

UNTITLED STEPHNIE WEIR PILOT

"PILOT - Y'all in the Family"

written by
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JAMES (60's) - The patriarch. A true gem. A modern day Andy Griffith. One half of what is possibly the world's happiest couple.

GLORIA (60's) - The matriarch and other half. A genteel, stand-by-your-man, wife and mother who is by no means a pushover. Lives to love and protect her family.

BEAU (30-40) - Eldest son. A momma's boy. A good husband who argues with his good wife a good deal. Smarter than he thinks he is and a truly gifted musician.

BETH (MID 30's) - Middle daughter. Sassy and independent. Picked up a New York accent during her years away. At that scary fork in the road where she could still wind up married with kids or forever be "the fun Aunt."

BILLY (30's) - The baby. The golden child. Smart, handsome, a war vet. Maps a course for his life and follows it without deviation.

LIZ (30-40) - Beau's wife. Mother of three boys. Former party girl and band groupie who is trying to reinvent herself into the mother her husband adores.

JUNE (25) - Billy's fiancée. The Mayor's daughter. Truly sweet and beautiful, like her name. Which makes it hard to tell if her snarky comments are accidental or evil.

ANNA WILSON (30's) - A whip-smart young woman who served in Afghanistan with Billy. African American. Brooklyn native. A create-your-own-destiny kind of woman.

CLAIRE (Fashionable 40) - any ethnicity, New Yorker, a carbon copy of Beth. Fellow pilates teacher.

Doctor WALKER (45) - Beth's cowboy therapist and possible love interest. Convinced Matthew McConaughey stole his entire M.O. Except he says, "Okay, okay, okay."

THE DINOSAURS (ED, HORACE, JIM, ALONZO AND CHUCK) - A racially diverse group of retirees who hang out at the diner with James and crack politically incorrect jokes.

DORIS (50) - A waitress at the diner and Gloria's dear friend from her Women's Methodist Prayer group.

THE MAYOR - (50-60's) - June's Mother. Suave, political type.

COLD OPEN

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

DARK ROOM. BETH (MID 30'S, DRAMATIC MIDDLE CHILD) IS ASLEEP. A CELL PHONE RINGS. SHE FUMBLES IN THE DARK AND ANSWERS.

BETH

(GROGGY) Hello?

CORNER OF SCREEN:

INT. TRENDY BAR IN NEW YORK CITY - CONTINUOUS

THE BAR IS PACKED. CLAIRE (MID 30'S, FABULOUS) YELLS INTO HER PHONE.

CLAIRE

Beth, it's Claire. I'm at a new whiskey bar in downtown Manhattan called Bitters. Get down here! First drink is free if you're single, broke and bitter.

BETH

Give me two minutes to find a clean bra and working credit card!

BETH TURNS ON A LAMP REVEALING SHE'S IN HER FRILLY, YELLOW, CHILDHOOD BEDROOM. SHE SCREAMS.

BETH (CONT'D)

Ahhhhhhhhhhh! (THEN, IN SHOCK) Claire, I can't go. I forgot, I moved back to my parents' house in Texas.

CLAIRE

You're in Texas?!

BETH

(HORROR) I can see a football field
from my window.

CLAIRE

Beth, why would you do that?! Women
our age are grandmothers in Texas!

BETH

(PANICKED) I don't know... because I'm
single, broke and bitter?! My parents
called and asked me to move home and
help run the family music store so my
Dad could retire--

CLAIRE

You left the Big Apple for that?

BETH

I had a rat trapped under a salad bowl
at the time. Seemed like a good offer.

LOUD SIRENS START GOING OFF OUTSIDE. WIND RATTLES THE WINDOW.

BETH (CONT'D)

Oh, great. Tornado sirens. Texas' way
of welcoming me back.

RESET TO:

INT. HALLWAY TO THE BEDROOMS - CONTINUOUS

BETH'S BROTHER, BILLY (30'S, THE GOLDEN CHILD, AIR FORCE VET)
EXITS HIS BEDROOM CARRYING BOOTS AND A JACKET.

BILLY

Mom, Dad, wake up, tornado!

GLORIA (60'S, A DEMURE SPITFIRE) BOLTS OUT OF THEIR BEDROOM AND STARTS GRABBING PHOTOS OFF THE WALL. JAMES (60'S, MODERN DAY ANDY GRIFFITH) IS RIGHT BEHIND HER.

JAMES

Billy, you get Beth. Mom and I will meet you in the storm shelter.

BILLY

(PUTTING ON BOOTS) Yes, sir.

JAMES

(GENTLY) Gloria, pace yourself. You have a whole wall downstairs.

GLORIA

I need Billy's Air Force photo... Beau leaning on a wagon wheel in autumn...

JAMES HERDS GLORIA DOWN THE HALLWAY. HER ARMS ARE FULL.

RESET TO:

INT. BETH'S BEDROOM

BILLY ENTERS TO FIND BETH SITTING ON HER BED IN A STUPOR.

BILLY

Beth, grab a coat and shoes and let's go, there's a tornado!

BETH

Why bother? My life's a bust. I failed as a fashion designer. I failed at love. I'm right where I was at fifteen except my diary has more swear words.

BILLY

Can we have this pity party later? A
couch just blew past your window!

BILLY HUNTS AROUND THE ROOM FOR A COAT AND SHOES.

BETH

Of course you have no compassion! Your
life is a fairy tale.

BILLY

I served two tours in Afghanistan.

BETH

And didn't suffer a single injury! In
fact, you came home buff and tan. The
town threw you a parade. Then you meet
June, the Mayor's daughter, no less.
And "BOOM" now you're getting married.

BILLY

Not if I die in a tornado! Now, put
this on and let's go!

BILLY HANDS HER A TRENDY FAUX-FUR JACKET AND BOOTS.

BETH

I can't wear those together.

THE WINDOWS RATTLE. BETH SCREAMS, TAKES STUFF AND THEY RUN.

CUT TO:

INT. TORNADO SHELTER - CONTINUOUS

THE ENTIRE GODARD FAMILY IS PACKED INTO THIS CEMENT BUNKER:

IN ADDITION TO JAMES, GLORIA, BILLY AND BETH IS ELDEST SON,
BEAU (35-40, GOOD OL' BOY), HIS WIFE LIZ (35-40, PARTY GIRL
TURNED MOM), THEIR THREE BOYS, HOUSTON, AUSTIN AND DALLAS, (6-
12). THEY ALL LISTEN TO THE STORM RAGING OUTSIDE. BETH CRIES.

JAMES

(CHIPPER) I can't even remember the last time the whole family was together in the tornado shelter.

GLORIA

I've been praying to have all my babies home, under one roof and, look, here we are! Billy home from Afghanistan...

EVERYONE

Thank you for your service.

GLORIA

Beth home from New York. And Beau home from his house down the street.

BILLY

Just curious, Beau. Why didn't you go to your storm shelter?

BEAU

We couldn't get in. (POINTED TO LIZ)
It's full of canned soup.

LIZ

You told me to "Buy in bulk!" Where was I supposed to put it?

EVERY TIME THE WIND HOWLS, BETH WHIMPERS INTO HER TISSUE.

JAMES

What an unexpected treat this is!
Sure wish I had a camera.

BILLY

You do. There's one on the smartwatch
we got you for your retirement.

JAMES CHECKS OUT HIS WATCH.

JAMES

Look at that, sure does! I already got
some pictures of my sleeve. (AIMING)
Squeeze in everyone.

GLORIA

Good idea, James. Who knows where
we'll be next tornado? Billy will
probably be married and living across
town with June. Beau and Liz may have
eaten all their soup. And Beth...

BETH

(TEARY) Where, Mom? Where will I be?
On a date with the guy who named his
mule "Obama" so he could say "Obama is
a jackass"?

GLORIA

No. (THEN) Although Tate is single.

THE WIND RATTLES THE DOOR VIOLENTLY.

JAMES

Everyone say "Twister!"

JAMES SNAPS A PICTURE THAT LEADS OFF THE MONTAGE IN OUR...
MAIN TITLES: BILLY JOE SHAVER'S "I'M JUST AN OLD CHUNK OF
COAL" PLAYS OVER PHOTOS FROM THIS TEXAS LOCALE: FOOTBALL
FIELDS, PUMP-JACKS, CHURCHES, DINERS, TAVERNS, ETC.

END COLD OPENING

ACT ONE

SCENE A

INT. KITCHEN - EARLY MORNING

GLORIA IS PREPARING PANCAKES. JAMES TOYS WITH HIS SMARTWATCH.

JAMES

Honey, did my restless legs keep you
up last night?

GLORIA

(REASSURING KISS) Not at all.

JAMES

Are you sure? My smartwatch says I
walked three miles last night.

GLORIA

Did you ever figure out how to tell
the time?

JAMES

Yep. (READING THE WATCH ON HIS OTHER
WRIST) Seven forty-three a.m.

BILLY ENTERS DRESSED IN A COMMERCIAL AIRLINE PILOT UNIFORM.

GLORIA

Billy, why are you dressed for work? I
thought you had the day off.

BILLY

I just got called to fill in on a
flight to Dallas.

GLORIA

What?! You can't fly a plane on
pancakes, you need protein!

GLORIA PULLS MEAT AND EGGS OUT OF THE FRIDGE AND JUGGLES
SEVERAL FRYING PANS ON THE STOVE LIKE IT'S AN OLYMPIC EVENT.

BILLY

Mom, it's okay. There's no need to--

JAMES

Son. Don't cancel her Christmas.
(READING SMARTWATCH) So, according to
my fancy watch, in one month and six
hundred calories you'll be a married
man. How you feeling?

BILLY

Awesome. Tactically speaking, I'm
right on course with my life map.
Emotionally, I feel a deep love for
June that I predict will only grow.

JAMES

If those are your vows, I'm gonna
suggest you scrap it and spend a day
in the greeting card aisle.

BILLY

I really only have one concern
regarding this wedding.

GLORIA

That June is a Baptist and you're
Methodist and how will this work?

BILLY

No.

GLORIA

Us either.

BILLY

I'm worried about Beth ruining my wedding. You saw her last night. She needs professional help.

GLORIA

Like a hairstylist? Sadly, her only option is to grow those bangs out.

BILLY

No, mom, a therapist. Someone who can help her sort out her issues. Plural.

JAMES AND GLORIA ARE TAKEN ABACK BY THIS SUGGESTION.

JAMES

Does Longview even have a therapist?

GLORIA

Well, there's the guy we go to with all our problems. God.

BILLY

Prayer is great, but there is no shame going to a doctor to get a check-up from the neck-up. That's one thing I drilled into my squadron when we got home from the Middle East.

JAMES/GLORIA

Thank you for your service./ So proud.

BILLY

I've been home a year and a half. You guys can stop doing that.

GLORIA

Know who I blame for Beth's mess? That "Sex and the City" gal, Sarah Michelle Jessica Parker Posie.

JAMES

You've got a few extra names in there.

GLORIA

She lured a whole generation of women to New York with the promise of endless brunches and romance only to be spit out a decade later bloated and alone with no life savings and three hundred pairs of shoes.

JAMES

Where's Beth's Mr. Big? Huh? (OFF LOOK) We watch the show in reruns.

GLORIA

TBS takes out all the nudity and swear words. It's a cute program.

REVEAL BETH IN THE DOORWAY, DISHEVELED, BUT HAPPY AND CALM.

BETH

Morning.

EVERYONE

Beeeeth!/ Hey./ Did you rest well?

BETH

I just had the best sleep of my life.
I feel like a new person. All that
anxiety I was having? Gone.

BILLY

Really? Just like that.

BETH

I don't know if it's being out of the
city, or almost dying last night, or
the years of recreational Xanax just
wore off, but I feel fantastic.

Pancakes! (HAPPY DANCE) Yay!

JAMES

There's our girl! She's back!

GLORIA

See, Billy? Beth didn't need therapy.
She just needed prayer and pancakes.

BETH

You thought I needed therapy? Why?

BILLY

I don't know. You seem to be going
through some... disillusionment.

BETH

(PLAYFUL) Oh, little brother. You do not want to go head to head with me when it comes to self-analysis. I've dated a lot of neurotic Jewish guys. Almost married Eli, but he said I live in my reptilian brain. - *which*, now that I think about it, has been in overdrive since I got here. *Hence*, the extreme anxiety. (AIR KICK) Boom!

GLORIA AND JAMES CLAP, ENJOYING HER PLAYFUL MOOD.

BILLY

I also think you're angry I'm getting married before you. (WEAKLY) Boom.

GLORIA

Pancakes!

JAMES

Yay!

BETH

What? First of all, I don't need a man to be complete. I mean, if it happens, great, if not, that's cool, too. Not that I'm wishing it away. I'm open. But, not desperate. WHATEVER! Secondly, I'm nothing but happy for you (EYES CLOSED) and June.

BILLY

Why did you close your eyes?

BETH

Did I?

BILLY

You don't like June.

BETH

I do. I do. She's just very...

GLORIA

Baptist?

BETH

I was going to say chipper. Look, I appreciate the concern, but I'm fine.

I'm the last one that needs therapy.

BEAU AND LIZ ENTER WITH BAGS OF LAUNDRY.

BEAU

Our washer just killed itself. Liz overloaded it. It started rocking and, basically, walked out the back door.

LIZ

And Beau just watched it go! Bye!

BEAU

I was dealing with the pot of oatmeal that exploded all over the kitchen.

GLORIA

Liz, honey, use ours. Detergent and fabric softener are in the cabinet.

LIZ EXITS IN A HUFF, DRAGGING THE LAUNDRY BAGS.

BEAU

Mom, Dad, you raised three kids, your house never looked like a war zone. What is Liz doing wrong?

JAMES

Nothing. Considering you two met leg-wrestling in a bar, Liz has exceeded all our expectations.

GLORIA

Breakfast is ready. Everyone sit.

EVERYONE SITS. THIS IS GLORIA'S MOMENT TO SHINE. AS SHE SERVES EACH MEMBER A HEARTY PLATE THEY "OOO AND AHHH."

GLORIA (CONT'D)

James... Beau...

BEAU

Yum. I'm starving. I only had a few bites of oatmeal off the wall.

GLORIA

Nothing brings me more joy than feeding my family. (WINK) Don't tell the feminists. Beth...

BETH

Mom, feminists love feeding their families, too.

GLORIA

Sure, when they're home. Billy...

JUST THEN JUNE ENTERS CARRYING A COVERED PLATE OF FOOD.

JUNE

Billy, I brought you breakfast. Egg
white omelette. (SEEING THE FOOD) Oh.

GLORIA

We were just about to...

BILLY HAS TWO PLATES BEING OFFERED, HE'S NOT SURE WHAT TO DO.

JUNE

Mine's high in protein.

GLORIA

Mine, too. Eggs and bacon.

JUNE

Low-fat? He has a tuxedo to fit into.

AFTER AN AWKWARD BEAT, GLORIA ACQUIESCES HER PLATE.

GLORIA

You go ahead, June.

JUNE SETS DOWN HER PLATE. GLORIA IS LEFT HANGING.

JAMES

I'll take Billy's plate. I'm starving.
I've already walked three miles today.

JUNE

Sorry to barge in so early, I just
wanted to see Billy before he left.

BILLY

Can't wait to be in the same house.

BEAU

What are you waiting for? I lived with
Liz before I knew her name.

BILLY

June is the Mayor's daughter. She has a public image to consider.

JUNE

And we wanted to wait until we're married. Like Gloria and James did.

GLORIA, STILL REELING, FORCES A TIGHT SMILE.

JUNE (CONT'D)

Oh, and I have exciting news!

BETH

(POINTED) About the wedding I hope.

JUNE

Oh, Beth. I didn't see you there.

(GIGGLE) I thought you were a chair.

BETH SHAKES IT OFF. *NOTE: JUNE IS GENUINELY SWEET AND OBLIVIOUS TO THE INSULTS SHE SLINGS AT BETH.*

JUNE (CONT'D)

The newspaper wants to cover our couple's shower on Saturday!

EVERYONE REACTS, TRULY IMPRESSED AND EXCITED.

BEAU

You two are like Longview's Prince Charles and Lady Diana. Without the cheating, divorce and tragic ending.

BETH

Hopefully.

JUNE

Since we're having it at the music store, I'm going to send over even more decorations so it doesn't look like we're having it at a music store.

BETH

(GOOD SPORT) I'm happy to put them up for you. If you want. I am a designer.

JUNE

Thank you! You're the absolute best. I just want everything to look perfect.

JUNE HANDS BETH A HAIRBRUSH FROM HER PURSE. BETH STARES AT IT IN DISBELIEF, THEN EVENTUALLY BRUSHES HER WILD BED-HEAD HAIR.

JUNE (CONT'D)

Now, if everyone will stop eating, I have a special question for Gloria.

CONFUSED BY THE REQUEST, EVERYONE PUTS DOWN THEIR SILVERWARE.

JUNE (CONT'D)

After trying on my Vera Wang wedding dress, again, it just feels so hollow. I want a symbol of the dreams and hopes I want for my life. Gloria... May I have the honor of wearing your wedding dress down the aisle?--

GLORIA IS A DEER IN THE HEADLIGHTS. BEFORE SHE CAN ANSWER...

BETH

(FLIPPING THE TABLE) NOOO! It's mine. Mine, MINE, MINE!

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

I'm going to wear it. Me! At my
wedding. Not you! Wear your own
Mother's dress!--

JUNE

(GROSS FACE) She married in the 80's.

BETH

Tough! It is my birthright! I won't
let you bounce in here with your shiny
hair and take it!

LIZ STANDS FROZEN IN THE DOORWAY WITH FABRIC SOFTENER.

JUNE

But, what if you never get marr--

EVERYONE

JUNE!

BILLY

Oh, look, I'm going to miss my flight.
Let's go. See you guys tonight.

JUNE

Beth, I didn't mean to upset you!

BILLY QUICKLY USHERS JUNE OUT THE DOOR. AFTER A BEAT...

JAMES

I'll ask around about a therapist.

BETH

Yep.

CUT TO:

SCENE BINT. DINER - LATER

"THE DINOSAURS" (ED, ALONZO, CHUCK, FLOYD AND JAMES) DRINK COFFEE AND SHOOT THE BULL.

ED

Answer me this - how is it every time there's a big news story in town, reporters interview some redneck wearing a lawn chair for a hat?

EVERYONE

I know!/ Ever' time./ Why is that?

ALONZO

There's eighty thousand people in Longview, grab one with teeth!

THE GUYS ALL LAUGH. FLOYD, WHO IS MISSING A TOOTH...

FLOYD

Not to say that missing a tooth or two automatically makes you unintelligent--

EVERYONE

Nope./ No way./ Nobody saying that.

CHUCK

But, going off the evening news, no wonder people think Texans are dumb.

JAMES

Yeah. Maybe people in the Blue States aren't all liberal morons.

THEY PONDER A MOMENT.

CHUCK

No, they are.

GUYS AGREE.

JAMES

Speaking of morons, any of you know if there's a good therapist in town?

FLOYD

Why? You questioning your sexuality?

THE GUYS BUST A GUT.

FLOYD (CONT'D)

I can say that, my son's gay.

JAMES

No, Beth is struggling with this upcoming wedding.

ALONZO

Me too. I'm trying to decide if I should bring my wife or have fun.

GUYS LAUGH.

CHUCK

You know, when I had my veterinarian practice I used to call on this guy, Doctor Walker, who worked wonders on temperamental cattle and horses.

JAMES

(CONSIDERS, THEN) Get me his number.

CUT TO:

SCENE CINT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

GLORIA IS DUSTING. SHE GLANCES OUT THE WINDOW AND GASPS.

GLORIA

June!

GLORIA RUSHES OVER AND LOCKS THE FRONT DOOR JUST AS JUNE TRIES TO WALK IN. GLORIA HIDES AGAINST THE WALL. JUNE KNOCKS.

JUNE

Gloria? It's June. Your door is locked. (PEERING IN) Gloria? I can see you in the mirror on the wall. Are you okay?

GLORIA COMES OUT OF HIDING AND ANSWERS THE DOOR.

GLORIA

Hi! I was just seeing how tall I am. (POINTS TO A SPOT ON WALL) That tall.

JUNE

Did you get my messages? I need to talk to you about the wedding dress.

GLORIA

I was just about to call you back when it occurred to me I might have shrunk.

JUNE

I felt so terrible about upsetting Beth this morning that I went straight home and prayed about it.

GLORIA

(RELIEVED) June, that's so nice.

JUNE

And God said he really wants me to
wear your wedding dress.

GLORIA

Really? He said that.

JUNE

He thinks it's a wonderful way to
honor your and James' marriage.

GLORIA

Well, thing is... (SHE'S GOT NOTHING)

LIZ ENTERS FROM THE HALLWAY HOLDING PINK LAUNDRY.

LIZ

Help! My red bra snuck in and murdered
all our clothes.

GLORIA

Oh, no! Be right there sweetheart. So
sorry, June. Liz needs me. We'll talk
later.

GLORIA CROSSES TO LIZ AND MOUTHS TO GOD "THANK YOU."

CUT TO:

SCENE DINT. MUSIC STORE - LATER

BEAU SHOWS BETH HOW TO RING UP A CUSTOMER.

BEAU

And then you hit total...

BETH

I worked here all through high school,
Beau, I remember how to do it.

BEAU

Cool your jets, doofus, we updated the
system while you were in NYC city.

BETH

You just said "New York City City"
dummy. You're the dumb one. (THEN,
GIVING CHANGE) Here you are, sir.

THE CUSTOMER STARES AT HER, WAITING. BEAU NUDGES BETH.

BETH (CONT'D)

Oh. (TO CUSTOMER) Have a nice day.

CUSTOMER CAN NOW EXIT.

BETH (CONT'D)

(UNDER HER BREATH) Texas.

BEAU STARTS PUTTING UP SHOWER DECORATIONS.

BEAU

Look at all this. I never even heard
of a "couple's shower." They make my
and Liz's wedding seem like a joke.

BETH

Stop. It was a blast. Even when Liz
broke her arm on the mechanical bull.

JAMES ENTERS, A PEP IN HIS STEP.

JAMES

Beth, Daddy did it! I found a doctor.
And he'll see you today.

BETH

You did? What is he? A psychologist,
psychiatrist, counselor, therapist...

JAMES

Doctor Walker is a "behavioral
specialist." Word is he works wonders
with temperamental... personalities.

BETH

Okay. But I am only committing to one
visit.

JAMES

Your appointment is right after work.
Beau can take you.

BEAU

Okay, but let Liz know where I am. If
I'm late she gets jealous and assumes
the worst. That I'm eating at Mom's.

CUT TO:

SCENE EINT. DINER - LATER

GLORIA ENTERS HOLDING A DRESS BOX. "THE DINOSAURS" ARE THERE.

ED

... I like Trump because he tells it
like it is.

CHUCK

So does my drunk uncle, but I don't
want him to be president.

GLORIA APPROACHES THEM.

GLORIA

Hey, fellas. Is Doris around?

FLOYD

She's in back marrying the ketchups.
And Kentucky is up in arms about it.

THE GUYS BUST UP LAUGHING. DORIS ENTERS FROM THE BACK AND
GLORIA CROSSES TO HER. THIS MEETING WAS PREARRANGED.

DORIS

(COVERT) Is that the dress?

GLORIA

June is giving me no choice. She's
relentless!

DORIS

Just like a Baptist. Always got to be
their way.

GLORIA

If I let June wear it, Beth would
think I'm giving up on her.

DORIS

Why don't you just tell June that?

GLORIA

And give her a chance to point out
that Beth might not ever get married?
Never. I'd rather compromise my
Christian morals and lie.

DORIS

You won't have to. Give me the dress.

GLORIA PASSES HER THE BOX.

GLORIA

Where is it going?

DORIS

Where is none of your concern. The
Methodist Women's prayer group will
draw straws. Short stick will store
the dress in a secure location. When
June asks, you can honestly say, you,
don't know where the dress is.

GLORIA

Thank you. You're a good friend.

DORIS

Thank you... for "stealing" my
grandson's motorcycle.

GLORIA PUTS HER FINGER TO HER LIPS, "SHHHHH." LIKE A SPY.

CUT TO:

SCENE HINT. COCKPIT - DAY

PILOT, ANNA WILSON (30'S, AFRICAN AMERICAN, WHIP-SMART) GOES OVER A CHECK LIST AS BILLY AND ANOTHER PILOT, GAIL, ENTER.

GAIL

Captain Godard, this is first officer--

BILLY

Anna?!

ANNA

Billy?! I... I didn't know you were working for Heartland Air.

BILLY

(TO GAIL) Technical Sergeant Wilson and I were in Afghanistan together she's like a brother to me.

GAIL

A hot, Brooklyn born, brotha from anotha motha. (LAUGHS TOO HARD, THEN) I'll grab flight details.

GAIL EXITS.

BILLY

So, you're based here in Dallas?

ANNA

Yeah. I was planning to get in touch.

BILLY

(AWKWARD) Anna, I hope you weren't avoiding me because of San Diego. That whole thing was my fault.

ANNA

No. We were both so happy to be on
American soil... we got carried away.

BILLY

I'm the one who kept pouring shots.

ANNA

I asked you to dance to Marvin Gaye.

BILLY

Look, I took your advice. I wiped the
whole incident from my mind--

ANNA

Yeah, about that...

BILLY

--in fact, I'm getting married next
month. I want you to be there. The
whole squadron is coming.

WHATEVER ANNA WAS GOING TO SAY, SHE'S NOT SAYING NOW.

ANNA

Married. Congratulations! Of course.
Wouldn't miss it for the world.

GAIL ENTERS CARRYING PAPERWORK.

BILLY

We're having a couple's shower this
weekend, please come. I want you to
meet Anna-- I mean, June. You're Anna.

ANNA

I don't know. It's short notice.

GAIL

If you need a baby sitter, Anna, I
have one. She's great with infants.

ANNA BLANCHES.

BILLY

A baby? Anna, you had a baby?

GAIL

Ida is so cute you should see her.

BILLY

You're a mother? Congratulations! When
did this happen?

ANNA

Thanks! Like...(CAGEY) thirty-six
weeks ago. (THEN) Guess we better head
out before the passengers start
rocking the plane.

GAIL

Oh, yeah, them. Billy, want to do the
honors?

BILLY GRABS THE INTERCOM.

BILLY

You bet. A baby, that's crazy. (INTO
INTERCOM) Welcome to Heartland Air,
"Where No Detail is Overlooked."

OFF ANNA'S RELIEVED EXPRESSION WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE IINT. DIVE BAR - LATER

BETH SITS AT THE BAR WITH DOCTOR WALKER, WHO WEARS A COWBOY HAT AND BEARS AN UNCANNY LIKENESS TO MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY. THEY HAVE DRINKS. BETH IS DUBIOUS.

BETH

You don't work out of an office?

DOCTOR

I have one but it smells like feed.
Okay-okay-okay. Why is love eluding
you pretty girl? You're cute as all
get out, so it's not an ugly issue.
(THEN) What's wrong? Your eyes are
darting, that means you wanna bolt.

BETH

I'm just confused. Is this therapy or
a date?

DOCTOR

Both. On the phone your Dad said you
were out of sorts about being single.
Thought we could hit two birds... I'm
all about practical medicine, B.

BETH

What, exactly are you a doctor of?

DOCTOR

No, no. My first name is Doctor. I
have brothers named Colonel and Judge.
My Dad is King. It's a family thing.

BETH

Oh, Texas. (THEN) Excuse me,
bartender! (HANDING HIM A CREDIT CARD)
This is for my wine not the fake
doctor's whiskey.

THE BARTENDER RUNS THE CARD.

DOCTOR

Whoa. You're spooked? You shouldn't
be. True, I have no degree, but I'm
the nation's premier bovine therapist--

BARTENDER

I'm sorry ma'am but--

BETH

(HANDS HIM ANOTHER) Try this one.

THE BARTENDER TRIES THE NEW CARD.

DOCTOR

--and cattle are just people in coats.

BETH

Please stop talking.

DOCTOR

Oh, you wanna dance?

HE PULLS HER CLOSE TO HIM, SHE GOES WITH IT A SEC, THEN...

BETH

No! I don't want to dance or date or
get therapy from some Matthew
McConaughey wanna-be.

DOCTOR

Whoa-whoa-whoa! He's my wanna-be. I
invented the triple affirmative.

THE BARTENDER TOSSES BACK THE CARD. BETH THROWS HIM ANOTHER.

BARTENDER

Ma'am, this is a library card.

BETH

Just run it! (LOSING IT) Why does
everything have to be so hard? I'm
just trying to figure out why I can't
find a perfect relationship like my
parents!! Beau, let's go!

REVEAL BEAU HAVING A BEER NEARBY. BETH STARTS TO STORM OUT.

DOCTOR

(CATTLE WHISPER) Spsspspspspspspsp.

BETH

What are you doing? What is that?

SHE CAN'T HELP BUT MOVE CLOSER.

DOCTOR

Spsspspspspspsps. (THEN) I said, your
parents sure did set you up to fail.

BETH STARTS OUT, TURNS BACK, TROTS AROUND, THEN...

BETH

You think this might be their fault?

(SITTING) Tell me more.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE J

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

JUNE AND GLORIA ENTER FROM UPSTAIRS. JAMES READS A BOOK.

JUNE

It's not in any of the closets.

GLORIA

I, honestly, do not know where the wedding dress is.

JUNE

(PUSHY) Mind if I check the attic?

GLORIA

Knock yourself out.

JUNE CROSSES OFF. BILLY ENTERS THE FRONT DOOR.

BILLY

Guess who I ran into at work today?
Technical Sergeant Anna Wilson.

GLORIA

Anna. She wrote us the sweetest thank you card for the care package we sent.

JAMES

Hon, you did send her a thank you note for the thank you note, didn't you?

GLORIA

Yes. And she sent back the nicest thank you note. I owe her a note.

BILLY

Well, you can give it to her Saturday.
She's coming to the party. Oh, and she
had a baby. Can you believe that?

JAMES

You mean, she enlisted for another
tour of doody. Pun intended.

GLORIA

That's wonderful. How old? I'll get
the baby an outfit.

BILLY

Umm...Thirty-six weeks, she said.

GLORIA

So... nine months. How sweet.

BILLY

Yeah, guess that would be nine months.

(THEN) Wait?... Nine months?

IT, FINALLY, HITS BILLY. HE STARTS COUNTING... GROWING PALE.
BETH AND BEAU BURST THROUGH THE DOOR.

BETH

It's Mom and Dad's fault I'm single!
Yeah! In fact, when it comes to
relationships, they screwed us all up!

BEAU

(MISTAKING BILLY'S SHOCKED EXPRESSION)

I know! I couldn't believe it either!

BILLY

I need to splash water on my face.

BILLY EXITS TO KITCHEN. JAMES AND GLORIA ARE STUNNED.

BETH

It's all so clear! You guys gave us an unrealistic model of marriage. And then sent us into the world with no skills to survive.

BEAU

(ANNOYED) You never even fought in front of us. Never. Not once.

JAMES

That's not true. We fought.

BEAU

When? Name one time.

GLORIA

Remember when that tornado blew the roof off the music store? Your Dad and I got into a huge fight over who... (TRAILING OFF) loved the other more. Let me think of another example.

BEAU

Of course my marriage looks miserable ...when I hold it up to yours.

BETH

And I've been waiting for a guy who is blind to my flaws, the way Dad is to yours. And that's not realistic!

GLORIA LOOKS TO JAMES, "I HAVE FLAWS?" JAMES SHAKES HIS HEAD "NO."

JUNE ENTERS FROM THE HALLWAY BRUSHING OFF COBWEBS.

JUNE

No luck on the dress.

BETH

June, forget the dress. You and Billy have to stop trying to emulate Mom and Dad. It can't be done.

BILLY ENTERS, HEAD AND SHIRT ARE DRIPPING WET.

JUNE

(CHIPPER) Of course it can. All we have to do is stick to our life map. Right, Billy?

BILLY

(STARTING TO SPIN OUT) Yes. Just stay the course - Air force, commercial pilot, fall in love, get married, run for political office, have three kids, be happy like Mom and Dad. Boom! Easy! (THEN) I gotta... upstairs.

BILLY EXITS UPSTAIRS A WRECK.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE K

INT. BETH'S BEDROOM - LATER

BETH IS ASLEEP, BILLY TURNS ON THE LIGHT.

BILLY

(SOFTLY) Beth, wake up--

SHE JUMPS UP, GRABBING SHOES AND A COAT.

BETH

Ahhh, Tornado?! Again?

BILLY

No, Beth, calm down.

BETH

(NOTICING BILLY'S FACE) What's wrong?

BILLY

I think I might have fathered a baby
with Anna Wilson.

BETH

(GASP) Sergeant Anna Wilson?

BILLY

We had a drunk one-night stand the day
we returned from overseas.

BETH

Oh. My. God. (EXCITED) I've never been
on this side of the equation - the one
not in a crisis. It feels amazing.

BILLY

Beth.

BETH

Sorry, sorry. I'm here for you.

BILLY

I can't sleep. I can't think. June.
June would be devastated.

BETH

It was before you two met. She'd...
(WEAK) understand. Ugh. Sorry. I
didn't sell that at all.

BILLY

I don't know what to do.

BETH

Okay. Why not call Anna and ask?

BILLY

I didn't get her number. (SNARKY) And,
this isn't a conversation to have over
the phone. "Hi, watcha doing? Hey, did
I get you pregnant?"

BETH

Okay. You're lashing out. I do that,
too, under stress.

BILLY

Poor Mom and Dad. What will they say?
I'm their golden child.

BETH

Billy, you don't know for sure the
baby is yours.

BILLY

But, what if it is?

BETH

Then, you will step up and take
responsibility for your life.

SHE REALIZES THAT ADVICE IS FOR HER, TOO.

BETH (CONT'D)

And Mom and Dad will say what they
said to me when I got arrested for
living in a movie theater. "We love
you. How can we help?" And in my case,
"How is 'No Country for Old Men?'"

BILLY

I just don't want to be an
embarrassment to this family.

BETH

That's my job. And I'm not giving it
up to anyone. Not even Beau, who is
making a real play for it with that
tattoo of Garth Brooks on his calf.
(THEN) Hey, I know it seems like the
world is ending, but, it's going to be
okay. (GIDDY) I can't believe I
finally got to say that.

CUT TO:

SCENE 1INT. MUSIC STORE - SATURDAY NIGHT

THE PLACE IS DECORATED. A TABLE IS STACKED WITH GIFTS. EVERYONE IN TOWN IS THERE. WE FIND JAMES SHOWING OFF HIS WATCH TO THE DINOSAURS. BETH IS THERE.

JAMES

And if my heart rate gets too high, it plays "Deep In The Heart Of Texas."

ED

You've gone all fancy now that you're about to be related to the Mayor.

ALONZO

He won't have to feed another meter in this town for the rest of his life.

JAMES

(EATING IT UP) Don't know about that.

CHUCK

Maybe you can throw your weight around and get the speed limit on Main lowered. Twenty-five is too damn fast!

GLORIA WALKS UP AND HANDS A PLATE TO JAMES.

JAMES

Why would you put catfish on my plate?

GLORIA

I can't keep track of all your food allergies. Next time get it yourself.

JAMES

I will. (BEAT) That is exhausting.

BETH

What are you two doing?

GLORIA

Trying out our hand at bickering.

BETH

Please don't. I'm sorry I blamed you.

My life is where it is because of me.

(THEN) In fact, Mom, you can give June the dress. Who knows if I'll get married? And someone should wear it.

GLORIA

(THINKING) I, honestly, don't know where it is.

GLORIA WALKS AWAY. DOCTOR APPROACHES BETH.

DOCTOR

My-my-my, you look stunning, B.

BETH

Don't shorten my name. It's Beth.

DOCTOR

Short for Elizabeth?

BETH

I didn't invite you to this, Doctor.

DOCTOR

The Mayor did. I wrangle her difficult heifers. Make them see love is there for them if they decide to take it. Can I get you another drink?

BETH

Fine. But, only as my therapist. I'm not interested in you romantically.

DOCTOR

You got it, sexy.

BEAU AND LIZ WALK IN WITH THEIR ROWDY BOYS. BEAU AND THE BOYS ARE ALL WEARING PINK TINTED DRESS SHIRTS.

LIZ

Thanks for not being mad about the laundry.

BEAU

If I really cared about white shirts I wouldn't have married a Bud Girl.

THEY KISS, THEN, TO THE RAMBUNCTIOUS BOYS...

BEAU/LIZ

Knock it off!/ Those presents aren't yours./ Put them down! DOWN!

THE MAYOR CLINKS HER GLASS. HER HUSBAND, JUNE AND BILLY STAND WITH HER. BILLY IS DISTRACTED, LOOKING FOR ANNA.

MAYOR

Thank you all for coming! Not only are we excited to welcome the Godards to our family, but this wedding is bringing together two of Longview's biggest gang rivals. (WINK) The Methodists and the Baptists.

THE TWO CAMPS CHUCKLE AT EACH OTHER, GOOD-NATUREDLY.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

In all seriousness, when I rattle on about traditional family values, this, right here, is what I'm talking 'bout.

To the bride and groom!

CHEERS! THE ROOM TOASTS BILLY AND JUNE. THE NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPHER SNAPS PHOTOS. BILLY SPOTS ANNA ENTER THE DOOR CARRYING A BIG GIFT AND EXCUSES HIMSELF TO GREET HER.

BILLY

Anna, you made it.

ANNA

(RE: GIFT) The only thing left on your registry was a trash can.

BILLY

I really need to talk to you. Can we step into the rehearsal room a second?

BILLY AND ANNA EXIT INTO THE REHEARSAL ROOM.

RESET TO:

INT. REHEARSAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

IT'S A SOUNDPROOF ROOM SURROUNDED BY GLASS WINDOWS, A PIANO INSIDE. BILLY AND ANNA TALK.

BILLY

I know I am crazy for asking this, there's no way you wouldn't have told me, but... Ida isn't my baby, is she?

ANNA

Oh, Billy. This is not how I planned on telling you.

BILLY

I'm a father? You're saying I'm a
father?!

ANNA FEELS ESPECIALLY AWKWARD HOLDING A BIG GIFT.

ANNA

I really need to put this down.

SHE DOES.

BILLY

When were you planning to let me know?

ANNA

At first, never. I thought, why should
our one night stand wreck both our
lives? But, once Ida was born and I
had this amazing little girl, I
realized how stupid that plan was.

BILLY

Is that why you moved to Dallas?

ANNA

Yes. I was waiting for the right time
to tell you. And, just before your
wedding didn't seem... ideal.

BILLY

(CHOKING UP) Sorry, it's just sinking
in. I'm a Dad. I have a daughter.

ANNA

Billy, I only want you to be in Ida's
life, if you want to be. If not, I
understand. No one ever needs to know.

BETH OPENS THE DOOR AND TIP-TOES INTO THE ROOM.

BILLY

Beth! What?!

BETH

I'm just going to turn the external
speaker off. Everyone can hear you.

REVEAL THE ENTIRE PARTY STARING AT THEM IN SHOCK.

CUT TO:

INT. MUSIC STORE - CONTINUOUS

YOU COULD HEAR A PIN DROP. GLORIA MUTTERS TO JAMES.

GLORIA

(SHOCKED) This might be my fault. I've
been praying for a granddaughter.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. REHEARSAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

BILLY

Oh, man.

AS THE CONVERSATION BELOW HAPPENS, WE CAN SEE THE FOLLOWING
MAYHEM OUT THE WINDOW, BUT CAN'T HEAR IT: THE PHOTOGRAPHER
CAPTURES PHOTOS, THE BAPTISTS AND METHODISTS ARGUE, PEOPLE
ARE TAKING THEIR PRESENTS BACK, BEAU AND DOCTOR PHYSICALLY
BLOCK PEOPLE FROM ENTERING THE REHEARSAL ROOM.

BETH

(HUGGING BILLY) Congratulations. (TO
ANNA) Welcome to the family.

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

So, you're from Brooklyn? I house sat
in Park Slope for a while. Represent!

BILLY

Beth!

BETH

Sorry.

BILLY

Anna, to answer your question, of
course I want to be in Ida's life.
Absolutely. One hundred percent.

ANNA

I'm so glad. But, right now-- Your
bride isn't taking this well.

HE TURNS TO SEE JUNE SCREAMING AT HIM LIKE A LUNATIC.

BILLY

Oh, no, June. (THROUGH THE GLASS) This
all happened before we even met!

AS JUNE EXITS THE BUILDING SHE RIPS DOWN DECORATIONS.

ANNA

Billy, you should go after her.

BILLY

I'll be back!

BILLY EXITS, BETH CALLS OUT...

BETH

I feel awful about the "your life is a
fairy tale" comment.

ANNA LOOKS OUT OVER THE CHAOS.

ANNA

Oh, my God. Have I made a big mistake,
moving Ida and me here?

BETH

No, no, Anna. You haven't. I know it
might seem like this place is just
football, guns, BBQ and God. But, its
not. It's football, guns, BBQ, God and
so much love. Yes, Texans have big
opinions, because they have such big
hearts.

ANNA

(PLAYFUL) Are you reading that off a
poster somewhere?

BETH

I just want you to know this is a
great place to raise a little girl.
They may look like a bunch of
lunatics, right now, but I promise you
these are real good people.

CUT TO:

INT. MUSIC STORE - CONTINUOUS

THE WHOLE ROOM IS ARGUING. BEAU AND DOCTOR SQUARE OFF AGAINST
SOME BAPTISTS, ABOUT TO FIGHT. JAMES STANDS ON A CHAIR.

JAMES

Everyone, let's calm down!

GLORIA

James, honey, your heart.

JAMES

This is a stressful situation, but
remember, we're all friends here.

Please!

AS HIS HEART-RATE CLIMBS, JAMES' SMARTWATCH STARTS PLAYING
"DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS." AT THE CHORUS, THE WHOLE ROOM
STOPS ON A DIME TO "CLAP-CLAP-CLAP-CLAP!"

EVERYONE

DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS!

AS THE SONG CONTINUES, SO DOES THE ARGUING.

MAYOR

James, your son has ruined my entire
"values" campaign platform.

EVERYONE, "CLAP-CLAP-CLAP-CLAP"

EVERYONE

DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS!

FLOYD

Oh, yeah, well I'm starting to think
traditional values are the myth and
global warming is real.

EVERYONE, "CLAP-CLAP-CLAP-CLAP."

BLACK OUT.

SCENE KINT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

GLORIA CHANGES OUT PHOTOS ON THE WALL WITH PHOTOS OF IDA AND ANNA. MAYBE TOO MANY. BETH AND LIZ HELP.

BETH

Mom, its a bit of overkill.

GLORIA

There is a lot of white on this wall,
I want Anna and Ida to feel welcomed
when they get here. (TEARY) I hope the
baby likes me.

BETH

She's gonna love you.

LIZ

Billy says Ida is a giggler. Nothing
better than a baby laugh. Makes me
want just one more. (THEN, SCREAMING)
Dallas, don't touch that cake!

BETH

I'm just glad I'm here to show Anna
the ropes. Like how people say they're
"getting their ducks in a row" but no
one owns ducks. It can be confusing.

LIZ

So, now that June called off the
wedding, are Billy and Anna a couple?

THE LADIES HUDDLE AND GOSSIP LIKE HENS.

BETH

He says they don't feel that way about each other. That they're "brothers."

LIZ

Who had a baby together? Ew.

BETH

But my bedroom is next to his. I hear them on the phone. (OFF HOPEFUL LOOKS)
It's very flirty.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM WE FIND JAMES, BEAU AND BILLY.
HANDS IN POCKETS. AFTER A LONG SILENCE...

BILLY

What kind of motor was in that old Cutlass you had?

JAMES

A 350 rocket. (THEN, AWKWARD) While we're being all open and honest like this... (CALLING OUT THE LADIES OVER) there's something your mother and I need to share with you.

THE LADIES CROSS OVER, GLORIA KNOWS WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Despite what you kids might think, our relationship isn't perfect.

GLORIA

No, it's not. I'm not proud of this, but a few years ago, I was smitten by another man. I confessed to your Dad--

JAMES

And, because I was hurt, I took up
with another woman.

BILLY

Are you serious?

GLORIA

Thankfully, with love and forgiveness
we found our way back to each other.

JAMES

Point is. No relationship is perfect,
so go easy on yourselves.

THE KIDS LET THIS SOAK IN A BEAT. THEN...

BETH

Wait. Are you two talking about that
summer Mom watched Brad Burly on
channel nine evening news and Dad
watched Linda Sanders on channel five?

THE DOORBELL RINGS.

GLORIA

The baby is here!

BILLY

I'll get it. Calm down everyone.

BILLY OPENS THE DOOR. IT'S JUNE, LOOKING NOT SO BUBBLY.

BILLY (CONT'D)

June.

EVERYONE AD-LIBS SURPRISED GREETINGS.

JUNE

Sorry I've been avoiding you.

BILLY

It's okay. I understand.

JUNE SLAPS HIM. EVERYONE GASPS. BUT NO ONE MOVES.

JUNE

I've prayed about it. And...

SHE KISSES HIM.

JUNE (CONT'D)

I want to call the wedding back on.

THERE'S AN ODD BEAT - EVERYONE IS WIDE-EYED, WAITING.

BILLY

You do? That's... great.

JUNE

For next year. So I can re-plan.

BILLY AND JUNE HUG AND KISS. JUNE'S NOT LETTING GO. EVERYONE CLAPS, SORT OF, NOT SURE IF THIS IS GOOD OR NOT.

ANNA AND THE BABY PEEK IN THE DOORWAY BEHIND THEM.

ANNA

(MOUTHS) Is this a bad time?

THE WHOLE FAMILY EXCITEDLY, BUT QUIETLY, REACTS TO SEEING IDA FOR THE FIRST TIME. THEY WAVE ANNA INSIDE. ANNA SLIPS PAST BILLY AND JUNE, STILL MAKING UP. THE FAMILY RUSHES TO IDA.

GLORIA

(WHISPERING) Give me that baby!

GLORIA TAKES IDA AND SMOTHERS HER IN KISSES. EVERYONE IS IN TEARS AT THE SIGHT OF THIS ADORABLE NEW MEMBER OF THE FAMILY. THE SCENE IS WHAT YOU'D EXPECT OF A FAMILY RECEIVING A NEW BABY - COMMENTS ABOUT WHO SHE LOOKS LIKE, HOW BIG SHE IS, PEOPLE TRYING TO MAKE HER SMILE - BUT IT'S ALL PANTOMIMED.

BILLY FINALLY NOTICES.

BILLY

Anna!

ANNA

(AWKWARD) Heeeey.

JUNE

Oh. Hi. They're here. I should go.

ANNA

Or we can go.

EVERYONE

No!

BILLY

Can't you both stay?

JUNE

In my heart, God is telling me it's
best if we don't rush this.

JUST THEN, TORNADO SIRENS START TO ROAR.

CUT TO:

INT. TORNADO SHELTER - LATER

EVERYONE IS AWKWARDLY PACKED INSIDE.

JAMES

Want me to take a picture?

BILLY

No.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW

*