

# queer asfolk

episode 207

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FADE IN:

CU. ON COMPUTER SCREEN: EMMETT's face twisted in a look of extreme ecstasy as he is about to orgasm.

1 INT. TED'S WAREHOUSE - DAY (FRIDAY MORNING) 1

ON THE BED we see Emmett wanking in front of web cams, surrounded by lighting equipment and tech gadgets.

EMMETT

Ah...Ah...

TED, just a few feet away, checks his computer for web-visitors and online requests.

TED

This is unbelievable! We might pass the 3,000 actual visitor mark!

EMMETT (O.S.)

(getting closer to blowing)  
Ah...Ah...Ah...

TED

(Shouting the orgasm)

Wait! Don't come yet! First wave "hi" to Marty in Sheboygan!

Emmett, eyes practically crossed, waves and mouths "Hi, Marty" into the camera just as he shoots...SCORE! The HALLELUJAH CHORUS plays.

TED looks at the record-breaking numbers on the screen. He howls in excitement, and tosses Emmett a towel.

TED (CONT'D)

We did it! You've just helped over 3,400 web-wankers blow their wad!

Emmett puts on a robe and collapses in a chair. Ted puts a sign on the bed: "Rex Uranus, will cum again soon."

Emmett puts on a robe and collapses in a chair.

TED (CONT'D)

I can't believe it, twice in 30 minutes!

EMMETT

Now I know how old faithful feels.

TED

Keep it up, and I'll have you designated a national monument.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

TED (CONT'D)

You should see how many requests we missed ... (getting an idea) You know ... never mind it's crazy...

EMMETT

What?

TED

We could try for just one more?

EMMETT

You're kidding me, right?

TED

Yeah ... it was a stupid idea. Not even Zack O'Toole could come three times within 45 minutes. You're only human. (beat) You could use the jiz ball.

Emmett, swallows, and stands up. Damn it, he can do it!

EMMETT

Keep your damn jizball. I'm a professional.

Emmett whips off his robe and marches to the bed.

TED

Ata boy! Do it for Sheboygan!

Emmett gets back to work. Ted smiles proudly and gives Emmett the thumbs up.

CUT TO:

2 INT. COMIC BOOK STORE - DAY

2

Michael sets up a new Captain Astro display at the front of the store. Debbie, lays out his lunch on the counter.

DEBBIE

Hey, hurry up. I made you sausage and peppers and I don't want any god-damned complaints..

Michael smiles and kisses Debbie on the cheek, and dives in.

MICHAEL

You kidding me. If it weren't for you I'd probably starve to death ... now that I'm a Captain of a failing industry.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

Can that negative crap. You think Donald Trump made his fortune over night?

MICHAEL

Actually, he was born wealthy.

DEBBIE

Oh ... whatever. You're gonna do just fine.

The DOOR CHIME RINGS and Michael looks up, he's got marinara sauce at the corners of his mouth ...

RAMP TO BEN, standing in the doorway.

Michael's face lights up and so does Debbie's.

MICHAEL

Hey, what are you doing here?

BEN

You forgot this ... last night--

Debbie smiles, realizing who it is.

DEBBIE

Oh ... you're the professor!

MICHAEL

Mom, this is Ben.

Deb stares at him, impressed.

DEBBIE

It sure is.

MICHAEL

Mom...?

DEBBIE

Wipe your face you got shit all over it.  
(To Ben) So you guys goin' out again tonight?

Michael's, quickly grabs a napkin and wipes his face.

MICHAEL

Mom ... ! Didn't you have something to do back at the diner?

DEBBIE

Huh?

Michael gives her a pleading look. Debbie gets it.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

Oh ... geez. If you two wanna fuck around just say so. I'm history. (Smiling at Ben) Stop by again real soon. (To Michael) And you ... I put two lemon bars in the bag. Share 'em.

Debbie smiles again at Ben and then leaves.

BEN

She's amazing.

Michael is about to complain, but stops himself

MICHAEL

As a matter of fact ... she is.

Michael looks at the cap in Ben's hand.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Uh ... that's not mine.

BEN

You mean it's not ...?

Michael smiles. Ben's caught.

BEN (CONT'D)

Yeah, I know. I just wanted to see ... I mean after the kiss ... what I told you ... you looked pretty freaked.

MICHAEL

Look, I have to be honest ...

Ben thinks he knows what's coming ... and it ain't good.

BEN

Yeah, okay--

MICHAEL

I was a little freaked--

(CONTINUED)

BEN

Don't worry about it--

MICHAEL

-- at first. But really ... it's not an issue.

BEN

Huh?

MICHAEL

I don't have a problem dating someone who's HIV positive. My Uncle has been positive for years, and my mom is virtually the Queen of teaching safe sex to her PFLAG group. Hell, I knew how to put a condom on a cucumber before I could drive.

Ben smiles, and stares at Michael for a moment.

BEN

So would you, ya know, like to do it again ... I mean maybe go out sometime ... like tonight?

Michael smiles.

MICHAEL

I finish work at 6.

Ben's face lights up and he kisses Michael. It's an amazing kiss.

BEN

See ya at 6.

Ben leaves. Michael looks down and adjusts the boner in his pants.

Melanie and Lindsay (holding Gus) stand over Leda who checks underneath the gal's SUV.

MELANIE

So what's the prognosis?

LEDA, covered in grease, rolls out from underneath.

LEDA

Brake pads are for shit, and there's a crack in the left cylinder.

LINDSAY

How much?

LEDA

With my dyke-discount ... around 700.

Leda goes back under the car.

MELANIE

Fuck.

LINDSAY

That's all we need. Credit card's maxed.

MELANIE

Checking account?

LINDSAY

Not enough to cover this and the deposit on the banquet hall.

MELANIE

Why do weddings have to be so damn expensive?

LINDSAY

Why do cars break down only when you're broke?

Melanie gets an idea.

MELANIE

You know ... we're seeing your parents tonight--

LINDSAY

Un-unh. No way.

MELANIE

Why the hell not?

LINDSAY

I sent them an invitation over 3 weeks ago. They haven't even mentioned the wedding.

(CONTINUED)

MELANIE

So? They paid for three weddings for your sister, Pittsburgh's answer to Zsa Zsa Gabor.

LINDSAY

No, Mel. I'm not begging.

MELANIE

We can't drive our son around in a car without good brakes.

Leda rolls out again from under the car.

LINDSAY

(to Leda) Could we hold off for just a week?

LEDA

Sure ... if you want to end up lesbian road-kill. Also your transmissions just this side of fucked. Sorry.

Lindsay and Melanie share a look. Lindsay knows what she has to do.

Hot naked guys linger in the locker room. Ted, Brian and Michael are drying off and dressing.

TED

Babylon tonight? I'm buying.

MICHAEL

Can't. I have a ... I can't.

Ted and Brian share a look.

TED

You thinking what I'm thinking?

BRIAN

(To Michael) Who is he?

The guys start snapping their towels, and making kissing sounds at Michael.

MICHAEL

Cut it out! I'm just working late is all.

They stop.

TED

Yeah. Right.

BRIAN

Hmmm? I bet it's that teacher guy--

MICHAEL

He's a professor not a teacher.

Brian and Ted have nailed him.

BRIAN

The professor --!

TED

Does that make you Mary Ann or Ginger?

MICHAEL

Whatever. I'm not bringing him to Babylon anyway.

BRIAN

What's wrong with him?

MICHAEL

Nothing. Geez. Maybe I just want to give this one a chance before you guys eat him alive.

RAMP to Emmett, clad in only a towel walking toward the guys. As he walks, guys are eyeing him and whispering. Emmett is aware of it, but still a little unsure of the attention.

EMMETT

Have you noticed how everyone has been staring at me? I think they recognize that I'm ... you know.

They guys look at each other, and pretend ignorance.

TED

Madonna?

MICHAEL

Britney Spears?

BRIAN

Jenna Bush?

EMMETT

Very funny.

(CONTINUED)

Michael looks around and sees various guys staring and whispering about Emmett.

MICHAEL

He's right. They are looking.

Emmett gives Ted an "I told you so" look.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Wow, this is sort of cool.

EMMETT

It's happening more and more, every time  
I take a shower or go into the steam room  
or--

TED

Hey, don't tire that thing out. It's  
paying our rent.

Another HOT GYM GUY suddenly walks up to Emmett with a pen  
and paper.

HOT GYM GUY

Excuse me. You're Rex Uranus aren't you?

EMMETT

Uh ... Yes ... yes I am.

HOT GYM GUY

Could you sign this?

The guy holds out his jock strap with a magic marker. Emmett  
signs it. Michael is impressed. Ted forces a smile. Brian  
rolls his eyes.

NANCY PETERSON (Lindsay's mom), Melanie, Lindsay and DON  
PETERSON (Lindsay's Dad) eat dinner at a fancy restaurant.  
They are a very well put together couple. Don butters his  
roll.

NANCY

I told her I thought it looked darling  
... Don't use too much butter, Don.

DON

Well, if that dinner would get here--

(CONTINUED)

NANCY  
Doctor's orders.

Don puts his knife down. Melanie raises her eyebrows, indicating for Lindsay to ask.

LINDSAY  
Uh ... Mom--

NANCY  
Oh, when I was at lunch with Linnie the other day, she said she's going to Doctor Meyers to have him look at her varicose veins. Did you notice them at the wedding?

LINDSAY  
Pardon?

NANCY  
Veins. Linnie's varicose veins. Did you notice them at the wedding reception? When Duncan pulled off her garter belt?

LINDSAY  
No. Linnie's legs looked fine...

Melanie again indicates for Lindsay to "Ask already."

LINDSAY (CONT'D)  
But speaking of weddings--

NANCY  
Excuse me. Don, what was it Duncan and Linnie said they were putting on the back patio?

DON  
Astro turf. So Duncan can practice putting. Don't know why. He cheats anyway.

Melanie smiles at this.

MELANIE  
I forgot you liked golf, Mr. Peterson. We've got a bunch of friends that go to Dinah Shore golf classic every year.

DON  
Really?

(CONTINUED)

MELANIE

I'll introduce you to some of them ... at the wedding.

Nancy sips her wine without looking at Melanie. Don clears his throat.

DON

Yup. Golf's a good game. Where's that dinner?

The affront is obvious. Lindsay can't take it any longer.

LINDSAY

Excuse me, but Melanie and I sent you our wedding invitations three weeks ago and you've said nothing --

Nancy stiffens.

NANCY

I don't think this is the time--

LINDSAY

But when is the time --?

NANCY

Please keep your voice down--

LINDSAY

I'm sorry. But I need to talk to you about this--

The WAITER suddenly arrives, cutting Lindsay off. He places the plates in front of everyone.

WAITER

Will that be all for now?

They all politely say "Yes, thank you." etc.

LINDSAY

The thing is, Melanie and I ... we need your help--

NANCY

Is Gus all right?

Don looks up from his plate for a moment.

LINDSAY

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

MELANIE

Gus is totally fine. He's ... great.

Don continues to eat.

LINDSAY

We ... I just thought that since Melanie and I have been together for six years --

MELANIE

We thought you might be able to help out with some of the wedding costs ... not everything. Just a little.

Nancy obviously is uncomfortable with anyone hearing this. Don eats.

LINDSAY

I mean you did pay for all three of Linnie's weddings --

NANCY

Darling, you know your father and I are always happy to help you and Linnie whenever you need us ...

For a moment the girls see a light at the end of the tunnel.

NANCY (CONT'D)

But honestly, it's not like this is a real wedding.

This sinks like a bullet into Lindsay. Melanie looks at her, wanting to hold her.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Now, lets enjoy the rest of our meal. What was the other place she and Duncan recommended?

DON

I don't know.

NANCY

Chateau ... Chez ... It was something French...

Lindsay would cry if she wasn't so angry. Melanie holds Lindsay's hand under the table.

7 6 EXT. LIBERTY AVE. - NIGHT 7

Ben and Michael walk down Liberty Avenue. The streets are just starting to heat up for the night out, and a few guys walk past, cruising the hot couple. Both are oblivious, since they are clearly wrapped up in each other.

MICHAEL

You are so wrong--!

BEN

No I'm not. Next time you look at it, you'll see Captain Astro's basket increased exponentially between issues 20 and 21. 21 being the issue that many believe sealed it's fate as a comic book classic. You Captain Astro fans are nothing but size-queens.

MICHAEL

Yeah, maybe...

Michael suddnely realizes that maybe he offended Ben.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

But I'm not--

Ben smiles, devlishly.

BEN

Don't worry. If you were ... it wouldn't be a problem.

Ben suddenly kisses Michael. When he pulls away, Michael's eyes are closed, mouth waiting, anticipating another kiss. Ben stares at Michael's adorable face. Meanwhile Michael still waits for the next kiss. Nothing. He opens his eyes and Ben is turned in the other direction, eyes open, not smiling, totally still, breathing deeply.

MICHAEL

Is something wrong?

Ben doesn't answer. He just continues staring and standing.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Ben? You okay?

BEN

Shhh ... I'm meditating.

MICHAEL

Huh?

(CONTINUED)

Michael looks a little weirded out by this. Ben smiles.

BEN

Don't worry I'm not a new age freak or anything. It's just something I learned a few years back from this old guy named Bob. He was this Brooklyn-born Buddhist Jew I met backpacking in Thailand--

MICHAEL

Wow, he sounds really ... National Geographic.

BEN

More National Public Radio. Anyway, It's this really simple and quick way to focus. You just stop and take in all the smallest details of a moment. The temperature of the street, the feeling of your feet on the black asphalt, the fact that there's a spot of Alfredo sauce on your sweater--

Michael tries to rub off the spot.

MICHAEL

Oh, geez! Why do I always do that around you?

Ben smiles.

BEN

See, by noticing every physical detail in a certain moment, you end up feeling incredibly happy, blissful, because it takes you out of yourself, away from the thoughts about what happened in the past or what might happen tomorrow ... or ...

Michael knows what Ben's talking about.

BEN (CONT'D)

... what might never happen. By focussing only on what is ... it keeps you in the moment ... because that's all there really is anyway. And, frankly, this moment is fucking ... outstanding.

Michael smiles.

BEN (CONT'D)

I guess it's getting kind of late...

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

Yeah... guess so...

Neither want to leave.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Hey, wanna go to Woody's ... live in the moment some more, but with drinks and beer nuts?

BEN

I got a better idea.

Michael smiles...he immediately thinks sex.

MICHAEL

What?

BEN.

Ever go to Babylon?

Michael loses his smile. That's the last place he wants to go.

MICHAEL

Yeah ... uh ... once or twice, but I'm not sure--

BEN

Oh, come on! It'll be a blast. I haven't been dancing in ages.

Ben gives Michael one of his sexy-as-hell smiles.

BEN (CONT'D)

Please ... for me.

Ben grabs Michael's arm and pulls. Michael, smiles and they start to walk.

MICHAEL

Geez, you're persuasive. That guy Bob teach you that in Thailand too?

BEN

Uh-hunh. Wait until I showed you what else he taught me.

Ben grabs Michael's ass, and then starts to run, Michael follows.

8

INT. BABYLON - NIGHT

8

Back to Babylon. Pulsing music, lights and lots of hot bodies. We RAMP through the hot sweaty crowd to find Ted buying a round of drinks for Brian and Justin.

TED

Here ya go! This rounds on me and so is the next.

JUSTIN

Hey, is that a new watch?

TED

Possibly ... the first fruit of my labor.

BRIAN

Speaking of fruits of your labor ...

RAMP TO EMMETT being inundated with hot guys getting his autograph. One SHORTER MUSCLE GUY stands by while Emmett signs his napkin.

EMMETT

Easy, there's enough of me to go around

SHORTER MUSCLE GUY

We know ... I had to get a bigger screen in order to do justice.

EMMETT

Why ... thank you ... you're sweet. Who do I make this out to?

SHORTER MUSCLE GUY

Will...

EMMETT

To Will--

SHORTER MUSCLE GUY

Will take every inch...

Emmett smiles.

SHORTER MUSCLE GUY (CONT'D)

508 833--

RAMP BACK TO TED...

Rolling his eyes.

(CONTINUED)

TED

That guy wouldn't have given Emmett the time of day a week ago.

Emmett comes over to the boys, and puts on a pair of sunglasses. He's putting on the "ennui of stardom."

BRIAN

I heard Zak O'Toole gets his own dressing room? How about you, Rex? Is the King of Cyber Smut treating his main attraction well?

TED

(Through his teeth) Hey, don't encourage him. I don't need a Diva on my hands.

BRIAN

Too late.

JUSTIN

Hey, how does it feel to be a celebrity?

EMMETT

"Fame" ... funny ... it's all so empty really ... What does it all actually mean? At the end of the night you still go home alone...

RAMP to ANOTHER HOT GUY, hotter than the other, staring and nodding his head toward Emmett.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

However ... not tonight.

Emmett goes off to collect his man. Brian, Michael and Ted react. Justin sees Michael and Ben.

JUSTIN

Hey, there's Michael and --

TED

-- a total hottie!

RAMP TO MICHAEL AND BEN, dancing. Ben, shirtless, is a total stud.

BRIAN checks him out.

BRIAN

The little shit's avoiding us.

(CONTINUED)

JUSTIN

Michael! Over hear!

MICHAEL knows it's time to face the music. He yells in Ben's ear.

MICHAEL

I want you to come meet my friends. Just know that they can be kind of ... protective.

BEN

Sound like good friends.

Michael and Ben approach.

MICHAEL

Ben, this is Justin, Ted and Brian--

JUSTIN

Pleased to meet you.

MICHAEL

Hey, could you excuse me for a minute. Bathroom--

JUSTIN

I'll go with you. I gotta take a leak.

Brian offers Michael a bumper to take with him.

BRIAN

Bump?

MICHAEL

Believe it or not you can actually do other things in there.

Michael kisses Ben quickly and gives Brian a look to say "Don't do anything stupid..." then leaves with Justin.

TED

(To Ted) God, you look really familiar. You didn't go to Penn did you?

BEN

Nope. Berkely undergrad and Iowa for my MFA in creative writing--

TED

That's it! I recognize your face from the book jacket. You wrote "Pittsburgh Bodhisatva"--

(CONTINUED)

BEN

Oh! You were the one who bought it.

TED

Come on! It got great reviews everywhere.  
It was so ... so ...

WHOOSH in close as Ted's expression suddenly changes when he realizes what the book reveals about Ben.

TED (CONT'D)

...revealing. It was partly  
autobiographical wasn't it..?

Ben knows exactly where Ted is going.

BEN

Yes ... yes it was.

TED

Has Michael--?

BEN

Not yet, but he knows all the important  
... content.

BRIAN

Okay, this literary criticism's boring  
the fuck out of me. (To Ben) You ... let's  
dance.

Brian grabs Ben and pulls him to the dance floor. Ted remains behind. He doesn't know what to do.

ON THE DANCE FLOOR

Brian and Ben dance.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

So, isn't a smart hot guy like you going  
to get bored with someone like Michael?

Ben smiles. He can read Brian.

BEN

Ah ... the ol' test the prospective  
boyfriend routine? Okay. I'll play. The  
answer is "no." I wouldn't. See, to me,  
"boring" is brilliant academics who spend  
their time deconstructing other's passion  
and love and joy, but never seem to live  
it ...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BEN (CONT'D)

Michael, however, is the antithesis of boring, because when it comes to joy, passion and love, he lives it -- he can't help but live it.

BRIAN

Sounds like bullshit theory to me.

BEN

Okay. Let me rephrase it: I like Michael because he's hot and has an ass that I could rest my beer on.

Brian gives Ben another once over. He almost smiles ... it's not necessarily an approval ... but he did pass the first test.

Michael and Justin come up to them. Brian puts his arms around Justin.

BRIAN

Let's go get a drink.

Brian and Justin walk back toward the bar.

MICHAEL

(To Brian) Hope he didn't say anything stupid?

BEN

Brian didn't do anything other than be a good friend.

Michael looks at Ben and smiles, then starts kissing him. It gets hot and heavy.

AT THE BAR

Ted still thinking about the Ben situation. Justin and Brian order drinks. Emmett returns.

BRIAN

What happened to your fanclub?

EMMETT

Once he paid his dues in the rest room, he remembered his boyfriend was waiting in the car.

RAMP to Michael and Ben making out.

BACK TO THE BAR

(CONTINUED)

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Has Gidget finally found her Moondoggie?

JUSTIN

Who?

EMMETT

Nevermind. (to Brian) I suppose you already hate him...

BRIAN

No complaints ...

EMMETT

Am I hearing a rave review from Mister Kinney? I am shocked--

TED

Well, hold the raves. He's HIV positive ... and Michael knows it.

From Justin and Emmett's expression of concern we RAMP to Brian's expression -- enigmatic but serious -- and then off that we WHOOSH TO MICHAEL AND BEN getting down and dirty on the dance floor.

CUT TO:

10 INT. LIBERTY DINER - MORNING (SATURDAY)

10

Emmett, Brian, Michael and Ted sit in a booth having breakfast. Justin and Debbie work the tables in the background.

MICHAEL

You guys are acting like it's 15 years ago. The virus is manageable now--

TED

Yeah, but what happens if a condom breaks, or Ben cuts himself on a knife and then you cut yourself... ?

EMMETT

Or if you're stabbed in the eye with a flaming sword of shish-kebob?

TED

I'm just asking if it's worth the risk?

Brian holds up his Ice Tea glass to Justin.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

Hey, who do I have to fuck around here to get a refill?

JUSTIN smiles from across the room.

JUSTIN

(Shouting back)

Me!

Brian smiles.

TED

How do we know safe sex works?

MICHAEL

Uh ... Statistics.

TED

We're going to base our lives on government statistics?

EMMETT

Well, I've only had safe sex and I'm negative.

MICHAEL

Me too.

BRIAN

Count me in.

EMMETT

And God knows Brian's sampling group alone is about as big as any governments.

TED

I'm sorry -- and I know it's not politically correct to say it -- but I would never knowingly sleep with anyone that was HIV positive and I don't think you should either.

Emmett looks at Ted, raising his eyebrows...

EMMETT

Hello? Short term memory loss here?

TED

That was an accident, I didn't know--

(CONTINUED)

EMMETT

Oh, what? Like ignorance is a new form of prophelactic --

TED

That's not the point--

BRIAN

Look, we've all had sex with positive guys, and we will again.

MICHAEL

It's part of the landscape...

BRIAN

Not to mention a lot of the hottest guys are HIV positive.

EMMETT

Just the access to steroids alone gives them an edge.

Justin walks over.

JUSTIN

You still talking about Ben?

MICHAEL

Yes, it seems Ted has a problem with dating someone who's positive.

JUSTIN

That's stupid--

Debbie walks up and over-hears.

DEBBIE

That's right, Sunshine. Love is love, it shouldn't matter what the person's status is. (To Ted) Just be safe. Where'd you meet this guy and how's the package?

Ted looks at Michael. Michael smiles.

MICHAEL

We're talking about me and Ben, Mom.

RAMP to Debbie. She's been hit by a ton of bricks. Her smile disappears for a moment, although she tries to force it back.

DEBBIE

Oh ... I didn't know ... So, what'll it be?

(CONTINUED)

10

CONTINUED: (3)

10

14

EXT. A BAKERY - DAY

14

A sign on the window reads "Let them Eat Cake: Wedding Confection Specialists."

Through the window we can see three a gigantic cake with a male/female couple standing at matrimonial attention.

15

INT. BAKERY - CONTINUOUS

15

While a pretty young female SALES CLERK stands by, Lindsay and Melanie look at a photo album of wedding cakes. Melanie rolls Gus in the stroller.

LINDSAY

This one's beautiful.

MELANIE

Yeah. It's okay ... a little ... I don't know ... Betty-Bride-looking ...

LINDSAY

Well, you might remember we're too old for a bat mitzvah...

MELANIE

I know, but I want something more original ... and not so god-damned fluffy.

LINDSAY

Don't be such a lesbian. Next you'll want us to register at Home Depot--

LINDSAY'S CELL PHONE RINGS.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

It's my mother...Mom? Hi...

Lindsay walks outside the shop and takes the call.

While Lindsay continues to talk outside, Melanie looks at the various wedding cakes around the store. All have male/female couples.

COUNTER WOMAN

Looking for anything special?

MELANIE

No just noticing all the wedding stuff.

(CONTINUED)

COUNTER WOMAN

Are you getting married or is your friend?

MELANIE

We both are...I mean ... we're a couple.

COUNTER WOMAN

Oh...

Counter Women registers what Melanie means. After a slight look of nausea, she forces a smile.

COUNTER WOMAN (CONT'D)

... that's interesting. Let me know if you need anything.

The Counter Woman walks to the back. Melanie watches her go. She looks again at the little plastic straight couples atop the exhibit cakes. She switches them, so it's four queer couples. She smiles at her work, then looks back at the Counter Women, smiles, licks the icing off her fingers, and waves before walking out.

OUTSIDE

Lindsay, continues to listen to her mom. She's smiling, but it's clear something is bothering her. Melanie watches.

LINDSAY

Yes ... uh-huh ... wow, that's ... great, mom. Yeah, I think so too. Talk later.

MELANIE

Don't tell me they finally offered?

LINDSAY

Not a chance. She called to tell me how excited she is. She and dad decided to rent a Beach house next Summer with Lynn and Duncan.

MELANIE

Christ, that sounds boring.

LINDSAY

That's not the point. Why don't they want to be part of my life?

Melanie sees how much this hurts Lindsay. She gets an idea.

(CONTINUED)

MELANIE

You know, the problem may just be a classic case of fear due to ignorance. We need to get them to meet our friends -- show them our lives can be just as boring and Wonderbread as Linnie's...

Lindsay gives Melanie a look, i.e. No one's that boring.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

...well, we can fake it.

LINDSAY

How are they going to get to know our lives if we never see them?

MELANIE

We'll tell them we're having a brunch tomorrow. Get as many of our friends together as we can. Let them know they need to be Poster queers for happy homosexuality. Then have some quiet music, some of ... what do you call those goyisha hor d'oerves...?

LINDSAY

Canopes?

MELANIE

Right. Make the whole thing really Linnie-esque.

After a moment.

LINDSAY

Guess we have nothing to lose...

16 INT. TED'S WAREHOUSE -DAY

16

Ted, fuming, looks at his computer screen and the image of the empty bed with the sign: "Rex Uranus will cum again soon." He looks at his watch.

EMMETT (O.S.)

I'll call you next week, Raul.

Ted stands and looks at Emmett, who saunters in wearing sunglasses and some even tackier-than-usual Hollywood-wear. He talks on his cell.

(CONTINUED)

TED

Where the hell have you been? You're on in 5 minutes!

EMMETT

(ignoring Ted) Yeah ... yeah ... I'll have my people call your people.

TED

Huh? Since when do you have "people"?

EMMETT

I don't, but I will. In the meantime I'll be negotiating for myself.

Emmett hands Ted a letter, and proceeds to undress behind a screen.

Ted, reading the letter, starts laughing in disbelief.

TED

A bigger dressing table? The name Rex Uranus over the bed?

EMMETT

With those twinkly-lights around it so people can see it when we go to a long shot. Oh ... and don't forget number 18--

TED

A rotating bed? Where the hell do you get a rotating bed?

EMMETT

Talk to the Cumquick.com people. They've been using one for the last three months. And about this bargain lube...

Emmett looks at the gargantuan jar of cheap lube.

TED

What's wrong with the lube?

EMMETT

Talking point number 23. I don't like how it feels on my dick -- sticky, not smooth -- and it's cold, I want it heated -- that's number 27.

TED

You're kidding, right?

(CONTINUED)

EMMETT

No. These are the tools of my craft. You don't see Michaelangelo sculpting with playdough do you?

Emmett comes out from behind the screen in his robe.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

However, I'm open to negotiations--

TED

Negotiate this...

Ted wrinkles up the letter and tosses it in the garbage.

TED (CONT'D)

Less yak, more jack.

Ted walks off to his desk while Emmett stares ahead fuming.

17 INT. DEBBIE'S HOUSE - DAY

17

Debbie, upset, is cleans frantically. Vic enters, not noticing Debbie's mood at first.

VIC

I just saw Phillip over at the Center. Seems he and Gustavo are back ...God the place looks immaculate.

It suddenly registers on Vic that Debbie is scrubbing the figurines on the shelf -- something's wrong.

VIC (CONT'D)

(beat) What's wrong?

DEBBIE

Nothing. Nothing's wrong. The place was a god-damned pig-mess, so I thought I should clean.

VIC

You're scrubbing the Hummels. The last time you scrubbed the Hummels was when you had that hysterectomy scare. Are you okay?

DEBBIE

Yes. I'm fine. Will you get off my fucking back.

(CONTINUED)

Debbie continues to clean.

VIC

That does it. I'm calling the doctor--

Debbie blurts it out.

DEBBIE

Michael's dating a guy who's positive.

Vic stares at her a moment, understanding what she's saying.

VIC

That's why you're upset...?

Debbie looks at Vic ... then returns to cleaning.

DEBBIE

I can't talk to you about this...

Vic starts to explode.

VIC

I can't believe you're saying this. What? People with HIV shouldn't be allowed to fall in love --?

Debbie smashes one of the figurines on the floor.

DEBBIE

No! Not if it means Michael he'll have to go through what you went through! Not if it means I'll have to watch him get sick, shitting himself, wasting away to nothing like I had to watch you! I don't give a shit what you or anyone else says I'll do everything in my power to stop it!

There is a frozen silence for a moment as Vic stares at his sister in disbelief.

RAMP TO MICHAEL standing in the doorway. He's heard everything.

MICHAEL

This may come as a surprise to you, Mom, but what I do with my life is none of your business.

Vic looks at Debbie. Debbie looks at Michael, her expression immovable.

19 INT. TED'S WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

19

Emmett, in a robe, wipes up from his most recent performance of the night. Ted puts up the "Rex Uranus Will Cum Right Back" sign.

TED

Great work. What do you say to one last round before we put it to bed?

Emmett goes to his dressing table. He doesn't look at Ted.

EMMETT

I don't think so. In fact ...

Emmett hands Ted a duplicate of his previous letter.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Until we negotiate my requests I won't be performing at all.

Emmett starts getting dressed.

TED

What...?

EMMETT

We can start with that cheap, bargain basement lube--

TED

There's nothing wrong with that lube!

EMMETT

Please! That lube is so cheap you could fry chicken with it!

TED

Okay, that does it! You seem to be forgetting that it wasn't so long ago that you were nothin' but a two-bit naked maid, scrubbing toilets and burning your balls with toilet cleanser!

Emmett glares at him.

EMMETT

And you seem to forget that without me, you'd still be some ageing, pathetic, no-name accountant, yanking his meat on the paying end of the internet!

Ted takes in what Emmett just said.

(CONTINUED)

TED

You really think you're the only reason this website is a success, don't you?

EMMETT

As a matter of fact ... I do.

TED

Well, buddy, guess what? The reason this website got anywhere is because of me! Because of my marketing savvy. As far as Rex Uranus ... Any schmuck with an oversized cock could do your job!

EMMETT

How dare you --!

TED

So if you don't drop the Streisand of the Cyber-Sluts routine, I might just have to find that other schmuck!

Emmett is stunned at what Ted has said. He starts to leave, but suddenly turns picks up the vat of cheap lube and dumps it on Ted's head... SPLAT!

Ted drips with a half gallon of clear slime.

EMMETT

There! Why don't you lube up your flashy new watch and your website and your marketing savvy and shove 'em up your flabby little ass! This oversized cock quits.

Emmett storms off. Ted, dripping with the lube, tries to muster up a come back.

TED

Oh, yeah?! Oh, Yeah! Well, guess what, buddy?! Consider yourself yesterdays cum shot, because you are so fired! (beat) And my ass isn't flabby!

Ted realizes how ridiculous he looks.

21 INT. LINDSAY AND MELANIE'S HOUSE - DAY (SUNDAY MORNING) 21

Melanie and Lindsay are frantically preparing for the party. The place looks very "Martha Stewart." Leda, irritated by it all, watches from the side holding Gus.

MELANIE

Did we get two trays of canopes or three?

LINDSAY

Three. How do these look?

MELANIE

Great.

A KNOCK ON THE DOOR

LINDSAY

I'll get it.

Lindsay opens the door. It's Brian.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

Damn, I thought you were the harp...!

Lindsay continues to frantically make preparations.

BRIAN

What the fuck's with the harp?

Brian walks in and looks around at the place.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Holy shit. What the hell happened? Martha Stewart stop by and vomit?

LEDA

Something like that.

Brian takes Gus, as Lindsay breezes by.

LINDSAY

Don't forget to leave Gus at the sitters on the way back from the Park.

The HARP MOVERS walk in with the harp. Melanie crosses with a bouquet of flowers.

MELANIE

(To Movers) Thank God, you're here!

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

BRIAN

Jesus Christ. We're outa here, Sonny Boy.

Leda waves. Brian leaves.

LINDSAY

(To Movers) Put that over there--

PHONE RINGS.

The Harp movers put it in the wrong place.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

Not there--

PHONE RINGS again.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

(To Leda)

Can you show them where to put it?

LEDA

(Not moving)

Happily.

Lindsay throws her a look.

LINDSAY

You're not helping.

Melanie walks in.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

Mel! Can you take care of the harp while  
I get the phone!

MELANIE

You phone. Me harp.

Lindsay goes to the background and answers the phone, while  
Melanie points the harp movers in the right direction.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

You know, you could be a little more  
helpful.

LEDA

Sorry. I just don't buy into this whole  
Lesbians of Sunny Brook Farm shit. Maybe  
what Lindsay's mom really needs is a good  
tongue up her--

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

Melanie throws her a "shut up" look as Lindsay returns. She looks just this side of wrecked.

LINDSAY

It seems Dad's old back injury is acting up...

MELANIE

No fucking way...

LINDSAY

Mom says he'll be laid up for a week.

MELANIE

What a bunch of--

LINDSAY

Whatever. What are we going to do?

MELANIE

We can't cancel. The party's in an hour.

Melanie, seeing Lindsay is close to tears, hugs her. Melanie, however, also looks like she could kill someone.

23 EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

23

Brian and Gus at the Playground with Michael, turning on a flat merry-go-round talking. Nearby, a MIDDLE-AGED MOTHER with her child watches Michael and Brian.

MICHAEL

All my life I wanted to see what it would be like to have a regular mom who wasn't always so god-damned supportive and liberal. Talk about not being careful what you wish for...

BRIAN

Get that, Sonny Boy? Uncle Mikey's growing up.

MICHAEL

I mean she even taught an AIDS awareness workshop, for god's sake--

The MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN walks up to the guys.

(CONTINUED)

MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN

Excuse me, I don't mean to interrupt, but I just want to say you two make a beautiful couple.

MICHAEL

We're not--

MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN

(To Michael)

And the baby ... so precious ... looks just like you.

MICHAEL

(holding back a laugh) Thank you. He's fathering the next one.

She walks away. Brian and Michael share a laugh. As it dies down, Brian looks at Gus and then at Michael.

BRIAN

She's right ... in a way.

MICHAEL

Who?

BRIAN

You should back off from Ben.

Michael can't believe what he's hearing.

MICHAEL

Why?

BRIAN

Mikey, as much as we'd like to believe it, living with HIV still isn't like those hot guys you see in the pharmaceutical ads. Sure they can climb a mountain and ride a bike ... but there's still no guarantee that things won't get messy. And no offense, Mikey, but you couldn't handle it.

Michael stands up and turns his back on Brian.

MICHAEL

My mom, Ted ... now you. Does everyone in this community just give lip service to tolerance?

BRIAN

Maybe.

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

So, what are you saying? I shouldn't have sex with anyone who's positive?

BRIAN

I never said that. Go ahead, fuck 'em ... just don't fall in love with 'em.

Michael looks off into the distance. Is Brian right?

25 INT. LINDSAY'S PARENT'S HOUSE - DAY (LATER SUNDAY MORNING)

25

Don and Nancy's house -- upper middle class, WASPy. Nancy, wearing tennis garb, fixes her make-up in the hall mirror.

THE DOORBELL RINGS

Nancy goes to answer it, but first shouts upstairs.

NANCY

Don! Hurry up or we'll be late!

DON (O.S.)

I'm coming!

Just as Nancy opens the door, Don comes traipsing down the stairs, also dressed in tennis garb. Both are a little shocked to see ...

MELANIE STANDING IN THE DOORWAY, looking pissed.

NANCY

Melanie...!

MELANIE

Hi, Nancy ... and Don! Up and around. What happen? The Monangehela River turn into fuckin' Lourdes?

NANCY

What a surprise--

MELANIE

Can the niceties, Nance. I'm here because I got one thing to say to you--

NANCY

I'm sorry. Unfortunately, we have a court reserved--

(CONTINUED)

DON

Nancy--

NANCY

Don!

MELANIE

What the hell is wrong with you? Can't you show Lindsay just a little support?

NANCY

I do show Lindsay support. In my own way.

MELANIE

How? By spending almost every weekend with your other daughter while you only see Lindsay maybe once a month? By paying for three weddings for Lynnne, but refusing to even acknowledge just one of Lindsay's?

DON

Nancy, maybe we should write them a check...

NANCY

Fine ... fine. But hurry--

MELANIE

Jesus! Fuck your check! It's not about the money! It's about you being there for your daughter. Don't you get it?

A beat.

NANCY

You don't need to patronize me, Melanie. The fact is we've never judged you. We're not villains you'd probably like us to be. We let you live your own life, but we also expect you to let us live ours.

MELANIE

Just know that there's a fine line between letting someone live their own life ... and not being part of it at all.

NANCY

Are you finished? We've got a game.

Melanie stares at Nancy and shakes her head in disbelief. The conversation is over. Nancy is immovable.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

27 EXT. DEBBIE'S HOUSE - DAY

27

Debbie and Vic rake leaves, silently avoiding each other's eyes. Each take a quick furtive glance at the other. Finally Debbie throws down her rake into a huge pile of leaves.

DEBBIE

Look, are we gonna talk or are we gonna have to rake the whole fuckin' neighborhood?

Vic turns to her, he still looks angry.

VIC

So, talk.

DEBBIE

I'm sorry what I said came out the way it did. It's not that I hated taking care of you ... or that I don't love every moment I have with you, but I just hate this fucking disease--

VIC

You think I don't? You think anyone with HIV wants anyone else to have it?

DEBBIE

No...

VIC

Damn right we don't. Because we know what it's like to live with this virus. Worse, we know what it's like to have people reject you for having it.

DEBBIE

I'm not rejecting you--

VIC

No, but you want Michael to reject Ben.

Debbie turns away. She's not budging.

VIC (CONT'D)

Deb, You know safe sex works! You know Michael can protect himself!

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

If it was me? I wouldn't think twice about falling love with someone who's positive. You love someone, you love 'em. But it's not me, it's Michael.

VIC

You're not making sense!

DEBBIE

I don't have to make fucking sense! I'm a mother!

After a moment. Vic breaks a small smile.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

I know Ben is someone Michael could love, Vic, and it scares me. Because Michael's a lot like you and me. When his heart gets involved, he'll do whatever it takes to help ... even screw up his own life. I don't want to risk losing him, like I almost lost you. I'm sorry ... but I'm not changing my mind. (Debbie's eyes have teared up.) I think I got fucking dirt in my eye.

Debbie wipes the dampness from her eyes. Vic looks at her, and suddenly brings her into his arms.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry. I never wanted to hurt you. I love you so much.

VIC

I know.

Vic caresses Debbie's head. Nothing is settled, but they're there for each other no matter what.

29 INT. LINDSAY AND MELANIE'S HOUSE - DAY

29

The party is just as the girls had envisioned it: canopes, WELL-BEHAVED QUEERS, and TASCHA PLAYING THE HARP -- in other words: boring as hell. Worse, it's become a dirge, with Lindsay sitting in the middle of it all, heartbroken. Melanie and Brian sit near her, wishing it would all end.

NEAR THE HARP

(CONTINUED)

Leda stares at the HARPIST, wanting her dead, while a dowdy, GRANOLA LESBIAN stares at Leda longingly. Leda is in hell.

ACROSS THE ROOM

Ben and Justin sit on the couch, talking about university or something.

AT THE BUFFET TABLE

Michael, Ted and Emmett pick through the finger food. Emmett and Ted are on opposite sides of Michael, and act as if the other one is not there.

MICHAEL

Well, at least there's enough food.

EMMETT

Wakes always have enough food.

Michael laughs, but then watches as both Emmett and Ted refuse to even look at one another.

MICHAEL

Are you two going to stop this and talk to each other?

Both men are silent.

TED

Actually, did I mention that I found a great new model for the website. His name is Octavio. Hot as hell...more than just a dick.

This cuts Emmett, but he's not gonna back down.

EMMETT

God this lunchmeat is so flabby ... sort of reminds me of someone ... thing, sorry, I meant something. Well, I'm going to have to take off soon, since I have a appointment with this wonderful new website. Classy. Not seedy like so many amateur sites out there.

MICHAEL

Okay, guys! Come on!

Emmett walks away.

(CONTINUED)

TED

(mocking)

"Not seedy like so many amateur sites out there.." Do you believe that guy?

MICHAEL

Don't you get it?

TED

What?

MICHAEL

Look how much you've accomplished in your life. You got your MBA and your career as an accountant, and your condo and this website...

TED

So?

MICHAEL

So, Emmett's always felt a little less than you because of that ... a little jealous.

TED

Bull--

MICHAEL

No. Sure, he teases you like we all do, but he's always looked up to you. As stupid as it might seem ... this jacking off thing was his first chance to show you he was important too.

Ted, not sure how he feels about what Michael said, looks across the room at Emmett.

TED

It's too late now. Things were said that can't be taken back.

MICHAEL

Think about it.

Michael crosses to Ben, while Ted looks over at Emmett again.

IN THE CORNER

Leda comes over to Brian. She's a little tipsy. She raises her glass to Lindsay...

(CONTINUED)

LINDSAY, across the room, still looks like someone died.

BACK TO LEDA AND BRIAN

LEDA

(re: Lindsay) So, Mrs. Lincoln other than that, how was the play?

BRIAN

Wish someone would shoot me.

LEDA

Me too. If I didn't feel sorry for ol' Lindz and Mel, I'd beat this cookie stand like it was on fire.

Brian looks across the room at Lindsay. He looks irritated, but also determined.

BRIAN

Fuck this!

Brian looks at Leda, then looks across the room at Justin.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

(Calling) Justin!

Brian waves Justin over.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

(To Leda) You. Do something about the music, while we get something out of the car.

Leda salutes. Brian and Justin head off to the car.

ON THE COUCH

Michael sits with Ben.

MICHAEL

Usually my friends are more fun than this.

BEN

I hope so.

MICHAEL

Hey!

BEN

Kidding, right now, I'm happy wherever you are.

(CONTINUED)

AT THE HARP

Leda walks up to THE HARPIST

LEDA  
Excuse me, I have a request.

HARPIST  
Yes.

Leda leans in seductively.

LEDA  
Either you take your god-damned fingers  
off that thing right now, or your gonna  
have to learn to play with your teeth.

The HARP MUSIC STOPS.

Leda smiles and blows the harpist a kiss.

LINDSAY AND MELANIE

LINDSAY  
What's going on?

MELANIE  
I don't know...

BRIAN takes the center of the room, his hands are behind his  
back.

BRIAN  
Ladies and Gentleman, time to have a ...

He pulls his hands from behind his back and produces nearly a  
bouquet of joints.

BRIAN (CONT'D)  
Party.

LEDA at the CD player, pushes a button and REGAE MUSIC starts  
to jam. She goes over to Brian and they light up and start  
dancing with each other.

At first everyone stares a bit shocked at the change ... that  
is until Justin approaches, offers them a joint and helps  
them light up. Even The Harpist is smoking.

LINDSAY AND MELANIE, as they watch all the guys and gals get  
involved.

(CONTINUED)

MELANIE

Should I stop it?

Justin offers them a "fatty."

LINDSAY

Fuck no.

Suddenly the room is alive with pulsing dancing bodies. Leda unbuttons and removes Brian's shirt and puts it on his head. He does the same thing to her. She dances there in her bra. Some of the other dykes are also going down to their bras. Other's are doing "shot gun" hits -- taking a hit and then blowing the smoke into each other's mouths.

MICHAEL AND BEN in the middle of the fray are grinding into each other, and looking into each others eyes lovingly.

BRIAN notices Michael and Ben from across the room.

MICHAEL AND BEN

BEN

Thirsty?

MICHAEL

Yes.

BEN

I'll get, you stay.

MICHAEL

No. You dance. I'll get.

They kiss. Michael walks to the bar.

AT THE BAR

Brian comes up behind Michael, who is pouring a couple of drinks.

BRIAN

Having fun?

MICHAEL

Yes. Thanks to you.

BRIAN

So, you went and did it didn't you?

MICHAEL

What?

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

You're falling in love with him. Despite what everyone told you, despite what I told you. Mikey's little heart has it's own reason ... even if it fucks up his life.

Michael looks at Brian. He's calm.

MICHAEL

You know something Brian. Love is always a risk. And despite what you think, despite what my mom thinks, I can take care of myself ... so you and everyone else can just fuck off.

With that Michael leaves Brian standing there. Brian looks after him.

BRIAN

(quietly)

Good boy.

As the party continues, Lindsay and Melanie start really "getting down." They shot-gun (kiss) with a hit of pot just as -- SURPRISE --

DON AND NANCY standing in the doorway, staring in shock at the wild party.

Suddenly, Lindsay sees them and pulls away from Melanie's mouth, smoke pouring out of both their mouths.

LINDSAY

Jesus! Mom ... Dad ... hi...

MELANIE

Mr and Mrs. Peterson!

NANCY

Lets go, Don.

Nancy starts to storm out. Don hangs behind for a moment staring at TWO LESBIANS MAKING OUT in the corner. Nancy turns and sees him.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Don!

They storm out.

LINDSAY

Mom?! Dad?! Wait!

(CONTINUED)

29

CONTINUED: (7)

29

Lindsay follows them, Melanie follows her.

30

OUTSIDE LINDSAY AND MELANIE'S - CONTINUOUS

30

Nancy and Ron are heading for their car.

LINDSAY

Mom, can't we...?

NANCY

We've never told you what to do with your life --

LINDSAY

I know--

NANCY

However, we also don't have to support it or be part of it. Get in the car, Don.

Nancy and Don get in the car and drive off. Lindsay and Melanie watch them go. Melanie looks at Lindsay.

MELANIE

You okay?

LINDSAY

What was I trying to do?

MELANIE

What do you mean?

LINDSAY

What was I doing trying to be Lynnie, trying to be them. If they can't accept me and my friends the way we are ... then maybe I don't need my family's support.

MELANIE

Actually...

They look behind them at their house, which is lit up with the lights and noise of the party -- the real family.

LINDSAY

Lets go dance.

They head back into the party.

31 INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

31

Michael and Ben lie on the couch making out. Michael opens Ben's shirt and starts kissing his chest. It's getting intense.

MICHAEL

Condoms?

BEN

Bathroom cabinet--

MICHAEL

I'll get 'em.

Michael gets up and goes to the bathroom. Ben, overwhelmed how lucky he is, watches Michael walk away.

INSIDE THE BATHROOM

Alone in the bathroom, Michael opens the medicine cabinet and takes out a condom. He starts to close the cabinet, but opens it again and we RAMP TO THE CONTENTS: Lots and lots of HIV medication. Protease Inhibitors and the rest. Michael quickly closes the cabinet and stares at himself in the mirror. Can he really handle this?

IN THE MIRROR, Ben appears Naked behind Michael. He's perfect.

BEN

Did you find 'em?

32 Ben puts his arms around Michael and pulls Michael's shirt off and starts kissing his neck. Michael puts the condom package between his teeth and rips it. 32

33 INT. TED'S WAREHOUSE - MORNING (MONDAY)

33

Ted sits at his desk at the Warehouse. Emmett walks in. He carries a large empty duffle bag, and still looks angry.

TED

I guess you got my call about your last check?

EMMETT

I was coming anyway. I left a things.

TED

Go ahead.

(CONTINUED)

Emmett walks to a large trunk and during the following conversation removes various sex toys (dildos, benoit balls, butt plugs etc.) and packs them in his duffle bag.

EMMETT

I trust no one used these?

TED

No.

Emmett removes a double-headed dildo.

TED (CONT'D)

Uh ... that one is mine.

Emmett looks at it and throws it back in the box.

TED (CONT'D)

Look, Emm, I want Rex back ... and not just because he's one of the best web-models in the business ... but also because he's my friend and I miss him.

Emmett looks at him, he would cry if he wasn't so angry.

EMMETT

Rex can't come back to a place that doesn't respect him ... respect him both as and artist and a man.

TED

Rex will be respected and so will Emmett ... can we start talking in the first person?

Emmett starts to soften.

EMMETT

What about the lube?

Ted goes to the table next to the bed and points to a warm shave machine. He turns it on.

TED

Pretty ingenious, huh? Filled with the finest lube money can buy ... actually if you buy in bulk it's not so bad.

Emmett feels it. It's luscious.

EMMETT

This is nice ... but I don't think things can be the same ever again.

(CONTINUED)

Emmett turns to leave.

TED

Wait.

Emmett turns back. Ted switches a couple of switches, pulls a curtain against the wall. A sign in big letters reads: "Rex Uranus" and is surrounded by twinkling lights. Emmettt nearly faints.

EMMETT

Oh ... that's ... amazing.

TED

That's not all...

He switches another switch. The bed starts to rotate.

Emmett nearly cries.

TED (CONT'D)

So, will you come back, Little Sheba?

Emmett suddenly breaks into a big smile and leaps on the bed, stretching into a Marilyn pose.

EMMETT

Now I feel like a star!

Ted smiles. His buddy's back.

34 EXT. COMIC BOOK STORE - MORNING

34

Michael, looking distraught, stands outside the comic book store, staring inside the window for a moment. He fishes the keys from his pocket and begins to unlock the door until Ben comes up behind him, grabs him and kisses him on the neck.

BEN

Surprise. I followed you!

Michael continues to look down at the door lock, fumbling with the keys in the lock. He can't look at Ben.

MICHAEL

You sure did ...

BEN

Having problems?

Michael stops.

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

I can't do this.

BEN

Is it stuck?

MICHAEL

No, I can't do this ...us ...I thought I could handle it ... but I can't ... I'm sorry.

Ben kisses Michael on the cheek and walks away. Michael can't turn to watch Ben leave, but still catches Ben's departing reflection in the store window. Michael closes his eyes.

FADE OUT.

END OF TELEPLAY