

SHELF-LIFE

Written by  
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LOGLINE: When a slovenly factory worker at a food-packing plant is invited to his high school reunion, he tries to reinvent himself in order to have the courage to stand up to his high school bullies.

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EXT. BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

HARPER LEWIS, 37, in a fancy suit tailored to fit his oversized physique. The "My name is" sticker on his lapel is written "Not married. No kids. Next question."

Several PAPARAZZI are waiting on the sidewalk outside the door, gossiping with each other and fidgeting with their cameras.

A few local fans have gathered, along with party guests anxiously waiting the arrival of their celebrity guest star.

A car pulls into the parking lot and they all look over, prepared to snap photos, but the car parks and it turns out to be no one important.

Harper lurks in the doorway with a beer in one hand, checking the time on his cellphone with the other.

Headlights from another vehicle brighten the parking lot, and everyone's head turns.

REPORTER ONE  
IT'S A LIMO! THAT'S HIM!

The photographers all snap to attention with their cameras clicking away.

Harper places his beer bottle in the light fixture sconce above his head, he pulls up his pants and buttons his blazer.

A long black limo pulls up in front of the building, and the paparazzi start jockeying for position to get the best shot.

He flattens his tie, sucks in his gut and wipes the sweat from his brow. He pulls on the bottom of his blazer to straighten it and stands tall.

The DRIVER of the limousine walks around the side of the car and opens the door. The paparazzi start shoving each other out of the way, calling his name to get his attention.

ALL  
Johnny! Johnny! Over here Johnny!  
Over here!

JOHNNY MARINOTTI steps out of the vehicle into the lime light, slick and cool as a cucumber in his sleek black on black tuxedo, red roses in hand.

REPORTER ONE  
Hey Johnny! What's it like to be home?

Johnny grins sheepishly.

JOHNNY MARINOTTI  
I've only been in town for a few  
minutes guys, ask me at the end of  
the night.

They laugh at his witty repartee.

REPORTER TWO  
Do you think your high school  
sweetheart is here tonight Johnny?

JOHNNY MARINOTTI  
Well, I hope so. Otherwise I got  
all dressed up for nothing.

They laugh.

REPORTER TWO  
What are you gonna say to her when  
you see her?

JOHNNY MARINOTTI  
Honestly, I don't know yet.

The limo driver starts to guide Johnny's way through the  
photographers towards the door. Harper tries to get closer.

REPORTER THREE  
Do you have anything to say about  
the online rumors that you were in  
a porn movie?

JOHNNY MARINOTTI  
Oh now they're calling it a porn  
movie?!

They laugh.

REPORTER THREE  
Sex tape?

JOHNNY MARINOTTI  
Oh come on guys, there's no sex  
tape.

REPORTER THREE  
Are you saying that because you're  
worried about your career.

JOHNNY MARINOTTI  
Since when has a sex tape hurt  
someone's career?

They laugh.

HARPER LEWIS

It would if it was a gay sex tape!

Even though Harper said it in a weak and cracked voice, Johnny still stops and turns to face the cameras.

JOHNNY MARINOTTI

Who said that?

The photographers part ways to reveal Harper standing there with his hand raised. Harper lowers his hand slowly and clears gulps hard to clear his throat.

Johnny is startled by the sight of Harper but keeps his composure.

JOHNNY MARINOTTI (CONT'D)

Do I know you?

HARPER LEWIS

Seriously? Yeah. We've met.

Johnny turns to continue his way into the building.

JOHNNY MARINOTTI

I'm sorry I don't remember...

HARPER LEWIS

Why don't you tell her the truth Johnny? Tell her you spread rumors about her cause you were scared to admit that you're gay.

The driver opens the main door for Johnny.

JOHNNY MARINOTTI

Good one. Ya know, you used to be a funnier guy.

Johnny enters the building. Harper shakes his head and smiles.

HARPER LEWIS

(Yells.) Hey! I thought you didn't remember me?!

The door swings closed and the photographers turn towards Harper.

REPORTER TWO

You went to school with Johnny Marinotti?

HARPER LEWIS

No, I'm his obstetrician. Get the  
fuck outta my way!

Harper shoves his way through the photographers and enters  
the building.