

**UNTITLED KOURTNEY KANG**

"PILOT"

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FADE IN:

INT. LOS ANGELES FORUM - NIGHT

CHYRON: 1988. STOCK FOOTAGE of a Laker game in progress. The team calls a time out and heads to the sideline. The Laker Girls take the floor. Salt-N-Pepa's "Push It" plays and they dance a routine. Then:

VOICE (O.S.)

That's not going to cut it.

The music cuts out. Nervous, the girls turn to see PAULA ABDUL, in a sexy-sensible lady suit, walking onto the court.

PAULA ABDUL

Where's the heart? Before I rocketed to stardom with my break-out hit "Straight up," I was a Laker Girl, but to me it meant something. Do any of you even want to be here?

GIRL'S VOICE (O.S.)

I do, Paula.

Paula turns to see KATIE, a 12-year-old, half-Asian girl in the stands, raising her hand.

PAULA ABDUL

Then get out here.

Katie stands and rips off her sweat-suit, REVEALING a LAKER GIRL UNIFORM. She rushes to Paula who looks her up and down.

PAULA ABDUL

What's your truth?

KATIE

Well, I'm from a small town in Pennsylvania, but I want to do something big, something that matters... like be a Laker Girl.

PAULA ABDUL

(to the other girls)

Now, that's heart.

(then, to Katie)

Do you know our signature first quarter routine?

KATIE

Like the back of my freakin' hand.

Paula signals for music. It starts and Katie dances her heart out. She's really good. Paula is impressed.

PAULA ABDUL  
(chanting)  
Katie! Katie!

The chanting turns into:

MAX (V.O.)  
Katie! KATIE!

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Katie, in her Catholic school uniform, stands in front of a magazine display staring at a cover with Paula Abdul on it dated 1988. She looks to MAX, her 8 year-old-brother.

MAX  
Katie! Grab me a "Food & Wine?"  
They're featuring chowders.

Katie sighs, grabs the magazine, and follows Max to their mom, PATTY JEAN, an Irish spit-fire, who talks to BERNICE, the cashier and ANN-MARIE, the woman she is training.

PATTY JEAN  
Did you get your tickets for the Blueberry Jubilee? I'm chairing it this year, all eyes will be on me. It's like hosting the Oscars.

BERNICE  
Wow! You belong in the spotlight. You're so beautiful, you're like our town's Marilyn Monroe.

PATTY JEAN  
(loving it)  
Stop! She was much shorter and more petite than I am. If anything, I'm more a Grace Kelly or Michelle Pfeiffer type, not that I've given it any thought.

BERNICE  
Oh, I forgot to introduce my sister Ann Marie. I'm training her, she just moved to town.

ANN MARIE  
I left a bunch of unpaid bills and a deadbeat husband back in Arizona.

PATTY JEAN

So come celebrate at the Blueberry Jubilee! It's a pancake breakfast after mass in the church hall. For entertainment, there's a Mother-Daughter fashion show.

BERNICE

The church's prettiest mothers and daughters walk the runway to Kenny Roger's "Lady."

PATTY JEAN

(re: Katie)

We're two of the models.

ANN MARIE

That's your daughter? She's so exotic.

Katie cringes. She hates that word.

ANN MARIE

She's like the kids in the Sally Struthers commercial that you can help for the price of a cup of coffee.

KATIE

With the flies on their faces?

PATTY JEAN

Not all of them have the flies.

ANN MARIE

How old was she when you got her?

PATTY JEAN

Got her? She's mine!

ANN MARIE

You're right, I'm sorry. Adoptive parents are parents too.

Patty Jean's eyes go wide with rage.

ANGLE ON: an aisle in the store. Katie's dad, CLYDE (Korean and charismatic) and CJ (Katie's 13-year-old-brother) shop.

CLYDE

Randall Cunningham and the Eagles are looking good this year.

CJ

Maybe, but like everything in life,  
they'll eventually suck. There's  
no point to anything we do.

CLYDE

Welp, either way, we still need  
Fruit Roll-Ups.

Clyde takes a box of Fruit Roll-Ups off the shelf and he and  
CJ cross to Patty Jean, who gives Ann Marie the business.

PATTY JEAN

...in the summer of 1969 I left  
Wilkes-Barre, PA, moved to Hawaii,  
and fell in love with this handsome  
Korean man.

Patty Jean references Clyde, who kisses Bernice's hand.

CLYDE

Bernice, I love your broach.

BERNICE

Oh, Clyde. It's a nametag, but  
thank you.

PATTY JEAN

We had three kids, and then moved  
back to Pennsylvania to raise our  
family.

ANN MARIE

What a lovely story. Still, your  
kids don't look anything like you.

CLYDE

(trying to diffuse)  
But we all share the same aloha  
spirit. Alo-ha...

PATTY JEAN

(to Ann Marie, intense)  
See these faces? All of us? We're  
a family, damnit. And I would do  
anything for any one of them.

MAX

Can we go to Dairy Queen?

PATTY JEAN

Absolutely not.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. DRESS SHOP - DAY

Patty Jean wears a tea-length, floral Laura Ashley dress and talks to Katie who is behind a dressing room curtain.

PATTY JEAN

Picking our dresses for the Mother Daughter fashion show is my favorite time of year. This and after I get my teeth cleaned. Love that feeling!

The dressing room curtain opens, revealing Katie, wearing a dress identical to Patty Jean's.

PATTY JEAN (CONT'D)

(gasps, then)

We're a vision!

KATIE

Mom, no. Matching dresses? This is so lame.

PATTY JEAN

(surprised)

What? We do this every year and you've never complained.

KATIE

Yeah, but things are different now. I'm a woman.

PATTY JEAN

You're 12.

KATIE

Actually, my half-birthday was yesterday. So technically, I'm closer to 13. Almost a teenager. And for my half-birthday present, I want to wear a Laker Girl outfit to the fashion show. Or a dress like that.

Katie points to a sexy dress on a mannequin.

PATTY JEAN

We're doing a Mother Daughter Fashion show, not opening for Joan Rivers.

KATIE

You just like the Jubilee because everyone goes, "Oh, Patty Jean's so pretty!"

PATTY JEAN

(loving it)

I don't put stock in any of that.

KATIE

With me they all go, "Where she's from?" I mean, look at us. We look like a white missionary lady and the girl she rescued from the village.

(play acting)

"You're going to live with me now."

PATTY JEAN

It's a Mother Daughter fashion show. We have to be the same.

KATIE

But we're not. We don't look anything alike. The only person I kind of look like is Paula Abdul. Sometimes I think maybe it's like the movie "Annie" and Paula's out there thinking of me because she's my real mom.

PATTY JEAN

Does Paula Abdul have caesarean scars and can no longer wear a bikini?

EXT. DRESS SHOP - LATER

Patty Jean and Katie exit the store, each carrying a garment bag. Fuming, Katie stomps ahead of Patty Jean, who notices nearby CONSTRUCTION WORKERS catcall an ATTRACTIVE WOMAN.

PATTY JEAN

(shaking her head)

Disgusting. Well, here we go.

Patty Jean braces herself for the onslaught of catcalls as she walks past them.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER

Ma'am?

Surprised, Patty Jean turns to the Construction Worker.

PATTY JEAN

Ma'am?

He points to the sidewalk and smiles politely.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER

Watch your step, it's pretty uneven there.

Patty Jean looks shocked. After a beat:

KATIE (O.S.)

Mom! Hurry up, I want to listen to the RADIO!

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Patty Jean talks to Clyde as she plates dinner: hot dogs and tater tots.

PATTY JEAN

Why didn't you tell me, Clyde?

CLYDE

Tell you what?

PATTY JEAN

That I've lost my attractiveness!  
I saw these construction workers catcall this woman, and then when I walked by? They called me "Ma'am", pointed to the sidewalk and said...  
(emotional)  
"Watch your step." I've never been so humiliated.

CLYDE

It sounds like they were being polite.

PATTY JEAN

Exactly!

CLYDE

Patty Jean, you're over-reacting.

PATTY JEAN

...said the man. You don't know what it's like to be a woman at 39's doorstep. The curtain is closing on me being viewed as a sexual being and I'm like...

Patty Jean mimes trying to be seen as a curtain is closing.



PATTY JEAN

Or it's like...

She mimes a hook grabbing onto her neck and pulling her off a stage.

PATTY JEAN

Or it's like--

CLYDE

Please stop miming things.

(then)

Anyway, I thought you didn't put stock in what other people say.

PATTY JEAN

I was being modest! My mother warned me about this day, the first time a man doesn't hold open the door, or look down your blouse... You moisturize, do your Jane Fonda, color your greys, and still, the bell tolls. Today it tolls for ME.

CLYDE

Who looks down your blouse?

PATTY JEAN

I'm known for my beauty, and the Jubilee is coming up -- the people are expecting Marilyn Monroe and they're gonna get... I don't even know who to say as an example, because older women are invisible!

(then, screaming)

DINNER!

Max enters and eyes the plates with hotdogs and tater tots.

MAX

(excited)

Oooh!

Patty Jean sets a plate with grilled chicken and cottage cheese in front of Max.

MAX

Where's my dog and tots?

PATTY JEAN

You're on a diet.

MAX

Why am I on a diet?

PATTY JEAN

Because you cried in Kmart when we had to shop in the husky department.

Katie and CJ enter and sit at the table.

KATIE

Can I get this to go? I have to get back to practicing for my Laker Girl audition. It's only six years away.

PATTY JEAN

You're not going to be a Laker Girl! Stop trying to grow up so fast. Savor every moment of your youth, before it dries up like flower petals pressed in a book.

KATIE

No way! I'm all about that woman life. I can't wait to get a pair of red high heels, some lipstick, do up my bangs!

PATTY JEAN

I'm not old enough to have a woman as a daughter!

(then)

You're going to wear your Laura Ashley dress this Sunday and walk in flats like a "Lady" just like Kenny Rogers says!

CLYDE

(trying to diffuse)

So CJ! What's new with you?

CJ

Same thing as yesterday. Nothing.

MAX

You know what this family needs? To bring us all together, remind us what it's all about-- A jaunt to our local DQ.

CLYDE

We're not going to Dairy Queen. You're 8. We shouldn't be sharing pants.

MAX

(hurt and defiant)

I thought we did that because we  
were friends.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - NEXT DAY

Katie talks to her best friend TONI PODURUTTI, 12.

KATIE

My Mom's been acting so weird, I  
don't know what's going on with  
her. It's like she wants me to  
stay a little girl or something.

TONI

Speaking of that...  
(points to Katie's chest)  
How's it coming?

KATIE

(bummed)  
Nothing yet.

Down the hall Katie sees a nun, SISTER FRANCES giving a tour  
to THE HOTTEST MAN SHE HAS EVER SEEN, MR. RILEY (22). Katie  
and Toni are mesmerized as they come towards them.

SR. FRANCES

Girls, I'd like to introduce you to  
your new Social Studies teacher,  
Mr. Riley. This is Katie Kung and  
Toni Podurutti.

MR. RILEY

Hi girls, nice to meet you. See  
you in class.

They are speechless as Sr. Frances and Mr. Riley move off.

KATIE

Oh my god. He is so hot!

TONI

Did you see his package?!

KATIE

What? How could you see anything?  
He was wearing pleated dockers.

TONI

Dude, I saw it. It's going to take  
more than pleats to tame that  
beast.

KATIE

Can I be honest? I don't really get weiners. Like what's it doing in there? Is it smushed up against the underpants like this?

Like we saw Patty Jean do earlier, Katie starts miming: she puts her arms a little out to the sides, turns her head and scrunches her face.

KATIE

Or is it hanging down free?

Katie faces forward and lets her arms hang down loose.

KATIE

Like how much room does it have?  
Can it sway?

Katie sways her arms back and forth.

KATIE

Or is it flipped up like this?

Katie throws her arms and head up, towards the sky.

KATIE

I mean, who knows. Weiners could be doing anything in there.

TONI

The only thing I do know, is when guys swim they use their weiners to steer.

INT. STATE FARM INSURANCE - LATER

Clyde enters holding a stack of tickets. His co-worker BILL, and others sit at desks in the center area that make up the homespun bullpen of this cozy office.

CLYDE

Hey guys! I was going to come in with a joke about our jobs in insurance, but what we do is pretty straightforward.

BILL

Is that why you sat in the garage with the car running for seven minutes? Some of us were worried.

The co-workers nod, agreeing. Clyde quickly moves on.

CLYDE

So, my wife is finally chairing the Blueberry Jubilee. Turns out Dina Romano, who's chaired it for the past nine years got her stomach stapled, so she's out. Good for her, even better for Patty Jean. Who wants a ticket? All proceeds go to Corpus Christi Church.

BILL

I didn't know you went to that church.

CLYDE

Well, I do.

BILL

Huh. Didn't know. I'll take two tickets.

As Clyde slowly tears off two tickets, brow furrowed...

INT. STATE FARM CLYDE'S OFFICE/INT. KITCHEN - LATER

An upset Clyde is at his desk, on the phone with Patty Jean who's doing a Jane Fonda workout video.

CLYDE

Bill assumed because I'm Korean I would go to a Korean church. It's casual racism!

PATTY JEAN

(considers, then)

Nah...

CLYDE

That's how it happens. It's not people burning crosses on your lawn. It's the guy at work you've been friends with for years, making assumptions about who you are.

PATTY JEAN

I think you're being sensitive.

CLYDE

...said the white girl.

PATTY JEAN

Are you trying to say this is like what happened to me? No, uh uh. You're still a man.

CLYDE

Yeah, an Asian man! You have no idea what that's like.

PATTY JEAN

Oh don't I? Let me tell you something, when the Irish first came over there were signs in all the windows that said, "The Irish need not apply."

CLYDE

That was in the 1800's! At least your people could come here. Ever hear of the Chinese Exclusion Act?

PATTY JEAN

No. Ever hear of the Potato Famine?

CLYDE

Yes! All we learn in school is white people stuff!

INT. CLASSROOM - LATER

Mr. Riley teaches. Sr. Frances is there monitoring.

MR. RILEY

...So Elizabeth Cady Stanton and other Abolitionists got together...

ANGLE ON: Katie listening to Mr. Riley's lecture and then her eyes drift down towards his crotch. And stay there.

KATIE (V.O.)

What is that weiner doing?

Katie stares at Mr. Riley's crotch: thinking, studying, forming a hypothesis and then throwing it out. A long stare.

GREG FITZSIMMONS

(yelling and pointing)

Katie Kung is staring at Mr. Riley's package!

The whole class looks to Katie.

KATIE

What? No! I'm not!

Her eyes instinctively drift down to his package, but she catches herself and looks in his eyes.

KATIE  
(defensive)  
Well, I can't not look at it now!

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - LATER

Katie, Patty Jean and Clyde sit across from Sr. Frances.

SR. FRANCES  
Your daughter is a sex fiend.

CLYDE  
What?

SR. FRANCES  
She was staring at Mr. Riley's...  
"weiner" in class.

PATTY JEAN  
Katie!

CLYDE  
How does she even know what a  
weiner is? She's not learning it  
at home, I'll tell you that much!

KATIE  
The boys are always staring at Mrs.  
Meretti's Double D's, how come they  
never get called in here?

SR. FRANCES  
She is breast-feeding twins. That  
is the work of the Lord.

PATTY JEAN  
Really? The boys like Mrs.  
Meretti?  
(under her breath)  
I don't see it.

CLYDE  
Sister Frances, we apologize.

He slides two tickets to the Jubilee to Sr. Frances.

CLYDE  
Here. For your troubles.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Awkward silence around the dinner table as the family eats.

MAX

Were you guys at school today? I thought I saw the station wagon.

CJ

They had to come in because Katie got busted for staring at a weiner.

CLYDE

We're not talking about a strange man's weiner at my dinner table.

KATIE

I won't be shamed. It's like Abby Ewing said on *Knot's Landing*, "Women need to stop apologizing for their desires."

PATTY JEAN

No more *Knot's Landing*!

KATIE

No!!

CLYDE

Patty Jean!!!

PATTY JEAN

She's growing up too fast, Clyde! It's our fault. We let her watch those adult shows, listen to music by that Puerto Rican singer...

KATIE

(simmering anger)

Paula Abdul. Is Syrian. Jewish.

PATTY JEAN

Whatever she is, it's inappropriate for a 12-year-old girl!

KATIE

I don't get the double standard! When CJ turned 13 Aunt Claudette bought him a beer and gave him a Playboy magazine. You all laughed and took pictures.

CLYDE

Whatever happened to that Playboy?



CJ  
(lying)  
I, uh, lost it.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - LATER

Katie, in her leotard, does her daily dance practice to the Paula Abdul "Straight Up" video. She perfectly mimics all the steps Paula does.

KATIE  
Paula, I'm so sick of my mom treating me like a baby. I'm almost 13!

PAULA ABDUL (O.S.)  
Your mom doesn't get it.

Katie turns to see Paula Abdul on the couch.

KATIE  
She totally doesn't!

PAULA ABDUL  
She's out of touch. She wears clip-on earrings.

KATIE  
She's afraid to get her ears pierced.

PAULA ABDUL  
Why would you ever listen to a woman like that?  
(then)  
She doesn't understand that it's your turn in the spotlight.

KATIE  
Well how do I show her that it is?

PAULA ABDUL  
That's easy. You need a man.

KATIE  
A man?

PAULA ABDUL  
She sees you as a girl, you need to show her you're a woman. You do that by landing a man. That earns respect. Like when Sally Field started banging Burt Reynolds.

KATIE

(nods)

Yeah, makes sense. But what man?

Paula Abdul shoots her a knowing look.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Mr. Riley?! He's 22!

PAULA ABDUL

That's why it's perfect. A girl  
dates a boy. A woman dates a man.

KATIE

You're right. I'm going to date my  
teacher. Thanks, Paula Abdul!

MAX (O.S.)

What?

Katie looks to see Max standing there confused. Paula is not  
on the couch, it was a fantasy.

KATIE

Shut up, nerd!

MAX

Excuse me for being curious, damn.

INT. CLASSROOM - NEXT DAY

Mr. Riley sits at his desk as students trickle in before  
class. Katie enters and approaches him.

KATIE

Hi, Mr. Riley. About yesterday...  
I apologize, I was having an issue  
with my contact lens.

MR. RILEY

Great, we don't have to talk about  
it again.

KATIE

Um, so, I'm having trouble with my  
homework and was hoping maybe you  
could help me after school.

MR. RILEY

Sure, how's tomorrow?

KATIE

Perfect.

(then, holding out palm)

(MORE)

KATIE (cont'd)

Low five?

(off his look)

Most people go high, but I like to go low. It's kind of my thing.

Mr. Riley low fives Katie. She beams as she crosses over to Toni who has been watching.

KATIE

I have a date with Mr. Riley!

TONI

Date with a teacher? So Van Halen. Here, you're going to need this.

Toni gives Katie a "Cosmopolitan" magazine.

KATIE

(so moved)

Thank you.

INT. KATIE'S ROOM - LATER

Katie pours over the magazine, engrossed.

KATIE

(reading)

"Why not keep the date casual and suggest a coffee, or a little nibble?"

(then)

Yeah, why not?

She thumbs through a few more pages, then lands on a quiz:

KATIE

"What's wrong with your face? You can't improve yourself if you don't know your flaws."

Katie gets up and goes to her beauty desk and stares at herself in the mirror. She smiles at her reflection. She likes what she sees. She goes back to the magazine.

KATIE

"Don't see anything? Keep looking, it's there. Something is wrong with your face, and other people know what it is, and are probably talking about it right now."

Alarmed, Katie moves in closer to the mirror. She scans everything and then she sees something and GASPS!

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

Patty Jean examines her face in the mirror. She smooths out the skin and holds it up...

PATTY JEAN  
What if I did a little tuck-tuck?

Katie enters, panicked.

KATIE  
Mom, I have a moustache.

Patty Jean whips around, startled.

PATTY JEAN  
What? No, you don't.

KATIE  
Look. See those little hairs?

PATTY JEAN  
There's nothing.

Then Patty Jean squints, noticing something. HER POV: Katie has a little moustache. Patty Jean tries to shake it off, but when she looks back Katie has A FULLER MOUSTACHE. She blinks, and then looks again: Katie now has A FULL TOM SELLECK. Patty Jean is horrified.

INT. STATE FARM INSURANCE - NIGHT

Clyde heads out for the night, past Bill.

BILL  
Hey, Clyde! I'm excited for the Blueberry Jubilee.

CLYDE  
So glad you're coming.

BILL  
By the way, I think I'm going to get some Chinese food tonight. Where do you order from?

CLYDE  
You know I'm not Chinese, right?

BILL  
Oh, I know. But still... I figured you'd know a good place.

INT. ENTRYWAY - LATER

Clyde enters with his briefcase.

CLYDE  
(to himself)  
I'm Korean! How would I know the  
best place for Chinese food?

Max crosses through.

MAX  
House of Ho. Get the pork shumai.

CLYDE  
Yes, and the chow fun noodles with  
shrimp that's what I told him, but  
that's not the point!!

INT. DRUGSTORE - LATER

Patty Jean leads Katie down a brightly lit aisle to a wall of  
hair removal products. They stare at the many choices.

KATIE  
How are you supposed to know which  
ones to buy?

PATTY JEAN  
I don't know.

Something catches Katie's eye. She crosses to a "Just My  
Color" make-up display for African-American women. A woman  
in traditional African garb is on the display.

PATTY JEAN  
What are you looking at that for?  
Us Irish girls are over here.

Patty Jean moves to a make-up display with Christie Brinkley  
and starts checking out make-up.

PATTY JEAN  
(distracted)  
You think this wrinkle concealer  
works?

Katie looks between the dark-skinned woman and Christie  
Brinkley.

KATIE  
Shouldn't there be more than two  
choices?

PATTY JEAN  
We're getting sidetracked. Let's  
get your wax and go.

Patty Jean grabs a package of wax, puts it in her basket and  
moves to exit as Katie looks nervous.

PATTY JEAN  
Don't worry. We'll make it fun.  
I'll put on my Cher cassette!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. KATIE'S ROOM - LATER

Cher's "Gypsies, Tramps and Thieves" PLAYS. Katie stares at  
her reflection in the mirror. Her upper lip is a bright red  
moustache.

KATIE  
This is a disaster!

PATTY JEAN  
I'll cover it with my make-up and  
you won't be able to see a thing.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

Katie now has a bright white moustache where the make up is.

PATTY JEAN  
(pleased)  
There. You can't even see it.

Katie looks at her mom, incredulous. CJ enters, with the  
Playboy magazine tucked under his arm.

CJ  
I need some lotion for my knees.

He grabs a giant tub of lotion and exits.

PATTY JEAN  
I thought he said he lost that  
Playboy?  
(then, proud)  
He always takes such good care of  
his things.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. PATTY JEAN AND CLYDE'S BEDROOM - LATER

Patty Jean and Clyde lay in bed, post coital. Patty Jean smokes a Virginia Slim. She exhales.

PATTY JEAN

Well, I really thought that would make me feel better.

CLYDE

Me too. All I could think about was I wish that Bill was watching.

PATTY JEAN

What?

CLYDE

Y'know, because of the stereotype that Asian men aren't sexual. I would have blown his mind.

(then) )

I'm gonna order some House of Ho.

PATTY JEAN

Don't let Max see. Last time I caught him drinking the orange dipping sauce for the egg rolls.

INT. KATIE'S ROOM - LATER

Katie, bummed, stares at the ceiling, then closes her eyes.

MAX (O.S.)

Don't move.

Katie opens her eyes to see Max putting a masque all over her face. He's wearing one too.

MAX

This is a hydrating facial masque with an oatmeal base. It will take care of that upper lip irritation.

(points to his face)

I'm doing one too.

KATIE

I have a big date tomorrow. I need this to work.

MAX

It will.

(then, Godfather)

(MORE)

MAX (cont'd)

And then one day, I will call upon you for a favor, and all I ask is that you remember this kindness.

KATIE

What?

MAX

You owe me one.

KATIE

Whatever man, I got a mustache. I'm not really in a position of power.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - THAT AFTERNOON

Students head out at the end of the day. Katie opens her locker. The door is covered with pictures of Paula Abdul.

KATIE

(to Paula)

Today's the day. Wish me luck.

PAULA ABDUL (O.S.)

You are messing this up, girl.

Katie slams her locker shut. Paula Abdul is standing there.

KATIE

How? I'm going to hang out with Mr. Riley alone after school.

PAULA ABDUL

You need to take this outside the classroom. Here, he sees you as a girl. Away from here, he'll see you as a woman.

KATIE

(hesitant)

I don't know if my mom would...

PAULA ABDUL

Oh, suddenly you're worried about your mom?

(shakes head)

I thought you had the heart of a Laker Girl. Guess I was wrong. I'll go back to my World Tour and you can date him.

Paula points to a DOPEY 12-YEAR-OLD BOY, staring into space.



KATIE

I do have the heart of a Laker Girl. You're right.

PAULA ABDUL

Course I'm right, bitch. I'm Paula Abdul!

INT. MR. RILEY'S CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Mr. Riley grades papers at his desk. Katie enters, determined, and crosses over to him.

MR. RILEY

Hey Katie, you ready to do this?

KATIE

It's three o'clock. I don't know about you, but I could go for a little nibble.

MR. RILEY

Oh. Well, I don't really have anything here...

KATIE

That's okay. Meet me in the cafeteria in 5.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

Mr. Riley enters carrying textbooks. He sees Katie waiting at a table with an array of snacks fanned out.

KATIE

I hope you don't mind. I took the liberty of ordering you some snacks from the vending machine.

Mr. Riley sits down.

MR. RILEY

Thanks. I guess I'll have these Ritz Bits.

KATIE

Interesting choice. I would've pegged you for a Doritos man. You're like an onion. So many layers.

MR. RILEY

(opening book)  
Okay, so the first chapter--

KATIE

I read in my "Cosmo" that relationships are built on trust, so I want you to know, this is my first date.

MR. RILEY

Woah! Who said anything about a date?! That is not what this is.

KATIE

I know it's casual, because we're having a little nibble, but--

MR. RILEY

I'm your teacher, and you're 12. I would never, ever date you.

KATIE

(shattered)

Oh.

MR. RILEY

(seeing Katie's hurt)

But it's not because, I mean, you're a beautiful girl-- not beautiful, cute... whatever, the emphasis is on GIRL here.

KATIE

You don't have to... it's okay.

Katie looks away, trying to hide her hurt.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Clyde comes home from work to find the kitchen counter covered in disposable cameras that Patty Jean packs in a box.

CLYDE

What's all this?

PATTY JEAN

It's for the Jubilee. I'm making some changes, shaking things up this year.

CLYDE

Why?

PATTY JEAN

I was shopping at Kmart and I saw these hand towels from the Jaclyn Smith collection.

(MORE)

PATTY JEAN (cont'd)

And it hit me, she reinvented herself. She went from the pretty girl from *Charlie's Angels* to a designer of housewares and women's separates. That's what I need to do. Diversify my portfolio. It can't just be about my looks, I have to show them I have good ideas too, like I'm some mousey brunette.

CLYDE

You've always had good ideas. Like the night we met and you suggested that walk on the beach...

PATTY JEAN

I just had my first Mai Tai.

Clyde exits. Patty Jean crosses to the fridge and takes a pizza and a Lean Cuisine out of the freezer as Max enters.

PATTY JEAN

Max tell your sister dinner will be ready in 8-10 minutes.

MAX

She's not eating because of her bad date.

PATTY JEAN

What date?

MAX

With Mr. Riley.

PATTY JEAN

The teacher?!

MAX

Except he didn't think it was a date.

PATTY JEAN

I should hope not!

Katie enters, eyes red from crying, and falls into Patty Jean's arms, she needs her mom.

KATIE

He doesn't like me.

PATTY JEAN

Honey, I know it's tough. One minute they like you, then the next you can't get a whistle from a guy with a pot belly working a jack hammer. But don't worry, one day you'll take comfort in your husband and kids, the little life you made--

Katie breaks the hug, upset.

KATIE

I would hate that! I want a big life. As a Laker Girl! I practice every night. Yes, my fan kicks aren't high enough, but I'm working on it. You don't even know me.

Katie runs out. Patty Jean watches her go, concerned.

MAX

(shaking head)

You hate to see them go through heartache, but they have to learn on their own.

INT. CHURCH HALL - NEXT DAY

The Blueberry Jubilee is in full swing. Tables are filled with FAMILIES eating. Katie, CJ and Max sit near Patty Jean who surveys the room. Clyde puts his arm around her.

CLYDE

The Jubilee looks great, babe. I'm so proud of you!

PATTY JEAN

It's good. It's good.

(then)

Thanks in no small part to the amazing sign CJ made!

ANGLE ON: a sign that says "Blueberry Jubilee" in black sharpie that clearly took about two minutes to make.

CLYDE

Such an artiste!

Katie rolls her eyes as Patty Jean and Clyde cross off and approach a table full of people (including Bernice, Ann Marie, and two other women, MAUREEN and DELORES.)

BERNICE

Um, Patty Jean, we were all talking, where are the pancakes?

PATTY JEAN

Pancakes?! That's so done. I decided to shake it up, and do waffles!

(expecting praise)

Ehhh...?? Good, right?

MAUREEN

I miss the pancakes.

The others nod, agreeing.

DELORES

And what happened to the photo booth?

PATTY JEAN

This year we have disposable cameras on all the tables! It's more interactive.

DELORES

Oh, I'm not good at taking photos. I don't hit the button hard enough. We went to Disney World and every picture I took, didn't take. It was heart-breaking.

PATTY JEAN

(still smiling)

Well, I'd love to stay and gab, but I gotta get ready for the Mother Daughter fashion show!

Patty Jean and Clyde cross off, her smile falls.

PATTY JEAN

They hate my new ideas. How does Jaclyn Smith do it?

CLYDE

Don't worry, it's gonna be great. People just need time to get used to new things. Now go get dressed and I'll amp up the charm out here.

Patty Jean crosses off as Clyde grabs champagne and glasses and moves to a table of NUNS and LADIES.

CLYDE

May I say, ladies you are all  
looking lovely today. Champagne?

NUN

Oh, Clyde! If I didn't already  
promise myself to Jesus...

Bill and another guy, CHRIS, approach.

BILL

Hey, Clyde! This is great. Thanks  
for inviting us.

CLYDE

Aw, thanks for coming.

BILL

So, Chris and I were talking, we  
just saw "The Last Emperor." Have  
you seen it?

CLYDE

That's it! I'm done with this.

BILL

With what?

CLYDE

I'm sick of you making assumptions  
about me, that I saw that movie!

BILL

Well, it was number one at the box  
office, so I thought...

CLYDE

First, you assume I would go to a  
Korean church, then you assume I  
know the best place for Chinese  
food--

BILL

You did, House of Ho was amazing.

CLYDE

Of course it was! Did you get the  
pork shumai?

BILL

No, we went with--

CLYDE

Well, you missed out. It's the best in Pennsylvania! But still, assuming I would know that is racist!

BILL

Whoa, racist? I'm not racist. I mean, I'm friends with you.

CLYDE

Pointing to your one minority friend is not a great defense!

(then)

You know what the problem is? You and your frat brother here have no idea what it's like to be different. We've worked together for three years, and instead of getting to know me as a person, you made assumptions about me based on my race.

BILL

Clyde, Chris is my partner.

CLYDE

Yeah, your water polo partner or whatever, you're missing the point, Bill!

BILL

No, my life partner. I'm gay. And in this town there's not a lot of us, so I know what it's like to be different. That's why I thought we were such good friends, because we had different-ness in common.

Clyde is shell shocked. He doesn't know what to say.

CHRIS

(to Clyde, pissy)

And speaking of making assumptions, we didn't meet playing water polo, it was synchronized diving.

BILL

Chris, please.

CLYDE

No, it's okay. That would've been my second guess.

INT. BACKSTAGE DRESSING ROOM - SAME

Mothers and daughters get ready for the fashion show. Patty Jean, in her Laura Ashley dress, hands a bummed Katie a garment bag.

PATTY JEAN

Time to put on your dress for the fashion show.

Katie unzips the bag REVEALING a LAKER GIRL OUTFIT.

KATIE

Oh my-- Where did you get this?!

PATTY JEAN

I was up all night sewing.

KATIE

It's amazing!

PATTY JEAN

Some of the stitches are uneven, but I figure this'll hold you over, until you get your real one.

KATIE

Thank you.

Katie hugs Patty Jean.

PATTY JEAN

I know we don't always see eye-to-eye, but you're my daughter and I love you.

KATIE

So I'm really not adopted?

PATTY JEAN

Nope. Paula Abdul's not your real mom. You're stuck with me.

KATIE

Good.

They share a smile.

PATTY JEAN

And I must be doing something right because you're so confident. Even though it drives me crazy, there's something I love about how you just do what you want to do.



KATIE

You should do that too, Mom. Who cares what people think? You didn't care what anyone thought when you moved to Hawaii all by yourself with two sundresses and a guitar.

PATTY JEAN

(realizing)

No, I didn't. And I'm still that same person. Maybe a little older, I'm approaching my 39's and about to get yanked off the stage... and here you are, about to become a woman and step on it. But we have the power. It's our stage. And we should walk it how we fucking please!

KATIE

(giddily seizing her chance to say the word)

Fuck!

PATTY JEAN

Katie!

(then, handing Katie her car keys)

Go get the brown bag out of my trunk.

INT. CHURCH HALL - LATER

"Cold Hearted Snake" by Paula Abdul PLAYS as Patty Jean sexy-struts down a makeshift runway in a 60's mini-dress and white go-go boots. It's too tight but she feels great. Katie, in her Laker Girl outfit, does her Laker Girl moves. Patty Jean steps to the side, so Katie can do her thing. Proud, she watches Katie dance, letting her light shine bright.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. CHURCH PARKING LOT - LATER

The family walks out together, annoyed.

MAX

I've never seen Sr. Frances so mad.

CLYDE

Well, the Mother Daughter fashion show is a time honored tradition, and I guess they just weren't ready for your mom's good ideas.

He smiles at Patty Jean.

PATTY JEAN

Do you recognize this dress? I wore it the night we met. It still fits, cause I still got it.

KATIE

It almost didn't zip.

PATTY JEAN

(snapping)

You weren't doing it right!

CLYDE

I know this won't mean as much because I'm not a stranger, but you're even hotter than you were the day I met you.

Clyde takes Patty Jean in his arms, they dance.

PATTY JEAN

(re: her dress, happy)

It was in the car because I was going to take it to the cleaners. I found a macadamia nut in the pocket.

MAX

I can't believe they kicked us out.

PATTY JEAN

You're half Irish, get used to it. People are always kicking us out of places.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. DAIRY QUEEN - LATER

Patty Jean and the kids sit eating desserts.

PATTY JEAN

Katie, I'm so glad you convinced us  
all to come to Dairy Queen.

KATIE

Yeah, I just felt like a Blizzard.

She gives Max a look, who nods, pleased. Favor repaid. An  
OLDER COUPLE approaches.

OLDER MAN

You have a beautiful family.

Patty Jean beams, proud.

OLDER WOMAN

You know, we had three adopted  
children of our own, and they're  
all grown up now, so this really  
takes us back.

OLDER MAN

(re: wife)  
She was barren.

OLDER WOMAN

I was.  
(then, to the family)  
Enjoy your ice cream.

Patty Jean's eyes narrow as the older couple walks off.  
Clyde approaches, holding a bunch of napkins.

CLYDE

Okay, here we are--

PATTY JEAN

I'm pissed off, let's go!

Patty Jean gathers her purse.

CLYDE

What happened? I turn around to  
get a napkin and the whole day  
falls apart!

END OF TAG