

Comedy Samples

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Sample 1

FRANK AND JANNON KICK A HOLE IN THE SUN

Setting the scene:

Frank and Jannon are a married couple in their early thirties. They should be a little better at "life stuff" as Jannon puts it later in the script, but they just can't seem to get it together. The biggest barrier to their success is also the thing that makes them special - they are perfect together. They each have an unbreakable belief that the other is so awesome that together they're so awesome, and everyone else is just lame. No matter what mistake one makes, the other helps blame the rest of the world for it. They are codependent and isolated from everyone else, but they are hilarious.

The script begins with what turns out to be the worst week they've ever had: horrible jobs, major disappointments, financial troubles and even a couple of injuries. Jannon has already had her big freak-out moment at her cubicle-filled generic workplace where she attacked an annoying coworker's miniature horse figurine, stealing it and crumbling it to bits.

In this excerpt we find Frank at his restaurant job finally losing it, followed by a string of uncomfortable situations that later in the script culminate in a weekend turning point. This script is full of comedic moments with a slightly sad undertone, but Frank and Jannon's tenderness is so compelling that even the depressing aspects of their lives make them charming. It's impossible not to root for them, laugh with them and find yourself in their struggles.

INT. FAMILY RESTAURANT, TABLE-SIDE

Frank steps up to a table. It's a FAT MAN and his FAT WIFE.

FRANK

Looks like you're ready to order.

FAT MAN

Texas burger, extra chili, extra cheese, some ranch dressing on the side, and a side a fries.

FRANK

A side of rice?

FAT MAN

A side a fries.

FRANK

Rice.

FAT MAN

Fries! What's wrong with you?

FRANK

I'm sorry sometimes fries sounds like rice.

FAT MAN

I don't think so.

FRANK

No, it actually does. It happens all the time. You want fries. I got it.

FAT MAN

You should get your hearing checked.

FRANK

Oh, I'm pretty sure it's fine. Just a miscommunication. For you ma'am?

FAT MAN

(to his Fat Wife)

Make sure you speak up, honey. This boy has trouble hearing.

FRANK

I really don't. It's fine, ma'am. You can speak at a normal volume.

FAT MAN

I think you'd better say it loud
just to make sure he gets it right
on the first try.

Frank has pretty much had it.

FRANK

Sir, nothing was 'gotten wrong'. I
have it written right here. The
customer at seat one will have the
most disgusting, highest calorie
meal on the entire menu, with deep-
fried sticks of fat on the side.
Fries. FRIES. I can hear just fine.
But what I can't do is understand
the words that tumble out of your
fat mouth along with all the crumbs
from the four-serving loaf of bread
and butter you've devoured all on
your own. Now, ma'am, what can I
get you for lunch?!

FAT WIFE

I'll have a salad. Dressing on the
side.

FRANK

Great! I'll be back.

Frank leaves the table. He marches straight to Dale in the
server alley.

INT. FAMILY RESTAURANT, SERVER ALLEY

FRANK

Give me a warning slip. I have to
write someone up.

DALE

What for?

FRANK

Just give me the slip!

Dale takes a pad of warning slips from the shelf in front of
him and hands it to Frank. Frank scribbles on it while
mumbling. He hands it back to the manager.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Sign this.

Dale looks at it.

DALE

You made fun of a customer for
having a fat voice?

FRANK

Yes. Please just sign it.

DALE

What's fat voice?

FRANK

You'll see when you go to
apologize.

DALE

Frank, are you okay?

FRANK

No. But one day I will be.

Frank wanders off.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK AND JANNON'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Frank is lounging on the sofa in the dark holding a bottle of liquor when Jannon comes home. Neither speaks. She takes off her shoes and socks, puts up her hair, sits on the sofa, does her bra removal and curls up with Frank. She takes the bottle from him and takes a long swig.

FRANK

How was your day?

JANNON

Fine. Yours?

FRANK

Really good.

JANNON

Wanna talk about it?

FRANK

It'll keep.

Jannon passes the bottle back to Frank. He takes a swig.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I need to ace my interview
tomorrow.

JANNON

You will.

They each drink another swig.

Jannon pulls the broken horse pieces from her pocket and puts them on the coffee table.

JANNON (CONT'D)

I did this today.

FRANK

I don't know what that means.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK AND JANNON'S HOUSE, BEDROOM

Frank and Jannon in bed asleep. Both ALARMS go off at the same time. They both startle awake and look confused. They each turn theirs' off.

Frank lies back down.

FRANK

We can never let that happen again.

Jannon starts to get up.

JANNON

Never. I have to shave. Gyno today.
Blah.

She starts to leave the room.

FRANK

How come he gets it shaved?

JANNON

I haven't trapped him with marriage yet.

FRANK

Fair enough.

Jannon leaves Frank lounging in the bed.

CUT TO:

INT. SPORTS WEBSITE OFFICE - DAY

The office is awesome. Lots of sports things are around. At the front desk, a RECEPTIONIST is typing. She's super hot.

Frank steps up to the reception desk.

FRANK

Hey. I have an interview with a--
(looks at a piece of
paper)
--Mr. Bartlett at ten. Frank
Stevens.

RECEPTIONIST

Just sit down and wait with the
other one.

He looks around.

FRANK

Other one?

She doesn't say anything, so he just sort of drifts back. He looks around more. There's nowhere to sit. He steps the corner and there is a GIRL about 12 years old dressed very nicely.

He sits one chair over from her.

FRANK(CONT'D)

Take your daughter to work day?

The girl just rolls her eyes.

It's awkward for a moment.

A man comes into the area.

MAN

Candice?

He reaches his hand out as the girl stands up.

MAN (CONT'D)

Ted Bartlett. Nice to meet you.

They shake hands.

The two of them walk around the corner, leaving Frank alone. This is officially fucked up.

CUT TO:

EXT. GYNECOLOGIST PARKING LOT - DAY

Jannon turns off the car and jumps out at exactly the moment that a police car parks behind her with its lights flashing. The COP gets out.

JANNON

Are you pulling me over in my parking space?

COP

Are you aware you're driving with a suspended tag?

JANNON

I'm already where I'm going. I've parked. I'm not in the car.

COP

Yes. Can I see your license please.

She takes out her wallet and starts to remove her license.

JANNON

This is ridiculous. Can you turn off those lights? People are looking.

No one is looking.

COP

No ma'am. I'll be right back.

The cop gets in the car and does his thing. Jannon doesn't know exactly what to do. She tries leaning on her trunk. It's awkward.

A WOMAN walks up to her, and unlocks the car next to Jannon's. BLOOP BLOOP.

WOMAN

Your cop is blocking me.

JANNON

Oh, he's not my cop.

WOMAN

He didn't pull you over?

JANNON

No. I was already parked.

WOMAN

How much longer will he be?

JANNON

I don't know. Why don't you ask him.

The cop comes back over to Jannon. The woman stays right there.

COP

Here is your license. I could have your car towed, but I'm just going to write you a ticket.

JANNON

Fine.

He hands her the ticket to sign. The woman leans in to try and look at it.

JANNON (CONT'D)

Excuse me.

WOMAN

Sorry.

CUT TO:

INT. DANNY'S PUB - DAY

Frank is at a bar drinking. There are no other customers. He's pretty ripped already. He's talking to DANNY, a rough-beyond-his-years bartender and bar owner.

FRANK

I cannot believe I didn't get that job.

DANNY

What was the job?

FRANK

Doing videos for some website.

DANNY

Like porno?

FRANK

No, man, if I did porn, I would already be rich. It's some sports site. It's not my dream job, but it's video stuff. It's what I love doing. Why would they hire some little girl!

DANNY
You're *sure* it's not porn?

FRANK
It's not porn!

He takes a drink.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Our generation is so crappy that the next one is already taking over. We're just gonna skip past the part where people like us get to be adults and in charge and let the fucking kids do it.

DANNY
I hear ya, man. You want another one?

FRANK
Sure. Hey, are you even open?

DANNY
Nope.

FRANK
I'm drinking in a closed bar at--
(looks at phone)
Eleven twenty a.m. Let the kids take over. Doogie Howser for president I say.

Danny gives Frank another beer.

DANNY
Doogie Howser is like forty now. Kids don't know who he is.

Frank chugs.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Hey where's Jannon?

FRANK
She's at the lady parts doctor.

DANNY
Lucky doctor.

FRANK
Dude. That's my wife's vagina you're talking about.

Danny just laughs. Frank is really drunk.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Seriously, man. Why does everyone want to touch my wife's vagina? I mean, I know why. It's a great vagina, as vaginas go. But it's my vagina. I touch my wife's vagina, and I'm the only one to touch her vagina, you understand?

DANNY

You just said vagina like six times.

FRANK

Vagina.

CUT TO:

INT. GYNECOLOGIST OFFICE - DAY

Jannon comes out of an exam room as quickly as she can, but she's walking uncomfortably.

The DOCTOR follows.

DOCTOR

Really, again I'm so sorry. I--

Jannon holds up her hand to make sure he stops talking. They make it to the receptionist desk. Jannon hands the NURSE a piece of paper and an insurance card.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

--that never happens. It just--
(he demonstrates)
--shoop, right out of my hand. It gets slippery down there.

Jannon is disturbed and eyes the doctor accordingly.

The nurse hands the paper back as the doctor tries to recover.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

You'll be fine in a couple of days.
All wounds heal in time.

NURSE

Your insurance is not valid. You'll have to pay in cash.

Jannon looks to the doctor.

DOCTOR

This one's on the house.

He gets uncomfortable and walks away. Jannon hobbles away.

CUT TO:

Sample 2

JERRY'S NOT DYING

Setting the scene:

"Jerry's Not Dying" is a fresh approach to a trend in television to feature a protagonist who dramatically changes his or her life after facing mortality or other life-shattering events, such as "Breaking Bad," "Weeds," "The Big C," and "Boss." While maintaining the focus on huge shifts in lifestyle, I poke a little fun at the genre with a comedy concept that features a character who was misdiagnosed, prepares to die, and enjoys the attention so much that when he learns of his good health, he continues to live like he's dying anyway.

In the pilot episode, Jerry, who's been enjoying a large settlement, lots of pity sex, and the admiration of thousands, learns that he's not actually dying. His ex-wife and ridiculously unqualified doctor help develop the plan to just continue on as if he is still sick, but it will no doubt blow up in his face at some point.

The first scene comes before Jerry knows the truth, and is simply an example of his relationship with his best friend Doug and Jerry's attitude towards his inevitable death. Jerry began his day with a little morning romp with a cancer patient and has just come from his local bodega where he found a jar at the register for collecting donations in his own name.

INT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Jerry sits at the counter of a diner-type place with the jar on the stool next to him. The place is empty.

DOUG, a heavy-set man, comes out of the kitchen to talk to Jerry.

JERRY
What's good here?

DOUG
We're closed, dude.

JERRY
I just want some breakfast.

DOUG
It's two in the afternoon.

JERRY
You can't even grant a dying man his last wish?

DOUG
Come earlier.

JERRY
Oh, I did.

DOUG
Gross, dude.

Jerry puts the jar on the counter.

JERRY
What the fuck is this?

DOUG
Alex made the sign.

JERRY
You know I have like millions of dollars right?

DOUG
We thought if you saw how much people care, you'd do something good with all that money before...you know.

JERRY
Before I croak?

DOUG
Don't say it like that.

JERRY
For your information, I *am* doing something good with the money. All of it goes to charity as of six o'clock tonight.

DOUG
What charity?

JERRY
I don't know. My lawyer picked it.

DOUG
I think your lawyer is a pedophile.

JERRY
Well, then it probably goes to kids.

DOUG
(groans a little)
You want some coffee?

JERRY
No, not without food.

Jerry stands to leave.

JERRY (CONT'D)
(gestures to jar)
Get rid of that thing, would you.

DOUG
Yeah, yeah. Hey come over to our place around seven.

JERRY
What for? I have plans.

DOUG
Seducing chicks with cancer does not constitute plans. Just be there.

JERRY
Fine. If I'm alive, I'll be there.

Sample 3

JERRY'S NOT DYING

Setting the scene:

In another scene from "Jerry's Not Dying" highlighting Jerry's relationship with Doug and his sense of humor about death, Jerry does at this point know the truth but cannot tell Doug. Jerry has spent the latter half of his day figuring out what to do with his settlement money now that he's going to live a long life. We've also just learned that Doug and his wife Alex have used Jerry's sperm to get pregnant as a way to combat Doug's sterility and to remember Jerry forever.

ALEX
Everyone! Hey, attention everyone.

The crowd quiets.

DOUG
Just a sec, man. I have something
to tell you too.

Doug goes to the front of the room.

ALEX
We are so glad you're all here for
our exciting news. After over a
year of trying--

DOUG
I'm going to be a dad!

JERRY
Way to blow your load, buddy!

SOMEONE FROM THE CROWD
Isn't that why it took so long in
the first place?

The crowd laughs.

DOUG
Very funny.

ALEX
Precisely what I was saying. After
over a year of trying, we are
finally pregnant!

The crowd cheers. The ladies rush Alex to gush about babies.
Doug fights off pats on the back and handshakes to get to
Jerry.

He finally makes it to the side of the room, and the two
friends step outside.

JERRY
I am so happy for you, buddy. So, I
know we said we weren't going to
talk about it, but is it--

DOUG
Yeah. It's yours. Turns out your
guys out-swim mine like champs.
Truth be told, I thought maybe
because you were sick, it wouldn't
work, but--

JERRY

Hey, man, I know. It's kinda awkward I guess, but it's your kid. I'm really glad I could help.

DOUG

(tearing up)

I, you know, it's like, when you're gone, I still get to have my friend. You get to keep living sort of.

JERRY

About that...

DOUG

And I've accepted that you won't be around, but hey, at least it won't be weird for you, right? Knowing you're sort of a dad.

JERRY

Oh, yeah, I guess so. But whatever happens, you're a dad. I am just a sperm donor.

DOUG

It means so much knowing that you granted our biggest wish. And come on, dude, we totally wouldn't have done it this way if you weren't...you know...

JERRY

About to croak?

DOUG

Enough of that! What did you want to tell me?

JERRY

Oh! Um. Right. I decided not to give my money to some charity I don't care about. I'm going to...well, I think I'm going to start my own.

DOUG

That's awesome!! The Jerry Kirkland foundation!

JERRY

Something like that.

Jerry looks through the window to see Dr. Kavonic lovingly petting the picture of Dr. Oz and Melinda talking to Alex and touching her belly.

JERRY (CONT'D)

No. Not the Jerry Kirkland foundation. Jerry's Dreams. Yeah. It's going to be like Make-A-Wish for adults.

DOUG

Yeah, okay. I get it. Like helping Alex and me have a baby.

JERRY

Yep, just me makin' babies.

DOUG

Nice. Should be easy with all that sympathy snatch you get.

JERRY

Sympathy snatch. I like that. Like, volunteer vag.

Doug starts laughing.

DOUG

Pity pussy.

They are cracking up now.

JERRY

Charity chach.

DOUG

Philanthropic fur burger.

JERRY

Beneficent beaver.

DOUG

Word up, vocab. Mercy muff.

JERRY

Humanitarian hot pocket.

DOUG

Oh, god, that's rich.

They are crying with laughter.

JERRY

But seriously, adults have wishes too.

DOUG

What about you?

JERRY

What about me?

DOUG

What's your wish? What's Jerry the Genie granting for you?

Jerry thinks for a minute.

JERRY

I think I'm just going to wish that I live a little longer.

DOUG

I hope it comes true.

JERRY

I have a feeling it might.

Sample 4

Untitled Short

Setting the scene:

The following excerpt is from an unfinished short about a group of live-action role players (LARPerS) who have to battle against a group of Civil War reenactors for the use of a park field. It's exactly what it sounds like: the most epic imaginary battle of all time.

FADE IN:

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY

Kids on swings. Moms with babies. People walking dogs. Normal park activities.

A group of LARPerS is preparing for an event. They are in full costume, some practicing sword fighting, some eating, some chatting, all in character.

Passersby slow to stare as they cross the LARP gang.

Two such LARPerS are having a conversation. LORD MALVIDIOUS wears a crown, as does LORD MALVIDION. Lord Malvidious is flamingly gay.

LORD MALVIDION

(whispering)

Gene, we've been over this. You cannot be Malvidious. It's too much like Malvidion.

LORD MALVIDIOUS

Then you change yours if it matters so much.

LORD MALVIDION

(sanctimonious, and in a British accent)

I was Lord Malvidion long before you were Lord Malvidious. In fact, you're not even a Lord.

LORD MALVIDIOUS

I am a Lord! In the Artanion battle, I was made Lord--

LORD MALVIDION

Artanion! That's not even a sanctioned group. Your Lordship is not recognized here--

LORD MALVIDIOUS

Shut up, Paul.

Lord Malvidion drops the character.

LORD MALVIDION

Just change your name, okay. It's confusing.

LORD MALVIDIOUS

Why do you always get--
 (distracted by something
 in the distance)
 What the hell is that--

Lord Malvidious points, and Lord Malvidion turns to look.

Coming over a slight hill is an entire battalion of Civil War Reenactors - Confederate of course. Slow motion and in faded black and white, it looks like a scene from the actual Civil War, ya know, if there were video cameras then.

The surround the LARPer's' camp. The two Lords take their rightful leadership role.

LORD MALVIDION

Who is charged with leading this
 perpetration upon our sacred
 ground?

He announces loudly, ridiculously.

Some regular people running the park run right through the middle of the scene. One stumbles over a bayonet.

Lord Malvidion clears his throat.

LORD MALVIDION (CONT'D)

Who goeth here, henceforth bringeth
 such troublesome...
 (he gives up)
 Hey! What are you people doing?!

A man, clearly a general, comes over to the Lords.

GENERAL

I'm General Alexander Higgins of
 the Louisiana 33rd infantry. Who
 are you?

LORD MALVIDION

I am Lord Malvidion, and this is...
 (takes a deep breath)
 This is Lord Malvidious. We are
 rulers of the great lands of
 Byzbanion and Artanion,
 respectively of course.
 (he snickers)
 And you, sir, are trespassing.

GENERAL

(to someone off screen)
 Sam. Sam!

A very pretty girl, teen-aged, dressed in Civil War period clothes, with a pink streak in her hair, a nosering and a pair of Chuck Taylors, comes running over.

SAM

Yeah, dad. What's up?

GENERAL

It's General Higgins.

SAM

Right. General Higgins. Sup?

GENERAL

(whispering)

Did you reserve the park?

SAM

Yeah. I signed up on the sheet by over by the tennis courts.

GENERAL

Gentlemen, I believe you then, are trespassing on our land.

Lord Malvidion motions to Lord Malvidious.

LORD MALVIDIOUS

Sir Calzone, please come here.

Nothing happens.

LORD MALVIDIOUS (CONT'D)

Sir Calzone!

A teenage boy in LARP wear and headphones jams out nearby.

LORD MALVIDIOUS (CONT'D)

(to Lord Malvidion)

Would you get him.

Lord Malvidion steps over and yanks off the boy's headphones.

LORD MALVIDION

David! Can you please pay attention to your fathers.

David jumps up and joins his fathers, the General and Sam. Sam and David lock eyes, and blush.

LORD MALVIDIOUS

We are changing your name. Sir Calzone...can't you take anything seriously.

(MORE)

LORD MALVIDIOUS (CONT'D)
(he says while pointing
some sort of feathered
stick)

Sir Calzone, did you signeth up for
this land upon the scroll at ye ol'
court of tennis?

DAVID

Huh?

LORD MALVIDION
Did you reserve the park, David?
For the battle?

DAVID

Oh, yeah. Yeah, I did.

LORD MALVIDION
General Higgins, as you can see, we
have reserved this land for our
battle as well.