

Dick Strange: American Made

Web Season - 01

Written by

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Table Read Final

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ACT ONE

"The New Girl, Part One"

INT. PORN SET (LIVING ROOM) - DAY

CHASE adjusts a light over a couch while the sound man TONY poses on it, sloppily eating a doughnut. Tony waves to the camera. Various CREW and HANGERS-ON mill about.

DICK STRANGE (40s) enters, wearing a sport backpack.

DICK STRANGE
Daddy's home boys and girls. Who's
ready to lay some pipe?

FREEZE FRAME on Dick -- an ARROW points to him, then...

WRITING ON THE SCREEN: "Dick Strange: Adult film director.
Self-proclaimed pheromone king. Usually late."

BACK TO LIVE ACTION:

CHASE
Eddie's looking for you.

A YOUNG GIRL on her cell is in a chair. Dick hawks over her, waves and whistles: *Get off my chair*. When she does, Dick drops his backpack on the chair. The girl leaves, irritated.

MISTY carries a C-stand, plowing things over as she goes. She wears pigtails and is well into her 40s.

MISTY
(sees Dick)
This sucks.

CRASH from the C-stand. Dick gives sarcastic two thumbs up.

MISTY TALKING HEAD:

TITLE OVER: "Misty - Adult Performer"

MISTY (cont'd)
I've been doing films with DS for
twenty years. He's talented, I'll
give him that. And he's naughty, in
an endearing way.

PRINCESS TALKING HEAD:

TITLE OVER: "Princess - Receptionist"

PRINCESS
He's kinda grungy.
(then)
But definitely the most interesting
boss I've ever had.

MISTY TALKING HEAD:

MISTY
He can be hard to work for, too -- he
pulled me off the schedule for no
reason. I don't know what his deal is.

Misty grabs a pigtail, shakes it spitefully at the camera.

INT. PORN SET (LIVING ROOM) - DAY

Dick reaches into his backpack, grabs a bag of pork rinds.
He tosses them to Tony who makes a one-handed grab with his
non-doughnut hand.

DICK STRANGE
For my main man.

TONY
(lights up when he
sees them)
The spicy ones! Thanks, DS.

EDDIE
(o.s.)
Seventeen minutes people.

Dick looks at the camera with a finger to his lips: *SHUSH*,
then he ducks away as EDDIE (30s) enters, sees the backpack:

EDDIE (cont'd)
He finally decided to show up.
Where'd he go? I know that's his bag.

MAGGIE BLAZE enters. In sexy panties and a tight bra.

MAGGIE BLAZE
What the fuck is taking you guys so
long?
(sees Tony)
Get him off the couch.
(as he does)
Gross.

EDDIE
You look really great, Maggie.

MAGGIE BLAZE
Fuck you, Eddie.

JIMMY NAILS walks in. He looks worried.

JIMMY
I think we have a problem.

Jimmy pulls his bikini down in the front. His penis isn't visible but everyone's reactions are:

EVERYONE
Oh, shit. Jesus! Ewwww.

Maggie mimes an "injection" in her "penis".

MAGGIE BLAZE
That's what you get for sticking yourself with that shit.

EDDIE
Jazzy. We need you.

The make-up artist, JAZZY, enters. She grimaces.

JAZZY
I don't think I can fix that.

EDDIE
No one works a penis like you, Jazz.

JAZZY
(leads Jimmy away)
Come on, darlin'.

MAGGIE BLAZE
What a fucking moron.

EDDIE
Are you doing okay?

MAGGIE BLAZE
(to Eddie and Chase)
He's not sticking that thing in my ass, either -- I heard about your little sesh with Amber last week. You guys are animals.

A young and very sexy girl, DANA, walks in dragging a small rolling suitcase.

DANA
Sorry I'm late.

MAGGIE BLAZE
Who the hell are you?

DANA
I'm Dana. Dana Love.

Doesn't register.

DANA (cont'd)
The new girl.

Dana hits her vape.

Chase looks up from the camera. He knows her.

CHASE
Hey Dana.

DANA
(sugary)
Hi, Chase.

EDDIE
You know her?

CHASE
Yeah. DS found her at Forever 21.

EDDIE
Of course he did.

Maggie storms off, pushing everything off the kitchen counter as she goes, CRASHING IT right at Dana.

Eddie remains unfazed.

DANA
Touch-ey.
(to Eddie)
Where's the lil' girls room?

INT. PORN SET (HALLWAY) - DAY

Dick stands in the hallway.

DICK STRANGE
(as a talking head)
Before I started shooting bang, when I first moved to Portland, I worked at Home Depot. The job sucked. But girls would come in all the time.
(MORE)

DICK STRANGE (cont'd)
And they never knew what the hell
they were looking for, so they had to
call their husbands. And then they
still couldn't figure it out, so I'd
have to take the phone, talk to their
husbands, and explain it back to
them.

(then)
That's how I met Floyd...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. OLD MONEY OFFICE - DAY

Dark wood. Light shafts through blinds, like *Chinatown*.

FLOYD, mid-60s, in a pin-striped suit, sits on a leather
couch with two YOUNG GIRLS. Very young. Too young.

Floyd smiles and waves to the camera.

DICK STRANGE (V.O.)
...he puts up the money for the
films...and I make it rain.

INT. HALLWAY (PORN SET) - DAY

As before.

DICK STRANGE
It's a bio-a-logical thing. Ya know?
Girls need to be handled.
(grinds with his hips)
And we need to lay some pipe.

Dick is pleased with himself. Like a little boy.

Maggie walks past, glaring. He ignores it.

DICK STRANGE (cont'd)
I'm like a shepherd. Who knows how to
pick 'em -- I mean, come on, I'm from
Talent, Oregon. It's in my blood.

Just then, Dana enters in the background, about to duck into
the bathroom. The CAMERA PANS, noticing her...

DICK STRANGE (cont'd)
I know, right?

DANA
(very flirty to Dick)
Heeeyyyyy.

EDDIE
(o.s.)
Anyone got eyes on DS?

In a flash, Dick is gone again.

CHASE TALKING HEAD:

TITLE OVER: "Chase - Director of Photography/Editor"

CHASE
DS is amazing. He's got this charm
with women, like he just knows them.
It's his energy, man... And
pheromones. They're drawn to him.

EDDIE TALKING HEAD:

TITLE OVER: "Eddie - Production Manager/Partner"

EDDIE
Women?
(laughs)
Yeah. He gets them all right. He just
has a little trouble turning it off.
I don't really care, as long as we
keep him off the talent.
(then)
That makes my job a whole lot easier.

CHASE TALKING HEAD:

CHASE
Yeah, well, sometimes he dabbles.

INT. PORN SET (BACK BEDROOM) - DAY

Camera is in the bedroom. Maggie stands outside in the hall.

MAGGIE TALKING HEAD:

TITLE OVER: "Maggie Blaze - Adult Performer"

MAGGIE BLAZE
He's a pig. The new girl. Whatever.
She's retail.
(MORE)

MAGGIE BLAZE (cont'd)
(then)
Not everyone can do what I do. He
knows that.
(and)
I don't want to talk about this
anymore.

She uncrosses her arms and moves past the camera, into the bedroom. CAMERA PANS with her to REVEAL a child's bedroom. Maggie now holds a huge vibrator. She pushes the camera out of the room and closes the door. SFX: MUFFLED VIBRATOR SOUND

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PORN SET (LIVING ROOM) - DAY (LATER)

Maggie is on the couch, fixated on her phone. Chase is behind the camera. Tony adjusts his sound gear.

Eddie enters, script book in hand, checking his watch.

EDDIE
We need to get moving. I do not want
to lose the schedule.

CHASE
I'm set.

EDDIE
Jimmy!

JIMMY
(o.s.)
Coming, chief.

Jimmy strolls in naked. His package is BLURRED.

EDDIE
Looking good.

MAGGIE BLAZE
Ew. It looks like Freddy Krueger.

EDDIE
Alright, let's do this.

Tony lifts his boom pole over the couch.

TONY
Maggie, can I get a test?

MAGGIE BLAZE
You're disgusting, and I'd rather be shopping.

TONY
I hear there's a great sale at Forever 21.

Zing. Chase liked that one. Jimmy shakes his hips and GRUNTS. He's getting himself "up".

EDDIE
(to the room)
Where is DS?

A few shrugs and "I don't knows".

MAGGIE BLAZE
(looks in her panties)
Can you hurry up? If I have to prep again, I will kill you all.

EDDIE
Misty, can you go find him please?

Misty exits. Eddie checks the script.

JIMMY
(o.s.)
I'm up! It's go time.
(moves to the couch)
Come on, let's bang.

MAGGIE BLAZE
(stuffing her phone in the couch)
Whatever. Let's get this over with.

Just then... Tony GROANS from a sharp stab of indigestion. He grabs his midsection then slips and falls, making a loud CRASH. The boom hits Maggie in the face. She SQUEALS.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. PORN SET (HALLWAY) - DAY

Maggie rushes down the hall, holding a packaged frozen burrito over her face. Eddie chases after her.

EDDIE
Come on, Maggie. It was an innocent mistake. It didn't even leave a mark.

MAGGIE BLAZE
Mistake my ass. If there was a canoli
on the couch he would have saved it.

EDDIE
You could be a little nicer to him.

Maggie throws an icy glare.

EDDIE (cont'd)
Let's not make a big deal about this.

Maggie stops at the bathroom door and flings it open...

INT. PORN SET (BATHROOM) - DAY

Dana, is bent over the vanity: Shirt open, skirt still on,
her panties around her knees. Male hands dig into her hips.

She jerks when she sees Eddie and Maggie. Dick pops his head
out from under her skirt... He's wearing a shower cap.

DICK STRANGE
(eyes glassy)
Are we ready to roll?

EDDIE
Oh. My. God.

Maggie throws the burrito...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

"Wake Up Call"

FLASHBACK TO YESTERDAY --

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

A girl's bedroom? Little-girl furnishings, but expensive. All signs point to some extracurricular party activity.

TITLE OVER: "Yesterday..."

Then, a repetitive MOANING SOUND. A couple MOANS later REVEALS that the sound is coming from a cell on the nightstand. It's a MOANING ring tone.

Dick is already awake, in bed with someone. He begrudgingly answers the phone.

DICK STRANGE

Yeah?

CHASE

(o.s.)

Dude. Did you hear the news?

DICK STRANGE

What news?

CHASE

(o.s.)

Floyd. He got busted.

This gets Dick's attention real quick. Remember:
Floyd is the guy who finances the films.

Dick sits up.

DICK STRANGE

What happened?

INT. CHASE'S EDIT BAY - DAY

The wall is covered with images: A couple "Local Teen" movie posters, various performer pics, and a huge poster of Maggie Blaze that proclaims her to be a "7-Time Nudie Winner".

CHASE

I don't know the whole scoop. Eddie's sorting it out. He is freaked.

(MORE)

CHASE (cont'd)
I heard they caught him with some
pics--some young ones, if you know
what I mean. It was a sting. I think
he'll be gone for a while.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Dick is stung, but hardly surprised.

DICK STRANGE
Oh, shit.

CHASE
(o.s.)
So, how was the party at Lashes? I
heard you were dancing on the bar.

DICK STRANGE
It got a little out of hand--

--Dick looks across the bed. REVEAL Maggie. She's in bed
next to him, still sleeping.

DICK STRANGE (cont'd)
I gotta go.

Dick hangs up abruptly. The phone MOANS again. This time he
answers right away.

DICK STRANGE (cont'd)
Now what? Is the building on fire?

Silence. But more than that: *Something is about to go down.*

The beat HOLDS a moment and then, a SULTRY WOMAN'S voice
breaks the spell...

SULTRY WOMAN
(o.s.)
Hi, Dickey...

Something comes over Dick when he hears this. He changes in
an instant: *He knows who this is, that much is obvious.*

SULTRY WOMAN (cont'd)
(o.s.)
Are you there?

DICK STRANGE
I'm here.

Dick is nervous now, very aware of Maggie's presence.

DICK STRANGE (cont'd)
 (quietly)
 I'm here...

Dick stands up. He's in his undies. He quietly exits the bedroom into...

INT. MAGGIE'S HALL - DAY

Dick is a deer in the headlights. He closes the door as much as he can without latching it and surveys his options: *Into the living room or down the hall?*

SULTRY WOMAN
 (o.s.)
 I've missed you.

DICK STRANGE
 Yeah? It's been a while.

SULTRY WOMAN
 (o.s.)
 I know. Two years is too long.

Dick chooses the hall and heads down it -- like he's in a spy novel -- into...

INT. MAGGIE'S BATHROOM - DAY

Dick quietly shuts the door, and sits on the toilet.

DICK STRANGE
 What are you doing?

SULTRY WOMAN
 (o.s.)
 I just needed to hear your voice.

DICK STRANGE
 Since when?

SULTRY WOMAN
 (o.s.)
 Don't be that way, Dickey.

DICK STRANGE
 I don't have any money--

SULTRY WOMAN
 (o.s.)
 --It's not like that this time...

Beat.

SULTRY WOMAN (cont'd)
(o.s.)
...you still there?

DICK STRANGE
Yeah.
(then)
What's it like this time?

SULTRY WOMAN
(o.s.)
I'm in town.

This registers on Dick's face.

SULTRY WOMAN (cont'd)
(o.s.)
I want to see you.

Beat. This registers too.

DICK STRANGE
I don't know about that.

Just then, there is an interruption on her end...

SULTRY WOMAN
(o.s.)
Hold on.

She must have covered the receiver with her hand: MUFFLED, INAUDIBLE CONVERSATION, then...

SULTRY WOMAN (cont'd)
(o.s.)
I'm sorry, Dickey. I have to go. I'll call you soon, love.

She hangs up. Dick exhales. He gets up and opens the bathroom door and...

MAGGIE IS RIGHT OUTSIDE

...headed into the bathroom...

INT. MAGGIE'S HALL - DAY

Both are startled. They nearly smash into each other.

MAGGIE BLAZE
 Hey...I was wondering where you were.
 (noticing his
 edginess)
 What are you doing?

DICK STRANGE
 Nothing.

Dick moves past her into...

INT. MAGGIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Dick starts getting dressed, quickly.

Maggie appears in the doorway.

MAGGIE BLAZE
 You're being weird.
 (then)
 I was thinking about making pancakes.
 You want some?

DICK STRANGE
 Can't. Mini-mart. Can you toss me my
 shoes?

MAGGIE BLAZE
 (as she does)
 Mini-mart?

Dick puts on his shoes.

DICK STRANGE
 Yeah. It's Two-Dog Tuesday. People
 like to talk shit, but their c-dogs
 are unreal.

Maggie's look: *WTF?*

DICK STRANGE (cont'd)
 (not getting it)
 Chili dogs.

MAGGIE BLAZE
 After last night, all you can think
 about is hot dogs?

DICK STRANGE
 No, of course not. I'm also kinda
 wondering about the load.

MAGGIE BLAZE

The what?

DICK STRANGE

The load. Hello? I busted in you.

MAGGIE BLAZE

I know. I was there.

DICK STRANGE

So?

(makes sperm motions)

I can't have any of my boys crossing the finish line.

MAGGIE BLAZE

I'm a fucking porn star. I'm on the pill.

(as she leaves)

You're an idiot. And you're not getting any pancakes.

DICK STRANGE

(yells after her)

Come on. It's a legitimate concern.

The bathroom door SLAMS.

DICK STRANGE (V.O.)

Rule number one...

DICK TALKING HEAD:

DICK STRANGE

Don't get high on your own supply. That's the truth. I mean, I get it, girlyies wanna hitch to this. How could they not? Still... Eddie always says, do not mess with the talent.

(then)

Sometimes, I slip up. I'm human.

INT. MAGGIE'S HALL/BATHROOM DOOR - DAY

Dick approaches. He's got something in his hand.

DICK STRANGE

Can't we just be adults about this?

MAGGIE BLAZE

(o.s.)

Well, one of us can.

The toilet FLUSHES.

Maggie opens the door. Dick holds up a little pill.

MAGGIE BLAZE (cont'd)
What is that? I don't want to get
high right now.

DICK STRANGE
It's a Plan B.

MAGGIE BLAZE
You have got to be kidding me.

DICK STRANGE
I keep 'em in my wallet. Just in
case.

MAGGIE BLAZE
You are damaged.

DICK TALKING HEAD:

DICK STRANGE
I'm careful... First job I ever had
was donating sperm. My count is
through the roof. And then, ten years
ago, there was a little scare. Eddie
was a wreck. So now, I just keep it
on the level... It's all fun and
games until somebody gets knocked up.

INT./EXT. DICK'S CAR - DAY (MOVING)

Stereo blaring. Dick grooves to the beat, chowing on a chili
dog. Here, in his convertible, is clearly where he is most
at home. He stops at a red light, then...

A fancy sedan pulls up next to them.

The driver, FORD, wears a "Bangers Inc." t-shirt. MONA rides
shotgun. She is beyond hot and overflowing a tight wife-
beater. His engine REVS.

FREEZE FRAME on Ford -- an ARROW points to him, then...

WRITING ON THE SCREEN: "Ford: The nemesis. Owns Bangers Inc.
Biggest porn company in the Northwest."

BACK TO LIVE ACTION:

FORD
Strange! I thought that was you...

Ford laughs.

DICK STRANGE
Hey... Ford.

FORD
I thought you might want to see what
a porn star really looks like.
(revs his engine)
This is my new girl, Mona.

MONA
Hiieeeeee.

FORD
(to Mona)
That's Dick Strange. You've never
heard of him.
(he laughs)
By the way, I saw your latest opus.
Misty. Really? In pigtails. What is
she, fifty?

Mona and Ford look at each other. They cackle.

FORD (cont'd)
Keep up the good work!

Ford BURNS RUBBER and races away.

EXT. DICK'S APARTMENT - DAY

A U-shaped complex of run-down one-story apartments, all
facing a central courtyard. One thing stands out: the
INCESSANT YAPPING of a small dog from one of the units.

Dick approaches his door and slumps when he sees it:

A PILE OF DOG SHIT, right on his doorstep...Dick snaps his
head toward the YAPPING: *Obviously not the first time.*

Dick sizes up the mat and decides to pile the rest on for
disposal... He looks for a leaf to use as a scoop. The first
one doesn't work well at all: *He gets dog shit on his hands.*

So, he grabs a bigger leaf. Scooping it is awkward -- one
hell of a time -- eventually, after much consternation and
body contortions -- Dick gets it all on the mat: *HOLY HELL!*

The dog still YAPS.

When Dick picks up the mat, a piece falls off and hits his leg -- *FUCK* -- now, back to the leaf -- okay -- all the shit is on the mat again. Like those wooden maze games with the silver ball, Dick ebbs and flows with the dog shit on the mat doing his best not to spill it as he walks -- where? To the street? The trash? -- the dog is STILL YAPPING --

-- Pieces of shit spill as he moves toward the YAPPING -- Dick realizes this is not working. In a last ditch effort -- exasperated--he flings the shit in the direction of the YAPPING, letting out one HUGE GROWL as he does.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. DICK'S APARTMENT (KITCHEN) - DAY

Dick is in his underwear again, at the kitchen sink, scrubbing his pants and the door mat.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. DICK'S APARTMENT (LIVING ROOM) - DAY

Samurai swords on the walls. A meditation bench on the floor. Dick HOWLS and plays guitar, LOUD and OUT OF TUNE.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. DICK'S APARTMENT (LIVING ROOM) - DAY

Quiet now. Dick gets his meditation bench. He sits:
Ahhh...he exhales... peace at last...

Then, suddenly--

--HEAVY METAL MUSIC BLASTS from next door. The living room wall begins to shake.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. DICK'S APARTMENT (BATHROOM) - DAY

Here we are again. Dick on a toilet. And MUFFLED HEAVY METAL from the other room. He's on his phone. It's RINGING.

INT. LOLA'S OFFICE - DAY

An office. Shingles on the wall. Weird, though. Porcelain dolls and paintings of Kabuki, the Japanese dance-drama.

Incense burning. A woman meditating: This is LOLA. She is wacky, sexy, and serious, her face powdered pale white.

Lola pulls up from her meditation, answers the phone.

LOLA
Lola here.

DICK STRANGE
(o.s.)
Lola, it's me.

INTERCUT LOLA/DICK

LOLA
DS. You don't sound like yourself.
Are you in crisis?

DICK STRANGE
I'm... having a bit of a deal.

LOLA
How may I help?

DICK STRANGE
Can I see you today?

INT. DICK'S APARTMENT (BATHROOM) - DAY

LOLA
(o.s.)
Let me check.

Dick covers the phone with his hand:

DICK STRANGE
(to the camera,
quietly)
Lola is a Kabuki therapist -- she's
amazing. Sorta Tai Chi meets Janov.
(then)
With a focus on our reptilian
aspects--

LOLA

(o.s.)

--I can squeeze you in for a half session at 4:30. Full price, of course, due to emergency.

DICK STRANGE

I'm in.

LOLA

(o.s.)

You certainly are. Ciao.

Lola hangs up. Dick's phone starts MOANING. This time he checks the caller ID.

DICK STRANGE

(answers phone)

Chase already gave me the news.

EDDIE

(o.s.)

Okay, well, then you know we're in deep shit.

DICK STRANGE

Yeah.

EDDIE

(o.s.)

So, you got a plan?

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE"Audition Plan"

INT. AUDITION ROOM - DAY

A tall houseplant on one side of a tiny casting couch, and ROD WOOD, the rugged male talent in bulging bikini briefs, on the other. Rod is only visible from the chest down.

A SERIES OF FAST JUMP CUTS:

Different AUDITION GIRLS are on the couch... introducing themselves, expressing nervousness, etc., until...

A very sexy CURVY GIRL enters. She starts to sit--

DICK STRANGE

(o.s.)

--Thank you!

She stares at Dick, hands on her hips: *REALLY?*

CUT TO:

A TATTOOED GIRL ON DOWNERS stumbles onto the couch.

TATTOOED GIRL ON DOWNERS

(slurring)

I'm...Desi...

MORE FAST JUMP CUTS of audition girls on the couch, some new and some from the first series, until...

Last up is a nervous, MODEST GIRL, dressed like a Mennonite.

MODEST GIRL

Hi.

(looks at Rod's bulge)

What's he doing here?

ON DICK --

Dick exhales: *This could be a long, long day...*

-- BACK TO THE COUCH

MORE FAST JUMP CUTS. The girls are now in bra and panties. They discuss what they will and won't do, among other things:

A FAST-TALKING GIRL rambles about soft-core on HBO, one gets angry, one chastises the camera in Romanian, etc., until...

One of the girls, STUBBORN GIRL, crosses her arms:

STUBBORN GIRL
I only do solo.

A vibrator is THROWN IN TO HER. She catches it.

ON DICK --

Stubborn girl's panties land on the floor in front of Dick's table. The vibrator (o.s.) BUZZES LOUDLY.

-- BACK TO THE COUCH

The tattooed girl on downers sways. She's nodding off...

ON DICK --

He reacts, then...

-- BACK TO THE COUCH

Another SERIES OF FAST JUMP CUTS:

Alternating shots... girls saying, "let's do it," then bras and panties landing in front of, or on, Dick.

Fast-talking girl still rambles. The Romanian still shouts. Some girls get up and leave. One starts to cry...

-- ON DICK

He reacts. Then...

MORE FAST JUMP CUTS:

Dick watches the sex, with different SEX NOISES and UNDERWEAR ON THE FLOOR in each cut...

Dick accentuates the action by playing air drums.

Dick tilts his head for a better look.

Dick eats Chinese take-out.

Dick zones out.

Dick twists a Rubik's cube while stubborn girl's vibrator (o.s.) BUZZES WILDLY.

-- BACK TO THE COUCH

The tattooed girl on downers finally face-plants into the couch. She's out cold.

ON DICK --

He's over it.

DICK STRANGE
Maybe this wasn't such a great idea.

The door opens. It's Eddie.

Rod carries the tattooed girl on downers to the door and plops her outside with a THUD.

EDDIE
(noticing)
How's it going?

DICK STRANGE
Great.

EDDIE
We need to talk.

DICK STRANGE
Come on. We're doing auditions.

Eddie sits.

EDDIE
I can see that. Why didn't you tell me about this?

Just then... CANDY enters. Different from the rest. Perfect make-up. Long, fake lashes. She already looks the part.

She hands Dick her paperwork. His eyes light up.

DICK STRANGE
Well, hello --
(checks the photo)
Candy.

Candy strips to bra and panties as she moves to the couch...

CANDY
I hope you don't mind...

-- BACK TO THE COUCH

Candy sits.

CANDY (cont'd)
...but I like to get right to the
action.

Candy puts her hand on Rod's bulge.

CANDY (cont'd)
(to the bulge and Rod)
Hi there...

ON DICK AND EDDIE --

Dick looks at Eddie: *How great is this?*

DICK STRANGE
We don't mind. And it looks like you
already know Rod's up for it--

--Candy's bra lands on the ground in front of Dick's table.

ROD WOOD
(o.s.)
I'm up. Hi, Candy.

DICK STRANGE
You read the release? Signed it?

CANDY
(o.s.)
I signed it.

DICK STRANGE
(checks the release)
Yes you did.

Candy's panties land on the table. Dick is mesmerized. He
SNIFFS THEM, and extends them to Eddie. Eddie ignores him.

SEX NOISES punctuate throughout...

EDDIE
While you've been avoiding me, I did
a little digging. Floyd's not coming
back, ever. So, I've been going over
our options.

DICK STRANGE
Don't get so worked up, man.
(sniffs panties again)
Trust me. I got it all figured out.

EDDIE
Like the girl in the hall?

Dick hands Eddie a piece of paper.

DICK STRANGE
Gimme some credit.

EDDIE
What is this?

DICK STRANGE
It's the plan.

Dick points out a section. Eddie's face registers: *Not good.*

EDDIE
(to himself)
We're going to get sued.

DICK STRANGE
Why?
(quietly)
Every girl signs a release. The release says, we can do whatever we want with the footage. We just keep doing auditions. Right? Problem solved.

EDDIE
What is wrong with you?

DICK STRANGE
We'll do a whole amateur series. Boom! Straight to the internet. This shit is gold--

--A peal of "ooh yeahhhs" and GRUNTS from Candy and Rod.

EDDIE
Yeah? Well, forget the internet. If word gets out about this, no professional actress on the planet will ever come near us again. Not to mention the moral implications of exploiting the girls who didn't bother to read it.

DICK STRANGE
Not so loud. She's the only good one we've had.

Eddie puts the release down.

EDDIE

No. I have a better idea. You're going to talk to Amir--

DICK STRANGE

--I am not talking to Amir.

EDDIE

Yes, you are. Don't start with me. Amir's wanted to invest for a long time -- he's not a pedophile, and -- and this is the most important part: he has more money than you and I could ever spend in our entire lifetimes.

DICK STRANGE

He's... weird... And, he bathes in Drakkar. It's so 80s.

EDDIE

Really? The "pheromone king" wants to play the smell card?

DICK STRANGE

I don't like him. I don't like the way he treats the girls.

EDDIE

(incredulous)

He's nice to them. Lashes is like their second home. Besides, you don't need to like him. You just need to take his money. And let him chime in every now and then.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. LASHES NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

The whole gang is there. Dick is on the bar, grinding TWO HALF-CLOTHED BEAUTIES. AMIR LASHI enters. He is a well-dressed, and visibly angry, Persian man.

FREEZE FRAME on Amir -- an ARROW points to him, then...

WRITING ON THE SCREEN: "Amir Lashi: Club owner. Wants to be in the porn business. Dick's biggest fan."

BACK TO LIVE ACTION:

AMIR

Get off, Dick Strange! Get off now!

INT. AUDITION ROOM - DAY

As before. Dick's look says: *No way!*

EDDIE

Don't look at me like that. In the last twenty years I've dodged a lot of your bullets: Teen chat. Build-your-own-porno. Donkey shows in Mexico--

DICK STRANGE

--Oh, come on. If we had worked out the legal kinks, you know that would have been a game changer.

EDDIE

Okay... What about...

Eddie makes the "money sign" with his fingers...

DICK STRANGE

Why would you bring that up?

EDDIE TALKING HEAD:

EDDIE

Because, extortion... Back in the day, DS had one of his flings with the talent, which, of course, became a recurring nightmare... of her leeching cash from us. The last time she called him, he wired her four thousand dollars.

(and)

It's also a convenient leverage point when I need something from him.

BACK TO SCENE:

DICK STRANGE

That's not fair. You always do this -- she needed the money.

EDDIE

Yeah, well, we've all got needs. And with Floyd going up the river and Bangers breathing down our necks, I need this.

(then)

Amir is the only answer here.

Just then...Candy (o.s.) SCREECHES "hi, hi, hi, hi" over and over: *This is the worst orgasm sound you have ever heard!* Rod covers her mouth, now an (o.s.) MUFFLED SCREECH.

Eddie's look: *I told you so.*

DICK STRANGE
Fine.

EDDIE
Good. I knew you'd come around. I already set it up. The deal is as good as done, all you need to do is show up.

CUT TO:

A CLOSE-UP ON DICK:

DICK STRANGE
(eyes closed)
AAAGGGGHHHHHH...

A primal, guttural scream.

LOLA
(o.s.)
That's good. Let it out.

Dick is no longer in the audition room, REVEAL...

INT. LOLA'S OFFICE - DAY

Dick is in a therapy session. This must be the Janov part...

He's shirtless(?) on a wooden chair. Lola darts around him in a robe, Kabuki-like, staying mostly out of view.

LOLA
Let's go back to your phone call.
Tell me more about this woman.

Dick opens his eyes.

DICK STRANGE
Mary Mangrove.

LOLA
Yes. Close your eyes. Why does she have such a hold on you?

He closes his eyes, and then shudders intensely. Lola has clearly done something very pleasurable to him:

DICK STRANGE
Ohhhoh, yeah. More of that.
(then)
I don't know why. It might be the way
she arches her back. She can be very
persuasive you know.
(opens his eyes)
She's a Scorpio.

Lola runs her hands over Dicks eyes, closing them.

LOLA
You don't have to become what others
want you to become. You own you.

DICK STRANGE
Yeah? Tell that to Eddie.

LOLA
Eddie? How does he fit into this?

DICK STRANGE
Mary kinda... she got in the way a
while back. Eddie thinks she almost
sunk the company.
(then)
He mentioned her today too. It was
weird.

LOLA
How does that make you feel?

DICK STRANGE
Over the years, I've given her some
money, so what? No big deal. But he's
still pissed about it. If he knew she
was in town, he'd fucking kill me.

LOLA
Do you think he has a legitimate
grievance?

Dick opens his eyes.

DICK STRANGE
You need to help me. Every time she
shows up, bad things happen. I can't
say no to her.

LOLA
Let it out.

Lola drops her robe REVEALING panties and a tight half-shirt that says, "Wellness" -- she throws her arms out in a Christ-like pose, tosses her head back, and closes her eyes. Dick grabs at her hungrily...

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. LOLA'S OFFICE - DAY

The door opens. As Dick leaves:

LOLA
(counting a wad of
twenties)
Just remember... you own you.
(after him)
Ciao.

INT. DICK'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dick plays video games. Several Forever 21 shopping bags are on the couch. Dick's phone LIGHTS UP... He tries to ignore it, but begins to exhibit some signs of panic:

LOLA (V.O.)
DS is a delicate flower. And one of
my better clients...

LOLA TALKING HEAD:

LOLA
He's often misunderstood. As are all
men with deep yearnings.

EXT. CHEAP MOTEL - NIGHT

Dick's convertible pulls in and parks at a one-story roadside motel.

He gets out of the car near room #9. As he does, a LITTLE GIRL appears in the window of room #8. She waves at Dick. He scowls, and she retreats back into her room.

Dick knocks on #9. The door opens slowly. Dick enters.

FADE TO:

A black screen. And a GRINDING MECHANICAL SOUND...

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

...the GRINDING of a coffee grinder.

The BARISTA sees Dick enter. Dick holds up two fingers. Dick sees an OLD MAN inching toward the only open window seat but Dick cuts him off and steals it for himself.

DICK STRANGE
(points to the back)
Better seats over there.

Dick notices a YOUNG WOMAN glaring at him. She bends over her backpack and he leans in to check out her backside. Just then, his phone starts MOANING...

The young woman notices Dick looking and she pulls her skirt down to cover up: *How dare you!*

Dick answers his phone.

DICK STRANGE (cont'd)
Eddie. How's it hangin?

Dick hands the woman his card. She's not interested. He shakes it toward her: *Just take it* -- She relents.

EDDIE
(o.s.)
Where have you been? Jesus. I left
you six messages last night--

DICK STRANGE
--Relax. We're good. I'm on my way.

Misty walks in, dressed like a little girl, in pigtails. Dick waves her to the counter where two coffees wait.

EDDIE
(o.s.)
You had me worried.

DICK STRANGE
You're always worried. That's what I
love about you. But chill, man, I got
this dialed.

EDDIE

(o.s.)

That's what I'm afraid--

--Dick hangs up. Misty comes over. Dick takes a coffee.

MISTY

Thanks for the coffee. What did you want to talk to me about?

DICK STRANGE

I wanna tell you why my Local Teen series is genius. Obviously, it's local. Portland loves local. And it's a bonus, if Daddy happens to be a creeper. But more importantly, it's that Daddy gets to see someone laying some pipe into a sweet, tight, young thing. And I gotta be straight with you, honey. Right now, you are rolling snake eyes on all the above.

MISTY

What are you saying?

DICK STRANGE

Mist. Honey. You need to update the merchandise. I can't shoot you anymore, like this, or we'll all be making minimum wage...

(motions to the baristas)

Like these fools.

The BARISTAS look at Dick.

DICK STRANGE (cont'd)

(to the baristas)

I know, right?

(to Misty)

See? They get it. Cheer up, hon.

(kisses her head)

I still need you there today, though. We need some help moving gear.

INT./EXT. DICK'S CAR - DAY (MOVING)

Dick cruises to his meeting. His phone MOANS. He answers:

DICK STRANGE

Have a little faith.

EDDIE
(o.s. from phone)
How did you know it was me?

DICK STRANGE
I'm a dog. I can smell panic.

EDDIE
(o.s. from phone)
Fair enough. Just call me afterwards.
And we have a hard out at location
today, so can you try not to be late?

Dick hangs up. Beat. The phone MOANS AGAIN. He answers.

DICK STRANGE
Now what?

MARY MANGROVE
(o.s.)
Hi, Dickey...

Just then... the FOCUS NARROWS around Dick...

The drive becomes drifting and fluttering images of a DREAM SEQUENCE... WHISPERED PHRASES from Mary echo throughout:

"I missed you ... where are you? ... I need you to come back, Dickey ... just one more time ... I'm waiting..."

Dick starts acutely noticing everything:

A sign passes behind him, it says: "Mary's Club."

Song lyrics on the radio sing "Mary" and "Mangrove."

A truck with "Mary" written on it FLOATS by...

PEDESTRIANS chant, "Mary, Mary."

A group of ANGRY PROTESTERS wield signs that all say "Mary" and "Mangrove" on them.

The pressure builds and builds to a swirling cacophony...

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

"The New Girl, Part Two"

BACK TO THE PRESENT --

A black screen. A SCREAM and a SMACK.

DANA

(o.s.)

What the fuck?

COMMOTION. Someone STORMS OFF. A woman GROANS SOFTLY.

EDDIE

(o.s.)

That was not good.

FADE IN:

INT. BATHROOM (PORN SET) - DAY

As before. The aftermath of the frozen burrito throw. Chase, Misty, and a few others are gathered in the hall.

CHASE

Holy shit!

EDDIE

Misty.

MISTY

Yeah?

EDDIE

I want you to take Dana -- go
wherever Maggie isn't -- and help her
take care of her face.

Dana goes with Misty. Dana has a towel over her nose.

EDDIE (cont'd)

(to Dana)

You'll be okay, honey.

(to the others)

That's it, folks. Nothing to see
here. Take five.

Eddie shuts the door.

EDDIE (cont'd)
 What the hell is wrong with you
 lately? And why didn't you call me
 after the meeting?

Before he can answer --

EDDIE (cont'd)
 By the way, everyone knows about your
 little tryst with Maggie -- yeah --
 it's a problem. Did you learn nothing
 from yesterday? And now you bring in a
 random off the street, and two minutes
 later you have your face up her ass.
 Boy, you are really pushing it!
 (indicates the shower
 cap)
 Is that entirely necessary?

Dick notices the cap in the mirror and takes it off.
 Just then, KNOCKING on the door--

EDDIE (cont'd)
 (to the knocker)
 --Not now.
 (to Dick)
 Why are you doing this?

DICK STRANGE
 (shrugs)
 I don't know. Why do I do anything?

-- LOUDER, URGENT KNOCKING --

MISTY
 (o.s.)
 We have a problem.

Eddie yanks the door open.

EDDIE
 What?

MISTY
 Maggie is packing up her stuff. She
 says she quits.

EDDIE
 Oh, great.
 (to Dick)
 You're up slugger.

Dick sits on the toilet.

DICK STRANGE
I can't do it.

EDDIE
(to Misty)
Slow her down.

Misty leaves. Eddie closes the door.

EDDIE (cont'd)
I am not taking care of this.

DICK STRANGE
You don't understand. This time, I
think I really screwed up.

EDDIE
Really? That would be like -- the
first time ever--

-- MORE URGENT KNOCKING -- Eddie opens the door.

MISTY
She says, fuck you.
(then)
And that Dick can stick it.

Eddie's phone RINGS. He fishes it out of his pocket:

EDDIE
Now what?
(checks his phone)
It's Amir. Great.
(looks at Dick)
We could use some good news...

Dick averts Eddie's eyes and looks to Misty instead.

MISTY
Don't look at me. Remember? I'm off
the schedule.

EDDIE
Amir, hello--

--Amir's YELLING coming from the phone--

EDDIE (cont'd)
--wait...slow down Amir...what?
(glares at Dick)
--No, I'm sure -- he's -- Amir...
Amir...no no no, don't--

--Eddie holds the phone away from his ear. Amir is now SCREAMING IN FARSI, then the phone goes SILENT.

Eddie tosses his phone on the vanity.

EDDIE (cont'd)
You blew off the meeting.

MISTY
Oh my God. Are we going out of business?

DICK STRANGE
It's... Mary Mangrove.

INTERCUT MISTY/EDDIE TALKING HEADS:

MISTY
No. Way.

EDDIE
The extortionist. Of course.

MISTY
She was, like, a mega star. Way back in the day -- big, BIG, like HUGE -- she was also Ford's girlfriend. From Bangers.
(then)
Then DS started screwing her.

EDDIE
You don't understand. Mary is... kryptonite -- she oozes chaos. She...

Eddie is fuming -- he can't get the words out --

MISTY
I'm not going into it here, but let's just say the reason Bangers Inc. took over had something to do with Mary.

Eddie is still speechless --

BACK TO SCENE:

DICK STRANGE
She's here.

EDDIE
What do you mean she's here?

DICK STRANGE

She's at a motel, over on 82nd. I went there last night.

EDDIE

Oh, no.

DICK STRANGE

And today--I'm back in it. She keeps calling, and I keep laying pipe.

MISTY

Oh, this is too muh--

Eddie SLAMS the door.

DICK STRANGE

I need your help, man. She's got a hold on me -- like one of those Japanese mermaids, man. The ningyo. Impossible to escape--

EDDIE

--Of course. Being called, "Dickey" must be incredibly absorbing. Oh my God, you didn't give her any money did you?

DICK STRANGE

No.

EDDIE

Well, that's a first.

DICK STRANGE

I don't appreciate your attitude. You know, Lola was just talking about this. About how controlling you are. You're not the boss of me.

EDDIE

The fetish therapist? Really? Did she tell you that before or after you came?

DICK STRANGE

What's your point?

EDDIE

My point is... that we have an exploding situation out there that requires you to keep things in your pants for two seconds.

(MORE)

EDDIE (cont'd)
If Maggie leaves and, say, goes to
work for Ford, we're done.

DICK STRANGE
I never thought about it like that.

EDDIE
Well, now might be a good time for
you to start thinking.

DICK STRANGE
Fine... So what do we do?

EDDIE
Jesus... Okay, I will get Maggie off
of the ledge and back onto the couch
before we lose the day. And when Amir
cools off, I'll set up another
meeting... For both of us.
(then)
You get to tell "Dana Love" that we'll
no longer be needing her services.
That she can go back to the mall.

DICK STRANGE
That sucks.

Dick gets up and starts to leave...

EDDIE
Not so fast.
(extending his hand)
Give it up.

Dick hands Eddie his phone.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM (PORN SET) - DAY (LATER)

A scene is in progress. Mostly a disinterested crew on their
cell phones, and SEX NOISES from Maggie and Jimmy.

Dick is focused on the action. Eddie watches the action, and
his watch. Tony is distracted by the crafty table. Misty holds
court with Jazzy, as she preps another ADULT STARLET.

MISTY
I don't think there is anything wrong
with my look. Apparently, these days,
you need to be screwing him to stay
on the schedule.

JAZZY
You know it, girl.

MISTY
Whatever. I've been having my doubts
lately anyway.

EDDIE
(quietly)
Let's settle, people.

JIMMY
(o.s.)
I'm gonna pop.

DICK STRANGE
Leave it in, Jimmy.

From OFF SCREEN, the sound of a VERY CONVINCING CLIMAX from
Maggie while Jimmy FINISHES. Dick gives a hand signal.

EDDIE
And, that's a cut.

DICK STRANGE
Get her a wipe.

Maggie enters in a robe.

MAGGIE BLAZE
What's the matter, you're not worried
about...
(makes sperm motions)
...his "boys?"

She throws her used "towel" at Dick as she exits. Dick
motions for Eddie as he leaves: he wants his phone.

EDDIE
Not a chance. You get it back when we
close the deal with Amir.

On Dick...

EDDIE (V.O.)
That was the best move I ever made...

EDDIE TALKING HEAD:

EDDIE
She already left twenty-two messages.

Dick's phone starts MOANING.

EDDIE (cont'd)
 See? I told you. She is relentless.
 (then)
 I am not letting Mary throw a wrench
 in this deal.

Dick's phone MOANS again.

EXT. PRODUCTION OFFICES - NIGHT

Establishing shot. The building is quiet and mostly dark.

INT. PRODUCTION OFFICES (DICK'S OFFICE) - NIGHT

Dick leans way back in his chair, feet on the desk.

KNOCK KNOCK. The door opens. Eddie leans in.

EDDIE
 (checks his watch)
 We're meeting Amir at nine. I'll be
 back in two secs. I'm going to grab a
 Chai latte before they close. You good?

DICK STRANGE
 Solid.

EDDIE
 I know I don't say this very often,
 but... thank you.

Eddie puts Dick's phone on the desk. He leaves. Beat.

DICK STRANGE
 (stares at the camera)
 What? We're not out of the woods yet.
 (then)
 She's gonna call. I know it.

SOFT KNOCKING. Door opens. It's Princess.

PRINCESS
 The office is empty, no one has
 called for over an hour, and I'm
 ready to go home. Can I be done?

DICK STRANGE
 Yeah.
 (as she's closing the
 door)
 Hey, Princess?

PRINCESS

Yes?

DICK STRANGE

When you think of me...

(how to say it)

I'm like... someone... who... you
know... has willpower, right?

Princess just stares at him: *You did not really just ask me
that, did you?*

PRINCESS

(she laughs)

Goodnight, DS.

Princess exits.

DICK STRANGE

Well that was a ringing endorsement.

Dick's phone starts MOANING.

DICK STRANGE (cont'd)

(checking caller ID)

There it is. Showtime. Unknown
caller. It's gotta be her.

The phone MOANS and MOANS... Dick clasps his hands together.
Fighting it. Breathing.

DICK STRANGE (cont'd)

You own you.

The phone keeps MOANING... Dick is bewildered. The phone
MOANS and MOANS and MOANS:

DICK STRANGE (cont'd)

Why is it not going to voicemail?

The phone MOANS some more: *What should he do?*

He waffles, and then THROWS the phone into a cigar humidor,
SNAPS the lid, drops the humidor into a desk drawer and
SLAMS it shut. The phone is STILL MOANING SOFTLY.

After a moment, as suddenly as it began, the phone goes
SILENT. YES! First pump! Dick looks to the camera: *I DID IT!*

He sits in his chair, throws his feet up on his desk. The
sweet taste of success. Then...

The sound of the DOOR OPENING... and a VOICE...

Wait, no... could it be...?

Oh, yes... it is...

MARY MANGROVE

(o.s.)

Hi, Dickey...

A LOUD CRASH as Dick spins and flips off his chair.

Mary (her face never visible) holds her trench coat open. Only Dick can see the precious cargo she is offering...

His face changes big-time as he backs into the corner. He is going down with the ship:

DICK STRANGE

Oh, Lordie...

MARY MANGROVE

You haven't been picking up, baby,
but I neeeded you--

EDDIE

(o.s. in the distance)

--DS. Let's do this.

Dick jumps into action. Salivating, and hushing Mary, he cops a feel, closes her trench and hustles her out the door.

A moment later, the door opens. It's Eddie, holding a Chai.

EDDIE (cont'd)

DS?

The faint sound of a CAR STARTING AND PEELING OFF...

EXT. CHEAP MOTEL - NIGHT

Dick and Mary get out of Dick's car and approach room #9. Dick holds a bottle of whiskey. Mary hands him a key as she peels away...

MARY MANGROVE

I'll grab us some coke.

Mary walks off. Dick unlocks the door.

INT. CHEAP MOTEL (ROOM #9) - NIGHT

Dick enters the dimly lit room. Light peeks out from under the bathroom door. He puts the key on the table and the whiskey by the bed -- after taking a big slug.

Dick seizes the moment: he sheds to his undies, pulls the bed covers open, and climbs on the bed.

He strikes an amorous pose. Waiting...

Then, the door opens -- but not the front door --

-- the bathroom door opens instead...

And REVEALS a nine-year-old girl, RUBY, who enters. It's the little girl who was in the window of room #8 last night. She projects an adult presence. Precocious as hell.

DICK STRANGE

Oh, shit! Hey. Uh, sorry -- wrong room.

He wrestles with the bed covers, trying to cover himself, and tumbles off the bed, disappearing with a CRASH.

RUBY

It's not the wrong room. You came in with the key.

Dick inches himself up from the floor, wrapped in blankets.

DICK STRANGE

(loudly, as if under surveillance)

I do not know this person. I came here with a grown woman. Mary Mangrove. I am not involved with children.

(and)

Or Floyd.

RUBY

Who is Floyd?

DICK STRANGE

He was a business partner.

(loud again)

Who was into some weird shit that I have never been into.

RUBY

Why are you yelling?

DICK STRANGE

(beat)

Who are you?

RUBY

I'm Ruby.

DICK STRANGE

Wait a second. Last night.
You were in the window.

RUBY

Nothing gets by you. It was kind of
hard to sleep though. You were making
really weird noises.

DICK STRANGE

What are you doing in here?

RUBY

I've been staying here.

(then)

With my mom.

The words "my mom" mean nothing to Dick, but still, they
reverberate, feeling big -- even huge -- as they sink in...

RUBY (cont'd)

But she's gone now.
She left me here. With you.
She's not coming back.

(then)

You know how she is.

DICK STRANGE

Yeah.

RUBY

Are you getting this? Because you
look a little peaked. Like, maybe you
hit your head when you fell?

DICK STRANGE

I'm okay.

RUBY

You should probably sit down.

He sits.

RUBY (cont'd)
 Let me lay it out for you: Mary moved
 away from here about ten years ago,
 right? Well... I'm nine.

Dick just stares at her.

RUBY (cont'd)
 There was a pregnancy scare. Remember
 that? Then she left. And came back
 about nine months later?

He's still not getting it.

RUBY (cont'd)
 I wanted her to tell you about me,
 but she was afraid you'd get mad.
 Apparently she thought doing it this
 way was a better idea.
 (then)
 But, I'm glad to finally be here with
 you. Daddy.

On Dick... and the sound of VERY LOUD BANGING on a door.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DICK'S APARTMENT - DAY

It's early the next morning. Eddie is outside.

EDDIE
 (o.s. pounding wildly)
 I know you're in there. I saw your
 car on the street. Open the damn
 door.

Dick struts down the hall. He opens the door.

EDDIE (cont'd)
 Boy. This is it. You really screwed
 us big time. What happened to you?
 Amir is -- he's done -- the deal is
 off the table.

DICK STRANGE
 You look like shit.

EDDIE
 That's because I drank myself to
 sleep.

DICK STRANGE
It's been a weird night.

Just then, Maggie enters in gym clothes and sunglasses.
She's on her way out...

MAGGIE BLAZE
Jesus, Eddie. Keep it down, will ya?
Nothing is fucked. And, we don't need
Amir's money anymore.

EDDIE
We?

MAGGIE BLAZE
Yeah. You heard me. I'm your new
investor. Let's just call it...
(she looks over her
sunglasses at Dick)
Plan B.

Maggie runs her fingers through Dick's hair, then leaves.

Just then...

Ruby comes in from the hall, rubbing her eyes.

RUBY
Daddy, what's going on?

Eddie looks at Ruby, then at Dick...

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

"Heavy Sleeper"

INT. DICK'S APARTMENT (DICK'S BEDROOM) - DAY

Dick is asleep. Ruby enters and yanks on him.

RUBY
Daddy, I'm hungry.
(no response)
Daddy!

Dick pushes her away, groggily.

DICK STRANGE
Stop calling me that.

RUBY
I'm hungry.

DICK STRANGE
Grab something from the fridge.

RUBY
There's nothing in there but an empty
pizza box and chocolate milk.

DICK STRANGE
I'll pick something up later.

RUBY
(yanks on him again)
That's what you said yesterday.

DICK STRANGE
So have some chocolate milk.

RUBY
I don't like chocolate milk.

DICK STRANGE
(alert now)
What kind of kid doesn't like
chocolate milk?

RUBY
The kind who feels a tremendous
social pressure to not get fat,
because if she does, then no one will
ever love her.

DICK STRANGE
You're weird.

INT./EXT. DICK'S CAR - DAY (MOVING)

Dick drives. Ruby rides shotgun. Both eating fast food. What is uncanny is how similarly they eat and bop to the music.

Dick slows as he drives by the Bangers Inc. headquarters. A large, impressive building with the name emboldened on it.

Dick grimaces as they pass.

RUBY
What is Bangers Inc.?

DICK STRANGE
Eat your breakfast.

The convertible rolls on.

EXT. COMFORT MOTEL - DAY

A two-story motor lodge. Dick's convertible pulls in and stops. Dick HONKS impatiently.

Misty appears from one of the rooms. Still in pigtails.

DICK STRANGE
Jesus, can you hurry it up? Traffic
sucks getting out here.

MISTY
Hey, who is doing who a favor here?
(then)
Hi, Ruby.

RUBY
He's running out of people to pawn me
off on.

MISTY
I think I saw some My Little Pony
coloring books in the room.

RUBY
Really? I love My Little Pony.

Ruby runs into the room.

DICK STRANGE
This place is a dump.

MISTY
I'm sorry, I had to downsize,
remember? My employer cut my hours.

MISTY TALKING HEAD:

MISTY (cont'd)
I'm exploring other opportunities,
not that it's any of his business.
He's apparently got a pigtail
problem. I don't care.
(then)
Isn't Ruby just the sweetest thing
though? I'm really taken by her. It's
hard to believe she came from him.

INT. DINER - DAY

Dick and Eddie are in a booth. Dick hands Eddie a small
scrap of paper.

EDDIE
(looks at it)
Grady?

DICK STRANGE
He's the PI. He's Lola's guy.

EDDIE
Lola's got a guy?

DICK STRANGE
Oh, yeah.

EDDIE
That is frightening.

DICK STRANGE
She said he's the best.

GRADY walks into the diner, casing the place as he goes.

He is a very large, thick, old-school private eye, and it
doesn't take him long to know who's who.

He walks over to their table.

GRADY
You Strange?

DICK STRANGE
That's me. This is Eddie.

Grady nods and sits. Almost immediately, a WAITRESS delivers a plate of food to the table: open-faced turkey and mashed.

Dick and Eddie look at each other, then at Grady.

GRADY
I called it in.

Grady takes a big bite.

GRADY (cont'd)
(mouth full)
So. We all know why we're here?

Eddie and Dick nod.

Grady pulls out a little notebook and pen. He flips to an open page.

GRADY (cont'd)
Okay. You were saying... The kid was at the motel. You just walk in, there she is?

DICK STRANGE
Yeah.
(then)
I'd been going there for a couple days.

GRADY
For what?

DICK STRANGE
To lay some pipe.
(then)
In her mom.

GRADY
While the kid was there?

DICK STRANGE
No.

Grady writes something in his notebook.

EDDIE
Excuse me, uh, Mr. Grady, but what does this have to do with anything? We just want to know--

GRADY

--Look, I don't know what you porn guys are into. So I'm asking my questions. Before I go nosing around, I need to make sure this is on the up and up. Last thing I need is to find out he touched the kid's cooter. Then I'm in the middle of some beef--

DICK STRANGE

--Jesus. There's no beef.

GRADY

(points fork at them)
I don't like cops.

EDDIE

Nobody touched the kid.

GRADY

What about the mom?

DICK STRANGE

She got touched.

Dick does a little hip thrust.

GRADY

(to Eddie)
Is he always like this?

EDDIE

Unfortunately.

(then)

The mom took off.

DICK STRANGE

Like I said on the phone, that's why we're here.

Grady flips back a few pages and looks in his notebook.

GRADY

Mary Mangrove?

Dick and Eddie both nod.

GRADY (cont'd)

You sure she's really the mom?

EDDIE

What do you mean?

GRADY
 (takes another bite)
 You never know. A mom, just leaving
 her kid in a motel, with a
 pornographer? That's a bit unusual,
 don't you think?
 (he swallows)
 They're probably shaking you down for
 money.

Eddie looks at Dick.

GRADY (cont'd)
 It happens.

EDDIE TALKING HEAD:

EDDIE
 He had a good point. You've seen DS.
 Would you leave your kid with him?

BACK TO SCENE:

GRADY
 Okay. Here's the deal. Step one:
 Before I get into a long, frustrating
 search, we should do a test.

EDDIE
 What do you mean?

GRADY
 (takes a bite)
 Paternity.

DICK STRANGE
 What the hell is that?

EDDIE
 To see if the kid's yours.

GRADY
 (points with his fork)
 Bingo.

DICK STRANGE
 They can do that?

GRADY
 Yeah. But we need cheek swabs. Best
 to have 'em from dad, mom, and kid.
 Sometimes, without both parents, the
 test is inconclusive.
 (MORE)

GRADY (cont'd)
But, if we get yours and the kid's,
we can run it and see what happens.
Might tell us what we need.

EDDIE
Is there another way to do it? The
kid is... it's a fragile situation.

DICK STRANGE
She's not fragile. She's mouthy. A
real know it all.

EDDIE
That's what I mean. She might make a
big deal if we go asking her for DNA.
Like you, we try to avoid any
unnecessary attention.
(then)
How about a glass that she drank from
or something?

GRADY
(chewing food)
Nope. Gotta be a swab from the cheek.

Grady swallows his food and stares at Dick and Eddie.

Beat.

GRADY (cont'd)
Is the kid a heavy sleeper?

INT. DICK'S APARTMENT (SPARE BEDROOM) - NIGHT

In the glow of a nightlight, Ruby is sleeping on a queen
sized bed. She has a stuffed animal tucked up against her.

The door OPENS GENTLY and Dick pokes his head in. He waits a
few beats, then enters.

DICK STRANGE
(whispers)
We're good.

Grady and Eddie ease in the room. Grady is wearing latex
gloves and a surgical mask.

EDDIE
You sure about this?

GRADY
Piece of cake.

Grady pulls a tube out of his pocket and a thin package. He slowly TEARS the package open--

EDDIE

--Shhhh.

Grady pulls a long cotton swab from the package, hands the packaging to Eddie, then approaches the bed.

Eddie circles around for a better view and cracks his foot against a trunk with a LOUD THUNK. Eddie STIFLES an obscenity and doubles over, visibly in pain. Everyone freezes for a moment, eyes fixed on Ruby...

Grady nears the bed, but Ruby is right in the middle, so he will have to climb onto it to reach her. Grady places his knee on the bed and his weight causes Ruby to shift.

Everyone freezes. Beat.

Grady moves on the bed, closer and closer to Ruby, his weight shifting her as he goes...

EDDIE (cont'd)

Careful.

GRADY

Easy does it.

Grady finally gets to the middle of the bed. He leans over Ruby for a long beat, then he sits up.

GRADY (cont'd)

Her hair.

EDDIE

What?

GRADY

I can't get it. Her hair is in her face.

DICK STRANGE

What?

GRADY

I need someone to move her hair.

EDDIE

Well, what are you waiting for?

DICK STRANGE

You go.

EDDIE
It's your kid!

DICK STRANGE
We don't know that.

GRADY
Hello? Can we have the lovers spat
some other time? I will abort
mission.

DICK STRANGE
Fine.

Dick moves to the bed and gently crawls to the center. When he gets to Ruby, Dick moves her hair away from her mouth.

Grady takes the swab and lowers it to Ruby's mouth, pausing as she exhales. He waits for his chance, then places the swab inside Ruby's mouth -- just then, Eddie leans against the bed and it SQUEAKS. Everyone freezes.

Grady is in a very awkward, hunched position, fighting his balance as he does the swab...

He pitches forward a bit... losing his balance...

Everyone holds their breath... as Grady falls forward, sending the swab too deep into Ruby's mouth, waking her!

Ruby is startled, gags a tiny bit, then SCREAMS LOUDLY when she sees Grady. Grady SCREAMS and tumbles off the side of the bed with a MASSIVE CRASH, taking a lamp with him.

Ruby pulls the swab out of her mouth and spins to see Dick.

RUBY
Daddy! What are you doing?

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

"Know Your Place, Part One"

FLASHBACK TO TWO DAYS AGO --

INT. PRODUCTION OFFICES (FRONT DESK) - DAY

Princess reads a fashion magazine at her desk. There are several bouquets of flowers set up around the room.

TITLE OVER: "Two Days Ago..."

Dick enters with Ruby in tow.

DICK STRANGE
What's with the flowers?

PRINCESS
They were here when I got here.

Maggie walks by, carrying a cardboard box with picture frames and a plant in it.

DICK STRANGE
What's with her?

PRINCESS
(shrugs)
Eddie's looking for you.

Dick exits.

Ruby stares at Princess until she notices:

RUBY
Did you know that fashion magazines cultivate feelings of low self-esteem, especially in teens?

INT. PRODUCTION OFFICES (HALLWAY) - DAY

Dick walks down the hall. AMBER approaches. She's very attractive, in bra and panties and wearing heels.

AMBER
Hi, DS.

DICK STRANGE
Amber. You're walking again.

AMBER

Ha, ha.

Maggie enters.

MAGGIE BLAZE

Amber, sweetie, we have a new policy.
No more underwear around the office.

Maggie points to a sign on the wall which says exactly that.

MAGGIE BLAZE (cont'd)

Thank you.

Maggie exits. Amber's look: *Who died and made her boss?*

AMBER (V.O.)

I don't see what the big deal is...

AMBER TALKING HEAD:

AMBER

(refers to her undies)

I like it. It helps me stay in
character.

EDDIE TALKING HEAD:

EDDIE

We're less than a week into this
cockamamie investor experiment and
Maggie's already out of control. And
we don't even know if she has any
money. Someone needs to put the
brakes on, and quick.

INT. PRODUCTION OFFICES (FRONT DESK) - DAY

Ruby still stares at Princess, right up in her grill.

A very attractive girl enters. Long black hair. Italian
accent. Wearing pro make up and very long eye lashes...

This is GINA BONA.

GINA BONA

Gina Bona here. To see Eddie.

PRINCESS

(her eyes suddenly
wide)

Uh, let me go get him for you.

Princess exits, trying to hide a sense of urgency.

RUBY
I like your eye lashes.

GINA BONA
Me too. And, who are you?

RUBY
I'm Ruby.

GINA BONA
Really? You're a cutie.
(pulls out a make-up
kit)
Want me to do yours?

INT. PRODUCTION OFFICES (HALLWAY) - DAY

Dick is moving fast, the "No Underwear" sign in his hands.
Eddie chases after him.

FOUR GIRLS walk by, all in undies.

DICK STRANGE
Hi ladies.
(holds up the sign)
Go ahead and ignore these.

EDDIE
Where are you going?

DICK STRANGE
I am gonna pop a classic into the
VCR, and rub out for a few.

Eddie pulls Dick aside and ushers him into...

INT. PRODUCTION OFFICES (BROOM CLOSET) - DAY

A cramped little closet. Eddie closes the door.

DICK STRANGE
What are you doing?

EDDIE
There's something else.

DICK STRANGE
(holds up the sign)
Worse than this?

EDDIE
Right now, as we speak, Maggie's
moving into the empty office.

DICK STRANGE
My VHS museum?

Eddie nods.

EDDIE
And she's been calling all the talent
too. Asking them how they feel about
the "working conditions."

Dick's look: *WTF?*

EDDIE (cont'd)
Don't say I didn't warn you.

Just then, BANGING on the door...

PRINCESS
(o.s.)
Eddie?

EDDIE
What?

PRINCESS
(o.s.)
We have a situation.

Eddie flings the door open.

EDDIE
What?

PRINCESS
Gina Bona is here.

EDDIE
Oh, shit. Keep your voice down.

Dick's eyes light up. Eddie pulls Princess into the closet
and closes the door:

DICK STRANGE
(to Eddie)
Ohhhh, you are good. Bringing in the
ringer...

INTERCUT EDDIE/MAGGIE/DICK/PRINCESS TALKING HEADS:

EDDIE

Gina is one of Ford's girls.
Great actress, but... feisty. She's
Italian. And a bit of a sore spot
around here.

MAGGIE BLAZE

Gina is a vapid, classless, bit--

DICK STRANGE

--She is Ford's top girl. A real
champ on the sheets.

PRINCESS

It was last year. I had just started
working here.

DICK STRANGE

The Nudies. Epic.

EDDIE

It's the annual awards show. Maggie
won Best Actress and Gina started
shouting...

PRINCESS

(drunken flailing w/
bad Italian accent)
...rookie... rookie whore.

DICK STRANGE

She was high on ludes.

EDDIE

Then, Gina rushed the stage... and,
tried to wrestle the statue out of
Maggie's hands.

DICK STRANGE

Maggie's from Texas.

EDDIE

It didn't end well.

BACK TO SCENE:

DICK STRANGE

Are we rolling on her? If we are, I
wanna hit that first--

EDDIE
--I didn't set this up. Did she ask
for me specifically?

PRINCESS
Yes.

DICK STRANGE
I will lay some pipe.

EDDIE
(thinking)
We need to get her to my office-- but
be discreet -- we don't need a
ruckus.

PRINCESS
Got it.
(to Dick)
Can you move your hand, please?

DICK STRANGE
(moves it)
Sorry.

EDDIE
I wonder what she wants?

INT. PRODUCTION OFFICES (FRONT DESK) - DAY

Ruby wears big, fake eye lashes and blue eye shadow. Gina
holds out a mirror:

GINA BONA
It's good, no?

RUBY
I love it.

Gina pulls out a long, plastic tube and pops the cap. There
is a wooden stick inside.

GINA BONA
You wanna try something very fun?

INT. PRODUCTION OFFICES (EMPTY OFFICE) - DAY

Maggie arranges items on a small desk. There are several
boxes filled with pictures and office supplies. Huge stacks
of VHS tapes are stuffed in a corner.

Dick and Eddie enter. Dick carries the "No Underwear" sign.

DICK STRANGE
What are you doing?

MAGGIE BLAZE
Setting up my office. What does it look like?

DICK STRANGE
This is my VHS museum.

MAGGIE BLAZE
Not anymore.

EDDIE
Seems a little cramped to be an office.

MAGGIE BLAZE
No one asked you, Eddie.
(to Dick)
Now that I'm a partner...

Eddie cringes.

MAGGIE BLAZE
I want to be closer to the business side. Besides, you don't need a VHS museum. The future is digital.

EDDIE
She's got a point.

DICK STRANGE
Whose side are you on?

MAGGIE BLAZE
(re: the tapes corner)
This is a perfect spot for a little sofa, don't you think?

Dick doesn't think so.

MAGGIE BLAZE (cont'd)
Don't worry, I'm not going to cramp your style.

DICK STRANGE
Too late.

Dick shoves the "No Underwear" sign toward her:

MAGGIE BLAZE
I made a few necessary changes.
Adjust.

DICK STRANGE
This is messing with my creative
process.

MAGGIE BLAZE
What process? Chaos and lack of
direction?

Dick nods exasperatedly, then...

DICK STRANGE
Yeah.

MAGGIE BLAZE
You'll get over it. We don't need to
be traipsing around here in our
panties. Besides, I'm not the only
one changing things around here. Have
we forgotten about your little
addition?

Just then, Ruby appears in the doorway, all dolled up:

RUBY
Daddy, look at me.
(sexy pose)
I'm ready to do my scene.

EDDIE
Oh, Jesus.

Ruby scampers off.

MAGGIE BLAZE
That's what I thought.

Princess appears in the hall with Gina--

--Eddie sees them and leaps into action... spinning Maggie
around so she doesn't see Gina walk by--

EDDIE
--Yes, I see what you mean. A sofa
would be perfect. Right here.

MAGGIE BLAZE
And not something ratty like that
piece of shit in your casting hovel.

EDDIE

Okay. Gotta go.

Eddie exits.

DICK STRANGE

I get that you're a partner and all,
but... don't you think that maybe you
need to know your place?

MAGGIE BLAZE

(as though she didn't
hear what he said)

We need to talk about Misty at some
point, too. She's really unhappy.

(grabs purse)

I'm going shopping.

(re: the tapes)

Please get rid of these before I get
back.

Maggie blows him a kiss and exits. Dick gathers up the VHS
tapes in a huff...

DICK STRANGE (V.O.)

So? Can't you just come get her?

INT. PRODUCTION OFFICES (DICK'S OFFICE) - DAY

Dick is on the phone with a MAN. The VHS tapes are piled on
his desk. KNOCK KNOCK, Eddie pops in...

Dick motions with his hand: *Hold on, important call.*

DICK STRANGE

Why not?

MAN ON PHONE

(o.s.)

Sir, this is the Department of Social
Services. We handle cases of severe
abuse and neglect. We don't remove
kids from the home because a selfish
parent has decided he doesn't want to
lose his freedom.

DICK STRANGE

Is there another department for that?

MAN ON PHONE

(o.s.)

Goodbye, sir--

DICK STRANGE

--Wait, wait... okay, okay. Is there anything else you can suggest?

MAN ON PHONE

(o.s.)

You could try calling a therapist.

The man hangs up.

DICK STRANGE

Social services won't take the kid.

(then)

What about Planned Parenthood? I've heard the girls talk about it. They get rid of kids, don't they?

EDDIE

It's not what you think.

DICK STRANGE

We have to do something. I am not living in a panty-free zone.

EDDIE

(softly)

Maybe you don't have to...

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. FORD'S SEDAN - DAY

The sedan is parked. Ford is filing his fingernails.

Someone walks up and hands a plastic tube through the open window. It's Gina...

FORD

Jesus. Took you long enough. Remind me to never give you a job that requires keeping your clothes on.

Gina flips him off, then walks away.

INT. PRODUCTION OFFICES (DICK'S OFFICE) - DAY

As before.

DICK STRANGE
Just like that?

EDDIE
Just like that.

DICK STRANGE
I thought she walked out.

EDDIE
She did. You would have thought I exposed myself to her, the way she fled... but now she wants to meet.

DICK STRANGE
Really? Okay... Set it up. This calls for a celebration.

Dick grabs a cigar from the humidor, and lights up. He motions for Eddie to grab one too. Eddie doesn't.

EDDIE
You think Gina wants to jump ship? Oh, man, Ford would blow a gasket.

DICK STRANGE
Believe me, if anything gets blown, it's gonna be me.

EDDIE
Is it even possible for you to stay focused for one second?

Dick puffs a big cloud of smoke in his face.

EDDIE (cont'd)
You know that's a disgusting habit.

DICK STRANGE
Yeah? So is Whole Foods.

BANGING on the door...

RUBY
(o.s.)
I'm hungry, Daddy.

DICK STRANGE
She is ruining that word.
(yells to Ruby)
I'm working. Go grab a rice cake from Princess.

(MORE)

DICK STRANGE (cont'd)
(to himself)
This kid. She's three feet tall and
eats like a great white.

EDDIE
Speaking of great whites, have you
heard from Mary?

DICK STRANGE
Not a peep. I gotta do something
though, the kid is really chapping my
hide. You know she's starting to talk
like me?

EDDIE
I know. I heard her asking Amber if
she liked "shooting bang."

DICK STRANGE
It's profane.

EDDIE
You know what you could do... Hire a
private investigator. To find Mary.
Seriously, people do it all the time.

RUBY
(o.s.)
I'm still here.

Eddie nods.

EXT. COMFORT MOTEL - DAY

Ford walks toward one of the rooms. He KNOCKS on a door. The
door opens and Misty appears.

FORD
You ready?

MISTY
I'm not sure about this.

FORD
It's okay to be nervous, babe. This
is the future knocking. After twenty
years, you end up here? You deserve
better.

END OF ACT SIX

ACT SEVEN"Pony Rides"

INT. DICK'S APARTMENT (DICK'S BEDROOM) - DAY

Dick comes to, sprawled out on the bed, next to his iPad and a pile of paper towels. UNUSUAL MUFFLED NOISES come from the other room, followed by a LOUD SHRIEK from Ruby...

INT. DICK'S APARTMENT (LIVING ROOM) - DAY

Dick enters. VHS tapes are all over the couch and coffee table. One sleeve is empty. SEX NOISES come from the TV.

Ruby hunches in the corner of the couch, covering her eyes.

RUBY
Daddy, make it stop!

DICK STRANGE
Oh, shit.

Dick fumbles for the remote, CRASHING into the VHS tapes.

INTERCUT DICK/RUBY TALKING HEADS:

DICK STRANGE (cont'd)
She was snooping.

RUBY
They were right there. I put in the one that said, "Pony Rides."

DICK STRANGE
What? Pony is a role model. A powerful female character.
(then)
It's avant garde.

RUBY
It was gross.

INT. DICK'S APARTMENT (LIVING ROOM) - DAY

The tapes are gone. Ruby and Dick are sitting on the couch. It's very awkward.

DICK STRANGE
You wanna talk about it?

RUBY
No.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Dick and Eddie sit at window seats.

EDDIE
Which one?

DICK STRANGE
Pony Rides.

EDDIE
Oh, Jesus. Time to make a deposit in her therapy fund.

DICK STRANGE
(looks out the window)
You sure she's coming?

EDDIE
She's coming. But I don't feel good about doing this here. It's risky.

DICK STRANGE
Relax. We're golden.
(then)
I sent Maggie to pick up the gear.

EDDIE
But Chase hasn't called it in yet.

DICK STRANGE
I know. Should chew up most of her morning.

EDDIE
That is cruel.

DICK STRANGE
Hey, she wanted to be "closer to the business side."

EDDIE
Still, we need to handle this like professionals. And by the way, what the hell is going on with Misty?

DICK STRANGE
Nothing. Why?

EDDIE

She called me this morning, crying.
After twenty years, you can't just
kick her to the curb.

Just then, Gina Bona appears outside. She struts up the sidewalk in high heels like sexual royalty.

DICK

Oh, man. There she is. She is
delicious.

Eddie looks out the window.

DICK (cont'd)

Misty is fine. And we've got more
important things to worry about too,
like cashing in on Gina's can and
getting a little donkey ride out of
the deal while we're at it.

EDDIE

See? That right there. You need to
knock that off. I don't want you
veering off on one of your carnal
parade routes.

Dick cranes his neck a bit. Something is up...

DICK

What the -- oh, shit.

Dick flies off his stool and ducks behind it.

EDDIE

What are you doing?

DICK

It's Maggie. How did she get back
here so fast?

Eddie turns to look.

DICK (cont'd)

Don't look. Don't. Shit.

(then)

Be casual about it.
Don't let 'em see ya.

EDDIE'S POV: Maggie is there too. She sees Gina. They both
see each other. A Mexican standoff.

DICK (cont'd)
What are they doing?

EDDIE
(looking)
They're just standing there, looking
at each other -- wait -- Maggie said
something.
(then)
Oh, this is not good.

DICK
What? Whatdayoo mean not good?

EDDIE
(looking)
Gina is... she's getting pretty
animated. Uh, oh--
(looks away quick)
--Maggie just saw me looking.

DICK
Oh, no no no no--

EDDIE
(peeks)
--here they come.

DICK
That's it. The jig is up. I'm out.

EDDIE
What?

Maggie and Gina enter.

Dick springs into action, ducking behind various patrons,
leap-frogging his way to the back of the shop, almost
tripping an OLDER WOMAN as he crawls into the bathroom.

MAGGIE BLAZE
What the hell is this?

Just then, behind them... The older woman approaches a
BARISTA, she is very upset:

OLDER WOMAN
Excuse me, but a weirdo just crawled
into the bathroom on his hands and
knees.

EDDIE
Hi, Maggie. And Gina. What a
nice surprise.

OLDER WOMAN
He almost knocked me over...

MAGGIE BLAZE
Where is he?

OLDER WOMAN
...and I have to go pee.

Who? EDDIE

The barista alerts the MANAGER who comes out to help. The manager BANGS on the door.

MANAGER
Sir, I need you to open the door,
please.

MAGGIE BLAZE
Don't act dumb. That's his
coffee -- light brown, all
milk. It's still steaming.

MANAGER
It might be that homeless
guy again. Get the key.
(to the older woman)
I'm sorry.

EDDIE
Uh... you know me. I always get two
coffees.

MAGGIE BLAZE
What is she doing here?

OLDER WOMAN
Hurry up. I'm going to pee
my pants.

GINA BONA
I'm here for a meeting. And it's none
of your business.

MAGGIE BLAZE
Actually, it is my business.
(then)
Meeting, my ass.

The barista shows up with the key and the manager BANGS on the door again.

MANAGER
Sir, I'm unlocking the door.

GINA BONA
Better you take it down a notch,
rookie.

MAGGIE BLAZE
I'll take you down a notch.

EDDIE
Ladies--

MANAGER
--I'm coming in sir.

The manager unlocks the door and opens it. As he does, the shop reverberates with a SHEARING NOISE followed by the LOUD CLANG of a body hitting a trash dumpster.

MANAGER (cont'd)
(to the barista)
He went out the window.

INT. PRODUCTION OFFICES (FRONT DESK) - DAY

Princess and Ruby eating lunch and drinking bottled water.

Maggie enters, heated.

MAGGIE
Where is he?

PRINCESS AND RUBY
(mouths full)
Who?

Eddie enters. He's all wet, stained from knees to shoulders with what looks like light brown coffee.

EDDIE
You know, you could have handled that better.

Eddie grabs a bottled water and some napkins, starts to blot his stains.

Just then, a LITTLE OLD LADY enters...

LITTLE OLD LADY
Hello. I'm looking for...
(she looks at a piece
of paper)
Maggie.

MAGGIE
I'm Maggie. You must be here to do the office.

Eddie takes a sip of water, composes himself.

RUBY
Is someone going to lay some pipe in
her too?

Eddie spits out his water.

LITTLE OLD LADY
Excuse me?

MAGGIE BLAZE
My office is at the end of the hall.
I'll catch up with you.
(to Ruby)
She's a medium.

The little old lady exits.

RUBY
What's a medium?

PRINCESS
They communicate with dead people.

RUBY
That's creepy.

MAGGIE BLAZE
She's a spiritual worker, here to
sage the office and remove all the
bad energy.

Eddie's phone RINGS -- it's Dick. Eddie fishes it out and
steps off to the side. Maggie watches him intently:

EDDIE
(into phone)
Oh, hey... Fred. Um, I thought we had
a...uh, meeting. What happened to you?

DICK STRANGE
(o.s. from phone)
Sorry skipper. She was coming in hot.

Maggie pulls out her phone. She dials while staring directly
at Eddie... making sure he notices:

EDDIE
(into phone)
That wasn't part of the
plan...

MAGGIE BLAZE
(into her phone)
Hi. This is Maggie from
Strange Productions. I
changed my mind. I want to
go ahead with that order.

DICK STRANGE
 (o.s. from phone)
 I had to improvise. Is she still
 pissed?

Maggie makes sure Eddie sees her hang up, then shoots a look.

EDDIE
 (into phone)
 I'm not sure. Maybe we should discuss
 this later -- where are you?

INT. PRODUCTION OFFICES (BROOM CLOSET) - DAY

Dick is scuffed and in pain, and his shirt is torn. Eddie enters and closes the door.

DICK STRANGE
 What happened to you?

EDDIE
 Let's just say the Gina Bona project
 is not happening.

DICK STRANGE
 (sniffs)
 What is that smell?

EDDIE
 Sage. Your "investor" hired a medium.

DICK STRANGE
 A what?

EDDIE
 (exasperatedly fast)
 Some crazy old lady to cleanse the
 energy of the office.
 (then)
 You need to march in there right now
 and pull the plug.

DICK STRANGE
 I think I cracked a rib.

...BANGING on the door...

EDDIE
 We're busy.

PRINCESS
(o.s.)
We need a signature.

Eddie opens the door. Princess is there with a DELIVERY GUY.

The little old lady CHANTS in the distance. Eddie motions Princess and the delivery guy in, then closes the door.

EDDIE
For what?

Princess shows Eddie the invoice:

EDDIE (cont'd)
\$13,000?
(looks at Dick)
What the hell is this?

Dick shrugs.

DELIVERY GUY
It's a Florence Knoll, man. The fire
red Cato...

Delivery guy hands Eddie the hand-held. Eddie signs with the stylus.

PRINCESS
Ooh, her mid-century work is
gorgeous. Did you know she was an
orphan?

DELIVERY GUY
Classiest sofa out there, man --
wait, I recognize you. I love your
movies -- Local Teen changed my life.

DICK STRANGE
Right on!

Dick and the delivery guy "bro-shake." Delivery guy and Princess exit the closet. Little old lady is still CHANTING.

PRINCESS
Oh, and catering called. Something
about the vendor account.
(closing the door)
You should call them.

EDDIE
 (thumbs his phone)
 This is ridiculous. There was at
 least 10k in the account this
 morning--

DICK STRANGE
 --Don't look at me. All I did was re-
 up the Pornhub Premium.
 (then)
 Did you hear that guy? I told you
 Local Teen was where it's at.

EDDIE
 (staring at his phone)
 Oh my God... The vendor account is
 overdrawn.

DICK STRANGE
 What are you talking about?

EDDIE
 The account. There's nothing left.
 How could this happen?

Just then, Dick's phone CHIMES. Text message.

DICK STRANGE
 Oh, shit--

EDDIE
 --What?

DICK STRANGE
 It's from Maggie.

Dick holds it up for Eddie:

EDDIE
 (reading)
 Don't. Mess. With Texas.

INT. PRODUCTION OFFICES (EMPTY OFFICE) - DAY

Dick and Eddie push large, heavy boxes into Maggie's office.

EDDIE
 It's ridiculous we have to do this.

DICK STRANGE
 Hey man, I laid the groundwork.

EDDIE
Yeah, you really set her straight.

DICK STRANGE
I didn't see you stepping up.
(then)
She paid the vendors. The shoot is
still on. What more do you want?

EDDIE
I don't know. It'd be nice to not
feel like a hostage.

Ruby enters, holding two screwdrivers:

RUBY
Do you want the flat one or the
pointy one?

Dick rips open a box.

EDDIE
Wow, that fabric really is
beautiful...

INT. LOLA'S OFFICE - DAY

Dick is reclined on a couch. Lola kneels, just out of view.
She pops up to talk, but what she's doing remains a mystery.

LOLA
Is that better?

DICK STRANGE
It's getting there.

LOLA
I'm concerned that you aren't
managing your stress level -- your
Adductor Longus is on fire, by the
way.

DICK STRANGE
You're telling me. I've been hitting
it pretty hard lately... Man, today
was a brick free throw.

LOLA
Are you worried about Ruby's well
being?

DICK STRANGE
I'm worried about my well being.

LOLA
It's perfectly natural for parents to doubt their abilities. My parents did. Your parents did, too.

DICK STRANGE
My parents were drunks.

LOLA
Do you want to talk about it?

DICK STRANGE
No. And I don't want to be a parent either. I want to give the kid back.

LOLA
Have you talked to Mary about it?

DICK STRANGE
I don't know where she is.
(then)
Eddie suggested that I hire a PI. You think that's a good idea?

LOLA
I'm going to finish now.

Dick clenches: *Is he in pleasure or pain?? -- and release...*

Then, Lola hovers over him, getting right up in his grill, holding a small paper in his face...

DICK STRANGE
(reading it)
Grady?

LOLA
He's a fixer. Call him.

END OF ACT SEVEN

ACT EIGHT

"Know Your Place, Part Two"

BACK TO THE PRESENT --

A black screen. Then, a CRASH.

RUBY
Daddy! What are you doing?

Beat.

INT. DICK'S APARTMENT (LIVING ROOM) - NIGHT

Ruby is on the couch. Grady and Eddie stand sheepishly on the other side of the room.

DICK STRANGE
Okay, I think we can call it a night.

EDDIE
Yeah. Probably a good idea.
(checks his watch)
I've got somewhere to be.

As Eddie and Grady leave:

GRADY
I'm sorry, Ruby. I mean it. It was really nice meeting you.

RUBY
(reluctantly)
Goodbye, Grady.

Dick closes the door. An awkward beat.

RUBY (cont'd)
I'm really surprised at you. Do you have anything to say for yourself?

DICK STRANGE
You wanna get some food?

RUBY
I'm not hungry.

DICK STRANGE
(to himself)
That's a first.

RUBY

This is a big deal, Daddy. You can't just go around sticking swabs in people's mouths when they're sleeping. This is my body. If you want something from my body, you have to ask for it. You have to ask me for permission.

(then)

Not all of us want to live in a world where you can stick whatever you want in whatever you want.

DICK STRANGE

You're being dramatic. And I know that was a shot at Pony Rides. That film is a misunderstood classic.

RUBY

I'm not being dramatic. It's called consent, Daddy. Ever heard of it?

DICK STRANGE

You want to lecture me about consent.

RUBY

What does that mean?

DICK STRANGE

Nothing. Forget I said it.

RUBY

Oh, I get it now.

Ruby gets up, grabs the swab off the table, runs it all over the inside of her mouth, and then shoves it at Dick:

RUBY (cont'd)

Here. Go ahead. Take it... Take it! Go get it tested. It's not like you had nothing to do with my existence.

(then)

I didn't want to bounce around from motel to motel with mom, okay? What a drag this must be for you.

She turns her back to him, sits on the arm of the couch, and crosses her arms, trying her best not to cry:

RUBY (cont'd)

You don't want me.

DICK STRANGE
When you put it like that, it kinda
makes me seem like a heel.

RUBY
If the shoe fits, Daddy.

DICK STRANGE
(gives ground)
I'm sorry.
(then)
This whole thing's been a bit of a
shock to the dome.

Ruby looks even more fretful.

DICK STRANGE (cont'd)
Hey, I'm trying over here.

RUBY
There's something else.

DICK STRANGE
What?

RUBY
Remember that woman from yesterday?

DICK STRANGE
Yeah. Gina Bona.
(to himself)
The one that got away.

RUBY
She did the same thing.

DICK STRANGE
What are you talking about?

RUBY
After she did my big eye lashes, she
asked me if I wanted to do something
fun. Then she scraped one of those
things in my mouth.

DICK STRANGE
Ohhhh, that little... I knew it was
too good to be true.

He gets up and grabs his phone.

RUBY
What are you doing?

DICK STRANGE
I'm gonna make some waves.

Dick motions for her to hold on, the phone is ringing...

EDDIE
(o.s. from phone)
Yeah?

DICK STRANGE
You ready for this? Ford's pulling
some shit. Gina swabbed the kid.

EDDIE
(o.s. from phone)
What?

DICK STRANGE
Gina swabbed Ruby. You need to get
back here right now, and hang with
her while I go put the screws to him.

EDDIE
(o.s. from phone)
I can't do it. I'm at my book club.
And I was late enough as it is. We'll
deal with it tomorrow. I gotta go.

Eddie hangs up.

DICK STRANGE
Shit.

Dick dials another number...

INT. COMFORT MOTEL (MISTY'S ROOM) - NIGHT

Misty's phone on the nightstand, lit and VIBRATING. Misty
crawls across the bed and out of view.

MISTY
(o.s.)
Momma thinks you've been a bad, bad
boy...

INT. MAGGIE'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Maggie is in front of the mirror. Putting on make-up. She
looks like she's getting ready to go out.

Her phone RINGS. Maggie checks it and ignores it. It keeps RINGING and RINGING, finally she relents:

MAGGIE BLAZE
(into phone)
You're lucky I'm even picking this
up.

INT. DICK'S APARTMENT (LIVING ROOM) - NIGHT

Ruby moves closer to Dick, listening in.

DICK STRANGE
(into phone)
I need a favor.

INTERCUT MAGGIE/DICK PHONE CONVO:

MAGGIE BLAZE
Pretty sure your favors are all used
up. Goodbye.

DICK STRANGE
Come on, Maggie. Don't hang up--

RUBY
--You're not very good at this, are
you?

DICK STRANGE
(covers the phone)
I know what I'm doing.
(into phone)
It's about Gina...

Maggie hangs up.

RUBY
Nice going.

Dick dials Maggie again:

MAGGIE BLAZE
What do you want?

RUBY
Tell her she's been right the whole
time. That you've been a complete
jerk.

Dick looks at Ruby. She motions: *Go ahead...*

DICK STRANGE
I've... been a jerk.

MAGGIE BLAZE
Yes, you have.

RUBY
Now, tell her it was a mistake to
think Gina could ever replace her,
that you really value her
contributions. And that you're sorry.

Dick glares at Ruby.

RUBY (cont'd)
Do it.

DICK STRANGE
The Gina thing was... a mistake.

MAGGIE BLAZE
(after a beat)
Go on.

Dick looks at Ruby: *It's working!*

Ruby motions to Dick: *Now tell her the other stuff...*

DICK STRANGE
(into phone)
I value you... And, I'm sorry.
(then)
There, I said it.

MAGGIE BLAZE
What do you need?

RUBY
(to Dick)
Stick with me.

DICK STRANGE
Can you take Ruby for a little bit?

MAGGIE BLAZE
Now? I'm going dancing.

DICK STRANGE
This is important. Gina swabbed the
kid--

MAGGIE BLAZE
--Swab? What is swab?

DICK STRANGE

A swab. Like a Q-tip, to get a DNA sample. Ford sent her to do it. Some kinda scam -- I don't know what he's up to but I need to find out.

MAGGIE BLAZE

You know, for all your complaints about the girls, you boys sure are drama queens.

DICK STRANGE

Will you do it?

A long beat.

DICK STRANGE (cont'd)

Hello? You there?

(then)

Please?

MAGGIE BLAZE

I suppose.

DICK STRANGE

Thank you.

(then)

There is one more thing...

MAGGIE BLAZE

I'm keeping the couch.

EXT. BANGERS, INC. - NIGHT

Dick's convertible rolls into the dark lot and parks. There is a light on, upstairs, in Ford's office.

Dick tries the front door. Locked. Back in the lot, he looks up at the window. Then, he notices a dumpster and some duct-work above it, running up the side of the building.

INT. BANGERS, INC. (FORD'S OFFICE) - NIGHT

Moody R&B plays on the stereo. Ford hands Gina a scotch on the rocks. He CLINKS glasses with Gina.

FORD

You did good, babe.

GINA BONA
(apprehensive)
Thanks.

FORD
Finally planted the seeds to put
Strange out of his misery.
(then)
What a dipshit.
(swigs the scotch)
I can't believe I was ever his
partner.

Behind Ford, in the window, we see Dick. He's pulled himself
up the duct work and is hanging on the edge of the window.

FORD (cont'd)
Now, how about a little something for
the Fordster?

He runs his hand up Gina's leg.

GINA BONA
(moves his hand)
I don't think so.

DICK STRANGE
(o.s.)
HEY!

Ford swivels around. Gina is startled.

DICK STRANGE (cont'd)
Striking out again, huh? Who's the
dipshit now?

FORD
Strange? What the hell are you doing?

DICK STRANGE
You think you're such a hot shot.
Why'd you do it?

FORD
Do what?

DICK STRANGE
Send your flunkie to swab the kid.

FORD
You climbed all the way up here
because of the kid?

DICK STRANGE
I climbed up here to kick your ass.

FORD
I got to hand it to you, Strange. You have some gumption. Got me right where you want me, eh?
(then)
Okay. I wanted to know. So what? -- Mary was the only woman I ever loved. Until you fucked it all up.

DICK STRANGE
That was ten years ago. Get over it.

FORD
Doesn't matter anyway. It's not my problem anymore. The kid's not mine.

DICK STRANGE
(baby talk)
Is mister little pecker still mad cuz I laid some pipe in his girlfriend?

FORD
(chugs his scotch)
Okay, I've had just about enough of this.

Ford grabs an iPad and walks toward him.

FORD (cont'd)
I have something here. Something I think you should see.

Ford touches the iPad and shows it to Dick. SEX NOISES come from it... and then a familiar voice:

MISTY
(o.s.)
Oooh, yeah. Momma likes that...

FORD
Music to the ears, isn't it? Shot this last night. Goes live tomorrow. In fact...
(looks at his watch)
She's at the Comfort Motel right now getting boned by one of my young studs. That's right, Misty's working for me now.
(then)
And guess what? Maggie's next.

DICK STRANGE
You're a dork.

FORD
And you're on the second floor.
(waving)
Bye bye, rookie.

Ford pushes Dick's face and Dick falls from the window with a SCREAM, a LOUD THUNK as he bounces off the dumpster below, and then a CRASH to the ground.

FORD (cont'd)
(looking out the window)
Dumbass.

EXT. BANGERS, INC. - NIGHT

Dick is in a pile on the pavement. Ford appears from the front door, with Gina not far behind.

FORD
(bends down)
Look, Strange, Don't think you can come into my place and talk shit -- you don't have what it takes. Remember: I'm the big leagues. You only have a company because I let you have one. You dig? When it comes to you and me, I'm your daddy.

Ford gives Dick a little love slap, then gets into his sedan. Dick lies there, groaning.

FORD (cont'd)
(starts the car)
You need to know your place, little man. Gina, let's roll.

GINA BONA
You think we should call someone? That was a pretty big fall.

FORD
Suit yourself.

Ford peels off. Gina walks over to Dick.

GINA BONA
You alright?

DICK STRANGE
(grabbing his ribs)
I've been better.

GINA BONA
I'm sorry about all this. It's
nothing personal, just business. Ford
pays much money.

DICK STRANGE
Yeah.

GINA BONA
But... he's also a "sporco maiale."
(then)
He doesn't lock up. Want we go screw
on his desk?

EXT. COMFORT MOTEL - NIGHT

Ford rolls up in his sedan.

He gets out, grabs his phone and dials.

FORD
Fucking amateurs.

The line is RINGING...

INT. BANGERS, INC. (FORD'S OFFICE) - NIGHT

Hot and heavy. Dick and Gina making out. Clothes flying off.
Dick's phone starts MOANING.

GINA BONA
What is that?

DICK STRANGE
Nothing. Forget about it.

More kissing, but now his phone CHIMES. Text message.

He ignores it. They continue to make out. But then, Dick's
phone CHIMES AGAIN... and AGAIN, and AGAIN and AGAIN.

DICK STRANGE (cont'd)
Oh, now what!

Dick gets up, digs his phone from the pile of clothing and
checks it:

DICK STRANGE (cont'd)
Oh, jeez. Gimme a sec.

He dials.

DICK STRANGE (cont'd)
(into phone)
What is it?

INT. LASHES NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

Ruby is in a corner of the club, standing next to a NICE MAN. Lots of CLUB GOERS in the place, freak dancing and grinding, some only partially clothed, drinking champagne.

AMIR stands nearby, fuming.

RUBY
(into phone)
Can you come get me?

INTERCUT RUBY/DICK PHONE CONVO:

DICK STRANGE
No. I'm busy.

RUBY
(straining to hear)
What?

DICK STRANGE
(louder)
I'm busy.
(then)
Where are you?

RUBY
I'm at a disco.

DICK STRANGE
Where's Maggie?

RUBY
She left.

DICK STRANGE
What do mean she left?

RUBY
She brought me here, got a phone call, and then she left. The man who owns the club wants me out.
(MORE)

RUBY (cont'd)
 (looks at Amir)
 He really doesn't like you.
 (then)
 Please come get me. I don't want to
 be here anymore.

Dick looks at Gina. She's on the desk, ready to go: her
 thumbs hooked in her panties, begging him to come hither...

EXT. COMFORT MOTEL (MISTY'S ROOM) - NIGHT

The door opens and Ford appears from inside.

FORD
 Well, well, well...

REVEAL Maggie standing outside. She walks in and Ford closes
 the door behind her.

INT. LASHES NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

Ruby hands the phone to the nice man.

RUBY
 Thanks, Raoul.

INT. FORD'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Dick grabs his shirt.

DICK STRANGE
 I gotta go.

GINA BONA
 What do you mean, you gotta go?

DICK STRANGE
 I mean I gotta go. Something came up.

Gina is peeved, and not used to getting rejected when it
 comes to sex. She grabs her clothes, starts getting dressed.

GINA BONA
 Is okay... you probably be no good
 anyway.

DICK STRANGE
 (leaving)
 It's nothing personal, right? It's
 just business.

INT. DICK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dick and Ruby enter. Dick hangs her coat on a peg.

INT. DICK'S APARTMENT (LIVING ROOM) - NIGHT

Ruby enters and sits on the couch.

Dick appears. He has some ice cream and two spoons. He turns on the TV: "My Little Pony".

Dick and Ruby sit on the couch. Dick opens the ice cream and hands Ruby a spoon. They both dig in.

After a moment, Ruby moves in closer and snugs him a bit.

Dick lets her...

END OF SEASON