

FAMILY:

The Sequel

Pilot

Written by

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CHARACTERS

OUR NEW COUPLE:

PAUL: Enthusiastic, sporty, dryly funny Brit. An elementary school teacher who loves spending his day with kids, because they keep up, energy-wise. Loves a plan, and a to-do list, and a calendar, and a plan to make a to-do list and a calendar. Super happy to have found someone who thinks he's the best after being left by someone who did not.

BEA: Groovy former doula/energy healer/placenta-pill maker, current family therapist. Is spookily good at reading people 8 out of 10 times. Then she's really off. Sort of controlling about her need for looseness and spontaneity. Feels guilt about leaving the grumpy father of her child so wants everyone to be close for the good of the kids. Desperate for Paul's ex-wife to think Bea's as cool as she is. But she's not.

THE EXES:

LOUIE: Barry Rothbart. Happily misanthropic, supervisor in the shipping department of an Amazon-esque warehouse, delighted to hate his job and be a homebody except that it lost him the love of his life. Moved in with his mom "for financial reasons" after Bea left... but really because he fears a house with just him in it isn't enough for his beloved daughter.

GENEVIEVE: Fast, sexy, adventurous, driven VP of Business Development at Louie's Amazon-esque company, 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. "content."

THE KIDS:

PAUL AND GENEVIEVE'S KIDS - BECKER: 16, sincere, overshares, huge heart, most emotionally evolved of the group. And MAEVE: 9, magical, happy little thing who desperately wants to be friends with her new stepsister.

LOUIE AND BEA'S KID - ELOISE: 9, very smart, dark, gothy little Wednesday Adams-type who delights in torturing Maeve and being significantly smarter than Becker.

THE GRANDMAS:

JUNE - Louie's mom with whom he lives. Sweet as pie and so often consumed by the world. Has recently gotten in touch with her Sapphic side with a woman who would KILL for her...

RENATA - 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 "Tuesday Morning" type surplus discount store.

COLD OPEN

EXT. GENEVIEVE'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY (D-1)

We open on a 2018 Norman Rockwell: divorced parents packing up their children to move from one of their houses to the other's.

In front of an upscale home, GENEVIEVE (polished, type-A) loads kid stuff into a car with her British ex, PAUL (sporty, tightly-wound). Their kids, BECKER (16, enthusiastic, emotional savant) and MAEVE (9, sweet and happy), bring out more stuff at some distance while their parents nervously peer at them and whisper.

GENEVIEVE

They seem fine. Right? They're fine.

PAUL

Why wouldn't they be fine? Our divorce was Gwyneth-and-that-Awful-Coldplay-Guy level amicable. They love my girlfriend. They seem happy we moved in together.

GENEVIEVE

And even if they didn't love Bea, they're fine.

PAUL

What does that mean? You're not saying they don't love her?

GENEVIEVE

I'm saying what matters is that you love her.

PAUL

What does that mean?!

The kids get to the car, looking perfectly fine.

PAUL/GENEVIEVE

Heeeeeeyyyyy./Here they are!

BECKER

Guys, we're fine.

PAUL/GENEVIEVE

Oh, thank God./We love you so much.

MAEVE

Yeah, I love Dad's new house.

GENEVIEVE

Right? On Google maps it looks so rustic! It'll be like camping!

Off Paul's irritation. Remember for the next joke he is British.

EXT. LOUIE'S MOM'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Way across town, in front of a small, working class home, BEA (urban hippy) and her ex-husband, LOUIE (Barry Rothbart), load their grumpy, gothy 9-year-old ELOISE'S things into Bea's car.

LOUIE

...and Eloise, even though it's "your mom's week," if you don't like her new house, or British people, you can always come back early. Right, Bea?

BEA

(to Eloise)

Well, it's your house, too. But, yes, we want you to get whatever you need.

ELOISE

I do get a sense from the new house that someone died there, painfully, and is seeking vengeance.

BEA

But that was before we painted!

EXT. GENEVIEVE'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY

Paul and Genevieve continue to load up and try to be nice.

GENEVIEVE

Oh, Maeve has a dentist appointment Thursday, but I can take her.

PAUL

No, it's my week, I'll take her. Also could have made the appointment, with the receptionist, Jan, whose name I know because I'm an engaged father--

GENEVIEVE

I just thought, your first week all living with Bea and Eloise, you might have your hands full--

PAUL

Living with Bea's not going to change how much time I have for the kids. So, just like we've been doing for a year now, you handle your weeks--

GENEVIEVE

And you handle yours. Got it. I'm not worried.

(beat, then, quickly)

I bring "Little Mermaid" on an iPad
and rub her feet during cleanings
that's all I'll say do it your way.

PAUL

(just as quickly)

And I'm worried about her future
associations between tooth pain and foot
rubs that's all I'll say do it your way.

GENEVIEVE

(for the kids)

What matters is what hasn't changed:
you guys are our top priority, and
we're all on the same page.

BECKER

Hey, are we doing holidays together?

GENEVIEVE/PAUL

Maybe./Oh, no, no, no.

Genevieve and Paul look at each other, surprised.

And now we begin an INTERCUT between Genevieve's house and
Louie's house, where he has the same conversation with Bea:

BEA

Of course we'll do holidays together.

LOUIE

Absolutely. Your mom and that guy
barely know each other! It'd be weird
for them to spend Christmas together.

BEA

Louie, Paul will be there, too.

LOUIE

(not so sure now)

Oh.

Back at Genevieve's:

MAEVE

Do I get to share a room with Eloise?

PAUL

Of course you do!

GENEVIEVE

Did we ever find out how her hamster
expired?

Paul's face says *"Let's not get into that."*

Back at Louie's:

ELOISE

I don't have to share a room with
the little happy one, do I?

BEA

I mean, there's not a lot of space,
but if it makes you uncomfortable--

LOUIE

Just sleep with your mom! Paul will
be fine on the couch.

Bea shoots Louie a look, and we go back to Genevieve's:

BECKER

Hey, Dad, do you think you and
Bea'll have more kids?

Paul looks stumped. Back at Louie's, Bea looks cornered:

ELOISE

Never. You have to promise me.

Back at Genevieve's, where Genevieve watches Paul:

MAEVE/BECKER

Have another baby!/That'd be awesome.

PAUL

Well, I guess never say never.

Back at Louie's, where Louie looks white with fear:

LOUIE

Never ever.

(catching himself)

I mean, it's not up to me. But at
Mommy's age, having a baby can be--

(catching himself again)

--very much her own decision.

BEA

What matters is that you don't need
to worry about anything, sweetie.
We're all on the same page.

EXT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

Boom. Paul and Bea run into each other's arms as their kids unload their belongings from their two cars in front of their charming, middle-class Craftsman.

PAUL
Hey! How'd it go?

BEA
Perfect! Couldn't be less worried.

A euphoric kiss as a new start SONG SWELLS. Paul sweeps Bea up and carries her over the threshold, followed by noisy kids. It's adorable... and then Paul bangs Bea's head on the doorframe.

BEA
Ow!

PAUL/BECKER/MAEVE/ELOISE
Baby!/Bea!/Are you okay?/See? The house wants a sacrifice.

And we SMASH to:

FAMILY: The Sequel

ACT ONE

INT. LOUIE'S MOM'S HOUSE - THAT NIGHT (N-1)

Louie, his mom, JUNE (scared of her shadow) and her "roommate" RENATA (fierce) unload groceries in June's 1980s kitchen.

JUNE
How you doing, honey? Eloise's first night in a new house with Paul's kids...

LOUIE
I'm fine, Ma. It's all temporary. Bea'll be back.

The two women share a look... he thinks she's coming back?

JUNE
Super, she's coming back! And you've done something to make that happen?

LOUIE

What?! No! Women don't like beggars.
I'm just gonna wait for the
colonialist to Brexit the building,
and then here I'll be. Waiting. Like
a noble, American horse.

RENATA

Classic story: boy meets girl, boy
loses girl, boy waits like a horse.

JUNE

You should go on a date!

RENATA

Yes.

LOUIE

Oh, you two are on my case? I've
lived here a year and I don't
remember either of you going on a
date with anyone.

Renata looks at June, who we now see is standing in front of a
WALMART PORTRAIT of the two women in matching outfits.

RENATA/JUNE

You got us./Good point.

LOUIE

I know I did. You two.

INT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - THAT NIGHT (N-1)

Our new family of five stands in a homey, not-recently-
remodeled kitchen, unpacked boxes everywhere. Bea unpacks as
Paul gives an excited presentation in front of a chalkboard-
painted wall with four months of calendars neatly drawn on it.

PAUL

As you can see, my calendar is color-
coded for everyone's activities. Now,
Maeve, Becker, and I -- the old pros --
-- we have longstanding chalk colors.
I've got color pitches for the new
ladies based on your dominant
personality traits, but obviously...
(trying for casual)
...I'm like super super open.

MAEVE

I used to be purple, now I'm lavender.

ELOISE

You are fascinating, such a shame
Charlie Rose is done.

BEA

Eloise! This is all *adorable*, Paul.
It's just new to us to be this
organized. Have I mentioned I once
bounced a check to *myself*?

BECKER

(ruffling Bea's hair)

Bea, you're just a left-brainer. But
the spontaneous messiness that comes
with it is exactly why Dad loves you.

PAUL

What he said!

(writing on board)

Also, I'm gonna pencil in "personal
finance sit-down" Wednesdays at 8.

BEA

Great! Every Wednesday? No, that's
good. Love it. What else we got?

BECKER

(reading calendar)

"7am, first family breakfast,
featuring Paul's famous brown sugar-
baked bacon."

ELOISE

Sweet and savory? I'll need to
pencil in some time just to recover
from that, Paul.

BEA

What's this "Mystery family project"
tomorrow at four?

PAUL

That is the keystone to my plan for
the week. I thought it'd be fun to
come up with a home improvement
project to work on as a family, to
symbolize the life we're building.

BEA/BECKER/MAEVE

Awww./Sweet./Fun!

ELOISE

We should build a pet cemetery.

PAUL
We don't have a pet.

ELOISE
Other people do.

A disturbed beat. Then, determined to be cheerful:

BEA
You know what I've always wanted? A
vegetable garden.

BECKER
I have been trying to go vegetarian.
Scarlett's super passionate about
how eating meat is cruel and makes
your skin look worse.

MAEVE
Or what about a zip line?

ELOISE
Sounds dangerous. I'm interested.

PAUL
Boom! A garden of love with a zip
line over it. The flying children
will keep the crows away.
(writing on calendar)
Okay, tomorrow at 4, everybody be in
the backyard with a tool and an
optimistic vision for our future.

BEA
(giving Paul a squeeze)
The crazy calendar means the thing
I've wanted for ten years happens
tomorrow at four?!

ELOISE
Yeah, I'm into it now, too!

To everyone's surprise, Eloise starts writing on the calendar.

PAUL
Alright, cookin' with gas! And she's
going with green! A color known for
growth, renewal, and harmony--

We see Eloise has written "**GET NEW LIFE**" on the calendar.

ELOISE
Just wanna make sure I don't forget.

Off our budding family. It's gonna be great! Except...

INT. GENEVIEVE'S HOUSE - HER BEDROOM/INT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - MAEVE AND ELOISE'S BEDROOM - MORNING (D-2)

The next morning, a concerned Genevieve SKYPES with a very sad, sick little Maeve, who lies in her bottom bunk.

GENEVIEVE

Maevey! I'm sorry you have a cold.

Out of the view of Genevieve's camera, a ridiculously young, hot MAN in underwear wanders in from her bathroom. Genevieve waves him out, as she continues with Maeve:

GENEVIEVE

How's Bear? Is he sick, too?

A stuffy-nosed Maeve picks up her well-loved teddy bear.

MAEVE (ON COMPUTER)

Yes. He says it's from not enough screen time.

GENEVIEVE

Aw. Well, tell Bear a stuffy nose is a small price to pay for social-emotional development.

We go to Maeve's room as Paul, in a chef's apron, barrels in:

PAUL

Who's ready for family bacon?!

MAEVE

Not me. My throat hurts.

GENEVIEVE (ON COMPUTER)

Maeve's sick. She can't go to school.

PAUL

Aw, of course not.

GENEVIEVE (ON COMPUTER)

It sounds like it's just a cold but if her temp's over 101 call Dr. Chen--

PAUL

Mm-hm, Dr. Jason Chen. Also know *his* name.

As Paul goes to Maeve, Bea enters.

BEA

What's going on?

MAEVE

I'm sick.

BEA

Oh no! Let's feel your head.

Bea feels Maeve's forehead with her hand, then with a kiss. We go back to Genevieve's, as she reacts to Bea mothering her child.

GENEVIEVE

Oh, you don't need to kiss her,
don't want you to get sick, too. So,
she takes 12.5 MLs of Tylenol--

BEA (ON COMPUTER)

I actually do a ginger thing that's
a great alternative, if that's cool--

GENEVIEVE

Ooh, so cool, and then after that
you could give her *medicine*.

BEA (ON COMPUTER)

I mean, *I* hate to mask natural
feelings like pain, because they
tell us so much, but--

MAEVE (ON COMPUTER)

Daddy, will you make sparkly OJ like
Mama makes?

PAUL (ON COMPUTER)

Sorry, no can do. I'll make it even
better!

Maeve giggles. Genevieve hates *all* of this. Back on Paul and
Bea's side, Bea notices.

BEA

Hey, Genevieve, you're welcome to
come visit Maeve today, you know.

Paul tries very hard to just look surprised and not horrified.

MAEVE/PAUL

Yeahhhhh!/Ohhhhhhhh...

GENEVIEVE (ON COMPUTER)

Are you sure? I would love to give
my little sickie a squeeze...

BEA

Ain't no thang! I got you, girl!

GENEVIEVE (ON COMPUTER)

O-kay. Well, if it's okay with Paul...

Maeve looks at him. He tries too hard to nod enthusiastically.

INT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

A flabbergasted Paul talks to Bea in the kitchen.

BEA

Paul, kids want their mommies when they're sick.

PAUL

That's... gender... bad stuff! Do you have any idea what Genevieve will do when she gets in this house?

BEA

No, what?

PAUL

She's going to be the best parent ever!

BEA

So, your face isn't matching your words.

PAUL

Bea, I didn't want a divorce. But some good came out of it. Aside from "finding my soul mate"--

BEA

Weird thing to put in air quotes--

PAUL

--I finally got to stop competing for title of Best Parent in the house. Do you know what Genevieve was doing while she gave birth to Maeve? Making Becker a diorama.

BEA

That is impressive. And unsanitary.

PAUL

She's a top executive at one of the biggest companies in the world, she keeps every project and appointment for the kids in her head... She doesn't even need my calendar system -- her brain is color coded!

BEA

She's just gonna stop by, maybe it doesn't have to be a competition--

PAUL

This is one of those weeks the kids will remember forever. "The week Daddy moved us in with his new girlfriend." Will it go down as the week I gave them a new loving family? Or the week that caused the substance abuse? The stakes for my parenting legacy have never been higher and she'll throw off my game.

BEA

Baby, you are a great parent. It's the number one reason I'm with you, after the face and the accent. But Maeve and Genevieve need each other today. And isn't it the best parenting to show the kids we take care of everyone in our family?

Paul groans, takes Bea's face in his hands, and kisses her.

PAUL

Bea, you're a good person. Could you possibly become a slightly worse one?

BEA

(sexily)

Yes, but only in the sack. I'm *terrible* in the sack.

(then)

Wow, I blew that.

PAUL

I got the gist. Okay, so new plan: today we hang out with my ex-wife in our new home. But tonight, you and I get in our new relationship bed and make it grow old before its time.

BEA

One hour under us and that mattress is gonna have rheumatoid arthritis.

(then)

It's just not happening for me today, I apologize.

Paul gives her a kiss, and they head off to their day.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. SENDYR WAREHOUSE - LATER (D-2)

CLOSE ON: Louie, talking like he's in therapy:

LOUIE

...so, like, if I went to college,
or worked harder on the music, would
this still be my life? There's just
no way to know.

WIDEN to see he is in front of his metal desk surrounded by
file cabinets in the corner of a busy shipping warehouse,
addressing a circle of WORKERS in hard hats. A beat as everyone
waits for their boss' therapy session to end. Louie shrugs.

LOUIE

Anyway, let's load nine-hundred-and-
seventy-three trucks full of crap
America doesn't need today! Break!

Everyone scatters, except for an overly sexualized, middle-aged
woman, URSULA. Sorta younger Jane Lynch. She moves closer as
Louie tries unsuccessfully to keep his personal space in tact.

URSULA

So, Louie, how's single life going?

LOUIE

Oh, you know, takin' it slow.

URSULA

Smart. Don't wanna get into somethin'
fast. You wanna *get in slow*. And
then... *get out slow*.

LOUIE

Oh--

URSULA

In slow. Out slow. In--

LOUIE

Ursula, *again*, supervisor, different
time, Harvey Weinstein, oh, who's
this? Gotta go!

Louie notices that, surprisingly, Genevieve is clicking down
the stairs from corporate in her pencil skirt and boss shoes,
trying not to touch anything. People notice. It's weird.

GENEVIEVE

Ciao ciao!

LOUIE

Genevieve, this is a first.

GENEVIEVE

(taking some wall Purell)
Just thought I'd come down to
shipping, say hello. I like your--
(she just can't)
So, Maeve's sick. I need to know if
your ex-wife's gonna convince my
kids all of western medicine should
be replaced with a crystal and a
hobgoblin.

LOUIE

I mean, the woman likes a full moon
sweat lodge, but she'll see a
doctor.

GENEVIEVE

Okay, good. She invited me over, I'm
sure against Paul's wishes. We're
supposed to be giving each other space--

LOUIE

(perking up)
Genevieve, *your sick kid needs you*.
And if that puts a wedge in between
Paul and Bea, well, that's awesome.

GENEVIEVE

Ha. No, I don't want to blow anything
up. And somehow I always accidentally
push Paul's buttons. But I'd love to
get over there. It's harder to watch
another person parent my kids than I
thought it'd be.

LOUIE

So get Paul back!

GENEVIEVE

What?!

LOUIE

I know, you're like, why would I do
that? He's awful. The obnoxious
enthusiasm, the Mitch McConnell chin--

GENEVIEVE

Hey, how are you doing since the
split? You traveling, having a
little fun on your kid-free weeks?
How great are first kisses?

LOUIE

I'm not sleeping. I'm getting this
rash on my back.

(lifting shirt)

I think it's spreading, like,
downward. Can you see it?

URSULA (O.C.)

I can see it!

GENEVIEVE

I have to go.

Genevieve takes another squirt of Purell and leaves.

LOUIE

Say hi to VP Land for me! See you at
Thanksgiving!

INT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - PAUL AND BEA'S BEDROOM - LATER

Maeve is camped out in Paul and Bea's bed watching movies. Paul
delivers her a cup of tea that clearly smells terrible.

PAUL

Here you go. Bea's fix-you-up tea.

MAEVE

It smells like dog.

PAUL

And you've been wanting a dog!
Mostly for the smell, I imagine.

Paul sits on the bed and Maeve gamely takes a sip as Bea enters
with Genevieve, who carries a large bag.

BEA

Look who's here!

MAEVE

Mommy!!!!

GENEVIEVE

Baby, how are you? Wow, lotta boxes,
sorta like being sick in a warehouse!
Thanks again, guys, for inviting me.

BEA

Of course! Open door policy! I
actually don't even lock the doors
for political reasons.

GENEVIEVE

Oh! Well, that's gonna change. So,
Maevey, I brought treats. Your
favorite movie--

PAUL

Already got "Nemo" on--

MAEVE

(digging into the bag)
"Singin' in the Rain"! My favorite
sick-day movie!

PAUL

(fuck)
Right.

MAEVE

(pulling more things out)
Ooh, and my favorite Boba tea and
new jammies! Thanks, Mom. Daddy's
still trying to find the jammie box.

Bea sees Paul melting down, and jumps in.

BEA

Oh, he found it! He's just making a
fun game for you where you get to
find it, too!
(raising the roof)
Hashtag Super Dad, *whaaat?*!

Genevieve shakes that moment off, as:

MAEVE

Will you lie down and watch with me,
Mama?

GENEVIEVE

Whatever you need, sweetheart.

Genevieve climbs onto their bed. Paul, sitting on Maeve's other
side, looks at Bea, who for sure feels weird. But Maeve's joy...

EXT. PAUL AND BEA'S BACKYARD - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Bea tries to comfort an upset Paul in the yard, where Paul has
assembled building supplies for the garden and zip line. There
is an adjacent open garage and a driveway, piled with boxes.

PAUL

I know Maeve's sick day movie is
"Singin' in the Rain"!
(re: his brain)
(MORE)

PAUL (CONT'D)

It's in there, somewhere, just, like, under something like all the Abba lyrics. How do moms have that stuff like right up front?!

BEA

Baby, shake it off. When the kids get home we'll all build Maeve the greatest yard ever. *Gonna do my very best and it ain't no lie, if you put me to the test, if you let me try.*

PAUL

"Take a Chance on Me"! See, that's what's taking up all the room.

Genevieve comes out of the house.

GENEVIEVE

Are you really digging up the grass? Maeve won't have anywhere to kick her soccer ball--

PAUL

(fuck)

Soccer! Gen, you're killin' me! Can you please go get back into our new sex bed?

GENEVIEVE

Okay, I'm sorry. Do your thing. Maeve can run on my weeks.

Becker bikes into the driveway, climbs off and throws the bike down, high energy.

BECKER

Hey, guys. Listen, I'm sorta in crisis-mode. Scarlett's best friend's boyfriend did this crazy romantic Homecoming Dance-posal for her, where he woke her up with a bag over her head and kidnapped her--

BEA

Um, I think that might be assault.

BECKER

Well Scarlett thinks it was amazing, and now I have to top it. *Tonight*, because it's our seven week first text anniversary.

PAUL
(knowing, to Bea)
Their textiversary.

BECKER
Dad, nobody says that.

PAUL
Not yet.

BEA
So, what's your plan, Becker?

BECKER
Something big. Fireworks? Definitely a
videographer. Scarlett was pretty
bummed our "let's be exclusive" convo
didn't have a postable element.

GENEVIEVE
I do not like this girl. Who's this
high maintenance?

Paul laughs, too loudly, once. Genevieve snaps her head around.

PAUL
Remembering a funny movie.

BECKER
Anyway, I'm sorry, Dad, but I can't
do the family project today.

PAUL
Buddy, c'mon, we already lost your
sister. This afternoon was supposed to
be spent together, building, bonding--

BECKER
Pops, I see you, I honor your process.
But I got a girl coming off a three-
hour-shift at an electric eyelash-
curler kiosk who needs her mind blown.

PAUL
Yeah, I get it.

BEA
Do you need some cash, Becker?

GENEVIEVE
No, no, you shouldn't be spending a
ton of money on this. And if you do
need cash, I'll give it to you.

PAUL

No, it's our week, we got it--

BECKER

I'm cool on money. But thanks, guys.

BEA

Of course, first love is a big deal.
I'm excited for you!

GENEVIEVE

(not faking it well)

Excited too!!! This is very great!!

Becker smiles and trots inside, followed by Genevieve. Paul, bummed, turns to Bea.

PAUL

So the family project is down to me,
you, and *Eloise*? I'd hoped for more
eye witnesses when I gave her access
to saws.

BEA

(checking watch)

Where *is* Eloise? She's late.

INT. LOUIE'S MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY (D-2)

CLOSE ON two little girl HANDS holding two figurines: a SNOW WHITE and a TROLL. They stand on two "mountains" -- knees under a blanket, and the hands move them as Eloise does their voices:

ELOISE AS SNOW WHITE (O.C.)

I won't listen to that stupid accent
for the rest of my life, I won't!

ELOISE AS TROLL (O.C.)

(British accent)

You have to, it's on the stupid
calendar.

A man's HAND hops an AXL ROSE figurine into frame.

LOUIE AS AXL (O.C.)

Be gone, bad-toothed troll! It's
time to rock... like an American!

WIDEN to find Eloise and Louie on the couch making this little play. Louie SINGS a "Sweet Child of Mine" guitar riff as his Axl doll edges the Troll off Eloise's knee with each note.

ELOISE AS TROLL

Bloody hell!!!!!! I'm defeated!!!!

Eloise throws the Troll to the ground, as they laugh. There is a KNOCK, then the front door opens, and Bea enters, frazzled.

BEA
Hey, here you are.

ELOISE
(quickly faking sick)
I'm sick, Mama. I couldn't make it all the way from school to your house.

BEA
Our house is closer than this house.

ELOISE
Not by bike.

BEA
Well, now I can drive you home.

ELOISE
I'm so cozy. Can't we all watch a movie while I rest?

LOUIE
She did say Maeve got both of *her* parents because *she's* sick...

Bea sighs. Eloise is faking, but what's she gonna do?

BEA
Fine. Just for a few minutes.

Bea goes to sit on the other side of Eloise, but she's up against the corner. Eloise doesn't move.

ELOISE
The corner of the couch makes me feel more emotionally supported.

Bea sighs, then walks around and sits next to Louie. Now in the middle, he happily puts a blanket over all three of them.

LOUIE
There we go, cozy.
(raising the roof)
OG Family on the couch, *whaaaaaat?!*

Eloise raises the roof, too, and Louie turns on the TV. Bea looks over at about nine framed pictures of them as a family.

LOUIE
Yep, no *scheduled activities*, just nice relaxing family time.

BEA
(getting up)
Okay, El, we gotta go. You'll see
your Dad Saturday--

ELOISE
If it's really my house, too, I want
to invite him over tonight. As my
guest.

Bea sighs, defeated. Louie looks at Eloise and quietly does his
"Sweet Child" GUITAR RIFF one more time. Eloise smiles.

INT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Genevieve is unpacking a box. Paul enters just as she takes a
VASE out and places it in a perfect spot on a shelf.

PAUL
Are you seriously unpacking our--
goddammit, that's a perfect spot.

BEA (O.S.)
We're home!

INT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Bea enters followed by Eloise and Louie.

ELOISE
(to Louie)
Wanna look in Paul's medicine cabinet?

LOUIE
I'd love to!

BEA
What? No--

Paul enters.

PAUL
Hey-- Louie.
(to Bea, forced smile)
Louie's here!

LOUIE
(peering at their things)
Thanks for the invite, buddy! Love
the new place.
(off a photo of Paul)
Ah, the goatee years. And white guy
dreadlocks! Great to know.

Louie snaps a picture of the picture, then snoops deeper into the house. Paul turns on Bea, who is cringing, as Genevieve comes out with her arm around Maeve.

GENEVIEVE

So, Maeve has a rash. It was either
Bea's tea or the sandpaper sheets.

BEA

They're organic hemp--

PAUL

Let's not--

BEA

Could she be allergic to the coconut
oil in my homemade detergent?

GENEVIEVE

It just keeps coming--

BEA

I'll get some fresh aloe.

GENEVIEVE

She needs Benadryl. I know, it's so
evil, it "makes people feel better"--

PAUL

I have Benadryl and unicorn tears,
so everyone can be happy--

LOUIE

Wait, you can get a rash from tea?

MAEVE

Guys, it doesn't itch, I'm fine.

LOUIE

But if you've got an extra Benadryl--

PAUL

Let me see your rash, honey.

(looking at her arm)

Um, did Mommy write Dr. Chen's phone
number on your arm?

Genevieve averts her eyes. Maeve shrugs cheerfully:

MAEVE

Just in case she's gone when Bea's
tea makes my tongue swell. Hey,
Eloise, wanna watch a movie with me
in the big bed?

ELOISE

Pass. A rash often signals the presence of a superbug.

Maeve looks sad and heads back to bed. Paul calls off:

PAUL

I'll come watch, baby. I think it'd be super to get your bug! Bea, can we have a minute?

EXT. PAUL AND BEA'S BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Paul and Bea have a whisper fight.

BEA

I'm sorry. I got guilted into bringing him just like I got guilted into the couple's Guns N Roses tattoos--

PAUL

Wait, *your* rose goes with *his* gun?!

BEA

(shit)

I hadn't told you that?

PAUL

Bea, this is our first week as a family. Do you think it creates a calm, happy environment when you invite over the guy who wants to stir up this exact fight so he can get you back?

BEA

Louie is not trying to get me back, he's here for Eloise--

PAUL

Right, the nine-year-old you've put in charge.

BEA

I'm just trying to give all the kids what they need the first week we foisted this new life on them--

PAUL

Babe, I love you, but your guilt has turned our house into the world's most messed up commune.

(MORE)

PAUL (CONT'D)

And name one person who grew up on a commune without a substance abuse problem they blame on their father!

BEA

My friend Narwhal's doing much better--

PAUL

How long are you gonna feel guilty for leaving Louie?

BEA

How long should Genevieve feel guilty for leaving you?

PAUL

I mean, forever.

Louie comes out.

LOUIE

Oh, no, everything okay with you two? Hope you're not already in a rough patch.

Then Genevieve joins:

GENEVIEVE

Eloise is sealing off Maeve's room with plastic bags and duct tape. We need to talk about the way she's treating her.

PAUL

I was already addressing that. And if Maeve hadn't gotten sick and you hadn't come over, I would have solved the problem with my family breakfast bacon, which was going to be the thing the girls could finally agree on, thus beginning their path towards sisterhood.

LOUIE

You were going to do that with pork?

GENEVIEVE

(to Bea)

Our family therapist gave us a book called "Don't Make Your Kids Collateral Damage" that I think is the reason our kids came through the divorce unscathed. You should read it.

BEA

Actually, I did read it. In school.
When I was getting my degree. In
family therapy.

GENEVIEVE

Oh! I'm sorry. I didn't know you
were licensed at a real "school."

BEA

(getting more agitated)
Yes, I got my degree at the College
of Reflexive Polarity, which has a
more holistic approach than--

PAUL

Okay, so, the open door thing was a
nice experiment. But how 'bout we
try everyone we aren't married to
anymore *goes home* and sees the kids
on *their week*.

BEA

Or at least if you *do* stay--

PAUL

You shouldn't--

BEA

Let's be respectful of each other's
differing approaches to parenting.

PAUL

But let's do that from our own houses.

LOUIE

You know, it sounds like you and Bea
aren't on the same page here, Paul.
She and I agree that being the best
parent means being available for
what our kid needs, regardless of
"whose week it is." Right, Bea?

Paul and Louie look to Bea. Just in time, Maeve comes out.

MAEVE

Guys, Becker's kinda freaking out.

INT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Maeve and the adults enter to find Eloise watching Becker
digging through boxes.

BECKER

Where are your streamers, Maeve? I
need rainbow streamers!

ELOISE

Huge disaster with the Dance-posal.

PAUL

(can't help himself)
It's a Disaster-posal.

BECKER

Dad!

(then)

I was all lined up to do it at
Will's mom's house, because they
have a pool and there were gonna be
synchronized swimmers, but now
Will's mom's having hot flashes and
said she needs to be alone forever.

PAUL

Becker, this is too much. I asked
your mom to marry me over a sausage
pizza before we saw "Snatch."

(off their looks)

The Brad Pitt movie.

(off their looks)

She said yes.

(off their looks)

Then, you know, we got divorced.

GENEVIEVE

(moving on, to Becker)

Honey, just ask the girl to the
dance. Why did this have to get so
enormous?

BECKER

Because of the intergenerational
transfer of divorce!

MAEVE

The what?

BECKER

Statistically, because they got
divorced, we will, too.

MAEVE

We will?!

BECKER

Yes. Unless we work harder on our relationships than they did. So, that's what I'm trying to do.

The adults all look like they've been punched.

LOUIE

(to Genevieve)

This is one of the unscathed ones?

ELOISE

(to Becker)

Well, this is just a you problem. My parents are getting back together.

What was that? Everybody looks at Eloise.

BEA

What?! Honey, why would you say that?

ELOISE

Dad said so.

(then, cheerfully)

I'm gonna get some ice cream.

And, with that, Eloise walks out. Everyone looks at Louie:

LOUIE

Whееееееere does she get this stuff?!

GENEVIEVE

She *just said* she got it from you.

LOUIE

But other than thaaaaaat.

Off everyone looking at Louie...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. PAUL AND BEA'S BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER (D-2)

Bea walks Louie outside for a chat.

LOUIE

I didn't say that, exactly. Today.

BEA

Louie, I know you don't want Eloise to come from a divorced family like you did, but this is a mess. And it's my fault, too. I do need to draw clearer boundaries. For her, for Paul... for you.

Louie sighs, then looks around the partially built garden.

LOUIE

You asked me to build you a garden for ten years. I never would've.

BEA

(nods, then)

But who wants to live with someone who's constantly nagging you to build her a garden? No wonder you were miserable.

LOUIE

It *did* ruin a lot of TV.

(then)

It's not you so much I miss. It's the three of us.

Bea smiles a little sadly, and leans in.

BEA

Lou, our daughter 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. There is a little girl in there who will be her friend if El would stop fighting her off on her father's behalf. She listens to you, Louie.

Louie takes this in for a beat.

LOUIE

You know, I'm actually happy being a little miserable. And there's a long-legged miserable beauty out there who won't try to change that.

BEA

God bless her. But you did say your greatest dream was that your daughter be happier than you are.

LOUIE

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

BEA

You are never going to Cancun with Axl Rose, Louie!

LOUIE

You have short legs!

A beat, then she laughs. And so does he.

INT. PAUL AND BEA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Louie and Bea enter as Paul and Genevieve try to calm the kids.

MAEVE

(to Becker)

So our lives are going to be as messed up as theirs?!

BECKER

If you believe in math, yes.

PAUL

Guys, our lives aren't a mess.
(off their dubious looks)
They aren't! Your mom's happy, Bea and I are happy, Louie's--

They all look to Louie, who looks at Eloise, sitting, arms crossed, far from Maeve. A beat, then he approaches Eloise.

LOUIE

I'm happy, too. Or, as close to happy as I get. And, baby, I've done you, and, really, myself, a disservice by *implying* that your mom and I are getting back together. Because being happy is more important than staying married no matter what.

Becker is moved. He puts his hand on Louie's shoulder.

BECKER

Lou, you're right. And remember, as Carl Jung said, "The word happy would lose its meaning if it were not balanced by sadness."

Whoa. The adults are all moved by this wisdom, despite the fact that the kid mispronounced "Jung."

LOUIE

You're going to be much, much better at life than me.

BECKER

Love you, brother. Okay, so, back to my love life. What's my big move?

MAEVE

If everybody pitched in, we could finish the garden and you could do it there.

BECKER

In the love garden! I love it!

GENEVIEVE

Honey, that's a lot of work still--

LOUIE

This would be a really weird way for me to finally build my ex a garden--

PAUL

It was supposed to be a project for the *five* of us--

But Bea stares daggers at the adults:

BEA

Yes. We will all finish the garden. Because we're on the same page about wanting our kids to see that divorce hasn't changed the fact that they have a family who sticks together.

Under Bea's stern gaze, they all realize they have no choice.

And now, under a fun, come-together sort of song, maybe even "Yesterday" by Imagine Dragons, we have a fun, poppy MONTAGE of our family building a grand DANCEPOSAL...

EXT. PAUL AND BEA'S BACKYARD - DAY

All seven of them dig up the periphery of the yard, carry wood, hammer and saw and sand things. Bea and Louie work together. Genevieve and Paul are a machine. They're doing it.

INT. LOUIE'S MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Louie, Eloise, and Becker, now dirtied, roll up a rug and collect pillows and lamps. June and Renata help.

JUNE
(to Eloise)
...and when you're older, you'll be
so happy you have siblings.

RENATA
Yes, if your parents need home care
they can help clean them.

Louie looks at Renata: really? Becker laughs.

BECKER
Grandma Renata, you crack me up.

LOUIE
Oh, actually, Renata's not Eloise's
grandma, she's her grandma's roommate.

June avoids Renata's look. Becker looks at Eloise, confused.

ELOISE
I don't know what to tell ya.

INT. GENEVIEVE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Genevieve, Bea, and Maeve, dirtied up now too, collect candles and pillows. Bea picks up a pillow from the couch, then discretely hands Genevieve a THONG and a man's BRIEFS she finds under it. Genevieve nods and spirits them away from Maeve.

EXT. PAUL AND BEA'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Louie holds Genevieve on his shoulders while she tosses twinkle lights into a tree.

LOUIE
Hey, should you and I maybe go out?

Genevieve laughs and laughs.

GENEVIEVE
Oh my God! Can you imagine?!

LOUIE

I know, I'm so funny!

EXT. SOMEONE'S FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Eloise digs up lovely plants... from someone's front yard. She hands them off to Maeve, who furtively runs them off...

INT. PAUL AND BEA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Paul, up on the counter, hands supplies down to Genevieve.

GENEVIEVE

I would never have invited all of you people over.

PAUL

I know.

GENEVIEVE

She's a good person.

PAUL

I know. Makes me miss you.

Genevieve laughs and helps him down.

EXT. PAUL AND BEA'S BACKYARD - NIGHT (N-2)

Our montage ends over the BEAUTIFUL site of the finished garden: twinkle lights and candles illuminating green, blooming flower and vegetable beds that frame a cozy tableau of piles of pillows and lamps artfully arranged on June's rug. The zip line runs over it. Our seven family members admire their work.

ELOISE

I think Mrs. Preiser's cat will be very peaceful here.

BEA

Oh, God, honey, there is not a dead--

ELOISE

Just kidding.

LOUIE

(squeezing her so hard)
Don't ever change.

MAEVE

But we're all still getting divorced, right?

ELOISE

Probably. But at least there's a lot of us now. It'll be helpful to have more people at our disposal.

BECKER

So, you think Mayer's gonna make it?

GENEVIEVE

Who?

BECKER

John Mayer. He's Scarlett's favorite. I tweeted him an invite, and he never said he *wasn't* coming.

They all look at each other: he thinks John Mayer is coming?

LOUIE

Huh. Well, buddy, just in case he doesn't make it, I think I saw a guitar in the garage.

(to Paul)

You were in a ska band, weren't you.

Paul does not confirm nor deny, and we cut to:

EXT. PAUL AND BEA'S BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

CLOSE ON LOUIE, who, incredibly, is playing an awkward, but sweet version of "Your Body is a Wonderland." The garden is only lit by candles as SCARLETT (16, adorable, will break Becker's heart) walks up the driveway.

SCARLETT

Becker? Hello?

Bea, by the garage, plugs in a cord, and the jillions of twinkle lights come on. She nods at the little girls, and Maeve runs out, circling Scarlett with a long rainbow streamer, twirling and jumping. Eloise walks glumly behind her, dragging her streamer. Scarlett looks enchanted. And that's when... another voice joins Louie's. Is it... JOHN FUCKING MAYER????!!

JOHN FUCKING MAYER/LOUIE

Your body is a wonderland...

YES IT IS! HE CAME! John Mayer walks up and joins Louie, who is playing with a famous musician at last!

Over by the house, an ecstatic Becker is holding on to the zip line handle. Paul, amazed at the duet, gives him a push, and he flies into the garden, landing lightly at Scarlett's feet.

SCARLETT

Oh my God! It's John Mayer! It's
JOHN FUCKING MAYER!

BECKER

Scarlett! I love you! Will you go to
the Homecoming Dance with me?

SCARLETT

Oh my God, yes! IT'S JOHN MAYER!
Suck it, Janie, you were abducted!
Tell me someone is filming this!

GENEVIEVE (O.S.)

I am!

Genevieve is filming from the porch. She can't help herself:

GENEVIEVE

But your generation misses the moment
life is what happens when you aren't
documenting it okay I'm done.

Mayer and Louie finish up as the adults who fell out of love
watch the teens falling in. After the last chord, Louie goes
to high-five Mayer, Mayer doesn't see him, and Louie just
quickly points at a tree. Mayer looks at Paul and Bea, arm in
arm.

JOHN FUCKING MAYER

So, are you the new couple Becker
says is so perfect for each other?

PAUL/BEA

Awww./Yes, we are.

JOHN FUCKING MAYER

Cool. Try to do it right. That
intergenerational transfer of
divorce thing really messed me up.

Paul and Bea nod. A beat, then Louie plucks the first few notes
of "Sweet Child of Mine." A little invitation. Smiling, John
Fucking Mayer joins in, and to his disbelief, Louie gets to jam
out some GnR with a famous musician while his family watches.
Tonight, life is good.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. PAUL AND BEA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (N-2)

Paul and Bea stand arm in arm, looking at something:

PAUL
Our brand new sex bed.

BEA
The one thing that was just ours.

We now see that, in their sexy new bed, Maeve and Eloise are asleep. Together, finally. They are adorable.

PAUL
I don't think anything is just ours
until everyone is eighteen. September
sixth, 2028. It's on the calendar.

BEA
The pillows probably smell like
Genevieve anyway. Come with me.

INT. MAEVE AND ELOISE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Paul and Bea sleep, separately, in the girls' bunk beds. Paul reaches down from the top bunk for Bea's hand.

PAUL
I love you.

BEA
(taking his hand)
I love you.
(then)
I actually really like the way
Genevieve smells. Would it be weird
if I got her perfume?

PAUL
It would.

BEA
Okay. Night.

And they let go of each other's hands, roll over, and sleep.

END OF SHOW