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Barry - Comedy Pilot Script Analysis

Barry is a hitman who is lonely and unsatisfied with his job. He is called into Los Angeles for a job by the Chechen Mob, to kill an actor/personal trainer who is sleeping with the boss' wife. Barry's job becomes complicated when he meets Sally and the rest of the actors learning under Gene Cousineau. This includes his target, Ryan. At first, Barry's goal is to kill his Ryan. This goal shifts to Barry trying to be an actor and maybe romantically pursuing Sally.

When Barry is trying to kill Ryan, he performs reconnaissance by following him. During his recon, Barry is roped into acting in a scene from *True Romance* with Ryan. He also meets a woman named Sally who seems to like him. Soon after, Barry is dragged to a bar by the actors and gets to know them. While dropping Ryan off at his home, Barry is seen hugging him by the Chechens. This unsettles the Chechens, which then upsets Barry's boss, Fuches. Under pressure from both parties, Barry is forced to speed up his plans and kill Ryan the next day. This task is complicated again when the Chechens kill Ryan before Barry can do it himself. Once Barry sees the Chechens, they try to kill him. But Barry manages to kill them first. Now free of his assassination contract, Barry expresses his intentions to be an actor.

Much of the comedy in this pilot episode comes from the juxtaposition of dark themes with casual and awkward human interactions. When Barry is meeting with the Chechen mob, the seriousness of the assassination job is undercut by Noho Hank's intense politeness, and their talks about meditation. After the boss asserts that they are not children (a response to Barry's suggestion that he set Ryan's dick on fire to make him hurt), he beats a plastic oar against a wall like a child. When Barry confesses to Cousineau that he is a hitman, the moment is subverted by Cousineau becoming impressed by Barry's performance. He believes that Barry's was giving a monologue, not actually confessing his past. The ridiculous human interactions combined with the dark, often deadly conversations is what make the pilot humorous.