

PLEASE WELCOME, MANNY MACK!

"What's the Deal with
Earthquakes?"

Written by

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. MACK HOME OFFICE- DAY (DAY 1)

JACK, 32, middle American professional type sits on his desk in an ornately decorated room of mahogany built-in bookcases. He's on the phone.

JACK

A clown? We're a comedy club. Not a circus... You're right, it is hard to tell the difference sometimes. Keep trying, Eli.

Jack hangs up the phone as a loud crash is heard.

MANNY (O.S.)

JACK! HELP!

Jack jumps off the desk and dashes out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. MACK HOME, MANNY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS (DAY 1)

Jack runs into Manny's dimly lit antique filled bedroom. He looks around but can't find Manny.

JACK

Manny?

MANNY (O.S.)

(a whiny, nasally voice)
In here!

Jack exits the room.

CUT TO:

INT. MACK HOME, MANNY'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS (DAY 1)

Jack runs into a palatial bathroom that would have made the Romans jealous.

JACK

Manny, are you all right?

Jack sees a broken potted plant and knocked over stand. MANNY, 59, large round man, reminiscent of a parade balloon, sits in a giant bubble filled tub. Manny broadly smiles showing the gap between his two upper middle teeth.

MANNY

Jack.

JACK
I thought you were hurt.

MANNY
Naw. I can't reach a spot on my back.

Manny offers Jack a scrubber on a stick. Jack reluctantly takes the scrubber.

On Jack's reaction, we...

CUT TO:

OPENING CREDITS

ACT ONE

INT. THE COMEDY SHOPPE - BOX OFFICE - EVENING (DAY 1)

KATE, 29, Jack's petite wife with a borderline annoying squeaky voice, has a headset on as Jack paces behind her.

KATE

Why in the hell did I say I would help out here?

JACK

Because you love me?

KATE

Don't push your luck.

JACK

Because every buck we save goes toward the house. Remember that armoire on Melrose?

KATE

Now that's love.

JACK

See, I do know your love language.

KATE

Can you believe it? After a year's worth of construction, our house will be complete in just one day.

JACK

Finally a place where we won't be sharing walls with the neighbors.

KATE

In the hills overlooking Hollywood.

JACK

You're happy?

Kate smiles at Jack. They're about to kiss. The phone rings. Jack looks at his cell phone. Kate looks at hers. It's not their phones. The ringing continues. Kate remembers her headset.

KATE

Comedy Shoppe. Home of the world famous Manny Mack. (aside) Literally.

Jack's push to talk phone beeps.

JACK
(answering)
Hey, Manny.

MANNY (O.S.)
Where are you?

JACK
In the box office. What do you need?

MANNY (O.S.)
EMERGENCY!

JACK
Get Garrett to clip your toe nails.

MANNY (O.S.)
No, it's really an emergency.

JACK
I've gone beyond the call of duty
already today. I took one for the
team...

MANNY (O.S.)
Leno called.

JACK
I'll be right there.

Jack puts his phone away. Kate's been listening in.

KATE
What did he do this time?

JACK
It's nothing.

KATE
Jack, you have your law license and an
MBA. You're a professional.

JACK
I scrubbed his back.

KATE
What?

JACK
In the tub.

KATE
What?

JACK
Only he was in the tub. I was fully
clothed.

KATE
And Manny?

JACK
Clothed... in bubbles.

KATE
Jack! You have got to tell him that's
not your job. You're his business
partner.

JACK
Minority share holder. I don't have
time to talk about this right now.

KATE
You tell him. You go in there right
now and tell him.

JACK
I can't right now. He's in crisis
mode. He won't hear a thing I say.

KATE
Why?

JACK
Leno called.

KATE
Big deal. They're both big headed,
egotistical comedians.

JACK
They haven't talked in 10 years.

KATE
And?

JACK
It's The Tonight Show. This could be
Manny's return. His chance to get
back on top.

KATE
And?

JACK
You and me... We could make a fortune.

KATE

What are you doing talking to me? Get out of here. Go scrub his back, wax his eyebrows...

Jack runs out.

KATE (CONT'D)

Delint his belly button.

Jack reenters.

JACK

Now that was uncalled for.

Kate smiles and shrugs as Jack nods as he exits and we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MACK HOME, MANNY'S BEDROOM - EVENING (DAY 1)

Manny lounges on his bed. He has a facial mudpack and cucumbers on his eyes. GARRETT, a chiseled pretty boy, sits at the end of the bed massaging Manny's feet.

GARRETT

You should really have this looked at. My granny had a bunion like this. It really affected the blood flow, so they had to amputate her...

MANNY

All right, cut the commentary, Cronkite.

GARRETT

Just looking out for you, Manny.

MANNY

Well, let your fingers do the talking.

GARRETT

(pretending his fingers are talking)

Hello Mr. Ugly Foot. You're looking mighty dry and crusty. My what a big bunion you have. Oh, I didn't know you liked hard corns.

MANNY

Get out of here!

Garrett jumps off the bed with a smile and heads for the door. Jack enters.

GARRETT
(to Jack)
Watch out. Manny's grumpy today.

JACK
You have that ability.

GARRETT
It's a talent.

Garrett exits.

JACK
Well, you look fairly relaxed.

MANNY
Never let 'em see you sweat... And for
a man my size, that ain't easy.

JACK
You have big sweat glands. It's
understandable.
(beat)
So what happened?

MANNY
He called and said he wanted to bury
the hatchet.

JACK
That's great.

MANNY
Said he wants me to come on the show.

JACK
Really?

MANNY
And maybe he could do a show here at
The Comedy Shoppe.

JACK
Sold out.

MANNY
It'll never happen.

JACK
What?

MANNY
He's got something up his sleeve.

JACK
He's a comedian. Not a magician.

MANNY
Sabbotage. He's a sabbotuer!

JACK
Oh, lord.

MANNY
You see it don't you? You see what
he's trying to do?

JACK
No.

MANNY
He's trying to lure me in. He'll get
me to prepare. To get up on the stage
and start working out new material.
Blood, sweat, tears...

JACK
You don't cry.

MANNY
Because I don't have tear ducts, but
my sweating makes up for it.

JACK
Isn't this what you've been waiting
for? Don't you make a call to Leno
every Labor Day asking for another
shot on his show?

MANNY
Labor day, 1972. The day we met.
Right here at The Comedy Shoppe.
Don't you see it? It's a set up.

JACK
No, I don't see it. This is what
you've wanted. You've been asking to
be on The Tonight Show for the past
ten years. You've said that you'd go
back on stage if Leno called. Now's
your chance.

MANNY
It's not a set-up?

HELMAN, a Jewish, small wiry man of 35, enters.

HELMAN

A chicken walks into a bar... now
that's a set up.

MANNY

(happy to see him)
Jimmy!

HELMAN

You got a second? I've been working
on a couple new jokes for the show
tonight. I want your opinion.

JACK

Actually, now's not a good time.

HELMAN

What do you mean? The answer to
when's a good time for a joke is
always, now.

JACK

Funerals?

HELMAN

Especially now.

JACK

Weddings.

HELMAN

That's a sad occasion. But divorce
court...

MANNY

Leno called.

HELMAN

Holy hell! This is no time for jokes!
You're back on The Tonight Show?

Manny's nodding.

HELMAN (CONT'D)

It's a set up.

MANNY

See!

JACK

It is not a set up. Oh, by the way
Helman, I've booked you for an hour
long set tonight.

HELMAN
(overjoyed)
You're jerking me!

JACK
Yeah, I am.

HELMAN
Damn.

JACK
Now, that's a set up.

Manny laughs as Helman stews and we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MACK HOME OFFICE - EVENING (DAY 1)

Jack sits at his desk crunching numbers. Kate enters with a burst.

KATE
(voice sounding like Jimmy
Neutron)
You know Jacko, things are starting
looking up.

JACK
You have an audition?

KATE
And I'll soon be resigning from my
receptionist position.

JACK
You mean Senior VP of Answering the
Phones.

KATE
It doesn't sound any better when you
say it that way.

JACK
So tell me about the audition.

KATE
It's for the main character, Johnny.
The show's called Johnny and his Dung
Beetle. His family owns a dump and
Johnny makes amazing inventions from
the junk that's dropped off.

JACK
I can already see the Emmy.

KATE
(reading from the sides,
sounding like little boy)
And when I put this banana peel inside
the coffee can which is attached to
this combustion engine, I can extract
the molecules and create a mostly
edible banana split.

JACK
A show like that and you could buy a
couple armoires.

KATE
I know.

Kate hugs Jack and looks up at him smiling. Garrett enters.

GARRETT
Did you know that Quinlen is manning
the box office phones?

KATE
Yeah I asked him to help me out for a
minute.

GARRETT
Mmmm. Yeah, that's a bad idea.

KATE
What could go wrong?

CUT TO:

INT. THE COMEDY SHOPPE - BOX OFFICE - SAME TIME (DAY 1)

QUINLEN, 25, boasting an unkempt mess of thinning shaggy hair,
sits with a headset on. He's frazzled as he pushes buttons on
the phone system.

QUINLEN
(most of the dialogue is
bleeped out)
Comedy Shoppe. Home of the,
(bleep)... please hold. Comedy
Shoppe. Home... (bleep). Damn!
Comedy (bleep). Listen here you
(bleeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeep).

Quinlen rips the headset off as we...

CUT TO:

INT. MACK HOME OFFICE - SAME TIME (DAY 1)

Jack, Kate and Garrett are all looking at the same imaginary scene of Quinlen answering the phone.

KATE
I'd better get back.

JACK
Yeah.

GARRETT
How can I bottle that and take it on the road?

There is a boom and a rumble. They steady themselves.

KATE
Please tell me that wasn't Quinlen.

JACK
No, it's got to be Manny pulling one of his stunts.

GARRETT
He probably fell out of bed.

KATE
Phew, that's good.

JACK
Maybe for you.

MANNY (O.S.)
Emergency!

GARRETT
That's your signal.

Jack gives Garrett a look, points at him and then out the door. Garrett grins.

GARRETT (CONT'D)
You gotta catch me first.

Garrett dashes out the door. Jack starts to follow.

JACK
(to Kate)
I'll see you before the show.

He gives her a kiss then remembers he has to catch Garrett and runs out the door.

KATE
Love you too.

And we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MACK HOME, MANNY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS (DAY 1)

Jack is struggling to pull Garrett through the doorway by his leg.

JACK
(grimacing)
You needed us?

Jack lets go of Garrett's leg and scans the empty room.

JACK (CONT'D)
Manny?

Garrett joins Jack and they notice the king size bed somewhat off kilter.

JACK (CONT'D)
Manny? Are you under there?

GARRETT
I told you he fell off his bed.

JACK
And rolled underneath?

MANNY
Is it safe?

Jack and Garrett kneel down as Manny pops his head out from the dust ruffle.

JACK
What happened?

MANNY
Didn't you feel the earthquake?

GARRETT
Oh, was that what that was?

MANNY
The whole house shook.

GARRETT
Yeah, we thought that was you.

JACK
It just felt like a big boom. Not like a typical earthquake. Here come on out.

Jack and Garrett pull Manny out and the corner of the bed thumps to the floor.

MANNY

Those are the scary ones. They could take out this entire hillside.

GARRETT

That'd be one hell of a ride.

JACK

Let's save it for the theme park.

Helman enters.

HELMAN

Did you feel that? What am I saying? How could you miss it.

GARRETT

We thought Manny fell out of bed.

HELMAN

I could see that. A big boom then a tremble.

GARRETT

If they named earthquakes, they could call that one "The Manny."

MANNY

All right. Don't make me sit on you.

GARRETT

You gotta catch me.

MANNY

That's why I got Jack.

Jack smiles.

HELMAN

So I put together a few jokes for you, and the list of tonight's comedians.

JACK

You're going on stage tonight?

MANNY

Leno called and said they want me for Tuesday's show.

JACK

New material?

MANNY

I'm going to crush Leno. He thinks he can mess with Manny Mack. Well, he's got another thing coming.

JACK

Why do you think he's got something in for you?

HELMAN

It's Hollywood. There's always an ulterior motive.

GARRETT

Is that why you hang with Manny?

Awkward moment as Helman looks at Manny with a sheepish grin.

HELMAN

Yeah.

(beat)

Isn't that everyone's reason?

JACK/GARRETT

Yeah... Of course... It's Hollywood.

GARRETT

So you're giving up your emcee gig tonight and letting Manny fill in?

JACK

You sure you want to do this Manny?

MANNY

I'm a comedian.

JACK

Yeah, but you haven't performed live for ten years.

MANNY

It's time to get back on the horse...

GARRETT

And crush it.

MANNY

Garry...

GARRETT

I meant "crush it" in a good way. You know, the way you used to. Crush it as in smash it... or squash it... or... Why are you riding a horse again?

MANNY
(faining disgust)
Eeghhh.

Helman hands Manny a couple pages of notes.

HELMAN
So, here are some ideas, Manny.
Current culture, relevant news topics,
etcetera.

MANNY
I got it.

JACK
Maybe you want to ease back into this.
Try one of the smaller stages like the
Launching Pad instead of the Main
Stage.

MANNY
It's like riding a bike...

Manny looks at Garrett.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Think twice.

On Garrett's devilish grin, we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE COMEDY SHOPPE - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT (DAY 1)

Helman peeks between a curtain to check out the audience. Jack approaches.

JACK
Where's Manny?

HELMAN
Now who's the comedian?

JACK
Seriously.

HELMAN
Now's not a time for jokes.

JACK
I'm not joking. You don't know where
Manny is?

HELMAN

He said he had to speak to you for a moment.

Jack shakes his head.

HELMAN (CONT'D)

Holy hell! Ever since he bombed on The Tonight Show. What are we going to do?

JACK

You'll have to go out there and kick things off.

HELMAN

What? No, I can't. I need at least one hour of meditation before I do a show.

JACK

One hour of meditation for ten minutes of work?

HELMAN

I'm on a six to one ratio.

Garrett enters with Manny in tow. Manny looks a bit like a deer in the headlights.

GARRETT

You guys missing something?

JACK

Manny, you all right? You need Helman to cover for you tonight?

HELMAN

No.

MANNY

No.

HELMAN

Oh, thank God.

MANNY

I'm just gonna go out there and give 'em what I got.

HELMAN

(talking into the backstage mic)

Ladies and gentlemen, it's a special night here at The Comedy Shoppe.

(MORE)

HELMAN (CONT'D)
So turn off your cell phones and hide any nefarious spy gear and put your hands together for your host tonight, Manny Mack.

The crowd is heard cheering.

JACK
Go get 'em, Manny.

Manny takes a step toward the stage and then U-turns to escape but Garrett, Jack, and Helman turn him around and push him onto stage.

The crowd cheers louder. Kate joins them backstage.

KATE
Why's the show starting late?

JACK
The world famous Manny Mack has stage fright.

KATE
How can he be afraid to go on stage?

JACK
It's why he hasn't stepped foot on stage for ten years.

KATE
He's performed for presidents.

HELMAN
So have Marilyn Monroe, Monica Lewinsky, and Kim Kardashian.

JACK
Kardashian?

HELMAN
I'm sure it's on her bucket list.

Garrett turns back after watching Manny on stage.

GARRETT
You guys watching this?

HELMAN
Train wreck?

GARRETT
Is that good?

JACK
Better than an L.A. car chase.

GARRETT

He's killing out there like he used to.

Helman joins Garrett by the curtain. Jack's phone rings.

JACK

This is Jack... Uh huh. That's my house. Moving-in in two days... Yes. It did what? You're where?... Sunset Boulevard? Yes, I'll be right there.

KATE

What's up?

JACK

It's more like what's down.

Manny exits the stage and Helman and Garrett are congratulating him.

HELMAN

It was like watching Picasso work.

GARRETT

Nice job, Manny.

MANNY

You see that Jack? I still got it.

KATE

Jack, what's wrong?

JACK

You know that earthquake?

GARRETT

When Manny fell out of bed?

JACK

Well, it's our house.

KATE

What?

JACK

You know how we had that beautiful hillside location overlooking Hollywood?

Kate nods.

JACK (CONT'D)

We now have prime retail space on Sunset Boulevard.

On stunned looks we:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. MACK HOME, MANNY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (DAY 1)

Manny lounges with Helman, Garrett, and Quinlen. They're all smoking cigars.

MANNY

That show tonight? Better than sex.

HELMAN

A little performance anxiety... Then BAM!

MANNY

Better than sex.

GARRETT

Then you haven't had good sex.

QUINLEN

I haven't had good sex.

MANNY

Don't do drugs.

QUINLEN

Yeah, now you tell me

Jack enters the house.

MANNY

Well?

JACK

That pastry shop you love so much?

MANNY

Oh, yeah. Better than Sex.

GARRETT

Okay, you must be doing it wrong!

HELMAN

No, that's the name of the shop.

JACK

They'll be serving blintzes from my bathroom.

QUINLEN
Is that Board of Health approved?

HELMAN
You're saying your house is...

JACK
Fully intact... on Sunset Boulevard.

GARRETT
And open for business.

HELMAN
Only in Hollywood.

GARRETT
That would have been a great ride.

MANNY
Now what?

JACK
I've called insurance, and I'll find
out tomorrow how they'll screw me.

Jack lights his cigar as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MACK HOME OFFICE - DAY (DAY 2)

Jack sits on top of his desk on the phone. Kate sprawls across a chair rubbing her temples with her eyes closed. She's had no sleep.

JACK
I understand... I understand... I
understand. Bye.

Jack hangs up.

KATE
Well?

JACK
I don't understand.

KATE
Does it have something to do with, "we
don't need earthquake insurance.
Houses have been on this hill for
decades and none of them have
fallen."?

JACK
That sounds nothing like me.

KATE
So what about FEMA?

JACK
I've placed a call, but ours was the only house to be damaged. I'm not sure that's a federal emergency.

KATE
I guess we'll just have to extend our lease on the apartment a little longer while we get this sorted out.

JACK
Yeah, about that...

KATE
What?

JACK
They already leased our place.

Kate falls limp in her chair with a grimace. Manny glides into the room with a spring in his step.

MANNY
It's a great day to be alive.

KATE
Speak for yourself

MANNY
I was. It's a great day to be me.

JACK
Who are you and what have you done with Manny Mack?

MANNY
I was amazing last light.

KATE
Careful, you're head might explode.

MANNY
I didn't say it. I'm just reporting the news.

Manny holds up The Hollywood Reporter with the headline, "The Mack is Back."

MANNY (CONT'D)

I think I'll start making weekly appearances on the Main Stage. Oh, and call my agent. I want to see scripts.

JACK

Have you slept since the show last night?

MANNY

I've got a few bits I want to work on, but then I'm headed to bed.

JACK

All right, well, I've got a few issues to deal with on my house or what's left of it and then I'll give Dalton a call.

MANNY

Who's Dalton?

JACK

Your agent.

MANNY

He change his name?

JACK

No, you changed agents.

MANNY

That's right. I like Dalton.

Manny dances out of the room whistling a happy tune.

JACK

For the moment.

KATE

Okay, he's creeping me out.

JACK

Maybe Manny was a happy go lucky kind of guy when he was on top. We've only known him since he stopped performing.

KATE

I'm not sure what I'll do if I start liking him.

Garrett enters carrying a box of doughnuts.

GARRETT

Hey, I just drove by your house. That locations a heck of a lot easier to get to.

And we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MACK HOME, MANNY'S BEDROOM - DAY (DAY 2)

Manny lounges on his bed. Helman paces.

HELMAN

And that's why she always eats the cucumber.

MANNY

(laughing)
Oh, Jimmy. I can't say that without being arrested.

HELMAN

Yeah, I was arrested the last time... But I was in the ladies bathroom.

Jack peeks his head in the bedroom.

JACK

You're still up?

MANNY

Just putting the finishing touches on a couple jokes, then it's night night.

HELMAN

The life of a working comedian. Do a show till one in the morning. Hit the bars till they close. Coffee at a diner to wind down. Throw-up...

JACK

Wash, rinse, repeat.

HELMAN

That too.

JACK

(to Manny)
I have to run out for a bit. All of our stuff has to be out of our apartment today, so I need to meet the movers, and then secure a storage unit or two or three... Since I don't have a house to put all our crap in.

Kate enters.

KATE

I heard you call our stuff, crap.

JACK

I was only calling the crappy crap we have now, crap. The good crap we were going to get after we moved in, I wasn't talking about that crap.

KATE

Strangely, that makes me feel better.

HELMAN

So where are you moving?

JACK

We have a couple options. Short term apartments in North Hollywood.

HELMAN

(showing disgust)

Ooo. The Valley.

JACK

Kate's brother offered us his room while he's out of town.

MANNY

At the frat house?

JACK

And FEMA has a trailer park in Barstow.

HELMAN

Half way to Vegas.

MANNY

Jackpot!

KATE

I say we get a room at the Hilton for a week.

HELMAN

Living in a hotel. That's so Hollywood.

KATE

We've got an image to maintain.

JACK

And a budget, so that's out.

MANNY

Why don't you stay here until things get straightened out.

JACK

Wow, Manny. I don't know what to say.

KATE

Hell, no! I'm mean, no offense but staying at this creepy haunted mansion infested with comedians 24/7 is quite unappealing.

MANNY

You really know how to sugar coat it.

KATE

Manny, it's not you... Well, it is sort of.

(noticing the time)

Oh, shoot. I've got my audition. I'll catch up with you afterwards.

Kate runs out of the room.

MANNY

She's sweet.

JACK

Like mixing Pop Rocks and Coke.

HELMAN

You think I could get that room at the frat? I see co-eds in my future.

JACK

Yeah college girls like nothing more than perverted old guys.

HELMAN

Harrison Ford, Larry King, Michael Douglas, Manny Mack

JACK

Manny?

HELMAN

I'm sure it's on his bucket list.

JACK

So, despite what Kate said, were you serious about the room?

MANNY

I only say what I mean.

HELMAN

Unless it's a really good insult joke.

MANNY

And then I probably mean it in a "just kidding" sort of way.

JACK

Which means you mean it.

Manny smiles.

JACK (CONT'D)

Well let me talk to Kate and see if I can convince her that this is our best option.

MANNY

What? It would only be a week, right.

JACK

Just till we get something set up.

MANNY

It'll be fun having you around. You practically live here anyway with The Comedy Shoppe being downstairs.

JACK

This would certainly take a load off my mind. And what about Kate? Can you two get along for a week?

MANNY

I love Kate, and her annoying voice, irritated demeanor, and grating personality.

JACK

It sounds like you just described yourself.

MANNY

Jaaaack.

JACK

Just kidding.

And we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KAPPA FRATERNITY HOUSE - HALLWAY

Jack and Kate walk down a hallway passing the occasional college kids drinking, making out, throwing up. Jack is horrified but Kate is oblivious.

JACK

I think he said it's the fifth door down this hall.

KATE

Can you believe they went with Abby Gaynor? She doesn't sound like a seven year old boy. She's preteen at best.

JACK

Maybe they wanted preteen?

KATE

She has that pubescent squeak like her voice is changing.

JACK

You know that's the way auditions go.

KATE

If I'd have gotten that job we could have lived at the Hilton.

They stop at a door with a sign that reads, "Official Boob Inspector."

JACK

I think this is his room.

KATE

(psyching herself up)
It's only for a week.

JACK

You know we could stay at Manny's. You'd hardly see him, there'd be no commute, and it's free.

KATE

I wouldn't stay there even if we opened this door and found real boob inspectors.

Jack opens the door revealing Helman and Quinlen.

JACK

Nope. Just boobs.

HELMAN

Hey guys.

QUINLEN

You said we'd meet co-eds.

Off Jack and Kate's look, we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MACK HOME, KITCHEN - NIGHT (DAY 2)

Manny creeps into the kitchen carrying a nine iron. He's spooked.

MANNY

Damn ghosts.

Manny creeps past the refrigerator. Stops. Takes a few steps back. Smiles at the refrigerator.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Hello, beautiful.

He opens the refrigerator.

CUT TO:

INT. MACK HOME, MANNY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (SAMETIME)

Jack and Kate set down their bags.

JACK

(whispering)

See, this won't be so bad for one week.

KATE

If I see one ghost, I'm outta here.

JACK

You're safe with me.

They hear a bump in the kitchen. Kate grabs Jack and hides behind him.

KATE

Maybe that was Manny.

JACK

He's sleeping. Stay here, and I'll check it out.

KATE

I'm not staying here by myself.

Jack starts moving toward the kitchen with Kate in tow.

CUT TO:

INT. MACK HOME, KITCHEN - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

Jack and Kate peer around the door and see the refrigerator door open.

KATE

It's a ghost. They're always hungry.
Remember Ghostbusters?

Jack shakes his head and approaches the open refrigerator. Manny closes the door and screams upon seeing Jack and Kate. He throws bread, condiments, meats, and cheeses into the air.

JACK

Hey, Manny. Can we still use that
room?

Jack and Kate smile sheepishly as Manny clutches his heart and seethes, and we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MACK HOME, MANNY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY (DAY 3)

Manny sits with a cup of coffee. He looks half dead. Jack enters.

JACK

Please tell me you just woke up.

MANNY

Sleep is like Robin Williams'
comedy... Overrated.

JACK

Manny, the Tonight Show is... tonight.

MANNY

I'm just going to stay up.

JACK

You haven't slept for three full days.

MANNY

Sleep is like Robin Williams'
comedy...

JACK

I know. Overrated. You just said that.

MANNY

I did?

JACK

What can I do to help?

MANNY

My friends Rock Star, Monster, and double espresso are already on the clock.

JACK

Working overtime I see.

Garrett enters with a box of doughnuts.

MANNY

Garry!

GARRETT

Hey Manny.

MANNY

Garry!

GARRETT

Manny.

MANNY

Garry!

Garrett looks at Jack, confused by Manny's behavior.

JACK

He needs fuel.

Garrett opens the box of doughnuts and Manny grabs one. Jack starts to grab one.

MANNY

Hey! Get your own box.

Jack drops the doughnut.

JACK

Fine. You know they serve blintzes at my house... Used to.

GARRETT

I was driving by your house this morning. It really has curb appeal.

JACK

(nodding at Garrett's wit, he takes a doughnut)

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)
Speaking of which, I have to meet the insurance adjuster, so I need you to make sure Manny's ready. They're sending a car at three.

GARRETT
I'm just the man for this job, boss.

Manny begins to laugh. The laughter grows and grows as Jack and Garrett watch Manny.

JACK
What's so funny?

MANNY
My doughnut has a hole in it.
(laughter turns to sadness)
My doughnut has a hole in it.

Manny starts to laugh again.

JACK
(dryly to Garrett)
Good luck.

On Jack's look to Garrett we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE TONIGHT SHOW, BACKSTAGE - DAY (DAY 3)

Manny is dressed in a bright yellow sports jacket. Helman and Garrett are by his side as Manny waits to go on stage.

HELMAN
You're back on top, Manny. One killer set here and your phones will never stop ringing.

GARRETT
Yeah, so don't screw this up.

Manny scowls at Garrett.

MANNY
Last time I was here was an anomaly. I let it get to me. But this time it'll be different.

Jack and Kate approach.

JACK
Hey, sorry we're late. Manny, you look good.

MANNY
I told you I'd be ready.

JACK
I don't know how you do it.

MANNY
I'm a professional.

HELMAN
How's the house?

JACK
The house is good.

KATE
The fact that it's in the wrong place,
that's bad.

MANNY
You'll still be out in a week, right?

KATE
Thanks for your concern.

JACK
Have a great set, Manny.

MANNY
Thanks.

Manny walks over to the edge of the stage.

LENO (O.S.)
And now we have one of the greatest
comedians of all time. A great friend
of mine who rose through the ranks of
comedy with me and now owns The World
Famous Comedy Shoppe. Please welcome,
Manny Mack!

The audience is heard cheering and clapping. Manny winks at his
entourage and dances through the curtain onto the stage. Jack,
Kate, Helman, and Garrett watch on a monitor. Their excited
looks turn to confusion and concern.

KATE
(after a moment)
What's he doing?

JACK
Being Manny.

HELMAN
Oh, this is bad.

Garrett lightly whistles the sound of a bomb falling and then makes the sound of an explosion. And another explosion. And another. Kate stops him as they continue to watch the monitor in horror.

CUT TO:

INT. THE TONIGHT SHOW, ON STAGE - SAME TIME (DAY 3)

Manny is sweating as he nervously looks over the crowd.

MANNY
(weakly)
Emergency.

On Manny's anxious look we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO