

JEFF: ACT I monologue (LOBBY HERO)

I always thought I had a lot of potential. I guess I just lost my way a little bit. I don't know. And I'm not blaming anybody else....seriously. But, I really had a rough time the last couple of years. I'm not sayin' it's all bad luck. I know you gotta take responsibility for yourself. But do you know from the time I came home from the Navy my old man wouldn't even talk to me? I only went into the Navy to get him off my back in the first place. Then I get kicked out...and he was ashamed of me. Cause he was this big Navy guy, 'cause he saved all these guys' lives on his ship when he was Korea. Big deal. *(Pause)* Actually, it's a really amazing story. Ship hits an old mine at two o'clock in the morning, twenty-three guys trapped below decks. Everybody jumps overboard except my old man. He finds a blow torch, goes below decks in the pitch dark, the ship is going like this, *(makes a steep incline with his hand)* these guys are screamin' for their lives, there's water comin' up to his elbows... two minutes before the ship goes down, he cuts open the bulkhead, everybody gets out. Twenty-three guys he saved, not one of em drowned. *(Pause)* Yeah, I know it's impressive,... because my whole life I gotta hear this fucking story. Several times a year, as you can probably imagine, over and over and over again. Every year when I was a kid they had this big get together in New Jersey, they send flowers, cards, whiskey, cigars, all these old guys and their wives and kids and grandkids who they never woulda had all crying and kissing my old man and making speeches about what a great guy he is. And I'm like, Yeah, that's because you only gotta see they guy once a year, for like three and a half hours at a time. Any of you morons try living with this guy for two days and you would throw him in the fucking ocean and drown him yourself. Asshole. Maybe if my ship woulda blown up I woulda gotta a better start in life.