

INT. SHAPIRO/WEST - DAY

George jumps from his desk. Andy is walking in.

GEORGE

Andy, c'mon IN! Thanks for flyin' out here!!

ANDY

The stewardess let me keep my headphones.

GEORGE

That's... terrific! But I got something better. This is BIG...

(giddy; milking the moment)

You are getting a once-in-a-lifetime, unbelievably lucrative opportunity to star on... a

PRIMETIME NETWORK SITCOM!!!!

Andy's smile drops. He freezes up.

ANDY

Sitcom...?

GEORGE

And this is a CLASS ACT! It's the guys who did the Mary Tyler Moore and Bob Newhart shows! It takes place in a taxi stand! And you're gonna be the Fonzie!

ANDY

(confused)

I'm -- Fonzie?

GEORGE

NO! The Fonzie! The crazy breakout character! The guy that all the kids impersonate and put on their lunchboxes!

ANDY

(soft)

George, I hate sitcoms.

GEORGE

HANG ON, you ain't heard the best part! ABC has seen your foreign man character, and they want to turn him into --

(he checks his notes)

"Latka," a lovable, goofy mechanic!!!

Long pause. Then -- Andy responds.

ANDY

No.

GEORGE

"No"? "No" to which part??

ANDY

No to the whole thing. None of it sounds good.

George is flummoxed.

GEORGE

Andy... this is every comedian's dream.

ANDY

I told you, I'm not a comedian. And sitcoms are the lowest form of entertainment: Stupid jokes and canned laughter.

GEORGE

(shocked)

B-but, this is classy... they did Bob Newha--

ANDY

I'm not interested. I want to create my own material.

Beat. George glares.

GEORGE

You have to do it.

ANDY

I refuse.

GEORGE

(he explodes)

LISTEN, you arrogant putz! I've been in this business for twenty years! I know! If you walk away from this opportunity, you will never, NEVER see another one like it again!!!!

Long pause. Andy stares at George, amazed at this passion.

Then Andy gets up and looks around the office. He stares at the awards... the gold records... emblems of success and experience.

Andy thinks -- then nods.

ANDY

Okay. Fine, I'll do it.
(beat)

But I have a few terms.

GEORGE

(relieved)

Of course! That's what negotiations are for.

Andy starts to write on a piece of paper.

GEORGE (cont'd)

What are you doing?

ANDY

Writing down my terms.

George watches patiently.

Andy clicks his pen, done. George smiles and takes the list. He scans it... then his face gets totally befuddled.

GEORGE

Are you makin' fun of me --? This is RIDICULOUS!

ANDY

(blasf)

Those are my terms.

GEORGE

They're IMPOSSIBLE!! Jesus!

(he points at one item)

I mean -- "two guaranteed guest shots for Tony Clifton"?! Who is this TONY CLIFTON?!

ANDY

He's a Vegas entertainer. I used to do impressions of him. We sorta... got in a fight over that.

George gets a look.

GEORGE

This Clifton called me up. He's a loon! He HATES you!

ANDY

Nah, he just talks tough. But I owe him one.

Andy smiles ingenuously, then turns stern.

ANDY (cont'd)

If I'm the new Fonz... ABC's just gonna have to give me what I want.

(a sarcastic FONZIE

IMPRESSION)

Heyyyyyy!

George winces. He stares at the list.