

(A Situation Comedy Pilot)

By Sidney Goldberg

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CAST in order of appearance

ZEKE	18, 22, 40 years old. Humorous.
ABDUL	18, 22, 40 years old. Arab.
GOLDIE	Mother of Zeke and Abe. Jewish, adorable.
ABE (Zeke's brother)	15, 32 years old.
SHEIKH (Abdul's father)	45 years old. Rich, Arab potentate.
KAMAL	42-62 years old. The Sheikh's jealous brother.
The 13 WIVES of the SHEIKH.	Various ages, beautiful.

ZEXE and the SHEIKH

CU: INT: 1977: The Bronx:

1

WA: A clean but not affluent kitchen:

The table is set and two pots are cooking on the stove:

With a kerchief on her head, GOLDIE is chanting and praying over Sabbath candles, as ZEKE and his brother ABE, both impatient, bide their time.

GOLDIE finishes praying.

GOLDIE

Good Shabbes, children, good Shabbes.

ZEKE and ABE

Good Shabbes, Mama.

ZEKE

Mama, can I ask you a question?

GOLDIE

When don't you ask me a question, Ezekiel? Since you were 10 months old and started talking, you haven't stopped asking me questions.

CUT: We go back in time when ZEKE is ten months old and 2 is in a crib.

GOLDIE is straightening up and not paying attention to her infant, when she hears ZEKE speak in the same voice he just spoke and is startled.

ZEKE (baby)

Would you please take me out of this crib, Mama?

GOLDIE

Looks around, stunned.

Oy, who said that?

ZEKE

Me.

GOLDIE

Looking around.

Who's, me?

ZEKE

Over here, in the crib. Please take me out so I can stretch my legs.

GOLDIE

Ezekiel, 'Gutt n' himl', God in heaven, I don't believe you can talk. When and how did you start to talk, you can't even crawl yet; what kind of stretch your legs, you're not even a year old?

ZEKE

That's 10 months, but who's counting, and can I ask you a question, Mama?

GOLDIE

You want to ask me a question?

ZEKE

I got a million of them and why can't you call me Zeke instead of Ezekiel?

GOLDIE

Because you were named after my favorite prophet in the Bible, Ezekiel and I don't believe my little baby asked me a question, nu?

CUT: We are back:

GOLDIE (cont'd)
Nu, Ezekiel, I'm waiting for
your question.

3

4

ZEKE

What's so good about Shabbes, Mama, why do you make such a big deal about it, and don't tell me God rested on the seventh day, Shabbes. We live in the Bronx, in the slums, we don't have enough money, you're always working, and that's why you're so tired all the time and don't tell anyone, but its Saturday, the day God rested, so, why aren't you?

ABE

Is it because we don't have a father that we never have enough money for anything?

ZEKE

You are such a dingbat, of course that's the reason why. Mama's a bookkeeper, she works in a laundry for peanuts, remember?

ABE

I mean, I don't even have my own glove to play baseball. I'm embarrassed Mama, all my friends have gloves but me.

CUT: EXT: The street:

We see ABE with friends that taunt him:

FRIEND 1

Hey Abie, wanna have a catch?

FRIEND 2

(Laughs.)

He can't, he doesn't have a glove.

FRIEND 3

(Sneers.)

5

6

Why don'tcha have a glove, Abie?

FRIENDS

(Chants)

Poor Abie's poor, poor Abie's poor.

CUT: School lunch room:

FRIEND 1

Hey Abie, didn't you wear that shirt yesterday?

FRIEND 2

He also wore it Monday.

FRIEND 3

He only has two shirts, remember?

FRIENDS

(Chanting.)

Poor Abies poor, poor Abies poor.

CUT: We are back:

ZEKE

I told you, since I got a scholarship and I'm going to go to NYU this fall, I won't need it, so, I'll give you my glove, what else do you want from me, you pain in the...?

ABE

...Gee, thanks, you're a righty and I'm a lefty. How thoughtful Mr. Righty.

GOLDIE

Ezekiel, you're the smart one, can't you fix it so your brother can use your glove once-in-a-while, can't you? Please, do it so he'll stop hocking me. All I hear is glove, glove, and glove. I'm going meshugeh, crazy, that's why I'm going nuts.

ZEKE

I told him I would turn it inside out, but he doesn't want it Mama, he doesn't want it, because he's so ungrateful, not like me, Mama. I was never ungrateful, like some people I know, right Abie?

GOLDIE

So, why don't you want it Abraham? It's a nice glove, isn't it a nice glove, Ezekiel?

ZEKE

It's a beauty Mama, and I made a lot of nice over the shoulder catches with it.

EXT: Ball field:

7

BACK IN TIME: WE SEE ZEKE MAKE OVER-THE-SHOULDER CATCHES AS A YOUNG ABE WATCHES IN AMAZEMENT

CUT: WE are back:

GOLDIE

Don't you want to make nice catches over your shoulder like your brother, Abraham? So, what if it's a little used, he says it's a nice glove and, tell him what you got on your SATs Ezekiel? Maybe if you use your brother's glove, you'll also turn out to be a genius like him and also get a scholarship?

ABE

...Why, because he got 1570 on his SAT's? Any dummy can get 1570 on his SAT's if you study all the time, Mama, and I'll never use his glove because I hate him.

ZEKE

Why, because I'm so smart, smarty-pants?

ABE

No, because you're a righty, and I'm a lefty and that why I'm the *Chosen* not you.

ZEKE

Says who?

ABE

Reggie Jackson's a lefty, and he hit three homers in the Series, right? Ted Williams and Stan the man Musial, not to mention the Babe were lefties, right? That's why I'm the chosen and you're not smarty-pants. Oh, I forgot to mention, Einstein was a (MORE)

ABE (Cont'd)

lefty too, so, you can't be that smart, can you? He's not that smart, Mama, trust me, he's not that smart, how could he, he's a righty.

GOLDIE

Abraham, that's no way to talk to your brother Ezekiel. After all, he's going to college and become a famous brain surgeon...

ZEKE

...Lawyer, Mama, not brain surgeon, lawyer...

GOLDIE

...Lawyer, what ever you want Ezekiel. And what are you going to become, my darling Abraham 'nuch' a brain surgeon?

ABE

I hate the sight of blood, Mama, and why can't you call me Abie like all my friends?

GOLDIE

I don't call you Abie because I'm not your friend, I'm your mother and you were named after the father of *our* people...

ABE, ZEKE and GOLDIE ...Who was called *Abraham?*

ABE and ZEKE smile and slap each other five.

GOLDIE

And you Ezekiel, was named after...

ZEKE

I know Mama...

ABE and ZEKE ...One of the truly blessed prophets in the Bible.

ZEKE

Mama, can I ask you another question?

GOLDIE

Why should today be different than all other days? Shoot.

ZEKE

Mama, we have nothing, not even a color TV, why, why do you always pray? What good does it do?

GOLDIE

I pray to give thanks.

ABE

To give thanks, for what? I don't have a glove and look at where we live. To give thanks for what, what do we have?

GOLDIE

At stove, about to serve.

I give thanks not for what I want, but what I have. You see, as bad as you think we have it, there are those that have much less, and gutsen dank, thank God we are still alive, we have each other and our Ezekiel is going to become the most successful brain surgeon this side of (MORE)

GOLDIE (Cont'd)

the Grand Concourse, he'll make a million dollars, so that his poor mother will finally move to Miami and he'll get married and have lots of children, 'uhmain,' Amen. Now, it's time for a little chicken soup with matzo balls.

ABE

Again with the chicken soup, and matzo balls?

GOLDIE

It's Friday night; we have to eat chicken soup with matzo balls.

ABE

Why?

GOLDIE

Because it is written, and did you both brush your teeth?

ZEKE and ABE nod yes.

GOLDIE

Show me how you both brushed your teeth.

ZEKE and ABE

Do we have too again?

GOLDIE points to bathroom and they all enter it and with much delight she watches them brush their teeth.

GOLDIE

Did you take a shower this morning?

ZEKE and ABE nod yes.

ZEKE

A comedian, HE tried to impersonate Mae West's voice.
You're not gonna watch me
take a shower, are you lady?

GOLDIE

Oy, you and your impersonations and no, I believe you took a shower, now lets eat.

ZEKE

Suddenly, I don't feel like eating, Mama.

ABE

Me, too.

ZEKE

Want to have a catch, genius?

ABE

Ya know Zeke, you're no Einstein.

CUT: INT: 1977: A castle in Barabia Barabia:

ABDUL is 18 years old and walks pass the 13 Wives of his father, who all have claimed, to be his real mother, THEY kiss and fondle him, much to his dismay.

ABDUL

Good morning, Ima number one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11,

(Thinking, aside.)
12 and 13. The reason why I
gave them numbers is because
who can remember all their
names? I mean this is
ridiculous.

ALL

Good morning my beloved son, Abdul.

ALL argue over whose son he really is.

ONE

How dare you, Abdul is my son! Look at his nose! Is it not exactly like mine!

TWO THROUGH 13
HE IS NOT YOURS, HE IS MINE!
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN MINE!

ABDUL, to his dismay kisses all of them.

ABDUI.

Please, do not quibble, for in my heart, thanks to my Father who has married all of You, you are all my mothers.

Thinking, aside.

My luck, I had to have thirteen mothers.

11

Did you brush your teeth my son?

ABDUL

I did.

13

Come with me to the bathroom and show me, show me how well you brush your beautiful teeth.

CUT: INT: Regal bathroom:

9

ABDUL goes to bathroom with 13 and brushes his teeth.

When he returns, as always he has to return to bathroom and brush his teeth 12 more time, as each of his mothers watch him with much delight.

ABDUL

Please, I beg all of you, my mouth my gums are killing me, and I'm getting nauseous from all this brushing and gargling.

MOTHERS

Brushing, Salem Aleichem, brushing, Salem Aleichem.

CUT: INT: Place:

10

It is morning and once again, ABDUL goes through his ritualistic greeting and kisses all his mothers, as mother number 4 asks? "Did you take your shower, my son?"

ABDUL answers yes, but is escorted to the bathroom, as each mother waits patiently outside, as he takes 13 showers.

ABDUL

Please, I beg all of you, my skin is so dry it feels like sandpaper and I feel as if I am drowning.

CUT: INT: An enormous and ornate dining room:

11

Seated are the 13 wives of the handsome SHEIKH du SHEIKH, ABDUL's father, who chants and blesses the empty plates and meal THEY are not going to receive.

UNCLE KAMAL, the SHEIKH'S brother is there and high, having smoked hashish. Not married, because he isn't very good looking, he lusts and ogles, his brothers, beautiful wives.

POV: Some of them ogle him and HE lustfully leers, "Anasi, you beautiful atouche, cunts, I'd like to take my ayir, my (Touches himself)

zabourah, my big dick and put it between your biz, succulent breasts. For you may have fooled my brother, but I know you are all nothing but sharmutas, evil bitches."

POV: Smoking the hookah dreams of making love to all his brother's wives he smiles:

CUT: WE ARE BACK: 12

SHEIKH

Let us all give thanks to Allah, for the food we shall not receive, for this is the month of Ramadan and we must, gratefully fast for one meal.

ALL

Salem Aleichem Allah, Salem Aleichem. We give thanks to Muhammad, messenger of our Lord, Allah.

SHEIKH

And as for you, my beloved son Abdul, I am sending you to NYU in America, to learn their ways and become wise, so you may manage my our enormous wealth, for our oil has made us rich beyond our wildest dreams: we are the richest family in the world and one day, when I am no longer here to please my beautiful wives, you will become Sheikh du Sheikh as I, and many wives of your own and you will inherit the largest fortune known to man, and then you must use our riches wisely.

CUT: INT: Magnificent room in Palace:

POV: UNCLE KAMAL, the SHEIKH'S brother has always hated ABDUL, for he feels, that one day, he should replace his brother, not his son ABDUL who will be corrupted in America.

13

Smoking hashish in a hookah, he dreams of caressing wife number five, and curses ABDUL.

CUT: INT: Kitchen: Morning:

14

ZEKE with suitcase is saying goodbye to GOLDIE and ABE:

GOLDIE

(Emotional.)

So, I want you to take care of yourself, Ezekiel, especially when you cross the street.

ZEKE

Don't worry Mama; Zeke will take care of himself.

ABE

(Grins.)

Mama said *Ezekiel*, not Zeke, *Ezekiel*. Gee, I wish I, was a prophet, *Ezekiel*.

ZEKE

I'll give you a prophet right up your...

GOLDIE

...And I don't want you to eat any traif. Remember, 'Traif' pork is for goyim.

ABE

...Which means no bacon, spare ribs and no pizza. Tell him he can't eat pizza, Mama, 'cause those ovens aren't Kosher... He didn't promise Mama, make him promise, you made me promise.

ZEKE

Remind me to kill you when I get back, Abie. I'll see (Exits)
You, Mama.

ABE

And what about my goodbye, Ezekiel?

ZEKE gives him the finger and exits.

CUT: EXT: Palace:

ALL are present as THEY say goodbye to ABDUL.

SHEIKH

15

Abdul, my beloved and trusted son, I do not want you to stray from Islam. Therefore, you must not eat pork and you must bow to Mecca and give Salat, which, as you know means pray five times a day to Allah and...

KAMAT

...And tell him about those lose American women. Tell him he must not fool around with them, and beware of all those Jews and all the drugs they use! All Jews, Yahoodee' are drug addicts!

ALL the WIVES start to cry.

ABDUL

Please don't cry my mothers...I will miss all of you and I promise to write often.

1

Promise you will think only of me, for I am your true mother and that you will write to me only. Promise me Abdul, promise.

1 - 12

Promise you will think only of me, for I am your true mother and that you will write to me only. Promise me Abdul, promise.

ABDUL kisses each one and as he passes his father, whispers to HIM.

ABDUL

Whispers to his father.

Father, before I leave you, tell me, please, tell me, which one is my true mother, because I am losing my mind.

SHEIKH

I wish I knew.

ABDUL

But, you know, if you don't know, who does?

SHEIKH

Go in peace my son. Perhaps one day we shall both find out? For, I'd like to know my self, because it's been driving me crazy too. You think I haven't asked them? I asked them, I've asked them each a thousand times and all they do is smile and each one swears she is your true mother: Don't they tell you the same thing? I mean, how the hell can they all be your mothers?

INT: A week later: Morning: GOLDIE'S kitchen:

16

GOLDIE'S having coffee with her friend EDNA:

EDNA

What's the matter, why are you sighing? Did you burn the chicken soup again?

GOLDIE

I should be so lucky that it's only the soup.

EDNA

So why are you so upset? I should be the one that's upset. Look at that husband I have. Meetings, organizations, schnapps and sex! That's all that meshugehneh has on his mind. Pheh on the U. J. A. and his... His member should only fall off.

GOLDIE

Thinking, aside.

I should only be so lucky to have such a member, but I would 'cuhtchy' it, I wouldn't make it fall off, I would cuhtchy it.

EDNA

He raises millions of dollars for the U.J.A, Hadassah and all those other charities, about raising what а dollars for me, so I can buy a new spring coat? You know what he tells me? He's too busy and I have enough coats. The next time he wants to fool around, I'll tell him, boy, will I tell him.

GOLDIE

What?

EDNA

I'll tell him I'm too busy.

GOLDIE

I wish I were so busy.

EDNA

What?

GOLDIE

I mean the U. J. A., Hadassah wonderful organizations. You know, with the little I have I still give 'tsdoke' charity for me-and-my-sons, Ezekiel and Abraham. Do you think they know or care that even though I don't have a dime, I give for them? Not a thanks, nothing. Sure they're here Friday night, but for how long, how long?

EDNA

How long?

GOLDIE

An hour or two tops, and then they're always in a hurry.

EDNA

So, what else is new Goldie?

GOLDIE

Now that he went to college, I think my brain surgeon is eating traif; he loves spare ribs, nu?

EDNA

You think so?

GOLDIE sadly nods yes.

CUT: INT: A week later: Classroom:

ZEKE and ABDUL are eyeing each other in philosophy classroom.

Professor Stern is speaking:

ZEKE

smiles.

STERN

18

So I ask you all, this ageold question, and before you respond, please think about it. What came first, the chicken or the egg?

Immediately ZEKE and ABDUL raise their hands:

STERN (cont'd)
Only two of my most noted
philosophy students dare
venture. Is it because the
rest of you feel there is no
answer? Mr. Goldstein?

ZEKE

Professor Stern, the answer is quite simple: The chicken came before the egg, for where did the egg come from if not from the chicken?

STERN

Abdul?

ABDUL

Unfortunately, Mr. Goldstein is not aware of the formalities of nature. For that initial chicken had to come from somewhere, and that somewhere had to be the egg! I rest my case, Professor Stern.

ZEKE

Formalities of nature and you rest your case, really? Are you saying you know more about nature and law than I, the number one law student in this college? If that's the case Mr. Know-it-all, it is known that all eggs come from the chicken...

ABDUL

And you have to admit that all chickens, Mr. Know-it-all comes from that little old egg, Mr. Law student.

ZEKE

Oh, yeah?

ABDUL

18

YEAH!

CUT: INT: Astronomy classroom:

ZEKE and ABDUL eye each other:

Professor Greer is speaking:

GREER

As you know ladies and gentlemen, UFOs have been sighted as far back as in the ancient times of Babylonia.

ZEKE

When you say UFOs were sighted professor Greer, you really mean they were imagined, don't you? Personally, I don't believe in UFOs do you? For we all know there is no definitive proof.

ABDUL

Despite the fact that there is no definitive proof to substantiate UFOs, Mr. Number one law student, there have been hundreds, perhaps thousands of sightings and surely you don't believe that all these sightings were a matter of imagination?

ZEKE

You see, I may have been born in the Bronx, but I'm from Missouri, and you gotta show me, Mr. UFO Imaginer.

ABDUL stands:

ABDUL

Does that mean that Mr. Goldstein doesn't believe in the Yeti, big-foot? Merely, because people have never captured one, and what about all those footprints? And yet many have sworn they saw one. Could that be imagination also? And scientists have actually never touched a black hole, nor can they absolutely say that one exits and yet the leading astronomers all concur. And before Einstein actually proved his theory of relativity, most people thought there was no such thing as relativity, Mr. Goldstein. Unfortunately, I do not have the evidence, but I assure you I have seen numerous UFOs and relativity does exist, so help me Allah.

ZEKE

How can we be sure you weren't imaging seeing UFOs, because you wanted too?

THEY both stare at each other:

CUT: Walking out of class they are attracted to the 19 Same girl and they speak to her at the same time:

ABDUL and ZEKE

Hello Genna.

Annoyed, they look at each other.

ZEKE

I believe I saw Genna first!

ABDUL

Do not let your vivid imagination supercede the fact. I saw Genna in English yesterday...

ZEKE

What do you want a medal? And you know what Genna; this guy actually swears he saw 200 UFOs, so, don't have anything to do with him.

ABDUL

And this guy actually swears that the chicken came before the egg, can you believe it?

GENNA

Listen fellows, I have a date and I can't be late, so, see you around, Mr. UFO, Mr.

(Exits, laughs)

Chicken Cachitori.

EDNA AND GOLDIE are sitting on couch and commiserating:

EDNA

I'm telling you Goldie, the man is meshugeh, absolutely crazy. You know what he did yesterday?

GOLDIE

Nu, I'm waiting.

EDNA

No, I can't tell you. Even though you're my best friend, I can't tell you.

GOLDIE

All right, so don't tell me. See if I care.

EDNA

You don't care, you don't want to know? I don't believe it, I tell you everything and suddenly she doesn't want to know, nu.
Boy, am I disappointed.

GOLDIE

All right, so tell me already.

EDNA

You really want to know? You won't believe it, I'm telling you, and you won't believe it.

GOLDIE

I'll believe you I'll believe you. Tell me already.

CUT: Via Voice Overs we see what Edna describes:

EDNA

Gersh came home from work a little early. He had his usual three schnapps, and then, you won't believe what and where and how this time he made me do it and oy, did he make me do it. Are you ready?

CUT: We are back:

22

GOLDIE

I'm ready I'm ready. Soon,
I'll be so old I won't be
ready.

EDNA

He did it too me on the kitchen table and I was making chopped liver, too.

GOLDIE

ON THE KITCHEN TABLE, NEXT TO THE CHOPPED LIVER HE DID IT TO YOU? I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

CUT: We are back

23

EDNA

You see I told you, you wouldn't believe it.

GOLDIE

So, how was it?

EDNA

(Dreamy.)

It was so you wouldn't believe it, but the chopped liver was still delicious.

GOLDIE

Your chopped liver is always delicious.

LS: EXT: 24

WALKING ON CAMPUS ZEKE AND ABDUL COME FACE TO FACE:

ZEKE

Why, if it's not Mr. UFO himself? Imagine any saucers lately?

ABDUL

'Shukra Gazilla,' for the compliment.

ZEKE

What does that mean?

ABDUL

'Shukra Gazilla,' means thanks for the compliment in Arabic.

ZEKE

Are you really Arabic?

ABDUL

Looks in side his pants at his penis. I was the last time I looked

and I still am.

BOTH LAUGH.

ZEKE

That's funny.

ABDUL

'Ain Alhamaam?'

ZEKE

Wanna tell me what that means?

ABDUL

(Holds self.)

Listen, I really have to go. 'Ain Alhamaam' means, where's the toilet.

ZEKE

Follow me, 'cause I have to 'pish' too.

ABDUL

Pish?

ZEKE

'Pish' is pee, and hurry I have to whatever you call it, so let's go!

THEY BOTH RUN:

CUT: A year passes and ZEKE and ABDUL are on a double 26 date:

Paying little attention to their dates, they are concerned with each other:

ABDUL

Listen 'meshugeneh,' instead of living in that dorm with that roomie you can't stand, why don't move in with me at the Plaza? I have this enormous 10-room suite, hot and cold room service, and all the lobster and champagne your little heart can desire. Nu?

ZEKE

Ya know, you're becoming more Jewish by the minute.
'Nahono' it looks we are going to be rooming together.

CUT: A magnificent suite at the Plaza:

25

The room is sort of messy and ABDUL is trying to clean it as ZEKE stands there and watches:

ZEKE

(Points.)

Over there, by the desk, you missed my favorite sweatshirt.

ABDUL

Thanks for reminding me.

ZEKE

It's my pleasure.

ABDUL

You know, I always thought Jews were neat.

ZEKE

My mother's neat.

ABDUL

But not you, no, my luck, not you.

ZEKE

Shhh, don't tell anyone, it's a secret.

ABDUL

Since we are rooming together, I would

Picks up shirt and hangs it in closet.

appreciate that you at least hang up your clothes. I mean it's too embarrassing to let the maid in. They'll think I'm a slob. You're the slob, you're the slob, slob!

ZEKE

Are all you Arabs so picky?

ABDUL

Are all you Jews so messy? And now that you are my Sameera...

ZEKE

What's Sameera?

ABDUL

Sameera means trusted companion and I ask you, do not iJLis!

ZEKE

What the heck is that?

ABDUL

iJLis! means do not sit down, but please help me clean up this mess you made before the maid gets here and call me a 'schmutz.' You're the 'schmutz,' not me, not me.

THEY BOTH LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND AFTER A BEAT LAUGH.

ZEKE

Ya know, even though you're not a slob like me, Abdul, I think I like you.

ABDUL

You mean you aren't sure after sharing my humble abode?

ZEKE

Give me time. My mother Goldie always says, respond and don't react. Wild dogs, animals and crazy people react and come to think about it, I'm thinking about trying to respond.

ABDUL

Respond, don't react, that's quite profound, and I think I like your mother.

ZEKE

That's because you haven't met her. I mean my mother has the innate ability to hock you to death. I mean, she won the gold medal for being the all time hock master.

ABDUL

Hock, what does hock mean?

ZEKE

In Jewish, hock means bug you, like it never ends. And let me tell you, my mother can hock you to death, and smile as she's hocking and you're not doing so bad yourself, mister. I mean you haven't stopped hocking me since we started rooming together: Clean up, pick up your clothes. Are you sure were not related? Come on, tell me, are you Jewish?

THEY BOTH LAUGH.

ABDUL

Your mother sounds quite prophetic and ameena.

ZEKE

Ameena?

ABDUL

A believer who has faith.

ZEKE

You can call her your ameena, I call her a pain in my keesta.

ABDUL

You only have one, how lucky can you get?

ZEKE

What do you mean one? Everybody has one mother.

ABDUL

Not where I come from.

ZEKE

Wanna tell me about it?

ABDUL

Although my father, Sheikh du Sheikh, who is very Jameel, handsome, another Omar Sharif, believes in Allah, Muhammad, the Qur'an, and is a devout Moslem, he's devout, not me. And let me tell you how devout he is, he has 13 wives, who all swore they were my real mother and they hocked me like yours, and they're not even Jewish, can you believe it?

ZEKE

(Laughs.)

And you believed them?

ABDUL

You see, I knew one of them was, or had to be my real mother, because everybody has to have a real mother, but I didn't know which one, so, I...

ZEKE

Does that mean you were breast fed by all of them? How lucky can a guy get?

CUT: WE see them eating in cafeteria:

26

At various ball games, laughing:

ZEKE

And how do you say shit again...?

ABDUL

'...Chraa...'

ZEKE

...We call it 'dreck,' and fuck you...

ABDUL

...'Nek ni! Cus, ja-hosh is jackass, 'keefic is hello, 'sadikie' is friend, 'keefic sadikie, Zeke.

ZEKE

'Keefic, sadikie' brother 'keefie sadikie,' and in Jewish it's 'vus machs du mein freint,' and what's (Looks at watch.)

today's date? According to my watch, today is 'Abreel,' 1st, isn't it?

ZEKE

I suppose 'Abreel' means April?

ABDUL

You see, you're learning and isn't April 6th your birthday?

ZEKE

Yes, 'Abreel' 6th was always my birthday, 'Sadikie.'

ABDUL

(Smiles.)

Well my friend, since we have off for the spring break next week, we are going to fly to Hawaii in my private jet and stay in my villa in Maui overlooking the ocean.

ZEKE

(Awed.)

Did you say Hawaii in your private jet? I can't wait.

CUT: We see ZEKE and ABDUL in private jet, drinking 27 champagne and laughing:

ZEKE

Ya know a guy can get used to this.

ABDUL

(Laughing.)

I know.

CUT: They are on the beach with two beautiful girls, 28 Drinking and having lots of fun:

ZEKE

Come on, let's all go for a dip.

They all run into the water and ZEKE swims far out, gets a cramp and panics:

ABDUL sees his friend in trouble and swims speedily and just as ZEKE goes under, saves and brings to the beach.

Gives ZEKE mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, and ZEKES spits water and smiles.

ZEKE

35

Does that mean we're married?

ABDUL

Just don't say I do.

THEY BOTH SMILE:

CUT: Back in ADDUL'S suite: Again ABDUL's cleaning up: 29

ABDUL

Zeke, you are the biggest slob this side of Nevada.

ZEKE

You mean the Yukon, don'tcha?

ABDUL

No I was thinking of Las Vegas, because I haven't made my annual donation yet, and those guys have to eat, don't they. Want to go?

ZEKE

Even though you have a personal jet, who wants to 'schlep' all the way to Vegas, when we have Atlantic City?

ABDUL

Then Atlantic City it shall be.

CUT: Walking into casino, ABDUL gives ZEKE \$10,000 in 30 chips:

ABDUL (cont'd)

Here's ten grand, please try to make it last a couple of minutes. ABDUL sits down at the black jack table and asks for a hundred-thousand dollars worth of chips and asks the dealer to take off the limit and says he wants to gamble head on with the dealer:

The captain comes over and asks all to please just watch as ABDUL gambles head on with the dealer:

An evil looking big man with a mustache and two dangling ear rings, watches as ABDUL wins three-hundred thousand dollars, takes his winnings and meets ZEKE who is losing at craps:

ABDUL (cont'd)
How are you doing, Zeke?

ZEKE

I'm sorry, but I just about lost all your money.

ABDUL

That's a fair exchange, I believe, for

(Flashes money.)

I just beat them for 300 big ones.

The evil looking man, who has been following ABDUL, touches his gun and blackjack:

ZEKE

Fantastic! But I wouldn't be waving all that 'gelt.'
We're in Atlantic City and there are a lot of 'gonifs' thieves here.

ABDUL

Let's go to Trumps and I'll beat them for some more, because I'm on a roll.

ZEKE

Go to the car and I'll meet you in a sec. I'm about to roll and I just got this feeling. Go ahead, I'll just be a minute.

ABDUL departs and just as he nears his limo, the evil guy jumps from the shadows and is about to hit ABDUL with his blackjack when ZEKE comes running, leaps and knocks the man to the ground:

The man recovers and runs away:

ABDUL

Zeke, you saved my life. How can I ever repay you?

ZEKE

Don't worry, I'm sure I'll figure something out.

CUT: Four years later: ZEKE and ABDUK are saying 31 Goodbye at Laguardia airport:

ZEKE

Well, brother it's sure been fun.

ABDUL

I'll miss you Zeke and I shall never forget you, for you have been the brother I always wanted and needed, and I wish you *Umar*, a long and prosperous life. 'Zai gehzunt.'

They embrace:

ZEKE

I love you Abdul, but don't tell my meschpucha.

ABDUL

That's family, right?

Meschpucha is family. With
the blessing of Allah we have
become family.

ZEKE

And you have become a little Jewish, haven't you.

ABDUL

Just don't tell my father and all his Moslems, for they all have a personal and ridiculous struggle with themselves, which they call Jihad. I'd like to give them a 'Jihad' right up their 'touches.' That's ass, right? If the world only knew that an Arab and a Jew could be best friends, love and trust each other, there'd be peace on earth.

ZEKE

So, why don't you tell, Arafat, Sadaam Hussein and that Bin Ladin?

ABDUL

In due time.

They laugh and hug each other.

ZEKE

So, what the hell, are going to do in Barabia Barabia with all that, *Jihad* BS going on?

ABDUL

My father wants me to run his oil empire, and I guess I have no choice.

ZEKE

Why don't you stay with me in this pad, 'cause I could stay here forever, hey, I'm going to law school and I need someone to keep the place nice and neat, you know, sort of pick up after me, and you've become my favorite picker upper, picker upper.

ABDUL

Thanks for the offer my best friend, but my 13 mothers are anxious to see me.

ZEKE

You mean 'sadikie,' don't you? And I bet you're the only man that ever lived that had his choice of 26 breasts and I'm jealous.

ABDUL

You know how much I like cookies and milk. Anyway I have to board. See ya (Starts to exit.) brother.

ZEKE

32

See ya brother.

CUT: 15 years later: Barabia Barabia: Tent:

UNCLE KAMAL is smoking a hookah:

KAMAL

Grant me mercy, my beloved Allah. Release me from my dead brother's last wish.

(MORE)

KAMAL (Cont'd)

I want to kill his son Abdul, not to save him. That infidel is the ruination of my country's dream. But how can I destroy this demon, 'mamhoon, queer when I am

POV: Feeling hopeless, starts to smoke hookah.

committed to help him. Muna,

muna, I hope, I pray that

Allah will free me

CUT: INT: WE go back into time:

33

The Sheihk is dying of a heart attack and is in ABDUL'S arms:

A beautiful Puerto Rican Peace Corp worker is standing nude with a sheet draped over her:

KAMAL

How could you do this, when you have 13 beautiful and faithful 'anasi,' women? I have none, I've never had a beautiful woman love me because of my, this face that I was cursed with. I have never known true love.

SHEIKH

because you are... not Just handsome, we all make mistakes, my beloved brother, Kamal... Before I say goodbye, promise me you will always protect and take care of my only son, Abdul. Shahada, shahada: There is no God but God and Muhammad is his prophet.

KAMAL

I know shahada, but, but...

Before KAMAL can say he won't do it, his brother, the SHEIKHH dies:

41

KAMAL still pleads with his dead brother:

KAMAL (cont'd)

Please, you must release me from your last wish, oh revered... for I hate your son, because he was educated in America, he dresses and speaks like an American, because he is an American! Hurry, hurry, 'yel-la, yel-la, let me kill the traitor, I

Hears the girl cry and turns to her.

must kill the traitor! You killed my brother and you shall hang! They shall bathe you in boiling oil!

ROSIE

'Ai caramba, a yude me, a yude me, please save me, Jesus. I'm sorry, I didn't do it, I promise. It's just that he was so handsome and so rich. I couldn't resist him. Please don't tell anyone. What would my parents say?

KAMAL

'Kal khara,' shut up and eat shit, you 'kus.' Never mind about your parents. You must not say a word of this to anyone. Our family will be shamed if this secret should get out. I will not have you hanged or boiled in oil, nor will I tell the authorities, but you must swear to do the same.

ROSIE

I swear, I swear.

KAMAL

Now, get dressed, leave the palace and join the rest of your peace corp. workers. Remember, not a word to anyone. We will be watching you. No matter where you go, we will be watching you. Here, (Gives Rosie money.)

take this money and leave.

ROSIE

No, I don't want anything. Please, I just want to forget.

KAMAL

You must take it. It will seal your lips and assure your vow of secrecy.

ROSIE

How much is a vow worth these days?

KAMAL

A \$100,000, but you must give half to zakat, which is charity.

ROSIE

All right, for a vow, I swear I'll take it and give half to charity. That's what he thinks.

Thinking.

CUT: EXT: Cemetery: Morning:

ABDUL, KAMAL, and the 13 wives are dressed in black and are all looking at grave:

34

In the distance a beautiful blonde woman watches the funeral: A priest speaks:

PRIEST

We are all here to pay respect to a great man, the Sheikh du Sheikh. "When a human being is laid in his grave and his companions return and he even hears their foot steps, two angels come to him, sit and ask him: 'What did you use to say about this man, Muhammad?' He will say: 'I testify that he is Allah's slave and his Apostle.' Then it will be said to him, 'Look at your place in the Hell-Fire. Allah has given you a place in Paradise instead of it.' us all pray.

All the wives start to cry loudly.

POV: High, KAMAL imagines making love to all his brother's wives:

HE looks ABDUL and spits.

ABDUL speaks to the wives sternly:

ABDUL

I know this isn't the time or the place, but since my father is no longer here to protect you, I am determined to find out, which one of you is my real mother.

(MORE)

ABDUL (Cont'd)

So, tomorrow, I am going to give you all a lie detector test! Do you understand? 'Hal tafham,' I will call the police, 'ttaSil bish-shurta! And the ones that are lying will all go to jail!

Immediately all the wives run away and KAMAL runs after them, Trying to grab some of their asses:

As ABDUL leaves, the beautiful blonde woman approaches him:

BLONDE

Abdul...?

ABDUL

Yes, how do you know my name?

BLONDE

There is much I know about you, Abdul.

ABDUL

And what, may I ask do you know?

BLONDE

When you were born, where you were born...

ABDUL

And how do you know that?

BLONDE

I just know that's all, and I'm so sorry about your father, and what happened?

ABDUL

(Emotional.)

"Azma galbeeya...'

BLONDE

He had a heart attack, I see and I'm so sorry.

ABDUL

You are American, but you speak Arabic. What is your name?

BLONDE

'Ismee,' my name is Marilyn. And 'kayf haalak?'

ABDUL

I am very sad, but I will be okay. How did you get here?

BLONDE

MAHaya sayyaara mu'ajjara, I rented a car.

ABDUL

You knew my father quite well, and I see he taught you how to speak quite well.

BLONDE

(Sobs.)

I loved your father, I've always loved your father, Abdul...

ABDUL

You are my mother, aren't you?

They both hug and cry:

INT: ZEKE'S office: 11:30 A.M.: He is an attorney:

ZEKE, looking like he's been up all night, enters his run down office:

HE goes to make coffee:

HE adds coffee and carefully measures the amount of water:

Seeing there are no more filters, he desperately takes the last remaining paper towel and makes it fit, adds the coffee and smiles to himself for being so ingenious.

Staring at the coffee pot the phone rings:

Because he can't tell GOLDIE that he can't afford a secretary, he's been disguising his voice by impersonating a different female secretary every times he answers the phone:

ZEKE

(Using female voice.)
Zeke Goldstein, attorney at law, may I help you...? Nice to make your acquaintance too, Mrs. Goldstein... Oh, the reason why we opened so late was we had a problem with the lock. It will be my pleasure to beep your son, Mrs.

After a beat.

Goldstein... Hi Ma, how are you doing?

GOLDIE

I'm doing terrible, thanks to your brother. He's quitting for the sixth time. Dropping out, as he says, to do 'his' thing. What the hell does his thing have to do with it? My Abraham, whom I've struggled to raise by myself, in case you forgot, by, myself not like your father. He quit on me, on his two sons, but did I quit?

ZEKE

Mama, Papa didn't quit, he died 15 years ago. It wasn't his fault he was killed by a garbage truck.

GOLDIE

Sure, blame it on me. I swear, your father never took out the garbage. Just that night, he had to listen to me, nu?

ZEKE

Listen Ma, I don't blame you, my brother doesn't blame you and Edna told me she doesn't blame you, no one blames you, no one...

GOLDIE

...Just that night, it was the first time since we were married. I swear. He never listened to me before, because he always said, only he was mister perfect, don't you remember? He said he didn't make any garbage, so, should he take it out? blamed all our garbage on me, Can you imagine and I nu? believed him.

ZEKE

Papa used to make garbage Mama, but you didn't know it, because he used to smuggle it out of the house when you were sleeping, but I saw him.

GOLDIE

(Sobs.)

You really mean it... I don't believe you, you're trying to make me feel better.

ZEKE

I'm not Mama. Would I try to make you feel better, would I?

GOLDIE

48

Why not, I'm not entitled? Your father never made me feel better, so why shouldn't you?

ZEKE

Good Mama. Now you feel better? Listen, I have to go. I have some business to take care of.

GOLDIE

You'll be over Friday night to talk to your crazy brother about his *thing...*? Or I will...

ZEKE

Yeah Mama, I know you will. I have to go, bye.

GOLDIE

Your new secretary sounds much nicer than the other ones you've had. I hope this one stays longer than a few days.

ZEKE

Me too, Ma, I really have to go, bye.

GOLDI

'Gai gezunte hait,' go, go in (Hangs up the phone.)
Peace, and make a lot of money.

CUT: INT: Goldie's kitchen:

GOLDIE is prying of Sabbath candles:
Before she says anything, ABE or ZEKE say it first, as if
they have heard their mother's prayers their whole life:

33

ZEKE and ABE speak to each other:

ABE

Impersonating his Mother Goldie, which he has been doing forever.

And help my eldest son, Ezekiel become a successful lawyer, and isn't it time he got married and had a family? After all, he's almost 40 years old.

GOLDIE

And help my eldest son, Ezekiel become a successful lawyer, and isn't it time he got married and had a family? After all, he's almost 40 years old.

ZEKE and ABDUL smile at each other:

ZEKE

Again he impersonates his mother and smiles.

my 'buhbala,' Abraham, And make him finally finish college. He needs a degree, and maybe you can find him a girl, and he needs friends, and don't forget to ask my beloved Leyzer to Tell him, when I forgive me. get up there I will personally take out the garbage. I will never ask him to do it again, never. Amen.

GOLDIE

And my 'buhbala,' Abraham, make him finally finish college. He needs a degree. And maybe you can find him a girl, and he needs some friends, and don't forget to ask my beloved Leyzer to forgive me.

(MORE)

GOLDIE (Cont'd)

50

Tell him, when I get up there I will personally take out the garbage. I will never ask him to do it again, never. Amen. 'Nu,' did you

Takes off little handkerchief from head and dries her tears. tell your brother not to do it?

ZEKE

Do what?

ABE

I just joined the hottest a rock group called the Bells and 'moi' is going to sing lead for them. Can you dig it?

ZEKE

I sure can. The Bells? That's a real heavy group.

GOLDIE

(Depressed.)

How could they pick my Abraham, if they're such a 'heavy' group? Look how skinny he is. Finish college, you're almost 36, then if you want to be a rock-and-roller, 'gai gehzunte hait," go in peace.

ABE

Look Mama, you don't understand. Not everyone is made for school. I want to be a singer, I've always wanted to be singer, and this singer is going to make a lot of bread Money, more money than you and I ever dreamed of.

(MORE)

ABE (Cont'd)

'Gelt,' a lot of 'gelt' and I'll get you that place in Miami.

ZEKE

He's right, Mama. Rock singers make a lot of bread. Maybe I could learn to sing? What do you say, bro?

GOLDIE

'Oy, ' not you too?

ABE

Listen Mama, every family needs at least one Sinatra, right?

GOLDIE

I said every family needs a doctor, a lawyer, but I never mentioned a heavy singer.

ZEKE

I guess you heard wrong, Abraham. But Mama, it was an honest mistake. You can't condemn a son for that, can you?

GOLDIE

(Kisses Zeke.)

That's why you're such a successful lawyer, because you're such a charmer.

ABE

Come on Ma, one out of two ain't so bad.

GOLDIE

(Kisses her son Abraham.)
You're not so bad either, just
a little mixed up.

ABE

Hey Zeke, want to go to 'The Club' tonight?

ZEKE

You mean 'The Club?' So, what else is new?

ABE

I'm serious. The group is invited to a private party there.

ZEKE

(Sings.)

"I'd love tooooo," How'd I do?

ABE

Not bad for a righty, pick me up at around 12.

GOLDIE

12 O'clock? That's a time to go out?

CUT: After not seeing each other for many years, 37 ABDUL enters ZEKE'S office and they both jump for joy and hug and kiss each other:

ZEKE

Well look who's here! I don't believe it! How the hell are?

ABDUL

Terrible, thank you.

ZEKE

I read about your father and I'm sorry.

ABDUL

The reason why I had to see you is, I can't take the pressure anymore, Zeke, I

(Sings.)

REALLY MISS YOU and "I love New York." And being away from you, I probably forgot half the Yiddish you taught me, and who cares about all that oil money? I have enough 'gelt,' you see, I didn't forget everything, to play for the rest of my and your life together. But no, my put father had to leave it all to me. Who needs or wants it?

ZEKE

Take it easy big fella. You know, it's really not that bad being in charge of the richest oil country in the Middle East. You are talking about zillions and zillions of dollars. It should only happen to me.

ABDUL

I know, and I hate it. you understand? I can't tell you how many I have seen, that's why I need time for my U.F.Os. I have learned to search the heavens daily, because I love it. I know they're out there, trust me, I know they're out there. And what makes things even worse is, my uncle Kamal. doesn't stop bugging me about raising the price of oil on American infidels the who support those Israeli

(MORE)

ABDUL (Cont'd)

terrorists against our beleaguered Palestinians. He's like the unwelcomed fly in the camel's eye.

ZEKE

In that case, I suggest a good pair of goggles to keep those flies away. My mother knows a great optician. Cancel that, forget about my mother, too pushy.

ABDUL

You complain about one mother that's too pushy. When I grew up I had 13 mothers that were too pushy.

ZEKE

I remember all those 26 breasts, you dog and I'm jealous.

CUT: INT: Palace bathroom:

38

Via ABDUL'S Voice Over, we see him eat, do homework and brush his teeth 13 times:

ABDUL (VO)

You remember, 13 kisses good night: 13 did you eat, do your homework, brush your teeth? And then I finally met my real mother.

ZEKE

You're kidding. What did she look like, what did she say, and who is she?

ABDUL

She's the most beautiful woman I ever met, I think she was this famous actress, said her name was Marilyn.

ZEKE

Don't tell me your mother is *THE* Marilyn.

ABDUL

That's what she said and if you think you can speak Arabic, she knew every word, I mean she blew me out-of-the-water. Dig what she said to me, MAHaya sayaara mu'ajjara, Which means, I rented a car and she did to get to the funeral.

ZEKE

I'm jealous, you never taught me how to say that.

ABDUL

That's because you never rented a car, you go everywhere in my limo, remember?

ZEKE

Sure, rub it in.

ABDUL

And when she said she loved my father, that she always loved him, I knew in my heart she was my mother.

ZEKE

And?

ABDUL

We both hugged and kissed each other. It was the most beautiful kiss I ever had.

CUT: We are back:

ZEKE

39

I bet you're glad you don't have to deal with those 13 phony mothers of yours anymore.

ABDUL

You have no idea.

ZEKE

And now that you're here your lonely, aren't you. Poor 'buhby' needs his best friend, don't you, 'BOICHIC?'

ABDUL

That's little boy, isn't it, but what I need is someone I can trust to run my oil business. Then my uncle can bug you, instead of me.

ZEKE

Sounds like a good idea to me, paly.

ABDUL

I'm glad you agree. I'd like you to start immediately.

ZEKE

Me, start immediately, what are you kidding?

ABDUL

57

I've never been more serious in my life 'boichic', and there's no one I like or trust or love as much as you, my dear 'sadikie.'

ZEKE

"Sadikie' my 'touches.' What do I know about oil, except Mobil and you. I'm a lawyer, not an oil tycoon.

ABDUL

I've never asked anything of you except your friendship and...

ZEKE

...And you got it.

ABDUL

I got it all right.

ZEKE

Here we go again.

ABDUL

There you said it and that makes it official, you start immediately 'sadiki.'

ZEKE

And just what does that mean?

ABDUL

How does two million dollars a year sound?

ZEKE

(Flabbergasted.)
Did you say two million
dollars a year?

ABDUL

All right, all right, make that five million and we'll talk about a raise in six months.

ZEKE

Now, that's more like it, and we'll need a brand new office that we can share.

ABDUL

And we can use one of those sweet sounding secretary of yours. In fact, lets hire them all, what do you think you're the only one that likes gorgeous women?

ZEKE

Doing five female voices.

Do you mean Leslie, or Rebecca, or Sonnie, Trudi or Carie?

ABDUL

You are fantastic female impersonator, you sonofagun! I never knew you had so much talent. Now I know why I picked you!

CUT: GOLDIE and EDNA are having coffee:

EDNA

40

Two million he raised for orphans and when I asked him for a spring coat, you know what that sex maniac said? He didn't like the chopped liver I made and I should wear a sweater. What the hell do I need a coat for? I don't go anywhere.

GOLDIE

59

We haven't had a nice spring in years, Edna. Maybe when we do, then you'll get a nice coat... I can't take it I can't take it.

EDNA

Neither can I, but what's bugging you?

GOLDIE

You don't know. Ezekiel has so many secretaries be became a sex maniac and that's why they leave him and now...

EDNA

And, now what?

GOLDIE

He has a Sheikh.

EDNA

Zeke and a Sheikh? 'Oy," what are you going to do?

GOLDIE

I know what I'm going to do. I'm going over to his new office right now and I'm going to give it to him.

EDNA

I'll go with you and I'll leave Gersh, that sex maniac of mine. I should leave him, and I would, but he has such a member, you should see it, gorgeous and this woman has needs.

GOLDIE

(Thinking.)

She thinks she's the only one that has needs.

CUT: GOLDIE and EDNA ente cab:

CUT: UNCLE KAMAL is choking a dummy which looks 42 Exactly like ABDUL:

KAMAL

41

Chokes dummy. Now I got you and I will kill you a thousand times in a thousand different ways, for having a Goldstein run our oil company, for being a U.F.O. nut, for being educated

Cuts arm off: Cuts leg off, answers phone.

in America. What...? He is

going to lower the price. I

am going over there and cut
his and that Zeke's eyes out.

CUT: KAMAL takes a cab: 43

CUT: EDNA, GOLDIE and KAMAL arrive at the same time 44 And stare at each other:

GOLDIE

He looks like one of those Sheikhs.

EDNA

Never mind looks like one of them, I bet that's him.

MS: They both start yelling and running towards KAMAL, who runs away and trips over the big sword he is carrying.

HE then threatens GOLDIE and Edna with the sword. Frightened they enter building and run into elevator.

KAMAL enters adjacent elevator and both arrive at the same moment at ZEKE and ABDUL'S penthouse.

KAMAL trips and drops sword, GOLDIE picks it up and EDNA wielding an umbrella chase KAMAL:

ZEKE and ABDUL laugh at occurrence:

ABDUL

With that sense of humor, I knew you were the right man for the job.

ZEKE

Would I disappoint my best friend?

ZEKE and ABDUL are looking through two separate telescopes:

ABDUL

Did you just see something move near Mars?

ZEKE

Looking at girl undressing through telescope. No, I was looking at Venus.

GOLDIE

Runs after Abdul swinging umbrella.

I'll get you, I'll get you, you 'meshugeneh!' Over my dead body will my son work with you!

THE END