

UNTITLED TOMMY JOHNAGIN PILOT

"Pilot"

written by

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&

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Network Draft

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. TOMMY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT
(TOMMY, MICHELLE)

ANGLE ON: TELEVISION SCREEN. TOMMY JOHNAGIN (31) IS MID-STANDUP SET ON THE LATE SHOW WITH STEPHEN COLBERT.

TOMMY

I went to buy my wife some lingerie recently. They tried to sell me some that cost six hundred dollars. I didn't know lingerie *could* cost six hundred dollars. I'd have better luck in the bedroom if I just gave my wife six hundred dollars. I don't care who you are, if somebody gives you six hundred bucks, you're going to do some things you don't normally do.

CUT OUT TO THE BEDROOM. TOMMY UNPACKS A SUITCASE. HIS WIFE MICHELLE (31, ATTRACTIVE, IN CONSTANT MOTION, BUBBLY, FINDS TOMMY AMUSING EVEN WHEN SHE'S UPSET WITH HIM) LIES IN BED.

MICHELLE

(PLAYFUL) I'd always take the cash.

TOMMY

That's why you're so easy to shop for.

(HOLDS OUT A BILL) I got you this in
New York.

WE GO BACK TO THE SCREEN, TO A REGIONAL SOUTHERN ILLINOIS NEWSCAST. AN ANCHOR SITS BEHIND A DESK.

NEWS ANCHOR

That's Southern Illinois' own Tommy Johnagin. He even gave Benton a shout-out.

SCREEN CUTS BACK TO TOMMY ON COUCH, WITH STEPHEN COLBERT.

TOMMY

I love living in Benton. Picture Mayberry, but in color. I tour on weekends, sometimes I'm lucky enough to do a talk show. But during the week I get to live near my whole family in the same town I grew up. And my wife's great because--

MICHELLE TURNS OFF THE TV.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

That's when you turn it off?

MICHELLE

I've heard it before. (THEN) Your suit looked nice on TV.

TOMMY

You picked it out. You're just complimenting yourself. (BEAT, THEN)
It did make my eyes look pretty.

MICHELLE LAUGHS, PULLS HIM ONTO BED, KISSES HIM. SFX: TOILET RUNNING.

MICHELLE

You hear that? The toilet's been running for the last three days.

TOMMY

You're gonna let a toilet ruin our
sexy moment?

MICHELLE

I didn't know we were having one.

TOMMY

'Cause I haven't started trying yet.
(STARES, THEN SEXY WHISPER) You
forgetting about that toilet now?

MICHELLE

(KISSES HIM, SAME WHISPER) Nooo.
(THEN) Sorry, I'm pooped.

MICHELLE TURNS THE LIGHTS OUT. TOMMY TURNS THEM BACK ON.

TOMMY

We're going to sleep? It's nine forty
five. We just gonna give up on today?
The sun's not all the way down yet.
There are kids playing ball in the
street. Safely.

MICHELLE

Stay up if you want, but I was hoping
we'd go to bed together. I missed you.

TOMMY SMILES. HE MISSED HER TOO. HE GETS READY FOR BED.

TOMMY

They should tell you when you get
married that you have to go to bed at
the same time; like two cell mates who
got processed together.

MICHELLE

(PATS THE BED) Welcome to The Rock.

Lights out at ten. House Hunters till
eleven.

TOMMY GETS INTO BED AND REACHES INTO THE NIGHTSTAND DRAWER.
HE PULLS OUT A BOTTLE OF NYQUIL.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Are you gonna drink Nyquil?

TOMMY

I'm not tired yet. It's a sleep aid.

MICHELLE

That's not healthy.

TOMMY

What makes you think that?

MICHELLE

I'm a *doctor*.

TOMMY

I just want you to know that if you're
mad (TAKES A SWIG OF NYQUIL), you only
have fifteen minutes to express that.
Because it's about to be tomorrow.

AS TOMMY TURNS THE LIGHTS OUT...

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

SCENE A

INT. TOMMY'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - MORNING
(TOMMY, ASHLEY)

TOMMY ENTERS THE BATHROOM HOLDING ASHLEY (3) SLUNG OVER HIS SHOULDER. SHE'S LAUGHING.

TOMMY

(PLAYFUL) Has anyone seen Ashley? Is she in the bathroom? Is she--

HOLDING ASHLEY BY THE ANKLES AND UPSIDE DOWN, TOMMY NOTICES THE TOILET RUNNING. HE SETS HER DOWN INTO THE BATHTUB, AS HE'S FIXATED BY THE TOILET.

TOMMY ASSESSES THE TOILET AND JIGGLES THE HANDLE. IT'S STILL RUNNING. TOMMY LIFTS UP THE TANK LID AND PEERS INSIDE. HE LOOKS CONFUSED. HE SETS IT BACK DOWN AND JIGGLES THE HANDLE AGAIN. THE TOILET STOPS RUNNING.

EXCITED, HE IMMEDIATELY THROWS HIS HANDS IN THE AIR. HE TURNS TO ASHLEY, WHO HAS NO REACTION.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Nothing?

CUT TO:

SCENE B

INT. TOMMY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING
(TOMMY, ASHLEY, MICHELLE, GLEN)

TOMMY PUTS ASHLEY IN A HIGHCHAIR.

TOMMY

I love you baby.

ASHLEY

I want Mommy.

TOMMY

Have fun making breakfast by yourself.

TOMMY PULLS OPEN THE BOTTOM FREEZER TO GET A WAFFLE.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Daddy'll get your waffles, (NOTICING
SOMETHING) and your tambourine... and
my watch? (PULLS WATCH FROM FREEZER)
Did you put this here? Because Daddy
blamed Mommy for losing it. Daddy told
Mommy he *specifically* remembered
handing it to her and her putting it
in her purse... made a pretty big deal
about it.

TOMMY THINKS FOR A BEAT, THEN PUTS THE WATCH BACK IN THE
FREEZER AND CLOSES IT. SFX: DOORBELL

RESET TO:

INT. TOMMY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

TOMMY OPENS THE FRONT DOOR TO REVEAL A HANDYMAN, GLEN (35,
TOOL BELT, ETC).

GLEN

Saw you on Colbert! Loved your suit.

MICHELLE ENTERS DRESSED FOR WORK, HOLDING ASHLEY.

MICHELLE

Thanks Glen.

GLEN

(TO TOMMY) Oh, you were funny, too.

TOMMY

As long as you liked the suit. (THEN)

What are you doing here, Glen?

MICHELLE

He's here to fix the toilet. (TO GLEN)

Second door on your left.

GLEN CROSSES OFF TOWARDS THE BATHROOM.

TOMMY

(A LITTLE COCKY) I'm afraid he drove
all the way over here for nothing.
Because I fixed the toilet.

MICHELLE

You did? That's a nice surprise.

TOMMY

What's surprising is that you called a
handyman. A handyman isn't even a real
job. A handyman is a man you pay money
to be a man at your house. (AS GLEN RE-
ENTERS) When a handyman comes over and
there's already a man there, it's
confusing. Right, Glen?

GLEN

I just thought you guys were getting divorced. (TO MICHELLE) The toilet seems fine.

TOMMY

That's right, Glen. You can go home. This house already has a man.

GLEN

I can't go home. I'm booked up all day.

TOMMY

You know what I mean, Glen.

TOMMY SEES GLEN'S TOOLBOX AND HANDS IT TO HIM.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Don't forget your lunch. (LAUGHS AT OWN JOKE, THEN) I know it's tools.

GLEN EXITS. MICHELLE LOOKS AT TOMMY, PLEASED.

MICHELLE

This is new. We've been married five years and I didn't know you could fix stuff.

TOMMY

Probably because I don't make a big deal about it. If I told you every time I fixed something, that's all we'd ever talk about.

MICHELLE

Okay. (SINCERE) Can you do the rest of the stuff on the list I had for Glen?

TOMMY

The rest of the stuff?

MICHELLE

I know there's a couple things on here that are pretty complicated.

TOMMY KNOWS HE'S CAUGHT, BUT NO WAY HE ADMITS FAILURE.

TOMMY

Maybe complicated to the untrained eye. (GRABS LIST) When you come home, it'll seem like a brand new house.

SHE KISSES HIM AND CROSSES OFF. TOMMY STARES AT THE LIST.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

(TO ASHLEY, UNDER BREATH) Seriously, Daddy might have to buy a brand new house.

CUT TO:

SCENE C

EXT. BENTON MAIN STREET- AFTERNOON
(TOMMY, MICHELLE, JACK, ASHLEY, KIM)

WE SEE A PICTURESQUE MAIN STREET OF A SMALL TOWN. IT IS NORMAN ROCKWELL, COMPLETE WITH UNIQUE SHOPS, GASLAMP STREET LIGHTS, AND ALMOST NO TRAFFIC. EVERYONE HAS A SMILE.

JACK (TOMMY'S DAD, 55, BLUE COLLAR BILL CLINTON, CHARMING RASCAL, FLIRTS WITH EVERY WOMAN, ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES BUT HANDSOME, SAYS EVERYTHING WITH A SMILE) LEANS ON AN EMPTY NEWSPAPER DISPENSER.

A DELIVERY MAN ENTERS AND LOADS IT WITH PAPERS. AS THE DELIVERY MAN TURNS AWAY, WITHOUT MISSING A BEAT, JACK SLIDES HIS HAND INTO THE DISPENSER DOOR BEFORE IT CLOSES AND TAKES OUT A FEW PAPERS. IT'S A VERY SMOOTH MANEUVER.

TOMMY WALKS UP, PUSHING ASHLEY IN A STROLLER.

JACK

Gooooood morning, son. Loved you on TV last night. They put it in the paper. Front page! Bought every one they had.

JACK SHOWS TOMMY THE PAPER.

TOMMY

Aw man, why do they always use my high school football picture?

ANGLE ON: YOUNG TOMMY IN FULL PADS BELOW A HEADLINE THAT SAYS "LOCAL COMEDIAN MAKES BIG SPLASH." A LOCAL, KIM (40'S, ATTRACTIVE), APPROACHES.

JACK

Good morning, beautiful. You leave your husband yet?

KIM

(CHARMED) Oh, Jack. (THEN) I saw your son on TV last night. He's almost as funny as you are.

TOMMY

I'm right here, Kim. My name's Tommy.

JACK

(TO KIM) You know how he got the name Tommy? When he was born, his face was so round and red, he looked like one of those little tomatoes. You know, they call em Tommy-toes.

KIM

That's such a sweet story.

KIM SMILES AT JACK AND EXITS. JACK WATCHES HER WALK AWAY.

TOMMY

Mom said you were working the day I was born.

JACK

Maybe I'm thinking of the day after.

TOMMY

They say you never forget the day *after* your first kid is born.

RESET TO:

INT. LINDA'S DINER - MOMENTS LATER

(TOMMY, JACK, MICHELLE, LINDA, ASHLEY, STACY, EXTRAS)

TOMMY, ASHLEY AND JACK ENTER A SMALL TOWN DINER. BREAKFAST/COFFEE IN THE MORNING, DINNER/BEER AT NIGHT. THERE IS A WALL DEDICATED TO TOMMY. LOCALS ARE ALWAYS AROUND. TWO OF THEM GREET JACK LIKE HE'S THE MAYOR.

TOMMY

Everyone in this town loves you.

LINDA (TOMMY'S MOM, 55, PUT TOGETHER, RELIGIOUS, STILL TREATS HER ADULT CHILDREN LIKE BABIES) THE OWNER OF THE DINER, WALKS OUT FROM BEHIND THE COUNTER HOLDING A NEWSPAPER.

LINDA

(TO TOMMY) Why'd you bring him?

TOMMY

(TO JACK) Almost everyone. Hey Mom.

SHE GIVES ASHLEY A SERIES OF GRANDMA KISSES.

JACK

There she is. The one I let get away twenty years ago... and then again seventeen years ago, but that was just a one time thing.

LINDA

You know the rules, Jack. You want to eat in my place, you sit there.

SHE POINTS TO A BAD COUNTER SEAT, FURTHEST FROM EVERYTHING.

JACK

No problem, I love Jack's corner. You know my motto, if you want to meet new people, sit next to the bathroom.

JACK SMILES, CROSSES OFF AND SHAKES HANDS WITH A PATRON EXITING THE MEN'S ROOM.

LINDA

How's my TV star? It's so exciting to have a celebrity here.

MICHELLE ENTERS.

TOMMY

Mom, I'm not a celebrity. I fix
toilets without the help of another
man, just like everyone else.

TOMMY GIVES MICHELLE A WINK. LINDA HOLDS UP THE NEWSPAPER
WITH A PICTURE OF TOMMY ON THE FRONT.

LINDA

Look at this.

MICHELLE

Oooh, front page.

LINDA

But it's below the fold. You should be
at the top. I'm calling the editor.

TOMMY FLIPS THE PAPER OVER, REVEALING THE TOP SECTION STORY.

TOMMY

There was a fire. People died.

LINDA

(MAKES SIGN OF THE CROSS ON CHEST,
BEAT) I'm still calling. (THEN)
Michelle, did you get my texts?

MICHELLE

(CAUGHT) Texts? *Messages*? On my phone?

TOMMY

Mom, are you over-texting again?

LINDA

No! (SHOWING TOMMY HER PHONE) See?

TOMMY

I didn't text her this much when I was
trying to sleep with her.

MICHELLE

Yes you did.

TOMMY

(NO SHIT) I was trying to sleep with you. (READS LINDA'S TEXTS) "Michelle, we should hang out more. Have you been to that new spa?" (SCROLLING) "Just let me know when you want to hang out." Ten minutes later, "are you okay?" followed by an ambulance emoji.

LINDA

I was worried. It's just so fun when we're together. Remember last time, when everyone thought we were sisters?

MICHELLE

You told them we were sisters.

MICHELLE TURNS TO TOMMY, HER EYES GIVING A "HELP ME!" LOOK.

TOMMY

(TO LINDA) You guys can hang out tomorrow night at family dinner.

STACY (21, TOMMY'S SISTER, GREAT MOM BY DAY, PARTY GIRL BY NIGHT) ENTERS CARRYING HER SON KENNETH (2). SHE WEARS A BACHELORETTE SASH AND A TIARA. JACK CALLS OVER.

JACK

You guys doing family dinners again?

STACY

Yeah Dad, every week. (GOES STRAIGHT TO LINDA) Thanks for watching Kenneth.

(MORE)

STACY (CONT'D)

Only feed him organic, no sugar and he *has* to nap two hours. He needs sleep so his little body can grow.

MICHELLE

Ashley's been sleeping like a champ lately. (RE: SASH) Also, are you getting married?

STACY

They do two for one lunch drinks at Applebees. If I wear this, guys buy me stuff and I almost never have to sleep with them.

TOMMY

And yet we can't give Kenneth a cookie.

STACY

Mom, I'll be home late. Don't wait up. See everyone at family dinner.

LINDA

(TO JACK) Except you.

JACK

Why can't I come? I never get to be together with everyone.

LINDA

You're with everyone right now.

WIDE SHOT: JACK SITS AWAY FROM EVERYONE IN CORNER.

JACK

You don't see how this is different?

LINDA CROSSES OFF WITH KENNETH, IGNORING HIM.

MICHELLE

(CALLING OFF) Sorry Jack.

JACK

I'll be fine. I'm gonna steal this
coffee mug.

TOMMY

Still can't believe you guys got
divorced. (THEN) I better get home.
(RE: LIST) Got a lot of stuff to fix.

JACK LAUGHS. TOMMY GIVES HIM A LOOK.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

What's so funny? I fixed the toilet
this morning.

JACK

You need a new toilet?

TOMMY

I said I fixed it! And I'm gonna fix
everything else. That's what a man
does.

FLIP CUT TO:

SCENE D

INT. TOMMY'S KITCHEN - LATER
(TOMMY, GLEN, JACK, ASHLEY)

THE FLOOR AND COUNTER ARE COVERED WITH TOOLS AND PARTS. GLEN (WEARING A "WHERE'S THE BEEF" T-SHIRT) STANDS WITH TOMMY, WHO LOOKS DISHEVELED. ASHLEY IS IN HER HIGH CHAIR.

GLEN

What the hell happened here?

TOMMY

I'm not ready to talk about it, Glen.

(HANDS HIM LIST) Can you fix everything on this list?

GLEN

(LOOKING AT THE LIST) Everything already has a check mark by it.

TOMMY

The check marks are for effort, Glen.

TOMMY HANDS GLEN A NEW WRENCH.

GLEN

I have my own tools.

TOMMY

No, I can't seem to get the price tag off this. You know what? I'll just add it to the list.

GLEN KNEELS DOWN TO LOOK UNDER THE SINK. TOMMY STOPS HIM.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

I just want you to know, if you see my wife, this never happened. I fixed all this. I'm the man of this house.

GLEN

So... you want me to lie to your wife?

TOMMY

No. I just want you gone when she gets home.

GLEN

But your wife talks to my wife. What if she finds out?

TOMMY

She won't. It's a one time thing.

GLEN

I've never done anything like this.

TOMMY

This'll be our little secret.

GLEN

(POINTING AT ASHLEY) What about her?

TOMMY

She's cool.

CUT TO:

SCENE E

INT. TOMMY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

TOMMY (HOLDING ASHLEY) SITS ON THE COUCH AND WATCHES THE PRICE IS RIGHT.

VOICE ONE (O.S.)

Twelve hundred dollars, Drew.

VOICE TWO (O.S.)

I'll do twelve... oh one.

TOMMY

Oh! He twelve oh one'd you, that son
of a bitch.

JUST THEN, JACK ENTERS THE FRONT DOOR. HE PUSHES A TOILET
ATOP A SKATEBOARD DOLLY.

JACK

(PROUD) You said you needed a new
toilet.

TOMMY POPS UP QUICKLY, NERVOUS THAT SOMEONE'S THERE.

TOMMY

I said I *fixed* the toilet. You can't
be here right now!

JACK

Guess how much I paid for it.

TOMMY TAKES A NERVOUS GLANCE INTO THE KITCHEN.

TOMMY

I don't have time for your white trash
Price Is Right! (JACK DOESN'T MOVE)
Fine. A hundred dollars.

JACK

Maybe you would. I paid three tires
and a shotgun for it.

TOMMY

You expected me to guess that? It
would have taken a week before I
stopped guessing money. Even if I got
around to guessing tires, I would have
guessed four.

JACK

Only a sucker would pay four tires.

SFX: SOUNDS COMING FROM KITCHEN. TOMMY PANICS AND USHERS JACK
TOWARD THE DOOR.

TOMMY

Look, I don't need your toilet. Every
place in my house that needs a toilet
already has a toilet.

JACK

(HURT) I didn't come here for you to
throw your money in my face.

JACK TURNS TO LEAVE. JUST THEN, GLEN EMERGES FROM THE
KITCHEN. HE'S WEARING A TANK TOP AND HOLDS THE LIST.

GLEN

I gotta get some tools from my truck.

GLEN SEES JACK, FREEZES, CAUGHT.

GLEN (CONT'D)

(TO TOMMY) Great, now he knows! I told
you this was a bad idea!

TOMMY

You wanted this as much as I did,
Glen!

GLEN

Now our wives are gonna find out, and
everyone in town's gonna be talking
about it!

GLEN MOVES TOWARDS THE DOOR.

TOMMY

Don't go, Glen. I need you.

JACK

What the hell's going on here?

GLEN

I can't do this anymore.

GLEN HANDS TOMMY THE PART HE WAS HOLDING.

TOMMY

But I bought that for *you*, Glen.

GLEN SHAKES HIS HEAD AT TOMMY, AND WALKS OUT.

CUT TO:

SCENE H

INT. TOMMY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER
(TOMMY, JACK, ASHLEY)

JACK AND TOMMY STAND OVER THE SINK. ASHLEY IN HIGHCHAIR.

TOMMY

(HOLDING LIST) I'm screwed.

JACK

(BENDS DOWN) Lemme take a look.

TOMMY

(BENDS DOWN) If it helps, I measured that pipe. It's fourteen and two of those little lines.

JACK

I can take care of this for ya.

TOMMY

Really? Thanks! (TO ASHLEY) Say thank you, Papaw. (NO RESPONSE) Say thank you for fixing it Papaw. She talks all the time, she's just not good under pressure. SAY THANK YOU FOR F-F-F-

JACK

It's okay. I've seen kids talk before.

TOMMY

If you need any tools I have a hammer, and a smaller hammer, for when I want to hammer things but littler. And a screwdriver to tighten the frames on my glasses.

CUT TO:

SCENE J

INT. TOMMY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING
(TOMMY, MICHELLE, JACK)

TOMMY SITS NEXT TO ASHLEY AND EATS A COOKIE. SHE WANTS SOME.

TOMMY

Fine, but don't tell mommy.

HE HANDS HER A COOKIE. THE DOOR OPENS. MICHELLE ENTERS. TOMMY GRABS THE COOKIE FROM ASHLEY AND HURLS IT ACROSS THE ROOM.

MICHELLE

Mommy's home.

MICHELLE CROSSES TO TOMMY AND ASHLEY AND KISSES BOTH. WITHOUT SKIPPING A BEAT, SHE BEGINS TO PICK UP ANY ITEM OUT OF PLACE IN THE LIVING ROOM. SHE IS LIKE THE ANAL-RETENTIVE TASMANIAN DEVIL, MOVING AROUND THE ROOM AND CLEANING WITHOUT COMPLAINT.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Babe, your mom texted me four more times about hanging out. She even tried to facetime me.

TOMMY

That's actually pretty impressive. When she got that phone she asked me where the wireless router plugged in.

MICHELLE LAUGHS JUST AS JACK ENTERS THE LIVING ROOM. HE PICKS UP THE COOKIE THAT TOMMY TOSSED EARLIER.

JACK

Anybody got dibs on this floor cookie?
(INSPECTS) Ugh. Raisins.

JACK DROPS THE COOKIE BACK ON THE FLOOR.

MICHELLE

Jack, what are you doing here?
Besides littering.

JACK

(COVERS) Uh, I've got this thing on my neck. Since you're a doctor, I'm hoping you'll look at it...for free.

MICHELLE

I'm a pediatrician.

JACK

Can't you just look at it, and imagine it smaller?

MICHELLE

(LOOKS, GRAVE) Oh no. It's chocolate.

JACK

Makes sense.

MICHELLE WALKS TO THE KITCHEN, CALLS BACK TO TOMMY:

MICHELLE

By the way, I looked everywhere, you never gave me your watch.

TOMMY

Could you just look one more time?

MICHELLE (O.S.)

Whoa, the sink's fixed!

TOMMY

(CALLING OFF) Sure is!

MICHELLE (O.S.)

And the door to the dishwasher!

TOMMY

Yep!

MICHELLE WALKS OUT HOLDING GLEN'S "WHERE'S THE BEEF SHIRT."

MICHELLE

Where's the beef?

TOMMY

(THINKING FAST) Yeah. It's my work shirt. I wear it when I work. When I'm done working, I take it off. Wherever I'm done. (THEN, OFF HER SMILE) What's that smile for?

MICHELLE

It's for you. I shouldn't have doubted you.

TOMMY

Well, we all make mistakes.

MICHELLE

Hey, why don't I put Ashley to bed and then order us some dinner from that pizza place you love so much.

MICHELLE KISSES HIM, GRABS ASHLEY, EXITS. TOMMY CAN'T WIPE THE SMILE OFF HIS FACE. JACK SIDLES UP NEXT TO TOMMY.

JACK

That must feel nice.

TOMMY

It does. I owe you one.

JACK

Get me into that family dinner.

TOMMY

Who cashes in an "owe you one" that quick?

JACK

Come on, son. I'm family, too. My kids and grandkids have dinner every week, and I can't be there? That stings.

TOMMY

I'd love for you to be there, but until mom dies, it's too difficult.

JACK

(RESIGNED) Yeah... (THEN) Almost as difficult as keeping my mouth shut about who fixed all this stuff.

TOMMY

I can't believe you're blackmailing me.

JACK

"Blackmail" is the extortion of money by threats to divulge discrediting information. (THEN) I just want in that dinner or I'll tell Michelle everything.

TOMMY

When you're really old, and you want to live with us, but instead I put you in one of those weird homes where they mess with you at night - I want you to think back to this moment.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE K

INT. DINER - DAY

(TOMMY, STACY, LINDA, JACK)

TOMMY WALKS IN AND SEES STACY, A LITTLE HUNGOVER, SITTING AND HAVING COFFEE (KENNETH NEARBY). SHE WATCHES A PREGNANCY TEST AD ON THE TV BEHIND THE COUNTER.

STACY

I hate that pregnancy test. That's the one that said I was pregnant.

TOMMY

You were pregnant. The test didn't make you pregnant. A bus boy at a Mexican restaurant did.

STACY

Sometimes the best things in life come from a bottomless margarita. (TO KENNETH) Yes they do.

TOMMY LAUGHS AND CROSSES OVER TO LINDA. SHE HOLDS UP A NEWSPAPER. SHE'S CUTOUT THE STORY ABOUT TOMMY AND CRUDELY PASTED IT OVER THE STORY ABOUT THE FIRE.

LINDA

Look, you're above the fold now.

TOMMY

Now it says "Comedian kills three in fire."

LINDA QUICKLY CUTS THE NEWSPAPER A LITTLE MORE, THEN AS SHE PUTS IT ON "THE WALL OF TOMMY"...

LINDA

There. Now it says "Comedian kills."
That's what you guys say, right?

TOMMY

So... you know how you always say
you'd do anything for me?

LINDA

(LEADING) Anything *but*?

TOMMY

(RESIGNED) Denounce your lord and
savior Jesus Christ.

LINDA

It's the only thing I wouldn't do for
my baby boy.

TOMMY

Well, if you won't do that... I'm
wondering if, maybe, Dad could come to
a family dinner.

LINDA

The only way that man's coming into my
house is in an urn, so I can flush him
down the toilet.

REVEAL JACK IS SEATED AT "JACK'S CORNER", LISTENING.

JACK

That's why I fell in love with her.
Strong point of view. (RE: CUP) Could
you top me off? Brought my own cup.

LINDA

(GRABS JACK'S CUP) That's mine. Go.

SHE POINTS TO THE DOOR. JACK EXITS.

LINDA (CONT'D)

He can't come. The only reason I even let him in here is because he's one-sixteenth Cherokee and I'm afraid of lawsuits.

TOMMY

Mom, his grandkids are there, and wouldn't it be great for everybody if you guys could find a way to co-exist? Please? For me?

LINDA

(THINKS, THEN) You know what? If Jesus can break bread with the dregs of the earth, than I guess I can, too.

TOMMY

Jesus saves me again. Thanks Mom. I owe you one.

TOMMY GOES IN FOR A HUG.

LINDA

Get Michelle to spend some one-on-one time with me.

TOMMY

You know there's a value to having someone owe you one, you don't have to cash it in right away.

TOMMY EXITS.

CUT TO:

SCENE 1

INT. TOMMY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING
(TOMMY, MICHELLE, ASHLEY)

MICHELLE IS SITTING ON THE COUCH EATING A BROWNIE. ASHLEY SITS NEXT TO HER, STARING AT THE BROWNIE. MICHELLE DECIDES TO SHARE SOME BROWNIE.

MICHELLE

You can have some, but don't tell

Daddy.

TOMMY ENTERS. MICHELLE GRABS THE BROWNIE AND THROWS IT ACROSS THE ROOM.

TOMMY

There's my girls.

TOMMY CROSSES OVER TO ASHLEY AND GIVES HER A KISS, THEN COVERS ASHLEY'S EYES AND GIVES MICHELLE A ROMANTIC KISS ON THE MOUTH.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

You know how you said you'd do
anything for me?

MICHELLE

I never said that.

TOMMY

It was in our vows.

MICHELLE

It was in your vows, I didn't say it.
There's a lot of things I wouldn't do
for you. Murder someone, go vegan, be
in a cover band...

TOMMY

Can you hang out with my mom?

MICHELLE

I'd rather be in an all vegan cover band... that murders people.

TOMMY

Come on, just once. It would mean a lot to her.

MICHELLE

You know I love your mom, but she can be a little--

TOMMY

Fun? (MICHELLE SHAKES "NO") Life of the party?

MICHELLE

You're getting colder. Look, when it's just the two of us, she can be a little much.

TOMMY

Please? For me? You don't have to be best friends. If it gets boring you guys can talk about all the things I do that bother you.

MICHELLE

(PLAYFUL) Like your choice of shoes, how loudly you breathe in your sleep, how you're always--

TOMMY

I don't need the list.

MICHELLE

I really don't want to do this, but
you probably didn't want to spend all
day fixing everything.

TOMMY

Who would?

MICHELLE

Fine, I'm in. I'll talk to your mom
and we'll figure out when we can do
it.

TOMMY

No need. You're going shopping before
family dinner tomorrow. She said be
ready by seven a.m.

OFF MICHELLE'S LOOK WE:

CUT TO:

SCENE M

EXT. LINDA'S HOUSE - EVENING

(TOMMY, ASHLEY, MICHELLE, STACY, JACK, LINDA, KENNETH, WOMAN)

TOMMY, HOLDING ASHLEY, WALKS UP TO LINDA'S PORCH.

TOMMY

Are you ready for family dinner?

ASHLEY NODS "YES".

TOMMY (CONT'D)

(STEALTH) Did you put Daddy's freezer
watch in Mommy's purse like I asked?

ASHLEY NODS "YES" AS TOMMY REACHES FOR THE DOOR. THEY ENTER
THE HOUSE TO FIND JACK, DRESSED IN HIS VERSION OF NICE. (BAD
DRESS SHIRT, OLDER SLACKS AND TIE, WORK BOOTS.)

TOMMY (CONT'D)

There's Papaw. Say 'Hi Papaw.' (NO
RESPONSE) Say H-I- PA- P--

JACK PUTS HIS HAND UP TO STOP THIS FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.

JACK

There's my sweetie pie! (TO TOMMY) No
one's here yet, so I let myself in.

TOMMY

So you're starting the dinner off with
breaking and entering?

JACK

Breaking and entering is illegal entry
into a building for the purposes of
committing an offence. Usually that
offence will be theft.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

I was invited here, and the door was unlocked. I *am* taking this coffee cup, but it's mine.

TOMMY

I did a lot to get you here, so can you try not to be an ass?

JACK

Relax, I got this. (THEN) I don't know how I'm the bad guy here. You're the one who lied to your wife.

TOMMY

I didn't lie. It was an omission of truth. (BEAT) Or a white lie. Or a fiblet. It doesn't matter. No one got hurt.

THE DOOR OPENS AND MICHELLE ENTERS, HOLDING SHOPPING BAGS.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Wow, you look gorgeous.

MICHELLE

Wait for it.

THEN, LINDA WALKS IN, HOLDING SHOPPING BAGS, DRESSED *EXACTLY* THE SAME AS MICHELLE.

TOMMY

Oh no. I think I read a Stephen King book that starts like this.

LINDA

(BEAMING) How great is this?

TOMMY

It's really great. I bet it's all Michelle will want to talk about when we get home.

MICHELLE

(HIDES FEELINGS) You're right about that. And in these bags, we have *four* more matching outfits. (SHE HUGS TOMMY TOO TIGHT, WHISPERS) We even did a bra fitting. Did you know your mom's left boob is bigger than her right?

JACK

I could've told you that.

TOMMY

(TO MICHELLE) Could you let go? I forgot our safe word.

STACY ENTERS FROM UPSTAIRS, LOOKS AT MICHELLE:

STACY

Whoa, Michelle, when'd you get a stunt double?

TOMMY

(DEFUSING) You know what, it's grown on me. I think we should all be dressed alike.

SFX: DOORBELL. TOMMY CROSSES TO THE DOOR.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

There's the food. You know what, I'm excited to sit at a table with my family and have a nice dinner. This is gonna be great.

TOMMY OPENS THE DOOR TO FIND A WOMAN (MID 20'S, ATTRACTIVE.)

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Who are you?

JACK

That's my date.

TOMMY

That can't be true.

LINDA

You brought a date?

JACK

Tommy brought a date.

TOMMY

She's my *wife!*

LINDA

(TO JACK) How old is she?!

JACK

A gentleman never asks a lady her age.

Plus, I don't care.

LINDA

I knew he'd ruin dinner! I can't believe I let you talk me into this.

TOMMY

Maybe they're getting serious and he wanted her to meet the family.

JACK

(ASIDE, TO TOMMY) Too many irons in the fire to be gettin' serious.

TOMMY

Stop talking about your irons.

LINDA

Jack's always had irons. (TO MICHELLE) I'll tell you some stories next week on our hike.

MICHELLE

Next week? So us hanging out is a weekly thing. Wonderful. I've been looking for something to do on my day off. (TO TOMMY, STARES DAGGERS) I generally just relax because I--

TOMMY

--Deserve it! For being such a great mom and *forgiving wife*. Ashley and I can't thank you enough for that.

Right, Ash?

IT'S A TENSE QUIET MOMENT. TOMMY IS SCANNING THE ROOM LOOKING AT THE MESS HE'S MADE, THEN, ASHLEY STRUGGLES TO SAY:

ASHLEY

(BEAT) Thank you for fixing...Papaw.

TOMMY'S EYES GO WIDE. HE KNOWS WHAT SHE JUST SAID.

MICHELLE

(TO ASHLEY) Thank you for what, baby?

TOMMY

Just say you're welcome. We're trying to teach her manners.

MICHELLE

(LEANS DOWN) What are you trying to say, Ash?

TOMMY IS BEHIND MICHELLE, SHAKING HIS HEAD NO TO ASHLEY. ASHLEY CONCENTRATES, THEN, NAILING IT:

ASHLEY

Thank you for fixing it... Papaw.

LINDA

(EXCITED) Did she say grandma?!

JACK

No, she said Papaw. That's me! I win!

STACY

She also said 'Thank you for fixing it.'

TOMMY

Who cares what she said?! She's three!

It's not gonna change the world.

MICHELLE STANDS UP AND LOOKS AT JACK, AND THEN TOMMY.

MICHELLE

(TO JACK) Why were you at my house yesterday?

TOMMY

He told you... it was that chocolate
skin cancer.

MICHELLE GLARES AT TOMMY.

MICHELLE

Did you... have your dad fix
everything?

TOMMY

No. (THEN) Glen did most of it.

MICHELLE STARES IN DISBELIEF AT TOMMY.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Yes, I lied. I'm an idiot! I ruined
dinner. Dad, I love you, but if you
want to come to these dinners you
can't bring a Hooters girl.

WOMAN

I was fired from Hooters.

TOMMY

You can sit this conversation out if
you want. (RE: LINDA AND MICHELLE'S
MATCHING OUTFITS) I'm also the reason
this happened. Mom, I think it's great
that you want to spend time with
Michelle, but I can't have the woman I
have sex with dressed like my mom. I
physically can't.

(MORE)

TOMMY (CONT'D)

(LONG BEAT) I'll admit that I made tonight happen for all the wrong reasons. But I'll also admit that I like the idea of all of us being together again, as a family. Even if it's just for a couple hours a week. I'm sorry about everything. But I think we can still sit down and try to have a nice dinner. What do you say?

A BEAT OF SILENCE AS EVERYONE ACTUALLY CONSIDERS THIS.

WOMAN

I'm in.

TOMMY

I said sit this one out!

THIS RUINS THE MOMENT AND SENDS EVERYBODY LEAVING IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. TOMMY IS LEFT ALONE WITH ASHLEY. HE LOOKS AT HER FOR A MOMENT, THEN:

TOMMY (CONT'D)

I thought you were cool.

CUT TO:

SCENE P

INT. TOMMY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT
(TOMMY, MICHELLE)

MICHELLE IS THERE WHEN TOMMY ENTERS.

TOMMY

Ashley's down for the night. I read her *Princess Baby* nine times. It's like *The Wire*. There's so many things you don't catch the first eight times. Plus, at the end, you find yourself rooting for the drug dealers.

MICHELLE

(PLAYFULLY, RIBBING) Why didn't you just have Glen read to her? And then to cover it up, you could get your mom to remarry your dad.

TOMMY

Dad's not ready to settle down.

TOMMY AND MICHELLE GET INTO BED.

MICHELLE

Why didn't you just say you couldn't fix those things?

TOMMY

When I fixed the toilet, it felt good. And yes, I just jiggled the handle. Then, when you *thought* I fixed everything, you were so happy.

(MORE)

TOMMY (CONT'D)

So I lied, and told more lies to cover that lie. I was in too deep. I was like Leonardo Dicaprio, from *The Departed*. Or Matt Damon. From *The Departed*.

MICHELLE

You're definitely not Leo.

MICHELLE GIVES TOMMY A SMILE.

TOMMY

Look, when you need something done around here, I want to be able to do it. So when I can't, it's hard for me to admit that.

MICHELLE

You do plenty: You're a great dad. You're a great husband. And if something breaks, you can pay someone to fix it. If I cared that much about being with someone who could fix things, I'd marry Glen.

TOMMY

He'd fix stuff then show you where the beef was.

MICHELLE LAUGHS.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Thanks babe. And I promise, no more stupid lies from this guy.

MICHELLE

While we're apologizing, I need to say
I'm sorry, too. You were right. Your
watch was in my purse.

TOMMY

(BEAT) Apology accepted.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

INT. TOMMY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT
(TOMMY, MICHELLE)

TOMMY PACKS TO HEAD BACK OUT ON THE ROAD, CALLS OFF INTO THE BATHROOM:

TOMMY

I'm leaving in an hour. What are you
doing in there?

MICHELLE COMES OUT IN A CUTE NIGHTIE.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

(EXCITED) Are we having sex? (THEN) Do
you know we only had sex one time last
week?

MICHELLE

I didn't know you were keeping track.

TOMMY

It was one. I didn't do it on purpose.
I kept track of none, and added that
time that we did it.

MICHELLE

We're not gonna have sex. (KISSES HIM)
We're gonna make love.

TOMMY

Do I need to put a suit and deodorant
on?

MICHELLE SMILES AND STARTS TO CLEAR THE BED.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW