

THE LAST DAYS OF MAN

"Pilot"

written by
Jack Burditt

NETWORK DRAFT
January 19, 2011

ACT ONE

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING (DAY ONE)

(Tim, Vanessa, Kristin)

VANESSA, MID-40S, COOKS BREAKFAST WHILE TYPING ON HER IPHONE. SHE GETS A BLOB OF WAFFLE BATTER ON HER PHONE, TRIES TO WIPE IT OFF, THEN JUST LICKS THE BATTER OFF THE PHONE AS TIM, 50S, ENTERS. VANESSA, CAUGHT AND EMBARRASSED, PUTS DOWN HER PHONE. TIM SHAKES HIS HEAD, THEN CHECKS OUT THE FOOD.

TIM

(SUSPICIOUS) Eggs, bacon, waffles...

Uh-oh, what happened?

VANESSA

Can't I just make all your favorite things for no reason? (OFF TIM'S LOOK)
Yeah, remember when I went back to work and I swore I could do it all? We both knew I was lying. I need your help.

TIM

(RELIEVED) Oh, thank God. I was worried you wrecked my truck.

VANESSA

If I'd dinged your truck again I'd be licking more than just the phone.

TIM

Wow, I think I owe my mom apology.
Turns out I did marry a tramp.

VANESSA

Work's just gotten crazy and once again
Jason isn't pulling his weight.

TIM

(SHAKES HEAD) Typical Jason.

VANESSA

Do you know who Jason is?

TIM

Of course, I listen to your work tales.
He's your... assistant.

VANESSA

Assistant, department supervisor, same
thing. He's thirty and thinks he knows
everything. Which he does, if you need
to know about the "Matrix" trilogy. I
thought I was done raising kids.

TIM

Just like I said - classic Jason.

VANESSA

Uh-huh. Where do I work?

TIM

(LONG BEAT, THEN) So what do you need
me to do? I'm happy to do anything, as
long as it doesn't involve wearing a
nametag. They're too chummy.

VANESSA

I just need two things, no reason to
make them more difficult than they are.

TIM

I don't know what you're saying.

VANESSA

Yes you do. You pick at things and create problems that aren't there.

TIM

No, I find problems that are there and make everyone else aware of them. Some might call it a gift. So what do you need me to do?

VANESSA

Well, tomorrow I need you to pick up Christeo? (OFF TIM'S BLANK STARE) The Greek foreign exchange student who's coming to live with us? I can't be there so you'll have to attend an orientation for host families.

TIM

That sounds like a nametag situation.

VANESSA

And don't scare him. While he's here he's supposed to live the life of a typical American teenage boy.

TIM

You mean playing video games all day and falling asleep with a Pop-Tart in his mouth? We already have one of those.

(MORE)

TIM (CONT'D)

Speaking of which, why aren't we sending Howie to Greece? I thought it was supposed to be an exchange.

VANESSA

Leave Howie alone. He's going through stuff.

TIM

He never leaves his bedroom. How is there stuff? Stuff is outside.

VANESSA

His new school schedule arrived. He got the mean math teacher.

TIM

Mean? You know, I wish I were a boy in school now. The male teachers can't hit you anymore and the female teachers have sex with you. I'll talk to Howie.

VANESSA

No.

TIM

Why not? Work's slow since we tore down that hospital. That was a fun job, until Bobby and Ronnie got hurt and, well, there was no place to take them to. I do have some meeting with Ed but I could blow that off.

VANESSA

You can't blow off your boss. And stay away from Howie. The only other thing I need you to do is drive Eve to soccer practice. They're scrimmaging the boys all week to make them tougher.

TIM

Those boys aren't tough. They're all Howies. They run around and get hair gel in their eyes and crash into the goal posts and cry.

VANESSA

Why are you watching young boys play soccer?

TIM

I'm pretty sure I just explained why.

KRISTIN, 22, VANESSA AND TIM'S GO-GETTER DAUGHTER, ENTERS FROM OUTSIDE. SHE CARRIES A BOX OF DONUTS.

KRISTIN

Good morning.

TIM

Donuts? What a pleasant surprise. You didn't have to do that.

KRISTIN

Yeah I did. Your truck sort of had an accident.

OFF TIM'S LOOK WE...

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

B

INT. HOWIE'S BEDROOM - A LITTLE LATER (DAY 1)
(Tim, Howie, Kristin)

HOWIE, 17, IS AT HIS COMPUTER. TIM ENTERS.

TIM

Wow, awake at 8 a.m. I like it.

HOWIE

Actually I was up all night playing
World of Warcraft. I was just about to
go to bed.

TIM

Do you have any idea how much easier
it'd be for both of us if you'd just
lie to me?

HOWIE

Yeah okay.

TIM

So here's the thing -- you need to gut
it out in math. Having a jerk teacher
prepares you for all the jerk bosses,
jerk nametag wearers and jerk buffet
meat carvers you'll encounter in life.

HOWIE

It's not just math. My whole
schedule's too hard.

KRISTIN ENTERS, HAVING OVERHEARD.

KRISTIN

My schedule was ten times harder back in high school and I did great.

HOWIE

That's because you're hot. Hot girls automatically get straight A's.

TIM

Hey hey, what's wrong with you? A guy doesn't tell his sister she's hot. It's creepy.

KRISTIN

I'm so sick of guys thinking I got good grades or a college degree or this or that job just because I'm a woman. Why are women more than fifty percent of the workforce and sixty percent of college graduates? Because we work harder than guys.

HOWIE

Make her stop, she's freaking me out.

TIM

Stop throwing facts at your brother. It's cruel.

KRISTIN

I'm just saying women are passing men because guys are addicted to video games and porn.

(MORE)

KRISTIN (CONT'D)

They have no one to blame but themselves. "Nero fiddled while Rome burned."

HOWIE LOOKS AT TIM, CONFUSED. TIM SHRUGS. HE DOESN'T KNOW.

TIM

(TO KRISTIN) Don't get all high and mighty. You're still a truck wrecker.

EVE, 15 YEARS OLD, PASSING BY IN THE HALLWAY, STOPS AS SHE HEARS THIS.

EVE

You wrecked Dad's truck? (TO TIM) Are you going to ground her?

KRISTIN

I'm 22 years old, I can't be grounded.

TIM

I don't think that's a real rule. Everyone makes up rules around here.

EVE

And Howie should be grounded just for everything he does.

HOWIE

Hey!

TIM

Yeah, because I want Howie around the house even more.

EVE, HAPPY WITH THE FUN SHE HAD, LAUGHS AS SHE WALKS AWAY. KRISTIN TURNS BACK TO TIM.

KRISTIN

I only dinged your truck.

TIM

Why is it women think that dinging a vehicle is somehow acceptable?

HOWIE

Especially hot women.

TIM

Seriously, Howie, stop it.

KRISTIN SHRUGS AND EXITS. TIM TURNS BACK TO HOWIE.

TIM (CONT'D)

Okay, you need to stop complaining about school and work through it. In the grand scope of life it's not that difficult. Where's your schedule?

HOWIE HANDS HIM A PIECE OF PAPER. TIM READS.

TIM (CONT'D)

Chemistry? Calculus? Physics? This isn't a schedule, this is a sentence! French? Who speaks French?

HOWIE

French people?

TIM

Exactly. French people. And poets. And the Canadians that no one likes. How is that supposed to prepare the average student for the real world?

HOWIE

You think I'm average. Cool.

TIM

(GETTING ON HIS HIGH HORSE) It is cool. Because average students are the backbone of this great nation. They build cities, or in my case tear them down, so that the next generation of average students can build even greater cities and empires. They don't do this by speaking French. They do this by learning practical skills and finding their niche so that they can hopefully one day achieve greatness. Your school should gear teaching toward all types of students. You might be average, Howie, but I have faith in you, just as I have faith in the future of America.

TIM LOOKS BACK OVER AT HOWIE, WHO IS SOUND ASLEEP.

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

C

INT. DEMOLITION COMPANY - LATER (DAY 2)
(Tim, Gordon, Ed)

GUYS, ALL GUYS, MILL ABOUT A CLUTTERED OFFICE SPACE. THERE ARE DESKS AND DRAFTING TABLES, A SMALL KITCHEN WITH A COFFEE MAKER AND A REFRIGERATOR, PLUS A SIGN ON THE WALL THAT READS: "EUCLID DEMOLITION COMPANY, EST. 1953." TIM ARRIVES AND IS MET BY GORDON, HIS 40-ISH RIGHT HAND MAN.

GORDON

Boss was looking for you. You might be in trouble. He seemed annoyed.

TIM

He's been annoyed since 1973. No one's in trouble.

TIM GOES TO THE GLASS OFFICE ACROSS THE ROOM. ED, THE 70-ISH BOSS, SITS BEHIND A DESK PLUNKING ON A COMPUTER.

TIM (CONT'D)

Am I in trouble? If this is about the two sticks of dynamite missing from storage, I have a good excuse. We were fishing --

ED

I don't care about missing dynamite.

TIM

Really? Because you should.

ED

I'm stepping down, Tim. And I'm naming you president of the company.

TIM

What? But you love this company.

ED

No. I love knocking down factories or blowing up sports arenas. But running a business, dealing with a bunch of jack-wangs, who needs it? I haven't crapped straight in twenty years.

TIM

It's supposed to be straight?

ED

I was always reluctant to slow down because a lot of seniors with time on their hands develop drug or alcohol or gambling problems. Then it dawned on me that those things don't sound so bad. That's what people on cruises do. And who doesn't like cruises?

TIM

Communists?

ED

Damn right, Communists. I'll make the official announcement Friday. Now get out of here, I'm trying to buy some weed on Craigslist.

TIM NODS AND EXITS, A SPRING IN HIS STEP.

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

D

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - LATER (DAY 1)
(Tim, Principal)

TIM SITS ACROSS FROM DR. SWANN, HOWIE'S PRINCIPAL. SHE IS MID-30S AND BUTTONED-DOWN.

PRINCIPAL

So wait, you're actually complaining
that we think too highly of your son?

TIM

That is not what I'm saying. I just
feel his curriculum is a little...
too... specific... cally... wrong.

PRINCIPAL

It's our job to prepare all students
for college.

TIM

No, it's your job to prepare them for
life. Let's be honest, not all kids
are cut out for college. When I was in
school I took those brainy courses, but
I also took shop classes because I was
good with my hands and I liked smoking.
And it's the skills I learned there
that gave me a career. Now I'm
president at my company. But don't
tell anyone, it's a secret.

PRINCIPAL

Well, we had to get rid of the shop classes because, among other things, kids just kept making knives and bongs.

TIM

So? It beats having to buy all of our knives and bongs from Korea. (THEN)
Look, I'm not saying my son can't learn calculus and chemistry. It just might take him a long time, and from what I've read, his generation isn't going to live that long.

PRINCIPAL

I know it's particularly difficult for men like you to accept change --

TIM

I like change if it makes sense. But I'm proud to say it was my generation of men who stood up and refused to learn the metric system back in the '70s. Aside from the two-liter bottle of soda we have kept that crap out of this country. So everyone whose life is a little better because they don't know what a hectare or kilometer or mammogram is owes us a big thank you.

PRINCIPAL

If I were principal back then --

TIM

You wouldn't have been. Principals were scary guys who kept pistols in their desks and knew that most of the students were bound for ordinariness.

PRINCIPAL

No one kept a pistol in his desk.

TIM

All that matters is we believed they did. And the principals weren't nurturing, they were intimidating and they had names like Mr. Clapp or Sgt. Grunkle, not Miss Swann.

PRINCIPAL

Dr. Swann.

TIM

You're not helping your cause.

THE PRINCIPAL IS CLEARLY NOT AMUSED.

TIM (CONT'D)

Dr. Swann, I'm not telling you how to run your school, just like I wouldn't expect you to come to my work and swing the wrecking ball, although if you'd like to you can, it's a lot of fun. I'm just saying there must be another option for students like Howie besides taking advanced classes or not taking shop classes that don't exist anymore.

PRINCIPAL SWANN LOOKS AT A COMPUTER.

PRINCIPAL

I'm looking at Howie's record now and
you might be right.

TIM

Really?

PRINCIPAL

Yes. I'll start the paperwork
immediately so Howie we'll have a new
schedule when school starts next week.

TIM

Thank you.

PRINCIPAL

And I'll need to see your wife.

TIM

(UH-OH) My wife? Why? She's very
busy. I'm in charge.

PRINCIPAL

It's just standard. We like to involve
both parents, make sure everyone's on
the same page when a student enters the
developmental program.

TIM

Develop-what? Oh boy.

OFF TIM'S "I STEPPED IN IT NOW" LOOK, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

E

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING (DAY 1)
(Vanessa, Kristin, Eve, Tim)

VANESSA IS POURING HERSELF SOME WINE. KRISTIN ENTERS. SHE WEARS A WAITRESS UNIFORM.

VANESSA

How was work?

KRISTIN GRABS THE GLASS OF WINE OUT OF VANESSA'S HAND AND DOWNS IT.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

That good? You want another?

KRISTIN

Can't. I'm waitressing tonight. I just came home to change.

VANESSA

You're wearing your waitress uniform.

KRISTIN

Oh, right. What job am I working tonight? (THINKS ABOUT IT) Museum!

KRISTIN SNATCHES THE WINE GLASS THAT VANESSA HAS REFILLED AND TAKES ANOTHER SWIG BEFORE HURRYING OUT OF THE ROOM. A BEAT LATER EVE, WEARING A SOCCER UNIFORM, ENTERS FROM OUTSIDE.

VANESSA

Hey, sweetie, how was soccer practice?

EVE

My life is over!

SHE BLOWS PAST THEM AND OUT THE KITCHEN. TIM ENTERS.

VANESSA

What happened?

TIM

I don't know. When I picked her up for soccer practice today she was wearing makeup.

VANESSA

Eve wore makeup?

TIM

It was freaky. She was only wearing it because they we're scrimmaging the boys. So I told her none of the other girls would be wearing makeup and she'd look foolish showing up like that.

VANESSA

So she showed up as the only girl not wearing makeup.

TIM

Well, it's obvious now.

VANESSA

See, this is another example of how you go out of your way to make things more difficult than they are.

TIM

I don't do that. Oh by the way I went to Howie's school today to deal with that problem like you asked --

VANESSA

I didn't ask.

TIM

You sort of hinted.

VANESSA

No, I said the opposite -- don't do anything.

TIM

Who really knows what anyone said? Anyway, long story short, they're putting Howie in special classes.

VANESSA

They're what now?

TIM

Don't worry, I'll take care of it.

VANESSA

No, that's the problem. I'll do it.

TIM

Now you're mad.

VANESSA

No, I'm used to it. And actually nothing can ruin my mood. I got promoted at work today.

TIM

Really? They're promoting you at...
(TRYING TO REMEMBER) ...that place you work at? That's so weird.

VANESSA

How is it weird?

TIM

That meeting with Ed today? He told me he's stepping down and he's naming me president of the company.

VANESSA

(SHOCKED) President?! Seriously? That's fantastic!

TIM

I know. But could you act a little less surprised? It's hurtful.

VANESSA

Wait, you're not saying you got promoted just because I got promoted? This isn't A Beautiful Mind only in your imagination thing, is it?

TIM

No, you can ask anyone. But not yet. It's a secret. Until Friday.

VANESSA

We should have a celebration, Carney family-style. But, you know, without your sister drunk crying because I married the last good man. It's disturbing on so many levels.

TIM

Yeah, I was thinking of a barbecue.

VANESSA POURS ANOTHER GLASS OF WINE, THEN HUGS TIM.

VANESSA

Two promotions in one day.

TIM

We are suddenly what you call a power couple. Like Brangelina. We're Tim-nessa.

VANESSA

I will call Dr. Swann tomorrow and work things out. In the meantime, do you still think you can pick up Christeo tomorrow night without incident.

TIM

Define incident.

KRISTIN RUNS IN WEARING A COCKTAIL DRESS AND PUTTING ON EARRINGS.

KRISTIN

Gotta run. Taking the truck.

SHE TAKES ANOTHER SWIG OF WINE THEN RUNS OUT THE DOOR.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

H

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (NIGHT 2)

(Kristin, Tim, Howie, Vanessa, Eve, Yuko)

VANESSA, KRISTIN, EVE AND HOWIE, PLAYING ANGRY BIRDS ON HIS PHONE, ARE GATHERED IN FRONT OF A "WELCOME CRISTEO" SIGN.

VANESSA

Your dad just pulled up. Howie, put
down the phone, Christeo is here.

HOWIE

Why does he have to share my room?
What if he sleeps normal hours?

A NAMETAG-WEARING TIM ENTERS THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR WITH A 16-
YEAR-OLD JAPANESE GIRL, YUKO. EVERYONE LOOKS ON, CONFUSED.

KRISTIN

Does Dad think that's a Greek boy?

TIM

Everyone, this is Yuko. Yuko is going
to be living with us.

HOWIE

(TO HEAVEN) Thank you. (TO YUKO)
Come on, I'll show you our room.

VANESSA QUICKLY MOVES IN TO HUG AN YUKO EXPRESSIONLESS YUKO.

VANESSA

Welcome to our family. Make yourself
at home. I'm just going to talk to my
husband. This is not about you.

VANESSA PULLS TIM ASIDE.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Where's Christeo? Did you do something to him to make him go back to Greece?

TIM

No. There was some sort of mix-up and Christeo is with the Boston family that was supposed to get Yuko.

VANESSA

So we're keeping her?

TIM

No, I'm taking her to the pound. Yes, we're keeping her. Some guy with a clipboard and bow tie said it was best. By the way, Yuko thinks Lake Erie is the Atlantic Ocean and that weird German bakery is the Old North Church so just go with it.

VANESSA

She doesn't know she's in Cleveland?

TIM

She barely speaks English. We're supposed to just keep talking to her so she'll learn.

VANESSA

Well, Kristin yapping at her is like a power course in English.

TIM

Yeah, she has more words than anyone.

THEY LOOK OVER TO WHERE THEIR KIDS ARE INTRODUCING THEMSELVES TO YUKO. KRISTIN IS DOING MOST OF THE TALKING.

KRISTIN

...I graduated top of my class at Cleveland State with a degree in Environmental Studies.

YUKO STARES BLANKLY.

EVE

It's okay, Yuko, we don't know what that is, either.

KRISTIN

I'm going to help design cities one day but right now I work as a waitress at a diner and a hostess at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and a kick-boxing instructor, and I'm living at home so I can save up to put a down payment on a house of my own.

EVE

Bo-ring! Tell her about your high school breakdown?

KRISTIN

There was no breakdown. I simply let it be known I should've been valedictorian.

EVE

With a bullhorn. And I forget, why do you think you weren't valedictorian?

KRISTIN

I just felt that some people think I'm too pretty.

EVE

There it is.

KRISTIN

You're just jealous.

EVE

It's more like you're jealous of me because I'm a multi-sport athlete (TO YUKO) but I'm not a lesbian (BACK TO KRISTIN) and Dad likes me best.

KRISTIN

Yeah, you're the son he never had.

HOWIE

Hey!

YUKO LOOKS OVER AT HOWIE, THEN STARES WITH GREAT CURIOSITY.

HOWIE (CONT'D)

What did I do? What's she doing?

YUKO STUDIES HOWIE'S FACE. AFTER A BEAT...

YUKO

Chatroulette, yes?

HOWIE

Uh... no English.

BACK TO VANESSA AND TIM ACROSS THE ROOM, WITNESSING IT.

TIM

(SIGHS, SHAKES HEAD) Oh boy.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

J

INT. KITCHEN - NEXT MORNING (DAY 3)
(Tim, Vanessa, Yuko)

VANESSA IS ALREADY UP. TIM ENTERS.

VANESSA

Your Pop-Tarts are in the toaster.

TIM

Aw, honey, you shouldn't have.

VANESSA

I've got to get in early. Do you think you can handle taking Eve to her scrimmage today without incident?

TIM

I learned my lesson.

VANESSA

Which was?

TIM

I don't know. And I still think I'm being unfairly criticized. Eve's never put on makeup. She looked like a Kabuki Frankenstein.

VANESSA

Tim, you remember Yuko, right?

VANESSA POINTS TO THE KITCHEN TABLE, WHERE YUKO IS SITTING AND LISTENING. TIM WAVES WEAKLY.

TIM

Kon'nichiwa.

YUKO

Kon'nichiwa.

VANESSA

(TO TIM) Hey, look at you.

TIM

My dad served in the Pacific. He taught hello and the word for friend. What was that? (THINKING, THEN) Baishun-fu. Is that right? Baishun-fu? Baishun-fu!

YUKO GASPS, THEN CRIES, THEN RUNS AWAY.

TIM (CONT'D)

I'm thinking that wasn't friend.

VANESSA

Nice. I was taking her to work with me so she can see how Americans work.

TIM

That's a great idea. I think I'll do that.

VANESSA

You're taking Yuko to work?

TIM

No, Howie. He needs to see how Americans work. If I'm running Euclid Demo I might as well groom him to take over one day.

VANESSA

Howie around explosives? I don't see what could possibly go wrong there. And you thought French was bad for him.

TIM

Now who's selling him short? The problem is you coddle the boy.

VANESSA

There's a difference between coddling him and simply keeping him alive.

TIM

That's nonsense.

TIM IS TRYING TO GET THE POP-TART OUT OF THE TOASTER WITH A FORK. VANESSA CASUALLY UNPLUGS THE TOASTER.

TIM (CONT'D)

Who knows, Howie might have an affinity for demolition. He's always been good at destroying things. And the nice thing about Cleveland is there will always be plenty of buildings to blow up.

TIM GOES TO TAKE A BITE OUT OF HIS POP-TART BUT SEES THERE ARE ALREADY TEETH MARKS IN IT.

TIM (CONT'D)

Hey, this is the Pop-Tart Howie fell asleep eating!

TIM SHRUGS: "WHO CARES" AND EATS IT.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

K

INT. DEMOLITION COMPANY - LATER (DAY 3)
(Tim, Howie, Gordon, Ed, Nikki)

TIM AND HOWIE ARE AT THE COFFEE MAKER. ON THE WALL IS A LARGE BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO OF A CLASSIC BUILDING. TIM POURS COFFEE WHILE WAXING POETIC ABOUT THE BUILDING IN THE PHOTO.

TIM

Look at that beauty. Majestic. Built during the Depression by average Americans who strived for greatness. They don't make them like that anymore.

HOWIE

So this company built that?

TIM

Nope, we blew it up.

HOWIE

I don't know, doesn't it seem better to build things than destroy them?

TIM

Sometimes you have to tear things down in order for something greater to grow in their place.

HOWIE

What is it now?

TIM

(WEAKLY) A parking lot. (THEN) So you'd rather build things, huh?

HOWIE

Not really.

TIM

What do you want to do?

HOWIE

I don't know. Can I have cream and sugar?

TIM

With your coffee?

HOWIE

No, just cream and sugar?

GORDON APPROACHES.

GORDON

Hey, kid, how you liking it here?

HOWIE

It's sad.

GORDON

(GOOD NATURED) It sure is.

HOWIE

Can I use your computer, Dad?

TIM NODS. HOWIE MOVES OFF.

TIM

That kid is going to live with us forever.

GORDON

That's nice. (THEN) Hey, I decided to not bring a date to your barbecue. I'm going stag, playing the field.

TIM

Please do not hit on Vanessa's friends.

Some of them are lawyers.

GORDON

I don't know what you're talking ab --

NIKKI, MID-20S, AN ATTRACTIVE WOMAN WALKING PAST THEM. GORDON ACTS LIKE HE'S NEVER SEEN A WOMAN BEFORE. HE DROPS HIS COFFEE, THEN SLIPS IN IT AS HE STARTS TOWARDS NIKKI. HE QUICKLY GETS TO HIS FEET, CRASHES INTO A DESK, THEN TRIES TO ACT COOL AS HE CATCHES UP TO HER.

GORDON (CONT'D)

Welcome to Euclid Demolitions.

Wrecking is our business but I'll never break your heart.

NIKKI

That's your best pickup line? Because it's awesome. Take me right now.

GORDON

What?

ED (O.S.)

Gordon, get away from my granddaughter.

ED COMES OVER AND HUGS NIKKI. GORDON WINCES.

NIKKI

Hi, Grandpa.

ED

Tim, Nikki here is interested in seeing her grandpa's work.

TIM

That's nice. Maybe I'll have to wait
for a grandkid to actually have a
relative care about what I do.

TIM LOOKS TO HOWIE SPINNING IN CIRCLES ON A DESK CHAIR.

ED

I bet it won't be long before Kristin
gives you a grandchild.

TIM

Thank you for searing that horrifying
image into my head.

ED

I have to deal with some Sandusky jack-
wangs. Could you show Nikki around?

GORDON

I'll do it.

ED

No you won't. I need someone who's not
going to make my sweet angel
uncomfortable.

SMASH CUT TO:

ACT TWO

M

INT. DEMOLITION COMPANY - LATER (DAY 3)
(Tim, Nikki, Howie)

TIM IS CONFRONTING NIKKI.

TIM

Are you out of your mind?!

NIKKI

It just seems like your business model
is all wrong.

TIM

We make things go boom and we do it
well. But you're right, I've only been
doing this thirty years, whereas you've
had a twenty minute tour.

NIKKI

Look, I'm just an observer, but your
ways might be outdated. Sometimes you
have to tear things down in order for
something greater to grow in their
place.

TIM

That's the stupidest thing I've ever
heard!

NIKKI

That hotel you imploded last month,
wouldn't a wrecking ball have been
cheaper than using explosives?

TIM

How is that fun? That would be like having hockey without the fights.

NIKKI

Maybe if there were no fights more women would go to hockey games.

TIM

Yeah, because that's what's wrong with hockey -- the lack of ladies.

NIKKI

You're not used to criticism, are you?

TIM

Of course I am, I have a wife, an ex-wife and two daughters. Being berated is how I know I'm alive. I just don't appreciate someone coming in here and embarrassing me in front of my kid.

TIM POINTS TO WHERE HOWIE SITS, PLAYING WITH DETONATOR SWITCHES LIKE THEY WERE FIGHTER JETS. TIM IS STARTLED.

TIM (CONT'D)

Howie, put down those detonator switches!

HOWIE PANICS AND DROPS THEM. EVERYONE IN THE PLACE FREEZES.

TIM (CONT'D)

(TO HIMSELF) Please no boom. Please no boom.

WHEN THERE IS NO BOOM, EVERYONE RELAXES.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

P

INT. CAR - LATER (DAY 3)
(Tim, Eve)

TIM DRIVES EVE TO SOCCER PRACTICE.

TIM

I'm sorry I gave bad advice yesterday.
Shows how much I know girls.

EVE

It's okay.

TIM

But I do know guys. You want to
impress them? Don't be like the other
girls, giggling and preening.

EVE

What's preening?

TIM DEMONSTRATES PREENING LIKE A TEENAGE GIRL.

EVE (CONT'D)

Please don't do that.

TIM

The best way to impress these guys is
to play hard, take the game to them,
prove you belong on that field.

EVE

Really?

TIM

Trust me.

SMASH CUT TO:

ACT TWO

Q

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING (DAY 3)
(Vanessa, Eve, Tim)

VANESSA IS LOOKING THROUGH THE MAIL. EVE STORMS IN FROM OUTSIDE. SHE IS FURIOUS.

EVE

We have to move!

VANESSA

What happened?

EVE

Dad happened! He told me that boys would like me more if I played aggressive. I broke Victor's ankle and now everyone calls me Queen Kong. I'm going to pack.

EVE STORMS OUT. A BEAT LATER TIM ENTERS TIMIDLY.

TIM

I can explain. (A LONG BEAT, THEN) We might have to move.

VANESSA

Remember years ago in that softball league when I said you didn't have to play so hard and you didn't listen to me and then you got a concussion?

TIM

You think this was like that?

VANESSA

No, I think you got brain damage based
on your behavior every day since.

TIM

Doesn't it sometimes seem like
everything's spinning out of control?

VANESSA

No.

VANESSA POURS TWO GLASSES OF WINE.

TIM

No thanks, I don't want any wine.

VANESSA

These are both for me. I'm taking a
long bath. Pizza's on the way. Please
try to not screw anything up in my
absence.

TIM

That's not fair. (THEN) Yes it is.
But starting tomorrow everything's
going to be so much better.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

R

INT. DEMOLITION COMPANY - NEXT DAY (DAY 4)
(Tim, Ed, Nikki)

ED ADDRESSES THE WORKERS.

ED

I'll make this brief, because I have to pee every two minutes. While I'll still be around I'm stepping down from running the day-to-day operations. As such, Tim is now the new president.

EVERYONE WHOOPS AND HOLLERS AND PATS TIM ON THE BACK.

TIM

Thank you. I just want to say...
you're all fired.

EVERYONE LAUGHS. AND SUDDENLY NIKKI WALKS TO THE FRONT OF ROOM, NEXT TO ED. EVERYONE IS SHOCKED TO SEE HER THERE, ESPECIALLY TIM. GORDON WAVES TO HER. SHE GLARES AT HIM.

ED

And now, I'm sure all of you remember my granddaughter. Well it is my pleasure to announce that she will be joining us as the new CEO.

TIM

Oh my God, she Undercover Bossed me.

AS TIM'S WORLD COMES CRUMBLING DOWN, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

T

FADE IN:

INT. ED'S OFFICE - A LITTLE LATER (DAY 4)
(Tim, Ed)

TIM HAS GONE TO ED'S OFFICE TO PLEAD HIS CASE.

TIM

So let me get this straight. I'm president but Nikki's CEO, which means she's the boss and I'm still second banana and nothing has changed for me?

ED

Would it make you feel better if I got you a cap that said "President"?

TIM

No! Maybe! No! (THEN) It's really lousy how you just sprang her on me.

ED

Yeah, I was waiting for the best time to tell you but you never get drunk at work. You can hit me if you want.

TIM

I don't want to hit you. Look, Nikki seems nice... ish. And, yes, she has an MBA from Purdue, but that doesn't mean she knows this business. She wants to change things for no reason. I get that at home. I don't need a wife at work.

ED

I have to think about the long-term future of the company. Both of my sons are jet-skiing idiots, so forget them. You're the son I wish I had, but the problem is you've got maybe ten years.

TIM

Are you saying before I retire or die?

ED

And then who do I give it to? Gordon? That fool got salmonella from kissing his pet lizard? Not once, twice.

TIM

I know, give me the job and I can train Howie to eventually take over?

ED LAUGHS. AND LAUGHS.

TIM (CONT'D)

I'll admit, things did not go well with Howie yesterday. But we've all had bad days, right?

ED

I had a bad two years. It was called Vietnam.

TIM

Okay, that's not helpful.

ED

Howie's like every dipwad boy I see skateboarding at the Parmatown Mall.

TIM

Aha, Howie doesn't skateboard!

ED

Too uncoordinated?

TIM

(DISAPPOINTED) Yes.

ED

I never thought I'd be saying this, but
the way things are going in this world
I think the company might be better off
in the hands of a woman.

TIM

Do you hear yourself talking?

ED

Not really. I've been around way too
many blast sites.

TIM

Just give me a chance to prove you
wrong. That's all I'm asking of you.
Oh, and a cap that says "President".

TIM EXITS.

CUT TO:

ACT THREE

W

EXT. BACKYARD - EVENING (DAY 4)

(Tim, Vanessa, Howie, Gordon, Ed, Nikki, Jason, Dog)

A BARBECUE IS TAKING PLACE. VANESSA, THE KIDS AND YUKO MINGLE WITH GUESTS WHO INCLUDE GUYS WE'VE SEEN AT TIM'S WORK, PLUS WOMEN WE ASSUME ARE FROM VANESSA'S OFFICE. TIM WORKS THE GRILL. GORDON APPROACHES.

GORDON

This party blows. The women are mean
and I think I ate a cricket.

TIM

The kids were supposed to prep the
food, but Kristin worked late, Eve's
still mad at me, and Howie thought
"prep the food" meant eat all the onion
dip with your thumb. That left Yuko,
who whipped up some native dishes. I
didn't realize she's from the Japanese
island of fried dirt.

THEY ARE APPROACHED BY JASON, A 30-YEAR-OLD FRAT-LOOKING GUY WHO CARRIES A SIX PACK OF BEER.

JASON

Hey, Timbo. How you doing?

TIM

Hey... (NO IDEA WHO HE IS) buddy.

AS TIM AND JASON SHAKE HANDS, TIM SHOOTS GORDON A "WHO IS HE?" LOOK. JASON HANDS TIM A PATTY WRAPPED IN A BAGGIE THAT HE PULLS FROM HIS SHIRT POCKET.

JASON

Could you grill up this veggie patty?

TIM

I can't think of one reason why I would want to do that.

JASON

Because red meat is over. Don't you follow Alyssa Milano on Twitter?

TIM

I'm not familiar with most of those words.

JASON

I heard you lost a promotion to an unqualified woman. Same thing happened to me and it sucks. It sucks worse than those circuses without animals.

JASON GIVES TIM A BEAR HUG. AS JASON STUMBLES AWAY, VANESSA COMES OVER.

VANESSA

Why were you hugging Jason?

TIM

First off, he was hugging me, because I'm awesome. And that guy knows what's going on. He got screwed, too, losing a promotion to an unqualified woman.

VANESSA

Yeah, me. I'm the "unqualified" woman. That's Jason from my work? He's upset I got promoted over him and he's been acting like a baby. You know, one of those alcoholic babies.

TIM

Okay, you can take it easy on the guy.

VANESSA

It's interesting that ten seconds ago you didn't know who he was and now you're taking his side.

TIM

I'm not taking anyone's side. (OFF VANESSA'S LOOK) Except yours. I'm clearly taking your side. But if I were an impartial observer I might say he's put in his time at your firm --

VANESSA

Firm?

TIM

-- your work thing job place and you haven't even been there a year. It's a little tough for some guys to accept the way things are now... affirmative action, Title IX, Gloria Allred's face, the WNBA --

VANESSA

Whoa, you think I got promoted because of some quota or agenda?

TIM

No. Not me. I said some guys.

VANESSA

What guys? I want names.

TIM

(CLEARLY MAKING IT UP) Pete.

VANESSA

There is no Pete!

TIM

I will not tell Pete you said that.

(THEN) All I'm saying is a lot of people unfairly think men can't do the job anymore. Any job. Ed said as much today. Kristin's always throwing the latest anti-men figures at me. And you barely trust me to an errand.

VANESSA

That's not an indictment against men, just you. (THEN) So, do you think I got the promotion because I'm a woman?

TIM

How would I know? I've worked at the same demolition company for nearly thirty years and I lost out running it to a girl who thinks maybe we shouldn't be demolishing things. So I clearly don't understand anything anymore.

VANESSA SHAKES HER HEAD AND WALKS AWAY. TIM FEELS BAD BUT WATCHES HER GO. THE DOG RUNS OVER, LOOKS UP AT TIM.

TIM (CONT'D)

You're lucky being a dog. You screw up every day and no one cares. The world changes and you don't notice.

TIM REMEMBERS JASON'S VEGGIE PATTY AND TOSSES IT TO THE DOG. THE DOG SNIFFS AT IT THEN RUNS AWAY. TIM SHRUGS; HE UNDERSTANDS. KRISTIN AND EVE COME FROM THE HOUSE CARRYING PLATTERS OF MEAT.

KRISTIN

Ribs and steaks ready to be grilled.

EVE

And here's the kielbasa. Mom says you know what to do with it.

TIM

I'm sure she did. So, you're talking to me again?

EVE

Yeah, I realized that I shouldn't be mad at you. You don't know any better.

TIM

Thank you?

EVE

I just don't like the boys calling me names.

TIM

Maybe they like you. Boys can be weird that way.

EVE

Dad, please, they aren't freaks. They're just upset because maybe I'm better than them and their monkey brains can't handle it.

KRISTIN

Tell me about it. You know that job I was trying to get with the city?

TIM

I wasn't aware there's a job in Cleveland you didn't already have.

KRISTIN

My friend told me I'm not getting it because they need to hire a minority. A white male. Can you believe it? Their lack of motivation has made them a minority in the workplace.

TIM

Oh my God, this is great news for Howie. (OFF KRISTIN'S LOOK) I mean, I'm outraged.

TIM SEES HOWIE ACROSS THE YARD TALKING WITH GORDON AND JASON. THEY LOOK LIKE THREE IDIOTS. TIM THEN LOOKS OVER AT VANESSA, BACK WITH HER FRIENDS BUT NOT ENJOYING HERSELF ANYMORE. TIM MAKES HIS WAY OVER TO HOWIE, JASON AND GORDON.

JASON

(TO HOWIE) Your mom should have told me that taking off early to go see the Kings of Leon was going to affect my chances of promotion. She obviously knew it. That's why she's been working so hard, trying to show me up.

GORDON

I have a lady boss now, too. She does not look like she cries after sex.

TIM

Howie, go over there and man the grill.

HOWIE

Mom doesn't like me around fire.

TIM

Go!

TIM HANDS HOWIE THE TONGS. TIM THEN MOVES OVER TO THE OTHER GUESTS AND CLINKS HIS BEER CAN FOR THEIR ATTENTION.

TIM (CONT'D)

Attention, everyone. We are here tonight for a celebration.

TIM RAISES HIS BEER TO MAKE A TOAST. EVERYONE MOVES CLOSER.

TIM (CONT'D)

To Vanessa. I obviously don't know what goes on at your work. I obviously don't know where you work. But I can say with absolute certainty that you deserved the promotion. Because I know you, I know you make everyone around you better or at least want to be better. You're intelligent, honest, respectful and loyal to a fault. And when someone is being a jackass on your special night you don't crack him in the head even though you should. That's why you got the promotion. Not because you're a woman, but because you're the best.

(MORE)

TIM (CONT'D)

So here's to Vanessa, the new vice
president of something at somewhere.

EVERYONE GIVES A "HEAR HEAR" AND DRINKS. VANESSA HUGS TIM.

VANESSA

Wow... you are so whipped.

TIM NODS. VANESSA KISSES HIM THEN WALKS OFF. ALL IS GOOD
UNTIL ED AND NIKKI WALK OVER. TIM IS SURPRISED TO SEE THEM.

TIM

When did you get here?

NIKKI

Just in time to hear you admit that
women are doing it better than men.

ED

You did. In my day we would have
dragged you behind a horse.

TIM

You grew up in Brooklyn. Your dad was
a poet.

NIKKI

Well, I still appreciate the vote of
confidence.

TIM

It wasn't real. I was being nice to my
wife. That's what men do; we're
complex. Know what I really believe?
I can run this company better than you.
And someday, Howie could do the same.

UNBEKNOWNST TO TIM HOWIE HAS LOST CONTROL OF THE GRILL. MEAT IS ON FIRE. FLAMES SHOOT HIGH. HOWIE WHACKS AT THE FLAMES WITH A TOWEL. THAT CATCHES FIRE. IT'S A MESS.

TIM (CONT'D)

I don't know when it started, but men are getting the raw deal. It's not fair. We built civilizations, we invented the locomotive, the car, the bacon western cheeseburger and ESPN. We...

HIS ATTENTION IS TURNED TO THE COMMOTION HOWIE IS CAUSING. HE LOOKS OVER THERE, THEN AT JASON WHO IS POURING BEER INTO THE DOG'S BOWL, THEN OVER AT GORDON WHO IS GETTING SLAPPED BY A WOMAN. HE SIGHS, TURNS BACK TO NIKKI.

TIM (CONT'D)

What time do you want me to be at work Monday?

AND OFF TIM'S DEFEATED LOOK:

CUT TO:

ACT THREE

Y

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

(Tim, Vanessa, Eve, Howie, Yuko)

TIM IS ON THE SOFA, DRINK IN HAND, WATCHING A HISTORY CHANNEL SPECIAL ON THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY. HE LOOKS CONTENT. THIS IS HOW A MAN RELAXES. HE IS SUDDENLY STARTLED TO SEE YUKO SITTING ON THE END OF THE SOFA. HE LIFTS THE REMOTE TO CHANGE THE CHANNEL BUT SHE STOPS HIM.

YUKO

No. You are the man.

TIM

(SMILES) You just might be the only
one who understands me.

THERE IS A BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM FROM UPSTAIRS. EVE RUNS IN AND THROWS HER ARMS AROUND TIM. VANESSA, KRISTIN AND HOWIE ENTER TO SEE WHAT IS GOING ON.

EVE

Victor!

TIM

Broken ankle Victor?

EVE

He just asked me to the movies. I'm so
sorry. You were right.

TIM IS SHOCKED, BUT SMILES AT VANESSA.

TIM

See, and you thought I didn't know what
I was doing.

VANESSA

I still don't.

HOWIE NOTICES YUKO SITTING ON THE SOFA.

HOWIE

Hey, Yuko, you want to go play World of Warcraft?

YUKO

Don't understand.

HOWIE ASKS HER ONCE AGAIN, BUT IN JAPANESE.

HOWIE

(TRANSLATION TO COME)

YUKO SHRUGS "WHY NOT" AND OFF THEY GO. VANESSA, KRISTIN AND EVE ALL LOOK AT EACH OTHER, SHOCKED.

KRISTIN

What just happened?

TIM JUMPS TO HIS FEET, INVIGORATED.

TIM

I'll tell you what? Just when I think it's over for men I'm reminded of one undeniable fact -- a horny male can accomplish anything. It's been that way since the beginning of time. That's why there's still hope. (TO EVE) And why you're never going out with anyone named Victor!

EVE

Dad!

AND AS THE NONSENSE STARTS UP AGAIN...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW