

TAKE IT FROM US

"Pilot"

written by

Greg Malins

&

Barry Schwartz

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. BELLA LUNA - NIGHT - PRESENT DAY

LUCAS (50S) AND **ALYSON** (50S), DRESSED CONSERVATIVELY, SIT ACROSS FROM THEIR SON **BLAKE** (18), WHO HAS HIS PHONE ON HIS LAP, PRETENDING NOT TO LOOK AT IT. ALYSON STARES AT HIM.

ALYSON

I can't believe my baby is leaving for college in two weeks. It seems like just yesterday you wouldn't leave for preschool until you kissed all your match-box cars goodbye.

ALYSON AND BLAKE SHARE A SMILE AT THE SWEET MEMORY.

LUCAS

And it seems like just yesterday I was changing your diaper and you took a crap on my hand.

LUCAS AND BLAKE EXCHANGE THE SAME SWEET SMILE AT THAT MEMORY.

ALYSON

The reason we wanted to take you to dinner tonight is we want to tell you a few things before you head out and start life in the real world.

LUCAS

Your mother and I learned a lot of lessons over the years, about relationships, work, friendship --

ALYSON

And we learned most of them by making mistakes. So we thought instead of you making all those mistakes yourself, why not learn from ours? Save yourself a lot of trouble.

BLAKE

Sure, great, but I have my last party with everybody tonight, so...

ALYSON

We know, but there's a lesson we think you really need to know because it'll help you in college. So stop looking at your phone and pay attention. This one's important.

OVER BLACK: LESSON #1: THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE. PEOPLE WHO GET CAUGHT AND PEOPLE WHO DON'T.

LUCAS

It's a lesson we learned before your mom and I even started dating, we were still just friends.

ALYSON

It started with pretty much the worst day of my life.

CUT TO:

INT. LAW FIRM OFFICE - EVENING

CHYRON: 1993

25 YEAR-OLD **ALYSON**, WHO GOES BY ALY AT THIS POINT IN HER LIFE, (THINK: JILLIAN BELL - PRETTY, TIGHTLY-WOUND, A RULE FOLLOWER) IS SEATED ACROSS FROM HER BOSS, **PHILIP** (60S).

ALYSON (V.O.)

First, I got fired.

ALY

The firm is downsizing? But why me? I turn in every brief early. I stay late. I even clean the kitchen because I can't help myself!

PHILIP

I know. That's why I waited until the end of the day to do it.

HE HANDS HER AN EMPTY BANKERS BOX.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - EVENING

ALY WALKS DOWN THE STREET CARRYING THE BOX.

ALYSON (V.O.)

Then... I got robbed.

TWO GUYS APPROACH HER, SNATCH THE BOX AND RUN OFF.

ALY

Seriously? Come on! (CALLING AFTER)
It's just a picture of my
grandparents, a plant and stress ball!
(TO HERSELF) That I could really use
right now!

ALYSON (V.O.)

I was upset, so I go see my boyfriend
at his office so he could comfort me
and make me feel better because that's
what boyfriends do, right? Well,
turns out they do other stuff, too.

CUT TO:

INT. CORPORATE OFFICE - NIGHT

ALY OPENS THE OFFICE DOOR TO REVEAL HER BOYFRIEND, **DEVON** (30, SUIT, KIND OF LOOKS LIKE A DOUCHE) MAKING OUT WITH A WOMAN, **HEATHER**, (MID 20S, HOT). HE THEN DOES THE CLASSIC "ABOUT TO HAVE SEX" MOVE AND SWIPES EVERYTHING OFF HIS DESK. JUST BEFORE HE LIFTS HEATHER ONTO IT...

HEATHER

(NOTICING) Uh, Dev...

DEVON TURNS TO SEE ALY STARING AT HIM, TOTALLY SPEECHLESS.

DEVON

(QUICKLY, TO HEATHER) Thank you for
helping me clean off my desk, Miss
Newman. That will be all. (THEN,
CHEERY) Aly, what's up?

ALY TURNS AND STORMS OUT.

LUCAS (V.O.)

I, on the other hand, was having a
great day.

CUT TO:

INT. NEWSPAPER OFFICE - DAY

CROWDED AND BUSY. PEOPLE IN THEIR 20S SIT AROUND A TABLE, WORKING ON NOTEPADS AND 90S-STYLE COMPUTERS.

LUCAS, (WHO GOES BY **LUKE** AT THIS STAGE IN HIS LIFE, THINK: DAVE FRANCO - SMART, IMPULSIVE, A SCAMP WHO HAS A SENSE OF HUMOR HE CAN'T ALWAYS CONTROL) WORKS AT THE END OF THE TABLE WHEN HIS BOSS, **VINCENT** (60S, SCHLUMPY, BAD COMB-OVER, SEEN IT ALL), APPROACHES AND LAYS DOWN SOME COPY IN FRONT OF HIM.

VINCENT

You wrote this headline? "That's What She Said: Janet Reno On Mexico: "I Like What Those Guys Are Doing Down There."?"

THE PEOPLE AROUND LUKE STIFLE LAUGHS.

LUKE

She's the one who said it, Vincent.

VINCENT

(GIVING UP) You know what? I may give you a shot at the front page headline tomorrow.

LUKE

Really? Even after that headline?

VINCENT

I'd only do it so you'll get promoted out of my department and my hair.

LUKE

Good, because it's getting harder and harder for me to find.

VINCENT

(ANNOYED) Do you ever want to be a
real writer or do you want to keep
making jokes and be a headline writer
forever?

LUKE

Real writer. That's all I want.
Sorry about the jokes, sir. I'll
stop. Ish.

VINCENT WALKS AWAY. LUKE SMILES AT HIS COWORKERS, WHO SHAKE
THEIR HEADS, LIKE, HOW DOES HE ALWAYS GET AWAY WITH THAT?

CUT TO:

INT. VILLAGE BEAT BOOKSTORE AND COFFEE HOUSE - NIGHT

IT'S A FUNKY COFFEEHOUSE-BOOKSTORE COMBINATION. THE FIRST
FLOOR IS FILLED WITH A COFFEE BAR, TABLES, BOOTHS AND OLD
MISMATCHED COUCHES. THE BACKGROUND CONSISTS OF BOOKSHELVES
AND DISPLAY TABLES. THERE'S A SEMI-GRAND STAIRWAY THAT LEADS
TO THE UPPER FLOORS WHERE THE REST OF THE BOOKS LIVE.

RANDY (THINK: DAMON WAYANS JR - MID 20S, BLACK, GAY, A
ROMANTIC) AND **SPENCER** (THINK: ZAC EFRON - MID 20S, GOOD
LOOKING, COCKY AND JUST DIM ENOUGH TO NOT KNOW HE'S DIM) ARE
THERE. RANDY HAS A LAPTOP ON THE TABLE WITH A PHONE LINE
PLUGGED INTO IT. THE PHONE LINE IS SO LONG IT RUNS BEHIND
THE COFFEE COUNTER. LUKE ENTERS, EXCITED.

LUKE

Guys, I might be getting my first ever
front page banner headline in the
Times tonight!

SPENCER

Hey, that's great. Isn't that like a
headline writer's dream?

LUKE

Well, a headline writer's dream is to get promoted out of being a headline writer, but yeah, it's a big deal.

RANDY

Then it's a big day for both of us. I met an amazing guy at a club last night. (SMITTEN) Ron...

LUKE

Let me guess. You're pretty sure Ron's your soulmate and you can imagine the two of you as a couple in your eighties, in rocking chairs, drinking tea, beside a lake?

RANDY

(DEFIANT) No. (THEN, SHEEPISH) A mountain.

SPENCER

Randy, how long is it going to take you to learn you're the only young gay guy in Manhattan looking for a long term relationship?

RANDY

(FRUSTRATED) There's another one out there, I know it. I just have to find him.

SPENCER

Well, you're not going to find--

HE'S INTERRUPTED BY THE ICONIC, HORRIBLY ANNOYING SOUND OF RANDY'S LAPTOP CONNECTING TO INTERNET THROUGH DIAL UP. IT'S LOUD AND GRATING AND LASTS WAY LONGER THAN YOU REMEMBER.

LUKE

God, I hate that noise.

RANDY

Well, you better get used to it, Luke.

That "noise" is the future.

LUKE

Can't you make the future quieter?

RANDY

That sound lets me work from anywhere.

So if I get to write computer code from here instead of some sad beige cubicle in some sad beige office, I don't care that it sounds like a robot having sex with a metal scrap yard because I'm getting paid right now.

CAITLIN (EVEN SHE DOESN'T KNOW HER EXACT AGE BUT SHE'S YOUNG, FLIGHTY, AND QUIRKY-PRETTY - THINK: JENNY SLATE) APPROACHES. SHE'S DRESSED LIKE SHE WORKS THERE BECAUSE SHE DOES.

LUKE

Caitlin, I think it's finally going to happen.

CAITLIN

(EXCITED) The animals finally admitted they could talk this whole time?

LUKE

No. I might have the main headline in tomorrow's paper.

CAITLIN

Oh, wow, that's awesome! (BEAT) And don't worry, the animals will tell us when they're ready. So when will you know for sure about the headline?

LUKE

When we go down to the newsstand in a few hours and look at the paper.

ALY ENTERS, CROSSES TO THE GROUP, FRUSTRATED AND UPSET.

ALY

I am having the worst day ever.

LUKE

(NOT BUYING IT) Real worst day ever, or "I broke a nail and had to eat a banana muffin because they were out of blueberry" worst day?

ALY

(POINTED) I got fired, robbed, and walked in on Devon about to have sex with some floozy on his desk.

LUKE

Wow. Okay. Real worst day. Sorry.

THE OTHERS REACT WITH SYMPATHY, "OH NO," "SO SORRY," ETC.
CAITLIN IS HUGGING HER WHEN DEVON ENTERS.

DEVON

Baby. It wasn't what it looked like.

ALY

Really? So making out with that woman
was just the easiest way to clean off
your desk?

DEVON

You're overreacting. So I kissed
someone else? It's not a big deal.

ALY

Not a big deal? Kissing someone else
is not a big deal? Okay, fine. Then
I guess this isn't a big deal either.

SHE LOOKS AROUND AND KEYS IN ON LUKE. SHE STRIDES OVER AND
KISSES HIM. WITH TONGUE. IT'S HARD AND LONG, HANDS IN THE
HAIR, NOISY, THE WORKS. WE FREEZE FRAME MID-KISS.

LUCAS (V.O.)

This is a pretty important moment. It's
the first time your mom and I kissed.
And even though it wasn't a real kiss--

ALYSON (V.O.)

We didn't know it at the time, or want
to admit it, but...

LUCAS (V.O.)

It changed everything.

UN-FREEZE. ALY PULLS OUT OF THE KISS. THEY LOOK INTO EACH OTHER'S EYES FOR A BEAT. THAT KISS WAS MORE THAN EITHER OF THEM EXPECTED IT TO BE. WE SEE RANDY NOTICE THAT MOMENT AS WELL. DEVON BREAKS THE SPELL.

DEVON

You're insane! Fine. We're over.

(TO GROUP) And I'll be glad to be rid of all you losers, too. (POINTING, TO LUKE) Wannabe writer. (CAITLIN) Grew up in the jungle. (RANDY) Can't say anything about you because you're black, and (SPENCER) prostitute.

AS HE EXITS, CAITLIN CALLS AFTER HIM...

CAITLIN

Hey, it wasn't just jungles! My parents were humanitarian aid workers. We lived in deserts, swamps, even a cave for a while. (TO THE GROUP) I liked that one because no one got mad when I drew on the walls.

SPENCER

And there's a big difference between "kept man" and prostitute. How dumb is that guy?

RANDY

Not that dumb. He knew better than to say anything about me.

LUKE

(TO ALY) Are you okay?

ALY

No. I'm not okay. I'm not okay at all. Everyone lied to me. My parents, teachers... They said if I just followed the rules, did all the right things -- studied hard, got into the right college, met the right guy from the right family -- my life would be perfect. Well, I did all those things and my life is a disaster. From now on I'm doing things the opposite of how I used to. No more perfect Aly, doing the right thing all the time. New Aly is only going to do wrong things from now on. I'm going to drink too much, go to clubs, maybe even do drugs! Is coke still a thing? I'll slam coke at crazy all-night clubs with my clubber people!

SPENCER

No sure anyone ever "slammed coke" and no one has ever said "clubber people."

ALY

And I'll work on my terminology!

SPENCER'S BEEPER GOES OFF.

RANDY

Uh oh, the happy hooker is being beckoned.

SPENCER

(RE BEEPER) It's not Barbara. It's my mother.

HE GETS UP TO CALL HIS MOTHER FROM THE PAYPHONE.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

And I'm not a hooker.

RANDY

A fifty year-old female CEO pays your rent and gives you an allowance in exchange for sex.

SPENCER

You're just jealous because I figured out how to live the perfect life. I don't have to work, I can do whatever I want, whenever I want. (BEAT) As long as I go to the gym four times a week, respond within twenty minutes whenever Barbara beeps me, keep my chest waxed and never go over 9% body fat.

LUKE

And have sex with her whenever she wants. At best, you're prostitute adjacent.

SPENCER

Do you know how many girls I've had sex with? Fifty-nine. You know how many paid my rent and gave me an allowance? Not one. Don't hate me 'cause I'm living the dream, guys.

RANDY

The prostitute's dream.

SPENCER FLIPS THEM OFF AS HE CROSSES AWAY. THEY LAUGH.

ALY

Hey, maybe I'll be slut, too. Have sex with tons of guys. Just sex all over the place. Once a week even! Oh! And how wrong is this?! I'll get a tattoo! A dolphin! On my arm. No. Across my lower back! How cool would that be? People will call it a... badass badge!

ALY'S CRAZY RANT GETS EYE ROLLS FROM THE GROUP.

ALYSON (V.O.)

Yeah, that's not what they called it.

SPENCER RETURNS IN A PANIC.

SPENCER

My mom's in town and she's insisting on meeting Barbara. What do I do? I've already avoided it ten times by saying Barbara's away on business.

RANDY

Why not just let them meet?

SPENCER

Right. Like I'm going to let her know my girlfriend is the same age she is.

LUKE

They might like each other.

SPENCER

Here we go. Luke makes another joke about Barbara's age.

LUKE

No. Not all. I just thought they could talk about what it was like growing up during the war.

EVERYONE BUT SPENCER LAUGHS.

LUKE (CONT'D)

I mean the Civil War was a fascinating time.

SPENCER

Are you done?

LUKE

For now.

SPENCER

Man, what am I going to do? (THEN, TO ALY) Hey, since you want to change your life anyway, how about you meet my mom and pretend to be Barbara?

ALY

I don't want to change into an old lady. That's kind of what I was before.

CAITLIN

I'll do it. I love pretending to be other people. When I first moved here from Botswana, I was so amazed by supermarkets, I used to pretend to be a stock boy at Zabar's just so I could spend all day there.

RANDY

Why "boy?"

CAITLIN

Oh, my hair was really short then.
(OFF LOOKS) Lice.

THEY ALL LET THIS SIT FOR A BEAT. FINALLY ALY CHANGES THE SUBJECT.

ALY

Okay, who's in? Who's going coke-sex clubbing with me tonight?

LUKE

We're going to see if I got the headline in tomorrow's paper. You should probably come with us instead of doing things you don't even know how to say right yet.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEWSSTAND - NIGHT

EVERYBODY ARRIVES AT THE NEWSSTAND. IT'S THE MOMENT OF TRUTH.
THEY ALL RUSH OVER AND READ THE HEADLINE...

LUKE

It's there! That's me! I wrote that!

A CHORUS OF "SO COOL", "CONGRATS" ETC.

LUCAS (V.O.)

Blake, you have to remember back then
newspapers were a big deal. People
actually read them. On paper.

LUKE

(TO NEWSSTAND GUY) I wanna buy, like,
ten of those.

NEWSSTAND GUY

Sure. But not til midnight. Paper
forbids me to sell them before
midnight.

LUKE

But I wrote that headline. Come on,
it's only a half an hour. I'll leave
the money, just look the other way.

NEWSSTAND GUY

If any of you put a hand on my stuff
before midnight, I call the cops.

LUKE

Oh, because I was thinking putting a
hand on your "stuff" was how I could
get the paper early.

THE OTHER STIFLE A LAUGH.

NEWSSTAND GUY

What'd you just say?!

LUKE

No. Nothing. Sorry.

NEWSSTAND GUY

Guess what? Now you can't even have
them at midnight.

THE NEWSSTAND GUY MOVES AWAY, ANNOYED.

ALY

(KINDA CRAZED) Let's steal them.

CAITLIN

What? Steal? Who is this girl?

LUKE

I love it. That guy's being a dick
anyway. I need five copies for my
family. Everybody grab one and run.
Meet back at me and Randy's apartment.

RANDY

And if anyone is a "get caught
person," be careful.

SPENCER

A what?

RANDY

There are two kinds of people. The
kind of people who --

ALY

Hey! I'm dying to do my first wrong thing, so let's do this! On three.

One, two --

LUKE

Not really something that needs a countdown...

ALY

Three!

THEY ALL GRAB PAPERS AND SCATTER IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.

ALY (CONT'D)

Stealing is awesome!

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE AND RANDY'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

LUKE AND CAITLIN ARE THERE WHEN RANDY ENTERS.

RANDY

I checked Spencer's apartment across the hall. They weren't there.

CAITLIN

And I called our apartment and Aly wasn't there either. They should totally have made it back here by now.

LUKE

I just hope Aly's okay.

RANDY

Of course you do. (SING SONG) You're in love with her.

LUKE

(SURPRISED) In love? What?

RANDY

I saw it. That kiss. It changed something in you. And now you love her.

CAITLIN

Oh my god, you do. You're turning red.

LUKE

You guys are crazy. She's my friend. That's all. And I'd never be into a girl like Aly. I date, like, ballet dancers and singers and remember that one girl who made art with animal by-products?

RANDY

It took twenty dollars worth of sage to get her smell out of this place.

CAITLIN

And me. Don't forget we dated when I first moved here.

LUKE

Did we date? Or did you just need a place to sleep?

CAITLIN

It was probably 70/30. But I'm not going to say which one was 70.

(MORE)

CAITLIN (CONT'D)

(THEN) You better get over Aly. You
two would never work.

ALYSON (V.O.)

And we've never let Caitlin forget she
said that.

LUKE

They should be here. You don't think
they got caught, do you?

RANDY

Wouldn't be surprised. They seem like
get caught people.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - SAME TIME

ALY AND SPENCER SIT WAITING TO GET THEIR MUG SHOTS TAKEN.

SPENCER

I can't believe we got caught.

ALY

Right? So cool. I'm a convict!

"NEW ALY" IS LOVING THIS.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. BELLA LUNA - PRESENT DAY

LUCAS AND ALYSON ARE STILL AT THE RESTAURANT WITH BLAKE.

BLAKE

(SHOCKED) Mom, you've been arrested?

ALYSON

Yes. So you don't have to be. See?

Another quick lesson: After you steal something, don't hide in a doorway ten feet from the place you stole from.

LUCAS

Or, don't steal at all.

ALYSON

Well, yes, that, too.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - SAME TIME

ALY AND SPENCER ARE STILL WAITING TO GET THEIR MUG SHOTS TAKEN.

SPENCER

(TO COP) I can't believe they take newspaper stealing so seriously.

ALY

I can't believe I got arrested. This is so "New Aly." So much better than coke-sex-clubbing.

COP

Time for your mugshot.

SHE GETS UP. BIG SMILE. FLASH.

ALY

(SWEETLY) Can I get a copy of that?

SPENCER AND THE COP SHARE AN EYE ROLL.

CUT TO:

INT. VILLAGE BEAT BOOKSTORE AND COFFEE HOUSE - DAY

THE CREW IS ALL THERE, EXCEPT RANDY, WHO IS MESSING WITH HIS COMPUTER CORD BEHIND THE COUNTER.

LUKE

You guys got caught stealing a newspaper. You're like street urchins from a Dickens novel.

ALY

I know. I can't believe that mother-fucker caught me. (OFF SHOCKED LOOKS)
New Aly swears. What do you think?

RANDY

It's weird on you.

ALY

Pipe down you bag of shit. (BEAT)
Any better?

CAITLIN

I don't like it.

LUKE

And it's "piece" not "bag." (THEN)
So can we talk about how in the hell you guys got caught?

ALY

Because I'm kind of new at this and I didn't pick the best hiding place.

CAITLIN

Best? In the technical sense of the word, you didn't even hide. You just stood very still on the sidewalk. (TO SPENCER) How'd you get caught?

SPENCER

That cop that showed up started chasing me. But no way is he outrunning me, right? I turn a corner, jump, grab a fire escape ladder and climb up. Home free. Then I see a baby about to fall off the balcony above me. I had to choose, get caught or save the baby. I chose the baby. "Awww," right?

LUKE

You stubbed your toe on a light pole, fell down and screamed, "My precious toe!" over and over again. I saw you **fall**.

SPENCER

(BEAT) Okay, I didn't save a baby but my toe really hurt.

(MORE)

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Then, while I was asking a cabbie for Aspirin, a cop showed up. I only got caught because of bad luck. That's all.

HEARING THAT, RANDY COMES OVER FROM PLUGGING IN HIS CORD.

RANDY

You got caught because you two are get caught people. The three of us didn't because we are not get caught people.

SPENCER

"Not get caught people." That's not a thing.

RANDY

Really? I'm a 6'3" black guy running from a crime scene. And I didn't get caught.

LUKE

(REALIZING) Wow. It's true, isn't it? Think about it. Even as kids, there were the ones who always got caught and the kids who could do anything and never get caught. Same with adults. Randy's right. There are people who get caught and people who don't.

CAITLIN

(THINKING ABOUT IT) It's totally true. Look at Devon. He's a get caught.

(MORE)

CAITLIN (CONT'D)

Luckily, I'm not, because in Zaire, the punishment for stealing is a public caning. You think, "that sounds sexy." Believe me, it's not.

LUKE

The more I hear about your childhood, the less I want to know.

ALY

You can't say I'm a get caught person. I never got caught at anything growing up because I never did anything wrong.

LUKE

But did you ever get blamed for stuff you didn't do?

ALY

Yes! All the time. Like I would ever write, "Mr. Sandy cums in his pants" in my science book. It was in there when I got it!

RANDY

(OPENING LAPTOP) Then I'm sorry, but you're a GCP -- Get caught person.

ALY

(DISAPPOINTED) Aww, really?

LUKE

But Aly, it's good you know now.
Since you're trying to become a new
person, you need to know that and act
accordingly. Like if you--

HE'S INTERRUPTED BY THE ANNOYING DIAL UP NOISE AGAIN FROM
RANDY'S COMPUTER. THEY ALL STARE AT HIM, IRRITATED.

RANDY

Wait for it... wait... here it
comes...

AOL GUY

You've got mail.

RANDY

(COCKY) Yeah, I do.

CAITLIN

(TO SPENCER) So, get caught guy, what
time is our lunch with your mom?

LUKE

Wait, you can't do that now. You
can't have Caitlin pretend to be
Barbara. You'll get caught. You're a
GCP, buddy.

SPENCER

I won't get caught. Because GCP is
just a stupid thing Randy made up.

RANDY

I didn't make it up. Believe me. I'm black and gay and I grew up in Detroit in the 70s. I know more about not getting caught than any of you ever will.

CAITLIN

Spencer, we have to do it. I really want to play Barbara. I know all about the corporate world. Growing up in Zaire, the only American book I had was a *Dilbert* comic. It made working at a big company seem so exciting and magical.

RANDY

Magical? *Dilbert* was about how soulless and mind-numbing office culture is.

CAITLIN

Maybe here. In Zaire, it was like a fantasy land. Access to a water-cooler 24-7, roofs, zero chance of malaria...

SPENCER

Look, don't "play" anyone. Just be normal.

CAITLIN

Yeah, I'm not really sure what that is.

ALY NODS -- SHE KNOWS THAT'S TRUE.

LUKE

You can't ask someone who was basically raised by wolves to be normal.

CAITLIN

They weren't wolves, they were African prairie dogs. And they didn't raise me, they were just my friends. Until one of my friends gave me rabies. We didn't hang out much after that.

SPENCER AND RANDY SHAKE THEIR HEADS.

CUT TO:

INT. CLARETTE - DAY

IT'S A NICE BISTRO-STYLE RESTAURANT. SPENCER SITS WITH HIS MOTHER, **ELIZABETH** (LATE 40S, CONSERVATIVE). IT SEEMS LIKE THEY'VE BEEN WAITING FOR AWHILE.

ELIZABETH

Ten minutes late, Spencey.

SPENCER

She's coming, Mother. Don't worry.

ELIZABETH

Late for lunch, always out of town whenever I'm here. I'm beginning to think she doesn't exist.

SPENCER

She exists. I promise you that. Now, the important thing is you meet her, we have a quick lunch, not too much talking, then Barbara has to go because of her job.

ELIZABETH

I know, I know, she's some big wig.

SPENCER

Why don't we order, that way --

CAITLIN ENTERS WEARING AN '80S-STYLE POWER SUIT.

CAITLIN

(LIKE A CORPORATE TYPE) Sorry I'm late.

(KISSES SPENCER) Hi, baby. (THEN)

Problems at the office. Again. But what can I do? "I owe, I owe, so off to work I go." Am I right?

SPENCER

(TO HIMSELF) Oh my god.

CAITLIN

Spencer, you alright? I hope you haven't come down with a bad case of the Mondays! Kidding, it's Wednesday.

ELIZABETH ACTUALLY CHUCKLES AT THAT.

SPENCER

(FIERCE WHISPER) Stop doing that!

CAITLIN

(CALLING OFF) Can I get some coffee over here? No coffee, no workee, am I right? (THEN) Hi, I'm Barbara.

ELIZABETH

(TAKEN ABACK) Hello. I'm Elizabeth.

CAITLIN

Can I just thank you for Spencer? He is so wonderful. Kind, funny and a very gentle lover.

BEHIND HIS MOM, SPENCER GESTURES FOR CAITLIN TO TONE IT DOWN.

ELIZABETH

Oh, well, that's... Thank you? It's so nice to finally meet you. I have to say, you're not at all what I expected. Spencer usually dates...

CAITLIN

Vapid, doe-eyed idiots.

ELIZABETH

That's certainly one way of putting it.

SPENCER

Should we order? We should order.

(FINGER IN AIR) Sir?

ELIZABETH

I have to be honest, I thought he was making up stories to prevent us from meeting. But now I see he was telling the truth.

CAITLIN

Oh, Spencer would never lie to you. He respects you too much.

SPENCER

Maybe we just do appetizers and call it a lunch.

ELIZABETH

I love that pant-suit, Barbara.

CAITLIN

Thank you, I love yours, too. Where'd you get it?

ELIZABETH

CAITLIN

Talbots.

Talbots.

ELIZABETH

I like this one, Spencey. (TO CAITLIN) Now, let's see about getting you that coffee.

AS ELIZABETH TURNS TO FIND THE WAITER, CAITLIN GIVES SPENCER A THUMBS UP AND MOUTHS "SO FUN!" SPENCER ROLLS HIS EYES.

CUT TO:

INT. VILLAGE BEAT BOOKSTORE AND COFFEE HOUSE - DAY

LUKE AND RANDY ARE THERE WHEN SPENCER AND CAITLIN ENTER. AS CAITLIN GETS READY FOR WORK...

SPENCER

(LIKE A RETURNING HERO) Didn't get caught! Went to lunch with my mother - - Caitlin was insane -- but got through it fine. You guys were wrong, I am not a get caught person.

LUKE

You have toilet paper hanging from your shoe.

SPENCER

(SEEING IT'S TRUE) Goddammit.

AS HE TRIES TO GET IT OFF...

RANDY

He was so happy. You couldn't have just let it go?

LUKE

Have you not met me?

CAITLIN

Lunch was so fun. Spencer's mom loves me. I should totally get a job as a CEO. I would kill it!

SPENCER

The important thing is it's over. My mom wants to go to the Met with me--

LUKE

--but you hate museums. They combine three of your least favorite things.

(MORE)

LUKE (CONT'D)

Walking, learning and pictures that
don't move.

SPENCER

You forgot "old stuff." No way I'm
doing that.

CAITLIN

You know who also loves the Met?
Barbara. She just got elected to the
board!

SPENCER JUST ROLLS HIS EYES. AFTER A BEAT...

LUKE

So, Cait. How's Aly? Is she okay?

RANDY

Been thinking about Aly, have we?

LUKE

She's my friend and she had a terrible
day yesterday. I'm worried about her.

CAITLIN

She said she was going to Devon's
apartment to collect some of the stuff
she left there. Said she was going to
make his day.

LUKE

Make his day? She said that?

CAITLIN

Yes. Either that or "make him pay."
One of the two.

RANDY

She's going to trash his apartment.

CAITLIN

That's what I would do.

LUKE

Yeah, but you wouldn't get caught.

SPENCER

Oh, these silly "get caughts." I actually feel bad for them. (CHECKS WATCH) Oh, shoot, I have to go get ready for Barbara. (OFF CAITLIN'S EXCITED LOOK) Real Barbara, not "will work for chocolate! Am I right?" Barbara.

HE HASTILY EXITS.

LUKE

I have to stop Aly. I can't let her get arrested again.

LUCAS (V.O.)

And remember, Blake, this was before cell phones so I couldn't just call her. Or text, email, FaceTime...

ALYSON (V.O.)

Sometimes I think back on that time and wonder how we even survived.

CAITLIN

Aly left awhile ago, I don't know that
you'll get there in time.

LUKE

I have to try.

RANDY

You can become a minister on the world
wide web now, you know.

LUKE

What?

RANDY

I want to officiate the ceremony.

When you and Aly get married.

LUKE LOOKS AND HIM LIKE HE'S CRAZY, AS HE RUNS OUT...

LUCAS (V.O.)

And Randy never let us forget he said
that.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. DEVON'S APARTMENT - DAY

ALY ENTERS AND LOOKS AROUND. SHE MOVES TO A TABLE BEHIND THE COUCH. IT'S GOT A LAMP, A PICTURE AND A SMALL PLANT ON IT.

ALY

I know you love this move, Devon.

SHE USES HER ARM TO SWEEP EVERYTHING OFF THE TABLE, JUST LIKE DEVON DID ON HIS OFFICE EARLIER. NEXT SHE DOES THE SAME THING TO HIS COFFEE TABLE. SHE LOOKS AT HER WORK.

ALY (CONT'D)

(PROUD) New Aly is awesome.

SUDDENLY, **HEATHER** (THE GIRL WE SAW WITH DEVON IN THE FIRST SCENE) COMES OUT OF THE BACK, WEARING A T-SHIRT JUST LONG ENOUGH SO WE CAN'T TELL IF THAT'S ALL SHE'S WEARING.

HEATHER

What's with all the banging? (SEEING THE MESS) Oh my god! (THEN) Hey, you're the girl from the office.

ALY

(FREAKING) You?! You're the bitch who's been sleeping with my boyfriend!

HEATHER

Your boyfriend? Devon and I have been together for a month!

ALY

A month?! This has been going on for a month?! Devon and I have been--
(REALIZING) Hey! That's my shirt! You're wearing my shirt! Take that off right now!

HEATHER

Like that's going to happen. You need to calm down and walk out of here before this gets embarrassing.

ALY

That's exactly what I would have done two days ago. But not anymore. If you won't give it to me, I'll just take it.

ALY RUNS RIGHT HEATHER, TACKLING HER.

CUT TO:

INT. DEVON'S APARTMENT HALLWAY - DAY

LUKE ARRIVES AND HEARS THE STRUGGLE GOING ON INSIDE.

LUKE

Oh no.

CUT TO:

INT. DEVON'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

LUKE ENTERS TO SEE ALY AND HEATHER ROLLING AROUND ON THE FLOOR, FIGHTING.

ALY

Give it to me!

HEATHER

Get off me, you crazy bitch!

LUKE

Hey! Hey! Guys, enough! Stop!

ALY

(EXCITED) Hey, check it out! I'm fighting another girl! I'm in an actual fight!

LUKE

You need to stop before --

THE **DOORMAN** (50S) APPEARS IN THE DOORWAY WITH A **POLICE OFFICER** (WHO HAPPENS TO HAVE BIG EARS).

LUKE (CONT'D)

Too late.

CUT TO:

INT. SPENCER'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

SPENCER IS TIDYING UP, SETTING OUT WINE AND GLASSES, ETC. **BARBARA** ENTERS. SHE'S DRESSED LIKE AN EXEC, GREAT BODY, SEXY (THINK SHARON STONE.) SHE CROSSES IN LIKE SHE OWNS THE PLACE (BECAUSE SHE KIND OF DOES), LAYING HER COAT ON THE COUCH. SPENCER APPROACHES HER.

SPENCER

Hey, baby.

BARBARA

(SWEET) Hey, Spencey.

SPENCER

(ALMOST TO HIMSELF) Don't love that you call me that.

THEY KISS.

BARBARA

It is so good to see you. Work has been absolutely hellish.

SPENCER

Well, sit down, I opened one of the wines on the list of approved wines you gave me.

THEY SIT ON THE COUCH.

BARBARA

I am so lucky to have you. Seeing you makes me forget all about work, all my stress just drifts away.

SPENCER

I feel the same way.

BARBARA

(CONFUSED) What do you mean?

SPENCER

(BEAT) I don't know. Sometimes I just say stuff.

BARBARA

You're adorable. The place looks great. (RE A LAMP) Is that a sports lamp? You know better than that.

SPENCER

Of course. Sorry. It'll be gone by next time.

THEY KISS. SUDDENLY CAITLIN AND ELIZABETH ENTER. THEY'RE LAUGHING AND DON'T NOTICE SPENCER AND BARBARA ON THE COUCH.

CAITLIN

I'd spend all day at the Met if I wasn't a CEO who runs a corporation.

ELIZABETH

You slay me, Barbara.

BARBARA

(WHIPPING HEAD AROUND) What?

SPENCER

Oh no.

BARBARA

Who the hell are you?

ELIZABETH

I'm Spencer's mother. Who are you?

BARBARA

I'm his girlfriend.

ELIZABETH

No you're not. She is.

SHE POINTS TO CAITLIN. EVERYONE LOOKS AT HER. BARBARA STANDS UP.

BARBARA

(TO SPENCER) You want to explain
what's going on here?

SPENCER

This is actually a really funny
misunderstanding.

BARBARA AND ELIZABETH ARE NOW ALMOST STANDING NEXT TO EACH OTHER, GLARING AT SPENCER.

ELIZABETH

BARBARA

Stop weaseling.

Cut the shit.

CAITLIN

Uh, oh.

SPENCER

(TO CAITLIN) What are you doing here?

CAITLIN

Since you wouldn't go, we went to the Met together, then we came to see if you wanted to go to dinner with us.

SPENCER

I'm gonna say that's probably a "no."

(THEN) Here's what happened. Funny story. I had to save a baby--

ELIZABETH

BARBARA

Spencer Scott Collins, don't
you lie to me.

Spencer Scott Collins, don't
you lie to me.

CAITLIN

Wow. Weird.

SPENCER CONT'D)

(BEAT, THEN TO HIMSELF) Goddammit, I
am a get caught person.

BACK TO:

INT. DEVON'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

THEY ARE ALL AS WE LEFT THEM, DOORMAN AND POLICE OFFICER IN THE DOORWAY, THE GIRLS WRESTLING AND LUKE LOOKING ON IN SHOCK.

THE OFFICER AND THE DOORMAN ARE WATCHING THE GIRLS FIGHT. IT'S KINDA SEXY AND THEY CAN'T TAKE THEIR EYES OFF IT. LUKE LOOKS AT THEM, WAITING FOR THE OFFICER TO SAY SOMETHING. HE LOOKS AT THE GIRLS THEN BACK AT THE OFFICER. AFTER A BEAT...

LUKE

(TO OFFICER) Seriously?

POLICE OFFICER

Alright, alright. Enough. Break it
up.

THE GIRLS FINALLY NOTICE THE DOORMAN AND OFFICER AND STOP.

DOORMAN

I'm sorry, Miss Aly, but Mr. Devon
told me to call the police if I saw
you come in the building.

POLICE OFFICER

Somebody want to explain what's going
on here?

HEATHER

She broke into my apartment!

ALY

It's not your apartment! And she's
wearing my shirt!

POLICE OFFICER

If someone wants to explain to me
what's going on here, I'm all ears.

LUKE FREEZES AS HE STARES AT THE OFFICER'S OVERSIZED EARS.
HE KNOWS HE SHOULDN'T MAKE A JOKE BUT HE REALLY WANTS TO. A
SITUATION LIKE THIS IS HELL FOR LUKE. ALY SEES WHAT'S
HAPPENING.

ALY

(WHISPERS) Luke. Don't.

LUKE SHAKES IT OFF.

HEATHER

I'll explain it. She's a bitch.

ALY

What? She's the bitch! She's --

POLICE OFFICER

Enough! Maybe we should just sort
this out downtown. Let's go.

ALY

HEATHER

I'm getting arrested again? I can't get arrested again.

THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER, "YOU'VE BEEN ARRESTED BEFORE?" LUKE
MOVES TOWARDS ALY.

LUKE

(SOTTO) You won't get arrested.

ALY

What?

LUKE

Not gonna happen. Trust me.

POLICE OFFICER

(TO HEATHER) Put some pants on. I
don't have all --

SUDDENLY HIS WALKIE ERUPTS WITH A REPORT OF AN ARMED ROBBERY.
THE OFFICER'S EYES GO WIDE. HE PICKS UP HIS WALKIE.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)

(INTO WALKIE) Echo 2-4-6-1. I'm less
than a block away. En route. Out.

(TO WOMEN) I want everyone out of this
apartment now. If I hear of anymore
trouble from either of you, you're
spending the night in jail.

HE RUSHES OUT. LUKE SMILES AT ALY, WHO LOOKS AT HIM SHOCKED.

ALY

How did you know?

LUKE

I called it in from the payphone on
the corner right before I came up.

ALY

Oh my god -- you could get in so much
trouble for that.

LUKE

No, you could. I'm a NGC, remember?
Now let's get out of here before he
realizes it was fake.

THEY START TO LEAVE.

ALY

Hold on.

SHE TURNS, GRABS A VASE AND SLAMS IT TO THE FLOOR.

ALY (CONT'D)

Now we can go.

HEATHER WATCHES THEM GO, LOOKING AT ALY LIKE SHE'S CRAZY.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW YORK STREET - EVENING

LUKE AND ALY SLOWLY WALK DOWN THE STREET. IT'S DARK BUT THE
STREETLIGHTS SHINE A WARM GLOW.

ALY

How did you know a cop would be there?

LUKE

I didn't. But considering you're a
get caught person, I took a chance.

ALY

I know. I am. I fully admit it. It was stupid to break in there. But I kind of had to, you know?

LUKE

Not really.

ALY

Devon cheated on me. My boss fired me. People always treat me like crap and I've never done anything about it. If I'm really going to be a different person, I had to stand up and fight back for once. So in that sense I'm glad I did.

LUKE

I was thinking about this "different person" thing. I like the idea of it but you might want to take it slow. Maybe a hybrid of Old Aly and New.

ALY

Yeah, you're probably right. I went pretty crazy there for awhile. I stole a newspaper -- which felt surprisingly good. I trashed a guy's apartment -- which felt really good. I mean, I even made out with you in the bookstore which also felt--

SHE STOPS HERSELF, WORRIED SHE'S ABOUT TO SAY TOO MUCH.

LUKE

What?

ALY

Nothing. (BEAT) I just did it to prove a point but when we were in it, it felt like, I don't know... more. (BEAT) It's stupid. It was probably just one of those "in the moment" things. Like it wouldn't feel that way in another situation. Just never mind.

LUKE

(LONG BEAT) Let's see if it would.

HE GENTLY PUSHES HER BACK AGAINST A STREET LAMP AND KISSES HER. IF THIS WAS A ROM-COM, IT WOULD BE RAINING. BUT'S IT NOT, SO IT ISN'T. AFTER THEY PART...

LUKE (CONT'D)

So, did that feel --

ALY JUST GRABS HIM AND INTENSELY KISSES HIM AGAIN. THIS ONE LASTS EVEN LONGER AND IT'S THE BEST ONE YET.

CUT TO:

INT. BELLA LUNA - EVENING - PRESENT DAY

LUCAS PUTS HIS ARM AROUND ALYSON, SMILES AT BLAKE.

LUCAS

And that was the second time your mother and I kissed.

ALYSON

But the first time we kissed for real.

LUCAS

Then I went back to my apartment, she went back to hers and as we found out later, we both laid in bed thinking about the other one all night.

BLAKE

That's actually really sweet.

ALYSON

It was. It was really sweet.

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

LUKE AND ALY LAY IN BED, SPENT. HAIR MESSED, SHEETS RUMPLED. THEY DIDN'T GO TO THEIR RESPECTIVE APARTMENTS, THEY WENT TO LUKE'S AND GOT CRAZY BUSY. BUT THEY WEREN'T ABOUT TO TELL THAT TO THEIR SON.

ALY

Oh my god, that was amazing. I've never done half that stuff before.

LUKE

I loved it too. (THEN) I mean this as a compliment, but I never thought of you as the kind of girl who could or would do that sort of stuff.

ALY

(SMILES) Old Aly never would have.

LUKE

I like New Aly. That thing you did with those Altoids was insane!

(MORE)

LUKE (CONT'D)

(BEAT) Hey, let's not tell people we did this. They'd really freak out.

ALY

Agree. The rest of the group couldn't handle it. Our secret.

LUKE

Plus I don't want Randy acting all high and mighty because he was right.

THEY LAUGH. THEN, FROM THE NEXT ROOM THEY HEAR...

RANDY (O.S.)

I'm always right.

CUT TO:

INT. VILLAGE BEAT - THE NEXT DAY

THE CREW IS THERE DRINKING COFFEE AND HANGING OUT.

LUKE

So your mom and fake Barbara walked in on you and real Barbara. Man, I wish I could have seen that.

SPENCER

I'd never seen my mother so frazzled. I always thought she was unfrazzleable.

RANDY

I told you you'd get caught.

SPENCER

I know, I know. I hate that I'm a "get caught person" but I am.

ALY

So, how'd Barbara take it?

SPENCER

She's fine. I'm not getting my allowance for a week but she's fine.

LUKE

And your mom?

SPENCER

She was funny. She was so unable to understand or approve of my relationship with Barbara--

RANDY

--like everyone else in the world--

SPENCER

--so she decided to just act like Caitlin is my girlfriend, not that "scary mean old lady" she met in my apartment.

LUKE

Seriously? That was her solution?

SPENCER

My mother is the master of denial. Now whenever she comes to town, Caitlin and I have to have dinner with her and I have to call Caitlin Barbara.

CAITLIN

It's win-win. Your mom gets to have a son who's not in a depressing and borderline creepy relationship and I get to use all my mug phrases. "I'm a golfer with a work problem! Am I right?"

ALY

I better head out. I have to... run some errands, that... need me to run them. See you guys later.

ALY LEAVES. LUKE CONSPICUOUSLY WAITS A BEAT.

LUKE

I better go, too. Very busy. (JOKEY)
Headlines don't write themselves, am I right?

LUKE LEAVES AND THEY WATCH HIM HEAD IN THE SAME DIRECTION AS ALY.

CAITLIN

It's adorable that they think we don't know they're doing it.

SPENCER

So funny. When should we tell them we know?

RANDY

When we get sick of messing with them.

SPENCER

Sounds right.

CUT TO:

INT. BELLA LUNA - EVENING - PRESENT DAY

AS THEY WERE.

ALYSON

So the lesson is, when you get to college, figure out what kind of person you are and act accordingly.

LUCAS

And there's an underlying lesson you need to know as well.

OVER BLACK: IT STILL SAYS *LESSON #1: THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE. PEOPLE WHO GET CAUGHT AND PEOPLE WHO DON'T.*

BUT NOW WE ADD... *FIGURE OUT WHAT TYPE OF PERSON YOUR FRIENDS ARE, SO YOU CAN HELP THEM WHEN THEY NEED IT.*

BLAKE

It is true, isn't it? Two kinds of people. Wow, I never realized that. And I'm pretty sure I'm not a get caught person because one time, Brian, Steve, Shaun and I picked up a Volkswagen Bug and-- (REALIZING) That's not important. Tonight's about you guys saying stuff.

THE WAITER COMES BY.

WAITER

Are we ready to order some drinks?

ALYSON

We need a few more minutes. (TO
LUCAS) Now let's tell Blake the
"Always Order Two Things of Fries"
lesson.

THE WAITER MOVES OFF.

BLAKE

Wait, another lesson?

LUCAS

We only have two weeks before you
leave for college. We have a lot of
knowledge to pass on before you go.

ALYSON

The two fries thing started at a diner
in Brooklyn. Your father and I had
been dating for a year--

LUCAS

No, we'd been dating for at least two
years by then, because we were already
living together...

AS HIS PARENTS TALK, BLAKE SURREPTITIOUSLY TEXTS HIS FRIEND,
HUNTER. HIS TEXT APPEARS AS A CHYRON ACROSS THE SCREEN:

**MY PARENTS ARE TEACHING ME "LIFE LESSONS." LOOKS LIKE DINNER
IS GONNA TAKE LONGER THAN I THOUGHT...**

HE LOOKS AT HIS PARENTS THEN TEXTS ONE MORE THING.

CHYRON: **AND HUNTER, DON'T SNEAK YOUR DAD'S PORSCHE OUT
TONIGHT. YOU'RE A GET CAUGHT PERSON. WILL EXPLAIN LATER.**

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW

*