

HAPPY ENDINGS

Episode 203

Yesandwitch

Written by

Leila Strachan

Directed by

Joe Russo

(Pg. 6,9,13,14,19,19A,21,23,30,30A)
(Pg. 19,19A)

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Shooting Script | 08/16/11 |
| Shooting Script (Full Blue) | 08/17/11 |
| Shooting Script (Pink Rev.) | 08/19/11 |
| <u>Shooting Script (Yellow Rev.)</u> | <u>08/22/11</u> |

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CAST

JANE Eliza Coupe

ALEX Elisha Cuthbert

DAVE Zachary Knighton

MAX Adam Pally

BRAD Damon Wayans, Jr.

PENNY Casey Wilson

BOATIST Gary Rolin

CHRIS (V.O.) TBD

DANA Megan Mullally

HOSTESS Angela de Silva

SCOTT Seth Morris

TOURIST 1 Mary Portser

TOURIST 2 Diane Sellers

TOURIST 3 Ron Lynch

TOURIST 4 Rusty Burns

Happy Endings
Shooting Script (Full Blue)

"Yesandwitch" [203]
08/17/11

b.

SETS

INTERIORS

CONVENTION CENTER
EMMA'S
JANE & BRAD'S APARTMENT
PENNY & ALEX'S CONDO
ROSALITA'S

EXTERIORS

CONVENTION CENTER
EMMA'S
FOOD TRUCK
PENNY & ALEX'S STOOP
STREET
BY POST OFFICE

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

1 INT. EMMA'S - DAY (DAY 1)

1

Penny, Dave, Alex, Jane, and Brad all wear weird neckbrace-looking contraptions. They lift their chins up and down, uncomfortably. (Emma's looks more crowded than usual.)

PENNY

The Necksercisor hits all the key neck muscles for maximum neck fitness. Imagine having a great pair of abs -- but on your neck. Say good-bye to muffin-neck. You'll be thanking me come v-neck season.

DAVE

V-neck season is year round.

ALEX

So this thing's stupid, right?

PENNY

Big time. But with that pitch, I landed the Necksercisor account for my firm and doubled their business. Penny Hartz saves the day again. Top seller in Skymall, y'all!

BRAD

Being a publicist is kind of a scam--

PENNY

I'm not a publicist, I'm in PR, so...

ALEX

What's the difference?

PENNY

It's like...when you're a publicist, you...

DAVE/BRAD

Mhm, listening./Keep going.

PENNY

It's just, PR is more...

JANE

So close, almost there...

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

PENNY
(giving up)
One's better and it's the one I do.

BRAD
(re: Necksercisor)
Pen, you do realize this is not a
normal thing anyone should ever use.

JANE
Don't use negative statements. It
hurts the flow of the conversation.
(to friends)
That's one of the things we learned
in our couples' improv class.
(off groans)
Alright, pipe down. The rules of
improv are totally applicable to
relationships: support your partner;
never say "no", always say "yes,
and..."

BRAD
For instance, I'm a doctor
performing a dangerous surgery.

JANE
Yes, and I'm a nurse admiring your
medical integrity.

DAVE
So it's not like the comedy kind of
improv.

ALEX
This is way better than when you
were doing couples' yoga.

POP TO:

2 INT. JANE & BRAD'S APARTMENT - FLASHBACK

2

Brad and Jane are in a complicated two-person yoga pose.
REVEAL: The friends are there. Dave, whispering:

DAVE
This is a weird Super Bowl Party.

BACK TO:

3 INT. EMMA'S - CONTINUOUS (DAY 1)

3

BRAD

Trust me, I was against couples' improv at first. But once I got there, I discovered I'm a natural.
(in Kennedy voice)
"I think we should go to the moon!"
(cocky)
Kennedy.

Just then, Max enters, head of steam.

MAX

No, this will not do! I couldn't find any place to park and why is this place so crowded and what are you all wearing on your necks? Don't care, I'm back on my thing.
(re: crowd at Emma's)
What is happening to Emma's?

ALEX

Emma's made it on to the Time Out Chicago Hot List, so now it's full of tourists.

MAX

Tourists ruin everything! This place. The Vatican.

PENNY

Well, not all tourists are bad. One very special tourist will be joining us tomorrow... My mom!

The friends all ad lib excitement.

ALEX

Dana's coming?! Awesome, she makes everything better.

PENNY

I know, look at this text she sent me recently: "Sail the oceans of your dreams, and become the discoverer of great places. Happy Columbus Day."

BRAD

Damn, she can even make Columbus Day sound cool?

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

JANE

She's the best. Remember in middle school when I got that accidental bowl cut and she told me it would "bowl people over"?

MAX

Did it?

JANE

Oh no, I was iced out of my crew, immediately.

PENNY

I love my mom. We're like the Gilmore Girls, but we came first. So we're better. Plus, she's a cool touring cabaret singer instead of whatever Mom Gilmore did.

JANE/BRAD

She worked at an inn.

BRAD

With her best friend, Sookie St. James!

(then, quietly, off looks)
They talk so fast.

FADE OUT. *

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 INT. PENNY & ALEX'S CONDO - DAY (DAY 2)

4

All the friends sit talking with DANA HARTZ, Penny's mom. She's very upbeat, and wears boho-type relaxed clothing.

DANA

...and that's why I'm one of the few people who can say they played sudoku with Neil Sedaka.

All the friends laugh.

JANE

The life of an artist is so exciting.

DANA

You're an artist now, too! I love that you and Brad are doing couples' improv. There's nothing like building strength through laughter.

JANE

I'm not an artist. I'm just a woman holding up a mirror to society. And then doing bits using the mirror as a prop.

DANA

And Alex -- do I notice something different?

Reveal Alex is Necksercising.

ALEX

Just doing some neck-work. Did you know historically, men favor a specific neck-to-shoulder ratio?

PENNY

(quietly)
That's not true.

DANA

I think you've never looked better. Dave, you look a bit down.
(pointing to face)
Why so sad en la fache?

(CONTINUED)

DAVE

My food truck didn't make it onto the Time Out Chicago Hot List. All the trucks on the list have some kind of ethnic flare. What do I have to offer, I'm just a boring white guy.

MAX

Oh, it's soooo hard being white.
(to Brad)
Can you believe this guy, nephew?

BRAD

Don't.

DANA

Dave, America is a melting pot. You should go on one of those ancestry websites and do some research. You never know what chunks are in your stew.

DAVE

(turning)
You're right. Maybe it just so happens I have some unidentified stew chunks.

JANE

(to Dana)
What are you doing in town?

DANA

Well, I don't wanna make a big deal, but...I have a huge gig! Opening act at the EastComm Arena.

*

The friends ad lib being impressed: "Very cool", etc.

*

BRAD

U2 just played there!
(off looks, sheepish)
What? They're gonna end hunger.

*

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

PENNY

Sounds like things are going great.
But Chris must miss you so much when
you're on the road.

*
*
*
*

DANA

After seven years, your step-dad's
used to it. And he's got his own
stuff going on. Still doing the
cash-for-gold thing and loving every
minute of it.

(then)

Oh my God, Penny, I have the best
idea. We should sing together at my
show. Like when you were little and
we had our duo: Two Hartz Beat as
One.

PENNY

Until you got remarried a few times
and we became One Hartz and One
Hartz-Hoffman-Johnson Beat As One.

DANA

That was better than Two Hartz Beat
as One Johnson.

5 EXT. EMMA'S - DAY (DAY 2)

5

Max, Brad, and Jane walk down the street.

JANE

I'm thinking chicken for lunch.

BRAD

Yes, and steak.

JANE

Yes, and pork.

MAX

That's not a meal. You don't get
steak and pork at the same time,
you're not the king of England.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

JANE
(British accent)
Or are we? Let them eat cake!

MAX
That was Marie Antoinette, and
France. Stop with the couples'
improv!

JANE
To keep our edge, we need real world
practice. Our final performance is
next week.

MAX
Oh, cool, put me down for no
tickets.
(to Emma's HOSTESS)
Table for three.

HOSTESS
Let me just get your name, and it
looks like the wait will be...an
hour and 45 minutes.

MAX
(starting to get furious)
This-- I-- You--

BRAD
(pulling Max away)
Alright, let's get you out of here,
big boy.

MAX
(calling out, to tourists)
I'm gonna come to your town and eat
at all your terrible restaurants!

*

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

They reach Max's limo. Just in front of it, a tour van ("Chicagoland Tours") is pulling away, leaving some TOURISTS waiting. One of them spots Max's limo.

*

TOURIST 1
Is this, like, a limo tour or something?

Brad and Max look confused.

BRAD
Limo tour? No--

JANE
--Yes, and it allows you to see the city the way the rich and famous do: in a super old limo.

She nods at Brad. He gets it.

BRAD
Yes, and I read it's the best way to tour Chicago.
(starts Kennedy accent)
And another thing--
(off Jane's glare)
You're just jealous because you can't do it.

TOURIST 1
How much does it cost?

MAX
(testing the waters)
Sixty dollars a head?

The tourists start eagerly pulling out money.

MAX (CONT'D)
Eighty dollars a head if your head is larger.
(to one tourist)
Which yours is, sir.

As Max herds them into the limo, we:

6 INT. PENNY & ALEX'S CONDO - DAY (DAY 2)

6

Penny and Alex enter carrying shopping bags.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

ALEX

What a great day with your mom! She
inspires everyone -- even strangers.
My heart melted when she convinced
our cabby to find his birth father.

(then)

Right, Pen? Pen?

*
*
*

Alex, unable to move her neck, turns her full body to find
Penny.

*
*

PENNY

You've got to stop using that
Necksercisor, Al.

*

ALEX

You're just jealous because your
neck is so skinny. It's just like
the ad said: "You better neck
yourself before you wreck yourself."

PENNY

I wrote that! It's nonsense. You
can't "neck yourself".

ALEX

(flexing neck)

Can't I? Can't I though?

Penny sighs and presses the button on her voicemail.

CHRIS (V.O.)

Hey, Penny, it's Chris.

PENNY

Aw, he misses my mom.

CHRIS (V.O.)

Hope you're doing okay. I'm sure
your mom told you about the divorce
by now, but I hope you and I can
stay in touch. Alright, talk to you
later -- oh, one more important
thing.

*
*

(Penny perks up)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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11.
(I)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

CHRIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
If you have any gold you need to get
off your hands, just lemme know.

Alex and Penny stand, stunned.

PENNY/ALEX
I-- I--/Pen, I'm so--

Just then, Dave bursts in the door, pumped.

DAVE
Sit down, ladies, because I'm about
to blow your minds: I'm 1/16th
Navajo!

Dave parts his jacket to reveal a turquoise necklace. Alex
and Penny stare at him. Dave beams, proud.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Yeah, I'll give it a moment to sink
in.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

7 INT. PENNY & ALEX'S CONDO - DAY (DAY 2)

7

Dave and Alex comfort Penny.

ALEX

Chris is such a jerk, I've never liked him. Except that time he took us to that awesome corn maze at the State Fair. That was legit.

(then)

But this is un-legit. Illegit?

PENNY

How could my mom not tell me this?

DAVE

If I can use an example from my ancestors, it's sort of like the story of the rabbit and the bear.

ALEX

What happens?

DAVE

Well, it's like...the rabbit learned that the bear did something and didn't tell him about it? I can't remember where it goes, but I know it's how we got the moon.

Dana breezes in.

DANA

Hey, Dave! How'd the research go?

DAVE

I'm 1/16th Navajo.

DANA

Well, congrats! And let me offer you a belated apology for stealing this land from your noble people.

*

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

PENNY
Mom, can we talk?

Alex and Dave move off.

DANA
(excited)
Oooh, like an old fashioned gab
sesh? Is it about your sexuality?
Because I read that scientists just
discovered something called the "J"
spot -- that's three beyond "G" so
you do the math--

PENNY
No, mom, stop. Wait, it's called
the--? No, I don't care. Mom,
Chris left me a voicemail. You guys
are splitting up?

DANA
Oh, yeah, forgot to mention that.
I'm moving past it, captain Dana of
the S.S. Freshstart, telling
Detective Penny not to give it a
second thought!
(holding up bag)
Plus I was too busy getting...
matching halter-pantsuits! For our
duet. I'm going to go try mine on!

Dana exits and Penny is left confused.

PENNY
Why is there a detective on a boat?

8 EXT. STREET - DAY (DAY 2)

8

Max leads a group of tourists, among them Brad and Jane, now
decked out in tourist gear. Brad wears a clapper hat. They
stand near Max's limo. (Tourist 1 does not speak, but should
be in this scene.)

*
*

MAX
Fun fact: Chicago was originally
going to be nicknamed, "The Window
City", but that name was already
taken. Thanks a lot, Omaha.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

TOURIST 2

Really? That doesn't sound right.

The tourists look at each other, skeptical. Jane jumps in, making it up as she goes along.

JANE

Yes, it's true. We're from Omaha, and that is a true fact. We're called the Window City, thanks to our famous...window museum. It's a lot of looking through to other parts of the museum.

MAX

And I believe Omaha's other nickname is the Land Of A Million Buildings.

BRAD

That is correct. We have so many buildings, we aren't allowed to build anymore. It's our city's greatest shame.

The tourists look impressed. Max is saved.

MAX

See? I know a lot of things. Now, let's head over to the Sears Tower and I'll fill you in on how it got its nickname -- "The Beers Tower."
(as they walk off)
It's because you're gonna buy me beers there.

9 EXT. FOOD TRUCK - DAY (DAY 2)

9 *

Penny, Dave, and Alex sit at a table. Alex's neck is stiff, and Dave wears a fringe jacket with turquoise beads.

ALEX

So your mom isn't devastated?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

PENNY

No, she's taking it amazingly well,
and-- I'm sorry, I can't move on
until we address this jacket.

DAVE

Let's do it!

PENNY

So it's definitely a...Navajo thing?
You feel good about that?

DAVE

It's a metaphor. Each fringe
represents a tribe, and each bead a
white man's broken promise. Plus,
it's reversible. *

ALEX

And this is all helping you with a
new sandwich?

DAVE

Yeah, and it's great. *

Dave reaches over to the nearby table and shows them a table
tent picture of the truck's new steak sandwich. *

DAVE (CONT'D) *

Buffalo meat, green chilies and
corn. But I couldn't find the
Navajo word for sandwich. So I'm
calling it Seit'aad, which is an
actual "Sand Witch". *

PENNY

A real witch. Who lives in the
sand.

DAVE

Yes. She buries her victims in the
many dunes.

PENNY

Okay, I'm ready to move on now.
Yeah, my mom seems totally unfazed
by the divorce.

DAVE

It kind of sounds like maybe she's
not dealing with her feelings. *

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

ALEX

Despite his jacket, Dave's not
totally off base. Sometimes
spinning something in too positive a
way can have a negative effect.
Like how you sold me on that
Necksercisor and now I can't move
the upper half of my body.

*
*
*

PENNY

I told you to stop using that like a
hundred times!

(then)

But maybe you guys are right about
my mom. She does this sometimes;
when I was a kid and we didn't have
a car, she told me the city bus was
our band's tour bus. Those poor
people on their way to work, forced
to listen to us fine tune Des'ree's
"You Gotta Be".

ALEX

I think you need to get her to be
honest with herself, no matter how
hard it is.

*
*

DAVE

It's like my people say, "Coyote is
always out there waiting."

Penny and Alex consider this.

PENNY

Is it like that?

DAVE

(wise)

You tell me.

10 INT. ROSALITA'S - NIGHT (NIGHT 2)

10

Max, Brad, and Jane eat dinner. Jane has a salad, Brad has
a burrito, Max has chicken fingers.

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

MAX

And then we told those dumb tourists
that kissing a tree in Millenium
Park was an authentic Chicago
experience!

JANE

They got so much bark in their
mouths, why would they do that?

BRAD

You did that.

JANE

I commit. That's part of it, babe.

A WAITER brings the check to the table. Max grabs it and
starts to pay. Brad and Jane stare at each other, stunned.

*
*

JANE (CONT'D)

Whoa, Max, are you actually paying
for dinner with money from your own
wallet?

*
*
*

POP TO:

11 OMITTED

11 *

11 CONTINUED: 11

*

12 INT. ROSALITA'S - CONTINUOUS (NIGHT 2) 12

*

MAX

Yeah, I'm flush. I made a ton of money today from those tourists.

*

Brad and Jane look put off by this.

JANE

Well, we kinda made a ton of money.

BRAD

Yeah, shouldn't we get a cut?

MAX

Your "cut" is the awesome relationship you're building through improv. You guys are solid as a rock. You're an inspiration to me, frankly. Plus, you make plenty of money, what do you need a cut for?

JANE

It's the principle of the thing.

BRAD

Plus, maybe I have a boat fund. I don't know, I haven't really thought about how that boat'll have an antique mahogany steering wheel and be called "Yeah, Buoy."

MAX

Fine, I'll give you a cut.

BRAD

Thank you.

MAX

Nope, just improvising. Keep your head in the game, dudes. See? I can do this without you.

12 CONTINUED:

12

JANE

No you can't. We're the talent.

MAX

Watch me. By which I mean don't,
because you won't be there to watch
me, because I don't need you.

Brad and Jane are pissed off.

JANE

Then we don't need you as our dinner
companion.

They get up to leave, then Brad runs back and grabs his
burrito and runs out.

MAX

(calling after)

Joke's on you 'cause I still get
Jane's dinner!

(then, bummed)

Oh, it's a salad, I don't want it.

(then, excited)

Oooh! But there's bacon bits in it.
I win again!

13 INT. PENNY & ALEX'S CONDO - LATER (NIGHT 2)

13

Penny enters as Dana is in the middle of practicing Natalie
Imbruglia's "Torn". She has a small Casio keyboard and
speaker set up playing background music.

*
*

DANA

*I thought I saw a man brought to
life. He was warm, he came around,
and he was dignified...*

(to Penny)

Jump in!

(singing again)

He showed me what it was to cry.

*
*
*
*

PENNY

Mom, I think we need to have a
serious talk.

DANA

Oh, no, what's going on? Did you
find your "J" spot? I hope you used
a bite stick, they were very
specific about that in the article.

(CONTINUED)

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19A.
(II)

13 CONTINUED:

13

PENNY
Again, no. And what magazines are
you reading?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

PENNY (CONT'D)

Look, I feel like we should talk honestly about the fact that you're getting a divorce.

DANA

Oh, that thing. Don't stress about it, it's for the best. Anyway, I was thinking about the show--

*

PENNY

(frustrated)

Mom, forget about the show! You and your husband of seven years are splitting up!

DANA

Ah, ah, ah! Remember what I taught you: shouting is bad for the vocal cords, and we have our duet tomorrow. Sing your angry thoughts.

PENNY

(sighs, then singing)

You're not addressing some serious emotional and practical issues.

DANA

I don't know why you're trying to bring me down, I'm just keeping it positive.

PENNY

You're delusional! It's like that time you told me we were "camping" when really we got evicted.

DANA

But you learned how to start a garbage can fire. Not every nine year old can do that.

Penny stops singing.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (3)

13

PENNY

Mom, I just worry about you. You're on your own for the first time in years, aren't you worried at all about money? You need to think about getting a real job.

DANA

Real job? I'm playing the EastComm Arena tomorrow!

*
*

PENNY

Really? Tell me the truth about this gig, not just your super positive spin version of it.

DANA

(singing)

Fine, it's for a boat show. But you never know who might be there to give me my big break. Record execs love boats, it's a fact.

PENNY

I knew you were spinning it!

DANA

I hope you leave that negative energy off-stage tomorrow when we do our duet.

PENNY

I'm not performing a stupid duet at a boat show! Mom, you need to face reality: You're fifty, your husband left you, and you have a career that isn't going anywhere!

Dana looks deeply stung.

DANA

(singing sadly)

You're right. What have I done? My whole life has been a waste.

She rushes out. Penny realizes she's gone too far.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

14 INT. PENNY & ALEX'S CONDO - DAY (DAY 3)

14

Penny carries a tray loaded with food, knocks on a door.

PENNY

Mom, I made you your favorite show-day meal. A full English breakfast: poached eggs, baked beans, oatcakes, back bacon-- they don't do this everyday in England, right? Are they okay over there?

Dana opens the door, revealing that she's in an old robe. She brushes past Penny and starts pouring cereal into a mug.

DANA

Just cereal in a mug for me. It's all I deserve.

She drinks it dry from the mug. Penny hands her the milk.

PENNY

Mom, add some milk at least.

Dana pours the milk, it spills a bit. She's devastated.

DANA

A cow gave that to us. And I just throw it anywhere.

*

PENNY

Look how nice out it is! Great day for a show!

DANA

Look at those fools walking around out there. As if they don't know about the spill in the Gulf.

(sighs, then)

I'm just gonna go take another nap in the empty bathtub.

PENNY

(calling after her)
No mom, not another tub nap!

15 EXT. STREET - BY POST OFFICE - DAY (DAY 3)

15

Max now wears a shirt reading "Limo Tours To The Max", and holds a tourguide sign reading "Follow Me" on one side and "Stop" on the other. On his limo, there is a sign that matches his shirt. He talks to SCOTT (from Episode 109).

*
*
*
*

MAX

Scotty, thank you for coming on such short notice.

SCOTT

No problem, I was just cutting my neighbor's hair.

MAX

Okay. So you understand your job as an audience plant. It adds to the authenticity of the tour.

SCOTT

Max, this isn't my first rodeo. I was an audience plant at a rodeo.

Max walks over to a group of tourists, including children.

MAX

I'm sure you're wondering why I brought you to this post office. Well, it just so happens this is Obama's favorite post office. To this day, he flies here on Air Force One to buy stamps.

Max puts mail in a post office mailbox outside. The tourists look at each other, skeptical.

MAX (CONT'D)

(pointed, to Scott)

I'm sure someone has heard this fact before.

Scott looks around like "me?".

SCOTT

Nope. Sounds false, if you ask me.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

MAX
(to tourists)
Hey, look! It's the bench where
Swoosie Kurtz slapped Sela Ward on
Sisters!

Max pulls Scott aside.

MAX (CONT'D)
Scotty, you're not doing it right.
You have to confirm what I say and
build on it. Say, "yes, and."

SCOTT
Oh, my bad. I got it now. *

Max turns back to the tourists, who are getting their
pictures taken with the bench.

MAX
And that park right there is where
the great Chicago fire of 1987 took
place.

TOURIST 3
Fire of 1987? *

SCOTT
(jumping in)
Yes, and I've heard that if you bend
down and smell the grass, you can
hear the screams of the victims who
begged God for death.

Max shakes his head, "No!" The tourists look uncomfortable.

SCOTT (CONT'D)
When those people entered the park
that day, they couldn't have known
they'd end up in a mass grave.

The children seem scared. *

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

SCOTT (CONT'D)
This neighborhood also has the
highest number of savage beatings
per capita.

*

Max sighs.

*

16 EXT. PENNY & ALEX'S STOOP - DAY (DAY 3)

16

Jane and Brad run into Max on Penny's stoop.

JANE
Oh, hello, Max. How's the tour
business?

MAX
Amazing. I'm thinking of expanding.
Starting a bike tour where I go
around and show people famous bikes.
(folding immediately)
It's going terrible. I brought in
Scotty to replace you and it was a
disaster. He asked one woman on the
tour if she was in to "knee and
elbow stuff."

JANE/BRAD
Oh./Not good.

MAX
I need you guys. You're the best
improvisers a fake tour guide could
ask for. You're my Wayne Brady,
Jane.

JANE
Aww.

MAX
Brad, you're my Greg Proops.

BRAD
Yes!

*

*

16 CONTINUED: 16

They enter Penny's building. *

17 INT. PENNY & ALEX'S CONDO - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 3) 17

Penny greets Jane, Brad, and Max at the door. Dave and Alex are already there. Dave wears his Navajo gear.

PENNY

Thank you so much for coming over.
My mom's in a really dark place, and
I know seeing you guys will cheer
her up.

JANE

Brad, we should do that great scene
we did in class.
(to friends)
He was a blind magician, I was a
cellist who couldn't use adjectives--

PENNY

Or we can just play it by ear.

Dana comes out of Penny's bedroom in her robe, with a container and a spoon.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Look, mom, everybody stopped by!

DANA

Do you have any more pub cheese?
And a bigger spoon?

PENNY

They wanted to wish you well before
tonight's big show.

DANA

It's a boat show. I'm singing at a
boat show.

ALEX

So you get to perform for people and
boats!

17 CONTINUED:

17

DANA

I chased the dream too long, guys.
(shakes her head)
Just once, I wanted that feeling of rushing off stage at Madison Square Garden, waving to my screaming fans as I'm driven away to my private plane. Guess I'll just have to settle for being booed off stage at a Perkins, making my way past truck stop hoes and piling into a shared-ride van destined for Des Moines via crippling loneliness.

Beat. The friends are blown away.

MAX

That is worse than anyone thought.
(then, off looks)
I mean, hang in there, I'm sure there's a silver lining...in the sunny side of the--
(to the friends)
Sorry, someone's gotta jump in here.

The friends ad lib support.

DAVE

C'mon Dana, you know what they say--
(tenderly, in Navajo)
Nizh-oh-nee-ay.

DANA

So you think you're a Navajo now?

DAVE

(meekly)
I've made some friends at the American Indian Center.

DANA

(throws napkin on the floor)
Oh yeah? Does this make you cry?

DAVE

No.

DANA

Because you're not a real Indian!

ALEX

Dana, I have an idea--

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

DANA
What's that, Skinny Neck?

Alex gasps, and covers her neck.

JANE
Seems like the name-calling isn't--

DANA
Oh, you want some? You guys think improv is gonna save your marriage? Doubt it. Get ready for when the laughter dies and all you're left with is pain, regret and a Netflix account you don't know the password to.

(turning to Max)
And of course there's Max. Detached, snarky gay guy -- we'll see how cute that is when you're alone at fifty. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have a bunch of boat enthusiasts to underwhelm.

With that, Dana exits off, leaving the friends stunned.

JANE
What did you do to her? It's like Opposite Dana.

PENNY
You guys told me to get real with her!

DAVE
We didn't say crush her spirit. I don't like it! Fix her!

MAX
Forget what I said about me wanting you guys to do a roast of me.

PENNY
(looks at her bummed friends)
Guys, don't feel bad. She's acting out. Alex, your neck looks jacked. Dave, I think it's cool that you're Navajo. It adds character and maybe you can get some of that sweet casino money. Brad and Jane -- building a stable marriage through wordplay is nothing to scoff at.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (3)

17

The friends seem to be feeling better. They ad lib thanks.

PENNY (CONT'D)

And Max. People love a detached,
snarky gay dude. Karl Lagerfeld?
He has his own museum in Paris.

MAX

I know that because you forced me to
go there four times during our
college trip.

PENNY

You can't see it all in one visit.
(then)
What am I gonna do about my mom? I
broke her.

DAVE

Pen, do what you just did for us.
Spin the negatives into a positive.

PENNY

I am good at that. I got that from
her.

ALEX

It's how you convinced me to
Necksercise so much.

PENNY

Again, I barely had to do anything,
you were like a bee to honey with
that thing.
(then)
But you're saying I need to pull a
Dana and turn a garbage can fire
into a 55-gallon s'mores machine!

JANE

If any of that weird metaphor is
about making your mom feel better,
then by all means yes.

It's a nice beat for a moment, then:

MAX

So I don't have to stop being
detached and snarky, right? That
seems like a lot of work.

FADE OUT.

*

(CONTINUED)

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29A.
(III)

17 CONTINUED: (4)

17

END OF ACT THREE

*

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

18 INT. CONVENTION CENTER - BOAT SHOW - DAY (DAY 3)

18

People wander around, admiring boats, as salesman-types point out amenities. Dana stands on a small stage in her robe, singing a sad version of Des'ree's "You Gotta Be", as music plays out from speakers.

*
*

DANA

"You gotta be bad, you gotta be bold, you gotta be wiser. You gotta be hard, you gotta, be tough--."

(then, sitting on stage)

Oh, screw it. Don't kid yourself, Boatists. There's no point in being bad or bold. It all ends in disaster. Like this mess in Afghanistan.

BOATIST

That's not about boats. Talk about boats!

DANA

We're all alone.

PENNY (O.S.)

Not always.

ANGLE ON: Penny has come on stage, in her halter-pantsuit.

DANA

You came?

PENNY

I screwed up, Mom, I should never have criticized your positivity. It inspires people. Like how you told me I could have any job Barbie had. I've had three so far. Or when you told me food stamps were British money. Or how when dad left, you told me we'd be okay.

DANA

And we were.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

PENNY

Because of you, I'm a positive
person, too. It's why I'm good at
my job!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

PENNY (CONT'D)

And why, when I was in that convenience store robbery, I just kept thinking: "At least I'm on TV." Because I was. And I looked great.

DANA

(moved)

Yeah, but I could probably stand to be a little less of a dreamer.

PENNY

Why? That's what makes you special and why everyone loves you. And that's why we all spread the word about the hottest show in Chicago.

Penny gestures to the audience, where we see Max leading a tour and Dave waving, surrounded by NAVAJO PEOPLE.

DANA

You guys did this after all those things I said? Brought people to a stupid boat show?

PENNY

We wanted the old Dana back. And boats aren't stupid, you know why? Because they let you sail the oceans of your dreams and become the discoverer of great places.

PENNY/DANA

(tender)

Happy Columbus Day.

They hug. The audience, confused, mouth "Columbus Day?"

PENNY

C'mon, let's not leave them waiting.

Dana throws off the robe, revealing her jumpsuit. She's back! Angle on Alex and Dave:

ALEX

Moves like that -- that's why she's a star.

DAVE

Okay, but people know Columbus didn't technically "discover" America, right?

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

As Penny and Dana launch into "You Gotta Be", ANGLE ON Max, leading a tour with Brad and Jane's help.

MAX

That woman on stage is a very famous singer.

JANE

(Kennedy accent)

And she often entertains at our family compound in Hyannis Port.

BRAD

(Kennedy accent)

Whoa, you want dueling Kennedys?
Alright, you got dueling Kennedys.

The tourists seem impressed, and take pictures. BACK ON: Penny and Dana, who reach a rousing finish. They hug.

PENNY

Go take your bow.

Dana bows and all the impressed tourists take her picture. As she exits the stage, Max rushes her through the crowd.

MAX

This way, madame. Comin' through.

She pushes past the people taking photos and asking for autographs.

DANA

I've always wanted to shun my fans like that.

She exits to...

19 EXT. CONVENTION CENTER - CONTINUOUS (DAY 3)

19

The friends and some of the tourists follow her out. Dana gets in the limo and Max hops in front and drives off. Jane, Brad, Alex, and Dave watch as she leaves.

TOURIST 4

A real famous person! Only in Chicago, am I right? Wait, that limo was our ride!

*

ANGLE ON: Brad and Jane. Jane points at a boat.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

JANE

Oh no, Babe, there's already a boat
called "Yeah, Buoy."

BRAD

I guess I'll have to wrack my brain
for days thinking of a new -- "Buoys
on the Side."

As the friends all walk together, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

*

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34-35.
(TAG)

TAG

FADE IN:

20 OMITTED

20 *