

**BASKETS**

Pilot

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24,25,28,29,30)**

Production Office:  
5555 Melrose Ave.  
Bungalow 5  
Hollywood, CA 90038

1 EXT. CLOWN SCHOOL. PARIS, FRANCE -- DAY 1 \*

We see the exterior of a prestigious university. A title card reads "University del'arte de Clown. Paris, France."

A professor leads a group of students through the frame. They are in the middle of a clown movement class. Another chyron reads "Class 109: Clown Movement." \*

PROFESSOR HENRI  
UFaites un petit mouvement comme  
une tortue volante minuscule. \*

2 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY 2

This is an old style french classroom with lots of wood inside. Old desks, inkwell pens, etc. But a university version rather than boy's school version. The teacher, Professor Thibidieux, is lecturing. TITLE CARD READS "CLASS 207: Clown Theory" The professor is lecturing in a very serious and intense way, gesturing and speaking sharply and strictly. There are no subtitles.

CHIP BASKETS, (played by Mister Galifianakis) is listening furiously and scribbling notes furiously. The professor takes a red handkerchief out of a drawer in his desk. He walks around the class, holding it above the head of each student, sizing each student up as he walks past. He stops at Chip's desk, puts the handkerchief down in front of Chip.

PROFESSOR THIBIDIEUX  
Monsieur Baskets.

The class watches Chip who looks at the handkerchief and at the teacher. He wants to get this right. He hold it to his nose and makes a honking nose-blow sound. He looks up at the teacher, scared. The teacher chews him out in French with disgust.

PROFESSOR THIBIDIEUX (CONT'D)  
(something French, then over-  
enunciated) RonALD MAC-Donaald!

The students smirk at Chip. Chip is crestfallen. The teacher moves on.

He stops at the desk of a YOUNG STUDENT next to Zach.

PROFESSOR THIBIDIEUX (CONT'D)  
Monsieur Bougeleigh.

2 CONTINUED:

2

Bougeleigh doesn't touch the handkerchief but points to it saying something long and complicated in French. Professor nods and moves on.

3 INT. CLOWN UNIVERSITY HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

3

\*

The class is over. The students file out of the classroom past the professor. Chip approaches the professor.

\*

\*

CHIP

Sir. Monee Sewer? Um. I was just wondering. I think you can see I'm sort of struggling in your class mainly due to the fact that I don't speak French at all. So I was wondering. Would you be willing to say some of your words in English?

The professor stares at him.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Because... I want to be a great clown. More than anything.

The teacher looks at Chip for a moment longer, then leaves the room.

4 INT. RESTAURANT IN FRANCE - NIGHT

4

Chip sits at a small table with PENELOPE, a lovely woman who he is clearly in love with. She speaks with a foreign french accent.

CHIP

Penelope. I'm so glad you came out with me.

PENELOPE

As long as you continue to pay for the food, I will come.

Chip smiles widely at her, as if she just said something romantic.

CHIP

Penelope-

The waiter comes over.

WAITER

Madam moiselle, monsieur?

(CONTINUED)

PENELOPE  
(orders in french)

CHIP  
I'll have... a coke and... some  
french food. Thank you!

He gives the waiter his menu and turns back to Penelope.

CHIP (CONT'D)  
Penelope.

PENELOPE  
Don't say my name so much. It is  
annoying.

CHIP  
Sorry.... Toaster. I wanted to  
talk to you-

PENELOPE  
What? What is toaster?

CHIP  
You said not to say your name. I'm  
sorry. I'm really trying here.  
Look. I want you... to marry...  
me. Will you marry me? Will you  
marry me. Please. Penelope. I  
love you.

Penelope doesn't answer. AS if he didn't say it.

CHIP (CONT'D)  
Are you... thinking about it?

PENELOPE  
Barely.

CHIP  
Darling. Clown school is almost  
over. I... was hoping I would land  
a job as a clown here in France.  
But I didn't. And to tell you the  
truth I'm flunking out. I don't  
think they get me here. I'm too  
avant gard. I've run out of money  
and I have to go home. But  
Penelope, if you would marry me and  
come back with me... I know I could  
find a way, to...

PENELOPE

Where is home? Where are you going?

CHIP

Bakersfield, California.

PENELOPE

Okay Chip. I will marry you.

CHIP

You will??!

PENELOPE

Yes. To be honest with you, I do not find you attractive. I look at your face and I feel nothing. Your body. You are not appealing. But I will marry you so I can go to America. To Bakersfield and then maybe I find someone there who I like to have intercourse with or someone with more money than you have. Then I will leave you.

Chip is teary-eyed and smiling. He puts his hand on her hand.

CHIP

You've made me the happiest man in the world.

Establishing shot of a rodeo arena.

Chyron: Bakersfield, California. One year later.

Chip is sitting across a desk from ERNIE, the rodeo manager, who is reviewing Chip's resume as Chip sits bolt upright like Washington crossing the Delaware.

ERNIE

So... you were trained as a clown at the... Universite (pronounced like "sight") France?

CHIP  
(smugly correcting him  
with equally bad French)  
Le universi--tay France comedia.

ERNIE  
Uhuh... and you... learned to be a  
clown there?

CHIP  
I did sir. I mastered it.

ERNIE  
Mastered it. Uhuh. Got any  
practical experience?

CHIP  
Sir. I assure you. This "ain't my  
first Rodeo"... I mean.  
Technically this is my first  
Rodeo. But figuratively  
speaking... "This ain't my first  
rodeo."

ERNIE  
Okay. Master... chip  
(reading)  
Baskets. Baskets?

CHIP  
That's my name sir.

ERNIE  
Baskets the clown. That's great!  
That's a terrific clown name.

CHIP  
Um. Excuse me, but no. That is  
NOT my clown name.

ERNIE  
What are you talkin' about?  
Baskets the clown. That's the best  
clown name I ever heard in my darn  
life.

CHIP  
Baskets is my REAL name. It is not  
my name for clowning.

ERNIE  
Well what's your clown name then?

CHIP

My nom de clown is Renoir.

ERNIE

What?

CHIP

Renoir the clown. If you must.  
But better as "renoir."

ERNIE

Renwa?

CHIP

Renoir.

ERNIE

Buddy ain't no Renwa the clown. I  
can't even say that. You're  
Baskets the clown is what you are.  
Come on now.

CHIP

I'm afraid this point is non-  
negotiable.

Ernie looks at him carefully then smiles.

ERNIE

Alright I tell you what. Your  
hired.

CHIP

I am?

ERNIE

Sure. To tell you the truth the  
requirements for this job are to  
walk in that door and say you want  
it. I don't pay enough and the job  
is hard. Lost two clowns last  
week. They all quit. We go  
through clowns like dogs go through  
toilet water.

CHIP

That's disgusting.

ERNIE

Alright well go down to the pit and  
talk to Lucky. He'll get you  
started.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

CHIP  
Thank you, sir.

ERNIE  
Call me Ernie.

CHIP  
I won't let you down.

ERNIE  
Okay.

7 INT. RODEO DRESSING ROOM - LATER

7

Chip is at a mirror looking at himself. Very precious music plays as he starts to lovingly transform himself with makeup and whatnot, as if he has hours to do this. It's the kind of scene that would be under a title sequence of a long movie about a clown. But before it goes on long at all, the door flies open, stopping the music. LUCKY the clown comes in.

LUCKY  
You baskets?

CHIP  
What?

LUCKY  
You're the new guy. Baskets.

CHIP  
Renoir.

LUCKY  
Whatever, get that shit on. We got to go.

8 INT. RODEO ARENA - LATER

8

Montage of Chip trying to be a Rodeo clown. He goes out onto the pitch and starts doing a slow and small routine. He is stopped when a giant bull is suddenly rushing at him. We see him trying to help a cowboy up who fell off a bull. He slips in the mud. It's a disaster.

9 INT. RODEO STALL - LATER

9

Chip is exhausted, leaning against the corral fence. Lucky climbs out of the corral and comes over to him.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

LUCKY

Listen man. You got to step it up.  
You're gettin' killed out there.  
What the hell did they teach you in  
France?

CHIP

(indignant)

I don't know what they taught me.  
I don't speak any French.

LUCKY

Alright well, Here take the damn t-  
shirt gun and make yourself useful.

10 INT. RODEO ARENA - LATER

10

Lucky is doing some typical rodeo clown work.

Cut to: Chip trying to get people to do the wave. No one is  
paying attention. He ends up firing the T-shirt gun into the  
crowd. He hits a woman in the face from far too close in the  
front row. She's badly hurt.

CHIP

Sorry! Sorry!

Chip looks over and sees a bull charging at him and runs for  
his life.

11 EXT. RODEO STABLES - DUSK

11

A broken down Chip gets on his scooter, puts on his scooter  
seatbelt, and rides home.

12 EXT. MOTEL -- NEXT MORNING

12

Establishing shot of the hotel. It's right next to a chain  
restaurant and a big box store.

13 INT. MOTEL ROOM -- MORNING

13

It's the next morning. Chip is sleeping. We see books on  
clowning etc. He's obviously made this hotel room a semi-  
permanent home. The t-shirt gun is propped up in the room.  
His cell phone rings. He wakes up.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

Barely awake, he begins to sing along with the ubiquitous default ring, it's not actually a song that warrants singing along. Finally he rolls over and grabs the phone off a nearby night stand.

14 EXT. PENELOPE'S APT COMPLEX'S POOL IN BAKERSFIELD -- DAY 14

Penelope lounges at her apartment complex's pool in a bikini. We intercut with her and Chip.

PENELOPE

Chip?

CHIP

Darling?

PENELOPE

Don't call me that, Chip. We are no longer man and wife.

CHIP

Yes I know. I'm sorry.

PENELOPE

Chip. I need some money.

CHIP

Al...right.

PENELOPE

Did you get that job?

CHIP

Yes I did.

PENELOPE

How much do they pay?

CHIP

Four dollars an hour.

PENELOPE

Oh my god. They pay more at zee Arbees. Why don't you get a job at zee arbees?

CHIP

Because Arbees doesn't hire clowns.

PENELOPE

You are NOT a clown.

(CONTINUED)

CHIP  
YES I AM! I'M A CLOWN!

There's a knock at the door.

CHIP (CONT'D)  
(to door)  
Hold on please.  
(into phone)  
For the LOVE OF GOD DON'T KEEP  
SAYING THAT! IT HURTS MY  
FEELINGS!!

He gets up and answers the door. He is wearing a sort of old fashioned leotard bathing suit thing. It's VERY tight. The maid comes in and starts cleaning as he continues to walk around the room in his man nighty with smeared clown makeup from the night before screaming into the phone. \*

CHIP (CONT'D)  
Penelope you are the LIGHT OF MY  
LIFE but you HURT ME SO!

PENELOPE  
Chip you are not a clown.

CHIP  
STOP IT! STOP IT! I'M A CLOWN!  
YOU are not a clown, PENELOP. YOU  
ARE NOT! How does THAT FEEL!?!

Silence for a moment on the other line.

PENELOPE  
I need fourty dollars so I can pay  
for HBO.

CHIP  
Okay, fine. I'll come over  
later... darling.

Click.

Chip straps on the seat-belt of a European scooter. As he puts on his helmet.

EXTREME CLOSEUP of a bee disappearing into his helmet as he puts it on.

16 EXT. HIGHWAY - LATER 16

Chip is drives through Bakersfield. Suddenly he is jarred because the bee is obviously stinging him inside of his helmet. He is slapping at the helmet and swerving horribly until he ends up laying the bike on it's side and sliding to a stop. After a moment, we cut to an overhead shot looking down on him on his side, the scooter's airbag goes off.

17 EXT. SCOOTER CRASH SITE, DIRT LOT -- LATER 17 \*

Chip sits on the curb, still wearing his helmet, looking at his dead bike. A 90s buick pulls up and out steps MARTHA, an insurance adjuster, with a clipboard.

MARTHA  
Mister Baskets?

CHIP  
Yeah.

MARTHA  
Excuse me?

CHIP  
Yeah. It's me. Yeah. Baskets.  
Hello.

MARTHA  
Sorry I can't hear you well.

CHIP  
I can't take off the helmet because  
my face is swollen from a bee.

MARTHA  
Oh. Sorry. I couldn't understand  
you.

CHIP  
Well then how are you understanding  
this?

MARTHA  
...sir. I'm with Altima Insurance?  
I'm here to help you with your  
claim?

Chip nods, resigned. Martha takes pictures of his scooter.

(CONTINUED)

MARTHA (CONT'D)

I'm going to help you get your vehicle repaired and-

CHIP

Yeah. Bla bla bla.

MARTHA

This is an unusual model of scooter.

CHIP

It's from France.

MARTHA

It might prove difficult to find parts for it. We may have to replace it with a used or refurbished model.

CHIP

No. I want this one. It's from France. They know how to make them there.

MARTHA

With all due respect there are plenty of good scooters here too.

CHIP

Plenty of nincompoops also. Apparently.

Martha is a bit hurt but she keeps her chin up.

MARTHA

Mister Baskets. I'm here to help you in any way I can. Have you gotten any medical attention yet?

CHIP

No. I guess I should go to the hospital.

MARTHA

Yes I think so.

CHIP

(to himself. very sarcastic)

Okay well let me get on my scooter and- oh no. That's right. It's ruined.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

CHIP (CONT'D)

And let me pay for the doctor with-  
oh no. That's right. I'm broke.  
I'm broke and my wife left me and  
all I ever wanted to do was be a  
clown and now my scooter is broken  
and everybody driving by thinks I'm  
a gay or something....

(to martha)

Getting the picture... pic..caso?  
See? I can't even-

MARTHA

Sir. Your insurance covers medical  
for this accident. And I'd be glad  
to drive you to an emergency room  
or clinic.

He looks up at her. She smiles.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

To every problem there's a  
solution.

CHIP

...fine.

18 INT. MARTHA'S CAR -- DAY

18

Martha's very run down car. They drive together. Chip has  
to scrunch down because his helmet is smushed against the  
ceiling. Martha gets mad at another car and tries to honk  
her horn. Nothing happens.

CHIP

(struggling to stay  
sullen)

You should get that darn horn  
fixed. Not that I care.

MARTHA

Yes I know.

19 INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE -- DAY

19

The doctor has just finished cutting the helmet in half and  
is removing it from Chip's head. Chip's face is slightly red  
and he has a sting on his nose.

DOCTOR

So how did this happen?

(CONTINUED)

CHIP

A bee flew into my helmet and it bit me.

DOCTOR

Uhuh. It bit you. Really?

CHIP

Yes.

DOCTOR

That's just interesting considering that bees. Don't bite. Sir.

CHIP

Well. He stung me.

DOCTOR

Oh he STUNG you. I see. And how do you know it was a... bee?

CHIP

Because it flew in my helmet.

DOCTOR

How do you know it wasn't a wasp? Or a horsefly or a... something else small? That stings?

CHIP

Listen mister. I was stung by a damn bee.

DOCTOR

Why would a bee want to sting YOU?

CHIP

What are you a bee lover or something? I was stung by a bee and he made me have an accident!

DOCTOR

Oh. Ho ho ho! Now we get to the marrow of the thing!

MARTHA

Doctor! My client is suffering and needs your help. Please.

The doctor stares at her.

19 CONTINUED:

19

DOCTOR  
Fine. Lay back on the table. Let  
me take a look.

20 INT. MARTHA'S CAR -- DAY

20

Martha looks pleased. Chip is still sullen but his face is  
on the mend.

CHIP  
(reluctant)  
That was pretty neat how you...  
Told that doctor to quit it.

MARTHA  
To every solution there's a-

CHIP  
Oh brother... I'm hungry.

21 EXT. DRIVETHRU - DAY

21

Martha pulls up to a drive through sign. A VOICE is heard  
through the speaker on the sign.

A VOICE  
Can I take your order?

MARTHA  
They want to take your order.

Chip tries to lean across her. It's uncomfortable.

CHIP  
Ask if they have any specials.

MARTHA  
DO you have any specials today?

A VOICE  
What's that?

CHIP  
Ask if they have jelly.

MARTHA  
What?

CHIP  
For my toast. I'm going to ask for  
toast later.

\*

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

MARTHA

We need toast with jelly?

CHIP

Don't ask for the toast yet. Oh man. Can you just let me be on that side so I can order?

CUT TO:

22 EXT. DRIVETHRU - MOMENTS LATER

22

The car is at the sign but now reversed. Chip is ordering.

A VOICE

Sir we don't have that.

CHIP

Okay then. I'd like a blackberry Fanta.

A VOICE

We don't have that, sir.

CHIP

How about a diet Shwepps.

A VOICE

No sir.

CHIP

Shwepps.

A VOICE

No.

CHIP

Okay, I'll just have a sangria.

A VOICE

Sir, we don't-

CHIP

I'll have a white wine sangria and some sliced apples with cinnamon and pig knuckles.

Pause.

A VOICE

That's going to be nine fifty please pull forward.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

Martha starts to pull forward and hits the car behind her because she's facing the wrong way.

CHIP

You don't seem good at anything.

23 INT. MARTHA'S CAR -- DAY

23

Chip is finishing his food from the drive-in.

Someone cuts Martha off and she tries her horn again. It doesn't work.

MARTHA

Well I'd be glad to drive you home.  
Is there anywhere else you'd like  
to go first?

CHIP

Don't you have anything else to do  
than to tag along at me all day?

Martha looks hurt.

MARTHA

Um... no. I just want to help. I-

She looks on the verge of tears.

CHIP

Oh good grief.

Chip looks out the window.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Hey. Pull over up here. I gotta  
run into this place.

She pulls over. Chip gets out of the car and runs into a store. While he's gone, Martha cries to herself. She gets out her phone and dials a number.

MARTHA

Hello, mom? Yeah. Cryin' again.  
Well. I can't seem to do anything  
right and- oh mom I gotta call you  
back.

Chip gets back into the car and plops a crumpled paper bag from the store in her lap.

(CONTINUED)

CHIP  
(sullen)  
Here.

MARTHA  
What's this?

CHIP  
Open it.

She reaches in the bag and takes out an air horn.

MARTHA  
An air horn?

CHIP  
Yeah, since your carhorn is broken.

Martha can't believe it.

MARTHA  
Wow. Thank you.

CHIP  
There should be a receipt in there  
too. It was \$9.50. Do you have  
cash?

\*

Martha looks in her purse.

MARTHA  
I have a credit card?

CHIP  
That'll work, let me swipe it on my  
phone here.

Martha hands him the card.

CHIP (CONT'D)  
Tip?

Martha shrugs, why not. Chip works the phone to get the  
charge. Then he looks at Martha.

CHIP (CONT'D)  
Well try it out.

MARTHA  
Um. How do I-

CHIP

No start driving first and wait for  
someone to make you mad.

MARTHA

Okay.

She pulls into traffic. They are both watching the traffic  
looking for an opportunity.

CHIP

How about this guy?

MARTHA

No he's fine.

CHIP

Yeah... wait. OH! Look at that  
jerk, cutting right into the lane!  
Let him have it!

Martha points the air horn out the window and hits the  
trigger. The honk is CRAZY LOUD.

They both laugh. Chip yells out the window.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Take that, you road hog!

Martha is dropping Chip off at his motel.

MARTHA

This is where you live?

CHIP

Yes. It's just permanent.

MARTHA

Okay well I'll let you know the  
progress on the scooter.

CHIP

Yeah okay. Thanks.

He gets out. Martha leaves looking happy.

25 INT. RODEO ARENA - DUSK 25 \*

Chip is screaming as he runs away from a bull. He is shooting back at the bull with his t-shirt gun.

CHIP

Aaah! This bull is crazy!

LOUDSPEAKER

Let's hear it for Baskets the clown!

ANGLE ON: Ernie watching Chip and shaking his head.

26 EXT. NEXT TO HIGHWAY - NIGHT 26

Chip roller-blading home. He smokes a cigarette.

\*

27 INT. MOTEL - THE NEXT DAY 27

Chip is sleeping. A knock at the door wakes him. As before he goes to the door in his teddy with faded makeup on.

28 EXT. CHIP'S MOTEL ROOM 28

He opens the door and Martha is standing there.

MARTHA

Oh.

Martha turns around. Chip exits to smoke a cigarette and stands next to Martha.

CHIP

It's alright. I have my genitals covered.

Martha turns around.

MARTHA

I just... came to let you know the progress on your scooter.

CHIP

Alright. What is it?

MARTHA

Well... no actual progress yet. We're still waiting.

CHIP

Great.

MARTHA

But... can I give you a ride?

CHIP

Where?

MARTHA

Wherever you're going?

They look at each other.

They're driving. Martha looks pleased. Chip is still sullen.

MARTHA

So where are we going?

CHIP

If you must know, I need to see my mother to borrow some money.

MARTHA

Oh.

CHIP

Yes. Oh. Exactly. Still depending on my mom. Great, right?

MARTHA

Well. That's okay. That's what mothers are for.

CHIP

(disgusted)

Ugh. Do you sit up at night thinking of nice things to say to people?

MARTHA

(embarrassed)

...yes.

Establishing shot as Chip and Martha walk to the house. Martha's car is in the driveway.

30

CONTINUED:

30

Chip and Martha knock on a door. A dog starts barking.

CHIP

That's not my mother yet. It's a dog.

MARTHA

Right.

Chip yells through the door.

CHIP

Mother, it's Chip.

BARBARA BASKETS

Chip!? It's open. Come in, come in!

31

INT. HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

31

Chip and Martha let themselves in. They are greeted by Barbara Baskets.

BARBARA BASKETS

Oh Chip!

CHIP

Hello mother.

BARBARA BASKETS

Oh, one of my baby boys!

She hugs and kisses him repeatedly.

BARBARA BASKETS (CONT'D)

My baby boy. My baby baby boy. My little Chip!

Barbara is kissing Chips face over and over and over again and he is sitting and tolerating it like a little prince. Martha is charmed and slightly uncomfortable.

CHIP

Okay mother. Only a little more now. You need to stop soon. It's getting very... wet.

BARBARA BASKETS

And who's this? Is this your new girlfriend?

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

CHIP

No mother she's just an insurance claims adjuster who's driving me around while my scooter is being repaired from a bee accident.

BARBARA BASKETS

Oh my. Oh goodness. Well god bless you. What's her name?

CHIP

I don't know, mother.

BARBARA BASKETS

You don't know?

CHIP

No. I told you she's just an insurance claims adjuster who's driving me around while my scooter is being repaired from a bee accident.

MARTHA

My name is Martha, Mrs. Baskets. Nice to meet you.

BARBARA BASKETS

Well Martha. come on in, you two.

They all go in.

32 INT. KITCHEN - LATER

32 \*

They sit on stools in Barbara's kitchen. She's prepared a lovely spread for her guests. \*

\*

\*

BARBARA BASKETS

So. Isn't this nice?

MARTHA

Yes.

CHIP

If you say so, mother.

BARBARA BASKETS

So. Martha. You're in the insurance business.

MARTHA

Yes. I-

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

CHIP

I need to go to the bathroom.

He gets up to go.

BARBARA BASKETS

That's good. Martha and I can have some girl talk.

33 INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

33

Chip sits on the toilet lid with his pants still on.

CHIP

Come on Chip. Come on. Don't do this. You're better than this.

34 INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

34

\*

Barbara is showing Martha pictures in a photo album.

\*

BARBARA BASKETS

Here's chip and his brother at a swimming pool.

MARTHA

Oh. They're twins?

BARBARA BASKETS

Yes. They were my first twins.

MARTHA

You have... other twins?

BARBARA BASKETS

Yes. After them I had another set of twins. Here they are.

She flips to a new page and shows Martha pictures. The other twins are much more muscular and succesfull looking but they kind of look like Chip and Dale.

\*

BARBARA BASKETS (CONT'D)

One of them is a race car driver and the other climbs Mount Everest.

MARTHA

Wow.

35 INT. BATHROOM - DAY 35

Chip is throwing water in his face. He looks at himself in the mirror. Then leaves the bathroom. \*

A35 INT. KITCHEN/BATHROOM EXT - DAY A35 \*

We follow him to the living room where Barbara is showing Martha a picture of Ronald Reagan that is framed on the wall with the family pictures. \*

BARBARA BASKETS  
And this is Ronald Reagan. He was the president. And this is Larry Bird. And-

CHIP  
Okay mother well it was good to see you but I need to go now.

MARTHA  
But I thought you were going to-

CHIP  
No we just stopped to say hello.

BARBARA BASKETS  
Oh okay. What? Chip do you need something?

CHIP  
No mother I'm just fine. Thank you very much.

They leave in a hurry.

36 EXT. BARBARA BASKET'S DRIVEWAY - DAY 36 \*

Chip and Martha exit the house. Chip looks bummed, Martha scampers along behind him to catch up. \*

MARTHA  
So where are we going now?

CHIP  
Gonna borrow money from my brother.

MARTHA  
Oh. Is that easier?

36 CONTINUED:

36

CHIP  
No it's harder.

MARTHA  
Oh. What does your brother do?

CHIP  
He's the dean of a university.

MARTHA  
Oh wow.

37 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

37

This is a commercial for Baskets Career College, BCC. Chip's twin brother, Dale, is greenscreened into the commercial over b-roll of the school.

DALE  
Hi, I'm Dale Baskets. Are you looking to get a degree in Air conditioner repair, Security administration or Yoga? Well Baskets career college is the place for you.

We see individual shots of the three professors: a REPAIR GUY, a SECURITY GUARD and a YOGA TEACHER. We also see them helping a STUDENT.

DALE (CONT'D)  
Our professors are here to give you the expertise you'll need to work in the air condition repair, security or yoga teaching business. Just ask me, anyway. Because I'm dean Dale. Come on down and enroll. We'll teach you ANYTHING. Within the confines of these three particular... areas.

38 INT. BCC STOREFRONT LOBBY - DAY

38

Chip and Martha are watching this commercial on a monitor that shows it on a loop in the front of the store. Dale comes up.

DALE  
Well. If it isn't my twin brother.

(CONTINUED)

CHIP

Hi Dale.

DALE

Hello, Chip. Do you like my commercial? I put it on in the store here as an idea I got from that movie goodfellows. Hi. I'm Dale Baskets. Who are you?

MARTHA

My name is Martha.

DALE

Martha. Martha Martha. There I have it memorized.

MARTHA

Oh?

DALE

Yup. Say it three times. Works like a charm. Martha martha martha. Dale dale dale. See? Now I have my own name memorized. I'm just kidding I already had it memorized.

CHIP

Dale I need to borrow some money.

DALE

Oh. My what a surprise.

(to martha)

I'm being sarcastic. He always wants money. That's a cute top you have on, are you a real lesbian?

CHIP

Dale.

DALE

How much, brother?

CHIP

I need forty dollars.

DALE

Forty smackers?

CHIP

Yes if you must. Forty smackers.

(CONTINUED)

DALE

What's it for? More clown makeup?  
(to martha)  
He thinks he's trying to be a  
clown.

CHIP

I am a clown, Dale.

DALE

Oh are you? So then where's your  
red nose?

CHIP

Real clowns don't. Need. Noses.

DALE

Oh well. Whoopdee doo then.  
(to Martha)  
Whoopdee doo. Aparently.

Martha doesn't smile at him. She's on Chip's side.

DALE (CONT'D)

Well. Okay. You can have your  
dern fourty dollars.

CHIP

Thank you.

Martha pulls up to an apartment complex.

MARTHA

This is your... ex wife's place?

CHIP

Yeah. Listen. Martha. You can  
just leave me here. I'll... See  
you later.

MARTHA

Are you still in love with her?

CHIP

Well. She doesn't love me. SO.  
That's the important thing.

He gets out of the car.

39 CONTINUED:

39

CHIP (CONT'D)  
See you later.

MARTHA  
Okay.

She drives off. Sad.

40 EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX DOOR -- DAY

40 \*

We see Penelope approach through the glass door. \*

CHIP  
Hello Penelope. I have your fourty  
dollars. So you can get HBO.

PENELOPE  
Okay.

He gives her the money.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)  
Bye.

Penelope closes the door and walks away. We can still see her \*  
through the glass. \*

CHIP  
Wait.

She stops, returns to the door but doesn't open it. Chip \*  
leans right up on the glass. \*

CHIP (CONT'D)  
Thank you for waiting...  
Penelope.

PENELOPE  
What?

CHIP  
If I... quit. Being a clown. If I  
... give it up. And get a job at  
Arbees. Will you come back to me?

She looks at him blankly. Then walks away. \*

41 INT. RODEO DRESSING ROOM -- LATER

41

Chip is looking at himself in the mirror. He makes a  
decision.

42 INT. SOUNDBOOTH - NIGHT 42

Chip goes to the SOUNDMAN who is at the console. The SOUNDMAN leans into a mic which echoes his voice out over the arena.

SOUNDMAN  
Ladies and gentleman, please rise  
for the national anthem.

We hear the national anthem being sung out in the arena. \*

CHIP  
Can you please put this on after?

He hands him a victrola. \*

SOUNDMAN  
What the hell's that?

CHIP  
It's my swan song. Just please play  
it.

SOUNDMAN  
No way man. Ain't no clown gets  
his own music.

43 INT. RODEO ARENA - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS) 43

A spotlight shines on the singer of the national anthem.

SINGER  
And the rocket's red glare...

44 INT. SOUNDBOOTH - NIGHT 44

Back at the soundbooth.

CHIP  
LOOK! JUST PUT IT ON! You won't  
see me after this. This is my  
last... ever... Performance. Just  
put it on and give me a lone  
spotlight. Please.

SOUNDMAN  
Whatever man.

45 INT. RODEO ARENA - NIGHT 45

The national anthem singer finishes.

SINGER

And the home of the brave...

The SINGER exits and the spotlight follows him. All of a sudden the spotlight reveals Chip amongst the darkness.

A beautiful over the top french song starts to play from the PA. We see Ernie notice this.

ERNIE

What the hell?

Chip, in his best clown regalia, comes out and begins a soft and sad clown dance to the music with a spotlight on him. We see audience members in silhouette watching him. We see Ernie staring. He does a few dance moves and gestures and it's really kind of beautiful. Even Ernie looks impressed.

As he strikes a particularly romantic pose, a bull rushes him out of nowhere and knocks him on his ass. The lights come up and the music stops.

LOUDSPEAKER

Let's hear it for baskets the clown, ya'll!

46 INT. RODEO DRESSING ROOM - LATER 46

Chip is dabbing on a new bruise on his face with a washcloth and holding a bruised rib. Lucky walks in and starts shoving stuff in his bag.

LUCKY

That was some weird ass shit you did out there.

CHIP

Lucky. Don't patronize me.

LUCKY

Alright welp. See you round. This is it for me.

CHIP

What do you mean?

LUCKY

I quit. I'm outa here.

(CONTINUED)

CHIP

Why? What happened?

Lucky looks at him like he's nuts. Then shakes his head.

LUCKY

I'll see ya, Baskets.

He leaves. Moments later, Ernie enters.

ERNIE

Well I lost another clown. I told you they all quit. Guess you're gonna quit too.

Chip thinks for a moment, then, resolute.

CHIP

No sir. I'm not quitting. I'm not.

ERNIE

Well you got sand, I'll give you that. I guess since you stuck it out this long that makes you head clown.

CHIP

Head clown?

ERNIE

It's no big deal. Just another couple of bucks an hour and other than that you can call yourself head clown, till you quit too. See you Saturday.

Ernie starts leaving.

CHIP

Ernie. Thank you.

ERNIE

Okay. Just one thing. None of that weirdo shit like you did tonight. Tshirt guns and jumpin in the barrel and help the cowboys outa the ring. Inside of that you do what you want. Got it?

CHIP

Yes sir.

46 CONTINUED:

46

ERNIE

Alright. Take er easy... Renoir.

He leaves a very happy CHip.

47 EXT. MOTEL ROOM - MORNING

47

Martha stands at Chips door. She knocks with anticipation. He comes to the door with a very small towel around him.

CHIP

Martha.

MARTHA

Mister Baskets.

CHIP

For crying all over town, call me  
Chip.

MARTHA

Well. I thought you'd like to know  
that...

She gestures a few feet away.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

I got your scooter fixed.

The scooter sits there still run down but as good as "new" and in one piece. It's like gold in his eyes. Chip's eyes widen, but he checks himself.

CHIP

OH my!- Um. Good. Good. That's  
as it should be. Yes. Excellent.

MARTHA

Well. I guess that... concludes  
our.. Transaction... together.

CHIP

Yeah I guess so.

MARTHA

Unless.

CHIP

What?

(CONTINUED)

MARTHA

Well. I could still... drive you around. And... help?

CHIP

Help what? I don't need anyone's help.

MARTHA

I don't know maybe like... as an assistant? Like a personal assistant?

CHIP

I don't have any money to pay-

MARTHA

That's okay. I just... I'm trying to branch out and do new things. I'll keep my job. I just could be like an intern. You're an artist and I'd like to...

CHIP

Don't be ridiculous...

CHIP (CONT'D)

Don't be ridiculous...

She looks embarrassed and sad.

MARTHA

Alright. Well...

She goes to her car, looks sadly at Chip one more time. Chip seems torn.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Goodbye.

As she gets in her car, Chip seems about to say something. He doesn't. She gets in her car. She turns it around backs up and smashes into Chips's scooter, totally demolishing it. He just stares at the wreckage. Martha is so horrified that she can't speak. Chip looks at her.

CHIP

Okay well. Go get me some coffee and come back. You can drive me on some errands and then to work.

MARTHA

Yes. Chip.

CHIP  
Mister Baskets.

MARTHA  
Yes sir.

She gets in her car and drives off. Chip looks at the scooter, shrugs, and goes back into his room.

END OF PILOT