

Magnolia Scene

Frank T.J. Mackey walks into an interview room with an entourage. He greets Gwen, the interviewer.

FRANK'S RIGHT HAND MAN: Chief, this is Gwen from the show "Profiles," for the interview.

FRANK: Hello, hello, I'm a bit out of breath from all this work --

GWEN: That's fine. It's nice to meet you.

FRANK: Are we gonna tape some stuff now?

GWEN: If you're up to it, I've got us set up..

FRANK You got us a room so quick?

Frank and his man laugh at the joke.

FRANK: I'm kidding of course.

They both get touched up for the interview.

FRANK: I swear to fucking-god, when I do one-a-my seminars, I'm Superman! I'm Batman! I'm like a fucking action hero the way I feel afterwards, like I could walk out this door, down the street, pick up any fuckin' pootie I see that has even one second to stop --

GWEN: All it takes is one second?

FRANK: Just one look, one hesitation, one subtle gesture for me to know -- And Bing-Bam-Boom I'm away on a tangent -- I get so fuckin' amped at these seminars and lemme tell you why: Because I Am What I Believe. I am what I teach, I do as I say, I live by these rules as religiously as I preach them: And you wanna know what? I'm gettin' pussy left, right, up, down, center and sideways.

GWEN: I'm gonna start --

FRANK: Go, go, go. I'm givin' u pearls here. And I'll tell you something else: I'm not succeeding in the bush because I'm Frank TJ Mackey. If anything, there are women out there that want to destroy me -- it makes it twice as hard for me, I run into some little muffin, knows who I am, knows my schemes and plans -- shit, she's gonna wanna fuck around, prove to her friends, say, "Yaddda-yadda-yadda, I saw that guy, he wasn't anything, didn't get me." But I'll tell you this: The battle of the bush is being fought and won by Team Mackey. Can I have a cigarette?

GWEN: Ok. So, lemme just ask you a couple questions to start

Frank's man hands him a cigarette and lights it. He exhales.

FRANK: What do you want to know?

GWEN: Where are you from originally?

FRANK: Around here.

GWEN: The valley?

FRANK: Hollywood, mainly.

GWEN: And what did your parents do?

FRANK: My father worked in television. My mother -- this is gonna sound silly to you -- she was a librarian.

GWEN: Why does that sound silly?

FRANK: Well I guess it doesn't.

GWEN: Does your mother still work?

FRANK: She's retired.

GWEN: Are you close?

FRANK: She's my mother.

GWEN: What does she say about "Seduce and Destroy."

FRANK: "Go Get 'Em, Honey."

GWEN: And your father?

FRANK: He passed away.

GWEN: I'm sorry.

FRANK: People die.

GWEN: I wouldn't have asked --

FRANK: Not a problem.

GWEN: And you ended up at UC Berkely --Psychology major?

FRANK: Right.

GWEN: Do you have your masters?

FRANK: ...this close...Muffy, can I get another ciggy?

GWEN: See, I thought you grew up here in the valley

FRANK: Like I said, yeah

GWEN: And you went to Van Nuys High, right?

FRANK: I don't how much I went -- but I was enrolled. I was such a loser back then. I was -- misguided, pathetic -- I was very fat. Not even close to what I am today. Not the Frank TJ Mackey you're eager to talk to because I was swimming in what was as opposed to what I wanted.

GWEN: Where does that name come from?

FRANK: What name? My name?

GWEN: Mackey. It's not your given name, right?

FRANK: My mother's name, actually. You've done your research.

GWEN: And "Frank?"

FRANK: "Frank" was my mother's father.

GWEN: Ok. That's why. I had trouble locating your school records at Berkely and UCLA. Your name change -- they had no official enrollment.

FRANK: Oh, yeah. No, no, no. They wouldn't...

GWEN: They wouldn't?

FRANK: No, no, no. I wasn't officialy enrolled, that's right. Was that unclear?

GWEN: Kind of.

FRANK: I wouldn't want that to be misunderstood: My enrollment was totally unoffical because I was, sadly, unable to afford tuition up there. But there were three wonderful men who were kind enough to let me sit in on their classes, and they're names are: Macready, Horn and Langtree among others. I was completely independent financially, So what we're looking at here is a true rags to riches story and I think that's what most people respond to in "Seduce," And At The End Of The Day? Hey -- it may not even be about picking up chicks and sticking your cock in -- it's about finding What You Can Be In This World. Defining It. Controlling It and saying: I will take what is mine. You just happen to get a blow job out of it, then hey-what-the-fuck- why-not? he.he.he.

GWEN: Let's talk about --

FRANK: I just realized this is for television, isn't it? I can't swear up and down like I just did.

GWEN: It's fine. I'll just bleep it out.

FRANK: I warned you -- I get on a roll...

GWEN: Let's talk more about your background --

FRANK: Muffy -- coffee?

Muffy moves to pour a cup, Gwen look down at her clipboard, then:

GWEN: I'm confused about your past is the thing.

FRANK: Is that still lingering?

GWEN: Just to clarify -- I would just like to clear some things up:

FRANK: (Muffy delivers coffee) Thank you, Muffy. Funny thing is: This is an important element of, "Seduce and Destroy:" "Facing the past is an important way in not making progress," that's something I tell my men over and over --

GWEN: This isn't meant --

FRANK: I try and teach the students to ask: What is it in aid of?

GWEN: Are you asking me that?

FRANK: Yes.

GWEN: Well, just trying to figure out who you are, and how you might have become --

FRANK: In aid of what?

GWEN: I'm saying, Frank, in trying to figure out who you are --

FRANK: There's a lot more important things I'd like to put myself into

GWEN: It's all important --

FRANK: Not really.

GWEN: It's not like I'm trying to attack you --

FRANK: This is how you wanna spend the time, then go, go, go -- you're gonna be surprised at what a waste it is -- "The most useless thing in the world is that which is behind me," Chapter Three --

GWEN: We talked earlier about your mother. And we talked about your father and his death. And I don't want to be challenging or defeatist here, but I have to ask and I would want to clarify something -- something that I understand --

FRANK: I'm not sure I hear a question in there?

GWEN: Do you remember a Miss Simms?

FRANK: I know a lotta women and I'm sure she remembers me.

GWEN: She does. From when you were a boy.

FRANK Mm. Hm.

GWEN: She lived in Tarzana.

FRANK: My old stomping ground --is this the "attack" portion of the interview?

GWEN: No, this is about getting something right and clarifying one of your answers to an earlier question.

FRANK: Go ahead and waste your time.

GWENOVIER: I was told that your mother died. That your mother died when you were young...

FRANK: And that's what you've heard?

GWEN: I talked to Miss Simms. Miss Simms was your caretaker and neighbor after your mother died in 1980.

BEAT. Frank goes silent.

GWEN: In my research I have you listed as the only son of Earl and Lily Partridge. And what I learned from Mrs. Simms is that your mother passed away in 1980. It's my understanding that the information supplied by you and your company and answers to question's I've asked are incorrect, Frank. And if I'd like to get to the bottom of who you are and why you are then I think your family history -- you're accurate family history...well this seems important...Frank...?

Frank lights his cigarette.

FRANK: Are you asking me a question?

GWEN: Well I guess the question is this: Do you remember Miss Simms?

BEAT. HOLD, THEN:

GWEN: Frank...Frank... Are we having a staring contest? Do you have anything to say?

FRANK'S RIGHT HAND MAN: I think maybe we should rap this up, Chief --

Frank SNAPS his fingers and signals his man to stay quiet.

GWEN: I'm not trying to attack you, Frank. I think that if you have something that needs to be cleared up...Well, then... I was told that your father, that he left you and your mother and you were forced to take care of her during her illness...that you took care of your mother as she struggled with Cancer.... And Miss Simms became your caretaker after your mother died...Frank, can you talk about your Mother?

HOLD, THEN:

GWEN: C'mon, Frank. What are you doing?

FRANK: What am I doing?

GWEN: Yeah.

FRANK: I'm quietly judging you.

He looks at his watch, then:

FRANK: Time's up. Thank you for the interview.

GWEN: So you sat it out, that's what you did?

FRANK: You requested my time and I gave it you, you called me a liar and made accusations. And you say, "If I'd known I wouldn't have asked," then it's not an attack? Well, I don't wanna be the sort of fella who doesn't keep his word. I gave you my time, Bitch. So fuck you.

Frank spits on her. She pushes him away. He and his gang are out the door quick. She sits there, frazzled.