



BENT
"Pilot"

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ACT ONE

INT. ALEX'S KITCHEN - MORNING

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA. A beautiful woman ALEX MEYERS (late 30's) talks on her Bluetooth, while correcting her daughter's homework and feeding celery to a rabbit.

ALEX
(into Bluetooth)
None of the evidence is admissable.
It's all fruit of the poison tree.

Alex hits mutes and turns to her 8 year old daughter, FRANKIE, who's eating breakfast and points to her homework.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Only one wrong. The capital of Illinois is Springfield.
(off Frankie's look)
I know. It makes no sense.
(rabbit nips her)
Ow. Claude, you're literally biting the hand that feeds you.
(into Bluetooth)
Okay, next. Did you read the deposition?

INT. PETE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

A handsome Southern California man, PETE RIGGINS (late 30's) puts on a wet suit. On his bed sleeps a BEAUTIFUL WOMAN (mid-20's). She wakes up.

WOMAN
Where are you going?

PETE
To get us some breakfast burritos.
(off her look, re: wet suit)
Maybe do a little surfing first.
Are you a surfer, Tammy?

WOMAN
Tara.

PETE
(beat)
Too soon for nick names?

INT. GYM - HOUR LATER

Alex finishes up on a treadmill. A CUTE GUY approaches, notices she's not wearing a ring.

GUY

Hey, I'm going to the juice bar.
Any interest in a smoothie?

ALEX

Sure, I'll take a banana blueberry.
Frankie, what do you want?

Reveal Frankie reading a book about whales on a stationary bike. The guy's taken aback, not the sexy gym moment he was after.

FRANKIE

(re: Alex)
She just got divorced. It's all
about the kid right now.

Alex nods in agreement, the guy walks off, shot down.

INT. BREAKFAST BEACH SHACK - A LITTLE LATER

Pete waits as a family places their order at the counter, then steps up to a cute girl, LUCY.

PETE

Lovely Lucy. One bacon egg
burrito.

LUCY

Only one? No lady love last night?

PETE

You know there's only you. Extra
salsa, por favor.

INT. LIVING ROOM - HALF HOUR LATER

Alex waves out the window to her daughter as she boards the school bus. Her cell rings. The office again. She looks down at her briefcase, Claude is gnawing on it.

INT. CHURCH BASEMENT - HALF HOUR LATER

Pete, his hair wet from surfing, sits in a GAMBLER'S ANONYMOUS MEETING. He eats a breakfast burrito while listening to a woman share.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LATER THAT MORNING

Pete gets out of his truck in front of a craftsman in need of some serious work. He takes a deep breath. He's nervous. It's his first walk through since rehab. He knocks. Alex answers. Pete relaxes. She's gorgeous. Gorgeous women like Pete. He flashes his killer smile. She doesn't bite.

ALEX

I thought you were coming at nine?

PETE

Sorry. I had another job. Hi,
Pete Riggins. You must be Alex.

ALEX

Was it in the ocean? You smell
like saltwater.

PETE

Thank you.

ALEX

More of an accusation, than a
compliment.

PETE

I'm going to take a mulligan here.
Hi, I'm Pete. Sorry I'm late. I
was surfing.

ALEX

Hi Pete. I hope you're a good
contractor because your first
impression kind of blows.

PETE

I'm the best. In America. I can't
vouch for what's happening down in
South America. They're super
handy.

They walk through Alex's small living room to the kitchen.

ALEX

So I got your name from Brad and
Cindy Laughlin...

PETE

The Laughlins. Cool. Yeah, I had
to turn that project over to my
foreman. I got real busy.

ALEX

And Brad fired you. Because you
were sleeping with Cindy.

PETE

That was a factor too. Can I be
honest?

ALEX

Doesn't seem like it.

PETE

The Laughlin project wandered into a moral gray area but have you seen their kitchen? I knocked it out of the park.

ALEX

Cindy was very impressed.

PETE

And I think Brad was too. In his heart of hearts.

They enter the kitchen. It's cramped and out-dated. Alex rolls out some plans. Through out the following, Pete is doing a walk-thru; inspecting counters, opening cabinets, running the sink, etc..

ALEX

I want to totally re-do it. Floors, cabinets, new appliances. And I want blow out this wall and put in a breakfast nook. What do you think?

He notices a food stain on the plans.

PETE

I think someone's got a jelly problem.
(then, re: boxes)
So, are you just moving in?

ALEX

Yeah. I'm downsizing. Divorce. I recently released a bastard back into the wild.

PETE

The beach is a good habitat for bastards. We thrive here. He's in the old house?

ALEX

Nope, he got a smaller place. In prison.

PETE

He's not in for anything violent or jealous in nature I hope.

ALEX

He defrauded medicare but at least he gave the money to his mistress.

PETE

And you let him get away?

She smiles, he does too. She stops smiling.

ALEX

Listen, Pete, if you get this gig, it's because you're cheap and you're good. I've got a full plate. I'm not looking for anything else.

PETE

Anything else...?

ALEX

You know, Laughlin like.

PETE

Am I holding two wine glasses? Are my pants off? I don't feel like I'm being inappropriate.

ALEX

I'm just saying, there'll be no monkey business.

PETE

I hate monkey business. I never use that phrase.
(exiting)
I'll get numbers to you by Friday.

ALEX

Thursday.

Pete turns around.

PETE

That doesn't give me much time.

ALEX

Surf less.

She closes the door on him. He smiles, intrigued.

INT. BREAKFAST BEACH SHACK - LATER THAT DAY

Pete sits with his crew; BRETT (30's), cabinet maker, surf buddy and consummate Dad to his son DEVIN (3), who sits next to him. Next to them are ARTURO (20's), a good-looking cabinet maker apprentice, and VLAD, (30's) an Eeyore-like Russian plumber. The guys glare at Pete. They're not fans.

PETE

It's a sweet job, she wants to re-do the whole kitchen.

BRETT

Cool. Did you tell her your crew quit on you six months ago?

PETE

Brett, thanks for bringing up the elephant in the room. First of all, as part of my recovery I'd like to apologize for any damage I may have caused while in the throes of my gambling addiction.

VLAD

You sold my van on Craig's List.

PETE

I was a bad boss and I want to be better. Gentleman, I'd like another chance to be your contractor.

(no response)

I hear things have been slow.

BRETT

Not true.

PETE

(re: toddler)

Really? I see you expanded the crew. Does he do duct work?

BRETT

Elise and I are between day-care but we're making do.

(re: Devin's juice bottle)

Arturo, re-fill the sippy.

Devin hands his empty sippy to Arturo.

ARTURO

Damn, I just got you juice, little man.

BRETT

En Espanol, always en espanol. I want Devin bi-lingual.

PETE

(to Brett, re: Arturo)

He's a cabinet maker's apprentice, shouldn't he be making cabinets? Let's get the band back together.

BRETT

It's not just the gambling, dude.
Cindy Laughlin?

VLAD

I saw things in that pool house.
Things I can't forget.

PETE

I thought the door was locked,
Vlad. It was weird for me too.
(then)
Let's leave the past in the past.
We were a great crew once. Give me
a chance to make us great again.
What do you have to lose?

They all look to Brett. What do they have to lose. They're
unemployed. What the hell.

BRETT

You get one chance.

As Pete pumps his fist "yes", we;

INT. ALEX'S FAMILY ROOM - NEXT DAY

Alex is correcting Frankie's homework. Next to her sits her
sister, SCREWSIE (late 20's), hot, free spirited. Screwsie
is dressed like a chef who just got off work. She's a chef
that just got off work.

SCREWSIE

So what does this Pete look like?

ALEX

How come you don't want to hear
about the other contractors?

SCREWSIE

He's hot, isn't he?

ALEX

A delightful lesbian and her
husband did a walk thru this
morning. What about them?

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. ALEX'S KITCHEN - EARLIER

DEB GIDLEY, a squat woman, and her thin husband HARV GIDLEY,
stand in matching khakis and short-sleeve blue golf shirts.

DEB

Demo will take about a week.

HARV
That's the wife's department.
She's a real dynamo.

BACK TO PRESENT:

INT. ALEX'S FAMILY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

As they were.

ALEX
(holding up a tin)
She left her chewing tobacco.

SCREWSIE
How's Pete's bod?
(Alex shrugs)
You just stared at his head the
whole time? That's not very human
being-ish.

ALEX
He's okay.

SCREWSIE
He's hot. And he's a contractor.
Come on, tell me that's not the
blue collar fantasy.

ALEX
I'm more of a "buff paralegal" gal.

SCREWSIE
Hire him. There's too much
estrogen around here. You need to
throw a man into the mix.

ALEX
That's your life philosophy.

Frankie enters.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Hi Sweetheart, how's the report
coming?

FRANKIE
I need my Humpback book.

ALEX
The report's on Iowa. No whales.
(returning corrected math
homework)
Also no whales in long division.
Should I be worried?

SCREWSIE

How are preparations for the big recital?

FRANKIE

I'm not doing it.

SCREWSIE

(to Alex)

Did I just get my Friday night back?

ALEX

You did not. Come on Frankie, you made a commitment.

FRANKIE

I hate Pachelbel.

SCREWSIE

Wait until you hear it at five weddings in one summer.

On Frankie's bummed look, we;

INT. PETE'S LIVING ROOM - THAT NIGHT

A small beach bungalow. Pete enters with a beer. His Dad, JAMES (60) leading man handsome, combs his hair in the mirror. Stevie Nicks sings "Silver Springs" on the stereo. James sways to it moodily.

PETE

Why the Fleetwood Mac? Did something bad happen?

JAMES

I've lost my chariot, son. Those sons of bitches at All-State cut off my car insurance.

PETE

For non-payment?

JAMES

Sons of bitches. It was either pay them or my voice lesson teacher.

PETE

Your hands were tied.

JAMES

I'll need some rides.

PETE

I'll need some excuses.

JAMES

They can't get me down.
(into mirror)
I bend but never break.

PETE

How was work?

JAMES

It's a department store. A daily
wake up call to re-dedicate myself
to my craft.
(holds up book)
I'm re-reading my Uta Haagen.
(then)
Lynn's coming over later to do some
sense memory work.

PETE

Is that what you're calling it?

JAMES

Yes, it is. What's our
contraception situation?

PETE

Uncomfortable. Awkward. Separate.

JAMES

Then I need a ride to Sav On.

INT. TRUCK - NEXT MORNING

Pete drives his double cab pick-up. James is in the
passenger seat, Vlad is seated between them in the middle.
In the backseat are Brett, Arturo and Devin (in car seat).

PETE

There's her house, boys. Look at
that gold mine.

VLAD

(re: middle seat)
I don't understand why I have to
ride bitch.

JAMES

Because you didn't call window.

Pete notices something and slows down.

JAMES (CONT'D)

No stopping. I'm already late for
work.

PETE
(ominously)
The Gidleys.

Big Deb and Harv are in Alex's driveway talking and chewing tobacco. They get into their van.

VLAD
Aren't those the bastards who stole
the pine 2 by 4's out of your
truck?

PETE
Harv did. Before he married Big
Deb. And took her last name.

As Big Deb drives by, she smiles, then spits dip on their door.

BRETT
She coated your truck, bro.

ARTURO
Should I get the nail gun?

PETE
Stand down, Arturo. I got this.

Pete gets out of the truck.

INT. ALEX'S KITCHEN - A MINUTE LATER

Pete follows Alex as she gets ready for work.

PETE
Couldn't help noticing your front
yard smells like the Padre's
dugout.

ALEX
The Gidleys came in with a very
competitive bid. Very competitive.

PETE
How low?

ALEX
Make an offer. I'm a lawyer. I
like a good negotiation.

PETE
Okay then.
(takes pencil to paper)
Boom. How you like that number?

ALEX

(looks at paper)
It's almost exactly what they bid.

PETE

Lesbians, their fake husbands and
great minds think alike.

ALEX

Looks like I'm going Gidley.

PETE

Huge mistake.

He punches his hand through the wall. Alex jumps back.

PETE (CONT'D)

(pulls his hand out)
See this? It's dry-rot. I smelled
it during the walk thru.

ALEX

You smelled through the wall? So
you're an actual dog?

PETE

Did the Gidleys mention your
mainline blob rust? Or the fact
that they don't carry Workmen's
Comp?

(Alex shakes her head no)
You know why? They're going to
jack you up with change orders.
That's how contractors roll.
They're shady.

ALEX

They have sex with your wife, go to
rehab for gambling.

PETE

You know about the gambling? Did
you run a CIA background check?

ALEX

Cindy told me.

PETE

Okay, guilty. I have a past.
(sincere)
Alex, I'm just looking for a fresh
start here. Isn't that what you're
doing?

(she takes this in)
I'm a damn good builder.

(MORE)

PETE (CONT'D)
Give me the job and I promise
you'll be stoked.

ALEX
Stoked?
(beat, taking a chance)
Monday. 7 am.

INT. PETE'S TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER

Angle on Pete coming out of the house, hands up in victory.
The crew cheers. Alex follows him out. The truck goes
quiet.

BRETT
Christ. She's hot.

VLAD
Laughlin city.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. ALEX'S KITCHEN - A FEW DAYS LATER

Pete enters with his crew. Alex is there, Frankie's playing piano.

PETE
Sorry, I'm late.

ALEX
Way to solidify low expectations.
Did you have a nice surf? I saw
big waves on the beach cam.

PETE
I was dropping my Dad at work but
I'm stoked you know about the cam.

ALEX
Can we put a moratorium on
"stoked"?

PETE
Can you use a bigger lawyer word
that means "stop"?
(noticing Frankie playing)
Is that Pachelbel?
(off her surprised look)
I go to weddings.

ALEX
Frankie, say hi to Pete.

FRANKIE
(a little coolly)
Hi Pete.
(gets up, crosses over)
Do you have a nail gun?

PETE
Arturo's got it. Always. It's
kind of his thing.

FRANKIE
When he gets a chance, could he
shoot this piano?

PETE
It did sound kind of sick.

Frankie remains cool but stifles a smile. A cute girl,
beachy, mid-20's enters. This is SIMONE (mid-20's),
Frankie's nanny.

SIMONE
(to Frankie)
You ready to do some body-surfing?

PETE
No fair. What beach are you guys
going to?

SIMONE
Mission, where else?

ALEX
(to Simone, re: beach bag)
Frankie's sunblock and suit are in
the bag. Do you have yours?

SIMONE
(holds tiny suit in hand)
Right here.

ALEX
Oh, I thought that was a two piece
sandwich bag.

Frankie and Simone head out and Alex starts putting papers in
her briefcase. Pete's crew starts filing in, ad-libbing
greetings with Alex.

PETE
Before you go, I was looking at the
plans. What do you think of adding
a sky-light?

ALEX
Wow, you're already trying to screw
me with change orders.

PETE
Language, please. Vlad's a virgin.

VLAD
I have sex, I just don't make you
watch it.

PETE
(to Alex)
I just think'd it be nice to let in
a little SoCal light.

ALEX
I'm going more for a San Francisco
feeling.

PETE
Kind of a stuck up, second rate
vibe?

ALEX

Oh, I guess my hometown Giants
didn't win the world series.
(crosses to wall calendar)
So when are you done with demo? I
want to get it on the board.

She grabs a pen and looks at the giant, color coded calendar.

PETE

The week of October fifteenth.
(looking closer)
You marked on your calendar when to
buy another calendar?

ALEX

I stay on top of things. It helps
me show up places on time.

PETE

That's the most organized cry for
help I've ever seen.

ALEX

It's your first day, go easy on the
snark. You're still on probation.

She leaves, Pete watches her go.

ARTURO

Probation?

PETE

Don't sweat it. She's all bark.

EXT. MISSION BEACH - SUNSET THAT NIGHT

Alex and Frankie sit on the beach. Alex looks through
binoculars.

ALEX

I don't see any whales.
(re: big man in a wetsuit)
Except that guy.

She hands the binoculars to Frankie.

FRANKIE

The humpbacks are supposed to be
migrating this week. It's not like
them to be late.

ALEX

So what's going on with you and the
recital? I thought things were
going well with Miss Terry.

FRANKIE
She's all over me. And she smells
like Woolite.

ALEX
I know. What's up with that?

FRANKIE
(beat)
Dad called me earlier. He was
crying.

ALEX
Really? Sweetie, I'm sorry.
(they sit on the sand)
Do you want to talk about it?

FRANKIE
He said he's going bald.

ALEX
They won't let him take his
Propecia in there.

FRANKIE
It's sad.

ALEX
(not really)
Sure.

FRANKIE
Can Dad still be my dermatologist
when he gets out?

ALEX
No, not in this state. Maybe
Nevada.

FRANKIE
What's he going to do?

ALEX
I'm more focused on us right now,
Sugar Pop.

As they look at the ocean, we;

INT. ALEX'S KITCHEN - NEXT DAY AFTERNOON

Pete, Arturo and Vlad are prepping. Brett enters. With his
3 year old son Devin.

PETE

I hate to play the heavy and boot the toddler from the construction site, but no.

BRETT

We've got a childcare crisis. Code red.

PETE

(re: Devin)

He's got a nail in his mouth.

BRETT

That's strike one. He gets three. Come on, he'll be cool. Arturo, put him in the bjorn.

ARTURO

I want to do carpenter stuff, man.

Alex enters from the backyard, out of breath and concerned.

ALEX

Frankie's on the roof.

EXT. ALEX'S BACKYARD / ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Pete, Alex and the crew look up at Frankie.

ALEX

She climbed up the trellis and then got too scared to climb down.

PETE

Not to Monday morning quarterback, but is that good Momming?

ALEX

I fell asleep reading a brief. That thing was like a Xanax.

Pete climbs up a ladder as Alex and the crew stare up at an anxious Frankie. Brett turns to Alex, re: Devin.

BRETT

You've got to watch them like hawks, huh?

He sees Devin with another nail. ANGLE ON Pete who's now next to Frankie.

PETE

Sweet view. You can almost see past your neighbor's giant stucco palace. Why do they build those?

FRANKIE

They're Persian.

PETE

I was talking about the contractor but that's a little not at all PC.

FRANKIE

(re: neighbors)

They crank their crazy powerful sprinklers all day. Hello, it's a drought.

PETE

(looks around)

Are you up here to piss off your Mom? Because I fully support that.

FRANKIE

(re: camera phone)

No, I'm taking some pictures of the 'hood for my Dad. He hasn't seen our new street. Don't tell my Mom, okay?

PETE

I'm cool with secrets. My Dad still doesn't know about my DUI.

(then)

What do you say we wuss out and use the ladder on the way down?

Frankie smiles, warming to Pete. When they get down, Alex kisses Frankie and sends her inside.

ALEX

What was she doing up there?

PETE

(covering)

Being racist against Persians.

ALEX

She's not a fan of the Fazaads.

(sincerely)

Thank you for getting her. My ex would've called the Fire Department.

PETE

You know how we should celebrate? A skylight in the kitchen.

ALEX

You saved my kid for a change order?

PETE

I just think you could use a little
sunshine in your life.

ALEX

Ugh, cheesy much?

PETE

Only after hero moments. If you're
looking for a nickname, I like
"911".

ALEX

How about Spackle Boy?

PETE

(walks off, to himself)
Pete "Roof-Walker" also works.

Pete tips his hat and walks off. Alex watches him, for the
first time seeing him as more than just the contractor guy.

EXT. ALEX'S BACKYARD - EARLY EVENING

Screwsie and Alex enjoy a glass of wine. Through the kitchen
window they can see Pete and the guys working. The crew
knows what they're doing, moving efficiently as a team.
Screwsie is mesmerized by Pete.

SCREWSIE

What a blue collar bad boy. Tell
me you don't think about him.

ALEX

I think about getting my brief
done. I think about why my
daughter is more worried about her
convict Dad than her heroic single
Mom. I think about how it'd be
great if my sister wore a bra.

SCREWSIE

Hold the phone.
(looking closer)
Did I hook up with that guy?
What's his name again?

ALEX

Pete. Riggins. Not that a last
name would mean anything.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Pete is tearing down a wall. Screwsie approaches, curious.
Alex follows.

SCREWSIE
(probing)
Hey.

PETE
(kind of recognizes her)
Hey.

SCREWSIE
(did we sleep together?)
Hey.

PETE
(wait a minute, did we..?)
Hey.

ALEX
Seriously? Neither of you can
remember if you've had sex?

The following exchange is matter of fact.

PETE
Did you go as a mermaid for
halloween last year?

SCREWSIE
No. Do you kite surf on Mission
beach?

PETE
Nope. Do you bartend at Kelly's?

SCREWSIE
No but I know who you're talking
about. I don't think we slept
together.

PETE
Nope.

ALEX
Bravo. The lack of palpable shame.
It's all very sixties.

SCREWSIE
Ignore her. She's a diagnosed
serial monogamist.

PETE
I can smell the repression.

ALEX

Hey, I love sex. I just think it's more intense and meaningful when you actually know the person's name.

SCREWSIE

(to Pete)
Susie, by the way.

PETE

Pete.

ALEX

Okay, get back to work.

PETE

I'm trying but you keep talking about how much you love sex.

Alex rolls her eyes and Pete watches her walk away.

INT. CIRCLE BAR - A FEW NIGHTS LATER

Dive surf bar. Pete, James, Vlad and Brett are in a booth. They've had a few.

BRETT

Doubts remain but to Captain Pete and a first good week.

PETE

To Pete! A man among men!

Everybody ad-libs Here! Here! To getting paid!

JAMES

I'm going to continue my conversation with Big Red.
(points to redhead)
She's only shot me down once.

PETE

Round two then.

JAMES

I'm bent, not broken. Gentleman.

He crosses away. Vlad watches him go.

VLAD

He's got so much confidence.

PETE

Malibu rum and Cialis.

(then)

You could get a girl like that.

VLAD

Ladies don't go for filthy
plumbers. I'm not you, Pete.
Pete?

Pete's already gone, crossing towards Simone the nanny.
She's just entered the bar and is waving him over.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. PETE'S BEDROOM - NEXT MORNING

Pete and Simone are asleep. She wakes up with a start.

SIMONE

What time is it?! I've got to be
at work.

PETE

Relax. It's Saturday. Let me buy
you a breakfast burrito.

Simone starts throwing on her clothes.

SIMONE

I work Saturdays! I can't be late.
She fires people.

PETE

Alex? She's all bark.

SIMONE

No, she bites. I'm her third nanny
this year.

PETE

(surprised)

Really? Do you think she'd be
pissed at me?

SIMONE

I need a ride.

PETE

How about I give you cab money?
(off her look)
And a burrito voucher?

Simone drags Pete out of bed.

INT. PETE'S TRUCK / EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

Pete pulls up with Simone. Alex storms out.

ALEX
Are you kidding me, Simone? I had
to re-schedule a deposition.

Simone bolts into the house. Alex turns to Pete...

ALEX (CONT'D)
Did you sleep with my nanny?

PETE
A gentleman never tells.

ALEX
What's the one thing I said? No
monkey business.

PETE
Yeah with you, and I've respected
that.

ALEX
Please, like it was an option.

PETE
There was a moment. After I
rescued Frankie.

ALEX
Rescued? A lion didn't have her.

PETE
She was at the highest point on the
roof.
(off her glare)
Okay, I get it. I messed up. I
used up my mulligan.

ALEX
I've got an ex-husband in jail, 50
hours a week to bill and an 8 year
old to raise. There are no
mulligans. You're fired.

PETE
Fired? You've got to be kidding
me?
(off her look)
You're not kidding. Okay, you've
got some issues.

ALEX

Me? You live with your Dad and you hump anything in a tiny bikini to justify the void that is your life.

PETE

Wow, you had that locked and loaded. Think about me much?

ALEX

Why are you cocky? Is there some universe where forty and sun damaged is cool?

PETE

Okay, your husband cheated on you, so now you take it out on any guy having a good time. You're bitter.

ALEX

Bitter? I'm not bitter. I'm even keeled. I'm delightful. I'm sunny.

PETE

You're not sunny, babe. You don't even want a skylight!

ALEX

That metaphor is officially played! And babe!? Really?!

PETE

Whatever. Enjoy your gloomy house. San Francisco sucks.

Pete storms out, Alex calls after him.

ALEX

Well, San Diego is full of ridiculous surf boys who don't know how to keep it in their pants!

Next door, an older Persian man in a wet-suit looks over, confused.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Not you, Mr. Fazaad.

(re: super powerful sprinklers)

Please turn those down. It's not a golf course.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. BREAKFAST SHACK - A COUPLE DAYS LATER

Pete and the crew sit in a booth, including Devin.

VLAD

Why aren't we meeting at the site?

PETE

I want my boys to fuel up properly.
Arturo, no chocolate chip pancakes.

BRETT

Pete, what's going on?

PETE

The Meyers project went away.

BRETT

We got fired?!
(Pete nods)
How? We're still doing the demo.

PETE

Politics. Things got super
political.

(then)

I slept with Simone and Alex
flipped out.

BRETT

Again?! What is it about your
penis that wants my family to go
hungry?

VLAD

You're obsessed with sex. Even by
European standards.

The crew stands up.

PETE

You guys can't leave. Eggs are
coming.

BRETT

You're toxic, dude. I don't want
you around my little man.

PETE

Devin gets it. He saw Tammy.
(off their looks)
I'm sorry, okay? I'm sorry.

Brett heads out, Arturo picks up Devin, follows him. Pete turns to his plumber.

PETE (CONT'D)

Vlad, buddy, you've seen me have sex. That's got to create some kind of bond.

VLAD

You're out of chances, Pete.

He leaves. Pete's alone. The waitress brings over four orders of eggs.

INT. ALEX'S KITCHEN - LATER

Alex and Screwsie sit on stools in the demo'd kitchen, drinking wine.

SCREWSIE

So he boinked Simone, huh? It was probably the tiny bikini.

ALEX

It's totally gross.
(off her non-response)
It's gross, right? What?

SCREWSIE

You didn't fire her. And you love to fire nannies. They come with expiration dates.

ALEX

I need Simone. God, why do you always stick up for bad guys? You're like a public defender for gigolos.

SCREWSIE

I love a hot underdog.

ALEX

He was totally conceited, constantly late and smelled like salt and bong water.

SCREWSIE

Those are reasons you dump an eighth grade boyfriend.

(then)

Alex, did you fire this guy because you were jealous? Because he slept with your nanny? That's not fair to Pete or Simone.

ALEX

Now you're defending Simone?

SCREWSIE

I defend hot people regardless of gender.

ALEX

I fired him because I'm sick of people in my life letting me down. I hired him to fix my house, not bang my childcare. I could use a little support here.

SCREWSIE

Okay. Geez. Cabernet rage.

As they continue to drink, now in silence, we;

EXT. PARKING LOT HOLLYWOOD PARK CASINO - LATER

Pete stares at the casino. He's hit rock bottom. Again.

INT. CHURCH BASEMENT - A LITTLE LATER

Pete sits at a Gamblers Anonymous meeting as a middle aged Beverly Hills HOUSEWIFE shares her story.

HOUSEWIFE

The Clippers are on TV and they're one of my triggers. Sad but true. And I'm like no, not today. So I went to the gym. And it worked. I didn't call my bookie.

(then)

Do something that makes you feel good, do anything, just don't gamble.

Pete takes this in.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LATER THAT DAY

Pete pulls up and sees the Gidley's van full of new 2 by 4's. Nice stuff. Maple. He gets out and starts transferring the wood to his truck. Frankie comes out of the house.

FRANKIE

Are you stealing their wood?

PETE

I'm taking action. Breaking patterns. It's all part of my recovery. What's up with you?

FRANKIE

Nothing.

(then)

Actually, I'm kind of freaking out.

Through out the following, Pete is furiously transferring wood and completely distracted.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

I got this piano recital tomorrow. I wasn't going to do it but Mom's super stressed so I thought I'd throw her a bone.

PETE

Throw her a bone. Sounds good.

FRANKIE

My Dad was taking lessons and it was his recital, too.

PETE

They probably won't let him out for that.

FRANKIE

Anyway, I've never actually played in front of anybody. And with him not up there with me, I'm kind of freaking.

PETE

Totally.

FRANKIE

So what do you think I should do?

Pete stops.

PETE

Are you seriously seeking life advice from me? I'm mid-crime.

FRANKIE

You were helpful on the roof.

PETE

That was a blind squirrel - nut situation. Sorry, but ask around, I'm not your guy.

FRANKIE

Okay. Yeah. Whatever.

PETE

Yup. Whatever.

Pete puts the last piece of wood in his truck.

FRANKIE
Enjoy your sad life. Thanks for
the mentorship.

She walks back to the house, head down, lost. Pete looks up, something about her gives him pause. He's as lost as she is.
Beat.

PETE
Hey, you like Nordstrom's?

Frankie shrugs "sure". Pete notices Big Deb and Harv in the window. They notice him and head towards him.

PETE (CONT'D)
Then let's go to Nordstrom's.
(off Gidley's closing in)
Let's go! Let's go!

As Frankie and Pete jump in his truck, we;

INT. NORDSTROM'S LOBBY - A LITTLE LATER

They enter the lobby near closing time. We see the back of a man playing the piano. It's James. Pete turns to Frankie.

PETE
Wait here.

He crosses over to James.

JAMES
There's my boy. Remember this one?

PETE
I do. Can you do me a favor?

JAMES
Son, the world.

PETE
Let that girl sit in and play a
song.

JAMES
(shakes his head no)
Wouldn't be fair to my audience.

PETE
Come on, she's got massive stage
fright. One song. Get her over
the hump.

JAMES

(beat)

One song. No ballads.

Pete gestures for Frankie to cross over.

PETE

Play your song. These people don't care.

Frankie reluctantly sits down next to James.

JAMES

What're you thinking?

FRANKIE

Pachelbel's Canon.

JAMES

Not a crowd pleaser but take your swing.

Frankie looks around, hesitates. James nods. Just do it. She plays, hesitantly at first, then a little better. Pete smiles.

ALEX (O.S.)

What the hell's going on?

Alex appears, pissed.

PETE

You got my text.

ALEX

You mean your ransom note? "Be at Nordstrom's lobby in 1/2 an hour. I've got Frankie."

PETE

(re: Frankie playing)

She's practicing for her recital.

(off her look)

She had stage fright. That was the reason she didn't want to do it. My Dad's helping her out.

She watches Frankie who actually seems to be having fun. Alex softens. ANGLE ON James pushing Frankie down the bench.

JAMES

You got your taste. Crowd's thinning. Time for some Fleetwood.

James starts playing "Silver Springs", no singing, just the piano. ANGLE BACK ON Alex watching her daughter. Beat.

ALEX

I actually didn't know. About her stage fright.

PETE

She didn't want to stress you out.

ALEX

(bummed)

Seriously? I've been trying so hard to stay on top of everything. How do you know more than me?

PETE

Women open up to me.

ALEX

Ugh.

(then, sincerely)

Do you really think I'm bitter?

PETE

No. I think you're resilient. And so is Frankie.

ALEX

I hope so.

PETE

She's going to be okay, you know. My Mom took off when I was eight and look at how I turned out.

ALEX

That's the scariest thing anyone's ever said to me.

They both laugh. It feels good after the year they've both had. They get quiet. It's a moment. He pushes it.

PETE

Have you ever had the full Nordstrom's experience?

ALEX

Everything you say sounds inappropriate.

Pete holds out his hand for her to dance.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Are you high?

PETE

Probably not still.

Pete tries to get her out on the floor. She's not having it. ANGLE ON James, who, so into Fleetwood Mac, can't help but start singing the chorus of "Silver Springs" to a confused Frankie.

JAMES
(singing)
Time cast a spell on you, but you
won't forget me.

ANGLE BACK ON Alex and Pete.

ALEX
Is he allowed to sing?

PETE
Nope.
(then)
I'd like another shot. I need this
job. I let down my boys.

ALEX
Boys better not be a euphemism.

PETE
You know we'd have fun.
(off her look)
Not monkey business fun. Clean
contractor, client fun. Spackle
fights.

ALEX
Can you restrain yourself? Not
hump everything?

PETE
I'm not a collie.

ALEX
(beat, then)
Okay, one more shot. Be at my
house Monday. 7 am.

PETE
Awesome. 8 would be better.

She shoots him a look. The manager makes James stop singing. Pete and Alex clap. James takes a bow, tells Frankie to do the same.

INT. ALEX'S KITCHEN - A FEW DAYS LATER

Pete and Alex stare up at a hole in the ceiling. The crew comes in and out of the room unloading stuff.

PETE
Your new sky-light. Nice, huh?

ALEX
It'll have glass, won't it?

PETE
It's extra but if you want to splurge. Look at that SoCal light pour in.

ALEX
(starts to exit)
Don't gloat.

PETE
Hey Alex...
(she stops)
Thanks for giving us another chance.

ALEX
Sure.

PETE
(smiles)
I'm totally stoked.

She rolls her eyes and exits to work. Pete watches her go. Beat. He opens up a cabinet and pulls Devin out.

PETE (CONT'D)
We live to fight another day, huh little man?

DEVIN
Si.

PETE
It's like my Dad always says; I may be bent, but I'm not broken.

Devin nods. Alex pokes her head in.

ALEX
Please find that kid some day care.

PETE
Absolutely.

Brett and Arturo file in, Arturo grabs Devin, as we;

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW