

FUNDED

written by

Justin Kleiman & Oliver Berger

October 4th, 2023

Robert L. Ford

Ford Athlete and Artist Management

Rlford@thefaaam.com

(310) 367-1565

INT. UPSCALE HOME - BATHROOM - DAY

We open on LEWELLYN "LOU" LUTTZ (late 30's) a failing magician, and overall sad sack, barely holding on to his dream of carrying his late father's legacy of becoming THE AMAZING LUTTZ. Lou stares at his reflection in the bathroom mirror.

LOU
(Convincing himself)
Come on! You got this. They're just kids. Sticky, loud, terrible kids.

A banging on the bathroom door snaps him out of it.

MARK (O.S.)
Hurry up man!

Lou takes a deep hit from his weed vape and blows it out the window. With a flick of his wrist, the vape disappears up his sleeve. He grabs his hat and cape off the door as he exits.

LOU
All yours.

Standing just outside are two parents furiously making out, Mark (40s) hedge fund manager and overall jerk, and Staci (30s) wine enthusiast sister-in-law to Mark.

MARK
'Bout time. The kids are waiting for you in the living room.

Staci pushes past Lou, taking off her top as she drags Mark into the bathroom with her. The door slams behind them.

INT. UPSCALE HOME - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The force of the door slamming makes portraits and pictures of a happy family shake on the wall. Lou notices that the man from the photos is Mark and the lady he was just with is NOT HIS WIFE and mutters to himself.

LOU
Not my circus. Not my problem.

As Lou is about to round the corner into the living room BRANTLY, (7) as defiant and aggressive as he is portly, runs up and kicks Lou in the shin.

BRANTLY
Take that clown!

Brantly runs off as Lou visibly compartmentalizes and continues to mutter.

LOU
Gig's a gig.

INT. UPSCALE HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lou enters a room of chaos as thirty kids are all screaming and running around while WENDY, (30s) the mother in charge of the party, is frantically corralling the children by offering them candy. One child is drawing a snake onto Lou's prop suitcase. Exasperated, Wendy, clocks Lou as soon as he enters and shouts to the room.

WENDY
EVERYONE! HEY EVERYBODY! IT'S TIME
FOR THE SHOW!

The kids all sit down and parents gather round.

WENDY (CONT'D)
(with her last bit of
energy)
They're all yours.

LOU
You know I usually get paid
first...

Wendy pats Lou on the back, walks away and grabs a bottle of Grey Goose from the bar shelf. She uncorks it with her teeth, spits it out, and begins to drink straight from the bottle as she collapses on the couch.

All eyes are on Lou as he clicks into "showman mode".

LOU (CONT'D)
Who's ready for a show!?!

A couple parents applaud in pity.

LOU (CONT'D)
Ok let's try this again. Whose
excited for a show AND cake after?

The kids cheer.

LOU (CONT'D)
That's more like it! Ladies and
Gentlemen, theys and thems, my name
is "The Amazing-

He lifts his suitcase to display his name but thanks to the unfortunate placement of the kid's drawing of a snake, it now reads "The Amazing SLuttz". He notices the now altered name and recovers by using his momentum to spin around and place the suitcase face down.

LOU (CONT'D)

-Luttz! Who here likes magic?!

At best, a smattering of applause. A girl LYLA, (7) sweet enough to give you a cavity, is sitting in the front row, raising her hand and waving it around eagerly.

LOU (CONT'D)

Oh! I see we have a question.
What's your name?

LYLA

I'm Lyla and my mommy tells daddy that the magic in the bedroom is gone.

LOU

Oh boy! Thank you Lyla for sharing!

BRANTLY

DO A TRICK CLOWN!

LOU

I'm not a clown I am a magician.

BRANTLY

DO A TRICK NOW CLOWN!

LOU

Ok. Why don't you come up here and we can do one together. A round of applause as he joins me on stage.

The kids applaud as Brantly joins Lou. In the back we see Mark and Staci walk into the room, clearly disheveled. Lou pulls a deck of cards out from his back pocket.

BRANTLY

I saw you take those out of your back pocket.

LOU

That's not the trick!

Lou opens the cards and begins to fan them out. He seems to get the audience on board with his fancy shuffling.

LOU (CONT'D)
This is the trick. I want you to
 pick a card.

Brantly takes a card.

BRANTLY
 (to everyone)
 It's the 9 of hearts.

Lou grabs the card back and reshuffles.

LOU
 Let's try this again. Pick a card
 and don't say what it is out loud.

Brantly takes a card but doesn't look at it.

LOU (CONT'D)
 Ok. Look at the card.

BRANTLY
 I did.

LOU
 Take another look.

BRANTLY
 I know what it is clown.

Lou is starting to crack.

LOU
 I'm a *magician* not a *clown*. Just do
 it for me. Look at that card.

BRANTLY
 Fine.

Brantly looks at it so quickly, it's obvious he's just
 pretending to look. Lou fans out the cards.

LOU
 Great. Now put it back in the deck.

Brantly puts the card back in the deck. Lou shuffles the
 cards with flair. He offers the deck to Brantly.

LOU (CONT'D)
 Go ahead and cut the deck.

BRANTLY
 I don't have scissors.

LOU
No. Just split the deck in half.

BRANTLY
I don't want to. Isn't this your
job CLOWN?

Fed up, Lou cuts the deck.

LOU
Great now using magic, BECAUSE I'M
A **MAGICIAN**, I, the Amazing Luttz,
will find your card!

Lou triumphantly picks a card out of the deck and holds it up
for all to see.

LOU (CONT'D)
Is this your card!?!

BRANTLY
No.

LOU
Yes it is.

BRANTLY
No it isn't.

LOU
Then tell us, what was your card?

BRANTLY
I already told you nine of hearts.

LOU
Not the first card you picked, the
one you just got.

BRANTLY
I don't remember but not that one.

LOU
This IS your card. I know it's your
card.

BRANTLY
How?

LOU
Magic!

BRANTLY
You're bad at this.

LOU
Just sit down!

Lou visibly compartmentalizes again.

LOU (CONT'D)
Alrighty! Moving on! I need another
volunteer.

Lyla, now sitting even closer to the stage than the front row, waves her hand even more emphatically. Lou makes it seem like he's searching but this kid is the only one with their hand up, so he finally points to her.

LOU (CONT'D)
Ah yes, you miss! Give her a round
of applause as she joins me.

Lyla jumps up. Lou opens his suitcase, pulls out a top hat and hands it to her to examine.

LOU (CONT'D)
This is my magic hat! Will you
please confirm there isn't anything
inside the hat-

Lyla leans forward looking into the hat and immediately pukes blue frosting into it. All the kids point and laugh as Lyla tries to hand the hat back but Lou refuses to take it.

LOU (CONT'D)
Well that's yours now.

Lyla walks off with the puke hat.

BRANTLY
I'M BORED. MAKE ME A BALLOON SWORD,
CLOWN!

LOU
(SNAPPING)
I AM A MAGICIAN! Do I look like a
clown to you!?!

The entire audience all laughs as they nod and say yes.

LOU (CONT'D)
I walked right into that one.

With a cape flourish, Lou makes one last attempt.

LOU (CONT'D)
Alright, let's get the birthday boy
up here! Who's special day is it?

Brantly walks back to stage.

LOU (CONT'D)
Of course it's you..

He looks around at the adults for support, most are ignoring the show.

LOU (CONT'D)
Why don't we get your dad on stage too? Where is your father?

He points to Mark who's putting his wedding ring back on.

LOU (CONT'D)
You sir! Please join us on stage.

Mark walks up and joins them.

MARK
How long's this gonna take?

Mark checks his fancy watch.

LOU
It'll be over before you know it, this is our grand finale!

The whole audience erupts in cheers, Lou dies a little inside.

LOU (CONT'D)
For this last trick, I'm going to need something of immense value, something completely irreplaceable. Your watch for instance.

Mark takes off his watch, arrogantly chuckling.

MARK
Well, it's worth more than you make in two years but sure.

He hands the watch to Lou who delicately wraps it in a handkerchief and gently places it on the table in front of them.

LOU
Now, in a second-

MARK
Whoa whoa whoa better get that thing back

LOU
 (quietly to Mark)
 You know how this works, right?
 It's a trick for kids not real
 magic...

BRANTLY
 See I knew you weren't magic,
 CLOWN!

LOU
 Dammit.

Lou takes a hammer out of his case, smacks it on the table loudly a couple times, and holds it up for the crowd to see.

LOU (CONT'D)
 Now... um... Birthday Boy, when you
 hear the magic words "abra kadabra"
 you're going to swing this hammer
 down on the watch as hard as you
 can.

Lou hands Brantly the hammer who gets excited and stands in swinging position, focusing on the watch closely.

BRANTLY
 Got it, "abra kadabra"

Lou takes a matching folded and stuffed handkerchief out of his bag and prepares to swap it with the real watch. With his free hand, he gestures toward the father and son with a flourish.

LOU
 Now before we get started, Brantly,
 can you please confirm that the
 hammer you're holding is in fact
 real and genuine?

Brantly immediately swings the hammer down, smashing the watch.

BRANTLY
 It's real.

MARK
 This better be part of the trick.

The crowd oohs.

MARK (CONT'D)

(to Lou)

Did you just break my Rolex?

LOU

I didn't break anything! It's not my fault your kid's such a piece of sh--

EXT. UPSCALE HOME - FRONTDOOR/DRIVE-WAY

Luttz is thrown out of the house by two of the fathers. Followed by his suitcase landing in a plume of cards on the driveway. Through the doorway we see all the kids are crying in the living room.

MARK

You're lucky we're a non-violent household.

The dads slam the door shut. Luttz, hair tussled, beaten & bruised, stands as he lets out a disappointed sigh. He takes a now crushed dove out of his sleeve and puts it in the mailbox before pulling out his cracked-screen-phone, seeing five missed calls from Frankie De Luca. Lou takes a labored breath, swipes away the notifications, and calls his girlfriend.

LOU

Hey babe! Checking in to see if you won that pulitzer yet?

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - INTERCUT

SARAH WARNER (30s) bubbly midwestern newly minted segment producer at NV-TV Local Morning News, is cooking dinner and prepping her work for the next day while on the phone.

SARAH

Not yet but i'm covering the turtle races downtown this weekend so that should qualify for the final point i needed for the ground breaking journalism punch card.

LOU (O.S.)

OHHHH That's right it's the next one is free! Honestly I never understood the whole schtick with that award.

SARAH
What's not to get?

EXT. UPSCALE HOME - FRONTDOOR/DRIVE-WAY - INTERCUT

LOU
Well you can ether win it for
telling the best truth but you can
also win it for telling the best
lie.

SARAH (O.S.)
Isn't that what magic is?

Smile crosses his face

LOU
Touche. Still a silly name.

SARAH (O.S.)
Yes it should be something more
grounded like THE MERLIN AWARD.
How'd the show go?

EXT. UPSCALE HOME - FRONTDOOR/DRIVE-WAY - INTERCUT

LOU
Might be repeat clients, we'll see.

MARK (O.S.)
WE'LL BE SEEING YOU IN COURT,
AMAZING **PUTTZ!!**

INT. SARAH'S APARTMENT - INTERCUT

We can hear children crying and the door slam again over the
phone.

SARAH
Did he just say court?

LOU (O.S.)
Yeah... the Court of Magicians...
it's a club I'm checking out...

She rolls her eyes, clearly knowing that Lou's lying but
doesn't want to embarrass him further so she goes with it.

SARAH

Why don't you come over tonight?
I'm making dinner now and we can
just have a low key evening.

EXT. UPSCALE HOME - FRONTDOOR/DRIVE-WAY - INTERCUT

Lou sees his own disheveled reflection looking back at him
from a nearby window and realizes he's pretty beat up.

LOU

While that does sound nice, I'm
just not up for more socializing
tonight. Gonna go home and rest.

SARAH (O.S.)

Ok. Well, hit me up tomorrow. I'll
be off work at six, maybe we can go
out for dinner?

LOU

Umm...

SARAH (O.S.)

My treat.

Just when he thought he couldn't feel more defeated, Lou
slumps a little.

LOU

Sounds great. Thank you... Ok, I
gotta go sign some rabbits. Love
you, see you tomorrow.

He hangs up, gathering and stuffing his things under his arms
and hobbling down the sidewalk.

INT. BUS

Lou is sitting with all his belongings stacked on top of him,
trying to balance everything when he gets a phone call from
Frankie de Luca. He looks around the bus nervously then
stares at his phone until it stops ringing. Swipes away the
notification and stares at his lock screen - a picture of him
and his father, the real "Amazing Luttz", mid-trick, in his
prime. He exhales with relief before Frankie starts calling
again.

EXT. BUS STOP - IN FRONT OF KADAB-RA'S BAR

The bus pulls away, leaving Lou in front of a local dive bar, KADABRA'S, that has seen better days. Above the front door, there's a moving glowing neon sign showing a three stage animation of a hand pulling a martini out of a hat. As Lou painfully hobbles past the entrance, a man in a sequined jumpsuit bursts out the door and runs to the curb, looking as if he is going to be sick. When he opens his mouth, cards start pouring out. Lou is completely unfazed doesn't break stride as he rounds the corner.

LOU

It's looking better Carl.

We follow Lou up to a door where a hand-drawn "815 Betterlee Glen **Unit 2**" sign has fallen to the floor. He picks it up and slams it on the wall before noticing the door is ajar.

LOU (CONT'D)

(mouthing softly)

Damn it.

He enters.

INT. KADAB-RA'S - BASEMENT APPARTMENT

As Lou descends the front staircase, we see the once whimsical workshop of his father has become a ramshackle apartment for Lou. Old, never finished tricks are covered by tarps. It's clear that Sarah tried her best to add a woman's touch but it hasn't helped much.

LOU

Frankie, I was just about to call you.

Standing in the makeshift kitchen is FRANKIE DELUCA (56) a short-fused Brooklyn transplant who makes a very good living praying on the desperate gambling-addicted locals and doe-eyed tourists by taking the bets that casinos won't. He's ripping up playing cards and throwing them in a pile on the ground. Clearly he's been waiting a while.

FRANKIE

Well, ain't that a crazy happenstance!

LOU

The craziest. Sorry I missed your calls-

FRANKIE

Wait hold on. I think I've seen
this trick!

LOU

What?

FRANKIE

Yeah this is the one where you pull
what you owe me out of your ass or
both of your legs magically break.

Lou attempts to interrupt.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

It just has to be, cause if it's
the one where you pull another
excuse out of your ass then I don't
think your audience is going to be
very receptive. Let's read the
room. Panteges?

PANTEGES, (30s) a Black mother of five, ex-powerlifting
champion and long-time bodyguard for Frankie, who literally
knows where all the bodies are buried, is standing backlit at
the top of the stairs. As she descends we see she is holding
a rhinestone bedazzled softball bat.

PANTEGES

The room is not amused.

FRANKIE

There ya have it.

LOU

Hi Panteges, nice to see you.

PANTEGES

You too baby. How's Sarah?

LOU

She's great. How are the kids?

PANTEGES

Oh you know, they're the gifts that
keep on taking. Now, what's this
Mr. De Luca says about you not
paying your debts? You know I don't
want to be the one that breaks your
legs.

LOU

I mean nobody has to be the one.

PANTEGES

Bless your heart, it's inevitable,
baby.

She starts fiddling with delicate contraptions on a partially covered table. Picks one up.

PANTEGES (CONT'D)

Can I have this? My little one
would love whatever it is.

LOU

No. That was my dad's.

He turns to Frankie.

LOU (CONT'D)

Frankie, please. I have another gig
tonight. I'll be able to pay you
tomorrow, I promise!

FRANKIE

What'd I say about the excuses?

Panteges is fascinated by the doohickey she's holding.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Panteges. Smash everything on that
table.

PANTEGES

But this thing's cool..

FRANKIE

I said smash it!

With a swing of her bedazzled bat, Panteges destroys everything on the table. Some of the debris falls to the floor, bringing the sheet covering the rest of the table down with it.

LOU

Whoa whoa whoa please STOP! I
promise! Tomorrow!

Frankie gets uncomfortably close to Lou's face and presses his index finger into Lou's chest.

FRANKIE

You're lucky I've got my mistress's
anniversary tonight; we got tickets
to "O".

PANTEGES

Oh! My god so good.

Lou tries to cut the tension.

LOU

That's how they got the name.

The joke lands flat.

FRANKIE

If you don't have my money by tomorrow, you'll be the assistant in my new trick where I make YOU disappear... permanently. Abra-kapeesh?

LOU

I hear you.

FRANKIE

Wonderful. Panteges I think we're done here.

Frankie walks out.

PANTEGES

Sorry, baby. That what-ever-it-was looked cool.

LOU

Honestly, I have no idea what half this even is but thank you.

PANTEGES

Please have that money tomorrow, I really hate driving to the middle of the desert.

FRANKIE (O.S.)

I SAID LET'S GO.

PANTEGES

I KNOW you did not just tell me what to do!

Panteges quickly rushes up the stairs and out.

FRANKIE (O.S.)

You work for me.

PANTEGES (O.S.)

It's how you said it.

The door slams behind them. Lou takes in the damage before tossing his suitcase on his Murphy bed, causing it to instantly spring closed against the wall. On the bottom side of the bed is a poster of Lou's father advertising for an upcoming show - "The Amazing Luttz brings you a new future!" The Amazing Luttz is holding out his hand with a neon question mark hovering above it.

LOU
I need a drink.

He exits up the back stairs into:

INT. KADAB-RA'S BAR

Vintage promo posters for magicians cover the purple velvet walls and signed playing cards of performers past adorn the ceiling. Lou enters through a door marked "broom closet" and crosses the room.

ABE (O.S.)
Jesus kid, you look how I feel.

LOU
Can we just not?

Behind the bar is ABE DWYER, (Late 60's) Lou's dad's best friend, ex-magician, and defacto mayor of the community, pouring well gin into a Bombay Sapphire bottle.

ABE
You would not believe the angry phone call I got earlier.

LOU
I bet I would.

ABE
I don't get it. It was an easy kid's party.

LOU
Nothing about THAT was easy.

ABE
Did the watch trick play?

LOU
It... It did not.

ABE
Oh come on. It's a classic. What went wrong?

LOU
I handed off the hammer before
swapping watches.

ABE
Ohhh rookie move! You gotta make
the swap before the hand-off.

JAMIE SUZLOW (45) a large man sitting at the end of the bar,
playing video poker and chain-smoking, chimes in.

JAMIE
Oh yeah you gotta make the swap
before the hand-off.

A patron wearing a large peacock collar laughs loudly and
chimes in.

PEACOCK PATRON
Everyone knows you gotta make the
swap before the hand-off!

LOU
How was I supposed to know?

JAMIE
Yeah everyone knows.

Another patron walks into the bar, JORDEN KATZBERG, (32)
local degenerate and overall failure.

ABE
Hey Jordan! What's the #1 rule with
the watch break?

JORDEN
Always make the swap before the
hand-off!

LOU
Oh come on.

JORDEN
Don't worry bud, drinks are on me
tonight.

He shouts to the rest of the bar.

JORDEN (CONT'D)
Maestros of this magical milieu! A
round on me!! I've cracked the
code. My greatest trick yet.

The bar cheers. A couple magicians appear in a puff of smoke.

SMOKE MAGICIAN 1

Someone say free drinks?

Abe racks up several empty glasses and passes them out one by one. As each person receives their drink, the glasses are suddenly filled.

LOU

So what's your big trick, Jordan?

JORDEN

I call it the "Money Printing Machine".

ABE

That's an old trick.

JORDEN

Yes but what if I told you that *my* version can be done simultaneously around the world, making people's money appear in my pocket, without me doing a damn thing.

LOU

I'd say you never have to work again.

Lou holds up his glass and toasts Jordan. Jordan takes a sip while Lou pounds the whole drink. Jordan noticing, continues to keep pace with him. He gestures for Abe to pour two more.

JORDEN

It's the big one alright.

Abe walks over, takes the bar rag from over his shoulder, places it over the empty glasses, and with a whip of his hand reveals two full drinks complete with garnish.

ABE

So between us... how does the trick work?

JORDEN

You know a magician never tells his secrets.

Abe waves the bar rag over the glasses once again and the liquid disappears.

ABE

Then, that magician better pay his tab now.

Jorden flicks his wrist and fans out multiple credit cards.

JORDEN

Pick a card! Any card! I'm never going to have to worry about money again.

Abe grabs a card, waves the rag, and the drinks go back to full.

LOU

Well...?

JORDEN

Ok so you've heard of that crowd funding website "Back-U", right?

LOU

Yeah, but isn't that for board games and bad short films?

JORDEN

Turns out if you raise more than what you asked for, the rest is yours to take as you please.

LOU

Ok. So people are funding your new amazing trick?

JORDEN

No. That *is* the trick.

LOU

Pretty sure that *is* fraud.

JORDEN

Start-ups get funded and fail every day but as long as they tried to do the thing that they said they would, then people don't care. Half the time, people forget they even spent the money until the reward comes in the mail... you following?

LOU

Yes?

Both men finish their drinks. Jorden waves to Abe.

JORDEN

Can we do a round of Lance Burtons?

Abe walks over, eyes lit up with the chance to prepare the rarely ordered drink. He reaches into his jacket and pulls out two eggs, places shot glasses on the counter and breaks the eggs over them. Instead of raw egg, a bright blue liquor spills out. Abe crushes the eggshells in his palms and when he opens his hands, doves fly out and around the bar before perching on bottles behind him. Lou is amazed.

LOU

You really do need to show me that one someday.

JORDEN

The trick is to create an idea that would have a bunch of schmoes with disposable income chomping at the bit to back. Then you make it seem like their money did, in fact, make a difference to solve the non-existent problem and pocket the rest. It's practically a victimless crime.

ABE

You literally have a bunch of victims.

JORDEN

Do I though? Are we not standing in front of audiences every night lying right to their faces? Giving them the illusion of an idea to believe in? Magic is just a lie wrapped in a whimsical story. What's the difference?

ABE

Well, when you frame it that way...

LOU

I'm sorry. There's no way people would fall for-

Jorden takes out his phone and shows the website page to Lou who snatches the phone from him.

LOU (CONT'D)

340,000 dollars!?

Lou scrolls through the post.

LOU (CONT'D)
 Aha! You said you want to start a
 dove retirement reserve in the
 middle of the desert.

Lou clicks the video on the page and turns the phone sideways
 as the clip starts to play full screen:

EXT. DESERT

Jordan stands amongst several quick release cages in the
 middle of nowhere. Air cannons filled with colored chalk
 explode as he releases doves that all fly off.

JORDEN (V.O.)
 The key is the video.

A Soderbergh-style heist panel montage shows us what Jordan's
 talking about:

INT. PARTY SUPPLY STORE

Money exchanges hands

JORDEN (V.O.)
 Fifty bucks to rent the air cannons

INT. ART STORE

A bag of colored chalk is handed off

JORDEN (V.O.)
 Ten bucks worth of colored chalk
 powder

EXT. LOADING BAY

A worker slides a stack of boxes over to Jordan

JORDEN (V.O.)
 Twenty clams for boxes

INT. HARDWARE STORE

Three giant bags of seed are plopped into Jordan's arms

JORDEN (V.O.)
 Five dollars of bird seed.

LOU (V.O.)
What about the doves?

EXT. CIRCUS CIRCUS PARKING LOT

Jorden's van is swarmed by doves

JORDEN (V.O.)
That's what the seed was for. Park
next to Circus Circus and leave
your van door open with the boxes
filled with seed.

BACK TO PRESENT:

INT. KADAB-RA'S BAR

Lou's fully spellbound by the story.

LOU
How long did that take?

JORDEN
Seven days.

ABE
Why not do the actual work?

JORDEN
It's hard work getting that many
birds. Such hard work, we deserve a
reward. Another round please.

Abe does the drink trick one last time. Lou and Jorden are
clearly feeling the effects of the liquor.

JORDEN (CONT'D)
Gentlemen!

Jorden raises his glass and Lou, barely able to sit upright
at this point joins him.

JORDEN (CONT'D)
To the suckers in this world that
love a good show and don't ask too
many questions!

They clink glasses and slam the drinks. Jorden stumbles to
the door, missing it on his first try, turns around bows and
shouts.

JORDEN (CONT'D)
 Goodnight Reno! You've been a
 lovely audience.

When he manages to get the door open this time, we see a limo
 parked outside. Lou can barely keep his eyes open.

LOU
 Can't believe I'm saying this...
 but Jordan might be on to
 something.

ABE
 Nothing good comes to people who
 don't put in the work.

LOU
 That's the thing. Jordan puts in no
 work and gets lots of money, I put
 in lots of work and get my teeth
 kicked in.

ABE
 I've seen people go down this path
 before, it never ends well. Jordan
 doesn't have half the talent or
 work ethic you do. Your dad and I
 never even got to perform on a big
 stage for the first twenty years of
 our career. It just takes time.
 Keep trying new tricks,
 something'll hit for you. The goal
 is to fool the audience, not
 yourself.

Lou tries to stand up and stumbles a bit.

LOU
 Internet's a pretty big audience.
 You think I...?- Y'know what...
 Goodnight Abe.

INT. KADABRA'S BASEMENT APARTMENT

Lou missteps and falls down the stairs, landing on his
 stomach, sprawled amongst scattered pieces of his father's
 tricks.

LOU
 Ouch.. my everything.

A few feet in front of his face is a small wooden crate labelled "Project Presto". Lou clumsily crawls over to the box, picking it up as he stands.

LOU (CONT'D)

What in the--

He cautiously places the crate on the counter and rummages around in a drawer, pulling out a screwdriver and prying the lid off the top. Inside, he finds a metal cube with lighting bolts on four sides. As he removes the cube out of the box, a tag inside the cube is pulled out, activating the mysterious device unbeknownst to Lou. He places the cube down on the table and investigates the tag, finding a note written by his father. Lou reads:

MICHAEL LUTTZ (V.O.)

Vinnie- It's finally ready. The big one! All our hard work was worth it! Our names up in bright lights that aren't even plugged in. Even in this desert, our families are gonna be made in the shade.

Behind Lou we see the lighting bolt on the cube start to fill with a glow as all the lights and devices around it start to hum to life. A formerly dormant cymbal clapping monkey calls Lou's attention.

LOU

What th--

He takes his cell phone out and starts filming. Picks up the box and as he moves away from the monkey, the claps slow to a stop. Lou brings the cube back over and the monkey claps to life again, slapping the cymbals together faster as the cube gets closer. He starts bringing it next to various electronics to show this device energizing anything it comes near. He stops filming.

LOU (CONT'D)

It might just be crazy enough to work...

He sits at a computer and starts typing as

CAMERA PULLS OUT OF HIS APARTMENT WINDOW

EXT. KADABRA'S BAR

The night fades as a new day's light begins to shine over the city.

INT. KADABRA'S BASEMENT APARTMENT

KNOCK KNOCK

An aggressively hungover Lou stumbles through the apartment, rubbing his eyes and taking out his phone. He freezes when he sees his screen - 834 missed calls.

LOU

Uh oh

The Back-U app shows a notification - "Goal reached and then some! Congratulations!" Lou opens the app to see his drunken video has inspired millions of dollars in donations.

HARDER KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

Lou climbs the front stairs to answer the door. As soon as Lou starts opening his front door, Frankie and Panteges burst in. Panteges is holding a rhinestone encrusted shovel. They all descend and despite the danger of the situation, Lou can't stop looking at his phone.

FRANKIE

Time's up, kid. Where's my money?

LOU

I think I have it.

PANTEGES

Manifesting ain't going to work
this time baby.

LOU

It kinda already did? You gotta see
this.

Lou holds up his phone for them to see all the money that's been sent to him overnight.

FRANKIE

I don't do Venmo. CASH is the only-

PANTEGES

Wait a second lemme see that

She takes the phone from Lou and gets excited as she scrolls and reads.

PANTEGES (CONT'D)

(under her breath)

Holy shit...

LOU
Right?!?

PANTEGES
If you had this much why the hell
wouldn't you pay him back?

FRANKIE
So you've been holding out on me,
huh?!? That's it!

LOU
As of last night I didn't.

PANTEGES
Frank stop. He's got enough to pay
you back with interest.

LOU
I can get you your money as soon as
I figure out how to cash out.

FRANKIE
I'm done with the excuses. Time's
up.

Frankie pulls a gold plated revolver from his pants, aiming
it right at Lou.

LOU
WHOA! WAIT WAIT STOP.

Lou ducks behind Pantages.

PANTAGES
I know you are not pointing that
peashooter at me.

FRANKIE
I'm not. You're standing in the way
of who I'm pointing it at!
Panteges, pull the car around we're
going for a desert drive.

Pantages points her rhinestone encrusted shovel at Frankie.

PANTEGES
Boy, what in the Driving Miss Daisy
did you just say to me?!

LOU
I think we need to all calm down
and--

Pantages aims her shovel at Lou now.

PANTEGES
DO NOT TELL ME TO CALM DOWN.

KNOCK KNOCK

Frankie and Panteges exchange nervous glances.

PANTEGES (CONT'D)
If this is a set-up, I'll kill you
once I'm out.

LOU
Whoa whoa I have no idea who that
is, just hold on a sec

FRANKIE
Tell whoever's there to scram.

Lou opens the front door to his apartment to find his
girlfriend Sarah in full-on "producer mode" with a NEWS
REPORTER & CAMERAMAN.

SARAH
Hey babe. Saw your Back-U post and
love it, showed my bosses and they
let me take this on for my first
segment as field producer! You
weren't answering your phone but I
knew you'd be home.

LOU
Sarah, now's not-

Sarah gives a little hand signal to her team to follow her
and they march straight down the stairs and into the room as
Frankie hides his gun in his waistband.

SARAH
Please Lou. I need this.

LOU
Oh..kay..

SARAH
Thank you! Guy's let's go!

Sarah radios her desk team through a headset.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Newsroom - we're ready whenever you
want to throw it to us.

The cameraman turns on his light and lines up his shot as the reporter quaffs herself.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Great. Team, we're on in 3... 2...

She points to the reporter.

VIVIAN

We're coming to you LIVE from the home of Lewellyn Luttz, the man that may have just saved the world from an energy crisis.

LOU

What?!

FIELD REPORTER

So Lewellyn--

LOU

--Lou, please.

VIVIAN

Lou, how did you create the wireless zero-point energy device that you posted to your online Back-U fundraising page? And what do you plan on doing with this breakthrough technology?

LOU

I... it's still really early.

VIVIAN

Haha we won't pry too much, you gotta protect those trade secrets. Is anybody reaching out yet to acquire the technology? Our studio took a poll: 60% of viewers have suggested that your work should be given to the Department of Energy. 30% say it should be donated for the whole world to use, and 10% think it should go to the private sector - maybe link up with Trideon Dynamics?

Lou pulls a nervous Frankie into the interview.

FRANKIE

Ay Lou, quit spillin' the beans out here, alright? We have work to tend to.

VIVIAN

And who are you sir? Did you say you're working with Mr. Luttz on this miraculous device?

Lou instantly knows how to turn the tides to hold on to a little power here and survive.

LOU

Yeah you could say that.

He puts his arm around Frankie.

LOU (CONT'D)

Frankie and I are partners, you see. Equal stakes in this here venture.

Sarah's obviously never seen this guy and starts to clock how trashed Lou's apartment is. She shrugs to Lou, mouthing and gesturing.

SARAH

(silently)

Who's this guy?

FRANKIE

Frankie de Luca, nice to meet ya. Hate to be that guy but we've got a lot of work to get to.

He starts pulling Lou away.

VIVIAN

We totally understand sirs. Thank you both for your time. We'll let you get back to changing the world.

She turns to the camera.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

This has been Vivian Veracruz live from Reno, Nevada where we've just completed the first exclusive interview with the team behind "Presto", the device that could be powering your home soon. Back to you in the studio.

CAMERAMAN

Aaand we're out.

SARAH

Thanks guys! Head back to the van,
I'll meet you out front.

The news crew exits.

SARAH (CONT'D)

That went great, Lou!! Thank you!
Hi Frankie, it's nice to meet you.
I'm Sarah, Lou's girlfriend. And
producer of this segment. So thank
you too.

FRANKIE

Girlfriend?? Eh Lou, you sly dog. I
didn't even know you could talk to
girls.

PANTEGES

And she's pretty too. Good work
man. Surprising. But good. Gotta
respect that.

She turns to Sarah.

PANTEGES (CONT'D)

Lou says such great things about
you, honey. Name's Panteges.

SARAH

So nice to meet you. Wish he said
something about you all. How do you
know Lou?

FRANKIE

Business associates. Didn't you see
the interview?

SARAH

Sure sure--

LOU

Sarah, now's not a good time. Can I
call you later?

SARAH

Oh. Yeah of course. Sorry to ambush
you like this.

LOU

No it's fine. Just... a lot to do
right now.

Sarah's smile reaches from ear to ear.

SARAH

I'm so proud of you. I knew you could do something great.

She leans in and gives him a kiss. HE walks her to front door.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Are we still on for dinner tonight?

LOU

Dinner? Oh yeah. Yes! I'll meet you there at 6:30?

SARAH

Perfect! See you tonight. Can't wait to hear about all this!!

Sarah leaves, Lou closes the door behind her and goes back downstairs.

FRANKIE

You made this page last night. That was on time borrowed from me, I'm taking half.

PANTEGES

And leaving me out? No way. I want in on this.

FRANKIE

Fine. 40% to each of us and 20% for Panteges.

PANTEGES

Deal.

LOU

What? No deal. Hold on a minute.

Panteges pulls out her bedazzled shovel.

PANTEGES

The offer's not getting any better, I suggest you take this one.

Lou looks around, weighing his options and looking for any way out - to no avail. He lets out a sigh and extends his hand to shake Frankie's.

LOU

Fine.

FRANKIE

Glad you came to your senses, kid.

LOU

If we're doing this, you've gotta stop calling me "kid". You know my name is Lou.

FRANKIE

Fine. But I'm never calling you "The Amazing Luttz". Panteges, take the money off his phone.

PANTEGES

I don't think it works that way. Let the kid play this out his way.

LOU

Thanks Panteges.

She starts ushering Frankie toward the stairs.

FRANKIE

Oh, so you can call him "kid" but I can't?

PANTEGES

It's *how* you say it, honey.

FRANKIE

Don't "honey" me!

PANTEGES

Alright, baby.

EXT. THE STRIP - EARLY EVENING

Lou walks past a line of bachelor parties and Japanese business men. As he approaches the front of the line we see BOUNCER HUGO (32) a mammoth of a man with a ZZ Top beard and BOUNCER ROLF (43) chiseled former cop guarding the front door. They are dealing with some unruly jackasses at the front of the line, including PHARMA BRO (23) too scrawny to be as arrogant as he is.

PHARMA BRO

If this velvet rope wasn't between us, I'd-

Bouncer Hugo has had enough and straightens his posture, puffing out his chest. We see the immediate regret on Pharma Bro's face.

BOUNCER HUGO
YOU WOULD WHAT.

PHARMA BRO
I'd wait patiently until you told
me when I could go inside...

When the bouncers see Lou, their intensity melts away.

BOUNCER ROLF
Ey Lou! What ups?

LOU
Oh you know, living the dream! And
as soon as I find whose dream it
is, I'm going to kill 'em.

BOUNCER HUGO
Yikes.

They open the door and usher Lou inside.

PHARMA BRO
Hey why does he get to cut?

BOUNCER HUGO
Did you save my little princess's
birthday last minute?

PHARMA BRO
Is she one of the dancers?

We see Bouncer Hugo turn to the Pharma Bro with burning fury
in his eyes.

INT. THE STRIP

The only strip club to ever be awarded a Michelin Star; The Strip is the best run nudie bar you have ever seen. The opulent interior screams of someone saying "money's no object". In the center of the main room are dueling stripper pole stages connected by a long illuminated catwalk. "Black Magic Woman" is blaring over the speakers.

As Lou enters and walks past the scantily clad strippers and servers, they all warmly greet him.

CANDY
Hiiiiii Lou.

LOU
Hi Candy.

Two strippers, CHERRY (20s) brunette with legs for days and BRANDY (20s) a redhead version of Cherry.

Hi Lou CHERRY Hi Lou BRANDY

 LOU
 Cherry. Brandy.

Lou walks up to the bar and waves over MISTY (26) a fishnet clad beauty tending bar to pay her way through medical school.

 MISTY
 Hey Magic Man.

 LOU
 Hey Misty. Or should I say Dr.
 Misty?

 MISTY
 (chuckling)
 Not yet.

 LOU
 My brother up in his office?

 MISTY
 I wasn't aware he even knew leaving
 that room was an option.

 LOU
 Thanks.

 MISTY
 Hey Lou, you still with that mid-
 western lady?

 LOU
 YEP Sarah's still my girlfriend.

 MISTY
 Can't blame a girl for trying.

Lou heads back behind the bar entrance and up a spiral staircase to a mirrored glass cube office. When he gets to the top he sees a red light with a sign that says "on a call DON'T KNOCK". Lou knocks on the door.

 SIMON (O.S.)
 I'm busy!

 LOU
 It's me.

SIMON (O.S)

It's open.

INT. THE STRIP - SIMON'S OFFICE

The mirrored exterior of the office hides a long glass two-way mirror-window. Children's art projects and family photos line one of the walls. Pacing in the center of the room while drinking Pepto-Bismol out of a scotch tumbler, we find SIMON LUTTZ (Early 40's) Lou's brother and owner of The Strip, a consummate family man and professional that didn't want to follow in his dad's footsteps.

LOU

Hey--

Simon holds up a one second finger.

SIMON

(to phone)

I'm not budging on this, Bisher, if the sheik wants to see the girls he can come here.

He visibly presses the mute button on his call.

SIMON (CONT'D)

If you're coming to me for advice, you must really feel like you hit rock bottom.

LOU

Not sure if it's the bottom but definitely between a rock and a hard place. If there's anybody I know that could sort this out, it'd be dad. But he's gone so you'll have to do.

SIMON

Going straight to the dad card. Cool.

He holds up his hand. Unmutes the phone.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Bisher I just am not sure... maybe.

Simon puts the phone back on mute.

LOU

You're not going to believe me if I tell you.

SIMON

Lou I really don't have time for
this-

Simon spots a kerfuffle in the window to the club and grabs
the walkie off the desk.

SIMON (CONT'D)

(into walkie)

Rolf, theres a claw game at table
three.

BOUNCER ROLF (O.S.)

Copy.

Simon picks up the phone, unmutes.

SIMON

Bisher how about this. You and the
Sheik can stop by and we will make
sure you have a great time. First
lap dance on us...uh huh...
wonderful... and with you.

Simon ends his call as Lou looks out into the club and sees
Bouncer Rolf walk up to a private booth, lift a man above his
head, and drop him like a sack of potatoes. Rolf drags the
unconscious man out of the club.

LOU

Jesus! What the hell is a claw
game?

SIMON

It's what we call the grabby ones.

LOU

Can you please just take a second.
I feel like I'm in way over my head
here.

SIMON

That's life, dude. Just tell me
what's going on.

Simon pounds the rest of his glass of Pepto as he takes a
seat behind a desk.

LOU

I accidentally got a few million
dollars and don't know what to do.

A long beat before Simon starts laughing.

SIMON

That's a good one! People don't casually stumble into a "few million dollars".

Lou slides his phone with the open Back-U page over to his brother.

LOU

Told ya you weren't going to believe me.

Simon starts scrolling and inspecting. The more he reads, the faster the smile falls from his face. He slides the phone back to Lou and gets on his own computer.

SIMON

(in denial)

Surely it's a fake image. This says it's called... Presto?

A quick Google search shows the story checks out. Simon leans back in disbelief watching the constant increase in his brother's Back-U fund.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I... I... ayayay!

LOU

Now you see why I came to you.

SIMON

What, is this some kind of scam?

LOU

No it's a trick that got away from me.

SIMON

I know you're in the magic business but I didn't realize you started splitting hares.

LOU

Good one.

SIMON

This is serious Lou. Haven't you learned anything? Dad tried to take a shortcut and look how that worked out for him. He's dead, Uncle Vinnie took off to who knows where, and Abe is stuck tending his failing bar.

LOU
Now look who's using the dad card.

SIMON
We both know you didn't invent a perpetual energy device. What the hell is this thing?

LOU
I don't know.

SIMON
What do you mean you "don't know"?

LOU
I got wasted last night and posted this. Didn't think anything would actually happen, let alone FOUR MILLION PEOPLE DONATING!

SIMON
You're smarter than this! Who came up w--

LOU
Jordan Katzberg.

SIMON
The guy who forgot to poke holes in a disappearing box and almost killed his assistant TWICE?

LOU
I mean hindsight's twenty-twenty.

SIMON
Well obviously, you have to take this down.

LOU
I can't do that.

SIMON
You have to.

LOU
Can't.

SIMON
This is not a modified ball and cups trick Lewellyn. It's literally fraud. You will go to jail.

LOU
If I get caught.

SIMON
Which is definitely going to happen.

LOU
You don't know that.

Simon looks back at the computer screen.

SIMON
Dude, four million people have donated. You're going to get caught. Cheryll is going to kill me -I have worked too hard to get dragged into-

LOU
Amazing that you can make this about you.

SIMON
Of course it's about me. I'm an accessory now. This could kill my bid for city council.

LOU
You own and operate a strip club...

SIMON
This is Reno, Lou. I run a business that easily cleared 16 million last year. You know how we did it?

LOU
One lap dance at a time?

SIMON
NO! By keeping spotless books and not messing around! The more money you make, the bigger the target on your back becomes.

Lou gets a text from Sarah: "I'm on my way to the restaurant. See you soon!" Seeing it causes Lou to head for the door.

LOU
Shit I gotta go!

SIMON
Where are you going? I'm not done yelling at you!

LOU
Dinner with Sarah.

SIMON
Does she know?

LOU
Not yet.

SIMON
Lou you need to fix this before she
does. She's the only real thing in
your life. I don't want to see you
in jail. Or worse!

LOU
Yeah yeah, I'll take care of it!

Both brothers couldn't roll their eyes harder if they tried.

LOU (CONT'D)
(under his breath)
Thanks for all the help.

Off Simon's disbelief as he watches the donation count rise:

INT. PEPPERMILL RENO RESTAURANT - FOYER

Lou, looking disheveled, rushes into a crowded romantic restaurant while pulling his shirt tight, failing to straighten out some wrinkles, and approaches the Hostess.

LOU
Hey I'm late for a 6:30 reservation
under "Sarah"

The hostess looks at her watch.

HOSTESS
Lucky she's still here, I'd have
left by now. Right this way...

She scoffs under her breath as she turns and walks toward the tables, Lou follows.

INT. PEPPERMILL RESTAURANT - DINING AREA

The Hostess stops next to Sarah's table, gestures to Lou's seat and looks at Sarah.

HOSTESS
Good luck.

Lou takes his seat.

LOU
I'm so sorry I'm late!

SARAH
It's ok if anything I should be the one who's sorry. I ambushed you with a camera crew this morning.

LOU
About that.

SARAH
I just got so excited for you and figured I could help.

LOU
Sarah I appreciate you and what you did. I just-

SARAH
(Bursting with curiosity)
Now that there are no cameras here and no one can hear us, then again I saw a van out front that could be surveillance.

Lou begins to freak out a bit, half-standing from his chair while clocking the exits.

LOU
Wait seriously?

SARAH
No. That was a joke. But I was wondering why you never talked about the Presto before. I found out thanks to a google alert I have for your name rather than straight from my boyfriend. I thought you were just a magician.

LOU
You never seemed to mind before. The first thing I told you when we met was that I'm a magician.

SARAH
NO SILLY! I meant that you're some secret inventor. Tell me all about it. I want to know everything! Off the record this time I swear.

LOU

Not much to say yet. I was fiddling around with some of my dad's old stuff and... one thing led to another and PRESTO.

SARAH

What is it?

LOU

It's... The truth is-

The words are clearly hard for Lou to get out.

SARAH

You know what stop. I treat everything in my life like it's a story. You'll show me when you're ready. I'm so proud of you, Lou. I always knew you'd do something great! I love you.

Lou looks more like he's been stabbed than given a compliment. She reaches across the table and kisses him.

LOU

I love you too-

SARAH

I have some pretty good news too!

LOU

Oh yeah?

SARAH

The story we ran is getting picked up by MNN! Tomorrow it's getting national coverage AND they want me to anchor the interviews!

LOU

That's terrible.

SARAH

Excuse me?

LOU

Terrib-ly exciting.

SARAH

Oh thank god! I thought you were saying the biggest thing to happen to my career was terrible.

LOU
I am- it's just-

A waitress approaches their table.

WAITRESS
Have you decided on your order?

LOU
We're going to need a minute.

SARAH
No we don't. One of each please!

Off Lou's surprise.

WAITRESS
You sure about that miss?

The waiter gestures to the prices on the menu.

SARAH
ABSOLUTELY! We're celebrating!
While you're at it, a bottle of
champagne please.

Speechless from how far this has gotten away from him, Lou just stares like a deer in the headlights. Sarah snaps her menu closed, takes Lou's, and hands them to the waitress who leaves.

LOU
What are you doing, we can't afford
that?

SARAH
What are you talking about! You
made millions.

LOU
Not exactly-

SARAH
It feels so good to just enjoy
ourselves and not worry about
money. I wish this feeling- no -
this night could last forever.

EXT. PEPPERMILL RESTAURANT

Time-lapse as we see the busy restaurant become less crowded as the night nears its end.

INT. RESTAURANT

Amongst the aftermath of a fantastic meal, Lou and Sarah are laughing and radiating with love for each other. Sarah's just paid the bill.

LOU

Thanks Sarah.

SARAH

I'd love to invite you over tonight but with the MNN coverage, I have to be at work at 4am. Maybe you could come over this weekend?

LOU

That sounds nice. Let's plan on Saturday?

SARAH

Sure thing. So you really think this... *device* is going to work?

LOU

You saw the video. How could it not?

SARAH

Good cuz remember that money my dad left me?

LOU

What? Sarah, no.

SARAH

Yep! Invested every last penny.

LOU

You can't do that.

SARAH

Can and did! He wanted to make a real difference with that money and he'd be so proud if he knew you-- no WE, are really going to change so many lives for the better!

LOU

There's no guarantee-

SARAH

Finally, his life work can actually leave a meaningful legacy.

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

I trust you babe! Plus, I still
have my own savings.

LOU

There are still too many unknown
factors..

Lou starts to panic, pulling at his collar for a little extra
breath. Sarah grabs his other hand and squeezes.

SARAH

You'll figure it out! But right
now, I need to go home. Let's get
out of here.

They stand and walk to the exit.

INT. KADABRA'S BAR

Lou and Abe are deep in conversation across the bar while
Jordan is holding court over the regulars, tossing out money
for people that kiss his ass.

LOU

I hate to say it but Jordan might
be on to something.

ABE

Don't mess around, Lou, the IRS got
Capone and even Blade! You're not
going to hide better than a
vampire.

LOU

Technically Blade is a day walker
and really makes no effort--

ABE

Not the point!

JORDEN

Ok ok, hold your horses, peasants.
I need to pull a disappearing act
on the porcelain stage.

Jorden walks to the bathroom, leaving the crowd behind him to
celebrate their easy winnings with each other.

The front door suddenly bursts open! Without missing a beat,
two patrons disappear in a puff of smoke. A swarm of federal
agents rush in, escorting AGENT MIKE BESSER, (55) a seasoned
FBI agent obsessed with eco-friendliness and genuinely wants
to make a better tomorrow.

AGENT BESSER
EVERYBODY FREEZE!

Everybody freezes. We see Lou's eyes go wide as panic starts setting in.

AGENT BESSER (CONT'D)
My name is Special Agent Besser of
the Federal Crowdfunding Fraud
Division.

Lou starts sweating bullets when he hears this.

AGENT BESSER (CONT'D)
We have a warrant and are looking
for an individual. If you haven't
done anything wrong, you have
nothing to worry about.

Abe approaches him.

ABE
This is my bar, can I see that
warrant?

Besser hands it over.

ABE (CONT'D)
Alright this is legit. Everybody be
cool. NO TRICKS UNTIL THE G-MEN
LEAVE.

Besser gives some cool tactical hand signals and shouts to his squad.

AGENT BESSER
Kappa Team, fan out!

The agents make their way around the bar, checking out all the patrons. Besser is looking right at Lou and starts zeroing in, walking directly toward him when he clocks Jordan emerging from the bathroom.

AGENT BESSER (CONT'D)
There he is!

Besser immediately sprints to Jordan, tackles him, puts him in cuffs, and reads him his rights. The rest of the agents become at ease and start filtering out of the bar.

JORDEN
You've got the wrong guy! I've
never stolen anything!

AGENT BESSER
 Nobody said anything about
 stealing. Let's go.

Besser stands Jorden up and starts walking him out of the bar. Jorden thrashes around and shouts the whole time. As Besser passes Lou, he stops and taps our anxious magician on his shoulder. Lou turns around, uneasily.

LOU
 Um yes sir?

AGENT BESSER
 You're Lewellyn Luttz, right?

LOU
 Yeah?

AGENT BESSER
 I'm a huge fan. Actually invested
 in your Presto machine last night,
 can't wait to see that thing.

LOU
 Oh uh thanks.

Besser takes Jorden out of the bar.

MYSTERY PATRON, nursing a drink at the bar next to Lou, turns to him.

MYSTERY PATRON
 You're Lewellyn Luttz?

Lou sighs.

LOU
 Unfortunately, yeah.

Mystery Patron hands him a sealed envelope and stands up.

MYSTERY PATRON
 Great. You've been served!

He leaves.

OFF LOU'S WORRIED FACE AS A DOVE POOPS ON HIM:

END PILOT (TA-DA!)