

Mike Birbiglia's Secret Public Journal

“Pilot Script”

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO

Beneath the bright lights, MIKE BIRBIGLIA smiles at camera and up at the studio audience, who look down on him from raked seating like any sitcom audience. Behind him we see no set, just a distant brick wall.

MIKE

Hey, I'm Mike Birbiglia. I know what you're thinking: "Who is that? And why does he have a television show? If he has a show, shouldn't I get a show?" And I don't disagree. I have very low self-esteem. Sometimes I'm surprised I'm even a comedian because I'm very awkward. I recently moved into an apartment in Brooklyn with my girlfriend Abby and while I was struggling with our futon, a lady I didn't know opened the door for me with her key. She said, "I'm not worried, because a rapist wouldn't have a bed like that." Now what I should have said...was NOTHING. What I did say was, "You'd be surprised." That's my problem: I have a tendency to make awkward situations even more awkward. Sometimes this happens on a larger level, like at my brother's stylish destination wedding...in Schenectady, New York.

CUT TO:

EXT. WEDDING - DAY

Mike's brother, JOE, and Joe's new bride PAULA are posing for classic cheesy newly-married photos for a PHOTOGRAPHER. They end with Joe putting too much cake in Paula's mouth, laughing.

PHOTOGRAPHER
(Forced laughter, snapping
shots)
That's great! Beautiful!

ANGLE ON

Mike, in a tux, and his girlfriend ABBY watch the wedding party amidst the photo chaos. Abby is mid 20s, adorable, and rigorously sensible.

MIKE
(To Abby)
Glad to see the "too much cake in the face" shot hasn't gone out of style.

ABBY
You're just afraid they're going to run out of cake.

BACK TO WIDE

PHOTOGRAPHER
Okay, now immediate family! Let's have immediate family!

Joe, Paula, Mike's mother KATHY, and Mike's father BURT, all get ready to take the shot.

BURT
(Too angry)
Michael, is that a clip-on?!

MIKE
You liked it at my first communion.

ABBY
It was tough enough getting him to shave for this, Burt.

Burt grunts in exasperation. Mike lines up with the family.

JOE
Mike, did you want Abby to be in this?

FREEZE-FRAME ON MIKE'S FACE.

CUT TO:

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO

MIKE
Alright. What I should have said
here was,
(No pause)
"Yeah!" What I did say was...

EXT. WEDDING - SAME MOMENT

UNFREEZE as we wait a beat and a half too many for Mike to
consider the question.

MIKE
(Finally, quiet)
....yeah.

Abby looks like she's been stung and the family make "Ooh,
not good" faces and WE FREEZE-FRAME again on Mike's pained
reaction.

CUT TO:

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO

MIKE
(Right there with the
audience)
I know.

CUT TO CREDITS.

FADE IN:

EXT. WEDDING - DAY

Mike is searching somewhat frantically through the
celebrating guests.

MIKE (V.O.)
Oh man. This was bad. This was
much worse than just pausing on the
"Do I look fat in this?" question.

A male WEDDING GUEST stops him.

WEDDING GUEST
Hey, funny man! Great toast.

MIKE

Thanks. Have you seen Abby?

WEDDING GUEST

Lost your girlfriend?

Wedding Guest laughs obnoxiously. Mike fake laughs, annoyed, and moves on.

MIKE (V.O.)

Don't remember who that is, but
can't say I care for him.

Mike rushes onward, continuing his search. Through the crowd, Mike suddenly spots the HOTTEST GIRL EVER, 21. I know these things are subjective, so we'll have to cast someone who is OBJECTIVELY the hottest girl ever. She is laughing and enjoying herself.

JOE (O.S.)

Mike!

Mike finds his brother JOE, a slightly older, slightly heavier version of Mike, taking stock of a table of presents.

MIKE

Hey Joe. Have you seen Abby?

JOE

Not since the picture. Man, that
was brutal.

MIKE

It wasn't that brutal.

JOE

It was pretty brutal, Mike. You
basically said, "You're only here
temporarily."

MIKE

Now that is just not true! We live
together. Y'know, as of two days
ago. How could she...

(Notices Joe sorting
through the presents)

Aren't you supposed to do that
later, Joe?

JOE

No way, I gotta get the stuff we
don't need on ebay tonight. That
way we won't have to store it.

MIKE

This marriage thing has really turned into a jackpot for you, huh?

JOE

It's a sweet deal, Mike. You get someone to co-organize your life, you get tax breaks - I don't know what you're so afraid of.

MIKE

I don't know, I've always had this fear that marriage would be like school. When you're little you think, "Maybe someday I'll get to go to school." And then the first week you're like, "How much longer do I have to go to school?" And they say, "17 years." I mean, how are you gonna deal with the constriction?

JOE

What constriction?

MIKE

Like...other women. How will you not look at other women?

JOE

Oh, I'm still gonna look at other women. For instance, Donna at work? Whenever she heads for the closet to get staples or paper, I see in my head what it would be like to follow her in and have sex with her.

MIKE

Yeah? So what do you do?

JOE

I don't do anything. That's enough for me.

MIKE

I don't know if it's enough for me, Joe. What if I want to actually have sex with Donna?

JOE

Mike, you don't want to get involved with Donna, she's a mess.

(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)

I heard she took out an interest-only loan to support her coke problem.

(Changing subject, proud)
Hey, don't tell Paula, but these center-pieces - fake. Half as much as the real ones. I'm gonna spend the difference on Wii wrestling.

MIKE

Thanks Joe.

CUT TO:

EXT. WEDDING - MOMENTS LATER

Mike is rushing, still looking for Abby. He's beginning to get panicky.

MIKE (V.O.)

She wouldn't have left, right? She wouldn't break up with me like that --who is that?

Mike spots the Hottest Girl just ahead, leaning over to adjust the strap on her shoe.

KEVIN (O.S.)

Pretty ridic, huh 'cuz?

Mike starts, then turns to face KEVIN BIRBIGLIA, Mike's geeky cousin.

MIKE

Oh, hey Kevin.
(Plays dumb)
What do you mean? Not sure what you're--

KEVIN

Shauna. I bet none of you ever thought I'd show up at a family wedding with a piece like that.

MIKE

She's with you?!

MIKE (V.O.)

I meant that to sound less skeptical.

KEVIN
(Slightly offended)
Yeah, she's with me. Guess old Kev
made good, huh?
(Calls out)
Shauna!

HOTTEST GIRL, who we now know as SHAUNA, comes up to them.

SHAUNA
Hey!

KEVIN
Babe, I want you to meet my cousin
Mike. He's a comedian.

SHAUNA
Nice to meet you.

MIKE
And you. To meet you. Too.

KEVIN
(To Shauna)
You havin' a good time, baby?

SHAUNA
Sure.

Shauna and Mike share a small look.

MIKE (V.O.)
Nice meeting you. I have to go
find my girlfriend.

MIKE
Nice meeting you. I have to go
elsewhere.

CUT TO:

INT. WEDDING - RESTROOM LOUNGE AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Mike finally spots Abby sitting on a loveseat. She is
rubbing her foot.

MIKE
Oh hey! I was looking for you.

ABBY
Well, here I am.

MIKE
Right. Good.

Unspoken tension hangs between them.

MIKE
Are you...okay?

ABBY
My...feet hurt.

Mike sits on the love-seat next to Abby and takes her foot and starts to rub it. It's a nice, intimate moment.

MIKE (V.O.)
And that's how we dealt with it.
Which I think is very adult. And
I'm sure I'll never have to deal
with that issue ever again.

CUT TO:

EXT. WEDDING - MIKE'S TABLE - LATER

Mike, Abby, and BURT and KATHY BIRBIGLIA, Mike's parents, are at the table. Kathy, perpetually obliviously happy, is snapping photos with one of the disposable cameras left on each table.

KATHY
(To Mike and Abby)
You two get together.

Burt has trouble saying anything that doesn't sound like a scoff or a bark.

BURT
Whoa, careful there, are we sure
Michael wants her in the picture?

KATHY
Now Burt...

BURT
(Snaps)
Kathy!

KATHY
(Smiles)
All right.

MIKE

Dad--

BURT

Well it's ridiculous! Why wouldn't Abby be in the photo?

ABBY

Thanks, Burt, but I'm fine.

BURT

That's because you're the perfect girl, Abby. He's lucky.

MIKE

I didn't say--

BURT

When are you gonna get serious in your life? You waste your time with that comedy hobby--

MIKE

Dad, it's not a hobby. I'm a professional comedian. In fact, I got a slot at Comedy Basement tonight. I've been trying to break in at that club for 2 years.

BURT

Abby's a medical intern. She's doing something real. You're making a bunch of drunks laugh in a basement.

KATHY

Well, I'm in the middle of "How to Read Body Language" and Michael's posture suggests that he has some pent-up anger--

Burt gesticulates wildly.

BURT

(Explodes)

Jesus Christ, Kathy! Will you let me talk for just one second!?

A WAITER appears with a drink tray.

WAITER

Your scotch and soda, Sir.

BURT

Soda? Why would I ruin scotch by mixing it with soda? Where's the bartender?

Burt gets up and CROSSES OFF in a huff.

KATHY

(Beat, smiling)

I should make sure that doesn't turn into a scene.

Kathy FOLLOWS Burt.

ABBY

I love your parents.

MIKE

Well, they love you.

ABBY

I know they're difficult, but they just want the best for you.

MIKE

Yeah...I just don't like them.

ABBY

Michael!

MIKE

I LOVE them, don't get me wrong, I'd die for them. But if I didn't know them and we were seated at this wedding together, I'd be like, "These people? This table is beat."

Abby looks out at the dance floor. A version of "Celebration" is being played by the terrible band.

ABBY

(Flirtatious)

Wanna dance?

MIKE

I hate dancing. You're always like, "You gotta dance! You gotta dance!" And then I dance and you're like, "Not like that!"

ABBY

Your moves are a little hot and cold.

They laugh. Abby spies the BRIDESMAIDS dancing.

ABBY

Those bridesmaid dresses are unbelievable. They look like failed papier-mâché projects.

MIKE

I think Joe might have bought them in bulk.

Mike's eyes rove to SHAUNA AND KEVIN dancing. Shauna is quite a dancer.

MIKE

Weird about Kevin's date, huh?

ABBY

How so?

MIKE

I don't know. He was always kind of on the outside looking in, then suddenly he's here with this girl who's clearly out of his league. Don't you think it's...interesting?

ABBY

(Not fooled)
She's pretty cute, huh?

MIKE

(Laughs too loud, blurts)
Cute? I guess she's cute--in a trashy, icky way...not quite marrying material, though, right? Know what I'm sayin'? Why don't I get you a fresh one?

Mike rushes away from a now annoyed Abby toward the bar.

CUT TO:

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO

MIKE

As I said, awkward situations more awkward.

(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

(Carefully)

Now, before this next moment, it's
important I remind you all that
you're on my side...

CUT TO:

EXT. WEDDING - BAR AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Mike approaches the bar and looks for the bartender. He
realizes that the BARTENDER is off to the side, caught in a
SHOUTING MATCH with Burt, while Joe and Kathy mediate.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

So you're a comedian?

Mike turns. Inevitably, it is Shauna.

SHAUNA

I love comedy. Y'know Dane Cook?
He's hilarious.

MIKE

Yes, he is also a comedian.

SHAUNA

Where do you usually perform?

MIKE

Mostly in Manhattan. I live in
Brooklyn.

MIKE (V.O.)

"I" is pretty much the same word as
"we", isn't it?

SHAUNA

I live in Brooklyn too!

MIKE

And here we are in Schenectady, New
York, just like we always dreamed.

Shauna giggles and touches Mike's arm.

SHAUNA

You're funny.

MIKE

Shauna, I know I'm funny. I'm a
COMEDIAN.

Shauna LAUGHS again.

MIKE (V.O.)
I'm doing too well. Why am I doing
this well?

SHAUNA
Clearly. You should let me know
when you're doing your show.

Mike looks to see if Abby's watching him. Her seat is
vacated.

MIKE
Um...yeah.

FREEZE ON MIKE

CUT TO:

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO

MIKE
Now I'm about to do it again. I
don't have an on-deck circle for
ideas, it's just, "Batter up!"
Most of the ideas are bad and are
at the plate going, "I don't know
about this one, Mike." I turn into
a drunk Little League dad: "You go
take some cuts, Son!"

UNFREEZE

MIKE
I have a website...birbig.com.
That usually has my show dates on
it.
(Casually tacked on)
...and my email and stuff.

SHAUNA
Oh great!

Mike's eyes drift past Shauna to the dance floor where he
spots Abby dancing with a random HANDSOME WEDDING GUEST at
the wedding.

MIKE
(To Shauna)
Nice talking to you.

SHAUNA

You too.

Mike strides out onto the dance floor and taps the shoulder of the HANDSOME WEDDING GUEST, who lets Mike cut in. He proceeds to dance pretty embarrassingly with Abby. It's a mess. Abby, however, is charmed and amused by Mike's sad efforts.

ABBY

(Over music)

Hot. Definitely hot.

MIKE

(Over music)

I thought lukewarm to tepid. But thank you.

The SONG ENDS and the music changes to a SLOW SONG. This is more Mike's speed and the couple dances together, now caught up in the romance of the moment. Abby smiles at Mike, a big, warm smile.

MIKE (V.O.)

Abby is the first and only girl I have ever loved. Ever since the first moment I saw her back at Georgetown...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FLASHBACK - GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY - DAY

A younger Mike is introduced to Abby by a FEMALE MUTUAL FRIEND.

MIKE (V.O.)

(Continued)

She had this big smile, like it seemed like her teeth were bigger than her head, but in a sexy way. And I kept running into her on campus...because I was following her.

CUT TO:

EXT. FLASHBACK - CAMPUS - LATER

Mike is sneaking along the side of a building, peeking out to see Abby coming. Mike acts way too surprised that they've run into each other.

MIKE (V.O.)

So I said to her,
(College Mike mouths)
"We should run into each other on purpose some time." And she said,
(College Abby mouths)
"No," which was hot. Because it meant she was sensible. But she eventually went out with me...and she had to actually convince me to have sex for the first time. I know it sounds crazy, but in high school I was abstinent by default. And then with Abby I thought, "I'm not going to have sex with a girl I like. She'll definitely dump me..."

CUT TO:

INT. FLASHBACK - COLLEGE DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Abby and Mike are making out aggressively. Abby takes off Mike's top and then her own, revealing her bra.

MIKE (V.O.)

(Continued)
...so it was like a reversal of the abusive boyfriend from those 80s high school movies where the girl is like,
(College Mike mouths)
"Devon, I can't." and Devon's like,
(College Abby mouths)
"But you can." Except Abby was Devon and I was Molly Ringwald. It's been me and her ever since...

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. WEDDING - DANCE FLOOR - DAY

Mike and Abby are still dancing sweetly. As the music switches to Nelly's "Hot in Here," Kevin taps Mike's shoulder to dance with Abby.

Mike checks if Abby's cool with it, she rolls her eyes and nods, then begins to dance with Kevin. Mike leaves the dance floor. He watches Abby and Kevin dance in a goofy, fun way and smiles at his girl. A hand slides through his arm. It is Shauna.

SHAUNA

Looks like we're stranded. Wanna dance?

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO

MIKE

Okay. What I should have said was, "Oh, no thank you, I'm already in a precarious and conflicted place with my girlfriend, who's actually 20 feet away." What I did say was...

CUT BACK TO:

INT. WEDDING - DANCE FLOOR - DAY

MIKE

I love dancing!

CUT BACK TO:

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO

MIKE

I know. But stick with me. It gets better. Or worse.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

FADE IN:

INT. MIKE AND ABBY'S APARTMENT - STAIRS TO THEIR FLOOR -
NIGHT

They are returning from the wedding and carry their luggage.
They are also in the middle of an argument that's repeated
for hours.

ABBY
...then you shouldn't constantly
say you hate dancing.

MIKE
Yes, I hate it, but I love hating
it. I love being the guy who hates
dancing. And you were dancing with
Kevin.

ABBY
Kevin is your cousin.

MIKE
But she was with my cousin. That
practically makes her family. Like
a sister.

ABBY
I hope you wouldn't be grinding up
on your sister like that.

MIKE
She was grinding up on me. I was
an innocent bystander. Plus, weird
things happen when wedding bands
play Nelly covers.

Abby fumes as she unlocks their front door.

CUT TO:

INT. MIKE AND ABBY'S APARTMENT - FRONT DOOR/LIVING ROOM -
SAME TIME

The door swings open of this smallish Brooklyn apartment.
Abby and Mike ENTER and drop their bags on the floor.

MIKE

(Calls)

Ptolemy? We're home.

PTOLEMY, their red-haired goofball friend, is sitting in his boxers on the living room couch, constructing a bizarre sculpture out of toothpicks, cardboard, clothes, and old photographs.

PTOLEMY

Hey guys! Welcome back.

He hugs both of them.

MIKE

(Indicates sculpture)

What's this?

PTOLEMY

This is some art I made for you.

ABBY

(Polite)

Oh my goodness! And I see it has my family photos on it.

MIKE

And...some of my clothes.

PTOLEMY

It's a totem that symbolizes you as a unit.

ABBY

Some of the photos are damaged.

PTOLEMY

(Enthused)

A-ha: it turns out it is also an activity center for the cats!

One of the cats, SCOTT, bats at Abby's family photos. Abby's annoyance is overwhelmed with affection for her cat.

ABBY

(Picking cat up)

Scottie, my little baby! Thanks so much for taking care of them, Ptolemy. Where's Ramon?

Suddenly, from OFFSCREEN, we HEAR a STRANGE "eeeeee" SOUND. Mike and Abby look around. Ptolemy doesn't seem to notice anything amiss. Another "eeeeee" SOUND.

Mike and Abby look down under the couch and see RAMON, their other cat, hunched in a corner, making a weird face.

RAMON

eeeeee...

MIKE

Um, Ptolemy? How long has the stripey cat--

ABBY

Ramon.

MIKE

--right, Ramon, been making that sound?

PTOLEMY

Eh, a few days.

ABBY

A few days? Ramon's been moaning like that for a few days and you never called us?

PTOLEMY

Look, Abby, in nature, there'd be no human to tend to Ramon. Cats have survival mechanisms in their biology that allow them to work a problem through their system on their own. That's the way of the jungle.

ABBY

In the jungle, he'd be eaten by a hawk! That's why we keep them inside and feed them snacks shaped like pork chops.

PTOLEMY

Abby, please. I'm really good with animals.

Abby looks to Mike to punch Ptolemy. Mike kind of shrugs.

MIKE

He is pretty good. He trained his cat to attack strangers from above.

PTOLEMY

I didn't train him. I encouraged him to be himself.

RAMON

eeeeee...

ABBY

(Beat)

We're going to the vet.

PTOLEMY

Okay, but if you two die, this cat
won't be able to survive in the
wild.

CUT TO:

INT. TAXI - MOVING - MINUTES LATER - NIGHT

Mike and Abby are in the back seat. Abby looks into the cat
carrier, worried.

ABBY

(To Driver)

As fast as you can, please, Sir.

Mike's cell rings. He glances at the caller ID.

MIKE

(Answers phone)

Joe.

JOE (O.S.)

(On phone)

What's going on?

MIKE

Not much.

ABBY

Not much?!

MIKE

I mean, small crisis, Abby's-our
cat's sick, we're going to the West
Side Animal Hospital.

JOE (O.S.)

(On phone)

What? Oh my God! I'll meet you
there!

MIKE

Oh, you don't have to do that, Joe--

Joe has hung up.

MIKE

Huh. Joe's meeting us there.

ABBY

That's so sweet.

(Realizes)

Why isn't he on his honeymoon?

MIKE

He convinced Paula that Europe is lame and they should stay in New York and experience it like tourists do for the honeymoon.

ABBY

Please tell me they're at least staying in a hotel.

MIKE

Can't help you.

CUT TO:

INT. VET'S OFFICE - EXAMINATION ROOM - LATER

Abby and Mike are waiting as the VET enters, placing the carrier with Ramon on the table. He is all business.

VET

It's good you brought Ramon in.
He's got a urinary tract infection.

Abby GASPS.

MIKE

So we're probably gonna want to leave him here overnight and get out of here?

ABBY

Michael!

Joe RUSHES IN, out of breath.

JOE

I got here as quick as I could.
How's the cat?

ABBY

Oh Joe, this is so nice...

RAMON

eeeeee...

VET

I was just explaining that the noise you're hearing is a result of pressure from a urinary tract infection.

JOE

Poor little guy.

MIKE

(Corrects Joe)

Girl.

ABBY

(Corrects Mike)

Guy!

MIKE

Oh, right, of course.

VET

Now we've given him some antibiotics, so what you're going to have to do is...

The Vet takes the GROWLING cat out of its carrier and reaches under its stomach.

VET

(Continued)

...release the build-up in his urinary tract by putting pressure on his bladder. Every twenty minutes.

MIKE

(Laughs)

Right.

(Notices no one else laughing)

Oh, you're serious. Um, isn't that something the vet should do?

ABBY

Michael, will you pay attention?

MIKE (V.O.)

This sounded suspiciously like I was the one being trained for the bladder release job. Luckily Joe was on top of it.

JOE

Let me ask you a question, Doctor, say the cat starts making a different noise, like...

Joe makes a strange sound of a cat coughing.

JOE

...What would you recommend then?

VET

(Confused)

Well, that would seem more like a hairball problem, but--

JOE

Right, but say it started to sound like this:

Joe makes the same coughing noise, then adds a strange noise on the end like a strained BARK.

MIKE

Joe...

JOE

Hold up, Mike...

Joe continues making the noise more enthusiastically.

VET

(Beat)

Well, a noise like that would suggest bordatella, commonly known as kennel cough. But I'd say you had a bigger issue in that it would mean your cat had somehow transformed into a dog.

JOE

Interesting...

MIKE

Joe, if your dog is sick, make your own appointment.

JOE

(Sotto, to Mike)

Veterinary charges are completely unreasonable, Mike. You'd think they were treating humans.

MIKE

Joe, go home to your bride.

Joe nods, mission accomplished, and EXITS.

ABBY

(To Vet)

Sorry about that. You were explaining what Mike has to do?

MIKE

Whoa, remember, Comedy Basement finally gave me a slot tonight?

ABBY

I understand that you wanted to perform, sweetie, but I told you I was working the night shift. At the HOSPITAL. Where people are DYING.

MIKE

That doesn't sound like a very good hospital.

ABBY

You'll have other shows, we only have one Ramon.

MIKE

I'm pretty sure we can get another cat and legally name it Ramon.

ABBY

Michael.

MIKE

(Turns to Vet)

Um...not that we would ever shirk our duties, but what happens if we don't release the cat's bladder every twenty minutes?

As the Vet answers Mike's question, we instead HEAR MIKE'S V.O.

MIKE (V.O.)

The Vet went into a bunch of medical stuff that honestly, I couldn't process, but this is the way my mind heard it:

VET

...which means that if you do nothing, the cat will explode.

MIKE

Oh, well, that's...serious. Maybe we can get Joe to--

ABBY

Joe, who won't even take his own dog to the vet? Michael, these cats are like our children. Is this how you're going to act when we have children?

MIKE (V.O.)

Whoa! Children? We were talking about cats!

MIKE

Let's all just calm down. You go back to work, and I'll take care of the cat. OF COURSE, I'll take care of the cat.

ABBY

Ramon.

MIKE

Mm-hm.

RAMON

eeeeee...

CUT TO:

INT. COMEDY BASEMENT - STAGE - LATER

The AUDIENCE EXPLODES WITH LAUGHTER. Mike is onstage in the middle of his set. He's killing.

MIKE

...oh, thanks. It's hard, though, because my girlfriend and I worry about different things.

(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

One day I said, "What do you fear most?" and she said, "I fear you'll meet someone else and you'll leave me and I'll be all alone," and she said, "What do you fear most?" and I said, "Bears."

The crowd LAUGHS again. Then, in the split-second of silence before Mike begins his next joke:

RAMON (O.S.)

eeeeee...

The audience look around, confused.

MIKE

(Pressing on)

My girlfriend's getting to the age where she's thinking about having kids, which is exciting because we're going to have to break up.

The audience LAUGHS again, smaller, but getting back into it.

MIKE

(Continued)

I've decided I'm not gonna have kids until I'm sure that nothing else good can happen in my life.

BIG LAUGH. Mike's back in the swing. But then, LOUDER AND SCARIER:

RAMON

EEEEEE...

The crowd is disturbed this time.

MIKE

(Makes good his escape)

Thank you I'm Mike Birbiglia good night!

CUT TO:

INT. COMEDY BASEMENT - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Mike is cramped into a stall, releasing Ramon's bladder. It is an unpleasant and slightly life-threatening process as Ramon seems to hate it as much as Mike.

RAMON

EEEEEE...

MIKE

Ugh! Yeah, I'm not enjoying this
either.

CUT TO:

INT. COMEDY BASEMENT - BAR AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Mike is about to EXIT the club when a hand stops him. He turns...it's Shauna, from the wedding. He immediately slides the cat carrier under the bar counter as best he can.

MIKE

Oh hey!

SHAUNA

Hi. Your website said you were
gonna be here tonight. That was so
funny.

MIKE

Oh thanks. That's what I was going
for.

Mike's cell phone RINGS. He checks the caller ID: "ABBY-
HOSPITAL". He looks at Shauna, considers not answering it.

MIKE

(To Shauna)

Sorry.

(Answer phone)

Hey.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - SAME TIME

Abby, now in intern attire is on the phone as emergency room
hubbub moves around her. It's a bit loud and she has to
strain to hear the call.

ABBY

(On phone)

Hey sweetie, just wanted to check
on Ramon.

MIKE (ON PHONE)

Oh, he's...really rebounding.

ABBY

Thank God!

DOUG, an incredibly handsome doctor, leans over the other side of the admitting counter.

DOUG

Tell him I'm stealing you from him.

Abby smiles and swats him.

CUT TO:

INT. COMEDY BASEMENT - BAR AREA - SAME TIME

MIKE

(On phone)

Who's that?

ABBY (ON PHONE)

It's just Doug...

Mike makes a face.

MIKE (V.O.)

Doug. Abby's doctor "friend." She was always coming home with stories about all the amazing things he did. Just sounded like showboating to me...

CUT TO:

INT. FLASHBACK - HOSPITAL - DAY

Doug kneels next to a bed with a VERY SICK KID. Abby observes.

VERY SICK KID

My Mom told me to be brave but I get scared sometimes.

DOUG

What if I told you even I get scared sometimes, Teddy? But I'm not scared now, because that's how sure I am that together we're gonna be brave enough to make you all well again.

The Very Sick Kid smiles. Abby tears up.

CUT TO:

INT. COMEDY BASEMENT- BAR AREA

MIKE (V.O.)
What a phony!

MIKE
Uh-huh. Well, what time...

ABBY (ON PHONE)
...Am I getting home?

MIKE
Mm-hm.

ABBY (ON PHONE)
Should be around midnight.

Mike tries to look at his watch casually.

ABBY (ON PHONE)
Sorry, sweetie, gotta go. See you
soon. Kiss Rammy for me.

She hangs up. So does Mike. He smiles at Shauna.

SHAUNA
Girlfriend?

MIKE
Girlfriend?

SHAUNA
The girl I saw you with at the
wedding?

MIKE
Oh, her? Well, where's Kevin?

SHAUNA
Beats me. We just started hanging
out.

MIKE
Right. Yeah, us too.

SHAUNA
(Smiles)
Uh-huh.

MIKE
(Admitting)
.....for a while. A long while,
actually.

ZAC ANTHONY, a comic with greedy eyes, sidles up to Shauna.

ZAC
Hey Birbiggs. Saw your set.

MIKE
Oh, hey Zac.

ZAC
(To Shauna, offers hand)
I'm Zac.

SHAUNA
Right, I saw you onstage too.

ZAC
Was I funny? I was pretty funny.

SHAUNA
You guys are all pretty confident
about how funny you are.

ZAC
No, I'm confident because I've got
a huge penis.

Shauna LAUGHS.

CUT TO:

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO

MIKE
She's gonna laugh at that? Can't
she see this guy's a dirtbag? I
mean, yes, I have a girlfriend, but
comparatively, this guy is much
sleazier than me, trust me. And
now he's cutting in on the girl I
shouldn't be hitting on!

CUT BACK TO:

INT. COMEDY BASEMENT - BAR AREA - SAME TIME

Shauna LAUGHS at something else we haven't heard from Zac.

ZAC
You guys hangin' around? Me and
Rich and some of the other comics
were gonna go over to McSorley's.

Shauna looks to Mike - "Are we going?" Mike pauses, then
decides he's not going to do this.

MIKE
(An admission)
I gotta get home.

SHAUNA
(Gets the subtext)
Sure. No problem.

RAMON
eeeeee...

Mike looks down at the cat.

ZAC
What's that, a ferret?

MIKE
Bye.

Mike takes the cat carrier and EXITS.

CUT TO:

SERIES OF QUICK CUTS:

INT. MIKE AND ABBY'S APARTMENT - LATER

Mike throws open the door and RUSHES IN...

RAMON
eeeeee...

INT. MIKE AND ABBY'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

...releases Ramon's bladder...

RAMON
EEEEEE...

MIKE

Ugh.

CUT TO:

INT. MIKE AND ABBY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

...and carries Ramon like a dirty rag to place him on the couch. The front door starts to CLICK open and Mike shifts Ramon quickly to hold him like a little baby. Abby ENTERS.

ABBY

Oh my God, there he is! How's my little guy doing?

Mike happily hands Ramon off to her.

MIKE

Doin' great, doin' great.

ABBY

You are such a good daddy.

MIKE

I definitely wouldn't go that far.

ABBY

You are. You really came through tonight, Michael Birbiglia.

MIKE

Come on, I'm not a GOD.

ABBY

I didn't say you were a god.

MIKE

I feel like you implied it.

CUT TO:

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO

MIKE

My night should have ended there, but unfortunately I have a hard time falling asleep, waking up, etc. So when I checked my email at 2AM...

CUT TO:

INT. MIKE AND ABBY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

It is the middle of the night. Mike is sitting in the dark, lit only by the glow of his laptop screen. Mike's eyes go wide as he reads the email on the SCREEN and we HEAR:

SHAUNA (V.O.)

"Hey Mike. Loved your show. You were much funnier than the other comics who said they were funny. XOX, Shauna. 9-1-7-fake TV number-fake TV number."

Mike looks over his shoulder into the bedroom where Abby is asleep as though he's about to be caught robbing a bank. He slaps the laptop shut and makes a quick move to the bathroom.

INT. MIKE AND ABBY'S - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Mike ENTERS, manic, laptop in hand. He sits on the closed toilet, and reopens the laptop, as though he's going to find the email was a dream. It isn't.

MIKE (V.O.)

(Manic)

I shouldn't have gotten a second chance with a girl this hot! Or even a first one! Now I've got to turn her down again? This is like holding a winning lottery ticket and having to throw it away. A girl like this is never going to waste her time contacting me again if I don't call her.

Mike changes the windows on his screen back to the email. He notices that Shauna has signed her email with a ";)" icon. Mike is distraught. He looks up and notices a previously unseen Ramon the cat sitting on top of the medicine cabinet, staring at him. Ramon hops down and jumps on the edge of the tub. He rubs his head against Mike's. It is adorable. Y'know, for people who don't hate cats. But even for Mike it's pretty sweet. A beat, and Mike hits "DELETE".

MIKE (V.O.)

Do Abby and I want different things? I don't know. But sometimes life is just uncertain. And y'know what? I'm gonna be okay. We're gonna be okay.

A content smile on his face, Mike closes his laptop.

FADE TO BLACK.

And then, in BLACK, we HEAR a KNOCK on the bathroom door.

CUT TO:

INT. MIKE AND ABBY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Mike, same position as when we faded out, looks at the door.

ABBY (O.S.)
Michael?

MIKE
Come in.

Abby tentatively opens the door.

MIKE
Hey. Didn't realize you were
awake.

ABBY
Didn't realize you were awake.

MIKE
Just getting some writing done.

Abby definitely has something on her mind.

MIKE
What's...anything up?

Beat.

ABBY
Michael...why didn't you--want me
in the photo?

MIKE
The photo?

ABBY
You know what I'm talking about.

MIKE
I don't--Abby, I did!

ABBY

You hesitated! There was that moment, that PAUSE.

MIKE

It was just a pause. It didn't mean anything.

ABBY

I felt like you didn't want me in the picture with your family.

MIKE

No!

ABBY

And you were flirting with that girl.

MIKE

Her? That wasn't--

ABBY

If this is temporary, Michael, you need to let me know before I finish unpacking my boxes.

MIKE

It's not temporary!

ABBY

(Even more upset)

I really thought we were getting somewhere, but I just don't think you're ever going to want to marry me.

MIKE

I do! I will!

ABBY

When?

Mike's mouth hangs open, at a loss.

FREEZE ON MIKE

CUT TO:

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO

MIKE

Now what I should have said was,
"Can we talk about this next
summer?" What I did say was...

CUT TO:

INT. MIKE AND ABBY'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM

MIKE

Next...summer.

There is a beat, and Abby bursts into TEARS OF JOY,
immediately hugging Mike, who looks very concerned.

CUT TO:

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO

MIKE

I know.
(Then)
Batter up!

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW.