

STEPS

Pilot

Written by

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Directed by

Todd Holland

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CAST LIST

BEA.....GINNIFER GOODWIN
PAUL.....KYLE BORNHEIMER
GENEVIEVE.....RYAN MICHELLE BATHE
LOUIE.....BARRY ROTHBART
JUNE.....JULIE HAGERTY
BECKER.....CAMERON BOYCE
MAEVE.....CAMRYN JONES
ELOISE.....MADELEINE MCGRAW
RENATA.....LIDIA PORTO
SCARLETT WINOKER.....EMMA KENNEDY

SET LIST

INTERIORS

PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE

- KITCHEN
- LIVING ROOM
- FAMILY ROOM
- BEDROOM
- FOYER
- BATHROOM

GENEVIEVE'S HOUSE

LOUIE'S MOM'S HOUSE

- LIVING ROOM
- JUNE'S BEDROOM

SENDYR SHIPPING - LOUIE'S OFFICE

UPSCALE BAR

PAUL'S SUBARU

PAUL'S CLASSROOM

EXTERIORS

PARK

- PARKING LOT
- SOCCER FIELD

PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE

- FRONT PORCH

FINN'S PARENTS' HOUSE

STREET

LOUIE'S MOM'S HOUSE

- FRONT PORCH

CHARACTERS

OUR NEW COUPLE:

PAUL: Conflict-averse, romantic, dryly funny, enthusiastic elementary school teacher who loves spending his day with people who don't manipulate him. Only child of married parents who would NEVER have left his miserable marriage because men don't leave, even though his ex pushed him exactly like his parents did. Super happy to have found someone who is nice to him after being left by someone who was not.

BEA: Groovy former doula/energy healer/placenta-pill maker, current Baby Group Leader. Is spookily good at reading people 8 out of 10 times. Then she's really off. Feels guilt about leaving the grumpy father of her child so wants everyone to be close for the good of the kids.

THE EXES:

LOUIE: Happily misanthropic, supervisor in the shipping department of an Amazon-type business called "Sendyr" warehouse, delighted to hate his job and be a homebody except that it lost him the love of his life. Had to move in with his mom for financial reasons after the divorce.

GENEVIEVE: Fast, hard, driven VP of Business Development at Sendyr, so close to Louie and yet so very, very far. Left Paul, whom she met in college, because she felt he was too complacent, i.e. "happy with what he has."

THE KIDS:

PAUL AND GENEVIEVE'S KIDS - BECKER, 16, sincere, overshares, huge heart, hugs his new stepmom too much -- and MAEVE, 8, magical adorable happy little thing who desperately wants to be friends with her new stepsister who will constantly reject her.

LOUIE AND BEA'S KID - ELOISE, 8, very smart, dark, gothy little Wednesday Addams-type who delights in torturing Maeve and being significantly smarter than Becker.

THE GRANDMAS:

JUNE - 60s, Louie's mom with whom he lives. Sweet-faced, gray-haired, typical grandma, who bakes and has recently gotten in touch with her Sapphic side...

RENATA - 60s, June's "roommate" who Louie doesn't realize is her girlfriend. Mexican American, tough-as-nails, got four kids across the desert all by herself 30 years ago. Works with June at a 99 Cents Store.

COLD OPEN

1 Open on an OLD-SCHOOL GLOBE spinning in front of a chalkboard.1
A VOICE that sounds exactly like SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH SPEAKS:

MAN (V.O.)
Earth. About 8.7 million species
inhabit this small planet.

CUT TO: A KID'S DIORAMA: Camera zooms past papier-mache snowy
mountains to find A LONE POLAR BEAR on a cotton-ball tundra.

MAN (V.O.)
Some are solitary, spending their
lives away from the rest of their
kind. So peaceful, but... Brrrrr.

CUT TO: AN ANT FARM on a TEACHER'S DESK. Adjacent RED APPLE.

MAN (V.O.)
Then there are the species that live
together in vast colonies...

Whoosh. We push through the glass to discover an inexplicably
MASSIVE ANT COLONY SWARMING THROUGH ELABORATE TUNNELS...

MAN (V.O.)
...where every member has a vital
role in caring for the whole. By
working together, simple creatures
can create an extraordinarily
complicated yet beautiful
community...

Whoosh. We are then emerging from... an ANT HILL.

MAN (V.O.)
...despite the size of their tiny
brains.

A MAN'S FOOT steps onto the ant hill, destroying it.

LOUIE (O.S.)
Ah! Dammit!

REVEAL WE ARE:

2 EXT. PARK - DAY (D1)

2

LOUIE, arms filled with little girl stuff, swipes at his ant-
covered foot. LITTLE GIRLS play soccer and PARENTS cheer.

2 CONTINUED: 2

MAN (V.O.)
Meet our real subjects.

LOUIE
Ow! Die die die die!

BEA, Louie's ex-wife, tries to help. Louie still loves her.

BEA
Swipe don't swat, no need to murder.

LOUIE
They're so vindictive!

Bea moves towards her car. Louie helps her load up.

MAN (V.O.)
Watch as they answer the timeless
question: is it better to live alone
in peace? Or together in chaos?

BEA
So you remembered everything? Her
school things, pjs, toothbrush...

LOUIE
I put everything by the door so I
wouldn't forget it. And that is
where most of it still is.

BEA
We'll be fine. Paul keeps a weird
amount of new toothbrushes around.

LOUIE
(nodding, serious)
Because of the cheese breath.

BEA
Louie!

LOUIE
I'm not being mean, I'm just stating
facts. This is a car. That's a tree.
You prefer men now with cheese
breath. A neck that's insanely wide
for such close-set eyes--

*

3 EXT. PARK - PARKING LOT - SAME TIME (D1) 3

GENEVIEVE and PAUL unload kid things from her Tesla. Genevieve holds a checklist and tries to be nice.

GENEVIEVE

You've got their daytime clothes, nighttime clothes, soccer uniforms, martial arts gear, notebooks, clarinet, retainer, Gerry Giraffe--

PAUL

Mmmm, I wish I had a tape of you doing this to go to sleep to.

GENEVIEVE

Can we please talk about Greenview again? I think a girls' school would be so great for Maeve.

Paul starts across the parking lot with the stuff. She follows.

PAUL

And I think it's great for Maeve to be at a public school, that I can afford, where I'm her teacher. And -- not that I'm still mad -- but maybe we don't switch her school one year after her mom blew up her family so she could "live her truth," like she's Oprah--

*
*

GENEVIEVE

Our next president--

PAUL

Although the only thing under my seat was a heart-wrenching divorce. Again, not mad. Just quoting something you somehow actually said.

*
*
*

GENEVIEVE

(spots something, calls off) Becker!

*

A TEEN COUPLE (BECKER - 16 and SCARLETT - 16) breaks from a really intense make out session near the soccer game.

GENEVIEVE (CONT'D)

Why don't you and your friend come watch your sister play soccer with the children who have eyes and questions!

PAUL

Thanks, buddy, love you!

The teens sheepishly detangle and walk over to the game.

4

EXT. PARK - SOCCER FIELD - SAME TIME (D1)

4

Bea and Louie, on the sidelines, watch ELOISE (8), their Wednesday Addams-ish daughter who hates her soccer uniform. She's on the bench preparing to burn ants with a magnifying glass while filming with an iPhone. In a Nature-Doc voice:

ELOISE

Once the light begins to burn, the ants' tiny bodies will turn to ash while their so-called "family" crawls over their remains on their way to feed. If they know they are crossing a mass grave and feel nothing, do their lives have any worth at all?

LOUIE

She's not boring.

BEA

And only ninety out of a hundred children who harm animals become sociopaths. I'm still optimistic.

PAUL (O.S.)

Hey.

Bea turns and smiles as Paul approaches and takes her hand. These families are connected! Paul nods at Louie awkwardly.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Louie.

LOUIE

Hello. Hi.

Becker and Scarlett approach the sidelines nearby as Genevieve calls off to the REF:

GENEVIEVE

Foul on my kid, Ref! Do we need to have a another chat?

The Ref IMMEDIATELY blows his whistle on a kid. ON THE FIELD, MAEVE, an adorable, happy little girl (8) hopping on one foot while holding her other shin, calls back:

MAEVE

I'm okay, Mommy! The park smells like flowers!

GENEVIEVE

I love you, baby! Rise above the mediocrity!

4

CONTINUED:

4

PAUL
(to Genevieve)
We have the best one.

Becker cheers his sister as she hops off the field and sits next to Eloise on the bench. Meanwhile, Bea pulls Genevieve in for a hug that is bigger than the one Genevieve gives back.

BEA
Genevieve! So nice to see you!

GENEVIEVE
You too. What's up, Louie.

LOUIE
Hiii.

Under the following, Paul opens up a lawn chair for Bea. She sits as Paul opens up a second for himself.

BEA
Isn't this fun? I think Eloise is really glad she joined Maeve's team.

ELOISE
GET READY TO BURN! BURN!

Everyone jumps. Quickly:

*

BEA
Why don't we grab that.

*

While Paul takes Eloise's magnifying glass, Louie sits in his chair before he can. Bea chats up Genevieve:

*

*

BEA (CONT'D)
Anyway, Gen, I'm excited to finally have a girl hang this weekend. I haven't got my drank on in a minute!

GENEVIEVE
Yeah.

Paul looks at Louie in the chair, considers saying something, then finally walks around to the OTHER side of Bea, crouches, and awkwardly takes Bea's hand like it's a victory. Genevieve shakes her head and they watch the game for an awkward beat.

PAUL
Do they sell beer here?
(Louie shakes his head)
No? No.

CUT TO OPENING CREDITS.

*

ACT ONE

5 INT/EXT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER THAT DAY (D1) 5

We are inside a small, funky house. There are some unpacked boxes around. Bea unpacks and talks to Eloise, who sucks on a juice box and glares at Maeve being cute across the room. *
*

BEA

El, it'll be fun sharing a room with Maeve! You're gonna be so tired from giggling all night I'm gonna be like 'If you guys don't get some sleep you can't share a room' and you'll be all 'No! We love sharing a room!' That's gonna be our conversation.

ELOISE

When have you known me to giggle?

BEA

When people fall down.

Becker crosses with a large box. Eloise sticks her foot out, tripping him. He splays across the hall. Eloise GIGGLES.

BECKER

Ow, sorry, Eloise! My fault. I was thinking about Syria.

Bea looks at Eloise with reproach.

6 INT. GENEVIEVE'S HOUSE - DAY (D1) 6

A stylish, upscale home. Genevieve skypes with Maeve.

MAEVE (ON COMPUTER)

We have bunkbeds but Eloise says she's sleeping in the hall closet. Why won't she be friends?

GENEVIEVE

Sweet girl, don't worry. You're going to a fancy new school where you'll make new friends.

Genevieve gets a text from "Green-eyed Eurasian Guy": *Kids gone?*

MAEVE (ON COMPUTER)

I like Daddy's school.

6 CONTINUED:

6

GENEVIEVE

(typing on phone)

Baby, I used to think I liked
Daddy's school, too, but then I
realized there were way better
schools that pleased me in a way his
hadn't in years.

MAEVE (ON COMPUTER)

Daddy says the kids at public school
reflect the diverse fabric of a
nation that's losing its soul.

GENEVIEVE

Yeah, I've gotten that lecture, too.
Doesn't it make you so sleepy?

Paul crosses behind Maeve with a lamp:

PAUL (ON COMPUTER)

Wood floors, sound carries!

Genevieve makes a face at Maeve and hits SEND on a text: **Be
here in 30. I'd stretch.**

7 INT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME (D1)

7

Paul enters with the lamp, wearing a zip cardigan. Bea unpacks
and worries.

PAUL

It's all happening -- I got a hot
new girlfriend and three kids all
under one roof, and I'm trying a
thing where I wear sweaters with a
zipper. Hello, new life, bye-bye,
Pullover Paul!

*

*

BEA

Maybe we should've waited longer
than six months to move in. Our
first joint transfer was so awkward.
How long 'til we're a family of four
adults lovingly co-parenting three
kids?

PAUL

Never. Because we're not European.

*

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7A.

7

CONTINUED:

7

BEA

Well, I think drinks with Genevieve
is gonna be a great first step.

7 CONTINUED:

7

PAUL

Babe, she's only going to charm you into bullying me into sending Maeve to Greenview. And it'll work -- she took my mom to a salad bar restaurant once and BOOM, Pullover Paul went to law school.

BEA

It is crazy how much your mom likes salad bars.

*
*

PAUL

I am worried about Maeve. How do we get Eloise to be nice?

(genuinely curious)

Is nice something she does?

*
*

BEA

Mm! They just need help bonding. Maybe you could take them to do something fun this weekend.

(as she exits)

And Louie could come, too.

*

PAUL

What? Where are you going? No!

8 INT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - CONTINUOUS (D1)

8

BEA

Paul, Eloise could end up "darkly colorful"... like Marilyn Manson. Or she could end up... like a different Manson. The thing that's going to make the difference is whether or not she learns how to make friends. Show her how by befriending her dad.

PAUL

I want the girls to be friends, too, but I don't think it's smart to be hanging out with the exes. The one good thing about having to get divorced -- other than, you know, "finding my soul mate"--

BEA

Weird thing to put in air quotes--

8 CONTINUED:

8

PAUL
 --is that Genevieve isn't around
 telling me what to do so I can
 figure out how I want to parent, and
 dress, and decorate. Speaking of...

*
*
*
*
*

Paul unrolls a really, truly ugly rug.

*

PAUL (CONT'D)
 You like this, right? Big swing.

*
*

BEA
 I... want you to feel supported.

*

PAUL
 The point is, I think the kids have
 the best shot at peaceful lives if
 the adults give each other some
 room. You know those spacers
 orthodontists put between teeth to
 pry them apart?

*
*

BEA
 I had them. Never been in more pain.

PAUL
 Exactly! I wanna do that to all of
us. To make space for the tooth that
 is our new family!

*
*

9 INT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS (D1)

9

Paul and Bea enter to find Becker poking through boxes.

BECKER
 Hey, Dad, can I borrow your
 clippers? I need to do some personal
 grooming. Of my private hair.

PAUL
 Dude, we need to get clearer on the
 meaning of "personal" and "private".

BEA
 Why the styling, Becker? You're
 not... expecting visitors?

Becker tries to look innocent for the shortest beat, then:

BECKER

Fine, Bea, you broke me with those eyes! Guys, I've decided to lose my virginity to Scarlett Winoker!

PAUL

Whoa.

BEA

Aw. And I hope you never get interrogated.

PAUL

Whoo, okay, Becker, this is big. Sex can be good. Sex can also be bad...
(they wait for more, then)
That's all I got. Are you sure?

BECKER

Dad, I'm ready. We're in love, I'll be checking in at every base and I know all the important stuff is in the front -- thank you, Bea.

BEA

I'm glad the diagrams were useful.

PAUL

Okay. So... you know, um, use protection. Lots of it. Always.

BECKER

Of course. Any fool can make a baby. It takes a real man to be a father.

Bea unpacks a grooming kit, hands it to *Paul*.

BEA

And you've told your mom obviously.

BECKER

Oh, no. She makes me get notarized releases from my friend's parents when we go swimming. She'll get Scarlett's parents involved--

PAUL

It's fine. We won't tell her.

BEA

Paul! I'm not gonna keep a secret about her kid. Moms before Homs! Homs... bres... Moms before *Hombres!*

PAUL

(to Becker)
Don't worry. We're not telling her.

(MORE)

9

CONTINUED:

9

PAUL (CONT'D)
(handing Becker the kit)
Congratulations, this is yours now.

BEA
Really. I don't even get a vote?

PAUL
Well... no. Just like I don't with
Eloise.

BEA
Of course you do! You're one of the
adults who's raising her now!

PAUL
Then I don't think she should read
serial killer biographies.

*
*

BEA
Well, that's censorship, that's stupid.

BECKER
I'll tell Mom after it happens.
Okay? Please, Bea. I'm trusting you.

BEA
Fine. Since I don't get a vote.

BECKER
Great! C'mon, new family hug?

PAUL
Great idea!

Paul and Becker sandwich Bea. She smiles a little. Becker holds
the hug a real long time, rocking a little. Then, innocently:

BECKER
Aw. Bea, you have such a nice body.

PAUL
(breaking the hug)
Okay, talk later.

Becker smiles and leaves. Bea looks at Paul expectantly.

PAUL (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, he's got no filter.

BEA
You never use a condom.

9 CONTINUED: 9

PAUL
(trying to joke)
Hey, maybe I cheat on you and use
condoms. You ever think about that?
I'm sorry, I was trying another
thing, I don't do that.

*
*

Bea, not enjoying his new things, walks out.

10 INT. LOUIE'S MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/JUNE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 10
(N1)

Louie enters his mom's house, working-class old lady kitsch.

LOUIE
Hey, Ma!

JUNE (O.S.)
We're in here!

Louie walks to the door of June's bedroom. JUNE and her
"roommate" RENATA are on top of the covers watching TV in pjs.

LOUIE
Hey, guys. How was your day of
dominating the 99 Cents Store?

RENATA
I walked four kids from Mexico to
Phoenix and today felt longer.

JUNE
I marked some paper towels as ninety-
nine dollars and an elderly
gentleman threatened to kill me.

RENATA
So, Louie, Eloise's first night in
her new house. You okay?

LOUIE
Oh, yeah. Bea only signed a six-
month lease. She can't even commit a
year to the schlub? She'll be back.

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12A.

10

CONTINUED:

10

JUNE

(off Renata's look)

Does she know you want her back,
honey? Have you done anything to
make that happen?

10

CONTINUED:

10

LOUIE

No! Nobody likes a beggar. I just wait for things there to implode, which'll show her how great we had it, and then here I'll be. Waiting. Like a noble, majestic horse.

RENATA

Classic story: boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy waits.

LOUIE

Like a horse, though. Did you not hear that part?

JUNE

You should go on a date.

RENATA

Yes.

LOUIE

Oh, *you two* are on my case? When was the last time either of you went on a date with anyone?

REAVEAL the women are in bed under a portrait of themselves.

JUNE/RENATA

Good point./You got us.

LOUIE

Yeah I did. Okay, everybody leave their keys out, I'm changing oil tomorrow. Try to make it to your bed before you pass out for once, Renata. I can't keep carrying you, your bones are too brittle.

Louie leaves. June avoids Renata's "Seriously?" look.

JUNE

Children have to do things on their own time.

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*

11

INT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT (N1)

11

Paul is trying on another sweater with thumb holes over pjs in front of the mirror. Bea enters in pjs and heads for bed.

PAUL

So, this one has thumb holes. I can wear this to dinner, right?

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13A.

11

CONTINUED:

11

BEA

If you're having dinner in the snow,
absolutely.

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*
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11

CONTINUED:

11

PAUL

(coming to her)

Oh, man, you're still mad. Bea, I love you, I don't wanna fight. You're soft and happy and never use words like "unrealized potential" about me.

*
*
*

BEA

I love you, too. And I know it feels good that Becker came to you with a secret he isn't telling his mom.

PAUL

He's never had a secret for me to keep! I feel like we're the Goonies.

BEA

But. I can't pitch open and honest to Genevieve while lying about her kid's virginity. So, as your partner, I'm asking you, please get him to tell her.

PAUL

How about I'll go on a double date with Louie and the girls if you agree to keep Becker's secret.

BEA

So you're proposing that you'll do something good for our family if I do something bad?

PAUL

(attempting decisiveness)

Bea, I let Genevieve make just about every decision for our entire marriage and it got me divorced. I owe it to us to do things differently. This is Becker's first secret, and I've decided we're going to keep it for him.

(off her look)

Okay, I'm still working on tone, but I think I stick by the message.

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*

BEA

Message received.

*
*

Eloise enters with her pillow.

*
*

11 CONTINUED:

11

ELOISE

I decided not to sleep in the closet.

(handing Paul her pillow)

Good luck out there.

Eloise climbs in next to Bea. Paul looks to Bea for help.

PAUL

It's so cold on the couch.

BEA

Just pull your thumbs back in their holes. You'll be fine.

Eloise waves bye-bye. Paul nods and heads for the sofa.

END OF ACT ONE

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ACT TWO

12 INT. SENDYR SHIPPING - LOUIE'S OFFICE/INT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY (D2) 12

Louie sits at his messy metal desk talking on speakerphone with Bea, who is at her house. Intercut:

LOUIE

Bea, a date with Paul and the girls sounds so, so terrible.

BEA

It's for Eloise. Aren't you the one who used to lie awake nights saying that your greatest dream is that she be happier than you?

LOUIE

I want her to be happy. But my greatest dream is--

BEA

You're never going to Cancun with Axl Rose, Louie!

LOUIE

You don't know that but fine. I gotta go.

Louie's attention is grabbed by a CLICK CLICK CLICK -- it's Genevieve approaching his door. She knocks as she enters.

GENEVIEVE

Ciao ciao!

LOUIE

Genevieve. This is a surprise.

GENEVIEVE

Well, figured I'd come down, check out shipping, say hello.

(looking around)

I like your...

(she just can't)

How's your kid-free week? I miss them horribly, but isn't the dirty secret that it's kinda nice having them half-time? The freedom to travel, having your own space--

*
*

LOUIE

Yeah, for me it's more like my kid is the most interesting person I know, and now I'm lonely in a really desperate, horrible way.

*

GENEVIEVE

So not a lot of things in common, I'll get to it. I've spent the last year befriending awful people at casino nights for this amazing school. Now all I have to do is get Paul to let me pay for it and Maeve can go... which she's into if your daughter goes, too.

LOUIE

What? Eloise isn't switching schools.

GENEVIEVE

But I can get her in, and they have financial assistance. Which is where men always go, it's this obsession with Paul, "paying his own way". Even though I'm perfectly happy to pay to get what I want.

LOUIE

Okay, help me out here. What is it about that guy? I'm not seeing it.

GENEVIEVE

Paul? Well, *at first*, I guess he made me laugh. He's really smart. And before kids the sex was amazing, I honestly couldn't get enough--

LOUIE

Okay, done with that. Say hi to VP land for me. This was... weird.

GENEVIEVE

Great. We'll talk more later!

Genevieve grabs a squirt of Purell, then moves a chair with her hips so she can exit without touching anything.

*

13 INT./EXT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - FOYER - THE NEXT DAY (D3) 13

A door opens to reveal an even unhappier Louie on Paul and Bea's porch. Paul is there, in the same mood.

LOUIE

Hey.

PAUL

Hey. Thanks for picking us up, we're down a car. Come on in.

LOUIE

I'm good. Car's running. It's facing the right direction.

*

Eloise and Maeve approach Paul. Louie hugs Eloise.

LOUIE (CONT'D)

Tiny monster!

ELOISE

Hi, Dad. Hey, I need help on my movie for film club. What if instead of going to a movie we make a movie here instead?

MAEVE

Yeah!!!!

PAUL/LOUIE

No./Uh-uh, baby, no way.

ELOISE (CONT'D)

Pleeeeeease.

LOUIE

(to Paul)

We're about to lose.

ELOISE

I had to move into a new house this week and I'm real sad.

PAUL

Oof.

ELOISE

(to Louie)

Sadder than I've been since you let Mommy leave.

13 CONTINUED: 13

LOUIE PAUL
Told ya. They got us. *

LOUIE
So we're doing this. *

MAEVE/ELOISE
Yaaaaaayyyyy!/That's what I thought.

ELOISE
Now, who's gonna be the weathered
Russian gangster? You're gonna need
neck tattoos.

14 INT. UPSCALE BAR - SAME TIME (D3) 14

SQUEALS! Genevieve wraps Bea in a hug with a big warm energy
we've never seen as the women say hellos next to the bar.

GENEVIEVE
Bea! You look gorgeous. I'm sorry
it's taken so long to do this.

BEA
Well, you're busy.

GENEVIEVE
Please, I've been blowing you off.
But it's just because you're this
magical, sexy Earth Mama who teaches
people how to be perfect parents *for*
a living, and I think I'm a little
afraid my kids'll fall as madly in
love with you as their father has.

Bea examines Genevieve, and then nods and takes her hand.

BEA
Okay, I see you girl. Let's cut
through this: your love for Maeve is
so beautiful. And I understand why
you'd pretend to be my friend to get
her everything she deserves. But you
can just ask for what you want. Sexy
Earth Mama is all ears.

Genevieve is taken aback, but a little impressed.

14

CONTINUED:

14

GENEVIEVE

Oh. Okay, then: I know it's important to you that the girls are close. If you get Paul to send Maeve to Greenview, I'll get Eloise in, too, with financial assistance. Then they can go to school, together.

(one last manipulation)

Like sisters.

BEA

(seduced, but)

Where you two send your kids to school is not my call to make.

GENEVIEVE

But you get a vote, right? You're one of the adults raising her now.

BEA

Oh, man, you are playing me like a sousaphone but I love you right now!

*

*

15

INT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY (D3)

15

A shirtless Paul sits holding a beer. Eloise draws with Sharpie on his back and Maeve draws on the front of his neck.

PAUL

Is this really necessary?

ELOISE

Paul, we're reenacting the knife fight from "Eastern Promises". Do you want to be believable or not?

PAUL

I want a lot of things.

MAEVE

Do you like my prison tattoos, Eloise? I did a puppy and a unicorn.

PAUL

Very gangster, baby. Right?

*

ELOISE

(taking Maeve's pen)

Maybe I finish the tattoos and you go clean the Banya set.

*

15 CONTINUED: 15
Maeve looks sad and Paul kisses her head.

16 INT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - SAME TIME (D3) 16
Louie "casually" sticks his head into the bedroom. Calling off:

LOUIE
Going to the bathroom, BRB!

He walks over to a dresser, rifles through a little mail.

17 INT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - SAME TIME (D3) 17
Becker is primping. Fluffs his hair. Checks his shirt. Makes cute faces in the mirror. Picks up a box of CONDOMS. Opens it. Takes one out. Takes a deep breath and rips it open...

18 INT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - SAME TIME (D3) 18
Louie looks around furtively. Picks up a PHOTO of Bea, Paul and the three kids. Smells a pillow. Then opens a door...

19 INT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS (D3) 19
...and walks in on Becker, who we understand from Louie's face is mid-condom-attempt.

Ah!!! BECKER LOUIE
Oh, God! I, I needed a bathroom.

BECKER LOUIE
(zipping up pants) I'm gonna go--
I was studying! Ow! It hurts! *
Ow ow ow! *

BECKER
Fine, I was practicing with my dad's condoms because I'm losing my virginity today at my mom's house.
(in pain)
Are there any with, like, pleats?

LOUIE
I'm swimming with dolphins, I'm swimming with dolphins. *
*

19 CONTINUED:

19

BECKER

Oh, shoot! The part about doing it at my mom's is actually a secret.

LOUIE

No desire to speak of this to anyone.

BECKER

Yes! Thank you. Hey, I know things are still chilly with you and my dad, but I'm looking forward to us all being one big happy family. C'mere!

Becker throws his arms around Louie, for a really long time.

LOUIE

Wow, we're really doing this. Glad you're still wearing protection. Such a bad joke.

20 INT. UPSCALE BAR - SAME TIME (D3)

20

The ladies now have day drinks.

*

BEA

Girlfriend, I would love for Eloise to be at school with Maeve. But Paul loves that he gets to see his daughter every day at his school--

GENEVIEVE

Okay, mother-to-mother, code of honesty? Greenview is great. It turns girls into independent women and the uniforms make even the sluts look like Christmas decorations. But the main reason I want Maeve there is Paul gets to see her on my days too, and it makes me sad.

BEA

Look, you can drop by anytime to see your kids when they're with us. Open-door policy. I actually don't even lock the doors for political reasons.

GENEVIEVE

Ooh! That's going to change. But... thank you. That's very nice.

The women smile at each other. Bea then looks guilty.

20 CONTINUED: 20

BEA

Okay, screw it. Moms before Homs!
I gotta tell you something. And I
feel confident now that we've talked
that you're not going to overreact.

*
*

21 INT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - FOYER - SAME TIME (D3) 21

CLOSE ON LOUIE'S FACE... BEAMING. It's weird.

PAUL (O.S.)

Stop. Smiling.

WIDEN to see why Louie is smiling. He stands next to Eloise, Maeve, and Paul, who peeks over his shoulder as they look at Paul's back in a mirror. Eloise has drawn a decent portrait of her, Bea and Louie across Paul's entire back. Paul's furious.

LOUIE

What's wrong? It looks just like us.

MAEVE

It really does, Daddy!

PAUL

(off Louie's giggle)
Louie, could I talk to you?

Paul storms out. Louie gives Eloise an "uh-oh" look.

22 EXT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS (D3) 22

Paul exits followed by a smirking Louie.

PAUL

Okay, a man doesn't get treated like
this in his own house, even if he
does have puppies on his neck.

LOUIE

And cheese breath.

PAUL

I met you at a wine and cheese
tasting, I will not feel bad about
that! Look, I'm sorry you're not
over Bea, but I'm here and I'm not
going anywhere. So, do you have
anything else to say to me?

LOUIE

Well, your kid is having sex at your
ex-wife's house tonight.

22 CONTINUED: 22

PAUL
He told you his secret? Wait, and
it's tonight?!

LOUIE
Oh, and your condoms don't fit him. *
I wanted to say that, too.

Paul looks horrified. And then his phone rings. He answers.

PAUL
Hello?

23 INT. UPSCALE BAR - INTERCUT (D3) 23

Genevieve is on the other line, throwing money on the table, as
Bea cringes at the mess she has wrought.

GENEVIEVE
Becker's having sex?!

PAUL
Oh, Bea. It's the salad bar
restaurant all over again. Okay,
yes, he's having sex. And, more
news, I've just learned it's
happening in your house as we speak.

GENEVIEVE
What?! Nope, uh-uh, minors are not
having sex in my house. I signed Becker
up for a teen trip to France this
summer where he was supposed to lose
his virginity in a country with loose
morés and nonexistent sexual laws!

At Paul's, Louie's phone rings. Rolling his eyes, he picks up.

LOUIE
Hey, Bea. This is fun.

BEA
I really messed up. Will you bring
Paul to Genevieve's to run
interference? Drop the girls at your
mom's? Please.

Louie groans. Paul continues on his call with Genevieve:

23

CONTINUED:

23

PAUL

He's smarter than we were, you don't
have to ruin his night--

GENEVIEVE

Paul, I am a great mother. And great
mothers ruin things.

Genevieve hangs up on Paul and exits, Bea running after:

BEA

I do think Europe would be a
wonderful place for Becker to lose
his virginity!

Back at the house, the men hang up. A beat, then:

PAUL

They don't fit me either.

*

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

24 INT. GENEVIEVE'S HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER (D3)

24

Genevieve bursts in the front door, covering her eyes:

GENEVIEVE

Stop everything you're doing!

She peeks around as Bea comes in after her.

BEA

Though whatever you're doing is perfectly natural!

Genevieve takes a deep breath and starts for the stairs as Paul backs in the open door, too, grimacing.

PAUL

Coming in. Hoping nothing is out.

Louie enters.

LOUIE

Well, Bea, we're finally "spending time with other couples." Happy?

BEA

(sotto)

Paul, I'm sorry. I thought I was driving the train and then I was not driving the train.

*
*
*

PAUL

If only we had warned you.

Then Becker saunters in trailed by a mortified Scarlett. He tries to be nonchalant:

BECKER

Hey, guys. Whatcha all doin'?

GENEVIEVE

Becker--

BECKER

Okay, fine, Scarlett and I were about to have sex!

SCARLETT

OH MY GOD.

BECKER

Mom, I am so sorry I snuck. I just wanted a nice, safe environment for such an intimate experience. But, Dad, hey, the fact that Louie told you means you guys bonded, yeah? That's gonna be so much better for everyone in the long run--

SCARLETT

Louie knew? Who's Louie?!

BECKER

Oh, sorry, Scarlett, this is Louie, my dad's new lover's ex. Funny story, he and my mom work together, so my dad and Bea used to chat at company parties. Then after both relationships imploded last year for a lot of reasons, personal growth, different interests--

*
*

SCARLETT

Oh my God, STOP TALKING! Can you keep anything a secret, like, ever?! It doesn't matter-- we are over. I didn't even post about this!!!

BECKER

Scarlett, I'm sorry! I love you!

SCARLETT

Enough. I'm going to Finn's party. And I'll probably barely have fun!

And she goes. Becker gasps, in mortal pain.

BECKER

We were gonna get married! And move to Saint-Tropez! Or Canada!

GENEVIEVE

Oh, sweetie, I think you have some misconceptions about Canada.

Becker falls into his mom's arms, weeping. A beat, then:

LOUIE

You know, it used to be illegal for women to leave their men.

PAUL

Because they were property.

BECKER

(wiping tears)
So much simpler.

The three men nod, imagining that time fondly.

GENEVIEVE

Wonderful lesson, gentlemen.

BEA

Not the right takeaway.

24 CONTINUED: 24

BECKER (CONT'D)

Dad, how do I get her back? Help me.

Paul, thrilled, takes Becker by the shoulders.

PAUL

You remember Goonies never say die.

BECKER

What?

PAUL

It's grand gesture time, my friend!
C'mon, I'll show you!

BECKER

Okay. Hey, will you all come?

PAUL

Can't this one just be me and you,
pal?

BECKER

Dad, this went wrong because I
didn't take advantage of the fact
that I have four amazing adults to
help me now. I shouldn't be losing
my virginity without my parents!

LOUIE

Oh dear.

BECKER

Okay, let's do this!

The adults, mystified, all shrug and follow Becker out.

25 EXT. FINN'S PARENTS' HOUSE - NIGHT (N3) 25

We hear the thump of music from a house party. TEENS stream in
and out, drink on the front lawn, etc. And, across the street
is Paul's Subaru, with five sets of eyes peering out...

26 INT. PAUL'S SUBARU - SAME TIME (N3) 26

The four adults case the house and coach Becker.

LOUIE

So here's your move: go home. Play
it cool, she'll be back.

*

BECKER

You think?

PAUL

No! Becker, your super power is the size of your great big heart.

GENEVIEVE

Oh thank God.

LOUIE

That wasn't where I thought you were going.

PAUL (CONT'D)

You go in there and show her that there is no one who will go as big for her.

(opening phone)

Let's check out my "romantic gestures" Pinterest board.

BECKER

Awesome!

GENEVIEVE

Since when are you into romantic gestures? And Pinterest?

PAUL

(to Bea)

I've been inspired to try some new things.

GENEVIEVE

Right, the sweaters.

LOUIE

(to Bea)

Just revisiting the fact that you're dating a man with a Pinterest account.

BEA

(smiling at Paul)

Is that where you got the crawling-our-initials-in-the-snow idea?

PAUL

Most of my best stuff comes from Craig from Ontario. Does that ruin it?

BEA

Just makes me think Becker was right about Canada. This is a good new thing.

*
*

26

CONTINUED:

26

Paul and Bea share an intimate smile, fight dissipating. Louie * watches this, takes a long beat, then:

LOUIE

Okay, Becker, if you can do something big and weird, you should. Not everybody can, and it might be exactly what she needs.

BECKER

I see what you just processed there, bro, and I love you. But, as Carl Jung said, "The word happiness would lose its meaning if it were not balanced by sadness."

This surprise wisdom lands on all of the adults. A beat, then:

LOUIE

Can I start seeing you once a week?

BECKER

Yes! And I know what we should do!

27

EXT. STREET - NIGHT (N3)

27

In QUICK CUTS, under OMD's "If You Leave," the four adults and Becker run around collecting fall leaves and yanking small branches off trees. Genevieve gets on Louie's shoulders to grab a branch. Headlights from a car find all five swarming a big * tree, looking caught, then running off. Louie and Becker sit on * the hood of a car, Louie pouring his heart out as Becker nods * and listens like a therapist. Finally, they approach Scarlett's * CAR, arms full of colorful branches:

PAUL

So, she leaves the party early because she's sad, but then she'll find her car charmingly decorated in fall leaves--

GENEVIEVE

And why are they her favorite thing?

BECKER

I shouldn't say. She hasn't told anyone but me. But she has some pretty sexy associations with them because of some childhood experimentation after she raked--

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27

CONTINUED:

27

LOUIE/BEA

Nope. Nope nope./Not appropriate.

*

*

PAUL

Oh God!

27 CONTINUED: 27

Paul looks into Scarlett's car window. The others join him and see Scarlett inside, straddling a TEEN BOY, mid-makeout.

SCARLETT
OH MY GOD!!!!

Becker is stunned, and silent for once. A beat, then all four parents start yelling at Scarlett for him:

GENEVIEVE/BEA/PAUL/LOUIE
I will sue you!/I don't slut-shame,
but COME ON!/Enjoy yourself, because
you are going to DIE ALONE!/He loved
you! Is that nothing anymore?!

BECKER
Okay, thanks guys, let's go, c'mon.

The parents throw branches and keep yelling at a humiliated Scarlett as Becker pulls his big, protective family away.

28 INT. LOUIE'S MOM'S HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT (N3) 28

Louie, Bea and Paul enter the dark house to retrieve the girls.

BEA
(to Louie)
Thanks again for handling the girls.

PAUL
I hope Eloise was nice to Maeve.

LOUIE
She doesn't really do that, but--

They approach June's bedroom door, and look in to find the two grandmas on each side of the two little girls splayed out asleep in the big bed. Renata and June snore. The three parents smile at this new odd, peaceful mixing of families.

PAUL
Eloise shared a bed with Maeve! *

LOUIE
Should we wake 'em? It's your night--

Maeve and Eloise stir.

ELOISE/MAEVE
Hi, guys./Hey.

PAUL/LOUIE/BEA
Hello!/Hi, baby./Hi.

28

CONTINUED:

28

MAEVE

Daddy, guess what! Eloise wants to come to your school with me!

BEA

Amazing!

(to Paul)

This means Genevieve is coming over more often. I think that'll be good.

PAUL

I'm sorry, what?

LOUIE

Why do you want to switch schools, baby?

MAEVE

Because she wants to be my sister!!!

ELOISE

Slow your roll.

(to Louie)

Grandma Renata pointed out that one of you might need home care someday and it'll be nice to have family my own age to help clean you.

LOUIE

Okay, you do NOT have to clean anybody. Besides me.

(re: Grandmas)

Also, how are they sleeping through all of this?

MAEVE

They took pills. Can you get us in the morning, Daddy? Renata's making menudo.

*

Paul looks at Bea and Louie, who shrug okay.

29

EXT. LOUIE'S MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - MOMENTS LATER (N3)

29

Paul and Bea exit. Paul shakes his head, amused.

PAUL

So, Becker's having coffee with Louie tomorrow, the lesbian grandmas got Maeve a sister... I guess nobody's into my "more space" approach. You were right.

*
*

BEA

But I should have listened to you about Genevieve. I ruined Becker's big night.

PAUL

It's okay. At least I got my Goonies caper. And the truth is, if we had done this my way Becker would have given his heart to the wrong girl. You saved him.

(realizing)

And Genevieve did, too.

Bea takes Paul's hand as he processes this.

BEA

Baby, everything's so much more complicated now. How about we at least listen to the other's opinions about the kids. Like we're both powerful lobbyists.

PAUL

Ooh, with romantic ties to the Commander in Chief? Like when President Michael Douglas listened to the sexy lobbyist who was also in that lesbian mom movie?

BEA

Sure, we'll listen like lesbian mom lobbyists. Okay, so, there was our first fight.

*
*
*

PAUL

Honestly, in my last relationship that wouldn't've even qualified as a fight. I feel nothing but hope for the future.

Bea smiles and kisses him. Louie opens a window.

"STEPS"

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33A.

29

CONTINUED:

29

LOUIE

At least move it off my porch,
people, I'm trying to heal here!

*

*

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29 CONTINUED: 29

Bea and Paul hustle off to their car.

30 OMITTED 30

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

31 INT. PAUL'S CLASSROOM - DAY (D4)

31

It's BACK TO SCHOOL DAY in Paul's class. Louie, Genevieve, the three kids and the two grandmas all look at drawings on a wall.

MAN (V.O.)

There's a saying as old as divorce:
marriages end, but family is forever.

MAEVE'S DRAWING is of all seven of them, together, with three houses drawn behind them. ELOISE'S DRAWING is of SIX of them drawn on the back of a person who is presumably Paul.

JUNE

Eloise, your family portrait is striking.
Are those stars on Paul's back?

ELOISE

Moles. He's super moley.

LOUIE

(to Genevieve) *
Hey, should we maybe go out *
sometime? *
(off her look) *
Nope, yeah, that was my thought. *

Genevieve moves off to Maeve. Becker has watched this. *

BECKER

Brother, you're taking swings again, *
that's what matters. Grandma *
Renata's got a niece I think I'm *
gonna ask out. *

LOUIE

That's great, but Renata's not *
Eloise's Grandma, she's her *
Grandma's tenant.

Becker looks at nearby Eloise, confused. Eloise shrugs, *
exhausted:

ELOISE

I know.

In the back of the classroom, Bea takes Paul's arm, verklempt at the gabbing group of people who used to be strangers.

31 CONTINUED: 31

BEA
Look at all this, Paul. They're
getting used to this. I think the
hardest part is over.

But then Bea THROWS UP into a trash can. No one sees but Paul.

BEA (CONT'D)
(beat, then whispering)
How many weeks has it been since our
trip to wine country? *

Paul and Bea suddenly look very worried as Bea holds her tummy
and their new family gets used to each other before the next
natural catastrophe...

END OF SHOW