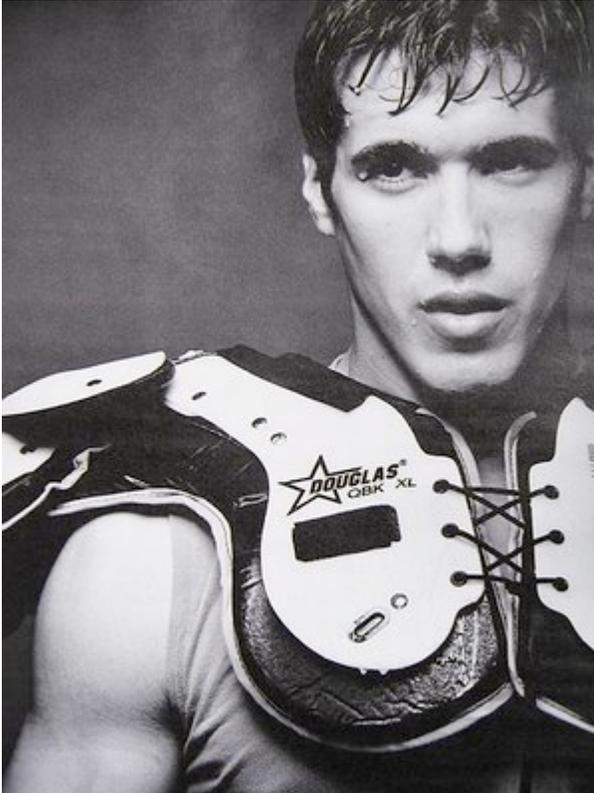


# Like Father, Like Son

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A Romantic Comedy  
by  
Jim Dalglish



Teddy's father is coming out of the closet – with a bang. His college roommate is a sexually insatiable football star. And he's met a good-looking doctor whose husband has just walked out on him and their adopted infant son. Boston's Gay Pride celebration is shaping up to be memorable. If only Teddy can survive it.

*"I'll be the best buddy you ever had. You just gotta help me pull a C+ average and win a national title. Give the pros something big enough to overlook my serious cock addiction."*

- Bucky

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# Like Father, Like Son

## Characters

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**Teddy** – 19-year-old college student. Studious, serious and painfully self-conscious. He has no clue how attractive or funny he is. He was the founder and sole member of his high school's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Student Alliance.

**Ted** – Early 40s. Teddy's father. A high-powered attorney who has given up his marriage, career and home in the suburbs to live in Boston's South End and wait tables at a gay nightclub/restaurant.

**Bucky** – 21-year-old college football star. As the quarterback for Boston College he leads the league in passing completions and touchdowns. He is rather like Tim Tebow, the quarterback for the University of Florida Gators.

**Geoffrey** – Late 30s early 40s. Recently adopted a child from a war-torn country. A well-meaning doctor whose good deeds have come at a price.

## Setting

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### Place

Locales scattered across the Boston metropolitan area – South End, Back Bay, the tony suburb of Weston, and the Boston College (BC) campus.

### Time

This summer.

## Scenic Elements

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The set should be open with modular elements that can be configured to suggest an attic apartment, dorm room, Cadillac convertible, nightclub, bleachers, beach, etc.

## Note on Projections

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While they are not necessary to understand the action of the play, projections may be used to establish settings and scenic elements and help cover set and costume changes. They may also be used for the display of the play's text messages and provide pre-show and post-show entertainment.

Suggestions for projections are included within the stage directions. Pre- and post-show projection ideas are included in the **Appendix** that follows the play.

# Act I

## Scene 1

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(Lights up.

Projected on the screen: *Previously*

There are three playing areas in front of the screen -- the areas could be indicated by projections. Teddy is seen in the living room of his home in Weston. Geoffrey is in his condo in Boston. He holds a crying infant. Bucky is seen as he is interviewed in a TV studio for a 60 Minutes segment.

The lights and projections flash from setting to setting as the characters speak their lines. In each case the characters are speaking to someone that is not visible on the stage, although photographs of these non-appearing participants may be projected. Every time the scene shifts to Geoffrey, the sound of a crying baby is heard. The ticking of the 60 minutes stopwatch is heard whenever the action shifts to Bucky.)

**TEDDY**

Mom. Dad. I have something important to tell you.

**GEOFFREY**

Roger? Where you going with my bag?

**BUCKY**

The world has changed, Leslie. Even college football has changed. For my teammates and me... hey... this is no big deal.

**TEDDY**

Not that you should be all that surprised. I mean, I've known since I was six and I've basically spent the last ten years preparing you for this moment.

**GEOFFREY**

Roger? My bag?

**BUCKY**

I could have done the Dave Kopay don't-ask-don't-tell thing, but that just isn't who I am, Leslie. *Dave Kopay*. That's the dude's name, right?

**TEDDY**

Drama club, violin, forensics, subscription to GQ and Details, figure skating lessons, choir...

**GEOFFREY**

He needs to be fed, changed and put down for a nap.

**BUCKY**

The guys are cool. This isn't an issue anymore...

**GEOFFREY**

If you think you're going to go to the gym...

**BUCKY**

As long as I keep leading the league in reception completions and touchdowns, I don't think the fans will give a fuck if I like to take it up the ass.

**TEDDY**

...student council, boys state, chess club, the clothes I designed for myself in home ec...

**GEOFFREY**

Then what are you doing with the bag?

**BUCKY**

(Looking over his shoulder:) What? Want me to say that in a different way?

**TEDDY**

It isn't like there weren't any clues. My best friend is a greasy-haired, Lady Ga Ga - fetishizing 285 pound Asian girl, for Christ's sake.

**GEOFFREY**

What do you mean?

**TEDDY**

But now that I'm 16, I think there's something I need to tell you.

**GEOFFREY**

For how long?

**BUCKY**

The shower? Hey, I'm proud of my body. I don't care if the guys wanna stare.

**GEOFFREY**

What?

**BUCKY**

When the fans yell, *Smear the Queer*? Can't pay attention to that stuff.

**GEOFFREY**

How am I supposed to handle this all on my own?

**TEDDY**

Here goes. Mom. Dad. I'm gay.

**BUCKY**

Why should being gay affect my future in the pros? I don't get it.

**GEOFFREY**

(Indicating the crying baby in his arms:) This adoption was all your idea.

(Lights up on Ted as he sits next to his son on the couch. He is crying – perhaps over-dramatically.)

**TEDDY**

Dad?

**TED**

It's okay, Teddy. I'm gay too!

**TEDDY**

What?

**GEOFFREY**

You can't leave us.

**BUCKY**

The pros? I just don't get it.

(Lights down.)

## Scene 2

---

(Lights up.

Projection on the screen: *Now*. Followed by photographs of the South End neighborhood of Boston as it prepares for the annual Gay Pride Parade. The series ends with a photo of a rather cluttered attic apartment furnished in a way that suggests a college-age tenant rather than a middle-aged man. This is Ted's apartment.

Ted's son Teddy sits on a couch. Bored and slightly exasperated.

Ted enters from the bathroom wearing a rather flamboyant robe.

Teddy sees the robe and sighs. Ted continues to get ready as Teddy sits on the bed and watches.)

**TED**

Are you excited, Teddy?

**TEDDY**

Thrilled.

**TED**

They haven't started, have they?

TEDDY

Not until noon.

TED

Well, if it runs on gay time, it'll be at least 20 minutes late, right?

TEDDY

Whatever.

TED

*Gay time*. I picked that up at The Eagle last Sunday night.

(Teddy rolls his eyes.)

My first gay pride parade. It means a lot that you're here to share it with me, son.  
Happy Pride.

TEDDY

Ahhhhhh!

TED

What's wrong?

TEDDY

On campus. In the subway from Chestnut Hill. All over the South End this morning that's all I heard. *Have a Happy Pride*. Pride – it's the most deadly of the Seven Deadly sins, you know. But does that occur to anyone? You don't see people prancing around shrieking, *Happy Envy*. Or sending cards that say, *Have an avarice-filled Christmas and a slothful New Year?*

TED

(Laughing:) Guess I haven't thought about it.

(Projections of Pride Lights ceremony.)

TEDDY

And *Pride Lights*. That's the dumbest-ass thing I've ever seen. A tree planted practically in the middle of Tremont Street. A skinny double-jointed queen with a lisp and a short, fat, disabled dyke with a mullet hold hands as they throw a switch and a million tiny pink lights twinkle like stars as we all burst into...

TED

(Singing:) *Somewhere over the rainbow...*

TEDDY

(Singing:) *Somewhere over the rainbow...*

TED

Didn't seem to bother Bucky.

TEDDY

Bucky was gawked at by a few thousand preening, bare-chested buffpuffs. Like a pig in shit. The whole thing just gets on my nerves. If those boys had spent one eighth as much time on their personalities as their bodies....

TED

Is that why you left early? We turned around and you had disappeared.

TEDDY

It's called organic chemistry. If I don't study my ass off....

TED

When do you retake the final?

TEDDY

Next week.

TED

You'll do fine, son. Bucky and I missed you. It was touching.

TEDDY

Once you've seen two or three of these manufactured events, you can see what it's really about.

TED

Which is?

(Teddy tries to respond, but is surprised to be brought up short.)

TEDDY

(Giving up:) I'm glad you enjoyed it.

TED

I think Bucky did too.

TEDDY

Did he meet someone?

(Ted shrugs.)

That horn-dog didn't come back to the dorm last night. He's probably at the parade in the back seat of the caddy making out with the latest love of his life.

(Teddy texts on his phone. We see the text on the projection screen:  
*Wher the hell r u?*)

TED

Does that bother you?

TEDDY

Bucky's tricks? Christ no.

(Teddy receives a text. On the screen: *parade. wher hell u?*)

TED

Did you guys ever....

TEDDY

He's my college roommate, Dad. It would be like doing your brother.

(Teddy sends reply. *Dads*

Ted takes his robe off. He wears only briefs. He crosses to Teddy.)

(Staring at one of Ted's Tattoos:) Another one?

TED

You like?

TEDDY

When is it going to stop? If mother saw you, she'd have a...

TED

Well, that's not going to happen, son.

TEDDY

Pants, Dad. Pants.

TED

What do you think of these new 2<sup>x</sup>ist briefs?

TEDDY

Dear God.

(Teddy receives a text. *Hurry if u wanna share my ride.*)

TED

They do kinda set you up a little better in front.

TEDDY

Next!

TED

I got you something special to wear for the parade.

(Ted throws Teddy a shirt. It's a sleeveless T-shirt that says *I love my gay dad.*)

TEDDY

No fucking way.

TED

Look at the cut. It'll really show off your guns.

TEDDY

Guns?

TED

You don't like it?

TEDDY

Why does everything always have to be about you? Everywhere we go? Think about it. Why couldn't *you* wear a shirt that says...?

(Ted turns to face Teddy and show him the t-shirt he has just put on. It says *I love my gay son*. He smiles broadly at his son.

Teddy can't help but be touched by this. He laughs and shakes his head. He takes off his shirt and puts the t-shirt on.

Lights up. Off to the side.

Geoffrey is seen struggling to get his infant son into a baby carrier that is strapped to his back. He is having a terrible time. The child is crying loudly.

Lights go down on Geoffrey and child. But the baby is still heard crying. Once the t-shirt is on, Ted playfully punches his son on the shoulder.)

TED

See?

(Ted holds his son's head and kisses him on the forehead.

Teddy is embarrassed, but likes it more than he will admit.

He hears the sound of the infant crying.)

TEDDY

What's with the baby?

TED

New tenant downstairs.

TEDDY

Jesus.

TED

I'm wearing earplugs at night.

TEDDY

Dad, this place...

TED

I like it here.

TEDDY

Are you kidding?

TED

It's a beautiful townhouse in an historic district.

TEDDY

It's an unfinished attic.

TED

This is where I am now.

(Ted grabs a yellow-striped armband and tries it on his right arm.)

TED

Does this look better left or right?

TEDDY

I don't want to know.

TED

What?

TEDDY

It's yellow, Dad.

(Ted shows Teddy another red-striped armband.)

TED

I've got a red one too. I'm collecting all the colors of the rainbow. Like the complete set of handkerchiefs I bought last fall.

(Ted ties a brown handkerchief around his neck.)

Brown to match my eyes.

(Teddy takes the handkerchief and armband from his father and shakes his head.)

TEDDY

Don't play with things you don't understand.

TED

What do you mean?

TEDDY

Pants, Dad. Pants.

(Ted starts to put his pants on.)

TED

Teddy?

TEDDY

Yeah?

TED

Um...

(He is having trouble telling Teddy something. He is interrupted by a text to his mobile phone. We see the text on the screen: *Don't tell hm. He'll freak.* Ted reads the text and quickly flips the phone closed.

TEDDY

You were saying?

TED

In case we run into Richard and Gregory, they'd like to know if we want to go in on a house in P'town this August. They had a cancellation.

TEDDY

Gee, Dad. Maybe we could go cruise the dick dock together too.

TED

I just figured it would be easier for you to get into the bars out there if you went with your father. Nice way for us to bond. You as an adult and me as... who I am. Kinda like at the gym. Which reminds me. That guy... Eduardo?

TEDDY

The hustler?

TED

I thought he was a trainer.

TEDDY

What's the difference?

TED

He taught me this great new way to doing squats. You should try it. Great for the gluts.

TEDDY

Please don't tell me you've been looking at my ass, Dad.

TED

I haven't seen you at the gym lately.

TEDDY

I'm going back to the one on campus.

TED

I got you that membership for Christmas.

TEDDY

I don't want to take showers with you. Okay, Dad?

TED

Didn't bother you at the tennis club when you were a kid.

TEDDY

It's different now.

TED

How?

TEDDY

You're different. Okay?

TED

I'm fifty years old and I'm gay.

TEDDY

Hit the nail on the head.

TED

You gotta get over that, Son. I'm your father. I'm here. I'm queer. Get used to it.

TEDDY

(Losing his patience:) This is so fucked...

TED

...Today is not the day for you...

TEDDY

...ever since you ruined my coming out.

TED

Not this again.

TEDDY

*It's okay, Teddy. I'm gay too!* What were you thinking?

TED

I should have told your mother first. I've apologized a million times.

TEDDY

Totally fucked.

TED

I was so proud of your courage, that I...

TEDDY

Why can't you just be gay on the sly? Sneak off into rest stops or hang out in the country club sauna like any normal gay man your age?

TED

Teddy, don't be a bitch.

TEDDY

You know how much my education is costing?

TED

(Pointing to his arm and leg:) This and this?

TEDDY

Then you know that you've got to go back to the law firm.

TED

This is who I am now.

TEDDY

You can't support us waiting tables at Club Café.

TED

At least it's honest.

(Teddy scoffs at this in exasperation. He is getting more upset.)

TEDDY

You know.... I've had it, Dad.

TED

What's wrong, Son?

TEDDY

Just the whole thing. That's all.

TED

Can you be more specific?

TEDDY

Whenever I go out... to the bookstores... coffee houses... dance clubs... the gym... there you are... wearing some ridiculously tight T-shirt ... or big construction boots with too many buckles... and you open your mouth and everyone stops and their jaws drop because you say the most ridiculous things... and then everyone looks at me and I have to smile and pretend I'm caught in an Abbot and Costello movie. You humiliate me. Just the fact that you live here... just the fact that you walk out that door... just the fact that you are gay and everyone knows it... is totally humiliating.

TED

Why?

TEDDY

Because it's like saying that I was a mistake. Some stupid mistake you made twenty years ago. A mistake that you regret... and wish you could take back. Those twenty years you lost all went into me. And everyone thinks it's so funny. Teddy has a gay father! Such a good joke. I want my old hard-assed dad back...

TED

...I'm not that person anymore...

TEDDY

...a brass-balled businessman who doesn't take shit from anyone. Who I have to work like hell to impress. A dad who's strong and silent and in love with my mother.

A man. Like the dads on TV. Like mom's new man. Do you want me to start calling Jerry, *Dad*?

**TED**

No, Son.

**TEDDY**

Then get over your mid-life crisis and stop acting like a twink.

(Teddy gets up and crosses by the bed. He steps on something slippery.)

Christ, Dad! Just a little hint. A lot of gay fathers have garbage bins next to their beds so that when their young, impressionable sons come to visit, they don't have to step on their dad's *used rubbers*.

(Ted grabs the condom and exits into the bathroom. We hear a flush. He re-enters.)

And look at that bed. When you lived with mom you always cleaned up after yourself.

**TED**

For the last ten years, not much of a mess to clean up.

(Teddy reaches for a bottle of poppers on the bedside stand. He holds them up.)

**TEDDY**

Poppers! My old man uses poppers!

**TED**

Knock it off, Teddy.

(Teddy holds up a watch.)

**TEDDY**

A new watch dad, or did your trick leave it behind?

**TED**

Put it down.

**TEDDY**

And a wedding ring! A watch and a ring!

(Teddy puts the watch down and looks closely at the ring. He freezes. Projection of a close up of the ring is shown.)

You wouldn't have.

(Ted looks down at the floor.)

Dad? Look at me!

(Ted looks Teddy in the eye.)

Oh my god! I can't believe it.

(Lights out.)

## Scene 3

---

(Lights up.

*Ten Months Before* is projected on the screen.

Images of the Boston College campus follow. Many show students with suitcases and boxes moving into their dorms.

Teddy enters with a large suite case. We see projections of a pretty spacious dorm room. He has an official document from the college in his hand. He looks insecure and slightly confused.

We see Ted off to the side. He is in the parking lot below.

They are talking to each other on the phone.)

TEDDY

It's okay, Dad. I'll be fine.

TED

I don't see why...

TEDDY

I want to do this by myself.

TED

Have you met your roommate yet?

TEDDY

I think he's in the shower.

TED

I could have carried a bag...

TEDDY

Room is huge. Like it's a suite or something.

TED

I just want to make sure my boy...

TEDDY

I'm at the window. I'm waving...

...Teddy...

TED

I'm smiling. See how happy I am?

TEDDY

It's like you're embarrassed by me.

TED

Duh!

TEDDY

I promised your mother...

TED

As I told you both, I want to do this by myself.

TEDDY

Honey...

TED

Get in the car, Dad.

TEDDY

Son.

TED

Dad.

TEDDY

(Ted mimes getting into a car. Teddy watches from the window.)

Now wave and drive off.

(Ted waves and puts it into gear.

Bucky enters. He is wearing only the briefest of towels. He is wet. And beautiful. Teddy doesn't see him. He's still looking out the window.)

Watch the bus!

TED

Where the hell...?

TEDDY

Put the phone down and drive, Dad.

(Lights out on Ted.

Teddy turns off his phone, looks up and sees Bucky.

He is speechless.

Bucky smiles.)

Hey. **BUCKY**

Hey. **TEDDY**

(Pause.)

I'm Theodore.

Bucky. **BUCKY**

Bucky? **TEDDY**

That's me. **BUCKY**

(Teddy looks through the papers he's holding.)

I think I'm... Is this 48? I.... **TEDDY**

...No. You've come to... **BUCKY**

...I was expecting... Um... *Bertram*... **TEDDY**

Yeah... Well... That's... **BUCKY**

Bertram Kent **TEDDY**

You can call me *Bucky*. Everyone does. **BUCKY**

Okay. **TEDDY**

You don't know who I am. Do you? **BUCKY**

My new roommate? **TEDDY**

(Laughing:) This is going to be fun. **BUCKY**

**TEDDY**

I got this in the mail last week. I was supposed to be in the freshman dorm, but they switched me to...

**BUCKY**

I did that.

**TEDDY**

You?

**BUCKY**

You're going to like it a lot better here.

**TEDDY**

How did you... you're a freshman?

**BUCKY**

Do I look like a freshman?

(Teddy can only stare at his nearly naked roommate with his mouth open.)

Junior.

**TEDDY**

Then why are you...?

**BUCKY**

Just got in from practice. My shoulders and back are ... I can't... Can you...?

(Bucky hands Teddy a tube of menthol liniment.)

**TEDDY**

I don't think...

(Bucky turns his back to Teddy. Teddy freezes and Bucky tries to point to the spot on his back.)

**BUCKY**

Just to the right of...Killing me...

(Teddy can't do it. Bucky faces Teddy.)

Hey, we're going to be roomies. May as well get it out of the way. Right?

(Bucky smiles and throws the towel to the bed. He is naked. And pretty much perfect in every way. He offers his back to Teddy.)

**TEDDY**

Um....

**BUCKY**

Go ahead, man.

(Teddy swallows and begins to rub the liniment into Bucky's back.)

I mean... this is why I chose you.

**TEDDY**

To rub your back?

(Bucky picks up a very thick manuscript. He has trouble reading the title. The manuscript – an entrance essay – is projected on the screen.)

**BUCKY**

*St. Benedict and His Boyz: Queer Heresy in the Holy Orders*

**TEDDY**

How did you... ?

**BUCKY**

(Laughing:) Didn't understand a fucking word of it. Bet the monks in admissions did, though. You got balls, roomie. I like that!

**TEDDY**

My transcripts?

**BUCKY**

Had to make sure I was getting what I needed. How can you get a 5.5 GPA? Extra classes or something?

**TEDDY**

They let you...?

**BUCKY**

You don't know how this whole thing works do you?

**TEDDY**

Whole thing?

**BUCKY**

At this school there's classes and tests and professors and frat houses and degrees and shit. And then there's football.

**TEDDY**

Okay.

**BUCKY**

See what I mean?

(Bucky turns around. He notices that during the rubdown Teddy has developed an erection that cannot be hidden by his pants.)

Hey, buddy. Nice.

(Teddy notices and covers his crotch with his hands.)

**TEDDY**

Jesus.

**BUCKY**

I take that as a compliment.

**TEDDY**

(Under his breath:) Within two minutes of meeting my roommate I pop a boner.

**BUCKY**

I'm chubbing up a little too. I think that's a good sign. Don't you? Already cutting through all the bullshit. I like that.

(Teddy takes out his phone and dials nervously.)

What's up?

**TEDDY**

Calling my dad to come back. I can't...

**BUCKY**

Hey. Hey.

**TEDDY**

I didn't sign up for...

(Bucky finally puts a pair of running shorts on.)

**BUCKY**

Wait. Okay. Okay. Yeah. I know. I can be kinda...

**TEDDY**

Kinda?

**BUCKY**

You really don't know who I am. Do you?

**TEDDY**

A delusional, narcissistic jock with psychotic tendencies?

**BUCKY**

Yeah.

(Extends his hand. Teddy doesn't accept it.)

Bucky Kent. Quarterback. BC Eagles.

**TEDDY**

I don't know football. Now figure skating...

**BUCKY**

Four school records. All American. 60 Minutes profile last Spring...?

(60 Minutes promo graphic with Bucky is projected.)

**TEDDY**

(Finally figuring it out:) Gay.

**BUCKY**

Queer as a three-dollar bill.

**TEDDY**

My roommate.

**BUCKY**

Bucky Kent. Isn't that fucking awesome?

**TEDDY**

The gay football player. I remember reading...

**BUCKY**

You are going to be the most talked-about freshman on campus, dude!

**TEDDY**

Why me?

**BUCKY**

Love football, but the players? Assholes.

**TEDDY**

Still don't get it.

(Bucky continues to get dressed and groom himself.)

**BUCKY**

Okay. You want the whole story? Without all the 60 Minutes sugar coating?

**TEDDY**

Okay.

**BUCKY**

A few years back. My sixth foster home in ten years. I take off, but I need a little money. I meet a man who has it and a nice place he lets me hang.

(Projections of a punky, high-school-aged Bucky being videotaped by a rather trollish older man.)

The footage he takes is kind of sweet. You get the whole package, but it's mostly me smiling and talking about what I like. A whole lot about what I like until... Well. I just can't contain myself anymore. Know what I mean?

**TEDDY**

Uh....

**BUCKY**

For a few hundred bucks. I figure I'd make a few old daddy types real happy. No one gets hurt. I'm in high school, but I'm 18. Been held back a few times which is good

for football, but self esteem? The daddies are happy. I have the money. That's that. Put it behind me. Nobody knows. I get a new foster home.

(Projections of Bucky playing football in high school.)

I concentrate on not flunking out of high school and lead my wrong-side-of-the-tracks, piece-of-shit football team to a state championship. Which earns me a football scholarship to play for the monks. Big-man-on-campus shit. You know?

(Projections of Bucky's YouTube video.)

Then the video goes viral and I have a lot of *explaining* to do. A bomb goes off. The way people treat me. Like I'm a leopard or something.

**TEDDY**

*Leper.*

**BUCKY**

What I said. Fucking roommate. Never even looked at him sideways. And he's "I'm not gonna room with a faggot. Against my religion." Yeah. Like paying for his girlfriend's abortion is in the New Testament. They move me to a locker in a corner and clear the showers before I go in. Like I want to nail any of their asses? Not that I would. Sure, I'm a quarterback, but off the field? More of a tight end.

**TEDDY**

Oh.

**BUCKY**

Like any of them would turn down a blowjob? That's my experience anyway. So I skip the shower and come home to clean up. Fuck em. Top or bottom?

**TEDDY**

The bunks?

**BUCKY**

No.

**TEDDY**

I...

**BUCKY**

You can be honest with me. I always tell the truth. Yeah. There was the breaking-into-houses phase and the fighting. I'm over that. I've had my shit, but I'm always straight. You can trust me. So. Let's get to know each other better. Top or bottom?

**TEDDY**

I don't know.

(This brings Bucky up short.)

I guess you can be out of the closet when you're 16, write a college entrance essay about gay pride and discrimination in the clergy and never...

**BUCKY**

...Lose your cherry? Hey. It's okay, man.

**TEDDY**

I just never met someone who...

**BUCKY**

...That's sweet. Real sweet. Not my approach, but...

**TEDDY**

...It's not like I've never...

(Bucky waits, but Teddy can't complete his thought.)

**BUCKY**

We'll find you someone special. Real special.

**TEDDY**

Are you always this direct?

(Bucky uses a glass of water to take a bunch of prescription medication.)

**BUCKY**

You gotta help me remember to take my Ritalin. One of your jobs, okay? Without it. Oh, boy.

(He swallows the pills and stops.)

Where was I?

**TEDDY**

Beats the hell out of me.

**BUCKY**

I'm stupid. That's basically it in a nutshell. Stupid with the video. Stupid to think that it wouldn't catch up with me. That the old guys who paid me 500 bucks a load wouldn't cash out later. Stupid thinking my teammates would roll with it. Too stupid to pull even a C+ average. But football runs this school and if you want a Division I title, you gotta have this arm and this arm is attached to this stupid brain and this stupid body and this body comes with a whole bunch of impulses and desires that have to be satisfied. You know what I mean? I'm just stupid enough to think that I can pull this whole thing off. That's where you come in.

**TEDDY**

Where?

**BUCKY**

I'll be the best buddy you've ever had. You just gotta get me through this last two years. Help me pull a C+ average and win a national title. Give the pros something big enough to overlook my serious cock addiction. All goes as planned, I pull down a juicy \$30 million contract.

**TEDDY**

You're kidding me.

**BUCKY**

Finalist for the Heisman last year. You help me, I'll take you along for the ride. Is it a deal, dude?

**TEDDY**

Not really a *dude*, Bucky. Know what I mean?

**BUCKY**

Okay, bro.

**TEDDY**

Do I look like a *bro*?

**BUCKY**

What do you want me to call you, *Princess*?

**TEDDY**

Theodore.

**BUCKY**

Ted?

**TEDDY**

That's my father.

**BUCKY**

Teddy. (Tickling Teddy:) Teddy Bear.

**TEDDY**

Not really a bear.

**BUCKY**

Not yet.

(Text comes in on Teddy's phone. Projection: *R U ok?*)

**TEDDY**

Just a second. God.

(Teddy texts back: *Yes. Dont txt while u drive!!*)

Dads. Know what I mean?

**BUCKY**

Not so much.

Oh? TEDDY

Yeah. Never met. BUCKY

Mom? TEDDY

Out of the picture. BUCKY

Sounds good to me. TEDDY

(Bucky doesn't laugh at Teddy's remark. Teddy notices and feels bad.)

I mean. Mine. Mother's *perfect*. And expects everything else to be. My dad. Well, that's another story I'll save for later. You never met him? Your father? Really?

BUCKY  
Don't even have a name. One night stand. Hotel room. She swiped his wedding ring and got out of town. I wasn't the best surprise. Put a dent in her lifestyle. Know what I mean?

Sorry. TEDDY

BUCKY  
When I was a kid, I used to see a cop... firefighter... cab driver... anyone, you know? And I'd think... Dad? Maybe we've met someplace. Or I've seen him somewhere... in a crowd. Or he's seen me on TV and he's thinking, *Man, that kid can play. I'd like a son just like that.* Only he'd never know. Because she didn't bother to get a name. He's probably a bum. Divorced. Drunk most of the time. Kids he never sees. That's probably more like it. Fucked up, huh?

(Bucky shows Teddy the wedding ring on his finger.)

Only thing I got from him. Not that he exactly gave it to me.

(Teddy looks at it closely. Projection showing the ring in close up. It's the same ring Teddy found on his father's nightstand.)

TEDDY  
Beautiful.

BUCKY  
And that's where it will stay until I get my Superbowl Ring.

(Lights out.)

## Scene 4

---

(Projected on the screen: *Back to Now (+ 2 hrs)*. Followed by photos showing Boston's Gay Pride Parade. The last shows Bucky sitting on the back of a classic 1950s Cadillac convertible. A sign on the side of the Cadillac says, "2010 Grand Marshal – Bucky Kent.")

Bucky is seen having a great time, waving at the people lining the streets. Teddy is driving the convertible. Ted is in the passenger seat. They are both wearing the T-shirts Ted made for them. Projections fade out.

Lights up.

We see the three of them as though they were in the convertible.

There is considerable crowd noise. Bucky is too busy waving and shouting to hear what Ted and Teddy are saying. He is having the time of his life.)

**BUCKY**

Wooo hoooooo! Hey, everybody!

**TEDDY**

I can't believe it. My father's fucking my college roommate!

**TED**

Shhhh. He'll hear.

**TEDDY**

You're fucking Bucky!

**TED**

I promised him I wouldn't tell...

**TEDDY**

Christ, Dad!

**BUCKY**

Happy Pride!

**TEDDY**

God!

**TED**

Don't overreact, Son.

TEDDY

How am I supposed...?

TED

...watch the motorcycle...

WOMAN'S VOICE

Hey, buddy. Back off!

TEDDY

Sorry, ma-am.

BUCKY

Yaaahhhhh whooooooo!

TEDDY

How long has this been going on?

TED

What?

TEDDY

Dad!

TED

Last night.

TEDDY

But I was...

TED

Pride Lights.

TEDDY

I turn my back for five minutes and...

TED

We were singing *We Shall Overcome* and all of a sudden...

TEDDY

...You both manage to overcome about 30 years.

BUCKY

Hey, Teddy Bear. (Pointing off stage:) That's the guy who took your cherry. Hey, buddy, where you been?

TEDDY

Oh, god.

TED

This has to stay just between you and me.

TEDDY

Are you kidding?

TED

He doesn't want you to know.

TEDDY

This is fan fucking tastic.

BUCKY

Teddy, watch! (Standing in the convertible:) *I'm king of the world!!!*

(Cross fade to another part of the stage.)

We see Geoffrey marching in the parade. He is carrying a picket that says "Gay Parents Association." The hand-written word "Single" has been inserted before "Gay" and the "s" in "Parents" has been crossed out. An infant is strapped into a carrier that covers Geoffrey's chest. The child is crying. We hear the child's hysterical crying over the parade sounds. Geoffrey looks absolutely shell-shocked and exhausted.

We see this tableaux for a beat before the lights go out on Geoffrey.

Cross face back to the convertible. Bucky is dancing around on the back seat and trunk, waving and calling out to the crowds.)

Teddy Bear. (Pointing offstage:) That one. Right there. Fucking hot. (Calling offstage:) You're fucking hot, man! Fucking hot. Hey stud! Woooooooooooof! (Leans over and jostles Teddy and Ted:) I can't believe we're almost at the end. This is amazing!

TEDDY

Bucky, sit your ass down!

BUCKY

I'm going to go shake hands. Maybe even kiss a few babies. I fucking LOVE this!

(Bucky gets out of the car and takes his shirt off.)

Hey, everybody. It's me. Bucky Kent!!

(Bucky exits.)

TEDDY

Is that what you really want, Dad?

TED

(Staring at Bucky as he walks away -- in rapture:) Oh, yeah.

TEDDY

This is absolutely, completely, totally insane. Do you know how ludicrous you are?

TED

Bucky doesn't find me ludicrous. In fact it would appear that he finds me quite attractive.

**TEDDY**

Bucky fucks anything that moves.

**TED**

Except you.

(This hits home.)

A lot of guys like mature men, Teddy. Maybe that's why you are like brothers. Maybe Bucky's ready to be honest about his real desires.

**TEDDY**

Peachy!

**TED**

Maybe you're mad because you like him a little more than you're willing to admit.

(Teddy is mad.)

**TEDDY**

It's over, Dad. You're not going to touch him again. Understand?

**TED**

Don't tell me what to do, Son.

(Teddy mimes putting the convertible into park. He rips his *I Love My Gay Dad* off and throws it offstage.)

**TEDDY**

Parade's over, Dad.

**TED**

I'm taking a walk.

(Ted exits.

Bucky re-enters and jumps back into the convertible.)

**BUCKY**

This parade was fucking awesome! Let's do another one real soon. Can you look into that? Hey, Baby Bear, you took your shirt off! Yeah, man! About time!

(Teddy is self-conscious.)

**TEDDY**

Bucky.

**BUCKY**

Where'd your dad go?

**TEDDY**

Sit your ass down. Now.

(Bucky jumps over the seat and sits on the passenger side.)

**BUCKY**

What's next?

**TEDDY**

Bucky...

**BUCKY**

The list... *work the list...*

**BUCKY**

...work the list... work the list...

**TEDDY**

...work the list... work the list...

(Teddy takes out folder.)

**TEDDY**

1:30 interview with channel five at the press tent on the Common. 2 o'clock presentation at the Hatch Shell. Your speech at 2:15... Here's the script. 3:30 photo op with the rugby team. Remember the match is tomorrow. Did you study the rules?

**BUCKY**

Bunch of guys on a football field chasing after fatter-than-average pigskin. What's the big deal?

**TEDDY**

It's more complicated...

**BUCKY**

...Did you see the dudes on the Rugby float? Hot!

**TEDDY**

Let's get back to the speech, okay?

**BUCKY**

We're superstars. They love us!

**TEDDY**

They love *you*, Bucky.

**BUCKY**

Yeah. Right? Can you believe it? Didn't I tell you? When I chose you? Aren't you glad you signed up?

**TEDDY**

The script, Bucky.

**BUCKY**

Don't know what I'd do without you.

**TEDDY**

Really?

(Bucky points to a spot on Teddy's chest.)

**BUCKY**

What's that?

(Teddy looks down and Bucky flicks Teddy's nose with this index finger.)

How many times you have to fall for that?

**TEDDY**

Every time.

(Bucky tickles Teddy's bare chest. Teddy tries to stop him, but he loves it.)

**BUCKY**

This is just the start, Teddy Bear. Just the start.

**TEDDY**

Yeah?

**BUCKY**

Yeah.

**TEDDY**

Bucky?

**BUCKY**

Ah huh?

**TEDDY**

Is there something you'd like to tell me?

**BUCKY**

We are going to have the best time tonight. We are the party, Baby Bear.

**TEDDY**

Bucky?

**BUCKY**

Why are you giving me one of your glass-half-empty looks?

**TEDDY**

We gotta talk.

**BUCKY**

What?

**TEDDY**

Last night.

BUCKY  
Yeah?

TEDDY  
You didn't come back to the dorm.

BUCKY  
Not the first time that's happened, roomie.

(Teddy hands Bucky the ring he found on his father's nightstand.)

TEDDY  
You left this at Dad's last night, Bucky. I *know*.  
(Lights out.)

## Scene 5

---

(Lights up.

Projection: *Boston Common*. Followed by photos of throngs of people gathered on the common wandering around dozens of booths advertising gay organizations.

Geoffrey enters. He has put the picket down. He is standing rather like a zombie after 48-hours of not sleeping. The reason for his expression – the infant strapped to his chest – continues to cry.

Ted enters.)

TED  
Hey.

GEOFFREY  
Hello.

TED  
Happy pride.

GEOFFREY  
Yeah.

TED  
I think you live...

GEOFFREY  
Huh?

TED

...downstairs. You moved in last week.

GEOFFREY

Oh. Yeah. Sorry. I didn't...

TED

I saw you on the stair with the baby carriage.

(Geoffrey is having trouble hearing over the crying baby.)

GEOFFREY

You... I can't... Wait a second.

(Geoffrey pulls the infant out of the baby carrier he wears. This causes the baby to cry harder.)

TED

Let me.

(Ted takes the baby from Geoffrey. He stops crying.)

GEOFFREY

How'd you...?

TED

What?

GEOFFREY

He stopped crying.

(Geoffrey takes the baby back. He starts crying instantly.)

What the hell?

(He hands the child back to Ted. The baby stops crying.)

Oh my god!

TED

What?

GEOFFREY

It's me. That's the problem. He hates me. What am I going to do?

TED

You okay?

GEOFFREY

Haven't slept in 48 hours.

TED

Colic?

**GEOFFREY**

Nothing I can think of... singing, rocking, walking, driving at high speeds.

**TED**

What's his name?

**GEOFFREY**

Barack. Barack O'Brien.

**TED**

Oh.

**GEOFFREY**

My boyfriend's idea. And now there's nothing I can do about it. He's an Afghani orphan. We decided to raise him with both cultures. So I've been reading the Koran around the clock.

(Geoffrey takes the baby back, but the child starts crying again. He quickly hands him back to Ted. The crying stops.)

Oh, God. I mean, *Allah*. Praise be to Allah.

**TED**

(To the baby:) You are one beautiful little man. You are. I'm going to call you Barry.

(Ted tickles the baby. Barack giggles.)

(To Geoffrey:) You okay?

**GEOFFREY**

My life is over.

**TED**

(Laughing:) It'll get better.

**GEOFFREY**

How?

**TED**

Where's your man? Can't he...?

**GEOFFREY**

No. He can't.

**TED**

Out of town?

**GEOFFREY**

Asshole. Shit. That will be the first thing out of his mouth that isn't a scream.

(Ted hands Barack back. He starts crying again.)

**TED**

How old?

GEOFFREY

Ten months. We've had him for two. *We*. I've got to stop that. There is no *we* anymore. It's just us.

TED

Give him here.

(Ted takes a blanket out of Geoffrey's backpack and wraps Barack in it.)

Some babies like to be wrapped tight. I know my boy did. Makes them feel secure.

GEOFFREY

It worked. A miracle.

TED

Temporary miracle.

GEOFFREY

I gave up everything to do this. My job. My life. Roger's idea. Asshole. (To Barack:) *Daddy daddy daddy*. I did it to make him happy. I flew all the way to the Middle East to bring him home. Turned my office into a nursery. Endless social worker interviews. Home visits. Baby shower. The whole works. We get him home and for the first time in my life, I feel complete. I have a great man I love. Nice place to live. A community that supports me. And a son who I can love. Everything you're supposed to want. The jackpot. Like Christmas morning. You know?

TED

Yeah.

GEOFFREY

You wouldn't believe how people treated us when they found out we were adopting. All the attention we got. Especially from the lesbians. Roger loved it. When we got Barack home, it was like Christmas for Roger too. Only for him it was like getting a toy that you get tired of a few hours after you take it out of the package. Maybe it was me. Maybe it was my idea all along. To have a child. You know. Inside. And he was doing it just for me. Can that happen?

TED

Where's Roger now?

GEOFFREY

Ramrod float.

TED

What?

GEOFFREY

Writhing around in a pair of assless chaps.

TED

So while you're...?

GEOFFREY

The crying, baby formula allergies, bottomless pile of dirty diapers, vomit-stained dress shirts... You know it's real easy to change one of those baby mannequins in the child-rearing classes they offer at the Fenway. And they don't vomit and cry and scream and you can put them back into their boxes at the end of the class and go out for drinks with your friends who keep saying how much they admire you for rescuing a child in need and giving him a new life filled with opportunity. So you go out and celebrate or go home and make love with your man because you are both so full of all the love and admiration. Then you bring the little bundle home and it all goes to shit. A week of endless crying and Roger says, *I didn't sign up for this shit.*

TED

Oh...

GEOFFREY

*Send him back.*

TED

He...?

GEOFFREY

*It's either me or him. You choose.*

TED

Wow.

GEOFFREY

Ah hah.

TED

*Send him back?*

GEOFFREY

Like he's a shirt you buy at Banana Republic and decide you don't like.

TED

You moved out.

GEOFFREY

Two weeks ago.

TED

You still love him?

GEOFFREY

Barack?

TED

Roger.

(Geoffrey nods.)

You want him back?

(Geoffrey nods.)

He's going through something.

**GEOFFREY**

(Sarcastically:) Well, yeah.

**TED**

Just a second. Being a father. It's not the most natural thing for a man. You know?

**GEOFFREY**

Yeah.

**TED**

Not in a physical way. Like being a mother. Giving birth. You follow?

(Geoffrey nods.)

I mean, your own father. How good at it was he?

(Geoffrey gives a pained look.)

There aren't a lot of what you'd call positive role models around.

**GEOFFREY**

And your son. Did he have that?

**TED**

My son?

**GEOFFREY**

You sound like you have it all together.

**TED**

Oh.

**GEOFFREY**

He's lucky.

**TED**

Um...

(Ted hands a sleeping Barack back to Geoffrey.)

**GEOFFREY**

He's sleeping.

**TED**

Sounds like your man is just freaked out.

**GEOFFREY**

What do I do?

**TED**

He needs to be reminded of his responsibilities. Sounds like you guys should talk.

**GEOFFREY**

How can we talk when I can't even take a piss by myself anymore.

**TED**

It's time for a little break from Barack. Anyone you trust from your child-rearing course?

**GEOFFREY**

Maybe.

(Ted extends his hand.)

**TED**

I'm Ted.

(Geoffrey shifts Barack in his arms to shake Ted's hand.)

**GEOFFREY**

Geoffrey with a G.

(Barack starts crying.

Lights out.)

## Scene 6

---

(Projection: *The Hatch Shell*. Followed by photos showing a huge audience watching the Gay Pride festivities at the Hatch Shell on Boston's Esplanade.

Lights up.

Teddy and Bucky are behind the Hatch Shell. Teddy wears a brand new Boston Gay Pride 2010 t-shirt.)

**BUCKY**

Yeah. Okay. I admit it.

**TEDDY**

Admit what?

**BUCKY**

Yes. The answer is yes.

TEDDY

Say it, Bucky.

BUCKY

I had sex with your father.

(Teddy shudders uncontrollably.)

What?

TEDDY

You know how creepy that is?

BUCKY

No.

TEDDY

I want to vomit.

BUCKY

That's flattering.

TEDDY

Why?

BUCKY

What do you mean?

(Teddy gives Bucky a dumb look.)

We were at Pride Lights and we were singing and he had his arm over my shoulders and I looked into his eyes and we were both... crying... and smiling... and crying. And I felt... I don't know.

TEDDY

Whatever it was, you shouldn't have felt it.

BUCKY

I couldn't help it. It was....

TEDDY

What?

BUCKY

Beautiful.

TEDDY

Bucky, you've got to stop thinking with (pointing to his crotch:) that.

BUCKY

I wasn't.

**TEDDY**

Yeah?

**BUCKY**

If that were the case, I wouldn't have gone home with your dad. I mean the men last night were *hot*.

**TEDDY**

Oh. So my dad isn't hot enough for you?

**BUCKY**

No. He's...

**TEDDY**

...I can't believe I just...

**BUCKY**

...he's a great...

**TEDDY**

...God, this is weird...

**BUCKY**

...guy. A really great guy...

**TEDDY**

...It's like I'm pimping my own father.

**BUCKY**

See? This is why I need you around, Teddy Bear. I fuck everything up.

**TEDDY**

You can't just shake your ass and bend over for every...

**BUCKY**

...It wasn't like that.

**TEDDY**

I don't want to know what it was like.

**BUCKY**

It was nice, Teddy. It was...

**TEDDY**

Whatever it was, it's got to stop.

**BUCKY**

Why?

**TEDDY**

Besides the obvious reason?

**BUCKY**

What do you mean?

TEDDY

The 25-year age gap?

BUCKY

That doesn't matter to me.

TEDDY

My dad isn't like that trainer at the athletic center, or that blond male cheerleader, or the guy who cuts your hair, or the pro scout from L.A., or your acting-for-non-majors instructor.

BUCKY

Yeah?

TEDDY

He was with the same woman for 20 years.

BUCKY

I know.

TEDDY

Well... I guess what I'm saying is that sex... intimacy... He's not like us.

BUCKY

Us?

TEDDY

He can't just go out and *get his nut* as you call it. My dad doesn't trick around. Old guys aren't like that. Let's face it. Guys our age basically invented tricking.

BUCKY

Yeah?

TEDDY

Guys Dad's age couldn't because they were afraid of getting the shit beaten out of them. Then the next batch was afraid of dying of AIDS. God, that must have sucked. It was up to us to invent...

BUCKY

Tricking?

TEDDY

Yeah.

BUCKY

That doesn't sound right, Teddy. I mean, I know guys who...

TEDDY

I wrote a semiotics paper about it last semester and it got an A.

So? **BUCKY**

So you can't just fuck my dad and... **TEDDY**

...I didn't, Teddy. He... **BUCKY**

...I don't want to know, okay? You can't just fuck around with my father. He isn't built that way. **TEDDY**

His heart of something? **BUCKY**

What? **TEDDY**

I mean, that would be kind of... **BUCKY**

(Bucky mimes the fucking motion and then pretends to have a heart attack.)

His feelings, Bucky. **TEDDY**

What about them? **BUCKY**

Guys his age confuse sex with love. You got to apologize to him and promise me you'll never do it again. **TEDDY**

I do? **BUCKY**

I don't even think he's even had sex before. **TEDDY**

What about you? **BUCKY**

(Horrified:) My father and me? **TEDDY**

No. I mean... **BUCKY**

(Bucky pokes his index finger in and out of his fist.)

Nine months later – *you*.

TEDDY

I meant with a man.

BUCKY

I don't know about that...

TEDDY

He's not experienced like us.

BUCKY

Us? Teddy, you're not so experienced.

TEDDY

(Ignoring him:) Poor bastard. Like getting to taste filet mignon once then told you have to settle for hamburger helper for the rest of your life.

BUCKY

Maybe it's not the way you think, Teddy.

TEDDY

Yeah?

BUCKY

Maybe the thing that happened at Pride Lights... What I felt was...

TEDDY

What?

BUCKY

Something new.

TEDDY

You've felt that plenty of times. No one feels that more than you.

BUCKY

This time it was different.

TEDDY

It wasn't.

BUCKY

It felt like it.

TEDDY

You just got carried away.

BUCKY

It felt real to me. And I want to feel it again.

TEDDY

Not with my father. Okay? Bucky? Do you understand?

(Bucky looks down at his feet.)

Please? For me?

(Bucky nods reluctantly.

Teddy looks down at his watch.)

Shit! I got to run back to the dorm.

**BUCKY**

What?!

**TEDDY**

Organic study group. Don't worry. I'll stay for your speech. But then I gotta go.  
Okay?

**BUCKY**

The dance tonight?

**TEDDY**

Bucky...

**BUCKY**

Come on, Teddy Bear.

**TEDDY**

You know how much I hate...

**BUCKY**

You hate everything, buddy. May as well hate it there as anywhere else.

**TEDDY**

(Giving in:) I'll meet you.

**BUCKY**

Teddy Bear hug!

(They hug. For a little too long to be considered casual. When they part, Teddy is blushing. To cover his embarrassment, he looks off to the side.)

**TEDDY**

God. Look at all those people.

**BUCKY**

Isn't it fucking amazing? Yaaaah Whooooo!

(Crowd starts to applaud loudly.)

**ANNOUNCER'S VOICE**

*And now... Bucky Kent!*

**TEDDY**

Your cue.

(Teddy directs Bucky up to the stage.)

Get up there and remember. Don't talk about taking it up the...

**BUCKY**

I know. I know. I know...

(Bucky exits. He re-enters on the side of the stage.)

Huge cheering from the audience.

Projections of a smiling Bucky standing behind the lecturn on the Hatch Shell.

Teddy watches nervously.)

**BUCKY**

Hey, everybody. I'm Bucky Kent.

(Huge cheers.)

**TEDDY**

(Crossing his fingers:) Stick to the script...

**BUCKY**

Ten months ago, one or two of you out there may have known me as the starting quarterback for a pretty decent little division one college out in Chestnut Hill. But now... after a few pretty interesting months...

(Bucky smiles. Huge cheers.)

You all know Bucky Kent... as the record-breaking ballplayer...

**TEDDY**

(Crossing his fingers:) *Who is gay! Who is gay!*

**BUCKY**

...who likes to take it up the ass!

(Enormous cheers.

Lights out.)

## Scene 7

---

(Lights up.)

Projection: *The Gay Pride Dance*. Photos of hot, half-naked, sweaty men dancing with each other. Dance music is playing just loud enough for the audience to still hear the dialog.

Teddy is standing next to the dance floor, watching. He wears a special colored plastic band around his wrist to show that he is underage. He holds a clear water bottle.

Geoffrey stands next to him. He wears a very flattering shirt and pants. He is staring intently at something fifteen feet in front of him – we will find out later that he’s staring at three people dancing with each other. He looks like he is trying to suppress quite a bit of anger. He holds a water bottle.

Teddy texts with one hand. We see the text on the projection. *where hell r u?* The response comes in a few beats: *with ur dad. b thr in 10.* Teddy frowns at this.)

**TEDDY**

(With the dance beat:) *Bam... Bam... Bam... Bam...* (To Geoffrey:) Why do we do this to ourselves?

**GEOFFREY**

What?

**TEDDY**

(Louder:) Why do we do this to ourselves?

**GEOFFREY**

Because we’re fools.

**TEDDY**

*Bam... Bam... Bam...* It doesn’t mean anything.

**GEOFFREY**

Nothing?

**TEDDY**

*Bam... Bam... Bam...*

**GEOFFREY**

Fifteen years.

**TEDDY**

But look at them.

(Projection of photo showing three men dancing together. Very suggestively. Sequence shows them taking turns kissing each other. The three men are very attractive and barely dressed.)

**GEOFFREY**

It's killing me.

**TEDDY**

(Singing along:) *Paparazzi... Paparazzi...* Are they kidding?

**GEOFFREY**

Not with his tongue down his throat like that.

**TEDDY**

Another candidate for the Great American Songbook. Looks like you want to be here as much as I do.

**GEOFFREY**

He said it was over.

**TEDDY**

Not by a long shot. Just a little down period so they'll go to the bar and buy their overpriced swill. Then... a real shriek and run.

**GEOFFREY**

*Shriek and run?*

**TEDDY**

The DJ'll wait for them to get boozed up and then he'll put on a real *Bam... Bam... Bammer*. Then everyone will throw their hands up in the air and shriek and run to the dance floor.

**GEOFFREY**

*Shriek and Run.*

**TEDDY**

Wait and see.

**GEOFFREY**

You dance?

**TEDDY**

Are you kidding?

(Geoffrey is starting to get a kick out of Teddy.)

**GEOFFREY**

It's a dance club. You paid the cover.

**TEDDY**

I'm here more as a cultural anthropologist.

**GEOFFREY**

I thought people came here to get laid.

**TEDDY**

That's mostly online now. Culturally this place may as well be a diorama in the museum of natural history.

(Geoffrey looks out to the dance floor.)

**GEOFFREY**

It's infuriating.

**TEDDY**

What? The three guys practically fucking on the dance floor? Public displays of non-traditional sex don't get to me.

**GEOFFREY**

(Yelling out to the dance floor:) Think of your responsibilities, Roger!

**TEDDY**

Think of all our accomplishments... Leonardo De Vinci and Michelangelo starting the Renaissance, Socrates and Plato discovering love, Oscar Wilde, Andre Gide, Apollinaire, Tchaikovski, Lorca... Alan Turning inventing the computer. And gays have to be primarily known for the accomplishments of a bunch of bored New York queens in 1970 with a big record collection and no legal place to dance.

**GEOFFREY**

Disco.

**TEDDY**

It kills me.

**GEOFFREY**

It's just music.

**TEDDY**

That is not music. Now, *Schubert, Mendelssohn, Bach...*

**GEOFFREY**

...You're funny...

**TEDDY**

Music expresses your inner voice and mine is *not* a fat black woman screaming about how it's raining men.

**GEOFFREY**

You're still in school.

**TEDDY**

How can you...?

(Geoffrey tugs on the wristband Teddy wears.)

Oh...

**GEOFFREY**

Semiotics major?

TEDDY

Pre-med. If I pass organic.

GEOFFREY

Pre-med?

TEDDY

Surprised?

GEOFFREY

(Laughing:) No.

TEDDY

I'm glad you think that's funny.

GEOFFREY

What's good enough for you?

TEDDY

What do you mean?

GEOFFREY

You don't like popular music. I bet you don't like the economy.

TEDDY

Who does?

GEOFFREY

Politics?

TEDDY

We're fucked.

GEOFFREY

Modern art?

TEDDY

You call that art?

GEOFFREY

Wow

TEDDY

Contemporary Culture is an oxymoron.

(Geoffrey laughs.)

What?

GEOFFREY

I remember that phase.

TEDDY

This shit-trough we're in? Yeah. A phase.

GEOFFREY

Everything sucks.

TEDDY

It's not just a negative aesthetic thing...

GEOFFREY

Got to sneer at everything.

TEDDY

I don't sneer.

GEOFFREY

Age of irony.

TEDDY

Age of *Reality*.

GEOFFREY

Tear everything down.

TEDDY

What's the option?

GEOFFREY

End it.

TEDDY

What?

GEOFFREY

What's to live for? I mean... If everything so sucks... no hope at all... If you can't appreciate anything in the here and now, you either stay in school and worship the past or... go gnaw on one of those high-powered speaker cables and end it.

TEDDY

Don't patronize me.

GEOFFREY

I'm serious. I know where you're coming from. *No. Not me. Ah ah.* I remember that phase.

TEDDY

And what changed it?

GEOFFREY

I fell in love.

TEDDY

Yeah?

GEOFFREY

(Pointing:) With him.

(Projection of Roger dancing with the two men.)

TEDDY

Which?

GEOFFREY

Leather pants and knee-high Westcos.

TEDDY

Making out with the two guys?

GEOFFREY

Love of my life.

TEDDY

He's fucking hot!

GEOFFREY

For a CPA.

TEDDY

You know the guys he's...

GEOFFREY

A couple we used to date.

TEDDY

*Date?*

GEOFFREY

*Trick* doesn't sound right either. They're good friends...

TEDDY

With benefits.

GEOFFREY

That's what I hate about being gay. We just don't have the language yet to describe everything. We're married, but I don't call him my husband because it sounds...

TEDDY

Queer.

GEOFFREY

*Emotional, spiritual and physical fuck buddy* is on none of the forms.

TEDDY

You're married.

(Geoffrey shows Teddy the wedding ring he wears.)

And he's out there with...

**GEOFFREY**

Fidelity is more important to me than monogamy.

**TEDDY**

Okay.

**GEOFFREY**

You know what it takes to keep an intimate relationship going for fifteen years?

**TEDDY**

I had a golden retriever who lived to be fourteen.

(Geoffrey laughs.)

**GEOFFREY**

You know the opening of *Anna Karenina*?

**TEDDY**

A.P. English.

**GEOFFREY**

Tolstoy had it wrong. It's much more interesting how a couple manages to stay together, despite nature and everything life throws at you. What drives them apart is usually pretty mundane and obvious.

**TEDDY**

Deep. I hope you have a big bed. Looks like you're going to have a wild night.

**GEOFFREY**

I moved out two weeks ago.

**TEDDY**

Because of something mundane and obvious?

**GEOFFREY**

I'm here because this guy told me today that I need to remind Roger of his responsibilities.

**TEDDY**

*Responsibilities?* The asshole who told you that is totally out of touch with reality.

**GEOFFREY**

We're back to that?

**TEDDY**

Mired in it.

**GEOFFREY**

(Extending his hand:) Geoffrey. With a G.

**TEDDY**

(Shaking his hand:) Theodore with a *Th.*

(The music changes.)

Wait. Here it is.

**GEOFFREY**

What?

**TEDDY**

Shriek and run.

(Shrieks are heard.

Lights up stage right.

A shrieking Ted and Bucky run onto the dance floor and start dancing.  
Teddy and Geoffrey don't see them through the crowd.)

**GEOFFREY**

I'll be damned.

**TEDDY**

And now the bar is empty.

**GEOFFREY**

Thirsty?

(Teddy shows him his empty water bottle.)

Do me a favor? (Showing Teddy the water bottle he holds:) Loverboy's water. He asked me to baby-sit it. I was going to dump it over his head, but it would probably only make him look sexier. Could you watch it for me?

**TEDDY**

No problem.

(Geoffrey places the bottle on a table next to Teddy.

Lights shifts to Ted and Bucky dancing.)

**BUCKY**

Whoooo hoooo!

**TED**

(Trying to be heard above the music:) I haven't heard this since before you were born.

**BUCKY**

What?

**TED**

(Quickly changing tracks:) I can't believe it

**BUCKY**

What?

**TED**

I'm dancing with the most beautiful man in the bar.

**BUCKY**

(Not really hearing correctly:) I know. Right? It's like a fuck film in here.

**TED**

If you need... if you want to take off.

**BUCKY**

What?

**TED**

Dance with someone else.

**BUCKY**

You want to?

**TED**

No. You.

**BUCKY**

Me?

**TED**

If you want to dance with...

**BUCKY**

Hey, man. I'm having a blast.

**TED**

So am I.

**BUCKY**

Yeah? How about this?

(He takes his shirt off.

This inspires Ted to take his off too.)

Wooo hoooo!

(Teddy hears Bucky's voice. He spots them across the dance floor.

Bucky starts to dance sexily. He stares Ted in the eyes and begins to make the moves on him. He reaches around Ted and grabs his ass with both hands.

Teddy begins to text furiously.

Bucky's phone vibrates in his pants pocket. He opens the phone. The text: *get ur hands off my dads ass.*

Bucky looks around and spots Teddy.)

It's Teddy Bear!

(He runs over to Teddy and scoops him up in his powerful arms. He holds him off the ground )

Happy Pride, Baby Bear!

**TEDDY**

Put me down.

**BUCKY**

Let's dance.

**TEDDY**

You know I don't...

**BUCKY**

With me.

(He starts to carry Teddy around as though they are dancing closely together.)

**TEDDY**

No.

**BUCKY**

Come on, Buddy!

**TEDDY**

No. No. And more no.

**BUCKY**

You know you love it.

**TEDDY**

People are starting to stare.

**BUCKY**

Well, yeah.

**TEDDY**

Okay. You got me aroused. Now put me down.

(He puts Teddy down.)

**BUCKY**

Works every time.

**TED**

How's it going, Son?

TEDDY

Are you high, Dad?

TED

On life.

(Bucky and Teddy move to the side to talk.)

TEDDY

(To Bucky:) You promised.

BUCKY

What?

TEDDY

My father.

BUCKY

I got it under control.

(Geoffrey re-enters with a cocktail and a bottled water.)

GEOFFREY

Ted.

TED

Geoff. How's it going?

GEOFFREY

(Pointing to the dance floor:) Roger.

TED

The one...?

GEOFFREY

Yes.

TED

With his...?

GEOFFREY

Oh, yeah.

TED

Wrapped around...?

GEOFFREY

That's my man.

TED

Does he know you're...

**GEOFFREY**

Yep.

**TED**

And you told him...?

**GEOFFREY**

The whole spiel.

**TED**

And he...?

(Geoffrey points to the dance floor.)

**GEOFFREY**

His way of showing me what I'm missing.

**TED**

By keeping Barack? What are you going to do?

**GEOFFREY**

Take the mature route. Stand here and stalk him until he comes to his senses.

(Shouting out to the dance floor:) *It's 11:30, Roger. Do you know where your son is?!*

(Bucky has started to dance suggestively around Teddy. He reaches out to touch him as he dances. Teddy stands stock still.)

**BUCKY**

Control, Teddy. I got it under control.

**TEDDY**

I've heard that before.

**BUCKY**

And what happened?

**TEDDY**

Chaos.

**BUCKY**

Control.

(He caresses Teddy.)

**TEDDY**

Stop it.

**BUCKY**

Control. Give me your control. I want it Baby Bear. Let's get beneath all that... stuff. I know what's underneath, buddy. Let it come out to play.

**TEDDY**

And then what?

**BUCKY**

We get you *laid!*

**TEDDY**

Knock it off.

**BUCKY**

What's this?

(Bucky points to Teddy's chest. Teddy falls for it again and Bucky tweaks his nose. Teddy grabs his hand and steps back, bumping into Geoffrey, who nearly spills the drink he is holding.)

**TEDDY**

Sorry.

(Geoffrey hands him the bottled water.)

**GEOFFREY**

Bottoms up.

(Teddy takes the new water bottle.)

**TEDDY**

Thanks.

(He takes a big gulp of the new bottle and puts it down next to the other.)

**TED**

Teddy, this is the guy in my building I was telling you about.

**TEDDY**

With the screaming baby?

**TED**

My son.

**TEDDY**

You're...?

**TED**

And this is Bucky.

**GEOFFREY**

(Staring at Bucky:) Wow.

**BUCKY**

I know. Right?

**TEDDY**

(Rather proudly:) He's my roommate.

(Teddy takes another drink from the bottle of water. Only he has grabbed the wrong one – he’s drunk from Roger’s water bottle. He screws up his face a little – as though the water tastes a little salty. But he dismisses it and takes another drink)

**GEOFFREY**

(Shaking Bucky’s hand:) Geoffrey – with a G.

**BUCKY**

I don’t get it.

**TEDDY**

I’ll explain later.

**TED**

Sorry, Geof. I didn’t think...

**GEOFFREY**

Fifteen years and he thinks all I’m good for is to baby-sit his water bottle.

**TEDDY**

Wait. My father is the one who...? Well, there’s your mistake right there. He doesn’t have the best judgment in the world. Did he tell you the brilliant move he made last night?

(Ted grabs Teddy’s arm and turns him away from Geoffrey.)

**TED**

Teddy...

**TEDDY**

Don’t embarrass me, Dad. Go home. Now. I’ll keep an eye on Bucky.

**TED**

That’s not going to happen, Son.

(Teddy catches something out of the corner of his eye.)

**TEDDY**

(Calling off stage:) Hey! Put the phone down, asshole!

(Projection of a photo of the four of them taken a few seconds earlier.)

**BUCKY**

It’s okay, Teddy. They all just want to get a little piece of the old Bucky Boy!

(Bucky poses. More photos of him posing are projected.)

**TEDDY**

It’ll be all over Facebook tomorrow.

**BUCKY**

Yeah. Right?

(Bucky poses for the phone camera as he dances off-stage. Geoffrey downs his drink.)

TED

You okay?

GEOFFREY

I think I need another one. You?

TED

Tequila? Why not?

(Geoffrey exits to the bar.)

TEDDY

Dad. Chasing after a twenty one year old? Desperate. Pathetic. And sad. You're going through a mid-life crisis. Okay? If you were still straight, you'd buy a Maserati, divorce mom and marry a stupid blond trophy wife. Becoming a chicken-hawk troll pig from hell is the gay corollary and it's just as big a cliché.

TED

Why don't you worry about your clichés and I'll worry about mine?

TEDDY

What's that supposed to mean?

TED

I can take care of myself.

TEDDY

If you don't stop now, he's going to break your heart and you'll look like a fool. You know that, don't you? I'm saying this because I don't want to see you get hurt. Just say *No*.

TED

*No*.

(Ted exits.)

TEDDY

Dad?

(Teddy looks around. He can't see Bucky. He texts: *whr r u now?!*)

Geoffrey has re-entered, holding two drinks.

GEOFFREY

Where'd your dad go?

(Teddy closes his eyes and rubs his forehead.)

You okay?

TEDDY

Huge fucking headache. *Bam... Bam... Bam...*

GEOFFREY

Dehydrated from the sun?

TEDDY

Maybe.

(Teddy takes another drink from the wrong water bottle. He sees Geoffrey staring forlornly off into the dance floor.)

Your boyfriend.

GEOFFREY

Roger.

TEDDY

He *is* beautiful.

GEOFFREY

Yeah?

(Teddy nods.)

His breath smells like the bottom of a birdcage in the morning.

TEDDY

Yeah?

GEOFFREY

He talks through movies.

TEDDY

Hate that.

GEOFFREY

Wears the same pair of jeans for a week.

TEDDY

Whew!

GEOFFREY

Can't be touched when he sleeps. Calls his mother every day. He even stumbled over my name when he recited his vows. But I still...

TEDDY

Love him?

(Geoffrey nods.)

Even though he's right there... fifteen feet away... acting like you don't exist?

(Geoffrey looks at Teddy and smiles wryly.)

That's fucked.

**GEOFFREY**

Yep.

(Geoffrey empties another drink and offers the one he bought for Ted to Teddy.)

**TEDDY**

I don't...

**GEOFFREY**

You've got to start saying yes to things, Teddy. Take a chance. Yeah, the world's fucked and full of shit. But you've got to believe in something. No matter how futile. That's the difference between being a scared little boy and a man.

(Teddy takes the glass and downs the drink. His eyes get very large and he coughs.)

I'll get us another round.

(Geoffrey exits. Teddy shakes his head. He starts to sway a little. He is beginning to feel the beat of the disco music for the first time. He's a little alarmed. He looks around to see if anyone has noticed. He tries to shake it off. But there is something going on inside that he doesn't understand. It can't be just the shot of tequila. The transformation continues as the scene plays out. The lights come up to reveal Bucky dancing on the other side of the stage. Ted enters.)

**TED**

Bucky, we've got to talk.

**BUCKY**

Quieter over here.

**TED**

About Teddy.

**BUCKY**

He's a trip. Right?

(Bucky stares Ted down and starts to dance suggestively.)

**TED**

Do you know what you're doing?

**BUCKY**

What? It isn't working?

TED

Oh, yeah.

BUCKY

Scared me. Thought I was losing my touch.

TED

Teddy...

BUCKY

He'll be okay.

TED

Where's this going?

BUCKY

Same place as last night?

TED

Bucky, wait.

BUCKY

What?

TED

Teddy says... he warned me that you'll probably end up hurting me.

BUCKY

How?

TED

Get my hopes up. Then take off with someone else.

(Bucky stops dancing and stares at Ted.)

BUCKY

He said that?

TED

We gotta think about what we're doing here.

(Bucky thinks deeply for a few moments. It looks pretty painful. Ted waits.

On the other side Geoffrey has returned with two new drinks. He watches, amused, as Teddy – his eyes closed – begins to dance for the first time in his life. It's an amalgamation of all the dances he's ever seen. Geoffrey is trying very hard not to laugh as he watches.

Teddy's holding the water bottle and between gulps pretends it's a microphone. He sings along with the music. He probably doesn't have the words exactly right.

On the other side, Bucky has concluded his painful session of thinking and has a new resolve. He slowly, tentatively crosses to Ted. He gently places his hand on Ted's shoulder, looking in his eyes to make sure it's okay with him. Then slowly places his cheek on Ted's chest.

Ted is surprised at first. But then wraps his arms around Bucky and holds him tenderly.

Bucky exhales and closes his eyes, enjoying the warmth and security of Ted's arms around him.

The music has changed to *It's Raining Men*. Teddy has really started to dance. Like no one has ever danced before. He hears the music.)

**TEDDY**

(Singing:) *It's raining men. Alleluia. It's raining men!* (Yelling ecstatically:) Oh, my god! I'm turning into... I'm a big fat black woman! I'm a big fucking fat black woman!

(Teddy suddenly sees Ted and Bucky holding each other and stops dead in his tracks.

Bucky looks up and tenderly kisses Ted. Ted returns the kiss.

Teddy sees this and starts to wretch uncontrollably.

Ted hears him and breaks from Bucky.)

**TED**

Son? Are you okay?

(Teddy stops vomiting. He tries to right himself.)

**BUCKY**

Teddy Bear?

(In a daze, Teddy stares into the distance. Then closes his eyes.

Geoffrey catches him and breaks his fall as Teddy collapses to the floor.)

What the fuck?!

(Ted and Bucky race to Teddy and Geoffrey.)

**GEOFFREY**

Just one drink.

**BUCKY**

He doesn't drink!

(Ted taps Teddy on the cheek, trying to wake him up, but Teddy is out cold.)

TED

Teddy?!

(Geoffrey takes the water bottle out of Teddy's hands. He sniffs it and takes a sip. He spits it out.)

GEOFFREY

G?

TED

Teddy, wake up!

(Geoffrey stands, faces the dance floor and holds out the water bottle.)

GEOFFREY

Roger! Did you fucking score G tonight?!!

TED

Wake up, honey.

GEOFFREY

(To Bucky:) It's GHB.

BUCKY

You son of a bitch!

(Bucky winds up and punches Geoffrey in the face. Geoffrey reels from the blow.)

Shit-head fed him G.

TED

G?

GEOFFREY

He needs air.

TED

Teddy?

BUCKY

(To Geoffrey:) Stay away from him!

GEOFFREY

I'm a doctor.

(Bucky violently shoves Geoffrey to the ground.)

BUCKY

You're a fucking asshole!

GEOFFREY

I didn't know!

TED

Come on, Son.

BUCKY

We gotta get him out of here.

(Bucky picks up the unconscious Teddy. Ted follows him as he carries Teddy offstage. )

Call 911!

TED

Geof, we need you!

(Geoffrey, who has been sitting on the floor with his head in his hands, let's out a loud cry of pain. He stands and faces the dance floor.)

GEOFFREY

I fucking hate you, Roger! Do you hear me?

(Lights out.

## Scene 8

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(Projection: *The Morning After*.)

Lights up.

Ted, wearing a t-shirt and sweatpants is sitting up in bed – his back against the headboard. He looks down at a sleeping Teddy, who has his head in Ted's lap. A blanket covers much of Teddy as he sleeps. Ted is tenderly stroking Teddy's hair.

Teddy stirs and begins to wake up. Thinking Ted is Bucky, he rolls over and embraces his father.)

TEDDY

Benzylidyne...

TED

Teddy?

(Teddy tries to pull Ted down to him until he opens his eyes.)

TEDDY

What the fuck?

TED

Son?

TEDDY

Dad?!

TED

Bad dream?

TEDDY

What am I doing...?

(Teddy puts his head in his hands and moans.)

Ohhhhh... Shit...

TED

Take it easy.

TEDDY

What am I doing in your bed... with you?

TED

Relax, Teddy.

TEDDY

Oh god... oh my god...

TED

Geof says you're going to be a little...

TEDDY

Jesus Christ! We didn't...?!

TED

You took GHB...

TEDDY

What?

TED

At the club.

TEDDY

I didn't. I swear!

TED

I know, Son.

TEDDY

I've never...

TED

It was in the water bottle.

TEDDY

...I've barely even smoked pot, for Christ's sake...

TED

It was an accident.

TEDDY

What the fuck?

TED

You grabbed the wrong one...

TEDDY

The wrong...?

TED

It was Geof's boyfriend's. His water bottle.

TEDDY

Why am I here?

TED

I've been with you all night. We had to make sure you didn't stop breathing.

TEDDY

Did I?

TED

Threw up a few times.

TEDDY

Christ.

(Teddy tries to get up. Ted gently pushes him back down.)

TED

You need to take it easy, son.

TEDDY

I can't even go to a club without totally...

TED

...easy...

TEDDY

... humiliating myself.

TED

You were a hit on the dance floor.

TEDDY

I don't...

TED

... you did last night. (Singing:) *It's raining men!*

(Projection of Teddy dancing. He remembers and is humiliated.)

TEDDY

I'm a fucking idiot... a tool... a spaz...

TED

No.

TEDDY

Total freak show.

TED

Relax, Teddy.

TEDDY

(Holding his head:) *Bam... Bam... Bam....*

TED

Let it go for a few hours. Okay, Son? Take off all that existential weight you've been carrying on your back since you were four. Take a deep breath.

TEDDY

Dad, you know I don't breath...

TED

...Come on. Inhale...

TEDDY

...All that pseudo yoga breathing shit...

TED

...Inhale...

TEDDY

...Like the act of inhaling deeply is going to solve the crisis in the Middle East....

TED

...Son...

TEDDY

...It's that kind of lazy thinking that...

TED

(Forcefully:) Teddy.

(Teddy inhales and exhales.)

Again.

(He does.)

All the way out.

(This has calmed Teddy down.)

TEDDY

Does it ever stop?

TED

What?

TEDDY

The feeling that you'll never fit in. No matter what?

TED

Hasn't for me.

TEDDY

Really?

(Ted begins to massage his son's temples.)

TED

You want to be like everyone else?

TEDDY

(Weakly:) Yeah.

(Ted stops massaging Teddy's temples and raises an eyebrow.)

Well... maybe just a little *better*.

(Ted laughs.)

You know... like Bucky.

TED

You think he fits in?

TEDDY

Everyone loves him.

TED

He lets them.

TEDDY

That's so weird. Isn't it?

(Ted smiles and continues to massage Teddy.)

TED

How's that feel?

TEDDY

Nice. Where is he?

TED

Bucky? Getting coffee.

(Lights up off to the side.)

Bucky is returning to the brownstone with two cups of coffee. He runs into Geoffrey, who looks totally worn down and sports a huge black eye. Bucky sees him and his expression goes cloudy.)

**GEOFFREY**

Hey.

**BUCKY**

It's Geoffrey with the G. I guess now I know where to go if I need a little pick-me-up.

**GEOFFREY**

(Trying to ignore the slam:) How's it going up there?

**BUCKY**

He's fine.

**GEOFFREY**

Good.

**BUCKY**

(Noticing the black eye:) That's one helluva shiner.

**GEOFFREY**

Thanks.

**BUCKY**

You gotta work on your duck and weave, man. Keep the hands up.

(Bucky fakes a punch to Geoffrey's face. Geoffrey flinches.)

**GEOFFREY**

I'll put it on the list.

**BUCKY**

Hey, doc. I got a question for you.

**GEOFFREY**

Okay.

**BUCKY**

I got this little problem. When I piss, I get this tingly feeling and I've been noticing this green spot on the fly of my boxers. Like I've somehow snagged in my shorts or something.

(Geoffrey is not amused. But Bucky is itching for a fight and pushes ahead anyway. He puts the cups down and begins to unbutton his fly.)

If you could just hold my balls, I'll show you what I mean. Better yet. Why don't I just turn around so you can kiss my ass.

(They stare at each other. For a beat.)

**GEOFFREY**

Does that work for you? That kind of shit?

**BUCKY**

Every time.

**GEOFFREY**

Enjoy it while you can.

**BUCKY**

What's that supposed to mean?

**GEOFFREY**

You're young, hot, can say and do whatever you want and get away with it. Got life by the balls. How long you think that's going to last?

**BUCKY**

How long did it last for you?

(Geoffrey doesn't answer.)

Easy for you to stand there all prissy and shit. Big fucking smart successful Boston doctor looking down his nose. Bet your daddy served you the world on a silver platter. I know your type. With your fancy degrees, nice cars, designer clothes and expensive shit on your walls. I know what happens when you stuck up queens get old and let things go. You get bored with your toys and need a little entertainment. After a bag of blow you go online and find a stupid kid who's hungry or needs a little extra cash and you invite him up. You slip him something – maybe some G in his water – so he won't care that your profile pic hasn't been updated in ten years. You take what you can get. Then throw his used ass back out onto the street. And underneath it all, you hate that kid because he has everything that your tired old wrinkled ass will never have again. Something you can't buy. Stay the fuck away from Teddy. Last thing he needs is a bitter old South End queen.

(Geoffrey has just stood there impassively during Bucky's harangue, just one more difficulty in his life.)

**GEOFFREY**

It was an accident.

**BUCKY**

(sarcastically:) Yeah. That's what it looked like.

**GEOFFREY**

He seems like a good kid. I would never...

**BUCKY**

He's the sweetest, nicest, smartest... You don't... You can't possibly... You...

(Bucky is upset. He doesn't understand his emotions. He channels them into anger.)

You're lucky you only have a black eye.

(Barack is heard crying. Geoffrey looks back over his shoulder to check up on his son. Then turns back to Bucky. He sighs.)

**GEOFFREY**

I'm sorry. Okay?

(Bucky stands his ground.)

I'll be up in a minute to check on your friend.

(Geoffrey exits into his apartment.

Lights shift back to Teddy and Ted. Teddy has sat up with his back against the headboard. Ted sits next to him.

Bucky enters but stays in the other room. He listens to everything they say, but they don't know he has returned.)

**TED**

Reminds me of the time you were ten.

**TEDDY**

Which time?

**TED**

Your mother was away at Nanna's...

**TEDDY**

...the fever...

**TED**

...102. I was a basket case.

**TEDDY**

Didn't seem like it.

**TED**

That's probably the last time.

**TEDDY**

What?

**TED**

That I was really there for you.

TEDDY

Where is this going?

TED

Did I come to your swim meets? Debate tournaments? Orchestra concerts? How about your senior play?

TEDDY

I sucked, Dad. That's all you have to know.

TED

Working late. Out of town on a trial. At the club schmoozing a client.

TEDDY

Dad, my head hurts enough already. Okay?

TED

You fool yourself into thinking that chaining yourself to a career and earning a lot of money is all you have to do to be a father. Maybe I was jealous of you. Just starting out. Young. Free.

TEDDY

Free? All those high school activities and clubs? You think I wanted to torture myself like that? That was for the college applications.

TED

It was easy to be a father when you were a boy. But when you started turning into a man...

TEDDY

Yeah? When will that happen?

TED

Maybe if I had been honest with myself sooner, I wouldn't have been so afraid.

TEDDY

Of what?

TED

Loving another man.

TEDDY

(Embarrassed for his father:) Dad...

TED

I know you don't like this kind of talk, Teddy. But this is important. There are a lot of different ways of loving. That's what I've learned in the past two years. Giving up the job and living here... I know it hasn't been easy for you. All that making up for lost time. And I guess I've acted like a fool. But the time we've spent with each other...

(Ted smiles at Teddy. Teddy rolls his eyes, but can't help but smile.)

What you said yesterday. Like a knife in my heart.

**TEDDY**

Which part?

**TED**

You are not a mistake, Teddy. Last night. Outside the bar. Waiting for the EMTs...

**TEDDY**

...EMTs?!...

**TED**

...If anything had happened to you, Son.

(He can't go on.)

**TEDDY**

Sorry, Dad.

**TED**

I would do anything for you. Beg, borrow, steal, lie, cheat and kill. If you want me to pack up and become a closeted lawyer in the suburbs. Behave myself. Forget everything that's happened in the last two years. If that's what will make you happy. That's what I'll do. I love you, Teddy. More than anything in the world. I'm so proud of you, Son.

(He kisses his son's forehead.)

**TEDDY**

I love you too, Dad.

**TED**

We'll talk more later. I'm going to go get ready. You take your time.

(Ted exits. Bucky enters sheepishly.)

**BUCKY**

Hey.

**TEDDY**

Hey, roomie.

**BUCKY**

How you doing?

**TEDDY**

If I could just get this vice off my head.

**BUCKY**

What do you mean?

**TEDDY**

I made a fool of myself last night. Sorry.

**BUCKY**

Hey.

**TEDDY**

Let's pretend it never happened. Okay?

**BUCKY**

A little hard.

(Bucky uses his smart phone to show Teddy a few blogs and newspaper stories.

As Teddy scrolls through the blogs and stories, they are projected on the screen. They have images of the EMTs, Ted, Bucky and Geoffrey. Teddy is seen passed out.)

**TEDDY**

What the fuck!

**BUCKY**

All over the net.

**TEDDY**

What am I...?

**BUCKY**

The good doctor and the EMTs. You're starting to come around.

**TEDDY**

I don't remember.

**BUCKY**

A good thing.

**TEDDY**

How big was the crowd?

**BUCKY**

You don't want to see the rest.

(He tries to take the phone away from Teddy. Teddy doesn't let him. A gay blog showing photos of Bucky posing and then making out with Ted is projected.)

**TEDDY**

"College jock gets frisky with roommate's daddy."

**BUCKY**

I know. It was stupid. Surprise! I don't know why I... I'm stupid!

**TEDDY**

Bucky...

**BUCKY**

I'm not good at this shit. I went with my feelings. You know? With your father. But I don't think I understood them. I'm fucked up, okay?

**TEDDY**

Did you take your pills?

**BUCKY**

They're back at the dorm. It's not that.

**TEDDY**

Just settle down.

**BUCKY**

Last night. You getting hurt. Watching you lie there. Then this morning. Just now. You and your dad. I was listening. What he said. I've never heard anything like that before. It was so... You don't understand. I've never had that, Teddy.

**TEDDY**

You just need your medication. Okay, buddy?

**BUCKY**

More than that. I'm fucked up. You gotta help me figure this out.

(Geoffrey enters holding a fussy Barack.)

**GEOFFREY**

How's the big fat black woman doing?

**TEDDY**

What?

**GEOFFREY**

Your dad let me in. Bucky, could you take Barack into the other room for a few minutes so I can talk to Teddy?

(Bucky looks at Geoffrey coldly.)

**TEDDY**

It's okay, Bucky.

**BUCKY**

Yeah?

**TEDDY**

He's a good guy.

(Geoffrey hands Barack off to Bucky. Bucky takes the baby off-stage, holding him out like he's a space alien or some other inscrutable object.)

Geoffrey crosses to the bed and checks Teddy's pulse. As they speak, he performs a few other rudimentary tests.)

GEOFFREY

Headache?

TEDDY

Oh, yeah. (Noticing Geoffrey's black eye:) What's with the...

GEOFFREY

... Accidentally ran into someone's fist.

TEDDY

Thanks.

GEOFFREY

For what?

TEDDY

Rescuing me.

GEOFFREY

I got you into it, least I could do is get you out.

TEDDY

Did you know...?

GEOFFREY

No. But I should have figured it out. Roger doesn't have the most sterling history with recreational drugs. Just one other thing more important in his life than me, I guess.

TEDDY

You're a doctor?

GEOFFREY

And former semiotics major.

TEDDY

Oh, god. I must have been a total ass last night.

GEOFFREY

Brought back memories.

TEDDY

Ever wish you could erase a whole day of your life?

GEOFFREY

How about 15 years?

TEDDY

How do you do that?

GEOFFREY

Beats the hell out of me.

TEDDY

Roger?

GEOFFREY

Over.

TEDDY

Sorry.

GEOFFREY

Time for my next phase.

TEDDY

Personal renaissance?

GEOFFREY

Bitter old queen.

TEDDY

Tired of saying yes to things?

GEOFFREY

Maybe.

(Geoffrey smiles as he feels Teddy's forehead. No fever. He musses Teddy's hair.)

I'm afraid it isn't terminal. Take it easy today. Okay?

TEDDY

Thanks.

(Lights cross fade as Geoffrey exits the room and crosses to Bucky. Barack is crying hysterically. There is baby vomit on Bucky's face and shirt. Bucky is at his wit's end.

Geoffrey takes a towel and wipes the vomit off Bucky's face and shirt.)

GEOFFREY

(Shaking his head:) Barack... Barack... Barack....

BUCKY

Wow.

(Geoffrey takes the baby from Bucky. Barack quiets down a little and Bucky sighs with relief.)

GEOFFREY

Sorry about that. And about what we were saying before...

BUCKY

...That shit I laid on you...I was out of line. If Teddy thinks you're a good guy...

(Geoffrey laughs ironically.)

**GEOFFREY**

...Teddy's a great kid. You seem like a good guy too. Protective of your friend. Hopefully forgiving. Do me and all the other bitter old queens out there a favor. Everything you've got?

**BUCKY**

Yeah?

**GEOFFREY**

Run with it as far as it will go.

(Geoffrey exits with Barack.)

Lights cross fade as Bucky crosses back to where Teddy is dressing.)

**BUCKY**

Hey, man. You're supposed to take it easy.

**TEDDY**

We've got to get you to that match.

**BUCKY**

I've been thinking, Teddy...

**TEDDY**

...It's for a good cause.

**BUCKY**

I know. But *rugby*?

**TEDDY**

Money goes to high school youth groups.

**BUCKY**

Not my game.

**TEDDY**

It's just an exhibition match. No big deal.

**BUCKY**

It took me forever to learn *football*, Teddy.

**TEDDY**

That's why I got that picture book from the library. Did you... look at it?

**BUCKY**

Yeah. A little.

**TEDDY**

Like that basketball game you played last Winter for that HRC fundraiser.

**BUCKY**

Basketball's easy.

**TEDDY**

It'll be fun.

**BUCKY**

How do you figure?

**TEDDY**

Remember that book I got you for Christmas?

**BUCKY**

French Rugby Players?

(Projections of photographs that show naked rugby players playing with each other on the field and in the showers. The men should be gorgeous and the photos very homoerotic.

Bucky smiles as he remembers the photos.)

I'll do it!

(Lights out.)

## Scene 9

---

(Projection: *The Rugby Match*. Followed by photographs of rugby players as they get ready. Crowd noises are heard.

Lights up.

Bucky and Teddy are in a locker room. Bucky is in a jock. He is busy putting on a rugby uniform and cleats.

Teddy is talking him through the rules of the game.)

**TEDDY**

It's not so tough, Bucky.

**BUCKY**

I don't get it.

**TEDDY**

Like football, soccer and basketball all thrown together.

**BUCKY**

Which parts?

TEDDY

Like basketball, but you don't dribble and you can only lateral back to pass.

BUCKY

The quarterback?

TEDDY

No quarterback. Anyone.

BUCKY

Okay.

TEDDY

And when you get it into the end zone... called a *try zone*... you've got to remember to press the ball to the ground in order for it to count as a score.

BUCKY

Like spiking.

TEDDY

And you can kick the ball through the uprights too.

BUCKY

Anyone?

TEDDY

I think so.

BUCKY

That's fucked.

TEDDY

And it's called a *scrum* instead of a *huddle*.

BUCKY

When?

TEDDY

You'll see. And if they grab you by the ass and legs and lift you into the air, you've got to try to catch the ball.

BUCKY

They grab my ass?

TEDDY

See?

BUCKY

Do I get to grab theirs?

TEDDY

Just follow your instincts, Bucky.

**BUCKY**

Yaaaaaa hoooooo!

**TEDDY**

Enjoy yourself and don't forget the interview with Fox after the match. And... try not to mention how you...

**BUCKY**

...like to take it up the ass. I know... I know.

(Bucky is suited up and ready to go. Teddy slaps him on the back.)

**TEDDY**

Go gettum, roomie!

**BUCKY**

Woooooo hoooooo!

(Bucky exits.

Lights cross fade as Teddy crosses over to the side to sit next to his father. They are sitting in the bleachers, watching the game.)

**TED**

Are you sure he's going to be able to...

**TEDDY**

Just watch, Dad.

**TED**

Go, Bucky!

**TEDDY**

Get in there, Bucky! Take em on!

(Projections can help set the scene for what is happening on the playing field. They can be used with sound effects under the following dialog.)

**TED**

Does he know...

**TEDDY**

He's a natural. He'll figure it out. Go, Bucky! Go!

**TED**

That's it, boy!

(Sound effects of the crowd culminate in an "ohhhhh!" Ted and Teddy's eyes get pretty big.)

Whoa!

Yeow! TEDDY

That's a tough hit. Are they supposed to...? TED

Part of the game, Dad. TEDDY

They're not wearing pads. TED

Tackle his ass, Bucky! That's it! TEDDY

Grab the ball! TED

Run, Bucky. Run! TEDDY

The other way! TED

The other way! TED The other way! TEDDY

That's it! TEDDY

Oh, my god! TED

Lateral it back, Bucky! That's it! TEDDY

Teddy...? TED

You've never seen him play before, Dad. TEDDY

No. TED

See what I mean? TEDDY

Yeah. TED

Catch it, Bucky! TEDDY

That's it! TED

Run, Bucky! TEDDY

The way he moves... It's.... TED

Beautiful. TEDDY

Yeah. TED

Most beautiful thing on earth. TEDDY

Like he's on fire. TED

And the world is happy and perfect. TEDDY

Gorgeous. TED

TEDDY  
Everything he does... even the stupid shit... is perfect. And when I'm with him... the world isn't fucked up and full of shit. It's beautiful. I love him, Dad. So much it hurts.

(Ted stops and looks into his son's eyes. As they stare at each other, the sound effects of the crowd grow again.

They return to the game.)

Go, Bucky! TED

The end zone, Bucky! The end zone! TEDDY

Run, Bucky! TED

The guy behind you, Buck! TEDDY

Run! TED

Watch him! Watch him! TEDDY

(Sound effects of the crowd culminate in another “ohhhhh!” Ted and Teddy flinch.)

Jesus. TED

Shit. TEDDY

He okay? TED

Get up, Bucky. Shake it off! TEDDY

(Sound of whistles blowing. The crowd goes silent.)

Uh... Teddy...? TED

Come on, Bucky. Shake it off.... TEDDY

Bucky? TED

Fuck. TEDDY

He’s not getting up. TED

Bucky! Bucky! TEDDY

Don’t move, Bucky! We’ll be right there. TED

(They exit quickly.

Lights out.)

## Scene 10

---

(Projections of newspaper stories and stills from TV features. Headlines for the stories: *BC Quarterback Injured*, *Season in Jeopardy after Injury*, *Second Surgery for Quarterback*, and *Long Recovery for Kent*. Photos

of Bucky injured on the rugby field as well as Bucky in the hospital in traction are included with the stories.

After these images are projected, the words *Two Months Later* appear. Then photos of Provincetown, Massachusetts – the Pilgrim Monument, Commercial Street, the beach are projected. Seagulls are heard.

Lights up.

Bucky and Teddy are at Herring Cove Beach near Provincetown.

Teddy is wearing a fashionable bathing suit. But it is covered up by the oversized knit shirt he wears. Bucky sports a bathing suit, but he also wears a very bulky cast on his right leg, as well as one on his right arm.

Teddy is off to the side going through a cooler.

Bucky sits on the sand. Awkwardly. Not enjoying himself.)

**TEDDY**

Banana?

**BUCKY**

Nah.

**TEDDY**

Soda?

(Bucky shrugs. Teddy picks a can out of the cooler and holds it up.)

Catch?

(Bucky gives him a dirty look. Teddy crosses to him, hands it over and sits next to him on the sand. Bucky can't open the can. Teddy, realizing his mistake, takes it back and opens it. He hands it back to Bucky.)

**BUCKY**

(Pointing with his chin:) Are they staring?

**TEDDY**

No.

(He looks closer.)

Uh... yeah.

(Bucky flips them the bird.)

**BUCKY**

This is fucked.

**TEDDY**

Bucky...

...Bad idea, roomie. **BUCKY**

You've always liked the beach. **TEDDY**

When I wasn't a gimp. **BUCKY**

You're not a... **TEDDY**

...Has been... **BUCKY**

Not a chance. **TEDDY**

The doctors? **BUCKY**

They don't know you. **TEDDY**

They know bones. **BUCKY**

Not every one of them agreed. **TEDDY**

It's over, Teddy Bear. **BUCKY**

They red-shirt you one season. Big deal. **TEDDY**

Not only is he an orthopedic surgeon, he's a sports analyst now too. **BUCKY**

Another two weeks the casts come off and we start physical therapy... **TEDDY**

*We?* **BUCKY**

(This brings Teddy up short.

Lights cross fade to another part of the beach, just down from Teddy and Bucky.

Geoffrey sits on a towel. He is surrounded by infant paraphernalia and toys. He wears a fashionable swimsuit. He looks tan and considerably

more well-rested than before. A portable wire dog pen is set up. We only see half of it. Rugs cover the sand inside the pen.

Ted enters. He wears board shorts that are a little too youthful and colorful for someone his age.)

TED

Geof?

GEOFFREY

Ted.

TED

Hey. Haven't seen you around...

GEOFFREY

We've been in P'town all summer.

TED

Barack?

(Geoffrey points off stage a short distance away.)

He's walking.

GEOFFREY

Running.

TED

(Laughing:) Look at that. Quite the set up.

GEOFFREY

A friend who shows dogs loaned me one of his portable pens.

TED

Gives him a little more room to run.

GEOFFREY

Barry! Come back. This way. Come on. Turn around

(Projection of Barack sitting on a rug inside the pen. He wears an infant life vest and a baby hat. He looks as taciturn as ever.)

Okay. Sit on the rug. That's good too.

TED

Mind of his own.

GEOFFREY

How's your football player doing?

TED

Sad story.

GEOFFREY

I heard. Freak accident.

TED

Agent dumped him. Probably won't make the draft.

GEOFFREY

How's he taking it?

TED

Bad.

GEOFFREY

(Sincerely:) Sorry to hear it.

TED

My son and I brought him out here for two weeks.

GEOFFREY

That must be interesting.

TED

How do you mean?

GEOFFREY

None of my business. I should just learn to shut the fuck up.

TED

That night at the bar. With Bucky. You probably think I'm an old fool.

GEOFFREY

No. A lot of younger guys get off on...

TED

...A daddy-boy fetish thing? It wasn't role-play.

GEOFFREY

Okay.

TED

Sure he's young, beautiful and confident. He's everything I wish... if I could have a second chance... I could *be* again. Remember when you were that age? That feeling of excitement about... everything?

GEOFFREY

Barely.

TED

If this is my mid-life crisis, I'm fine with it. You can call me a pathetic old queen. I don't care. Because when I'm with him, I feel that again. I feel good about myself. And I haven't felt that way in a long time. I love that boy.

**GEOFFREY**

And your son? How's he taking it?

**TED**

Teddy has a thing for him too.

**GEOFFREY**

Like I said, *interesting*.

**TED**

Chip off the ole block.

**GEOFFREY**

Do you know how Bucky feels?

**TED**

We've been so busy with his recovery. The doctors... coaches. He's in a tough way right now.

**GEOFFREY**

What are you going to do?

**TED**

Got any ideas?

**GEOFFREY**

Hate to say it, but you're pretty much the adult here. What's best for Bucky? What do you think he needs?

**TED**

A strong man in his life. Authority figure. Someone to give him unconditional love. Always be there for him. No matter what.

**GEOFFREY**

Sounds like a father to me.

(Ted is surprised by the simplicity of Geoffrey's comment.)

Lights cross fade back to Bucky and Teddy.)

**BUCKY**

You don't get it, Teddy. From here on out, it's going to be just me. No football. No fans. No interviews. No pros. None of the glory, power or fame. The queer has been smeared. Bucky Kent is dead. Over. It's back to where I was before. Before football. And all the attention. Just a stupid kid with ADD. A whore for a mother – a woman who can't ever remember what my father looked like, let alone his name. A loser. That's what I am. You hitched your wagon to a loser, Baby Bear. Better start looking for a new roommate.

**TEDDY**

Why?

**BUCKY**

Are you kidding me? I don't play, they don't pay.

**TEDDY**

We'll find a way.

**BUCKY**

How you think I've been passing my classes? You think anyone would give me a C if they didn't get pressure from the coaches?

**TEDDY**

That's not true. We've been...

**BUCKY**

...Like I told you first day in the dorm. I'm stupid, Teddy. Now you can add *loser* to that too. Stupid loser.

(Pause as Teddy thinks.)

**TEDDY**

Okay.

**BUCKY**

Okay what?

**TEDDY**

You've convinced me.

**BUCKY**

What do you mean?

**TEDDY**

You're a loser.

(Bucky doesn't know how to take this.)

Oh, yeah.

**BUCKY**

Yeah?

**TEDDY**

Yep.

**BUCKY**

Huh.

**TEDDY**

Never thought of you that way, but now that you mention it. I see your point.

**BUCKY**

You do?

You're pretty much a fuck up. **TEDDY**

I... **BUCKY**

...to hang out with me? You must be. **TEDDY**

Why do you say that? **BUCKY**

Because I've never thought of you that way before. Must have been real stupid of me. Way stupider than you and your dumb ass. **TEDDY**

You're not stupid, Teddy. **BUCKY**

I must be to keep hanging out with you when everyone else wrote you off. That's why I'm still here. Right? I'm fucking stupid. **TEDDY**

No. **BUCKY**

Then why would I do that? Stick by you? **TEDDY**

I don't know. **BUCKY**

Yeah. You do. **TEDDY**

(Bucky looks away.)

You're a smart guy, Bucky. Way smarter than you think. Smarter than me in so many ways. You don't spend a lot of time thinking. You just *know*.

What do I know? **BUCKY**

Why I'm here. Right now. Why I've been there for you through all the good stuff and the bad shit. You know. **TEDDY**

Yeah? **BUCKY**

(Teddy nods.)

You mean it?

(Teddy nods.)

Then you know too. Right?

TEDDY

Yeah?

BUCKY

For a long time, Teddy.

TEDDY

Then why didn't you...?

BUCKY

Why would a smart guy like you wanna...?

TEDDY

Just stupid enough, I guess.

(They smile shyly at each other.)

Lights cross fade back to Ted and Geoffrey.)

TED

How's your husband?

GEOFFREY

I served him papers the week after pride.

TED

Sorry.

GEOFFREY

Yeah.

TED

I shouldn't have told you... that night.

GEOFFREY

What? And miss out on that scene?

TED

One helluva weekend.

GEOFFREY

15 years. Boy did I have my head up my ass.

TED

You weren't married to a woman for two decades.

GEOFFREY

Maybe men should just trick until they're 35 or 40.

TED

Every man?

**GEOFFREY**

(Laughing:) I always consider myself the exception.

**TED**

He wasn't ready to be a father. I think most men make better grandfathers than fathers. (Skeptically:) Twenty... thirty year olds....

**GEOFFREY**

35 year olds?

**TED**

I think you're right about being the exception. You're ready, Geof.

(They stare off into the direction of Barack. Projection of Barack sitting on the rug, rounded by the pen.)

How's it going?

**GEOFFREY**

Seems to be a bit of a détente. Like two wary adversaries waiting to see who will launch the next offensive.

**TED**

Can't let that happen.

**GEOFFREY**

I'm listening.

**TED**

He still fusses when you hold him?

**GEOFFREY**

What's your secret?

**TED**

Well...

**GEOFFREY**

I need help.

**TED**

When he's crying... when you pick him up... when you hold him and look into his eyes, what do you see?

**GEOFFREY**

A screaming baby.

**TED**

Is that all? Be honest.

**GEOFFREY**

I see anger.

TED

Go on.

GEOFFREY

And resentment. And expectation.

TED

Yeah?

GEOFFREY

I see the last fifteen years. Fifteen years of love and passion. A complete lifetime together. All our plans. All that love I invested. All ripped to shreds by a twenty-pound insatiable, inconsolable, unlovable, incontinent monster.

TED

(Laughing:) No wonder he screams.

GEOFFREY

Yeah. It's funny.

TED

Can't blame the boy when Roger turned out to be less a man than you thought.

GEOFFREY

I was being honest.

TED

Look at him now.

(They look to where Barack is sitting.)

You know what I see?

GEOFFREY

Go ahead.

TED

A little boy who is afraid. Who's been through hell for the first months of his life. No one to love him, hold him, care for him. No one came running when he cried. When he was cold or hungry. Why should he trust anyone? Next time you pick him up and look into his eyes, think about all the wonderful things you two have before you. His first words. His first birthday cake. His first days in nursery school. The art projects he'll bring home. The cards he'll give you for Father's Day. The presents he'll open under the Christmas tree. The school pageants. The way one day you'll notice his voice cracking. Teaching him to shave. His first date. The ridiculous tuxedo he'll wear to prom. Think about the day he'll leave for college and how proud of him you'll be. Because you've raised a beautiful, loving man.

(This last exchange has taught Geoffrey not only a great deal about his relationship with Barack, but also about Ted. Geoffrey sees Ted differently now. Pause as Geoffrey thinks about this. Finally, Ted gestures to Barack.)

Well...?

**GEOFFREY**

Think I can do it?

**TED**

Oh, yeah.

(Geoffrey crosses off stage. He returns in a moment, carrying Barack. He's not crying. Ted crosses over to Geoffrey to look at Barack.)

What do you see?

**GEOFFREY**

One helluva man.

(Ted puts his arm around Geoffrey.)

**TED**

Like father, like son.

**GEOFFREY**

(To Barack:) *Daddy... daddy... Come on, son. You can say it. Daddy.*

(Lights cross fade back to Teddy and Bucky.)

**BUCKY**

You going to wear that turtleneck all afternoon?

**TEDDY**

You know I don't...

**BUCKY**

Teddy... We've shared the same room for almost a year. I know what you got.

**TEDDY**

It's the sun...

(With his good hand, Bucky holds up a bottle of sunscreen.

Teddy reluctantly takes his shirt off. And sits down.

With one hand Bucky squirts the sunscreen on Teddy's back. He jerks up at the feeling of the cold cream. But relaxes once Bucky begins to rub it in.)

**BUCKY**

Wouldn't want to ruin all that white skin.

(Teddy is enjoying the sensation now.)

Teddy?

TEDDY

Ah hah...?

BUCKY

There's something I gotta talk to you about.

TEDDY

Okay.

BUCKY

I've had this cast on for two months.

TEDDY

Yeah.

BUCKY

And you know... it's...

TEDDY

What?

BUCKY

It's a little inconvenient.

TEDDY

That's why I'm around to help you out.

BUCKY

That's what I want to talk to you about.

TEDDY

Yeah?

BUCKY

You know how I'm right handed?

TEDDY

Yep.

BUCKY

Well... I'm REALLY right handed.

TEDDY

Okay.

BUCKY

Know what I mean?

TEDDY

Um...

**BUCKY**

Nothing feels right when I use my left hand. Nothing. Doesn't work at all. You know?

(Teddy gives him a blank look.)

And with the leg cast, it's not like I can...

(He tries to thrust his hips.)

See what I mean?

(Teddy continues to give him a blank look.)

Fuck it, Teddy. I'm so backed up it's ridiculous. Jizz is practically shooting out of my pores. Like I'm going to choke to death on my own cum. I'm afraid to sneeze!

**TEDDY**

What are you saying, Bucky?

**BUCKY**

I know that for you to... you know... it's got to be... special.

(Teddy smiles.)

I just thought... Now that we know... about each other... How I feel... and how you feel... Maybe you could... Help me out. Once in a while.

(Teddy leans in slowly. He looks into Bucky's eyes. They are both a little nervous about what is about to happen. They close their eyes and their lips touch.

It is a very sweet kiss.)

**TEDDY**

I think I could do that. Hey what's this?

(He points to a spot on Bucky's chest. Bucky looks down and Teddy tweaks his nose.)

**BUCKY**

Geez.

(Bucky kisses Teddy. This one is more passionate. They make out with as much abandon as Bucky's casts will allow.

Ted enters.

Teddy feels his father's presence and pulls back from Bucky.)

**TEDDY**

Hey, Dad.

(To cover the awkwardness and the conflicting feelings he is experiencing, Ted crosses to the cooler and opens it. He roots around inside.)

TED

(Without looking up:) You guys enjoying yourselves?

TEDDY

Yeah. Sure.

BUCKY

It's the best.

TED

I saw Geoffrey down the beach. Little Barack is walking. Can you believe that?

TEDDY

That's great, Dad.

TED

Anyone need anything?

BUCKY

Ahhh... banana?

(Ted takes the banana out of the cooler and crosses over to Bucky. He peels the banana and passes it to him.)

TED

Here you go... Son.

(When he hears the word *Son*, Bucky looks into Ted's eyes.)

BUCKY

(Cautiously:) Thanks... Dad... for everything.

(In one moment, with two lines, Ted and Bucky begin a new phase of their relationship. Ted smiles and reaches out to muss Bucky's hair – the same way he did to Teddy earlier in the play. Bucky enjoys it thoroughly.

Lights out.

End of Play.)

# Appendix

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In addition to the suggested projections in the stage directions for the scenes, the production team may wish to consider adding projections to the pre-show, intermission, curtain call and post-show. These graphics could represent real-life “collateral” of the characters’ lives and would help establish their personalities and backgrounds. The production team should feel free to use their discretion with these ideas and are encouraged to create additional graphics if they so wish. If the production team wishes to pursue this approach, the playwright suggests that photos of the actors in character should be used as much as possible.

**Important Note:** Projections are not necessary for the successful staging this play. The decision of whether or not to include this is completely up to the production team.

## Pre-Show

Facebook hompages: These graphics should look like exact reproductions of each character’s Facebook profiles/homepages. The diction of their comments should match their “voices” in the play. Bucky’s should focus on his football exploits and he should have thousands of “friends.” Headlines could be on the order of “Broke a new NCAA rushing record, dudes! Yeah. I know!” Teddy’s should reflect his studious nature. Maybe something like “Organic. Again! I’m so excited. ARGH!” Geoffrey’s should have updates concerning the adoption of his infant son. “How do you get a baby to stop crying?” with plenty of suggestions. There should be photos of Geoffrey with a pained smile holding his crying child. Ted’s homepage should be the most incomplete with a headline that says, “Just trying this out because my son told me about it. How does this thing work?”

Online invitation to a baby shower for Geoffrey’s adopted son. Photographs of Geoffrey and his partner, Roger, holding their new baby should be included. In each photo, the baby should be seen crying.

Pages from Teddy’s high school yearbook – the Weston Wildcats. They should feature photos that show the membership of all the organizations of which Teddy was a member: Chess Club, Debate Club, Drama Club, Orchestra, Newspaper League, Weston High School chapter of Amnesty International, Habitat for Humanity, Senior Choir, Show Choir, Swim Team, Soccer Team, Math League, Student Council and the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Student Alliance. Teddy is featured prominently in all the photos. In many he is the only one in the organization.

Boston Globe Sports story with the headline “Kent leads BC to overtime win.” A photo of a sweaty Bucky in uniform celebrating with fellow teammates should be included along with the story.

The title pages of two college term papers. One should be Teddy’s Semiotics paper, “Meta-cognition and the Gay Gaze: speculative fiction and its impact on Queer Culture.” It’s signed “Theodore Whittemore”. The text of the paper should be extremely dense and difficult. Many positive hand-written exclamations are included

in the margins. A large red “A” appears on the upper right corner. Another graphic is a paper signed by “Bernard ‘Bucky’ Kent – the football player.” The paper is titled: “Pakistan and India: Why they don’t like each other.” The text of the paper should be extremely rudimentary with simple sentences such as, “Pakistan is Moslem. They practice the Moslem religion. Sometimes the religion is called Islam and you can say something is Islamic. I guess that sounds better than Moslemic.” The paper is only a page long and includes a list of URL’s at the bottom under the subtitle: “My Google Search Results.” The paper should have a large “D-“ that’s been scratched out with a “C+” next to it.

A Boston Herald newspaper story about Doctors Without Borders – “Local docs duck behind lines.” Geoffrey is featured in both the newspaper story and the accompanying photograph.

Three photo Christmas cards. The first shows Ted, Teddy and Teddy’s mother smiling at the camera with “Happy Holidays 2007 from the Whitemores”. The next is just Teddy and his father – “Happy Holidays 2008 from Ted and Teddy.” The third should show Teddy and his mother with “Happy Holidays 2008 from Teddy and Velvet.” Teddy looks less than happy in the 2008 cards.

A YouTube screen reproduction that shows the video of Bucky that catapulted him out of the closet. The video is titled: “College Jock Takes It Up the \*ss!” The video still should show Bucky sitting on a bed. He is naked from the waste up and it should be apparent that he is about to take off his pants. He smiles winningly at the video camera. There are thousands of comments listed. They should range from “Are you F\*CKING kidding me?” to “Did he say he ‘takes it up the ass?’” to “A Fag in Football?” to “It’s about time someone in college athletics is honest enough to come out of the closet” to “Go, Bucky!” to “I’d hate to have to take a shower with that queer.” Links to other YouTube videos of Bucky leading the BC Eagles football team should be included.

A Boston College student newspaper – The Heights – front page story with the headline, “3 questioned in connection with quarterback sex vid.” The story concerns the police questioning the role Bucky’s three middle-aged male “patrons” played in the filming and distribution of his sex tape. Bucky should be quoted as saying that the men promised not to distribute it.

60 Minutes promo of Bucky’s appearance with Leslie Stall. “College Football Shocker!”

Gay hook-up site profiles for each of the four characters. Manhunt, Recon and M4M are the recommended sites, though other sites can be used as well. Each of the profiles should be convincing graphic mockups and include photos and personal descriptions that are unique to each character. Bucky’s, Teddy’s and Geoffrey’s should be the most anonymous. Ted’s should feature a face shot. Bucky’s profiles should have the most photos – mostly body shots and he should have profiles on all the sites. The rest are probably only on Manhunt and M4M. The production team should be encouraged to provide as much detail as possible to make the profiles look authentic. Involving the actors in creating the profiles might be a good acting exercise. Possible profile names: Bucky – “REAL College Jock”; Teddy: “Semiotic

Stud”; Ted: “Pappa Bear”; Geoffrey: “Nice Guy”. Geoffrey’s profiles should mention being recently single after 14 years in a relationship. Ted’s should mention just coming out of the closet and feeling free for the first time in his life.

As mentioned above, the production team is encouraged to create additional graphic collateral to fill out the pre-show slide presentation. The graphics should look as authentic as possible and feature numerous photographs of the actors in character. The text should establish the playful mood of the show

## **Intermission**

Projection: *Teddy’s Dream Sequence*. These words are visible throughout the intermission projections. Projections should show a rapid stream of organic compound diagrams interspersed with photographs of Ted in businessman mode, a baby crying hysterically and shots of a naked Bucky and Teddy as they make love. Geoffrey is seen holding a sign that says Pretentious South End Queen (with son). He holds Barack.

Sound effects: Disco music. We also hear the character’s voices. Teddy is reciting organic chemical formulas. Bucky sounds like he is trying to seduce Teddy. These should be broken up and randomly placed in a loop. If desired, the production team may modify the dialog or include additional lines or images. This should be fun and surreal.

## **Curtain Call / Post-Show**

As the actors come out to bow, a series of photographs are projected that show what happens to the characters in the course of the next four years. The director may want the cast to dance to the music that transformed Teddy at the end of Act I, using the ridiculous dance steps he concocted. The projections should continue as the audience walks out.

Photos that show Bucky and Teddy getting married. Another series showing Ted and Geoffrey getting married.

Final projection: A holiday card for 2014. It says *Season’s Greetings 2014* and shows Teddy, Bucky, Ted, Geoffrey and Barack. They are all smiling.

As mentioned above, the production team is encouraged to create additional graphic collateral to fill out the pre-show slide presentation.