

CASEY. Please gimme more time, Eddie. I was just starting to make things work.

EDDIE. Listen Casey, you're a great Elvis. I could watch you every night. But most nights, I *am* the only one watching you. I got a business to run and I'm trying not to run it into the ground.

CASEY. Please gimme some time. Jo and I just found out we're expecting.

TRACY. Oh! Congratulations, honey! That's wonderful. I'm sorry baby, tell me your name again.

CASEY. Casey.

TRACY. I'm real sorry you can't do your act anymore, Casey. I'm a performer, too. I get it, sugar, I surely do. But there is still an important role for you to play in our endeavor. Why don't you stay on and help us out? We're still gonna need a bartender. Every good bar needs a good-looking, / personable, young—

REXY. Muscular, hung, versatile—

TRACY. Shut up, Rexy.

What do you say, sugar? We are going to turn this bar into a primo destination, you'll see. We'll all be making money soon.

Tracy turns to Eddie before Casey can answer.

Oh Eddie, isn't this exciting??? It's like a small family business. / Mamma always said—

EDDIE. Family's only gonna get you so far, you understand me? This is my business, not our business. You make me money, we got no problems. If you don't, there's the door. Are we clear?

TRACY. Cristal, I won't let you down.

EDDIE. Now I don't wanna hear a peep outta this dressing room until after my nap.

Eddie exits.

CASEY. But Eddie, can't we talk about maybe sharing the space or something?

REXY. I wanna see the stage. And the bar. You know drag queens drink free, right?

Rexy exits, pursuing Eddie. Awkward moment between Tracy

and Casey.

TRACY. You know, when Eddie said he had an Elvis impersonator... well, I was thinking more Graceland than Ed Sullivan. I bet you're really good.

CASEY. I am.

TRACY. I do hope you'll stay on, regardless. I bet we'll all get along just fine.

Scene 3: Casey and Jo's Apartment

Casey sits on his sofa, strumming his guitar. His disappointment is palpable.

START

JASON. (Off.) Casey!

Jason enters. He is played by the same actor playing REXY.

Casey! What's up, my man?

CASEY. Hey Jason, how's it going?

JASON. This a bad time?

CASEY. Nah, man. I was just noodlin'.

JASON. It's been a while since I heard you play that thing. Go on and play me one of your songs.

CASEY. Not tonight, man. I don't really feel up to it.

Casey puts the guitar away.

JASON. How 'bout a flick, then? I bought a six-pack and the new Steven Seagal movie. *Blood Justice 6: Rampage of the Innocent.*

CASEY. Jo's gonna be home soon. I probably shouldn't / start a movie.

JASON. Well you can sure as shit start a beer.

Jason opens two beers, hands one to Casey.

Man, it's been great having you guys living here.

CASEY. Yeah. It's fun being close by.

JASON. Yeah.

It's like when we were kids and we used to bike to each other's houses.

CASEY. Only now I'm just across the driveway.

JASON. Right? Beer good?

CASEY. Yeah, man. It's good.

JASON. You hungry? We got some pizza over at the house.

CASEY. Nah, man, I'm good.

JASON. You sure? Because I know how much you like pizza.

CASEY. What's not to like?

JASON. Especially that Papa John's...

CASEY. *(Lightbulb.)* Yeah. Right. About that...

JASON. You don't gotta explain it to me, brother. Papa John's is some good shit. Problem is it's not the first time you've been late with the rent.

CASEY. Yeah, I know.

JASON. And if you're late with the rent, I'm late with my mortgage payment. You see how that works?

CASEY. Yeah, I understand.

JASON. Cool man.

A beat, then:

So, maybe you can gimme the money now?

CASEY. Thing is I don't have any money right now.

JASON. Yeah. Yeah, I get that.

Another beat.

The thing is, see...if you can't pay the rent, Sherry's well...we're gonna have to get new tenants in here.

CASEY. Jason, come on man, please.

JASON. I am not the rule-maker here. Sherry's in charge, you know that.

CASEY. Can't you talk to her about it?

JASON. Not if I wanna see tomorrow.

CASEY. Maybe I could do some roofing work for you, help you pay off the debt.

JASON. If I had the work, I'd give it to you. Hell, if it were up to me,

you guys would live here rent free. But it ain't up to me. It's up to Sherry. And my bank. And Gulf Power. And the water company. Plus my kids.

CASEY. Oh! So...guess what? Jo and I are having a baby.

JASON. Wait, are you serious?

CASEY. Yeah, we just found out.

JASON. Oh wow. Holy shit, Casey, that's amazing!

CASEY. Thanks. We're both excited.

JASON. You should be, man. Kids are awesome. I love both of mine.

CASEY. You got three kids, Jason.

JASON. Yeah, I know.

We're gonna celebrate. This weekend. Understand? We're gonna fire up the grill. We're gonna get some steaks from Winn-Dixie. Gonna do it up right!

CASEY. Yeah, baby! Okay.

JASON. But first you gotta pay us the rent.

END

Jo enters.

Hey Jo!

JO. Jason, hey. Listen, about the rent—

JASON. Casey just told me the good news. / Congratulations!

JO. He did, did he?

JASON. You two are gonna have some beautiful babies. Not like mine and Sherry's. They kept telling me the more I love them the cuter they'll get but that has not happened yet. You two, though... holy shit, you're just gonna spring forth some beauty into the world.

JO. Thank you, Jason.

CASEY. Hey, if it's a boy, we're gonna name it after you.

JO. We're still figuring all that out.

JASON. Hey, I'd better git. Y'all are gonna be some kick-ass parents. Night, Jo. Congratulations!

JO. Thank you, Jason.

Jason exits.

CASEY. Hey baby, how was work?