

(Outside TONY GIORDANO's club. We can hear the music playing and the women screaming within. There is a large poster of a semi-naked male Stripper. We can read the words ROMEOS. ONE NIGHT ONLY. WOMEN ONLY. NATHAN, JERRY's twelve-year-old son is looking at it as JERRY enters.)

#2a - Scene Change to Club

Orchestra

JERRY

There you are. You were supposed to wait for me, Nath. I told you it was a short meeting.

(He re-ties his son's shoelace.)

Did you finish your homework?

NATHAN

(Off KENO's picture)

No, but I know what I want to be when I grow up.

JERRY

Don't be a wiseguy. A good education.

NATHAN

Yes, I finished my homework. You're such a worrier, dad. Any messages for mom?

JERRY

Tell her that guy she's living with is still a jerk.

NATHAN

I'm supposed to tell you you're late with this months payment.

JERRY

I know, I know! I'm working on it. It's not like you're starving.

NATHAN

Don't worry, dad. You'll get a job.

JERRY

Do I look worried? I'm just waiting for the right situation. You don't want to see your old man bussing tables, do you?

NATHAN

I wouldn't mind.

JERRY

Well he would. You're mine next weekend, remember.

(Sound of bus)

There's your bus.

NATHAN

I love you.

(He kisses JERRY.)

JERRY

Me, too.

(He lightly punches NATHAN'S arm. This is their ritual.)

Now get outta here before you get me into trouble for keeping you out too late.

NATHAN

Moms not even home tonight.

(He goes.)

JERRY

Home! How can he call that place home?

(He turns to DAVE who stands, transfixed, at the picture of KENO outside the club.)

JERRY

Wait'll you have kids, Dave. It changes everything. There's nothing you wouldn't do for your kid. I should've had ten.

DAVE

Why? You're having trouble enough with one. Is that guy for real?

JERRY

We could look like that. It's a choice. Besides, they're all fairies, these Chippendales.

DAVE

They are?

JERRY

Real guys don't look like that. They don't have the time. They look like you.

(Two women hurry on.)

SUSAN

Hurry up, it's started!

JOANIE

My sister saw them in Ithaca. She said they were fabulous and she's a lesbian.

JERRY

You really going in there, ladies? What have they got that we don't?

SUSAN

Just about everything. How much do I owe you, Joanie?