

3RD NETWORK DRAFT (Clean)

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COUNCIL OF DADS

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1/7/2019



Jerry Bruckheimer Television
Midwest Livestock

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TEASER

1 **EXT. BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA - PERRY HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY**

We're outside a big ramble-y house on the South Carolina Coast. On the ledge of a treehouse is JJ PERRY, 7, holding onto a rope swing preparing to swing into the river that runs by the property. JJ's FAMILY stands under the tree, watching, encouraging and slowly losing patience with JJ. THEO PERRY, 15, wants this to be over with already.

THEO

Jump! It's easy!

SCOTT

Come on JJ, you got this!

SCOTT PERRY, 40, the dad of the family, has joined the cheering section. He turns to his wife ROBIN PERRY, 40, an OB/GYN, wearing scrubs.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

He's got this right?

ROBIN

(worried)

I don't think so.

Scott stands next to his daughter CHARLOTTE PERRY, 13, Chinese and buried in a book.

SCOTT

Whatcha reading, Charlotte?

CHARLOTTE

Anne Frank. For school.

(yelling up to JJ)

Pretend the Nazi's are chasing you.

JJ

Who?

CHARLOTTE

Bad guys. If they get you you have to go to a concentration camp.

JJ

A what?

CHARLOTTE

What did they teach you in kindergarten?!

JJ
We mostly just colored!

THEO
Just jump, dude!

ROBIN
Be nice, Theo. He's scared.

THEO
You promised to take me driving.

ROBIN
And I will. As soon as JJ jumps.

THEO
If JJ ever jumps.

SCOTT
You can do it, Buddy! You just have to let go when you're over the water.

JJ
What if I forget?

SCOTT
You won't.

JJ
But what if I do?

THEO
Oh my God, he's not gonna do it. I'm gonna go wait in the car.

SCOTT
No, you're not. JJ needs us. All of us. Luly?

Scott turns to the house where LULY, 21, sits on the back steps, staring at her phone.

LULY
They said they'd call by 10 and if you guys are screaming I won't be able to hear.

SCOTT
If the New Yorker calls we'll all shut up. Get down here.

As Luly walks toward the rest of her family, we hear --

LULY (V.O.)

It was a Thursday. I was waiting to hear about an internship. And I was a little frustrated with JJ, if I'm being honest. I think we all were. It was the end of the summer and most of us were ready to get back to school and friends and work. You know, our regular lives. Except for JJ. He needed to jump from that tree before he could move on. My point is, it was a Thursday. Around 10am.

Luly has reached the tree.

LULY (CONT'D)

Alright JJ, I'm here. You can do it.

The family focuses all their attention on it's littlest member, cheering and yelling and clapping. COME ON JJ! ON JJ's face: He's terrified. Close to tears.

JJ

Mom?

ROBIN

Yeah, baby?

JJ

Do you think I can do it?

ROBIN

I know you can. But I also think you don't have to. You can do it another time. Why don't you climb down and try again tomorrow?

JJ

School starts tomorrow. And then I'll be busy and after that I'll be 8 and after that I'll be old and then I'll be dead. It has to be today.

SCOTT

Can't argue with that logic.

Scott takes off his suit jacket and hands it to Luly along with his phone, wallet and keys. As Scott climbs the tree, Luly's eyes are still glued to her phone --

LULY (V.O.)
I wish I'd looked up and seen
Charlotte smiling and Theo scowling
and my stepmom's worried face.

Scott arrives at the top of the tree. He gets down to JJ's level, eye to eye.

SCOTT
Here's what we're gonna do. Climb
on my back, we'll do it together.

JJ looks down at the expectant faces of the rest of the family. Then back at his dad.

JJ
You sure you want to?

SCOTT
Nothing else I'd rather be doing.

JJ climbs on Scott's back.

JJ
Ready!

SCOTT
Here we go!!!!

LULY (V.O.)
But mostly I wish I hadn't been so
focused on my future that I missed
the moment my dad and little brother
flew out of the tree.

And we watch Scott and JJ jump from the platform, holding the rope. They fly through the air, screaming and land in the water, pure joy! And then come up for air, sputtering, laughing. The family cheers. And then we hear a PHONE RING.

LULY (CONT'D)
(excited)
It's them, it's them, it's ...
(realizing)
... not them. Dad, it's your phone.

Scott climbs out of the water and takes his phone from Luly.

LULY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I was waiting for a phone call that
I hoped would change my life. And
then a different call came.

SCOTT

This is Scott.

LULY (V.O.)

On the phone right now is my stepmom's best friend from med school, Oliver. He's also my dad's friend, but right now he's calling as his doctor and telling him the tests he ran last week came back and my dad has an osteosarcoma, a rare and aggressive cancer, in his leg.

JJ comes out of the water and folds into his family's embrace. While the rest of the family celebrates JJ, Luly notices Scott. Clearly the news isn't good.

LULY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

That's the thing about focusing on your future, you miss the moment it changes.

OFF the family, forever changed.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE2 **EXT. BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA - PERRY HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY**

We're back on the big tree. It's leaves have turned the gorgeous reds, oranges and yellows of autumn.

CHYRON: FALL

3 **INT. HOSPITAL - OPERATING ROOM / GALLERY - DAY**

DR. OLIVER POST, 40, African American, operates on Scott's leg as the gallery full of residents watch.

OLIVER

I'm exposing the tumor which has been treated with 6 rounds of methotrexate and cisplatin. We'll see how well it's responded to treatment.

He uses the bone saw to remove a flap. A nurse suctions the area, exposing the tumor.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

The patient is the husband of my good friend, Dr. Robin Perry. Most of you know her. She's an OB?

A few of the nurses and residents nod.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

I banned Dr. Perry from watching the surgery but I bet she snuck in. Robin, you up there?

Oliver looks up to the gallery for Robin. She's not there.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Robin, I know you're there. Come to the front of the gallery.

Still nothing.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Okay, fine. I guess you don't want to see the 90% necrosis we achieved.

Suddenly, from in back of the gallery, Robin stands up.

ROBIN

What?! 90%?

She's thrilled. Oliver is just as thrilled as she is.

OLIVER
This is really good. The chemo's
doing it's thing.

ROBIN
Oh Ollie. That's the most beautiful
dead tumor I've ever seen.

He and Robin share a look of relief. She tears up.

OLIVER
Someone get Dr. Perry a tissue and
see to it that she leaves the gallery
so I can rebuild her husband's leg.

OFF Oliver, continuing his work and smiling under his mask --

4 **INT. HOSPITAL - PATIENT ROOM - DAY**

Scott wakes up disoriented after surgery and sees Robin hovering over him. She talks in that soft, whispery way you talk to people who are in the ICU and seem really fragile.

ROBIN
Hi! You did great! Oliver removed
the tumor. He wants you to do a few
more rounds of chemo, but we'll worry
about that later. Right now you
should feel really good. I feel
good. Oliver feels good. Right
Oliver?

She turns and we see Oliver standing next to her. Oliver has the build of a football player, which he was, at Duke. A gentle giant, you want him in your corner.

OLIVER
I feel good.

ROBIN
The kids say hi! They're doing great.
Although they were a little worried
about the surgery so I got them a
dog.
(Scott just stares at
her. Uncomprehending.)
Yay?!

Scott closes his eyes.

OLIVER
I think you killed him.

5 **EXT. PERRY HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY**

We're on that DOG, barking. At LARRY MALVERN, 60, clean-cut, used to being in charge, at the front door holding a lasagna. Theo answers, while trying to calm the dog.

THEO

Cowboy! Sit! Sit! I said SIT!

LARRY

Don't repeat yourself. You keep saying it and all the dog hears is noise. Say it once. And say it like you mean it.

(to the dog)

Sit.

The dog sits. Larry hands an amazed Theo the pan.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Reheat it at 350 for 20 minutes.

Larry walks away.

THEO

Wait! Who are you?!

LARRY

(over his shoulder)

Larry. I'm a friend of your dad's.

6 **INT. PERRY HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT**

Scott hobbles into the house accompanied by Oliver. There's a banner hanging up that says, "WELCOME HOME, DAD!"

SCOTT

I'm home!!!

Cowboy comes to greet him, Scott pets him.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

You must be Cowboy! Hey Buddy!

Suddenly from the kitchen, the stairs, the study, the family comes running. JJ first. He sees Scott and immediately runs back into the kitchen.

JJ

He's home! Mom, he's home!

Robin has arrived, as well as Theo and Charlotte, who is accompanied by TESS, 13, her best friend as well as Oliver's daughter. There is a lot of Hi! You're home!

You look great! JJ runs in carrying a cake.

JJ (CONT'D)

We made you a cake! Look! Can we eat it now?

ROBIN

Let's give your dad a second to get in the house.

OLIVER

Tess, come on. Let's go.

TESS

I want cake.

OLIVER

We need to give these guys some family time. Come on.

(then)

Be careful of his leg. It's a work of art if I do say so myself.

Oliver and Tess leave. Scott sits in the living room.

SCOTT

It is so good to be home.

JJ

Cool crutches.

JJ puts down the cake on a side table and starts playing with Scott's crutches.

ROBIN

Let me get plates and a knife for the cake.

SCOTT

Theo, how was the game last night?

ROBIN

(over her shoulder)

Let's not talk about it right now.

JJ

Theo missed a field goal and the team lost and now he wants to quit.

THEO

It's called a field goal JJ, and shut up.

CHARLOTTE

Rip the bandaid, Theo. Dad's happy.
Now's the time to plead your case.

SCOTT

You want to quit just because of one
bad kick?

THEO

It's not just one bad kick. It's a
lot of bad kicks.

SCOTT

So maybe kicker isn't your position.
Talk to the coach ...

THEO

I hate football, Dad.

SCOTT

Since when?

THEO

Since I suck at it.

Robin has reentered with the plates.

SCOTT

Did you say he could quit?

ROBIN

I didn't say anything except that we
shouldn't talk about it right when
you got home. Let's eat cake!

They all turn and see Cowboy, paws up on the table, his face
buried in the cake.

JJ

My cake! Cowboy, bad dog!

THEO

You shouldn't have left it so close
to the edge!

ROBIN

Dammit! You guys! Somebody get the
dog and put him in his crate.

CHARLOTTE

Come here you bad boy.

Charlotte takes the dog and pulls him into the kitchen.

ROBIN

(flustered)

This isn't ... I wanted ... I'm sorry honey, this isn't how I wanted your homecoming to go.

Scott smiles.

SCOTT

Are you kidding? Chaos. Kids fighting? An untrained dog? It's perfect. Seriously. The only thing missing is Luly. Where is she?

7 **INT. HOSPITAL - MEETING ROOM - NIGHT**

Luly is in a cancer support group with 8-10 people her age.

LULY

My mom got pregnant in high school and couldn't deal or whatever so she wasn't really in my life. It was just me and my dad 'til I was like 8 and he met my stepmom. Anyway, there was this one time when I was in like kindergarten and there was a food drive at school so I took this can of corn from the cupboard and my dad goes, "What are you doing?" And I go, "We're collecting food at school for the poor" and my dad goes, "We're the poor, Luly."

She sees the others staring at her sympathetically.

LULY (CONT'D)

No, it's not like ... we're not poor anymore, we're good and I wasn't saying that like, 'Oh feel sorry for me, I was poor.' I'm saying I didn't realize we were poor because my dad ... he just made it seem like we were fine. He's a great dad.

OFF Luly, fighting back tears.

8 **INT. HOSPITAL - MEETING ROOM - LATER**

Luly's leaving, and a member of the group, EVAN NORRIS, early twenties, a tall, geeky art nerd, approaches.

EVAN

Hey. I remember you from high school. I was in AP history with you.

LULY

Oh. Hi. I think I vaguely remember.

EVAN

Yeah, I'm one of those people that other people vaguely remember.

LULY

No, I didn't mean it like you're unmemorable. I meant it like ... you're out of context.

EVAN

You didn't expect to see your secret crush from high school at Cancer Support Group?

LULY

(this guy's charming)
Exactly.

Evan holds his hand out.

EVAN

Evan Norris.
(beat)
I don't know why I went for the handshake but now my hand is out there and I'm committed.

LULY

I like a guy who commits to an action.

She shakes his hand.

LULY (CONT'D)

Luly. Perry.

They stand there shaking hands and smiling in a flirty way.

EVAN

Nice to see you here, Luly Perry.
(then)
I mean, not nice. Because, well, cancer. Anyway, I should go. My mom gets chemo while I do group and then we go to Denny's while she still has an appetite. I know. My life is amazing.

We kind of love these two lost souls.

9 **INT. PERRY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Robin comes home tired and finds JJ building Legos.

JJ

Dad has a surprise for you and I'm not supposed to tell so don't ask me. Also, Luly's at work, Theo's at Tyler's and Charlotte's in her closet with Tess.

10 **INT. PERRY HOUSE - CHARLOTTE'S ROOM - DAY**

Robin knocks on Charlotte's closet door.

ROBIN

Charlotte honey?

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)

Hi, Mom.

TESS (O.S.)

Hi, Mrs. Perry, how was work? Did you deliver any cute babies?

ROBIN

Um, yeah. Why don't you girls come out and I'll tell you all about it.

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)

We're really busy.

TESS (O.S.)

Doing homework.

Long pause.

ROBIN

I just think it's weird that you spend so much time in your closet when you have this nice bedroom.

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)

It's cozy.

Robin walks away.

11 **INT. PERRY HOUSE - CHARLOTTE'S CLOSET - CONTINUOUS**

Charlotte and Tess sit on the floor of the large closet that has been turned into a fort of sorts. Tess is holding directions for a 23&Me genetic testing kit and Charlotte is spitting into a test tube.

TESS

She's gone. Keep spitting.

CHARLOTTE

Why do they need so much spit?

TESS

I don't know. But it says it has to be full. And then we send it off and they see if they can match you up with any blood relatives.

CHARLOTTE

I just feel like it would be cool to know who I look like and stuff.

TESS

Totally. I look at my birth mom and I'm like, I guess I will get boobs some day.

CHARLOTTE

I read somewhere that one adopted Chinese kid in California did this and found a sister in Florida and now they're best friends and even though they were raised apart they love the same random stuff and they both named their cats Chairman Meow.

TESS

Good cat name.

CHARLOTTE

Right?

TESS

Keep spitting.

OFF Charlotte and Tess, co-conspirators.

12 **EXT. PERRY HOUSE - BACK YARD - DAY**

Robin finds Scott in the vegetable garden admiring the crop of pumpkins.

SCOTT

You believe this? The biggest crop I've ever had.

ROBIN

You should ignore the garden more often.

(MORE)

ROBIN (CONT'D)

(She kisses him)

I'm worried about Charlotte. She's holed up in that closet all the time.

SCOTT

She's fine. It's a fort. Kids love forts.

ROBIN

This is some 'my dad has cancer and I can't deal with it so I'm gonna hide in my closet and pretend I'm Anne Frank' thing.

(Scott laughs)

It's not funny!

SCOTT

I know. But it kind of is.

Robin starts laughing because it is kinda funny.

ROBIN

JJ says you have a surprise for me.

SCOTT

Oh, yeah. You ready? Cause it's gonna blow your mind.

ROBIN

I'm scared.

Scott drops his crutches and takes a few steps.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Your new leg!

SCOTT

It works. I'm walking, I'm talking.
(putting his arms
around her)

I'm dancing with my beautiful wife.

They kiss. It's sweet. And sexy. And then --

ANTHONY (O.S.)

Where the hell is your chicken stock?!

Scott and Robin look up toward the house and see ANTHONY LAVELLE, 40, handsome and scruffy, heart on his sleeve, standing in the back doorway.

13 INT. PERRY HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Robin and Scott find Anthony rooting around the freezer. JJ sits on the island, watching.

SCOTT

Anthony, what are you doing here?

ANTHONY

I came to make you chicken soup.
And fatten you up.

ROBIN

You came from Atlanta?

ANTHONY

Yes, and I have to go back tonight,
so I'd better get to work. Where's
your chicken stock?

Robin has pulled a can of stock from the cupboard.

ROBIN

Here.

Anthony looks at it horrified.

ANTHONY

Store bought chicken broth? JJ, the
fact that they're serving you this
is criminal.

JJ

My dad doesn't really cook anymore
since he bought the Crab Shack.

Anthony stops in his tracks.

ANTHONY

What? Hold on. You bought the Crab
Shack? I get these long chatty emails
from you about your cancer and the
chemo and you leave out the fact
that you, Scott Perry, have bought
the Crab Shack?

Scott smiles. Pleased.

SCOTT

I bought the Crab Shack.

Anthony puts down the can of soup.

ANTHONY

Then what the hell are we still doing here?

14 **INT. CRAB SHACK - NIGHT**

The food is the star here, not the decor, which is simple - wooden tables, red leather booths, a bar and a jukebox. Scott and Anthony work their way through a plate of crab legs while Anthony regales Luly, who's working there as a waitress, with stories.

ANTHONY

I met your dad here a million years ago. We were oyster shuckers.

LULY

Did you know my mom?

ANTHONY

Yep. Sure did.

SCOTT

She got pregnant with you that summer.

ANTHONY

I remember the night you were born. Your dad came in here and we toasted you. Then he said it was the last drink he was ever gonna take.

SCOTT

And it was. Until the next night. I had a few hundred last drinks before it finally took.

ANTHONY

You, Luly Bell, were his lucky charm.

A customer enters.

LULY

Hold on, I got a customer.

She goes.

SCOTT

She still is. Turned down a fancy internship in New York to help me get through this.

ANTHONY

Speaking of "this" ... how are you?

SCOTT

Oh, you know ... Robin's a nervous wreck and Theo's pissed. Luly's life's on hold and Charlotte ... who knows how Charlotte is. JJ seems to be handling this the best. Probably because the attention's off him for once.

ANTHONY

No, not the kids, not Robin, you. How are you?

Scott thinks for a minute.

SCOTT

I'm doing chemo to kill whatever cancer is still lurking. After a year of clean scans I get to feel 'reasonably optimistic' according to my doctor. So, I don't know how I am. Ask me in a year. How about you? How's Pelago?

ANTHONY

We got named Best New Restaurant in Atlanta. I mean, it's not a Michelin Star, but still.

SCOTT

That's great! So how do you feel?

ANTHONY

It's gonna mean more work, more headaches, less of a life. I don't know how I feel yet. Ask me in a year.

SCOTT

It's a date.

OFF the two friends, happy to be reunited ...

15 **INT. PERRY HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT**

Scott comes home and finds JJ waiting up for him.

JJ

I think mom has chemo.

16 **INT. PERRY HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT**

Scott finds Robin brushing her teeth.

SCOTT

JJ says you've been throwing up.
Are you sick?

ROBIN

You know all that life affirming sex
we had when you first got diagnosed?
Well, it affirmed life. I'm pregnant.

She can't even look at him directly. She's looking in the
bathroom mirror, afraid of his reaction.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

I was so crazy after you got diagnosed
I must have missed a few pills. I'm
sorry, Babe --

SCOTT

Robin --

ROBIN

About everything. I should have
caught your cancer earlier. I'm a
doctor. Maybe you were limping and
I missed it. I hate the fact that a
blood test you took for insurance
caught your cancer and I didn't.

Scott takes her by the shoulders and turns her around.

SCOTT

Me getting cancer is not your fault.
It just isn't. And you being pregnant
isn't good news ... it's the best
news. We're gonna have a baby.

She nods, tears streaming down her face. But happy tears.
Relief. And suddenly Scott knows exactly how he feels.
Overjoyed. And grateful. And lucky. OFF the two of them,
holding onto hope ...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

17 **EXT. BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA - PERRY HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY**

The leaves are off the big tree, the rope swing sways in the icy breeze. The water looks cold and uninviting.

CHYRON: WINTER

18 **INT. CRAB SHACK - DAY**

Luly's getting ready to open. Evan is painting a huge mural on the wall - funny, surreal crabs and underwater life.

LULY

You really gave that 'Stone Crab' so much character, look at those eyes.

She points at a particularly animated crustacean.

EVAN

Thanks, it's suppose to be Sebastian from the Little Mermaid.

LULY

Sebastian's a lobster, not a crab!

EVAN

You are a hundred percent wrong. Look it up.

Luly gets out her phone and checks, her face falls.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Hah! How did you not know that? Your job is literally 'She sells seashells by the seashore'.

LULY

Can you say that five times fast?

EVAN

No, that's way too hard, but I can keep up with Kanye.

Kanye's "Monster" is playing, Evan turns up the stereo and starts rapping along.

EVAN (CONT'D)

(rapping)

"OK, first things first I'll eat your brains. Then I'mma start rocking gold teeth and fangs."

Luly drops her jaw, flabbergasted by Evan's rhythm.

EVAN (CONT'D)

"Cause that's what a motherfricken monster do. Hairdresser from Milan, that's the monster do."

Luly jumps in, taking control and bringing some dance moves with her. Evan starts dancing, keeping up with Luly's pace.

LULY

"And I'll say bride of Chucky is Child's play. Just killed another career it's a mild day. Beside Ye they can't stand besides me. I think me you, and Am' should menage Friday."

The pair face one another ready to release the end of the verse, they inch closer after each line.

BOTH

"Pink wig thick ass give'em whip lash. I think big, get cash, make'em blink fast. Now look at what you just saw. This is what you live for!"

They both scream into the air like animals.

BOTH (CONT'D)

"I'm a motherfricken monster!"

They collapse into one another, laughing and go in for a KISS that surprises them both. They don't hear Scott enter. He's off crutches and his hair is growing back, suggesting chemo's over. He stands there for a second before they become aware of him. Luly pushes Evan off and straightens her apron.

LULY

Dad! Hi!

Scott's looking at Evan and the mural.

SCOTT

Who are you and what is that?

Evan turns towards Scott with an outstretched hand.

EVAN

My name's Evan and that is a crab.
Sir.

Scott looks at Evan, the mural and now at Luly.

SCOTT

Luly, a minute?

19 **INT. CRAB SHACK - SCOTT'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER**

Scott's at his desk when Luly enters.

SCOTT

What's going on?

LULY

Evan is a friend from therapy and an amazing artist and he offered to do the mural. Why? Don't you like it?

SCOTT

No. I love it, but ...

LULY

Right? It adds a certain 'come here and eat seafood but also come here and just chill with friends' vibe.

SCOTT

Luly! I meant ... what's going on with you and the guy?

LULY

Nothing. We're just ... hanging out.

SCOTT

I just ... You know how grateful I am that you stepped in to help out here, but it's just temporary. I have two more rounds of chemo then I'll be back full time.

LULY

I know.

SCOTT

You've always had such big dreams ... to move to New York and be a writer and ... I'd hate to be responsible for you sidetracking your life.

LULY

Oh. Yeah. No. I'm good. I'm just ... I kissed a guy. We're not engaged.

SCOTT

Okay, I just ... being a dad, here.

She gets up to go, then turns back.

LULY

Is that how you see it, though?
That I sidetracked your life?

Scott is stunned.

SCOTT

What? No ...

LULY

You were gonna go to cooking school
in Paris like Anthony but instead
you got stuck here with me.

SCOTT

That's not what happened. I chose
you. I chose to be your dad. Your
mom didn't feel like she was ready
to be a mom, and that was her choice
but I ... you were mine. And I don't
regret it for a second.

A beat. Has she heard him? Hard to tell.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

I just want to make sure you're
choosing your future.

OFF Luly, thinking ...

20 **EXT. DMV - DAY**

Robin and JJ wait in those plastic chairs particular to DMV
waiting areas. Robin looks anxiously out the windows while
JJ reads from a booklet.

JJ

If your vehicle starts to hydroplane,
you should ...?

ROBIN

Say a prayer.

JJ

Remove your foot from the brake.

ROBIN

No, I mean, say a prayer that he
passed. Here he comes.

We see Theo walking toward the two of them with a Driving Instructor. OFF Robin's hopeful face ...

21 **INT. PERRY HOUSE - LATER**

Charlotte answers the door to find Larry holding a giant Christmas tree. Larry brings it into the house and places it in the living room - it already has a stand.

LARRY

Fraser fir. Needs lots of water.

CHARLOTTE

Thanks, Larry.

Larry leaves and Charlotte returns to the table and sits with Tess who is doing homework. They both have their laptops.

TESS

Why is he always doing stuff for you guys?

CHARLOTTE

The cancer thing either makes people really weird or really nice.

Charlotte sees an email pop up.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Oh My God. I just got a notification from 23&Me.

TESS

Deep breaths. Are you ready to find your long lost family?

CHARLOTTE

The chances that I'm going to match with anyone are slim, so whatever.

TESS

Exactly. I'm barely interested. I'm like, gonna check my insta while you log in.

Who are they kidding? They're dying with anticipation.

CHARLOTTE

I'm so nervous.

TESS

Me too!

The girls log in to 23&Me. They click and click and ...

TESS (CONT'D)

You have a match!

Suddenly Scott comes down the stairs.

SCOTT

Hey Char Char, Tess.
(looks over their
shoulder)
What's that?

Charlotte closes it.

CHARLOTTE

Nothing. Homework. For school.

SCOTT

(suspicious)
Do I need to be worried that you're
looking at porn or short-selling
stocks?

CHARLOTTE

(changing the subject)
Larry brought a tree.
(then)
How do you know him again?

SCOTT

I just know him. People know people.
You know Tess. I know Larry.

CHARLOTTE

Oh, right, AA.

Theo comes in, mad.

THEO

I failed. The instructor hated me
from the second he saw me. I never
even had a chance.

SCOTT

What did he say?

THEO

That I failed.

SCOTT

Did he give you a reason?

THEO

Yeah, I'm a terrible driver.

Theo stomps off, Scott yells after him.

SCOTT

You're gonna fail a lot of things in life! But the most important thing is how we respond to defeat. Do we let it defeat us? Theo?! Get back down here!!

JJ enters.

JJ

Mom had to go to the hospital and she said to be nice to Theo because he thinks the world is against him.

CHARLOTTE

Too late.

OFF Scott, worried that his family is falling apart.

22 **INT. PERRY HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATER**

Scott, Charlotte, JJ and Theo eat dinner. Theo is still sulking.

SCOTT

So there was a guy, a famous guy, he was Superman in the movies when I was your age. His name was Christopher Reeve. And he was in a terrible accident. He got thrown off a horse and broke his neck and was paralyzed and couldn't walk anymore. But you know what? He didn't give up or get bitter. Sure he had bad days but he still had a positive attitude.

All the kids look at him like why are you telling us this?

CHARLOTTE

And you're saying that Theo should be happy because even though he can't drive he can still walk?

SCOTT

I'm saying that you gotta accept defeat and pick yourself back up.

THEO

What's Christopher Reeve doing now?

SCOTT

He's dead. Never mind. Bad example.

More silence.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

JJ, how was school?

JJ

Miles got pushed off the monkey bars
by a third grader.

SCOTT

Oh no. Was he hurt?

JJ

Yeah.

SCOTT

Did you help him?

JJ

No. I was on the other side of the
playground.

SCOTT

Did you tell the kid who pushed him
that was a mean thing to do?

JJ

He's a third grader.

SCOTT

So you just sat there?

JJ

I was really far away.

SCOTT

Charlotte, you're studying WWII in
class, right?

CHARLOTTE

Yeah.

SCOTT

During WWII were there people who
looked the other way while their
neighbors were dragged off and killed?

JJ

Miles wasn't killed. He just had to go to the nurse.

SCOTT

That's not my point ...

ROBIN (O.S.)

What is your point?

They turn. Robin's home.

SCOTT

Hi honey, I didn't see you ...

ROBIN

You don't get to compare our kid to a Nazi.

SCOTT

These guys need to stand up to bullies.

ROBIN

They do.

SCOTT

He didn't.

ROBIN

You need to stop. Lately everything is a lesson or a teaching moment with you ...

SCOTT

I want them to know my values!

ROBIN

You have a lifetime to teach them your values. You're here. You're gonna be here for a long time. Your new daughter's gonna need you.

This gets everyone's attention.

SCOTT

It's a girl? How do you know?

ROBIN

I'm an OB/GYN and I have access to some high-level equipment. I was so excited to tell you but then I walked in and you were busy calling JJ a Nazi.

She storms out. Silence.

SCOTT
I'm such an asshole.

JJ
Don't say asshole.

SCOTT
Actually JJ, here's a lesson for
you: when you're being an asshole,
it's okay to call yourself one.

23 **EXT. PERRY HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT**

Scott finds Robin decorating the porch for the holidays.

SCOTT
I know you're right. I can't shove
my lessons down the kid's throats or
else they're gonna wish I was dead.

ROBIN
Say it again.

SCOTT
What?

ROBIN
That I'm right.

SCOTT
You're always right.
(beat)
But what if I get other guys to shove
my lessons down the kid's throats?
(off her look)
I was thinking I could ask different
guys, from different parts of my
life, people who know me, to help
the kids remember me.

ROBIN
You're not making sense.

SCOTT
I'm saying, if I die, there'd be
this group of guys to help the kids
if they need guidance. If they're
wondering what I'd do in a certain
situation they can ask one of the
guys on the Council.

ROBIN

The Council?

SCOTT

The Council of Dads.

ROBIN

You've given it a name? Do you have jerseys and a handshake?

SCOTT

No. I don't even have the dads yet. I'd like your input.

ROBIN

No.

SCOTT

Just no?

ROBIN

I don't even want to imagine a world that you're not in. And the scans are moving in the right direction, they're barely showing any cancer activity ...

SCOTT

Remember what Oliver says. Fighting cancer is like fighting a war. If I lose this war, I'd like to know who is going to help my people rebuild.

ROBIN

You can war metaphor this all you want, but it's morbid and I'd rather put my energy toward positive thoughts.

SCOTT

For me this is a positive thought. It'll put my mind at ease knowing there's a plan in place.

(beat)

I think Chris Scollard would be great.

ROBIN

Are you out of your mind? Chris Scollard? Mr. Fitness? He'd drive me crazy.

SCOTT

Chris is great, he'd be able to show the kids nature and talk about how much I loved the outdoors.

ROBIN

Why don't you go outside with the kids right now and show them how much you love the outdoors.

Stand off. He turns to leave.

SCOTT

(on his way out)
Really? No Chris?

ROBIN

Really. No Chris. This ... Council of Dads has to be guys I'd want to deal with because you know who's the head of the Council? Me.

She smiles all bossy and proud of herself and then ...

ROBIN (CONT'D)

You just tricked me into assembling a Council of Dads.

Scott, smiling.

SCOTT

Looks like it.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

24 **EXT. BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA - PERRY HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY**

Cowboy chases a squirrel up the big tree whose leaves are just beginning to come back.

CHYRON: SPRING

25 **EXT. ATLANTA - PARK - DAY**

Saturday. Tess and Charlotte sit on a park bench. Tess finishes a bagel, crumples the wrapper and aims it at the trash can.

TESS

How much will you give me if I make this?

CHARLOTTE

A zillion dollars.

Tess tosses and makes it!

TESS

You owe me a zillion dollars. But I'll settle for a gummy worm.

Charlotte reaches in her backpack and gets Tess a gummy worm.

CHARLOTTE

You think she'll like me?

TESS

You lied to your parents about where you were going, took a bus to Atlanta and are subsisting on gummy worms. You're basically the coolest person I know. Of course she'll like you.

Then she looks and SEES - a woman, KAREN, 50, Caucasian, get out of a car with her daughter, PHOEBE, 9, Chinese.

CHARLOTTE

That's them.

(The girls approach)

Hi! Are you Phoebe? I'm Charlotte.

Phoebe is super shy and hides behind her mom.

KAREN

We had a long drive from Macon. I'm Phoebe's mom, Karen.

CHARLOTTE

This is my friend, Tess.

TESS

Hi.

KAREN

Where are your parents? I assumed they'd be here.

CHARLOTTE

Oh, yeah, they were. I mean, they dropped us here and then went to visit their friend.

TESS

He owns a restaurant downtown. He's really cool.

KAREN

(thinks that's odd)

Oh. Okay.

(to Phoebe)

Charlotte is the girl I was telling you about. The DNA people said that you guys are 3rd cousins.

CHARLOTTE

Which means we share a great, great, great grandparent somewhere in China.

Phoebe seems unimpressed.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Want a gummy worm? It's my favorite candy.

PHOEBE

No, thank you. I don't like them.

This meeting is not off to a great start.

26 **INT. CRAB SHACK - DAY**

Scott supervises while Theo and JJ shuck oysters. He looks heavier, healthier and hairier than we've seen him lately. Theo grabs some oysters from JJ's pile.

THEO

Stop hogging the oysters JJ, you're being shellfish.

JJ laughs his head off.

JJ

Get it Dad? Selfish? Shellfish?

SCOTT

I get it.

Oliver and his husband PETER and older daughter AVA, 16, enter. Peter's from Brooklyn and his accent is still there, only now with y'all sprinkled in. He was a lawyer when they adopted the kids but quit to be home full time. Ava is quiet and studious, she wants to be a doctor like Oliver.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Hey, guys! Your order's almost ready.

OLIVER

Thanks. How's my star patient?

SCOTT

Pretty good. Hey Peter, Ava!

THEO

Want an oyster?

AVA

No thanks, they're too slimy.

JJ

Aw, shucks! Get it, Ava? Shucks, oyster shucking?

JJ laugh's hysterically. Theo rolls his eyes. He's mortified because Ava's a year older and a million years cooler.

THEO

She gets it, dude.

(to Ava)

You going to the party at the beach tonight?

AVA

No. We're visiting Duke and staying overnight in Durham.

SCOTT

I thought you guys had Charlotte tonight?

PETER

No, Tess is with you guys tonight.

OLIVER

We're taking Ava to visit colleges.

PETER

Tess said Charlotte cleared it with you.

SCOTT

First I'm hearing of it. And Robin's on call. No one's at our house.

OLIVER

So, where are they?

OFF the confusion of where, exactly, the girls are, we ...

27 **INT. EVAN'S APARTMENT - DAY**

Evan's apartment is a mishmash of thrift store furniture. Luly and Evan lie in bed. The relationship has obviously progressed.

LULY

When all this is over, your mom's cancer is in remission and you're free, what do you want to do?

EVAN

Take a vacation, I guess.

LULY

No, I mean, with your life. I want to write about all of this. Because when you're in it, it's like all you can do is be in it and deal with ... you know, the mundane stuff of helping your family and then you run into someone whose life is normal, and not stuck in some cancer black hole and you're like, "Oh, that's what my life is supposed to be. Not this weird, sad existence." Anyway, I'm gonna write about this year and try to make sense of it.

Evan can relate, of course, but also ...

EVAN

It hasn't all been weird and sad though, right? I mean, this is good. We're good. The fact that we found each other.

LULY

Yeah. Of course.

EVAN

I don't know exactly what I want to do with my life after this, but I know I want to do it with you.

(he hesitates)

I'm falling in love with you.

She looks shocked. And scared.

EVAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. Is that too much? You said you liked a man who committed to an action.

LULY

Yeah. No. I do. Wow.

They lay there.

EVAN

I freaked you out.

LULY

No. No. I mean, yeah, but ... no. Can we just not talk for awhile?

EVAN

Yeah. Let's not talk.

He takes her hand and they stare up at the ceiling. A little bit of uncertainty has pierced their comfortable bubble.

28 **INT. ATLANTA - PELAGO RESTAURANT - DAY**

Charlotte, Tess, Karen and Phoebe wait by the host stand for Anthony, who emerges from the kitchen in his chef's jacket.

ANTHONY

Charlotte, what are you ...

Charlotte launches in, a mile a minute.

CHARLOTTE

Hi, Anthony, this is Karen and Phoebe and we matched on 23&Me and we met and it was cool and Karen wanted to make sure we were safe so she dropped us here where my parents are.

(Charlotte's eyes

say, "go with it")

If they went out to shop we can just hang and wait.

ANTHONY

Yes. Good. We were wondering where you were. And um ... huh ... they're still out, but ...

(to Karen)

Thank you. I'm Anthony Lavelle. I can take it from here.

KAREN

Okay, then. Charlotte, so fun to meet you. And Tess. Can you say bye, Phoebe?

Phoebe barely manages a response and Karen and Phoebe leave. Charlotte is so relieved.

CHARLOTTE

Thank you for being so cool.

TESS

So cool.

CHARLOTTE

My parents don't know I'm here, and we need to get to the bus station and get back home so we're gonna like ... go? I guess.

TESS

I'm calling an Uber.

ANTHONY

Who are you? An adult? No. I may be cool but I'm not that cool. I'm calling your parents.

(instructs the bartender)

Two shirley temples and a plate of french fries.

(to the girls)

It's your last meal before your parents kill you both.

OFF the girls, so so busted.

29 **EXT. DOWNTOWN BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA - NIGHT**

Luly and Evan walk out of a restaurant. Luly's quiet.

EVAN

Wanna get some ice cream?

LULY

No.

EVAN

Okay.

More quiet.

EVAN (CONT'D)

We could ... get some tattoos? Or
... scale this building ... ?

She smiles, but there's obviously a wedge between them now.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Lu, seriously, I'm sorry I freaked
you out.

She stops, finally looks at him. This is hard.

LULY

You can't love me. That isn't what
this is. We're just supposed to be
helping each other get through this
stuff and make it less awful. And
you have made it so much less awful.
But it's ... temporary. I'm moving
to New York.

Wow. This sucks. Evan breaks away.

EVAN

I didn't realize I was just your
grief buddy. So, whatever. Fine.
Thank you for telling me. Now I'm
gonna scale this building so just
... do you mind leaving me alone?

OFF Luly, feeling like shit.

30 **INT. PERRY HOUSE - NIGHT**

Robin, Scott, Oliver and Peter sit and wait. Robin's
pregnancy is really showing.

ROBIN

I don't even know how they did it.
You need a credit card to order one
of those kits.

PETER

Tess has one.

OLIVER

Had. That's going away obviously.

SCOTT

Is there any part of us that admires
their independence?

ROBIN

No. Something could have happened.
They could have gotten hurt.

SCOTT

They didn't --

ROBIN

Remember when they were little and
we'd go into their rooms when they
were sleeping to make sure they were
breathing? I've started doing that
again. Before I go to bed, I go
check on all of them, one by one.
If they woke up they'd see their
crazy mom, leaning over them, watching
the blanket to make sure it's moving
and they're breathing. Then I come
to bed and check on you. I can't
take any more bad news, Scotty. I
... need ... I need everyone to be
okay.

The door opens. Tess, Charlotte and Anthony walk in. The
parents begin speaking at once, Anthony holds his hand up.

ANTHONY

The girls would like a chance to
explain before they're grounded for
life.

TESS

Ok so, this started because Charlotte
doesn't know her relatives. I have
an open adoption and I know my birth
mom.

CHARLOTTE

And so I just thought it would be
like amazing to see a person who's
related to me. I thought I'd feel
this ... connection. And I was afraid
that with everything that's been
going on, you guys wouldn't ... I
don't know ... be into it. And we're
really sorry.

ANTHONY

Tess?

Tess looks to Anthony, then ...

TESS
Sincerest apologies.

A beat.

SCOTT
So, how was it? Did you feel the
connection?

OFF Charlotte ...

31 **EXT. PERRY HOUSE - NIGHT**

Anthony's sitting on the front porch, scotch in hand, when
Luly arrives home.

LULY
Hi, what are you doing here?

ANTHONY
There was some drama with Charlotte.
Don't worry, she's fine. Teenage
'who am I?' stuff.

She sits next to him.

LULY
It goes away, right? You eventually
figure out who you are, don't you?

ANTHONY
I'm sitting here wondering why I
ever left this place. So, I guess
it never really stops.

32 **INT. PERRY HOUSE - CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Scott and Robin find Charlotte reading in bed. They sit next
to her.

ROBIN
I'm sorry you didn't get what you
wanted from the meeting with Phoebe.

CHARLOTTE
Yeah, I thought I'd have this magical
moment, but it was like meeting a
person who you really have nothing
in common with.

SCOTT

Biology ... not so important. Family
is who you love. And who loves you.
You know who taught us that?

Charlotte knows where this is going. She rolls her eyes.

CHARLOTTE

Me?

SCOTT

One day mom told me to come to the
hospital to meet this little girl
who'd come all the way from an
orphanage in China for heart surgery.
And I saw you and you were hooked up
to all these machines and I couldn't
figure out why Mom wanted me to meet
this sick little girl. But that's
not what she saw.

ROBIN

I saw a girl who was gonna get better
and who needed a family. I saw our
daughter. But we were scared. Would
we be able to love you as much as
our other kids? And then you know
what happened?

CHARLOTTE

I opened my eyes and smiled at you.

ROBIN

That's right. And you stole our
hearts.

(Charlotte smiles)

Yep, that's the smile.

And Charlotte puts her arms around her mom and dad. OFF
this family ...

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR33 **EXT. BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA - PERRY HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY**

The lawn under the big tree is covered with towels and frisbees and flip flops quickly discarded on the way into the water. The detritus of summer.

CHYRON: SUMMER

34 **EXT. DOWNTOWN BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA - NIGHT**

A quaint southern street of shops, cafes and bars. WE FIND Scott and Larry leaning up against Scott's car, facing a bar.

SCOTT

Theo flunked his driving test again and I caught him drinking. I told him alcohol doesn't fix anything and took the beer I confiscated from him and drank it. And right now I'm gonna walk into that bar and have a shot of Jack.

LARRY

You called me, so part of you doesn't want to do that.

SCOTT

I have my one year scan tomorrow. So far my scans have been pretty good. So we're all acting like good news is a foregone conclusion. Anthony's coming down from Atlanta to make a celebratory dinner. But ... this scan is the big one. There's nothing wrong with having a drink to calm my nerves.

LARRY

I have grown kids that don't talk to me who would disagree with you.

SCOTT

What if the cancer's back?

LARRY

You fight it.

SCOTT

A recurrence means there are chemo resistant cells, so it's basically a death sentence. Could be two months, two years ... but if it's back, that means the cancer wins.

They sit with that for a second.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Robin can't talk about it. And I need to. I need to talk about it.

LARRY

Okay, so I'm Robin. What do you need to say?

SCOTT

I don't know.

Scott gets up and walks into the bar. Larry follows.

35 **INT. SILVER SPRING HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

A dark bar. Not too crowded. Jukebox playing.

SCOTT

(to the bartender)
Shot of Jack.

The bartender pours it. Scott puts his hand on the glass. He's spent a lot of time over these past twenty years imagining this: the burning feeling in his throat, the pleasant numbing of his brain. Now it's here.

LARRY

What do you want to tell Robin?

SCOTT

I told you. I don't know!

LARRY

Sure you do --

SCOTT

I don't know why I called you --

LARRY

What do you want to say to Robin?

SCOTT

That I'm sorry!!

LARRY

No one's blaming you for getting cancer.

SCOTT

They're not blaming me but, they're not ...

LARRY

What?

SCOTT

Letting me ...

LARRY

Letting you what?

SCOTT

Be sick! Be ... weak ...

LARRY

Be scared?

SCOTT

I can't. They can't handle it.

LARRY

I can. You have my permission to be sick. And weak. And to be scared. You do not have my permission to drink though. But that's not up to me.

OFF Scott, the shot still in his hand, but his grip less certain.

36 **INT. HOSPITAL - PET SCAN ROOM - DAY**

Scott is being wheeled in for his PET Scan. Robin (now fully pregnant) is there and, of course, Oliver.

OLIVER

You know the drill. Any cancer cells that are hanging out will light up in the scan. Hopefully we won't see any bright spots. You ready?

Scott turns to Robin.

SCOTT

(points to Oliver)
What about him?

ROBIN

Scott, you're loopy from the Ativan.

SCOTT

Seriously, he's soooo on the Council.
He used to be your friend, but now
he's my friend too and I love him.

As Scott goes into the scanner he turns to Oliver --

SCOTT (CONT'D)

I love you, man.

37 **INT. HOSPITAL - PET SCAN CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

OLIVER

Your husband's in love with me.

ROBIN

Oh, it's not just you. He's been
making lists of men in case he dies.

OLIVER

But he knows I'm gay and married and
so not attracted to you.

ROBIN

That's not what you said in med school
when you were still "straight" and
tried to kiss me. And no, not for
me. For the kids. He wants to ask
a group of men to help raise them if
he dies. His Council of Dads.

OLIVER

I think that's smart.

ROBIN

Ugh. No it's not. And you're my
friend, you need to take my side.

OLIVER

Which is ...?

Robin's expression changes.

ROBIN

I'm having a baby.

OLIVER

I know. And I'm right here ...

ROBIN

No. Right now. My water just broke.
I'm having a baby right now.

38 **EXT. PERRY HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY**

Larry rings the bell. Theo answers.

THEO

Hey Larry. My parents aren't home.
Anthony's here if you want to ...

LARRY

I'm not here for your parents. Or
Anthony.

OFF Theo.

39 **EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY**

Larry's truck weaves in and out of a series of cones.

40 **INT. LARRY'S TRUCK - CONTINUOUS**

Theo behind the wheel. They've been at it for a while.

LARRY

Hands at 10 and 2, not 11 and 3.
Use your mirrors. A little more
gas. Little more. Little less.
And ... stop at the cone.

Theo coasts through.

LARRY (CONT'D)

I said stop. Not slow. That's a
stop sign.

THEO

(exploding)

No it's not. And this isn't a street
and I don't need to practice here, I
practiced here for like 5 minutes
when I first started and I've been
driving for like 6 months so this is
a stupid waste of time.

LARRY

Stop the truck.
(Theo ignores him)
Stop the truck.

When Larry uses that tone, he's not someone you want to mess
with. Theo stops.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Get out.

41 **EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS**

Larry and Theo get out. Doors slam. They stand there in the empty lot. Theo refuses to look at Larry.

LARRY

Run around the parking lot.

THEO

No.

LARRY

Theo, I'm telling you ...

THEO

Who are you even? You're just like some weirdo who stalks my family and I don't have to listen to you.

LARRY

Go ahead. Yell at me. I can take it. You're mad at the world? You're mad your dad has cancer? Fine. Be mad. But you're not gonna be mad behind the wheel of a truck. So you're gonna run until you feel that anger leave your body. I'll wait.

Larry pulls a lawn chair out of the back of the truck and sits down. Theo, alone in the middle of nowhere with this crazy man, sees he's not gonna win this. Theo screams at the universe.

THEO

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

He starts to run.

ROBIN (O.S.)

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

42 **INT. HOSPITAL - DELIVERY ROOM - DAY**

Scott finishes gowning up and comes into the room. He's recovered from the Ativan and is stone cold sober. Robin's doctor and a few nurses are there. Robin is fully in labor.

ROBIN

Get in here, Scotty. She's coming fast!

Scott takes her hand as she has a huge contraction ...

43 **INT. LARRY'S TRUCK - DAY**

Theo, panting and sweaty, climbs back in the car. Larry puts the lawn chair in the back and gets back in the passenger seat. Theo just stares out the window, not making a move to turn on the ignition.

THEO

I suck at everything. I can't even get my stupid license.

LARRY

Do you know what I do? I buy failing businesses and turn them around. I'm good at seeing what's not working and fixing it. And I can help you not suck at driving.

THEO

Why? Why are you doing this?

LARRY

Because I drank a bottle of vodka every night for a lot of years. I joined AA and your dad was my sponsor. I owe him.

(Larry's phone beeps.

He looks)

What do you say we drive to the hospital and meet your new sister?

44 **INT. LARRY'S TRUCK - DAY**

Larry directs Theo onto the highway.

LARRY

Nice gradual acceleration. Pretend the gas pedal is a sponge and you're slowly wringing it out. That's right. Keep checking your mirrors. A car can come out of anywhere like a ninja.

THEO

So I'm watching out for ninja's and I'm stepping on the sponge and I'm doing it!

LARRY

You're doing it!

THEO

Ninja, sponge, ninja, sponge ...

This kid who has scowled through most of the show is transformed, he's smiling and alive and joyful ...

45 **INT. HOSPITAL - PATIENT ROOM - NIGHT**

Robin lies in bed with the baby, Scott at her side.

ROBIN

I tell every patient that their baby is the cutest baby I've ever seen. But seriously, this is the cutest baby I've ever seen. And I know it's a little cheesy, but she looks like a Hope.

SCOTT

It is a little cheesy, but we're a little cheesy. And she does. And she is. She's our little Hope.

A Nurse enters.

NURSE

I'm just gonna take her for a second and weigh her. Dad, you wanna come?

Scott goes with the Nurse as Oliver arrives.

OLIVER

Oh my! She's beautiful. Congrats you guys.

(in the baby's face.)

Hi sweetie. I'm your handsome Uncle Oliver.

SCOTT

We'll be right back and you can flirt with her some more.

Oliver watches them go, and there's something about his face.

OLIVER

She's gorgeous, Rob.

ROBIN

What? Tell me.

OLIVER

Tell you what?

ROBIN

The way you looked at him. You got the scan results back, didn't you?

OLIVER

We can talk about it later.

ROBIN

Oh no. Ollie. What? It's back,
isn't it? Say it.

He doesn't say anything which says everything. She barely has a second to absorb this news when Charlotte, JJ, Luly, Theo, Anthony and Larry enter the room with Scott and Hope.

SCOTT

Look who I found in the hallway.

JJ

You named her Hope?

SCOTT

Do you like it?

JJ

I love it! Hi Hopey!

All the kids and Anthony gather around Scott. Larry stands off to the side.

ANTHONY

Hey Larry ...

LARRY

I don't want to intrude.

SCOTT

Get over here.

Larry joins the group. Robin and Oliver put smiles on their faces. Now is not the time for grief. Now is the time for joy.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Hope ... meet your family.

OFF Scott and Hope ...

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

46 **EXT. BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA - PERRY HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY**

The big tree is again bursting with fall colors, but now, instead of looking beautiful, they look brittle, dry, scary. The rope swing dangles, lonely.

CHYRON: FALL

47 **EXT. LAKE - DAY**

Luly sits on the hood of her car, waiting as Evan pulls up. He gets out of his car. He's nervous, shy.

LULY
Thanks for coming.

EVAN
Yeah. It sounded important.

Beat.

LULY
(here goes)
You weren't just my grief buddy.
You make me laugh and you make me
feel like me. I didn't understand
how important it was to have someone
in your life to talk to until you
weren't there. I'm sorry. I miss
you. And I love you, too.

Wow.

EVAN
This is not what I was expecting so
I don't have a whole prepared thing.

LULY
Are you ... seeing someone else?

EVAN
Am I seeing someone else? Oh, yeah,
like ten people. It's crazy. I
can't keep them straight.
(beat)
No. I'm not seeing someone else.

He kisses her. It's tentative and sweet.

EVAN (CONT'D)
Hi stranger.

She pulls away.

LULY

Let's swim out to the raft.

She runs to the water, kicking off her sandals and dives in in her t-shirt and shorts. Evan watches her ...

EVAN

Luly! Wait. What's happening?

Fuck it ... he joins her. As Evan runs towards the water...

48 **EXT. LAKE - LATER**

Luly and Evan lay on a raft. Soaking wet. Sun on their faces. She turns to him.

LULY

My dad died. This morning at 3am.
We were all with him.

EVAN

Oh, Lu.

And that's all it takes. This man she loves says her name and the tears she's been holding in come out. Evan takes her in his arms, he knows his way around grief.

DISSOLVE TO:

49 **EXT. PERRY HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAWN**

Robin stands under the big tree staring at the water. This is where this started, one year ago. How do you say goodbye?

CUT TO:

50 **INT. PELAGO RESTAURANT - KITCHEN - DAY**

Anthony sits on a crate reading Scott's letter.

SCOTT (V.O.)

If you're getting this letter you know I'm gone. I want to thank you for your friendship. Especially the last few months. You sent soup when we needed to be fed.

CUT TO:

51 **INT. HOSPITAL - DOCTORS' LOUNGE - DAY**

Oliver leans against his locker reading the letter.

SCOTT (V.O.)
 Poured your heart and soul into
 fighting my disease ...

CUT TO:

52 **INT. BOARDROOM - DAY**

Larry sits at the conference table reading the letter.

SCOTT (V.O.)
 And when it was clear that cancer
 was going to win, you showed up.

CUT TO:

53 **EXT. PERRY HOUSE - DAY**

A whole host of cars that are parked outside the family house.

SCOTT (V.O.)
 Now I need to ask you to keep showing
 up.

54 **EXT. PERRY HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY**

Oliver, Peter, Tess and Ava stand on the front stoop as Robin,
 dressed in black and holding Hope, opens the door.

ROBIN
 Oh thank God, you're here. The baby
 needs to be fed, my mom's driving me
 crazy and Charlotte says she's not
 coming to the funeral.

55 **INT. PERRY HOUSE - CHARLOTTE'S CLOSET - DAY**

SCOTT (V.O.)
 Oliver, you said with my diagnosis,
 that we'd know in a year if I was
 going to make it. That a year is
 the magic number. So I'm asking
 you, each of you, for a year.

Oliver sits with Charlotte who isn't looking at him. The
 closet has a little table and a shelf with snacks and books.
 Oliver picks up The Diary of Anne Frank.

OLIVER
 I reread this with Tess this year
 and even though I know she dies, I
 kept turning the pages hoping for a
 different ending.
 (MORE)

OLIVER (CONT'D)

But the ending doesn't take away
from how amazing her life was. And
how she keeps on teaching us stuff
even after she's gone.

CHARLOTTE

I see what you're doing. You're
talking about my dad.

She finally looks at him.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Do I have to go?

OLIVER

I think you should. But if it gets
to be too sad, give me a signal and
we can go find a place to hide out
for awhile.

OFF Charlotte, gathering her courage ...

56 **INT. PERRY HOUSE - THEO'S ROOM - DAY**

SCOTT (V.O.)

Give my family a year. And not just
on holidays or birthdays, lots of
people will be around then. They're
going to need you on a Tuesday or a
Thursday. A regular day.

Theo struggles to tie his tie. Larry passes by the room.
He wordlessly goes and stands behind the boy as they face
the mirror, showing him how to tie it. Theo tries not to
cry, but tears stream down his face.

LARRY

It's alright to cry, you know.

Theo nods. He knows. Larry hands him a handkerchief, and
Theo wipes his face. Larry stands there, a calming presence.

57 **INT. PERRY HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY**

Chaos in the kitchen. Anthony is arranging stuff in the
refrigerator, while - Oliver, Peter, Ava, Tess, Charlotte,
Theo, Larry, Luly, and Robin holding Hope stand around ready
to go.

SCOTT (V.O.)

I'm not asking you to love my family
the way I do. But after a year, my
guess is, you will.

ANTHONY

When we get back I'll put out the
cheese trays and then set up the
buffet ...

ROBIN

Oliver, will you take Charlotte,
Larry take Theo, Luly ...

LULY

Evan's picking me up.

ROBIN

Okay and Anthony will take me, Hope
and JJ. Where is he? JJ?

JJ (O.S.)

I'm right here.

They all turn and see JJ standing in the doorway wearing a navy velvet dress with a lace collar. (JJ is a trans boy.) He looks sad. And embarrassed. Behind him is PATRICIA, 65, Robin's conservative mother.

ROBIN

What is that?

JJ

Grandma brought it. She said I had
to wear it.

PATRICIA

I just think it'll make today easier
for everyone.

ROBIN

What you mean is that it will be
easier for you.

PATRICIA

Honey, I think she looks darling ...

ROBIN

He. How many times have we told you
that JJ is a boy and he likes to be
called he. JJ, let's go upstairs
and change.

They go. The men stand there with Patricia who starts wiping the counter. She's clearly upset, the men look around the room, at one another, whose gonna say something?

ANTHONY

I know it can be hard, Patricia.
But you saw how depressed JJ was
last year. He didn't want to go to
school. And he's been so happy since
he's been allowed to be who he is.

PATRICIA

You have to understand I'm her grandma
and I love her and I think she's so
young. How can a first grader
"decide" they're a boy ...

ANTHONY

I don't think he decided to be a
boy. I think he just is a boy. That's
how Scott explained it to me. And I
think we should be thinking about
what Scott would want today. Let JJ
be JJ. That was his mantra. So
today I think we all should just let
JJ be JJ.

Anthony looks at the other guys for support, Larry gives him
a thumbs up. Robin and JJ come back down. JJ is wearing
khakis and a shirt. He takes his Grandmother's hand.

JJ

I'm not mad, Grandma. It can take
people from your generation a while
to understand.

Evan arrives. He looks sweet and solemn in his suit. He
approaches Luly.

EVAN

I wanted to bring you something and
I was gonna get flowers but then I
was at the store and saw this ...

He hands her a CAN OF CORN.

EVAN (CONT'D)

It's corn. Because of the story
about your dad. When you were little.
I don't know if you remember --

CHARLOTTE

Stop talking. She remembers.

Luly throws her arms around Evan.

TESS

Relationship goals.

CHYRON: 3 MONTHS LATER58 **EXT. BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA - CHURCH - DAY**

Church bells ring.

59 **INT. CHURCH - SIDE ROOM - DAY**

Luly stands in front of a mirror in a wedding gown and flower crown. Her hair is loose and relaxed and she looks like the coolest bride you've ever seen. Robin's next to her, smiling.

ROBIN

You look gorgeous.

And she does.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

I have something for you.

Robin hands Luly a jewelry box. Luly opens it. There's a LOCKET with a picture of BABY LULY and YOUNG SCOTT.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

So he can be with you when you walk down the aisle.

Luly, tears in her eyes, hugs Robin.

LULY

Thank you.

As she puts it on, Robin looks out the window and SEES a woman, MICHELLE, 50, rushing into the church.

ROBIN

Your mom's here.

LULY

Michelle is my birth mom. You're my mom.

Robin smiles. She never gets tired of hearing that.

DISSOLVE TO:

60 **INT. CHURCH - VESTIBULE - DAY**

Anthony and Luly standing in the vestibule, ready to walk down the aisle. We notice she's wearing the LOCKET.

ANTHONY

You nervous?

LULY

A little.

ANTHONY

If you're having any second thoughts,
we can call this thing off. Your
dad would want me to tell you that
this is your life, Luly Bell, you
live it for you.

LULY

I am. I love Evan. I'm not giving
up my dreams. I just realized he's
part of them. I'm choosing joy.

ANTHONY

Well, you are your daddy's girl then,
cause he sure knew how to do joy.

The music begins.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

So let's do this.

Anthony and Luly begin to walk. She sees Evan and smiles.
A third of the way down the aisle, Larry steps in and then a
few feet later, Oliver takes over. Luly is so happy and so
are the men and they look and see Robin, beaming. Finally
Evan and Luly take hands and face the minister.

61 **EXT. PERRY HOUSE - WEDDING RECEPTION - DAY**

The backyard is a wonderland of tables and flowers and twinkle
lights and joy. Robin toasts the happy couple.

ROBIN

Scott was 67 days sober when he died.
He'd had one night when he was sick
where he had a few beers.

FOCUS ON LARRY IN THE CROWD:

ROBIN (CONT'D)

But he was just as proud of those 67
days as he was of the 20 years of
sobriety that preceded it. And he'd
want you guys to know you'll make
mistakes and disappoint one another,
but you can always start over, do
better, ask for forgiveness.

FOCUS ON ANTHONY IN THE CROWD:

ROBIN (CONT'D)

And he'd want you to take risks.
Follow your passions. It might not
always lead you where you thought it
would but it will take you where you
need to go.

FOCUS ON OLIVER IN THE CROWD:

ROBIN (CONT'D)

And be each other's best friend.
Even when it's hard. Especially
when it's hard.
(beat)
And finally, he'd want you to have
fun. So let's get back to dancing!

OFF the crowd raising their glasses ...

62 **EXT. PERRY HOUSE - WEDDING RECEPTION - LATER**

The dance floor is crowded - all the grief of the last year,
put aside for the moment. JJ leads the group in the cha cha
slide. Charlotte and Tess pull Anthony and Larry out to dance.
Ava approaches Theo who's watching the action.

AVA

Hey.

THEO

Hey.

(Beat)

So, you going to Duke next year?

AVA

I didn't get in.

THEO

Oh. Sorry.

AVA

It's okay. I'm fine. My dads are
acting like it's a family tragedy,
though. Now that my dad's gonna be
like a surrogate dad, you should
know - he expects perfection.

THEO

Then he's gonna be super disappointed
in me.

AVA

We can be the family failures.

They smile at one another. She looks at him as if seeing him for the first time.

AVA (CONT'D)

Too bad we're practically siblings.

THEO

Why?

AVA

Because your eyelashes are super long and your smile is nice and I was thinking we should dance. But that'd be weird, right?

THEO

Totally.

(Beat)

Wanna do it anyway?

AVA

Totally.

As they head to the dance floor, they pass Oliver who approaches Robin, watching from the side.

ROBIN

I miss him, Ollie. He was the show. I'm just the sidekick. And now the kids look at me and wonder where the fun is. I'm not fun.

OLIVER

Yeah, you are.

ROBIN

No. I'm serious and studious and responsible, so he got to be fun and spontaneous. And now the fun's gone and after tonight, we're supposed to go back to real life. I don't know if I can do it, Ollie.

OLIVER

I'm here. And Larry and Anthony and we're gonna get through this together.

(He holds out his hand)

Dance with me.

ROBIN

No. I can't.

OLIVER

You don't have to have fun. In fact
I insist you have a bad time.

(She's laughing)

Don't laugh, people will think you're
fun ...

OFF Oliver, making her laugh and inching her towards life.

63 **EXT. PERRY HOUSE - BACKYARD - BY THE BIG TREE - LATER**

The big tree hangs with outdoor lanterns. Luly and Evan are surrounded by FAMILY assembling for a GROUP PHOTO. A PHOTOGRAPHER arranges them. We SEE a WOMAN with Evan who must be his mother and we SEE our family - Luly, Robin, Theo, Charlotte, JJ and Hope. Luly opens the LOCKET.

LULY (V.O.)

Right after I was born, there's this picture of me and my dad. Our first family picture. He must have been terrified. He had no idea how to take care of a baby but for that split second he put that fear aside and smiled. It was a declaration. I've got this. I can do this. That's what we do. We grab the people we love and hold on for dear life. We've got this. We can do this. We're a family.

Luly looks up. She searches the crowd.

LULY (CONT'D)

Council of Dads!

Larry and Oliver make their way to the group. Off to the side we SEE a woman approach Anthony. This is Michelle. She's Luly's birth mom.

ANTHONY

Hey, Michelle. You look great. Long time, huh?

MICHELLE

Too long. I hear you're moving back.

ANTHONY

Yeah. I'm gonna take over the Crab Shack. Free Luly up to have a life.

MICHELLE

I've reached out a couple times over the years to see if she's open to a relationship and she didn't seem interested. So I was pretty touched that she invited me.

ANTHONY

She's amazing.

There's a long beat as they both look at Luly, arranging people for the picture.

MICHELLE

I wasn't sure for the longest time. And it was just that one time so I figured there was no way. But I look at her and I look at you and I'm pretty sure she's ...

ANTHONY

(He doesn't want her
to say it out loud)
Yeah. Me too.

MICHELLE

Do you think Scott knew?

ANTHONY

No. I don't.

LULY

Anthony!

Anthony looks up and sees Luly beckoning. Oliver and Larry have joined the picture and now Anthony is the only one missing.

LULY (CONT'D)

Get over here!

ANTHONY

(to Michelle)
And she never needs to know, either.

Anthony walks into the picture. We've got this. We can do this. We're a family.

SNAP!

END OF PILOT