Hal extremely drunk steady's
himself against wall. Vic
enters.

VIC

Wally said you were back here jeez your pretty hammered . . what
are you gonna get sick?

HAL

(slurring his words badly)

I'd say I'm on the precipice.

VIC

What the hell did you drink? You didn't get like this from
beer.

HAL

In honor of our homeland, I had many, many Long Island iced
peas.

VIC

Iced teas.

HAL

Whatever.

VIC

I gotta talk to Wally he should have cut you off.

HAL

(laughing)

That's a very appropriate word to use today.

VIC

What?

HAL

Cut off.

VIC

That's two words.

HAL

Oh, you are correct sir, but it can be used in many different ways as you suggested the barkeep . . um ahh.

VIC

Wally.

HAL

Yes . . Wally he was dispensing the drinks with much vigor as he was instructed to do by yours truly which would be me.

VIC

Man, you're really shit-faced.

HAL

(ignoring)

But he has the power!! In his establishment to do it.

VIC

Do what?

HAL

Cut off. . . As you pointed out and you wanna know why?

VIC

Not really.

HAL

Because there's rules and ahhh . . . what's his name.

VIC

Wally.

HAL

Yeah Wally, he knows the rules so that's why he can cut off people that and the fact that he has only two legs not four.

VIC

What the fuck are you babbling about?

HAL

See, some people with four legs don't know the rules . . like that Irish piece of shit horse, we bet today.

VIC

(confused)

O'shea's Lass the seven?

HAL

That would be her . . she doesn't know the rules she doesn't know you can't cut off other horses or you get disqualified.

VIC

Disqualified . . wait, are you saying we didn't win?

HAL

Bingo.

VIC

(confused)

But . . I mean did she do it on, purpose?

HAL

I don't know I didn't ask the fuckin' horse.

VIC

Wow, that's unbelievable now I get it. That's why you're getting shit-faced drunk.

HAL

(sarcastic)

Did anyone ever tell ya, you should have been a detective?

VIC

(very upset, pacing
back and forth)

All for nothing, this whole thing for nothing, . . and Neil's so fucking mad at me I'm sure he thinks we used him. I lost'em in the crowd and he won't answer his phone. It's been hours, so let me get this straight, your big scheme didn't work, and I probably lost Neil for good!

HAL

Relax, you know what they say there's plenty of dudes in the sea.

VIC

It's fish in the sea asshole!!

HAL

Whatever.

VIC

You know Hal, you're not gonna blow this for me.

HAL

(chuckling)

Oh, I ain't blowin' nothin' for you.

VIC

(ignoring)

I'm going to find Neil and explain everything.

HAL

You do that.

VIC

I will. We got plans ya know. Neil said he travels to see his horses run and I'm going to go with him.

HAL

(sarcastic)

Isn't that special.

VIC

There's a track in California.

HAL

Santa Anita.

VIC

And Florida.

Hal

Gulfstream . . Tampa Bay . . Hialeah . .

VIC

And he said he might have a little part time job for me ya know a few hours a week as an assistant or something, make phone calls. Do some administrative work.

HAL

Aah, you'd make a cute secretary.

VIC

(ignoring)

I'm going to talk to him and it's going to work out just fine ya gotta stay positive.

HAL

You stay positive buddy . . ya seem happy and your future looks to be sooo bright god bless ya . . . but me I'm stuck in

neutral, after today I could kiss my dream goodbye . . goodbye
meat truck it was nice not knowin' ya.

VIC

Enough Hal, just count your blessings.

HAL

Count you kidding? I'm too drunked up to count to ten.

VIC

(angry)

Don't start with this shit again C.Y.B ok man C.Y.B.

HAL

What the hell . . . is that some kind of gay acronym or
something?

VIC

No!!

(Vic shoves Hal with each
letter)

C . .Y . .B .

(Hal falls to the ground)

Count your fuckin' blessings Hal ok, . . count your fuckin'
blessings!!

HAL

Wait! . . Hold on wouldn't that be C.Y.F.B.?

VIC

(shaking his head)

Gimme your hand.

(Vic helps Hal to his
feet)

(CURTAIN)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT IIIScene 1

SETTING: Outside rear of Home Fixer Store.

AT RISE: Hal and Lyle back of Hal's Minivan
looking through Merchandise.
*Large box etc. can sub for
van hatchback.

LYLE

Why are you sellin' this shit out of your van, you need the money?

HAL

(sarcastic)

No Lyle it's just a hobby of mine.

LYLE

Hunh?

HAL

Yeah, I need the money, there hasn't been any advancement at this store for years.

LYLE

Well if you're thinking about manager fuckknuckle forget it cause I'm not going no-where.

HAL

(sarcastic)

Thanks for reminding me Lyle.

LYLE

You're not married, are you?

HAL

(incredulous)

Yes, all these years workin' at the store with you I've been married you didn't know that?

LYLE

Well first I have to give a shit, right?

HAL

Don't you remember, I thought she was pregnant?

LYLE

Yeah, OK I remember that, you really dodged a bullet. So, your still married?

HAL

Yeah, still married.

LYLE

So why don't you get her ass out to work?

HAL

She's a dental hygienist, she doesn't make a lot. So, it's a little tight that's why I got this side business here.

LYLE

I don't get you married assholes same broad year after year don't you want to change it up once in a while? . . and what are you gonna do when she becomes an old hound with saggy tits and a big droopy ass hunh . . then what?

HAL

I don't know, I'll be getting older too, so I guess it'll just even out.

LYLE

Fuck that! I like the young beaver. If I'm with a broad and she's getting a little long in the tooth, I'm trading her in for a newer model, ya want the young pup not the old hound.

HAL

Hey, why don't ya look at some of the merchandise I've got.

LYLE

Yeah alright, let's see . .

(Lyle rummaging thru van)

Hey, ya got rubbers? I could always use rubbers.

HAL

No rubbers.

LYLE

How about toys, ya got any toys?

HAL

Um . . . I think I got a few skateboards . . hold on let me look.

LYLE

What the fucks wrong with you? I mean vibrators, dildos that type of stuff ya know to keep the broads coming back for more. Sex toys stupid.

HAL

(disgusted)

No . . nothing like that.

LYLE

(craning his neck)

Ok, ya gotta have some porn right, that's gotta be a big seller.

HAL

No, look Lyle I run a reputable business here, sporting goods, home goods, matter of fact right now I got a shit load of stuff for the kitchen.

(Hal reaches into van)

Check this out a deluxe Farberware meat mallet. I don't care if you have the cheapest cut of steak you pound the hell out of it with this.

(holding mallet up)

It'll be as tender as a filet mignon.

LYLE

I'm a fuckin' bachelor I live alone. How much cooking do you think I do? I eat out. Listen I really didn't come back here to look at any of this shit.

HAL

Whatdaya mean?

LYLE

I was in the city the other night.

HAL

Yeah so.

LYLE

Well, I'm walking down the sidewalk and I look across the street and walking in the opposite direction is Vic and some dude.

HAL

(nervous)

OK.

LYLE

All of a sudden, they step into a doorway and start making out. I almost threw up my supper. I mean, they were pretty quick

about it, but there's no doubt about what I saw.

HAL

Hey, at night, dark, across the street your nuts no way it was Vic.

LYLE

No! When they started walking again, I doubled back up the block and when they stopped at the cross walk for the light, I got a perfect look at em' one hundred percent it was Vic. I'm tellin' ya fuckknuckle your buddy, your pal, the big ladies man, is nothing but a fuckin' faggot!!

HAL

That's bullshit there's no way . . .

LYLE

One hundred percent . . one hundred fuckin' percent.

HAL

Come on Lyle, your wrong . . .

LYLE

I don't know why your protecting him maybe your gate swings both ways hunh?

Hal

(sarcastic)

Yeah, right.

LYLE

Well fuck'em he's done!

HAL

What are you talking about?

LYLE

The store! First chance I get he's gone.

HAL

You can't do that.

LYLE

Yeah, watch me . . and you know with my connections he can't just transfer to another store, no fucking way. He's toast baby . . mister handsome, the broads falling all over him, meanwhile he's bullshittin' all of us!

HAL

Lyle, just relax ok.

LYLE

(yelling)

Some fuckin' nerve, that ass blastin' queer bastard he's done!!!

HAL

(looking around)

Lower your voice man, someone's gonna hear you.

LYLE

That's right! Everyone's gonna hear me, and you know what? I won't even have to fire him, cause, he'll quit. When I'm done exposing this fraud, when I'm done outing this faggot, he'll run for the hills . . . But that's not it, I'll find'em, if he gets a new job. I'll go there and let everybody know. I'll talk to his neighbors. That's my life's goal now to ruin that cocksucker. I'm gonna . . .

(Hal swings the meat mallet with great force, striking Lyle in the temple. Lyle crumbles to the pavement dead. Hal shakes Lyle and in a hushed Voice)

HAL

Lyle get up . . . come on get up Lyle . . . oh shit, no god no.

(Hal holding his head pacing back and forth. Hal looks around and pulls a tarpaulin from van and covers Lyle. He begins to lift Lyle into back of van.)

(CURTAIN)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT 3Scene 2

SETTING: Inside Home Fixer Store.

AT RISE: Vic and Benny standing in aisle talking.

VIC

Holy shit Benny, my heads spinning. I mean it's just Crazy.

BENNY

So, what did the cops ask ya?

VIC

You mean detectives Benny. This thing is big.

BENNY

Right, Right detectives.

VIC

They're from the Nassau P.D. sex crimes unit and they're lookin' to get their hands on Lyle before the parents do.

BENNY

What parents?

VIC

Well, it seems besides being a rude, crude, vile asshole, Lyle is also a child molester a fuckin' pedophile!

BENNY

That's unbelievable.

VIC

Yeah, well a customer asked his seven-year old daughter a few days ago to take a ride to Home Fixer with him, and she starts getting all scared and nervous. She starts crying. Turns out last month the dad's got his back turned loading bags of mulch onto his cart when Lyle comes up behind her and sticks his hand up her skirt and he gropes her. The little girl froze didn't say a word till now.

BENNY

How do they know it's Lyle?

VIC

They put all the employees picture ID's out on a table and the kid went right to Lyle's picture and said that's him.

BENNY

I can't believe it.

VIC

And it gets worse. There's a guy who goes to different parks in Nassau and Suffolk County with a puppy and tries to get kids to go with him. The description fits Lyle to a tee.

BENNY

(confused)

Funny, he never mentioned having a dog.

VIC

That's just it, the detectives said he always has a Different dog. They think he probably buys or even steals them and just abandons it when he's done with them.

BENNY

What a prick.

VIC

They're even looking at Lyle for a homicide.

BENNY

Oh my GOD! This guy's a one-man crime wave.

VIC

There was a little girl found in the woods in Baldwin last month molested and strangled. They got D.N.A. from Lyle's house and they're gonna see if it matches the D.N.A. left at the scene.

BENNY

So they went to his house?

VIC

Yeah, neighbors said they haven't seen him and we know he hasn't shown up for work right? . . Oh, and they know all about his trips to South America. They think there's a chance he may have fled there.

BENNY

Hey, is Hal still talkin' to the detectives?

VIC

No, he's done with them. He's in a meeting with corporate about the new position.

BENNY

What position?

VIC

Hal's replacing Lyle . . He's now our new store manager.

BENNY

(excited)

Alright! Good he deserves it. He's got the seniority, experience, the smarts and he'll make a few extra bucks, so he won't be so stressed out all of the time.

VIC

Hey, it's more than a few bucks it's a huge raise . . But your right maybe now he can calm down a bit not having to worry about money so much . . You ready Ben? I think the detectives interviewed all the other employees so your probably up next.

BENNY

(very nervous, pacing back and forth)

I got nothing to tell'em I mean what am I going to say different than everybody else hunh? We all thought he was a run of the mill creep maybe even a flaming asshole but this . . who could see this coming? The guy turns out to be a freakin' monster . . I mean what am I supposed to do, crack the case for them Vic, hunh?

VIC

Whoa . . easy Benny relax. They're just gonna ask a few questions it's no big deal.

BENNY

Well it's a big deal to me . . I just don't want to do it. It goes back to when I was a kid.

VIC

Oh shit, this isn't gonna be good.

BENNY

(agitated)

That's right because it wasn't good and ever since I've been scared shitless around cops.

VIC

What the hell happened?

BENNY

I was fourteen, and there was this little bar in my neighborhood like an old man's type bar, sawdust on the floor, shot and a beer type of joint.

VIC

Yeah, I know the kind.

BENNY

Well, the name of the place was Benny's.

VIC

No shit?

BENNY

Yup Benny's, and there was this sign on the front of the building that said Benny's.

VIC

(sarcastic)

Go figure.

BENNY

Well, the sign was nothin' special. I don't know maybe seven . . . eight feet long, no neon or anything, just thin metal. There might have even been a little rust on the edges. I must've walked past that sign a million times over the years and I always thought how great that sign would look up on my bedroom wall.

VIC

I see where this is going.

BENNY

One day I'm walking past the bar and I notice the right side of the sign broke away from the building and it's just hanging there all crooked and the left side is held up with one lousy bolt. I go past the place for weeks on end and it's still not fixed it's obvious the owner doesn't give a shit about this sign.

VIC

(sarcastic)

So, you want to give this poor sign a nice new home on your bedroom wall am I right?

BENNY

(sincere)

I felt it would be the right thing to do under the circumstances.

VIC

(sarcastic)

So benevolent of you.

BENNY

So anyway, the bar is closed on Mondays except during football season for Monday night football. This was summertime so I go there on a Monday with a ladder and a wrench and I'm in the middle of loosening the bolt on the side when the cop's pull up.

VIC

So, did you make a run for it?

BENNY

I couldn't I'm on top of the freakin' ladder and I know they think I'm stealing the sign . . . so, I tell'em that I saw it was broke and I figured I'd just fix it, but I could tell they were skeptical.

VIC

Rightfully so.

BENNY

So they ask me my name and of course I can't tell'em.

VIC

(chuckling)

Of course not.

BENNY

Now you know I've always been a big fan of the rocky movies seen'em all a hundred times . . .

VIC

You told them your name was Rocky?

BENNY

In hindsight that may have been better. No I told them my name was Sylvester . . . you know like Stallone.

VIC

What!!

BENNY

Yeah, it just popped out . . so they ask for I.D. but I don't have any but after a while I convince them.

VIC

You mean bullshit them.

BENNY

That's a bit harsh, but yeah I guess kinda . . . OK so they're starting to leave when all of a sudden, my aunt Peggy pulls up in her car and yells "hey Benny what are you doin' with the cops."

VIC

BUSTED!

BENNY

Well, not technically probably cause I was too young, but before they called my parents they made me think I was going to jail.

VIC

(laughing)

Good scared straight and see you've been on the straight and narrow ever since.

(Hal approaches he's quiet
and pensive)

VIC

Hey buddy you OK, how'd the meeting with the big wigs go?

HAL

It went good, but ya know I got a lot more responsibility now.

BENNY

And with that responsibility comes a lot more dough, right?

HAL

Yeah, I guess.

BENNY

Since we're on the subject of salary, when do you think you'll be able to bump ours up a bit?

VIC

Knock it off Benny. The guys had a long day.

BENNY

I'm just kiddin'

(under his breath)

Well . . sort of.

VIC

Hal if that piece of shit is down in South America, they'll never find'em.

HAL

Yeah, probably not . . . I'm wiped. I just wanna get home to Michelle I'll see you guys tomorrow.

(Hal walks away)

VIC

(yells to Hal)

OK, get some rest alright?

BENNY

(yells to Hal)

See ya Hal.

(CURTAIN)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT III

Scene 3

SETTING: Belmont Racetrack picnic Area.

AT RISE: Hal, an obviously pregnant Michelle, Phyllis and Benny Sitting on lawn chairs with a few ice coolers on the grass.

HAL

Hey Phyllis, your doin' it all wrong ya can't just go by the name of the horse.

PHYLLIS

You believe this shit? He's been a store manager for what four months? And he thinks he can boss everyone around.

BENNY

(chuckling)

It's ok if he bosses me around cause you know . . . ahhh he's my boss.

PHYLLIS

Well not here he's not . . . not at the track.

HAL

Relax, I'm just tryin' to help you out a little give ya some of my expertise.

PHYLLIS

OK Hal, who do you like what number horse?

HAL

See I'm glad you came around. You put your pride on the shelf and now I can share some of my wisdom with you.

MICHELLE

(cheerfully)

It's refreshing not to see you two at each other's throats for once.

BENNY

Yes, quite refreshing.

HAL

(Holding up the racing form)

According to my calculation . . . its got to be the twelve horse. He's got the breeding. I like the trainer and the jockey, plus the horse loves this distance.

PHYLLIS

(racing program on her lap)

OK, Hal likes the twelve let me just take my pen and . . .

HAL

That's right. Put a nice circle around that twelve and ya might wanna bet a load on'em.

PHYLLIS

Circle? I'm scratching him from my program. If you like'em he doesn't have a prayer.

HAL

SON OF A! . . .

MICHELLE

Hal NO!!

BENNY

(Springing from his chair)

Wait wait! Michelle you shouldn't get too excited in your condition.

MICHELLE

Come on Phyllis, that wasn't very nice.

PHYLLIS

I know sis, he just brings it out in me . . . but Benny's right you should take it easy.

BENNY

Michelle, what semester are you in?

HAL

(laughing)

It ain't college dopey.

MICHELLE

(rubbing her belly)

It's trimester Ben, I'm in my second.

BENNY

Hey Hal, you ready to be a papa?

HAL

I guess I'm gonna have to be.

PHYLLIS

And make sure you don't bring my nephew with you to the track.

BENNY

So, you know it's a boy?

HAL

Just found out the other day.

(turning to Phyllis)

And what's wrong with bringing him here? It's a state park . . . matter of fact they have a playground for the kids right back there.

(pointing)

PHYLLIS

You hear this Michelle? He's got it all planned out already.

MICHELLE

I don't see the harm in having a picnic here it is a very nice park.

PHYLLIS

Yeah ok, it's just that I'd rather have my nephew studying his schoolbooks and not the racing form.

HAL

Not that it's any of your business, but don't worry my boy will be hitting the books plenty. I wanna see him get into a real good college.

BENNY

That's right and maybe he'll get into one of those top ivory league schools.

HAL

(laughing)

Not again Benny, did you say ivory like the soap?

BENNY

(embarrassed)

Well . . . um.

HAL

(pointing)

Look at the back of the grandstand. That's ivy growin' up the brick. It's ivy league schools Ben.

BENNY

(sheepish)

Ok, then um . . . I stand corrected.

MICHELLE

Honey, leave'em alone be nice.

HAL

Come on he knows I love'em.

(turning to Phyllis)

Hey when are we going to meet this new boyfriend of yours?

PHYLLIS

He sez he's gonna tryin' stop by a little later. He had some work to finish up.

MICHELLE

(excited)

Oh, I hope he does I can't wait to meet him.

PHYLLIS

I'm so happy sis, we get along great and we have all the same interests. I tell ya we're just perfect together.

HAL

Hey, what's his dogs name?

PHYLLIS

(angry)

Now what the hell is that supposed to mean?

HAL

Well I'm just assuming he's blind and has one of those seeing eye dogs.

BENNY

Yo, that was bad come'on man you should apologize to her.

HAL

We tease cause we love. She knows she's my favorite sister-in-law, right Phil?

PHYLLIS

First of all, I'm your only sister-in-law and second of all please try not to be an A-Hole when he gets here.

HAL

(takes a can of beer from
cooler and pops it open with
big grin)

I'll be on my best behavior.

BENNY

I talked to Vic, he's also gonna stop by.

MICHELLE

(cheerfully)

Oh good, he can have lunch with us there's plenty of food and
drink.

BENNY

Talk about a happy couple, Vic and Neil now that's a happy
couple.

MICHELLE

You are so right Benny, you could see they're crazy for one
another . . . I'm so happy for the two of them.

PHYLLIS

Yeah me too, and I'm sure Vic feels so relieved not having to
hide anything. The only thing is I still feel kinda' stupid for
pressuring him to go out on a date.

(laughing)

You know I was startin' to think there was something wrong with
me.

(Phyllis, Michelle and Benny
quickly turn to look at Hal)

MICHELLE

Honey don't even think about it!

HAL

What?

PHYLLIS

Ya know, come to think about it, Hal, you're not exactly the
open-minded type, how are you dealing with all this?

HAL

I'm fine, when he's happy I'm happy . . . the only thing is
between him spendin' time with Neil and us havin' a new baby
around the house I'm afraid we won't be able to hang out as much
as we used to . . . but all in all, I'm very happy for'em he
really deserves it.

PHYLLIS

(sincere)

Whoa, I've never seen the sensitive side of my brother-in-law,
I'm impressed.

(Vic approaches)

BENNY

Hey! Here he is.

MICHELLE

Oh, hi Vic, good to see you sweetie. So how have you been?

VIC

(cheerfully)

Good, good.

PHYLLIS

Hi Vic.

(Vic gives Michelle and Phyllis
a peck on the cheek)

HAL

Hey buddy.

VIC

Oh boy, look at everybody . . . gotcha papers out handicapping
the ponies.

BENNY

Any inside info to share?

VIC

Nah, sorry Neil doesn't have a horse in this race.

HAL

(teasing)

Yer useless as tits on a bull.

VIC

(laughing)

What happened? . . . A minute ago, I was your buddy.

HAL

Doesn't matter anyway.

(holding up racing form)

I picked the winner already.

VIC

Let's hope so.

HAL

Vic tell Phyllis she can't pick horses just by their names.

VIC

She can pick'em anyway she wants as long as she's having fun right Phyllis?

PHYLLIS

That's right.

MICHELLE

Vic, we have so much food have something to eat . . ya hungry?

VIC

Ah thanks Shelly, but I'm meeting Neil up in the clubhouse.

HAL

Honey, he's eatin' at the clubhouse restaurant. Ya know shrimp cocktail for an app. Then what? . . Maybe a nice steak and lobster for the entree.

VIC

(laughing)

That does sound good.

HAL

See . . . What would he want with a hero sandwich. A beer and Phyllis's mushy potato salad?

PHYLLIS

Kiss my ass! . . The only thing mushy around here is your brain.

HAL

(teasing)

Go ahead, go up there with all your fancy friends, us commoners will just stay here in the picnic area.

MICHELLE

You know he likes to tease you Vic. Don't pay any attention to him.

HAL

Ya know I may have to rethink my big decision regarding you.

VIC

What big decision?

HAL

You know making you the boys godfather.

VIC

(excited)

What!

MICHELLE

We want you to be the godfather.

VIC

That's unbelievable! What an honor.

(hugs Michelle and Hal)

PHYLLIS

And I'm the godmother.

HAL

(teasing)

Well that could change.

PHYLLIS

Again, you could kiss my . . .

VIC

I can't believe it.

(impersonating Marlon Brando)

"I'm the Godfather"

HAL

(laughing)

You certainly are.

VIC

Just like the movie, but without the horse's head in the bed.

HAL

Well then again if that twelve horse doesn't win.

MICHELLE

Ewww, Hal!

HAL

Kidding, just kidding.

BENNY

This is great, I tell ya I've never seen you two this happy.
Hal and Vic livin' the dream.

VIC

That's right Benny. Hey Hal, you enjoying that domestic beer?

HAL

(takes a sip)

Ooh, I absolutely am.

VIC

That's good just remember C.Y.B.

HAL

Always my man . . always C.Y.B

BENNY

(yelling)

Wait! What is that? You guys got some secret code and you don't let me in on it? Aah, come on that ain't right. That's B.S. guys and you know it!!

(Hal and Vic laughing as Vic walks away)

CURTAIN

The End

