

HACKS SPEC

Written by

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INT. CIRCUIT THEATER - NIGHT

DEBORAH performs stand-up to a packed, albeit small venue.

DEBORAH
I don't understand. Why do men try
to pee without lifting the seat up?

There are scattered chuckles across the audience.

AVA, disguised as an elderly woman, sits in the back of the room with KIKI.

AVA
She's reverted back to the knock-
knock jokes about men that don't
put the toilet seat down...

KIKI
What are you wearing?

AVA
I'm hiding. I haven't seen Deborah-

KIKI
Since she fired you?

Back on stage.

DEBORAH
I mean, do they want the challenge?
To make peeing more fun? I swear,
every man turns everything into a
game.

Deborah waits for laughs but get's none.

Ava tries not to laugh at Deborah's bombing.

Kiki punches Ava gently-

DEBORAH (CONT'D)
It's always a competition. How long
do you last bro? Even SEX is a game
for them.

Nobody laughs in the audience again-

DEBORAH (CONT'D)
Games, games, games.

Ava laughs loudly from the crowd, then cups her hand over her mouth-

KIKI
You're gonna blow your cover.

Deborah makes eye contact with Ava, she is pissed off.

AVA
I spent a lot of time on this, she
can't even see her 200 inch TV
without her glasses.

DEBORAH
You know what, it's been an hour
and a half. I'm done.

Deborah walks off of the stage abruptly.

DAMIEN suddenly stands over Ava and Kiki.

DAMIEN
(to Ava)
Deborah would like to see you.

Ava pretends she doesn't know Damien is talking to her.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)
Ava, you're not fooling anybody.

AVA
Who is this Ava? I'm very old woman
from Russia here to see my idol,
the one they call Deborah Vance.

DAMIEN
Ava.

Ava rolls her eyes and looks at Kiki.

KIKI
Why you looking at me girl?

Ava gets up and walks with Damien.

AVA
(mutters)
How's she still bossing me around?

INT. CIRCUIT THEATER - BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

Deborah walks brazenly through backstage as her crew swarms.

MARCUS speed walks to catch up to Deborah.

MARCUS

Deborah, you can't just walk off the stage if one joke doesn't land.

DEBORAH

Don't tell me how to do my job, Marcus. I don't tell you how to do yours.

MARCUS

You do tell me how to do my job.

DEBORAH

I'm your boss.

Ava now follows them in the distance.

MARCUS

You know you're going to trend on Twitter for this...

DEBORAH

Ava's doing just fine.

MARCUS

That's not the point. This isn't a good look for you.

DEBORAH

A good look for me? I haven't looked good since I was thirty-three.

Ava chuckles in the background.

AVA

If I was still around you'd have more jokes like that.

Deborah stops walking and turns to Ava-

DEBORAH

You're the one who told me to make fun of myself. Well, look what it got me? The only person laughing in this tiny club, which I now have to play, was you.

AVA

Maybe you wouldn't have bombed if I was still around?

They get to Deborah's dressing room.

INT. DEBORAH'S DRESSING ROOM DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Deborah's nameplate on the door hangs loose.

She is about to open the rotting door but doesn't-

DEBORAH

(to Ava)

You think it's so easy to do this,
don't you?

AVA

I mean, if you can do it?

DEBORAH

Fine, you're opening for me
tomorrow.

AVA

What?

DEBORAH

Just don't wear whatever this is.

Deborah enters the Dressing Room and slams the door.

Ava and Marcus look at each other like Deborah's a psycho.

The worn down nameplate "Deborah Vance" hits the ground as...

MAIN TITLES

INT. DEBORAH'S MANSION - FRONT DOOR - NEXT MORNING

Marcus sits on the couch seeming very concentrated on his
phone.

Ava enters-

AVA

Why did she call me here? There's
no way I'm openi-

Marcus shushes Ava then hands her a earbud.

MARCUS

(mouths)

Listen.

Ava puts the earbud in and hears Deborah yelling at DJ.

DEBORAH (O.S.)
It's not that simple!

DJ (O.S.)
Ummm, it actually is. I can't believe you.

AVA
(mouths to Marcus)
Wow.

CUT TO:

INT. DEBORAH'S MANSION - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deborah and DJ now argue on screen.

DEBORAH
(cry baby hand gesture)
Cry me a river.

DJ
I'm sorry, this is a perfectly normal reaction when your mother refuses to hug her daughter.

DEBORAH
You know I'm not affectionate.

DJ
Yes, those were the exact words you said to me when I was three years old and wanted to hold your hand to cross the street.

DEBORAH
Someone's not going to hold your hand all the time.

DJ
That's exactly what you said!

DEBORAH
You have a good memory.

DJ
Traumatic memories tend to stick.

DEBORAH
What are we arguing about? I'll **lend** you the money for your IVF.

DJ
Why'd you say lend like that?

DEBORAH
You have a great track record when
it comes to repaying your debts.

INT. DEBORAH'S MANSION - FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Marcus looks at Ava and makes a "gossip tea" hand gesture.

The door swings open as DJ enters abruptly.

MARCUS
Is everything alright?

DJ
Don't pretend like you didn't hear
all of that.

DJ is about to leave-

DJ (CONT'D)
(to Ava)
Good luck.

Off Ava shocked as DJ exits and SLAMS the door.

Deborah enters from the other side-

DEBORAH
Ava, you're up!

INT. DEBORAH'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ava sits on the leopard-skinned couch as Deborah sits in her chair.

They sit in silence as Ava tries to break the ice-

AVA
Wow, what a blast from the past.

DEBORAH
I am getting too old for this shit.

AVA
What happened, did TIME magazine
not give you "Mother of the Year?"

Deborah smiles at Ava.

DEBORAH

Instead of worrying about me... In approximately eight hours you will be on the stage, it will be just you and a microphone in front of hundreds of people! People dream for opportunities that I'm just handing to you.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

And not even for a loyal employee, just a friend. A friend who enjoys my bombing.

AVA

Awww, we're friends?

DEBORAH

I allow my friends to leave their ass stains on my Billy Baldwin Regency Style Leopard Velvet Slipper Chair.

Ava looks back at the sweat-stain she created.

AVA

Ooooh, sorry.

DEBORAH

You get any writing done last night?

AVA

Writing done?

DEBORAH

Do you have any bits?

AVA

I really don't so I'm hoping we can end the joke...

DEBORAH

You must have jokes from your college sketches?

AVA

No, I'm not a stand-up.

DEBORAH

Nobody really is, it's something that you work at.

AVA

This is so ridiculous, why don't
you have Marcus do stand-up?

Marcus opens the door and he has the same listening device in
his ear.

MARCUS

Don't make this about me.

Marcus closes the door.

AVA

If you think I'm going up and doing
sta-

DEBORAH

You are doing standup tonight. The
best way to learn is to get thrown
in the fire. How'd you learn to
swim? You get thrown in the pool.

AVA

Actually, my parents wouldn't throw
me in the pool because there was a
study proven that it creates a
traumatic memory so early in life
and makes children hate the idea of
water-

DEBORAH

See, your bullshit would be perfect
for the act tonight. I'd get
writing if I were you.

AVA

I don't work for you anymore.

DEBORAH

I ran it by Jimmy and he loved the
idea. He twittered it already. The
word is out. And I think he invited
some show-runners who are looking
for writers.

INT. AVA'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY/INT. JIMMY'S OFFICE - INTERCUT

Ava paces around the room as she calls JIMMY.

Jimmy flips through papers as he puts on his HEADSET.

JIMMY

(excited)

How's my favorite client doing today?

AVA

You only have two-

JIMMY

Did you hear the news?

AVA

Deborah said I was opening for her tonight.

JIMMY

You are! Quite the opportunity...

AVA

Yeah, for someone who wants it. I literally have no material.

JIMMY

What do you mean, Deborah said you were excited about it?

AVA

She lied. She's trying to get back at me.

JIMMY

By giving you the platform hundreds of comedians could only dream of?

AVA

Comedians take months, sometimes years crafting their fifteen minute.

JIMMY

And you have eight hours. I also invited a couple show-runners who are looking for fresh voices.

AVA

I'm not doing it.

JIMMY

You're going to do fine. They know you're not a stand-up, but if you make a few jokes, who knows?

AVA
You're not worried about the well-being of your client?

JIMMY
Deborah's doing fine, right?

AVA
I was talking about ME.

JIMMY
Oh...You're fine, just spend the whole day writing, go through your old scripts, look for material. You might do amazing tonight. Are you going to survive?

AVA
I guess so.

JIMMY
I have to run, Bye.

Jimmy hangs up as Ava opens her computer.

She opens a folder labeled "scripts."

Ava reads an old script on her computer-

"Bi, Bi, Bi, The Trials and Tribulations of a pre-teen Ava Daniels"

AVA
That's some title.

Ava sees the date of 2014 on it and starts reminiscing.

AVA (CONT'D)
Is this really how I came out to my parents?

Ava starts scrolling through the script reading:

AVA (CONT'D)
(CONT'D)
So, kids, I didn't know the "label", but I think Men and Women are equally hot. Well, the good-looking one's anyway. Wow, that's a Deborah line.

Ava returns to the script and scrolls to the last line.

AVA (CONT'D)
Abs and breasts, why not put them
together? Let's make some gender
hybrid people for me.

She laughs and writes in her notebook.

AVA (CONT'D)
What was I saying?

She rummages through an old bin with notebooks and diaries.

AVA (CONT'D)
(reads)
How many types of ice cream is too
much? Kraft's Mac and Cheese Ice
Cream, the same five companies are
just messing with us now because
we'll buy anything.

AVA (CONT'D)
Huh?

AVA (CONT'D)
(reads)
Who came up with the name Hot Dog?
They're not that hot, and I hope
it's not a dog.

INT. DEBORAH'S MANSION - OFFICE - DAY

Deborah looks through her comedic notes.

Marcus enters.

MARCUS
Deborah?

DEBORAH
Yes...

MARCUS
It's time for that talk about
expenses.

DEBORAH
What about them? We're doing fine.

MARCUS
Exactly. Fine, not great. Remember,
the small circuit clubs don't
exactly pay like the Palmetto.

DEBORAH
Get to the point, I'm a big girl.

MARCUS
The yo-yo-yo company. 2 yo-yos on
one string.

DEBORAH
Hey, we both liked that idea.

MARCUS
We're barely breaking even here,
what did DJ want?

DEBORAH
What do you think? She wanted
money. It's always money.

MARCUS
How much this time?

DEBORAH
250 grand.

MARCUS
Deborah, we can't give her 250
thousand dollars!

DEBORAH
-I told her I'd help her out. IVF
isn't cheap, and if she doesn't pop
a kid out soon...

MARCUS
We don't have that kind of money
right now.

DEBORAH
I have savings, no?

MARCUS
I can look, but you act like 250
grand is nothing.

DEBORAH
You take care of it, however you
have to do it. I trust you.

MARCUS
I do have an investment with a
close friend of mine.

DEBORAH
So, you have a new boyfriend?

MARCUS
Deborah, how did you? Yeah.

DEBORAH
Just don't tell me the investment
is a night club.

MARCUS
(semi-nervously)
Deborah, come on...

INT. HOTEL - AVA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ava now has two pages of notebook are full of writing.

AVA
What was that joke about men with
bad fine motor skills? Oh, I put it
on Twitter years ago.

Ava goes to the Twitter log-in and takes a deep breath.

AVA (CONT'D)
It's time.

Ava logs in and sees her feed, with 99+ notifications.
The first post is 30 flesh light tricks...

AVA (CONT'D)
I'm home...

INT. JIMMY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Kayla runs in-

KAYLA
Ava's on Twitter!

JIMMY
I know! I know!

KAYLA
What are we going to do about it?!?

JIMMY
I'm calling her.

KAYLA
And she bought Twitter Blue!

INT. HOTEL - AVA'S ROOM / INT. JIMMY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Ava's phone RINGS and she answers.

AVA
Jimmy! The writing's going-

JIMMY
You're on Twitter?!?

AVA
Just to look at some old material.

JIMMY
No, no, no, no, no. That's how you
got cancelled remember?

AVA
That was the old Ava.

JIMMY
Are you insane?

KAYLA
(to Ava)
Love your new profile pic!

AVA
Hey, Kayla.

JIMMY
(to Ava)
Just don't post anything stupid.

AVA
That's something Ava, like two
years ago would do.

KAYLA
We trust you.

JIMMY
(interjects)
I don't.

Ava gets a call from Deborah.

AVA
I got it under control. Deborah's
calling, let me grab it.

JIMMY
Don't hang up, don't hang up.

Ava picks up Deborah's phone call.

INT. DEBORAH'S RANGE ROVER/INT. AVA'S HOTEL ROOM - INTERCUT

DEBORAH
Let's get lunch.

AVA
Today?

DEBORAH
No next Thursday the 28th, of
course today.

AVA
Are you feeling alright? You never
ask me for lunch.

DEBORAH
I'll pick you up in five.

EXT. VIC AND GINO'S COCINA - AFTERNOON

Marcus sits and looks at his watch.

A waitress pours water in Marcus' glass.

WAITRESS
Are you expecting another...

MARCUS
I hope-

WAITRESS
Do you want to put in an appetizer
while you wait?

Marcus is rattled.

MARCUS
Umm, yeah. I'll start with a Caesar
Salad, no anchovies.

GIORGIO (mid 30s) enters wearing a fedora and a shirt that
only utilizes the bottom two of it's many buttons.

Marcus stands up to greet Giorgio, and they kiss.

GIORGIO
You look absolutely stunning as
always Marcus.

MARCUS

You look...

Giorgio smiles and strikes a pose.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Like they should cast you in
Zoolander 3.

Giorgio laughs way harder than prompted.

GIORGIO

Deborah's wearing off on you.

MARCUS

So how's the club? Still supposed
to open next month? I'm counting on-

GIORGIO

Come on, we're in Los Angeles. LA,
baby, let's make some small talk-

MARCUS

We haven't talked about it in a
while. It's almost ready, yeah?

GIORGIO

I'd rather not talk about it.

MARCUS

Well, we kind of have an issue.

GIORGIO

Issue... hopefully I won't need a
tissue.

Giorgio laughs while Marcus does not.

GIORGIO (CONT'D)

Maybe I should be the comedian.

Marcus is very serious as the salad arrives.

GIORGIO (CONT'D)

You said no anchovies, right?

MARCUS

Of course, I know you. So, what's
wrong with the club?

GIORGIO

There was a setback.

MARCUS

It was supposed to be ready months ago.

GIORGIO

It's a process-

MARCUS

Well something came up, I kind of need the money back.

GIORGIO

You know I'm good for the money, Honey.

(laughs)

I just love rhyming, especially when you don't mean to... when it just happens organically. Maybe it's from all the organic food I eat, making me smarter-

MARCUS

-I know I originally told you by the end of March, but I kind of need it now.

GIORGIO

Now? You're putting me in a tough position here.

MARCUS

You know a lot of people, can't you ask someone else or take out a loan? I was happy to help you out but you should see the antiques Deborah buys. And her daughter...

GIORGIO

Marcus, don't you trust me?

MARCUS

Let me see the club.

Giorgio takes a deep breath.

GIORGIO

Oh, that won't be necessary.

MARCUS

I need to see it.

GIORGIO

Fine. Marcus wins. Like always.

Giorgio stands up and Marcus throws a \$50 bill down at the table.

They walk out of the restaurant as Deborah and Ava enter.

MARCUS

Deborah?

Giorgio goes down on one knee and kisses Deborahs hand.

GIORGIO

You're Deborah Vance! Marcus has told me so much about you.

Ava laughs at this-

AVA

What is going on?

GIORGIO

I am Giorgio. Marcus' boy toy-

Marcus nudges Giorgio cutting him off.

GIORGIO (CONT'D)

(to Ava)

And who might you be?

AVA

I'm Ava.

GIORGIO

I love your red hair, I wish I had red hair. I tried dying it once but it didn't look nearly as pretty as yours.

Ava touches her greasy hair.

AVA

Oh, well, thank you.

MARCUS

I hate to interrupt whatever this is but we have to run. I'll see you later Deborah?

GIORGIO

Deborah, you age like fine wine. I'll see you tonight at your show!

Marcus and Giorgio exit.

DEBORAH
(to Host)
Two please.

AVA
He was something, huh?

DEBORAH
That's a con man if I've ever seen
one.

The HOST shows them to their table.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)
Anyway, how's the writing going?
Are you still mad-

AVA
I almost have a good fifteen. I
started going through my old stuff,
some of it's pretty good, some not
so much.

DEBORAH
I hear you're back on Twitter.
Don't get cancelled this time.

Ava laughs.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)
(giddy)
It should be a fun night.

AVA
Yeah, thanks for letting me
perform.

DEBORAH
It could be your big break. Or...
not.

Deborah laughs.

AVA
Ummm, thanks I guess.

DEBORAH
I'm not really an affectionate,
woman-

AVA
(jokes)
Awww, I love you too.

DEBORAH

(laughs)

You've actually come a long way
since I've known you. I look
forward to watching your promising
future...

Deborah becomes quiet.

AVA

Thank you.

Deborah changes her tone quickly to erase the loving moment-

DEBORAH

Just don't flatter yourself too
much.

INT. GIORGIO'S ROLLS ROYCE - AFTERNOON

Giorgio drives with cruise control as Marcus sits stressed.

GIORGIO

I'm excited to see Deborah perform.
I've been watching her since I was
a little gay boy.

MARCUS

Yeah, and Ava's opening for her.

GIORGIO

Greasy hair girl?

MARCUS

So how long have you had the rolls?

GIORGIO

A couple months. Right, Rosalinda?

MARCUS

That's right when we met.

GIORGIO

Of course, that was a good month
for Giorgio.

Marcus smiles.

GIORGIO (CONT'D)

Road head?

MARCUS
(chuckles)
What?

Giorgio laughs way heavier than normal.

GIORGIO
I'm just kidding... Unless,

MARCUS
Shut up! How far are we from the club?

GIORGIO
We're here.

Giorgio parks the car in a seemingly abandoned storefront that is half burned to the ground!

He exits the car and Marcus follows suit.

MARCUS
There was a fire?!?!

GIORGIO
A minor one.

MARCUS
Oh my God, you didn't tell me?

GIORGIO
I didn't want to worry you.

MARCUS
What the fuck? What caused the fire?

GIORGIO
I left the stove on. Sue me! My mother always told me I was never a cook.

Marcus is speechless.

GIORGIO (CONT'D)
We're still set to open in the next two years though.

MARCUS
Two years? That's not what I agreed to.

GIORGIO
(laughs)
You remember the contract you
signed, no refunds!

MARCUS
Giorgio.

GIORGIO
Don't worry, we're in the same
boat. We'll work on it together.

MARCUS
I need the money back, I trusted
you.

GIORGIO
The only way you get your money
back is if I died. And we don't
want that, do we?

MARCUS
What?

GIORGIO
Yeah, then the contract is void and
the bank is liable.

Giorgio consoles Marcus.

INT. CIRCUIT THEATER - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Ava is dressed much nicer than usual, she wears glam makeup
and her hair is straightened and pinned back.

She has a natural high as she reads her notecards gleefully.

AVA
(to herself)
Do you think Abe Lincoln would be
happy with the current affairs?

Deborah enters and lightly teases Ava-

DEBORAH
You nervous?

AVA
Surprisingly no.

DEBORAH
Really? I would be scared shitless.

AVA

No it's like a cloud of calmness
has seeped over me.

DEBORAH

A cloud of calmness, huh?

AVA

Yeah, I can't believe it either.

DEBORAH

It'd be nice if you warmed them up
for me.

AVA

I'll try my best.

Deborah takes a long calm breath.

DEBORAH

1,000 people... wow. I mean we see
a number on a piece of paper, but
we don't realize-

AVA

Huh?

DEBORAH

Just think about it, that many
brains trying to pick you apart,
trying to prove you're not funny.

AVA

(stressed)

Cool, thanks for sharing.

DEBORAH

And the show-runners... What, I
hope I'm not making you nervous?

Ava tries to calm herself a little-

AVA

No, no of course not.

DEBORAH

Are you still excited? You still
have that calm cloud seeping over-

A P.A Announcer interrupts-

P.A ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

For one night only you have the
distinct pleasure of seeing...

DEBORAH
(winks at Ava)
I told him to say that.

P.A ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Ava Daniels, in her first Las Vegas
gig. Please give a round of
applause and make Ava Daniels feel
like she's funny.

DEBORAH
That too. You're up.

Ava now stands frozen, not moving to the stage.

Deborah gently tugs on Ava-

DEBORAH (CONT'D)
(to stage PA)
She needs some help.

A STAGE PA enters and nudges Ava towards the stage.

Ava walks out onto the blurry stage and is temporarily
stunned the bright lights.

INT. CIRCUIT THEATER - STAGE CONTINUOUS

The crowd's applause is very loud as Ava slouches.

She takes a long breath then starts her set-

AVA
(jokes)
Why are you clapping for me, I
haven't said anything funny yet.

A few scattered laughs-

In the audience, Marcus and Giorgio walk down the aisle to
their seats. Giorgio has an extra large tub of popcorn.

MARCUS
You really needed an extra large?

GIORGIO
I'm extra large all around, baby.

AVA
This is my first time ever doing
stand-up, for my friend, Deborah-

The crowd goes NUTS, chanting "Deb-o-rah!"

Marcus and Giorgio find their seats and watch Ava perform.

AVA (CONT'D)

You guys are sick of me already,
What was I saying?

A heckler from the crowd yells-

HECKLER (O.S.)

Get off the stage LITTLE ORPHAN

ANNIE!

AVA

Very original sir, because I have
red hair. My friend, De-

Ava is about to say Deborah but catches herself-

AVA (CONT'D)

Now, if I would have said her name
again you all would have cheered
and I wouldn't have been able to
finish my joke. She, who shall not
be named, thought it would be a
good idea for my first set to be,
not as a practice in front of her,
not in a small club nobody knows
about, not as a opener for Cinnamon
with an 'S' and Candy with an 'I'
at the local strip club, no my
former boss thought it would be a
good idea for the first time I do
stand-up to be in front of 1,000
people.

The crowd roars in laughter.

Giorgio laughs hysterically while devouring popcorn.

GIORGIO

Wow, she's funny.

Giorgio coughs and almost chokes-

MARCUS

Are you okay?

GIORGIO

Oh yeah.

Ava starts to ramble with comedic timing-

AVA

What can I say, it's a hard knock life for little orphan Annie here. But my Dad did just die so I'm halfway there to being an orphan. Call me Bon Jovi, I'm halfway there. Halfway there is how I feel every time I have sex, they finish and I'm only halfway there. Oh, I'm livin' on a prayer alright.

More laughter.

AVA (CONT'D)

I always get confused between Bon Jovi and Jon Bon Jovi. Why are your names so damn similar?

Giorgio laughs again from the crowd, popcorn SPILLING from his mouth-

Deborah looks on from side-stage intently with a smirk.

AVA (CONT'D)

This is kinda easy actually... That's what the boys said about me in High School anyway.

The audience laughs and jeers loudly as Ava blushes.

AVA (CONT'D)

See Mom! Some people do love me.

Deborah watches and looks like a proud Mom-

INT. GAY BAR - NIGHT

Marcus and Giorgio sit at the energetic bar.

GIORGIO

She was funny tonight.

MARCUS

Ava? Yeah.

Giorgio stands up to talk to the bartender, RALPHIE.

GIORGIO

What's your best drink?

RALPHIE

Bloody London.

MARCUS
What is that?

RALPHIE
Absolut peppar, tomato juice-

GIORGIO
(interrupts)
We'll have two.

MARCUS
I've never had a Bloody London.

GIORGIO
Me neither.

The Bartender comes back with two drinks.

GIORGIO (CONT'D)
Bottoms up!

Giorgio chugs the whole drink down.

MARCUS
Never change.

GIORGIO
That was better than a Bloody Mary.

Marcus bites his nails.

GIORGIO (CONT'D)
If you keep biting your nails we're
going to have mani pedis!

MARCUS
I don't bite my toe nails.

GIORGIO
But I bite yours...

MARCUS
(laughs)
I'm sorry, it's just Deborah's
gonna ask for the money tomorrow.

Giorgio breathes heavily and his face becomes red.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

Giorgio coughs and can't catch his breath.

GIORGIO
I'm choking.

MARCUS
(to Ralphie)
What was in the Bloody London?

RALPHIE
Absolut Peppar, tomato juice, and
anchovy paste-

MARCUS
Anchovy paste! He's allergic to
anchovies.

Giorgio tries to talk but can't over his of choking.

RALPHIE
(to Giorgio)
You're gonna have to throw it up.

MARCUS
He can't make himself throw up.

Giorgio, through coughs and breaths, barely says-

GIORGIO
(winks)
I have no gag reflex.

Marcus watches in shock as Ralphie jumps over the bar.

Ralphie sticks his finger down Giorgio's throat.

MARCUS
You're gonna need more than that.

Ralphie sticks his FIST down Giorgio's throat again.

RALPHIE
Deep breath.

Giorgio throws up straight red and faints.

MARCUS
What the fuck!

INT. DEBORAH'S MANSION - LIVING ROOM - NEXT DAY

Deborah sits across from Ava.

Ava sits on a white sheet that covers the leopard furred
chair.

AVA
Did you hear? Giorgio's dead. From anchovy paste.

DEBORAH
I never liked anchovies.

AVA
What?

DEBORAH
Giorgio seems lighthearted, sorry seemed.

AVA
You're bad. Did Jimmy tell you?

DEBORAH
What?

AVA
The show-runner for Sex Lives of College Girls liked my Bon Jovi joke. They want to have a meeting.

DEBORAH
(sighs)
Look at you go.

AVA
You're not happy for me?

DEBORAH
No, no, no. I could use another writer, kind of like you, but funnier.

AVA
And DJ said you weren't affectionate!

DEBORAH
(laughs)
Wait, I want to pitch you some jokes.

INT. MARCUS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Marcus cries in his now empty and quiet house.

He is on his computer when his e-mail buzzes.

It reads: Update on Giorgio Gardner's property insurance.

"Due to the death of Giorgio Gardner, all financial decisions regarding Annie's Club transferred to Marcus."

Marcus breathes a huge sigh of relief.

INT. DEBORAH'S MANSION - LIVING ROOM

AVA

You knew I'd do well, didn't you?

DEBORAH

No, I was actually shocked.

INT. DEBORAH'S MANSION - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deborah tells Ava a new joke.

DEBORAH

We all die at the end of the day.

Deborah switches gears.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

Believe me, even Sirius XM is telling me I'm going to die soon. They got rid of '40s on 4 a few years ago, then last year they got rid of '50s on 5, and now they got rid of '60s on 6. We get it, we're dying, please don't take away our radio stations.

Ava smiles.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

Did you like that one?

CUT TO BLACK: