

# What about Barb?

"Pilot"

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&

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COLD OPEN

INT. SUZANNE'S OFFICE - DAY

PAN ACROSS a cozy, well appointed office. Diplomas, awards. A bookshelf filled with works by Freud and Jung, as well as many copies of the same book: *Baby Steps* by Dr. Suzanne Marvin, whose smiling countenance graces the cover of the "NY Times Best Seller." We come to SUZANNE herself (40's, uptight, put-together, professional) sitting across from a middle aged patient who chokes back tears.

PATIENT

I just... thought there would be more time. But now... he's gone.

SUZANNE

Your father. If he were here, what would you say to him?

PATIENT

I would... I would say... why didn't you love me...

He breaks down, sobbing. A knock at the door is followed immediately by BARB (30's, bull in a china shop) entering.

BARB

Ooh, sorry, sorry.

SUZANNE

I'm in a session!

BARB

Oh jeez, my fault. Although, you *do* have the "come in" light on.

(to patient)

Hi, I'm Barb.

SUZANNE

The light means *don't* come in. We've been over this.

BARB

That's right, of course. Although it *is* green. Sort of confusing. Doesn't matter. Keep going. Seems like you're having some real breakthroughs. Isn't she the best?

SUZANNE

Barb!

BARB

Right.

Barb extends her shirt over her hand to grab the doorknob without getting germs, and exits.

SUZANNE

I am so sorry. Please go on.

PATIENT

Where was I?

SUZANNE

Your father didn't love you,  
continue.

Barb now inches the door open.

BARB

(loud whisper)

Dr. Marvin? It's me, Barb.

SUZANNE

Are you kidding me?

BARB

The bathroom key. It's not in the  
little drawer. I wouldn't interrupt  
but I had a Big Gulp on the way  
over. I know, we talked about me  
having less sugar. Anyway it's  
weird cause I thought I saw the key  
when I came in then -- uhp, wait.

(pats pocket)

In my pocket. Derp. Embarrassed!  
Okay, not even here.

Barb backs out once again, closing the door. Suzanne sighs,  
very annoyed. A beat. Barb enters.

BARB (CONT'D)

I'd like to pay for the last five  
minutes of his session. I feel  
terrible. Do we do that through  
insurance, or?...

SUZANNE

(losing it)

BARB!

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

INT. THERAPY OFFICE - A LITTLE LATER

Suzanne sits across from Barb, who clutches a well thumbed copy of *Baby Steps*. As Barb talks, Suzanne tries her best to remain professional and interested. But it's hard.

BARB

Things with Gil haven't been great. I don't know what's going on with him. Yesterday he barely touched his fish food. Just swam around the little bowl.

SUZANNE

I think fifteen minutes on the goldfish is enough. What about *people* in your life? Any news there?

BARB

Oh, I met a guy. And I kinda think he might be my soulmate.

SUZANNE

(a little surprised)  
Oh. Wow. I might have led with that, but great. What's his name? What does he do? Where did you meet?

BARB

I don't know. I don't know. And 7-Eleven.

SUZANNE

I'm confused.

BARB

It's a convenience store.

SUZANNE

You don't know your soulmate's name?

BARB

Well, we never actually spoke. We shared this long look from across that rotating hot dog thingy. It was pretty intense.  
(lamenting)  
But then I chickened out and left without saying anything.

SUZANNE

It's just not a *ton* of evidence,  
you know, to claim soulmate.

BARB

We also both ordered the same  
flavor Big Gulp, so...

SUZANNE

Okay.

(shifting gears)

Barb, there's something we need to  
discuss. As you're aware, it's been  
a whirlwind for me of late, with  
the success of my book. Media  
requests, teaching, publishing,  
there are a lot of demands on my  
time. And something's gotta give.  
So unfortunately... I'm cutting  
back on my private practice.

BARB

You're not going to be seeing  
patients anymore??

SUZANNE

No, I'll still be seeing patients.  
Just not as many.

BARB

Okay, phew. Who you thinking about  
cutting, that guy Eric that comes  
in after me? He is making no  
progress, amirite?

(off Suzanne's look)

Your walls are very thin.

SUZANNE

I'm really not at liberty to  
discuss where I'll be cutting back.  
Just know that I had to make some  
very tough choices.

BARB

(realizing)

Wait, why are you telling *me* this?

SUZANNE

Some very, very tough choices.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - PSYCHOLOGY BUILDING - A LITTLE LATER

Under sad music, we see Barb sadly remove her bike from a  
bike rack and sadly ride off.

INT. SUZANNE'S BMW - CONTINUOUS

Pure joy. Suzanne is driving, rocking out. She is ebullient, a Barb-sized weight lifted off her shoulders. The MUSIC CUTS OUT as Suzanne receives a phone call over her bluetooth.

SUZANNE  
(answering phone)  
Hey, Jason.

We SPLIT SCREEN with her assistant, JASON at his desk.

JASON (O.S.)  
(into headset)  
Just a heads up, you've got a 9 AM with the Dean and other department heads. Also, that patient of yours, Barb, she called... seven times.

SUZANNE  
Seriously?

JASON  
And a woman named Beth called three.

SUZANNE  
Does Beth sound exactly like Barb?

JASON  
With a bad British accent, yes.

INT. HOUSE - SUZANNE'S HOUSE - DOWNSTAIRS - LATER

Well appointed, Nancy Meyers-ish home. Suzanne enters and is immediately approached by RYAN (mid-30's, good looking "bro" who maintains manliness while basically doing the duties of a housewife). He's wearing an apron.

RYAN  
Thank God you're home, Babe. It's been crazy. I waited all day for the cable guy, who of course never showed. So I wasn't able to make it to the market until an hour ago. Long story short, I don't know *when* my roast is going to be ready.

SUZANNE  
(laughs)  
You're really settling into this stay at home thing, huh?

RYAN

Nice. I'm here slaving away. Make fun.

SUZANNE

No, it's cute. You're like Betty Draper with biceps.

RYAN

Just stop talking.

He pulls her in for a kiss. Suzanne's son SIGGY (10, small, stressed) crosses in, distraught.

SIGGY

There you are, Mom. I assume Ryan has informed you about the dark cloud now hanging over the family.

RYAN

Siggy got a B on his Spanish test.

SIGGY

Everything I've worked for, down the drain.

NICK (40, Suzanne's younger brother, out of shape, underemployed), watching TV, turns around.

NICK

You're taking this way too hard.

SIGGY

Am I, Uncle Nick? It starts with a B. Then it's goodbye honor roll, so long Harvard. Forget about SpaceX and now I'm not settling Mars.

NICK

Hey, I didn't go to some fancy school and I turned out okay.

SIGGY

You're crashing on our couch and you drive an Uber.

NICK

(hurt)

Please stop listing facts about me.

ANNA (15, aggressive progressive) hustles down the steps wearing a "The Future is Female" sweatshirt.

ANNA

Hey, Mom. Some woman named Barb called for you.

SUZANNE

Unreal. How did she get my home number?

RYAN

Who's Barb?

SUZANNE

This patient I ended therapy with. She's harmless, just very very... very very annoying.

ANNA

Alright well, I'm going to meet some friends at the mall.

SUZANNE

The mall? That's an oddly normal teenaged activity.

ANNA

We're protesting a retailer that has ties to a central Asian kleptocracy.

SUZANNE

Ah, there's my Anna. Hey, why don't I go with? You can drive us out there. Get some practice hours in on your learner's permit.

ANNA

(not into it)  
I don't know, Mom.

SUZANNE

Come on, we've only practiced that one time.

POP TO:

INT. SUZANNE'S CAR - DRIVEWAY - FLASHBACK

Anna at the wheel, the car parked. Suzanne in passenger seat.

SUZANNE

Hands at ten and two. Good. Look both ways. Okay, adjust your mirrors.

(MORE)



SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Are your mirrors where you want them? Anna, I think your hands slipped off ten and two.

ANNA

Oh my God, you are the most annoying person to drive with!

SUZANNE

(beat, can't help it)  
With whom to drive.

Anna screams and shakes the steering wheel.

BACK TO SCENE - INT. SUZANNE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

ANNA

I'm just gonna get an Uber.

Anna crosses to grab her phone. Ryan pulls Suzanne aside.

RYAN

(to Suzanne)  
Hey, you think we could maybe go over some wedding details before dinner?

SUZANNE

Can it wait? I'm fried, I'm sorry.

ANNA

(re: phone)  
Oh, cool there's a car super close.

Anna presses the button to order an Uber. Nick's phone immediately DINGS.

NICK

Ha, that's funny. Which mall you headed to?

ANNA

Springfield?

NICK

Eh, that's like a four dollar fare.  
(hitting button)  
Decline.

Anna reacts, annoyed.

RYAN

Suzanne, it's been a month since our engagement. Every time I bring it up, it's never a good time.

SUZANNE

I know, Sweetie, it's just I'm busy at work all day, so when I come home I need time to decompress.

RYAN

Well *I'm* busy all day too.

SIGGY

Not sure it's *exactly* the same.

RYAN

Hey, I gave up training clients at the gym because your mother and I decided one of us should be around full time. She also didn't like me stretching all those mummies, which I didn't even enjoy but it's a part of the job. So yeah, now I take care of this household. And I take pride in that. What do you think allows your mom to be as successful as she is?

ANNA

Advanced degrees, tireless work ethic, years spent chipping away at the glass ceiling of academia?

RYAN

Well, yeah. But also me going to the market and stuff.

Suzanne smiles.

SUZANNE

I appreciate everything you do. And I love you. But I'm exhausted. Next week, I promise. We'll figure it all out.

RYAN

Okay. And I love you too.

He kisses her.

SUZANNE

Also, I think we're out of those little cheeses I like.

RYAN

Put it on the list, I'm not a mind reader.

Ryan crosses off. SFX: DOORBELL. Suzanne crosses and opens the door, revealing Barb, holding her copy of *Baby Steps*.

BARB

(re: book)

Chapter two, page seventeen: "A *Baby Stepper* never gives up."

SUZANNE

What are you doing here? How did you get my address?

BARB

Fair question. I've been stealing your *Psychology Today's* from the waiting room. I read them to Gil.

SUZANNE

Okay, you need to leave, Barb.

BARB

Wait! I went to see that therapist you recommended.

POP TO:

INT. THERAPY OFFICE - FLASHBACK

Barb is there with a male therapist. She has her goldfish Gil in a little mason jar full of water.

THERAPIST

(skeptical)

You think your goldfish is upset about the election?

BACK TO SCENE

BARB

He thinks I would be better off sticking with you. He was pretty emphatic about it.

SUZANNE

Well that is not an option. And this is incredibly inappropriate.

BARB

Just one more session? For closure? Pleeeeeeeeeeeeeee.

SUZANNE

Barb, no, get a hold of yourself.

Suzanne goes to close the door, Barb inserts herself in the doorway, struggling to keep it open.

BARB

Gimme gimme gimme. I need, I need,  
I need.

SUZANNE

NO. Go away! Go!

Something behind Suzanne catches Barb's eye.

NICK (O.S.)

What are you doing here?

BARB

(re: Nick)  
What the hell?

SUZANNE

You know her? You know him?

Barb and Nick are now lost in each other's stares.

BARB

Monday, 3:29 PM.

NICK

The Fairmount Avenue 7-Eleven.

SUZANNE

(dawning)  
Oh no.

BARB

This is the guy, Dr. Marvin. This  
is the 7-Eleven guy!

NICK

You ordered a Berry Mist Big Gulp!

BARB

Aaaah! You noticed!!

Off Suzanne's worried look...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. SUZANNE'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - ONE WEEK LATER

The entire family is gathered around the table for dinner. Suzanne stares daggers at Barb, who is seated next to Nick. Anna wears a sweatshirt that reads: "You can pee next to me."

BARB

*Mmmm!* This chicken is fantastic, Ryan. Even better than last night.

RYAN

Thank you, Barb.

BARB

You know what else was great? That salmon on Thursday. Ooh, could you make that again tomorrow?

ANNA

(re: Barb and Nick)

I'm a bit of a cynic when it comes to love, but it's nice to see you so happy, Uncle Nick.

NICK

It's crazy, you can look all over, and then that special person just walks right through the door.

BARB

(re: chicken)

*Mmmm!... MMMMMM!*

Suzanne slams her fork on her plate, annoyed.

SUZANNE

(re: fork)

Oops. Slipped.

BARB

You know what's so weird, Dr. M? We've known each other for a year. You know *everything* about me. And I barely know anything about you.

SUZANNE

Well, I like to maintain those boundaries with the clients.

BARB

So, Ryan tells me you've been dragging your feet with the wedding planning? What's that about?

SUZANNE

(getting up)

Does anyone else want more wine?  
I'm going to get some more wine.

SIGGY

There's still some left I think.

Siggy indicates a bottle near Suzanne. Suzanne downs the remainder, straight from the bottle.

SUZANNE

Well, now it's empty.

Suzanne crosses out.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Suzanne is there. Nick and Siggy cross in.

NICK

Everything okay?

SIGGY

Talk to us, Mom.

SUZANNE

I'll just say it. Nick, I'm not comfortable with this you and Barb situation. You're my brother and I love you, but this is all too weird for me.

NICK

I appreciate that. And I don't give a crap. I *found* someone, Suzanne. I've never met anyone like her. She's fun and spontaneous. There's wild ups and crazy downs.

SUZANNE

It's called borderline personality disorder.

NICK

Everybody else likes her. Maybe she's not the problem, maybe you're the problem.

SIGGY

That's not fair, Uncle Nick.  
Mom, as your favorite child, I have  
your back.

SUZANNE

I love you and your sister equally.

SIGGY

I know you have to say that, and I  
appreciate that kind of great  
parenting, unlike Anna who takes it  
for granted.

NICK

(to Suzanne)

You know what I think? I think Barb  
only gets under your skin 'cause  
you're so uptight. Maybe you could  
use a little Barb in your life.  
Maybe she's exactly what you need.

SUZANNE

Oh, that is ridiculous. Also, I am  
not uptight.

NICK

Oh, come on.

SIGGY

I don't think you're uptight. Anna  
does. But I don't.

INT. SUZANNE'S HOUSE - HOME OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

Suzanne sits upright and composed, staring into the camera of  
her desktop computer. We INTERCUT with Don Lemon in a CNN  
STUDIO in Atlanta.

DON LEMON

(to camera)

The book is *Baby Steps*. The author,  
Dr. Suzanne Marvin, joining us via  
Skype from Philadelphia. Dr.  
Marvin, explain for our viewers the  
philosophy behind *Baby Steps*.

Over the following, from outside Suzanne's window we hear the  
persistent SOUNDS OF SOMEONE GRUNTING LOUDLY.

SUZANNE

(over Skype)

Well, Don, it's simple, really.

(MORE)

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Small, easily achievable goals,  
over time leading to big changes.

DON LEMON

It's genius in it's simplicity.

SUZANNE

I wrote it mostly for myself. As a  
way to get over my ex-husband  
leaving. And I guess the message  
was just resonant for people.

DON LEMON

Excuse me, what is that noise? It  
sounds like... grunting?

Suzanne smiles for the camera as more loud grunting is heard.

SUZANNE

I don't hear anything.

EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

We see the origins of those GRUNTS: Barb. Dressed in workout gear, she is doing burpees, slowly, painfully, loudly, as Ryan leads her through a training session. Suzanne's office window, overlooking the backyard, shoots open and Suzanne sticks her head out.

SUZANNE

Can you guys keep it down?!

RYAN

Sorry, babe!

BARB

(waves)

Hi, Dr. Marvin.

(off her look)

It's me, Barb.

Suzanne closes the window, dipping back inside. ANGLE ON:  
Anna hanging out next to Nick by the firepit across the yard  
from Ryan and Barb. Anna is FaceTiming on her iPhone with a  
high school friend of hers, ELLA.

ANNA

(over FaceTime)

Her name's Barb. She's this patient  
of my mom's who really annoys her  
but is actually kind of awesome and  
she's dating my Uncle Nick now.



ELLA

Is Nick that one who always tries  
to act young and say weird stuff?

Anna turns the phone so that Ella can see Nick.

NICK

Hey, Ella. How was the concert?  
Heard it was ham.

Anna moves the phone off of Nick and resumes talking to Ella.  
We hear Barb grunt as she does another burpee.

ANNA

(re: Barb grunt)  
My mom's fiance is doing a training  
session with Barb in our backyard  
right now. It's so funny.

ELLA

Okay, turn me around so I can see  
her.

ANNA

You just want to see Ryan.

ELLA

Why do you think I'm friends with  
you?

ANNA

I'm hanging up.

ELLA

Come on, let me see your hot new  
dad. Don't be selfish!

Anna hangs up. ANGLE ON: Barb and Ryan.

RYAN

You know, this is actually how I  
met Suzanne. She was a client.

BARB

Oh, really? You trained Dr. Marvin?

POP TO:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Ryan and Suzanne are in bed, post coitus. Workout clothes,  
free weights and an exercise ball are nearby on the floor.

SUZANNE

I should probably stop paying you.

RYAN

Yeah, this is getting weird.

BACK TO SCENE - CONTINUOUS

RYAN (CONT'D)

I think we both figured it was just going to be a rebound after her divorce. But it stuck. And I've never been happier. She's the most incredible woman I've ever met.

BARB

So any more word on when the big date's going to be?

RYAN

(sighs)

Suzanne's so stressed with work, it's been hard to lock down. Maybe I should put the planning on the back burner till things clear up.

BARB

If I know, Dr. Marvin, and I think I do, there's one thing she values: persistence. After she ended therapy with me, I could've given up, gone away. But I didn't. And now I'm dating her brother and she and I are best friends.

Ryan nods, this has gotten through to him.

RYAN

You're right, I'll keep trying.  
Thanks, Barb.

Barb smiles, then does another burpee, grunting even louder this time.

SUZANNE (O.S.)

Oh my God, shut up!

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Anna is watching a movie. Barb crosses in and catches what's on the TV. It's the new *Ghostbusters* (the all female reboot).

BARB

Oh, I heard about this. The all female *Ghostbusters*. Lot of controversy for some reason, right?

ANNA

It was a huge gender war thing. Men said it somehow retroactively ruined their childhoods. And women refused to hate it, even if they hated it.

BARB

I'm just not wild about the idea of anyone redoing an iconic Bill Murray role.

Suzanne crosses in.

SUZANNE

Hey, I need to run to the bank. Wanna give me a lift? We can take the Range Rover.

She dangles the keys, enticingly.

BARB

I mean I love the feel of riding up high.

SUZANNE

I was talking to Anna.

ANNA

No, thanks, Mom.

Suzanne seems disappointed and exits.

BARB

It must've been so cool growing up with the world's greatest therapist. When you have a dream, do you wake her up, or wait till breakfast to have her analyze it?

ANNA

I don't talk to her about that stuff. She hears people with real problems all day long. Mine would probably just sound lame.

BARB

I doubt that.

ANNA

Okay, like she wants to teach me how to drive. And I never want to go. And I say it's because she's super annoying and judgy. Which she is. But also, I'm scared.

BARB

Why?

ANNA

A car is a huge piece of metal hurtling down a highway and if you make one mistake you're dead. And literally every idiot seems to have zero problem learning, so why am I such a headcase about it?

BARB

I totally get it. I'm afraid of everything. I'm agoraphobic *and* claustrophobic. Took me forever to find the right size apartment.

Anna laughs. It's a nice moment.

ANNA

You're easy to talk to, Barb.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

Suzanne and Ryan are in bed, both looking at their laptops.

SUZANNE

Barb and Nick are now boyfriend and girlfriend on Facebook?! Who even does that anymore?

(noticing)

Are you on Pinterest?

RYAN

I know the wedding planning was stressing you out. So I decided to get the ball rolling without you. And, not to brag, but I think I may have discovered a hidden talent. Now in terms of theme, I'm thinking: romantic, intimate, with touches of old Hollywood glam.

SUZANNE

Okay those words should not be coming out of a former Ohio State linebacker.

RYAN

I've narrowed the venues down to three. Once we pick, I can move on caterer, photographer, videographer and calligrapher for our invites.

A knock at the door followed immediately by Barb entering. Suzanne reacts, startled.

BARB

Hey, Dr. Marvin.

SUZANNE

Are you kidding me?

BARB

I need advice. Not as a therapist, as a best friend. When is it appropriate for me to have sex --

SUZANNE

I can't have this talk.

BARB

-- with your brother.

SUZANNE

Get out.

RYAN

Actually, maybe you can help us, Barb. We're trying to make some wedding decisions.

SUZANNE

I really don't think we need to bring her into this.

RYAN

Hey, I was ready to postpone planning till things calmed down for you. But thankfully Barb convinced me to plow ahead. So she's been instrumental already.

BARB

Slide over, Skinny. Let's roll up our sleeves.

She climbs into bed, moving an annoyed Suzanne to the middle. Ryan holds the laptop so they all can see it.

RYAN

Okay, the Abernathy Farmhouse, what do we think? Upstate, bucolic, screams charm.

BARB

Actually I'll be screaming, cause I'm afraid of cows. I'm assuming an invite. We can talk bridesmaid verse maid of honor later.

SUZANNE

Ryan, I don't want to be pressured into a decision with Barb here.

RYAN

How about just pick a date and I'll see what venues are even available. October 14th?

SUZANNE

I'm not doing this.

BARB

Come on, Dr. M. Just name a date. Come on come on come on come on.

RYAN

Date date date...

Barb joins in.

RYAN / BARB

Date date date date date--

SUZANNE

(blurts)

Maybe I don't want to get married, okay?!

Stunned silence. Suzanne feels immediately bad. Ryan is hurt.

BARB

Oh. Wow. I should leave you two alone.

Barb exits.

SUZANNE

Ryan, I --

RYAN

I don't want to talk about it.

SUZANNE

But--

RYAN

I said I don't want to talk about  
it.

He rolls over, angry. A beat. Through the door, we hear:

BARB (O.S.)

So where did we land on the sex  
with your brother thing?

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Nick sits at the counter. Ryan "angrily" makes breakfast,  
slamming pans, tossing eggs with force. Suzanne crosses in.

SUZANNE

Can we please talk about last  
night?

Ryan angrily shoves a fantastic omelette in front of Suzanne.

RYAN

Egg white, veggie. You can garnish  
it yourself.

SUZANNE

I didn't even mean what I said. It  
just came out.

RYAN

You know what? Let's just put off  
the wedding talk for a few months.  
It's clearly too much for you to  
handle right now.

Ryan crosses off angrily.

NICK

What happened to him?

SUZANNE

Your stupid girlfriend happened,  
that's what happened.

NICK

Oh, you saw that we're official  
now? Yet no "like." Interesting.

Siggy enters.

SIGGY

Where's Ryan? He's supposed to take us to school.

SUZANNE

I'll take you. Where's your sister?

NICK

She's practicing driving with Barb.

SUZANNE

What?

From outside, we hear a honking. Suzanne crosses to the door.

EXT. HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Suzanne, Nick, Siggy and Ryan exit the house to see Anna excitedly pulling up with Barb in the passenger seat. Anna exits the drivers side. Barb exits the passenger side wearing a bicycle helmet.

ANNA

Mom, I did it! I drove! Barb and I had a long talk yesterday and she really put me at ease. She's so easy to talk to.

BARB

(waving)  
Hey, Dr. Marvin.

SUZANNE

(seething)  
You.

BARB

You okay? You've got a weird vein thing popping out of your forehead there.

SUZANNE

Get out of my life.

NICK

Hey, don't talk to my girlfriend like that.

SUZANNE

Girlfriend? Ha! Don't you see what's going on here? She is obsessed with me.

(MORE)



SUZANNE (CONT'D)

She's probably just dating you to  
weasle her way back into my life!  
Which she is now ruining!

BARB

I thought we were friends, Dr.  
Marvin.

SUZANNE

Friends are people who *choose* to  
hang out together. You were a  
patient. I was your therapist. I  
spent time with you because you  
paid me. Do you not get that?

BARB

(hurt)

Yeah. I do. I get it now.

RYAN

Jeez, Suzanne.

SUZANNE

No, I'm not the bad guy here. She's  
the bad guy.

BARB

Nick, can you please just take me  
home?

NICK

Of course.

Nick's phone chirps.

NICK (CONT'D)

(re: Uber app)

Is it okay if we pick up this fare?  
He's headed the same direction.

And we...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. SUZANNE'S CAR - LATER

Suzanne drives the kids to school. Anna is in the passenger seat, Siggy in the back. They drive in silence for a beat.

SUZANNE

Anna, you're going to have to talk to me at some point. I said I'm sorry.

ANNA

You know what, I'm just going to walk. Please let me out.

SUZANNE

Anna...

ANNA

Mom, please.

Suzanne pulls over.

SUZANNE

Notice how I signaled when I--  
(off her angry look)  
Okay, have a good day.

Anna exits, leaving Suzanne and Siggy alone. Suzanne sighs.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Everybody hates me. Nick, Ryan, your sister.

SIGGY

I'm still on your side. But yeah, you're not making it easy for us fans.

SUZANNE

How many times can I apologize to them all?

SIGGY

I don't think it's them you need to apologize to, Mom.

SUZANNE

You're right. I know. I need to tell Barb I'm sorry. I just... really don't like her.

SIGGY

Yeah, I kinda got that from the screaming on the lawn.

SUZANNE

I know, it was terrible.

SIGGY

Look, I'll support you no matter what. Mother, son, special bond. But you have sort of alienated the rest of the family. Maybe just bite the bullet and go over there and say you're sorry.

Suzanne takes this in, she knows he's right.

SUZANNE

I mean I hate her stupid face.

SIGGY

Get it out of your system now.

INT. BARB'S APARTMENT - LATER

Barb opens the door to find Suzanne there.

BARB

(startled)

I was just taking Gil for a walk.

We see she has Gil, her fish, in a mason jar of water.

SUZANNE

I owe you an apology.

BARB

Do you want to come in?

Suzanne enters. They stand as they talk in the living room.

SUZANNE

I didn't handle things well. I was... frustrated.

BARB

That thing you said, about me just dating Nick to be around you? I would never do that, I hope you know. I'm crazy about the big lug.

SUZANNE

You make him very happy.

BARB

And we didn't end up having sex by the way.

SUZANNE

That's - I don't need to know.

BARB

Did a lot of other stuff.

SUZANNE

Okay.

A beat.

BARB

It must be hard. Listening to everyone else's problems all day. I mean, all us patients, we get to bounce our stuff off you. But you are you. You don't have you.

SUZANNE

It's a little hard. Sometimes.

Barb takes a seat and motions for Suzanne to sit. (NOTE: it's similar to the arrangement in Suzanne's therapy office, but this time Barb is in a chair and Suzanne is on the couch).

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Sure, once in a while I'd like to be the one doing the talking.

BARB

Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

SUZANNE

I have stuff I wish could get off my chest sometimes. But I don't really have an outlet. I mean I'm a mom and a therapist and a boss. Everyone looks to me for answers.

BARB

And how does that make you feel?

Over the following, Suzanne starts to open up with more and more momentum, spilling her feelings in a way that she's probably needed to for a some time.

SUZANNE

People think just because I appear put together, that I have no worries. I have worries.

(MORE)

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

I mean, my relationship, I totally screwed that up, as you saw. I don't know what my problem is. I love being with Ryan. He makes me happy. *We're* happy.

(realizing)

But maybe *that* scares me.

BARB

Interesting. Let's talk about that.

SUZANNE

I was happy with Peter, my first husband. And then one day, we weren't happy. And then I walked in on him being happy in his office with a grad student named Brittany.

Barb offers Suzanne a tissue, but she waves it off and Barb places the box on the table.

BARB

(re: tissues)

There if you need it.

Suzanne continues, getting a little emotional.

SUZANNE

And the thing about divorce, the reason it hurts so much, is it's this *rejection* by the person who knows you *better than anyone*. You can't even imagine what that feels like. How personal it is.

(off Barb's look, realizes)

Except you can, because I did that to you.

BARB

It's okay.

SUZANNE

No, it's not, Barb. I'm sorry.

And this time Suzanne truly and deeply means it.

BARB

(touched)

Thank you.

It's a nice moment.

SUZANNE

Anna was right. You're actually pretty easy to talk to.

BARB

People tend to open up to me. I think it's mostly that they don't care what I think at all.

SUZANNE

(laughs)

Yeah, I can see that.

BARB

Look, Ryan is not Peter. You just need to step out of your own way.

She picks up her copy of *Baby Steps* off the coffee table.

BARB (CONT'D)

I watched the interview you did the other day. The one that got interrupted by my grunting. I didn't realize you wrote this to help yourself get over the divorce.

SUZANNE

Lot of good that did.

Suzanne shakes her head, frustrated with her inability to just move past this difficulty in her own life.

BARB

Hey, you have come so far. But that doesn't mean old problems can't still pop up. It just means you have more *Baby Steps* to take.

Suzanne smiles.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Siggy, dressed in a tuxedo peers out the window.

SIGGY

He's here!

Nick, also in a tux, rushes through, barking instructions.

NICK

Everyone, take your places, now!

Siggy runs out the back door, as does Nick, just as Ryan enters through the front door.

RYAN

Hello? Where's everyone at?

Barb approaches, wearing a dress.

BARB

Ryan, we have a surprise. I need you to close your eyes.

RYAN

What's going on?

BARB

(re: dress)

I know, I look hot. Let's just move past it. Now close 'em.

He closes his eyes. Barb takes his hand.

RYAN

Where are we going?

BARB

Keep 'em closed.

She leads him through the french doors, into the backyard.

EXT. HOUSE - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Ryan and Barb enter. She uncovers Ryan's eyes to see what we see: Nick, Barb, Anna and Siggy, dressed in suits and dresses. The area is decorated for a modest backyard wedding. And at the front is Suzanne, looking incredible in a wedding dress. Ryan takes in the whole sight.

RYAN

What the?...

Suzanne approaches.

RYAN (CONT'D)

You look incredible, Babe.

SUZANNE

I don't need to think about things anymore, Ryan. I'm ready to do this. Right here. Right now. I love you and I want to spend the rest of our lives together.

RYAN

(touched)

I love you, too.

BARB

I talked her into it. Not important. Many wonderful years.

ANNA

(to Ryan)

I'm really glad you guys are doing this. Even though the institution of marriage is a patriarchal vestige from a time when women were considered property.

SIGGY

Save it for your toast, Anna. Okay, everyone ready?

SUZANNE

Siggy got ordained online.

SIGGY

Going to look pretty good on the ole college application. Now, I have the Kovatch christening in an hour so let's get a move on.

Everyone starts to take their places.

RYAN

So, carnations huh? They didn't have roses, or...

SUZANNE

I don't know.

NICK

I just grabbed these at the gas station. Wasn't a lot of selection.

SUZANNE

(smiles)

Now let's get married.

RYAN

Yes, right, let's do this.

Ryan and Suzanne stand in front of Siggy.

SIGGY

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here to celebrate the marriage of two amazing people...



RYAN

(looking around)

I'm sorry, are there no votives for the table? Or is someone putting those out later?

SUZANNE

Ryan, what's going on?

RYAN

(breaking)

I can't do this, Suzanne.

SUZANNE

What?

RYAN

I want to marry you. Just not like this. In our yard. With one sad balloon tied to a chair. That says "Happy Birthday."

NICK

Have you been to a Chevron? It ain't Party City, buddy.

RYAN

Look, at first I just wanted to plow through the wedding planning. But then I got really into it. And I want to make it something really special.

SUZANNE

Aww, you want your big day.

RYAN

Stop it, Suzanne.

SUZANNE

And you totally don't have to take my name, okay? I know we've never discussed that.

RYAN

I don't like these jokes.

SUZANNE

(laughs)

Of course we can wait. I just wanted you to know I was ready. We'll plan it right and have all our friends there. It'll be incredible.

RYAN

We can do the rustic farmhouse?  
With lanterns and Italian silk  
hanging from the rafters like  
Bradley Cooper had?

SUZANNE

Again, scaring me. Okay, everyone,  
wedding's off for today. We'll just  
call this the engagement party.

RYAN

I mean there's not even chocolate  
waterfall.

SUZANNE

Lunch in the backyard then.

ANNA

Wait, so that's it?

NICK

Yeah, what the hell?

SUZANNE

Sorry, appreciate all the effort,  
guys.

Everyone starts to disperse. ANGLE ON Barb and Nick.

NICK

What a croc. We're all here,  
dressed up. I spent an hour  
squeezing into these tuxedo pants.

BARB

Seems a shame for all this to go to  
waste. Such a romantic setting.

NICK

Which is already paid for.

Nick and Barb lock eyes, the spark of an idea igniting.

NICK (CONT'D)

(to Barb)

Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

BARB

Oh, I think we're thinking the same  
thing, my little Berry Mist.

SUZANNE

What's happening?

Nick gets down on one knee and takes Barb's hand.

RYAN

Oh my God...

NICK

Barb Wiley, will you marry me?  
Right now. For free in this  
backyard?

But before Barb can answer:

SUZANNE

(screaming)

NOOOOOooooo!!!

Startled, everyone turns to Suzanne, who composes herself.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

It just seems a little fast, is  
all.

NICK

What the hell, Suzanne?

BARB

No, she's right. Dr. M. is right.  
Voice of reason. As usual. I'm  
lucky to have you, Dr. Marvin.

Suzanne reacts, relieved. Bullet dodged.

NICK

Well, what if we just got engaged?

BARB

(immediately)

I love that! We could do a double  
wedding *with* Dr. Marvin and Ryan!

NICK

(announcing)

She said yes!

Everyone celebrates as Barb and Nick embrace.

BARB

We're gonna be sisters, Dr. Marvin!  
Sisters!! Aaaah!!!

Suzanne reacts as everyone continues to cheer.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW