

# **ANDREW REACHES THE OTHER SIDE**

A play in two acts by

Peter Mercurio

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## CHARACTERS | ROLES

**ANDREW**, male, early-20s, finding himself, thoughtful, introspective with a dry sense of humor.

**JOHN/DANNY**, male, early-20s. **John**: volatile, outspoken, macho jock; **Danny**: sincere, laid back, comfortable with himself, smart jock.

**SKIP**, male, early-20s, gay, quick sense of humor, attractive, confident, intelligent.

**LAURIE**, female, early-20s, world-weary, yet strong-minded and caring "Jersey" girl.

**DAD/MAN/PRIEST/WAITER**, male, 45–55 years old. **Dad**: stuck in his dogma but capable of melting.

**MOM/DOCTOR**, female, 45–55 years old, supportive, loving, caring, yet sometimes overbearing.

## SETTING

Autumn 1993. Suburban New Jersey.

## NOTE ON SET

The play contains various scenes which can be performed on a simple set. Unit pieces can be used to indicate scenes in various locations: a park, a bar, a car, a restaurant, etc. The dialogue, along with lighting and/or sound may be sufficient at setting each scene's location.

ANDREW REACHES THE OTHER SIDE was originally produced by Other Side Productions at the Bank Street Theatre, New York, New York. It opened March 9, 2000 with the following cast:

ANDREW .....Mark Shunock  
JOHN/DANNY .....Kieran Campion  
SKIP .....Stephen Guarino  
LAURIE .....Jennifer A. Skinner  
DAD/MAN/PRIEST/WAITER .....Marty Miller  
MOM/DOCTOR .....Melanie Bean

It was directed by Chuck Blasius. Stage Manager was Sheilah James. Sets designed by John Flanagan. Lights designed by Rob Hilliard. Costumes designed by Ricky Lizalde. Sound designed by Roger Anderson. Photographer was Sarah Donovan. Production assistants included Gary Bell, Joe Hosking, Danny Stewart, Adrian Bank, and Jim Varner.

ANDREW REACHES THE OTHER SIDE

**ACT I**

**AT RISE:** ANDREW and JOHN are watching Monday Night Football. JOHN is wearing a Giants cap. They each hold a Corona.

JOHN

Pass interference! That was pass interference. No way. What a horrible call.

ANDREW

He was definitely pulled down.

JOHN

They want to give the game away.

ANDREW

Hampton's fumble. Brown's interception. Two blown chances...

JOHN

And now the refs blowing calls.

(To TV)

Throw the ball! See that's what I mean. He waits too long to release.

ANDREW

Another beer?

JOHN

We're all out.

(To TV)

THROW IT!

ANDREW

We finished two sixes?

JOHN

Yep.

(ANDREW starts to leave.)

Oh man! Did you see that catch? One-hand. Where you going?

ANDREW

Corner. For beer.

JOHN

Now? They're in the red zone about to score. Sit down. C'mon, third and inches.

ANDREW

Punch it right up the middle. Get the first down.

JOHN

Pass play.

ANDREW

On third and inches? Just get the first.

JOHN

No. Fool them. Up top. Corner end zone.

ANDREW

Too risky.

JOHN

Can't play it safe. Go for it.

ANDREW

I say run.

JOHN

Catch them off guard. Two down territory. You go for it on fourth down anyway.

ANDREW

Or settle for a field goal.

JOHN

Down by four. Field goal means nothing.

(To TV)

Pass. C'mon, get rid of the ball. Catch it... Yes. Touchdown!

(JOHN and ANDREW slap hands)

Yes! See, I told you pass.

(JOHN raises his arms. ANDREW slaps his hands. SKIP enters)

SKIP

Hey guys, what's the score?

ANDREW

Twenty-one to seventeen.

JOHN

What are you doing here?

SKIP

Who's winning?

The Giants.

ANDREW

Is that good?

SKIP

Did you bring beer?

JOHN

I don't drink beer.

SKIP

What's in the bag?

JOHN

Tequila.

SKIP

And what are we supposed to chase it down with?

JOHN

Some of us don't need to chase, right Andy?

SKIP

Go get a us another six.

JOHN

What am I your mammy?

SKIP

Don't start guys.

ANDREW

I'm totally fine.

SKIP

Fumble on the kickoff. Giants ball.

ANDREW

A fumble is when someone drops the ball, right?

SKIP

Oh boy.

JOHN

(SKIP picks up the remote control)

SKIP

Real quick.

JOHN  
What are you doing?

SKIP  
Mariah is on Arsenio, I just want to...

JOHN  
Don't change the...

SKIP  
Just one second.

JOHN  
No.

(JOHN lunges for the remote. They tussle. JOHN wrestles SKIP to the floor, gets the remote back. ANDREW helps JOHN up, then SKIP.)

SKIP  
Wow, hope that was as good for you as it was for me.

JOHN  
Unsportsmanlike conduct.

SKIP  
Unsportsman-like?

JOHN  
Fifteen yards.

SKIP  
Only fifteen?

ANDREW  
Giants are threatening again.

JOHN  
Keep it up and I'll throw you out of the game.

ANDREW  
Another pass.

SKIP  
Throw that yellow hankie.

ANDREW  
Caught it. Touchdown.

JOHN

Yes! Two strikes in less than a minute.

ANDREW

Up by ten.

JOHN

This game is history. Yes!

(JOHN sticks TV remote  
in ANDREW's gut)

Going out for a pass. HUT, HUT...HUT...

ANDREW

John, slow down, you're gonna hurt yourself.

JOHN

Going deep. Wait, no he cuts back. Throw me the ball, Andy.

SKIP

Andy, Andy he's our man, if he can't throw it, no one can.

JOHN

He's wide open. I'm wide open. Throw it.

ANDREW

You better catch this.

(ANDREW throws the remote to JOHN.)

JOHN

He's catches the ball. No wait, he doesn't have possession. He's bobbling the football. Now he's got it. Shrugs off two tacklers. Oh what a move. This is the reason he makes the All-Madden team year after year. At the twenty. The ten. Touchdown!

(JOHN makes a cheering crowd noise. He runs to the exit. Note: During the above line, JOHN's cap falls off his head)

ANDREW

Where are you going?

JOHN

Beer run.

SKIP

Wait! Laurie is bringing some from work. John? Oh well.

ANDREW

Laurie's coming over?

SKIP

When her shift is over.

ANDREW

Cool.

(SKIP takes out the bottle of tequila and  
shot glasses from his bag)

What's up with you and John?

SKIP

He wants me but he can't admit it.

ANDREW

No, really, you're at each other like...

SKIP

Yeah, well... What can you do, right? I know who he is, he  
knows who I am, who cares? It's fun.

ANDREW

It's uncomfortable.

SKIP

For who?

ANDREW

He needs someone, a girlfriend to...

SKIP

To what? Rein him in? Domesticate him? Right.

ANDREW

No...

SKIP

What he needs a good old fashioned man to kick him in the ass.  
Ever think about that?

ANDREW

No.

SKIP

Of course not. John's just a child.

ANDREW

Well I'm sorry he can be such a jerk sometimes.

SKIP

You're sorry?

ANDREW

Cause...

SKIP

You sound like an embarrassed wife or something. Here...

(SKIP hands Andy a shot glass)

He'll grow up some day. Cheers.

ANDREW

Cheers. Bottoms up.

SKIP

Bottoms up.

(SKIP and ANDREW clang glasses.

They drink.)

And tops down. Hey, let's have a Super Bowl party next weekend at my parents place. They're going to Florida again to check on the house. Ever since your hurricane last summer they...

(ANDREW laughs)

What, you think a fag can't host a Super Bowl party?

ANDREW

I didn't call you that.

SKIP

But you thought it.

ANDREW

No Skip, it's just the season just started and the Super Bowl isn't until the end of January.

SKIP

I knew that. I mean, c'mon, half these players are queer-- patting each other on the butt all the time. Fag football.

ANDREW

They're not fags.

SKIP

But I am.

ANDREW

I didn't call you...I mean, if you looked up that word in the dictionary, I wouldn't find your picture or anything, I looked it up once but I don't remember what it said and besides...

SKIP

A bundle of sticks.

ANDREW

...I mean, whatever...And the pats are about teamwork and, not about what you, I mean, it's not sexual or...

SKIP

Andy, you're rambling.

ANDREW

I know, I just don't want you to think that I think you're a...

SKIP

Bundle of sticks. Someone's had too much to drink.

ANDREW

You made me do a shot.

SKIP

I didn't make you do anything. Regardless, it's slightly erotic. Let's drive somewhere.

ANDREW

Now?

SKIP

Like I want to get in a car with you now.

ANDREW

When?

SKIP

Soon. And not the Shore again. Out of Jersey. Lancaster.

ANDREW

Lancaster?

SKIP

Witness with Harrison Ford.

ANDREW

Oh no, no more movie locales.

SKIP

Why not?

ANDREW

Cause Mystic was a nightmare.

SKIP

How did I know the pizza was going to suck? C'mon, Lancaster will be different. And Hershey Park is close by.

ANDREW

Great. So we can knock off both Witness and Willy Wonka.

SKIP

You're brilliant.

ANDREW

I'm not going anywhere to watch some Amish dude churn butter.

SKIP

Just think about it. Another shot?

ANDREW

Later.

SKIP

You know, we'd make the perfect couple. That is if you liked guys, or, um, you know, if I were Laurie.

ANDREW

Perhaps.

SKIP

Perhaps?

ANDREW

It's food for thought.

SKIP

What kind of food?

ANDREW

Dating friends never works out.

(LAURIE enters with a case of beer)

LAURIE

Sorry I'm late. Game over yet?

ANDREW

Just about.

LAURIE

I just saw John go by, where's he going?

ANDREW

Getting beer.

LAURIE

Why? I had the dishwasher sneak two cases into my trunk.

SKIP

I told him you were coming. He doesn't listen.

LAURIE

Oh well, thank god beer doesn't go bad.

SKIP

Not with you around.

ANDREW

Were you busy tonight?

LAURIE

Dead. Monday nights are always dead. I'll be lucky if I made thirty dollars.

SKIP

Want a shot?

LAURIE

Sure. Giants winning?

ANDREW

They're about to.

LAURIE

Thank god. You'll be in a better mood.

ANDREW

A better mood?

LAURIE

Lately Andy, it's like you're working for the CIA or something. Trying to crack a code...

SKIP

Or figure out how to get out of a house of mirrors.

LAURIE

Or a maze.

ANDREW

What?

SKIP

A labyrinth.

ANDREW

A labyrinth?

SKIP

And they're supposed to be fun. Unless you're Shelley Duvall.

(No response.)

The Shining. That was in Colorado, right?

ANDREW

Too long of a drive.

(SKIP hands them each a shot)

SKIP

Here's to José. Cuervo. What should we drink to?

LAURIE

To us of course.

SKIP

The only people who matter.

ANDREW

Let's wait for John.

LAURIE

Where'd John go to get this beer?

ANDREW

The corner.

LAURIE

Why'd he take his motorcycle?

ANDREW

He did?

(ANDREW notices JOHN's cap on the floor)

LAURIE

He rode past me on my way here.

SKIP

C'mon guys, we'll do another shot when he gets back.

LAURIE

I'll drink to that.

(They raise glasses. ANDREW picks up  
JOHN's cap)

SKIP

To us. Cheers.

LAURIE

Cheers.

(As SKIP and LAURIE raise glasses, ANDREW picks up and holds JOHN's cap. Spot on ANDREW while ominous music swells then crashes. ANDREW's parents enter, sit at table. Crossfade to table.)

MOM

ANDREW! ANDREW, C'MON! WE'RE READY TO EAT...Dinner's in here if you want to join us.

(ANDREW remains holding the cap)

DAD

C'mon Andrew, sit down.

ANDREW

I'm not hungry now. Start without me.

DAD

You should have told your mother you weren't going to eat.

(ANDREW crosses to the table)

ANDREW

It's five-thirty. Why do we have to eat so early?

DAD

Because we got things to do.

ANDREW

Every night of the week?

DAD

Your mother's got things she wants to do.

MOM

Getting your sister's wedding present tonight. Want to come?

ANDREW

No. Isn't the wedding enough?

DAD

Your mother is always thinking of you kids. I'm married to the greatest woman in the world. You don't appreciate your mother. I'm telling you she's the best...

ANDREW

I know that Dad.

DAD

We eat early because we got things to do. That's all.

MOM

Your father gets up at five o'clock every morning for work...

DAD

The earlier we get these things done, the sooner we get home. Besides the malls are empty at this hour.

MOM

Sit down and talk to us. You never talk to us anymore.

ANDREW

There's nothing to talk about.

DAD

How's work?

ANDREW

It's okay.

DAD

It's a job. You're making money.

ANDREW

It's only temporary Dad.

DAD

Do you think I intended to work for the city this long?

MOM

Twenty-six years later...

DAD

No one else was hiring. You take what you can get.

ANDREW

This isn't what I want to do with my life.

DAD

You take what you can get Andrew. Don't be picky. You're making money.

MOM

We're concerned, Andrew, you haven't been the same since John's accident.

ANDREW

You know, I'm really not hungry.

DAD

Alright Andrew, we're not going to force you.

(JOHN enters)

MOM

You're not still upset about John, are you?

(Crossfade as ANDREW rises to JOHN)

JOHN

You don't have to go with me.

ANDREW

I like Springsteen.

JOHN

You really want to camp out for tickets?

ANDREW

Sure.

JOHN

We're going to be outside all night.

ANDREW

Yeah, but we'll get floor seats, right?

JOHN

You're not just doing what I want to do?

ANDREW

No.

JOHN

Cause you can be a little copy cat.

ANDREW

And that means?

JOHN

You always do what I do.

ANDREW

No I don't.

JOHN

Then what's with you and Laurie?

ANDREW  
What's what?

JOHN  
I had her, so now you have to have her too.

ANDREW  
I haven't had her John.

JOHN  
Following me again.

ANDREW  
I don't follow anybody.

JOHN  
Ever since we were kids.

ANDREW  
No way.

JOHN  
What about that time in little league when you got pegged off  
in a run down between third and home.

ANDREW  
I thought I could score.

JOHN  
You were copying me.

ANDREW  
But you never got caught in a run-down.

JOHN  
That's because I always made it. Stealing home was my move.

ANDREW  
So you were fast.

JOHN  
And under the radar.

ANDREW  
A stealth stealer.

JOHN

No one expects it. Even the pros don't steal home. Then that time against the Cardinals. I'm on third. You're up at bat. Last inning. Tied score. Two-two count. Pitcher winds up, head down, I charge home, dive into the plate, knock you over and you fall on me. Safe. You were so pissed that I took away your chance at an RBI.

ANDREW

Damn right, I would have driven you in.

JOHN

Doesn't matter, the game ended and we won. I was the MVP.

ANDREW

But I could have been.

JOHN

Shortly after that I lost it.

ANDREW

What are you talking about, you made all-county in high school.

JOHN

I'm not talking about baseball Andy.

DAD

Could you pass the pepper?

JOHN

I'm not talking about baseball.

DAD

I could get tickets for the Mets next weekend.

JOHN

C'mon let's go wait in line for floor seats.

(JOHN exits. Crossfade back to table)

MOM

Hmmm...doesn't that sound good Andrew?

ANDREW

Sure.

MOM

Are you losing weight?

ANDREW

No.

MOM

You don't look good. Does he look healthy to you?

DAD

He looks fine.

ANDREW

It's nothing mom.

MOM

You just got over the flu. You're gonna get a relapse if you don't slow down.

ANDREW

Okay.

MOM

Maybe you should go back to Dr. Cohen.

ANDREW

I'm not going to see...You know I don't like running to the doctor for...

DAD

Don't talk to your mother that way.

ANDREW

Sorry. Mom, you know that.

MOM

She's an excellent doctor, Andrew.

DAD

Maybe he wants to see a man.

MOM

She knows him inside out...

DAD

Would you rather see a man, Andrew?

MOM

Is that it?

DAD

Of course it is.

ANDREW

I don't need to see Dr. Cohen or any doctor. Okay? I'm alright. Just not hungry.

DAD

I've always said you can't force someone to eat if they don't want to.

ANDREW

Will you excuse me, please? I'm not feeling so...

MOM

I told you you weren't feeling well.

ANDREW

You were right. As usual, mom.

MOM

Go lay down. I'll bring you some tea later.

(ANDREW rises. Crossfade as party music is heard in the background. MOM and DAD exit. LAURIE enters with a beer. She sees ANDREW and comes up behind him)

LAURIE

What are you doing in here all by yourself?

ANDREW

Oh nothing. Just thinking.

LAURIE

You think too much.

ANDREW

No I don't.

LAURIE

Well, I'm going to think with you. Here.

(LAURIE gives ANDREW the beer)

ANDREW

Thanks.

(LAURIE puts ANDREW's arm around her and lays her head on his shoulder)

LAURIE

I don't feel like being alone tonight, Andy.

ANDREW

How much have you had?

LAURIE

Oh I don't know. Not much. You going home?

(LAURIE takes the beer, sips)

ANDREW

No, I'm staying here.

LAURIE

Me too. So, it's just the two of us. We're finally alone.

ANDREW

I think you've had enough.

(ANDREW takes the beer from LAURIE)

LAURIE

Andy?

ANDREW

What? Why are you looking at me like that?

LAURIE

That was great.

ANDREW

What?

LAURIE

"I think you've had enough." Take charge.

ANDREW

Well you're drunk.

LAURIE

Who me?

ANDREW

C'mon, walk this line.

(ANDREW points down, motions.)

LAURIE

Is that linoleum?

ANDREW

Tiles.

LAURIE

Linoleum tiles.

ANDREW  
Quit stallin.

LAURIE  
What do I get if I do it?

ANDREW  
You'll see.

LAURIE  
Surprise me.

(LAURIE starts walking)

ANDREW  
No, no. From back there.

LAURIE  
Whatever you say.

(LAURIE steps back)

ANDREW  
Arms out to the side.  
(LAURIE walks, missteps)  
Careful.

LAURIE  
These aren't real lines.

ANDREW  
To me they are.

(LAURIE stumbles then falls into  
ANDREW's arms. Kisses him.)

LAURIE  
Mmm...beer.

ANDREW  
Good guess. And what did I have for lunch, genius?

LAURIE  
How about my surprise?

(LAURIE attempts another kiss.  
ANDREW stops her.)

ANDREW  
Whoah, you call that straight?

(LAURIE kisses ANDREW)

LAURIE  
Where's the tongue?

ANDREW  
I was swallowing.

LAURIE  
All gone? Good.

(LAURIE kisses again. ANDREW remains motionless. LAURIE slowly breaks from the kiss. Awkward silence)

ANDREW  
Do you know it was two months ago tomorrow?

LAURIE  
I don't want to talk about John tonight, okay?

ANDREW  
Wait, isn't that what we're here for?

LAURIE  
C'mon Andy.

ANDREW  
I mean, this is supposed to be a party to remember John and...

LAURIE  
A party, not another funeral.

ANDREW  
And Skip has a bunch of *his* friends here.

LAURIE  
And he's got that one Springsteen CD he owns on a damn loop. As if that's the only thing John ever...if I hear Glory Days one more time I'm gonna puke.

ANDREW  
You're going to puke no matter what's playing.

LAURIE  
How many friends did John have? Me, you, and Skip.

ANDREW

This isn't what I expected, that's all.

LAURIE

Loosen up Andy.

ANDREW

And what's you're ex-boyfriend doing here?

LAURIE

Who cares about him?

ANDREW

You're okay with that?

LAURIE

We broke up over five months ago.

ANDREW

That's not very long to get over someone you love.

LAURIE

What do you know about love Andy?

(As LAURIE puts her arms on ANDREW's shoulders, DANNY enters. [Same actor as JOHN, now wearing a Philadelphia Eagles cap])

DANNY

I'm sorry. Am I interrupting something?

ANDREW

No.

LAURIE

Kinda.

DANNY

I'll be out of you way in a second. Just gettin' a beer.

LAURIE

They're not in here. They're in the cooler by the door.

DANNY

Thanks.

(DANNY starts to exit. ANDREW stops him)

ANDREW

Hey, do you know you look like someone we used to know?

DANNY

I've heard. John, right?

ANDREW

Yeah.

DANNY

I know, everyone out there keeps telling me.

LAURIE

Look, Andy. I'm not gonna waste a good buzz...The party's in here if you want to join me.

(LAURIE exits. DANNY turns to ANDREW. Brief pause)

DANNY

I'm Danny by the way.

ANDREW

Andrew.

(They shake hands, holding the handshake.)

Wow.

(ANDREW stares at DANNY. SKIP and LAURIE enter. Crossfade to a park with the sounds of ducks and birds.)

LAURIE

Does Andy look alright to you?

SKIP

What do you mean? He looks fine.

LAURIE

He hasn't been the same since John died.

SKIP

All things considered, he's doing great. Don't worry about him. He's fine. Hey Andy, c'mon...those ducks have had enough.

ANDREW

Be there in a minute.

LAURIE

C'mon Andy.

(DANNY breaks the handshake, exits. ANDREW turns into the park scene, joins SKIP and LAURIE)

SKIP

I love this time of year.

LAURIE

Me too.

SKIP

I used to hate it because of it meant school was starting but... Andy, you fed them the entire loaf?

ANDREW

I like watching them eat.

SKIP

Now they're going to poop all over my car.

ANDREW

I'll clean it off.

SKIP

I tried to feed one. That one. And it practically bit my finger off. Ingrate.

LAURIE

Look, they're following us.

ANDREW

He's just staring at me. I'm sorry. I'm all out. No more bread. None. All gone.

SKIP

Homo duck.

LAURIE

Gay ducks, Skip? C'mon.

SKIP

Yeah, there are gay ducks.

LAURIE

Yeah right.

SKIP

Ever heard of gay-dar?

ANDREW

Gay-dar?

LAURIE

With ducks. You're crazy if you....



SKIP

Came out to me last week. Blew me away.

ANDREW

Wow.

LAURIE

Don't act surprised Andy. He was all over you in the kitchen.

ANDREW

No he wasn't. We were just talking.

LAURIE

Well obviously it wasn't just talking to him.

(LAURIE and SKIP walk off. As ANDREW follows, DANNY enters. Crossfade back to party.)

DANNY

Did you say the beer was in a cooler by the door? I couldn't find it.

ANDREW

They must have moved it.

DANNY

Hey, where did your girlfriend go?

ANDREW

She's not my girlfriend.

DANNY

Sorry, I just assumed you were...

ANDREW

Oh no...we're just good friends.

DANNY

Oh. She likes you though.

ANDREW

She's drunk.

DANNY

You know, they say that a person's true self comes out when they're drunk.

ANDREW

Who's they?

DANNY  
You know. Them.

ANDREW  
Oh...them.

DANNY  
Right.

ANDREW  
Well I better watch how much I'm drinking then.

DANNY  
Sounds like you're hiding something.

ANDREW  
What you see is what you get.

DANNY  
Hmm.

ANDREW  
So...? You're a student at Penn State?

DANNY  
Yeah.

ANDREW  
They'd be number one if only that field goal didn't bounce off the upright.

DANNY  
Don't remind me. What a grueling game to watch.

ANDREW  
Steelers fan?

DANNY  
Didn't you see my hat?

ANDREW  
The Eagles?

DANNY  
I'm from Cherry Hill. They're the local team.

ANDREW  
Oh yeah, I always forget that you southerners root for the Philly teams. Sorry about the Phillies.

DANNY

Don't go there. The Blue Jays kicked their butt in the Series.

ANDREW

Well, there's always the Flyers and Sixers...

DANNY

And Eagles.

ANDREW

And Eagles.

DANNY

Better than the Giants.

ANDREW

Actually I'm a Buccaneers fan.

DANNY

Tampa Bay?

ANDREW

I'm a glutton for punishment.

DANNY

I think you're the first Bucs fan I've ever met.

ANDREW

No, just the first to admit it. They're gonna turn it around this year.

DANNY

Don't hold your breath.

ANDREW

I know, I say the same thing every year.

DANNY

Are you from Tampa?

ANDREW

No, the first football game my father took me to as a kid was a Giants-Buccaneers game.

DANNY

And you fell in love with those flaming neon orange uniforms?

ANDREW

No I didn't.

DANNY

And the swashbuckler on the helmet?

ANDREW

Bucco Bruce.

DANNY

Bucco Bruce? That's their problem right there. Ditch Bruce and change the neon. Their mascot and uniform scream "beat us senseless please."

ANDREW

Just wait till December. Eagles-Bucs.

DANNY

They play each other?

ANDREW

In Philly.

DANNY

Cool. Up for a wager?

ANDREW

What do you have in mind?

DANNY

If the Bucs win, which they won't, drinks and dinner on me. But if the Eagles win...

ANDREW

Keep dreaming.

DANNY

If the Eagles win...

ANDREW

It's on me.

DANNY

Sounds good. So it's a bet?

ANDREW

Absolutely.

(They shake hands)

So, what are you studying at Penn State?

DANNY

Meteorology.

ANDREW  
Meteorology?

DANNY  
Always wanted to be a TV weatherman.

ANDREW  
Really?

DANNY  
Yep. So I'm doubling in Broadcasting.

ANDREW  
That's cool.

DANNY  
This semester I finally go on-air.

ANDREW  
Wow, where?

DANNY  
Oh, I meant on-camera, not on air. Just for a class. It's like the real thing, you know, the whole nine yards. Teleprompter, blue screen, smiling suns, dripping clouds...

ANDREW  
Cool.

DANNY  
Need a new suit and a manicure.

ANDREW  
Manicure?

DANNY  
Look at these nails.

(ANDREW holds DANNY's hands.)

ANDREW  
Look fine to me.

DANNY  
So what are you studying?

ANDREW  
I be a graduate.

DANNY  
Oh...

ANDREW  
I almost didn't make it.

DANNY  
What do you mean?

ANDREW  
I thought about quitting.

DANNY  
Why?

ANDREW  
Hey, didn't you come in here for a beer?

DANNY  
Yeah, sort of. Wanted to get out of the other room for a bit.

ANDREW  
Too smoky?

DANNY  
Yeah that, and some girl broke out a oujia board.

ANDREW  
Not again.

DANNY  
Two things freak me out: Psychics and oujia boards.

ANDREW  
Have you ever done it?

DANNY  
No way. I hate being in the same room with it.

ANDREW  
Fear brought you here?

DANNY  
Yeah. Sort of. Everyone out there kept staring at me cause they think I look like him.

ANDREW  
You do.

DANNY  
That weirds me out just a little. Like all the energy out there is directed at me and somehow it's going to make John's ghost take over my body. I mean, thanks, but no thanks.

ANDREW  
You could do worse than playing host to John.

DANNY  
What about you, have you ever oujied?

ANDREW  
Once.

DANNY  
Recently?

ANDREW  
Yeah.

DANNY  
And? What happened?

ANDREW  
Well, we were trying to contact John...

DANNY  
Did you get him?

ANDREW  
I don't know. I doubt it.

(SKIP and LAURIE enter with a candle,  
sit at the table and play)

SKIP  
Do you have anything important you'd like to tell us?

ANDREW  
It spelled out my name.

DANNY  
This is creepy.

(The lights darken on DANNY and remain  
dim on the table)

LAURIE  
What about Andy? Do you want to speak with him?

SKIP  
It's going to "Yes."

LAURIE

Sshh, Skip.

SKIP

Andy, it wants to speak with you.

LAURIE

Is it alright if Andy takes Skips place?

SKIP

Yes.

ANDREW

I'm not touching that thing.

SKIP

It's going to A. ... N .... D .... Y. It wants you Andy.

LAURIE

Skip get off, let Andy take over.

ANDREW

No.

LAURIE

Andy sit down, it might be John.

SKIP

C'mon Andy, do it. Laurie can't be touching by herself.

ANDREW

Why?

SKIP

She could get channeled or possessed.

ANDREW

Give me a break.

LAURIE

Hurry up Andy.

ANDREW

Alright, alright.

(ANDREW sits and plays)

LAURIE

Okay, Andy is here now. What do you want to say?

(Nothing happens)

ANDREW

Great. I've killed it's spirit.

LAURIE

Is there anything you want to tell Andy?

ANDREW

Well, I guess he doesn't want to talk to me after all.

SKIP

Ask a yes or no question.

LAURIE

Do you still want to talk with Andy?

(Nothing happens)

ANDREW

You guys were moving this thing before.

SKIP

Don't be hostile Andy. Ask if there's anything wrong?

LAURIE

Is there anything wrong?

ANDREW

Nothing's happening.

SKIP

It can sense your impatience Andy.

ANDREW

Well the damn thing asked for me and now it won't talk.

LAURIE

You ask a question.

ANDREW

Do you have something to tell me?

(Nothing)

Look, I'm not going to do this all night. So if you have something to say, say it, otherwise I'm going to stop.

LAURIE

It's moving. It said "no."

ANDREW

You pushed it there.

SKIP

Ask another question.

ANDREW

Why should I believe that some kind of spirit is there?

(LAURIE and ANDREW's hands move  
chaotically around the board)

LAURIE

Oh my god.

ANDREW

What's happening?

SKIP

It's either thinking, angry, or confused.

LAURIE

It's saying something. Skip get a pad and write these letters  
down. It stopped on the number 1.

ANDREW

How can you tell?

LAURIE

The number 4. The letter T. The letter O. Number 1. Number 3.

ANDREW

I can't do this anymore.

(ANDREW rises)

SKIP

Andy! One, Four, T.O. one, three!

(ANDREW crosses back to DANNY.  
Crossfade back to party. SKIP and  
LAURIE exit)

DANNY

So, did that mean anything to you?

ANDREW

Nothing.

DANNY

Did you think it was John?

ANDREW

Nah. I swear Laurie was moving it.

(MAN enters)

MAN

Oh my god, they are scaring me half to death in there. Candles, wine, soft music. If I didn't know better, I'd think it was romantic dinner for two. Look, I'm sorry if I've interrupted your man talk. I'm parched.

(MAN takes ANDREW's beer)

May I?

(MAN sips. ANDREW moves away.)

(The MAN follows)

What are the two of you doing in here? No, let me guess. You're watching the World Series. Well forget about the Yankees this year. They traded all their cute boys away. The Mets on the other hand, whoah, they're getting smart - building with new, fresh, and oh did I forget to mention motivated young boys from their farm.

ANDREW

Farm system.

MAN

Whatever system they're using, I'm glued to my television watching these guys. Balls, bats, gloves, pitchers, catchers, uniforms. As the Scooter used to say "Holy Cow." You know, I think I'm getting drunk.

ANDREW

Someone spike the water?

MAN

Look Mr. Smarty Pants, when you've been as dry as I've been for the past year, one sip of this stuff will do it. I have to pee so bad, my bladder may just burst all over this kitchen.

ANDREW

Go to the bathroom.

MAN

Laurie is in there sucking face with her ex. What a waste. He's so good-looking.

DANNY

Go outside.

MAN

And walk down four flights. Oh, I see, you want me out of here.

(No response.)

Are you boys behaving in here? Hmmm? Are you rounding the bases? First? Second? Third? Home run? Can you hit a home run with your clothes on? C'mon, you can tell me. My lips are sealed. Okay, so I lie. I keep secrets like I keep boyfriends... Oh lord, I can't hold it in any longer. Behave yourselves.

(MAN runs out, exits)

You guys, get out of the bathroom! She's gonna blow!

DANNY

Going, going, gone.

ANDREW

What was that about?

DANNY

Friend of yours?

ANDREW

Skip's.

DANNY

He's a funny character.

ANDREW

Funny? He has no idea the World Series is over.

DANNY

What World Series?

ANDREW

Toronto-Philly.

DANNY

Thanks for reminding me.

ANDREW

Sorry. Why would you act like that?

DANNY

Like what?

ANDREW

I don't know, the flailing and fanning, like a big girl. I mean, even all the girls I know don't act like that.

DANNY

Relax, that guy is harmless.

ANDREW

More like obnoxious.

DANNY

Oh, well, there's the real issue. Obnoxiousness.

ANDREW

Right. I mean, who wants to be around a jerk?

DANNY

Not me.

ANDREW

I don't.

DANNY

No.

ANDREW

Right?

DANNY

Right.

ANDREW

Good.

DANNY

Good.

ANDREW

Good.

(Brief pause. DANNY starts to  
exit. ANDREW stops him)

Hey, I have to tell you, and I hope I don't freak you out more,  
but could I see your cap for a second?

DANNY

Are you gonna trash it?

ANDREW

No.

DANNY

Well alright then.

(DANNY hands cap to ANDREW)

ANDREW

Wow, look at you.

DANNY

Hat head?

(ANDREW studies DANNY)

What? You're making me self-conscious.

ANDREW

Sorry.

DANNY

Try it on.

ANDREW

No, no, that's alright.

(ANDREW returns cap, takes out his wallet)

Take a look at this.

(ANDREW shows DANNY a picture)

Change this to an Eagles cap and that could be you.

DANNY

I guess I see a resemblance.

ANDREW

Yeah. They say John was a looker.

DANNY

Them again?

ANDREW

Yeah, them again.

DANNY

Well you know, tramps like us.

ANDREW

Okay, this is freaky. Did you know that was his favorite song?

DANNY

Born to Run?

ANDREW

Yeah.

DANNY

Now I just got a shiver. And that it's a song is about a guy named Andy.

ANDREW

What?

DANNY

"Andy let me in I want to be your friend."

ANDREW

It's not Andy, it's Wendy.

DANNY

Who's Wendy?

ANDREW

"I wanna die with you Wendy on the streets tonight in an everlasting kiss." Her.

DANNY

You sure?

ANDREW

Yeah. It's Wendy, he definitely says Wendy. Who's Andy? Why would he sing to a guy named Andy?

DANNY

He sings to a guy in "Streets of Philadelphia."

ANDREW

He does?

DANNY

Yeah. "Receive me brother with your faithless kiss" or something like that.

ANDREW

Well that's different.

DANNY

How so?

ANDREW

That was for a movie.

DANNY

Yeah I guess so. Hanks is a shoe-in for an Oscar.

ANDREW

Skip and John used to fight all the time about Born To Run. Skip still swears he says "just wrap your arms around these velvet rims and strap your hands across my 'inches'."

DANNY

Inches?

ANDREW

It's not inches, it's strap your hands across my 'engines'. As in gentlemen, start your engines.

DANNY

Well, we all hear what we want to hear.

ANDREW

Inches?

DANNY

Anyway, listen, speaking of starting engines, I have to. Long drive back tonight.

ANDREW

You're driving back tonight?

DANNY

I have to finish packing up my stuff. Moving off-campus next weekend to the Towers.

ANDREW

That sucks.

DANNY

Not at all. Can't wait to be out of the dorms.

ANDREW

Oh. Well, hope you weren't too freaked out by...

DANNY

Well, we all have to, you know, embrace our fears, right?

ANDREW

Right.

DANNY

Look, if you ever want to come out, to State Park, catch a game, let me, or Skip, know.

ANDREW

Cool. Thanks.

DANNY

Nice meeting you Andrew.

ANDREW

Same here.

(They shake hands and hold it. LAURIE and SKIP enter. Crossfade back to park)

SKIP

C'mon Andy, Let's go. These ducks are boring. We're going up to Eagles Peak to look at the foliage.

ANDREW

I don't want to go up there.

LAURIE

C'mon Andy, it'll be beautiful.

ANDREW

No.

SKIP

You and John used to go up there all the time.

ANDREW

I don't have a jacket and it's probably cold up there and...

SKIP

Here. Take mine, you wimp.

(SKIP puts his jacket on ANDREW's shoulders. DANNY exits)

ANDREW

I don't want your...

SKIP

Now you having nothing to complain about.

ANDREW

Thanks.

SKIP

You know, it's so amazing how the leaves flare into these magnificent colors right before they fall to their death.

LAURIE

I'm gonna puke.

SKIP

See ya later birds. Say good-bye to your love ducky.

ANDREW

Let's go.

(They begin to walk. Crossfade to Eagle's Peak.)

LAURIE  
Wow. Look at it up here.

SKIP  
Geez, it is colder...

ANDREW  
Take your jacket...

SKIP  
Keep it. I gotta go so...

ANDREW  
What?

LAURIE  
We can walk home from here.

SKIP  
Thin air. Altitude poisoning. I have to go. Have fun guys.

(SKIP exits)

ANDREW  
That was hasty.

LAURIE  
You don't mind walking home, do you?

ANDREW  
No.

LAURIE  
Isn't it gorgeous?

ANDREW  
Yeah.

LAURIE  
Look over there. Like a rainbow how the red trees blend into  
the green trees and yellows...

(ANDREW moves to the edge)  
Where are you going?

ANDREW  
Over there.

LAURIE  
Andy, be careful.

ANDREW  
Come here. You can see better.

LAURIE  
No.

ANDREW  
C'mon. Don't be scared.  
(LAURIE goes, cautiously)  
See.

LAURIE  
Wow. Incredible.

ANDREW  
What's the matter?

LAURIE  
We're kinda close to the edge.

ANDREW  
You're not going anywhere.

LAURIE  
I know.

ANDREW  
I got you.

LAURIE  
I know. Let's go over there.

ANDREW  
You're less daring when your not drinking.

LAURIE  
I'm gonna go sit on that rock. In the sun...

ANDREW  
Okay. I'll be over in a minute.

LAURIE  
Be careful, okay?

ANDREW  
I'm fine. Go.  
(LAURIE steps away from the edge.  
ANDREW stares out at the view)  
You just missed an eagle go by.

LAURIE

There are no eagles in this area.

ANDREW

Then why do they call it Eagles Peak?

LAURIE

Wishful thinking.

ANDREW

Well, then you just missed a rare occurrence.

LAURIE

You couldn't have seen an eagle.

ANDREW

Alright. Whatever you say.

(ANDREW looks out while LAURIE basks  
in the sun. ANDREW closes his eyes.  
Crossfade as JOHN enters.)

JOHN

Move away from the edge, buddy.

ANDREW

John, you scared me.

JOHN

I knew I'd find you here.

ANDREW

Yep.

JOHN

Tell me it isn't true Andy.

ANDREW

What?

JOHN

Don't play dumb. Laurie told me you were quitting school.

ANDREW

Damn it!

JOHN

You can't do that.

ANDREW  
It's already done.

JOHN  
No, no, that's no good.

ANDREW  
Listen to you.

JOHN  
Yeah, listen to me. You have to stay in school.

ANDREW  
Why? You didn't.

JOHN  
I'm not cut out for college, you know that.

ANDREW  
Maybe I'm not either.

JOHN  
But you are.

ANDREW  
Obviously I'm not.

JOHN  
Look Andrew, we're like a perfect duo, you and me.

ANDREW  
Right.

JOHN  
You know, like in all those action movies. Where there are two guys trying to save the world from destruction. The tough one and the brainy one. And the tough guy fights his way through the movies with things blowing up all around him, while the smart guy uses his brain and he's the one that actually figures out how to save the earth.

ANDREW  
I hate action movies.

JOHN  
Yeah, but it's like I'm Bruce Willis and you're, you're...Jeff Goldblum. That's us.

ANDREW  
Jeff Goldblum?

JOHN

Cause you're smart like him. Look, all I'm saying Andy is that the big dumb guy is supposed to do what big dumb guys do and that, well if the smart guy does something dumb, like the dumb guy, then you have two dumb guys and no movie.

ANDREW

I'm not going to save the earth so what's the point.

JOHN

Just get your ass back in school.

ANDREW

I'm sick of driving. My car's falling apart. I had to get it jump-started twice this week.

JOHN

If I have to take you there myself everyday, you're going.

ANDREW

On the back of your motorcycle?

JOHN

I have two helmets.

ANDREW

No thanks.

JOHN

Ever think about living on campus?

ANDREW

Not really.

JOHN

Well I guess that's a good thing, you know, cause I wouldn't want you ending up like Skip.

ANDREW

What?

JOHN

One semester in a dorm and he turns into a butt pirate.

ANDREW

I don't think living in dorms...

JOHN

I don't care though. I mean, I'm cool with Skip and all. He can do whatever he wants. As long as it doesn't affect me. I don't want him coming on to me or anything. I mean, not that I could blame him if he did, right? I am irresistible, right?

(JOHN puts his arm around ANDREW)

Buddy, you've got a lot going for yourself. Remember that.

ANDREW

Thanks.

(ANDREW kisses JOHN. JOHN hastily breaks the kiss)

JOHN

Whoah, what are you doing?

(Crossfade as LAURIE sits up)

LAURIE

Andy, aren't you gonna join me?

JOHN

That wasn't real, Andy. That never happened.

(JOHN exits)

LAURIE

Andy?

(ANDREW closes his eyes, clutches his side, slips, then collapses)

ANDY!

(LAURIE rushes to ANDREW)

ANDY? What's wrong? Are you alright?

(Crossfade as DOCTOR enters and LAURIE exits. DOCTOR sits ANDREW in a chair. Lights tighten on ANDREW.)

DOCTOR

You've lost fifteen pounds?

ANDREW

That's what the nurse said.

DOCTOR

In three weeks. What's going on?

(DOCTOR takes ANDREW's pulse)

ANDREW

I've been having these pains on my side.

DOCTOR

Okay. What kind of pain? Sharp? Sore?

ANDREW

Mostly sharp. I don't think it's anything serious, but... Could it be a reaction to the antibiotics?

DOCTOR

It's possible.

ANDREW

You know, something else happened that also concerns me...

DOCTOR

Hmm-hmm. Show me where the pain is.

ANDREW

It's in this general area.

(DOCTOR presses ANDREW's side)

DOCTOR

Does this hurt?

ANDREW

A little.

DOCTOR

How about now?

ANDREW

No.

(DOCTOR presses)

That hurts.

DOCTOR

Okay.

ANDREW

What is it?

DOCTOR

I don't know yet.

(DOCTOR puts stethoscope in her ears,  
listens to ANDREW's heart. DAD enters.)

Breathe.

(ANDREW breathes)

DAD  
You're selling your car?

DOCTOR  
Breathe.

ANDREW  
I can't afford to keep it.

(DANNY enters. The sound of ANDREW's  
heartbeat is heard.)

DAD  
Why not?

DOCTOR  
Breathe.

DAD  
You just bought it.

DANNY  
They say a person's true self comes out when they're drunk.

DOCTOR  
Breathe.

ANDREW  
Who's they?

DANNY  
You know. Them.

DOCTOR  
Breathe.

DAD  
I thought we figured this all out when you took the job and  
bought the car.

DOCTOR  
Is your job stressful?

ANDREW  
I quit my job.

DAD  
You quit your job?

DOCTOR

Breathe.

DANNY

Sounds like your hiding something.

ANDREW

What you see is what you get.

DAD

You let go of a job you liked?

DOCTOR

Weight loss, Pains. By the look of you...

ANDREW

What's wrong with me?

DANNY

I thought maybe we could talk, but...

DOCTOR

Is it personal? Girl problems?

DANNY

Is that your girlfriend?

ANDREW

No, no it's not that.

DAD

Explain this to me. Why does someone leave a secure job with dental benefits?

DANNY

This doesn't seem like a good time.

ANDREW

Hey, didn't you come in here for a beer?

DANNY

Actually, I came in here because I knew you were in here.

ANDREW

You never said that.

DOCTOR

Is she pregnant?

ANDREW

NO!

DAD

Don't sell the car. We'll take care of it.

DOCTOR

What if she wants the baby and you don't?

DANNY

I can see this is going nowhere.

ANDREW

WAIT!

DOCTOR

What if the family finds out?

ANDREW

Please wait.

DOCTOR

A lot of what ifs.

ANDREW

No one is pregnant.

DAD

So what's wrong with your stomach?

DOCTOR

You seem to be under a lot of stress.

DAD

Stress from what?

DANNY

I'm gonna go.

ANDREW

Wait. She gave me a prescription.

DAD

Good, that's good.

DOCTOR

Take these when you feel anxious or tense.

DAD

At least she gave you something.

ANDREW

I don't like pills.

DOCTOR

Remember when you were a kid and you came to me by yourself.

DANNY

I've got a long drive back...

DOCTOR

You were trying to fake being sick and in the process broke the thermometer and got a bubble of mercury on your hand.

ANDREW

I thought I was going to die.

DOCTOR

You kept begging me to keep you alive.

DANNY

Is there something you want to say to me?

ANDREW

Yes.

DOCTOR

I never did tell your parents about that.

ANDREW

Thank you.

DOCTOR

But I can't read you're mind now, Andrew.

DANNY

I can't read your mind.

ANDREW

I know.

DOCTOR

Only you can deal with the stress you have.

ANDREW

I know.

DOCTOR

Take care of yourself Andrew.

(DOCTOR exits)

DANNY

I'm not going to wait around forever.

(DANNY exits)

ANDREW

WAIT!

(ANDREW jumps out of the chair. DAD stops him. Lights shift.)

DAD

Where are you going?

ANDREW

Out.

DAD

Your mother's making dinner.

ANDREW

I have to go out, dad.

DAD

We'll talk about the car stuff when you get back.

ANDREW

I won't be home late.

DAD

What time?

ANDREW

I don't know. Around one.

DAD

That's not late?

ANDREW

I'll see you later. Leave the lights on.

DAD

Be careful.

(SKIP enters. Crossfade to bar as ANDREW runs to SKIP)

ANDREW

Skip, Skip, I know where we can go for our road trip.

SKIP

Andy, what are you doing here?

ANDREW  
Penn State.

SKIP  
Penn State?

ANDREW  
Yeah, they have a game coming up against Rutgers.

SKIP  
Andy, you don't rush into a gay bar to talk about football. I can't believe you're in here. My world's collide and...

ANDREW  
Listen to me. I want to go to Penn State.

SKIP  
What? Why? I spent four years there, let's go someplace neither of us have been.

ANDREW  
You can visit with friends while I go to the game. Danny will probably go to the game, right?

SKIP  
Danny?

ANDREW  
You think he'll let us stay with him?

SKIP  
I'm not sleeping on a floor.

ANDREW  
Even for one night. C'mon, it's against Rutgers.

SKIP  
Oooow, Rutgers, let's go now.

ANDREW  
It'll be fun. We'd root for Rutgers. Danny for Penn State.

SKIP  
Why do you keep bringing up his name?

ANDREW  
Who's name?

SKIP  
Danny's.

ANDREW

Well, you know...cause he lives out there.

SKIP

Right.

ANDREW

And you know, I've never met anyone like him before.

SKIP

And what is he like?

ANDREW

He's into sports.

SKIP

Yes he is.

ANDREW

And he's gay.

SKIP

Yes he is.

ANDREW

So that's interesting.

SKIP

Absolutely fascinating.

ANDREW

And so both me and Danny are alike.

SKIP

Athletic supporters?

ANDREW

Skip, are you listening to me?

SKIP

I'm trying to. You're all over the place Andy. Focus.

ANDREW

I can't stop thinking about my conversation with him. At your party.

SKIP

Yeah so?

ANDREW

Don't you get it?  
(Whispers)  
I'm gay. Just like Danny.

SKIP

Now why would you whisper that in here?

ANDREW

I don't know.

SKIP

It's cause you're not gay. So cut it out.

ANDREW

Cut what out?

SKIP

Laurie put you up to this didn't she? You came in here to test me on that gay-dar thing.

ANDREW

No.

SKIP

Did you think the environment would throw me off?

ANDREW

Skip.

SKIP

This is a good one. You can't even act camp.

ANDREW

No, no, no, listen to me.

SKIP

She's supposed to meet me here in a few minutes. You guys are good. Where is she hiding?

ANDREW

No. I swear to you she's not here.

SKIP

Really?

ANDREW

Really.

SKIP

Who else knows?

ANDREW

I don't know.

SKIP

Well have you told anyone?

ANDREW

No. What was this like for you?

SKIP

What was what like?

ANDREW

What I'm doing now.

SKIP

I never did this.

ANDREW

So you didn't go through all this, all this...

SKIP

No, I just went away to school and became me.

ANDREW

Well I commuted.

SKIP

See, there you go. Look Andy, it's really no big deal. I don't understand guys who act like it's a life or death thing. I mean, especially now, gays are more visible than ever. Clinton's in the White House. There's no excuse in my book.

(Cocktail WAITER enters.)

WAITER

Can I get you something to drink sweetie?

ANDREW

Sweetie?

WAITER

A drink perhaps.

ANDREW

No, no thank you.

WAITER

Are you sure?

ANDREW

Yes. Thank you.

WAITER

Are you ready for another honey?

SKIP

I'm fine.

(WAITER exits)

ANDREW

So who was the first person you told?

SKIP

I don't know. I don't remember.

ANDREW

You don't remember?

SKIP

Does it matter?

ANDREW

I just figured you'd remember something like that.

SKIP

Well I don't. Now what are you going to do about Laurie?

ANDREW

Oh no, I haven't even thought about that.

SKIP

Of course you haven't.

ANDREW

What am I going to say to her?

SKIP

She's going to be crushed.

ANDREW

No, she'll understand.

SKIP

Well whatever you decide to do Andy, I'm not getting Danny involved in this prank.

ANDREW

For the last time, Skip, this is not a prank!

Then kiss me. SKIP

What? No. ANDREW

If you were gay you would. SKIP

Why? ANDREW

C'mon. A simple little kiss. SKIP

I can't. ANDREW

Awe, c'mon Andy, no one in here is going to bat an eyelash. SKIP

Fine. ANDREW  
(ANDREW kisses SKIP)  
Is that what you wanted?

Wow. Pretty good. So short though. SKIP

(SKIP grabs ANDREW, kisses him as LAURIE enters. ANDREW breaks the kiss)

What is going on here? LAURIE  
(Laughing)

Laurie, this is what you wanted to see isn't it? SKIP

Andrew? LAURIE

Laurie I... ANDREW

Tell her Andy. SKIP

Tell me what? LAURIE

ANDREW

I...I'm sorry.

(ANDREW runs off. SKIP laughs.)

LAURIE

Skip, what is going on?

SKIP

I don't know. You tell me. Looks like the joke just got reversed. Back at cha!

(A crash, breaking glass offstage)

LAURIE

What in the world is...?

(WAITER walks through holding a baseball bat)

WAITER

I swear if one more cowardly, gutless punk throws a bottle at this place again, I'm gonna kill them.

(Tires screech, motor of car speeds off. ANDREW runs in holding the back of his head. ANDREW takes his hand off his head. Blood is dripping from his hand down his arm. ANDREW collapses.)

LAURIE

Oh my God! ANDY!

(Blackout)

**END OF ACT I**

**ACT II**

**AT RISE:**

In dark, organ music is heard. As lights rise, a PRIEST enters, stands at an altar. MOM enters, crying, followed by SKIP. SKIP consoles MOM. ANDREW enters slowly, examining the scene. He has a bandage on the back of his head/neck area. ANDREW approaches the altar. LAURIE enters in a wedding dress. Organ music stops.

PRIEST

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today to join in holy matrimony, Andrew and Laurie. Dear Lord, as Andrew and Laurie prepare to unite their souls as one before you, we ask for you, oh Lord, to bless this day, so that Andrew and Laurie will know that from this day on, dear God, you will be living in their hearts as they become man and wife.

(PRIEST signals for LAURIE and ANDREW to face each other)

As you stand here, Andrew and Laurie, in the house of the Almighty Father, with his son Jesus Christ, I ask for you to state your intentions and share with us, your loved ones, what's in your hearts. Ladies first. I, Laurie...

LAURIE

I, Laurie...

PRIEST

Take thee Andrew to be my husband...

LAURIE

Take thee Andrew to be my husband...

PRIEST

I promise to always be faithful to you...

LAURIE

I promise to always be faithful to you...

PRIEST

For richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health...

LAURIE

For richer of for poorer, in sickness and in health...

PRIEST

In good times and bad...

LAURIE

In good times and bad...

PRIEST

And as a symbol of my love and affection...

LAURIE

And as a symbol of my love and affection...

PRIEST

Give you this ring.

LAURIE

Give you this ring.

(LAURIE puts ring on ANDREW's finger)

PRIEST

Now Andrew. I, Andrew...

ANDREW

I, Andrew...

PRIEST

Take thee Laurie to be my wife...

ANDREW

Take thee Laurie to be my wife...

PRIEST

I promise to be faithful to you...

ANDREW

I promise...

(Bang of thunder with lightning.

Silhouette/shadow of JOHN/DANNY appears)  
to be faithful to you...

PRIEST

For richer or poorer, in sickness and in health...

ANDREW

For richer or poorer, in sickness and in health...

PRIEST

In good times and bad...

ANDREW

In good times and bad...

PRIEST

I swear to God I am telling the truth right now...

ANDREW

What?

PRIEST

And as a symbol of my love and affection...

ANDREW

And as a symbol of my love and affection...

PRIEST

Give you this ring.

ANDREW

Give you this ring.

(Thunder again)

PRIEST

As God is my witness, I pronounce you man and wife. You may now kiss the bride.

(JOHN enters. Crossfade to wedding reception. Music plays.)

JOHN

Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention please? As best man, it is my duty to shower the bride, and groom, with a few kind words. So when those words or the kindness come to me I'll let you know. Kidding Andy. Honestly, I wish you lots of luck. I mean that. From the bottom of my heart. To Andy and Laurie!

(JOHN raises a glass. Others follow, they clang glasses. ANDREW gives LAURIE a peck on the cheek.)

Now doesn't everybody want to see them dance as man and wife for the first time. I know I do.

(Dance music swells. ANDREW and LAURIE dance. MOM and PRIEST dance together, SKIP dances alone. JOHN follows the action then transforms into DANNY by putting the Eagles cap on his head. DANNY walks over, taps LAURIE on the shoulder)

DANNY

May I?

LAURIE

Sure.

(LAURIE separates from ANDREW assuming DANNY wants to dance with her. DANNY looks at her, shakes his head. DANNY takes ANDREW's arms. Music changes for a slow dance as the lights tighten on DANNY and ANDREW dancing. LAURIE to SKIP)

DANNY

Is that your girlfriend?

ANDREW

Oh no...we're just good friends.

DANNY

Oh. She likes you though.

ANDREW

She's drunk.

DANNY

You know they say that a person's true self comes out when they're drunk.

ANDREW

Who's they?

DANNY

You know. Them.

ANDREW

Oh...them.

DANNY

Right.

ANDREW

Well I better watch how much I'm drinking then.

DANNY

Sounds like you're hiding something.

ANDREW

What you see is what you get.

DANNY

Then why are you marrying her?

(DANNY and ANDREW stop dancing. The others stop moving or move slowly)

ANDREW  
Didn't you come in here for a drink?

DANNY  
Yeah. Can I have a sip?

ANDREW  
Sure.

(ANDREW gives DANNY his drink. DANNY sips and gives it back. They both hold the drink for a second. ANDREW's heartbeat is heard)

DANNY  
Thanks.

ANDREW  
Sure. Anytime.

DANNY  
So.

ANDREW  
So, here we are.

DANNY  
Do you like this song?

ANDREW  
I didn't pick it out.

DANNY  
I like it.

ANDREW  
So do I, I just...

DANNY  
I know it's corny but...

ANDREW  
Corny but appropriate.

DANNY  
Well, we are at a wedding.

ANDREW

True.

(They kiss. Blackout. In dark, sound of a heartbeat. When lights rise, ANDREW is in a makeshift hospital bed. MOM at bedside. DANNY behind with his hands on ANDREW's shoulders.)

ANDREW

God, that kiss, your kiss, felt great.

DANNY

Yeah, well, it's a shame it never happened.

ANDREW

I don't care if it never happened. I kissed you...

DANNY

Well, you know, it's getting late.

ANDREW

Wait, can I have your telephone number or something?

DANNY

Take care.

ANDREW

Can I write to you?

DANNY

I'll see you around maybe.

ANDREW

We should see each other again. Don't go.

(DANNY continues to walk away)

Stop! Don't move.

DANNY

Andy, you had your chance with me.

ANDREW

So I don't get another chance?

DANNY

Not if you stay in this hospital.

ANDREW

But what if you don't...

DANNY

You know how to find me.

MOM

Andrew, can you hear me?

ANDREW

What is she doing here?

DANNY

Visiting you.

MOM

They say you can even though you can't respond.

ANDREW

Mom you've had me anointed by the priest twice already. I'm not even on a respirator.

DANNY

I don't think she can hear you.

ANDREW

She's just not listening to me.

MOM

We're here every day. Everyone is praying for you.

ANDREW

So?

MOM

Just give me a signal.

ANDREW

How much does she know?

DANNY

You're asking me? I don't know.

MOM

I just wanted to tell you how much me and your father love you.

ANDREW

You don't understand.

MOM

Your sister's a little upset. You're upstaging her big day.

ANDREW

She's throwing guilt at me in this condition.

MOM

I thought you might find that funny.

ANDREW

Sorry.

MOM

It's been a week, Andrew.

ANDREW

Has it been that long?

DANNY

I guess so.

MOM

I know life is hard, Andrew, but it's still...

ANDREW

I can't deal with my parents right now.

DANNY

What about me?

ANDREW

We talked for only five minutes. You won't remember me.

DANNY

Hey, don't you want to find out?

ANDREW

I can't take that chance.

(DANNY extends out his hand)

DANNY

Come with me.

MOM

I brought you something Andrew.

(MOM reaches into a bag)

DANNY

Don't you want to get out of that bed?

ANDREW

Yes I do.

MOM

It was your favorite book when you were a kid.

DANNY

Then let's go for a walk. Get some air.

MOM

Dr. Seuss. Green Eggs and Ham. Remember?

ANDREW

I don't know.

DANNY

C'mon. You'll be alright.

ANDREW

Will you be there?

DANNY

Andy, do you want to come with me or not?

ANDREW

Yes. Yes. I do.

(ANDREW reaches for DANNY. DANNY slowly exits, motioning for ANDREW to follow. MOM reads from "Green Eggs and Ham")

MOM

"I am Sam. Sam I am. Will you eat green eggs and ham? I don't like green eggs and ham. Sam I am..."

ANDREW

Mom, mom, please stop.

MOM

Did you say something?

ANDREW

Stop reading.

MOM

Oh my god. Oh my god. Andrew.

(MOM runs off shouting)

He's talking. He said something. Doctor!

(Wheelchair is pushed onstage. DOCTOR enters [mom puts on white coat])

DOCTOR

Well Andrew, your parents should be here soon.

ANDREW

I know.

DOCTOR

How's that injury to your noggin'?

ANDREW

You tell me.

(DOCTOR removes bandage)

DOCTOR

It will probably be a little tender for a week or two, but...

ANDREW

Am I going to have a scar?

DOCTOR

Are you questioning my work?

ANDREW

No, I didn't mean to...

DOCTOR

Well you should question it.

ANDREW

Why?

DOCTOR

You're a fooler Andrew. I completely did not pick up on what you were trying to tell me on your last visit to the office.

ANDREW

That's okay.

DOCTOR

No, it's not. Me, of all people, should have seen the clues. My son is gay. I should have...

ANDREW

Doctor, I...

DOCTOR

And I thought you may have gotten someone pregnant. Hah.

ANDREW

I would have told you that.

DOCTOR

Well, at least you don't have to worry about becoming a father?

ANDREW

Right.

DOCTOR

Listen Andrew, I'm concerned that you might feel uncomfortable with me as your doctor. I want to assure you that you can tell me anything.

ANDREW

Okay.

DOCTOR

And I would hope that you continue to be my patient.

ANDREW

Okay.

DOCTOR

You know, half of the residents here are gay.

ANDREW

Half?

DOCTOR

Alright, two-thirds.

ANDREW

Wow, that's a lot.

DOCTOR

Like I said, my son David is too, so if you ever need or want someone to talk to, let me know.

ANDREW

Okay.

DOCTOR

Well, looks like you're back to normal Andrew. I'll see you when you check out.

(DOCTOR throws off white coat as DAD enters, wheels ANDREW downstage. MOM, runs downstage to DAD. MOM and DAD stand behind ANDREW, each with a hand on ANDREW's shoulders)

MOM

My baby's finally home.

DAD

You have to stop treating him like a baby.

MOM

I know. I know. It's just...

DAD

Look, we have to stop being so protective.

MOM

Why?

DAD

Because...I don't know dear.

MOM

Do you think he'll want to have a sex change?

DAD

A sex change?

MOM

I think they're called transsexuals.

DAD

We can't afford that.

MOM

But what if...

DAD

No what ifs, Andrew's a man.

MOM

A gay man.

DAD

Right. So why would he want to become a straight woman?

MOM

I don't know.

DAD

He wouldn't.

MOM

I suppose you're right.

DAD

He's a man.

MOM

Yes.

DAD

You know what I mean?

MOM

Yes. Absolutely nothing's changed.

DAD

Right.

(SKIP runs on, pushes ANDREW around in the wheelchair. MOM and DAD exit.)

SKIP

Andy, Andy, I haven't seen you since the time I came to visit you in the hospital. Of course you probably don't remember. You were sort of out of it. Hey, I'm totally sorry for not believing you. Laurie told me it wasn't a prank. Your parents have been asking me if I knew anything. They were really concerned so I didn't think it would...you gave us all such a scare. Look, if there is anything, I mean anything I can do, just let me know.

(LAURIE enters, takes wheelchair from SKIP. SKIP exits)

LAURIE

Andy, Andy, Thanks a lot for making me look like an asshole. Do you think I like being led on like that? You should have just told me. Friends tell each other things Andy. That's what friends do. They don't lie and pretend. For Christ's sake, if I wanted to waste my time I would have gone after Skip. I mean, this really sucks for me.

(LAURIE pushes ANDREW off the wheelchair as MOM enters. LAURIE exits with wheelchair. Crossfade.)

MOM

So? How are things going with your therapist?

ANDREW

Good.

MOM

I just never hear you talk about it, that's all.

Mom?

ANDREW

Am I prying, Andrew?

MOM

No.

ANDREW

I just want to make sure you're happy...

MOM

I am mom.

ANDREW

Do you talk about...?

MOM

We talk about a lot of different things. Where's Dad?

ANDREW

He's bowling tonight. You know, we're going to our second P-FLAG meeting Tuesday night?

MOM

P-FLAG? What's that?

ANDREW

Parents and friends of lesbians and gays.

MOM

When did you go to the first one?

ANDREW

While you were in the hospital. Dr. Cohen suggested it. They meet at Temple Beth Orr. Can you believe that?

MOM

We're not Jewish.

ANDREW

You don't have to be. This week someone from Lambda is giving a talk.

MOM

Lambda?

ANDREW

The gay lawyers.

MOM

ANDREW

Mom?

MOM

Andrew, I've always known about you. You're my boy. Mothers know these things.

ANDREW

How?

MOM

Ever since you were born I knew you were different.

ANDREW

Different?

MOM

I mean special.

ANDREW

Special? Do you learn that in P-FLAG?

MOM

And you were always close with John.

ANDREW

John wasn't gay.

MOM

You sure had a connection with him.

ANDREW

Mom?

MOM

Mothers see these things Andrew.

ANDREW

Alright.

MOM

You know you can talk to me about anything.

ANDREW

I know.

MOM

(Taking out a slip of paper)

Oh, I almost forgot. Doctor Cohen called today to make sure you were doing alright. She gave me her son's telephone number.

ANDREW

Really?

MOM

He's a sweet boy. I met him once. And he's the son of a doctor.

ANDREW

Mom, I don't care about....

MOM

Here. Just take it. Just to have. You never know. Oh Andrew, you've changed so much. Please promise me that you'll still treat me and your father the same.

ANDREW

Mom. I promise.

(MOM exits as LAURIE enters. Crossfade to restaurant.)

LAURIE

Andrew? What brings you here?

ANDREW

Food.

LAURIE

Yeah right. You don't come to this place for the food.

ANDREW

Alright. I need to talk.

LAURIE

Now you want to talk.

ANDREW

Don't be like that.

LAURIE

Like what?

ANDREW

You know.

LAURIE

Look Andy, I'm very busy.

ANDREW

Laurie, there's no one in here.

LAURIE  
I have to empty, clean, and refill all the salt and pepper  
shakers.

ANDREW  
Laurie c'mon.

(LAURIE sighs)

LAURIE  
Alright. What gives?

ANDREW  
Do you remember Skip's friend Danny?

LAURIE  
Him?

ANDREW  
C'mon.

LAURIE  
Okay, Okay.

ANDREW  
Well, I...I just want a chance to talk to him again.

LAURIE  
Yeah right.

ANDREW  
No, really, that's it.

LAURIE  
Sure, I know.

ANDREW  
You do?

LAURIE  
I think you and Danny would make a hell of a couple.

ANDREW  
You think so?

LAURIE  
A fairy tale of boy meets boy and they live happily ever after.

ANDREW  
Forget it.

LAURIE

What do you want me to say?

(ANDREW rises to exit)

ANDREW

I'm sorry I came here.

LAURIE

Wait. What do you expect me to do Andy?

ANDREW

I don't know.

LAURIE

Stay. You might as well have lunch.

(ANDREW sits)

Talk to Skip about it.

ANDREW

I did.

LAURIE

And?

(Crossfade as SKIP enters. Looking in mirror, preparing for a night out)

ANDREW

I'd really like to meet your friend Danny again.

SKIP

Okay, sure. No problem. I'll call him and...Geez, how I am going to do this? Andy, I think he might have a boyfriend.

ANDREW

So?

SKIP

So that kinda means he's taken.

ANDREW

Skip, I don't want to jump his bones, I just want to talk to him.

SKIP

Oh, okay, then I'll call him for you.

ANDREW

How about now?

SKIP

Why don't we go for a drink? Feathers is having two for one Coronas tonight.

ANDREW

You don't drink beer.

SKIP

I do if there's a lime in it. C'mon, let's go.

ANDREW

Not tonight.

SKIP

You can push in my lime, okay?

ANDREW

Can't we just call Danny now?

SKIP

Better idea, you can call him yourself.

(SKIP flips through his address book)

ANDREW

He might not...What would I say anyway? "Remember me. I was the dork talking to you in the kitchen at Skip's party?"

(SKIP writes down the number)

SKIP

Well, what am I going to say?

ANDREW

Tell him about me. That I just came out. See how he reacts.

SKIP

"Hi Danny, how's school and oh by the way my friend Andy, the dork, he's gay, and he wants to just talk to you." Duh.

ANDREW

You can fit it in to the conversation better than that.

SKIP

Yeah right. Here. Number and address. Okay? Let's go.

ANDREW

Where?

SKIP

Feathers. Two for one.

ANDREW

Some other time.

(SKIP puts one arm around ANDREW)

SKIP

Andy, you're going to be with me. I'll protect you from the bottle throwers.

ANDREW

I'm not worried about that.

(SKIP puts his other arm around ANDREW's waist)

SKIP

No one's going to bite you there. But, if we stay here I...

ANDREW

Not tonight.

SKIP

Your choice.

(SKIP bites his ear lobe)

ANDREW

Ouch! Are you nuts?

SKIP

Andy c'mon, we are two big boys. We can do whatever we want.

(SKIP kisses ANDREW on the lips)

ANDREW

No Skip, I don't...

SKIP

We've kissed before.

ANDREW

But I don't want you to...

SKIP

You gotta start somewhere.

ANDREW

I know. But not with...

SKIP

I'll take it slow.

ANDREW

Look, I don't know about you, but just because we are both guys doesn't mean that we both like the same guys. You know?

SKIP

Oh I see. I'm a...I'm not the right kind of...

ANDREW

It's just...we're friends, you know.

SKIP

Forget it Andy, I see plenty of people. I don't need to sleep with you. So it's cool, okay.

ANDREW

Who said anything about sleeping with me? I mean, we were talking about getting a drink and then you're all over me. What is that about?

SKIP

Nothing. Are we going?

ANDREW

I've already said not tonight.

SKIP

How do you expect to meet people?

ANDREW

I don't need to go there to meet people.

SKIP

Where else are you going to go?

ANDREW

There are other ways of meeting people.

SKIP

Not in the suburbs.

ANDREW

I'm not gonna become a...

SKIP

Become a what?

ANDREW

Nothing.

SKIP

You're afraid of becoming a bar rat.

ANDREW

Like you?

SKIP

It's called internal homophobia.

ANDREW

What?

SKIP

The reason you won't kiss me. You're afraid of yourself. Homophobic.

ANDREW

If I was homophobic I wouldn't be asking you to hook me up with Danny.

SKIP

I thought you just wanted to *talk* to him.

ANDREW

I do.

SKIP

Look, I'm cool with it. I don't care if you're not into me...

ANDREW

As a friend.

SKIP

...but you think you know someone you only met for five minutes better than you know me.

ANDREW

I connected with Danny.

SKIP

I know. He likes sports. He's gay. But not a fag like me.

ANDREW

I didn't say that.

SKIP

You did Andy. Get your priorities straight. You can't put all your eggs in one basket. I'll be at Feathers if you want to join me.

(SKIP exits. Crossfade back to restaurant)

LAURIE

God he came on strong.

ANDREW

Yeah.

LAURIE

Wow.

ANDREW

You know it's my own fault though.

LAURIE

What?

ANDREW

I think I lead him on.

LAURIE

How?

ANDREW

Well, he asked me a while ago if I would go out with him, you know, like as a couple, and I said perhaps.

LAURIE

So?

ANDREW

I should have said no.

LAURIE

You're saying no now.

ANDREW

Then I kissed him. What would you think? I've confused him.

LAURIE

Look, he gave you Danny's number so call him.

ANDREW

I did. It's disconnected. Out of service.

LAURIE

Write a letter.

ANDREW

A letter?

LAURIE

So it's old fashioned. Who cares?

ANDREW

Do you think I'm putting all my eggs in one basket?

LAURIE

Don't tell me about putting all your eggs in one basket. Just write the letter.

ANDREW

And say what?

LAURIE

I don't know. You'll think of something.

ANDREW

You have to help me.

LAURIE

Alright, well first of all, let me ask you, what are you looking for?

ANDREW

What do you mean?

LAURIE

In a guy. What's your taste?

ANDREW

Why? I want to meet Danny again.

LAURIE

Yeah, yeah, forget about him for a second. I'm talking about types. Do you like Tom Cruise?

ANDREW

Yeah. He's okay, I guess.

LAURIE

Just okay? Get your head examined. Well, um, you like older? How about Nicholas Cage?

ANDREW

No way!

LAURIE  
Are you kidding me? He was hot in Moonstruck.

ANDREW  
He's just gross.

LAURIE  
He is totally a babe.

ANDREW  
He mumbles.

LAURIE  
Oh, I love that.

ANDREW  
You know who I like, Brad Pitt.

LAURIE  
Hands down. Just those few moments in Thelma and Louise.

ANDREW  
And A River Runs Through It.

LAURIE  
Oh yeah.

ANDREW  
Fly fishing as a spectator sport.

LAURIE  
You know he's on the cover of GQ this month.

ANDREW  
I know. I got it.

LAURIE  
Look at you. Okay, let's see, who else?

ANDREW  
I always thought...

LAURIE  
What?

ANDREW  
No, never mind.

LAURIE

Oh no. You are not getting away with that. C'mon tell me. Who is it? Someone I know.

ANDREW

Used to know.

LAURIE

Used to know? Who?

ANDREW

John.

LAURIE

John?

ANDREW

I used to think John was very...sexy.

LAURIE

Wow, it just hit me. You liked him.

ANDREW

You could say that.

LAURIE

What torture. Knowing how he felt about Skip.

ANDREW

John was John, you know.

LAURIE

Oh yeah. And you are definitely right about him being sexy.

ANDREW

You would know.

LAURIE

What's that supposed to mean?

ANDREW

Everyone knows the two of you slept together.

LAURIE

We never slept together.

ANDREW

C'mon, you stayed over his apartment few times. Alone. Just the two of you. One on one. No one else.

LAURIE

Wait, wait, wait, first of all, we did not do anything except fall asleep.

ANDREW

Right.

LAURIE

And even that we did separately. He gave me the bed and he took the floor.

ANDREW

That's not what he said.

LAURIE

I don't care what he said. What did he say "he did" me?

ANDREW

In not so many words.

LAURIE

I wish. But it never happened.

ANDREW

And here I thought you could have told me about it.

LAURIE

Can't help you there Andy. John and me never did it.

ANDREW

Wow...here I...

LAURIE

Hold that thought for a second. There's actually someone at the door. Start the letter. I'll be right back.

(LAURIE exits. Crossfade as DAD enters)

DAD

Andrew, I'm just wondering what your plans are.

ANDREW

Plans?

DAD

Well, I know you're seeing a psychologist.

ANDREW

Social worker. It's therapy.

DAD

When I was growing up, a person didn't need therapy.

ANDREW

Things were different then, Dad.

DAD

Maybe. Eh...they're really not that different.

ANDREW

Okay.

DAD

About your therapy. Do you talk about, how do I say this...safety there?

ANDREW

Safety?

DAD

You know, keeping yourself from getting any unwanted...bugs.

ANDREW

Hasn't come up.

DAD

Oh. Well...okay. Here. Take these.

(DAD gives ANDREW condoms)

ANDREW

Condoms?

DAD

Carry one with you at all times.

ANDREW

Dad?

DAD

Don't keep it in your wallet too long though. Heat and friction could cause a tear.

ANDREW

I don't need these.

DAD

Do you know how to use them?

ANDREW

Yes. I really don't...

DAD

Keep them Andrew, we don't use them anymore.

ANDREW

These were yours?

DAD

Does that bother you?

ANDREW

Really dad, I don't plan on being in a situation where I...

DAD

You don't plan for these things, they just happen.

ANDREW

I can't talk about this with you.

DAD

Any product you use must contain nonoxynol-9...

ANDREW

Stop it!

DAD

I just want you to be safe son.

ANDREW

I will be. Okay? Just stop.

DAD

Alright.

ANDREW

Good.

DAD

Make sure you don't brush your teeth before oral...

ANDREW

Enough!

DAD

Okay.

(Beat)

You don't want a sex change, do you?

ANDREW

No!

DAD

Good. That's good. I just wanted to ask.

ANDREW

Dad!

DAD

Don't get upset with me, Andrew, I'm just trying to help.

ANDREW

I don't need your help.

DAD

Oh.

ANDREW

I mean, I don't need your help with certain things.

DAD

I understand Andrew.

ANDREW

Great. Good.

DAD

I went through a phase.

ANDREW

A phase?

DAD

Yeah, a phase where I thought I was attracted to other boys.

ANDREW

This isn't a phase dad.

DAD

I know. I didn't say it was. You're too old for that anyway.

ANDREW

Look, I hate to cut this short, but I'm supposed to meet Skip and Laurie and...

DAD

Skip's not the only guy out there.

ANDREW

I know.

DAD

There are plenty of other guys...

ANDREW

I really have to go.

DAD

Play safe Andrew.

(DAD exits. SKIP and LAURIE enter.  
Crossfade to a bar. Background music.  
ANDREW and LAURIE have a beer. SKIP  
with a mixed drink.)

SKIP

That is unbelievable.

ANDREW

I had to get out of there. They are driving me crazy.

LAURIE

I think it's sweet.

SKIP

Wish my parents reacted like that.

ANDREW

No you don't.

SKIP

Indifference is worse.

ANDREW

I hate it. I mean, first it's P-FLAG, then it's safe sex talks.  
I mean, I don't want my parents being gayer than me.

LAURIE

Relax Andy. They'll get over it.

ANDREW

This is not what I expected. I mean I'm supposed to hate them  
for the right reasons. Not because they...

SKIP

What right reasons?

ANDREW

They are depriving me of my right to fight with them about how  
close-minded they are.

LAURIE  
But they're not.

ANDREW  
And that's not fair.

SKIP  
Calm down. This is just what you need.

ANDREW  
I can't go back there. They've turned into these...these activists.

SKIP  
And you're the angry one?

ANDREW  
I need to fight with someone.

SKIP  
Too much testosterone.

ANDREW  
And what was with you the other day?

SKIP  
What did I do?

ANDREW  
C'mon, like you don't know.

SKIP  
No, I don't.

ANDREW  
You were all over me.

SKIP  
No I wasn't.

LAURIE  
Guys, c'mon, forget it, I'm not in the mood.

SKIP  
Andy, what?

ANDREW  
The number you gave me doesn't work.

SKIP

That's not my fault. I gave you what I had in my book.

(WAITER enters carrying a tray.)

WAITER

How are you guys doing over here?

(To ANDREW)

Are you ready for another?

ANDREW

Yeah, sure.

WAITER

Good, cause this one's on the bartender at the other bar over there.

ANDREW

What?

LAURIE

He's buying you a drink.

ANDREW

He doesn't have to do that.

WAITER

He wants to.

SKIP

He's really hot Andy.

WAITER

He's been buggin' me about you the whole night.

LAURIE

He's gorgeous.

WAITER

Hounding me, "Is he almost done with his first one?"

ANDREW

Pleas give this to him?

(ANDREW reaches into his pocket  
for two dollars)

Here.

WAITER

You don't understand. It's on the house.

ANDREW

Please. Just give him this and tell him thanks.

WAITER

Whatever.

(WAITER exits)

SKIP

Andy, what are you doing? You can't send over money, it's an insult. You might as well just send the drink back.

ANDREW

That's a tip.

SKIP

No one's ever bought me a drink around here.

LAURIE

He keeps looking over here.

SKIP

Go tip him in person.

LAURIE

He's looking at the money. He's looking over here.

SKIP

Go over there, introduce yourself, thank him and then tip him.

LAURIE

The waiter's coming back over here.

ANDREW

No.

SKIP

You have to.

(WAITER enters)

WAITER

Here, this is for you, sweetie.

(WAITER hands ANDREW one dollar)

His name's Scott and he wants to split the difference.

SKIP

He's flirting with you.

WAITER

Personally, I would cut out all this silly foreplay and screw already.

SKIP

God, I would die to be you right now, Andy.

WAITER

See this picture over here. Doesn't he look fabulous?

ANDREW

That's him?

WAITER

He's the emcee on Sunday nights for the drag show. Those guys over at the buffet table go nuts. Imagine.

LAURIE

Buffet table?

WAITER

Yeah, over there, those pumped-up clones. One-quarter buff, three-quarters fay. Our very own buff-fay table.

(WAITER exits.)

ANDREW

He's a drag queen?

SKIP

Not in bed.

ANDREW

He's wearing lipstick.

SKIP

And a wig. Now get over it.

LAURIE

He's beautiful.

ANDREW

I don't know. He's cute but...

SKIP

Go over there and meet...

ANDREW

Not tonight. Not now.

SKIP

He probably has more passion than you could ever imagine or handle.

ANDREW

And he's probably slept with every guy here.

SKIP

Not me. Now go over and talk to him.

ANDREW

Not tonight.

SKIP

This is probably once in a lifetime. A bartender.

(To LAURIE)

Will you stop looking at that picture?

LAURIE

How does he get that cleavage?

SKIP

Should I go over and talk to him?

ANDREW

No!

LAURIE

He didn't send you a drink.

SKIP

I can introduce myself. Break the ice for the two of you.

ANDREW

I don't want to meet him. Going to the bathroom, be right back.

SKIP

Go by the bar on your way back.

ANDREW

Stop.

(ANDREW rises to exit. Crossfade as MOM and DAD enter wearing P-FLAG T-shirts. Disco music plays.)

DAD

You know, Andrew. Your mother and I are going to march in the New York City Pride parade next summer.

MOM  
We can't wait.

ANDREW  
Why are you doing that?

MOM  
Strength in numbers, Andrew. Strength in numbers.

DAD  
We're here.

MOM  
Our son's queer.

DAD  
We're used to it.

MOM  
So you get used to it.

ANDREW  
First of all, I am not queer.

MOM  
We're all queer Andrew.

DAD  
I have six toes on my left foot.

ANDREW  
What are you listening to?

MOM  
Gays love disco.

DAD  
We've put together a few moves. Watch this.

(MOM and DAD dance a rehearsed  
Hustle-like routine)

MOM  
C'mon Andrew. It's easy.

ANDREW  
The two you have to stop this.

DAD  
Stop what?

ANDREW  
I don't know. This...

MOM  
We...

ANDREW  
This super parents thing that you're doing.

DAD  
This all so new for us.

MOM  
And exciting.

ANDREW  
Well it's not supposed to be exciting for you. You're sucking every ounce of enjoyment out of this for me!

(Music stops)

DAD  
What do you want us to do?

ANDREW  
Just go back to your lives and stop worrying about mine.

MOM  
But...

ANDREW  
Quit that parents group, you don't need it.

MOM  
But we like it.

ANDREW  
Fine, then go, I'm happy you like it, but I don't want to hear about it.

DAD  
But Andrew...

ANDREW  
Just go back to being normal parents.

MOM  
What's normal Andrew?

ANDREW  
I don't know. Not this.

MOM  
But Andrew...

ANDREW  
And stop telling people. That's my job.

MOM  
But your cousins...

DAD  
He's right. When you're right, you're right Andrew.

ANDREW  
Thank you.

DAD  
This is his life.

ANDREW  
Great. So we understand each other?

DAD  
Yes.

ANDREW  
Mom?

MOM  
Whatever you want Andrew.

ANDREW  
Thank you.

DAD  
Hey, you know the Buccaneers are in Philadelphia tomorrow. I could get tickets if...

ANDREW  
Tomorrow?

DAD  
Eagles/Bucs. We could drive down.

ANDREW  
Damn.

DAD  
Pivotal game.

ANDREW

I know, I know, it's just...

MOM

You have plans?

ANDREW

I promised Laurie I'd help her out with something tomorrow.

DAD

Re-schedule.

ANDREW

I can't.

DAD

Well, I could get tickets to the Giants wild card game next week.

ANDREW

The Giants? I don't know...I haven't watched a game since...

MOM

It'll be good for you.

ANDREW

I don't know.

DAD

Well, think about it.

(DAD and MOM exit. Crossfade as LAURIE enters. A radio plays softly in the background. ANDREW crosses to her.)

LAURIE

Andy, you're early. Thanks for coming over.

ANDREW

This better be good. I could be at a football game right now.

LAURIE

Really?

ANDREW

Really.

LAURIE

Do you want something to drink?

ANDREW  
I'm not thirsty.

LAURIE  
How's your head?

ANDREW  
My head is fine. Laurie...

LAURIE  
Why didn't you tell me you had tickets to a game?

ANDREW  
I don't know.

LAURIE  
Wish I had known.

ANDREW  
It's no big deal. I'll catch the score later. What's so important?

LAURIE  
You.

ANDREW  
Me?

LAURIE  
And Skip.

ANDREW  
Me and Skip?

LAURIE  
Look, I've kinda put myself in the middle of something and, well, I was talking to him about you writing this letter to Danny and...

ANDREW  
And?

LAURIE  
Maybe you shouldn't do that, you know.

ANDREW  
Why not?

LAURIE  
You might come off as a little, I don't know, psycho.

ANDREW  
Psycho?

LAURIE  
Desperate.

ANDREW  
Desperate?

LAURIE  
And the more I think about it, Skip is probably right. Maybe you should just forget about Danny. Obsessing about one...

ANDREW  
I'm not obsessing.

LAURIE  
I know you think you're not.

ANDREW  
I'm not. Okay?

LAURIE  
You may never meet him again. You have to be realistic... Let him go. Move on. We can't have everything we want, can we?

ANDREW  
No I guess we can't.

LAURIE  
No we can't. We can't. We think that we...

(SKIP and DANNY enter. SKIP is drinking bottle water)

SKIP  
Hi guys.

LAURIE  
Well thank god, it's about time.

ANDREW  
Hey Skip.

SKIP  
Andy, you remember Danny?

ANDREW  
Yeah. Hi.

DANNY

Hi Andy.

LAURIE

Nice seeing you again. Want something to drink?

DANNY

No thanks, I'm fine.

ANDREW

I'll have some water.

LAURIE

You're mouth is dry all of a sudden.

ANDREW

I'm thirsty.

(SKIP gives ANDREW his water)

SKIP

Here. The things I do for you.

ANDREW

Thanks.

SKIP

C'mon Laurie, Slurpee time at Seven Eleven.

LAURIE

Already?

SKIP

I just gave Andy my drink...

LAURIE

Okay.

SKIP

Slurpee?

DANNY

No thanks.

SKIP

Big gulp?

ANDREW

I'm fine.

LAURIE

We'll be right back.

(SKIP grabs LAURIE, they exit)

DANNY

So...

ANDREW

Skip didn't tell me you were...

DANNY

He didn't?

ANDREW

No, I wasn't expecting...Shouldn't you be at school?

DANNY

It's Sunday.

ANDREW

Right. I knew that.

DANNY

How's your head?

ANDREW

Completely healed. Minor scar.

(ANDREW points to his head, DANNY  
looks closer)

DANNY

Hmmm, can't even see it.

(Brief pause as they are close  
together)

ANDREW

Hey, you know, I checked the little book with song lyrics that comes with CDs. And he does say Wendy in Born to Run.

DANNY

I know.

ANDREW

But I listened to it over and over again. And I can understand how you could hear Andy.

DANNY

You can. See. I'm not crazy.

ANDREW

No. Not at all.

DANNY

Good.

ANDREW

But he definitely does say strap your hands across my "engines," not "inches".

DANNY

So did you see the game?

ANDREW

No.

DANNY

Your team is really lucky. Won it on a last minute touchdown. 14 to 13.

ANDREW

Awesome.

DANNY

For you.

ANDREW

I'm sorry.

DANNY

I guess your friends had contacted John after all.

ANDREW

What?

DANNY

14 to 13? The oujia board?

ANDREW

Oh my god. You don't really think...

DANNY

He predicted the score? I don't know.

ANDREW

Just a coincidence.

DANNY  
A coincidence?

ANDREW  
That's all it was.

DANNY  
Maybe. Well, you won. So I owe you.

ANDREW  
For what?

DANNY  
What we talked about at the party...

ANDREW  
You came into the kitchen cause you were freaked out.

DANNY  
And I was looking for a drink and...I knew you were in the kitchen. And we made a bet.

ANDREW  
Oh yeah that's right. You owe me dinner.

DANNY  
And I settle my debts.

ANDREW  
Quickly I see.

DANNY  
Why waste time, right?

ANDREW  
Right.

DANNY  
You know, Skip tracked me down through my parents. He told me you had tried to call. When I moved to the Towers off-campus, my number changed, and...sorry about that.

ANDREW  
Oh that's alright.

DANNY  
Actually no, it's not alright. We could have seen Rutgers get trounced together.

ANDREW  
Yeah that would have been fun for you.

DANNY

Yeah, it could have been fun. And not just for the game.

(Brief pause)

So where should we go for dinner? You are free tonight?

ANDREW

Yeah, definitely.

DANNY

So it's a date?

ANDREW

A date? Yeah, I guess so.

DANNY

Great, I'm looking forward to it.

ANDREW

Me too.

DANNY

Can I have a sip?

ANDREW

Sure.

(ANDREW hands the water to DANNY. DANNY sips, gives it back. Radio plays the same wedding song they danced to earlier)

DANNY

Thanks.

ANDREW

Sure. Anytime. So, here we are.

DANNY

Do you like this song?

ANDREW

I didn't pick it out.

DANNY

I like it.

ANDREW

So do I, I just...

DANNY

I know it's corny but...

ANDREW

Corny but appropriate.

DANNY

How so?

ANDREW

Oh, in a déjà vu sort of way.

DANNY

You feel like you've lived this moment before.

ANDREW

Yeah. Definitely familiar. But...it wasn't for real last time.

(ANDREW moves closer to DANNY, puts  
his hand out and touches DANNY)

Now it's real.

(ANDREW kisses DANNY. Blackout.)

### **END OF PLAY**

(Bruce Springsteen's "Better Days"  
plays through curtain call.)