

Before You Know It

M: Unidentified Male

F: Unidentified Female

TY: Ty

O: Osa

ST: Stanton

D: Dennis

R: Robert

AH: Aunt Helen

DJ: Destiny Jacobs

DM: Dixie Monroe

G: George

SB: Scott Butler

[0:00]

R: You never think about getting older when you're younger. But before you know it, it creeps up on you and you're there already.

[0:38]

D: I really don't feel very old and when I look in the mirror, I say, who the heck is that, you know?

TY: As a little boy I wanted a mate who was like me.

[01:01]

R: You're just a sissy. They didn't use the word "homosexual" or "gay". In fact, most people didn't understand anything you were talking about when you were...you were gay. You had like your own language.

D: I think that young people can't possibly imagine that people my age could even have a sexual life of any type.

[01:31]

Before You Know It

TY: If you're not young, if you're not pretty, if you're not, if you're not, if you're not see ya. You become invisible.

[01:57]

D: Well as you can see it's the pits. I've lived here for oh some 12, 13 years. There are some retired people and some meth lab operators and...

[02:30]

My name is Dennis, 76 years old. Yeah I had a 28 waist back then, those days are gone forever. That's a Klingon battle cruiser. Do you speak any Klingon? Qapla! This is my old Air Force uniform. This was a squadron patch the 115th tech control squadron.

[03:04]

I don't know if you want to see this or not but it's a, it's a closet. It's my shoes and stuff. I started out buying underwear, a couple of years later I started, you know wearing dresses and stuff. I like to wear them just around the house, I'd never, never dare to wear them outside though.

[03:35]

Look at these monsters; break my neck in these things.

PJ: Was that something you wanted to do before your wife passed away or...?

D: Uh, yes I guess I did but I kept suppressed and, I kept things, you know pretty well under the, under the weather...yeah.

[04:05]

Oh I enjoyed being married. My wife and I we had our conflicts of course but we never stayed mad at one another. After my wife passed away I was pretty well lost and I experimented you might say. I feared for my job. I feared to be different in any way from anybody else you know.

[04:33]

It was kind of scary and I saw the psychologist for, well almost a year I guess and just at some point time I realized I don't want to die. I was pretty close to you know offing myself.

[05:00]

These are some sites I put my pictures on, let's see if anybody has snapped at the bait. I get contacted by a lot of people over the Internet but although they say they might want to meet me they never do. I guess meeting guys gives me some

Before You Know It

kind of reassurance I suppose that I still have some attraction; you know that I'm not completely washed out.

[05:35]

Yeah everybody likes to be loved and appreciated you know. I think that applies to almost every age. Hmm maybe I'll look at this one. Retirement for gays in Mexico it says.

[06:06]

TY: When I was growing up here in Harlem we were invisible. Everybody knew who was gay and we didn't flaunt it. The ones who did that were the ones who really paved the way for us.

[06:30]

My name is Ty Martin. I work for SAGE, which is services and advocacy for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender elders. I am currently the outreach manager. George oh my God you cut your hair. We're African American. We're gay. We're over 60...

[07:00]

...and we all wanted something up in the Harlem community. I cannot believe we don't have a gay bar here in Harlem. George are you and Ismael still dating or is it over?

G: Who me?

TY: Yeah.

G: Am I dating? I don't have a friend.

TY: So you're back on the market? You're back on the circuit?

G: Yeah I'm an antique shop.

TY: Oh George you're so funny.

[07:29]

If nothing else we had to be able to offer people a safe space where they could come and talk about what their needs are. So all you need to do is find a man to marry now right?

O: Who me?

TY: Yeah.

Before You Know It

O: Gary James Richmond...

TY: I said to marry...

O: No...

TY: He's not going to marry; he's not going to marry you.

O: He has a lot of marriage proposals he's sending me everyday about marrying him.

G: Who?

O: Gary.

TY: He's a critical thinker that's his profession.

G: Gary? Sure he wants you to marry him.

O: He wants me to marry him.

[08:00]

TY: Why what, what is it...

O: And I want to marry him but I don't want to marry until we get a place to live together.

TY: Osa and I, we've been in each other's lives constantly for the last 45 years. I met Osa when I went into the Navy in 1965. I, I wasn't like really out and Osa was hanging out with these perceived to be gay guys so the straight fellows didn't want me to connect with them.

[08:31]

And I used to literally sneak around to hang out with Osa. You know we've been through a lot together as friends, not to mention all of the people that we've said goodbye to throughout the years. This is a photo that we took back in the 80's, our group. Alan died, Bill died, Sherman died, Harriett died, Ann died.

[09:03]

If we hadn't been bombarded with HIV, AIDS, many of us would probably have had longer relationships. Most people lost their partners. Most of the friends that I grew up as a teenager with, that I envisioned that we would become old together and...they died you know. They died.

[09:32]

Before You Know It

I believe with the gay married, that's, it's only a matter of time that it's going to be legal and it's going to be the norm. It's going to be a natural thing, a man to be with a man.

G: Eh...

TY: You'll see. Remember, interracial marriages that was only what, back in the 60's when that was a no, no?

[10:03]

That's only 50, what 50 years ago. My point is that history is changing so rapidly and what what's considered unnatural is slowly going to be natural. This is my boyfriend Stanton 30 years ago. In my mind he will always look like that.

[10:33]

I met Stanton when I was 25 and Stanton was almost 30

ST: We were good friends then but then about six or seven years ago we changed the nature of the relationship to what it is now.

TY: What did Gloria tell you when you told her that you liked me?

ST: She said I was robbing the cradle, attracted to your youth and enthusiasm and all that kind of stuff.

TY: And it wouldn't work. Right? Did she say that?

[11:00]

ST: Well we were just friends then it wasn't anything romantic.

TY: No, we were just friends.

ST: Yeah.

TY: Okay, okay that's not the story I tell but that's fine. Osa was instrumental in Stanton and I hooking up. He was talking to me from one side and talking to Stanton, oh you guys look good together you know why can't y'all hang out...

[11:30]

...and it did not occur to me until we were watching the movie Dreamgirls and there's a song, when I first say you I said oh my oh my, and he said that's what I said about you. I said what, when were you going to tell me this? It was that basic concept well we'll just, just do it a day at a time and it's been probably one of the most fulfilling relationships that I've ever had...

Before You Know It

[12:00]

...without the stress and without the drama, which was not something that I was used to. I didn't think that I would need someone like him in my life until he came into my life.

[12:20]

R: Galveston is, is everybody do their own thing just don't cause any waves and we usually take care of our problems ourselves. Hi Helen did you already eat everything?

AH: I did.

R: Did you get a hold of Dixie?

M: She said she'll be down when she wakes up.

AH: That'll be tomorrow.

R: Oh that will be a couple of days, oh breakfast.

[13:00]

My name is Robert and I go by Robert the mouth the ugliest girl in the south. I got an opinion about everything. I don't care if it's wrong but I still got an opinion about it. Are you through Adrian? Could you move a little faster? Giving him a bad time all morning just because you can. I thought you was going to do that in the nude. Oh we don't want to see it. Everybody is welcome as long as you're a lady or a gentleman. I don't care if you're gay or your straight or you're bisexual as long as you have fun.

[13:33]

All our pictures up here on the wall, those are all drag queens. Every one of those have been on the stage here. That's my take off on Carol Channing. I'm so glad to be here in Galveston. It's Carol Channing. Well I was born in Houston. I didn't have a coming out party. I was out there all the time.

[14:01]

My father was a deacon in the Southern Baptist church. Well on Sunday they went up there and they started teasing me about not playing football. I said I'm no dummy. You're the one with the broken leg and you're the one with the broken arm. You're going to have trouble with that the rest of your life. I'm not stupid. I says and here you are in this church being so God righteous and giving me a bunch of shit, I said I don't have to take it.

Before You Know It

[14:31]

You can take your religion and cram it up your mother-fucking ass. I'm 73 and still going strong. I keep telling everybody, evil, evil, evil, evil lives forever that's why I'm still here I haven't terrorized enough people. Oh the crew of Aquarius is having a big garage sale.

R: Oh hack and cough.

DM: Good morning puddin pop.

R: Look, look, look you barely made it.

[15:00]

DM: It's five minutes before you ain't even trying.

R: Yes it is.

DM: My name is Dixie Monroe. I'm the show director and the morning bartender here at Lafitte, Robert's Lafitte. I've known Robert since; it's been 22 years.

R: Have you ever seen a bridge?

DJ: No.

R: Look a bridge!

DJ: No don't do that!

R: Gotcha.

DM: He's a crazy old bird that's what I would say. He's just a crazy old bird. I was 19 and I lived in a little town called Mahaya, TX and you know a girl like me doesn't do good in little bity towns even in the eighth grade so I left and came to Galveston.

[15:36]

He, he just kind of picks up strays, does that make sense? I'm just a little stray cat that he kind of picked up.

R: Well we better get on the road. We got five minutes, five minutes, five minutes.

DM: We're angels and his, and our bosses' name is Charlie.

R: Charlie's angel uh huh.

Before You Know It

DM: Oh shoes, shoes, shoes, boots. I found something for you. You can go to the football game.

[16:00]

Huh? Oh another Hawaiian shirt? There's a cop car honey just get out and get in it.

DM: No that's the one that brought me home.

R: How much are the hats?

F: 25 cents.

R: I'll get all three of them. Okay. I didn't find one Hawaiian shirt.

DM: You know most old people are addicted to painkillers; you're addicted to Hawaiian shirts.

R: Look what I found.

DJ: Put it on honey, oh.

[16:31]

R: How much is it?

M: \$50.

R: Okay. I got two shirts and a fur coat. Oh look a green thing.

DM: We think he's almost a hoarder.

R: Oh I am a hoarder.

M: How about \$5 for everything Robert.

R: All righty.

DM: Why don't you do a number tonight?

R: Oh too old.

DM: You are not too old. You ought to do Manamana for them.

DJ: Manamana...

DM: You really ought to do Manamana tonight...

Before You Know It

DJ: That would be awesome.

[17:01]

DM: ...just to do it for the...because you know your fat ass can't squeeze into your Carol Channing costume you fat cow.

R: See all the Hawaiian shirts.

M: You got medium?

R: There's a bright one, another medium.

DM: Hell yeah, it's Saturday night right here at Robert's Lafitte [17:24??] the oldest gay bar in state of Texas with the longest running drag show ever.

[17:32]

M: Ladies and gentleman please welcome to the stage Robert The Mouth and Barbara Sanchez in Manamana.

[18:00-18:44 Musical number]

M: From the sick twisted night please give it up for Robert The Mouth in Manamana!

DM: Make some noise for the ladies of Lafitte.

[18:54]

[Lady marmalade song drag performance montage]

[19:30]

[Lady marmalade song drag performance montage]

M: Ladies and gentleman the ladies of Lafitte.

DM: What we're going to do now is I want everybody to grab their glasses and raise them in the air. This toast is for Robert's Lafitte, 43 years of gay service hell yeah, and 1000 drag queens, long may she reign.

[20:00]

Come on y'all put your hands together for the gay bar. [20:04??]

[We are family song]

[20:28]

Before You Know It

D: I found Rainbow Vista while searching on the Internet. I've been searching for retirement homes that might be congenial and affordable so I thought, well I'll go on out and see what they have here.

[21:04]

I've always lived alone previously so this is my first experience in communal living if you wish to call it that.

M: Hi Dennis.

M: So Dennis have you adjusted to the time difference yet?

D: No I feel kind of rocky...

M: Okay.

D: ...and so I'll probably take an afternoon nap.

IJ: Hi, I was going to take some pictures of you guys.

[21:33]

My name is Ian Jones and I'm the manager at Rainbow Vista. Rainbow Vista is a gay retirement facility.

M: Yeah where'd Michelle go? There we are.

IJ: It's basically for 55 and older seniors where they can live their lifestyle and talk about things that they want to. Do you like Lady Gaga?

[22:00]

D: I'm not sure. I don't think I've seen her.

IJ: I don't know if you watch YouTube on the computer.

D: No not really.

IJ: They have a funny one for her.

D: I don't know how to do texting.

IJ: Oh yeah?

D: I'm more in the past.

IJ: Say cake.

Before You Know It

D: Cake. I appreciate all the trouble you folks went through on my behalf.

[22:30]

[Intercom: Return on register one please a return on register one please.]

[23:00]

[Shopping]

C: How are you today?

D: Fine thanks.

C: \$6.99.

D: Okay.

[23:32]

The folks here didn't give me any static about buying the nightgown. That's what I like to sleep in. I like to sleep in nightgowns and fortunately nobody says I can't so...

[24:00]

[Applying Make-up]

I just use the light stuff now. I'm going to look old no matter what I do so...

[24:31]

[Walking to Bar]

[Bar music]

BT: We have Captain Morgan, we have Myers, Bacardi...

D: Bacardi.

BT: Bacardi?

D: Bacardi yeah.

[25:00]

C: What's your name?

D: Dee.

Before You Know It

C: Dee I'm Candy.

D: Oh nice to meet you, well they say candy is dandy but liquor is quicker.

C: Yes, what made you come out?

D: Well I'm out here but I'm not out back in Florida where my main residence is.

C: The only time you come out as a lady is here, at all?

D: Well at Rainbow Vista, you know it's a gay retirement home they sometimes dress yeah, Michelle, Michelle and I.

[25:36]

C: So you're allowed to dress up in your retirement home?

D: Yeah.

C: Oh that's nice.

D: I like your shoes.

C: Huh?

D: I like your shoes.

C: Oh thank you hun.

D: Yeah, it's nice to be out here with you young people.

[Music]

[26:00]

TY: When I was growing up here in Harlem it wasn't so hammered with homophobia. Can't trust those people, diseased people, there's something wrong with those people, that was not a part of this culture.

[26:30]

Harlem Day, people come out to celebrate the culture of Harlem. Out of thirty some odd years of having Harlem week I have never seen an LGBT organization doing tabling or talking about their programs.

[27:00]

Before You Know It

I can't believe that that poster is up here on West 35th street. Have you heard of us? Do you know about us?

W1: No.

TY: Okay what we do is we, we uh advocate for seniors who happen to be lesbian or gay or bisexual. Every now and then I'll get one of those like smirks you know.

[27:32]

The gay, the gay, don't come over to the gay. How you doing how you doing? Hey how you doing? How you doing? Fine thank you. Yeah it's getting crazy and now we are getting the church crowd and if we can survive the church crowd after they just left the church we're like on the mark.

[28:04]

That will explain what we do and you can read it later and if you run across anybody that we can help let us know, thank you because God knows we need to help a lot of people. Oh God this is so challenging.

[28:30]

W: It's good to see you. You look fabulous. I'm loving it.

TY: Thank you.

W: You're breaking into that closed door.

TY: Thank you very much. To my amazement the community was very supportive. You never know who, what person you can possible help and that's always a good deal.

[29:02]

R: Aye aye aye aye aye that's a fat turkey. Thanksgiving oh it's another reason to have another party...

[29:32]

...and every year we do a potluck. It's open to anybody and everybody. Turkey wins again. Well being 73 it kind of wears you out. I walk Wal-Mart and by the time I go through Wal-Mart looking for stuff and I get back up to the front I'm like breathing real, real heavy.

[30:00]

Before You Know It

So my nephew runs the bar here now. I've turned everything over to him.

SB: My name is Scott Butler and I'm Robert Manor's nephew. Robert's faith in me is very important it's, it's he's seen me at my best and he's seen me at my worst over the years and hopefully, well he, he has, he's is very forgiving and he's always been willing to, after he gets over his anger to give me a second chance and I'm trying to live up to that.

[30:30]

SB: My family knows I'm gay. They have for, since I was a teenager and they accept me as long as we don't talk about it. I was told one Christmas I could come home for Christmas but I wasn't allowed to talk about drag queens but you know working at Lafitte's I mean what else do I know. Robert and I being the only gay, openly gay people in our family has I think drawn us closer because of course Robert wanted a connection with his family and when he was young it wasn't acceptable.

[31:05]

It was a disease. They wanted to send him to a psychiatrist. Nobody understood they, he was pretty much rejected. Now today my mother says, oh I love him and we always loved him and all that crap but it, the way they treated him then was very different okay, they don't remember, they think, but Robert does. Robert and I don't talk about emotions we don't do that huggy crap but we know it's there, okay.

[31:33]

We don't say I love you and, it's just one of those unspoken things. We're the businessmen supposedly you know.

R: All the customers, I call them all family because we all look after each other. If one of us is sick then the em you know we go over and check on each other. Like Bob's been, they put him in a rest home. We call her Aunt Helen but we all check on him and his health is getting real bad so he'll be moving to California.

[32:05]

So when they pass away they move to California. They don't die. They vacation in California and I'll be out there to visit.

SB: It's a bar supposed to be happy and have a good time and if we sit and whine about our problems nobody wants, nobody wants to hear about that crap okay. They, customers come in to whine about their problems and hopefully we can get them out of that mood.

[32:30]

Before You Know It

[Potluck at Lafitte's]

DQ: Thanksgiving is home. Yeah that's what it is.

DM: That means your saying we live in a bar.

DQ: No it's home.

DM: No we don't live in a bar we live above a bar. [Laughs]

[32:59]

M: Home everybody feels home here. Everybody feels like when he comes here it feels like they home.

M: I love you!

R: I know it's true.

M: Happy Thanksgiving Robert's Lafitte.

DM: I think that's probably the truth for a lot of us. It's you know, I'm cut off from mine because you know and you've lost yours so you end up with...

DQ: I lost mine.

DM: Yeah so we all end up kind of hanging out together and making our own little family thanksgiving.

M: Happy holidays, gobble, gobble you guys eat.

M: Eat please.

[33:30]

M: We've got hamburger, sausage...

M: What's on the top?

M: Cornbread.

DM: Happy Thanksgiving Robert's Lafitte's. Cheers!

R: Happy gobbler day.

[33:56]

Before You Know It

D: I wish I could move full time to Oregon. My relatives are kind of reluctant to have me part all ties to this area. After I retired I thought it would be wise to be close to my sister. My sister passed away a couple of years ago.

[34:30]

I have nieces and a nephew. Yeah I'm still not out to my family. Hopefully I'll remain that way because they're quite religious. I'm afraid I'd be disowned.

[34:57]

This stuff is invasive. It's not a native so it just grows and grows and grows. Nothing bothers it. Nothing eats it. It'll grow up like this in a year. At some point in time I'm going to be you know really too old to keep doing this, keep up with the yard.

[35:30]

I had a stroke about a year ago. All of the sudden everything seemed to be darkening. I thought well something that would just wear off but it didn't. I just hope that you know if I have another one or something goes wrong that it goes fast.

[36:04]

I, I mean I don't want to be crippled or unable, incapacitated is the word I'm trying to think of. I don't want to be incapacitated. I would rather be dead. Much to [36:18???]. I have several exit strategies, you breath nitrogen for about three minutes and that's all it takes, you're gone. If failing that I have a 38.

[36:33]

I don't like to contemplate it too much so I try not to think of it too much. In the meantime I might be hit by a truck while I'm out walking, so you never know.

[News report]

N: It's D-day for wedding days in New York. Will Senate Republicans continue to hold their piece on same sex marriage? Well today was supposed to be the start of summer vacation for New York state law makers instead for yet another day the halls of Albany's capital were filled with the noise of protesters and a flurry of activity by legislators in closed or meetings.

TY: Well tonight we are having a Harlem Pride board meeting.

[37:29]

Before You Know It

This is the area where we are going to have the Pride event, starting from there all the way up to two blocks. It's family. It's going to be a family event. Families are when two or more people come together and decide this is what they want to do, a union you know with or without the government's permission. That's what unions do become and that kind of reminds me of why is it so important that we have same sex marriages, because of entitlements.

[38:01]

That has to be the bottom line. Who cares about unions, we're talking about you know, the real deal, the real deal stuff. How many, how many people here live, live alone? Right and is that by preference or is it you just can't find anybody.

M: For me it's preference. When I was younger I always wanted my boyfriends to live with me but now I'm not okay with it.

[38:31]

You if, if I ever get another one you have your place and I'll have mine and we'll visit because I got, I just don't want to be bothered like that anymore.

TY: I know that today a friend is far more important than any imaginary lover or wanna to be knight in shining armor.

M: And my brothers over here together 30 years you say?

TY: But the Michaels are very unique.

M: Oh no we're not. That's why I like this business about protect marriage you know.

[39:00]

I always thing wouldn't it be nice we'll a law that outlaws divorce because that will protect marriage right won't it?

TY: Yes it would.

M: It sure would they'd have no choice.

TY: I feel very blessed to a significant other. You know I've had many friends who died alone and there was no one there to witness it until after the fact.

[39:30]

I try not to wonder what would happen with my life if Stanton expires five minutes from now.

Before You Know It

N: Albany's legislative session gets extended and the Senate burns the midnight oil on same sex marriage. If passed New York would become the sixth state in the country to grant same sex couples licenses to legally marry.

[40:00]

TY: So how's it going? Hi Ty Martin, welcome, welcome to Harlem Pride. Hey George.

F: You know they're going to...

LG: What we do here today is to recognize the rights of gay people.

F: We're going to kind of get things started because evidently the officials are trying to decide whether or not we can walk down the isle. So latest update is that the Senate has gone to vote but we don't have a result just yet so we are waiting.

[40:36]

LG: I am asking my colleagues to please vote yes for all New Yorkers, and to vote yes for me and Lewis.

[Singing]

LG: This bill this vote is about marriage and I am not, I am not prepared tonight to redefine that institution.

[41:07]

[Singing]

LG: Those recorded the negative are Senators Ball, Bonasec, Dfransisco, Diaz, Farley, Flannigan,

TY: These are great times now you know we can afford to take chances. We can afford to be vocal because I think the country is ready for this movement...

[41:33]

...and I'm going to try and do as much as I can.

[Applause at the party]

M: I don't know.

TY: Yeah, yeah let's go find out.

[Courtroom applause]

Before You Know It

TY: The bill passed! Wow, wow I can't wait to call my boyfriend who is in New Orleans and say so what you gonna do now.

[42:03]

[Music and dancing]

[42:30]

DM: Robert wanted Christmas up a month ago. The first thing we do is down with all orange lights and leaves first thing and just pile them on the stage. Where the hell are y'all going? They have to have a meeting?

DJ: I need to put my purse away.

DM: Lights, lights, lights lights.

[43:00]

SB: Over the past six months or so Robert has, doesn't spend as much time in the bar, he's got, he's older and he's got some medical problems and he's also got some worries on his mind now.

DM: Sparkle and glow honey.

DQ: Oh I got an electric shock.

SB: Hey Robert wants me to see about going and seeing Wayne; yeah well no I got it here on one of the lawsuit papers somewhere.

[43:30]

Okay about, about three years ago one of our patrons left here and about an hour and a half later he was involved in an accident. He killed three people a grandfather and two children. It was mother's day, which probably adds to the, the pain. He got sent to prison for sixty years for intoxicated manslaughter. The gentleman who was in the wreck, he won't testify against us or for us but since he was gone an hour and a half before the accident we all believe that he drank somewhere else.

[44:03]

DM: These are Lafitte girls. We put the S.O.S. out and you say Christmas or Mardi Gras or Halloween when it's the big deco's the girls come out.

SB: We have a lawyer here in town and he's got some legal arguments to put forward but I don't know how that works out.

Before You Know It

DM: Oh the puppets show y'all have got to come back for the Christmas puppets. Robert does those. It's so silly it's so...

SB: Everyone knows they just don't know the extent of it. He doesn't tell anybody what's going on.

R: There's a lot of pictures of people you knew that are already dead, gone, moved on.

[45:02]

Lot's of them died, just a couple are left. Oh we used to do all kinds wild things. Oh lots of fun memories. A lot of these are, Hal took on our vacations. There's a good picture of Hal. I met Hal in Houston and we just kind of clicked.

[45:32]

You click with somebody or you don't, so he moved down here with me and then we became lovers and stayed together nearly 35 years. Just like everybody else he was unique special in his own way. We worked together for years. Hal would get up early in the morning and he'd go down and open up. I'd go down a little later to do bookwork.

[46:08]

Oh that went on for years until I had my first heart attack and then, then I couldn't do everything I did before. Then about three years later I was asleep on the sofa and he woke me up and said I've got this headache God it's killing me. So I called the ambulance.

[46:31]

They came and got him and he had a stroke. So they took him on over to the hospital and they drilled a hole in his forehead to let the pressure out because the pressure was constricting his brain and Hal and I had both talked and we said well, if it's time for us to go let us go, instead of having to sit there in the hospital, and so they just unplugged him and he lasted about 30 minutes and then stopped breathing.

[47:10]

He was 65. These are hard to go though. I have so many memories. When somebody dies then you're, then you're left with a great big hole in your life.

[47:37]

M: Hi there Dennis.

Before You Know It

D: Hi Pat, fine.

M: It's good to see you.

D: Thank you.

M: Can you get that in there?

D: Yeah.

M: It's really good to see you back.

D: Well thank you.

[48:01]

M: Did you sell the place in Florida?

D: No, no not a chance.

M: Are you glad to be home?

D: Yeah, yeah glad to be back.

IJ: Good to see you

D: Nice to see you.

IJ: Yeah just getting ready to go home so...

D: Well have a good weekend.

IJ: Thanks you too see you Monday.

[48:30]

M: Welcome back Dennis.

D: Hi.

M: Welcome home.

D: Well thank you. Yeah that's nice.

[Song]

[49:00-49:30]

M: Where was this one taken?

Before You Know It

D: That was here.

M: This one was is here?

D: This was in my room.

F: But those shoes are his own.

[Song]

[50:00]

D: I hate this stupid game.

JB: My name is Jordan Bennett. I go to Mt. Hood community college. I actually got involved with Rainbow Vista with like an outreach program that our queer straight alliance was doing.

[50:30]

F: Someone had written on the sidewalk my bus driver is gay. Apparently the kids are using those terms freely

JB: Yeah the words are, take on different meanings now. They, they don't mean really gay anymore they just mean stupid like stupid or...

F: Are we stupid because we're gay?

JB: Are we gay because we're stupid?

F: Are we gay because we're stupid?

M: Good job Jordan.

F: Okay well we'll meditate on that for a while.

JB: People who are gay have changed so much you know like now it's all about the club scene and being all trashy and...

[51:04]

F: Isn't that the young scene?

JB: Yeah that's what I'm saying is I don't get a long with the young... Look at me I'm knitting.

M: It was pretty much the same 40 years ago people, we didn't call it clubbing we just called it going to the bar but sleeping around was very common back then... I mean it was the 60's and the early 70's.

Before You Know It

JB: I know but it was it was at least more like subtle...

M: Good God when I started going to gay bars it was the beginning of the sexual revolution and everybody was doing everybody.

[51:32]

F: Back in those days it wasn't that open. If you wanted a decent job or you didn't want your life to be hell you pretty much kept it to yourself.

M: I grew up in the 1930's. In my family nobody talked about homosexuality. They talked about degenerates.

M: Well part of our original divorce agreement was that I was not to have sons alone without another adult being with me.

[52:05]

JB: Me coming out to my mom wasn't really that hard because I wasn't afraid of telling her I was, I didn't tell her because I wanted to protect her because you know I did go through, you know a lot of crap.

M: Well I guess I'm still kind of in the closet really.

F: You are?

M: Yes, that's why I'm in Oregon and most of my family lives in California.

F: Oh the bay area? Or Sacramento.

M: My sister knows I told her last year.

[52:32]

M: I think that the coming out process is an ongoing thing. It never really ends, not for the people in our life and you're talking about yourself or your self-acceptance.

D: I never thought to see this in my lifetime.

[53:00]

Can I call it enlightenment or tolerance? No I thought that things would continue, as they were when I was young. Dee is going to be around tonight entertaining in her room.

[53:31]

Before You Know It

As I get older I guess at some point in time I'll lose sex drive completely. I don't know when that might occur. It hasn't happened so far. These are supposedly stay ups but they don't stay up all the time.

[54:00]

I not only look a little bit different I feel different. He'll be here at 8:00. I got dressed faster than I thought I would. I don't always have a wine before these encounters but it helps me to relax a little bit. I get a certain nervousness about meeting somebody new. They probably have the same feelings.

[54:34]

Well I, I'm really not looking for a long-term relationship. My experience in the past on some of these encounters is a, it's sort of like a wham bam thank you mam, if that describes it adequately. Usually they just want to get off and then get the hell out of there. That's alright. At my age I take what I can get you know.

[55:09]

TY: Do you know what's interesting about gay marriage? It's kind of like imagining an iPod back in the 70's when if you were lucky you may have had a stereo, no HiFi, not even stereo.

[55:31]

Yo slim what's up?

M: Happy Harlem Pride.

TY: Yeah Happy Harlem Pride to you brother. Hey guys.

M: How are you doing?

TY: I'm well. I'm well. So are you guys going to get married now that you, now that you can or you hadn't, you hadn't discussed this.

M: Now we're going to get married?

M: Yes I know.

M: What do you think about getting married?

TY: We talked about it last night that we hadn't really talked about it. We did talk about unions.

[56:02]

F: I was crying this morning out of joy out of like all those years that we didn't have.

Before You Know It

TY: Yes. Happy Pride!

O: Happy Pride!

TY: Ronald was just over here looking for you.

O: Oh congratulations.

TY: On what?

O: You are, with you getting married.

TY: We had this conversation last night remember?

O: That's what I'm trying to say. I'm trying to remember how, we didn't...

TY: Oh right, we, we didn't talk about it.

O: Right, right.

TY: That was, Stanton and I agreed we didn't talk about it.

[56:31]

M: Attention please attention please we're still not leaving for about 10 minutes.
We're not leaving till 10:30.

TY: That's amazing. They've been together for 54 years.

F: Actually it will not be 54 until September 1st.

F: Are you going to get married?

F: Probably we, we want to make sure that it will last.

[Pride parade 57:00-57:30]

TY: Wow.

[Pride parade]

[58:00]

F: Fantastic. I want to get out and start walking. Yeah I want to get off, now.

[58:30]

[Pride parade]

F: Happy Pride everybody!

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Page 25 of 46

Before You Know It

[Pride parade]

[59:00]

TY: I think being with Stanton has really slowed me down because he's very mature. He's very like laid back, you know I'm wondering about, I wonder about that, when we get married and we are going to get married and we haven't had this conversation yet. But the impact it's going to have on him because he's, it's not like he's, he's down low or not out I mean, you can, but he's not very vocal and visible you know. And I just can't imagine him doing anything very public and it's going to take a minute to kind of figure it out.

[1:00:24]

R: One of our friends just passed away. His nickname was aunt Helen. Every time you would see him he was always positive. Oh I didn't feel well at all. In fact I don't feel well today. I don't know it might be the new pills the doctor put me on. I have the water pills and all kind of, I got more pills than I do brain.

[1:01:00]

DM: Sister started this. It was a memorial tree and when she started it you gave a dollar and they give you a ball and they would donate the dollar to charity or something. This year we've lost so many people that I just wanted it to be, just put your memories out here. See I work in the morning shift and the morning drinkers are usually the older ones. I'm, I've lost mine, just about my whole morning crew you know that's passed away here lately.

[1:01:32]

I wish that there was a way that people would pay more attention to the older gay folks not just pass by them, oh look at that pervert chasing chicken. Well you know I hope to God you get old enough to chase chickens someday and then be able to afford it because you know the way these people pay for tans and all that shit that they don't need. Yeah and these people have saved money, these, you know anyway, okay is there anything else? Y'all are going to have me bawling out here and getting all uh...

[1:02:00]

M: Thank you. It's so nice to see so many people here to celebrate the life of Bob Haynes, who was affectionately known to all of us as Aunt Helen.

DM: Yeah Aunt Helen.

M: He knew everybody even Biblically.

[Laughter]

Before You Know It

[1:02:33]

He's left his mark on his second home, which is here at Lafitte's.

DM: Good morning.

[Applause]

[1:03:00]

DM: Okay everybody put a happy thought to your balloon of Aunt Helen and on the count of three let's let them go to touch the sky and touch the hearts.

[Applause]

Good morning!

R: Yeah.

DM: That's pretty uh huh.

M: Mine is stuck in the tree.

R: That's Aunt Helen hanging around, and have another drink. My lover is on here and now Aunt Helen is here, but we're all going to die one of these days we just don't know when.

[1:04:00]

DM: It's the world famous puppet show create by Robert The Mouth of The South himself, it's Robert's brainchild, it's his characters. I guess he's been doing it 25 years or so and it's these characters and they're puppets.

[1:04:30]

They're, they're behind you. I like knowing the tradition.

DJ: She likes the history of it.

DM: I do. I love the history of it.

R: Are you ready? I'm not sure I'm going to do this tonight or not.

DM: Why not?

R: I've got a bad headache and we wait to the last minute to get things started and that...

DM: No we don't, we don't have to wait that not one thing...

Before You Know It

R: You didn't remember.

[1:05:00]

DM: What didn't I remember now? You just don't want to do it?

R: Well you can do it, you're used to doing it. Pull it together.

M: So everything that we already had on the playlist is good?

DM: It's flawless.

M: Okay.

DM: Robert is not doing it.

DJ: Oh my God.

DM: Do you think that when Robert does this it has anything to do with his age?

M: No.

DM: Why do think he does it then?

M: He's grooming you to take his place.

[1:05:30]

DJ: Thank you.

DQ: Good evening ladies and gentleman welcome to Robert's Lafitte on this Saturday night. How y'all feeling? Y'all make some noise for this puppet show. My cohort in crime is miss Dixie Monroe.

DM: I want to hear y'all make some noise for the best bartenders on this island bar none. Please give it up for Jerome the dome and Bend all over. He has a headache.

[1:06:00]

R: I have a headache; I've got a migraine.

DM: Yes mam Robert the mouth has supported every drag queen that's ever rolled through this town at anytime.

[Puppet show]

[1:06:36]

Before You Know It

[Song]

[1:07:00]

D: This cruise is sponsored by the Aquafest people, and they're a gay group.

[1:07:33]

I think it's going to be fun. It appears that there's quite a few young people and then it depends on what your criteria for age is. I mean there's age and then there's me.

[1:08:00-1:08:30]

Excuse me; I just wanted to say that you look very nice.

B: Oh well thank you very much, what's your name?

D: Dennis.

B: Very nice to meet you Dennis I'm Bianca thank you very much.

D: When I'm dressed I'm Dee.

B: Oh I can't wait to see you. Are you doing it for Halloween?

D: Oh yea.

B: I'll see you then all right.

M: Hello, hello everybody this is our family at sea. Welcome to [1:09:00???

applause] anniversary, yes thank you.

[1:09:06]

We have one hell of a week planned for y'all and I hope you're ready to party.
Come on you can do better than that.

[1:09:30]

D: Hello.

M: Hey how are you?

D: Fine

M: Good how is your day going? Have you met, have you met Bianca yet?

D: No I haven't.

Before You Know It

B: I know Dennis. Waiting for Dee tomorrow, right?

[1:10:00]

D: Dennis.

CH: Dennis nice to meet you.

D: And your name was?

CH: Chris.

D: Chris.

CH: Yes sir.

D: Those glasses are just too much. So where are you from?

CH: Originally from Arizona but right now I live in San Antonio.

D: San Antonio.

CH: Yes sir. So I work for USAA out there doing. I'm doing investments with them.

D: Oh that's nice I'm a veteran.

CH: Are you? Thank you for your service, definitely appreciate that.

D: So are you by yourself too?

[1:10:31]

CH: Yep, yep I'm by myself so...

D: You know the trouble about you know being by yourself you eat alone and everything it's not too embarrassing.

CJ: Well you're part of the group so anytime you see us just grab us and come on in. It was nice talking to you.

D: Nice talking to you.

[Intercom]

[1:11:00]

Before You Know It

Tonight is the big event that Aquafest is holding and they'll have a \$1000 price for those entered. Hi. Hello I had an appointment.

[1:11:31]

F: Oh yes for you makeup?

D: Yeah my makeup.

F: Yeah okay. How are you? Looking pretty.

D: Well thank you. Where you from?

F: South Africa.

D: South Africa, my.

F: Yes. Let's see, what colors do you want like...?

D: Probably like the black back here, sort of like yours. Yours look very nice.

[1:12:00]

F: You look beautiful.

D: Oh thank you.

F: Look at this costume!

F: If you look at the light and close your eyes, do you think is it fine?

D: Oh I think they look very nice.

[1:12:30]

F: What do you think a little bit darker?

D: No it looks fine to me.

F: Wow you look hot.

[1:13:00]

F: Can I get a quick picture?

D: Oh sure.

F: You look awesome. Okay, thank you.

DQ: Hello darling beautiful dress.

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Page 31 of 46

Before You Know It

D: Thank you.

[1:13:30]

DQ: We'll be starting the show in five minutes everyone take your seats everyone take your seats we'll be starting the show in five minutes.

B: Okay does everybody have a cocktail? This is your moment. Everybody is excited. They want to feel pretty. You're not. Is everybody ready to have fun? Roy Bernard and what are you tonight Roy Bernard?

[1:14:02]

M: I'm a prince.

DQ: You're a prince. You're in denial Roy aren't you? Okay wait a minute you know in my 18 years on this earth I need to take a minute and look at this. You look like two thermoses that exploded, do you understand? Oh shit Lady Gaga and Britney Spears just came in.

[1:14:30]

Look at these two. Remind me when I get to that age to stop doing drag. All right now we have toddlers and tiaras...and hi how are you...

[1:15:00]

D: I'm just trying to think why I go on these things. I think I was the only single cross dresser on board that wasn't with a companion.

[1:15:30]

There is a stigma attached to being by your self.

M: Those dolphins are cute aren't they?

D: Yeah, yeah.

[1:16:00]

TY: It's really unbelievable because in two days Osa is actually going to get married. This is not something that I envisioned. We are both kind of bouncing believe it or not because I'm the best man and I'm ner...my responsibilities will be to carry the two rings and disperse that.

[1:16:32]

So it's a lot it's a lot. Hi.

Before You Know It

O: Hi, what, what are you doing here.

TY: Oh my God I brought the glasses and congratulations.

O: Oh please come on in.

TY: You would think that by him getting married two days from now and I'm not that there would be maybe some type of envy or whatever. Not really, I couldn't be happier for him. We're going to have the hors d'oeuvres here.

O: The cheese and the crackers.

[1:17:03]

TY: This here?

O: Flowers are going to be here, we're going to have flowers.

TY: Right so I think that morning we need to clear this off.

O: Well only thing, yeah, these things are just there. You don't have to clear them off you know, this, this is, this is...

TY: Okay so you're okay with people coming in here...

O: And looking at seeing how, who I am yes I'm fine with that. I'll move these books yes.

TY: Yeah.

O: The books can go underneath here that's all.

[1:17:30]

TY: Now the music, I'm going to I'm going to do a playlist of comfortable music...

O: Yeah like Phyllis Hein, Stephanie Mills, or Dionne Warrick, Barbara Streisand...

TY: Are you suggesting that...

O: I'm just saying...

TY: Are you saying that I don't know what people like to hear?

O: No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no you see I know you know your music but I think sometimes you just need a little...

TY: A little what because I'm not following you.

Before You Know It

O: No your clarity as far as what other people want to hear also, that's all.

[1:18:02]

TY: Oh sure.

O: That's fine.

TY: Look, look personally I just want to say that I'm here to be supportive...

O: And that's all right. I'm just saying that I'm glad...

TY: ...you know Stanton and I...

O: I'm glad what you're doing...

TY: Of course...

O: Really, I really am. I couldn't have done all this without.

TY: Well. So the rings, where are the rings and how is that going to work?

O: Gary is giving me his father's wedding band. I said I want to buy you a wedding band to match your father's. He said no. He said that's ridiculous. That's wasting money. My birthstone is his wedding ring.

[1:18:39]

TY: And what is he going to do with it?

O: He's going to wear it around his neck on a chain.

TY: Don't you think matching gold bands...?

O: No I have to respect his wishes. He doesn't, if I, he'll, he'll just get upset for me to go out and buy matching wedding bands.

TY: You see Stanton and I had this same conversation.

O: Okay.

[1:19:01]

TY: And that wasn't our solution.

O: Okay. If you...

TY: You have to have a ring. You need a ring when you get married.

Before You Know It

O: He has a ring. I have a ring. I have a ring.

TY: No you need a significant ring.

O: It is going to be, it is significant. It's, it's the thought behind, see a ring is just a piece of material that one said you have to have.

TY: It's a symbol.

O: And it's a symbol.

TY: Why would anybody want to get married in their 60's?

[1:19:30]

O: Because it, number one we, you ask me that question I am getting married in my 60's.

TY: Yes.

O: Well number one we want to make sure that both of us are, because we've been together for so long, whatever I have will go to him and whatever he has goes to me.

TY: That has to have a greater impact on the relationship.

[1:20:00]

O: For sure you know. Absolutely. It's, it's, it's what happens after that. It's say how much are you going to put into making it work.

TY: But, but your relationship is no more of a committed relationship than mine.

O: It's true. Yes absolutely. You know it's the same thing and that's when, going back to your original question about you and Stanton still you know being as one, partners and Gary and I being spouses.

[1:20:33]

TY: [Sighs]

O: I know it goes back to me and Gary but that's...

TY: No I'm not sighing because you and Gary but it's the same argument. I need to think about where do I want to go and how will I get there.

[1:21:00]

Before You Know It

This is really exciting this whole prep. You think that I was getting married. You would think that I was getting married huh?

S: You want to try a third time?

TY: You would think that I was getting married. How do you feel about that?

S: That they're getting married?

TY: I mean yeah how, yeah that they're...

S: Whatever makes them happy it's not my business.

TY: Well not that it is your business do you have an opinion about...?

[1:21:33]

S: I think it's great for them.

TY: Okay. It's great for them because?

S: That's what they want.

TY: I knew he was going to say that. Best wishes to you both as you set out together on life's most beautiful adventure. Great, that is so, and these are two guys. It can be.

[1:22:00]

Billions of people get married all the time and it's either I want to marry you or I don't. And you know I just can't, so...

S: And billions get divorced all the time.

TY: So, so why for me, so why are we having this great intellectual debate and if we have to debate this maybe we shouldn't have this discussion, so that's why we didn't kind of...

S: But that's my approach to life. I analyze. I look at what the options are, what the advantages and disadvantages are.

[1:22:30]

TY: Put that in the shopping bag. Can that fit in there?

S: Yes.

TY: Okay great.

Before You Know It

S: I don't understand what's going.

TY: Put that into that shopping bag.

S: Yes.

TY: That's it.

S: Or put it in the blue bag first?

TY: It doesn't have to go in the blue bag. It's a wedding gift.

S: What difference it makes?

TY: It makes a difference.

[1:23:00]

I think a lot of people assume that we will get married at some point. I think it's what we assume. No I that's what I assume. I can't speak for...

S: The jury is still out.

TY: Oh okay.

[1:23:30]

DM: I just got off with Robert on the phone. He's really not feeling good so he's not going to be down here today. No, so he really don't feel good because he likes all of this and he likes to kind of walk around outside and you know see what's going on out there. He's a dirty old man you know.

[1:24:00]

SB: The court date is about two and a half weeks away suit and because of some paperwork technicalities that, that weren't done exactly by the book it looks like everything that Robert owns will go away. I think it would devastate him. I think if he was going to die over some outward event that would be it.

[1:24:331]

He's been very depressed the past couple of weeks because of that. I think it would be devastating to a lot of people. I don't know if they all have to be out that day or whether they'll sell the property or what happens, but it would be a big change.

[1:24:58]

Before You Know It

DM: Hi boys and girls welcome to Mardi Gras. We're doing this to represent Robert Lafitte's.

DQ: Happy Mardi Gras!

DM: This is what you call prancing hallelujah.

DQ: Here you go happy Mardi Gras yeah woo!

[Opera song]

R: Everybody gets older it's just that I regret I don't have the energy I had when I was younger and I could do more things.

[1:26:00]

But that's life and then before you know it you're already dead and gone.

[1:26:35]

[Opera song]

[1:27:00-1:27:36]

M: Gay pride huh?

[1:28:02]

D: Yeah.

M: One of the highlights of the year.

D: Yeah.

[Music]

[1:28:30-1:29:19]

FR: What's your name?

D: Dee

FR: Dee, Frankie nice to meet you.

FR: Cute you look like a grandma, like a real grandma.

D: Well I should I'm 78.

[1:29:34]

Before You Know It

FR: Teaser! Well, balls out for you for coming out...

F: Is there room on the boat for one more?

F: Yeah, oh yeah oh yeah.

F: Is there room you want to come in?

M: Give it up for the Rose City T-Girls.

[1:30:01]

Happy Pride everyone!

[Music 1:30:07-1:31:24]

O: Oh goodness. Val is this okay? Do I look okay, my hair look all right? We're leaving but we're asking everybody be there by 12:30. There may be a lot of other people ahead of us.

V: Do you need anything else done?

O: Um, you said that you were going to be the flower girl so you can bring these too.

[1:32:02]

Oh gosh can you believe it. Those are our license, married licenses. We got those last Tuesday.

V: March 27th.

O: Yeah, am I okay?

V: Yeah you look very handsome.

O: As you pin this on me I'm getting nervous. Oh...

V: Handsome.

O: Oh gosh it's not easy being James Osa Sullivan.

[1:32:30]

TY: I release the past and attract the most perfect relationship for me now phew. Happy wedding day Gary and Osa, April 6th 2012. Isn't that nice?

O: Oh nervous and excited and full of a lot, lot of thoughts and emotions.

[1:33:04]

Before You Know It

I'm glad my niece was able to come and share in this momentous occasion with us. It means a lot. 10 years ago can you believe it? 10 years.

TY: So they're just kind of waiting on us.

S: Let's go then.

TY: Ah, makes me look too young too gay what the hell.

[1:33:30]

O: Honey what a beautiful day for our wedding. How are you?

G: Fine my darling.

O: Are you nervous like me?

G: Yes.

O: Why?

G: Because this sort of commitment, do you know what it means?

O: Yes it means that neither one of us is going ever say goodbye.

[1:34:00]

TY: This is actually happening huh?

S: It appears so.

TY: I just can't believe it.

F: You guys take this over by station five. Have a seat. We should call you in few minutes.

O: Oh in a few minutes really?

F: Let them go first. Go ahead gentleman. I got a couple coming out. Good luck.

[1:34:30]

TY: Did you hear what they said to us?

S: What?

TY: Congratulations guys. That's about as real as it's going to get for me today.

F: I'm so happy.

Before You Know It

O: Thank you. This is Gary's best friend Carrie and she's my friend now.

TY: Oh wow its' time. Come on Michael. So what am I doing with the rings?

O: No Gary...

TY: Gary gives me the rings.

G: That comes from my best man. He gives you yours.

TY: Okay so wait a minute.

[1:35:02]

F: Now serving 709 that's you.

O: Come on come on.

TY: And so what do we do with the rings?

O: Whenever they tell you, whenever they ask you for the rings. Is everybody okay?
I have to sit down.

G: Yeah I have to sit down too.

M: When am I going to come down here for you?

TY: We'll come to you.

M: Do I have Gary and James?

O: Yes we're here.

[1:35:30]

O: Come on in everyone, everyone. This is it honey.

M: We are gathered here today to witness the exchange of marriage vows between
Gary and James.

O: Yes.

M: Do you Gary solemnly declare to take James to be your lawfully wedded spouse?

G: I do.

M: Do you promise to love honor, cherish, and keep him for as long as you both shall
live.

Before You Know It

[1:36:01]

G: I do.

M: As a symbol of your promise, please place the ring on the each other's finger.

M: Do you James solemnly declare to take Gary to be your lawfully wedded spouse?

O: I do.

M: Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and keep him for as long as you both shall live?

O: I do.

M: As a symbol of your promise, please place the ring on the each other's finger.

[1:36:31]

O: Thank you.

M: And by the power vested in me, be the laws of the great state of New York, I now pronounce you married. You may seal your vow with a kiss.

[1:37:00]

F: One, two, three...

O: Yeah I never I never thought that I would be doing this. I'm 67 years old and you know you say well at 67 you know you're about ready to just settle, you know just read a book.

[1:37:30]

G: You're 67? Where's the divorce court?

[Music]

[1:38:01]

TY: Oh that is absolutely stunning. Well firstly I'm just honored to just be a part of this whole environment, this whole event, the wedding, same gender loving, same sex couple, New York City 2012. It's just absolutely amazing and for that absolute both of you and may you both continue to each other joy.

[1:38:32]

O: Thank you Ty.

Before You Know It

G: Thank you Ty.

M: That is so beautiful.

DJ: We have our second day of garage selling. All the proceeds of what we sell today goes out to Galveston Humane Society. Well because you know there's a lot of, when it come to like you know the gay community and stuff like that we can't, some people can't really have children so you know our pets are our kids, so.

[1:39:07]

I remember last year we had... Ha, ha I love you. I love the hair. I love the hair.

R: I just thought of when I saw it five-dollar make you holler.

DJ: Five-dollar everything is a deal yes.

R: This is a fundraiser. Hal started this years ago because everybody has a pet but there's no body to talk for them or speak for them.

[1:39:31]

SB: Since the last time we spoke we settled the lawsuit we talked about. I was very worried that there might be nothing left. The bar would be gone. The property would be gone. Everything would be gone.

DM: It's cirq-du-so-gay here at Robert Lafitte's we are here to raise money for the Humane Society of Galveston Island, y'all say hell yeah for the pets.

SB: The judge told us that we need to go through arbitration.

[1:40:00]

I didn't know if I was going to live in my car or eat out of trashcans or what. The lawyers seem to think that if we stuck it out and fought it we could win, we might win, but Robert didn't want to take, take that chance. Back and forth from the few dollars Robert wanted to pay to the millions that they wanted and we settled someplace in the middle and Robert seemed to be happy about that.

[1:40:32]

And I think if I'm not being conceded, and I'm thinking I'm more important than I really am, I think one of the reasons he went ahead and settled was so that there would something left for me. I appreciate that more than he'll ever know.

DM: Who wants to win the birdhouse? Who really wants to win the birdhouse?

F: Stephanie!

Before You Know It

DM: No fucking way.

[1:41:00]

All right seen that was honest right. Oh I got chills, tonight's winner nephew Scott. Give it up! Scott come here.

SB: There are a couple of people who really want it and I'm going to offer it to them for as much as they'll pay and all that money goes to the dogs.

DM: Yes mam so let's hear the first bid...\$200

SB: This is my dream to be here and to carry on the traditions that Robert has begun.

DM: \$250, \$300, \$500. Sold to Tommy for \$500! So far we have raised \$2292! You're fundraising divas.

[1:41:38]

D: I got my usual water bill and it was off the charts. I thought everything was fine when I left. But apparently someone had turned the water back on. I'll be going to look at what damage occurred.

[1:42:07]

Well here we go. Yeah, everything feels damp. Yeah.

[1:42:32]

Oh, yeah, here's mold down in here pretty bad. That's some black bold there. Yeah. That's a white mold. Mildew.

[Sigh] The mildew is bad enough, but the black bold is what really I dislike. Once the mold gets into a place like this, it's, it's really difficult to eradicate.

[1:43:09]

The place is essentially ruined. I don't see how I can live in it for any length of time. I've got my life tied up in this place.

[1:43:31]

So it's kind of, kind of traumatic to be shutting it down. I'll miss it to some extent because I spent many years of my life here. This was my home, my only home you know in the past. You have to part with everything eventually. I mean, what you call your possessions they're not really yours.

[1:44:00]

Before You Know It

You can have them for a time. Yep, you come into the world naked and empty-handed and you go out the same way. I don't think my family will miss me much. I didn't get so much as a Christmas card from them.

[1:44:30]

There we go. I don't think they really care if I'm gay or straight or dead or what, you know. I mean, yeah if I'm here they tolerate me, but if I'm not here, well, I'm out of sight and out of mind. I doubt very much that my life had much impact on anybody or anything.

[1:45:04]

I had thought it would be different but really it was a very ordinary life. I tried to do my best as I saw it, but no outstanding legacy, no great inventions. No, no dragon slaying.

[1:45:31]

At one time the place was fixed up pretty nice.

[1:46:00]

I have to start thinking about; you know, the end game, the last few years of my life. I have effectively cut my ties to Florida. I don't think my family has any further concerns with me actually.

[1:46:36]

DM: I'm so excited.

R: Jada, she's been doing shows here for the last couple of years. I'm glad for him. Oh I've been through this so many times.

[1:47:00]

TY: You know I could get married if I wanted to. I could still be happy without getting married. So that's exactly how it's evolved. Hi.

S: I could hear you down the hall.

TY: No you can't.

R: Aging, some people just sit at home and waste away. Not me. You keep going.

[1:47:30]

D: One of the most important things is to like yourself. Early on I disliked myself intensely because I didn't feel that I was living up to societies goals but now I'm

Before You Know It

comfortable as far as my concerned. If society doesn't like it then it's too bad for society.

TY: I would never have dreamt that the quality of my life would be what it is today.

R: Always thing positive, positive, positive, positive. Enjoy every day because after it's over you can't relive it.

[1:48:30]

[Credits]

[1:51:54 end of video]