

The Story of Jacob

Written by

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INT. BAR MITZVAH PARTY VENUE - NIGHT

JACOB MCFOLEY, is a slim and blond man in his mid-20's with a scraggly beard and peach fuzz for a mustache. He is dressed in a suit that is two sizes too big. He looks like a used car salesman scheming the next way he'll rip you off.

Jacob walks through the venue of what looks like an extremely vibrant bar mitzvah. People are dancing "The Hora" in the background as kids run amok.

He is stopped by UNCLE PHIL, a man with big framed glasses and a shiny bald head covered with a yarmulke. Next to him is AUNT JILL, a big framed woman with a polka dot dress.

UNCLE PHIL

Jacob, my boy. How are you?

Jacob awkwardly smiles and shakes his hand.

JACOB

Hey Uncle Phil how's it going,
how's Isaac?

UNCLE PHIL

He's good. Working very hard.

JILL

He just started a new job at
BlackRock.

Phil leans over to whisper in Jacob's ear.

UNCLE PHIL

Six figures.

Jacob looks displeased to hear this.

JILL

And he told us he's thinking about
proposing to Katherine.

UNCLE PHIL

And we like Catherine. Even though
she's a ...

He whispers over to Jacob again.

UNCLE PHIL (CONT'D)

Goy.

Jacob smiles.

JACOB

That's great, that's great. Glad to hear.

UNCLE PHIL

What about you, son? Still trying to break into the industry?

JACOB

Well right now I'm picking up some shifts for a catering company, doing a little writing here and there. And have a promising barista lead that I should be hearing back from in the next couple of days.

Uncle Phil and Aunt Jill look at each other.

UNCLE PHIL

I see. Well, keep on the path.

He pats Jacob on the shoulder and gives him a half smile.

Jacob walks down the hallway into a side room. He slams the door shut. He pulls out a marijuana oil pen from his suit pocket and takes a hit.

He lies down on a beanbag chair.

As Jacob falls asleep the door cracks open. A young boy with curly black hair sneaks into the room.

He walks over to a table and starts ruffling through envelopes. He opens a card that says "Dear Isaac, you're a man!" He takes the cash out and puts it in his pocket.

Jacob wakes up to the noise.

JACOB

Well if isn't the bar mitzvah boy himself.

Isaac looks at him.

ISAAC

Hey Jake.

Jacob looks over at the table.

JACOB

Are you stealing from yourself?

ISAAC

Don't tell mom, please. She said I wouldn't be able to touch the money until I turn 18. That's like 5 whole years. I can't wait that long.

JACOB

Do you, man. Do you.

Jacob walks over to Isaac.

JACOB (CONT'D)

So how you been?

In slow-mo we see a green animated odor coming out of Jacob's mouth. There are animations of marijuana leaves oozing out of his mouth.

ISAAC

EW! What's that smell?

JACOB

Smell?

ISAAC

Whatever.

Isaac ruffles through more envelopes.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Yesterday I got a C on my math quiz. My mom wasn't very happy.

JACOB

Damn, really? A C is prettty good, at least you passed.

ISAAC

She said if I continue to get C's that I'll end up like you.

Jacob purses his lips.

Isaac opens up another envelope, this one has a check for 5,000 dollars. The check is literally glowing.

Jacob looks at the check in astonishment.

There's another check inside the envelope. Isaac pulls it out. On the check it reads:

THE STORY OF JACOB

CUT TO:

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The apartment is a ratty and small place. It's surprisingly well kept.

Hip hop is blasting from a big speaker.

Jacob is laying down on his couch ripping a huge bong. A short woman with dark black hair, MADDIE, is laid across Jacob's lap. She's playing with his hair.

MADDIE

Nah, I don't think you're balding.

Jacob takes a rip of a large bong and exhales all the smoke into Maddie's face.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

HEY!

JACOB

No, seriously. I am.

Jacob pulls his hair back and points to the crown.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Look, see the sides. They weren't this far back a year ago.

Jacob takes out his phone and shows Maddie an old picture of him.

MADDIE

Maybe you are balding. Oh no!
Nobody's gonna like you if you're bald!

Jacob points to the tv.

JACOB

Oh look, I love this guy.

On the television is a sort of Dr. Phil like talk show. Two women sit across from a heavy-set man with a handlebar mustache and a Billy Ray Cyrus mullet, DR. MIKE. He speaks in a heavy Texan accent.

DR. MIKE

Let me get this straight.

WOMAN #1
Get it straight, Mike.

DR. MIKE
You believe most Americans are
suffering from a broken identity.
Which in turn can cause emptiness,
laziness, drug abuse and DEATH?

Jacob takes another rip of the bong and giggles. Maddie
giggles too.

WOMAN #2
You've heard of the opioid crisis.

WOMAN #1
You've heard of the class crisis.

DR. MIKE
Don't forget the Cuban Missile
Crisis!

Dr. Mike laughs to himself and looks at the camera.

WOMAN #2
But we're talking about the
identity crisis. The young people
in this country are facing a major
identity threat. With technological
advancements replacing many jobs,
people begin to look inward - who
am I?

Dr. Mike looks at the camera, seemingly directly at Jacob.
Jacob stares back at him with intent.

DR. MIKE
Who are you? You can pick up a copy
of The Great American Identity
Crisis and the State of Depression
at all major bookstores. We'll be
right back after the break. Yeehaw!

A graphic of Dr. Mike riding away on a mechanical bull pops
up on the screen.

JACOB
This guy's nuts.

Maddie pulls back her hair and motions to Jacob.

MADDIE
Look! Am I balding?

They laugh.

She plays with his hair again.

MADDIE (CONT'D)
Wanna go out to dinner?

JACOB
Tonight?

MADDIE
Yeah, I wanna try that new sushi
spot around the corner.

JACOB
But the Knicks are on.

Maddie looks upset.

Jacob takes another hit of the bong when suddenly he hears a loud knocking at the door.

Jacob scrambles to hide his bong and all his weed paraphernalia.

He goes over to the door and looks the peephole. OH NO. It's his landlord GERALDO. Through the peephole we see an old man with 5 inch thick glasses.

Jacob opens the door.

JACOB (CONT'D)
Hey, hi Geraldo.

Geraldo lets out a big cough and then a sneeze.

GERALDO
Yeah hi. Yeah. Mr. McFoley you are
three months behind on rent. I want
all three months in by the first of
next month.

Geraldo coughs again.

JACOB
Yeah, of course, of course. I'm
coming into some big money soon so
don't worry. You know with the
economy being the way it is and
stocks being the way they are it's
just so unpredictable when the
income, you know, comes, ya know
what I mean Geraldo?

Geraldo bends over and coughs some more. He spits a little bit of green mucus on the ground.

GERALDO

Jesus! I hope it's not canca!

JACOB

Have you been to a doctor?

GERALDO

Canca runs in the family for me. It could be canca but who knows. You really neva know these days. My sista got the Big C a few years ago but she's alright now. But you really neva know. You know what I mean?

JACOB

Totally.

GERALDO

Anyways. If that rent is not at my door by... what day is it today?

JACOB

The third.

GERALDO

I'm givin' you a month. If it's not at my door by the first, you are finished here. Ya hear? Caput. Donezo. I'm throwin' ya shit on the curb.

JACOB

Ok yeah. I understand.

Geraldo looks at Maddie.

GERALDO

Hey! Who's the broad?!?!

Maddie waves at Geraldo.

MADDIE

Maddie!

Geraldo adjusts his glasses and looks at Maddie again.

GERALDO

Nice broad! You guys tie the knot?

JACOB
No, we're just pretty casual.

Maddie sighs.

Jacob smiles at Maddie.

Geraldo turns around and coughs some more and spits off the banister.

GERALDO
Okay, take care now, fuck you, nice
seein' ya.

Jacob shakes his head and shuts the door behind Geraldo.

EXT. CITY STREET - MORNING

Jacob walks down the street. His flip flops make an obnoxious flopping sound as he walks.

He passes by a mitzvah tank with a flock of Hasidic Jews swarming towards passersby.

Jacob tries at all costs to avoid the Jews selling their religion.

As he gets closer to the pack Jacob notices a TEENAGER, about 17 or so with black hair and curly side burns spot him.

JACOB
(To himself) Ah, goddamn it.

Cue the Jaws theme.

Jacob swerves to the side to try and pass him but the little boy is gaining on him.

WIDE to reveal:

EXT. SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Jacob tries to jiggle the door open but it's locked.

Jacob turns around to try and escape. He's cornered.

LOW ANGLE ON THE TEENAGER.

He is wearing a "Hello, my name is Chaim" nametag.

CHAIM
Excuse me are you Jewish?

JACOB
(to himself) Shit.

JACOB (CONT'D)
Yeah, kind of.

CHAIM
Would you like a mitzvah?

Jacob leaves the shop as Chaim follows.

JACOB
I'm okay thank you though.

Chaim runs ahead of Jacob and stops him in his tracks.

CHAIM
(Menacingly) I said, would you like
a mitzvah?

JACOB
How much will it cost?

CHAIM
Just your soul and dedication to
the Jewish faith.

Chaim hesitates.

CHAIM (CONT'D)
And a small donation of your
choosing.

Jacob opens his wallet and gives Chaim a dollar.

JACOB
Look, Chaim. I'm okay on the
mitzvah. And I'm a little low on
money, you know with the economy
being the way it is. But here's a
dollar.

Chaim takes the dollar. As Jacob walks away he hears Chaim
yell out at him.

CHAIM
Cheap bastard!

Jacob turns the corner down an empty street. He sees an old
woman with white hair on the ground flailing her arms and
legs.

OLD LADY
 Help! I've fallen and I can't get
 up!

Jacob rushes down the street.

JACOB
 Holy shit.

Jacob approaches the old lady and reaches down and lifts her up, stands her up straight and puts her back on her walker.

JACOB (CONT'D)
 You alright, granny? What happened?

OLD LADY
 Well I was on my way to my son's
 bar mitzvah and I knew I was going
 to be 15 minutes late, and I hate
 being late. And I just kind of
 fell.

JACOB
 Everybody's getting bar mitzvah'd
 these days, huh.

OLD LADY
 Thank you very much for helping me,
 young man. Would you like to be my
 date for the bar mitzvah?

Jacob laughs.

JACOB
 I, uh.

CUT TO:

INT. SYNAGOGUE - LATER

We see a picture of a 50-something-year-old in a yarmulke making a rock n' roll gesture with his hand. Underneath the picture it says, "Today's Bar Mitzvah Boy - Craig Williamson."

Jacob and the old lady are sitting in the front row of a packed synagogue.

JACOB
 Isn't Craig a little old for this?

OLD LADY

Nope. Jewish law states you can have a bar mitzvah whenever you want. You just have to be 13 or older.

CRAIG WILLIAMSON, long gray hair and a thick California accent steps up to the bima.

A couple of Craig's friends start cheering for him.

CRAIG

Hey there party people! You know, everybody told me I was too old to have a bar mitzvah. And you know what I told them?

He waits for the crowd's reaction.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

I told them "Fuck you, I'm a man."

The crowd erupts in cheers. The rabbi cheers with them.

Jacob looks on in astonishment.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR MITZVAH PARTY VENUE - NIGHT

Jacob notices a group of old men in suits wearing yarmulkes.

Jacob approaches the group.

JACOB

'Scuze me fellas, how's everyone doing today?

A tall bald man in his 40s named CONNIE answers Jacob

CONNIE

Sorry pal, not interested.

JACOB

No! It's not that. I was actually just wondering how much I could buy one of those yarmulkes off of you for.

Connie and his friends erupt in laughter.

CONNIE

Listen, I can't give you mine but I support anyone who finds Judaism.

Connie turns to the group.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Any of you guys have an extra yarmulke?

A short fat man, LARRY, in his 40s pulls a small Mets yarmulke out of his bag.

LARRY

It was my son's but he converted.

JACOB

To Christianity?

LARRY

No, to the Yankees. The little prick.

Larry hands the yarmulke to Jacob

JACOB

Uh.... Mazel tov?

CUT TO:

INT. BAR MITZVAH PARTY VENUE - LATER

Jacob sits at a table drinking Manichewitz. Craig is being thrown up on a chair, dancing to what seems to be a Grateful Dead rendition of the Horah.

Sound effects of coins and jackpots ring through Jacob's ears.

Jacob smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Jacob is sleeping in. His phone rings and he immediately silences it and turns over in the bed.

It rings again.

He picks up.

JACOB

H-hello?

DEBBY, his mother answers the phone.

DEBBY

Jacob, goddamnit where are you?
We've been waiting twenty minutes.

Jacob holds his watch over his head and sees the time is
1:24PM.

JACOB

Shit.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRAIN STATION

Jacob waits and looks at his watch. He digs through his
pockets and puts on the Mets yarmulke.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREEK RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

Jacob, rushes in and spots HENRY an old British bastard and
DEBBY, a woman in her 60s with frizzy brown hair sitting at a
table outside of a relatively fancy Greek restaurant.

Debby is dressed in a pink shirt that says, "LIVE, LAUGH,
LOVE." Her hair is straightened and poofy like an 80's go-go
dancer.

Henry is wearing a white t-shirt with cargo shorts and knee
high socks sporting the classic "Dad" New Balances.

Henry takes a look at the menu

DEBBY

I'm not even going to ask why
you're an hour late. The waiter's
been trying to get us out of here
for 30 minutes.

HENRY

Yeah, what the fuck, dude?

DEBBY

Language!

JACOB
 Sorry, a meeting went late.
 Couldn't get out of it.

DEBBY
 Jacob, it's Saturday.

Henry is visibly upset as he looks through the menu.

HENRY
 Well what in the hell am I even
 supposed to eat here?

JACOB
 I think they have steak.

DEBBY
 Well I'm going to have the octopus.
 It doesn't hurt to try something
 new once in your life.

DEBBY (CONT'D)
 Jacob what's that on your head?

JACOB
 A yarmulke!

DEBBY
 Oh my goodness, Jakey I'm so happy
Mazel!

She leans over and gives him a big smooch on the forehead,
 knocking over a glass in the process.

HENRY
 I don't buy it.

DEBBY
 If he wants to embrace his roots
 let him embrace his roots, dear.

Debby is in shock.

DEBBY (CONT'D)
 Oh my god! He found a nice Jewish
 woman! Is she putting you on the
 right path? No more of these
 Shiksas and Goys!

JACOB
 Well, not quite. Though I have been
 on a few dates with someone who has
 a Jewish father. Her name's Maddie.

DEBBY

That doesn't count. Dump Maddie.

Debby takes a sip of her wine and starts to tear up.

JACOB

Mom, what's wrong?

HENRY

Dear?

Debby erupts into a big sob.

DEBBY

I'm never going to be a grandma!
Every month you come here and tell
me about a different woman you meet
on those godawful "apps!" You know
who meets women on apps? Serial
killers. You know what serial
killers do? They serially kill.
Have you ever thought about what
your poor mother needs?

Henry puts his hand on her shoulder and gives it a gentle
rub.

JACOB

Well... I actually came to run an
idea by you.

DEBBY

I don't want to hear any ideas
unless it involves you getting
married.

She sobs some more. She is making a scene at the restaurant
and the people around her start to notice.

JACOB

Mom! I came here to tell you guys
that I'm having a bar mitzvah!

Debby's eyes light up and she immediately stops her sobbing
and turns it into the biggest grin Jacob's seen in his life.

DEBBY

Oh my god! I'm so proud. That's
wonderful! Have you picked a rabbi?
Do you belong to a temple? I know
they have great ones in Crown
Heights where you live. Have you
ever seen those Hasidics with the
funny hats?

(MORE)

DEBBY (CONT'D)

You should get one of those hats!
Oh my goodness, oh my goodness!
Wait until I tell Uncle Phil and
aunt Jill!

JACOB

Well I was wondering if you guys
can front me some of the money for
the service. You know with the
economy being the way it is and
everything.

HENRY

No. We're not doing it.

Debby looks at Henry.

DEBBY

Well, wait dear.

HENRY

He's not spending any more of my
money on these schemes. I'm done.

DEBBY

First of all, it's my money. You
haven't worked since you were 40.

Henry gets angry at this remark. He gets up and storms out of
the restaurant.

JACOB

So what do you think?

DEBBY

Well I'll tell you what. If you do
the legwork of finding a temple and
a rabbi and learning the torah then
I can pay for the party.

She and Jacob clink glasses.

JACOB

Amazing. Thank you. I know it's
going to be a lot of work but I'm
ready for it.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Mazel tov!

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - MORNING

Jacob walks down the street with sunglasses on and flip flops flopping.

His expression changes to fear as he sees Chaim walking towards him, staring directly into his soul.

He reads the sign on the mitzvah tank "Mitzvah Tank" and it hits him.

JACOB
Hey Chaim! Remember me?

CHAIM
Of course my friend.

JACOB
Listen, you uh, you do mitzvahs right?

CHAIM
That's what it says on the truck doesn't it?

Jacob looks at the truck and reads, "We do Mitzvahs!!"

JACOB
You think I could get one? I think I'm more Jewish now.

Chaim looks at him with suspicion.

CUT TO:

INT. MITZVAH TANK - MOMENTS LATER

There are five or six Hasidic Jews dressed to the nines in Hasidic attire.

Jacob looks around and notices this tank is not what he expected at all.

Bob Marley posters hang on the walls. There are multicolored LED lights that line the ceilings that pulsate between numerous different colors. It reeks of weed and Jacob notices that two people in the back of the tank are smoking from a joint.

JACOB
Woah. This is legal in your culture?

CHAIM

What happens in the mitzvah tank
stays in the mitzvah tank. You
want?

JACOB

Sure!

Chaim passes a tightly packed cross joint to Jacob. Three
hands come into frame with light blue lighters and a star of
David on them. They light all three ends.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Jesus.

Jacob inhales and immediately gets high.

CHAIM

So why you change your mind?

JACOB

I want to embrace my roots.

Chaim takes a hit of the joint.

CHAIM

You realize if I get you mitzvah,
that is just beginning. You have to
work towards being Jewish the rest
of your life.

JACOB

Right on!

Jacob smiles and laughs and tries to give Chaim a fist bump.

CHAIM

I don't do that.

Jacob frowns.

Chaim gets serious for a moment.

CHAIM (CONT'D)

So. Are you into leather my friend?

Jacob is surprised at the question.

JACOB

I mean... I've dabbled. What does
that have to do with -

Chaim pulls out two black boxes with long straps of leather
coming from both sides.

CHAIM

This is Tefillin. Inside these boxes are prayers. We will strap you up and you will have mitzvah, okay?

CHAIM (CONT'D)

Are you righty or lefty?

Jacob looks on in fear.

JACOB

Righty. What are you gonna do to me?

Chaim starts to loop the Tefilin around Jacob's left bicep.

CHAIM

Man, you really need work out.

Jacob is confused.

CHAIM (CONT'D)

I wrap around left arm because right arm is dominant hand. This is hand you use in world.

Chaim takes a hit of the joint.

CHAIM (CONT'D)

You want more?

Chaim passes the joint to Jacob who takes a hit.

CHAIM (CONT'D)

Anyways. Non dominant hand is hand that relies on unseen forces. You understand?

Jacob is getting higher.

JACOB

Right on, right on.

Chaim wraps the Tefilin around Jacob's left arm 7 times.

CHAIM

So this is sort of, you know an act of submission.

JACOB

I'm not usually very submissive.

CHAIM

Of kind of, appreciating that
there's a power greater than
ourselves, you know?

Chaim stops wrapping the Tefilin at the hand.

He takes the other Tefilin box and puts it around Jacob's
head.

JACOB

This kind of feels like you're
about to control my mind.

CHAIM

In a sense, God is about to control
your mind. Sometimes... our head.
It gets so full of thoughts and
ignorance that we stray away from
what is best from the world and
ourselves.

Chaim takes another hit of the joint. He holds the joint
tightly between his lips as he wraps up more Tefilin around
Jacob's middle finger and hand.

CHAIM (CONT'D)

Fuck, I'm high.

Jacob is probably higher than he's ever been.

JACOB

Say man, this is some strong stuff.

CHAIM

Yes, it is salvia.

JACOB

Wait, what?

CHAIM

So now I wrap around your hand to
create a shin. This the shin, first
letter of Shema, a prayer that
tells you to bind Tefilin for a
sign upon your heart and head.

Jacob sits in silence. His eyes absolutely blood shot and
pupils dilated so that there's no white remaining.

CHAIM (CONT'D)

Ok we finished.

JACOB
Great man. Great. That's awesome.

Jacob smiles.

JACOB (CONT'D)
So I'm bar mitzvah'd now right?

CHAIM
You are mitzvah'd. Yes.

Chaim unwraps the Tefilin from Jacob.

CHAIM (CONT'D)
So you want do acid?

CUT TO:

JACOB'S APARTMENT - LATER

Jacob is pacing back and forth in his apartment. He's ecstatic.

Maddie is sprawled out on the couch.

MADDIE
What are you so excited about?

Jacob picks up his phone and dials his mom. She picks up immediately.

DEBBY
Jakey!

JACOB
Mom? I'm coming over tonight. I have a huge announcement. I'm bringing Maddie.

DEBBY
Oh boy.

Debby screams off the phone to Henry,

DEBBY (CONT'D)
Jacob is coming over tonight, he has a huge announcement. He's bringing Maddie!

Maddie looks up at Jacob.

MADDIE
Wait, what?

CUT TO:

INT. DEBBY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jacob has a yarmulke and a Tallitt on. Henry and Debby are sitting across from him staring at him. Next to Jacob is Maddie.

DEBBY
So, Maddie. Jacob tells me your
father is Jewish.

Maddie looks at Jacob.

MADDIE
Actually it's my mom who's Jewish.

Debby lights up.

DEBBY
Oh, I see! So are you and Jacob an
"item?"

MADDIE
I think -

Jacob interjects. He pops a bottle of champagne and pours a glass.

JACOB
Everyone, I would like to make a
huge announcement.

Debby looks at Jacob and then at Maddie.

DEBBY
Are you two getting marri-

JACOB
So I got bar mitzvah'd! Mom! If you
want too Zelle or Venmo me the
money for the party, that would be
great.

There is an awkward silence. Everyone looks up at him.

DEBBY
What do you mean you got mitzvah'd?

HENRY

I'm not buyin' it dear.

MADDIE

Why would you get bar mitzvah'd?

JACOB

A little Jewish boy named Chaim gave me a bar mitzvah! Right around the corner from my apartment. At the mitzvah tank!

Jacob pulls out his phone and shows them pictures of him and Chaim. Jacob's arm is wrapped around Chaim who is holding a joint.

DEBBY

Is that pot?

Jacob quickly pulls his phone.

JACOB

No it's a Jewish herb... part of the mitzvah!

DEBBY

That's not a bar mitzvah, that's a mitzvah.

HENRY

Knew this was one of his goddamned schemes!

JACOB

Bar mitzvah, mitzvah... What's the difference?

DEBBY

You can't just tip a little Jewish boy five dollars and expect to be bar mitzvah'd.

JACOB

I can't?

DEBBY

It takes serious work. What you got was just a mitzvah. They didn't explain this? A mitzvah is just a prayer that you have to abide by for the rest of your life as a Jew.

JACOB

Right. No I knew that.

DEBBY

The bar mitzvah is the ceremony of becoming a man in the eyes of the Jewish faith. You're trying to take the easy way out once again and cheat the system - that tells me you're not ready to be that man. Look, Jake. You have to show me you're serious here or I'm pulling the funds.

Jacob makes a nervous grin.

INT. DEBBY'S BATHROOM - LATER

Jacob stands in front of the mirror in the bathroom. He looks at himself and adjusts his yarmulke and tallit. He nods his head, ready to get down to brass tacks.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - MORNING

Jacob strolls down the street wearing his Mets yarmulke.

He passes by two Hasidic Jews and snaps towards them as he walks to the beat of a pop song.

INT. SCHECK ZELL JEWISH SCHOOL - MORNING

Jacob walks into the school with a grin on his face.

Jacob looks at the trophy case. There's only two trophies and they're both for participation only.

He notices a few pictures of the basketball team on the walls. A tall and muscled blond beast of a man dunking on a shrimpy boy with the a "Scheck" jersey on.

He then turns his attention to the basketball team photo.

Lots of short and wimpy kids with black hair, some with pathetic mustaches.

Jacob laughs to himself.

Jacob is poked on the shoulders by ADAM ZELLMAN, a man in his 50s with grey hair and a grey beard.

ADAM

Can I help you?

Jacob shakes out his hand.

JACOB
Yeah, hi. I'm looking to take some
bar mitzvah classes?

ADAM
Why don't you come into my office
and we can discuss.

JACOB
Thanks, man. Who are you?

ADAM
I run this shit.

CUT TO:

INT. ZELLMAN'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

ADAM
I have to say Mr...

JACOB
McFoley.

ADAM
McFoley?

JACOB
McFoley.

ADAM
Are you a goy?

JACOB
Sort of. My mom's Jewish.

ADAM
Mom's Jewish? Great. Then you're
Jewish.

Adam slurps his coffee.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Do you play basketball Mr. McFoley?

Jacob looks confused at this question.

JACOB
Uhm. Yeah in high school. Like 8
years ago.

ADAM

You'll fit right in. We need someone like you. Someone ferocious. Someone with prowess! Ya got prowess kid?

JACOB

Well, ha, thanks sir. But I wouldn't call myself fer-

ADAM

You like rebounding, kid? You're tall.

JACOB

I might be able to get a board or two yea-

ADAM

Ya like shooting the rock?

JACOB

Sir?

ADAM

Never mind - what was it you wanted to talk to me about?

JACOB

Right. Mr. -

ADAM

Adam Zellman. Used to be a widely popular corporate attorney until the incident.

JACOB

The incident?

Adam clears his throat.

ADAM

Never mind that.

JACOB

Right. So I'm wondering if you have like a speed course for bar mitzvah studies or something.

ADAM

Why do you want to get bar mitzvah'd?

JACOB

Well, I think it's time to take the next step in my Jewish career.

ADAM

Right. Your Jewish career.

Adam looks at Jacob suspiciously.

ADAM (CONT'D)

So we do have a speed course starting tomorrow. 25 day course. Basic Jewish history, basic Hebrew phrases. Think of it like a bar mitzvah crash course.

JACOB

That sounds right up my alley.

ADAM

But there's one catch. The students are a bit younger than you.

JACOB

That's fine - I'm with the youth. How much is it?

ADAM

About 500 dollars.

We push in on Jacob who does not like the sound of that at all. He looks down and thinks.

JACOB

500 dollars?

ADAM

Yes. But...

Jacob leans forward.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I can give you free admission if you join the basketball team.

CUT TO:

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jacob and Maddie are drinking beer and smoking pot. Maddie looks a little upset.

MADDIE

I mean it sounds to me like you're taking advantage of your mom.

JACOB

It's fine. What am I supposed to do, deliver pizzas?

MADDIE

Yes! That's what normal adults do when they aren't working. They get jobs.

JACOB

I already told you, they're passing my resume up the chain for that writing gig.

Jacob takes a swig of his beer.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Why are you being so annoying about it anyways?

MADDIE

I just wish you could stick with something.

Jacob smiles and runs his fingers through Maddie's hair.

JACOB

Dinner Thursday?

MADDIE

Really?

JACOB

Yeah. Pick the spot.

Beat. Jacob looks at himself in the mirror behind the couch.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Are you sure I'm not balding?

They both laugh and settle into each other.

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - MORNING

The alarm clock on the side of Jacob's bed reads: 8AM.

The alarm starts to ring and Jacob shuts it off.

Maddie gets up and gets dressed.

MADDIE
I'm going to work. Get up.

JACOB
5 more minutes.

Jacob falls back into a deep slumber. Maddie shuts the door behind her.

CUT TO:

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - LATER

The alarm reads: 9AM.

The alarm starts to ring and Jacob shuts it off.

CUT TO:

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

The alarm clock reads: 2PM.

Jacob turns it off and looks up.

He grabs a clipped joint on his windowsill and tries to light it but the lighter is out of juice.

Jacob gets up and runs out the door in his pajamas.

EXT. CITY STREET - AFTERNOON

Jacob runs as fast as he can down the street. He pulls up to Scheck School.

INT. SCHECK ZELL JEWISH SCHOOL

Jacob rushes in and notices Adam sitting in a chair in the lobby.

ADAM
Mr. McFoley, you're late!

Jacob checks his watch.

JACOB
Only by a few minutes, right?

ADAM
You missed your morning class
today. 8AM.

JACOB
It was 8am?

ADAM
NOT a very auspicious start to your
Jewish career, Mr. McFoley.

JACOB
Right. When's the next one,
Wednesday?

ADAM
Correct. But there's practice
tonight. 6PM. See you there.

Adam turns the corner and walks down the hallway. He yells
back at Jacob.

ADAM (CONT'D)
One strike Mr. McFoley, one strike!
You do not want to test me and get
to three!

CUT TO:

INT. SCHECK SCHOOL GYM - EVENING

Jacob walks into the gym and sees a cast of misfits on the
bench being yelled at by Adam.

Jacob walks over to them.

JACOB
You're the coach too?

Adam smiles as Jacob walks in.

ADAM
Class, this is Jacob McFoley. He's
your new classmate and will be
joining the team for the remainder
of the season. I hear he has some
kick-ass moves, right Jake?

Adam does a karate chop in the air.

The misfits laugh on the bench.

EZEKIEL, the shrimpy boy with a mustache that was getting dunked on in the picture earlier calls out to Jacob.

EZEKIEL
What a *schlemiel!*

The team erupts in laughter. Jacob is embarrassed.

JACOB
Hey guys - how's everyone doing?

EZEKIEL
How old even are you?

ADAM
Ezekiel!

JACOB
Well actually, I'm uh, 27. I guess you could call me a late bloomer.

The team stares on in silence.

ADAM
Come on, guys! - Circle around for prayer.

The boys all circle around Adam and put their heads together.

Jacob observes this and finds it strange.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Blessed are You, Eternal our God,
Ruler of the Universe, who created
human beings out of the clay of the
earth, breathing into them the
breath of Your life. You set within
each human being a love of play, as
well as a sense of fair play, and a
desire for games that would satisfy
both the body and the mind.

Beat.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Alright Yankels - SCRIMMAGE.
Partner up! Sit ups!

The kids start dispersing and making partners. Jacob goes up to Ezekiel.

Jacob goes up to a few different kids who all shake their head no.

Everyone partners up except Jacob and a short big-boned kid named EFFY.

Jacob walks over to him and holds out his hand.

JACOB
Hey, I'm Jake.

EFFY
I'm Ephraim. But you can call me
Effy.

Effy's hand melts like a jellyfish when Jake shakes it.

JACOB
Effy?

EFFY
What's wrong with Effy?

CUT TO:

INT. SCHECK SCHOOL GYM - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone is partnered up and alternating sit ups.

Effy is struggling to get one sit-up out.

JACOB
Come on, gimme one!

Effy falls back and gives up, exhausted. He looks over at Ezekiel who is on his 20th sit-up and bursting out more and more like a machine.

Ezekiel looks over at Effy and Jacob and laughs.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHECK SCHOOL GYM - LATER

Jacob is sluggishly dribbling up the court. He tries to pass to DAVID, a short kid with extremely hairy armpits but it's INTERCEPTED by Ezekiel who runs it down the court and lays it in.

Jacob scratches his head.

Jacob dribbles the ball, deciding to take it in for a layup himself.

As he tries to lay it in Ezekiel comes out of nowhere with a monster of a powerhouse block, sending Jacob to the floor.

Jacob watches Ezekiel dribble it down the court and lay it in again.

Jacob looks up towards David who shakes his head.

Jacob dribbles down the court once again, this time Ezekiel zips up to him, takes the ball right out of his hands and lays it in on the other side of the court.

As Adam blows the whistle one of the kids, ELIJAH, a tall muscled 12 year old with a full beard, bumps into Jacob and gives him a mean look.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHECK SCHOOL GYM - LATER

Adam stands in front of the team on the bench.

ADAM

Alrighty, Yankels! Great practice!
See you tomorrow same time.

As the kids start to get up Ezekiel passes Jacob.

EZEKIEL

Loser.

Adam hears this.

ADAM

Ezekiel!

Ezekiel puts on a different pair of shoes, one with wheels at the bottom and wheels off into the distance.

Jacob looks extremely upset.

Effy sluggishly makes his way towards Jacob.

EPHRAIM

Don't worry about him. He's just a big jerk. He tried to fight me a few weeks ago because I wouldn't sharpen his pencil for him.

JACOB

Thanks, I appreciate that.

Jacob and Effy take a seat on the bench. They both look like they're down in the dumps.

CUT TO:

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jacob sits on his couch ripping a huge bong.

He falls back onto the couch and turns on the television

On the television is Dr. Mike, sitting across from CLETUS JONES, a big man with a cowboy hat and a Texas belt buckle.

JACOB

Ah god, this guy.

DR. MIKE

So, your book, Man Up: 10 Easy Steps to Being a Man is some pretty powerful stuff Mr. Cletus.

CLETUS

Damn straight.

DR. MIKE

Why don't you explain to us one of the key steps to being a man.

CLETUS

Thanks for askin' Mike. Well I don't wanna reveal too much cos' then you won't have to read the damn book but the first step is to Grab Life by the Balls!

An infographic that reads "Grab Life by the Balls" slides past the bottom of the screen.

DR. MIKE

Excellent.

Dr. Mike looks directly at the camera.

DR. MIKE (CONT'D)

Are you grabbing life by the balls, Jacob?

There is an awkward pause on the television.

DR. MIKE (CONT'D)

Yes, I'm talking to you. Are you grabbing life by the balls?

Jacob is surprised and leans toward the television.

JACOB

Me?

DR. MIKE

Are you a man, Jacob?

These words ring over and over again. They pervade throughout the apartment and get louder and louder. All the lights cut out.

CUT TO:

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - MORNING

7:00AM and Jacob's alarm goes off. He quickly goes to shut it off.

He turns over in his bed. His eyes open widely.

He rolls out of bed.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - MORNING

Jacob walks down the street and passes by the mitzvah tank. There is smoke coming out of every window and the windshield is all fogged up. Rasta music blaring.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHECK ZELL JEWISH SCHOOL

Jacob rushes into the school with his backpack and yarmulke on.

He takes out a piece of paper and strolls down through the hallways looking for the correct classroom.

He enters a classroom.

There's an empty desk next to Effy.

Jacob squeezes past some desks and looks at the kids.

JACOB

Shalom. How ya doin'?

A small teacher with a long beard and yarmulke, AVRAHAM, turns around to see Jacob making all sorts of ruckus as he tries to get to his seat.

AVRAHAM

You must be the thirty year old I was expecting.

JACOB

I'm 27.

AVRAHAM

You're on the wrong side of 20. And you're late. Take a seat.

Jacob squeezes past two more desks and sits next to Effy.

JACOB

How's it going, Effy?

Effy doesn't answer and signals Jacob to shut up and look at Avraham.

Jacob looks up.

AVRAHAM

Mr. McFoley, is there a reason you're being a chatterbox? Would you like to share with the class what you just told Ephraim?

JACOB

Well, uh. I just kinda asked how's it going.

AVRAHAM

How's it going?

Avraham looks around at the class.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)

(Shouting) HOW'S IT GOING?!?!

Avraham walks over to the board and writes Jacob's name on the board and marks a single tally next to it.

JACOB

What does that mean?

AVRAHAM

You don't want to find out Mr. McFoley.

Jacob turns to his left to see Ezekiel, who sticks his tongue out at Jacob.

Jacob focuses back on Avraham who opens up a book.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)
Now, class! Or should I say my
MINIONS!

He grasps the air sinisterly.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)
I hope you don't think this class
is going to be easy. Because it's
NOT It's going to be.....

There is a beat.

He walks over to Jacob and screams in his ear.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)
NOT EASY!

The class looks intimidated.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)
Here you will learn to be a better
better man. Do you all want that?

Nobody answers Avraham.

JACOB
I do!

Avraham stares Jacob down. He puts the book down and marks another tally next to Jacob's name.

AVRAHAM
You do NOT want to get to three Mr.
McFoley. Do you know what happened
to the last person who got to 3?

JACOB
Uh, no, I just got here.

AVRAHAM
He died.

JACOB
He died?

AVRAHAM
Now - as I was saying before I was
so rudely interrupted.
(MORE)

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)

To become a better man, you must do the work! You must apply the principles I teach you to everyday life.

Beat.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)

As Simon the Just said, "The world stands on three things: Torah, avodah or should I say divine service and of course acts of lovingkindness."

Beat.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)

The first two can be taught, rather easily. But the third, I'm not so sure. Your homework tonight will be to commit one act of lovingkindness. Lovingkindness can be anything from helping an old lady cross the street, to hearing someone's problems to helping your mom with the dishes. And then think about it - how did it make you feel?

CUT TO:

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)

Now open your text to page 33! GO!
GO! GO!

CUT TO:

INT. SCHECK SCHOOL CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON

There are about twenty long wooden tables in a big cafeteria. Ezekiel, David and all of the presumed "cool" kids sit at one table. On a table directly across from them sits Jacob, Effy and a few other losers. A card on the table reads "Nut Free."

Behind them is a table full of girls. Effy can't take his eyes off of one, RACHEL, a black haired girl munching down on a crunchy PB&J. Effy is in a daze and is snapped out of it by Jacob's voice.

JACOB

Effy!

EFFY

Huh?

JACOB

I said just go talk to her, nothing to lose.

EFFY

I can't. Look at her. And look at me.

Jacob takes a look over at Rachel.

Rachel notices Jacob and shakes her head. Jacob turns away embarrassed.

EFFY (CONT'D)

Great! You blew my cover.

JACOB

I think you got this, Effy. You're the man.

EFFY

I am?

Ezekiel and a gang of kids walk up to the nut free table.

EZEKIEL

I see Jacob found his place at the nut free table.

Ezekiel grabs his crotch. The gang laughs.

EZEKIEL (CONT'D)

Right here next to little baby Effy!

The gang doesn't laugh. Ezekiel looks at them, cuing them to laugh. They all force a laugh.

EZEKIEL (CONT'D)

Now this needs to go on the gram.

Ezekiel takes out his cellphone and takes a picture of Jacob, Effy and the rest of the "nut free" losers.

EZEKIEL (CONT'D)

What are you even doing here dude?

Ezekiel leans over and grabs Jacob's lunch tray and drops it on the floor.

EZEKIEL (CONT'D)

Oops.

Jacob is fuming.

EZEKIEL (CONT'D)

See you fuckwads later.

David gets in Effy's face.

DAVID

Yeah - fuckwads.

Elijah, the big muscled and mustachioed kid brings his face up to Jacob and Effy's and claps in front of their face.

ELIJAH

BOOM!

Ezekiel and the gang use their Heely's to roll over to Rachel's table. Ezekiel puts his arm around Rachel and looks right at Effy.

Effy puts his head down, defeated.

EFFY

Ah man.

JACOB

It's alright, Effy. Those guys are gonna be making minimum wagef when they're older at Mcdonalds.

EFFY

Yeah, true. Where do you work?

JACOB

Oh I don't work.

EFFY

Oh. Hey what are you up to later? You wanna play Minecraft with me?

JACOB

Nah, my buddy Elliott is throwing a little shindig.

EFFY

Can I come?

JACOB

No. Adults only.

EFFY

Aw, man.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Jacob is walking down the street. 10 paces behind him is a sneaky Effy hiding behind a garbage can.

Jacob stops at a door and buzzes up. As he gets in the door slowly closes and Effy sneaks right in behind him.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Jacob and Effy walk in together to a small and messy apartment with loud bass rap music blasting. There are about 30 people inside. ELLIOTT, a short man child with glasses and a mustache is sitting on the couch smoking a joint. He sees Jacob walk in.

ELLIOTT

Jake! Come over here and rip this.

Right behind Jacob, stumbles in Effy unnoticed.

JACOB

Just gotta take a leak real quick.

Jacob goes into the bathroom. As he comes out he sees Effy sitting on the couch chatting with Elliott.

Jacob is angry as he walks over to them

JACOB (CONT'D)

Effy!

ELLIOTT

I tell ya man, these college kids look younger and younger every year. Think it's the hormones in the milk.

EFFY

I'm 12.

ELLIOTT

Oh you must be one of those baby geniuses who takes like college level courses, right Effy?

EFFY
No, I got held back twice.

JACOB
Effy, can I talk to you?

Elliott takes a sip of beer. Jacob grabs Effy into the kitchen.

JACOB (CONT'D)
Effy, what the hell are you doing here?

EFFY
I wanted to hang out. I've never been to a party.

JACOB
I told you this is an *ADULT* party.

EFFY
I'm an adult. I just turned 13. That's basically 18.

JACOB
No, I don't want to have to chaperone you. This isn't cool, man.

Maddie walks into the kitchen and looks angry at Jacob.

MADDIE
Dude, what is going on?

JACOB
Oh, hey Maddie. I didn't know you'd be here.

MADDIE
You invited me? Why is there a child here.

Effy shakes out his hand.

EFFY
Hi, the name's Effy.

She fake smiles.

MADDIE
Hi, Effy. How do you know Jacob?

EFFY
He's my classmate. At Scheck.

Maddie looks at Jacob.

MADDIE
Dude, what?

Jacob looks embarrassed.

MADDIE (CONT'D)
You're so embarrassing. You're
taking this bar mitzvah thing way
too far.

Jacob tries to chase her down the hallway.

JACOB
Wait, Maddie!

He eventually shrugs and gives up and goes back in, only to
see Effy chugging from a bottle of whiskey.

JACOB (CONT'D)
EFFY!

CUT TO:

EXT. EFFY'S STREET - MIDNIGHT

Jacob and Effy walk home together. Jacob cracks Effy's window
and lifts Effy up to his window. Effy waves down to him.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHECK ZELL JEWISH SCHOOL - MORNING

Jacob walks into the school and is greeted by Adam.

ADAM
Greetings, comrade! How are we
today? You're early. Early bird
always gets the worm! And the worm,
let me tell you, is DELISH!

JACOB
Yeah, hi. How's it going?

ADAM
Oh, swell. Hey, you ever heard of
ASMR?

JACOB

Yeah. I saw one where this 7 foot lady was chewing on a pickle. Gave me tickles.

Adam's eyes widen.

ADAM

Very nice, very nice! Send me that. Anyways I found a rabbi who does it. It's amazing. Rabbi Jordan Edelman.

Adam pulls his phone out and shows Jacob.

On his phone screen a rabbi with a black hat and a long beard is cracking matzah over a big microphone.

RABBI

BARUCHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH

ATAAIIIIIIIIIIII.

Adam looks at Jacob to see if he's enjoying it.

ADAM

Huh? How cool is that!

JACOB

Cool.

Jacob walks past Adam and enters the classroom.

Jacob walks into the classroom.

INT. CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Avraham sits at his desk grading papers. He looks at Jacob.

AVRAHAM

Come here early to make a mockery of the system, huh, Jacob?

Jacob walks over to Avraham and hands him an apple.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)

What's that?

JACOB

An apple.

AVRAHAM
Why are you giving me an apple?

JACOB
Because they're yummy.

Jacob sits down and stares at Avraham smiling.

AVRAHAM
Stop doing that.

Jacob remains smiling.

The bell rings and students rush in. Ezekiel, David and the gang of cool kids all roll in on their Heely's.

Everyone is seated except Effy who is nowhere to be found.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)
Has anyone seen Ephraim?

EZEKIEL
Who the heck even cares!

Ezekiel high fives David.

Avraham fumes in anger.

AVRAHAM
Get out of my classroom right now,
Ezekiel.

Ezekiel gets up and leaves. He flips Avraham off.

Effy rushes in looking disheveled and hungover. He is wearing black Ray Bans.

He squeezes past a few desks and sits next to Jacob.

They nod at each other.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)
Are you sick, Ephraim? You look
sick.

EFFY
I'm okay.

He gags.

EFFY (CONT'D)
I just need death. Sweet. Blissful.
Death.

Effy closes his eyes and falls asleep.

Avraham goes to the chalk board and writes the name "Jacob" on the board in capital letters.

AVRAHAM

Today we are learning the story of Jacob.

Jacob looks up attentively. Avraham makes eye contact with him.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)

Does anybody know what the story of Jacob is?

Rachel, dressed in a pink floral dress, raises her hand.

RACHEL

Hi... Um....

Effy leans over his desk to stare at Rachel with wide open eyes.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

So Jacob was kind of a big jerk. You know.

David butts in.

DAVID

Jacob was an asshole!

AVRAHAM

Language. Jacob was a deceptive artist. He deceived his brother Esau twice in the book of Genesis. He stole his brother's birthright.

DAVID

Oh yeah, my sister did birthright. She ended up falling in love with a soldier named Noam and moved to Israel. We haven't heard from her in a year.

AVRAHAM

That's a different birthright. Thought I don't doubt that. Basically Jacob stole land from his brother. Yadda yadda yadda, and then he ended up wrestling with a divine creature who changed his name to Israel.

(MORE)

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)

And thus a new person and a new state was born. It can be seen as a story of new beginnings.

Jacob tunes into this. He jots some notes down in his pad.

Avraham notices Ezekiel staring in the classroom through the blinds. He walks over and pulls the blinds down and turns back towards the class.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)

So, my little minions. Did you all execute your act of lovingkindness?

Nobody answers.

Avraham looks at Jacob.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)

Jacob?

Jacob stands up and gives everyone a wave.

JACOB

Hey everyone.

AVRAHAM

Jacob, what was your act of lovingkindness?

Jacob stands there frozen.

JACOB

So, um.

He looks around at everyone.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Well I called my crazy aunt Lynn the other day. She's a crazy cat lady. She feeds strays. I called her.

AVRAHAM

And what did you tell her?

JACOB

Well I kinda said, "Hey, what's up?" And stuff like that. She lives in Florida.

The class looks up at Jacob.

AVRAHAM

And did you learn anything?

JACOB

Not really, no.

AVRAHAM

I'm sorry, Jacob. You've failed this assignment. And that - along with your absolutely horrific attendance record is strike 3. You can join Ezekiel in Adam's office. Immediately.

JACOB

Did we skip strike 2?

Effy stands up.

EFFY

Wait.

AVRAHAM

Got something to share Effy?

EFFY

Well, I know Jacob's act of lovingkindness. He took me under his wing. And he helped me out.

AVRAHAM

And HOW did he help you out?

EFFY

He brought me back from an adult party.

Avraham is surprised.

AVRAHAM

I see. Effy did you consume alcoholic beverages at this "adult party?"

Jacob butts in.

Effy gets shy.

EFFY

Well...

AVRAHAM

F- Mr. McFoley. GET OUT! And NEVER COME BACK!

Effy looks up at Jacob with a sorry grin.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S OFFICE - LATER

Adam is talking to Ezekiel who is sitting right across from him.

ADAM

I just really think the cinematography in the last one was so good. My god.

EZEKIEL

Yeah - I guess. But it was just such a disappointing ending to the franchise.

ADAM

Oh, there'll be more. I have insider info from George Lucas' assistant.

Jacob knocks at the door and peeks his head in.

JACOB

Hey guys.

ADAM

You too?

Jacob stumbles in and sits next to Ezekiel.

JACOB

Yeah - Avraham wanted me to see you. I took a student to a party.

ADAM

A pizza party or a party party?

JACOB

A party party.

ADAM

I see... Well... Here's the thing, Jake. I'd kick ya out but we need you on the damn team.

EZEKIEL

No we don't.

ADAM
So let's say this is strike 2.
Practice tonight, 6PM.

JACOB
Uh, okay.

ADAM
Alright, now SCRAM ya rascal!

CUT TO:

EXT. GYM - EVENING

Jacob and Effy sit outside the gym. Jacob is smoking a joint.

EFFY
Thanks for last night.

JACOB
Don't sweat it. But don't follow
people around. It's creepy and
you're gonna get yourself in
trouble that way.

Rachel walks by and Effy stares at her.

JACOB (CONT'D)
Come on man just talk to her. You
got this.

EFFY
You really think so?

JACOB
Yeah, man. You're a gangster.

EFFY
Thanks. I think you're a gangster
too.

JACOB
Yeah. I guess.

EFFY
You have a girlfriend?

JACOB
Not really.

EFFY
Why not?

JACOB

I can't really stick to anything or anyone.

EFFY

What do you mean, "not really?"

CUT TO:

INT. GYM - LATER

Jacob is running point on a team with Effy, David and a few others. Ezekiel is on point on the other team.

Effy catches the ball and lobs up an airball but Jacob comes rushing in and lays it in over Ezekiel.

Ezekiel is visually upset.

Ezekiel runs the ball up the court. Effy takes a seat on the opposite side of the court and watches.

Adam subs in another kid for Effy.

Ezekiel goes for an easy layup on Jacob but Jacob BLOCKS Ezekiel and sends him to the ground.

Jacob looks down at Ezekiel.

JACOB

Not so easy, today is it?

Jacob runs past him and lays it in on the other half of the court.

CUT TO:

INT. GYM - LATER

Adam stands in the middle of the circle.

ADAM

Ok - great practice today. Jacob, whatever you're taking, take it again for the game on Friday.

Effy is walking in circles in the background.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Effy, please join us.

EFFY

Huh?

Effy continues walking in circles and drops to the ground.

ADAM

Friday night, 7pm, folks. Bring
your yarmulkes!

They all put their hands together.

ADAM (CONT'D)

1, 2, 3.

ALL

Team!

As they disband Ezekiel and his gang comes up to Effy.

EZEKIEL

Lil baby Effy. Got benched cuz he
sucks!

Jacob notices this and walks over to them.

EZEKIEL (CONT'D)

Retard Effy? Can you understand
what I say?

JACOB

Chill out, man. Why are you so
bitter?

Ezekiel turns around and pushes Jacob.

David and Elijah come up behind Ezekiel and land some punches
on Jacob's chest.

They knock Jacob over.

They continue to hit him over and over again. Jacob doesn't
fight back at all.

EFFY

What are you doing! Fight back!

JACOB

I can't! I'll get arrested!

Elijah gets up and pushes Effy hard and he lands on the
concrete.

Adam approaches the boys, not realizing what's going on. He's
on his cellphone.

DAVID
Adam's coming!

They lay off Jacob and Effy. Ezekiel dusts himself off.

Adam walks up to the group.

ADAM
What are ya guys wrestling? I used to wrestle back in 87. They used to call me Frank the Tank. Don't know where the frank came from. Or the tank. I lost every match. Hey you guys ever seen that show Gilligan's Island? Have I told you guys about my date tonight?

He turns his phone around and shows him the profile.

EZEKIEL
Jacob, I think you should just go home and leave us kids alone.

Ezekiel sticks his tongue out at Jacob.

EZEKIEL (CONT'D)
Friday night after the game. Outside the gym. You and that big Effy. Versus me and my boys.

Ezekiel walks off with the gang.

EZEKIEL (CONT'D)
Come on, let's go, gang.

The gang of cool kids all Heely off in the distance.

Jacob wipes the spit off his face and helps Effy up.

JACOB
You alright, man?

A tear is running down Effy's face.

JACOB (CONT'D)
It's okay, Effy.

Jacob pats Effy on the back and they walk off in different directions.

CUT TO:

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jacob is sitting in his apartment. He hits his bong as he hears a knock on the door.

Jacob opens the door, high out of his mind.

JACOB
Yeah, hello?

He notices it's Geraldo.

JACOB (CONT'D)
Geraldo, uhh. Hi.

Jacob looks nervous.

JACOB (CONT'D)
Listen uhh, I can't let you in I
have covid.

Geraldo walks in and coughs up a lung and spits on the floor.

GERALDO
Don't worry I just tested positive
too.

Jacob distances himself from Geraldo.

Geraldo starts inspecting Jacob's mail. He's looking very menacing. He starts going through the cupboards.

Jacob eyes his every move behind his bloodshot glazed eyes.

Geraldo picks up a martini glass.

GERALDO (CONT'D)
Nice glass.

JACOB
Thanks. My mom gave it to me.

GERALDO
So anyways, how ya doin' kid? I'm
just remindin' you the rent's due
next week. You good with that?

He coughs up another lung and spits on Jacob's floor.

Jacob scrambles his brain to try and think of what to say.

JACOB
Uhh yea. Sounds good.

Geraldo walks closer to Jacob and eyes him up and down.

GERALDO
You sure, kid?

Jacob backs up away from Geraldo and leans on his couch.

JACOB
Uh. Yeah. When have I ever let you
down, Geraldo?

GERALDO
Well you've only paid 6 months rent
and you've been here a year. So
you've let me down quite a -

Geraldo coughs up a loogie that goes flying into Jacob's
face. Jacob wipes it off in disgust.

GERALDO (CONT'D)
Alright, see ya later. Take it
easy, fuck you, say hi to your
motha for me.

Jacob fake laughs.

JACOB
Ok see ya later Geraldo.

CUT TO:

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - LATER

On the table Jacob's phone is ringing. It's Maddie calling,
Jacob is passed out on the couch in his underwear.

CUT TO:

INT. MADDIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Maddie is all dressed up with the phone to her ear. It rings
and rings and nobody answers.

CUT TO:

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - EARLY AFTERNOON

Jacob wakes up and sees on his phone that he has 4 new
voicemails.

He plays one.

ADAM

Hello! Mr. McFoley, are you making it to class today, I have -

He deletes it and plays the next.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Mr. McFoley, don't forget about practice.

He deletes it and plays the next.

EFFY

Hey Jake, wish you were in class today, Ezekiel put gum all over my seat and I couldn't get it off. But see you at the game tomorrow right?

He deletes it and plays the next. It's Maddie. She's sobbing.

MADDIE

I guess I don't know what I thought "this" was or what you thought it was but now it's nothing. I waited for -

JACOB

Maddie!

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - LATER

Jacob runs through a park on the water.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRIDGE - LATER

Jacob runs across the bridge.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

Jacob is standing outside of a big building. He picks up a piece of trash from the sidewalk and lobs it up at a second story window.

Nobody comes to the window.

He picks up a tiny pebble and throws it a little harder at the window.

Nobody answers.

He sees a bigger pebble (more like a rock) and picks it up and throws it at the window.

As the rock is flying towards the window Maddie opens it and gets plunked right in the forehead.

MADDIE

Ouch!

Her head starts to bleed a little.

JACOB

Oh man, Maddie. I'm so sorry.

MADDIE

What are you doing here? And why are you throwing rocks at my window?!

JACOB

I owe you an apology. Things are just getting super hectic with school and -

MADDIE

Dude - you're taking a month long Hebrew school class for a quick buck and a big party. That's not my idea of honesty. And why did you bring that kid to Elliott's?

JACOB

Just let me up. I can explain.

MADDIE

No.

JACOB

He followed me! I didn't want him to come.

MADDIE

That doesn't explain the rest.

JACOB

Listen, I'm sorry. I don't know what to say. I realize I have a lot of growing up to do.

MADDIE

You're 27 and you act like a 12 year old. You don't need a bar mitzvah you need a come to Jesus moment. Or a come to Moses moment. Whatever your beliefs. And I can't be that for you.

JACOB

Maddie! Let me in!

She picks up the rock that hit her in the head and aims it towards Jacob.

MADDIE

OH! And you are balding!

She throws the rock at Jacob. He dodges out of the way and into the street and is suddenly PLUNKED by a going thirty twenty miles an hour.

A man, GIUSEPPE, dressed in a wifebeater with grey chest hair poking out gets out of the car, as Jacob stumbles to get up.

GIUSEPPE

What the fuck, buddy? You not paying attention? You're in a busy intersection you fucking moron.

Jacob waves up to Maddie, signaling he's okay. She shuts the window and goes back inside.

JACOB

Sorry, I uh -

GIUSEPPE

You know, I oughta get the bat outta my trunk and teach you a lesson, punk. What are you a dumb liberal?

JACOB

Look, man I'm sorry. But you hit me! You have to take some blame here.

GIUSEPPE

You know, I think I will get the bat outta my trunk.

Giuseppe opens up the trunk and takes out a bat and lunges towards Jacob. Jacob RUNS as fast as he can away.

GIUSEPPE (CONT'D)
Go back to California, ya bum!

CUT TO:

INT. SCHECK SCHOOL GYM - THE SAME NIGHT

The Scheck basketball team is on the court. The score is 70-68 with Scheck down by 2 with 15 seconds left on the clock.

Effy is on the court, he's holding onto the ball as time is about to expire. The crowd yells out to him.

CROWD
SHOOT THE BALL!

Effy holds onto the ball. The clock has 3 seconds on it. Effy closes his eyes and holds onto the ball. He doesn't even shoot.

The crowd goes silent. Effy looks defeated.

EXT. SCHECK SCHOOL GYM - NIGHT

Effy takes out his phone and tries to call Jacob but he doesn't pick up. From the corner of his eye he sees a shadow move.

EFFY Who's there?

EZEKIEL
Nice going, Effy. Couldn't even get
a shot off.

Aron emerges from the shadows pounding his fist.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK BENCH - THE SAME NIGHT

Jacob sits on a bench, listening to the city sounds. He sees a couple holding hands with a kid walking in front of them. The kid kind of looks like Effy.

Jacob's eyes widen. He checks his phone to see a few more missed calls from Effy.

He gets up and starts running.

EXT. EFFY'S STREET - LATER

Jacob runs down the street and right up to Effy's house. He picks up some pebbles and throws them at Effy's window.

JACOB

Effy!

He throws a bigger pebble.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Effy!

Nobody comes to the window.

Jacob takes a stone and throws it as hard as he can.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Effy!

The window breaks. Effy shouts.

EFFY

What the heck, man?

Effy opens the cracked window and looks down.

JACOB

Hey, Effy!

Effy leans over to see who it is. He has a black right eye.

EFFY

What do you want?

JACOB

Effy, I'm really sorry. What happened with Ezekiel?

EFFY

Wouldn't you like to know.

JACOB

Ah, shit, Effy. I'm really sorry. I got tied up. Girl trouble. Can I come up?

EFFY

Tied up with what? Partying? You're not a good friend. You're not a good person.

JACOB

Ah, Effy come on. Let me come up.
I'm really sorry. I'm coming back
to class on Monday. We can kick
Ezekiel's ass together.

Effy starts to scream.

EFFY

Mom!!!

She shouts back at him.

EFFY'S MOM

What is it?!?

EFFY

Jake's out front!!

Effy's mom storms through the front door and runs right up to
Jake and grabs his left earlobe. She is wearing a pink
sundress and wide framed glasses that make her eyes look
gigantic. Her hair is in rollers.

JACOB

Hi, Mrs. Spitzman. I was just
trying to -

Effy's mom speaks in a heavy Long Island accent.

EFFY'S MOM

Listen to me, Jacob. You leave Effy
alone now. Ever since he met you
he's been getting into all sorts of
trouble. What the hell are you even
doin' hangin' around 12 year old
boys anyways. You're LOSAH!. Now
get the hell outta here.

She shoves Jacob away. She looks back at him.

EFFY'S MOM (CONT'D)

You're no real Jew anyways. A real
Jew would show A SLIVAH of
responsibility. A real Jew would be
a REAL MAN.

Jacob looks up to Effy. Effy shakes his head and closes the
window. He sticks his tongue out at Jacob.

Jacob walks away defeatedly.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

Jacob walks across a bridge.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Jacob walks through a park on the water.

Jacob walks down his street. His head and shoulders are down in defeat.

He hears someone shouting towards him.

CHAIM

Hey Jacob, you sick fuck. What's new?

Jacob looks up.

JAOB

Chaim? You wouldn't believe the night I've had.

CHAIM

You don't look so good tonight. What's going on, friend?

JACOB

Glad somebody considers me a friend.

Beat.

JACOB (CONT'D)

My life is just kind of spiraling right now.

CHAIM

You know what you need? You need a good rabbi.

JACOB

Where do I find one?

CHAIM

Check RabbiFinder.com. Very good site. Lots of people.

CUT TO:

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jacob lays on his couch in just his underwear.

On the television is an ad for a hair cream that's supposed to completely regrow your hair.

Jacob switches the channel to Dr. Mike.

JACOB
I'm so sick of this guy.

Jacob realizes that the man Dr. Mike is interviewing today is himself.

DR. MIKE
Hi, Jacob. How are you today?

Jacob sits up.

JACOB
How is he - this isn't funny.

On the tv Dr. Mike leans in closer to Jacob.

DR. MIKE
Did you know I'm Jewish, Jake?

Jacob watches as he sees himself respond to Dr. Mike.

JACOB
You are?

DR. MIKE
Yeah - but I don't tell anyone.
Could hurt the ratings.

JACOB
Right.

DR. MIKE
Jake - I think you're at a real
crossroads here.

JACOB
How so?

DR. MIKE
Well, you wanna be a man don't ya?

JACOB
I guess.

DR. MIKE

I watch ya, Jake. I watch ya every time you put me on and then some. I see what you do. I see you hitting the bong. I see you sleeping til 2pm. It's not good, Jake. It's not good at all.

Jacob in the living room watches Jacob on the TV struggle to respond.

Dr. Mike holds up a book for the camera to see.

DR. MIKE (CONT'D)

You can pick up a copy of Jacob McFoley's book: How Not to Be a Man in 10 Easy Steps at your local bookstore.

Dr. Mike turns back to Jacob on the TV.

DR. MIKE (CONT'D)

I think you know what you need to do, Jake.

DR. MIKE (CONT'D)

Thanks for watching!

An infographic of Dr. Mike and Jacob on a mechanical bull pops up and Jacob goes flying.

Jacob in the living room looks on in terror.

JACOB

Wait - don't go! I have a lot of questions. What do I need to do?

CUT TO:

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - LATER

Jacob wakes up frantically. He spills the drink that was in his hand. He gasps for air.

CUT TO:

Jacob is on the computer searching for Rabbis on "Rabbifinder.com"

He scrolls past one with two missing front teeth.

He scrolls past another rabbi wearing a cross and a Star of David next to each other. The caption reads, "Jews for Jesus."

He finally lands on JORDAN EDELMAN - a rabbi with a fake tan, bright white teeth and wide aviator framed glasses.

Jacob goes to send a message.

CUT TO:

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Jacob wakes up and checks his phone, he sees a message from Rabbi Edelman.

JORDAN EDELMAN (TEXT)

Wats up?

He puts the phone down and immediately gets a call from an unknown number.

Jacob rejects the call.

A few seconds later the phone rings again. Jacob looks at it this time and it says private caller. He rejects it once more.

Jacob dazes back into sleep only to be woken up by the phone ringing again.

Jacob finally picks it up.

JACOB

Uh.. Hello?

The voice on the phone is old, wise and raspy.

JORDAN EDELMAN

Hello, is this Mr. McFoley?

JACOB

Yes.

JORDAN EDELMAN

Hello, Mr. Jacob. I'm calling about the request you put in on RabbiFinder.com. This is Jordan Edelman.

JACOB

Hi, Jordan. Can I call you back? It's 7am.

JORDAN EDELMAN

No, Mr. Jacob. We have to get to work immediately. You said you wanted your bar mitzvah by the end of the month?

JACOB

Yeah, but... Just let me call you back.

JORDAN EDELMAN

I'm sorry Mr. Jacob. Can you come to my synagogue today?

JACOB

I guess... when?

JORDAN EDELMAN

Thirty minutes?

JACOB

Are you serious?

JORDAN EDELMAN

We'll make a man out of you.

CUT TO:

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Jacob is cooking eggs and drifting off.

EXT. CITY STREET - MORNING

Jacob walks down the street. The sun is bright and offensive.

He passes the mitzvah tank and Chaim is outside.

CHAIM

Yo, Jacob! What's up dawg?

JACOB

Hey, Chaim. You really do this at 7 in the morning?

CHAIM

Judaism never stops my friend!

JACOB

Amen.

CUT TO:

EXT. SYNAGOGUE - MORNING

Jacob enters a huge synagogue somewhere in Brooklyn.

INT. SYNAGOGUE - MOMENTS LATER

Jacob looks around. He sees nobody.

JACOB

Hello?

Jacob walks down the aisle. Nobody in sight.

He walks behind Torah casing to a small red door and enters.

INT. SYNAGOGUE BACKROOM

Jacob wanders through the room. There are pictures of famous Jewish people all over the walls.

Astronauts, sports players, actors, politicians. All Jewish.

Jacob takes a moment to admire them.

JACOB

Mr. Edelman?

Jacob walks up a red carpeted spiral staircase.

There he finds a big recording booth. He enters as Jordan is recording something.

Jordan sits at a big microphone. He is tapping a dreidel with his fingernails. He leans into the microphone.

JORDAN EDELMAN

(Whispering) L'chaimmmmmmmmm.

You can hear the phlegm in the back of his throat coming out.

JORDAN EDELMAN (CONT'D)

Mmmmoses....

JACOB

Uh, Mr. Edelman?

Jordan signals to Jacob that it'll only be another minute.

Jordan takes out a piece of matzah from a white cloth. He cracks it over the microphone.

JORDAN EDELMAN
Mmmmmatzah.....

He eats the matzah and indulges in every bite over the microphone.

JORDAN EDELMAN (CONT'D)
(Mouth full, still
chewing)
Hannukkkkkkkahh....

He stops recording and turns around.

JORDAN EDELMAN (CONT'D)
Sorry, Mr. Jacob. There is quite a
market for Jewish ASMR these days.
Do you want to try?

JACOB
Uh, I think I'm okay.

JORDAN EDELMAN
Please have a seat.

There is a small chair across from Jordan that Jacob takes a seat in.

JORDAN EDELMAN (CONT'D)
So you want to have a bar mitzvah
in less than thirty days, no?

JACOB
Yeah, I'd like to. If it's
possible. Well actually more like 5
days. I know it's kind of short
notice and everything but I saw you
had a great score on RabbiFinder.

JORDAN EDELMAN
Do you believe in god, Jacob?

JACOB
Uh. Yeah. Yeah I believe in god.
He's great. He's really helped me
throughout my life. Definitely
would not be here without god.

JORDAN EDELMAN
You don't have to lie to me. I
don't believe in god.

JACOB
Ok, I don't really believe in him.
Or it. Whatever it is.
(MORE)

JACOB (CONT'D)

Wait, how can you be a rabbi but not believe in god?

JORDAN EDELMAN

I respect and teach Jewish culture. If you choose to believe in god then so be it. More power to you. Jews don't have to believe in a higher power.

JACOB

Huh. I didn't know that. I guess that makes me respect you guys a little more.

JORDAN EDELMAN

You guys?

JACOB

Well. To be honest, I've always grown up not really sure what I am. My mom is Jewish and my dad was Catholic. He's dead.

JORDAN EDELMAN

It's normal to be confused in your situation.

JACOB

But I feel like after he died, I guess I've leaned more into the Jewish side. Because it's the only one I have left.

Beat.

JACOB (CONT'D)

But honestly I grew up kind of embarrassed of the Jewish side. I remember when my friend Jason had his bar mitzvah all the kids made fun of it and called it the "Jew mitzvah."

Jordan laughs at this and writes it down.

JORDAN EDELMAN

"Jew mitzvah," that's a good one. I'll have to remember that.

JACOB

Uhm. For what?

JORDAN EDELMAN

I'm writing a screenplay. It's very Jewish. It's called THE ANGRYMAN! And I'm going to star in it. I am The Angryman!

JACOB

That sounds awesome. Maybe I can help? You know I studied film in college.

JORDAN EDELMAN

No, I don't think so.

Beat.

JORDAN EDELMAN (CONT'D)

Are you enrolled in Hebrew school?

JACOB

Yeah, I'm taking classes at Scheck. In Crown Heights. Or at least I was.

JORDAN EDELMAN

Ah, yes. Scheck. Please tell Adam that he owes me thirty bucks from the Jets game last year.

JACOB

Okay, I will.

JORDAN EDELMAN

So. Are you learning there?

JACOB

Yeah, definitely! I'm learning a lot.

JORDAN EDELMAN

What have you learned?

JACOB

I learned the story of Jacob.

JORDAN EDELMAN

Would you mind giving me a synopsis?

JACOB

So, basically. Uh. Jacob is a regular dude and he betrays his brother.

JORDAN EDELMAN

Yes. And?

JKACOB

That's not good enough?

JORDAN EDELMAN

The story of Jacob is important because Jacob is kind of a bad apple you know? He betrays his brother not once, but twice. And then he ends up wrestling with this divine figure. Many believe this to be an angel, or a devil. He spends the night wrestling it.

JACOB

Yeah?

JORDAN EDELMAN

He wrestles it and you know, many people see this as Jacob's redemption. He's growing up. He's becoming a man. The angel then renames Jacob Israel. I see this as an earned title.

JACOB

Huh. I never thought about it like that.

JORDAN EDELMAN

I don't think you've ever thought about it at all.

JACOB

That's true.

JORDAN EDELMAN

Jacob, for this to work you need to start taking your classes at Scheck seriously. I can't work with someone who's not putting in the work. I will assign you three books to read. Please have them read by Monday.

JACOB

Three books by Monday?

JORDAN EDELMAN

You wanted this to be a speed course, no?

(MORE)

JORDAN EDELMAN (CONT'D)

You can take your time with it but you won't be ready by the end of the month.

JACOB

Kind of a lot of work though, no? Between Hebrew school and now this?

JORDAN EDELMAN

Yes and you'll also need to start planning and learning your portion of the Torah, Jacob. Have you thought about the service or the party or anything?

JACOB

Uh, not really. I thought you were gonna do that for me.

JORDAN EDELMAN

Why do you want to have a bar mitzvah, Jacob?

Jacob sits in silence for a moment. He takes a look around the office. Jordan is shaking hands with president Obama in one photo. A signed picture of Sandy Koufax lay next to that one. Even Jesus is up there.

JORDAN EDELMAN (CONT'D)

Think about that one. Make sure you are committed 100 percent. If you are I'll see you on Monday.

CUT TO:

INT. PARK - AFTERNOON

Jacob is reading one of the books Jordan gave to him on a park bench. He shakes his head and mumbles.

Jacob sees his phone ringing. It's Elliott. He picks up.

JACOB

Hello?

ELLIOTT

Hellloooo. What's up, dude?

JACOB

Studying, man.

ELLIOTT
You coming to the Watering Hole
tonight?

Jacob sits up and thinks about it.

JACOB
No. I'm good. I'm gonna study.

ELLIOTT
Ah, come on. Don't be lame. You can
do the work tomorrow.

JACOB
I gotta go.

Jacob hangs up on Elliott and reads until the sun sets.

CUT TO:

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Jacob is just about finished with the book he's reading,
American Judaism: A History in Three Parts. He's annotating
the pages.

JACOB
They hate us cuz they ain't us.

Jacob shakes his head.

Jacob's alarm rings. He gets up and puts on a nice button
down shirt and khaki pants.

EXT. CITY STREET - MORNING

Jacob walks by the mitzvah tank. Chaim is out smoking a
joint.

CHAIM
Jacob, my friend! How are you?

JACOB
I'm good, Chaim. I'm good.

Chaim takes a drag of his joint.

CHAIM
You want a hit?

JACOB
Nah man. I got class.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHECK ZELL JEWISH SCHOOL - LATER

Jacob strolls into school. He is looking fresher than usual in his button down shirt and khakis.

Jacob passes Adam in the halls.

ADAM
Nice fit, dude!

JACOB
Ha. Thanks.

Adam smiles at Jacob creepily.

ADAM
Guess who has a third date tonight!!

JACOB
Hey, congrats man!

Jacob pats Adam on the shoulder.

They both stand there awkwardly for a beat.

JACOB (CONT'D)
Well, uh. I gotta get to class.

Adam keeps smiling.

ADAM
See you at the game tonight? Last game of the season, Mr. McFoley!

JACOB
Bet your ass.

Jacob enters the classroom. Avraham is the only one in there.

AVRAHAM
Ah, Jacob. Decided to show up?

Jacob hands Avraham a pomegranate.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)
What am I supposed to do with this?

JACOB

Eat it!

Avraham slides open a desk drawer full of apples and places the pomegranate on top of the pile.

JACOB (CONT'D)

I'm really sorry.

AVRAHAM

For what?

JACOB

For being a bad student.

Jacob takes a seat in the front of the classroom and stares at Avraham, ready to learn.

AVRAHAM

Stop staring at me. It's creepy.

JACOB

Oh. Sorry.

Avraham looks up at Jacob who is still staring in his direction.

JACOB (CONT'D)

How's it going?

AVRAHAM

Would you leave me alone?

JACOB

Sorry.

AVRAHAM

Are you ready for the test?

JACOB

What test?

Avraham laughs.

The students start filing in. Effy is first. He has an apple that he gives to Avraham.

Avraham opens the drawer and places it inside.

Effy sees that there's an open seat next to Jacob but decides to sit a few seats away.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Hey, Ef!

Effy ignores Jacob.

Avraham walks over to the chalkboard and addresses the class.

AVRAHAM

Hello my little Jewish disciples.
The time is nearing. Bar mitzvah
season. Who's excited?

Everyone raises their hands.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)

Many of you will be coming out of
this class as a man. Others will
not.

He looks at Jacob.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)

It's time to talk to your rabbis
about learning your Torah portion.
How many of you reached out to your
rabbis yet?

Jacob is the only person who raises his hand.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)

Really? Jacob - the only one!
Because I was under the impression
that you didn't actually give a
flying hoot about the work here.

JACOB

I've changed.

AVRAHAM

And who is your rabbi?

JACOB

Jordan Edelman.

AVRAHAM

I see. Next time you see Jordan
please tell me he owes me 75 bucks
from the Jets game last season.

JACOB

I will.

AVRAHAM

Well, best of luck to you, Mr.
McFoley. But you certainly won't be
getting my recommendation.

Avraham writes on chalkboard in big letters: GROWING UP.

He points at this.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)

Are you all ready to enter the next chapter in your lives? Are you ready to become the person you've always wanted to be?

Avraham goes over to his desk.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)

Rachel. Please distribute the tests. This test will determine if you've failed or passed this course.

JACOB

Wait...

AVRAHAM

Oh, that's right. You weren't here, Jake. After all this was the speed course. Aren't you ready?

Rachel hands a test over to Effy. He looks up at her and a twinkle lights up in his eye. She smiles back.

RACHEL

Aw, Effy what happened to your eye?

EFFY

Oh, uh. Hi Rachel. Uh. MM. I got into a fight.

RACHEL

That's so cool.

Effy smiles and dazes off.

She hands a test over to Jacob next.

Avraham picks up a giant sand timer and looks at the class. He flips it over.

AVRAHAM

You will have thirty minutes to complete the test. Good luck.

Jacob scrolls through the pages. He starts filling out all the answers.

Ezekiel throws a piece of gum on Jacob's desk. Jacob looks back and sticks out his tongue at him.

He looks at the timer and back to his paper.

He's done. Finished before everyone else.

He walks up and hands his paper over to Avraham who looks up at Jacob and smiles. He starts grading it immediately.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)

Mhmmm. Mhmmm. Yep. Wow.

He looks at Jacob and scribbles something on his paper. 67%.

AVRAHAM (CONT'D)

Well it's definitely not good work.
But you passed.

Jacob smiles and pumps his fist in the air.

JACOB

YES!

CUT TO:

INT. GYM LOCKER ROOM - EVENING

Jacob and Effy sit apart from each other on the bench tying their shoes. Jacob is wearing Nike high-tops with a Star of David drawn on the side with a sharpie. Effy is wearing Converse All Stars - probably cool in 2005.

JACOB

Hey, Ef!

Effy looks at Jacob.

EFFY

What?

JACOB

Listen, Ef. I'm really sorry. I should've been there for you.

EFFY

Yeah. You should have.

JACOB

Effy, I've been lost my whole life.
I didn't realize I had a map right
in front of me.

Adam gathers the team.

ADAM

Ok guys - we win this, well,
nothing happens because we're
already eliminated from playoff
contention. But still, we wanna end
the season on a positive note,
right?

JACOB

YES!

EZEKIEL

Shut up!

ADAM

Take a chill pill, Mr. McGill. Now -
folks, let us gather for prayer.
Effy, lead us.

EFFY

Blessed are You, Eternal our God,
Ruler of the Universe, who created
human beings out of the clay of the
earth, breathing into them the
breath of Your life. You set within
each human being a love of play, as
well as a sense of fair play, and a
desire for games that would satisfy
both the body and the mind. From
these human desires You brought
forth basketball, a game of baskets
and balls played upon the hard wood
court. It is an orderly game, as
Your creation is orderly, and a
mysterious game, as Your creation
is mysterious, revealing to its
devotees deep truths about Your
world.

EZEKIEL

Let's GO!!!!

CUT TO:

INT. GYM - MOMENTS LATER

Jacob and Effy sit on the bench.

Ezekiel drives the ball up the court and passes to David who
goes for a shot and gets BLOCKED.

A player on the opposing team grabs the ball and runs it down the court and DUNKS on Ezekiel, sending him flying.

Adam looks distressed.

Ezekiel runs the ball up the court and it gets STOLEN and laid in on the other side of the court.

The score is 20 - 2 at the end of the first quarter.

Effy notices Rachel sitting on the sidelines. She's chatting with her friends.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHECK SCHOOL GYM - LATER

Jacob and Effy still sit on opposite ends of the bench as the team is now down 40 - 8 in the third quarter.

Rachel sits in the bleachers on her phone laughing at the team.

JACOB
Hey, Adam!

ADAM
What?

JACOB
Put me and Ef in.

ADAM
Alright - why not.

Adam blows the whistle.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Ezekiel, David! You're out. Jacob,
Effy point and center.

EZEKIEL
What? Come on! We can come back!
Putting those guys in is gonna make
us lose for sure! Don't do that!

Jacob and Effy trot out to the court.

Jacob dribbles the ball down the court and does a quick juke move past a guard and lays it in.

He steals the ball from the opponent and passes it to Effy who drops it. Jacob quickly recovers it and takes a three point shot.

On the other side of the court, someone tries to go for an easy layup but Jacob sends it flying.

The deficit is closing and Jacob looks like Jordan in his prime.

JACOB

Effy - I'm Jordan, need you to be my Pippen.

EFFY

I don't know what any of that means, and I'm still mad at you.

CUT TO:

INT. GYM - LATER

It's the end of the 4th quarter. Scheck is down 50 - 45.

Ezekiel looks on in disgust, rooting against his own team.

Jacob dribbles the ball up the court and nails a three. He hits three fingers against temple and looks over at Ezekiel who gives him the finger.

The crowd is really into it now. 20 seconds on the clock.

Jacob intercepts the inbound pass and throws it out to Effy who is ready for a corner three. He looks over at Rachel who is staring him down. An opponent rushes up to Effy but he lobs it up without getting a good look.

The ball floats in slow motion.

Jacob follows the ball in the air with his eyes.

Ezekiel looks at the ball in anger.

Adam looks at the ball as it's nearing the hoop.

Rachel looks as it's about to hit.

The crowd's heads moves in sync as the ball falls slowly towards the basket.

Time resumes and the ball bounces up off the rim once, now twice and bounces out of bounds.

Effy looks on with sadness.

Jacob sees this and rushes over to him.

JACOB
You did it, dude!

EFFY
Did what? I missed the shot.

JACOB
You took the shot.

They hug.

Rachel comes up to Jacob and Effy who are still hugging.

RACHEL
That was pretty cool, Effy.

Jacob and Effy lose their embrace.

EFFY
Are you being sarcastic?

RACHEL
No, I mean it was really cool that you took the shot. I wouldn't have been able to.

Effy plays it off coolly.

EFFY
Yeah, I mean. Nobody else I would've wanted in that situation besides myself. Just happened to bounce the wrong way. We'll get 'em next time.

RACHEL
So true.

Jacob whispers something in Effy's ear and walks away.

EFFY
Hey. Do you wanna come with me to Jacob's bar mitzvah? It's next week. Heard there's gonna be a oool photo booth.

JACOB
No photo booth. Photo booths are expensive

Rachel pauses for a second. She leaves Effy hanging. Effy leans in closer in anticipation.

She shakes her head yes.

Over by the bench Jacob is talking to Adam.

ADAM

Really nice job getting Effy involved like that.

JACOB

Yeah - of course.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

EFFY

Man, that was awesome. And I think Rachel really likes me. She wants to go to your bar mitzvah with me.

JACOB

Awesome, man.

Ezekiel and David and his gang of angry kids storms the locker room.

Ezekiel bumps into Effy.

EFFY

Hey!

EZEKIEL

Oops.

JACOB

What's the matter, Ezekiel? Upset you got benched?

Ezekiel is fuming.

EZEKIEL

Outside track. Twenty minutes.

Ezekiel and his gang exits. Jacob and Effy look at each other.

JACOB

You sure you wanna do this?

EFFY

I'm ready. Ezekiel's been picking on me since 1st grade.

JACOB
Wait - I have a better idea.

CUT TO:

EXT. GYM - LATER

Jacob and Effy walk side by side to the track. They both look determined.

They walk off into the darkness.

They approach Ezekiel, David and the rest of the gang.

Out of nowhere Ezekiel runs up towards Effy and tries to land a punch on him but Jacob intercepts it with his belly.

JACOB
Ouch!

Jacob looks over towards a group of parents and he signals towards them.

An angry woman, Ezekiel's mom JUDY comes storming out from the parking lot.

JUDY
EZEKIEL JOSEPH STEINHARDT, GET YOUR
ASS OVER HERE NOW!

Ezekiel looks at his mom.

EZEKIEL
Mom! I thought you were, why are
you here?

He looks at Jacob and Effy.

EZEKIEL (CONT'D)
You told my mom?

Effy sticks his tongue out at Ezekiel as he's grabbed by the ear by Judy towards his car.

JACOB
Yeah, because that's what adults
do.

CUT TO:

INT. SYNAGOGUE - MORNING

Jacob and Jordan sit next to each other in the recording booth of his synagogue.

JORDAN EDELMAN

So you will have the service here at my synagogue. Have you decided where you want to have the party?

JACOB

I was kind of thinking my rooftop? Might be cheaper.

JORDAN EDELMAN

I'm sure we can work something out with the landlords. Let's aim for next week. Does Saturday work?

CUT TO:

INT. SYNAGOGUE - LATER

Jacob and Jordan sit over a Torah portion: Parshat Va'etchanan.

JORDAN EDELMAN

This will be your Torah portion for the date you want your bar mitzvah.

JACOB

So I have to read this?

JORDAN EDELMAN

Yes - since we're speeding you through I'm obviously not going to teach you Hebrew but please be able to speak the English clearly and concisely. Have you ever acted?

JACOB

Yeah, in high school.

JORDAN EDELMAN

Ok - you're acting. Give us a show.

JACOB

Sweet.

JORDAN EDELMAN

So repeat after me.

Jordan drags his finger across the Hebrew words.

JORDAN EDELMAN (CONT'D)
I entreated the Lord at that time,
saying...

JACOB
I entreated the Lord at that time,
saying...

CUT TO:

INT. SYNAGOGUE - LATER

Jacob says his words with emphasis - acting with the best of his abilities.

JACOB
But the Lord was angry with me
because of you, and He did not
listen to me, and the Lord said to
me, "It is enough for you; speak to
Me no more regarding this matter.

JORDAN EDELMAN
YES! Go on!

JACOB
Go up to the top of the hill and
lift up your eyes westward and
northward and southward and
eastward and see with your eyes,
for you shall not cross this
Jordan.

JORDAN EDELMAN
YOU'RE A NATURAL!

Jacob gets up and puts on a huge show for Jordan. He steps up on the table.

JACOB
But.... YOU who cleave to the Lord
your God are alive, all of you,
this day!!!!

The table breaks and Jacob comes falling to the floor. Jordan can't stop laughing.

JORDAN EDELMAN
Maybe this won't be as hard as I
thought.

CUT TO:

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jacob is cleaning his apartment. He's dusting and sweeping and mopping.

For the first time we see that the apartment has potential to be somewhat decent looking.

He throws away his bongos and drug paraphernalia.

CUT TO:

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - LATER

Jacob sits at his kitchen table typing away furiously at the computer.

It's revealed that Jacob is writing a cover letter for a job.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHECK ZELL JEWISH SCHOOL - MORNING

Jacob walks into the school. He passes Adam on his way in.

ADAM

Jake, my man! You want to come to Coney Island with me and a coupla drinking buddies this weekend?

He stares at Jacob for a while.

JACOB

Oh, actually I'm good. I'm going to be practicing my Torah section. By the way...

Jacob pulls a card out of his bag. It's an invitation for his Bar Mitzvah. On the cover it says Jacob McFoley's 2000s Bar Mitzvah Bash.

It has a picture of him poorly photoshopped next to Britney Spears and The Backstreet Boys.

ADAM

2000s, huh? I remember the early 2000s like it was yesterday.

JACOB

Yeah, I figured, y'know when I was originally supposed to have my bar mitzvah in like 2008.

(MORE)

JACOB (CONT'D)

So I'm going to have it themed to be that year. You know play all the hits from then. Smash Mouth, Avril Lavigne, Napoleon Dynamite etc...

ADAM

Don't forget The Notebook!

JACOB

The Notebook. Yeah so just bring your early 2000s self.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHECK CLASSROOM - LATER

Jacob is handing out invitations to his bar mitzvah. He hands them to all the kids, even Ezekiel.

He gives one to Avraham who takes a look at the card.

AVRAHAM

What in the highest heaven is this?

JACOB

I hope to see you there.

As the bell rings Jacob gets in front of the class.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Hey everyone, as you can see my bar mitzvah will be in two weekends. You guys have taught me a lot and I'd like you to all be there. It's going to be at Temple Beth Shalom in Crown Heights. Come dressed in your best early 2000s clothes. If you don't know what that means, ask your parents, maybe they have stuff.

DAVID

I was born in 2010!

JACOB

Jesus. Okay, well I hope to see you all there.

CUT TO:

EXT. MADDIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jacob stands outside Maddie's apartment with a note. We don't see what it says. He makes a paper airplane and throws it into her apartment.

CUT TO:

INT. SYNAGOGUE - NIGHT

Jacob and Jordan are studying text together. Jacob is trying to pronounce certain Hebrew words.

JORDAN
Very good. Very nice. YOU HAVE
INSTINCT!

Jacob puts his head down in a book. Jordan shakes him.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Jake? Are you okay?

JACOB
I don't know. What if I can't do
it. Maybe I'm not ready.

JORDAN
Jacob. Nobody is ever ready. King
Jacob's last words to his son
Solomon were, "I am going the way
of all the earth, and you should
strengthen yourself and become a
man."

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Strengthen yourself, Jake.

Jacob sits up and starts writing in a pad.

CUT TO:

INT. SYNAGOGUE - MORNING

It's the morning of Jacob's bar mitzvah. Jordan stands in front of all of Jacob's friends and family.

His mother and Henry, Elliott, Chaim, Effy, Adam and the rest of his class. Everyone is dressed in early 2000s clothing.

Jacob looks around for someone but can't find them.

Jordan speaks in his ASMR whisper talk.

JORDAN EDELMAN

Gggggggggooooood morning, everyone.
How are we tttttttoday.
Lccccccchhhaaaaaiiiiiimmmmm.

As he says l'chaim a bunch of spit comes out on the microphone. He wipes it off.

JORDAN EDELMAN (CONT'D)

Today, we are here to celebrate, a young boy who grew up before my eyes. Jaccccccobbbbb. I have worked very close with Jacob over the past few weeks and his dedication to growing up and becoming a bigger man has
assssssssttttoouuuunddeeedd me.

Henry calls out from the crowd.

HENRY

Oh, for god's sake! Enough with this disgusting talk.

JORDAN EDELMAN

Sorry, everyone. I am also a Jewish ASMR specialist. If you would like me to soothe you to sleep please look me up on YouTube: JSMR300. Anywho, Jacob will be reading a portion of the Torah today, Parshat Va'etchanan.

Jordan looks around for Jacob. He's nowhere to be found.

JORDAN EDELMAN (CONT'D)

Has anyone seen the bar mitzvah boy?

CUT TO:

JACOB'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

His alarm is ringing. He shoots awake. Throws on some clothes and is out the door.

CUT TO:

INT. SYNAGOGUE - CONTINUOUS

The crowd is starting to get bored. People are starting to leave.

Debby and Henry get up and start towards the exit.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Jacob is rushing down the street, he has early 2000s clothes on as well as a yarmulke and tallit. He rushes into the synagogue.

CUT TO:

INT. SYNAGOGUE - CONTINUOUS

JORDAN EDELMAN

Well, I guess he's not showing up.
Alright everyone -

The doors SMASH open and Jacob comes in, slow mo, early 2000s beat blasting.

Jacob swaggers his way up to the bima and smiles. He gives.

JACOB

Sorry I'm late, everyone.

He looks to the crowd. And at his mom.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Hey mom.

Jacob clears his throat. He looks very nervous. He starts to sing his Torah portion.

JACOB (CONT'D)

I entreated the Lord at that time,
saying,

Jacob clears his throat again.

Suddenly the doors SLAM OPEN again. Maddie comes in dressed in full early 2000s attire. Light blue conductor cap, pink crop top, dark low rise jeans. She makes her way to a seat.

Jacob sees her and smiles. She smiles back at him.

Jacob clears his throat.

JACOB (CONT'D)

O Lord God, You have begun to show
Your servant Your greatness and
Your strong hand, for who is [like]
God in heaven or on earth who can
do as Your deeds and Your might?

Beat.

JACOB (CONT'D)

PRAY let me cross over and see the
good land that is on the other side
of the Jordan, this good mountain
and the LEBANON.

Jacob moves around ferociously.

JACOB (CONT'D)

But the Lord was ANGRY... with me
because of you, and He did not
listen to me, and the Lord said to
me, "It is enough for you; speak to
Me no more regarding this matter.

Adam starts to clap his hands to the beat. The crowd follows.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Go up to the top of the hill and
lift up your eyes westward and
northward and southward and
eastward and see with your eyes,
for you shall not cross this
JORDAN!!!

Effy is sitting next to Rachel with his arm around her.
They're both smiling.

JACOB (CONT'D)

But command Joshua and strengthen
him and encourage him, for he will
cross over before this people, and
he will make them inherit the land
which YOU WILL SEE!!!!

Debby and Henry watch Jacob. Debby is crying. Henry looks
over at her and shakes his head.

Jacob goes out into the aisle and screams on his knees.

JACOB (CONT'D)

AND WE ABIDED IN THE VALLEY

OPPOSITE BETH PEOR.

There is a moment of silence and everybody applauds.

JORDAN EDELMAN

Ok, Jacob come back up here,
please.

JACOB

Sorry - coming.

JORDAN EDELMAN

Jacob - why don't you tell everyone
about your mitzvah project.

JACOB

So for my mitzvah project I am
choosing to help out a charity that
combats bullying. And that is why
I'm donating all the money that
everyone is giving me towards that
charity. I will also be helping out
with them a few times a month.

Everyone claps.

JACOB (CONT'D)

I'm not sure that's supposed to get
claps. Who knows? I never had a bar
mitzvah. I've only been to one or
two. But anyways, I just wanted to
take this time to apologize to
anyone I ever may have hurt in the
past.

Jacob looks directly at Effy. He then looks at Debby and
Henry.

JACOB (CONT'D)

I was a 27 year old baby. And in
many ways I still am but I think
this is at least the next step to
becoming a toddler. I love you all!

Jacob puts the peace signs up and walks offstage.

A thunderous applause ensues.

CUT TO:

EXT. JACOB'S ROOFTOP - NIGHT

There are about fifty people on Jacob's roof. Everyone is dancing to the classic 2000s hits. The DJ looks like a creepy old man that Jacob found on Craigslist for a hundred bucks. He speaks with a big lisp.

Everyone is doing the Cha Cha Slide.

CUT TO:

EXT. JACOB'S ROOFTOP - LATER

Effy and Rachel are sitting next to each other under the tent.

EFFY

Yeah, I mean. I'm thinking about going for Varsity next year. You know, just got hit the gym a little harder, you know?

RACHEL

That's so.... Hot.

Effy smiles and kisses her on the cheek.

Jacob walks over to Maddie.

JACOB

The outfit is awesome.

MADDIE

Dude, early 2000s is my jam.

JACOB

Thanks for coming. Can we go to dinner tomorrow?

She thinks about it and smiles.

MADDIE

I'll think about it.

He goes in to kiss her. They embrace.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOFTOP - LATER

Jacob walks around from group to group. He stops at Chaim.

Chaim and the rest of the Orthodox stoners are all sitting around and smoking a joint.

CHAIM

Hey, congrats brother! You want
toke?

Jacob shakes his head no.

Adam comes up to Jacob and pats him on the shoulder. He is standing next to his new boyfriend, who is clearly not 6'2" and probably more like 5'2".

ADAM

Jacob, mazel tov! You're a man!

JACOB

Thanks, Adam.

ADAM

You know what a man needs? A job.

JACOB

Yeah, I've been looking for one.

ADAM

We have an assistant basketball coach job opening up in the fall if you're interested. I know it's not exactly a career path but I think you'd be perfect for it.

JACOB

That sounds great. Let's talk about it.

The DJ shouts loudly.

DJ

Alright, now, everyone, it's time to really get funky. It's time for the Horah!

Everyone dances the Horah. First Debby is lifted up on the chair. She looks extremely intoxicated but is enjoying it thoroughly. Henry is lifted up next. He doesn't like it at all and keeps a stern frown on. Next up is Adam, who is enjoying it way too much. After that Effy gets on, he falls off and laughs.

And finally Jacob is lifted up in the chair. He has a huge grin on his face.

He's lifted up and down in slow motion.

Superimposed is the title: How to Have to Have a Bar Mitzvah
in 30 Days

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. SYNAGOGUE - AFTERNOON

AS THE CREDITS ROLL

Jacob and Jordan sit next to each other with a laptop in
front of them. On the laptop is a screenwriting software with
the title: The Angryman

JORDAN EDELMAN

Ok.... Interior - Nazi prison camp.

JACOB

No, no, no. How are we gonna do
that?

JORDAN EDELMAN

Ok... Interior - Brooklyn
apartment, night.

JACOB

I like Queens more.

JORDAN EDELMAN

Yes - queens has lots of angry
people, GENIUS!

CUT TO

THE ANGRYMAN, played by Rabbi Edelman is dressed up in a
red suit with a Big A in the middle. A RACIST PERSON walks by
him on the street.

RACIST PERSON

JEW!

THE ANGRYMAN

What did you just call me?

PERSON

I said, JEW!

The Angryman kicks the man's ass. POW, BLAM, KICK all show up
on the screen in comic book font.

CUT TO:

INT. SYNAGOGUE - LATER

Jacob and Jordan are sitting around the computer smiling.

JORDAN EDELMAN

Amazing.

JACOB

I think this could get into
Sundance.

THE END.