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Growing Up Fisher

“The Man With The Spider Tattoo”

Teleplay by

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Story by

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Directed by

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SHOOTING DRAFT
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Growing Up Fisher

Shooting Draft
February 7, 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
SLOAN Matt Glave
SOOJIN Lela Lee
PETE Joey Slotnick
HUNTER Nathan Kress
DON Brian Howe
NICOLE TBD
GUY TBD
GYM TEACHER TBD
FEMALE CUSTOMER TBD
BOB TBD

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SET LIST

INTERIORS

APARTMENT HALLWAY
MEL'S APARTMENT
GARLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL
 SLOAN'S OFFICE
 GYM
JOYCE'S HOUSE
 KITCHEN
 LIVING ROOM
 FOYER
DONUT PALACE
CALIFORNIA BAR ASSOCIATION CASINO NIGHT

EXTERIORS

DOG PARK
 COFFEE TRAILER
JOYCE'S HOUSE
 YARD
 FRONT PATHWAY *

ACT ONE

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - DAY (D1)

1

An excited Mel crosses the hallway towards Sloan's.

1 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
Because Dad was blind, he developed a keen sense of the world. He could read a person from their first hello, he could navigate a place the second he walked through the door.

Mel reaches out to knock on Sloan's door, but is short a couple feet and air knocks until he eventually hits the door.

2 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
Of course, first he'd have to find that door.

Sloan answers, peeking out the door.

3 SLOAN
Hey Mel, what's up?

4 MEL
Great news, Sloan.

Mel pushes past him and into the apartment. REVEAL that Sloan is totally naked. As Mel talks, Sloan tries to cover up for a second, then realizes he doesn't have to.

5 MEL (CONT'D)
I just found out Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is going to be at the charity dinner this Friday.

6 SLOAN
Awesome, you gotta get me his autograph.

7 MEL
How about you get you his autograph? You're my plus one. Unless... you're not cancelling on me, are you?

8 SLOAN
I am!
(excited whisper)
Wendy called last night! She said she was feeling lonely, one thing led to another and, boom! Our first divorced booty call!

(MORE)

SLOAN (CONT'D)

I'm hoping I can extend it to a five-day/four-night booty staycation, and then-- fingers crossed-- booty forever!

9 MEL

(off his whispering)
Wait, is she here now?

10 SLOAN

Well, she's not here, she's in the bedroom. If she were here, I'd introduce you. I'm a gentleman.

11 MEL

Well, I guess I'm gonna have to find someone else, but I'm happy for you.

Mel pats Sloan on his bare shoulder.

12 MEL (CONT'D)

Oh my God, you're naked.

13 SLOAN

It's fine, you're blind.

14 MEL

And I've never been more grateful.

Mel starts for the door and Sloan graciously goes to get it for him, but in doing so, they collide.

15 MEL (CONT'D)

Augh! It touched my wrist!

And as he scrambles out the door...

"GROWING UP FISHER" MAIN TITLES

EXT. JOYCE'S HOUSE - YARD - NEXT DAY (D1)

2

Henry and Runyen are playing basketball, running back and forth. Joyce is panting, trying to keep up. She stops.

16 JOYCE

Okay, okay. Pause. Is there always this much running in basketball?

17 HENRY

Your legs are like eight feet tall. You cross the court in two steps.

18 JOYCE

(out of breath)
I know. I'm just...
(MORE)

JOYCE (CONT'D)

I'm on the third day of my raw food diet and I need to keep my mind off eating.

(sniffing air)

Who's barbecuing?

19 RUNYEN

What are you doing on a diet, Joyce? I want more of you, not less of you.

20 JOYCE

Eww. And thanks. But I'm trying to break my sugar addiction. The highs, the lows--

(re: smell)

It's like ribs or something, right?

A car pulls up. It's Runyen's mom, SOOJIN. Joyce waves hello.

21 SOOJIN

Hello, Mrs. Fisher. Nice to see you.

(then, on a dime)

Runyen, in the car, now!

22 HENRY

Whoa. Your mom does not sound happy.

23 RUNYEN

I knew this would happen when report cards came out. I got a B in Algebra.

Runyen trudges to the car.

24 JOYCE

Henry, you didn't tell me report cards were out. How'd you do?

25 HENRY

I got a B in Algebra!

26 JOYCE

Hey, fantastic! Let's celebrate with some raw almonds.

26A HENRY

I don't really like--

26B JOYCE

I'll eat yours.

EXT. DOG PARK - COFFEE TRAILER - DAY (D1)

3

Mel (with Elvis) and Katie wait for their coffees.

27 KATIE

So, you excited about your charity thing Friday night? Think Sloan's gonna get you a corsage?

28 MEL
Actually, Sloan cancelled and I don't have anyone else to go with. So I'm not going.

29 KATIE
(surprisingly passionate)
What?! No, Dad, you have to go. This is an important charity event for your... charity. Can't you go by yourself?

She spots a cute guy, HUNTER (17), with a Shih-Tzu, and heads over to him.

30 MEL
No, it'd look weird. Empty spot at the table. I don't need people feeling sorry for me.

31 DON
She's gone, Mel.

REVEAL: DON (friendly, late 50s), manning the coffee trailer.

32 DON (CONT'D)
Two muffins, two lattes. Let's just call it two bucks.

33 MEL
Two bucks, Don? That's it?

34 DON
Don't I always take care of you? Besides, I'm in a good mood, the Dodgers won last night.

Mel holds his hand up and Don gives him a high-five, then moves off to help another customer.

ANGLE ON: Katie and Hunter.

35 KATIE
(about to cancel)
Hey, Hunter, about the party Friday night--

36 HUNTER
Yeah, totally stoked. I was able to move my thing, so I'm in. It's still on, right?

37 KATIE
(covering)
Of course it's still on.
(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)

It's never been on-er. My dad's got this charity thing-- that he is going to. I'll text you the address.

38 HUNTER

Or, I could just write it down.

39 KATIE

I don't have a pen.

40 HUNTER

You sure about that?

With a flourish, he "magically" pulls a pen from her ear. Katie smiles in delight.

41 KATIE

I'll be right back.

She high-tails it back to where Mel is sitting on a bench.

42 KATIE (CONT'D)

Dad, I've been thinking about this. Friday night-- you need to go to that charity event!

43 MEL

Wow, you're really invested in this.

44 KATIE

And I'll tell you why... This is your first big event since the divorce... and the dog... and Mom's not there. You don't want people saying "Mel didn't go," you want people saying "Mel did go-- with someone cool." Doesn't have to be that cool. It's a room full of lawyers, the bar is pretty low.

Katie quickly crosses back to Hunter.

45 MEL

How lucky am I to have a daughter who cares so much about her old man?

46 PETE

She's gone.

PETE (40, friendly) crosses in, but we can only see one side of his face.

47 MEL

Talking to the kid with the Shih-Tzu?

48 PETE
Yep. You need me to walk you over
there?

49 MEL
Nah, she's fine. When she starts
talking to a boy with a Pitbull, I'll
worry.
(then)
I'm Mel.

50 PETE
Pete.

51 MEL
What kind of dog you got there, Pete?

52 PETE
A Poodle. Don't laugh.

53 MEL
I would never. Smartest breed.

54 PETE
But he chokes on standardized tests.

They laugh.

55 PETE (CONT'D)
Oh great, the Russian woman with the
Pomeranian's here. She only gives her
dog--

56 MEL
Bottled water, I know. I don't even
give my kids bottled water.

They share a laugh as Pete sits down beside Mel.

57 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
*And just like that, Dad made a nice,
new friend. Maybe everything was going
to work out for everyone exactly as
they had--*

REVEAL: Pete has a spiderweb tattoo covering half his face.

58 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
--Oh God!

INT. GARLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL - GYM - DAY (D2)

4

Henry and Runyen's gym class is doing rhythmic gymnastics,
waving around those sticks with the ribbons attached.

59 GYM TEACHER
Okay, everyone. Let's try the spiral.

Henry approaches Runyen, doing a "ribbon mustache." Runyen turns away, concentrating on making a spiral. Henry rolls up the ribbon, and lets it fall from his mouth like he's puking.

60 RUNYEN
Cut it out, dude.

Runyen "spirals" away, but Henry "spirals" after him.

61 HENRY
Okay, what's up? You've been avoiding me all day, and you can't care this much about rhythmic gymnastics.

62 RUNYEN
I have to care! My mom says I have to get my grades up. She doesn't want us to hang out anymore. She says you're a bad influence.

Off a shocked Henry, who has now basically mummified himself in ribbon, we SMASH CUT to...

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - LATER (D2)

5

Joyce, Katie and Henry carry boxes of sugary foods.

63 JOYCE
She said what?!

64 HENRY
Mom, relax. Runyen's mom will get over it. Don't overreact.

65 JOYCE
I'm not overreacting considering what she said and how light-headed I am right now! Sorry, I'm in sugar withdrawal.

Joyce balances the box on her hip as she puts on lip balm.

66 KATIE
Mom, you're hitting that cherry Chapstick really hard.

67 JOYCE
There's no carbs in Chapstick! When are you going to college?! Sorry.

INT. MEL'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS (D2)

6

Joyce, Katie and Henry enter to find Elvis playing with a poodle, and Mel.

68 JOYCE

Hey Mel, it's us. I'm giving you all my cookies and crackers and every other food that makes life worth living.

69 MEL

Hey guys, meet Roscoe. Katie, I took your advice and made a new friend.

70 KATIE

A poodle? Maybe I should have been more specific.

Henry gets down to play with the poodle. Joyce gets on a step stool, unpacking her carbs into Mel's cabinets.

71 MEL

Ha-ha. No, his owner, Pete. He's in the bathroom. Turns out Pete's a big cigar guy too. He's gonna go to the Casino Night with me Friday.

72 KATIE

Oh my God! That's great! I can't wait to tell people... about your news.

Katie starts furiously texting. Pete exits Mel's bedroom.

73 PETE

What kind of soap you got in there? My hands feel like silk and smell like a Christmas tree.

74 MEL

Hey guys, this is Pete. Say hello.

Katie has her face in her phone. Henry plays with the dogs as Pete and Mel sit back down with their beers.

74A KATIE

(not looking up)
Hi, Pete.

74B HENRY

(not looking up)
Hey.

75 JOYCE

(waves without turning)
Joyce. Ex-wife. Usually not here. Raw food diet.

76 PETE
 (to kids)
Your dad told me so much about you
guys. Which one is the favorite again?

77 KATIE
 (not looking up)
It's Henry.

78 HENRY
 (not looking up)
Yep, twelve years straight.
 (to poodle)
Look at your cute face, look at
your...

Glancing up at Pete, who's watching the game:

79 HENRY (CONT'D)
 (shocked)
...cute face.

As Mel and Pete ad-lib about the game, a stunned Henry crosses to Katie, eyes glued on Pete. Katie is still mid-text, but he subtly tries to get her to look up.

80 HENRY (CONT'D)
Look at the man... look at the
spider... man.

81 KATIE
Henry, stop being so--

Katie finally lowers her phone and sees Pete's face tattoo.

82 KATIE (CONT'D)
--weird.

83 PETE
Joyce, are those Snickerdoodles? Toss
'em here, I'll take those.

84 JOYCE
No problem, here ya go--

Joyce turns to toss them to Pete, sees his face and in her shock, throws them way off course.

85 JOYCE (CONT'D)
Peeete.

As Joyce, Katie and Henry silently freak out...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. MEL'S APT/INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - MINUTES LATER (D2) 7

Katie and Henry exit with Joyce out into the hallway.

86 JOYCE
Enjoy those Snickerdoodles, Pete. So
great meeting you.
(closes door, then)
Did you guys see that?!

87 KATIE
The huge spiderweb tattoo taking up
half his face? Yeah, we saw it.

88 JOYCE
So he did that on purpose? He made a
decision? A terrible decision to put
that on his face?
(then)
We have to tell your father. He can't
take him to his stupid lawyer thing.
He'll look like a stupid lawyer.

89 HENRY
Of course we have to tell him. That
stupid lawyer thing really means a lot
to Dad.

90 JOYCE
You guys wait here. I'll do it.

Before Joyce can make it to the door, Katie puts her arm
around Joyce and turns her back towards the elevator.

91 KATIE
No, no, no, no.
(covering)
It'll be better coming from us.

92 JOYCE
You're right. If I say something, I'll
just look like the buzz kill ex-wife
who doesn't want him to have a good
time.

93 KATIE
Exactly.

They arrive at the elevator. Katie ushers Joyce in and hits
the "Lobby" button and moves away just as the doors close.

94 KATIE (CONT'D)
We're going to break it to him gently.
It's going to be tough. But we'll do
it.
(on a dime, to Henry)
Tell him anything and I'll destroy
you.

Katie starts walking back to Mel's. Henry follows.

95 HENRY
We have to. He can't bring Spiderman
to his lawyer party. I mean, if it was
the real Spiderman, that'd be cool.
But this guy? No way!

96 KATIE
He's doing it. It's important for Dad
to step outside his comfort zone and
expand his social circle!

97 HENRY
Oh my God, you're having a party.

98 KATIE
Just because you and Dad have no
friends, doesn't mean I can't.

99 HENRY
(a beat, then)
Can I come?

INT. DONUT PALACE - LATER (D2)

8

It's busy. There's a line. Joyce walks in and finds Soojin
behind the counter, serving customers. She approaches.

100 JOYCE
Hi, Soojin. Joyce. Henry's mom?
You have a second to talk about the
boys?

101 SOOJIN
Of course! Let's talk.

But Soojin walks away to help a customer at the other end of
the counter. Joyce follows her along the display case.

102 JOYCE
Okay. Well, Henry said--

103 SOOJIN
(offering tray of samples)
Donut hole?

104 JOYCE

Oh, no no no, I really can't. I'm on a raw food diet. It's tough, but I feel great. I'm calmer, more focused, less erratic. You don't realize the horrible effects of sugar.

Customers react. A FEMALE CUSTOMER turns to her friend.

105 FEMALE CUSTOMER

She's right. This is not worth 18 points.

The customer and her friend leave. Soojin glares at Joyce.

106 JOYCE

You know, one donut hole can't hurt.

(biting into one)

Oh sweet God, that is good...

(back on track)

Anyway, Henry said that Runyen said that you said Henry is a bad influence or something? I'm sure it's just a miscommunication--

107 SOOJIN

No. I did say that.

Soojin crosses away to ring a customer up. Angry, Joyce grabs a CINNAMON TWIST from under a cake dome and chomps into it.

INT. MEL'S APARTMENT - DAY (D2)

9

Mel walks Pete to the door. Katie and Henry hang back, warily.

108 MEL

So the crowd tomorrow night is stuffy. You should probably wear a suit.

109 PETE

No problem. Got a whole closet full of 'em! I used to work at a bank before I found my true calling.

109A KATIE

(sotto)
Drifter?

109B HENRY

(sotto)
Murderer?

110 PETE (CONT'D)

Web design.

110A KATIE

(sotto)
I could see that.

110B HENRY

(sotto)
Web. Makes sense.

111 MEL
See ya tomorrow night, buddy!

Pete exits with his poodle. Mel turns to Katie and Henry.

112 MEL (CONT'D)
Firm handshake. Appreciates a good,
dark beer. Owns a poodle and proud of
it. I like that Pete.

113 KATIE
Me, too! I think we all agree Pete's
the best.

Unwilling to sit silently, Henry tags out like a casino dealer.

114 KATIE (CONT'D)
You're an excellent judge of
character, Dad.

115 MEL
You know who has the best character of
all? You.

116 KATIE
Me?

117 MEL
Yeah, if it weren't for you, I
wouldn't even be going to this thing.

118 KATIE
You're giving me way too much credit.

119 MEL
No, I'm not giving you enough credit.
You encouraged me to make a new
friend. I used to push you and now
you're the one pushing me. So thanks.

Guilt-ridden, Katie has a silent fit, flailing her arms and
mouthing curse words.

120 KATIE
(blurting out)
He has a face tattoo!

121 MEL
What?

122 HENRY (O.S.)
A giant face tattoo!

123 KATIE

It's a giant spiderweb! It's all over his cheek and forehead and eyelid!

Mel is thrown. A beat as he considers this news, then:

124 MEL

Okay, so Pete has a tattoo on his face. Is that really so weird?

125 KATIE

It would be less weird if he didn't have a face!

126 MEL

So I can't bring him?

127 KATIE

No. I wish you could. Believe me. Maybe you ca-- You can't!

128 MEL

You're right. Bob Royce brought a guy with an eyebrow ring three years ago and they still call him Eyebrow Bob.

(then)

I already invited Pete. What am I supposed to do?

129 KATIE

Got you covered. Break ups are my specialty.

INT. DONUT PALACE - LATER (D2)

10

Joyce is now halfway through a cruller, feeling the sugar...

130 JOYCE

--Henry is sweet. Henry is thoughtful. Henry always empties the dishwasher. Would a bad influence do that? Hmm?

131 SOOJIN

I don't blame Henry. He's just a boy.

132 JOYCE

Exactly! Wait, what do you mean by that?

133 SOOJIN

He's just reacting to his environment. And lately things seem a bit unsettled in the Fisher household, sorry, households.

134 JOYCE
(losing it)
Ohh, my family and our householdsss
are settled.
(re: donut, desperate)
Dammit! I need one with sprinkles!

135 SOOJIN
Okay, 'cause it doesn't seem like
there's a lot of structure--

136 JOYCE
You're just jealous 'cause Runyen
thinks the Fishers are more fun! You
know what we had for dinner the other
night? Breakfast. For no reason!

137 SOOJIN
The Hans are fun! We own a donut shop!

138 JOYCE
At least I don't treat my son like an
employee.

139 SOOJIN
I don't treat Runyen like an employee!

140 JOYCE
You're right. Employees get paid.
Joyce, one. Soojin, zilch. Whoo, up
top!

Joyce high-fives herself. Customers look uncomfortable.
Soojin takes Joyce's cruller.

141 JOYCE (CONT'D)
Don't worry, I'm leaving. I'm gonna go
get cake, which is what donuts want to
be! What what!

INT. MEL'S APARTMENT - DAY (D2)

11

As Mel sits, Katie gives a tutorial on how to dump a dude...

142 KATIE
First of all, when you break up with a
guy, you have to realize there's
nothing you're going to say that will
make him go, "Oh, I totally understand
why you're doing this and I'm okay
with it."

143 MEL
I don't know. Pete seems like the kind
of guy who--

144 KATIE

He's not. None of them are. I've got a plan that will make this pain-free.

As Katie continues her plan, we hear her describe what we're seeing...

EXT. DOG PARK - THE NEXT DAY (D3)

12

Mel walks over to Pete, who smiles.

145 KATIE (O.S.)

One: do this out in public. Less chance of a scene.

146 MEL

Hey, Pete.

Mel takes a seat next to Pete.

147 KATIE (O.S.)

Two: if you're sitting down, sit close but not too close.

Mel feels his proximity and does a double-scoot away.

148 PETE

So what's up?

INT. MEL'S APARTMENT - DAY (D2)

13

149 KATIE

Don't waste time with small talk, just rip the band-aid right off.

EXT. DOG PARK - DAY (D3)

14

150 MEL

Listen Pete, the charity thing on Friday's not gonna happen.

151 PETE

Really? How come?

152 KATIE (O.S.)

I know you want to be honest, and I respect that. You just have to bury that honesty in a web of lies.

INT. MEL'S APARTMENT - DAY (D2)

15

153 KATIE

I said web! Get it? Anyway...

EXT. DOG PARK - DAY (D3)

16

154 MEL

Turns out, I don't have a plus-one, and it's too late to get more tickets. I mean, we're at capacity and you know how fire marshals are. So if you showed up, it would be weird. It would be really weird.

155 PETE

Because I don't have a ticket or because of something on my face?

156 KATIE (O.S.)

And if he confronts you-- which he will-- sit tight. I'll handle the extraction.

157 PETE

Because let me tell you something, Mel. I find it a little offensive that--

Katie runs over.

158 KATIE

Oh no! Someone's poodle got out! Pete, I think it was Roscoe!

159 PETE

Dammit.

Pete gets up and runs to the gate. Mel turns to Katie.

160 MEL

Wow, you have a gift. A very disturbing gift.

INT. GARLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL - GYM - DAY (D3)

17

More rhythmic gymnastics. Henry and Runyen are talking.

161 RUNYEN

Hey so, I heard your mom came by the shop.

162 HENRY

Yeah, about that-- I'm sorry, man. My mom acted like such a jerk.

163 RUNYEN

Please. My mom was the jerk.

164 HENRY

I mean, my mom I can see making a fuss. But I can't believe your mom would get into it like that. She's usually so, like, uptight.

165 RUNYEN

Yeah. I mean, she's not uptight, really. She just cares about me.

166 HENRY

Well, my mom cares about me too. She just shows it in a more, you know, loving way.

167 RUNYEN

Are you saying my mom's not loving? The woman is a saint!

168 HENRY

A saint that only loves you when you get good grades.

169 RUNYEN

You take that back.

170 HENRY

Wish I could, but I can't so I won't.

Runyen lamely whips Henry with his ribbon. Henry whips back.

INT. GARLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL - GYM - MOMENTS LATER (D3) 18

Sloan runs towards a huddle of KIDS, yelling "Fight! Fight! Fight! Fight!"

171 SLOAN

Okay, kids, break it up! Break it up!

Sloan makes his way to the front to see: Henry and Runyen awkwardly swatting and wrestling each other.

172 SLOAN (CONT'D)

Really? You're calling this a fight?

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. DOG PARK - COFFEE TRAILER - DAY (D3)

19

Mel walks with Katie towards the coffee trailer.

173 MEL

I just feel so bad about how things went down with Pete.

174 KATIE

Well, don't. Get your head back in the game. Meet someone new.

Katie spots Hunter and waves. He waves back and throws a ball for his dog, then shows his hands like, "Where'd it go?" Then, he pulls the ball out from his dog's ear. Katie smiles, turns her attention back to Mel.

175 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)

Katie was helping Dad get back in the game, out of the goodness of her heart... and also to salvage her party. 50/50.

176 KATIE

And the sooner you meet someone, the better. I mean, Friday's coming. Tick-tock!

177 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)

Well, 60/40.

178 KATIE

Two o'clock, over by the coffee cart, there's a guy in a suit filling his travel doggie dish.

179 MEL

How's his face?

180 KATIE

Tattoo-less.

181 MEL

I'm on it.

Mel steps to the coffee trailer where a GUY pours water into a collapsible bowl. Mel steels himself, then:

182 MEL (CONT'D)

Hi there. I'm Mel. Got to love those travel dog bowls, huh?

183 GUY
Yeah. They're super handy.

184 MEL
So... you married, or single, or...?

185 GUY
What?

186 MEL
Oh-- no! I'm not trying to pick you up. And yes, I realize that's what I would say if I were, but I'm not. I'm just... looking for a friend, a companion-- well, yeah, now it really sounds like I'm trying to--

Mel hears the guy get up.

187 MEL (CONT'D)
Yep, take care.

188 KATIE
Wow.

The guy exits. From the trailer, Don chimes in:

189 DON
There's a reason they tell you not to talk to strangers.

190 MEL
That's gonna hurt us, Don, because I talk to you and you're pretty strange.

191 DON
You can't see me, Mel. I'm beautiful.
(handing him coffee)
Here you go. Free coffee for the humiliated.

192 MEL
(to Katie)
Don takes care of me.

193 KATIE
(leading him)
Yeah, I was noticing that. You and Don seem pretty... what's that word? "Friendly"?

194 MEL
Yeah. We get along. We have things in common, we're pretty much the same age--

(MORE)

MEL (CONT'D)
(light bulb)
Oh my God.
(then)
Say, Don...?

INT. GARLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL - SLOAN'S OFFICE - LATER (D3) 20

Joyce enters, just as Soojin hands Sloan a FANCY DONUT with a picture of his face on it. (Outside Sloan's door, we can see Henry and Runyen sitting, sullen, arms folded.)

195 JOYCE
(re: donut)
What's that?

196 SOOJIN
You've never seen a portrait donut before?

197 JOYCE
Duh, yeah. Course I have.
(rooting in bag)
I just prefer the cool, minty refreshment of a chewy Mentos. Right, Principal Sloan? Mint?

But Sloan is happily eating his donut.

198 SLOAN
Mmmm. I taste delicious.

199 JOYCE
(re: bag)
Also got a dusty Xanax in here.

200 SLOAN
So. Let's talk. Henry and Runyen--

Sloan's cell BUZZES.

201 SLOAN (CONT'D)
Excuse me. Just got a sext from Wendy.
(reading it)
Apparently someone had fun with me Thursday night. It was Wednesday, but whatever. Should I read it to you?

202 JOYCE
Probably shouldn't.

As Sloan reads his text, Joyce takes a seat next to Soojin.

203 JOYCE (CONT'D)
Nice donut.

204 SOOJIN
Thank you.

205 SLOAN
(off text, more to himself)
"When are we doing it again in your dental chair?" Dental chair? That's weird. She's usually not into role-playing...

206 JOYCE
(to Soojin)
I was being sarcastic! I don't need to bribe school officials. Unlike you, I have confidence in my parenting.

207 SLOAN
(lost in his own world)
I don't think this text is for me.

208 SOOJIN
(to Joyce)
Says the woman whose son's shirt is covered in bleach stains.

209 SLOAN
(putting it together)
Oh, God. She's getting it on with Dr. Jonathan.

Joyce turns and looks into the front office where the boys sit. Henry's shirt is indeed covered in stains on his back.

210 JOYCE
That's... the style. Buy a hip-hop magazine.

211 SLOAN
I'm such an idiot. I paid four grand for her veneers.

INT. CALIFORNIA BAR ASSOCIATION CASINO NIGHT - NIGHT (N3) 21

A dark wood, men's club type place with several gaming tables set up. A "Ray of Light Foundation" banner hangs from a wall. The place is mostly filled with men, smoking, drinking, carrying on. Mel and Don talk to a group of Mel's colleagues.

212 DON
(to a young lawyer)
Babe Ruth did it without steroids and he still managed to get a candy bar named after him, so you know what, Eyebrow Bob, you and Derek Jeter can each lick one of my round ones.

They all laugh, enjoying Don's company.

213 MEL
That's the best offer Eyebrow Bob's
had in two weeks.

214 BOB
It wasn't even my eyebrow!

More laughter as Bob walks off.

215 MEL
I'm glad you could make it, Don. This
is fun.

216 DON
Yeah.
(then, off banner)
So "Ray of Light Foundation?" Isn't it
weird to call it a "Ray of Light" when
it's a blind thing?

217 MEL
No, this charity is for homeless kids.

218 DON
Oh, I thought it was for your...
situation.

219 MEL
My situation?

220 DON
Yeah, you know, your... eye... sitch.
Isn't that why you're on the board?

221 MEL
I'm on the California Bar Association
Board, because I'm an attorney.

222 DON
A blind attorney? Is that a thing?

223 MEL
Yeah. I'm a thing.

224 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
*As Dad's night was taking a turn,
Katie's night was just getting good.*

INT. MEL'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME (N3)

22

Katie looks out the peephole as some of her friends,
including Nicole, hang out.

225 KATIE

Hunter's here! Everybody be cool. But don't act like you're being cool, just be cool. Nicole, I swear, if you start bumming everyone out about your dead dog, you're out.

(looking over the room)

And do something with that chip area! It looks like garbage.

There's a knock at the door. Katie takes a beat to compose herself, then she answers it. It's Hunter.

226 KATIE (CONT'D)

(super casual)

Oh, hey. Hunter. I forgot you were coming by. Cool.

227 HUNTER

I brought you something.

With one quick move, he presents a brown paper bag and with a Copperfield level of flourish, he pulls out...

228 HUNTER (CONT'D)

French onion dip.

...and, never breaking his intense gaze, he throws the paper bag behind him.

INT. CALIFORNIA BAR ASSOCIATION CASINO NIGHT - LATER (N3) 23

Mel and Don are now sitting at the roulette table.

229 MEL

So just because I'm blind, it never occurred to you I could be a lawyer?

230 DON

Whoa, whoa, whoa... no.

231 MEL

Unbelievable.

232 DON

A lawyer. And here you are using your blindness to get free coffee from me.

233 MEL

That's why you gave me free coffee?

But Don isn't listening. He notices something.

234 DON
Oh my God, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is over there.
(calling off)
Hey, Kareem! Don't leave! Come take a picture with us!

235 MEL
Don, keep your voice down--

236 DON
(shouting, pointing at Mel)
Kareem! Hey! It's for my blind friend!
(sotto)
Mel, flash the dog! Let Kareem see you're--

237 MEL
With an idiot? That's it.
(stands to leave)
See you 'round the dog park, jackass.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. MEL'S APARTMENT - LATER (N3)

24

Music is playing, a handful of teens are milling about.
Hunter is sitting with Katie, staring intently into her eyes.

238 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
With Dad out of the apartment, Katie finally got to hang out with the guy of her dreams...

239 HUNTER
Is this your card?

Hunter presents a CARD.

240 KATIE
(bored)
No.

241 HUNTER
Oh, 'cause I must have...

He quickly regurgitates a crumpled card and and unfolds it.
It's an EIGHT OF CLUBS.

242 HUNTER (CONT'D)
...ate it.

243 KATIE
Ha. That's disgusting.

244 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...who was a complete nightmare.

245 HUNTER
And for my next trick, I will need a beautiful volunteer.

246 KATIE
(grabbing onto Nicole like she's a life preserver)
Nicole! Hey, girl.
(pointing to nothing)
Look at this.

Katie and Nicole cross away from Hunter.

247 KATIE (CONT'D)
You totally saved me. He keeps doing magic tricks.

248 NICOLE
But that's so cute.

249 KATIE
No! Turns out it's the opposite of
cute.

Just then, we hear Elvis BARK in the hallway, followed by the
SOUND OF KEYS in the door. Katie gasps and jumps up.

250 KATIE (CONT'D)
(panicked sotto)
Oh my God-- shh shh-- Shut up!
Everyone-- do not make a sound and do
NOT move!

Katie CUTS the music. Everyone FREEZES. Mel and Elvis enter.

251 KATIE (CONT'D)
Hey, Dad, you're home! Hi!

252 MEL
(startled)
Why are you standing right by the door?

253 KATIE
Why are you standing right by the door
and not at your charity thing?

254 MEL
Yeah, well, our good friend Don...

Mel crosses to hang up his jacket, nearly colliding with a
frozen Nicole. Katie looks panicked.

255 MEL (CONT'D)
...is apparently a -- what do you call
someone who's racist towards blind
people? 'Cause Don was that.

As Mel walks to the couch, Katie silently signals two frozen
friends to move out of his path. They tip-toe away from Mel.

256 KATIE
Oh, no. Really?

257 MEL
I'm so angry. He reduced me to just
some helpless blind guy.

Mel begins to sit... on the lap of a frozen Hunter!

258 KATIE
Dad!

259 MEL
(stopping mid-sit)
What?

260 KATIE
Nothing, it's just...

261 MEL
No, you're right. I can't be mad. I mean, I did the same thing to Pete. Judging a book by its... face tattoo.

Hunter maneuvers out from under him, but several interlocking rings fall from his coat and clank to the ground.

262 KATIE
Oh no, my bracelets fell on the ground is what that sound was.

263 MEL
I'm going to bed.

Mel walks toward his bedroom as other guests tip-toe out of his way. Katie points her friends toward the door.

264 KATIE
Sweet-- I mean, sweet dreams, Dad!

Katie and her friends look relieved. They got away with it!

265 MEL
Oh, and tell your twelve to fifteen friends to go home.

Mel exits. Katie is busted. She counts her friends.

266 KATIE
Fourteen. He's good.

INT. JOYCE'S HOUSE - FOYER - NEXT DAY (D4)

25

Henry is sitting on the stairs, holding a basketball, bored.

267 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
If my best friend had been there, I would have been playing one-on-one with that basketball, instead of--

He stares at it a long beat. Then sniffs it. Then sticks out his tongue to taste it.

268 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
--Yep. I really did that. We need friends for all kinds of reasons.

As Henry goes for another taste, Joyce enters, upbeat.

269 JOYCE
Okay, Henry.

270 HENRY
(quickly)
Nothing!

271 JOYCE
Okay first, lemme get the mother stuff
out of the way.
(stern "Mom" voice)
Fighting is bad, young man.
(then, upbeat)
Now for the fun stuff.

Joyce pulls out a tray of cookies from behind her back.

272 JOYCE (CONT'D)
Ta-da! "Thanks for Defending Me"
cookies. 'Cause that's what good moms
do-- they bake cookies from scratch
for the children they love.
(off his skeptical look)
Or they buy them, eat half the box in
the car, and then reseal them so it
looks like they've never been opened.
With love.

273 HENRY
I'm not hungry.

Henry starts upstairs. Joyce can't stand to see him sad.

274 JOYCE
Nope. Get your jacket on. We're going
over to the Hans, and I am going to
get you back together with Runyen.

275 HENRY
Really?

276 JOYCE
Yep. Even if it means groveling to his
stupid mother--
(catching herself, for Henry)
...who I'm sure is great once you get
to know her. Lots of stress owning a
small business.

277 HENRY
Thanks, Mom.

Henry and Joyce head to the front door... only to see Soojin
and Runyen walking up to their porch, bearing donuts.

278 HENRY (CONT'D)
Oh, look. They're coming to see us.

279 JOYCE
Oh, no. No, no, no. She is not gonna
apologize first.

Joyce grabs Henry's hand and pulls him back through the kitchen, out the back door, and they sneak around to...

EXT. JOYCE'S HOUSE - FRONT PATHWAY - MOMENTS LATER (D4) 26

Joyce and Henry come up right behind Soojin and Runyen, who stand at Joyce's front door.

280 JOYCE
Well, what do you know? This is so
funny, we were just at your house.
What a coincidence!

281 SOOJIN
Mrs. Fisher, I--

282 JOYCE
Joyce, please. Wow, donuts, thank you.
I brought you freshly baked cookies.
We left them on your doorstep, but I
think I saw a vagrant, or a large kid
selling candy bars lurking around, so
if they're not there when you get
back, that's probably why.

283 HENRY
(under his breath)
Wow.

284 SOOJIN
Joyce, listen. I wanted to say--

284A SOOJIN
I'm sorry.

284B JOYCE
(trying to beat her)
I'm sorry. Yes, that's what I
was saying.

285 SOOJIN (CONT'D)
I acted so inappropriately.

286 JOYCE
You? Please. It was all me. That's why
I'm apologizing the most now, 'cause
the important thing is the boys.

As Joyce and Soojin continue to one-up each other on the apology, Henry and Runyen cross off.

287 HENRY
Want to go play video games?

288 RUNYEN
I promised my mom I wouldn't.

289 HENRY
So don't tell her.

290 RUNYEN
Well that's an option.

291 HENRY
(under his breath)
Bad influence-- I'm the best
influence.

EXT. DOG PARK - LATER (D4)

27

Mel hears Pete baby-talk to his dog and crosses to him.

292 MEL
Hey, Pete. How's it--

293 PETE
You're standing on my frisbee.

294 MEL
(bending down to pick it up)
Thought that felt weird.
(then)
Look, I wanted to apologize for
yesterday. The truth is, I didn't want
to bring you because of your tattoo.

295 PETE
(feigning shock)
Noooo.
(then)
It was surprising. I mean, being
judged by you of all people.

296 MEL
I know.

297 PETE
A bald guy.

Mel and Pete share a laugh.

298 MEL
So... Pete. I was, uh... hm...

299 PETE
You want to ask about the tattoo,
don't you?

300 MEL
I really do.

301 PETE
It's a doozy of a story. Seven years ago I was learning how to stain glass in Houston--

302 MEL
(sniffs air)
Wait a minute, someone's dog just did their business, but the smell is lingering.

303 PETE
He's not cleaning it up!

304 MEL
Yeah, I don't hear the rustle of a bag.

MEL (CONT'D)
Hey! This is a community here!

PETE
Clean up after your dog, you bastard!

Pete adjusts Mel so he's pointed at the offender.

305 PETE (CONT'D)
He's more this way, Mel.

306 MEL
Thanks, Pete.
(to guy, yelling)
Who the hell do you think you are?!

307 PETE
Oo, he looks pissed... He's coming over... Wait, he's turning around.

308 MEL
Saw your tattoo?

309 PETE
Yep.

310 MEL
So it has its perks.

END OF SHOW