

DANNY

46.

ACT THREE

HOTEL SUITE - NIGHT

DANNY is standing in front of the TV, holding a remote and watching--for the tenth time--playback on WES's rant. His friend, BLAIR, sits on the couch talking into the room phone while holding her cellphone.

WES (FROM TV)

...and it's not even good pornography. They're just this side of snuff films, and friends, that's what's next 'cause that's all that's left.

There is a KNOCK on the door and BLAIR gets up and answers. Enter JAMIE, who gives BLAIR a friendly pat on the arm and an amiable 'hello' and slips into the room unnoticed by DANNY.

WES (FROM TV) (CONT'D)

And the two things that make them scared gutless are the FCC and every psycho-religious cult that gets positively horny at the very mention of a boycott.

JAMIE

Well there are gonna be some horny psycho-religious cults tonight.

DANNY turns around...

JAMIE (CONT'D)

Danny, I'm Jamie McDeere.

DANNY

(pause)

I'm sorry are we in your room? The hotel just let us in to use--

(to BLAIR)

--are we in somebody's room?

BLAIR

Jamie's come to see you.

DANNY

(pause)

Isn't today your first day?

JAMIE

As a matter of fact my contract doesn't start till Monday. Technically, I suppose, I could blow all this off and go to Cabo for the weekend. You wanna come?

DANNY

I have a date waiting downstairs in the lobby.

SCENE ONE

START SCENE →

(CONTINUED)

1/5

JAMIE

Your date's gonna win a Pulitzer Prize within three years, you heard it here first.

DANNY

I've actually heard it before but I'll pass along the compliment.

JAMIE

Well since you won't go to Cabo, what about this? You and Matt Albie run Studio 7?

DANNY

(pause)

You want Matt and me to run the show?

JAMIE

Yeah. Right now as a matter of fact. Your cast and crew and staff are gathering at the--

DANNY

We're making a movie right now, I'm gearing up to start production on a new screenplay of his.

BLAIR

Danny--

JAMIE

I don't think you are.

DANNY

Look, I'm not even comfortable having this conversation without--you fired Wes?

JAMIE

Yeah.

DANNY

Well I'd like to do for him what he never did for us and ask--

JAMIE

--for his blessing. You have it.

DANNY

I'm sorry?

JAMIE

You have his blessing. You can call him if you want.

DANNY
You've already talked to him?

JAMIE
Yeah.

DANNY
What did you say to him?

JAMIE
I said I want your blessing and I want your endorsement. In gratitude I'll pay the full term of his contract. If he'd said no, I'd have sued for damages and won and while the case was pending for seven years I'd have successfully sought an injunction against his working at any other network.

DANNY
You threatened his life.

JAMIE
In so many words.

DANNY
You bought his blessing.

JAMIE
Yeah.

DANNY
That's okay with you.

JAMIE
Well it's not me he's blessing.

BLAIR
Jamie, I think we ought to talk about what we're talking about.

DANNY
What did you mean when you said--I said we're making a movie and you said I don't think so.

BLAIR
Jamie knows about the test.

DANNY
I'm sorry?

JAMIE
I have an ex-boyfriend who's an executive at Great Western Mutual and he tells me things he's not supposed to tell me.

DANNY

'Cause he doesn't want to be your ex-boyfriend anymore.

JAMIE

I know you failed your physical.

(beat)

And I'm sorry to bring it up like this, it's certainly none of my business. You'll be able to get bonded again in 18 months and I need you for two years so it just about works out.

DANNY

It does?

JAMIE

Yeah.

DANNY

You're blackmailing me.

JAMIE

I absolutely am not. The information I have interests me only inasmuch as it means you're available to do a job that you're great at and that you love. And the money's not bad either. Blair and I'll settle in on something but you'll be the highest paid showrunners in the business. It'll be roughly three times what you'd make directing a feature which you're not gonna be able to do for another year and a half anyway. What I'd like you to do is to come over to the studio and talk with Jack.

DANNY

(pause)

Am I on the Jamie Kennedy Experiment?

BLAIR

Danny---

Grabbing his coat---

DANNY

I have to talk to Matt.

JAMIE

Matt's not down there anymore.

DANNY

Where is he?

JAMIE
He's meeting you at the stage, he's being
taken in a separate car.

DANNY
Why?

JAMIE
'Cause the press is about 8 minutes
behind all of us tonight.

DANNY
I'm going over there now, but I'm not
going over to talk to your boss, I'm
going over to tell Matt before you do.

JAMIE
Danny, I have no intention of telling
Matt or anyone else.

DANNY
That's nice, but I have no reason to
trust you and every reason not to.

JAMIE
Why?

DANNY
You work in television.
(handing BLAIR a ticket)
Would you call down for my car please.

DANNY bolts out of there as we

CUT TO:

INT. BEVERLY HILTON LOBBY - NIGHT

As the elevator doors open and DANNY flies off. He looks
around quickly and sees who he was looking for--MARTHA--and
runs over and grabs her hand.

DANNY
Marty. I'm sorry. I have to go right now
and I can't take you home and I can't
take you with me.

MARTHA
That's okay. You're going to the stage?

DANNY's led MARTHA outside to--

EXT. BEVERLY HILTON - CONTINUOUS

--where hundreds of people are waiting to get their cars from
the VALETS.

END
SCENE