

THAT'S LIFE

PILOT EPISODE:

Written by  
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Based on a true story by  
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FADE IN:

INT. 1969 GRAMMY AWARDS - LIVE TELECAST - CENTURY PLAZA HOTEL, LOS ANGELES CA - EARLY EVENING

We hear segment opening music as the crowd applauds. At center stage we see SONNY AND CHER at the podium.

SONNY

Hello ladies and gentlemen, Cher  
and I are here to announce the  
nominees for song of the year

Sonny pauses for a beat, then turns and looks at Cher and points to the cue cards.

SONNY (CONT'D)

Ok look, now you're supposed to  
say, the nominees for song of the  
year are...

Cher looks at Sonny and rolls her eyes sarcastically.

CHER

Well, you just said it, so I guess  
I don't have to

Sonny looks at Cher with confusion, then looks back at the audience and smiles. The audience then break out into laughter

SONNY

Ok... Well, I guess someone should  
probably say it again, right?

Sonny looks at Cher, and she looks back at him in silence, with a dead-pan expression on her face. Sonny shakes his head in confusion, then looks back at the audience and smiles again. The audience then break out into laughter again

SONNY (CONT'D)

OK... the nominees for song of the  
year are...

We hear BACKGROUND MUSIC UNDER AN ANNOUNCERS VOICE. We see GRAPHIC DESIGNS AND PHOTOS OF EACH ARTIST AS THEIR NAMES ARE ANNOUNCED.

ANNOUNCER

MRS. ROBINSON

Written by Paul Simon

Performed by Simon & Garfunkel

(MORE)

## ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

HONEY

Written by Bobby Russell  
Performed by Bobby Goldsboro

HARPER VALLEY P.T.A.

Written by Tom T. Hall  
Performed by Jeannie C Riley

HEY JUDE

Written by John Lennon & Paul  
McCartney  
Performed by The Beatles

LITTLE GREEN APPLES

Written by Bobby Russell  
Performed by O C Smith

INT. 1969 GRAMMY AWARDS - LIVE TELECAST - CONTINUOUS

CHER

And the winner is...

Cher opens the sealed envelope and they both reveal the  
winner

SONNY & CHER  
Little Green Apples!!!  
Written by Bobby Russell  
Performed by O C Smith

## FLASHBACK

A MONTAGE OF QUIK-EDIT CLIPS FROM VARIOUS SCENES SELECTED  
FROM THE ENTIRE SEASON, SHOWING SOME OF OC SMITH'S TRAGIC,  
TRIUMPHANT, AND SOMETIMES VIOLENT ROLLER COASTER RIDE TO THE  
TOP:

Clip 1

17 year old O.C. singing, and Winning first place trophy at  
the high school talent show.

Clip 2

O.C. with the Count Basie Orchestra performing on stages  
throughout Europe and around the world

## Clip 3

Mob character in lavish Las Vegas penthouse suite, sitting at a breakfast table, with his head face down in a pool of his own blood.

## Clip 4

O.C. and his wife Lorraine crying, while lying on the kitchen floor in a fetal position, holding each other in fear.

FLASHBACK END

The crowd applauds, as O.C. Smith and writer Bobby Russell walk to the stage to accept the Grammy. SIMULTANEOUSLY O.C. SMITH VOICEOVER BEGINS

OC SMITH (V.O.)  
 WAS IT WORTH IT? All the hell I  
 went through... And put my family  
 through, was it really worth it?  
 I don't know... You tell me

FADE TO:

EXT. US AIR FORCE BUS, US ROUTE 1, NORTHBOUND - EASTERN SEABOARD - DAY, 1952

Dizzy Gillespie's "A Night in Tunisia" (the Verve Big Band Sessions version) plays underneath, as we see a US AIR FORCE BUS traveling up the northern seaboard on a long rural highway.

CUT TO:

INT. US AIR FORCE BUS, US ROUTE 1 - SAME TIME

The bus is filled with air force men of all ranks. Near the rear section of the bus We see, PRIVATE OCIE SMITH JR. (Later known professionally as, O.C. SMITH) and NICOLAS HARDAWAY (more often referred to as, NICK) seated together.

Nick, gazes out of a window, while Ocie is thumbing through a Billboard magazine.

We ZOOM IN ON the cover page of the Billboard magazine, and at the TOP-CENTER there is a photo of RCA Records chart topping superstar, Eddie Fisher. Underneath his photo the lead-line reads, HEART THROB EDDIE FISHER CONTINUES TO BURN UP THE CHARTS.

We then ZOOM DOWN to the LOWER-RIGHT CORNER where we see a small photo of two well dressed White Men shaking hands in front of a wall covered with gold records, and certificates of successful music ventures.

Underneath there photo the lead-line reads, FOUNDER/CEO OF KAY-TONE RECORDS, BENNY WEISBERG, HIER'S HOT SHOT RECORD PROMOTER, FRANKIE ROMERO TO PROMOTE KAY-TONE RECORDS NEW ARTIST VICTORIA LEE.

The small photo of Benny Weisberg and Frankie Romero UNFREEZES INTO REAL TIME.

INT. NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, CONFERENCE ROOM OF KAY-TONE RECORDS,

We see BENNY WEISBERG, and FRANKIE ROMERO, SHAKING HANDS in a PR Photo session with a STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER from Billboard magazine.

After completing the handshake Pose, the Photographer has them do separate Single Shots. As the photographer starts his shots with Benny, the voiceover starts again.

OC SMITH (V.O.)

This is Mr. Benny Weisberg, former A&R Director at Columbia records, and currently the Founder, and CEO of Kay-Tone Records, a small independent label out of Newark New Jersey. After churning out record after record for more than three years, Benny has finally scored with a catchy little tune that's creating a buzz on local radio. So he feels it is now time to double-down and bring in the big guns.

The Staff Photographer switches from Benny and starts taking individual shots of Frankie.

OC SMITH (V.O.CONTINUES)

Now... this is record promoter, extraordinaire, Frankie Romero... Also known as the magic man, cause Frankie was like a magician, you give him a local hit record from an unknown artist, and voila, It becomes an over-night nationwide smash.

(MORE)

OC SMITH (V.O.CONTINUES) (CONT'D)  
Frankie's on a first name bases with all the top radio station managers, and program directors across the country, and with his charm, quick wit, and street savvy, he can usually persuade them all to put his unknown artist into heavy rotation simultaneously, which in turn lands Frankies record in the top ten on the only two charts that mattered, Billboard and Cashbox magazine. Now of course, he has to give his radio friends more than just a smile and a pat on the back, that's right, you have to pay to play, and in the record business it's referred to as, Candy, which just means, your individual vice of choice... You know like, cash, drugs, sex, or whatever floats your boat. Now, the law refers to it as Payola, and that my friend, is a federal crime... However, if one of the radio guys did not fulfill his obligation, Frankie was forced to treat it like a bad drug deal, and enforce the laws of the street, which were pretty simple, If someone steals from you in the record business, you can't go complaining to the cops,

## FLASH TO:

MONTAGE OF EDITED CLIPS, SHOWING IN GRAPHIC DETAILS,  
FRANKIES GOONS BRUTALLY SETTLING THE SCORE:

No, you have to take care of it yourself, as swift and final as possible, cause if you ever get a reputation for being soft, you'll be out of business overnight.

END OF MONTAGE:

Oh, and by the way, Before Frankie became a big-time record promoter, he was one of the Tre-State areas most notorious wise guys, but we'll get into that more a little later.

The Billboard Staff Photographer takes one more shot.

BILLBOARD STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Now, that's a great shot. I'm sure  
I can use this.

FRANKIE ROMERO

You sure you got my good side?  
Wait,.. who am I kidding, I don't  
fucking have a bad side, right kid?

Frankie and the billboards photographer laughs.

BILLBOARD STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Yes sir, you do photograph quite  
well

The photographer is now ready to take shots of Benny, and Frankie, along with Kay-Tone's new rising star Veronica Lee.

BILLBOARD STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)

Okay, we're ready for Miss Lee.

Benny turns to his intercom and buzzes his assistant.

BENNY WEISBERG

Okay, Send her in,...

Cute, wholesome, blond hair, blue eyed, VERONICA LEE enters the conference room with a small entourage, meanwhile the Billboard Reporter, JACK FERGUSON, walks up to Frankie and extends his hand for a handshake, and Frankie grabs his hand and pulls him in for a big bear hug.

FRANKIE ROMERO

Jack, my man, did you get  
everything you needed?

JACK FERGUSON

Well, actually, I have a few more  
questions.

Frankie looks at his watch.

FRANKIE ROMERO

You know, as much as we'd love to,  
after this little picture party,  
Benny and I have some pressing  
business. Maybe try us back later.

JACK FERGUSON

Okay, just make sure to tell  
Allison to put my call through this  
time.

Jack Ferguson then shakes Benny's hand.

JACK FERGUSON (CONT'D)  
Benny,... Always a pleasure.

BENNY WEISBERG  
Like wise,... I hope you don't  
butcher us too bad.

FRANKIE ROMERO  
Yeah, and remember, this is big  
fucking news baby, so for God sake,  
don't go sticking us on the back  
page next to the want ads, right?

JACK FERGUSON  
(Smiles)  
OK, Frankie, sure thing.

The Billboard Staff Photographer takes a few photos of Veronica Lee, Benny and Frankie. The photo session concludes. Benny and Frankie exits the conference room and head across the hall to Benny's office

INT. KAY-TONE RECORDS, BENNY WIESBERG'S - OFFICE, SAME TIME  
Frankie and Benny enter the office.

FRANKIE ROMERO  
Hey Benny, your Veronica is a real  
cutie...

While Frankies talking, Benny walks over to a small record player that's sits on a side table adjacent to his desk and drops a copy of Veronica Lee's single on the timetable.

BENNY WEISBERG  
Yeah, she's really something. And  
this is a damm good Record Frankie,  
listen to this

Benny drops the needle on the record and it begins to play. Frankie listens for about 10 seconds.

FRANKIE ROMERO  
OK Benny, that's great... I'll finish  
listening later. So, Now, Tell me,  
are you ready to shake up the  
world?

BENNY WEISBERG

Damm right I am. So, Frankie...  
Let's talk numbers, what are we  
talking about here?

FRANKIE ROMERO

Numbers... Ok, well for starters,  
I'm gonna need around 25k, Plus, an  
extra 5 in cash to do my magic  
dance.

BENNY WEISBERG

Ok Frankie, tell me, how does  
this... magic dance actually work?

FRANKIE ROMERO

I'm talking heavy rotation on all  
reporting stations simultaneously,  
which guarantees us a Top 10 spot  
on the national charts.

BENNY WEISBERG

OK, great, but that's for the  
single. What about the album?

Frankie Shakes his head and smiles.

FRANKIE ROMERO

Benny,...baby,... That's the beauty  
of it all... Having a nationwide  
top 10 single guarantees an instant  
demand for the album, so when the  
album drops, POOF! Just like magic,  
they automatically fly off the  
shelves. And then, we simply feed  
the beast.

Benny takes a pause.

BENNY WIESBERG

Feed the beast?

FRANKIE ROMERO

Damm right, feed the beast. I tell  
you, Mr. B, I just might have to  
start charging you a consultant fee  
for all this fucking free advice.

They both laugh, and then suddenly they're interrupted by a car horn blowing from the parking lot in the back of the building.

FRANKIE ROMERO (CONT'D)

FRANKIE ROMERO (CONT'D)

Oh shit! Look at the time. I gotta  
make it across the bridge before  
this crazy traffic starts. But  
listen, this one's an absolute no-  
brainer.

Frankie grabs his briefcase and start's walking out of the office, as he continues talking

FRANKIE ROMERO (CONT'D)

First thing tomorrow morning, we  
hit the ground running, I'll call  
you

Frankie quickly exits Benny's office before Benny can get one word out.

The car horn from outside the building honks again. Curious to see who keeps honking the horn, Benny walks over and looks out his office window that overlooks the parking lot.

EXT. KAY-TONE RECORDS, PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Benny sees REBECCA ST. JAMES, a gorgeous, 20 something year old redhead, Italian female sitting in the drivers seat of a convertible sports car.

He then sees REBECCA climb over into the passengers side, as Frankie enters on the drivers side. Frankie kisses REBECCA, reaches into the glove compartment and retrieved a small vial of cocaine, takes two hits, pinches his nose, shakes his head wildly, kisses REBECCA again, then drives off the parking lot onto the street.

All the while, Benny's still looking on, then in a masculine, attaboy show of approval, He nods his head and smiles. Then his expression slowly transforms into a look of concern.

CUT TO:

INT. US AIR FORCE BUS, US ROUTE 1, UPSTATE NEW YORK - DAY,  
1952, SAME TIME

Nick has nodded off, while Ocie continues reading the Billboard Magazine. Ocie overhears a conversation between MAJOR WILLIAM WILLIS and SARGEANT RICHARD TURNER, sitting in the seats directly in front of him.

SERGEANT RICHARD TURNER  
So, what's this I hear about you  
not making the big poker game at  
Ernie's.

MAJOR WILLIAM WILLIS  
Yeah, I've got to go to my brother-  
in-law's wedding... again.

Sergeant Richard Turner laughs.

SERGEANT RICHARD TURNER  
So, how many times does this make?

MAJOR WILLIAM WILLIS  
Who the hell knows... After three,  
I stopped counting.

Sergeant Richard Turner laughs again.

SERGEANT RICHARD TURNER  
Have you picked your seat warmer  
yet.

MAJOR WILLIAM WILLIS  
No, not yet. I still got a couple  
weeks

SERGEANT RICHARD TURNER  
Well, if you don't soon, you know  
Harry and Willie will pick'um for  
you, and you may never get that  
seat back.

MAJOR WILLIAM WILLIS  
Oh Hell no! I'll be the one  
picking my replacement.

SERGEANT RICHARD TURNER  
You know, I'd volunteer myself, but  
I don't really do poker, pee-  
knuckle is my game.

The bus slowly pulls to a stop. Ocie wakes Nick and they all exit.

EXT. OUTSIDE AIR FORCE BASE BARRACKS, CONTINUOUS

Nick heads for the barracks, while Ocie catches up to Major Willis as he says goodbye to Sergeant Richard Turner.

OCIE SMITH, JR  
Hello Major Willis,..

MAJOR WILLIAM WILLIS  
Yes, private?

OCIE SMITH, JR  
I couldn't help over hearing you  
say, you may be needing someone to  
fill in for you at the poker game.

As Ocie talks, Major Willis zooms in on his name tag, and it dawns on him who he's talking to.

MAJOR WILLIAM WILLIS  
Ocie Smith, Jr?

OCIE SMITH, JR  
Yes Sir.

MAJOR WILLIAM WILLIS  
Son of retired Air Force General  
Ocie Smith, Sr.?

OCIE SMITH, JR  
Yes sir. Do you know my father?

MAJOR WILLIAM WILLIS  
No private, I can't say that I do.  
But, if you're here long enough,  
you'll learn that the US Air force  
is a very tight knit fraternity of  
the good, The not so good, and...  
the legendary. Your father is a  
true legend amongst his peers. You  
should be very proud.

OCIE SMITH, JR  
Thank you sir. And yes, we are  
very proud of him.

An Officer's Jeep pulls up behind the bus. AN MP driver hops out and runs over to get Major Willis's bags. Private Smith and Major Willis continue their conversation.

MAJOR WILLIAM WILLIS  
I'm sorry Private. What were you  
saying before I interrupted you?

Major Willis climbs into the jeep as the conversation continues.

OCIE SMITH, JR

Yes Sir... I was saying, I over heard you say you may be needing someone to fill in for you at the Poker games. Well, sir, I'd be honored to sit in for you.

Major Willis looks up at Private Smith from the passenger side of the Jeep and breaks out laughing, then tries to compose him self before replying.

MAJOR WILLIAM WILLIS

So, tell me private. What makes you think you can sit in for me?

OCIE SMITH, JR

Well, sir, I've been playing poker since I was 8 years old. I have Seven First place trophies for No limit, Hold Um, and 5 for Texas Hold Um, and I'm the youngest state champion in the history of Louisiana.

Major Willis is surprised, and impressed by Private Smith's list of accomplishments.

MAJOR WILLIAM WILLIS

Hmmm... Ok private, impressive, yes yes, quite impressive

Willis pauses a BEAT. Then laughs mischievously.

MAJOR WILLIAM WILLIS (CONT'D)

You know son... That might just work. But, promise me one thing. Don't tell anyone else what you just told me until after the game.

OCIE SMITH, JR

Yes Sir, I promise. Thank you sir.

Major Willis shakes his head and laughs as the MP puts the jeep into gear and drives away.

EXT. MAYFLOWER HOTEL, MANHATTAN NEW YORK, NY, TWO WEEKS LATER  
- LATE AFTERNOON

Frankie Romero pulls up to valet parking at the front entrance of the Mayflower Hotel.

We see on the HOTEL MARQUEE, WELCOME TO CASHBOX MAGAZINES ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN RADIO CONFERENCE. Frankie exits the car. A BELL HOP runs over to retrieve Frankie's luggage, as he engages the VALET DRIVER in small talk.

VALET DRIVER  
What a beautiful car you have, Sir.

FRANKIE ROMERO  
Well I can't argue with that kid,  
she is beautiful... and I'd like  
her to stay that way.

Frankie goes into his pocket and pulls out a wad of bills, peels off a twenty, and gives it to the valet driver.

FRANKIE ROMERO (CONT'D)  
Keep her close,

VALET DRIVER  
Yes sir, thank you Sir.

INT. MAYFLOWER HOTEL, CHECK IN COUNTER, SAME TIME.

Frankie signs in at the check in counter. The CONCIERGE gives him a message on a small piece of paper. The message is from RUSS LOGAN, one of Frankie's top Lieutenants. Frankie reads the message:

"in-motion. R.L.

Frankie then puts the note in his coat pocket, and heads for his hotel room.

EXT. NEW YORK, NY - LAGUARDIA AIRPORT - SAME TIME

Exiting United Airlines, Terminal 6 with one suitcase and a garment bag is MICHAEL BENNETT, aka BIG MIKE. Program director of Detroit radio station WDDM. Known for his jolly 6'3, 280 pound frame, and his, larger than life personality.

Standing by a long black limousine is a tall LIMOUSINE DRIVER holding a big card that reads, "Michael Bennett." Michael notices the limo driver and walks over to him.

The limo driver opens the back door to reveal MANDY and JASMINE. Two voluptuous women, scantily dressed in stiletto heels and little else. Sitting between the two women is RUSS LOGAN.

Michael Bennett smiles as he enters the limo. The limo driver closes the door behind Michael, then walks around and enter the drivers side. He pulls off from the curb and heads toward the airport exit.

INT. LIMOUSINE, DAY - SAME TIME

Michael Bennett is seated in the limo across from Russ, Mandy and Jasmine.

RUSS LOGAN

Michael?

MICHAEL BENNETT

Yes

RUSS LOGAN

I'm Russ, and this is Mandy and  
Jasmine, members of Frankie  
Romero's welcoming committee

MANDY LARSON and JASMINE BANKS greet Michael Bennett, Very seductively.

MANDY & JASMINE

Welcome Michael

As Michael undresses Mandy & Jasmine with his eyes he replies

MICHAEL BENNETT

Wow! Well thank you ladies, you're too kind... And you can just call me Big Mike... Lol... That damn Frankie sure knows how to throw a party

Logan hands a publicity folder to Michael. Michael opens it and sees a ONE-SHEET BIO and HEAD-SHOT of Veronica Lee, along with a 45-RPM RECORD COPY of her debut single entitled "Last Night." Then Logan pulls a small package out of his coat pocket and hands it to Michael. Michael opens the package to see 5 grams of cocaine and 1 ounce of marijuana, with 3 rolled joints ready to go.

Logan then motions for Mandy & Jasmine to join Michael on his side of the limo. They both look at Michael very seductively, then began taking off their blouses, revealing their large breasts. They then began pleasuring Bennett very much to his satisfaction.

Meanwhile, Russ leans back, Lights up a joint and takes a toke.

EXT. BARRACKS - HEMPSTEAD AIR FORCE BASE, HEMPSTEAD, NY -  
LATE AFTERNOON - SAME DAY

Ocie and Nick, in their full-formal Dressed uniforms step out  
of the barracks and walk over to the checkout point to sign  
out for the evening.

OCIE SMITH, JR

Ok Nick, I know I already said It,  
but i'm saying it again, we have to  
keep a low profile about my poker  
skills, at least until after the  
game...

Nick interrupted Ocie.

NICK HARDAWAY

Hey man, relax... I'm not sayin a  
damn word until you're done  
whooping ass... And then the real  
parties begins.

OC SMITH

Hello!

NICK HARDAWAY

You still up for the Vanguard after  
Ernie's right?

OC SMITH

Yep, that's the plan

NICK HARDAWAY

Lol... Well I was just checkin,  
after that shit went down with you  
and crazy Kathy last week,

OC SMITH

Please... I ain't worried about  
Kathy

NICK HARDAWAY

Lol... you sure? Cause y'all was  
goin at it like two german  
shepherds... For a minute I thought  
we was gone have to throw some hot  
water on you

Both Ocie and Nick laugh.

OC SMITH

Hard to believe how somebody so  
damm fine could be so damm crazy.

NICK HARDAWAY

I know, right?

OC SMITH

Yeah, but fine don't make up for  
crazy... well, not her kind of crazy

Both Ocie and Nick laugh again.

Major William Willis's Personal Assistant, Private first  
class RAFAEL PEREZ approaches Ocie and Nick.

RAFAEL PEREZ

Ya'll Ready?

OC SMITH

Ready as ever

RAFAEL PEREZ

Ok, now when you get to Ernie's,  
you'll see a Colored MP named Harry  
Carson, standing near the back, in  
front of double doors. He's  
expecting you. Oh but fellas, let  
me warn you. You definitely want to  
be on your best behavior, cause  
Carson is no joke.

OC SMITH

Nah, nah, you ain't got to worry  
bout us.

NICK HARDAWAY

Yeah in fact, somebody need to warn  
them about us.

Ocie and Nick look at each other and break out into laughter.

RAFAEL PEREZ

Wow, you guys are pretty cocky

OC SMITH

Cocky? No no no, lets just say  
we're feeling very very lucky this  
evening.

Ocie and Nick glance at each other again and smile, as if they're up to something. Just then, A Yellow Cab pulls up. Ocie and Nick get into the Cab.

INT. CAB - HEMPSTEAD AIR FORCE BASE, HEMPSTEAD, NY,  
CONTINUOUS

CAB DRIVER  
Where to boss?

OC SMITH  
Hollis Queens,  
Ernie's Bar and Grill,

The Cab driver does a U-turn in the middle of the street and drives away.

FADE TO:

INT. MAYFLOWER HOTEL - EARLY EVENING

Russ Logan carries a briefcase as he walks through the crowded lobby of the Mayflower hotel, in route to the elevators. He Takes the elevator to the 9th floor and exits.

INT. 9TH FLOOR, HALLWAY AT MAYFLOWER HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

He Walks down the hallway until he finds the room he is looking for. He knocks on the door with a special cadence recognized only by Frankie Romeros VIP clients. TERRY FRAZIER, program director from the DC, Maryland area answers the door.

RUSS LOGAN  
Terry Frazier?

TERRY FRAZIER  
Yeah?

Logan hands Terry the briefcase.

RUSS LOGAN  
From Frankie Romero.

Terry takes the briefcase from Russ and closes the door. Logan walks back down the hallway to the elevator. He gets in and the elevator doors close.

CUT TO:

INT. 9TH FLOOR - TERRY FRAZIER'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Terry Frazier opens the brief case to see a PROMO PACKAGE that includes, a ONE-SHEET BIO and HEAD-SHOT of Veronica Lee, along with a 45-RPM RECORD COPY of her debut single entitled "Last Night." Underneath the promo package is a stacks of \$100 dollar bills. He browses through the promo package, then places it on the hotel room desk, then picks up a stack of \$100 dollar bills and thumbs through it. He then placing the stack of bills back into the briefcase and closes it.

INT. THE MAYFLOWER HOTEL - THE GALLERIA - CONTINUOUS

The Galleria is overflowing with conference attendees, and in the Grand Ball Room we see Veronica Lee on stage performing her new single for the first time, live before a large ballroom filled with people dancing. Benny Weisberg is seated at the bar, observing the crowds reaction to Veronica's performance. He then starts looking around for Frankie, when he sees Frankie's assistant ALLISON CLAYBORNE he waves her over. Benny speaks to Allison loudly over the crowd

BENNY WEISBERG  
Where is Frankie?

ALLISON CLAYBORNE  
Follow me

Allison leads Benny down a side corridor until they come upon the Crystal Ballroom.

They enter the Crystal Ballroom, walk past a large buffet style table filled with gourmet food, which connects to a dimly lit, private conference room, complete with a full bar. WE SEE an exclusive V.I.P. Party. At a center table we see Frankie Romero holding court, and he's in rare form, surrounded by a group of D J's, program directors, and beautiful women.

FRANKIE ROMERO

Hey, remember last year in Philly  
when Lance Freedman showcased his  
new girl singer, the one with the  
voice of an angel, and the face of  
a jackal?

Everyone laughs hysterically

FRANKIE ROMERO (CONT'D)

No bullshit... No bullshit, I'm not  
exaggerating... she looked like  
Jersey Joe Wilcox with a wig and  
make up.

The laughter continues, even louder

FRANKIE ROMERO (CONT'D)

I whispered in his ear, Lance my  
dear friend, you might want to  
think twice about putting that face  
on an album cover. That face was  
definitely made exclusively for  
radio.

The laughter then grows to a climax. WE SEE Allison and Benny  
standing near the bar. Allison waves and gets Frankies  
attention. As the laughter continues, Frankie stands and  
waves goodbye to everyone as he walks out of the conference  
room with Allison and Benny.

INT. MAYFLOWER HOTEL, 5 STAR RESTAURANT, CONTINUOUS

We see Frankie and Benny seated in a corner booth, when the  
SERVER arrives with an entrée of food and places it in front  
of Frankie and Benny, then walk away. We then see their  
WAITER approach.

WAITER

Can I get you gentlemen anything  
else?

FRANKIE ROMERO

Yes, Jack Daniels straight up,  
water back...

WAITER

Coming right up sir

BENNY WEISBERG

Answer me this Frankie, while Veronica was up there singing her heart out, you and all the program directors were partying in another room. I thought them seeing and hearing her sing was the whole purpose for her being here

FRANKIE ROMERO

Oh contraire, my friend... these guys spend all day every day listening to music, and most of it is fucking garbage, so when they get here that's the last thing they wanna do. That's like a mailman taking a long walk on his day off, right?

Benny pauses for a moment to digest what Frankie had just said

BENNY WEISBERG

Yeah, I guess you're right

FRANKIE ROMERO

Damm right I am, they got their candy, so you have absolutely nothing to worry about. OK, but listen Benny, I've got some fucking great news from David earlier that I haven't told anyone yet, and Benny baby, believe me when I tell you, this is BIG! And I'm talkin' absolute fucking game changing BIG!

BENNY WEISBERG

Ok, spit it out.

FRANKIE ROMERO

We finally closed the deal on the radio station in Florida. Can you believe it?

BENNY WEISBERG

Congratulations, that's fantastic news. I don't really understand exactly how it's a, what did you say... absolute fucking game changing, but I'm happy for you.

FRANKIE ROMERO

Really Benny? Think about it man,  
this buys me a legitimate seat at  
the table. I'll be the fox in the  
hen house. This literally opens the  
door... I mean wide fucking open  
for me... You... all of us.

BENNY WEISBERG

Sounds wonderful Frankie

Frankie and Benny are interrupted by the HEAD WAITER.

HEAD WAITER

Sorry to interrupt but There's a  
telephone call for Mr. Romero

FRANKIE ROMERO

Thanks. I'll take it over here... I'm  
sure it's David, I told him I'd be  
meeting you here.

The waiter brings the telephone over and sits it on the table  
in front of Frankie. Frankie picks up the receiver.

FRANKIE ROMERO (CONT'D)

Yeah, this is Frankie.

CUT TO:

INT., THE BRILL BUILDING, MANHATTAN NEW YORK - OFFICE OF  
ATTORNEY DAVID JACOBSON - SAME TIME

DAVID JACOBSON

Are you ready for this? I found out  
from reliable sources that our man  
Vince in Florida has been holding  
out.

FRANKIE ROMERO

Yeah, go on.

DAVID JACOBSON

It turns out, he's 400k in the hole  
for not one, not two, but five  
stations, and he's trying to sale  
them all at \$200k each, totaling  
one million dollars, which would  
allow him to walk away with 600k  
after the sale off, but here's the  
catch...

FRANKIE ROMERO

Jesus, yes David... please get to the  
catch

If he doesn't have the 400k by  
Friday morning he loses all five  
stations, which means he walks away  
with nothing... so, to make a long  
story short...

Frankie interrupts David.

FRANKIE ROMERO (CONT'D)

Well, it's a little late for that,  
but go on.

DAVID JACOBSON

You my friend, can get all five  
stations for 500k. And since you've  
already put up 200k, all you need  
is 300k, which means instead of one  
station for 200k you'll walk away  
with five stations for 500k, but  
listen Frankie, if you're going to  
do this I need to know right now  
because they're waiting to hear  
back from me with an answer.

FRANKIE ROMERO

How much time do we have?

DAVID JACOBSON

This kind of deal ain't gonna last  
for long, I'd say two, maybe three  
days tops

FRANKIE ROMERO

All right David,...you tell them the  
answer is yes,... I'll have a  
cashiers check for 300k in their  
hands by the close of business on  
Tuesday.

Frankie hangs up the telephone and see's the waiter has brought his drink to the table, he picks up the glass of Jack Daniels and drinks it down in one swig, then puts his glass back on the table and sits back deep into his seat with a confused look on his face. Benny, now eating, notices the troubled look on Frankie's face.

FRANKIE ROMERO (CONT'D)

Ok,... What just happened?

BENNY WEISBERG

You OK?

FRANKIE ROMERO

I don't know Benny, I really don't know. What did I just do? Where the fuck am I gonna get 300k in three days?

Benny looks up from eating and notices Frankie staring at him.

BENNY WEISBERG

No way Frankie, I can't, I mean, even if I wanted to, You know It's a conflict of interest, the FCC would shut me down in a heartbeat,

FRANKIE ROMERO

Come on man, this is major... And let's be real Benny, It wouldn't be the first time you broke the rules, right?

BENNY WEISBERG

Absolutely not, sorry Frankie, I gotta pass on this one.

Benny takes another bite of food.

BENNY WEISBERG (CONT'D)

But you know, (BEAT).. I may have someone for you, an old childhood friend of mine from the Neighborhood. But I gotta warn you, he's a little on the bizarre side, but definitely a straight shooter when it comes to business.

FRANKIE ROMERO

Benny, You are saving my life.

BENNY WEISBERG

Hold on, not so fast, I haven't talked to him in a while, let me try to get him on the phone.

Frankie passes the telephone to Benny. Benny wipes his hands off with a napkin, then goes into the top inside pocket of his suit jacket and pulls out a small phone book, finds the number for SALVADOR CASTIONI, and dials.

SALVADOR CASTIONI

This is Sal

BENNY WEISBERG

Hey Sal, It's Benny. How are you?

SALVADOR CASTIONI (OS)

Oh hey Benny, you in town?

BENNY WEISBERG

No, i'm in New York at a radio convention with a friend

SALVADOR CASTIONI

OK, that sounds boring

BENNY WEISBERG

Well, no actually I'm enjoying myself. Listen... my reason for calling is, I have a very close associate with a... let's say... time sensitive business proposition that I think you'd be interested in. I'd like to get the two of you together as soon as possible.

SALVADOR CASTIONI (OS)

Sure Benny, send him out

BENNY WEISBERG

Ok Sal, I'll do that. Thanks Buddy.

Benny hangs up the phone, gives Frankie a thumbs up.

FRANKIE ROMERO

Well Halle-fuckin-lujah! You are a beautiful man Benny Weisberg

DISSOLVE TO:

CUT TO:

EXT. ERNIE'S BAR & GRILL - LATE AFTERNOON

The Yellow Cab with Ocie and Nick pull up outside Ernie's Bar & Grill. Ocie and Nick exit the Cab. Nick pays the Cabbie, so Ocie can use the money he'd been saving for the game.

INT. ERNIE'S BAR & GRILL - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

Ocie and Nick eagerly walk into Ernie's Bar and Grill. Nick notices MP HARRY CARSON, a 40ish, African American male standing near the back, in front of the double doors.

MP Harry Carson notices Ocie and Nick and gestures for them to come over. They start walking toward the MP, when Ocie's attention is diverted in the direction of LORRAINE WALTZ and BARBARA DAVIS, two beautiful African-American women in their 20's, seated in one of the booths.

Nick continues in the MP's direction, while Ocie strolls over to the beautiful women, and introduces himself.

OC SMITH

Parton me, I couldn't help myself.  
I had to come over and say  
something to you beautiful ladies.  
May I be so bold to ask your names?

BARBARA DAVIS

Well, aren't you quite the charmer.  
I'm Barbara, and this is my friend,  
Lorraine.

LORRAINE WALTZ

And who did you say you were?

OCIE SMITH, JR.

Oh, excuse me I didn't say. My name  
is Ocie Smith. You mind if I sit  
with you a moment?

BARBARA DAVIS

It's okay with me,.. Lorraine?

LORRAINE WALTZ

Sure, have a seat.

Ocie slides into the booth by Lorraine.

Meanwhile, Nick approaches MP HARRY CARSON,

NICK HARDAWAY

MP Harry Carson?

MP HARRY CARSON

Yes, and you are?

NICK HARDAWAY

Private 1st Class Nicholas  
Hardaway, sir. Major Willis invited  
us.

MP HARRY CARSON

Us?

Nick looks over his shoulder and notices Ocie is not there. Then he looks across the bar and sees Ocie sitting and conversing with Lorraine and Barbara. MP Carson looks over at Ocie.

MP HARRY CARSON (CONT'D)  
So, he's with you?

NICK HARDAWAY  
Ahh, yes sir.

MP HARRY CARSON  
Well, I suggest you get him right now or you guys are both going to lose that invitation.

NICK HARDAWAY  
Yes sir. Right away sir.

Nick breaks away from MP Harry Carson and quickly goes over to Ocie, who is now seated even closer to Lorraine.

NICK HARDAWAY (CONT'D)  
Ahh, excuse me ladies,..

Nick leans down and whispers in Ocie's ear.

NICK HARDAWAY (CONT'D)  
Man, if we don't go right now, he's talking about not letting us in

Ocie turns from Nick and looks directly into Lorraine's eyes as if Nick and Barbara aren't even there.

OCIE SMITH, JR.  
Listen, I know we just met 5 minutes ago, and I don't want to scare you away, but, I really feel a deep connection with you.

Lorraine smile, looks down, and then looks over at Barbara, who rolls her eyes and shakes her head.

BARBARA DAVIS  
Oh my God,.. Here we go!

OCIE SMITH, JR.  
Yeah, yeah, I know I sound crazy.

Ocie looks back into Lorraine's eyes.

OCIE SMITH, JR  
But, I'm pretty sure you feel it too.  
(MORE)

OCIE SMITH, JR (CONT'D)

Okay, before you say anything, my friend Nick and I have some very important business to handle in the back, but as soon as we're done, I'll be back to finish what we started, if that's OK with you...

Nick interrupts Ocie and grabs him by the arm.

NICK HARDAWAY

Ladies I apologize, but we really have to go now.

As Nick leads Ocie away, Ocie and Lorraine lock eyes again.

BARBARA DAVIS

Oh,.. So I guess we ain't got nothing better to do, but sit up here and wait for them? Negro Pleease! BEAT But his friend was kinda cute girl.

Lorraine shakes her head side to side and laughs.

Ocie and Nick make it over to MP Carson, and he escorts them through the double doors, into the poker game.

CUT TO:

INT. MAYFLOWER HOTEL, SUITE PARTY, NIGHT - EARLY MORNING

We see Frankie Romero and REBECCA ST. JAMES on an elevator headed up from the lobby to the ninth floor, which has been designated the VIP floor, where all the A-LIST program directors would reside for the evening. Frankie exits the elevator into a hallway filled with inebriated party beast, moving in and out of private parties going on in the hotel rooms, all invited guest of the VIP program directors.

Frankie and REBECCA begin walking down the long hallway, greeting familiar faces, one of which is Michael Bennett, with a cigar in one hand, and a glass of bourbon in the other, dancing with Mandy in front of his room. (If you recall, Michael is the program Director from Detroit that Frankie arranged to have Mandy & Jasmine meet in back of a limousine at the airport). Frankie and REBECCA finally make it to their suite at the end of the hallway, enter and close the door behind them.

INT. MAYFLOWER HOTEL, FRANKIE ROMERO'S SUITE - CONTINUOUS

A luxurious hotel suite, complete with crystal chandeliers, French provincial furniture, and a large king size bed with satin linen. REBECCA kicks her shoes off and heads to the bathroom, while Frankie walks over, and sits down in a large chair behind a desk. From the desk phone, Frankie dials his Attorney David, who has now been asleep for several hours. After several rings David wakes and answers.

INT. MANHATTAN APARTMENT - MANHATTAN, NEW YORK - BEDROOM  
CONTINUES

DAVID JACOBSON

Hello...

FRANKIE ROMERO

David?

DAVID JACOBSON

Oh Hey Frankie... how's the convention going?

FRANKIE ROMERO

Holy moly David... Complete pandemonium, as usual. Yeah, but we're getting a lot more shit done this year

DAVID JACOBSON

Well I guess that's good

FRANKIE ROMERO

Fucking right it is... Hey, I was just checking to see if you were able to find out more about our friend Salvador Castioni.

DAVID JACOBSON

Oh yeah... he's real

FRANKIE ROMERO

He's real?... How real?

DAVID JACOBSON

Real real... He can buy 100 radio stations and not bat an eye

FRANKIE ROMERO

Well Amen... Now I can sleep.

REBECCA walks out of the bathroom completely naked and dives into the bed. Frankie mischievously looks over at REBECCA.

FRANKIE ROMERO (CONT'D)  
Or maybe not... See you bright and  
early, David

CUT TO

INT. ERNIE'S BAR & GRILL, POKER GAME - SAME TIME

At the poker table is a MALE, AFRICAN-AMERICAN CAPTAIN in his 40's, named WILLIE NEWSOME, OCIE, AND TWO OTHER MALE POKER PLAYERS. Nick and TWO OTHER GUYS are seated at the bar. Everyone has folded, except for Ocie.

Ocie wins the whole pot. He looks over at Nick, Then Nick stands and walk over to the poker table.

OC SMITH  
(Whispers in Nick's ear)  
Man, lets get the hell out of here.

Ocie starts to gather all of his winnings, intending to exit the table.

WILLIE NEWSOME  
Well, ain't this a bitch. You see  
this shit Harry?

MP Harry Carson acknowledges Willie.

MP HARRY CARSON  
Oh yeah. I see him.

WILLIE NEWSOME  
So, you really think you can just  
waltz your little pretty boy ass up  
into my poker game and leave with  
all my money?

Ocie looks up at Nick and they both have sheepish grins on their faces.

Then to the complete surprise of everyone in the room, Willie Newsome reaches into his pocket and pulls out the keys to his new convertible. Willie admires the keys for a BEAT, and then slams them down on the table. He then looks Ocie straight in the eyes. A hush comes over the room.

WILLIE NEWSOME (CONT'D)  
All or nothing!

OC SMITH

Are you sure you really want to do  
this sir? Listen, why don't we just  
come back next week and get a fresh  
start...

Willie Newsome interrupts Ocie.

WILLIE NEWSOME  
Come on boy. Stop stalling like a  
little bitch. Or maybe you are  
just a little BITCH!

The room is still very quiet. A nervous Ocie slowly looks at  
the keys, and then at his Pile of money. He then looks back  
into the eyes of Willie Newsome.

OC SMITH  
Lets do it!

CUT TO

INT. ERNIE'S BAR & GRILL - CONTINUOUS

We see the DOUBLE-DOORS of the poker game fly open. A  
victorious Ocie and a cautious Nick emerge. Ocie clings  
tightly to a large brown paper bag filled with cash as he and  
Nick walk out into the bar & grill.

Ocie takes pause to scan the room for Lorraine. His eyes  
quickly finds her, still in her booth waiting, but without  
her girlfriend, Barbara.

Ocie pulls the car keys out of his pocket and hands them to  
Nick, along with the brown paper bag filled with cash, never  
taking his eyes off Lorraine.

NICK HARDAWAY  
Fool, have you lost your mind. We  
need to get the fuck outta here  
now!

Nick exits the front door. Ocie approaches Lorraine

OC SMITH  
Hey, I really apologize for taking  
so long, it went longer than we  
thought. BEAT Where's your friend?

LORRAINE WALTZ

Oh, she has to work in the morning.

OC SMITH

And what about you? Are you going  
to work in the morning too?

LORRAINE WALTZ

Well, that all depends Mr. Smith.  
Just what did you have in mind?

Ocie sits down next to Lorraine in the booth.

OC SMITH

Well miss Lorraine, whatever we do,  
I guarantee, we'll have the time of  
our lives, trust me

LORRAINE WALTZ

Trust you... Can I trust you?

Ocie laughs.

LORRAINE WALTZ (CONT'D)

Well, I don't really know you, or  
your friend...

Lorraine is interrupted by a car horn blowing in rapid succession. It's Nick. Ocie grabs Lorraine's hand and leads her out of the booth, then quickly exit Ernies.

EXT. ERNIE'S BAR & GRILL - CONTINUOUS

Nick is double parked with the motor running in front of Ernie's Bar & Grill. Ocie opens the passenger side door, lets Lorraine in, and jumps in right after her. They drive away.

FADE TO:

INT. MAYFLOWER HOTEL, NINTH FLOOR, HALLWAY PARTY- CONTINUOUS

We see Mandy grab Michael Bennett by his necktie and lead him into the hotel room, and close the door behind them.

INT. MAYFLOWER HOTEL, NINTH FLOOR, MICHAEL BENNETT ROOM -  
CONTINUOUS

Michael stumbles over and plops down in a chair by a table. On the table we see four long lines of cocaine, rationed out on a black vinyl record album. He snorts one line at a time. Jasmine exits the bathroom naked. She walks over to Michael and gives him a lap dance. Michael begins moaning deep and heavy.

Jasmine then does a seductive strut over to the bed, where Mandy is lying naked. The two of them begin making out while Michael watches intently, He then stands and begin undressing himself, never taking his eyes off of Mandy and Jasmine. He then takes one more big swig of bourbon, and dives in the bed with Mandy and Jasmine.

EXT. THE VILLAGE VANGUARD, JAZZ CLUB - GREENWICH VILLAGE, NEW YORK CITY

Out front on the marquee reads "The Sy Oliver Orchestra" Oliver was an established trumpet player, singer and bandleader who would often have young, up-and-coming singers sit in with the band. OC Smith had become a regular at the club, singing with Sy and his Orchestra any chance he got.

INT. THE VILLAGE VANGUARD, JAZZ CLUB - CONTINUOUS

Sy and the orchestra are in the midst of an up-tempo song entitled "Mixed Doubles" as Ocie pulls the chair out for Loraine to sit, at a table in the VIP section, near the stage. Ocie sits down at the table with Loraine. Shortly after they were seated, a WAITER comes over with a small kettle of steaming hot water, 2 tea bags, a lemon, honey, and a shot of brandy, spread out on a silver platter. The waiter then slowly places the platter on the table directly in front of OC.

WAITER

Here you are Mr. Smith,. Now...  
what can I get for the beautiful  
lady?

OC SMITH

Thanks Johnny. And Well, you can  
get for the beautiful lady,  
whatever she wants

Ocie smiles at Loraine and she blushes back at him, then she replies to the waiter.

LORRAINE  
I'll just have a glass of Merlot

WAITER  
OK, coming right up

As he squeezes lemon juice into a cup of hot water, and stir's it around with a teabag, Ocie calls out to the waiter

OC SMITH  
Hold on Johnny... we're  
celebrating tonight, so you can  
bring a bottle of your best Merlot.  
Top shelf.

WAITER  
Sounds great, I'll have that out to  
you right away boss

The waiter walks away, while Lorraine is seemingly impressed by all the 1st class treatment. Ocie takes a sip of tea, then grabs Lorraine's hand as they watch the show.

CUT TO

INT. THE VILLAGE VANGUARD, THE BAR - CONTINUOUS

As Nick Hardaway sits down at the bar, he waves over an African-American female bartender named, Phyllis.

PHYLLIS  
Hey Nick, what can I get you

NICK HARDAWAY  
I'll take a Cranberry juice on the rocks... oh, hey... is Kathy here?

PHYLLIS  
No, she's off tonight

Phyllis pauses for a second, looks Nick up and down, then shakes her head in disgust. Nick stares back at her, laughs and responds.

NICK HARDAWAY  
What?

## PHYLLIS

Look, I know it's none of my business but, didn't your boy Ocie and Kathy just break it off last week? Oh... so let me guess, now it's your turn, right? Swear to God you soldier boys are some simple mothua fucka's

Phyllis shake your head again as she walks away to get Nick's cranberry juice on the rocks. Nick replies.

## NICK HARDAWAY

Woooow... There you go, gettin shit all twisted

CUT TO

INT. THE VILLAGE VANGUARD, THE STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Sy and the orchestra ends the song, and there's a brief applause from the audience. Sy takes a bow, then speaks to the audience.

## SY OLIVER

Are you enjoying yourselves tonight?

The audience applauds again.

## SY OLIVER (CONT'D)

Well hang on, we're about to take it up another notch. Coming to the stage right now is an up and coming singing sensation, who never fails to please all you beautiful ladies. Let's all give a rousing round of applause to, Mr. Ocie Smith

Lorraine looks at Ocie in shock and disbelief, as he downswallows the shot of brandy, then rises from his seat and walks up a few stairs to the bandstand. He then walks over to Sy and whispers in his ear.

OCIE SMITH, JR  
Lorraine, B-flat

Ocie then walks to the microphone at center stage

## OCIE SMITH, JR (CONT'D)

Thank you, thank you..... Thank you very much... Well...  
(MORE)

OCIE SMITH, JR (CONT'D)  
 The song we're about to do for you  
 is a song I've sang here at the  
 vanguard several times in the past.

Ocie then looks over at Lorraine and takes a long pause.  
 Eventually the audience looks over to see what, or who he's  
 looking at. Everyone looking at Lorraine makes her a little  
 uncomfortable.

OCIE SMITH, JR (CONT'D)  
 But tonight, ironically, I'll be  
 singing this very special song, for  
 one very, very special lady

OC looks back and signals to count it off. Sy counts 1,2,3,4,  
 and the band begins playing.

OC SMITH  
 (sings)  
 I just found joy,  
 I'm as happy as a baby boy,  
 with another brand new choo-choo  
 toy, when I met my sweet Lorraine,  
 Lorraine, Lorraine,..

The whole place is rocking, and all the women are aroused by  
 Ocie's handsome looks, and his silky, satin baritone voice.  
 PAN TO: RUPERT SULLIVAN, a well dressed white man in his 50s,  
 seated in the VIP section, listening curiously while also  
 surveying the reaction of the crowd. CUT TO Lorraine, who is  
 still in disbelief, feeling extra special because she knows  
 Ocie is singing exclusively to her, as she and he look across  
 a crowded smoke-filled room, directly into each others eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. THE VILLAGE VANGUARD, BACK OF THE CLUB - CONTINUOUS

Entering from the back of the club, we see KATHY DUBOIS, aka  
 Crazy Kathy, a gorgeous, light complected Creole woman,  
 dressed to the nines. She looks on stage, smiles and starts  
 bobbing her head as Ocie continues to rock the crowd. With a  
 sexy strut, Kathy begins making her way over to the bar.  
 Seated at the bar, Nick Hardaway sees Kathy coming towards  
 him and says under his breath...

(CONT'D)

NICK HARDAWAY  
 Aw damm, crazy Kathy's ass...

KATHY DUBOIS approaches Nick and gives him a kiss on the cheek.

KATHY DUBOIS  
Hi Nikey

While mixing a drink, PHYLLIS sees Kathy kiss Nick on the cheek, then looks at Nick and shakes her head in disgust again. Nick looks at PHYLLIS and starts to say so something, but then just rolls his eyes as if to say, whatever...

NICK HARDAWAY  
Hey Kathy, what are you doing here?

KATHY DUBOIS  
Wow, great seeing you to Nikey

NICK HARDAWAY  
Lol... No, someone told me you had the night off

KATHY DUBOIS  
Yeah... I just came by to try and patch things up with Ocie.

NICK HARDAWAY  
Lol... Yeah, Good luck with that

KATHY DUBOIS  
Lol... I know we got a little crazy last week, but after I had some time to really think about it, It was probably my fault... No, actually I'm sure, It was all my fault

NICK HARDAWAY  
Yeah, well I think you both said some shit you can't come back from.

KATHY DUBOIS  
Yep... I know, It was awful... But I really do love him Nikey, I can forgive and forget

NICK HARDAWAY  
Ok Kathy, listen... I'm just gone come right out and say it... And I know you don't want to hear this baby girl, but... Ocie has moved on, and I really think it's time you do the same.

(MORE)

NICK HARDAWAY (CONT'D)

So, If Ocie is the reason you came here tonight, you may as well just turn around and walk right on out the door.

Kathy has a sad look on her face as she watches Ocie on stage performing. She then looks back at Nick for a pause, then turns around and walks out of the club. Nick watches until Kathy gets all the way out the door, then breathe a sigh of relief. Then Nick locks eyes with a beautiful Latin woman on the other end of the bar that he's been trying to hookup with all night. He smiles at the pretty woman, then waves Phyllis back over, but never takes his eyes off the pretty woman.

NICK HARDAWAY (CONT'D)

Hey Phyllis, can I get another cranberry juice on the rocks?

Nick smiles, then nods his head in the direction of the pretty Latin woman on the other end of the bar, whose now smiling back at him.

NICK HARDAWAY (CONT'D)

Oh yes, and you can get her whatever the hell she wants

Phyllis has a frown of confusion on her face, as she looks over at the pretty Latin woman, then back at Nick.

PHYLLIS

Damm Negro... You know you doing a whole lot right now.... A whole lot!

BACK TO

INT. THE VILLAGE VANGUARD, CENTER STAGE - CONTINUOUS

The crowd is totally engaged, as Ocie is nearing the end of the song

OC SMITH

(sings)

Tonight I pray, that no one will  
steal her heart away, I can't wait  
until that lucky day, when I  
married sweet Lorraine

The crowd gives Ocie a thunderous round of applause. Ocie takes a bow. We see Lorraine also clapping, as she is now moved to tears. Ocie leaves the stage, walks over and embraces Lorraine with a passionate kiss, as the crowd rises to its feet in ovation to the beautiful couple.

CROSS FADE

INT. THE VILLAGE VANGUARD, VIP SECTION - MINUTES LATER

A comedian is on stage, while Sy Oliver and his orchestra are on a break. Ocie and Lorraine are seated in the VIP section laughing at the comedian, when they both see Nick and the beautiful Latin women locked arm and arm, walking from the bar, towards the front exit. Halfway there, Nick looks over at Ocie and gives him a firm salute on the way out the door. Ocie laughs and salutes back with approval. Lorraine smiles, and just shakes her head side to side. Lorraine leans over and gives Ocie a passionate kiss on the lips, then excuses herself and heads to the ladies room. With a big smile on his face, Ocie slips into a temporary dream state, as he watches Lorraine walking away. Ocie is then suddenly awoken from his dream state when he's approached by Rupert Sullivan.

RUPERT SULLIVAN

Excuse me solider, you got a  
minute?

OC SMITH

Uh... Sure, have a seat

RUPERT SULLIVAN

Thanks... Well, just let me say,  
you have one beautiful set of pipes  
on you

OC SMITH

Thank you very much

Yeah, well I'm sure you hear it all  
the time. Tell me, have You ever  
heard of Count Basie?

OC SMITH (CONT'D)  
Heard of him? Of course, I love  
Basie.

RUPERT SULLIVAN  
Well, my name is Rupert Sullivan,  
I'm Mr. Basie's manager, and I'm  
always looking for new young  
singers to tour with the Orchestra.  
And well, I think you'd work fine,  
of course Mr. Basie makes the final  
decision.

As Sullivan's talking, Ocie is suddenly distracted when he sees Lorraine walking briskly from the ladies room towards front of the club, and out the door. Trying hard to maintain a poker face, Ocie is now looking back and forth at Sullivan and the front door as he responds.

OC SMITH  
Really? That would be absolutely  
amazing sir

Sullivan hands Ocie his business card,

RUPERT SULLIVAN  
So whenever you're ready to quit  
your day job, give me a ring kid,  
and let's do business

Ocie is still looking back-and-forth at the front door, then he looks down at Sullivans card

OC SMITH  
OK Mr. Sullivan, I definitely will

Ocie smiles, gives Sullivan a firm handshake, excuses himself, and then starts walking briskly from the VIP section to the front of the club, and out the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE VILLAGE VANGUARD - FRONT - CONTINUES

He sees Lorraine getting into a cab. He yells her name as he's running over to the cab to try and stop her. We see Lorraine, devastated, sitting in the backseat of the cab with a face full of tears, as the taxi drives away. Heartbroken, and confused, Ocie stands in the middle of the street as he watches the cab turn the corner. Ocie is then suddenly startled by a soft voice he hears over his shoulder.

KATHY DU BOIS  
OC? Baby? Is everything OK?

As several cars blow their horns and yell for them to get out of the way, Kathy grabs Ocie by the arm and began slowly walking him out of the street.

FADE TO:

INT. THE VILLAGE VANGUARD - FRONT - YELLOW CAB - 10 MINUTES LATER

A yellow cab pulls up in front of the village vanguard and stops. In the backseat of the cab is Nick and the beautiful Latin woman. Nick has come back to the club because in his hast to leave the club with his new friend, he'd mistakenly left with the keys to Ocie's new car.

NICK HARDAWAY  
Just wait here, I'll be right back

BEAUTIFUL LATIN WOMEN  
OK, Poppy

Nick jumps out of the cab and rushes through the front door of the club.

INT. THE VILLAGE VANGUARD - CONTINUOUS

Sy and the orchestra are now back on stage doing their final set. Nick heads straight to the VIP section. When he sees Ocie and Lorraine are no longer there, he walks over to the bar and ask Phyllis.

NICK HARDAWAY  
Have you seen Ocie?

PHYLLIS  
Wow soldier Boy, you back already?

NICK HARDAWAY  
Ha Ha, funny... Listen, I need to give him his car keys, and I'm really in a hurry Phyllis, so if you know where he is...

Phyllis interrupts Nick.

PHYLLIS

Hey, hey, slow down man, damm...  
He's backstage, dressing room #2

CUT TO:

INT. THE VILLAGE VANGUARD - BACKSTAGE, DRESSING ROOM #2  
CONTINUOUS

Nick rushes backstage. He sees the door to dressing room #2 and opens it. He sees Ocie sitting on a couch with his head back. Sitting next to him, with her head on his shoulder is Kathy Dubois. Nick stands there in total confusion, wondering what the hell's going on. Kathy lifts her head from Ocie's shoulder, looks at Nick, then slowly lays her head back down on Ocie's shoulder. Nick's confusion suddenly turns into anger, knowing that whatever happened here has crazy kathy written all over it.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. 9TH FLOOR, MAYFLOWER HOTEL, MICHAEL BENNETT'S ROOM - MID MORNING

Michael, Mindy, and Jasmine are naked, sprawled across a king size bed, with a glimmer of sunlight shining through the curtain onto Mandy's face, eventually waking her. Mandy slowly climbs out of bed and begins walking to the bathroom. On her way we see the hotel room in shambles from their wild partying. She finally makes it to the bathroom sink, takes a look at herself in the mirror above the sink, then grabs a towel and starts washing makeup off her face while still looking in the mirror.

CUT TO

Jasmine and Michael are still in the bed sleeping. Jasmine slowly awakens and notices Mandys not there and calls out her name

JAZMINE

Mandy?

MANDY

Yeah...

JASMINE

Oh, OK, just checking

Michael briefly awakens, lifts his head from the pillow, looks over at Jasmine and smiles. Jasmine smiles back seductively. Michael then plops his head back down into the pillow. Jasmine then quickly wipes the smile off her face, and rolls her eyes.

There's a knock at the door, then we hear a female voice.

HOUSEKEEPER  
Housekeeping!

Mandy replies.

MANDY  
No thank you, not now, maybe come  
back in about an hour

Jasmine yells from the bed.

JASMINE  
We got enough towels?

MANDY  
Oh damm, you're right

Mandy quickly puts on a bath robe and rushes out the door to track down the housekeeper. Mandy sees the housekeeper a few doors down the hall, rolling a cart. Mandy approaches the housekeeper.

MANDY (CONT'D)  
Excuse me ma'am, can I get a few  
towels from you?

HOUSEKEEPER  
Sure, no problem

The housekeeper lifts four large towels from her cart and hands them to Mandy. The housekeeper then admires Mandys gold necklace.

HOUSEKEEPER (CONT'D)  
Oh, what a lovely necklace

Mandy looked down at her chest, then clutches the necklace

MANDY  
Oh wow, lol... I didn't realize I  
still had it on... thank you very  
much, it's a gift from someone very  
special

The housekeeper smiles, then continues rolling the cart down the hall. Mandy returns to the room and heads straight to the bathroom. Michael is still in the bed sleeping, and Jazmine has now gotten into the shower. Mandy places the towels on a shelf, removes her bath robe, and gets in to the shower with Jazmine. Jazmine stands under the shower head as the water flows down over her long beautiful red hair.

MANDY (CONT'D)

Damn you Jazmine, I wish I had your hair

JAZMINE

Yeah, well, you can always buy some red hair, but I can never have a perfect ass like yours,

Jazmine then smacks Mandy on the butt

But I guess you can't have everything right?

MANDY

Yeah, I guess... touché?

JASMINE

Lol... Touché?

MANDY

Lol, Whatever Jazmine... So what time did Russ say we're supposed to be back tonight?

JASMINE

Oh shit, I'm not coming back tonight, I gotta get ready for tomorrow... My little man Jonathan turns four years old, and we're having a little party for him at my mom's.

MANDY

Oh wow, that sounds like fun

JASMINE

Fun? Maybe for him and his little snotty-nose friends, working my nerves.

Mandy laughs

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Yeah, but they're really sooo cute  
at this age

MANDY

Yep... Oh well, I guess I'll be  
flying solo tonight, I don't have a  
choice, I really need the money  
right now... Speaking of money, what  
time is Russ coming by?

JAZMINE

He's not coming by here, sorry I  
forgot to tell you. We're supposed  
to meet downstairs in the coffee  
shop.

FADE TO:

INT. MAYFLOWER HOTEL - COFFEE SHOP CONTINUOUS

Russ Logan is sitting in a booth, drinking a cup of coffee  
and reading a newspaper.

Mandy and Jasmine enter the coffee shop, look around until  
they locate Russ, then head over to him. As they sit down in  
the booth across from Russ, he never takes his eyes off the  
newspaper. Russ then peers over the newspaper and addresses  
Mandy and Jasmine.

RUSS LOGAN

You hungry?

Mandy jasmine look at each other, then back at Russ.

JASMINE

Yeah, I guess I could eat

Mandy shakes her head up and down, in agreement with Jasmine.

RUSS LOGAN

So how'd it go last night with,  
uhh... what did he call his self...  
Big Mike?

JASMINE

Well, let's just say we left big Mike, sleeping like a big  
ole baby

MANDY

Yeah, with a big ole smile on his face  
Mandy in Jasmine breakout laughing as the waitress comes over  
to take their order.

CUT TO:

INT. 9TH FLOOR, MAYFLOWER HOTEL, MICHAEL BENNETT'S ROOM -  
CONTINUOUS

Michael is sitting at the table looking over the Veronica Lee promo package that was given to him the day before by Russ Logan in the limo ride over. As he's reading, he's also rationing out three more lines of cocaine onto the black vinyl album. He then looks at the photo of Veronica Lee and shakes his head up and down with approval, then leans down and snorts the three lines of cocaine one by one. He then stands and starts walking towards the bathroom. After a few steps he grabs his heart and collapses to the floor.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. 9TH FLOOR, HALLWAY, MICHAEL BENNETT'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A few minutes later there's a knock at the door.

HOUSEKEEPING LADY  
Housekeeping!

Housekeeping lady knocks again and gets no response. She then unlocks the door with her key and enters the room.  
Housekeeping lady sees Michael Bennett lying on the floor.

CROSSFADE TO:

INT. 9TH FLOOR, MAYFLOWER HOTEL, MICHAEL BENNETT'S ROOM - 20  
MINUTES LATER

Michael Bennett has been pronounced dead, the room has now been designated off-limits by the New York Police Department (NYPD). Several uniform police and plain clothes detectives are investigating the scene.

Detective COLLIN MC DANIELS is observing the black vinyl album and notices traces of cocaine. Next to it he sees the Veronica Lee promo package with Frankie Romero's name on it. He smirks.

COLIN MCDANIELS  
Bingo... Hey Frank, check this shit out

DETECTIVE FRANK SNYDER walks over to McDaniels. McDaniels points to Frankie Romero's name on the promo package. Camera ZOOMS IN.

CUT TO:

INT. MAYFLOWER HOTEL - COFFEE SHOP CONTINUOUS

Russ Logan, Mandy and Jasmine are done with their main course and are now finishing their dessert.

JASMINE  
Damn, this cheesecake is incredible! Oh yeah, I'm definitely getting a slice to go.

Logan takes a briefcase from the seat next to him and places it on the table. He then opens it and pulls out two envelope filled with cash, closes the briefcase and places it back on the seat. He Then Hands the two envelopes to Mandy and Jasmine.

RUSS LOGAN  
Great job ladies, Great job. Now listen to me... If you think last night was big, tonight is the night before closing day, so all the real high-rollers will be here, and trust me when I tell you, it's gonna be a fucking madhouse for sure. Which of Course means more bread for the two of you, but you're gonna have to get here a little earlier.

As Russ is talking they're all standing and preparing to leave. Russ has already paid the check, and the waitress has brought Mandys slice of cheesecake to go. Jasmine begins talking as they are all walking out of the coffee shop, back into the hotel lobby, in route to the parking lot.

JASMINE

Oh damn, Russ... Man I forgot to tell you, I can't do it tonight, tomorrow we're having a birthday party for my four year old son...

Jasmine is interrupted when they're all suddenly distracted by the chaos of a dead body being rolled through the lobby on a gurney, surrounded by coroners, paramedics and police officers. Then we see the housekeeping lady with a frightened look on her face, walking with detective McDaniel. She then notices Mandy and yells out.

HOUSEKEEPER

That's her sir, that's her right there!

Mandy looked over her shoulder, then back around.

MANDY

What the hell?

The housekeeping lady, two plain clothes detectives and three police officers start walking towards Mandy, Jasmine and Russ. Confused, Jasmine ask Mandy.

JAZMINE

What is she talking about?

MANDY

I have no fucking idea

Detective McDaniel approaches Mandy

DETECTIVE COLIN MCDANIELS

Ma'am, my name is Detective Colin McDaniel, with the New York Police Department. Were you in room 914 earlier this morning?

MANDY

Well... I guess I was

DETECTIVE COLIN MCDANIELS

You guess you were?

Russ puts his head down and starts walking towards the hotel house phones.

MANDY

OK... well, Yeah I was in 914

DETECTIVE COLIN MCDANIELS  
Do you know a man by the name of  
Michael Bennett?

MANDY  
No, I don't really know him.. I just  
met him yesterday

DETECTIVE COLIN MCDANIELS  
Were you aware that Mr. Bennett was  
found dead at approximately 11:45  
this morning?

MANDY  
Oh no! Are you serious?

DETECTIVE COLIN MCDANIELS  
Yes ma'am I am.. And we have an  
eyewitness that can place you at  
the scene less than 30 minutes  
before his death.

MANDY  
Ok, yeah, I was there this morning,  
but when I left he was fine, as far  
as I could tell, he was...

McDaniels interrupts Mandy.

DETECTIVE COLLIN MCDANIELS  
Ma'am... Ma'am, We're gonna have to  
ask you to come with us down to the  
station

MANDY  
Are you fucking kidding me? You  
think I killed him?

DETECTIVE COLIN MCDANIELS  
I did not say you killed him ma'am,  
we just have a few questions to ask  
you.

One of the police officers starts placing handcuffs on Mandy.

MANDY  
Hold on damm it, what are you  
doing?

Mandy gives her purse to Jasmine.

MANDY (CONT'D)

What the hell are you doing

Mandy then turns to Jasmine and says...

Call my brother Charlie. 415-555-  
7238

JASMINE  
Ok, don't worry girl, I got you

CUT TO:

INT. FRANKIE ROMERO'S SUITE - CONTINUOUS

Telephone rings.. REBECCA picks up.

REBECCA ST. JAMES  
Hello

RUSS LOGAN  
Rebecca, this is Russ, are you  
dressed?

REBECCA ST. JAMES  
Am I dressed? Yes, what's going on  
Russ, is there something wrong...

Russ interrupts REBECCA.

RUSS LOGAN  
REBECCA please, just listen to me,  
you gotta take the service elevator  
down to the parking lot right now,  
I'll wait for you there. Do it now  
REBECCA

REBECCA hangs up the phone, grabs her purse, and hurries to  
the door. When she opens the door she's met by two  
detectives. Detective Frank Snyder shows REBECCA his badge.

DETECTIVE FRANK SNYDER  
Good afternoon ma'am, we're looking  
for Frankie Romero

REBECCA stands there with a blank look on her face

CUT TO:

EXT. BLACK LINCOLN CONTINENTAL, BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA - SAME TIME

Frankie and David are in the backseat as a chauffeur drives them up a long winding hill, line with beautiful mansions on each side.

INT. BLACK LINCOLN CONTINENTAL, SAME TIME

FRANKIE ROMERO

Ok, I think this is it right here.

They pull into a driveway with a large gate and an intercom. They stop, push the intercom button, then introduce themselves.

FRANKIE ROMERO (CONT'D)

This is Frankie Romero, here to see  
Mr. SALVADOR CASTIONI.

The gate opens, they enter the property and continue driving about 200 feet up another hill and pull into a large horseshoe shaped driveway lined with high-in luxury vehicles.

The chauffeur continues driving slowly and stops at the front door. Frankie and David exit the car and walk up to the front door where the brothers, JOHNNY and FREDDIE LUCA, two of CASTIONI associates are waiting to greet them before leading them into the house.

INT. THE SALVADOR CASTIONI ESTATE, HOLLYWOOD HILLS, CA

FRANKIE ROMERO

Hello, we're here to see Mr.  
SALVADOR CASTIONI.

Johnny Luca pats them both down, then nods his head up and down to his brother Freddie.

FREDDIE LUCA

Yeah, come right this way.

Frankie and David follow the Luca brothers through the Huge double doors, pass a large staircase, down a long hallway into a large den that was now converted into an art gallery, with wall to wall drop cloths, a lit fireplace, french glass widows and doors all around, and a panoramic view of the city. There is paint and paint supplies scatter about, more then two dozen canvases of deferent sizes, some painted on, and some not, some on easels, and some leaning against the walls and French doors.

In the middle of the room is a LARGE, but lean Italian man, SALVADOR CASTIONI, completely naked, laying face down on a massage table.

SALVADOR CASTIONI  
Lorelei?

Frankie and David look at each other in total confusion.

FRANKIE ROMERO  
Uhh, no sir. It's Benny's  
Weisberg's Friend, Frankie Romero.

Castioni turns over and sits up-right on the table, fully exposed. He then extends his hand to shake Frankie's.

SALVADOR CASTIONI  
Salvador Castioni,..

THE END