

CHARACTERS

Gary Goldfarb
Penelope Spry
Gilda Goldfarb
Coach Rimsore/Miss Salmonelli/Mort Goldfarb
Cheryl Samatasinghar-Stein
Tyler Toolman/Harry Houdini

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Gary Goldfarb: Master Escapist - Ensemble Fat Kids/There's No Future In Fat- Rimsore, Gilda, Tyler, Gary, Ensemble Harry Houdini - Gary Gary Loves My Tater Tots- Miss Salmonelli Will You Be My Assistant? - Gary, Cheryl, Penelope With A Little Bit Of Magic- Gary Losers - Cheryl and Tyler Lullaby- Gilda Rules Of The Talent Show- Company In Twenty Years From Now- Gary, Penelope, Cheryl, Salmonelli Piece Of Me- Penelope Daddy Delved In Magic/Jewish Mothers- Gilda What's Your Schtick? - Mort Goldfarb, Gary Talent Show Sequence- Cheryl, Tyler, Gary, Ensemble Walk All Over- Penelope, Gary Finale- Harry Houdini, Gary, Penelope, Gilda, All

GARY GOLDFARB: MASTER ESCAPIST

VOICE

Ladies and Gentlemen! No it is not your imaginations. Direct from far away Ronkonkoma, Long Island, a diversion for all of your senses. Open your minds and open your hearts, for the one and only:

ALL

GARY GOLDFARB, MASTER ESCAPIST AND FAKER OF MIRACLES, MAKER OF DREAMS

GRAND ILLUSIONS, SPELL BINDING CONJURING MIND BENDING OBSTACLES, WINDING WITH SCHEMES

WATCH HIM WALK RIGHT THROUGH A WALL RIP FREE FROM INCARCERATION SEE HOW HE CAN FILL EACH HALL WITH CROWDS EXUDING ANTICIPATION

(GARY appears and performs a magic act with relish.)

OOO, AHHH

HOW DOES HE DO IT?

OH MY!

HE MAKES IT SEEM LIKE NOTHING'S TO IT!

GARY GOLDFARB, MASTER ESCAPIST AND WIZARD OF WONDERMENT

ALL

SHAMAN OF SHAM!

GILDA

Gary! Gary Goldfarb!

ALL

GARY GOLDFARB, MASTER ESCAPIST

GILDA

Wake up! You'll be late for school.

ALL

ASTOUNDER OF SORCERY

GILDA

And I'm not writing a note again.

AT₁T₁

FOUNDER OF FLAM

GILDA

Gary!

It was just a dream. GARY sits up in bed. His mother, GILDA is there to wake him up.

GARY

What day is today?

GILDA

Monday. Now get that tuchis out of bed.

GARY

Monday? Oh, it's the big week, ma!

GILDA

Big week? What are you talking about? The last time I checked there weren't any major Jewish holidays.

GARY

No ma. It's the week of the Annual Talent Contest.

GILDA

Oh right. How could I forget?
Talent contest this! Talent contest that!

GARY

It's the sign up day. Finally I get to do my act!

GILDA

And what exactly is this act? You haven't picked up your clarinet in I don't know how many years.

GARY

Um...it's...it's...bird calls.

GILDA

Bird calls?

GARY

You should hear my Black Capped Chickadee.

GILDA

Okay enough with the chickens. Get motivated.

GARY

This is a big deal for me ma. Finally I'll get to perform my act for other entities besides Sugar Fluff Toes, Mr. Fudge Knuckles, and Lorenzo the Purple Walrus.

GILDA

The bus isn't gonna wait for you, Gary. And I'm not driving you to school again. Hurry up!

GARY

I'm trying.

GILDA

What are we going to do with you Gary Abraham Goldfarb? You're breathing so heavily.

GARY

I can't help it.

GILDA

Of course you can help it. Remember what Coach Rimsore said.

RIMSORE, a smarmy gym teacher, in an outfit that's slightly too tight, inserts himself into the scene.

SONG: FAT KIDS/THERE'S NO FUTURE IN FAT

COACH RIMSORE

FAT KIDS
GET DIABETES
FAT KIDS
WEAR SHIRTS TO SWIM
FAT KIDS
SHOULD EAT MORE WHEATIES
YOU WANT PROOF?
JUST LOOK AT HIM!

GARY

IS MORE THAN CHUBBY

GARY

IS A USELESS BLOB

GARY

IS A SCHLEP AND HE'S SCHLUBBY

DO YOU THINK,

HE'D GET A JOB?

COACH RIMSORE (CONT'D)

It's all about first impressions, Mrs. Goldfarb. You need to put him on a diet. Heed my words. Fat has no future. Excuse me, but there's a sixteen year old girl who needs help holding her... racquet.

RIMSORE exits.

GILDA

Rimsore is absolutely right.
THERE'S NO FUTURE IN FAT, GARY
THERE'S NO FUTURE IN FAT
SKINNY IS WHERE IT'S "AT", GARY
MOTHER KNOWS BEST
NOW BETTER GET DRESSED

GARY

(grabbing his hooded sweater) Did this shrink in the dryer?

GILDA

THERE'S NO PRETTY IN PLUMP, GARY THERE'S NO PRETTY IN PLUMP COME ON, MOVE YOUR ROUND RUMP, GARY MAKE NO MISTAKE AND NEVER EAT CAKE

DO YOU WANNA BE LIKE CARNIE WILSON?
WELL DO YA?
SITTING ON THE COUCH, WRAPPED IN A
MU-MU
WHILE THE OTHER TWO GET ALL THE
BEST CLOSE-UPS
DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE HOT, SEXY
LADIES,
PURSUE YA?
YOU GOTTA LOSE WEIGHT,
TO GET THAT DATE!
KICK THOSE TWINKIES OFFER YA PLATE!

GILDA hands GARY his lunch in a paper bag.

GARY

You're not exactly Kate Moss, Ma.

GILDA

I'm zaftig Gary. Zaftig. Do you know what zaftig means?

No.

GILDA

I'm like a peach. Juicy. And squeezable. There's a difference. And besides, all men love a sizeable behind. Now stop futzing around and take your lunch.

GARY

Lunchables?

GILDA

You're seventeen years old Gary. Yogurt and rice cakes. Now go.

The bus arrives- obviously cartoony and makeshift.

BUS DRIVER

Shouldn't you be walking?

BUS DRIVER/KIDS

Watch out! Wide load.

FAT KIDS

MAKE THE BUS GO SLOWER

FAT KIDS

MAKE THE BUS TILT BACK

FAT KIDS

MAKE THE BUS SINK LOWER

AND OF COURSE

THEY SCARF A SNACK!

GILDA

(sings simultaneously):)
THERE NO LOVELY IN LARGE, GARY
THERE'S NO LOVELY IN LARGE
YOU SHOULDN'T LOOK LIKE A BARGE,
GARY
YOUR HEART ATTACK,
WILL STEM FROM A SNACK

GARY

It's only a rice cake.

The sound of a school bell rings. GARY arrives at school. TYLER TOOLMAN, the hip school bully notices him.

TYLER

Look who just rolled in. You got my weeks worth of lunch money Goldfat?

Tyler! ..I...I...

TYLER

Yeah. That's my name.

GARY

I'm...I'm five dollars short. But maybe if I win the Talent Contest on Friday, I can give you the rest with the prize money...

TYLER

You're not winning any talent contest Goldfat. What are you planning to do? The truffle shuffle? Whale impersonations?

GARY

I was hoping of doing some magic...

TYLER

Did I hear you right? Did you say
"magic"?

GARY

Um...yes I did.

TYLER

Magic is my thing. There's only room for one magician in this school and that magician is me. What do you have to say in response to that, Goldfat?

GARY

(stammering)

Um, well, I, the thing is...

TYLER

Are you just gonna stand there like a jar of mayonnaise or are you gonna answer my question?

GARY

Uh...I...

TYLER

Whatever. If anyone has to choose between awesome, cool, and sexy magic or fat, lazy, and lame magic-I'm pretty sure I know who's gonna win. It's pointless Goldfat.

TYLER (CONT'D)

You might as well make yourself disappear.

GOLDFAT

THE BOY WITH THE SEVENTEEN CHINS

GOLDFAT

NO ONE CAN TELL WHERE HIS BODY

BEGINS

HE WOBBLES,

HE GOBBLES

BUTTER FROM A VAT

HIPPOPOTAMAI

GOT NOTHIN' ON THIS GUY

CALLED GOLDFAT!

YEAH GOLDFAT!

Woah, check it out. Cheryl is looking slammin' today.

CHERYL, the hottest Indian/Jewish girl in school enters. Everything freezes.

GARY

CHERYL SAMATASINGHAR-STEIN
ONE DAY SHE'LL SEE CLEARLY AND
FIN'LLY BE MINE
SHE SMELLS LIKE LILAC
AND LOOK AT THAT REAR
I BET SHE COULD COOK ME SOME GREAT
SAAG PANEER

SAAG PANEER
IF ONLY WE'D DATE AND SHE'D GET

IF ONLY WE'D DATE AND SHE'D GE MORE CLOSAH

THEN SHE COULD BE MY SPICY, KOSHER SAMOSA

The daydream is over.

TYLER

Hey Goldfat. I'm talking to you. Oh shit. You're totally drooling over Cheryl. That's hilarious. Hey Cheryl. Come over here Hin-jew.

CHERYL

You're such a Neanderthal. What do you want Tyler Toolman?

TYLER

You know what I want, my Bombay Bubie.

CHERYL

In your dreams. And it's Mumbai you moron.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

Being the hottest Indian/Jewish girl in school can be totes tedious sometimes.

TYLER

Goldfat here has something he'd like to tell you. Isn't that right, Goldfat?

GARY

Well-now that you mention it- I do have one question...

CHERYL

Yeah?

GARY

Um-it's...well on Friday-

CHERYL

Look boys, I like gotta get to like Advanced Placement Pre-Calculus with honors. So ask.

TYLER

I think what Goldfat here is trying to say is that he wants a hot date or maybe just a snuggle.

TYLER pushes GARY and CHERYL together so that they rub against each other.

CHERYL

Um ew!!!!!

TYLER

That's just nasty.

CHERYL

No offense Gary but I'm like a Ten. And you're a One.

TYLER

More like a ton.

RIMSORE charges in.

RIMSORE

What are you kids doing out here? (Grabbing the lunch bag) Thanks for lunch Mr. Toolman. Rice cakes? This must be yours (Hands it back to Gary).

RIMSORE (CONT'D)

I'll see you on the field after school, Toolman. Now Scram! Oh and hello there Miss Stein.

CHERYL

Samatasinghar-Stein.

RIMSORE

You better hurry off to class, young lady. Or you might end up in detention...with me.

CHERYL

Yes Mr. Rimsore.

She exits as RIMSORE ogles after her.

RIMSORE

Oh...Gary...what are you still doing out here? I know it takes you an extra few minutes to get anywhere but didn't your mother teach you that it's rude to eavesdrop? Wait a minute! Who sent you? Was it that busy body vice Principal Mrs. Heilegewasser?

They freeze. A lone spotlight on GILDA GOLDFARB as she reflects:

GILDA

HAND MODEL!
HE COULD HAVE BEEN A HAND MODEL!
HE USED TO HAVE SUCH SOFT AND
SLENDER FINGERS!
BUT NOW THEY'RE ALL SO GRUBBY.
LIKE SAUSAGES BUT STUBBY,
AND NOW HE LEAVES AN ODOR THAT JUST
LINGERS

The ensemble enters, and closes in on GARY.

ALL

THERE'S NO FUTURE IN FAT, GARY
THERE'S NO FUTURE IN THAT
YOU MIGHT THINK THAT YOU LOOK
SUPPLE
WE THINK YOU SHOULD LOSE A COUPLE
TAKE A TIP FROM RICHARD SIMMONS
SKIP THE FRIED FOOD AND THE
TRIMMIN'S

GILDA

PLEASE LISTEN TO YOUR MAMMY

ALL

AND SLIM OFF ALL YOUR HAMMY AND ALL THAT FAT!!!!

They laugh maniacally and twirl off, leaving GARY all alone.

SONG: HARRY HOUDINI

GARY

IN APPLETON, WISCONSIN
AN IMMIGRANT,
A LITTLE JEW
SAID NO TO MEDIOCRITY
HE SAID NO
HE MOVED ON FROM WISCONSIN
THE IMMIGRANT
AND RIGHT ON CUE
HE'D RISE FROM MEDIOCRITY
AND WOULD GROW
WITH THE AID OF SKILL AND BURN FROM
HIS AMBITION
INTO THE WORLD'S MOST PROMINENT AND
PRIZED MAGICIAN

And one day. Maybe. I could be like him.

GARY (CONT'D)

I'LL BE
LIKE HARRY HOUDINI
ADORED BY ALL
ABHORRED BY FEW
I'LL FREE
THE HARRY HOUDINI
AND SHOW THEM ALL WHAT I CAN DO

AND HOPEFULLY, MY MOTHER
WILL LOOK AT ME
WITH OPEN EYES
AND BOAST TO THOSE WHO DOUBTED ME
"THAT'S MY BOY!"
I'LL HAVE A SHOW IN VEGAS
WITH DANCING GIRLS
AND BEEFY GUYS
WITHOUT THE FELINE INJURY
"POOR, DEAR ROY"
I'LL IGNORE THE PERIODIC TIGER
MAULING
AND LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF THIS
VOCATION CALLING

"YOU'LL BE
LIKE HARRY HOUDINI
COME CHASE YOU DREAMS
ERASE THE PAST
YOU'LL FREE
THE HARRY HOUDINI"
AND UNLIKE ALL MY DAYS BEFORE
I'LL EMBRACE WHO I AM AND SOAR
AND PROVE THAT I'M NOT USELESS
AT LAST!

PENELOPE, a girl in a wheel chair, enters. She talks with a slight stutter.

PENELOPE

Hey Gary.

GARY

Oh hey Penelope.

PENELOPE

What are you doing?

GARY

Oh, I'm just thinking. You know, lots of planning to do- for the talent contest and stuff.

PENELOPE

Are you gonna do your magic tricks?

Sure am. Well gonna try anyway.

PENELOPE

I was just reading all about The Great Chung Ling Soo, since you're into magic and did you know he died doing the bullet catch?

GARY

(maybe noticing the school
 hall clock)

Sorry Penelope, but I'm late to class. Mrs. Underarms is gonna kill me.

PENELOPE

Oh you better. She gets stinking mad.

GARY

Oh.

PENELOPE

Yeah.

They laugh together.

GARY

Why are you still out here? Shouldn't you be in class too?

PENELOPE

I'm the new hall monitor.

GARY

That's neat.

PENELOPE

I even got a badge. Hall monitor Spry at your service.

GARY

Wow.

PENELOPE

Yeah, it's a pretty big honor.

GARY

It is.

PENELOPE

Yeah.

(beginning to leave) Ok. Well. Bye.

PENELOPE

Bye. Oh- Gary?

GARY

Yeah?

PENELOPE

I bet you'll be great. In the talent contest, I mean.

GARY

Gotta get into it first.

PENELOPE

All you gotta do is sign up.

GARY

Yeah.

PENELOPE

Good luck.

GARY

Thanks.

PENELOPE

You're welcome.

GARY

Uh. Bye.

PENELOPE

Bye.

GARY exits, leaving PENELOPE longingly watching after him. A school bell rings. The scene shifts to the CAFETERIA. MISS SALMONELLI, a Tim Burtonesque lunch lady serves the students, who march on a food assembly line.

SONG: CAFETERIA SEQUENCE

SALMONELLI

WELCOME ALL TO SALMONELLI'S

KITCHEN!

SCHOOL LUNCHES ARE MY SPECIALTY DU JOUR!

TYLER

Is this supposed to be soup?

SALMONELLI

WHILE THE PATRONS SPEND THEIR HOUR BITCHIN'

CHERYL

I bet Treblinka had a better menu.

SALMONELLI

I GOT A GRATEFUL CUSTOMER WHO LOVES MY FOOD FOR SURE!

GARY enters and seats himself. He eats his yogurt.

SALMONELLI

GARY LOVES MY TATER TOTS, IT'S TRUE EV'RY SINGLE MONDAY, HE GRABS A HEAP OR TWO WHILE THE OTHERS SCOFF AND GRUMBLE GARY EATS MY CUMQUAT CRUMBLE-IT'S QUITE THE UNDER-TAKING BUT GARY LOVES MY BAKING AND COOKING, I COULD PLOTZ! IT'S AN HONOR TO ENGRAVE IT, NOW GARY IS MY FAV'RITE 'CAUSE GARY LOVES MY TATER TOTS! Hello Gary! I saved you two portions of your Monday favorite! Tater Tots! And a generous helping of my cumquat crumble. Have you ever heard of a cumquat crumble, Gary?

GARY

No I...

SALMONELLI

It's a Salmonelli original! I should be on one of those cooking shows with Gordon Ramsey. Oh that Gordon Ramsey- he can oil me down with balsamic vinegar any day.

GARY

That might sting...

SALMONELLI

I'm telling you I don't know where I get it from? It's a gift. Cumquat Crumble. Pizza soup with real pieces of pizza.

Is this Turducken with actual turds?

SALMONELLI

Hey! It all comes out grass. It all comes out grass.

GARY

It sounds...delicious.

SALMONELLI

Of course it is! What's wrong Gary? Why aren't you eating? You're usually on your third portion by now.

GARY

I brought lunch from home today.

SALMONELLI

No tater tots for Gary on Monday?! We can't have that. Eat up!

GARY

That is so nice of you Ms. Salmonelli to care but I'm sort of on a diet...

SALMONELLI

We can't waste those tater tots, Gary. You can start the diet tomorrow. As my mother always used to say: "Bernice". That's me, I'm Bernice. She'd say: "Bernice. You can start a diet tomorrow." That's what she'd say. Now eat up Gary. And the crumble too.

SALMONELLI exits. TYLER approaches GARY.

TYLER

Yo Goldfat!

GARY

Tyler...

TYLER

Get your tubby ass over here.

GARY

Do you want my yogurt...it's...it's... blueberry.

I don't want your nasty yogurt. I see that you decided to ignore me and then signed up for the talent contest.

GARY

Yeah...

TYLER

I see. Well CAN YOU DO THIS?!!!

TYLER does a magic trick in GARY'S face.

GARY

Actually...

TYLER

Amaze balls! And...WHAT ABOUT THIS?

Another magic trick.

GARY

I...

TYLER

Who's the man? You just keep making those tater tots evaporate into thin air. We'll see who makes the talent contest. You are so losing Mr. Black Hole of magic.

GARY

Thanks.

TYLER

Like a big, empty void.

GARY

Yeah.

TYLER

You suck out all the awesomeness in illusions.

GARY

Thanks for the information.

TYLER

(Suction noises)

GARY

Those are very realistic.

I know. Besides, everyone knows that in order to have a magic act you need an assistant.

GARY

I'll get one then.

TYLER

Yeah? Like who?

CHERYL re-enters. The world freezes.

RIMSORE

CHERYL SAMATASINGHAR-STEIN
IN APRIL SHE'LL TURN EIGHTEEN AND
FIN'LLY BE MINE
SHE SMELLS LIKE LILAC, WELL THAT'S
WHAT I HEAR
I LOST MY SENSE OF SMELL AT RIKER'S
SOMETIME LAST YEAR
IF ONLY WE'D DATE AND IT WEREN'T
STATUTORY
SHE COULD BE MY KUGEL WITH CHICKEN
TANDOORT

RIMSORE returns to his previous action. CHERYL sits down to lunch.

TYLER

Yeah, good luck with finding one. You're gonna need it.

TYLER leaves GARY as PENELOPE enters.

PENELOPE

Hi Gary.

GARY

(passing her to approach
 CHERYL)

Hi. Excuse me. Cheryl?

CHERYL

What's that smell?

GARY

May I ask you a question?

CHERYL

Um like no offense but I'm like not going on any sort of date with you.

(MORE)

CHERYL (CONT'D)

Unless you can climb into a special machine that turns you into not you.

GARY

No, no, no. It's nothing like that.

CHERYL

Ok? Look, I'm like reading Nietzsche.

SALMONELLI

(re-entering)

Anyone want cheese cake? It's a blend of Roquefort, Gruyere and Limburger cheeses! Topped with a Mangosteen sauce.

CHERYL

Ew.

GARY

What's a mangosteen?

SALMONELLI

It's a purple tropical fruit. It comes from Thailand. It's like nothing you've ever tasted. You crack it open and I know you like cracking things open, don't you Gary? Take a bite! Open up!

CHERYL

(as she reads from her Nietzsche book)

God isn't dead!

GARY

No thanks, Ms. Salmonelli.

SALMONELLI

(exiting again)

I'll save it for tomorrow then.

GARY meanders over to CHERYL and gets her attention awkwardly.

CHERYL

Yeah?

GARY

I just have one question. WILL YOU BE MY ASSISTANT? (MORE)

GARY (CONT'D)

I SWEAR NOT TO HURT YOU WHEN I SAW YOU IN TWO ALL MY TRICKS WILL BE CONSISTENT WITH SAFETY REGULATIONS... WILL YOU BE MY ASSISTANT? SINCE MY ACT WILL SHOWCASE ALL THE MAGIC I CAN DO I DON'T WANT TO SEEM TOO PERSISTENT BUT CHERYL YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL CHERYL YOU'LL LOOK SO SEXY IN THE OUTFIT I MADE MYSELF FROM LYCRA, FROM SEQUINS AND FEATHERS, THAT I FOUND ON MY GRANDMOTHER'S CRAFTING SHELF CHERYL! YOU'RE RADIANT! CHERYL-

CHERYL

EW
I'D NEVER DO AN ACT WITH YOU
EW,
YOU'RE DRIPPING ALL OVER MY SHOEYOU'RE STICKY AND SWEATY
YOU SMELL LIKE SPAGHETTI
BESIDES I SAID TO YES TO SOMEONE
ALREADY
ADIEU!
YOUR ACT IS PROBABLY POO

Awkward pause.

GARY

SO WILL YOU BE MY ASSISTANT? SINCE YOU DIDN'T ANSWER WITH A YES OR A NO-

CHERYL

Like no offense Gary. But are you like disabled or deaf or something? I'D ONLY WORK WITH A PRO. Besides Tyler already asked me.

GARY

Oh.

CHERYL

And I'm like already hosting the contest and doing my own act. A classic traditional Indian Bharatanatyam dance combined with Israeli hora.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

It's gonna be pretty amazing. Not to mention totes stressful.

TYLER

(re-entering)

Yo Goldfat. What are you doing?

GARY

I was just leaving.

TYLER

Did I give you permission to leave?

GARY

Um no...

TYLER

What are you doing talking to Cheryl?

CHERYL

He wants me to be his assistant. Like OMG. Like that would ever happen.

TYLER

That's pathetic. You seriously think Cheryl would choose a girthy goober like yourself over me?

CHERYL

Like never.

TYLER

She's gonna choose me. And I'm gonna rock that contest!

CHERYL

Hell yeah.

TYLER

So why are you still standing there? Isn't there a Snickers bar you should be eating?

 ${\tt CHERYL}$

OMG. You're like so funny. We should so like hang out.

TYLER

Hang out?

CHERYL

Yeah. Like after school today. Just you...and moi.

TYLER

Um. I...I can't. I got plans.

CHERYL

Plans?

TYLER

Yeah really important plans.

CHERYL

Whatever. I guess I'll just go shopping then.

TYLER

Shopping! What didn't you say that in the first place?

CHERYL is confused. We segue way into:

PENELOPE

Gary.

GARY

Oh hey Penelope.

PENELOPE

May I ask you a question?

GARY

Um. I guess.

PENELOPE

Why do you let them treat you like that?

GARY

Like what?

PENELOPE

Cheryl. Tyler. Even Coach Rimsore is mean to you and he's on the payroll.

GARY

Oh that.

PENELOPE

Doesn't it bother you?

GARY

It's what they do. I can't stop them. I wouldn't know how.

PENELOPE

You could tell them to stop.

GARY

Yeah, like that would do anything.

PENELOPE

I don't know how you deal with it. It pisses me off.

GARY

There are bigger problems in the world than a taunted fat kid.

SONG: A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC

GARY

IN AFRICA, THERE'RE STARVING KIDS-HOW CAN WE FEED THEM ALL?
WE TRY TO SOLVE CATASTROPHES AND
YET WE HIT A WALL
THERE'S POVERTY AND WAR
THERE'S BITTERNESS AND DESPAIR,
WE'RE SPOILED TO THE CORE,
AND NO ONE SEEMS TO CARE
Every day, people are faced with
millions of tough decisions and
terrible problems. You and I
included. Can we solve them? Not a
chance. But there's something- no
matter what- that always makes life
a little better.

PENELOPE

Butterflies?

GARY

No.

PENELOPE

Ice cream?

GARY

Better than ice cream. Something that always brightens my mood.

(MORE)

GARY (CONT'D)

CAN A DOVE APPEAR FROM A
HANDKERCHIEF?
CAN A SINGLE BALL BE FIVE?
CAN THE HOTTEST GIRL ONCE NOTICE ME
AND ACT LIKE I'M ALIVE?
COULD ISRAEL DO A FRIENDLY HORA
WITH IRAN?
WITH A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC IT CAN

CAN A CANE WARP INTO A ROSE
BOUQUET,
VANISH: "POOF!"- THROUGH A MIST?
COULD MY PEERS AND HIGH SCHOOL
FACULTY,
ACKNOWLEDGE I EXIST?
COULD GAY FOLKS EAT A SANDWICH AT A
CHICK-FIL-A?
WITH A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC
WITH A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC
WITH A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC

MAGIC CAN BE MYSTIFYING
IT CAN BRING BOTH JOY AND CHEER
YOU CAN STOP A CHILD FROM CRYING
WITH A COIN PULLED FROM AN EAR
MAKE AN ACE OF SPADES START FLYING
WATCH THOSE TEAR DROPS DISAPPEAR
MAGIC MIGHT BRING BACK MY FATHER...!
I MIGHT BE PUSHING IT A LITTLE BIT
HERE

THE TRUTH IN FACT IS NO ONE LIKES A SCARY CLOWN
NOT TO MENTION PUPPETS OR A MIME YET A MAN THAT'S MADE OF MIRACLES WILL STUN THEM EV'RY TIME CAN A FLOATING DOLLAR BILL GIVE A KID A THRILL?
Watch this!
WITH A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC
WITH A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC
YES THAT LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC

GARY does a magic trick.

ALWAYS WILL!

PENELOPE

That was incredible! You're really good at magic!

Thanks. I try. It's not as easy as it looks. It actually takes hours of practicing.

PENELOPE

You know, I think I might have a solution to your assistant dilemma.

GARY

You do?

PENELOPE

Screw Cheryl. Find a different assistant!

GARY

Yeah! Wait. Do you know of one?

PENELOPE

I do!

GARY

That's terrific! Who?

PENELOPE

She's right in front of you.

TYLER and CHERYL have begun to observe PENELOPE'S plea. They watch with amusement.

PENELOPE

LET ME BE YOUR ASSISTANTI WON'T DISAPPOINT YOU AND MY
PASSION IS TRUE
WHAT I KNOW...IS NON EXISTENT
BUT I BURN TO LEARN YOUR SECRETS...

Pause.

PENELOPE

LET ME BE YOUR ASSISTANT
YOU CAN STUFF ME IN A BOX AND YOU
CAN STAB RIGHT THROUGH
YOUR EYES SEEM TO SAY THAT YOU'RE
DISTANT
BUT GARY
YOU'RE TALENTED,
GARY
I THINK YOU'RE SEXY...

TYLER and CHERYL interrupt her with a burst of taunting laughter. GARY is embarrassed.

Penelope! Um- eh-thanks Penelope. I just don't know if it will work. I'm planning on some pretty big illusions. Lots of heavy lifting and stuff.

PENELOPE

Oh.

GARY

I hope you understand.

PENELOPE

It's okay.

GARY

Thanks for the offer though.

PENELOPE

You're welcome.

GARY

Uh...bye.

PENELOPE

Bye.

GARY exits. PENELOPE drives by TYLER to exit.

TYLER

Watch it Spry! You almost ran over my toe.

PENELOPE

Cheryl?

CHERYL

Where's that voice coming from? Oh right. From down there. What do you want cripple girl?

PENELOPE

CHERYL SAMASTASINGHAR-STEIN
KEEP A STEADY DISTANCE AND YOUR
FACE'LL BE FINE
I MIGHT BE CRIPPLED, BUT WHEN I GET
PISSED
YOU'LL WISH YOU NEVER MESSED WITH
ME AND MY IRON FIST
YOU THINK YOU'RE SO COOL 'CAUSE YOU
SMELL LIKE LILAC
THOUGH I THINK YOU SMELL NASTY LIKE
A BUTTHOLE OR HIS NUT SACK

PENELOPE drives off.

CHERYL

EW

THE THINGS SHE SAID ARE ALL UNTRUE EW
SHE SHOULD BE LOCKED UP IN A ZOO
SHE'S UGLY, SHE'S HEINOUS
I DON'T SMELL LIKE ANUS
WHY DO I PUT UP WITH RUDENESS AND
GAYNESS?

TYLER

WHO KNEW,

THAT SHE'D EVER MESS WITH YOU

CHERYL

She's such a loser. I can't like imagine being like deformed. I'M SO LUCKY I'M SO PRETTY

TYLER

YES YOU ARE, YES YOU ARE

CHERYL

YOU'RE LIKE LUCKY YOU'RE SO DREAMY LIKE

TYLER

LANCE BASS

Confused moment.

CHERYL

THE OTHERS ARE LIKE SHITTY, AND SUB-PAR

TYLER

Sub-what?

CHERYL

It means they suck.

TYLER

Whatever.

BOTH

IT'S GOOD TO BE THE BIG FISH IN THE SENIOR CLASS.

CHERYL

OMG. Look- over- there.

That's just sad.

CHERYL

TAKE A LOOK AT IRIS SHE MUST'VE CAUGHT A VIRUS OR MAYBE SHE'S BEEN DABBLING IN BULIMIA?

TYLER

AND WHAT ABOUT JEN FINNEY? SHE'S GOTTEN REALLY SKINNY I BET IT'S ALL THAT CHEMO FROM LEUKEMIA

CHERYL

She's so lucky. I wish I could get chemo.

TYLER

Or dysentery.

CHERYL

Or a tapeworm.

TYLER

Eh- you already have one.

CHERYL

LOOK AT MARNIE GOODING

TYLER

HER ASS LOOKS LIKE A PUDDING

CHERYL

HER STOMACH'S LIKE A TOTE BAG FILLED WITH COTTAGE CHEESE IS ANNA RUSSO PREGGERS?

TYLER

OR ONE TOO MANY KEGGERS, I HEAR MCDONALDS GAVE HER, HER OWN SET OF KEYS

TYLER

I hate fat people.

CHERYL

Why don't they just get skinny like us?

BOTH

LOSERS.

WE'RE SURROUNDED BY LOSERS

BY POSERS,

BY USERS,

AND SKATERS, AND GAMERS, AND

HATERS, AND FLAMERS

HOW THEY WISH THEY WERE US

WITH GREAT HAIR

AND GREAT SKIN

AND GREAT TEETH

AND SO THIN

WHAT WE ARE IS HOT AND POPULAR

WHAT THEY'RE NOT IS HOT AND POPULAR

BUT BEGGARS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS

YET STILL

WE'RE SURROUNDED BY LOSERS. LOSERS.

LOSERS, etc.

TYLER and CHERYL'S final "Losers" is screamed into a sleeping GARY'S ear causing him to stir from a nightmare. GARY bolts up in bed.

GILDA

(off stage)

Gary? What's going on in there?
(No response.)

Gary?

GARY

It's okay Ma. I just had a bad dream.

GILDA

(off stage)

Momma's coming! Momma's coming!

GARY

No really Ma. You can go back to bed.

GILDA

(enters, carrying a bucket

of supplies)

I'm here. Momma's here.

GARY

No seriously. I'm fine.

GILDA drops the bucket, sits at his side and begins to comfort, cuddle, and rock GARY back and forth.

SONG: LULLABY

GILDA

Shhhhh. Shhhhh.

SLEEP DARLING GARY-LUH
BE THANKFUL THAT YOU'RE YOU
REMEMBER ALL THE DREADFUL THINGS
YOUR RELATIVES WENT THROUGH
UNCLE MURRAY DIED OF CANCER
AUNT FREYE SHOULD BE DEAD
ESPEC'LLY AFTER ALL THOSE NASTY
RUMORS THAT SHE SPREAD.
SO SLEEP DARLING GARY-LUH
AND REST YOUR LITTLE HEAD

GARY

(pulling away)

I'm fine Ma. You can stop singing.

GILDA

I worry about you, Gary.

GARY

What's in the bucket?

GILDA

Just a change of sheets, paper towels, Lysol, and oxy clean.

GARY

For what?

GILDA

In case you wet the bed. Remember last time? It was like Niagara Falls in here.

GARY

Ma! That was like seven years ago!

GILDA

One should always be prepared. Especially after the last time. I had to get new carpets.

GARY

Ma! Everything's dry. I didn't wet the bed.

GILDA

You sure? It smells a little funky in here.

GARY

I just had a dream Ma.

GILDA

A nightmare?

GARY

Yes a nightmare.

GILDA

Tell momma about it.

GARY

I just want to go back to bed Ma.

GILDA

I insist Gary. Don't make me force it out of you. Or do we want a visit from the tickle monster?

GARY

No. No! No tickle monster.

GILDA

Fine. Take a sip of your water then. On second thought- don't. Too much water can lead to "you know what".

GARY

Ma!! I didn't wet the bed!

GILDA

Okay. Okay. I heard you. So nu? What's going on?

GARY

It's just school. I don't really wanna talk about it.

GILDA

Come on Gary. I'm not leaving this room until you tell me what happened.

GARY

It's just the other kids at school.

GILDA

What other kids?

GARY

Tyler Toolman. Cheryl Samatasinghar Stein.

GILDA

I beg your pardon?

That's her name.

GILDA

What the hell kind of a name is that?

GARY

Her Dad is Jewish. Her mom is Indian.

GILDA

Curry Indian?

GARY

Ohmigod Ma. Seriously?

GILDA

What? It's a legitimate question.

GARY

I'm done talking. 'Night Ma.

GILDA

No. What are they doing to you?

GARY

They just make fun of me. It's nothing new.

GILDA

Make fun of my baby?

GARY

I can handle it, Ma.

GILDA

Oh my darling baby. Come here. Let momma hold you.

GILDA smothers GARY.

GARY

I can't breathe.

GILDA

Sometimes people make fun, Gary. But it'll be okay. You'll see. Be strong. Do you want me to talk to your principal? Or what about that hunky Coach Rimsore?

GARY

Gross.

GILDA

What? He has sexy calf muscles.

GARY

Ew. That's enough. It's fine. Can I go to bed now?

GILDA

(hugging him again)
Shhhh. Shhhhh. Momma will protect
you.
SHUSH SWEETIE GARY-LUH
AND CLOSE THOSE SLEEPY EYES
BE GRATEFUL THAT YOU NEVER HAD A
A PREMATURE DEMISE
UNCLE WALTER HAD A TUMOR
AUNT RUTH DIED IN A CAMP
WHO CARES ABOUT SOME HOODLUM AND
SOME HALF BREED HINDU TRAMP?
SO HUSH SWEETIE GARY-LUH
AND I'LL SWITCH OFF THE LAMP
You sure I can't do anything for my
baby?

GARY

No thanks Ma.

GILDA

Okay then. I packed a key lime pie yogurt in your lunch for tomorrow. You can pretend you're eating cake. The things people come up with these days.

GARY

Thanks Ma.

GILDA

Do one of your bird noises for momma.

GARY

Bird noises?

GILDA

You know- for the contest.

GARY

Oh right. Um...well...this is a Mallard.

GARY does a take on a Mallard. It's terrible.

GILDA

Interesting. Well you keep practicing. I'm sure it'll get better.

GARY

Okay Ma. I will.

GILDA

Good night my darling.

GILDA sprays an overwhelming amount of Lysol in the air as she exits.

GARY

Jesus.

Lights change. Music change back into CAFETERIA. SALMONELLI enters. It's Wednesday. Mac and Cheese day.

SALMONELLI

GARY LOVES MY MAC 'N CHEESE, IT'S CLEAR EV'RY SINGLE WEDNESDAY, HE GRINS FROM EAR TO EAR WHILE THE OTHERS SCREAM "DISGRACEFUL!" GARY EATS A CHEESEY FACE FULL NOW SOME SAY IT'S DISGUSTING, ITS GARY I'LL BE TRUSTING, HIS PALETTE'S WHAT I PLEASE THE OTHERS CAN GO SHOVE IT CAUSE GARY'S BOUND TO LOVE IT YES GARY LOVES MY MAC 'N CHEESE Happy Wednesday Gary! I saved some of my famous mac 'n cheese just for you!

GARY

I have this broccoli and nuts medley.

SALMONELLI

Don't make jokes Gary. Here you go. On the house. It's all in the goat's milk. I milk it myself. Got a live one out back. Samson. Not an easy task if I might say so. Samson isn't partial to his teats getting tugged. Don't say anything until I get the permit- it'll be our little secret.

PENELOPE enters.

PENELOPE

Hi Gary.

GARY

Hi Penelope.

PENELOPE

What are you doing?

GARY

Coloring.

PENELOPE

Oh.

GARY

It relaxes me.

PENELOPE

Oh.

GARY

It's better than picking.

PENELOPE

Picking?

GARY

Yeah. I used to continuously pick at the same spot on my elbow. It would get really raw. Like prosciutto. So now I color instead.

PENELOPE

Oh. Would you like a muffin?

GARY

I'm actually on a diet.

PENELOPE

But I made it for you.

GARY

In that case, sure.

PENELOPE

It has tarragon in it.

GARY

Thanks.

How is it?

GARY

What are the lumps?

PENELOPE

Gummi bears.

GARY

Oh. Cool.

PENELOPE

It's my own recipe. I'm inventive like that.

GARY

I wish I was inventive.

PENELOPE

You're inventive.

GARY

You think so?

PENELOPE

You're a magician, Gary. Magician's need imaginations.

GARY

I guess.

TYLER enters, followed by CHERYL and RIMSORE.

TYLER

Am I interrupting something?

PENELOPE

From what dirty hole did you crawl out of?

TYLER

Not yours, Special Bus.

GARY

I still don't have your money but...

TYLER

Shut your face. We got somethin' to say.

CHERYL

I hate to burst your blubber bubble. But we bring bad news.

Bad news?

TYLER

Is there an echo in here? Since my name was first on the sign up list for the talent contest, that disqualifies your ass, Goldfat.

GARY

What?

PENELOPE

That can't be right. You're totally making that up.

CHERYL

OMG. You need to chill. It's like a rule.

PENELOPE

What rule? Your rule?

RIMSORE

I had just finished doing some maintenance in the girl's locker room when I stumbled upon this book. As the talent show faculty advisor, it is my duty to bring it to your attention. The floor is yours Miss Stein...

CHERYL

As the head of the talent committee, I hereby read from our High School Rulebook.

PENELOPE

There's a rulebook?

Song: RULES OF THE TALENT SHOW

CHERYL

(reading from an oversized
 manual)

Um Hot girl talking. Here it is. Rules of the Talent Show.

(MORE)

CHERYL (CONT'D)

NO TWANGY COUNTRY MUSIC
AND NO SPINNING PLATES ALLOWED
NO STRIPPING,
AND NO WHIPPING
IT CAN REALLY ROUSE A CROWD
BUT MOST OF ALL, IT'S WRITTEN OUT
IN BLACK AND WHITE RIGHT HERE
THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE MAGIC ACT
IN THE TALENT SHOW EACH YEAR

ALL

(except PENELOPE and GARY)
THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE MAGIC ACT
IN THE TALENT SHOW EACH YEAR

TYLER

My turn!
NO DEPICTIONS OF MOHAMMED
BUT OF ABRAHAM'S OKAY
AND NO TRICKS
WITH POGO STICKS
SINCE THAT ONE STICK WENT ASTRAY
BUT MOST OF ALL, I HAVE TO STRESS A
RULE THAT'S LOUD AND CLEAR
THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE MAGIC ACT
IN THE TALENT SHOW EACH YEAR

ALL

(except PENELOPE and GARY)
THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE MAGIC ACT
IN THE TALENT SHOW EACH YEAR

PENELOPE

This is ridiculous.

RIMSORE

Ridiculous? Ridiculous Miss Spry? Rules are written for a reason. IMAGINE ALL THESE MENTIONED ON A SINGLE, SCARY NIGHT IT HAPPENED BACK IN 94, SOME KIDS ARE STILL NOT RIGHT THERE WAS ALSO ACCORDION MUSIC! AND SOME ACT WITH PING PONG BALLS,

CHERYL

AND A FULLY STAGED ALL MALE BALLET, TO A TRACK FROM BIGGIE SMALLS

ALL

AND A FULLY STAGED ALL MALE BALLET, TO A TRACK FROM BIGGIE SMALLS!

But...

TYLER

BEFORE YOU START TO STAMMER
OR TO SWEAT ALL OVER ME
TAKE A LOOK,
IT'S IN THIS BOOK
FOR PARTICIPANTS TO SEE
SO GO DOWN AND DROWN YOUR SORROWS
IN SOME BAGELS AND A SCHMEER
THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE MAGIC ACT

RIMSORE

A MAGIC ACT THAT IS COMPACT

TYLER

WITH A LIVE ASSISTANT THAT'S INTACT

CHERYL

WE'RE SPEAKING "ME" TO BE EXACT-IN THE TALENT SHOW EACH YEAR!

ALL

THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE MAGIC ACT IN THE TALENT SHOW EACH YEAR HEY!

TYLER

Better luck next year Goldfat. Face it loser, no one's ever gonna see your magic!

They exit, laughing.

PENELOPE

We should protest!

GARY

Yeah? To whom?

PENELOPE

The PTA!

GARY

Not gonna happen. Even the PTA hates me after that Hot Fudge Sundae fiasco last year.

PENELOPE

So what are we gonna do?

What do you mean "what are we gonna do"? We're not gonna do anything.

PENELOPE

We can't just stand here. We have to try something!

SONG: TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW

GARY

There's nothing we can do. It's never gonna change. We are what we are. We can only think ahead. IN TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW I'LL CLAIM MY DESTINY MY MAGIC AND MY MARVELS WILL BE BROADCAST ON TV I'LL BE A STAR FOR CERTAIN UNLIKE WHAT TYLER SAID I'LL HANG OUT WITH LANCE BURTON JUST AS LONG AS HE'S NOT DEAD AND ALL THE KIDS LIKE YOU AND ME WILL GET TO SEE MY SHOWS FOR FREE AND THAT'S NOT JUST A GUARANTEE, MY WORD IS MY VOW. NO TORTURE OR CONFUSION, WHERE HAPPY'S NOT A LOST ILLUSION WAIT AND SEE-THAT'S WHERE I'LL BE IN TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW

PENELOPE

You'll get there Gary. I believe in you.

GARY

It's only a dream.

PENELOPE

It's healthy to dream Gary. I often do it too.

(MORE)

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

IN TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW I'LL HAVE MY PHD I'LL MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE FOR OTHER KIDS LIKE ME I'LL OPEN UP A CLINIC WITH OPRAH STANDING NEAR CONVINCING ANY CYNIC THAT MY SEARCH WILL PERSEVERE COLLECTING DATA TO INCREASE, THE GOAL TO CRAFT A MASTERPIECE ...SO SPINAL POLIO WILL CEASE ... I'LL DO IT...SOMEHOW WHERE CHILDREN CAN DELIGHT IN A FUTURE THAT I'LL STRIVE TO BRIGHTEN THIS I SWEAR, I WILL REPAIR IN TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW

BOTH

ALTHOUGH THE PRESENT MIGHT NOT SEEM IDEAL
JUST DREAM A BETTER FUTURE AND YOU'LL MAKE IT REAL

Lights up on CHERYL.

CHERYL

IN TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW I'LL GIVE MY ASS A LIFT AND BUY MYSELF A BIGGER PAIR OF BOOBIES AS A GIFT MY HUSBAND WILL BE WORKING AS I TAN BY THE POOL I'LL DO MY SHARE OF TWERKING WITH THE HANDY MAN RAOUL AS TROPHY WIFE I WILL IGNORE EXPECTANCIES TO DO A CHORE SINCE THAT'S WHAT I'LL HAVE SERVANTS FOR-I'M NO ONE'S HAUS FRAU, I WON'T NEED YOUR APPROVAL AS LONG AS I HAVE HAIR REMOVAL, SO WITH EASE-I'LL FLAUNT MY "D'S" IN TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW Maybe ten.

Lights up on SALMONELLI.

SALMONELLI

JUST TWENTY YEARS AGO

I THOUGHT THAT I WOULD BE

A MODEL IN A MAGAZINE, FOR ALL THE

WORLD TO SEE

A CENTER FOLD THAT DAZZLED

SO ALL MY FRIENDS COULD BRAG

NOT CRUSTY, THICK, AND FRAZZLED

AND WITH BODY PARTS THAT SAG

NOT LONELY WITH A BUNCH OF CATS

A ONE ROOM FLAT WITH RATS AND GNATS

ABSORBING CARBS AND PURE TRANSFATS

LORD, SAY IT AIN'T SO

WHO KNEW THAT I WOULD LAND UP

AS FODDER FOR SOME JOKES FOR STAND

UP

WHO COULD TELL

THINGS WOULD BE HELL

JUST TWENTY YEARS AGO

GARY/PENELOPE

WE WILL SURVIVE AND WE BOTH WILL

ASTOUND

SALMONELLI

IN TWENTY YEARS YOU'LL FIND ME SIX

FEET UNDERGROUND

ALL

THINGS DON'T END

LIFE CAN AMEND

GARY, PENELOPE, CHERYL/ (SALMONELLI)

IN TWENTY YEARS FROM

(TWENTY YEARS!)

IN TWENTY YEARS FROM

(TWENTY YEARS!)

IN TWENTY YEARS FROM

(GOD THOSE TWENTY YEARS!)

ALL

TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW!

TYLER enters, maybe having observed the latter part of the song.

TYLER

If it isn't the two love turds having a Disney moment.

PENELOPE

What do you want Tyler?

TYLER

It's not what I want. It's what you losers want. Change. But you know what? There's never gonna be any change for you Goldfat.
IN TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW
I KNOW WHERE I'LL FIND YOU
AT SEA WORLD, SAN DIEGO
AS THE STANDBY FOR SHAMU
YOUR MAGIC ASPIRATIONS WILL DRIBBLE DOWN THE DRAIN
YOU'LL ONLY CAUSE SENSATIONS
WHEN THEY LIFT YOU WITH A CRANE
NO DIFF'RENT FROM THE KID TODAY

PENELOPE

THAT'S SUCH AN AWFUL THING TO SAY?

TYLER

YO HELEN KELLER WHEEL AWAY No one wants to listen to you.

GARY

Don't talk to her like that!

TYLER

Oh look who grew some testicles. What are you gonna do about it?

PENELOPE

You don't have to prove anything to him Gary.

TYLER

Are you gonna give me paper cuts with your deck of cards? Face it loser. You're not gonna measure up next to me. Unless it's on a scale of course.

GARY

Fine! You want a magic trick? Here's a magic trick!

PENELOPE

Don't give in to him, Gary.

TYLER

This is gonna be good. Let's see your magical skills.

GARY performs a trick. It unfortunately goes wrong.

TYLER

Hilarious! I'd stick to competitive eating. You might actually have a shot at that.

TYLER exits, laughing.

PENELOPE

Gary...

GARY

I have to go.

PENELOPE

I'm really sorry that you can't do your magic.

GARY

It is what it is.

PENELOPE

You could always do your act for $\operatorname{me}_{\boldsymbol{\cdot}\boldsymbol{\cdot}\boldsymbol{\cdot}}$

GARY

Look Penelope. I appreciate your support. But I really don't want to talk right now.

PENELOPE

Gary!

GARY

What?

PENELOPE

You're gonna win that contest!

GARY

There's no contest for me.

PENELOPE

I'll find a way.

GARY

No you won't.

PENELOPE

Oh yes I will!

GARY

Penelope, unless there's a loop hole- it's not happening. Remember?

(MORE)

GARY (CONT'D)

"There can only be one magic act in the talent show each year?" A fact I was reminded of over and over and over again. And considering spinning plates is out too- I'm pretty much not a contender. It's never happening.

PENELOPE

Never say never. I'll make it happen.

GARY

This is silly. Look I... (frustration) Thanks for the muffin.

GARY exits.

PENELOPE

GARY GOLDFARB,
WOULD BE ESCAPIST
A SKILL STILL TO MASTER
A THRILL YET TO SEE
GARY GOLDFARB
YOU'RE NOT A DISASTER
AND YET YOU ACHIEVEESCAPING FROM ME
Don't you know, my gold covered
cupcake, that I would be your
assistant for life?

YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE THE FINAL SLURP OF THE FRAP FROM COFFEE BEAN THEN YOU CAN BE MY WYATT EARP AND I'LL BE JOSEPHINE PLEASE HELP YOURSELF TO THE LAST PIECE OF THE CHERRY JUBILEE BUT MOST OF ALL, GARY, PLEASE TAKE A PIECE OF ME

I'LL LET YOU TAKE THE BIGGEST SLICE
OF THE CREAMY KEY LIME SWIRL
THEN YOU CAN BE MY VINCENT PRICE,
I'LL BE THE VAMPY GIRL
PLEASE GO AHEAD AND TAKE A BITE OF
THE THIGH FROM KFC
BUT MOST OF ALL,
GARY,
PLEASE TAKE A BITE OF ME
(MORE)

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

AND WHEN WE BOTH GET MARRIED
YOU CAN CHOMP OUR CAKE AWAY
AND YOU CAN HAVE THE LAST SHRIMP AT
THE CHANG CHINESE BUFFET
JUST AS LONG AS I CAN BE
WITH YOU FOR ETERNITY

AND WHEN WE'RE OLD THE BAG OF PRUNES
IS YOURS TO GUZZLE THROUGH
FROM LIVERWURST TO MACAROONS,
I'LL FEED THEM ALL TO YOU
I'LL LET YOU HAVE THE FINAL KNISH
THE LAST SLICE IN THE PIZZA DISH
THE SLIME OFF THE GEFILTE FISH
PLEASE EAT IT ALL, I ONLY WISH
THAT YOU WOULD HEAR MY PLEA
GARY,
I'M ONE WHOLE PIE,
PLEASE BE MY GUY,
AND TAKE A PIECE OF ME

The scene shifts back to GARY's room. He practices magic tricks.

GILDA

(Off stage)

Gary! Dinner is ready!

GARY

I'm not hungry.

GILDA

What do you mean, you're not hungry? Are you feeling okay?

GARY

I said I'm not hungry!

GILDA

Gary! What are you doing in there?

GARY

Just practicing.

GILDA enters.

GILDA

And for once I thought you were playing with Mr. Schmeckle like a normal teenage boy.

Please don't talk about Mr. Schmeckle!

GILDA

Magic! And all this time I thought you were going to perform bird noises!

GARY

Bird...? Why can't you just be supportive, ma?

GILDA

Listen to me Gary Abraham Goldfarb. Nothing good comes from magic. Nothing.

GARY

That just silly, ma. Magic is entertaining. It's mesmerizing. But most of all...it's beautiful.

GILDA

Beautiful? What's beautiful in cleaning up after a couple of pooping pigeons and a disappearing rabbit? Oh Gary. I never wanted to tell you this. But you leave me no choice.

SONG: DADDY DELVED IN MAGIC

GILDA

DADDY DELVED IN MAGIC
I THOUGHT YOU OUGHT TO KNOW
HE NEVER MISSED A CONTEST
HE NEVER MISSED A SHOW
BUT WHEN IT CAME TO FAM'LY
THE TURNAROUND WAS LOW
DADDY DELVED IN MAGIC
I WISH IT WASN'T SO

GARY

I thought he was a podiatrist.

No Gary.
DADDY DELVED IN MAGIC
A TRICK UP EV'RY SLEEVE
THE THINGS HE DID WITH DAGGERS
THE CROWD WOULD NOT BELIEVE
HE SLEPT WITH HIS ASSISTANT
AND LEFT ON NEW YEAR'S EVE
DADDY DELVED IN MAGIC
THE ASSISTANT'S NAME WAS STEVE

GARY

Why didn't you ever tell me?

GILDA

DADDY DELVED IN MAGIC THERE'S NO NEED TO DISCUSS, HIS FINAL ACT AND IT'S A FACT HE DISAPPEARED FROM US

GARY

It's genetic. My love for magic is from daddy. I knew I felt the calling coming from somewhere deep inside me.

GILDA

You've missed the point. Your father that no good putz- left us high and dry for that Irish hustler. Illusions are an illusion. It's no way to live. Besides, magic is not a nice Jewish profession.

GARY

Is there something else you're keeping from me? All these years I thought he dealt in feet.

GILDA

What else could I be hiding from you? Having been married to a magician with no proper job is embarrassing enough!

GARY

His death. Was it ... magic related?

No Gary. Mort Goldfarb choked eating a pulled pork sandwich in Boca. That's what you get from eating treyf. And Irishmen.

GARY

My dad. A magician. Wow.

GILDA

Don't follow in those footsteps,
Gary. You don't want to be a
magician. Think bigger! Think
better! The honorable Judge
Goldfarb. Professor Goldfarb.
Doctor Goldfarb! Reach for the moonnot for the gutter. Now put your
magic tchotchkes away
and come and eat your dinner.

GILDA goes to leave.

GARY

Ma?

GILDA

What is it Gary?

GARY

Thanks for telling me the truth.

GILDA goes to leave again.

GARY

Ma? What was his magician's name?

GILDA

Mortissimo. Now dinner can't wait. Unless you like dry brisket.

GILDA begins to exit again.

She pauses and watches GARY practice his magic act.

SONG: JEWISH MOTHERS

GUSTAV MAHLER
JASHA HEIFETZ
ALBERT EINSTEIN
JONAS SALK
A MOTHER CAN DREAM
YES, A MOTHER CAN DREAM
Ev'ry mother would rather have the inventor of the polio vaccine for a son than a son with polio.
Right?

WHO CATERS TO THEIR LACTOSE INTOLERANCE?
AND SOLVES THEIR HALITOSIS WITH MOUTHWASH AND SOME BREATHE MINTS SOME MAY CALL IT SMOTHERING I CALL IT UBER-MOTHERING JEWISH MOTHERS REALLY LOVE THEIR CHILDREN

WHO PUSHES FOR PERFECTION AND BRILLIANCE?
AND SHELTERS THEIR FAT CHILDREN FROM FUNIONS AND A CHEESE BLINTZ SOME MAY CALL ME FRIGHTENING BUT I SEE WAISTBANDS TIGHTENING JEWISH MOTHERS MUST PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN

GARY IS MY BABY
DO I HATE HIM- GOD FORBID!
AM I HARSH? WELL- MAYBE.
I JUST WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR MY KID

PARENTS CAN STAND IDLE AS THEIR SON DESTROYS HIS LIFE SOME ARE SUICIDAL OR WORSE THEY NAB A GOYISHE WIFE!

GARY'S NOT SOME LIVER TO CHOP AND MINCE
MY GARY'S NOT SOME PAUPER, I WILL CHANGE HIM TO A PRINCE
WHY LET HIM BE A SLOTH
WHEN HE COULD BE A PHILIP ROTH?
WHY LET HIM BE A DUD
WHEN HE COULD BE A YOUNG PAUL RUDD HE MIGHT PROTEST AND WHINE
BUT HE'LL TURN OUT JUST FINE
LIKE EV'RY OTHER JEWTHEY USUALLY ALL DO
Except for maybe the serial killer
David Berkowitz.

(MORE)

GILDA (CONT'D)

And that kid across the street with Asperger's.
CAUSE JEWISH MOTHERS MUST PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN
YES JEWISH MOTHERS REALLY LOVE THEIR CHILDREN

She leaves. GARY becomes audible again.

GARY

My father. Mortissimo. The Marvelous? No, Mortissimo the Magnificent! RONKONKOMA, LONG ISLAND IT'S GARY HERE, THE LITTLE JEW WHO LAUGHS AT MEDIOCRITY-AND SAYS NO! RONKONKOMA, LONG ISLAND LET'S MAKE IT CLEAR HERE'S WHAT I'LL DO I'LL RISE FROM MEDIOCRITY AND I'LL GROW WITH THE AID OF SKILL AND BURN FROM MY AMBITION INTO MY SCHOOL'S MOST PROMINENT AND PRIZED MAGICIAN...

MORT

(Off stage)

Gary! Gary!

GARY

I think I'm hearing voices...

MORT

(Off stage)

No Gary bubbaleh! The moment is here! I have been summoned to guide you towards mystical greatness!

GARY

Ohmigod! Is it really you? I've been dreaming about this moment since I was in Hebrew school. Welcome my friend! Koszontelek kedves baratom!

MORT

(Off stage)

What?

GARY

I'm speaking your language!

(Off stage)

Excuse me?

GARY

Don't you speak Hungarian? I've been learning your language. I can also say "a WC papir elfogyott" which means: we have run out of toilet paper!

MORT

(Off stage)

Hungarian? Who do you think I am?

GARY

Aren't you Harry Houdini?

MORT

(off stage)

Gary. That is ridiculous. Do you think Harry Houdini has enough time in his social calendar to visit little Jewish boys from Ronkonkoma, Long Island?

MORT, a borscht beltesque amateur magician appears.

Say hello to daddy!

GARY

Daddy?

MORT

Son!

GARY

I thought you were dead.

MORT

I am dead.

GARY

Oh. I thought you'd be taller.

MORT

And I thought you'd be thinner but you can't have everything in life.

GARY

Am I dreaming? Is this a joke?

A joke? You got it! A Jew walks into a bar with a duck on his shoulder. The bartender goes: "Where'd ya get that?" The ducks says: "Brooklyn! They're everywhere!"

GARY

What's that in your neck?

MORT

A pulled pork sandwich. Death has an odd sense of humor.

GARY

I can't believe it's you. What is it like?

MORT

Well it can be hard swallowing sometimes.

GARY

I meant the afterlife.

MORT

It's nice. Clean. Good buffet. Every once in a while we get guys ranting and hollering about 76 virgins that were promised to them, but they generally calm down after I show them the Oyster bar.

GARY

Daddy! Can I hug you?

MORT

Of course. Watch the neck.

GARY

This is mind blowing. Why are you here?

MORT

Would you have preferred Harry Houdini?

GARY

No! No. Um...well, do you know Harry Houdini?

Houdini. It's always the Houdini with you, isn't it? Well, we're buddies! We have lunch every Tuesday. Except for last Tuesday. He got tied up!

GARY

That's so awesome that you know Harry Houdini!

MORT

As much as I'd love to catch up. We have a limited amount of time. You need assistance.

GARY

I do?

MORT

You do son. So now show me what you got!

GARY

You mean magic?

MORT

Well, you're obviously not proficient in ballet or gymnastics so I'd say that would be the right choice.

GARY

Oh. Right. Here it goes. This is MacGyver. He's not real. I'm allergic to feathers. And strawberries. Okay. Bye Bye MacGyver.

GARY performs the flip over box with fake dove.

MORT

That wasn't too drekish.

GARY

You don't have to be so mean. I can't afford fancy magic. It's not like Ma gives me a very big allowance.

MORT

Nonsense. You spend it all on Snickers.

What?

MORT

Don't be so sensitive, bubbaleh. I thought you wanted to be a master escapist? Like my good pal Houdini, right?

GARY

It has crossed my mind. Once. Or like three thousand and forty six times.

SONG: WHAT'S YOUR SCHTICK?

MORT

These little illusions won't cut it. It's a different time. You need to make a splash to get noticed. THERES A STANDARD TIP, FREE FROM THE CLASSIC GYPSY THE WISEST PIECE OF KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU NEED AS THE LYRIC GOES, IT HIT IT ON THE NOSE, YOU GOTTA HAVE A GIMMICK TO SUCCEED

GARY

Succeed at what?

MORT

Beating the other contestants of course!

GARY

There is no talent contest for me.

MORT

There is always a talent contest. A true artiste is always prepared, bubbaleh. Fate has a strange way of intervening when least expected. But first you need an image! WHAT'S YOUR SCHTICK? WHAT'S YOUR ANGLE? ONE CANT STICK
TO THE LAME OLD, SAME OLD HOE HUM TRICK, FADED SPANGLE, YOU CAN'T JUST USE A RABBIT ANYMORE (MORE)

MORT (CONT'D)

PICK YOUR SCHTICK
DON'T JUST STAND THERE
LET'S THINK QUICK
OF A BRAND NEW, GRAND YOU
YOU'LL BE SLICK,
IN DEMAND WHERE
YOUR GROUPIES WON'T STOP POUNDING
AT YOUR DOOR!

GARY

I know how to stick a candle through my arm!

MORT

That's really nice for you. But how is the question. Are you dressed as an exotic Sheik? Do you do a comedy routine like daddy? Is the candle on fire? Are you on fire?

GARY

I got really burnt on a trip to Atlantic City once. I went through six bottles of Aloe Vera. Everyone called me Red Lobster.

MORT

Oy. Let me do the jokes. Now, let's go through the optionsTHERE'S THE GUY WHO BENDS THE SPOON THERE'S THE MUTE AND GIANT GOON THERE ARE SCARY, FAIRY GERMANS BUT THAT'S NOT NEW THERES THE GUY WHO LIKES TO DRILL INTO PEOPLE FOR A THRILL THOUGH IT MAY SEEM FASCINATING, I DONT THINK THAT IT'S FOR YOU

GARY

Has there ever been a Hobbit inspired magician? I've got the furry feet for it!

MORT

Let's put that idea on the back burner. Why not follow in the path of your own idol? Why not master Harry Houdini's remarkable Chinese Water Torture Cell!?

GARY

That's incredibly dangerous. (MORE)

GARY (CONT'D)

I saw that illusion in the 1953 movie starring Tony Curtis! I can't do that.

MORT

Don't be so quick to give up. I think it's brilliant. A chubby Jewish boy master escapist! It's ingenious!

GARY

Ma says that Jews have no business dabbling in the magical arts.

MORT

Your mother has no idea what she's talking about. Look at you! Look at me! Look at the pantheon of greats! OKITO AND FU MANCHU
NOT ASIAN BUT BOTH HEBREW
IN FACT THEY WERE BAMBERGS, AND YES THEY WERE DUTCH
I'M SURE THEY BOTH LIKED MATZAH
BALL SOUP VERY MUCH

GARY

But they're all dead.

MORT

That's just silly. Even today
MAX MAVEN AND DAVID BLAINE
BOTH CARRY, THE JEWISH STRAIN
THIS BOY DAVID KOTKIN, HIS FATE
QUICKLY SEALED
PICKED UP THE WAND AND CHANGED HIS
NAME TO COPPERFIELD

GARY

Wow.

MORT

And let's not forget the biggest Jewish illusionist of them all. AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST ALTHOUGH HE'S DECEASED HIS ACT STILL KEEPS A BILLION FANS ENTICED THE LEADING MAGICIAN WHO FELT CIRCUMCISION, WAS THE WORLD RENOWNED JESUS CHRIST!

But I've never tried an illusion as advanced as that.

MORT

What could be so hard? A little bit of chains? A little bit of water?

GARY

I don't know...

MORT

Listen bubbaleh. Don't you have a dream? Of course you have a dream! Like your daddy had a dream. I wasn't content just thinking about doing magic. So I did something about it. And what did I become? I was the hottest magician on the retirement community circuit in Boca! And now it's your turn Gary. Go a step further. A bigger step further!

KNOW YOUR SCHTICK,
BE ENTHUSED TOO!
IN A FLICK,
YOU'LL BE GLOWING, SHOWING
EV'RY PRICK,
WHO ABUSED YOU
THAT WHAT THEY SAY IS NOT WORTH ANY
CRAP

SO COME ON GARY, LET YOURSELF GO TAKE A TIP FROM MORTISSIMO LET ME TELL YOU ONE THING I KNOW THAT THE CHINESE WATER TORTURE CELL

GARY

THE CHINESE WATER TORTURE CELL?

MORT

THE CHINESE WATER TORTURE CELL!

GARY

THE CHINESE WATER TORTURE CELL!

BOTH

THE CHINESE WATER TORTURE CELL WILL FIN'LLY PUT A GOLDFARB ON THE MAP!

Blackout/light change into:

SONG: TALENT SHOW SEQUENCE

CHERYL is dressed in traditional Indian garb. Applause is heard, as if an act has just ended. She addresses the audience.

CHERYL

Thank you Wendy Weintraub.
WENDY WEINTRAUB
WASN'T SHE AMAZING?
ALMOST LIKE YOU'RE GAZING AT ALECIA
KEYS
But diff'rent.

WENDY WEINTRAUB
NO ONE EVER MENTIONS
HAIR FULL OF EXTENSIONS AND THOSE
BOOBS AREN'T "C'S"
Push up bra. Hello.
And now travel with me to not one
destination but two! A dance where
Mumbai like intertwines with Tel
Aviv.

Nothing happens.

Press the button! Losers.

CHERYL does a schizophrenic dance which seems like a combination of Indian dance and excerpts from Fiddler On The Roof.

CHERYL

I know. I was like amazing. And now, the moment you have all been like anticipating. The magic of Tyler-

TYLER

(poking his head onto the stage)

Say the name dammit!!

CHERYL

Um ew. And now get ready for the magic of The Tantalizing Tool! Assisted by the gorgeous and incandescent...me.

TYLER performs his slightly creepy techno inspired magic. With the assistance of Cheryl, he performs a few illusions. It ends with him stabbing a sword through CHERYL'S neck. PENELOPE comes out on stage.

TYLER

What do you want Penelope? This stage is for walker's only!

PENELOPE

This is for Gary!!!

PENELOPE wheels as fast as she can towards TYLER.

TYLER

I guess you're deaf too. Can't you...what the f....AHHHHHHHHHH!!!

PENELOPE chases him off the stage. The curtains close. We hear a loud crash. After the last crashing sound, CHERYL returns to the stage, the sword still protruding from her neck.

CHERYL

Whatever. Is anyone gonna help me get this thing off? Hello? I guess I can do my dance again.

Gary enters sheepishly.

GARY

Cheryl?

CHERYL

What do you want Gary?

GARY

I could do my magic act.

CHERYL

What?

GARY

I brought all my things...

CHERYL

Well there can only be one magic act...and I guess it was never completed...so I guess the stage is yours...

GARY

Cheryl?

CHERYL

Um yeah?

GARY

(handing her a piece of paper)

Could you announce me?

CHERYL

Whatever. Ladies and Gentlemen-Gary Goldfarb: master escapist...ew.

GILDA enters through the audience, making a fuss.

GILDA

Excuse me. Excuse me. Get out of my way. My son called me. I came as fast as I could. Did I miss anything? Luckily I was in the neighborhood...jogging.

GARY enters.

GILDA

Gary!!! Whoooooo!

Gary embarrassed, tries to ignore her. He starts performing the snowstorm act.

GILDA

How do you work this camera? Any gentiles out there who know how to work this thing?

GARY finishes the first illusion.

GILDA

(throughout the illusion)
That actually was sort of
impressive. Go Gary! Smile for your
grandmother!

After Gary picks up the chopsticks:

Gary loves Chinese food but it gives him indigestion.

Gary finishes the snowstorm illusion and takes a bow. MORT enters carrying chains and begins to wrap them around GARY.

GARY

I'LL FREE

GILDA

Who's that?

THE HARRY HOUDINI I'LL FACE MY FEARS ERASE THE PAST

GILDA

Those chains look dangerous...

GARY

I'LL BE

LIKE HARRY HOUDINI

GARY begins his climb into the fish tank, assisted by MORT.

GARY

AND UNLIKE ALL MY DAYS BEFORE I'LL EMBRACE WHO I AM AND SOAR

GILDA

Is he getting in? 'Cause he's gonna get stuck! I know he's gonna get stuck!

GARY climbs in. MORT covers the tank and spins it around as the music swells. MORT saunters off with the final spin. The music swells into complete silence.

GILDA

What's going on here? Is this normal?

More silence.

GILDA

Where's the magic? Someone remove the sheet!

Cheryl removes the sheet. GARY is dead- floating in the tank. Silence. GILDA looks dumbfounded.

GILDA

Gary? He's being awfully quiet in there. Gary? GARY!!!!!!!

Blackout/segue. Gary enters drenched and dead. Is this heaven?

GARY

I don't think that ended too well.

PENELOPE enters.

Gary?

GARY

Penelope?

PENELOPE

Where are we?

GARY

It seems like the talent contest but somehow it's not...

PENELOPE

Is that you in the tank?

GARY

It looks like it.

PENELOPE

Oh. I think you drowned.

GARY

Yeah. That kinda sucks.

PENELOPE

It does. That doesn't look very comfortable.

GARY

Wait. What are you doing here?

PENELOPE

I made the ultimate sacrifice.

GARY

Sacrifice? What do you mean?

PENELOPE

I had to stop Tyler. I chased him off the stage. I wanted you to win. I'd do anything for you.

SONG: WALK ALL OVER

MY WHEEL CHAIR CRASHED
I HIT MY HEAD
I SLIPPED INTO A COMA
MY BRAIN WAS SMASHED
AND NOW I'M DEAD
FROM AN EPIDURAL HEMATOMA
BUT I DID IT FOR YOU, GARY
I DID IT FOR YOU

I KNOW I DON'T SMELL LIKE LILAC
I'M NOT PARTIAL INDIAN, I'M NOT
PARTIAL JEW
I'LL ACCEPT EV'RY PART OF YOU AND
EV'RY CURVE,
TREAT YOU AS THE MAN YOU ARE, THE
WAY YOU DESERVE
AND I'LL NEVER WALK ALL OVER YOU
I'LL NEVER WALK ALL OVER YOU

GARY

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SMELL LIKE LILAC YOU'RE NOT PARTIAL INDIAN THAT MUCH I CAN SEE
YOU ACCEPT EV'RY PART OF ME AND EV'RY ROLL
CHASING ALL MY FANTASIES, EMBRACING MY SOUL
AND YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALL OVER ME
YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALL OVER ME

BOTH

MAKE A MAGIC MOMENT, LET OUR HEARTS COMBINE

PENELOPE

YOUR BLUE AND BLOATED BODY

GARY

YOUR BROKEN NECK AND SPINE

BOTH

OH, WE'LL BE FINE WE WILL SHINE АННННННННННН ҮЕАН АНННННННННН

GARY

Walk towards me Penelope!

This chair can't hold me! I'm coming Gary! I'm co...

PENELOPE falls to floor. Adlib awkwardness. GARY assists her back into the chair. The music continues.

PENELOPE

I'LL EMBRACE EV'RY PART OF YOU AND EV'RY ROLL

GARY

ONLY YOU PENELOPE, CAN MAKE MY SPIRIT WHOLE

BOTH

AND YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALL OVER ME YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALL OVER ME AND YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALL OVER ME YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALL OVER ME AND YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALL OVER ME YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALL OVER ME

MORT enters, interrupting what might be a kiss.

MORT

Gary! Affairs of the heart can wait. But your audience cannot.

GARY

But Penelope...

PENELOPE

It's ok Gary. I'll be right here. Always right here.

MORT

Meet your peers. This is-

GARY

(seeing them out in the audience)

Okito! The Okito?

MORT

Member of the prestigious Bamberg family!

GARY

That is amazing daddy! Why isn't he saying anything?

As a young boy, he lost most of his hearing in an ice skating accident. Hence forth, his act was always in pantomime. And look who it is!

GARY

Harry Blackstone, Senior? Also known as The Great Blackstone? Creator of "The Floating Light Bulb?"
What is this place? Is this Magician's heaven?

MORT

This is your dream Bubbaleh. It can be anything you want it to be. Personally, I'm missing the whole cloud feel, but then again it's not my dream.

GARY

Ohmigod! Ohmigod! Am I seeing things? Can it be... Is that... Jesus?!

MORT

No Gary. It's just Doug Henning.

GARY

Oh. Right. Sorry. Nice outfit, Mr. Henning! So colorful.

MORT

Well bubbaleh. There is one more person for you to meet. He has been expecting you.

GARY

Who?

MORT

Really Gary? Really? After all this time, and the countless repetition, you actually have to ask who?

GARY

...It ...It can't be.

MORT

And it isn't even Tuesday! I would like to introduce you to-

HARRY HOUDINI enters.

MORT/OFF STAGE CHORUS

HARRY! HARRY HOUDINI!

GARY

It's him! In person! Right before my eyes! My dream come true. It's-

MORT/OFF STAGE CHORUS

HARRY! HARRY HOUDINI!

HARRY

Jerry!

GARY

Wait a second. Harry Houdini wasn't black.

HARRY

Hey. This is your fantasy. I don't make the rules. You wanted me. I'm here.

GARY

Oh right. Sorry Mr. Houdini sir.

HARRY

Call me Harry. Now listen, you did it all wrong.

GARY

Yeah....

HARRY

You can't use real handcuffs and chains.

GARY

You can't?

HARRY

No. They're rigged. Rigged. Did you consult an expert? Read a book?

GARY

Um...

HARRY

No matter. It's done. Welcome! Now. Can I offer you something? A biscuit maybe? A cup of Kool Aid perhaps?

This is amazing. But I don't belong here. I drowned. I failed at the illusion. I don't deserve this honor.

Song: FINALE

HARRY

(riffing away)

Jerry, I will not have you talk of yourself this way. HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE MANGOSTEEN? A THAI EXOTIC FRUIT WHEN YOU FIRST INSPECT 'EM THEY LOOK LIKE A RECTUM A FACT NOT SO EASY TO REFUTE BUT IGNORE ITS ODD APPEARANCE TAKE A CHANCE AND TRY TO EAT, IF YOU TAKE A BITE FULL YOU'LL SAY: "DELIGHTFUL!" SINCE IT'S TANGY, SOFT, AND SWEET

YOU ARE THE MANGOSTEEN, JERRY A PEARL IN ITS JAGGED SHELL THE GOOD IN YOU WILL WIN IN YOU AND THOSE WHO DOUBT CAN GO TO HELL YOU ARE THE MANGOSTEEN, JERRY DON'T EVER TRY TO CHANGE YOUR HUE 'CAUSE YOU'RE JERRY GOLDSTEIN, MASTER ESCAPIST SO JUST BE YOU! So with that advice I'm sending you back to earth Jerry Goldstein. It is not your time. Return and achieve greatness. And from this day forth the good within you, will also shine from the exterior!

GARY

But I don't want to go back to earth. I want to stay here in magical heaven with you and my daddy!

HARRY

Here. Take this for your journey.

GARY

What is it?

HARRY

It's a Snickers bar. Your favorite.

You're bribing me with chocolate?

HARRY

Chin up and seize your destiny! So long Jerry Goldstein: Master Escapist! Safe travels and safe landing!

Crazy, dream music- with time changing lighting. GARY is on the floor. GILDA holds him in her arms. CHERYL, and RIMSORE are there as well. GARY awakens, in a daze.

GILDA

Gary! You're alive! My darling
baby!

GARY

Harry Blackstone SR.? Daddy? Doug Henning? Where...what happened to Harry Houdini?

GILDA

If you ever do that to me again- I swear- I'll drown you!

GARY

Why do I taste kalamata olives and cigarettes?

GILDA

Luckily Coach Rimsore here knew CPR and special revitalization techniques.

RIMSORE

You learn some pretty useful things doing time.

GILDA

You're a man of many talents Mr. Rimsore.

RIMSORE

More than you know, Mrs. Goldfarb. More than you know.

GARY

Penelope! Where is Penelope?

PENELOPE wheels in.

PENELOPE

I'm here Gary.

Oh Penelope! I thought you were dead.

PENELOPE

Just a little bruised. I was wearing my knee pads.

CHERYL

Gary?

GARY

Cheryl?

CHERYL

I just wanted to apologize.

GARY

Apologize?

CHERYL

Yeah. Who knew you were like so adventurous? It's kinda turning me on in a very wrong and twisted way. Gary Goldbart has a sexy, dangerous streak.

GARY

It's Goldfarb.

CHERYL

Yeah whatever. So, why don't we like get you all dried up and go celebrate your new found hotness?

GARY

Celebrate?

CHERYL

We can go over to my place. My mother makes killer korma.

GARY

Really?

CHERYL

Um...like yeah.

GARY

With me?

CHERYL

You heard me.

You want me to go to your house?

CHERYL

(suddenly psychotic)

Are your ears like clogged up with water or something?!

GARY

Okay. Thanks for the offer Cheryl. But I think I'm gonna stay here with Penelope.

GILDA clears her throat.

GARY

And my mother.

CHERYL

Are you like serious?

PENELOPE

It's okay Gary. You can go. You love cream sauces.

CHERYL

See? Even cripple girl said it's fine.

GARY

Her name is Penelope and that's quite alright. I'm not going anywhere. I'm staying right here.

PENELOPE

What are you doing Gary? She's the most beautiful Indian/Jewish girl in school. You've always wanted her. This is your chance.

GARY

Not anymore.

PENELOPE

What do you mean?

GARY

I mean...well...something's changed. Cheryl is still hot and stuff.

CHERYL

Um yeah.

But I don't care about that. You're the only one for me Penelope.

PENELOPE

I am?

GARY

Of course.

PENELOPE

But how could you want someone like me?

GARY

Don't ever say that!
YOU ARE A MANGOSTEEN, PENELOPE

PENELOPE

A what?

GARY

IT'S A FRUIT THAT LOOKS LIKE CRAP

PENELOPE

•••

GARY

AS YOU PRY IT
AND YOU TRY IT
YOU IGNORE ITS HANDICAP
YOU ARE THE MANGOSTEEN PENELOPE
THOUGH OTHER FOLKS MIGHT
MISCONSTRUE
YOU'RE PENELOPE SPRY, THE SWEETEST
GIRL

SO JUST STAY YOU!

PENELOPE

That's the most romantic thing anyone's ever said to me!

CHERYL

Ew. You guys can have each other. I was even going to let you eat the korma off of me but whatever- stay losers.

GARY/PENELOPE

A SWAN MAY OFTEN CHARM YOU
A BIRD OF SPLENDOR, AND OF GRACE
BUT IT WILL TRY TO HARM YOU
AS IT PECKS OUT BOTH YOUR EYES AND
IT TRIES TO EAT YOUR FACE

(MORE)

GARY/PENELOPE (CONT'D)

WE'RE PROUD THAT WE'RE MANGOSTEENS,

CHERYL! YEAH! YEAH!

BEGRUDGE AND JUDGE US 'TILL YOU'RE

BLUE!

THERE'S NOTHING YOU SAY

THAT'LL CHANGE US ANY WAY

WE'RE PROUD TO BE MANGOSTEENS,

CHERYL!

WE'RE MANGOSTEENS THROUGH AND

THROUGH!

WE'RE MANGOSTEENS THROUGH AND

THROUGH!

TYLER enters bandaged up with a neck brace.

TYLER

Gary.

GARY

Tyler?

TYLER

This is yours.

GARY

What is it?

TYLER

You win the talent contest.

GARY

I do?

TYLER

It's a 25 dollar gift certificate to Fuddruckers.

GARY

Awesome!

TYLER

Enjoy the trek to New Jersey.

GARY

I will.

TYLER

Gary?

GARY

Tyler?

TYLER

I'm sorry.

GARY

It's okay.

TYLER

I should have accepted your yogurts.

GARY

Next time.

TYLER

You've inspired me. I too have something to say.
I AM A MANGOSTEEN, GARY WITH A SECRET TO BE TOLD I'VE KEPT HIDDEN, THOUGHTS FORBIDDEN SINCE I WAS FOUR OR FIVE YEARS OLD I AM A MANGOSTEEN, BITCHES SO RAISE THE ROOF AND MAKE SOME NOISE 'CAUSE I'M TYLER TOOLMAN, AND I'M SHOUTIN' OUT

CHERYL

I knew it!

THAT I LIKE BOYS!

GARY

Ma?

GILDA

What?

GARY

Are you a Mangosteen?

GILDA

WHY NOT BE A PINEAPPLE OR WHY NOT BE A PLUM?
OR BETTER YET A FIG OR A GUAVA?

GARY

No ma.

BUT FOR YOU I'LL SACRIFICE, FOR YOU I WOULD SUCCUMB
TO TORTURES WITH SHARP SPIKES OR MOLTEN LAVA
SIGN ME UP MY BABY BOY, FOR YOU I'LL ALWAYS DRUM—
I'LL BE A MANGOSTEEN
FOR DAYS AND YEARS TO COME!
At least a mangosteen sounds
Jewish.

RIMSORE

Gary?

GARY

Yes Coach Rimsore?

RIMSORE

...Can I be...a Mangosteen?

GARY

Of course you can! We all can. Even you.

ALL

WE ALL ARE MANGOSTEENS!
COME BE A MANGOSTEEN!
FIND THE GOOD AND KIND IN YOU!
THEN YOU CAN BE A MANGOSTEEN

GILDA

Jesus Christ!

(After her recovery:)

To my house! For cake!

RIMSORE

What kind of cake?

GILDA

My special coffee walnut chocolate cake.

RIMSORE

Is it...moist and nutty?

GILDA

Well that's for you to find out...Mr. Rimsore.

RIMSORE

Call me Remington.

GILDA

Then you can call me Gilda.

GILDA/RIMSORE giggle off.

TYLER

I'm getting a pedicure! And some physical therapy.

He exits.

CHERYL

Tyler? What the...? This is totes bogus! This is not the way it's supposed to end! I'm hot! And the hot Indian/Jewish girl doesn't end up all alone!

PENELOPE

Fuck off Cheryl!

Gary makes a magical gesture and CHERYL disappears in a burst of smoke (or in another creative way).

PENELOPE

Awesome.

GARY

WITH A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC ...

PENELOPE

WITH A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC ...

PENELOPE starts stirring in her chair. Gary stares at her for a moment confused.

GARY

What are you doing?

PENELOPE

I'm trying to kiss you.

GARY

Oh.

They kiss sweetly, yet awkwardly. Music swells. The wheel chair magically saunters off. Or maybe Penelope levitates into Gary's arms.

OFF STAGE CHORUS (ala Disney ending) WITH A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC...

(THE END.)