

THANKS FOR NOTHING

Written by

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Based on, If Any

Address
Phone Number

EXT. GRANDPA JOE'S CONNECTICUT HOME - MORNING

GRANDPA JOE CARTER (70) and **GRANDMA MARGE CARTER (66)**, a WHITE COUPLE, stand on the porch of their large Colonial house, as their family arrives one-by-one.

If we were casting an "All-American" lemonade commercial, Joe and Marge fit the bill.

In the front yard, raking the Autumn leaves is **JERRY (48)**, WHITE, SLIGHTLY OVERWEIGHT, draped in dirty work clothes.

A new MID-RANGE MERCEDES pulls up in the large roundabout driveway and parks behind a SMALL RENTAL CAR.

MAD (V.O.)

When we all arrived at Grandpa Joe's house last Thanksgiving, it was the first time the entire family had ever been together since anyone could remember. Everyone likes to think their family is dysfunctional, but I am not sure anyone can lay claim to that title like we can. Grandpa Joe has 3 daughters.

KYLIE (32), TRANS WOMAN, gets out of the rental car and grabs her bag from the back seat.

MAD (V.O.)

My aunt Kylie is the youngest. She came all the way from Los Angeles. She's an actor. You might have seen her on TV a few years back, but you probably wouldn't recognize her now.

Kylie walks over to the Mercedes, as **MAURICE (42)**, BLACK MAN and **CHRISTINE (38)** WHITE WOMAN, get out of it and grab their bags. Kylie introduces herself to Maurice and hugs Christine, and they make their way toward the house.

MAD (V.O.)

My aunt Christine is in the middle. This is the first time we met her boyfriend Maurice, and he fit right in. That's the good thing about chaos, when there's no standard, fitting in is easy.

Kylie, Christine and Maurice greet Grandpa Joe and Grandma Marge.

Kylie hugs her parents.

KYLIE

Oh, it's been far too long. I missed you guys so much.

MARGE

We missed you too, honey.

CHRISTINE

Hi mom. Hi Pop.

She gives them both a big hug.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

This is Maurice.

Maurice extends his hand and shakes Joe's, then goes in for a hug on Marge.

JOE

Glad to FINALLY meet you.

MAURICE

Likewise.

MARGE

Your old rooms are ready for you.

The three of them make their ways through the ornate front door.

MAD (V.O.)

Grandpa Joe had a brother and a sister. His sister Caroline died when I was younger and I only met her a couple of times, so I honestly don't remember her much.

ANOTHER CAR pulls up, a TEN-YEAR-OLD SUV, driven by **UNCLE BARRY** (68), WHITE MAN. Barry is balding, but has a grey pony tail still. Barry is a bit of a free-spirit, hippie. He looks like he saw a George Carlin special in the 70s and said, "that's the look for me!"

From the passenger seat and back seat come **PRISHA (35)**, INDIAN WOMAN and **SABRINA (35)**, NATIVE AMERICAN WOMAN.

MAD (V.O.)

Grandpa Joe's brother, my mom's Uncle Barry, is cool. I like him. He has been divorced since before I was born. They had just adopted, my mom's cousin Prisha when she left.

(MORE)

MAD (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I guess she couldn't handle being a mom, but Uncle Barry was, from all I've seen and heard, a great dad. He never remarried. Prisha and her wife Sabrina also live on the West Coast. Oregon. I don't get to see them very often, but I always enjoy it when I do.

The latest arrivals make their way to the porch.

BARRY

Look who I found wandering around at the airport!

Marge and Joe open arms to the girls. They all swap hugs.

MARGE

Girls. We are SO glad you both could make it.

JOE

How was the flight?

SABRINA

A little bumpy, but nothing too bad.

PRISHA

You gotta do better than bumpy to shake up a member of this crew.

MARGE

That's the truth!

PRISHA

How you feeling Uncle Joe?

JOE

No complaints, all things considered.

PRISHA

You sound like Dad.

BARRY

Well, he learned a lot from his baby bro.

JOE

I did indeed.

Jerry makes his way over, rake in hand, to greet everyone as well.

BARRY
Hey Jer, how's it hanging?

JERRY
Oh, same ol'. Just rakin' leaves
and staying off the grid.

Hugs are exchanged between Prisha, Sabrina, Barry and Jerry.

MAD (V.O.)
*My great Aunt Caroline had one son,
Jerry. At the time of Thanksgiving,
he had been staying with my Grandma
and Grandpa and taking care of
their house and land, living in the
guest house. He is a real ...
character, but we love him.*

EXT. CURTIS BRADEN'S RANGE ROVER

As it rolls down a small country road.

MAD (V.O.)
*We decided to drive up from North
Carolina where we live. My Dad
thought it would be good family
bonding time.*

INT. CURTIS BRADEN'S RANGE ROVER - CONTINUOUS

AN AFFLUENT FAMILY drives down the small country road.

In the backseat is **MADISON (MAD) (16)**, WHITE, dressed in all
BLACK, with a bit of a GOTH STYLE; and **JACKSON** who is a very
typical 8 YEAR-OLD BOY.

Jackson is playing video games on a hand-held device.

Mad writes in a JOURNAL.

MAD (V.O.)
*Me and my little brother Jackson
would have much rather taken a
plane, but parents love to do
things they read somewhere is
"better for the family"... it never
is.*

Driving is **CURTIS BRADEN (44)**, WHITE, fairly WELL-DRESSED
MAN, next to him is his wife, **DEBBIE BRADEN (42)**, WHITE,
ATTRACTIVE UPPER MIDDLE CLASS MOM.

Debbie is on her phone.

MAD (V.O.)

My mom, is Debbie, Grandpa Joe's oldest and my Dad many of you know because he's State Senator, Curtis Braden who is currently running for US Congress.

Curtis is listening to Conservative Talk radio.

DEBBIE

Can we go maybe a few minutes without work or the rhetoric?

Debbie reaches over and turns down the radio a notch. Curtis shoots her a look of disappointment.

CURTIS

Rhetoric? Just staying informed.

DEBBIE

Ugh. Not with that station. More like disinformed.

CURTIS

He is a true journ-

DEBBIE

Stop. Stop. I'm sorry. I don't want to even go there now. Can we please just enjoy the scenery and the family time?

Curtis visually agrees.

She goes into her purse and pulls out a pill container and takes a pill, no water.

EXT. CURTIS BRADEN'S RANGE ROVER

The SUV makes a turn onto the long driveway of the Carter home and makes its way to the house.

Grandpa and Grandma smile and wave as the Range Rover parks and everyone piles out.

Jackson runs ahead of everyone. Debbie goes toward her parents. Curtis starts to unload the car.

Madison lingers back by the car, looking sad and sheepish.

EXT. GRANDPA JOE'S CONNECTICUT HOME - CONTINUOUS

Jackson hugs his Grandma and Grandpa.

MARGE

Oh look at you. You have to have grown six inches since you were here last!

Debbie walks up, excited to see her parents.

DEBBIE

Hey Mom. Hey Pop. Good to see you both.

She hugs them as Curtis walks up with the bags. He sets them down and gives Joe a handshake and Marge a hug.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

Dad, I have to say you look pretty good.

JOE

Well, honey, I feel alright, for a dead man walking.

Debbie playfully pushes him.

Mad slowly makes her way to the porch.

DEBBIE

Stop that. You ain't dead yet.

(to Marge)

How do you put up with this guy all these years?

MARGE

Chardonnay.

They both laugh.

Mad now stands in front of her Grandma and Grandpa. She has a hard time looking them in the eye.

MAD (V.O.)

So you might wonder why we, the most dysfunctional family in Connecticut, all got together for Thanksgiving THIS time.

Mad suddenly jumps into Grandpa's arms and gives him a very long, tight hug.

MAD

Well Grandpa Joe had been diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer and wanted to see everyone together for one last time before he died... In my lifetime it was actually the first.

Marge looks on and wipes a tear from her eye.

An airplane flies overhead, with a large contrail following behind. Jerry looks up and shakes his head.

Mad hugs her Grandma too.

JERRY

Better get the kids and Uncle Joe inside. Looks like they're spraying today.

Mad sighs.

MAD

Uncle Jerry, chemtrails are not...

Debbie nudges Mad and subtly shakes her head. It isn't worth the argument.

DEBBIE

That's a great idea, Jerry.

They turn and walk through the door, as...

JERRY

You guys didn't bring any 5G technology, did you?

The door shuts behind them.

INT. GRANDPA JOE'S CONNECTICUT HOME - CONTINUOUS

As they enter the foyer, Marge hangs their coats.

MARGE

So I got everyone in their old bedrooms. Prisha and Sabrina are in the guest room. Barry said he will sleep on the couch. I've got Jackson and Madison in the den on the air mattress.

DEBBIE

Oh she likes to be called "Mad" now.

MARGE

Well, it's a good thing you didn't name her "Violet".

Grandma smiles.

MARGE (CONT'D)

Oh, we converted your old room and it has 2 twin beds in there, now. Figured we could just push them together or something.

Debbie uncomfortably fidgets. She and Curtis look away from each other.

CURTIS

Whatever, I'm sure it's fine.

Marge takes a suitcase from Debbie, who already has a very large bag draped around her.

DEBBIE

Oh, thanks, Mom.

Marge smiles and starts walking. Jackson stands on his roller bag, pretending to be a surfer.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

Jackson, come on, Baby. Let's go check out what Grandma has set up for you.

Jackson excitedly jumps off his roller bag, grabs the handle, and furiously drags it behind him like he's competing in an Olympic event.

Joe ambles up to Madison, who wears a backpack and holds a suitcase.

JOE

Here, Maddy, lemme help you - OW!

He grabs his side. Everyone looks at him, concerned.

JOE (CONT'D)

I'm alright, everybody. Just a cramp.

MAD

You sure?

JOE

Yeah. Heck yeah! Hey, you gotta see the gazebo I built. Well, me and Jerry.

They walk off. Mad rolls her suitcase on wheels.

Curtis carries two suitcases, and stares at two other bags, wondering how to deal with them, before Jerry steps in.

JERRY

(Picking up bags)
Here, Curtis, I gotcha, bud!

CURTIS

Hey - much appreciated.

The men start walking with the bags, following the group.

JERRY

Anytime. Mi casa su casa ... and Joe and Marge's.

He playfully smiles at Curtis.

CURTIS

So you're STILL living here, huh?

JERRY

Hell, no. I live in the guest house.

Jerry is dead serious. Curtis is very confused.

ANGLE on Jackson dragging his suitcase. He gets too close to Marge and accidentally bangs into her heel.

MARGE

Whoops!

JACKSON

Oh, so sorry!

DEBBIE

Jackson, slow down right now! Do you want a "Time Out" before you even get to your room?

MARGE

It's okay, he didn't mean to-

DEBBIE

Mom, this is between me and my son!
When he doesn't watch where he's
going, somebody always gets hurt.
Jackson, did you check on Grandma?

JACKSON

Um, Grandma, is your foot okay?

MARGE

Yes, Sweetheart, thank you for
asking.

Debbie frantically digs into her purse and grabs a box of
pills. She pops one and swallows it.

MARGE (CONT'D)

(To Debbie)

You okay?

DEBBIE

Yeah, Mom - it's just been a crazy
week, and I'm already stressed
about this weekend.

MARGE

Well it's gonna be great. Don't you
worry. Let's drop off your bags and
maybe you can help me in the
kitchen?

Quite aware that her mother noticed her over-reaction, Debbie
collects herself.

DEBBIE

Sure. Can't wait.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sabrina, Prisha, Christine, Maurice, and Barry sit on the
sofa, snacking on hors d'oeuvres and having a few drinks.

Jerry and Curtis enter the room.

CURTIS

Nice! The game already started?

CHRISTINE

(sarcastically)

Hi, Curtis - how have you been? Me?
I've been fine.

SABRINA

Yeah, we're in the first quarter.

CURTIS

Sorry. Didn't mean to be rude. Just been looking forward to this game.

Curtis runs around the coffee table and gives everyone a quick hug and greeting. He gets to Maurice.

Curtis extends his hand to Maurice, who stands and obliges.

CURTIS (CONT'D)

You must be Morris!

MAURICE

Yes. Actually it's Maurice.

CURTIS

(doing his Steve Miller impression)

"Some people call me Maurice, reee roooowwwwww."

CHRISTINE

Wow. Yeah. That's ... original.

BARRY

Steve Miller Band! Saw them in '77! They opened for Foghat. Or maybe Foghat opened for them. It's all a blur, man. Good times.

JERRY

Maybe we should call you "The Space Cowboy!"

Barry laughs and high-fives Jerry, who then sits next to him.

CURTIS

Good to know someone's still got a sense of humor. Anyway, hi. It's good to see you all. Happy Thanksgiving!

They all respond accordingly.

Curtis sits next to Maurice, who moves over for him.

CURTIS (CONT'D)

So Maurice, my wife tells me you're a professor at Georgetown. That's pretty impressive. Whatta you teach?

MAURICE

Thank you. Yes, that is correct.
Political Science.

CURTIS

Wow. PoliSci. I guess you'll be the
guy to go to whenever I have a
question about the Constitution.

Slight awkward pause as Curtis looks for recognition.

CURTIS (CONT'D)

Not sure if Chris told you, but I'm
a state Senator. I am running for
Congress in North Carolina.

JERRY

(Staring at the TV)

Still believe the elections are
even real, eh?

Jerry shakes his head.

Prisha rolls her eyes. Curtis glares at Jerry. Barry gestures
for Curtis to "cut" the conversation with his hand across his
throat. Christine taps Maurice, encouraging him to
acknowledge Curtis' last statement.

MAURICE

Yes. She told me. That's, uh ...
great. Good luck!

CURTIS

As someone who educates young minds
about our government and
Constitution, I bet you're a
conservative. Am I right?

Prisha lets out a loud sigh and shakes her head.

CHRISTINE

Curtis, can we not start with this?

MAURICE

I promised Christine I wouldn't
talk politics today. But maybe
another time, we can sit and talk
about it over a beer.

CURTIS

Sounds great! I get it. Not everyone can have a respectable, intelligent conversation about politics. It's a sad state of affairs.

JERRY

(Still looking at TV)
More like a Deep State of affairs.

Curtis looks at Jerry again.

JERRY (CONT'D)

You follow, Aaron Burn? He's got a really informative blog and YouTube channel. He tells all the secrets they don't want you to hear. But of course you probably know all those secrets already, being on the inside and all.

Curtis wants to speak, but isn't sure how to address this.

Barry shakes his head, signaling for Curtis to not engage. Prisha nervously bites her nails, while Christine puts one hand over her face, bracing herself.

CURTIS

Uh, you know, not at the state level. Maybe some day.

Curtis sets his phone down on the coffee table, as he takes a seat.

SABRINA

(partly to change the conversation)
Hey. Nice phone.

She pulls out hers. They have the same phone and phone case.

CURTIS

Great minds, right?

Prisha rolls her eyes.

CURTIS (CONT'D)

(Suddenly)
Hey! Anyway, game's on! Best rivalry in football! I'm a big Cowboys fan. Looks like you and I are gonna be enemies today.
(referencing the game)
(MORE)

CURTIS (CONT'D)

D.C. George Town. I assume you're a Redskins fan, right?

PRISHA

They're not called that anymore, Curtis.

CURTIS

Oh yeah, excuse me, I mean "The Washington Football Team". People are just too P.C. these days. Everyone is so sensitive.

PRISHA

Well, in case you forgot, my wife happens to be Native American, OK?

CURTIS

Oh, come on. You know I have no problem with Sabrina. Hey, you don't see me getting all upset at "The Fighting Irish".

BARRY

I didn't know you were Irish.

CURTIS

(tone changing to nice and informative to Barry)

Yeah, a little on my mom's side, actually...

(back to Prisha)

But look, that's not the point. I know a ton of Indians. Feather, not dot.

He looks for them to laugh.

CURTIS (CONT'D)

You know it never occurred to me, you two. One feather. One dot.

PRISHA

For fuck's sake, Curtis.

CURTIS

Oh come on, I'm kidding. You know I'm kidding. But seriously, I know a ton of Native Americans who call themselves "Indians".

PRISHA

Even if that's true, I am pretty sure they don't call themselves "Redskins". Since you're "not easily offended", maybe they could be "The Washington Mediocre Pasty White Douchebags."

CURTIS

Fine with me. That title doesn't bother me at all, besides being a little lengthy. But hey, perhaps we should ask the only Native American in the room.

He looks at Sabrina ...

SABRINA

You wanna know if the name "Redskins" bothers me? Look, would I prefer a different name? Of course. I don't see a need to hang onto some outdated term that people find offensive, but I also think sometimes people get caught up in the wrong fight. Let's be more concerned with the actual plight of Native Americans and people of color, and worry less about names of football teams. For me, I concern myself with your intention and your actions, rather than your words. I think it comes down to whether or not someone is trying to be racist.

PRISHA

Trust me, Curtis doesn't need to TRY to be racist. He succeeds at it just fine.

Prisha stands up.

SABRINA

Where you going? Aw, Presh - don't let something like this get to you.

PRISHA

It's all good. I'm fine. I'm just gonna go help Aunt Marge with dinner.

She kisses Sabrina.

PRISHA (CONT'D)
Enjoy the game.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Marge and Debbie are preparing food. Marge checks the oven, Debbie stirs and seasons.

Kylie sits at the kitchen bar.

They each have a drink near them - Marge and Debbie have wine; Kylie has a beer. They are giggling.

KYLIE
OhmiGod, Mom - so Dad thought we
all believed in Santa Claus 'til
Middle School?

MARGE
Yes! He never knew I secretly broke
the news to all of you, ha!

They cackle. Debbie cautiously looks out the open kitchen door.

DEBBIE
Shhh, Jackson still believes.

MARGE
(Whispering)
Oh, that's right!

KYLIE
(Lowering voice)
Well, he should; he's only eight.

Just then, Jackson runs in with a slinky.

JACKSON
Mom, look what I found! What's this
toy called again?

KYLIE
A slinky!
(singing)
A slinky a slinky, for fun, it's a
wonderful toy! It's fun for a girl
and a boy.

Jackson looks at Kylie, inquisitively.

KYLIE (CONT'D)

What? Why you looking at me like that? Is that weird coming from me?

JACKSON

No. That's just a stupid song.

KYLIE

Well, you got me there!

DEBBIE

And no. It's never been an issue... with the kids.

Almost spits out her beer, laughing knowing what she meant.

KYLIE

With the kids.

Kylie shakes her head.

KYLIE (CONT'D)

Jesus Christ, it's been over 3 years; we are literally in a new decade, and Curtis still can't accept me for who I am?

JACKSON

He called you Uncle Kyle in a dress.

Marge puts her hand over her mouth and gasps.

Debbie cringes and reluctantly nods.

DEBBIE

Though in his defense, he was joking when he said that. Not that, that excuses it.

KYLIE

I'm used to it. Can't believe I am used to it in this day and age, but I am used to it.

Kylie gets up off her stool and approaches Jackson.

KYLIE (CONT'D)

What's up, little man? I haven't seen you forever! You remember your Aunt Kylie?

Jackson nods.

JACKSON

I saw you on TV.

(pause, reluctantly)

But it was when you were Uncle Kyle.

KYLIE

Cooooo! Was it my guest appearance on "Broke Girls"?

Jackson nods.

KYLIE (CONT'D)

Yeah, I looked pretty in that one.

Kylie and Jackson laugh.

KYLIE (CONT'D)

By the way, my friends sometimes still call me Kyle for short. Or Ky. You can call me what you want, cool?

Jackson nods and they fist bump.

JACKSON

I liked seeing you on TV, Aunt Ky.

KYLIE

Well, I'm always happy to see you. Can I have a hug?

Jackson nods and comes in for a hug. Kylie tenderly holds him for a moment, then quickly picks him up off the ground!

KYLIE (CONT'D)

Oh, I gotcha, gotcha, gotcha!

Out of nowhere, Jackson starts screaming, like he's being attacked by a monster! Kylie immediately puts him back down.

Debbie steps in and consoles him, covering his head with her hug.

Kylie is in shock, not knowing what happened.

KYLIE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry! Oh shit. What did I do?

DEBBIE

It's okay... It's, it's a sensory thing, we think. The loudness and sudden movement.

(semi-whispering)

(MORE)

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

We think he is on the spectrum.
It's OK. You had no idea. We
haven't been very outspoken about
it.

Jackson is calming down but still a little traumatized.

MARGE

You were the same way.

KYLIE

No way. I was? I know I didn't like
when Aunt Caroline would hug me,
but that was because she smelled
like a doctor's office.

DEBBIE

Oh yeah! She did, didn't she?

MARGE

Back then we had no idea about
Autism or any of that "spectrum"
stuff, but now that we do, your
father and I have often said we
think you might have been.

KYLIE

Really? Jesus. You guys just sit
around and talk about me like I'm
Rain Man or something?

MARGE

Rain WOMAN, honey.

Marge smiles slyly at her little joke. Kylie smiles back and
laughs as Prisha walks in. She sees Jackson in his mom's arms
and catches the tail end of the discussion.

PRISHA

Okay, what'd I just walk in on?

They look up at her.

KYLIE

Not much. Just me emotionally
scarring my nephew for life and
finding out that my parents think I
am on the spectrum.

PRISHA

Oh yeah. Totally. Brina and I have
always thought that too. What did
you do to Jackie?

DEBBIE

Nothing. He just is sensitive to loud noises and sudden movements. I think she just caught him off guard.

She nods, figuring out the entire conversation now in her head.

PRISHA

(to Kylie)

You were like that when we were kids, too.

Kylie rolls her eyes, sighs and sets her empty beer down.

KYLIE

Wanna go play catch in the back, Jackie boy?

Jackson nods and the two exit.

EXT. BACKYARD GAZEBO - CONTINUOUS

Joe sits next to Mad on some stylish patio furniture in the new gazebo. They share a pitcher of Lemonade.

Mad has a bit of a disengaged look on her face.

JOE

I can't believe you're already Sweet Sixteen. What a wonderful age.

MAD

Whatever.

JOE

Well, I had a blast when I was sixteen.

MAD

Well, you probably didn't have parents who hated each other and were always working. Plus you didn't have an annoying little brother that you were forced to babysit.

Grandpa Joe gives her the side-eye.

JOE

No? Have you met your Great Uncle Barry? Jackson at eight is still more mature than Barry was at thirteen! Plus, things were a lot harder back then.

MAD

Well, Grandpa, I don't know how it was in the 1800s, but ...

Joe starts heartily laughing, then winces in pain again.

MAD (CONT'D)

Oh, no! Grandpa you ok? Do I need to call somebody?

JOE

No. No, I'll be ok. I, I just need you to remove this!

He leans forward and weakly points over his shoulder.

MAD

Remove what? I don't see anything!

JOE

That giant knife you just stuck in my back!

He looks at her and starts chortling. She shakes her head and gets upset.

She playfully socks his arm.

MAD

THAT was mean.

JOE

(Still laughing)
No, THAT ... was worth it.

MAD

I'm serious, Grandpa, that wasn't cool. I thought you were dying.

JOE

Well, not to be morbid, but I am...

MAD

Don't even go there. I can't think about that right now.

Tears well up in her eyes.

JOE
I'm sorry, honey. I didn't mean to
upset you.

Joe pulls her in and gives her a big hug.

JOE (CONT'D)
I love you so much, kiddo.

MAD
I love you too, Grandpa!

She squeezes tight burying her head into his shoulder. Joe
winces in pain. This time, it's for real.

JACKSON (O.S.)
Jeez, get a room.

Mad and Grandpa Joe stop hugging to SEE Jackson and Kylie
coming out the back with a Nerf football.

MAD
Ooh, Jackson! Gross and
inappropriate!

JACKSON
Aunt Kylie told me to say it.

KYLIE
Dang, you threw me under the bus
quick! Remind me to never share a
secret with you, Jackie boy!

MAD
Since when do YOU have secrets?

KYLIE
Don't be Mad. Oh wait, you ARE Mad.
(to Jackson)
Go deep.

Jackson takes off running and Kylie throws the football to
him.

MAD
Well, those hormones are really
working.

KYLIE
You think?

MAD
Yeah. You totally throw like a
girl.

Walking toward Mad, who stands up to greet her.

KYLIE

Well, you look great too. But you could use a little more black in your wardrobe.

They give each other a big hug.

KYLIE (CONT'D)

Missed you, Maddie.

MAD

Missed you, too, Aunt Kylie.

Prisha opens the back door and pops her head out.

PRISHA

Hey guys. We're almost ready for dinner. Come get washed up!

INT. DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone is seated around a large dining table with their plates piled high with food. Grandpa Joe at the head.

JOE

Hurry up, Hun.

Marge scurries over with a basket of rolls.

MARGE

Sorry, I almost forgot the rolls!

She sets them down, takes off her apron, and has a seat next to her husband on his left.

JOE

OK. So. I can't tell you how much it means to me that you all made it. My entire family here for Thanksgiving. I think this is the first time that's ever happened, and that already makes this the best Thanksgiving in my memory. I'd like to go around the table and have everyone say what they're thankful for. Whatever that means to you. I'll start. I am thankful for all of you being here and making THIS Thanksgiving special.

(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)

You all know that family is everything to me, so this literally means everything.

He smiles and scans everyone at the table for a moment ... then looks at Marge.

JOE (CONT'D)

Honey?

MARGE

I am thankful for my beautiful kids, grandkids, and all their better halves- and, of course - my husband of 45 years. The best husband and father I could have ever asked for.

She grabs his hand. He pecks her on the lips, as everyone "ooohhs".

JACKSON

Jeez - get a room!

Everyone laughs, but Madison, who groans.

JOE

Somebody's got a new catch phrase! Pardon the interruption - your turn, Barry.

BARRY

I am thankful for this amazing spread. Marge, you out-did yourself again! And I am thankful for this amazing company.

PRISHA

I am thankful for all of you, my beautiful wife, and I must thank you, Marge, for providing humane food options and responsibly grown produce. I wish all the children of the world could experience the food and human interaction that we are privileged to have.

SABRINA

That was very sweet, Presh. I don't know what to add, but I am thankful for being part of this family.

JERRY

I'm thankful, too, for being part of this motley crew. Uncle Joe and Aunt Marge - thank you for everything you've done for me. I'm happy for the food, too - but you know me. I'm not into turkey, as much as I'm into Wild Turkey!

(He toasts his cocktail)

On a side note, I'd just like to point out that everyone in the world could enjoy food, but controlling the food supply and keeping people hungry is all part of the Elite's mind control and world domination. We have the resources to do it now, but they ain't never gonna let that happen.

Christine stares at Jerry incredulously, awaiting her turn to speak, trying to conceal her smile. Then there is a BEAT before she speaks.

CHRISTINE

OK. So there's that. I am thankful that I live in reality.

JOE

Christine. Can we please not start down that road?

CHRISTINE

Sorry, Pop. I'm thankful, like everyone else here, for you and for Mom's amazing cooking. I'm also thankful I didn't have to cook all this food for you jackals.

Grandpa Joe shoots her a look.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Kidding! Kidding. For real, though. I am thankful for you all accepting Maurice into our dysfunctional fold.

MAURICE

Thank you all for having me and accepting me into your dysfunctional fold. Although, honestly ... you all aren't that bad.

DEBBIE

Well, you've only been here a few hours. Wait 'till the booze starts flowing.

JERRY

Rock and roll!

He hoists up his cocktail, quickly downs it, and starts pouring himself wine.

KYLIE

I'm thankful just to be back here, with great company. I can't say this enough: I missed you all. L.A. is a lonely place for a struggling actor.

DEBBIE

Gosh, there's really not much to say that hasn't been said ten times already.

MAD

Well, you could thank your Xanax, Mom.

Debbie shoots Mad eye daggers.

The others all try not to laugh. Some can't believe she said that.

DEBBIE

I wonder why I need them!
(jokingly)
I AM thankful for my wonderful family, and even though they love to kick me when I'm down, I love them anyway.

CURTIS

If you all don't mind, I'd like to say Grace. I think it would be appropriate.

PRISHA

(under her breath)
Not like we have a choice.

Curtis bows his head and puts his hands together, praying.

CURTIS

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for this blessing today.

(MORE)

CURTIS (CONT'D)

We would like to thank you for this food and the wonderful company. We are truly blessed for everything you have given us and for absolving us of our sins through your son-

MAD

(under her breath,
annoyed)
Jesus Christ.

Jerry and Barry both snicker.

Curtis opens one eye to shoot Mad a look of disdain.

CURTIS

We receive this bounty through
Christ our Lord, Amen.

Only Debbie, Jerry, Marge, and Sabrina say "Amen". All eyes on Jackson.

JACKSON

I am thankful for the pie!

Everyone laughs. Jerry raises his glass to Jackson. It's Mad's turn. She stares, stoically. Debbie looks at her like, "Please."

MAD

Welp. I guess... I'm thankful that I get to spend some extra time with my Grandpa.

She looks at Joe. He flashes her a trusting smile.

JOE

Amen.

Everyone raises their glasses.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - AN HOUR LATER

Everyone is finishing up their plates, drinking some wine and laughing.

CHRISTINE

(to her parents)

Oh remember that time when you guys
threw that huge party for Uncle
Barry? The one with the band? The
Zeppelin cover band?

BARRY

Hell, yeah - who could forget
"Hairway to Seven"?!!

MARGE

That was Barry's 40th birthday! I
can't believe YOU remember that.
Gosh you musta been, what? Ten?

DEBBIE

Yeah, I was fourteen, I remember
that because I was in my Freshman
year and Bobby Findel came over
with his parents. I had the biggest
crush on him!

JERRY

"Findel The Fondler"? You had a
crush on him?

Everyone laughs.

DEBBIE

Hey, he got that monicker WAY later
in life. Shit, I was just hoping he
would fondle me that night!

Everyone laughs again.

MARGE

Debbie! I can't believe you. Your
children are here.

DEBBIE

What? They know who their mom is.

Debbie slyly smiles as she takes a bite of what is left of
her roll. Then laughs.

MARGE

You're terrible!

CHRISTINE

Always has been.

Debbie playfully throws the last piece of roll at her sister.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Oh! Remember the cops showed up because those assholes who lived down the road complained about the loud music?

JOE

The Warners. Total dipshits.

MARGE

You guys! The kids are here.

JOE

Well, they were dipshits. Kids should be aware of dipshits.

MAD

Don't worry, Grandma: I know a lot of dipshits.

Grandma Marge gasps, then laughs.

PRISHA

You're related to some.

KYLIE

(raising her hand)
Guilty as charged.

DEBBIE

Likewise.

They high-five.

CHRISTINE

Anyway, the cops came and Uncle Barry says, "It's my 40th birthday, and you're telling us to turn down the music. We will. You'll leave. We'll turn it up. You'll get another call."

People are smiling and nodding their heads in remembrance.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

"Then you'll come all the way back here, tell us to turn it down. We will. Then when you leave, we'll turn it up again. This will go on all night until you bust up a man's 40th party and maybe haul him to jail.

(MORE)

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

So why don't you go back over to that tight-ass Warner household, and tell 'em to come over here, have a beer, and enjoy some music--"

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

'cuz this is a party, baby!

JOE

'cuz this is a party, baby!

Everyone starts laughing.

DEBBIE

Then he goes, "you should be arresting them for hatin' Zeppelin, MAAAAAN!"

Everyone busts up laughing.

BARRY

I do NOT remember that ... but I agree with it.

PRISHA

Where was I?

MARGE

Oh honey, you and Kylie were little, like 3 or 4. In fact, you were sleeping on the couch in the living room and Barry pointed you guys out to the cops and said "How loud can it be? We have 2 kids sound asleep!"

Barry is blushing and not even sure if this happened. He shakes his head, shrugs and takes a drink.

SABRINA

You guys had a Zeppelin cover band in your back yard? My family was never that cool.

MAD

Wish we still were.

Marge gets up and heads to the kitchen.

MARGE

Here comes your favorite part, Jackson! The PIE!

Jackson claps!

Joe adjusts in his seat.

JOE

Uh, I hate to bring the mood down,
but I need to make an announcement.

Everyone stops and focuses their attention.

JOE (CONT'D)

So, there is no secret why I wanted
you all here. This is likely my
last Thanksgiving and wanted to
have my whole family together at
least once before I go.

JERRY

Hey, Uncle Joe - you never know,
you might beat this thing, plus
some people live for many years
even after stage IV colon cancer.
We might get in at least another
couple.

Marge puts pies on the table. She stops, standing behind her
husband.

JOE

Well, that brings us to the main
reason I brought you all together.
I wanted to tell you all, to your
faces.

Joe pauses for a BEAT, then swallows and sighs. Marge rubs
his shoulder.

JOE (CONT'D)

I've decided to not to get
treatment.

MAD

What?!!!

Visibly upset, she looks down and grinds her teeth.

CHRISTINE

Dad, what are you talking about?

MAD

I'd like to amend my Thanks from
earlier.

(to Joe)

Thanks for NOTHING!

Commotion starts to well, as people grumble.

MAD (V.O.)

No one expected that bomb to be dropped on us. Especially right before pie. Seems like maybe it was something Grandpa Joe could have told us AFTER dessert, but I doubt he had it planned like that. I don't think he'd really given much thought to a lot of his decisions at that time. How could he? With all that was going on, no way his mind was in a good place. Anyway, you can imagine how that sat with everyone.

JOE

Hold up, hold up a minute. Now listen. I've done the research on this, and Colon cancer, stage IV is pretty tough to beat, especially at my age.

DEBBIE

Dad, 70 is not old these days.

He puts his hand up to stop her.

JOE

Deb. Look, I've made my decision. I have had several friends go through the chemo and the radiation, and it was just torture. They were sick every day. In pain. It was worse than the damn cancer! And all of them died anyway. I just don't want to go out like that. I don't want to be in pain.

PRISHA

Uncle Joe, with all due respect, Cancer is no walk in the park either. I mean, it's not like you are going to not be in pain. Cancer sucks. It ravages the body. At least with the chemo, you have a chance to beat it.

JOE

I know. I know. But, I'm just gonna live the life I have left and when it gets to be too painful, well... I guess I'll have to make a decision. Either way, I want to go out on my own terms.

CHRISTINE

Make a decision? On your own terms?
What does that mean? You're gonna
kill yourself?

Jackson starts crying.

DEBBIE

Mad, can you please take Jackson
into the living room?

MAD

Me? Why me?

DEBBIE

The adults need to discuss this
with your Grandpa, and he doesn't
need to be here for it.

MAD

Fine, but I wanna be!

CURTIS

Not now, Madison! Listen to your
mother, and take your brother into
the other room.

(to Jackson)

Don't worry Jack, Grandpa's gonna
be fine. We will say a prayer for
him later.

Curtis looks to Mad and - with a heartwarming expression -
urges her.

CURTIS (CONT'D)

It would mean a lot to us, Mad.

Mad sighs, shakes her head in disbelief.

MAD

It would mean a lot to me to stay
here.

BARRY

Curt. Deb. I'll take Jackson in the
living room. We can play some video
games. Mad should be here.

Barry stands up and takes Jackson away, as everyone else
continues the commotion.

CURTIS

Thanks, Bare.

When they are out of the dining room.

CHRISTINE

So you are just gonna off yourself,
pop?

JOE

When things get bad, sure. You all
want me to live in pain?

MAD

No, we want you to LIVE!

JOE

Aw honey, I know you do, but the
chances of that are...

MAD

Fourteen percent. Fourteen percent
of people live 5 years, sometimes
more.

Everyone looks at Mad impressed that she knows her stuff.

MAD (CONT'D)

What? You don't think I did my
research?

JOE

That means eighty-six percent die
sooner.

PRISHA

A hundred percent die without
treatment.

JOE

Guys. I appreciate the love. I
appreciate your concern. I've lived
a great life, but now I'm playing
the hand I was dealt and if I get
to a point where it's too much on
me and Marge, I will deal with it
then.

CURTIS

You know euthanasia is morally
wrong, that's why it's illegal in
most of this country!

MAURICE

Well technically this would be
suicide, not euthanasia.

(MORE)

MAURICE (CONT'D)

And you know it is legal in 9 states and the District of Columbia.

CURTIS

Exactly. Democrat run states!

MAURICE

Not all of them. In fact the Governor of Vermont's a Republican. At least for me as a conservative who advocates "small government", personal responsibility and less control, I guess I'm FOR the individual right to die if they feel it's best for them.

CURTIS

Come on. I'm all for small government, less taxes, but what's next? Every state gets to make the call on religion, gun control, abortions?

MAURICE

I'm Pro-Choice. I don't believe in telling women what to do with their bodies. Plus, fewer people means more parking spaces.

JOE

Exactly! It is just like that. It's my life, my choice. And you guys can fight over my parking space when I'm gone.

CURTIS

Oh, gimme a fucking break!

PRISHA

I know, Curtis - can you believe it? Someone actually has a different opinion than you! Imagine!

CURTIS

Wait, so you're conservative, but you're NOT Pro-Life?

MAURICE

Of course. Isn't state's rights and smaller federal government the pillar of conservatism?

(MORE)

MAURICE (CONT'D)

For the record I'm not a
Republican, I am a lib-

CURTIS

Ah, Jesus. A Libertarian. I should
have guessed. You're not a TRUE
conservative. You just want to
smoke dope and not pay taxes.

MAD

Sounds like you, Dad.

He shoots her the evil eye.

CURTIS

Me? Really?

MAD

Oh come on, Dad, don't think I
haven't smelled the weed in the
garage before.

Curtis looks at Debbie who shrugs like "She got you".

JERRY

Between Big Pharma and the two
party system. We're never gonna see
legal weed in this country.

SABRINA

Actually, I think it's legal in
quite a few states.

MAURICE

Fifteen ... And the District of
Columbia.

CURTIS

Again, Democrat run states.

MAURICE

Well, Alabama, Arizona, Alaska,
Idaho, several "red states" have
legalized marijuana. Oregon has
decriminalized all drugs, now.

JERRY

Well, there'll never be a legit
third party. They'll never let that
happen. That's for sure! Ask Ross
Perot and Bernie Sanders.

Sabrina squeezes her shoulder and looks at her like, "That's
enough." Prisha quietly stews.

CHRISTINE

Can it, before I euthanize all of ya!

They shut up.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

So Dad - you're just gonna be the Hemingway of the family now? Great, fucking Jackoff Kevorkian over here!

Maurice tries to console her.

JERRY

Hey, Dr. Kevorkian helped terminally ill people end their lives because they wanted to. Joe's just doing the same thing; it's his choice.

CHRISTINE

Well, of course YOU'RE okay with this, you get to move into The Big House!

JERRY

Hey, I don't want him to die, but if he does, I can't stop him!

KYLIE

I can.

JOE

How's that?

KYLIE

I'll just move in and follow you whenever you're awake.

Kylie and Joe share a smile. Nervous laughter from the group. She diffuses the tension for a few seconds, then ...

DEBBIE

How can you be okay with this?

JOE

Like I said, I don't wanna suffer-

PRISHA

What about the rest of us who are gonna suffer?

SABRINA

Honey, I understand how you feel.
But Jerry's right - it's not our
decision.

DEBBIE

I wasn't talking to Dad!

Everyone hushes and looks at Debbie. Then, who is she
addressing?

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

I'm talking to you, Mom. How the
hell can you look me in the eye and
tell me you're just fine and dandy
with your husband committing
suicide?

Marge looks uncomfortably at Debbie, then at Joe. She seems
like she's about to speak, then ...

CURTIS

You know you're going to Hell,
right?

All eyes on Curtis.

CURTIS (CONT'D)

The Bible says the only
unforgivable sin is suicide.

MAD

No, it's actually apostasy. Denial
of God or blasphemy.

Okay, Mad. We're listening ...

MAD (CONT'D)

Matthew 12:30-32, "Blasphemy
against the Spirit will not be
forgiven." Also Hebrew 6, 4-8

Everyone is in shock.

CURTIS

Oh, like anyone here's gonna take
religious advice from the angry,
Atheist teenager!

MAD

Well, if you want to know the Bible
ask an atheist, we've actually read
it.

CURTIS

Just making my point. By your own admission you're going to hell.

MAD

(sighs)

Ugh. I don't believe in Hell. How can I go there?

CURTIS

Honey, you may not believe in God, but he believes in you!

MAD

Does God believe in Grandpa? Or just cancer?

Mad stops and slowly turns around, completely tearing up. She looks at Curtis then to Joe.

MAD (CONT'D)

Don't worry, Grandpa - God forgives you. But I don't!

She runs out. Mad's words resonate with everyone, as they digest the gravity of this situation.

Debbie pulls out her pills and pops one and washes it down with some wine.

MARGE

You know you're not supposed to take those with alcohol.

DEBBIE

Yeah? Well I'm supposed to avoid stressful situations, but here I am.

Jerry pipes up.

JERRY

Well, I don't know about you, but I'm not gonna let this pie go to waste.

Jerry reaches over and starts serving himself.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Who wants some?

CURTIS

I'll take some.

PRISHA

Of course you two would eat pie at a time like this.

SABRINA

I actually would love a piece.

Prisha glares at her.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

What? There's no reason we can't continue talking and have a slice of happiness.

Jerry gives her a piece.

MARGE

Let me take a piece to the kids and Barry.

Marge takes 3 pieces of pie and exits the room.

MAURICE

So Jerry, Christine tells me you're like a brother to them.

JERRY

Yeah, well we have always been tight.

JOE

When Caroline and Daryl died, that's Jerry's parents, my sister and her husband, he was all alone, you know, whatta you do? The poor kid had no place to go, so we took him in.

MAURICE

Wow that is so cool of you.
(to Jerry)
How old were you?

JERRY

Forty-two.

Maurice looks to Christine to see if they are joking. She smirks and nods, "yep".

JOE

And he's been here taking care of the yard and doing odd jobs for us ever since. Living in the guest house. That's what family does.

(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)

We're grateful to have him. I'm finding it harder and harder to do certain things and I just can't ask Marge to do them.

DEBBIE

Yeah, Dad. Speaking of which, have you talked to your wife about this not getting treatment thing?

JOE

Well, basically. Sure. Marge knows where I stand. She supports me. She always supports me.

DEBBIE

Well, she always goes along with you.

JOE

Don't pretend like your mother is some weak woman who doesn't have her own opinions.

CHRISTINE

It's not that, Dad. Mom just doesn't like to rock the boat.

Christine takes a bite of her pie.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

It's a path of least resistance thing.

JOE

Least resistance? I don't give her any resistance. Your mother and I have a great relationship.

Marge comes back into the room.

MARGE

My ears are burning.

DEBBIE

Yeah, Mom. We were just asking Dad what your thoughts are on his decision.

MARGE

Well, it's your father's choice. He's the one who has to fight this thing and he knows what's best for him.

DEBBIE

Of course, but what about you, Mom? What's best for you? Did you and Dad ever really talk about YOUR feelings?

JOE

Sure we did. We've talked many times.

DEBBIE

But did you ever ask her, Dad? Did you ever ask Mom what she wants?

JOE

Of course I did.

MARGE

Well, actually Joe, no. No you didn't.

Marge is visibly upset. She takes off her apron, fighting the tears and runs out of the room.

Joe sits there stunned and slack-jawed.

JOE

I, I, I had no idea.

KYLIE

Dad, you know Mom. She always goes along with what you want.

JOE

But we've always had great communication. I just don't know what to say.

CHRISTINE

You sure about that? Do you even know what Mom's been doing in her spare time?

Joe looks perplexed. He shakes his head.

JOE

Spare time? Well she spends time in the garden.

DEBBIE

You really should go talk to your wife.

Joe takes the napkin off his lap, sets it in front of him, gets up from the table, and leaves.

After he is gone.

MAURICE

You know ultimately, it is his decision. I mean it's his life.

CHRISTINE

His life? It's all of our lives. He and my mom have been together for forty-five years. This is the kind of decision you make together.

MAURICE

Yeah, I'm not saying that. Of course he should consult his wife. I am just saying, the final decision needs to be his.

CURTIS

You know, I agree there. I mean, sure - have the conversation and listen to your spouse, evaluate the input, whatever, but we have to respect a man's decision.

PRISHA

A MAN'S decision? Jesus, you with your patriarchal bullshit.

Sabrina puts her hand on Prisha's shoulder, "it's ok".

CURTIS

You always have to read into everything everyone says. I just meant person. MANKIND, but also, HE IS A MAN!

KYLIE

I didn't find it offensive.

CURTIS

Thank you!

MAURICE

It's true though, he needs to hear his family's concerns and take it all into consideration, but at the end of the day-

CHRISTINE

At the end of the day, we're not listening to YOUR input, 'cause you're not part of this family.

CURTIS

Ouch. That was a bit harsh, dontcha think?

CHRISTINE

Shut up, Curtis.

DEBBIE

Seriously. It's getting exhausting.

Debbie stands up and grabs a bottle of wine off the table and her glass.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

(to Christine)

I'm takin' this party outside. To the gazebo. Wanna join me Chris? Just the Carter Sisters.

CURTIS

Actually, you're a Braden.

DEBBIE

Shut up, Curtis!

Christine grabs her glass and she and Debbie leave to the back yard.

Kylie looks dejected. Takes a sip of her drink.

KYLIE

OK. I guess I am not a Carter Sister. Good to know.

PRISHA

Yeah that was pretty uncool. I can't believe they totally misgendered you.

CURTIS

"Misgendered". Sounds like the worst beauty pageant ever. I love how you liberals just make up your own words.

PRISHA

It's a real thing, asshole.

CURTIS

Ok "PREACH-A". Tell me something is Prisha Hindi for "Karen"?

Sabrina spits out her wine, laughing and immediately tries to stifle her laughter. She tries not to giggle, but it is hard.

Prisha shoots eye daggers at her.

PRISHA

Thanks for taking his side.

SABRINA

Oh come on, Presh, I'm not taking his side, but you have to admit, that was pretty funny.

JERRY

It actually was.

Prisha looks to Kylie for approval.

KYLIE

They're not wrong.

Prisha stands up, grabs her glass and another bottle of wine from the table.

PRISHA

Well, I'm gonna go join the GIRLS.

Prisha exits.

CURTIS

Look, Kylie. I just don't get, why did you have to change your gender? I mean why not just be a gay man? That's far more acceptable and "normal" if you want to call it that.

KYLIE

Well first off, your idea of "normal" is bullshit. Second, we don't choose our gender. And third, I don't like guys. I like women.

CURTIS

What? You like women? So you're not gay?

KYLIE

Uh, well, I am a woman who likes women, so yes Curtis, I AM gay.

CURTIS

Wait a second, you were a straight man and now you're a gay woman? Because you chose to be a woman AND gay? Yeah, I don't get it.

KYLIE

You don't have to Curtis ... Fuck it. I'm going to O'Malley's.

MAURICE

You want some company?

KYLIE

Sure.

SABRINA

I'm down.

JERRY

I'll drive. Curt, you coming?

CURTIS

Yeah sure. Lemme say good night to the kids.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Barry and Jackson play video games on the TV.

Mad sits on the couch writing in her journal.

Curtis walks in.

CURTIS

Hey guys. What's happening?

Jackson looks over at his Dad.

JACKSON

Just playing Minecraft. Uncle Barry is like a pro!

BARRY

Well, retirement has its perks. But you sure this kid is eight? He plays like he's thirteen.

CURTIS

Mad. You good?

Mad doesn't look up.

MAD
Yep. Peachy.

CURTIS
Anyone want more pie?

Jackson doesn't look up from the game.

JACKSON
I'm good.

BARRY
Ditto.

MAD
I still have mine.

Jerry pops in.

JERRY
Hey Curtis, you ready?

CURTIS
Yeah one sec, Jer.
(to Mad)
Hey Mad, gonna go out with everyone
for a bit. Need you to stay here
and watch Jackson. Cool?

Mad SIGHS loudly.

Barry turns around, still playing the game.

BARRY
You guys going to O'Malley's? Have
fun. I got the kids. We're just
gonna be here playing games and
maybe drinking some hot chocolate
later.

JACKSON
Hot chocolate? Yeah!

CURTIS
You sure? Mad, you OK with that? I
mean, your mom is outside if you
need anything.

MAD
Yeah dad. I'm cool. Probably write
for a bit and go to bed.

CURTIS

OK, well if you need me, I've got my phone, too.

Curtis walks over and kisses Mad on the forehead.

CURTIS (CONT'D)

Love you, kiddo. Have a good night.

MAD

Yep. It's gonna be a thrill a minute.

Jackson jumps, abandoning his game. He runs up and gives his dad a big hug.

JACKSON

Good night, Daddy. I love you!

BARRY

Whoa, you left your station, Jackie!

Curtis hugs his son.

CURTIS

Love you too. Don't stay up all night. And don't beat up on Uncle Barry too much.

BARRY

Not a chance.

EXT. GRANDPA JOE'S CONNECTICUT HOME - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Sabrina, Kylie, Maurice, and Curtis pile into Jerry's 1980s Lincoln Continental. Jerry gets into the driver's seat.

As we HEAR Mad's VO, we SEE Cuts of:

*Barry and Jackson play video games.

*The 3 girls in the Gazebo drinking and talking.

*Joe and Marge sit on the side of the bed next to each other. He holds her hand and they are in deep conversation.

*Mad writes in her journal.

MAD (V.O.)

Usually when Thanksgiving dinner ends with everyone breaking off into groups to go to various places to get drunk, because they are pissed off and offended, it doesn't end well. But we are not a normal family. They say sometimes you gotta hit rock bottom before you can go up, and that things always get worse before they get better. Well in that regard, I guess we are pretty predictable.

Jerry's car drives down the long driveway.

INT. JOE AND MARGE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Joe and Marge sit next to each other on the side of the bed. Joe holds one of Marge's hand in both of his.

JOE

You're my world, Marge. You know you can tell me anything.

MARGE

I guess I was hoping you'd want to know my thoughts and ask me, but you never did. I just want you to be happy.

JOE

I am happy. And my decision was not meant to cause you any pain. I'm just, I don't know... scared.

MARGE

We're all scared, honey. But if there is one thing you've taught me in this life it's that family is really the most important thing. Happiness, health, it all comes from family, and family isn't just about blood. Family is where you find it. You have always been the champion of this family, Joe. No one wants to be selfish in this time, but the truth is, we need you right now as much as you need us.

JOE

I'm still here. I'm not going anywhere just yet.

He gives her a gentle kiss. Marge smiles.

JOE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I didn't ask you. I DO want to know your thoughts. I value our conversations more than anything. It's just, we've just been together so long, sometimes it feels like we share the same brain. I guess I take that for granted.

MARGE

And it's partly my fault. Sometimes I just don't speak up, because, I don't know, I think I got it in my head a long time ago that when everything's great, you just don't stray from the course. But recently I realized that if you do that long enough, you forget where you started. You end up on someone else's course.

JOE

I never asked you to-

She puts her finger up.

MARGE

I know you didn't. Just let me finish.

He concedes and nods as he stares into his wife's eyes like they just met.

MARGE (CONT'D)

I always believed in this idea of family first. That's one of the things that I love about you, but when you were diagnosed with Cancer and told me you were thinking about not getting treatment, I realized that sometimes we have to do what is right for ourselves. I realized, I've spent the last forty years being a wife, a mother and a grandma and lost track of the thing that used to make ME happy. My writing. When I graduated college, all I wanted to do was be a writer.

She gets up and walks to a dresser. She opens the drawer and pulls out a notebook. She brings it back and sits down again.

MARGE (CONT'D)

Your decision made me angry. So I started writing again. Every day. Just to put my feelings down. Then it turned into a memoir, of our journey together, and our struggle though this. When I finish, I want to publish it as a novel. But only with your permission.

Joe can't believe what he is hearing. His eyes well up with tears.

JOE

You're writing again?

She nods.

She extends the notebook to him. He grabs it.

JOE (CONT'D)

I always wanted you to keep writing. I never understood why you stopped.

Marge wipes a tear from her eye.

MARGE

You never asked me that either.

He puts his forehead to hers.

JOE

I am so sorry. I know nothing makes you happier than writing.

MARGE

Except being with you.

JOE

You wrote this about us?

MARGE

For us.

JOE

And I can read it?

She nods and laughs, as she snuffles and wipes another tear.

EXT. BACKYARD GAZEBO

Prisha, Christine and Debbie sit in the Gazebo, smoking a joint and drinking wine.

They are all laughing. Debbie raises her glass.

DEBBIE

Here's to our family: We put the
"fun" in "dysfunction"!

PRISHA

I'm sorry to be such a bitch to
Curtis, Deb, but he can just be
such a fucking asshole.

DEBBIE

Hey, no need to apologize. He is a
fucking asshole.

They all laugh.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

But seriously, I think the person
you need to lighten up on is
Sabrina.

PRISHA

I know. I don't mean to be so
domineering. I don't know what it
is. She's seriously perfect.

CHRISTINE

If I liked chicks, I'd be stealing
her from you.

DEBBIE

Why? So you can date her for 6
months and find an excuse to break
up?

Prisha laughs. And takes a hit off the joint.

PRISHA

(holding in the smoke)
Sorry, but you gotta admit... that
is pretty funny.

She passes to Debbie.

CHRISTINE

Okay. Okay. I get it, everyone
thinks I am afraid of commitment.

DEBBIE

Thinks?

CHRISTINE

So I have high standards. What's wrong with that?

DEBBIE

High or impossible? I mean honestly, Maurice is a catch and a half.

PRISHA

Yeah, what was that "not part of the family" shit?

CHRISTINE

What? He isn't. I mean it's not that I don't want him to be, but not sure we're there yet. Plus he's a conservative. Differing on politics is like differing on religion.

DEBBIE

How about differing on both? Try that sometime.

PRISHA

Yeah, I don't know. He seems pretty fucking liberal to me. Pro-choice, supportive of LGBTQ rights, women. I mean..

CHRISTINE

Yeah, that's true. It's the whole not wanting to pay taxes thing that drives me nuts about libertarians, and the guns, but I guess that's kind of minimal in the grand scheme. He is a deeply caring man.

PRISHA

And, he kinda hot.

Prisha giggles. Debbie and Christine can't believe SHE said this.

DEBBIE

What? Did I just hear Prisha Carter call a MAN hot?

PRISHA

What? I can recognize an attractive man when I see one.

CHRISTINE

Well he is black. So it's still pretty "woke". If he was a white man, I'd be really floored.

Prisha lets out a fake gasp and puts her hand over her chest a la pearl clutching.

PRISHA

I can't believe you would say - yeah that's true.

INT. O'MALLEY'S IRISH PUB - SAME TIME

The DOOR swings open, Kylie, Sabrina, Curtis, Maurice, and Jerry strut into the bar.

There are actually quite a few patrons, despite being Thanksgiving. A few at the bar. Some in booths. People playing darts. People playing pool.

As they approach the large circular bar, we see BOBBY (40s), small town bartender, rough around the edges. He has a TOOTHPICK in his mouth and polishes some glasses as he hangs them up.

JERRY

Hey, Bobby. Happy Thanksgiving, bud!

BOBBY

Jerry! Happy Thanksgiving. You brought the whole gang, eh?

JERRY

Well, some of them, anyway.

Jerry introduces them to Bobby, the bartender.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Everyone this is Bobby. Bobby, this is Curtis, he's Debbie's husband.

BOBBY

Nice. Debbie Carter. She was smoking back in High School. Good catch man. She still holding up?

CURTIS
 Uh, yeah. She's just fine...
 thanks.

JERRY
 This is Maurice.

BOBBY
 (singing)
*Some people call me Maurice, reeee,
 roooowwww.*

Awkward pause. Curtis and Maurice share a look.

JERRY
 So, he's dating Christine. You know
 Christine, right?

BOBBY
 Yeah, buddy. She was always a
 little heart-breaker.
 (singing)
*Heart breaker, love taker! Don't
 you mess around. No no no!*

He sees Maurice is not to stoked on this. He stops singing
 and gets more serious.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
 No.... No, she's a cool chick, bro.
 You're a lucky man.

Jerry quickly moves on.

JERRY
 This is Sabrina. Do you remember
 Prisha? My cousin? She was a bit
 younger than you.

BOBBY
 Nice!

Awkward pause... again.

JERRY
 Well, this is her girlfriend.

BOBBY
 Girlfriend? Note to self, not
 gettin' those digits.

SABRINA
 Wife, actually.

JERRY

Oh yeah. That's right. I forgot you guys got married. Sorry about that.

SABRINA

No worries. It's not a big deal.

CURTIS

Good thing Prisha didn't hear him say that, we'd all be given a dissertation on the Obergefell v. Hodges decision of 2015.

SABRINA

Wow. Curt, I'm impressed. You know the court case and everything.

KYLIE

Well, he has to know which ones to overturn.

JERRY

And this is my cousin, Kylie. You know her. Debbie and Christine's little sister.

He laughs to himself.

BOBBY

Yeah. I know KYLE. Traded in the football uniform for a dress, eh buddy?

Irritated, but doing her best to ignore this asshole.

KYLIE

That's right, Fondler. I mean Findel.

Bobby's facial expression changes to anger and he switches the toothpick in his mouth from side to side.

CURTIS

Oh you're Bobby FINDEL. Debbie's told me a lot about you.

Bobby smiles, assuming she was talking about how she had a crush on him.

BOBBY

Yeah? I bet.

JERRY

So you guys wanna sit at the bar or
grab a booth?

They pause for a second to think about it. The group looks at Bobby, then back at each other.

EVERYONE

Booth.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Jackson is super focused on the game he is playing. He sits a foot from the TV, wide-eyed, tongue half-way out, like it helps with the controller.

JACKSON

Whoa, did you see that, Uncle Bare?

Barry now sits on the couch next to Mad. He has his feet up, turned sideways to face her. Mad sits similarly, with her journal in her lap.

BARRY

(to Jackson, without
turning)

That's great, buddy!

MAD

It's not that I don't love my
little brother, I just don't
understand why I have to be the one
to take care of him all the time.
I'm not a babysitter. And aside
from when he's playing video games,
he can be a real...

(looking for the word)

Handful.

BARRY

Yeah, well little brothers can be
like that. I know, I was one.

MAD

Yeah, but you were cool, I bet. I
never heard Grandpa Joe say
anything bad about you.

BARRY

Well if your great Aunt Caroline
was still around, she might have a
different opinion.

(MORE)

BARRY (CONT'D)

She was the oldest and had to watch me and your grandpa. Let's just say... we were both handfuls.

MAD

Yeah I guess. It's not about us. It's about them. They fight all the time. Mom wants to go back to work. Dad is all about his job. My parents keep saying they're "staying together for the kids". Well, they don't tell us that, but I have heard them both say it when they didn't know I could hear them. But the thing is, it sucks. They're not doing it for us, they're doing it for themselves and how my dad looks to his constituents. Good Christian man, could never get a divorce. He has the perfect family. It's total bullshit and I get stuck in the middle watching my little brother. I'm sixteen. I'm not an adult. I don't want to be an adult. Why do I have to raise a kid? Especially one that doesn't even appreciate me.

BARRY

Well, I'm not sure that's true. Before you came in here, all he could talk about was you. Wanting to play video games with you. How cool you are. I see how he looks at you. I looked up to your Grandpa like that. I wish someone looked up to me the way Jackie looks up to you.

MAD

I do.

BARRY

Come on.

MAD

I DO! Grandpa Joe may be "Mr. Family", but you're the glue that holds this family together. Everyone knows that. You can just roll with any situation, it's amazing. And look at Aunt Prisha.

(MORE)

MAD (CONT'D)

I mean, I never even met your wife, but you raised your daughter, who is incredible, all on your own. I mean who does that? Adopts a daughter and raises her as a single dad?

BARRY

Well, I had no choice. I mean, Joan wasn't able to have kids of her own and I always wanted one. We adopted Presh and I soon realized Joan wasn't able to have kids emotionally, either. I did what I had to do for my daughter.

MAD

And everyone admires you for it.

BARRY

Ya think? I always feel like I'm either considered the family burn-out or just the dumb kid brother who can't fend for himself.

Mad chuckles.

MAD

Well, maybe a little. Luckily, Uncle Jerry is rapidly passing you on the right, for both those titles.

They both laugh.

MAD (CONT'D)

But in all honesty, if you weren't here this weekend, I'm not sure we wouldn't have a dead relative by the end of it. If I had my driver's license, I'd be back in Raleigh already.

Uncle Barry reaches over and gives her a big hug. She hugs back.

BARRY

Nope. We can't have that. I'm counting on you to talk some sense into that brother of mine.

He pulls away from the hug and looks her in the eyes.

BARRY (CONT'D)

You might be the only one he listens to.

EXT. BACKYARD GAZEBO - SAME TIME

The three women a bit more drunk and a little louder. Still talking about issues, but letting loose and having some fun with the talk too.

PRISHA

Wait. Wait. Wait. So you guys haven't had sex in a YEAR?

CHRISTINE

What the fuck? Is he on anti-depressants than kill his libido or something? Maurice can't go a week.

DEBBIE

You guys have been dating like what? A year? We have been together for eighteen years. Holy shit! I can't believe that just came out of my mouth, EIGHTEEN.

CHRISTINE

Maybe something else needs to come out of your mouth once in a while.

PRISHA

Ew, gross. You just burned that image in my brain for life.

DEBBIE

Trust me. I've tried. It's like a whole ordeal these days. Having two kids around all the time. Then when we do have some time alone, it's more planning, blue pills, wine, blah blah blah.

CHRISTINE

See! You guys give me shit all the time, but THIS is like my biggest fear. Eighteen years and you can't stand the hearing the other person's voice, much less want to fuck them. You even still attracted to him?

DEBBIE

Yeah. I mean, neither of us look like we did eighteen years ago, but he's still the man I fell in love with.

PRISHA

I can't see 'Brina and I ever being like that. She's like a rabbit.

CHRISTINE

The animal or the vibrator?

DEBBIE

Well, I know which one I'd pick.

They laugh.

PRISHA

I don't get it, though, Deb. You guys don't agree on much of anything anymore, the sex is dried up, the kids obviously are affected by this; why stay together?

DEBBIE

You think the kids notice?

Christine and Prisha almost fall out of their chairs laughing.

CHRISTINE

Sorry, sis! Sorry!
(working to regain her composure)

I don't mean to laugh, but really? Have you seen your daughter? She's ready to leave the Braden family and join the Manson Family. I mean she is an amazing, super smart, kick-ass kid, but if she were any more of an introvert, you'd have to get her a cabin in the woods and a manifesto.

PRISHA

I think she IS writing a manifesto. And Jackson, isn't on the spectrum. Trust me, I am a social worker. The kid just needs attention from someone that isn't digital.

DEBBIE

I know. I know. I guess I just didn't want to admit it. The thing is, I've been trying to get my career back up. I don't want to leave until I can support myself again and that just makes both of us absent in the mean time. Plus, I just have this fear of fucking up my kids, fucking up Curtis's career.

CHRISTINE

Sacrifice yourself to keep the peace, just like Mom.

PRISHA

You're a brilliant lawyer, Deb, you should have no problem finding work.

DEBBIE

I wish that were the case, but I've been out of the game for, well... thirteen years now.

CHRISTINE

Has it been that long?

DEBBIE

Mad is sixteen. When Curtis and I got married, I had the better job. So when we had Madison, he stayed home while I worked. He spent that time building his political career. When that took off, I quit. I wanted to be home. I wanted to be a mom.

PRISHA

I never knew that. You supported Mr. Patriarchy? HE was a stay-at-home dad?

Debbie nods.

CHRISTINE

He was actually a pretty good one. I remember watching him when Maddie was little and thinking, "Damn, all the men in this family are such good Dads."

DEBBIE
Well, except Jerry.

They all laugh.

PRISHA
Holy shit, could you imagine Jerry
being responsible for another human
being? Totally unvaccinated.
Feeding it homemade formula mixed
with rain water.

Christine and Debbie start laughing.

PRISHA (CONT'D)
I can picture a baby with a tiny
tin foil hat, sleeping in a crib
made out of a Faraday cage,
starring up at a flat Earth mobile.

Christine starts to lose it.

CHRISTINE
Stop! Stop!

PRISHA
(imitating Jerry)
Have you met the twins? "Truth" and
"Building Seven"? IT WAS AN INSIDE
JOB, MAN!

Christine starts stomping her feet and squinches her face
trying not to spit out her wine. She swallows and then takes
in a gasping breath.

DEBBIE
Oh shit, you almost killed Chris.

INT. O'MALLEY'S IRISH PUB - A LITTLE LATER

Curtis, Maurice, Kylie, Sabrina and Jerry in a booth. They're
all about to toast their drinks.

JERRY
Black sheep unite.
(to Maurice)
No offense.

Maurice looks confused.

JERRY (CONT'D)
Not than anyone wants to be a sheep
either, but you get me.

They "cheers" and drink.

JERRY (CONT'D)
 Ok, who's up for some darts?
 (Scanning the table)
 Sabrina, I heard you're like an
 expert with darts!

CURTIS
 Um, I think what you're trying to
 say, is she went to Dartmouth.

Everyone chuckles. Jerry realizes his mistake. Curtis puts
 his arm around Jerry.

CURTIS (CONT'D)
 You gotta love Jerry: 100%
 commitment and 0% accuracy.

Jerry playfully pantomimes choking Curtis.

SABRINA
 Actually, you're both right.

The two men stop "pretend fighting" and look at Sabrina.

SABRINA (CONT'D)
 I graduated from Dartmouth, AND I
 was the number one dart player in
 The Student Council. I'll kick all
 your asses.

JERRY
 Oh, you're on, Sister!

They both get up and start walking off.

JERRY (CONT'D)
 Would you mind playing the first
 game with your left hand?

SABRINA
 No problem. I'm left-handed.

JERRY
 Aw, Shit!

As they exit, the other three crack up. The laughter dies
 down, and ...

CURTIS
 Hey Maurice - I gotta apologize.
 After hearing Bobby the Fondler do
 that same Steve Miller joke...
 (MORE)

CURTIS (CONT'D)
yeah, that would have to get
annoying.

MAURICE
No worries, Curt - but I appreciate
it. Hey, I'm still luckier than my
college roommate, "LeRoy Brown".

They all laugh.

KYLIE
And to think ... instead of
"Kylie", I almost went with "Lola".

They all laugh again. Everyone seems relieved and much
happier.

MAURICE
Excuse me, my friends. Nature
calls.

Maurice smiles and exits.

KYLIE
My God, this is such a better
environment.

CURTIS
Agreed.

Curtis takes a drink.

KYLIE
I mean, don't get me wrong - I love
the fam - but I just need a break
from all the drama.

Curtis looks at her, taking in what she just said.

CURTIS
Too late for that. We all make our
choices.

KYLIE
What the fuck does that mean?

CURTIS
Look, I don't want turn the good
time here south, but you gotta
admit - the lifestyle you chose
comes with its share of drama.

She looks at him. *Christ, here we go again...*

KYLIE

Curtis, every time I think you're beginning to open your mind just this much,
(Gesturing with her thumb and index finger)
You open your mouth.

CURTIS

I'm not being close-minded, I'm just stating a fact: You can't complain about your life being complicated if you helped make it that way.

KYLIE

So you still thing gender's a choice?

CURTIS

It's not what God intended. Gender is determined by what equipment God gave you. That's not my rule.

KYLIE

Oh, so now you're the arbiter of what God intended? How the fuck do you know? I mean you're gonna sit there and tell me that God is all loving, all powerful and all knowing, yet fucked up when he made me?

CURTIS

That's not what I am saying. That's what YOU'RE saying. He gave us free will. YOU are choosing to deny how he made you.

KYLIE

So if he's all knowing, wouldn't he have KNOWN what I was going to do ahead of time? So either he made me a trans woman OR he made me with a brain that thinks I am, right? Why did he make my brain like this and yours like that?

CURTIS

God has a plan. We can't question it. We just have to accept it.

KYLIE

That's what I'm doing, Curtis.
YOU'RE the one who isn't.

Curtis lets this sink in.

KYLIE (CONT'D)

The way I see it, THIS is the
person God always wanted me to be.

CURTIS

You really believe that, don't you?

KYLIE

Why would God make me this way if
it's wrong?

CURTIS

I don't know. It just seems like,
why make things so difficult?

KYLIE

You think I WANT my life to be
difficult?

CURTIS

Well, just sayin', being "Kyle" is
a lot easier than being "Kylie". I
understand we're living in a time
where it's "cool to be Trans", but-

KYLIE

Ha! "Cool to be Trans"? Please, I
WISH it was cool.

CURTIS

Well, that's what liberal media is
pushing. Every time I turn on the
TV, someone is "coming out" or
"transitioning" and everyone is
praising them like they won the
lottery.

KYLIE

Yeah - well, I don't live in "the
liberal media". I live in the real
world.

She gestures to a few guys at the bar looking at her,
laughing, and presumably talking shit. Curtis recognizes this
and feels sympathy for her.

KYLIE (CONT'D)

I certainly don't feel like I won the fucking lottery. And as far as your liberal media goes, you know how many gigs I've booked since transitioning?

Curtis shakes his head.

KYLIE (CONT'D)

Two. One was "Trans Hooker", the other... "Dead Trans Hooker". You know I was doing pretty well as Kyle. I had a recurring part on the sitcom, doing a lot of guest spots, commercials... now I work at Starbucks and occasionally play a dead hooker. So fuck the "liberal media" and fuck Hollywood, to them I'm just as much of a token as I am to everyone else. Just another box to check on the diversity tax credit form.

She looks away for a moment, fighting back tears. She looks back at him.

CURTIS

So then why put yourself through all that?

KYLIE

That's a really good question, Curt. Perhaps I should be asking you that. Why would I intentionally sacrifice my career, my family... Jesus, even being able to go to a fucking bar in my home town without getting glared at by a bunch of assholes? For a fad? Really? You really think I'm doing this because it's "cool to be Trans"?

This sits with Curtis for a minute.

CURTIS

If you could go back 3 years ago, would you do it again?

KYLIE

Yes! Of course. Because this is who I AM, and sometimes you gotta lose everything to be who you are, because being who you are... is most important.

She takes a drink. Her last statement deeply affects Curtis. He looks away, uncomfortable and overwhelmed...

Maurice returns from the bathroom and quickly sits down.

MAURICE

Hey. I don't want to interrupt your conversation here, but some guy over there just took your picture.

CURTIS

Where?

MAURICE

That guy. Over at the bar.

Maurice points to an OVERWEIGHT WHITE MAN with a BEARD, AARON BURN (40s) in the bar area, stealthily snaps a picture of them with his phone.

MAURICE (CONT'D)

He's been snapping pics for the last couple minutes. He's trying to be sneaky, but he's definitely interested in you.

CURTIS

What the hell?

Curtis jumps up from the table and rapidly approaches him. He puts on his fake "politician smile".

CURTIS (CONT'D)

Excuse me, friend?

The Photographer looks up.

CURTIS (CONT'D)

Hi. We were sitting over there and when I glanced over, it looked like you were taking pictures.

AARON BURN

Yep.

Curtis looks around incredulously: This dude is unbelievably brash.

CURTIS

Well, we'd appreciate it if you didn't do that. In fact, it would be really great if you would delete them for me.

Aaron doesn't even look up from his beer and his phone.

AARON BURN

Sorry, no can do, buddy.

CURTIS

I think we got off on the wrong foot.

(extending his hand)

See I'm Curtis Braden, I'm a politician and-

AARON BURN

I know who you are, Senator.

Burns looks up.

AARON BURN (CONT'D)

Why do you think I took your picture?

Maurice and Kylie walk up next to Curtis. Aaron puts his hands up to "billboard" his headline.

AARON BURN (CONT'D)

Prominent Republican State Senator running for Congress, out on Thanksgiving, partying with a Tranny, when he should be home with his family ... that's one helluva headline.

KYLIE

Whoa! First off, we ARE his family - he's my brother-in-law.

AARON BURN

Ooh. That's even juicier.

He billboards again.

AARON BURN (CONT'D)

Anti-gay, homophobic, Congressman cheating on his wife with her brother-turned sister!

KYLIE

Oh please, you know that's bullshit. And what you're implying is ridiculous. Trust me, this man is the most homophobic person I've ever met!

CURTIS

Thanks, Kylie.

AARON BURN

Yep, the gayest people always are.

CURTIS

Listen, we're not here to make a scene. I just need you to delete those pictures.

AARON BURN

No way, man. This story's too good-

CURTIS

It's NOT a real story. You're-

AARON BURN

Making it up? Yeah. Welcome to the world of internet news. Have a nice night, folks.

He stands up to leave.

MAURICE

Sir, just delete the images.

Aaron starts to leave, Curtis grabs his phone and wrestles it out of his hands!

CURTIS

Gimme that!

Aaron PUNCHES Curtis in the jaw! Curtis falls backward onto a table and rolls off, dropping the phone the on the floor. The Photographer dives on it and shoves it into his pants pocket. As he stands up, Kylie DECKS him in the nose!

Burn drops to his butt. Kylie stands over him, squaring up menacingly.

KYLIE

I told you not to fuck with my family. Now, how's it feel to get your ass kicked by a girl?

Just then, Jerry and Sabrina run over to the group.

SABRINA
What the hell's going on?

JERRY
You guys alright?

Aaron slowly stands holding his nose. As he takes his hand off it, Jerry recognizes him.

JERRY (CONT'D)
No way! Aaron Burn?!! Here, lemme help you up.

Jerry pulls Aaron up, who's still recovering from the punch. Kylie and Maurice look at each other, bewildered.

KYLIE
Jer, what are you doing? This asshole just punched Curtis.

JERRY
What? No way. Guys, this is Aaron Burn, from "Burn it Down".

The others look at each other again. No one has a clue what he's talking about.

JERRY (CONT'D)
(to Curtis)
The site I told you about earlier. He's a conservative whistleblower! This guy uncovers all the secrets THEY don't want you to know about.

Maurice smirks at Sabrina, who smiles and shakes her head.

CURTIS
Yeah, well, he was taking pictures of Kylie and me and threatening to make up a fake story.

JERRY
No way. This has to be a misunderstanding. He's the guy who EXPOSES the fake news!

Aaron grabs his backpack and throws it over his shoulder.

AARON BURN
Whatever. Both these GUYS
(referring to Kylie)
are lucky I'm not suing.

He starts walking out.

JERRY

(To the others)

Don't worry, I'll talk to him and get him to delete the pictures.

Jerry heads out after Aaron.

Kylie checks on Curtis, who holds the side of his face.

KYLIE

You alright, Curt?

CURTIS

Yeah, thank you.

Curtis puts his hand on Kylie's shoulder.

CURTIS (CONT'D)

Kylie... seriously. You didn't need to do that.

(beat)

... you're the bravest girl I ever met.

They share a smile. Sabrina walks up, positions herself between them, and puts her arms around them both.

SABRINA

As Jackson would say, "Get a room, you two!"

They all crack up.

INT. JOE AND MARGE'S BEDROOM

Joe and Marge SLOW DANCE to Kay Starr's "If You Love Me" a cover of "Hymne à l'amour" by Edith Piaf.

Joe hums and sings along at parts.

JOE

(singing)

When at last my life on Earth is through, I will share eternity with you. If you love me. Really love me. Da da da da da.

(back to talking)

Ahh, these are the times I'm gonna miss most.

MARGE

Well, that's why we need to get in as many of them as we can.

JOE

Remember on our honeymoon? We were in that little restaurant in Botzaris.

MARGE

Of course I remember. They had that Edith Piaf impersonator. You told her this was our song and she sang "Hymne à l'amour".

JOE

And you were too embarrassed to dance with me.

MARGE

It was the middle of a restaurant. There were people everywhere.

JOE

But you did. And for that song, we were the only people in that restaurant.

MARGE

We were the only people in all of France.

They kiss.

MARGE (CONT'D)

You want to know what I really want, Joe? I want to spend however long we have left together just like this.

JOE

Me too.

They kiss again.

JOE (CONT'D)

I am SO sorry I didn't ask you what you wanted, love. I can't believe I was so blind to your needs all these years.

MARGE

Nah. Not blind. Maybe a little obtuse sometimes, but I forgive you... But I think you need to think about a few other people and what they want.

(MORE)

MARGE (CONT'D)

I know one little girl in particular, that really wants to be heard.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mad is sound asleep on the couch. She has been covered with a blanket.

She sleeps soundly, despite the fact that Uncle Barry and Jackson play Dance Dance Revolution just feet from her. And it's NOT quiet.

JACKSON

Dang, Uncle Bare, you got the moves!

BARRY

You should see me spin at a Dead show!

EXT. BAR - SAME TIME

Jerry talks to Aaron Burn right outside O'Malley's.

JERRY

I'm a HUGE fan, man. I mean every thing you say just totally confirms all the suspicions I have about our corrupt government. I mean you expose the most amazing info, man. You're doing such a service to this country. But I don't think you're understanding, there's no story here. These are my cousins. We're just having a drink after Thanksgiving. He's a really good guy. He's on our side, too. He's a Republican.

AARON BURN

Who cares?

JERRY

Who cares? Gee, I don't know - anyone with a soul who supports good journalism.

AARON BURN

What do you think I am?

JERRY

Whatta you mean? You're Aaron Burn, man. Truth-teller. Educator. You're like Woodward and Bernstein rolled into one.

AARON BURN

I'm a Salesman, Dude. You think I have three homes because I "tell the truth"? It's all about those clicks.

JERRY

Just give me the phone.

AARON BURN

Not gonna happen.

Jerry snatches the phone out of his hand.

JERRY

What's the password, douchebag?

AARON BURN

The password is, GO. FUCK. YOURSELF. All caps.

Jerry cocks his head and stares at Aaron for a beat.

INT. O'MALLEY'S IRISH PUB - MOMENTS LATER

The door swings open and in busts Jerry. He proudly struts to the bar to join Maurice, Kylie and Curtis.

JERRY

You won't have to worry about that guy. I got it under control. Whatta you say we get a drink?

Curtis, Maurice agree. Kylie looks in her wallet, NOT MUCH CASH.

KYLIE

You know, I'm probably good for the night.

Maurice notices.

MAURICE

You sure you can't have one more? I'm buying this round. Come on have one more with us.

KYLIE
Ok. Cool. One more.

They are all in agreement now. Jerry turns to Bobby.

JERRY
Yo, Bob. Can I get a round for everyone?

BOBBY
Way ahead of you, boss.
(to Maurice)
And you can put your money away. These are on me. A little thanks to my girl, Kylie for dropping that douchebag. I fucking hate that asshole and his conspiracy bullshit!

KYLIE
Wow. Thanks, Bobby. So I'm your girl, huh?

BOBBY
Yeah, well don't let it go to your head. You're still only the third most attractive Carter Sister.

Bobby sets down 5 shots on the counter.

CURTIS
What're we drinking here?

BOBBY
That's the O'Malley's special, we call it the O'Ma-God.

MAURICE
What's in it?

BOBBY
You do NOT wanna know!

MAURICE
Well, that's comforting.

They all grab their shots. There is one left.

JERRY
Wait. Where's Sabrina?

MAURICE
Oh yeah - we gotta wait for her. She's at the juke box.

ANGLE ON SABRINA as she dramatically hits the last button on her selection. She turns and gives the guys a sly look.

The FIRST BEAT of the song booms through the bar, as Sabrina starts dance-walking back to the bar...

It's *The Joker* by Steve Miller Band. She sings the first line.

SABRINA
*"Some people call me the Space
 Cowboy ..."*

The crew at the bar all react with "Oooohhs!"

Maurice is slightly embarrassed, but loves it and sings along. They all sing as they raise their shot glasses.

Other patrons join in.

EVERYONE
*"Some call me the gangster of
 love!"*

Sabrina is now back with the crew. They all stand in a huddle, swaying and singing. Kylie hands her the shot.

EVERYONE (CONT'D)
"Some people call me Maurice!"

The crew points at Maurice and he points at himself.

EVERYONE (CONT'D)
"Reeeee. Rrrroooowww!"

The crew take their shots in unison.

MOTNAGE:

MUSIC CONTINUES AS WE CUT BETWEEN VARIOUS SHOTS OF:

*The girls in the backyard are dancing with bottles of wine in their hands.

*Jackson and Barry playing Dance Dance Revolution.

*Joe and Marge continue to slow dance.

*The crew at the Bar drinking, singing, and dancing. Jerry sings into a pool cue.

INT. O'MALLEY'S IRISH PUB

MONTAGE ENDS as the Bar crew finishes out the song, beers in hand, beginning at the last "*You're the cutest thing ...*"

Song ends.

CURTIS

Oh man. I tell ya. This was a great idea. I was really worried that this weekend was going to be horrible, but I gotta tell you all, this is the best time I have had in a LONG time.

SABRINA

You know, I think we all needed to get away. They probably needed some time away from us, too.

KYLIE

Well, I probably should have been home with my family, but hey this was WAY more fun. I never thought I'd be out partying with THIS group.

MAURICE

We should probably get back before they lock us out.

They all nod for a BEAT, then...

JERRY

Let's get one more before last call.

Jerry excitedly drums on the bar and turns to Bobby.

SABRINA

And THAT'S the designated driver.

EXT. BACKYARD GAZEBO

The girls sit back down in their cushy, patio chairs. They are all drunk and exhausted. They slump down.

There are many empty wine bottles on the table. Debbie and Christine still have a bottle in hand, too.

CHRISTINE

Holy shit! This turned out to be a fun night. I was NOT expecting that.

DEBBIE

Yeah. Especially considering the circumstances.

PRISHA

We've got a rough several months ahead of us.

CHRISTINE

I just hope we get through the weekend unscathed.

From the FRONT of the house, we HEAR CAR DOORS SHUT.

PRISHA

Sounds like they're home.

She looks at her watch.

PRISHA (CONT'D)

Damn, it's late. Do you think they possibly could have had fun together?

The girls ponder for a second. Then from the front we HEAR:

SABRINA (O.C.)

Hey you. Get the door.

MAURICE (O.C.)

Some people call me Maurice.

THE CREW

Reeee. Rrrroooowww!

They all start laughing then shushing each other.

CHRISTINE

Well, I guess we got our answer.

Christine stands up.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Time to go to bed.

Prisha stands up, too. She shakes her head.

PRISHA

Can't wait to hear this story.

Debbie doesn't get up. Christine and Prisha stop and turn back.

CHRISTINE

You comin'?

DEBBIE

Nah. I'm not ready yet. I'll see you guys in the morning.

Christine and Prisha walk in through the back door. Debbie takes a swig of her bottle. She pulls her pills out of her purse, unscrews the cap, takes out a pill ... but stops.

She looks at it, then puts it back in the box, puts the lid on, puts them back into her purse.

She slumps back in her chair a bit more and gazes at the star-filled sky. She smiles and nods slightly to herself.

PAN UP to the Sky, it is blanketed with stars.

We HEAR a CAR TRUNK open.

EXT. GUEST HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jerry stands at the trunk of his Lincoln.

He REACHES down and DRAGS Aaron Burn from the trunk. Burn lands on the ground with a THUMP!

His hands are duct-taped behind him and his mouth duct-taped closed. He squirms and tries to speak.

Jerry carry/draggs Aaron into his guest house. The door closes behind them.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Joe walks into the living room. Barry is cleaning up a bit and putting the games away.

Mad is still asleep on the couch. Jackson is not there.

JOE

Mad go to bed already?

Barry turns and sees Joe. He puts his fingers to his lips, "quiet". He points to Mad on the couch, as she was not in plain view of Joe.

BARRY

Out like a light. She crashed out early. I just put Jackie to bed. I figure I'll just let Mad take my spot on the couch and I'll sleep in the den with Jackson. I think it was a pretty stressful day for her.

JOE

Yeah. I think it was for all of us. Oh well, I'll talk to her in the morning. Have a good night, Barry.

Joe turns to walk away.

BARRY

Joe.

Joe turns back.

BARRY (CONT'D)

You got a pretty amazing Granddaughter there.

Joe nods.

JOE

Thanks for being there, Barry.

Joe walks off.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Joe enters the kitchen and grabs a glass from the cupboard. He goes to the sink and fills it up with water. He looks through the window and SEES:

THROUGH JERRY'S WINDOW, Jerry throws Aaron into a chair.

Joe strains his eyes. Is he seeing what he thinks he is seeing?

Jerry goes over and closes the blinds.

INT. GUEST HOUSE

An old RADIO sits atop a table. Jerry's hand reaches in and flips the switch.

"Stuck in the Middle With You" comes pouring out of the speakers. Jerry turns his head to look at Aaron over his shoulder.

Aaron starts FREAKING OUT. He bounces up and down in his chair like Chunk in *Goonies*.

Jerry panics.

JERRY

No no no. Calm down. Calm down.

Jerry runs over and pulls the tape off Aaron's mouth for a second.

JERRY (CONT'D)

What? What are you freaking out about.

AARON BURN

I've seen *Reservoir Dogs*! I know how this ends!

JERRY

Reservoir Do-? What? NO! No. It's just the classic rock station. I don't even own a razor.

Jerry pulls out Aaron's phone which was in his breast pocket.

JERRY (CONT'D)

But you ARE gonna give me that passcode.

AARON BURN

I told you. I ain't giving you shit.

Jerry open palm slaps Aaron across the face.

JERRY

Open palm. Hurts just as bad, doesn't leave marks. I learned that on your blog! I learned a lot of shit about torture from your stories about when you were in the CIA and Afghanistan. This is about to get UGLY!

AARON BURN

Look man. Stop. I was never in the CIA ... or Afghanistan, alright? I made all that up.

Jerry can't believe this.

AARON BURN (CONT'D)

It's all made up. Everything. I don't blow the lid off fake news... I create it. Everything I do is fake or stolen from other conspiracy sites. Shit, half my followers are bots.

JERRY

What? So you're a liar AND a thief?

The DOOR busts open and there stands Joe.

JOE

Jerry, what the HELL is going on here?

JERRY

Uncle Joe, I can explain.

AARON BURN

Help. This psycho kidnapped me.

JERRY

Well, that's true. But listen. He deserved it. We were at the bar tonight, right? And this guy was taking pictures of Kylie and Curtis. This is Aaron Burn. You know the guy I always talk about? Turns out his whole thing is a scam. Can you believe that? He makes up all the stories on his site. He was gonna try to ruin Curtis's career. I swear. I just wanted him to delete the pictures. But he wouldn't give me the passcode.

JOE

Jesus Christ. What are you doing? Did you even think about what you could have brought on with this? I mean, this is my house, Jerry. I have enough problems as is. And you? You need to grow up, son. When I'm gone, and that's gonna be sooner than you think, I'm gonna need a responsible family member to be here for Marge. Help take care of her and this place. I'm counting on you to be that guy, Jer. But, you have GOT. TO. GROW. UP.

(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)

You can't be putting my wife at risk. I need to be able to rely on you.

Joe goes over and begins untaping Aaron.

JOE (CONT'D)

I am sorry, sir. This has been a very rough time for us. I was diagnosed with Stage IV colon cancer and today was the first time I had my whole family in one place at one time. This was my last Thanksgiving. Tensions are a bit high.

Aaron is standing up and dusting himself off.

JOE (CONT'D)

(to Jerry)

Give him back his phone.

(to Aaron)

Now look, I hope you find it in your heart to delete those pictures and not cause us anymore grief, but at the end of the day, that's your decision. Curtis will have to deal with the fallout. He's a big boy, I'm sure he can, but again, I leave that to you.

By now, Aaron and Joe stand in the open doorway.

JOE (CONT'D)

Please accept my apology. Happy Thanksgiving.

AARON BURN

Happy Thanksgiving ... sorry about your cancer.

Aaron leaves.

Jerry hugs Joe really hard. He starts crying.

JERRY

I'm sorry Uncle Joe. I'm sorry.

EXT. GUEST HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Aaron stops, phone in hand. He looks at the pics of Kylie and Curtis. He hits DELETE.

EXT. PORCH - NEXT MORNING

The sky is a beautiful mix of night and early dawn light as the SUN kisses the very bottom of the horizon.

We can FEEL the morning CHILL and the near absolute SILENCE.

We SEE Mad's breath as she sits on the porch, by herself, wrapped in a blanket, wearing a beanie.

MAD (V.O.)

I don't remember ever watching the sun rise before, but I had heard people talk metaphorically about sun rises; epiphanies, new days dawning, all that stuff. I've never considered myself a spiritual person, in fact quite the opposite, but I felt a shift at that moment. Like something had changed or was about to ... for all of us.

We HEAR the DOOR open and close as Debbie walks out and stands beside Mad.

Debbie is still dressed the way she was the night before.

DEBBIE

Hey, there ya are. Uncle Barry told me you were out here, but I didn't believe it. Whatcha doing?

MAD

Just watching the sunrise.

DEBBIE

Can I join you?

Mad opens her blanket and Debbie sits down, huddling under the blanket with her daughter.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

What are you doing up so early?

MAD

I don't know. I fell asleep on the couch last night, really early. I woke up at 6:30. Was wide awake, so I came out here. What happened to you? You look like you haven't gone to bed yet.

(sniffs her)

Whew. Smells like it too.

Debbie laughs.

DEBBIE

Yeah, me, Presh and your Aunt Christine partied pretty hard last night. Haven't done that in forever. I passed out in the gazebo.

MAD

Yeah, seems like all of you guys had a mid-life crisis last night.

DEBBIE

Yeah, it's been rough lately. That's for sure.

MAD

It's been that way for a while with you and Dad, dontcha think?

DEBBIE

Yeah, well it hasn't been easy.

MAD

Do you still love Dad?

Debbie can sense this makes Mad upset and pulls her in tighter.

DEBBIE

Oh honey, yes. Me and your father are like best friends. I mean we've grown a bit apart with his political stuff in the last few years, but no, I adore your father. Our problems are ... well, I really don't want to get into my sex life with my daughter here, but let's just say we lost that spark a long time ago. Unfortunately sometimes without that, it's hard to work on the other stuff.

MAD

You guys are gonna get a divorce, right?

DEBBIE

I don't know, honey. It's complicated.

MAD

Mom. It's OK. I'm not Jack. I can handle it. In fact, I think we'd all be better off in some ways.

DEBBIE

We want to work it out, because we love each other, but we'll just have to see what the future brings.

Mad starts crying and digs her face into Debbie's shoulder.

Debbie is taken aback. Why the sudden shift?

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

Honey. Honey. It's OK. What's the matter? I thought you were cool with thi-

MAD

It's not that, Mom. It's Grandpa. Why does Grandpa have to die? I don't want him to die.

DEBBIE

I know. I know. Cancer is just one of those things, kiddo. You never know when it might hit, how hard-

MAD

But he isn't even gonna try, Mom. I don't understand why. Maybe it works and I get my Grandpa a little longer. Why won't he at least try?

DEBBIE

I think you need to ask HIM that question.

She kisses Mad on the head.

The sun has now fully risen and glows an inspiring mixture of colors and light.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER IN THE MORNING

Marge is busy making some breakfast. Christine and Maurice sit at the bar, drinking coffee. Barry stands near them as well.

Mad enters.

CHRISTINE
Hey Mad! Morning.

MAD
Morning. How was your night?

Mad walks over and fixes herself a cup of coffee.

CHRISTINE
It was fun.

MAURICE
We had a blast, too.

MARGE
When did you start drinking coffee,
young lady?

MAD
I don't know. Like a year ago.

Curtis enters from the back with a cup of coffee already in hand, and gives Mad a kiss on the top of the head.

CURTIS
Morning, Sunshine. Where you been?

MAD
I was outside on the porch. I got
up early, so I watched the sunrise
with Mom.

CHRISTINE
Your mother got up at sunrise?

CURTIS
No, I think she was just going to
bed. She's crashed out in the room
right now. I guess you guys had a
pretty crazy night?

CHRISTINE
Look whose talking, party animal.
Mo told me you guys closed
O'Malley's, got in a fight.

Mad looks at her Dad and inspects the fat lip.

MAD
What? Dad, you got in a fight? That
is so inappropriate!

Kylie comes into the kitchen and right to the freezer.

KYLIE

Yeah, it wasn't that big a deal,
but not sure what's worse - your
Dad's face, or my hand.

(to Marge)

I'm gonna steal some frozen
veggies, Ma.

MAD

You decked my dad? Jesus, what did
he say THIS time?

She puts the frozen veggies on her hand.

CURTIS

Please. Like I'm gonna get dropped
by a girl.

Kylie looks at him with a look playful smirk.

KYLIE

(to Mad)

Hey. You know that's twice now he's
acknowledged my correct gender.

MAD

(sarcastically)

Progressive!

Sabrina comes in.

SABRINA

Good Morning, everyone. Does anyone
know where I left my phone? I need
to check on the dogs and tell the
sitter we're gonna stay another
day.

MARGE

You are? Oh, how great!

SABRINA

Yeah, Presh and I thought it would
be fun. I didn't think I drank that
much last night, but I can't
remember where I left my phone.

MAURICE

I think I saw it in the living
room.

Sabrina snaps her fingers, nods in acknowledgment and darts
out of the room. WE FOLLOW SABRINA into the LIVING ROOM.

INT. LIVING ROOM

She immediately sees her phone charging on a side table. She grabs it and walks toward the bedroom.

INT. PRISHA AND SABRINA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sabrina looks at her phone and clicks on the icon, "New Messages". We see an image of a YOUNG, SHIRTLESS MAN smiling as he takes a selfie. She looks confused and continues clicking on the other "New Messages" ... then looks shocked!

SABRINA

Who is that?

Just then, Prisha appears, hovering over her shoulder. She sees the images and becomes equally shocked!

PRISHA

OmiGod! You got a bunch of dick pics!

(Snatching the phone)

"Can't wait to see you again."

Brina, what the fuck is this???

SABRINA

I have NO IDEA! Look, I was with the guys from our family all night - we just went to the bar, had some drinks-

PRISHA

(Scrolling)

Yeah, looks like you had too many drinks.

SABRINA

Oh, please. What do you think, I drank myself straight?

Prisha suddenly realizes something ...

PRISHA

Holy Shit...

(looks up)

This isn't your phone.

SABRINA

Well, then whose-

Sabrina connects the dots. She's flabbergasted.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

No way ...

Prisha nods and smiles.

PRISHA

That self-righteous hypocrite. I
KNEW he was full of shit! Yes!

SABRINA

Wait, you're happy about this?

PRISHA

Damn right I'm happy! I've been
dealing with his homophobic
judgment for years. Well, looks
like Curt doth protest too much!
The press is gonna have field day
with these!

SABRINA

The press? I can't believe you.

PRISHA

What?

SABRINA

You're really about to try and
destroy a man's life FOR being gay?
So much for being a champion for
LGTBQ rights.

PRISHA

Oh, come on. You've dealt with his
shit all these years. Don't you
remember what he said when you
first met him?

SABRINA

Don't YOU remember what it was like
hiding your sexuality from your
family?

Prisha looks away. She remembers too well.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

Remember how that felt? All that
anxiety, all that shame, all that
... pain?

Prisha looks back at Sabrina and nods. Prisha now appears
guilt-stricken and sad.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

Don't you think that's exactly what Curtis is feeling right now? Shit, and in his position, multiply that by a hundred. And he's gonna feel even worse when we give him back his phone.

Prisha grabs Sabrina's hand and takes a deep breath.

PRISHA

I know ... it's just, he's always been such an asshole and out there fighting against us for all these years. It feels good to have some dirt on the enemy!

SABRINA

But he's not the enemy. We're actually on the same team. I mean, he's family for Christ's sake. We should be allies.

PRISHA

OhmiGod, that's something I NEVER thought I'd hear.

She smiles at Sabrina.

SABRINA

So maybe instead of kicking him while he's down...

PRISHA

We should support him and his struggle.

Prisha grabs the phone.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Kylie is icing her hand with the frozen veggies. Everyone drinking coffee. Marge is making bacon, scrambled eggs and pancakes. There is a plate of bacon she keeps adding to, as the pieces are cooked.

Kylie reaches over and grabs a piece of bacon with her bad hand and Marge playfully slaps it.

KYLIE

Ow! Shit.

MARGE

Oh! Oh no. I am so sorry honey.

She kisses her daughter and laughs.

KYLIE

No. No. My fault. Damn, I just can't believe we got into a fight last night, over something so stupid. You know, its crazy to me that something as minor as ME sitting with my brother-in-law, could cause him to lose his job.

CHRISTINE

Unfortunately, it's the world we live in.

KYLIE

Look who's talking. My own sisters don't think I'm one of them.

CHRISTINE

Jesus, Kylie that is such bullshit, we've always supported you. Just stop with the "poor me" shit.

KYLIE

Poor me? You walk a fucking week in my shoes.

CHRISTINE

Well you're the one-

KYLIE

What? The one that CHOSE this?

CHRISTINE

That's not what I was going to say.

KYLIE

Whatever.

Kylie walks out of the kitchen. Christine goes to follow her and Maurice puts his hand on her shoulder.

MAURICE

Lemme handle this, ok?

Christine sits back down and complies.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Kylie sits on the couch. She flips on the TV.

Maurice enters, sits next to her, and turns it off.

MAURICE

Hey. Look, I can't pretend to know what you're going through. But I do know this, your sisters love you. They accept you. I know last night really got under your skin, but I can promise you, it wasn't intentional. I know for you, being Kylie has probably been something you've felt forever, but for everyone who's known you your whole life, it's still new.

KYLIE

It's been ALMOST FOUR YEARS.

MAURICE

I know. But it's just gonna take people a while. They're trying. Look, this is gonna sound weird at first, but hear me out. I grew up with a dude named Seymore. Seymore Johnson.

Kylie chuckles.

MAURICE (CONT'D)

Exactly. You can imagine the dumb jokes he heard all the time. So after college, he changed his name to Lyle. Not sure why he picked Lyle, but he wanted a professional sounding name, a fresh start, whatever. I got NO problem with that. But to me, he's Seymore. I've known Seymore for over twenty years. To this day, every time I see him, I have to try really hard to NOT call him Seymore. Sometimes I fuck it up. He gets mad sometimes and I have to tell him, "You don't think Lady Ga Ga's mother still calls her Stephanie from time to time?" And hell, Kylie - you work at Starbucks, you guys get everybody's name wrong!

Kylie laughs again.

MAURICE (CONT'D)

And I'm not trying to equate a name change to gender or you being who you are. The point is, even those who love you and accept you are gonna need time too. And they're gonna fuck up sometimes. They're human. It's a transition for them, too.

KYLIE

Yeah. Yeah. You're right. The thing is, it's not even really about all that. I just have been having a really hard time lately. I feel like my life is spinning out of control and I don't know how to stop it. I mean, I wanted to be an actor and that was going well, but now that's just non-existent. I'm not even sure I want it anymore. But now I'm working as a fucking barista and even there, I get looks like they don't want me making their latte. Then I thought, maybe I could go back to school, finish my degree, but it's so fucking expensive in Los Angeles. I can't afford it.

MAURICE

Well, if you want, I can probably make a couple calls and help get you into Georgetown.

KYLIE

You would do that?

Christine walks in.

CHRISTINE

Hey, sorry, I don't want to interrupt. I just really wanted to apologize to my sister. Kylie, I'm so sorry for not including you last night. I honestly didn't mean it. I love you so much and it was really inconsiderate and well, shitty of me to-

KYLIE

Chris. Chris. It's OK. I understand.

Kylie stands.

KYLIE (CONT'D)

And, I'm over it. But thank you. By the way, you've got a great man here. Don't fuck it up.

They hug each other.

KYLIE (CONT'D)

I'm gonna go check on breakfast.

Kylie exits.

CHRISTINE

Honey, I need to apologize to you, too.

MAURICE

Nope. No you don't. People say things they don't mean in the heat of the moment.

She smiles and grabs his hands.

MAURICE (CONT'D)

By the way, I told Kylie I could pull some strings and get her into Georgetown.

CHRISTINE

Really? Wow, that's amazing.

MAURICE

And ... I was thinking ... maybe she could come live with us until she gets on her feet.

CHRISTINE

Us? We don't live together.

MAURICE

Yeah, I wanted to talk to you about that, too.

Christine jumps in his arms and kisses him.

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Prisha and Curtis walk into the garage through the door to the house and shut the door behind them.

CURTIS
So, what's going on?

PRISHA
So ... this morning, Sabrina
accidentally grabbed your phone,
and I just wanted to give it back
to you.

Curtis swallows hard, while a nervous look consumes his face,
as Prisha hands him back his phone.

CURTIS
Well, thanks. Uh, yeah, I
appreciate that.

He looks at the screen.

CURTIS (CONT'D)
Whoa. What's this about?

PRISHA
You tell me.

CURTIS
I, I'm not sure. Is this a joke or
something? I don't get it.

PRISHA
Curt. It's OK. I've been there.

CURTIS
Been there? What are you talking
about?

PRISHA
Hey man, I know how hard this is. I
know exactly what you're going
through. Millions of others do too.
I mean, it was hard for me, and
I've got the most easy-going,
accepting Dad in the world. I can't
even imagine what this must be like
for someone who's spent his entire
life attacking the very thing he
is.

CURTIS
Prisha, really. I don't know this
person. This is all a mistake.

PRISHA

Curtis. Stop. We saw everything.
The pictures. The messages. It's
OK.

Curtis is looking all around.

CURTIS

Is this some fucking plot to
destroy me? I can't believe you
would stoop this low.

PRISHA

Curtis. Look at me. Hey. Look at
me. It's OK.

She grabs him by both hands.

CURTIS

What are you trying to do to me?

PRISHA

The only I trying to do, is be here
for you.

Curtis collapses into her arms, with a floodgate of tears.

CURTIS

Oh God! Oh God! What am I gonna do?
I'm ruined. My family. My career.
I'm gonna lose everything.

PRISHA

Are you really losing everything,
or gaining your true self? Because
if you go your entire life living a
lie, that would be a real loss.

CURTIS

Oh my god, what am I going to tell
Debbie?

PRISHA

At this moment? Nothing.

Prisha pulls out a joint and a lighter from her pocket.

PRISHA (CONT'D)

At THIS moment, we clear your head
and celebrate a new beginning.

CURTIS

Oh. Well, I don't really partake.

PRISHA

Come on. Your daughter already
outed you on this one, at dinner.

She lights the joint, takes a hit and hands it to Curtis, who
takes a hit.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Joe and Mad turn their respective corners and come face to
face in the hallway.

MAD

I wanna talk to you!

JOE

I wanna talk to you!

EXT. BACKYARD GAZEBO - MOMENTS LATER

JOE

Look, normally I'd say "ladies
first", but I've been needing to
say this to you and don't want to
wait any longer. I know you think I
am taking an easy way out. I know
you look at your Grandpa as some
sort of coward, who's abandoning
his family and it makes you - well -
MAD. But I need you to know, that
while it's true, I don't want to
suffer, I mostly don't want you to
see me suffer.

MAD

Grandpa, I don't think you're a
coward. I just don't understand why
you don't want to spend as much
time with me as I want to spend
with you.

JOE

I want that more than anything.

MAD

Then why don't you get treatment? I
know it's not gonna be easy - for
any of us. Especially you. But if
it were me, and treatment could
even give me just two more days
with you, I'd do it.

(beat)

I just wish you felt that way about
me.

JOE
Oh honey, I do. I really do.

MAD
Then why don't you fight for it?

Grandpa looks lovingly at his granddaughter.

MAD (V.O.)
In the end, Grandpa Joe decided to fight.

MONTAGE OVER V.O.:

INT. HOSPITAL

Joe gets chemotherapy. Marge is with him.

MAD (V.O.)
The thing is, at first I felt he did it just to please me-

INT. GRANDPA JOE'S CONNECTICUT HOME

* Mad, Marge, Jackson and Joe play cards.

* Mad and Grandpa sit in the gazebo laughing. He gets a pain in his side. Mad reacts, but he waves it off.

MAD (V.O.)
-which seems like that would be a good thing, but I wanted him to fight because he WANTED to spend time with me, because spending time with me made HIM happy.

INT. GRANDPA JOE'S CONNECTICUT HOME

*Joe throws up in the toilet. Marge and Mad sit beside him.

MAD (V.O.)
I think he just was scared. Scared of dying, but also scared of us watching him die. I don't think he wanted to put us through that, but the truth is, at least for me, I just wanted as much time with my Grandpa as I could get before he died.

* Joe and Marge dancing in their bedroom.

* Joe and Mad playing Dance, Dance Revolution. Joe is weak, but does his best.

INT. CURTIS BRADEN'S RANGE ROVER

Curtis drives his car on the highway. He talks and laughs.

MAD (V.O.)

But not only did I get an extra eight months with my Grandpa, the trips to see him gave me actual quality time with my parents and my little brother.

PAN across the backseat: Mad talking and playfully arguing, Jackson laughing, Debbie shaking her head playfully.

MAD (V.O.)

And some bonding time with the newest member of our family, Marco.

In the PASSENGER FRONT SEAT sits a LATINO MAN, MARCO (35) who looks at Curtis smiling, then looks at Mad. They both shake their heads, obviously agreeing that Curtis is wrong.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The whole family is there again, including Marco. They're watching a football game, laughing and having a great time.

Joe is bed-ridden, but in the living room with them.

MAD (V.O.)

Grandpa Joe cared about his family more than anything, all the way to the end and the thing that I don't think even he expected was what he did FOR his family.

Close up on Joe who's not looking at the game, he is watching his family have fun, bonding, being a family.

Barry stands next to his big brother, holding his hand. They both look over the family and then to each other in acknowledgment and smile.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FUNERAL HOME - 8 MONTHS LATER

Grandpa Joe lies in an open casket.

PAN over to Mad, who stands at the front, giving the eulogy. She is still "goth" but now has some color to her wardrobe, a red shirt, and her hair is done differently, pulled back from her face.

She opens a book.

MAD

Grandma said it best in her book:
"Joe always knew there was no such
thing as the perfect family, but he
always wanted HIS perfect family.

Pan across the entire family listening to Mad speak. Both smiles and tears abound.

MAD (CONT'D)

Getting us all together for
Thanksgiving was him wanting to
have that image in his brain before
he left this world.

Back on Mad.

MAD (CONT'D)

What he didn't know, is that he
wasn't bringing us together for a
weekend. He was just bringing us
together ... our perfect family."

Mad closes the book.

MAD (CONT'D)

Since that was Grandpa's last
Thanksgiving, and he won't be
around to hear it, I want to say
this to close today. To Grandpa
Joe. Thanks ... for everything!

EXT. FUNERAL HOME - LATER

Everyone piles out of the funeral home as they head toward their cars. Some hugs and kisses during goodbyes from friends and attendees.

Eventually we are left with our crew, plus Marco, who has his arm around Curtis and Debbie is with them, smiling and happy through her tears from the loss of her dad.

Everyone else is showing similar emotion, some tears, but some smiles, laughs; overall they are happy.

DEBBIE

Leave it to this family to find the joy in a funeral.

MARGE

Well, that's how your dad would have wanted it.

CHRISTINE

And, we still have an event coming up where we can get drunk and fight.

She holds up her hand and shows off her engagement ring.

MAURICE

Can we please not suggest that? No one here needs a reminder to get drunk and fight.

PRISHA

Speaking of getting drunk. Who's going to O'Malley's?

SABRINA

I am. I've been waiting all day to punch somebody.

Sabrina punches her hand. Marge smiles.

MARGE

I would, but I am exhausted. And I left my gloves at home.

JERRY

I'll come over after I drop Aunt Marge off at the house.

KYLIE

I'm down.

CHRISTINE

Us too.

BARRY

You know I'm in, I'm driving.

PRISHA

Curt? Marco?

CURTIS

Well, we would, but we made plans
to go get food with the family.

He looks to Debbie, Mad, and Jackson.

MAD

Dad, it's fine. Why don't you go
after we eat?

She pulls her little brother in with one arm.

MAD (CONT'D)

I've got no problem watchin',
(catches herself)
Hangin' with Jackson. Maybe drop us
off at Grandma's and I can kick
both their butts at Dance, Dance.

MARGE

Not a chance. I'm a regular Denny
Terrio.

JACKSON

Who?

MAD

He's like a dude from some dance
show in the fifties or something.

Grandma Marge pretends to be offended.

MARGE

The fifties? I am NOT that old.

DEBBIE

(to Mad)
You sure about that, honey?

MAD

Yeah, totally. Go have fun.

Debbie looks to Marco and Curtis.

DEBBIE

Whatta you guys say?

MARCO

orks for me.

CURTIS

Let's do it.
(to Prisha and the rest)
(MORE)

CURTIS (CONT'D)

We'll see you guys in about an hour
or so.

Kylie steps up to the kids.

KYLIE

Mad. Seriously. That was an amazing
eulogy. You should think about
becoming a writer!

She goes down to Jackson's level.

KYLIE (CONT'D)

I'll see you tomorrow for
breakfast.

She hugs Jackson, then quickly picks him up off the ground!

KYLIE (CONT'D)

Oh, I gotcha, gotcha, gotcha!

Jackson giggles. Kylie sets him down and kisses him on the
top of the head.

Debbie notices and smiles.

SABRINA

To O'Malley's.

JERRY

Rock and roll.

They all start toward their cars.

Jerry opens the car door for Marge and helps her in before
getting in, himself.

Prisha, Sabrina, and Barry get into Barry's car.

Debbie, Curtis, Marco and the kids get into his Range Rover.

Maurice, Christine, and Kylie get into a rental car, with
Maurice driving.

One-by-one, the cars drive out of the parking lot in a
precession and out of sight.

FADE TO BLACK.