

UNTITLED SINGLE DAD PROJECT

"Pilot"

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COLD OPEN

INT. KEELER'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAWN

JOSH KEELER, mid 30's, a newly single dad and a bit of a know-it-all, rushes in to wake his daughters, HARPER, 12, all tween and DELIA, 9, quirky.

The room is unfurnished. They are sleeping on POOL RAFTS.

JOSH
Girls! Wake up!

DELIA
(half asleep)
Did my raft capsize again?

JOSH
No, honey, it's righted. Get up, get up! We're about to miss our first sunrise in Queens!

HARPER
(rolling over)
I feel okay about that.

JOSH
(checks his phone)
Come on! In four minutes we will make a memory that will last a lifetime!
(nothing)
A memory that will mean a lot to me.
(a snore)
A memory that includes hot chocolate and five dollars.

INT. KEELER'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

The girls are up. Josh hands them two cups of hot cocoa.

JOSH
M' ladies.

DELIA
Yes! Mom doesn't let us have cocoa. She says it makes me hyper. Like that's a bad thing.

JOSH
Look, your Mom did things her way. I do things a different way. Both ways are valid.

(MORE)

JOSH (CONT'D)

(then)

Although, one could argue your Mom's way is less valid since she ran away to an ashram.

DELIA

(whipped cream on her face)

I like your way.

JOSH

And sugar affecting behavior is a myth. There have been many studies. Though many of them done by the candy companies.

HARPER

Can we just watch the sunrise? I'd like to get paid.

INT. KEELER'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Josh and Harper stand in front of a window. Delia runs in and out of frame, clearly on a sugar high.

DELIA

Weeeeeeeeeee!!!

JOSH

You didn't get this kind of sunrise back in Seattle. There was too much open sky and trees and nature mucking it up.

HARPER

Still not seeing the sun, Dad. Just a naked guy doing yoga.

Harper points to the building across the way.

JOSH

What? Oh!

DELIA

(popping in to look)

Where?

JOSH

It's like he wants us to see... Oh God, he's waving.

DELIA

(waving back)

Hi!!!!

EXT. QUEENS APARTMENT BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

Josh and the girls stand outside in their pajamas and coats.

JOSH

I've always dreamed of seeing the sun rise over the New York City skyline. My father actually lived here for a while.

HARPER

I'm hungry.

Josh searches his pockets and comes up with a MINT. He hands one to Harper.

JOSH

It was after he left my mother for a Rockette. Ironically she broke her leg zip-lining on their honeymoon and never danced again.
(suddenly realizing)
Wait, are we facing west? Shoot!

EXT. ACROSS THE STREET - MOMENTS LATER

They now stand across the street.

JOSH

You know, I am the first Keeler man NOT to leave my wife. Your mom helped break that pattern when she left us.

(off Harper's look)

Not us, me. She left me. Though according to her spiritual guru, I left *her* emotionally. So maybe I *am* following in my father's footsteps.

(then)

Still no skyline. We need height!

EXT. PARK - MOMENTS LATER

The three stand on swings. Josh pumps to get higher to see.

JOSH

You can kind of see a sliver of the sun against the... is that the Empire State Building?

HARPER

The one that says "Citibank"?

DELIA
I have to pee.

JOSH
Hold it for two more minutes and
you'll have this great memory to
make it all the more satisfying!
(then)
Hmm... more height!

INT. KEELER'S APARTMENT BUILDING - ROOF - MINUTES LATER

Josh stands with his arms around his girls.

JOSH
Well, we missed the sunrise but
look at that sun.

HARPER
Yep. It's the sun alright.

JOSH
Remember this moment, girls. It's a
moment us writers call...
inspiration. It's a memory that I
hope you take with you forever.

DELIA
Dad?

JOSH
Yes, honey?

DELIA
I peed.

Beat.

JOSH
Maybe don't remember that part.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONEINT. KEELER APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM -CONTINUOUS

Josh overly supervises two MOVING MEN who carry a heavy looking ANTIQUE WRITING DESK.

JOSH

(to the Moving Men)

Please be careful with the desk.
It's Osvaldo Borsani. It's very special. The desk, not the person. The person was a real bastard. Rumored to be a Nazi sympathizer.

The moving guys place it down then head to the door.

MOVING GUY

We're all done here, Mr. Keeler.

HARPER

Wait. Where's the rest of our furniture? Our beds?

JOSH

Oh, sweetie, it was much too expensive to move all of that stuff across the country. It was just that cheap self-assemble furniture that I paid someone to assemble.

HARPER

Dad, we're sleeping on rafts. We have no furniture.

From the doorway, a moving guy COUGHS. Josh looks at him.

HARPER (CONT'D)

(quietly to Josh)

I think you're supposed to tip.

JOSH

(full voice)

What? Why? I paid them for moving already. I don't expect to get tipped if someone likes something I've written. It's my job.

(to the movers)

Godspeed, gentlemen. May the wind--

The mover slams the door. Josh is surprised then moves on.

JOSH (CONT'D)
 (trying to console)
 Harper, honey, all that furniture
 was just stuff. We'll get more.

HARPER
 But you got to bring your desk.

JOSH
 That desk is expensive and very
 sentimental. I've been writing on
 it since I sold my first piece, on
 how escaped convicts handle their
 freedom. Pretty well, by the way.

There is suddenly a BANGING from the other side of the wall.

JOSH (CONT'D)
 (calling to the other
 side)
 Hello? Is someone there?

No answer. Josh shrugs, confused.

DELIA
 I don't mind having no furniture,
 Dad. It's like we're spies on a
 stakeout. Who needs a bunk bed with
 a ladder or unicorn throw pillows
 or pink frilly curtains? You know,
 the ones I keep looking at online.

JOSH
 (not getting it)
 That's the spirit!

The DOORBELL RINGS.

INT. KEELER APARTMENT - FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

Josh opens the door to find ELIAS, 40's, friendly, Hispanic,
 macho, total dude's dude.

ELIAS
 Whoa. You're white!

JOSH
 My grandma was one sixty fourth
 Chinook Indian, so not *too* white?

ELIAS

Sorry man, this is Flushing. The only white people here are cops, inspectors, and the mailman but he turned out to be a black albino.

(then)

Anyway, I'm Elias. 5C. Also the building handyman. Bump me.

Elias hold out his fist and Josh, hesitantly bumps him.

JOSH

(pleasantly surprised)

Oh, I get why that's fun now.

ELIAS

So, I'm sure you've noticed your kitchen sink has a faulty o-ring.

Josh did not, but covers. He doesn't like to not know.

JOSH

Oh yeah, that o-ring. I did notice. Looks like a q-ring it's so bad.

ELIAS

Plumber humor, nice. Anyway, I'll get to it this week, promise. Hey, I see you have daughters. Me too!

(quietly to Josh)

And a baseball bat for any guys that come around, know what I mean?

JOSH

That you'll brutalize any boys that express interest in your girls?

ELIAS

That's right! I think you and I are going to be great friends.

There is a BANG from the wall. Josh looks confused.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

Oh, that's Mrs. Kim, your neighbor. You share a wall and the walls here are paper thin. Just keep the volume down and you'll be fine. Or she'll dig in and hate you no matter what you do.

BANG BANG BANG from the wall. Elias looks nervous, then.

ELIAS (CONT'D)
 (lowering his voice)
 Welcome Home.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - COURTYARD - A LITTLE LATER

Delia animatedly talks to a few KIDS her age.

DELIA
 It's so cool that the playgrounds here are cement. In Seattle they're all grassy and boring. No curse words written anywhere.

KID
 How come you moved here?

DELIA
 'Cause my mom left to go find herself in India.

INDIAN KID
 Weird, that's why my mom came here.

The Kids wander off. Delia goes over to Harper, who watches a group of TWEEN GIRLS.

Harper clocks how cool they are: lip gloss, dangley earrings, a bejeweled jean jacket. She looks down at her fleece. She zips it up. Then unzips it. Zips half way. It's not great.

DELIA
 Those girls are your age? They look like women. Makeup counter women.

HARPER
 (intimidated)
 I know. I think one of them said she was engaged. I mean, I was cool in Seattle but this is a new level.

DELIA
 Want me to ask them to be your friends?

HARPER
 Don't you dare!
 (then)
 Oh my God, they're coming over.
 Delia, go!

Unsure of where to go, Delia just turns around, facing a wall. MARIA, 12, Hispanic, pretty, confronts Harper.

MARIA
 (to Harper, with attitude)
 Where are you from?

HARPER
 (cool for school)
 You know, here, there. Seattle.

MARIA
 Is it cold there?

HARPER
 Um... yeah, I guess--

MARIA
 Is that why you're wearing a
 blanket instead of a coat?

The girls laugh and walk away. Harper is crushed.

DELIA
 (still facing the wall)
 I think you should've let me ask.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LAUNDRY ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Josh walks in with an empty laundry basket. He stops, confused. His clothes are heaped in a pile on the dryer.

He looks around and spots a woman watching him. This is MRS. KIM, 50's, tough, Korean.

JOSH
 Do you know why my clothes are on
 top of the dryer? And soaking wet?

MRS. KIM
 I took them out. Your washer cycle
 was done and my clothes were ready
 for the dryer so I put them in.

JOSH
 But... I was doing mine first.

MRS. KIM
 Doesn't matter. If you're not here
 when your clothes are done, it's
 the next person's turn. That's
 apartment etiquette.

JOSH
 Oh. I didn't realize. I've never
 lived in an apartment before.

MRS. KIM
That is clear.

JOSH
I actually prefer living in a house
but I've always wanted to try the
New York City writer experience.

MRS. KIM
I've always wanted the Venice Beach
surfer experience but here we are
in Flushing, Queens.

Josh LAUGHS, assuming she's joking. She doesn't laugh.

JOSH
Um, I'm Josh Keeler, by the way.
The new tenant in 7B.

MRS. KIM
I know who you are. I am your
neighbor, Mrs. Kim.

JOSH
Oh... Well I'm glad we're meeting
face to face. I've noticed you've
been banging on the wall and I
wonder if there's a reason.

MRS. KIM
Yes! Many. You are very loud. Your
girls are whiney and unkempt - you
need to brush the small one's hair.
And you make too much pasta- I can
smell the starch!

JOSH
Wow... all that at the ready.

The dryer buzzes. Mrs. Kim opens the door. Josh reaches for
his wet clothes. She stops him.

MRS. KIM
My clothes need another round.

Confused, Josh takes his wet clothes and leaves.

INT. KEELER APARTMENT - KITCHEN - LATER

Josh is making spaghetti. He smells the pot.

JOSH
(to himself)
I think starch smells good.

Delia enters, her hair even wilder.

DELIA
Spaghetti, again?

JOSH
(for Mrs. Kim's sake)
It's the perfect meal because it
hits all the food groups!
(to Delia)
And I know how to make it. Wanna
test it?

Josh hands Delia a noodle from the pot. This is something fun they do together.

She FLINGS it onto the wall. It sticks. Next to it are other old dry noodles.

DELIA
It's ready!

BANG from the wall. Josh makes a 'yeeks' face. They smile.

JOSH
Hey, you brush your hair, right?

DELIA
Nope.

Before Josh can react, Harper rushes in excitedly.

HARPER
Dad, I need new clothes ASAP!

JOSH
Why? You have plenty of clothes.

He hands them their bowls and they walk to the dining room area. They sit on a blanket to eat.

HARPER
But those are Seattle clothes.
(then)
Do you remember when I was in fifth
grade there were two Abby's?

JOSH
Not at all.

HARPER
Okay, well there were two Abby's.
Abby S. was the most popular girl
in the whole grade.

(MORE)

HARPER (CONT'D)

Her style was effortless, she was on the synchronized ice skating team. Then there was Abby D. Abby D. wore bangles. Bangles, Dad! And she always talked about her guinea pig, Sterling. Like, always.

JOSH

(fondly)

I had a guinea pig... Did you know guinea pigs are actually--

HARPER

Exactly. Anyway, by the end of fifth grade, I was friends with Abby S. I was on my way to BECOMING Abby S. But then you moved us here and unless I adapt and get some new clothes, I will be doomed to Abby D. status.

JOSH

What? No, Harper. Let me explain how it is. Clothes have nothing to do with people liking you or not. I like you, Delia likes you.

DELIA

Sometimes I pretend I'm you.

JOSH

Clothes don't matter. If I closed my eyes I honestly couldn't tell you what I'm wearing right now.

HARPER

Really? You wear the same pants every day. You'll never get it.

Harper leaves. From the bedroom we hear a POP then a SCREAM.

DELIA

(running to see)

I think her bed popped!

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LAUNDRY ROOM - EVENING

Josh reads a book, waiting for his dryer cycle to be up when MR. MANDEER, 40's, Indian, enters.

Mr. Mandeer goes to the dryer and finds his clothes on top.

MR. MANDEER

What kind of B.S. is this?

JOSH

Oh, your cycle was up and you weren't here so I took your stuff out and put mine in.

(then, proudly)
Apartment living...

MR. MANDEER

My cycle was up three minutes ago! There is a grace period of at least ten minutes before you move someone's stuff!

JOSH

Well that seems like a very specific laundry rule.

MR. MANDEER

Laundry rule? It's basic being-a-human-person rule!

Josh takes a beat, then unable to let this roll over him.

JOSH

(setting him straight)
You know, I write about sociological issues dealing with the human condition, so I think I know how to be a human person. Which is a redundant and nonexistent phrase, by the way.

Mr. Mandeer stares at him with disdain.

JOSH (CONT'D)

(backing down)
But, I'll just take my wash out and let you have the rest of my cycle.

Josh bends down to take out his wet clothes from the machine.

INT. KEELER'S APARTMENT - GIRLS ROOM - NIGHT

Harper reads in her raft bed. Josh sits on the floor brushing Delia's hair. The brush is snagging.

JOSH

I don't know, I didn't have these problems with other people back in Seattle.

HARPER

That's because you didn't see other people in Seattle.

(MORE)

HARPER (CONT'D)

You just wrote all day in the basement like a cave troll.

JOSH

Ah, the good old days. I guess your mom was the one who always dealt with people, and things. Her people-things skills were very underrated.

DELIA

(re: hair brushing, loud)

Ow!

JOSH

Sorry! Sorry! I think we're done brushing anyway.

Delia turns and we see the brush still STUCK IN HER HAIR.

Suddenly, there's A KNOCK at the door.

INT. KEELER APARTMENT - ENTRYWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Josh opens the door and there is Elias, the handyman with MARIA, the snide girl from the courtyard.

ELIAS

Hey, Mr. Keeler, sorry to bother you, but I think your daughter-
(gesturing to Harper)
-might have *accidentally* taken my daughter's jean jacket.

MARIA

She was in the courtyard right before it went missing. I saw her looking at it.

JOSH

Flimsy logic there. I look at a lot of things in a day, doesn't mean I'm going to take everything I see.

ELIAS

Sorry, but my daughter has a feeling and we just want to ask.

JOSH

Harper, did you look at and then take this girl's jacket?

HARPER

No, Dad. I didn't even see it.

MRS. KIM (O.S.)
(through the wall)
Check in her room!

JOSH
(to the wall)
No one asked you, Mrs. Kim!

ELIAS
I think you should check in her
room too.

JOSH
Now you're calling my daughter a
liar. Have you considered the
possibility that *your* daughter is a
liar?

ELIAS
Whoa! Good luck getting anything in
your apartment fixed! You and me
are done.

Elias slams the door. Josh turns back to his girls. Delia comes out of their bedroom holding a BEDAZZLED JEAN JACKET.

DELIA
Is this the jacket?

Harper guiltily bows her head. Suddenly a large POP from the kitchen. We hear the sound of water spraying everywhere.

MRS. KIM (O.S.)
(through the wall)
Your sink broke.

Josh gives a worried look. He's screwed.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. KEELER APARTMENT - JOSH'S BEDROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Josh and Harper are now in his room. Josh paces.

JOSH

Harper! How could you steal that girl's jacket?

(inspecting the jacket)

It doesn't even look warm!

HARPER

You said you wouldn't buy me clothes. I can't go to a new school as a loser. Not when I worked so hard to be Abby S.--

JOSH

(angry)

I don't care about--

(then)

Wait, I thought Abby S. was the loser Abby?

HARPER

No! Abby S. is a goddess who smells like cinnamon and already has her period.

JOSH

Well, joke's on her because studies show she'll go through menopause first. Not the point! What you did was wrong!

HARPER

I'm sorry, okay?!

JOSH

Shhh!!!

(whispering)

Mrs. Kim will hear us.

Delia runs in holding a cup.

DELIA

No, she's busy watching *Real Housewives*. It's mostly women yelling so you're good.

Delia holds the cup to her ear and runs back out.

HARPER

Please don't make me bring the jacket back to Maria. I'll never live it down! You don't understand!

JOSH

I don't, Harper.

(then, softening)

But I do know that girls have more complicated social dynamics than boys do so it is possible I'm missing some of the nuances here.

HARPER

Yes! That. Whatever that is!

DELIA (O.S.)

(from the other room)

Commercial break!

JOSH

Shoot.

Josh pulls a blanket over their heads to block the sound.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Okay, here's what we'll do. In a day or two we will anonymously leave the jacket in the courtyard for Maria to find.

Harper, relieved, hugs Josh.

HARPER

Dad, you are the absolute best!

Josh beams. That feels good coming from her. Delia rushes in.

DELIA

Guys! Someone named The Countess just got cheated on by her new fiancée. Mrs. Kim is going crazy!

The girls rush out. Josh stands proud, under the blanket, he's got this single dad thing down.

INT. KEELER APARTMENT - GIRL'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Harper and Delia lay in their raft beds (Harper's patched with tape from the earlier incident) trying to go to sleep.

DELIA

Sigh.
(then, louder on purpose)
Sigh!

HARPER

Stop doing that!

Delia runs and jumps onto Harper's raft with her.

DELIA

I didn't mean to out you to Dad! I didn't know you stole the jacket! I thought I was helping!

HARPER

It's fine. I didn't even get in trouble.

DELIA

Yeah...

HARPER

Mom would have killed me. She would have made me apologize and grounded me for weeks. But with Dad, we can just do whatever we want cause he's so clueless.

(posturing)

It's kind of like we're on our own... which is great.

DELIA

(trying)

Yeah... great.

They lay in silence on the raft together.

DELIA (CONT'D)

You know, sometimes Mom used to sing to me when I couldn't sleep.

More silence. Harper starts quietly singing Ariana Grande.

HARPER

*"She got a body like an hourglass
but I can't give it to you all the
time."*

Delia snuggles in and closes her eyes.

HARPER (CONT'D)

*"She got a booty like a Cadillac but
I can send you into overdrive."*

MRS. KIM (O.S.)
 (joining in from her
 apartment)
*Bang bang into the room (I know you
 want it) Bang Bang all over you..*

INT. BUILDING HALLWAY - THE NEXT DAY

Josh stands in the hallway with Harper and Delia who are dressed in their bathrobes. They knock on a door.

Mrs. Kim answers.

JOSH
 Mrs. Kim. I know we got off on the wrong foot, but you're the only person in the building I kind of know who is still maybe talking to me. Our water pipe thingy is broken and we have no shower. So...

MRS. KIM
 Ask Elias to fix it.

JOSH
 I think you know why that is not a possibility for me at this time.

MRS. KIM
 Why should I help you?

JOSH
 You shouldn't. You should help my girls.

He pushes his girls forward. She can't reject them, right?

HARPER
 Please Mrs. Kim? Delia smells like cat pee and we don't have a cat.

DELIA
 It's my natural musk.

MRS. KIM
 They can use the shower. But you--
 (she points to Josh)
 Need to promise to abide by some rules first.

JOSH
 Okay.

MRS. KIM

Girls! You have two minutes of hot water. After that I throw ice on you. Go!

Harper and Delia take off to the bathroom.

MRS. KIM (CONT'D)

Number one: no more yelling. Two: no more pasta! It makes the whole floor smell like white people. Three: walk softer. You have a very heavy footstep. And your older girl is having puberty. Get her a bra!

Josh is flummoxed by this news.

JOSH

Is that one of the rules?

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT

Josh stands with his basket of wet clothes. He looks at the dryer. Then his watch. Ten minutes!

He takes the clothes out of the dryer and comes across a BRA. As he examines it, in walks MS. SAHAKIAN, 30'S, Armenian.

MS. SAHAKIAN

What are you doing with my bra?!

JOSH

Oh. Ha. I see how this looks. But I was wondering if this would fit a young girl.

MRS. SAHAKIAN

What?!

JOSH

Do you think this would be right on a teenager? More of a tween, really.

He approaches her with the bra. She cowers.

MS. SAHAKIAN

Back away or I scream. My boyfriend once stabbed a man in the face.

JOSH

Okay, I get that there's been some misunderstanding so I'm gonna go.

He starts to leave with his wet clothes, then stops.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Can you just tell me: is the padding more for a functional or superficial purpose?

MS. SAHAKIAN
(calling off)
Gregor!!!

JOSH
Going. I'm going!

Josh CRINGES, knowing he's blown another first impression.

INT. BUILDING HALLWAY/JOSH'S APARTMENT - LATE NIGHT

Delia, up in the apartment, is decked out in full spy gear. She holds a walkie-talkie to her mouth.

DELIA
(into the walkie-talkie)
This is Sparkle, do you read me?
Operation jacket return is in effect.

We see Josh sneaking down an empty hallway. He holds the contraband jean jacket. He pulls out a walkie-talkie.

JOSH
(into the walkie-talkie)
I read you loud and clear, Sparkle.
Am I clear for entry?

He stops at a door marked EXIT.

DELIA
(into the walkie-talkie)
Hold for confirmation, Woody.

Delia passes the walkie to Harper, stationed at the kitchen window with toy binoculars. They speak to each other through the walkie-talkies.

JOSH
(whispering)
It's not Woody, it's Woodward. As in Woodward and Bernstein.

HARPER
No one knows what that is.

JOSH

What?! Those writers are heroes of our democracy! Watergate? Nixon?

HARPER

Dad, focus!
(then, spy-like)
You are clear for entry, Wood-wood.

JOSH

Woodward!
(then)
Roger that, Sigh-a.

HARPER

It's Sia! Like the singer?

JOSH

Oh, so *that* we can take time to clarify...

Josh pushes the Exit door open onto the courtyard.

EXT. BUILDING COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Josh moves quietly, swiftly into the courtyard.

JOSH

Commence action music!

The girls hum the *Mission Impossible* theme. They exchange a look and smile. Life is definitely different with Dad.

He places the jacket gently on a bench.

JOSH (CONT'D)

(into the talkie)
The eagle has landed. Mission accomp--

Suddenly the courtyard is flooded with light. Josh looks around, caught. Elias jumps out at him.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Ah!!!!

ELIAS

I knew it! I knew she took the jacket!

JOSH

No! I- I mean yes but...

ELIAS

I can't believe you didn't make her own up to what she did.

JOSH

We're giving it back. I think that's what's important in the end.

ELIAS

No! You took the easy way out. You have to teach your girls to man up!

JOSH

Look, I'm just a little lost here. When her mom was around, she was an honor student, she won a perfect attendance award. Now she's a juvenile delinquent wrapping me up in her web of lies. I don't know what happened to her.

HARPER (O.S.)

You! You happened!

Josh looks up. Harper has her head out the kitchen window. She has overheard what Josh said. Oops.

JOSH

(yelling up)
Harper, I didn't mean-

HARPER

(yelling down)
I'm not a juvenile derelict, you're just a bad father!

JOSH

Honey... The word is delinquent.

HARPER

Uch!!!

Elias looks from Harper back to Josh.

ELIAS

Clearly, you have bigger issues...

Elias grabs the coat from the bench and heads back inside.

HARPER

You don't care about our feelings. You didn't even ask us before you moved us to stupid Queens!

TENANTS poke their heads out of windows. Josh sees this.

JOSH
 (quietly into the walkie)
 Harper, let's talk about this when
 I get upstairs.

ANGLE ON: Mr. And Mrs. Mandeer watching from their window.

MRS. MANDEER
 (in Hindi)
 What's going on?

MR. MANDEER
 (in Hindi)
 I think the obnoxious white man is
 drunk.

MRS. MANDEER
 (in Hindi)
 Ah, like Streetcar Named Desire.

Back to Josh and Harper.

HARPER
 You think you know everything but
 you don't know me at all. I wish
 Mom was here!

JOSH
 (that's it)
 So do I! She gets to have a
 breakdown and eat, pray, love her
 way to India and I'm left picking
 up the pieces. You think I want it
 this way?

HARPER
 Then why don't you leave too?!

Harper slams the window shut. Josh is left standing there
 full of regret. He feels all the eyes of the tenants on him.

JOSH
 (shouting up to the
 tenants)
 'Are you not entertained?'
 Gladiator reference. Great movie.
 Though factually inaccurate.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEINT. KEELER APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Josh sits at his desk in a bathrobe. He clearly hasn't slept. The girls come out of their room and head to the front door.

JOSH
(too chipper)
Hey! Good Morning!

Harper ignores him. Delia waves, unsure whose side she's on.

HARPER
We're going to Diego's birthday party in the courtyard.

DELIA
It's an all day thing in the great Puerto Rican tradition.

JOSH
Oh... okay. Do you want me to--

The girls walk out the door. Harper slams it.

JOSH (CONT'D)
--go with?

Josh realizes the damage he's done is bigger than he thought.

BANG.

JOSH (CONT'D)
(calling)
I'm really trying, Mrs. Kim! I can't be any quieter.

MRS. KIM (O.S.)
(through the wall)
Meet in the laundry room at nine a.m.! We need to talk.

Josh has a silent scream.

JOSH
(calling, peppy)
Okay, sounds great!

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LAUNDRY ROOM - MORNING

Josh walks into the laundry room to find Mrs. Kim, Mr. Mander, Mrs. Sahakian and a few other TENANTS.

JOSH
Oh no. Really?

MRS. KIM
People are very upset with you, Mr. Keeler.

JOSH
Not today, please.

MR. MANDEER
We are a community here. You can't just come into the building and start bullying people!

JOSH
Bullying? Me? Knowing my history, that's actually flattering.

Ms. Sahakian grabs the arm of a big guy, GREGOR.

GREGOR
Yeva says you harassed her. Touched all of her unmentionables. She can't even go to the laundry room alone now.

JOSH
That's crazy! I was just feeling her bra to see--

Hearing it aloud he realizes.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Okay, now I see how that went wrong. But in my defense I'm dealing with growing bosoms.

GREGOR
Oh, that happened to a friend of mine.

MRS. KIM
The point is, you're very rude. You just stomp around, and harass people doing laundry and yell in the courtyard all night while people are sleeping!

JOSH
Oh, you know what? Fine. I'll take it. I'm a bully. And rude. And a sexual harasser!

He makes an oogey-boogey gesture toward Ms. Sahakian. She clings to Gregor.

JOSH (CONT'D)

You know, I thought I was at rock bottom when my wife left me. Just walked out after thirteen years. But then I had to watch my girls pine for their mother who somehow thought it would be a good idea to tell them she was leaving in one of those musical greeting cards. They will never be able to listen to *All Shook Up* again. Then all of our friends started talking about us behind our backs. I didn't care, but I saw what it was doing to my girls. So I move us cross-country for a fresh start and now my little girls, my lifeline, the two people I love more than anything in the world can't stand to be around me! So you know what? Join the club! Go ahead and hate me! I get it, I'm a loser!

(suddenly realizing)

Oh my God, I'm an Abby D!

He leaves, stunned by his revelation.

MR. MANDEER

I wasn't done talking and he just ended it. So rude.

Everyone looks at Mr. Mandeer, "really"?

INT. KEELER APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Josh lies on the floor under his fancy desk, forlorn.

JOSH

(stroking the desk)

You get me, Osvaldo...

He hears BANGING from the kitchen.

JOSH (CONT'D)

(calling)

I give up, Mrs. Kim. Do your worst.

ELIAS (O.S.)

Come on buddy, it's not so bad!

Josh jumps up. Elias stands before him with his tool box.

JOSH

Have you been here this whole time?

ELIAS

Yeah I was fixing your sink. It's done. But don't do dishes and flush at the same time. It kind of... crosses the streams.

JOSH

Fair enough. Thank you.

Elias starts to leave. Josh knows he has to say something.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Hey Elias. I'm sorry. About all that stuff with the jacket...

ELIAS

Don't sweat it, man. If I had known what a mess you were, I wouldn't have even brought it up.

JOSH

That's the nicest thing anyone's said to me in a long time.

ELIAS

You know, I thought your wife was dead. This is much, much worse. But I feel your pain, man. I'm in the same situation.

JOSH

Your wife left you too?

ELIAS

Oh God, no! She just works as an ER nurse so she's gone A LOT. Sometimes she can't even make my dinner.

JOSH

Yeah... that's the same.

ELIAS

It's tough for us dads. Men aren't natural care takers. It's not in our DNA. That's just science.

JOSH

Actually, it's not.

ELIAS

Dude, look at this place. No furniture except a fancy desk and some rafts. It looks like a haunted cruise ship.

JOSH

(really seeing the place)
Yeah... it's not great.

Elias heads to the door.

ELIAS

Hey, if you ever want to, some of the guys in the building watch soccer together.

JOSH

That would be nice. You know, male bonding can be a positive form of--

ELIAS

Just say yes, man, or I'm gonna take the offer back.

JOSH

Yes.

Elias leaves. Josh looks at his desk, getting an idea.

INT. KEELER APARTMENT - ENTRYWAY - LATER

Josh walks the girls into the apartment, his hands covering their eyes.

JOSH

Okay... now!

He takes his hands off and we see the apartment is furnished.

HARPER

Whoa. We have furniture.

JOSH

Yeah!

DELIA

A table! No more eating blanket?

JOSH

Our blankets are just for warmth now. And for hiding from Mrs. Kim.

Delia runs off to look at the rest of the apartment.

HARPER
How did you do all this?

JOSH
I went to that discount furniture store. Does it feel homey? I was going for homey.

HARPER
(noticing)
Your desk is gone.

DELIA (O.S.)
OMG!

INT. KEELER APARTMENT - GIRLS BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Harper and Josh walk in to find Delia on the top bunk of a cute, girly bunk bed.

DELIA
Bunk beds! Though I will miss the quiet rolling of the sea...

HARPER
You sold your desk to buy all this?

JOSH
You know, one-of-a-kind antiques are a dime a dozen.

Delia climbs the ladder down and goes to the window.

DELIA
Pink frilly curtains!

JOSH
Let's keep those closed. Yoga guy doesn't seem to have a set schedule.

Delia WAVES across the way.

INT. KEELER APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The three of them stand in front of the new couch. They sit down and sink in way too deeply.

JOSH
Hmm... The guy may have exaggerated the 'lightly used' aspect of this couch.

Josh struggles out of the couch, then stands before them.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Okay, while you're a captive audience, I have a few things I need to say. I know it's been hard since Mom left, and we're still getting used to being just us three. And I'll admit, there's a lot I don't know-- oof, that was tough to hear myself say. I mean, to be fair, I think I know more than most--

(gets back on track)

Point is, this is our home, and we're going to make it work, together. I love you guys more than anything and no matter what, I'm not going anywhere. You just can't get rid of me. Okay?

DELIA

Okay!

Delia jumps up and attacks him with a bear hug.

JOSH

Harper?

HARPER

I want to hug you, but I'm stuck in this couch.

Josh helps her up and they have a nice hug.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LAUNDRY ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Josh tentatively peeks into the laundry room. Mrs. Kim sits on a chair. No choice, he enters with his empty basket.

JOSH

I waited til midnight. Thought no one would be here.

MRS. KIM

I am always here.

On top of the dryer, all of his clothes are neatly folded.

JOSH

What's this?

MRS. KIM

Your clothes were dry. I folded them.

JOSH

That's-- really nice. Thank you. Is that apartment etiquette too?

MRS. KIM

No. That's me being an angel. I also made you some bibimbap, that's Korean food. It's my day on your meal train.

JOSH

Sorry, a what train?

MRS. KIM

Twice a week you will get a meal delivered from a tenant in the building. It's something we do for each other when someone has a baby or someone dies or someone is a total buffoon and can't cook for his children.

JOSH

(touched)

Wow. That's incredibly nice.

MRS. KIM

Save your thank you's. You haven't eaten Ms. Sahakian's Douzma. I call it death by casserole.

Josh laughs.

JOSH

Are you and me friends now?

MRS. KIM

Nope.

Mrs. Kim walks out. Josh smiles.

END OF ACT THREE

TAGINT. CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Harper admires herself in a three-way mirror. She wears a pleather jacket with tassels and cut-outs.

HARPER

I love it! *This* is New York Harper.

JOSH

No way. This material is flimsy and those tassels will slow you down in any sort of emergency. How about this?

He holds up what is basically a floor-length parka.

HARPER

Ew, Dad! I'll look like a cheap tent.

Suddenly Delia comes in carrying a CHILD SIZE MANNEQUIN.

DELIA

I'm getting this.

JOSH

That's a mannequin, Delia. No.

DELIA

You said we could each get one thing. I get Emily.

HARPER

So she gets stupid Emily, but I can't get what I want?

DELIA

Don't take this out on Emily!!!

JOSH

No to both of you. Pick again.

The girls scatter to find new things. Josh watches.

JOSH (CONT'D)

(calling off)

No Delia, you can't take their cash register.

END OF SHOW