HALSTON "THE PARTY'S OVER"

104

WRITTEN BY RYAN MURPHY IAN BRENNAN

OVER BLACK:

The HISS of a needle placed on a record.

1

I/E. 63RD STREET TOWNHOUSE -- MONTAGE

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CLOSE ON a gram of cocaine cut into lines with a gleaming razor blade. A platinum straw enters frame and HOOVERS up the line.

CAMERA DOLLIES IN FAST A LA BOOGIE NIGHTS into HALSTON registering the hit of endorphins. He squeezes both nostrils, and sniffs as he stands.

HALSTON

Okay, let's go.

As he heads toward VICTOR who waits at the door, the groove of Tantra's "Hills of Kathmandu " plays and camera ROTATES ON ITS AXIS at 45rpm like a record turning. The swirling camera follows them out the door to --

2 EXT. STUDIO 54 -- NIGHT -- MONTAGE

The limo arrives outside Studio 54 and the image stops spinning as the music continues. FLASH BULBS EXPLODE as Halston emerges from the limo, Victor, ELSA and JOE EULA follow.

As they approach the entrance, camera finds RENEE, 20s, bridge and tunnel, maybe a little unstable, amongst the throng of wannabe partygoers behind the velvet rope.

RENEE

HALSTON! I'M WEARING YOU! TELL THEM TO LET ME IN!

He ignores her. Doorman MARC BENECKE raises the velvet rope and they walk inside.

3 INT. STUDIO 54 -- MONTAGE

PAN OFF the iconic MAN IN THE SPOON to a dance floor in the most fabulous circle of hell. In the saturated light, sweaty bodies of shirtless men and fashionable pixies twirl like dervishes. Manic. JUMP CUTS as Halston and Victor and Elsa and Joe do bumps of coke off spoons. Lines off table tops. Victor eats a quaalude off the extended tongue of a man in a leather thong. The music POUNDS.

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INT. STUDIO 54 -- MONTAGE

Victor heads upstairs to the VIP area holding 4 scotches in his hands. He stops. SNAP ZOOM to find Halston on a divan kissing a MAN, his hand down his pants. PUSH IN on Victor.

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5 INT. OLYMPIC TOWER -- DAY -- MONTAGE

A pair of hands opens a SAFE. Pulls out PETTY CASH.

6 EXT. OLYMPIC TOWER -- DAY -- MONTAGE

PAN UP from a MANILA ENVELOPE to find SASSY JOHNSON, who hands it to a SHADY COKE DEALER, who looks both ways, then palms her a large BAGGIE OF POWDER.

7 INT. OLYMPIC TOWER -- MONTAGE

Follow the baggie in her hand as it's carried through the workroom MID-FASHION SHOW and brings it backstage to a kind of chic cocaine tureen. She pours the coke in.

Doing final touches and sending models out, Halston looks up to see models FAWNING as Elsa fits them with her newly desired CHUNKY SILVER CUFFS. We clock Halston's irritation.

SASSY (0.S.)

Halston.

She gives a "coke's here" nod. Halston bends over, snorts a spoonful, adjusts a belt then sends the last model with the cuffs out as CAMERA DOLLIES OUT TO THE SHOW, carrying her out onto the runway. The dresses are opulent now, decadent, and more structured.

Find LIZA and Victor as they give a standing ovation. They both openly do bumps of coke, out in the open. WHIP PAN as the audience cheers to find Halston striding out, taking his bow, high as a weather balloon.

8 I/E. MONTAUK ESTATE -- DAY -- MONTAGE

Camera follows Halston, Victor and Elsa into the sprawling Montauk estate dressed to the nines. A REAL ESTATE AGENT natters on MOS. Halston takes one look and turns to her.

HALSTON

I'll take it.

9 EXT. STUDIO 54 -- MONTAGE

Halston, Victor, Joe and Elsa emerge from the limo. Halston smiles. WHIP PAN to:

HALSTON Stevie...!

STEVE RUBELL, 30s, all Izod and bad hair, lifting the velvet rope for them.

"The Party's Over" Production Draft CONTINUED:

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STEVIE Hiya, sweetheart. It's a big night...

Camera finds Renee, behind the rope, screaming, DESPERATE.

RENEE STEVE! PLEASE LET ME IN! PLEASE!

STEVIE (to Halston) See you inside.

He walks over to Renee, gives her the once-over.

STEVIE (CONT'D) Never gonna happen. You're bridge and tunnel, honey. You got bad hair and a knock-off dress.

INT. STUDIO 54 -- MONTAGE 10

> POPS of wild dancing, then balloons raining from the ceiling as BIANCA JAGGER emerges onto the floor RIDING A WHITE HORSE.

11 INT. 63RD STREET TOWNHOUSE -- MONTAGE 11

> A bustling afterparty. Halston does an enormous rail then woozes out to the sunken living room and stops, so stoned. CLOSE ON his dilated pupils. Reveal Victor in AN ORGY on all the furniture. A beat, then Halston sinks into a chair and watches, struggling out a cigarette and lighting it.

12 INT. OLYMPIC TOWER -- WORKROOM -- MONTAGE 12

> Camera PANS past a bustling workroom to Halston fitting, in a rage. He pulls a dress off a fit model and starts tearing at it as Joe looks on. Over the pounding music:

> > HALSTON It's SHIT! What is this fabric? Where did you even GET this?

He pulls the lid off the tureen. It's empty.

HALSTON (CONT'D) SASSY! What the fuck???

WHIP PAN to Sassy in the doorway.

SASSY We've gone through a two week supply in a day...

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HALSTON

GET IT, SASSY!

13 I/E. OLYMPIC TOWER -- MONTAGE

Sassy walks down the hallway as DELIVERY MEN push HUGE CARTS OF ORCHIDS. The place is basically a jungle now. Pointing:

SASSY

Workroom. Office. Conference room.

JUMP CUTS of the drug sequence, faster. Sassy gets petty cash. Walks down the street. Scores LOTS OF BAGGIES.

14 EXT. STUDIO 54 -- MONTAGE

> Halston exits the limo again, Liza in tow. FLASH BULBS. As Marc lifts the velvet rope, find RENEE, screaming, manic.

RENEE

HALSTON! Let me in! PLEASE!

He's gone. Push in on Renee as we follow her in JUMP CUTS as the music gets muffled and distant. She exits the line, walks around the back of the building, searching. Spots a door. She pulls off her pantyhose, wraps it around her fist and SMASHES THROUGH the glass. Gingerly reaches in and opens the door.

She walks into a dingy side door, mops and ladders and cleaning equipment and then another locked door with no window. Then, she looks up. AN AIR VENT. Camera pushes in. We hear music coming from it. She pulls the ladder from the wall, props it up and CLIMBS.

The grate CLANGS to the floor. Renee's head pops in the air vent, then she climbs inside. She army crawls through the cramped vent towards the music, getting louder and louder. The vent narrows. With effort, she squeezes a shoulder through, then we see the smile disappear from her face.

She's stuck. She tries to pull herself back. She can't move. Suddenly panicked, she screams:

RENEE

HELP**!!**

INT. STUDIO 54 -- MONTAGE 17

> It's Karl Lagerfeld's birthday, and the In Crowd (sans Liza * and Halston in chic black) are wearing circus themed outfits. *

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5. 17

Red glitter gently rains down. Out on the dance floor, out of * her mind, Liza dances like a maniac. Heart pounding. She * starts spinning.

18 INT. AIR VENT -- STUDIO 54 -- MONTAGE

Renee screams over the blaring music.

RENEE HELP ME!!! PLEASE!!!

19 INT. STUDIO 54 -- MONTAGE

> Liza spins and spins, euphoric, then the blood drains from her face. She COLLAPSES to the ground. The sound deranges, suddenly atonal and fuzzy, almost a drone as FROM ABOVE, the camera slowly SPINS down from 45 rpms to a STOP, Liza laying unconscious on the dance floor below. Halston races through the circle of stunned partygoers, slapping at her face.

> > HALSTON LIZA. LIZA! (screaming) SOMEBODY CALL AN AMBULANCE! LIZA!

We SMASH TO BLACK as the MUSIC ECHOES TO SILENCE. CUT TO:

20 INT. OLYMPIC TOWER -- WORKROOM -- DAY

> Silence. Everyone is hung over and shaky. CLOSE ON THE TUREEN OPENED, then the lid put back on.

> > VICTOR (O.S.) We're low on coke.

> > > HALSTON (0.S.)

SASSY!

Find Elsa and Halston, fitting in the corner as Joe races in.

JOE EULA Good news and bad news. First, Liza's okay --

HALSTON Thank god.

JOE EULA Her publicists are all over it. She was just 'dehydrated', she's in the hospital for 'exhaustion'.

HALSTON What's the bad news?

(CONTINUED)

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JOE EULA

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Well, there's bad news, and then <i>really</i> bad news, and then, like, the <i>worst</i> news.	
HALSTON What?	
JOE EULA Studio got raided. Stevie got locked up for tax evasion, fraud, some shit. It's gonna be shut down for a WHILE.	
HALSTON Wait, what's worse than that?	
JOE EULA Well, when the cops looted the place, they found I mean, it's insane	
ELSA WHAT?	
JOE EULA They found a dead body in the air vents. Some crazy bridge and tunnel girl. She was trying to get in.	
HALSTON Jesus <i>Christ</i> .	
JOE EULA Yep. <i>THAT'S</i> not the worst part. (wait for it) She was wearing Calvin Klein.	
Off their looks of horror we SMASH TO TITLES.	
OMITTED 2	21-22
EXT. HELMSLEY HOTEL COURTYARD DAY	23
DAVID MAHONEY and Joe Eula have a clandestine meeting.	
JOE EULA I don't get it. Halston's name is on <i>everything</i> . Loungewear, furniture, linens, luggage, <i>wigs</i> , <i>TOILET PAPER</i> for godssake. How can we be losing money?	
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MAHONEY

We're not losing money, but we're not making what we should. I've got big plans for this company, Joe. I can't get into it, but you, me, Halston, we stand to make a LOT of money --

(off Joe's look -- plans?) -- but the brand has plateaued. For the first time in five years, we'll have a quarter with no sales growth, and that is a problem ...

JOE EULA

Not to state the obvious, but this might be a conversation you should be having with Halston.

MAHONEY

I've tried. You mention boards with him, quarterly reports, his eyes glaze over. (then) We've got licensees coming out of

our ears. Halston, Inc. should be PRINTING money but it's not. Why?

JOE EULA

Because he's not interested.

MAHONEY

See? I did come to the right person. Take luggage. Halston was interested in that for about five minutes. Does one great line, then POOF. Doesn't care. That's a problem, because that means we have ONE line of luggage to sell. Even if it does great, it's one line. Doesn't even recoup the overhead. We'da been better off not doing it.

JOE EULA

I see what you're saying ...

MAHONEY Right now, the Halston fragrance? Gangbusters. That's what's keeping us afloat.

(MORE)

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MAHONEY (CONT'D) But if this is how Halston's gonna be, how he's gonna act, how he's gonna design, we need something else from him -- like the perfume -some big-ticket item that will be HUGE for us. And I happen to know what that item is.

JOE EULA

Jeans.

MAHONEY

Jeans.

HALSTON (V.O.) (PRE-LAPPED) I don't want people walking around with my name on their ass.

SMASH TO:

24 INT. OLYMPIC TOWER -- DAY -- FLASHBACK

24

Joe hovers, watching as David follows Halston as he mists the small jungle of orchids with a small chic gold spray bottle, poking little sticks of fertilizer into each pot.

HALSTON

I wouldn't even put my name on a perfume bottle, David. I'm not putting it on America's keister.

MAHONEY

Fine! Your name goes inside the zipper! You don't see it til you unzip. Love that --

HALSTON

David, jeans are a FAD. Balenciaga didn't do fads and neither will I.

MAHONEY

"Fad"? I don't care what you call it. "Status Jeans" are a 500 MILLION dollar market. Look at Calvin Klein -- he sold 15 million pairs of jeans last year -- !

Halston wheels on him, slamming his fists on the table, suddenly LIVID:

HALSTON

You do NOT walk into MY office and mention that name to me, David --

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MAHONEY

(not backing down) It's NOT your office, Halston, it's Norton Simon's. It's MY fucking office if it's anybody's --

HALSTON -- Calvin Klein is a fucking HACK --

MAHONEY

-- I agree! THAT IS WHAT I'M SAYING! You do a line of jeans, Calvin Klein'll jump off the G.W. Bridge -- !!

SLAM! Halston has ducked into the bathroom. A beat. Joe looks to Mahoney with a shrug. Then, way too quickly to have actually used the bathroom in any traditional sense, Halston breezes back in, perky, his mood totally changed.

> HALSTON Dungarees, David. Let's call them what they are. Not jeans. Dungarees. Halston doesn't do dungarees and that's my last word on the subject.

He spritzes an orchid, then holds it up next to his face, like a spokesmodel, playful, faux-grandiose:

> HALSTON (CONT'D) I'm like this orchid, David. I'm a hothouse flower. You wouldn't put me in your front window box with carnations, would you?

David resists the urge to roll his eyes. He goes to respond but Halston has already moved on.

> HALSTON (CONT'D) Joe, get the models in here. Let's fit. Good to see you, David.

Off Mahoney, quietly fuming we SMASH BACK TO:

25 EXT. HELMSLEY HOTEL COURTYARD -- RESUME 25 *

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Joe exhales, knowing what's being asked of him.

JOE EULA So you're asking me to talk to him. "The Party's Over" Production Draft

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MAHONEY

Except I'm not asking. You're as much Halston as he is, Joe. He'll listen to you. We got three months, maybe, before the market on highend jeans is saturated and we'll have totally missed the boat. (then, severe) Taking on Halston was a *big* risk for me, Joe. I wanted a shiny, marguee brand for Norton Simon, but when I look at it now ... It looks like what I invested in, what I bet my reputation on, is orchids and coke and parties at Studio 54. That shit's not gonna fly for much longer, you understand? Get him to 'yes' on this.

David slaps him on the back, then walks off. Off Joe, dreading:

26 INT. HALSTON'S TOWNHOUSE -- DAY

SOUNDLESS SUPER 8 FOOTAGE on the back of a canvas. The camera zooms in to find a signature on the frame. This is a Warhol. We see Victor's coked-out eyes peek over the canvas to camera, then watch as a knife makes several long cuts through the painting and a black rubber dildo in Victor's hand pops through and moves the length of the cut in the least interesting or artistic way possible. Victor's head pops up as he stares into camera, saying things we can't hear, then pushes a fist slowly through the canvas. He punches holes in the canvas, then flips it over revealing that this is a portrait of HALSTON. He pokes the dildo through Halston's face, then starts violently slashing it from behind.

POP TO a WIDE behind the camera where a COKED-OUT GUY WITH A NONDESCRIPT EUROPEAN ACCENT IN HIS UNDERWEAR mans the camera as the radio BLARES.

COKED OUT GUY Yeah, that's so good...

HALSTON (O.S.) WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU DOING???

Reveal Halston in the doorway, aghast.

VICTOR I'm making ART. Don't interrupt! What the fuck is wrong with you! 26 *

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CONTINUED:

HALSTON That's my Warhol!

VICTOR No, it's not, it's Warhol's fucking Warhol --

HALSTON FUCK YOU! THAT'S MY FACE AND YOU'RE SHOVING A DILDO THROUGH IT --

POP TO the sad MOS footage. Still rolling. BACK TO:

VICTOR OKAY, WELL, YOU WANTED ME TO HAVE TT - -

HALSTON THAT WAS ON MY WALL AND YOU STOLE TT!!! (to the guy) AND WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU???

COKED OUT GUY (fuck off) I'm Victor's friend.

VICTOR (re: Halston) Ignore him. He doesn't understand art.

Halston turns on his heels and storms out.

VICTOR (CONT'D) IT'S GONNA BE WORTH MORE NOW, YOU PIECE OF SHIT!!! YOU SHOULD BE THANKING ME!!! I'm a true ARTIST!!!

A beat. Victor does a bump of coke, turns to the guy.

VICTOR (CONT'D) Let's keep going. You still rolling?

27 INT. MONTAUK BEACH HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM -- THE NEXT DAY 27

> CLOSE ON a cassette as it's inserted into the tape player of a hifi stereo set. A finger hits PLAY.

A demo of "Got Tu Go Disco" plays. Reveal Joe dancing a bit at the stereo as we RACK TO Halston across the room, sketching in his chair. He looks up.

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What is this?

JOE EULA Groovy, right? It's the show I was telling you about -- "Got Tu Go Disco" -- I'm doing the costumes, I'm kinda producing it... (off his dry look) I told you, it's gonna be on Broadway! We're opening at the Minskoff! It's about Studio 54 --Marc's in it!

HALSTON Marc BENECKE? Marc Benecke the doorman at Studio 54.

JOE EULA Yes! It's like, his story.

HALSTON

(nailing it down) You're doing a musical about Marc Benecke, the doorman at Studio 54, starring Marc Benecke, the doorman at Studio 54.

JOE EULA

(grooving) Broadway's first disco musical! Cool, huh? I mean, this is just a demo...

HALSTON It's TERRIBLE. Turn it off. I'm trying to work.

Joe deflates, and turns off the tape, grousing:

JOE EULA

I mean, I was gonna ask if you wanted to invest, but okay...

Halston sketches, deep in thought, but struggling. He bristles a little as Joe peeks over his shoulder.

JOE EULA (CONT'D) Interesting. *SOMEONE'S* got Calvin Klein on the brain...

We see the sketches. It's a different kind of design. Formfitting. Structural. Joe heads to the kitchen.

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HALSTON

I find his work so tedious, but obviously he's hitting a chord. He uses great material, I'll give him that, but it's so restrictive.

Returning with coffee, Joe turns back to give a knowing eyebrow raise.

JOE EULA

Well...

Joe places a coffee in front of Halston and sits next to him.

HALSTON

Thanks.

Joe takes the pencil and makes an adjustment.

JOE EULA What about clingy here at the torso, then loose at the waist ...?

Halston gives an unconvinced wince, staring at the image, willing himself to have a flash of inspiration. Joe hesitates, then sees his opening.

> JOE EULA (CONT'D) I think you're right, you know. Calvin Klein's the one you need to chase.

Halston gives a 'hmm', making a few pencil strokes and staring again. Joe leans in.

> JOE EULA (CONT'D) You're better than him.

Halston looks up, perplexed.

HALSTON

I know that.

JOE EULA I know you know. Just. (then) If you really want to make him mad -- go after the jeans market.

Halston bolts to his feet, tossing the pad onto the table.

HALSTON He got to you, didn't he? *

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JOE EULA

Who -- ?

HALSTON

Don't bullshit me, Joe. MAHONEY. He got to you. Jesus CHRIST, JOE! MAHONEY'S GOT YOU DOING HIS DIRTY WORK, NOW, DOES HE???

JOE EULA He's RIGHT, H! It's a HUGE market!

HALSTON

You were supposed to be my friend --

JOE EULA What the fuck? I AM your friend, and I'm telling you, Mahoney's right! You've stopped growing!

HALSTON

BULLSHIT! I'm bigger than I've ever been!

JOE EULA But YOU'VE stopped <u>GROWING</u>.

HALSTON

I've got -- what -- thirty-five licenses? And how many clothing lines? I can't even keep track!

JOE EULA

That's the problem, H! You can't keep track of it all because you're not INTERESTED in it --

HALSTON

FUCK YOU.

JOE EULA

STOP SAYING THAT. I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING YOU NEED TO HEAR! You're spread too thin! You don't delegate, so you can't service the licensing agreements, so Norton Simon is not seeing their investment and now you've got a COMPETITOR who's nipping at your ass and all you have to do to FIX it is design a goddamn pair of blue JEANS and you won't do it!

(CONTINUED)

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HALSTON YOU'RE RIGHT! I *won't* do it!

JOE EULA Well, then, you're a fucking *child*.

Silence. Halston stares at him. Joe immediately wants those words back. The low roar of the ocean is haunting.

JOE EULA (CONT'D) That came out wrong...

The front door opens to a musical:

ELSA (O.S.)

Hellooooo!

Halston stares at Joe, wordless, as Elsa breezes in.

ELSA (CONT'D) Sorry I'm late. Where's lunch?

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INT. MONTAUK BEACH HOUSE -- DINING ROOM -- DAY

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Camera pans across a LAVISH LUNCH as Elsa holds court off screen, jittery and high, mid-screed --

ELSA (O.S.)

... I've been their highest grossing jewelry designer five years in a row! It's been a sensation, having me there, and now my contract is up, we have to renegotiate, they say, "Well, Elsa, you know, we don't really KNOW how much money you made for us. Tiffany's, it's a legacy brand," all this bullshit. So I say to him, to Richard, I say this to his face -- but Richard, I KNOW what I've made you.

JOE EULA (O.S.) (knowing) Mmm hmm.

ELSA (0.S.) Because EVERY UNIT, I know what it costs to make, and I know what you sell it for! So don't pretend you don't know! 2.8

2.8

-- as a pair of hands takes a delicate mother of pearl spoon to dollop thousand-dollar tins of beluga caviar onto a blini, then move seamlessly to an ivory set of coke paraphernalia -coke is shaken out of a tiny ivory bottle. An ivory razor blade cuts out a line. The line is snorted up a nostril with an ivory straw.

Halston squeezes his nose, pops the blini in his mouth and fetches a baked potato from a silver platter and dresses it as he listens, impassive, to Elsa's nattering, both she, Joe and Victor doing bumps of coke between bites ...

> ELSA (CONT'D) So I tell him, Richard -- here's what you should do. Go rent the biggest truck you can find, fill it with hundred dollar bills, park it in front of my apartment, and then carry it up in boxes and I'll tell you when to stop because if I'm signing another contract with you you're going to PAY me whatever the fuck I want and you're going to let me design whatever the fuck I want. I'm the boss now.

Halston's face is stony, as he cuts into his baked potato.

JOE EULA

Exactly! You've fucking put Tiffany's on the map again. WHO WAS GOING TO FUCKING TIFFANY'S???

ELSA

(with a laugh) Well A LOT OF PEOPLE but thank you, you're kind to say that but also, EXACTLY! Pay me! It's ludicrous!

Out of left field, too loud:

HALSTON These potatoes are cold.

Elsa and Joe turn to him. With a chortle:

ELSA Just put it in the oven.

VICTOR H doesn't know how to use the oven.

ELSA Where'd the food come from?

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HALSTON

Olympic Tower.

ELSA Get the fuck out.

VICTOR He has meals flown in.

ELSA

(aghast)
To MONTAUK? FROM MANHATTAN???

HALSTON Not anymore if they can't fly me in a hot fucking baked potato...

ELSA Hold on hold on hold on. You have got to be joking.

JOE EULA

H puts the order in to Olympic Tower, they make it, sea plane flies it in to Lake Montauk and they drive it over.

ELSA And your order was full caviar service and baked potatoes?

HALSTON

It's what I had a taste for!

ELSA

Oh my GOD this is incredible. HALSTON. This is, like, NEXT LEVEL eccentric. FLYING SEAFOOD IN TO MONTAUK? That's like bringing pineapples to Hawaii.

All four erupt in laughter at the insanity of it all. Even Halston, who laughs, somewhat manic, but keeps his gaze trained on Elsa, a fire in his eyes. The laughter subsides. Elsa wipes tears from her eyes.

> ELSA (CONT'D) Ohhh my god...

HALSTON You really have become a *crashing* bore, haven't you. *

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ELSA Excuse me? HALSTON You breeze in here for the weekend, YOU'RE FUCKING LATE, don't say 'sorry', don't waste a single breath asking how I'm doing --JOE EULA Η... HALSTON Fuck you --(to Elsa) -- and you go ON and ON about all your SUCCESS --VICTOR Joe asked her --HALSTON (leaning in, venomous) I've read every article -- you know what word you DON'T mention? HALSTON --ELSA What the FUCK -- ? HALSTON -- except to drop snarky hints about how Halston perfume was all YOUR idea --ELSA I have NEVER, in my LIFE --JOE EULA She's never said that, H --HALSTON WHERE IS MY FUCKING THANK YOU, ELSA? I GOT you that job at Tiffany's, I gave you my APARTMENT -- STILL waiting for a thank you --

Elsa stands, LIVID. Victor sits back, hands behind his head, relishing. Joe tries to referee.

> ELSA OHHHHHHH NO. You don't get to fucking do this -- you don't get to make this about you --

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HALSTON

You get to be creative and it's because I'M paying for it. If you're an ARTIST IT'S ON MY DIME AND I'D LIKE A LITTLE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IN PRINT, THANK YOU VERY MUCH --

ELSA

-- FUCK YOU, HALSTON. IS THAT THANK YOU ENOUGH? YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT? I'M MORE TALENTED THAN YOU AND YOU USED ME FOR AS LONG AS YOU COULD AND YOU CAN'T USE ME ANYMORE AND THAT DRIVES YOU NUTS!

JOE EULA

Guys. COME ON.

Victor has started loudly humming "Toreador" and conducting an imaginary orchestra as Halston follows Elsa to the door as she gathers her things in her arms, shouting all the way.

HALSTON

I thought you were staying for the weekend! I was looking forward to sitting around the campfire listening to stories about how fucking wonderful you are -- !!!

ELSA

I FUCKING LOVED YOU, HALSTON. What the fuck does that say about me? I hope I never fucking lay eyes on you again, you PATHETIC HAS BEEN. You USELESS PIECE OF SHIT!!!

HALSTON

YEAH, DON'T LET THE DOOR HIT YOU ON THE ASS!

The door slams. Silence. Victor leaps onto the sofa, giggling. Joe heaves an exhausted sigh.

JOE EULA

Η...

Halston hangs his head, then looks up, a moment of clarity.

HALSTON Was I always like this?

JOE EULA Um. Like THAT? No. That's new.

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29-32

HALSTON

Do you think it's the ...

He gestures vaguely in the direction of the cocaine.

HALSTON (CONT'D) Because I feel like *that's* when it all started to go sour. Maybe I should lay off it a little bit.

Victor is already rushing over in damage control.

VICTOR What the fuck are you talking about? No way! That shit's medical grade. It's practically a vitamin.

He takes him by the shoulders, making sure he hears him.

VICTOR (CONT'D) Believe me -- when it's the end? We'll know.

The group disperses.	Halston	pours	himself	а	scotch.	The	*
phone rings.							*

HALSTON Hello?

A beat. His face goes slack.

- 29-32 OMITTED
- 33 INT. MONTAUK BEACH HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER 33

Victor sits on the sofa with Joe.

JOE EULA Okay, but it was hanging in *HIS* townhouse.

VICTOR That doesn't mean I stole it!

There's a yelp from the kitchen.

34 INT. MONTAUK BEACH HOUSE -- KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER 34

Victor and Joe hurry into the kitchen to find Halston curled up on the floor, convulsing with sobs.

JOE EULA What happened? "The Party's Over" Production Draft 9/16/20

HALSTON

My mother died.

MUSIC PLAYS as we DISSOLVE TO:

35 INT. MIDWESTERN FUNERAL HOME -- DAY

In SUPER-SLO MOTION, Halston, all in black, sunglasses on, walks through a parting sea of dowdy mourners in the lobby of a down-market suburban funeral home. It's other-worldly -every eye that catches him holds the gaze and conversation stops, as if witnessing a god descending to the Earth.

He makes his way down the center aisle as we reveal an open casket wreathed with an impossible number of DAFFODIL bouquets. Sprays of monochromatic DAFFODILS everywhere.

He takes a handful of them and walks toward the casket. He removes his sunglasses to reveal a face streaked with ceaseless tears from bloodshot eyes that have not stopped crying. Halston places the daffodils on his mother's chest, then leans over and lays his head on her breast, needing her hands to cradle his head one more time. He holds it there.

CUT TO:

36

36 INT. 63RD STREET TOWNHOUSE -- NIGHT

The MUSIC SLOWLY FADES as CAMERA PULLS back from Halston's exhausted face, empty of all feeling, sipping a double scotch alone, staring numbly at MATCH GAME on the TV. The jaunty theme music plays as Gene Rayburn throws to commercial.

A girl whistles "Oh My Darling Clementine" as camera moves from a jean leg and boot to find a model sitting oddly in the frame, looking down, wavy auburn hair draped to the side.

Push in on Halston's face, staring, numb. The model looks up. It's BROOKE SHIELDS. She looks to camera.

BROOKE SHIELDS You know what comes between me and my Calvins? Nothing.

A chyron in iconic font appears as a smoky baritone intones:

ANNOUNCER (V.O.) Calvin Klein Jeans.

A beat. Halston WHIPS his scotch at the TV. It shatters against the image as we SMASH TO:

34

37 INT. OLYMPIC TOWER -- MAHONEY'S OFFICE -- DAY 37

A cold and distant Mahoney looks up from his desk. Halston looms over him, jittery.

> HALSTON I'll do it. I'll do jeans. BUT. I do it my way, okay? Just like the perfume --

MAHONEY You have something on your nose.

HALSTON

Do I?

Halston quickly wipes the whiff of powder from his right nostril. Now back-footed:

> HALSTON (CONT'D) You know, I was resistant to blue jeans because I didn't know how to make them Halston, right?

> > MAHONEY

Mmm hmm.

HALSTON -- but now I do. This is the fabric.

He tosses a sample of thick, very blue denim on Mahoney's desk. Almost too thick to be denim. Mahoney feels it.

> HALSTON (CONT'D) I want to do a partnership with Levi's --

MAHONEY This is really thick.

HALSTON

Mmm hmm. Very thick. It's sensual. Almost like velvet -- it's a modern take on blue jeans --

MAHONEY

Halston, people wear jeans to the discotheque. You can't dance in something this thick, you'll pass out! Look at what Calvin's doing -the jeans are thin, they're formfitting, you wear them in --

HALSTON

(flaring) You have never once questioned my artistic vision --

MAHONEY

Well, I am now. This isn't gonna work --

HALSTON

All right, well, I might be willing to consider another fabric --

MAHONEY

No, I mean, jeans are not going to work! Halston jeans are not going to happen! We missed the window. If we had this conversation three months ago, we mighta had something, but as of right now? The market's saturated. Calvin Klein, Chic, Gloria Vanderbilt, Cacharel, Sasson, Ford, Jordache, Ferrari -we can't make money on Halston jeans. We missed the boat. That ship is out to sea. Where were you three months ago, Halston? Fashion moves fast. You know that.

Silence.

HALSTON All right, well, c'est la guerre. How about you and I go to lunch...?

MAHONEY I can't today. Let's get something in the books.

He goes, ice. Halston stands there, stunned.

38 INT. MAHONEY'S FANCY SECOND HOME -- NIGHT

38 *

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*

David Mahoney and BOBBI eat Dover sole and sip chablis in their fancy dining room.

> BOBBI ...and you know I was having lunch with Blaine --

MAHONEY Who's Blaine?

BOBBI

(duh)

Blaine Trump. And she says they just finished a STUNNING new beach house in Quoque of all places, but I guess the tract of land is just -epic -- and the house is all glass and cedar -- it's a Gwathmey -- so it's all these big cubes and triangles but SHE said --

MAHONEY

We have a beach house. We're having dinner in it right now.

BOBBI

That's not my point, my point was SHE was saying that the BIG thing now is BOATS --

MAHONEY

Like sailboats? Neither of us know how to sail.

BOBBT

No, like YACHTS. I mean, MAYBE they're sailboats -- you wouldn't sail them anyway, you hire a captain, you have a whole staff.

MAHONEY

Bobbi, you know what a depreciating asset is?

BOBBI

(no)

Yes.

MAHONEY

It's what a boat is. Depreciating asset. The second you set foot on them you lose 90% of your investment. They're money pits.

BOBBI

(annoyed) So you're telling me you're CEO of Norton Simon Industries and we can't afford a boat.

He drops his silverware clinking against the china.

* *

*

Production Draft

38

*

MAHONEY

Jesus Christ. Sweetheart. Don't make it sound like I'm not providing, okay? I'm making some moves, you gotta be patient --

BOBBI

I've BEEN patient -- a YEAR ago you said just wait til Halston does a line of jeans. Well, what happened? If he'da done jeans a year ago, I'd be in San Tropez right now instead of listening to you tell me how poor we are or something --

MAHONEY

I'm gonna take Norton Simon private.

A stunned beat.

BOBBI

Oh my god. Wh-what does that even mean?

MAHONEY

It's called a "leveraged buyout." I'm lining up investors to buy out the stockholders, turn Norton Simon into a private corporation. I've got a billion lined up, need 1.5 probably -- our brands are worth more than that if we sell them off individually so we keep the ones that are profitable, Hunt-Wesson, Max Factor, Johnny Walker, sell off the ones that aren't. Avis -hemorrhaging money -- Halston...

BOBBI

(concerned) Halston?

MAHONEY

He'll be *fine*. He'll make a killing off the sale. *IF* we can pump up the brand first because right now, it's flagging. Jeans woulda done the trick, we missed that, so I'm on the lookout for another big license. If I can find that thing, a year from now? You'll have boats coming out of your ears.

Production Draft

BOBBI

Wow. Oh me of little faith.

She leans in and kisses him. Camera pulls back as she does an excited little shiver. PRE-LAPPED DISCO MUSIC BLARING.

39 INT. STUDIO 54 -- DJ BOOTH -- NIGHT

Halston sits behind the DJ booth, sunglasses on, hiding, peering out at the dance floor as if from an aerie. He does a bump of coke from a tiny silver spoon. A beat. Then, he pulls out a vial, taps out an ENORMOUS line that he HOOVERS up his nose. A beat as his head bops to the beat. That's better.

He spots something. ELSA in the sable coat he gave her. He beelines toward her. In the middle of the dance floor, he turns her around by the arm.

> HALSTON You didn't come to the funeral.

> > ELSA

What?

HALSTON My mother died. You weren't there.

ELSA

Halston, you didn't fucking tell me she died! You didn't tell anyone! How the fuck am I supposed to --I'm sorry about your mother, but you talk to me the way you talked to me and expect me to just show up when you don't even invite me? What am I? Some fucking MIND READER???

She tries to walk past him. He grabs the coat and starts pulling it off her as she goes.

HALSTON Give me this, then...

ELSA WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU DOING???

HALSTON

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME TO DO JEANS??? YOU FUCKING KNEW I SHOULD!!! AFTER ALL I DID FOR YOU? WHO IS THIS FRIEND I THOUGHT I HAD!!! GIVE ME THIS FUCKING COAT, I bought it it's mine!!!

(CONTINUED)

"The Party's Over" Production Draft

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40

LISA	
HERE, TAKE YOUR FUCKING COAT, YOU	
PIECE OF SHIT! YOU NOTHING! YOU'RE	
NOTHING TO ME! You're nothing but a	
no culture cheap faggot dress	
maker!	

HALSTON And you're nothing but a low-class jewelry designer!

ELSA

Faggot faggot faggot!

She throws the coat on the floor, stomping on it -- takes a bottle of vodka from a table, shakes it out all over the coat * and his shoes, then SMASHES it on the ground, then collapses. * Halston cooly stares, then exits as we CUT TO: *

40 INT. BEDROOM -- NIGHT

The phone rings. Liza Minelli clicks on the light and answers the phone, panicked.

LIZA

Hello?

We hear Halston on the other line, VERY MUFFLED.

HALSTON (V.O.) Hi, darling, it's me. I just had a hell of a night --

LIZA Who is this?

HALSTON (V.O.) It's me. I just got back from Studio --

LIZA

WHO?

41 INT. HALSTON'S BEDROOM -- INTERCUT

41

Halston screams down the phone.

HALSTON IT'S HALSTON!!!

LIZA Halston? Darling I can barely hear you. Must be a bad connection. Call me back.

She hangs up. The phone rings again. She picks up.

LIZA (CONT'D)

Hi.

HALSTON Is that better? I just had the worst night of my LIFE --

LIZA Sorry, darling, I just can't hear you --

Halston SLAMS down the phone screaming:

HALSTON

FUCK!

42 INT. 63RD STREET TOWNHOUSE -- MORNING

> Halston pops four aspirin and chugs a glass of orange juice. Very hungover. He sits at the kitchen table and opens up The New York Times. He freezes, then peers at an article on A20. We see the headline: RARE CANCER SEEN IN 41 HOMOSEXUALS. OUTBREAK OCCURS AMONG MEN IN NEW YORK AND CALIFORNIA -- 8 DIED INSIDE 2 YEARS.

A moment. Halston stares, then begins to read. IN BG we see Joe leading a TELEPHONE REPAIRMAN out the door.

> JOE EULA Thanks again, it's very much appreciated.

HALSTON Is it fixed?

JOE EULA I guess you could say that --

HALSTON Must have had something to do with the construction ...?

Joe walks into the kitchen, perturbed.

JOE EULA Nope. That's not what it was.

43 INT. 63RD STREET TOWNHOUSE -- FLASHBACK 43

*

42

The Repairman unscrews the receiver on Halston's bedside phone and at least a gram of white powder falls out.

44

* *

CONTINUED:

43

JOE EULA (V.O.) The quy unscrewed the receiver and a pile of cocaine poured out.

REPAIRMAN Um. Is this cocaine?

JOE EULA

Probably.

44 INT. 63RD STREET TOWNHOUSE -- KITCHEN (RESUME)

> JOE EULA He said there was so much coke in there it "oxidized the phone"!

HALSTON No way. How is that even possible?

JOE EULA I've seen you do it!

POP TO:

45 INT. 63RD STREET TOWNHOUSE -- LIVING ROOM -- FLASHBACK 45

> POP of Halston, sitting in his living room, chatting MOS on the phone. Does a bump of coke.

> > JOE EULA (V.O.) You sit there on the phone, doing bumps of cocaine and every time a little bit must fall through the little holes into the receiver!

> > > BACK TO:

46

46 INT. 63RD STREET TOWNHOUSE -- RESUME

Halston just stares, a sphinx. A beat, then:

HALSTON I've NEVER done that.

JOE EULA Jesus CHRIST, Halston, let us all know when you plan your return trip to planet Earth --

HALSTON They're all lies! It's all I read in the papers now -- lies about me!

30. 46

JOE EULA

HALSTON. The coke shit has gotten out of control. YOU are out of control.

HALSTON

HOW DARE YOU. You don't know the kind of pressure I'm under --

JOE EULA

YES, I DO! Because I'm the one who has to BE Halston when Halston's on a coke bender! I'M Halston til you decide to roll out of bed at three in the afternoon and you're STILL too hungover to speak!

HALSTON

Oh, it's real hard on you, is it?

JOE EULA

(emotional) Yes, Halston, it is. I've given you TEN years of my life. I've given up MY dreams for YOURS. So I could stand in your shadow and fish cocaine out of your phone and watch as the work gets worse and worse and worse.

A beat. Halston goes cold. Calculated:

HALSTON

You've spent ten years in my shadow, Joe, because deep down, you know that's where you belong. Standing in my shadow is the best you're ever gonna do so don't give me this needy, sad-sack bullshit. I've given you more than you could've ever hoped for and if you don't like the work? Well, there's the door, Joe. You can fuck off to design fucking costumes for your shitty fucking disco musical about the goddamn doorman at Studio 54. THAT'S the level of taste I've come to expect from you. You have secondrate instinct and no ideas. You're an embarrassment. You're beta to my alpha and that's as good as it gets for you and the quicker you realize that the happier you'll be. (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED: (2) 46 HALSTON (CONT'D) Accept that fact and quit being such a fucking sourpuss or get the fuck out of my life. Joe stands there, stunned, tears streaking his face. He opens his mouth to respond, but he's too upset. He turns and walks out. The door slams behind him. Halston just stands there. HALSTON (V.O.) (PRE-LAPPED) (CONT'D) So -- how long are you going to be qone? 47 INT. LIZA'S APARTMENT -- DAY 47 Halston watches, stunned as a twitchy Liza packs her suitcases, covering anxiety. LIZA Not long. Two months, I think -don't be sad, I'll be back before you know it. HALSTON But I don't get what this is -it's a tour -- ? Liza chuckles, then turns to him, squarely. Kind. LIZA It's called, "rehab", Halston.
 (back to packing) I'm told it really works. And when Liz Taylor calls you up and says, "go to Betty Ford," you listen. She's right -- I was headed down the same path as my mother, and we all know how that turned out, and I'm not gonna do that. A sob leaps from Halston's throat. She hurries over and wraps him in her arms. LIZA (CONT'D) Oh, sweetheart --HALSTON Everyone's leaving me... LIZA

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31.

"The Party's Over"

I'm not leaving you -- I'll be leaving you if I keep doing what I'm doing, that's all --

She looks him straight in the eye. Delicate:

"The Party's Over" Production Draft CONTINUED: LIZA (CONT'D) Why don't you come with me? HALSTON I don't have a problem. LIZA HALSTON --HALSTON I don't! I haven't even gone out in five days! I'm on a tomato juice diet! I know how to stop --LIZA H, I know you. The one thing you DON'T know how to do is stop. (then, firm) The party's over. Studio got closed down -- Stevie had to go to jail --HALSTON (not hearing it) Well, it's reopening in a few weeks. I told Stevie I was gonna throw the party --LIZA (knows the end is now) Well, maybe I'll be back for that,

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She wraps him in her arms and squeezes him, hard.

LIZA (CONT'D) I love you. And I'll never leave you.

Off Halston's tears, bereft:

then.

48 INT. ELEVATOR/HALLWAY -- NIGHT 48 * *

Victor and Halston ride the elevator, Steve Rubell is with them.

> VICTOR Why are we going to this? I thought you hated Calvin Klein.

HALSTON I don't hate him, I just think he's terrible. But Stevie here loves him --

47

(CONTINUED)

Who?

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48 STEVIE That I do --HALSTON -- and Stevie just got out of jail, and he's gonna re-open Studio and I'm gonna throw the gala -- sponsor it, design it -- it'll be front page on every paper in America. Mahoney's gonna be thrilled... VICTOR So are you gonna be nice to him --HALSTON VICTOR Calvin? When the doors open and we're in his fucking apartment. Or are you gonna be a bitch? HALSTON Why should I be nice? I'm sure he's copied my townhouse, I can't wait to see it, and to JUDGE. (to Steve) So what's with the girlfriend? STEVIE Super chic, I like her. Nice girl.

HALSTON Oh for God's sake. That motherfucker. Who does he think he's fooling? He dates the lady equestrians and shop girls, what's her name again --

STEVIE Kelly, she's classy, I like her --

HALSTON -- so they can market him as straight but we all know he sucks more dick than any of us...

Steve is sweating now.

STEVIE * Halston? * HALSTON *

Yes love.

48

(CONTINUED)

49

50

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STEVIE * I have to tell you something, * before we go in. The reopening for * Studio you want to throw, the * * party? HALSTON * Yes, I can't wait --* STEVIE * Halston, this IS that party. * Victor snickers into his palm. Halston goes white. The * elevator slows its rise. * STEVIE (CONT'D) * We reopen tonight. We're all going * there after -- I thought somebody * told you -- I know you wanted to do * * it, but Calvin offered and, well, it's Calvin. You understand. * Halston nods, stunned as the door opens and there is CALVIN * and KELLY, waiting for them. Steve and Victor rush out, air * kiss Calvin. As Halston slowly walks into the group of * piranhas, smiling fakely at him --* OMITTED 49 * INT. OLYMPIC TOWER -- DAY 50 Halston paces, agitated, as Mahoney sits at his desk. MAHONEY I know you've lost a lot of creative partners, Halston, and that's normal. That's part of any business. But you still have me. I want you to know that. Sit. You're making me nervous. (as he does) We've talked about this. The brand isn't where we want it to be --(before he can argue) -- that's not your fault, we just have to fix it. We need that big

and we're back in business. Good
news is -- I've found that thing.
 (the pitch)
What if. You became. The exclusive,
in-house designer for JCPenney?

item to boost the Halston profile

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Halston just stares. Then, after a beat --

HALSTON

Is this a joke?

MAHONEY

It's not a joke. This could be the biggest deal in the history of fashion. Halston, it could be huge.

HALSTON

And why, David, would I ever do something like that?

MAHONEY Because you'll make a billion dollars. With a B.

Halston blinks, stunned.

MAHONEY (CONT'D) That's a thousand MILLION dollars.

HALSTON Thank you, David, I know what a billion dollars means.

MAHONEY

Do you, though? When you earn that kind of money, you're suddenly a member of a very exclusive club --

HALSTON

(cutting him off) So that's all I'm meant to care about at this point? Money?

MAHONEY

Of course not. Just think of it as a silver lining to a cloud made of solid gold...

Halston doesn't laugh. Mahoney shifts, the gentlest of warnings.

> MAHONEY (CONT'D) I think you see the writing on the wall here, Halston...

Halston turns to the window, deeply torn. He knows David's right.

CONTINUED: (2) 50	
MAHONEY (CONT'D) At some point, you gotta pay the piper. Good news is, this piper's gonna pay you back to the tune of a billion dollars. So that's a pretty good piper, if you think about it. And a pretty good tune. I realize the metaphor's kind of breaking down at this point	* * * * * * * *
HALSTON Yes, but David money aside how am I supposed to <i>justify</i> this? To <i>myself?</i>	* * *
Mahoney shifts in his seat, thinking hard, grasping.	*
MAHONEY Well, I don't know! Penney's? they're an institution in this country! It's practically a branch of the federal government. You're looking at, what, a thousand stores nationwide?	* * * * * *
HALSTON (wheels turning) So. JCPenney's is a part of the American fabric. (then, a light bulb) and I'm a part of the American fabric.	* * * * * * *
Mahoney looks at him, with a smile. That's IT. Halston takes a drag, then, with a twinkle:	*
HALSTON (CONT'D) Where to I sign?	*
COUNSELOR (V.O.) (PRE-LAPPED) Mr. Hugo?	*
INT. NEW YORK CLINIC HALLWAY DAY 51	
Victor sits in a hallway of chairs lined with young men.	
COUNSELOR (O.S.) Victor Hugo?	

Victor looks up to see a COUNSELOR with a clipboard standing outside of a clinic office.

50

52 INT. NEW YORK CLINIC -- OFFICE -- DAY

Under bleary fluorescent light, Victor sits opposite the Counselor at her desk. Matter of factly:

COUNSELOR Unfortunately, you have tested positive for H.I.V.

Camera holds on Victor as he takes this in. He is stone.

COUNSELOR (O.S.) (CONT'D) I know that's not what you wanted to hear today, but the good news is, we're just starting trials with several new treatments...

VICTOR (quietly) I knew it. COUNSELOR I'm sorry, sir? VICTOR I knew I'd have it. (beat)

We probably all have it ... right?

His eyes shine with emotion and fear. He is oddly centered.

VICTOR (CONT'D) How could we not? We lived. I mean, my God...did we live. With no rules...with no fear. With liberation. Not since Gomorrah, you know what I mean? (with emotion) And now? Poof. The dream is over.

COUNSELOR I know this is a lot to take in. The first thing we need to do is get a list of all the sexual partners you've had...

She hands him a legal pad and a pen. He snorts a derisive laugh, then:

> VICTOR I'll need a few more legal pads. (off her look) Sugar, I've fucked everybody...

> > DISSOLVE TO:

53 VIDEO FOOTAGE -- ADVERTISEMENT

> A sky filled with clouds over a floor of clouds. It's like we're in heaven as a SNYTH PLAYS and a MODERN WOMAN in WHITE walks toward camera.

> > ANNOUNCER (V.O.) Presenting the Halston III Lifestyle collection.

She fades out before she can run into the camera and THREE MODERN WOMEN FADE IN in sassy hats and slacks. Then TWO MODERN WOMEN in one-piece swimsuits.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.) Sports lifestyle.

Then a MODERN WOMAN in a breezy blue wrap around. THREE MODERN WOMEN in smart skirts and tops.

> ANNOUNCER (V.O.) Career lifestyle.

SO MANY WOMEN walking towards camera. So many lifestyle looks, a wet-dream of early 80's fashion. One of them waves a tiny American flag for some reason.

> ANNOUNCER (V.O.) A totally new fashion point of view for the modern American woman's lifestyle. All this and much more. Halston III exclusive designs.

Now the modern women walk away from camera and look back at a wolf whistle. Reveal Halston, tossing a suit jacket over his shoulder, presumably the source of the whistle.

HALSTON

Only at JCPenney.

The HALSTON logo appears on screen above the JCPenney logo as Halston flashes his million dollar American smile. But his eyes are dead.

54 EXT. EAST NEW YORK SUBWAY PLATFORM -- BROOKLYN -- NIGHT 54

> Victor stands smoking as an A train trundles into the station. Riders emerge. He trolls for men.

> > VICTOR Hey, you wanna make some money?

The guy walks on. He spots a HOT CONSTRUCTION WORKER, 40.

VICTOR (CONT'D) Hey, man, are you gay or straight?

MAN

What the fuck did you just say to me?

VICTOR

So you're straight. You wanna make \$200? I know a guy, he's gay, he's really rich. He's had a bad week. Give him some good dick and you'll get \$200.

53

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9/16/20 38. 54

55

Off his look we CUT TO:

55 INT. 63RD STREET TOWNHOUSE -- NIGHT

Camera pushes in on Halston, who sits in the living room, staring at the TV, agape. There is a pallor to his complexion. He's watching footage of Disco Demolition at Comiskey Park. Mayhem. Cops try to wrangle a riot on the field around a bonfire of disco records. He hears Victor enter. Can't look away.

> HALSTON Look at this. There's a riot at Comiskey Park in Chicago. They're burning disco records in the middle of the field. (then) This isn't about disco music. Disco is black and it's gay -- they want to burn our culture ...

Victor switches off the TV.

VICTOR Halston. I'd like you to meet someone. This is Derrick.

Halston turns to see the man from the subway. He looks back to Victor, then gets what's going on. He turns back to Derrick, silky smooth.

> HALSTON Oh. Hello, Derrick. I'm Halston.

Derrick shakes his hand, visibly uncomfortable.

DERRICK Nice place you got.

HALSTON Thank you. I'll give you the tour...

He leads him up the floating staircase, looking back and locking eyes with Victor as they head to the bedroom and we CUT TO:

56 INT. OLYMPIC TOWER -- DAY -- INTERCUT 56

David Mahoney sits with his feet on his desk.

MAHONEY Ooo yeah. I like that one ... Reveal an YACHT BROKER in a three piece suit who stands before an easel, presenting boards of large yachts.

YACHT BROKER Okay, this one? She's 172 feet, she's called the Big Eagle. She accommodates 12 guests, 9 crew --

MAHONEY

NINE crew...

YACHT BROKER Yeah. Designed by Giorgio Vafiadis. She just launched in Yokkaichi, Japan, but for the right price, we could have her here in two weeks...

MAHONEY And what's that gonna set me back.

YACHT BROKER For a million, she's yours...

57 INT. OLYMPIC TOWER -- WORKROOM -- INTERCUT

57

Halston spoons coke into his nose, then goes back to a FIT MODEL in a dress that just doesn't work. He goes to pin.

HALSTON Relax your shoulders. (as she tries) RELAX YOUR SHOULDERS OR THE DRESS DOESN'T WORK. (then) Take it off.

FIT MODEL I'm trying --

HALSTON THE FUCKING DRESS DOES NOT WORK, PLEASE FUCKING TAKE IT OFF.

58 INT. OLYMPIC TOWER -- DAY -- INTERCUT

58

The elevator door opens and three LAWYERS IN SUITS stride down the hallway. Mahoney's Secretary stands as they near.

SECRETARY Can I help you?

LAWYER We'll just be a minute.

CONTINUED:

They walk past her and enter.

MAHONEY (O.S.) I mean, yeah, fuck it. Let's do it. Now I just gotta find a captain and NINE fucking crew, but what the hell --

The lawyers walk in and Mahoney startles at his desk. From the look on his face he immediately knows this is bad.

> MAHONEY (CONT'D) Can I help you?

LAWYER David, we need to have a conversation.

MAHONEY (to the broker) Would you excuse us?

59 INT. OLYMPIC TOWER -- HALLWAY -- NIGHT 59

Halston steps out of the bathroom and walks towards his office. Notices workers are removing carts full of orchids, some racks of clothing. Sassy runs up.

> SASSY H! I tried to stop him, but he just walked right in --

Halston walks into his office to see a stout man in a suit, CARL EPSTEIN, who stands as he enters.

> CARL EPSTEIN Mr. Halston.

HALSTON

Who are you?

Carl flashes a warm smile and offers his hand.

CARL EPSTEIN I'm Carl Epstein. I run your division now. (off his shock) There will obviously be some cuts.

DISSOLVE TO:

60 EXT. UPPER EAST SIDE HIGH-RISE -- BALCONY -- NIGHT 60 * Mahoney sips a scotch as he stares out at the skyline.

(CONTINUED)

Production Draft

BOBBI (0.S.)

Honey...

He turns to see Bobbi, ducking her head out.

BOBBI (CONT'D) He's on his way up.

HALSTON (V.O.) (PRE-LAPPED) What the fuck is going on, David???

61

INT. UPPER EAST SIDE HIGH-RISE APARTMENT -- MOMENTS LATER 61

Halston strides across the room, beyond furious.

MAHONEY Okay, first? You gotta calm down.

HALSTON

The guy says he runs my company, David. You better explain to me right now how that isn't true.

MAHONEY

Let me fix you a drink, first, and I'll explain the whole thing --

HALSTON

NO. You TELL ME how there are people WHO I DO NOT KNOW IN MY OFFICE RIGHT NOW LOADING THINGS INTO BOXES AND CARTING THEM AWAY WHEN YOU <u>PROMISED</u> ME THAT YOU WOULD ALWAYS BE THERE FOR ME. YOU PROMISED YOU WOULD PROTECT ME --

MAHONEY

(exploding)

I GOT OUTBID, HALSTON!!! (then)

I fucked up! I tried to take Norton Simon private -- I was gonna make us a LOT of money -- and word got out about the share price I was offering, how it was too low, and another company came in and I got outbid. By ONE fucking dollar per share. Esmark. They're a packaged goods company out of Chicago. They bought us out. Once it was in motion, there was nothing I could do. I'm out the door. Carl Epstein runs Halston now.

"The Party's Over" Production Draft 9/16/20 CONTINUED:

Halston stands, putting it all together. Tears in his eyes.

HALSTON That's what JCPenney was all about, wasn't it? You knew you were going to sell Halston...

Mahoney goes to protest, but crumples, racked with guilt.

MAHONEY I'm sorry, Halston. I let you down. Clearly, I didn't think this all the way through...

Halston trembles with emotion.

HALSTON No, you didn't. Didn't even bother to tell me...

MAHONEY

I mean, for you, Halston, it's just management change, really. It's not gonna be all that different day to day. You'll get money.

HALSTON (a wounded child) You told me that I would never be alone.

A heavy beat. Mahoney shrugs his shoulders. But his eyes brim with tears.

> MAHONEY It's business, Halston.

A moment as Halston stands there, devastated. He walks out.

62 INT. HALSTON'S OFFICE -- LATER 62

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Halston walks down the hallway past rooms where orchids are getting packed away. He walks into his office, numb, and closes the door. Walks over to the window and STARES OUT at the city. CAMERA PULLS BACK as he gazes out, in arctic isolation and we --

END EPISODE