

THE MORNING SHOW

Mitch & Dick

Season 1, Episode 3

EXT. DICK'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

MITCH KESSLER and DICK LUNDY sit on the patio drinking.

DICK
Here's the thing. Everything can be re-contextualized.

MITCH
Mmhmm.

DICK
They take my movies, that I directed, and they pervert them to fit a convenient narrative. *Hugging and Loving*, right? That's a veiled portrait of my grandmother's assimilation story, for God's sake.

MITCH
That was a terrific film. That's my mom's favorite film.

DICK
So now it's about what I apparently did to all my leading ladies.

MITCH
Ugh.

DICK
When did hugging become a sin?

MITCH
Fuck it. I love to hug.

DICK
Huggings are nice.

MITCH
Yeah! Jeez. That is crazy.

DICK
No, no, no. Crazy is how they loved the title *Jessica Over Easy* and then of course now they just, you know, rip me to shreds over it.

MITCH
God damn it. You know what, they just twist everything.

DICK

I don't even understand what their message is they're sending out – that women aren't allowed to be in possession of their sexual choices.

MITCH

When they fixate on us they lose sight of the issues.

DICK

I actually feel bad for the kids. Because there's nothing sexy about consent.

MITCH

Well...

DICK

That was, that came out wrong. And, and, and, umm, that was creepy. I guess what I'm saying is humanity happens in the unspoken moments, and I just feel badly for a generation that loses that.

MITCH

Wow. That's really well-said. Fuck it.

He raises his glass. Dick does too.

DICK

Fuck it.

MITCH

We're not in prison.

DICK

Prison of public opinion.

MITCH

Mmhmm. That's exactly what I want to talk about. The discussion, this whole "me too" thing. It is so fucking Puritanical and myopic, and no one is addressing it. A woman can say one thing about you, doesn't matter what her motivation is, and everything you've done in your life – gone. Your career, erased.

DICK

You deserve better, buddy.

MITCH

You deserve better. I have an idea. We do a documentary. You direct it. I do the interviews. We make them look at it. We make them look at us. We ask to be a part of the conversation. I mean, we did something wrong... Okay? What? If that's the way you feel, fine, but explain it to me because I don't fucking get it!

DICK

A conversation with the victims?

MITCH

Yes! And I think we can do it in a really smart way. I don't think we refer to them as victims. I think, that's a concession - I don't think it's something we want to concede.

DICK

No, no, no! We do call them victims. And then we prove why they're not.

MITCH

I'm not sure that we should use gotcha journalism with the women who accused us.

DICK

Oh fuck that! Jesus. They did it with us! Gotcha! I'll fuck you for the role, and then I'll win an Oscar. And then "oh now I'm 50 and irrelevant so I'll scream rape, and then I'll force a settlement." You know, as if that lazy lay deserves a cent. No, no, you're wrong.

MITCH

Wow. Is that real?

DICK

Gotcha! "I said I was 20. Oh I was only 15." Bullshit. And then why do you look like a tired old bag? And gee I'd love - I'd kill to see her birth certificate.

MITCH

How come I never heard about that one?

DICK

Well because she's going the legal route. Big fucking chance. Statute of limitations, babe. You know, sometimes you gotta say "God Bless America!" Finally protected.

MITCH

Yeah. Well. Maybe we should just interview the men because it might be naive to think that the women would want to participate.

DICK

Do you think we could get Cosby?

MITCH

No! Let's... no, no. I think another smart idea would be to talk about the specificity of the me too movements. There was the first wave of guys who were accused, and then there was the second wave. And we could talk about the nuance between the two.

DICK

I don't think I follow.

MITCH

Well, the first wave was really bad, and then the guys accused in the second wave... was just different. And I don't think we should be scared to talk about it.

DICK

Spell it out for me, won't you Mitch?

MITCH

Well, you are actually a predator. And people are going to want you to own that.

DICK

As opposed to... what are you exactly, Mitch?

MITCH

Not you.