

EXT. TRUCK - DAY

The truck pulls out onto the bridge and back into Manhattan.

INT. TRUCK - DAY

Beekman sits between his father and Hector. The truck slowly makes it's way to the East Side as a gentle rain falls. The wiper blades slap back and forth.

START HERE ---

BEEKMAN

Here's something you might not know?

LEO

What's that?

BEEKMAN

When ducks sleep, the last duck in line sleeps with one eye open so it can see if anything is trying to sneak up on them. That's the guard duck.

HECTOR

That's amazing.

Leo smiles and glances at his son.

LEO

Did you make that up?

BEEKMAN

Who knows? Here's another one. When a pack of wolves travels through the snow, they walk single file so they can step in the tracks made by the leader. When the leader gets tired, it goes to the back and the next wolf takes over.

HECTOR

That's amazing.

LEO

You're a barrel of information today.

BEEKMAN
Sometimes I surprise myself.

LEO
You know what they say, you can
pick your friends and you can pick
your nose but you can't pick your
friend's nose.

Beekman and Hector laugh.

BEEKMAN
That's an old one.

LEO
The good ones never get old.

HECTOR
How about some music?

Hector tries the radio.

LEO
It's broken. You can't be fussy
when the truck's free.

BEEKMAN
I'll sing.

To the tune of STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER, Beekman begins.

BEEKMAN (CONT'D)
Be kind to your fine-feathered
friends, for a duck maybe
somebody's father. Be kind to your
friends in the swamp, remember it's
cold and damp, You may think that
this is the end...well it is.

The truck rolls on.

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INT. NUTTING COURT HOUSE LIVING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Beekman enters. Leo is sitting on the couch working, legal pad in hand. He is drinking a beer. There are papers all around. His tie is loosened and he looks tired.

LEO

How did it go with operation Mary Louise.

BEEKMAN

It was a disaster. I made a spectacle of myself. All she ever says is go away.

LEO

Maybe she doesn't like you.

BEEKMAN

How would she know? One conversation. That's all I'm asking. If she says go away after that. I'm gone.

LEO

Give her time and try again. But don't be a pain about it. Come on and sit down here with me. Let's talk and then we will go have some supper.

BEEKMAN

I thought you were having dinner with Fernanda?

Beekman sits down.

LEO

I called it off.

BEEKMAN

Why?

LEO

We are in the middle of a slight disagreement.

START HERE ---

BEEKMAN

You had a fight?

LEO

It's nothing to get upset about.

BEEKMAN

Did you fight about me?

LEO

It had nothing to do with you. It was about me and the future. I don't feel I have much of one to offer. I feel it's a bit pointless for her to spend more time with me.

BEEKMAN

You are going to make up with her aren't you?

LEO

I don't know...You and I have to talk about that same future too, son of mine. Sadly, the airplane deal didn't work out. I thought I had it...it was so close.

Leo looks very down-hearted.

BEEKMAN

Things will get better.

LEO

Of course they will get better but meanwhile we have to find ourselves a new situation.

Beekman jumps up.

BEEKMAN

No...No...No... No more new situations. I am not moving. That's it.

LEO

You're old enough to have it straight, Beekman. I can manage school fees, you can stay at Chance but we had three months to make this work. Without the airline deal I just don't have the money. Not for the house.

BEEKMAN

You said if we liked it we could stay. Well, I like it and I am staying.

LEO

I like it too. But that was the arrangement I made with the lawyer who represents the owner. We need much more dough if we are to stay here.

BEEKMAN

We had a deal. We shook on it. You promised.

LEO

There is nothing I can do.

BEEKMAN

You could get a job like other fathers.

LEO

We are moving. We're shifting into tight times in the O'Day family.

Beekman heads for the stairs.

LEO (CONT'D)

We have to be out by the New Year.

Beekman runs up the stairs.

BEEKMAN

You be out by the New Year. I am staying.

Beekman slams his bedroom door behind him.

INT NUTTING COURT HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Beekman takes a chair and props it under the door handle.

BEEKMAN

(shouting)

I'm not going anywhere!

Beekman stands in his room. He hears his father climb the stairs.

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