

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. SARA'S BEDROOM - MORNING
(KEVIN, SARA)

KEVIN GABLE, 40'S, ENTERS TO FIND SARA GABLE, 16, A BIG-BONED ATHLETE, IN BED SLEEPING. THE ROOM IS A MESS; VARIOUS TROPHIES AND SPORTING GEAR ARE SCATTERED ABOUT.

KEVIN

(SOFTLY) Oh, Sara... rise and shine.

SARA GROWLS AND BURIES HER HEAD UNDER HER PILLOW.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Time for school. (POKING HER) Get up,
get up, get up, get up, get up.

SARA

Stop! Mom lets me sleep longer.
Shouldn't you be out arresting some
meth-head or something?

KEVIN

Nope. Yesterday was my last day. I'm
officially retired.

SARA

Uch, so you're gonna do this every morning?

KEVIN

I won't, but I can't speak for... (FORMING
HAND INTO BEAK) the Angry Ostrich.

SARA

Okay, I'm not eight. And if that bird comes near me, I'll break every finger in its beak.

KEVIN

I hear you, but the Ostrich doesn't respond well to threats.

"THE ANGRY OSTRICH" ATTACKS SARA... PECKING HER WITH TICKLES. SUDDENLY, SHE'S A TASMANIAN DEVIL, THROWING A FLURRY OF PUNCHES, SENDING KEVIN BACK ON HIS HEELS.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Whoa. Okay, somebody just ordered "the burrito."

KEVIN WRAPS HER IN THE BLANKET LIKE A BURRITO AND STARTS TO DRAG HER OFF THE BED.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

(STRUGGLING) You're right. You're not eight.

SHE LANDS ON THE FLOOR WITH A THUMP. KEVIN DRAGS HER OUT.

SARA

Dude! You are so annoying!

RESET TO:

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS
(KEVIN, SARA)

KEVIN PULLS SARA DOWN THE HALL.

KEVIN

Gable bathroom. Exit to your right.

WITHOUT SKIPPING A BEAT, KEVIN LETS SARA GO AND ENTERS...

RESET TO:

INT. JACK'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS
(KEVIN, JACK)

JACK GABLE, 10, AN INTENSE, SLIGHTLY-BUILT KID, IS SITTING ON THE EDGE OF HIS BED, MOVING HIS INDEX FINGER IN FRONT OF HIS FACE AND TRACKING IT WITH HIS EYES. KEVIN ENTERS.

KEVIN

Let's go, champ.

JACK

I don't think I should go to school today. I was listening to the news and I think I got a concussion from football.

KEVIN

Jack, you play flag football and you missed last season 'cause you thought you had arthritis.

JACK

I know, but still, I've been forgetting things and I'm more sensitive to light and noise.

KEVIN

That's because you just woke up.

KEVIN PULLS JACK OUT OF BED AND THROWS HIM OVER HIS SHOULDER.

JACK

(LAUGHING) Put me down, I have an undersized bladder.

KEVIN

You're okay.

AS KEVIN CARRIES JACK OUT, WE...

RESET TO:

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER
(KEVIN, JACK, SARA (O.C.))

KEVIN IS BANGING ON THE DOOR WITH JACK'S BODY.

KEVIN

Open up. It's an emergency.

SARA (O.C.)

I'm not dressed!! I can't live like
this!

KEVIN BANGS JACK AGAINST THE DOOR AGAIN.

JACK

Dad, hurry!

KEVIN

Sara, you gotta share the bathroom --
you're not the only kid in this-

KEVIN REACTS TO SOMETHING, LOOKS TO JACK.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

You just peed, didn't ya?

JACK

Oh yeah. And I'm not done.

KEVIN RACES DOWN THE HALL WITH JACK, AS WE...

SMASH CUT TO:

OPENING CREDITS

ACT ONE

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING
(KEVIN, DONNA, SARA, JACK)

THE KITCHEN IS A MESS. KEVIN'S COOKING A BIG BATCH OF PANCAKES AND BACON. DONNA GABLE, NATURALLY ATTRACTIVE AND UNAFFECTED, ENTERS.

DONNA

Hey, first day of retirement, cooking
breakfast... I can get used to this.

SHE GRABS A PIECE OF BACON. HE SLAPS IT OUT OF HER HAND.

KEVIN

Not for you. I need all of this. Got
the boys coming over. We're kickin' off
our retirement with a big breakfast.

DONNA

Well, you deserve it, and I got you
something special. For all the overtime
you worked, for how much we missed you
around here, how much you sacrificed for
the family, I think this says "to a great
cop for a job well done."

SHE HANDS KEVIN A BOX. HE OPENS IT TO REVEAL A PLASTIC BOWL
INSIDE A PLASTIC GYROSCOPE.

KEVIN

A Gyro Bowl?! How did you know?!
Nothing can spill out of it, Donna.

(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Nothing! The lid has space-age gyroscopic action! Built for a baby, perfect for a man! I saw the commercial again last night. I literally wrote down the number.

DONNA

Yeah, well I pulled the trigger.
Happy retirement.

THEY KISS.

KEVIN

You're the best! Let's test this baby out. (GRABBING A BAG OF CHIPS) We'll start small. Handful of chips.

KEVIN FILLS THE BOWL.

DONNA

(HOPEFUL) You wanna knock it off the table, or you want me to do it?

DONNA MOUTHES THE WORD "ME."

KEVIN

My head is saying I wanna do it, but my heart is saying, "Let the woman I love knock the bowl on the floor."

DONNA

Aw, that's sweet. (SUDDENLY AGGRESSIVE TO THE BOWL) TURN DOWN FOR WHAT!?

SHE SWATS IT OFF THE COUNTER. THE BOWL HITS THE FLOOR. THE GYROSCOPE LID AUTOMATICALLY COVERS IT. NOTHING SPILLS.

KEVIN

Wow. As a cop who's seen a lot of stuff, I gotta tell you, my heart rate is through the roof. (THEN) You think it can hold liquid?

DONNA

I don't know. They didn't show it in the commercial, but the gyroscope is so fast. Get some cereal.

DONNA RUNS TO THE REFRIGERATOR AND PULLS OUT MILK WHILE KEVIN GETS SOME CEREAL. HE PUTS CEREAL IN THE BOWL, DONNA ADDS MILK.

DONNA (CONT'D)

You're up. But don't do "Turn down for what?" That's my thing.

KEVIN

Just let me be me. (THINKS, THEN) HAMMER TIME!

HE KNOCKS THE CEREAL BOWL ACROSS THE ROOM. IT HITS THE REFRIGERATOR AND EXPLODES! MILK GOES EVERYWHERE.

DONNA

Well... That was disappointing. (THEN) You wanna help me clean this up?

KEVIN

I'm retired.

DONNA

So in ten years when I'm retired, I don't have to clean this up?

KEVIN

We'll see if it's still there.

DONNA

Okay, then while I'm doing this, go
take your exercise bike out of Kendra's
room. She's coming home tomorrow night.

DONNA THROWS A RAG ON THE FLOOR AND WIPES THE SPOT WITH HER
FOOT AS SHE GOES TO GET HER LAPTOP.

KEVIN

(EXCITED) Kendra's coming? I thought
she had midterms and she wasn't coming
down until Thanksgiving.

DONNA

She'd never miss your retirement party.

KEVIN

Man, you know what they say about
unconditional love and how you love
all of your kids equally?

DONNA

Yeah?

KEVIN

I gotta say, they were wrong. Kendra
is the one. You can tell Jack and
Sara if you want to.

DONNA

Hey, let's save that for Christmas
dinner so it's even more special.

SARA ENTERS WEARING A MASSAPEQUA BASKETBALL HOODIE, LISTENING
TO MUSIC IN HER EARBUDS. JACK FOLLOWS.

DONNA (CONT'D)

I already packed you guys. Sara, don't forget you're walking Jack to school.

THE KIDS GRAB THEIR BACKPACKS.

SARA

Relax, that Lowenthal kid won't be picking on him anymore. I squashed that noise.

KEVIN

And how exactly did you squash it?

SARA

You really wanna know how the sausage is made?

SARA AND JACK EXIT. DONNA SITS AT HER LAPTOP.

KEVIN

Does Sara scare you sometimes?

DONNA

Yeah, but if you bang a couple of pots together, she usually scurries off.

KEVIN

(RE: LAPTOP) You posting the ad?

DONNA

Yeah, I made a few tweaks. (READING)
"Looking to rent converted garage apartment.
Quiet tenant. Older female preferred."

KEVIN

What happened to "Mets fans only"?

DONNA

Look, the plan was to rent the garage to supplement your pension so you don't have to work. Older women are just more dependable.

KEVIN

Fine. Then we should go super old. Like amnesia old. We can collect the monthly rent like twice a month.

DONNA

Good, I'm glad you like it, cause I've already posted it on Craigslist.

KEVIN

Craigslist?! Why don't we just go out to every serial killer on Long Island?

DONNA

Why? This way they come to us. (THEN)
Honey, not every person on Craigslist is a serial killer.

KEVIN

Well, I'm doing the interviews. I'm a cop -- I can spot deviants a mile away.

DONNA

What about having faith in humanity and looking for the good in people?

KEVIN

(CHUCKLES) You're adorable. Seriously, isn't it time to feed your unicorn?

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE B

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

(KEVIN, DUFFY, MOTT, GOODY, KYLE)

KEVIN'S BUDDIES, ALL IN THEIR MID-40S, ARE SITTING AROUND, FINISHING BREAKFAST. THERE'S DUFFY -- KEVIN'S OLDEST BUDDY, DIVORCED AND RECENTLY THROWN BACK INTO THE DATING WORLD; MOTT -- A GIANT, LONG-SUFFERING FATHER OF SEVEN; AND GOODY -- AFRICAN AMERICAN, WITH A DEMANDING WIFE. KYLE, KEVIN'S BROTHER IS ALSO THERE. HE'S A FIREMAN IN UNIFORM.

KEVIN IS AT THE TV GIVING A POWER POINT PRESENTATION. ON THE SCREEN IS A FINANCIAL PIE CHART WITH THE HEADING "RETIREMENT PLAN" OVER IT. BUT IN EACH SLICE OF PIE ARE WRITTEN THE WORDS "GO-KARTS," "BEARDS," "DAY DRINKING," "MOTORCYCLE TRIP," AND "METS GAMES."

KEVIN

Alright, today is go-karts. You all built your own and I'm hoping you followed the rules. Nothing stronger than a lawn mower engine.

DUFFY

I got a street-sweeper engine from one of the boys in sanitation. That cool?

KEVIN

Accepted. Enjoy last place. Alright, before we go out there, last week we talked about a cross country motorcycle trip, but we were a few beers in when we discussed that.

MOTT

Yeah, I got seven kids. I can't swing that chunk of time. How about across Long Island?

KEVIN

Mott, these kids are gonna be a problem. I can feel it already.
(CONSIDERS) Alright, Long Island's what? Hundred twenty miles long? That's not horrible.

MOTT

I was thinking width. Twelve miles.

KYLE

Wow, I was hopin' to watch a little go-kart action, but if you losers are just gonna sit here planning how to ride your hogs to the grocery store, I'm gonna go save some lives.

DUFFY

Oh, you mean go back to the fire house and nap for twelve hours so you're fresh for your next false alarm?

KEVIN

Duffy, leave my brother alone. You know how many kittens he's saved from trees in the last year? Tell 'em, Kyle.

KYLE

I know you guys don't care, but seven. Twelve, if Mittens gives birth. Either way, fire house record.

KYLE EXITS.

KEVIN

Alright, last item. Why hasn't anybody started growing their Mets' playoff beard?

KEVIN CLICKS. THE WORD "BEARDS" AND THE METS' EMBLEM APPEARS ON THE SCREEN.

GOODY

I can't start for two weeks. I got a wedding to go to. My wife'll kill me.

KEVIN

Okay, Goody, you want a little baby-beard or a badass Lord of The Rings beard?

DUFFY

I'm out. I'm working security. I gotta look clean-cut. (OFF KEVIN'S GROAN) I got two ex-wives!

KEVIN

Come on, guys! We gotta commit to these things. How long have we been planning this? Family can't get in the way. Ex-family can't get in the way. Sack up! Oh, and by the way, not one thank you for the organization or the Power Point presentation.

MOTT

I enjoyed it.

KEVIN

Too late. If I have to pull it out of you... Now, let's go do what we've been waiting twenty years to do... race go-karts while pelting each other with paintballs.

THE GUYS PUT THEIR HELMETS ON AND HEAD FOR THE DOOR.

MOTT

(TO KEVIN) Hey, if you're still looking to rent your garage, how about Slawinski? His wife just gave him the boot.

KEVIN

Slawinski from the fourth precinct?

GOODY

I like that guy.

KEVIN

Me too, but I don't know, man. We really need that money. And Donna and I agreed on an old lady, you know, more reliable.

GOODY

His dad's a beer distributor. He could totally hook you up.

KEVIN

(CONSIDERING) Free beer is good too...

AS KEVIN PUTS ON HIS HELMET AND THE GUYS EXIT, WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE C

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - LONG ISLAND - DAY

(KEVIN, DUFFY, MOTT, GOODY, POLICE OFFICER, WOMAN WITH STROLLER, KYLE)

AT THE END OF A BLOCK, THERE'S A POLICE CRUISER SIDEWAYS BLOCKING ANY TRAFFIC FROM GOING THROUGH AND AN OFFICER WAVING PEDESTRIANS OFF ON THE STREET. A HEAVY-SET WOMAN WITH A STROLLER TRIES TO CROSS.

POLICE OFFICER

You can't, ma'am. Crime scene investigation. Better if you stay at least five hundred feet away. (INTO WALKIE-TALKIE) Alright, you're clear, Gable. You got a half hour.

ANGLE ON: ALL THE GUYS IN THEIR GO-KARTS, WHICH ARE PRETTY MUCH FRANKENSTEINED TOGETHER. THEY ALL HAVE HELMETS WITH PHONE MICS ATTACHED, GOGGLES, AND PAINTBALL GUNS.

KEVIN

(INTO MIC) Twenty bucks a man. Two laps. Winner take all. I salute you, who are about to lose!

THE CARS TAKE OFF AND PULL OUT OF FRAME EXCEPT FOR MOTT WHOSE CAR IMMEDIATELY LOSES A WHEEL AND STOPS. AFTER A BEAT, ALL THE OTHER CARS COME BACK INTO FRAME AND CIRCLE HIM, BLASTING HIM WITH PAINTBALLS AND CONTINUE FORWARD.

MOTT

Aw, come on!

THEN, IN A SERIES OF QUICK CUTS:

-KEVIN USES A COP DRIVING TECHNIQUE CALLED A "PIT MANEUVER" WHERE HE BUMPS GOODY'S BUMPER, CAUSING HIM TO LOSE CONTROL AND VEER OFF INTO A PRIVATE YARD WHERE HE CRASHES THROUGH SOME HEDGES AND INTO A KIDDIE POOL.

-KEVIN'S GAINING ON DUFFY AS THEY APPROACH MOTT, WHO IS BENDING OVER HIS KART, FINISHING PUTTING HIS WHEEL BACK ON.

THEY BOTH SLAM ON THEIR BRAKES, TAKE AIM, AND BLAST MOTT AGAIN IN THE PLUMBER'S CRACK. HE REACTS.

MOTT (CONT'D)

Aw, come on!

-DUFFY AND KEVIN ARE JOSTLING FOR POSITION. KEVIN SLAMS INTO DUFFY'S KART, CAUSING HIM TO SWERVE AND SLOW DOWN, ALLOWING KEVIN TO INCH IN FRONT. KEVIN LOOKS BACK AND LAUGHS. AS HE PASSES HIM, DUFFY SHOOTS HIM RIGHT IN THE MOUTH WITH A PAINTBALL CAUSING KEVIN TO STOP.

DUFFY LAUGHS AND CONTINUES TOWARD THE FINISH LINE. SUDDENLY THE WOMAN WITH THE STROLLER STEPS OUT IN FRONT OF HIM, OBLIVIOUS. DUFFY SQUEALS TO A STOP... INCHES FROM THE STROLLER. THE WOMAN PULLS OFF A WIG. IT'S KYLE. HE REACHES INTO THE STROLLER AND PULLS OUT A PAINT-BALL GUN AND STARTS BLASTING DUFFY AS KEVIN BURNS PAST DUFFY TO THE FINISH LINE.

KEVIN

(PUMPING FIST IN AIR) Yeah, baby!

Don't mess with the Gable brothers!

CUT TO:

SCENE D

INT. KITCHEN - NEXT DAY
(KEVIN, DONNA, KENDRA)

DONNA'S MAKING CUPCAKES FOR THE PARTY. KEVIN ENTERS.

DONNA

Hey, Goody's wife told me you won
sixty bucks yesterday. You gonna cut
a sister in?

KEVIN

I would, but I owe the Fergusons
seventy for their hedge and a kiddie
pool. And then another twenty-five
for emotional distress to their
daughter. (OFF DONNA'S LOOK) Yeah, she
saw Mott's coin slot.

KENDRA (O.C.)

Hey, I'm home!

KENDRA, 20, ENTERS WITH A DUFFLE. SHE HUGS KEVIN AND DONNA.

KEVIN

There's my baby girl!

KENDRA

Baby woman. (THEN) And you know what
this means?

KEVIN

All-American Burger!

KENDRA

All-American Burger!

KENDRA (CONT'D)

Where I go because you like it!

KEVIN

Let me grab my wallet.

HE HEADS FOR THE STAIRS.

DONNA

What are you doing? You can't leave
now. We're interviewing a tenant.

KENDRA

Grab it anyway, we'll go right after.
(TO DONNA) How's that going?

DONNA

Not great. Your father's been
shooting people down all day.

KEVIN

I'm not shooting people down.

DONNA

You accused that sweet old lady of
being a heroin addict!

KEVIN

Did you see those track marks?

DONNA

Those were varicose veins.

KEVIN

Please, those big bruisey ropes were
jonesing for some China White.

KEVIN HEADS UPSTAIRS.

KENDRA

Okay, there goes my appetite, but I'll
still go for the ride.

KEVIN DISAPPEARS DOWN THE HALL. KENDRA QUICKLY TURNS TO
DONNA.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

(SOTTO) You still didn't tell him, did
you?

DONNA

No, you know how over-protective your father
is. Unless you want him interrogating the
poor kid -- we need to wait for the right
moment.

KENDRA

I've been going out with him for two
years. When's the right moment?

DONNA

Honestly, I was thinking there was a
chance you two would break up and I'd
never have to tell your dad.

KENDRA

Well, we aren't, so you're gonna have
to figure out something because he
wanted to meet you guys and I said
yes. He's on his way with his
roommate right now.

DONNA

But it's your dad's retirement party.

KENDRA

I know, and he'll be in a great mood.

DONNA

Are you crazy? There's gonna be cops,
booze, and guns. After a couple of
jello shots, these guys tase themselves.

KENDRA

But not Dad.

DONNA

He started it! (THEN) Fine. Introduce him
tonight, but wait till the right time.

KENDRA

You keep saying that! When is it?

DONNA

Tonight. After he has his cake... but
before the jello shots.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE E

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER
(KEVIN, DONNA, SLAWINSKI)

KEVIN AND DONNA ARE SITTING DOWN WITH SLAWINSKI. KEVIN IS
LOOKING AT THE APPLICATION.

KEVIN

So, Mr. Slawinski, you weren't exactly
what we were thinking of, but maybe
this could work out. (OFF APPLICATION)
Oh, I see you're a cop.

SLAWINSKI

Yeah, fifteen years on the job.

DONNA

(SUSPICIOUS) That's so funny. Kevin
was a cop. Did you guys ever meet?

KEVIN

(THINKING, IN HIGH VOICE) Did we meet?
I'm trying to think -- I don't think so.

SLAWINSKI

Listen, I just really appreciate you
guys considering me. I'm in a bad
spot. My wife asked me to move out.

DONNA

Oh, I'm sorry. Can I ask why?

SLAWINSKI

She didn't like me spending my
weekends playing fantasy football.

KEVIN

Wow, she sounds like a nightmare.

SLAWINSKI

Yeah, but my shrink says I gotta own my part in this. I have gambling problems. I owed some pretty bad people some pretty big money. Boy, it really feels good to say that out loud.

KEVIN

(RE: APPLICATION) Well, everything else seems in order.

DONNA

No, hold on, honey. (TO SLAWINSKI) You have anything else you want to get off your chest? 'Cause we're here for you.

KEVIN

(HIGH VOICE AGAIN) I think the weight's been lifted. He's good.

SLAWINSKI

Well, there's my drinking. That got pretty bad. Doesn't help that my dad sells beer.

KEVIN

(OFF DONNA'S LOOK) Well, helps some things, doesn't help others.

SLAWINSKI

But just so you know, by the grace of God, I'm sober now.

KEVIN

See that? The man faces problems head on.

SLAWINSKI

Yup. Eighteen days and counting.

KEVIN

They say the first seventeen are the toughest.

DONNA

(TO SLAWINSKI) Could you give us a second? Kevin?

THEY EXIT INTO THE KITCHEN.

RESET TO:

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS
(KEVIN, DONNA)

DONNA

Okay, that's what's going on here? We turned away some unbelievable tenants so you could get free beer from this guy?

KEVIN

In a nutshell, yes. But do you know how much money we'll be saving if I don't have to buy beer? That's a trip to wherever you want to go, honey, I promise, if you agree to this.

DONNA

This is crazy.

KEVIN

Look, he's a good cop and he's down
and out. Where's that "faith in
humanity" and "looking for the good in
people"? Oh yeah, I turned that right
around on ya. (THEN) I'll owe you one.

DONNA

(BEAT) Fine, just remember that. But
first problem that comes up, he's out on
his ass.

KEVIN

Absolutely. But drinking and gambling are
off the table. They're pre-existing
conditions.

DONNA GLARES AT HIM.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

I'm gonna run back in there and give
him the keys. You're awesome.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE H

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

(KEVIN, DONNA, KENDRA, CHALE, DUFFY, MOTT, GOODY, KYLE,
TODD, PARTY EXTRAS)

KEVIN'S RETIREMENT PARTY IS IN FULL SWING. ALL OF HIS BUDDIES
ARE THERE AND SOME OTHER OFFICERS IN UNIFORM. HIS BROTHER
KYLE IS THERE AS WELL. THERE'S A DJ AND TABLES WITH FOOD.

DUFFY ENTERS FROM THE KITCHEN HOLDING A SHEET CAKE WITH A
COVER ON IT. HE BRINGS IT TO DONNA AND KEVIN.

DUFFY

I had a little cake made for ya,
buddy. Thank me later, it's hilarious.

DONNA

Oh, let me see, let me see.

DUFFY REMOVES THE COVER. THE CAKE IS DECORATED AS A GRUESOME
CRIME-SCENE WITH TINY YELLOW POLICE TAPE AROUND THE PERIMETER.
THERE'S A BODY AND BLOOD AND COPS ON IT. DONNA'S TAKEN ABACK.

DONNA (CONT'D)

Ooh. Is that a dead body?

DUFFY

Not just any dead body. It's your
husband's first homicide scene. I used
the coroner's photos. It's exact.

DONNA

Why is this guy throwing up in a dumpster?

DUFFY

That's your husband.

KEVIN

I was not throwing up -- I was looking
for evidence.

DONNA

(RE: CAKE) You know what, honey? Get rid of the dead guy, change all the blood to beer, and this cake looks like the end of our first date.

KEVIN

(FONDLY) Oh yeah, you cleaned off my sneakers. That's when I knew you were the one.

DONNA

Aww. (KISSES KEVIN, THEN) Duffy, help me get some forks and plates.

DONNA AND DUFFY CROSS AWAY. KENDRA CROSSES OVER TO KEVIN WITH TODD -- A YOUNGER VERSION OF KEVIN, HUSKY AND ATHLETIC -- AND A NERDY HIPSTER, CHALE, BOTH 23. CHALE SEEMS A BIT NERVOUS.

KENDRA

Hey, Dad. I hope you don't mind, but I invited some people. (INDICATING) This is Todd... and this is Chale.

KEVIN

What's happening, fellas?

CHALE

Congratulations on your retirement, Mr. Gable.

TODD

Yeah, congratulations. I have a lot of cops in my family. You guys do an amazing job. You have my utmost respect.

KEVIN

Wow, thanks, boys. You pre-law with Kendra?

TODD

I am, but I'm on the baseball team and they're saying I might get drafted. Fingers crossed.

KENDRA

Chale's actually out of school. He finished computer science early and now he's developing this huge app. It could sell for billions.

CHALE

Yeah, I'm still in the development phase, but you might be coming to my retirement party next year. Ha.

KEVIN

Sweet, I'll save the date. (TO TODD)
So the Mets looking at ya?

CHALE

I don't know what the exact idea is yet. But it's like right there. You know what I mean? (GESTURING OVER HIS HEAD) Right there.

KEVIN

Hey, this is the time in your life to take those kind of risks. Good luck.

CHALE

Mr. Gable, that's such a cool attitude
for a dad. My parents think just
because I don't work a nine-to-five
that I don't work. I work at a cafe,
I just don't work at the cafe.

KEVIN

Parents. Am I right? (TO TODD) I don't
know if Kendra told you, but I played
catcher in college. We're a lot alike.

KENDRA

Dad, can we talk for a second? I need
to tell you something.

KEVIN

No need. I know what's going on here,
honey. I'm your dad. And you can
relax, I actually like this guy. I
mean, come on, you and Todd. Perfect.

KENDRA

No, Dad. It's me and Chale.

CHALE

We're in love.

KEVIN REACTS. JUST THEN...

DJ

Y'all ready for this?

THE DJ STARTS THE "SPACE JAM" THEME SONG. EVERYBODY AD-LIBS
"YEAH!" AND THROWS THEIR HANDS IN THE AIR.

KEVIN

(REFLEXIVELY PUTTING HIS HANDS IN THE
AIR, TOTALLY IN SHOCK) Yeah!

DONNA CROSSES OVER WITH FORKS AND PLATES.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

(HANDS STILL IN AIR) Look who's here.
It's Kendra. And Chale. Can I speak
to you and Kendra in the kitchen?
About Chale?

KEVIN USHERS DONNA AND KENDRA INTO THE KITCHEN.

RESET TO:

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS
(KEVIN, DONNA, KENDRA, KYLE)

THEY ENTER THE KITCHEN.

KEVIN

(TO DONNA) Did you know about this guy?

DONNA

Yes I did. I just didn't know he was
coming tonight. (TO KENDRA) What happened
to after cakes, before jello shots?

KENDRA

I had to do something. Dad was falling
for Todd.

KEVIN

But Chale? He's nothing like me. Why
would you bring Todd and do this to me? (TO
DONNA) And why didn't you tell me?!

KENDRA

Because I didn't want you playing cop
and scaring him off like all the guys
I dated in high school. But after two
years, I figured it was safe.

KEVIN

Two years? You kept this from me for
two years?!

KYLE STICKS HIS HEAD IN THROUGH THE POCKET DOOR, OBLIVIOUS.

KYLE

Hey, one of your smoke detectors is
low on batteries. It keeps beeping.
(VERY SLOWLY) Beep... beep... beep...

KEVIN

GET OUT OF HERE!

KYLE

I'm on it.

KYLE SLIDES THE POCKET DOOR CLOSED.

KEVIN

I know why you waited two years.
Because he's an unemployed slacker.

KENDRA

What? You told him everything he was
doing was great.

KEVIN

Come on, I was lying to make him feel
good.

(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)

That's what you do when you meet
strangers you don't have any intention
of ever seeing again. He wants to come
up with an app that'll make a billion
dollars? You know what? I want to go
on tour with Taylor Swift, but I don't
know her, and I don't play guitar.

DONNA

So, in your mind, those are the only
things holding you back?

KENDRA

Chale's skill is his brain. And it's not
just about money. He's about finding
solutions.

KEVIN

Hey, I have a solution. Before you start
dating someone's daughter, get a job.

KENDRA

We're not dating.

KEVIN

Oh really.

KENDRA

We're engaged.

DONNA

There it is.

KEVIN

ARE YOU KIDDING ME? You're engaged?
(TO DONNA) She's going to school. How
could she possibly do this?

KENDRA

I'm not stupid, Dad, we have a plan. I
dropped out of school and I just got a
job as a waitress. I'm gonna support us
until Chale makes it big.

KEVIN AND DONNA AD LIB "WHAT?!" "ARE YOU CRAZY?!"

DONNA

Okay, honey, that's not a plan. That's
literally every stripper's backstory.

KEVIN

You know what? I have a plan too. I'm
gonna go for a walk. (TO KENDRA) And
I'm not coming back until you figure
out how to make things work with Todd.

KEVIN EXITS OUT THE BACK DOOR. AFTER A BEAT OF AWKWARD
SILENCE, KEVIN WALKS BACK IN AND GRABS JELLO SHOTS AND A
TASER OUT OF A DRAWER. HE TESTS THE TASER, THEN EXITS AGAIN.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE J

FADE IN:

INT. GABLE BEDROOM - LATER
(KEVIN, DONNA)

KEVIN IS EXERCISING ON HIS AIRDYNE BIKE. DONNA ENTERS.

DONNA

Okay, let's talk.

KEVIN

Not now, I'm training.

DONNA

Really? You haven't used that thing since you took it out of the box eight years ago.

KEVIN

It was six years ago and you don't know how many times I've used it.

DONNA

There's an odometer that says otherwise.

KEVIN

You ever think maybe I used it so much it's gone all the way back to zeroes?

DONNA

I stand corrected. I have no doubt you put in your ninety-nine thousand miles.

KEVIN STARTS FURIOUSLY PEDALING TO PROVE HIS POINT.

DONNA (CONT'D)

Look, I know you're upset.

KEVIN

No. Upset is when you find that little black french fry in your box of onion rings. My daughter's ruining her life and this wouldn't have happened if you hadn't hid this from me. That's not how we do things in this family.

DONNA

Sometimes we do. You haven't been around. There's a lot of stuff you don't know, honey.

KEVIN

Hey, I know everything that goes on in this house. I'm a cop. Even if you think I don't know, I know.

DONNA

Okay. Sara's practically failing out of school. She got suspended for fighting twice. Jack's seeing a psychologist for anxiety.

KEVIN STOPS PEDALING.

KEVIN

Ooh, I didn't know that. (STEPPING OFF BIKE) Wow, my head is spinning.

DONNA

I know this is a lot to throw at you.

KEVIN

No, it's the bike. I haven't been on that thing in years. (THEN) I don't even know you people. I'm not even sure if you're who you say you are.

DONNA

Please, if I was gonna fake my life, it wouldn't be in Massapequa. With an above ground pool.

KEVIN

You don't like the pool? You seem to like it in the summer. Floating on your noodles, "Ooh, look, at me, I'm all splashy!"

DONNA

I love the pool. I just wish you'd fix the ladder so we didn't have to use a dining room chair to get into it.

KEVIN

I'm sorry it's not as nice as the ones you had at your Country Club growing up, where four butlers gently lowered you in.

DONNA

Butlers work inside. Pool boys lowered me into the pool. And I've bought enough underwear at flea markets in the last twenty years not to deserve that shot.

KEVIN

I'm just saying you never complained
before. Just more from your world of lies.

DONNA

My world of lies? You want to know
about my world? Every day you'd put on
that uniform and leave this house, and
I'd worry, "Is this the day things go
sideways?" Something bad happens, you
don't come home that night, and I have to
take care of the kids by myself for the
rest of my life. That's been my world.

KEVIN

C'mon, you wouldn't have to take care
of all of them. I'm pretty sure Sara
can handle herself. And Jack will be
living in his plastic bubble by then,
so he'll be fine.

DONNA

Look, I know I made some decisions without
talking to you. But you had a lot on your
plate and you tend to overreact. Plus, I
needed to know I could do all this without
you... at least 'til I met somebody.

DONNA CROSSES INTO THE BATHROOM. KEVIN FOLLOWS.

ROLLING RESET TO:

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS
(KEVIN, DONNA)

THEY ENTER.

KEVIN

Met somebody? How'd we get there?
How fast you movin' on?

DONNA

I dunno. Depends. How long you been dead?

KEVIN

Let's say three months.

DONNA

Three months... I wouldn't be looking,
but I'm not not looking. I mean, I'm
still wearing black, but I look really
good in black. A lotta guys are gonna
want to get with the sad girl in the
strapless dress.

KEVIN

Yeah? With three crazy kids and Chale?
Plus you're wearing flea market
underwear. Good luck with that.

KEVIN EXITS BACK INTO THE BEDROOM. DONNA DOES TOO.

ROLLING RESET TO:

INT. GABLE BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS
(KEVIN, DONNA)

THEY ENTER. KEVIN STARTS TO UNDRESS.

DONNA

Baby, it was just easier. Everybody
was happy.

KEVIN

I wasn't. I mean, I was... but I shouldn't have been. How'd I miss all of this? I should've been more involved.

DONNA

Look, Jack and Sara are still at home. You have time. But right now it's all about Kendra. I don't know what we're gonna do, but I don't want her sacrificing her dreams like I did.

KEVIN

I don't want that either- wait. Sacrifice your dreams?

DONNA

You know what I mean.

KEVIN

No, I don't. What have you sacrificed?

DONNA

You know, everything. Getting cut off from my family 'cause I didn't marry up, or even just down a little. Dropping out of pre-med to become a school nurse. Having a kid sooner than I wanted-

KEVIN

Oh yeah, yeah, I know that... I thought you meant something else.

AS KEVIN MULLS THINGS OVER, WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE K

INT. LOCAL DINER - NEXT DAY
(KEVIN, KENDRA, CHALE, EXTRAS)

KENDRA'S IN HER WAITRESS OUTFIT, CLEARLY FRAZZLED. THE PASS-
THRU IS CRAMMED WITH PLATES. SHE'S PULLS A FEW AND DELIVERS
THEM TO A TABLE, SEES KEVIN, AND APPROACHES.

KENDRA

Dad, what are you doing here?

KEVIN

The sign said you had the biggest
french toast in Nassau County. That's
a bold statement. (OFF MENU) But this
"bottomless bowl of chili" also has my
attention. I'm torn.

KENDRA

Look, I'm really busy. Just tell me
what you want. There's about three
things on the menu that won't kill you.

KEVIN

Okay, clearly you're gonna get fired
here pretty shortly, so let's cut to the
chase. I want you to come home, live there,
and continue school on Long Island.

KENDRA

Really. (THEN) What about Chale?

KEVIN

He can go to his home, live there, and do
whatever he wants. And I'm okay with that.

KENDRA

Dad, I love him. He's funny, he's smart, and he texts me back right away. We want to be living together.

KEVIN

Technically, you will be. You'll both be alive at the same time.

KENDRA

Look, I know this isn't the best solution. I almost just killed a guy with an egg allergy. I just want you to accept Chale. We'll figure it out. You and Mom did.

KEVIN

No, the only reason we survived is because we moved into my dad's house. (THEN, REALIZING) Crap.

KENDRA

What? Are you saying... Chale should move in?

KEVIN

No. Yes. That's what I'm saying.

KENDRA

We can't do that. That garage is for your retirement.

KEVIN

(BEAT) I'll make it work. My kids are everything to me. When you have kids with Todd you'll understand that.

KENDRA PUNCHES KEVIN, THEN KISSES HIM.

KENDRA

Thank you, Dad.

SHE POINTS TO WHERE CHALE'S SEATED, OBLIVIOUS, ON HIS IPHONE.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

Now if you get Chale on board, we're fine. You made a pretty bad first impression.

KEVIN

You gotta be kiddin' me. I gotta convince this guy to live with us rent free?

KENDRA

Dad, please. He's sensitive.

KEVIN

Where's he sensitive? 'Cause I want to punch him right there.

KEVIN GETS UP AND CROSSES TO CHALE, WHO'S TYPING ON HIS IPHONE.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Hey, what's up, Chale?

CHALE

You can drop the pretense. I know you don't like me. Kendra told me you were just patronizing me.

KEVIN

Ooh, big word.

CHALE

"Patronizing"?

KEVIN

Actually, I was thinking "pretense"
but yeah, that too.

CHALE

Look, Mr. Gable, I know what you're
gonna say and I'm taking care of it.

KEVIN

Taking care of what?

CHALE

(SOTTO) I'm texting Kendra. She
shouldn't be waiting tables -- not just
'cause she's terrible at it, I mean,
she's awful -- but she shouldn't be
working to support my dreams. She
should pursue her own. She's gonna be
an incredible lawyer someday and that's
almost more important to me than my own
dreams. Almost. My dreams are pretty
cool. But she thinks this is the only
way and it's killing me, but I'm
breaking up with her.

KEVIN

Oh. Okay. Do your thang. Just
needed the ketchup.

KEVIN STARTS TO WALK AWAY. HE LOOKS AT KENDRA WHO GIVES HIM
A HOPEFUL THUMBS UP, CAUSING HER TO ALMOST DROP A TRAY OF
FOOD. KEVIN TURNS BACK.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Don't send that. There may be another way. I've asked Kendra to move back into the house. And I'd like you to, uh, you know... (CHOKING ON THE WORDS) move into my house too. Rent free.

CHALE

Wow. That's really generous. That solves everything. But I don't know...

KEVIN

I get it. It's completely embarrassing to the point of humiliation, to allow your girlfriend's father to take care of you.

CHALE

Not at all. It's just... you seem to kinda hate me.

KEVIN

And...?

CHALE

I can't create in an unsafe environment. I won't be doing anything that your generation perceives as work, but I'll need support, a peaceful atmosphere, and no pressure or timetables.

KEVIN

Mm hmm. Mm hmm. Doesn't look like work, no timetables. I'll try.

CHALE

Then yes, I'll move in. And I'm sorry.
I've been told I can be a little sensitive.

KEVIN

Oh yeah? Where?

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE 1

INT. KITCHEN - LATER THAT NIGHT
(KEVIN, DONNA)

DONNA AND KEVIN ARE GETTING DINNER READY TO BRING TO THE TABLE.

DONNA

You doin' okay?

KEVIN

Yeah. I got a couple leads on some side gigs. I don't want to count my chickens, but I could be the guy securing the perimeter of Hempstead Subaru.

DONNA

(KISSING HIM) Hey, we're not going to let this totally end your retirement.

KEVIN

No, no, no. I had two days. It was a good run.

DONNA

Come on, you're still gonna do fun things with your friends, it's just gonna be a slightly different version of what you had in mind.

KEVIN

Yeah, slightly different. I'll still be retired and not working. I'll just be working.

KEVIN AND DONNA TAKE THE PLATES INTO THE DINING ROOM.

RESET TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

(KEVIN, DONNA, KENDRA, CHALE, SARA, JACK)

KEVIN AND DONNA ENTER. SARA AND JACK ARE AT THE TABLE.
KENDRA AND CHALE ARE JUST TAKING THEIR SEATS.

KENDRA

Hey, Dad, we were gonna put some boxes
in the garage apartment, but there's a
cop in there hanging up family photos.

KEVIN

Oh yeah. That's my buddy Slawinski.
I gotta destroy his soul after dinner.

CHALE

(SITS) Ooh, this chair's wet.

DONNA

Yeah, that's the one from the pool.

KENDRA

You did an awesome job with the garage,
Dad. We're gonna love it there.

KEVIN

No, no. It's not "we." You're moving back
into your room. Chale's going in the garage.

KENDRA

What?

KEVIN

You're not married yet, if ever, and
if you're living under my roof, you're
sleeping under separate roofs. My
house, my roofs, my rules.

SARA

Haha. Dad's rules.

KENDRA

Shut up, Sara.

KENDRA GLARES AT SARA.

SARA

(THREATENING WITH FORK) Look away.

DONNA

Sara, we talked about using your words. Remember?

KEVIN

Donna, let me get this. (TO SARA)
Sara, remember when you and your mom talked about using your words?

SARA

I did. I was very clear. I said "look away."

KEVIN

Next time slap a "please" on it. (THEN)
This is nice, huh? We're having dinner, we're all talking. Jack, say something.

JACK

I think I have shingles.

KEVIN

Good, this is gonna work.

CUT TO:

SCENE M

INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - LATER
(KEVIN, SLAWINSKI)

THE PLACE IS HALF-SET UP, A LOT OF STUFF IS STILL IN BOXES. SLAWINSKI PUTS THE FINAL SCREW IN HIS LAZY BOY RECLINER AND SITS IN IT. THERE'S A KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

SLAWINSKI (O.C.)

Come in.

AS KEVIN ENTERS...

KEVIN

There he is.

SLAWINSKI

Hey, I put a coupla cases of Heiny's
in your kitchen courtesy of my dad.

KEVIN

Oh, thanks. I... really don't deserve
that.

SLAWINSKI

Yeah you do. Last night was the first
good night's sleep I had in six
months. I've been lost, man. But I
finally feel like I'm on the other
side of this. You saved my life.

SLAWINSKI PUTS HIS HANDS ON KEVIN'S SHOULDERS. KEVIN GROWS UNCOMFORTABLE.

KEVIN

I'd like to think your salvation was
always inside you, Slawinski, and that
wherever you live, you're gonna be fine.

SLAWINSKI

Not true. My salvation's right here
in this garage. So what's cookin',
baby?

KEVIN

Well, it's funny... And you're gonna
laugh. I mean, maybe not right now...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - SAME TIME
(DONNA, KENDRA, CHALE, SARA, JACK, SLAWINSKI (O.C.))

SLAWINSKI (O.C.)

Noooo!

EVERYONE REACTS.

JACK

(A LITTLE FRIGHTENED) What was that?

DONNA

Just ignore it.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY
(KEVIN, JACK, DOCTOR)

JACK IS SITTING ON A DOCTOR'S TABLE. THERE ARE SOME X-RAYS UP ON THE WALL THAT THE DOCTOR IS SHOWING TO KEVIN.

DOCTOR

And while I wouldn't call it under-sized, it is a really small bladder.

JACK

Told you.

KEVIN

You were right, buddy. (TO DOCTOR)
Could the bladder problems be related to the shingles and concussion?

DOCTOR

Absolutely. What most people don't know is, the bladder, brain, and nerves are all connected.

KEVIN

Well, Doctor, can you prescribe something?

DOCTOR

There's a drug called Placebo. It looks a lot like candy corn. I have one here as a sample. But it's very strong. It works almost immediately.

THE DOCTOR GIVES JACK A CANDY CORN. JACK EATS IT.

KEVIN

How you feeling, buddy?

JACK

Better. Thank you.

DOCTOR

Great. (HANDS KEVIN A SMALL BAG OF
CANDY) Here's more meds in case you
have a flare up.

KEVIN

(WINKS AT THE DOCTOR) Thanks Doc,
appreciate you taking care of my boy.

THE DOCTOR EXITS. AS JACK HOPS OFF THE TABLE...

JACK

Come on, Dad. Did you really think
I'd believe this?

KEVIN

Psh, believe what? I'm confused here.

JACK

Those are candy corns and he was not a
"concussion specialist" -- that's
mom's gynecologist.

KEVIN

Who happens to know a lot about
concussions. Have another placebo.

KEVIN HANDS JACK ANOTHER CANDY CORN AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW