

BEARLY LEGAL: PILOT

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CHARACTERS

CHARLIE - Early 40's, brown grizzly bear lawyer, loyal, smart-ass, quick-tempered, but restrained. Charlie often finds that he is the glue that holds the family together.

EDDIE - Early 40's, brown grizzly bear criminal, Charlie's twin, day dreamer, short attention span, schemer, skating by on life. Eddie always looks to make a quick buck.

CJ - 15, very pale brown fur bear, sensitive, thoughtful, inquisitive, strange, reserved, honest, star-gazer. CJ is Charlie's only son from a previous marriage.

BARTON - Late 30's, black bear lawyer, suave, professional, successful, and classy. He is Charlie's close pal and partner in court. Serial Dater.

JANICE - Mid 20s, human receptionist at the legal offices, glasses, stylish, and bubbly.

PENNY - Mid 60's brown grizzly bear with a streak of white in her hair. Mother to Charlie and Eddie, she is insightful, resourceful, and manipulative. She is the deputy mayor of Chicago, but still plays the mama bear role in her family.

JUSTINE - Mid 30's, city prosecutor, sophisticated, well mannered, know-it-all, tough as nails in court.

ALEXIA - Mid 30's, pale brown fur bear, Ex-wife of Charlie, skinny, fashionable, posh.

JERRY - Mid 50's, gray haired human, huge gut, friendly smile, trendy but not hip.

DALE JOHNSON - Early 40's, human, city prosecutor, smarmy, self righteous. He would convict his own grandmother if she did the crime.

JUDGE WARNER - late 50's, human, bald, muscular, looks like he was once a professional wrestler.

JUDGE COLA - late 50's, a giant Kodiak polar bear, intelligent, wise.

TEASER**EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT**

Downtown Chicago on a moonlit evening a CREATURE stirs in the alley. A large BROWN BEAR sifts through a dumpster.

The bear **GROWLS** before his powerful jaw **CHEWS** and **CRUNCHES** into his garbage feast.

The **WAIL** of sirens and **FLASHING** of lights signal that the law has arrived.

A spotlight appears and shines brightly on the subject. The light alarms and blinds the bear. Chow mein dangles from the bear's mouth as he **SNARLS**.

Several POLICE OFFICERS duck and crouch behind their vehicles. The SERGEANT, grey haired and strong jawed, **YELLS** out to the bear from behind the door of his squad car.

SERGEANT

Back away from the dumpster bear.
You are trespassing on city
property.

The bear defiantly continues to chow down on the chow mein. BENJAMIN is an overweight bear with an eating problem. He confesses between gulps.

BENJAMIN

It tastes so good, so savory.

SERGEANT

We're going to have to ask you to
step away.

Benjamin ignores the Sergeant and dips his head back into the dumpster. The Sergeant turns to his backup the young officer JOHNSON.

SERGEANT (CONT'D)

Looks like our friend can't get
enough picnic baskets. Johnson get
in there and put cuffs on Yogi.

Johnson's hand shakes as he retrieves from his belt comically large handcuffs for bears. He nervously steps forward; dead man walking.

JOHNSON

Tell my wife I love her.

Benjamin pulls his head out from the dumpster to see Johnson now feet away.

BENJAMIN

Lay off me, I'm starving.

Benjamin takes a step towards Johnson. The gesture is enough to trigger the police force.

SERGEANT

Tranq' him!

Tranquilizer guns **FIRE**. Darts fly into Benjamin. Benjamin waivers and then crumples to the ground.

The Sergeant stands over Benjamin.

SERGEANT

No bear is above the law in my city.

The Sergeant discovers the bear's wallet on the ground and picks it up. He flips open the wallet.

CLOSE ON inside the wallet as the Sergeant gazes at the tame, dorky, toothy grin of the Illinois driver's license photo of Benjamin Grossman.

OFFICERS struggle to lift and remove the heavy and doped bear. Johnson becomes trapped under the bear claw while attempting to put cuffs on Benjamin.

The Sergeant closes the wallet.

SERGEANT

Benjamin Grossman.

A young looking ROOKIE officer approaches.

ROOKIE

Oh geez, this guy does my taxes.

SERGEANT (CONT'D)

And this is why you don't feed the bears.

Benjamin **DROOLS** on himself with lo mein hanging out of his mouth. In a tranquilizer haze, he **SLURPS** up the last of the noodles.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE**INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - DAY**

It's a bachelor pad: cartons of take-out on the coffee table and clothes on the floor.

From within the bathroom, **GROWLING ERUPTS**. It's shortly followed by the sound of **URINATION**, and lastly a **SIGH OF RELIEF**.

CHARLIE FLUSHES, **ZIPS** his fly, and enters the living room. He is a brown grizzly bear in business attire.

He adjusts his tie but then stares longingly over at the Hawaiian shirt and plane ticket on his bed. The sounds of **OCEAN WAVES**, **UKULELES**, and **SEAGULLS** briefly are imagined by Charlie.

CHARLIE

One more week.

A cell phone **RINGS**. Charlie digs the phone out from his pocket. His giant bear claws struggle to slide open the phone and operate the buttons. With a little frustration, he manages to answer the call.

CHARLIE

Hey, this is Charlie.

EDDIE'S VOICE

(on phone)

I'm in jail again.

Charlie's mood plummets.

CHARLIE

Eddie, I really dislike the things you choose to do, I am not taking this one.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. JAIL - SAME TIME

EDDIE could be Charlie's twin if it wasn't for the orange jump suit and the scar on his cheek. He hugs the pay phone tight as he speaks closely into the receiver.

EDDIE

It's bad this time Charlie. I'm in over my head.

CHARLIE

I don't care this week, call our mother.

EDDIE

Ma? I mean, I tried her first. But truth is I need you Charlie. I didn't do it, this time.

The sound of Eddie's scared voice causes Charlie concern.

CHARLIE

I'll be down there in a little bit. Talk to no one, please.

Charlie hangs up leaving Eddie with a **DIAL TONE**. As Eddie hangs up the receiver, a giant BIKER BEAR, tatoos and bandanna, looms over Eddie.

BIKER BEAR

I know, I didn't do it either.

EDDIE

Thanks?

The Biker Bear brushes his paw on Eddie's cheek.

BIKER BEAR

I like your fur.

Eddie takes a big nervous **GULP**.

BACK TO CHARLIE'S APARTMENT

Charlie gathers his briefcase and walks to the front door.

He reaches for the door handle but a knock comes from the other side the door. Charlie peers through the peep-hole.

CHARLIE'S POV

Two bears stand outside one female and one adolescent male cub. Both have very pale brown fur. ALEXIA, the female is dressed fashionable. Large sunglasses hide her eyes. She leans in.

ALEXIA

I can hear you rustling around in there. God, I can even smell you from out here.

BACK TO SCENE

Charlie takes a quick whiff of himself and shrugs to convey at least he thinks he smells fine.

He unchains and opens the door. The two walk in, luggage in tow.

ALEXIA
The place looks charming.

CHARLIE
No it doesn't.

Charlie looks down at CJ, skinny and lanky but still a cub. CJ's eyes slowly observe the surroundings. CJ seems lost in his own thoughts.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Hi, CJ.

CJ
Hey, dad.

CHARLIE
Alexia, what are you doing in Chicago unannounced? A bit far from Los Angeles.

ALEXIA
For your information, I'm finally getting my big break.

CHARLIE
Who finally cracked: Barnum or Bailey?

ALEXIA
A circus joke?
(to CJ)
Your father is so clever.

CHARLIE
Your mother is right.

She gives up on the battle of wits and gives Charlie the news straight.

ALEXIA
I've been hired as the main hostess for a... popular cruise line. That means singing and performing, and honestly, cruise ships are one of the hottest venues these days. I can't take CJ with me. He needs to stay in school. So he's yours for the next six months.

CJ
It's Carnival cruise line. Circus
was a pretty close guess.

Alexia gives CJ a light backed hand **SMACK**. Charlie **LAUGHS**
heartily.

CHARLIE
First off, bears don't belong on
boats. Second, You can't just drop
this one on my door step.
(to CJ)
Not you son, the situation.

CJ, not one for trouble, politely nods.

CJ
I understand Dad.

CHARLIE
What about that old fart "life
partner" you hang around with,
Jerry?

ALEXIA
He's downstairs watching the
rental.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

JERRY, a fat old gray haired human, stands by his fancy rental
car. He's sporting sunglasses and a backwards Kangol hat. Jerry
clearly makes attempts at staying youthful in spite of his
aging years.

Some hooded PUNK TEENAGERS stroll by. Jerry shoots them a
thumbs up and in a suave manner says;

JERRY
Coolio.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Alexia continues to dictate.

ALEXIA
Jerry's coming with me on the
cruise.
(MORE)

ALEXIA (CONT'D)

And you're not going to keep
dodging your parental duties.

This hits Charlie hard. Charlie looks back at his Hawaiian shirt and thinks of his vacation for one last time. The sounds of the **BEACH** come wafting back to him.

He then looks over at CJ who awkwardly smiles back.

Charlie reels his son in with his big bear arm.

CHARLIE

Well you know what? Us bears gotta
stick together. We take care of
our own no matter what. Family
first, right son?

CJ

I'd like to believe so.

Alexia finally relieved. Hugs her son goodbye.

ALEXIA

Take care my baby bear. I'll call
you every chance I get.

CJ

Bye mom, I'll miss you.

She leaves.

CHARLIE

So.

Pause.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You better come to work with me.
Leaving you home alone some would
deem irresponsible with this mess
and no food, right?

CJ

Yeah.

CHARLIE

Plus I'm afraid you'll erase my
DVR, right?

CJ

It happens.

CHARLIE

Let's go then.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Charlie **WHISTLES** down a taxi for CJ and himself.

Jerry about to jump in his rental, waves at Charlie.

JERRY
Hey! Wassup?!

SHOUTS back.

CHARLIE
I don't like you!

It doesn't effect Jerry as he keeps smiling and waving.

CJ
I missed you dad.

They pile into their taxi cab.

EXT. LAW OFFICES - ESTABLISHING - DAY

The taxi stops in front of a downtown Chicago Skyscraper.

INT. LAW OFFICES - DAY

Charlie and CJ step out from the ornate plated elevator and into the offices of McMahon, McMahon, & Holloway bear defense law firm.

JANICE, human, glasses, stylish, and bubbly, greets the two from the receptionist desk.

JANICE
Morning, Charlie, Barton is waiting on you to go over the Benjamin Grossman case. Your brother is in jail again, sorry. And your mother is in her old office, double sorry.

Charlie does not like any of this.

CHARLIE
Thanks, Janice. You remember CJ, my cub?

JANICE
Hey, CJ, you've grown so much. I bet you're a little heartbreaker.

CJ
 Actually girls seem to break my
 heart more often.

Charlie and Janice look at each other.

CJ (CONT'D)
 Don't worry I'm okay with it.

CHARLIE
 CJ is staying with me now at the
 ole bachelor pad. No woman, no
 worry.

Changing topic.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 Powder donut, CJ?

JANICE
 Uh oh...

They turn to look at the kitchen.

CLOSE ON PINK BOX - With in the pink box only a trace existence
 of powder donut crumbs are left.

BACK TO SCENE

Charlie **YELLS** out to the bullpen where workers are busy
 working.

CHARLIE
 I only need one thing to get me
 through the day: Who ate my little
 powder donuts?

SMITH a chubby human with thick glasses, button down shirt, and
 tie, prairie dogs over a cubicle wall. He has a white powdery
 mess around his mouth.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 Smith! I see you!

Charlie gives chase on all fours. Smith **PANICS**, tosses papers
 in the air, and runs.

Halfway to Smith's desk, Charlie is blocked by a black bear
 paw. The paw belongs to BARTON, a black bear with slick backed
 hair, expensive suit. He is slim and suave.

BARTON

Last thing I want to do today is write "little powder donuts" on a paralegal's pink slip.

Barton holds out a plate of powder donuts for Charlie.

CHARLIE

Barton, I knew there were reasons we keep you around.

BARTON

Hey buddy, I keep you around. With the way you're packing away donuts you're making me look slimmer all the time.

Charlie takes the plate.

CHARLIE

Hey! I've been considering cutting back. Thought I might switch to just donut holes.

Charlie devours the donuts. Then to Janice.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Janice, can you get me a coffee and get something for CJ too? Thanks.

They enter Barton's office.

JANICE

What would you like cutie?

CJ

Got any exotic fruits? Perhaps a papaya?

JANICE

I have no idea.

CJ

That's okay, I'll take a look around.

INT. BARTON'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The office has an Asian motif, very contemporary, very feng shui.

CHARLIE

Hey, is that new water feature?

BARTON

Make fun but it's very calming,
centering.

CHARLIE

I don't know, has me wanting to go
take a leak.

Barton tosses Charlie a case file.

BARTON

Benjamin Grossman, the CPA Tax guy
arrested for dumpster diving for a
late night snack in an alley
behind a Chinese food restaurant.
He's digging for scraps and the
cops come and light him up.

Looks up from file.

CHARLIE

They shot him?

BARTON

Well tranquilizers, the report
says he made "an aggressive move."

Charlie bites into his donut, powder gets everywhere.

CHARLIE

He was hungry guy. That's all.

BARTON

We're meeting Benjamin today,
lunch.

CHARLIE

I got to head down to central
booking first, family business.

BARTON

Eddie in the slammer again? He
must like the food in there. I now
see why your mother is haunting
this place today.

CHARLIE

I'm going to avoid that ghoulish
interaction. Have the paralegals
research city wide ordinance cases
involving city owned dumpsters.
Make Smith do it.

BARTON

Copy that captain.

CHARLIE

You think we got a chance on this case?

BARTON

Does a bear shit in the woods?

CHARLIE

Theoretically, but I never have.

BARTON

You got to try it, it's the best. Very calming, centering.

CHARLIE

Okay, now you're making me really have to hit the restroom.

Charlie dashes out.

INT. LAW OFFICES - LATER

CJ remains at reception with Janice. He's nibbling on a papaya. Charlie approaches.

CHARLIE

CJ, can you stay here while...
What the hell are you eating?

CJ

A papaya.

CHARLIE

Huh? Sounds made up.

Janice shrugs.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I'm headed down to the jail house to talk to your delinquent uncle.

CJ

Fascinating that you became a lawyer and uncle Eddie became such a crook.

CHARLIE

I'll tell him you said hi. Your Nana is here. I'm sure she would love to see her grandson.

CJ
How sure?

Thinks.

CHARLIE
I'm pretty sure. Help your grandma
with whatever she's up to.

CJ
Stall tactics?

CHARLIE
Do me that solid and we'll go
catch a white sox game later.

CJ nods and Charlie exits.

INT. JAIL - VISITOR'S CENTER - DAY

Charlie and Eddie are divided by a glass barrier. They speak on phones.

EDDIE
I need you today Charlie. My
initial plea hearing thing...

CHARLIE
The arraignment.

EDDIE
Yeah, THAT is hours away and I
need bail.

CHARLIE
I don't think I can represent you
again Eddie. You have a rubbish
track record. It's nearly
impossible to get a jury
sympathetic to you.

EDDIE
You don't know what it's like in
here. I think they're after me
this time.

CHARLIE
Who?

EDDIE
(whispers)
The Honey-Cuts.

CHARLIE

You say that every time. Look you have too many priors: the illegal gambling, the knock off purse manufacturing, enhancement pills scheme, and light insider trading, for God's sake.

EDDIE

Come on, it was a bear market! You got me off the hook for that anyway.

CHARLIE

Yeah, that's exactly it, I don't want to get you off the hook. I defend those who need it.

EDDIE

But I didn't do it. Come on, drug trafficking charges? That's not me, never was. I'm out of the illegal stuff game. I'm reformed.

CHARLIE

Whoa, drug trafficking? And you were at the scene of the crime?

EDDIE

I thought we were selling gourmet honey. We mark up the price per bottle 400% and sell to hotels, shops, places with tea, or bread stores.

CHARLIE

I think you mean bakeries.

EDDIE

How was I suppose to know those little bear shaped honey bottles had drugs in them? I was the fall guy, honest.

CHARLIE

Maybe some jail time will do you good.

EDDIE

Brother, Chuckie, you got to believe me. I've changed. I was going to give you some gourmet honey. Fairly discounted, delicious gourmet honey!

CHARLIE

Damn Eddie, this case is too much for me to represent you, you'll put the firm's reputation through the wringer again. I'll make sure you get a good recommendation for a city appointed defense attorney.

Charlie hangs the phone up. He puts a paw to the glass, then leaves.

Eddie sits dumbfounded in his chair. A GANGSTER bear walks past Eddie, leans in, and **WHISPERS** into his ear.

GANGSTER

Honey-Cuts, Buzzzzzzzz.

Eddie freezes in place.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Charlie finds Barton and Benjamin Grossman in a booth at the restaurant. Benjamin looks gentlemanly, quite different from the feral guy in the alley.

Charlie sits.

BENJAMIN

How are bears supposed to resist the sweet smell of greasy noodles in a dumpster?

BARTON

To bring everyone up to speed, the A-Okay Chinese food restaurant repeatedly would leave the dumpsters uncovered at night on a regular basis. Whereas you, Benjamin, live in the adjacent second floor apartment. Constantly you were enticed by the wafting aromas.

BENJAMIN

Yes, oh the aromas, so hungry.

The Waitress drops off a soup and sandwich, Benjamin piles in. Charlie stares on.

CHARLIE

Quite the bearish appetite.

BARTON

Actually, Benjamin here is on a diet. Well, he was on that night. We can make a case for irrational state of mind?

CHARLIE

Won't fly in court. Bears love to eat, especially with the winter months coming upon us.

BARTON

Ah-ha, hibernation. Then maybe we play it as his survival instinct kicking in?

CHARLIE

You have any other information to help us out Benjamin?

Benjamin **LICKS** his plate, then in tears.

BENJAMIN

I can't help myself. It wasn't so hard when they kept the dumpsters locked up. I didn't mean to harm anyone. I just got hungry.

Benjamin sadly and loudly **SIPS** his soup.

CHARLIE

Don't worry Benjamin. We're going to help you out the best we can.

BARTON

We'll have you covered. Ben, you're going to need to make room in that stomach of yours, cause soon enough we're going to have the A-Okay Chinese Restaurant served up hot on a plate for you.

Benjamin cheers up and smiles with soup **DRIPPING** from his chin. His stomach **GROWLS** and Benjamin places a paw to his belly.

BENJAMIN

I think it heard you talking about it.

INT. LAW OFFICES - LATER

Charlie and Barton exit from the elevator.

BARTON

I'm actually out of here in a second. Off to jury selection and then I got a smoking hot young something lined up after for some fine dining, wining, and hopefully reclining.

CHARLIE

How do you have a rolodex of woman and still manage to come in here and work a twelve hour?

BARTON

Charlie you got to get yourself back out there, especially if you're still making Rolodex reference. You're a good looking bear who still knows how to work it.

Barton gives Charlie an encouraging **SMACK** on the butt. Charlies begins to walk away.

CHARLIE

Hey! Don't let them steam roll us with a heavy human jury.

BARTON

Oh, I got a handle on it.

Janice leans over.

JANICE

Your mother Penelope is still waiting for you.

She startles Charlie having been there the whole time.

CHARLIE

Damn it. Make up some excuse. I'm...

PENNY (O.C.)

Too busy going down to the jail and being stubborn in taking your brother's case?

PENNY approaches Charlie. She's an elder business woman with the same brown fur as Charlie but with a grey streak in her hair which she seems to display proudly.

CHARLIE

The glorious Penny McMahon returns
to her kingdom.

PENNY

Give your mother a big ole bear
hug.

Charlie, half embarrassed, does.

PENNY (CONT'D)

There we go, now to my office.

INT. PENNY'S SUITE - MOMENTS LATER

It's a gigantic suite covered wall to wall with law books. A
big wooden desk sits on the center far wall.

CJ sits in a corner chair and out of boredom **SPINS** the large
world globe nearby.

Penny and Charlie enter.

CHARLIE

Hey CJ, You been having fun with
Nana?

CJ

Yeah, not bad. She taught me how
to mix an old fashioned for her.

CHARLIE

(glaring at Penny)
I'm glad you're still getting a
chance at an education while
you're between schools.

Penny picks up her cocktail and takes a sip.

PENNY

Oh what bother, It's a valuable
skill to have. He's not bad at it.

CJ

Next time we'll learn to make
manhattans.

PENNY

That's my cubby.

Penny **KISSES** CJ on the cheek, which CJ rubs right off. She then
turns to Charlie.

PENNY

You need to take your brother's case.

CHARLIE

I already turned him down. I can't get him out of this one. It's been too many times, the priors.

PENNY

This is an election year. Charlie, as deputy mayor of Chicago we do not need a family member spending time in jail guilty of a crime. I don't need that kind of spin.

CHARLIE

I'm glad that not only as a parent but as the city's second in command that you're concerned. But he is guilty. He'll be fine, he's having a great time in jail.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIL - CAFETERIA - SAME TIME

Eddie sits at a lunch table by himself. On his tray is a big fresh Salmon.

EDDIE

Salmon Tuesday! At least I do like the food here.

The Gangster bear returns with some cronies and hovers over Eddie. They swipe away his salmon uncontested. The gangster leans over and **WHISPERS** into Eddie's ear.

GANGSTER

Buzzzzzzzzzz!

Eddie is horrified.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. PENNY'S SUITE - SAME TIME

Charlie standing in front of Penny, not confident, speaks again of his brother's situation.

CHARLIE

Yeah, he'll be fine.

PENNY

You defend bears, It's why I started this firm.

CHARLIE

You take his case then.

PENNY

You know I just consult these days. I haven't been in a court room in years. That's why I entrusted you with the firm.

CHARLIE

Eddie takes no responsibility for his actions. I stick my furry neck out for Eddie and that irresponsible miscreant gets tossed back in jail while I can't even sneak away for a little tropical beach vacation.

PENNY

You're not taking a cruise are you? Bear's don't belong on boats... and they don't belong in jail either.

CHARLIE

I have a plane ticket.

Charlie, frustrated, looks over at CJ. CJ, **SPINNING** the globe, pauses and looks up.

CJ

Bears stick together, right?

Charlie is lost for words, deflates. His son is right.

INT. COURTROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The JUDGE COLA, a giant Kodiak polar bear, presides over the court.

JUDGE COLA

How does the defendant plea?

Charlie **CRASHES** through the doors of the courtroom.

CHARLIE

I am this bears lawyer. We plea not guilty!

The bear turns around. It's a short and stumpy PANDA bear in an orange jump suit.

PANDA

Hello!

Charlie looks confused.

EDDIE (O.C.)

Over here bro, I'm next.

Eddie sits in a row of other inmates waiting for their turn on the bench.

Charlie composes himself and then sits behind Eddie.

CHARLIE

Okay, looks like us bears got to stick together, family first.

EDDIE

Thanks! You're the best, Chuckie. You may have saved my life if you can keep me out of jail.

CHARLIE

And who knows after bail we'll probably have some time to build our case. I could even have a chance to take that tiny vacation. CJ wouldn't mind taking a little R and R...

INT. COURTROOM - LATER

Charlie and Eddie stand before the judge.

JUDGE

Now is the time, how does the defendant plea?

Charlie nods to Eddie.

CHARLIE

We plead not guilty on all charges of drug trafficking.

Judge **SLAMS** his gavel.

JUDGE

Let the record show the plea. Bail is set for one million dollars.

Judge **SLAMS** the gavel again. Charlie and Eddie look at each other.

EDDIE
Oh crap!

CHARLIE
That's a lot of money. We'll
figure something out. Just one
more night in jail won't hurt.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIL - EDDIE'S CELL

The cell door **CLANGS** shut for lock down as Eddie frowns. He has returned to his jail cell behind bars. Eddie hears a strange noise: a **BUZZING** sound.

EDDIE
Buzzing? Oh no, Bees!

Angry bees **SWARM** Eddie.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**INT. JAIL - VISTOR'S CENTER - DAY**

Charlie visits Eddie once again. They're deep in discussion.

CHARLIE

You hardly have any bee stings.

Eddie indeed has few bee stings.

EDDIE

They sounded way angry then they were. Their buzz is louder than their sting.

CHARLIE

You're being way to casual about this, so you're safe?

EDDIE

The Honey-Cuts immediately apologized. Apparently, the bees were for my cell-mate Roscoe but he got transferred just last evening. It was all, you know, their mistake.

CHARLIE

(astounded)

I don't believe it.

EDDIE

Yeah they're actually a really sweet group of guys those Honey-Cuts. Just got to get to know them.

CHARLIE

No, I mean that they smuggled a whole swarm of bees into jail.

EDDIE

That is something.

Charlie moves on.

CHARLIE

I've filed a petition on your behalf in protest of the bail.
(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

If you're NOW no longer in danger in here, I'm not sure what kind of firepower I have to bring to the table.

EDDIE

If the guys who set me up are not after me in jail, they must be keeping a low profile. Waiting for me to slip up on my own.

Charlie **SLAPS** his head in frustration.

CHARLIE

Right, this reminds me that I'm still having this council with the Judge and District Attorney later.

EDDIE

I can't stay in here forever. They'll eat me alive. Make your lawyer magic happen bro.

CHARLIE

We're resorting to magic?
(looks at watch)
I got to get to court. You going to be fine?

EDDIE

It is tuna Wednesday!

Eddie **LICKS** his lips. Charlie shakes his head.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Bears and humans alike begin to take their seats with in the court room.

Barton stands and waves in Charlie who just entered. Charlie takes his seat between Barton and their defendant Benjamin.

CHARLIE

How are we looking?

BARTON

Not bad. I think we can play the jury sympathetic to our side, but I think you may have missed who our lovely prosecutor is...

Charlie glances towards the prosecution and grimaces. As if in slow motion we see a stunning female lawyer bear turn towards our boys. JUSTINE a sophisticated, but ball-busting.

CHARLIE

We're going up against Justine Walker?

BARTON

You should have never canceled drinks with her. You get one chance with Justine.

CHARLIE

How did I know that the White Sox were going to go into game seven?

Barton Shakes his head.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Think she's still bitter?

They Look over at Justine again. She curls her lip, shows her teeth, and attempts to hold back her **GROWL**.

BARTON

She seems to be doing better.

The BAILIFF speaks.

BAILIFF

All rise, the honorable Judge Warner now presiding.

JUDGE WARNER, human, bald, tough as nails, looks like he was once a professional wrestler.

JUDGE WARNER

Please be seated.

Charlie gets a look at the jury; the ratio of humans to bears is greater. Charlie **WHISPERS** to Barton.

CHARLIE

I thought you showed for jury selection. We're sapien heavy here.

BARTON

Don't worry the one guy is a fireman.

They look over. Indeed one of the jurors is mustached and broad shouldered standing out as the fireman.

CHARLIE
So what does that mean?

BARTON
Firemen love bears.

CHARLIE
What?

BARTON
C'mon, Smokey the bear is their
idol. I meant him once you know.

Charlie shakes his head.

JUDGE WARNER
We'll now hear the opening
argument from the defense.

Barton stands but before approaching the jury quickly leans
over to Charlie.

BARTON
Don't worry, I got this.

Very suave, Barton is in his element.

BARTON (CON'T)
Everyone loves to eat. It's a
natural behavior. We become hungry
and we eat. It's a physiological
trigger we can't ignore. We smell
something and our tastes buds
start tingling. With mouths
salivating, we succumb to hunger.
And when it comes to bears, it's a
primal force. It's a necessity.

Points to his client.

BARTON
My client, Benjamin Grossman, has
those bear instincts too. Night
after night he ignored those
instincts. Compelled by the
enticing aroma from the A-Okay
Chinese Food Restaurant. until
that fateful night, in a moment of
weakness, there was no other
option. Only one course of action.
What is he guilty of? Being a
humble animal like any one us?

Barton pauses dramatically to let the question soak in to the jury. Meanwhile, Barton **SCRATCHES** his back against the witness stand post. After he relieves his itch he continues.

BARTON

Here are the facts: My client has no criminal record, and no ill history to speak of. He is a gentle Ben. The food was discarded. It was unwanted. He was not in a rational frame of mind, sure, but who would be that intoxicating smell. It is purely a result of a bear's natural instinct.

Barton **POUNDS** one paw into another justly.

BARTON (CONT'D)

It is in your hands and paws to decide if it is just to hold Benjamin Grossman accountable for following what is only natural instinct.

The jury nods as they absorb the information. Barton returns to his seat.

CHARLIE

Geez, Barton, you were moments away from singing "The Bare Necessities."

BARTON

Hey, that's the song of our people. You know, I'll give it a few bars if you think it'll help.

Charlie shakes his head.

INT. COURTROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Benjamin sits on the bench, Justine grills him with her cross examination.

JUSTINE

Mr. Grossman, how is the new diet going?

BENJAMIN

(Nervous as all hell)
Good.

JUSTINE

That's great to hear, but wouldn't you agree it is not a bear's natural instinct to diet?

Charlie motions.

CHARLIE

Objection, she's speculating.

JUDGE WARNER

Sustained, please Miss Walker get to your point.

JUSTINE

(rethinks)

That's fine. Are you getting plenty to eat on your diet?

BENJAMIN

Not really. You know being on a diet you try to eat less.

JUSTINE

But you do have plenty of food options, nonetheless, in your possession to eat at regular intervals?

BENJAMIN

Yes, I have regular planned meals, including these awful diet bars.

JUSTINE

Then would you say you had food at your residents? Alternatives to the Chinese food in the dumpster? That it was not a necessity that you needed the Chinese food?

BENJAMIN

Yes, I think.

JUSTINE

Therefor, you were fully aware of your options but chose instead to go down and into the dumpster?

Benjamin sweats.

BENJAMIN

I was aware, but I mean, the hunger of it all.

JUSTINE

(lays in)

Mr. Grossman is it true that you were well aware of your actions and that you were trespassing on city property? Were your actions completely intentional and premeditated?

Benjamin breaks down **CRYING**.

BENJAMIN

It's all true, I knew what I was doing. The diet bars, they do nothing. The Chinese food taste so, so good.

Charlie and Barton loosen their collars. Benjamin is not looking good on the stand.

JUSTINE

Food unwanted or not, the trash receptacle is city property. Did you trespass onto that dumpster that night and eat from the contents of it?

BENJAMIN

Yes, I did.

JUSTINE

No further questions.

Benjamin **SOBS** as he retrieves from his pocket a hostess cupcake (the chocolate kind with the white squiggles on top). He buries his face in it.

Barton is flabbergasted. Charlie stands and raises his paw.

CHARLIE

Motion to recess.

Judge Warner **SLAMS** his gavel.

INT. COURTROOM - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Charlie and Barton step out of the courtroom into the hallway with the flowing traffic of people.

BARTON

I think that went as good as we could expect.

CHARLIE
We're losing it in there. We got
to change up our strategy.

JUSTINE (O.S.)
I could tell you that.

The two are caught off guard as Justine enters their
conversation.

JUSTINE
Your guy was sweating in there. He
probably could've used a...
(directed at Charlie)
DRINK.

Justine glares at Charlie.

CHARLIE
You are so funny.

Barton get's it.

BARTON
Oh, DRINK, from when Charlie stood
you up.

CHARLIE
Actually, I canceled on Justine.

JUSTINE
Why do I bother. Good luck boys.

Walking away.

JUSTINE (CONT'D)
By the way you got Dale Johnson on
your brother's case. And look
there he is. I'll send him right
over.

Charlie and Eddie grimace. Coming their way is DALE, human,
city prosecutor, smarmy, self righteous, would convict his own
grandmother if she did the crime.

BARTON
This guy is a dick, see you back
at the office.

Barton jets away. Dale swaggers on over to Charlie.

DALE
Don't waste my time tonight,
Charlie.

CHARLIE

Looking great, Have you been working out Dale? You fill out that suit so well.

DALE

Of course I have, don't patronize me.

CHARLIE

Regarding the petition, my client's bail is rather high wouldn't you agree?

DALE

Your brother is a known felon. He's a flight risk. He's not getting out any time soon, so again, don't waste my time.

CHARLIE

What, you got plans or something?

DALE

I'm purchasing another boat.

This intrigues Charlie.

CHARLIE

How do you feel about bears on boats?

DALE

I'll give you the number of my boat guy, tell him Dale sent you.

Dale hands over a business card and slides away. Charlie examines the card.

INT. LAW OFFICES - DAY

A crowd surrounds the receptionist desk. It's CJ in the middle as he meticulously **STACKS** business cards into a greek parthenon like structure.

The event is nerve-racking for all those watching until finally CJ places the last card in place. The crowd **APPLAUDS**.

CROWD MEMBER

Hey it's Las Vegas's Cesar's Palace!

CROWD MEMBER 2

I have a time share in Vegas.

Charlie steps out of the elevator and into the offices. He approaches the crowd of slackers.

CHARLIE
C'mon people this a law firm, not
a
(looks at structure)
Huh, Caesar's Palace?

CJ looks at his father and takes it upon himself to end show by **TAPPING** over the structure. The cards **CRUMBLE** and the crowd **SCATTERS** except for Janice, CJ, and Charlie.

CHARLIE
Wow, CJ, we really need to get you
back into school. You can't hang
around here all day.

JANICE
But he's been my little helper.
Maybe, we should just employ him?
He just so adorable.

CJ
I like school, sorry, Janice.

CHARLIE
White Sox game tonight champ?
Let's make it happen.

CJ nods but doesn't seem too hopeful. Charlie senses it but moves on.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Little powder donuts?

Charlie looks over to the kitchen, Smith is reaching his hand into the pink donut box.

Charlie **GROWLS** loudly as a warning to Smith. Smith turns and locks his terrified eyes on Charlie. Smith pulls his hand out from the box slowly, it's a plain donut.

Smith gently backs away. Charlie squints his eyes, following closely as Smith stoops out of the kitchen.

INT. BARTON'S OFFICE - LATER

Charlie and Eddie sort through case files. Charlie **SNACKS** on a pile of powder donuts.

CHARLIE
Where do we stand?

BARTON

The date went great, real chatty with the pillow talk though. I can see if she's got friend, roommate, acquaintance for you. We can double!

CHARLIE

Acquaintance? Stop it! I meant the case.

BARTON

Okay, we got the Chinese Restaurant owner hitting the stand next.

CHARLIE

What do we got on this guy?

BARTON

Not much, seems like your run of the mill purveyor of egg rolls. He's been there for years.

CHARLIE

So has Benjamin. Why now all of sudden would Ben snap?

Barton reads into the case file.

BARTON

Look here, remember Benjamin's only complaint is that it wasn't so hard to resist the temptation when they kept the dumpsters locked up.

CHARLIE

Wait that's it.

BARTON

What you got?

CHARLIE

Remember that Yellowstone case?

BARTON

Of course, Wyoming vs. Rick, bears and campers. Bears are not held accountable if and when campers leave out garbage without properly storing and containing in said garbage.

Charlie and Barton are on the same page.

CHARLIE

If the A-Okay Chinese Food Restaurant does not properly lock the dumpsters at night they waive their rights under bear precedents.

BARTON

It's the best way around the trespassing charge, and we now counter with negligence.

CHARLIE

I think it can work.

BARTON

And that's the swift bear claw of justice at work. This lawyer stuff doesn't seem that hard at all.

Janice **KNOCKS** and enters.

JANICE

Your mother is back.

Charlie raises an eyebrow. Barton doesn't miss a beat.

BARTON

I'll meet you at the courthouse.

INT. PENNY'S SUITE - DAY

Charlie enters.

CHARLIE

I got to go make it quick.

Like an evil doer, Penny reveals herself by **SPINNING** around in a huge chair. She looks up from her crossword. This scares the crap out of Charlie.

CHARLIE

Ahhh, Don't do that!

PENNY

Do what? Did you get your brother out of jail yet?

CHARLIE

Hopefully at the end of the case, due justice and all.

PENNY

What of his bail?

CHARLIE

One million dollars is a bit steep. He's a flight risk. They're keeping him put and it's probably for the best.

PENNY

I'm doing my best to spin this story in our favor. Keeping him behind bars in orange jump suits will help no one.

CHARLIE

Have you been down there to see him? He's fine.

PENNY

Why yes I have.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIL - VISITOR'S CENTER - SAME TIME

Eddie sits across from Penny, they talk through the phone.

EDDIE

And they just installed a candy machine in the break yard!

Penny rolls her eyes.

PENNY

You're getting fat.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. PENNY'S SUITE - SAME TIME

Penny finishes recollecting her visit.

PENNY

Yes, he is fine but that is not the point. It is your responsibility.

This sets Charlie off. He grows gradually angrier.

CHARLIE

My responsibility? It's Eddie who takes no responsibility for his actions. He's the selfish one.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I bust my bear butt for everyone of you. I want to be the selfish one and escape for once. For all I care let him rot. What more do you want from me?

Penny looks over Charlie's shoulder. CJ **SPINS** around in a chair just as Penny did before. This also frightens Charlie.

CHARLIE

Ahhh! You were there the whole time?! Why are these chairs so big?!

CJ

You're going to leave Uncle Eddie in jail?

CHARLIE

We really got to get you back in school.

Charlie feels absolutely terrible.

PENNY

Your father is right, CJ, Eddie is an idiot and got himself in quite the predicament. But Charlie, I put you in charge of this firm for sometime now not because of your pedigree or distinguishments.

CHARLIE

Hey! I kind of earned it...

PENNY

But because I know you will always make the right choices.

CJ looks to Charlie once more.

CHARLIE

Geez, I'm feeling like a broken record here, but bears stick together.

Charlie looks at his watch.

CHARLIE

I'm due back in court.

PENNY

Charlie do your best and go bust
some bear butt.

Penny cheers to Charlie with her old fashion glass. Charlie forces a smile and exits.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Charlie enters and sits down next to Barton.

Court is in full session. RESTAURANT OWNER, an older Chinese man, is on the witness stand.

BARTON

(whispers to Charlie)
Take out time.

Barton approaches the witness.

BARTON

You are the owner and operator of
"A-Okay Chinese Food Restaurant"
correct.

The Restaurant Owner **LAUGHS** and replies.

RESTAURANT OWNER

Yeah, of course, we all know that.

BARTON

Fair enough, and you are
responsible for all management
procedures? Particularly, those
city regulations all owners must
abide by?

RESTAURANT OWNER

A-Okay Chinese food restaurant,
available for dine in and take
out, follows all ordinances. Grade
A from health inspector.

BARTON

Excellent, then you are aware that
all city trash receptacles are
required by the city to be covered
and secured between the regulated
hours of 2AM to 7AM?

Restaurant Owner knows he's in trouble.

RESTAURANT OWNER
Chinese kitchen very dirty. Clean
all night sometimes, lots of
trash.

BARTON
Did your city designated dumpster
remain open repeatedly past the
hours of 2 AM, including the
evening of my client's arrest?

RESTAURANT OWNER
Of course.

BARTON
The witness admits to violating
the city ordinances on the night
in question. May I remind the
court of Wyoming vs. Rick.

Justine knows where this is going and intervenes.

JUSTINE
The prosecution requests for a
side bar.

JUDGE WARNER
Granted.

Justine steps to talk with the judge off the record.

JUSTINE
I would like to pull the witness
off the stand and request to
adjourn at this time.

Charlie Jumps in.

CHARLIE
No way, he chose to take the
witness stand and now we're going
to counter sue for negligence.

JUSTINE
You've got to be kidding me. Your
client is the one that lashed out.

JUDGE WARNER
We do not need to prolong this
case any more when the primary
witness is incriminating himself.
We would all love to get out of
here today.

CHARLIE
And catch the white sox game.

JUDGE WARNER
Wait a second, you're not a cubs fan?

Justine frustrated, now compromises.

JUSTINE
Ugh, the city is willing to drop the trespassing charges, but forty hours of community service for the disorderly conduct.

CHARLIE
Done.

JUDGE WARNER
Court is adjourn.

They shake on it. Charlie gives Benjamin a thumbs up.

Benjamin pumps a fist in the air then takes a **BITE** of a candy bar he had hidden in his other hand.

Barton leans over to the jury.

BARTON
Only you can prevent dumpster diving.

The fireman juror excitedly **HIGH FIVES** Barton.

CHARLIE
One more thing to do now.

INT. JUDGE'S CHAMBER - EVENING

Judge Cola sits behind the wooden desk. The bear looks fearsome that is until he puts on his reading glasses.

JUDGE COLA
So it seems here, you're petitioning the bail set by the district. What are your grounds?

Charlie and Dale Johnson sit across from the Judge.

CHARLIE
My client is not a risk to society. The amount of the bail is quite steep for such a case.
(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Innocent until proven guilty is
what I hope the district still
believes.

DALE JOHNSON
Stop the theatrics, Charlie. Your
honor, the defendant has been
flagged as a flight risk since he
is a repeat offender.

The Judge takes off his glasses and **STARES** down Dale.

JUDGE COLA
I can smell exactly when a whole
case becomes theatrical especially
when the district can't resist
making an example of a case when
it so happens to have political
ties involved. Reputations are at
stake with the public eye, I
assume?

Dale **SQUIRMS** in his seat.

JUDGE COLA (CONT'D)
But I see no definitive argument
to overturn the amount.

Judge Cola looks back to the papers for resource.

JUDGE COLA (CONT'D)
The defendant currently holds no
permanent residency. What leads us
to believe he won't skip town as
the district attorney fears?

Charlie thinks and then **BLURTS** out.

CHARLIE
Because he would be living with
me.

Charlie let's out a **SIGH** of regret.

DALE JOHNSON
What are you talking about?

CHARLIE
I'll be responsible for my
brother. If the bail were to be
reduced and then paid. He will be
released into my custody, under my
residency.

Judge Warner contemplates.

JUDGE WARNER

I could be on board for this. I would entertain a reduced bail to ten thousand with the mandatory addition of a law enforcement tracking collar.

DALE JOHNSON

Fine.

CHARLIE

Let's do it.

JUDGE WARNER

Petition granted. Now if you don't mind I have my boat to cast off.

CHARLIE

You own a boat?

The judge pulls out a fisherman's hat with lures fixed on it.

JUDGE WARNER

Why yes, I'm an avid fisherman, bears love fish.

CHARLIE

There you have it, bears on boats.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Charlie turns the key and enters his apartment. He is followed by CJ and then Eddie. CJ carries bags of "A-Okay Chinese Food Restaurant" take out.

Eddie **FUMBLES** with the collar around his wrist, he's not quite use to it yet.

EDDIE

Thanks again for getting me out bro, but the collar is bit much. They might as well tagged my ear.

CHARLIE

You're lucky they didn't put it around your neck.

CJ

Hey Dad, White Sox are on.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Charlie, Eddie, and CJ relax on the couch watching the ball game. They **DEMOLISH** the Chinese food as they plunge their mouths into their take out containers like wild animals.

EDDIE

I would totally jump into a
dumpster for this take out.

CJ and Charlie **GRUNT** in agreement.

END OF SHOW