



Treatment for the comedic rom-com/buddy movie

Swingman

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LOGLINE

A decent yet flawed everyman longing to find his future wife solicits the help of an out and proud gay man to help him score points with women, leading to a zany series of doomed first dates that ultimately bond this unlikely pair and open the straight man's heart to the one female friend who's been there all along.

CHARACTERS

Jack — the ordinary hero whose heart is in the right place for romance, but his lack of self-awareness and social savvy leads him to seek out a wingman with a certain flair.

Stefano — the excitable, short-fused and very gay man who reluctantly signs on to help Jack succeed in the straight dating scene...i.e. to become his gay wingman, a.k.a. his “swingman.”

TONE

Witty, heartfelt and at times wildly slapstick.

ACT ONE: Setup & Meet Cute

The World: Jack has had an endless run of terrible luck trying to date women in search of his future wife. His smarmy friend Chad offers him a bit of dating-hack advice: “befriend a gay man, and you will gain access to SO many women who'll immediately trust you, adore you and think you're just the sweetest and most sensitive guy ever.”

The Inciting Incident: Stefano is minding his business in the drag club he runs and headlines at. Jack wanders in during off-peak hours to propose a “strictly business transaction” where he will pay Stefano to act as his wingman during a series of first dates — however many it takes for Jack to find his future wife. Stefano is immediately put off, feels stereotyped, and potentially used, so resoundingly rejects the offer.

The Commitment: Jack returns later, and this time patiently waits in the wings. He observes Stefano trying in vain to teach some fledgling drag queens how to sashay on the runway stage. It is NOT going well. Jack gets so frustrated with the lack of progress that he leaps up on the runway himself to demonstrate how to walk more feminine, more “swish” ...awkwardly strutting while he shouts: “you need to swing your arms, man!...SWING, MAN!!” At this moment, Stefano sees that Jack is indeed willing to traverse the invisible barrier that so often exists between straight and gay men. He then declares to Jack, “Okay. I’ ll be your swingman.” But not for money..just “out of the kindness of my big gay heart.”

ACT TWO: The “Buddy Love” Journey

The Fun and Games

Jack and Stefano begin their shared efforts to find Jack dates hopefully leading to the perfect wife for Jack. These first three dates occur one after the other and are characterized by ill-conceived plans to essentially misrepresent Jack using the ideas and accessories that Stefano provides.

DATE ONE — code name “Cyrano”

Jack and Stefano get invited to a small gathering hosted by the first woman of interest, who knows Stefano but not Jack. Jack relies too heavily on Stefano to tell him what to say, and how to act. This leads to repeated moments of Stefano pulling Jack aside — like into the bathroom — to urgently whisper suggested lines to him. Jack follows these a bit too much to the letter, taking on more than just the words but the verbal style in which they were shared...flowery...whispered. Also, at some point Stefano feels the urgent need to cover what appears to be a hickey on Jack's neck...with an ASCOT. Jack agrees and then rejoins the party with his newly acquired neckwear and increasingly flowery prose. This first woman deduces that Jack must also be gay, despite his protestations to the contrary.

The Midpoint:**DATE TWO — code name “Midsummer”**

The duo decide things might go better if they keep Jack on his home turf. So the second first date is a “home-cooked meal” that Jack is pretending to cook in his own apartment. But Jack knows nothing about cooking and relies on Stefano for everything. Stefano prepares the queerest meal ever...borderline inedible in its flourishes and filigrees. If this isn't enough, in moment of rushed panic, Stefano accidentally knocks into Jack's bisque a hefty dose of pet tranquilizers intended for the Swingman's little teacup Pomeranian, PomPom. Jack ends up embarrassingly drugged, face planting in his own soup without even realizing it and then playing with the food as if it's a game of Jenga. Second date swiftly excuses herself.

The Turning Point:**DATE THREE — code name “Lucha libre”**

Date number three leads Jack to make the biggest ask of all: he wants Stefano to impersonate a straight guy to share a double date at a wrestling match. Feeling bad about the mix-ups on the past two attempts, Stefano agrees in hopes of redeeming himself. He needs a little extra time to get his straight character together and asks for assistance from his drag family at the club...essentially turning him into a hyper-masculine drag king. He shows up slightly late to the wrestling match and joins Jack and the two women who are already in their seats. Stefano proceeds to overact the part to the point where Jack is asking him to “tone his straightness down!” But Stefano is so committed to the role that he just can’t let up: swilling beer, swearing and spitting, scratching himself in the expected places, and wildly gesticulating at the wrestlers — criticizing their performance in the ring and boasting that HE could do better. All the while tearing into hot dogs he buys in bulk from a passing vendor — he ends up throwing one hot dog (like a quarterback throwing a perfect spiral) at the ring and manages to hit one wrestler squarely between the eyes. Suddenly, ALL the wrestlers conspire to pull Stefano into the ring, where the most ridiculous serious of FOUR-ON-ONE wrestling maneuvers take over. The scene is so incredible that it goes viral, reaching every corner of the globe. There are even people huddled around a campfire in Nepal watching it on a small TV being powered by a pedaling generator. THAT viral.

The Dark Moment: Stefano ends up pretty banged up...enough to be confined to a hospital bed for at least a day. And of course, every hospital bed faces a television that never turns off, so he is forced to watch his own humiliation play on a loop across all networks. Turns out that — out of everything — pretending to be straight

posed the greatest danger to his health! Meanwhile, Jack is despondent over what he considers to be the last straw in this series of colossal failures. He's given up trying ever again at this point and feels personally responsible for what happened to Stefano. He should never have made the impossible ask: that Stefano become "straight" for that double date.

ACT THREE: The Resolution

The Climax/Grand Gesture: Jack visits the drag club and takes up a table by himself in the corner. He knows Stefano won't be here since he's still in the hospital, but really, it's become the only place he feels comfortable in his own skin and not judged. He buries his head in his hands but occasionally looks up to see how the drag underlings are doing holding down the show without Stefano. Both underlings put on performances characterized by moments of greatness, but ultimately finishing with an obvious gaffe of some sort.

Stefano cannot keep himself away from the club as he is ALWAYS there for showtime. So, he sneaks out of the hospital — still in his hospital gown — and makes his way to the venue. Watching from the wings, he looks on with pride and occasionally dismay while his underlings run the show. There's a moment of uncomfortable silence after the last number ends abruptly and a little too soon. Stefano can't bear to see the crowd looking on with confusion and impending boredom at the empty stage. He decides to grab a pair of scissors and within seconds fashion his hospital gown into a pageant gown. Then whispers something to the stage manager. He steps up front and center and begins lip-syncing a heartfelt song (something on the level of Cyndi Lauper's "True Colors") dedicated to and directed

at Jack. The soundtrack cuts out suddenly due to a stray prop from the last performance that falls from the rafters. Stefano opts to continue, and actually sings the song in his own true voice, a cappella. Jack is stunned to see Stefano here, and his heart softens at the gesture, realizing that despite all that has happened, Stefano is still there for him. It's as if the song is a magic incantation that softens Jack's heart and changes his luck.

The Resolution: Jack insists that he must pursue the last leg of his odyssey alone — on a solo mission. He assures Stefano that he has imparted all the wisdom necessary for him to go forward on his own, and besides, Stefano needs to heal and get back to what he does best: the show must go on.

Jack then proceeds on a quiet campaign of self-improvement and self-care...things he should've done all along to make his life more amenable to an eventual female partner. He cleans his apartment, gets all his laundry done, haircut, buys his first cookbook. His neighbor and casual friend, Jules...she notices the changes in him, as he systematically removes every “red flag” she ever detected before. She's always liked Jack but kept him at arm's length because he didn't seem to be marriage material. (But no longer!) In a sweet and shoe-gazing moment, Jack humbly asks her out, and when a smile slowly spreads across her face he realizes she is saying yes. Their rapport from here on out is kind, comfortable and very grounded.

Fast forward to a wedding scene where Stefano is the best man, handing the ring to Jack to place on Jules' finger. After this, Stefano races behind the gazebo, and with a swift costume change (or maybe one of those outfits that is split vertically down the middle: tuxedo on the left, bridesmaid gown on the right) emerges on the other

side to hand Jules the ring she will give Jack. The crowd laughs, cheers and sheds happy tears. The music and dancing then kick into high gear as the credits roll.

Halfway through the credits: One year later...there is a baby cradled by Jules and/or Jack and everyone is all smiles. Stefano is there as the admiring “guncle” taking photos and giving stage directions in the process — no dialog here, just visual. This final scene culminates with a zoom in on the baby’s crib. Carved into the wood and painted in gold leaf at the center of the crib’s headboard is the swingman symbol. An angel icon with fabulous wings and a pompadour.

