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# Growing Up Fisher

“Madi About You”

Written by

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Directed by

Dean Holland

SHOOTING DRAFT

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# Growing Up Fisher

Shooting Draft  
March 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	
MADI .....	Erinn Hayes	
ALLISON .....	Constance Zimmer	
JENNY .....	Isabela Moner	
RONNIE .....	Mickey Jones	*
DEAN .....	Stephen Full	*
BRAD .....	TBD	
JUDGE PRESSMENT .....	TBD	
ADAM .....	Hunter Seagroves	
EDDIE .....	Smalls	*
YOGA STUDENT .....	Matt Shea	*

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## SET LIST

### INTERIORS

AIRPORT RENTAL CAR DESK  
JOYCE'S HOUSE  
LIVING ROOM  
KITCHEN  
FOYER  
MEL'S APARTMENT  
ITALIAN RESTAURANT  
CLUB  
BAR  
JUDGE'S CHAMBERS  
APARTMENT HALLWAY  
MIATA  
PAWN/GUN SHOP  
THE ZEN DEN YOGA  
LOBBY  
STUDIO

### EXTERIORS

STREET CORNER  
RENTAL CAR PARKING LOT  
JOYCE'S HOUSE  
STREET OUTSIDE RESTAURANT  
USED CAR LOT  
COURTHOUSE

ACT ONE

EXT. STREET CORNER - DAY (D1) 1

MEL and Elvis stand at a corner waiting to cross.

1 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)  
*My dad loves rules. It's probably why  
he's a lawyer. And the world's oldest  
hall monitor.*

A guy, ADAM, walks up, absorbed in a discussion on his cell.

2 ADAM (INTO PHONE)  
I'm telling you the waitress was  
flirting with me and not just 'cause  
she works on tips... She only charged  
me half-price for drinks.

Mel impatiently hits the crosswalk button.

3 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)  
*Written rules, unwritten rules, social  
contracts, and don't try the express  
checkout with more than 12 items--  
trust me, he can hear the beeps.*

Fed up with waiting, Adam brushes past Mel, and is about to step off the curb. Mel grabs him by his collar and pulls him back, just as a rumbling TRUCK rushes by.

4 MEL  
"Don't Walk" sign's there for a  
reason. And let me save you the  
trouble, that waitress hates you.

INT. AIRPORT RENTAL CAR DESK - DAY (D1) 2

A line of people are waiting to check in and get their cars.

5 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)  
*Dad has no tolerance for people who  
ignore the rules. People like...*

A WOMAN (mid-30's) pushes her luggage cart past the waiting line and up to the desk.

6 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)  
*...the line cutter...*

EXT. RENTAL CAR PARKING LOT - LATER (D1) 3

The Woman loads her luggage into a car. She finishes and pushes the cart away, not caring where it will land.

7 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)  
...the cart ditcher...

She gets in the car and puts a RED HANDICAP PLACARD on the rearview mirror, then backs out.

8 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)  
...the abled-disabled...

SCENE 4 OMITTED

4

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - LATER (D1)

5

The car pulls up and parks. The Woman gets out of her car and runs to a front door with her duffle. We don't see the house.

9 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)  
...and the worst offender-- the unannounced visitor...

The Woman rings the bell several times before we REVEAL...

INT. JOYCE'S HOUSE - FOYER - DAY (D1)

6

...JOYCE answers the door, sees her sister and embraces her.

10 JOYCE  
Oh my God, Madi!

They grab each other and do an excited sister dance.

11 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)  
...My Aunt Madi was all those people.

12 JOYCE  
You look great! Maybe I should be vegan.

13 MADI  
I'm not vegan anymore! Now I only eat meat.

14 JOYCE  
Ohh, I'm doing that!

15 MADI  
Why? You look great, you just lost 186 pounds--

Mel (no Elvis) walks over.

16 MADI (CONT'D)  
...Oh wait, it's still here.

17 MEL  
(extending hand)  
I'm here to help you with your bag.

Surprised, Madi hands him her duffle. Mel tosses it outside and closes the door.

18 MEL (CONT'D)  
Enjoy your stay.

As he walks off...

MAIN TITLES: "GROWING UP FISHER"

INT. JOYCE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY (D1)

7

Joyce and Madi walk arm-in-arm into the living room. HENRY follows. Mel hangs back a bit.

19 HENRY  
(amazed)  
...so wait, you're Pearl Jam's  
unofficial tour photographer?

20 MADI  
Damn right. Remember that next time  
someone tells you selling grilled  
cheese sandwiches in a concert parking  
lot won't get you anywhere.

21 MEL  
It won't. It will not. Never do that.

22 MADI  
(playfully jabbing)  
Aw, Mel-anie, I'd tell you to let your  
hair down, but your hair let you down.

23 JOYCE  
Henry, go get your Aunt Madi's bag  
from the bushes. But don't look in it,  
don't look in it.

Henry heads outside.

24 MEL  
So Madi, why are you here and not "on  
the road with a band" or as everyone  
else calls it: homeless.

25 MADI  
I came to support my sister. The  
second I found out she was going  
through a separation, I knew I had to  
be here.

26 JOYCE  
I told you four months ago.

27 MADI  
I didn't want to be here for the  
depressing waa-waa part.

KATIE enters in time to hear:

28 MADI (CONT'D)  
I'm here for the, "Hey! We're both  
single! Let's go show our boobs in  
public!" part.

29 JOYCE  
She's speaking metaphorically, Katie.

30 MADI  
I'm not. Bring it in, K-Town.

Madi and Katie hug.

31 MADI (CONT'D)  
Oh my God, you look so cute.

32 KATIE  
Thank you.

33 MADI  
(gesturing)  
No, not any of this. What I just saw  
in my head. I know your new look.

34 KATIE  
Can we get it done before yearbook  
pictures next week?

35 MADI  
We kinda have to. Yearbooks are  
forever.

Henry sticks his head back in.

36 HENRY  
Dad, Allison's here to pick you up.

37 MADI  
Who's Allison?

38 MEL  
Not your concern.

39 MADI  
Ooo, Mel-atonin's got a girlfriend.

40 MEL

Not a girlfriend. We've been out a few times. She's just here to drive me home. Madi, as always, a delight. Good luck with whatever hair-brained scheme you stumble into next.

41 MADI

I'm gonna start making my own soap.

42 MEL

Of course you are.

EXT. JOYCE'S HOUSE - PORCH - CONTINUOUS (D1)

8

Mel enters onto the porch. Joyce and Madi trail behind.

43 MADI

(aside to Joyce)

All right, I gotta check out this poor sad creature that's risen from--  
(sees Allison, impressed)  
...a spinning class, apparently.

44 JOYCE

She's actually pretty nice. I think we're gonna be friends.

ALLISON crosses up. We see Elvis waiting in her car.

45 MADI

Wow. Mel, I gotta hand it to you. You went from a hot blonde taking care of you to a hot brunette taking care of you.

46 MEL

She doesn't "take care" of me, I take care of me.

47 ALLISON

Hey, Mel. Picked up Elvis from the groomer's for you.

48 MEL

I thought we were going together.

49 ALLISON

I just thought it'd be easier. Then I'd have to get you out of the car and him into the car. Would've been a whole thing.

50 JOYCE

Madi, Allison. Allison, Madi.



51 MADI

I'm her sister. And the only woman here who's never been attracted to him.

52 ALLISON

I see the over-sharing runs in the family.

Allison takes Mel's arm.

53 ALLISON (CONT'D)

Okay, Mel, three steps down.

54 MEL

(defensive)

I know. I built these stairs myself.

55 ALLISON

Wow, sorry. Impressive.

56 JOYCE

(calling over)

He didn't.

57 MEL

(to Allison)

But thanks for the vote of confidence.

Allison chuckles as they continue toward the car.

58 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)

*Madi had unintentionally touched a nerve in Dad. As crazy as he was about Allison, he just wanted to be the guy she was dating...*

They approach Allison's car.

59 ALLISON

Here, I got the door.

60 MEL

No, I've got it.

61 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)

*...not the blind guy she was dating.*

ANGLE ON: Joyce and Madi, who watch them drive away from the front steps. **A9**

62 MADI

So. What do you got going in the romance department?

63 JOYCE

Well, nothing right now. I mean, I barely have time between kids and my classes and driving to my classes and driving the kids to their classes...

64 MADI

I'm sorry, I fell asleep. How did that end? Joy, we are going out tonight.

65 JOYCE

Really? But I downloaded Rachael Ray's recipe for cracklin' caramel corn today. Which we both know I'm never going to make. So I also bought a bag of caramel corn.

(beat, then)

Which I will eat while I'm picking out an outfit.

Joyce excitedly heads off.

INT. MEL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (N1)

9

CLOSE ON: Henry, staring up, squinting intently.

66 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)

*There were people who Dad let take care of him. An inner circle, if you will.*

67 HENRY

I think we got 'em all. You're good to go.

68 MEL

Thanks, bud.

REVEAL: Henry's been peering into Mel's nose. He hands Mel a little scissors.

69 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)

*And what an honor it was.*

Mel exits to his bedroom for some last-minute date prep. Henry joins RUNYEN, where they resume their video game.

70 HENRY

Every time my dad and Allison go out, Jenny and I stay in. We're getting so close. We talk all night. She tells me everything.

71 RUNYEN

Just be careful. Don't fall into the friend zone. 'Cause once you're there, you're stuck there. Like that special gym class.

72 HENRY

(defensive)

Hey, I got out.

There's a knock at the door. Henry answers it. Jenny and Allison come in. They ad-lib "hellos."

73 RUNYEN

Hi, Jenny. And hell-o Al-li-son!

Mel comes in and gives Allison a kiss on the cheek.

74 MEL

You look lovely tonight.

75 ALLISON

Thanks, but how did you--

76 MEL

I heard Runyen hit every syllable of your name.

77 HENRY

So Jenny, wanna go up to the roof? Maybe gaze at some stars?

78 JENNY

Nah, let's just play video games.

79 RUNYEN

(pointedly)

Just like we do, friend-o.

Henry realizes he might be in the friend zone.

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT (N1)

10

Mel and Allison sit at a table eating pizza. Elvis lies at the foot of the table.

80 ALLISON

So how about it? You come by my studio, I'll give you a private yoga class. It'll be fun.

81 MEL

Thanks, but I've never reached a cathartic meditative state anywhere a lot of people are barefoot.

They both laugh.

82 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)  
*For Dad, letting someone new into his inner circle wasn't easy...*

83 MEL  
Oh, I forgot to ask for Parmesan cheese.

84 ALLISON  
There's some on the table behind you, I'll grab it for you.

As Allison gets up, a still-sensitive Mel stops her.

85 MEL  
No-- stay, sit. Enjoy your meal. I can get my own cheese.

86 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)  
*...And Madi's comment about Allison taking care of him made it even harder for Dad to let her in...*

Mel turns to the table behind him, feels around for Parmesan cheese.

87 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)  
*...and harder for this couple to enjoy their dinner.*

REVEAL: Mel is searching around at a table while a COUPLE, mid-bite, stare at him in stunned silence. Allison, unsure of overstepping, doesn't know what to do. Mel takes a shaker and sits back down at his table. Not realizing it's crushed red pepper, he shakes it liberally on his pizza.

88 ALLISON  
Mel, that's the crushed red pepper.

89 MEL  
(beat, covering)  
Even better.

He takes a bite. It's painfully spicy but he muscles through.

90 MEL (CONT'D)  
So much better.

INT. JOYCE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT (N1)

11

Madi is applying goop and foil to Katie's hair.

91 MADI

Leave it in overnight. You really want to give the color time to lift. It'll look great in the photo.

A dollop of goop gets on Katie's shirt. Madi wipes it off, and it instantly wipes the color off the shirt. Madi winces.

92 KATIE

I'm so glad you're here. I've wanted ombre highlights forever, but my mom's all, "You're perfect the way you are. You're a natural beauty." Ugh, she's so annoying.

93 MADI

And so wrong. You need a lot of help.

94 KATIE

Thank you!

Joyce enters.

95 JOYCE

Whoa, whoa, whoa, what are you doing?

96 KATIE

Mom. I'm getting a new look. Let this happen.

97 MADI

And what do you care, Miss dye your hair every week just to piss Mom off?

98 JOYCE

It wasn't just to piss Mom off.

99 MADI

The green?

100 JOYCE

Okay, that was to piss Mom off.

Katie shakes her head and exits.

101 MADI

I thought we were going out. Go get changed.

102 JOYCE

I did change.

(off her look)

I can change again.

(beat, giving up)

What should I wear?

103 MADI

Something sexy, with a hint of slutty that shows off your rockin' bod. That can come off fast in a pinch.

104 JOYCE

All right! Just give me seven minutes, 'cause I have to shave above m'knees.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE RESTAURANT - LATER (N1)

12

Mel (with Elvis) and Allison are standing close. Mel leans in, but she turns her head. He plants one on her cheek.

105 MEL

Okay...

106 ALLISON

No, I want to, it's just-- you have heightened senses, and I had garlic knots.

107 MEL

(sexy)

I, too, had garlic knots.

He leans in again.

108 ALLISON

You've gotta be kidding me!

109 MEL

Fine, we'll stop and buy gum.

110 ALLISON

No, I got a ticket.

As Allison grabs the ticket off her windshield...

111 ALLISON (CONT'D)

This is ridiculous, my tire's not in the red.

112 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)

*That parking ticket was Dad's ticket to prove he didn't need to be taken care of.*

113 MEL

Give it to me. I'll be down at the courthouse tomorrow anyway. I'll get a judge to knock it out.

114 ALLISON

It's forty bucks. I'll just pay it.

115 MEL

No one's paying anything. That's gum money, lady. I'm taking care of it.

Allison considers for a beat, then hands him the ticket.

116 ALLISON

Fine, but maybe pop a mint before you try to sweet talk a judge.

INT. CLUB - BAR - LATER (N1)

13

Joyce and Madi sit at a dark, modern club.

117 MADI

See? Isn't this better than the place you wanted to go?

118 JOYCE

Don't knock Don Fiesta's. There's nothing better than their ultimate nachos. Well, except their hardcore nachos, which are basically the ultimate nachos with more beef.

119 MADI

Oh my God. Stop talking about nachos. Where's my cool big sister who taught me how to sneak vodka into a movie theater?

120 JOYCE / MADI

Saline solution bottle.

121 JOYCE

See? She's still here. But she grew up. Now I use that knowledge to stop my daughter from trying to do the same thing.

122 MADI

Narc. And for God's sake, lose the ring. You're getting divorced. Why are you still wearing it?

123 JOYCE

I don't know. Mel still wears his, and... I'm just used to it. It's not like it means anything anymore.

124 MADI

(calling to waiter)

Two more rum and cokes, please!

(to Joyce)

(MORE)

MADI (CONT'D)

It means no guys are gonna want to come and hit on you... and the cuter, easier woman sitting next to you.

125 JOYCE

Plenty of guys hit on me. A guy from the grocery store hit on me, and we went out.

126 MADI

How'd that go?

127 JOYCE

He left me at a carnival and now I drive two towns over to get milk.

128 MADI

First of all, you should give up dairy. Second, that ring is a signal to the universe that you still got one of your giant feet stuck in your old life. You're sending the universe mixed messages.

129 JOYCE

I'm sure the universe gets what I'm doing. And our feet are the same size.

To prove a point, Madi spots a cute guy, BRAD, nearby.

130 MADI

Excuse me, would you like to buy this beautiful woman a drink?

131 BRAD

I'd love to.

132 MADI

You sure? Even when she's wearing... this?

Madi grabs Joyce's hand and shows him the ring.

133 BRAD

Oh. Sorry, I'm not cool with that. But I'd be happy to buy you a drink--

134 MADI

We're done here.

Madi shoves him away and turns back to Joyce.

135 MADI (CONT'D)

See?



136 JOYCE  
That guy only left 'cause you made a  
big deal about it.

137 MADI  
It is a big deal!  
(beat, then)  
Gimme that ring!

Madi grabs hold of Joyce's ring and tries to pull it off.  
They struggle over it in a loud tug of war.

137A JOYCE  
Cut it out! Let go! Ow! OW!  
You're pinching my-- let go!

137B MADI  
Give me the ring! Give me the  
ring! Stop fighting me!

Joyce grabs Madi's ear.

137C MADI  
Ow ow! Let go of my ear!

137D JOYCE  
You let go of my finger!

They look up to see that all the men in the bar are watching.  
One guy is recording it on his phone. Joyce turns to Madi.

138 JOYCE  
Well, guys sure are noticing us now.

139 MADI  
Should we make out?

Off Joyce's look we...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. JUDGE'S CHAMBERS - NEXT MORNING (D2)

14

Mel and Allison enter the office before the day's cases have begun. It's busy with clerks crossing in and out with files.

140 ALLISON  
Oh my God, it's so busy. Mel, lemme just pay the ticket.

141 MEL  
Nope. I'll take care of it. The guys down here never deal with real lawyers. This'll make their day. We'll be out of here in a minute.

A nearby CLERK looks up from a cluttered desk.

142 CLERK  
Can I help you?

143 MEL  
Hi, I'm Mel Fisher... Esquire. My lady friend here received a parking ticket in error and I was hoping to see Judge Pressment before his day started. And hopefully mine too, I have opening statements up in one of the big boy courtrooms at ten.

Mel extends the ticket. The Clerk takes it... then reveals:

144 JUDGE PRESSMENT  
Actually, I'm Judge Pressment. So do me a favor, pretend you're in my little boy courtroom and call me Your Honor.

145 MEL  
Oh, Your Honor, I didn't mean--

146 JUDGE PRESSMENT  
I'll need to run your license, ma'am.

Allison hesitates a beat, and then gives her license to the Judge, who crosses off.

147 ALLISON  
When he says "run my license," he's not gonna check Colorado, is he?

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - LATER (D2)

15

Henry and Jenny head to the elevator, on their way to school.

148 JENNY  
So your Xbox just broke?

149 HENRY  
Yeah, it's such a bummer. I guess no  
more video games for us.

He sneezes.

150 JENNY  
Bless you. Are you getting sick?

151 HENRY  
Just a stuffy nose. Nothing that's  
gonna sideline me for the Jen-ry film  
festival Saturday. By the way, I picked  
out the perfect movie for us to watch.

152 JENNY  
I had an idea too.

152A HENRY  
*The Notebook.*

152B JENNY  
*The Notebook.*

153 JENNY (CONT'D)  
Oh, that's so funny, I love you!

Henry beams as the elevator arrives and Jenny steps on.

154 HENRY  
(closes his eyes, to himself)  
Don't be a dream don't be a dream  
don't be a dream.

155 JENNY (O.S.)  
Henry, let's go!

156 HENRY  
(opens eyes, to himself)  
Yes! Still here.

INT. JOYCE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - THAT MORNING (D2)

16

Joyce enters, yawning, and turns on the coffee maker.

157 KATIE (O.S.)  
Oh my God! Mom, look at my hair!

Katie enters with hair that looks half-dipped in bleach.

158 JOYCE  
Oh honey, I'm sure it's not that--  
(sees the hair)  
Ohhh my God, okay, oh boy.

159 KATIE  
Madi ruined my hair! I'm gonna kill  
her! How could you let her do this to  
me?!

160 JOYCE  
Me?!

161 KATIE  
Now I have to shave my head! I'm gonna  
look like Dad!

162 JOYCE  
Madi means well. Sometimes she just  
gets carried away and does things that--  
(then, noticing hand)  
Wait a minute, where is my ring?

It suddenly dawns on Joyce.

163 JOYCE (CONT'D)  
I'm gonna kill her!

EXT. COURTHOUSE - LATER (D2)

17

Mel and Allison stand with a tow truck driver, EDDIE, as he  
connects Allison's car to the truck.

164 MEL  
Unhook this car immediately.

165 EDDIE  
No can do. Somebody left Denver with a  
bunch of unpaid tickets. If you want me  
to put the car down, you should have  
paid up. Little tow truck humor.

A cab pulls up.

166 ALLISON  
Mel, the cab's here. C'mon, I have to  
get to my yoga class.

167 MEL  
We're not going anywhere.  
(to Eddie)  
Release the vehicle!

168 ALLISON  
Oh my God. We should have just paid  
the damn ticket. Why are you being  
like this?

169 MEL  
Being like what? Helpful?

Mel defiantly gets in the back seat of Allison's car with Elvis just as Eddie raises the front end.

170 MEL (CONT'D)  
 (calling out the window)  
 You go! Have a great day! I got this!  
 (as it pulls away)  
 You need cab money?

Allison watches the tow truck drive away with Mel in her car.

INT. JOYCE'S HOUSE - FOYER - LATER (D2) 18

Joyce, on the phone, paces as Katie looks in the mirror.

171 JOYCE (INTO PHONE)  
 Voicemail! Madeline Louise, call me back, dammit! And when you do, don't mention that I just sounded exactly like Mom!

Outside, Madi HONKS the horn.

EXT. JOYCE'S HOUSE - SECONDS LATER (D2) 19

Katie and Joyce run down the front steps... and out to the street, where we REVEAL: Madi sitting in a convertible, top down.

172A JOYCE	172B KATIE
What did you do with my ring?!	What did you do to my hair!

172 JOYCE  
 Whose car is that?

173 MADI  
 Yours! I sold your ring to buy it!  
 (to Katie, re: hair)  
 We might need to tweak that a little bit.

As Joyce and Katie steam...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. JOYCE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MINUTES LATER (D2)

20

Joyce watches as Katie confronts an oblivious Madi.

174 KATIE

Look what you did to my hair!

175 MADI

I really thought you could leave the dye in overnight. Oh, no-- that's the leave-in conditioner.

176 JOYCE

The hair we can fix-- hopefully-- but you sold my ring. And pawned it to buy a car?!

177 MADI

Not just "a car." A '91 Miata convertible. And, believe me: That thing is a *man magnet*. It looks good and I bet it breaks down all the time.

(off her look)

Guys looove to fix things.

178 JOYCE

I don't want a man magnet! I want my ring!

179 MADI

I ripped off a band-aid and bought a car with it. I should be hearing words like, "Thank you" and "Let me take you to brunch."

180 JOYCE

I'm not taking you to brunch!

181 MADI

Fine, lunch. We'll just go to a place that has all-day breakfast.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - DAY (D2)

21

Henry and Runyen exit the elevator.

182 HENRY

"I love you." She said "I love you."

183 RUNYEN

No, she said "You're so funny, I love you." That's like what you say to me all the time.

184 HENRY  
I don't say that.

185 RUNYEN  
Well, you should, I'm really funny and very lovable.

186 HENRY  
All I know is, she said "I love you."  
We're in the boyfriend-girlfriend zone.

187 RUNYEN  
Well, then I guess my grandma's my girlfriend 'cause I tell her I love her all the time.

They get to the door and find a tupperware container with a note attached to it. Henry reads the note.

188 HENRY  
"Chicken soup for your cold. Can't have you sick for *The Notebook*. Feel better. XO Jenny."

189 RUNYEN  
(suddenly on board)  
Dude. She cooked for you. She got like some chicken and... some water-- I don't know how to make soup. But she does, and she did. For you. Game on.

190 HENRY  
Hey, if you want, we can double date. Me and Jenny, you and your grandma.

EXT. USED CAR LOT - DAY (D2)

22

Madi and Joyce are with a salesman, DEAN.

191 DEAN  
Sorry, ma'am. But our return policy is "no habla ingles."

192 MADI  
(to Joyce)  
See? This is the universe telling you to keep the car and start your new life.

193 DEAN  
I'm with your sister on this. You gotta keep that ride. You look good in it. 'Course, you'd look good in anything. Or nothing.

194 JOYCE

Wow, Dean, that's... super... icky.

(turns to Madi)

You see why I need the ring back? So I don't have to deal with losers like Dean hitting on me. No offense, Dean, but also... offense.

195 DEAN

None taken. Can I get your number?

196 MADI

Forget about Dean. No one's going out with Dean. But what about the decent guys? If you don't take off your ring, no one will ever take off your bra. And it's a shame 'cause those girls didn't show up 'til junior year, and now they need to run free.

197 DEAN

Amen.

198 JOYCE / MADI

Dean!

Dean moves off.

199 JOYCE

Just because you're ready for me to take off my ring doesn't mean I am. I'm not like you, Madi. I can't just hop on a bus with Pearl Jam and sell them all soap. I can't toss my life away.

200 MADI

That's not tossing your life away, that's having a life.

201 JOYCE

I have a life! I've got kids. I'm in grad school. I have a car with a five-star safety rating. I have responsibilities!

202 MADI

You have excuses! I'm helping you get to a better place.

203 JOYCE

Well, maybe right now my life would be in a better place if you weren't in it.



With that, Joyce heads for the Miata. Dean turns to Madi.

204 DEAN

Can I interest you in a '73 Dean? He's fast and can handle curves. You're welcome to test-drive it.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - LATER (D2)

23

Joyce pulls up to a corner in the Miata with the top down and stops by Mel, who is standing outside the courthouse with Elvis and a coffee. Joyce gets out to help him.

205 MEL

Thanks for picking me up. I've had a hell of a day.

206 JOYCE

You and me both. Lemme help you--

207 MEL

I know how to get in the car, Joyce.

Mel goes to put his COFFEE on the ROOF of the car... *which doesn't exist*. The coffee DROPS like a stone into the passenger seat. Joyce reacts.

208 MEL (CONT'D)

Uh, Joyce, where's your roof?

INT. MIATA - MINUTES LATER (D2)

24

Joyce, Mel, and Elvis are crammed into the tiny, rickety car.

209 MEL

When you buy an engagement ring, you don't really think about the re-sale value. But sitting in this thing, I feel like I should've sprung for the extra karat.

210 JOYCE

You were totally right about Madi.

211 MEL

...I was?

212 JOYCE

For seventeen years, I defended her, I covered for her, I never even told you her cell phone is on our family plan.

213 MEL

Well you can't be surpri-- Data too?! Forget it, I don't want to know.

214 JOYCE

But you knew right away, from the first time you met, when she asked you what disease to fake to get out of jury duty. And I wouldn't listen. She's my little sister, how could she be as bad as you were saying? But you were right. My sister is as bad as you said and worse. I'm done with her.

215 MEL

She's your sister. You're not really--

216 JOYCE

Done!

(then, to herself)

Done.

Whoa. Mel's surprised by Joyce's conviction.

217 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)

*Dad realized he wasn't the only one with an inner circle. And as hard as it was to let someone in, it was even harder when someone fell out.*

They drive in silence. Then the rearview mirror falls off.

218 MEL

Rearview mirror?

219 JOYCE

Yep.

220 MEL

I really chintzed out on that ring.

INT. JOYCE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER (D2)

25

Katie talks to Madi, who unpacks her portable hair salon. She drops a bottle. Katie picks it up for her.

221 KATIE

Here, you dropped your saline solution.

222 MADI

Oh, thanks.

Behind Katie's back, she takes a quick squeeze from it and puts it back in her bag.

223 KATIE

My mom gave me money to go to a hair salon.

224 MADI  
(taking the money)  
What a waste. You don't need to go to  
a salon. Salons are for cowards.

Madi's phone rings. She checks it.

225 MADI (CONT'D)  
Ew, why's your dad calling me?

SCENE 26 OMITTED

26

INT. PAWN/GUN SHOP - LATER (D2)

27

Mel and Madi enter.

226 MADI  
I'm telling you, this guy is not gonna  
just give me the ring back.

227 MEL  
I agree. He'll give it back to me.

They step up to the counter and as we see them talk to the  
pawn shop owner, RONNIE...

228 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)  
*Dad could have been rid of Madi  
forever. But he knew Mom needed her  
sister in her life. Which meant she  
was going to be in his...*

Ronnie puts a RING BOX on the counter as something catches  
Madi's eye.

229 MADI  
Ooh, maybe I'll start playing the  
banjo!

230 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)  
*...So he'd develop an ulcer. There's  
medication for that.*

231 RONNIE  
The ring'll cost you three thousand.

232 MEL  
Oh, I don't think you understood me.  
I'm not paying anything for it. You're  
selling stolen property--

233 RONNIE  
Interesting. Thirty-five hundred.

234 MEL

It's stolen. I happen to be with the person who stole it.

235 MADI

Good to see you again.

236 RONNIE

Don't know this person. Four thousand.

237 MEL

Possession of stolen property is a felony! I probably should have led with: I'm a lawyer, I could file--

238 RONNIE

Four thousand three hundred. I probably should have led with: you can't see this, but I am surrounded by guns.

239 MADI

He is.

240 MEL

Is he holding any of them?

241 RONNIE

Look, it's just gonna be easier for you to stop fighting and pay up.

During the following, we push in on Mel, then on Ronnie -- a stand-off.

242 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)

*Wrong thing to say. 'Cause if there's one thing Dad loves, it's a fight. And after the ride he'd been on, there was no way he was going to walk out of there without--*

243 MEL

(folding, takes out wallet)  
You know what? I don't have any fight left in me.

244 RONNIE

Smart. Now, would you like to stock up on anything else...  
(big brother's watching)  
...while we still have a second amendment?

INT. THE ZEN DEN YOGA - LOBBY - LATER (D2)

28

Mel, with Elvis, enters with Madi, mid-argument.

245 MADI

...I don't understand why you're so upset. No one was using the parking space. And I have a placard.

246 MEL

The placards are for people who are handicapped, not just for people who sometimes drive the handicapped! And I'm not handicapped!

247 MADI

Oh you're handicapped, Mel. And I'm not even talking about the blind thing.

248 MEL

Just wait outside and let me give Allison the receipt to get her car back so I can fix another problem you caused.

249 MADI

This is the place she owns? I worked at a yoga joint in Daytona Beach for three weeks. Lot nicer than this dump.

250 MEL

Seriously, do me a favor...

He reaches out, takes her face in his hand, and gently pushes her out the door.

INT. THE ZEN DEN YOGA - STUDIO - SECONDS LATER (D2)

29

Allison, eyes closed, sits at the head of a class. Everyone is silent, in child's pose, their eyes closed. It's peaceful. Mel enters. He stands at the back of the room for a beat.

251 MEL

(loudly)

Anyone work here? I'm looking for Allison?

Everyone JUMPS, STARTLED on yoga mats. Allison leaps up.

252 ALLISON

(intense whisper)

Mel?!

INT. THE ZEN DEN YOGA - LOBBY - SECONDS LATER (D2)

30

Allison drags Mel to the counter in the lobby.

253 ALLISON

What is going on with you? And please don't say you're here to "take care of" my yoga studio.

254 MEL

I came to say I'm sorry. I've been acting like such a jackass. But there's a reason and I want to explain it to you. And then, I want to give you something that I hope will make up for all of this.

255 ALLISON

Okay...

256 MEL

The truth is, you're kind of the first person I've let get this close to me this quickly. It's a big step, and obviously I've struggled with it, but hopefully it's just the first of many steps we take together. Anyway, what I'm trying to say is--

Mel reaches into his pocket and pulls out the receipt, but the RING BOX falls out. Mel kneels down to pick it up.

257 ALLISON

(uncomfortable)

Oh my God, are you proposing to me?

The yoga students have come out of the studio to see this and start APPLAUDING.

258 MEL

Oh my God.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. THE ZEN DEN YOGA - LOBBY - WHERE WE LEFT THEM (D2) 31

Mel stands up and faces Allison.

259 MEL  
Oh, no, no-- I'm not proposing.

260 ALLISON  
Oh, thank God. Because that would be--

261 MEL  
Way too soon. And crazy. I mean,  
I don't want to marry you. Good lord,  
that's the last thing I'd want--

262 ALLISON  
Okay, point made.

263 YOGA STUDENT  
(calling from behind them)  
You're missing out. She's very bendy.

264 ALLISON  
Guys, go take an early savasana.

The students file back into the studio.

265 MEL  
I was just going to give you your  
receipt. I paid everything off so you  
can have your car back.  
(handing it to her)  
The ring is for Joyce.

266 ALLISON  
You giving an engagement ring to your  
ex-wife is not actually making me feel  
better.

267 MEL  
No, no, no, it's nothing like that.  
She lost the ring and was upset, so I  
just took care of it.

268 ALLISON  
Like you took care of my parking  
ticket?

269 MEL  
Listen, a lot of what you've seen me  
do the last couple days hasn't been my  
best work. I got in my head.  
(MORE)

MEL (CONT'D)

I didn't want you to take care of me because I was blind. I want you to take care of me because you like me... Because I like you... Look, I overreact sometimes. I don't know why. But what I do know is-- I couldn't be happier that you screwed up your driving record so bad in Colorado that you had to come here.

We see this land on Allison.

270 ALLISON

I like you, too. And thanks for helping me with my car.

271 MEL

(beat, then)

I told you I'd take care of it.

She laughs.

272 MEL (CONT'D)

So, I'm gonna head out and let you finish the class.

Mel drops the handle of Elvis's harness.

273 MEL (CONT'D)

Hey so, uh... Elvis is unfamiliar with this place.

(offering his arm)

Could you... walk me out?

274 ALLISON

Of course.

275 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)

*And with that walk to the door,  
Allison stepped into Dad's inner  
circle.*

She escorts him to the door. A nice moment... interrupted by a long CAR HORN.

276 MADI (O.S.)

Melon balls! Let's go!

(then, to someone else)

Don't look at me like that, lady! I'm allowed to park here! I'm carting around a blind guy!



INT. JOYCE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER (D2)

32

Joyce is reading a magazine. Katie SCREAMS from upstairs, then runs downstairs, crying. We see her hair is now BLUE-GREY like an 80-year-old woman.

277 JOYCE  
(reaching)  
Look how... mature your hair looks.

278 KATIE  
(voice breaking)  
Mom, help me!

Joyce hugs Katie. She couldn't be happier that her daughter is sad... and needs her. She strokes Katie's grey hair.

279 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)  
*The people in your inner circle help you. Not just by taking care of you...*

280 JOYCE  
It's okay, sweetie. I'm right here.  
(re: her hair)  
Yipes. It's like dry hay.  
(then)  
But we can fix it. Mom can fix it.

As Joyce continues to comfort Katie...

281 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)  
*...but also by letting you take care of them.*

282 KATIE  
How could she do this to me? I look older than you!

283 JOYCE  
Shhhhh... Don't ruin this.

SCENE 33 OMITTED (NOW SCENE 36)

33

INT. JOYCE'S HOUSE - FOYER - LATER (D2)

34

Mel and Madi enter.

284 MEL  
Okay, now that we're in the house and you can't pawn it again... here.  
(handing her ring box)  
Give the ring to Joyce and say you're sorry. That's it. Resist the urge to say anything else that comes out of your brain.

INT. JOYCE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SECONDS LATER (D2)

35

Joyce is cleaning up in the kitchen. Madi enters.

285 JOYCE  
(a little cold)  
Hello.

286 MADI  
Here. This is for you. I'm sorry.

Madi hands Joyce the ring. Joyce melts.

287 JOYCE  
You got my ring back!  
(hugging Madi)  
You are good. You're not terrible. I  
was right.

288 MADI  
I just want to say one more thing--

289 MEL (O.S.)  
No, you don't! You're done talking!

290 MADI  
You're a great big sister.

291 JOYCE  
Wait, Mel's here?

292 MADI  
Yeah, he kinda... helped me get your  
ring back.

293 JOYCE  
Mel?

Mel enters as Madi crosses out.

294 JOYCE (CONT'D)  
You didn't have to do that. But thank  
you.  
(slips the ring back on)  
Still fits.

Joyce looks at the ring back on her finger. A beat.

295 JOYCE (CONT'D)  
You know what? Now that I had it off  
all day, it feels...

296 MEL  
Weird, right? Like maybe...

297 JOYCE  
We shouldn't be wearing them anymore?

298 MEL  
Yeah.

299 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)  
*Maybe it was because he was blind, or  
because she was having a mid-life  
teenage awkward phase...*

Joyce takes her ring off and places it in Mel's hand. Mel smiles, takes off his ring and places it in Joyce's hand. Joyce and Mel share a nice moment.

300 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)  
*...but even divorced, Mom and Dad  
would always be in each other's inner  
circle.*

Madi walks in, arms in the air, victorious.

301 MADI  
See? This is exactly what I was going  
for. You're welcome.

Madi pulls them both into a quick embrace, then walks out.

302 JOYCE  
Wow, Mel. Admirable restraint.

303 MEL  
Eh, I'm kind of at peace. I stole her  
handicap permit.

He holds it up and snaps it in half, smiling.

INT. JOYCE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY (D2)

36

Henry and Runyen sit, surrounded by several varieties of breath mints, gum, and breath sprays.

304 HENRY  
Okay, tell me if you'd kiss this.  
Binaca, gum, and two breath mints.

305 RUNYEN  
Hit me.

Henry exhales in Runyen's face. Runyen wafts it in his nose like a fine wine just as Katie enters, her still-grey hair semi-covered with a bandana. She's holding a BOWL.

306 KATIE  
Hen-- What're you guys doing?

307 HENRY  
(pulling back)  
Nothing!  
(then, noticing)  
What happened to your hair?

308 KATIE  
Madi.  
(handing Henry the bowl)  
Hey. Mom said you were still sick, so  
I made you some chicken soup. Feel  
better.

She crosses out. Henry and Runyen share a look.

309 HENRY  
She cooked for me. That's not good.

310 KATIE (O.S.)  
(snapping)  
You don't have to eat it!

The boys ponder the implications of this.

311 RUNYEN  
It's worse than the friend zone. Dude,  
you're in the sibling zone.  
(trying to cheer him up)  
On the bright side, now you have two  
hot sisters.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - LATER THAT DAY (D2)

37

Henry stands at Jenny's door and hands Jenny back her  
tupperware. She smiles and takes it.

312 ADULT HENRY (V.O.)  
*I knew Jenny was in my inner circle.  
Not the way I wanted her to be, but  
she was close, and I'd take it.*

She closes the door and Henry turns back to his apartment,  
content. REVEAL: Runyen leaning against the wall.

313 RUNYEN  
So... Which of your sisters would you  
rather I hit on?

END OF SHOW