

Executive Producer: DJ Nash
Executive Producer: Tucker Cawley
Executive Producer: Jason Bateman
Executive Producer: Jim Garavente

Episode #: 01007
Script #: 109

Growing Up Fisher

“Work With Me”

Written by

Laura Chinn

Directed by

Eric Appel

SHOOTING DRAFT

1-31-14



© 2013 NBC Studios LLC

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. NOT TO BE DUPLICATED WITHOUT PERMISSION.

This material is the property of NBC Studios, LLC and is intended solely for use by its personnel. The sale, copying, reproduction or exploitation of this material in any form is prohibited. Distribution or disclosure of this material to unauthorized persons is also prohibited.

Growing Up Fisher

Shooting Draft
January 31, 2014

CAST LIST

MEL	J.K. Simmons	
JOYCE	Jenna Elfman	
HENRY	Eli Baker	
KATIE	Ava Deluca-Verley	
RUNYEN	Lance Lim	
ADULT HENRY (V.O.)	Jason Bateman	
GLEN	Bill Fagerbakke	
JENNY	Isabela Moner	
JANICE	Carla Jimenez	
DUSTIN	TBD	
SLADE	TBD	
BETH	Jean Villepique	*
MAN WITH BABY	Conner Duffy	*
YOUNG MAN	TBD	*
YOUNG WOMAN	TBD	*
WOMAN	Andrea Carlisle	*
TEMP	Scot Zeller	*
CALENDAR VOICE (V.O.)	Emily Cutler	*

Growing Up Fisher

Shooting Draft
January 31, 2014

SET LIST

INTERIORS

MALL COFFEE SHOP
APARTMENT HALLWAY
LAW OFFICES
 HALLWAY
 KITCHEN
 MEL'S OFFICE
MEL'S APARTMENT
 LIVING ROOM
JOYCE'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM
ELEVATOR
APARTMENT LAUNDRY ROOM
BALLET STUDIO

EXTERIORS

GROVE-TYPE MALL (CITYWALK)
JANICE'S APARTMENT

ACT ONE

EXT. GROVE-TYPE MALL (CITYWALK) - DAY (D1)

1

*

MEL, with ELVIS, walks in front of KATIE and HENRY, who have shopping bags. Henry proudly wears new, shiny black boots with a buckle.

*

1 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
*Even though my dad was blind, he
always managed to be two steps ahead
of everybody else.*

*

*

*

*

2 KATIE
Those are some interesting new boots.
I'm gonna call you Buckles.

*

3 HENRY
Yeah, like a pirate.

*

*

4 KATIE
Sure. What's the occasion?

*

*

5 HENRY
No occasion.

*

*

6 MEL
He wants to be as tall as Jenny.

7 HENRY
No, that's-- Girls grow faster!

*

8 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
You couldn't get anything past the guy.

Mel heads off in the opposite direction of Katie and Henry.

9 KATIE
Dad, we're meeting Mom at the coffee
shop.

*

*

10 MEL
Which is why I'm walking toward the
coffee shop.

*

11 KATIE
I think it's this way. How do you even
know where we are?

*

12 MEL
Well, we passed the barking puppies at
Pets Plus, dodged the handsy guy at
the sea scrub kiosk, and I can feel
the bass pumping out of Abercrombie
and Fitch up ahead.

*

A WOMAN sees Mel gesturing toward the unseen Abercrombie and Fitch. *

13 WOMAN
Oh, thanks, there it is. *

The woman walks off. A MAN WITH A BABY approaches Mel. *

14 MAN WITH BABY
Excuse me, do you know where the restrooms are? *

15 KATIE
Sir, my dad's not an information-- *

16 MEL
Ah, sounds like you'll need the one with the changing station. Go straight until you hit the toy store with all the talking Buzz Lightyears, then hang a sharp left. *

17 MAN WITH BABY
Thank you so much. *

The man walks away. TWO YOUNG MEN and THREE WOMEN form a make-shift line in front of Mel. *

18 YOUNG MAN
Dude, do you know where the Apple Store is? *

As he talks rapid-fire, Mel gestures like a traffic cop. *

19 MEL
Turn around, go past Brookstone's with the vibrating chairs out front, and make a right. *

20 YOUNG WOMAN
And Victoria's Secret? *

21 MEL
Go straight, you'll pass a vile smelling candle store on your left and a delicious-smelling Cinnabon on your right, then boom! And miss-- according to the greeter, they're having a two for one sale on shape wear. *

She walks away as more people form a crowd around Mel. Katie and Henry stare on, amazed as Mel shouts more directions. *

22 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
Like I said, two steps ahead. *

MAIN TITLES: "GROWING UP FISHER"

INT. MALL COFFEE SHOP - A MINUTE LATER (D1)

2

Henry, Mel and Katie cross to JOYCE, who sits with a hipster manager, DUSTIN. Dustin shakes Joyce's hand and crosses away.

23 MEL

Sorry we're late. Henry was buying heels.

24 JOYCE

I just got something too. A job! I got a job!

25 MEL

What? Here?

26 KATIE

No! You can't work here! I come here! People I know come here!

27 JOYCE

Fun! I'll learn all your friends' favorite drinks! I can write funny nicknames on their cups.

(off Katie's look)

Honey, you know I've been looking for a job.

28 MEL

You have?

29 JOYCE

Yes. And this one just fell into my lap. I was killing time, tidying up the sweetener bar and I struck up a conversation with the manager, Dustin, who said I'd make a rock star barista and I couldn't disagree so... yay!

30 MEL

Joyce, you don't know anything about coffee. You don't even drink it. You think espresso is called "expresso."

31 JOYCE

I don't think it's called that. I think it should be called that. "Need some pep in your step?" Espresso!

Dustin returns with a folded up apron and paperwork.

32 DUSTIN

Okay, Joyce. So I guess we'll see you tomorrow at noon for training.

*

33 JOYCE

Oooo. My schedule's a liiiittle tricky. I have four classes three days a week, two kids seven days a week, love 'em, and hot yoga every morning-- if I miss that I'm a monster. Oh, and weekends are going to be tough. That's when I catch up on my "me time."

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

34 DUSTIN

Okay, Joyce. So I guess, we won't see you tomorrow at noon for training 'cause you're fired.

*
*
*
*

Dustin walks off.

*

INT. MALL COFFEE SHOP - A LITTLE LATER (D1)

3

*

Joyce stands with Mel, who is waiting for his order. The kids are off talking with friends.

*
*

35 JOYCE

I can't believe you ordered a drink after I got fired.

*
*
*

36 MEL

During. During you getting fired, I ordered a drink.

*
*
*

(then)

Are you really upset about the job?

*
*

37 JOYCE

Yeah. I want to start making my own money. But if a coffee shop in the mall can't accommodate my crazy schedule, I doubt any place will.

*
*
*

38 MEL

Listen, Joyce, if you want a job, you can get a job. If you set your mind to it there's nothing you can't do. Let's remember...

38A MEL

...I went to law school blind.

38B JOYCE

...You went to law school blind.

39 MEL (CONT'D)

...The odds were against me, but my will to succeed was stronger than any obstacle. If I can do that then--

40 JOYCE
(realizing)
You're right! You can find me a job!

41 MEL
That's not exactly where I was going,
but sure, I'll help you get your
résumé in shape. *

42 JOYCE
If we were still married, I'd kiss
you! *

43 MEL
Post-divorce high-five? *

They high-five. *

44 JOYCE
Ugh, these straws are a mess. Sorry,
but if something's not right, I have
to fix it. I'm a fixer. *

She rearranges the straws neatly. *

45 JOYCE (CONT'D)
(calling off, re: herself)
You coulda had this, Dustin!

46 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
*Mom was already holding her head up a
little higher...*

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - NEXT MORNING (D2) 4

As JENNY, wearing a dance leotard and sweatpants, exits her
apartment, Henry sits on the step by the elevator, making a
show of shining his boot buckle. *

47 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...And thanks to my boots, so was I.

48 HENRY
Jenny, hey! *

49 JENNY
Oh, hey. I like your boots.

50 HENRY
Really?!

51 JENNY
Yeah, I have the same exact pair.

52 HENRY
 (doing his best to cover)
 Oh great, we have so much in common.

Katie exits the elevator and passes by Henry and Jenny on her way toward Mel's apartment. *

53 KATIE
 (to herself)
 Mayday. *

Henry is only focused on Jenny as he gives her a flash drive. *

54 HENRY
 Um, I made you this playlist. I put two gigs of ballet songs on this bad boy. Stuff I had, stuff I found. No big d.

Jenny is a little taken aback.

55 JENNY
 Oh. Thanks. Well, I'm late for my-- *

56 HENRY
 Tuesday-Thursday ballet class.
 (off her look)
 I mean, today's Tuesday. I assume you go twice a week. See ya.

Henry bee-lines for the door that Katie's just opened. Flustered, he blows by her and closes it in Katie's face. *

INT. LAW OFFICES - LATER (D2) 5

Joyce enters and approaches Mel's secretary, JANICE's desk. As Janice talks into a headset, Joyce gives her a little wave. The copier guy drops off toner in the background. *

57 JANICE
 Well, what day works for you? Uh huh.
 (covering phone, calling out)
 Thanks, Jerry, we're good on toner. *

The copier guy winks at her and exits. A receptionist, BETH, walks by and whispers to Janice while pointing to a card. *

58 BETH
 Janice, I love my birthday card. Thank you for remembering. *

59 JANICE
 (smiles, covering mouthpiece)
 You're welcome.
 (then, into phone)
 (MORE) *

JANICE (CONT'D)

Great. Thursday it is.

(hanging up, to Joyce)

Hello, Joyce. How can I help you?

60 JOYCE

Janice! Long time no see! Look at you,
still holding this place together.

61 JANICE

And look at you... here.

62 JOYCE

It's a work-wife, home-wife reunion!

63 JANICE

Technically, ex-home-wife. But, yep,
I'm still here, and I'm swamped right
now. What can I do for you?

64 JOYCE

I just popped in to see Mel. He's
gonna help me fix up my résumé.

65 JANICE

No pop-ins today. You're not on my
calendar and he's all booked up.

66 JOYCE

Oh, you can squeeze the ol' Joyce-ster
in, can't you?

67 JANICE

(smiles, politely)

No.

Overhearing this, Mel steps out of his office.

68 MEL

We can squeeze her in.

69 JOYCE

See, Janice? Just squeeze me on in.

70 MEL

Just let me finish this call.

He trips on a piece of raised carpet outside his office.

71 MEL (CONT'D)

Dammit! Every time!

72 JOYCE

Take your time, Mel. I'll just hang
out with my girl here. Maybe she can
look over my résumé, too.

73 JANICE
Actually, I have a lot of work to do. *

74 JOYCE
(not listening, re: résumé) *
I feel I'm Comic Sans, but Mel is pure *
Helvetica, which was pretty much our *
marriage in a nutshell. *

Glen enters, carrying a big stack of files, looking frazzled. *

75 GLEN
Résumé? Joyce, you looking for a job? *
Come work here! We need a bookkeeper. *

76 JOYCE
Hmm, a desk job. I'm more of an on-my- *
feet-be-where-the-action-is kinda *
woman. Janice gets it. *

As they talk Glen and Joyce cross away from Janice's desk. *

77 GLEN
Ever since Beverly called in... well, *
dead, I've had to do the books and *
it's killing me. No wonder she died.
(laughs at his joke, then)
But seriously, it's been tough.

78 JOYCE
Whoa, I had no idea. But I don't know--

79 GLEN
What's not to know? It'd be perfect!
You did our books when we first *
started out, back when it was just two *
brothers and one tiny office...

80 JOYCE
Yeah, but it's probably not a good *
idea for me to work with my ex.

81 GLEN
I hear ya. Why even run it by him? *
(selling it)
I mean, it's just a job you can do in *
your sleep, where you already know *
everybody and can set your own hours-- *

82 JOYCE
I'm in! It's perfect! Do you need a *
reference? And if so, can I list you *
as a reference? *

INT. MEL'S APARTMENT - LATER (D2)

6

At the island, Runyen watches Henry fold a napkin into a rose. Katie does homework nearby and can't help but overhear.

83 HENRY

...Then I tuck in this corner, and boom! I'm gonna do this in front of Jenny. This'll blow her away.

84 RUNYEN

Wow, it's beautiful. Can I see it?

Henry hands it to Runyen, who admires it. He then ignites a gas burner, lights it on FIRE, then drops it in the sink.

85 RUNYEN (CONT'D)

Girls don't want a sweet little boy, son. They want a bad ass.

(gets an idea)

Pull a fire alarm, get that red paint all over your hand, that's as good as a tattoo-- Ooh, a tattoo!

*
*
*

Katie closes her book, reluctantly.

86 KATIE

Oh-kay. I was not going to get involved, but considering the fact that you're wearing lady boots--

87 HENRY

They might be unisex!

88 RUNYEN

That's your strongest argument?

89 KATIE

If you want to get Jenny's attention, don't give her any of yours.

90 HENRY

You mean ignore her? That's crazy. Also impossible.

*
*
*

91 KATIE

It will work. When you're ready to listen, I'll be up in my room.

*

Runyen hops up to follow her up the stairs.

92 KATIE (CONT'D)

(without looking back)

Runyen, never come to my room.

Runyen quickly 180s, doing his best to stay cool. *

INT. LAW OFFICES - MEL'S OFFICE - LATER (D2) 7

Mel, at his desk, listens to Glen and Joyce plead their case.

93 GLEN
It's perfect, Mel. We need a bookkeeper and Joyce knows the books.

94 JOYCE
And it would only be part-time. Which is exactly what I want. *

95 GLEN
Win-win.

96 JOYCE
And now you won't have to help me with my résumé. Win-win-win. Win-age-a-trois. Nope. But seriously, Mel, if you have any reservations about us working together-- *

97 MEL
I'm gonna stop you right there. I think this is a great idea.

98 JOYCE
Really?!

99 MEL
In the history of great ideas, it goes fire, this, then iPhones. *

Over her celebration, Mel pulls out a pencil, sharpens it and taps it with his finger to make sure the tip is sharp. *

100 JOYCE
Oh my God! This is so exciting!

Joyce hugs Mel and Glen.

101 JOYCE (CONT'D)
You will not be sorry, boss! And other boss! Consider your books kept!

102 MEL
Can't wait, Joyce! Super excited!

Joyce heads out happily. As soon as the door shuts, Mel jabs Glen with the pencil.

113A JOYCE
So great.

113B MEL
The best!

*

Joyce happily exits. Mel menacingly sharpens the pencil as
Glen hurries out.

*

*

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. LAW OFFICES - HALLWAY - NEXT MORNING (D3) 8

Mel, with Elvis, stands outside the door, preparing.

114 MEL *
Alright, let's do this. *

He takes a breath and enters.

INT. LAW OFFICES - CONTINUOUS (D3) 9 *

Mel heads for his office as Glen crosses through. *

115 GLEN *
Morning, Mel. I think somebody owes *
somebody else an apology. *

116 MEL *
Apology accepted. *

117 GLEN *
No! It's you, to me. *
(off Mel's look, sotto) *
You know how you said Joyce wouldn't *
be comfortable with you as her boss *
and then you stabbed me? *

118 MEL *
And I'd do it again. *

119 GLEN *
Well, day one, and she's brought in *
your favorite coffee, French Roast, *
whole grain bagels, 'cause she knows *
you're on a diet, and orchids 'cause *
they last longer, save the firm money, *
and they're G-damn beautiful. Your ex- *
wife is ex-cellent. *

They arrive at Mel's office. *

120 JOYCE (O.S.) *
Morning, Mel! Careful, I'm down here. *

REVEAL: Joyce on the floor in front of Mel's office, taping the carpet. Janice looks on from her desk.

121 JOYCE (CONT'D) *
I'm taping down the carpet you always *
trip over. I heard you mention it *
yesterday. You know me, I'm a fixer. *

122 JANICE
I told her it won't work. I've already
tried.

*

123 JOYCE
But you didn't try duct tape. You know
what they say, Janice, "don't bring
scotch tape to a duct tape party!" All
done! Give it a test drive, Mel.

*

*

Mel glides over the carpet, backs up, walks over it again.

124 MEL
Wow, pretty good, thanks.

125 JOYCE
That's why I'm here!

126 JANICE
I thought you were here to do the
books... at your desk.

127 JOYCE
Haha! I love our workplace banter!

128 GLEN
Actually, she already organized all
the accounts I sent her last night.
I'm free. Mel, I'm going to hug your
ex-wife now.

*

*

(giving her a bear hug)
This office was a dark and scary place
without you.

Janice clears her throat as if to say "excuse me?"

129 GLEN (CONT'D)
Pop a cough drop, Janice. Don't get me
sick.

Janice rolls her eyes. Mel is relieved.

130 MEL
Well, I'm gonna walk into my office
now and not trip.
(starts in then turns back)
Janice, bring me a cup of Joyce's
fancy coffee to celebrate.

Janice crosses out quietly annoyed.

SCENE 10 OMITTED

*

INT. ELEVATOR / APARTMENT HALLWAY - THAT AFTERNOON (D3) **A11** *

A cool Henry carries his laundry basket as Jenny boards the elevator. He ignores her as the doors close. Finally:

131 JENNY
Hey, Henry.

132 HENRY
Oh. 'Sup?

133 JENNY
How terrible was Richard Metzger's student council speech? Promising a chocolate fountain in the cafeteria? We're not stupid.

*
*
*
*

Just then, his phone rings.

134 HENRY (INTO PHONE)
Go for Henry.
(whisper to Jenny)
Sorry, gotta take this.
(into phone, excited)
Yeah, Friday's perfect. I got this other thing, but I can move it.

*

The doors open and they get off. As they pass Jenny's, she assumes she's going to get a good-bye. It never happens.

135 HENRY (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)
Hilarious!

136 KATIE (O.S.)
Keep walking, keep walking, don't look at her, and we're walking.

Jenny waves at Henry.

137 KATIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Don't you dare wave back!

INT. MEL'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS (D3)

B11 *

Katie's looking through the peephole inside Mel's apartment. Henry enters. They're both still on their phones, excited.

138 HENRY (INTO PHONE)
You should have seen her face when I left her at the door. I didn't see it either, but I'll bet it was awesome!

139 KATIE (INTO PHONE)
Told ya it would work. We can probably hang up now.

140 ADULT HENRY (V.O.) *
Katie's plan was working out... *

INT. LAW OFFICES - KITCHEN - AFTERNOON (D3) 11 *

A friendly Mel and Joyce are getting coffee. *

141 ADULT HENRY (V.O.) *
...and to Dad's surprise and delight, *
Mom's working was working out as well. *

142 JOYCE *
...Yeah, it's a good thing I'm doing *
the books now. You know Glen used the *
term "gwestimate" in a letter he wrote *
to the IRS? *

143 MEL *
Yep, that came up at the audit. *

They chuckle as Janice enters. She casts a sideways glance at *
them and starts rooting through the cupboards. *

144 JANICE *
Hey, where's the microwave popcorn? *

145 JOYCE *
Oh, I threw all that away. *

146 JANICE *
But it's 3:30. It's popcorn o'clock. *

147 JOYCE *
Americans eat so much corn, it's *
scary. I read an article about it. I *
think it was corn. Or wheat. Anyway, *
you know what's better? *
(offering a bag) *
Snow peas! Nature's chip! *
(tempting) *
Say peasss, Janice! Give peas a *
chance! Peas out! *

Joyce takes one and crunches it and exits. Janice just stares *
morosely at the bag. *

148 JANICE *
(muttering to herself) *
Nature's chip... coming in here with *
your plants and your duct tape... I'll *
duct tape your face... *

149 MEL *
You okay, Janice? *

150 JANICE
(covering)
Of course, I'm fine.

*
*
*

Janice sadly crunches a snow pea and starts out.

*

151 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
*Dad was beginning to realize the
problem wasn't gonna be between him
and Mom...*

*
*
*
*

152 JANICE
(muttering to herself)
Peas. More like peas of crap... I can
do lame puns too.

*
*
*
*

She crosses out. Mel sighs.

*

153 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
*...It was gonna be between Mom and
Janice. As long as there were snow
peas in the office, there'd be no
peace in the office.*

*
*
*
*
*

INT. JOYCE'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT (N3) 12

Mel and Joyce sit at the table. Katie and Henry (his stand-in) are in the b.g. washing dishes.

154 MEL
Thanks for dinner, Joyce.

155 JOYCE
It's the least I could do. Literally.
Katie picked it up from the restaurant
and Henry put it on the plates. But I
paid for it. With my own money. That
I'll get in two weeks when I get my
first pay check.

156 KATIE
That you'll use to pay me back for
dinner.

*
*
*

Katie crosses back out. Mel seizes the opportunity.

*

157 MEL
Hey, listen, I've been thinking about
you adjusting to the office. You know,
melding in with all the personalities--

158 JOYCE
No, everything's great. The last three
days have been unbelievable for me.

*

159 MEL *
 Well, good, good. *

160 JOYCE *
 Yeah. It's like I took the job to get *
 some "me money," but now I feel like, *
 I don't know, I have a place.

161 MEL *
 (beat, then, resigned) *
 Good, good. *

INT. LAW OFFICES - NEXT DAY (D4) 13

Joyce moseys over to Janice's desk. Janice eats a brownie.

162 JOYCE
 Hey, Janice! Happy Humpday!

163 JANICE
 (grins and bears it)
 Okay.

Mel enters, anxious to make sure everyone is playing nice. *
 Joyce, now in Janice's cubicle, invades her space. *

164 JOYCE
 I see you're enjoying one of my
 homemade brownies.

165 JANICE *
 How could you miss it, you're so *
 close. *

166 MEL *
 How nice is this? Homemade baked *
 goods, the great uniter! *

167 JOYCE *
 And I have another thing for you to *
 chew on, Jan-Jan: How about we freshen *
 up the art around here? Bring in some *
 color. Maybe send a few of these *
 horses to the ol' glue factory. *

She chuckles. Janice does not. *

168 MEL *
 Neigh! I love the horses. Can't get *
 enough of 'em. Actually, Janice picked *
 them out. *

169 JANICE *
 I love horses. *

170 JOYCE
 Oh, me too. It's just, it's a lot of horses. The one in the ladies room, the eyes kind of follow you. I've been peeing downstairs at the bank.

*
*
*
*
*

171 MEL
 Well, it's always fun to try a new bathroom. Anyway, you have impeccable taste, Janice. Best decorator ever. You're also good, Joyce. But not as good as Janice. Well, you're both good. Everyone's good. Okay, let's all just head back to our desks.

*
*
*
*
*

Glen crosses through with a brownie.

172 GLEN
 I figured out your secret brownie ingredient, Joyce. Peanut butter.

*
*

173 JOYCE
 You got me!

Mel hears this and looks toward Janice.

174 MEL
 Janice, peanuts!

175 JANICE
 I'm on it.

Janice rifles through her bag. Mel pulls Joyce aside.

176 MEL
 (delicately)
 Hey, Joyce, you're doing a heckuva job, but... try to be careful not to step on anyone's toes. For instance, Janice.

*
*

177 JOYCE
 What are you talking about? Janice and I are friends. She's always loved me.

178 MEL
 Well, now that we've split up, and you two mama bears are working in the same den, I'm sensing a little tension.

*
*
*

179 JOYCE
 Tension? Really? I think you're way off on this. Everything's fine.

*
*
*

Behind them, Janice pulls an Epi-pen out of her purse and jams it into her own leg. Joyce is oblivious.

180 MEL *
Trust me, Joyce, just leave her be. *

181 JOYCE *
All right... *

Mel crosses into his office. Joyce watches Janice working at the copier. *

182 ADULT HENRY (V.O.) *
Mom knew she had to listen to Dad. *
After all, he was the boss. And *
whatever the boss says-- uhp, nope. *

Joyce crosses to Janice, pretending to staple something.

183 JOYCE
Hey Janice. Jan-jan...
Jana...tailya... is not a great
nickname. Hey, so I know I'm being
overly sensitive, I shouldn't even
ask, but am I bugging you?

184 JANICE
What? Nooo!

185 JOYCE
I knew it. Sorry. Mel thought-- forget
it. You're right, everything's great.

186 JANICE
So great!

SCENE 14 & 15 OMITTED (NOW SCENES A11 & B11) *

SCENE 16 OMITTED (NOW PART OF SCENE 13) *

INT. LAW OFFICES - MEL'S OFFICE - LATER (D4) 17 *

Mel sits at his desk in front of an upset Janice.

187 JANICE
Either Joyce goes or I do. Your choice.

Janice exits. Mel grabs a pencil. *

188 MEL *
Glen! *

He begins to sharpen it. *

END OF ACT TWO *

ACT THREE

INT. LAW OFFICES - MEL'S OFFICE - NEXT MORNING (D5) 18

Mel unloads on Glen. Janice sits at her desk, outside.

189 MEL *
 I can't believe I had to choose *
 between my ex-wife, who's worked here *
 three half days and whose brownies *
 almost killed a woman. Or Janice, my *
 angel who's been here seven years, *
 knows my schedule by heart, keeps the *
 office running like clockwork-- *

190 GLEN *
 It was a no-brainer, Mel. *

Janice, now carrying a banker's box, approaches the door.

191 JANICE
 Have a great life.

Janice storms out, slamming the office door.

192 GLEN
 Can't fire the mother of your children.

193 MEL
 I hate you.

INT. LAW OFFICES - LATER (D5) 19

Mel sits at Janice's desk. He can't see which phone line is blinking so he presses every button.

194 MEL (INTO PHONE)
 Hello? Hello? HELLO?!
 (hanging up the phone)
 Dammit!

Glen enters, witnesses this, does a 180. Joyce enters upbeat.

195 JOYCE *
 Hey Mel! I just bought myself this
 cute new briefcase. I only have a
 banana in there right now, but there's
 plenty of space for files and free
 office supplies. Hahaha.
 (then, noticing)
 You okay? *

Mel hangs up the phone and clicks on the computer.

196 CALENDAR VOICE (V.O.)
 You have: deposition at ten. You have: *
 coffee with Judge Kao at ten. *

197 MEL
 How can they both be at ten?! Stupid
 computer lady!

198 JOYCE
 Mel, where's Janice?

199 MEL
 She quit!

200 JOYCE
 What? Why?

201 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
*If my mom knew why Janice really left
 she would be crushed. So Dad had no
 choice but to protect her...*

202 MEL
 She wasn't happy working for me. She
 said I was a bit of a--

203 JOYCE
 Oh no no, no need to explain. I get *
 it. You are, what's the word...? More *
 than a handful, less than a monster...

204 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
*She, however, didn't feel the same
 need to protect him.*

205 JOYCE
 (sits on edge of the desk) *
 Some people just can't handle you. *
 Like milk. Some people are Mel-tose *
 intolerant. But I can stomach you. So
 go back to your office. I got this.

The phone rings. Joyce picks up the receiver and tries to
 find the right line as other lines begin to light up.

206 JOYCE (CONT'D)
 Hello? Nope. Hello? Nope. Hello? Nope.
 Hello?! Nope. Hello?! Nope. Can *
 anybody help me? *
 (off silence, to herself) *
 Who knows a lot about phones? *

SMASH CUT TO: *

INT. LAW OFFICES - MEL'S OFFICE - LATER (D5) 20

Katie, now sitting at Janice's desk, answers the phone. *

207 KATIE (ON PHONE)
Mel Fisher's office.

REVEAL: Mel and Joyce clean up coffee that has been spilled all over Janice's keyboard. Henry watches nearby. *

208 MEL
This is why I said "no open containers near your computer!"

209 JOYCE
I thought you meant beer!

Frantically trying to contain the spill, Joyce grabs a sports jacket off a nearby chair. *

210 KATIE (ON PHONE)
He is... on a very heated conference call right now. We'll call you back. *

211 JOYCE
Wow, she's good. *

212 KATIE
That's why I'm getting paid sixteen bucks an hour. *

213 MEL
Sixteen? I said ten. *

The phone rings. Katie doesn't answer it. It rings again. *

214 MEL (CONT'D)
Katie, answer the-- Fine, sixteen! *

215 KATIE
(answers phone, perky)
Mel Fisher's office... *

216 MEL
Damn it, she's so my daughter. *

217 KATIE
Great, we're confirmed. Thank you. *

Mel goes to his office, grumbling. Henry gets a text. *

218 HENRY
 Katie, it worked! She just sent me a
 text of a kitten, a flower and a
 thumbs up. Emojis, Katie! Emojis! What
 should I do next?

*
*
*
*

219 JOYCE
 Ooo, are we talking Jenny? Let's bake
 her something! Girls love that.

*
*
*

Henry seems intrigued but looks to Katie.

*

220 KATIE
 Yeah, nothing gets the girl like
 saying, "I made you this banana bread
 with my mommy."

*
*
*

221 JOYCE
 I have a banana in my briefcase!

*
*

222 HENRY
 Mom, do you mind? Katie's trying to
 help me.

*
*
*

Joyce sets the jacket back on the chair and walks off.

*

223 KATIE
 The next move is you're going to tell
 her you just want to be friends.

*
*
*

224 HENRY
 What? That's the opposite of what I
 want! Can't I ask her to the movies?

*
*
*

225 KATIE
 No. The friends move will work. Don't
 ask her to the movies, don't bake her
 anything--

*
*
*
*

Mel comes out and grabs his jacket off a nearby chair.

*

226 MEL
 And whatever you do, don't work with
 her. Kidding, dream come true.
 (puts on his jacket)
 Why is my jacket warm and wet?

*
*
*
*
*

INT. APARTMENT LAUNDRY ROOM - THE NEXT DAY (D6)

21

*

Jenny's doing laundry. Henry enters, goes to the soda machine.

*

227 HENRY
 Hey, glad I ran into you, dude. Can I
 get that flash drive back at some
 point?

228 JENNY
I thought you gave it to me.

229 HENRY
Like a present or something? Yikes.
This is awkward. Wow, I'm sorry if I
was giving off the wrong vibe, like...
(lovey dovey)
Here's this flash drive, I love you so
much.
(then, back to cool)
So there's no confusion, I think it's
best if we're just friends. Okay,
buddy? *

230 JENNY
(thrown)
Umm, yeah. Okay.

He casually puts money in the machine.

231 HENRY
Tell you what, orange soda on me. It's
my favorite. *

He hits a button. It doesn't work. He hits it several more
times, obviously tense.

232 JENNY
I think the machine's broken.

233 HENRY
Oh, cool. See, friends looking out for
friends. This is what we do. I gotta
roll.

He heads out. A DING as Jenny's phone receives a text.

234 JENNY
Oh man. *

Henry immediately pops back in.

235 HENRY
What?

236 JENNY
My mom can't make my ballet recital
this afternoon. She can't get out of
work. Now I'm not going to have anyone
there. *

As Jenny texts her mom back, Henry looks at her, lovingly.

237 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
I wanted to take her in my arms and tell her she'd have someone at that recital. Someone who loved her. Even more than orange soda. But instead I said...

238 HENRY
 That's tough stuff, bro. *

He exits.

INT. MEL'S APARTMENT - LATER (D6)

22

Henry pleads his case to a skeptical Katie and Runyen.

239 HENRY
 I have to go!

240 KATIE
 You can't! *

241 HENRY
 If no one goes to her recital, she's going to feel horrible! *

242 KATIE
 And when she comes home, she'll need a shoulder to cry on. And you'll be that shoulder. *

243 HENRY
 Arrrrgh-- this is so hard!

244 KATIE
 I know. But I'm right.

245 RUNYEN
 We're right.
 (off her look)
 She's right. *

246 HENRY
 (big exhale, then)
 I'm gonna grab an orange soda from the laundry room. I'll be right back.
 Thanks for all the great advice. *

Henry exits. Katie and Runyen are pleased with themselves.

247 RUNYEN
 Wow, you're good. I never could have convinced him not to go.

248 KATIE
 I think he just looks up to me because
 I have a proven track record of always
 being right.

*

249 RUNYEN
 (beat, then)
 He's going to the recital.

*

*

250 KATIE
 Yep.

INT. LAW OFFICES - LATER (D6)

23

Glen escorts a TEMP into the office.

*

251 GLEN
 I don't know if the temp agency told
 you, but this could become a permanent
 gig.

The temp smiles, hopeful. They approach Mel and Joyce putting
 out a small fire in a microwave next to Janice's desk.

*

252 JOYCE
 It's a cup of soup! Of course you can
 microwave it!

*

253 MEL
 Not with a metal spoon in it!

The phone rings non-stop. The area is a mess, coffee-soaked
 papers everywhere. Elvis barks at nothing and everything.

254 MEL (CONT'D)
 Go get a fan, Joyce! It smells like
 burnt metal in here!

Joyce jumps up, headset still on, and runs to get a fan.

255 JOYCE
 Keep your pants on for just one--
 (jerked back by the headset)
 Gahh--!

256 TEMP
 You know what, I'll just find a
 cheaper place to live.

*

*

The temp quickly turns and exits.

257 GLEN
 Eh, I don't blame you.

Glen also hurries out.

258 JOYCE
That's it! I can't take this anymore!
You've got to hire someone else.

259 MEL
No, I'm gonna go get Janice back. *

260 JOYCE
That's not a good idea. She doesn't
want to work with you anymore. Maybe
we should send Glen. He's such a big,
lovable goon. *

261 MEL
I feel like I can convince-- *

262 JOYCE
Mel, face it! She left to get away
from you. *

263 MEL
No, Joyce! She left to get away from
you! You're the reason she doesn't
want to work here! *

264 JOYCE
But, you said--

265 MEL
I was trying to protect your feelings!

266 JOYCE
(quietly)
She quit 'cause of me?

267 MEL
(beat, softening)
She gave me the choice. Her or you. I
chose you.

268 JOYCE
That's so sweet.

269 MEL
Yeah, and then you destroyed my office. *

Joyce takes Mel's arm.

270 JOYCE
I'll drive you to Janice's.

Just then, the FIRE ALARM goes off.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. JANICE'S APARTMENT - LATER (D6)

24

Mel and Joyce knock and wait.

271 MEL
Let me handle this.

Janice opens the door.

272 JANICE
You here to redecorate my apartment?

273 JOYCE
(glancing in, side of the
mouth to Mel)
Horses.
(then, to Janice)
Look, I know you don't like me and I'm
sorry, though I'm not sure why you
don't like me. Everyone likes me, the
word "joy" is in my name!

*
*
*

274 JANICE
This! This is why! You're so perky and
bubbly and oblivious to everyone else!
I smiled through it for five years!
But I didn't have to work with it! I
couldn't put up with your plants and
your snow peas and your horse-hate!

*
*
*
*

275 JOYCE
Yeah, well, you're mean! You know what
word is in your name, Janice?! "Ice!"
Also, I guess "nice" but it shouldn't
be because you're not!

*

276 MEL
(sotto, to Joyce)
Tryin' to get her to come back.

*
*
*

Janice starts to shut the door, knocking Mel back a little.

277 MEL (CONT'D)
Janice, I'm not asking you to say that
Joyce is right, but at least admit
she's a lot more organized than Glen.
He used to bug you to make copies. She
does them herself.

*
*
*
*
*

278 JANICE
I admit nothing.

*
*

279 JOYCE *
That is so like you. *

280 JANICE *
You don't know what me is like. *

281 MEL *
Ladies, ladies-- come on. I can't have
my two girls fighting. *

282 JOYCE
Really, Mel? "Girls?"

283 MEL
What?

284 JANICE
He says that all the time. You know
what's worse?

Gals.

284A JOYCE

Gals.

284B JANICE

285 JOYCE
Yes! Oh my God!

286 MEL
Okay, let's not make this about me.

287 JOYCE
Oh, of course. It's never about you.
It's always my fault.

288 JANICE
It's always my fault too!

289 MEL
(suddenly worried)
What's happening here?

INT. BALLET STUDIO - SAME (D6)

25

Jenny and other dancers finish a dance. Family members *
applaud. Katie enters and watches as Jenny spots Henry.
Jenny's face lights up, she gives Henry a tiny wave. Henry is
entranced. Katie can't help but be moved. Henry moves toward
Jenny, Katie approaches.

290 KATIE
Henry, stop.

291 HENRY
No, I'm doing this. She has to know I
was here.

292 KATIE

Look, I wanted you to do things my way. But now I get that you need to do it your way. And that's cool...ish. But if you're gonna do it your way, you gotta go big.

*
*
*

Katie hands him a bouquet of paper roses.

293 KATIE (CONT'D)

Runyen and I made them.
(still surprised)
His are better. He has dainty hands.
(then, supportive)
Go be you.

*

Paper flowers behind his back, Henry walks over to Jenny.

294 JENNY

Henry. What are you doing here?

295 HENRY

I just wanted you to know that you did have someone who cares about you in the audience today and he... well me... I thought you were so great.

Henry hands her the flowers.

296 JENNY

Oh, wow, Henry, that's just the sweetest thing.

Henry smiles. It's working.

297 SLADE (O.S.)

Jenny.

Jenny and Henry look over to what looks like the biggest, most handsome 14-year-old, SLADE.

298 JENNY

Slade, you made it!

299 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)

My sister told me to go big, but this guy was huge.

Henry looks down at Slade's shoes.

300 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)

Wow, and that's without boots.

Jenny and Slade start to walk off. Henry calls after.

301 HENRY
Okay then, we'll talk later then!

*

Henry stands there. Katie approaches, puts her arm around him.

302 HENRY (CONT'D)
It's 'cause he brought real flowers.

303 KATIE
(lovingly lying)
Yeah, that's why.

EXT. JANICE'S APARTMENT - LATER (D6)

26

Joyce and Janice each take turns impersonating Mel.

304 JOYCE
Now, Joyce, don't put spoons in the microwave.

305 JANICE
Now, Janice, make sure you get a return phone number from every caller. Can't be too careful.

306 JOYCE
"Can't be too careful!" Yes! He always says that! And yet somehow he got me pregnant on our second date.

The ladies laugh.

307 MEL
Ah, this is fun.

*

308 JOYCE
Janice, please come back. We need you. The office is chaos without you. Pleeeeease, Janice. Please.

*

*

309 JANICE
You know, the office was pretty chaotic before you started too... I mean, you're pretty awful when it comes to decorations and snacks, but you're a good bookkeeper.

310 JOYCE
I don't know if awful is the right word. I mean, taste is a subjective--

Mel subtly elbows Joyce.

311 MEL
Great, so you'll come back!

312 JANICE
Fine. As long as we get rid of the plants, and keep the horse paintings--

313 MEL
We can get more horse paintings!

Joyce subtly elbows Mel.

INT. LAW OFFICES - NEXT DAY (D7) 27 *

Joyce approaches Janice's desk to remove a plant, but Janice stops her. *

314 JANICE
Leave this one. I like it.

315 JOYCE
Really?! Okay!

Joyce returns to her own desk, beaming.

316 JOYCE (CONT'D) *
I think in time we're gonna be BWFs. *
Best Work Friends. Just made that up-- *

317 ADULT HENRY (V.O.) *
*It's not always easy to put the needs *
of someone you care about before your *
own. But when you do...* *

Janice moves the plant, blocking Joyce's face. Joyce just sighs. Mel exits his office. *

318 ADULT HENRY (V.O.) *
*...things often have a way of working *
out.* *

319 MEL
Good night, ladies-- women-- people.
I'm glad you're both here.

INT. MEL'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - THAT NIGHT (N7) 28 *

Henry and Katie sit in the living room playing video games. A knock at the door. Henry opens it to find nobody there. *

320 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
Even when you don't expect them to.

He looks down and discovers... a can of orange soda. He can't help but smile. He picks it up and opens it. It explodes all over his face and shirt. *

END OF SHOW