

Ben and Burman

"Ben and Burman Turn Blind and Gay"

by

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ACT ONE

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Ben walks into his apartment, whistling. He stops dead in his tracks when he sees: shelves over-turned, the television smashed in, and broken glass on the floor.

BEN

Oh my god...

Ben grabs the phone and quickly dials 911.

BEN (CONT'D)

Hello, I think there's a been robbery. Someone broke into my house and...

Burman enters the room, nonchalantly, eating a bag of chips.

BEN (CONT'D)

Burman?

BURMAN

What up, cat?

BEN

(into phone)

Nevermind. It's worse than a robbery.

BURMAN

Ben, did you dial 911 again? You keep doing that, they're not going to take us seriously anymore.

Ben hangs up.

BEN

Burman, what the hell's going on here? Why is my house in shambles?

BURMAN

Oh. I got a date.

BEN

With who? The Tasmanian Devil?

BURMAN

Really? That's the joke you're going to use?

BEN

It was a throwaway. Burman, please, for my sanity, explain why you getting a date has anything to do with my house looking like Chernobyl.

BURMAN

Well, it's a little complicated.

BEN

How is it complicated?

BURMAN

She thinks I'm blind.

Pause.

BEN

I'm sorry. What?

BURMAN

She thinks I'm blind. Like, can't see. Like, it's always dark, like-

BEN

I know what blind means!

Ben takes a deep breath.

BEN (CONT'D)

Which question am I supposed to ask right now? Why does she think you're blind or why does my living room look ransacked?

BURMAN

These are such easy questions, Ben. She thinks I'm blind because I found out she works at the Center For The Blind, so I pretended to be blind.

BEN

Okay...

BURMAN

And your living room looks like it was ransacked because I was practicing.

BEN  
What does that mean?

CUT TO:

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - HOURS EARLIER (FLASHBACK)

Burman, wearing a blindfold, pokes around with a walking stick. He violently knocks over everything in the room.

BACK TO:

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

BEN  
Why didn't you just take off the blindfold when you heard things breaking?

BURMAN  
Cause I was pretending to be deaf too.

BEN  
Why were you pretending to be deaf?

BURMAN  
Hmm. In hindsight, I had no reason to be doing that.

BEN  
Burman, this is dumbest plan you've ever had.

BURMAN  
Really, Ben?

CUT TO:

EXT. BEN'S ROOFTOP - LAST WEEK (FLASHBACK)

Burman is strapped into a Wright Brothers flying machine. He leaps off the roof of the house, falling straight to the ground.

BACK TO:

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

BEN  
Okay, maybe not the dumbest. But it's up there.

BURMAN

Look, my date's in half an hour. I need you to drive me to the Center For The Blind.

BEN

Why would I do possibly that?

BURMAN

Cause. It'll get me out of your house for a couple hours.

BEN

I'll get the keys.

EXT. CENTER FOR THE BLIND - LATER

Ben steps out of his car. He walks to the passenger side to help Burman get out.

Burman wears a pink tie-dye shirt with dress slacks and orange suspenders.

BEN

Why are you dressed like that again?

Burman steps out.

BURMAN

I'm blind. How am I supposed to know what matches?

BEN

That's incredibly offensive.

(a pause)

Alright, well, try not to kill anyone.

Suddenly, a beautiful red-head, SALLY, struts up to the car. The wind blows through her hair, as her hips sway side to side.

BEN (CONT'D)

(whispers)

Whoa. Who's that?

BURMAN

It's my date, bro. If you'll excuse me.

Burman purposely trips over the street curb.

BURMAN (CONT'D)

Ah, my knee!

Sally rushes to his aid.

SALLY

Whoa, you okay there, Burman?

BURMAN

Fine, fine. Oh, Sally, it's you!  
You look lovely today... I mean,  
probably. I don't really know. I'm  
blind.

Ben puts his head in his hands.

BURMAN (CONT'D)

Oh. Sally let me introduce you to  
my caretaker, Ben.

Burman puts his hands all over Ben's face, smearing his  
fingers on Ben's nose. Ben fidgets uncomfortably.

BEN

I got it, Burman. I...  
(to Sally)  
Ehm, hi. I'm Ben.

SALLY

Nice to meet you. It's so good of  
you to care for Burman. You must be  
a real saint, helping the blind.

Ben looks at Burman, stuck.

BEN

What can I say? I love helping  
people. It's what I do.

BURMAN

Yeah, Ben's the best caretaker a  
guy could have. He drives me  
around, cooks for me, bathes me  
even when I tell him not to....

Sally tilts her head, confused. A long pause.

Suddenly ROOKER, a rail-thin, creepy blind guy with sunken-in  
eyes, walks outside. He holds a wet piece of clay.

ROOKER

Sally! We've been looking all over  
for you.

Ben and Burman both look at each other.

BURMAN  
 (whispers, to Ben)  
 Looking?

BEN  
 (whispers)  
 Shut up.

ROOKER  
 How long do you have to wait for  
 the clay to harden?

SALLY  
 (to Rooker)  
 Let me help, Rooker.  
 (to Ben and Burman)  
 Sorry, we're in pottery class right  
 now.

Sally walks over to Rooker.

BEN  
 Class? You told me this was a  
 date.

BURMAN  
 It's an inevitable date, Ben. It  
 starts out at class, she checks out  
 my bi's  
 (flexes)  
 And falls in love with me.

BEN  
 That's not going to happen.

BURMAN  
 Why not?

BEN  
 Because I'm in love with her.

BURMAN  
 What? Look, you can't be in love  
 with her, because I'M in love wit-

BEN  
 (quickly)  
 I got dibs.

BURMAN  
 Huh?

BEN

You heard me. I got dibs.

BURMAN

You can't do that.

BEN

I can totally do that. I just did.

BURMAN

No, no, no. I already knew her. I introduced her to you. I was going-

BEN

Did YOU call dibs?

BURMAN

I didn't have to call dibs. I was going after her already.

BEN

Then why didn't you call dibs beforehand?

BURMAN

Because isn't not an issue. It's obvious I was going after her, so I felt no reason-

BEN

Well, officially, I called dibs, so officially, she's mine.

BURMAN

So any girl I meet I have to officially call dibs on?

BEN

It's not my rules. It's the rules of dibs.

BURMAN

So let's say I stop talking to you for years.

BEN

That would be awesome.

Burman gives Ben a look.

BURMAN

Let's say I stop talking to you for years, and I fall in love and get married to a beautiful girl.

(MORE)

BURMAN (CONT'D)

Then, years later, I'm with my wife and we see you at a flea market. By that logic, you're allowed to call dibs on her then?

BEN

Why would I be in a flea market?

Sally walks back up.

SALLY

Sorry Ben, I hate to take Burman away. We're glazing flower pots.

BEN

(smitten)

Well it was lovely meeting you. You're... lovely.

SALLY

You and I should grab lunch sometime.

BEN

Yes. Yes. Oh my god, yes.

Sally escorts Burman back in, who over-emphasizes his "blindness." He purposely veers toward objects just to bump into them. Ben walks back to his car.

SALLY

Wow, that Ben. He's kind of cute.

BURMAN

What? Cute?

Burman thinks quickly.

SALLY

Yeah, such a nice guy.

BURMAN

Real nice guy. It's too bad.

SALLY

Too bad?

BURMAN

Yeah. He's gayer than a three dollar bill.

SALLY

What? Really?

BURMAN  
Oh yeah. Real gay. Super gay.  
Really just... gay.

SALLY  
I-

BURMAN  
Gay.

Just before Ben gets in his car, he shrugs his shoulders and kicks his feet together.

Sally looks at Burman. He shoots her an "I told you so" face. Suddenly, he remembers he's blind.

BURMAN (CONT'D)  
Uh, where are you?

INT. BEN'S KITCHEN - THE NEXT DAY

Burman is rifling through Ben's fridge, wearing BIG SUNGLASSES.

He feels around for something to eat, and gulps down a yogurt container that reads "BEN'S FOOD, DO NOT TOUCH."

Suddenly, a voice from the other room.

AMANDA (O.S.)  
Hello? Ben? Burman?

BURMAN  
(to himself)  
Amanda!  
(calling out)  
One second!

Burman quickly takes off his shirt and does a few push-ups.

BURMAN (CONT'D)  
Come in.

Amanda walks in.

BURMAN (CONT'D)  
Ninety nine, one hundred... Oh  
hello. Quick question: does my  
right pec look bigger than my left?

AMANDA

Quick answer: you disgust me. I have some tickets for Ben, where is he?

BURMAN

He's on a date.

AMANDA

Really?

BURMAN

Uh, sort of. Tickets for what?

AMANDA

My friend's opening a restaurant. Brazilian meets Italian.

BURMAN

Bratalian?

AMANDA

Sure. Anyway, I thought I'd invite you guys. Should be a good place for you to finally meet some classy girls in a normal way.

BURMAN

Amanda we meet classy girls in normal ways all the time.

CUT TO:

INT. SEX DUNGEON - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Ben and Burman sit in leather pants with a gang of Gothic girls. Ben has a chain around his neck.

BURMAN

Bro, she's into you. Tell her your dad's a veterinarian.

A pause.

BEN

These pants are chaffing me.

BACK TO:

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

AMANDA

Sure you do. Anyway, it's free food. Pretty girls.

BURMAN  
We'll be there.

Amanda turns to leave, she pauses.

AMANDA  
Why are you wearing sunglasses  
indoors?

BURMAN  
The same reason Ben is probably  
talking about pastels right now.

INT. CHINESE DELI - CONTINUOUS

Ben sits at a booth with Sally.

SALLY  
Shopping was fun. I figured you'd  
have a good eye for pastels.

Sally admires her new blouse. Ben looks confused.

BEN  
Thanks. I... uh, yeah.

SALLY  
Do you think this bracelet matches  
my outfit?

BEN  
Yeah, sure. Looks great.

A very handsome guy walks by the table. Ben fans himself off  
from the heat.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Oooh, it is hot in here.

SALLY  
(looking at the guy)  
I bet it is.

Ben looks at her, confused.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
So, how did you and Burman meet?

BEN  
Oh, funny story. We met tap  
dancing. Yeah, in a production of  
Grease in second grade.

SALLY

Oh, we have got to talk theatre  
some time.

BEN

Sure. Uh, anyway, me and Burman,  
I guess you can say we've been  
together ever since.

SALLY

Really? He is too?

BEN

What?

SALLY

Burman just didn't strike me as...

BEN

Didn't strike you as... what?

INT. BEN'S HOUSE

Burman is watching Al Pacino in "Scent of a Woman" on TV. He  
listens to Pacino say "Hoo Haa!" And then rewinds it,  
repeating the phrase.

BURMAN

(in a Pacino voice)

Hoo haa! Charlie! Hoo haa!

Ben storms in the house and grabs a vase off the mantle,  
aiming at Burman.

BEN

Ahhh!

Burman ducks, and continues talking like Pacino. He doesn't  
break character.

BURMAN

What are you doing?

BEN

I'm thinking about throwing this at  
you, but I'm realizing it's mine  
and I would break it if I did.

BURMAN

What's the problem?

BEN

Why are you talking like Al Pacino?

BURMAN

I'm practicing being blind. Hoo haa! I rented Scent of a Woman. Hoo haa!

BEN

You got to stop it with the hoo haas! Listen, I really like this girl, and now you have her thinking I'm gay.

BURMAN

Ben, you got to take the negatives and turn them into positives.

BEN

How is Sally thinking I'm gay a positive?

BURMAN

She can be the one who changes you. You can say, I love you so much, you turned me straight. Hoo haa!

Ben pauses.

BEN

I don't know what's worse. The fact that you come up with these plans or the fact that I go along with them.

BURMAN

It won't matter. The girl's going to fall in love with ME. I'm taller than you.

BEN

Two inches taller.

BURMAN

Ah Ben, life is a game of inches.

BEN

Would you cut that voice out?

BURMAN

You don't understand what it's like for me. I'm in the dark here, Charlie.

Burman pokes Ben with his blind walking stick.

BEN

Now you're just shouting random  
Pacino quotes.

BURMAN

I keep trying to get out, but they  
keep pulling me back in.

BEN

That's a Pacino quote that has  
nothing to do with this situation.

BURMAN

If I was the man I was ten years  
ago, I'd take a flamethrower to  
this place!

BEN

And that had even less relevance.

Burman finally ends the Pacino voice.

BURMAN

Ben, this voice is really hurting  
my throat. Do you have any  
lozenges?

BEN

I'm going to win this girl, Burman.

BURMAN

Not a chance. She's mine.

BEN

I've got the upper hand now.

BURMAN

How's that?

BEN

(smiling)  
You'll find out. Hoo haa!

INT. CENTER FOR THE BLIND MESS HALL - THE NEXT DAY

It's breakfast time and all the blind people are eating.  
Sally walks up to Burman with a plate of eggs.

SALLY

Don't eat TOO much sausage, Burman.

BURMAN

Huh, what?

A pause.

SALLY  
(smiles to herself)  
You need to save room for your  
toast.

BEN  
More scrambled eggs, Burman?

BURMAN  
(whispers)  
You're weaseling in on my time with  
Sally. What the hell are you doing  
here?

BEN  
(angry, sarcastic)  
I'm helping the blind.

Ben splats eggs down on Burman's plate.

ROOKER  
Ben, egg me.

Ben plops eggs on Rooker's plate.

ROOKER (CONT'D)  
Thanks. It's so good of you to  
help out.

Rooker goes to shake Ben's hand.

BEN  
That's my crotch.

ROOKER  
Oh. Sorry.

SALLY  
Ben, can you help me get more bacon  
from the kitchen?

Ben shoots Burman a "She's Mine!" Smile.

BEN  
(shit-eating grin)  
Sure, Sally.

Ben and Sally walk into...

INT. CENTER FOR THE BLIND KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Sally hands Ben a few trays of bacon.

SALLY

Thanks for helping today, Ben.  
You're such a good person. Seeing  
the way you take care of Burman...

BEN

Yeah. About me and Burman. You  
see... ever since you came around,  
things have been different. I  
really like you.

Ben prepares himself for the big moment.

BEN (CONT'D)

Uh, I think... I think you turned  
me straight.

A long pause.

SALLY

You're so funny, Ben.  
(a pause)  
I could never turn you straight.  
You're gay as a picnic basket. But  
Burman on the other hand, I could  
have sworn he was flirting with  
me...

BEN

Oh I'm sure you're mistaken.

SALLY

I don't know. Something about him  
seems... off.

BEN

You can say that again.

INT. CENTER FOR THE BLIND MESS HALL - CONTINUOUS

Burman is eating with the blind people. He keeps looking  
toward the kitchen, wondering what's taking Ben and Sally so  
long.

He notices: Rooker eyeing the scrambled eggs on the plate  
next to him. He scoops them onto his own plate, and gobbles  
them down.

Then, Rooker checks his hair in his spoon's reflection.

Rooker is NOT blind!

INT. CENTER FOR THE BLIND PUBLIC BATHROOM - LATER

Ben and Burman are standing at urinals. They whisper so no one can hear them.

BEN

What do you mean he's not blind?

BURMAN

I mean, he can see. He's conning all of these people. Do you know how disrespectful that is to people who are actually blind?

BEN

You're doing the same thing!

BURMAN

It's different. I'm cute and lovable and child-like. I can get away with it. He's off-putting and creepy. That means he can't.

BEN

Look, I've got problems of my own. Sally is starting to doubt you being gay, and if she doubts YOU being gay, she's going to doubt ME being gay, and I can't have that.

A pause.

BURMAN

What?

BEN

You're too messy and stupid to be gay. People that stupid aren't gay.

BURMAN

I don't know if that's homophobic or not.

BEN

Look, I want this girl to love me, and love is all about trust. If this girl's ever going to trust me, she has to believe I'm gay.

(takes a deep breath)

And I had to tell her you're gay, to make her believe I was gay. So, you have to act more gay.

BURMAN

I'm already blind. You can't ask me  
to be blind and gay!

The two start walking out of the bathroom, into...

INT. CENTER FOR THE BLIND MESS HALL - CONTINUOUS

BEN

If you don't act gay, I'm going to  
tell her you're not blind. I will  
out you!

BURMAN

You better not out me! Not after  
all the work I did to hide it from  
everyone!

Sally is standing right there.

BURMAN (CONT'D)

Oh.

(gay voice)

Hey.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Amanda leans against the wall, while Ben and Burman sit on the couch.

AMANDA

Let me get this straight. You're gay.

BEN

Yes.

AMANDA

And you're blind.

BURMAN

Yes.

BEN

And gay.

BURMAN

I'm blind and gay.

AMANDA

I'm totally confused.

BURMAN

It's really very simple.

BEN

We're in love with the same girl.

AMANDA

(looks at Ben)

And she thinks you're gay, so you have to turn straight...

(looks to Burman)

And she thinks you're blind-

BURMAN

And gay.

AMANDA

And gay. So you have to regain your site AND turn straight?

BURMAN

In a nutshell, yes. Oh, oh. I forgot about Rooker.

AMANDA

The guy who is also, by sheer happenstance, pretending to be blind?

BURMAN

Yeah, we gotta "out" that scumbag.

BEN

While not outing us at the same time.

A long pause. They all stare at each other.

AMANDA

Why don't you guys ever call me with regular problems? Like, you ran out of brown sugar, or you need a ride to the airport?

(shakes her head)

No, it's always he's dressed as Rambo, or he turned me gay.

BEN

The point is, we need your help.

AMANDA

(sighs)

How can I help?

BEN

Easy. We invite Rooker and Sally to your friend's restaurant opening. You pretend to be our waitress, help us maintain our alibis, all while outing Rooker as the lying crook that he is.

AMANDA

That sounds more like a Burman plan.

BURMAN

It is. Except mine involved you wearing a revealing top.

AMANDA

There's no way you can make me do this.

BEN

You go along with it, and Burman will stop hitting on you for a month.

AMANDA  
Deal. I'll drive.

BURMAN  
Why doesn't Ben drive? Me and you  
can share the back-seat.

Amanda looks at Burman.

BURMAN (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry. Force of habit.

BEN  
Yeah this is going to go well.

INT. BRATALIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Ben and Burman are holding hands, uncomfortably. Sally and Rooker sit across from them.

SALLY  
It was so nice of you both to  
invite us, tonight. What a great  
new restaurant.

BEN  
Yes, yes. Me and Burman, this is  
going to be our new spot. Right,  
honey?

BURMAN  
Sure thing, sweetie pie.

ROOKER  
Yeah, it's heartwarming to SEE two  
men come together so openly.

BURMAN  
(whispers, to Ben)  
See?

BEN  
(whispers back)  
Shut up.

Ben and Burman glare at Rooker. Amanda walks up in a waitress outfit.

AMANDA  
Hello everyone, my name's  
Esmerelda, I'll be your waitress.

BEN  
Esmerelda?

Amanda kicks Ben under the table.

AMANDA

Yes, Esmerelda. Welcome to our new restaurant.

BURMAN

Esmeralda? Can I "see" what you look like?

Burman reaches his hands out toward Amanda's boobs.

AMANDA

Uh, I'm tall and slender.

Amanda immediately grabs Burman's hands and shoves them down.

ROOKER

I bet you are.

AMANDA

(to Ben and Burman)

I must say, you two make the cutest couple.

SALLY

Don't they?

BEN

He's my everything.

BURMAN

Ben, I may not have my sight, but I will always have my burning love for you.

AMANDA

(to herself)

Who are you, Danielle Steel?

(clears her throat)

Well, congratulations. How about a glass of wine on the house?

Burman eyes Rooker, ready to make the kill.

BURMAN

Oh, gosh. I wish I could read the wine list, but I'm sure you don't have it in braille.

AMANDA

It's funny you should say that. I have one right here. Who would like it?

BEN

Oh Rooker, I insist you take it and pick something out.

Amanda hands Rooker a braille menu.

Ben and Burman think they've got him cornered. Rooker looks nervous.

AMANDA

So can I get you something to drink?

Rooker looks REALLY nervous. He puts his hands on the braille.

BURMAN

What's the matter, Rooker? Can't read Braille?

ROOKER

Um, um,  
(suddenly confident)  
I'll have the '98 Rutherford Hills Shiraz. And while we're at it, how about an appetizer.

He starts reading braille lightening fast.

ROOKER (CONT'D)

Oh, I think I'll go with the mussels steamed in sake and the spinach artichoke dip.

Amanda, Ben, and Burman are all shocked.

AMANDA

Um. Okay. I'll get right to that.

SALLY

I'm going to use the ladies room really quick. Excuse me.

Amanda and Sally exit. Rooker smiles and looks directly at them.

ROOKER

What, you didn't think I knew how to read braille?

BEN

What are you talking about?

ROOKER  
Oh come on, boys. The jig's up.  
Burman, you're not blind or gay.

BURMAN  
Why on earth would you say that?

CUT TO:

INT. CENTER FOR THE BLIND - DAY

Burman is peeking down Sally's shirt. He turns to a blind person.

BURMAN  
Dude, you gotta check this out.

BACK TO:

INT. BRATALIAN RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

BEN  
And how did you know I wasn't gay?

ROOKER  
You're not gay?

A pause.

BURMAN  
Why you doing it, Rooker?

ROOKER  
The same reason you guys are.  
Sally's mine. I called dibs.

BEN  
Did you actually SAY dibs?

ROOKER  
Yes I did.

BURMAN  
You're lying.

ROOKER  
You have no proof.

BURMAN  
Dammit. You're good, Rooker. But  
you're out of your league on this  
one.

BEN

You're not going to get away with it, Rooker.

ROOKER

I've been getting away with it all my life, Ben. What makes you think you guys can stop me?

BURMAN

Cause we're Ben and Burman, buddy.

Amanda walks back up.

AMANDA

Here's your wine.

Everyone continues to stare angrily at each other, ignoring Amanda. Amanda turns away.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

(to herself)

I gotta get new friends.

BEGIN MONTAGE - Glenn Frey's "The Heat is On" plays.

INT. CENTER FOR THE BLIND - DAY

Ben and Burman throw marbles on the ground in front of Rooker. Rooker looks around and sees Sally. He trips over the marbles rather than stepping out of the way.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Ben sits next to Sally on the couch, watching Bette Midler in "Beaches."

INT. CENTER FOR THE BLIND - DAY

Sally is teaching a painting class. Rooker paints at an easel next to Burman. Rooker reaches over and "accidentally" paints on Burman's face.

INT. CITY STREET - DAY

Ben happily walks down the street holding hands with Sally. We REVEAL: Burman is holding Ben's other hand, stumbling along blindly.

INT. CENTER FOR THE BLIND - DAY

Burman, Rooker, and Ben are eating with each other. Rooker "accidentally" knocks over a cup on Ben's pants.

Then Burman "accidentally" spills his spaghetti on Rooker's lap, which forces Rooker to "accidentally" knock the sauce all over Burman's face.

Sally sees this, shakes her head and smiles, as if to say "they're too cute."

END OF MONTAGE

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Ben is adjusting a video camera on his book-shelf. Burman makes faces in the camera.

BEN

Burman, stay away from the camera.

BURMAN

Tell me the plan again, Ben?

BEN

I explained it to you seven times!

BURMAN

Make it eight.

BEN

I invited them over to play Braille Uno...

A pause. Burman un-opens a small box and fiddles with the contents. He turns his head.

BEN (CONT'D)

Anyway, this hidden camera will capture Rooker's every move. When he slips up, we'll show the tape to Sally, and he'll finally be out of the picture.

BURMAN

Brilliant plan, Ben. Almost as brilliant as MINE!

Burman turns around, donning bright neon blue contacts.

BEN

Ahh! What the hell are those!?

BURMAN

Well, Ben, I figure this blind act can only go on for so long. So, I'm going to tell Sally I got ocular surgery, and I can see again.

BEN

So you transplanted someone else's eyes into yours, and now, apparently, you have cured your blindness?

Burman starts blinking rapidly.

BURMAN

Exactly. Then she'll realize she loves me, we'll get married, and have three Asian babies.

BEN

That is a brilliant plan. Don't change a single part of it.

BURMAN

Thank you, Ben.

A pause.

BEN

Did you forget you were gay?

BURMAN

Son of a-

BEN

Well, while you try to figure that out, I'm going to confess my love to Sally. I'll tell her she turned me straight, and "out" myself.

BURMAN

Wouldn't that be innung yourself?

BEN

Huh?

BURMAN

Well you technically were pretending to be "out" of the closet. So if you're outing yourself for being out, you're innung yourself. Right?

Suddenly, a knock at the door.

BEN

(to the door)

One second!

(to Burman)

Why are you blinking so much?

BURMAN  
Ah. These things are really...  
hurting my eyes.

BEN  
You look like some kind of albino  
or something.

BURMAN  
(in pain)  
No. I look like... Paul Newman.  
Ow, this hurts.

The doorbell rings.

BEN  
(to the door)  
Coming!

Burman is cringing in agony.

BURMAN  
My eyes. Ben, I got to take these  
things out. Arghhh, it burns.

Burman runs to the bathroom. Ben looks around, and clicks a  
button on the hidden camera.

He swings open the door.

SALLY  
Hey Ben.

BEN  
Hello Sally. Rooker. Come on in.

ROOKER  
Wow, Ben. I sense your place looks  
nice.

BEN  
I bet you do.

Rooker "accidentally" knocks over a vase.

ROOKER  
(wicked smile)  
Oop. Sorry about that.

Ben glares at Rooker.

BEN  
(holding back anger)  
That's fine. Don't worry about it.

SALLY  
Where's Burman?

CUT TO:

INT. BEN'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Burman is screaming in pain, holding his eyes.

BURMAN  
Ahhhhhhh!

BACK TO:

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

SALLY  
Is he alright in there?

BEN  
Couldn't be better.

SALLY  
I hope you're right.

BEN  
I actually wanted to talk to you  
about something, Sally. About my  
relationship with Burman. It has  
to do with out and in.

ROOKER  
I bet it does.

A scream is heard from the bathroom.

BURMAN  
Ahhhhh!!!!!! Ben!!!!!!

SALLY  
Ben, maybe you should go help him.

BEN  
No, it's okay. I'm sure he's fine.

BURMAN'S VOICE  
BEN!!! I AM NOT FINE!! I AM IN A  
LOT OF TROUBLE HERE!!

BEN  
Would you excuse me?

Ben hurriedly leaves the room. Rooker "accidentally" bumps  
into the cabinet. The camera falls to the floor.

SALLY  
What's that?

CUT TO:

INT. BEN'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ben enters. Burman is writhing in pain.

BEN  
Burman, what the hell is going on  
in here?

BURMAN  
Ben, I'm blind.

BEN  
I know, and I'm gay.

BURMAN  
No, Ben. For real. I'm blind. These  
contacts messed up my eyes.

BEN  
That's great Burman. You just  
interrupted my coming-in party with  
Sally.

BURMAN  
I'm blind and you're talking about  
out and in! CALL A DOCTOR!

BEN  
Burman. Run water over your eyes.

Burman sticks his head in the sink.

BACK TO:

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Ben walks back into the living room. Sally and Rooker sit  
watching a video from the camera. They look horrified.

BEN  
What's going on?

SALLY  
Funny. I was going to ask you that.  
It appears from this videotape that  
you aren't gay and Burman isn't  
blind. Or gay.

BEN  
That's... that's ridiculous.

Sally turns on the volume. It's Ben and Burman from earlier, setting up the camera.

BEN ON TV  
How long do I have to keep  
pretending to be gay?

BURMAN ON TV  
As long as I have to keep on  
pretending to be blind.

BEN ON TV  
And gay.

Sally looks at Ben.

BEN  
I can explain.

ROOKER  
You can explain? You are exploiting  
people who are different!

BEN  
YOU'RE not even blind!

ROOKER  
What?

SALLY  
What?

BEN  
He's not blind! He's faking it!

ROOKER  
How dare you!

SALLY  
Leave poor Rooker out of this. You  
are despicable. Taking advantage  
and making fun of people just  
because they're different.

BEN  
He's not really blind! Watch this.

Ben throws a ball at Rooker's face. He doesn't flinch and it hits him right between the eyes.

ROOKER

Ow. What the hell is wrong with you!

BEN

Nothing! Nothing! I... He didn't dodge it on purpose.

Burman runs back in, clutching his eyes.

BURMAN

I'm blind! I'm blind!

BEN

Burman, save it. She knows.

BURMAN

No, I'm really am blind now!

SALLY

Well, there's only one way to prove it.

I/E. BUSY STREET INTERSECTION - LATER

Sally angrily puts the pedal to the metal, zooming down a busy street. Rooker sits in the passenger seat. Ben and Burman hang on for dear life in the back.

BEN

Slow down!

BURMAN

My eyes!

SALLY

Come on Burman, you're nothing but a liar.

BEN

You know, he's actually telling the truth now.

SALLY

Oh, I'm supposed to listen to YOU about telling the truth?

Sally takes a sharp turn, as the car skids.

BEN

We only lied because we love you!

BURMAN

I'm not lying - I'm blind!

SALLY  
You're lying! I can prove it.

ROOKER  
How?

Sally slams on the breaks.

SALLY  
GET OUT!

Burman fumbles his way out of the car.

BURMAN  
Where am I?

BEN  
Burman come ba-

The door slams. Cars zoom by Burman at high speeds.

BEN (CONT'D)  
He's going to get killed!

SALLY  
You think I would actually let a  
REAL blind person get out in the  
middle of a busy intersection?

Suddenly Burman is HIT by a car. He tumbles over the  
windshield.

BEN  
Burman!

ROOKER  
Oh my god. Did you SEE that?

Sally shoots a fearful look to Burman's body, then realizes  
what Rooker said. Rooker's cover is blown.

ROOKER (CONT'D)  
Oh shi-

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Burman wakes up in a hospital bed. His vision is blurry. It  
comes into focus revealing Ben with his arm in a sling, in  
the adjacent bed.

BURMAN  
Oh. I can see!

BEN

Yes. I can see too. I can see you're an idiot.

BURMAN

What happened to you?

BEN

Sally told the Gay and Lesbian Alliance what I did. They beat the hell out of me.

BURMAN

Damn. Those GLAAD guys are tough.

BEN

Yeah. Total badasses. Who knew?

BURMAN

So. Looks like you blew it with Sally.

BEN

(dead inside)

Yeah, Burman. It's clearly all my fault.

(cheering up)

The good news is, I'm not the only one who got beat up.

Ben pulls the hospital curtain back, revealing Rooker in a third bed. He's got a cast on his leg.

ROOKER

Yeah, those blind people found out what I did and kicked the crap out of me. I thought I'd be able to take em, cause, you know, they're blind... but they just basically beat my ass.

BEN

So what did we learn here today?

BURMAN

Well, blind people and gay people are no different, and probably superior to all of us.

BEN

That's a good lesson, Burman.

BURMAN

A damn good lesson, Ben.

A hot nurse walks by.

ROOKER

Did anyone see that nurse? I'm  
going to pretend to be a  
hemophiliac.

BURMAN

She's mine! I'm gonna pretend to  
be an epileptic.

BEN

Well, I'm so glad we all learned  
our lesson.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

INT. CROWDED BAR - NIGHT

Ben and Amanda stand at a crowded bar counter, surrounded by beautiful people.

AMANDA

See Ben? THIS is a healthy way to pursue girls.

BEN

Yeah. I kind of like this.

Amanda nudges Ben and looks at the girl next to him.

AMANDA

Go in for the kill.

Ben looks to the cute girl next to him, TAMMY.

BEN

Hi, I'm Ben.

TAMMY

Hi there. I'm Tammy.

BEN

Can I buy you a-

Suddenly, Burman runs up with a beautiful girl, JESSICA.

JESSICA

Tammy! Tammy! You've gotta meet this guy. He's a fighter pilot AND Al Pacino's son!

BURMAN

Hoo haa!

Burman winks at Ben.

END OF TAG