



"the yelling"

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the middle

"the yelling"

SCRIPT HISTORY

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the middle

"the yelling"

SETS

INTERIORS

HECK HOUSE -

KITCHEN - DAY/NIGHT

FAMILY ROOM - DAY /NIGHT

SUE'S ROOM - DAY

DINING ROOM - DAY

MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

BATHROOM - NIGHT

EHLERT MOTORS - DAY

LITTLE BETTY DELIVERY TRUCK - MOVING - NIGHT

ORSON OFFICE WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

EXTERIORS

ORSON OFFICE WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

FIELD - NIGHT

## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. OFFICE WAREHOUSE -- LATE NIGHT (N7) 1

FLAT on a PLATE GLASS WINDOW. The store is closed. FRANKIE, trapped inside in her robe and sweat pants, BANGS REPEATEDLY on the glass. Desperate, she TAKES A BIG FAT MARKER, scrawls "Help" across a piece of poster board and smacks it flat against the window. \*

FRANKIE (V.O.)

*Yep, that's me, trapped in an office supply store at four in the morning. How'd I end up here? Well, how does anyone end up where they don't want to be? Either drugs or kids.*

2 INT. HECK FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN -- MORNING (D1) 2

Typical morning chaos. Frankie does a million things as the kids get ready for school. SUE awkwardly twirls a baton. AXL watches, amused.

SUE

How do I look? I can take it. I need some constructive criticism. Tryouts are Thursday.

AXL

You know what would really impress the judges is if you lit the ends on fire like they do in Hawaii.

SUE

This is a serious sport, Axl. They don't just let anyone wear the white patent leather boots.

The baton flies out of her hands and CRASHES into something in the breakfast room.

AXL

Aw, man, that woulda been so much cooler on fire.

Frankie crosses to Sue.

FRANKIE

(to Sue)

Whoa, whoa, whoa. I thought you were baby-sitting for the Craigs Thursday night.

SUE

Oh right. I'm gonna have to cancel.

FRANKIE

You sure that's a good idea, honey?  
I'm just saying we don't know what'll  
happen with majorettes, but if you  
go to baby-sitting at least you know  
you'll have six dollars.

SUE

Mom, with the swine flu outbreak I  
have a real shot this year. A lot  
of good people are down.

She notices BRICK is at the table reading and wearing a  
ladies' garden party hat.

FRANKIE

Brick?  
(then)  
Oh, right. Hat Day next week. Well,  
good job being ahead of schedule.  
That's definitely a crazy hat.

BRICK

It's Hat Day next week?  
(realizing)  
Oh no, I need a hat.

FRANKIE

Uh... Brick?

BRICK

This isn't for Hat Day. That would  
be embarrassing. I just wanted people  
to pay attention to me at breakfast.  
Yesterday, none of you said a single  
word to me.

FRANKIE

Axl, you're coming home right after  
school to work on your Aztec paper,  
right?

AXL

God. Chill. I'm on it.

Frankie pulls a sheet of paper out of Axl's textbook that  
sits on the counter.

FRANKIE

Are you?  
(reads)  
"Twelve to fifteen pages, double  
spaced with no fewer than six color  
charts or graphs, bound in an Oxford  
ready-clip clear-front report cover."  
Mr. Gottlieb's tough.

(MORE)

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

He's not going to pass you just so  
you can play basketball.

AXL

Yeah, parents need to talk to him.  
He has no school spirit.

FRANKIE

Axl, this is 40 percent of your grade.  
You do get that's almost half, right?  
'Cause I remember you were also "on  
it" when you got that D in math.

AXL

The paper's not even due for a week.  
God, you treat me like a little kid.  
I'm practically an adult.

FRANKIE

In what way? You don't make your  
own food, you don't buy your own  
clothes, you don't even remember to  
flush the toilet unless I remind  
you.

AXL

I'm almost old enough to go to war.

FRANKIE

Not if we want to win, you're not.

MIKE enters.

AXL

Dad, how do you live with her?

MIKE

I live with her by doing what she  
says. You will do the same.

AXL

(to Frankie)

God, you are so annoying! You just  
live to make me miserable!

Axl exits in a huff. Frankie looks to Mike, frustrated. He  
pats her on the shoulder.

MIKE

(to Frankie)

Maybe we should call that one a write-  
off and just work on the others.

BOB

So guess what? Charlotte and I are having our three-week anniversary. Want to see a picture of her?

He shows Frankie his phone.

FRANKIE

(hugely surprised)  
Wow. She's pretty!  
(covers surprise)  
I mean she's pretty. Are you guys getting serious?

BOB

Well, if by "serious" you mean *madly in love*, I'd have to say...  
(points at himself)  
... Guilty. Hold on, I've got another one. Oooh, not that one. It's private. Here's a good one. I'll forward it to your phone.

FRANKIE

Oh no, my phone cost like a dollar. It doesn't do any of that stuff.

BOB

Sure it does. See.

Frankie's phone CHIMES. She looks at it, surprised.

FRANKIE

My god. I had no idea.  
(off picture)  
I think you sent me the wrong picture.

BOB

Sorry, I'll delete this for ya.

Bob takes the phone from Frankie, then showing her...

BOB (CONT'D)

Look. It can take pictures too. Smile! And movies...

FRANKIE

No way!

Bob holds the phone out and points it at himself and Frankie.

BOB

Yeah, you can make your own movie. You can put faces on thimbles and act out your entire prom the way it should have gone. It's very cathartic. I hear.



4

INT. HECK FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN -- THAT AFTERNOON (D1)

4

Brick watches TV in the family room, as Frankie enters.

FRANKIE

Hey. How's it going? You find a hat yet for Hat Day?

BRICK

God. I'm on it. Chill.

FRANKIE

Don't even.

BRICK

Sorry. I want to be like Axl, but I can't really pull it off.

Frankie crosses into the kitchen where Axl is also watching TV.

FRANKIE

Axl, why is your textbook in the exact same position it was in this morning? It hasn't moved.

Axl reaches out and pushes the book a few inches.

AXL

There. Now it's moved. Happy?

FRANKIE

You better watch your tone, mister.

AXL

What tone? You're always imagining this tone... Uch. Why do you have to ride me all the time?

Something occurs to Frankie.

FRANKIE (V.O.)

*And then I got an idea. A brilliant, glorious idea.*

Surreptitiously, she takes her phone out of her purse, sets it down and points it at Axl, presses RECORD.

AXL

Seriously, when did you hatch this plan to ruin my life? Was it like, when I was a baby?

(MORE)

AXL (CONT'D)

Was it some, like, joke to you where you wanted to get revenge or something and you decided to have a kid and then systematically destroy him minute by minute until you achieve total mind control?

Axl continues as the phone records him. Frankie smiles a satisfied smile.

FRANKIE (V.O.)

*I would film my kids and show them what they sounded like.*

5 INT. HECK FAMILY ROOM -- THAT DAY (D1) 5

Sue is spazzily twirling her baton.

FRANKIE

Honey. Can you please not twirl in the house?

SUE

Well, where am I supposed to do it? It's too cold out and my fingers freeze up. If I can't practice, I won't make it and then it will be ALL YOUR FAULT!

Frankie gets a look in her eye, pulls out her phone, presses RECORD.

6 INT. HECK KITCHEN -- THAT DAY (D1) 6

Brick's reading.

FRANKIE

Brick, your dad's going to the mall. Do you want to go with him and look for a hat?

(he doesn't look up)

Brick...? Brick...?

She presses RECORD.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Brick? Any response would be nice.

Brick holds up a "wait a minute" finger.

FRANKIE (V.O.)

*And once I started, I couldn't stop. This thing was power.*

7 INT. HECK FAMILY ROOM -- DAYS LATER (D2) 7

CLOSE on THE OPEN PHONE on the counter, RED LIGHT BLINKING.  
We see the TINY IMAGE on the screen as we hear...

AXL (FROM PHONE)  
God, I hear you.  
(mocking Frankie)  
"Do your paper..." "Have you done  
your paper? The Aztecs are  
fascinating if you just read the  
book."

8 INT. HECK HOUSE - SUE'S ROOM - ON VIDEO PHONE (D2) 8

SUE  
I will!

9 INT. HECK FAMILY ROOM - ON VIDEO PHONE (D2) 9

AXL  
I did!

10 INT. HECK DINING ROOM - ON VIDEO PHONE (D2) 10

BRICK  
I am!

11 INT. HECK HOUSE - SUE'S ROOM - ON VIDEO PHONE (D3) 11

Sue rolls her eyes.

SUE  
Uch.

12 INT. HECK HOUSE - DINING ROOM - ON VIDEO PHONE (D3) 12

Axl rolls his eyes.

AXL  
Uch.

13 INT. HECK KITCHEN -- ON VIDEO PHONE (D3) 13

Brick rolls his eyes.

BRICK  
Uchhh.

A hand reaches in, grabs the phone, snaps it SHUT. Frankie  
triumphantly shoves it into her pocket and crosses out.

14 INT. HECK FAMILY ROOM -- DAYS LATER (D4) 14

Bob's behind the TV connecting it to Frankie's phone.

FRANKIE (V.O.)

*After several days of collecting evidence, it was showtime. I wasn't just doing this for myself, I was doing it for moms through the ages who'd had enough.*

Mike enters from outside and sees Frankie.

MIKE

Hey honey.

Bob stands up from behind the TV, revealing himself to Mike.

BOB

Hey Mike.

MIKE

(uneasy)  
Oh hey, Bob.

FRANKIE

Bob's helping me set up that thing I told you about that I want to show the kids.

MIKE

Oh. How long's that gonna take?

FRANKIE (V.O.)

*I had long ago accepted that Mike and Bob weren't gonna ever be friends. It's not that Mike didn't like Bob, it's just -- yeah, he just didn't like him.*

BOB

So. Michael Michael Bo-Bikel. How goeth the job search?

Bob playfully boxes Mike in the stomach... Mike not-so-playfully stops him.

MIKE

Little slow. That's why I like to come home and relax.

BOB

Poor Mike. I just want you to know I'm here for you if you ever need a shoulder to cry on. I also belong to a men's drum circle on Tuesday nights and boy does it help with the rage.

MIKE

I think it would maybe increase my  
rage.

BOB

Hey. I'm an idiot! Why didn't I  
think of this? The guy who rides  
shotgun on my night shift delivering  
Little Betty Snack Cakes just quit.  
If you're interested, I can put in  
your name. Union pay. Easy gig.

MIKE

Oh, I don't know, Bob. Wouldn't  
want to put you out.

FRANKIE

Union pay. Easy gig. Mike...

Mike looks at Frankie, then knowing he's got no choice.

MIKE

(pained)  
Sounds great.  
(then)  
Riding with you, you say?

FRANKIE

Kids, get in here!

They trickle in.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Hey guys, sit down.

Frankie takes her phone, which is now connected to the TV,  
as the kids sit.

AXL

Fine. I was about to start my paper,  
but whatever.

FRANKIE

We're all gonna watch a little  
educational television today. There's  
been some bad behavior going on and  
I think it's time I brought it to  
your attention. And I must warn you  
that what you're about to see is not  
pretty.

She pushes a button on her phone. We see ON THE TV --

AXL (ON TV - PT Scene 4)

-- When did you hatch this plan to  
ruin my life?...

AXL

Hey, you recorded me?

AXL (ON TV - PT Scene 4)

... Was it like some joke to you  
where you wanted to get revenge or  
something and you decided to have a  
kid and then systematically destroy  
him minute by minute until you achieve  
total mind control?

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

And then we see Frankie on the TV.

FRANKIE (ON TV - PT Scene 4)

Obviously I don't have to destroy  
your life, Axl. Because you're doing  
a pretty damn good job of it yourself.

(losing it)

Time is passing, Axl! I can't take  
it!

(yelling)

I went to school! I did my homework!  
Why do I have to --

They all turn and look at Frankie, who fiddles with the phone.

FRANKIE

Hang on. That's not the right spot.

(fast-forwarding)

Here we go.

On the TV we see --

SUE (ON TV - PT Scene 5)

... and it will be ALL YOUR FAULT!

FRANKIE

Not so pretty, Sue, is it?

And then...

FRANKIE (ON TV - PT Scene 5)

My fault? Why is everything my fault?

(yelling)

Tell you what's gonna be my fault.

If you forget to call Mrs. Craig and

tell her you can't sit Thursday! Am

I talking for my own health here?

Mike looks at her, uncomfortably, as Frankie pushes buttons  
on her phone again.

FRANKIE

Wa-wa-wait. That's wrong.

She keeps FAST-FORWARDING so it plays as a series of QUICK  
POPS.

FRANKIE (ON TV - Sc - X14A - DAY)

(to Axl)

I have had it with you! All you  
have to do around here is flush the  
toilet and do your homework! Do you  
have any idea how lucky you are?!  
Do you?! Do you?!

FRANKIE (ON TV - Sc - X14B - DAY)

Someday I'll be dead and you'll wish  
you could hear my voice!

FRANKIE (ON TV - Sc - X14C - DAY)

(losing it to Sue)

What part of "Don't twirl in the  
house" was I not clear about?!

FRANKIE (ON TV - Sc - X14D - DAY)

(losing it to Axl)

This is the last time I'm telling  
you!

FRANKIE (ON TV - Sc - X14E - DAY)

(losing it to Brick)

I'm not telling you again!

FRANKIE (ON TV - Sc - X14F - DAY)

(screaming at the top  
of her lungs)

I will not say this one more time!

Frankie FREEZES THE TV on a very unflattering IMAGE of herself  
in mid-rant. The family looks at it and then back at her.  
She stares, dumbfounded and chagrined.

FRANKIE

... so let that be a lesson to you.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

15 INT. HECK MASTER BEDROOM -- THAT NIGHT (N4)

15

Frankie and Mike are getting into bed.

FRANKIE

I do not yell like that, Mike. I'm sorry, that phone is not accurate. It's not even a camera for godsakes, it has no business recording anything.

(then)

You can jump in any time, you know.

MIKE

You're pretty.

FRANKIE

Oh my God. I can't believe you! You think it's right. You think that's what I sound like.

MIKE

Honey, I'm the wrong person to ask. I don't know what you sound like. I don't even hear it anymore.

FRANKIE

Well, it's not my fault. They don't listen 'til I yell. I'm tired, and they push me, Mike. You see how they push me.

MIKE

They do. They're horrible. Horrible, horrible children.

FRANKIE

This isn't who I wanted to be.

MIKE

Well, too late now. 'Night, honey.

He turns OFF the LIGHT. A beat. She turns it back on.

FRANKIE

I'm gonna change.

MIKE

(with dread)

Awww no, don't change...

FRANKIE

I am. I'm gonna quit yelling.

(then)

What? You don't think I can?



MIKE

I think it'll be like when you quit sugar, and a day later I found you on the bathroom floor sucking frosting out of the tube.

FRANKIE

This isn't sugar. I don't want my kids growing up and telling some shrink, "All my mom did my whole life was yell at me."

MIKE

They're not gonna be able to afford a shrink.

He turns off the light.

16 INT. HECK KITCHEN -- NEXT MORNING (D5)

16

Frankie sits with the three kids at the kitchen table.

FRANKIE

Okay, guys. I called you all together because I want to show you an example of someone accepting responsibility and trying to do better. I've decided I don't like the way I sounded on the tape. Seems once in a while I raise my voice --

AXL

Once in a while you *don't* raise your voice.

FRANKIE

The point is, we've gotten into a bad pattern -- I nag, you don't listen, and I end up yelling. So let's make a deal. From now on, I'll calmly ask you to do something *once*. Then you'll show me you can listen, and I'll show you I don't need to yell.

BRICK

So you're gonna stop nagging?

FRANKIE

I'm gonna start *trusting* that you can do things when I ask you to.

AXL

So what do we get if you do yell?

FRANKIE

It doesn't work that way.

SUE

We should get something.

FRANKIE

That's not what this is about.

BRICK

How 'bout a Tootsie Roll?

SUE

Ooh, I like waffles.

AXL

That's stupid. We should get money.

FRANKIE

(yelling)

This is not some contest with prizes!  
This is about us becoming the kind  
of family where the mother doesn't  
have to yell!

(calmly)

Starting now.

17 INT. EHLERT MOTORS -- LATER THAT DAY (D5)

17

Frankie and Bob are at the coffee maker.

FRANKIE

I'm telling you I feel great. I  
trust them, they'll feel respected  
and respect me in return by doing  
what they're told. It's a trust  
circle. A trust-respect circle  
really. Or is it an oval? It's  
kind of a new concept, so we're still  
figuring out the shape.

Bob's phone CHIMES.

BOB

That'll be my special lady.

(looks)

No, wait. It's my boss at Little  
Betty. He's willing to hire Mike to  
drive the late shift with me!

FRANKIE

(takes out her phone  
and dials)

That is great! Mike'll be so excited.

BOB

Let me tell him!

Bob takes the phone.

18 INT. HECK HOUSE -- INTERCUT (D5)

18

Axl answers...

AXL

Hey.

BOB

Axl, it's Bob. Is your dad there?

AXL

No, he went out to buy bread or a boat or something.

FRANKIE

(to Bob)

Axl's home? He's supposed to be at the library. Ask him if he's working on his Aztec paper.

BOB

(awkwardly into phone)

So... what are you doing there, buddy?

AXL

(confused)

Nothing. Just hanging out.

FRANKIE

Is the TV on? Is he watching TV?

BOB

(into phone)

So... you watching TV?

AXL

This is getting a little creepy, Bob.

FRANKIE

(whispering)

Ask him if he can tell you the difference between the Mayan and Aztec cultures.

BOB

(sotto)

I don't know how to work that in naturally to the conversation.

AXL

Bob, are you talking to my mother?

BOB

No, haven't seen her. Bye.

(hangs up)

I think he's on to us.

19 INT. HECK FAMILY ROOM -- LATER THAT DAY (D5) 19

Frankie enters from work to find all three kids on the couch watching TV.

FRANKIE (V.O.)

*This was going to be harder than I thought. Days were passing and who knew if they were living up to their end of the deal. They weren't saying anything and I couldn't ask.*

FRANKIE

Hey. There's my hard-working kids.

A20 INT. HECK FAMILY ROOM -- THE NEXT DAY (D6) A20

Frankie enters to find the kids watching TV again.

FRANKIE

Hey, there's...  
(growing suspicious)  
My kids.

B20 INT. HECK FAMILY ROOM -- THE NEXT DAY (D7) B20

Frankie enters to find the kids watching TV again.

FRANKIE

(more suspicious)  
There's... a lot on TV this week,  
huh?

She puts a smile on her face and heads for the kitchen.

FRANKIE (V.O.)

*The urge to yell and nag was building, but that's okay. I knew how to deal with it.*

20 INT. HECK KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS (D7) 20

She grabs a tube of frosting from a cabinet, and frantically starts sucking it down.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

21 INT. HECK MASTER BEDROOM -- LATER THAT NIGHT -- EVENING (N7) 21

Mike's getting dressed in his Little Betty uniform.

FRANKIE (V.O.)

*Mike was getting ready for his first night on the job with Bob and I'd gone three whole days without screaming at my kids. Hard to say who was more miserable.*

Frankie enters and flops on the bed.

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

*Aw, hell, it was me.*

FRANKIE

I can't do it, Mike. I can't keep this up. I'm itchy, I have a stomach ache and my jaw hurts from all the clenching. I wanna yell, I wanna yell so bad.

MIKE

Ah, you're just going through withdrawal.

FRANKIE

Mike, it's not that I enjoy yelling. I do it for the children.

MIKE

That's what junkies do. They justify anything to get their next fix.

FRANKIE

Pretty tough talk from a guy with a cupcake on his shirt.

A beat.

MIKE

I'm just saying, what happened to that whole trust circle thing?

FRANKIE

It's a trust respect oval, and what happened is that it's a load of crap.

MIKE

Honey, you said you wanted to trust the kids. Maybe you should try actually doing it. They might surprise you.

(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

(then)

You know this morning Sue was cleaning her room.

FRANKIE

(surprised)

Really?

MIKE

They're growing up, Frankie. Cut yourself some slack, and focus on what's really important. Help me figure out how the hell I'm going to make it through a whole night stuck in a truck with Bob.

Frankie laughs.

22 INT. HECK KITCHEN/FAMILY ROOM -- A FEW MINUTES LATER (N7)

22

Frankie comes down the hall.

FRANKIE (V.O.)

*So yeah, Mike thought the kids had grown up. But frankly, he said that as soon as we brought them home from the hospital. But then...*

From FRANKIE'S POV we see Brick and Sue at the table. Brick is reading with a porkpie hat on.

FRANKIE

Brick, where'd you get that hat? I thought you didn't have one?

BRICK

Got it myself. Wore it to Hat Day. Was the coolest kid at school.

(whispering)

Coolest kid.

We hear a HORN HONK from outside. Sue gets up, grabs her jacket and baton and heads for the front door.

SUE

That's my ride. I'm going to majorette tryouts.

FRANKIE

(calling after)

You arranged your own ride?

SUE

Yeah. Wish me luck!

On her way out, Sue makes a flamboyant gesture with her baton and gets it stuck in the iron decorative screens. She has to work it like a maze to get it out.

FRANKIE (V.O.)

*Wow. And just when I thought it  
couldn't get any better...*

Frankie spots Axl sitting with his textbook open, working on his paper. She just stares at him.

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

*... The best and most amazing thing  
of all... Axl was writing his history  
paper. On his own. Without any  
nagging or yelling from me.*

Axl looks up and sees his mother gawking at him.

AXL

What?

FRANKIE

*(way too emotional)*  
Hey Axl!

23 INT. LITTLE BETTY DELIVERY TRUCK - MOVING -- EVENING (N7)

23

Mike rides shotgun as Bob sits behind a huge wheel, driving.

BOB

Welcome to my time, Mike, when the town begins to sleep and we can prowl in the silence.

MIKE

Yeah, I can't really hear the silence...

Bob's phone CHIMES. He looks at the readout.

BOB

Oh, look at that. The lady owl awakes.

*(texting)*

"Hey pretty bird. First night on the road with my BFF Mike".

MIKE

Uh, I don't think you should do that while you drive.

BOB

Oh, it's fine. I'm a fast texter.

He continues to type, causing the truck to VEER OFF THE ROAD. Mike grabs the wheel.

MIKE

Bob, knock it off and drive.

The phone CHIMES AGAIN. Before he can read, Mike takes it.

BOB

Read it to me.

MIKE

No.

BOB

Come on. What does she say?

He leans over to look, and in doing so, the truck swerves wildly. Fearing for his life, Mike reads --

MIKE

"Hey... Bobby beast... boy."

(then)

As long as you're swerving, can you find a bridge or something and make it quick?

24 INT. HECK MASTER BATHROOM -- NIGHT (N7)

24

Frankie runs a bath in her robe.

FRANKIE (V.O.)

*Turns out Mike was right. The kids had surprised me. I felt this new sense of freedom opening up for me, endless possibilities. Like finally using those bath salts I got for Mother's Day...*

She picks up a decorative jar of bath salts. She turns it upside down and the bath salts remain stuck together inside.

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

*...2001.*

She shakes the jar, and all the salts come out in one cinder block lump. She drops the robe and starts to get in. Her toe just touches the water, when... the DOORBELL RINGS. She takes her toe out.

FRANKIE

(calling)

Can somebody get that?

She puts her toe back into the water, when the DOORBELL RINGS again. She takes her foot out.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Anybody got it?



She puts her toe in again, and there is a third RING.

25 INT. HECK FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER (N7)

25

Frankie enters in her robe to find Axl with his iPod in and Brick reading a book.

FRANKIE

Hello? Can anybody hear the bell?

BRICK

Yeah, it's really annoying.

Frankie goes to the door and opens it to find ELLEN CRAIG in her Sunday best, holding her one year-old baby.

ELLEN

Hey Frankie. We're late for Kiwanis. Sue was supposed to be at my house an hour ago to baby-sit.

FRANKIE

What? But she's at baton tryouts. She called you to cancel... didn't she?

ELLEN

No, she didn't. I'm really disappointed in you, Frankie. I thought you were a better mother than this.

(hands her baby)

Here, I'll be back in a couple hours.

Ellen exits, leaving Frankie with the baby. Frankie shuts the door and heads back toward the kitchen.

FRANKIE

I can't believe this... What is wrong with Sue? Brick, sit with the baby for a minute while I get dressed.

BRICK

That might not be a good idea. It could get my lice.

FRANKIE

Your *what*?

BRICK

Oh yeah, my teacher said to give you this note.

He hands her a note.

FRANKIE

(realizing)

Brick, where did you get that hat?

BRICK

Well, you didn't remind me to take a hat on Tuesday, so I didn't have one, but then I saw this homeless guy going through the trash. So I traded him my banana for it.

FRANKIE

Oh my god! Brick, what is wrong with you? Take that disgusting thing off and put it in the trash. Everyone stay away from Brick's head.

She rushes into the family room and holds out the baby.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Okay, Axl, I need your help. We have to burn all the sheets and scrub down the house.

AXL

Can't. My Aztec paper's due tomorrow.

FRANKIE

What?! Axl, what is wrong with --  
Oh I know what's wrong with you.  
(grabs assignment  
sheet)

I thought it was due next week.

AXL

Oh yeah. I wrote that down wrong.  
My bad.

FRANKIE

(holding it together)  
Axl, you're starting your paper now?  
I told you it's forty percent of  
your grade. This is your future.

AXL

That's why I've been working on it  
for the last *hour*.

FRANKIE

(trying to stay calm)  
Do you even have the supplies you  
need? It says specifically "an Oxford  
ready-clip clear-front report cover."

AXL

Don't we have one of those?

FRANKIE

I told you. If I can't steal it  
from Ehlert's, we don't have it.

AXL

Okay, I admit it. I screwed up. Go ahead, yell at me.

FRANKIE

(through gritted teeth)  
You'd like that now, wouldn't you?  
But I don't have that luxury. Because  
I have eleven minutes to get to  
Office Warehouse before they close.  
I can't believe how irresponsible  
you are.

(handing him baby)  
Watch this baby.

Frankie grabs some sweats from the laundry next to the door  
and exits.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT THREE

## ACT FOUR

26 INT. LITTLE BETTY DELIVERY TRUCK - MOVING -- NIGHT (N7)

26

Mike sits with Bob, who drives. Bob's phone CHIMES.

BOB

(excited)  
Oh she's back, she's back! Tell me what she says.

MIKE

(reads)  
"I don't think this is working."

BOB

Really? It's a brand new phone.

MIKE

No, that's what she says.  
(reads)  
"You're a nice guy, but I think --"  
Hey, how about I turn this off 'til after we finish --

BOB

What? Why? What did she say?

MIKE

(sighing)  
It seems like... she's breaking up with you.

BOB

Why? Why?

MIKE

Aw, I don't know... You know who's good at talking about this kind of thing? Anybody else.

BOB

Read it to me. Read me more. I need to feel the pain like a searing iron...

MIKE

Bob, this is a little personal. I think you should read it yourself.

BOB

I can't. I can't see anything through the tears.

He swerves wildly from side to side as Mike fears for his life.

27 INT. OFFICE WAREHOUSE -- NIGHT (N7)

27

Frankie rushes into the store past the 22-year-old Assistant Manager, who is just taking out his keys to lock up. He doesn't see her. Another MOM in a robe comes flying out of an aisle, grasping a report cover, spots the desperate look in Frankie's eyes.

OTHER MOM

Mr. Gottlieb's Aztec paper?

FRANKIE

Yes! Oxford ready-clip clear-front?

OTHER MOM

Aisle three! There's one left!

FRANKIE

God bless you!

Frankie runs down an aisle filled with report covers. She sifts through them, then spots the right one at the back of the shelf. She reaches out for it and accidentally pushes it off the other side of the shelf into the next aisle.

Frankie runs into the next aisle and gets down on the floor to look for the cover. Spotting it under the next set of shelves, she reaches farther, farther... and gets it. Suddenly the LIGHTS GO OUT. Frankie stands up.

She runs into the entrance area to find the place deserted. She runs to the glass doors and begins pounding.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Hey! Wait! Somebody!

28 INT. LITTLE BETTY DELIVERY TRUCK - MOVING -- NIGHT (N7)

28

Mike is now driving. Bob looks wrecked as he stuffs his face with Little Betty Snack Cakes.

BOB

It's my fault. I got on her nerves.  
I texted her every ten minutes.

Mike pulls the truck over and stops.

MIKE

Look, Bob, there's lots of girls out there.

BOB

Oh sure, says the seven foot god.  
What's wrong with me?

MIKE

I don't know... Well, sometimes  
you're a little needy.

BOB

(wailing)

Oh my God, I'm needy?

Bob lets out a sob of pain and runs out of the truck into  
the darkness.

MIKE

Aw, dammit.

29 EXT. FIELD -- CONTINUOUS (N7)

29

Bob is running with his arms waving, completely hysterical.  
Mike gets out of the truck and chases him, tackling him to  
the ground. Bob lets out a SCREAM. Mike sits on him.

BOB

Get off me! Haven't I suffered  
enough?!

MIKE

I'll get off if you'll promise to  
calm down.

BOB

I promise. Just let me sit up.

Mike gets up. Bob immediately lets out a SCREAM as he takes  
off again, hysterical. Mike goes after him again and tackles  
him a second time.

30 INT. OFFICE WAREHOUSE -- LATE NIGHT (N7)

30

Frankie is at the register talking into the store phone...

FRANKIE

...So when is the security guard  
showing up?... What if I told you  
my kid has lice, and I might have  
it, and I'm going to rub my head  
over every inch of this store, would  
it get him here any faster? Hello?  
Hello?

31 OMITTED

31

32 EXT. FIELD -- LATE NIGHT (N7)

32

Mike and Bob are now sitting side by side. Bob is calmer.

BOB

You're right. You're right. I am  
too needy.

(MORE)

BOB (CONT'D)

(grabbing Mike's shirt)

Teach me, Mike! Teach me how to be more distant.

MIKE

First of all, you're spitting into my mouth a little bit. So I think personal space would be a good place to start.

BOB

(backing up a little bit)

Sorry.

MIKE

Maybe you can try and win her back? You can go to her house right now --

BOB

I can't do that. I don't know where she lives. I know it's somewhere in New Mexico. I should have gotten her last name back when we were in love.

MIKE

Wait. This is just some internet woman?

BOB

Just? We danced for each other on iChat.

(then)

She was the whole package. She had three kids. A little house. A cat. I could have walked right in had a life. I could have been like you.

A beat. Mike takes this in. Heaves a big sigh.

MIKE

So, after the shift, why don't you get some sleep, then come by tomorrow night for dinner? We'll put up some burgers.

BOB

Really? Okay. I'd like that. Thanks Mike.

(then)

Mike, can I tell you something I've never told anyone in the whole world?

MIKE

No.

33 INT. OFFICE WAREHOUSE -- LATER THAT NIGHT (N7)

33

Frankie is still waiting as Mike and the kids (Brick in his shower cap) finally show up with a SECURITY GUARD.

FRANKIE

There you are.

FRANKIE (V.O.)

*Finally, Mike showed up with the kids to make sure I got sprung. The Craigs had gotten their baby, Brick got his lice medicine, and though she hadn't heard yet, Sue was not feeling very confident about her chances of making majorettes.*

Sue smiles weakly, gauze on her eye and a bent baton in her hand. Frankie looks at them and paces back and forth like a caged animal.

FRANKIE

I've had a lot of time to think in here and I've figured out a few things -- You know, there might be families out there somewhere where the moms don't have to yell, but guess what?

(yelling)

We're not one of them! You know why I pester and nag and get on your case and yell like a crazy person? Because nothing ever gets done if I don't!!! So that's what we're going back to! I don't care if it makes me look bad, it gets the job done! You know what else --

34 EXT. OFFICE WAREHOUSE -- CONTINUOUS (N7)

34

Mike and the kids watch Frankie's tirade, but now we see that she is yelling but THEY CAN'T HEAR A WORD THROUGH THE GLASS.

BRICK

What's she saying?

MIKE

I don't know. Just... bow your heads. Look ashamed.

They do. Frankie keeps yelling.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Now nod. Just nod like we know what she's saying.

The kids all nod their heads. As Frankie angrily continues...



SECURITY GUARD

Sorry. This lock can be tricky.

BRICK

(to the Guard)

That's okay. Take your time.

As Frankie continues yelling behind the glass, we...

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW