

ALL STARS

"When in Rome"

by

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COLD OPENINT. MALL PLAY AREA - DAY

GARY (30's, cerebral, YOUNG ALBERT BROOKS) stands next to a large rock wall with his son AUGUST, aka GUS (7, alpha male).

GUS
But, I can do it!

GARY
Just because you can do something doesn't mean you should. I don't think Josh here would be much help if something went horribly wrong.

The gangly mall employee nods in agreement as IRENE, (30's, dramatic) approaches in heavy makeup carrying a shopping bag.

IRENE
Sorry, that took longer than I thought. Not my fault. They gave me a hard time until they recognized me.

QUICK POP TO:

INT. MAKEUP DEPARTMENT - FLASHBACK

Irene looks at herself in the mirror at the makeup counter.

MAKEUP GIRL
We've used three tubes. If we do any more you have to start paying.

A MAKEUP BOY approaches and pulls the makeup girl aside.

MAKEUP BOY
Do you realize who you are talking to?
This woman was "Nanette" in *No, No, Nanette!* She's Broadway royalty!
(to Irene)
I am honored to have you grace my station. I'm sure men must tell you this all the time, but I dressed up like you for Halloween.

IRENE
Then you know that I need more blush.

BACK TO SCENE:

GARY
Why are you wearing fake lashes?

IRENE
(taken aback)
It's Thursday.

GUS

I wanna climb the rock wall but Dad
won't let me.

IRENE

I think he should go for it!

As Gary and Irene continue to discuss, Gus hands the mall
employee money and is put into a harness.

GARY

He could break a hip!

IRENE

Oh, you spend too much time hanging
out with old people.

GARY

I'm a geriatrics doctor, I'm not
"hanging out" with the old people.

IRENE

Well, you sound like one.

GARY

Look, maybe if he took some climbing
lessons...

SFX: A bell RINGS.

GUS (O.S.)

I did it!

Gary and Irene look up to see Gus waving to them from the top
of the rock wall.

GUS (CONT'D)

Oh, yeah! Uh-huh! I'm the man!

MALL EMPLOYEE

Most kids don't make it up there.

A nearby MOM approaches.

MOM

He's quite an athlete.

IRENE

We're trying to accept him for who he
is.

GARY

It's nobody's fault. It's not a
choice. He was just... born this way.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONEINT. MALL - LATER

Gary, Irene and Gus walk by "Sports Authority."

IRENE

We need to pop in here for some sports equipment.

GARY

Why?

GUS

Didn't mom tell you? I'm on a soccer team now!

Gus runs into the store as Gary looks at Irene.

IRENE

He didn't even have to audition.

INT. SPORTS AUTHORITY - CONTINUOUS

Irene enters followed by Gary.

Gary

Why didn't you tell me about this?

IRENE

Because I knew how you'd react.

Gary stares at Irene for a beat.

GARY

I'm freaking out.

IRENE

See?

GARY

I don't want August playing organized sports. He's too competitive as it is!

QUICK POPS TO:

INT. ROTHMAN KITCHEN - FLASHBACK

Irene, Gary and Gus eat dinner. Gus slams his fork down.

GUS

Done!

INT. BATHROOM - FLASHBACK

Gary and Gus brush. Gus slams his toothbrush down.

GUS

Smoked!

INT. BATHROOM - FLASHBACK

Gary and Gus stand at the toilet with their backs to us. Gary finishes. Gus continues peeing and smiles at Gary.

GUS

That all you got?

BACK TO SCENE:

GARY

I don't think we should be encouraging him.

IRENE

That's what parents are supposed to do. They encourage their kids!

GARY

To play piano. To learn to paint. To keep bees.

IRENE

Keep bees?

GARY

(defensive)
Honeycomb is awesome.
(then)
Besides, I thought you wanted him to be a tap dancer.

IRENE

And do makeup, but we don't always get what we want.

Irene gestures to a basket of knee pads.

IRENE (CONT'D)

(flirtatious)
Can you believe they sell these here?

GARY

Yes. They're knee pads.

Irene giggles and takes a pair.

GARY (CONT'D)

The only thing I know about soccer is that I don't like it.

IRENE

Yeah, well you're not Gus.

GARY

When did he become "Gus"? His name is August, as in Strindberg.

A SALESWOMAN approaches with Gus who carries a ton of soccer paraphernalia.

SALESWOMAN

Okay, I think this is it: size four ball, cleats, shin guards...

IRENE

We'll take it all! And one of these *Damn Yankees* costumes, too!

Irene hands the saleswoman a baseball jersey.

GUS

Where's your archery department?

GARY

Let's wrap this up, my sister and Ty are gonna be at our house soon and Legos don't build themselves.

Gary holds up a bag from the Lego Store.

INT. ROTHMAN KITCHEN - EVENING

Impeccably furnished mid-century home where Gary, Gus and TY (THINK TAYE DIGGS) build the Roman Colosseum out of Legos.

GARY

(professorial)

Great architecture combines math and creativity. Behold - the Colosseum!

GUS

Aww, yeah! We're gonna win the Lego smackdown again this year!

Gus proudly picks up a Lego trophy as Gary smiles.

GARY

That's not why we enter this competition. It's not about winning.

TY

Then why do you do this every year?

GARY

It's about family coming together to enrich our brains while we "connect."
Pun intended!

Ty GROANS as Gus begins to bounce a soccer ball on his knee. Gary looks at him, disappointed.

GARY (CONT'D)

You know, August, gladiators used to fight in the Colosseum.

GUS

NOICE! I wanna be a gladiator.

GARY

I don't think so. They fought to the death.

GUS

Only sucks if you lose.

Ty swipes the ball from Gus and looks at it, nostalgic.

TY

Man, I used to love soccer. And I was good, too! So good!

(then, to Gus)

Do you wanna go out back and kick the ball around a little?

GUS

Yeah! Lemme just finish this.

Gus snaps a Lego brick onto the Colosseum.

GUS (CONT'D)

Okay, let's go!

Gus and Ty exit as Gary calls after them:

GARY

(upset)

What about the Colosseum? Rome wasn't built in a day... With only one guy!

Irene and SUSIE (Gary's opportunistic twin) approach with bowls of popcorn.

SUSIE

(re: Colosseum)

This thing is huge! Why do you guys have to do everything so extreme?

GARY

August is our only child, everything we do is for him.

IRENE

Why do something unless you're gonna do it *full out*? Wait a minute. I should dress like Cleopatra!

GARY

This is not a costume event. You're not supposed to wear costumes.

IRENE

That's what you said last year but the audience loved us!

QUICK POP TO:

Irene and Gus stand next to a Lego Eiffel Tower dressed like dirty peasants as Irene sings *Les Miserables*.

IRENE (CONT'D)

(singing)

I had a dream my life would be/so different from this hell I'm li-ving!

A nerdy man by a huge Lego castle shakes his head, bummed.

BACK TO SCENE:

GARY

That was historically insane. The revolution was decades before they built the Eiffel Tower!

IRENE

(playfully pouty)

Come on, Gary. Don't make me make you feel guilty for taking me away from Broadway and everything I know and love.

GARY

Moving to the suburbs was your idea!

IRENE

Well, who wants to raise a child in the city?!

(MORE)

IRENE (CONT'D)

It's settled, I'm Cleopatra. Gus could be Mark Antony. We can make a Lego chariot out of his scooter!

The doorbell rings and the front door opens to reveal three large men: JOSE LUIS (foreign), DANNY (softy), and RUSTY (sarcastic), aka "THE THREE BEARS." (Irene's gay Greek Chorus)

JOSE LUIS

Knock-knock. Let's get this party starting!

IRENE

It's "the three bears"!

RUSTY

Hey, Goldilocks.

Rusty hands Irene a bottle of rosé as they air kiss.

GARY

Is it *Bachelor* night already?

INT. ROTHMAN LIVING ROOM - LATER

Irene and the bears drink rosé as they watch *The Bachelor*. Danny cries as the bachelor hands a rose to a woman on TV.

THE BACHELOR (ON TV)

I feel a strong connection to you.
Like we were lovers in another life.

IRENE

Gary doesn't love me like that. He loves hummus like that.

RUSTY

I can't believe he didn't choose her.
What do you have to do to get a rose?

JOSE LUIS

This season, everything...

INT. ROTHMAN KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Gary continues to build the Colosseum with his twin sister.

SUSIE

Now that we're alone, like we were in mom's womb, I can finally tell you about my new business.

GARY

(wary)

You're starting another business?

SUSIE

It's called "Movement Water." It provides all the weight loss benefits of food poisoning without the poison!

Gary looks to make sure Irene can't hear.

GARY

(hushed)

How much money do you need this time?

SUSIE

I'm not asking for money, Gary. But it would really help me if I could get your medical stamp of approval.

GARY

Oh, well that's easy. (then) No.

Susie looks bummed as Gary stares out the window at Ty and Gus who are talking and laughing.

GARY (CONT'D)

(jealous)

How is he having such a satisfying conversation with a seven year old? It's like they're on the same level.

SUSIE

What's that supposed to mean?

GARY

I'm just saying, he communicates well with children. What do you think they're laughing about? Is there something funny about soccer?

SUSIE

What is your problem Gary? Most non-asthmatic kids play soccer.

GARY

I don't want August to become one of those meatheads who only cares about winning. What about developing your brain and not your body?

SUSIE

That's great but I don't think he's a nerd.

GARY

What happened to my sweet boy who
would sit on the ground and play Legos
with me for hours?

SUSIE

He learned how to walk.

Gus enters dribbling a soccer ball on his knees.

GUS

Yo, yo, check it!

The ball bounces across the room and knocks a wall of the
Colosseum down. Irene enters as Gus frowns, apologetic.

GARY

It's the fall of an empire.

TY

Don't worry, I saw what he did wrong.

Ty grabs the ball and exits with Gus.

GARY

This is a disaster.

IRENE

You'll just rebuild it.

GARY

I'm talking about August! Soccer is a
high stress sport. I have painful
memories of cracking under the
pressure when I was his age.

QUICK POP TO:

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - FLASHBACK

Gary as a child wears a soccer uniform and cries as kids
scream at him to pass the ball.

GARY (V.O.)

It's not easy to play soccer while
you're crying.

BACK TO SCENE:

IRENE

Don't be such a drama queen.

GARY

You didn't see my coach. He was like a sociopathic drill sergeant.

SUSIE

Well, it's 2015. I don't think it's like that anymore.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

COACH STEVEN, (30's, intense) paces as he screams:

COACH STEVEN

You are my soldiers and I am going to lead you in glorious battle!

We reveal that he is screaming at a team of small children, which includes Gus.

COACH STEVEN (CONT'D)

ARE YOU READY TO GET ON "THE WINNING TRAIN"?!

TEAM

Yeah!

GUS

YOU KNOW I'M READY!

ANGLE ON: Gary, who looks traumatized, he wipes sweat from his brow. Irene puts her arm around him.

IRENE

Do you wanna go sit in the car? You probably don't want to watch this.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

Gus looks ecstatic as he watches Coach Steven demonstrate a kick. Gary and Irene watch from the side of the field.

IRENE (CONT'D)

Oh my god, he's so happy.

GARY

For now. They haven't started playing yet. And is he wearing sunscreen?

Gary puts on his fishing hat as he and Irene wander over to a line of parents seated in camping chairs.

COACH STEVEN

... we're gonna work hard so we can go out there and grind those poor bastards into a greasy pulp!

Gary turns to a mom, VAL (30's, handsome woman).

GARY

Didn't Patton say that before he stormed Normandy? He's a little much.

VAL

He's my husband. I'm Val.

Val extends her hand and gives Gary a firm handshake.

VAL (CONT'D)

We're both alphas so it's really intense in our house.

GARY

You're hurting my hand.

VAL

You must be Gus's parents! It's so nice to meet you!

Val pulls some forms out of the side saddle of her camping chair and hands them to Irene.

VAL (CONT'D)

Here's the sign-up sheet for parental volunteers, which are mandatory.

IRENE

(reading form)

Wow, this is... a lot.

VAL

I barely make it to half the practices
with work. What do you do? Or, are you-

TIGHT ON: Val's lips in SLOW MOTION.

VAL (CONT'D)

Just a moooooommmmm.

Gary's eyes go wide as Irene looks like she's been punched.

IRENE (V.O.)

(singing)

*I had a dream my life would be/so
different from this hell I'm li-ving!*

VAL

But, being a mom is a full-time job,
am I right? Come, meet people!

Val clutches Irene's forearm like a bird and leads her away.

IRENE

You're hurting my arm.

Gary is approached by a dad, TOM RICE (fratty) who stands
next to him, impressed, as they watch the kids practice.

TOM RICE

How do you get your kid to focus like
that on the field?

GARY

I have no idea. I'm not into sports.

TOM RICE

Wanna trade kids? Hunter's afraid of
the ball.

ANGLE ON: HUNTER, a very slight boy who picks a dandelion and
closes his eyes as he makes a wish.

HUNTER

I hope the soft serve truck has
sprinkles today.

Meanwhile, Irene stands with the team moms.

VAL

Any ideas for this year's spirit wear?

IRENE

Well, I know this guy named "Broadway Bruce" who can bedazzle just about anything. I mean this guy poops sparkles. He's in New York but-

TEAM MOM

We were thinking burgundy sweatshirts.

IRENE

(laughing)
Burgundy's not a color, it's a stain!

A GRUFF MOM in a burgundy sweatsuit glares at Irene.

GRUFF MOM

It's our team color.

Irene shrinks back as an excitable mom, DONNA BANELLI approaches. She tries to maintain a calm appearance even though she is about to burst.

DONNA BANELLI

(weird whisper)
I know who you are.

IRENE

Excuse me?

DONNA BANELLI

I got into musical theater in highschool because my boyfriend was obsessed with it. You're "Nanette"! But don't worry, nobody knows!

IRENE

I'm sure some of them know.

DONNA BANELLI

Nobody knows. But, don't worry, I won't tell anyone.

IRENE

(coy)
You can tell someone...

DONNA BANELLI

Oh, no. I know how you people are. You don't want anyone to make a big deal about you.

Irene looks at Donna Banelli in disbelief as the other moms dish about how oversized they want the sweatshirts to be.

BACK ON: The dads who watch the kids practice with Coach Steven.

COACH STEVEN

Okay, Gus! How bad do you want it?!
HOW BAD DO YOU WANT IT?!

GARY

(annoyed)
He wants it, alright?

Irene walks over to Gary.

IRENE

This is not what I was expecting. It's like these people don't watch the Tony awards.

GARY

We won't be here long. August is my son, there's no way he's going to enjoy being put under this much pressure.

Gus scores a goal and Coach Steven runs onto the field and puts Gus on his shoulder like a parrot, as Gus laughs.

COACH STEVEN

GUS JUST GOT ON THE WINNING TRAIN!
CHOO! CHOO!

Gary watches this display as Hunter's dad leans over to him.

TOM RICE

I'm serious about trading.

INT. OFFICE - LATER

Tight on Gary's face.

GARY

(therapy session)
I mean, seriously, "the winning train"? I've never seen my son like that. He was like an animal - he was breathing heavy and his eyes became hard and cold.

WIDEN TO REVEAL: Gary is doing rounds at the hospital talking to an old patient, MR. DIXON, who sucks on a lollipop.

MR. DIXON

He sounds like a spitfire!

GARY

Yeah, but I'm not that type of dad.

MR. DIXON

Well, if your son plays soccer, what does that make you?

GARY

Depressed?

MR. DIXON

No. A soccer dad. Unless what you're saying is you don't want to be his dad.

GARY

No, I do.

MR. DIXON

Then it's time for you to accept your truth. Now, why don't you join me in a marijuana lolli? It'll calm you down.

Mr. Dixon offers Gary a green lollipop.

GARY

I'm good, man.

INT. GUS'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gus lies in bed holding a soccer ball as Irene belts "Moonshine Lullaby" like Ethel Merman.

IRENE

(singing out)

*SO COUNT YOUR SHEEP/MAMA'S SINGIN' YOU
TO SLEEP!/With a moonshine lullaby...*

GUS

Mom, do you ever miss Broadway?

IRENE

Sweetpea, moving here was my idea. And sure, I loved being on stage, but-

Irene leans over and whispers in Gus's ear.

IRENE (CONT'D)

You are my one true love.

She kisses him and exits.

IRENE (CONT'D)

I'll be here all week!

INT. GARY AND IRENE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gary sits in bed reading a book as Irene enters.

IRENE

Whatcha reading?

He shows her the cover: Soccer for Nerds.

GARY

I volunteered to referee the scrimmage at the next practice. Just because I can't play soccer doesn't mean I can't be involved.

IRENE

That's perfect, you love rules and regulations!

GARY

I'm not gonna let this new phase damage my connection with my son. I don't want to end up like my patients all alone at the nursing home because their kids never visit.

IRENE

(freaked)

Where am I in this scenario?

Gary continues reading as Irene turns on the TV.

IRENE (CONT'D)

I gotta finish watching *The Bachelor*.

ANGLE ON: the TV where we see a woman run into a man's arms and wrap her legs around his torso as they hug.

IRENE (CONT'D)

We never hug like that.

GARY

Hm?

IRENE

I want us to talk about how much we love each other and hug like they do on *The Bachelor*.

GARY

(confused)

You think that what happens on *The Bachelor* is real?!

Gary's laptop CHIMES.

GARY (CONT'D)

Another email about the kickoff game.
I better put it in the calendar.

(then, re: computer)

Wait a minute. It's the same day as
the Lego competition.

IRENE

But, Gus and I are dressing up. What
are we gonna do? It's *Sophie's Choice*!

GARY

I don't agree with that but this is a
Rothman family tradition. I'll just
email the coach to let him know we're
missing the game.

Gary quickly types an email and hits send.

GARY (CONT'D)

We don't have to change our entire
lives for this soccer team.

His phone DINGS. Gary's eyes go wide.

GARY (CONT'D)

Coach Steven just texted "CALL ME" in
all caps! Receiving a text that says
"CALL ME" in all caps is horrifying.

IRENE

You're a doctor. He can't just get you
on the phone whenever he wants.

Gary's cell phone rings and he and Irene jump.

GARY

Now he's FaceTiming me!

Gary fumbles with the phone and Coach Steven's face appears.

GARY (CONT'D)

(sunny)

Hi Coach Steven!

COACH STEVEN

We need Gus. It's the kickoff game! I
don't wanna lose.

GARY

I understand that but-

COACH STEVEN

Right on, brother. So, we'll see Gus
on Saturday.

Coach Steven's image freezes as he hangs up.

GARY

This is ridiculous.

(typing)

I'll just text Coach Steven "CALL ME."

They wait for the phone to ring. It does not.

GARY (CONT'D)

He's probably just dialing...

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Irene wears a burgundy sweatshirt bedazzled with the words:
"Just for kicks!" She claps as the bears open the lid on a
tupperware revealing:

RUSTY

Soccer ball cupcakes with frosting
that looks like grass!

DANNY

(humble brag)

It's just a *Barefoot Contessa* thing.

Gus enters dressed in his soccer uniform.

GUS

Mom, we have to go. The scrimmage is
starting soon!

Gus exits as Gary rushes in dressed in work clothes.

GARY

Sorry I'm late, another patient died.

RUSTY

(to Danny)

Remind me never to let Gary be my
doctor.

GARY

Do you have my ref uniform?

IRENE

Here, I picked it up when I got my
Cleopatra costume.

Irene hands Gary a ref costume, which was clearly purchased at a sex shop. Gary stares at a hunky guy on the label.

GARY

This is not regulation.

IRENE

Oh, it's fine. This is a soccer practice for kids!

GARY

You're right.

(reading package)

"Blow my whistle" is perfect.

Gary holds up a whistle shaped like a penis (blurred out, of course).

IRENE

We'll get you a different whistle.

DANNY

How did Gus deal with having to miss the first game?

GARY

I'm planning on telling him after the scrimmage. I don't want to mess with his head before the game.

RUSTY

Then don't let him see this.

Rusty takes the penis whistle as Gary exits to get dressed. Irene takes a punch bowl out of the refrigerator and hands it to Danny.

DANNY

What's this?

IRENE

White sangria for the parents. I gotta go *full out* if I'm gonna impress these soccer bitches.

DANNY

Aren't you going a little overboard?

IRENE

Listen, I've given up everything: my career, my dream of having a son who'll take me to shows and inherit my wigs. If I'm going to be a soccer mom I need to be queen of the soccer moms.

RUSTY

You were a guest judge on *RuPaul's Drag Race*. Isn't the rest just gravy?

Gary enters dressed in his ref stripper costume which is very tight and shiny.

GARY

Is it too tight?

RUSTY

You look hot - good. You look good!

Irene grins at Gary as Gus enters.

GUS

My Dad's a ref! This is so cool.

Gary smiles, pleased.

GUS (CONT'D)

Now, can we please go?!

DANNY

We'll put these in the car for you.

The bears take the cupcakes and sangria and exit with Gus.

IRENE

You do look good.

GARY

I feel good. This is gonna be great for August and I. I think I'm gonna be a amazing ref.

IRENE

Gary, I like this cocky side of you. So assertive.

GARY

I think it might be the costume.

IRENE

Whatever it is, it's hot.

Irene kisses Gary.

GARY

Should I be concerned that you're turned on by me not acting like myself?

Irene puts her finger on Gary's mouth.

IRENE

Shh. You're ruining it.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

Coach Steven glares at Gary in his ref stripper costume as Irene sets up her sangria.

COACH STEVEN

This isn't some play where you dress up and pretend. This is real life.

IRENE

You wanna talk real life? I did eight shows a week and shared a dressing room with Harvey Fierstein!

Gary is shocked to find Ty on the side of the field in a perfect camping chair.

GARY

Ty, what are you doing here?

TY

Laughing my ass off at the way you look. Gus told me about the scrimmage so I figured I'd come to support.

COACH STEVEN

Refs on the field!

GARY

I'd like to stay and chat but I have a job to do.

Gary walks off with all the dignity he can muster.

JUMP CUT TO:

SCRIMMAGE MONTAGE:

- A kid falls.

TEAM DAD

He tripped him! What're you, BLIND?!

Gary pulls out red and yellow cards but drops them when the ball whizzes past his head.

- The ball goes off sides.

GARY

(exasperated)

Is that green? Who's going that way?

TEAM DAD

It's like you don't care who wins!

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - LATER

Halftime. Gary walks over to Irene, winded.

GARY

It's halfway over.

IRENE

Intermission!

Irene proudly passes out cupcakes as the kids CHEER.

GUS

Yeah, Mom! (high-pitched) What-what!

But the team parents are furious.

TEAM MOM

Don't eat that!

Irene watches as parents knock the cupcakes out of their kid's hands in SLOW MOTION like a disaster movie as Coach Steven stomps on them.

TY

They don't want their kids eating that because of the second half sugar crash.

Donna Banelli approaches licking her finger.

DONNA BANELLI

It's a shame. They're *so* moist...

TEAM MOM (O.S.)

Put that down, Cody!

Irene looks over to see a mom chasing after a toddler who holds an orange slice which he took out of the sangria.

TEAM DAD

These kids don't understand that the fruit is soaked in alcohol!

GRUFF MOM

Who brings sangria to a soccer game?!

The gruff mom picks up the punch bowl and dumps it in the trash. Irene watches, bewildered.

IRENE

Okay, even I think that was a little dramatic.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - LATER

Gary stands by the goal with the ball. Coach Steven stands at the center of the field.

COACH STEVEN

We start the second half at the middle of the field! Kick the ball to me!

It's far. Gary takes a deep breath and kicks the ball - right into a kid's face who is five feet away. He has a bloody nose.

TEAM DAD

Is there a doctor here?

GARY

(tentative)
I'm a doctor.

BOY

(irrational)
STAY AWAY FROM ME!

COACH STEVEN

Great, now we're short a player.

GARY

I remember this one! To avoid forfeit one player must switch sides.

Gus's teammates BOO.

GUS

Let's just send them our worst player. You don't mind, do ya Hunter?

Hunter bursts into tears. Gary looks at Gus, disappointed. Has he just witnessed his son turn into an asshole?

GARY

That's it! August is out! And he will not be playing in the game Saturday!

COACH STEVEN

(pleading)
But, we need Gus. We're facing The Hellcats! He's our secret weapon!

GARY

He is MY son so I am the one who will
decide if he plays or not.

Everyone stares at Gary on the edge of their seats.

GARY (CONT'D)

And he will not be playing.
(then)
Wasn't that obvious?

GUS

Mom, do something!

IRENE

Your father is right.

GUS

But, Dad-

GARY

No! The Rothmans are out!

Gary tears his breakaway ref stripper costume off and storms
off the field... with dignity.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE**INT. HALLWAY/GUS'S BEDROOM - EVENING**

Irene exits the bedroom holding a plate with one bite of cake left on it and a half-full glass of milk.

IRENE

This is really bad. He's not eating.
(then, off look)
Well, what am I supposed to do? I'm stressed! You're up.

GARY

You got some frosting...

Gary wipes Irene's lip, then enters the bedroom to find Gus sitting on the bed, looking bummed.

GUS

Why did you sign me up for soccer if you didn't want me to play?

GARY

I want you to play - the right way.
You hurt someone's feelings out there.

GUS

I was just trying to win.

GARY

But winning isn't everything.

GUS

It is to me.

GARY

What about being compassionate? What about being a team player?

GUS

My team needs me.

GARY

This family is also a team. And we need you if we're going to win the Lego competition.

GUS

I thought you said winning wasn't everything.

GARY

I wasn't finished... By "winning," I mean supporting each other and spending time together as a family. And if we bring home the trophy... so be it.

EXT. COMMUNITY CENTER - ONE WEEK LATER

Gary and Ty (dressed as Caesar) push the Colosseum into the Lego competition on a dolly. They are followed by Irene dressed as Cleopatra (without the wig) and Gus who rides a Lego chariot dressed as Mark Antony.

GARY

Is Susie still mad at me for not endorsing her poison water?

TY

You can support her next idea. That woman is a business machine.

GUS

This blows. Can I play a game?

Gary tosses Gus his cell phone.

IRENE

Where are the bears? Rusty borrowed my black wig when he dressed like Xena on Halloween. I need it back.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - LATER

Gary puts finishing touches on the Colosseum when Irene runs up.

IRENE

I can't find Gus anywhere!

GARY

What do you mean? We're about to be judged.

Gary, Irene and Ty look alarmed as they search the community center looking for Gus.

EXT. COMMUNITY CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

Gary looks outside and stops when he sees Gus playing a pickup basketball game with a group of nine year old street ballers. He watches in SLOW MOTION as Gus holds his own against these tough players, slapping high fives and smiling ear to ear. Irene and Ty join and they watch Gus play.

GARY

He's with his people.

TY

I'm gonna pretend I didn't hear that.

IRENE

Gus, it's starting! You need to come inside!

Gus drops the ball and runs over to his parents.

STREET BALLER

(pissed)

We're in the middle of a game!

GUS

I gotta help my dad with this Lego thing! It's important to him.

This lands on Gary, who recognizes that his seven year old son is displaying more compassion than him.

GARY

(contemplative)

He is a team player.

Gus approaches.

GARY (CONT'D)

Listen... champ. We have to leave now if we're going to make it to your soccer game.

GUS

What about the Colosseum?

GARY

Who cares. Rome fell because they didn't adapt with the times.

Gus smiles, excited.

GUS

Wait, I don't have my uniform.

IRENE

We don't have time to go home and get it.

GARY

We can do this. We are a team.

Gary whips out his phone and dials. SPLIT SCREEN with Susie.

GARY (CONT'D)

Susie! I need you to pick up August's soccer uniform and take it to the field! Stat!

SUSIE

I dunno, it seems like our relationship is only about what I can do for you.

Gary sighs.

GARY

Fine! I will endorse your pooping water.

SUSIE

Be there in ten!

TY

I like this hustle but how are we gonna do this? The soccer field is five minutes away but with traffic and parking it'll take at least half an hour to get there.

Gary picks up the Lego chariot and turns to Gus.

GARY

Your chariot awaits.

Gary and Gus take off down the sidewalk on the chariot.

GARY (CONT'D)

Meet us there!

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

The team is getting destroyed by "The Hellcats." Coach Steven looks distraught but smiles when he sees Gary and Gus (dressed as Mark Antony) heading toward him on the chariot.

COACH STEVEN

My soldier arrives...

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Gus is now dressed in his uniform. Coach Steven puts his hand on Gus's shoulder.

COACH STEVEN

Kill them.

(then, screaming)

Hunter! You're out!

GUS

Wait, I don't want to take his place.
That's not fair.

Hunter approaches, relieved.

HUNTER

It's fair! Totally fair.
(whispers to Gus)
Thank god you came.

Gus and Hunter high five.

HUNTER (CONT'D)

Heads up. When no one was looking, I
vomited a little behind the goal.

JUMP CUTS of Gus playing: A kid on "The Hellcats" pushes Gus.
Gus aggressively steals the ball back and charges down the
field like a complete badass.

HUNTER (CONT'D)

He's awesome.

GARY

(proud)
That's my son.

HUNTER

You teach him those moves?

GARY

Yes. In a way. Actually, no.

Coach Steven stares at something off screen.

COACH STEVEN

What the hell is that?

GARY

(scared)
That's my wife.

The parents mumble in amazement as Irene runs onto the field
dressed like Cleopatra (now in her wig) followed by the three
Bears who are dressed as Egyptian slaves.

IRENE

Did we make it in time?

DONNA BANELLI

(tickled)
That's so "Nanette."

There is a smattering of applause from the team parents.
Irene smiles and takes her bow.

COACH STEVEN

(to Gary)

What is it with you people and
costumes?

TY

What do you mean, "you people"?

Irene and the bears join Gary, Ty and Susie on the sidelines.
Susie hands Gary a bottle of "Movement Water."

IRENE

Are you really going to drink that?

GARY

Yes. She is my twin sister and I
support her even though it has always
turned out badly.

Susie smiles as Gary goes to take a sip then stops.

GARY (CONT'D)

Is this safe?

SUSIE

It's perfectly safe. Pending an FDA
inquiry.

Gary takes a swig.

GARY

It tastes great.

SUSIE

Good! It takes about a half hour to
kick in!

JUMP CUT TO:

Gus does a bicycle kick and scores a goal as Gary, Irene, Ty,
Susie and the bears go nuts, SCREAMING and CATCALLING.

TOM RICE

Nice bicycle kick.

GARY

That's a bicycle kick? He just did a
bicycle kick! THIS IS SO EXCITING!

Gus beams and takes Gary by surprise when he runs over and jumps into his arms, hugging him with his legs wrapped around Gary's waist. Irene's eyes go wide.

IRENE

"The Bachelor hug."

GARY

(overcome)

It's amazing.

Gary holds Gus tight and realizes that his connection with his son is as strong as it ever was. Gus stoically retakes the field as Gary wipes a tear from his eye.

TOM RICE

I thought you weren't into sports.

IRENE

We're not.

GARY

GO GUS!

IRENE

(touched)

You just called him Gus.

DANNY

(breaking down)

He just called him Gus!

COACH STEVEN

(re: game)

Okay, we just need one more to tie this up.

The ref blows the whistle.

REFEREE

That's game! "The Hellcats" win!

The other team rejoices as Coach Steven SCREAMS and falls to his knees as the parents shake their heads, disappointed.

GARY

(ecstatic)

What a great game! I think I just got on "The Winning Train!"

JUMP CUT TO:

Gary and Irene are on the field grasping hands with the other parents in a line to do the "victory tunnel."

GARY (CONT'D)
(uncomfortable)
How long is this gonna take?

IRENE
Are you okay?

GARY
I'm feeling something in my stomach.

COACH STEVEN
It's called pride. Get used to it.

RUSTY
(mouthing to Danny)
Is he gay?

Finally, Gus and his teammates run through the tunnel as Gary let's go of Irene's hands and darts off the field in agony.

COACH STEVEN
What's his rush?

Susie offers Coach Steven a bottle.

SUSIE
"Movement Water"?

Coach Steven begins to chug as Gus spots Gary running off the field.

GUS
EVERYBODY FOLLOW MY DAD!

The team chases after Gary as he screams.

GARY
NO!

END OF ACT THREE

TAGINT. ROTHMAN LIVING ROOM - LATER

The house is packed with the team who talks loudly while eating pizza. *SportsCenter* blares from the TV where Ty holds court. Gary stands with Irene (still dressed as Cleopatra).

GARY

Why are you still wearing that?

IRENE

Because I'm hosting a party.

GARY

This is not *our* party. Why did Gus invite everyone over here?

IRENE

Because this is our life now, Gary! Trust me, we don't want Gus to be that kid on the team with the weird parents.

The bears approach.

DANNY

We just ran out of pizza.

RUSTY

There's about to be a mutiny.

IRENE

What do we do?

Jose Luis nods as he connects his iPhone to a speaker.

JOSE LUIS

Don't worry, I got this.

"Cha Cha Slide" by DJ Casper begins to BLAST and the entire room starts to do the dance. Gary and Irene watch Gus laugh as he dances with his teammates.

GARY

What's going on? He fits in so well with these people.

IRENE

I'll tell you what's going on: he's normal. And if we don't want to mess this up for him we need to convince these people that we're normal too.

Gary considers this, she's right. He looks at Irene.

GARY

You may wanna lose the wig.

Irene looks at Gary dumbfounded as they begin their adventure raising a normal boy in an eccentric home.

GUS

I love this song.

Gus pulls his parents over to do the terrible dance with him as we... FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW