

THE WARHOL INSTITUTE FOR THE FORGOTTEN FAMOUS

Written by

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CHARACTERS

JACQUELINE (30'S)

Her real name is Barbara. Jacqueline is the persona she uses to shield herself from the past. Her hero is Jack Nicholson and wants to emulate the characters he plays. She is unruly rebellious and likes to cause trouble.

NATASHA (30's)

Overachiever with a brilliant mind but very insecure. Wants attention to prove she is good at what she does but always falls short at everything she sets out to do.

LENNY (20's)

Another brilliant mind and very introverted. He wants people to listen to what he has to say but no-one will. Still lives with his mum.

MARVIN (20's)

Athletic, well built man. Sports freak but only plays lame sports like Ultimate Frisbee. Gets sexually aroused when he tumbles down stairs.

THERAPIST (40's)

Spinsterish appearance. Comes across as overly polite but knows how to use her authority when she has to. Cares about her patients, even though Jacqueline always rubs her up the wrong way.

ACT I

SCENE 1

A therapist session. The room has five chairs. Natasha, Jacqueline, Lenny & Marvin are all patients at the institute. The Therapist moderates the session.

THERAPIST

Good afternoon everyone. And how are we feeling today?

Everyone acknowledges with an apathetic murmur.

THERAPIST

Oh, come now. Let's see those cheery smiley faces.

There is a vain attempt by all to put on a happy face.

THERAPIST

Much better. Now we have two new guests joining us today Natasha & Jacqueline. Let's make them feel welcome.

Mild applause from the rest of the group. Jacqueline looks like someone who has escaped from Cuckoos Nest.

THERAPIST

Natasha, Jacqueline - this is Lenny & Marvin.

JACQUELINE

How you doing? So who do I gotta screw to get a snort in this hell-hole?

THERAPIST

Miss Miller. We do not....snort here.

JACQUELINE

I know, Doc. Just pulling your chain. Little joke. Persons gotta have a sense of humour, you know.

The Therapist simply smiles, trying
to keep it together.

THERAPIST

Lenny, Marvin, let's introduce ourselves to our new guests.
Lenny, let's start with you.

LENNY

Hey, Lenny. You've probably seen me on You Tube squirting a
water pistol up the Prime Ministers nose.

JACQUELINE

That was you? Man, that was awesome.

LENNY

Thanks.

MARVIN

Name's Marvin. And I could've been a contender.

NATASHA

Boxing?

MARVIN

Ultimate Frisbee.

NATASHA

What happened?

MARVIN

The scandals ruined me. All the sex, drugs, gambling. It's a
tough sport, you know. Guy's gotta unwind somehow.

THERAPIST

So, Natasha, welcome to the Warhol institute for the
forgotten famous.

JACQUELINE

That's a hell of a long name. Have you considered shortening
it?

THERAPIST

And what might you suggest, Jacqueline ?

JACQUELINE

I don't know. How about Loony Bin for Looser.

THERAPIST

Hardly appropriate.

JACQUELINE

But accurate.

THERAPIST

Natasha, would you like to tell us why you are here.

NATASHA

I'm a looser.

JACQUELINE

There you go.

NATASHA

I come third in everything I try. I have been on every reality show there is and I always end up being third.

THERAPIST

Third isn't so bad. Why does it bother you?

NATASHA

Nobody ever remembers the person who came third in anything.

THERAPIST

I'm not sure that's entirely true.

NATASHA

Really? Do you remember the third president of the United States? Or the third person to climb Everest? How about the third guy to set foot on the moon?

THERAPIST

History was never my strongest subject.

NATASHA

I can do all these amazing things. I can sing, I can cook, I can even build a house, I can do magic, I CAN EVEN JUGGLE CHAINSAWS! But no-one remembers me because I'm always in third place.

JACQUELINE

The chainsaw thing, do you throw in a couple of kittens?

NATASHA

What?

THERAPIST

The point is you feel ignored because your vast range of talents & achievements have gone unappreciated by the general public.

NATASHA

Yeah, I guess.

THERAPIST

Exactly the reason this institute was built. So people such as yourself can re-adjust into normal society after having your moment in the spotlight.

NATASHA

But I don't want to be normal. What is the point of being like everyone else?

JACQUELINE

Amen to that sister.

NATASHA

I have a multitude of creative talents, I speak several languages....

JACQUELINE

Can you speak Klingon?

NATASHA

Actually I can.

JACQUELINE

Cool.

NATASHA

I have degrees in Astronomy & Physics, qualified in first aid & CPR, I have black belts in three martial arts, Licensed in a number of weapons, I am even a world class trivia champion.

JACQUELINE

Such an underachiever. And I bet you can't get a date on Saturday.

NATASHA

I was on "Get the Bachelor" & I was the second runner up. I didn't even get a carnation.

THERAPIST

Jacqueline, please stop interrupting. Exactly how many reality shows have you been on?

NATASHA

All of them. I've been on Survival of the fittest, Bust that Bulge, Show us your talent, Dance till you drop. D.I.Y House, Can you Cook? You name it I've been on it. AND I ALWAYS CAME THIRD.

THERAPIST

I can see why that would be disappointing.

NATASHA

All I want is a little acknowledgement. That's all. I don't want to be the person that everyone has forgotten.

THERAPIST

Of course & we're here to help you through that.

THERAPIST

So, Miss Miller. Tell us why you're here.

JACQUELINE

To tell you the truth, doc. I don't know what the hell I'm doing here. The judge said it was this or jail. So I thought... Hey, give it a shot. What's the worst that could happen?

THERAPIST

Your record seems... Very colourful.

JACQUELINE

Well, I don't like to brag.

THERAPIST

I see you dressed up as a clown wearing purple suits and terrorized people.

JACQUELINE

Every time, I looked in the mirror and said Wait till they get a look at me. I had to laugh

MARVIN

Guess the joke was on you.

THERAPIST

Says you also ran amok in a hotel.

JACQUELINE

That's true.

THERAPIST

They found the note you had written. All work and no play makes Jacky a dull girl.

JACQUELINE

It was a work trip and I was bored.

THERAPIST

You tried to smash down a hotel door with an Ax yelling here's Jacky.

JACQUELINE

That door wasn't much chop.

THERAPIST

This is not your first time in therapy is it?

JACQUELINE

Something tells me you already know that

THERAPIST

Says you've been committed before and you caused disruption and unruliness in the ward. It says you convinced a fellow inmate to rip out a drinking fountain and throw it through a window,

JACQUELINE

I may have said a few things...

THERAPIST

Well, let me tell you a few things Miss Miller.

JACQUELINE

Call me Jacky.

THERAPIST

I will not tolerate that type of recklessness in my ward. There will be no illegal card games, drinking or any disruption to the daily routine. Do I make myself clear?

JACQUELINE

You know you're eyes sparkle when you're angry.

THERAPIST

Have I made myself clear?

JACQUELINE

Do you want the truth?

THERAPIST

I want an answer.

JACQUELINE

No, you don't want an answer because you're afraid of what I will say. You're afraid I will tell everyone in this room what you're really feeling right now and you don't want that. You need me here in this ward. You need to control me because the alternative is too horrifying to contemplate. You want to know the truth, you can't handle the truth.

LENNY

What truth?

JACQUELINE

That she's sexually attracted to me.

THERAPIST

THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

JACQUELINE

I SAW THE WAY YOU LOOKED AT ME WHEN I WALKED IN. I KNEW THE SECOND I LAID EYES ON YOU THAT YOU WANT ME!

THERAPIST

That's not true.

JACQUELINE

Face it; you've been having weird sexual fantasies about me the second I sat down. You were loving every bit of that report.

THERAPIST

It's not true I tell you.

JACQUELINE

It gives you a thrill to be in the same room as a dangerous criminal.

THERAPIST

No, you're wrong. I wasn't looking at you. I'm asexual. I can't believe I said that out loud. That was your fault.

Ashamed, the therapist realizes what she has accidentally said & rushes

out of the room.

JACQUELINE

Boy, did I get that wrong.

LIGHTS FADE

SCENE 2

The four patients & the therapist
have assembled again for another
group therapy session.

THERAPIST

Well, how are we all today?

General murmur of fine okay, but
without much enthusiasm.

THERAPIST

Okay. Marvin, I'd like to start with you today. Tell us about
your time playing ultimate Frisbee.

MARVIN

It was brutal. The coach was on our backs all the time. Throw
that Frisbee harder, throw it higher, that is the worst
backspin I have ever seen. What's the matter with you? My
three year old could throw better than you.

THERAPIST

Did he ever give you any positive criticism?

MARVIN

Not a damn word. Just hours & hours of faster harder, better.

Jacqueline is snickering under her
breath.

MARVIN

What's so funny?

JACQUELINE

You were throwing a stupid plastic plate, how hard could it
be?

MARVIN

It wasn't a plate! It was a finely tuned, aerodynamically

perfected, athletic tool.

JACQUELINE

Oh, give me a break, you threw a toy.

MARVIN

It wasn't a toy.

JACQUELINE

It was a toy, My brother and I used to play with them when we were kids.

THERAPIST

Jacqueline, I don't need to remind you that we keep our feedback civil in these sessions.

JACQUELINE

He's crying because he couldn't throw a toy.

MARVIN

I TOLD YOU, IT'S NOT A TOY!

JACQUELINE

IT'S A STUPID TOY! What, you couldn't get into a REAL sport so you thought playing with toys was a good option?

THERAPIST

ENOUGH! If you continue in this antagonistic matter I will be forced to ask you to leave this session.

Jacqueline make a motion that she will zip her lip.

THERAPIST

Continue Marvin.

MARVIN

The pressure started getting to me, you know. Started drinking, taking drugs, gambling. It started to affect my performance on the field.

THERAPIST

Do you want to talk about the...incident.

MARVIN

Do I have to?

THERAPIST

It helps to talk about these things.

MARVIN
(reluctant)

It was during the finals. Had a little too much happy juice before the game. Couldn't really see straight. Anyway, it was my turn to throw...and..do I really have to talk about this?

The therapist nods.

MARVIN
It was embarrassing. The Frisbee flew off course and hit this guy eating a hot dog in the head. He was choking on the hot dog, bumped this old lady drinking a soda. The soda spilled over the side & shorted an electrical board. The board caught fire, set the stand alight, everyone panicked, they stampeded onto the field. The poor mascot got trampled and it all went out live on TV.

JACQUELINE
Don't see that on ESPN.

MARVIN
Coach was pretty mad and I don't blame him. Got suspended for three months. Never the same after that.

THERAPIST
That wasn't the only reason for your decline was it Marvin?

MARVIN
Do we have to talk about that?

THERAPIST
I think we should.

MARVIN
It's kind of personal.

THERAPIST
Everything said in this room is confidential. Nothing leaves this room.

They all look at Jacqueline.

JACQUELINE
Hey, I may be a nut case but I'm no snitch.

MARVIN

I get turned on falling down stairs.

LENNY

Whoa!

MARVIN

It satisfies me, sexually.

JACQUELINE

You get you rocks off tumbling.

THERAPIST

It's a condition called Climacophilia.

JACQUELINE

Oh, come on. You just made that up.

THERAPIST

No. It's a very rare and very real condition.

JACQUELINE

So to get you all horny, I just have to push you down the stairs.

MARVIN

Uh..yeah, kinda.

JACQUELINE

I bet a skyscraper stairway would be orgasmic heaven to you.

Marvin is visibly uncomfortable
talking about this.

THERAPIST

Let's move on shall we.

MARVIN

So, anyway. I kinda kept this to myself. Didn't want any embarrassing conversations, you know. Then..uh..well. During the nationals we were staying at this plush hotel. Saw this beautiful grand staircase. Rich red carpeting, gold handrails, two flights of stairs. Kinda like in those old movies. I couldn't help myself...

JACQUELINE

You fell in love.

The therapist gives Jacqueline a warning look, she backs off.

MARVIN

It was late, I looked around, there was no-one there. I thought I could get away with it. So, I let myself go & I tumbled & tumbled & tumbled & it was great I felt wonderful & then when I got to the bottom I had the biggest smile on my face & I

Looks down at his crotch.

MARVIN

Well, anyway, next thing I know this kid stuck a phone in my face. Filmed the whole thing. Within an hour, damn video had gone viral.

LENNY

How many hits?

MARVIN

I don't know. A couple of million I think.

LENNY

Awesome, dude.

MARVIN

It ruined my career.

LENNY

But it made you a You-Tube hit.

MARVIN

I was a star athlete. I didn't need that kind of thing.

JACQUELINE

Yeah, you're the Michael Jordan of Frisbee.

MARVIN

I was the Michael Jordan of ULTIMATE FRISBEE.

JACQUELINE

Talk about lame claim to fame.

MARVIN

Okay, enough about me, let's talk about you. What's with the Jack Nicholson obsession?

JACQUELINE

I'm a fan.

MARVIN

You're a psycho.

JACQUELINE

And proud of it.

NATASHA

But why Jack Nicholson?

JACQUELINE

Cause he's the man. Nobody can play crazy like him. Remember, he won an Oscar for Cuckoo's nest.

NATASHA

But he's so...old.

JACQUELINE

I'd still jump him.

NATASHA

Oh, that's just off.

JACQUELINE

Nothing wrong with older me. Especially one's with experience.

MARVIN

So on top of being just weird you also got kinky sex issues?

JACQUELINE

Not at all. The first time I had sex I said "Are you sure mum said this was okay?"

NATASHA

Guess we should've seen that one coming.

JACQUELINE

So Lenny, you're kinda quiet. Let's talk about your sex life.

LENNY

I would if I had one.

JACQUELINE

C'mon, famous guy like you gotta have girls falling all over you.

LENNY

The only time a girl has fallen over me was when a crowded escalator suddenly stopped halfway. She got a broken collar bone & three cracked ribs.

JACQUELINE

That would've made a great video.

The Therapist give Jacqueline a look.

THERAPIST

I think that's enough for today. Same time tomorrow everyone.

Everyone gets out of there seats to leave. Jacqueline stops Lenny before he leaves.

JACQUELINE

Got a second?

LENNY

Sure.

JACQUELINE

You've been here the longest, you'd know your way around.

LENNY

Kinda.

JACQUELINE

Where do they keep the supplies?

LENNY

You mean the medications.

JACQUELINE

Sure.

LENNY

I'm not sure I should tell you that.

JACQUELINE

Don't worry. Not going to do anything bad, promise.

Lenny is not sure.

JACQUELINE

Seriously, nothing sinister.

Lenny looks around even though
there is no one else in the room.

LENNY

Follow me.

LIGHTS FADE

SCENE 3

Everyone has assembled again in the
same room. Except for Jacqueline &
Lenny, everyone seems a little off.

THERAPIST

How are we all today?

LENNY

Fine.

JACQUELINE

Cool.

MARVIN

BBBBUUUUUUUUURRRRRRRRRPPPPPP !!!!!

Natasha goes into a laughing fit.
She is laughing so hard she falls
out of her chair & starts rolling
on the floor.

THERAPIST

Natasha, are you alright?

JACQUELINE

Looks like someone had their happy pills this morning.

MARVIN

Uh, sorry I didn't mean too...

THERAPIST

It's alright Marvin.

MARVIN

Might've been the orange juice for breakfast.

THERAPIST

It's not your fault.

The Therapist & Marvin help Natasha
off the floor & back onto her
chair.

NATASHA

It's okay. I'm fine. Really, I'm okay.

MARVIN

BBBBBBBBBBUUUUUUUUUUUUURRRRRPPPPP!!!!

Natasha is on the floor again in
fits of laughter.

JACQUELINE

I want what she's having.

MARVIN

I am so sorry.

LENNY

Dude, manners.

MARVIN

It just came out. I.....

THERAPIST

It's alright Marvin.

They help Natasha back on her feet.

NATASHA

I'm good. It's okay, I'm fine.

She sits in her chair, takes a deep
breath and settles down.

THERAPIST

Would you like some water?

NATASHA

No, I'm okay. Don't know what came over me. Sorry about that.
Won't happen again. Promise.

Marvin let's loose with a ripper
fart so loud it would shatter

concrete. Natasha totally loses it.
Lenny, sitting next to Marvin,
becomes dizzy and starts to pass
out.

MARVIN

Oh God, I am so sorry.

JACQUELINE

Sure you didn't have baked beans with that orange juice?

MARVIN

This doesn't normally happen. I always eat right, You know.
I'm an Athlete, I take care of my body.

Another earthquake inducing fart.
This time Lenny is overcome &
passes out.

MARVIN

May I be excused?

THERAPIST

Of course.

Marvin starts to leave but stops.
he is holding his stomach in pain.

THERAPIST

Are you alright?

MARVIN

No. I don't feel so good.

THERAPIST

I'll take you to the nurse.

MARVIN (OS)

Okay. I.....Oh No. NO ! NO ! NO ! NO !

Marvin awkwardly runs out of the
room, When he is off stage we hear
the sound of a gross fart.

MARVIN

OH GOD!

Jacqueline looks outside where

Marvin ran.

JACQUELINE

Clean up in corridor three.

THERAPIST

Oh, dear.

The Therapist runs out. Jacqueline is the last one standing. She goes to see if Lenny is okay.

JACQUELINE

How you doing, buddy?

LENNY

Did a sewer pipe explode?

JACQUELINE

Close enough.

LENNY

This was your doing, wasn't it?

JACQUELINE

Guilty as charged.

LENNY

A little warning next time.

JACQUELINE

Sure thing.

They try & help Natasha to her feet.

JACQUELINE

Okay, parties over.

NATASHA

Oh god, I don't know what came over me.

JACQUELINE

Don't worry about it, I'm sure it will pass.

NATASHA

No, really. That's never happened to me before. I've always kept it together. I would never fall apart in a crisis.

LENNY

Hardly a crisis.

JACQUELINE

Marvin, might beg to differ.

NATASHA

Poor Marvin. Is he alright?

JACQUELINE

He'll be fine.

LENNY

Probably just something he ate.

LIGHTS FADE

SCENE 4

Jacqueline is waiting alone in the group therapy room. The therapist enters.

JACQUELINE

Room's kinda empty today. Everyone taking a sick day?

THERAPIST

I wanted to have a little chat, alone.

JACQUELINE

Okay. Why the special treatment?

THERAPIST

Where you in any way responsible for what happened to Marvin yesterday?

JACQUELINE

Is it my fault the man can't hold his baked beans?

THERAPIST

Did you sabotage Marvin's breakfast with laxatives?

JACQUELINE

Have you eaten in the canteen? Sabotage is hardly the word I'd use.

THERAPIST

Answer the question.

JACQUELINE

Which question is that?

THERAPIST

Did you lace Marvin's breakfast with extra strength laxatives?

JACQUELINE

Do you want the truth?

THERAPIST

Don't start.

JACQUELINE

Okay, I figured the big guy could lose a little weight. Get him back to his sporting body shape. I was doing him a favour, you know.

THERAPIST

You caused him unbearable pain and embarrassment.

JACQUELINE

But did he lose the kilos?

THERAPIST

Your television privileges are suspended for a month.

JACQUELINE

Oh No! You mean I can't watch Bust that Bulge, Show us your talent, Dance till you drop. D.I.Y House, Can you Cook or any of those other fake reality shows? How will I survive the week?

THERAPIST

You think this is funny?

JACQUELINE

I think it's hilarious.

THERAPIST

How about some time in isolation?

JACQUELINE

Can I get a backing track to sing "All by myself"?

THERAPIST

Everything's a joke to you, isn't it?

JACQUELINE

You know the saying, Laugh and the world laughs with you.

THERAPIST

Nobody is laughing with you.

JACQUELINE

I don't know Natasha was cracking up, last I saw.

THERAPIST

Which brings me to the next matter...

JACQUELINE

Oh, come on. She needed to lighten up. Stressed out because she can't get a booby prize. Really, the woman needs a boyfriend.

THERAPIST

How did you get the medications?

JACQUELINE

I figured it out.

THERAPIST

Really, nobody told you where they were kept?

JACQUELINE

Like I said, I worked it out myself.

THERAPIST

How?

JACQUELINE

I have ways. I may be a nut case but I'm not stupid.

THERAPIST

I don't believe you.

JACQUELINE

You don't believe that I'm not stupid or a nutcase?

THERAPIST

Somebody helped you. Who?

JACQUELINE

Told you. Nobody helped me.

THERAPIST

Was it one of the wards-men?

JACQUELINE

No.

THERAPIST

Any of the nurses?

JACQUELINE

No-one helped me. I did some snooping and found it all by myself.

THERAPIST

You're lying.

JACQUELINE

That's very judgemental.

THERAPIST

It doesn't matter, I'll find out soon enough.

JACQUELINE

So you're a therapist and a detective?

THERAPIST

I have records of staff and patients who have assisted staff with medication distribution. It's just a process of elimination.

JACQUELINE

And if you do happen to find someone?

THERAPIST

If it's a staff member they'll be fired. If it's a patient all their privileges will be revoked. Just like yours are.

JACQUELINE

That's the thanks I get for trying to help my fellow patients.

THERAPIST

Be grateful I haven't declared you fit and recommend to the magistrate that you do time.

JACQUELINE

You can't do that, it's against the rules.

THERAPIST

Rules are subject to interpretation. A few words from me saying you're not really insane, you're just a troublemaker and you can find yourself sharing a cell with an ax murderer.

JACQUELINE

As long as it's not a tax collector. I hate those guys.

THERAPIST

I can see to it you share a whole prison with tax collectors.

JACQUELINE

You don't have that kind of pull.

THERAPIST

Care to test that?

Jacqueline says nothing. She sees where this is going.

THERAPIST

Give me a name and you won't be sharing a cell with an overpaid accountant.

JACQUELINE

Blackmail's illegal, you know that right?

THERAPIST

I prefer to think of it as creative bargaining.

JACQUELINE

I'm not a snitch.

THERAPIST

So you're saying someone did help you?

JACQUELINE

I'm not saying anything.

THERAPIST

You actually said what I needed to know.

JACQUELINE

Fine. You're such a smart ass, you work the rest out yourself because I ain't saying nothing.

THERAPIST

Sound's to me like you want to go to prison.

JACQUELINE

Hey, you don't scare me. Sure you might be able to pull that off, but you know what, it won't matter. In less than a week, I will cause so much havoc they will have me assessed by a REAL professional and then guess what? I'll be right back here being doing what I always do.

THERAPIST

Or they may consider you to be a danger to the public and lock you in a high security cell.

JACQUELINE

At least the food will be better.

THERAPIST

Do you really not care about going to prison?

JACQUELINE

The more the system screws me, the longer I am in the public eye.

THERAPIST

So this is just about getting attention?

JACQUELINE

Isn't that what this place is all about? Basking in the spotlight.

THERAPIST

No. It's about helping people getting over their addiction.

JACQUELINE

Got a Revelation for you doc, nobody here wants to be cured. We're only here so we can get more attention.

THERAPIST

Regardless of what you think, we are here to help.

JACQUELINE

Well you go on believing that, doc. I'm sure it helps you sleep at night.

THERAPIST

Getting back to my point are you sure you won't change your mind about telling me your accomplices name?

JACQUELINE

Nothing you do will make me talk. Throw me in isolation, send me to jail, I don't care. Nothing is going to make me talk.

THERAPIST

Your real name.

JACQUELINE

What are you talking about?

THERAPIST

I know your real name.

JACQUELINE

You're lying.

THERAPIST

Want me to read it out? It's

JACQUELINE

I know what it is. You've got no right digging into my past.

THERAPIST

I'm your therapist. I have every right.

JACQUELINE

Okay, so you know my real name? So what?

THERAPIST

So, I can tell the media what it is.

JACQUELINE

You can't do that.

THERAPIST

Indeed I can. Who helped you get the drugs?

JACQUELINE

No.

THERAPIST

Facebook, twitter, real media. Won't take long.

JACQUELINE

You bitch.

THERAPIST

Who is it?

JACQUELINE

Do it.

THERAPIST

You really want me too?

JACQUELINE

Of course not but you're not giving me a choice.

THERAPIST

There's always a choice I'm curious as to why you would protect this person.

JACQUELINE

Why? It's a question of honour. I do not betray my friends.

THERAPIST

So this person is a friend.

JACQUELINE

Honestly, I barely know them. Doesn't mean I'll snitch on them.

THERAPIST

If you barely know him why would you risk it all to protect him?

JACQUELINE

It's what I do. Look, I'm not going to talk so you do whatever it is you're going to do cause I'm done here.

Jacqueline gets up to leave.

THERAPIST

I will find out, eventually.

JACQUELINE

Good luck with that.

THERAPIST

And you're privileges are still revoked.

JACQUELINE

Life's a bitch and so are you.

Jacqueline leaves.

THERAPIST

You want to play games, fine.

LIGHTS FADE

SCENE 5

The usual suspects are gathered in the meeting room, including Jacqueline. The Therapist enters.

THERAPIST

Good morning everyone. How are we today?

The usual general murmur of fine, okay, etc..

THERAPIST

We've really got to work on that enthusiasm. How are you feeling Marvin?

MARVIN

I'm okay.

THERAPIST

Natasha?

NATASHA

Fine.

JACQUELINE

So since we're over the shits and giggles, what have you got planned today?

THERAPIST

A game.

JACQUELINE

This should be good.

THERAPIST

Truth or dare.

NATASHA

That's....different.

THERAPIST

With a twist. I decide if you take truth or dare.

NATASHA

That's not how it works.

THERAPIST

It's how we play it today. Natasha, you can go first.

NATASHA

Okay.

THERAPIST

Dare. I want you to go a whole day without using your phone.

NATASHA

You serious? That's easy.

The Therapist takes out Natasha's phone and puts it on the table next to her.

THERAPIST

No, social media, no texts, no viewing the internet, and no taking selfies.

NATASHA

No selfies!

THERAPIST

For a whole day.

NATASHA

Sure I can do that.

THERAPIST

Okay then.

NATASHA

How hard can it be?

Already she is looking anxious. She fidgets and keeps looking at the phone.

THERAPIST

Jacqueline, I dare you not to say a word the entire session.

JACQUELINE

You don't want me to talk? What kind of session is that?

MARVIN

A quiet one.SO SHUT UP!

THERAPIST

Lenny,truth. Did you help Jacqueline steal medications?

JACQUELINE

Don't say a word,Lenny.

MARVIN

You're breaking the rules

JACQUELINE

And you still stink.Lenny, don't do it,man.

THERAPIST

Lenny? Do you have something to say

NATASHA

I can do this. I don't need to look at my Instagram.

THERAPIST

Lenny.

JACQUELINE

Why are you doing this? He had nothing to do with it.

THERAPIST

Lenny has one remarkable flaw. He can't tell a lie,can you Lenny?

LENNY

That's true.

NATASHA

Facebook can wait. Really,it can.

THERAPIST

Lenny, did you steal the medications?

LENNY

No,I didn't steal the medications.

JACQUELINE

There you go. See,he had nothing to do with it. Now leave

him alone.

MARVIN

Hey, you were told to shut up.

JACQUELINE

Bite me. Then again, is that a turn on for you as well?

THERAPIST

Did you help Jacqueline in any way?

JACQUELINE

No, he didn't.

LENNY

I don't want to play this game any more.

THERAPIST

Answer the question.

NATASHA

I'm fine. I don't need to look at my phone.

THERAPIST

Lenny.

JACQUELINE

Leave him alone. This is harassment.

THERAPIST

The truth.

LENNY

Can't I take the dare?

THERAPIST

Did you help Jacqueline steal the medications?

LENNY

Yes.

THERAPIST

Thank you.

JACQUELINE

Jesus. You happy now?

MARVIN

Wait, you were a part of that?

JACQUELINE

Keep up Tortoise brain.

MARVIN

Why would you do something like that? Her I get it, but you?

LENNY

Sorry.

NATASHA

It couldn't hurt to look once.

MARVIN

I was in a lot of pain.

LENNY

I said sorry.

JACQUELINE

Don't apologize, Lenny. You didn't know what I took.

THERAPIST

Is that true?

Lenny nods.

MARVIN

But you were an accessory. If it wasn't for you she couldn't have gotten that stuff.

THERAPIST

That's true.

JACQUELINE

Hey, leave the guy alone. He confessed and he said he was sorry. Let's leave it at that. You want to blame someone, blame me.

MARVIN

Oh, I do blame you, and trust me this isn't over. But Lenny, man, I thought we were friends.

NATASHA

I'm just going to have a quick look.

The therapist moves the phone away.

THERAPIST

Why did you tell Jacqueline about the medication?

LENNY

I didn't think she was going to hurt anyone.

THERAPIST

So, what did you think would happen?

LENNY

I don't know. Harmless practical joke.

JACQUELINE

That's right, harmless. Nobody got hurt right?

MARVIN

Really? I still got stomach pains.

JACQUELINE

Oh, get over it. You'll live.

LENNY

What are you going to do?

THERAPIST

I'm sorry, but your privileges are revoked for a month.

JACQUELINE

Oh, come on.

LENNY

Okay, that's fair.

JACQUELINE

No, it's not fair. He didn't do anything, I did. You can't punish him for nothing.

THERAPIST

He was involved.

JACQUELINE

Don't do this, the guy is innocent.

THERAPIST

The matter is settled.

JACQUELINE

This isn't right.

THERAPIST

I said the matter is settled.

NATASHA

I just need a quick peek. That's all, just a little look.

JACQUELINE

You're going to regret this.

THERAPIST

Is that a threat?

JACQUELINE

It's a promise.

THERAPIST

In that case lets discuss your name at the next session.

JACQUELINE

I swear to god if you....

THERAPIST

More threats is it?

JACQUELINE

You don't want me as an enemy.

THERAPIST

Same here.

NATASHA

Seriously, it's just for a second.

MARVIN

So what's the big deal with the name?

JACQUELINE

None of your god-damn business.

MARVIN

Oh, man. Now I've got to know.

JACQUELINE

Not if you want an enema in your sleep.

THERAPIST

That's enough. There is too much hostility in this room so I'm ending this session now. Good day everyone.

NATASHA

My phone!What about my phone?

THERAPIST

As part of your therapy, I'm going to hold onto it for a while.

NATASHA

NNNNNNNNNNNOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!

THERAPIST

It's for your own good.

NATASHA

But what if someone calls? My agent, what if my agent calls, or emails, or messages, or Instagrams? I need that phone.

THERAPIST

She has our number if anything important comes up she will call us and I will notify you.

NATASHA

Why are you punishing me? I didn't do anything wrong.

THERAPIST

You're not being punished, this is therapy.

NATASHA

It's torture is what it is.

JACQUELINE

Oh, get a grip you narcissist.

NATASHA

Narcissist! You should talk you has been wannabe.

JACQUELINE

Has been? you're the looser who can't win anything.

NATASHA

And you're not very original are you clown face?

MARVIN

Yeah, you third rate impostor.

JACQUELINE

You keep out of this stair freak.

MARVIN

Don't you call me a freak, you criminal.

JACQUELINE

And proud of it.

THERAPIST

Okay, that's enough everyone. No more name calling.

JACQUELINE

Fine, I'm up for getting physical.

MARVIN

Don't tempt me.

JACQUELINE

Oh, what are you going to do? Throw a Frisbee at me?

THERAPIST

Enough! This session is over. Return to your wards. Now!

Everyone gets up to leave.

JACQUELINE

Hey, Frisbee freak, this ain't over.

MARVIN

Count on it.

All of them are gone except
Jacqueline and Lenny.

JACQUELINE

Sorry man. I tried to keep you out of it.

LENNY

I know. It's okay, forget about it.

JACQUELINE

No, this is wrong. You didn't do anything, you don't deserve
this.

LENNY

It's no big deal.

JACQUELINE

She's going to pay, you'll see.

LENNY

No. Don't do anything stupid.

JACQUELINE

I got an idea. We could....

LENNY

Let it go. What's done is done.

JACQUELINE

Okay. If that's what you want.

LENNY

That's what I want.

JACQUELINE

Okay, then.

As they leave, Jacqueline has an expression that says it's not really over.

LIGHTS FADE.

SCENE 6

The Therapist and Lenny are alone in the group therapy room.

THERAPIST

I thought this would be a good time to talk alone.

LENNY

I'm really sorry about the thing with the drugs.

THERAPIST

We're not here to talk about that. I want to discuss you.

LENNY

Okay.

THERAPIST

Specifically your need for attention.

LENNY

You want to know about the You-Tube thing.

THERAPIST

Let's start with that.

LENNY

It's because they wouldn't listen to me.

THERAPIST

The prime Minister?

LENNY

And the others.

THERAPIST

I've read your file. You're a brilliant, chemist & environmental scientist. Why would you pull a stunt like that?

LENNY

Because no-one would listen to me. I tried to tell them about rising sea levels but they just ignored me.

THERAPIST

So why a water pistol up the nose?

LENNY

Rising water levels. Give him some idea of what it's like to drown.

THERAPIST

Do you think you made your point?

LENNY

No, I failed. All people cared about was the stupid video. Nobody listened to the point I was trying to make. Nobody ever listens to me.

THERAPIST

Surely some people have paid attention.

LENNY

No, never. This guy was standing on a footpath ready to cross the road and these workers were moving a piano from a building. The rope snapped, I warned the guy to move but he just gave me the finger next thing the piano squashed him.

THERAPIST

That's horrible.

LENNY

Funny thing, the piano had one of those rollers that play. It started playing I have a crush on you.

THERAPIST

Oh...that's..sort of weird.

LENNY

Later this guy was looking at his phone, stepped off the footpath, I said look out, he didn't hear me and got hit by an ambulance.

THERAPIST

Oh no.

LENNY

Strange thing was, it was the same ambulance that had the guy hit by the piano.

THERAPIST

It wasn't!

LENNY

Sure was. then another ambulance came for that guy. It lost it's brakes and was speeding toward this woman listening to heavy metal music. I tried to warn her but she got hit by the ambulance.

THERAPIST

Oh god.

LENNY

Not only that, it was heading for the first ambulance. I tried to warn them, but they didn't listen and the ambulance crashed into the first one and started a fire.

THERAPIST

What happened then?

LENNY

I called triple zero, but they put me on hold. they didn't want to talk to me.

THERAPIST

Surely someone else called them.

LENNY

Yep. But when the fire engine came it blew a tyre and skidded out of control. It hit this power line. I tried to warn this guy who was filming the whole thing but he wouldn't listen and the electric pole fell on him.

THERAPIST

This is just getting more bizarre.

LENNY

It gets better or worse depending how you look at it. When the second engine came he didn't see the oil & petrol that had spilled from the two ambulances and the first fire engine. I tried to warn him to stop but he skidded, hit the electric pole, started a fire and the whole lot went up in flames.

THERAPIST

That's horrible. Did anyone survive?

LENNY

Nope, not a soul.

THERAPIST

Oh my god.

LENNY

Not the first time that sort of thing happened. Want to hear about it?

THERAPIST

Perhaps another time.

LENNY

Point is if people had paid attention a lot of lives could've been saved.

THERAPIST

Certainly I agree.

LENNY

I don't understand why I'm always ignored. It's not like I'm invisible.

THERAPIST

And this frustrates you?

LENNY

Well,yeah. It's not like I don't have something important to say.The world really is suffering from serious climate problems.

THERAPIST

I assume you have findings and work to back your claim.

LENNY

Of course,but even my fellow scientist ignore me. It's like the story of Cassandra.

THERAPIST

Cassandra?

LENNY

Old Greek story. The gods gave her the ability to foresee a catastrophe but also cursed her so no-one would believe her.

THERAPIST

That's very cruel.

LENNY

The gods were a mean and jealous bunch.

THERAPIST

So,you feel because no-one understood your message that you are a failure?

LENNY

No,just a failure to communicate.

THERAPIST

And this frustrates you? The problem is the way you present yourself. Your body language and the tone of voice comes across as someone who is unassertive,even shy.

LENNY

I'm not the bossy type.

THERAPIST

You're not aggressive in your approach. Because of that the passion you feel is all bottled up.

LENNY

(shy) Okay.

THERAPIST

Let's try this. I want you to say I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it any more.

LENNY

(meek) I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it any more.

THERAPIST

No! More assertive. Deep voice.

LENNY

(deep voice but still meek) I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it any more.

THERAPIST

Yell, scream, put some passion into it.

LENNY

(pathetic attempt at screaming) I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it any more.

THERAPIST

(YELLS AT THE TOP OF HER VOICE) I'M MAD AS HELL AND I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE IT ANY MORE !

Lenny hides behind the chair.

THERAPIST

What are you doing?

LENNY

I don't like it when people yell at me.

THERAPIST

I'm not yelling at you. I'm showing you how to be more aggressive.

LENNY

I'm more of a pacifist.

THERAPIST

Which is why no-one listens to you.