

HORSES OF NEW YORK

BY COLLIN GOSSEL

EXT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - VIEWING DECK - DAY

A middle-aged couple, TOM and BARB, leans up against the fencing, looking out at the buildings. Both wear flannel. They are approached by another couple, DILLON and JASMINE.

TOM

Wow. The Big Apple.

BARB

Pretty different from Sugarcreek,
Indiana.

DILLON

Oh my gosh, are you guys from
Indiana too? What a small world!

JASMINE

I don't know about that! Just look
at how big everything is!

TOM

I know, right?! There must be ten
million horses just in Midtown.

DILLON

Oh...well, I doubt that.

BARB

Honey, we keep forgetting! Not
everything is horses.

TOM

Right right. It's just easy to
forget because we grew up in
Indiana.

JASMINE

Well...we're from Indiana too.

TOM

Hey, look over there! The World
Trade Center.

BARB

Huh. It makes you wonder.

JASMINE

What?

BARB

How is something so big made just of horses?

TOM

Don't forget: it's also filled to the brim with horses, so it probably takes even more than you'd expect.

DILLON

(laughing)

Alright, very funny.

TOM

What?

DILLON

You can't think the World Trade Center is made of horses.

BARB

Oh my god, honey, we did it again.

TOM

Jeezy Pete's, you're right. We keep doing that - ya see, back in Indiana, we're a little unfamiliar with this fast-paced, urban way of life.

JASMINE

We're from Indiana too. People from Indiana don't just think things are horses.

TOM

Of course not, of course not. I mean, we were at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Today.

BARB

Big beautiful building made of stone.

DILLON

Well, great! Did you enjoy it?

BARB

Oh yes! We saw Van Gogh's
Sunflowers.

JASMINE

That's one of my favorites!

BARB

It's so different looking at the
actual painting.

TOM

Stuck off the wall a lot more than
I thought it would.

DILLON

Oh really?

BARB

And it had to keep flicking its
tail to keep the flies off.

DILLON

Stop that.

BARB

What?

JASMINE

Van Gogh's Sunflowers wasn't a
horse.

TOM

Oh my god, now that you mention it,
I think it was a horse!

BARB

That explains the whinnying!

DILLON

Stop it. What is wrong with you
people?

TOM

I'm so sorry. You see, everything
moves a little bit slower in
Sugarcreek, Indiana. Though we may
not have big buildings, we still
have the sense of community most of
America has forgotten. There are
horses everywhere-

JASMINE

Sugarcreek is a 20 minute drive from my house! There are cars, there are buildings. It's a normal place.

DILLON

And on top of that - why are the paintings horses but the Museum not horses? What exactly is horses to you?

BARB

Listen, I feel like we got off on the wrong hoof here. Tom and I are just a little uneasy because we always used to hear about how New York was such a dangerous place.

TOM

You know, gangs, crime, danger.

BARB

But I've read things have been getting better since the nineties - the mayor made a real effort to clean up the city.

TOM

Right. Mayor Horsey Horse.

Jasmine and Dillon lose it.

DILLON

That's not a name!

TOM

Perfectly good name for a horse.

JASMINE

You think the mayor of New York was a horse?

BARB

Of course! Aren't we all?

DILLON

No! We're human beings - you can see us! We're not horses.

TOM

Well, I'm a horse.

DILLON
No you're not!

TOM
Listen, sometimes, in Indiana, we think about things a little differently.

JASMINE
Jesus Christ, WE LIVE IN THE SAME COUNTY!

BARB
And it's always great to meet a couple Hoosiers! But, we actually have theater tickets, so we should go.

TOM
Ride me, Barb?

BARB
Sure thing, honey!

Tom gets on all fours and Barb climbs onto his back.

TOM
Now the horse shall take flight!

BARB
TO THE SKIES, WINGED STALLION!

Tom leaps over the railing of the Empire State Building.

TOM
NEIGHING SOUND!!!!

The pair fly over the edge. Dillon and Jasmine run to the railing to watch them fall.

JASMINE
Oh, I get it now. They were clinically insane.

BLACKOUT