

FRIENDS IN LOW PLACES

"Pilot"

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ACT ONE

INT. A SINGLE DUDE'S APARTMENT - LOS ANGELES - EVENING

CLOSE UP on JEDD (early 30s, dry) looking into camera, primping in the mirror before a date. As a single thirtysomething, he's had plenty of time to perfect the routine. He straightens his collar one last time and snaps a requisite SELFIE. The PHONE rings. He picks up.

JEDD (INTO PHONE)
I'm leaving now! Don't hate me!
(listens, disappointed)
Aww, really?... No, I understand,
it's a great opportunity. When
David Blaine invites you over to
watch *The Handmaid's Tale*, you go.
(beat, glum)
Alright, take care.

Jedd looks in the mirror, solemn -- then unleashes a SMILE wider than Julia Roberts in IMAX. Yes, if there's one true joy in life, it's the joy of *having plans* and then *not having plans*. As "I'm Free" by The Who starts to play:

BEGIN MONTAGE

-- Date-night clothes off, CAT-THEMED SWEATPANTS on.

-- MASSIVE SUSHI BOAT from Postmates? Yes, please!

-- Anything good on DVR? Depends -- would you consider 40 hours of *Live PD* "good"? Jedd would.

Off his giddy excitement...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. A SINGLE DUDE'S APARTMENT - LATER

The opposite of giddy excitement. Jedd is splayed on the couch, like a lump of couch meat, half-watching *Live PD* in the dark. He's underneath a free-swag blanket, tastefully emblazoned with the name of his reality show, "MILF Academy." Now that he's all by his lonesome, his "freedom" hardly seems worthy of a celebratory montage.

In the absence of real contact with real humans, Jedd does what any of us would do: opens up Instagram.

He taps on a photo from RUTHIE, a 2015 Throwback Thursday pic of the two of them, along with their other three friends, AUDREY, JORDAN, and TREVOR. The caption reads: "5 roommates, 1 bathroom, 0 murders. That's love. #TBT" #NewYorkCrew."

Jedd smiles, then scrolls through his friends' other photos: Trevor holding flowers on stage, with the practiced humility of Meryl Streep ("Me? Really?"), Audrey pointing at a defendant in court like it's the Scope Trial -- which she's about to win, Jordan with his daughter, HAZEL, and Hazel's mom, ANGIE, in Halloween costumes (Hazel is a PIZZA, Mom and Dad are shakers of PARMESAN and RED PEPPER FLAKES), and Ruthie and her husband, Bert, kissing on their wedding day, unfazed by the tropical storm drenching them.

The takeaway is clear: Jedd's old roommates are living their best lives. But is Jedd? He quickly posts the very winning DATE-NIGHT SELFIE he took earlier. See? He's living his best life too.

Jedd looks up from and takes in the evidence of his solo evening, sushi boat and all. He's gotta get out of here.

INT./EXT. SMALL HOUSE - LOS ANGELES - 30 MINUTES LATER

Jedd knocks on the door -- his friend, DANNY, opens it. He's holding two maniac children, one under each arm like horizontal logs. Behind him, his wife, AMELIA, is chasing a third rugrat, who in turn is chasing the family dog. *Paw Patrol* is blasting from the TV. It's basically Mogadishu -- and yet Danny and his wife are upbeat and unfazed.

DANNY

Oh, hey, man, I thought you had a date.

(faux sympathetic)

Did the uncle you don't have die again today?

Jedd follows him in.

JEDD

If you're implying I bail on romance --

DANNY

Not implying. Saying it explicitly.

Amelia drags one of the kids to the bedroom.

AMELIA (O.S.)

I'm sorry we can't make the fake funeral. We have my sister's fake wedding...

Danny lifts a second kid by the shirt so he can "fly" out of the room, Superman-style. Their third kid, ZACHARY, remains behind.

ZACHARY
Are your kids in bed already?

JEDD
My kids? Oh, I don't have kids.

ZACHARY
Because you're younger than my dad?

JEDD
Pretty much.
(beat)
We're about the same age.
(beat)
I'm three years older.

ZACHARY
So you don't have a family?

JEDD
Of course I have a family. My mom,
my two brothers...

ZACHARY
No, I mean like a family that you
made.

Just then, Jedd receives a TEXT. He reacts, shocked.

JEDD
Oh my god.
(beat)
Steve Buscemi died.

Zachary immediately starts crying.

JEDD (CONT'D)
No, no, no, don't cry. Do you even
know who Steve Buscemi is?

ZACHARY
(through tears)
No, but now I never will.

JEDD
Steve Buscemi was just the dog me
and my friends adopted when I lived
in New York.

ZACHARY
A dog died?! That's so much worse.

Zachary starts crying even harder. Jedd nervously looks around for help that isn't there. Does he comfort the child? Does he call for Danny? Nope. Instead, he slowly walks backward toward the door, opens it backward, and exits the house backward. Off the door slamming shut...

EXT. SMALL HOUSE - LOS ANGELES - CONTINUOUS

Jedd, clearly rattled, takes a deep breath. He turns and looks back at the house, thinking, processing. Then he makes a decision. Jedd takes out his phone and dials.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. TREVOR'S APARTMENT - HOBOKEN, NJ

A rinky dink, cubby-hole apartment that's barely big enough for Trevor, let alone his many hoarded treasures.

TREVOR
(belting "Wicked")
Is ever gonna bring... MEEEE D--
(abruptly stops, picks up)
Hello?

JEDD (INTO PHONE)
Well, hello, best friend.

TREVOR
No. Uh uh. A best friend calls you and visits you and sends you money for no other reason than I saw this really cute porkpie hat that is so me and I promise I'll pay you back by the end of the month.

JEDD
That's why I'm calling.

TREVOR
The hat.

JEDD
Not the hat.
(reminiscing)
I was thinking about Steve Buscemi and... how much he looked liked Steve Buscemi.

TREVOR
Indistinguishable.

JEDD

He brought us all together. If we didn't have him, who knows how things would've been different? I mean, that rare Mandarin duck in Central Park might still be alive, but still... Doesn't he deserve a proper sendoff?

TREVOR

I don't do funerals. All that crying...

JEDD

You love crying.

TREVOR

Tossing the bouquet to see who's going to die next...

JEDD

Hey, have you been to a funeral?

TREVOR

Alright, real talk: do I need to remind you the last time you saw Ruthie and everyone?

EXT. THE GANG'S OLD BUILDING - QUEENS - 5 YEARS AGO

Jedd, supermarket flowers in hand, anxiously waits for Ruthie to come out. Finally, she emerges. Jedd steels himself, and just as he's about to go in... a man (BERT) comes out behind Ruthie and takes her hand in his. Jedd's heart sinks.

TREVOR (V.O.)

You professed your love to her, moved across the country, and no one heard from you for a year. It broke up the team, man. We lost our Tom Brady.

EXT. SMALL HOUSE / INT. TREVOR'S APPARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

As they were.

JEDD

First, I'm surprised you know who Tom Brady is.

TREVOR

(duh)
Giselle's husband.

JEDD

Second,
(letting guard down)
I hear you. I know I bailed on you
guys.

TREVOR

And not to be dramatic, but it was
utterly devastating. You were the
key Jenga piece. Try to remove it,
and the whole tower collapses.
(beat)
The tower is our friend group.

JEDD

Yeah, no, I got that. But that was
a long time ago. I'm not in love
with Ruthie anymore.

TREVOR

Well, sure, now that you're a
Hollywood mogul, you're way out of
her league. But what happens if
someone digs up an old tweet of
yours with a horrible racial slur,
and everything you've worked for
disappears in an instant? Now
Ruthie ain't looking so bad.

JEDD

Trevor, that's not what this is
about. I just... miss my friends,
okay?
(long beat)
Are you crying?

TREVOR

(Yes)
No.

JEDD

C'mon, what are you doing next
weekend? Let's rally the old gang.

TREVOR

I can't next weekend. I have a date
with this guy, Andrew, whose babies
I want to have. It's on Saturday,
but I'm leaving the whole week free
in case he needs to reschedule.

JEDD

I know I say a lot of things are
peak Trevor...

TREVOR
Hold up. Hold up. Hold up. Hold up.
(brilliant idea)
Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

JEDD
I've known you for fifteen years.
I've never once answered yes to
that question.

TREVOR
So, Andrew has this sister who's
smart and funny and single. She's
basically the female Andrew. It'd
be like we were sleeping with the
same person!
(beat)
I'm not selling this well. Look,
come on a double date, and not only
will I rally the gang, I will
personally host the funeral. Throw
the funeral? No, host was right.
Deal?

JEDD
Though I'm deeply uncomfortable
with the transactional nature of
this call... deal.

TREVOR
(claps once, then)
While I have you, can I sing you
the *Pippin* medley I've been
noodling with? It's only fourteen
minutes.
(beat)
Jedd? Hello? I think you're in a
bad area.

TITLE CARD: FRIENDS IN LOW PLACES

PRELAP MONTAGE MUSIC CUE.

INT./EXT. VARIOUS

OVER UPBEAT MUSIC, A MONTAGE WITH STYLISH DISSOLVES.

-- A PLANE TAKES OFF FROM LAX

-- TREVOR HITS "SEND" ON A FORMAL, OVERLY-FESTIVE FUNERAL
INVITE

-- JEDD "LIKES" THE GANG'S VERY WINNING INSTAGRAM PHOTOS

- THE GANG RSVP'S TO THE INVITE FOR BUSCEMI'S FUNERAL
- JEDD, NOW ON RUTHIE'S INSTAGRAM, SCROLLS THROUGH HER WEDDING PHOTOS, HESITATES, THEN HITS "LIKE"
- TIGHT ON TREVOR HOLDING AN AIRPORT LIMO SIGN, WHICH READS: "JEDD (WHO ABANDONED HIS FRIENDS BUT I LOVE HIM ANYWAY)"

EXT. LAX AIRPORT - ARRIVALS - DAY

CUT WIDE TO REVEAL Trevor holding the sign by his car, which is blocking all of the arrival traffic. On the hard cut, music flips to HONKING and CURSING. Trevor is unfazed. Jedd and Trevor spot each other and wave much too enthusiastically.

INT. TREVOR'S REALLY BAD CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Trevor and Jedd drive to go meet the gang. Jedd sizes up his friend's jalopy.

JEDD

I generally support living within one's means. This car is making me reconsider that position.

TREVOR

Watch it, Hollywood. You can shame me, you can shame Broadway, but you will not shame my baby --
(re: car)
Trevor, Jr.

Trevor notices Jedd bouncing his leg.

TREVOR (CONT'D)

You okay?

Jedd stops bouncing.

JEDD

I might be a little anxious to see everyone. But that's good -- not being anxious tends to make me really anxious.

TREVOR

It better not be over Ruthie. Because she's married and you're seeing Andrew's sister.

JEDD

Whom I haven't met.

TREVOR

You have an answer for everything,
don't you?

(then)

I know you think this double date
is for my benefit, that I'll seem
funnier with you there as a
comparison.

Jedd reacts: I wasn't thinking at all.

TREVOR (CONT'D)

But I want this for you. How many
times have you complained you can't
meet the one? I've met this girl.
She could be the one.

JEDD

(nods, then)

You're a good friend.

TREVOR

The best.

They park at their old haunt, GREGORY'S COFFEE & DRINKS. (For
Trevor, a car is "parked" if at least ten percent of it is in
the parking space.)

INT. GREGORY'S COFFEE & DRINKS - MOMENTS LATER

Jedd and Trevor enter.

TREVOR

We only have everyone for an hour.

(explaining)

Babies, spouses, crap like that.
But it's good -- lets you save your
"A material" for our *sibling*
paramours tonight.

Jedd isn't paying attention. He knows when it's safe to tune
out Trevor. As he looks around and takes it all in:

JEDD

This is eery, man. I feel like I'm
in my twenties right now. You do a
lot more "hugging hello" in your
twenties, don't you? People you
barely even know.

(performative hug)

"Heyyyy, what've you been up to?"
"Delivering your FedEx packages."

TREVOR

(grave)

I say this with love, Jedd. You get very "Seinfeldy" when you're nervous.

(defensive)

And that's not anti-semitic, I'm amazing at Bar Mitzvahs.

VOICE (O.S.)

How did the California make you more translucent?

REVEAL Audrey bundled up in winter clothes, trying to pop Nicorette while wearing MITTENS.

JEDD

(big embrace)

Audrey!

AUDREY

I must miss you if I'm violating my no-touching rule.

(to Trevor, generous)

Go ahead. You can hug me too.

TREVOR

(while hugging)

Thanks. I know this is unpleasant for you.

VOICE (O.S.)

(playful, nonchalant)

Can I get some sugar too?

REVEAL Jordan in his signature MAROON LEATHER JACKET. Very masculine. He goes in join Audrey and Trevor's hug, then stops.

JORDAN

Hang on, here.

He gives Jedd his phone to record.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

(one more time)

Can I get some sugar too? Cough it up.

Jedd smiles uncomfortably as he records them. He feels like an outsider. Jordan takes back his phone, then comes face to face with Jedd. What's he going to say?

Jordan SLAPS him in the face.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
You know it pained me to do that.

JEDD
I do.

Jordan gives him a giant hug -- Jedd is relieved.

JUMP TO:

The gang settles into a roundtable. Ruthie, out of breath and running late as always, enters and waves at the group with a big, dorky smile. In her excitement, she almost wipes out two waiters. They greet her with hugs and cheers.

RUTHIE
I haven't seen you guys in four years. That's, like, a billion years!

She gets to Jedd.

RUTHIE (CONT'D)
Oh my god. How are you?!

JEDD
I'm great! How are you?

RUTHIE
I'm great, I'm great. You?

JEDD
I'm --

TREVOR
(re: Jedd & Ruthie)
OK, I can't with... this.

Jedd reacts: Is that really helpful?

Trevor produces a bottle of CREME DE MENTHE from his bag and spikes his coffee.

TREVOR (CONT'D)
OK, now I can.

Audrey quickly follows suit. Jedd shrugs: Why the hell not? Jordan declines.

JEDD
So...
(big sip, beat)
What's good?

As the 2012 opus, "Call Me Maybe," begins to play, QUICK CUTS of our guys breaking the ice, catching up, and pretty soon, laughing like old times. The music fades out and dialogue fades up. We dissolve between chunks of conversation:

JEDD (CONT'D)

Hey, if I can just address the elephant in the room... I know I've been kind of AWOL these past few years, and I just want to say that I'm sorry for --

AUDREY

Booo! Less weeping, more reality show gossip!

JEDD

(smiles)

You want reality show gossip? I've never once seen you watch a TV show.

AUDREY

I read the online recaps.

JORDAN

(mind blown)

So you're the one who reads those.

Trevor starts a CHANT with claps. It's way too long but they try to join in anyway.

TREVOR (AND THE OTHERS)

Give us gossip from your show, MILF Academy, because we deserve to hear it now! Give us gossip from your show, MILF Academy, because we deserve to hear it now!

JEDD

Okay, okay.

The gang cheers and huddles close. Jedd leans in.

JEDD (CONT'D)

So, you know how Scheana got pregnant by Tim while she was already pregnant by Ron?

DISSOLVE TO:

-- Jordan tees up Trevor, not that Trevor's ever needed it:

TREVOR

...it's my first time directing a Broadway show, and for it to be "Guys & Dolls"... When they asked me to do it, I was like, "Sorry, I don't know how to direct."

(beat)

By opening night, I was saying, "I don't know how not to direct."

Eye-rolls from the group.

RUTHIE

Bert and I are so coming. We love doing crazy, spontaneous stuff.

AUDREY

Of which seeing "Guys & Dolls" is an example?

RUTHIE

And other things. Last week, we were like, "Let's do something totally out there." Two hours later, we're picking apples in Peekskill.

Trevor mimes putting a gun to his head.

JEDD/AUDREY/JORDAN

(playing)

No! No! Don't do it! Stop!

TREVOR

It's fine. It's just a water gun.

Jedd, Audrey, and Jordan playfully sigh in relief.

JORDAN

(to Ruthie)

What about kids?

RUTHIE

(coy)

We're talking about it.

JORDAN

Now that kids has come up organically, who wants to see Hazel?

They all do. Jordan passes his phone around.

AUDREY
(precious)
Awww, she is so adorable... as far
as kids go.

TREVOR
(pointing to photo)
That's Baby Mama, right? From your
Insta? I feel like we're literally
best friends.

JORDAN
That is, indeed, "Baby Mama."
Sometimes she goes by Angie. And if
my long game succeeds, she'll be
"my wife, Angie."

"Awwws" all around. They're excited to see Jordan excited.

JEDD
(to Ruthie)
Are you tearing up?

She is -- but for reasons they don't expect.

JEDD (CONT'D)
(to Trevor)
And are you tearing up because
she's tearing up?

TREVOR
(nods, misty-eyed)
I have a habit of co-opting
emotional moments.

The phone is passed to Jedd. He lightens things up.

JEDD
She definitely has your eyes,
Jordan, but the question is: did
she get your back tattoo?

JORDAN
Funny you should ask. Friends,
after twenty-six painful laser
sessions, I am pleased to report
that the Phoenix is no more.

They react: What?! No way! Jordan proudly lifts his shirt.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
See?

No less than two-thirds of the tattoo is still there.

JEDD

It would appear that 70% of him has
risen from the ashes.

DISSOLVE TO:

-- They've finished up and paid.

AUDREY

Welp, I gotta go see a client at
Riker's. Fourteen years old, busted
for selling weed. It's such a shame
-- now I have to find a new weed
dealer.

As they collect their belongings to leave:

JEDD

Whoa, whoa, whoa. This is it? We're
just going off and not see each
other 'til the funeral?

JORDAN

(light ribbing)

You managed for five years. You'll
make it another day. Besides, I've
gotta pick up Hazel's ear-drops.
She jammed a Skittle in there, then
tried to fish it out with a
Twizzler.

RUTHIE

I'm meeting Bert at the... top of
the Statue of Liberty. We try to do
that a few times a week.

They react: That's weird, Ruthie.

JEDD

Guys, I know you're slammed, and I
don't want to add any pressure, but
I've been in New York three whole
hours and we still haven't done...
you know what.

AUDREY

I just told you, my guy's not
available.

JEDD

The other *you know what.*

Jedd is playing his ace card, the one he knows they can't resist. As they soften and trade mischievous looks...

SMASH TO:

INT. RUTHIE & BERT'S APARTMENT - A LITTLE LATER

The rowdiest, noisiest, fiercest game of Pictionary you've ever seen. Sportsmanship has no place here. It's play to win.

Ruthie is at the easel, frantically drawing and pointing. She's clearly made a HAND.

JEDD
Five! Five Alive! Party of Five!

TREVOR
(to self)
Scott Wolf, Neve Campbell --
(nailed it)
THE TIME I SAW NEVE CAMPBELL AT
SBARRO!

AUDREY
(flat)
Yes, that's the answer. The time
you, Trevor, saw Neve Campbell at
Sbarro.

Ruthie frantically circles a RING.

JEDD/AUDREY/JORDAN/TREVOR
Hole in the wall!/Shut your pie-
hole!/Black Hole Sun! /(1920s
detective voice) I need it like I
need a hole in the head!

Just as they reach peak intensity

RUTHIE
BERT LEFT ME SIX MONTHS AGO AND I
DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS!

Stunned silence. They're shocked.

TREVOR
(small)
And you're sure it wasn't
"Cornholio."

As we land on Jedd, feeling for Ruthie and wondering what this could mean for them, we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. RUTHIE & BERT'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

The gang peppers Ruthie with questions. They're confused but empathetic.

JEDD

So he just up and left six months ago, and you have no idea where he is or if he's alive?

RUTHIE

Oh, he's alive.

TREVOR

Did he pop up in the background of a Vietnamese movie? Because I saw this doc about POWs --

RUTHIE

(starting to spin out)

I know he's alive because he took out two loans in my name, drained my bank account, destroyed my credit and sold my identity on something called the "Deep Web," which apparently is the Dark Web for people who don't find the Dark Web creepy enough!

JORDAN

Why didn't you say something? I know it's been a minute, but... it's us.

Jedd reacts, sheepish. He was hardly a reliable a shoulder.

RUTHIE

I know. I have an email to you guys that's been sitting in my drafts folder for months. But then I'd see pictures of how awesome you guys were doing, and I'd chicken out. It's like, not only do I have this secret pile of hell, but I'm the only one.

AUDREY

I'm not gonna lie, your particular pile of hell is... specific.

With the cat out of the bag and the facts laid bare, our gang steps up. It's sincere and second-nature. It's what they used to do.

JEDD

How can we help? And I'm asking for real. Not like when you call in sick and your boss is like, "Let me know if I can do anything." Like you're gonna send your boss to Rite Aid to pick up your Mucinex.

(to Trevor)

I heard the "Jerry" that time.

AUDREY

I'm assuming you don't have a lawyer. You do now.

TREVOR

(with heart)

Tell you what, each night, after the curtain call at "Guys," short for "Guys & Dolls," we pass a bucket around the audience to benefit actors with... doesn't matter. Next show, that bucket is yours.

AUDREY

(to Ruthie)

Yeah, as your attorney, I'm going to advise against committing a RICO felony.

JORDAN

We've got your back. You ever need to talk, any hour, just say the word --

TREVOR (O.S.)

Holy. sh*t.

REVEAL Trevor staring at an empty corner of the living room. He turns to Ruthie.

TREVOR (CONT'D)

I want you to know that your problems are of paramount importance to me. So when I change topics, please know that I wouldn't do so for anything less than a critical emergency.

(beat)

Where's the Horny Chair?

He points to the empty corner, where a chair has left has left carpet indentations. Everyone reacts, shocked.

RUTHIE
Bert sold the Horny Chair on
Craigslist.

JEDD
What?!

TREVOR
Monster!

RUTHIE
(sheepish)
I tried to stop him, but arguing
isn't exactly my superpower.

TREVOR
If arguing is a superpower, I am
the Wonder Woman of Hoboken.

Jedd sees an opportunity to score a win for the fam. He commands the room.

JEDD
Guys, this weekend we say goodbye
to Steve Buscemi, a member of our
family since we stole him from a
bed bug detection van. We will not
say goodbye to the Horny Chair...
which admittedly we also stole. We
did a lot of stealing in our
twenties.
(then)
What do you say? Let's track it
down and steal it back.

JORDAN
I think this crew has one last
mission in it.

TREVOR
Now? Dude, we have our double date
tonight.

JEDD
In seven hours.

TREVOR
OK, I don't know what quicky
carwash you clean up in, but this
Lambo takes time.

JEDD
I'll be there. Audrey?

AUDREY
I'm torn. I like seeing my old
friends. At the same time --

JEDD
You don't like "activities." I
know.

Audrey reacts: You get me. Jedd turns to Ruthie -- is she in?

RUTHIE
Why the hell not?

TREVOR
Oh, she's gonna find the chair? She
doesn't even know where she put her
husband!
(immediately)
That came out more flip than I
intended. It doesn't reflect my
values or who I am.
(immediately)
Jedd, can I talk to you for a min-
min?

INT. RUTHIE & BERT'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - SECONDS LATER

Trevor FLUSHES to hide their conversation.

TREVOR
What are you doing?

JEDD
What?

TREVOR
I've seen this movie before: Boy
meets girl, girl chooses Bert over
him, boy tries to win girl back.
With a Horny Chair.

JEDD
I'm not trying to win her back! I
thought it'd be a fun adventure, a
throwback to old times.

And if my initiative happens to
bring this family back together and
make up for my past, all the
better.

TREVOR

(stares at him, then)
Be back in time for our date. I need your support, and you need a woman who doesn't model for energy drinks.

JEDD

I won't let you down.

Jedd takes his buddy's head in both hands and plants one on it playfully.

TREVOR

(re: kiss)
Thank you.

EXT. QUEENS, NEW YORK - ESTABLISHING - LATER

EXT. QUEENS, NEW YORK

Jedd leads Ruthie and Jordan down the street.

JEDD

So, if Bert sold the Horny Chair, why's all the info in your email inbox?

RUTHIE

(nonchalant)
Oh, he'd often use my email to send financial documents. Because my email is faster.
(beat)
My email isn't "faster", is it?

It is not. Jedd pats her on the shoulder kindly.

RUTHIE (CONT'D)

So, do we know how this is gonna work when we get there?

JORDAN

What's my life motto, Ruthie? "The best plan is no plan." That said, I had a child out of wedlock, so feel free to ignore anything I say.

Off Jedd and Ruthie laughing...

INT. TREVOR'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

Trevor is deciding between a red outfit and a blue outfit.

TREVOR

(sotto)

Jedd will probably wear red, so in that case... I definitely want to wear red too.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LATER

Jedd, Ruthie, and Jordan turn a corner.

JEDD

Do you guys remember when we did that scavenger hunt against the guys across the hall? How come no one does scavenger hunts in their 30s?

RUTHIE

It might be because they're in their 30s.

JEDD

We're not too old for it in our 30s.

JORDAN

(playful)

Bro, we were too old for it in our 20s.

(then)

Which reminds me, I have a child. And I've gotta be done in time to FaceTime her goodnight.

JEDD

First, that's adorable. Second, we're here.

They land in front of the CALLBOX outside the building.

RUTHIE

He's not gonna let us in.

JEDD

90% of people just want the buzzing to stop so they can go back to watching Vanderpump Rules.

JORDAN
(playful)
They're not watching Vanderpump
Rules. They're watching MILF
Academy.

JEDD
Well then I assure you we can
outsmart them.

Jedd presses all twenty buttons. Instantly, ten of them buzz
him in. He turns to Ruthie and Jordan: What'd I tell you?

INT. APARTMENT STAIRWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Jedd, Ruthie, and Jordan are in front of an apartment door.
Jedd knocks.

RUTHIE
We don't even know if he still has
the chair.

The door opens. Boom -- the Horny Chair in all her glory.
Also in the doorway is a BURLY MAN (the sort who might own
furniture made of horns).

JEDD
Hi! This is super random, but we
have an unusual request.
(beat)
You don't happen to be a fan of
MILF Academy?
(no reaction)
Doesn't matter. Word around town is
you have a chair of the horny
variety --

RUTHIE
Hi, my husband - if we can still
call him that - had a habit of
selling my things --

BURLY MAN
I'm gonna stop you right there.
(beat)
What the hell is happening right
now?

RUTHIE
We'd like to buy back that chair
over there. I don't anticipate
having money in the foreseeable
future, but would you be open to a
layaway plan?

The man starts to close the door. But before he can, Jedd jams his foot in the doorway and makes a run for their treasure. He gets two feet inside, at which point the man effortlessly swipes out Jedd's legs. Embarrassing.

JEDD
(on the ground)
It's a family heirloom!

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - 10 MINUTES LATER

Jedd, Ruthie, and a worried-looking Jordan are in handcuffs being led into a POLICE CAR. (No sirens -- they're not necessary for a crime this lame.)

JEDD
(to police)
We're really doing this?
(ducks head to get in)
Can I make one quick call to a friend? We have a double date and he's already insecure about this guy and... you are not interested in our romantic travails.
(door closing)
Wait! If you even knew how much I love *Live PD* --

And it's shut.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

Trevor sits across from ANDREW and Andrew's sister, NINA. There's an empty seat where Jedd should be. Trevor nervously sends Jedd another unanswered text. Andrew and Nina are not happy.

TREVOR
So, Nina, what did you study... in dentistry school?

NINA
(confused)
Like my sub-specialty?

TREVOR
Yeah, that.

NINA
I mean, I'm gonna have to repeat it when your friend gets here.

TREVOR
No, you're right.

They sit in silence. Off Trevor awkwardly smiling at Andrew...

INT. POLICE STATION - HOLDING CELL AREA - 3:00 A.M.

Jedd is placing his "one phone call." Jordan and Ruthie are nearby behind bars.

JEDD (ON PAYPHONE)
(to cop)
We couldn't have used the phone
before 3 A.M.?

POLICE OFFER
(uninterested)
That's a question for intake.

JEDD
Where's intake?

POLICE OFFER
That's a question for General
Information.

Jedd shakes his head. As the phone rings...

INT. AUDREY'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

It's 3:00 A.M. Audrey is fully-clothed, the lights are on, and she's moving about like it's 3:00 in the afternoon. The phone rings and she picks up.

AUDREY (INTO PHONE)
Just doing some odds and ends.
(beat, then)
I'll be there in five.

Off Audrey hanging up...

EXT. RUTHIE & BERT'S APARTMENT - LATER

INT. RUTHIE & BERT'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Ruthie, Jedd, Jordan, and Audrey enter. It's tense. Ruthie flips the light on. REVEAL Trevor sitting at the kitchen table with a MUG OF COFFEE, like a parent whose kid didn't call.

JEDD

Oh, dear.
(then)
Trev, let me --

Trevor just puts his hand up. Jedd stops. After a beat:

TREVOR

Tonight, as I sat across from my date and yours, wondering where you were, wondering if I said or did something wrong, do you know how it felt? Familiar. I'm not going to tell you tonight was important to me - because I already did over and over. But even if I hadn't, you should have known anyway.

(beat)

You know, you go on and on about missing your old "family" But why? Because a family tolerates behavior that no one else ever would? Because a family is happy to see you, even when you've ignored them?

JEDD

(pleading)
Trev...

TREVOR

I'm leaving.

He starts to go, then turns back to Jedd.

TREVOR (CONT'D)

And when I say I'm doing something... I do it.

And he's gone. Off Jedd wracked with guilt...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. RUTHIE & BERT'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Jedd is upset with himself. Not only did he let Trevor down, he may have split apart the gang he so desperately wanted to reunite.

JEDD

I'm embarrassed. And as the producer of a show in which MILFs compete in MILF challenges, that doesn't happen easily.

(beat)

You didn't ask me to show up, and you definitely didn't ask for a criminal record.

JORDAN

Jedd, I don't care about my criminal record. It gets expunged in a year anyway.

AUDREY

(nuh uh)

Does it? Asking for myself. A lawyer.

JORDAN

I know how it feels when you let down someone you love. I did it tonight.

AUDREY

It's fine. I'm already over it.

JORDAN

I'm talking about Hazel. She waited for a call from me tonight that never came. I was a crappy father... again.

JEDD

Dude, you're an amazing father.

JORDAN

Does an amazing father disappear for days at a time because he's wasted out of his mind?

(MORE)

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Does an amazing father have to tell his daughter he's on a "secret spy mission" because he's actually in rehab? It's no wonder her mother is seeing someone else.

They react, stunned -- and, more importantly, empathetic.

JEDD

I had no idea, man.

Jedd moves closer.

JORDAN

No one did. It's not exactly the kind of thing you post to your Instagram story.

His words hit close to home for all of them. Jordan wasn't the only one filtering his life for appearances.

AUDREY

(playful)

If you did, though, it would get so many likes.

They smile. In her special way, Audrey knows how to break the tension.

RUTHIE

(to Jordan)

We've got your back. After all, we did do time in the slammer together.

Everyone laughs. They missed this.

JEDD

I need to make it up to Trevor. All I had to do was show up -- that's all he asked -- and I didn't.

RUTHIE

What are you thinking?

AUDREY

At the end of the day, what everyone really wants... is money. I'd write him a check or Venmo a generous donation.

JEDD

(polite)

That's one route to go.

(MORE)

JEDD (CONT'D)

(beat)

I may have another.

Jedd grabs Ruthie's laptop. They huddle up, as he shares his plan...

EXT. HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY - ESTABLISHING - THE NEXT DAY

EXT. A RESIDENTIAL FACILITY - CONTINUOUS

Jedd, following directions on his phone, leads Ruthie, Jordan, and Audrey to the address. They look up at the building, very confused.

RUTHIE

Is this the right place?

JORDAN

I'm not a theater guy, but I can tell you right now, this isn't a theater.

REVEAL the sign above the entrance.

AUDREY

"The Hoboken Center for Senior Living."

(beat)

Is Trevor secretly eighty years old? He wears a lot of cardigans.

JEDD

Follow me.

They enter behind him -- still very confused.

INT. THE HOBOKEN CENTER FOR SENIOR LIVING - CONTINUOUS

Welcome to... a nursing home. The lobby has a makeshift TICKET TABLE. Xeroxed "Guys & Dolls" posters line the walls. Think opening night for a high school drama club. They hear warm-up music coming from a room back stage and follow it. Jedd opens the door, REVEALING a sight that will haunt TV viewers for the ages: TWO-DOZEN OCTOGENARIANS IN ZOOT SUITS AND SINATRA HATS. Leading warm-up scales on the piano is their director: Trevor. He looks up, sees the gang, and stops the piano. Everyone freezes.

TREVOR

Uh oh.

It's the most AWKWARD FROZEN SILENCE ever, which is finally broken when a RASCAL SCOOTER loudly drives through frame.

TREVOR (CONT'D)
Guys, take five.

Trevor approaches the gang.

TREVOR (CONT'D)
(uncomfortable)
Heeyyyyyy. What are you guys doing here?

JEDD
Something I haven't done nearly enough of lately: showing up for the people I love.

Trevor gets emotional because *of course*.

TREVOR
I am so conflicted right now. Part of me wants to kiss your Jewish head for showing up. Part of me wants to lie that The Hoboken Center for Senior Living isn't a center for senior living.
(beat, lets guard down)
This is how I pay the bills: not as a Broadway actor but as The Hoboken Center for Senior Living's Director of Performing Arts and Activities. They added "Activities" 'cause they were worried I still had dignity.

In the distant background, a PIANO PLAYER begins to play "Fugue for Tinhorns." As our gang continues their heart-to-heart, the drama is undercut as one then two then three "actors" in costume enter frame and begin singing: "*I got the horse right here / The name is Paul Revere...*") Our guys do their best to ignore it.

JEDD
You know I would never love you less because this isn't Broadway or off-Broadway.

TREVOR
I mean, it's not not off-Broadway.

JEDD

I produce a show in which MILFs, a word I'm ashamed to have in my lexicon, compete in a series of MILF challenges, all for the chance to sleep with a 25-year-old who became a celebrity by going on *Celebrity Rehab!*

(sincere)

You're in good company, my friend.

Trevor smiles.

TREVOR

Since we're telling the truth, I would be lying if I said I didn't love working with these wrinkly bastards.

(beat)

I'm glad you guys are here.

RUTHIE

We are too. Can we all just stop pretending to have lives we couldn't possibly have? Who in their thirties doesn't have baggage they keep locked away?

AUDREY

I'm not just saying this to be contrarian, but I actually don't have baggage.

She takes a giant wad of NICORETTE out of her mouth. They could state the obvious, but they let her have it.

JEDD

Ruthie's right. Pretending sucks. You start to feel like the only broken weirdo.

JORDAN

When really we're all broken weirdos.

AUDREY

This is gonna sound like I'm being contrarian again --

JEDD

We got it.

TREVOR

(squinting)

Hey, is that... Andrew?

JEDD
(pleased with himself)
Not only do I show up, I always
bring a gift.

TREVOR
(running to him)
No, no, no, no, no, no, no.
(O.S.)
Pull the fire alarm!

THREE OLD GUYS
(finishing Fugue for Tinhorns)
I got the horse! Right! Heeerrreee!

Off our gang smiling...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - THE NEXT DAY

Jedd, Ruthie, Jordan, Trevor, and Audrey, looking like a family again, make their way to the pond, URN in hand.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - POND - MOMENTS LATER

Our gang stands in a row, shoulder to shoulder, as Jedd opens the urn.

JEDD
To Steve Buscemi, who lived
honestly and never ran from his
problems. You left New York with a
hole that can't be filled -- but I
think I'll stick around and try.

TREVOR
Whaaaattt!

Trevor gives him a giant BEAR HUG and lifts him off the ground. Jedd loses control of the urn, spilling Steve Buscemi all over them, as they share a messy, beautiful group hug.

And as we PULL OUT slowly from our gang...

END OF SHOW

TAG

INT. THE HOBOKEN CENTER FOR SENIOR LIVING - AUDITORIUM

A big rendition of "Luck Be a Lady" with Trevor's entire cast. Jedd, Ruthie, Jordan, and Audrey sit in the back row, smiling at the charm of this ridiculousness.

Then Trevor comes out in costume and seamlessly begins singing a SOLO VERSE.

JEDD
(to Ruthie)
There was zero chance he wasn't
going to cast himself.

RUTHIE
Zero.

And as Trevor belts out his tune -- extra loud for those who need it -- Jedd gives Ruthie a little squeeze, as only friends do.

END OF TAG