

THE HAPPY PEPPERS

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COLD OPENING

FADE IN:

INT. HALLWAY/HENRY'S APARTMENT - VERY EARLY IN THE MORNING

THE CAMERA PANS THE LIVING ROOM OF A BROOKLYN TOWNHOUSE. IT'S THE NIGHT AFTER A GOOD FIRST DATE: EMPTY WINE BOTTLE, WINE GLASSES, AND A BLOUSE ON THE COFFEE TABLE. THE FRONT DOOR CREAKS OPEN. IT'S EITHER A BURGLAR OR SOMEONE DOING A WALK OF SHAME. IT'S HEATHER PEPPER. SHE'S NOT A BURGLAR. HEATHER IS LATE TWENTIES, A COOL CHICK, CUTE, THE GIRL YOU FOOLED AROUND WITH AT CAMP. SHE WEARS A TRENCH COAT AND CARRIES A BUNCHED-UP BALL OF HER CLOTHES.

SHE TRIES TO GET THE KEYS OUT OF THE DOOR. THEY WON'T BUDGE.

HEATHER

(TO KEYS) Really? Fine. Stay there.

I don't care.

AS SHE ENTERS, THE PANTIES FROM THE BALL OF CLOTHES SHE'S CARRYING CATCH ON THE DOOR KNOB AND PULL HER BACKWARDS.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Oh, come on!

SHE UNHOOKS THEM, CROSSES IN AND PLOPS DOWN AT ONE END OF THE COUCH, WHICH IS COVERED WITH BLANKETS. SHE FEELS SOMETHING AND PICKS UP THE BLANKET, REVEALING A WOMAN'S FEET.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

(OFF TOES; WHISPERED TO HERSELF) That
is such a good color.

DANA, THE HOT GIRL ATTACHED TO THE FEET, WAKES UP.

DANA

What's going on?

HEATHER

(SOFTLY) Hi, it's okay. I live here.

I'm Heather Pepper, but everybody

calls me Hezzy. Except my dad. It's

(MORE)

HEATHER (CONT'D)

fine, he's a prick. Why are we talking about him? You're so pretty. Girls who have feet like this usually don't have a face to go with it.

DANA

("I MIGHT BE SCARED") Um...

HEATHER

Did Henry make you sleep on the couch? He is such a freak. Not like he has a bloody clown suit in the basement, but he has his stuff. Don't ever eat a peach in front of him. I'm sorry, I have to see your boobs. If they're perfect, I'm jumping out the window.

IT'S A WEIRD REQUEST, BUT HEATHER HAS A WAY. DANA LOWERS THE BLANKET, REVEALING SHE'S IN A TANK-TOP.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

(RE: DANA'S BOOBS) Phew. Want to see mine? It's actually where I shine.

DANA

Who are you?

HENRY PEPPER, LATE 20S, ENTERS FROM THE HALLWAY. HE IS A GOLDEN CHILD FROM SCRAP-METAL PARENTS. HE'S IN BOXERS AND A WELL-WORN COLUMBIA LAW T-SHIRT. HE'S THE GUY GIRLS WANT TO BRING HOME.

HENRY

Hezzy, what are you doing?

HEATHER

Hey. Have you seen her feet? (RE:
DANA) Nice job with this one.

DANA

Oh, my God, are you married?!

HENRY

HEATHER

Uch, no! That's my sister. Ew! Yuck. He's my brother!

HENRY

She's just staying here.

HEATHER

I've been helping him out since his
wife, you know... (LEANS IN; SOTTO)
died. She was all feet, no face. You
know what I'm talking about. You are
so cute. What's your name?

HENRY

Dana, don't answer her. (TO HEATHER)
Go somewhere! (THEN) I'm sorry about
my sister. She had terrible parents.

HEATHER

They liked him more because he was a
son. I mean, I'm not one of those
girls who hates men. It's just "the
system," Dana. It's rigged against us.
I feel like you and I should hang out.

HENRY

Why are you still talking?

HEATHER

I'm excited for you guys!

DANA

Maybe I should go.

HENRY

No. (RE: HEATHER) She's leaving.

I'm making you breakfast.

HEATHER

Wait. Did you do your impression of Stephen Hawking ordering at Pinkberry?

HENRY

No one likes that impression but you.

HEATHER

You're wrong. It's funny on about fifteen different levels.

HENRY

Really? No. Fine. (ROBOT VOICE)

"I'll have a medium original tart with Fruity Pebbles and M-ampersand-Ms."

HEATHER

I mean, come on. (THEN) Do "Bumping into Caitlyn Jenner at a urinal."

HENRY

(TO DANA) It's actually very good. I did it at a bar association dinner the other night and I made a judge smile.

HEATHER

(SELLING HIM) Funny and a successful lawyer. I won't say what he makes because that's crass and that's not who I am. Low-to-mid-ones.

HENRY

(TO DANA) Mid-to-high. (TO HEATHER) Go.

HEATHER

Okay, I'm going. Safe-safe?

HENRY

(POINTED) I'm on a date.

HEATHER

I know. She's so cute. But you have to say it or I can't go. Safe-safe?

HENRY

Safe-safe.

THEY DO THE CLAP A BLACKJACK DEALER DOES AT THE END OF A SHIFT. IT'S HOW THEY'VE SAID "GOODBYE" SINCE THEY WERE KIDS. WHEN THEY TURN AROUND, DANA IS GONE. AFTER A BEAT:

HEATHER

I liked her.

HENRY

You've never seen her eat a peach.

Come on, I'll make you breakfast.

AND WE...

CUT TO MAIN TITLES:

ACT ONESCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. HENRY'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT MORNING

HENRY IS IN THE KITCHEN MAKING BREAKFAST. HEATHER IS MARCHING AROUND THE APARTMENT CHECKING HER FIT-BIT. THEY ARE QUICK AND IN SYNC WITH EACH OTHER.

HENRY

I'm telling you, this living arrangement is becoming a problem.

(RE: TOAST) Wheat or white?

HEATHER

I'm gonna say wheat, but accidentally give me white. What problem?

HENRY

You said you were going to be here for a month but in a week it'll be a year. It's time to move on.

HEATHER

I agree.

THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER FOR A BEAT.

HENRY

So move on.

HEATHER

So move on.

HENRY

Me? You sleep on my couch, eat my food, and for some reason leave the toilet seat up.

HEATHER

That's sexist, Henry. You are the system. This is why I make seventy cents on the dollar.

HENRY

No, you make zero cents on the dollar because you don't work.

HEATHER

I do work. I'm a caretaker. I take care of my big brother. (OFF TOAST)
Oh, no, you made me white.

HENRY

I'm doing great. (THEN) And you have a pigeon feather in your hair. Did you hook up with someone under a bridge?

HEATHER

Don't deflect. You sleep in your guest room -- where I should be staying -- but do I ever complain?

HENRY

Constantly.

HEATHER

Because you turned your bedroom into a shrine to Kelly. She's been gone a year. Her weird suits are still in her closet because you won't go in there.

HENRY

Hey, she loved those suits. They said
"I'm a professional yet approachable
pharmaceutical rep."

HEATHER

No, they said "I buy my clothes from a
Lufthansa flight attendant."

HENRY

Not taking advice from a person who
came home on Tuesday wearing a shower
curtain.

HEATHER

A Four Seasons shower curtain.

HENRY

I always leave out the classy part.

HEATHER

(OFF FIT-BIT) Ten thousand steps!
Guess who just earned a scooped-out
bagel? (RE: HERSELF) This guy!

ROYAL, LATE 20S, AFRICAN-AMERICAN, MORE NEUROTIC THAN HE
WOULD CARE TO ADMIT, POKES HIS HEAD IN. HE'S HENRY'S BEST
FRIEND FROM COLLEGE WHO'S NOW IN HIS MEDICAL RESIDENCY. HE
WEARS A PORK PIE HAT AND A TRENDY "MINI-BLAZER" OVER SCRUBS.

ROYAL

One of you left the keys in the door
again Hezzy. Be more careful. We
live in Brooklyn.

HENRY

Yeah, a hipster could break in and transfer all our music onto cassette tapes. (TO ROYAL) No offense.

ROYAL

I'm not a hipster, Henry, if that's what you're trying to imply.

HENRY

Civil War beard says what?

ROYAL

You know that was a good look until I got put on the No-Fly list. (RE: BLAZER) This is what guys are wearing.

HENRY

A tiny blazer with piping? You look like a love seat from Pottery Barn Kids.

ROYAL

Say what you want, dude. You live with your sister. I live with a big model.

DAPHNE, 20S, A BEAUTIFUL, BRITISH, AFRICAN-AMERICAN, PLUS-SIZED MODEL, EXQUISITELY MADE-UP WITH LOTS OF STYLE, ENTERS.

DAPHNE

I smell sausages!

SHE PINCHES ROYAL'S BOTTOM AS SHE CROSSES TO THE KITCHEN.

ROYAL

(TO HENRY; RE: DAPHNE) Basketball shorts and flip-flops are not closing that deal.

DAPHNE

(OFF HEATHER) Oh, lovey. Inside-out bra, panties in the pocket. Somebody take a walk of shame?

HEATHER

No, it was an Uber of shame. (THEN) I was going to wait, but since we're all here... I think I met the one!

THE GANG HAS HEARD THIS BEFORE.

DAPHNE

(NOTICING) Ooh, mini-bagels.

HENRY

Those are actually regular size, but okay.

ROYAL AND DAPHNE SIT AT THE TABLE. HE REMOVES HIS COAT.

HEATHER

I'm serious about this guy.

DAPHNE

We're all thrilled. Tell us about it while you pass me the cream cheese.

ROYAL

Wait! Baby, did you tell them the big news? (THEN) Daphne got the cover of the Old Navy summer catalogue.

DAPHNE

I'm a plus-size girl, yet they pay me half as much as those skinny bitches. (THEN, TO HENRY) Did I imagine it or did someone mention cappuccino?

HENRY ROLLS HIS EYES AND GETS UP TO MAKE HER ONE.

HEATHER

We can talk about me later.

HENRY

I.e., she wants to talk about her now.

HEATHER

And bing-o was his name-o. (THEN) I'm available for questions.

DAPHNE

Do we know him? Is it a him?

HEATHER

I did that one time. I was drunk. She misinterpreted my bad haircut. And I liked the attention. (THEN) I met him at Soul Cycle.

HENRY

Not Chicken Face?

HEATHER

Give me a little credit.

ROYAL

Teenage Gandhi?

HEATHER

I wish. (THEN) You guys don't know him. He spins in a different row.

HENRY

Oh, my God. It's Man-Bun.

HEATHER

Don't judge. He's more than his hair.

DAPHNE

A man-bun? How fun. You can use it as a joystick!

HEATHER

(APPALLED) Daphne! (WHISPERS) Can I tweet that as mine?

ROYAL

(TO DAPHNE) We've gotta go. (GETTING UP) Hezzy, can you babysit Fast Eddie? Daphne's in Montauk, and residents have to do rounds all weekend.

HEATHER

Your turtle needs a babysitter?

ROYAL

He's a tortoise.

HENRY

Total hipster pet.

ROYAL

Okay, I'm putting my old-timey bicycle on Craig's List. (THEN) I'd leave him upstairs in the apartment, but he seems anxious lately.

HEATHER

I don't know about Fast Eddie. I just started dating someone, and I'm still taking care of (RE: HENRY) this guy...

HENRY

It sounds too much like a job.

HEATHER

It's a lot of responsibility.

ROYAL

Just feed it lettuce and don't sit on it. Actually, he doesn't even need lettuce. Just don't sit on him.

DAPHNE

Learned that the hard way. Pray you never hear the scream of a tortoise being shot out of its shell.

ROYAL

It looked like she was giving birth to a tiny green old man.

HEATHER

Yeah, I think I'm gonna have to pass.

HENRY

I'll do it. I'll come up later and
get him.

THEY GET UP TO LEAVE. ROYAL PUTS HIS LITTLE BLAZER BACK ON.

DAPHNE

Darling, what are you wearing? Did
you mug an American Girl doll?

ROYAL

I thought you liked this jacket.

DAPHNE

Royal, you could wear basketball
shorts and flip-flops, and I'd still
give you an all-access pass.

DAPHNE SWATS ROYAL'S ASS. HE SMILES, AND THEY EXIT.

HENRY

(STARES AT HEATHER; THEN) You can't
even take a job turtle-sitting?

HEATHER

It's a tortoise. And I have a job.
I'm taking care of you until you get
over your wife. When you move back
into your bedroom, that's when my job
will be done.

HENRY

Worry about yourself.

HEATHER

Why are you mad? Don't be mad.

HENRY

I'm not mad. I have to get to work.

HEATHER

Can I just say one thing?

SHE PRESSES A BUTTON ON HER PHONE AND PLAYS "PATA PATA" BY MIRIAM MCCABE. IT'S A JAUNTY, CARIBBEAN SONG THEY LINE-DANCED TO AT CAMP. THE MUSICAL INTRO PLAYS.

MUSIC UP: "PATA-PATA" BY MIRIAM MCCABE

HENRY

I'm not doing this with you.

HEATHER

Too late. It's Camp Akiva. It's bigger than both of us.

HEATHER GETS UP AND STARTS TO DO A DELIGHTFUL, SIMPLISTIC LINE-DANCE THEY'VE KNOWN SINCE THEY WERE TEN.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

(LIP-SYNCING) 'PATA PATA' IS THE NAME OF
A DANCE WE DO DOWN JOHANNESBURG WAY...

HENRY CAN'T RESIST. HE JOINS IN AND LIP-SYNCS:

HENRY

AND EVERYBODY STARTS TO MOVE / AS SOON
AS "PATA PATA" STARTS TO PLAY / WHOO!

THE TENSION DISAPPEARS. THEY GO BACK TO BEING HAPPY PEPPERS.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE BINT. HENRY'S LAW OFFICE - LATER THAT DAY

HENRY IS SITTING IN HIS LAW OFFICE ACROSS FROM DAN, 40S, A HANDSOME, WELL-DRESSED BUSINESSMAN.

HENRY

Just sign the highlighted parts here
and here -- that's mustard from my
sister putting a turkey sandwich on my
work, ignore that -- I'll file today,
your divorce will be final on Monday.

DAN

I don't know...

HENRY

Dan, I got you everything but the
dinner you two won with Idina Menzel
at a Chipotle of your choice at the
Gay Men's Choir Gala. What's wrong?

DAN

I still hate him for sleeping with
both Bruces.

HENRY

What? You never told me he cheated.

DAN

I'm sure I did.

HENRY

I have a six-hour deposition on how
you decorated his congressional office

(MORE)

HENRY (CONT'D)

in a "Downton Abbey" theme. "Lady Grantham" appears no fewer than thirty-six times, but nothing about cheating.

DAN

I guess I repressed it.

HENRY

Dan, you've never repressed anything.
Go home. I have more work to do.

DAN

You are so "The Good Wife" right now.

HENRY'S BOSS, BOBBY MARTIN, 50S, ENTERS: HANDSOME, ENERGETIC GUY'S GUY (THINK JOHN SLATTERY).

BOBBY

I. Love. Gay MARRIAGE! You know,
you queens have tripled my business.

DAN

We do what we can.

DAN EXITS.

BOBBY

I didn't want to hurt her feelings,
but the real gay money comes from the
dykes. Those gals are *crazy monkeys*.

(OFF HENRY) What's wrong, bubbe?

HENRY

You know his husband cheated on him?

BOBBY

People cheat. Marriages end. I had
three end. Even your marriage ended.

HENRY

My marriage ended because my wife died,
yours ended because you banged a
cleaning lady at your Passover table.

BOBBY

Racist. She's a housekeeper.

HENRY

You know I hate cheating. My dad
cheated. It destroyed our family.
And the floor of my treehouse.

BOBBY

I'm sure he had his reasons. He
probably loved strange vagina. And
heights. (THEN) If divorce is so hard
for you, why'd you pick this firm?

HE PUTS HIS HAND ON HENRY'S SHOULDER. THE PATERNAL TABLEAU
IS NOT LOST ON HENRY.

HENRY

Because of... you. I guess I always
wished I had a -- ugh, are you gonna
make me actually say this...?

BOBBY

No, because if you did, I'd kiss you
right on the mouth, you sentimental

(MORE)

BOBBY (CONT'D)

son-of-a-bitch. In fact, what are you
doing for Passover?

THE SKYPE ON HENRY'S DESKTOP COMPUTER BEEPS. HEATHER APPEARS
FULL-SCREEN. SHE'S FRANTICALLY MOVING AROUND THE APARTMENT.

HEATHER

I know how to get you to move back in
your bedroom. You never go on second
dates! That's why you haven't been
able to move on. Call Dana.

HENRY

Are you kidding? I'm working.

HEATHER

So am I. I took the job turtle-
sitting.

HENRY

Congratulations. Your near-MBA from
Stanford has just paid for itself.

HEATHER

Thank you. And I found out why Fast
Eddie has been anxious. He's
transitioning. Born in the wrong
shell. Doesn't matter. I lost him.

HENRY

Well, I believe in you. And I believe
you're going to be able to find a
three-hundred-year-old creature that
moves one inch a year.

HEATHER

See, if I had that kind of encouragement from Mom and Dad, right now I'd be a terrible doctor instead of a terrible turtle-sitter. (THEN) Do you want me to call Dana?

HENRY

No. Don't do that. I'll call.

SHE SITS. WE HEAR AN ODD SQUEAL.

BOBBY

What the hell was that noise?

HEATHER

I think I found Fast Eddie. (THEN) Safe-that-not-being-the-sound-of-a-turtle-being-sat-on-to-death?

HENRY

I have to go.

HEATHER

You have to say the whole thing or it'll come true.

HENRY

Safe-that-not-being-the-sound-of-a-turtle-being-sat-on-to-death.

HEATHER

Okay, safe-safe.

HENRY

Safe-safe.

THEY BOTH DO THE DEALER CLAP. HENRY HANGS UP.

BOBBY

Do you and your sister also have to touch your noses five times or everyone in the room will die?

HENRY

We've never said goodbye without doing it. We grew up in a very loud, angry house. "Safe-safe" was this thing we started doing that made us feel...

BOBBY

Safe-safe?

HENRY

I know you think she's insane, but she's smarter than both of us. She could run the world if she wanted.

HEATHER RE-APPEARS ON SKYPE.

HEATHER

You hung up on me. (THEN) Could you steal me a case of the little Post-Its? I just had a really cool idea for a skirt. I just have to shave my legs. (THEN) Ooh, is Bobby still --

HENRY HANGS UP. BOBBY DOES THE DEALER CLAP, EXITS, AS WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE CINT. HENRY'S APARTMENT - THAT NIGHT

HENRY SITS ON ONE SIDE OF THE COUCH, EATING A BOWL OF CEREAL, MINDLESSLY LOOKING AT HIS IPAD. HEATHER SITS ON THE OTHER SIDE, MINDLESSLY GOING THROUGH HER IPHONE. THEY PERIODICALLY LOOK UP TO WATCH THE FOOTBALL GAME.

HENRY

Shouldn't you be looking for Fast
Eddie? It's gonna be bad if you lost
him.

HEATHER

Her. Get your pronouns right. Don't
let the trans tortoise movement slowly
pass you by.

IMPRESSED, HENRY TIPS A TINY, INVISIBLE HAT TO HIS SISTER. THEY GO BACK TO THEIR DEVICES. BEHIND THEM, FAST EDDIE WALKS FROM THE GUEST BEDROOM INTO THE MASTER BEDROOM. HEATHER'S PHONE DINGS. SHE CHECKS THE TEXT, SMILES BIG.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

The word "hero" is used too much.

SHE SHOWS HER PHONE TO HENRY.

HENRY

Why is Dana on her way over?

HEATHER

I invited her because I knew you
wouldn't. This (RE: TEXT) is my real
job. Turtle-sitting is more of a
passion. (OFF HIS LOOK) I'm helping.

HENRY

"Helping" would be making dinner so I don't have to eat cereal every night.

HEATHER

I don't know how to cook.

HENRY

Make Mom's turny-turny chicken. It can't be that hard. She did it.

HEATHER

Yep, while holding a White Russian and a Virginia Slim with toilet paper stuck to her slipper.

HENRY

Oof, that's a rough snapshot. (THEN)
The smell of that chicken may be my one good childhood memory.

HEATHER

Well, there was a secret ingredient. And sadly, she died with the recipe.

HENRY

Mom's not dead.

HEATHER

She's dead to me.

THERE'S A KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

HENRY

(CALLING) Just a sec! (THEN) I can't believe you invited Dana back.

HEATHER

Why aren't you into into her? Was she bad in bed?

HENRY

There's no such thing as bad in bed.

HEATHER

For guys. It's bad for girls so much.

(TAKES OUT PHONE) That's a tweet.

HENRY

Why are you so invested in me going out with this girl again?

HEATHER

Because second dates lead to third dates, which lead to relationships. Which is something I now have with Man-Bun. Who knows, Henry? This girl could be the one.

HENRY

She's not the one, okay? (BEAT; THEN)
I already had the one.

HEATHER REALIZES HOW STUCK HER BROTHER REALLY IS.

HEATHER

(WARMLY) I love you, but Kelly's been gone a year. (RE: DOOR) This girl's cool, and cute... I say this as a feminist: take this bitch to your room and tap that ass. (THEN) I don't

(MORE)

HEATHER (CONT'D)

mean that literally. Girls don't like that. Ever. No matter what they say.

HENRY

I hate you.

HEATHER

I love you, too.

HENRY CROSSES TO THE DOOR. HEATHER STARTS DOWN THE HALLWAY.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Safe-going-on-a-date-with-Man-Bun-even though-he-has-a-man-bun?

HENRY

Safe-going-on-a-date-with-Man-Bun-even though-he-has-a-man-bun.

HEATHER

Safe-safe.

HENRY

Safe-safe.

THEY DO THE DEALER CLAP. HEATHER EXITS TO THE BACK. HENRY OPENS THE DOOR. DANA IS STANDING THERE, AS CUTE AS CAN BE.

INTERNAL DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HENRY'S APARTMENT - A LITTLE LATER

HENRY AND DANA ARE ON THE COUCH MAKING OUT.

DANA

You're a really good kisser.

HENRY

Right? Maybe we should take this
someplace a little more... intimate...
like my guest room.

THEY START TO GET UP. HEATHER, DRESSED IN A SERIOUS EGGPLANT-COLORED BUSINESS SUIT, CROSSES THROUGH. IT ACTUALLY LOOKS KIND OF CUTE ON HER.

HEATHER

I'm not here, I'm not here... By the way, Lena Dunham just re-tweeted me. I'm totally into her again. Guys, she's doing important work.

HENRY

What the hell are you wearing?

HEATHER

It was in Kelly's closet. Man-Bun's taking me to a party, I wanted to wear something ironic, and you didn't bring home those Post-Its. This one's on you.

HENRY STANDS UP, SUDDENLY SERIOUS.

HENRY

Take it off and hang it up exactly the way you found it.

HEATHER

O-kaaay. Chill out.

HENRY

Going into her closet was not cool.

Those are her clothes.

HEATHER

She's not gonna wear them anymore. If she does, we've got bigger problems.

(TO DANA) You caught up on "Fear of the Walking Dead?" Geeeeeenius.

HEATHER HAS CROSSED A LINE. HENRY'S PISSED.

HENRY

You have to forgive my sister, Dana.

She's incapable of being real.

HEATHER

What are you talking about? I'm only text. I've never had a feeling I didn't verbalize or tweet. You're the one who's not being real.

HENRY

You never liked Kelly because you were no longer the center of attention, and you couldn't deal with it. How's that for real?

HENRY AND HEATHER SQUARE OFF. UNCOMFORTABLE, DANA GETS UP TO EXIT.

DANA

Yyyeah, I guess this one's on me for accepting a booty call from a guy's sister...

DANA CREEPS OUT. HENRY AND HEATHER DON'T EVEN NOTICE.

HEATHER

You're so off it's pathetic.

HENRY

No, pathetic is a semester of incomplete standing in between you and a Stanford MBA.

HEATHER

I never wanted to go to business school. I only did it because Daddy told me I wasn't pretty so I needed a career. P.S., who gives that speech at a twelve-year-old's birthday party?

HENRY

You always have an excuse, don't you?

HEATHER

I put my life on pause to take care of you when Kelly died.

HENRY

The only reason you did that is so you didn't have to focus on yourself. Because if you did, you'd be afraid of what you'd see.

HEATHER

And what would I see?

HENRY

I don't know, maybe someone sipping a White Russian with a foot of toilet paper stuck to her slipper.

THIS PUNCH CONNECTS. SHE COMPOSES HERSELF, THEN:

HEATHER

You think you're not a Pepper, don't you? Well, I got news for you, buddy. I'm a Pepper. You're a Pepper!

HENRY

No. Kelly made me different. I had a healthy relationship. That's why you hated her.

HEATHER

No, I hated her because she cheated on you. There's your real.

HENRY

(PULLED UP SHORT) What are you talking about?

HEATHER

She cheated on you with the Fed Ex guy the night before you got married. You're a Pepper, dude. Deal with it!

HENRY

Get the hell out of my apartment.

HEATHER

Okay, let's take a breath. I said some things, then I said some things, let me put the pantsuit back where I found it, right next to Kelly's broom -- See, I shouldn't have said that. I have a problem but I'm gonna get help.

HENRY

Seriously, get out. I don't want you living here anymore.

HEATHER

Henry, you know I'd never --

HENRY

Go!!!

SHE GOES TO EXIT. SHE OPENS THE DOOR AND TURNS AROUND:

HEATHER

(MEEK) Safe-going-out-with-Man-Bun?

HENRY

You're on your own, Heather.

SHE EXITS. AFTER A BEAT, THE DOOR OPENS AND SHE THROWS THE SUIT INSIDE THE ROOM, THEN CLOSES THE DOOR.

HENRY (CONT'D)

(TO HIMSELF; SMALL) Safe-walking-through-Brooklyn-naked.

HE PICKS UP THE SUIT AND EXITS TO THE BEDROOM, AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOSCENE D

FADE IN:

INT. SUSHI BAR - THE NEXT DAY

HENRY AND BOBBY ARE HAVING LUNCH AT A SUSHI BAR. HENRY IS DISTRACTED.

BOBBY

So, listen, I'm going to ask Veronica to marry me. (OFF HENRY'S SILENCE) Excuse me, where are you? I'm being vulnerable here. A guy only gets married for the fourth time once.

HENRY

I'm sorry -- Housekeeper Veronica? Disgusting Passover Veronica?

BOBBY

That was Inez. And I know after my last marriage I said I'd never do it again, but the truth is I can afford to get divorced. And I like her a lot. (LEANS IN; SOTTO) There's something mind-blowing about a woman who says "Thank you, Mr. Bobby" after she orgasms.

HENRY

You are such a complicated mentor.

ANGLE ON: MAN-BUN, LATE-THIRTIES, HANDSOME HIPSTER WITH A MAN-BUN. HE'S WITH AN INCREDIBLY HOT EXOTIC WOMAN.

BOBBY

Look at that chick. What do you think that is, Middle Eastern? You know, when you get them out of the desert, they're thirsty, Henry. Very thirsty.

HENRY

(NOTICING) Holy crap, that's Man-Bun. Look at that douche. He's feeding her from his mouth like she's a baby bird.

BOBBY

I agree. It's hot.

HENRY

No, he's dating my sister. Do I call her? No, screw it. I'm supposed to go out with this girl I met at Soul Cycle: Teenage Gandhi's sister. You know what? I'm just gonna call Hezz.

BOBBY

You're gonna give up possible sexual intercourse so you can split a pint of cookie dough ice cream with your sister? That's a problem.

HENRY

"Sexual intercourse?" You're like a film strip from the fifties. (THEN) You don't understand. Heather and I are all we have. Our mom lives on a

(MORE)

HENRY (CONT'D)

houseboat on Long Island and yells at seagulls, and my dad's a disgraced shrink who now has to put "Doctor" in quotes on his business cards.

BOBBY

Henry, look at me. I've been a divorce lawyer a long time. If there's one thing I understand, it's toxic relationships.

HENRY

Well, in her defense, she was just trying to help me move on.

BOBBY

Let me be the father you don't have:
Heather's keeping you from moving on.

AS HENRY CONSIDERS THIS, HIS PHONE STARTS TO BUZZ. UNDER THE NAME "HEATHER," A PHOTOGRAPH FILLS THE SCREEN OF HENRY AND HEATHER AS KIDS. HENRY LOOKS AT THE SCREEN, THEN DELETES THE CALL.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Good man. (THEN) You think she uses his man-bun as a joystick? I would.

AND WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE EINT. DAPHNE'S BATHROOM - THE NEXT EVENING

HEATHER SITS ON A CLOSED TOILET IN A BATHROOM. WE DON'T SEE WHO SHE'S TALKING TO. SHE'S UPSET. SHE STARES AT HER PHONE.

HEATHER

He won't answer. I can track him on his GPS or lock his phone so he has to find me. Thank God I date, or I would not know any of these tricks. (THEN)
You sure me staying here is not intruding?

REVEAL SHE'S TALKING TO DAPHNE IN A BUBBLE BATH.

DAPHNE

Not at all. Get in the tub. There's a jet on that side that's wonderfully naughty.

HEATHER

I have a very strict rule about taking bubble baths with friends. Despite that, I'm going to say no.

DAPHNE

Hand me my robe, would you?

HEATHER TAKES DAPHNE'S ROBE OFF THE HOOK AND HOLDS IT OPEN IN FRONT OF HER. HEATHER WANTS TO TAKE A PEEK.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

(RE: HER NAKED BODY) It's okay. You can look.

HEATHER

(LOOKS; IN AWE) So... there it is.

DAPHNE

(PROUD) Right?

HEATHER

I'm so jealous. I've been hungry
since junior high.

DAPHNE

Me, too.

DAPHNE SITS ON THE EDGE OF THE TUB AND PATS THE SPACE NEXT TO
HER. HEATHER NEEDS COMFORTING. SHE SITS NEXT TO HER.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

You're going to be fine, Hezzy. You
two have been through a lot. I'm sure
he'll get over it.

HEATHER

When I was fourteen, I told my mom my
dad was cheating on her with one of
his patients. She was making this
thing called "turny-turny chicken."
That entree was her only
accomplishment. That chick is so hard
to buy a Mother's Day card for.

DAPHNE

Let's don't go down the Mommy Issue
Highway. We both know there's no
exit.

HEATHER

That dinner was the last time we were together as a family. (THEN) What if my brother never talks to me again?

DAPHNE

I was once in Johannesburg for a photo shoot, and I went on safari. You know in the wild, you never see a wildebeest without a (ZEH-BRA) zebra.

HEATHER

You mean (ZEE-BRA) zebra.

DAPHNE

(ZEH-BRA) Zebra.

HEATHER

Right. (ZEE-BRA) Zebra.

DAPHNE

Can you just shut off whatever it is that makes you do that?

HEATHER

I thought it was off.

DAPHNE

The reason they're never apart is because the wildebeest has a keen sense of smell but is practically blind, whereas the (UGLY AMERICAN ACCENT) ZEE-bra has perfect vision but cannot smell. The wildebeest leads

(MORE)

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

them to rain, and the... *other one*
keeps them from being eaten by lions.
They don't ask why. It just is.

HEATHER

I don't think we come back from this.

DAPHNE

Come here. Give us a hug.

DAPHNE HUGS HEATHER.

HEATHER

I wanna be you when I grow up.

DAPHNE

They all do.

AND WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE HINT. HENRY'S APARTMENT/HALLWAY - SAME TIME

HENRY AND ROYAL ARE ON THE COUCH WATCHING A FOOTBALL GAME.
HENRY EATS A BOWL OF CEREAL.

HENRY

Look at us, Roy. It's like we're back at Columbia. I'm eating cereal, you're pretending you're watching the game.

ROYAL

What are you talking about? (OFF TV)
Ooh, that throwing guy just ate it.

HENRY

This is nice. No one's in the kitchen tweeting about how Andy Cohen doesn't deserve to be on TV. Then tweeting about how great a guest she'd be on Andy Cohen's show. Hashtag conflicted fan.

ROYAL

Yeah, I think you should take Hezzy back. I say that as your friend, your neighbor, and somebody who wants her the hell out of my apartment.

HENRY

I can't keep taking care of her.

ROYAL

Speaking of taking care of, where's Fast Eddie?

HENRY

Rrrright. About the turtle...

ROYAL

Tortoise. Don't tell me anything bad happened to my little guy.

HENRY

(COVERING) Your little girl. Fast Eddie's going by "Fast Edie" now.

ROYAL

What?

THERE'S A KNOCK AT THE DOOR. HENRY ANSWERS. IT'S MAN-BUN.

MAN-BUN

Hey. Is Hezz home?

HEATHER WALKS DOWN THE STAIRS CARRYING HER GYM BAG. SHE SEES HER BROTHER TALKING TO MAN-BUN AND STOPS. UNSEEN BY THEM, SHE SITS ON THE STAIRS AND LISTENS.

HENRY

She doesn't live here anymore.

MAN-BUN

Well, if you see her, will you tell her Travis came by? I'm around if she wants to hook up. But tell her to call first because I have a thing.

HENRY

Does Hezzy know you call women "things"?

MAN-BUN

Whatever. It's not your problem.

Hezzy can take care of herself.

MAN-BUN STARTS TO EXIT. THIS RESONATES FOR HENRY. THERE'S NO WAY HE'S NOT GOING TO TAKE CARE OF HIS SISTER.

HENRY

(CALLS OUT) Hey, Man-Bun!

MAN-BUN

What did you call me?

HENRY

Man-Bun. You are a man who grew his hair for a long time. You bought a pony tail holder and fashioned your hair up in a fancy bun, and assumed the risk of this nickname. You are contributorily liable. You are Man-Bun.

MAN-BUN

And you are Douche Guy.

HENRY

Clever. I'm not finished. Stay away from my sister. Because if I find out that you're still hooking up with her, I'm gonna find you, come over to your apartment, and cut off your joystick!

HENRY SLAMS THE DOOR ON MAN-BUN. MAN-BUN EXITS. HEATHER SITS DOWN ON THE STAIRS AND TAKES THIS IN.

CUT TO:

SCENE JINT. HALLWAY/HENRY'S APARTMENT - THE NEXT NIGHT

HENRY APPROACHES HIS APARTMENT, COMING HOME FROM WORK. HE STOPS AT HIS DOOR. HEATHER'S KEYS ARE HANGING IN THE LOCK. HENRY ROLLS HIS EYES AND WALKS IN. HE SMELLS SOMETHING FAMILIAR. HEATHER IS STANDING IN THE KITCHEN IN AN APRON. A REDDISH MEAL IS SET ON THE TABLE. IT'S TURNY-TURNY CHICKEN.

HEATHER

I found out what Mom's secret ingredient was.

HENRY

Kahlua and Celebrex?

HEATHER

Close. Stolen catsup packets from the deli. Not ketchup. Catsup.

HENRY

You called your mother?

HEATHER

Yes. I called your mother. In exchange for the recipe, I agreed to meet her for what will be the world's fastest cup of coffee.

HENRY

Why'd you do that?

HEATHER

Because you're my zeh-bra and you keep me from being eaten by lions. And I'm your wildebeest, and I lead you to the turny-turny chicken.

HENRY SOFTENS. HE NOTICES A SMALL FURRY BALL IN A VASE IN THE CENTER OF THE TABLE.

HENRY

What is that centerpiece?

HEATHER

I paid a little visit to a guy
formerly known as Man-Bun. I need to
start taking care of myself. You were
right. I'm way too kind and generous.

HENRY

I never used any of those words.
(THEN) But I think it's better if we
take care of each other.

HEATHER

What are you saying?

HENRY

(BEAT) You can take the guest room.

HEATHER

(MOVED) Henry... if our parents
didn't hit us whenever we cried, I
would totally be bawling right now.

HENRY

(FLAT) I feel it, too.

THEY BOTH SMILE AND CROSS TO THE TABLE. THE PEPPERS SIT DOWN FOR A FAMILY DINNER.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE KINT. HENRY'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

HEATHER AND HENRY ARE SITTING ON THE EDGE OF THE BED IN THE MASTER BEDROOM.

HENRY

It's gonna feel really weird to sleep
in this room again.

HEATHER

If you need me, I'll be right next
door. But don't abuse that, because I
really do need a lot of privacy. It's
a feminist thing. You wouldn't get it
because you're part of the system.

HENRY REACHES BACK TO THE NIGHT STAND AND PICKS UP A FRAMED
PHOTO OF HIM AND KELLY.

HENRY

I really loved her.

HEATHER

She was amazing as the Red Lady in
"Game of Thrones."

HENRY

Is it possible for you to say
something nice?

HEATHER

I thought that was nice! (OFF HIS
LOOK) Fine. I love that you...

HENRY

You can do it.

HEATHER

...loved somebody.

HENRY

There you go. (EXHALES; THEN) Okay,
let's do this. I'll start with the
night stand, you take her closet.

HEATHER

If I whistle or sing when I'm throwing
her crap out, just know it's because
I'm unable to process sadness.

HENRY

You're a good person.

SITTING ON THE EDGE OF THE BED, HENRY AND HEATHER PEPPER GIVE
EACH OTHER A LOOK: THEY'RE HAPPY TO HAVE EACH OTHER. THEN:

HEATHER

Safe-finding-people-who-get-us-so-we-
don't-have-to-live-together-forever-
and-grow-old-like-a-weird-brother-and-
sister-version-of-"Grey Gardens?"

HENRY

Safe-finding-people-who-get-us-so-we-
don't-have-to-live-together-forever-
and-grow-old-like-a-weird-brother-and-
sister-version-of-"Grey Gardens."

HEATHER

Safe-safe.

HENRY

Safe-safe.

HEATHER GETS UP AND CROSSES INTO KELLY'S CLOSET.

HENRY (CONT'D)

(OFF PICTURE) She really slept with
the Fed Ex guy?

SHE POKES HER HEAD OUT OF THE CLOSET. SHE LOOKS AT HER
BROTHER. SHE CAN'T DO IT.

HEATHER

No. (THEN, DEFLECTING) Hey, is that
my shoe under the bed?

HENRY

How does a person lose a shoe?

AS HENRY LOOKS UNDER THE BED, HEATHER RUNS OUT OF THE CLOSET
WITH A TOWER OF FED EX BOXES AND FLINGS THEM OUT THE WINDOW.

HEATHER

Oh, found it. It was on my foot.

HENRY POPS BACK UP FROM UNDERNEATH THE BED.

HENRY

Those were Fed Ex boxes, weren't they?

HEATHER

And maybe a turtle. One of them felt
heavy.

HE SMILES AT HER.

HENRY

You know, you really are a terrible
turtle-sitter.

HEATHER

I basically lost a baby dinosaur.

(THEN, SINCERE) Am I gonna be a bad
mom?

HENRY

You're going to be a great mom. Look
how you take care of me. And you'll
never show up at your daughter's
junior high graduation in a nightgown
cry-singing "I Will Survive."

HEATHER

I guess. But I'm still worried about
my DNA. Do you know I always have a
White Russian before I get on a plane?

HENRY

Hmm. You know what I think?

HENRY PRESSES A BUTTON ON HIS IPHONE. THE "PATA PATA" SONG
STARTS TO PLAY. A SMILE CREEPS ACROSS HEATHER'S FACE.

HENRY (CONT'D)

(LIP-SYNCING) 'PATA PATA' IS THE NAME

OF A DANCE WE DO DOWN JOHANNESBURG WAY--

AS THE TWO DO THE "PATA PATA," THE CAMERA PULLS OUT INTO...

INT. HENRY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

FAST EDIE EXITS THE APARTMENT OUT THE OPEN DOOR INTO THE
HALLWAY, AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW