LIVIN' ON A PRAYER

"House Of Cards"

Written

&

Created

Ву

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#4 "House Of Cards"

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. MAURICE SUPERMARKETS -- OFFICE -- DAY

MARIE is sitting at her desk and rises as ANDY ENTERS. She shakes Andy's hand.

MARIE Hi, Andy Faucher?

ANDY

Yes.

MARIE Nice to meet you.

ANDY Thank you, you too.

MARIE

Have a seat.

Andy and Marie sit.

We start to DOLLY left behind Andy's chair.

MARIE (CONT'D) So, tell me about yourself.

ANDY Well, I've been in retail for almost fifteen years now.

As Andy speaks WE DOLLY behind his chair which we use as a:

WIPE TO:

INT. GREEN LEAF CONVENIENT STORE -- OFFICE -- DAY

As WE DOLLY away from Andy's chair we reveal a new office with KEN behind the desk.

ANDY I started as a bagger in high school and just kept going from there. I also went to art school and earned a degree as an artist.

KEN How come you're not perusing a career in art? We continue to DOLLY past another chair which creates another:

WIPE TO:

INT. A.J. SUPERMARKETS -- OFFICE -- DAY

DALE is revealed as the interviewer this time.

ANDY I am. But I need a connecting job between the two. Drawing is my passion, and it's certainly what I want to do.

DALE Interesting.... So tell me what happened at Circle 7's?

ANGLE ON -- ANDY

Andy reacts...

ANDY My mother recently died of heart failure.

INT. MAURICE SUPERMARKETS -- OFFICE -- DAY

Marie reacts...

MARIE

I'm sorry to hear that...

ANDY

Well what happened was my boss, Rom, didn't want to allow me to have the time with her. He made me choose between my job and my mother.

INT. GREEN LEAF CONVENIENT STORE -- OFFICE -- DAY

Ken reacts to this...

KEN Well that certainly isn't fair.

ANDY Tell me about it. I didn't even get the chance to see her before she died. That's when I decided that the price for that job was just too high.

INT. A.J. SUPERMARKETS -- OFFICE -- DAY Dale reacts... DALE I can see that...

Andy reacts....

ANDY If he would have just shown some understanding I would still be there today....

Dale reacts again....

DALE

You also have been a department manager?

ANDY

Yes.

INT. MAURICE SUPERMARKETS -- OFFICE -- DAY

MARIE

How come you went from a department manager to a convenient store clerk?

ANDY

Once Wonder Foods closed four years ago I had to find another job. A manager's position just wasn't available at the time. I had to take what I can get.

Marie reacts...

DOLLY RIGHT...

behind the chairs...

MARIE

Well unfortunately you fall between the cracks. You have a really good resume` and I can tell that you're experienced. But unfortunately we don't have any manger spots open and I wouldn't feel comfortable putting someone with your experience as a clerk....

Andy reacts to this....

ANDY

But you do sound interested....

INT. GREEN LEAF CONVENIENT STORE -- OFFICE -- DAY

KEN

Oh I am.

(MORE)

KEN (CONT'D)

I have to wait and find out what my boss has planned. She's having me interview some people and get some positions lined up. I think she's planing on letting some people go.

ANDY

Do you know when?

INT. A.J. SUPERMARKETS -- OFFICE -- DAY

DALE

As soon as your drug tests come back and we check your references. When would you like to go for the drug test?

Andy appears excited.

ANDY Anytime. Just let me know.

DALE

Sounds good. Than the last thing is your references. It's company policy to check at least two of them.

This gives Andy confidence.

ANDY Not a problem. Call away.

DALE

Any questions?

ANDY Just what job are you hiring me for?

DALE Frozen Food Supervisor. I think you would fit well there.

Andy reacts...

ANDY

Sounds good.

DALE

Okay. Let me call your references and I should be calling you back to schedule the drug test in the next few days.

Andy and Dale stand up.

ANDY Thank you so much... I look forward to working with you.

They shake hands...

ANDY

Me too.

Andy turns and goes out the door with a big smile on his face. When the door closes behind him...

ANDY (O.S.) (CONT'D) YES....!!!

On Dale's reaction.

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

FADE IN: EXT. STREET -- NIGHT SETH's coupe drives by. His MUFFLER SOUNDS WORSE. INT. COUPE -- MOVING -- NIGHT Seth driving. JOE passenger. They're both in work clothes. The sound of the MUFFLER. Joe is working with something in his lap. JOE Thanks for the ride man. This should be the last time, I should have my car back tomorrow. SETH No problem. Seth reacts to something in Joe's lap. SETH (CONT'D) What are you doing? Joe holds up a plastic bag. JOE Checking out my weed ... Seth reacts... SETH Here? JOE Why not? SETH When did you get that? JOE From Gavin. SETH The camera shop guy? Joe reacts as he continues to handle the bag. SETH (CONT'D) Hay Man, put that away will yeah? JOE

Why? I thought you would want to smoke up when we get to my place.

SETH No. I have a date tonight.

JOE

So.

SETH I don't smoke weed man. Not anymore.

JOE

Why?

SETH I just didn't like myself on the stuff. Makes you stupid.

Joe reacts... smiles.

JOE It's not **this** stuff that makes you stupid.

Seth reacts...

EXT. PARKING LOT -- NIGHT

The coupe pulls into the lot and parks in front of a building. Joe climbs out.

JOE Talk to you tomorrow.

SETH

You too.

Joe closes the door and walks towards the entrance of the building.

Seth drives away in the coupe.

EXT. HOUSE -- ESTABLISHING -- NIGHT

Establishing the house. SEAN walks up to the front door holding a stuffed bear.

EXT. HOUSE -- FRONT PORCH -- NIGHT

Sean rings the DOOR BELL.

He looks out at the front street-- watching the traffic pass.

Andy finally opens the door.

ANDY

Hay.

SEAN

Hay.

They hug. Sean hands him the bear.

SEAN (CONT'D) I got this for you.

Andy takes the bear as he reacts...

ANDY You didn't have to do that.

SEAN

I wanted to.

Andy reacts...

ANDY

Well come in.

Sean and Andy enter the house.

INT. HOUSE -- KITCHEN -- NIGHT

The kitchen table to set. The stove is active with food prepping.

Andy and Sean ENTER from the front door. They make their way through the living room.

Sean looks around since this is his first time in the house.

ANDY Dinner is ready. I just have to serve it.

SEAN Sweet. What is it?

ANDY Fried chicken.

Sean reacts...

SEAN

Boneless?

ANDY

Yup.

SEAN Just the way I like it.

Andy reacts to that. Sean sits at the table. Andy places the bear on the counter as he slips on a pair of oven mitts.

> SEAN (CONT'D) Need some help?

Andy opens the oven and takes out a hot Pyrex. He places it in the center of the table. Sean reacts...

SEAN

Smells great.

I got it.

ANDY

Thanks, I try.

Andy then turns and removes a bowl from a cabinet. He starts to empty a pot of mashed potatoes into the bowl.

SEAN

You like to cook, huh?

ANDY Yeah I do. It can very much be considered an art form.

SEAN

I can see that.

Andy places the bowl on the table and moves to retrieve a second bowl and starts to empty a pot of vegetables into it.

SEAN (CONT'D) I can tell ya, it's nice to be eating a home cooked meal rather than a sub.

ANDY You don't get to cook too often?

SEAN No it's not that, it's just that working with food all day it kinda looses it's appeal.

Andy reacts as he places the bowl on the table with the others.

ANDY

I can see that.

He then turns to the oven again removes a cookie sheet of rolls. He places these into a small bread basket and deposits them on the table as well.

Andy is now ready. He sits across from Sean.

ANDY (CONT'D) Serve yourself.

Sean gets up and starts to load his plate.

SEAN So tell me... when did you come out of the closet? Andy reacts... ANDY Four years ago. Sean sits, his plate ready. Andy now stands and loads his own. ANDY (CONT'D) You? SEAN Less than a year. Six, maybe eight months or so. Andy reacts... ANDY Who did you tell first? Andy sits. His plate now full. SEAN My mom... Andy reacts.... Sean takes a bite. ANDY Really? That took some balls. Andy eats... SEAN Not really. I knew something was different about me. The life I was leading wasn't doing it for me. ANDY How'd she take it? SEAN She already knew.... Andy reacts... ANDY Really? SEAN Yeah... Andy thinks....

10.

SEAN (CONT'D)

What?

Sean eats.

ANDY I never told my mother.

Sean reacts...

SEAN

Really?

ANDY It never came up. She got sick, and I had to take care of her. I never got around to dating.

SEAN I bet she already knew too.

Andy laughs.

ANDY

Probably.

Seth and Andy react to each other.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING -- NIGHT

Seth's coupe pulls up to the front of the building and parks. He starts to climb out but STACEY approaches the car first. She climbs in.

INT. COUPE -- PARKED -- NIGHT

Stacey gets in and they kiss.

STACEY

Hay.

SETH

Hay.

STACEY Where we going today?

SETH Where do you want to go?

Stacey reacts... not caring...

Seth puts the car in gear but before he goes something catches his eye.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING -- NIGHT

In a window a MAN'S shadow can be seen.

INT. COUPE -- PARKED -- NIGHT

Seth reacts to the shadow.

SETH

Who's that?

Stacey looks.

STACEY That's just my brother.

Seth reacts...

SETH I thought you were an only child.

STACEY No. I have one older brother. I thought I told you.

SETH You did... I thought you said you were an only child.

STACEY No. I was the only daughter...

Seth reacts.... Drives OFF FRAME.

EXT. HOUSE -- ESTABLISHING -- NIGHT

Establishing the house.

INT. HOUSE -- KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Andy and Sean are still sitting, eating. The dinner has progressed a bit.

In mid laughter....

SEAN When my dad found out... holy shit...

ANDY

What?

SEAN He almost choked on his dinner.

Andy reacts...

ANDY Why is that men have a much more hard time with it than woman? Andy takes the last bite of his meal. SEAN

Because most men like things black and white. Being gay puts a whole lot of gray into the mix.

Andy reacts. His dinner done he rises and takes his plate to the sink. He starts to fill the sink with water and soap.

> ANDY I think they're just insecure.

Sean reacts. Finishing his meal and joining Andy.

SEAN For a lot of it you're right. Sometimes I think they're more gay or bi men out there than they're willing to admit.

Andy reacts -- agreeing.

ANDY And with every generation there's more.

SEAN

Yup.

With the sink full now Andy starts to wash.

SEAN (CONT'D) You want some help?

ANDY

Sure.

Sean picks up a dish rag. Andy passes a dish to the rinse sink.

SEAN Of course the stigma doesn't help any.

ANDY

Which one.

Sean reacts.

Andy removes the plate from the rinse side, replaces it with more dishes. Sean picks up the plate from the dry rack and starts drying.

SEAN

(beat) I'm talking about the one that says if you're gay you're not a real man.

Andy reacts... disgusted.

Right.

ANDY I guess it depends on how you look at it. I've seen some pretty girly gay guys out there.

The dishes move along.

SEAN

Me too. But not all of them are like that.

ANDY True. Plus it also depends on how you measure what being a man is about.

SEAN You mean weather or not your macho or emotional.

ANDY Or if you cry or not.

SEAN Or how you handle yourself in a fight.

Andy and Sean react to each other.

ANDY

Right.

Dishes resume.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT -- NIGHT

A HOSTESS walks Seth and Stacey to their table. They sit. Seth is obviously a little heated.

The hostess hands them menus and they start to look over them.

STACEY I've been in the mood for shrimp all day....

SETH

Me too....

Stacey's phone rings... Stacey reacts... Shuts it off.

SETH (CONT'D)

Who's that?

STACEY

Nobody.

Seth reacts...

SETH

Nobody?

STACEY

Yeah...

SETH When my phone rings it's usually somebody.

STACEY It's my brother, okay?

Seth reacts...

SETH Oh yeah, the woman whose the only child and some how got a brother over night.

Stacey reacts....

STACEY He's my half brother.

SETH Half brother?

STACEY Yeah, same mother, different father...

Seth reacts...

SETH If you say so.

STACEY What you don't believe me?

SETH

Not really...

Stacey gets up.

STACEY Fine, I'll just go home then.

Stacey EXITS. Seth watches her go.... reacts... and then gets up to follow.

EXT. PARKING LOT -- NIGHT

Stacey is walking away. Seth comes out of the restaurant, looks around to find her. And when he does he runs after her.

SETH

Stacey...

STACEY

Go away...

Seth catches up.

SETH

Stacey wait.

STACEY Go away, I don't want to go out with someone who always thinks I'm lying...

SETH I know, I know, I'm sorry.

Stacey stops, turns to look at him.

STACEY

I didn't say anything because most people don't understand. I've had this happen to me before.

SETH

Really?

Stacey starts to get upset...

STACEY Yeah. He's strictly my roommate, that's all. I can't handle that apartment by myself. So I split expenses with him....

Seth reacts... holds her.

SETH Well when can I meet him?

STACEY I don't know...

SETH When? Tomorrow?

STACEY

No...

SETH This weekend, we can go to the amusement park together.

STACEY

No...

SETH

Why not?

Stacey continues to cry... Seth tries to get in touch with her.

SETH (CONT'D)

Tell me...

Seth holds her as she cries. Stacey's phone rings again. Stacey goes to grab for it, she pulls away from Seth as she does.

Seth stays close and looks over her shoulder at the caller ID.

SETH (CONT'D) Keith? Is that your brother's name?

Stacey stops, puts the phone away.

STACEY Seth, could you please stop... I'll let you meet my brother when the time is right, okay?

Seth reacts... broken now.

SETH Okay... You wanna go back inside?

STACEY No. Take me home.

Stacey turns towards the coupe and starts heading for it. On Seth's reaction...

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE -- ESTABLISHING -- NIGHT

Establishing the house.

INT. HOUSE -- KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Andy finishes wiping the sink since they just rapped up cleaning the dishes. Sean is near the dry erase board with Seth and Andy's finances scrolled across it.

SEAN

Who's Seth?

Andy reacts...

ANDY

My roommate.

Sean reacts...

SEAN Roommate or room -- mate...

Andy reacts to that....

ANDY Roommate. One word. Trust me, Seth is nothing to be proud off.

SEAN

Really?

ANDY He's only here out of circumstance.

SEAN What circumstance is that?

ANDY After my mother died I started having trouble keeping up with the bills. I needed a roommate.

Andy heads for the living room.

SEAN

I see.

Sean follows him.

INT. HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Andy picks up a rented DVD. Removes the disk from the case and inserts it into the player.

Sean ENTERS and goes to Andy's drawing desk. He looks over the illustrations.

SEAN These are really cool.

Andy reacts...

ANDY

Thanks...

SEAN

You know, if you would get a job of some kind. Even if it's part time you wouldn't be in such a financial struggle.... Andy reacts to this...

ANDY

I know.

SEAN

Why don't you?

Andy sits on the couch, looking at Sean. He's got him.

ANDY

I did have a job.

SEAN

Where?

ANDY

Circle 7's.

Sean reacts...

SEAN What happened?

ANDY My boss made me choose between my mother and my job. I chose my mother...

Sean reacts....

SEAN

How?

Sean sits next to Andy.

ANDY

I wanted to be with her when they shut her off life support. My boss wouldn't let me. So I went anywise.

SEAN

Why would he do that? That's mean?

ANDY

All he thinks about is money. He doesn't care about his employees. All he cared about was money...

Sean reacts...

SEAN How long ago was this?

ANDY Just over a month.

You've been looking for a job? ANDY Yeah. I might have one though. I had a really good interview today. All he has to do now is check my references. SEAN That's good. ANDY Yeah. (beat) I'm sorry for not telling you sooner. I was afraid you would judge me for it or something. Sean leans into him. SEAN No, I'm not going to judge you. It could be worse. ANDY How's that? Sean indicates to the drawing table. SEAN You have a dream. As long as you have that, you're not a looser. You're just trying to find your way. Andy reacts... He kisses him on the forehead. ANDY Thank you. SEAN No problem. They kiss.

SEAN

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING -- NIGHT

Seth coupe pulls up and parks.

INT. COUPE -- PARKED -- NIGHT

Stacey gets ready to climb out.

STACEY I'm sorry. I'll call you tomorrow. SETH

Stacey climbs out.

SETH (CONT'D)

No kiss?

Okay.

STACEY

Not tonight.

Seth reacts...

STACEY (CONT'D)

Bye.

SETH

Bye.

And stacey closes the door and heads for the building. Seth reacts.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING -- NIGHT

Stacey enters the building as Seth drives away.

INT. COUPE -- MOVING -- NIGHT

Seth drives... he is obviously disturbed about how his night went.

After a second some BLUE LIGHTS come up behind him along with a SIREN YELP.

Seth looks in the rear view mirror and reacts...

SETH

Damn it.

EXT. STREET -- NIGHT

The coupe pulls over as the police car pulls up behind it. LIGHTS FLASHING.

INT. COUPE -- PARKED -- NIGHT

Seth pulls out his wallet and removes his license. He then reaches over the glove compartment and removes his registration.

As he does all this OFFICER #1 approaches the driver's window. He knocks on it with his flashlight.

Seth reacts as he lowers the window.

SETH Yes officer? As they talk OFFICER #2 is passing a flashlight through the passenger window.

OFFICER #1 Do you know why I stopped you?

Seth reacts...

SETH

No...

OFFICER #1 Do you not hear your car, sir? You need some exhaust work done on this.

Seth reacts...

SETH

I know...

OFFICER #1 I'm afraid it creates a noise ordinance violation.

The passenger door opens. Seth reacts...

OFFICER #2 Look at what we got here.

Officer #2 picks up Joe's bag of weed from earlier.

OFFICER #2 (CONT'D) Possession of a controlled substance.

SETH

That's not mine...

Officer #2 reacts...

OFFICER #2 And how many times have we heard that?

OFFICER #1 Lots. Step out of the car please.

As Seth climbs out.

SETH I'm telling you it's not mine.

EXT. STREET -- NIGHT

Officer #1 turns Seth around and handcuffs him before dragging him off to the cruiser...

OFFICER #1

You're under arrest sir, you have a right to remain silent, anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have a right to an attorney, if you can not afford one, one will be appointed to you.

On Seth's reaction....

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. POLICE STATION -- NIGHT

Andy is sitting at the bottom of a row of stairs talking on the phone.

ANDY (into phone) So you got some work, huh?

INT. ROOM -- NIGHT

NICHOLE is sitting at a desk doing some paper work, she is also on the phone.

NICHOLE (into phone) Yeah. I booked two weddings today. I'm so excited.

EXT. POLICE STATION -- NIGHT

ANDY (into phone) Good for you.

INTERCUT AS NEEDED:

NICHOLE (into phone) I'm also kinda nervous.

ANDY (into phone) Don't be, you'll be fine.

NICHOLE (into phone) I hope so.

ANDY (into phone) So how's the thing with Darrel going?

NICHOLE (into phone) Pretty good. He's a cop you know?

Andy reacts, glancing at the police sign...

ANDY (into phone) Really?

NICHOLE (into phone) Yup. ANDY (into phone) You like that? NICHOLE (into phone) I don't care. He is so cute. Nichole is obviously really into him. Andy reacts... ANDY (into phone) Well good for you. Nice to know something is getting better around here. NICHOLE (into phone) Don't worry Andy, things will get better soon. ANDY (into phone) I know. Hay, just to let you know, someone named Dale will be calling you tomorrow for a reference. NICHOLE (into phone) Really? From where? ANDY (into phone) A.J. Supermarket. Nichole reacts... NICHOLE (into phone) See, things are getting better already. ANDY (into phone) Yeah... Seth finally walks out from the station. ANDY (CONT'D) (into phone) Hay, I gotta go, I'll talk to you later okay?

NICHOLE (into phone) Okay.

-

ANDY (into phone)

Bye.

And Andy hangs up.

END INTERCUT:

Seth pauses for Andy to get up before they both walk to the van parked across the street.

SETH Hay, thanks for bailing me out.

ANDY No problem. Who's weed was it?

SETH

Joe's.

Andy reacts...

ANDY

Mister Cell phone?

SETH

Yeah...

Andy reacts.

They approach the van. Andy, with his key out unlocks his door and climbs in.

SETH (CONT'D)

What?

Andy unlocks the passenger door. Seth climbs in.

ANDY How much do you think that phone cost?

SETH One forty nine ninety-nine.

ANDY A hundred a fifty bucks...

Seth reacts -- yes.

ANDY (CONT'D) How much was your bail?

Seth react...

SETH A hundred and fifty bucks. Andy reacts... ANDY Right. (starting engine) Thanks to Joe's screw up we just bought the phone whether we wanted to or not. Andy puts the van in gear and they drive off. EXT. MALL -- ESTABLISHING -- DAY Establishing the mall. INT. MALL -- DAY Joe is at the counter. Seth ENTERS and approaches Joe right away. SETH Hay Joe ... Thanks for the present you left me in my car last night. Joe reacts... smiles... JOE That's where I left it, huh? SETH Yeah. And a cop found it.... Joe's smile doesn't break. SETH (CONT'D) I spent more than half the night in police lock up because of you. Joe reacts... JOE It's not my fault you don't watch your back. As Seth reacts LINDA ENTERS.... LINDA Seth, I need to talk to you. Seth looks from Linda to Joe.

> JOE Go, the boss is waiting.

Seth is fumed. He turns to follow Linda. Linda brings Seth to a nearby table and places a pink sheet down with a pen.

LINDA Sign this, please.

Seth looks over the paper.

SETH What's this?

LINDA Your termination papers.

Seth reacts...

SETH

What, why?

LINDA Since you've started here we've lost two cell phones and over three hundred dollars in cash shortages....

SETH But it wasn't me...

LINDA It didn't happen before you came here.

Seth reacts.... opens his mouth to say something... but

LINDA (CONT'D) Look, you're lucky I don't call the police. Just keep the phones, and the cash, just don't ever come back here again.

Seth reacts... his balloon definitely has been burst. He signs the paper. Linda removes his copy and hands it to him. She also removes another peace of paper from her folder and hands him that one too.

SETH

What's this?

LINDA An in house restraining order. You're not allowed to come into the mall at all.

Seth reacts...

SETH

Why?

LINDA

Not for a year...

Linda turns and EXITS.... On Seth's reaction.

EXT. HOUSE -- ESTABLISHING -- DAY

Establishing the house.

INT. HOUSE -- KITCHEN -- DAY

Andy is at the table talking on the phone.

ANDY (into phone) She didn't answer? She was probably working. Try again in the morning.

INT. A.J. SUPERMARKETS -- OFFICE -- DAY

Dale is at his desk on the phone as well.

DALE (into phone) I'm sorry, my boss says no.

INT. HOUSE -- KITCHEN -- DAY

ANDY (into phone) So if you don't reach a reference on the first ring you just give up?

INTERCUT AS NEEDED:

DALE (into phone) According to our policy.

ANDY (into phone) Well I can certainly see why in a

poor economy you guys are still looking for help.

Dale reacts... Andy hangs up.

END INTERCUT:

Andy sits in quiet for a second.

After a beat he picks up the phone and dials again.

EXT. PARKING LOT -- DAY

NICHOLE is heading for her car when her phone rings. She answers it.

NICHOLE (into phone) Hello?

INT. HOUSE -- KITCHEN -- DAY

ANDY (into phone) Hay. Did A.J. Supermarket call you today?

INTERCUT AS NEEDED:

Nichole reacts...

NICHOLE

(into phone) I got a missed call from someone...

ANDY (into phone) That was probably A.J. Supermarket calling you for that reference.

Nichole reacts...

NICHOLE (into phone) I'm sorry, I couldn't answer it, I was at work, you know how Rom is...

Andy reacts...

ANDY (into phone) Well now they wont hire me.

Nichole reacts...

NICHOLE (into phone) Because I couldn't answer the phone?

ANDY

(into phone) Yeah. Could you do me a favor and call the number back. Talk to a guy named Dale. Maybe if you call him back it will make a difference.

NICHOLE (into phone) Sure. I'll call him right now.

ANDY (into phone) Thanks. And Andy hangs up.

END INTERCUT:

Just then SETH ENTERS and stops at the door, obviously upset. Andy sees him and reacts...

ANDY (CONT'D) What's wrong?

On Seth's reaction as he dreads the news he has to tell him.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

THE END.