

MY BIG FAT NANA'S BAT MITZVAH

Written by

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WGAw Registered

FADE IN:

EXT. NEW YORK SUBURBAN SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Traffic cones, some knocked over, are arranged in a zig-zag line as late-model car drives erratically, stopping and starting. Tires SCREECH.

IDA ROSENBERG, 86, average height, gray mop of hair, resembles a plump Golden Girl, Sophia Petrillo, speaks with a barely perceptible Hungarian accent. Holocaust survivor, has number A35407 tattooed on her right forearm, wears antique Butterfly brooch on a necklace around her neck, sits in the passenger seat beside her granddaughter, BROOKE, 13, at the wheel.

INT. IDA'S CAR - DAY

IDA

That's it Brooke, just keep your focus.

BROOKE

Maybe I should just wait till I'm older, like fifteen.

IDA

Horse pooh! My father was driving a truck by the time he was fourteen. You can damn well handle a puny automobile at thirteen.

Brooke rapidly turns the wheel clockwise.

EXT. IDA'S CAR - DAY

Car narrowly avoids knocking over another cone.

INT. IDA'S CAR - DAY

BROOKE

I think I'm getting it.

EXT. IDA'S CAR - DAY

Car crashes into metal trash can.

EXT. HOUSE IN UPSCALE NEIGHBORHOOD - ESTABLISHING SHOT

Spacious multi-story residence with an immaculate lawn, tall trees and expensive European car parked in the driveway.

INT. ROSENBERG RESIDENCE - DAY

HAROLD ROSENBERG, 53, short, balding, wearing spectacles, conservatively dressed, his head buried in a closet by the front door, hurriedly searches jacket pockets.

HAROLD
Damn it Dana! I can't find my
sunglasses anywhere.

Female voice beams from the second floor.

DANA (O.C.)
Did you check your jacket pockets?

HAROLD
YES.

Harold hurriedly searches the kitchen drawers.

DANA (O.C.)
Did you check the kitchen?

HAROLD
YES.

Harold flips over the couch cushions except the section Brooke, texting on her phone, occupies. On an adjacent chair, sits son DAVID, 9.

DANA
How about the couch?

HAROLD
YES.
(to Brooke)
Up, up!

Brooke stands as Harold checks under the cushions.

BROOKE
You probably left them in the car,
again.

HAROLD
Please, Brooke. I would think I
would know if I left them in the
car.

DAVID
Maybe space creatures took them.

BROOKE
Maybe space creatures took your
brain.

Dana, 46, brunette, attractive, slender, dressed formally,
appears.

DANA
I think David's explanation is as
valid as any I've heard before.

HAROLD
Ha ha. Three hundred dollar
sunglasses are not to be made light
of.

DANA
Brooke, I am dropping you off at
synagogue on my way to the Gallery.
David, you at Ian's.

DAVID
Mom, I don't want to go to Ian's.
His really old dog always farts.
It's really gross.

DANA
You are going, young man. Pronto!

SFX: CRASH from the kitchen.

DAVID
Looks like Nana is cooking again.

INT. KITCHEN

Ida sweeps up broken dishes. Dana and Harold enter.

IDA
Dana, I keep telling you, you're
stacking the china too high.

DANA
Ida, we'll talk about this later.
Harold has to run to the office and
I'm going to drop David at his
friend's house, then take Brooke to
her Bat-Mitzvah practice.

IDA
I can take Brooke.

HAROLD
Mother, we discussed you limiting
your time on the road.

IDA
Nonsense. I'm as good a driver as
ever.

HAROLD
Then how do you explain that dent
on your car - did the dent fairy
pay you a visit?

Brooke appears in the kitchen.

BROOKE
I want Nana to take me.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Harold opens his car's driver-side door, slides into the
driver's seat, pauses to reach underneath his rear, to pull
out broken Sunglasses.

INT. SYNAGOGUE - DAY

On the Bema, the raised platform used for services, CANTOR
RICHARD rehearses with Brooke.

BROOKE
(sings)
Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu melech
ha'olam Asher bachar binvi'im Tom
V'ratza v'divreihem hane'emarim
be'emet... Baruch Atah Adonai
habocheir baTorah Uv'Moshe avdo
uv'Yisrael amo, Uvin'vi'ei ha'emet
vatzadek

CANTOR RICHARD
You possess a beautiful voice,
Brooke. Let the world enjoy it in a
more relaxed manner.

BROOKE
(sings, slower)
Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu melech
ha'olam Asher bachar binvi'im Tom
(MORE)

BROOKE (CONT'D)

V'ratza v'divreihem hane'emarim
 be'emet... Baruch Atah Adonai
 habocheir baTorah Uv'Moshe avdo
 uv'Yisrael amo, Uvin'vi'ei ha'emet
 vatzadek...

INT. ARMSTRONG CAPITAL HEADQUARTERS CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Senior STAFF MEMBERS, eight men and women in business attire, including Harold, sit at a large conference table populated with coffee cups. MR. BERNARD ARMSTRONG, 66, white-haired, wily, a throwback to an earlier era, addresses his "troops".

MR. ARMSTRONG

It is unusual to call you in on a Saturday, but I do not need to tell you how important it is to Armstrong Capital to close the Sunshine Confectioners deal. You may think the products they make - bacon lollipops, candy straws and the like - are silly. I personally like a good old-fashioned piece of taffy. But they have become one of the largest candy companies in America. This leveraged buyout places Armstrong Capital on a higher rung on the world stage. Today, it's jalapeno bubble gum, tomorrow it's Kraft Foods.

(to Staff Member)

Trentino, you know what my favorite candy was as a child?

BILL

Taffy, sir?

MR. ARMSTRONG

NO! Snirkles Caramel Bar. They were delicious. Back when candy was real candy. Of course, my family was so poor that enjoying one was a grand luxury. It pains me to say their not made anymore.

(wistfully)

Oh, how I long for a Snirkles.

INT. SYNAGOGUE - DAY

RABBI WISE, 60, hefty, distinguished-looking, with an impressive gray beard, sits beside IDA in a pew as they watch Brooke rehearse on the pulpit.

RABBI WISE

Your granddaughter is doing well.
She will be wonderful.

IDA

She always does well, when she
applies herself. And puts down that
damn - uh, excuse me, Rabbi - darn,
phone of hers.

RABBI WISE

Yes, I see the youth reliance on
technology firsthand. In services
on the Sabbath, I must remind them
that, unless they are in direct
communication with God, it is not
appropriate to be on their devices.

IDA

You have a better chance of meeting
the Almighty in a Denny's.

RABBI WISE

I want to thank you for meeting
with the synagogue sisterhood last
month. The women were deeply moved.
Plus, your work with school
children is a blessing.

IDA

Voices like mine are dropping like
flies.

(holds up tattooed
foreman)

We mustn't forget.

INT. ARMSTRONG CAPITAL CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Mr. Armstrong continues his pep talk.

MR. ARMSTRONG

There just may be a senior
partnership in line for the person
who gets the deal closed.

(turns to Staff Member)

Lindgren, how long you been with
us?

LINDA

Twenty-one years, sir.

MR. ARMSTRONG

Twenty-one years. A long time if you're cheese, but not so long in our business.

(pounds fist on table)

It's PUSH PUSH PUSH in business.
It's PUSH PUSH PUSH, all the way all the time, right down the line.
I will NOT lose Sunshine Confectioners.

EXT. HAMBURGER STAND - DAY

Ida and Brooke, seated at a table, enjoy their meal. At an adjacent table, sit TEEN BOYS.

IDA

Rabbi Wise says you're doing well in your preparation.

BROOKE

I don't want to let mom and dad down.

IDA

Sweetie, you'll never do that.

BROOKE

Nana, what was your bat-mitzvah like?

IDA

Never had one.

BROOKE

Really, how come?

IDA

When I was your age, I was living in Hungary. Oh, what beautiful country. Rolling hills, farms, very peaceful. I was, just like you are now, preparing for my bat-mitzvah.

FLASHBACK

1944. Ida, as young girl, on a temple pulpit.

YOUNG IDA

(sings)

Baruch atah, Adonai
Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
(MORE)

YOUNG IDA (CONT'D)
 asher bid'varo maariv aravim,
 b'chochmah potei-ach sh'arim...

IDA (V.O.)
 And then, one spring morning,
 everything changed.

GERMAN TROOPS goose step; TANKS roll into Hungary.

IDA (V.O.)
 Life would never be the same.

BACK TO SCENE

BROOKE
 Why couldn't you still have a bat-
 mitzvah?

IDA
 I was sent, with my family, and
 many others, to a very bad place.
 Hell on Earth, really.

BROOKE
 (points to tattoo on Ida's
 arm)
 Is that where you got that?

Ida nods.

BROOKE (CONT'D)
 Couldn't you have one afterwards?

IDA
 Sweetie, few of us had a place to
 live. I was so focused on getting
 food, putting my life back
 together, survival. It simply
 wasn't a priority.

BROOKE
 Why about now?

Ida takes a large bite of her hamburger; ketchup drips on her shirt.

IDA
 (chuckles)
 Look at me. I'm an old geezer. My
 time has come and gone.

Teen Boys point, laugh at Ida's soiled shirt.

IDA (CONT'D)

(to Teen Boys)

What are you going on about? I may be an old broad but I'll kick ALL your asses.

ESTABLISHING SHOT. GOLDEN OAKS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY - DAY

Peaceful, tree-lined grounds with aged brick buildings.

INT. GOLDEN OAKS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY - DAY

Four senior citizens - ROSE, MILDRED (partners), BETTY, smoking, and Ida (partners), sit at a Bridge table, playing the card game in their usual high-spirited manner.

ROSE

Betty, you're making us all sick.

MILDRED

You're going to give yourself cancer.

BETTY

My mother died with a cigarette in her mouth at a ripe old age.

IDA

Didn't your mother die by slipping in the bathtub?

BETTY

She still had a cigarette in her mouth.

Rose drinks from a glass of what appears to be a Bloody Mary.

BETTY (CONT'D)

We all have our vices, Miss Vitamin Juice.

ROSE

It's got tomato juice in it. That's Vitamin C, Miss Smarty-Pants.

MILDRED

Can we please concentrate on the game at hand? Bid Seven Hearts.

(stares at Ida, whose turn it is)

Ida, anytime before I become worm food.

IDA

(places card down)

I wonder, do any of you have regrets about something from your youth that you feel is unfinished business?

BETTY

(places card down)

When I was barely out of my teens, my uncle, through a connection, obtained a secretarial position for me at one of the Hearst newspapers in Boston. Wouldn't you know it, on my very first day, I'm sitting at my desk at the typewriter - don't even remember what I was typing up - and a very handsome, well dressed young man comes up to me. We start talking and next thing I know, he asks me out. I had to decline on account I had a gentleman, and soon to be husband, already courting me. Believe it when I tell you...

BETTY/IDA/ROSE/MILDRED

...that gentleman was none other than Mister John Fitzgerald Kennedy in the flesh and blood.

BETTY

I may have mentioned it to you before. But how many ladies can say they might have been a future First Lady.

ROSE

(places card down)

You and a thousand other women.

IDA

John Kennedy was seeing more ass than a toilet seat.

BETTY

Tsk tsk. The sound of petty jealousy.

MILDRED

Got something on your mind, Ida?

IDA

No. Just wondering.

Ida places her losing card face down.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Brooke and friends, ALLISON, 13, and SABRINA, 13, wear book-filled knapsacks, hold smart phones, walk to a class.

ALLISON
(eyes her phone)
OMG! Fresh Fashions has just posted
the most lit new tops.

Girls check it out.

BROOKE
Sweet. The purple one is really
cool.

SABRINA
You can wear that to your bm.

BROOKE
I don't think that'll fly with my
dad. He's old-fashioned.

SABRINA
I think the right word is uncool.

ALLISON
Speaking of which, I never got your
invitation.

SABRINA
Yeah, me neither.

BROOKE
Trust me. I'm not forgetting about
my squad.

INT. ROSENBERG RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Ida, Harold and David watch big flat screen television, while Brooke texts on her phone.

DAVID
(calls out)
Ma, I'm starved. Where's dinner?

IDA
David, remember what we talked
about. Patience is a virtue.

David SIGHS.

ANGLE ON: TELEVISION SCREEN

Words flash: ACTION NEWS LOCAL HEROES

NEWS ANCHOR

In tonight's local heroes feature,
I'd like to introduce you to Helen
Foley, who celebrated her ninetieth
birthday by taking a big plunge.
For more on that story, we go to
correspondent Mary Stuart.

CUT TO:

HELEN FOLEY, in full skydiving gear, as she jumps out of a
small airplane.

HELEN

(screams)

YEAH!

Helen floats on the wind as she descends toward Earth.

CUT TO:

Helen on safe ground, interviewed by news reporter MARY.

MARY

Helen, first off, congratulations
on your successful jump.
Personally, I'm not jumping out of
a perfectly good airplane.

(laughs)

What was your inspiration for doing
so?

HELEN

Skydiving was always on my bucket
list. I figured, I ain't getting
any younger, so why not?

MARY

Had your doctor cleared you for
such an activity?

HELEN

My doctor is dead.

BACK TO:

ROSENBERG LIVING ROOM

IDA
Good for her.

HAROLD
I think she's just seeking
attention.

IDA
Not all old people are ready to be
put out to pasture. If more of us
did things like that, it wouldn't
become a big news event when we
did.

DAVID
Daddy, I wanna jump out of a plane.

HAROLD
(turns to Ida)
See what you started.

SEGUE TO:

FAMILY DINING ROOM

Family eats dinner; Brooke texts.

DANA
My grandma knitted. It was a whole
lot safer than leaping out of an
airplane.

IDA
"Do one thing every day that scares
you." Eleanor Roosevelt said that.

HAROLD
I bet Eleanor Roosevelt never went
skydiving.
(turns to Brooke)
Brooke, you know Rule Number One at
the dinner table.

BROOKE
Yes, dad.

Brooke reluctantly puts down her phone.

DANA

By the way, Brooke, your bat-mitzvah invitations will be ready Friday.

BROOKE

That's so old-school. Why don't we e-mail them?

DANA

Invitations are classier.

IDA

When I watched Brooke preparing for her services, couldn't help but wonder what mine would have been like.

HAROLD

I would hope better than mine. Remember how you embarrassed me at my bar-mitzvah?

FLASHBACK

INT. RECEPTION HALL - DAY

YOUNG HAROLD, 13, braces on teeth, surrounded by FRIENDS and IDA. PHOTOGRAPHER holds a film camera.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Okay, everyone, get together so I can get a picture of the bar-mitzvah boy and his buddies.

IDA

(to Friends)

You heard the man. All children get together, my baby in the middle.

Friends do as told; Photographer points camera at the group.

IDA (CONT'D)

Wait, wait, wait! I knew broccoli on the menu was a terrible idea.

From her purse, Ida removes dental floss, proceeds to forcefully floss a chunk of broccoli from her son's front tooth.

IDA (CONT'D)

Really, Harold. You must be more careful.

(MORE)

IDA (CONT'D)
 Are you chewing your food
 correctly? Remember, for good
 digestion, you are supposed to chew
 eighteen times.

Young Harold flinches; Friends LAUGH.

IDA (CONT'D)
 Harold, don't be a drama queen. A
 little blood never hurt anyone.

YOUNG HAROLD
 Mom, you're embarrassing me.

IDA
 Oh please. If I was trying to
 embarrass you, wouldn't I have
 brought up your bed-wetting?

CAMERA FLASH to still frame of Young Harold, humiliated,
 awkwardly grinning.

BACK TO SCENE

Harold wears same humiliated, awkwardly grinning facial
 expression as Brooke and David LAUGH, even Dana giggles.

HAROLD
 Shut up and eat your damn dinners.

INT. HAROLD'S CAR - MORNING

Harold drives with Dana beside him, busy viewing herself in
 the sun visor mirror as she applies make-up to her face.

HAROLD
 She really knows how to grind my
 gears, I'll tell you that.

DANA
 Don't forget who invited her to
 live with us, for what I was told
 would be quote, until she was over
 dad's passing, unquote. I believe
 our youngest was still learning to
 walk then.

HAROLD
 Don't rub it in. You know what
 would be nice? If she had a reason
 to get out of the house more.

DANA
 (chuckles)
 Yeah, like if we can marry her off.

HAROLD
 That's it! If she had a gentleman
 in her life, that could become her
 focus. Who do we know though?

DANA
 How about your friend Mark's
 father? He always seemed very
 pleasant.

HAROLD
 No go. He moved to Miami. What
 about your Uncle Sid, the one with
 the big schnozz?

DANA
 Not available since he met a nice
 widow on a seniors singles cruise.
 Uncle Sid's nose is not big. He has
 my granddad's nose.

HAROLD
 Please Dana, the guy could smoke a
 cigar in the shower.

Harold fidgets uncomfortably.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
 Remind me, I need to take these
 slacks in to the tailor.

DANA
 Mr. Romano is such a sweet man. I
 always wondered why he was a
 lifelong bachelor.

Dana and Harold both turn to each other with a "light-bulb"
 moment expression.

INT. TAILOR SHOP - DAY

MR. ROMANO, 75, short, gray hair and bushy mustache, is
 occupied, altering a tuxedo. Dana, holding a pair of slacks,
 enters.

MR. ROMANO drops what he's doing, swiftly glides to his
 patron.

MR. ROMANO

Mrs. Rosenberg, so nice for you to pay me a visit. What can I do for you?

DANA

My husband needs an alteration. He says to let out half an inch.

MR. ROMANO

Did he purchase too small a size?

DANA

According to him, yes. According to the bathroom scale, no.

(clears her throat)

Mr. Romano, may I ask you a personal question?

MR. ROMANO

I am aware I have put on a few extra pounds as well. But you know Italian food...

DANA

Not that, though, you wear those extra pounds well. I just wonder why, a handsome man such as yourself, with a successful business, a charming personality and, from what I hear, a marvelous cook, you've never gotten married.

MR. ROMANO

I never find the right Signora, I suppose. I enjoy quiet life. After work, go home, listen to operetta, cook hearty pasta, that's all I need.

DANA

Have you ever met Harold's mother, Ida? She's...joyful.

MR. ROMANO

No, I can not say I had the pleasure. Mrs. Rosenberg, I really do not...

DANA

Why not have her over for dinner? That couldn't do any harm, could it? She's from the Old Country. You two have so much in common.

MR. ROMANO

Hmmm...

DANA

Fantastic. Leave it all to me. I'll make the arrangements.

EXT. SYNAGOGUE - DAY

Ida's car pulls into a parking space.

INT. IDA'S CAR - DAY

Ida shuts off the engine; Brooke sits in the passenger seat.

IDA

Are you nervous?

BROOKE

I don't feel nervous one bit.

IDA

Sweetie, it's only natural to feel butterflies standing in front of everyone you know during the services.

BROOKE

Nana, trust me, I don't get nervous.

INT. SYNAGOGUE - DAY

Brooke on the Bema with Cantor Richard.

BROOKE

(sings)

Ba-ruch A-tah A-do-noi E-loi-hei-nu
Me-lech ha-o-lam she-he-chee-ya-nu
v'ki-yi-ma-nu vi-hi-gi-ya-nu liz-
man ha-zeh.

As Brooke rehearses, Ida, sitting in the pews, mouths along with her, as if she has already committed all to memory.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Traffic cones are arranged in a zig-zag line as Ida's car drives, successfully avoiding them.

INT. IDA'S CAR

IDA
Stay focused. You got it, girl.

BROOKE
(briefly takes eyes off
road)
Yeah! I got it, Nana.

KLUNK: Car scrapes against something heavy.

INT. ROSENBERG RESIDENCE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Harold, poring over business documents, and Dana, reading a trashy romance novel with a buff male model on the cover, seated on the sofa. Ida, dressed as if she just crawled out of bed, enters.

DANA
Ida, you better get ready for your date.

HAROLD
Not date. Dana means to say, non-committal dinner appointment.

IDA
Whatever you call it, this is what I'm comfortable in. If the old coot doesn't like it, tough luck. This wasn't my idea.

HAROLD
Mother, Mr. Romano is younger than you are. He's a very kindly gentleman.

DANA
(holds up romance novel)
Sometimes dreams do come true.

IDA
(points to book cover)
You set me up with *that* guy, and I'll dress up like Cleopatra.

EXT. MR. ROMANO'S HOUSE PORCH - NIGHT

Ida walks to the front door of a modest home in a lower middle-class neighborhood. She glances around.

IDA
Does this guy know that doorbells
have been invented?

Ida KNOCKS on the door.

Door is opened to reveal Mr. Romano.

MR. ROMANO
Ah, you must be Miss Ida.

IDA
I must be. I couldn't locate your
doorbell.

MR. ROMANO
No bell. My friends always...

Mr. Romano uses his hand to rap on the door.

IDA
(sarcastically)
Lovely.

INT. LIVING ROOM

MR. ROMANO
Please, Miss Ida, you may sit.
(hands her glass of white
wine)
For you.

IDA
White wine contains sulfites. Gives
me the hives.

MR. ROMANO
(places glass down)
We not want that. Signora Rosenberg
has been good customer for long
time. She is gracious person.

IDA
She can be a pretentious windbag,
but I'm used to it.

MR. ROMANO
Are you an admirer of opera?

IDA
Can take it or leave it.

Mr. Romano places a record on an old Victrola record player.

MR. ROMANO

Ah, but then you have never heard
the voice of the great Enrico
Caruso.

Needle dropped, scratchy music with operatic singing pulses
from the speaker.

MR. ROMANO (CONT'D)

Opera gives me sensation of
overwhelming joy.

IDA

I get the same feeling from a good
bowel movement. Speaking of which,
I thought I was here to eat?

MR. ROMANO

But of course, I have prepared a
wonderful Italian meal.

IDA

(motions to table)
Shall we?

MR. ROMANO

Maybe before meal treat is good,
no?

Mr. Romano moves uncomfortably close to her.

IDA

What do you think you're doing?

MR. ROMANO

Italiano men like signorinas with
meat on their bones.

Mr. Romano plants a kiss on Ida's lips.

MR. ROMANO (CONT'D)

You like?

Ida grabs the glass of white wine, splashes it onto his face.

MR. ROMANO (CONT'D)

Italiano men like feisty signorina.

Ida snatches record from Victrola, bangs it over his head,
shattering the vinyl. She storms out.

MR. ROMANO (CONT'D)
(waves arms in air)
She'll be back. No signorina can
resist me - and Enrico.

INT. ROSENBERG RESIDENCE FOYER - NIGHT

Ida enters, walks towards the staircase. Dana is in the
kitchen.

DANA (V.O.)
Is that you, Ida? You're back
early.

IDA
Kindly gentleman, my ass.

Ida ascends the stairs.

INT. ROSENBERG RESIDENCE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Harold, wearing a facial mud mask, and towel around his neck,
exits bathroom.

HAROLD
(calls out)
Dana, how long am I supposed to
leave this on?

DANA (O.C.)
Leave the mud on the skin for
twelve minutes. If it begins to
crack and itch, it has been on too
long.

IDA
I didn't realize I had two daughter-
in-laws.

HAROLD
This happens to be mud from the
Dead Sea.

IDA
If you want to stay young, eat your
vegetables.

HAROLD
How was your dinner with Mr.
Romano?

IDA
 He's not the person you think he
 is. Good night.

Ida opens her bedroom door.

HAROLD
 Mom, I know no one will ever be
 able to replace dad.

IDA
 Your father was something special.

HAROLD
 I know how much you two loved each
 other. It was always apparent.

IDA
 What I'm most thankful about is
 that my memories haven't faded. I
 can still remember the good times
 we had and all the great qualities
 of the man. Good night.

Ida enter bedroom, door closes behind her.

HAROLD
 (antsy)
 Okay, now it's itching.

Harold runs toward bathroom.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY

On stage, stands Ida, giving a presentation to an audience of
 STUDENTS, 12-14, which includes use of an overhead projector.
 Just offstage stands PRINCIPAL EMMA STEWART.

IDA
 That feeling of hunger was always
 with me. Always. When I was
 liberated, I weighed only eighty-
 three pounds.

Picture projected on the back wall screen shows a
 emancipated, spindly young Ida.

GIRL'S hand goes up.

IDA (CONT'D)
 Yes?

GIRL

Like, what did you eat to stay alive?

IDA

The simple answer is, whatever I could. We were fed a ration of stale bread and weak soup, but not every day. Sometimes, I would get lucky and find a bug. One time, I was so hungry I even tried to eat my shoe.

Students GIGGLE.

BOY

My grandpa says what you're talking about is a myth.

IDA

How old is your grandpa?

BOY

Super old, like sixty.

IDA

Being that the war ended seventy-two years ago, I doubt your grandpa was there. I know I was and so were millions of other people. Your grandpa is wrong.

Principal Stewart enters stage.

PRINCIPAL STEWART

Thank you, Ms. Rosenberg. I think we all learned a lot from your presentation. Any final thoughts to share?

IDA

Yes. And that is, people are just people. They want to live their lives, go to work, raise their families. Same all over the place. Judge people by their actions, not what color they are or what God, if any, they pray to.

PRINCIPAL STEWART

Let us show Ms. Rosenberg how much we appreciate her joining us today.

Students CLAP.

EXT. AUTO BODY SHOP - DAY

Ida's car haphazardly parks in front of the work bay.

INT. AUTO BODY SHOP - DAY

Ida enters work bay, where AUTO MECHANICS are at labor. One of them, GEORGE, 40, wears denim work clothes, repairs a car hoisted up on a lift.

IDA
(calls out)
Yo, Georgie!

George stops what he's doing.

GEORGE
Ida, you know you're not supposed to be in the work area. You get hurt, my insurance goes through the roof. I can barely afford it now.

IDA
Yeah, yeah, yeah. Sing me a different tune. I need a quote.

George escorts Ida to her automobile.

GEORGE
(glances at small dent)
Let me take a wild guess - this time it was a deer.

IDA
Something like that.

GEORGE
Ya' know, when my Old Lady turned eighty, I took away the car keys. There comes a time...

IDA
Georgie, if I want to be lectured, I can do so without leaving home. What do you think, it's just a tiny dent?

GEORGE
It ain't too bad. More of a scrape than anything. I can do this one for one fifty.

INT. HAROLD'S OFFICE - DAY

Harold sits at his desk; Mr. Armstrong hovers over him.

MR. ARMSTRONG

Mr. Galloway will arrive shortly.
Your meeting with him is critical.
It is up to you to close this deal.
How are you feeling?

HAROLD

I feel fine, sir.

MR. ARMSTRONG

You get a good night's sleep?

HAROLD

Good eight hours.

MR. ARMSTRONG

Speaking of which, I had a really
strange dream last night. That a
giant pumpkin dressed in drag was
stealing socks out of my dresser
drawer. When I awoke, I even
checked that drawer. Silliest
thing. Wonder what it meant.

HAROLD

Perhaps to install a lock on that
dresser against sock thieves?

MR. ARMSTRONG

That dresser is an antique. Was my
great-aunt's. Made of Brazilian
Rosewood. They don't make dressers
like that anymore. Furniture built
to last. These days it is of the
poorest quality...

HAROLD

Sir, Mr. Galloway.

MR. ARMSTRONG

Yes, of course. We're counting on
you, Rosenberg.

Mr. Armstrong exits.

INT. ARMSTRONG CAPITAL HEADQUARTERS RECEPTION AREA - DAY

BRIDGET, millennial receptionist, sits at her desk.

DALE GALLOWAY, 79, fit, with a full mane of distinguished silver hair, enters.

BRIDGET

Mr. Galloway, Mr. Rosenberg is expecting you.

(presses intercom)

Mr. Rosenberg, Mr. Galloway has arrived.

HAROLD (O.S.)

Send him in.

INT. HAROLD'S OFFICE - DAY

Harold stands to greet his guest.

HAROLD

Mr. Galloway, a real pleasure to see you.

(points to leather chair)

Please.

Mr. Galloway sits down.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

May I get you some coffee or tea perhaps?

MR. GALLOWAY

Harold, let's get down to the matter at hand. My board of directors has been analyzing your proposal as well as that of Horton Smith Capital. All things being fairly equal, why should we place the trust and reputation of Sunshine Confectioners in the palms of Armstrong Capital?

HAROLD

Sir, we have a track record of putting together deals that have been highly beneficial to our clients.

MR. GALLOWAY

As does Horton Smith.

HAROLD

At Armstrong Capital, we are always available 24/7 if any issues should materialize.

MR. GALLOWAY
As is Horton Smith.

HAROLD
Well sir...

INT. ARMSTRONG CAPITAL RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Bridget at her desk, talks on the phone. Ida enters.

IDA
Bridget, how lovely to see you.

BRIDGET
(into phone)
Hold on a sec, Rita.
(glances up)
Mr. Rosenberg is in an important
meeting. I better let him know
you're here.

IDA
Sweetie, I'm his mother.

BRIDGET
(into intercom)
Mr. Rosenberg, Ida is here to see
you.

HAROLD (O.S.)
Tell her I'll call her later.

IDA
A son should always make time for
his mother. I'm no spring chicken,
after all.

Ida flings open the door to the office suites, enters through
it.

BRIDGET
Ida...never mind.
(into phone)
Oh, nothing important, Rita.

INT. HAROLD'S OFFICE - DAY

MR. GALLOWAY
Sunshine Confectioners was founded
by my grandfather in 1923 in a barn
without any indoor plumbing or
electricity. But what he had was...

Ida barges in on the meeting.

IDA
Harold, what's the big idea?

HAROLD
(shakes his head)
Mother!

IDA
A son should always make time for
the woman who gave birth to him.
Especially when said son took his
own sweet time leaving the womb.
What'd you do, set up a condo in
there?

HAROLD
I apologize for the interruption,
Mr. Galloway.

MR. GALLOWAY
No, please, I am charmed to meet...

HAROLD
This is Ida. Mom, this is Mr.
Galloway, one of my VIP clients.

MR. GALLOWAY
Call me Dale. Is that a Hungarian
accent I detect?

IDA
Now, how could you know that?

MR. GALLOWAY
My own mother grew up in a small
town in Hungary called Karcag.
Let's say, I have an ear for the
region.

IDA
For heaven's sake. I grew up in
Szolnok, close by. What a small
world.

MR. GALLOWAY
Ir redt Yiddish?

IDA
(smiles)
Yiddish iz vos mirhdozngeredt in
shtub.

They LAUGH.

MR. GALLOWAY

Prior to my mother's passing, I had taken a trip with her. She wanted to show me the old country. What beautiful country it is.

IDA

More truer words have never been spoken. So, what racket are you in?

HAROLD

Mother, really?!

MR. GALLOWAY

I'm in the candy racket, you might say.

IDA

Oh yeah. I like candy.

MR. GALLOWAY

Mrs. Rosenberg...

IDA

Call me Ida.

MR. GALLOWAY

Ida, have you ever attended the Yiddish theatre?

IDA

Are you kidding? My Frank used to take me there regularly.

MR. GALLOWAY

At the risk of being too forward, I have tickets to the theatre for next Saturday, if you happen to be free.

IDA

That would be delightful.

HAROLD

Mother, what is the pressing matter that brought you here?

IDA

It can wait.

INT. ROSENBERG RESIDENCE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Harold, agitated, paces, as Ida calmly sits at the kitchen table playing solitaire.

HAROLD

You really take the cake, you know that? The most important client of my life and you weasel your way into clucking up this deal.

IDA

Clucking? Since when do you use that word? Are you a chicken?

HAROLD

Do not try and change the subject, mother. You know full well what I mean.

IDA

Dale asked me to the theatre with him, not the other way around. Big clucking deal.

HAROLD

I don't even get to call him Dale!

IDA

Harold, you're acting like a child. I think you need a time out.

HAROLD

I am not a child. I am a grown adult with my own family. Hell, you treat Brooke more like an adult than you do me.

IDA

Possibly because she acts more like one.

(stands up)

Excuse me. I'm retiring to my bedroom.

INT. GOLDEN OAKS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY - DAY

Ida, Rose, Betty and Mildred sit at their usual bridge table.

IDA

So then the miscreant plants a kiss on me.

MILDRED

Was he a good kisser?

IDA

For Heaven's sake, I don't know - or care. I got out of there as quick as I could, after giving him a wine bath.

BETTY

Wine bath, sounds romantic. I prefer champagne, but to each their own.

MILDRED

I once took a whiskey bath.

ROSE

(sips from her ever present glass of "vitamin juice")
I've felt that way at times.

MILDRED

No, I mean an actual whiskey bath.

IDA

I didn't realize Irving was so kinky.

MILDRED

Oh, God no. Irving considered anything but the missionary position too kinky. During Prohibition, my uncle was a bootlegger. He would use our bathtub at home to make his hooch. One time - I was about 7 or 8 - I was in the woods playing with my brother and I got sprayed by a skunk. When I arrived home, my mother yelled at me to get in the tub. When I entered the bathroom, it was full of what I thought was water. I couldn't smell a darn thing on top of the skunk stink. Well, to my surprise, it wasn't water. It was Uncle Marty's special batch.

ROSE

That's what I call whiskey with a kick.

MILDRED

I'd say so. Uncle Marty still sold the hooch anyway. Said he couldn't let it go to waste.

IDA

A nice gentleman happens to be taking me to the theatre Saturday.

BETTY

Don't forget to bring protection.

MILDRED

If you need a weapon, that theatre must be in a really rough neighborhood.

BETTY

Not a gun. Protection protection.

MILDRED

Oh...you mean, like pepper spray.

ROSE

Condoms, Betty. She means condoms.

MILDRED

(to Ida)

I guess you wouldn't want to be breast-feeding at your age.

IDA

That's right, Mildred. Every time the baby crawls on the floor, she might think it's meal time.

INT. YIDDISH THEATRE - NIGHT

In the audience of the crowded playhouse, are Ida and Dale. On stage, comedy performers TEVYE and AVRUM, both elderly, sit on chairs. They speak in Yiddish.

AVRUM

How does it go with you, Tevye?

TEVYE

How should it go? And you, Avrum?

AVRUM

The same.

TEVYE

I'm sorry to hear that.

AVRUM

So how's your brother-in-law in
America?

TEVYE

I believe he is doing very well.

AVRUM

He wrote you?

TEVYE

Not lately.

AVRUM

Then how do you know?

TEVYE

If he was doing badly, he would
write.

Audience LAUGHS.

EMCEE takes the stage.

EMCEE

Let's give it up for Avrum and
Tevye.

APPLAUSE

EMCEE (CONT'D)

And now, would you please give a
warm welcome to Nechama Kressyn.

NECHAMA KRESSYN takes her place at the microphone to croon a
traditional Yiddish song.

NECHAMA

(in Yiddish)

Consider the world well, how false
everyone is these days As soon as
you're poor and have no money, you
won't have a friend Everyone laughs
when things are bad for you Nobody
feels your suffering You won't get
a friend even if you seek him with
a lantern because you don't have
money for bread He had a lot of
friends when he was spending his
money...

At their table, Ida and Dale take in the show.

MR. GALLOWAY

I see you enjoy Yiddish theatre.

IDA

Very much so. It has been a long time since I have attended.

MR. GALLOWAY

Your son Harold is a shrewd man.

IDA

(smiles)

He takes after me. What do your kids do?

MR. GALLOWAY

I am without. I had a wonderful wife for forty-two years. Five years ago, she became ill and...

IDA

I am sorry.

MR. GALLOWAY

No need to be. Trudy and I had a happy life together. She was a brilliant interior designer with a growing clientele. I was deeply preoccupied with my own business. We decided early on that offspring were not in the cards for us. Many married couples make the same decision. More so today. You can say that we were ahead of the curve.

Ida COUGHS.

MR. GALLOWAY (CONT'D)

You okay?

IDA

Just need some water.

Ida drinks from a glass.

IDA (CONT'D)

Who will care for you in your old age?

MR. GALLOWAY

(chuckles)

In case you haven't noticed, I am not exactly an adolescent.

IDA

It was a dumb question.

MR. GALLOWAY

Ida, you're looking at a person who had two parents who spent their final years with senility. I decided that I would live each and every moment of my existence staying active and enjoying myself until my last breathe. You know what happens when people retire? Often, soon after, they drop dead. Why, just last year, I took up scuba diving.

IDA

I'd be worried to be deep in the water. What if something went wrong?

MR. GALLOWAY

When you dive the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, with its hundreds of different types of coral, vibrant colors that you cannot even imagine in your wildest dreams - it's truly magical. Do you have any unfulfilled dreams, Ida?

IDA

Perhaps a silly one.

MR. GALLOWAY

No dream is silly.

IDA

As I've watched my granddaughter prepare for her bat-mitzvah, it makes me wistful for the one I never had.

MR. GALLOWAY

Do you know who Kirk Douglas is?

IDA

Do I know who Kirk Douglas is!? First time in an American movie theatre, was to see *20,000 Leagues Under The Sea*. Watched it three times that weekend, I loved it so much, and it's leading man.

MR. GALLOWAY

I personally preferred *Spartacus*. I remember hearing Douglas had a bar mitzvah at the age of eighty-three. Now, if a bar-mitzvah is good enough for Kirk Douglas, then why, I ask you, isn't a bat-mitzvah good enough for one Ida Rosenberg?

Ida slams her fist down on the table; PATRONS glance at her.

IDA

Damn right!

MR. GALLOWAY

Hell, you and your granddaughter can even have the ceremony together.

IDA

Good luck convincing Harold of that.

MR. GALLOWAY

I know Harold. He is a reasonable man.

INT. ROSENBERG RESIDENCE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Family is present as Harold berates Ida.

HAROLD

THAT IS THE CRAZIEST THING I EVER HEARD IN MY LIFE! You're trying to hijack Brooke's special day!

DANA

Harold, your blood pressure.

HAROLD

Where on Earth did you get such a nutty, jackass idea?

IDA

It was Dale's. A good one at that. He also thinks Brooke and I should have our ceremonies together.

BROOKE

Nana, *that* would be so rad.

HAROLD

I don't care if Moses himself carved that idea in a stone tablet two thousand years ago, it's not happening.

Dana hands Harold a glass of water.

DANA

Harold, drink. You're overheating.

IDA

Who made you the Bat-Mitzvah police?

DANA

Ida, what Harold means to say, is that, Brooke's ceremony is only weeks away. The temple date is reserved, catering is all booked, everything is set. To change plans at this late date, would be unreasonable.

DAVID

If Nana gets a bat-mitzvah, does that mean she'll be wearing a training bar like Brooke?

BROOKE

(to David)

You're such a doofus.

IDA

What's unreasonable? We share the same family members. Besides, most of my friends are dead.

HAROLD

Mother, it happens to be Brooke's big day. It's not reasonable to Brooke to make her share it.

BROOKE

Dad, I don't mind. I think that would be awesome.

HAROLD

Mother, what is the reason for wanting to do so? Why now?

IDA

I couldn't have one as a kid. And in case you haven't noticed, I have many more pages of the calendar behind me than in front of me.

DANA

Ida, how's this for an idea? Why don't you go talk to Rabbi Wise, see what his thoughts on the matter are.

IDA

Finally, somebody talking sense.

Harold slams down the glass of water, exits.

BROOKE

(hugs Ida)

Love the idea, Nana.

INT. SYNAGOGUE OFFICE - DAY

Rabbi Wise sits at his desk, busy with paperwork.

DOOR KNOCK.

Rabbi Wise gets up to open the door, to reveal Ida.

IDA

Rabbi, if you're busy, I can come back at another time.

RABBI WISE

(motions her in)

No, please Ida, I always have time for you.

They sit down.

RABBI WISE (CONT'D)

(points to pile of paper on desk)

You would think a rabbi would be immune to daily paperwork, but you would be incorrect. I guess, like anything in life, it can be looked upon as a burden or a blessing. I will chose the latter.

IDA

Rabbi, you know the reason why I never had my bat-mitzvah.

RABBI WISE
Circumstances beyond your control.

IDA
I want my bat-mitzvah. I'm ready.

RABBI WISE
Ida Rosenberg, mazel tov.

IDA
I want to have the ceremony with my granddaughter, right here.

RABBI WISE
Double mazel tov. The pairs I have presided over have been twins. A multi-generational service will be a wonderful event. I will make the arrangements with Cantor Richard. I will also work on modifying my own service.

IDA
Thank you for your support, Rabbi.
I won't let you down.

INT. ROSENBERG RESIDENCE DINNER TABLE - NIGHT

Brooke and David, both entranced with their smart phones, seated at the table. Ida enters, carrying three plates of food, sets them down.

IDA
Remember the rule about phones not allowed at the dinner table.

DAVID
I only have four more zombies to kill.

IDA
As of now.

Ida grabs phones out of kids' hands, places them on end table out of their reach.

BROOKE/DAVID
Nana!...No fair...I was in the middle of something...

IDA
Let's enjoy a nice quiet meal for a change.

Harold and Dana, both dressed formally, enter.

DAVID
Mommy, where you going?

DANA
Your father and I have dinner plans tonight.

DAVID
But you said you'd help me with my homework.

DANA
I can't tonight, honey. Your sister can help you.

IDA
By the way, I had a lovely chat with Rabbi Wise. He is thrilled to perform my service.

HAROLD
Not surprised. Religion is big business. He has another fish on the hook.

DAVID
(to Brooke)
If Nana is bat-mitzvahed, will that also make her the biggest dork in the world?

BROOKE
To quote mom, if you ignore your little brother, sooner or later, like a migraine, he'll go away.

DAVID
Nana, what are you gonna do with all your gifts?

IDA
David, a bat-mitzvah isn't about people giving you gifts.

HAROLD
That's right, David. For some people, it's about being the center of attention.

IDA
Don't you have a pretentious dinner to get to?

Dana gives each kid a hug.

DANA

Don't forget, in bed at your bedtimes. No staying up late.

Parents exit.

DAVID

Nana, what's a bat-mitzvah about?

IDA

The bat-mitzvah means becoming spiritually mature, taking responsibility for one's own actions, becoming a fully participating Jewish adult. It symbolizes the power of community and the power within oneself.

DAVID

But Nana, you're old!

IDA

True. I am old. That doesn't mean I have to lie in bed waiting for the Grim Reaper to come and take me away.

DAVID

Grim Reaper?

BROOKE

She means death. Don't you know anything?

DAVID

Nana, why didn't you have a bat-mitzvah when you were a kid?

Living Room telephone RINGS.

IDA

(gets up from table)
Brooke will explain why.

BROOKE

Because very bad things happened and when they ended, nobody was in the mood to party.

IDA (O.S.)

Hello Dale.

INT. SYNAGOGUE STUDY ROOM - DAY

Ida stands in the compact room with Cantor Richard.

CANTOR RICHARD

Miss Ida, what do you recall from your youthful preparations for your services?

IDA

To be honest, Cantor, not a whole bunch. They were traumatic times. I think I blocked a lot of it out.

CANTOR RICHARD

Quite understandable. I suggest we start at the beginning. We will go over material together and I will give you material to practice at home.

IDA

Sounds kosher to me.

CANTOR RICHARD

Repeat after me. Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu.

IDA

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu.

CANTOR RICHARD

Me-lech ha-o-lam she-he-chee-ya-nu v'ki-yi-ma-nu.

IDA

Me-lech ha-o-lam she-he-chee-ya-nu v'ki-yi-ma-nu.

CANTOR RICHARD

Vi-hi-gi-ya-nu liz-man ha-zeh.

VIDA

Vi-hi-gi-ya-nu liz-man ha-zeh.

CANTOR RICHARD

Very good. Now let's try singing it, at a nice slow pace.

IDA

(sings in completely off-key, tone-deaf voice)
(MORE)

IDA (CONT'D)

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech
haolam, shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu,
v'higianu laz'man hazeh.

CANTOR RICHARD

Miss Ida, have you done much
singing?

IDA

Only if you count the shower. Oh, I
just love to sing *You'll Never Walk
Alone* from Carousel.

(sings in off-key voice)

When you walk through a storm, hold
your chin up high, and don't be
afraid of the dark...

CANTOR RICHARD

(clears throat)

Uh, yes, of course. Wonderful song.

IDA

My late husband once said my voice
was a gift from the Almighty.

CANTOR RICHARD

That...would be one way to put it.
I have a better idea. Let's start
with this.

Cantor Richard purses his lips together, places each index
finger on a cheek, to perform a "lip buzz", vibrating his
lips.

CANTOR RICHARD (CONT'D)

See how I relax the lips, air
controlled by my diaphragm, lips
vibrating freely. Now your turn.

Ida performs the "lip buzz".

CANTOR SCHWARTZMAN

(sings)

Doh Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti.

IDA

(sings)

Doh Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti.

CANTOR SCHWARTZMAN

(louder)

Doh Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti.

IDA
 (louder)
 Doh Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti.

CANTOR SCHWARTZMAN
 (even louder)
 DOH RE MI FA SOL LA TI.

IDA
 (even louder)
 DOH RE MI FA SOL LA TI.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Ida gives Brooke driving instruction. Traffic cones are arranged in the usual zig-zag line as her late-model car drives, successfully avoiding them until - it hits the very last cone.

Ida/Brooke CHEER.

INT. ROSENBERG RESIDENCE DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Family members, seated around dining room table, enjoy dinner.

IDA
 Cantor Richard said my voice was a gift from the Almighty.

DANA
 (holding back laughter)
 Cantor Richard said *that*?

IDA
 In so many words.

Ida COUGHS.

HAROLD
 Seems like the Cantor needs to find himself a new racket.

IDA
 Dana, I need five invitations to send out to my friends.

HAROLD
 Which friends?

IDA
 Betty, Rose, Mildred and Shirley.

HAROLD
Shirley? I never met a Shirley.

IDA
Your father and I met her and her
husband on a cruise before you were
born.

Ida COUGHS; drinks a glass of water.

DANA
When was the last time you two saw
each other?

IDA
What difference does it make. She's
a friend and I want her there.

HAROLD
That's four. Who's the fifth
invitation for?

IDA
A gentleman friend.

DAVID
Nana's got a boyfriend.

IDA
Dale, if you must know.

HAROLD
Mother, I am on the verge of
closing the deal of my career and I
don't want you messing it up.

Ida goes pale, loses her balance, nearly falling off the
chair.

BROOKE
NANA!?

DANA
(helps Ida regain her
balance)
Ida, you all right?

IDA
Fine, fine. Guess the excitement of
the whole bat-mitzvah thing just
got to me.

HAROLD

You've been coughing a lot lately, mom. It's time for a check-up. Dana would be happy to take you.

Dana shoots Harold an annoyed look.

IDA

For Heaven's sake, I'm fine. No need to make a big deal out of nothing.

Ida experiences prolonged COUGHS.

HAROLD

The big deal is this - you get a check-up, which is overdue anyway, and I don't take the car keys away.

Ida nods.

INT. DOCTOR'S EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

DR. GRACE EDELSON, 36, dressed in typical white doctor garb, stands in front of Ida, seated on an examination table.

DR. EDELSON

What symptoms are you experiencing?

IDA

This visit was my son's idea. Overall, I feel decent.

Ida COUGHS.

DR. EDELSON

How long have you had that cough?

IDA

Oh, this little thing. Not too long. Everyone coughs, right?

DR. EDELSON

Are you a smoker?

IDA

No. I mean, I was when I was younger. Everybody smoked back then.

DR. EDELSON

Mercury was once used as a cure-all for many ailments. How did that work out?

IDA

I was able to quit cold turkey. Never had another craving for one.

DR. EDELSON

How many years did you smoke?

IDA

Let's see. I started when I came to the States, quit when I was around forty-two. I guess about twenty years.

DR. EDELSON

Do you drink alcohol?

IDA

A little wine now and then.

DR. EDELSON

Any family history of heart disease?

IDA

I had an uncle who died of a heart attack.

DR. EDELSON

How old was he?

IDA

Fifty-four. In fairness though, if you caught your wife in bed with your best friend, you might drop dead of a heart attack too.

DR. EDELSON

Any family history of cancer?

IDA

Doctor, when you get to be my age, it's a given that you've lost family to the Big C.

Ida heartily COUGHS.

DR. EDELSON

I would like to get your vitals and take chest x-rays.

IDA
Okay, but I'm sure you have
patients that really need your
help.

Dr. Edelson slips a blood pressure monitor on Ida's left arm,
begins pumping the cuff.

DISSOLVE TO:

THIRTY MINUTES LATER

X-Rays of a pair of lungs are clipped to the lit-up wall
board.

DR. EDELSON
(hands Ida a business
card)
Ida, I would like you to see Dr.
Adam Serling, He is a
pulmonologist.

IDA
A what?

DR. EDELSON
A respiratory specialist.

IDA
Why would I need that?

DR. EDELSON
After looking over your x-rays,
it's a good pre-caution.

INT. DOCTOR'S WAITING ROOM - DAY

Dana sits impatiently reading a magazine. Ida enters from the
examination room hallway.

DANA
What's the verdict?

IDA
Just as I suspected. Fit as a
fiddle.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Brooke, Allison and Sabrina carry food trays, sit down at a table in the crowded dining hall. At table behind them, sit a group of BOYS.

SABRINA

Can you believe that math test, I mean, what the hell?

BROOKE

It was out there.

ALLISON

I'm so glad I didn't get stuck with Mrs. Clayton this year.

SABRINA

You mean, Mrs. Satan.

Big spitball hits Brooke in the neck.

At table behind them, Boys boisterously LAUGH.

BROOKE

(to Boy)

Kyle, I would ask how old you are but I know you can't count that high.

SABRINA

Boys are so immature.

BROOKE

That's why no boys are invited to my bat-mitzvah.

ALLISON

I think it's so cool your grandma is going to be doing it with you.

SABRINA

My grandma doesn't even know my name. She has something wrong with her. It's really sad.

ALLISON

I'm never going to get old.

BROOKE

How's that?

ALLISON

In like twenty years, doctors will have cured all diseases and be able to give people new bodies. My mom read it on the internet, so it must be true.

BROOKE

Totally.

SABRINA

That will be so awesome.

INT. SYNAGOGUE STUDY ROOM - DAY

Ida stands in the compact room with Cantor Richard, continuing vocal exercises.

CANTOR RICHARD

Hummm.....

IDA

Hummm....

Cantor Richard, with hands, motions for higher volume.

IDA (CONT'D)

HUMMM...

CUT TO:

CANTOR RICHARD

(sings)

Mah-May-Me-Mo-Moo.

IDA

(sings)

Mah-May-Me-Mo-Moo.

CUT TO:

Ida performs the "lip buzz".

INT. ARMSTRONG CAPITAL HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Harold approaches door of Mr. Armstrong's office.

KNOCKS.

MR. ARMSTRONG (O.S.)

Enter.

INT. MR. ARMSTRONG'S OFFICE

Harold enters the lavishly decorated, "old-world style" room, with numerous antiques, collectibles from his boss's many travels, tasteful paintings hanging on the wall and, positioned prominently behind the desk, a framed ad poster for Snirkles Candy.

HAROLD

You wanted to see me, sir?

MR. ARMSTRONG

That is correct. Update me on the Sunshine Confectioners situation.

HAROLD

Did I not do that yesterday, sir?

MR. ARMSTRONG

Rosenberg, that was twenty-hour hours ago. The world changes in that period of time. Just ask Abraham Lincoln on the night of April 15, 1865.

HAROLD

Mr. Galloway has our final proposal. He has presented it to his board of directors and is awaiting a decision.

MR. ARMSTRONG

You know, Rosenberg, I'm not one to gossip, but word around town is that your mother and Galloway are a hot item. Burning up the old bedsheets, getting it on like a pair of bunny rabbits in heat.

HAROLD

Please. At her age, my mother can barely turn on a stove.

MR. ARMSTRONG

I hope you told your mother to put in a good word for us.

HAROLD

What I told her is, that anything she does in her personal life should stay separate from my business life.

MR. ARMSTRONG

Mother Theresa stands before me.
Rosenberg, remember always that
business is war. We are no
different at Armstrong Capital than
Washington's troops crossing the
Delaware River on that cold winter
night in 1776. Instead of fighting
the King's men, we are battling our
competitors. It's PUSH PUSH PUSH in
business. It's PUSH PUSH PUSH, all
the way all the time, right down
the line. Now go fight the good
fight.

HAROLD

Yes sir, I'll keep that in mind.

Harold exits. Mr. Armstrong turns to his framed Snirkles ad
poster.

MR. ARMSTRONG

(wistfully)

What a better world it was with you
in it.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY

On stage, stands Ida, giving a presentation to an audience of
STUDENTS, 12-14, which includes use of an overhead projector.
Just offstage stands PRINCIPAL MARTIN SLOAN.

IDA

And then we were marched, single
file, to a train platform, to be
herded like cattle onto a train. No
food, no water, barely enough air
to breathe.

BOY'S hand goes up.

IDA (CONT'D)

Yes?

BOY

Did you ever meet Adolf Hitler?

IDA

No, I did not.

GIRL'S hand is raised.

IDA (CONT'D)
Yes, little lady?

GIRL
Do you know anyone that met Hitler?

IDA
I can't say that I have.

Principal Sloan steps in front of the microphone.

PRINCIPAL SLOAN
Boys and girls, let's remember,
this is Ms. Rosenberg's
experiences, so if you have any
questions, they should directly
relate to her own life.

He steps away. BOY #2 hand goes up.

BOY #2
If you ever met Hitler, what would
you do?

IDA
I would look him squarely in his
beady eyes, and punch him right in
the nose.

Students LAUGH.

INT. AUTO BODY SHOP - DAY

Ida enters the building. BUCK, 20, sporting tattoos,
appearance of a dimwit, mans the counter.

IDA
Where's Georgie?

BUCK
He decided to take the day off.
He's the boss, he can do that. Me?
I'm stuck on customer service duty
all day.

IDA
I'm here to pick up my car.

BUCK
Name?

IDA
Ida Rosenberg.

BUCK

I think it's cool an old broad like you is still driving.

(eyes her forearm tattoo)

And you got ink.

(raises shirt sleeve to reveal "MARIA" tattoo)

I got my girl right here. One day we're gonna get hitched.

IDA

How long you been dating?

BUCK

Been a good two months.

IDA

I have mints in my purse that are older than that.

BUCK

You sound like my mother. If it wasn't true love, would I put her name on my body?

(points to Ida's tattoo)

That your phone number, like, in case you forget it?

IDA

Hardly. This came courtesy of a concentration camp. You ever hear of the Holocaust?

BUCK

That never really happened.

Ida grabs him by the shirt collar, pulls his cheek up to hers.

IDA

Listen to me carefully, grease monkey. I was there, I lost family. Whatever brain-dead knuckle dragger said that is wrong. If I ever hear you say that again, I will personally make sure you end up sharing a cement condominium with Jimmy Hoffa. GOT IT?

BUCK

(timidly)

Yes, ma'am.

INT. GOLDEN OAKS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY - DAY

Ida, Rose, Betty and Mildred sit at their usual bridge table.

IDA

Can you believe what that little
shit head said to me?

BETTY

There's just so many ignorant
people in the world.

ROSE

You have to let it go. Ida. Be the
bigger person.

IDA

What the hell are they teaching
kids in the schools these days
anyway?

MILDRED

It's more like, what are they not
teaching them?

IDA

When I was a schoolgirl, I had to
stay focused on the subject at
hand. Even being sick a day, I got
behind. And the teachers wouldn't
coddle me. I don't know about you,
but I had to memorize country
capitals, plant species, all the
times tables.

BETTY

My favorite subject was auto shop.

MILDRED

Learning how to fix a car could be
a good skill.

BETTY

Oh silly, I never learned how to do
that.

MILDRED

But you just said...

IDA

Let me take a wild guess. That
class was a great place to meet
guys.

BETTY

You know me so well. And wouldn't you know it, I gave new meaning to the phrase, Gentlemen, start your engines.

MILDRED

My favorite class was home economics. In fact, Harvey said the first time he tasted my fudge brownies is when he fell in love with me.

ROSE

Mildred, you've always been a beacon of women's lib. Now, can we please concentrate on bridge?

Rose deals a new hand.

MILDRED

Ida, have you decided what you're going to wear for the big day?

IDA

Oh, I have a lovely outfit.

BETTY

You can't possibly mean that garish green one with the purple stripes that you wore to Evelyn's memorial service.

IDA

What's wrong with it?

BETTY

It's so yesterday. You need modern, hip. You want to make an impression, don't you?

IDA

What do you suggest?

BETTY

Find someone young and hip to help you find a more appropriate one.

MILDRED

Your granddaughter is young and hip.

IDA
 She's young but I don't know how
 hip she is.

INT. IDA'S CAR - DAY

Ida drives; Brooke in the passenger seat.

IDA
 What I want is something hip. You
 know, modern.

BROOKE
 I get what you're saying, Nana. I
 think I know just the place.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Ida's car parks in front of Leather & Lace Clothing Store.

Displayed in the window is a mannequin, dressed in leather
 "punk rock" garb. Sign reads: "WE'LL MAKE YOU LOOK GOOD BY
 MAKING YOU LOOK BAD".

INT. LEATHER & LACE CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Ida and Brooke enter; YOUNG SALESWOMAN, sporting numerous
 body piercings/tattoos, approaches them.

YOUNG SALESWOMAN
 Welcome to Leather & Lace. How may
 I help you?

BROOKE
 My Nana needs clothes for her bat-
 mitzvah.

YOUNG SALESWOMAN
 Bat what?

IDA
 Brooke, I don't think this is...

BROOKE
 She needs a hip outfit.

YOUNG SALESWOMAN
 Say no more, little lady.

DISSOLVE TO:

Ida stands in front of full length mirror, dressed in a revealing leather outfit, cleavage exposed, black forearm bands and black lace stockings.

Ida turns to Brooke, shakes her head "No".

MONTAGE

Ida and Brooke shop for the perfect outfit:

Ida attired in long, glittery red dress. She shakes her head "No".

Ida tries on what can best be described as a "roller derby" uniform. Ida shakes her head "No".

Ida clothed in "fairy princess" garb. She shakes her head "No."

Outside dress shop, Brooke points out a white dress that looks more like a bedspread. Ida shakes her head "No."

On a beach, Ida and Brooke walk, each holds a hot dog.

Ida in an olive green dress adorned with a butterfly motif. Ida shakes her head "No."

Ida attired in Bjork's infamous white swan dress. She shakes her head "No".

Ida sports a shiny silver outfit like that of the commander of a futuristic space ship. Ida shakes her head "No".

On beach, Seagull swoops down to snatch Ida's hot dog, flies away; she shakes her fist at it.

Ida wears a golden satin evening gown with a snug fit. Ida nods her head "Yes."

INT. SYNAGOGUE STUDY ROOM - DAY

Ida rehearses with Cantor Richard.

IDA

Barchi nafshi et Adonai
 Adonai Elohai Gadalta M'od
 Hod V'hadar Lavashta.
 Oteh ohr Kasalmah no-teh shamayim
 kayeriah.

CUT TO:

Brooke rehearses with Cantor Richard.

BROOKE
 Barchi nafshi et Adonai
 Adonai Elohai Gadalta M'od
 Hod V'hadar Lavashta.
 Oteh ohr Kasalmah no-teh shamayim
 kayeriah.

CUT TO:

Ida rehearses with Cantor Richard.

IDA
 V'a-hav-ta eit A-do-nai E-lo-he-
 cha,
 B'chawl l'va-v'cha,
 u-v'chawl naf-sh'cha,
 u-v'chawl m'o-de-cha.
 V'ha-yu ha-d'va-rim ha-ei-leh.

CUT TO:

Brooke rehearses with Cantor Richard.

BROOKE
 V'a-hav-ta eit A-do-nai E-lo-he-
 cha,
 B'chawl l'va-v'cha,
 u-v'chawl naf-sh'cha,
 u-v'chawl m'o-de-cha.
 V'ha-yu ha-d'va-rim ha-ei-leh.

CUT TO:

INT. SYNAGOGUE BEMA

Rabbi Wise presents to Ida the tallit (fringed garment traditionally worn over clothing).

Ida kisses the fringes as it is presented and prayer is recited.

IDA
 Barchi nafshi et Adonai
 Adonai Elohai Gadalta M'od
 Hod V'hadar Lavashta.
 Oteh ohr Kasalmah no-teh shamayim
 kayeriah.

CUT TO:

Rabbi Wise presents to Brooke the tallit.

Brooke kisses the fringes as it is presented and prayer is recited.

BROOKE

Barchi nafshi et Adonai
Adonai Elohai Gadalta M'od
Hod V'hadar Lavashta.
Oteh ohr Kasalmah no-teh shamayim
kayeriah.

CUT TO:

Rabbi Wise takes the Torah from the Ark and passes it to Brooke.

CUT TO:

Rabbi Wise takes the Torah from he Ark and passes it to Ida.

CUT TO:

BROOKE (CONT'D)

(holds Torah)

It is within your close reach to
follow the Torah in speech, feeling
and deed.

CUT TO:

IDA

(holds Torah)

It is within your close reach to
follow the Torah in speech, feeling
and deed.

INT. DR. SERLING'S OFFICE - DAY

Ida, seated on examination table, with her x-rays clipped on the lit-up wall board, across from DR. ADAM SERLING.

DR. SERLING

Ida, after examining you and going
over the x-rays, my preliminary
assessment is that you likely have
Sarcomatoid Carcinoma of the lung.

IDA

One more time, Doc, only this time
in English.

DR. SERLING

It's a cancer that makes up no more than three percent of all lung cancers. It could be the result of smoking. Some evidence suggests it may even be the result of past asbestos exposure.

(points to x-ray)

See this area here?

Ida nods.

DR. SERLING

This part of the lung is called the pleura. I see an abnormality. But, we won't really know until we do a CAT scan and a biopsy.

IDA

If you are right, then what?

DR. SERLING

This is an aggressive cancer. Depending on test results, surgery could be an option. Another option would be chemotherapy.

IDA

No disrespect, Doc, but it seems to me, that once you start cutting and doing the radiation thing...well, the "cure" can be just as bad as the disease.

DR. SERLING

Unfortunately, these are the best options we have today. But they are, however, options. Think about it, Ida.

INT. HAROLD'S OFFICE - DAY

Harold sits at his desk, talks on the speakerphone.

HAROLD

No dear, I did not tell her she could invite Mr. Farkas.

DANA (O.S.)

For God's sake, he cuts her meat at the grocery store. They're not exactly friends. Barely even associates.

HAROLD

You know mother. She considers anyone from the Old Country as family.

DANA (O.S.)

We have a set amount of invited guests paid for. It's enough her card game friends are coming. Harold, will you please talk to her?

Desk intercom BUZZES.

BRIDGET (O.S.)

Mr. Galloway, line two.

HAROLD

Dana, I have to go. I'll call you in a little bit.

(presses button on phone)

Mr. Galloway, so nice to hear from you.

MR. GALLOWAY (O.S.)

Harold, I am very busy today. We are launching a new product next week.

HAROLD

What might that be, sir?

MR. GALLOWAY (O.S.)

Sushi-flavored malt balls. This time, we're not even conducting test focus groups. I'm convinced America will grab our Fish Balls and gobble them up. To get to the point, I just got word from the Board of Directors that, upon my recommendation, Armstrong Capital is now officially Sunshine Confectioners investment management company. Congratulations.

HAROLD

(smiles)

That's wonderful, sir. Thank you, thank you very much.

MR. GALLOWAY (O.S.)

Armstrong Capital has proven themselves competent in what they do.

(MORE)

MR. GALLOWAY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Big plus, anybody raised by a fine lady like Ida Rosenberg possesses the qualities I like to see in a person.

HAROLD
 Yes, sir, a fine lady, that Ida Rosenberg. I was just saying to my wife the other day, "Honey, I think I won the mother lottery".

MR. GALLOWAY (O.S.)
 Richard Smith, our CFO, will be in touch with you shortly.

HAROLD
 Fantastic. We'll get on it right away, sir. And, good luck with those tasty fish balls.

Harold hangs up the phone.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
 Harold F. Rosenberg, Armstrong Capital Partner. I like the sound of that.

INT. ROSENBERG RESIDENCE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ida and David watch cartoons on television, while Brooke texts on her phone.

IDA
 (to David)
 These programs are awful. In my day, we had quality like Crusader Rabbit and The Adventures of Paddy the Pelican. Not the crap you watch, which is unfunny and has too much toilet humor.

ANGLE ON: TELEVISION SCREEN.

MARTY and RIZZO, two animated rats, stand beside a toilet bowl. Marty climbs into the bowl.

RIZZO
 Marty, what do you think you're doing?

MARTY
 Going for a swim.

RIZZO
You can't swim in that.

MARTY
Why not?

RIZZO
Do you know what humans put in that thing?

MARTY
Do I look dumb, Rizzo? Water, duh!

RIZZO
(throws paws up in air)
Enjoy your swim, Marty.

SFX: Wah-wah-wah-wahhhhhh horns.

BACK TO SCENE

David, transfixed by what he views, LAUGHS; Ida SIGHS.

Harold, holding plastic bag, in jubilant mood, enters.

HAROLD
Hello, family. Papa has arrived home.

BROOKE/DAVID
(mumble)
Hello, dad.

HAROLD
What a glorious day it is.
(holds up plastic bag)
I brought home ice cream. Your favorite, rocky road.

DAVID
Thanks, dad.

IDA
I happen to fancy butter pecan.

HAROLD
(takes out container of ice cream)
Do you really think I would forget? That was the only flavor of ice cream I had until I left for college.

BROOKE
You're in a good mood, dad. Did you
win the lottery or something?

HAROLD
In a way.

Dana enters from the kitchen; Harold kisses her.

DANA
Did you tell them the good news?

HAROLD
Should I tell them or should you?

DANA
Definitely you.

HAROLD
Here comes breaking news.

IDA
Would this have anything to do with
Dale giving you some new candy
account?

Harold breathes heavy, his face flushes red.

HAROLD
You knew?

IDA
Dale and I discuss everything. He
told me last night you "had it in
the bag". His words, not mine.

HAROLD
Why did you NOT tell me?

IDA
You already went to bed. I wasn't
going to disturb your precious
beauty sleep. Besides, you found
out soon enough.

HAROLD
MOTHER!

Dana takes the bag of ice cream.

DANA

I better put this in the freezer
before your anger melts it.

DISSOLVE TO:

ROSENBERG RESIDENCE DINING ROOM

Family eats dinner.

BROOKE

Dad, you were going to find out
anyway.

HAROLD

That's not the point. It reminds me
of another time your lovely
grandmother held back important
news from her son.

IDA

If you're going to bring up that
occasion I may have happened to
forget to pass along a message
from...what was her name?

FLASHBACK

EXT. MIDDLE-CLASS HOUSE PORCH - NIGHT

Young Harold, in tuxedo, flowers in hand, knocks on front
door. After brief wait, door opens to reveal NICOLE, 14,
garbed in a bathrobe, clutching tissues.

NICOLE

Harold? What are you doing here?

Nicole SNEEZES.

YOUNG HAROLD

(nervously)

Remember, Nicole, we have a date
for the homecoming dance.

NICOLE

(wipes snot from her nose)

I'm totally sick. I left a message
with your mom. Didn't you get it?

YOUNG HAROLD

There must...have been a
miscommunication. Feel better,
Nicole. Sorry to disturb you.

Young Harold, dejected, shoulders slumped, walks away,
SNIFFLES. Behind him, door SLAMS.

BACK TO SCENE

BROOKE

Dad, you had a traumatic childhood.

HAROLD

You don't even know the half of it.

DANA

Harold, share with us what Mr.
Galloway said to you.

HAROLD

(demeanor brightens up)
Mr. Galloway said that I was good
at what I do.

DANA

(smiles proudly)
What else?

HAROLD

Well, that Armstrong Capital has a
great reputation, and he was going
to have his CFO - that means chief
financial officer - contact me to
get things going right away, and
that his company is marketing a new
product.

DAVID

What, daddy?

HAROLD

Get this - sushi-flavored malt
balls. Called fish balls.

DAVID

Cool!

BROOKE

Gross.

DANA

Where in the world would he ever get an idea to put out a product like that? It won't sell.

Harold stares at Ida.

HAROLD

Aren't you fond of sushi?

IDA

Oh please, as if I have nothing better to do with my time than to sit around thinking of novelty candy ideas.

HAROLD

Mother?

IDA

I plead the Fifth.

HAROLD

MOTHER!?

DANA

I think now would be a good time to discuss Brooke's pre-Bat Mitzvah family dinner.

BROOKE

Nana's too.

DAVID

Is Aunt Judith gonna be there? She always tells me I should get a job as a pinsetter. I don't even know what a pinsetter is!

BROOKE

Better than creepy Uncle Morris. He always does that weird thing with his fingers.

DANA

Wednesday night, the Red Oak restaurant at the Chateau Hotel is reserved for us. That morning, my brother and his wife are arriving from Cincinnati, Uncle Morris is arriving in the afternoon...

FADE OUT.

INT. RED OAK RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Tastefully decorated restaurant. Approximately forty Rosenberg FAMILY MEMBERS are gathered, enjoying a buffet, mingling. AUNT JUDITH, 77, approaches David.

AUNT JUDITH

My my, David, you're getting so big. How old are you now?

DAVID

Almost ten.

AUNT JUDITH

I hope you started a college fund. A wonderful job for a boy your age would be pinsetter. Take the advice from your favorite aunt.

UNCLE MORRIS, 70, approaches Brooke.

UNCLE MORRIS

Hey kid, you ever hear someone play Beethoven with their fingers?

BROOKE

Not lately.

UNCLE MORRIS

Listen to this.

He proceeds to play Beethoven's Fifth Symphony by quickly snapping his fingers.

On buffet line, stands Harold and Ida.

HAROLD

Mom, I was thinking, since you and Mr. Galloway hit it off so well, I have another client, Mr. Braunstein, who you might also like to meet.

IDA

Would this Mr. Braunstein also happen to be Jewish?

HAROLD

I do not grill my clients on their faith.

IDA
Forget it.

DISSOLVE TO:

Family Members seated at tables, enjoying their meal. Uncle Morris stands up.

UNCLE MORRIS
(tipsy)
Here, here, I propose a toast.
(holds up champagne glass)
Here's to the nights we'll never
remember with the friends we'll
never forget. And to our wives and
girlfriends - may they never meet.

Sporadic CLAPS.

DANA
Go on, Harold. Make a toast.

HAROLD
Sure, okay...a toast. I can do
that.

Harold reluctantly stands up, champagne glass in hand.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
Uh...thank you, all for joining us.
Especially those whom traveled from
out of town. Considering the
expensive airline tickets, their
ridiculous fees for what used to be
free, the long security lines, the
rip-off airport shops, the cramped
seats, the terrible...

DANA
(whispers)
Harold, cheer it up.

HAROLD
Right. I would then like to toast
my daughter on her bat-mitzvah and
say how proud I am of her. Where
did the past thirteen years go?

DANA
(whispers)
Aren't you forgetting somebody?

HAROLD
And of course, my lovely wife.

DANA
(whispers)
I meant Ida.

HAROLD
And, last but certainly not least,
my mother. I may not have always
expressed how I felt, but I am
proud of her. For the challenges
she has been through and overcame
in her life, for how she, in her
own way, always tried to help
others and for her, shall we say,
unique sense of humor.

Guests CLAP.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
(notices Ida's seat empty)
And who picked an inopportune time
to use the ladies' room.

Guests LAUGH.

CUT TO:

INT. WOMEN'S POWDER ROOM

On sofa, Ida sits, dabs her forehead with a wet washcloth.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Brooke, Allison and Sabrina eat lunch, backpacks at their
side, surrounded by tables of STUDENTS.

ALLISON
How was the dinner?

BROOKE
It was fun. Just family, though.

SABRINA
The real fun is Saturday when we're
there. I can't wait for you to see
what I'm wearing.

BROOKE
Alicia Silverstone's red dress from
Clueless?

SABRINA
 (to Allison)
 You bitch! You told her.

ALLISON
 I didn't, swear it.

BROOKE
 She didn't. It's just your favorite
 movie and you're always talking
 about *that* dress.

SABRINA
 OMG, I found it online at such a
 steal.

Spitball hits Allison in the eye.

ALLISON
 OW!

At adjacent table, Boys LAUGH.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
 (to Boys)
 You idiots! You could have taken my
 eye out.

SABRINA
 I got a little surprise for them.

From backpack, Sabrina removes Super Soaker water gun, aims
 it at Boys.

ALLISON
 I don't think water will do much.

SABRINA
 It isn't water. Trust me.

Sabrina FIRES water gun - purple sticky substance loaded with
 petite white cotton balls is ejected.

Boys are covered head-to-waist, appearing like purple polka-
 dot monsters.

Students CLAP.

ALLISON
 Those are the gnarliest spitballs
 I've ever seen.

SABRINA

Some people like peanut butter and jelly. I prefer cotton and jelly.

Girls LAUGH.

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

On the curb, Brooke waits as Ida's car drives up alongside her.

INT. IDA'S CAR - DAY

Brooke slides into passenger seat. Ida is perspiring.

IDA

Learn anything worthwhile?

BROOKE

Yeah, grape jelly spitballs rule.

IDA

It's something.

Ida places her right hand on the shifter, about to shift into drive - when she slumps over.

BROOKE

Nana, what's wrong?

IDA

(breathes heavy)

Nothing, as long as this car has begun to spin around like a dreidel...and yellow cows have joined in, flapping their wings.

BROOKE

NANA?

IDA

Sweetie, I haven't shared this, but I'm kind of not well.

BROOKE

We need to call for help.

IDA

(delirious)

Father, is that you? I always knew you'd come back one day.

Brooke steps out of car, darts around front end, opens driver's-side door. She pushes Ida into the passenger seat.

BROOKE
 (grunts)
 Nana, please, try and move. You're heavy.

Having accomplished her goal, Brooke fastens Ida's seat belt, then her own.

BROOKE (CONT'D)
 Okay, okay, Nana, like you taught me, stay focused. This is an emergency, the hospital is close. I can do this. I know I can.

Brooke shifts into gear.

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Car lurches forward. As it exits lot, it narrowly avoids hitting another car.

BROOKE
 (yells out window)
 SORRY, SICK NANA.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Ida's car speeds along.

INT. IDA'S CAR - DAY

BROOKE
 I *am* focused.

EXT. IDA'S CAR - DAY

Car rapidly comes upon empty intersection with a stop sign posted.

INT. IDA'S CAR - DAY

Brooke runs the stop sign.

BROOKE
 Darn it!

INT. POLICE VEHICLE - DAY

BOYD and LANCE, middle-aged cops, sit in the vehicle.

BOYD

What do you say we pick up some burritos for lunch?

LANCE

Doctor said to lay off the spicy stuff on account of my ulcer.

BOYD

Jeez. You ever feel like we're getting to be old men?

LANCE

Ya' know what's makin' me feel old? My son just got his driver's permit. I'm telling ya', I see some of these kids drivin' and they look like they're thirteen damn years old to me.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Ida's car drives by, Brooke clearly seen behind the wheel.

INT. POLICE VEHICLE - DAY

BOYD

I know what you mean.

(points to Brooke)

That kid sure looks like thirteen to me.

(pause)

Hell, maybe it's time for me to lay off the spicy foods.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Ida's car makes a right turn into an entrance with a sign that reads: MADISON PARK.

EXT. MADISON PARK - DAY

Ida's car zooms down rustic road.

MOTHER DUCK, quacking, and DUCKLINGS, cross the road. Ida's car SCREECHES to a stop, just inches from them.

INT. IDA'S CAR - DAY

BROOKE
Come on, duckies. Sick Nana here.

Brooke presses the car horn.

SFX: HONK HONK

EXT. MADISON PARK - DAY

Ducks finally safe, Brooke guns the accelerator.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

JAKE and JIM BOB, hillbilly-types, sit at the edge of the water, fishing rods in hand.

JAKE
Being here for hours, not a stinkin' thing.

JIM BOB
Like I said, we need to go down to Myers Lake, get us a fishin' boat.

JAKE
Just hang tight, Jim Bob.

EXT. MADISON PARK - DAY

Ida's car kicks up dust as it navigates a curve in the road.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

JIM BOB
I feel me something, Jake. I think I got me one hooked.

JAKE
Reel that sucker in, Jim Bob.

EXT. MADISON PARK - DAY

Ida's car swerves off the road, near the lake.

Jim Bob, in swift motion, jerks his fishing rod skyward, a foot-long FISH swings on the hook.

As Ida's car speeds by, Fish is flung onto its windshield.

INT. IDA'S CAR - DAY

With Fish stuck on left windshield, Brooke turns on the wiper blades to push it off.

EXT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - DAY

Parked near a fork in the road. ICE CREAM MAN, dressed in white, addresses LITTLE GIRL, 9.

ICE CREAM MAN
What may I get you?

LITTLE GIRL
I want a big strawberry milk shake.

ICE CREAM MAN
One big strawberry milk shake,
coming right up.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - DAY

Ice Cream Man pours milk into blender, adds heaping teaspoon of sugar, handful of cut strawberries, then drops in a big scoop of strawberry ice cream. He places cover on, turns on blender.

EXT. MADISON PARK - DAY

Ida's car careens to fork in the road, turns right, sideswipes back of ice cream truck.

BROOKE
Sorry, sick Nana.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - DAY

Ice Cream Man turns from blender - revealed to be soaked with the strawberry ice cream shake.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Ida's car exits park, onto a street with construction work, hence backed up with traffic, and s blocked-off sidewalk.

INT. IDA'S CAR - DAY

BROOKE
Oh, come on. Not this.

Ida GROANS.

BROOKE (CONT'D)
Almost there, Nana.

Ida GROANS louder.

EXT. SIDEWALK- DAY

Ida's car drives through the wooden barriers.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER
HEY LADY, YOU CAN'T DO THAT!

Ida's car barrels down the barely car-width path, right side scraping the buildings beside it.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Ida's car crashes through another wooden barrier to arrive back out on the main street, Hospital visible.

EXT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM ENTRANCE - DAY

Ida's car screeches to a haphazard stop, partly on the pedestrian walkway. Brooke exits car.

HOSPITAL ATTENDANT
Miss, you can't park here.

BROOKE
My Nana is really sick. She needs help right away.

INT. HAROLD'S OFFICE - DAY

Harold works at his desk.

Intercom BUZZES.

BRIDGET (O.S.)
Mr. Rosenberg, your daughter on line one.

Harold picks up the phone handset.

HAROLD
 Hello...What?...Whst's her
 condition?...Okay, don't panic. I'm
 heading right over.

Harold presses button on the phone, dials a number.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
 Dana, I've got some bad news...

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Harold, Dana and Brooke gathered around Ida, who rests in a hospital bed, IV in her arm, vital sign monitors attached to her body.

HAROLD
 How are you feeling, mom?

IDA
 I'm eighty-six. I've had a good
 run.

DANA
 Don't talk like that, Ida.

HAROLD
 I spoke with the doctor. He
 informed me of the situation.
 (to Ida)
 Why didn't you tell us?

IDA
 When I was a little girl, my own
 Nana was very ill. I worried about
 her all the time. I didn't want my
 own grandchildren to have to go
 through that.

BROOKE
 (teary-eyed; takes Ida's
 hand)
 Nana. Our bat-mitzvah. You and I
 were going to be a team.

IDA
 Sweetie, it wasn't meant to be.
 First the damn Nazis, now this damn
 cancer. That's the cards I was
 dealt.

DANA

Obviously, we are canceling tomorrow's service. For both of you. I'll call the caterers, Rabbi Wise, the guests, the photographer, the band booking company. Harold, I'll need your help with all this.

BROOKE

Wait. Nana and I can still be bat-mitzvahed together. I have an idea.

DANA

Brooke, Nana is simply not well enough.

BROOKE

(holds up smart phone)
This is the answer. While I'm there in person, Nana can be there too, by being live-streamed. We can be totally interactive.

HAROLD

That sounds far-fetched.

BROOKE

Dad, remember last winter when we had that snowstorm and you couldn't fly to London for your really important meeting and you instead did it over the web?

HAROLD

Yes, but that was business.

BROOKE

(to Dana)
This way, you also won't lose all the deposits you put down.

DANA

I like the idea. If, of course, it is okay with Rabbi Wise.

IDA

(glances at Brooke's smart phone)
Maybe those things aren't so dumb after all.

DOCTOR YOUNG enters.

DOCTOR YOUNG
Excuse me for intruding, folks, but
I need to run tests on my patient.
Would you mind?

INT. ROSENBERG RESIDENCE - MORNING

Harold, dressed formally, stands beside open closet door,
patting down pockets of winter coats.

HAROLD
Damn it, Dana! I can't find my
sunglasses anywhere.

DANA (O.C.)
Did you check your jacket pockets?

HAROLD
YES.

In Kitchen, Harold hurriedly searches the cabinet drawers.

DANA (O.C.)
Did you check the kitchen?

HAROLD
YES.

In Living Room, Harold flips over the couch cushions.

DANA
How about the couch?

HAROLD
YES.

Harold takes a step forward, then:

SFX: CRUNCH

Harold bends down, picks up broken pair of sunglasses, SIGHS.

Dana appears, attired in a stunning gown.

DANA
Where are those two?
(calls to upstairs)
BROOKE. DAVID.

Harold nuzzles up to his wife.

HAROLD
That dress is breathtaking.

DANA

It must be to spark a reaction in you.

Brooke and David enter room, both dressed formally.

HAROLD

David, where's your tie?

DAVID

Dad, I hate those things. They make me feel like I'm being strangled.

HAROLD

After the service, you can take it off.

From closet, Dana removes foam board-mounted poster, 24" x 36", depicting Brooke in an unflattering, "geeky" way, as awkward tween with braces, goofy haircut.

BROOKE

No way. I *do not* want this being seen by any one.

DAVID

(laughs)
You are such a dork.

DANA

Lighten up, Brooke. That was two years ago, before you blossomed into the beautiful young woman you are today.

HAROLD

It's something that all your guests can sign.

DANA

Come on. We're going to be late.

Family exits house.

BROOKE

Mom, no, please not that picture.

DANA

Everybody will love it. Trust me.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Ida, weak, rests in bed, hooked up to various monitors.

NURSE BETH, 25, enters.

NURSE BETH
How are you feeling, Ms. Rosenberg?

IDA
Other than feeling like I've just
been put through a meat grinder?

NURSE BETH
We'll do our best to make you
comfortable.

IDA
Beth, you're young and pretty. You
married?

NURSE BETH
(smiles)
Not yet. I'm focused on my career.

IDA
Good. Don't rush it. Sometimes men
are more trouble than they're
worth. If I could so kindly ask
you, I need my energy for an
important event today. Could you
give me something to help?

Nurse Beth opens petite plastic packet, removes its two
tablets.

NURSE BETH
I have just the thing. Two of these
and you'll be ready to run the New
York Marathon.

Ida takes the tablets, swallows them.

NURSE BETH (CONT'D)
Word got out about your bat-
mitzvah. All the hospital staff is
excited about it. A little birdie
told me it might have even been
leaked to the media.

IDA
That little birdie has a big mouth.

Harold, Dana, Brooke and David enter. Kids run over to hug
their Nana.

DANA
How are you doing, Ida?

IDA
 (points to Nurse Beth)
 Ask her. She's the pro.

NURSE BETH
 Ms. Rosenberg is resting
 comfortably. I gave her something
 to help with her alertness.
 (to Ida)
 I'll be back at my regular
 intervals to check up on you.

Nurse Beth opens the door; Harold corners her.

HAROLD
 What was it that you gave her?

NURSE BETH
 (whispers)
 A placebo. The mind is a very
 powerful thing.

Nurse Beth exits.

HAROLD
 Mother, the service begins at one.
 Guests begin arriving at noon. Are
 you sure you feel up to this?

IDA
 Yes. I am prepared. Brooke, can you
 get me my handbag.

BROOKE
 Sure Nana.

From side table, Brooke grabs handbag, hands it to Ida.

IDA
 Sweetie, you are my only
 granddaughter. You have brought
 much joy to my life. I want to pass
 along something to you to cherish
 the way that I always have.

From handbag, Ida removes her butterfly brooch necklace.

IDA (CONT'D)
 This is the only surviving
 possession from my childhood. I saw
 the writing on the wall and, while
 I still could, buried it near my
 home in a place called Park a
 színek.

(MORE)

IDA (CONT'D)

That means Park of the Colors. So named for the spectacular flower blooms in Spring. Most beautiful in all of Hungary. Hid it real well where no one would find it. Come closer.

Brooke bends over Ida, so her neck is near to hers.

IDA (CONT'D)

(places necklace around Brooke's neck)

Let this butterfly inspire you to live free, be your own person. And, take shit from no one.

BROOKE

Oh Nana!

Brooke gives her a big hug, kisses on the cheek.

HAROLD

(to Dana and kids)

If I could have a moment alone with Mother.

DANA

Come on, guys. We'll wait outside.

(to Harold; smiles)

It's too soon to take her dancing.

Dana and Kids exit.

Harold sits down in chair beside Ida.

IDA

You never wanted to be alone with me before. You got a secret to share? Let me guess - you're wanted by the FBI.

HAROLD

No, mother, I'm not wanted by the FBI.

IDA

When was the last time you checked?

HAROLD

That was a nice thing you did for Brooke.

IDA

I've seen people planted with their jewelry. Never understood that. What good will it do you down there?

HAROLD

When you said you wanted to be bat-mitzvahed, I didn't really understand your motivations. I questioned them. You may not have been the perfect parent, but I'm sure I wasn't the perfect child either.

IDA

I can vouch for that. Do you recall when you nearly gave me a heart attack the time you hid a boa constrictor as a pet and it escaped into my bedroom.

HAROLD

(grins)

To this day, I have never heard anybody scream as loud as that in my life.

IDA

Or the time you ate laundry detergent, got in the washing machine and had your brother turn it on?

HAROLD

In all fairness, I was only four at the time.

IDA

How about the time you took a...

HAROLD

Yes, mother, I get it. No perfect child here. I just wanted to say, that, well...the thing is...

IDA

Remember, cancer. Limited time.

HAROLD

What I'm trying to say is, that when Mr. Galloway informed me that he picked Armstrong Capital to represent his business interests, he told me that anybody raised by a fine lady like you possesses the qualities he likes to see in a person. He was right. I realized that I am who I am today because of the values you instilled in me. And I wouldn't have it any other way.

IDA

Thank you, son.

Harold kisses her on the forehead.

Door swings open; Dana and kids enter.

DANA

Harold, we're going to be late.

HAROLD

We're ready.

BROOKE

(hands Ida tablet)

Nana, everything is set up. This is ready to live stream. If you have any problems, call me.

Dale enters the room.

MR. GALLOWAY

That won't be necessary. I'm pretty handy with one of those. I have nieces, you know.

Everybody LAUGHS.

Mary Stuart, television reporter, enters.

MARY

I'm Mary Stuart with the Channel 7 Action News. Ida Rosenberg, I'd like to do a brief interview with you, if you're up for it.

IDA

Sure, what the hell.

Mary motions to someone outside the room.

MARY
All clear, Ed.

CAMERAMAN enters, turns video camera on; Mary goes right to work.

MARY (CONT'D)
(direct to camera)
This is Mary Stuart, coming to you from Memorial Hospital with this week's local hero - Ids Rosenberg. At the age of eighty-six and gravely ill, Ida is going to celebrate her bat-mitzvah today. This is a senior with courage.
(to Ida)
Ida, what is the inspiration for what you're about to do?

IDA
Well, Mary, it all started in a small village in Hungary...

HAROLD
(beams with pride)
That's my mother.

EXT. SYNAGOGUE - DAY

GUESTS arrive.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Ida being interviewed.

MARY
Ida, you've had a remarkable life. Is there anything else you need to do to prepare for your big day?

IDA
Only one thing.

CUT TO:

Reclining in her hospital bed, Ida has forearm tattoo laser removed.

INT. SYNAGOGUE - DAY

Rosenberg Family greets GUESTS, including Mr. Armstrong, Uncle Morris, Aunt Judith, Brooke's friends, Ida's card-playing cronies and family friends, accepting congratulations and gifts.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Nurse Beth helps Ida into her golden satin evening gown.

NURSE BETH

What a lovely dress. You have impeccable taste.

IDA

My granddaughter helped pick it out. She's the hip one.

NURSE BETH

I think you're both hip.

INT. SYNAGOGUE - DAY

Rabbi Wise stands on the bima, in front of a packed CONGREGATION. Seated on a chair, is Brooke, who wears Ida's brooch around her neck. Cantor Richard stands to the side.

RABBI WISE

Good day. Welcome to Beth Shalom. Shabbat Shalom.

CONGREGATION

Shabbat Shalom.

RABBI WISE

Let's try that again, only with more energy.

CONGREGATION

SHABBAT SHALOM.

RABBI WISE

We are so delighted you are here with us as we embark on a great spiritual journey with Brooke and Ida as our guides. We would love for you to sing with us, laugh with us, maybe share a tear with us. We invite you to turn your cell phone off and place it down.

(MORE)

RABBI WISE (CONT'D)

If you plan on leaving a Yelp review, you may do so after the service.

Congregation LAUGHS.

RABBI WISE (CONT'D)

Today, we are going to do things a bit differently than we normally do. Ida, eighty-six years young, can not be here in person with us. Not physically. However, she will join us through the wonder of modern technology. Ladies and gentlemen, Ida Rosenberg.

On large monitor behind bima, Ida appears, live from hospital, sitting up in her bed, holding an iPad, streaming the service. She looks radiant, considering the circumstances.

Congregation CLAPS.

RABBI WISE (CONT'D)

Ida, can you hear us?

IDA

I can, Rabbi.

RABBI WISE

Wonderful. If for any reason you are not able to, just flash us a sign.

IDA

I already thought of that, Rabbi.

Ida holds up large piece of paper; written on it in bold letters are: SOS.

RABBI WISE

You are well prepared, Ida.

(to Congregation)

Now, I introduce to you, celebrating his twentieth year at Beth Shalom - Cantor Richard.

CANTOR RICHARD

I am going to make it very easy to sing with us. All you have to do is sing "la-la". I am going to sing the Hebrew from Ma Tovv.

(MORE)

CANTOR RICHARD (CONT'D)

It is a prayer that we begin our service with, expressing reverence and awe for synagogues and other places of worship.

(sings)

Ma tovu ohalekha Ya'akov,
 mishk'notekha Yisra'el.
 Va'ani b'rov hasd'kha, avo
 veytekha, eshtahaveh el heikhal
 kodsh'kha b'yir'atekha.
 Adonai, ahavti m'on beitekha um'kom
 mishkan k'vodekha.
 Va'ani eshtakhaveh ve'ekhrah,
 avar'kha lifnei Adonai osi.
 Va'ani t'filati l'kha Adonai et
 ratzon, Elohim b'rov hasdekha
 aneini be'emet yish'ekha.

RABBI WISE

Sometimes, I get asked by people the meaning of what a bar or bat mitzvah is. Well, Bar is Aramaic for son and Bat for daughter. Mitzvah means commandment. The term refers to the child who is coming of age. So what does it mean to become a Bat Mitzvah? Under Jewish Law, children are not obligated to observe the commandments, although they are encouraged to do so as much as possible. At the age of 13, children become obligated to observe the commandments. The Bat Mitzvah ceremony formally, publicly marks the assumption of that obligation. So now, if anybody asks you that question, you have a response, instead of stating, "Google it".

Congregation CHUCKLES.

RABBI WISE (CONT'D)

In Pirkei Avot, *The Ethics of Our Fathers*, it states, Eizehu chacham? Ha'lomed mi'kol adam. That means, "Who is wise? He who learns from all people". No matter if we encounter a person poor or rich, young or old, Jewish or of another faith, we can gain wisdom from all. Ida and the courage she is displaying today is surely an important lesson to us all.

(MORE)

RABBI WISE (CONT'D)
 I would like to invite our Bat
 Mitzvah ladies, Brooke and Ida, to
 join me for the Ma'Ariv Aravim.

Brooke stands beside Rabbi Wise.

RABBI WISE (CONT'D)
 Deep is Your love for us, abiding
 Your compassion. We have put our
 trust in You, and You have taught
 us the laws of life. Be gracious to
 us so that we may understand and
 follow the teachings of Your word.
 Enlighten our eyes in Your Torah,
 that we may fulfill Your Mitzvot.
 Unite our hearts to love and
 respect Your name. We trust in You
 and rejoice in Your healing power,
 for You are the Source of our help.
 You have drawn us near to You in
 faithfulness. We lift up our voices
 and proclaim Your oneness, O God.
 In love, You have called us to You.

Rabbi Wise, with right hand, raises Kiddish Cup.

RABBI WISE (CONT'D)
 And now, we say the Kiddish. Baruch
 atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech
 Haolam, borei p'ri hagafen.
 (hands cup to Brooke)
 Brooke will take a sip of the wine.
 (in soft voice)
 Shush, don't tell her, it's really
 grape juice.

Congregation LAUGHS.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

RABBI WISE
 Ida, it's your turn. You, however,
 may sip the real thing.

Mr. Galloway hands Ida kiddish cup; she sips from it.

IDA
 Just the way I like it - fermented.

INT. SYNAGOGUE - DAY

RABBI WISE

This is a very special day for Brooke's parents, who also happen to be Ida's son and daughter-in-law. I have known the Rosenbergs many years and believe them to be caring, spiritual people. I can only imagine the excitement on their faces when Ida informed them of her bat-mitzvah wishes.

Harold shoots Dana an awkward grin.

RABBI WISE (CONT'D)

At this time. I would like to invite them to join me, Brooke and Ida on the bima.

Harold and Dana ascend the steps to bima.

RABBI WISE (CONT'D)

We now present the Tallit to our Bat Mitzvahs.

Rabbi hands Tallit to Brooke, who kisses the fringes as it is presented.

On monitor, Mr. Galloway hands Tallit to Ida, who kisses the fringes as it is presented.

RABBI WISE (CONT'D)

(points to Talmud)

Harold, will you please read the passage highlighted.

HAROLD

(reads from Talmud)

May you live to see your world fulfilled. May your destiny be for worlds yet to come. May you trust in generations past and yet to be. May your heart be filled with intuition, your words with insight. May songs of praise ever be on your tongue, And your vision on a straight path before you. May your eyes shine with the light of holy words, And your face reflect the glory of heaven.

Rabbi Wise drapes Tallit over Brooke's shoulders.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Mr. Galloway drapes Tallit over Ida's shoulder.

INT. SYNAGOGUE - DAY

RABBI WISE

Ba-ruk'h A-ta A-don-ai El-o-hey-nu
Mel-ekh Ha-o-lam a-sher kid'sha-nu
b'mitz-vo-tav vitz-i-va-nu l'heet-a-
taf ba-tzi-tzit.

Torah taken from Ark.

Rabbi Wise and Cantor Richard cover their eyes with their right hands; Brooke stands next to the Torah.

RABBI WISE/CANTOR RICHARD

Sh'ma Yis-ra-eil, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-
nu, A-do-nai E-chad.

BROOKE

Barchu et Adonai hamvorach.

CONGREGATION

Barchu Adonai hamvorach L'olam va-
ed.

BROOKE

Baruch Adonai ham-vo-rach l'olam va-
ed. Baruch atta Aedonai, eloheinu
melech ha-olam...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

IDA

...Asher ba-charbanu mee-kol ha-a-
mim, v'natan lanu et torato.
Baruch atta Adonai, notein hatorah.

RABBI WISE

Ida, please share with us the Torah
passage you have selected.

IDA

Yes, Rabbi. I have it right here.
(reads from book)
You shall neither take revenge from
nor bear a grudge against the
members of your people;
(MORE)

IDA (CONT'D)

you shall love your neighbor as
yourself. Leviticus 19:18.

(looks up)

I believe this is the best ideal to
live one's life by. An important
lesson for us all. To love all our
neighbors as we love ourselves.

INT. SYNAGOGUE - DAY

RABBI WISE

Brooke, please share with us your
Torah reading.

While Torah is being read, Brooke holds the handle of the
scroll.

BROOKE

I would like to read a passage from
Samuel 18:3.

(reads from Torah)

The soul of Jonathan was knit to
the soul of David, and Jonathan
loved him as his own soul. Then
Jonathan made a covenant with
David, because he loved him as his
own soul. And Jonathan stripped
himself of the robe that was on him
and gave it to David, and his
armor, and even his sword and his
bow and his belt. And David went
out and was successful wherever
Saul sent him.

(glances up)

Later, it is stated that Jonathan
displayed loyalty to his friend
King David, even though that would
hurt Jonathan's own political
interests. Friendship is highly
valued in Jewish tradition. Friends
offer each other help, loyalty,
protection, support, unselfish
love, and moral guidance.

Friendship is defined as one of the
primary relationships in life. I
highly value it in my life, having
close friends, all of whom are here
to celebrate with me today. I also
value the friendship of my parents,
Nana, brother David, and all my
wonderful relatives.

(MORE)

BROOKE (CONT'D)

For even though we might be blood
related, all of what defines
friendship is what they so
generously offer.

Brooke touches first the end and then the beginning of the
reading with the corner of Tallit, then kisses it. She closes
the Torah, and holding both handles, recites the second
blessing.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King
of the universe, who has given us
the Torah of truth and planted
eternal life within us. Blessed are
You, Lord, who gives the Torah.

IDA

(on screen)

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King
of the universe, who has given us
the Torah of truth and planted
eternal life within us. Blessed are
You, Lord, who gives the Torah.

BROOKE

Baruch atta Adonai,
eloheinu melech ha-olam,
asher natan lanu torat emet,
v'cha-yei olam na-ta b'to-chei-nu.
Baruch atta Adonai, notein hatorah.

CONGREGATION

AMEN.

IDA

Baruch atta Adonai,
eloheinu melech ha-olam,
asher natan lanu torat emet,
v'cha-yei olam na-ta b'to-chei-nu.
Baruch atta Adonai, notein hatorah.

GUESTS

AMEN.

Dressing of the Torah. Harold, seated, holds up Torah above
his head as Brooke puts its vestments back on.

Brooke is handed Torah.

BROOKE

(addresses Ida)

Since you can't be here in person with us, Nana, I thought of a way for you to be part of this.

Brooke attaches a picture of Ida to Torah.

Cradling Torah, Brooke walks in a circular path around the room. Guests close their eyes as she passes; Guests at end of the aisles get the privilege of kissing it with their tallit.

Ark is opened. Brooke places Torah back inside.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

Shabbat Shalom.

GUESTS

Shabbat Shalom.

BROOKE

As a young child, my favorite books were *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* and *Mog's Amazing Birthday Caper*. Both written by Judith Kerr. Miss Kerr grew up Jewish in Berlin. Her father was also a writer. After criticizing the Nazis, his books were burned and the family forced to flee Germany. Miss Kerr worked with the Red Cross during the war. She also published books such as *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*, showing a realistic view of what children's lives were like under that regime. In 2011, she was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire for services to children's literature and education. Judith Kerr is a hero of mine, but far from the only one. Somebody once said, "The trick to life is growing up without growing old". It sometimes feels, that in our culture, as we are bombarded all day long with magazine covers, advertising, social media and everything else telling us that once we hit a certain age, that's it, we all become feeble-minded, bingo-playing, newspaper-hoarding eccentrics who sit around watching *I Love Lucy* reruns. I happen to love Lucy, by the way.

Guests LAUGH.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

Since when does the mileage on a person make him or her any less worthy as a human being? Yet fine wine, cheese or a 1964 Ford Mustang proves otherwise.

HAROLD

(to Dana)

Let's not forget 401ks.

BROOKE

I personally look forward to the wisdom that comes with age. My Nana Ida is living proof of that. She has shown me the wisdom, street smarts and perseverance that one often achieves with advanced years with still holding on to her dignity. Many friends of mine, even at our young ages, have lost their Nanas, in both body or spirit, so I thank God for having mine still around to share this special day in my life. Shabot Shalom!

APPLAUSE.

Via the screen, Ida addresses Guests.

IDA

I'd like to throw another Jewish proverb out there. "A righteous man falls down seven times and gets up." Greatness is defined as getting up one more than you've fallen down. The Torah defines someone who's righteous not as someone who has succeeded, but someone who has persevered. Life will challenge all human beings at some time. How one responds is the true judge of our character.

Congregation CLAPS.

RABBI WISE

I would like to call upon Harold and Dana to share with us their own words of wisdom.

Harold and Dana approach the podium.

DANA

Our blessing for you, Brooke, is for you to enter your Jewish maturity and that you embrace your natural spirit of compassion. As you grow from this moment on, I would like to add one last blessing to those offered so passionately by others. Honor and relish the gift of siblings, the richness of friendship and the love and support system for the ups and downs of life.

(tears up)

We can take our shortcomings of anger, jealousy and intolerance and turn them into character assets.

HAROLD

(clears throat)

On the occasion of my only daughter's bat-mitzvah, I would just like to say, doesn't it suck growing up? Wouldn't it be great to have just a few more years of childhood? I mean, not like kindergarten, but being a few years older. No mortgage, no taxes, no major life decisions other than maybe what pajamas to wear. Kids grow up too fast. And my daughter, what can be said, already having gone through one life change. What's up with that - is it all the hormones they're putting in the dairy products these days?

ANGLE ON: DANA squirms uncomfortably.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

IDA

(whispers to Mr. Galloway)
He got that idea from me.

INT. SYNAGOGUE - DAY

HAROLD

(addresses Brooke)

I will always be here for you, even when that means helping you learn how to drive - though it appears Nana might have beat me to that - or when you call me from university needing a few extra bucks or, in the future - many decades from now - you want me take my grandson to the park. Of course, we are proud of how you performed today. But that's not nearly as important as the fact that we are incredibly proud of the young woman that you are becoming. We love you.

Harold and Brooke HUG.

LOUD APPLAUSE

HAROLD (CONT'D)

For you mom, I think a poem, John Greenleaf Whittier's Tribute to Mother, best expresses how I feel. "A picture memory brings to me; I look across the years and see Myself beside my mother's knee. I feel her gentle hand restrain My selfish moods, and know again A child's blind sense of wrong and pain. But wiser now, a man gray grown, My childhood's needs are better known. My mother's chastening love I own".

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

IDA

(turns to Mr. Galloway)

God, I hate poetry.

MR. GALLOWAY

His heart's in the right place.

IDA

It sure is. My son's heart is in the right place. My son...my son...

INT. SYNAGOGUE - DAY

RABBI WISE

We will end today's service with a prayer in remembrance of all those who have left us. To quote a Jewish proverb, "The Only truly dead are those who have been forgotten".

(reads from prayer book)

At the rising sun and at its going down; We remember them. At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter; We remember them. At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring; We remember them. At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer; We remember them.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Mr. Galloway takes Ida's hand; she smiles, rests her head on the pillow, slowly closes her eyes.

EXT. HUNGARIAN AIRLINES - DAY

Jetliner taxis down runway, then lifts off into the sky.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Brooke and Harold seated in the main cabin.

BROOKE

Do you think we're doing the right thing?

HAROLD

I think Nana wouldn't want it any other way.

EXT. SZOLNOK CEMETERY - DAY

Rosenberg family at a grave side service presided over by RABBI HUEBSCH.

RABBI HUEBSCH

At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of the autumn; We remember them. At the beginning of the year and when it ends;

(MORE)

RABBI HUEBSCH (CONT'D)

We remember them. As long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us as We remember them. When we are weary and in need of strength; We remember them. When we are lost and sick at heart; We remember them. When we have decisions that are difficult to make; We remember them. When we have joy we crave to share; We remember them.

EXT. PARK A SZÍNEK - DAY

In this peaceful, colorful-flower filled green space, presided over by a huge oak tree, Brooke and Harold stop at a bench, which has a small brass plaque on it that reads: In Loving Memory of Ida Rosenberg.

RABBI HUEBSCH

When we have achievements that are based on theirs; We remember them. For as long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us as, We remember them.

INT. RECEPTION HALL - DAY

Montage of Brooke's bat mitzvah celebration.

In the guest-filled festive room, DISC JOCKEY is set up on stage.

DISC JOCKEY

Ladies and gentlemen, let's please welcome our bat-mitzvah girl, Brooke.

Brooke enters to thunderous APPLAUSE.

Brooke stands before the cake, lights a candle, places it on top of cake. Harold, Dana and then David all do likewise.

Uncle Morris stands beside a table on which rests a large loaf of challah bread. He recites the Ha-Motzi blessing.

UNCLE MORRIS

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, Hamotzi lechem min haaretz.

Alone on the dance floor, Brooke and Harold share a slow dance together.

Brooke's friends LAUGH, eat meal together at a table.

THE HORA: Guests surround Brooke, raised up on a chair, and her family in a circle, dancing joyously around them.

Mr. Galloway presents a box of Snirkles candy bars to a delighted Mr. Armstrong.

Harold, champagne glass raised, making a toast.

Brooke cuts the cake.

Guests dance on dance floor.

DISSOLVE TO:

Camera zooms in on photograph of two happy people - a Nana and her granddaughter, Brooke and Ida.

FADE OUT.