JACKED UP

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1.29.13

COLD OPEN

INT. JACK'S KITCHEN/TV ROOM AREA - DAY

Close on a TV. A Playstation baseball VIDEO GAME is being played on it.

VIDEO GAME ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Strike three looking! Jack Wheeler has just won the World Series for the Atlanta Braves!

INT. JACK'S KITCHEN/TV ROOM AREA - DAY

JACK WHEELER (a Patrick Warburton type) sits in front of the TV, game controller in hand. He's in sweats, an Atlanta Braves T-shirt and a backwards baseball cap. He looks like he hasn't showered in a few days.

JACK
Pitched in the majors for twenty years, never won a World Series. Been retired three days, I've already won twice.

MYRA, (late 20s, polite, innocent) Jack's recently hired housekeeper stands behind him.

MYRA
That's very good for you, Mr. Jack.

JACK
Thanks, Myra. And you don't need to call me "Mr. Jack."

MYRA
My mother told me white people like to be called that way.

JACK
Not this white person. And there doesn't need to be any of that, "I'm white, you're Hispanic" stuff. I played Major League Baseball. I have more Hispanic friends than white friends.
(then)
Well, not really but you get my point.

MYRA
Yes. Thank you.

JACK
And I don't want there to be any weirdness between us, okay? None of that I'm up here and you're down there stuff. You and I, we're both just people. The same. You call me Jack, I call you Myra. Okay?

MYRA
Thank you, Jack.

JACK
Of course. Oh, and Myra? I like my underwear laid out flat. Not folded. Don't like that crease. Thanks.

MYRA
So, now that you're retired, what are your plans, what are you going to do?

JACK
I'm going to find a wife.
(off her surprised look)
Don't worry, I'm going to shower first.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. COURTSIDE EATS SPORTS BAR - DAY

It's a small but cool bar. Booths, tables, lots of sports memorabilia on the walls, etc. Jack enters wearing shorts and a Tommy Bahama style retired guy shirt. He's greeted by the owner and his best friend, BARRY (40ish, energetic and in great shape).

BARRY
There he is!

Barry and Jack share a big bear hug. Jack looks Barry over.

JACK
Jesus. Look at you. I don't see you in six months and you look like a different person. You look better than you did when we played together in college.

BARRY
I have to, big man. I'm single now. Re-invented myself. I'm eating right, ride my bike everywhere, work out everyday, popped a few 'roids... You want a beer?

Barry moves behind the bar to get the beers.

JACK
You took steroids? Really? Where do you even get that stuff?

BARRY
From this professional bowler who comes in here a lot.

JACK
Those guys juice?

BARRY
Like crazy. No testing in bowling.

JACK
Lucky bastards.

Barry hands Jack a glass of beer.

BARRY
It's called "Courtside Eats Ale."
I brew it myself in-house.

Jack tries it. He doesn't like it.

JACK
It tastes like old apples and
mustard.

BARRY
I throw in stuff I have leftover.
Gives it "intriguing undertones."

JACK
It tastes like a dumpster. Can I
have a real one?

Barry gets them bottles.

BARRY
Oh! Come here. I want to show you
something.

Barry shows Jack a booth.

BARRY (CONT'D)
When you're a big baseball star and
your best friend owns a sports
bar... Read the plaque.

Jack leans down and reads a golden plaque that's embedded in the tabletop.

JACK
"Reserved for Jack Wheeler."

BARRY
How many people have their own
permanent booth in a sports bar?
Amaze balls, right?

JACK
(reading plaque closer)
"Unless otherwise occupied."

BARRY
Well, if there's people sitting in
it I'm not going to kick them out.

JACK
So, it's permanently reserved for
me unless someone else is sitting
there. That's a real honor, Barry.

They sit.

BARRY
So, “Jack Wheeler” finally retired. What are you going to do with all the free time you have now?

JACK
Nothing. I am just going to enjoy life, my friend.

BARRY
Jack Wheeler, the hardest working man in baseball, is now just going to do nothing and “enjoy life?” I don’t buy it.

JACK
I’m going to read, start a garden...
(almost dreamy)
...take nice walks. Meet new people. Enjoy a leisurely cup of tea in a local bistro or a park...

BARRY
You’ve thought about this a lot.

JACK
Visualizing my retirement was part of my pregame warm up. Sometimes a dog comes up and licks my face when I’m at the park. And sometimes I can fly and I fly into space and fight robots. Depends on how deep into the meditation I get.

BARRY
You’re really not going to look for some kind of work?

JACK
I’m <u>retired</u>. ESPN asked if I wanted to be an analyst for the playoffs. But it’s “me time.” Not ESPN time. Plus I have to find a wife, don’t forget.

BARRY
Right. Your find a wife plan. I hate that plan. Marriage was the worst decision I ever made.

JACK
Really? You made beer out of garbage.

BARRY
You may as well just find a woman you hate, beg her for sex that she'll never give you, then give her your house, half your money and watch her spend it with D'ryl, the douchebag "apprentice chef" who was giving her cooking lessons.

JACK
Your marriage didn't work out and I'm sorry. But --

BARRY
Don't be. I'm not. The new Barry doesn't miss Beth at all. New Barry is out there hittin' em and quittin 'em. Big time.

JACK
I did that for twenty years and I'm done with it. It was incredible, don't get me wrong. I had every kind of sex with every kind of woman in every place in this country. I was like the EPCOT of sex. But now, I want a family, kids, the big wedding. Probably in the fall. I just like the colors better, you know? Browns and golds. A woman I hooked up with once said I'm an Autumn.

BARRY
Oh, yeah. You're full on Autumn, Believe it or not, I'm a Spring.

JACK
(looks him over, genuine)
I can see that.

Jack's older sister KATE (40s, smart, funny and caring) enters. She hugs Jack and kisses him on the cheek.

KATE
Your nieces and nephews were out of control this morning.
(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)
Haley wet her pants again because she said it makes her feel “all warm,” Evan kicked a soccer ball into my face because it’s “good practice to hit a moving target,” and I caught Grace ordering twenty-four hunting knives off QVC with my credit card because “Someone’s got to protect this family.” She’s eight. Hi, Barry.

BARRY
Hi, Kate.

Barry hugs her even though she doesn’t want it and gently pushes him away.

BARRY (CONT’D)
Sorry. You smell like my ex-wife.

KATE
I smell like pee and apple juice.

BARRY
It’s intoxicating.

JACK
It’s your next beer.

KATE
(to Barry)
Hey, I heard from a mom at school that you went on a date the other night with a woman but ended up crying the whole night about how much you missed your ex-wife.

BARRY
Yeah. That. Sometimes old Barry comes out. He bums women out.

KATE
Jack, I have a list of stuff for you to sign. Having you back home makes running your foundation so much easier. And the golf tournament raised enough money to put lights in that little league field in Van Nuys. Here’s a list of the donors. The ceremony is next Thursday. I brought a list of things you can say in your speech.

JACK
Thursday. I think I'm free that day.

KATE
What else have you got to do? You're retired. You literally have nothing to do.

JACK
I have a lot to do. I have to go the pharmacy tomorrow. I have to buy a shovel. Probably do that Friday since tomorrow I have the pharmacy thing.

BARRY
Don't forget about sitting in a park drinking tea.

KATE
If you really have that much to do I can put together a list so you --

JACK
Not everything needs to be on a list, Kate. I got it.

KATE
Well, at least you found time to come by and spend time with my kids. They were so happy to see you.

JACK
I love those little monsters. They're getting so big.

KATE
Come on, Jack. You know they're not. They're tiny little children. Because I married a tiny little man who's only five-five.
(then)
But he's big where it counts, if you know what I mean.

JACK
I do because you always find a way to bring it up.

KATE
Oh, I can bring it up. What?? She nailed it!

She puts her hand up for a high five.

JACK
Stop it! I'm your brother, not your college roommate. I've asked you many times to respect the line.

Barry slaps her hand.

BARRY
I liked it.

KATE
(wiping her hand)
You hands were sweaty before I said that, right?

EXT. 3RD DEGREE URN COFFEE SHOP - DAY

It's a nice day. The sun is out. Jack sits at an outside table at the quaint bistro, looking happy as a clam. Enjoying his life in shorts and a different Tommy Bahama-style shirt. An older gentleman passes by.

JACK
(pleasant)
Good afternoon, sir. How are you today?

OLDER GENTLEMAN
(angry)
I don't have any change.

He walks away. Jack, undaunted, sips his tea with a contented smile on his face. A woman walks by.

JACK
Hello, ma'am. May I say that is a lovely handbag.

Scared, she clutches it close to her body and hurries away. A WOMAN walking with a little GIRL stops near Jack. She looks in her purse for something but the girl stares at Jack.

JACK (CONT'D)
Hello, little girl. I have a niece about your age. What's your name?

LITTLE GIRL
Stranger danger! Stranger danger!

The woman grabs the girl and hurries off, glaring at Jack. A waitress comes out.

WAITRESS
You're going to have to order another drink if you want to keep sitting here. The rule is one drink per hour.

JACK
Have I been here an hour already?
(checks watch)
I have to get to the pharmacy. This day has totally gotten away from me. Does that ever happen to you when you're--

The waitress is no longer there.

INT. PHARMACY - DAY

The pharmacist hands Jack a bag with his prescription in it.

JACK
Thank you, Emesta.

EMESTA
Sure.

JACK
So. Working in a pharmacy. What's that like? Interesting, I bet. So many different kinds of people coming --

EMESTA
(calling)
Next!
(to Jack)
Oh and that's the last one we can fill. You'll have to find a local doctor to write your next one.

JACK
Great tip, Emesta. Love it. Getting a tip from a neighborhood pharmacist. That what life's --

EMESTA
Next!

JACK
Okay. Good talk.

INT. DR. WILLARDS'S OFFICE - DAY

Jack and Kate sit across from DR. WILLARD (60's)

KATE
Dr. Willard has been Tim and my doctor for years and we love him.
(to Dr. Willard)
Jack just moved back home and he needs to find a local doctor.
(pulling out lists)
I have a list of all the doctors he saw in Atlanta and a list of all his surgeries. A grocery list and list of my life goals but you don't need those.

JACK
She loves lists.

DR. WILLARD
You've just always used the team doctor up til now?

JACK
Yes. Doctor Mackoff. Obviously we called him Dr. Jackoff. Sometimes "Wackoff..." I miss him...

DR. WILLARD
Why don't we schedule a physical. Get you on the treadmill to check the heart, do some blood work...
(re chart)
I see you're forty now so we'd need to do a prostate exam.

JACK
Wait. What? Really? Jackoff never said anything about that before.

DR. WILLARD
You should have your prostate checked yearly once you turn forty.

JACK
Wow. Is there another way to get in there to check it or just... the one... way?

KATE
Oh my god, all you guys do is beg us to let you do stuff to us back there but the second someone wants to do it to you, it's like the end of the world.

JACK
Kate. Please. Respect the line.

DR. WILLARD
Why don't you make an appointment with Michelle and we'll see you in a week or so.

They stand and shake hands. As they do, Jack looks down and sees the doctor's hands. His fingers are comically huge. (Maybe even prosthetically enhanced) Jack's eyes go wide.

INT. DR. WILLARDS'S OUTER OFFICE - DAY

As they enter from Dr. Willard's office...

JACK
No way I'm using him. Did you see those sausages? I'll find another doctor. And won't stop until I find one with fingers like golf pencils.

MICHELLE
So are we setting up an appointment for you today?

JACK
No. Not today.

MICHELLE
(smiles, flirty)
That's too bad.

Kate pulls Jack aside.

KATE
Ask her out.

JACK
What?

KATE
You want to find a wife, right? Well, you're going to have to ask women out. She's cute, no ring... Why not? Gotta start somewhere.

JACK
I haven't even showered today.

KATE
You need to get better about that, by the way. Now go ask her.

JACK
I haven't asked a woman out in years. I was a baseball player. They always asked me out.

KATE
Stop being a baby and do it.

Jack clears his throat, takes a deep breath, and approaches Michelle.

JACK
(nervous)
Say, Michelle, I was wondering if you'd like to go out to dinner with me sometime.

His nerves made his voice get higher as he spoke. So much so that "sometime" was said almost in a falsetto.

MICHELLE
I'd like that. Let me give you my number.

As she writes it down...

KATE
(super high voice, mocking him)
"Go out to dinner with me sometime?"

JACK
Shut up.

INT. JACK'S KITCHEN/TV ROOM AREA - EVENING

Jack's dressed for his date. He looks good. Myra is in the kitchen.

JACK
What do you think?

MYRA
Very nice.

JACK
It's my first real date in almost twenty years. I hope I'm not too rusty.

MYRA
I know you will be just great.

JACK
I like you, Myra. I hope that over time, we become more than just housekeeper and homeowner, we become friends.

MYRA
I would like that.

JACK
Me, too. Oh, and Myra. Make sure when you replace the toilet paper, the paper comes over the top of the roll, not under. Under just bugs me, you know? Thanks.

Jack crosses away.

INT. HASTA LA PASTA ITALIAN RESTAURANT - LATER

Jack and Michelle are finishing dinner.

JACK
Favorite movie? I'd have to say a tie between Die Hard and E.T.

MICHELLE
E.T.? Really?

JACK
Yeah. That one always gets me.
(a little emotional)
The little guy just wanted to go home, you know?

MICHELLE
So, now that you don't play baseball anymore, what do you do?

JACK
I live life, Michelle. Enjoy myself. I read, I garden, meet people --

MICHELLE
So you don't have a job?

JACK
Well, not per se, but I keep very busy. I went to the pharmacy, I bought a shovel, I met you... pretty full week. I'm kind of exhausted.

MICHELLE
(enticing)
Hopefully not too exhausted...

INT. MICHELLE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

MICHELLE
So this is my living room.

JACK
You have a teddy bear on your couch. That's cute.

MICHELLE
Wait til you see my bedroom.

INT. MICHELLE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

They walk in and the place is covered with stuffed animals. They're everywhere. Completely covering the bed, on specially built shelves on every wall, on the floor, the desk, hanging from the ceiling... Seriously.

JACK
Whoa.

MICHELLE
These are all my animal friends. And you have to meet them all before we, you know, do anything. This is Ruffles. He was my very first bear. And this is Gigi Giraffe, she's French and married to Doogie Dog. You'd think he's lucky to have someone like her...
(secretive)
(MORE)

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
...but it’s really the other way around ‘cause she’s actually poor French trash.
(then)
This is Christopher. And you better watch out ‘cause he’s a bit of a scoundrel.

EXT. JACK’S BACKYARD - THE NEXT DAY

Jack digs a hole with his new shovel.

JACK
It was like an out of control zoo. Do you know how hard it is to have sex with hundreds of stuffed animals watching?

BARRY
You had sex with her anyway?

JACK
You can’t just go cold turkey.

BARRY
(re the hole Jack has dug)
Garden looks good.

JACK
Almost there. Gotta throw some seeds in, I guess.

Myra comes out of the house.

MYRA
Jack, your mother is here.

JACK
We’ll be in in a second.

Myra walks back inside.

JACK (CONT’D)
My Mom wants to set me up on a date. Daughter of a friend or something. She wants to show me what she described as “a very enticing picture” of her.

INT. JACK'S KITCHEN/TV ROOM AREA - CONTINUOUS

They greet Jack's mother, ANNE (70s, sweet with a kind demeanor).

JACK
(kissing her cheek)
Hi Mom!

BARRY
Hello, Anne.

ANNE
Barry Harrison. I think of you so often. Back when you two were in college and I converted you to Christianity -- one of my proudest days as a Christian.

BARRY
The best day of my life, too, Anne.

Jack rolls his eyes, knowing that Barry's full of shit.

ANNE
(to Barry)
Is Jesus in your heart today?

BARRY
Oh, you bet. He's all up in there.
(pointing to different places on his body)
Oh, wait, now he's over here. No, there he is. He's frisky today.

ANNE
Don't mock the Lord, Barry. He might mock you back. And you know what happens when He mocks you back? He gives you AIDS.

BARRY
I'm sorry, Anne.
(to sky)
Sorry.

ANNE
Jack, I assume you haven't been to church since you've been home because of your nasty allergy to candles.

BARRY
(aside to Jack)
Genius.

ANNE
Is that getting any better?

JACK
Worse actually.

Myra passes by.

JACK (CONT'D)
Mom. This is Myra. She's my new housekeeper.

ANNE
Well, hello, Myra. I bet you're a regular church go-er.

MYRA
Oh, yes. Every week.

ANNE
I knew it. I could tell by your Hispanic appearance.

Myra nods and exits, not sure whether she should be offended or not.

ANNE (CONT'D)
I like her.

JACK
I do, too. She's just a good person. And she's really good at cleaning out the gunk from under the fridge.

ANNE
Now. Here's a picture of the woman I want you to go out with.

JACK
Oh, she's actually quite fetching. But why would call this photo "enticing?" Her dress goes all the way from her ankles to the top of her neck.

ANNE
But it's a bit tight. You can almost make out the shape of her besom.
(MORE)

ANNE (CONT'D)
(then)
You'll go out with her?

JACK
Of course I will, Mom.

ANNE
Here's her number. And I just spoke to her mother at my "Faith and Family First" group meeting and her daughter is very excited to meet you.

BARRY
So, what's your group working on these days?

ANNE
Oh, we're still doing our letter writing. Trying to get them to take that awful "Family Guy" show off the air.

JACK
Mom, Family Guy is not an awful show.

ANNE
It's vile and subversive. It's corrupting our youth and poisoning this country. Why do you think we've had so many hurricanes in the last few years?

JACK
Because of "Family Guy?"

ANNE
We call it "Devil's Guy."

Barry nods in agreement. Jack rolls his eyes.

INT. DR. BEYER'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Beyer has his hands under his desk.

DR. BEYER
I don't have a lot of patients. I'm not one of those "get 'em in, get 'em out" factory doctors. I like a lot of time with my patients.

JACK
That sounds great. High five.

Jack puts his hand up. The doctor high fives him. Jack grabs his wrist and really examines his fingers.

JACK (CONT'D)
Wow. Skinny.

DR. BEYER
Oh, I get it. This is a prostate exam thing. I know a lot of men are nervous about it but it's really nothing.

JACK
It's just, the last doctor I met had these crazy Jabba the Hut fingers.

DR. BEYER
Yipes. You can't trust a doctor like that. Look at what he did to Han Solo.

JACK
Star Wars fan, skinny fingers, I think I found my new doctor.

DR. BEYER
Great. And my boyfriend Gideon is a big baseball fan. He'll be so excited you're a patient.

Jack stops short not sure what to make of that.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Jack and JULIE are walking down the street.

JACK
I would never have thought a woman my mother set me up with would be so cool.

JULIE
Well, the feeling's mutual. That play was amazing. Except for the annoying kids in the row in front of us.

JACK
They were a little loud but pretty cute.

JULIE
Not to me. I don't like kids.

JACK
But you'd probably like them if they were your kids.

JULIE
Oh, I'm never having kids. Messy, annoying, expensive... yech.

Jack shakes his head in frustration. This woman isn't the one.

JACK
I bet you didn't like E.T. either, did you?

JULIE
Not really. I was like "Hey, puppet. Stay, go, die, do something. You're getting pretty annoying."

JACK
(grave)
Do you even have a heart?

INT. JACK'S KITCHEN/TV ROOM AREA - MORNING

Jack is on the couch. Myra is nearby.

JACK
...and she didn't want kids. The whole date was a waste.

MYRA
I'm sorry, Jack. Can I get you something?

JACK
No, thanks, Myra. I'm just going to relax and read for a bit. I've been so busy lately with the pharmacy, finding a new doctor...

MYRA
And buying the shovel.

JACK
Of course, that too. But today I start my official retirement. Enjoy my life and relax. Me time.

Myra nods and exits. Jack gets comfortable. He opens the book and starts to read. After a beat, he looks up, bored. He looks at the TV, then shakes his head and goes back to his book. After another beat he looks up again.

INT. JACK'S KITCHEN/TV ROOM AREA - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Jack is playing a video game in his sweats and T-shirt.

EXT. JACK'S BACKYARD - DAY

He's trying to put up a garden fence around the hole he dug. The little posts don't seem to want to go in. He looks up at the sky and wipes his brow, then gives up.

INT. JACK'S KITCHEN/TV ROOM AREA - MINUTES LATER

Jack's playing a video game in the sweats and T-shirt again.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Jack, carrying a folding chair and a thermos, crosses the park. He finds a nice shady spot under a tree. He sets up his chair, sits, pours some tea into a mug and prepares to just enjoy the day. After a few beats of doing nothing, he stands and starts to fold up his chair.

INT. JACK'S KITCHEN/TV ROOM AREA - AN HOUR LATER

Jack is playing video games, again in the sweats and Tee. Myra approaches, carrying her purse.

MYRA
I'm going to go home now, Jack.

JACK
(not looking up)
Okay, Myra, enjoy your night.

Myra exits. It starts to get dark in the room. Then after a few seconds, it starts to get light again. Jack notices none of it, too into his video game. Myra enters.

JACK (CONT'D)
Oh, Myra. What happened? Did you forget something?

MYRA
Jack. It is the next day.

Jack looks around and realizes she's right.

JACK
Oh, my god.
(really realizing)
Oh, my god.

INT. JACK'S BATHROOM - SECONDS LATER

Jack stares at his scruffy and slightly puffy face. He doesn't like what he sees.

JACK
Oh, my god.

INT. JACK'S KITCHEN/TV ROOM AREA - SECONDS LATER

Jack comes out in a robe.

JACK
Myra, "me time" sucks. I'm done with it. Today, I find something to do with my life. Please throw these away for me.

He hands her his sweats and T-shirt.

MYRA
Of course.
(happy)
And Jack, good for you.

JACK
Thanks, Myra. You're a good friend.
(then)
Oh, and Myra? In the bathroom? Make sure you really clean the floor around the toilet. I'm tall so there's quite a bit of splashing. Thanks.

Jack exits. Myra shakes her head and exits as well.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. COURTSIDE EATS - EVENING

Jack, Barry and Kate sit in a booth having lunch. But not Jack's booth because it's occupied. Barry approaches with three glasses of beer. He's wearing a crazy Ed Hardy shirt.

BARRY
Hey. Who wants a beer? I brewed up a new one. I call it "Courtside Eats Red Ale."

JACK
(skeptical)
Why is it red?

BARRY
I don't know. It just came out that way.

JACK/KATE
Pass.

JACK
Listen. I had to come up with a new plan. Barry, you were right. I can't just do nothing.

BARRY
(sarcastic)
What happened to "plant a garden and drink tea in a park and meet new people?"

JACK
Gardens apparently take a year to grow, parks smell and people suck. So here it is. I need something to do, right? And I want to find a wife, right? So why not turn them into one thing? I date. Like crazy. Day dates, night dates, breakfast dates.

BARRY
Double dates.

JACK
No.
(look at his shirt)
No.
(then)
(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)
Remember that thing they always used to tell us when we played? You'll never find your swing until you've swung at 50,000 pitches. It's like that. But hopefully less than 50,000. I can't take that many women only ordering a Cesar salad and water.

KATE
This is a bad idea. Falling in love isn't the same as baseball.

JACK
Hold on. There's more. And you're going to like it. A list.

KATE
I do love lists. Go on.

JACK
A list of all the things I'm looking for in a wife. It will help me narrow down the options so I don't have to waste dates with women who don't want kids. Or a big wedding. Or doesn't like E.T.

KATE
You keep saying you want a wife but what you're really looking for is love. And you can't find love on a list.

JACK
Kate. You're the queen of lists. Will you help me make a wife list?

KATE
(beat)
Damn! I wish I didn't love lists so much!

Kate takes out a pen and begins to write on a napkin.

KATE (CONT'D)
(taking charge)
Okay. Jack's list for a wife.
(writing)
Has only been married once. One kid is okay but must want more. Likes musicals and no more than one pet.

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)
Single women with a lot of pets are damaged. That's just science.

BARRY
And smells nice. Like flowers or cake.
(off looks)
Beth smelled like that.

JACK
She has to be able to sing. There's nothing better than a woman with a beautiful singing voice. She can sing to our kids!

JACK/KATE
(moved)
Aww...

KATE
And no twins. Twins are creepy.

JACK
Remember those twins that lived down the street from us? I remember thinking, "Look. We barely need <u>one</u> of you. We certainly don't need two. I think one of you needs to go."

BARRY
And once we have the list, I know where to go. We need to take it and go to the hottest singles bar in Calabasas. AB After Dark.

JACK
What's that?

BARRY
It's Applebees after nine P.M. Tomorrow is Thursday and Thursday nights there are swimming with single women. And their spinach and arty dip is off the chiz-ain!
(off looks)
That doesn't work on me?

JACK
Nope. And neither does the shirt.

BARRY
Too gay?

JACK
(remembering)
Hey. Did I tell you I found a doctor I like? And he's gay. How great is that?

KATE
Oh, you found one. That's great. Why does it matter that he's gay?

JACK
I was nervous about the whole prostate thing, right? That's why I didn't go with the first Fred Flintstone guy.

KATE
Do gay people have small fingers? If that's true, I wish I knew it in college. Would've saved me a lot of time.

BARRY
(to Jack)
I don't get why you're less nervous.

JACK
(leading)
Because... Dr. Beyer is... more "familiar with the area."

BARRY
(agreeing)
He's more familiar with the area.

KATE
"More familiar with the area?"

JACK
(nodding)
More familiar with the area.

KATE
That's insane.

JACK
Call it what you want but I'm a lot less nervous about my exam now.

KATE
It's not that big a deal. Geez, I've had a lot worse than a finger--

JACK
The line! Respect the line!

INT. DR. BEYER'S OFFICE - DAY

Jack sits on the table, alone in the room in his blue patient gown. An older man enters. This is DR. BLOCK (50s). He pushes the door but it doesn't close all the way.

DR. BLOCK
Hello. Unfortunately, Dr. Beyer had a patient emergency and had to rush down to the hospital. I'm one of the partners at the practice and he asked me to finish your physical for him.

JACK
What? But I wanted him.

DR. BLOCK
(re chart)
Jack Wheeler. The pitcher. I thought I recognized you. Okay, lets see what else is there to do... Just a few things in here, then we'll get you on the treadmill.

He takes out that little hammer that tests reflexes.

DR. BLOCK (CONT'D)
I'm kind of a baseball nut. Play a lot of fantasy baseball.

JACK
Oh?

DR. BLOCK
Won my league trophy the last five years actually.

JACK
Congratulations.

DR. BLOCK
But not this past year.

He hits Jack's knee with the hammer a little harder than would be considered normal. Jack winces.

DR. BLOCK (CONT'D)
Had you on my team. You were the first pitcher I took in the draft. And you only had two wins. Killed me.

He hits Jack's other knee. He winces again.

JACK
Well, I had some cartilage problems in my shoulder. They said I shouldn't play another year but I wanted the whole farewell tour thing, you know?

DR. BLOCK
Bad shoulder, huh? Would've been nice if I knew about that. Maybe Sam Dewey wouldn't have the trophy that I had in my living room for the last five years.

He switches to the pointy lighted thing that is used to look in ears. He puts in Jack's ear, again not gently.

JACK
(wincing)
Are you supposed to stick it in that far?

DR. BLOCK
It's funny. I thought I was over it. But talking about it again just gets me--

He sticks it in the other ear, quite roughly.

JACK
Hey. Come on. You can't blame me.

DR. BLOCK
Why not?
(re chart)
What else. Ah, yes. The prostate exam.

Jack's eyes go wide. And FROM THE HALLWAY all we see is the door SLAM shut.

INT. AB AFTER DARK - NIGHT

It's crowded, a full-on scene. People drinking, talking, laughing, flirting. Jack and Barry take in the scene.

BARRY
Here it is. The Mecca of single women in the West Valley.

JACK
Alright. I think we should split up. Cover more ground that way.

BARRY
Oh, hey. How'd it go at the gay doctor's today?

JACK
He wasn't there. It was another guy. He was a bad man. A very bad man.

BARRY
What happened?

JACK
I don't want to talk about it.
(then)
You got your list?

BARRY
Yep.

JACK
Let's do this.

Jack moves away form Barry and his path is immediately blocked by a woman.

WOMAN #1
Pretty crowded, huh?

JACK
It is. And I just got here because I was walking my dogs.

WOMAN #1
You have dogs? I have three dogs!

JACK
(moving past her)
Excuse me.

INT. AB AFTER DARK - LATER

Jack chats with a woman at a high table.

JACK
So you had a big wedding. And that's the only one you've had?

WOMAN #2
It is. What about you?

JACK
Never been married. Do you like musicals?

WOMAN #2
Love them. My twin sister and I go all the --

JACK
It was very nice to meet you.

Jack crosses away, leaving the woman confused.

INT. AB AFTER DARK - LATER

Barry approaches a woman alone at a table. He sniffs her.

BARRY
Yipes.

He moves on.

INT. AB AFTER DARK - LATER

The place has thinned out a bit. Jack is with another woman.

JACK
Do you have any kids?

WOMAN #3
Here it comes. The moment where you get scared off like all the other guys.

JACK
How many do you have?

WOMAN #3
Two.

JACK
Two? That might be okay. I love kids.

WOMAN #3
Really? That's great because I lied. I have six.

Barry leans in.

BARRY
I got a "likes musicals, one divorce," and "smells nice" over there.

JACK
(to woman)
Sorry. I have to go.

INT. AB AFTER DARK - LATER

It's almost empty now, save for a few couples still trying to close the deal. But Jack hasn't noticed. He's sitting with a pretty woman, SLOANE. They seem to be having a great time.

JACK
I can't believe you saw that game.

SLOANE
I thought you were going to rip that umpire's head off. You have a little bit of a temper, huh?

JACK
Only sometimes. Another drink?

SLOANE
They called last call twenty minutes ago.

JACK
Really? How long have we been talking?

SLOANE
Over an hour.

JACK
Do you want to have dinner sometime? I don't mean to be this forward but I've just never met a woman who --

SLOANE
I don't think so.

JACK
What? Why not? We've been having a great time.

SLOANE
(deep breath)
Okay. Here's the thing. I have this list. Of things I want in a guy and, well, you match a couple things, but not enough.

JACK
What? Really? What's on your list that I'm not?

SLOANE
Too tall... no job, you obviously have a temper... I'm sorry.

She crosses away. Jack is thrown. He didn't see that coming.

JACK
(calling)
You can't get love from a list, you know!

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - NIGHT

It's an inner city field decked out for a celebration - kids running around, food, music, etc. Jack and Kate stand on a podium.

JACK
This whole time I've only thought of whether they're what I want. I never realized that I also have to be what <u>they</u> want.

KATE
That's a pretty big part of it.

JACK
All these things I used to day dream about when I was playing - that I'd come home and really enjoy wearing shorts everyday doing nothing. That it would be easy to find a wife... I know it's only been a couple weeks but it's just not turning out the way I visualized it.

KATE
Nothing ever does. But on the wife thing, you can't force it. It's not like baseball. Trying harder, working harder, doesn't help. It's the kind of thing that just happens. But there's always that magic moment when you just know. You need to stop looking. And when you do, love will find you.

JACK
That was... pretty lame.

KATE
It's from a Journey song.

JACK
Oh. Then I like it.

KATE
So what are you going to do about the other thing -- being bored off your ass.

JACK
I'm not sure. ESPN called my agent again. But I'd have to move to Connecticut for three months.

KATE
But you just got back.

JACK
I know but what am I going to do? I can't just sit around and do nothing. I thought I could, but I can't. You know the gardeners filled in my garden. They thought it was just a hole some raccoons dug.

KATE
Did you tell ESPN you'd do it?

JACK
Not yet. Probably tomorrow.

ANNOUNCER
It's time folks! It's time to turn on the lights at Jefferson field for the first time thanks to the incredible Jack Wheeler and his Jack Wheeler Foundation!

JACK
(into mic)
I'm so happy to be able to do this for all you wonderful people and all the amazing little ballplayers we have here today! Here we go! One, two, three... play ball!

Jack pushes a button and the field is instantly lit up. It's beautiful. Almost like a major league stadium. Everyone cheers. The kids grab their bats and balls, excited to play on their newly lit field.

KATE
You did good work here. Giving these kids a place to go at night instead of wandering the streets... It's a big deal.

JACK
You did all this. I only put my name on it. Good job, Kate.

A young kid about eleven approaches.

KID
Hey Jack Wheeler. Can you pitch some to us?

JACK
You think you can handle major league pitching?

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Jack stands on the mound. The kid in the box, bat ready. Jack lobs one to him. The kid smacks it. It's a great hit.

KID
I just hit major league pitching!

Another kid steps into the box. Jack winds up and lobs another. Soon, there's a whole line of kids waiting to hit off Jack. It looks like Jack's having almost as much fun as the kids. When they've all hit, he starts to walk back to Kate, but the first kid stops him.

KID (CONT'D)
Hey, Jack Wheeler. Do you think you can come to our practice? You're pretty good at pitching.

JACK
Well, thanks, slugger but --

An attractive woman, LISA steps in.

LISA
It sure would be great. I know you must be really busy but these kids, they need some inspiration. Most of them don't have dads around. I mean, I'm the coach.
(offering hand)
Lisa.

JACK
Very nice to meet you.

The kids have started to gather around him. "Will you come to our practice?" "Please, Mr. Wheeler?" Jack is not only moved by the kids and their excitement to have him around, he's clearly intrigued by Lisa. He takes in the scene, takes a beat... and makes a decision.

JACK (CONT'D)
I'd love to come.

The kids cheer and run off.

LISA
Thank you so much. You have no idea what a difference you're going to make.

Lisa moves away as Kate approaches.

KATE
So... gonna stick around?

JACK
I am. What just happened right there? With the kids? I never visualized that. But I should have.

KATE
And that Lisa's pretty hot. Maybe when you get home you visualize her going --

Jack takes his gloved hand and puts it over her face to stop her from talking.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

INT. COURTSIDE EATS - DAY

Jack, Kate, Barry and Anne are in a booth.

JACK
So I'll work with the kids, and if it means chatting up a few hot single moms? Well, that's just sweet gravy. You know it really pays to do charity work.

ANNE
I knew I taught you something. Well, I better go. My Faith and Family group is meeting at the mall to pass out these pamphlets on the sins of masturbation.
(re pamphlets)
Barry, maybe I can leave some and you'll pass them out to the patrons?

BARRY
You know I will.

Anne exits.

BARRY (CONT'D)
(reading pamphlet)
Not true. Not true.
(looks at palm, then)
Not true.
(tilts head)
Kinda true.

Kate grabs one and reads it.

KATE
(reading)
"And remember. He's always watching you." Boy, if that's true he's getting quite the show. Sometimes two a day. The weekend when Tim took the kids skiing there was a show every --

JACK
(fingers in ears)
Ahh! Respect the line! Respect! The! Line!

END OF SHOW