"HEALTH AND RACKETS"

an episode for Seinfeld

Written By

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(Andy and I wrote this script after only two episodes of the show had aired—without the book typically prepared by a TV show for freelance writers that details information on the show about the characters, etc. Some ideas from this script actually ended up in later episodes—what's known to writers as parallel development, when two people independently come up with the same idea. Other stuff might be inconsistent with what came later in the show as far as character development and biographical information revealed about the characters, but that's typical of early free-lance TV scripts. Remember, this was written back when the show had three stand-up routines per episode—at the beginning, middle and end of the show, as the original idea for the show was that what happened in the show would inspire his stand-up routines. Enjoy!)
FADE IN:

INT. NIGHT. COMEDY CLUB

Jerry on stage.

JERRY
Last week after doing a show in Maine, I flew back on one of those commuter airlines, the K-Mart of aviation. When we were flying over the Long Island Sound, I saw some guy below us rowing in a scull, you know a crew shell. We buzzed right past him. A couple of minutes later, he caught up and passed us, and we never saw him again.

(pause)
Did I mention he was 70? But he was in great shape-- he was the Yugoslavian national champion.

(pause)
They say flying is safer than driving. Not if you eat the food.

INT. DAY. JERRY’S APARTMENT

Jerry and Elaine enter the apartment, Jerry carrying a pizza. Jerry is out of breath, but Elaine isn't nearly as tired.

George, already in the apartment, is sitting on the couch; he turns around when Jerry and Elaine walk in.

GEORGE
What took you two so long?

ELAINE
Both elevators were out of order.

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JERRY
(putting pizza box down on counter)
How come you're not out of breath after walking up five flights?

ELAINE
I take two aerobics classes at my health club.

Kramer enters energetically, carrying Jerry's bicycle. He leans the bicycle against the side of the couch.

KRAMER
Good as new. Sorry I broke it.

Jerry tries to climb onto the bicycle, but the seat is way too high.

JERRY
Are the elevators back on?

KRAMER
No, I don't think so.

JERRY
You just carried that up five flights of steps?

Kramer nods yes.

JERRY
How come you're not tired either?

KRAMER
I always take the steps. Beats joining a health club. Besides, every time I get into the elevator, somebody looks at me funny and gets out.

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GEORGE
Jerry, you have to get into shape.

JERRY
What about you?

GEORGE
I'm in shape. The shape I'm in just happens to be a sphere.

ELAINE
Jerry, you should come by my health club.

JERRY
Why? Do they have an opening for a comedian?

ELAINE
You do need to get some exercise. Besides, it's a great way to meet someone.

GEORGE
Come on, no one ever meets anyone at places like that. They're too crowded.

JERRY
Did you ever go out with anyone you met there?

ELAINE
Are you kidding? I wouldn't let any of those sweaty guys touch me.

GEORGE
Perfect. Now you can be sure of meeting just the right type of woman.

(CONTINUED)
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    JERRY
    I suppose I could stop by and take a look around.

    GEORGE
    Those gorgeous women selling memberships will eat you alive.

Kramer crosses to the window and looks outside.

    KRAMER
    He's right. If you're lucky. Blessed bovine! It's the mailman.

    ELAINE
    Wow, you're actually salivating.

    GEORGE
    It's the uniform.

    KRAMER
    Gotta go. I'll get your mail too, if you want.

    JERRY
    Yeah, sure.

Kramer exits.

    GEORGE
    I know how to deal with high-pressure salespeople; I used to get them all the time at the office. I remember a couple of months ago someone came in selling tool kits.

    JERRY
    That's stupid. Why would anyone buy tools at the office?

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GEORGE
Jerry, in the health clubs all the saleswoman are very sexy. They'll be wearing low-cut silk blouses and have big blue eyes and long, fluffy red hair...

JERRY
Red hair? Why do you say they all have red hair?

GEORGE
Shut up; this is my fantasy.

ELAINE
And they're all brain dead.

JERRY
Elaine, you belong to a health club, so you know what to look for; why don't you come with me?

GEORGE
You can't bring a girl.

JERRY
Why not?

GEORGE
Because. It's like having your mother take you to your first baseball practice. It's a guy thing, guys have to do it.

Kramer comes in the door, waving a handful of envelopes.

ELAINE
Well then if that's the case why don't you go with him?

Kramer tosses Jerry's mail on the coffee table.

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KRAMER
So yesterday I got into this cab; the driver's name was Julio Fernandez. I swear, my first thought was, thank God... an American. And he was; he spoke English, and he even had heard of Broadway.

(pause)
Seventy-second Street he had a little trouble with.

ELAINE
Cabs? Who's talking about cabs?

KRAMER
I was. Didn't you just hear me?
Mail's here.

Kramer starts to open his mail.

GEORGE
It's always here; it comes every day.

KRAMER
Did you see what I got? An invitation to Gustav and Donna's party.

JERRY
I got one yesterday. We all got them.

GEORGE
I didn't get one. Why didn't I get one?

JERRY
It's no big deal.

ELAINE
No big deal? No big deal? They throw great parties! It's an event never to be missed. I can't go.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JERRY
Me neither-- I'll be working in Baltimore all week.

GEORGE
Why can't you go?

ELAINE
I promised my mother I'd go to my aunt's sixtieth birthday party. My uncle died last year on her birthday. She lives in Philadelphia.

KRAMER
A lot of people seem to die in Philadelphia.

GEORGE
So? You know how long their parties go on-- you'll have a great time. Leave Philly by eleven, catch the train back, and we can be at the party by one-thirty. Where is it this year?

JERRY
At their apartment, same as every year.

ELAINE
Where are they living now? It seems like they move every year, right after they have their party.

GEORGE
So Elaine, can I go as your guest?

KRAMER
No guests.

ELAINE
Why no guests?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JERRY
Remember what happened last year?

ELAINE
No.

KRAMER
No one remembers what happened last year, but it didn't happen to anybody they knew, so no more guests.

INT. DAY. THE HEALTH CLUB

Having completed a tour of the health club, Jerry and George walk into a tiny room and find chairs. They are followed by JANICE, a red-headed woman, who sits down at the desk. George is overwhelmed by Janice's beauty.

GEORGE
(staring at Janice)
Boy, Jerry, this is some club. I broke a sweat just touring the place.

JERRY
Yes, I think you need a cold shower.

JANICE
If you don't have any further questions I can sign you up right now and you can start working out today. If you need workout gear, we can sell them to you.

JERRY
I'm not sure I want to join right away. As I told you, I'm just beginning to look at clubs and I'd like to compare a few.

GEORGE
He's just kidding, we'll join now.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JERRY
What are you talking about? I thought you said we were going to compare clubs.

GEORGE
Why look when you have the best right here?

JERRY
What happened to: 'Those gorgeous women selling memberships will eat you alive'?

GEORGE
He's such a kidder, you know he's a professional comedian.

JANICE
A comedian. Oh how nice. What do you do for a living?

GEORGE
I'm in real estate.

JANICE
Real estate. Oh how nice. I think you'll find that we have the finest facilities and the best price. We're running a special; if you join today you get eighteen months for the price of twelve.

JERRY
Twelve what?

JANICE
*(missing the joke)*
Twelve months. You get eighteen months for the price of twelve months.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

GEORGE
See that? What a bargain.

JERRY
I don't know, some of the machines seemed pretty complicated. I'd feel embarrassed not knowing how to work them.

JANICE
They're not that complex once you're familiar with them. Besides, as new members you'll have a free personal training session. We'll give you an exercise program, tell you your body fat content and instruct you on how to use each machine in your program. If you want to experiment on your own there's always a staff member on the floor to ask how to use a machine. You can always ask for help. You seemed to like the double shoulder machine.

JERRY
Was that the one where the girl with the... was doing...

JANICE
Yes.

JERRY
Well, in my line of work I travel a lot. I spend a lot of time away from home, and I wouldn't want to pay for time I can't use.

JANICE
Oh, what do you do for a living?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Jerry and George exchange glances.

JERRY
I'm a comedian.

JANICE
A comedian. Oh how nice.

GEORGE
And I'm an Elvis impersonator.

JANICE
Oh Elvis impersonator how nice. If you're away for a while we can put a hold on your membership. The time you spend here will provide a base to come back to, and when you're travelling, if the hotels you stay at have health facilities, you'll know right away how to use them. And when you're in good shape you'll suffer much less from jet lag.

JERRY
I still would like to compare a few other clubs.

JANICE
That's perfectly understandable.

(bends down to a bottom drawer in a filing cabinet behind her)

Here, let me give you a one day pass to use our facilities so you'll know what you're comparing. It was a pleasure meeting you.

GEORGE
Okay, I'll join. Are you free for dinner?
INT. DAY. A BOOTH AT THE DINER

Jerry, George, bagels, orange juice and coffee.

TWO OLD LADIES sit having breakfast at the booth behind Jerry.

Elaine, carrying a plastic bag, enters and sits down.

ELAINE

(excited)
They were replacing a clothes dryer in the basement of Jerry's building.

GEORGE

So?

ELAINE

So? There were all these single socks.

JERRY

So what?

ELAINE

So what, you ask? They were all stuck in the duct where the hot air blows out.

Jerry and George still haven't joined Elaine's state of blissful amazement.

ELAINE

Don't you realize? I've solved the mystery-- where all the socks go. I'll be famous.

GEORGE

Who cares?

ELAINE

Who cares? Here, are any of these yours?

Elaine reaches into her bag and throws a bunch of lint-covered socks

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CONTINUED:

down on the table.

Using a fork, Jerry carefully lifts and begins to examine the socks.

GEORGE
Are there any matching gym socks?

ELAINE
Speaking of the gym, did you find one you liked?

JERRY
We looked at only one.

ELAINE
Why just one?

JERRY
That's all that George could afford.

GEORGE
She was a piranha. You saw her.
(imitates Janice)
Here, let me give you a free pass.
(pause)
No man could resist.

JERRY
So I took the free pass, and George joined. But I'm not going to use it. I don't even have a decent pair of sneakers.
(lifts a sock and examines it from different angles)
Hey! My other red sock-- bought them last year in Cincinnati; I lost one right after I got back. I thought I was going to have to make a handpuppet out of the other one.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

GEORGE
So, Elaine, what's new at work?

ELAINE
Like you care.

GEORGE
I just wanted to get off the topic of socks.

ELAINE
I read this new manuscript last week. It was a horror story, and it gave me the creeps. I've been having nightmares, it was so horrific.

One of the old ladies 'shushes' the other in order to eavesdrop better on Jerry, Elaine and George.

JERRY
So you rejected it?

ELAINE
Rejected it? I recommended it to the senior editor- it's a great book. People who like that kind of stuff will love it. But today the author called me, and he sounds just like I imagined the main character to sound, and I think he likes me.

JERRY
But you've never met him, right?

ELAINE
Yeah, but in the story, the killer is in phone sales, and he preys on people he does business with over the phone.  I (MORE)
CONTINUED:

ELAINE (CONT’D)
think I'll give him my boss's number.
(to Jerry)
Have you ever thought about writing a book?

JERRY
Why do you ask?

GEORGE
Probably because you give her the creeps.

JERRY
Then I wouldn't need a book.

ELAINE
Well, have you ever considered it?

JERRY
No.

ELAINE
Why not?

The old lady behind Jerry and Elaine again shushes her friend. George gives her a dirty look.

JERRY
Why haven't I considered it? Do I need a reason not to do something?

Elaine nods yes.

JERRY
Well, first of all I'm a comedian, not a novelist. Secondly, I don't have the time, and anyway there's not much money in it.

(Continued)
CONTINUED:

GEORGE
I'd write a book.

JERRY
What kind of book?

GEORGE
About a guy who kills people who listen in on other people's conversations in diners.

George smiles at one of the old ladies; she quickly glances away.

INT. DAY. THE SHOE DEPARTMENT OF A SPORTING GOODS STORE

Jerry browses the wide variety of sneakers on the wall. Elaine looks at sneakers on a table while George sits schlumped on a chair.

GEORGE
Did you check with Gustav?

ELAINE
Yup.

GEORGE
What did he say?

ELAINE
He said no guests at the party.

GEORGE
And what did Donna say?

ELAINE
She said she remembers you from the time we all went to the beach.

GEORGE
Oh, right. I guess I'm not going.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

A gorgeous SALESWOMAN, dressed in shorts and a tank top, approaches Jerry.

    SALESWOMAN
    May I help you?

    JERRY
    Yes, thank you, I'm looking for something to wear while I work out.

The saleswoman takes a sneaker from the shelf. The price tag reads "$249.95".

    SALESWOMAN
    These are our newest model, with the latest in scientific design.

George leans over the back of his chair and watches, mesmerized.

    SALESWOMAN
    They have an air-cushioned insole, reverse fiber for stiffness where it's needed most, ample padding in the curves, and the softest, smoothest, most comfortable tongue you'll find anywhere.

Jerry takes a less expensive sneaker from a shelf.

    JERRY
    I'm sure something less fancy would suit me just fine. I'd like to try this in a size ten, please.

    SALESWOMAN
    Sure, I'll go see what we have in stock.

George watches the saleswoman enter the stockroom.

    GEORGE
    Jerry, I think I need to borrow two hundred and fifty dollars.

INT. NIGHT. JERRY ON STAGE AT A COMEDY CLUB

    JERRY
    Why is it that people assume that the later you stayed out, the more fun you must have had?

    (pause)
Wow, I didn't get home till four-thirty on Saturday night.

(pause)
I'm a comedian; I work nights and weekends, so I stay out even later. People assume that entertainers always have to be having more fun than everyone else. And we do, but even we have to run errands once in a while, get our shoes repaired. Of course, we can go to those special 'entertainers only' shoe repair places.

(pause)
Hey Jerry! How was Baltimore?

(pause)
I had a great time. I had so much fun I didn't get home until Thursday.

INT. DAY. JERRY'S LIVING ROOM

Jerry and George.

GEORGE
So you just went up to her and asked?

JERRY
Yup. I said I didn't know how to use the machine, and could she help me.

GEORGE
You admitted you didn't know how to use it.

JERRY
Sure.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

GEORGE
You can't do that.

JERRY
Why not?

GEORGE
You just can't do that. Guys don't do that.

JERRY
So what am I supposed to do? Lie?

GEORGE
YES you're supposed to lie.

JERRY
It doesn't matter; I'm not joining anyway.

GEORGE
You met a girl on your first time there and you're not going to join?

JERRY
Why should I? I can get one-day passes at any health club in the city, and there's hundreds of them.

GEORGE
What does she do for a living?

JERRY
I don't know.

GEORGE
What do you mean you don't know? Didn't you ask her?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JERRY
I did. Of course I did.

GEORGE
And she didn't tell you? That's a bad sign.

JERRY
She did tell me.

GEORGE
So?

JERRY
It's something in finance, but I don't understand it.

GEORGE
You're really not going to join?

Elaine enters, out of breath.

ELAINE
Can you believe this? Personnel sent every employee in my company a memo urging everyone to save paper. By the way, the elevator's out again.

GEORGE
Why are you out of breath?

ELAINE
Kramer chased me up the steps with a hedge clipper.

GEORGE
What's he doing with a hedge clipper in an apartment building?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

ELAINE
That's what I said. He said it was a perfectly good item and someone was throwing it out.

GEORGE
So how was the party?

ELAINE
I'll let Kramer tell you when he gets here. How was the health club?

GEORGE
Jerry isn't joining.

ELAINE
Why not, competition too tough?

JERRY
It's just not for me.

ELAINE
Then who is it for?

JERRY
It's for you, and for Annette.

ELAINE
Ooo. Annette. Tell me about her.

GEORGE
She doesn't have a job.

JERRY
She does too. I just don't understand what it is.

ELAINE
So where'd you meet her?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

GEORGE
At the double shoulder machine. And get this, the line he used on her...

ELAINE
What?

GEORGE
(imitating Jerry)
Excuse me, how do you use this machine?

ELAINE
(shocked)
You admitted you didn't know how to use it?

(pause)
How novel.

JERRY
The instructor wasn't around.

GEORGE
He was pinned under the triple shoulder machine.

JERRY
Anyway, I don't need a health club.

Jerry disappears into the bedroom.

Kramer enters the apartment and sits down.

GEORGE
Kramer, how was the party?

KRAMER
It was so much fun... I didn't get home till after nine in the morning.

(CONTINUED)
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ELAINE
Yeah, but we left at three.

GEORGE
So why did it take you six hours to get back?

ELAINE
Because the car that Kramer here borrowed broke down in the Bronx.

KRAMER
Wasn't that tow truck cool?

ELAINE
Yeah? You didn't sit in the back with the greasy wrenches.

KRAMER
I wanted to.

Jerry returns from his bedroom carrying a basketball.

GEORGE
That's it? That's your better idea?

JERRY
There's a schoolyard right down the block. All I need is a pair of sneakers, not some fancy chrome health club.

ELAINE
What if there's no one to play with?

JERRY
Then I'll go riding.

Jerry puts down the basketball and starts fiddling with his bicycle.

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CONTINUED:

JERRY
By the way, Kramer, you left the seat too high and I can't get it back down.

KRAMER
Of course not; you need an allen wrench... I know where there's a tow truck full of them.

JERRY
I'm not going to call a tow truck to come adjust my bicycle seat because I don't have an allen wrench.

GEORGE
Don't worry; I have a whole set I bought a few months ago.

INT. NIGHT. COMEDY CLUB

Jerry on stage.

JERRY
I keep meeting women, but I don't always understand what they do for a living. I have a college education, but the world's just getting too complicated. Comedian, that's simple. I tell jokes... people pay me to make them laugh, or, more correctly somebody pays me to make people laugh so hard that they don't notice how much the drinks are watered down. I don't think we need any job that takes more than ten words to explain...

(bends toward audience member)

What do you do for a living?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

FIRST AUDIENCE MEMBER
I'm a third grade teacher.

JERRY
Fine. And you?

Jerry bends over and holds the microphone to ANOTHER AUDIENCE MEMBER.

SECOND AUDIENCE MEMBER
I'm an aeronautical engineer; I design rocket engines.

JERRY
Great. The job may require precise technical skills, but the explanation is simple.

(pause)
I met this girl... she's...
(mimics voice)
...an investment banker.
(normal voice)
Okay, I know what a bank does. You give them your money, they lend it to someone else and you never see it again. But what does an investment banker do? I asked.

(mimics voice)
I arrange swaps to arbitrage or defease the bank's bond portfolio.
(normal voice)
What does that mean?
(mimics voice)
We want to make sure that our risk exposure, both by duration and currency-
(makes game show BUZZING NOISE)
Sorry, took too long-- your position in society has been eliminated.

FADE.