

ROCK IN A HARD PLACE

by

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TREATMENT

OVERVIEW:

ROCK IN A HARD PLACE is the story of **Lance "Lint" Jones**, the legendary, troublemaking front man for the late 70s punk outfit, "**The Prix**."

Back in the day, The Prix made their overseas rivals, The Sex Pistols, look like Catholic schoolgirls. They were America's punked-out version of drunken debauchery, all neatly personified by their guitarist/front man, Lint Jones. When it came to women, drugs, booze, and the inevitable run-ins with The Law, Lint Jones knew no boundaries.

The Prix's 1978 album, "Glory Daze," sold over ten million copies. Five years later, with a few easily forgettable albums behind them and the constant drug and booze induced feuding between Lint and his bass player, **Irwin "Cookie" Kozan**, The Prix finally hit their limit. To the dismay of legions of loyal fans, The Prix announced their break-up in the fall of 1983.

Fast-forward twenty-five years to the present day... **Lance Jones**, who no longer goes by "Lint," is a twice-divorced father of three: **Prism**, the eldest daughter, is a direct result of his wild years and first failed marriage; **Martin** and **Shadow** are his son and daughter from his second, and he swears, last attempt at matrimony. Shadow, who is fourteen, happens to be an international pop star.

Lance's first wife, **Dr. Debbie Gold**, a former rock groupie extraordinaire-turned-national sex surrogate, helps Lance out by playing mom, when **Janice**, Lance's second wife, is off gallivanting around the Riviera on Shadow's money.

Lance, who has been clean and sober for over ten years, is a single, stay-at-home dad, plays golf with other aging rockers and his son, regularly attends AA meetings, and has plenty of money for his golden years... or so he thinks.

When Lance is told by his business manager and former brother-in-law that he invested and lost Lance's life savings without telling him, life as Lance knows it comes to an abrupt end.

Faced with massive alimony payments, Lance is thrust back into the ugly, soul-stealing world he had sworn he'd never return to - the music business.

It's a rude awakening for Lance. Things in the music business have changed over the past two decades. Now it's about downloads, not record sales; hip-hop, not punk; and what the heck is Myspace? At fifty, with thinning hair and three kids, one of whom is already a bigger star than he ever was, Lance hasn't set foot on a stage in over twenty years. What better time to resurrect The Prix with a new record and reunion tour?!

To pull it off, Lance enlists the help of his best friend, former rap star **D-Maja**. He and D's crack team of hip-hop cronies attempt to resurrect The Prix, and "Lint" -Lance's alter-ego, while Lance still plays the role of Dad.

PILOT: EPISODE ONE

"TUESDAY AFTERNOON"

The show opens with clips from the glory days of the 70's rock scene with Lint and The Prix in the midst of it all. Lance guides us through a chronicle of his band's career. A montage of snapshots of the band partying with Zeppelin, The Clash, and others, videos of their off-the-wall performances, arrests on the nightly news, and covers of Rolling Stone, Creem, Hit Parader, etc., depict their rise and fall.

The screen morphs from a washed-up Lint swinging a guitar at his reflection in a full length mirror, during his drunk, self-pitying days of the mid 80s, to Lance swinging a golf club on the eighteenth tee at the Beverly Hills Country Club, twenty-five years later. He's with Martin, D, and D's son, Random. During their round, Lance signs an autograph for an annoying fan who recognizes him. This appears to be his daily routine.

Lance introduces the kids. **Shadow** appears on MTV in the end of her latest video and a portion of an interview. The VJ comments that a part of the melody of Shadow's new song reminds her of Beethoven and how amazing Beethoven was "Being that he was deaf and all." Shadow replies, "No way!?! That poor dog."

Martin, a scratch golfer and a Buddhist, whose only friends are the pros at the Beverly Country Club, is with his dad on the golf course. He beats his dad and D easily, then heads off to play Alice Cooper. We routinely see Martin defeating various 80's rockers.

Prism, a Harvard Law grad and bleeding heart Liberal, is in court defending a psychiatric patient who was hospitalized because "he believes he can impregnate famous women by masturbating to their photographs, Your Honor." As Prism asserts that the patient is not a danger to himself or others, the man whips out a magazine with Shadow on the cover and starts going at it. Prism is appalled and unable to redirect the man who is carted away by court officers.

Lance is upstairs in his comfortable Beverly Hills home fooling around with Mia, his beautiful, Asian girlfriend. Amidst the heavy breathing, Mia tells Lance that she wants to have his baby. He says no, the foreplay stops, and they have it out. This too appears to be a routine.

Despite his wacky family, everything seems pretty good for Lance Jones at the present time. Then the phone rings...

Lance narrates, "They say your life can change for good on an ordinary Tuesday afternoon. Today happens to be Tuesday."

Shelly Goldstein, Lance's business manager and former brother-in-law, summons Lance to his office. Wishing to surprise Lance by making him rich beyond his wildest dreams, Shelly tells him he invested all of Lance's savings, about nine million dollars, into an IPO for a company that makes "iPads." "What the fuck is an iPad?!" asks Lance. "Exactly" says Shelly. Shelly claims that it was supposed to yield over a hundred million dollars within twenty-four hours of the offering. Just like Google.

Shelly tells Lance that he didn't invest every single cent "just in case" and that he has about seventy grand left. He also informs Lance that he still owes him a thousand bucks for doing last year's tax returns. After trying to throw Shelly out the window, Lance heads to his first wife, **Dr. Debbie's**, house.

Dr. Debbie is in the middle of conducting a surrogate sex therapy session when Lance interrupts.

As he arrives, Debbie, who lines her mantle piece with plaster of Paris penises of all the rock stars she's slept with, routinely switches the name on Lance's penis to the biggest of the bunch to bolster his ego. Even in his moment of despair, Lance can't help but pause at the size of his plaster cast compared to Robert Plant's, and he nods with a grin.

Lance tells Debbie what happened. She claims she's told him a thousand times to dump her good-for-nothing brother, as having a money manager with a gambling problem was probably not going to end well. She loans him fifty grand and suggests that he should make a new record. Against his better judgment, he realizes he has little choice but to take a shot at a comeback, but he'll be damned if he'll apologize to **Cookie** for something he didn't do. Or did he? Ahh, the 70s. They agree his problem will be their little secret, and no one will ever know that he's broke, especially the kids.

Prism bolts into Lance's house reading aloud from a front page article in Variety. "The only thing you'll find in Lance "Lint" Jones' pockets these days, is, well, lint." She demands to know why he kept this from her, what happened, and who else knows? Lance tells Prism his plan to reunite The Prix and to make another record. He tells her he's going to call **Rudy Trent**, his old manager, and see about meeting with some record labels. After all, he's Lint Jones. Or, at least, he was.

Prism cautions Lance about getting back together with Rudy, who is revealed in a not-so-pretty flashback to the 70's: a montage of various assaults on label exec's, sexual romps with underage girls, and handcuffs. Back in the present, Prism reminds Lance of the thousands that went unaccounted for when The Prix were on top, the fact that Rudy owns his publishing, and how upset he is that Rudy never gave it back. Lance agrees with his daughter, but what choice does he have?

Martin's golf cart comes screeching into the driveway; followed by Shadow's Hummer limo with paparazzi all over it. The house becomes a circus. Both Martin and Shadow demand to know what's going on.

Mimi, Lance's worried mother, calls in hysterics over the news that somehow has already managed to reach Boca Raton. At the same time, **Janice** rings his cell phone demanding her alimony regardless of the shit hole he's gotten himself into.

D-Maja bursts in with his reality show camera crew, which just about pushes Lance over the edge.

Lance focuses on reuniting the band and heads over to **Maggot's** - his former drummer's- place. Maggot, slightly paranoid from his years of drug abuse, makes Lance recite old song lyrics, that even Lance forgets at first, to convince him it's really him. Maggot eventually lets Lance in.

Lance shows up at Cookie's store, "Cookie's Cookies," on Rodeo at closing time. He's carrying a small, white cardboard box. Cookie hears Lance out, says, "No way" and tells him he's wasting his time.

Lance realizes his old friend is still too pissed about that night so long ago when Cookie claims to have caught Lance banging his wife in a hotel bathroom in 1983. Lance, of course, was drunk for most of 1983, so he can't confirm or deny it. As Lance exits he leaves the box on the counter. Cookie, without opening it, takes the box into his back office.

The office is a shrine of memorabilia to the Prix. He opens the box. It's filled with chocolate éclairs. He gasps, stunned, and takes a bite. These are obviously no ordinary éclairs. Cookie's in heaven.

EPISODE TWO

"THE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN"

Cookie's in his garage going through a box of all the old photos of The Prix. Lance's visit made him nostalgic. **Victoria** enters the room. She spots the empty box of pastries on the floor and starts nagging him about his diet. He cuts her off mid-sentence and tells her this was an exception because Lance came to see him. Her shoulders drop. She starts to lecture him. He cuts her off again to explain.

Somehow, and he has no idea how, Lance got a hold of **Eddie**, a baker from their days in Hell's Kitchen, and got him to bake a batch of his famous chocolate mousse and banana éclairs.

Lance then had them overnighted and personally delivered them to his store. Cookie, who hasn't had his all-time favorite food since he was about seventeen, is almost in tears.

He tells Victoria he hasn't seen his dick in nearly ten years, and what better incentive to keep on a diet than a reunion tour complete with album photos. Victoria sees how much he's hurting, and it appears she's got something to tell him. She starts crying too. She asks if he really wants to play with Lance again. He tells her he does, but he can never forgive Lance for what he did that night in London, 1983.

She asks him what exactly he remembers of that night.. We are taken back to hotel in London, 1983. It's the be-all-end-all of rock star parties, complete with booze, drugs, and girls. Cookie, right before passing out, opens the bathroom door and sees Lance, in his trademark leather jacket, banging Victoria on the toilet.

Back in the present, Victoria comes clean. We return to that night in 1983... It's the same party. In Victoria's version, we see Lint on the floor, absolutely plastered, laughing as he is dragged into another room by two half-naked girls.

His jacket comes off, they leave it on the floor, and the three disappear into a bedroom. Rudy, still somewhat sober, sees this happening, picks up the jacket, and puts it on for safekeeping. As he turns around, he spots Victoria in a corner, eyes half closed and drooling on herself.

Rudy glances around the room for Cookie. There's no sign of him. With that, feigning concern, Rudy helps Victoria to the bathroom, sits her on the toilet, and lifts her skirt. Cookie, trying to make it to the bathroom before he passes out, sees Victoria staring into space while Rudy, wearing Lance's custom leather jacket, moves back and forth between her legs.

Back in the present, Cookie's in shock. Victoria apologizes. She says she was going to tell him what really happened, but she felt humiliated that she was with a slime like Rudy. Beyond that, when Cookie accused Lint, she saw it as her ticket out of the world she had been trying so desperately to escape for years. She didn't want to watch her husband die. Victoria apologizes. Cookie's still in shock.

Cookie shows up at Lance's house and they make up. D arrives with his reality crew in tow. He is so excited to see Cookie and Lance together again, he tells Lance he's gonna put that call into those label folks he knows.

The first meeting D arranges is with twenty-two year old, **D.J. EZ Pass**. EZ's latest release, "Crack Houses of the Holy," has just gone quintuple platinum, and Universal has just made him the new VP of A&R. EZ tells Lance he's in. Lance is excited. EZ tells him all he has to do is set up a Myspace page, get about fifty thousand friends, and get into the top twenty downloads on iTunes, then they'd really be interested in working with him.

The second meeting is with D's Godfather, the president of Warner Bros., **Peter Von Havelstrom**. He epitomizes the text book definition of a WASP, with a bimbo assistant constantly refilling his scotch. Peter is a Birkenstock-wearing whack-job.

After an hour of waxing poetic about how he can prove there is life after death, Peter makes one whiney statement about how much actual "work" and development the reunited Prix would need. The fruit-cup record executive remarks, "Boys, these days, the definition of artist development is the size of Britney's implants."

Rudy calls Lance back. Knowing he might be of considerable help, but also knowing it was Rudy who banged Victoria in that hotel, Lance decides not to take his calls.

The band rehearses for the first time in a long time in Cookie's garage. They're terrible. The garage is terrible. It's gonna be a long road back.