

BAZAAR BOULEVARD

Written By
Jesson Kinder

jessonkinder@mail.com

EXT. BAZAAR BOULEVARD - DAY (CIRCA 1998)

Jolly golly gumdrops, it's another beautiful day!

A butterfly flies over the HUMAN and PUPPET populated suburban neighborhood.

It circles MAYOR JENSON SPRINKLES -- warm smile, puppet version of Jim Henson -- who waves, before it flies away.

PEPPY, a puppet paperboy, throws the morning newspaper at the doorstep, rides away.

Little girls -- RICKI (helmet, responsible) and LALA (cool baseball cap, YOLO shirt) -- ride scooters down the block.

Ricki and Lala smile and wave at the RESIDENTS going about their day. No one's a stranger here.

The girls chase the butterfly down the clean streets past fresh cut lawns and Mom and Pop shops lined along the block.

Lala speeds into traffic.

A car swerves out of the way to avoid her, wrecks.

Ricki looks back, concerned. Lala giggles. *That was close!*

Jenson hugs the girls. They watch the butterfly fly away. He shakes his head, chuckles. They walk back home past multiple "Everything's Better with Sprinkles" election signs.

EXT. BAZAAR BOULEVARD - NIGHT (PRESENT DAY)

Gunky funky feces, it's another rotten rainy day!

The same neighborhood, but barely unrecognizable now.

Dead butterflies blow down filthy streets.

A HOMELESS PUPPET craps outside the door of a weed infested, long gone Mom and Pop shop.

VANDALS spray paint the side of the last standing shop. Haul ass when the GUN-TOTING OWNER catches them, opens fire.

The Homeless Puppet ducks into a tiny camp made of newspaper and for the first time we see him clearly -- It's Peppy.

EXT. JENSON'S HOUSE - NIGHT (PRESENT DAY)

Jenson, older now, peers out his window, sighs.

INT. JENSON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

He takes off his coat. Does a double take as he looks into the camera, addresses the VIEWERS Mister Rogers style.

JENSON

Welcome to the neighborhood. It's certainly seen better days.

He slumps onto the couch, takes off his expensive shoes.

JENSON (CONT'D)

A lot of people would give up on this place, but with your help I believe we could bring back some of that old magic and wonder.

Jenson frowns, takes off his gold watch. Empties his pockets.

JENSON (CONT'D)

Maybe not. Maybe I'm just holding onto something lost long ago. A curator as ancient as the past he so desperately clings to. A modern day Don Quixote always in search of a way back to those good old days.

Puppet hands grab the clothes/watch/wallet/keys.

JENSON (CONT'D)

Those were the days.

WIDER reveals a GANGSTA PUPPET robbing Jenson at gunpoint.

GANGSTA PUPPET

Thank you!

The Gangsta Puppet shoots Jenson in the gut.

JENSON

Damn it!

The Gangsta Puppet snickers like Ernie, runs out the door.

CUE an innocent, upbeat tune as Jenson grabs a framed photo of Lala and Ricki. He hits the floor, bleeds out.

INT. LOPEZ RESIDENCE - DAY

RICKI LOPEZ, 30s, problem solver, designated voice of reason, grabs a clean towel, passes by the same framed photo.

Ricki crosses to MARTINA LOPEZ, 16, cares more than she lets on, holding a wad of tissue to her bloody nose, head back.

RICKI
Tilt your head forward.

Martina does so. Ricki presses the towel to Martina's nose.

RICKI (CONT'D)
How's that?

MARTINA
Better. It's stopping.

RICKI
Good. See what happens when you don't use your words?

MARTINA
I did. In English and Spanish. Too bad Principal Geiger overheard me.

Ricki looks disappointed.

RICKI
You punched out a quarterback.

MARTINA
Mom, he made Josiah cry. He stole his wizard hat, called him a fairy.

Rick sighs.

MARTINA (CONT'D)
All that make believe stuff was cute when he was younger, but... it's gonna get him in trouble.

PETER LOPEZ, 30s, techie, Clark Kent, wants to be Superman, enters, rushes over to Martina.

PETER
Who did it? Ricki, call the Vatos!

RICKI
Peter.

MARTINA
Dad, I'm fine. I tripped after throwing down with a bully.

PETER
Oh. Right. Fighting's bad.

RICKI
 Grade A parenting.
 (to Martina)
 We're proud of you for sticking up
 for your brother. Just not how you
 did it. Understand?

MARTINA
 Yeah.

PETER
 We love you, Princess.

MARTINA
 You're alright too, I guess. And
 Dad, I'm sixteen. I'm a queen now.

Ricki and Peter bow. Martina exits. Ricki and Peter hug.

RICKI
 Call the Vatos?

Peter shrugs.

INT. JOSIAH'S ROOM - DAY

JOSIAH, 12, Ricki and Peter's adopted puppet son, red-haired, possibly on the spectrum and the precipice of adulthood, sweeps wizard action figures off a shelf into a box.

He rips down a Gandalf poster. A Harry Potter poster gets the same treatment. Next up is Mickey Mouse in *Fantasia*. Josiah hesitates. Ricki and Peter enter.

RICKI
 Redecorating?

JOSIAH
 Make believe is for nerds.

RICKI
 What about all those magic kits?

JOSIAH
 Nerds who get lucky. Why do you
 think Houdini learned how to escape
 from all those restraints?

RICKI
 I'll pretend I didn't hear that.

JOSIAH
 Sell it, dump it, burn it.
 Whatever. Who cares?

Ricki takes a wizard hat/fedora out of the box.

RICKI
You do. Get rid of it if that's
 what you want, but if you believe
 in something, you should pursue it
 no matter what anybody says.

PETER
 We love you, buddy.

Ricki and Peter hug Josiah.

INT. RICKI AND PETER'S ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Ricki, in the bed, holding the wizard hat. Peter shuts off a laptop, gets in bed beside her.

RICKI
 Go ahead. Say I told you so.

PETER
 Not after you took all the fun out
 of it. I know how much the old
 neighborhood meant to you, but that
 was your childhood, not Josiah's.

RICKI
 The splendor, the close-knit
 community? It was so magical. I
 just wish they've could seen it.

PETER
 I know.

Peter kisses her, lies back in bed.

RICKI
 (singing)
Welcome, friends to our neighborhood!

PETER
 Honey...

RICKI
 Sorry.

INT. M.E.G.A. CORP. / THE BOSS'S OFFICE - DAY

THE BOSS, 50s, inept, drinks from a water cooler sans cup.
Ricki sits across from him, averts her eyes.

THE BOSS
Budget cuts.

RICKI
I could make a supply run.

The Boss sits behind his desk.

THE BOSS
I like the way you think, Lopez.
I'm gonna miss your insight.

RICKI
Which is why now is the perfect
time for a -- What?

THE BOSS
We're going to have to let you go.
Budget cuts. So so so sorry.

RICKI
Do you know how much money I've
saved and made for MEGA Corp.?

THE BOSS
MEGA?

RICKI
Meggo Expert Global Agency...

Ricki points to the sign above the door that says as much.

THE BOSS
Oh. That. Always wondered what that
stood for. Makes sense.

Ricki offers a sympathetic chuckle. Until she realizes the
Boss isn't laughing... Oh... Oh crap. He's not kidding.

RICKI
You pick my name out of a hat?

THE BOSS
(laughs)
Oh no. Nothing like that. Now let's
talk about your sev... Severe?

RICKI
Severance package.

THE BOSS

Right.

The Boss slides a gold card to Ricki.

RICKI

A hundred dollar gift card?

THE BOSS

It's supposed to be ten...

Thee Boss switches it out with another card.

RICKI

It's expired!

THE BOSS

It's the thought that counts. Good luck. So so so sorry.

Ricki storms out. The Boss sighs, moves a calendar on the wall aside, revealing a dart board with employee names on it. He covers his eyes, throws a dart.

THE BOSS (CONT'D)

(into intercom)

Missi, send Davis in.

INT. RICKI'S OFFICE - DAY

Ricki clears her desk, packs her things in a box. She stares at a "Hang In There" poster on the wall featuring a terrified cat hanging from a tree branch. DAVIS, 40s, not dressed for success, sticks his head in the door.

DAVIS

Hey now. Just heard the news. What are they thinking?

RICKI

Nothing. The usual.

DAVIS

Don't know why I stick around sometimes. You'll bounce back.

Davis cracks open a beer, takes a gulp.

RICKI

Thanks. Good luck to you too.

DAVIS

Don't mean to brag, but things tend
to just work out for me.

Davis burps, crushes the can, tosses it over his shoulder. A
NERVOUS PA appears in the background, crosses to him.

PA

Davis, uh, the Boss wants to see
you. If that's okay...

Davis opens the door wider, revealing he's wearing multiple
guns holsters. He's a one-man army.

DAVIS

Yippie-ki-yay.

Ricki looks concerned.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY

Ricki jogs, listens to upbeat music. She waves and smiles at
VARIOUS PEOPLE. Only gets suspicious looks/scowls/and the
dirty bird in return. Ricki sighs, jogs towards the park.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Ricki watches kids and a few puppets play.

RICKI

(singing)

*Welcome, friends to the neighborhood!
Greeting the day with a smile makes you
feel so good!
And when the clouds --*

Ricki gets the evil eye from a CAT LADY, stops.

CAT LADY

Knock off that second rate Broadway
crap and get a job.

RICKI

You get a job!

CAT LADY

I have thirteen degrees, bitch.

The Cat Lady grabs the nearest cat closest to her, rears back
to throw it. Ricki runs away.

INT. RICKI'S CAR - DAY

Ricki sighs. Her phone rings and she answers.

RICKI
 (into phone)
 Lala? I was just thinking about...
 What? Slow down. Not that slow.
 When? Oh my gosh. I'll... I can be
 there tomorrow. You too. Bye.

Ricki lowers the phone, tears up. Cats land on the windshield. Ricki screams. Cat Lady presses her face against driver's side window, hisses. Ricki speeds away.

INT. RICKI'S CAR - NIGHT (MOVING)

Ricki at the wheel. Peter beside her. Martina plays a game on her phone. Josiah tries to free himself from trick handcuffs.

RICKI
 Lala was so shaken up. Then
 slaphappy, then bawling her eyes
 out, then singing Disney songs
 again. Which is pretty much on
 point for her.

PETER
 I can't believe we're finally going
 see where you grew up.

RICKI
 You're going to love it.

EXT. BAZAAR BOULEVARD - NIGHT

The Lopez family drives through the crime-ridden, near deserted neighborhood, shocked by what they see. Peppy runs beside the car, somehow keeping up.

PEPPY
 Suck you long time for a twenty!

RICKI
 We don't want any!

PETER
 Make it stop!

MARTINA
 Drive faster, Mom!

Josiah rocks back and forth.

JOSIAH
 Never leave your room... Never
 leave your room... Never leave your
 room... Never leave your room...

Ricki hits the gas, leaving Peppy behind.

PEPPY
 Best rate in the neighborhood! You
 catch Herpes I'll give you your
 money back! Ah, maybe tomorrow.

EXT. JENSON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The Lopez family pass a cute scooter and a black car.

MARTINA
 Are we in Clown World?

JOSIAH
 We don't talk about Clown World.

RICKI
 Look, Lala's a bit eccentric.

MARTINA
 Takes over Twitter for a hot minute
 eccentric or collects nail
 clippings eccentric?

RICKI
 Just brace yourselves.

INT. JENSON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The door opens a crack, revealing Ricki and the family.

QUINCY, 50s, wise, caustic wit, a puppet styled after the
 inimitable Robert "Benson" Guillaume, peers out.

QUINCY
 Didn't order a robbery. Next house
 down. Heavy sleepers.

RICKI
 Quincy, it's me!

QUINCY
 Little Ricki Lopez. Get in here.

Ricki goes for a hug, but Quincy pulls her inside the house instead. Motions for the others to follow. Once everyone's inside, Quincy quickly latches a series of locks.

QUINCY (CONT'D)
Good to see you.

RICKI
How have you --

QUINCY
Don't stand too close to the door!

Ricki jumps back.

QUINCY (CONT'D)
Claire died a couple years back. I would've gone with her but there's a lot of people whose graves I promised to tap dance over.

PETER
Peter.

MARTINA
Martina.

Quincy shakes their hands.

JOSIAH
J of the Third Hidden Moon, or
J'wo'lok'r or He Who Must --

RICKI
Josiah...

JOSIAH
Or just Josiah.

Quincy and Josiah fist bump.

QUINCY
Nice to meet you, Kid Number Two.

RICKI
Where's Lala?

QUINCY
In her old room or somewhere
committing a strange felony.

Someone butchers a song via kazoo. Everyone looks to the top of the stairs.

LALA SPRINKLES, 30s, restless energy mixed with bizarre whims, cool hat, wearing a "YOLO" shirt and high heels made of butter, slides out.

LALA
(singing)
Just take those old records off the sh--

Lala trips down the stairs. Quincy facepalms.

RICKI
Oh my gosh. Are you okay?

Lala pops back up, smiling through bloody and missing teeth.

LALA
I'm fine now that you're here.
Ricki! Oh my gawd! It's so good to
see you! Bring it in.

Lala opens her arms. Ricki reluctantly complies. Lala gives Ricki a bro hug, a complicated handshake and chest bump.

LALA (CONT'D)
The fam!

Josiah and Martina back towards Peter.

MARTINA
(to Peter)
Too late to make a run for it?

PETER
On my signal...

LALA
Don't be shy!
(to Peter)
You must be Josiah!

PETER
Close. Peter. Ricki's husband.

LALA
You married your mom? Quincy, is
that even legal?

QUINCY
Around here? Wouldn't doubt it.

RICKI
We're not related.

LALA
Oh... Cool. That would be weird.

MARTINA
You're wearing butter shoes.

Lala eats her butter shoes.

LALA
(chewing)
Not for long.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Lala pours a mug full of sugar into a coffee cup. She adds a spoonful of coffee, stirs. Ricki enters, opens the fridge.

LALA
Things haven't been the same
without you. How'd you sleep?

RICKI
With one eye open. What the hell
happened to the neighborhood? Is my
car going to be okay?

LALA
What's its current market value?
It'll be fine. Maybe... Things went
downhill after Dad left office.

RICKI
Why'd he leave?

LALA
He didn't say, but he never stopped
believing in this place.

RICKI
Sounds like him. Do you have
anything other than soda?

LALA
I have some of that clear stuff.

RICKI
Water?

LALA
Yeah, that.

Lala opens a cabinet, tosses a bottle of water to Ricki.

RICKI

Thanks. I should've stopped by sooner. Maybe Jenson would still...

LALA

Don't, okay? Dad wanted you to go to college. See life outside Bazaar Boulevard. I chose to stay behind. And for better or for worse...

RICKI

Yeah?

LALA

Lost my train of thought. Just gone. Zip! Anywho, you're here now. I love Quincy, but he's always using words I don't understand. Like "no", "don't", and "felony". What the heck even is that?

Ricki finds a bottle of pills.

RICKI

What are these?

LALA

Blech! Sour candy made by some weirdoes in white coats.

RICKI

Says it regulates your mood.

LALA

Ain't nobody got time for that.

Lala giggles, suddenly stops, tears up.

LALA (CONT'D)

Why am I crying?

A catchy pop tune plays on Lala's phone. She dances to it, happy once more. Checks the number.

LALA (CONT'D)

Oh sugar honey ice tea! I almost forgot, it's time for work!

RICKI

I thought Bernie's closed down?

Lala puts on shoes not made of butter.

LALA

It did after that health inspector found another rat with a pipe bomb stuffed inside it in the freezer. I work for Mayor Wienerschnitzel now.

RICKI

Isn't that the guy who --

EXT. PARK - DAY

A RUNNER stops to tie his shoe.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL, suave, puppet, tackles the Runner.

RUNNER

What the fudge?!

Mayor Wienerschnitzel mounts the Runner, shushes him.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL

Just let it happen.

(whispers)

Just let it happen.

BACK TO RICK AND LALA

LALA

That... was a misunderstanding. Woo! Big word. Light-headed. Come with me. Meet the Mayor!

RICKI

What about the funeral?

LALA

We already had it. You know how Dad was. Keep it simple, silly. So Quincy and I said a few words, then we smuggled his ashes onto a rocket and sent them to the moon.

Lala puts a hand over her heart, blows a kiss to the heavens.

RICKI

Alright. Let's meet the Mayor.

LALA

To the Lala Moped!

The screen spins around 1960s Batman style. They vomit.

RICKI
Let's not do that again.

INT. JENSON'S HOUSE / ATTIC - DAY

Josiah and Martina sort through items. Josiah's pile is neatly organized. Martina's? Not so much.

MARTINA
"Hard work never killed anybody, Martina. You'll be done in no time." I swear this is how Steamboat Willie died.

JOSIAH
Plus a pack a day.

MARTINA
This is taking forever. How long have we been here?

JOSIAH
Maybe we were always here.

MARTINA
Stop talking like that!

JOSIAH
If you find my answers frightening, you should cease asking scary questions.

Martina kicks over a pile, finds a VCR.

JOSIAH (CONT'D)
Retro game system. Cool!

MARTINA
Nah, just a VCR.

JOSIAH
Is this Hell?

Martina inspects the VCR, finds a tape inside.

MARTINA
Only if this turns out to be one of those cringe-worthy family vacations. Steady the camera, bruh.

JOSIAH
I'll get the popcorn.

MARTINA
Can't tell if serious.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Josiah sits on the back of the couch, munches a mouthful of popcorn. Martina presses PLAY.

On the TV: A MAN bound and gagged to a bed cries.

MARTINA
Holy crap. Is this a snuff film?

JOSIAH
So far I give it two thumbs down.

A MASKED WOMAN enters frame with a butcher knife. She winks at an UNSEEN CAMERA MAN, makes eerie noises.

JOSIAH (CONT'D)
Low budget horror at its worst.
How'd they fake this?

MARTINA
They didn't. I'm calling the cops.

Martina hits STOP, dials 911.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

A ringing phone, barely heard over ska music. This place is less a police station and more a freaking frat house. COPS drink and do drugs with HOOKERS and Peppy.

A STONED COP next to a ringing phone picks up an empty beer bottle, holds it to his ear. Then a banana. Finally the phone, but he holds it at the wrong end.

STONED COP
Party Central! I-I mean, BBPD.

MARTINA (V.O.)
I found this creepy VHS tape with --

STONED COP
Hold on! I'll get the Chief. Chief!

THE CHIEF, no shirt, barefoot, spins a meat grinder, slowly walks after something crawling on the ground only he can see.

THE CHIEF
Here, lizard, lizard!

INT. JENSON'S HOUSE - DAY

Martina, Josiah, shocked by what they hear.

PEPPY (V.O.)
Hey, guys? Fifty bucks says I can
fit that phone in my mouth!

STONED COP (V.O.)
You're on, Peppy!

There's a disgusting noise then Peppy screams.

JOSIAH
My therapist is gonna love this.

Martina ends the call.

MARTINA
What do we do now?

JOSIAH
We find the killer. Joe Siah,
Wizard Detective's on the case.

Josiah puts on his fedora/wizard hat.

MARTINA
Or we could just wait until Mom and
Dad get back...

JOSIAH
Already put on the hat. There's no
turning back now.

MARTINA
Okay, but the first sign of
trouble, we're noping out. Deal?

JOSIAH
Deal. Let's go!

Josiah runs out the door.

INT. MR. OGLE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Peter's admires a shelf of classic fiction and non-fiction books. MR. OGLE, kind librarian, your grandpa, sits at a blocky, white desktop computer.

MR. OGLE

I fought to keep the library open as long as possible, but you know politicians. All talk, no action.

PETER

Yeah, but I'm sure if we --

Loud grunting emanates from the computer's speakers.

MR. OGLE

Excuse me. Just a pop-up.

Mr. Ogle closes the pop-up.

MR. OGLE (CONT'D)

Go on.

PETER

My wife and her stepsister are working with the Mayor to --

WOMAN'S VOICE

Uh! Yeah! More bacon!

LEGALLY NOT PORKY PIG'S VOICE

G-G-Get ready t-t-to sq-sq-squeal!

Peter and Mr. Ogle share a very uncomfortable silence.

MR. OGLE

Another pop-up.

PETER

You might have a virus. Could I take a look at --

MR. OGLE

No! I mean, it's practically an antique so I have to be careful. Just a click here and --

Dolphin sounds, followed by a woman pissing and laughing, then a guy who sounds like Goofy screaming.

FBI AGENTS (O.S.)

FBI! Open the door, sicko!

MR. OGLE

Oh damn!

Mr. Ogle grabs a hammer, starts bashing the computer. FBI AGENTS burst in, take Mr. Ogle down. Peter hits the deck.

MR. OGLE (CONT'D)
 No! Destroy it, Peter! The hard
 drive has things on it no human
 eyes should ever see!

Peter stares in disbelief.

WOMAN'S VOICE
 I think he likes it!

Dolphin sounds. An FBI AGENT catches a glimpse, vomits.

INT. OSCAR'S - DAY

Packed McDonald's like restaurant. A CROWD's gathered around
 Mayor Wienerschnitzel. A "Have a Happy Ending" sign hangs
 above him. Ricki and Lala enter, wave to him.

LALA
 You're gonna love him. He's a real
 man of the people. The sportos, the
 motorheads, geeks, freaks, sluts,
 Bloods, shrimps, singers of crimps,
 wastoids, whackos -- they all adore
 him. Think he's a righteous dude.

Mayor Wienerschnitzel stands on a chair.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
 Shoosh please!

The Crowd quiets down.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL (CONT'D)
 A-thank you! As we storm ahead to
 the election, ignoring the attack
 ads by Lame-o Leonard...

The Crowd boos.

CROWD
 Leonard sucks! / I heard he beats
 his wife! / And he drives a dirty
 ass truck, which isn't as big a
 deal, but still!

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
 -- I just want you to know that
 I've had the time of my life and I
 owe it all to you. But I won't go
 down without a fight! So let's make
 Bazaar Boulevard great again!

The Crowd goes wild, throw roses at his feet. Mayor
Wienerschnitzel catches a rose in his teeth, bows.

CROWD

Wow! / Did you see that? / He
should play professional baseball!

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL

Breakfast is on me!

Panties fly towards him. He catches a pair in his teeth.

CROWD

Marry me! / But you're already
married... / I don't care! I want
Wienerschnitzel in my mouth!

Mayor Wienerschnitzel blows kisses to the Crowd. He dances
over to Lala, whispers something in her ear.

LALA

Where would I even buy that much
corn? Oh! Meet my stepsis, Ricki.

RICKI

I've heard a lot about you.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL

All good I hope! 'Sup, Blood?

RICKI

I'm... not gang affiliated.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL

Not yet anyway.

Mayor Wienerschnitzel nudges Ricki who laughs uncomfortably.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL (CONT'D)

So you grew up here? What's the
biggest change you've noticed?

RICKI

Crime, the missing Mom and Pop
shops, no library. And the Wi-Fi --

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL

Say no more. To the Pimp Mobile!

RICKI

Wait!

The screen spins around. Everyone vomits.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
Remind me to fix that.

INT. KIDD RESIDENCE - DAY

Tiny tidy apartment. Peter sits in a small chair, sips imaginary tea. DANA KIDD, a little girl who somehow has a baby bump, pinky extended, drinks her imaginary tea.

PETER
Nice place.

DANA
It was my parents'.

PETER
How old did you say you were?

DANA
I didn't and if it's all the same to you, Mr. Lopez, it's impolite to ask. More tea?

PETER
No thanks. I should be --

BENNY KIDD, a little boy with a fake mustache, ruffled suit and tie, chugging a soda like a beer, enters, eyeballs Peter.

BENNY
Who dis?

DANA
Benny, don't be rude.

PETER
I was just asking your sister about the Wi-Fi or lack thereof around here since the library closed.

BENNY
Sister? Nah. Dana's my old lady.

PETER
Your what?

DANA
Don't call me that, Benny! I'm three years younger than you! I could've married someone a lot younger, like Caillou!

BENNY

After his parents stole all his TV
money and he became a vegetable?
Sure. Don't yell. Doctor Seuss say
it ain't good for the baby.

DANA

As if you even want another kid!

Peter mouths "another", looks around for the supposed baby.

BENNY

This again. And you wonder why I
ain't went to rehab!

DANA

I have to yell! It's the only way
to get through to you!

PETER

I could come back if this is a --

Benny lights up a crack pipe, takes a hit.

BENNY

Guess who's smokin' crack again?!
(crying)
Happy, Dana?

DANA

(in tears)
When have I ever been happy?

Peter slowly backs towards the door.

INT. BARTLEBY'S - NIGHT

A raucous bar. Mayor Wienerschnitzel's riding a mechanical
bull as a lively Crowd cheers him on. Ricki's on the phone
with Peter, trying to hear over the noise.

RICKI

(into phone)
Mr. Ogle's going away for how long?
Whoa. The Kidds? They've been
butting heads as long as I can
remember. Honesty I'm surprised
they're still together. And
alive... No, I'm heading home soon.
Thanks anyway. Love you more. Bye.

Lala power walks over to Ricki.

LALA
Ricki! Ricki! Ricki!

RICKI
What? What? What?

LALA
Have you seen the latest polls?!
Mayor Wienerschnitzel's popularity
is soaring! Get down!

Lala dances. Ricki checks the polls on her phone.

RICKI
That's great!

Mayor Wienerschnitzel stumbles over, cowboy hat on.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
All thanks to your talking points.

RICKI
No, I just... Well, maybe.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
Come work for me. Be my right hand.

LALA
I thought I was your right hand?

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
I'm ambidextrous.

LALA
(gasps)
Do your parents know?

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
Uh... Look, there's room on the
Wienerschnitzel caboose for one
more. Choo! Choo! All aboard!

RICKI
Choo! Choo!

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
Drinks on me, everybody!

The Crow goes wild. Mayor Wienerschnitzel's covered in bras,
underwear, and a pair of men's boxers.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL (CONT'D)
Don't leave me hanging, Layla!

LALA
I'm... not wearing any. Ricki?

RICKI
What? I'm not going to give a stranger my panties, Lala.

LALA
But yolo?

RICKI
No no.

LALA
You used to be fun.

RICKI
I'm still fun.

Ricki does an unconvincing dance.

INT. BABIRUSA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sparkling clean. Martina paces by a closet full of different colored vacuum cleaners and feather dusters.

BABIRUSA, a frightened pig puppet wearing cleaning gloves and an apron, nervously watches Martina. She cracks her knuckles. Josiah sits across from Babirusa.

BABIRUSA
I don't know anything!

JOSIAH
That's unfortunate. I'm gonna stink up your bathroom. Maybe something will jog your memory in the meantime. Mad Dog, do your thing.

Josiah exits. Martina growls at Babirusa.

BABIRUSA
(calling after Josiah)
But I just cleaned... Flush twice and use the air fresheners!

Martina slams a fist on the table.

MARTINA
We know what you did!

BABIRUSA
I don't know what you're talking --

Martina kicks out Babirusa's chair like one of the detectives from *NYPD Blue*. He hits the floor, hyperventilates.

MARTINA

You butchered those people and didn't even bother to edit the damn video! The sound quality was terrible! Terrible!

BABIRUSA

Okay! I used to clean up crime scenes! I know where the video was shot, but that's it! I didn't kill anybody! Do you know how hard blood is to get out of a carpet?!

Josiah claps.

JOSIAH

You're scary good at this.

MARTINA

Thank you.

(to Babirusa)

Now give us a name, Babirusa, or I'll deep-fry your freakin' ass!

(to Josiah)

Too much?

JOSIAH

We'll know when you're standing before a jury of your peers.

Babirusa writes a name on a sticky note, hands it over.

JOSIAH (CONT'D)

Let's roll.

Josiah runs out the door. Martina sets the chair upright, barks at Babirusa, who cowers, then exits.

INT. PRISCILLA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Peter's checking a laptop computer.

PETER

You're all set. Anything else?

REVEAL PRISCILLA, the psycho killer chick from the VHS tape, grinning from ear to ear with a knife hidden behind her back.

PRISCILLA

Just one more thing.

Peter spots Josiah's hat next to several other "trophies" on a shelf. Chuckles nervously as Priscilla stalks forward.

PETER

My son has a hat just like...

Peter peers into the kitchen, spots Josiah and Martina duct taped to chairs, terrified. Holy crap...

MARTINA

Dad, behind you!

Priscilla puts the knife to Peter's throat.

JOSIAH

(to Martina)

Too late to nope out?

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Ricki watches rising poll numbers. Lala peers out the window.

RICKI

A little early for Santa.

LALA

It's not Christmas time, silly.
Everyone knows Santa only breaks
into homes through the chimney.
Then the festive assault begins.

Tight on Lala. Remembering something dark and traumatic?

LALA (CONT'D)

Because Santa needs someone to help
empty his sack and like it or not,
you're at the top of his naughty
list. Ho... Ho... Ho...

She suddenly smiles, brightening up again.

LALA (CONT'D)

Anywho, the Mayor wants me to keep
an eye out for The Man. And Crips.

RICKI

Do you think he's up for the job?
He hasn't done anything but drink,
party, and gone to dinners.

LALA

Just look at what he's done in the
last couple of years.

RICKI

Like what? I checked the budget.
He's hemorrhaging cash. Which
doesn't make sense given all those
charitable donations. He hasn't
even said a word about the Wi-Fi.

LALA

He said he would. He's a
politician, Ricki. They always keep
their word. Like Dad.

RICKI

Jenson was different and times have
changed a lot since then.

LALA

I know it looks bad, but... Maybe
he's giving money to the poor like
a Robin Hood...

RICKI

I know how much getting Bazaar
Boulevard back on track means to
you, but I think he's corrupt.

LALA

He's not carrot! Don't youse bee
Smurf his goat nam! I'm drunk.

INSIDE A DARK ROOM

Mayor Wienerschnitzel counts prescription pills.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL

(singing)

*One, two, three, four, five, six, seven,
eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve!*

He downs the pills. Ricki hits the lights.

LALA

What are you doing?

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL

Taking my medication. Whoa!

He eyes the floor, the wall, then the ceiling.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL (CONT'D)

You see those leprechauns?

LALA
You see them on meds?

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
We should compare notes.

Ricki unrolls blueprints on the desk.

RICKI
This election is a sham.

LALA
(louder than loud)
RICKI, USE YOUR INSIDE VOICE!

Ricki shows Lala the blueprints. They're for a redesign of the neighborhood called Wienerschnitzel World complete with suggestive mascots and rides.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
Uh-oh! Looks like somebody saw something they shouldn't have.

LALA
That's where all the money is going, isn't it? What about making Bazaar Boulevard great again?

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
This place is a dumpster fire, but once the most popular candidate for mayor ever opens Wienerschnitzel World -- trademark, first of many -- I'll put this place on the map. Think of all the jobs it'll bring. Think of the money. The money...
(orgasmic)
THE MONEY!

He vibrates. Silly string sprays into his face.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL (CONT'D)
Ladonna, could I get a wipe?

LALA
I quit! And my name is Mister Tibbs! Wait, no it's not. Why would I say that? It's Lala! And I'm gonna need those pictures of my feet back plus the negatives.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
Fine. Just sign these NDAs.

RICKI
Not a chance.

LALA
Is crayon okay? I mean, never!

Mayor Wienerschnitzel pulls a gun on Ricki and Lala.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
Dump your phones.

Ricki tosses her phone in a trash bin.

LALA
(to her phone)
It's not you, it's me.

LALA'S PHONE
Took you long enough to figure that out. Just so you know, I faked it every time. Especially in Michigan.

Lala gasps, drops the phone in the trash bin.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
Let's go for a ride.

LALA
Shotgun!

RICKI
Damn it, Lala.

LALA
I'm not well.

INT. PRISCILLA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ricki's tied up on a couch along with Peter, Martina, Josiah, and Lala. Priscilla hugs Mayor Wienerschnitzel.

PRISCILLA
How'd I do, Daddy?

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
Grade A, munchkin.

PRISCILLA
Can we eat their faces now? Please!

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
I don't see why not.

JOSIAH
So you filmed the murder?!

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
That's right, Columbo.

JOSIAH
Who?

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
Kids.

RICKI
Wait, so you're a corrupt
politician and a serial killer?

Mayor Wienerschnitzel smiles and nods.

LALA
This is like an R rated version of
Scooby-Doo. But less fun.

PETER
Leave my family alone. Take me.

PRISCILLA
That's sweet, but my Dad and I have
a motto: Leave no witnesses.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
Not a one. Good girl.

LALA
I'm sorry I got you involved in
this, Ricki. But at least we can
die together. As family.

RICKI
Not helping.

JOSIAH
If only my mad wizard skills were
as cool as my powers of deduction.

RICKI
There's one trick you know.

Ricki winks. Josiah nods, winks back. Lala winks like mad.

MARTINA
(to Peter)
Is she having a stroke?

Mayor Wienerschnitzel and Priscilla touch knives -- a toast to murder. They make weird noises as they slowly inch towards the Lopez family and Lala.

LALA

(crying and singing)

*Welcome, friends to the neighborhood!
Greeting the day with a smile makes you
feel so good!
And when the clouds try to rain on your
parade
Love will chase them away!*

PRISCILLA

Ew. What is that, the theme song of a failed sitcom?

LALA

Just... a song my Dad used to sing.

PRISCILLA

Well, stop it so my dad and I can kill you. It's annoying.

RICKI

Wait! You can't execute us until we sing our swan song! It's an official rule. The oldest.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL

She's right, Priscilla.

PRISCILLA

Screw that. Let's get our kill on.

Priscilla makes weird noises again.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL

Now, now. There's no harm in upholding this little tradition.

Priscilla sighs, twirls her knife.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL (CONT'D)

Make it quick.

The Lopez family and Lala sing while Josiah works at his restraints. Josiah frees himself from his ropes.

JOSIAH

Ta-da, suckers!

Josiah races out the door. Wienerschnitzel and Priscilla chase him. Quincy and mostly SOBER COPS burst in, guns drawn.

QUINCY
Drop the knives!

Wienerschnitzel and Priscilla toss their knives down.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
Quincy, thank Caligula you're here.
This deranged killer who is in no
way affiliated with me or my
campaign was about to murder these
innocent, patriotic --

QUINCY
Save it, Wienerschnitzel. We heard
everything. Even that thing you did
in the car on the way here.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
(sniffing his hands)
Yolo.

LALA
This guy gets it.

Ricki glares at her.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
But how?

QUINCY
Lala accidentally left your mic on.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
Damn you, Lala Sprinkles!

Lala giggles.

QUINCY
Wienerschnitzel, you're going away
for a long time.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
Not if I'm found unfit to stand
trial! Babba Boeey! Babba Boeey!
Mallard Stern's fluffy penis!

RICKI
Smile for the camera.

MAYOR WIENERSCHNITZEL
Vote Wienerschnitzel! Damn!

Cops cuff Mayor Wienerschnitzel and Priscilla.

INT. JENSON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The Lopez family, Lala, and Quincy talk.

PETER
Proud of you, son.

RICKI
Despite getting kidnapped.

Josiah takes off his wizard hat.

JOSIAH
Thanks, but I'm hanging up my hat.
At least for now. Still gonna be a
low-key wizard though. I swore on
the skull of Dumbledore.

LALA
Skull oaths are serious.

MARTINA
Sorry things got so out of hand,
Josiah, but I have to admit, it was
fun being Mad Dog. Think you could
show me some magic tricks sometime?

JOSIAH
Sure.

MARTINA
Like how to get out of cuffs. Just
in case I'm ever kidnapped... Or in
the back of a police car.

Josiah and Martina exit. Ricki and Peter hug.

PETER
Next time I'm vetting every client
before I meet them. I'll start
packing. Quincy, Lala.

He waves to them, exits.

LALA
You're leaving? You just got here.

RICKI
I know, but I have this whole other
life waiting for me in Manhattan.

LALA

Oh... Well, I got you something.

Lala waves matching jeweled cell phones.

RICKI

You... Shouldn't have...

LALA

I should've saw through
Wienerschnitzel's act, but I was
blinded by rose colored glasses.

QUINCY

Look, Wienerschnitzel fooled a lot
of people. The important thing is
you girls didn't sell out. I'm
proud of you. Jenson would be too.

Ricki and Lala hug a reluctant Quincy.

RICKI

Lame-o Leonard wins by a landslide.

QUINCY

No he won't. He dropped out of the
race after a video of him fondling
Flipper's stunt double surfaced.

LALA

That poor goldfish.

Quincy and Ricki shoot Lala a look. *Really?*

RICKI

Wait a sec... Quincy... Maybe you
should run for mayor.

QUINCY

You're crazier than a crack fox.

A CRACK FOX appears outside the window, scratching its neck.

CRACK FOX

You don't know my struggle.

Quincy closes the blinds.

QUINCY

Not me. Politics is a young man's
game. Or a woman's...

Quincy offers Ricki a rare smile.

RICKI
No. Me?

QUINCY
Better than the alternative.

Ricki's phone rings. She answers.

RICKI
(into phone)
Hello?

LALA (V.O.)
You'll never guess who this is!

Ricki looks to Lala right beside her.

RICKI
Lala?

Lala squeals and waves. Quincy rolls his eyes.

QUINCY
Just think it over. Goodnight.

Quincy exits. Lala and Ricki set their phones on the table.

RICKI
I should help pack. Thanks for the
phone. See you tomorrow.

They hug.

LALA
Yeah.

Ricki heads upstairs. Lala sighs, grabs a phone, heads for
the exit. The phone rings. Lala answers.

LALA (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Hello?

DEE CARSON (V.O.)
Ricki Lopez?

LALA
(into phone)
I'm her... I'm her! Who dis?

DEE CARSON (V.O.)
Dee Carson. CEO of Essential
Industries.

(MORE)

DEE CARSON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I heard you were back on the market
as it were and I'd like to offer
you a deal. A very lucrative one.
Twice the pay, half the headache of
your old job.

A tiny Lala, tinfoil devil horns, appears on Lala's left
shoulder. Another tiny Lala, tinfoil halo and angel wings,
appears on her right shoulder holding a candle.

DEVIL LALA

Threaten to burn the place to
ashes, then hang up!

ANGEL LALA

(staring into the flame)
Fire is the cleanser.

Lala looks freaked out by both of them, shoos them away.

LALA

(into phone)
That sounds great, but... I already
have a job with my delightful
stepsister. Byeeeee!

Lala ends the call, hangs her head. She picks up the right
phone this time. Ricki comes back down the stairs.

RICKI

Did my phone ring?

LALA

No! Yes. I mean telemarketers. From
Mars. The connection was hella bad.

RICKI

I was expecting to hear from a new
job by now, but looks like they
went with someone else.

LALA

Their loss.

RICKI

Maybe this is the universe's way of
telling me to stay. What do you
say, Lala? Let's make Bazaar
Boulevard great again!

EXT. BAZAAR BOULEVARD - DAY

A butterfly circles Peter, Martina, Josiah, and Quincy as they clean the streets/apply fresh coats of paint to newly rebuilt Mom and Pop shops.

The butterfly flies away, lands on a bike helmet. Ricki, wearing the helmet, puts up a "Love, Law, Legacy. Lopez." election sign. Lala revs her moped. Ricki climbs on the back.

LALA

Ready?

RICKI

Yolo!

Ricki and Lala speed down the street, imagining Jenson waving, cheering them on. As the butterfly hovers over them --

FADE OUT.

END OF PILOT