



Cock *E*yeD

(A movie adapted from the play)

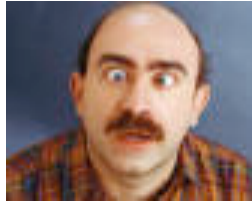
By

Sidney Goldberg

Please Contact:

Sidney Goldberg
20 West Palisade Ave #3120
Englewood, NJ 07631
201 567-653
Sidneyg6@gmail.com
www.SidneyGoldbergWriter.com

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Cock*E*ye*D*

Cast

- RIVKA.....65 years old. Attractive, Wealthy psychologist. Has been in love with JAKE for 35 years, but because of his striking resemblance to her Deceased father, can't bring herself to say "I love you, Jake." (Also as little girl.)
- JAKE.....69 years old. Because of being *Cockeyed*, feels inadequate and has become a drunk. Owner of the Fenway movie theater. He has been Love with RIVKA for 35 years, but, because he doesn't feel he is good enough for her or anyone, can't tell her how he feels. Lonely, talks to movie Posters, who he feels are his only friends. (Also as boy.)
- SAM the Lawyer.....30 years old, handsome.
- DR. Rosen.....32 years old, handsome.
- Rivka's FATHER.....50 years olds.
- Jake's GRANDFATHER.....80 years old.
- GRACIELLA.....25 years old. Beautiful Puerto Rican.
- JAMES DEAN.....28 years old. Movie star.
- HOST (waiter).....50 years old.
- DOCTOR.....60 years old.

Cock*E*ye*D*

INT: The present. 10 A.M.:

1

RIVKA, 65 years old is very attractive.

SHE is in her beautiful bedroom in her brownstone, located in Manhattan, drinking wine and cleaning what already is spotless:

SHE looks in the mirror and remorsefully talks to herself:

RIVKA

Today is the last day of my beloved Fenway, Papa, the last day, but this girl ain't ready to say goodbye, no way Jose. I'll put on something really,

(Shakes sexily.)

really sexy, shake my little 'touches,' that's some little 'touches,' huh? Bring him over here, get him a little more, tipsy than he usually is, then get him to kiss me, touch me, make mad and passionate love to me. I'll get him to want me like he's never wanted another woman in his life. Why not, I've wanted him for as long as I can remember and I know he's wanted me just as much. He better. Isn't that something? All these years, they all wanted to take me to bed, but my Jake, because that cockeyed 'yold' is such a gentleman I bet the reason he wouldn't make love to me is he wants to wait until we get married, and

thank God, tonight's the
night, Papa. And I can't wait
to say I do, do I do.

CU: INT: 1960: 9:P.M. RIVKA'S living room:

2

35 years old, handsome, Sam the Lawyer, hot for RIVKA is all
jitters, as he gives her a dozen yellow roses and a box of
candy, gets down on one knee and proposes.

SAM

(Nervous.)

Rivka my darling, I brought
these yellow roses for you.

RIVKA

Why Sam, thank you, but it
isn't necessary to bring me
yellow roses every time you
see me.

SAM

I know you love them and I'd
(Gives Rivka candy.)
do anything for you, and
here's a box of sweets for the
sweetest. I'm sure you know
how I feel about you... Will
you please marry me and make
me the happiest man?

RIVKA

You'll be happy and what about
me?

INT: Back in time: INT: Ballroom:

3

WE see handsome, Dr. Rosen fox trotting with RIVKA.

Arm-in-arm, infatuated, HE walks RIVKA to a terrace, filled
with bowing trees and a fountain.

It's a beautiful starlit night. WE hear romantic music from
within, as HE dreamily looks into her eyes.

ROSEN

Rivka, I don't think I've ever
seen you look more beautiful.
You are ravishing.

RIVKA

You're only saying that 'cause
it's true, you dog.

ROSEN

(Barks playfully.)
A mad dog, that's mad about
you.

RIVKA

How mad are you, Fido?

ROSEN

I'll show you how mad I
(Takes Rivka in his arms as HE dances and sings to her.)
am for you. "*I could have
danced all night, I could have
danced all night.*"

(Stops and dreamily looks in Rivka eyes.)
Rivka my beloved, will you do
me the honor and marry me?

INT: Present: Bedroom:

4

RIVKA looks in the mirror and sadly remembers:

RIVKA

I turned Rosen down, because I
didn't want to spend the rest
of my life fox trotting with
him. He didn't know it, but
this girl liked to rumba.
There were so many, that I
can't remember how many
wonderful, successful, I mean
rich men asked me to marry
them, but I turned them all
down, except... Even a genius

like me makes a mistake.

INT: The present: 11 A.M.:

5

JAKE is talking to a poster of MARLON BRANDO in the living room of his apartment, which is in the basement of his Fenway movie theatre.

JAKE

(Toasts, drinks.)

'L'haim,' to your health Mr. Brando, to your health... When I showed "*On the Waterfront*,"

(Ala Brando.)

and you said "*I coulda been a contender*," you were some contender all right. Like Marciano, Graziano, Floyd Paterson, Sugar Ray, they were contenders too. But, you were my favorite contender. I'm telling you, movie stars, I love all of you... my best friends. It was raining-cats-

(MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

and-dogs and they stood in line around the block to see you, 'nu?' Six shows a day, a thousand people each show. I made a fortune, Mr. Brando, thanks to you I made a fortune...

INT: WE are back: RIVKA'S bedroom:

6

RIVKA

Who wouldn't want to marry a sexy lady like me? I couldn't marry all those other guys, because I was waiting for my Jake. I could never figure out what it is. He's not the most handsome, Abie was the most

handsome, another Paul Newman,
and was he sexy and rich,
'oy,' was he rich. Jake's not
the smartest or the wisest,
so, what the hell is it?

EXT: Back in time:

7

It is raining outside the Fenway and there is a line of
people, holding umbrellas and mumbling about the weather,
anxiously waiting to get in. WE see a marquee of,
"ON THE WATERFRONT."

INT: WE are back: JAKE resumes speaking to BRANDO:

8

JAKE

(Drinks.)

I didn't always drink, ya
know? Who had time to drink
when I was so busy selling
tickets, but today's the last
day of the Fenway, 'nu...?'
What, my drinking's gonna hurt
somebody, Marlon? They're
knocking down my Fenway and,
they're going to build another
high-rise. The East Side
needs another high-rise like I
need a 'luch n'kupp,' that's a
hole in your head. So, I
figured, why shouldn't I
celebrate, what, I'm not
entitled...?

INT: The present: RIVKA'S bedroom.
9

RIVKA

(Opens closet and looks at her clothes.)

I have to get ready I have to
get dressed... What should I
wear, Papa?

WE see clothes she describes in closet:

10

RIVKA'S

How's about my brown tweed suit, or my blue herringbone? Maybe I should run to Bloomies and buy something new for his closing? How can I face him wearing the same old 'schmates?' I hope I don't cry... What should I buy him for a wedding present? A ring, a fancy bracelet? Jake, Jake, Jake, I'm sure you know how much you've meant to me all these years. I'm sure you know how much I've needed you, wanted to kiss you, touch you, even when I was married to that bastard, it was always you... How lonely my nights have been without you there to caress me, how empty my days have been without being your wife. But after tonight, things will be different. I will make you so happy, now that we'll finally be together. It's up to me to make it happen and I will.

(Sings.)

"I'm gonna love you, like nobody's loved you, come rain or come shine."

CUT: Living room: JAKE resumes speaking to Brando:

11

JAKE

40 years Marlon. Jake's been selling tickets for 40 years. They think I don't know that they all called me crazy, but I know I know plenty.

(MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

"If you own the Fenway, why

don't you hire someone to sell tickets, cheapskate?" I never hired anyone, because maybe I am cheap, and since when is being cheap a crime? Benny was cheaper than me. Ask anybody and who was more famous than Jack Benny and what about George Burns? They were best friends you know. Who wouldn't want to be friends with God? But to tell you the truth, the reason why I wanted to sell tickets is, I always wanted to see the look on their faces, I wanted to see them cringe when

(CU of his cockeye.)

I gave them my evil eye. And you know what? They made me a wealthy man... I didn't

(Drinks.)

the beginning I didn't drink as much as I do now, maybe, because it didn't hurt so much. In the old days, I guess I wasn't so lonely. You see I always knew that Rivka and I would eventually get married, and tonight we are... I've been crazy about her for 35 years.... Like in that scene from *"To Have and to Have Not,"* when Bacall, who was also in love with Bogey, said-

WE see and hear clip of Lauren Bacall say, "You know how to whistle don't you? You just put your lips together and blow."

CUT: Back in time: RIVKA meeting various handsome men: 12
She is twenty-years old and flirting with John Greer, her English professor in classroom:

WE are back:

13

RIVKA

Before I fell for Jake, I had lots of men, gorgeous men that knew how to make a lady feel like a lady. In fact, one of them, a long time ago, I thought I loved almost as much as Jake I was 20 and he was my English professor at Columbia. Years later, when all those guys were wining and dining me, trying to get me to sleep with them, all I thought about was Jake. He's worse than the God damn plague. I just can't get him out of my mind. They say love is the strongest emotion. Men have gone to war over it... Samson lost his locks over it... Thomas Jefferson had 11 black children with a woman he was madly in love with. You know what they say you wait long enough and sooner or later... I'm 65 years old and it looks like he's the only one that still wants me. Thank God he still wants me, and thank God we're finally going to get married tonight and it's about time. You know, I'm surprised I haven't gone blind from all the movies I've seen in his Fenway.

CUT: INT: WE are back:

14

JAKE

I always knew that one day
Rivka would fall so in love
with me, that when she stepped
up to my box office she'd look
me right in my good 'eye' and
(Laughs.)

say "*I love you Jake, I've*

always loved you, always..."

Some always, she probably
still loves *that* Abie. "I

(Sings.)

*have dreamed that your arms
are lovely..."*

Back in time. The Fenway. RIVKA meets Jake who is selling 15
tickets from booth.

RIVKA

Hello, I'd like one ticket
(She is attracted to Jake and
Taken aback, when she sees his
cockeye.)
please.

JAKE

Hello, it's the first time
I've ever seen your beautiful
face.

RIVKA

Why thank you fro the
compliment, Mr...

JAKE

I'm no mister, please call me
Jake and what's your name good
looking?

RIVKA

My name is Rivka, Jake and
pleased to meet you. That's

fifty cents, isn't it? You know, Jake, you remind me of my father, may he rest in peace.

JAKE

(Takes money and gives icket.)
I guess you loved your father?
and I hope I'll see you again,
good lookin'.

CUT: INT: WE are back: JAKE'S living room. 16
We see JAKE visit cemetery numerous times, putting a rock on each gravestone of past friends as we hear him commiserate.

JAKE

It seems the older you get,
the lonelier you get,
especially when all your
friends are gone. Just like
that, they began deserting
me. Even though they were
stars, big stars, one-by-one,
they all passed away. When
you died
Clark, what did I do? I cried

(MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

Speaks to poster of Gable.

like a baby. I said goodbye by
having a few drinks. And then
I sat *'shiva* for you. I mean
"Gone with the Wind."

(Ala Gable.)

"Frankly my dear I don't give a damn." You
were so cool, Clark. I wish I could be that
cool. People still say it's one of the greatest
movies ever made and I showed the rerun
right here in the Fenway, *nu?*

CUT: INT: JAKE in booth recalls:

JAKE

I remember that time I almost
told Rivka how I felt, like it
was yesterday.

CUT: INT: Back in time: JAKE give RIVKA flowers and they
18

Walk through Central Park. ALL scenes that go back in time
will be shot in sepia:

RIVKA

For *moi*? Why that's not
necessary *monsieur*, for I am
certainly not a princess.

JAKE

Says who?

RIVKA

Oh Jake, you're such a
flatterer.

JAKE

An *alte cocker* like me, are
you kidding? And what do you
say about this weather? Don't
you just love the fall?

RIVKA

(Sings.)

*"The leaves of brown came
tumbling down, remember, that
September, in the rain."*

JAKE

I was at Bethesda fountain
yesterday and the leaves were
sure tumbling down, they were
gorgeous.

RIVKA

Really, what time?

JAKE

Around three.

RIVKA

And never the twain the shall meet. I had lunch there with my girl friend Sonnie at about one, then we went to the children's zoo and left just as you got there, too bad.

JAKE

Yeah, too bad. Maybe we could meet there for lunch sometime?

RIVKA

Say when *Buhby*, just say when.

JAKE

I'll call you, this time I'll definitely call you.

RIVKA

You, do that sweetheart, you do that.

JAKE

I will, I swear.

RIVKA

Promises, promises.

INT: 1940. Noon;

19

Rivka's father's living room:

Back in time, eight-years old, RIVKA is sitting on her FATHER'S lap and HE'S hugging and kissing her:

Remorseful, RIVKA'S FATHER is forlorn as HE divulges his feelings:

FATHER

Buhbala, I can't tell you how
disgusted I am because
everyone looks at me with such
(Cries.)

pity and disdain. I don't
want pity. Who needs it? How
alone, how useless and
unfulfilled my life has been.
Even though I never got
married again, thank God I
have you, because I love you
more than anyone in the whole
world my sweetheart.

RIVKA

And I love you more than
anyone in the whole world too,
Papa.

CUT: INT: WE are back:

20

JAKE, does a little of his moves as HE speaks to poster of
James Cagney: WE see poster of "White Heat."

JAKE

I started as an usher right
here, when I was 17, I played
your "*White Heat*," for two
(Ala Cagney.)

*weeks. "Look ma, top of the
world, top of the world."* In
that movie, Jimmy, you really
loved your mother... I never

knew my mother, but I wish I
did, I wish I did. Then you
died too... These things hurt
and like a dope I cried.

INT: 1940: 1 P.M.:

21

RIVKA, as a little girl, walks to synagogue on *ROSH HASHANAH* with HER father:

In the temple, FATHER and RIVKA walk up to the *bema*, the podium, HE kisses RIVKA, and announces to the congregation:

FATHER

I love my '*Rivkala*,' because she is the sweetest, most beautiful girl in the whole world.

FATHER throws RIVKA in the air and embraces HER with fatherly love:

FATHER (CONT'D)

You see, you can fly my little '*fagele*,' you can fly.

RIVKA

I love when you call me your little birdie, Papa. I love when you dance and tickle me when we go for a walk. It's so much fun. That's why I love you Papa more than anybody else.

CUT: EXT: Back in time:

22

Cemetery, RIVKA is a little girl who is crying over her deceased FATHER:

RIVKA (Crying little girl)

I want to die, Papa. I don't want to live without you. I don't, I don't, I don't.

CUT: INT: Back to present: RIVKA'S living

23

RIVKA is drinking wine:

WE hear soft music as SHE dances with herself:

RIVKA

And then I met my darling
Jake, and suddenly life
became bearable, full of
hope... I'm going down to his
Fenway, I'm going to grab him
by his 'batsem,' his balls,
then I'm going to take him
home and since we're finally
getting married tonight, I'm
going to
give him a 'zetz' like he's
never had. That is if I
remember how.

(MORE)

RIVKA (Cont'd)

They say once you ride a
bicycle. I haven't ridden a

(Gyrates.)

bicycle or... in 30 years...
I've wasted my life waiting,
hoping, praying, but I'm not
waiting any more you cockeyed
bastard. Not a second
longer. I want you and when
Rivka wants something, she
gets it. So, I'm coming to
get you Jake. Do you hear?
I'm coming to get you, 'cause
(Sings.)

*"We're getting married in the
morning. Ding dong the bells
are gonna chime."*

CUT: INT: WE are back. To poster of HUMPHREY BOGART: 24
Hopefully a clip of 'Casablanca.'

JAKE

And when you, Bogey... To me
you were always my best
friend, for years. After all,
how many "Casablanca's" were

there? And what about the "Maltese Falcon?" and my favorite, "The African Queen." May you rest in peace Mr. Orner. That's what Katie called you, Mr. Orner, 'Olev hasholem,' may you rest in peace. You were some guy and your wife Lauren Bacall wasn't so bad either. I'll tell you the truth, I never told you, but I was crazy about your wife. I'm sure I'm not the only one... Tell me Humphrey, how did you get her? Did you buy her flowers, candy, and take her out to dinner? What did you do? Rivka likes yellow roses. I just don't know what

Pictures of Monroe, Ava Gardner and Hepburn:
to do. But more than Dietrich, more than Monroe, Ava, to some people, your wife and Hepburn were the classiest of them all, but as far as I'm concerned, (MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

none of them came close to my Rivka. And tonight, my sweetheart, tonight will be a night we will always remember, because, I'm going to get you.

CUT: EXT: Afternoon:

25

RIVKA, about to enter the Fenway:

On the marquee it says, "SOME LIKE IT HOT;" STARRING, MARILYN MONROE, TONY CURTIS AND JACK LEMMON."

In love, but unable to say it, trying to add some humor in their unrequited relationship, RIVKA speaks to JAKE:

RIVKA

I'd like 14 tickets please,
make it snappy, handsome.

JAKE

(Loud and surprised.)
Princess, Sweetheart, how
wonderful to see you, Rivka.

JAKE comes of box office and bows to RIVKA, as all the patrons start mumbling, for THEY are waiting to buy tickets:

JAKE cont'd)

To people standing on
line.)
This is Princess Grace. How
(Eagerly takes Rivka's arm.)
nice to see You, your
highness. Please allow me to
show you to your seat.

(Apologizes to
standees.)
Come this way. I'll be back

in a moment; I have to seat my
favorite princess, don't I?
Nu, what are you waiting for?
lets go.

Walking arm-in-arm, THEY enter the lobby of the theatre:

RIVKA

You know Jake, this princess
business has to stop, I, mean
it's embarrassing. I'm no
princess, what kind of
Princess?

JAKE

But to me, you will always be
(Kisses Rivka on cheek)
my Princess, Princess.

RIVKA

Oh, Jake, I just don't know

what I'm going to do with you?

JAKE

(Tries to impersonate Humphrey
Bogart.)

How's about a dinner tonight,
lady? I mean if you got the
time, I got the place,
gorgeous.

RIVKA

Are you finally asking me for
a date, mister?

JAKE

I've been dying to ask you for
a date, since I laid eyes on
you sister, so, what do you
say?

RIVKA

I'd love too, but what's the
occasion, Jake?

JAKE

I hate to tell you this
sweetheart, but today's our
anniversary.

RIVKA

Anniversary?

JAKE

Its five years since I fell
in...

RIVKA

Go on, you were saying, since
you fell in what? And don't
tell me pigeon droppings.

THEY both laugh.

JAKE

What a sense of humor you
have and your timing, not
only are you more beautiful
than Monroe, who is a

knockout and (MORE)
JAKE (Cont'd)
a half in "*Some Like it Hot*,"
but your timing couldn't be
better.

RIVKA
Mean while, back at the
ranch, (Alluring.)
where do you want to take me
for dinner tonight, mister?
I hope to some place really
groovy.

JAKE
How about the *Four Seasons*?

RIVKA
Playing along as Jake had, she tries to impersonate Mae
West.

Not a bad choice, if I say so
myself, and what time do you
want me to meet you there,
buster?

JAKE
The movie closes at 10, how
about 10:30?

RIVKA
(Having fun, she now tries to impersonate Mae West.)
10:30 sounds great, and don't
be late, 'cause I hate to
wait, ya know what I mean,
jellybean...?

JAKE
And since we're celebrating
our fifth anniversary, there's
something I should have asked
you long ago that I'm going to
ask you tonight, sweetheart.

RIVKA

Really?

JAKE

Something that I never thought I'd have the courage, the *chutzpah*, to ask you but...

RIVKA

Really, sounds exciting, and I can't wait.

JAKE

Yes, really and I'll make reservations under my name. There will be two bottles of the finest champagne, Piper Heidsieck waiting for your beautiful lips to caress, my beloved *princess*.

CUT: INT: THEY enter a darkened theatre.

26

JAKE has always wanted to kiss RIVKA, but as usual, because he doesn't have the nerve, just kisses HER on the cheek:

JAKE (cont'd)

I know you'll enjoy this movie, because I loved it.
(Whispers.)
See you tonight, my *liebshen*.

CUT: INT: 10: P.M.:

27

JAKE closes the Fenway and enters HIS apartment which is in the basement of the theatre:

JAKE

Thinking about his unrequited love for Rivka, pours a large drink.

JAKE (Cont'd)

I have to have a big drink, because I just don't have the

(Drinks.)

balls to ask her to marry me unless, I'm a little tipsy. Boy, I almost told her how much I love her today, and I should have, I finally should have, I mean it's been five years since I've fallen in love with her, five years, five, beautiful years and I have even stuck my tongue in her beautiful mouth? I'll probably faint when I kiss her and when we finally hit the

(MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

Pours another drink and drinks.

sack, I probably won't know what to do. How should I know what to do, who am I, Errol Flynn, Clark Gable?

EXT: 10:45 P.M.:

28

Having waited for 15 minutes, RIVKA decides to enter the *FOUR SEASONS* and is greeted by the HOST: 2 shot:

HOST

Good evening madam, may I help you?

RIVKA

Yes, err, I believe you have reservations for two under the name of Jake Slimowitz?

HOST

Looks at list.

Yes we do, and where may I ask is your Mr. Jake Slimowitz?

RIVKA

Oh, I'm sure he'll be here momentarily. Anyway, I came

in, because it was a little chilly outside.

HOST

Yes, it is madam. Please come this way. Your table is waiting and I shall bring Mr. Jake Slimowitz to you the moment he arrives.

HOST SEATS RIVKA:

HOST (cont'd)

I see your Mr. Jake has arranged for two bottles of our finest champagne. May I have your waiter bring one now?

RIVKA

That would be fine, and two glasses if you would be so kind.

The HOST exits and an apprehensive RIVKA looks at her watch:

A moment later, a waiter brings the champagne and pours two glasses, smiles and exits:

Again RIVKA looks at her watch:

RIVKA (cont'd)

Oh, what the hell, I'm sure he won't mind if I start without him. Knowing him, I'm sure he'll catch up in no time.

CUT: INT: JAKE'S LIVING ROOM: 29
WE see JAKE totally drunk, lying on the couch in HIS apartment:

CUT: INT: Time elapses: Four Seasons restaurant: 30
It's nearly 11:30 and RIVKA has drunk from both glasses and almost finished the entire bottle of champagne:

The waiter apologetically approaches RIVKA and looks at HER:

SHE is pretty loaded and annoyed, SHE screams at the waiter:

RIVKA (cont'd)

(Slurs her speech.)

And, what the hell are you looking
at, can you tell me, can you tell
me!?

CUT: 12 O'clock. Loaded, RIVKA exits restaurant and 31
hails a cab:

CUT: INT: RIVKA'S bedroom:
32

Music is playing and RIVKA is dancing with HERSELF:

SHE'S wearing a different dress and being distraught has
gotten pretty loaded:

CUT: INT: Drinking, JAKE talks to poster of VALENTINO: 33

WE see cuts of VALENTINO kissing various beautiful women:
ZEYDA, Jake's Grandfather is taking him to the movies.

GRANDFATHER

Ya know Jakey, one of my
greatest pleasures is to go to
the movies, especially with my
favorite grandson.

JAKE (boy)

But I'm your only grandson,
Zeyda.

GRANDFATHER

Even if I had a dozen
grandsons you would still be
my favorite and do you know
why?

JAKE

Because, I love movie stars,
especially Valentino, like
you, Zeyda, right?

ZEYDA kisses JAKE.

Back to JAKE speaking to poster of Valentino:

34

JAKE

You know you're not the only
great lover. My father was a
great lover too, and I'm his
son, ain't I? I want you to
know that Rivka's not the only
woman that I've been in love
with... Like you, I've loved a
thousand women, maybe more.

CUT: INT: Closet WE see RIVKA'S clothes:

34a

RIVKA

(Sings.)

*"Oh, how we danced on the
night we were wed..."* What a
night to elope, huh Jake?
The stars, full moon,
gorgeous, just gorgeous, what
could be more romantic,
sweetheart? We won't even
take any luggage. We'll buy
everything we need when we
get there. How about Miami,
pussycat? You like the
weather in Miami, don't you?
My friend Trudy's got a

beautiful place right on the
ocean. We'll call a rabbi,
and after the ceremony we'll
drink champagne, eat caviar
and dance 'til the swallows
come home to Capistrano. Or
we could go to the Riviera,
if

(MORE)

RIVKA (Cont'd)

you want? Nice, Monaco.
This time of the year it's
(Sings.)
beautiful. Oh, Jake... "I
ain't ever been so happy I
could cry." Maybe I should
put on my black shift. I
think it fits so much better
than this, or maybe my purple
pants suit. I think he'll
like the purple more than the
black

(Sings.)

shift. "*Merlot, Merlot it's a
hell of a wine.*" I hope I'm
not getting too loaded. What
the hell, a dame doesn't get
married every night, does she
I don't know what it is, but
today I've been drinking just
like her, damnit! I never
drink. How could I drink? I'm
drinking because I'm finally
going to get my Jake. I guess
I need a little courage,

(Sings.)

that's all. "*I feel pretty, I
feel pretty. I feel pretty and*

(MORE)

RIVKA (Cont'd)

witty and gay..." Papa, do you
witty and gay..." Papa, do you
hear? Your '*Rivkala*' is
finally getting married.

In RIVKA'S imagination she sees herself wearing a gown and
JAKE in a tuxedo dancing at their wedding:

getting married. Can you
believe it Papa? Can you
believe it? And what about
you, Ma? Still think I'm gonna
die an old maid like somebody
I know. Well do you? It
looks likes somebody's wrong,

doesn't it...? Well, I guess
you've been wrong more than
once. And guess who I'm going
to marry, Ma? Don't you know?
Your cockeyed wonder.

(Laughs.)

(MORE)

RIVKA (Cont'd)

Do you remember when I
introduced you to him...? Do
you remember what you said...?

CUT: 1963: INT: Fenway theatre:

35

WE see RIVKA introduce HER MOTHER to JAKE:

With disdain, HER MOTHER shakes JAKE'S hand:

CUT: 1963: INT: RIVKA'S mother's apartment:

36

The following day:

MOTHER

How can you be so blind? He's
cockeyed like your rotten
father. Isn't one *cockeyed*
wonder enough in this family?

RIVKA

I love him, but you don't give
a damn. You never gave a damn
about what anyone says or
feels. I love him, don't you
understand, I love him.

MOTHER

Love, who, the hell gives a
damn or needs love. I wasn't
in love when I got pregnant
with you in Poland. Nobody
ever married for love in
Poland. Rome wasn't built on
love. Nothing is. A beautiful,

rich girl like you can fall in love everyday, with anybody she wants. What dope wouldn't want to marry a millionaire like you, Rivka? I curse the day that your '*faschtunkeneh*' father left you all his money and not me. Why '*Gott*,' what did I do wrong? Didn't I deserve it? He got '*ME*' *fahshvenget*, pregnant, that sonofabitch!

EXT: Little JAKE and GRANDFATHER enter old Jewish theatre: THEATRE: 37

WE see MOLLY PICON in "*YIDDLE MITN FIDDLE*" on marquee:

JAKE (Little boy.)
That was the funniest movie, wasn't it Grandpa? And I think I love Molly Picon.

GRANDFATHER
"*Yiddle mit'n fiddle*," is the first *Yiddish* picture ever made, and everybody loves Molly, because she's so adorable and boy is she funny.

CUT: INT: RIVKA'S APARTMENT. 38

RIVKA'S MOTHER is drinking heavily, much to RIVKA'S consternation:

RIVKA
Ma, please stop drinking. Why are you drinking so much? What are you trying to do?

MOTHER
Thanks to you, I've decided to kill myself. Once and for all

I'm going to end it and it
will be your fault, your
fault, because I can't stand
seeing you throw your life
away over that *cockeyed freak*.
Unless you promise that you
will never go out with that
cockeyed wonder of yours, I'm
going to and then you'll be
happy, won't you...

RIVKA

I can't let you kill yourself
Mama, I just can't, so I swear
I'll never go out with my
Jake. Now, are you satisfied?

MOTHER

No, Swear on your father's
grave, then, maybe I'll
believe you.

RIVKA

All right, all right, I swear
on my father's grave, Ma.
What else do I have to do to
stop your drinking? I swear
on Papa's grave, I swear on
Papa's grave. Now stop,
gehvalt!

CUT: EXT: 1936: Back in time:

39

Outside Yiddish theatre, with GRANDFATHER, who is hugging a
JAKE (boy.):

GRANDFATHER

And even though I love all the
movie stars, I love you even
more, Jakey. Always, because
you are my shining star.
Twinkle, twinkle little
(Hugs and kisses little Jake.)
star... like my little girl

used to, the same face and
what wouldn't I buy and do for
her, may she rest in peace,
boy, do I love you, maybe
because, you look exactly and
your mother, my beloved
daughter, Rachel? You must
always remember that God only
chooses very special people to
give them an eye like you
have, and that you are
blessed, because luckily, God
made you different, you are
different. And when I kiss
your lucky eye, it's like
kissing my beloved daughter's
eye, whom I will always love
and miss, but thank God I have
you, Jakey, her son, my
grandson.

CUT: To the present: INT: living room:

40

RIVKA is recalling:

RIVKA

But that didn't prevent me
from falling madly in love
with Jake, did it, Ma? Much
to your disappointment, like
you I (MORE)

RIVKA (Cont'd)

didn't fall in love with
anybody else, either. And,
neither did you Ma, 'neither'
did you. Even though Papa
didn't want to have anything
to do with you, you always
wanted him, didn't you? I saw
how you used to look at him
when he picked me up. Oh, you
would never admit it to me.
Think I had it any different?
Did you ever give a damn about

how anyone felt other than yourself? I think I just said that.

CUT: EXT: Cemetery: 41

RIVKA is looking at her mother's gravestone, puts a rock on it:

INT: Back to the present: RIVKA'S living room: 42
SHE is talking to herself and dusting:

RIVKA

Now that I no longer have to sit 'Shiva' for her, I hope she rests in peace, because when she was alive she sure never gave me any... I've loved my Jake for 35 years, even when I was married to that womanizer, that low-life, and even though Jake never said he loves me, I know he does, I know he does. So, I'm waiting, and if I have to wait for him 'til I'm 90, then I'll wait for him 'til I'm 90. What's another 25 years...? 'Schluf gehzunte hait' Mama. Rest in peace, wherever you are.

CUT: 1936: INT: RATNER'S restaurant: 43

JAKE and his GRANDFATHER are eating and having a good time:

JAKE (boy)

And after lunch we're going to the movies, right Grandpa?

GRANDFATHER

Don't we always? And that is because the movies are a gift from God and we must always be grateful for all we are given.

JAKE (boy)

I love you Grandpa more than anything.

Cut: 1937: EXT: CEMETARY:

44

Eight-year-old JAKE and many aged people are there:

Standing over his grandfather's casket, JAKE is crying as HE speak to casket:

JAKE

I'm almost eight Grandpa, and I'm sure gonna miss you and thanks to you, maybe I love the movies almost as much as you did... Bye, Grandpa bye.

CUT: WE ARE BACK:

45

JAKE speaks to poster of HENRY FONDA: Posters of "The Grapes of Wrath" and "On Golden Pond," "The Gold Rush," and "Limelight."

JAKE

To tell you the truth, Mr. Fonda, even though you did "*The Grapes of Wrath*" and "*On Golden Pond*," I'm sorry to say, but to me Olivier, Brando, my best friend Bogey, were maybe a little better. You know who I really thought was the genius of all geniuses...? To tell you the truth, I think he was probably better than all you '*chorlehryas*' put together. Chaplin and what a sense of humor. Who was funnier than Chaplin? "*The Gold Rush*," "*Limelight*." In the beginning of that movie, even though he was drunk, he saved a girl

from committing suicide. In the end she saved him.

(MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

He was the greatest and I'm going to tell you something Henry, it's between you and me. Chaplin also drank like a fish.

Bourbon, he liked Bourbon. Me, I like vodka, three fingers of Smirnoff, if you don't mind. My father also drank Smirnoff, morning, noon and night... In fact he gave me my first drink. They say drinking runs in the family. '*Glaib mir,*' believe me, does it run in the family.

(Drinks.)

I didn't always drink, ya know? I remember it like it was yesterday.

CUT: 1942: INT: BRONX APARTMENT:

46

FATHER is about to teach a young JAKE how to drink:

FATHER

Jake, because today you are going to become a man today and since I can't go to '*shul*' with you for your '*Bar Mitzvah.*' You know how busy I am in the store, I think it's time we celebrated and had a drink together. What do you think, I like to drink by myself, and I didn't always drink, ya know?

FATHER puts ice cubes in and fills JAKE'S glass to the top with vodka:

JAKE just stares at it, but doesn't drink:

FATHER (CONT'D)

What are you looking at?
Drink it dope! Its good for
you.

JAKE tastes it and doesn't like it:

FATHER (cont'd)

What are you a sissy?!

JAKE

Oh yeah, I'll show you what
kind of sissy I am! WATCH
THIS!!!

Determined not to be called a sissy, JAKE drinks the entire
drink and a miracle occurs, HE laughs for the first time in
his life:

JAKE (cont'd)

You know, a miracle just
happened. I laughed for the
first time since my 'Zeyda,'
grandpa *died*. Suddenly, I
don't give a damn that you
don't like me. I really don't
and I don't care about my
cockeye anymore, or that none
of the kids, or anybody plays
with me. How about some more?

(Laughs.)

Ha ha, nothing bothers me.

(Laughs.)

Ha ha, it feels good, real
good. The best I ever felt. I
love it. I just love the way
it makes me feel. You know
what, from this moment on I'm
going to laugh forever.

CU: INT: WE are back: JAKES resumes speaking to FONDA: 47

JAKE (Cont'd)

For the last 55 years, I can assure you that no one's been (Laughs.) laughing more than me... They made a big deal about those baby boomers, just because hey were born after the Second World War. What dopes, did you ever hear them say one word about the poor kids that were *cockeyed*, me?

CUT: WE see shots of the depression:

48

Hospital, WE see JAKE'S birth and his mother dying: The doctor informs JAKE'S FATHER that his wife has died and his son is *cockeyed*

DOCTOR

I'm sorry to inform you, but your wife died giving birth to your son, Mr. Slimowitz

FATHER

'Oy,' how could she die? What am I going to do without my darling, Channa? She was my life my everything. Channa, Channa, please come back.

DOCTOR

And unfortunately, your son has strabismus.

FATHER

What the hell is that?

DOCTOR

He's *cockeyed*.

INT: WE are back:

49

JAKE resumes talking to poster of FONDA and then to CHARLIE CHAPLIN:

JAKE

He said he couldn't look at me. He never went to school or met any of my teachers, never went anywhere with me.

(To poster of Chaplin.)

But, before he died I fixed him, believe me I fixed him good. What do you think you're the only one that used

(Laughs.)

a cane to get a laugh, Charlie? I got a sense of humor too.

CUT: WE SEE FATHER USING CANE:

50

Determined to fix his father, JAKE carefully measures and smiles as HE sees cane:

WE see FATHER using cane and becoming and starting to stoop:

JAKE (CONT'D)

My father started using a wooden cane the last two or three years. Every month I'd saw off exactly a quarter of an inch. By the time he passed away, he was stooping and spitting like the hunchback of Notre Dame... He never saw me laugh, but I laughed good, boy did I laugh... You see, I told you I had a sense of humor Charlie.

INT: RIVKA'S living room: 8: PM: 51

Filled with longing, RIVKA speaks to photo of her FATHER:

RIVKA

Cockeyed, sweet and gentle,
'til this day he reminds me of
you and how I wish he didn't,
my beloved 'Tateh,' my father
may you rest in peace.

CU: INT: A run through time: RIVKA'S office: 52

RIVKA'S (VO)

I've been a marriage counselor
for 30 years and does anyone
have any idea how many people
I've helped? Not a chance.

INT: WE will see various patients an different times: 53

RIVKA speaks to JACK and MONA who are sitting a part:

RIVKA (Con'td)

Jack and Mona, you've been
married for 25 years, how can
you stop talking? How can you
not talk to someone you share
the same bed with.

CUT: INT: OFFICE: TWO WEEKS LATER:

RIVKA speaks to JACK AND MONA, who are now holding hands and
talking to each other:

RIVKA

I'm glad to see things are
working out.

MONA

(Happy.)

Thank you so much Doctor.
Now, that we are talking...

JACK

...Communicating, sweetheart,
and I love you, always.

CUT: OFFICE: AN HOUR LATER:

54

Two frustrated patients are seated uncomfortably: RIVKA
addresses their problem:

RIVKA

Bob and Sara, I know you've
been trying to have children
for ten years and I understand
your frustration.

BOB

I think it's my fault?

SARA

Well, it sure ain't mine
asshole, it sure ain't mine.

BOB

I'm sorry Sara, I really am.

RIVKA

Perhaps the both of you should
see a fertility doctor?

TWO Months later: Office:

55

BOB and SARA are all smiles and laughing:

RIVKA

Such frivolity, may I ask why?

SARA

We went to see a fertility

specialist and... it was me not my beloved Bob. It seems I had a node that was blocking me receiving his sperm and let me tell you, the man's got millions of them don't you sweetheart?

BOB

And you know what, Sara missed her period, it's the first time and I think she's pregnant.

RIVKA

May I be the first to congratulate you.

CUT: INT: OFFICE: AN HOUR LATER:

56

Two attractive patients are ignoring each other:
RIVKA speaks:

RIVKA (cont'd)

Bill and Marla Lapedis, why, have you both stopped speaking? I guess that means an end to all communication.

MARLA

Who wants to talk to someone that's always stoned on coke or drinking? I don't.

BILL

And who wants to talk to someone that's cheating, screwing my best friend!

MARLA

Maybe I screw around because I can't stand you always being drunk.

BILL

And maybe I get drunk because

you...

RIVKA

Perhaps the two of you should go home and show each other how much you love each other. They say actions speak louder than words and perhaps, you Bill will stop getting high and Marla...?

CU: INT: OFFICE: 15 YEARS LATER:

57

RIVKA looks at photo of her FATHER and then her MOTHER:

RIVKA

Funny thing is, Bill and Marla are still together and that was 15 years ago. Unfortunately, not all my cases work out, but I always try, I always try to bring people together, don't I Papa? I wanted to make sure that parents, who were unhappy, frustrated, didn't take it out and abuse their children, like somebody I know. I believed and still do that the majority of the problems society has with its children are a result of '*meschugeneh*,' crazy parents. Teenagers turn to drugs, violence, sex, because that's what they see. A drunken father beats the crap out of his son, so what does his son do when he grows up? He beats the hell out of his

kids. A daughter becomes pregnant at 14. She says, if my mother did it, why can't I? And how happy do you think I've been all my life. For as long as I can remember she put me down, she blamed me for her miserable existence. That's right Ma, existence. You never lived you existed in misery. Most people live, but you, in your '*farbisseneh*,' mean world, you hated my father and me, because you knew how much he

(MORE)

RIVKA (Cont'd)

loved me. You wanted him to love you, but he didn't. Was it my fault he loved me and not you. Thank God I didn't become a drunk like you Ma, but the way I've been drinking today... who knows, '*ver vaist?*' And to tell you the truth, even though it's only a week, I still can't believe you're not here too... I'm free Ma, I hate to tell you this, but I'm free to do whatever I want, with who ever I want and thank God I still want to.

CU: INT: JAKES APARTMENT:

59

JAKE speaks to poster of JAMES DEAN:

JAKE

James, I think it's time to tell Rivka, about the time I met you, a real movie star... I can remember meeting you

like it was yesterday. Tell you the truth, if you would have lived a little longer, you could have been another Brando, Olivier, another Bogey. I'll never forget how we met. I was showing your movie "*Giant*," yeah "*Giant*" and there was a line... I remember all the people that were waiting to get in.

CU: EXT: BACK IN TIME: 7:50 P.M.

60

Ticket booth of Fenway:

Many people are in line as JAMES DEAN approaches:

WE see DEAN from the rear:

DEAN

I'd like a ticket please and I used to have an eye just like yours.

JAKE

What do you mean you used to? Your eyes are blue, straight as an arrow and gorgeous. I mean two beauties. Once you got it, you got it mister. Hey, you're the Giant, the great James Dean and you want to go to my Fenway? Really?

DEAN

Shakes head yes, and then laughs.
You know it's curable.

JAKE

(Hurt.)
You're laughing at me, and my cockeye. If that's the case, no ticket, go laugh at

somebody else. I'm sick-and-tired of people laughing and pointing at me.

DEAN

I'm not laughing at you mister, in fact I'm sorry, I really understand how you feel.

JAKE

(Wiping tears.)
You do?

DEAN

I sure do mister, I sure do. Now, would you please sell me a ticket, so I can see what a rotten job I did.

JAKE

Are you kidding? You were wonderful. It's a great performance you gave a great performance, outstanding.

DEAN

Thanks mister, but I know when I give a great performance and this wasn't one of them. By the way, I know a great doctor that can fix your eye. You want his number?

JAKE

Never mind about my rotten eye, Mr. Giant. It can't be fixed.

DEAN

Yes it can. What's your name?

JAKE

My friends call me Jake.

DEAN

Jake, now that we're friends,
call me James.

JAKE

You mean I can call you James?
All right, listen James, I
won't sell you a ticket, but
I'll give you one, on one
condition. You have dinner
idea how happy it would make
me.

DEAN

(Laughing.)
What are we having, 'señor?'

JAKE

Never mind 'señor' and I'll
order in. They have one of
the best Chinese restaurants
around the corner on 72nd and
Lex. I'll call up and order.

DEAN

The Blue Moon? I eat there
whenever I'm in New York. A
little General Tso's chicken,
some egg drop soup, well done
ribs, plenty of duck sauce,
mustard, and lots of noodles I
love noodles.

JAKE

Me too, tell you what, the
movie closes at ten. Come
back, we'll eat, we'll drink
and, you and me will have a
private screening.

CU: EXT: 10:P.M.

61

Anxious, JAKE is in booth, as DEAN returns to the Fenway:

DEAN

Hey Jake, ready for that private screening and how's about we pick up the Chinese food together and I'm treating, mister.

JAKE

I can't believe that you, Mr. Giant, the '*groise knocker*' the big shot is going to treat me. Can you imagine them seeing Cockeyed Jake walking up 72nd street with you, the great James Dean? This has to be the most exciting day of my life.

EXT: STREET: NIGHT:

62

In a good mood, walking and talking, JAKE and DEAN meet GUIDO, who is outside his grocery store, about to close up:

JAKE (CONT'D)

Hi ya Guido. Nice night, isn't it?

GUIDO

(Gulps)

Is that...? Is that really...?

JAKE

Yup, that's Frank Sinatra.

DEAN and JAKE start laughing.

JAKE (cont'd)

Ya know, it's the first time in my life that I actually

laughed with a real, live
movie star and it feels great.

CU: EXT: THE BLUE MOON CHINESE RESTAURANT: 63

Both are laughing as they pick up Chinese food:

The Chinaman recognizes DEAN immediately, because HE has been
to his restaurant many times:

HE bows, calls his wife and ten children, who also bow:

JAKE

Mr. Wu, I brought one of my
best friends, Lenny Bruce, who
came all the way from L.A. for
your delicious food. He heard
all about your spare ribs.

DEAN and JAKE look at each other and laugh hysterically, as
they say, "No ticky, no washy, no ticky, no washy."

MR. WU

'Wan ban don,' he no Lenny
Bruce, he no say, "no ticky,
no washy," that James Dean.

INT: JAKE'S APARTMENT: 64

DEAN is awed as he sees JAKE'S wonderful posters::

DEAN

Wow, this is gorgeous,
unbelievable. From Buster
Keaton to my idol, Montgomery
Cliff. I never saw so many
movie posters in my life.

JAKE

You should feel, honored, no
one's ever been to my
apartment 'señor.'

CU: INT: 10: 30 P.M.: MOVIE THEATRE: 65

They ravage the food then JAKE takes DEAN into the theatre and brings a bottle of Smirnoff, two glasses and some ice: JAKE is very excited as they sit next to each other and, watch the movie:

They drink and laugh throughout:

DEAN, nonchalantly starts smoking a joint:

JAKE

I don't know what that is you're smoking 'señor,' but does it smell.

DEAN

(Sticks joint in Jake's mouth.)
It's God's gift to man. Now, shut up and just start smoking, wise guy.

JAKE

All right, who am I to tell a big movie star like you, what to do? The funny thing is, (Smokes and surprisingly enjoys it.) even though it smells awful, it tastes pretty good 'señor.'

After a few puffs, suddenly JAKE starts to laugh and laugh, uncontrollably

JAKE (cont'd)

(Laughing.)

I don't know what this is, but I never laughed so hard or felt so wonderful in my life. It's like magic, I mean it and I really like it.

And like two little boys, they laugh even more and they laugh until two in the morning:

JAKE (Cont'd)

Are you hungry?

DEAN

Starving.

JAKE

There's a little coffee shop
on Third.

EXT/INT: THEY go to coffee shop and sit:

66

DEAN

(Munching on Danish pastry.)
You know, the only reason
"Giant" became such a smash
hit, is because Elizabeth
Taylor and Rock Hudson are in
it. She's got to be the most
beautiful woman I ever saw.

JAKE

What about Natalie Wood, she's
bad? And, I would really like
some of those skinny
cigarettes because not only do
I like it, I LOVE IT!

DEAN

Hey, Natalie's a real looker,
and Sal Mineo's one of my best
friends. That guy's a great
actor, gonna be a big star,
and if you really dig the
smoke, I'll send you a lid and
I'll even roll them for you.
And not only that, I'm going
to get someone to fix that eye
of yours...

CU: INT: JAKE in ticket booth looks up:

67

JAKE

So what happened? I'll tell

you what happened. I read two weeks later he died...

'*Nebokh*,' sorry boy, did I cry... I never told anybody

that I met him, not even Rivka. Who would've believed me? And you know what else, I don't think he was really cockeyed? I think he just wanted to make me feel good. What a guy...

INT: THEATRE - Back in time - 10 P.M.:

68

JAKE close the theatre and RIVKA joins him for a walk:

It's a beautiful summer night and they walk through Central Park

JAKE

So, it looks like you still like the "*Ten Commandments*," doesn't it?

RIVKA

Jake, Jake, Jake, if it wasn't for you, do you think I would see that, or any movie three times?

JAKE

You mean you came back to see it just for me?

RIVKA

Not you, I came back to see it because of the mad Russian, not you.

They both start to laugh:

JAKE

The mad Russian, now that's

funny.

RIVKA

So, listen Jake, how would like to go to the museum of Modern Art with me? There having a Tschilishew exhibited, and they're going show his, "Tree of Life," which is one of my favorite paintings.

JAKE

That's the painting with that tree and all those children, right?

RIVKA

It was, the last time I saw it...

JAKE

Now, he was that mad Russian, that *meshugehneh*, wasn't he?

RIVKA

He *soitenly* was.

JAKE rubs his eye:

RIVKA (cont'd)

Does your eye hurt, Jake?

JAKE

It only hurts when people make fun of it and me...

RIVKA

(Thinking.)

Where did I hear that?

CUT: INT: WE GO BACK IN TIME:

69

RIVKA is a little girl and once again we see and hear her

FATHER rub his eye and say, *"It only hurts when people make fun of me and it."*

EXT: DAY - CENTRAL PARK:
70

They are walking by Bethesda Fountain in Central Park:
It is a sun drenched, beautiful day, filled with laughing children and parents, eating ice cream and gleefully enjoying them:

JAKE

So, when do you want to go to the museum?

RIVKA

When's good for you?

JAKE

I just hired this kid named Lenny, so I could get away just to see you, isn't that lucky? How about tomorrow at noon, Sweetheart?

RIVKA

That's a date.

JAKE couldn't be happier, as HE takes RIVKA'S hand and swings it happily, as they walk through the park:

EXT: The following day: 12:15: Outside of the museum: 71
Of Modern Art:

JAKE is pacing nervously and checks HIS watch:

JAKE

So, where the hell is she?
It's 12:15.

CUT: INT: RIVKA'S living room. 72

Dejected, SHE is pacing and speaking to herself:

RIVKA

What a damn fool I am,
deluding myself that I could
get past my manifestation, my
lunatic obsession, that he's
not my father. How can I
ball him, if I keep thinking
he's my father? I've been
seeing a shrink for who knows
how long, and did she help?
Better yet, will she ever
help? I doubt it, because,
yesterday when he rubbed that
fachcockte cockeye of his,
for a second I thought
I was looking at my father
again, may he rest in peace.

And when he said, "*It only
hurts when people make fun of
it and me,*" I wanted to die.

I shouldn't have told him
that I'll meet at the museum,
when I knew I wouldn't go. I
can't

keep torturing myself like

(Cries.)

this, I just can't, its
driving me crazy, I just
can't.

CUT: INT: Back in time: Bed room:

74

RIVKA is speaking to her mother: She never saw eye-to-eye
with her:

RIVKA

Papa told me why he ran away
from you, why he didn't marry

you, Ma.

MOTHER

Whatever the *blinde bestid*,
blind bastrd told is a lie!

RIVKA

When your father threatened to
have him killed unless he
married you;

MOTHER

A lie...!

RIVKA

...When, the whole town,
including the head Rabbi
threatened to have him
banished, he did the only
thing he could do.

MOTHER

He ran away because he was a
no good God damn liar!

CUT: Old New York City: A furrier's loft:

75

RIVKA'S MOTHER, FATHER and RIVKA as a three-year old girl:

RIVKA'S V.O.

He came to New York, America,
the '*Goldeneh land.*' Within
three years he became one of
the most successful furriers.
He told me he was called the
cockeyed furrier of New York
City.

CUT: Many years ago:

76

MOTHER, with little RIVKA, barges in on her FATHER, who is
shocked to see them:

Seeing HER FATHER'S cockeye, RIVKA cries:

MOTHER

(Screams.)_

Do you know who this is?
It's your daughter, and your
cockeye made her cry, you
cockeyed bastard. You made
your daughter cry!

FATHER

So, this is my 'shayna
tokhter,' my pretty little
girl. What's your name,
'mamaleh?

MOTHER

(Screaming.)

Her name's Rivka and what do
you care?

The Mayor's wife excuses herself and leaves:

FATHER

(Kisses Rivka.)

So, you are my 'Rivkala.' How
are you sweetheart? I'm your
Papa, sweetheart.

RIVKA thinks she loves when her father kisses her.
But when she sees his cockeye she is frightened:

77

RIVKA (As girl)

I love your voice and you're
very handsome, but I'm afraid
(Cries.)
of your eye.

FATHER

Don't be afraid of my eye.

RIVKA)

Does it hurt a lot?

FATHER

It doesn't hurt, '*mamaleh*.'
It only hurts when people make
fun of it and me.

RIVKA (As girl)

I'll never make fun of your
eye, I promise, because, I
don't want to hurt you, I like
you, I really do, and I hope
you are really my father.

FATHER

I'm glad you like me,
'*Rivkala*,' because I will
always be your '*Tateh*,' your
father, darling.

MOTHER

'*Nu, tateh*,' I '*schlepped*'
your daughter, your daughter
three thousand miles to
finally meet her father all
right. You're some father.
Is her father going to make an
honest woman of her mother? I
demand that you marry me,
Mendel!

(MORE)

MOTHER (Cont'd)

Because my parents refused to
talk or have anything to do I
had to leave my '*shtetl*,' with
me. You hear?! They told me I
had to get out! Look at you.
So successful and I have
nothing. I demand that you
marry me, you bastard! You
good for nothing, '*oisvorf*!

FATHER

I should marry you? Never!
Why, should I marry you when I

don't love you?

MOTHER

When you were *schtupping me* and got me pregnant, then you loved me, didn't you? You bastard.

FATHER

We were both young, we were drunk, and we were filled with lust. I didn't love you then and I sure as hell don't love you now.

MOTHER

So, what do you expect me to do here? How am I going to take care of 'your' daughter?

FATHER

I will support my '*Rivkala*' forever and I will help support you too, but on two conditions. I get to spend every weekend with my sweetheart, and you never call me, never, unless my '*buhbaleh*' needs something. '*Fashtaist*,' understand?"

A long pause:

MOTHER

You'll find me a nice apartment in a good neighborhood?

FATHER

Vuh den, the best.

MOTHER

And you'll give me enough money to live on like a

'*mensch*'?

FATHER

More than you'll ever need...

WE go back in time and see via JAKE'S VO.

78

WE see JAKE, 13 years old, looking around in Temple and realizing he's, all alone.

JAKE (Boy)

Some '*Bar Mitzvah*,' can you believe it? No Papa, no friends, no candy. Even on my '*Bar Mitzvah*' I'm alone. I'm always alone...

WE are back: JAKE is in Booth:

79

JAKE

(Looks up.)

You hear Rivka? Without you, I've always been alone... The only people I knew at my '*Bar Mitzvah*' was Rabbi Klopman and the '*Shamos*.' I forgot his name... I remember everything, but his name, '*nu...*'

CUT: INT: Back in time. Father's furniture store:
The camera pans back and forth as we see many people looking at furniture in the store:

80

CUT: INT: JAKE talks to poster of Cary Grant:

81

WE see pictures of the Depression, JAKE'S father selling furniture which is in the Bronx.

JAKE

My father had a used furniture store on Bathgate Avenue in the Bronx; Abie's second hand furniture. That's where I

grew up, Cary. During the depression, people couldn't afford to buy new furniture, that's why my father became so rich. You see, he was really a

(MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

'gonnif,' that means a thief, but he called himself a used furniture man... It seems everyone in the neighborhood hated him, because they knew he was taking them for a ride, but what could they do. He was the only one at that time who would give them any credit... The funny thing about my cockeye is that I thought I was the only one in the world that had it. When I was about 35 Cary, I met the love of my life: Rivka Finkel.

Back in time: EXT: On Fenway marquee we see "To Catch A Thief." RIVKA is speaking to JAKE who is madly in love with her.

RIVKA

Hello Jake, may I have one ticket please.

JAKE

The name is Jake Slimowitz, and I can't tell you how happy Jake Slimowitz is to see you.

RIVKA

And why can't Jake Slimowitz tell Rivka Finkle why he's so happy to see her?

JAKE

(Afraid to expose himself as always because she'll hate his cockeye.)

I...I have a hard time
expressing myself, Rivka.

RIVKA

How long have you had that
lazy eye, Jake?

JAKE

Why that's the first time
I've heard someone call it a
lazy eye. That's the nicest
thing I ever heard... and I
was born with it Rivka.

RIVKA

You know my friend Sylvia
once, had a lazy eye, she
called it strabismus and said
she had it operated on at
Mount Sinai. You could have it
corrected if I wanted to.

JAKE

I didn't know you were a
doctor, Rivka.

RIVKA

I'm a psychologist.

CUT: EXT: Sitting in Dr. Martin Goldfarb's office with Rivka: A nurse escorts JAKE to GOLDFARB'S office and he enters and is seated: 82

Dr. Goldfarb

How nice to meet you Jake.
(Looks into Jakes eye.)
I can correct your vision
Jake.

JAKE

Really?

CUT: Back to speaking poster of Cary Grant:

83

JAKE

That Goldfarb examined my eyes
and just like that he said he
could correct my vision. You
think I believed him? They're
all a bunch of money hungry
bastards. All of them... I
couldn't fix my eye. It was
the only thing I ever got, the
only thing that was mine, a
gift from my mother... Too bad
my father isn't alive, because
I'd really give it to him
Cary.

RIVKA'S bedroom: Touches photo and speaks to her mother: 84

RIVKA

Why you blamed me, I'll never
understand. Was it my fault
that you got pregnant? Was
anything ever my fault? You
were always so '*farbissen*,' so
angry? You never had two kind
words to say about my Jake.
Is it because he was cockeyed
like Papa? They were two
different people, Ma, two

(sings)

different people. "*Two
different worlds. We live in
two different worlds.*" I
think the closest I ever came
to spitting it all out was
when we

(Rubs noses and laughs.)
almost rubbed noses.

EXT: WE are back to the present:

84

RIVKA is all bundle up, dressed for a snow storm, as SHE enters theatre, JAKE almost bumps into HER:

JAKE

I'm so sorry, Rivka, I almost did a Nanook on you.

RIVKA

(Laughs.)

Wasn't he that...?

JAKE

...Old, hot blooded-Eskimo that used to con all his women to rub noses with him to keep warm. That sonofagun must have had 15 wives, and, it's so cold outside, isn't it? Maybe we should, er... I wouldn't mind having that *chorlehrya's* fur coat, because it's freezing outside, isn't it?

RIVKA

How's, about my mink big boy?

JAKE

Thanks, but then you'll be cold, and look at that, you're the only one that came in this rotten weather. The theatre is completely empty.

RIVKA

Looks like we're all alone, doesn't it?

JAKE

As long as you're here is all that matters.

RIVKA

Really?

JAKE

(Smiles.)

And we never even rubbed
noses, *nu?*

RIVKA

I don't think we should.

JAKE

And why not, may I ask
Madame.

RIVKA

Who knows, I might like it.

JAKE

(Laughs.)

What a sense of humor, that's
why I think you're the most
gorgeous.

RIVKA

You only think I'm gorgeous,
you mean you're not sure after
all this time, big boy?

JAKE

At my age I don't know what
this big boy thinks.

RIVKA

Sure, you blame it on your
(Sings)
age, some "*Blame it on the
Bossa Nova, the dance of
love.*"

JAKE

(Sort of laughs.)

No matter what you say we're
not rubbing noses, absolutely
not.

RIVKA

And why should we rub noses,
mister?

JAKE

What do you think, at my age
I should suddenly have 15
wives?

RIVKA

Absolutely not Sergeant
Preston of the Yukon,
absolutely not.

JAKE

Too bad sweetheart, its too
bad, because...

RIVKA

...Because what Sarg, because
what?

CUT: INT: JAKE speaks to poster of Cary Grant:

85

JAKE

Ya know why I never had any
friends Cary? Who wanted
friends if all they did was
make fun of my evil eye...
Maybe that's why I've always
been alone, except for you
Marlon, Bogey and Stewart.

CUT: INT: RIVKA picks up photo of her mother:

86

RIVKA

What did I do to you, Ma? I
hated when you didn't talk to
me. I felt so alone, I hated
being alone... Even now.
Thank God I had my Papa. My
hero, my one and only, my one
and only.

Even though he didn't raise me, he said he would love me forever. You never loved me. you were mean and

(MORE)

RIVKA (Cont'd)
vindictive and that's an
(Puts photo down.)
understatement.

7

INT: JAKE talks to poster of Richard Burton:
87

JAKE

The reason why I admired my father so much was he was a great businessman. "*Honesty's the best policy,*" he said that's why he made so much money, because he was so honest. "*Yes sir, honesty is the best policy,*" that gonnif bastard. When my father died, because that thief was so honest, he left me a fortune, millions. I bought this movie theater, because movie stars like you, Mr. Burton, never said a word about my evil eye. Even though you and Liz played two drunks that constantly argued in "*Virginia Wolf,*" when I saw the both of you dance, you looked like you were so in love. The two of you could never say you loved each other. You think it's any different between me and my Rivka? Liz is so beautiful and so is my Rivka... You think in real life, if you're a drunk, you can be in love and say...

CUT: BACK IN TIME: 88

RIVKA coos, picks up her parakeet and kisses it:

EXT: The following day RIVKA runs home from school and 89
plays with it:

Having finished playing with her parakeet, RIVKA leaves.
Cautiously, her mother, makes certain that RIVKA is gone, and
then opens window and smiles as she throws parakeet out:

INT: A few hours later RIVKA returns and cries when 90
She discovers her parakeet is missing.

SHE cries hysterically to her MOTHER, who pays little, if no
attention to her:

RIVKA (Little girl)

(Cries.)

Where's my Callam, Ma, what
happened to my little
parakeet?

INT: The next day: RIVKA is in her father's apartment: 91

FATHER

(Tries to console her.)

Don't worry 'Rivkala,' God
will take care of everything
and I'll buy you another
Callam, I'll buy you a
thousand parakeets if you
want.

CUT: INT: RIVKA speaking mother's photo: 92

RIVKA

I guess he sure fixed you,
didn't he and you deserved it,
because he left me all his
money... I would have been a
good mother. Just like you,
Ma... You said I gave you
heartburn, I was always your
heartburn, wasn't I? When I

graduated high school you
 didn't even say
 congratulations, because you
 were too loaded. I went to
 Columbia and got a degree in
 psychology, you didn't even
 come to my graduation and I
 wonder why? By 22, 23, I
 wanted to run away from you...
 You know what? I'm still
 running... 'Yoishe,' enough,
 because I didn't commit
 murder. If we forgave the
 Germans and the Japanese,
 maybe I should forgive you...
 It doesn't matter, Ma. After
 all these years, nothing
 matters. Absolutely 'nada.'
 The only thing that helps me
 get through the day is knowing
 that Jake will finally be
 mine... I think I'll have
 another little drink before I

(MORE)

RIVKA (Cont'd)

go see the love of my life.
 This one's for you, Ma.

(Toasts and sings)

*"This one's for you where ever
 you are."*

CUE: INT: Speak to poster of Warren Beatty:

93

JAKE

What about you, Mr. Beatty?
 You were a great lover,
 weren't you? I bet a million
 women were in love with that
 gorgeous 'punim,' face of
 yours. I remember that movie
 you did about the Communists,
 "REDS." So, you'll understand
 exactly what I'm going to tell
 you. Remember when "HE" came
 and destroyed everything, and

they all hated his guts.
Especially directors and
writers. Boy, how they hated
him. You remember how many
lives he ruined and how many
innocent, desperate people
committed suicide because of
that '*umglick*,' bastard. Of
course, I'm talking about
Senator

CUT: TO photos of JOSEPH MCCARTHY, STALIN, NIXON, ELIA KAZAN,
REAGAN, DALTON TRUMBO, HOOVER, HITLER, Etc, as HE CONTINUES
to speak to WARREN BEATTY.

Joseph McCarthy and his House
on Un-American Activities
Committee. For Hollywood it
was bad, worse than Hitler's
'*Crystal Nahct*' and don't
forget Stalin who was just as
bad, maybe worse. McCarthy,
and Richard Nixon, not to
mention Elia Kazan, who was a
brilliant director and Ronald
Reagan, who wasn't so
brilliant, using political
pressure, hounded,
intimidated, and forced studio
bosses to ruin the careers of
screenwriters, directors and
great actors. In 1960, Dalton
Trumbo, who was blacklisted
for (MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

a decade finally received
screenwriting credit for
"*Exodus*." Can you imagine,
nobody knew he wrote it?

INT: RIVKA'S APARTMENT:

94

RIVKA speaks to photo of her Mother

RIVKA

No matter how I tried, I'm

just like her. She loved you, Papa and could never have you, and is it any different for me...? Am I deluding myself, Papa? I keep saying tonight's the night, and you know what? It is. It has to be, it just has to... If the Fenway no longer exists, how will I be able to see my Jake?

CUT: INT:

95

JAKE resumes speaking to BEATTY, as we go back and forth:

JAKE

According to that bastard Hoover, "*Communists were idealists whose sympathies were shaped by our depression at home and fascism abroad. The communists were just like Liberals only a little more progressive.*" He said it, he said it, Warren. Trust me, he said it! Ring Lardner Jr. and Dalton Trumbo were marked men for life and went to prison for refusing to cooperate with 'the committee.' 'Nu?' Hundreds of witnesses testified and informed on colleagues, even their own brothers to prove their loyalty. The first break came when Otto Preminger announced he was hiring Trumbo to write, "*Spartacus.*" had been blacklisted since 1947, was finally given credit
(MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

In 1961, Ring Lardner Jr. who for writing "*The Cincinnati Kid.*"

Remember when he won an Oscar
for "MASH?" That was some
movie, wasn't it, Warren?

CUT: INT: 1985: RIVKA'S BED ROOM:

96

Looking at her dresses, SHE comes across one that SHE picks,
pause as SHE recalls:

RIVKA

When I bought you at Bloomies,
I thought I would get him for
sure and for a second...

Puts dress on, looks in mirror and is impressed, as she
shakes sexily.

Still fits, and not bad, not
bad at all for an old broad,
if I say so my self.

CUT: EXT: 1985: 11:P.M.:

97

RIVKA watches JAKE close the Fenway:

JAKE, infatuated, turns to RIVKA:

JAKE

I'm so glad you came, Rivka.
So, what do think of the movie?

RIVKA

Who's better than Hoffman, and
don't say Pacino and DeNiro. I
mean they're great, but Dustin
was brilliant and he should win
an Academy Award, not that he
needs it.

JAKE

If it were up to me I'd give
them all awards. Ya know, I
never thought there'd be
anyone as good as my friend
Bogey, Spencer Tracey, Cagney,
but you see, even a genius

awhile, and I don't think I've
ever seen you look more like
me is wrong (MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

once-in- beautiful, with your
hair and that dress, you look
better than Ava ever did.
Want to let me in on a secret
and tell me, what's the
occasion?

RIVKA

I'm glad you noticed and I had
my hair done and bought this
dress to celebrate my
birthday.

JAKE

It's your birthday again? Oy,
how could I forget it's your
birthday again?

RIVKA

It's not the most important
thing and if I remember
correctly, it's not the first
time you forgot and besides,
you have more important things
on your mind.

JAKE

You are so wrong, there's
nothing more important to me
than your birthday,
sweetheart.

RIVKA

JAKE, please don't start that
again. Not if you don't mean
it, please, not tonight.

JAKE

And, if I'm not being to
personal, how old?

RIVKA

Must I?

JAKE

I won't tell Dustin, I
promise...

RIVKA

The big one Jake, 50... I guess
I'm not a little girl anymore.

JAKE

Are you kidding, you don't
(Laughs.)
look a day over

RIVKA

Thanks for the compliment,
mister.

JAKE

Rivka, since it's your
birthday, would you allow me
to take you to Manny's for a
drink? I'll buy a bottle of
Dom Perignon and we'll drink
to your health and the next
100 years, may we spend them
together.

RIVKA

Oh, I'd love to, but I can't.

JAKE

Please, why can't you? I'll
get us a bottle of champagne,
(Sort of sings)
1974, "It was a very good
year."

RIVKA

I can't.

JAKE

And why can't you?

RIVKA

It's a long story, and...

JAKE

...And what, and what? I've been dying to ask you out for as long as I can remember, and I finally get the courage and you say no? How can you say no and break an *alte cockers* heart? Who knows how long it

(MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

will take me to ask you again? Please Rivka, sweetheart, it's your birthday.

RIVKA

That's exactly the reason why I can't.

JAKE

You can't or you don't want too? I probably said something wrong again, what I don't know, but when I'm around you...

So, er, would you er, would you let me take you out to dinner next week, or the week after. Anytime, I mean it, anytime.

RIVKA

I'd love to Jake, I really would, but next week, I'm afraid I can't.

JAKE

All right, maybe some other time Rivka, maybe some other time?

RIVKA

Yes, maybe some other time.

CUT: INT: RIVKA'S apartment:
98

SHE resumes speaking to photo of her FATHER:

RIVKA

And the reason I finally have to take him home tonight is, you should excuse the expression, but I have needs Papa, like every woman, your daughter has needs and Jake, Jake is what I need, desperately. If I don't love him tonight, when will I, when will I Papa, when will I? I always wanted to kiss him and touch him and have his

children, but how can you sleep with someone that looks like your father. His eye, his voice reminds me of you, maybe that's why I can't get him out of my mind. I'm still hoping, praying, waiting for that day he holds my hand. I bet he has the softest most, tender hands imaginable. I

(MORE)

RIVKA (Cont'd)

can't wait until he puts those gorgeous hands all over me. And that time, that one time, he asked me out to dinner and I said no. How could I say no? 'meshugeh,' I was crazy, right? all right, you don't have to rub it in.

CUT: JAKE speaks to poster of Zero Mostel: 99

If desired, we may see shots of stars mentioned:

JAKE

Remember when they didn't
leave Lucy and you alone,

(Laughs.)

Zero. That's because you were
blacklisted. Desi they left
alone, 'nu?' Those bastards
were so relentless, that
even Sam Jaffee, a
sweetheart, pussy cat, who
wasn't even a communist, was
reduced to teaching high
school and living with his
sisters until he finally got a
job on the old "Ben Casey"
show. Larry Parks, you
remember Larry Parks. He did
two Jolson movies. Parks was
banned for his brief
membership in the communist
party. And not only you Zero,
Charlie Chaplin, the most
famous face in the world at
the time, had no choice and
even though he loved America,
remained a British citizen,

because of that miserable
bastard. Although he had
never been a communist,
Chaplin was not allowed to
reenter the U.S. He didn't
come back until 1972 when
Hollywood finally woke up and
honored him with a lifetime
achievement award. All this
time, Ronald Reagan, the head
of the Screen Actors Guild
kept in touch with that
'fageleh' (MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

bastard Hoover, informing him
about disloyal actors. Talk

about being disloyal. How Reagan became President I'll never know. I never voted for him, because I knew, boy did I know. Clifford Odets stopped writing and a lot of people think that John Garfield's death was because of McCarthy.

CUT: INT: RIVKA'S bedroom:

100

DRINKING, RIVKA speaks to photo of her father:

RIVKA

Remember when I married Abie, Papa? That big shot Broadway producer. How long did it last, two years and was I ever happy? I never told you why I divorced him. I never told anyone except the judge and my lawyer. I had been away to Miami and I came home unexpectedly.

CUT: Back in time:

101

VIA VO, WE see what RIVKA describes:

RIVKA VO

When I walked into my bedroom, there he was 'schtupping' one of his new starlets in my bed. I felt so betrayed. Then, I was crazy, deluding myself that I could ever stop loving Jake. But, I got this brownstone and five million and became a marriage counselor. You see Papa, the only reason I married Abie was because I thought, maybe I would forget Jake. I could never forget my beloved

(Sings)

Jake. That's why, "Tonight,
tonight, won't be like any
night."

CUT: INT: JAKE'S LIVINGROOM:

102

JAKE speaks to poster of ZERO MOSTEL:

JAKE

I'm sure you remember how many brilliant writers barely managed to survive, Zero. They had to use aliases. Even though Hoover is six feet under, the conservatives are stronger than ever. Now, 'siz nuch ehrger,' it's much worse. So, where are they? Tell me Zero, where are all those communists that were going to destroy our wonderful country? Like the Berlin Wall, they're 'kaput,' in 'drehrd,' in hell, where they belong. But wait, I'm sure some other right-wing bastard will come up with another enemy. How can America live without another enemy? Impossible, because we need a reason to buy guns, build bombs and pay all those war hungry generals, instead of fighting cancer and AIDS, building hospitals and schools? I bought the Fenway in 1958 and had this one bedroom apartment built in the basement. And I played all your friend's movies. They were my best friends too, Zero. Did I need 1 real friends...? From that day on it was me and the silver screen, my silver

screen.

INT: RIVKA speaks to photo of her father:

103

RIVKA

(Sings, emotional)

"Oh, my Papa, to me you were so..." I can't tell you how much I miss you, Papa. I've been so alone. Sure I have Jake and I love him, but he's

(MORE)

RIVKA (Cont'd)

not the only one. I never told you who my first love was did I? I couldn't, because I knew it was wrong, and I knew how hurt you'd be. You'd say it was a '*shanda*,' a shame, and it was, it was... It all started right after I became a junior at Columbia. If you didn't pay my tuition, I couldn't have gone.

CUT: Back in time: INT: College classroom:

104

RIVKA is staring at Bruno Bank, her college Professor, who is very attractive, has long gray hair and smokes a pipe

CUT: MANY GIRLS ARE ENAMORED WITH BRUNO:

105

After class she stays and necks with BRUNO:

INT: SOME TIME LATE IN CLASS.

106

After all have departed, BRUNO invites RIVKA to remain and work on Shakespeare's "*King Lear*."

BRUNO offers her a glass of wine and not used to drinking becomes stoned after two glasses:

BRUNO suddenly kisses HER and SHE responds:

HE slips HER blouse off and seduces HER:

A young girl, she is enthralled:

107

THAT night: INT: Italian restaurant:

Having drunk wine, both are a little high:

BRUNO

I don't know how to tell you
this Rivka, but I'm married.
Eventually I'm going to leave
my wife and live with you
dearest.

Thinking she is in love, RIVKA believes him:

INT: Around college campus:

108

RIVKA is pregnant and beginning to show:

SHE confides to her best friend, GENNA:

RIVKA

I'm 20 years old and I'm
pregnant, can you believe it?

GENNA

Happens, to the best of us.

RIVKA

I'm scared, what am I going to
do? I can't have a baby. How
am I going to get my degree?
How am I going to tell my
parents?

GENNA

Just make up some cockamamie
story that you're busy with
school and you'll see them
whenever.

RIVKA

I know it's not genetic, but in some respects I'm just like my mother and I can't stand it. I'll just threaten him, like my mother threatened my father.

CUT: INT: Classroom: RIVKA is alone with Bruno and is 109 very angry:

RIVKA (cont'd)

You better marry me, or I'm going to expose you and you'll lose your tenure. You'll never get another teaching job, I promise.

BRUNO

I can't leave my wife, because she's crazy, batso and if I leave her, she'll commit suicide and it'll be my fault, I'll be responsible. And what's the big deal? All you have to do is get an abortion. Lots of girls get abortions.

RIVKA

Forget it Mister, I'm not getting an abortion, because it is a big deal.

BRUNO

Well then, if you are determined to have it and ruin your life, I think the best thing for all concerned is to give up the baby for adoption, and I'll pay for everything, because I'm a sport and don't you forget it.

CU: INT: JAKE'S living room: He's drinking:

JAKE

Believe me, I don't remember when I had an argument. Who am I going to argue with,

(Ala Kaye)

Danny Kaye? *"Oh, I've got a lovely bunch of coconuts"*
Peter Sellers *"Being There."*

That was a hell-of a movie,

(To poster of DeNiro.)

wasn't it, Bobby? And your performance in *"Raging Bull"*

wasn't too bad, either, and I really liked you in *"The Godfather."* I bet the women didn't leave you alone. Rivka was there opening night. She was there every opening night. And dressed so beautiful. She still is... Since I never had a girl friend, in fact I never had a friend, my father used to ask me if I was a *'fageleh,'* that's sissy. Oh, he didn't ask me to my face because, he never looked at me, remember? to answer. All I did was cry. He seemed to get his rocks off He'd ask the wall and expect me when I cried, so he made sure I cried all the time. The funny thing is, he never heard when I cried the most, which was when

(MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

he wasn't around. I never knew my mother, but I sure wish, I sure wish I did. The day, the hour, the moment, that's why I drank, anything to get through the moment. You see, since I can remember, I never felt

good enough. I always felt so uncomfortable. Everyone always looked at me, the cockeyed freak.

INT: Back to the present:

111

RIVKA is talking to photo of her Father:

RIVKA

Remember that trip I took? I told you I was going to California to do research Papa. Some research. Bruno told me he had a friend in Philadelphia that would take care of the whole thing and that my baby, she was a little girl, would be placed with a good family. I knew I couldn't tell you Papa, because I couldn't hurt you. You would have been a wonderful

Grandpa...

CUT: JAKE is pacing and drinking:

112

JAKE

I wonder why she married him
(Looks up.)
and not me? But thank God, I have her back thank God I have you... I have you? Who am I kidding? Did I have you? I haven't so much as kissed you, or even I don't have you. Since when told you how I really feel about you. The reason why I never told you was, because maybe I was in such pain, especially when you were married. Those two years I wanted to jump into the river and when you divorced

that (MORE)
JAKE (Cont'd)
sonofabitch, I couldn't be
happier. Suddenly I could
breathe again. Before that, I
was just trying to get through
the day, the hour, the moment.
You see, since I can remember,
I've been trying to get
through the moment, because I
never felt good enough. I
always felt so uncomfortable.
Everyone was always better,
better than me. To feel equal,
I drank and it was easy to
lie. So I drank and I lied
about everything, 'til this
day. And now, I can't even
tell you how much I love you,
because, maybe I am not good
enough... I'm just not good
enough.

INT: RIVKA is drinking:

113

RIVKA
About 20 years ago, I tried to
find her. I went to the
agency, but they refused to
tell me a thing. I wonder if
she knows she's adopted.
Who's her real mother? I
would give anything, if I
could see her face one time.
How she turned out. Is she
happy, is she married, does
she have
children? I would have been a
good mother. Grandmother, I
just know it.

INT: Living room:

114

JAKE speaks to poster of RITA MARINO:

As HE speaks, WE see HIS FATHER with lots of women:

JAKE

I have to tell you Miss Rivera, your performance in "*West Side Story*," touched my heart and I've been in love with you ever since. When I was about seven or eight, just old enough to (MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

understand, I was told by Geraldine, she was the black housekeeper that took care of me since my mother died, and even though he wasn't religious, he stayed home for a week. She meant he sat 'shiva' and then it was like my mother never existed. He whored around like it was going out of style... For a man that was so Jewish, I never understood why all the women he fooled around with were 'Shiksese,' that's Gentiles. It seemed every other week he brought a new one home and he'd get annoyed if they paid any attention to me.

Back in time: JAKE'S father's living room: 115

JAKE'S FATHER is talking to a sexy Puerto Rican, named GRACIELLA.

FATHER

What do you want from him?
What are you talking to him for? Can't you see he's cockeyed? His evil eye killed my sweetheart, my Channa.

Leave him alone, God damn it!

WE JAKE run into his room and cry:

CUT: INT: WE are back: 116

JAKE resumes speaking to poster of RITA MARINO:

JAKE

(Drinks.)

I didn't always drink ya know,
Chita.

INT: 117

Via VO, WE see what JAKE describes to RITA at 13 years old:

JAKE'S V.O.

It was a week before my '*Bar Mitzvah*,' I was busy studying my '*Haftorah*,' while he was busy fooling around with this gorgeous, Puerto Rican woman named Graciella. She had long black hair that she wore in a braid, a beautiful smile and some figure. For some reason, even though I was cockeyed, she seemed to like me. Like my father, she used to drink a lot and one day, when he was at his store and she was really loaded, she came into my room and started talking to me. Then she put my head on her lap and started to run her fingers through my hair.

Back in time: JAKE'S first sexual encounter: 118

GRACIELLA

You like when Graciella plays
with your hair, Jakey?

JAKE

(Smiles and nods yes.)
You know, it's the first time
anyone ever played with my
hair Graciella.

GRACIELLA

Graciella likes you. Do you
like Graciella?

JAKE nod yes:

GRACIELLA (cont'd)

Would you like Graciella to
kiss you, sweetheart? Now
close your eyes even the evil
one and Graciella will kiss
you all over.

JAKE closes his eyes and immediately feels her warm body, as
SHE sticks HER tongue in HIS mouth.

Liking it, HE does the same:

HE feels HER hand touch his penis:

GRACIELLA

You have a hard one, Jakey.
Graciella likes hard ones.

JAKE

You do?

SHE zips down his fly and the most thrilling sensation HE
could ever imagine happens and HE climaxes almost instantly
in her mouth and apologizes:

GRACIELLA

The next time, think of the
Yankees, then you won't come
so fast, sweetheart.

VIA VO, WE SEE WHAT JAKE DESCRIBES:

119

Shots of DiMaggio and Rizzuto:

120

JAKE'S V.O.

For the next two months, all I thought about was Joe DiMaggio, Phil Rizzuto and the whole damn Yankee team and it worked, for about two minutes, which I was certain was some sort of record. Cockeye and all I knew I was the only 13-year-old kid in the Bronx that got 'it.' Boy, did I get it... When my father stopped seeing Graciella, I was so broken hearted. A week later, when my father was really drunk, looking at the wall he asked me if I missed, Graciella? Before I Can you blame me? She was the only one that seemed to care. She meant so much to me. About could answer he passed out. There he was, sprawled out on the couch grinning like he knew something I didn't... I always had a sneaking suspicion that he got Graciella to do it, but why would he do that? He didn't even like me, Rita...

On split screen, JAKE and RIVKA will speak, almost as if 121
THEY are having a conversation, but they are not:

RIVKA

What's going to happen to us,
Jake? I'll tell you what.
Now that the Fenway's closing,
you are mine, all mine, and,
(Sings)
"I'm gonna love you, like

*nobody's loved you, come rain
or come shine."*

JAKE

Boy, am I bugged. If she
doesn't come here anymore, how
will I see her? I hope she
knows how I feel about her.
What is she a mind reader?
How could she know? I never
told her. What's wrong with
me? Why didn't I tell her?

RIVKA

No more Fenway Jake, no more
Fenway. I don't know what I'm
going to do? How long have I
been coming to your '*facockte*'
theater?

JAKE

I think she's been coming
since Sabu. Yeah Sabu. Got
to be 35, 40 years. I'll
tell you the truth, I never
met (MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

anyone that liked Jungle
pictures so much. Maybe it
was the elephants.

RIVKA

I think the first picture I
saw was with that midget, Sabu
and did I hate it. I think I
hated it almost as much as
Tarzan and his monkey.

JAKE

I remember she said she hated
jungle pictures. So, why did
she come to every one? Who
made her?

RIVKA

I came to every one of his
openings, because I wanted him

to see that I cared about him.

JAKE

She came to every opening.
Why?

RIVKA

To me openings were exciting
and he was there. Thank God
he was there.

JAKE

She saw the "Ten
Commandments," "*Spartacus*,"
"*The Godfather*," "*Easy Rider*."
I don't think she missed one
opening. She always seemed
so excited.

RIVKA

Sometimes I was so bored I
wanted to scream, but I
couldn't help it. I had to
see him, so I'd get
'*farbootzed*,' really dressed
and all he did was smile. I
love when he smiles.

JAKE

When I saw how beautiful she
looked, I'd smile I even
called her sweetheart once.
Sweetheart...

RIVKA

He called me sweetheart, once.
What wouldn't I have given to
be his sweetheart? Knowing
him, he probably said it to
all the girls. I could never
figure him out. He never
asked me out again, he never
tried to kiss me, never tried
to make a move on me. Such a
gentleman, he always bows when
he sees me. Makes people wait

at the box office and walks me to my seat, a regular prince charming.

JAKE

Didn't she understand why I walked her to her seat? So why didn't she make a move?

RIVKA

He was always so gracious, so kind, the perfect gentleman. So why didn't he ask me out again? I would have said yes. I guess it was up to me... Why 'Gott,' why is it always up to me?

JAKE

I bet she doesn't even remember when I asked her out to dinner that time, and she said no. I was so disappointed, I was, I really was. She doesn't know that she broke my heart... It's still broken.

RIVKA

30 years ago he asked me out to dinner and like a fool I said no. With his cockeye, the sound of his voice and way he smiled, he was the spitting image of my father. I wanted to love him, but what could I do? I've gone to therapy for years trying to work it out? But now, I have to work it out. There just isn't anymore time.

JAKE

Tonight, I'm going to get her.
That's right. You see, I
think it's time that I told
her exactly how I feel, that I
love her more than anything
and that I'm going to devour
her with kisses. To some,
Rita Hayworth, Ava Gardner and
Liz Taylor were the most
beautiful, but not to me

(Looks at watch and takes a deep breath.)

sweetheart. It's almost time
to open... Just to make sure
I won't chicken out and lose
my

(MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

nerve, I'll have another
drink, and then you'll see,

(Sings.)

you'll see. "Tonight,
tonight, won't be just any
night."

RIVKA

(Looks at her watch.)

I think it's time to go... You
may think tonight's our last
night, but as far as I'm
concerned, it's just the
beginning, pussycat.

(Sings)

"Gimme a little kiss, will ya
huh? What are you gonna miss,
will ya huh?" Tonight's the
night.

JAKE

I got her flowers; yellow
roses with a real mushy card.
She once told me she loves
yellow roses. Here's what I
wrote; "Somebody loves Rivka
with all his heart. Guess
who."

JAKE is daydreaming in box office:
HE peers out and looks around:

122

JAKE

So, where is she Bogey? She
always shows up.

RIVKA, dressed beautifully, enters.

RIVKA

Why fancy meeting you here,
stranger

JAKE

(Looks up.)

Rivka, I knew you would come.

RIVKA

Good or bad, no matter what's
playing, don't I always show
up for every opening, every
special occasion? 'Nu?'

JAKE

And that meant a lot to me,
Rivka. You're the only person
I counted on. Is that a new
dress?

RIVKA

It 'soitenly' is. I figured,
in honor of the Fenway
closing, something old,
(Points to Fenway, then touches dress.)
something new.

JAKE

Well, you certainly look
beautiful.

RIVKA

(She's embarrassed, because it slips out.)
So, do you.

JAKE

You're the first person who
ever said I look beautiful.
Should I say thank you?

THEY both laugh.

RIVKA

Do you have any idea how long
I've been coming here?

JAKE

How long...?

RIVKA

Since Sabu since Sabu the
Jungle Boy.

JAKE

(Dreamy.)

That's right. I can see it
as if it were yesterday. You
were on line. All bundled up,
fur coat, fur hat, galoshes,
scarf, earmuffs, gloves.

RIVKA

And I think you said I
reminded you of Nanook...?

JAKE

(Laughs and howls)
...Yeah, just like Nanook,
remember, just like Nanook.

SHE playfully hits HIM on HIS arm.

RIVKA

And he agrees with me no less,
nu?

JAKE

Only cuter, much cuter.

RIVKA

Feels like a million years ago, doesn't it?

JAKE

Two million to be exact, what times they were. The Fenway was a regular toast-of-the-town. They all came. The rich-and-famous. Even the not-so-rich-and-the-not-so-famous, Rockefeller, Lindsay, movies stars, ingénues, wannabes, everybody. The lines stretched around the block and then some. They all came and I had to turn them away, because there were so many people...

RIVKA

I remember Jake, do I remember.

A long pause.

JAKE

Look at that, I almost forgot.

JAKE comes out of booth.

JAKE (cont'd)

I bought these flowers for you.

JAKE gives RIVKA flowers.

RIVKA

Why how thoughtful Jake. They smell wonderful, and they're so lovely.

JAKE

Not as lovely as you Rivka.

RIVKA

Oh, Jake... What made you bring me yellow roses?

JAKE

It's because of your father.

RIVKA

My father, why my father?

JAKE

You once told me that your father used to bring you yellow roses and who could
(Touches heart, and pauses.)
love you as much as your father, sweetheart...?

RIVKA

My father... my father. What a memory you have.

Big pause:

RIVKA (cont'd)

(Looks at watch.)

Well, I guess the movie is about to start.

RIVKA reaches into her purse and pulls out some bills and starts to hand them to JAKE.

JAKE

Put it away, tonight's on me.

RIVKA

Why thank you, Jake. That's very generous.

JAKE

Don't mention it.

RIVKA

Is it really that good?

JAKE

One of my favorite all-time
foreign films; "*Life is
Beautiful.*" That *Roberto
Begnini* is some genius.
Reminds me of another genius,
my old friend, Charlie Chaplin

RIVKA

Jake...

JAKE

(Turns around.)
Yes, Rivka?

RIVKA

Oh, it's just... it's just...

JAKE

(Sad laugh.)
What is it? And don't say I
look beautiful, because
I'll...

RIVKA

(Sniffs flowers.)
It's... It's nothing. They're
really beautiful. Say, did
these flowers come with a
card?

JAKE

Ya know, I could have sworn
there was a card around here
somewhere.

RIVKA

It's the thought that counts.

JAKE

I know sweetheart.

RIVKA

(Starts to become overwhelmed with her fear.)

Jake, my father used to call me sweetheart, and when you just said it...

JAKE

I know how much you loved your father, Rivka. Do I remind you just a little of him sweetheart, do I?

RIVKA

(Almost cries, very emotional.)
YES, YES, YES... And I can't take it I just can't take. Why don't you walk me to my seat and we'll watch the movie together?

JAKE

Would you allow this old fool to take you to your seat?

RIVKA

For the last time.

JAKE

For the last time. Shall we?

RIVKA

Thank you, Jake.

JAKE

(Bows to HER.)

As always, it's my pleasure
Sweetheart, forever.

THEY turn and arm-arm walk away, up the aisle into darkness:

WE hear the sound of the projector and the theme of "*LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL*."

THE END