

THE MARVELOUS MRS. MAISEL S4E1 SPEC

Written by

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EXT. RURAL OHIO HIGHWAY OUTSIDE CLEVELAND - DAY

"Vacation" by Connie Francis. Stylish feet dangle out the window of Susie's shitty car in the early spring sunshine. The feet are attached to the lounging legs of Midge Maisel.

SUSIE
Headlining!

INT. SUSIE'S SHITTY CAR - CONTINUOUS

Midge smiles over sunglasses. Bright sun lights her face.

MIDGE
Midge Maisel: a household name,
like Dr. Spock. And Clorox!

Midge tucks her feet back inside the car and fluffs her hair.

SUSIE
Who needs Shy Baldwin?

Pause. Midge is a tad perturbed but she keeps up the bit.

MIDGE
Shy who?

EXT. RURAL OHIO HIGHWAY OUTSIDE CLEVELAND - DAY

The car puttters past a cracked painted sign reading "Road Food: 24-Hours."

SUSIE (O.S.)
Next up: a weekly slot at the
Coppa. Then: Ed Sullivan!

MIDGE (O.S.)
My next weird ask will be diamonds

The car pulls into the gravel lot of Road Food.

SUSIE (O.S.)
Forget Ed, you'll have your own
show! Midge Maisel Variety Hour!

MIDGE (O.S.)
But then who will give me diamonds?

SUSIE (O.S.)
You'll give yourself diamonds.

Susie's car jerks to a stop.

INT. MIDGE'S APARTMENT FOYER - DAY

The hall is filled with boxes and parcels. The hustle and bustle is familiar, but different. Abe dashes toward the front door.

Rose darts out of the kitchen and takes Abe's coat off the hook before he can put it on.

ROSE
Why Abe, where are you going? It's
Ethan's first day at Collegiate!

Abe reaches for the coat.

ABE
Can't you take him?

ROSE
His father's taking him.

The phone rings. Rose steps over to answer the phone, bringing the coat with her.

INT. PHONE BOOTH OUTSIDE ROAD FOOD - DAY

Midge is squeezed into the booth. Through the filthy glass walls we can hazily make out Susie in the diner with a menu.

MIDGE
Mama?

INT. MIDGE'S APARTMENT - DAY

ROSE
(into the phone)
Darling!
(to Abe)
It's Midge.

Abe swipes at his coat but Rose pulls it cheerfully away.

ABE
If Joel's taking him, what's the
problem?

ROSE
It's an important occasion! Zelda's
prepared a formal breakfast.

ABE
 Formal...breakfast? Darling, you
 never cease to surprise me with
 opportunities to wear a tie, but I
 I'm needed at the paper.

MIDGE (O.S.)
 (through the phone)
 Mama?

Rose waves Abe away and turns to the phone.

INTERCUT PHONE CALL

In the phone booth Midge notices gum stuck to a wall and
 leans away from it.

MIDGE (CONT'D)
 Mama let me talk to Ethan.

ROSE
 Darling it's his first day of
 Collegiate!

MIDGE
 Yes I know that's why I'm calling.
 How's my apartment?

In the apartment Abe reaches for the coat and Rose holds it
 away from his grasp.

ROSE
 Your father won't have formal
 breakfast.

MIDGE
 Can I talk to Ethan, please?

Abe snatches the coat, pecks Rose on the cheek, and dashes
 out the door.

ROSE
 Abe! Come back!

Rose drops the phone and runs after him.

MIDGE
 Hello? Hello?

Midge sighs and hangs up.

END PHONE CALL.

INT. MIDGE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Rose returns through the still-open door of the apartment. She picks up the phone. Listens. Hangs it up. Thinks...and opens a little drawer filled with flowery business cards.

She plucks out a card, dials, and dons her most refined charm.

ROSE

Harriet! Rose Weissman. How was Caroline's lunch with Robbie Wexler?

INT. ROAD FOOD DINER - DAY

Midge slides into a booth across from Susie in the dingiest diner we have ever seen. This is no stage deli.

Susie looks over her shoulder at the sole other patron in the restaurant: an OLD MAN who hunches over a plate of brown goo and feebly spoons a dribble of the goo into his mouth.

A WAITRESS (wrinkled, stained) approaches, chewing a cigarette.

WAITRESS

Eatin'?

SUSIE & MIDGE

Just coffee.

The waitress slaps two coffees in front of them. They slosh onto the table. There's a lipstick stain on Midge's cup.

MIDGE

Nice place.

SUSIE

Only the best for the headliner.

MIDGE

Are you sure we can afford the extravagance?

SUSIE

You don't worry about that, I do.

MIDGE

We're not quite getting paid international-tour-plus-Christmas-special-rates, though, are we?

Susie sips her coffee then spits it right back into the cup.

SUSIE

That's why I'm going to New York.
To book more shows.

Midge stands and walks out. Susie reaches into her pocket and grabs...a couple coins. She drops a quarter on the table.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

Keep the change!

Susie rushes out after Midge, leaving a scowling Waitress behind. The Waitress pockets the change, shrugs, and swigs some coffee from Susie's cup.

EXT. LOU'S BAR CLEVELAND - DAY

Midge and Susie zoom by in the car. They pass by Lou's bar: a dark, dingy building next door to a motel.

SUSIE (O.S.)

There it is!

MIDGE (O.S.)

I never thought I'd get this big.

The marquee is dusty and there are a few letters missing, but sure enough, it reads: "TH, FR, SAT: Mrs. Maysl."

The car pulls past the bar just as the "l" falls off the end of "Maysl" and flutters to the ground.

TITLE CARD: THE MARVELOUS MRS MAISEL

INT. BUTTON CLUB - DAY

OVER BLACK:

Heavy breathing. A man's voice, intense:

ARCHIE (O.S.)
Yes...yes....yes, yes, yes-

Bright, angelic light reflects off an ornate silvery surface.

ARCHIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Almost there...yes...YES...

The tiled ceiling of the Button Club comes into focus.

ARCHIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
No No No No NO NO NO!!

CRASH! A tile crashes down perilously close to Archie. Archie ducks for cover as a WORKER chews gum at the top of the ladder and shrugs down at the tile on the floor.

JOEL
Could ya keep it down, Arch?

Joel hunches over a ledger, massaging his temples. Archie ducks behind the bar and opens himself a beer.

ARCHIE
I told you tape wouldn't hold 'em
up forever.

JOEL
We used caulk.

ARCHIE
Cheap caulk.

Joel crosses out numbers. Erases his crosses and adds them back in. He sighs heavily. Archie drinks.

JOEL
This is-Ah!

He slams the book closed and grabs his own beer.

ARCHIE
What'cha up to there, slick?

JOEL
Midge's books, they're a mess.

Archie does not do a spit take. He wants to, but he doesn't.

ARCHIE
You're doing Midge's books?

JOEL
Yeah.

ARCHIE
As in handling her money.

JOEL
Yeah.

ARCHIE
No.

JOEL
No?

ARCHIE
No! You're not married anymore!

JOEL
I'm helping her out, Susie asked me-

ARCHIE
Susie hates you!

JOEL
It's not for Susie, it's for Midge-

ARCHIE
Midge who is no longer your wife,
that Midge?

JOEL
Lay off!

ARCHIE
No!

Joel defensively takes the ledger and puts it away.

JOEL
She needs help, I'm helping.

ARCHIE
No!

JOEL
How's Imogene?

ARCHIE
No!!

Archie storms out. Joel chugs his beer.

EXT. ROADSIDE MOTEL - DAY

The motel next to Leo's is a two-story shack with bars over the windows. Susie's car is parked outside.

INT. MIDGE'S MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Susie helps Midge drag the last two suitcases through the narrow door of the room and slams the door shut.

MIDGE
Nice place.

SUSIE
You can walk to the club.

Midge whips the curtains open to let in some daylight.

MIDGE
I could fall through the window and
land on the stage.

It's a depressing room but not the worst we've seen on tour.
Excessive burgundy, fading wallpaper.

Susie picks up the ice bucket and points at it.

SUSIE
Ice!

MIDGE
Incredible. Lap of luxury.

SUSIE
You got three shows at Lou's. I'm
gonna get you a coupla gigs, sort
out the gaslight, and I'll be back
from Sunday to go to Columbus.

MIDGE
Just three days to run wild in
Ohio!

SUSIE
Don't do anything stupid.

MIDGE
Topless in the streets!

SUSIE
Promise me.

MIDGE
Lou will be terribly disappointed.

Susie paces and frets.

SUSIE
Midge, I'm serious.

MIDGE
Well what about you? I fully expect
Sophie Lennon to lead you astray
while you're in New York.

SUSIE
What do *you think i'm gonna do burn
down a building?*

Midge is taken aback by this. Is Susie ok? She seems not ok.

MIDGE
...It wasn't the first thing that
came to mind.

SUSIE
Great! Tits up!

MIDGE
Tits up?

Susie is out the door.

MIDGE (CONT'D)
Oh.

Midge looks around her empty hotel room, frowns, and
straightens her shoulders.

MIDGE (CONT'D)
Headlining!

INT. MIDGE'S APARTMENT FOYER - DAY

Knock! Knock! Zelda lets Joel into the apartment, where he immediately sets eyes on Rose on the phone in one room, and Ethan alone in the kitchen, eating breakfast straight from the serving dishes on the table.

JOEL

Ethan, Buddy, use a plate!

Rose gives Joel a self-important finger-shush.

ROSE

(into phone)

...What about the Webster boy? He's nearly done with law school and *his* nose bends to the left, too.

INT. MIDGE'S APARTMENT KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Joel goes into the kitchen and puts an egg and a turnover on a plate and sets it in front of Ethan, who already has his hands full of sausage.

JOEL

Two minutes, kid.

INT. MIDGE'S APARTMENT FOYER - SAME

ROSE

(into phone)

If she doesn't like him, try his brother. The nose runs in the family.

JOEL (O.S.)

You hear that Rose, two minutes!

ROSE

Ethel I have to go. I'll call you this afternoon.

INT. MIDGE'S APARTMENT KITCHEN - SAME

Joel snatches the sausage out of Ethan's hand, puts in on the plate, and hands him a fork.

Rose rushes in. She sees the table and wrings her hands.