Don Zolidis
donzolidis@gmail.com

# That's Not How I Remember It

*A comedy in one act*

By Don Zolidis

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*One-act comedy*
*3m 3w, up to 14+ actors, flexible*

*Mom and Dad love to tell the story of how they met in 1986 – "pretty much the most awesome year ever." Trouble is, they remember their courtship completely differently. Mom's version makes their meeting sound like a sappy romantic comedy while Dad somehow makes himself the star of a karate battle. This tubular one-act is a crazy homage to bad 80s movies and the inadequacies of memory.*

**Cast of Characters**

MOM (a.k.a. Lola)

DAD (a.k.a. Barry)

LOLA
BARRY

LOLA'S MOM
LOLA'S DAD

KARL

YANN, a foreign exchange student from Finland
YANN 2, a foreign exchange student from India

TRICIA
MELISSA
JESSICA

WAITER

THUGS
PARTYGOERS

NURSE 1
NURSE 2
JIM

Cross-Casting: Feel free to doublecast and cross-cast as much as makes sense. Some of the gang of thugs could be tough-looking girls. Might even be funnier that way.

*(At rise, the stage is split. Lights only on a small section, which contains the present day living room of MOM and DAD. They are speaking to an invisible child, who is located somewhere on the fourth wall.*

MOM

All right – all right – bedtime, let's go on up to bed.

DAD

Well – maybe you can stay up just this once –

MOM *(to DAD)*

Honey. This is bedtime. We agreed on this.

DAD *(to MOM)*

I just think a little flexibility might be in order.

MOM *(to imaginary child)*

Young man, it is bedtime. Your father has no power here… And I don't want to hear it. I don't care if it is Friday night.

DAD

No we don't have somewhere to go and no we're not doing anything. We're parents. We don't do anything on weekends. Come on now.

MOM

That's not entirely true Barry. We're very exciting.

DAD

We used to be exciting.

MOM

Yes.

*(She hears something from "TOMMY.")*

What happened to us? Well sweetheart, I don't mean to guilt you, but when a man and a woman love each other very much and they have a baby together, they cease to be interesting after that point. Whatever fun or excitement they had in their lives dies. And that's mostly your fault. All right up to bed.

DAD

Oh we were very exciting indeed. I'm sure you don't believe us, but we were. I could tell you the story of how we met.

MOM

Honey, I think he's too young for that story.

DAD

I know the official story is that we met a church retreat, but… We've been lying to you. The real story? The real story will blow your mind.

MOM

Maybe not your entire mind –

DAD

Oh yes – your *entire* mind. You will never be the same. All right you're pulling it out of me! Do you want to tell it, honey?

MOM

No you tell it.

DAD

I think you should tell it.

MOM

No you brought this up, you tell it.

DAD

Okay…

*(DAD steps away for a bit. The lights begin to change on the other side of the stage.)*

The year was 1986. It was pretty much the most awesome year ever.

*(He snaps his fingers. Cool rock music from the 80s plays. Maybe something from ZZ Top.)*

I was in my prime. A senior in high school. I had hair like a lion's mane. And I had recently purchased a 1979 Trans Am. Fire Red. Like the kind Jesus would drive.

*(DAD points, and BARRY enters, wearing a sleeveless jean jacket, poofed-out hair, maybe a chain earring, looking quite a lot like George Michael, actually. He also wears shades. He's that cool.)*

And that's when I saw her.

*(LOLA enters – if you can get a breeze to flutter her amazingly huge hair that would be awesome – otherwise, she just fluffs it a lot with her hands and stares longingly at BARRY. A romantic 80s song plays for her. Maybe a smoke machine pours smoke out. (Make this is as ridiculous as possible.)*

BARRY *(cool as ice)*

Hey.

LOLA

Hey yourself.

BARRY

You go to school here?

LOLA

When I feel like it.

BARRY

Do you feel like it today?

LOLA

That depends.

BARRY

On what?

LOLA

On whether or not you want to give me a ride in that Trans Am of yours.

BARRY

Gas mileage is terrible. I can't take it very far.

LOLA

We don't have to go far.

BARRY

All right – but I warn you – don't fall in love. I'm dangerous.

DAD

And just then –

*(A GANG OF THUGS enters, whooping and hollering.)*

LOLA

Oh no! A gang of thugs!

THUG 1

Ha ha ha! We're a gang of thugs!

THUG 2

Give us all your money!

THUG 3

We also plan on making on rude comments about you!

THUG 4

No one can stop us! No the police, not the army, not nobody!

BARRY

That's enough, gang of thugs.

*(The GANG OF THUGS stop simultaneously.)*

THUG 1

Oh yeah? What are you gonna do about?

BARRY

What am I not gonna do about it?

THUG 4

You're not gonna do nothing!

BARRY

First of all, it's time for a little respect for the English language. And second of all – I happen to have a black belt in karate*

**(pronounced ka-ra-TAY)*

THUG 2

What a coincidence. We also have black belts in karate. Cobra Kai school.

*(The THUGS all assume karate stances.)*

*(Something like "Eye of the Tiger" plays.)*

*(They circle each other to the beat of the music, kind of like West Side Story.)*

LOLA

Go handsome stranger!

*(They fight!)*

*(BARRY is the most awesome karate expert ever. He destroys the Gang of Thugs in expert fashion, at times slowing to slow-motion.)*

BARRY

Now get out of here.

THUG 1

All right you win this round. Your moves are too awesome for us to comprehend.

THUG 2

But we'll be back.

THUG 4

And when we do we'll um…

THUG 1

Let's ride!

*(They run off.)*

*(BARRY and LOLA stare at each other.)*

*(Another 80s song – cheesy love song, something like "Glory of Love" plays.)*

LOLA

I have to tell you something. And you might not like what you hear.

BARRY

Don't worry. My ears are all grown up.

LOLA

I… I have a boyfriend.

BARRY

It can't be!

LOLA

It is!

BARRY

No!

LOLA

Here he is now!

*(KARL enters. KARL looks like a stereotypical 80s villain.)*

KARL

Why you talking to this loser, Lola? You know you're my girl.

LOLA

He just saved me from a gang of thugs, that's all.

KARL

Did he? All right guy. I owe you one for taking care of my girl. But if I ever see you looking at her again, I'm gonna put my fist through your face.

BARRY

I'm not scared of you.

KARL

Come on babe. I'll give you a ride in my car and I'll disrespect you at the same time.

LOLA

Okay. I don't have any self-esteem when I'm with you.

KARL

Hey, you're my girl. You don't need self-esteem. Let's go.

*(They exit.)*

DAD

And that was when –

MOM

Whoah whoah whoah hold on.

DAD

What?

MOM

That's not even close to how it happened!

DAD

That's how I remember it!

MOM

You defeated a gang of thugs in a karate battle?

DAD

Yes! It happened a lot! And it's pronounced Ka-ra-TAY!

MOM

Tommy, your father has clearly lost his memory. That is not how we met. It was like this –

*(Lights change again. LOLA, still with 80s hair, but much more properly dressed, enters.)*

It was just after second period. Biology.

*(LOLA calls off to departing friends.)*

LOLA

Okay guys see ya later!

*(She turns and bumps right into BARRY, (who has lost his jean jacket and now sports regular glasses.) LOLA drops her books, BARRY collapses to the floor.)*

Whoops!

BARRY

Arg!

*Skipping Forward*

Ya that is what I am thinking.

BARRY
I totally don't even know her and she thinks we're going out?

YANN
She is just confused. It is hormones. That is okay I will give her neck massage. We are having romantic love affair.

BARRY
Oh. Oh sorry. I didn't mean to get in the way.

LOLA
We're not having romantic love affair – he's just living in my house!

YANN
It makes it easier that way.

LOLA
Yann, we're not having a romantic love affair –

YANN
It is hot.

LOLA
No! No it's not.

BARRY
It kinda sounds hot.

LOLA
Barry, remember that you're my boyfriend and you're taking me out tonight, right?
*(She waits for him to get it.)*

BARRY *(very slow on the uptake)*
Oooooooh. Yes. Now I remember that we are dating.
*(YANN eyes them both.)*
And we are… in love and… tender with each other.

LOLA
Okay we don't need to say too much in front of Yann.

BARRY
I'm proud of our love…

LOLA

Lola.

BARRY

Lola. And it's a good thing there's a party tonight for us to go to. At Mysterious Martin's house.

YANN

Oh ya. I was invited to that.

LOLA

Mysterious Martin? He's throwing a party tonight?

BARRY

Yeah. His parents are going to be out of town. It's going to be radical.

LOLA

He's the biggest dork in the school – he's having a party and he didn't invite me?

BARRY

Oh well I –

*(TRICIA enters. She also has enormous hair.)*

TRICIA

There you are!

YANN

Oh. Now there are two red-hot American babes.

LOLA

Hey Tricia.

TRICIA

I wanted to let you know that I reviewed your friendship application.

LOLA

Oh! And –

TRICIA

This is so hard to say. I get a lot of people who want to be my friend because I'm so popular and so pretty – And there are certain standards that I have to maintain.

*(she puts her hand on LOLA's shoulder.)*

You weren't chosen.

LOLA

Oh. Well that's okay. Can I have my twenty dollars back then?

TRICIA

That was a non-refundable application fee. If you want, you can put another deposit down and I'll hold you a space for my spring friendship opening. But – if I can give you a little advice… what you're doing now – this *look* – this is not a successful look for you. I'm going to need to see a complete transformation in the next two months. Okay?

LOLA

Okay.

*(She turns to go and runs into Barry, who has staged another collision.)*

BARRY

Ah! I'm hurt! Help!

*(TRICIA looks at him as if he were roadkill.)*

TRICIA

You already tried that on me yesterday.

BARRY

This time it's true!

TRICIA

You're full of misplaced hope, aren't you?

*(She leaves.)*

LOLA

Classy, Barry.

YANN

So there is hope for Yann now, ya?

LOLA *(to BARRY)*

Pick me up at eight.

*(She leaves him lying there on the floor and exits.)*

*(Lights change back to MOM and DAD.)*

DAD

Whoa whoa whoa! No way! No way!

MOM

That's how it happened. You staged those little falls for attention!

DAD

There was zero karate in that story!

MOM

Oh we'll get to the quote karate.

DAD

No no no – don't listen to your mother. The pain of childbirth has obviously wreaked havoc on her brain cells. What happened was – the next day, after I defeated the gang of thugs and she was dating that guy Karl –

MOM

I don't know anyone named Karl!

DAD

That's funny cause he was only YOUR BOYFRIEND when I met you. And kind of a male chauvinist pig on top of it. He had a tattoo of a skull on him somewhere. Anyway, at lunch this happened.

*(The same Cool 80s music as earlier plays, as BARRY enters (with cool jean jacket and no glasses) -*

*(TRICIA, JESSICA, and MELISSA sit at a lunch table.)*

*(BARRY comes over to the table, stands, and regards them.)*

BARRY

What's up, ladies?

TRICIA *(awestruck)*

Hi Barry.

JESSICA

I heard about what you did to that gang of thugs.

MELISSA

That was so romantic.

TRICIA

I wish someone would defend my honor like that.

BARRY

Hey. Look at me.

*(TRICIA looks at him, gazes into his eyes.)*

TRICIA

You're so powerful.

BARRY

Shhh… You're a beautiful girl, Tricia. There's a boy out there for you that's going to cherish you the way I cherish Lola. And remember – when you're not looking for love, that's when it will find you.

TRICIA

Kiss me, Barry.

BARRY

I can't do that.

TRICIA

Please.

BARRY

I'm sorry. Even though you are very attractive, my heart belongs to another. I'm afraid I'm one star you can't reach.

*(BARRY touches her chin meaningfully. TRICIA sits, despondent.)*

But there's a reason I wanted to talk to you, as you represent all of Lola's closest friends.

MOM

I wasn't friends with them!

JESSICA

You're right, we are Lola's closest friends. That's why we can't stand Karl.

MELISSA

He's no good for her.

JESSICA

And he's not nearly as cute as you are, Barry. Can I touch your hair?

BARRY

Yes. But only briefly.

*(All three girls briefly touch his hair.)*

Enough. What I need is a plan. A plan to win her away from that jerk. I want you girls to think.

*(The girls think.)*

TRICIA

I'm sorry I can't concentrate with you this close to me.

MOM

This is the most pathetic thing I've ever –

DAD

Hey! This is how it happened!

JESSICA
I'm afraid that I'm just a girl. My brain isn't made for thinking.

MELISSA
Yeah!

MOM
Pause! Time out!

DAD
What?

MOM
So my imaginary boyfriend Karl was the chauvinist pig?

DAD
He was! He didn't respect you.

MOM
I hope you see the irony of this portrayal.

DAD
Of course I do. It's um… can I just tell my story without you having to point out ironies?

MOM
Fine. But for the record, those girls hated me.

BARRY
Well – if you think of something, let me know.
*(KARL enters, angry.)*

KARL
Hey!

MELISSA *(screaming unnecessarily)*
IT'S KARL! NO! AAAAAAH!

KARL
What's this about you telling everybody you're in love with my girl?

BARRY
I am in love with her. And she's not your girl.

KARL
She belongs to me. Like a bicycle. Or my lunchbox.

BARRY
You don't own her, Karl! She's an intelligent woman and able to make her own decisions!

KARL
You know what we're doing tonight? We're getting matching tattoos.

JESSICA
Radical.

KARL
Then our love will be forever.

BARRY
Over my dead body.

KARL
That can be arranged.
*(They stare at each other.)*

BARRY
News flash. I don't frighten easily.

MELISSA
You know what would be awesome right now? If you guys had a dance off.

BARRY
I don't do –

KARL
You're on. DJ. Hit it.
*(A DJ appears and hits it. Something like "99 luftballons" plays.)*

BARRY
What the heck is this?

KARL
It's German. And I just happen to know some killer German dance moves.
*(KARL executes killer German dance moves. The girls are agog.)*

MELISSA
Oh my Gosh he's amazing!

JESSICA

Look at his avant-garde hip movement!

TRICIA

I was wrong about you Karl!

KARL *(stopping)*

Your turn.

*(BARRY tries to get into it)*

BARRY

It's German – I can't figure out what the lyrics are saying! Arrrhg!

*(BARRY collapses. The music stops.)*

KARL

So much for being a hero. If you need me, I'll be at Fresh Ink, getting tattooed with my girl.

*(He starts to leave.)*

BARRY

Wait!

*(BARRY gets to his feet.)*

KARL

Ready for more punishment. That's all right, I've got moves to spare.

BARRY

No – no more dance-offs. I challenge you to the snowmobile race –

MOM

What snowmobile race?

BARRY

I challenge you to the ski jump competition –

MOM

We grew up in Kansas –

BARRY

I challenge you to a skateboarding – I challenge you to a stock car race – I challenge you to the show cat tournament.

KARL

Oh I'll be there. With bells on.

BARRY

You do that.

KARL

I will do that. With bells.

BARRY

Yeah.

KARL

Good.

*(KARL leaves.)*

MOM *(to DAD)*

Show cat tournament?

DAD

You know, like… like show cats.

MOM

What are show cats?

DAD

You parade them around. On leashes. They get judged.

MOM

What on earth are you talking about?

DAD

It HAPPENED A LOT in the 80s! It was a strange time!

MOM

There was no "show cat" tournament – what happened was that I went home to get ready for my fake date with you.

*(LOLA enters, having changed into a more ridiculous 80s outfit. She is teasing her hair and hairspraying it. She's hairspraying it a lot. LOLA'S MOM enters.)*

LOLA'S MOM *(knocking on an imaginary door)*

Honey? Can I come in?

LOLA

Sure, Mom.

LOLA'S MOM

I feel like we never talk anymore.

*Skipping Forward*

LOLA'S DAD

What's all that squealing I heard?

LOLA'S MOM

Our daughter is becoming a woman.

LOLA'S DAD

Oh no. I feared this day would come.

LOLA

Dad, it's –

LOLA'S DAD

You're grounded. You are not to leave the house.

LOLA'S MOM

David – she has a date tonight.

LOLA

Fake date.

LOLA'S DAD

A date? Already? You're seventeen! What are you doing dating?! Why on earth would you do something like that! What is wrong with you?! No! No this can't be happening! Call him and tell him you fell down a flight of stairs and are paralyzed and in a coma!

LOLA

Dad! Dad! Get a hold of yourself!

LOLA'S MOM

David. You can't stop time. She's in love.

LOLA

I'm not in love.

LOLA'S MOM

And if you fight this thing, it will only drive her into his muscular arms. She's grown now – she's free to escape into the night and feel the stars above her and his warm breath on her neck, his fingers –

LOLA

Ohmygosh Mom no!

LOLA'S DAD

Stop talking! Stop talking!

LOLA'S MOM

What's that? It's the sound of nature. It's knocking at our door. His eyes are like coal. The rough stubble on his chin like the faintest embrace of sandpaper – and yet his strong arms, his masculine odor, they're overpowering –

LOLA

No! No! Mom stop!

*(YANN knocks on the door.)*

YANN

Hello. Knock knock.

LOLA'S DAD

Come in Yann.

*(YANN enters.)*

LOLA

Can I just remind everyone that this is the bathroom!

YANN

That is okay in Finland we have no personal space.

*(YANN stands very close to LOLA.)*

LOLA'S MOM

Wow! I love learning about your culture!

YANN

Ya, it is special. In Finland we spend much time in bathroom together.

LOLA'S MOM

So interesting!

LOLA

You know what though? I'm feeling a little crowded.

LOLA'S MOM

Honey, we must respect their different ways of being. It's what being a foster family is all about.

YANN

Ya. So what is the dealio?

LOLA'S MOM

Lola has a date tonight.

YANN

Hot American date in automobile?

LOLA'S MOM

Yes!

LOLA'S DAD

No! There will be no automobile!

LOLA

I don't even know if he has a car.

LOLA'S MOM

Make sure you find a boy with one. That allows for a lot more possibilities.

LOLA'S DAD

Jane!

LOLA'S MOM

What?

LOLA'S DAD

I think they should walk places.

LOLA'S MOM

You don't get it. We can't stand in the way. Our job is to just let nature take hold.

LOLA'S DAD

No. Our job is to prevent nature from happening. In fact –

*(LOLA'S DAD pushes past YANN and tries to adjust LOLA's dress.)*
Can we uh? –

LOLA

Dad!

LOLA'S MOM *(slapping him away)*

Absolutely not!
*(she readjusts LOLA's dress.)*

YANN

How about sexytime earrings?
*(holds up earrings.)*

LOLA'S DAD

Are you sure you want her to look like this? What if we added –
*(tries to add something resembling a black sheet over her)*

LOLA'S MOM

No no no!

YANN

Ooh. Sexytime choker.
*(Holds up choker.)*

LOLA'S MOM

That is hot!

LOLA'S DAD

No!
*(They fight over the choker.)*

LOLA

EVERYONE OUT!!!!!
*(They're all shocked. They leave.)*

LOLA'S MOM

It's just a phase.

YANN

Ya. I'll talk to her.

*(Lights change on them.)*

DAD

You expect our son to believe that madness? At first I thought you were just confused, but now I see that you are maliciously trying to present a fake version of the past!

MOM

That's what happened!

DAD

What *really* happened -

MOM

Oh yes please tell us about the "Show Cat" Competition.

DAD

It HAPPENED ALL THE TIME! But - before the competition you had found me –

*(LOLA runs in.)*

LOLA

Barry! Barry where are you?

DAD

And I was in my Trans Am.

*(BARRY enters.)*

BARRY

Yeah?

*(Music like "I want to know what love is" by Foreigner plays. They just stare at each other.)*

LOLA

I forgot what I was going to say.

BARRY

I have that effect on people.

*(He strokes her chin.)*

*(YANN 2, played by a different actor than YANN, enters)*

YANN 2

What is going on? I am foreign exchange student named Yann. From India.

LOLA

Yann. The foreign exchange student from India who's living at our house! What are you doing here?

MOM

He was from Finland!

DAD

Finland isn't even a real country!

YANN 2

Hello. I am so happy I am standing beside myself. I would like to mention that I am from India.

LOLA

What do you want Yann?

YANN 2

I am here to profess my loving you. And also I am from India. I just want to make that point clear. Would you be my bride?

LOLA

What? No!

YANN 2

Too bad. Our parents have arranged it.

BARRY

Yann, I'm as culturally sensitive as the next guy –

MOM

Ha!

BARRY

But the lady has told you no, and you need to respect her decision.

YANN 2

No dice!

BARRY

Then I'm going to have to teach you some respect. With karate.*

*(*pronounced ka-ra-TAY.)*

Hi ya!

*(YANN 2 charges BARRY, who does one move, and defeats him.)*

YANN 2

Ah! I am defeated! I shall return to India and no longer factor in the story because I'm not important to the overall storyline of you falling in love with her.

*(YANN 2 slinks off.)*

MOM

Was your head trampled on by a rhinoceros?

DAD

Shh! We're getting to the good part!

*("I want to know what love is" resumes. BARRY and LOLA take hands and rotate slowly.)*

BARRY

I've got an idea. Let's go to Applebee's.

LOLA

I thought you'd never ask.

MOM

Applebee's didn't exist in 1986.

BARRY

Let's go to Shakey's Pizza Buffet.

LOLA

I thought you would never ask.

MOM

It wasn't a pizza buffet! You think we went to a pizza buffet for our first date?

DAD

*Skipping Forward*

And he said nothing! Nothing!

DAD

That's not what happened! I am actually remembering this Baroli's place now, although it was actually called Barilli's. You've obviously misremembered it. And the waiter did hit on you, but it actually went like this:

*(BARRY stands up, taking off his glasses and putting on his cool coat.)*

BARRY

Hey waiter. Here's your tip for the night: hands off my girl.

MOM

Moments ago, you were all – Karl is sexist cause he claims me –

DAD

Shush.

WAITER

What are you gonna do about it?

BARRY

Perhaps I could introduce you to my fists of fury.

WAITER

Oh yeah? Well perhaps I could introduce you to my gang of thugs!

*(GANG OF THUGS charges in, dressed like waiters)*

LOLA

It's a gang of thugs! At an expensive Italian restaurant! Who would've thought?

MOM

What?

*(A song like Bonnie Tyler's "I need a hero" plays.)*

BARRY

That's all right. I've defeated you once before.

LOLA

What are the odds these guys all work at the same restaurant?

*(BARRY steps into the middle of the gang of thugs.)*

*(Even more ridiculous karate fight happens.)*

*(BARRY defeats all of them. He grabs WAITER by the scruff of his neck.)*

BARRY
Tell your boss – tell Karl – I'm coming for him.

WAITER
He's going to be waiting for you. With bells on.

BARRY
I don't like bells.
*(BARRY drops WAITER, who is now unconscious.)*
Let's blow this popsicle stand.

LOLA
We haven't actually ordered yet.

BARRY
For some reason, I've lost my appetite.
*(kicks WAITER absently.)*

MOM
Okay, so you're saying that on our first date, you single-handedly defeated a gang of thug waiters who attacked you in the restaurant?

DAD
That's how I remember it, yes.

MOM
What actually happened is that the waiter hit on me all night long and you were so scared of him you didn't say anything.

DAD
Ha! As you can plainly see in my re-creation of events, that I defeated him in physical combat.

MOM
And then we went to the party.

DAD
That I agree with. We went to the party at Mysterious Martin's.

MOM
Thank you. And it was like this –
*(The other cast members create the party at Mysterious Martin's.)*

KEYMASTER
I am the keymaster! Behold my glory! Give me your keys!

DAD

Steal much from Say Anything?

MOM

Shut up!

*(BARRY and LOLA arrive.)*

KEYMASTER

You shall give your keys to me!

BARRY

Okay, well I'm not really planning on doing anything that –

KEYMASTER

Silence!

*(KEYMASTER runs off.)*

LOLA

So this is a fun party.

BARRY

Yeah.

LOLA

You wanna dance?

BARRY

Okay.

*(They get to the center of the party and dance very, very awkwardly. 80s song that cannot be danced to plays. Something like "Sister Christian" or "Love is a Battlefield.")*

*(No one else is dancing at all.)*

BARRY

I like your moves.

LOLA

Thank you.

BARRY

They remind me of a beautiful bird that's come crashing to earth.

LOLA

Thanks. And you remind me of a… spaceman… who's fallen out of his spaceship… and his arms are on fire.

BARRY

Awesome.

*(The other PARTYGOERS continue to stare at them.)*

PARTYGOER 1

Um… You do realize that no one else is dancing at this party?

PARTYGOER 2

Yeah.

BARRY

I gotcha.

*(TRICIA steps forward.)*

TRICIA

I feel really bad for you. First you have to look like that, and then… you're dating this.

LOLA

There's nothing wrong with Barry.

*(She looks at BARRY, who is still dancing.)*

I mean… he has a few issues, but not more than any other guy.

TRICIA

Okay. But you know what? We're trying to maintain a level of coolness here.

PARTYGOER 1

Yeah!

TRICIA

So if you could take it outside, or maybe into a locked room, or maybe some place where people can't see or hear you, that would be awesome.

*(BARRY finally stops dancing.)*

PARTYGOER 2

Yeah! No dancing here!

BARRY

You know what? I don't care. Okay? All you people are too insecure.

DAD

Oh please. I would never say something like that.

MOM

Shush.

BARRY

So what if we like to dance? I think that's one of the things I like best about me. So you guys are free to have your no-dancing party over there, me and this girl are going to bust a groove over here.

LOLA

Wow. Thank you.

BARRY

Oh. And Tricia – your hair looks like a termite mound, okay? Like a termite mound that got eaten by a dinosaur and then vomited up and put back together on your head. And then like a bunch of space aliens came down and worshipped that, and right now there's a weird guy in the next town over making a sculpture of your hair out of mashed potatoes. So there.

*(TRICIA looks at him angrily for a second, then breaks down and cries.)*

Ha! Yes! I made her cry!

*(KARL enters.)*

KARL

What is it babe?

TRICIA

He's being mean to me!

DAD

Time out! Time out!

*(The action freezes.)*

Karl was your boyfriend!

MOM

Karl was Tricia's boyfriend! I never dated that guy.

DAD

You have the memory of a goldfish!

MOM

You have the memory of a dead goldfish! Karl was Tricia's boyfriend. This is what happened.

DAD

This is not how I remember it.

MOM

That's because –

KARL

Who did this to you?

TRICIA

That ugly looking guy over there. He called me all kinds of names. And hurt my feelings.
*(She sobs.)*

LOLA

To be fair, she was hurting our feelings first.

KARL *(to BARRY)*

What is your major malfunction?! I will break you.

BARRY *(backing down)*

Sorry um… sorry. Tricia – I apologize. Your hair has the beauty of a thousand suns. It dazzles me. Okay?

TRICIA *(through tears)*

I don't think that was sincere.

KARL

I'm not sure that was sincere either.

TRICIA

It was kind of sardonic, actually.

KARL

Yeah. Definitely sardonic. I'm gonna pound you into next week.

LOLA

Look we don't need to have a fight. Let's just go our separate ways -
*(YANN enters.)*

YANN

I will defend your honor!
*(Once again, "I am the Man who Will Fight for your honor" plays.)*

KARL

Who's this freak?

LOLA

This is Yann. He lives with me. He's from Finland.

DAD

India!

YANN

If you mess with Lola, I will unleash Finnish fighting technique upon you.

KARL

I don't have any problem with you. It's this guy here.

YANN

Oh. All right then. Carry on.

*(YANN steps back.)*

KARL

Now it's time to set my fists to pulverize.

*(KARL sets his fists to "pulverize.")*

BARRY

Look! We don't need to fight! I'm sorry! Just let us leave in peace!

*(BARRY begins an A Cappella version of "We are the World." He doesn't know most of the words.)*

We are the world…
We are the children
Come and make a brighter day and let's start doing stuff…
We are the world…

KARL

Not this time.

*(DAD steps in.)*

DAD

Whoah! Um… first of all – I knew all the words to We are the World. And second of all, the first lesson of karate is how to use an opponent's overconfidence against him. I actually do remember this incident – it went like this.

*(He takes off the glasses and puts the coat back on Barry.)*

*(YANN 2 runs in to replace YANN.)*

LOLA

Stay back Yann from India!

YANN 2

Okay. I am standing over here.

KARL

Now it's time to set my fists to pulverize. And I'd also like to mention that I don't care about Tricia that much since I'm not dating her, I'm really just angry at the fact that you're dancing with my girl here at this party.

MOM

Are you sure you don't have a Show Cat competition throwdown?

DAD

We never got to the Show Cat competition. Fate intervened.

BARRY

All right – well I'm sitting my fists to frappe.

MOM

Nobody frappe'd anything in the 80s.

BARRY

I should warn you: I have a blackbelt in karate.

*(Something like "Highway to the Danger Zone" plays.)*

*(They fight. BARRY is awesome as usual. They take pauses to make slow motion, super-awesome sequences set to the music. Finally – Barry strikes Karl in the chest with a karate chop. Karl staggers and falls to his knees.)*

KARL

You win, Barry. You… win.

YANN 2

No Yann wins!

*(YANN 2 leaps in and hits BARRY from behind, knocking him out.)*

Yann from India gets girl! Happy ending!

MOM

Wrong! Nope! Back that up! This is what actually happened!

*(YANN runs in to replace YANN 2. BARRY puts back on glasses and takes off coat.)*

KARL

Time to set fists to pulverize.

*(The same song as before plays.)*

BARRY *(terrified)*

I warn you! I know karate!*

*(*this time he pronounces it Ka-rotty.)*

**End of Excerpt.**
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