

Cock *E*yeD

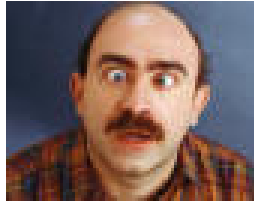
(A movie adapted from the play)

By
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CockEyed

Cast

RIVKA.....65 years old. Attractive, Wealthy psychologist. Has been in love with JAKE for 35 years, but because of his striking resemblance to her Deceased father, can't bring herself to say "I love you, Jake." (Also as little girl.)

JAKE.....69 years old. Because of being Cockeyed, feels inadequate and has become a drunk. Owner of the Fenway movie theater. He has been Love with RIVKA for 35 years, but, because he doesn't feel he is good enough for her or anyone, can't tell her how he feels. Lonely, talks to movie Posters, who he feels are his only friends. (Also as boy.)

SAM the Lawyer.....30 years old, handsome.

DR. Rosen.....32 years old, handsome.

Rivka's FATHER.....50 years olds.

Jake's GRANDFATHER.....80 years old.

GRACIELLA.....25 years old. Beautiful Puerto Rican.

JAMES DEAN.....28 years old. Movie star.

HOST (waiter).....50 years old.

DOCTOR.....60 years old.

Cock *E*yeD

INT: The present. 10 A.M.:

1

RIVKA, 65 years old is very attractive.

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

SHE looks in the mirror and remorsefully talks to herself:

RIVKA

Today is the last day of my beloved Fenway, Papa, the last day, but this girl ain't ready to say goodbye, no way Jose. I'll put on something really, (Shakes sexily.) really sexy, shake my little 'touches,' that's some little 'touches,' huh? Bring him over here, get him a little more, tipsy than he usually is, then get him to kiss me, touch me, make mad and passionate love to me. I'll get him to want me like he's never wanted another woman in his life. Why not, I've wanted him for as long as I can remember and I know he's wanted me just as much. He better. Isn't that something? All these years, they all wanted to take me to bed, but my Jake, because that cockeyed 'yold' is such a gentleman I bet the reason he wouldn't make love to me is he wants to wait until we get married, and thank God, tonight's the night, Papa. And I can't wait to say I do, do I do.

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

2

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

SAM

(Nervous.)

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

RIVKA

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

SAM

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

RIVKA

You'll be happy and what about me?

INT: Back in time: INT: Ballroom: WE see handsome, Dr. Rosen fox trotting with RIVKA.

3

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

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

ROSEN

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

RIVKA

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

ROSEN

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

RIVKA

How mad are you, Fido?

ROSEN

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

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

INT: Present: Bedroom:

4

RIVKA looks in the mirror and sadly remembers:

RIVKA

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

INT: The present: 11 A.M.:

5

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

JAKE

(Toasts, drinks.)
'*L'haim,*' to your health Mr.
Brando, to your health... When
I showed "*On the Waterfront,*"
(*Ala Brando.*)
and you said "*I coulda been a
contender,*" you were some
contender all right. Like
Marciano, Graziano, Floyd
Paterson, Sugar Ray, they were
contenders too. But, you were
my favorite contender. I'm
telling you, movie stars, I

love all of you... my best
friends. It was raining-cats-

(MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

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

INT: WE are back: RIVKA'S bedroom:

6

RIVKA

Who wouldn't want to marry a
sexy lady like me? I couldn't
marry all those other guys,
because I was waiting for my
Jake. I could never figure out
what it is. He's not the most
handsome, Abie was the most
handsome, another Paul Newman,
and was he sexy and rich,
'oy,' was he rich. Jake's not
the smartest or the wisest,
so, what the hell is it?

EXT: Back in time:

7

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

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

8

JAKE

(Drinks.)

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

hole in your head. So, I
figured, why shouldn't I
celebrate, what, I'm not
entitled...?

INT: The present: RIVKA'S bedroom.

9

RIVKA

(Opens closet and looks at her clothes.)

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

WE see clothes she describes in closet:

10

RIVKA'S

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

(Sings.)

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

INT: Living room: JAKE resumes speaking to Brando:

11

JAKE

40 years Marlon. Jake's been selling tickets for 40 years. They think I don't know that they all called me crazy, but I know I know plenty. "If you own the Fenway, why don't you hire someone to sell tickets, cheapskate?" I never hired anyone, because maybe I am cheap, and since when is being cheap a crime? Benny was cheaper than me. Ask anybody and who was more famous than Jack Benny and what about George Burns? They were best friends you know. Who wouldn't want to be friends with God? But to tell you the truth, the reason why I wanted to sell tickets is, I always wanted to see the look on their faces, I wanted to see them cringe when

(CU of his cockeye.)

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

(Drinks.)

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

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

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

WE are back:

13

RIVKA

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

INT: WE are back:

14

JAKE

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

say "I love you Jake, I've

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

(MORE)

(Continued)

(Sings.)

*'I have dreamed that your arms
are lovely...'*

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

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

Why thank you fro the
compliment, Mr...

JAKE

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

RIVKA

My name is Rivka, Jake and
pleased to meet you. That's
fifty cents, isn't it? You
know, Jake, you remind me of
my father, may he rest in
peace.

JAKE

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

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

JAKE

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

Speaks to poster of Clark Gable.

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

(Ala Gable.)

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

INT: JAKE in booth recalls:

17

JAKE

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

INT: Back in time: JAKE give RIVKA flowers and they 18
Walk through Central Park. ALL scenes that go back in time
will be shot in sepia:

RIVKA

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

JAKE

Says who?

RIVKA

Oh Jake, you're such a
flatterer.

JAKE

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

RIVKA

(Sings.)

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

Really, what time?

JAKE

Around, three.

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

Say when *Buhby*, just say when.

JAKE

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

RIVKA

You, do that sweetheart, you do that.

JAKE

I will, I swear.

RIVKA
Promises, promises.

INT: 1940. Noon;

19

Rivka's father's living room:

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

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

FATHER
Buhbala, I can't tell you how
disgusted I am because
everyone looks at me with such
(Cries.)
pity and disdain. I don't
want pity. Who needs it? How
alone, how useless and
unfulfilled my life has been.
Even though I never got
married again, thank God I
have you, because I love you
more than anyone in the whole
world my sweetheart.

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

INT: WE are back:

20

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

JAKE
I started as an usher right
here, when I was 17, I played
your "*White Heat*," for two
(Ala Cagney.)
*weeks. "Look ma, top of the
world, top of the world."* In
that movie, Jimmy, you really
loved your mother... I never
knew my mother, but I wish I
did, I wish I did. Then you
died too... These things hurt
and like a dope I cried.

INT: 1940: 1 P.M.:

21

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

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

FATHER

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

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

FATHER (CONT'D)

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

RIVKA

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

EXT: Back in time:

22

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

RIVKA (Crying little girl)

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

INT: Back to present: RIVKA'S living

23

RIVKA is drinking wine:

WE hear soft music as SHE dances with herself:

RIVKA

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

(MORE)

RIVKA (Cont'd)

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

(Gyrates.)

bicycle or... in 30 years... I've wasted my life waiting, hoping, praying, but I'm not waiting any more you cockeyed bastard. Not a second longer. I want you and when Rivka wants something, she gets it. So, I'm coming to get you Jake. Do you hear? I'm coming to get you, 'cause (Sings.)
"We're getting married in the morning. Ding dong the bells are gonna chime."

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

24

JAKE

And when you, Bogey... To me you were always my best friend, for years. After all, how many "Casablanca's" were there? And what about the "Maltese Falcon?" and my favorite, "The African Queen." May you rest in peace Mr. Orner. That's what Katie called you, Mr. Orner, 'Olev hasholem,' may you rest in peace. You were some guy and your wife Lauren Bacall wasn't so bad either. I'll tell you

(MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)
the truth, I never told you,
but I was crazy about your
wife. I'm sure I'm not the
only one... Tell me Humphrey,
how did you get her? Did you
buy her flowers, candy, and
take her out to dinner? What
did you do? Rivka likes
yellow roses. I just don't
know what

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

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

EXT: Afternoon:

25

RIVKA, about to enter the Fenway:

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

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

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

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

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

JAKE cont'd)

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

(Apologizes to standees.)
Come this way. I'll be back
in a moment; I have to seat my
favorite princess, don't I?
Nu, what are you waiting for?
lets go.

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

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

Oh, Jake, I just don't know
what I'm going to do with you?

JAKE

(Tries to impersonate Humphrey Bogart.)
How's about a dinner tonight,
lady? I mean if you got the
time, I got the place,
gorgeous.

RIVKA

Are you finally asking me for
a date, mister?

JAKE

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

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

Anniversary?

JAKE

Its five years since I fell in...

RIVKA

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

THEY both laugh.

JAKE

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

(MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

a half in "*Some Like it Hot*," but your timing couldn't be better.

RIVKA

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

JAKE

How about the *Four Seasons*?

RIVKA

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

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

Really?

JAKE

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

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

INT: THEY enter a darkened theatre.

26

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

JAKE (cont'd)

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

INT: 10: P.M.:

27

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

JAKE

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

JAKE (Cont'd)

I have to have a big drink,
because I just don't have the
(Drinks.)

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

Pours, another drink and drinks.

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

EXT: 10:45 P.M.:

28

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

HOST

Good evening madam, may I help
you?

RIVKA

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

HOST

Looks at list.

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

RIVKA

Oh, I'm sure he'll be here
momentarily. Anyway, I came
in, because it was a little
chilly outside.

HOST

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

HOST SEATS RIVKA:

HOST (cont'd)

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

RIVKA

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

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

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

Again RIVKA looks at her watch:

RIVKA (cont'd)

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

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

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

The waiter apologetically approaches RIVKA and looks at HER:

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

RIVKA (cont'd)

(Slurs her speech.)

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

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

INT: RIVKA'S bedroom: 32

Music is playing and RIVKA is dancing with HERSELF:

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

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

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

GRANDFATHER

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

JAKE (boy)

But I'm your only grandson, Zeyda.

GRANDFATHER

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

JAKE

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

ZEYDA kisses JAKE.

Back to JAKE speaking to poster of Valentino: 34

JAKE

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

INT: Closet WE see RIVKA'S clothes:

34a

RIVKA

(Sings.)

"Oh, how we danced on the night we were wed..." What a night to elope, huh Jake? The stars, full moon, gorgeous, just gorgeous, what could be more romantic, sweetheart? We won't even take any luggage. We'll buy everything we need when we get there. How about Miami, pussycat? You like the weather in Miami, don't you? My friend Trudy's got a beautiful place right on the ocean. We'll call a rabbi, and after the ceremony we'll drink champagne, eat caviar and dance 'til the swallows come home to Capistrano. Or we could go to the Riviera, if you want? Nice, Monaco. This time of the year it's

(Sings.)

beautiful. Oh, Jake... "I ain't ever been so happy I could cry." Maybe I should put on my black shift. I think it fits so much better than this, or maybe my purple pants suit. I think he'll like the purple more than the black

(Sings.)

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

(Sings.)

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

(MORE)

RIVKA (Cont'd)
witty and gay..." Papa, do you
witty and gay..." Papa, do you
hear? Your '*Rivkala*' is
finally getting married.

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

getting married. Can you
believe it Papa? Can you
believe it? And what about
you, Ma? Still think I'm gonna
die an old maid like somebody
I know. Well do you? It
looks likes somebody's wrong,
doesn't it...? Well, I guess
you've been wrong more than
once. And guess who I'm going
to marry, Ma? Don't you know?
Your cockeyed wonder.

(Laughs.)

(MORE)

RIVKA (Cont'd)
Do you remember when I
introduced you to him...? Do
you remember what you said...?

1963: INT: Fenway theatre:

35

WE see RIVKA introduce HER MOTHER to JAKE:

With disdain, HER MOTHER shakes JAKE'S hand:

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

36

The following day:

MOTHER

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

RIVKA

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

MOTHER

Love, who, the hell gives a damn or needs love. I wasn't in love when I got pregnant with you in Poland. Nobody ever married for love in Poland. Rome wasn't built on love. Nothing is. A beautiful, rich girl like you can fall in love everyday, with anybody she wants. What dope wouldn't want to marry a millionaire like you, Rivka? I curse the day that your '*faschtunkeneh*' father left you all his money and not me. Why '*Gott*,' what did I do wrong? Didn't I deserve it? He got '*ME*' *fahshvenget*, pregnant, that sonofabitch!

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

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

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

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

INT: RIVKA'S APARTMENT. 38

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

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

MOTHER

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

RIVKA

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

MOTHER

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

RIVKA

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

EXT: 1936: Back in time:

39

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

GRANDFATHER

And even though I love all the movie stars, I love you even more, Jakey. Always, because you are my shining star. *Twinkle, twinkle little*

(Hugs and kisses little Jake.)
star... like my little girl used to, the same face and what wouldn't I buy and do for her, may she rest in peace,

(MORE)

GRANDFATHER (Cont'd)
boy, do I love you, maybe
because, you look exactly and
your mother, my beloved
daughter, Rachel? You must
always remember that God only
chooses very special people to
give them an eye like you
have, and that you are
blessed, because luckily, God
made you different, you are
different. And when I kiss
your lucky eye, it's like
kissing my beloved daughter's
eye, whom I will always love
and miss, but thank God I have
you, Jakey, her son, my
grandson.

To the present: INT: living room:
RIVKA is recalling:

40

RIVKA
But that didn't prevent me
from falling madly in love
with Jake, did it, Ma? Much
to your disappointment, like
you I didn't fall in love with
anybody else, either. And,
neither did you Ma, 'neither'
did you. Even though Papa
didn't want to have anything
to do with you, you always
wanted him, didn't you? I saw
how you used to look at him
when he picked me up. Oh, you
would never admit it to me.
Think I had it any different?
Did you ever give a damn about
how anyone felt other than
yourself? I think I just said
that.

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

41

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

42

RIVKA

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

1936: INT: RATNER'S restaurant:

43

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

JAKE (boy)

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

GRANDFATHER

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

JAKE (boy)

I love you Grandpa more than anything.

1937: EXT: CEMETARY:

44

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

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

JAKE

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

WE ARE BACK:

45

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

JAKE

To tell you the truth, Mr. Fonda, even though you did "The Grapes of Wrath" and "On Golden Pond," I'm sorry to say, but to me Olivier, Brando, my best friend Bogey, were maybe a little better. You know who I really thought was the genius of all geniuses...? To tell you the truth, I think he was probably better than all you 'chorlehryas' put together. Chaplin and what a sense of humor. Who was funnier than Chaplin? "The Gold Rush," "Limelight." In the beginning of that movie, even though he was drunk, he saved a girl from committing suicide. In the end she saved him. He was the greatest and I'm going to tell you something Henry, it's between you and me. Chaplin also drank like a fish. Bourbon, he liked Bourbon. Me, I like vodka, three fingers of Smirnoff, if you don't mind. My father also drank Smirnoff, morning, noon and night... In fact he gave me my first drink. They say drinking runs in the family. 'Glaib mir,' believe me, does it run in the family.
(Drinks.)
I didn't always drink, ya know? I remember it like it was yesterday.

INT: 1942: BRONX APARTMENT:

46

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

FATHER

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

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

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

FATHER (CONT'D)

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

JAKE tastes it and doesn't like it:

FATHER (cont'd)

What are you a sissy?!

JAKE

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

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

JAKE (cont'd)

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

(Laughs.)

Ha ha, nothing bothers me.

(MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

(Laughs.)

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

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

47

JAKE (Cont'd)

For the last 55 years, I can assure you that no one's been

(Laughs.)

laughing more than me... They made a big deal about those baby boomers, just because hey were born after the Second World War. What dopes, did you ever hear them say one word about the poor kids that were *cockeyed*, me?

WE see shots of the depression:

48

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

DOCTOR

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

FATHER

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

DOCTOR

And unfortunately, your son has strabismus.

FATHER

What the hell is that?

DOCTOR
He's cockeyed.

INT: WE are back: 49

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

JAKE
He said he couldn't look at
me. He never went to school or
met any of my teachers, never
went anywhere with me.
(To poster of Chaplin.)
But, before he died I fixed
him, believe me I fixed him
good. What do you think
you're the only one that used
(Laughs.)
a cane to get a laugh,
Charlie? I got a sense of
humor too.

(MORE)

WE SEE FATHER USING CANE: 50

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

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

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

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

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

RIVKA

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

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

RIVKA'S (VO)

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

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

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

RIVKA (Con'td)

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

INT: OFFICE: TWO WEEKS LATER: 53A

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

RIVKA

I'm glad to see things are
working out.

MONA

(Happy.)

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

JACK

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

OFFICE: AN HOUR LATER: 54

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

RIVKA

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

BOB

I think it's my fault?

SARA

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

BOB

I'm sorry Sara, I really am.

RIVKA

Perhaps the both of you should see a fertility doctor?

TWO Months later: Office:

55

BOB and SARA are all smiles and laughing:

RIVKA

Such frivolity, may I ask why?

SARA

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

BOB

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

RIVKA

May I be the first to congratulate You.

INT: OFFICE: AN HOUR LATER:

56

Two attractive patients are ignoring each other:
RIVKA speaks:

RIVKA (cont'd)
Bill and Marla Lapedis, why,
have you both stopped
speaking? I guess that means
an end to all communication.

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

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

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

BILL
And maybe I get drunk because
you...

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

INT: OFFICE: 15 YEARS LATER:

57

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

RIVKA
Funny thing is, Bill and Marla
are still together and that
was 15 years ago.
Unfortunately, not all my
cases work out, but I always
try, I always try to bring
people together, don't I Papa?
I wanted to make sure that
parents, who were unhappy,
frustrated, didn't take it out
and abuse their children, like
(MORE)

RIVKA (Cont'd)
somebody I know. I believed
and still do that the majority
of the problems society has
with its children are a result
of '*meschugeneh*,' crazy
parents. Teenagers turn to
drugs, violence, sex, because
that's what they see. A
drunken father beats the crap
out of his son, so what does
his son do when he grows up?
He beats the hell out of his
kids. A daughter becomes
pregnant at 14. She says, if
my mother did it, why can't I?
And how happy do you think
I've been all my life. For as
long as I can remember she put
me down, she blamed me for her
miserable existence. That's
right Ma, existence. You
never lived you existed in
misery. Most people live, but
you, in your '*farbisseneh*,'
mean world, you hated my
father and me, because you
knew how much he loved me. You
wanted him to love you, but he
didn't. Was it my fault he
loved me and not you. Thank
God I didn't become
a drunk like you Ma, but the
way I've been drinking
today... who knows, '*ver
vaist?*' And to tell you the
truth, even though it's only a
week, I still can't believe
you're not here too... I'm
free Ma, I hate to tell you
this, but I'm free to do
whatever I want, with who ever
I want and thank God I still
want to.

INT: JAKES APARTMENT:

59

JAKE speaks to poster of JAMES DEAN:

JAKE

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

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

60

Ticket booth of Fenway:
Many people are in line as JAMES DEAN approaches:
WE see DEAN from the rear:

DEAN

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

JAKE

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

DEAN

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

JAKE

(Hurt.)

You're laughing at me, and my cockeye. If that's the case, no ticket, go laugh at somebody else. I'm sick-and-tired of people laughing and pointing at me.

DEAN

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

JAKE

(Wiping tears.)
You do?

DEAN

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

JAKE

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

DEAN

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

JAKE

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

DEAN

Yes it can. What's your name?

JAKE

My friends call me Jake.

DEAN

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

JAKE

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

DEAN

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

JAKE

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

DEAN

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

JAKE

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

EXT: 10:P.M.

61

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

DEAN

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

JAKE

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

EXT: STREET: NIGHT:

62

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

JAKE (CONT'D)
Hi ya Guido. Nice night,
isn't it?

GUIDO
(Gulps)
Is that...? Is that
really...?

JAKE
Yup, that's Frank Sinatra.

DEAN and JAKE start laughing.

JAKE (cont'd)
Ya know, it's the first time
in my life that I actually
laughed with a real, live
movie star and it feels great.

EXT: THE BLUE MOON CHINESE RESTAURANT:

63

Both are laughing as they pick up Chinese food:

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

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

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

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

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

INT: JAKE'S APARTMENT:

64

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

DEAN

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

JAKE

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

INT: 10: 30 P.M.: MOVIE THEATRE: 65
They ravage the food then JAKE takes DEAN into the theatre
and brings a bottle of Smirnoff, two glasses and some ice:
JAKE is very excited as they sit next to each other and,
watch the movie:

They drink and laugh throughout:

DEAN, nonchalantly starts smoking a joint:

JAKE

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

DEAN

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

JAKE

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

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

JAKE (cont'd)

(Laughing.)

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

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

JAKE (Cont'd)
Are you hungry?

DEAN
Starving.

JAKE
There's a little coffee shop
on Third.

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

66

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

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

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

INT: JAKE in ticket booth looks up:

67

JAKE
So what happened? I'll tell
you what happened. I read two
weeks later he died...
'Nebokh,' sorry boy, did I
cry... I never told anybody
(MORE)

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

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

68

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

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

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

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

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

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

They both start to laugh:

JAKE
The mad Russian, now that's
funny.

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

He *soitenly* was.

JAKE rubs his eye:

RIVKA (cont'd)

Does your eye hurt, Jake?

JAKE

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

RIVKA

(Thinking.)

Where did I hear that?

INT: WE GO BACK IN TIME:

69

RIVKA is a little girl and once again we see and hear her FATHER rub his eye and say, "*It only hurts when people make fun of me and it.*"

EXT: DAY - CENTRAL PARK:

70

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

When's good for you?

JAKE

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

RIVKA

That's a date.

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

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

JAKE is pacing nervously and checks HIS watch:

JAKE

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

INT: RIVKA'S living room. 72

Dejected, SHE is pacing and speaking to herself:

RIVKA

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

(MORE)

RIVKA (Cont'd)
And when he said, "*It only hurts when people make fun of it and me,*" I wanted to die. I shouldn't have told him that I'll meet at the museum, when I knew I wouldn't go. I can't keep torturing myself like
(Cries.)
this, I just can't, its driving me crazy, I just can't.

INT: Back in time: Bed room:

74

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

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

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

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

MOTHER
A lie...!

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

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

Old New York City: A furrier's loft:

75

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

RIVKA'S V.O.

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

INT: Many years ago:

76

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

Seeing HER FATHER'S cockeye, RIVKA cries:

MOTHER

(Screams.)_

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

FATHER

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

MOTHER

(Screaming.)

Her name's Rivka and what do
you care?

The Mayor's wife excuses herself and leaves:

FATHER

(Kisses Rivka.)

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

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

77

RIVKA (As girl)

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

FATHER

Don't be afraid of my eye.

RIVKA)

Does it hurt a lot?

FATHER

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

RIVKA (As girl)

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

FATHER

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

MOTHER

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

(MORE)

MOTHER (Cont'd)

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

FATHER

I should marry you? Never!
Why, should I marry you when I
don't love you?

MOTHER

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

FATHER

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

MOTHER

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

FATHER

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

A long pause:

MOTHER

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

FATHER

Vuh den, the best.

MOTHER

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

FATHER

More than you'll ever need...

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

78

WE see JAKE, 13 years old, looking around in Temple and

realizing he's, all alone.

JAKE (Boy)

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

WE are back: JAKE is in Booth:

79

JAKE

(Looks up.)

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

INT: Back in time. Father's furniture store: 80
The camera pans back and forth as we see many people looking at furniture in the store:

INT: JAKE talks to poster of Cary Grant: 81
WE see pictures of the Depression, JAKE'S father selling furniture which is in the Bronx.
WE see what Jake says:

JAKE

My father had a used furniture store on Bathgate Avenue in the Bronx; Abie's second hand furniture. That's where I grew up, Cary. During the depression, people couldn't afford to buy new furniture, that's why my father became so rich. You see, he was really a 'gonnif,' that means a thief, but he called himself a used furniture man... It seems everyone in the neighborhood hated him, because they knew he was taking them for a ride, but what could they do. He was the only one at that time who would give them any credit... The funny thing

(MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)
about my cockeye is that I
thought I was the only one in
the world that had it. When I
was about 35 Cary, I met the
love of my life: Rivka Finkel.

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

RIVKA
Hello Jake, may I have one
ticket please.

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

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

JAKE
(Afraid to expose himself as
always because she'll hate his
cockeye.)
I...I have a hard time
expressing myself, Rivka.

RIVKA
How long have you had that
lazy eye, Jake?

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

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

I'm a psychologist.

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

Dr. Goldfarb

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

JAKE

Really?

CUT: Back to speaking poster of Cary Grant: 83

JAKE

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

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

RIVKA

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

(MORE)

RIVKA (Cont'd)
They were two different
people, Ma, two different
(Sings.)
people. *"Two different worlds.
We live in two different
worlds."* I think the closest
I ever came to spitting it all
out was when we
(Rubs noses and laughs.)
almost rubbed noses.

EXT: WE are back to the present:

84

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

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

RIVKA
(Laughs.)
Wasn't he that...?

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

RIVKA
How's, about my mink big boy?

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

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

Really?

JAKE

(Smiles.)

And we never even rubbed noses, *nu?*

RIVKA

I don't think we should.

JAKE

And why not, may I ask *Madame*.

RIVKA

Who knows, I might like it.

JAKE

(Laughs.)

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

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

Sure, you blame it on your

(Sings)

age, some "*Blame it on the Bossa Nova, the dance of love.*"

JAKE

(Sort of laughs.)

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

RIVKA

And why should we rub noses, mister?

JAKE

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

RIVKA

Absolutely not Sergeant Preston of the Yukon, absolutely not.

JAKE

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

RIVKA

...Because what Sarg, because what?

INT: JAKE speaks to poster of Cary Grant:

85

JAKE

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

INT: RIVKA picks up photo of her mother:

86

RIVKA

What did I do to you, Ma? I hated when you didn't talk to me. I felt so alone, I hated being alone... Even now. Thank God I had my Papa. My hero, my one and only, my one and only. Even though he didn't raise me, he said he would love me forever. You never loved me. you were mean and vindictive and that's
(Puts photo down.)
an understatement.

INT: JAKE talks to poster of Richard Burton:

87

JAKE

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

BACK IN TIME:

88

RIVKA coos, picks up her parakeet and kisses it:

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

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

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

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

RIVKA (Little girl)
(Cries.)
Where's my Callam, Ma, what
happened to my little
parakeet?

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

FATHER
(Tries to console her.)
Don't worry 'Rivkala,' God
will take care of everything
and I'll buy you another
Callam, I'll buy you a
thousand parakeets if you
want.

INT: RIVKA speaking mother's photo: 92

RIVKA
I guess he sure fixed you,
didn't he and you deserved it,
because he left me all his
money... I would have been a
good mother. Just like you,
Ma... You said I gave you
heartburn, I was always your
heartburn, wasn't I? When I
graduated high school you
didn't even say
congratulations, because you
were too loaded. I went to
Columbia and got a degree in
psychology, you didn't even
come to my graduation and I
wonder why? By 22, 23, I
wanted to run away from you...
You know what? I'm still
running... 'Yoishe,' enough,
because I didn't commit
murder. If we forgave the
Germans and the Japanese,
maybe I should forgive you...
It doesn't matter, Ma. After
all these years, nothing
matters. Absolutely 'nada.'
The only thing that helps me
get through the day is knowing
that Jake will finally be
mine... I think I'll have
(MORE)

RIVKA (Cont'd)
another little drink before I
go see the love of my life.
This one's for you, Ma.
(Toasts and sings)
*"This one's for you where ever
you are."*

INT: Speak to poster of Warren Beatty:

93

JAKE

What about you, Mr. Beatty?
You were a great lover,
weren't you? I bet a million
women were in love with that
gorgeous '*punim,*' face of
yours. I remember that movie
you did about the Communists,
"REDS." So, you'll understand
exactly what I'm going to tell
you. Remember when "*HE*" came
and destroyed everything, and
they all hated his guts.
Especially directors and
writers. Boy, how they hated
him. You remember how many
lives he ruined and how many
innocent, desperate people
committed suicide because of
that '*umglick,*' bastard. Of
course, I'm talking about
Senator

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

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

JAKE (Cont'd)
great actors. In 1960, Dalton
Trumbo, who was blacklisted
for a decade finally received
screenwriting credit for
"Exodus." Can you imagine,
nobody knew he wrote it?

INT: RIVKA'S APARTMENT:

94

RIVKA speaks to photo of her Mother

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

INT:

95

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

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

JAKE (Cont'd)
to write, "*Spartacus*." had
been blacklisted since 1947,
was finally given credit
In 1961, Ring Lardner Jr. who
for writing "*The Cincinnati
Kid*."
Remember when he won an Oscar
for "*MASH?*" That was some
movie, wasn't it, Warren?

INT: 1985: RIVKA'S BED ROOM:

96

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

RIVKA

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

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

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

EXT: 1985: 11:P.M.:

97

RIVKA watches JAKE close the Fenway:

JAKE, infatuated, turns to RIVKA:

JAKE

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

RIVKA

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

JAKE

If it were up to me I'd give
them all awards. Ya know, I
never thought there'd be
anyone as good as my friend
Bogey, Spencer Tracey, Cagney,
(MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

but you see, even a genius
awhile, and I don't think I've
ever seen you look more like
me is wrong once-in-
beautiful, with your hair and
that dress, you look better
than Ava ever did. Want to
let me in on a secret and tell
me, what's the occasion?

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

Must I?

JAKE

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

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

Thanks for the compliment,
mister.

JAKE

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

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

I can't.

JAKE

And why can't you?

RIVKA

It's a long story, and...

JAKE

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

(MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)
Please Rivka, sweetheart, it's
your birthday.

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

JAKE
You can't or you don't want
too? I probably said something
wrong again, what I don't
know, but when I'm around you...
So, er, would you er, would
you let me take you out to
dinner next week, or the week
after. Anytime, I mean it,
anytime.

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

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

RIVKA
Yes, maybe some other time.

INT: RIVKA'S apartment:

98

SHE resumes speaking to photo of her FATHER:

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

RIVKA (Cont'd)
sleep with someone that looks
like your father. His eye,
his voice reminds me of you,
maybe that's why I can't get
him out of my mind. I'm still
hoping, praying, waiting for
that day he holds my hand. I
bet he has the softest most,
tender hands imaginable. I
can't wait until he puts those
gorgeous hands all over me.
And that time, that one time,
he asked me out to dinner and
I said no. How could I say
no? 'meshugeh,' I was crazy,
right? all right, you don't
have to rub it in.

JAKE speaks to poster of Zero Mostel:

99

If desired, we may see shots of stars mentioned:

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

JAKEA (Cont'd)
 bastard. Although he had never been a communist, Chaplin was not allowed to reenter the U.S. He didn't come back until 1972 when Hollywood finally woke up and honored him with a lifetime achievement award. All this time, Ronald Reagan, the head of the Screen Actors Guild kept in touch with that 'fageleh' bastard Hoover, informing him about disloyal actors. Talk about being disloyal. How Reagan became President I'll never know. I never voted for him, because I knew, boy did I know. Clifford Odetts stopped writing and a lot of people think that John Garfield's death was because of McCarthy.

INT: RIVKA'S bedroom:

100

DRINKING, RIVKA speaks to photo of her father:

RIVKA

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

Back in time:

101

VIA VO, WE see what RIVKA describes:

RIVKA VO

When I walked into my bedroom, there he was 'schtupping' one of his new starlets in my bed. I felt so betrayed. Then, I was crazy, deluding
 (MORE)

RIVKA (Cont'd)
 myself that I could ever stop
 loving Jake. But, I got this
 brownstone and five million
 and became a marriage
 counselor. You see Papa, the
 only reason I married Abie was
 because I thought, maybe I
 would forget Jake. I could
 never forget my beloved
 (Sings)
 Jake. That's why, "Tonight,
 tonight, won't be like any
 night."

INT: JAKE'S LIVINGROOM:

102

JAKE speaks to poster of ZERO MOSTEL:

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

(MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

They were my best friends too,
Zero. Did I need 1
real friends...? From that
day on it was me and the
silver screen, my silver
screen.

INT: RIVKA speaks to photo of her father: 103

RIVKA

(Sings, emotional)

"Oh, my Papa, to me you were
so..." I can't tell you how
much I miss you, Papa. I've
been so alone. Sure I have
Jake and I love him, but he's
not the only one. I never
told you who my first love was
did I? I couldn't, because I
knew it was wrong, and I knew
how hurt you'd be. You'd say
it was a '*shanda*,' a shame,
and it was, it was... It all
started right after I became a
junior at Columbia. If you
didn't pay my tuition, I
couldn't have gone.

INT: Back in time: College classroom: 104

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

MANY GIRLS ARE ENAMORED WITH BRUNO: 105

After class she stays and necks with BRUNO:

INT: SOME TIME LATE IN CLASS. 106

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

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

BRUNO suddenly kisses HER and SHE responds:

HE slips HER blouse off and seduces HER:

A young girl, she is enthralled: 107

THAT night: INT: Italian restaurant:

Having drunk wine, both are a little high:

BRUNO

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

Thinking she is in love, RIVKA believes him:

INT: Around college campus:

108

RIVKA is pregnant and beginning to show:

SHE confides to her best friend, GENNA:

RIVKA

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

GENNA

Happens, to the best of us.

RIVKA

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

GENNA

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

RIVKA

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

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

109

RIVKA (cont'd)

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

BRUNO

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

RIVKA

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

BRUNO

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

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

110

JAKE

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

(Ala Kaye)

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

That was a hell-of a movie,

(To poster of DeNiro.)

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

wasn't too bad, either, and I really liked you in "*The Godfather.*"

(MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)

I bet the women didn't leave you alone. Rivka was there opening night. She was there every opening night. And dressed so beautiful. She still is... Since I never had a girl friend, in fact I never had a friend, my father used to ask me if I was a 'fageleh,' *that's* sissy. Oh, he didn't ask me to my face because, he never looked at me, remember? to answer. All I did was cry. He seemed to get his rocks off He'd ask the wall and expect me when I cried, so he made sure I cried all the time. The funny thing is, he never heard when I cried the most, which was when he wasn't around. I never knew my mother, but I sure wish, I sure wish I did. The day, the hour, the moment, *that's* why I drank, anything to get through the moment. You see, since I can remember, I never felt good enough. I always felt so uncomfortable. Everyone always looked at me, the cockeyed freak.

INT: Back to the present:

RIVKA is talking to photo of her Father:

111

RIVKA

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

JAKE is pacing and drinking:

112

JAKE

I wonder why she married him
(Looks up.)
and not me? But thank God, I
have her back thank God I have
you... I have you? Who am I
kidding? Did I have you? I
haven't so much as kissed you,
or even I don't have you.
Since when told you how I
really feel about you. The
reason why I never told you
was, because maybe I was in
such pain, especially when you
were married. Those two years
I wanted to jump into the
river and when you divorced
that *sonofabitch*, I couldn't
be happier. Suddenly I could
breathe again. Before that, I
was just trying to get through
the day, the hour, the moment.
You see, since I can remember,
I've been trying to get
through the moment, because I
never felt good enough. I
always felt so uncomfortable.
Everyone was always better,
better than me. To feel equal,
I drank and it was easy to
lie. So I drank and I lied
about everything, 'til this
day. And now, I can't even
tell you how much I love you,
because, maybe I am not good
enough... I'm just not good
enough.

INT: RIVKA is drinking:

113

RIVKA

About 20 years ago, I tried to
find her. I went to the
agency, but they refused to
tell me a thing. I wonder if
she knows she's adopted.
Who's her real mother? I
would give anything, if I
(MORE)

RIVKA (Cont'd)
could see her face one time.
How she turned out. Is she
happy, is she married, does
she have
children? I would have been a
good mother. Grandmother, I
just know it.

INT: Living room:

114

JAKE speaks to poster of RITA MARINO:
As HE speaks, WE see HIS FATHER with lots of women:

JAKE
I have to tell you Miss
Rivera, your performance in
"West Side Story," touched my
heart and I've been in love
with you ever since. When I
was about seven or eight, just
old enough to understand, I
was told by Geraldine, she was
the black housekeeper that
took care of me since my
mother died, and even though
he wasn't religious, he stayed
home for a week. She meant he
sat 'shiva' and then it was
like my mother never existed.
He whored around like it was
going out of style... For a
man that was so Jewish, I
never understood why all the
women he fooled around with
were 'Shiksese,' that's
Gentiles. It seemed every
other week he brought a new
one home and he'd get annoyed
if they paid any attention to
me.

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

115

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

FATHER

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

Leave him alone, God damn it!

WE JAKE run into his room and cry:

INT: WE are back: 116

JAKE resumes speaking to poster of RITA MARINO:

JAKE

(Drinks.)

I didn't always drink ya know,
Chita.

INT: 117

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

JAKE'S V.O.

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

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

GRACIELLA

You like when Graciella plays
with your hair, Jakey?

JAKE

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

GRACIELLA

Graciella likes you. Do you
like Graciella?

JAKE nod yes:

GRACIELLA (cont'd)

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

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

Liking it, HE does the same:

HE feels HER hand touch his penis:

GRACIELLA

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

JAKE

You do?

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

GRACIELLA

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

VIA VO, WE SEE WHAT JAKE DESCRIBES:

119

Shots of DiMaggio and Rizzuto:

120

JAKE'S V.O.

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

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

RIVKA

What's going to happen to us,
Jake? I'll tell you what.
Now that the Fenway's closing,
you are mine, all mine, and,
(Sings)
*"I'm gonna love you, like
nobody's loved you, come rain
or come shine."*

JAKE

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

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

JAKE (Cont'd)

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

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

I came to every one of his openings, because I wanted him to see that I cared about him.

JAKE

She came to every opening. Why?

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

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

JAKE

I bet she doesn't even remember when I asked her out to dinner that time, and she said no. I was so disappointed, I was, I really

(MORE)

JAKE (Cont'd)
was. She doesn't know that
she broke my heart... It's
still broken.

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

JAKE
Tonight, I'm going to get her.
That's right. You see, I
think it's time that I told
her exactly how I feel, that I
love her more than anything
and that I'm going to devour
her with kisses. To some,
Rita Hayworth, Ava Gardner and
Liz Taylor were the most
beautiful, but not to me
(Looks at watch and takes a deep breath.)
sweetheart. It's almost time
to open... Just to make sure I
won't chicken out and lose my
nerve, I'll have another
drink, and then you'll see,
(Sings.)
you'll see. "Tonight, tonight,
won't be just any night."

RIVKA
(Looks at her watch.)
I think it's time to go... You
may think tonight's our last
night, but as far as I'm
concerned, it's just the
beginning, pussycat.
(Sings)
*"Gimme a little kiss, will ya
huh? What are you gonna miss,
will ya huh?"* Tonight's the
night.

JAKE

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

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

122

JAKE

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

RIVKA, dressed beautifully, enters.

RIVKA

Why fancy meeting you here, stranger

JAKE

(Looks up.)

Rivka, I knew you would come.

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

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

JAKE

Well, you certainly look beautiful.

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

THEY both laugh.

RIVKA

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

JAKE

How long...?

RIVKA

Since Sabu since Sabu the
Jungle Boy.

JAKE

(Dreamy.)

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

RIVKA

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

JAKE

(Laughs and howls)

...Yeah, just like Nanook,
remember, just like Nanook.

SHE playfully hits HIM on HIS arm.

RIVKA

And he agrees with me no less,
nu?

JAKE

Only cuter, much cuter.

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

I remember Jake, do I remember.

A long pause.

JAKE

Look at that, I almost forgot.

JAKE comes out of booth.

JAKE (cont'd)

I bought these flowers for you.

JAKE gives RIVKA flowers.

RIVKA

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

JAKE

Not as lovely as you Rivka.

RIVKA

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

JAKE

It's because of your father.

RIVKA

My father, why my father?

JAKE

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

RIVKA

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

Big pause:

RIVKA (cont'd)

(Looks at watch.)

Well, I guess the movie is about to start.

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

JAKE

Put it away, tonight's on me.

RIVKA

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

JAKE

Don't mention it.

RIVKA

Is it really that good?

JAKE

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

RIVKA

Jake...

JAKE

(Turns around.)

Yes, Rivka?

RIVKA

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

JAKE

(Sad laugh.)

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

RIVKA

(Sniffs flowers.)

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

It's the thought that counts.

JAKE

I know sweetheart.

RIVKA

(Starts to become overwhelmed with her fear.)
Jake, my father used to call
me sweetheart, and when you
just said it...

JAKE

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

RIVKA

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

JAKE

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

RIVKA

For the last time.

JAKE
For the last time. Shall we?

RIVKA
Thank you, Jake.

JAKE
(Bows to HER.)
As always, it's my pleasure
Sweetheart, forever.

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

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

THE END