

queer asfolk

EPISODE ELEVEN

1 EXT. LIBERTY DINER - DAY

1

START ON: AN OLD, OLD LEATHER QUEEN.

BRIAN (v.o.)

See that guy? He just turned thirty.

As the elderly gent in cowhide passes our boys (BRIAN, MICHAEL, EMMETT and TED) on the street.

BRIAN (cont'd)

That's what you're going to look like in a couple of days, Mikey.

EMMETT

Don't listen to him. You look like you're ten.

BRIAN

But this strange thing happens on your thirtieth birthday. You look great the night before. But then, you wake up and your ass is down to there and your dick disappears!

TED

Well, I'm 33. So, what does that make me?

BRIAN

(to Michael and Emmett)

Hey, did you guys just hear something? Like a voice from the dead?

As they turn into:

1A INT. LIBERTY DINER - DAY

1A

As the boys move to a booth:

MICHAEL

It's a good thing I didn't move in with David -- I don't have a lot of time left. What was I thinking?

TED

Possibly you were lured by the promise of all that chiropractic sex.

MICHAEL

(trying to convince himself)

The sex wasn't even that great.

(CONTINUED)

EMMETT

I seem to remember something about a
"talented tongue" --

TED

And "fantastic fingers" --

EMMETT

And orgasms that wouldn't quit --

MICHAEL

Okay, so it was great. But it gets
boring awful fast with the same person.

BRIAN

I wouldn't know.

MICHAEL

Well, I'm ready to do all the things
you can't do with a boyfriend. Go to
the bars, go out dancing --

TED

(pointedly)

Go home alone.

Brian calls out across the diner:

BRIAN

Hey, busboy!

They all look. There's JUSTIN with a tub of dirty dishes.

BRIAN (cont'd)

Could we get some water?

MICHAEL

What's he doing here?

DEBBIE answers the question.

DEBBIE

Isn't he adorable? The customers love
him. His ass gets more compliments
than the burgers.

TED

His buns are fresh.

MICHAEL

(to Justin)

Jesus!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

1A

CONTINUED: (2)

1A

MICHAEL (cont'd)

You live in my room at my mother's house, you work where I eat-- I can't get rid of you, can I?

JUSTIN

(re: Brian)

Blame him. He's making me do this.

BRIAN

He's paying me back for the charges he made on my credit card.

MICHAEL

Couldn't you just send him to prison?

DEBBIE

This is worse! Where's David?

Ted, Emmett and Brian all look at Michael as they realize he hasn't told Debbie about the breakup.

MICHAEL

(covering)

I think he had a patient.

DEBBIE

(noticing the hushed table)

Don't bullshit me. What did you do?

MICHAEL

Nothing!

BRIAN

It ran its course, Deb. Leave him alone.

Debbie looks at Michael, taking it in and disapproving all at once.

BRIAN (cont'd)

He's better off.

DEBBIE

Uh-huh.

(she'll handle it later)

So, Emmett -- how about a stack of those banana-blueberry pancakes that you love?

EMMETT

(with a great big grin)

Sounds great!

2 INT. LIBERTY PHARMACY - DAY

2

Emmett and Ted peruse the Alka and Bromo Seltzer aisle.
Emmett's smile has turned to indigestion.

EMMETT

Why did I eat those goddamn pancakes?
(with a burp)
They're repeating more than "I Love
Lucy"!

TED

I need my Claritin refilled.

On the way to the Prescription Counter, Ted spots a MUSCULAR
GUY, grabs Emmett and pulls him aside.

TED (cont'd)

You see that guy at the counter?

EMMETT

Honey, are you kidding? My gaydar went
off the minute we came in!

TED

I had sex with him.

EMMETT

You did not!

TED

Did too!

EMMETT

Stop it! Tell me every detail!

TED

It was about six months ago, after
work. I stopped to pick up some
bottled water on the way home. That
was before I started using the Brita
filter.

EMMETT

Okay, not every detail.

CUT TO:

3 INT. PHARMACY - NIGHT

3

It's very late and the place is empty. Ted opens a
refrigerated case and reaches for a big bottle of water.

(CONTINUED)

3

CONTINUED:

3

Another, more muscular arm reaches in at the same time. They accidentally touch. Ted turns and sees the Muscular Guy.

TED

Sorry.

MUSCULAR GUY

No problem.

TED

(nervously, in love)

Don't want to face the morning without water.

MUSCULAR GUY

Huh? Oh, yeah.

The Muscular Guy starts to walk away, down the aisle. Ted can't help but watch him. The Muscular Guy turns back and sees Ted staring at him. His face unexpectedly cracks a smile. Ted can't believe the guy's actually smiling at him!

CUT TO:

4

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

4

Ted and the Guy are having amazing sex in the Guy's SUV. The car bounces up and down, shakes, rattles and rolls. On his back, Ted's feet protrude through the window as the Guy fucks him. We see Ted's face, upside down, in paroxysms of joy and triumph:

CUT BACK TO:

5

INT. PHARMACY - DAY

5

TED AND EMMETT AT THE PHARMACY

Emmett's jaw is on the floor.

TED

That's the story.

EMMETT

I need to go into the phone booth and jerk off.

TED

It was late. I probably looked good to him because he didn't have his contacts in.

(CONTINUED)

5

CONTINUED:

5

EMMETT

Hey, take it any way you can.

TED

I did.

They laugh as the PHARMACIST hands the Guy his medication.
Ted and Emmett listen.

MUSCULAR GUY

I'm still on the Crixivan. That's not
a problem?

The Guy continues his conversation. Ted and Emmett look at
each other. Ted turns pale.

5A EXT. LIBERTY PHARMACY - DAY

5A

As Ted and Emmett run out for air:

TED

Oh my God -- !

EMMETT

He must be positive. That's why he has
such a good body. They put them on
steroids, you know.

Emmett looks over, sees Ted's horrified expression.

EMMETT (cont'd)

What? You were safe, weren't you?

Ted looks at Emmett and doesn't answer. That's answer
enough.

6 INT. BIG Q-MART - DAY

6

Michael's walking down an aisle, his new badge reads
"Manager". MARLEY appears in a panic.

MARLEY

Mike, we need you in the back --
there's a fire!

MICHAEL

A fire --? Holy shit!

They run off as fast as they can. As we FOLLOW them to:

7 INT. BIG Q-MART - STOCK ROOM - DAY

7

Michael bursts in:

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL
(breathless)
Where's the fire?

TRACY (o.s.)
Right here.

ANGLE ON TRACY

as she steps forward with a tray of cupcakes, each with a single candle. She's surrounded by FELLOW BIG Q-MARTIANS.

ALL
Surprise!

MARLEY
Happy Birthday!

MICHAEL
You guys -- ! How'd you -- ?

MARLEY
Tracy found out. She knows everything about you.

MICHAEL
Uh -- really?

TRACY
Not everything.

MICHAEL
That's good. I mean, it's important to maintain a little mystery.

MARLEY
And what's your mystery?

MICHAEL
(on the spot)
Uh -- well, for one thing my birthday's not 'til Friday.

They all laugh.

TRACY
Okay, okay! Make a wish.

A beat. Michael closes his eyes, blows out the candles with one breath.

(CONTINUED)

MARLEY

(giving him a wink)
I bet you were thinking of somebody
special!

Michael ignores that, tasting the icing of a cupcake.

MICHAEL

These are great!

TRACY

I made them myself.

MARLEY

(her mouth full of cupcake)
She can cook, too!

TRACY

I only do it for special people.

She totally surprises Michael by giving him a big smooch on
the lips.

TRACY (cont'd)

(not embarrassed at all)
Happy Birthday!

8 INT. RIPT GYM - STEAMROOM - DAY

8

Hunky GYM BUNNIES glistening with moisture sit steaming.
Some wear little towels, some wear nothing. BRIAN enters,
nude, on the prowl. Michael, in a towel, follows.

MICHAEL

They threw me a party at work today.

BRIAN

Awww --

MICHAEL

Right, like it was supposed to make me
happy, knowing my best years are behind
me. What do I have to look forward to?

BRIAN

A slow, but inexorable diminishing of
your sexual capacity, brain function
and bladder control.

Brian gives Michael a smooch.

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL
Thanks a fucking lot!
(then)
She gave me a kiss.

BRIAN
Who?

MICHAEL
Tracy.

BRIAN
Yeah? How was it?

MICHAEL
Soft.

BRIAN
Tongue?

MICHAEL
No! God, you're so gross. She went to
all this trouble, baking cupcakes --

BRIAN
Cupcakes? How -- cute.

MICHAEL
And how do I repay her? By lying
through my teeth!

Michael suddenly eyes Brian, suspiciously.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
You're not planning some hideous little
birthday surprise, are you?

BRIAN
Now why would I want to celebrate a
tragic event like that?

MICHAEL
Good, because I want the day to go by
without a single reminder --

He stops, mid-sentence, as a GORGEOUS YOUNG GYM BUNNY walks
by. Michael and Brian admire him. Michael pinches the tiny
layer of skin around his stomach, wails:

MICHAEL (cont'd)
-- that I'll never be young and cute
again!

(CONTINUED)

8

BRIAN

You know, maybe you should've kept the good doctor around. You'd always be younger than him. And cuter.

MICHAEL

I thought you couldn't stand him!

BRIAN

When did I say that?

MICHAEL

Practically every chance you got!

BRIAN

Yeah, well, maybe he's not such a bad guy after all.

MICHAEL

Now's a hell of a time to tell me!

BRIAN

Why? You didn't break up with him on account of me, did you?

MICHAEL

Of course not!

BRIAN

That's good -- because we can't spend the rest of our fucking lives hanging out together.

Brian leans his head back, closes his eyes. Michael glances at Brian for a beat, suddenly feeling very alone. Then he leans his back, closes his eyes, too.

9

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

9

Ted sits nervously in a chair. Emmett plays with tongue depressors, etc.

EMMETT

How could you do that? How could you just -- "lapse"?

TED

I wasn't thinking -- there was no time to think!

(CONTINUED)

EMMETT

That's no excuse. I never go anywhere without condoms, water-based spermicidal lube, --

Ted has grown weary of Emmett's chiding him.

TED

And bottles of hydrogen peroxide with witch hazel! So, you're the safe-sex poster boy and I'm the Happy Hooker.

EMMETT

I'm just saying, you have to be careful.

TED

All right, already!

EMMETT

I'm serious. If anything happened to you --

(looks right at Ted)

You're too important to me.

Ted's anger subsides, he's genuinely moved.

TED

Thanks, Em.

STEVE, a slightly above average-looking male nurse enters. Emmett is instantly smitten.

STEVE

Okay, let's roll up those sleeves.

Steve goes about the business of taking blood samples.

STEVE (cont'd)

(to Emmett)

You're not a regular patient, are you?

TED

He's not a regular anything.

EMMETT

I'm just getting tested here for moral support. I make a point of getting tested every six months. It's silly really because most of my sex is cyber, -- ow!

Steve has put the needle in Emmett's arm.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE
What's your insurance situation?

EMMETT
Don't worry, I'll pay by check.
(then, flirtatiously)
My address and phone number is right on
top.

Emmett bats his eyes. Ted rolls his.

TED
Can we just do this?

EMMETT
He's nervous.

STEVE
I'm sure everything will be fine.

Steve puts the needle in Ted's arm and Ted and Emmett share a
look.

EMMETT
That's what I told him.

STEVE
All done. And now --

TED
We wait.

10 INT. DEBBIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

10

VIC sits at the kitchen table flipping through a local bar
rag. Debbie and Michael are putting away groceries from the
Big Q. Justin comes through, opens the refrigerator, stuffs
a snack in his mouth. Debbie hands him a box of Kleenex.

DEBBIE
Here, Sunshine -- take this up to your
room.

JUSTIN
Okie-doke!

MICHAEL
My room!

He glares at Justin who takes off.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

Come on, Sweetie -- back off. You're about to be 30 years old!

MICHAEL

Don't remind me.

He passes a little white bag to Vic.

DEBBIE

What's that?

MICHAEL

Vic's meds.

DEBBIE

Didn't you just get some?

VIC

Those little bottles don't last long when you're popping fifty pills a day.

MICHAEL

You're on your last refill.

VIC

I'll call the doctor.

Debbie eyes Michael, eager to get to one topic in particular.

DEBBIE

Speaking of doctors --

MICHAEL

Oh, that's a subtle segue. Look, I don't want to discuss it. It doesn't concern you.

DEBBIE

Oh, no? I've lost a potential son-in-law.

MICHAEL

The only thing you've lost is free treatment for osteoporosis.

Debbie is offended. Vic enjoys the scene.

DEBBIE

Michael Charles Novotny!

VIC

Uh-oh, middle name, look out.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

(grabbing her son's cheeks)
Listen carefully. Do Not Fuck This Up.
I want you to call David right now and
apologize for whatever it is you did.

MICHAEL

What makes you think I did anything?

DEBBIE

I'm your mother.

MICHAEL

Mom, David and I had nothing in common
except Pantene shampoo and conditioner
in one. And my whole life changed. I
stopped seeing my friends, I stopped
going to the clubs --

VIC

Get out before they kick you out.
Before you turn invisible.

DEBBIE

Listen to your uncle. You want to be
like him?

Vic looks at her, insulted.

DEBBIE (cont'd)

You know what I mean. In a few days
you won't to be a kid anymore, hanging
out with Brian --

MICHAEL

Why is it always Brian?

DEBBIE

You tell me.
(a beat, then)
David really cared for you. You could
see it in his eyes. Couldn't you, Vic?

VIC

I was too busy looking at his chest.

MICHAEL

(defensive)
There'll be someone else.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (3)

10

DEBBIE

There'll always be someone else. But
you don't find someone like David every
day.

11 INT. MICHAEL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

11

Later that night, Michael sits reading a comic book. With sudden resolve, he reaches for his cell phone, flips it open and punches in one of the programmed numbers. After a few RINGS, someone picks up.

INTERCUT WITH:

12 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - NIGHT

12

David has just picked up the phone.

DAVID

Hello? Hello -- ?

Michael says nothing, paralyzed.

DAVID (cont'd)

Michael, I have caller ID.

MICHAEL

(covering)

Uh -- I must have punched the wrong
button.

Michael instantly flips the phone shut, disconnecting the call.

13 INT. BRIAN'S LOFT - NIGHT

13

Debbie has just arrived and wastes no time getting to the point of her visit.

DEBBIE

You ruined my son's life!

BRIAN

(sarcastic)

What, no hello kiss?

DEBBIE

I mean it! You got anything fizzy?

As she speaks, he pours her a glass of club soda from the fridge.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE (cont'd)

I remember the first time I heard your name. Michael says there's this new boy at school, Brian Kinney. For weeks that's all he talked about: Brian Kinney this, Brian Kinney that. Next thing you're skipping school. Then I come home from work and find the two of you -- fourteen and drunk. I knew then you were trouble, and you haven't disappointed me a day since.

She takes a gulp of club soda.

BRIAN

At least you can't accuse me of not being consistent.

DEBBIE

A consistent heartbreak.

BRIAN

Come on, Deb, you know I've always looked out for Mikey. Times when you couldn't.

DEBBIE

I don't mean you haven't been there for him. You've been there too much. Always giving him enough tidbits of your affection to make him think one day you'll be his.

BRIAN

Who knows, we might end up a couple of old queens living in Palm Springs.

DEBBIE

Only what's he supposed to do until then?

(beat)

He had a chance with David, but you had to fuck it up.

BRIAN

He wasn't having any fun.

DEBBIE

He's had enough fun! You've all had enough fun.

(beat)

It's time for him to be a man.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

BRIAN

So what do you want me to do about that?

DEBBIE

I don't know. Something. You owe my kid something!

Brian looks at her for a beat.

BRIAN

Okay, you win. I'll do something. It's Mikey's 30th birthday. He should have a party he'll never forget.

14 INT. THE SEX SUPERMARKET - DAY

14

A few days later. Ted and MELANIE, both dressed for work, shop together. The place is packed with sex toys and other merchandise. Melanie picks up a leather harness.

MELANIE

How about one of these? It lifts and separates.

TED

Sounds like the "I Can't Believe It's A Bra".

MELANIE

Same principle. It's the "I Can't Believe It's A Harness".

TED

I don't know. Somehow I can't see Michael trussed like a turkey.

MELANIE

So then what are we doing here?

TED

He's one of my best friends. I can't let his thirtieth birthday go by without buying him something cheap and demeaning.

MELANIE

How about some Ben Wa balls?

TED

He is a bit of a tight-ass.

(they laugh, then)

I wonder what Brian'll give him?

(CONTINUED)

MELANIE

If he's lucky, a farewell fuck, once
and for all.

TED

Nice.

MELANIE

Well, it is what he wants -- and
something he wouldn't get for himself.

Melanie picks up a battery operated vibrating dildo, turns it
on.

MELANIE (cont'd)

What do you think of this?

TED

He already has one.

MELANIE

I mean for Lindsay and me.

TED

Sorry, not my area.

MELANIE

It hasn't been mine either, lately.

TED

Give it time. After a woman gives
birth, she doesn't feel sexual for
several months.

MELANIE

God, I wish you'd stop reading Redbook.

TED

McCall's. I like the sex tips. Did
you know there are ten ways to please a
man without opening your mouth? Go
figure!

14A EXT. THE SEX SUPERMARKET - DAY

14A

As Ted and Melanie come out (of the store!)

MELANIE

It's not just the sex. She's shutting
me out. I don't know how much longer I
can deal with it.

(CONTINUED)

TED

Look, I don't want to hear this --

MELANIE

Why can't I share?

TED

Because the minute you start telling your friends about your relationship problems, it's the beginning of the end. Find a shrink.

MELANIE

I've been in therapy for six years.

TED

Are you covered by insurance?

MELANIE

Yeah.

TED

Then have a breakdown. You can afford it.

MELANIE

Jesus, what is with you? You're so negative.

TED

(pointedly)

From your mouth --

Just then, one of their cell-phones RINGS. Both Ted and Melanie reach for their phones.

TED (cont'd)

That's me!

(answers, into phone)

Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

15 INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE/EXT. STREET - DAY

15

Steve at the doctor's office.

STEVE

Hi, Ted, this is Steve from Doctor Roth's office. We got your results in.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

TED
That was fast.
(nervous)
Do you want me to come in?

STEVE
No need to. Everything's fine.

Ted hangs up, almost in a daze of relief.

TED
(joyously)
I'm negative! I'm negative!

MELANIE
That's okay. Happy people can be
really annoying.

16 EXT. LIBERTY AVENUE - TORSO - DAY

16

Emmett, carrying a large shopping bag, is locking up, as Ted approaches.

EMMETT
Hey, Teddy --!

TED
Come on, hurry up! We've got to
prepare our stories for Michael -- I
don't trust you to think on the spot.

EMMETT
You always assume the worst. You're so
negative.

TED
Funny. That's what the doctor said.

A beat. Ted just beams.

EMMETT
Oh my god! You heard! That's
fabulous!

Emmett cheers and hugs and kisses Ted. As they head down the
street to Liberty Park.

EMMETT (CONT'D)
Well, I hope you've learned your
lesson.

TED
Yes, Mother.

(CONTINUED)

EMMETT

Now look what I found for Michael.

He pulls out of the bag...

EMMETT (cont'd)

A vintage Easy-Cake Oven!

TED

Why did you get him that?

EMMETT

Every gay boy wanted an Easy-Cake Oven!

TED

Uh-huh.

EMMETT

Didn't you?

TED

Uh-uh.

(then)

So did they call you?

EMMETT

I haven't checked my messages.

Emmett pulls out his cell phone, punches in. A beat.

EMMETT (cont'd)

Here it is -- Steve, the cutie from Dr.
Roth's office -- He'd like me to --

A beat. Emmett is frozen in horror.

TED

What? What?

EMMETT

He wants me to come into the office as
soon as possible.

Emmett is ashen. A silence. Finally:

TED

It can't be what you think it is. You
said yourself, you never do anything.

EMMETT

(punching in the number)

All you have to do is one thing.

(CONTINUED)

TED

I'm sure you're fine.

EMMETT

Then why didn't he say that?

TED

(scrambling)

Maybe it's their procedure with new patients.

EMMETT

Bullshit. Everybody knows when they tell you to come in, it means something's wrong!

Emmett waves at him to be quiet. He listens to a taped message, then hangs up.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Shit! The office has closed for the day. I have to wait until Monday. Monday. The whole fucking weekend.

TED

Okay, so we'll just remain calm and --

Emmett starts to freak out.

EMMETT

Oh, God! Why is this happening to me?

TED

(re: Emmett's freak out)

Or this is good, too.

17 SCENE OMITTED

17

18 EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE - DAY

18

David, in sweatpants and T-shirt, comes jogging down the road toward his house. He sees in the driveway:

BRIAN

Leaning against his Jeep, waiting for him. As David doesn't know what to think, slowly approaches him:

BRIAN

Hey, Doc, you got all sweaty without me.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID
I was just out for a little jog.

BRIAN
I didn't mean to interrupt. I know how difficult it is to stay in shape after a certain age.

DAVID
(maintaining his dignity)
I know you didn't drive all the way here just to insult me. We're not battling it out for Michael's attention anymore. You won. So why are you here?

BRIAN
You forgot to RSVP.

David looks at Brian in disbelief.

BRIAN (cont'd)
You know, the surprise party? I called and left a message.

DAVID
Yeah, I know. I thought it was a joke.

BRIAN
Why would it be a joke?

DAVID
Look, I don't think Michael would be very comfortable having me around. And frankly, I wouldn't be too comfortable there, myself.

BRIAN
You know you're always welcome in my place, Doc.

DAVID
(He can't believe this guy)
Thanks -- but no thanks.

BRIAN
Oh, come on. You're not giving up that easy, are you?

DAVID
I never gave up. It was his decision.

(CONTINUED)

18

CONTINUED: (2)

18

BRIAN

Mikey doesn't always know what's best for him.

DAVID

(looking directly at Brian)

No shit.

BRIAN

Sometimes he needs a little push.

Brian sees David is hooked.

BRIAN (cont'd)

So why don't you come around -- nine?

19

INT. MICHAEL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

19

It's an hour later and Emmett is in a despair spiral. Ted's doing his best to calm him.

EMMETT

(numb)

I've never been to Paris. I always wanted to see Paris.

TED

You'll get there. Even if you're positive, it doesn't mean you're going to drop dead tomorrow.

EMMETT

Oh, God, you said it, you said "you're positive."

TED

I said, "Even if..." to imply the lack of plausibility.

EMMETT

It must've been that guy I met in P-Town. He kept biting my lip, or that guy in the dressing room who put his fingers in my mouth, or the guy at the gym --

TED

I thought you never did anything?

EMMETT

I know guys who fuck a hundred times a week! So five or ten times isn't anything!

(CONTINUED)

TED

Em, you can't be infected. No one on earth is more HIV-phobic than you -- you practically boil the sheets.

EMMETT

That still doesn't explain why they have to see me! How'll I live through this weekend? Oh God, Teddy, I'm so scared!

Ted holds him.

TED

Look, maybe you should skip Michael's party.

Emmett pulls himself together.

EMMETT

I can't. I don't want to spoil his day.

TED

Are you sure?

EMMETT

It'll take my mind off things. But we can't tell him.

TED

Okay, now remember, the story is we're picking up Brian to go to dinner and Babylon.

EMMETT

(dramatically)

One last dance of death.

TED

Emmett!

Michael enters. He's in a foul mood.

EMMETT

(brightly)

Hey, Birthday Boy!

MICHAEL

Fuck you. I'm going to bed.

(CONTINUED)

TED

You can't! We're picking up Brian and going to dinner and Babylon.

MICHAEL

I don't want to see anybody!

Emmett and Ted glance at each other nervously. Emmett pours on the charm.

EMMETT

Now, now, Mr. Grumpypuss. Don't you want to go out?

MICHAEL

No I don't "want to go out".

EMMETT

But this is a special occasion! A once-in-a-lifetime event! A night of nights!

MICHAEL

And I'm going to sleep through every miserable minute of it. You can tell me all about it tomorrow.

EMMETT

We have to celebrate!

MICHAEL

Celebrate what? That I'm about to turn into a geezer and that my life's over?

EMMETT

Think of all you have to look forward to.

MICHAEL

Flatulence? Chronic constipation? Incontinence? A closetful of Depends?

TED

(who's had enough)

Oh, for chrissakes, would you just shut up already and come to your goddamn surprise party?

Oops!

CUT TO:

20 START VERY CLOSE ON MICHAEL

20

MICHAEL

Oh my God! Oh my God! Oh. My. God.

(then)

I'm terrible at this.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL WE ARE:

EXT. BRIAN'S LOFT - NIGHT

Michael, Emmett and Ted are outside Brian's building.
Michael has been rehearsing his surprise party reactions.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

(to Emmett, a little hard)

Why'd they have you bring me?

Everybody knows you two can't keep a secret!

Emmett and Ted share a look, now that's ironic.

TED

Don't blame us. We're just the messengers.

MICHAEL

I told him I didn't want a party. "Oh my God!" How was that?

Ted and Emmett look at each other -- not great.

CUT TO:

20A INT. BRIAN'S LOFT - LANDING - NIGHT

20A

Brian half-opens the door so he's blocking the view inside.

MICHAEL

(play-acting)

Hi! We're here! Ready to go to Babylon?

BRIAN

(to Ted and Emmett)

Assholes. You told him.

Brian opens the door, they walk in, Michael first.

21 INT. BRIAN'S LOFT - CONTINUOUS

21

The LIGHTS flip on and the loft is packed: Debbie, Vic, Justin, LINDSAY & GUS, Melanie, David and wall-to-wall hot gay men. It looks as though Babylon has moved to Brian's for the night: including a few drag queens and Go-Go boys. Huge photographs of Michael and his friends decorate the walls.

ALL
SURPRISE!

MICHAEL
(actually surprised)
Oh my God!

Huge NOISE, clapping, cheering, PARTY GUESTS run to Michael with big, girlish arm-waving, kisses, hugs and birthday wishes.

MICHAEL (cont'd)
(to Brian, baffled)
Who are all these people?

BRIAN
If I asked just your friends, there'd be six people here. I had to open it up to sex partners.

MICHAEL
I haven't slept with any of these people.

BRIAN
My sex partners. Happy birthday, Mikey!

He gives Michael a loving kiss on the lips as Melanie, Lindsay, Debbie and Vic approach.

MELANIE & LINDSAY
Happy Birthday, Michael -- !

LINDSAY
Say Happy Birthday to Uncle Michael, Gus!

DEBBIE
Happy Birthday, sweetheart.

VIC
Happy Birthday, Michael!

Debbie gives Michael a big wet kiss.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

DEBBIE

Can you believe it? Exactly thirty years ago, my legs were in stirrups and my face was like this:

Debbie makes a face like she's in labor and SCREAMS.

VIC

And it never went back.

Debbie slaps Vic for the insult. Michael spots David, who is coming in the door toward him. Mother and son's hearts skip a beat. Debbie hustles Vic away, making themselves scarce.

MICHAEL

(nervously)

Oh my God. This really is a surprise party.

DAVID

Hi --

MICHAEL

Hi --

DAVID

Happy Birthday --

MICHAEL

Thank you --

DAVID

Thirty, huh?

MICHAEL

Yeah --

DAVID

Hope I look as good as you do when I'm you're age.

An awkward beat.

DAVID (cont'd)

Would it be okay if I gave you a birthday kiss?

MICHAEL

Sure.

David kisses him, Michael almost swoons. He's missed this. When they part:

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL (cont'd)

How about one for every year --?

But before David can respond:

BRIAN

Come on, Mikey! You've got presents --!

MICHAEL

Oh boy, presents!

BRIAN

(to David)

'Scuse us?

Brian takes Michael by the hand and whisks him to a table piled with gifts. At the kitchen counter, a temporary bar has been set up. Justin, looking very Parisian with a cigarette dangling from the corner of his mouth, is bartending. Melanie comes over.

MELANIE

A margarita, no salt.

JUSTIN

Right up.

Justin expertly takes a bottle of tequila and dumps a generous amount into a blender of ice.

MELANIE

Hey -- how do you know how to mix drinks?

JUSTIN

I'm from the Gentile country club set.

22 INT. BRIAN'S LOFT - ANOTHER ANGLE - CONTINUOUS

22

GUESTS crowd around Michael as he unwraps the Easy-Cake Oven.

MICHAEL

An Easy-Cake Oven! Cool! I always wanted one of these!

Emmett gives Ted a knowing look.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

Thanks, Em. I love it.

Michael gives Emmett a kiss. Emmett keeps up his happy demeanor but it's a struggle.

(CONTINUED)

Ted puts an encouraging arm around him. Michael picks up another box. Ted starts laughing already.

TED
That's from me.

Michael opens the box and takes out a pair of underwear with the face of a cartoon elephant and a hole in place of the trunk.

TED (cont'd)
(barely able to contain his
amusement)
You put your dick through there for the
trunk!

Dead silence from the crowd.

TED (cont'd)
It's -- funny! It is. Funny.

MICHAEL
It is. It's -- funny.

BRIAN
Moving on.

MICHAEL
(picking up a box)
Who's this from?

DAVID
Me.

Michael opens the gift, holds it up. It's a Rolex watch.
PEOPLE ooh and aah.

MICHAEL
Oh my God. That's really--

DEBBIE
Expensive!

DAVID
I had it inscribed uh -- before. So
just ignore what it says and
concentrate on the waterproof features.

Michael reads it anyway, and is genuinely touched.

MICHAEL
Thanks, David --

(CONTINUED)

Michael goes to him, perhaps to give him a grateful hug and kiss, but Brian interrupts the moment.

BRIAN

Mikey, someone's here to see you.

Michael turns and we STAY CLOSE on the astonishment on his face, as he sees:

CAPTAIN ASTRO

standing there in all his glory.

CAPTAIN ASTRO

Hey, Michael. I hear it's your birthday! So, I thought I'd fly by and bring you a little something --

He hands Michael an old comic book wrapped in plastic.

DEBBIE

(to Vic)

A comic? Big deal. He has a million of them.

MICHAEL

Oh, my God. Astro Comics Number One -- Captain Astro's first appearance in print! Do you know how much this is worth?

BRIAN

Anything for my best friend.

Michael throws himself at Brian. Gives him a great big hug and wet, grateful smackeros!

MICHAEL

I can't believe it! I never dreamed I'd ever find this --!

ANGLE ON DAVID

He's lost again. Debbie touches his arm, consoling.

DEBBIE

It's a beautiful watch and a beautiful thought, David.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (3)

22

BACK TO MICHAEL AND BRIAN

BRIAN

(to Captain Astro)

So, Cap, take off your cape and boogie
with the birthday boy.

(then, to Michael)

Enjoy, Mikey.

23 INT. BRIAN'S LOFT -NIGHT

23

A short time later. Brian leans against a wall drinking,
watching Michael accepting birthday wishes. Ted walks up
behind him.

TED

Nice going on the gift. It couldn't
have been more perfect.

BRIAN

Thanks.

TED

David's present didn't stand a chance.
But then, I guess neither did he.

BRIAN

(annoyed at the dig)

Fuck off.

TED

You just can't help yourself, can you?
You have to make sure Michael regresses
permanently to the age of twelve. He's
thirty! Don't you think it's time you
let him go?

BRIAN

Tell you what. I will if you will.

TED

What --?

BRIAN

Tell him you've been in love with him.
For years.

TED

What are you talking about?

BRIAN

Don't look so innocent -- you know what
I mean. The Boys saw the pictures.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

BRIAN (cont'd)

When you were in your coma. They found
your little shrine to Mikey. Of
course, I knew all the time. So, as I
said, you let him go and so will I.

(offering)

Ladies first.

Brian gives Ted an encouraging pat on the back and walks
away. Ted downs his drink, mortified.

24 INT. BRIAN'S LOFT - ANOTHER ANGLE - CONTINUOUS

24

Vic picks at a candy dish. Emmett stares at him, working up
the courage to talk to him.

EMMETT

Hey, Vic.

VIC

Is this candy -- or drugs?

EMMETT

Candy. I think.

VIC

Considering all the pills I take, you'd
think I know.

EMMETT

So, uh, how are you feeling?

VIC

(dry)

Fit as a fiddle and ready for love.

(a beat)

Why do you ask?

EMMETT

Huh? I was just wondering --

VIC

Bullshit. You boys never talk to
anyone over 40 unless you have to.

Emmett struggles, desperate to tell him, but terrified.

EMMETT

I think I've got it.

A beat. Vic is empathetic. He knows how hard this hits.

VIC

It doesn't mean what it used to, you
know.

(CONTINUED)

EMMETT

That's what they say. But people still-

VIC

Die? All the time. But they die from other things, too. You can't think about that.

EMMETT

I just can't believe this is happening to me. I'm not promiscuous.

VIC

"Promiscuous" is anyone who's having more sex than you.

EMMETT

I thought I was safe -- careful.

VIC

Look, sex isn't careful. And if it is, you're doing it wrong. It's messy and human and mixed up with other things. It's a genie that won't stay in the bottle. If you made a mistake, you move on and accept it like a man.

25 INT. BRIAN'S LOFT - ANOTHER ANGLE - CONTINUOUS

25

Lindsay is breast-feeding GUS in a quiet corner as Debbie observes.

DEBBIE

Thirty years ago tonight, I was you. And thirty years from now, you'll be me. Thirty years! It's almost impossible to believe. He's a man. But he still feels as tiny and precious to me as Gus does to you.

LINDSAY

I can't even imagine --

DEBBIE

It goes by like a dream.
(watching her breast feed)
So I guess everybody breast-feeds these days.

LINDSAY

It forms a real bond.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

I didn't do that with Michael -- but
I'd say we're pretty fuckin' tight.

(to Melanie)

I hope you're not feeling left out,
honey?

MELANIE

Me, feel left out? Not with what it's
costing me a month.

LINDSAY

(to Debbie, but for Melanie's
benefit)

They say sometimes the non-birth mother
lactates as well.

MELANIE

If I do, it'll be margaritas!
(cupping one of her breasts,
offering it to Lindsay)
Put some salt around my nipple and take
a sip!

LINDSAY

(pulling away, gently)
Mel, please --

MELANIE

Oh, I'm sorry, am I being
inappropriate? Lindsay's never
inappropriate.

Debbie's embarrassed for them, tries to save the moment.

DEBBIE

Don't mind me, I wouldn't know from
appropriate!

Melanie just looks at her, then:

MELANIE

Can I get anyone another drinkie?

LINDSAY

No, thanks -- and maybe you shouldn't
have another one, either.

MELANIE

Hey, I'm not breast-feeding -- it ain't
my problem.

(CONTINUED)

25

CONTINUED: (2)

25

And with that, she heads back to the bar.

CUT TO:

26

INT. BRIAN'S LOFT - BEDROOM/BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

26

Emmett, having an anxiety attack, makes his way through the sexual strangers in the bedroom, pushes onward, finally getting to the bathroom where candle light gives it a golden glow. He bursts in only to discover a really CUTE GUY taking a whiz.

EMMETT

Sorry!

The Cute Guy shoots Emmett a look as he finishes his piss.

CUTE GUY

It's no big deal.

The Cute Guy shakes off and flushes the toilet, before brushing by Emmett to exit.

EMMETT

You sure you don't want to wash your hands?

After the Cute Guy is gone, Emmett closes the curtain. He rushes to the sink and splashes cold water on his face. Dripping wet, he looks up and gazes into the mirror, sees his own fear. Slowly, he drops to the floor, kneeling before the toilet. He clasps his hands together and bows his head, praying.

EMMETT (cont'd)

(a halted whisper)

Please, God, please let me be negative.
If you do, I promise, promise, promise
I'll never have sex with a man again.

Emmett hears from behind the curtain:

MELANIE (o.s.)

Hey, is someone in there?

Emmett opens his eyes, sober.

EMMETT

Amen.

He lets Melanie in. She heads straight to what a second ago was his shrine, throws up.

27 EXT. BRIAN'S LOFT - NIGHT

27

Tracy, carrying a small gift and a bottle of wine, approaches the front door. She reaches the BUZZER and presses it.

TRACY

Hello...?

28 INT. BRIAN'S LOFT - CONTINUOUS

28

Vic is leaning against the wall near the intercom. He presses the "Speak" button and talks into the contraption.

VIC

Come on up and get your cock out.

29 EXT. BRIAN'S LOFT - NIGHT

29

Tracy laughs, embarrassed, confused. The door BUZZES and she pushes it open.

30 INT. BRIAN'S LOFT - CONTINUOUS

30

People are dancing, shirts are off, snorting and sniffing. The party is at its peak. Michael, who is with David, goes to get a drink. Ted walks towards him.

MICHAEL

Hey, Teddy! Thanks again for the elephant briefs. They're really funny.

TED

Yeah, right.

MICHAEL

No, really.

TED

(glancing over at David)

I bet you weren't expecting to see David.

MICHAEL

Talk about surprises!

TED

So, do you think you and he might, you know -- ?

MICHAEL

I don't think so.

(CONTINUED)

TED

That's too bad. Listen, I know there's this part of us that thinks we don't deserve to be loved --

MICHAEL

What are you talking about --?

TED

Let me finish. So we fall in love with someone we know we can't have, who's never going to love us back. And we fantasize about what it'll be like one day when he finally sees what he's been missing, and all our dreams come true. Only that day never comes, and before you know it, you're celebrating your fortieth birthday, and your fiftieth, and you're still alone. Well, don't let that happen. Love someone for real. Someone who loves you.

Ted leans in and kisses Michael on the cheek. As he does so, Michael SEES, over Ted's shoulder, Tracy enter the loft. Tracy smiles. Michael rushes toward her, horrified.

MICHAEL

Oh my God! Tracy! Wh-- what're you doing here?

TRACY

Happy Birthday, Mike -- !

She gives him the present, kisses him on the cheek, clumsily.

MICHAEL

(near frantic)

It -- it's a bit wild. They're all drunk. I only know six of them!

Tracy looks around, confused, disoriented by what she sees.

TRACY

Your friend Brian called, asked me to come.

MICHAEL

What -- ? I mean, are you hungry? I'm hungry. There's this place that has great burgers right near here. Why don't we go --

(CONTINUED)

But before they can leave, Brian comes over, the perfect host. He gives Tracy a big kiss and embrace as Michael watches in horror.

BRIAN

Tracy! So glad you could make it to
Mikey's surprise party! Let me
introduce you to a few of our guests.

Brian pulls Tracy across the room, Michael following, trying to stop the train-wreck he sees coming.

MICHAEL

Brian, -- !

BRIAN

David!

(to Tracy)

This is David, David this is Tracy.

DAVID

Hi, Tracy -- we've met.

TRACY

Right! You're Mike's chiropractor.

BRIAN

He's also Mike's boyfriend.

A beat. That word just hangs there.

BRIAN (cont'd)

(correcting himself)

Excuse me, ~~ex~~-boyfriend.

(to Tracy)

You know, the first time they had sex,
Mike came *three* times!

That's it. David's had it. He hauls off and punches Brian. Gasps from some of the PARTY GUESTS, as Tracy starts to realize the truth. She can't look at Michael, who's dying. Brian turns to them with a smile, seemingly unphased.

BRIAN (cont'd)

Mike, why don't you get Tracy a drink?
She looks like she could use one.

31 SCENE OMITTED

31

32 INT. BRIAN'S LOFT - CONTINUOUS

32

Tracy pushes past several PARTY GUESTS. Michael follows her.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

BRIAN
(calling to him)
Don't leave, Mikey. You haven't even
had your cake.

Michael looks at him with murder in his eyes.

MICHAEL
Fuck off!

33 EXT. BRIAN'S LOFT - NIGHT

33

Tracy rushes out of the building. It's sinking in, the invitation, the set-up, the trap. Michael bursts out of the building, sees her near tears.

MICHAEL
Tracy -- !
(reaching her, breathless)
It's true. David was my boyfriend.
(an awkward beat)
Let me walk you to your car --

Tracy turns to him raging.

TRACY
Do you and your friends -- the "boys" --
laugh at me?

MICHAEL
No -- !

TRACY
I must be a big joke! That girl
at work. The one who has the crush.
She's so funny because she's so stupid.

MICHAEL
That's not it, I swear!

TRACY
You're a liar, Mike. A liar.

She runs away, into the night. Michael, standing there,
watches her go.

34 INT. BRIAN'S LOFT - NIGHT

34

The party's still hot. Michael comes back.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

(taking out some drugs)

Hey, Mikey: I got these special -- just for tonight.

But Michael just glares as him, marches over to David.

MICHAEL

I'd like to get out of here. What about you?

DAVID

(surprised)

Yeah. Let's get your gifts.

David and Michael gather up the presents. Justin offers Michael the comic book that Brian got him.

JUSTIN

Don't forget this --

MICHAEL

I didn't forget it. I don't want it.

With his stuff gathered up, Michael and David head to the door, passing Brian.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

(to Brian; without stopping)

Thanks for the party.

Michael walks out, David following. Brian's friends glare at him, all walk out on him -- one by one.

TED

Well, Brian, you really know how to throw a birthday bash.

EMMETT

Too bad all good things must come to an end.

MELANIE

Well, is anyone surprised? It's how he treats everybody. Am I right? I mean, is there anyone here tonight who hasn't been fucked by Brian Kinney in one way or another?

VIC

Well, whaddya know? Now Michael has been too.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

So, you finally gave him what he always wanted!

LINDSAY

How could you have done that to him, Brian? Your best friend in all the world -- ?!

She can't even finish, she so disgusted. They're all gone. The only one left is Justin. Brian turns to him.

BRIAN

Well -- ? Aren't you going to make a big exit, too?

JUSTIN

No. You're going to need someone to help clean up this mess.

And as Brian stands there in the middle of the raging party:

CUT TO:

35 SCENE OMITTED

35

36 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

36

As Michael comes into the house, David is unsure how to proceed.

DAVID

Take off your things -- I mean, your coat -- relax.

MICHAEL

Thanks.

DAVID

You want a drink?

MICHAEL

No, I think I've already had enough.
(trying not to be nervous)
Some party, huh?

DAVID

It definitely had its moments.

MICHAEL

Like when you punched him.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID
He deserved it.

MICHAEL
He deserved worse.

DAVID
Let's not talk about it right now,
okay?

MICHAEL
Okay.
(an awkward beat, then)
I've missed you.

DAVID
Have you?

MICHAEL
Yeah, I have.

He goes to David, kisses him deeply, passionately. David stops him.

DAVID
Look, I'm not sure what's happening
here.

MICHAEL
I want to take you up on your offer.
To live together. I want to give it a
shot.

DAVID
I'm not a consolation prize, Michael.

MICHAEL
I know that now. You're first prize.

DAVID
Are you sure?

MICHAEL
I'm thirty. It's time I settled down,
took on some responsibility.

DAVID
You're making me sound like life
insurance.

MICHAEL
In a way, you are.
(beat)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (2)

36

MICHAEL (cont'd)

Do you still -- love me? Because --
(abruptly)
I love you.

David is surprised by Michael's confession. Michael is a bit surprised himself. A beat. Then David takes the leap. He kisses Michael and as they become passionate:

37 INT. BRIAN'S LOFT - DAY

37

It's the next day. The party has not been cleaned up (Hell, it probably only ended a few hours ago). Justin is asleep in bed. Brian walks out of the bathroom, towelling his hair. He sees Debbie in her Diner uniform, putting detritus from the party in a box. She looks at Brian's naked form.

DEBBIE

I've seen better. Put on your pants.
(then, continuing)
He asked me to pick up the stuff that
he left --
(calling to Justin)
Get up, Sunshine, you've got tables to
bus.

Justin wakes up, pulls himself together, as Brian throws on a pair of jeans.

JUSTIN

I don't feel sick. Margaritas are
definitely my drink.

BRIAN

Only with Herradura Silver. Get
dressed.
(to Debbie)
You want some coffee?

DEBBIE

No thanks.

Debbie touches one of the large pictures of Brian and Michael. She turns to Brian.

DEBBIE (cont'd)

Christ, was I pissed at you last night.
Everybody was -- is! But then, right
in the middle of cursing you out -- I
figured it out.

Brian says nothing.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE (cont'd)

You can never do anything quietly, can you? Everything has to be a spectacle, a drama! You couldn't just give him a little push -- hell, you had to throw him over the fucking cliff!

BRIAN

(quietly)

I had to. Otherwise, he would've followed me around forever.

DEBBIE

Yeah I guess he would've.

(calling)

Justin?

Justin calls back from the bathroom, his mouth full of toothpaste.

JUSTIN

I'm brushing my teeth!

DEBBIE

(horrified)

You let him use your toothbrush?

BRIAN

I have a supply.

(then, re: Michael)

It was the only way.

DEBBIE

This David. He's good for him.

BRIAN

It won't last.

DEBBIE

Maybe not. Still, he should give it a try.

A beat, the Brian asks, making coffee:

BRIAN

(trying to be casual)

So, how's he doing?

DEBBIE

He's still trying to figure out why his best friend would betray him.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (2)

37

DEBBIE (cont'd)

Of course, he doesn't realize yet that it's the best thing that could have happened -- that you did him a favor. That maybe now he'll finally have a chance to have a life.

Justin joins them.

JUSTIN

Okay, I'm ready.

Debbie goes to Brian, kisses him on the cheek.

DEBBIE

Take care, kiddo.

She and Justin start toward the door, she remembers:

DEBBIE (cont'd)

Oh -- ! Your keys.

(handing them to him)

He said he doesn't want them anymore.

She places them in Brian's hand. As he looks at them:

38 INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - RECEPTION - DAY

38

Emmett and Ted are waiting at exactly 9 a.m. on the dot. Emmett is totally wired, anxious. Ted is weary. It's been a long weekend. Finally -- finally -- Steve arrives to open up, far too cheery for a Monday morning.

STEVE

Hello, early birds!

EMMETT

(rolling his eyes)

Do you mind if we skip the chit-chat? We've been waiting for an hour!

TED

An hour and a half.

EMMETT

Just give it to me straight.

He clutches Ted's hand for support.

STEVE

Oh, the message I left on Friday!
Well, here's the situation--

(CONTINUED)

EMMETT

Spare the warm-up-let-him-down-easy
speech -- just tell me!

STEVE

Your check bounced.

Pause.

EMMETT

What?

STEVE

Your check bounced. Insufficient
funds.

TED

Oh, that's perfect. How much?

STEVE

Sixty.

Ted pulls out his wallet, stuffs a handful of bills into
Steve's hand.

TED

Here, take it.
(to Emmett)
You're paying me back.

EMMETT

Who gives a shit about the sixty bucks?
I'll leave it to you in my will! What
about the results of my test?!

STEVE

You're fine. Congratulations.

Emmett practically collapses with relief.

EMMETT

Oh, my God.

TED

I told you.

STEVE

(smiling, flirtatious)
How'd you like to celebrate?

Emmett looks at Steve. Ted smiles encouragement.

(CONTINUED)

EMMETT

Thanks, but I'm busy.

STEVE

(shrugs)

Oh. Okay. Well, see you around, guys.
Have a nice day!

As Steve goes into an office:

TED

He's cute. If you don't want him, I'll
take him.

EMMETT

He's yours. I made a promise to God.

TED

A promise to God? What promise to God?

EMMETT

I prayed to God and told him if I was
negative, I'd never have sex with a man
again. I'm negative. So now I can
never touch another man.

TED

(dubious)

Uh-huh.

MUSIC: MISS SHIRLEY BASSEY'S RENDITION OF "THE PARTY'S OVER"

The camera GLIDES over the remnants of the party -- pictures
of Brian and Michael, half-empty glasses, uneaten food, etc.
Brian, smoking pot and sucking on a bottle of booze,
carefully examines the rare and costly comic book he bought
for Michael, as he turns the pages, alone.

FADE OUT.

THE END