

GRANDPA'S ATTIC

Written by

Jimi Rossi Schram

JimiRossi1@gmail.com
646-248-9296

COLD OPEN

INT. THRIFT SHOP - SHOWROOM - DAY

RON BURTON (15) in Gucci loafers, jewelry and slicked back sits at the cash register.

A blue Macaw parrot named, CHI-CHA stands his post, on the counter next to Ron and the register.

CHAMP ROMAN (65), passes through the maze of merchandise from the back office and gets to Ron.

RON
Sup gramps?

CHAMP
The race horse we bought, from the super sperm -

RON
I know what you're gonna say, gramps. Horses lose.

CHAMP
The horse is dead, Ron.

RON
What?

CHAMP
Instead of feeding the horse, your mother's rat-bastard-boyfriend, Ray, gambled the money for the feed at the track, and then fed the horse a bunch of raw macaroni from your mother's pantry.

RON
So, how'd it die?

CHAMP
It drank water.

RON
So?

CHAMP
It ate the pasta and it drank the water.

RON
That's amore? I don't get it, what
happened gramps?

CHAMP
It blew up! The stomach expanded
and pop.

RON
No, way.

CHAMP
Now, we owe the breeder the full
\$30 grand for breach of contract
because it never ran a race.

ACT ONE

INT. THRIFT SHOP - OFFICE - LATER

Champ takes a meeting with DONNIE SACKS (40), a large and
intimidating figure.

DONNIE
I'm sorry it has to be this way,
Champ. But, based on the cause of
death, they want the money
tomorrow.

CHAMP
I don't have that kind of money
lying around.

The store bell dings, and Champ looks at the surveillance
monitor.

A SHADY CUSTOMER enters the store.

VINNY
I'll let myself out and let you get
to work. I'll be back tomorrow.

Vinny exits, and Champ watches the Shady Customer.

INT. SHOWROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ron cleans the glass display case which is over crowded with
donation jars.

VINNY
 (to Ron)
 See, ya kid.

Ron waves to Vinny and Shady Customer stands in front of Ron holding an ornate Capo Di Monte figurine he probably stole from his grandmother.

RON
 Welcome to Grandpa's Attic - where
 it's new to you.

SHADY CUSTOMER
 I'm looking for, Ron. I spoke to
 him on the phone.

RON
 You don't recognize me from our TV
 commercial?...You must not watch
 TV.

SHADY CUSTOMER
 I watch TV.

RON
 How about now? How much TV do you
 watch now.

SHADY CUSTOMER
 Get me Ron, or I'm taking my
 business elsewhere.

RON
 Oh, really?

Ron pulls out a wad of cash from his pocket, The Shady Customer eyes the cash, sizes up Ron and looks around to see if he can make a clean get away.

Over the intercom we hear Champ chime in.

CHAMP (O.S.)
 Ron!

RON
 I got this Gramps! Now, where were
 we?

SHADY CUSTOMER
 The item.

The Shady Customer hands Ron Capo Di Monti item for inspection.

RON
It's beautiful. Maybe 1920, 30.
What are you looking to get?

SHADY CUSTOMER
It's all hand crafted and -

RON
Talk numbers, Mr. New York minute.

SHADY CUSTOMER
Two hundred dollars.

CHA-CHA, the parrot crows.

CHA-CHA
Cha-ching!

RON
I'll give you seventy-five dollars.

CUSTOMER
One-fifty is as low as I can go.

Ron puts the item down on the counter.

RON
Is that as low as you can go?

Ron starts to lean back, limbo to the ground.

CHA-CHA
How low will you go? How low will
you go? How low will you go?

RON
How much TV do you watch now?

CUSTOMER
Hey, c'mon kid. Be serious.

Ron and Cha-Cha accidentally knock over Shady Customer's antique, shattering it to pieces. He smiles and Ron starts shelling out cash.

RON
My bad.

INT. BAR - MOMENTS LATER

They two televisions broadcast two new stations simultaneously.

MARTY, (60) wearing his best sweat suit, roots for one TV and GUS, (60) in all camouflage athletic gear, roots for the other TV. They've turned the news into a drinking game.

JIMBO, the bartender flips through a newspaper.

Champ walks in the bar.

GUS

Hey.

MARTY

There he is.

GUS

I'm winning, 7-0.

MARTY

Big business hiding the -

The front door swings open and a gust of wind rips through the bar - turning pages in the newspaper and in walks VERONICA, (60), followed by Ron.

RON

Her car broke down in the parking lot. I told her we got a phone.

VERONICA

Thank you little one.

(to guys)

I need a phone, and a vodka martini.

MARTY

You heard her, Jimbo.

Champ turns around Jimbo's newspaper while he's making the drink and looks at it.

His eyes go wide when he sees an advertisement in the paper.

INSERT: FLASY FISHING TOURNAMENT AD: GRAND PRIZE \$50,000.

CHAMP

Luck be a lady. Guys!

Champ keeps reading the fine print.

Jimbo deliver Veronica a martini, and the phone. Gus and Marty get up and approach her drinks in hand.

MARTY
Car trouble you say?

GUS
Never know who you'll meet at

Gus checks the clock.

GUS (CONT'D)
Ten-of-eleven, on a Tuesday. Gus
Winthrop.

VERONICA
Cheers.

Veronica, Gus and Marty drink. Veronica picks up the phone.

CHAMP
Wahoo!

Champ tears out the page.

JIMBO
Hey, I'm still reading that!

RON
Gramps, what's up?

CHAMP
We're going fishing!

VERONICA
Wait, who is this child at your
bar? And, why isn't he in school?

ALL
Home school.

VERONICA
Charming. Anyway, my car's broken
down and my whole day is ruined.

GUS
Let me take a look at it.

VERONICA
Would you?

MARTY
We'd be glad to.

INT. THRIFT SHOP - SHOWROOM - CONTINUOUS

An ELDERLY COUPLE (80s) realize no one is in the shop, so they shoplift an item and head for the door.

CHA-CHA, the guard parrot goes into attack mode.

The Elderly Couple drop the item and run out of the store.

Enter HONEY BURTON, (40) Champs's daughter and Ron's mother.

HONEY

Come back again soon! Who's a good birdie?

CHA-CHA

Cha-cha.

ACT TWO

EXT. BAR - PARKING LOT - DAY

Champ, Gus & Marty look under the hood of Veronica's vehicle.

Ron leans on the wall reading the fishing tournament details.

Reveal a Tow Truck, and DRIVER, hooking up Veronica's vehicle to his truck.

DRIVER

Wanna shut the hood, and step back fellas.

Gus drops the hood and they join Ron on the wall who turns the paper around showing Gus and Marty the tournament.

RON

This is it gramps! I've been waiting for this day my whole life.

Ron pretends to reel in a big fish.

CHAMP

Sorry, you're not coming.

RON

C'mon gramps. Why?

MARTY

He can take my place, I get sea-sick just thinking about it.

(MORE)

MARTY (CONT'D)

And, you know I always hook myself when we go fishing. Or get the line tangled.

CHAMP

Marty, you don't even have to fish.

MARTY

So, why do I have to go?

CHAMP

You're the only one we know with a boat.

MARTY

What boat? I don't have a boat.

CHAMP

But, your ex-wife does.

MARTY

Oh, no.

CHAMP

Yes, because she said to me at the last party "stop by if I need anything." I need something.

MARTY

You have to stop believing what people tell you.

CHAMP

You're telling me, you don't want ten thousand dollars, Marty?

MARTY

No, thanks.

CHAMP

Well I need your help...If you help me get the boat I'll help you get a date with this Veronica. I know you like her.

The Tow truck leaves with vehicle in tow.

Veronica exits the bar and joins the men on the entrance.

VERONICA

Did he leave without me?

The guys realize maybe they should have tried to stop him, or let her know.

VERONICA (CONT'D)
That's great, just great.

CHAMP
My grandson can take you anywhere
you need to go.

VERONICA
Is he even old enough to drive?

INT. CHAMP'S CAR - DAY

Ron, and Veronica are in the front seat. Gus, Champ, and Marty squeezed in the back.

MONIQUE
It's just up here on the right.

CHAMP
Nice neighborhood. Do you know the
Duffy's?

VERONICA
I don't know, maybe you could
introduce us.

CHAMP
Next time, definitely. We really
hope to see you at the bar again,
or stop by my shop - Grandpa's
Attic.

VERONICA
That's where I've seen this kid
before.

RON
I told you the TV commercial
works!

VERONICA
No, it's a terrible commercial, but
you're catchy.

RON
Marketing 101.

VERONICA
Do you guys dance?

MARTY
Not in public.

GUS

A dance a day keeps the Alzheimer's
away is what I always say.

VERONICA

We always go dancing at
Saloon on the Green. Do you want to
come?

CHAMP

That sounds great! Thank you, but
we've got a lot to do tonight.

MARTY

Don't be silly, Champ. Tonight's
perfect, Veronica.

CHAMP

But, we have to get ready for our
fishing trip.

MARTY

That's not until tomorrow. Let's
live life for today.

CHAMP

So, we'll see you tonight, what
time?

VERONICA

9.
(to Ron)
That's me.

Veronica points to her house.

MARTY

What's the dress code?

VERONICA

Dressy Casual.

GUS

How dressy?

MARTY

How casual?

Ron pulls into Veronica's driveway.

INT. VERONICA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Veronica enters the house. MOTHER, (90) is sitting at the
kitchen table alone with the TV on.

MOTHER

Where have you been, Veronica?

VERONICA

The damn car broke down.

MOTHER

Was there an accident?

VERONICA

No. I drove it into the curb and it had to get towed.

MOTHER

That was hours ago.

VERONICA

Oh, c'mon, Mother.

MOTHER

What?

VERONICA

I had to wait a long time for the tow truck.

MOTHER

(whispering)

Where's Joan? You know she is emotionally abusive. And, I know that they're stealing paper towels. I counted - there's no way we used all those paper towels.

VERONICA

Mother, please.

JOAN (60), mother's aid, enters from another room.

JOAN

Oh, hi Veronica. How are you? She wouldn't eat supper tonight. I tried everything. But, I'll try again tomorrow. Buh-bye.

Joan kisses Mother and turns to leave. Mother flicks her wrist dismissively.

MOTHER

Take me to the bathroom. I think I can poop now.

EXT. BOAT DOCK - NIGHT

Champ, Gus & Marty stand on dock, their is a boat sitting in the hoist.

Champ presses a button and lowers the boat into the water. It starts making a very loud screeching sound.

Gus gets a better position to look out.

MARTY

What are you doing? I thought this was only a stake out?

CHAMP

I gotta check for the key.

MARTY

Quit making so much noise.

CHAMP

It's fine, no one's home.

MARTY

Neighbors?

CHAMP

It appears to me they built that wall of bushes to block the neighbors.

MARTY

Well, who told you they were out of town?

GUS

Facebook.

The boat reaches the access point for them to get on board.

CHAMP

They're at a destination wedding. They won't be back for days.

Champ peels back the boat's cover.

MARTY

Champ, I don't want to do this. What if we get in trouble?

CHAMP

I'll tell them it was all my fault and you were my hostage.

MARTY

That makes me sound like a wuss.

CHAMP

You're not a wuss.

MARTY

You can stop now.

INSERT: Boat key sitting in the ignition.

They non-verbally acknowledge the key is accounted for.

NEIGHBOR (O.S.)

Hey, that you neighbor?

CHAMP

Let's go!

Champ lays the cover back down on the boat and the three sneak off the dock silently.

NEIGHBOR, with a flash light fights his way through the bushes and looks around.

NEIGHBOR

Hello? Hmm...thought I heard something.

ACT THREE

INT. HONEY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ron sits at the table and has dinner with his mother.

RON

Mom, when are you going to let me be home schooled?

HONEY

How, I'm no teacher.

RON

Mom. Now, it's all online. An unlimited supply of teachers, teaching every topic, online. At my fingertips.

HONEY

Really?

RON

Yea. Then I can work with gramps full time.

HONEY

There's more to life than business.

RON

Is there?

HONEY

This is one of those times I wish your father were here.

RON

Well, why'd you throw him out?

HONEY

I did not throw him out. I caught your father cheating on Ashley Madison. And, I "threw him out" if that's what you want to call it - Mr. Know it all - so I could send you to a private school.

RON

You're gonna tell me that's not business.

Honey gets up from the table and walks around.

RON (CONT'D)

Mom, do you know what goes on at that private school?

HONEY

Higher learning.

RON

You got the higher part right.

HONEY

What do you want from me, Ron? I can tell you're trying to tell me something.

RON

I cannot survive four more years at that school.

HONEY

I'm not going to debate this.

RON
Mom, please.

HONEY
Enough!

RON
I tried to do this the easy way.
Mom, I dropped out. I signed up for
home school at the end of last
year. I've been doing it all summer
and I'm already a junior
equivalency.

HONEY
But, you're only 15.

RON
Doesn't matter.

HONEY
...Baby, the lawyers said you have
to go to private school to get the
child support.

RON
Really?

HONEY
Ron.

INT. CLUB - BAR - CONTINUOUS

Champ, Marty & Gus stand around the bar.

Veronica is out dancing with another MAN.

MARTY
What if the neighbor saw us and
called them?

CHAMP
He didn't see us.

MARTY
He walked over with a flash light
snooping around our snooping
around.

CHAMP
We'll go back in a different
car. It's fine.

MARTY
So, do you think Veronica likes me?

MAN
(to Veronica)
I'd like to take you home, but I'm
married.

VERONICA
Lucky me.

MAN
My wife's over there.

Veronica sees the WIFE seated at a table, and leaves the Man
on the dance floor.

Veronica sits down at a table by herself.

Champ, Marty & Gus look at Veronica.

CHAMP
Let's go Marty, it's time to find
out.

MARTY
I didn't mean you should ask her.

The three guys walk over to Veronica at the table.

CHAMP
This place is great, thanks for
inviting us.

VERONICA
Perfect timing, there's not really
anyone to dance with.

CHAMP
Marty was just telling me he wanted
to dance. We'll go get some drinks.

Marty is frozen in front of Veronica.

Champ and Gus walk to the bar.

VERONICA
Are you okay?

MARTY
I'm not much of a dancer, but would
you like to dance, Veronica?

VERONICA
Sure, Marty.

MONTAGE SEQUENCE - MARTY and VERONICA DANCE

-- Marty stumbling
-- Marty tripping
-- Marty stepping on toes

END MONTAGE

The song ends, Veronica and Marty clap for the band and walk back to the table where Champ and Gus are waiting with drinks.

CHAMP
That looked like fun. Enjoy your drinks guys.

Marty, we have to head out shortly to get a good spot to fish, remember?

MARTY
This guy, all he talks about is fishing. Would you like to dance more?

VERONICA
If you step on my toes less.

Marty and Veronica head back to the dance floor.

MARTY
I'm much better on the second song.

CHAMP
(to Gus)
Let's go, we'll come back for him.

Champ and Gus get up and leave.

INT. HONEY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ron walks into Honey's room.

RON
Hey mom, when are you going to see Ray again?

HONEY
Tomorrow or something. Why?

RON
Did gramps tell you?

HONEY
Yes - he sent me a picture.

INSERT: Picture of Champ & Marty winning Shuffle board.

RON
No, mom. Did he tell you what Ray
did to the horse?

HONEY
He told me she died.

RON
And you know we owe the breeder 30
grand tomorrow?

HONEY
He left that part out...

INT. CLUB - CONTINUOUS

Marty and Veronica are making out in the booth like teenagers.

Gus and Champ return. They stand they're waiting for a moment to interrupt.

CHAMP
Marty. Marty.

GUS
Marty!

Veronica and Marty are startled and stop kissing.

CHAMP
Really hate to bother you. But,
we're not an hour base start
time...so I think I need you now.

VERONICA
Go. You dance monkey. And call me.
I still need that ride to the
mechanic.

MARTY
Oh I will!

They kiss passionately once more, and Marty exits.

INT. HONEY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Honey takes out a large jewel from a box on her dresser and hands it to Ron.

HONEY
Will this help, Ron.

RON
Yes mom! I'll call gramps.

HONEY
Good. Glad to help. It's only your
father's priceless family heirloom.

Ron pulls out his cell phone and calls Champ.

EXT. OCEAN - CONTINUOUS

Gus, Marty and Champ are floating in the boat. Stunned, they stare at their catch.

CHAMP
(to phone)
Ron, I'll call you back.

Reveal a bundle of drugs on the deck of the boat. Gus straddles it, and with a knife cuts it open to taste.

MARTY
Throw it back!

CHAMP
You don't throw back the square
grouper.

MARTY
Throw it back right now, Champ.
It's dirty, It smells. And, it's
illegal.

GUS
It's delicious.

CHAMP
This is probably worth \$500 grand.
Forget the fishing tournament.
We're rich.

MARTY

That wasn't the plan!

GUS

That's a grouper?

CHAMP

The ol' square grouper, Gus. We struck oil boys!

MARTY

Except this is probably some cartels drop and they're tracking us via satellite.

Marty looks up to the sky and starts waving his arms.

MARTY (CONT'D)

It wasn't me! It wasn't me.

Marty points at Champ.

CHAMP

Marty, if we keep it. We can take the boat back right now. We don't have fish, you can get a good night sleep, and you can spend the rest of your days living large.

MARTY

It probably has the blue dye. They'll follow it and kill us all.

Marty looks up to the sky again.

MARTY (CONT'D)

It's him. All him!

GUS

These are international waters, pirating is a common occupation. I say we keep the booty.

MARTY

Quit that Gus! We do this we'll have to look over our shoulders for the rest of our lives?

CHAMP

If I don't pay Donnie tomorrow I'll lose my business and who knows what will happen then. Things will change, and certainly for the worse.

(MORE)

CHAMP (CONT'D)

If we keep it things will change,
maybe for the worse, but certainly
for the better.

MARTY

You're too exhausting to argue
with. Let's drop it and get the
hell out of here.

GUS

Uh, Champ.

Gus points to another boat in the distance, headed towards them.

MARTY

That's them. We're going
to jail. My ex-wife is gonna find
out, and I'll never see my grand
children again.

Champ turns the boat key, it starts and stalls.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Throw it back.

GUS

Don't you dare. I don't have your
pension

Champ fires up the boat again, she stalls.

MARTY

That's strike two. It's going over
board next!

GUS

I'll throw you overboard.

MARTY

I'd like to see you try.

Champ turns the key, it starts and he quickly engages the throttle and they start moving. Gus and Marty stumble from the front of the deck to the back.

The approaching boat is getting closer.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Man overboard.

Gus manages to grab hold of the dock tie rope and is body skiing on the water behind the boat.

CHAMP

Pull him in!

Champs drops back the throttle to quickly help get Gus back in the boat.

KICKER

EXT. DOCK - NIGHT

Champ, Gus & Marty return the boat, and replace the cover. They walk off the dock and head for their car with the catch.

NEIGHBOR (O.S.)

Hey, who's over there?

MARTY

Run for it!

They take off running.

The Neighbor again, fights through the bushes with a flashlight.

Everything looks normal.

NEIGHBOR

Damn kids.

END SHOW