

VEGAS BABY

by

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INT. HOOTERS CASINO - RESTAURANT - DAY

We're at the Hooters restaurant inside the Hooters Hotel and Casino, the most ratchet casino in all of Las Vegas.

A huge banner says HAPPY RETIREMENT, ROGER! On the mic, singing "My Way" is THAI ELVIS, an Elvis impersonator who happens to be a middle-aged Thai man.

The retirement party is made up of a few dozen casino employees still in their uniforms: tight tank tops for the waitresses and ill-fitting bowling shirts for everyone else.

Standing out from the crowd is the SANTOS FAMILY.

TEDDY SANTOS (38, Filipino, hard-working and ambitious but in a sweaty way) drinks a beer in a Brooks Brothers suit.

MIRNA SANTOS (32, Filipina, practical, tired, doesn't have time for this) sips iced tea in an elegant maxi dress.

JORDAN SANTOS (12, Filipino-American, dorky, curious, unsure what he's doing there) eats wings, also in a suit and tie.

MIRNA

How long do we have to stay?

TEDDY

This is a big deal, it's a retirement party.

MIRNA

We look like we're at a funeral. I think we overdressed.

TEDDY

No, everyone else under-dressed.

MIRNA

What'd the invite say?

TEDDY

"Wear your best Hooter-wear."

MIRNA

This is not Hooter-wear.

Mirna points to her dress, then sees her boob tape losing the battle to keep her covered.

MIRNA (CONT'D)

Well, maybe.

TEDDY

Just because the other people here
don't want to look decent, doesn't
mean we lower ourselves to their
level.

A HOOTERS EMPLOYEE overhears this, looks offended.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

And we never get to dress up. Look
at us, we look nice!

Jordan has sauce all over his face and is sweating buckets.

JORDAN

(breathing heavy)
These wings. Burning.

Mirna wipes his face.

MIRNA

Time to switch to mild.

Teddy sees ROGER (62, White, drunk) stumbling from the
bathroom.

TEDDY

There's Roger. Let me just remind
him that I used him as a reference
and then we can leave.

MIRNA

I'll pack up.

Mirna pulls out a gallon size Ziplock from her purse and
starts collecting wings to-go. Teddy walks over to Roger.

ROGER

Tedddyyyyy! Looking sharp. Who died?

TEDDY

Oh, I'm sorry, I--

ROGER

I'm just busting your balls, man.
I remember when you first got here
from the Philippines, you were like
this fancy banker who was all, look
at me, I'm a fancy guy from a bank.

TEDDY

Speaking of banks--

ROGER
Couldn't even work a cash register.
I had to teach you everything.

TEDDY
It took like five minutes--

ROGER
And now, you're on your own.

Roger puts his arm around Teddy, points to the small convenience store they both worked at.

ROGER (CONT'D)
I've been in that little bodega for forty years. Back when this casino was Oriental Palace. Then it was Mexican Villa, Apache Town, Sheikh Shack, White Club, Gold Stream, Mafia Casino, and now... Hooters.

TEDDY
Classiest name yet. Anyway, it's okay if I use you as a reference? For my bank loan. For the Filipino grocery store I want to open.

ROGER
Of course. Anything for you, man.

TEDDY
Great! They'll call you--

ROGER
You're on the right track, you know that? You don't gamble, you don't drink. You got a nice family.

Roger starts tearing up.

ROGER (CONT'D)
Unlike me. What do I got? Living paycheck to paycheck. Putting it all back into the casino. All I got is bad credit, a keno addiction, and my collection of E-Cigarettes.

He buries his face into Teddy's chest, now ugly crying.

ROGER (CONT'D)
You're better than this place! Get out while you can.

Teddy pats him on the back and motions to the bartender to cut him off. Thai Elvis finishes his glorious rendition of "My Way" to cheers and goes straight into "Viva Las Vegas."

INT. HOOTERS CASINO - PARKING GARAGE - DAY

Teddy walks Mirna and Jordan back to their car. She's carrying his suit and he's changed into his work clothes: a bowling shirt with the word HOOTERS across his chest.

TEDDY

Thanks for coming, guys. That was fun, right? Aside from the awkward moment of tragic lifelong regret.

MIRNA

It was fun. And now we have lunch for the week.

She pulls out the gallon-sized Ziplock filled with wings.

TEDDY

(lying)

Wing week... my favorite.

MIRNA

I can't believe they're making you work another shift.

TEDDY

People wanted to keep partying. And those Virginia Slims aren't going to sell themselves.

MIRNA

There's an opening at the Rio for a waitress. I'm thinking of applying.

TEDDY

You want a second waitressing job?

MIRNA

I can handle it. I like waitressing! It reminds me of being a nurse back in Manila. I take care of people, lots of old people. With tips, it's good money. Plus, Jordan's Catholic school is expensive and I don't want him back at public. They keep trying to turn the kids into dealers.

TEDDY
That's not true.

MIRNA
(to Jordan)
What's twenty five percent of
eighty?

JORDAN
Uh...

MIRNA
How much do you win if you bet
sixty dollars and get a blackjack?

JORDAN
Ninety seven fifty.

Teddy shrugs.

TEDDY
He's Asian, math and gambling go
hand in hand. Look, you work
plenty. Too much, even. Once we get
the loan, we get our little grocery
store going, we'll be fine. No more
swing shifts or graveyards or any
of these stupid casino hours.

Teddy kisses Mirna. She unlocks the car and Jordan gets in.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
(to Jordan)
Do your homework. Don't be a
dealer.

JORDAN
I don't want to be a drug dealer.

TEDDY
Don't be a card dealer or a drug
dealer. Maybe a pharmacist. Not a
pharmaceutical rep.

INT. HOOTERS CASINO - CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Teddy is behind the counter next to his coworker CARL (28, African-American, dumb but sweet). The convenience store is the size of a small 7-11.

It has everything that a guest at Hooters Hotel and Casino would need: condoms, Red Bull, 40 oz. malt liquor, pink cowboy hats. Teddy and Carl talk while restocking cigarettes.

CARL

You sure Roger wasn't crying tears of joy? I'd love to work here for forty years.

TEDDY

Really?

CARL

It's got everything I need. Food, women, dollar craps. On the weekend, I take my motorcycle out to the desert and shoot at rocks. Last week, I tried bath salts. I almost died. I'm living the dream.

TEDDY

I need more than that.

CARL

You need Teddy's friendly, neighborhood grocery store.

TEDDY

We'd stay open late. Every Filipino store closes at seven. So lazy. I'd close at nine, nine thirty.

CARL

How come you never went back to working at a bank?

TEDDY

I tried, I applied to every bank manager opening in town. And when I tried to be a teller, they said I was "overqualified." But I know the real problem was my accent and...

Teddy motions to his face.

CARL

Acne?

TEDDY

No, because I'm brown.

CARL

He looks like he could be a banker.

Carl points to the SLICK FILIPINO GUY who just walked in. He's Teddy's age but his outfit exudes legit wealth, unlike the typical Hooters patron, who exudes body odor.

CARL (CONT'D)
(to Slick Filipino Guy)
Bruh, you a banker?

SLICK FILIPINO GUY
No. Dunhills and a New York Times.

Teddy reaches for the newspaper and cigs, but sees they don't have his brand.

TEDDY
We only have Dunhill Lights.

SLICK FILIPINO GUY
Diet cigarettes? No thanks.

Teddy sees an open pack of Dunhills on the counter, grabs it.

TEDDY
Here, take mine. On the house.

CARL
Those are actual my--

TEDDY
(sotto, to Carl)
Shut up, I'll buy you a new one.

SLICK FILIPINO GUY
Wow, thanks, appreciate it.

TEDDY
I've seen you here before.

SLICK FILIPINO GUY
Me and my buddies love the wings.

TEDDY
(trying to impress)
Me too! My favorite.

SLICK FILIPINO GUY
You a drum guy or a flat guy?

TEDDY
Uh... flat wings?

SLICK FILIPINO GUY
Nice! I love flat. Except when it comes to... you know. But that's not a problem at Hooters, right?

TEDDY
Those are my coworkers, no comment.

Teddy sees he's wearing a FREEMASON RING. He plays it cool.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

Nice ring.

SLICK FILIPINO GUY

Thanks, got it in the Philippines.
It cost a fortune, but worth it.

He takes his cigs and newspaper.

SLICK FILIPINO GUY (CONT'D)

(in Tagalog)

Thanks, friend.

TEDDY

(in Tagalog)

You're welcome! Friend.

Teddy watches him rejoin his other Freemason buddies.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

That guy's a Freemason.

CARL

So?

TEDDY

The richest, most powerful
Filipinos are Freemasons.
Politicians, athletes, movie stars.
Shaquille O'Neal is a member.

CARL

Shaq? Damn, I want to join.

TEDDY

You can't just join, they have to
nominate you. But if I were member,
my family would be set for life.

Teddy watches the Freemasons walk away to their better lives.

FRAIL ELDERLY VOICE (O.S.)

Condoms, extra large.

Teddy looks around, doesn't see who's talking.

FRAIL ELDERLY VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

And some warming lube, please.

He looks down and sees, giggling in a motorized wheelchair,
is his older brother JUNIOR (40, Filipino, immature and
impulsive but means well). Teddy can't believe he's there.

TEDDY

Junior?! What are you doing here?

JUNIOR

I'm here to visit my baby bro!

Junior tries to maneuver the wheelchair to go behind the counter, but it gets stuck. He gives up, stands, walks over, and gives his a brother a bear hug.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

(to Carl)

Hi, I'm Junior.

CARL

Carl.

(to Teddy)

You have a younger brother?

TEDDY

Older. Supposedly.

JUNIOR

This casino is so janky, I love it. Everyone here looks like they're on vacation from cooking meth. I've never heard so many white people casually use the N-word.

CARL

Yeah...

TEDDY

I haven't heard from you in years.

JUNIOR

I've been messed up for a long time. But I'm better now. And I want to pay my "utang na loob."

CARL

What's that?

TEDDY

It's literally Filipino blood debt.

CARL

Sounds like a Van Damme movie. What does he owe you in Filipino blood debt?

TEDDY

Oh, you know, the usual. Getting me beat up, stealing my identity, stealing my money--

JUNIOR

Alright, come on, "remember when" is the lowest form of conversation. The point is, I'm here. To pay it back. And also to ask a favor...

TEDDY

Here it comes.

JUNIOR

I want to use your address--

TEDDY

For a pyramid scheme? A tax scam? Are you harvesting human organs?

JUNIOR

No, to get my citizenship. I've had a Green Card for eight years now. It's time to grow up. And I've had one too many run-ins with the law and I'd rather not get deported.

Teddy is caught off-guard, softens.

TEDDY

Better late than never. But it's not just with me that you have a Filipino blood debt.

INT. TEDDY AND MIRNA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Teddy and Mirna talk in their small, modest kitchen.

MIRNA

I do not want Junior in this house!

She just got home from a shift waitressing at Palace Station, a train-themed casino. She's still wearing her cheesy 1920's steam train outfit.

MIRNA (CONT'D)

Remember the last time he was here?

TEDDY

He stole our change--

MIRNA

He stole twelve hundred dollars
worth of change.

Mirna pulls out a GIANT NOVELTY BUDWEISER CAN. It's three feet tall and even though it's only one-third filled with coins, she can barely lift it.

MIRNA (CONT'D)

He stole more than money. He stole time. That was years of tips from old people, cheapskates, weirdos scared of paper money. That loose change represented our first years out here in the desert.

TEDDY

I know the giant plastic novelty Budweiser can of coins meant a lot to you. It meant a lot to me too. But he's my brother. He's family.

INT. TEDDY AND MIRNA'S HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Junior and Jordan crouch by a wall. He's teaching his nephew how to play craps. Jordan throws the dice.

JUNIOR

Yo-eleven! Keep it going!

Jordan blows on the dice and throws them.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Snake eyes. Pay up.

Jordan pulls out a dollar, which Junior actually pockets.

INT. TEDDY AND MIRNA'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Mirna and Teddy continue while she gets ready for bed.

TEDDY

You got the last one.

MIRNA

The last what?

TEDDY

The last person we brought over to stay with us. You got to choose.

MIRNA

You mean my mom. Who was dying. You want Junior to live with us until he dies?

TEDDY

No, just until he gets his citizenship. Then he's the government's problem.

MIRNA

Fine, but I get to bring the next three people over. Putting up with Junior is easily worth three of my most annoying family members.

TEDDY

Two.

MIRNA

Two and he has to pay back what he stole. And help around the house. Take Jordan to school, take Jordan to karate and band practice and--

TEDDY

Deal.

MIRNA

And I get to drug test him.

TEDDY

Wow, okay. Wait, which two? You have to pick now, this is binding.

MIRNA

My dad.

TEDDY

Ugh, he hates me! The only thing he likes are his stupid champion cockfighting chickens. He calls one of them Manny Peck-iao. Okay, your dad and--

MIRNA

Miriam.

TEDDY

Thirteen siblings and you pick her?! She was number seven, you know how needy middle children are. Fine.

They kiss. She goes to bed.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
No take backs!

He turns off the light and closes the door.

INT. TEDDY AND MIRNA HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Teddy sees Junior is there, waiting for the verdict.

JUNIOR
Me and Jordan were playing craps.
Busted me pretty quickly. He's a
natural, you should watch out for
that. So... am I in?

TEDDY
Yes, but... on several conditions.

INT. CAR - DAY

Cars HONK around Junior and Jordan, who are stuck in morning traffic. Junior, bleary-eyed, downs two Five-Hour Energies.

JORDAN
Isn't that dangerous?

JUNIOR
Not as dangerous as me killing us
in a fiery car crash due to driver
sleepy time. So how's school? Any
of the nuns mean to you?

JORDAN
We only have priests.

JUNIOR
(grimaces)
Sorry.

JORDAN
There's this eighth grader, Marlon.
He's been picking on me. He put
this on Snapchat.

Jordan shows, on his phone, a picture Marlon posted of Jordan Photoshopped to look like a refugee.

JUNIOR
(in Tagalog)
Motherfucker. What's he look like?

Jordan pulls up Marlon's picture on his phone.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
He looks like a penis. And he's
what, thirty-five? He's got more
facial hair than I have pubes.

We see Marlon. He looks like an uglier Rob Schneider.

INT. VALLEY BANK OF NEVADA - LOBBY - DAY

Teddy nervously sits in the lobby, waiting for his loan appointment. He pulls out his phone and dials. It rings and rings. WE SEE on the other end, not answering, is Roger, passed out in his tighty whiteys. Teddy leaves a voicemail.

TEDDY
Roger, it's Teddy. Just wanted to
see if you talked to the bank about
my loan... without crying. Hope you
did. Call me.

INT. CAR - DAY

Junior pulls up to Jordan's Catholic school.

JUNIOR
You tell your folks about this kid?

JORDAN
Dad said I shouldn't lower myself
to bullies and fighting. That I
should be the better man. Forgive
and forget. Turn the other cheek.

JUNIOR
I don't know what those mean, but I
know two ways to deal with bullies.

Jordan takes out his Moleskin to write this down.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
One: get them in trouble. Plant
drugs on them. Evidence. DNA. Well,
maybe not that. And two: hit them
in the nuts. Also effective.

INT. VALLEY BANK OF NEVADA - MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

Teddy sits across from bank manager CHAD (30, White, bro-y).

CHAD

I looked over your application. I'm sorry. I can't approve this loan.

TEDDY

What?!

CHAD

It's too risky.

TEDDY

(panicking)

No it's not, I've done my homework. There's over a hundred-thousand Filipinos in Las Vegas and no Filipino stores on the east side, especially one open past nine and--

CHAD

It's not that... it's you. You don't have the experience.

TEDDY

I was a bank manager, like you. I ran the largest bank in Manila.

CHAD

That's not a grocery store.

TEDDY

And... for the last three years, I've been working at the convenience store inside Hooters Casino. My boss, Roger, can tell you, I was running that place.

CHAD

I talked to Roger. He... got emotional.

TEDDY

Crying?

CHAD

More of a sobbing. Seemed like an ugly crier. But Hooters is great! I've been there many, many times. That place is intense.

TEDDY

The drunkest people in the world.

CHAD

I know, I've been one of those people. And if you can survive working retail at Hooters Casino, you can survive anywhere. But... you didn't order produce, or work with suppliers, or balance the books. You're just the cashier.

TEDDY

Look, in my gut, I'm a businessman. I know I can do this. I was meant to do this.

CHAD

I'm sorry.

Teddy can't believe it. He's shell shocked.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Do you know if Stacey still works there? She's been ghosting me.

EXT. VALLEY BANK OF NEVADA - PARKING LOT - DAY

Teddy talks to Mirna on the phone. She's waiting tables at the buffet inside Palace Station. She steps aside to take his call. We INTERCUT between them.

TEDDY

He said I don't have experience running a store. How do I get experience running a store if I don't get money to open a store?!

MIRNA

This is all Roger's fault, he should have promoted you. Who manages a casino convenience store for forty years?

TEDDY

Not crying on the phone with the bank would have helped too.

MIRNA

I'll apply to that waitressing gig at the Rio. We can save up for the store ourselves, screw the bank.

TEDDY

No, we'll figure this out. Maybe Junior can get a job and help out.

MIRNA

I doubt that.

Mirna sees in the distance, in another section of the buffet, Junior fast asleep.

MIRNA (CONT'D)

I have to go.

She hangs up. We STOP INTERCUT and stay with Mirna.

INT. PALACE STATION - BUFFET - CONTINUOUS

Mirna walks over to Junior's table. He's asleep in the booth, feet propped up, Filipino newspaper draped over his belly. Mirna sees another WAITRESS passing by.

MIRNA

How long has he been out?

WAITRESS

An hour. Said he was your brother?

MIRNA

In-law. Brother-in-law. I got this.

She takes a grape from one of his many plates and tosses it in his mouth. He choke-startles awake.

JUNIOR

Is it lunch? I smell lunch meats.

MIRNA

This isn't Starbucks, you can't sleep here!

JUNIOR

I wanted to try all your dishes, from breakfast to dinner.

MIRNA

Then leave and come back.

JUNIOR

I'm disappointed. Teddy would turn his nose at all-day buffet, but I thought you were cool.

MIRNA

What are you doing here?

JUNIOR

Well, I got hungry, then sleepy--

MIRNA
In Vegas, in my house.

JUNIOR
I'll be honest, part of me wanting to get my citizenship is... I want some of that sweet, sweet public assistance. Welfare, unemployment, disability. I get lazy just thinking about it.

Mirna rolls her eyes.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
And I want to make things right. I'm sober now, I don't gamble... on any card-based games. I want to pay back what I owe. I want to help.

Mirna appreciates his honesty, but still needs him to leave.

MIRNA
Fine, you can stay here and eat...

Junior pumps his fist.

MIRNA (CONT'D)
If you get a job here. We need a bus boy, a line cook, a waiter--

Junior gathers his stuff and scoots out of the booth.

JUNIOR
I know when I'm not wanted.

Before he leaves, Mirna stops him.

MIRNA
Go check in on your brother. He didn't get the loan today.

Junior gets a cloth napkin, wraps up some muffins to go.

JUNIOR
For Teddy.

He grabs a fistful of bacon too.

INT. HOOTERS CASINO - CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Junior, now loitering at Teddy's place of work, is being taught how to hula hoop by a HOOTERS WAITRESS. Carl watches.

CARL
More hips. Like this.

Carl gyrates his hips. Junior starts to get the hang of it.

JUNIOR
Look Teddy, look! I'm hula hooping!
Look! Teddy. Teddy. Teddy. Teddy.

TEDDY
(staring at his phone)
Uh huh.

JUNIOR
Wanna hula hoop?

TEDDY
No, June, I'm at work.

JUNIOR
Right, sorry.

The Slick Filipino Guy from before comes in. He greets Teddy.

SLICK FILIPINO GUY
Freddy!

TEDDY
Teddy.

While Slick Filipino Guy goes to the fridge to look for an energy drink, Junior goes over to Teddy.

JUNIOR
I know that guy, he's in the paper.

Junior pulls out the Filipino newspaper from his back pocket. The feature story is about the charity work by Slick Filipino Guy aka PAOLO DAVID, the owner of Seafood City.

CARL
What's Seafood City?

TEDDY
It's like the Walmart of Filipino supermarkets.

JUNIOR
You should pitch him your grocery store! Maybe he'll fund it.

TEDDY
What?

JUNIOR

Mirna told me about the loan falling through. But screw the bank, we got Paolo David here and he almost knows your name!

TEDDY

Why would he give me money?

JUNIOR

Because you're Teodoro Cruz Santos, the best businessman I know.

TEDDY

That's not how it works.

JUNIOR

Oh really, how's it work?

TEDDY

I don't know. We get lunch. Get drinks. Go golfing. Become peers. Become friends. Have inside jokes. Have nicknames for each other. Combine names to make one nickname.
(mumbling)
Tedalo. And then we do business.

JUNIOR

You're not trying to date the guy. What's there to lose?

TEDDY

Uh, my job? Getting fired for asking customers for money.

JUNIOR

On no! Your career as a cashier at Hooters is over.

TEDDY

You know what?! Fu--

Teddy sees Paolo is now at the counter with his energy drink.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

--uulll Throttle. Nice choice, Full Throttle. Good energy drink.

There's an awkward silence. Junior can't take it anymore.

JUNIOR

(to Paolo)

Hi, I'm Teddy's brother, Junior.

CARL
(to Paolo)
Carl. We've met.

PAOLO
Paolo, nice to meet you. Again.

JUNIOR
Teddy wants to ask you something.

TEDDY
No I don't.

JUNIOR
You wanted to ask about that thing.

PAOLO
What thing?

Teddy stares daggers at Junior. He's stuck. Carl watches the drama unfold while eating M&M's like he's at a movie theater.

TEDDY
I wanted to... ask you...

Teddy's as frozen as his old ass computer.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
Um... uh....

Fuck it.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
I want to join the Freemasons.

He points at Paolo's ring.

PAOLO
Oh. Oh! Yeah, we're always looking for new blood. I'm actually having a barbecue at my house Saturday.

Paolo gives Teddy his business card.

PAOLO (CONT'D)
Guys from the lodge will be there.
You should come. Bring the family.

TEDDY
Great! See you. At your house.

Paolo leaves. Teddy stares at his business card like it's Willy Wonka's Golden Ticket.

JUNIOR

Dude, we're going to a barbecue!

He tries to high-five. Teddy leaves him hanging.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

No? Okay.

INT. CAR - DAY

Teddy drives Mirna, Jordan, and Junior to the barbecue. Mirna is wearing the same maxi dress from the retirement party, and Teddy and Jordan are wearing the same suit, but without ties. Junior is in his finest Members Only jacket.

MIRNA

I really don't want to go to this.

JUNIOR

You don't like barbecue?

MIRNA

I don't like barbecue when it's with stuck up Filipinos who look down on me because I'm a waitress and I'm from the boonies and I shop at Nordstrom Rack instead of... whatever's nicer than Nordstrom Rack.

JUNIOR

Nordstrom.

MIRNA

Shut up.

TEDDY

We're just there to network. The richest Filipinos are Freemasons. If we can get in good with them, we're set for life.

JORDAN

Set how?

MIRNA

(to Jordan)

Your dad wants to get an extra fried egg when he flies Philippine Airlines. Or maybe even extra rice!

TEDDY

It's not just rice, it's lifelong
business opportunities.

MIRNA

Which I'll never enjoy because I'm
a woman and I can't join.

Junior tries to mess with Jordan and scare him.

JUNIOR

I was watching Freemason Friday on
History Channel. They control
everything. The stock market, the
weather. They can make hurricanes!

JORDAN

(freaking out)
Is that true?

TEDDY

No.

JUNIOR

And if you reveal their secrets,
they cut out your tongue and--

TEDDY

Hey!

MIRNA

Shut up!

*
*

EXT. MANSION - DAY

They walk up to the biggest house they've ever seen. All the
mansions share an enormous MAN-MADE LAKE in their backyard.
The front lawn has the Seafood City logo, a GIANT SHRIMP,
mowed into the grass.

JUNIOR

So this is grocery money. Might be
worth getting your tongue cut out.

He rings the doorbell. It's an elaborate rendition of the
Seafood City commercial jingle. They know all the words.

JUNIOR/MIRNA/TEDDY

(singing to themselves)
*See food/At Seafood City/Eat food/
At Seafood City/Good food/At
Seafood City--*

They stop when Paolo and his gorgeous wife PINKY open the
door. She's wearing the Nordstrom version of Mirna's dress.

PAOLO
Hey! Kumusta! Come on in.

INT. MANSION - CONTINUOUS

It's a huge, open area. In the backyard is a barbecue grill with steaks and lobsters.

TEDDY
You met Junior. This is my wife
Mirna and my son Jordan.

PAOLO
And this is my Pinky.

PINKY
I'm his Pinky!

MIRNA
We brought wings.

Mirna is almost embarrassed to hand over the tray to Pinky.

PINKY
They smell so... crispy.

Pinky sets the tray of wings down. Mirna can tell no one will eat them. Except Junior, who's already got a stack of bones.

EXT. MANSION - BACKYARD - DAY

Scattered across the sprawling patio is a dozen or so Filipino families, along with their kids who are either glued to their phones or running around and playing.

There's also a Mexican couple and the requisite White husband/Filipina wife pairing. Everyone is in rich people sportswear. J. Crew, Banana Republic, L.L. Bean.

Mirna and Junior are at the buffet line. He's piling ribs and steaks high onto his plate.

MIRNA
You know, you can always go back.

JUNIOR
I don't trust these catering guys.
They've been eyeballing me all day.

MIRNA
Maybe it's because you have ribs in
your jacket pockets.

JUNIOR
Those are for my dog.

MIRNA
You don't have a dog.

JUNIOR
I know, I'm practicing for when I
say it later.

Mirna opens a Heineken and takes a long swig.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
You're drinking? You never drink.

MIRNA
I need it to get through today.
Where's Jordan?

INT. MANSION - HALLWAY - DAY

Jordan walks down a long, dark hallway, peeking into each bedroom, using his cell phone as a torch. It's like Indiana Jones and the Masonic secrets. He opens a door and finds a BEDROOM with no lights on, but people scurrying inside.

MALE VOICE
Turn off the flashlight, yo!

Jordan puts down his phone and sees a couple of teenagers sharing a swiped beer. One of them is MARLON, his bully.

MARLON
It's that FOB, Refugee Jordan.

JORDAN
Shit.

Marlon takes a swig, pulls him inside, and shuts the door.

EXT. MANSION - BACKYARD - DAY

Paolo is introducing Teddy to the guys, MARVIN, BOBBY, JUAN, JIM. All rich cats sharing a bottle of Blue Label Johnnie Walker and smoking cigarettes and cigars.

PAOLO
This is Marvin, he's a lawyer.
Bobby, cardiologist. Juan has a
couple nursing homes. Jim is an app
developer, and the richest of all
of us. And has the most hair. Jerk.

They laugh. Teddy laughs way too late and way too hard.

MARVIN
(to Teddy)
What do you do?

Junior wanders over, still eating through his pile of meat.

TEDDY
Uh... in Manila, I was a banker. At
Banco de Oro.

BOBBY
BDO! Nice.

TEDDY
I was manager there for eight--

PAOLO
And now he works at Hooters!

The guys start bro-ing out, high-fiving Teddy.

PAOLO (CONT'D)
Freddy is the best. Whenever I come
by, he's got my cigs, newspaper.
(looks around, whispers)
Condoms.

They hoot and holler. Junior chimes in, defends his brother.

JUNIOR
Teddy actually ran all sorts of
businesses back in the Philippines.

TEDDY
We don't have to get into--

JUNIOR
He sold bootleg CDs, recycled scrap
metal, raised chickens for cock--

TEDDY
Stop.

JUNIOR
--fighting. I'm Junior, by the way.

INT. MANSION - DINING ROOM - DAY

Mirna is with the Freemason wives sitting at the dining
table. Pinky is holding court, bouncing her baby on her knee.

PINKY

It's just so hard. How do I balance it all? Being a mom, a housewife, a former actor. An on-camera personality. A human. A beast.

Mirna rolls her eyes, finishes her beer and opens another. Pinky hands her baby off to a HOUSEKEEPER, while a SECOND HOUSEKEEPER brings PINKY a plate of ribs.

PINKY (CONT'D)

And the people with two kids! Where do they find time?

EXT. MANSION - BACKYARD - DAY

Teddy sees an opportunity to finally talk to Paolo one-on-one. He takes a sip of whiskey and walks over.

PAOLO

Ted! You okay? Having fun?

TEDDY

I am. So, I saw you in the paper. I didn't know you own Seafood City. That's so cool! I love that place.

PAOLO

Thanks, I feel so blessed that my stupid, little idea... to expand my father's grocery empire worked out.

TEDDY

I'm planning on opening my own Filipino grocery store soon.

PAOLO

That's great! Do you have a location? Do you have investors?

TEDDY

I do not, currently. Have any of that. But, in terms of investing, I was thinking that you might--

MIRNA (O.S.)

That's so dumb!

Teddy and Paolo both laugh, wonder what's happening inside.

TEDDY

Anyway, if you're interested in--

MIRNA (O.S.)
It makes no sense!

TEDDY
I'll be right back.

Teddy quickly goes inside to the dining room.

INT. MANSION - DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Teddy sees that Mirna is a little drunk and having a loud, heated discussion with the other women at the table, who are now joined by Junior and his pile of meat.

MIRNA
Why can't I be a Freemason?! I was literally a stonemason growing up.

JUNIOR
It's a fraternity. There are off-shoots that allow women.

MIRNA
Pfft, those aren't as cool.

JUNIOR
And, call me sexist, but... it's a secret society? They have lots of secrets? Women. Be. Gossipy. Am I right? Am I Right?

The other women at the table nod and agree with Junior.

MIRNA
That's such male Filipino bullshit. And, just my opinion... y'all just don't want to be Catholic anymore. There, I said it. Yeah, I said it! I got two words for y'all. Pope. Francis. Would not. Like this. That was six words, I don't care.

The women and Junior loudly boo. Teddy pulls Mirna aside.

TEDDY
How about we get some food in you? Or a pot of coffee.

MIRNA
I was a stonemason.

TEDDY
I know.

Teddy takes her to get food, while Paolo goes up to Junior.

PAOLO
Do you happen to play billiards?

JUNIOR
Only for money.

He smiles, revealing a shiny gold tooth.

INT. MANSION - BEDROOM - DAY

Marlon and his buddies, now drunk, still hold Jordan captive.

MARLON
They're never going to let your dad
join. He works at freakin' Hooters.
He's a pleb. Maybe you could join.

JORDAN
Really?

MARLON
Just need someone to sponsor you.
I'm an apprentice. I could do that.

JORDAN
You'd do that?

MARLON
Totally. But first, like any gang,
we gotta jump you in.

Marlon cracks his knuckles. Jordan starts freaking out.

JORDAN
How about we forgive and forget?
Turn the other cheek?

MARLON
I don't know what that means.

JORDAN
Me neither.

INT. MANSION - KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Teddy sets down a plate of food and coffee for Mirna, then
hears LOUD YELLING coming from garage.

TEDDY
I'll be back.

He goes down the hallway and opens the door.

INT. MANSION - GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

The garage is filled with smoke. Paolo and his friends surround the pool table, making loud bets. Junior is at the table, sizing up a shot.

TEDDY
(to Junior)
What are you doing?!

JUNIOR
Playing pool.

TEDDY
For money?

JUNIOR
A little bit.

Junior takes out a HUGE WAD of bills.

TEDDY
Did you win all that just now?!

JUNIOR
Yeah, but these guys aren't very good. Also they're drunk. Also I'm much better at pool than they are.

TEDDY
They are going to hate us! Look at that guy. He's just staring at you.

We see Jim the app developer, the one white guy at the party, clutching his keys and staring daggers at Junior.

JUNIOR
He's the one that wanted to bet his car. Anyway, corner pocket.

TEDDY
Don't do it, don't win, don't win--

Junior goes 4 rails like he's doing a trick shot, and makes the 8 ball in the corner pocket. The garage collectively groans, hands over all their cash. Jim smiles, slow claps.

JIM
Well played. Well. Played. Until next time.

He hands over his car keys.

TEDDY
We are not keeping that.

JUNIOR
Uh, yeah we are. I just won it.

Suddenly, Marlon stumbles in, bawling and holding his crotch.

MARLON
(ugly crying)
Daddy! Daddy, I think it's broken!

JUNIOR
Hey, it's Penis Face.

Gary, the anesthesiologist, gets in Junior's face.

GARY
What did you call my son?

JUNIOR
(gulps)
Nothing.

Jordan peeks his head in and motions to his dad.

JORDAN
I think we should go now.

Mirna stumbles in.

MIRNA
I think we should go too. Right
after I, uh...

She walks to the backyard and, through the large windows, we see her VOMIT into the lake. She walks back to the garage.

MIRNA (CONT'D)
Now we should go.

EXT. MANSION - DAY

Teddy, Jordan, Mirna, and Junior walk to their car. Teddy carries the untouched tray of wings. He's pissed.

TEDDY
I can't believe you guys
embarrassed me like that. Those are
pillars of the community and we act
like uncivilized garbage people.

JUNIOR

Screw those guys, man. They were the ones trying to hustle me. And that Marlon kid was about to beat up Jordan. And Mirna... well, she got turnt, so that's on her.

Paolo comes outside. Teddy turns back.

PAOLO

I just wanted to see you guys out.

TEDDY

Paolo, I am so, so sorry for my family. It was inappropriate and--

PAOLO

It's fine. Don't worry about it.

TEDDY

I just don't want what happened today to affect any future business investments you might... with my grocery store and everything.

PAOLO

Teddy. One of the main facets of being a Freemason is charity. This is what this was: charity. Letting you and your family experience a better life, just for one day.

TEDDY

What?

PAOLO

You know, I come into the store and I see you. This poor, uneducated--

TEDDY

I went to law school.

PAOLO

--just struggling, just scraping by. So I'm not surprised that you're surrounded by alcoholism.

He motions to Mirna, who's like, WTF?

PAOLO (CONT'D)

And gambling addiction.

He motions to Junior, who shrugs, that sounds about right.

PAOLO (CONT'D)
 So I hope that, experiencing all
 this, seeing how we live, will
 serve as a model for how to live
 your life to all of it's
 possibilities.

Teddy is so immensely pissed that he can't take it anymore.

TEDDY
 Charity? Charity?!

Teddy tosses the tray of chicken wings all over Paolo's lawn.

JUNIOR
 There goes wing week.

He grabs the car keys Junior just won and presses the key
 fob. He paces around, trying to see which car is now theirs.

TEDDY
 Let's see what charity got us!

It's a 2010 Ford Fiesta.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
 Ugh, cheap ass white dude.
 Whatever, everybody get in. Junior,
 you drive my car.

He tosses him the keys. Junior gets in and starts the engine.
 Teddy, Mirna, and Jordan pile into their new hatchback.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
 Thanks again for the charity!

They start to drive off, then Junior stops and doubles back.

JUNIOR
 FYI, Pinky is definitely cheating
 on you with one of the actors from
 her old sitcom "Show Me Da Manny."

PAOLO
 (genuinely distraught)
 Who?! How do you know?

JUNIOR
 Women. Be. Gossipy. It's not my
 place to say, but his name starts
 with an "M" and ends with an...
 "acquiao." Anyhoo, see ya!

Junior zooms away, trying to catch up to Teddy.

INT. TEDDY AND MIRNA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Teddy, Mirna, and Junior count the money that he won playing pool. All the bills are stacked in a pile. Teddy grabs it.

TEDDY

This should cover Citizenship fees.

MIRNA

Aren't we forgetting someone?

Mirna holds out the Giant Budweiser Can.

TEDDY

We can put the money towards that,
or we can put it towards Junior
becoming a citizen.

(sotto, to Mirna)

And getting him out of our house
faster.

Mirna thinks about it, realizes Teddy's right.

MIRNA

Fine.

Disappointed, she gently pets the Giant Budweiser Can.

MIRNA (CONT'D)

Sshhhhhh, it's okay. We'll fill you
up soon, real soon.

TEDDY

We should take a picture and put it
on Facebook so people in the
Philippines know Junior's staying
with us. And that he's alive.

JUNIOR

Let's do it. I love Facebook.
What's Facebook?

TEDDY

I'll get Jordan.

Teddy fetches his son. Mirna goes over to Junior.

MIRNA

Did you teach Jordan to hit people
in the groin?

JUNIOR

Uh... yeah.

MIRNA

Good.

They smile. Teddy returns with Jordan, who brings a textbook.

JORDAN

If I help you study for the
Citizenship exam, can you teach me
how to hustle rich guys?

Junior looks at Mirna and Teddy, who shake their heads "no."

JUNIOR

Sorry bud, I can't.

He mouths "I can" and nods yes.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Before we take the picture, check
out what else I won.

Junior pulls out a FREEMASON RING. He gives it to Teddy.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Put it on!

Teddy stares at it for a moment. Then hands it back to
Junior.

TEDDY

I'm okay.

JUNIOR

You sure? Alright, sweet.

Junior starts to put it on, then thinks about it, and gives
it to Mirna.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

You take it. After all, you're a
real stonemason.

Mirna slides it onto her finger. It fits like a glove.

MIRNA

Thanks, Junior.

(then)

You still owe me for the Budweiser
change, though--

JUNIOR

What?! Come on, this is priceless.

MIRNA

It's nice, but not blood debt nice.

As they continue arguing, we PAN OUT and show the outside of Teddy and Mirna's modest house.

In the distance, we can see the bright, dingy lights of Hooters Casino and Palace Station. They might not have a lakeside mansion, but at least they're close to the Strip.

END OF SHOW