THINGS YOU SHOULDN'T SAY PAST MIDNIGHT

EPISODE 1

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2nd Revision March 27, 2014 In darkness, a first TITLE CARD is followed by a second:

TITLE CARD: Things You Shouldn't Past Midnight

TITLE CARD: #1 - something horribly offensive

We start to hear bickering as we FADE UP ON:

INT. MARK'S STUDIO APARTMENT/THERAPY OFFICE - MIDNIGHT

Ten characters (EVERYONE EXCEPT FOR DEAN BLACKMAN, PEDRO 1, AND GENE) are crowded into Mark's small, but tastefully designed apartment.

SUPERTITLE: 12:01 am

Each person argues with another until a subtly commanding chime repeats and silences them. They turn to MARK, 30-ish, the thoughtful, cute, gay therapist in charge of the chime.

MARK

Hi. Oh, that worked so well. I'll have to thank Mrs. Prufrock. She gave it to me from her Malaysian adventure.

(they're looking at him) Anyhoo. Thank you for coming. As you all know by now, I'm Mark, the Midnight Therapist. I believe these late hours can release an honesty and spontaneity that you don't find during the day. And though I generally do private sessions at just 60 dollars an hour-

MRS. ABRAMSON

50 minutes.

MARK Thank you, Mrs. Abramson.

MRS. ABRAMSON (to Mr. Abramson) See that? He won't even call me Estelle anymore because of you!

MARK

Okay, okay, tempers are high, I know. That's why we're here. Last night was traumatic for us all. Some of us barely even know each other but fate brought us together. (MORE) MARK (CONT'D) I'm hoping that coming here tonight can give us an opportunity to understand what happened and how we can all deal with it.

GRACE (thumbs up; mouths) You're doing great!

MARK

Thanks, Grace. So who's gonna go first? (no response) Come on. Don't be shy. That's what Midnight Therapy is all about. Let the subconscious just float on out there. Like a raft. A dingy. A...

LEO Lily pad?

MARK

A lily pad.

NANCY

I'll go.

MARK Great. Thanks, Nancy. Why don't you tell us how it started for you.

NANCY Well some of you know, but Benjy and I--

BEN Ben-- is fine.

NANCY

Had a great evening: dinner and a movie, then up to the roof of his office at UCLA to see the stars. But when we went *into* his office--

BEN That's where things got a little ... dicey.

EXT. DOOR OF BEN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The plaque on the door reads "Professor Benjamin Perlmutter, Assistant Professor of English."

NANCY (O.S.) Come on, slip it in! BEN (O.S.) I'm trying! SUPERTITLE: The Night Before, 12:01 am NANCY (O.S.) What's the problem? BEN (O.S.) It's dark. NANCY (O.S.) Let me. BEN (O.S.) I got it. NANCY (O.S.) I want it so bad. BEN (O.S.) So do I. NANCY (O.S.) Then put it in! BEN (O.S.) I am trying! We hear a key scraping. NANCY (O.S.) What are you using? A medieval dungeon key? Then a key unlocks the door, which is pushed open by BEN, the sweet, if nerdy young Jewish professor. NANCY, his blonde, blue-eyed, younger girlfriend, pushes him inside where he clicks on the desk-lamp. NANCY (CONT'D) I have fantasized about this since back when I was your student. BEN

You have?

NANCY (sexy) Yeahhh, Professor Perlmutter. All over your desk. BEN Oh. Wow. Why did I ever let you graduate? NANCY 'Cause I wouldn't be here if you didn't. BEN Oh right. NANCY

Now teach me some poetry.

As she closes the door on us...

BEN But we gotta keep it down.

NANCY Why? The building's empty.

BEN I know, but still.

The door closes. Down the dimly lit hall past closed office and bathroom doors, we hear a bump from the stairwell.

LEO (0.S.)

Ow!

PHIL (O.S.)

Shh!

BACK TO GROUP THERAPY AT MARK'S

Mark addresses PHIL, Asian-American, and LEO, both 19 year old UCLA sophomores.

MARK So you guys were already in the building?

LEO I guess. Just past midnight?

MARK What were you doing? INT. STAIRWELL, UCLA - SIMULTANEOUS

Phil and Leo wearing hoodies and face-bandannas for disguise, struggle to lug a large fire extinguisher on a dolly up the stairs.

LEO Ow! You almost broke my foot! PHIL Would you keep it down. LEO You said there's no one here. PHIL There's not, but just keep it down. LEO Well don't drop it on my foot. PHILYou're the one who's not listening to the count. LEO When you say three, do you mean on or *after?* PHTT. On. 1-2-three. LEO Okay, let's try again. PHIL 1-2-three! LEO OWW!!! PHIL You didn't lift. LEO I was thinking about something else. PHILHow about you count. LEO Okay, ready?

MIDNIGHT - One - 3.27.14 - 6.

PHIL

Yes.

LEO

1-2...

Beat. Phil lifts. Leo doesn't.

LEO (CONT'D) OWW!!! That was two!

PHIL

You paused!

LEO I thought I was gonna sneeze.

PHIL Let's count together and not so loud.

LEO You said there's no one here.

PHIL There's not, but just in case.

BACK TO MARK'S IN THE PRESENT

DAWN

I was there.

MARK Okay. So, Dawn, where were you?

DAWN In the basement.

MARK And you were doing what exactly?

INT. BATHROOM, SAME BUILDING - SIMULTANEOUS

DAWN, the significantly-sized Security Guard, uses her nightstick to act out her own version of Travis Bickle in the mirror of a cramped basement bathroom.

> DAWN You wanna piece of me? Yeah? I'll bet you do, big boy. How about this? (fierce hand karate chop) And this! (MORE)

DAWN (CONT'D) (high karate kick) You like that, don't you, 'cause of the--(re: her open groin area) How about this. (grabs through to her ass) I bet you want a piece of that, yes you do. That's a good piece. You can put your drainpipe in that piece. I can drain that drainpipe. Ooh, yeah. (undoing belt and zipper) Won't even be a drainpipe anymore. It'll just be a pipe and then I'll pipe it! How about these, huh? (grabs breasts) Thing 1 and Thing 2? Lefty and Righty? Lefty and Lucy? Lucy and Desi? Let's give 'em some air, shall we? (unbuttons shirt) Which one you like better? Tick? Tock. Wanna run your little mouse up this clock? I bet you do. How about if I go like ... (shakes boobs with hands) Oohbiddy, oohbiddy, ooh--

CRASH! Dawn freezes, shirt unbuttoned, belt and zipper open, holding her breasts in her bra, but alert, on the job. Something has fallen upstairs.

INT. BEN'S OFFICE - SIMULTANEOUS

Nancy, in a bra, no shirt, still wearing her skirt, has knocked over Ben's desk lamp, the only light in the room.

NANCY

Sorry.

BEN

It's okay.

Ben's shirt is half-unbuttoned, his belt undone.

NANCY It's not broken.

BEN Just turn it off.

NANCY No, I like it. It's like an interrogation. BEN Oh. Okay. NANCY Now where were we? BEN I think you were cleaning my esophagus with your tongue. NANCY Oh right. They start kissing, groping, getting hot. NANCY (CONT'D) Now turn me around. BEN Huh? NANCY Turn me around. BEN Well can't you just--NANCY Turn me around, Benjy! BEN Okay! Ben turns her around so she's facing the desk. He's behind her, squeezing, kissing. BEN (CONT'D) Oh, you were right. Turned around is good. NANCY

Now lift my skirt.

BEN

I know.

NANCY

Lift it!

He flips up her skirt.

NANCY (CONT'D) Oohhh ... BEN Told you I knew. NANCY Now --BEN I know. I have Wikipedia. He rips down her panties. NANCY Oohhh, Benjamin. BEN That's my name, don't wear it out. NANCY Come on, come on, come on. BEN I'm coming. NANCY (stops) Wait. You --BEN No, no. I just--NANCY Oh. He plunges in. BEN AND NANCY Ahhhhh... PHIL AND LEO (V.O.) Unghh.. INT. STAIRWELL, UCLA - SIMULTANEOUS Phil and Leo lug the fire extinguisher up the steps in synch,

Phil and Leo lug the fire extinguisher up the steps in synch, grunting rhythmically with each step, INTERCUT with Ben and Nancy:

BEN AND NANCY Ohhhhhh...

PHIL AND LEO

Unghh...

BEN AND NANCY Aaaaahh...

Addddiin•••

PHIL AND LEO

Ohhhhhh...

BEN AND NANCY Unghh...

PHIL AND LEO Aaaaahh...

BEN AND NANCY Ohhhhhh...

INT. BASEMENT BATHROOM, UCLA - SIMULTANEOUS

Dawn briskly finishes buttoning up in front of the mirror.

DAWN Ohhkay, Dawn Hightower. No one's messin' with you, girl. Not tonight. You screw me up, I screw you worse. Like a butterfly to a board. (her buttons are wrong) Wait. You go there. You there. (she's set now) Now. (her Dirty Harry line) Time for Dawn to come a'risin'.

Her eyes glitter psychotically. She turns sharply to march out, but - CRASH - trips over a mop pail and goes flying.

BACK TO MARK'S APARTMENT IN THE PRESENT

Dawn explains to everyone:

DAWN That's my Dirty Harry line.

MARK

Great. So just to complete the picture, at that same time, Grace was having her session here with me. Remember what we were talking about, Grace?

GRACE

Ugh.

INT. MARK'S STUDIO APARTMENT/THERAPY OFFICE - LAST NIGHT GRACE lounges back on the elegant divan.

GRACE

I can't live like this, Mark. It's been ten years: making excuses, working around it, saying it'll change. It won't. It doesn't. It's the same thing every day. I wake up and deal with it. Go to bed and deal with it. It's like a weight I can't get off my chest. A stone. I can't breathe. Can't inhale. I can't even smoke. Something has to be done.

MARK (O.S.) Have you tried Design Within Reach?

REVEAL: MARK listening to his favorite patient.

GRACE The room's a square, Mark. Their nicest table is a rectangle.

MARK How about Pottery Barn?

GRACE Uch. Are you kidding? That's not sexy. I need sexy.

MARK Then why'd you get Crate and Barrel to begin with?

GRACE

Because it was *free!* Okay? Are you trying to humiliate me? Is this how you're gonna deal with your real clients?

MARK We don't call them clients.

GRACE

I inherited it from my cousin who moved to Mexico when her boyfriend got caught embezzling money from her Dad's pager business.

MARK (jotting it down) Pagers, interesting.

GRACE

That's how old it is. I have a dining room table from the pager era.

MARK

Well I don't get what's holding you back from buying a new one.

GRACE That's why I come to you!

MARK Unfortunately your hour is up.

GRACE Uch, you must be kidding me!

MARK

You shouldn't wait until the last minute to bring up important issues.

GRACE

I thought that was the whole point of Midnight Therapy. Spontaneity.

MARK Maybe a little earlier in the session though.

GRACE

Can't I just lie here? It's so cozy.

MARK I have another patient.

GRACE

You do?

MARK Don't act shocked.

GRACE You never have another patient. MARK Tonight I do. GRACE Wait, another patient? Or a gentleman caller. MARK Why do you feel the need to ask me that? GRACE Don't get shrinky on me. MARK Well I am a professional. GRACE Yeah and I'm a chiropodist. MARK A what? GRACE Chiropodist. MARK What's that? GRACE A foot doctor. MARK You mean a podiatrist. GRACE No, a chiropodist. MARK Wanna bet? GRACE Ten thousand. MARK How about ten? GRACE You're on!

They both whip out their i-phones and search. Mark finds ...

MARK Podiatrist. GRACE Wait, wait, wait for it ... (reads) "The first society of chiropodists now known as *podiatrists--"* MARK Good. We both win. GRACE Technically I do, because mine was first. It's older. Like my table. But not my men! She cackles, while gathering her stuff. MARK What's that supposed to mean? GRACE What? MARK "Not your men." GRACE It's just a joke. MARK Well, Freud says --GRACE (stands with outerwear) Uh, uh, uh. My hour is up. MARK We still have a few minutes. GRACE To talk about my men but not yours? MARK You're always making these little jokes when you leave. GRACE 'Cause I'm adorable.

> MARK Why do you think that is?

GRACE

It's just natural charm I guess.

MARK

Grace.

GRACE

Mark.

He looks at her.

GRACE (CONT'D) I don't know, 'cause I don't want to talk about it?

MARK

Why?

GRACE Why does *anyone* like young men? They're *young!* They're *men!*

MARK Then what's the problem?

GRACE I didn't say there was one.

MARK

But.

GRACE Oh I don't know, I guess when they say Maroon 5 and I think it's a paint color it's a little weird.

MARK Now we're getting somewhere.

GRACE Too late. My hour's up.

MARK What's the problem with not having the same reference points?

GRACE

I don't know. I guess sometimes it would be nice to be with a grownup, not have to make all the decisions myself: choose the restaurants, foot the bill... MARK It gets old.

GRACE

It makes *me* feel like the grown-up, which is exactly what I *don't* want to feel like. And then...

MARK

What?

GRACE

I don't know, whatever happened to the John Waynes, you know? My Dad was like that. He was in the war, but he never talked about it. He just did it. Now you get all these idiots talking so much 'cause they don't actually do anything. I used to sit for hours with my Dad saying nothing at all, but I knew I was with someone who'd done more than update his Facebook page.

MARK There are still men like that.

GRACE

Yeah? With more body hair than I have?

MARK

I didn't know you were so hairy.

GRACE

Like an ape.

Mark chuckles, but seems like he's thinking something.

GRACE (CONT'D)

What?

MARK Well. I've sort of been waiting for you to get to this point.

GRACE Why? What are you talking about? (off his coy smile) Wait. Don't tell me you're ... setting me up with someone!

RING - Mark's phone.

MARK

Excuse me.

GRACE Are you kidding me?

MARK (holds up finger) Hour's up. I'll talk to you tomorrow.

GRACE

Mark!

MARK (answering phone) Mark Dibonnio, Midnight therapist.

JUMPCUT TO MARK AND EVERYONE TONIGHT

MRS. ABRAMSON Was that me? Was that me on the phone?

MARK Yes, Mrs. Abramson.

MRS. ABRAMSON I knew it! I knew that was me!

MARK Okay, but let's get these guys looped in.

He gestures to the unlikely pair of Mr. Abramson and Pedro 2.

EXT. ABRAMSON'S CARPETING WAREHOUSE - ESTABLISHING SHOT

Supertitle: Last night, same time, elsewhere in LA, say... 12:18 am ... ish

> MR. ABRAMSON (V.O.) Sorry to make you work this late, boys.

INT. CORNER OF ABRAMSON'S CARPETING WAREHOUSE - SIMULTANEOUS We see the ends of rolled-up carpets under a banner on the wall that reads "Abramsons! You got floor? We got carpet!"

MR. ABRAMSON, 75, enters with two Mexican laborers - PEDRO 1 and PEDRO 2 - brothers (possibly twins).

MR. ABRAMSON The shipment got held up at customs. There was nothing I could do. But you'll get double-time. Or time and a half. Or maybe a quarter. Depends on how you do. Could be an eighth if it's not so good. And I'm not talkin' time and an eighth. I'm talkin' an *eighth*. What are your names?

PEDRO 1

Pedro.

MR. ABRAMSON (to the other) And you?

PEDRO 2

Pedro.

He looks at them.

MR. ABRAMSON You're both named Pedro? (they nod) You friends? Amigos?

PEDRO 1

Hermanos.

MR. ABRAMSON Hermanos? You mean brothers? (they nod) And you're both named Pedro? (they nod) Jesus, what a country. You got more hermanos? Más hermanos?

PEDRO 1

Seis.

MR. ABRAMSON Seis hermanos?! Don't tell me they're all named Pedro.

PEDRO 1

Sí.

MR. ABRAMSON Oh Jesus Christ, are you kidding me? All named Pedro?! (they nod) Why would your mother do that? (MORE) MR. ABRAMSON (CONT'D) Saves on nametags. You got sisters? Hermanas?

PEDRO 1

Una.

MR. ABRAMSON Don't tell me her name is Pedro.

PEDRO 1

Tammy.

Mr. Abramson nods, thinks.

MR. ABRAMSON Eight Pedros and a Tammy. You're like a circus act. You in the circus? El Circolo? Tightrope? Human cannon ball? (blank looks) You'll get back to me. Here's what you gotta do.

A cellphone starts quacking like a duck. Mr. Abramson looks around, confused.

MR. ABRAMSON (CONT'D) What? What is that?

PEDRO 2

Un pato.

MR. ABRAMSON

What?

PEDRO 1

Su phone.

MR. ABRAMSON

Huh?

PEDRO 1 Teléfono. Usted. Su cell.

MR. ABRAMSON Huh? Oh. Oh. (takes out i-phone) It's my wife. She keeps changing the sound. The other day it was a machine gun. I thought they were shooting me. I dove under my desk. It took 45 minutes to get up.

He's trying to finger-swipe his i-phone. It keeps quacking.

MR. ABRAMSON (CONT'D) What is this? What's happening? Pedro 1 helps him. MR. ABRAMSON (CONT'D) Oh. Thank you. (into phone) Hello? We hear a woman screaming at him. MR. ABRAMSON (CONT'D) Too loud. (more screaming) Just talk. I'm right here. The phone comes all the way to my ear. (beat) Yes I'm at the warehouse! Of course I'm at the warehouse. Where the hell else would I be? (she's screaming) I'm gonna take my hearing aid out if you don't stop screaming. (she speaks more calmly) No, that'll disconnect us. (beat) Oh for Chrisssake, hold on. (to Pedros) Can you make this so I can see her? She says there's a button. Do you know what I'm talking about? Comprendo? Button? Face to face?

Pedro 1 takes the i-phone, pushes a button, and hands it back to Mr. Abramson. Mr. Abramson looks at his i-phone and sees MRS. ABRAMSON.

MR. ABRAMSON (CONT'D) Oh. Look at that.

MRS. ABRAMSON (IN I-PHONE) Show me the warehouse.

MR. ABRAMSON

What?

MRS. ABRAMSON The warehouse. I wanna see it.

MR. ABRAMSON

Why?

MRS. ABRAMSON Just show me the warehouse so I know you're there, Donald!

MR. ABRAMSON Oh for chrissake.

He holds up the phone and waves it so she can see everything.

MR. ABRAMSON (CONT'D) There? Are you happy?

MRS. ABRAMSON Who are they?

MR. ABRAMSON Pedro and Pedro.

MRS. ABRAMSON They have the same name?

MR. ABRAMSON They're brothers.

MRS. ABRAMSON

What?

MR. ABRAMSON Like the Flying Wallendas.

MRS. ABRAMSON Wallenda is a *last* name.

MR. ABRAMSON What can I tell you? This is what you needed to see my face for? So I can tell you about the Flying Pedros? They got six other Pedros and a Tammy.

MRS. ABRAMSON You missed your appointment.

MR. ABRAMSON

What?

MRS. ABRAMSON With the Midnight Therapist.

MR. ABRAMSON

Oh for...

MRS. ABRAMSON You promised. MR. ABRAMSON We had a late shipment.

MRS. ABRAMSON At midnight?

MR. ABRAMSON You think I'm here for my jollies?

MRS. ABRAMSON You're certainly not here for *mine*.

MR. ABRAMSON Don't start that, Estelle. Something came up.

MRS. ABRAMSON Something never comes up here.

Mr. Abramson, embarrassed, turns to the Pedros, who are staring at him.

MR. ABRAMSON Would you excuse me for a moment?

He turns his back on them to talk to his wife, supposedly quietly, but not really.

MR. ABRAMSON (CONT'D) What's the matter with you? You want to embarrass me in front of the Pedros?

MRS. ABRAMSON I am a woman, Donald.

MR. ABRAMSON (mutters) That's debatable.

MRS. ABRAMSON I heard that. No matter how old you think I am--

MR. ABRAMSON I know how old you are.

MRS. ABRAMSON --I have needs that have not been met for far too long. And I am unwilling to go to my grave in this fashion.

(MORE)

MRS. ABRAMSON (CONT'D) Now either you step up and hit the ball that I have been waiting to catch or so help me god I will go on *J-Date!*

Mr. Abramson turns the phone over and gives it the finger. We hear Mrs. Abramson:

> MRS. ABRAMSON (O.S.) (CONT'D) What. What am I looking at? Is that the floor? What's happening?

Mr. Abramson turns the phone right-side up and tries to be nice.

MR. ABRAMSON

Estelle ...

MRS. ABRAMSON

Don't Estelle me. He's a smart young man who works late to accommodate schedules just like yours. And he says the late hours facilitate the subconscious.

MR. ABRAMSON

I'll bet.

MRS. ABRAMSON I just talked to him. He's finishing up with a patient --

MR. ABRAMSON

Now?!

MRS. ABRAMSON He can see you next. Pico and Crescent Heights like I wrote in your book.

MR. ABRAMSON It's after midnight!

MRS. ABRAMSON

It'll take fifteen minutes to get there. And maybe when you get home, for the first time in a long while, I won't need artificial sweetener to go to sleep. You know what I mean by that, Donald? Artificial sweetener?

Mr. Abramson looks at the Pedros who look at him.

MRS. ABRAMSON (CONT'D) Don't look at the Pedros. I see you looking at them. This has nothing to do with the Pedros.

MR. ABRAMSON Lucky Pedros.

MRS. ABRAMSON

We are not dead yet, Donald. I am a living, breathing human being. But this anger you are trapping us in is killing us. So go to the nice young man, *like you promised* and I'll stop hukkin' ya'. Now I gotta go. There's a re-run of Oprah. They're talking about young people and how sexual they are.

She's out. Mr. Abramson turns to the Pedros, who look at him.

INT. BEN'S OFFICE - SIMULTANEOUS

Nancy leans against the desk while Ben takes her from behind.

NANCY Do me, do me, do me. BEN

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

NANCY Do me, do me, do me.

BEN Yeah, yeah.

NANCY

Do me.

BEN

Yeah.

NANCY

Do me.

BEN

Yeah.

NANCY Do me, do me, do me, do me. INT. TOP OF STAIRWELL - SIMULTANEOUS

Leo and Phil successfully lug their contraption to the top step.

LEO

Yeah!

INT. BOTTOM OF STAIRWELL - SIMULTANEOUS

Dawn hears the loud "Yeah!" and throws herself back against the wall, nightstick out, panting.

DAWN Stay calm. This is what you're paid for. You'll take care of it. Everything's fine. (looks up stairwell) You want to get it on, perp? Let's get it *aowhnnn*.

She leaps to race up the stairs, but SLIPS!

DAWN (CONT'D)

Ahh!

She flips over, the nightstick out in both hands! She looks down, sees what she slipped on, picks it up: a *receipt*. She holds it up like a clue in a suspense thriller.

DAWN (CONT'D) Starbucks.

INT. BEN'S OFFICE - SIMULTANEOUS

Ben and Nancy are frozen in their humping. Ben, in particular, is listening alertly.

BEN You didn't hear that?

NANCY

No.

BEN It was like a "yeah!"

NANCY I think you said yeah.

BEN No, from outside. NANCY The building?

BEN No, the room. In the building.

NANCY I didn't hear, Benjy, but if we stop now I'm gonna explode.

BEN

Oh, okay.

Ben starts moving again.

NANCY Oh yeah, baby, do me. Do me ...

EXT. DEAN BLACKMAN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Leo and Phil have wheeled their fire extinguisher to the big door marked "Dean Dean Blackman." They are unaware that far behind them, at the other end of the hall, light seeps out of the bottom of Ben's door. Phil puts a key in the Dean's door.

INT. DEAN BLACKMAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Phil and Leo enter, pulling the large fire extinguisher on the dolly into the room, lit only by outside light spilling through the large windows. Leo flips on the lights.

> PHIL No! Stop! Turn it off!

Phil jumps to turn off the light, then closes the door, then the curtains, before turning the lights back on.

PHIL (CONT'D) We can't have lights on in the Dean's office after midnight. Are you crazy? What if someone sees from outside?

LEO But why close the door? You said we're the only ones in the building.

PHIL We are, but just in case.

INT. BEN'S OFFICE - SIMULTANEOUS Ben and Nancy are peaking. NANCY Yeah oh yeah oh yeah oh--BEN Huh. Huh. Huh. Huh. NANCY Do me, do me, do me--BEN Yes, yes. NANCY Do me, do me--BEN Yes. NANCY Do me. BEN Doing. NANCY Do me! BEN Doing. NANCY DO ME YOU HOOK-NOSED JEW!!! Ben freezes. BEN What? INT. MARK'S STUDIO APARTMENT/THERAPY OFFICE - PRESENT

Everyone looks at Nancy.

MARK I think we should take a short break.

Music. End-credits.