

SEAN
(1st SCENE*)

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WILLY
Come on. That music is just black people getting even with us for slavery.

(then, noticing table)
Where's the half-and-half?

ROSA
We're out.

WILLY
Liar.

ROSA
You don't need it.

She grabs a carton of skim milk from the counter and puts it in front of him.

WILLY
Don't make me go into the kitchen and get the good stuff.

ROSA
(calling his bluff)
Go into the kitchen.

WILLY
(beat, then)
Skim's fine.

ROSA
(re: kitchen)
You think Ronnie heard your blues thing, don't you?

Reveal Ronnie, a black short order cook, staring at Willy through kitchen window.

~~WILLY
It's cool like he heard it.~~

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER THAT NIGHT

Willy sits at a table with his son, SEAN (smart, somewhat caustic), his dad LEO (ancient, hearing aid wearing, retired cab driver) and his ex-wife VANESSA (attractive, takes no crap).

SEAN
Thanks for coming tonight. I know we don't usually all get together.

WILLY
(to Vanessa)
It's nice.

START

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VANESSA
(ignoring him, to Sean)
What's going on, honey?

SEAN
I have an announcement.

WILLY
Is it about Andrew? Because I
noticed he's not here.

SEAN
Yes.

LEO
Is the phase over?

SEAN
Nope, still gay, Grandpa. In fact,
I'm going to propose to my
boyfriend.

LEO
Tuning out.

Leo turns off his hearing aid.

VANESSA
Ignore him. This is such exciting
news, honey!

WILLY
Is it?

SEAN
Here it comes. You don't like
Andrew.

WILLY
I always saw you with more of an
Anderson Cooper type.

SEAN
A "less gay" gay guy?

WILLY
(waves hands a la Andrew)
Someone less "gesture-y". With
money. Plus, he's conceited.

SEAN
He's not conceited, Dad.

Willy pulls out his phone like he's on a call and then holds
up one finger indicating "wait".

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WILLY

He gave me the "I'm on the phone"
finger in my own apartment.
(gesturing dramatically)
Like he's talking to Obama!

SEAN

Now who's gesture-y?

Willy stops gesturing. Leo notices Willy on the phone, turns on his hearing aid.

LEO

(re: phone)
Is that your Uncle Tony?

WILLY

(puts down phone)
It's nobody.

LEO

Really? Because he owes me a call.

WILLY

Then why the hell would he call me?
We're still talking about the
boyfriend.

Leo turns off his hearing aid. Willy turns to Sean.

WILLY (CONT'D)

I'm just saying; are the oats sown?

VANESSA

Willy, enough.

WILLY

Because it's nothing but green-
lights out there for you dude-wise.
Seriously, who's stopping the
manwich? It's like the NFL without
refs.

SEAN

Get on board, Dad. I love Andrew.
And I'm going to surprise him with
a flash mob proposal.

VANESSA

Please say we're in it.

SEAN

Rehearsal is Wednesday night.

She claps.

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Handwritten scribbles and the word "cut" in large letters.

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WILLY

Rehearsal? Is this going to be like one of your musicals?

SEAN

You mean graceful and moving and life affirming? Yes. Andrew will be working the bar at Kincaids. "I Want to Marry You" by Bruno Mars will come over the speakers and bam, you guys and all of our friends will break out into a choreographed dance routine and I'll propose.

(pointedly, to Willy)

Try to stay awake.

WILLY

Are you referencing Hairspray again

--

SEAN

I am.

WILLY

-- Because I wasn't the only one who dozed off during that thing.

SEAN

It was the first thing I ever choreographed!

WILLY

It was ten years ago! Let it go. You're like a gay elephant.

VANESSA

I think the proposal sounds amazing.

SEAN

I hope so. I want it to be special because we're not doing a big wedding. We're saving our money for a place. Maybe in Oradell.

WILLY

New Jersey? Something wrong with Queens?

SEAN

Is that a real question?

(then)

You know I've always dreamed of getting out of the city, maybe buying a house with a yard.

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VANESSA

It's a great dream.
(to Willy)
And you? Be more supportive.

LEO

(turning on hearing aid)
Is the queer stuff over?

WILLY

(re: Leo)
I'm more supportive than him.

EXT. RESTAURANT - LATER THAT NIGHT

It's after dinner and everyone's left except Willy and Vanessa, who stand outside the restaurant.

WILLY

You really like Andrew?

VANESSA

If my son loves him, then I do.

WILLY

Are you giving a press conference?

VANESSA

I want Sean to be happy. It's called unconditional love.

WILLY

There's nothing wrong with a few conditions. It keeps a kid sharp.

VANESSA

You should write a book on fatherhood.

WILLY

I miss you.

VANESSA

You shouldn't have cheated.

WILLY

I cheated once. That's barely cheating. A lot of wives would've let it go.

VANESSA

Sheila was our neighbor!

WILLY

It was a crime of convenience, not passion. I thought of you the whole time.

END
OF
1st
SCENE

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SEAN

(2nd SENE)

Willy hands him the check and Nishi shakes his hand.

NISHI
It looks like we have a deal.

WILLY
Finally! Yes! My own cab!

Willy holds up his hands in victory and then pops his air cushion with his key. Nishi smiles.

WILLY (CONT'D)
Now do I get an actual medallion?
Because I'm all about loud jewelry.

NISHI
This is also a big moment for me,
you know.
(Nishi holds up check)
I am sending my son to Columbia.
He's wanted to go there all his
life...

Nishi starts to get emotional. Willy puts his arm around him.

WILLY
Hold it together. The Ethiopians
are gossipy.

NISHI
I'm giving my kid his dream, Willy.
Isn't that what it's all about?

As this hits Willy, we;

EXT. NEW JERSEY HOUSE - NEXT DAY

Willy pulls up in his cab in front of a small, but cute suburban house. Sean and Andrew are in the backseat. Willy gets out and opens the door for Sean. Andrew starts to join them. Willy stops him.

WILLY
Give us a minute, please.

Andrew throws up his hands and gets back in the car.

SEAN
Why does he have to stay in the
cab?

WILLY
Because he'll ruin the moment.

SEAN
What moment?

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START

WILLY

This moment.

Willy gestures to the house.

SEAN

I'm at a loss.

WILLY

Your Mom said I was a selfish bastard and she wasn't wrong. I haven't been there for you during this whole proposal thing. If I'm honest, I haven't been there for you a lot. We were always so different, I didn't know how to connect. I wanted to watch the Giants, you were coming up with dance routines for that school play with the witches --

SEAN

Wicked. Again, you fell asleep.

WILLY

I could not keep my eyes open. (off Sean's look, sincere) But I should've. I should've done a lot of things differently. But hey, it's never too late for a comeback, right?

He tosses Sean some keys and gestures to the house.

WILLY (CONT'D)

Happy wedding, son.

SEAN

You bought us this house?

WILLY

No, those are my cab keys. It's symbolic. But I'm giving you the down payment for your dream house. In the promised land.

(re: around him)

New Jersey.

Willy hands him a check.

SEAN

Isn't this your medallion money?

WILLY

I can wait a couple of years for the next one.

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Sean stares at the check.

SEAN
It's too much, Dad.

WILLY
For you? Not even close.

Sean gives his Dad a big hug.

SEAN
Thank you.
(then)
Can Andrew come out of the cab?

WILLY
(still hugging)
Not yet.

As Willy enjoys a nice long hug alone with his son, we;

INT. DINER - A FEW DAYS LATER

Willy sits down at his usual booth. Rosa crosses over.

ROSA
What's new?

WILLY
I just dropped off my divorce papers.

ROSA
I'm sorry, Willy.

WILLY
Hey, it is what it is. Time for a new beginning.

ROSA
I'll get you some half-and-half.

WILLY
Finally.

She heads into the kitchen. She starts singing "I Want a Little Sugar in My Bowl" to herself.

WILLY (CONT'D)
What are you singing?

ROSA (O.S)
Nina Simone. The blues.

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