

UNT. CG/MK PROJECT

Written by

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COLD OPEN

INT. GYM - FRONT AREA - DAY 1

The morning workout rush is over. VINCE, (30's, a charismatic schemer) sits next to his younger brother MATTHEW (earnest, moral, ripped) as they play cards at the front desk. *
*

MATTHEW

So I read this interesting business book about how if you assert yourself, you get what you want.

VINCE

Was it a business book or was it a fortune cookie?

MATTHEW

It was a fortune cookie. The original business book.
(then, assertive)
Still, the message hit me like a thunderbolt: to get what I want, I need to demand it.

VINCE

(without looking up)
We're not getting a dog.

MATTHEW

Oh c'mon, please. I've been so good. *

VINCE

Which I would absolutely take into consideration, were I Santa Claus. We don't have the space for a dog.

Just then, an overweight, EMOTIONAL MAN enters the gym.

EMOTIONAL MAN

Excuse me, can you tell me where I might find Vincent Cook?

MATTHEW

You're looking at him. Well, now you're looking at me. I'm his brother, Matthew. That's Vince. The guy you were *just* looking at.

EMOTIONAL MAN

You slept with my wife, and now I'm
going to kill you.

*
*

The man pulls a gun from inside his jacket on Vince.

MATTHEW

Oh my god! Please don't kill me.
I've never finished a book.

*

Vince is scared but keeps his calm under pressure.

VINCE

Hey, hey, sir, please. I assure you
there's been some mistake. What is
your wife's name?

EMOTIONAL MAN

Deborah Kemp.

VINCE

Okay, so there hasn't been a
mistake. But I swear I had no idea
she was married. And it was one
time. And then another time. And
then the last time. That's it.

EMOTIONAL MAN

'That's it?!' Deborah said it was
only once.

Vince coolly approaches the man as if he's a wild animal.

VINCE

Because she was protecting you,
because she loves you. Whereas what
we did was purely physical. Quite
honestly, I felt ashamed of myself
afterwards; I felt used. Because I
knew I could never have her heart.
That belongs to you.

(friendly banter)

And Christmas. I've never met an
adult who loves Christmas so much.
It's May and she's humming Frosty.

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*

EMOTIONAL MAN

We met at a Christmas Tree Shop.

*
*

VINCE

Ok. So now you gotta ask yourself,
"Why did my wife stray?" "What did
she see in that idiot, Vince?" Was
it his charm? His confidence?

*

The Emotional Man lowers his gun.

EMOTIONAL MAN

Maybe. I put on a lot of weight
when I lost my job at the Christmas
Tree Shop.

(wistful)

I loved it so much. They let me
pick the music. Within reason. It
had to be Christmas music.

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VINCE

And your wife loved you for it. So
how do we get that guy back? Don't
answer. I know and I'm going to
tell you: You're already on the
path to regaining your self worth.
'Cause I'm the owner of the fifth
largest gym in Jackson Heights,
Queens. Let me help you find the
man Deborah married. Join us,
brother.

*

Vince hands him an application. The man takes it.

VINCE (CONT'D)

It's a two year binding agreement.

The Emotional Man raises his gun.

VINCE (CONT'D)

--Or we can do month-to-month!
Because I'm so confident you won't
quit.

EMOTIONAL MAN

I won't. Thank you, Vince.

The man leaves with the paperwork. Vince lets out a HUGE sigh
of relief.

MATTHEW

You know what would have protected
us in that situation...?

VINCE

We're not getting a dog.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONEINT. VINCE & MATTHEW'S APARTMENT - VINCE'S BEDROOM - DAY 1

Vince stands in front of his dresser, finishing his morning ritual. He looks in the mirror and nods. He looks good and he knows it. He puts product in his hair and spritzes body spray in all the important places: neck, feet, and crotch. Before he can finish, the spray bottle runs out. He rummages through some drawers, looking for a new bottle. Instead of body spray, he finds something else. *

It's a framed newspaper article of him from 1997, when he was a teenager. The headline reads: "Jackson Heights Basketball Star Gains National Interest." He looks happy and full of promise in the photo. Vince's face falls and his happy mood is killed. Matthew enters. *

VINCE *

Whoa! Whoa! I could have been
naked. *

MATTHEW *

Who cares. You see me naked all the
time. We're brothers, that's
normal. *

(noticing the photo) *

Man. You were so cool in high
school. I keep finding that photo
in the trash and I keep putting
back in the drawer. *

Vince starts to exit. Matthew follows. *

MATTHEW (CONT'D) *

Young, full of promise, good-ish
credit... *

INT. GYM - PERSONAL TRAINER AREA - DAY 1

Queen's *Killer Queen* blasts on the speakers. Vince works TIFFANY (a young, hot, gym member) out with kettlebells.

VINCE *

You got this, one more and you're
done. I lied. Two more. *Three* more
and you can come to the party
Matthew and I are throwing tonight. *

TIFFANY
 (on to him)
 Uh, don't you have that girlfriend,
 Britney?

VINCE
 Who? Oh, Britney. No, that's old
 news. She's not anything. *

We look down and see "Britney" tattooed on his forearm.

VINCE (CONT'D)
 (fumfering)
 That's for Britney Spears. I relate
 to her struggle. Everyone wants a
 piece of her. That's how I feel.

TIFFANY
 Wow. I feel like I could fix you. *

VINCE
 Maybe you could. You should try. *

TIFFANY
 I'd love to come to your party. *
 What can I bring? *

VINCE
 (suggestive)
 A toothbrush.

She swats at him flirtily. The music abruptly stops.

VINCE (CONT'D)
 (yelling, mad)
 Hey, who turned off my Queen?!

Vince sees LUBNA (an elegant, middle-aged Saudi woman who
 says and does whatever the hell she wants) approaching with a
 look of disdain on her face.

LUBNA
 Good morning, Vince Cook. Do you
 have a moment to talk business? Or
 are you trying to scam this woman
 into having intercourse with you?
 (to Tiffany)
 Don't do it. He'll ruin your life.

VINCE
 How dare you. I've never ruined any
 woman's life.

INT. MANHATTAN ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS – DEAN'S
OFFICE – DAY 1

**

Single on PRIYA, a woman whose life Vince has ruined.

Priya, (30's, Indian, weary... it's Mindy, guys) and her son
MICHAEL (15, half-Indian, gay, an opinionated handful) sit
across from the DEAN.

**

MICHAEL

Can I just say what an honor it is
to be sitting in the dean's office
at the Manhattan Academy for the
Performing Arts? I have dreamt of
this moment ever since my humble
beginnings in the horrible town I
was raised.

**

PRIYA

It's not that bad. He has a TV in
his bedroom.

MICHAEL

But do I have premium cable? No.

PRIYA

We have it in the TV room. Move
twenty feet if you want to watch
BBC America.

*

Michael looks at the Dean, "can you believe what I have to
put up with?"

**

DEAN

**

I don't own a TV so I must admit I
have no take on this. I do
unfortunately have terrible news.
Something has happened to Mr.
Stevenson, the head of admissions,
who recruited you on his trip to
Cleveland. He was caught in a
sting.

**

*

PRIYA

(intrigued)
Really? Like a hand in the cookie
jar type sting?

DEAN

**

More like a "Jared from Subway"
type sting.

PRIYA/MICHAEL

Oh my god.

DEAN

The point is, because he found and admitted you, we cannot know his intentions, and you must re-audition tomorrow for the admissions board.

**

PRIYA

You don't understand. The only reason I could afford this school is because Mr. Stevenson offered to let Michael board in his home.

MICHAEL

I have to audition again? I don't have a place to live? Can I live with you?

*

DEAN

No. I don't need a kid staring at me when I drink. Now if you'll excuse me.

**

The Dean rises and shows them the door.

**

INT. GYM - PERSONAL TRAINER AREA - DAY 1

Meanwhile, back at the gym, Lubna and Vince get into it.

LUBNA

The music is too loud! The walls you lazy white people built are too thin. The girls in my nail salon can't concentrate.

*
*

VINCE

Is that their biggest complaint? Not that they're shackled to their pedicure stations?

*

LUBNA

We were exonerated on Frontline! You know, I pity you. You are a sad man with an empty life. Like a John Stamos character. I cannot wait to buy this place and turn it into a tasteful Versailles themed tanning salon. Speaking of, here is my final offer.

*

Lubna hands him a manila envelope with a contract inside. Vince nervously stuffs the envelope in his pocket.

VINCE

Hey, keep your voice down.

LUBNA

Why? Your business is failing and you're selling to a savvy immigrant who works harder than you. Nothing to be ashamed of. This is the American way.

*
*
*

VINCE

My business is fine. I just haven't told Matthew yet. I will.

(off her quizzical look)

I just need a change of scenery. Florida seems pretty. I mean, from the movie *Porky's*, anyway.

*

LUBNA

Again, very sad. You can escape to Florida, but you cannot escape your brother. He will need time to comprehend, because he is not so smart.

Lubna and Vince look around. Vince waves her off - "yeah, yeah." Lubna exits. Matthew appears at Vince's side.

MATTHEW

Hey man, why so pensive? I just learned that word and I'm trying to make it stick.

*
*
*

VINCE

It's nothing. Just... do you ever worry you're best days are behind you?

*
*
*
*

MATTHEW

Behind you? What are you talking about? You live with me in a two-bedroom apartment upstairs from our gym! You're like a John Stamos character! How could life get any better? Answer: a dog.

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Matthew's "encouragement" only makes Vince more uneasy.

*

VINCE

We're not getting a dog.

*
*

MATTHEW

Now I'm pensive.

*
*

EXT. MANHATTAN ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS - DAY 1

Meanwhile, outside Michael's school, Priya and Michael fight.

MICHAEL

I knew you would mess this up. I bet this isn't even about Mr. Stevenson. They don't want us here because we're bumpkins! Did you have to dress like a nurse who takes care of old people?!

PRIYA

I am a nurse that takes care of old people. And do some of my patients give me their clothes when they pass? Yes. You're so ungrateful. *

MICHAEL *

Ungrateful?! For your thirty-fifth birthday I performed a one man show about Marilyn Monroe for you, and you fell asleep before she entered into a loveless marriage with Arthur Miller!

PRIYA

For the last time, I don't care about Marilyn Monroe! Or Jackie Kennedy! Or Audrey Hepburn!

He gasps. *

MICHAEL

All is lost. I'm going to have to return to Ohio in disgrace, go back into the closet and marry an ugly girl from my high school and become an over-weight breeder like everyone else. No offense. *

Priya gets a resolute look on her face. This has gone too far, there is only one last option. Her Hail Mary. *

PRIYA

Look. I'm sorry all of this happened. But if you can pass your audition tomorrow, I think I know a place you can live.

Michael lights up - what is this mysterious solution?

INT. GYM - FRONT AREA - LATER

Priya and Michael walk into Vince and Matthew's gym.

MICHAEL

Why are we at a gym in Queens? I'm so hungry I don't even have the energy to say, "Yaaas Queens" and enjoy it.

PRIYA

We'll get dinner after. I have to talk to someone. Read a *Men's Health* and don't get too turned on.
(ogling magazine cover)
Damn.

*

*

*

Priya tucks the magazine into her purse and enters the gym leaving Michael behind annoyed.

INT. GYM - PERSONAL TRAINER AREA - DAY 1

Priya wanders back to the personal trainer area on a mission. She looks around not seeing what she wants. Then:

MATTHEW

(brightly)

Priya? Priya Patel? Priya Lakshmi Patel? Oh my god, I haven't seen you since high school.

PRIYA

Wait, Matthew, you remember me?

MATTHEW

Are you kidding? Back in the day you'd steal beer from your dad's bodega for Vince and me. Remember? We'd get so hammered!

PRIYA

While I did your homework and considered myself lucky. Bit of a different time for smart girls then.

MATTHEW

So what happened to you? People say you put on a lot of weight, had a baby, and disappeared. But according to Facebook you're in Ohio with a young, gay roommate.

PRIYA

That's not my roommate, that's my son, Michael. Can I talk to Vince?

INT. GYM - VINCE'S OFFICE - DAY 1

Meanwhile, Michael has wandered into Vince's office. He's rifling through the desk for a snack. The manila envelope Lubna gave Vince falls to the ground. The contract slips out and he glances at it. Just then, Vince walks into the office. *

VINCE

Hey! Who are you?

MICHAEL

Do you want my real name or my stage name?

VINCE

Your real name.

MICHAEL

(dramatic)

Miguel Blanchett Almovodar.

VINCE

Your real name.

MICHAEL

Michael Patel. *

Vince marches over to him and slams the drawers shut.

VINCE

Okay, well, Michael Patel. I'm calling the cops. You can't steal from me.

MICHAEL

(horrified)

Steal?! I would never steal! I was simply looking for something to eat, not unlike Jean Valjean and his loaf of bread in *Les Miserables*.

VINCE

I've never read it.

MICHAEL

It's not a book, it's a musical. And a movie.

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

And what could I even steal from here? MRSA? This place should be condemned.

VINCE

This is a bare bones training gym, that's the aesthetic. It's more about strength training, not cardio and glamour muscles.

MICHAEL

Strength training? You're not that ripped.

VINCE

I'm subtle ripped!

Vince crosses over to the phone on his desk to call the cops.

MICHAEL

Fine! Call the cops, send me to child prison. It's probably way better than my stupid public school in Cleveland.

A light bulb goes off.

VINCE

...Cleveland? What'd you say your last name was?

PRIYA (O.S.)

Patel.

We reveal Priya and Matthew in the doorway.

MATTHEW

Stop! That kid is my son!

MICHAEL

Whoa. You're my father?! You're so hot. That means I'm hot.

MATTHEW

Oh. No! Sorry. I mean that kid is your son, Vince!

MICHAEL

Oh.

VINCE

Oh.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOEXT. GYM - ESTABLISHING - DAY 1

We pan up from the gym to Vince and Matthew's apartment above.

PRIYA (O.S.)
When I got pregnant, I had a full
ride scholarship to Ohio State...

INT. VINCE & MATTHEW'S APARTMENT - TV AREA - CONTINUOUS

Inside the apartment, we see everyone has had a moment to cool down. Matthew has made Michael a snack. Priya and Vince explain their backstory gently and maturely to Michael.

PRIYA
...Vince wasn't going to college--

VINCE
--I was but I lost my scholarship.
It was political.

PRIYA
He smoked a joint at a gas station
and caused an explosion. Which is
just one of the reasons we decided
it was best not to tell you.

VINCE
The other reasons were bigger.
Financial... locational...

PRIYA
But, like the explosion, they
mostly hinged on your father's
arrogance and/or stupidity.

VINCE
Still, you understand why we
wouldn't tell you, right, kid?

MICHAEL
(calm)
Sure. All good. Just one tiny thing-
(flipping out)
Are you out of your freaking
minds?! Who would come up with such
a stupid plan? It sucks!
(to Priya)
(MORE)

*

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

You're a liar!

(to Vince)

You're a deadbeat Dad! Neither of you have any style! The only person I like is my uncle.

MATTHEW

Thank you. Only, I cannot enjoy your compliment as I too am reeling from this life of deception.

*

VINCE

Priya, now's just not a good time for this. Work is crazy. We're...
(searching)
...about to get a dog.

*

*

MATTHEW

What.

PRIYA

A dog? Are you kidding me? I've worked my ass off for 15 years and now it's time for you to step up and raise your son while he attends Gay Hogwarts.

MICHAEL

It's not okay for you to call it that.

*

PRIYA

Oh but you can beep like a truck is backing up when I wear yoga pants?! I raised you by myself and it was the hardest time of my life, but it was all worth it because you were the sweetest little boy. Now you're an ungrateful teenage monster and I need a break. Matthew, I don't know about Vince, but I feel very safe leaving Michael here with you.

*

MATTHEW

Thank you. I love children. I had to repeat so many grades that I find I prefer their company.

PRIYA

So here's what's gonna happen: I'm driving back to Ohio because I don't have any more vacation days, because I used them all taking this one to Dollywood.

*

(MORE)

PRIYA (CONT'D)

He's living here and going to his fancy school because he's wanted this ever since he was a little boy. I'm not going to be responsible for my son's broken dreams. I already have mine to deal with. I was supposed to be 5'8" and married to Joshua Jackson.

(to Vince)

In bed by 9. Do not let him frost his tips.

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*

Priya leaves. Vince and Michael are stunned.

MATTHEW

(beaming)

We're a family!

*
*

INT. VINCE & MATTHEW'S APARTMENT - DINING AREA - NIGHT 1

Matthew and Vince set the table for dinner while Michael watches TV on the sofa a little further away. Vince hangs up his cell, annoyed.

MATTHEW

Priya still won't pick up?

(happy)

Guess he's living with us forever.

Vince throws him a look: "drop it." Matthew sighs.

VINCE

She's coming back. This happened in High School once. I got high and left her at a Green Day Concert. She didn't talk to me for three days. But on day four...

(re: Michael)

We made him. Hey, kid. It's dinner time.

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MICHAEL

How can I be thinking about food when I don't even know what I'm playing for my audition tomorrow? Brahms? Chopin? Liszt?

MATTHEW

(supportive)

Yeah, one more and it is a list. You're doing great.

Michael wanders over to the table, a little impressed.

MICHAEL

You cooked this? Or are you doing that thing where you bought it and you put it on plates to look like you cooked it?

VINCE

No, I'm not trying to date you. We cooked this.

(off his surprised face)

Have you never had a home cooked meal before?

MICHAEL

Mom works a lot, so we eat take-out every night.

VINCE

You eat fast food every night? And I'm the deadbeat?! Your mom is a bad mom.

MICHAEL

My mother is an angel. You robbed her of her youth and left her for dead, like Fantine in *Les Mis*. So I had to be raised by the ghoul she had become.

Matthew and Vince sit at the table while Michael walks to the TV area. *

MATTHEW

What are you doing?

MICHAEL

What I do every night: eat dinner while watching *RuPaul's Drag Race*.

VINCE

I don't think so, kid. We're not degenerates who eat in front of the TV. Unless they're re-running the episode of *The Price is Right* that Matthew is on... *

MATTHEW

(proud)

I lost. *

Michael stands, a bit put out, walks back to the table. *

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

So, Michael, how was your day?

MICHAEL

My day? It was bad. My dreams were shattered and I learned my father isn't Bradley Cooper from *American Sniper*.

*

MATTHEW

Hey dude, Bradley Cooper's literal garbage compared to your dad.

VINCE

I don't know. I feel like he's pretty universally beloved.

*

MATTHEW

No. Was Bradley Cooper the star basketball player of his high school?

VINCE

Probably.

*

MICHAEL

Really? You played basketball? You're not very tall or black.

*

VINCE

Yeah, I just cared about it more than anyone.

(realizing)

Haven't really felt that way about anything since.

(then, covering)

But why are we talking about me? What's your deal? Do you just play piano or also something cool like electric guitar?

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MICHAEL

Just piano. And since you're both jocks, I feel compelled to reveal something to you:

(deep breath)

I'm gay. And I know you must consider that a disgrace.

*

*

VINCE

Okay, first of all, it's not very difficult to tell that you're gay.

MATTHEW

I could tell from the way you talked.

*

VINCE

Also, you think we have a problem with gay people? We own a gym. Half the NBA is gay. I'm fine with it. In fact, our dream is for our gym to become a gay gym. Women and straight guys are filthy.

Michael is impressed and tries to hide his surprise. The doorbell rings. Vince suddenly remembers Tiffany.

VINCE (CONT'D)

Shoot. It's just this girl Tiffany at the gym who's obsessed with me.

*
*
*

MATTHEW

Dammit! Just when we were confessing stuff. Many women find my penis too big.

*

Vince gets up and walks to the door.

*

VINCE

Hey girl, it's not gonna work tonight—

*

It's BRITNEY, Vince's on-again, off-again girlfriend.

*

BRITNEY

Why the hell did my neighbor Tiffany say she had a date with you tonight?

*
*

VINCE

Oh, hi Britney. Great to see you.
(to Michael)
Britney is an old... colleague from school.

BRITNEY

Colleague? I'm your soul mate.
(to Matthew and Michael)
We started dating when I was thirteen and he was a senior in high school. He explained 9/11 to me. I explained *Lemonade* to him. But now it's over. I've gotten engaged.

*
*

VINCE

Engaged? To who?

*
*

BRITNEY

My career.

*
*

VINCE **
 Career? You post pictures of **
 yourself drinking wine in a bikini **
 on Instagram. **

BRITNEY **
 Yeah, well, a Russian man in **
 Chicago wants to buy me a Mazda **
 Miata. And I'm gonna let him. **
 'Cause you're a cheater and "I **
 ain't got no time for cheaters." **
 That's a song I'm working on once I **
 learn how to sing. **

MICHAEL **
 I love her. She's fabulous.

VINCE **
 Britney, sweetheart. You gotta ask
 yourself: "Why? Why would my
 boyfriend stray?"

Britney slaps him.

BRITNEY
 Don't you dare try to trick me with
 your genius mind games! This is how
 he got me to pleasure him during
 Fantastic Four!

VINCE *
 Oh, because the movie was so *
 compelling.

MATTHEW **
 Stop! I loved Fantastic Four! And **
 don't humiliate a man in front of **
 his own son!

BRITNEY **
 Matthew's your son? I knew it. You
 look so much older than him.

VINCE
 No. The other one.
 (then)
 Guys, can you go upstairs? I need a
 minute to talk to Britney.

INT. VINCE & MATTHEW'S APARTMENT - MATTHEW'S ROOM - NIGHT 1

Upstairs, Matthew shows Michael his bedroom.

MATTHEW

And here we are. My room. This is where the magic happens. Because Vince won't let me use my magic set in the living room.

**

MICHAEL

God forbid you make that furniture disappear.

**

**

**

MATTHEW

I can't believe I have a roommate! This is so much better than a dog. I won't have to wash you, for instance.

**

**

**

Matthew takes off his shirt. Michael can't help but stare.

**

MICHAEL

(laughing too hard)
Yeah, that would be crazy.

**

MATTHEW

This is going to be the best. Each night falling asleep, telling stories. Nothing too scary, though.

*

MICHAEL

(warming)
Are you serious? You don't think I'm a burden?

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*

MATTHEW

A burden? More like 'A bird in hand is better than two in the bush.'
Holy crap I'm smarter around you.

MICHAEL

Do you think Vince - It's Vince right? - Do you think Vince will be okay with me staying?

MATTHEW

Listen, I practically know him like a brother. He's prideful but there's a lot of good inside him. He's the only person who never called me dumb. Not even when I get my hand stuck in the pickle jar.

*

MICHAEL

Does that happen a lot?

MATTHEW

Not a lot. But enough.

MICHAEL

I always wondered who my father was. I'm glad inside he's nice.

MATTHEW

Did you ever wonder who your uncle was?

**

MICHAEL

Not once. Which makes meeting you all the better.

Matthew hugs Michael, who's warmed to living here.

**

INT. VINCE & MATTHEW'S APARTMENT - TV AREA - NIGHT 1

Back downstairs, Britney and Vince continue to fight.

BRITNEY

I lost my virginity to you. I took care of you after your Lasik surgery. I have asked to live with you for years and you always say, "Britney, babe, there's no room!" "There's only so much space on the DVR!" "The landlord said, "no women allowed!""-

**

**

Michael and Matthew walk down the stairs.

VINCE

He's not moving in! I'm putting him on a bus in the morning. You're my everything, baby. I haven't thought about this kid a day in my life.

Michael and Matthew stop on the landing. It hits Michael like a ton of bricks. Just then, Vince sees Matthew and Michael.

MICHAEL

You know what? I was actually beginning to think you were okay. Sure, you're a basic Jabroni who dresses like a date rapist. That I could look past. But I was wrong. You're a bad person.

VINCE

I didn't mean to hurt your feelings.

(MORE)

VINCE (CONT'D)

And I think you're being unfair
about my clothes. But Michael, this
was never going to work.

**

Michael heads to the door.

MICHAEL

I agree. And why would a stylish
gay teenager choose to live here?
It's embarrassing. I'm going.

(then, spiteful)

But before I go, you should
probably tell them your plans to
sell the gym. Yeah! I saw the
contract on your desk.

**

MATTHEW

Is that true?

VINCE

(ashamed)

Yes.

BRITNEY

You selfish son of a bitch.

MICHAEL

Also, there was a joint in there,
which I'm keeping... For my
eighteenth birthday!

*
*
*
*

He runs out.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEEXT. JACKSON HEIGHTS STREET - MORNING 2

Matthew and Vince are exhausted from searching all night.

MATTHEW
(calling out)
Michael! Michael Patel!

An older INDIAN MAN running a newsstand turns and looks. **

MAN **
Yes, I am Michael Patel. **

MATTHEW
No. Not you. Or wait... No.

VINCE
So he's not at the Port Authority
or The Sports Authority. Still not
sure why you made us look there.

MATTHEW **
Because if my persona was 'musical
theater guy' and I didn't want to
be found, that's where I'd hide!

VINCE
Hey, I know you're mad at me but--

MATTHEW
Mad doesn't even begin to describe
how I feel. I. Am. Angry. You're
selling the gym and abandoning me?
How even was I gonna make money?
Modelling? Boyfriend Experience?

VINCE
I'm not abandoning you!

MATTHEW
Then what do you call it?

VINCE
Running away from responsibility. I
don't get why you're surprised by
this. All I ever do is disappoint
people: Mom and Dad, my coaches,
you. In the six hours I knew my
son, he went from a promising
musician to a

**

(MORE)

VINCE (CONT'D)
 teenage runaway. And not the sexy
 girl kind.

*
 *

Vince's phone rings. It's Priya. Oh no.

VINCE (CONT'D)
 (to Matthew)
 It's Priya. What do I do?

MATTHEW
 Oh! I know! Give me the phone.
 (into phone, calm)
 Hey Priya, it's Matthew. What's
 that? You want to talk to Vince?
 Okay.

He hands the phone to Vince. He grimaces frustrated and
 plasters on a calm smile.

VINCE
 Priya. What up?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. PRIYA'S TRUCK

Priya drives back to Ohio.

PRIYA
 Vince, hi. I wanted to apologize
 for last night. Between Michael
 leaving home and seeing you and the
 old neighborhood, I freaked out.

VINCE
 It's cool. I forgive you. Gotta go.

PRIYA
 No, I'm not apologizing to you;
 you're a dick. I'm apologizing to
 Michael. And I'm coming back to get
 him. Can you put him on? He won't
 answer his phone.

*
 *
 *

VINCE
 Oh, uh, he can't talk right now.
 He's practicing piano.

Matthew starts making piano music sounds with his mouth.

PRIYA
 Practicing? Oh good.

Vince mouths to Matthew, "she bought it." They're pumped.

PRIYA (CONT'D)

His audition's in an hour. I need
to take him.

*
*

VINCE

Audition?

PRIYA

To get back into the school. You
remembered, right?

*
*

VINCE

Yup. Yup. Well, sorry, but Michael
wants me to take him now. He said
he likes me better.

*
*
*
*

PRIYA

So what? He literally likes
everyone better than me. I'm coming
back.

*
*
*
*

VINCE

Priya! Get off our jocks. I'm
taking him to his Glee audition
'cause I'm his dad. Go back to Ohio
to your elderly friends.

*
*
*
*
*

Priya is the tiniest bit impressed. So is Matthew.

*

PRIYA

Okay. Well, have him call me as
soon as he's done.

(emotional)

And tell him I love him and I'll be
back next weekend to see him and
that if anything happens to him
I'll kill you, Vince.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

VINCE

(as though conversation
ended well)

That's great, Priya. You're
welcome.

*
*
*
*
*

VINCE (CONT'D)

Great catching up. Bye now.

MATTHEW

Love you Priya! Bye!

*
*

(to Matthew)

We have to find Michael now.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

There's another Sports Authority in
the Bronx.

INT. GYM - EARLY MORNING - DAY

The gym is not yet open. In low light, Britney spitefully robs the gym, filling a garbage bag with anything that seems to have value: boxing gloves, small hand weights. She kicks over a brochure stand. In the BG we see Michael wake up confused, and stand.

MICHAEL

What are you doing?

BRITNEY

Oh my god! You scared me! I thought you were a burglar.

MICHAEL

Aren't you burgling?

BRITNEY

No. This is a crime of passion.
Brought about by you.

MICHAEL

Do we know each other?

BRITNEY

(disbelief)

I'm Britney Sundaram. Your dad's on-again off-again soulmate for the past twenty years. We're famous in this neighborhood, a kind of "will they or won't they" couple. People are obsessed with us.

MICHAEL

I'm sorry, do you hate him or are you bragging about your relationship?

BRITNEY

Oh, very clever. Try to get me to reconsider my feelings about your father so you can have a cool, hot MILF with a hook up at the Piercing Pagoda on Astoria boulevard.

MICHAEL

What are you talking about? I'm running away.

Britney throws a boxing glove at him. *

MICHAEL (CONT'D) *

Ow! *

BRITNEY *

Running away? You hit the jackpot, kid. I've tried so many times to get accidentally knocked up by Vince so I can move in with him but he's too smart. *

MICHAEL *

That is literally the only way I would ever describe him as smart. *

She throws a water bottle at him. *

MICHAEL (CONT'D) *

Ow! Stop throwing stuff at me! *

BRITNEY *

He is smart! And sensitive. Once I read his diary and it said: "Sometimes I worry that I'm the shell of a man that once was, and the ghost of a man who will never be." How soulful is that? *

MICHAEL *

(surprised) *

That sounds really sad. *

BRITNEY *

It's not sad. He's awesome. Vince was on the varsity basketball team of our high school for five years! And this is a very diverse neighborhood. There's hella black guys here! And two real tall Chinese dudes. *

MICHAEL *

That's racist. *

BRITNEY *

Look at the color of my skin. I can't be racist. And if you're too stupid to realize how wonderful and loving your father is, you-- oh my god, I love him. What am I doing? *

(then, menacing) *

Do not tell him I was here. *

Britney exits with her sack. Michael looks conflicted. **

INT. LUBNA'S SALON - SOON AFTER *

Matthew hangs a poorly designed "Missing Cousin" flyer with a drawing of what he thinks Michael looks like (a lot of brown crayon). Lubna is there. *

LUBNA *
You don't have a photo of him? *

MATTHEW *
Are you kidding? I took fifty of *
them while he wasn't looking. *
They're all blurry. This captures *
his essence. *

VINCE *
Wait. Stop. Do you hear crying? *

MATTHEW *
That's just my heart. Ignore it. *

We do indeed hear faint crying through the paper-thin walls. *

LUBNA *
I know what my girls' crying sounds *
like. That's coming from your gym. *

Vince takes a deep breath and nods. He knows he must do this. *

INT. GYM - PERSONAL TRAINER AREA - DAY 2 *

Next door, Vince enters and sees Britney's destruction. *

VINCE *
Damn it, Britney. *

He sees Michael. *

VINCE (CONT'D)
Hey.

MICHAEL **
Hey. **

VINCE **
Did you spend the night here? **

MICHAEL

I tried to run away but I don't have any money and I'm not hot enough to pay with my looks. Thanks for that, by the way.

VINCE

Look, I know you're mad, but your audition is in ten minutes and we have to go.

MICHAEL

No.

VINCE

What do you mean, "no"? It's all you've ever wanted.

MICHAEL

Yeah, well, now I think it's stupid and I hate it.

VINCE

What is your problem? *

MICHAEL

(incredulous)

What's my problem? My problem is my father took one look at me as a baby and decided he didn't want me around for *the rest of my life*. What's an admissions committee gonna think? *

Vince doesn't know what to say.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Why did you abandon me?

VINCE

Abandon means I had to be involved in your life at some point.

MICHAEL

Are you trying to get out of this on a technicality? What is wrong with you?

VINCE

(wincing)

Fine! I suck and you hate me.

(MORE)

VINCE (CONT'D)

But I promised your mother I would take you to this audition, so let's go, and you never have to see me ever again.

MICHAEL

What's the point? I don't fit in there. It's not for poor kids with Android phones like me. I'm not going.

VINCE

Hey, listen. If you don't go, that's the same as quitting. And, trust me, it's hard to stop quitting once you start.

**
**

Michael starts a bratty slow-clap.

MICHAEL

Wow, that was amazing. You should embroider that on a pillow. I'm not going.

VINCE

'K. Didn't want to have to do this.

Vince approaches Michael, and in one swift move, picks him up and throws him over his shoulder. Michael starts screaming.

MICHAEL

Put me down! Help! Help! I'm being kidnapped!

VINCE (CONT'D)

Stop screaming or I'll put a gym towel in your mouth!

INT. ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS - AUDITORIUM - DAY 2

**

In the school auditorium, Vince walks onto the stage with Michael over his shoulder. Everyone turns and looks, including the ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE (led by the Dean).

**

VINCE

Excuse us. I have a contestant, or whatever, here to audition.

DEAN

Sir, auditions ended 30 minutes ago and now we're eating our salads.

**

VINCE

Please, it's my fault he's late.

As Vince talks, sentimental music swells.

*

VINCE (CONT'D)
15 years late. See, his mom and I--

DEAN
No, no time for stories. Don't
care. Just play.

**

The sentimental music stops. Vince drops Michael in front of
a piano illuminated by spotlight, *A Chorus Line* style.

MICHAEL
(whispering to Vince)
I can't do this. I don't even know
what I'm going to play.

VINCE
You can do this. Just play
something from the heart. Or I'll
kick your ass.
(Showman to committee)
And now, put your hands together
for Cleveland's own... Miguel
Blanchett Almovodar.

Vince applauds as he walks off stage. The admissions
committee remains solemn. Michael sits there, thinking.
Frozen. We think Michael's not going to play but finally:

**

MICHAEL
Okay, I'm going to perform my
favorite song, written by another
openly gay man who happens to be
Indian.

**

*

Vince: Who's that? Michael starts playing the piano.

*

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
(singing)
I've paid my dues, time after time.
I've done my sentence, but
committed no crime.

*

*

*

*

*

It's *We Are the Champions* by Queen. We push in on Vince's
face. He's shocked.

*

*

VINCE
Freddie Mercury was gay?

*

MICHAEL
And bad mistakes - I've made a few.

**

**

We are on Vince's face, thinking about his life.

**

MICHAEL (CONT'D) **
I've had my share of sand kicked in **
my face, but I've come through. **

INT. MATTHEW'S BEDROOM - DAY **

See Matthew putting up a poster of Bach or Beethoven. **

MICHAEL **
We are the champions, my friends- **

INT. GYM - PERSONAL TRAINER AREA **

Britney putting some stuff she stole back at the gym. Then **
 pushes Tiffany, as she enters the gym. **

MICHAEL **
And we'll keep on fighting 'til the **
end-- **

INT. CAR - DAY **

Priya drives, nervously thinking of Michael. **

MICHAEL **
We are the champions, we are the **
champions- **

INT. NAIL SALON - SAME TIME **

Lubna replaces her photo on the employee of the month plaque **
 with one of her girls... **

MICHAEL **
No time for losers, 'Cause we are **
the champions-- **

INT. ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS - AUDITORIUM - SAME TIME **

Michael finishes, having played beautifully. *

MICHAEL **
-Of the world. **

Vince is blown away. Moved, he whispers to the Dean: **

VINCE
 I guess we have a lot in common
 after all.
 (MORE)

VINCE (CONT'D)
 Athletes and gay guys both love
 Queen. It's not much. But it's a
 start, right?

The Dean is annoyed and scoots away from him. Michael finishes. The committee begins applauding, very moved. It's clear he passed the audition and there is a spot for him. Vince is happier than we have ever seen him. He stands. **

VINCE (CONT'D)
 DYAAAM BOY!!

INT. VINCE'S CAR - LATER

Michael and Vince sit in the car in a comfortable silence. Vince glances over to Michael.

VINCE
 To answer your question. Of why I
 didn't come for you. It's
 because... my life kind of sucks. I
 didn't want you to have to see
 that. In your mind I would just be
 some mysterious cowboy who knocked
 up your mom and split. And you
 could hate me, curse me... but at
 least you wouldn't pity me.

There is a long beat as Michael takes this in.

MICHAEL
 My life sucks too. More than yours.

VINCE
 C'mon, kid. As of yesterday, my
 best case life scenario was: sell
 my gym, move to the Florida
 Panhandle and drink tequila until
 my body washed up in the
 Everglades.

MICHAEL
 (not missing a beat)
 We lived next to Ariel Castro and
 my mom is the least fashionable
 person in the world.

Vince laughs.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 Did you ever think that maybe
 selling the gym is your version
 of... quitting?

VINCE

It's nothing like that. It's more
"running away from my problems,"
which is totally different.

(then, off Michael's look)

Fine. It's exactly the same.

(then)

Okay. I won't sell the gym.

*
*

MICHAEL

Good. Now make it cooler with like
a barre class or something.

They ride for a bit.

VINCE

And if you need a place to live
when you go to school... Matthew
and I...

(then)

It could maybe be not terrible if
you lived with us.

*

Michael sweetly nods "yes." Vince smiles and they keep
driving.

INT. GYM - FRONT AREA - DAY 3

*

The following day, Matthew and Vince play cards, as they
always do. Just then, Vince's phone buzzes. Matthew notices.

*
*

MATTHEW

Dude, it's from the "212." It's
Melania! Don found out!

*
*
*

VINCE

('hello' in Slovenian)

Zdrazo?

*
*
*

DEAN

(excited)

Vincent, it's Dean Gurley. It turns
out a rich family in Gramercy is
intrigued by Michael and wants to
take him in. It's kind of a *Juno*
situation. May I have them contact
you?

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

VINCE

No thank you. Mike's living with
me.

*
*
*

Michael enters, annoyed.

*

MICHAEL

It's *Michael*. 'Mike' is the guy who
fixes your toilet. And he's going
to be busy because I'm about to
flush everything I own. Did you not
hear me tell you to iron my shirts
last night? Instead you're just
sitting here like two old ladies
playing bridge. I can't. I *cannot*.

**
**
**
**
**
**
**
**
**

Michael storms out.

**

MATTHEW

Wow, it's nice he feels so
comfortable with us already.

**
**
**

Vince takes this in. Being a dad is going to be hard. Then:

**

VINCE

Maybe email me that family's info
just in case.

**
**
**

Off Vince...

**

END OF PILOT