

Kings of New York
"Pilot"

WRITERS' DRAFT
11/11/04

5.
I/B

"KINGS OF NEW YORK"

"JASON"
#1

ACT ONE

SCENE B

INT. THE CASTLE LAUNDROMAT - EVENING (N-2)
(BARRY, JASON, BOBBY, BEN, SWEET GIRL, EXTRAS)

IT'S SEVENTEEN YEARS LATER. WE'RE IN A DINGY PUBLIC LAUNDROMAT IN NEW YORK CITY. THE FOUR KINGS ARE FEASTING ON CHEAP DELI SANDWICHES AND SITTING ON A BENCH IN FRONT OF AN INDUSTRIAL DRYER. JASON, A STYLISH, OPINIONATED, VAIN, WHIRLWIND OF METROSEXUALITY IS THE ONLY ONE NOT EATING. INSTEAD, HE STARES AT THE SANDWICH OF THE FRIEND NEXT TO HIM, BARRY. ALREADY AN OLD MAN AT 25, BARRY HAS BLOSSOMED FROM A COMBATIVE, ANNOYED CHILD TO A COMBATIVE, ANNOYED ADULT. THINK PAUL GIAMATTI, BUT NOT AS CARE-FREE.

BARRY

(TO JASON) Stop staring at my sandwich. If you want a bite, just ask for it.

JASON

I don't want a bite. I would like to smell it.

BARRY

You're a manorexic. Just take a bite. I mean, for godssake, it's just a sandwich!

BOBBY, A MELLOW, KINDA SEXY, KINDA GRUNGY, GUY WHO IS NOT QUITE BEAUTIFUL ENOUGH TO BE AN ABERCROMBIE AND FITCH MODEL, BUT IS BEAUTIFUL ENOUGH TO BE AN ABERCROMBIE AND FITCH CASHIER. IN THE MOVIE VERSION OF HIS LIFE, BOBBY WOULD BE PLAYED BY A YOUNG OWEN WILSON. HE OFFERS JASON HIS SANDWICH.



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BOBBY

You can smell mine, bro.

JASON

Thanks, Bob, I'm cool.

BOBBY

Sure? It's good. It's got
Dijonnaise. Tastes just like dijon
mustard and mayonnaise. I don't know
what's in it, but it's fantastic.

BARRY

(TO JASON, THROUGH A MOUTHFUL) You
know when you act like this it's not
pretty.

JASON

Barry, what was my nickname in
elementary school?

BARRY

Fat Jason.

JASON

And what was my nickname at camp?

BARRY

Jas-ton.

JASON

And junior high?

BARRY

Carnie Wilson.

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JASON

See why I might have some issues about
food?

BOBBY

Oh, Jas-ton. I just got it. I always
thought it was Jay-stun. Like we're
all stunned by how fat you are.

JASON

(TO BARRY) So just back off, alright?
I'm finally at a point where I'm
confident about the way I look. (THEN
SOTTO, TO BEN) I still look fat,
don't I?

JASON IS ADDRESSING BEN. OF THE FOUR BEST FRIENDS, JASON AND
BEN ARE PROBABLY THE "BEST OF" AMONG EQUALS. BEN IS A CUTE,
INTELLIGENT, DRY-WITTED FREELANCE JOURNALIST AND FULLTIME
MENSCH. HE IS ALSO THE UNSPOKEN LEADER OF THIS GROUP LIKE
JOHN CUSACK WAS IN *HIGH FIDELITY*. IN FACT, HE REMINDS US A
LOT OF JOHN CUSACK IN *HIGH FIDELITY*.

BEN

If I say, "yes"?

JASON

I'll be bummed.

BEN

And if I say, "no"?

JASON

I won't believe you and then I'll be
bummed.

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BEN

~~Alright, I didn't want to have to tell
you this, but it's tough love time:
Jason, you're not a female gymnast.~~

Cut it out with the weight thing. We
know why you do it, but Jas, you're my
best friend and I'm telling you, it
doesn't sound good, okay?

JASON

Thanks. I needed to hear that.

BEN

Did it change anything?

JASON

No, nothing. But I thought my face
looked thin with concern while you
were telling me.

BEN

My work here is done.

END

~~SFX: DRYER BEEPS. THEY ALL GET UP. BOBBY PULLS THE CLOTHES
OUT OF THE DRYER AND THROWS THEM ONTO THE FOLDING TABLE.
THEY START TO FOLD.~~

BOBBY

~~One day, when we're rolling in it,
we'll all be able to dry our clothes
in separate dryers.~~

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