

SINGLE PARENTS

PILOT

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It's first day chaos as parents settle their kids in, unpacking backpacks, giving goodbye hugs, etc.

Among them is WILL COOPER, and daughter SOPHIE at her desk.

WILL

So you're the only new kid. Big deal. You're gonna crush first grade, Soph!

SOPHIE

Thanks, Dad.

WILL

And just in case you do get nervous, I got you this.

(hands her a necklace)

A magical amulet. Nothing bad can happen when you got this guy on.

(wizard voice)

Careful. Ooo. Don't let the magic out...

SOPHIE

Did you make this out of Post-It's?

WILL

(wizard voice)

... No. Yes.

SOPHIE

Dad? It's going to be way worse for me if I'm wearing sticky notes around my neck. You understand that, right? I'm good on my own.

WILL

(surprised, scared)

You're good on your own?

SOPHIE

Yeah. See you at pick up.

He nods, kisses her, and exits frame, then:

WILL (O.S.)

I've been staring at the edge of the water...

SOPHIE

Are you whisper-singing *Moana* at me?!

WILL

It calms you down!
(off her look)
My mistake. You got this.

SOPHIE

Dad. Do you want the amulet?

WILL

Yes! Yes, I really do.

pt.2 ACROSS THE ROOM:

pt.2

GRAHAM keeps his arms around his mom as she organizes his stuff. This is ANGIE.

GRAHAM

What if I miss you?

ANGIE

It's six hours, buddy. You'll live.

GRAHAM

Can I have your scarf?

ANGIE

No, Graham. We're not doing the scarf thing.

GRAHAM

Please. It helps when I have something of yours to sniff.

ANGIE

Dude. I want you to have fun this year. I don't want you at your desk during recess sniffing my stuff...

(off his desperate look)

Fine. But you have to eat vegetables tonight. Like, green bummer vegetables.

Graham stares at her adoringly.

GRAHAM

You run a tight ship. It's what I love about you.

ANGIE

(hands him the scarf)

Here. Go nuts.

She hands him her scarf. He buries his face in it.

GRAHAM

Mmm. Like coconuts and safety.

A MARRIED COUPLE stares as they walk by.

ANGIE

Oh, 'cause you're married, your kid has noooo issues. Must be nice.

pt.3 ACROSS THE ROOM:

pt.3

POPPY settles in RORY, who is dressed in purple pants, shirt, and shoes.

RORY

Mom? I'm regretting the purple.

POPPY

You loved your outfit this morning--

RORY

What if other kids make fun of me? I should have dressed normal.

POPPY

Rory, what's the one thing you always have to be?

RORY

Myself.

POPPY

And who are you, Rory?

RORY

Honestly, Mom. I don't even know right now.

POPPY

Listen to me, Rory. You are a smart, stylish little man who can pull off jewel tones better than anyone I know. And you can cut a rug.

RORY

(feeling better)

Yeah. I'm excited for my dance party. I want everyone to come! Even Douglas!

POPPY

That's it! Yeah! Be yourself, and love purple!

RORY

Okay. Today I am a GRAAAAPE!

POPPY

(to passing kid)

You heard him! Kid's a grape! He's living his truth!

Poppy and Rory hug.

pt.4 ACROSS THE ROOM:

pt.4

DOUGLAS stands over his twins, EMMA and AMY.

EMMA

Dad, you forgot our lunchboxes.

DOUGLAS

Take twenty bucks. Get a burger from the grill.

AMY

Dad, this isn't the club. There's no grill.

Douglas sighs and gives a GIRL at the next desk the twenty.

DOUGLAS

Here, sweetheart, buy yourself some crap with a rainbow on it. My kid's taking your lunch. You think anyone packed me snacks? Make it work.

He swipes the lunch off her desk and hands it to his girls.

EMMA

Dad, you can't call girls "sweetheart."

AMY

It's not empowering.

DOUGLAS

I'll tell you what's empowering: Fending for yourself. Kids today are treated like morons. But not you. I would share a foxhole with both of you and that's the highest compliment I can give. Now hit me with the family motto.

EMMA

No weakness!

AMY

Lock her up!

pt.5 IN YET ANOTHER CORNER OF THE ROOM:

pt.5

An adorable BABY, JACK, is being spoon-fed by his dad, MIGGY.
REVERSE TO REVEAL, Miggy holds the spoon mid-air, asleep.

MISS ADAMS (O.S.)

Sir? Are you supposed to be here?
Do you have a child in this class?

Poppy sidles in, Angie and Douglas behind her.

POPPY

He's my neighbor. He's twenty and he's raising a baby alone. He hasn't fully accepted that his life is changed forever, you know? It's like Bruce Willis in *The Sixth Sense*. He doesn't know he's crossed over.

MISS ADAMS

Yeah, I'm not running a support group. This is first grade.

ANGIE

Ooh. You're a little mean. I like it.

MIGGY

(suddenly wakes up)
Where am I? This club is wack!

MISS ADAMS

Sir, I'm gonna ask you to leave--

Douglas hands Miss Adams a twenty dollar bill.

DOUGLAS

He goes where we go. Here. Get yourself something nice.

MISS ADAMS

I can't accept tips.

DOUGLAS

"Sure." "Okay." "I dropped it on the floor."

The BELL RINGS. Douglas turns to the others.

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

All summer I've been waiting for that sound. Finally, I'm free--

WILL (O.S.)

'Scuse me? Quick announcement?

Will's at the front of the room, clanging a triangle. He now wears the Post-It necklace.

WILL (CONT'D)

Name's Will Cooper, and I have the honor of being your Room Parent.

ANGIE

Ohhh no.

POPPY

Ooo, this is bad.

DOUGLAS

Is he wearing a necklace made of garbage?

WILL

Sophie and I are new, but all you need to know is we're pumped about first grade, we're registered pizza-holics, and we're suuuper on the fence about bees. We love honey, but yo, bees, why you gotta be so scary? Anyway, look forward to getting to know you. And I'm single.

(beat)

I like to get that out of the way, but I never know how to work it in. Wow. It's hot in here. Have I been talking for nine minutes?

DOUGLAS

This is what's become of the American male. We used to make things!

POPPY

Empathy, Douglas. He's single. We're single.

ANGIE

I've never been *that* single.

MIGGY

Oh man, he's still talking.

WILL

...So if you're ever in the Sudan, and need a human rights lawyer, call my ex, Mia, because that's where she is.

(MORE)

WILL (CONT'D)

But I'm saving the world here at home by starting a little hot lunch option I call...

(Oprah-style sing-song)

Taaaa-co Tuesday, y'all...

The MARRIED COUPLES in the room applaud, loving this.

ANGIE

I can't look. Is he raising the roof? He's raising the roof, isn't he?

WILL

..."But Will, what if my kid only likes quesadillas?" Read my lips: There. Will. Be. A. Quesadilla. Option. Now how do you fit into this? Five words: One hundred percent parent participation! I'll be outside with a sign-up sheet. Don't try to avoid me because I will find you and circle you like a shark. *Out for blood!*

DOUGLAS

Oh, look, a bee.

WILL

What?! Where?!

DOUGLAS

(laughing to himself)

He, he, he...

SMASH TO MAIN TITLES.

2 EXT. SCHOOL. MOMENTS LATER. (D1)

2

Poppy, Angie, Douglas and Miggy have a quick huddle.

ANGIE

Okay, let's figure out babysitting for the week. I need help Thursday because all the paralegals are going to Six Flags. Just kidding. We're staying late to file.

MIGGY

Thursday I'm busy. I gotta Gram my new Yeezy's. Don't quote me, but I might like, put 'em in a windowsill next to a plant.

DOUGLAS

You're a ridiculous person.

MIGGY

(enthusiastic)

Thanks, man!

POPPY

At least he doesn't eat steak with the same pasty old white guys night after night.

DOUGLAS

We're retired dermatologists who enjoy scotch and golf and reminiscing about moles. You wouldn't believe what I burned off in my day.

ANGIE

Hey, I need help with something. I found this in Graham's backpack.

She produces a LETTER. Poppy looks it over.

POPPY

Aww, Graham wrote a love letter... Oh no, to Zoe? That girl who always wears bunny ears? She runs the school.

ANGIE

Yeah. And if she hurts Graham I'll kill her. Or at least take her weird basket full of eggs.

MIGGY

Let's see what we got.

(reading the letter)

"Zoe, I want to hug you and give you all my gum." Ooo. Don't love that. "I want to lock you in my house and never let you out. Can I buy you a horse?" What?

DOUGLAS

Burn it. That's a letter that defines a man until he's able to replace it with money or murder.

MIGGY

Yeah. I sent a letter like this to my girlfriend.

(MORE)

MIGGY (CONT'D)

A year later she handed me our baby, and went off to college. Anyway. It's just as much on me. I bought a novelty condom. Shoulda known when I opened it and confetti came out.

ANGLE ON Will cornering a parent with his sign-up sheet.

POPPY

Oh God. There's the new guy.

ANGIE

We gotta deal with him. I don't know about you, but I don't have time to hand out tacos all year.

DOUGLAS

I still remember how you did away with last year's Room Parent--

POPPY

It was magic. All trace of us was wiped from the phone tree.

ANGIE

(eyes on Will)

Well, this shouldn't be hard. He's one of us.

WILL

Parents! Will Cooper. Circling back to see where your heads are vis a vis committees--

DOUGLAS

I'll say it to you plain: we're not doing anything you want us to do.

ANGIE

Yeah. We're single parents. We don't volunteer. We try to survive. Yesterday I forgot to go to the bathroom. Literally forgot.

POPPY

Yeah. We're different than the other parents, Will. You must know. Married people won't come within fifteen feet of us. Look.

(to nearby married couple)

Boo!

SCARED MARRIED COUPLES scatter.

WILL

I know! I'm a single parent too. So I feel you, kemo sabes. But unfortch-- no wiggle room on the participation thing. There's a new sheriff in town, and the book drive's gonna hang at dawn!

Angie gives a look to the group, then:

ANGIE

You're deep in, aren't you?

WILL

Deep in what?

ANGIE

The vortex. That place where you're so wrapped up in your kid, you've lost touch with adult life and the person you used to be. I know because I've been there.

3 INT. ANGIE'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. FLASHBACK. 3

A crazy-looking Angie signs for a package with a scared DELIVERY GUY and loudly sings:

ANGIE

The wheels on the bus go round and round! Round and round...

4 INT. ANGIE'S HOUSE. DINING ROOM. FLASHBACK. 4

Angie pays her bills at the table.

ANGIE

The numbers in my bills don't add up, don't add up, don't add up--

5 INT. ANGIE'S HOUSE. BEDROOM. FLASHBACK. 5

Angie lays in bed.

ANGIE

The pillows on my bed go: "You're alone", "You're alone", "You're alone"--

6 BACK TO PRESENT. 6

ANGIE

All parents go through it. It's just worse when you're single.

MIGGY

I been there. Last week I had a sex dream about the letter Q.

DOUGLAS

Eh, I never had it as bad. We're talking about kids. It's like having cats, except they're bigger and they ask "why" all the time.

POPPY

Douglas, do you remember calling me drunk from a bathtub?

7 INT. DOUGLAS' HOUSE. BATHROOM. FLASHBACK. 7

Douglas sits in a bathtub surrounded by bath toys, including a rubber ducky. He talks on the phone and drinks whiskey.

DOUGLAS (INTO PHONE)

(weirdly happy)

You're right, Poppy! Rubber ducky does make bath time fun! Bye Bye!

8 BACK TO PRESENT. 8

DOUGLAS

That was a tough night. The ducky didn't make it.

WILL

Oh thanks guys, but I don't know if I'm in a vortex-

ANGIE

Tell me, Will. When was the last time you were up past ten?

WILL

At night??

POPPY

Let's cut to the chase. When was the last time you made love?

(off Will's hesitation)

Come on, now. There's no judgment here. This is a safe space.

WILL

Okay. It's... been five years.

POPPY / MIGGY
Ooooh, sweet Jesus! / Nah,
dog, nah.

ANGIE / DOUGLAS
Hail Mary, full of Grace... /
You did it. You ruined my
day.

WILL
You said it was a safe space!

MIGGY
Not *that* safe!

Angie gives Poppy a look. Douglas gives Angie a "thumb's up"
that Will doesn't see.

ANGIE
What you need is a date. Poppy?

POPPY
There. I made you a Tinder account.

ON POPPY'S PHONE: Will's face is photoshopped on top of a
shirtless body feeding a bottle to a baby horse.

WILL
What? How did you -- Is that
Putin's body?

POPPY
Pushing you into the deep end,
Will. That's how we do this.

WILL
Thanks, but I'm not ready. I'd have
to buy new shorts--

POPPY
You think any of us are ready? I
spent years helping my husband
chase his dream. A restaurant.
Terrible concept: make your own
sandwich. I want to make my own
sandwich, I'll stay at home.

WILL
I make great sandwiches. It's all
about crusty bread and pre-slicing--

POPPY
Stay with me, Will. Now, it was
only after I found his three secret
bank accounts that I realized I'd
never thought about my dream. So I
got a divorce.

(MORE)

POPPY (CONT'D)

I signed up for seminars on
empowerment and self-love--

DOUGLAS

Self-love. Heh.

POPPY

Thank you, Douglas, for never not
pointing that out. But Will, I now
live for me. I opened up the wine
store I'd always wanted. And now I
have several relationships with men
I've met on in the internet, and I
wouldn't go back to my old life for
anything. So, what's it gonna be?
Are you gonna hide in your sign-up
sheet, or am I gonna swipe right?

WILL

I don't know, the timing's not
great, there's only 120 days until
Christmas, and--

POPPY

Live in this moment with me, Will!
Am I swiping?!

WILL

I don't know--

ANGIE

You can do it!

MIGGY

He's not ready!

DOUGLAS

I have no investment either way!

WILL

(primal howl)
Swipe leffffffffffttt!

POPPY

Swipe right. It's swipe right.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

9 EXT. SCHOOL. DRIVEWAY. AFTERNOON. (D2)

9

Angie counts the kids as they pile into her minivan.

ANGIE

Okay, we got Emma, we got Amy, we
got Rory, we got Graham--

(off random KID)

Who are you? Wrong van, buddy, get
outta here.

As the KID runs off, Will, in an orange crossing guard vest,
spots Angie and heads over. Sophie's behind her dad taking
selfies with his phone.

WILL

Hey! Tonight's the night.

(whispered)

Date night.

RORY

EMMA

Ooooh!

Gross!

AMY

Remember: A real man pays for
dinner.

GRAHAM

Wow, you are freaking out. Will, I
say this with an open heart and
nothing but love: you're a
disaster.

WILL

What? No. Am I having a touch of
anxiety? Yes--

ANGIE

Will? I don't have time for this.
We got you the date. And now I have
to babysit everyone's kids so I can
have Saturday night off to drink
champagne out of a can and watch a
bird documentary.

WILL

Oh. Got it. I was just gonna offer
to take the kids today and babysit--

ANGIE

We'll be there in fifteen minutes.

10 EXT. "UNDEFEATED" STORE. SAME TIME. (D2) 10

Miggy, strapped with a baby bjorn, stands in line for a pair of sneakers with his high school friends, DIEGO and TY.

DIEGO

These sneakers are going to be so dope. If we spend two nights out here, I bet we get on the waitlist!

TY

Yo, yo, the *waitlist*! You're staying, right? Or do you have to do the whole baby thing?

MIGGY

Yes, I have to do the "whole baby thing!" Free babysitting doesn't just fall out of the sky.

Ding! Miggy gets a text from Angie: "[SIREN] FREE BABYSITTING! WILL'S HOUSE. COME TO THIS ADDRESS." As he exits--

MIGGY (CONT'D)

Hold my spot.

(then, re: his baby)

Aw, so cute -- he's dropping a deuce right now. You think he looks like my dad when he's pooping?

(makes "pooping" face)

Forget it. I'll be back.

11 EXT./INT. WILL'S HOUSE. A LITTLE LATER. (D2) 11

Will opens the door to find Angie, Miggy, and the kids, who run inside.

WILL

Welcome, dudes! Will Cooper!

SOPHIE

Come see my room! The theme is "self-aware princess."

Sophie, Graham, Rory, and the twins run off. Miggy hands Will Baby Jack in his car seat.

ANGIE

We'll be back in a few hours to pick up the kids...

(then, seeing inside)

Good God... It's even worse than I imagined.

We see what Angie sees: Will's house is like Pottery Barn Kids meets the play area at an upscale pizza restaurant. It would be surprising to learn an adult man lives here too.

MIGGY

Every chair is a beanbag. There's
no chair that isn't a beanbag.

ANGIE

All chairs currently have beans.

WILL

Hey, you guys want to check out my
sign-up sheet? Any thoughts before
I laminate? Laminating in 10-9-8-9--

ANGIE

Will. Sit down.

Will sits on a large beanbag, and sinks down deep.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

What are you gonna wear tonight on
your date?

WILL

...This?

Will wears an LA Rams shirt, pants, socks, flip flops.

WILL (CONT'D)

Or there's another option.
...Shorts!

To Miggy and Angie's horror, Will unzips the bottom of his
pants off to make them shorts. Baby Jack starts crying.

MIGGY

Those pants are making my baby cry!

Will swoops in and cradles Jack in an expert football hold,
and starts to rock and bounce the baby.

WILL

Rock, squat, PAUSE! Rock, squat,
PAUSE!

Baby Jack stops crying.

MIGGY

Oh my god, what did you do?

WILL

Just a little something I call:
Rock, squat, pause! Say it with me!

MIGGY

No, man, what if I learn to do that
and then I haven't had sex in five
years, and I'm wearing pants that
zip off into shorts?

WILL

Oh God. I'm not ready. Maybe I
should put the brakes on. Jump back
in later, after Taco Tuesday's
settled, or at least until I've
pinned down the guac situation-

ANGIE

No, no. Let's focus on this date
tonight. I hate that I'm saying
this, but take me to your closet.

12 INT. POPPY'S WINEBRARY. AFTERNOON. (D2)

12

A charmingly homey wine-book shop. Poppy emerges from one of
the aisles with a couple bottles of wine.

POPPY

Okay, here's the Pinot you always
get, and here's one I think you
should try.

DOUGLAS

I'll take two of my usual and you
can put the new one back. You know
how I feel about trying new things.

POPPY

Yep. I still remember when I made
you try hummus. You didn't recover
for days.

DOUGLAS

(looking around)

Still can't wrap my head around
this place. Is it a wine shop or a
book store? I just tried to find
the john and ended up in a gender
neutral reading nook.

POPPY

It's a safe space. Wine and
feminist literature.

(MORE)

POPPY (CONT'D)

It's for people who want to read
Roxane Gay just a little bit drunk.

DOUGLAS

What if I want to read the truth on
Benghazi? Bet you don't sell that
book.

POPPY

I'm not gonna let you trigger me.
I've spent too much money on
therapy for that. You know I wear a
whole crystal that's just about
you?

DOUGLAS

Hey, you're taking Emma and Amy
tonight, right? I'm meeting up with
my dermatologist pals--

POPPY

Rory wanted me to ask you to come
to his dance party tonight.

DOUGLAS

Aw, what a sweetheart. Pass.

POPPY

I told you, he's going through a
thing. He won't even wear his
favorite leotard to school 'cause
he's scared other kids are gonna
make fun of him.

DOUGLAS

Of course they're gonna make fun of
him if he's wearing a leotard. When
I was a boy, I got made fun of for
smiling at a basketball game.

POPPY

Look, I don't know why, but my kid
likes you. And in case you haven't
noticed, he doesn't have another
man in his life. So why won't you
show up for him?

DOUGLAS

I don't dance, especially not with
guys.
(eyeballs a nearby patron)
Hey. Is that a both-gender person?

A few customers stare at him, shocked.

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

Not trying to offend anyone.
Congrats on all of it! Which one
did you start with and which one
did you buy?

POPPY

Douglas. You are why we march.

13 INT. WILL'S HOUSE. WILL'S BEDROOM. LATER. (D2)

13

Miggy and Angie go through Will's closet, trying to find clothes for his date.

MIGGY

Yo, why do we have to do this?

ANGIE

Because. This guy needs help. We can't just send him off into the world. It's like putting a newborn baby on the shoulder of a highway and hoping for the best.

(Miggy looks intrigued)

It's an analogy, Miggy. Don't actually do that.

MIGGY

Right. I knew that.

ANGIE

I just don't want him to bomb his date and go right back to harassing us about hot lunch. We have to do a little more work if we really want to get rid of him.

(then, finding earmuffs)

Oh God. This is the third pair of earmuffs I've found. What happened to this guy? Who hurt him?

14 INT. WILL'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. CONTINUOUS. (D2)

14

Will arranges snacks on a plate and reads Graham's letter as Graham thoughtfully enjoys a juice box.

WILL

"Zoe, I want to hug you and give you all my gum." Great start!

GRAHAM

Yeah. I've been in love with Zoe since Kindergarten, but then she put those bunny ears on, and stick a fork in me-- I'm done.

WILL

So exciting! Your first love! You gotta let your feelings out.

GRAHAM

Exactly. That's how I want to play it with Zoe. Raw. Open. Positive.

(then)

By the way, don't let my mom scare you about the date tonight. She doesn't believe in love, because my dad is kind of a garbage human.

WILL

Good to know. But I'm going to cut you off on those juice boxes, bud--

REVEAL Graham is surrounded by five empty juice boxes. Rory enters, carrying different hats.

RORY

Angie says I have to give you a make-over... This is my Everest.

ANGIE (O.S.)

Ohhh no!

We FOLLOW Will as he rushes into...

15 INT. WILL'S HOUSE. WILL'S BEDROOM. CONTINUOUS. (D2)

15

WILL

Angie, are you hurt?

ANGIE

Yes! What is this?

Angie is holding up a diaper bag decorated with a LARGE MERMAID holding a BABY MERMAID.

WILL

(mortified/bad liar)

Huh. Whose is that?

ANGIE

Your wallet is in here. You used this TODAY!

(MORE)

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Dude, your kid is seven. If she's still in diapers, I'm calling someone!

WILL

But what about snacks? They don't tell dads how to carry snacks!

(a beat, then:)

Fine. It was my wife's bag. Before she left me.

ANGIE

Oh.

(gently)

But do you think there's a reason... Just putting it out there... that this is the bag she *didn't* take when she left?

WILL

She fell in love with a guy named Nico.

ANGIE

"Nick"?

WILL

No, I wish it was "Nick," but it's "*Nico*." She sees Sophie for a couple weeks in the summer to go on some amazing trip and then drops her off with me again.

ANGIE

Do you miss her?

WILL

I don't miss *her*. I just miss having someone there to share it with. And not even the bad times or the hard times-- it's the good times that hurt more. Her first tooth. The first time she made a joke. That week she told me she was changing her name to Jelly Bean Teen Machine. I just-- I didn't think it would be this lonely.

ANGIE

Yeah. Once I made a boyfriend out of pancakes and then ate him. Slowly. Look, we become parents, and something happens. We turn to mush.

(MORE)

ANGIE (CONT'D)

But out in the world, you gotta cover that up. It's what I tell Graham. It's the only way he's not going to get his heart broken.

WILL

Can I be honest with you? I'm not sure I know how to cover my mush.

ANGIE

We can start by throwing out this lightsaber.

Angie and Will look at his lightsaber.

WILL

Fine. I'll let this guy go.

(then)

It's so great you guys have each other for this stuff. Do you ever look around and just say: "It takes a villa--"

ANGIE

Oh god, don't say "It takes a village." Just throw out the bag.

WILL

Okay. I'm gonna throw out the bag. Later.

ANGIE

Right now--

WILL (CONT'D)

Yes! Right now!

16 EXT. WILL'S HOUSE. DRIVEWAY. LATER. (D2)

16

Douglas and Poppy walk up to the house from separate cars.

POPPY

Did Angie text you her plan?

DOUGLAS

Yeah, we help him get ready for his date, and then we never have to volunteer. I'm not giving up a tee time to hand out pizza to other people's kids. Put the box on the ground and let them fight for it.

POPPY

(then, seeing Emma and Amy)
Hey girls, you ready for Rory's
dance party -- whoa, what are you
doing?

REVEAL Emma and Amy are inflating Will's car tires.

EMMA

Will's rear tires are an
embarrassment. His pressures are
completely asymmetrical!

AMY

And his floor mats! Would it kill
him to shampoo them once in a
while?

POPPY

They seem pretty experienced at
this car stuff.

DOUGLAS

People think kids can't buff and
wax, but they're the perfect
height.

Will walks up, followed by Rory who holds up a vest.

RORY

Before I commit to the blazer, ask
yourself: can this man pull off a
vest? He doesn't have the arms...
but he might have the attitude?

DOUGLAS

No vest! For the love of God,
no vest!

POPPY

Vest!

Rory holds the vest up to Douglas.

RORY

Hmm, maaaaybe this wants to live
here. For tonight's dance party.

DOUGLAS

Sorry kid, I'm not going.

RORY

(sad)
That's okay. Maybe next time.

EMMA

(to Rory)

We've been asking him to sing for years. He said he'd sooner watch Rachel Maddow.

AMY

Ain't gonna happen.

As Rory heads into the house, Poppy gives Douglas a death stare and follows Rory.

POPPY

I'll wear the vest, Rory!

RORY

You don't have the right torso for a vest, Mom, stop trying to make it happen!

A beat, then:

WILL

I get it, Doug. You don't want to take a risk. But that's the fun part of being a parent! Getting out of your comfort zone!

DOUGLAS

I'm not interested in leaving my comfort zone. Haven't been since my wife died.

WILL

Ohhh, I'm so sorry--

DOUGLAS

I can see you want to hug me, so I'm going to stop you right there.

WILL

I can't imagine losing your best friend--

DOUGLAS

She was a 26-year-old exotic dancer. She looked great in pants.

WILL

Love can really sneak up on you.

DOUGLAS

Anyway, I said, "Sure, I'll have kids" thinking I was gonna change one diaper, and then get dementia right before they hit their teens. Instead, she dropped dead and left me with two baby girls. Point is: I don't need any more surprises. I'm fine in my comfort zone, thank you.

WILL

Well, it's never too late to try something new. Live a little, Doug! It'd be good for you. And your girls.

This lands on Douglas.

WILL (CONT'D)

I can tell you're really hurting. And I know you don't want people to know this, but I think you're a nice guy. You've just been out there alone. You need a friend.

DOUGLAS

Okay, I don't need you to give me life advice. The only reason any of us are here is to get out of volunteering.

WILL

What?

Will spins around to see Angie, who has come out of the house. She looks down, guilty.

WILL (CONT'D)

Angie. Is this real?
(off her guilty look)
I threw out my lightsaber for you.

ANGIE

Will, we did want to help you. I mean, we do now-

Upset, Will walks into the house. The adults follow--

17 INT. WILL'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. MOMENTS LATER. (D2)

17

ANGIE

Wait. Let's talk about this--

WILL

It's fine, we're not friends! Which is good! At least I don't have to pretend to be cooler than I am. I can admit: I didn't throw out my mermaid diaper bag! Because I'm not ready!

Will goes behind a FOUR-FOOT BARBIE dressed as Susan B. Anthony and pulls out his MERMAID DIAPER BAG.

WILL (CONT'D)

I hid it behind Barbie B. Anthony!

DOUGLAS

A man with a mermaid bag? I blame Obama.

WILL

I don't know how to "cover my mush." And maybe that's okay! Maybe you guys could use a little mush! Douglas, you won't try anything new! Angie, you're telling Graham not to express his feelings! And Miggy, you won't learn "Rock Squat Pause." Rock Squat Pause is the only way to survive with a newborn!
(then)
Poppy, honestly, you seem really great, and I'd love to get coffee some time--

POPPY

Thank you, I'd love that--

ANGIE

Will, look, I'll hand out tacos--

WILL

It's fine. I thought I'd finally found people to share all of this with... I mean, it takes a vill-

DOUGLAS

No. Stop.

WILL

A vill--

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

Don't do it.

WILL

Well, thanks for getting me a date. Sophie? Come on, I'm taking you to Nana's now.

Sophie emerges with the kids. Angie and the group follows Will as he heads outside--

A18 EXT. WILL'S HOUSE. CONTINUOUS. (D2)

A18

On the front porch--

ANGIE

Will, wait--

WILL

(turning to the gang)

I know these jeans are too tight!
But Rory likes them, so I'm wearing
them anyway.

Will turns to go, REVEALING his butt almost bursting from his super tight jeans. As he and Sophie get into his car and drive off...

ANGIE

Man. I feel bad.

MIGGY

Yo, mermaids don't need diapers,
right? Because they don't really
have butts.

DOUGLAS

The kid's not wrong.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

18 INT. WILL'S CAR. DUSK. (D2) 18

Will pulls up to a house with Sophie in the backseat.

WILL

Okay. You're gonna have fun with Nana. But call if you need me.

SOPHIE

I don't know how to break this to you: I'm not gonna call.

She kisses him on the cheek. As she exits--

WILL

Can I call if *I* need you? Joking. Ha, ha! My phone will be on.

19 INT. ANGIE'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. DUSK. (D2) 19

Angie makes dinner and talks on her phone, while Graham fiddles with a laptop at the kitchen table.

ANGIE (INTO PHONE)

Will, it's Angie. I'm sorry about before. And I'm also sorry we let you go out in those jeans. But okay... I'll see you at school?

Angie hangs up, feeling a little better, and turns to Graham.

GRAHAM

Dang, girl. I just love you.

ANGIE

I know, bud. You tell me every five minutes.

GRAHAM

Nah. I was reading over an e-mail to Zoe. Think it's good. Send.

ANGIE

Wait. You sent?!

GRAHAM

You gotta put yourself out there. Will gets it. I've also had a lot of juice today, and I'm *feeling* it.

20 INT. HEATHER'S APARTMENT. NIGHT. (N2) 20

Will follows HEATHER (25) inside, nervous. Ignoring him, she texts on her phone.

WILL

I had fun at dinner. Ideally, you would've put down your phone, but it was an honor to be part of your insta-story--

HEATHER

Should we make out now?

And then they're making out.

WILL

This is happening! This is happening right now!

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Take your pants off.

Will tries to take his pants off, but they're tight, and he has to do some weird thrusting movements to get them off. Heather thinks he's doing a sexy dance, and she's into it...

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Are you, like, literally dancing right now? Yaasss!

WILL

I'm honestly just trying to get my pants off--

Heather grabs him, pushes him to the ground and jumps on top of him. They keep kissing, as Will whispers in her ear:

WILL (CONT'D)

I love you.

Heather sits up. Stares at him. Completely freaked out.

HEATHER

You... what?

Heather stands up, starts getting dressed.

WILL

I'm sorry. I'm a dad! I say I love you every fifteen minutes. One just slipped out.

As Heather gently pushes Will into the building breezeway--

HEATHER

This is on me. When a man makes more than one Garfield reference, it's a sign.

-- and shuts the door.

21 OMITTED 21
22 EXT. HEATHER'S BUILDING. HALLWAY. CONTINUOUS. (N2) 22

Will stands for a beat, and then --

WILL
Oh god, my keys.
(knocks on her door)
Excuse me? I left my keys in there!

He BANGS HARDER, and then glimpses Heather through a window.

WILL (CONT'D)
Hey! I left my keys in there and I
don't love you-- I don't even know
if I like you!

She PULLS THE CURTAINS. Will's phone rings, he answers --

WILL (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)
Will Cooper.

23 INT. ANGIE'S HOUSE.KITCHEN/HEATHER'S COURTYARD.INTERCUT.(N2)23

Angie whisper-screams into her phone as Graham plays nearby.

ANGIE (INTO PHONE)
I'm taking back my apology message!
How could you tell Graham to put
himself out there?! He's gonna get
hurt! Wait, why are you answering?
You're supposed to be on a date--

WILL (INTO PHONE)
Well. I let my mush out. There's
mush all over this lady's house and
now my keys are locked inside! You
guys were right. I can't do this.
And it's fine! I like being single.
I have my nights free to bake.

ANGIE (INTO PHONE)
Are those sirens?

WILL (INTO PHONE)
They aren't for me. Wait. Oh my
god. They are for me! Look, forget
it, I'll figure it out--

ANGIE (INTO PHONE)
Oh God. Will--

Will hangs up the phone, faces TWO COPS who are walking towards him.

WILL

Hello, officers. Will Cooper!

24 EXT. "UNDEFEATED" STORE. LATER. (N2)

24

Ty and Diego, waiting in line, stare at Miggy, who is doing his best to Rock, Squat, and Pause with baby Jack.

MIGGY

Rock, squat, PAUSE! Rock, squat, PAUSE!

(to his friends)

Yo, Will's right. It is all about the pause!

Ty and Diego look at the other people in line, embarrassed. Then, Miggy turns to see Angie, in her car, waving at him.

ANGIE

Emergency! Get in! Just buy tennis shoes online like everyone else!

TY

The hell are tennis shoes?

DIEGO

Dude, tell your weird parent friends to stay away-- We gotta get respect on the sneaker line.

MIGGY

You know what? I'm sick of this line. We never actually make it inside!

Miggy runs off towards Angie, who shouts from the window:

ANGIE

Hey, idiots! Zappos has free shipping!

25 INT. STEAKHOUSE. LATER. (N2)

25

Douglas holds court with a bunch of OLD WHITE DUDES.

*

DOUGLAS

So I cut off the skin tag right on the green, and still managed to shoot a birdie.

*

*

*

The old white dudes laugh, as a waiter places a delicious
steak in front of Douglas. Just as he's about to cut into it-- *

POPPY (O.S.) *

Douglas? Will needs us. *

Behind Douglas is Poppy, Rory, Emma and Amy. Before he can
argue-- *

POPPY (CONT'D) *

I'm the only babysitter you got. *

And I'm not afraid to go on strike. *

26 EXT. HEATHER'S BUILDING. COURTYARD. LATER. (N2)

26 *

Will's in front of the two cops, getting more upset.

WILL

I just never imagined raising a kid
on my own! I guess part of me still
thinks she's gonna come back--

ANGIE (O.S.)

Dude. She's not coming back.

Will looks to see Angie walking up with Graham. Miggy's
behind them with baby Jack.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

We all got left. But we're not
alone.

Behind her, Poppy, Douglas, and their kids step out of a car.
Will can't believe it.

POPPY

Officers, let him go. He's not
dangerous. Look at his shoes. He's
wearing Keds.

COP #1

His Keds are not the issue, ma'am.

RORY

But they are an issue.

DOUGLAS

He didn't hurt anyone. How about we
forget about this, officers?

(hands the cop a 20)

Here. Get yourself something nice.

COP #1

Just get in the car--

ON WILL - his phone rings. All eyes on him as he answers.

WILL (INTO PHONE)

Sophie?

27 INT. NANA'S HOUSE.BEDROOM/HEATHER'S COURTYARD. INTERCUT.(N2)27

Sophie lies in bed.

SOPHIE (INTO PHONE)

Dad. I know I said I didn't need
the song anymore, but...

WILL (INTO PHONE)

Of course.

(singing *Moana*)

*I've been staring at the edge of
the water...*

Heather emerges from her apartment.

HEATHER

I found your keys-- Oh god, I gotta
get off Tinder. *

DOUGLAS

He's doing the best he can! He
just... needs a friend. *

Douglas glances at Emma and Amy, then gathering his courage,
steps up and sings-- *

DOUGLAS (CONT'D) *

*I wish I could be the perfect
daughter, but I come back to the
water, no matter how hard I try...* *

Will joins in, they sing together--

WILL/DOUGLAS

*See the line where the sky meets
the sea? It calls meeeee / And no
one knows, how far it goes...*

Emma and Amy stare at their dad, amazed. *

EMMA *

Well, I'll be damned. *

AMY *

That beautiful bastard. *

Douglas takes in his daughters' delight and turns to Rory.

*

DOUGLAS

Hey. Rory. Wanna dance?

As Will keeps singing, Douglas and Rory get in a formal ballroom dancing position and dance.

WILL

*If the wind in my sail on the sea
stays behind me / One day I'll know
/ How far I'll go...*

POPPY

(emotional)

Oh, you're looking so good, Rory!

COP #2

What is happening? Who are these
people?

WILL

They're...my village.

MIGGY / ANGIE / SOPHIE (ON PHONE)

Noooo. / You ruined it! / Dad, you
gotta tighten up.

DOUGLAS

I'm gonna let him have that one.

28 INT. SCHOOL. FIRST GRADE CLASSROOM. THE NEXT MORNING. (D3) 28

Our group, now with Will, drop their kids off at school.

MIGGY

Rock, squat, pause.

WILL

Rock, squat, PAUSE!

ANGIE

Hey! It's Bunny Ears. She's going
for Graham!

A few feet away, ZOE approaches Graham.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

We have to protect him. Hurry. Form
a circle around him. We'll make a
human shield.

WILL

Hang on. He's got this.

ON GRAHAM AND ZOE:

ZOE

I got your note. It shook me to my
core.

Graham slowly takes GUM out of his mouth and hands it to Zoe.
Zoe takes the gum, puts it in her mouth, chews.

ANGIE

Oh my god... she likes him. She likes him, Will! That girl likes my son! They're sharing gum! That's huge! It's gross, but it's huge!

WILL

I told you: Mush works.

ANGIE

Yeah right, your mush got you arrested.

WILL

True. But I got out there. I can do anything now! I'm unstoppable!

29 EXT. SCHOOL. A LITTLE LATER. TAG. (D3)

29

Will stands with his MERMAID DIAPER BAG, facing our group of parents. We hear Ellie Goulding's "Burn" over the following:

WILL

I'm gonna eat in restaurants that don't give out crayons! I'm gonna go to Banana Republic and buy tops! And maybe get a table with sharp edges and Sophie's just gonna have to *walk around it!*

A married couple, ELEANOR and THEO, walk up.

ELEANOR

Excuse me, but you're making a scene--

THEO

Aren't you the Room Parent?

WILL

Your mom is the room parent! I'M OUT OF THE VORTEX!

He FLINGS the diaper bag into the air towards a nearby dumpster. It misses the dumpster, landing two feet away on a jungle gym. Will runs and gets the bag and tries to throw it again. It lands two feet away AGAIN.

DOUGLAS

I've watched a man get crushed by a fork lift and this is worse.

WILL

Okay, third time's the charm...

As he goes to fling the diaper bag one more time...

END OF EPISODE