

Meh

"The Business Idea"

Written by

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ACT 1

FADE IN:

INT. BARRY AND RITA'S APARTMENT - FRIDAY MORNING (DAY 1)

Rita is in the bedroom standing in front of a mirror on top of a tall dresser. She is leaning towards the mirror putting on mascara. Barry walks through the bedroom door and stands next to Rita, almost in between her and the mirror.

BARRY

Hey. I had an awesome idea for a new business!

RITA

What is it?

Barry notices that Rita is putting on makeup.

BARRY

Are you working today?

RITA

Yes, Barry. I work every Friday.

BARRY

Oh. I forgot it was Friday.

RITA

Well, I didn't. I have to leave in like 5 minutes. I'm already late, so watch out.

Rita pushes past Barry.

RITA

What's your idea?

BARRY

I don't want to tell you if you're in a rush. I need your complete attention.

RITA

You have my complete attention... for the next 3 minutes. Go!

Rita turns her back to Barry and starts to change shirts.

BARRY

I'll tell you later. I want to present the idea.

Rita turns back around and is buttoning her blouse.

RITA

You want to *present* the idea?
Like a PowerPoint?

BARRY

No, not like a Power Point, but,
like.. *present* it. Tell you the
details. Have a real convo about
it. Not a three minute
conversation when you're rushing
out the door.

RITA

Fine.

Rita walks through the bedroom door into the hallway and then into the living room and Barry follows. She stops and looks at Barry. They stand there and talk.

RITA

Don't forget tonight we're going
out with Angela and Sal.

BARRY

Oh, we are? What are we doing?

RITA

I told you, we're going out for
drinks and then to see her
cousin's movie.

BARRY

Well, it's not exactly her
movie. She was an extra in the
background. We don't even know
if she made it into the movie.

RITA

Angela said her cousin said she
definitely made it into the
movie.

BARRY

How does she know?

RITA

She said she was *right* there
behind Mark Walberg in the
restaurant scene.

BARRY

They do mostly close-ups of Mark Walberg. She's probably not even in the frame, or she's out of focus in the background.

RITA

Well, we'll find out tonight when we see her in the movie.

BARRY

Are we just supposed to search for her cousin in the movie? Who I don't know what she looks like?

RITA

I showed you her picture on Facebook the other day. And just during the restaurant scene.

Rita walks towards the door and gathers her briefcase and sunglasses.

BARRY

Did they invite *me* tonight, or just *you*, and *you're* inviting me?

RITA

They invited *us*, Barry. I told you though, you don't have to go.

BARRY

Meh. It's fine. I'll go.

Barry sits down on the couch. Rita motions towards the door.

RITA

Alright. I've gotta go. *Some* of us have to work today.

BARRY

(high voice)
I'm working!

(normal voice)
I'm working today too. What's that supposed to mean?

RITA

Be home and be ready when I get
back.

Barry stands up from the couch and walks over to Rita at
the front door. He gives her a big hug and doesn't let go.

BARRY

Have a good day at work!

Barry kisses Rita on the cheek, still hugging.

RITA

I've got to go!

She pushes him off, but is smiling because she loves the
affection and walks out the door.

BARRY

Bye!

RITA

(door closing)

Bye!

Barry walks back to the couch. He sits down and pulls a
pipe from the shelf underneath the coffee table. It's
already packed full of some stanky weed. He grabs his phone
from the table, hits the Call Send button on Alan's number,
puts it back on the table, and takes a hit from the pipe.
The screen on his phone is illuminated and the phone rings
Alan.

INT. ALAN'S STUDIO APARTMENT - SAME TIME

Alan is sitting at his desk in front of his Apple computer.
Reddit is pulled up on his browser. His iPhone is plugged
in and charging next to him on the desk.

(phone rings)

Alan picks up his iPhone and looks to see who's calling. He
pulls the cord from the charging port and presses the
receive button.

ALAN

(into phone)

Morning meeting?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

Barry is still sitting on his couch leaning back with his
foot propped up on the coffee table.

BARRY
(into phone)
Morning meeting. I had an idea I
wanted to tell you.

ALAN
(V.O.)
A business idea?

BARRY
(into phone)
Yeah. Want to get breakfast?
I'll tell you about it then. I'm
starving.

ALAN
(into phone)
Yeah sure. Your side of town or
mine?

Alan leans back from his computer, his phone resting
against his ear between his shoulder, and lights a
cigarette that was on his desk.

BARRY
(V.O.)
I'll come to you. Let's eat at
Fred's.

ALAN
(into phone)
Alright, see you soon.

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2

INT. FRED 62 RESTAURANT BOOTH - 1 HOUR LATER

Barry and Alan are sitting across from each other at their
regular booth. Alan has an orange juice and Barry has a
coffee and a water. Both men have their fingers interlocked
and their hands are resting on top of the menus.

ALAN
So what's this new business idea
you wanted to tell me about?

They stop talking as the waiter approaches the table and
puts two plates in front of them, each containing scrambled
eggs and hash browns. One plate has an English muffin and
the other has toast. They stare at the waiter until he
walks away and then grab the English muffin and toast from
each other's plate.

ALAN

He always forgets the Dijon mustard.

Alan stands up, walks over to the bar, grabs the Dijon mustard from behind the counter, and walks back to the booth.

ALAN

I spoke to Peter last night.

BARRY

Oh yeah? How's he doing?

ALAN

Good. He started his new job.

BARRY

Yeah. I talked to him the other day. Did he mention anything?

ALAN

About what?

BARRY

I sent him and Nicole a gift.

ALAN

Oh. He didn't say anything. Maybe he didn't get it yet.

Barry takes a sip of his coffee and Alan drinks his orange juice.

ALAN

What'd you get him?

BARRY

A gift certificate to a sushi restaurant. Nicole got him eating sushi. He loves it now.

ALAN

What for?

BARRY

Whatever. Just a "congrats on your new job / your wife is hot" gift.

ALAN

(laughs)

BARRY

I just ordered it Wednesday night so it probably hasn't gotten there yet. The website is sending an actual gift card, not an e-gift card. They don't offer e-gift cards.

ALAN

That was only two days ago. Give it time. It probably hasn't even shipped yet.

BARRY

What are you doing this weekend?

ALAN

Katie and I are having a movie marathon tomorrow and cooking homemade pizza.

BARRY

Oh. That's cool I guess. How's it going with her?

ALAN

Good. She's a cool girl.

BARRY

Rita keeps pushing for me to get you and Katie to go out with us. A little double date action.

ALAN

Oh yeah? Why's that?

BARRY

She thinks we only hang out with her friends.

ALAN

Is that true?

BARRY

It's not my fault. I see you for breakfast or lunch usually and she's working.

ALAN

True.

BARRY

And then on the weekends, she's always made plans already. The one weekend each month she doesn't have plans, she's like, "Why don't we hang out with your friends?" and I'm like, "Let's just relax, we've been out every weekend."

ALAN

What has she planned for you this weekend?

BARRY

We're going out with Rita's friend Angela tonight and her *boyfriend* Sal. She keeps trying to make me be friends with that guy. I don't like him.

ALAN

I remember you talking about that guy. What don't you like about him?

BARRY

He just sucks. He doesn't have a job.. he lives off Angela. And he's always trying to tell me about his new awesome business, which also sucks.

ALAN

What is it?

BARRY

It's some Internet site for consultants—which he's never consulted about anything a day in his life. It's a bad idea and he has no clue what he's doing. He's been doing it for like a year and still has no members on his site.

ALAN

That sucks.

BARRY

Yeah, whatever. And to make tonight worse, we have to go see that new Mark Walberg movie because Angela's cousin is like a background extra in it.

ALAN

Hah, really? You hate Mark Walberg.

BARRY

I know! I hate mark Walberg. Plus we have to pay close attention to the movie the whole time to watch out for Angela's stupid extra cousin.

ALAN

I know about that movie. I had a client audition for a role in it. What part does she play?

BARRY

She's like an extra and she gets her head blown off during a fight scene or something.

ALAN

(laughs)
Haha, really?

BARRY

No. I don't know. She's in the background at a restaurant or something.

ALAN

(laughs)
Okay. I was gonna say. Because I read the script and I don't remember a fight scene with anyone getting their head blown off.

BARRY

What part did your client audition for? Which client?

ALAN

As you call him, "the guy with the mole." Remember the guy with the mole?

BARRY
(laughs)
Yeah, I remember "The Mole".

ALAN
I got him an audition for a speaking part. You know the scene with the elevator?

BARRY
No, I don't know. I have no idea what this movie's about. And I don't read your scripts.

ALAN
Fair enough. Well, he auditioned for the part of the guy on the elevator.

BARRY
Did he get it?

ALAN
The part? (pauses) No. He didn't get it.

BARRY
Do you think it was because of The Mole?

ALAN
(laughs)
Yeah. Probably because of The Mole. Actually, The Mole got the part. Not him.

BARRY
(laughs)
Do you get 10% of The Mole roles?

ALAN
(laughs)
Hah, no he has different representation. I've been trying to rep him though. Look for him tonight during the movie.

BARRY
(laughs)
Alright. I'll add him to the list of people to look for in the movie tonight, right under Angela's cousin.

ALAN
Yeah. You do that.

BARRY
People will be like, "Did you like the movie?" And I'll be like, "I don't know. I have no idea what happened in it. I just started at the background extras the whole time looking for people I don't know."

ALAN
(in a fake voice)
And did you find any?

BARRY
(laughs)
Hah, yeah. Tons!

The waiter drops off the check. Alan grabs it.

ALAN
I'll get this.

Alan reaches for his wallet from his back pocket.

BARRY
Want to go for a walk and talk?

ALAN
I can't. I have to head to Burbank.

Alan puts a \$20 bill on the table.

BARRY
What for?

ALAN
One of my clients is shooting a commercial.

BARRY
The Mole?

They both stand up from the booth and start to walk out as they finish their convo.

ALAN

(laughs)

No, not The Mole. He's not a client, remember. Only the face he lives on is my client. Hey, I'll see you later though. Have fun tonight with *what's his face*.

BARRY

Yeah. Alright.

END OF ACT 2

ACT 3

INT. RITA'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

Barry is home sitting on the couch where Rita last saw him. He's smoking a bowl. The living room is full of smoke. All the windows are shut. Rita walks through the front door wearing her doctor's lab coat and holding a briefcase. She looks at Barry who is obviously far from ready to leave the apartment.

RITA

Are you ready to go?

BARRY

(exclaims)

Woah! Hold up there Rushy McRusherson! Take a breather. Hi... welcome home... how are you?

Rita puts her briefcase down.

RITA

Sorry, it's just that I get off work late on Fridays and I told you to be ready.

BARRY

I'm pretty much ready.

RITA

Are you going to wear that?

BARRY

(points to Rita)

Are you going to wear *that*?

RITA
I'll be ready in like 5 minutes.
Can you be ready?

BARRY
I'll be ready.

Rita walks into the bedroom and Barry follows her. They both start to get ready. Barry puts on a new shirt. Rita does the same and fixes up her makeup.

BARRY
Hey, what time is the movie?

RITA
It starts at 9:30 but we've got to get there early to get seats. We're meeting Angela for drinks at 8:30.

BARRY
(hiding
excitement)
Oh, just Angela? Is Sal not coming?

RITA
No, he's coming. Why?

BARRY
You only said "Angela"—that's all.

RITA
I meant Angela and Sal. By the way, I have to tell you something. I meant to tell you earlier.

BARRY
What?

Rita stops putting on makeup and gets intense.

RITA
(hesitant)
She told me not to tell anyone, but I'm going to tell you because I don't want you to accidentally say something..

BARRY
Okay.

RITA

Angela had an abortion a couple weeks ago.

BARRY

Whaaaaaa?? She was pregnant? Was it Sal's?

RITA

She was a couple months pregnant, but there was a complication with the baby and she had to give it up. Aborting it was the safest move.

BARRY

Was it Sal's?

RITA

Yes, it was Sal's. They were trying.

BARRY

I kind of wish I didn't know that. Why'd you tell me?

RITA

Well, because I don't want you to make any jokes about abortions tonight.

BARRY

(taken back)

What are you talking about? Why would I make a joke about abortion? When do I ever make jokes about abortion?

RITA

I don't know. I just didn't want you to accidentally say anything. She's really sensitive about it.

BARRY

(interrupts)

Then why would you mention abortion to me? If anything, *now* I'm more likely to mention abortion because I'm thinking about it!

RITA
Just be careful what you say.
Sometimes you get crazy, so just
pay attention to what you say
tonight.

Rita puts on earrings and is almost ready.

BARRY
Alright. No abortion jokes.
Because that's soo like me, to
make jokes about abortions, like
you've heard me do soo many
times in the past.

RITA
(wishing she
hadn't said
anything)
Are you ready?

INT. RITA'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Rita is driving and Barry is in the passenger seat with the seat leaning all the way back. He's stretched out with his arms behind his head. There's a hanger behind him hanging on the hook by the rear passenger side window. He grabs it.

BARRY
We should hide this.

RITA
Why?

BARRY
Well what if Angela sees it?

Barry smiles a big menacing grin.

RITA
What difference does it make if
Angela..

She notices his giant smile.

RITA
(interrupts
herself)
..Oh, that's disgusting. Barry!

Rita hits Barry on the arm and he cowers to defend himself.

BARRY

You're right. I'm sorry. I shouldn't joke about abortion.

(pauses)

I just can't help it sometimes. Abortion really *brings out the child in me.*

He waits for Rita to get his joke.

BARRY

..I said abortion really *brings out the child in me..*

RITA

(laughs)

Barry! Stop!

BARRY

(laughing)

Sorry, sorry. I'm just trying to *get it out before it's too late. Kind of like an abortion.*

They both laugh with the feeling that they are terrible people.

BARRY

Okay last one. Why can't you fool Angela's dead fetus?

RITA

(laughing)

Barry, I'm serious! Stop!

(tries to stop laughing)

No more. Stop.

BARRY

Why can't you fool Angela's dead fetus?

Rita ignores him.

BARRY

Because it wasn't born yesterday.

Rita stifles laughter, but it's hard for her.

BARRY

Because it wasn't born yesterday.

RITA

Haha, I got it. Okay.

BARRY

It's your fault you know. I wasn't even thinking about abortions. I promise I won't say anything though. You know I'm kidding, right?

RITA

I hope so!

BARRY

I would never make a joke like that in front of your friend. You know me.

RITA

Thank you.

She pulls the car into a parking garage.

RITA

Because we're here. Are they all out of your system now?

BARRY

All out of my system like—

RITA

(interrupts)

--like an aborted baby. Ha. Ha.

BARRY

Woah! Rita! I can't believe you'd make a joke like that.

RITA

YOU were about to say the same thing!

BARRY

You don't know that! You're a terrible person for thinking the worse though. Please don't make any more jokes like that tonight. My friend Angela just had an abortion. She's really sensitive about it.

END OF ACT 3

ACT 4

INT. BUSY BAR - ALMOST 9PM

Rita and Barry walk into the bar. The place is packed. Angela and Sal have a table for four in the corner. They wave Barry and Rita over to the table. There are no drinks on the table.

ANGELA
(yelling)
This place is packed!

RITA
(yelling)
I know! When did you guys get here?

ANGELA
We just got here a few minutes ago. I saw this table open up so we grabbed it. Hi Barry!

BARRY
Hi, Angela.

SAL
(overly excited)
How's it going man!

BARRY
Hi, Sal.

Sal leans across the small table and attempts to give Barry a hug. Only their shoulders and face touch. Barry double pats him away.

BARRY
Alright.

SAL
Haven't seen you in a while man.
How've you been?

BARRY
(unenthusiastical
ly)
I'm good. How about you Sal?

SAL

Great man! Business is going great. Actually I got some stuff I want to talk to you about regarding the website.

BARRY

Oh yeah? You've got some members?

SAL

We're still pre-launch but we're getting a ton more people on board. Might even hire some staff.

BARRY

Does a waitress come by here?

ANGELA

No-one's come over to the table yet.

RITA

Are you excited about seeing your cousin on the big screen tonight!

BARRY

If we see her.

Everyone looks at Barry.

BARRY

I'm just saying, *if* we see her. Sometimes they do close-ups, especially in Mark Walberg movies, or the background extras are out of focus.

A woman in a pink shirt walks past the table towards the bar.

RITA

We'll see her! I'm sure Angela.

BARRY

Oh yeah? You're sure?

RITA

We'll be on the lookout for her during any restaurant scene.

BARRY

Rita, Angela, you know that woman that just walked past this table? What color shirt did she have on?

Angela and Rita begin to turn around to look at the woman but Barry stops them.

BARRY

Woah! Don't look! From memory, what color shirt did she have on?

RITA

Black.

ANGELA

Blue.

BARRY

Pink. She had on a pink shirt.

Angela, Rita, and Sal turn around to verify the color of the woman's shirt.

RITA

So what?

BARRY

So, thus proving, no-one pays attention to background people in restaurants.

RITA

Shut up. That's different! No-one was paying attention to that woman, except YOU obviously! Because you're always checking out other women.

Angela looks slightly sad and hasn't said anything. Barry looks around for a waitress.

RITA

Angela, has Lisa seen it yet?

ANGELA

No, not yet. She's actually at a different theater seeing it tonight too.

RITA

I'm excited for her. Good for her! This could be her big break! You know, Barry's best friend is an agent.

ANGELA

Oh yeah?

RITA

(to Barry)

You should put Angela's cousin in contact with Alan. I bet he'd really like her.

BARRY

(shrugs)

Meh. I don't know. That's a lot to ask. Alan's got a lot of clients already.

RITA

Just introduce them. He'll love her. Text him later and give him her Facebook so he can see her pictures.

BARRY

Meh. Yeah. Maybe.

(looks around)

No waitress yet. I'm going to go up to the bar and get us drinks.

Barry stands up and points to everyone individually at the table starting on his left.

BARRY

Beer? Beer? Beer?

SAL

Actually, will you get me a-

BARRY

(interrupts)

Great. Beers all around.

He turns and walks away from the table.

RITA

Sorry about him. He's not excited about seeing this movie. He doesn't like Mark Walberg.

SAL

Who doesn't like Mark Walberg movies? He's an amazing actor.

RITA

I don't know. He's weird. Don't ask. And don't get him started on Anne Hathaway either. We'll have to hear 20 minutes on how she ruined Les Miserables.

(doing Barry impression)
"Incredible movie except for her. The best scene was when she died! Blah blah"

Angela and Sal feign laughter. Rita changes tone and looks like she's about to ask something serious. She grabs Angela's arm from across the table.

RITA

(empathetically)
So how have you been? You okay?

ANGELA

(evasively)
Yeah, we're okay.

Angela reaches for Sal's hand on the table and holds it.

ANGELA

It's been a rough couple weeks, but we're getting through it.

RITA

Aww, that's good Angela. I'm sorry girl.

ANGELA

You must think I'm being too sensitive. You probably see stuff like this at work every day.

RITA

Well, no, not every day. But even so, it doesn't make it any easier, especially when it's happening to a friend. I'm here for you if you need anything.

ANGELA

Thanks Rita. It's just one of those things that takes time.

CAMERA MOVES TO BARRY AT THE BAR

Barry is having a hard time getting drinks. The bar is packed. He moves from one position to another, and then to another trying to get the bar tenders attention, but people keep filling in the empty spaces and he gets pushed back into the crowd.

Barry ducks and disappears from the camera for a few seconds. You see him reappear by rising up from the front of the bar. He displaces two women from their position. They make a face at him and move back a step.

BARTENDER

What can I get you?

BARRY

(holds up 4
fingers)

Four IPAs.

BARTENDER

What kind?

BARRY

Doesn't matter. You pick.

The bartender turns around and begins filling up four glasses of beer from the tap. Barry looks around. He makes eye contact with the two women behind him whose position in line he just stole, nods at them and smiles. He looks past the women at the table with Rita, Angela, and Sal who are deep in conversation.

The bartender returns with the drinks.

BARTENDER

Twenty eight dollars.

Barry pulls his wallet from his back pocket and takes a \$10 bill out to add to the \$20 that was already in his hand. He hands it to the bartender who looks at it like it's not enough, then turns to help other customers.

Barry grabs all four glasses of beer and walk back to the table.

RITA

Barry, where were you?

Barry sites down and puts the four beers in front of him on the table.

BARRY

It took forever to get a round
of beers. The bar is really
busy.

Barry distributes the beers around the table.

RITA

Well, we're going to be late.
The movie starts in 15 minutes
and we've still got to find
parking at the theater. We've
got to get out of here already.

Barry lifts his glass as if to give a toast. Everyone
follows his gesture and lifts their glasses as well.

BARRY

Well then let's kill these
babies!

Rita and Angela's faces drop. Ending music plays.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT 4

THE END