

"MOST LIKELY TO..."

"Pilot"

written by
Diablo Cody

Warner Bros. Television

1/24/2018

© 2018 Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

This script is the property of Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. No portion of this script may be performed, reproduced or used by any means, or disclosed to, quoted or published in any medium without the prior written consent of Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

COLD OPEN

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. "AMERICAN CURL" SALON - DAY
(Markie, Dante, Lorraine, Claire)

WE OPEN IN A CHARMING, ECLECTIC LITTLE BEAUTY SALON IN GLENFIELD, MISSOURI. GLENFIELD IS THE TYPE OF PLACE WHERE YOU GO ANTIQUING-- IT'S A SMALL TOWN, BUT WARM AND FULL OF CHARACTER. MARKIE MCQUEEN, THE RADIANT 40-SOMETHING SALON PROPRIETOR LOWERS A HOOD DRYER ONTO CLAIRE, 30, A BLONDE PREACHER'S WIFE.

MARKIE

So, you'll need about 15 minutes under the dryer, Claire. (HOLDING OUT A SELECTION OF READING MATERIALS) Do you want *Us Weekly*, *Nat Geo*, or 50 Shades disguised as the Bible?

CLAIRE MUTELY TAKES THE "BIBLE," WHICH HAS A TRULY UNCONVINCING FAKE COVER DONE IN MAGIC MARKER. ACROSS THE SALON, DANTE ALMANZAR, A MACHO HAIRDRESSER WEARING MORE GOLD THAN A YANKEES PITCHER, STYLES A CLIENT, LORRAINE, AN ELDERLY BLACK WOMAN. HE SPINS HER CHAIR TO FACE THE MIRROR.

DANTE

(MOCK-STARTLED) Oh! I'm sorry. For a second I thought you were Rihanna!

LORRAINE ADMIRES HER REFLECTION. MARKIE APPROVES.

MARKIE

Lorraine, you look hot. Are you going out tonight?

LORRAINE

Of course. It's Friday!

DANTE

Oh, Markie doesn't doesn't understand
the concept of "weekends." To her,
Friday night means 20/20 and
Sleepytime Tea.

MARKIE

I'm a working mom; I'm tired!

CLAIRE

Oh, Markie, how is your daughter? Is
she enjoying high school?

MARKIE

(SERIOUS) Claire, she's a huge nerd.
(GRINNING) And I love it. I never have
to worry about her. For instance,
Spring Break's coming up. Most teens
are planning to go to some herpes-
riddled barf beach. Not my Wallis. She
wants to go to Switzerland with the
Science Club to visit some fancy
physics lab.

CLAIRE

Wow. She must get that from you!

MARKIE

No, I was an angry misanthrope in high
school. I didn't just have a chip on
my shoulder, I had the whole damn bag.

CLAIRE

I just can't picture you as a rebel.

MARKIE

Been there, done that, had the black platform Skechers.

DANTE

So is Wallis gonna go to Switzerland?

MARKIE

I've been saving up, but I kinda need a miracle. We just don't have the money since Bruno died. (EXPLAINING TO WOMEN) Sadly, my 90 year-old tenant passed away, so we lost that rental income.

CLAIRE

Aww, how did he die?

MARKIE

Cardiac arrest.

DANTE

Watching porno.

AS MARKIE SHOOTS DANTE A LOOK, HER CELL PHONE RINGS.

MARKIE

Huh. It's Wallis's school. (PICKING UP) Hello? Hi, Principal Chu. Is everything okay? What? I'm on my way.

SHE HANGS UP, SHOCKED.

DANTE

Markie, what's up?

MARKIE

(PERPLEXED) Wallis was smoking pot at school. With some boy who just transferred in from California.

LORRAINE

Well, good for her!

MARKIE

This is so out of character for Wallis. She's even on the Anti-Drug Teen Task Force! (REALIZING) Wait, I was on that too and all we did was smoke pot.

DANTE

Our little geek is growing up.

MARKIE

(DETERMINED) Not if I have anything to say about it. Cover me, Dante.

SHE RUSHES OUT. DANTE TURNS TO CLAIRE AND HER DIRTY BOOK.

DANTE

Claire, you enjoying that Scripture?

CLAIRE RAISES HER HAND IN PRAISE.

CLAIRE

Amen.

CUT TO:

SCENE B

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE (WAITING ROOM/SECRETARY)
(Liz, Bev, Markie, Stella)

MARKIE RUSHES INTO THE SPARTAN WAITING ROOM, FLUSTERED. BEV,
A SOUTHERN SECRETARY SITS AT THE FRONT DESK. WE SEE HER
BRIGHTEN AT THE SIGHT OF MARKIE-- EVERYONE DOES.

BEV

Oh hi, Markie! Do you think you could
fit me in for a touch-up this week? I
got matched on Farmers Only and he is
drug and disease-free!

MARKIE

Sure Bev, I can get you in after
hours. Where's Wallis?

BEV

She's in there getting hammered by
Principal Chu. You know she got caught
smoking the devil's lettuce...

MARKIE

Yeah, are you sure there's not some
misunderstanding?

BEV

Honey, she came in looking like Willie
Nelson's niece. I gave her a glass of
water and she just held it up to the
light like a sun catcher.

LIZ COONEY-- A FABULOUS 40-SOMETHING TRAINWRECK-- BURSTS INTO
THE WAITING ROOM IN BIG SUNGLASSES, A FUN-FUR COAT, AND
INSANE STILETTO HEELS. SHE CLUTCHES A HUGE GREEN JUICE. HER
ADORABLE "MINI-ME," 6-YEAR-OLD STELLA ACCOMPANIES HER.

LIZ

(TO BEV) It's 2018 and you're still busting kids for smoking herb? It's a plant. (BRANDISHING JUICE) Uh-oh, call the police, I've got kale!

MARKIE

Wait-- so it was your son who supplied my daughter with drugs?

LIZ

(SMILING) Yeah, he's always been a generous kid. I did good.

MARKIE

Marijuana has harmful effects on neuroplasticity in teens! Plus, it's a federal offense.

LIZ

Okay, 42 Jump Street, it's just pot.
Calm your ta-tas.

STELLA PICKS UP A BLUE LOLLIPOP FROM A BOWL ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK.

STELLA

Is this gluten free?

BEV

It's blue and free.

LIZ TAKES OFF HER SUNGLASSES AND MARKIE RECOILS.

MARKIE

Wait a minute. I know you.

LIZ

No, we just moved here from LA. That's what we locals call "Los Angeles."

MARKIE

No. You're originally from Glenfield. We went to this high school together. You're Liz Cooney.

LIZ

All right. Busted! (THEN) And you are?

MARKIE

Wow, I can't believe you don't remember me. You were my bully, Liz. You made my life hell for three years in high school.

LIZ

Oh, I did that to so many people. Don't take it personally...

MARKIE

You stuck condoms all over my locker. You put a Mars bar in my gas tank. You once stuck a sign to my back that said "Caution: Gonorrhoea." It got to the point where I'd hide in a broom closet when I saw you coming.

LIZ

Still not ringin' a bell...

MARKIE

You called me...

LIZ SUDDENLY RECOGNIZES HER.

LIZ

"Slutburger!" Okay, now I remember.
You used to wear that black hoodie
every day and you were all sensitive
and moody. Like, who hurt you?

MARKIE

You did.

BEV

(TO LIZ) Hey, aren't you going to
apologize to her?

MARKIE

Bev, you don't need to defend me,
okay? (CHUCKLING) I'm over it.

BEV

If you want me to cold-cock Dollar
Store Barbie, I'm down to clown.

OFF MARKIE'S ANNOYED FACE, WE

END COLD OPEN

ACT 1

SCENE C

INT. PRINCIPAL CHU'S OFFICE (DAY)
(Liz, Markie, Principal Chu)

MARKIE AND LIZ ENTER THE OFFICE, WHERE WALLIS MCQUEEN, 15, ADORABLY GAWKY, AND CLEARLY TERRIFIED SITS NEXT TO MAX COONEY, 15, A POMPADOURED, SULKY JAMES DEAN TYPE.

MARKIE

Wallis... You're grounded!

LIZ

Max... your hair is on point!

WALLIS

I'm so sorry Mom. I didn't mean to let you down. I just wanted to--

MARKIE

You wanted to impress Morrissey over here. This is a criminal offense!

PRINCIPAL CHU

Actually, marijuana's been decriminalized in Missouri. But I'm suspending these two for five days.

LIZ

(TO MAX) Fun, we can binge-watch SVU!

MARKIE

Will this go on her permanent record?

PRINCIPAL CHU

It should. (SMILING) But... you're P.T.A. President, and you've loaned me your snowblower so many times...

LIZ ROLLS HER EYES.

WALLIS

Oh, thank you! Next year I want to
apply to M.I.T., Princeton, Harvard...

LIZ'S HEAD WHIPS TOWARD WALLIS, SURPRISED.

LIZ

(IMPRESSED) Damn!

PRINCIPAL CHU

(TO WALLIS) I know. And you have a
shot if you lay off the jazz cabbage.
(TO MAX) As for you, I don't know what
life was like in Bel-Air, but it's a
little different here in Glenfield.

MAX

Yeah, it smells like ham.

MARKIE

What are you doing back here anyway?
You used to always say you were too
big for this town.

LIZ

I never said *that*...

MARKIE

You literally screamed it into the mic
at graduation.

LIZ

(SIGHING) We had a little snafu back
in L.A. No big deal...

MAX

My dad ran off with a Pilates instructor named "Calico." (RESENTFUL)
So we moved here for some reason.

STELLA

We live in a motel. We have a game we play at night. It's called "Gunshot or Fireworks."

WALLIS

That's not OK... You guys should come stay with us! There's this cool apartment in our attic. Plus our house has no gunshots, fireworks, or excitement of any kind!

LIZ

That's sweet, honey, but we don't need to slum it with you guys.

MARKIE

Slum it?

WALLIS

(BOLD) Eight hundred bucks for the month. Clean and charming.

MARKIE

(TO WALLIS) You really are high.

WALLIS

Mom, we need money! For my trip with the Science Club.

LIZ

Girl, you're too cute for that!
Science Club is for rescue dogs.

MARKIE

(ANNOYED) Wallis? This woman and her
dangerous, attractive son are not
going to live in our home. (TO MAX)
You can smolder elsewhere, young man!
(TO WALLIS) Let's go. You're grounded.

WALLIS

I've never been grounded before.
(REALIZING, DELIGHTED) I'm cool!

ANNOYED, MARKIE DRAGS WALLIS OUT OF THE OFFICE.

MARKIE

Thank you, Principal Chu.

WALLIS

(CALLING OUT TO LIZ/MAX) We live at 45
Flower Court! Can't miss it!

CUT TO:

SCENE D

INT. MARKIE'S HOUSE (PARLOR)- DAY
(Markie, Wallis, Joe)

MARKIE AND WALLIS LIVE IN A LOVELY BUT SLIGHTLY OFF-KILTER VICTORIAN. THEY SIT ON THE COUCH, MARKIE LECTURES.

MARKIE

He's cute. I get it. But you can't
sell out your values for some boy.
You're one of the smart girls.

WALLIS

(MUMBLING) Every time I look in the
mirror... Mom, I don't want to be a
rescue dog!

MARKIE

Ugh, do *not* let that horrible woman
into your brain. I sweep up hair that
has more substance than Liz Cooney.
Besides, look at her-- that's what
happens when you put all your emphasis
on clothes and boys! You turn 40 and
you have nothing left.

WALLIS

I want to have nothing left!

MARKIE

Look, I'm going to let you go to dinner with Dad because I know how much you both look forward to Wednesdays. But then it's house arrest and chores at the salon for the next 5 days.

WALLIS

Do you think Dad's going to be mad?

WALLIS'S FATHER JOE ENTERS. HE'S MARKIE'S AGE, HANDSOME, BLUE-COLLAR, WITH A TWINKLE IN HIS EYE. BASICALLY, BLAKE SHELTON.

JOE

There's my little burnout! (OFF MARKIE'S LOOK) I mean, uh, Wallis-- what were you thinking?

MARKIE

She wanted to impress a guy.

JOE

Remember how you tried to impress me in high school?

MARKIE

Yes. I memorized "Ice Ice Baby." Oh, speaking of high school, guess who the mother of Wallis's drug buddy is? Liz Cooney.

JOE

(SHOCKED) Whoa. Evil Liz? She was horrible to you, right? Didn't she put a tampon in your trombone?

MARKIE

No. It was a French horn.

JOE

Is she still a ten? (OFF MARKIE'S LOOK) I mean, an atten...tion whore, from hell?

MARKIE

(TSK) She's divorced and living in the "No-Tell Motel." (BEAT) Awesome right?

JOE

You ready to go, Wallis? (SNICKERING) I bet you're hungry!

WALLIS

(EXITING) Let me just get my shoes.

JOE

It's just pot, Markie. It's not a huge deal.

MARKIE

It's a huge deal, Joe! We have to redirect her. Remind her of her dreams and goals. She wants to be a particle physicist, not a reggae artist!

JOE

That won't happen, Markie. She can't even clap on the two.

WALLIS RE-ENTERS, READY TO GO.

JOE

Okay, let's get going. (TO MARKIE)
What are your plans tonight?

MARKIE

There's fifty cent Jell-O shots down at Stucky's, so that's a no-brainer.
(THEN) Just kidding. Cleaning the oven.

JOE

Ha, ha.

WALLIS

'Bye Mom.

MARKIE

Have fun, Snoop.

SCENE E

INT. AMERICAN CURL SALON (DAY)
(Markie, Dante, Bev, Wallis)

MARKIE COLORS BEV'S HAIR WHILE DANTE ASSISTS. WALLIS IS SWEEPING UP HAIR. MARKIE POINTS OUT SOME ERRANT HAIR.

MARKIE

You missed a spot, Cheech.

WALLIS

Ugh, this isn't fair...

BEV

Well, it wasn't fair to your mama that you got caught blowing trees!

MARKIE

Thanks for the support, Bev.

DANTE

So this Liz Cooney-- she pushed you around in high school? I find that hard to believe. You're the empowered Oprah to my grateful Gayle!

MARKIE

Things were different then, Dante. She was Miss Teen Missouri; I was the janitor's daughter. She called me "Slutburger" because I worked the grill at DQ after school. Not sure where the "slut" part came from...

DANTE

Yeah, you're a massive prude...

MARKIE

Thanks. (THEN) I was scared of her. I would hide when I saw her coming. I had this big, shapeless black sweatshirt that I'd huddle in...

DANTE

(KNOWING) I was a fat gay kid. I know the "shame cocoon."

MARKIE

But here's the thing: The tables have turned and the karma bus has arrived on schedule! Liz just got dumped by her nasty old husband and she's living in that motel off Route 9 that rents in twenty minute increments!

DANTE

Oof, I've met some married guys there. (THEN) To give them haircuts...

MARKIE

Wallis actually tried to rent my attic to her. I was like, do I look like Julia Roberts? 'Cause I'm not sleeping with the enemy!

WALLIS

Mom, you could put the rent money towards my trip! Think about it.

DANTE

Uh, is this about science or about
wanting that cute boy in your house?

WALLIS

Science! (MOUTHING TO DANTE) CUTE BOY.

DANTE NODS DISCREETLY: "I GET IT."

CUT TO:

SCENE H

INT. MARKIE'S HOUSE (PARLOR) - NIGHT
(Markie, Liz, Stella, Max, Wallis)

MARKIE IS GLUING A SMALL VICTORIAN STATUE THAT HAS FALLEN OFF THE POST AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRWELL.

MARKIE

(TO STATUE) That's the last time
you're going to fall off, naked lady.

THE DOORBELL RINGS. SURPRISED, MARKIE ANSWERS THE DOOR. LIZ IS ON THE FRONT STEP WITH MAX, STELLA, AND SOME EXPENSIVE LUGGAGE. THEY LOOK FREAKED OUT.

LIZ

Hi. Sluu... (SEARCHING FOR NAME)

MARKIE

Markie.

LIZ

(BREEZY) Right. Um. I was thinking.
I'd love to help you guys out. By
renting your place, like your daughter
suggested! (BEAT) You're welcome!

WALLIS RUSHES DOWN THE STAIRS. SHE'S SO EXCITED SHE KNOCKS OFF THE FRESHLY GLUED STATUE.

MARKIE

That's not happening-- (NOTICING
STELLA) Honey, are you all right?

STELLA

(EMOTIONAL) Some bad guys broke into
our room. They stole Mommy's watch and
my American Girl...

NO CHILD HAS EVER LOOKED SADDER THAN STELLA IN THIS MOMENT.
SHE GAZES UP AT MARKIE WITH PLEADING EYES.

MAX

(HUGGING HER) It's okay, Stella!

(THEN, TO MARKIE) We kind of grabbed
our stuff and ran.

LIZ HAPLESSLY REVEALS SHE'S HOLDING HER STILETTO HEELS.

MARKIE

(SIGHING) All right, Liz. I'll help
you. You can rent our space for a
while, but only because I'm not
putting kids out on the street.

LIZ

(PLAYING IT COOL) Right, obvi.

MARKIE WELCOMES THEM INTO THE CHARMING LIVING ROOM.

MARKIE

Come in, guys.

LIZ

Wow. Your house is so old and spooky!
It's like the Haunted Mansion at
Disneyland! (THEN) Ooh, now I want a
churro.

MARKIE

Actually, it's a historic Queen Anne
Victorian built in 1905, but, sure.

LIZ

How do you afford a house like this?
You're divorced right? Is your baby
daddy writing the checks?

MARKIE

(OFFENDED) Um, no? He is not? I own a
hair salon. It's a successful business
that I built from the ground up, with
no help from anyone. I'm sure that's a
foreign concept to you.

LIZ

Oh no, I saw the Jennifer Lawrence
movie about the mop lady. Speaking of,
do you have a housekeeper?

MAX

Yeah, we had two housekeepers in L.A.
Sophia and the other one.

MARKIE LEADS THEM THROUGH THE LIVING ROOM TO THE KITCHEN.

MARKIE

"The other one." Lovely. Well Max, at
this house, if you make a mess you
clean it up yourself. Nobody's going
to fawn over you.

WALLIS

(FAWNING) Max, can I take your coat?

MARKIE

I'm going to set some ground rules here: Kitchen is communal, food is not. Third floor is yours, second floor is ours. Do not set foot in my bedroom. (TO MAX) Do not set foot in my daughter's bedroom, do not make noise after 10 or before 8. No playing music in common areas. And Max, you and Wallis are going to spend the next five days doing chores. Got it?

LIZ, BUSY ON HER PHONE, ROLLS HER EYES.

LIZ

(KID VOICE) Yes, Miss Hannigan.

WALLIS LAUGHS. MARKIE GLARES AT HER, TRIGGERED.

MARKIE

Do you even care that I'm parenting your child?

LIZ

No. I usually pay someone to do that.

MARKIE

Speaking of, I'll take that \$800 now.

OBLIGING, LIZ REACHES FOR HER EXPENSIVE GREEN PURSE.

WALLIS

Wow, that purse is beautiful.

LIZ

(STROKING) Her name is Emerald. She's a very rare Chanel. All my friends in L.A. were so jealous of her. (WISTFUL) Those bitches. Anyway, she's basically my third child.

MARKIE POCKETS THE MONEY.

MARKIE

Wow. That's sad.

LIZ

Not as sad as the Trader Joe's bag you're using as a purse.

MARKIE

It says "reusable" right here on the handle!

CUT TO:

SCENE K

INT. MARKIE'S HOUSE (KITCHEN) - MORNING
(Liz, Markie, Wallis, Dante Max, Stella)

"CRAZY" BY BRITNEY SPEARS PLAYS LOUDLY ON THE STEREO. MARKIE ENTERS, GRUMPY. WALLIS, STELLA AND MAX EAT BREAKFAST AT A BEAUTIFULLY SET TABLE. LIZ FLIPS CREPES AT THE STOVE.

LIZ

(SINGING) *You drive me crazy, I'm in
too deep!*

MARKIE IS CLEARLY NOT A MORNING PERSON.

MARKIE

(CRANKY) What's going on?

LIZ

It's Britney, bitch!

MARKIE

Turn off the music! I told you, I like
it quiet in the morning. (THEN,
TEMPTED) Are those crepes?

LIZ

I'm a trophy wife, Markie. I know how
to do 3 things: Make brecky, look hot,
and give really good-- (GLANCING AT
KIDS) Hugs.

SHE HANDS A PLATE OF CREPES TO MARKIE.

MAX

I can't believe I'm grounded. This is
inhumane.

LIZ

I didn't ground you; take it up with
Crankypants McGee!

ON MARKIE: IS THE NAME-CALLING STARTING AGAIN?!

WALLIS

If you're interested in human rights
violations, I'm president of our
school's chapter of Amnesty
International!

LIZ

(ADMIRING) You're really doing the
most, girl!

MAX

(TO WALLIS) Clubs aren't really my
thing.

WALLIS

Yeah, I might quit.

THIS DOES NOT SIT WELL WITH MARKIE. THEN...

MARKIE

Are you wearing makeup, Wallis?

WALLIS

What's the big deal? I'm fifteen.

(BEAMING) Liz loaned me her lip gloss!

MARKIE GLARES AT LIZ: THIS IS YOUR DOING?

MARKIE

It's just... not something you
normally do, that's all.

WALLIS

Maybe I'm changing.

MARKIE

Stephen Hawking doesn't wear makeup.

LIZ

Stephen Hawking is fugs.

MARKIE

Wallis isn't shallow. She wants to be a physicist, not a "trophy wife."

LIZ

She could be both! Look at me-- I'm a "trophy wife," but I'm also a respected, licensed educator.

WALLIS

Really? What do you teach?

LIZ

Booty Blast, Super Booty Blast, Sexy Booty Pilates and Yoga for Skanks.

WALLIS CRACKS UP AS DANTE ENTERS TO TAKE MARKIE TO WORK.

DANTE

(TO MARKIE) Ready to go? (NOTICING LIZ) I'm Dante Almanzar. Senior stylist at Markie's extremely successful salon.

LIZ

It's that little hole in the wall on Main Street, right?

MARKIE

(LIVID) It's actually quite spacious.

DANTE

(INTERRUPTING) Okay, let's not argue about the size of your hole. (STEERING MARKIE) Time to go to work.

LIZ

Awesome blossom! Have a great day!

SHE CRANKS UP THE MUSIC AGAIN. DANTE SLOWLY PIVOTS.

DANTE

This is my favorite Britney bop.

LIZ

Right? Prime era!

MARKIE

Dante, we're late.

DANTE

Honey, you need to move your bra to the next hook and *relax*. I'm possessed by the Holy Britney Spear-it...

DANTE, STELLA, AND LIZ BEGIN DANCING. MARKIE IS IRRITATED.

MARKIE

Let's go.

DANTE

(TO MARKIE) Do we have to? This is the first time I've ever had fun in your house.

CUT TO:

SCENE 1

INT. STRIKER ACE BOWLING ALLEY - DAY
(Markie, Joe, Karl)

JOE DRINKS A BEER AT A TABLE IN THE BOWLING ALLEY SNACK BAR.
MARKIE ENTERS. JOE NUDGES A SECOND PINT BEER TOWARD MARKIE.

JOE

Hey.

MARKIE

Hey. Thanks for meeting me here.

(THEN) Beer? It's lunch time.

JOE

You're right. (TO WAITER) Karl, can we
get some menus with these beers?

MARKIE SIGHS AND PUSHES HER BEER OVER TO JOE, DECLINING.

MARKIE

So how are you? (PLAYFUL) Still seeing
Bridget?

JOE

Eh, we've been on a couple dates. I'm
not sure we're compatible.

MARKIE

Yeah, I mean, you're 43; she's a third-
trimester fetus...

JOE

Ha ha. She's 24.

MARKIE

Well, speaking of young ladies-- have you been able to come up with any extra money for Wallis' trip to Switzerland? Deadline's coming up.

JOE

I tried selling those "essential oils" on Facebook. But I only made nine bucks so far and my house smells like a Phish concert.

MARKIE

I really want Wallis to see that particle accelerator. I want her to see how far she can go. I want her to stay curious and nerdy and sweet...

JOE

Okay. You're spiraling. What's going on? This can't just be about the pot.

MARKIE

I'm starting to regret letting Liz Cooney in my house. This morning I came downstairs and it was like she was already ruling the roost. There were crepes, and Wallis was painted like an old saloon whore, and Dante was twerking...

JOE

Are you sure this wasn't a weird dream
you had?

WALLIS

My life is superior to hers in every
way, and yet somehow, I feel
intimidated. When she's around it's
like I'm "Slutburger" all over again.

JOE

So she hasn't changed at all?

MARKIE

People don't change, Joe.

JOE

You did. You're nothing like you were
then. You're so confident. Everyone
here loves you so damn much, you're
practically the mayor. You've got this
town by the balls!

MARKIE

There's my campaign slogan.

JOE

Look. You've accomplished too much to
let some has-been make you feel like
crap. If Liz Cooney is disrupting your
life, why don't you go home and kick
her butt out?

MARKIE

Yes. I can do that. I'm a badass!

SHE RISES, DETERMINED. AS SHE TURNS TO EXIT, SHE SUDDENLY AND UNWITTINGLY LAPSES INTO "NICE MODE." TURNING BACK--

MARKIE

(ANXIOUS, FAST) You know I'm not going to literally kick her right? I'm not a violent--

JOE

I know.

END ACT 1

ACT 2

SCENE M

INT. MARKIE'S HOUSE (PARLOR) - DAY
(Wallis, Max, Liz, Stella)

WALLIS AND MAX ARE KNEELING ON THE FIREPLACE, CLEANING SOOT OFF THE BRICKS WITH TOOTHBRUSHES. WALLIS GAZES AT MAX.

MAX

This sucks.

WALLIS

This is the happiest I've ever been.

MAX

Huh?

WALLIS

Crappiest. Crappiest punishment!

LIZ ARRIVES HOME FROM SCHOOL PICK-UP WITH STELLA. SHE IS IMPRESSED TO SEE BOTH MAX AND WALLIS DOING THEIR CHORES.

LIZ

Hey kids! Ooh, you're just a couple of little chimney sweeps. Dick and VanDyke!

MAX

(TO WALLIS) I think we're done here.

WALLIS

(DESPERATE) Wait! I see more soot!

STELLA

(RUNS TO HUG WALLIS) Hi Wallis!

WALLIS

Hey, Stella! Wow. An after-school bear hug. It's like having the little sister I always wanted.

STELLA FLOPS DOWN ON THE COUCH WITH HER BACKPACK.

STELLA

I wish I had a sister, too.

LIZ

Pfft, you basically do. Look at me!

STELLA

(TAKING OUT HOMEWORK) Could you maybe help me with this?

WALLIS

I'm the LeBron James of worksheets.

STELLA

"Find an item in your house that conducts electricity."

LIZ

Toaster. Done. Let's watch Maury.

WALLIS

Wait, let's not limit ourselves to appliances. Electricity lives everywhere. Did you know you can charge a phone with two lemons?

STELLA

What?

WALLIS

I'll show you. Go find a couple of lemons; I'll get my multimeter.

STELLA RUNS OFF TO RUMMAGE IN THE FRIDGE. AS WALLIS GETS UP--

LIZ

You know, you're a very impressive young lady.

WALLIS

Science is my jam.

LIZ

When I was in high school, my "jam" was shoplifting panties and dating 27 year-olds named Brent. (REALIZING) Maybe that's why I never went to college and wound up relying on a cheating sleazehole for 15 years. (THEN) I hope Stella is more like you.

STELLA APPEARS, HOLDING 2 LEMONS IN FRONT OF HER CHEST.

STELLA

Look, I have boobies!

LIZ

(TO WALLIS) There's still time.

CUT TO:

SCENE P

INT. MARKIE'S HOUSE (BEDROOM) - NIGHT
(Markie, Liz, Wallis)

MARKIE ENTERS, PUTTING DOWN HER TRADER JOE'S BAG O' STUFF.
SHE OPENS HER CLOSET AND TAKES OUT A HOODIE AND SWEATPANTS.
(SHE DOESN'T NOTICE AN ELECTRIC WAX WARMER ON THE DRESSER.)

MARKIE

Time for some soft clothes with no
buttons, zippers, or dignity!

SHE PUTS ON THE HOODIE AND LOOKS IN THE MIRROR.

MARKIE

Okay. Markie. You can do this. You are
in control of your own home.

WE HEAR LIZ SINGING BRITNEY'S "TOXIC" IN THE BATHROOM.

LIZ

(O.S.) "Oh the taste of your lips I'm
on a ride..."

MARKIE

(PISSED) Liz? Are you in here? We need
to--

SHE'S CUT OFF, STARTLED, AS LIZ EMERGES FROM THE MASTER
BATHROOM WEARING A GREEN FACE MASK AND A ROBE.

MARKIE

What are you doing in here? I said the
master was off limits!

LIZ

(DUH) I obviously need the bigger
bathroom. I have a lot of products.
You have Chapstick and a scrunchie.

MARKIE

This is my house!

WALLIS EMERGES FROM THE BATHROOM BEHIND LIZ.

WALLIS

Look, Mom! Liz waxed my eyebrows!

LIZ

I waxed your eyebrow. Now you have two.

MARKIE

I didn't give you permission to alter my child's appearance.

WALLIS

No offense Mom, but you should try it.

Beautician, groom thyself.

SHE DIPS A WOODEN STICK INTO THE ELECTRIC POT OF WAX ON THE DRESSER. SHE APPROACHES MARKIE, WHO BACKS AWAY.

MARKIE

Wallis, cut it out!

LIZ IS BEHIND WALLIS, BRANDISHING HER OWN STICK.

LIZ

Ooh, we should take care of that upper lip, too, Pedro.

MARKIE INSTINCTIVELY PULLS THE HOOD OVER HER HEAD.

MARKIE

Get away from me, you psycho!

SHE INSTINCTIVELY JUMPS INTO THE CLOSET AND SHUTS THE DOOR.

WALLIS

(SURPRISED) Are you okay, Mom?

MARKIE OPENS THE DOOR A CRACK, STUNNED.

MARKIE

Oh my God. Look at me. This is just like high school. You've cornered me like an animal. I'm Slutburger!

WALLIS

(CONFUSED) What?

SHE GETS UP AND UNZIPS THE HOODIE, THROWING IT OFF.

MARKIE

(TO LIZ) You don't get to make me feel this way and you are not going to turn my daughter into one of your mean girl minions! Can you even see how pathetic you are? Miss "Most Likely to Be A Movie Star" comes crawling back to Glenfield with her tail between her legs.

LIZ

Girl, you need to MoveOn.Org. High school was a long time ago. The last time you and I interacted, Marky Mark was still in the Funky Bunch. He moved on to greater things, and from what I can see, so have you. Pull up your big girl Calvins and get over it!

MARKIE

(STUNNED) Get over it?! I want you out
of here tomorrow.

WE SEE ACTUAL FEAR/PANIC ON LIZ'S FACE FOR THE FIRST TIME.

LIZ

No. Markie. We have nowhere to go. My
mom won't take us-- she hates kids--
and we can't go back to that hotel!

MARKIE

You mean the motel?

LIZ

No, trust me; there's a ho in it.

MARKIE

Everything's funny to you, isn't it?

LIZ

And nothing's funny to you. When was
the last time you unclenched your
asterisk and did something enjoyable?

MARKIE

I'm busy being a mom and a
businesswoman. You don't understand
because you're a washed-up cheerleader
who peaked in the '90s!

LIZ

I'll just take my wax and go...

MARKIE

Here--

MARKIE GRABS THE WAX POT, JERKING THE CORD OUT OF THE WALL; IN DOING SO, SHE ACCIDENTALLY FLINGS HOT WAX ONTO LIZ'S HAIR AND FACE. LIZ PAUSES AND BLINKS FOR A STUNNED BEAT, THEN— UNABLE TO RESIST— STEPS FOWARD AND QUICKLY USES THE STICK TO DAB WAX ON MARKIE'S UPPER LIP. MARKIE RETALIATES BY FLINGING MORE WAX INTO LIZ'S FACE. LIZ REACHES OUT AND TUGS THE WAX OFF MARKIE'S LIP.

ANGRY, MARKIE POURS THE REMAINDER OF THE WAX ON LIZ'S FEET.

MARKIE

There! I just did something enjoyable.

MARKIE SLAMS THE DOOR ON LIZ AND FACES WALLIS TRIUMPHANTLY.

CUT TO:

SCENE Q

INT. MARKIE'S HOUSE - PARLOR (DAY)
(Liz, Max, Stella, Wallis, Markie)

LIZ, MAX AND STELLA ARE IN THE PARLOR WITH THEIR LUGGAGE.
MARKIE EAVESDROPS AND DUSTS. WALLIS SULKS.

STELLA

Why do we have to leave?

LIZ

(GLUM) Well, Kitten, my bad choices
have dragged us all to hell. (THEN)
Come on guys; the cab is here. (TO
MARKIE) Thanks.

MARKIE

(CURT) 'Bye kids.

STELLA SUDDENLY RUNS TO WALLIS AND GIVES HER A HUGE HUG.

WALLIS

You're going to be okay. (TO MAX) See
you at school.

MAX

Yeah, I'll catch you on the inside.

LIZ, STELLA, AND MAX EXIT. WALLIS IS CLEARLY MAD.

MARKIE

What? You're mad I evicted Danny Zuko?

WALLIS

(OFFENDED) This actually isn't about
him. (THEN) Look, Liz isn't that bad.
Sure, she was mean to you in high
school. And, yeah, she's kind of...

WALLIS (CONT'D)

frivolous. But substance isn't everything! It's okay to be fun, too. It's ok to wear lip gloss and to like a boy. Can't girls be more than one thing?

MARKIE

Well yeah. You can. But trust me-- there's only one side to Liz Cooney. (OFFENDED) And by the way, I'm fun, too. Remember when we played Settlers of Catan last week?

WALLIS

(GLUM) We sure traded a lot of sheep.

MARKIE

It was a (SHEEP NOISE) blaaast!

WALLIS SIGHS AND HEADS UPSTAIRS, FRUSTRATED.

MARKIE

Great. I'm the bad guy now.

SHE HEADS OVER TO THE COUCH. SUDDENLY, A LOUD SCREAM.

WALLIS

(OFFSCREEN) Mom!

MARKIE

What?

WALLIS REAPPEARS HOLDING A LETTER AND AN ENVELOPE.

WALLIS

Look what was in my room. (READING)
"Dear Wallis. You are extraordinary.

WALLIS (CONT'D)

Enjoy your trip to Switzerland to see
the Large Hadron Collider." (FANNING
THE CASH) Five thousand dollars!

SHE RUNS TO MARKIE AND HUGS HER, ECSTATIC. OVER WALLIS'S
SHOULDER, WE SEE MARKIE'S TOUCHED-- AND CONFLICTED-- FACE.

CUT TO:

SCENE R

INT. STRIKER ACE BOWLING ALLEY - NIGHT
(Markie, Liz, Sleazy Dude)

MARKIE SITS IN THE SNACK BAR, LOOKING NERVOUS AND EXPECTANT.
LIZ ENTERS SHEEPISHLY CLUTCHING A TRADER JOE'S BAG.

MARKIE

(REALIZING) You sold your purse.
That's how you got the money.

LIZ

Yeah. It was stupid anyway. Just a
stupid, buttery-soft, timeless,
investment piece that symbolized my
dignity and is gone forever! No big D!

MARKIE

Why did you do it?

LIZ

When I was growing up, all my mom
cared about was pageants. She didn't
care if I ever picked up a book, as
long as I won Miss Provel Processed
Cheese. (BEAT) I did, F.Y.I. (THEN,
SOFTENING) But Wallis-- she knows how
smart and capable she is. She told me
about the trip, and I thought, isn't
that more important than a rare, one-
of-a-kind, (CHOKING UP) couture
treasure...

MARKIE

Thank you. She's thrilled.

LIZ

And to be honest, it was kind of my way of saying I'm sorry. About the whole Slutburger thing. I know I was literally Satan in high school. What I didn't realize was that the things I did then would still be hurting you now. I wanted to try and make it up to you and show you that I have changed.

MARKIE

How? I mean, other than your nose, boobs, teeth and weave?

LIZ

Well, for one thing, I've been humbled. Hardcore. When I left Glenfield, I thought I was gonna take the world by storm. But it turns out you did... kinda. You stayed, raised one of the coolest, smartest kids I've ever met, and made Glenfield your bitch! Everyone here seems to admire you so much. (BEAT) Even if I don't fully understand why.

MARKIE

Maybe you have changed.

LIZ

I'm seriously so nice now.

A SLEAZY, CHUBBY DUDE APPROACHES THEIR TABLE.

SLEAZY DUDE

Could I buy one of you ladies a drink?

LIZ

Get lost, Uncle Buck.

THE GUY SLINKS AWAY.

MARKIE

I thought you said you were nice now.

LIZ

I am. To people I respect.

MARKIE

(SOFTENING) Listen. You can move back in. Temporarily. But you have to behave yourself and pay rent on time.

LIZ

But what if my ex forgets to send me money?

MARKIE

You could get a job...

LIZ BURSTS INTO HYSTERICAL LAUGHTER.

CUT TO:

SCENE S

INT. MARKIE'S HOUSE (PARLOR/KITCHEN) - DAY
(Markie, Liz, Stella, Wallis, Max, Joe)

WALLIS IS HELPING STELLA WITH HER HOMEWORK. MARKIE AND LIZ COOK TOGETHER IN THE KITCHEN.

WALLIS

See? Homework's not so bad. You just have to stay focused. Zen. You tune out everything else.

MAX CROSSES, HEADING UPSTAIRS.

STELLA

So is this last one true or false?

WALLIS

(DISTRACTED) Four.

IN THE KITCHEN, MARKIE HOLDS UP A WEIRD CONTAINER.

MARKIE

(TO LIZ) What's this?

LIZ TOSSES A PINCH OF THE SEASONING INTO A PAN OF CHICKEN ON THE STOVE.

LIZ

Pink Himalayan sea salt. Very delicate flavor profile.

MARKIE LOOKS AT LIZ, REACHES FOR A SQUEEZE-BOTTLE OF BARBECUE SAUCE, AND SQUIRTS IT ALL IN THE PAN.

LIZ

Or we could be garbage, sure.

WALLIS

All right, Stella; we're done. Want to go upstairs and do our nails?

STELLA

I've never done my own nails before.

WALLIS

Who does them?

STELLA

I have a great lady in L.A.

WALLIS AND STELLA EXIT UPSTAIRS. JOE ENTERS, LOOKING SUPER CUTE WITH HIS TOOL BELT.

JOE

Okay, washing machine's working again.

I found this tangled up in the motor.

HE HOLDS UP A KINKY, STUDED BLACK HARNESS-TYPE ITEM.

LIZ

Oh, those are my pajamas.

MARKIE

Thanks for fixing it.

JOE

Gives me an excuse to hang around.

(AWKWARD) See ya.

MARKIE

Bye Joe.

JOE EXITS OUT THE FRONT DOOR.

LIZ

(MOCKING) Bye, Joe. (THEN) You guys are still crushing on each other!

MARKIE CROSSES TO THE COUCH.

MARKIE

No, we're not!

LIZ

Yes, you totally are. Look at you.

You're as pink as a baboon's butt.

LIZ IS OPENING A BOTTLE OF CHARDONNAY.

MARKIE

Joe and I are just mindful, supportive
co-parents.

LIZ

Okay, Gwyneth.

LIZ IS POURING TWO GLASSES OF WINE.

MARKIE

Um, it's a weeknight, I don't--

LIZ HEADS TO THE COUCH AND HANDS HER A GLASS.

MARKIE

(SIPPING) Ooh, it's so buttery.

AS THEY SIT ON THE COUCH, LIZ CASUALLY CLINKS MARKIE'S GLASS.

LIZ

See? It's nice to loosen up a little.

MARKIE

(IT IS) Yeah. I guess so.

LIZ

You know, I was so focused on being a
wife that I didn't really make any
close girlfriends in L.A.

MARKIE

Well, I've been so busy raising Wallis and running the salon that I don't really have girlfriends either. Plus, all the other moms are married and formed their cliques a long time ago. I don't really fit in.

LIZ

Oh, I hear you, girl. I've been iced out, too.

MARKIE

(BRIEFLY CONNECTING) So you know what's it's like!

LIZ

You make out with one woman's husband and suddenly they don't trust you!

MARKIE JUST TAKES ANOTHER DRINK.

LIZ

Well, since you're willing to let go of the past and I'm willing to be less of a hosebeast... maybe we could be friends?

THEY LOOK EACH OTHER UP AND DOWN, BRIEFLY.

MARKIE

LIZ

Nope.

Probably not.

END ACT 2

TAG

INT. AMERICAN CURL SALON - DAY
(Markie, Liz)

MARKIE STANDS IN HER SALON, LOOKING AUTHORITATIVE AND IMPATIENT.

MARKIE

Okay, there's still a huge pile of hair over there. I know this seems unfair, and I'm the "mean mom", but you have to accept consequences if you want to actually become a mature adult.

REVEAL NOT WALLIS, BUT LIZ PUSHING A BROOM.

LIZ

But I'm ti-red.

MARKIE

You've been here for nine minutes.

LIZ

But none of my friends have jobs!

MARKIE

If your friends jumped off a cliff, would you do that too?

LIZ

You just described my 36th birthday party in Cabo.

MARKIE HOLDS UP A BEDAZZLED IPHONE.

MARKIE

Do you want your phone back?

LIZ

(SULKING) Yes.

MARKIE

Then sweep up the hair.

AS SHE TURNS AWAY, LIZ STICKS OUT HER TONGUE.

MARKIE

I can see you in the mirror.

END OF EPISODE