

UNTITLED BOBBY BOWMAN PROJECT

"Pilot"

By

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CONDÉ NAST ENT.
3-ARTS ENT.

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TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SAWYER TOWNHOUSE CONDO - DAY (DAY 1)

BUZZ and KERI-ANN, 40s, happily carry a dresser in from a U-Haul. Helping carry it is LOLA, 15.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

I was fifteen when I started to understand my parents' marriage. Dad got Mom a place on the fancy side of town where you didn't smell the dog food plant. That was the summer I fell in love with my family.

Buzz and K-A pause to admire their new home, together, while Lola strains under the weight of the dresser.

ADULT LOLA V.O. (CONT'D)

But I had to *fall in dislike* with them first.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING (DAY 2)

Lola scrapes pastries off a COOKIE PAN for her siblings.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

You know how some families have one kid who has their act together and ends up being the dutiful helper, cook, and peace-maker? That was me.

On TED, 14, uptight future FBI agent with a **starter mustache**.

TED

Don't act dumb, Vera. Take it off, or I'll be forced to retaliate. Severely.

VERA, 16, a straight-faced troublemaker, has drawn an identical **starter mustache** on her lip.

VERA

Ted, I'm sorry you're upset, but I honestly don't know what I did.

BUZZY JR. (BJ), 9, sensitive.

BJ

Lola, tell them not to fight.

LOLA

Don't fight. It makes BJ pluck out his arm hairs. BJ, stop plucking. You look like a meth-head.

Ted and Vera slap fight. Lola uses the pan to separate them.

TED

Ow! It burned me!

LOLA

Sorry. My bad.

Lola makes a micro-smirk to herself. She meant to do it.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

I was ready for a change.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER (DAY 3)

Lola takes out laundry. In the B.G., BJ does modern dance.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

My mom had to depend on me, because of my crazy genius dad. He was always away on projects.

OVER PHOTOS of Buzz writing equations with various scientists and generals. CHYRONS hand-drawn-by-Lola cite: **NASA... PENTAGON... MCMURDO STATION, ANTARCTIC...**

INT. SHITTY GRADUATE HOUSING - DAY (FLASHBACK)

CHYRON: **HELPED TESLA MOTORS - 2007.**

Buzz and ELON MUSK look at car diagrams. A toddler crawls by.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

...But we were usually broke, because Dad gave his ideas away for free.

BUZZ

Great car, Elon. What if it was...
electric?

Elon groans and face-palms. Buzz feels guilty and glances at KERI-ANN (K-A) who's making dinner.

KERI-ANN

Elon, shug? You need a glass of wine?

EXT. GRADUATION CEREMONY - DAY (FLASHBACK 2018)

SLOW MOTION on Buzz in a graduation gown. He makes degrees "rain" like bills at a strip club landing on a bemused K-A.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

Mom worked two jobs so Dad could keep getting graduate degrees. She'd say:

KERI-ANN

Buzz's heart won't be full unless his brain is overflowing.

INT. SHITTY GRADUATE HOUSING - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A beaming K-A and Buzz address the kids.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

But Dad adored Mom, and so he said:

BUZZ

It's time I settle down, and get a real job... easy hours... a nice house for Mom to decorate.

(as K-A cheers)

You kids'll have a real home to grow up in!

(the kids cheer)

Mom can quit one of her jobs so we'll both be home more.

LOLA

WOOO! Less chores for Lola!

EXT. SAWYER CONDO - LATER (DAY 1)

Lola, in a crocheted bathing suit, vintage skirt and painted high tops, crushes boxes to put in the bin.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

Less chores meant I would finally have time for a social life. With this guy:

A LIFEGUARD BOY and TWO GIRLS in bikinis pass. He waves.

CHYRON: **Lewis. My first big crush.**

ADULT LOLA V.O. (CONT'D)

High school was gonna be great. Maybe.

BUZZ exits a car in a Santa hat, with a DOG. Lola worries.

BUZZ

Merry Christmas, Lola-bird! Big news. Dr. Fuu and I felt nervous all week.

(MORE)

BUZZ (CONT'D)

We realized my NASA numbers were wrong and an asteroid will destroy Earth next month. Which sucks. Massively. So I figured, hey, we may as well have Christmas while we can, yes?

She nods as he retrieves more Christmas gifts from the car.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

Remember back when I said "crazy genius dad," and you thought I mostly meant the genius part? Nope.

LOLA

Dad? Plant your feet and breathe deep. (gently takes Buzz's hand) Don't forget, when you're stressed you hear voices, and your brain feels like it's from actual people or clouds or Dr. Fuu. But Fuu can't talk, remember? He's our dog. So maybe the asteroid is really anxiety from the new job and the move which also threw off your meds. Maybe?

Buzz agonizes, wanting to believe her. But he can't.

BUZZ

Better to have Christmas and not need it than need it and not have it.

As Lola pats his arm and helps take presents.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

He made life interesting, but we were used to it. And we got great perks.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

The kids and K-A happily open presents with Buzz.

THE SAWYERS

Happy holidays!

VERA

We're missing Halloween too, should we go get candy?

Buzz reveals candy, "Already got it." Vera and BJ cheer. Lola and K-A trade looks. "Let's make the best of it."

CUT TO:

TITLES...

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SAWYER CONDO - LATER

Buzz puts out gardening supplies for their little walkway. This includes a 3-foot tall cement lion statue.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

With a dad like ours, we needed a mother who was super low-key, boring and ordinary to balance him out. Our mom was not that woman.

SLOW MOTION diva shot of Keri-Ann in a chic outfit.

ADULT LOLA V.O. (CONT'D)

Mom's a designer who likes elegance. This is what she'd wear to *landscape* a walkway she didn't even own. You'd never guess she grew up a farm girl...

(as K-A hoists huge sacks of soil on her shoulder)

...Well, maybe you would.

She waves at a neighbor, suuuper friendly and we FREEZE.
Chyron: **Raleigh's most charming smile.**

ADULT LOLA V.O. (CONT'D)

They were psyched about the condo. It was Mom's chance to shine.

BUZZ

(moving huge statue)

I wonder if Mr. Lion misses his old job guarding the Biltmore mansion.

KERI-ANN

Accessorize for the home you want, not the home you have.

(kisses him)

I love that you support my design career. When we're done, it'll be clear to anyone walking by that this is the home of a pro decorator.

BUZZ

With a lion this big it may be clear to people in planes.

KERI-ANN

(grins)

It's fashion forward. Trust me. Or do you only listen to Dr. Fuu?

(sees she wounded him)

Oh, shug, I didn't mean it. Don't beat yourself up again. Christmas-ween was fun. Santa got me very sexy lingerie.

BUZZ

(pensive)

When the kids have Christmas in July...and hear me talk about the end of the world and asteroids...do you think it leaves scars on them?

KERI-ANN

(tries keeping it light)

Sure hope so. Or they'll never have good material for their memoirs.

(it didn't work, hugs him)

So you had a slip up. This isn't the flu. We're not gonna cure it, just make it better. And you've gotten better each year since we met. Except ninety-nine.

BUZZ

Y2K had me freaked.

KERI-ANN

(sees Lola come out)

Lola, tell Dad that Christmas-ween didn't leave you with scars.

LOLA

We could have done without you modeling the skimpy nightgown. Otherwise it was fun. You got me this great periodic chart shirt.

Her tee has the chart and reads: **I wear this periodically!**

KERI-ANN

Having a mad scientist dad is a plus.

LOLA

Right. I've learned flexibility and I'll have way more poise than other kids in a natural disaster.

KERI-ANN

It's taught her caretaking skills,
responsibility, plus she has your
bravery to not care if other people
see her as odd.

LOLA

Exactly. Wait. What did you say?

KERI-ANN

I said you have caretaking skills-

LOLA

Yeah-yeah, caretaker, I know. You said
people see me as odd?

BUZZ

Mom's just saying we're brave, because
we don't need to fit in.

LOLA

Maybe you don't. I'm fifteen. Fitting
in is up there with food and shelter.

KERI-ANN

Honey, we're comforting your crazy
daddy. Don't make this about you.

LOLA

Too late. My mom said I'm weird.

BUZZ

She said odd. A good odd.

LOLA

I'm starting high school next month.
There is no good odd.

KERI-ANN

I'm sorry, baby. We thought you knew
and that's why you dress like that?

LOLA

Like what?!

Freeze on Lola's chagrin.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

I was used to having my act together.

INSERT: New footage from when Lola waved to the lifeguard,
this time with opera music.

ADULT LOLA V.O. (CONT'D)
But Mom made me question everything I
thought about myself...

Lola looks down at her quirky painted high tops and crocheted
tank top and vintage skirt as she balances on the box pile.

ADULT LOLA V.O. (CONT'D)
...And what others thought too.

PUSH IN on the bikini girls, grinning at Lola. Chyron:
"Friendly? Or judgey?" And the emoji for "unsure."

BACK TO SCENE.

LOLA
I knew I didn't have a social life. I
figured I was just overly busy. Now I
have to fix so much more.

KERI-ANN
You have nothing to fix. You're
terrific just like your dad.

LOLA/ BUZZ
Like Dad?!/Bad call Ker'.

KERI-ANN
In a good way.

BUZZ
(same rhythm as Lola)
She's starting high school. There is
no good way.

LOLA
Thank you for your candor. Goodbye.
(turns, hits leg on statue)
Ow! Your lion's humongous and *odd*.

Lola exits. Buzz looks at Keri-Ann, "Wtf?"

KERI-ANN
At least I'm scarring them too.

INT. LOLA AND VERA'S BEDROOM - DAY (DAY 2)

BJ does Billy Elliot dance moves to a Eurythmics song. Vera
eats candy. Lola looks at her swimsuit in the mirror.

LOLA
Can I use your swimsuit?

VERA

Why? It's handmade.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

In junior high I was into crochet.

INSERT PHOTO of Lola modeling geeky crocheted one-piece and other crochet projects -- even an Ugly Betty poncho.

BACK TO SCENE

LOLA

I'm making some changes. Getting rid of anything odd. I may quit my band.

VERA

I love your band.

INT. SCHOOL STAGE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Lola fronts a band with three NERD GIRLS playing Toto's "Africa." Lola on electric harp.

LOLA

(sings as she plays)
*He turned to me as if to say / Hurry
girl / It's waiting there for you! /
It's gonna take a lot to drag me away--*

BACK TO SCENE

LOLA (CONT'D)

Yeah, the band's done.

VERA

No. It's horrific. But some people like horrific. It's a niche.

LOLA

I'm tired of niche. I want mainstream. We start a new school in six weeks. I can rebrand starting with kids around here. "New Lola." No weird clothes or hobbies. I guess I nix my science tees? Man. They're so funny, though.

VERA

If you do all this, you'll be just another basic bitch.

LOLA

Yes! I'd LOVE to be a basic b-word.

VERA

You can't *be* one if you can't say it.

LOLA

Basic b-words can say 'basic b-word.'

BJ

("look at my dancing")
Lola.

LOLA

(off BJ dancing)
Nice. Point your feet.

VERA

I get what's up. You're in ninth grade now...so you want to smash a boy.

LOLA

What? No! God! Wait, is smashing more than kissing?
(Off Vera's lewd gesture)
Then no. You're gross. A freshman kiss would be nice. Reeal nice.

Vera tosses a bikini at Lola. Lola sees it's so tiny. Yikes.

BJ

(leans out window)
Mom, Lola's going swimming. Can I go?

LOLA

No-no-no. I wanna go alone. Mom's gonna make it a thing.

EXT. SAWYER CONDO - MOMENTS LATER

The Sawyers load swim gear onto a golf cart.

Chyron: **Mom made it a thing.**

BUZZ

I love pools. The buoyancy makes it as close as I'll ever get to a walk in the deep void of space.

LOLA

I'm kind of getting a stomach-y thing. I should probably stay home.

KERI-ANN

Go with your dad. I'm stuck gardening and somebody needs to make sure he finds his way there and back.

BUZZ

We're good. I got a compass in my fanny pack.

KERI-ANN

Stay with him. Plus, hey-hey, you're going to make tons of new friends.

LOLA

Don't even.

Keri-Ann calls to Vera who is skateboarding nearby.

KERI-ANN

Vera, you're going too. This goes back to some goals Buzz discussed about our move here. Buzz?

(to Buzz, sotto)

You say it. She idolizes you.

BUZZ

Yes, goals for the kids: Colonize Mars and/or prove the existence of psychic powers.

(off her frown)

But I'm betting you mean something short-term? I'm sorry.

KERI-ANN

Dad was saying that part of us all flourishing here is based on the friends we make. This is your time to look around here and bond with solid, positive *college-bound kids*. Vera.

VERA

I already have friends.

KERI-ANN

Yes, enough to fill a youth prison. Sadly, many of them already do. Go make some quality friendships.

TED

Sounds like a plan. Let's move out.

(off Vera's snicker)

I respect authority. Maybe try it sometime. Gyah.

As Lola trudges onto the golf cart with the kids.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

Remember I said this was the summer I
fell in love with my family but fell
in dislike with them first? The
dislike may have started around here.

LOLA

I wanted people to meet me on my own.
Not with Dad and everybody.

VERA

Then ditch the family. I am. It's not
a law you have to obey Mom.
(calls out for K-A to hear)
I love preppy, nerd kids. Sooo fun.

KERI-ANN

(calls back)
Stop the snark. I had a c-section for
you.
(to Buzz)
Can't wait 'til she hits twenty-five
so we can bond again.

BUZZ

If I meet anybody at the pool who
needs a decorator-slash-dress-designer
I'll mention Keri-Ann Kreations.

KERI-ANN

And if I meet anyone who needs an
astro-physicist-slash-hunky-sex-dynamo
I'll...cut them, because you're mine.

They kiss. As Buzz boards, we now note the cool NASA golf-
cart.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

Dad said that cart was a thank-you
gift from NASA. Mom says he stole it.
He was always a redneck at heart.

Buzz peels out. Vera skateboards, holding onto the cart.

ANGLE BACK ON Keri-Ann greeting TWO NEIGHBORS.

KERI-ANN

Hey. I'm Keri-Ann Sawyer. We're new!

FREEZE + CHYRON: Raleigh's most charming smile again.

BACK ON CART

Vera skates beside the cart. BJ rides in back with glum Lola.

LOLA

I wish I could be rebellious like you.
I care too much about people's
feelings. Not saying you *don't* care.
You do. You're listening to my
feelings now.

VERA

Yes. But I'm bored. Bye.

Vera lets go and skates toward two SKETCHY SKATER BOYS.

VERA (CONT'D)

What's up?

FREEZE + CHYRON: Raleigh's most charming sneer.

EXT. CONDO POOL / CLUBHOUSE - LATER

Buzz, Ted, BJ and Lola enter. Lola's in a big shirt.

BUZZ

(reads activity sheet)
They have exercise classes. Fancy. Oh,
they have a karaoke night. BJ, look.

BJ

Yes! I can do a dance piece. That's
how I'll make friends.

BUZZ

(gets stuff from bag)
Let's find the sign ups then put on
our suits.

LOLA

Dad? Is that a wetsuit? I beg you, no.

BUZZ

It feels more like a spacesuit on my
moon-walks. Plus, if you knew how much
pee is in an average pool, you'd cover
up, too. Buzzy Jr., I got one for you.

BJ

Good. I hate touching pee.

Buzz and BJ go. As Ted strips to his speedo and goggles and
limbers up like Michael Phelps.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

Ted pursued friendship via excellence.
He had state records at age twelve for
backstroke and he would make sure
everyone knew in five...four...

V.O. continues the countdown as Ted calls to a lifeguard.

TED

'Scuze me. I'm working on my flip
turns. Can we clear a lane for laps?
(as kids groan at him)
Sorry. Training for another state
record.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

...One. There it is.

As Lola looks around and sees 10 TEENS including one queen
bee, GABBI (17), hanging out and laughing.

ADULT LOLA V.O. (CONT'D)

I was finally alone. Perfect. I scoped
out the teen zone and decided to go
grab a chair nearby. Close but not too
close. I'd be chill. New Lola style.

Lola, breathing shallow, can't move.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Lola does the "power-V" pose and a pump-up mantra.

LOLA

I'm good and normal and strong. I'm
good and normal and strong...

ADULT LOLA V.O.

I learned that on a TED Talk. It helps
increase confidence and poise.

A MAN exits a stall.

MAN

You're in the men's room.

INT. CLUBHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

BJ signs up on a bulletin board. Buzz sits on a bench with
his arm protectively around Lola. They sigh in unison.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

Another perk of having a crazy dad is that any emotional problem I had, he'd already battled a worse version of it.

BUZZ

Social anxiety. Been there, done that, got the tee-shirt. Not a tee-shirt, a hospital gown and some way strong meds. But that's even cooler, right?

They both make identical tiny smirks. Shared wry sensibility.

LOLA

Any tricks for approaching strangers?

BUZZ

The McConaughey method. If I approach someone new, I pretend I'm Matthew McConaughey and I'm forty-percent more confident. It works.

(he's cheered her up)

Option two. Don't approach. I saw a help-wanted sign at the snack bar. Work there and they have to approach you.

(off her grateful kiss)

Go with God. And Matthew McConaughey.

He does a McConaughey lip-bite/wink/fingerpoint.

EXT. POOL / SNACK BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Lola sees behind the bar is LEWIS, 15, African American.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

And there he was. The lifeguard. Responsible, industrious, alone. Clearly my soulmate. This would be our meet-cute. The trash can wasn't a cute meet. This was. And I would nail it.

(Lola clears her throat)

Aw. How cute was that?

LEWIS

Oh, hi. My sister will be back in a sec. I'm just a lifeguard.

LOLA

(a la McConaughey)

All right, all right, allr -- Cool.

EXT. POOL / SNACK BAR - DAY

Lola and Lewis are joined by Gabbi and TWO FRIENDS. Gabbi is a class president type. They're enjoying Lola.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

His sister was a popular girl named Gabbi and guess what, she liked me.

LOLA

(20% McConaughey)

...I told him, "Ease up, man. Intelligence is like underwear. I'm glad you have it, but don't shove it in my face."

ADULT LOLA V.O.

It was actually Vera who said that, but so what, I was killing it.

LOLA

Anyway, that's the type of witty vibe I'd bring to your snack bar. So, yeah.

GABBI

You'd be great here. I'll give your info to Vandy. He does the hiring.

LEWIS

Maybe you could talk to him at our cookout. Our family has a barbecue most Fridays. If you're free, we're in six-D. We'll introduce you around.

LOLA

That would be so great. Yes! Thanks!

LEWIS

Whoa. That's different.

He points to Buzz in the distance, in a wet-suit and goggles, making dolphin sounds. BJ rides him, laughing.

GABBI

That's nuttier than trail mix.

Gabbi's snark sets the tone and her two friends follow suit and snicker, too. Buzz sees them looking and calls over.

BUZZ

Lola! ...Lola!

LOLA
(off their looks)
"Hola." I guess he's Latino and very
friendly. Well, I gotta go home.

EXT. SAWYER CONDO - LATER

Lola happily strolls home.

ADULT LOLA V.O.
Life was good. I made friends with the
cool kids and got out before my dad or
any Sawyers could drag me down.

She finds K-A chatting with their jovial next-door neighbor
KIRBY PEALE, Raleigh's version of Al Roker.

KERI-ANN
Lola, we're neighbors with weatherman
Kirby Peale. He's invited us to a
barbecue Friday.

KIRBY
Slight chance of showers but clear by
early eve, temps in the low seventies.
I'm kidding. It'll be mid seventies.

KERI-ANN
Kirby has kids who work at the pool.

LOLA
(frozen smile)
Oh my God. Oh. My. God. Does the
forecast say any asteroids may hit?

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

10 EXT. SAWYER / BACKYARD - LATER

10

Moving boxes and Dad's NASA cart litter the small, fenced-in backyard. Lola and K-A go back and forth bringing dinner to the picnic table. Buzz helps Vera grill with a blow torch.

KERI-ANN

Oh, Lola. How will you be humiliated?

LOLA

Dad was just talking about his social anxiety. Parties trigger it. Do you remember when I turned eight?

EXT. GRAD HOUSING APT - DAY (FLASHBACK)

CHYRON: **THE DAY I TURNED 8.**

Mid party. Young Lola and kids look skyward.

YOUNG LOLA

I'm sorry. Is it something we said?

Reveal Buzz in a tree like a scared possum.

BUZZ

I'm fine. Ignore me. I'll go higher.

Buzz loses his grip and falls out of frame. Kids shriek.

BACK TO SCENE

BUZZ (CONT'D)

I have better meds now, and breathing techniques and Matthew McConaughey.

LOLA

I took McConaughey. We can't both do McConaughey. People will know.

BUZZ

I've also had luck pretending I'm an elk. Been doing it since high school. It was Keri's idea.

LOLA

How does an elk talk?

BUZZ

He doesn't. He's just that chill.

KERI-ANN

You know I love the elk, shug, but we need you talking. The weatherman is thrilled to meet a "fellow man of science," bless his jovial heart. Lola, we'll just have to monitor Dad and keep him relaxed.

LOLA

We? What do you mean?

BJ enters.

BJ

Lola, will you perform with me at--

LOLA

(doesn't hear BJ)

I'm meeting friends there. I can't be the Dad-sitter! No offense, Dad.

BUZZ

No. I get it. I hate being stuck with me too, sometimes.

BJ

Lola--

LOLA

If you had any other illness we'd get sympathy points. But people hear it's a brain problem and they want to run. From both of us--

BJ

It's for karaoke night and I need--

LOLA

Yes, BJ. Whatever. I'll do it.

KERI-ANN

Lola, Dad'll be fine. I'll try and stay with him, but I also have to network clients and get Vera into college.

(to Vera)

I'm getting you into college, shug. Mrs. Peale is Dean of *the* N.C. State school of textiles.

VERA

Just because you work with fabrics
doesn't mean I wanna study it.

KERI-ANN

Do ya wear clothes? Then you're into
fabrics. Put on a skirt and pretend
you have interests beyond skater boys
and hickeys.

VERA

The bible said "Adam and Eve" not
"Adam and achieve."

INT. SAWYER / LIVING ROOM - EVENING (DAY 3)

The Sawyers stand for inspection Von Trapp-style. Keri-Ann
fusses with people's outfits. She stops at Ted.

KERI-ANN

Change the shoes, baby. They clash
with your shorts.

Ted goes. Lola and Buzz do the power V and deep breathing.

LOLA

Man. We're both smart and charming.
Why do we get so nervous?

BUZZ

Yeah, it's crazy, right? Well, in my
case it actually *is*.

LOLA

(grins with him)
Yup. Maybe in my case too. Heh.
(they reflect on this)
Well, that got dark.

EXT. PEALE FOYER / DEN / KITCHEN - EVENING (DAY 3)

The Sawyers enter and survey the scene. Kirby and his
reserved wife, JOCELYN (think Condi Rice) are chatting with
Buzz, Ted, BJ and Lola. Keri-Ann and Vera look on.

KERI-ANN

That's the type of client I'm after.
Successful, classy. Less stylish than
me, but who isn't? I'll play the long
game on making her a design client.
Tonight let's get you into State.

The Sawyers are midway through greeting the Peales.

KIRBY

An honor to meet you, Buzz. I always admired the type of minds who work for NASA and explore the galaxy.

BUZZ

(40% McConaughey)

We study stars because it's easier than predicting our own weather. Astrophysicists *fear* meteorologists.

KIRBY

Are you serious?

BUZZ

Kirby... I am *cumulo*-serious.

KIRBY

Ha! I love it! Going to use it on air.

Lola squeezes her dad's arm. "Good job."

ANGLE ON Keri-Ann and Vera speaking to Jocelyn.

KERI-ANN

Vera's a high school senior looking at options for next fall. Loves fabrics. She made these pants.

Jocelyn nods pleasantly but doesn't take the bait. Awkward.

MOMENTS LATER

Kirby, Buzz and Lola have joined K-A, Vera and Jocelyn.

KIRBY

If you decide to study meteorology, my buddy over there teaches it at U.N.C.

KERI-ANN

Weather is Vera's second love.
(as they go, sotto to Vera)
You get wet when it rains? Then you're into weather.

On Lola and Buzz, stuck with reserved Jocelyn. Awkward. Lola notes the kids out by the fire-pit. Buzz sees her yearning.

BUZZ

Lola, you should go out with the kids.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

I wanted to go. Lewis was there. But I was worried about leaving Dad with Ms. Boring. She was like talking to a vaguely judgmental futon.

BUZZ

Lola, it's fine. Go. Really.

LOLA

Okay. I'm right out there. Love you. Oh, tell Ms. Peale about that high-tech fabric that desalinates water.

She goes, passing K-A. K-A gives Lola an "Is-he-OK?" thumbs-up and Lola gives a fake confident thumbs-up back.

BUZZ

(to Jocelyn, nervous)

It's a nano-textile. The molecules react to sodium breakdown and generate heat as a by-product. It creates clean water *and* clean energy, too.

JOCELYN

Interesting. Where did you see this?

BUZZ

My bathroom. I sketch a lot of ideas on the john. I have the page here.

He hands her paper from his pocket. She takes it reluctantly. Buzz realizes his error and looks rattled.

BUZZ (CONT'D)

It's clean. I do my sketching before any real action happens. I'm a super slow starter, because of my meds. My heart meds. Very sympathetic.

EXT. PEALE BACKYARD - LATER

Lola arrives as Ted brags to the kids. Gabbi is a tad judgmental like her mom. Lewis is amiable like Kirby.

TED

I ruled North Carolina backstroke 'til age twelve. Then Scott Span at Durham Y had a five inch puberty growth spurt. Now I'm a second behind. But with extra workouts I will regain my former glory. And that's why I need a pool key to swim at night.

GABBI

Ask Vandy, the manager, when he comes.

TED

Thank you, Gabbi. Will do.

GABBI

Lola, hey! What's up? Lewis, slide over and make room. Go. Scoot.

Lewis makes room on the glider for Lola, who is thrilled.

BACK IN THE KITCHEN

Jocelyn and Buzz greet two WASPS. Buzz flubs the handshake.

BACK AT THE DEN

Vera and Keri-Ann talk to Kirby and a PROFESSOR.

ANGLE ON THE FIRE-PIT

Lola keeps them laughing.

LOLA

That's when I realized it wasn't ghosts moaning in the attic. It was the sound of my parents having sex!

ADULT LOLA V.O.

Also from Vera. And she read it online. Vera was a gold mine.

ANGLE ON THE KITCHEN

Buzz flop-sweats talking with Jocelyn and a WASPY COUPLE.

BUZZ

If an asteroid that size hits Earth, it's not just killing two birds with one stone. It'll kill all the birds with one stone... Heh.

(his joke bombed)

Just ironic to think about. Ya know?

AT THE FIRE-PIT

The kids have food now. BJ shows dance moves to the teens.

BJ

I'm going to perform to a Eurythmics song at karaoke night with Lola.

(sings while dancing sultry)

Sweet dreams are made of thee-us...

Lola is lost in thought and doesn't hear.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

I knew I should check on my dad.
But I was stuck, because of this:
(as we notice their legs)
Our knees were touching. Skin-to-skin.
For me, at fifteen, this was like
making out. You're seeing me French
kissing a professional lifeguard.

ANGLE ON THE PATIO DOOR

Buzz, Jocelyn and the Wasp couple greet a COUPLE with BABY.

JOCELYN

Gwenn, let's see the new baby.

As everyone coos over the baby, who seems transfixed by BUZZ.

JOCELYN (CONT'D)

He seems fascinated by Buzz.

Buzz weakly nods, touching the baby's foot. The baby shrieks!

BUZZ

I didn't do anything. I didn't.

The others AD LIB soothing to the baby and reassure Buzz.

BUZZ'S POV: Baby cries. Everyone talks at once. Chaotic.

ON LOLA ET AL...

GABBI

(points behind Lola)
What's with that guy?

Lola looks back toward the house and sees Buzz dizzy and short of breath but heroically smiling and chatting.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

Dad looked bad. Was he hearing voices?

BUZZ'S POV: Scary music and tilted angles as guests continue talking at once and we also add Buzz's INNER WHISPERS.

INNER WHISPERS

Don't go to parties. \ You don't
belong. \ Everyone sees your illness.
(Scanning party guests)
Why did you touch my foot, weirdo?
(scans back to baby)
Why did you touch my foot?
(MORE)

INNER WHISPERS (CONT'D)
(as Buzz looks at others)
Weirdo. \ You don't deserve a nice
condo. \ Redneck. \ Lose some weight.

BACK TO SCENE - Lola stands.

ADULT LOLA V.O.
I decided to step in, but then...

BUZZ
I'M LEAVING, OKAY?! TELL THE BABY TO
STOP LOOKING AT ME!

The party stops and stares at Buzz who knows he fucked up and does his yoga breathing as BJ takes Buzz inside. Lola stands frozen near the fire.

LEWIS
Lola, is that your father?

ADULT LOLA V.O.
I waited too long. It was too late to
save Dad. I could only save myself.

LOLA
(to Lewis, "cool")
Sure is. Wanna trade? Heh-heh.

As Lola sits and begins glibly joking with the kids...

ADULT LOLA V.O.
It's anthropology: we form bonds by
sharing a common out-group. I made our
out-group my messed-up dad.

LOLA
...Yup, everyone says their parents
are crazy, but mine is clinically
diagnosed.

GABBI
Oh my god. So, is he really, um...

LOLA
(increasingly glib)
Nuts. You can say it. The docs at Duke
had a book this big with all the stuff
you can have wrong with a brain, and
they said..."he's got all of it!" Ha!

ADULT LOLA V.O.
That's a true story. But I was a b-
word ho to use it for laughs.

LOLA

And this is my dad on the good meds.
You've heard "it takes a village?"
With my dad, it takes a pharmacy.
(on a roll)
I'm like, "Ease up, Dad, you can be *in*
pain without being a pain."

She chuckles but sees their look, then glances behind her.
HER POV: Buzz looks at her, so hurt and disappointed in her.
She sees BJ there, identically hurt and disappointed.

LOLA (CONT'D)

Mom wanted us to make friends.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. LOLA AND VERA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Lola's eyes open, she checks the clock.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

I hid in bed 'til ten when they go to church, so I knew the coast was clear.

She rolls over and sees K-A on Vera's bed glaring back.

LOLA

Hi...? Need me to make breakfast?

KERI-ANN

Your father is devastated. He couldn't eat a waffle if he tried.

(heads out)

Your brothers might eat one. Get up.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

K-A enters. Buzz is ashamed.

KERI-ANN (CONT'D)

She's coming. The apology better be good.

BUZZ

I don't know if I deserve an apology.

KERI-ANN

Shush. You're getting one. Buzz, you are working so hard for these kids.

BUZZ

So? That's our job. Yeah, I got us a nice house, and I upped my meds and whatever, but this was supposed to be your guys' time to shine.

KERI-ANN

We will.

BUZZ

How? How can you guys shine if I still have meltdowns that distract--

KERI-ANN

Stop. If you had any other illness would we tolerate her making jokes? No. Would we demand an apology? Yes.

BUZZ

She was "humiliated." She's a teenager trying to make friends and I ruined--

KERI-ANN

I have been in her spot. I was with you when I was in high school. Parties and pig-pickins and people asking why my boyfriend's talking to a tree.

Intercut with Lola in the HALLWAY listening to this.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

I had never thought of Mom at my age and dating Dad. Teen-Mom was much stronger and braver than Teen-Lola.

KERI-ANN

...I was always loyal to you. And our kids can damn well do the same.

Buzz nods. They kiss as Lola looks on from the door.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

Mom's love for him was humbling and inspiring. Unfortunately, Teen-Lola was inspired to be a stubborn selfish brat.

LOLA

It's not the same. You didn't have to go to parties together, you chose it. On your terms. I never have a choice.

KERI-ANN

Because we're family and we sacrifice, even when it's inconvenient or embarrassing or someone's acting nuts.

LOLA

See? You said he was nuts.

KERI-ANN

Not to strangers. We don't crack jokes about our family to seem cool. You messed up, and even Vera agrees.

LOLA

How do you know?

KERI-ANN

Because she's eavesdropping in the den
and she hasn't yelled out against me.

VERA (O.S.)

Low key, Mom's right. You messed up.
Apologize.

LOLA

(calls to den)

Easy for you to act superior; you're
the rebel, not the kid on Dad-duty
helping Mom keep it all together here.

TED (O.S.)

I thought I was Mom's special helper.

LOLA

You're not.

(heading into den)

Is everyone in there listening?

THE DEN.

The three kids look up at Lola (and K-A.)

TED/VERA/BJ

Yes.

BJ

Lola, it's time to rehearse. Karaoke
night. You said you'd perform--

LOLA

BJ, I-I don't remember saying I'd--

TED/KERI-ANN/VERA

Whoa./You can't let him down./This is
how he's gonna make friends.

BJ

It's gonna be fierce. I'm dancing on
white couch cushions so it's like
clouds. For the dreams.

(demonstrates)

Sweet dreams are made of thee-us.

LOLA

BJ, I beg you, no. It's karaoke. No
one is doing interpretive dances with
it. Most kids don't like modern dance.

BJ

I don't need most kids to like it.
Just one to be my friend.

KERI-ANN

You be you. Let your freak flag fly.

LOLA

But I'm tired of being a freak.

KERI-ANN

Yes? So was Vincent Van Gogh.

LOLA

Oh, God.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

Mom was referencing a family motto.

INSERT PHOTO of the paintings, "Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear" and "The Starry Night."

ADULT LOLA V.O. (CONT'D)

"If Van Gogh had psych meds, 'Starry Night' would have looked like this..."

INSERT PHOTO of shitty "normal" painting of stars.

LOLA

Really? You think this is BJ's "Starry Night"? He's jumping on couch pillows to an 80's song while I play the harp.

BJ

You know the song and said you'd help.

LOLA

BJ. I'm sorry. We're gonna look like freaks. I can't do it anymore. I'm done being everyone's helper. Bye.

She goes through the kitchen where Buzz is...

BUZZ

Lola. Wait. I'm going to bring your harp tonight. Just drop by. If we make it look cool jump in. I promise it will look cool.

LOLA

I'm sure. It'll be Christmas in July.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

God, that was cruel. Teenage Lola sucks.

As she goes and K-A arrives behind Buzz.

KERI-ANN

Can we make it look cool?

BUZZ

I'll need a picnic table on wheels, flashlights, some Diethyl ether and twenty-two liters of liquid nitrogen. Hm. Not sure where to get flashlights.

INT. CLUBHOUSE - EVENING

Keri-Ann and Vera look in to see a TWEENER GIRL finish a song in front of a good crowd of families at the karaoke event.

VERA

Nice crowd. Kid suh-huh-hucks.

The girl finishes. Applause. GABBI grabs the mic.

GABBI

That was great, Tabitha. Up next is Buzzy Sawyer.

Keri-Ann calls from the back of the crowd.

KERI-ANN

Hey. Hellooo. Hi. The next song will be outside, if everyone could come to the pool.

VERA

(off their confusion)
Trust me, it's worth it. Come on out.

KERI-ANN/VERA

(beat)
LET'S GO! JEEZ./LET'S GO! DAMN.

KERI-ANN

Jinx. Kind of.

Noticing their similar ferocity, K-A smiles at Vera.

KERI-ANN (CONT'D)

I can't wait 'til you're twenty-five.
(Vera recoils)
Okay. Maybe thirty.

INSERT A SHOT of Buzz pouring fluid into the pool.

BACK TO CROWD heading out the sliding glass doors and gasping, their faces lighting up in awe as they see...

EXT. POOL - CONTINUOUS

The surface of the pool is in flames. People are in awe. Buzz turns to see Lola. He indicates her harp is standing by.

BUZZ

Don't decide yet. Watch this.

Buzz and Ted, in a wetsuit, pour nitrogen in the pool. The flames magically extinguish, replaced by a 2-foot cloud over the water like a super-charged dry ice effect!

Lola notes the crowd go "Ooh." It gives her confidence to walk out behind the pool and begin to play "Sweet Dreams" INTRO on her electric harp. It's twee, haunting, geeky, cool.

LOLA

Sweet dreams are made of this./Who am I to disagree... etc.

A light hits a corner of the pool where BJ dramatically rises up from below the water and mist until he appears to be standing on a cloud. It should feel like an image from Cirque du Soleil's "O." Then BJ magically walks across the clouds.

Underwater. BJ is on a hidden picnic table on wheels. It is a dance platform which Ted rolls, helping BJ "magically" glide across the dreamscape. Ted holds his breath like a champ.

Keri-Ann fades up the song on a speaker. Vera sends some shooting stars across the scene via roman candle.

ADULT LOLA V.O.

I realized this must have been what Van Gogh felt like. Crowds viewing your work and get wiggled out by what they see...

ANGLE ON: Some people who don't get it.

ADULT LOLA V.O. (CONT'D)

But he let his freak flag fly...

Buzz hits a projector, sending an image of "Starry Night" onto the fog and onto the wall behind the pool.

ADULT LOLA V.O. (CONT'D)

... And the people who mattered saw something great.

ANGLE ON: Lewis and Kirby and others, quite impressed.

ADULT LOLA V.O. (CONT'D)
I saw something great too. My family.

At the song's bridge, BJ and Lola sing "*Hold your head up. Keep your head up...*" Ted and BJ do a cool illusion that looks like BJ is guiding Ted's disembodied head, as it floats on a cloud. The crowd cheers. K-A gazes at Buzz.

ADULT LOLA V.O. (CONT'D)
I could see why Mom's love for him was so durable. And I felt the same.

Lola makes eye contact with Buzz as she plays and they trade proud smiles.

LOLA
I love you.

BUZZ
"Olive Juice?" Huh? I'm a science geek and don't pick up on social cues.

Lola rolls her eyes. Buzz winks at her.

EXT. CLUBHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

People congratulate the Sawyers. Keri-Ann laughs with some Moms. Buzzy Jr. chats with a QUIRKY FEMALE FRIEND, 9. Beside them, Lewis sits with Lola. Buzz speaks to them.

BUZZ (CONT'D)
Good job, BJ. Sometimes we see stuff other people can't see. And we need to give them a little help seeing it.
(glancing at Lola)
Sometimes it's cray-cray, but sometimes it's beautiful. Yes?

She and Buzz trade nods. Keri-Ann walks by calling out.

KERI-ANN
Ted, Vera, help us load the van.

LOLA
Okay. I'm coming.

KERI-ANN
We got it, baby. You've helped me with Buzz and so much more. You have fun.
(kisses Lola, then goes)
Ted! Vera! LET'S GO!

Lola is embarrassed but sees Lewis is impressed. Her gaze slowly comes down toward us. She glances down, noting their knees are touching. She makes a tiny smile and the image becomes a VAN GOGH painting with swirly stars behind her.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

FADE IN:

EXT. SAWYER CONDO - DAY

The whole family is outside gardening, even Dr. Fuu, the dog.

KERI-ANN (CONT'D)

This is called, "establishing curb appeal." People need to see our walkway and go, that walkway is special, I wonder what nice kids live there, and I wonder if the mom is a design specialist I could hire. So it's more than plants. It's branding. It says the Sawyers are here and we have our act together.

A meteorite falls from the sky and rolls to their feet. It's smoking. They look in amazement to the sky.

TED

Did that come from space?

BUZZ

Dr. Fuu was right! HE WAS RIGHT! He got the size a little off, but Fuu was RIGHT!

The rest of the family is frozen in shock. Keri-Ann points to the lion statue, whose face is smashed off.

KERI-ANN

Lola, if that statue was five inches shorter, the meteor would have hit you. A thank you might be nice

LOLA

Thank you, brave lion. I'm sorry.
(to Keri-Ann)
Can we throw it away now?

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW