

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

"Ted Lasso" Spec Script

Written by
Jose Chavez

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INT. AFC RICHMOND PRESS ROOM - DAY

TED LASSO, frozen in place, sits at a table with mics scattered on it while he is BARRAGED with camera flashes.

A deafening silence reverberates through the room as a scolding TABLOID REPORTER just blasted TED with a shocking question.

REBECCA, HIGGINS, and KEELEY hold their breaths awaiting TED's answer.

TED is stuck as his hands start to tremble under the table.

Flashes of sweet memories of TED with his SON and EX-WIFE back in Kansas as Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen plays softly.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

TED
(in an operatic voice)
Galileo!

TED'S SON
Galileo!

TED and TED'S SON SNAP their heads towards TED's EX-WIFE.

TED'S EX-WIFE
(in a tempered manner)
Galileo.

TED/TED'S SON
(in unison)
Galileo! Figarooo- magnificooooo!

END FLASHBACK

TED
(stuttering)
W-w-well my son knows why I'm here,
and he knows I wouldn't be this far
from him unless it was truly
necessary.

A beat passes as REBECCA, HIGGINS, and KEELEY look visibly pleased and calmer.

TED (cont'd)
Heck, if anything I just wish my
family thinks that I became a Freddy
Mercury impersonator while over here,
and decided to live out our dream.

The room of journalists let out a hearty chuckle.

TED grabs a near water bottle and starts to sip it.

The pressing TABLOID REPORTER disappointingly glances around the room as she shuffles back in her seat.

A JOURNALIST rises to ask a question and quell the reporters overlapping chirping questions.

JOURNALIST

Has there been any word on whether
Jamie Tarrt will have a meet with his
number one fan, Prince William,
Prince of Wales?

TED chokes on his water and starts to cough.

TED, REBECCA, KEELEY, and HIGGINS look genuinely shocked by the question.

TED

(clearing his throat)
Sorry about that.. I-I-I have not
heard this news yet, umm where did
this come from?

REBECCA, KEELEY, and HIGGINS all CRINGE at the idea.

TED glances at them all as they attempt to hide their discomfort.

TED looks at them hopelessly.

JOURNALIST

There's been a leaked report that the
Prince loves the way Jamie plays, and
that he would very much enjoy a meet
with him. This meeting must be
happening, right?

TED

(stuttering)
I would definitely love for His
Highness himself to meet our very
own...
(a beat)
Jamie. Hopefully we can set this up
soon.

REBECCA gives TED a sharp stare that scares off his eyes.

JOURNALIST

Actually it's your "Royal Highness".

TED
(with a chuckle)
Mine? I thought he was your guys'?
(a beat)
Sorry.

INSERT: TITLES

INT. REBECCA'S OFFICE - LATER

REBECCA sits at her desk while looking at the reports of Jamie and Prince William on her laptop.

INSERT: TABLOID TITLE: JAMIE AND THE PRINCE ON A DATE?

INSERT: PHOTOS OF JAMIE SHIRTLESS ON DATING REALITY TV SHOW LOOKING DOUCHE-Y. NEXT TO PHOTOS OF PRINCE WILLIAM LOOKING REGAL WITH HIS WIFE AND KIDS.

REBECCA

REBECCA (cont'd)
So? What did they say? Is it true?

HIGGINS
Yes, quite true actually. They say the King loves the way that Jamie fires that right foot of his at the ball, and makes his opponents squeal when he's near. His people have asked us when Jamie would be available to meet the King, and they decided that it would be best if the Prince stops by later today to have that meeting.

REBECCA
They said what?! And you couldn't lie to them? The Prince can not meet Jamie with the way he acts.

KEELEY
No, yeah I can definitely see Jamie screwing that up. He hates people that adore him, and loves them... it's quite a toxic relationship actually. Now, only if the Prince had an older daughter then things would've been alright.

A beat passes.

REBECCA

Go tell them that a meet today with Jamie would be perfect, and that he is eagerly awaiting Prince William's arrival.

HIGGINS stumbles and shuffles towards the door, but it swings open leaving him behind it.

TED walks in.

TED

Howdy y'all! Ooo, I can feel the tension in here brewing like opening time at a Starbucks drive-thru. Literally and figuratively, of course because those soccer moms do get vicious early in the morning.

HIGGINS pushes the door slightly and scares TED.

TED

(holding his chest)
Gah darn it! You scared me half to death, Higg-dog.

HIGGINS makes an apologetic face then rushes out the door.

REBECCA

(towards Higgins)
Call Jamie up here quick!
(to Ted)
There's no possible way Jamie could meet the Prince, especially if he is the President of the English Football Association. Jamie could ruin the club's reputation single-handedly while making sure we're vilified forever on the island.

TED

Ooo, I can definitely see the conflict of interests there, being that Jamie doesn't like listening to authority figures.

REBECCA

But aren't you his coach?

TED

(nodding)
Mhmmm, yep that's right.

KEELEY

Why doesn't Ted try to coach Jamie on being more like him?

REBECCA pauses and ponders this decision.

TED

I think it'll be great! I can show him the ropes and there will be a adorable mini-me running around here in no time, just like that Austin Powers fella.

REBECCA looks worried at this proposition.

KEELEY

Come on, Rebecca! Ted is great with him, and Jamie's told me that he likes Ted.

TED

(excitedly)
Really??

KEELEY

(murmuring)
Uhhh... yeah of course.

JAMIE TARTT swings the door open and walks in the room.

Jamie scans the room and once he sees Ted he turns around slowly to walk out.

KEELEY screams at Jamie to come back in, and he begrudgingly listens.

TED has a faint smile that slowly fades off his face as JAMIE gives him an unamused glare.

REBECCA

(to Jamie)
Prince William would love to have a meet with you later today due to his admiration for your football skills.

JAMIE starts to sport a shit-eating grin stretched across his face.

REBECCA (cont'd)

But unfortunately you're also great at being a world-class asshole.

JAMIE'S grin is gone.

JAMIE

Why would I want to meet some stuck-up Prince that just wants me to kiss his feet... when he should be on his stomach kissing my boots.

REBECCA and TED look appalled as TED palms his chest out of shock.

KEELEY

Look, if you can do this maybe something will be in it for you, eh?

JAMIE

Yeah like what? I've got me, what else can I ask for?

KEELEY looks worried while REBECCA starts to fume in anger.

TED jumps in.

TED

(to Jamie)

How about if you can do this all the way through, and not miss the mark, then I make you Captain of the team for the whole season.

JAMIE starts to develop another sly smirk.

JAMIE

What about Isaac? What are you going to tell him?

TED

Isaac's a big boy. I'm sure he'll understand how important this is to the team.

JAMIE's smirk is now a full-blown grin that he can't contain.

REBECCA sneaks a surprised glance at KEELEY about how smoothly the plan went.

JAMIE thinks about his decision.

REBECCA and KEELEY are at the edge of their seats...

JAMIE

Fuck it, why not. Then maybe I can show the blokes how this team should be ran.

TED looks disappointed at JAMIE'S reason for agreeing to do this.

REBECCA looks relieved at JAMIE's choice, while KEELEY struggles to put on a genuine smile.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

ROY KENT berates the kit man, WILL.

WILL holds freshly washed towels.

ROY clenches his training outfit.

ROY
(to Will)
Oi! Who gave you the big fucking idea
of fixing my training outfit without
permission?

The training outfit looks as if it's been through hell and back.

INT. COACH'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

COACH BEARD sits in the office while eavesdropping on the situation.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

WILL
(stammering)
A-a-actually it is kind of... my job.
And I only got to fix that god awful
hole that slightly revealed your...
(whispers while
muffling mouth)
Nipples.

INT. COACH'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

COACH BEARD silently nods his head in agreement.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ROY growls and stops WILL in his tracks. WILL ricochets off this sturdy wall of a man.

ROY
(in a serious tone)
You don't know why those holes were
there. What if I liked the free
sunbathing, eh?

WILL
(anxiously)
In England?

ROY gets in WILL's face.

ROY
(angrily)
You think you know what's best,
innit?

WILL
(stuttering)
N-n-noo, I'm just doing my job.
(a beat passes)
I also remembered you were allergic
to impure metals, so I changed out
yours for plastic.

WILL lets out a hopeful chuckle and smile.

ROY erupts on WILL causing the towels WILL is holding to
fall.

COACH BEARD tries to temper ROY, but he growls in defiance.

COACH BEARD jumps back in fear.

COACH BEARD goes back in for another try.

COACH BEARD
Hey! Hey! Come on there's no need for
this. I heard everything..

ROY
(whispering to COACH
BEARD)
Everything?

COACH BEARD nods his head. ROY looks embarrassed, but
doesn't break his eye contact.

COACH BEARD
(to Will)
You can go, it's okay.. I promise.

WILL quickly picks up the towels and shuffles away.

WILL accidentally runs into the door on his way out.

WILL
(rubbing his forehead)
Sorry..

WILL escapes from the locker room.

COACH BEARD
Look.. a simple thank you would have
helped a lot with making sure Will
doesn't give himself a concussion.

ROY growls and looks confused at what COACH BEARD is saying.

COACH BEARD sighs a deep breath.

COACH BEARD (cont'd)
Jane told me about an anger counselor
that works in the city, so I'm
sending you there to figure out how
to express your feelings.

ROY
You're back with Jane, again?

COACH BEARD nods his head and shrugs his shoulders.

ROY (cont'd)
How's that?

COACH BEARD
I mean we're still working on the you
know... cliché love part, but she's
able to express much more than that.

COACH BEARD pulls his phone out and shows ROY.

INSERT: PHOTO OF AN UP-CLOSE JANE WITH A DEAD STARE AND A
CAPTION SAYING "i miss you. x"

ROY gives a complimentary chuckle while an awkward smile
develops.

COACH BEARD looks to be lost in JANE's eyes, but jogs his
attention back to the moment.

COACH BEARD (cont'd)
Ahh.. but yes I feel this counselor
could help you come out of your
shell, and hopefully that grumpy wall
can start to crumble down.

ROY stares at COACH BEARD without speaking.

A Western desert whistle rings as their stare down commences.

A long beat passes. Silence as they stare at each others eyes.

ROY blinks.

COACH BEARD (cont'd)

Ha! I win.

(then, big inhale)

This counselor will do wonders, I promise. You need to start being more accessible to these guys. They look up to you as a legend of the game, and you just growl at them.

ROY growls in agreement.

ROY

Fine! I'll go see this knob and see what he has to say.

COACH BEARD

Great.. I'll be keeping in touch with the counselor while you're gone so best be on your best behavior.

ROY looks displeased, growls then walks away.