

EPISODES - MERC

EXT. BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

CLOSE ON a giant replica of the BAFTA mask. PULL BACK and we are at the gala following the TV Awards. Lots of folks in black tie celebrating, tears and alcohol flow. Sean and Lily sit at a table, each with an award in front of them. They look smashing.

MERC reaches them. He's very attractive. He has an expansive personality. Charismatic. Lots of energy. You'd think it's fueled by cocaine, but it's just him. Really.

MERC  
Winners! Forgive me, don't wanna interrupt. Merc Lapidus. I'm the --

LILY  
Please, we know who you are.

SEAN  
Sean and Lily --

He goes to shake Merc's hand, but Merc throws his arms around him. Sean gives Lily a startled look over his shoulder.

MERC  
(to Lily)  
And you! With the funny speech!

LILY  
Oh, that's not necess--

But he's already enveloped her in a massive hug.

LILY (CONT'D)  
All right.

MERC  
You know what my fantasy is?

LILY  
I'm going to guess either shoes or nuns.

Merc laughs. Maybe too hard.

MERC  
My fantasy is I wake up tomorrow and I've got your show on my network.

LILY  
Well, that's very flatter--

MERC  
No no, I'm not just blowing smoke here. I love your show. Love it. Seriously. I want to have sex with your show. And I'm telling you, an American version? Would be huge. It could be like "The Office" meets...

He searches.

SEAN  
...our show?

MERC  
Yes! But we'd have to do it right. No farming this one out. I want what's in these amazing, British-y heads.

LILY  
What, us come to LA?

SEAN  
That's interesting.

LILY  
(an intent look)  
Is it?

MERC  
Uh oh, she's giving you the wife look.  
(off Lily's reaction)  
Whoa, now she's giving me the wife look.

A waiter passes with a tray of desserts. Merc stops him.

MERC (CONT'D)  
Hello!  
(takes a tart)  
Have you guys tried these? What are these little berries? They're genius. They're like magic berries.

LILY  
They're actually lingonberries.

MERC  
Lingonberries! Now I want to have sex with your show and these berries.

LILY

When I was a little girl, my grandmother lived in Yorkshire and she had lingonberries in her garden. Every summer we'd pick the berries and she'd make us jam.

MERC

Christ. My grandmother lives in Morristown, New Jersey, and hates black people.

(then)

So what do you say? Come play with us! I need "Lyman's Boys"! I've got four places on my schedule I could put it right now.

LILY

This is very flattering. And we've all had a lot to drink...

MERC

Not me. Not in seven years. I'm an alcoholic.

LILY

But evidently not anonymous.

MERC

C'mon! We'll get you a house, a car, name it. How hard would it be? You've already got the scripts. You'll work twenty minutes a day, the rest of the time: in the pool.

Sean looks to Lily. She give him a non-committal let's-talk-in-the-car smile.

MERC (CONT'D)

Look, if you don't want to do it, fine. Maybe you don't like money. But I had to ask. When I had cancer -- that's right -- I realized two things. If you want something, go for it, God doesn't wait for you. And also, you do not want cancer.