

PARTNERS

"Pilot"

By

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ACT ONE

COLD OPEN

INT. ART CLASSROOM - DAY
(CHARLIE, LOUIS)

IT'S 1986. A VERY CUTE TEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL WALKS ACROSS A CLASSROOM CARRYING A BOTTLE OF GLUE. SHE PLACES IT ON A TABLE IN FRONT OF TWO BOYS, CHARLIE AND LOUIS, ALSO TEN-YEAR-OLD. TOGETHER THEY ARE BUILDING A CABIN OUT OF POPSICLE STICKS. IT'S A LITTLE MORE SKILLFULLY EXECUTED THAN THE AVERAGE POPSICLE EDIFICE. CHARLIE LOOKS UP FROM HIS WORK AND FOLLOWS THE GIRL WITH HIS EYES AS SHE WALKS AWAY.

CHARLIE

(RE: CUTE GIRL) She's nice.

LOUIS

Yeah.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY
(CHARLIE, LOUIS)

IT'S 1989. A VERY CUTE THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL CARRIES HER TRAY ACROSS THE CAFETERIA FLOOR TO HER TABLE. SHE PASSES CHARLIE AND LOUIS, WHO ARE AT A TABLE FOR TWO, EATING LUNCH. CHARLIE FOLLOWS HER EVERY MOVE. LOUIS EATS HIS SANDWICH, OBLIVIOUS.

CHARLIE

(RE: GIRL) She's nice.

LOUIS

(CHEWING, COULDN'T CARE LESS) Mm.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY
(CHARLIE, LOUIS)

IT'S 1992. A SEXY CO-ED IS WRITING A GEOMETRY PROOF ON THE CHALKBOARD. CHARLIE AND LOUIS SIT WAY IN THE BACK OF THE CLASSROOM. CHARLIE IS STARING AT THE GIRL, ADMIRING HER... ANGLES. HE ELBOWS LOUIS.

CHARLIE

(RE: CO-ED) Nice.

LOUIS

(BEAT, THEN) Dude, we need to talk.

CUT TO:

INT. MOVIE THEATRE - NIGHT

(LOUIS, CHARLIE)

IT'S 1997. A VERY GOOD-LOOKING GUY HOLDING POPCORN AND CANDY MAKES HIS WAY DOWN THE ROW OF A CROWDED MOVIE THEATRE. HE PASSES IN FRONT OF CHARLIE AND LOUIS, WHO ARE SITTING TOGETHER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROW. LOUIS CRUISES HIM. THE GUY SMILES AT LOUIS, THEN:

LOUIS

(ELBOWING CHARLIE, RE: HOT GUY) Now

that's nice.

CHARLIE

(ACCEPTING) Okay.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLIE AND LOUIS OFFICE - DAY

(CHARLIE, LOUIS)

CHARLIE AND LOUIS AS ADULTS - A STRAIGHT GUY WHO KNOWS A LITTLE BIT ABOUT HOW TO DRESS AND A GAY GUY WHO KNOWS A LITTLE BIT ABOUT HOW NOT TO OVER-DRESS. THEY ARE MOVING INTO A NEW OFFICE. EACH IS AT HIS RESPECTIVE SIDE OF THEIR PARTNERS DESK, THE STANDOUT PIECE IN THEIR SMALL-ISH, WELL-APPOINTED OFFICE. EACH IS HANGING A FRAMED PHOTO ON THE SECTION OF WALL CLOSEST TO THEM. CHARLIE'S PHOTO IS OF HIM WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND, ALI, AND LOUIS' IS A PHOTO OF HIM WITH HIS BOYFRIEND, WYATT. AFTER STRAIGHTENING THE PHOTOS, THEY SIMULTANEOUSLY STEP BACK TO ASSESS THEIR WORK. AFTER A BEAT:

CHARLIE

Nice.

LOUIS

Nice.

FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

SCENE A

INT CHARLIE AND LOUIS OFFICE KITCHEN - DAY
(LOUIS, CHARLIE, RO-RO, MITCH)

6 MONTHS LATER CHARLIE AND LOUIS ARE SITTING IN THE OFFICE KITCHEN THAT SERVES THE OCCUPANTS OF THE FOURTH FLOOR OF THE SMALL SOHO OFFICE BUILDING THAT IS HOME TO "C&L ARCHITECTS." CHARLIE SITS PENSIVELY AT THE TABLE IN THE COMMON AREA. HE STARES OUT THE WINDOW LOST IN THOUGHT. LOUIS ENTERS TALKING.

LOUIS

Do you remember my cousin Mindy from Michigan? Big, strange body? I used to say she was half Jewish, half club chair? Well she friended me last night to say that looks-wise I'm a "B-minus," but I act like I'm an "A." Can you believe that? Just out of the blue!

CHARLIE

Maybe she's still bitter about having to choose between being Bat Mitzvahed and being reupholstered.

LOUIS

Good one. (THEN) Seriously though, "a 'B-minus,' but I act like I'm an 'A'?"

CHARLIE

You're not a "B-minus."

LOUIS

Thank you! (LONG PAUSE, THEN) Wait.
Because a "B-minus" is too low? Or
because a "B-minus" is too high?

CHARLIE

Dude, I think I have to break up with
Ali.

LOUIS

What? What are you talking about?
What happened?

CHARLIE

Last night we were having dinner --
everything seemed fine, she had a
couple of glasses of wine--

LOUIS

By a couple, you mean four -- go on.

CHARLIE

It was three.

LOUIS

Four -- go on.

CHARLIE

And she made it very clear that she
wants to get married and she wants to
have kids. Like now. So there's a
play-me-or-trade-me ultimatum on the
table, and I'm just not...

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I mean, am I prepared to say this is the last relationship of my life? But then I think, "She's the coolest woman I've ever met, why am I even--"
(STOPS, SHAKES HIS HEAD) I don't know...

LOUIS

Look, you know how much I love Ali. But, whatever you decide -- I've got your back. If you break up with her and you're miserable, I'll be there for you. If you get married to her and you're miserable, I will be there for you. If you want to cheat -- I'll cover for you. If she cheats and you want me to kill her -- we can talk about that.

CHARLIE

The hit man who hits on men. That's what your card should say.

LOUIS

And if you do break up with her, you should know that she's in my yoga class and it will be awkward for me, but that's okay because your happiness is more important here.

CHARLIE

You're a giver, Louis.

LOUIS

You meant "B-minus" is too low, right?

AT THAT MOMENT, A HIGHLY CONFIDENT, TEASED-OUT-HAIRED, SPRAY-TANNED, NEON FINGER-NAILED, FIRE HYDRANT-SIZED CHICK FROM STATEN ISLAND ENTERS. SHE IS ROSANNA DI-GIANDEMINICO. YOU CAN CALL HER RO-RO. SHE'S CHARLIE AND LOUIS' ASSISTANT. SHE HOLDS A BIG GULP AND WEARS GIANT SUNGLASSES LOW ON HER NOSE.

RO-RO

(TO LOUIS, RE: HERSELF) Don't fight
it.

LOUIS

I won't fight it.

RO-RO

(TO CHARLIE) Don't you fight it.

CHARLIE

I definitely will not fight it.

RO-RO

Don't forget for your meeting with the
Frankels they've requested blueprints
and a model.

LOUIS

Why both?

RO-RO

Because of the word "and."

CHARLIE

That will be the most profound thing
you or I hear all day.

RO-RO

Check it out. Six Flags. Get it?

RO-RO DISPLAYS FIVE LONG ACRYLIC FINGER NAILS FROM ONE HAND AND A THUMB FROM THE OTHER. EACH ADORNED WITH THE ITALIAN FLAG. "SIX FLAGS"

CHARLIE

I spoke too soon.

LOUIS

Why do we have to build a model? We can do 3-D renderings on the computer, they're more precise, there's more detail...

CHARLIE

Don't be lazy, Louis. We've been on our own for six months. It's too soon to lose your work ethic.

LOUIS

How long do I have to wait?

CHARLIE

You're a professional! I'd wait at least a year.

RO-RO

I'll be at my desk. (THEN) You want to touch it?

LOUIS

Yeah, I want to touch it.

RO-RO

(TO CHARLIE) How about you? You want
to touch it?

CHARLIE

Absolutely.

RO-RO

Can't touch it.

SHE EXITS.

LOUIS

What are you going to do about Ali?

CHARLIE

I don't know. What would you do?

LOUIS

Me? I'd break up with her.

CHARLIE

Why?

LOUIS

Because her privates go "in" instead
of "out." Which is a fine quality if
you're looking for storage space, but
in a life partner I just don't get it.

CHARLIE

Seriously, if this were put in front
of you, would you break up with Wyatt?

LOUIS

It's hard for me to say. This isn't
our issue.

(MORE)

LOUIS (CONT'D)

Not that we don't have issues. You know how I feel about him being a nurse. I mean, he might as well be a florist. What's the difference?

CHARLIE

Besides one saving human lives and the other making wrist corsages, nothing.

LOUIS

Right? A nurse. It's so on the head. Wyatt used to be a club-hopping, alcoholic, model, remember? How gorgeous and numb he was? It was fantastic. Now he's a sober, vegan nurse, who's so...(DISGUSTED) present. Ucch, why did you even bring this up?

CHARLIE

(POINTED) I didn't.

LOUIS

Right. We were talking about you. Not me. It's not always about me, it just seems that way. Go on.

CHARLIE

How do you even know when you're ready to marry someone? I guess you just know, right?

LOUIS

If women were less insecure creatures
they wouldn't need a marriage proposal
to feel loved.

CHARLIE

Yes. Tweet that. At Douchebag says -

MITCH ENTERS. MID 30'S, BLACK, OVERWEIGHT, UNDER-APPRECIATED.
HE GIVES HIS BEST TOUGH-GUY STARE AT THE BOYS, THEN:

MITCH

I know what you guys did. I don't
think it's funny. And the next time
I'm reporting you for harassment.

LOUIS

(FALSETTO) Hi, Mitch.

CHARLIE

(BARITONE) Hi Mitch.

MITCH

It is considered harassment to go onto
my computer and change my "Call of
Duty 4" screen saver to a picture of a
frog fellating an orangutan.

LOUIS

How dare you, Mitchell! I would never
do such a thing.

CHARLIE

Neither would I! And technically it
was a gibbon.

MITCH

Every business on this floor pays the same rent per square foot. It's a shared office space, okay? You and your partner think because you're architects and I'm only a CPA that you're better than I am.

LOUIS

That's not true, Mitch.

CHARLIE

We think we're better than you because you have a "Call of Duty 4" screen saver and we don't.

LOUIS

Mitch, what grade would you give my looks?

MITCH

What are you talking about?

CHARLIE

He's asking you to grade his handsomeness, "A" thru "F?"

MITCH

How should I know? I don't look at guys like that. (THEN, LOOKING AT LOUIS) Maybe like a "B," "B-plus." Just don't mess with my computer anymore, okay?

MITCH EXITS.

LOUIS

Okay. (FALSETTO) Bye, Mitch.

CHARLIE

(BARITONE) Bye, Mitch.

LOUIS

Look, just tell her if she doesn't--

CHARLIE

No, I'm not telling her anything. If I can't give her what she wants, I have to let her go.

LOUIS

I can't believe you're breaking up with Ali. (THEN) You know what, let's go out. Let me buy you a sport coat. Huh? Who's your best friend?

CHARLIE

We have to work.

LOUIS

No, you're in pain. I'm buying you a sport coat.

CHARLIE

I don't want a sport coat. You want a sport coat.

LOUIS

I do. So come with me. You're my best friend.

CHARLIE

Dude, you're not in a position to buy stuff just because you want it. See, this is your problem. Your bank account is a "C-minus" but you act like it's an "A."

LOUIS

Look at that, you "cousin Mindy-ed" me there. (THEN) Fine, let's work.

CHARLIE

When was the last time you saw Mindy?

LOUIS

Probably ten years ago.

CHARLIE

Oh, well that explains it. You were a "B minus" then. But trust me Louis, you're definitely not a "B minus" now.

LOUIS

Thank you! (THINKS, THEN) Wait...

CHARLIE GRINS AND WALKS INTO THEIR OFFICE. LOUIS FOLLOWS.

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE B

INT. ALI LANDAU - 6 PM
(ALI, RENATA, CHARLIE)

ALI LANDAU IS A SMALL JEWELRY BOUTIQUE. THE OWNER, DESIGNER AND NAMESAKE, ALI LANDAU, IS BEHIND THE COUNTER FINISHING A SALE TO A CUSTOMER. SHE IS A KINETIC, VERY STYLISH THIRTY-TWO-YEAR-OLD, WHO IS PRETTY, BUT NOT IN AN OBVIOUS WAY.

ALI

(TO CUSTOMER) Thanks. Bye...

THE CUSTOMER EXITS.

ALI (CONT'D)

Renata, who was that on the phone?

RENATA, 20S, ENTERS FROM THE BACK OF THE STORE. VERY EAST VILLAGE, VERY GOOD BODY, GLUMMER THAN EYORE.

RENATA

The jewelry buyer from Bloomingdales.

ALI

(ALARMED) Just now?!

RENATA

(TOTALLY FLAT) Uh-huh. They love the ice-cube ring. They want to feature it in their next catalogue.

ALI

Oh my G-d! Bloomingdales is going to sell my jewelry!? That's... that's... that's a little weird that my bookkeeper took the most important phone call of my career and didn't put me on, but... wow!

RENATA

Well I was on with the vet when the call came in... plus you were with that customer.

ALI

(REMAINING UPBEAT) Still odd, but...
(THEN, THRILLED) I can't believe this is happening!! This is probably the best news I've ever --

RENATA

Puddles has leukemia.

ON THIS, ALI HAS TO AWKARDLY SHIFT EMOTIONAL GEARS.

ALI

Oh, wow. That's so... tonally different from what I'm experiencing right now. Is he going to be okay?

RENATA

She. It's fifty-fifty.

ALI

(BRIGHTLY) Well, that's fifty.

RENATA

(EEYORE) And fifty.

SHE EXITS TO THE BACK OF THE STORE. AFTER A BEAT, CHARLIE ENTERS. SHE'S HAPPY TO SEE HIM.

ALI

Hi. What are you doing here?

CHARLIE

Well, I wanted to talk --

ALI

Wait! I have the most amazing news.

SFX: PHONE RINGS

ALI (CONT'D)

(CALLING OFF) Renata, will you get that. (THEN) Remember that night we were out and Louis had like four vodkas on the rocks?

CHARLIE

Oh, he had one.

ALI

Four.

CHARLIE

Maybe two.

ALI

It was four. Anyway, I took an ice cube from his drink and said this would make a cute ring, remember? So I designed one and I've been selling tons of them and now Bloomingdale's is putting it in their catalogue!

SHE HANDS HIM ONE OF THE RINGS.

CHARLIE

Ali, that's fantastic.

ALI

(THRILLED) I know, isn't that the best news? Do you know what this means? Now I can --

RENATA ENTERS FROM THE BACK AGAIN.

RENATA

That was the vet. Pudge Pudge has it too.

ONCE AGAIN, ALI HAS TO DO ANOTHER EMOTIONAL ABOUT-FACE.

ALI

Oh, wow, again, so different...

RENATA

Feline leukemia is highly contagious.

(THEN) Hey, Charlie.

CHARLIE

Renata.

SHE EXITS TO THE BACK AGAIN.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Listen, I want to talk about last night...

ALI

Oh, yeah. I'm sorry about that. Half a bottle of cheap wine and an hour on the phone with my mother before dinner is not good for a girl who just turned thirty.

CHARLIE

Two years ago.

ALI

My life is really good right now. I love you. I don't need anything more. The last thing I want is for you to do anything because you feel pressured into it.

SHE SMILES LOVINGLY AT CHARLIE AND KISSES HIM.

ALI (CONT'D)

What did you want to say?

CHARLIE LOOKS AT THE ICE CUBE RING IN HIS HAND. SOMETHING FEELS RIGHT. HE GETS DOWN ON ONE KNEE.

ALI (CONT'D)

Oh my G-d, what are you doing?

CHARLIE

Ali Landau, will you marry me?

ALI

Yes! Yes, I'll marry you! This has got to be the best day of --

SFX: PHONE RINGS

ALI PICKS UP THE PHONE.

ALI (CONT'D)

(INTO PHONE) Ali Landau...(THEN, SERIOUS) I see...Yes, I'll let her know. (CALLING OFF) Renata, I have some bad news about Pumpernickel...

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CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE C

INT. LOUIS AND WYATT'S APARTMENT - EARLY EVENING
(LOUIS, WYATT)

THE APARTMENT IS A SHARPLY DECORATED AND DESIGNED LOFT. WYATT, 30'S, EXTREMELY HANDSOME, IS IN THE KITCHEN COOKING. HE WEARS SCRUBS. WYATT IS THE EMOTIONAL PHOTO NEGATIVE OF HIS PARTNER, LOUIS. LOUIS ENTERS.

LOUIS

Honey, listen to this. Right now
Charlie is --

WYATT

Why did you tell Juanita at the dry
cleaners that I'm a doctor?

LOUIS

What? Huh? Oh, right, well, she
needed a doctor's note to get out of
jury duty. (THEN) Right now Charlie -

WYATT

You don't see anything wrong with
that?

LOUIS

Honey, all I see is that she does my
shirts perfectly. Trust me, the
wheels of justice will continue to
turn without the penetrating judicial
insights of Juanita Sanchez-Miller.

WYATT

That's not what I'm talking about,
Louis. I'm not a doctor. I'm a
nurse.

LOUIS

Oh, that, yeah well, I just said
"doctor" because, you know, it's
easier to say.

WYATT

Easier to say?! How is it easier to
say?

LOUIS

Doctor. Doctor. Nice hard
consonants. It clicks right out. As
opposed to (IN SLO-MO) nuurrse,
nnuurse. It's a slow-motion word.

WYATT

Are you embarrassed that I'm a nurse?!

LOUIS

Oh, Wyatt, my love, come on. I find
it upsetting that you would even ask.
(THEN) Of course I am. How do you
not know this? We've been together
for five years.

WYATT

I just thought it was part of your
schtick.

LOUIS

Sweetheart! I am my schtick!!

WYATT

(BEAT, THEN) I feel bad.

LOUIS

Oh, Wyatt, I didn't--

WYATT

For you. You have to live with such crippling self-consciousness -- about your boyfriend's job, your looks, all that nonsense about being a "B-minus."

LOUIS

Maybe lower.

WYATT

My G-d, Louis, even your P.E. teacher was easier on you than that. It must be so hard for you.

LOUIS

There's a lot of noise up there.

WYATT

You've got to be nicer to yourself.
And to everyone in your life.

LOUIS

You're right. I do and I will. (THEN)
Charlie is dumping Ali right now. And
I bet she's crying!!

WYATT

You're kidding. Why? What's better than Ali?

LOUIS

She wants to get married, so she gave him a play me or trade me ultimatum.

WYATT

Wow, a "play me or trade me ultimatum."

LOUIS

Yeah. (BEAT, THEN) What is a "play me or trade me ultimatum?"

WYATT

I have no idea. I was going along because I didn't want to seem gay.

LOUIS

Well, my dear, that is a bullet you did not dodge.

WYATT

So Charlie doesn't want to go through with it. (CONSIDERING, THEN) You know what, good for him.

LOUIS

I know. Wait, why good for him?

WYATT

Well, if he doesn't think she's the one, then he'd be doing both of them a disservice if he agreed to marry her.

LOUIS

Right. Right. Thank G-d, we don't
have to deal with that.

WYATT

You don't have to tell me.

LOUIS

(BUT THEN AGAIN) Why don't we have to
deal with that?

WYATT

What do you mean?

LOUIS

I mean, we can get legally married in
New York if we want to.

WYATT

But we don't want to.

LOUIS

But what if we did?

WYATT

But we don't.

LOUIS

But what if we did? What if I were to
say, "play me or trade me, Wyatt?"

WYATT

I would say, "I don't follow
volleyball, Louis."

LOUIS SPOILS FOR A FIGHT AS WE:

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE D

INT. CHARLIE AND LOUIS OFFICE - THE NEXT MORNING
(RO-RO, LOUIS, CHARLIE)

LOUIS SITS PENSIVELY ON HIS SIDE OF THE PARTNERS DESK. A FRESHLY SPRAY-TANNED RO-RO ENTERS, PLACES A CUP OF COFFEE IN FRONT OF HIM, NOTICES THAT HE'S PREOCCUPIED.

RO-RO

What's the matter with you? Got a run
in your panty hose? Get it? Cause
you're gay.

LOUIS

Good one. (THEN) Hey, got a navel
under your blouse? Get it? Cause
you're orange.

RO-RO

Jealous much?

SHE STARTS AWAY AS CHARLIE ENTERS IN GOOD SPIRITS.

RO-RO (CONT'D)

(TO CHARLIE) Watch out. She's in a
mood.

RO-RO EXITS. CHARLIE CROSSES TO LOUIS.

CHARLIE

You're not going to believe this --

LOUIS

(BLURTING) Wyatt and I broke up!!

CHARLIE

What? What are you talking about?

What happened?!

LOUIS

I don't know. We were talking about you and Ali, so I hypothetically asked him what he would say if I gave him a marriage ultimatum, and he hypothetically said he'd have to think about it, and I hypothetically said, "What do you mean you'd have to think about it?!" and he hypothetically said, "Calm down, Louis," and I hypothetically snapped and said horrible things to him and then he not-at-all-hypothetically kicked me out of the apartment!

CHARLIE

I can't believe what I'm hearing.

LOUIS

It was horrible. I had no place to go, you weren't answering your phone... I had to sleep on the streets.

CHARLIE

No, you didn't.

LOUIS

Well, my mother's, which in some ways is much more dangerous than the streets.

(MORE)

LOUIS (CONT'D)

Anyway, I was freaking out until I thought to myself, "Louis, you're not going through this alone! Charlie broke up with Ali, too. You'll go through this together. You'll help each other. Like always. Maybe you'll even see that this was the best thing that could have happened to either one of you!" Right?!

CHARLIE

Dude, we have to talk.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE E

INT. CHARLIE AND LOUIS OFFICE - MINUTES LATER
(LOUIS, CHARLIE)

LOUIS LOOKS AT CHARLIE. HE'S IN SHOCK.

LOUIS

I don't know what to say...

CHARLIE

"Congratulations" is a word that comes
to mind.

LOUIS

You traitor!

CHARLIE

Well, that has a "T" in it.

LOUIS

You're like that guy who betrayed
Jesus. What was his name?

CHARLIE

I believe his name was
Congratulations. Call me that.

LOUIS

You were supposed to break up with
Ali! I would never have been so
reckless with Wyatt if I knew you
weren't going to.

CHARLIE

You know what? I didn't even think of
that. That was selfish of me.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I have to go break up with Ali. It's
the least I can do.

LOUIS NODS HIS HEAD APPROVINGLY. CHARLIE DOESN'T MOVE. HE
JUST STARES AT LOUIS, INCREDULOUS. AFTER A COUPLE OF BEATS:

LOUIS

You going to text her or call?

CHARLIE

I'm going to marry her, you schmuck!

LOUIS STARTS TO HYPER-VENTILATE, RANDOMLY GRABBING AT THINGS
ON HIS DESK AND LEANING ON WALLS FOR SUPPORT.

LOUIS

Oh my G-d, what have I done? What
have I done? I'm a "C-minus" and I
just broke up with an "A."

CHARLIE

I thought you were a "B-minus?"

LOUIS

I downgraded. Get out of my way. I'm
going to faint. (STUMBLES TOWARD
COUCH) I'm going to faint right here.
No, not here. I hate these pillows.
I'm going faint there. (POINTS TO A
CHAIR) What is that mud? Sauce?
Okay, I'm not going to faint. I'm
going to stand in a hunched manner. I
just made the biggest mistake of my
life. What have I done!? Help me!
Tell me!!

CHARLIE

Okay, just sit down. I'm going to try to explain this to you.

LOUIS

(PANTING) I'm listening.

CHARLIE

You know how you're an idiot, right?

LOUIS

Yes, yes.

CHARLIE

And how at work you're equal parts lazy and arrogant, and you nap too much and you insult clients if they don't agree with you and you never put food away after you use it, even milk?

LOUIS

What does that have to do with this?

CHARLIE

Nothing. I'm just mad at you for not congratulating me, so I'm venting a few things I've been sitting on.

LOUIS

Fair enough. I'll work on it. (THEN)
Why did I break up with Wyatt!?

CHARLIE

Because you have no impulse control, Louis. You live by the creed,

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

"Why think before I act, when I can
act before I think?"

LOUIS

Mmmmm, I don't know...

CHARLIE

I do. You get something into your
head and you can't stop yourself
before you do something stupid. And
then I have to deal with it.

LOUIS

That's not me. I don't do that.

CHARLIE

Oh, no?

CHARLIE GRABS LOUIS, YANKS UP HIS SHIRT, EXPOSING HIS STOMACH
AS LOUIS PROTESTS. WORDS ARE TATOED AROUND HIS NAVEL.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Read it.

LOUIS

Ow! My shirt was tucked into my
underpants.

CHARLIE

Read it!

LOUIS

(READING HIS TUMMY IN SHAME) "Louis
plus George Michael equals Wham."

CHARLIE

Still think it's cute and "retro gay?"

LOUIS

Not today, but these things are
cyclical.

CHARLIE

I was the one who had to explain to
your hysterical mother that we'd be
able to convince the rabbi you could
still be buried in the family plot.
That's how I know you've always been
impulsive. Because I've always had to
deal with the mess.

LOUIS

(GRABBING HIS BAG) You're right,
you're right...

CHARLIE

Where are you going?

LOUIS

Yoga.

CHARLIE

Now?

LOUIS

I'm doing my part: I'm acting
impulsively. You do your part and
deal with the mess!

LOUIS EXITS AS WE:

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE H

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER THAT DAY
(WYATT, CHARLIE)

WYATT IS TENDING TO A SLEEPING PATIENT IN THE HOSPITAL.
CHARLIE ENTERS THE ROOM.

WYATT

Charlie, what are you doing here?

CHARLIE

What, a guy can't just stop by the
intensive care unit for a scone and a
cup of Propofol with a friend?

WYATT

You're jokey when you're nervous. I'm
working. You have to leave.

CHARLIE

Wyatt, he knows he screwed up. He
knows you're the best thing in his
life. Is he awful? Yes, he's awful.
But he's only 49 percent awful. He's
51 percent wonderful. He just felt
rejected.

WYATT

I wasn't rejecting him. We were
having a hypothetical conversation.

CHARLIE

Come on, there are no hypotheticals
with Louis.

WYATT

But he was so insulting...

CHARLIE

Because that's how he shows his love.
You know that. The minute Louis likes
someone is the minute he tells them
their teeth are disgusting.

WYATT

It's true. As soon as he got close
with my sister he paid to have her eye
teeth filed down. (SIGHING, THEN)
I'll talk to him.

CHARLIE

You don't need to talk. Say it with
an ice-cube ring.

CHARLIE PRODUCES A RING BOX AND HANDS IT TO WYATT AS WE:

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE J

INT. YOGA STUDIO - DAY
(DANNI, LOUIS, ALI)

A PACKED BUT SILENT YOGA CLASS. ALI IS THERE. THE YOGA INSTRUCTOR, A BEAUTIFUL ATHLETIC WOMAN NAMED DANNI, IS IN THE MIDDLE OF HER OPENING MEDITATION.

DANNI

...let go of your day. Let go of the noise. The crazy city may be out there, but here we are in a sanctuary of calm.

THE DOOR TO THE CLASS FLIES OPEN. LOUIS CLOMPS IN WITH HIS YOGA MAT, ANGER, AND SELF-PITY.

LOUIS

Uch. I'm late. Why is it so crowded? Doesn't anybody in this city work?

DANNI

(CALM) Louis, there's room over there. Please join us.

LOUIS

No good. (INDICATING) She's a farter, he's a sweater.

ALI

(SOTTO) Louis, come here. I'll make room for you.

LOUIS

(LOUD) How do you always have the best spot in class?

THE ENTIRE CLASS EXPLODES AT LOUIS -- "SHUT UP," "BE QUIET!"
"SIT DOWN, ALREADY." "WHY IS HE STILL HERE?"

LOUIS (CONT'D)

Fine, fine. Sorry. Sorry.

LOUIS LAYS OUT HIS MAT NEXT TO ALI.

DANNI

Okay, deep breath and let's start in
the plank position.

THE CLASS GETS INTO A PLANK POSITION.

ALI

Classy entrance, Sunshine.

LOUIS

Really? 1986 called. It wants its
leotard back.

ALI

Really? 2001 called. It wants its
joke back. (THEN) Are you going to
congratulate me, or what?

DANNI

(TO CLASS) And upward dog...

LOUIS

Oh, right. I'm sorry, I'm a little
upset right now.

ALI

I understand. Just say
congratulations.

LOUIS

Did you hear what happened?

ALI

No, but tell me in one word, and make sure that word is "congratulations."

LOUIS

Wyatt and I broke up.

ALI

What?!

DANNI

...Louis, don't forget to breathe.

LOUIS

(BREATHY) Wyatt and I broke up.

DANNI

(TO CLASS) And down dog...

LOUIS

I've destroyed my life.

ALI

What happened?

LOUIS

(NOT THINKING) We were talking about you guys and Wyatt's like, "Good for Charlie. If he doesn't want to get married, then he shouldn't." And I'm like, "I'm glad that's not our issue," and he's like, "You can say that again!" Just like that, "You can say that again." Dripping with 'tude.

ALI

I don't understand.

LOUIS

"'Tude," as in attitude. Welcome to the nineties, Girl. And what's with your teeth? Somebody needs a Bright Smile coupon.

ALI

I know what "'tude" means, you bitch. What do you mean, "If he doesn't want to get married, then he shouldn't?"

LOUIS PANICS. HE REALIZES HE'S JUST STUCK HIS FOOT IN HIS MOUTH.

LOUIS

I never said "congratulations," did I?

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE K

INT. CHARLIE AND LOUIS OFFICE - NEXT DAY

(MITCH, RO-RO, CHARLIE, LOUIS)

A HUNG OVER RO-RO PUTS DOWN HER PURSE AND TAKES OFF HER JACKET. SHE REVEALS THAT SHE IS WEARING A "NIGHT BEFORE" DRESS. MITCH ENTERS.

MITCH

Ro-Ro, one of your bosses is using my milk and leaving it out. I'm iffy with lactose as it is, and if that milk were to curdle--

RO-RO

Listen, Al Roker Jr., you gotta stop talking! I had a rough night last night, okay? And this morning my Aunt Angie drove past me during my walk of shame, and for sure she's going to tell my grandma, so I can kiss those pearls goodbye. Now if you keep yapping about the milk, we're going to throw down, and you will lose.

MITCH

Maybe I'll switch to rice milk.

MITCH CROSSES TO EXIT, BUT NOTICES THE EXQUISITELY CONSTRUCTED SCALE MODEL OF THE FRANKEL HOUSE.

MITCH (CONT'D)

(RE: MODEL) Wow, that's amazing. Did they build this?

RO-RO

Don't touch it! Judging by your shoes, that tiny house is worth more than your actual house.

MITCH

What's wrong with my shoes?

RO-RO

What's right with your shoes?

CHARLIE ENTERS.

CHARLIE

Where is he? Where is that idiot partner of mine?

RO-RO

What's the matter?

CHARLIE

I'll tell you what's the matter --

(THEN, IN BARITONE) Hi, Mitch --

(THEN, BACK TO RO) He told Ali I was going to break up with her. The engagement is off!

MITCH

And I'm pretty sure he leaves my milk out.

RO-RO

(TO MITCH) That's two!

LOUIS ENTERS. HE'S MAD.

LOUIS

Good morning everyone. Ro-ro. (IN
FALSETTO) Hi, Mitch. (THEN, SERIOUS)
Charles.

CHARLIE

I can't believe you actually showed
up. I assume you've come to
apologize.

LOUIS

Oh, do you? Well, I've got your
apology right here.

HE FLIPS CHARLIE HIS RING FINGER WHICH IS ADORNED WITH THE
"ICE-CUBE RING."

RO-RO

Holy crap! Look at the size of that
rock! You must have a detachable jaw
to get a piece of jewelry like that.

LOUIS

Elegantly put, Rosanna, but it's
glass. His girlfriend made it and now
I'm engaged because of it.

CHARLIE

See, that's the difference between us.
I make engagements and you break
engagements!

LOUIS

Who told you I wanted to be engaged?

CHARLIE

You did!

LOUIS

That was a hypothetical! I didn't say he should marry me. I just needed to know that he would marry me.

MITCH

Hmm.

RO-RO

(TO MITCH) What's with "hmm," Gossip Girl? Get out of here. This is none of your business.

MITCH BOWS HIS HEAD AND EXITS.

RO-RO (CONT'D)

(TO LOUIS) G'ahead.

LOUIS

You know I don't want to get married. I'm the dynamic, complicated one with intimacy issues. I don't want a husband, just a life partner who tells me I'm beautiful even though he's the "A" and I'm the "C." I'm Oprah, dammit!

CHARLIE

Apologize!

LOUIS

For what?

CHARLIE

For what you said to my girlfriend.

LOUIS

What about what you said to my
girlfriend?

THEY STARE EACH OTHER DOWN FOR A COUPLE OF BEATS. IT'S VERY TENSE.

RO-RO

You know, in Staten Island, this is
where someone throws a punch.

ON CUE, THEY LUNGE AT EACH OTHER, EACH ONE GETTING THE OTHER INTO A HEADLOCK. THEY HAVE AN AWKWARD SCRUM AROUND THE OFFICE.

RO-RO (CONT'D)

Guys, come on, knock it off!

THEY ROLL ONTO RO-RO'S DESK, KNOCKING STUFF TO THE FLOOR.

RO-RO (CONT'D)

Alright, that's enough. Break it up.

RO-RO STEPS IN AND TRIES TO SEPARATE THEM BUT INSTEAD FINDS HERSELF SWEEPED INTO THE FIGHT. THEY ARE NOW A SIX-LEGGED MONSTER THRASHING AROUND THE ROOM. MOVING AS ONE, THEY SLAM INTO THE MODEL, SMASHING IT TO PIECES. RO-RO LEAPS TO HER FEET.

RO-RO (CONT'D)

You happy now!? Look what you did!!

CHARLIE AND LOUIS STARE AT THE WRECKAGE OF THEIR FIGHT.

RO-RO (CONT'D)

Now what are you going to do?

LOUIS LOOKS AT CHARLIE. THEY SOFTEN.

LOUIS

(TO CHARLIE) I screwed up... sorry.

CHARLIE

I'm sorry, too.

RO-RO

Okay, that's very touching, ladies,
but you still have a mess to deal
with. Now you gotta fix what you
broke.

HER WORDS RESONATE WITH THEM. THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER.
THEY'RE THINKING THE SAME THING.

LOUIS

She's right.

CHARLIE

She's always right.

THEY GET UP AND START TO EXIT.

RO-RO

Where you going?

CHARLIE

To fix what we broke.

THEY EXIT. AS WE:

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE L

INT. COFFEE PLACE - A LITTLE LATER

(CHARLIE, WYATT, LOUIS, ALI, BARISTA)

CHARLIE AND LOUIS HAVE JUST EXPLAINED TO ALI AND WYATT.

CHARLIE

...and I also need to apologize to
you, Wyatt. I shouldn't have been so
presumptuous. It won't happen again.

WYATT

Thank you.

LOUIS

And Alison...

ALI

Ali.

LOUIS

I prefer Alison.

ALI

I prefer Ali.

LOUIS

Ali -- (COUGHS THE WORD, "SON") I'm
sorry, too.

ALI

For what?

LOUIS

For telling you... the truth. It
won't happen again.

CHARLIE

(TO LOUIS) Way to own it, buddy.

ALI

So now what?

CHARLIE

Now that you know the whole story, do you believe that I asked you to marry me because it's what I truly want?

ALI

I do.

CHARLIE

Good. Then I think the most efficient way of handling this situation is if I take this ring off of Louis' finger, and put it back onto your finger.

HE TAKES THE RING OFF LOUIS' FINGER AND PUTS IT ON ALI'S.

LOUIS

Ucch. Did everyone catch the creepy symbolism of that little moment?

CHARLIE

I'm just glad you drew attention to it.

WYATT

It's not like it's something we don't know. You two have basically been married for thirty years.

LOUIS

Well, we do yell at each other a lot.

CHARLIE

And we don't have sex.

LOUIS

And we don't bother closing the
bathroom door anymore.

CHARLIE

Sounds like marriage to me...

ALI

Great. Can't wait.

WYATT

There might be four people at this
table, but there are three couples.

ALI

Which is fine as long as you remember
which relationship takes priority.

CHARLIE

LOUIS

Agreed.

Obviously.

A BARISTA HOLDS TWO CUPS AND CALLS OUT FROM THE COUNTER.

BARISTA

(READING CUPS) Wyatt and... Ali.

WYATT AND ALI CROSS OFF TO GET THEIR COFFEES.

LOUIS

She means with them, right?

CHARLIE NODS.

END OF SHOW