

WE MISS HER TOO

Written by

M. Ruth

Matthew Ruth
matthew.j.ruth@gmail.com
717-341-7928

CUT IN:

INT. CAR

GEORGE is driving, looking stressed and concentrating hard.

GEORGE
I understand that, dear... it
wasn't exactly like this the last
time.

MAGGIE is in the backseat, lying down, clearly in labor.

MAGGIE
Just drive George, stop comparing
this to last time! It's clearly
not like the last time!

GEORGE
What do you think I'm doing?

MAGGIE
George, just shut up and drive!

GEORGE
Driving... driving...

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - 10 YEARS EARLIER

Maggie is laughing while George, driving, looks very serious.

Car horns are heard in the background.

GEORGE
Maggie, stop laughing, this isn't
funny!

MAGGIE
(laughing)
It's a little funny... just keep
driving George.

George gives her a look and quickly looks back to the road swerving back into the lane.

Maggie shrieks with laughter. George cracks a smile.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
They're pretty upset with you.
Maybe you should pull over and let
them pass.

GEORGE
You can pull over, I'm gonna hit
the eject button.

Maggie laughs louder.

MAGGIE
There, up there, pull into that
cut out.

George pulls over.

Maggie walks to a wall at a cliff overlooking the water.

She looks back at George and nods for him to join her.

George relents, and gets out of the car.

GEORGE
Maggs, I think this is someone's
driveway.

MAGGIE
George, look! It's... it's just so
beautiful.

GEORGE
Yeah, beautiful, probably why the
owners bought it.

MAGGIE
Just relax, George and come over
here.

George walks over to Maggie and puts his arm around her.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Isn't this better than being in the
car? Can we just stay here?

George doesn't respond.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Please???

GEORGE

Of course, anything you want... as long as you figure out a way to convince the owner of this property to let us stay - for free.

MAGGIE

So romantic. But seriously, this is my favorite place I've ever been to.

GEORGE

The side of a road is your favorite place?

MAGGIE

Yes... no... I just love these views. And the water. Ahhh, so great!

George looks at Maggie and then to the water. Too uptight to enjoy it, he interrupts the moment.

GEORGE

So can we stop trespassing now?

MAGGIE

You can't just relax, can you?

GEORGE

Probably not.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S HOME - KITCHEN

MICHAEL, 6, is sitting at the table eating while Maggie, pregnant, prepares dinner.

MAGGIE

Oh yeah? Mrs. Crabtree had your trace your hand?

MICHAEL

Yea, she did. And tomorrow we're gonna decorate it for Easter!

Maggie stares out the window, lost in thought.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Momma. Mom. Mommm, did you hear what I said?!

MAGGIE

Did I hear what you said? Yes,
that's great, we can show it to
everyone on Easter.

Maggie walks over to Michael, caresses his head, and then
takes one of his snacks.

MICHAEL

Hey, that's mine!

MAGGIE

You share with Jakey, and you share
with Daddy, so you gotta share with
me, and this new little baby baking
in my belly - we're both hungry!

MICHAEL

Do you think my new little brother
will like these?

MAGGIE

Well we don't know if the baby is
a boy or a girl yet, but yes, I
think they'll like all the same
things.

MICHAEL

I don't want the baby to be a
girl. I want another brother.

MAGGIE

Well we don't really get to decide
that, but I'm certain you'll like a
little sister just as much as you
like your little brother. And if
you don't, you can complain to your
father, it's his fault.

George walks into the room.

GEORGE

Who's complaining about what?

MICHAEL

Dad! I don't want a sister, I want
another brother.

GEORGE

Oh, okay, fine.

MICHAEL

Really?

GEORGE

No. Maybe. Who knows?

George walks over to Maggie, gently touches her stomach and gives her a kiss on the cheek.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

What's wrong with a little sister?

MICHAEL

I dunno, girls are dumb.

MAGGIE

Michael! That's not nice, I'm a girl! And so are Aunt Bette and Aunt Suzy. And Grandma.

MICHAEL

That's different.

GEORGE

(laughing)

How's that different, bud?

MICHAEL

They're old. I just don't want a sister because I don't want to play with girly things and I just don't!

GEORGE

Okay, buddy... I'll see what I can do.

MICHAEL

But, really this time?

GEORGE

Probably not.

There's a knock at the door.

REBECCA (O.S.)

Knock knock!

REBECCA walks into the room.

GEORGE

Oh good, the neighborhood council is here.

MAGGIE

Haha, stop it George. Hi Becca, what's up?

REBECCA

Oh nothing, Jim is being Jim, so I decided to run away.

MICHAEL

Is Timmy with you?

REBECCA

No, he's at home, helping Jim build... build something. I have no idea what that man does.

Michael is disappointed. George makes a face.

Maggie hits George playfully.

MAGGIE

Why don't you boys go do something and leave the three of us girls, alone.

MICHAEL

There's only 2 girls here.

Maggie rubs her belly and laughs.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

No!

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL DELIVERY ROOM

Maggie is in labor and George is next to her.

GEORGE

You're doing great, Maggs!

Maggie glares at him as she continues to breath.

DOCTOR

Okay, I think we're almost there, one big push and we should have this new little person out.

Maggie nods emphatically

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Okay, it looks like we have another contraction coming up right now, so I need you to push as hard as you can! Ready? Push!

A crying sound comes as Maggie screams through a push.

The baby is presented toward George as Maggie closes her eyes, breathing heavily.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
 Congratulations, Dad, do you want
 to tell us what they are?

GEORGE
 It's a...

George hesitates a moment and the doctor nods.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
 It's a little girl!

MAGGIE
 Oh Georgie. What a perffffff...

The Monitor starts sounding off next to Maggie and two NURSES rush over.

George looks down at his wife and then over at the DOCTOR.

GEORGE
 Is everything okay? Maggie? Are you
 okay?

NURSE
 Dad, can you please step over here?

GEORGE
 What? Why?

NURSE
 Dad, please, we need to get mom out
 of here, quickly.

GEORGE
 What do you mean out of here?
 Where is she going? I don't
 understand.

NURSE
 Here, sit down here, we're gonna
 have you hold the baby in just a
 moment, okay?

GEORGE
 What? No... Wait.

The nurse helps George sit down as they rush Maggie out of the room.

George, wide-eyed, looks around helplessly.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

No, wait, where are you taking her?

NURSE

Dad, unfortunately right now we have to get some help for your wife, but it's imperative that we have the baby lay on your chest and get some skin to skin contact as soon as we clean her up a little bit.. So, please, will you sit back and remove your shirt for me?

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - YEARS BEFORE

George is fully dressed and nudges Maggie who's in bed.

GEORGE

(whispering)

Hey... hey, Maggs, wake up.

Maggie opens her eyes, puzzled.

MAGGIE

What are you...

GEORGE

(whispering)

Get up.

MAGGIE

(confused)

Why are you dressed, what time is it?

GEORGE

Come on, get up. Let's go.

MAGGIE

Go where?

GEORGE

Come on, just get up.

Maggie stares at him for a moment, then realizes he's not going anywhere. She pulls the covers off of herself.

FADE TO:

EXT. PIER - EARLY MORNING

George and Maggie are sitting on folding chairs at the end of a pier in the dark.

MAGGIE

Can you tell me why we're sitting at the end of a pier in the middle of the night?

GEORGE

It's not the middle of the night. And we're just sitting, relax. Want some coffee?

MAGGIE

I guess so, why are you acting so weird?

GEORGE

I'm, uh, always weird?

Maggie looks over at him confused, and then yawns.

MAGGIE

Yeah, I guess. But seriously, why are we here?

GEORGE

You have no patience, you know that?

CUT TO:

EXT. PIER - AT SUNRISE

In the silhouette, George gets up from a knee and wraps his arms around Maggie, picking her up off the ground.

CUT TO:

EXT. PIER - MOMENTS LATER

Maggie is sitting on George's lap looking at the sunrise.

GEORGE

Did you know?

MAGGIE

Know?

GEORGE

Yeah. You know...

Maggie smiles.

MAGGIE

Uh, yeah. I mean not necessarily that it was going to be this morning, but... yes, of course.

GEORGE

Oh.

Maggie snickers and waves her hand at George.

MAGGIE

You were being really weird for the last 3 weeks and all of then sudden you were talking about money a lot.

GEORGE

I was? Haha, well turns out to be a more expensive commitment than I was expecting...

MAGGIE

Just wait...

Maggie grins wide and George rolls his eyes.

GEORGE

Ready to go?

MAGGIE

Can we sit here a few more minutes?

GEORGE

Yeah... we can.

George takes her hand. He looks out at the sunrise while she looks down at their hands.

MAGGIE

You think we'll have kids?

GEORGE

Right now?

MAGGIE

I mean it's a little cold, but... No, not right now.

GEORGE

Yeah, sure, I mean I thought we could get married first. Maybe a honeymoon too.

Maggie swats at him playfully.

MAGGIE
Typical... only thinking about the
honeymoon.

GEORGE
Yes, I think we'll have kids.

MAGGIE
How many?

GEORGE
9

MAGGIE
Seriously...

GEORGE
What? I love baseball.

MAGGIE
I think I want 2. Two perfect
little angels.

GEORGE
Just two?

MAGGIE
Yeah, just two.

GEORGE
Anything else I can do for you?

MAGGIE
No, I think that'll do. Oh, wait,
one more thing, a boy and a girl.
I want both.

GEORGE
Okay.

MAGGIE
Really?

GEORGE
Probably not.

Maggie feigns disappointment.

MAGGIE
What do you think of the name
Abigail? Or Hannah? I always
like people with those two names.

GEORGE

I don't think they're great names
for a boy.

MAGGIE

No, for a girl obviously. I like
them both, sweet little Abigail.
Or little miss Hannah.

GEORGE

And what if we have boys?

MAGGIE

Michael.

GEORGE

That's it? What if we have more
than one? Mikey 1 and Mikey 2?
That's very George Forman of you.

MAGGIE

(rolls her eyes)

I already told you, we're only
gonna have 1, 1 boy and 1 girl.
Now I don't feel like you're
listening to me.

GEORGE

Right, right, how could I forget?

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

George is sitting in a chair without his shirt on; the baby
lying on his bare chest.

A nurse takes the baby from him.

NURSE

We're going to finish getting her
measurements and get settled down.
She's very tired from the big day!

GEORGE

Uh, okay. When is my wife coming
back?

NURSE

The Doctor will be in in a moment.

CUT TO:

George is pacing while the baby is sleeping soundly in the hospital bassinet in front of him.

The doctor walks into the room.

George looks up and immediately starts interrogating.

GEORGE

Where's Maggie? Is everything okay? When is she coming back to the room?

DOCTOR

Mr. Foster, can you please sit down for a moment?

GEORGE

I'm okay, what's going on?

DOCTOR

Mr. Foster, please, will you sit?

GEORGE

I'm fine, what's happening?

The Doctor nods towards the seat and waits patiently for George to sit down.

After a moment he concedes and sits.

DOCTOR

After the baby was delivered, your wife, Maggie, had a hemorrhage. There was a lot of blood loss, and that's why we rushed her out of the room. This doesn't happen often, but it is far from uncommon.

The doctor waits for a reaction, but getting nothing from George, continues.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Unfortunately, what is uncommon is for someone to hemorrhage from 2 different locations in the uterus. We repaired one of the bleeds, but couldn't find the second one in time.

Again the doctor pauses, waiting for a reaction from George. Again, getting nothing he continues.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
I'm very sorry, Mr. Foster, but
Maggie didn't make it.

George stares at him, processing his words.

GEORGE
(softly)
Didn't make it?

DOCTOR
I'm very sorry, Mr. Foster. This is
very tragic.

GEORGE
I... I don't think - isn't there
something else we can do? Give
blood or something? I can give
blood, I'm O negative.

DOCTOR
George, I know this is quite
difficult to understand, and I'm
really very sorry, but there's no
easy way to put this, Maggie is
gone. There's nothing left to do.

George, realizing the size of the moment distorts his face
and becomes angry, looking around for someone else to
provide more, better answers.

GEORGE
No! You're wrong! There's got to be
something else we can do!

The baby starts crying and a nurse attends to her.

DOCTOR
I can't imagine how difficult this
might be. Unfortunately these
things do happen. The, um good news
of course is that you have a
perfectly healthy and beautiful
little girl.

George glares up at the doctor. After a moment he goes to
say something and stops. Tries again, and just slumps.

FADE OUT:

INT: GEORGE'S HOME

George is sitting, wearing a suit. Michael and his
grandfather, SAM, are next to him.

Around are others, all wearing black.

George's mother, CATHERINE walks in.

CATHERINE

Georgie, dear, the baby is crying.
Do you want me to get her?

GEORGE

(shaken from his
thoughts)
No, mom, I'll get her.

MICHAEL

Dad, she's always crying, why
won't she just stop?

SAM

Michael, why don't we go outside
and play? Show me your swing set.

MICHAEL

I don't want to go outside.

GEORGE

Michael, why don't you show
grandpa your new bulldozer in the
sand pit. Just don't get your suit
all sandy.

MICHAEL

But I don't...

GEORGE

Michael! Go!

Michael starts crying as Sam leads him away.

George breaths out heavily, and stands. He looks at his
mother, who gives him a sad look and then we walks out.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S HOME - NURSERY

George is sitting in a rocking chair feeding a baby, staring
out the window as he rocks back and forth.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

George and Maggie are lying in bed, reading.

MAGGIE
You broke your promise and I think
you should make it up to me.

GEORGE
I what? What promise?

MAGGIE
I said a boy and a girl. And you
gave me 2 boys.

George pauses for a moment, actually paying attention to
Maggie.

He puts down his book and smirks.

GEORGE
I'm pretty sure I warned you that
it was a possibility.

MAGGIE
No you didn't. So you owe me.

GEORGE
Owe you what?

MAGGIE
A girl.

GEORGE
I still don't think it works that
way.

MAGGIE
Well I think it would be rude of
you not to try.

George thinks on this and before he can come to any
conclusions, Maggie interrupts.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Well??

GEORGE
Are you serious?

MAGGIE
I think so.

GEORGE
But Jake is barely 1.

MAGGIE
So?

GEORGE
And you only wanted 2 kids.

MAGGIE
So?

GEORGE
So really?

MAGGIE
Really.

GEORGE
Do I have any say in this?

MAGGIE
Of course.

GEORGE
And if I say no?

MAGGIE
Then she'll probably be a red head.

GEORGE
What?

MAGGIE
The Amazon Delivery guy... he's a
red head.

George turns out his light.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
So, yes?

GEORGE
Well I'm not explaining to my mom
why our daughter has red hair...

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S HOME - EVENING

George walks in, inebriated.

Sam is sitting on a chair reading.

GEORGE
Oh, hey dad.

Sam nods at him.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
How were the kids tonight?

George walks to a cabinet and pours himself a drink.

SAM
Just Fine. But now that you're
finally home, I'm going to bed.

George sits down on the couch, as Sam walks away.

GEORGE
You're not going to ground me now,
are ya?

George laughs to himself and finishes his drink.

CUT TO:

INT: GEORGE'S HOME

George is sitting, drink in hand staring out the window.

Sam and Catherine walk in.

CATHERINE
Georgie, we need to talk.

George looks at them and they sit down across from him.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
Georgie, you know we'd love to
stay as long as you need us.

SAM
George, we need to talk about what
your plans are.

George looks exasperated.

His parents stare back, waiting for an answer.

George closes his eyes and breaths out slowly.

GEORGE
Well, gee, dad, I don't really know
what my plans are, because my plans
WERE for me and my wife to come
home from the hospital with a new
baby, and well that didn't exactly
happen that way, did it?

CATHERINE

We know this is hard, but it's been several weeks now, and we can't just keep ignoring things.

GEORGE

(biting)

What things are WE ignoring, mom?

SAM

Don't speak to your mother that way. I don't think you're ready for this conversation - that's fine. But we do need to have this discussion soon.

GEORGE

No dad, mom was just about to tell me the things WE'RE ignoring. Go ahead mom.

CATHERINE

Georgie, I don't want to upset you, really, but we don't live here, so at some point we need to go back home.

GEORGE

Fine, mom, go, leave me and Michael and Jake and the baby here by ourselves, we'll figure it out.

George looks like he's being attacked.

Sam softens, while Catherine's look becomes hardened.

SAM

That's not what we're saying.

CATHERINE

(sternly)

George, you haven't even given the baby a name yet.

George stands up and walks towards the door.

GEORGE

(shouting)

If it's such a problem for you, mom, go ahead, name her!

CATHERINE

Georgie, come back, where are you going?

George slams to door.

CUT TO:

INT: GEORGE'S HOME - EVENING

George opens the front door quietly, and then falls through it. Visibly drunk, he walks over the the sofa and lays down.

Sam is reading a book, he looks at George.

SAM
You okay?

GEORGE
(His eyes are closed,
drifting into sleep)
Peachy.

Sam stands up and walks towards the hallway. He pauses.

SAM
Do you want a glass of water?

George doesn't answer. Sam waits another moment.

SAM (CONT'D)
Okay, well good night then.

George mumbles something, Sam pauses.

SAM (CONT'D)
What was that George?

GEORGE
(eyes still closed)
She didn't know which name she
liked more.

SAM
Who didn't?

GEORGE
(long pause)
Maggie...
(another pause, then
slowly)
She had two names picked out, and
she said we'd know when we saw
her. I think she knew it was a
girl, but didn't have the heart to
tell me and the boys. But when I
look at the baby...

Tears start streaming down George's face. He wipes them away aggressively.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

When I look at the baby, I don't know which one she'd have wanted to choose, so I... I just haven't chosen either.

Sam looks at George, who doesn't say anything else.

SAM

(softly)

Son, I know she would've trusted you to make the right choice. You just gotta make it.

George drifts to sleep.

Sam walks over and lays a blanket over him.

CUT TO:

INT: GEORGE'S HOME - MORNING

George opens his eyes to see his boys staring at him.

MICHAEL

Daddy, why are you sleeping on the couch?

GEORGE

I'm uh, I guess I fell asleep here.

JAKE

You stink bad.

MICHAEL

Yeah, you're smelly, daddy.

GEORGE

Yeah, uh, right. Um, where's grandma and grandpa?

MICHAEL

Grandma is feeding the baby and Grandpa is carrying things.

GEORGE

Carrying things?

MICHAEL

Yeah, they must be heavy bags or something, because he keeps saying bad words.

JAKE

Grandpa say shit.

GEORGE

He said what? Don't say that word. Where is he carrying things?

MICHAEL

Outside to his car.

George sits up slowly. He looks around and then goes to the window, seeing Sam pack the car.

He walks to the nursery with Michael and Jake in tow.

GEORGE

Mom?

CATHERINE

Yes, dear?

GEORGE

What's going on? Why is dad packing the car?

CATHERINE

We're going.

GEORGE

Where we going?

CATHERINE

No, not we, me and your father are going home. You're staying here, with your kids.

George physically reacts.

GEORGE

You can't be serious. This is soo, soo! Why?!

Catherine doesn't react.

CATHERINE

Talk to your father. It was his decision.

CUT TO:

EXT. GEORGE'S HOME

George walks up to where Sam who is staring at the trunk of his car.

Michael and Jake are standing just to the side.

SAM

I just don't understand how we have
MORE stuff now then when we got
here.

Sam looks over at the them, slumps his shoulders.

SAM (CONT'D)

Michael, Jake, get off the street.

Michael and Jake step back into the grass.

GEORGE

Dad... what are you doing?

SAM

Going home.

GEORGE

Yeah I know, why?

SAM

George, we're not helping by being
here anymore.

GEORGE

Says who?

SAM

Me. You need to start
figuring out your life. And us
being here isn't helping you.

GEORGE

(snaps)

So you're just gonna leave us?

Sam reacts to George's overreaction.

SAM

George, look at you. Go get a
shower, brush your teeth, eat some
breakfast, and figure out you
life. And for god's sake name your
daughter.

Sam slams the trunk closed and both Michael and Jake jump.

GEORGE

Fine! Leave, no one wants you here if you're gonna be like this anyway. Come on boys, let's go get breakfast.

MICHAEL

I already had breakfast. It's like 11 o'clock.

GEORGE

Dammit Michael, would you just listen for once! You don't even know what time it is anyway!

Michael starts crying as George marches back to the house.

FADE OUT:

INT. GEORGE'S HOME - KITCHEN - EVENING

Michael and Jake are sitting at the table eating french fries while George is trying to feed a screaming baby.

MICHAEL

The baby won't eat that.

GEORGE

Michael just eat your dinner.

MICHAEL

I want mom's cooking.

JAKE

I want mamma.

GEORGE

Michael, please? Jake, buddy, I know, but she's not here anymore.

MICHAEL

I don't know why you're trying to give the baby the bottle that way, she won't eat it.

GEORGE

Michael.

MICHAEL

I'm just saying... it's too cold... you didn't warm up the water first like grandma does.

GEORGE
Michael, enough.

MICHAEL
Grandma told Aunt Suzy that when
she was here.

GEORGE
Michael, I said enough!

Michael ignores his dad's scolding and watches him.
George tries again, but the baby continues to scream.
Finally he walks over to the microwave and opens the door.

MICHAEL
Can't do that.

George slumps.

GEORGE
Do what?

MICHAEL
Microwave the bottle, Grandma also
told Aunt Suzy that.

George looks at Michael, clearly frustrated.

GEORGE
And what can I do, Michael?

MICHAEL
I dunno, I'm 5.

GEORGE
Okay, 5, eat your fries while I
try to warm up a bottle without
using the microwave... because
Grandma said so.

JAKE
I'm 7.

MICHAEL
No you're not. You're 2. Daddy...
mom would know what to do.

GEORGE
Yeah, well mom isn't here, is she?

CUT TO:

INT: GEORGE'S HOME - MORNING

George looks out the window to see a small group of people.

He opens the door and everyone is smiling, widely.

GEORGE

Uh, hi, everyone.

Rebecca and others are holding platters and other items.

REBECCA

Hi there George! Neighborhood council stopping by!

GEORGE

There isn't a neighborhood council.

REBECCA

Oh stop it! We brought food and wanted to see if you needed help... Uh, maybe a few minutes to uh shower, or just maybe a few minutes?

Rebecca smiles broadly, the group following her lead.

GEORGE

I think we're okay, thanks.

REBECCA

Oh pish posh, aren't you gonna let us in?

GEORGE

Do I have a choice?

Rebecca continues to smile broadly.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

(breaths out audibly)

Come on...

The group files in.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S HOME - KITCHEN

All the women scatter.

REBECCA

Hi Mikey! Hi Jakey!

MICHAEL
Hi Mrs. Stone.

REBECCA
Whatcha got there?

MICHAEL
Um, cheese. And fruit loops.

JAKE
I have gwapes.

REBECCA
Ohhh, yummm. Just grapes? Did you
have anything else for breakfast?

Michael and Jake stare at her.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Maybe we'll try some eggs?

MICHAEL
Eggs? I don't think we have eggs.
My dad doesn't really make eggs.
Well he doesn't make...
anything...

REBECCA
Good thing we brought some then!

Rebecca leans to the other room.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
George, uh, where's the baby?

GEORGE (O.S.)
Sleeping.

REBECCA
Oh, okay, maybe Tina should check
on her?

Tina nods in agreement and walks out.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S HOME - LIVING ROOM

The men are surrounding George.

JIM
So, George, how are things now
with your parents gone?

GEORGE

My mom called, didn't she.

JIM

No, I don't know, Rebecca thought,
we ALL thought we should just stop
in.

GEORGE

Right. What did she say?

REBECCA

(from the kitchen)

George, do you have any dish soap,
it looks like all your forks are
dirty... and, uh, in the sink. Ya
know what, I can figure it out.
Maybe you should go get changed or
something.

JIM

I think you're looking great,
George, like Seattle grunge. Ya
know.

GEORGE

No Jim, I don't.

Jim laughs out loud and hits George on the shoulder.

JIM

Hah, right!

Tina walks in with the baby in her arms.

TINA

Someones awake and hungry! Dad,
where's the...

Rebecca leans in through the door and shakes her head.

TINA (CONT'D)

Ya know what? I think we can figure
it out.

Tina walks out of the room with the baby.

Jim sits down on the sofa, then immediately stands up again,
laughs awkwardly and sits back down.

George stares at him.

GEORGE
(shaking his head)
Okay, well I guess I'll go get
changed.

REBECCA
(pops her head in)
Maybe take your time, get a
shower and freshen up, too!

GEORGE
Yeah, I get it. Thanks Rebecca, and
uh, everyone. Are you alright
in there?

REBECCA
Right as rain.

Jim shrugs his shoulders and laughs uncomfortably again.
George looks at him, shakes his head, and leaves the room.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S HOME - KITCHEN

REBECCA
So, Mikey, what do you think of
the eggs?

MICHAEL
They're good. I was hungry.

REBECCA
I see that. Have you been eating
well?

MICHAEL
Yeah, mostly french fries. But my
dad said we could get pizza
tonight!

REBECCA
Oh isn't that nice. Maybe I can
cook something for dinner, how
does that sound?

MICHAEL
I dunno, my dad was pretty set on
Pizza... I could be convinced
though.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S HOME - LATE MORNING

George walks in, visibly more presentable.

Rebecca and Tina are going dishes and cleaning up.

GEORGE

Okay, Rebecca, I appreciate the help. I think I can take it from here.

REBECCA

Right. Okay, well the baby is sleeping, she might be up soon. The boys will probably be ready for naps too now that they have full tummies. They're outside with Jim showing him how to, uh, throw rocks, at, uh dinosaurs? Michael's imagination... hah!

GEORGE

Yeah, that's a game... anyway, thanks, I appreciate the help.

REBECCA

Of course, we're all here, and we know how hard...

(she begins tear up)

Well, you know, we all miss her too.

GEORGE

Right, okay, thanks again.

George walks towards the back door and opens it.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Okay Michael, Jake, Uncle Jim needs to go home now, let's come inside.

MICHAEL

Dad, Uncle Jim doesn't know how to play this game, he's throwing the rocks in the wrong direction. There aren't even dinosaurs there. And I think he threw one in Mrs. Miller's garden!

Jim laughs uncomfortably again and shakes his head.

GEORGE
Okay, well maybe next time you can
teach him the rules.

MICHAEL
Throw the rocks at the dinosaurs,
how hard is that?

GEORGE
Michael, that's enough, come on.

FADE OUT:

INT. GEORGE'S HOME - BATHROOM - EVENING

SUPER: "6 MONTHS LATER"

The boys are in the bath, George sitting next to them.

GEORGE
Michael, tomorrow you're going to
go back to school, what do you
think?

MICHAEL
Um, no thanks.

GEORGE
Don't you want to see your
friends? And meet your new teacher,
Mrs. Loney?

MICHAEL
Nope.

GEORGE
Why not?

MICHAEL
I dunno, I like it here.

GEORGE
But you like your friends, and you
like school don't you?

MICHAEL
Yeah.

GEORGE
So why don't you want to go?

MICHAEL
I just don't okay! I'm done, can I
get out of the bath?

GEORGE
Sure. But you still need to go to
school tomorrow.

MICHAEL
NO! I DON'T WANT TO!

GEORGE
Michael! Stop it!

Michael winces at George and then starts to cry.

George, realizing he's being too harsh, lightens.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
Hey. What's wrong, buddy? I'm
sorry, I didn't mean to yell.

Jake looks at George and they both look at Micheal.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
Come here.

George gets Michael out of the tub and covers in a towel.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
Why don't you want to go to school?

MICHAEL
I just don't want to.

GEORGE
You love school, there must be
another reason.

Michael shakes his head.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
Are you sure?

MICHAEL
I... I never... got to finish
tracing my hand, and mommy never
got to see it! So I just don't want
to!

(starts crying hard)

GEORGE
Your hand? I don't understand.

MICHAEL
For Easter!

GEORGE
For Easter?

MICHAEL
(nods, still crying)
Yeah...

GEORGE
Okay. So you traced your hand in
school for Easter?

MICHAEL
(still crying)
Uh huh.

GEORGE
In Mrs. Crabtree's class?

MICHAEL
Uh huh.

GEORGE
It's okay, buddy. You'll have new
things to do now, it's a new school
year.

MICHAEL
I don't want any new things or new
teachers.

GEORGE
Why not?

MICHAEL
Because mommy won't be able to see
it.

GEORGE
I know, but I'll be able to see
everything you do. And you can show
it to Jakey and the baby.

MICHAEL
I don't want to show it to that
stupid baby!

GEORGE
Michael, don't say things like
that!

MICHAEL
It's true, I hate her!

GEORGE
Michael!

MICHAEL
I miss mommy, and the baby ruined
everything!

GEORGE
Michael...

MICHAEL
Leave me alone!

GEORGE
Michael, it's not the baby's
fault. It... it just happened...

MICHAEL
But it happened when she was born,
it is her fault!

GEORGE
Buddy, it's not her fault. I know
you miss mommy, I do to, but we
can't blame the baby, she's just a
baby.

MICHAEL
I just want her to come back...

Michael starts crying harder and George hugs him tightly,
tears streaming down his face too.

GEORGE
I know, son. I know.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S HOME - EVENING

George is sitting in the dark, drink in hand, looking at
pictures of Maggie on the phone.

A picture pops up and he begins to cry.

He wipes his eyes and gets mad, throwing his phone across
the room. He downs his drink and pours another.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S HOME - NURSERY

George picks up the crying baby from the crib.

GEORGE
Hi there, little one. Are you
hungry? or poopy?

George sniffs the diaper.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
Woah! Definitely poopy, probably
both.

George starts to change her diaper.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
I think this is gonna be a hard
day for your brother. We need to
make sure we do whatever we can to
make it better. Can you help me do
that?

The baby stares at him.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
I know what he said, but it's not
your fault. He knows that, he's
just dealing with it in his own
way. There, does that feel better?

George lifts the baby up and walks to the kitchen.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
Okay, so we'll get you a bottle,
and I'll keep them coming as long
as you keep your cool today, okay?

George gets a bottle from the fridge and warms it up.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
It's coming, it's coming, don't
worry.

The baby starts crying.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
Hey, I thought we were gonna be
cool today.

George gives the baby the bottle and she takes it urgently.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
There, just like your mommy, only
happy when her belly's full.

CUT TO:

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - MID MORNING

George and Michael are walking to school. George is pushing a stroller with Jake and the baby.

Rebecca walks up to them with her son, TIMOTHY, next to her.

REBECCA

Mikey! Hi! So glad to see you. Hi George. Hi Jakey. Hi... little baby. Aren't you so cute? Uh, George, what's she wearing?

GEORGE

Oh, right, that. I couldn't find a baby coat or anything. So that's one of Michael's old sweaters.

REBECCA

(in a baby voice)

Well she still looks cute as a button, doesn't she! Wearing her BIG brother's sweater!

MICHAEL

I think she looks funny, that sweater doesn't fit.

GEORGE

Michael, why don't you go inside with Timmy?

REBECCA

Yes, Timothy, go inside with Mikey.

MICHAEL

Come on Timmy, I don't know why they're being weird about that sweater, it looks stupid.

CUT TO:

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Michael and Timothy enter MRS. LONEY's classroom.

MRS. LONEY

Good morning boys, and what are your names.

The boys stop and stare. George and Rebecca meet them.

GEORGE

Hello, Mrs. Lonely. This here is Michael Foster.

MRS. LONEY

Please, call me Janice. Hi there Michael.

GEORGE

Uh, right, sorry Janice, I, it's just, Maggie usually did this.

MRS. LONEY

Ah yes, Mrs. Crabtree told me. I'm very sorry. How is Michael doing?

GEORGE

Yeah, we're all doing okay, I guess as best as we can.

MRS. LONEY

Okay, very well. Michael, go ahead in - find your cubby with your name on it and put your stuff inside.

Michael looks at George and starts to tear up.

George leans down.

GEORGE

It's okay Mikey. I'll wait just outside here, in case something happens and you need me to be close, okay?

Michael nods, and slowly walks further into the classroom.

CUT TO:

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER

George is sitting on a bench just outside of the classroom.

Rebecca walks out and towards George.

REBECCA

George, I promise you, he'll be okay, come with us!

GEORGE

Us?

REBECCA

Oh, yeah, some of us go down the street to the cafe and get coffee while the kids are here. Chit chat, you know... You must come along!

GEORGE

Oh. Um...

REBECCA

I won't take no for an answer.

GEORGE

(under his breath)

Yeah, I kinda figured that...

REBECCA

What's that George?

GEORGE

Uh, sounds great!

CUT TO:

INT. CAFE

Six women, including Rebecca and Tina, and George are sitting in a cafe. All the women are staring at him.

GEORGE

So this is kind of a Mom's club...

REBECCA

Gosh no! It's a PARENT'S club.

GEORGE

Right, but I'm the only guy...
so...

They all laugh uncomfortably.

REBECCA

Right, so you make it a Parents club!

GEORGE

Right.

WOMAN 1

So what's this little one's name?

She looks up from the stroller and Rebecca and Tina are shaking their heads emphatically.

WOMAN 1 (CONT'D)

I mean, she's just the cutest, and what a... a lovely sweater!

REBECCA

(cuts in)

George, I was just telling the ga... everyone... about how nice your Christmas decorations are every year!

GEORGE

Yeah, thanks, that was always Maggie's doing. I mean I put them up, but she would basically force me to.

REBECCA

Oh how nice.

There's an awkward silence.

TINA

Are your parents coming into town for the holidays?

GEORGE

I don't know, I haven't spoken with them since they left.

One of the women laughs and then realizes it wasn't a joke.

REBECCA

And what about Mikey's other grandparents?

GEORGE

Oh, they're dead.

Everyones' faces drop.

GEORGE

I'm kidding.

Rebecca laughs much louder than expected.

REBECCA

Oh, George, always joking. Hah!

GEORGE

I think I'm gonna go back to the school, I'll need to feed the baby soon and don't want to have to interrupt by walking back.

REBECCA

Oh, okay, we can go to.

Rebecca nods to all the women who start to stand.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

Let's go!

GEORGE

It's okay Rebecca, enjoy your coffee and talk about whatever it is you usually talk about at Mom's club.

REBECCA

PARENTS club!

GEORGE

Right. I'll see you in a few minutes, really it's okay.

CUT TO:

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

George is on the bench again, feeding the baby. A bell chimes and Mrs. Loney pokes her head out.

MRS. LONEY

Hello George, welcome back!

GEORGE

Hi Mrs. uh Janice.

MRS. LONEY

Come on in.

GEORGE

It's okay, the baby is almost finished. You can tell Michael to come out when he's ready. Was everything okay?

MRS. LONEY

Of course! We had a great day.

Mrs. Loney walks back into the classroom.

George sees all of the moms from the cafe approaching.

The first one attempts to say something and then just ducks her head and walks into the classroom.

The rest follow suit, except Rebecca.

REBECCA
Well hello there, long time!

GEORGE
Yep.

George sees that the baby has finished the bottle and stands to put her back in the stroller.

When he looks back toward Rebecca, she's not longer there.

A moment later she's approaching George with the boys.

REBECCA
The boys and I were just talking about dinner, and I made way too much for us, so what do you say to coming over tonight?

MICHAEL
Dad, can we? I don't want anymore french fries.

GEORGE
Michael, we've eaten more than just french fries...
(awkward chuckle)
Besides, we don't need to bother Mrs. Stone anymore than we already have.

MICHAEL
Daddy, we had french fries for breakfast, and for dinner last night.

REBECCA
(waves them off)
Oh stop you two! It's decided. Plus I'm sure Jim will enjoy having some guy-time.

CUT TO:

INT. REBECCA'S HOME

George is with Jim, both watching a game on TV.

JIM
So, umm, I...

GEORGE
Yeah, thanks for having us.

JIM

Right, yeah, glad to. Lasagna is one of Bec's go-tos, but she makes enough for the whole neighborhood. Do you cook now?

GEORGE

Uh, well, we've been eating out a bunch.

JIM

Right. I don't know what I would do. Probably a lot of burgers.

GEORGE

Yeah, we eat fries a lot.

JIM

Must be nice.

Jim catches himself and looks stares intently at the TV.

JIM (CONT'D)

I mean, well, Bec's always trying these weird recipes from a magazine... you know...

GEORGE

Yeah, I know.

JIM

Do you want a beer or something?

GEORGE

No, thanks though.

JIM

Oh, okay. Well you don't, uh, care, if I have one... I don't know the...

GEORGE

(looks at him puzzled)

Yeah, it's your house, right?

JIM

Yeah, right. Do you want a different drink?

GEORGE

No, thanks.

REBECCA (O.S.)
 Jim, honey, why don't you offer
 George a beer or something to
 drink.

GEORGE
 Thanks Rebecca, he just has, I'm
 fine though.

JIM
 Okay, well I'm gonna...
 (points to the other room)
 You know...

GEORGE
 Yep.

Jim leaves the room and George starts to look at all the
 family portraits, one is of their friend group.

He walks to it and sees Maggie.

Jim walks back in and clears his throat so George notices,
 and then hands him a beer.

JIM
 Rebecca... she thought maybe...

George nods and takes it graciously.

CUT TO:

INT. REBECCA'S HOME - DINING ROOM

GEORGE
 This is really quite delicious,
 Rebecca.

MICHAEL
 Yeah, sure is better than french
 fries!

GEORGE
 Ok, Michael, we get it, just eat.

TIMOTHY
 I wish we could have french fries
 every day.

MICHAEL
 Yeah, I thought that too...

REBECCA
 (cutting the boys off)
 So what did you boys do in school
 today?

TIMOTHY
 We made finger puppets. And Mikey
 finished did an Easter Bunny.

REBECCA
 An Easter Bunny?

TIMOTHY
 Yeah, he didn't finish it last
 year because his mom died.

REBECCA
 Timothy! Jim! Say something.

JIM
 Timothy, don't say things like
 that?

TIMOTHY
 Things like what?

REBECCA
 (give Jim a look)
 Timothy, you should be more
 careful about the things you say.

TIMOTHY
 What things?

Rebecca nods to Jim.

JIM
 Things about people's mom dying.
 And other things like that.

MICHAEL
 Timmy's right though.
 (leaning toward Timothy)
 Are your parents always this weird?

Timothy agrees.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 (taking a big bite of
 the lasagna)
 Dad, why don't we have this every
 day instead of french fries, it's
 wayyyyy better.

George looks around and then shakes his head.

GEORGE
(starts to laugh)
I guess I need to work on meal
prep a little better, huh buddy?

MICHAEL
I dunno, as long as we don't..

GEORGE
(cuts him off, still
laughing)
Right, I get it, as long as it's
not french fries, you don't care.

JAKE
I like french fries.

CUT TO:

INT. REBECCA'S HOME

George has a sleeping Jake in one arm and the sleeping baby
in the carrier in the other walking to the front door.

GEORGE
(whispering)
Thanks, so much for dinner, it was
delicious.

REBECCA
(whispering)
Jim, help George with the kids.

GEORGE
(whispering)
It's okay, it's only across the
street. Thanks though.

REBECCA
(whispering)
Okay, have good night, then.

GEORGE
(whispering)
Thanks, you too. And thanks again
for dinner. Come on Michael.

George and Michael walk out the door.

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. CAR

MICHAEL

Daddy, don't you think it's weird
that the baby doesn't have a name?

George looks at Michael through the rear-view mirror.

GEORGE

Uh, why do you say that?

MICHAEL

Well, the kids at school keep
asking. And the parents too.

GEORGE

Well tell them we'll give her a
name when we're ready.

MICHAEL

Daddy?

GEORGE

Yeah?

MICHAEL

Are Grandma and Grandpa coming to
our house for Christmas?

GEORGE

I dunno, why?

MICHAEL

No reason.

GEORGE

Do you miss them?

MICHAEL

Um, no.

GEORGE

Are you sure?

MICHAEL

It's just they left because you
didn't name the baby. So if she
doesn't have a name before
Christmas, I won't get any
presents.

GEORGE
They didn't leave because... they
didn't leave because the baby
didn't have a name.

MICHAEL
But that's what they kept saying.

GEORGE
I know, they just wanted us to get
back to normal.

MICHAEL
Is it normal to not have a mommy?

GEORGE
(thinks about his
response)
No, I don't suppose it is normal.

MICHAEL
(panicking slightly)
Then how will we be normal.

GEORGE
I, uh, I don't know.

MICHAEL
If we give the baby a name, would
that make us normal?

GEORGE
Yeah, I guess so.

MICHAEL
Can we name her Raphael?

GEORGE
No, Michael, we can't name her
after the Ninja Turtles.

MICHAEL
Why not?

GEORGE
Well, first of all they're all
boys.

MICHAEL
Oh. What about Poppy?

GEORGE
Poppy?

MICHAEL
Yeah, Poppy.

GEORGE
Why Poppy?

MICHAEL
From Trolls? She's a girl.

GEORGE
I don't think we should name her
after a TV Show.

MICHAEL
But that's a movie.

GEORGE
Okay, I don't think we should name
her after a TV show OR a movie.

MICHAEL
She looks like a Poppy to me.

GEORGE
Look at that, we're here!

MICHAEL
Where?

GEORGE
School. Go ahead with Mrs. Stone.

MICHAEL
Aren't you going to come?

GEORGE
Uh, no, I don't think Mrs. Stone's
face can handle smiling at me
anymore.

MICHAEL
Smiling at you?

GEORGE
Nothing, never mind. Just go ahead.

George rolls down the window as Michael gets out.

REBECCA
Hi Mikey! Hi George, how are you?

MICHAEL
Mrs. Stone?

REBECCA

Yes?

MICHAEL

Does your face hurt?

REBECCA

Uh, why no, why do you ask?

MICHAEL

Daddy says you're smiling really hard and it probably hurts.

GEORGE

Michael! Sorry, Rebecca, not sure why he said that.

Visibly uncomfortable, Rebecca smiles wider.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S HOME - LIVING ROOM

GEORGE

Michael, come here, let's talk to Grandma and Grandpa.

George video calls his parents.

The screen immediately shows two half face/bodies.

CATHERINE

Sam, George is calling us.

SAM

Oh, he is? That's nice, when?

CATHERINE

Well I think now...

GEORGE

Mom? Mom. Mom! We can hear you. Mom, angle the phone, no, the phone! Angle it towards your face.

SAM

Catherine, I hear George, is he here?

GEORGE

Dad, dad, no, I'm just. Look at mom's phone! Mom, turn the phone sideways. Okay, Okay, can you see us?

CATHERINE
Oh there you are! Hi Mikey! Hi
dear.

MICHAEL
Hi Grandma!

CATHERINE
Hi Mikey, how are you! And what
are you wearing?

MICHAEL
A basketball jersey.

CATHERINE
Oh, and what do you have
underneath it?

MICHAEL
A football jersey.

SAM
Mikey, why are you wearing both?

MICHAEL
'Cause I like both.

SAM
George, why is he wearing two
jerseys?

GEORGE
Because... like he said... he
likes both.

CATHERINE
I really think you need to start
helping him get dressed in the
morning, dear.

MICHAEL
Grandpa, what do you think of
Poppy?

SAM
Poppy?

MICHAEL
Yeah, Poppy.

SAM
Like a muffin, poppy?

MICHAEL

No, like...

GEORGE

(cuts him off)

Never mind that dad. I'm calling about Christmas.

CATHERINE

What about it?

GEORGE

Well, I was thinking about Grandma's lake house.

CATHERINE

Well we haven't been up there in years, I don't even know what it's like.

GEORGE

Yeah, I know, but I don't really want to stay here. It would be nice for me, for all of us to get away.

Sam and Catherine look at each other.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Maybe ask Uncle Bill about it? Or I can.

CATHERINE

Sam, call your brother and ask him about the house.

Catherine stares at Sam, George remains silent.

SAM

Oh, now?

CATHERINE

Well certainly not later, Sam.

SAM

Oh, okay.

Sam walks away.

CATHERINE

So, dear, how have you been?

Crying from the other room is heard.

GEORGE
Hold on, mom.

George walks to the nursery, leaving Michael with the phone.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S HOME - NURSERY

GEORGE
Hey there little girl. You wake up
from your nap?

George picks her up and walks out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S HOME - LIVING ROOM

George walks back in with the baby.

MICHAEL
Yeah, he goes to the cafe every
day with Mrs. Stone.

GEORGE
What are you saying, Michael?

MICHAEL
Nothing, just that you go to the
cafe when I'm in class with Mrs.
Stone.

CATHERINE
Georgie, it isn't my place to say,
but isn't she married?

GEORGE
(huffs)
Geez Mom, she is, but we meet a few
parents at the coffee shop, not
just her and I.

CATHERINE
Oh, other men and women who's kids
are in school?

GEORGE
Yes, well, I'm the only guy.

SAM
Attaboy.

CATHERINE

Sam! George isn't that a Mom's...

GEORGE

No, yeah, it's definitely a Mom's club, they just feel bad for me and well, I don't have any reason to say no, so... Anyway, what did Uncle Bill say about the house?

SAM

Oh, uh, he said no one will be there. He said the hot water goes in and out, but other than that everything is fine, they were there 3 weeks ago, and Jessica goes pretty often with the boys.

CATHERINE

Okay, so it's settled then. We'll all meet up at the lake house. I'll tell your sisters and your brother.

GEORGE

You talked to Bobby?

CATHERINE

Well, yes, of course. We talk to all of our children.

GEORGE

Oh, it's just I haven't heard from him, since...

CATHERINE

Well you know how he is, he doesn't know how to deal with those things.

GEORGE

Yeah. Okay, just let me know what to bring. We'll probably head up the Saturday before.

CATHERINE

Nothing, just bring yourself and those kiddos.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - AFTERNOON

MICHAEL
How much longer, daddy?

GEORGE
Well, it says 3 and a half more
hours, but we'll probably stop at
least once to feed your sister.

Michael huffs audibly.

GEORGE
It's just so long!

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - EVENING

The shops and restaurants lights are glowing.

Michael and Jake are sleeping in the back seats.

GEORGE
(whispering)
Michael, hey, Michael, wake up.

Michael starts to open his eyes and look around.

MICHAEL
Where are we? Are we there?

GEORGE
Kind of. This is Main Street,
the house is just a few blocks
away. You know, buddy, me and your
Uncle Bobby used to spend every
summer here!

MICHAEL
What about Aunt Suzy and Aunt
Bette?

GEORGE
Well they did too a few times, or,
maybe at least once I think. I'm
not sure, you'll have to ask them.

MICHAEL
So you saw Uncle Bobby a lot?

GEORGE
Well of course, we lived together
back then!

MICHAEL

Oh, why don't we see him now?

GEORGE

Uh, well, that's a good question.
He'll be here this week maybe.

MICHAEL

I hope so!

GEORGE

Yeah, me too.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKEHOUSE

The large craftsman house has a large porch and heavy roofs.

George is holding the carrier with Michael and Jake in tow.

As the walk up onto the porch, Catherine and Sam open the door to greet them.

SUZANNE runs out squealing and picks up Michael.

SUZANNE

Mikey! Where have you been all my life?!

MICHAEL

Hi Aunt Suzy, I've been in Hamilton.

SUZANNE

Right, that's where you live, silly me!

Suzanne nuzzles Michael's neck and he giggles. She puts him down and picks up Jake.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Hi Jakey! How was the drive?? Give me a smooch.

Jake shakes his head.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Okay, your loss.

Suzanne puts him down and looks at George.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

GIVE. ME. THAT. BABY!

Suzanne reaches out and takes the baby from George.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)
Oh, and hi Georgie.

GEORGE
Hi Ms. Suzanne. Glad to see you've calmed down in your old age.

SUZANNE
I'm 27 thank you very much, and I look fabulous, don't I Mikey?

MICHAEL
Umm...

SUZANNE
Just say yes, Michael, or you won't get your Christmas presents!

MICHAEL
YES!

Everyone walks down the hallway.

Leaning just inside the kitchen doorway is Bette.

She's smiling slightly, and then starts crying as soon as George looks at her.

GEORGE
Hi wittle wittle Bette.

BETTE
Stop it Georgie, give me a hug.

George walks over and gives his little sister a hug.

She wipes away her tears and looks down at Michael.

BETTE (CONT'D)
Hey Mr. Little Man. You're all grown up, you gotta job yet?

MICHAEL
Daddy said I didn't have to get a job until you do.

Everyone looks at George. He starts laughing.

GEORGE
I definitely didn't say that Michael! Be nice to wittle auntie Bette.

BETTE

Mikey, did your daddy tell you to say that? And just remember... your presents depend on it.

MICHAEL

Oh yes, he said it, I mean told me to say it.

BETTE

I wish I could believe him, but we all know Maggie was the witty one in your relationship. Hi Jakey!

Bette picks up Jake and they all walk into the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEHOUSE - DINING ROOM

Everyone is seated around the table eating dinner. Sounds come from the other room. Everyone looks confused.

CATHERINE

Sam, will you see what that is?

Sam stands up and starts walking to the noise when MONICA, CHASE (young teenager), and RYAN (7-8 years old) come walking into the room.

MICHAEL

Ryan!

RYAN

Hi Mikey.

MONICA

Did we miss dinner?

CATHERINE

Uh, no, of course not, Sam, George, get some extra chairs. Bobby said you wouldn't be in until tomorrow or maybe the day after.

MONICA

Yea, well Bobby changed his mind, naturally. Apparently there's snow expected tomorrow. We're here now, right?

CATHERINE

Of course, we're glad!

Sam and George pull the chairs around the table and everyone reorganizes their plates and utensils.

The baby starts to cry from the other room.

SUZANNE

I got her.

GEORGE

No, it's okay, I'll get her.

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEHOUSE - DINING ROOM

George walks into the room with the baby and a bottle. Everyone is seated at the table.

GEORGE

Hey Bobby.

BOBBY

Hi George.

MONICA

Georgie, can I see that baby, please? She's just the sweetest thing! I can't stop looking at the pictures Catherine sent me. What did you decide on a name?

GEORGE

Uh, I, we...

MICHAEL

(cuts him off)

Poppy.

Suzanne and Bette snicker.

BETTE

Poppy? That's the baby's name? Why Poppy?

GEORGE

It's not.
It's the.. girl Troll... from Trolls, the movie. It's better than his first choice I suppose.

BETTE

Why, what was his first choice?

GEORGE

Raphael.

George can barely get it out; everyone starts snickering.

SUZANNE

Like the turtle?

MICHAEL

He's my favorite one!

CATHERINE

I'm confused, you named the baby
after a troll movie?

GEORGE

(laughing)

No, mom, that was Michael's
suggestion, we, uh, I haven't
decided yet.

CATHERINE

Oh, ok, I guess that's good. No
little girl should be named after a
turtle OR a troll.

They all start laughing.

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEHOUSE - FAMILY ROOM

George is sitting in a chair in front of a wood-burning
fireplace, a fire crackling loudly.

Bobby taps him on the shoulder with a beer. George looks up
from a daze and sees Bobby and the beer and takes it.

Bobby sits down across from him.

GEORGE

The kids asleep?

BOBBY

Think so.

GEORGE

(nodding)

How was your drive up?

Bobby doesn't answer.

BOBBY

George, I wanna ask you something,
and I don't want you to get upset.

George lets out a sigh.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Why haven't you named her yet?

George sits there in silence staring at the fire.

After a few moments of silence, Bobby stands up.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Georgie, I get that your upset,
god, we all are, but you gotta
name her, she'll be a year old
before you know it.

GEORGE

(under his breath)

I haven't seen you since when,
and this is our first interaction?

BOBBY

George, this is about the baby, not
you, or me.

George snickers.

GEORGE

Right, nothing seems to be about
you... or everything does,
depending on your mood I guess.

Bobby starts to say something and walks out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEHOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Michael walks into the room, in his pajamas.

Everyone is there except George.

MICHAEL

Where's my dad?

CATHERINE

Good morning Mikey, how'd you
sleep?

MICHAEL

Okay.

CATHERINE
You want some eggs?

MICHAEL
Sure, where'd he go?

CATHERINE
Scrambled with cheese?

MICHAEL
Yeah. Where's my dad?

SAM
Your father went to the store to
get some Christmas shopping done.

MICHAEL
Christmas shopping?

SAM
That's what he said.

MICHAEL
Oh. Hi Uncle Bobby.

BOBBY
Good morning, Mikey.

SUZANNE
Hey, what about me?

MICHAEL
Hi Aunt Suzy.

SUZANNE
He shows up once a year and it's
'Hi uncle Bobby!' What the heck is
that?

BOBBY
People love me. It's a curse.

MICHAEL
Uncle Bobby, daddy said you and
him used to live here. Is that
true?

BOBBY
In the summers, yeah. When we were
kids.

MICHAEL
Hmm... Can me and Ryan live here
in the summer?

BOBBY

If it were up to me, you and Ryan
could live here all the time.

MICHAEL AND RYAN

REALLY???

SAM

No.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAIN STREET

George is walking with a few bags in hand, the town is busy.

He walks up to a cafe, and holds the door open for several
people who nod and rush in from the cold. The last is DESI.

DESI

Oh, thanks! Sorry, I...

Desi looks at George holding the door and pauses.

DESI (CONT'D)

George?

George looks at her. He doesn't immediately recognize her.

DESI (CONT'D)

George Foster. Really? Nothing?

George stares at her for another moment, and then
hesitantly speaks.

GEORGE

Desi...?

She smiles widely. And hits him on the shoulder.

DESI

Yes... Desi! How are you, what are
you doing here?

GEORGE

I'm... getting coffee...

DESI

No, duh, haha, I get that, I mean
here, here.

George nods to the people behind Desi.

DESI (CONT'D)
Oh, right. Sorry.

She walks in as George holds the door once more and follows.

DESI (CONT'D)
So, um, what are you doing here?

GEORGE
We all came up here for Christmas.

DESI
All?

GEORGE
Mom and dad, Bobby and his bunch,
Suzy, Bette. Uh, my kids too.

DESI
What about, um... Mary?

GEORGE
Maggie. Uh, no...

George looks sheepish and sad.

DESI
Got it. Yeah, me too.

GEORGE
Coffee?

Desi nods and they walk to the counter.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFE

George and Desi are sitting at a table in the cafe, with empty cups and plates in front of them.

Desi is laughing.

GEORGE
(with a huge grin)
Yea, well I didn't know anyone was
looking, and I obviously didn't
know Bobby had a camera with him.

DESI
(laughing)
But you didn't stop. Why were
dancing like that anyway?

GEORGE
I was practicing.

DESI
THAT was practice? For what?

GEORGE
Someone said to me that dancing
was important to girls, and she
would never ever kiss a boy who
couldn't dance.

Desi looks down, blushing.

DESI
Oh my goodness, George. That's the
silliest thing I've ever heard.

GEORGE
It's the truth.

DESI
I didn't even know what I was
saying...and I was too busy pining
after Bobby to even realize what I
was talking about.

GEORGE
Yeah, you were. Still thought I
needed to learn to dance.

DESI
(laughing)
Oh god, we were ridiculous.

GEORGE
Don't I know it.

DESI
Oh damn, what time is it??

GEORGE
11:30, why?

DESI
Ahh! I'm meeting my parents for
lunch, and they always give me a
hard time when I'm late.

GEORGE
And as I remember that was all the
time.

DESI

Well, yes, and not the point. I gotta go. It was great running into you! How long are you here?

GEORGE

At least Christmas, then I'm not sure.

DESI

Okay, then we'll see each other again. Bye George!

Desi runs out and George sits back down.

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEHOUSE - DINING ROOM - MIDDAY

George walks into the dining room with his parents, all the kids, and his sisters sitting at the table.

CATHERINE

Georgie! There you are, we just sat down for lunch, come join us.

GEORGE

No, thanks, where's the baby?

SUZANNE

We just laid her down. She's a little porker on that bottle, huh?

GEORGE

Hah, yeah. I'm going to...

MICHAEL

Daddy! What presents did you get? Me and Ryan were playing his new game with these monsters...

GEORGE

Monsters?

MICHAEL

Yeah, monsters! I, you, have to cut off their heads...

George looks accusatory at the adults.

GEORGE

So, I'm gone for 2 hours and Michael gets to play games that involve cutting monsters' heads off??

BETTE

Um, it was like 4 hours... where were you. Also, the game seemed pretty harmless, they were like colorful monsters.

CATHERINE

Oh Georgie, stop, it's an innocent game, we were here. But what were you doing for 4 hours... you hate to shop.

GEORGE

I stopped for a cup of coffee and bumped into someone.

Bobby walks into the room.

BOBBY

Bumped into who?

GEORGE

No one.

BETTE

I mean how many people could you know here.

GEORGE

It was one of my friends when we used to spend the summers here.

BOBBY

Your friends? You didn't have any friends. Jack?

GEORGE

No.

BOBBY

Ken?

GEORGE

No.

CATHERINE

Oh that cute little boy with bright blonde hair?

BOBBY

No, mom, that was Mike, he passed away a few years ago.

CATHERINE

Oh right Mike! He did? How? I mean he was young.

BOBBY

Yeah, I heard it was drugs, but I may just be assuming that because there's nothing else to do here.

GEORGE

Okay, I'm gonna check on the baby, and get a shower.

CATHERINE

Okay dear.

SUZANNE

Wait, who were you with? Why won't you tell us?

GEORGE

It was no one. You okay with Michael.

SAM

Yes, we're fine son, go ahead.

George walks out of the room.

Everyone looks at each other shrugging their shoulders.

SAM (CONT'D)

Suzanne, please don't upset your brother.

SUZANNE

Me? He was the one being weird.

MICHAEL

My dad's not weird.

SUZANNE

Uh, yes he is, and so are you, AND SO AM I.

Suzanne makes funny faces at Michael, and he giggles.

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEHOUSE - GEORGE'S ROOM

George is sitting on the bed feeding the baby.

GEORGE

I know. It's just so strange to see her again after all these years.

George turns the baby over and burps her.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

It was nice. Yeah, not that way, I don't mean that. It was just nice... to see someone, you know, from before your momma.

George continues to feed her.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Well of course it helps that she's not a whale.

The baby cries out a little.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Yes, sorry, it helps that she's not ugly.

The baby makes another noise.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Oh stop, it's not what you're thinking - it's just that all my other friends from here are middle-aged balding men.

The bottle makes a hissing sound and George pulls it out.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Okay, you done lecturing me? And eating? Good.

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEHOUSE - GEORGE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Bette taps lightly at the door.

BETTE

(whispering)
Are they asleep?

GEORGE
 (nodding, whispering)
 Yes. Just went down.

BETTE
 (whispering)
 We're going to The Tap.

GEORGE
 (whispering)
 The Tap? We?

BETTE
 (whispering)
 Yes, we. You're going too. Mom and
 Dad and Monica are staying home.

GEORGE
 (whispering)
 Bobby's going?

BETTE
 (whispering)
 Yeah.

GEORGE
 Think we can get him to pay?

BETTE
 You better hope, otherwise you're
 paying...

CUT TO:

INT. THE TAP BAR

George, Suzanne, Bette, and Bobby walk in.

It's loud, with music and people.

Bette points to a booth and they all walk over and sit.

Just after they settle, Desi walks over wearing a bar shirt.

DESI
 Hey George, twice in one day, huh!

George looks sheepish.

Bette and Suzanne smile broadly.

GEORGE
 Hah, yeah, uh I guess so. You work
 here?

DESI

Well kinda. I mean I kinda own here. Well my parents own it now. And I work here when school is on breaks, I teach a few towns over. Uh, anyway, what can I get ya'll?

BOBBY

We'll just take 2 pitchers of, you got a Pale Ale?

DESI

Sure do. Two pitchers of the Pale, coming right up, ya'll want some waters to?

GEORGE

No, we don't need...

SUZANNE

Yes, waters for everyone. Thanks!

Desi walks away.

They all stare at George, smirking.

GEORGE

What?

BETTE

So that's who you "ran" into.

GEORGE

Yeah, so?

BETTE

No reason. She's cute.

GEORGE

Stop. Please.

BETTE

It's true.

GEORGE

Maggie's been gone for weeks, not months, not years, can we just let it go.

BOBBY

Yeah, Bette, even if George was interested, which as he said, he's not. She has always liked me more.

GEORGE

Oh god, here we go.

BOBBY

Don't be upset, Georgie. You just weren't born with my ruggedly handsome looks.

GEORGE

Or your male-pattern baldness.

SUZANNE

Don't be mean.

BOBBY

It's okay Suzy, I can see he's still uncomfortable having such an attractive older brother.

Desi walks up with the beverages.

DESI

Okay, 2 pitchers, 4 glasses, and some waters for everyone. Anything else?

SUZANNE

Yeah, did you used to think Bobby was cute when you were kids?

Desi blushes immediately.

GEORGE

Suzy! Why?

DESI

I... uhh... I mean I was like 8 or something...

SUZANNE

So, yes.

DESI

Haha, right, I'll be at the bar if you need anything just wave.

Desi walks away.

GEORGE

Suzy, you're not a nice person.

BOBBY

Georgie, don't be sad, maybe things have changed since she was 8. Unfortunately for you, though, I'm still the much more attractive older brother.

GEORGE

Yeah, show her that talent you have for balancing your beer on your belly.

BOBBY

If I didn't have that flaw, I'd have no flaws at all...

They all roll their eyes and laughing.

CUT TO:

INT. THE TAP BAR

BOBBY

(clearly intoxicated)
I need to go home.

BETTE

Yeah, apparently. I'll take the old man home.

SUZANNE

Yeah, me too... there's nothing but old people here anyway.

BOBBY

Great, Georgie, pay the man so we can leave, good sir. Or wo-man, my apologies.

GEORGE

Yeah, of course, why would the oldest pay, too busy looking at himself in the mirror.

BOBBY

That's the attitude.

Bobby slaps George on the back, harder than intended.

George gets up and walks to the bar.

DESI

Time to go?

GEORGE
Yeah, Bobby's a little...
(makes hand drinking motion)
He probably hasn't been to a bar
in like 15 years.

DESI
(laughing)
Right, okay, well it was really
great to see you, again.

GEORGE
What do we owe?

DESI
Stop, don't worry about it!
Remember, I kinda own the place.

George starts taking cash out of his wallet.

GEORGE
Well, I gotta pay something.

DESI
I won't take it.

GEORGE
Okay, well I guess I'll see you
around?

DESI
Yep! I told you we'd run into each
other this morning, and it'll
happen again, I'm certain!

GEORGE
Yeah, I guess it's easier to
predict when you own the only bar.

DESI
It's not the ONLY bar... just the
only one people go to.

GEORGE
Right. Okay, well it was nice
seeing you, twice.

DESI
Yeah, and here...

Desi hands George a blank receipt with her number written.

DESI (CONT'D)
 Next time just hit me up if you
 want to get a cup of coffee or
 something.

George looks down at it and hesitates.

DESI (CONT'D)
 Don't think too much into it, man.

George takes the number and puts it in his wallet with the
 rest of his money. He walks towards his family at the door.

BOBBY
 She ask about me?

GEORGE
 Yes, she wanted to know where you
 got your shirt, she needs a
 Christmas present for her dad.

BOBBY
 Oh, well I think I got it at
 Kohl's.

Bette and Suzanne start cackling as they walk out.

FADE OUT:

INT. LAKEHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Catherine passes out gifts to everyone.

CATHERINE
 Come on, come on, it's tradition!

SUZANNE
 Mom, we haven't done this
 tradition in 15 years, maybe
 longer.

CATHERINE
 Well we're starting it back up
 again. Come on, everyone open them
 up and put them on!

Everyone unwraps the presents.

They all hold up the sweaters within.

BETTE
 Did you have these made?

CATHERINE

Kind of.

SAM

Yes, she spent a fortune on Etsy.

BOBBY

Mom, I don't think...

GEORGE

I thought we used to have tape or something?

CATHERINE

We used to have tape-on song titles, but this year I got them embroidered on the sweaters.

BOBBY

Someone give Georgie the "What child is this? sweater..."

Bette, Suzanne, and Monica try to stifle a laugh, and then feel uncomfortable.

CATHERINE

Stop it, Bobby! There's no need for that.

GEORGE

Thanks mom. But how'd you find a sweater big enough for Bobby's ego... or belly, not sure which is bigger.

Bette, Suzanne, and Monica, feeling more comfortable at George's reaction, continue to laugh and look over at Bobby.

BOBBY

Clever, but jokes on you... Mom found one the perfect size.

Bobby puts it on, then does a strut around the room.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

I think I look like a stone cold killer in this sweater, thanks mom.

CATHERINE

You're welcome, honey.

GEORGE

Yeah, killer... like creepy serial killer.

Bette and Suzanne continue to giggle.

Monica makes a face at Bobby to stop.

BOBBY

What's wrong, Mon? I thought this
is why you married me.

MONICA

Of course I did, Love.

CATHERINE

Okay, enough of all that, does
everyone have their sweaters on?
(looks around and nods)
Okay, good. And does everyone know
their songs?

Everyone nods. The young kids look around confused.

MICHAEL

Know their songs?

CATHERINE

Do we need to practice first
before we leave?

SAM

I think we all got it, dear.

CATHERINE

But what about the boys?

SAM

They'll figure it out, maybe we'll
just start with the big kids and
we can go from there. The boys
will follow along.

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEHOUSE - EVENING

Everyone is walks in, talking over each other.

BOBBY

Boys, get ready for bed. We'll be
up in a few minutes.

GEORGE

You too, Michael.

CATHERINE

Well how was I supposed to know
the boys would be shy like that?

SAM

It's okay, dear, maybe next time
we'll have some songbooks or
something.

CATHERINE

Yeah, I guess.

GEORGE

(whispering)

I don't think there will be a next
time, dad.

(to Monica)

I'll take the her.

George takes the baby, carries her and a sleeping Jake out.

Bobby and Monica follow.

CATHERINE

(to her daughters)

You never cared about singing in
front of people, at least not
Christmas carols.

Bette and Suzanne look at each other and start laughing.

BETTE

Mom, all of the sudden there were
like 200 people in the square,
that never happened to us.

SUZANNE

Yeah, we basically just sang to
Grandma.

CATHERINE

Well I think if those kids didn't
start laughing at Mikey.

SUZANNE

I think they were laughing at dad.

SAM

Me? Why? What did I do?

SUZANNE

Dad... you were behind on every
song, and loud, so loud.

CATHERINE

Well he can't help it, his hearing isn't the best.

BETTE

Yeah, no kidding. It was like he was singing a round, and no one else knew.

George walks in.

GEORGE

Well that was... a memory.

SAM

Is Mikey okay?

GEORGE

Haha, I don't think he's gonna want to sing Christmas carols ever again.

CATHERINE

But he has a beautiful voice.

GEORGE

Yes, well, that might be true, but I think all he'll hear is laughter when he sings from now on. Laughter and whatever that noise Dad made was.

SAM

It was a sneeze!

GEORGE

Right. Well it didn't sound like one, and the timing wasn't great.

SUZANNE

(laughing hard)

Poor Mikey, he started to sing his song and then that noise came crashing in from Dad... I thought it was an animal or something.

CATHERINE

Well it wasn't, and this isn't how this was supposed to go.

They all laugh as hard as Suzanne, except Catherine and Sam.

GEORGE

The good news is that his mom
dying is no longer the worst thing
to happen to Michael this year.

CATHERINE

Oh no!

They all laugh especially hard. Bobby walks back in.

BOBBY

Are you laughing at Dad
being Dominic the Christmas Donkey?

Bobby starts to chuckle at the infectious laughter.

GEORGE

No! Well yes, but I was talking
about how Mom and Dad ruined
Mikey's year. After everything
that happened, that noise will
haunt him the most!

They all continue to laugh, and slowly they stop one by one.

George continues to snicker, then stops and stares.

They all look at George.

Catherine walks to him and wraps her arms around him, he
takes a deep breath and leans in.

BOBBY

So I noticed Desi was there
tonight. Did she ask about me?

Bette and Suzanne roll their eyes.

CATHERINE

Oh stop, Bobby.

GEORGE

It's okay, mom. Yes, Desi asked
about you.

BOBBY

(lighting up)

Oh yeah, what did you tell her?

GEORGE

She asked if you were okay, and I told her the medication is finally starting to work and you're looking more and more like the voluptuous woman you feel like on the inside.

BOBBY

Okay... that's it?

GEORGE

That's it.

BOBBY

Still got it.

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEHOUSE

George puts on his coat and helps Michael with his.

Catherine walks over.

CATHERINE

Do you need help Mikey?

MICHAEL

No, I'm okay.

CATHERINE

Where are you going?

MICHAEL

Daddy is taking us to some restaurant for lunch.

GEORGE

Not just SOME restaurant, it's your dad's FAVORITE restaurant of all time!

MICHAEL

Apparently we have to eat grilled cheese and tomato soup.

GEORGE

You don't have to... but that's what I'm having because it's the best!

CATHERINE
Are you going over to Gus's Diner?

GEORGE
We sure are!

CATHERINE
All four of you?

GEORGE
All four of us.

MICHAEL
Grandma?

CATHERINE
Yes, Mikey?

MICHAEL
I think it might be a good idea to
have some lunch ready for me when
I get back.

CATHERINE
Why's that?

MICHAEL
Lucas' dad at school is named Gus,
and he picked Lucas up one day
after school. I wouldn't want him
making me lunch.

CATHERINE
Oh dear. Haha, that's probably not
the same Gus.

MICHAEL
Only Gus I know..

George shakes his head.

GEORGE
Come on you. We'll be back later,
mom.

CUT TO:

INT. GUS'S DINER

Sitting at a booth, George gets his coat on.

GEORGE
Well? Pretty good, huh?

Michael finishes his milkshake, loudly.

MICHAEL

Yeah, can we come again tomorrow??

GEORGE

I think you have to eat the lunch you asked Grandma to make for you tomorrow.

MICHAEL

But that was just in case I didn't like this place, and I do!

GEORGE

Put your coat on, let's go.

George puts Jake's coat on him, picks up the carrier with the baby and all four move to the door.

At the front, George looks up and sees Desi.

DESI

Hey, George, we keep running into each other! And who are these three??

Desi bends down to Michael and Jake.

DESI (CONT'D)

Well hello, boys, I'm Desi.

Michael looks up at George.

MICHAEL

Daddy, who is this?

GEORGE

Michael, be nice. Desi, this is Michael.

JAKE

We had gwilled cheese.

GEORGE

And this is Jake.

DESI

Haha, hi Michael. Hi Jake.

MICHAEL

Who are you? How do you know my dad?

DESI
I'm a friend of your dad's.

MICHAEL
A friend of my dad's?

DESI
Yeah, from when we were kids.

George, slightly nervous about what Michael will ask, or say, interrupts him from asking something else.

GEORGE
Okay, that's enough questions
Michael. Let's go.

MICHAEL
Why is it enough questions?

GEORGE
Michael, come on. Okay, Desi, it
was nice seeing you, but we should
be going.

DESI
Okay, um, have a good day!

They start to walk out the doors.

MICHAEL
Dad, who was that?

GEORGE
Just a friend, like she said.

MICHAEL
I don't like her.

GEORGE
That's not nice. Why don't you
like her?

MICHAEL
I don't know I just don't.

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEHOUSE - EVENING

Suzanne walks into the room where George, Catherine, and Sam are sitting.

SUZANNE
Hey Georgie, me and Bette are
going to the Tap, wanna go?

GEORGE
Is Bobby going?

SUZANNE
No, he's snoring in the chair in
the other room. I'm not waking him
up...

GEORGE
Yeah, okay, you going now?

SUZANNE
As soon as the Uber is ready...

GEORGE
Ready?

SUZANNE
Yeah. Ready. Dad? Can you take us
to the Tap?

They all laugh as Sam roles his eyes.

SAM
I guess I'm your Yuber?

SUZANNE
Uber. And yes.

CUT TO:

INT. THE TAP BAR

Suzanne, Bette, and George sit down at one of the booths.

George looks around.

SUZANNE
You looking for Desi?

GEORGE
No.

BETTE
Yes.

GEORGE
No, just looking around.

SUZANNE

So THAT'S why you came with us!
And I thought you came to hang out
with your sisters.

GEORGE

No, I came to hang out with my
favorite sister, Bette.

Bette gives a satisfied look.

SUZANNE

No one believes you.
Even if it was true that you came
to hang out with us, we all know
I'm everyone's favorite.

RENE, the waitress, walks up to them.

RENE

Hello, my name is Rene, what can I
get ya?

GEORGE

I'll just have a Miller Lite,
please.

Suzanne and Bette nod.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I guess 3 Miller Lites.

RENE

Okay. Coming up.

Rene walks away.

SUZANNE

What did you and Bobby do here all
summer, there's like nothing to
do.

GEORGE

Well, I was like 8. So...

BETTE

I like it here.

SUZANNE

Yeah, that's cause you're boring.

Bette shrugs.

GEORGE

Don't worry Bette, I think you're fun. I also think Suzy would be bored at an amusement park. Actually, I think she said that when she was 7 and we took her to Six Flags.

SUZANNE

Not my fault, Dad hurt his back on that trip and I wasn't big enough to ride all the rides yet.

GEORGE

Well maybe you should've had a growth spurt before the trip.

SUZANNE

Yeah, or ever. It's not my fault I'm short.

GEORGE

None of the rest of us are... maybe you were adopted.

SUZANNE

I wish.

Rene brings the drinks to the table.

RENE

Let me know if you need anything else.

GEORGE

Thanks.

She walks away.

SUZANNE

Ohh, look who it is...

Suzanne points over to the door from the kitchen where Desi walks out from.

Desi looks up and sees them and then looks down immediately.

BETTE

That was weird. What did you do?

GEORGE

(huffs)

I didn't do anything...

SUZANNE
Sure looks like you did.

GEORGE
We saw her at the diner the other day and Michael wasn't exactly friendly.

SUZANNE
Mikey? Really? Why?

GEORGE
I don't know.

SUZANNE
So are you gonna go talk to her?

GEORGE
No, I don't think so.

BETTE
Oh, Georgie, stop it. Just go.
We're not going anywhere.

SUZANNE
And not because there's no where else to go.

George looks over at Desi and then back at his sisters.

GEORGE
Ugh, ok. You sure?

SUZANNE
Yeah, of course, it's the least we can do for all the drinks you're going to buy us.

George rolls his eyes and slowly gets up from his seat.

He starts toward the bar where Desi is.

She sees him and makes an awkward beeline towards the kitchen, running into Rene as she does so.

George walks quickly to them to help.

GEORGE
Desi, are you okay?

DESI
Oh, hey George. You saw that? Yikes I'm so clumsy. Sorry Rene.

Desi checks on herself and then walks back behind the bar.

GEORGE

Hah, yeah, so listen, I'm
sorry about the way Michael was
acting.

DESI

Oh don't worry about it. You got a
lot going on.

(she makes a face)

I heard about everything with your
wife, and I just...

George looks down.

GEORGE

Oh, you did. Yeah, I was going to
tell you... but...

DESI

Stop, it's okay, I understand.
I just can't imagine what you're
going through. Ahh, sorry, I mean,
I just don't know what to say.

GEORGE

You don't have to say anything.

DESI

Right. Yeah, well, still, I'm
sorry.

George starts to walk back to his table.

Desi hesitates before finally speaking.

DESI (CONT'D)

Can I get you another drink?

George turns around and looks at Desi.

He thinks about it before saying anything.

GEORGE

Uh, sure, I guess. Maybe something
stronger than Miller Lite?

DESI

Yeah, okay. Whiskey?

George nods.

She grabs a bottle.

DESI

Ice?

George nods again.

She makes the drink and sets it in front of him.

GEORGE

Care if I sit?

DESI

Of course, sit, sorry, I don't know if I should've offered. It's weird, ya know, owning this place, sometimes I don't know if I'm supposed to treat people like patrons or guests at my house so I awkwardly do neither... or both... I don't know, I'm rambling.

George chuckles as he sits down.

CUT TO:

INT. THE TAP BAR

George is in the same seat, laughing.

Suzanne and Bette walk over.

SUZANNE

Hey Georgie, remember when you came here with your sisters... and then sat here by yourself all night?

GEORGE

Oh, sorry, who are you?

SUZANNE

Funny.

GEORGE

Sorry - we were just talking about our summers here. I didn't mean to...

DESI

That, or your brother was just reminding me that I've been weird and awkward my ENTIRE life.

GEORGE

You AND Bobby. You two wanna sit?

SUZANNE

Hah, no. So Dad's here. You ready to go?

GEORGE

Oh, umm... Yeah, okay.

George looks at Desi and shrugs.

He stands up and gets his wallet out to pay.

Desi shakes her head at the gesture.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Okay, well I'll see you later, I guess.

George, Suzanne, and Bette start towards the door.

DESI

I can always drop you off when we close... in like an hour.

George stops and looks at Desi.

Suzanne and Bette take a few more steps towards the door before they look back at George.

GEORGE

Oh, okay, yeah, is that okay?

DESI

Yeah, of course, I don't start drinking until then anyway!

Suzanne and Bette stare at Desi, confused

DESI (CONT'D)

Kidding. Hah, like I said, awkward.

Desi, feeling awkward, starts to busy herself while George decides what to do.

SUZANNE

Right, okay, well we'll see you at home, then?

GEORGE

Okay. Yeah. Desi, you serious about that ride?

DESI

Serious as a heart attack.

They stare at her.

DESI (CONT'D)
Yes, I'm serious.

GEORGE
Okay, I guess I'll stay, then. I'll see you guys at home in a bit. We can drink dad's fancy booze.

BETTE
Ew.

CUT TO:

INT. THE TAP BAR

Desi, George, and Rene are the only ones left in the bar.

RENE
You need help with anything else Desi?

DESI
No, you can go home, I'll see you tomorrow. Thanks Rene.

Desi walks with Rene to the door, and locks it after she leaves.

DESI (CONT'D)
Okay, Georgie, I'm gonna grab my coat and we can head out.

GEORGE
How about a nightcap? Not ready to go home yet - all that pity is exhausting.

DESI
Nightcap... Okay... I guess I could use one too.

Desi walks behind the bar and surveys the liquor. She grabs two glasses and reaches up for a bottle.

DESI (CONT'D)
Irish Whiskey?

GEORGE
If you're paying...

DESI

Hah. We don't really sell this, but it's my favorite. I convinced my husband, EX-husband to buy 2 cases of it when we were in Ireland. It's from this small local distillery in this little town we were staying in.

George raises his eyebrows, intrigued.

Desi puts some ice in the glasses and pours.

She slides the glasses over and sets the bottle between them and makes her way around the bar to where George is seated.

DESI (CONT'D)

Distillery... hah, more like a bar with a still in the basement. Anyway, we had it shipped back here. After the divorce, he got half of everything, of course, but I got ALL the whiskey. When my parents bought this place, I decided to bring it here... but no one has ever asked about it.

Desi sits down next to him and takes a sip.

GEORGE

How long ago?

DESI

Did I go to Ireland or did I get a divorce?

GEORGE

Both, either...

DESI

Two years, and Two Years and two months. That trip was basically at the end. We were fighting a bunch and thought the trip would make things better. It didn't. We basically separated as soon as we got back.

GEORGE

I'm sorry. How long had you been together?

DESI

Not long enough, too long,
I'm not sure. It was so foolish.
We were desperate, well, I was. I
wanted to get out of here and we
met when he was on vacation. I
think it was two years total from
the time we met.

Desi goes quiet for a moment. Looks at
George is staring at her.

DESI (CONT'D)

What about you? Oh, no, is that
okay to ask? You don't have to
answer if you don't want to.

GEORGE

No, no, it's okay. Maggie and I
were together since college. We
met my sophomore year, her
freshman year, and that was it for
me.

Desi smiles at him, and he starts to talk almost to himself.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

We dated all through college, a
few hiccups here and there, but
mostly we were inseparable. I
really fell immediately. My
friends would make fun of me at
first, but I never really cared.
She had the perfect smile.

Desi smiles looking more at her drink.

George continues.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Well not, perfect, but you know. I
thought so. After college I got a
job in San Francisco, and so she
got a job in San Francisco a year
later when she graduated. But that
whole year apart after I graduated
and before she did, we'd see each
other every other weekend almost.

DESI

Sounds romantic.

GEORGE

It was... expensive. And I guess pretty romantic too. But we couldn't really help it, we just always made excuses to see each other. Then when she moved there, that was it. We got engaged a few months later, and married not long after that.

DESI

It sounds lovely.

GEORGE

(breaks his gaze)

It was. Sorry, I didn't mean to... where did you say this whiskey was from?

DESI

No, it's sweet. I wish my ex talked about me like that. The whiskey? A little town in Donegal County. It's in the Northern part of Ireland. Whiskey and wool, that's what they had.

Desi hands him the bottle, and he inspects it.

DESI (CONT'D)

Each bottle is hand numbered and signed. They make about 30 cases a year.

GEORGE

That sounds nice. It's really very good, even though I'm more of a bourbon guy.

DESI

Well no one can have perfect taste I guess. So we should probably head out, I imagine tomorrow will be a busy day, Christmas Eve and all.

GEORGE

Yeah.

Desi takes the two glasses and puts them behind the bar.

She turns out the lights and they head to the door.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - OUTSIDE LAKEHOUSE - NIGHT

DESI

Gosh, I haven't been over here in forever, it looks exactly the same as I remember.

George looks over at the house.

GEORGE

Yeah, it's smaller than I remember, but otherwise it's the same. We still have that old floral couch that you spilled chocolate milk on.

DESI

Oh, my, goodness, I totally forgot about that! Ugh, why are all your memories of me just being the worst?

GEORGE

They're not all like that.

DESI

Yeah, sure.

GEORGE

It's true. Do you remember the second 4th of July we were here?

DESI

Uh, probably not.

GEORGE

It was the year Bobby won that fishing contest and beat all the adults and kids. He talked about it to anyone and everyone who would listen.

DESI

Haha, yes! Of course I do! It was a very big fish as I recall.

GEORGE

Yeah, it was. But it was mine.

DESI

Yours?

GEORGE

Yeah, I actually caught it, but before I brought it out of the water, I gave Bobby my rod and told him I wasn't strong enough to reel it in.

DESI

Why would you do that?

GEORGE

The day before the competition I was at the park with Bobby and Jack and Ken, just hanging out like always. And we were all talking about the competition.

DESI

Okay...

GEORGE

And there was this girl there, and she was wearing bright green overalls, and a gray and white striped shirt. Blue sneakers with white socks that had lace around the top.

DESI

I. Loved. Those overalls.

GEORGE

And she was always self-conscious about those socks so she'd tuck the lace in when no one was looking.

Desi pushes George on the shoulder.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

But, that little girl was talking to her friends about the fishing competition. And she said she felt so bad for the fish and didn't understand why anyone would do that.

Desi looks at George and starts to say something but stops.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

So, when it was time for me to pull that fish in, I stopped and gave it to Bobby, because I didn't want to do anything that overall-wearing girl wouldn't like.

DESI

Oh goodness. George, that was your fish! I didn't know what I was saying!

GEORGE

I know, but I just couldn't do it. So I let Bobby have the credit. Which had I know what he was going to act like, I probably would have chosen differently.

DESI

Yeah, well you definitely shouldn't have listened to me, about anything.

There's a long pause. Desi looks at George but he interrupts the moment.

GEORGE

I'm sorry... this is a bit much. I gotta go inside. I don't know why I keep bringing these things up.

DESI

It's okay, it's nice to reminisce.

GEORGE

Oh god, you must think I'm crazy. Thanks for the ride, I really appreciate it. Merry Christmas, give your family my best.

George abruptly gets out of the car.

Desi shouts out as he's walking away.

DESI

Uh, you too! Tell everyone Merry Christmas!

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CHRISTMAS DAY

Everyone is there surrounded by presents and paper as the kids play with their new toys.

BETTE

Mom, do you need any help with dinner?

CATHERINE

Oh no darling, almost everything is ready, we'll just need to finish cooking the potatoes.

SUZANNE

Since when did you cook, Bette?

BOBBY

Probably since Mom stopped trying after you ruined her.

SAM

Okay, that's enough.

CATHERINE

Suzy, you didn't ruin me.

They all laugh.

SUZANNE

Thanks mom. See!

GEORGE

Yeah if anyone ruined her, Bobby did with all his college issues.

CATHERINE

No one ruined me! And lots of people don't do well in college at first. At least he tried.

GEORGE

Tried what? He definitely didn't try to go to class.

SUZANNE

We know he didn't try to shower.

BETTE

He didn't try washing his clothes either.

BOBBY

Bette! You're the only one I ever liked. Et tu, Brute.

BETTE

Sorry Bobby, it's true though. You always smelled.

MONICA

Sorry, love, they're right, you did. That's why I wouldn't date you at first.

BOBBY

You're all just jealous that I had a better time in college than everyone else...

A knock at the door interrupts the conversation.

CATHERINE

Who could that be?

SUZANNE

I got it.

Suzanne walks out of the room to the door.

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

She walks back in with Desi following.

DESI

Oh, wow, hi everyone, I, uh..

MICHAEL

What is she doing here?

GEORGE

Michael, be nice. Hi Desi, uh, what are you doing here?

DESI

I, hah, we uh, were talking about that 4th of July last night and I found a picture of all of us around... oh hey Bobby...

BOBBY

(smiling)

Hi Desi.

Monica hits him.

DESI
Uh, all of us around Bobby with
that fish.

BOBBY
The 'award winning' fish!

Bobby winks at Monica.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Biggest fish caught in the 4th of
July competition. First prize was
a meal at the OkieDoke Cafe and
fifteen dollars!

GEORGE
We're all very proud of you.

DESI
Anyway, I didn't mean to
interrupt, I just wanted to drop
off the photo.

CATHERINE
Oh isn't that sweet of you. Would
you care to stay for dinner?

DESI
No no, thank you, but I'm going to
my grandparent's house now, this
was on the way, so I just wanted to
stop by... Sorry, this feels weird
now - I'm interrupting, so I'll go.

They stare as she awkwardly looks around.

Catherine nudges George.

GEORGE
I'll walk you out.

George walks towards Desi who gives an uncomfortable wave.

DESI
Okay, uh, bye, Merry Christmas!

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEHOUSE - FRONT DOOR

DESI

Sorry that was awkward, I didn't know everyone would be there. Which is dumb.

GEORGE

It's okay, thanks for the photo, and there are those green overalls, just like I said.

DESI

Yeah, and if you look, oh my gosh I can't believe I'm pointing this out... one of my socks has the lace up and the other is tucked in. Ahh, so embarrassing. Anyway, Merry Christmas.

George goes to give her a hug, but Desi aims to kiss him on the cheek. Instead he headbutts her.

GEORGE

Oh geez, I'm sorry, I...

DESI

No, it's my fault. I... Well, okay, I gotta go, Merry Christmas again!

Desi rushes out the door.

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEHOUSE - DINING ROOM

Everyone is sitting eating Christmas Dinner.

CATHERINE

Well that was nice of Desi to drop off that picture. Where is it, can I see?

SUZANNE

Depends if Bobby will let you, he's had a vice grip on it since she dropped it off.

BOBBY

I mean look at the size of it!

Bobby hands the picture to Catherine.

MICHAEL

I don't like that lady.

GEORGE
Michael, that's enough!

SUZANNE
(snickering)
That lady? You mean Desi?

MICHAEL
Yeah, I don't like her. Why is she
always around?

SUZANNE
Always around?

MICHAEL
Yeah, she was here, and at the
diner, I just don't like that
she's always here.

GEORGE
Michael, that's not nice.

SUZANNE
(still snickering)
Mikey, why don't you like her?

MICHAEL
I just don't okay! Leave me alone.

Michael starts crying and runs away from the table.

Everyone looks at George.

He shrugs his shoulders and goes to get up.

SAM
You stay here, I'll go.

Sam walks out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEHOUSE - GEORGE'S ROOM

Michael is sitting against the bed, wiping his eyes and
staring at a toy.

Sam knocks on the open door.

SAM
Hey, Mikey, okay if I come in?

Michael shrugs his shoulders and Sam walks in.

SAM (CONT'D)
What's going on buddy, why are you
so upset?

MICHAEL
I dunno.

SAM
Okay. Well why did you run from the
table?

MICHAEL
I dunno, everyone was looking at
me.

SAM
They were looking at you cause you
said you didn't like Desi. What
did she do to you that you don't
like her?

Michael shrugs again.

Sam waits a moment and then continues.

SAM (CONT'D)
There must be some reason.

There's a longer moment of silence. This time Sam waits for
Michael to reply.

Finally he does.

MICHAEL
Grandpa?

SAM
Yeah?

MICHAEL
Do you miss my mom?

Sam's face changes from concern to sadness.

SAM
Of course, we all do.

MICHAEL
I just wish she was here.

SAM
Yeah, I know, me too.

MICHAEL

Grandpa?

SAM

Yeah, Mikey?

MICHAEL

Do you think my dad wants that woman to be my new mommy?

Sam finally understands and he relaxes his shoulders.

SAM

No, buddy, he doesn't want anything like that. Not right now anyway. Your mom will always be your mom, and we'll all always miss her terribly.

MICHAEL

She will?

SAM

Yea, of course. No one will ever replace your mom.

MICHAEL

Good.

SAM

But if your dad does meet a new person he likes, it won't mean that he doesn't miss her too, it's just that he wants to share his life with a new friend.

MICHAEL

A new friend?

SAM

Yeah, your mom and dad were best friends, and someday he might want another friend like her.

MICHAEL

Oh. I don't want him to have another friend like mommy.

SAM

I know, but it won't be the same, it'll be a different friend.

MICHAEL
Does the friend have to be a girl?

SAM
Haha, yeah I suppose it does. Why
don't we go finish dinner?

MICHAEL
Can we have pie now?

SAM
I think I can be convinced.

MICHAEL
Grandpa?

SAM
Yeah?

MICHAEL
Do you think Poppy will remember
mommy?

Sam smiles, but thinks for a moment how to respond.

SAM
Well I think that will be up to
us.

MICHAEL
Up to us?

SAM
Yeah, as long as we keep
remembering her and talking about
how much we love her, the baby,
uh, Poppy, will remember too,
through us. Now, come on, let's
get some of that pie.

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEHOUSE - GEORGE'S ROOM - EARLY MORNING

GEORGE
(whispering)
Hey, buddy, wake up, put your
clothes on, I want to take you
somewhere.

Michael opens his eyes and looks slightly confused.

MICHAEL
Dad?

GEORGE
(whispering)
Shhh, Jake and the baby are
sleeping, come on, get up.

Michael looks at him for a second, and then starts to move.

MICHAEL
(whispering)
Is Poppy coming with us?

GEORGE
(whispering, smiling)
Her name isn't Poppy, and
no, it's just you and me.

Michael considers it, and then moves with more urgency.

MICHAEL
Where are we...
(starts whispering)
Where are we going?

GEORGE
(whispering)
Don't worry, hurry up.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAR - EARLY MORNING

George and Michael are standing behind the car where the trunk is open next to a small pier on the lake.

MICHAEL
Daddy, I'm cold, what are we doing
here.

GEORGE
Just grab your chair. Let's go.

MICHAEL
Go where?

GEORGE
Just, come on, kid.

CUT TO:

EXT. PIER - EARLY MORNING

George and Michael are sitting folding chairs on the pier.

George pours a hot beverage into two cups.

MICHAEL

Daddy, I'm cold. Why are we here?

GEORGE

That's why I brought the hot chocolate. Here, and careful, it's really hot, hot chocolate.

MICHAEL

I'm hungry.

GEORGE

Here.

George hands Michael a bagel wrapped in foil.

Michael opens it up and takes a bite.

MICHAEL

(with food in his mouth)

But why are we here for real daddy?

GEORGE

I wanted to show you this place. This is where I ask Mommy to marry me.

MICHAEL

Right here?

GEORGE

Yep, right here.

MICHAEL

Why? It's dark... and cold...

GEORGE

Hah, well it was summer when I asked her, but just wait, you'll see.

MICHAEL

Daddy?

GEORGE

Yeah?

MICHAEL
I really miss mommy.

GEORGE
I know, me too.

MICHAEL
Why did she die?

GEORGE
I think...
(pauses and tears up)
I don't know why. But you know
what?

MICHAEL
What?

GEORGE
She'll always love you and be with
you.

MICHAEL
She will? How?

GEORGE
Well, when people go, we always
have our memories of them, and
remember how they made us feel.
How did Mommy make you feel?

MICHAEL
Good.

GEORGE
Good.

George and Michael eat and sip hot chocolate in silence.

MICHAEL
Daddy?

GEORGE
Yes, bud?

MICHAEL
Why doesn't Poppy have a name?

GEORGE
That's a good question... I think
it's because it makes me sad.

MICHAEL
Poppy makes you sad?

GEORGE

No, your sister doesn't make me sad, naming her does.

MICHAEL

Why?

GEORGE

Well... When you and Jake were born, mommy and I looked at you and decided your names together. But, with the new baby... well, everything just happened so fast and we didn't get to... we didn't get to do it together for this baby. And I guess that that was special to me, and when I think about naming her, I think about mommy being gone and I get sad.

MICHAEL

Oh.

GEORGE

I guess we need to do it soon, huh?

MICHAEL

Can WE name her together?

GEORGE

I think that's a great idea. What names do you think are good?

MICHAEL

Umm, well, definitely Poppy.

GEORGE

Yeah, but I don't think she looks like a Poppy, do you?

MICHAEL

The only Poppy I know is a troll, and she looks a little like that.

GEORGE

(laughing)

Michael, your baby sister does not look like a troll. Well... I guess maybe a little when you think about it. What do you think of the name Abigail?

MICHAEL
Abigail?

GEORGE
Yeah, Abigail Hannah. I think
that sounds pretty.

MICHAEL
Can I still call her Poppy?

GEORGE
Are you gonna stop if I say no?

MICHAEL
(with a huge grin)
Nope!

GEORGE
Then I guess so.

MICHAEL
I like it here.

GEORGE
On the pier?

MICHAEL
No, at this house. With Grandma
and Grandpa, and Aunt Suzy and
Aunt Bette, and everyone.

GEORGE
Yeah, me too.

The two sit there in silence as the sun starts to rise.

FADE OUT:

INT. LAKEHOUSE - MORNING

CATHERINE
And where were you two this
morning?

MICHAEL
We named Poppy.

CATHERINE
Poppy? Oh, the baby? You did?

MICHAEL
Yeah, me and Daddy named her
Abigail, but I'm still allowed to
call her Poppy.

CATHERINE
Abigail?

GEORGE
Abigail Hannah Foster.

CATHERINE
Oh Georgie, that's a beautiful
name.

GEORGE
Speaking of, is she napping?

CATHERINE
Yes, but she's been down for some
time now, might wanna check on
her.

George leaves the room.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
Sam, isn't that name just so
beautiful?

SAM
Yes, of course, dear.

Bette and Suzanne walk into the room.

BETTE
What's a beautiful name?

SAM
Abigail.

CATHERINE
Abigail Hannah.

SUZANNE
Who's Abigail Hannah?

MICHAEL
Poppy!

BETTE
Poppy? I'm so confused.

CATHERINE
Poppy is Abigail.

SUZANNE
Poppy is Abigail?

CATHERINE
Yes, Poppy is Abigail.

BETTE
Poppy... is Abigail? I think I need
coffee to understand this.

MICHAEL
My sister, Poppy!

They all start laughing.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
My sister's name is Abigail, but I
get to call her Poppy.

George walks in with Abigail.

GEORGE
Yes, this pretty little gal's name
is Abigail... What's so funny?

CATHERINE
Nothing, dear, we're just happy
Poppy has a name. I mean Abigail.
Oh dear, you know what I mean.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFE

George and Michael are standing in line.

Desi walks in, sees them and starts to walk back out.

MICHAEL
Daddy? Is that your friend?

George looks over.

GEORGE
Desi?

Desi turns around smiling.

DESI
Oh, hey George! Hi, uh, Michael,
right?

MICHAEL
Mikey, if you will.

George snickers.

Desi looks at him and back down to Michael who's smiling.

DESI
I guess I will, Mikey.

MICHAEL
Me and my dad and my brother and
baby sister are staying here, did
you know that?

DESI
Staying here? In the cafe? Who's
Poppy?

MICHAEL
No, not the cafe, here, at the lake
house.

Desi looks up at George.

DESI
You're... staying?

GEORGE
Yeah, I think so. Fresh start, but
familiar, you know?

DESI
Right. For like good?

GEORGE
Probably as long as it takes to
learn how to dance again...

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END