

UNDIES

1 INT. ABSOLUM HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY 1

The room is crowded with mourners dressed in black. *

Tables overflow with Jewish food.

In the corner, SARAH ABSOLUM (50's), the widow, is steely-eyed and confident, as she talks to a Rabbi, in a black homburg hat.

In the back of the room, a group of children chatter.

ABRAHAM ABSOLUM (35), a tall baby-faced Jewish man, wears a black suit and a skull cap.

He talks to his optimistic, helpful but clumsy brother MICHAEL ABSOLUM, (32) who is a wiry mechanic, in black jeans and a shiny, black leather coat.

MICHAEL ABSOLUM
Is Mum going to be alright?

ABRAHAM ABSOLUM
(Jewish accent)
Sure, but we can't talk about the
business until the Shiva is over.

MICHAEL ABSOLUM
How will she live? I can run it for
her.

ABRAHAM ABSOLUM
You stay out of it. You're a
mechanic.

A large, tan and white bulldog, TREVOR, runs through the room.

Slobbering, Trevor puts his feet a child's shoulders and they both fall to the floor.

The child SCREAMS.

ABRAHAM ABSOLUM (CONT'D)
(whispers)
Get that dog out of here.

MICHAEL ABSOLUM
Who was going to look after the
fucker?

Sarah heads for them, and Michael ambles towards the dog.

Sarah approaches Michael.

SARAH ABSOLUM
 (heavy Jewish accent)
 Is your brother trying to kill me,
 with that dog? Gideon would turn
 over in his grave.

ABRAHAM ABSOLUM
 (points)
 Mother, he's over there.

She glances at the grey urn sitting in pride of place, on the mantle.

The dog stands on top of the child's chest, licking his face.

Michael and a woman try to lift the dog off the child.

The dog rears up and crashes its head into Michael's chin.

He GRUNTS and falls on top of the child.

The mother struggles to pull Michael off her son.

Sarah turns to Abraham.

SARAH ABSOLUM
 (shakes her head)
 He's just so clumsy.

ABRAHAM ABSOLUM
 Mom, he doesn't understand what's
 going on. He wants to talk about
 the business.

SARAH ABSOLUM
 Not yet.

ABRAHAM ABSOLUM
 He says he has he has left his job
 to run the factory.

Michael struggles off the child by placing his elbows on his chest.

SARAH ABSOLUM
 Please God, no.

He pushes himself up, and the child GRUNTS.

Michael leads the dog towards the kitchen, leaving the child crying on the floor.

The child's mother looks up from him and screams out.

MOTHER
 (Jewish accent)
 Call an ambulance!

Michael walks towards the child, carrying a glass of lemonade.

MICHAEL ABSOLUM
 Here, give the ankle-biter this.

He stumbles as he approaches mother and child.

The glass flies out of his hand and hits the mother on the nose.

Lemonade splashes all over her.

MOTHER
 Someone, get him away from me.

Michael approaches Abraham.

MICHAEL ABSOLUM
 Now, how about the business.

ABRAHAM ABSOLUM
 It's an underpants business.

MICHAEL ABSOLUM
 I know, I fucking wear them,
 sometimes.

SARAH ABSOLUM
 Quiet, both of you. Next week,
 you'll go and talk to the
 Accountant.

2 INT. ACCOUNTANT'S OFFICE - DAY

2

Michael is agitated as he and Abraham sit across a large desk.

HEIMIE FRIEDMAN (60's) is a frail, be-spectacled Jewish accountant, in a pin-striped suit.

HEIMIE FRIEDMAN
 Now boys, your father asked me to
 make sure there is no squabbling.
 The business is now your mother's,
 and will be sold.

Michael jumps up.

MICHAEL ABSOLUM
 I left my job to run the business.
 Dad would have wanted that.

ABRAHAM ABSOLUM
No, he wouldn't! You're a mechanic.

MICHAEL ABSOLUM
Stop saying that. You're only a
school teacher.

HEIMIE FRIEDMAN
Michael, sit down please.

Michael sits with his shoulders, away from Abraham.

HEIMIE FRIEDMAN (CONT'D)
The business is not doing well.
Your father was very concerned, and
was, I think, trying to borrow some
money.

MICHAEL ABSOLUM
I can run it.

ABRAHAM ABSOLUM
Shut up. What do you know about the
rag trade?

HEIMIE FRIEDMAN
This is what your father didn't
want.

(looks over his spectacles)
Somehow, the business has to be
sold, and the proceeds used to pay
off the mortgage on what is now,
your mother's house.

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