Grow Op

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Episode 1

"Shitty day"

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ACT ONE

INT. RESTURANT - EARLY MORNING

Breakfast joint. Various tired looking people amping up on their first coffee. It’s a strangely sunny Vancouver morning. At one of the booths, BARRY TUNSLEY is sitting alone reading the paper. WAITRESS, 50s, diner outfit and all, walks up.

WAITRESS
Good morning.

BARRY
Hi, how are you?

WAITRESS
Good sweetie, what can I get you?

BARRY
I’m just waiting for someone.

WAITRESS
Can I start you off with something? Coffee?

BARRY
Yeah that would be great.

MIKE GAMLIN sits down, interrupting the conversation.

WAITRESS
Well there you are! We’ve been waiting, you know.

Barry smiles at Mike. Mike laughs.

MIKE
Well thank you ma’am.

WAITRESS
I think I’ll give you boys a few moments. Coffee?

MIKE
No thanks.

Exit waitress.

MIKE (cont’d)
You been here long?

CONTINUED:

BARRY
No not really. You hungry?

MIKE
Yeah, a little. Can’t have anything though. I just started this new cleanse.

BARRY
What?

MIKE
A cleanse man, it’s this concoction of lemons, maple syrup and cyanne pepper. Totally purifies your system of all it’s impurities.

BARRY
I bet.

Enter waitress.

WAITRESS
You boy’s know what you want yet?

BARRY
Yeah. I’ll have the hungry man and a side of bacon with rye bread.

WAITRESS
Great and you?

MIKE
Oh nothing thanks. I already ate.

Mike shakes his bottle of “cleanse”.

WAITRESS
Oh, the cleanse eh? Done one myself.

MIKE
How’d it go?

WAITRESS
Not bad, heightened all my senses.

BARRY
Comman’

CONTINUED:

MIKE
Listen to the lady dude, she speaks the truth. Do you know how many toxins are in your system from all the shit you eat and breath all day? Hell look at that breakfast. Sausages are pig colons. That’s what humanity has succumb to, eatin’ swine asshole.

Barry smiles shakes his head.

WAITRESS
You know he’s right.

BARRY
About the assholes.

WAITRESS
Well I don’t know...

BARRY
I guess not eh, I mean not too many people stopping in today for a breakfast full of swine arse are there?

Everyone laughs.

WAITRESS
I guess not.

Exit waitress.

BARRY
So things coming along or what?

MIKE
Yup, we’re pretty much ready to start anytime now.

BARRY
Good. Now lets hope we’re done with the delays already. It’s starting to get frustrating.

MIKE
No shit.

BARRY
Is there anything else we need?

CONTINUED:

MIKE
Not sure right now man. I need some cash though. You got flow?

BARRY
Of course. I have all of it if you want.

MIKE
Naw, I rather it this way. Ask when I need it. This way I know it’s not gonna get blown.

Enter waitress.

WAITRESS
One hungry man filled with eggs, bacon, and extra of bacon, hashbrowns and tubed swine arse right on time.

Barry takes the plate with a smile.

BARRY
Are you sure you don’t want anything buddy?

MIKE
Yeah man, extra sure.

WAITRESS
Good, we’re all out of assholes, all that’s left are the hooves.

BARRY
Ooo some more hoove please.

Barry and the waitress have a good chuckle.

WAITRESS
So you’re alright then sweetie?

MIKE
Yup, thanks again.

WAITRESS
Enjoy your cleanliness.

Exit waitress.

CONTINUED:

MIKE
So yeah, a couple hundred would be good.

BARRY
Sure man. How’s four. I would rather give you that since I have it right now.

MIKE
Yeah alright.

Mike takes a swig of his lemonade. Barry digs in.

BARRY
So listen, what else are we forgetting?

MIKE
Not much dude. Lot’s of little things to get done right now.

BARRY
I’ll help you where I can.

MIKE
Sure.

BARRY
Actually I am sorta low on time here, my buddy Tom is coming by to help with the van.

MIKE
In too deep eh?

BARRY
No shit. What a fucken job, he’s good with this shit though. I’ve had him do some other work for me and it was excellent. I’m sure he can deal with this.

Barry tosses in his fork and knife, sets his plate aside.

MIKE
Right on. What about the sausages buddy?

Barry smiles.

CONTINUED:

BARRY
Yeah, anyway.

Mike laughs.

MIKE
Too much for ya hey dude.

BARRY
Fuck off.

Both laugh.

BARRY (cont'd)
Jesus, can't stop thinking about it.

Enter waitress.

WAITRESS
We all done here?

BARRY
Yup.

MIKE
Someone didn't finish.

WAITRESS
Oh, too much pig arse talk I see.

Every one laughs.

BARRY
Yeah yeah. Anyway. Can we have the bill?

WAITRESS
You bet sweetie.

Waitress digs in her apron pocket. Hands Barry the bill.

WAITRESS (cont'd)
There you go.

BARRY
Thanks.

Barry eyes up the bill and leaves a 20 spot.

CONTINUED:

WAITRESS
(pleased)
Thanks sweetie. You boys have a great day.

Barry and Mike get up to leave.

MIKE
You too.

BARRY
Yeah, see you later.

Exit Barry and Mike.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTURANT - EARLY MORNING

Mike and Barry are walking over to Barry’s car.

BARRY
Great place eh?

MIKE
Yeah man. Hard to find these days. A nice place to have breakfast and a friendly smile to boot.

BARRY
No shit.

They get into Barry’s car.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRY’S CAR - EARLY MORNING

Barry filing through his keys. Finds the right one. Starts the car.

CUT TO:

INT. TOM’S APARTMENT - EARLY MORNING

TOM LAWRENCE and STACEY, his girlfriend, are both getting ready for their days. Stacey is drying her hair, Tom is gathering up some things for his upcoming job while having his morning coffee and cigarette.

CONTINUED:

TOM
So you off tomorrow?

Stacey turns off the blow dryer to talk to Tom.

STACEY
What?

TOM
You off tomorrow?

STACEY
Yup.

TOM
You wanna do something?

STACEY
Sure, yeah, we'll see. I might be going out though.

Tom accepts her answer and puts out his cigarette. Off his look we:

CUT TO:

INT. BARRY'S BASEMENT - EARLY MORNING

BARRY and MIKE are talking and taking care of miniscule chores when the phone rings for Barry.

BARRY
(into phone)
Hello, hey buddy what's up?

CUT TO:

EXT. BARRY'S DRIVEWAY - EARLY MORNING

TOM is standing in a driveway next to a van talking to Barry.

TOM
I am just standing here about to start and I need your keys.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRY’S BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

BARRY
Kay’ I’ll be right out.

Barry hangs up the phone and finishes talking to Mike, who is wearing hideous goggles and huge linesmen gloves.

BARRY (cont’d)
(to Mike)
Okay man I think we should start as soon as possible. I saw the germination and one more day could really screw things up.

MIKE
Yeah man, remember what happened the last time.

BARRY
(looking confused)
No...we were on time?

MIKE
No man, remember when Buddha got into them.

BARRY
Yeah, but that’s not what I am talking about.

MIKE
I know, it’s what I’m talking about.

Barry stares at Mike blankly for a second and decides to move on.

BARRY
Right Mike. Hey where did you put the safety bag?

MIKE
Over there by the lights.

Barry goes over to the safety bag and prepares for a meeting. While he is rolling a joint he and Mike have a laugh about “the Buddha incident”.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK - BARRY’S BASEMENT - DAY

The flashbacks in the show look a little like hazy pot memories and are generally shot on steadycam.

Buddha, the house German Sheppard saunters up to some marijuana plants in a brightly lit grow room and starts eating them enthusiastically.

CUT TO:

NEW ANGLE - MOMENTS LATER

The dog is shitting everywhere and dragging her ass all over the carpet.

CUT TO:

EXT. BARRY’S DRIVEWAY - EARLY MORNING

Tom is still standing by the van waiting for Barry to arrive with the keys. He looks bored. We see the house is in a nice neighborhood with a well maintained yard and fence.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRY’S BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Mike and Barry smoking the joint and laughing at the memory of how sick Buddha was and how mad Barry’s girlfriend was with shit all over the house.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK - BARRY’S LIVINGROOM - DAY

SUZANNE, Barry’s girlfriend, is yelling at Barry with a comically livid expression on her face.

SUZANNE
What do you mean I have to deal with it cause you’re too busy? Fuck you. Your dog, your grow room, your SHIT!

CUT TO:

EXT. BARRY’S DRIVEWAY - EARLY MORNING

Tom is still waiting. He lights a smoke.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRY’S BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Barry and Mike sitting with stoned expressions, imagining what it must have been like for the dog.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK - BARRY’S BASEMENT - DAY

BUDDHA’S POV

We’re inside the dog’s head. We hear Buddha expressing sounds of joy and panting while running all over the basement, periodically stopping and squatting to take a shit. While shitting, her panting slows to a meditative pace.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRY’S BASEMENT - EARLY MORNING

MIKE
Poor dog man, she didn’t leave the house or bark or anything for days.

BARRY
Yeah, I know, it was nice.

CUT TO:

EXT. BARRY’S DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Tom is throwing pebbles at a can in the recycler.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRY’S BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Barry gets a look of realization on his face.

BARRY
Man I gotta go, my buddy Tom is here to fix the van. You wanna come meet him?

MIKE
Nah, I got tons to do here man. I’ll talk to you when you get back.

BARRY
Cool man, talk to you soon.

Barry grabs his phone and leaves.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

EXT. BARRY’S DRIVEWAY - EARLY MORNING

Tom is still throwing pebbles at the bin when he hears a door slam.

BARRY
Tom, sorry man, got wrapped up there for a minute. How’s it goin’?

TOM
Good man, you?

BARRY
Well I’d be better if I wasn’t fucked over by this van on a regular basis.

TOM
What’s going on with it now?

BARRY
Well you see, we thought we could put a new engine in it and got about half way when we realized how over our heads we were.

CONTINUED:

TOM
So I am putting in an engine? Where is it?

BARRY
Over here.

Removing a tarp, Barry shows off a freshly painted small block next to a greasy old slant six. Tom walks over to the bright orange V8.

TOM
Jesus. It’s beautiful.

BARRY
(smiling)
I thought you might approve. That’s why I was so aloof on the phone about it.

TOM
You’re always aloof on the phone. Holy shit man, I thought this was minor, looks like at least a week’s work man. I am gonna need a hoist for this thing.

BARRY
I know, picked one up the other day. Thought it might come in handy.

Barry removes another tarp to reveal the shiny new engine hoist.

TOM
(somewhat surprised)
You don’t fool around when you want something do ya?

BARRY
(smiles)
So what do you want to do this job?

Tom ponders it for a minute while he thinks.

BARRY (cont’d)
Be fair to yourself man.

CONTINUED:

TOM
I really don’t know. I mean this shit isn’t cheap in the shop man. Let me think about it.

BARRY
No problem. Listen just give me a call if you need anything, water, juice, whatever you think you need. If you gotta piss there’s a tree over there. I’m pretty busy today so I will be in and out a lot but I’ll be around.

TOM
Right on man, talk to you later.

Exit Barry.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRY’S BASEMENT BATHROOM - EARLY MORNING

Mike busy washing bins in the converted bathroom. Mike hears the door. Stops what he is doing and slowly gets up to see who has come in. Cautiously he opens the door to the rest of the basement. When he cracks the door he immediately sees Barry standing there waiting for him. They stand in the doorway and talk.

BARRY
You’re getting paranoid man. You better calm down or one day I am expecting you with an axe.

MIKE
(not humored)
Yeah, okay man.

BARRY
Listen man, these bins have got to be completely sterile, and we have to have them all done as soon as possible.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRY’S BASEMENT BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE UP on the tub drain as it begins to overflow. Water pools around the bin that Mike left in the tub. We hear SFX indicating imminent danger.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRY’S BASEMENT - EARLY MORNING

They’re still standing by the doorway to the bathroom, oblivious of the situation.

MIKE
Yeah dude, I’m gonna need some help.

BARRY
I know. Look man, I will help you when I can.

MIKE
Right. I’ll get on it, I just have to get them organized...

BARRY
Okay, let’s do that now.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRY’S BASEMENT BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE UP on tub filling up with water. The bin is bobbing up and down. SFX again.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRY’S BASEMENT - EARLY MORNING

Barry and Mike are stacking bins outside the bathroom door. CLOSE UP on their faces while they zone out on their work.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRY’S BASEMENT BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

The water starts to trickle over the edge of the tub. It’s starting to take on a slightly brown color. SFX.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRY’S BASEMENT - EARLY MORNING

CLOSE UP on Barry working. All of a sudden he notices the sound of the water overflowing. He leaps into the bathroom and turns off the tap.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRY’S BASEMENT BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

BARRY
Mike, you gotta turn the water off man! You know how this drain is. It’s already flushing slowly.

MIKE
Yeah, gotta remember these things.

Barry grabs a plunger and starts working the tub drain, when behind him the toilet water starts rising.

CLOSE UP ON BARRY’S FACE

He’s frustrated until he notices a suspicious odor. He sniffs.

NEW ANGLE ON THE TUB

Extremely brown water is coming up out of the drain, saturating the rest of the water. Brown toilet water starts to overflow as well. The “sterile” tub tips over into the shit pooling on the floor.

BARRY
FUCK! FUCK MAN IT’S BACKING UP INTO THE TUB FOR CHRIST’S SAKE!

Mike re-enters the room to join the panic. Both Barry and Mike stare at each other then suddenly flee the room slamming the door behind them.

CONTINUED:

BARRY (cont'd)
I told you to watch the water, now what the fuck are we gonna do!?

MIKE
It was bound to happen man. You knew it was draining like that.

BARRY
Right Mike, like I got time to deal with plumbing.

MIKE
(pauses, confused)
You got time for electrical.

Barry is not into Mike's logic at all right now.

BARRY
Whatever dude. Now we got a potential disaster on our hands here...what if that fucker blows or something. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT SHITTERS!?

MIKE
(deadpan)
I know one thing; we'd better keep the door shut.

BARRY
Dude, this is an operation; we don't have time to fuck around here. What the fuck am I gonna do with shit covered in shit??

Mike snickers.

BARRY (cont'd)
Fuck you man this ain't funny.

MIKE
Safety bag?

Barry pauses and stares at nothing for a moment.

BARRY
Yeah, I need to think.

They move over to the common meeting place in the house.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRY'S MEETING ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Barry and Mike sit down. Mike does the paper work (rolls a joint) and starts to discuss the dilemma.

MIKE
(handing Barry the doob)
So now what?

Barry is sitting across from Mike, much calmer now that there's a joint being passed around.

BARRY
I don't know man. I know nothing about shitters dude. Do you?

Cell phone rings. Barry answers.

BARRY (cont'd)
(into the phone)
Hello...hey how are ya? Look man, something really shitty's come up we'll have to meet later. I am sorry if it throws your day. I'll explain later. Keep in touch. Ciao.

BARRY (cont'd)
(exhales, then to Mike)
Okay, I think we should call the home center. They're experts on do it yourself shit like this.

Barry receives another phone call. This time from the investor.

BARRY (cont'd)
(into phone)
Hey how are ya? Things here..good. It's all just begun. Everything will be right on schedule come payday. Yup...yup...good. I appreciate that by the way. Excellent. Okay, we'll talk soon. Ciao.

MIKE
Let's go.

Barry puts out the joint.

CONTINUED:

BARRY
Yeah, lets rock.

CUT TO:

EXT. BARRY’S DRIVEWAY - EARLY MORNING

Tom is busy working on the Van, getting a list ready of parts for Barry to pick up. Barry and Mike approach and start talking.

BARRY
Hey Tom, how’s things coming?

TOM
Good.

MIKE
How’s your safety?

TOM
In need.

Tom stops working and lights a cigarette. Mike hands Tom a spliff and Tom takes a hit off of it.

TOM (cont’d)
So what’s going on with you boys?

BARRY
Got a little problem inside that needs tending to.

TOM
What?

MIKE
The shitter’s backed up and we’re heading over to the home center to get some advice.

TOM
It’s backed up? Why not call a plumber?

Mike and Barry look at each other then back at Tom. They both say at the same time.

MIKE AND BARRY
We can’t afford a plumber.

CONTINUED:

Tom stares at them both for a second with confusion. Off his look we:

CUT TO:

INT. BARRY’S CAR - MORNING

Barry and Mike are heading to the Home Center when they decide to stop for something to eat.

MIKE
Hey man let’s stop at this deli. This guy makes killer sandwiches.

BARRY
Yeah man, good call.

CUT TO:

INT. DELI - MORNING

Mike and Barry order and discuss Tom.

MIKE
Have you said anything to Tom yet?

BARRY
No.

MIKE
How come? Do you trust him?

BARRY
Absolutely. He’s *from* this, in a round about way. That’s the problem. The kid’s brother was involved in some shitty deal that left him dead and Tom was there.

MIKE
When he died?

BARRY
Yeah man. Pretty ugly scene.

MIKE
So what’s that got to do with this?

CONTINUED:

BARRY
I just think he shouldn’t know. We got drunk one night and he told me the whole story. That’s when I knew he was all right. I just feel like by mentioning or showing him any of this is, it’s only gonna open a door to a world he has already seen and it’s maybe a pile of memories he doesn’t need.

MIKE
Cool. I’m only bringing it up since we got a broken shitter and he seems pretty good with these kinds of things. Look at the fucken van man.
(beat)
It’s a piece of shit.

BARRY
(sarcastically)
Funny.

MIKE
Why do you keep putting money into that thing anyway?

BARRY
Never mind. Back to Tom. I think we should leave him out of this.

MIKE
All right man. It’s your deal.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOME CENTER - ESTABLISHING - MORNING

Mike and Barry are walking away from the car and head inside the store.

CUT TO:

INT. HOME CENTRE - MORNING

MIKE
Where’s plumbing?

CONTINUED:

BARRY
This way.

Barry sees a customer service person and walks over.

BARRY (cont'd)
Hey dude!? Do you know anything about plumbing?

DUDE 1
Yeah man, what can I do for you?

Mike never speaks. Just listens to everything.

BARRY
I got a toilet that's backing up into my tub.

DUDE 1 (MORE)
Shitty.

BARRY
(blank stare)
Yeah. Anyway. What the hell is going on and how do I fix it.

DUDE 1
Dude man it's horrible...you got a serious blockage that needs to likely be roto-rooted out. Just call a plumber man it will save you more than money in the end.

Mike and Barry say at the same time.

MIKE AND BARRY
We can't afford a plumber!

Dude 1 stares for a moment, thinks, and gets a look on his face that says he gets it. Suddenly springing into action as thought he is part of the seriousness of the situation.

DUDE 1
Okay, you're gonna need to hit the rental center. There you will find two lengths of roto-rooter. 50 footers and 100 footers. I think the best bet here is the 100 footer. The toilet has to come off and 100 feet will take you all the way to the city line which should solve the problem.

CONTINUED:

DUDE 1(cont'd)
As for the toilet removal you’re gonna need a new wax ring for the toilet to sit on when you re-install.

BARRY
(in disbelief)
I gotta take off the toilet? How the fuck do I do that?

DUDE 1
It’s actually really easy. Shut off the water let her drain and there’s two bolts on the bottom. Boom, she’s off.

MIKE
Is there chance it could get messy?

DUDE 1
Huge.

Barry. Turning green. Mike’s eye’s widen as he turns to head to the rental center. Barry follows.

BARRY
Thanks dude. We’re going the right way to the rental center eh?

DUDE 1
Yup. Good luck guys.

They are not impressed with their fortune.

MIKE AND BARRY
Thanks.

CUT TO:

INT. RENTAL CENTRE - MORNING

Barry approaches another customer service rep.

BARRY
Hey there how are ya?

DUDE 2
Good man, you?

CONTINUED:

BARRY
Not good. I’ve just been informed by your plumbing department that I gotta take off my toilet and roto-rooter with a 100 footer. Please tell me you got one.

DUDE 2
Dude, why don’t you just call a plumber?

MIKE AND BARRY
(starting to get annoyed)
We can’t call a plumber!

Dude 2 stares at them as thought he fully comprehends the situation like dude 1.

DUDE 2
Okay...

Dude 2 leads them over to the rooters.

DUDE 2 (cont’d)
This is what you’re gonna need. This bad boy will mulch all your logs.

Everyone shares a laugh.

DUDE 2 (cont’d)
So who’s gonna take on the pleasure of this battle?

Mike stares at Barry with a look of complete abandonment. Barry looks at Mike quickly and realizes there is no point since Mike will not do it.

BARRY
I am not sure.

DUDE 2
Right.

BARRY
All right, enough fucking around. Lets get going, this fucken problem ain’t getting better on it’s own.

Mike Barry and Dude 2 head over to the check out. Mike hauls the rooter.

CONTINUED:

BARRY (cont'd)
So what's this thing cost?

DUDE 2
Sixty bucks for the day.

Barry looks to Mike for approval.

BARRY
That's not too bad eh man?

Mike shrugs.

The exchange is made. Barry and Mike make their way to the car.

BARRY (cont'd)
Thanks for your help. See you tomorrow.

DUDE 2
Later boys.

INT. BARRY'S CAR - MORNING

Barry and Mike are laughing fairly hard as that's all they both can do at this point. Barry has it sinking in that he's about to pull of a shitter and risk everything to get it done. They are both feeling the effects of the weed they smoked earlier.

MIKE
Man that stuff you've been getting lately is killer. Sort of creeps up on you.

BARRY
Dude, that's some of uncle Barry's personal organic home grow. Some new tricks I've been trying out.

MIKE
This shit is playing tricks on my head.

Both Barry and Mike get real quiet and zone out.

CUT TO:

ACT THREE

EXT. BARRY’S DRIVEWAY - MID-DAY

Tom is working on the van while Barry and Mike pull up get out and start unloading the roto-rooter. Barry sees Tom working, acknowledges Tom’s hello. Walks over.

BARRY
Hey Tom can I talk to you for a second?

TOM
Sure man, what’s up?

BARRY
So yeah. I gotta take the fucken toilet off but I am not to sure about this. Have you ever done this before?

TOM
In a round about way. One time the septic tank at the cabin over flowed into the cabin and I had to get in there to take care of it.

BARRY
What was it like?

TOM
Pure fucken hell man. I’ve still never smelt anything like that in my life. Fucken brutal!

BARRY
Jesus Christ man! That bad?

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK - TOM’S CABIN - DAY

Images of Tom fighting the suction of the plunger while being splashed by water violently. It’s hectic, the scene looks literally like a shit STORM.

CUT TO:

EXT. BARRY’S DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

TOM
That fucken bad man. I saw tampons that were in there a year. Made me fucken puke.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK - TOM’S CABIN - DAY

Tom being violently splashed. Spits out a mouth full of water. Freaks out and bails. Runs out of the cabin and straight down the hill jumping in the lake.

CUT TO:

EXT. BARRY’S DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

BARRY
(complete disbelief)
Fuck sakes man. This is unreal. This is different though right? This isn’t a septic tank.

TOM
Right man, it’s a main drain pipe to a city sewage line. You could have everyone on the block’s shit in your basement.

BARRY
A fuck...this is fucked.

TOM
I suggest you wrap your entire body in garbage bags and wear some goggles or something and get a gas mask because I promise you you’ve never smelt anything like this. Death itself is sweeter.

Barry, speechless, just stares at Tom. Then

BARRY
Where the fuck do you get a gas mask?

CONTINUED:

TOM
Just a second.

Reaching over for his cell phone Tom makes a call.

TOM (cont'd)
(into the phone)
Hey dude Tom here. Got a bit of a crisis here, can I use a gas mask? Cool, thanks man, someone will be there soon. Tom hangs up.
(to Barry)
Hey man, my buddy's got one for you. Make sure when you're done with it you replace the filters. He gets really pissed when people return his gas masks dirty.

Barry is in disbelief (MORE) Tom just got him gas mask like he was ordering pizza.

BARRY
Sure man, whatever you say. Who the fuck is that you just called?

TOM
That's my buddy Jay. He's ready for the US invasion. He was a special force guy for years until the Somalia affair when the government was forced to disband them in order to save face. That's all I really know about it.

BARRY
Fuck me. This guy thinks the Yanks are coming?

TOM
He knows man, he just knows.

Mike is seen in the background running hay through a thresher.

TOM (cont'd)
What's Mike doing?

Barry turns to acknowledge Mike. Turns back to Tom.

BARRY
(deadpan)
Building a Nativity scene.

CONTINUED:

BARRY(cont'd)
So anyway man, lets go get this gas mask if you don’t mind.

TOM
Sure man, I could use a break anyway. Jay’s a really cool guy, one thing though. Be sure to call him sir.

BARRY
Why?

TOM
Just trust me man, everything will go smoothly. Also, let him do the talking. It’s just better that way.

BARRY
All right man, lets just get going.
(MORE)

CUT TO:

INT. BARRY’S CAR - MID-DAY

Driving though traffic Tom lights a smoke and asks Barry how things are otherwise.

TOM
So how are things going?

BARRY
(sighs)
Not bad man, could be better at home.

TOM
Yeah eh. What’s going on?

BARRY
Aaa the usual. I think she’s on the rag 24/7. I am telling you man she’s comin’ at me a lot lately. I getting really fucken tired of it.

Tom ashes his smoke out the window.

TOM
So what are ya gonna do?

BARRY
Deal with it man. Let it play out and see how things go.

CONTINUED:

BARRY(cont'd)
I’ll just keep doing what I always do, walk away and hope the other person inside her arrives.

TOM
Yeah, you guys have been together for a while eh?

BARRY
(nodding)
Yup. Like six, seven years I think.

TOM
Fuck me. Hey man, turn here.

BARRY
You’re sure I should be coming with you here?

TOM
Oh yeah man, trust me I wouldn’t bring you if I thought this was a bad idea.

BARRY
So how’s things for you man?

TOM
Chick wise?

BARRY
Yeah, how’s Stacey?

TOM
Therapy, the usual. Comes home from work and kills the evening in front of the TV. I make dinner for us and end up going for super long shits so I can jerk off. You know, the usual.

Barry. Just stares at Tom, knowing his young friend will figure it out.

TOM (cont’d)
Here man, pull in here.

CUT TO:

EXT. JAY’S APARTMENT BUILDING - MID-DAY

Tom and Barry are in front of Jay’s apartment door. Tom knocks, waits and knocks again. JAY swings door wide open. He’s wearing cargo pants and a wife beater, he’s an intense looking motherfucker. He draws a pistol and points it at Barry.

JAY
Who the fuck is this guy?!

Tom is part stunned, part annoyed.

TOM
JESUS MAN! He’s the guy who needs the gas mask!

BARRY
(in shock)
Hello sir.

JAY
HA, plugged shit pipe eh?!

TOM
How’d you know?

JAY
HAHA hey...just looks like a guy with a plugged shit pipe. HA.

Jay laughs at his own joke.

JAY (cont’d)
Well common’ in boys. Would you like some tea?

BARRY AND TOM
Sure.

CUT TO:

INT. JAY’S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

This place looks like military headquarters. Newspaper clippings, medals, and artillery line the walls, along with a Canadian flag.

CONTINUED:

TOM
(referring to the tea)
What kind?

JAY
Sasperella! The stuff’s incredible! One of the true cleansers. One time I was overseas, got myself the drip and this shit cleared it up in about four days!

Barry is stunned at what he is hearing. Jay serves up everyone’s tea. The boys get talking about the stench Barry is about to face.

TOM
One time the septic tank at the lake backed up. Holy fuck I’ve never puked (MORE) much in one sitting. It was holy fucken horrendous.

Barry is looking very intimidated. Jay jumps in and wins the horrid story contest.

JAY
(re:gas mask)
Yup, that there one I am lenden you got me through Somolia. Back when we declared war on those whores.

BARRY
(confused)
We declared war on someone?

JAY
Yes sir. That was no peace keeping mission there. We went to fucken war and that’s the bottom line. I don’t give a shit who says what. I was there when we were told to take off the blue burettes and were handed green ones. Then they burned one of ours and that’s when it got really real.

Barry is stunned at what he is hearing Tom looks as though he’d heard it before.

JAY (cont’d)
Anyway, here’s the mask. Don’t do anything stupid like drop it in the shit.

CONTINUED:

JAY(cont'd)
Now if it blows on ya well now that’s a different story. Why you doing it this way anyhow? Why not call a fucken plumber, they love shit, that’s why they’re plumbers.

Barry is so tired of that question.

BARRY
I can’t call a plumber.

Jay examines Barry’s face intently, smiles and speaks.

JAY
Well good luck soldier. When she blows you’d best not be yawnin’.

CUT TO:

EXT. JAY’S APARTMENT BUILDING - MID-DAY

Tom and Barry are leaving. Barry is dealing with all the info he has just had thrown at him. Tom lights a smoke.

BARRY
That fucker is intense man!

TOM
Yup.

BARRY
How the fuck do you know that guy?

TOM
Long story dude.

BARRY
Fuck you man!

TOM
(Looking serious)
He was a friend of my brother.

Barry wishes he hadn’t asked.

BARRY
Sorry man.

TOM
No worries.

CONTINUED:

Barry and Tom have arrived curb side and get into the car.

CUT TO:

EXT. BARRY’S YARD - AFTERNOON

Mike is busy working the thresher. Enjoying a beer in the hot Vancouver sun. Placing chunk after chunk of hay in the machine he starts overdoing it to see how much it can handle at one time. When suddenly the motor starts shaking, smoking and dies with a loud bang. Mike is startled by it, backs off and re-approaches, tries the pull cord. It’s pulling like it’s attached to nothing. Mike sits down and hits the safety bag and tries again. Enter next door neighbor, popping his head over the fence.

BUDDY
Hey there, whatcha doin’?

Mike is startled. He’s standing in the midst of piles of cut and uncut hay like a deer in the headlights.

MIKE
Oh, hey, nothing, just fixing my thresher.

BUDDY
Jeez, so what do ya need all that hay for anyway?

MIKE
(cautiously)
I am building a nativity scene.

BUDDY
Oh ya. Anyway you need a hand?

MIKE
(Seeing an out)
Aaa no man, I think I got it. Thanks though.

BUDDY
(Satisfied)
Well okay then, just give me a hollar if you need anything.

MIKE
Will do.

INT. BARRY’S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Barry notices Mike, the thresher and the neighbor.

BARRY
What this?

TOM
I dunno, lets check it out.

Barry and Tom exit the car and head towards the back yard.

BARRY
Hey Mike who’s our new friend.

BUDDY
Hey how are ya?

BARRY
(cautiously)
Good, good, you?

MIKE
I was just showing Buddy here our nativity scene.

BUDDY
Yeah, gee I wondered what you boys were up to here. Haha, thought you might have been insulating your house with all that hay.

He points to the pile behind the guys next to the burnt out thresher.

BUDDY (cont’d)
I see you hauling it in and out all day and night.

Barry and Mike become uncomfortable. Tom is still unaware of everything going on around him.

BARRY
Yeah, you payin’ some attention eh?

Mike lays back and observes.

BUDDY
Well you know, just keeping an eye on the neighborhood.

CONTINUED:

Barry moves closer to the fence while Mike sits down at the picnic table and stares at the burnt out thresher. Sips beer. Tom goes in the house.

BARRY
You keep an eye on everything do ya?

BUDDY
Oh ya, you know, just doing my part here. Got to look out for everyone. Tons of break-ins these days. Cars too!

BARRY
Really eh?

BUDDY
Yup, got hit myself not long ago. Would have stole the god damn seats if it weren't for the security lights goin' on and off. As soon as I opened the back door the assholes made a run for it. How about you? Anything like this happened to you yet?

BARRY
No…

BUDDY
I guess eh? Your always coming and going not to mention all the folks I see visiting.

BARRY
(more uncomfortable)
Yeah right. I am always on the go.

BUDDY
So what do you do anyway? Must be a lot of shift work that's for sure.

BARRY
Well today I got myself a plugged toilet so that's priority one. Gonna have to remove the bowl and get in there with a roto-rooter.

CONTINUED:

BUDDY
Oh gee, that’s horrible, done it myself, and with that said friend, one thing I’ve learned in my years is there is some jobs best left for the professionals. Just call a plumber.

BARRY
(tired of hearing it)
Right. Listen there, Buddy is it?

BUDDY
Yup

BARRY
I gotta get to it but do me a favour...let me know of anyone or anything that happens around here when I am away.

BUDDY
Okay you got it. I’ll let you know.

BARRY
Great, I appreciate that. We’ll talk to you soon. And by the way, if you need anything just give me a hollar.

BUDDY
(beat)
Barry, is it?

BARRY
Yeah, Barry Tunsley.

BUDDY
(satisfied)
Great! Talk to you soon!

Barry breathes a sigh of relief. Nosy neighbors is the sworn enemy of grow ops. Off his look we:

CUT TO:

ACT FOUR

INT. BARRY’S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Tom exits the washroom and runs into Suzanne in the kitchen. They exchange pleasantries.

TOM
Hey there Suzanne how’s things?

She’s busy tidying up the kitchen and seems a bit flustered.

SUZANNE
Good Tom! How’s that damn van of Barry’s coming?

TOM
Well, I dunno yet. Gonna be some time. It’s quite the mess.

SUZANNE
Oh I know. He won’t listen. I’ve been telling him forever to get ride of the bloody thing. It’s a piece of shit you know. The fucken neighbors have called the city about it. No one likes it but him. Anyway you thirsty Tom, want a beer?

TOM
Yeah, I’d love one.

Suzanne opens the fridge hands Tom a beer.

TOM (cont’d)
Thanks, I should probably get back to it. This job isn’t getting any faster hanging about the kitchen.

SUZANNE
You bet Tom, talk to you later and just so you know, help yourself to anything you need in here. I am going out right away so if you could, tell Barry.

TOM
You bet. Talk to you later.

Tom exits house.

CUT TO:

EXT. BARRY’S YARD - AFTERNOON

Mike and Barry are having a beer while Mike explains to Barry what happened with the thresher.

BARRY
So what the fuck happened to it?

MIKE
(giggling)
It just started shakin like crazy and stopped.

Barry takes a toke. He’s getting the giggles as well.

BARRY
Fuck, eh, this is ridiculous. Everything is fuckin breaking like right fuckin now!
(giggle)
Mike can you believe this shit?

Barry passes the joint to Mike.

MIKE
(laughing)
No dude, this is getting out of hand, isn’t it?

Tom approaches.

TOM
Hey guys what’s goin’ on?

BARRY
Do you know anything about threshers Tom?

TOM
I don’t know much about threshers but I know a little about these motors.

BARRY
Could you take a quick look at this and let me know what you think?

TOM
Sure but what about the van? We’re running out of day pretty fast here.

CONTINUED:

Barry stares at the thresher with a serious look.

BARRY
Don’t worry about the van right now, I really need to know what’s going on here.

TOM
Sure, I’ll get on it right away.

BARRY
Thanks.

Mike swigs his beer, Barry stares at it intently while Tom exits to get some tools.

MIKE
Fuck that guys handy.

BARRY
No shit eh?

Tom returns.

TOM
You know boys I just had a thought.

Tom grabs the pull cord giving it a few full pulls slowly to see what happens.

TOM (cont’d)
You hear that?

Sound of metal on metal-heavy clanking from inside the motor.

TOM (cont’d)
That's royally fucked...I’m betting anyway.

BARRY
Yeah eh, how long to find out for sure?

TOM
About a forty minutes.

MIKE
And then what?

CONTINUED:

TOM
It's either fucked heavy or re-buildable, either way it's gonna cost. You seem stressed about this, I say let's bank on it being fucked. I'll confirm it tomorrow morning and just get a used motor. A rebuild will take too long.

BARRY
Nice thinking.

TOM
And even if it is re-buildable I can do it some other time and you'll have a spare waiting. Something tells me you boys might be going through a few of these.

Barry laughs while looking at Mike. Mike looks back, stares and laughs.

BARRY
Right on, sounds good. Yeah it is getting on here, today's a write-off.

MIKE
Yeah man good call. I'm burnin out.

TOM
Cool. I'll check into this tomorrow. I got me a meeting to attend.

MIKE
Meeting?

TOM
I started this drop in for people trying to quite smoking.

BARRY
What?

TOM
Yeah, I barely even go now. I started it and now it just sort of runs itself.

BARRY
Really eh?

CONTINUED:

MIKE
And you started it?

TOM
Yeah man, I was trying to quit this one time and I couldn't. I was reading the paper and everywhere I looked - self help this AA that, and nothing for the smokers. It really pissed me off. So I thought "fuck it" I'm starting one up!

BARRY
Seriously?

TOM
Yeah man.

MIKE
But you still smoke?

TOM
I know, that's one of my rules. Slipping up, or failing as some others call it, is something to embrace not to feel guilt about.

MIKE
Whhaatt?

BARRY
(Laughing)
Fuck me, I don't believe it! You should get Suzanne to go there.

TOM
No one can force anyone go to this. Let her know or maybe I will the next time I see her. Anyway, I gotta run, talk to you later boys!

MIKE
See ya man.

BARRY
Yeah, have fun at “SA”.

TOM
(laughs)
Later.

Exit Tom.

CONTINUED:

BARRY
Can you believe that?

MIKE
(Laughs)
Yeah man. That guy's interesting. You say he's solid eh?

BARRY
Yup.

INT. TOM’S CAR - LATER

Tom is driving. His phone rings.

TOM
Hello..hey how are you?

STACEY (V.O.)
Good you?

TOM
Not bad, finished up at Barry's for today. I think I might be able to make one of my meetings.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Stacey is seated at her desk drinking a coffee.

STACEY
So you won’t be picking me up?

CUT TO:

INT. TOM’S CAR - CONTINUOUS

TOM
I should still be able to, if I am not there don't wait more than fifteen, twenty minutes tops.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

STACEY
(Annoyed)
I could be home by then.

CUT TO:

INT. TOM’S CAR - CONTINUOUS

TOM
Good, then maybe you should just do that

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

STACEY
Don't be smug.

CUT TO:

INT. TOM’S CAR - CONTINUOUS

TOM
Well, I don't think it's the end of your world if you have to walk or bus it once in a while.

STACEY (V.O.)
Whatever.

TOM
Yeah, whatever. Don't make this all harder then it needs to be Stace. I'm trying here. You know that, but maybe all this fucken advice your therapist has for me you should take. What was he saying about shaming, guilting, and over all, control? Doesn’t this send me into a humility spiral or some shit like that?

STACEY (V.O.)
Oh Fuck off.

CONTINUED:

TOM
I'll remember that while I'm making dinner.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

STACEY
(frustrated)
You know, I think I'll just talk to you later.

CUT TO:

INT. TOM’S CAR - CONTINUOUS

TOM
(sighs and agrees)
All right, talk to you soon. Love you.

STACEY (V.O.)
(pauses)
Yeah, love you too.

Tom hangs up.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHURCH - ESTABLISHING - AFTERNOON

A small church that looks like a converted 1960s day care. Three EX-SMOKERS are outside on the lawn in a group hug. They don’t notice Tom walking up the front steps.

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH - AFTERNOON

A small group of people are gathered mingling amongst themselves. Drinking coffee, eating snacks. Looks like an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. Posters of other self help groups line the walls. Tom walks in, to everyone's joy and surprise. EX-SMOKER #1 approaches.

CONTINUED:

EX-SMOKER #1
(thrilled)
Tom!! How are you doing? Where’ve you been? We've all been wondering!

TOM
Hey man, I know, I haven't been coming lately. I slipped up myself. Things are getting pretty shitty back home.

EX-SMOKER #2 joins them. She’s a compassionate female with a hidden crush on Tom.

EX-SMOKER #2
It's okay Tom, that's why were still here.

TOM
Right. So who's who? I barely recognize anyone anymore.

EX-SMOKER #1
Just take the mic Tom, they all know who you are. You're a legend around here.

Tom sees a poster of himself on the wall right behind Ex-smoker #1, right beside his head.

TOM
(Uncomfortable)
Comman' lets not get too crazy.

EX-SMOKER #1
Go on, you'll see.

TOM
(hesitant)
Alright.

Tom moves up to the mic. Takes it and starts talking like he never left.

TOM (cont’d)
Hey everyone, I'm Tom Lawrence.

Loud applause.

TOM (cont’d)
How's everyone been? Good to see you Larry, still on the patch?

CONTINUED:

LARRY, an ex-smoker in the crowd, nods with pride and a shit-eating grin.

TOM (cont'd)
Right on. I've not done well lately and that's what's up. Don't ask me where I've been lately 'cause I've been smoking. I slipped. Things aren't good at home and I'm telling you I'm ready to snap every time I even think of quitting, I'm freaking out!

All of a sudden Tom gets extremely intense. We haven't seem him like this, in fact his friends might not have either. He lights up the stage.

TOM (cont'd)
They don't understand what it's like out there. These fucken assholes, "why don't you just quit", yeah hey, cause it's that easy isn't it gang?

They whole gang shouts in perfect unison, throwing their fists in the air simultaneously, as though they've rehearsed the timing of it. It's the SA credo:

SA CROWD
FUCK NON-SMOKERS!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
TAKE YOUR STUPID SUGGESTIONS AND STUFF 'EM UP YOUR ASS!

TOM
(smiling)
YEAH! FUCK EM' they don't understand, they don't understand the epidemic here, they mask it with the obvious, the smell, the cost, the health risk. Meanwhile the government would lose millions if we all stopped. They could never pay their monthly obligation to pensioners. THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT US! They *want* us smoking in reality, TAXES! I say the least they could do is build us a detox center! Got one for the drunks! Alcoholism is more accepted then smoke-a-holism!

CONTINUED:

The crowd cheers. We MOVE IN on an old lady in the front row. She shakes her fist again, shouting enthusiastically:

OLD LADY
You tell em’ you tell the world Tommy!

FADE TO:

INT. CHURCH BASEMENT - LATER

Tom is talking with Ex-smokers #1 and #2.

TOM
So I see more new faces.

EX-SMOKER #2
Lots or new people Tom, nearly every week.

EX-SMOKER #1
Yeah man it's really growing fast now.

TOM
What's with the old lady?

EX-SMOKER #1
She's pretty old. Fought in the war. Tough old lady.

EX-SMOKER #2
Yeah, sweet but tough.

TOM
Funny. Anyway guys, I gotta go but I think I will see you soon. I'm gonna give it another go.

EX-SMOKER #1
Welcome back dude, and hey, you know my number, anytime.

EX-SMOKER #2
Me too.

TOM
Thanks guys I'll talk to you soon.

CONTINUED:

Exit Tom.

CUT TO:

INT. TOM’S CAR - MID-AFTERNOON

Tom is driving. Listening to the radio. Makes a phone call. He hears it ringing.

STACEY (V.O.)
Hello?

CUT TO:

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Stacey standing outside her office building. Saying good-bye to people as they walk by her while on the phone.

STACEY
Hi. Where are you?
(to some co-workers)
Yeah, see ya, yeah. It's Tom I'll be okay.

TOM (V.O.)
I'm on my way should be no more then ten minutes.

STACEY
Fine. I'll wait.

CUT TO:

INT. TOM’S CAR - CONTINUOUS

TOM
Great. Can't wait to see you.

STACEY (V.O.)
Yeah me too. Hurry 'kay.

TOM
Yup. See you soon.

Hangs up.

CUT TO:

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

Stacey receives a phone call.

STACEY
Hello? Oh hi, how are you? I'm fine. Yeah, yeah he's just coming to pick me up. Yeah, nice!

CUT TO:

INT. GAS STATION - MID-AFTERNOON

Tom is paying for some gas.

GAS CLERK
So that's thirty bucks regular. Anything else?

Tom counts out nearly all his cash. Eyeing the cigarettes behind the counter, he sighs.

TOM
No, no that's good.

GAS CLERK
You sure?

TOM
(Nods)
Yeah, thanks.

CUT TO:

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - MID-AFTERNOON

Tom is pulling up to where Stacey is waiting for him. Stacey is still on the phone, and she seems to be thoroughly enjoying her conversation. She sees Tom coming and gets off the phone quickly.

STACEY
Okay, well see, I'll call you later.

She hangs up and regains composure. Tom's car pulls up. Stacey gets in.

CUT TO:

INT. TOM’S CAR - CONTINUOUS

STACEY
Hi, how are you?

Tom is surprised by her cheeriness.

TOM
Hey good, you?

STACEY
Great. So how was your meeting?

TOM
(Smiles)
Not bad at all.

STACEY
That's nice.

Stacey fades off and stares out the window. They drive in silence.

TOM
So how’s your day?

STACEY
Fine..I guess?

TOM
Right. So you hungry?

STACEY
Yeah, a little.

Tom and Stacey drive in silence. A lot has happened, but nothing’s changed for these two. Off Tom’s look of disappointment we:

FADE OUT.

END EPISODE ONE.