

UNTITLED PARHAM/ ST. CLAIR PROJECT

Pilot

by

Lennon Parham and Jessica St. Clair

Table Read

COLD OPEN

JESSICA, in her San Francisco townhouse, skypes with her best friend LENNON, in her Brooklyn apartment.

JESSICA

Desperate times call for desperate measures. I had to make a call.

LENNON

So you went and got a WAX at LUCKY NAIL?!

JESSICA

You shoulda seen the back room, Len. They put up a tiny screen and I think a man was eating his lunch behind there, cause I could hear the slurping of Udon Noodle.

LENNON

Ugh, Jessica!

JESSICA

I didn't have a choice!

LENNON

You ALWAYS have a choice when it comes to your vagina!

JESSICA

Listen, I haven't seen my husband in weeks, things have not been great with us on the phone. I had to do something.

LENNON

Here's a novel idea, why don't you and Peter just sit down and talk and figure your shit out?

JESSICA

Well, I would love to, Lennon, but I can't sit down. It's too painful.

LENNON

Who's fault is that?

JESSICA

What do you want me to do, greet him at the door wearing a pair of fur shorts?

JOE walks behind Lennon.

JOE

I'm not listening. I'm not listening.

(pops head into frame)

Guys do like a natural woman, though.

JESSICA AND LENNON

(laughing)

Ew! / Joe! / Get out of here!

JESSICA

He's lying to you by the way. You should get that taken care of.

LENNON

Never.

(in a Scottish accent)

They may take my life...

JESSICA

What are you doing? Don't do *Braveheart*...

JOE/LENNON

(popping back in)

"But they'll never take... MY FREEDOM!"

Jess's doorbell rings.

JESSICA

You two are insane.

Jess gets up to get the door and leaves the frame.

JESSICA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

It's a Fed Ex.

(a beat)

Oh my god, NO!!

LENNON

What's happening?! Is it the Fed Ex guy?

JESSICA

AHHH!

Len speaks directly into the webcam.

LENNON

Okay, you listen to me, Fed Ex. I have a particular set of skills and if you lay one hand on her, I will find you and I will kill you... I HAVE YOUR TRACKING NUMBER!

Finally, Jess comes back into frame.

LENNON (CONT'D)

Oh my god, are you okay? I thought you were taken.

JESSICA

Peter sent... He sent me...

LENNON

Just breathe.

JESSICA

(barely intelligible)  
He sent me... dih-vahs pay-pahs...

JOE

I didn't get a word of that.

LENNON

He sent her divorce papers.  
(back to Jess)  
That's it. I'm booking you a ticket to New York. You're coming home.

JOE

Well, at least you can put those fur shorts back on.

LENNON

Joe!

JOE

What? They sounded comfy.

ACT ONE

INT. LEN & JOE'S LIVING ROOM - LATE THAT NIGHT

Jess and Len sit on the couch.

LENNON

Okay, there's no way you coulda seen this coming.

JESSICA

I'm an idiot. Here I was running around waxing things and talking to stupid Dr. Gail and he'd already given up. I bet it's Short Bangs, that girl from the Lisbon office...

LENNON

Let's not jump to any conclusions.

JESSICA

I didn't trust her the moment I laid eyes on those knee-high socks and those mary-janes...

LENNON

That is not a professional look.

Joe enters and sits down in his inflatable Jets chair.

JESSICA

But I bet she's a lot less work than I am. She's who I was when Peter and I first fell in love. Weekend trips to Block Island.  
(starting to cry)  
We rode tandem bikes. Now, no one wants to ride tandem bikes with me.

LENNON

I have OFTEN said I would like to ride a tandem bike with you!

JOE

(sipping from his mug)  
We always blame ourselves, huh?

JESSICA

I just feel... I just feel like...  
(whispering to Len)  
Isn't there somewhere he can go?

LENNON

He lives here.

JESSICA

But isn't there a 24 hour Duane  
Reade he can go to or something?

LENNON

You know he can hear us right?  
(to Joe)  
Hey babe, do you mind...?

JOE

Oh! Sure. Girl talk. I get it.

LENNON

Okay, here's what we're gonna do.  
We'll run you a hot bath with one  
of those Mellow Yellow bath bombs  
and we're gonna make up a nice  
comfy bed for you in your old room.

JOE

My office? That's my office.

LENNON

And we'll get out your old Laura  
Ashley comforter and the aerobed...

JOE

Or I could just sleep on the couch  
and you guys can take the bed?

LENNON

Really, babe?

JESSICA

That'd be great.

JOE (CONT'D)

What? No! I'm kidding.

LENNON

And we're gonna spend the whole  
weekend snuggled up on the couch...

JESSICA

Can we watch *Steel Magnolias*?

JOE

That sounds like fun, but we're  
still doing Lazy Sunday, right?

JESSICA

You guys still do Lazy Sunday?  
That was our thing.

LENNON

No, it's not really the same as  
when you and I used to do it.

JOE

Yeah, we keep it real lazy: best buds, chili, Jets game.

JESSICA

The TV is on? Well, is it still a culinary experience?

JOE

Yeah, we're doing my Monster chili, made with real Monster Energy drink and Scoops!

JESSICA

What the f are Scoops?

JOE

Okay. How do I...? It's like a miniature tortilla bowl that is designed to convey the maximum amount of salsa and/or chili...

LENNON

Joe, it's too much right now.

JOE

But Rav already got the pony keg.

JESSICA

Wait, Rav's coming?

JOE

And maybe this girl he's dating. She used to be on Miami Ink.

LENNON

We'll just host next month, okay?

Len gets up and leaves the room. Joe moves next to Jess.

JOE

(whispering)

Hey, I know you're having a really tough time right now...

JESSICA

Why are you whispering?

JOE

(even softer)

Because I don't want Len to hear.

JESSICA

I can't understand anything you're saying!

JOE

Okay, just, I really need Lazy Sunday to happen cause I was planning something for Len.

JESSICA

What are you planning?

JOE

I can't tell you. You'll tell her.

JESSICA

No, I wont.

JOE

Remember when you ruined the Springsteen surprise?

JESSICA

(adamant)

It was an outdoor concert, I wanted to make sure she brought a light jacket.

JOE

Hey, I'm giving up my office. It's the least you can do.

JESSICA

Fine. But only cause it's for Len.

INT. JOE'S OFFICE - A LITTLE LATER

Len makes up the aerobed with a thousand tiny floral pillows.

LENNON

She just needs a drawer or two.

JOE

Okay, but she can't touch anything on my desk, cause I have a new game that I'm testing...

LENNON

They sent you another one?

JOE

Yeah, just to me and two other guys.

(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)

Look, Len, it's like Fallout 3: New Vegas, in that it's a post-apocalyptic world, but you're allowed to design your own warrior.

On the computer screen, there is a brunette in tight camos.

LENNON

Is that me? Thanks for giving me those great boobs.

JOE

Right? I mean, I prefer yours. But you need them to balance your crossbow, cause even though you have all this weaponry available, you insist on using a crossbow. How bad-ass is that?

LENNON

Pretty bad-ass. I bet you'd give a drawer to one of her best friends.

JOE

I wouldn't have a choice.

LENNON

Yeah, cause she'd knock you out with her giant titties.

INT. LEN & JOE'S APARTMENT - THE NEXT MORNING

LENNON

Bye, babe! Be back in an hour.

Jess and Len leave the apartment and shut the door.

LENNON (CONT'D)

You're sure Lazy Sunday's not gonna be too much for you?

JESSICA

No, it'll be good for me to have something to focus on other than the shattered pieces of my life.

LENNON

Oh shit, I forgot the recipe...

JESSICA

It's on the counter. I'll get it.

Jess enters to find Joe, naked. He lets out a lady's scream.

JOE

AHHH!

He freezes and covers his junk with his hands. Jess walks awkwardly past him.

JESSICA

We were gone five seconds.

She slams the door.

INT. LEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING STOOP - MOMENTS LATER

The girls come out onto the stoop and see QUEENETTA (chubby African American girl, 11 going on 40).

JESSICA

(under her breath)  
Queenetta.

QUEENETTA

Look who's back. But I think we all saw this coming. You look older.

JESSICA

Oh really? You still look eight.

QUEENETTA

I'm eleven and a half! You been gone three years, do the math. Now where are you gonna stay? Cause you can't stay here, Joe just moved in.

JESSICA

Lennon said I can stay as long as I want.

QUEENETTA

Also, now that you're back in the dating world, I would get rid of those sad khakis. That's probably one of the reasons he left you.

JESSICA

I needed a relaxed fit.

QUEENETTA

Cause you gotta put some effort in if you wanna keep a man.

(singing and dancing)

*Nails done, Hair done, Everything did, Oh you fancy, huh? Oh you fancy, huh?*

JESSICA

I will have you know that I went to  
LUCKY NAIL!

LENNON

Alright, we gotta get to the store.

QUEENETTA

Ooh! For Lazy Sunday? Can I come?

JESSICA

No!

QUEENETTA

It's not your party!

JESSICA

Queenetta, why are you always out  
here like a little stoop troll?

QUEENETTA

Cause there's a new baby in my  
house and I don't like the way it  
smells!

INT. LEN AND JOE'S LIVING ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

RAV hands Joe a pony keg and turns to leave.

JOE

Wait, but you have to come to Lazy  
Sunday! I have a surprise for Len  
and I want everyone to be there.

RAV

I can't. Jessica hates my guts.

JOE

What's the big deal? So, you had  
feelings for her and you punched  
her husband in the face at their  
wedding...

RAV

I didn't have feelings for her. Who  
said that?

JOE

Jess's Cousin Dana. She said it  
first, but we were all thinking it.

RAV

Cousin Dana needs to shut her pie  
hole. You know she's a man, right?

JOE

What?! But in the wedding pictures, she has those big boobs and she's wearing that giant purple blazer!

RAV

Yeah, that's a man.

JOE

Oh my god.

RAV

And what happened was, I told Jess not to marry Peter, he found out and told me never to talk to her again. So I punched him in the face.

JOE

Because you had feelings for her.

RAV

No, Joe. Because Peter is a douche and he was never good enough for her, okay? Drop it. I'm not coming.

JOE

Alright, I get it. You can't do this for Len, even though the night your bar opened she saved your ass by convincing the kitchen staff not to walk out...

RAV

Don't do this, Joe.

JOE

...using only her broken, high school Spanish. They still call her "El Jefe."

RAV

Fine. If Jess comes to my bar, I will think about talking to her.

JOE

Awesome. (a beat) I shoulda known about Cousin Dana. She was wearing a bolo tie.

INT. MET SUPERMARKET - SAME TIME

Jess, sadly munching on bologna, stands with Len by the deli counter. ANGELO, the butcher, hands Jess another slice.

LENNON/JESSICA

Hey, Angelo.

ANGELO

When are you two ladies gonna marry me?

LENNON

She's getting a divorce.

ANGELO

Don't you worry about it. You get back to your fighting weight, get out of those khakis... You'll be beating 'em back with a stick. Now, which of my premium meats can I interest you in today?

LENNON

We just need seven pounds of ground chuck. We're making chili.

ANGELO

Alright, lemme find the grinder.

Jess stuffs the bologna in her mouth.

JESSICA

Do I really look that bad in these khakis? And what did he mean about my fighting weight?

LENNON

No, it's just those front pleats give the illusion of extra weight.

JESSICA

Oh, god. I'm gonna have to worry about this shit again. I don't even have any good underwear.

LENNON

We'll go to Bloomies and get you some lacy thongs.

JESSICA

No, Len. I can't start all over again. Where am I gonna live? Some sad studio with a hot plate and a murphy bed? I don't want to unfold my bed from the wall. It's too overwhelming. I give up.

*(Jess leans her forehead into Len's shoulder).*

LENNON

You give up? This from the woman who managed to throw together, in mere hours, a Mediterranean Feast that would become one of the most legendary Lazy Sundays ever. Those garlic lamb shanks...

JESSICA

Was it a shank?

LENNON

The meat fell right off the bone and you did those new potatoes...

JESSICA

(perking up)

It was a smash, a parmesan smash.

LENNON

And that watermelon feta salad...

JESSICA

Something hot, something cold.

LENNON

And I did a linen runner with the -

JESSICA

Tealights! So rustic! Yes!

LENNON

We should do it.

JESSICA

Do what?

LENNON

The Feast. The Mediterranean Feast!  
(to Angelo)  
Angelo, I need seven cuts of your most premium meats!

JESSICA

Screw the grinder, Angelo! The ladies are BACK!

INT. LEN & JOE'S KITCHEN - A LITTLE LATER

Len and Jess unpack their bags. Joe looks through them.

JOE

Hey, where are my Scoops?

LENNON

Oh, we don't need Scoops anymore  
cause we're not doing chili.

JOE

We're not doing chili?!

INT. JOE'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Jess unpacks her many toiletries into the tiny drawer Joe has  
given her.

JESSICA

Only one drawer? Get real.

She starts to clean out another drawer and discovers a small  
VELVET BOX hidden in the back. She opens it. It's the ugliest  
RING she's ever seen - a pewter snake swallowing a heart.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Holy shit.

ACT TWO

INT. LEN & JOE'S BATHROOM - THAT NIGHT

Joe takes a shower while Len does her makeup.

JOE  
Why do you look like Rocky Raccoon?

LENNON  
It's a smoky eye. Jess did it.

JOE  
I said I like my woman NATURAL.

Jessica calls through the door.

JESSICA (O.S.)  
Are you done with the curling iron?

LENNON  
Hold on, I'm gonna give it to you.

Joe thinks Len is talking to him.

JOE  
No, I'm gonna give it to you!

He throws open the shower curtain just as Len opens the door.  
Jess gets another full-on dong sighting.

JOE/JESSICA  
AHHH!

INT. RAV'S BAR - RED HOOK, BROOKLYN - LATER THAT NIGHT

Joe and Rav walk towards Len and Jess who sit at a booth.

JOE  
Full disclosure, she didn't exactly  
know we were coming to your bar.

RAV  
Really setting me up for success.

JOE  
We're all taking a bullet here.  
They cancelled my chili and she's  
seen my dong twice in 24 hours.  
Just suck it up and make it right.

They arrive at the table.

JOE (CONT'D)

Lennon, join me for Ms. Pac-Man?

Len and Joe leave. Rav sits down next to Jess.

RAV

Okay, I'm just gonna throw it on the table. I'm sorry. Okay? I shouldn't have punched him in the face and I shouldn't have told you not to marry him, but I know now, that that was not my place.

JESSICA

Okay. Can I ask you a question?

RAV

Sure. Anything.

JESSICA

What do we think about Joe for Len, you know, like long term?

RAV

You are a real piece of work.

JESSICA

What?

RAV

I just laid my soul on the line...

JESSICA

And I said okay.

RAV

We haven't spoken in three years.

JESSICA

That wasn't my fault.

RAV

Well, you didn't return my calls.

JESSICA

Well, I was still mad at you!

RAV

Well, I'm trying to apologize now!

JESSICA

Well, I don't have time to talk about this, cause I have to figure out if this guy is right for Len!

RAV

You're getting a divorce, figure that out.

JESSICA

I have it under control.

RAV

Really? Where's your bra?

JESSICA

Man. Okay, I found a ring in Joe's drawer. I think he's gonna propose.

RAV

At Lazy Sunday... That's awesome!

JESSICA

It's not awesome. It's way too soon. They've only been together eleven months.

RAV

That's twice as long as you and Peter were together before YOU got engaged.

JESSICA

And what? He plays video games for a living? No thank you.

RAV

He writes a kick-ass gaming blog.

JESSICA

Well, I pictured her with somebody a bit more intellectual, you know, like a dusty archaeologist.

RAV

Oh, like a professor at Harvard who maybe goes on international adventures and solves mysteries?

JESSICA

That sounds great.

RAV

That's Indiana Jones and he doesn't exist! Your only REAL problem is that you're gonna have to share her. I mean, have you ever seen her this comfortable with anyone before?

JESSICA  
I don't think she's particularly comfortable...

RAV  
Look at her.

They see Len with two fries up her nose, shaking her boobs.

RAV (CONT'D)  
And I don't want to burst your bubble, but you're not exactly the best judge of character.

JESSICA  
Oh, and Miami Ink seems like a real keeper.

Behind the bar, a tattooed woman opens a beer with her teeth.

RAV  
Just stay out of it, St. Clair.

JESSICA  
Guess what? Your apologies suck.

RAV  
Well, I take it back. I'm glad I punched him in the face. And you can tell Cousin Dana: NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS!

INT. RAV'S BAR OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

CLOSE UP on a video game: Giant scorpions attack a man.

RAV (O.S.)  
Joe. Joe. I'm cornered.

INTERCUT WITH:

Joe playing the video game in his office.

JOE  
(overreacting)  
Goddammit, Rav! How did you anger an entire pod of Radscorpions? Learn to use your weapons!!

RAV  
Relax! It's not my fault you're hiding in your office. I told you, you can't let Jess push you out. You need to infiltrate.

JOE

I'm sorry, should I be partaking in the *Steel Magnolias* marathon? I'm not interested in watching Sally Field deliver a bunch of jokes.

RAV

It's not a comedy, man! It's about the fragility of life and the bonds that hold us all together.

JOE

Whoa, what just happened there?

RAV

I lived with them senior year. That movie has become a part of me. Listen, you need to get out there and fight for your girlfriend. Be a man. Watch *Steel Magnolias*.

INT. LEN & JOE'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

CLOSE UP on the TV: *Steel Magnolias* plays.

JESSICA

Why would Shelby rush off and get pregnant when she knew that her kidneys couldn't handle it?

LENNON

She said she'd rather have 30 minutes of wonderful than a whole lifetime of nothing.

JESSICA

Yeah, but if she knew how it would turn out, would she do it again?

LENNON

Yep. Probably.

JESSICA

No. What?

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Well, we can't ask her, cause she's dead. Len, you can't rush into things like babies... and marriage. That's called pullin' a Shelby.

LENNON

What do you mean? Like...

(doing Shelby)

"I need some juice!"

JESSICA

Lennon, I'm serious. I married a guy before I really knew him and look how that turned out. I don't want that to happen to you.

LENNON

I'm not gonna pull a Shelby. You know I like to take things slow.

JESSICA

So I don't have to be worried?

LENNON

About what?

JESSICA

You getting married anytime soon.

LENNON

No. He just moved in.

JESSICA

Good. That's what I needed to hear.

LENNON

And what I need...  
(doing Shelby's face)  
...is some JUICE!

Joe walks in.

JOE

Hey.

LENNON

Hi! We're still watching *Steel Magnolias*.

JOE

Kewl. I'll check out the "Steely Nols." I'm just gonna pull up my Jets chair and snuggle it right close.

JESSICA

You are fully aware, this is *Steel Magnolias*.

JOE

Oh, you mean the 1989 film starring Julia Roberts in an Oscar-nominated role, based on the 1987 play of the same name? Yes, I am familiar.

They look at him, then go back to watching.

(A beat)

JOE (CONT'D)  
Wikipedia said this was based on  
the author's real sister dying.

JESSICA  
You're doing a lot of talking.

(A beat)

JOE  
You're not actually supposed to  
give juice to a diabetic. My  
roommate Barney had full 'betes --

JESSICA  
Shhhh!

(A beat)

JOE  
Is that Darryl Hannah from *Splash*?!

JESSICA  
You know, I'm surprised you haven't  
seen this already, considering it's  
Lennon's favorite movie.

JOE  
No, her favorite's *Braveheart*.

JESSICA  
Lennon, tell him what your favorite  
movie is.

LENNON  
Well, I have a favorite movie with  
you and a favorite movie with him.

JESSICA  
You can't have two favorites.

LENNON  
My personal favorite is *Brigadoon*.

JESSICA  
That's ridiculous.

JOE  
Is that a musical? Ugh!

LENNON (CONT'D)  
Does anybody want snacks?

Len hurries out.

JESSICA

I know what you're up to, okay?

JOE

I'm just trying to watch the movie.

JESSICA

I know what you have planned. So you need to slow it down, buddy.

JOE

You don't think we should go there?

JESSICA

No, I don't think you should go there. Now is not a good time for this.

JOE

You want me to wait? But I thought *Steel Magnolias* was all about living life! Didn't Shelby say she'd rather have 30 minutes of wonderful --

JESSICA

And then she died, Joe! She died.

JOE

Hey man, you're freaking me out.

JESSICA

No, you're freaking ME out!

INT. MET SUPERMARKET - THE NEXT AFTERNOON

ANGELO

They got you doin' errands now?

JOE

It's only for a couple more days.

ANGELO

That's what I thought when my wife's sister came to help out with the baby.

JOE

Did she stay long?

ANGELO

I don't know. Is 24 years long?

INT. LEN & JOE'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Jess and Len are getting the place ready.

JESSICA

Take me through the flow of the evening.

LENNON

So, it's a ding-dong, hello, can I take your coat? That'll be Joe...

JESSICA

I man the drink station.

LENNON

They pass by the apps, take their food over here? I don't like that.

JESSICA

Could I throw this in the mix? What if we did cold apps over here...

LENNON

Hot apps on the coffee table. Love it. But this couch for me is really blocking the flow, right?

JESSICA

Well, there's a reason we had it over here for eight years.

(A beat)

LENNON

Alright, let's move it.

They move the couch.

LENNON (CONT'D)

It's already opening up the space.

JESSICA

So, we've got a ding-dong, hello, coats, drinks, cold apps, hot apps -

LENNON

I just...

JESSICA

What? Talk to me.

LENNON

Something is off.

The girls both slowly turn their gaze to Joe's inflatable Jets chair.

INT. LEN & JOE'S LIVING ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Joe comes in to find Len deflating his Jets chair.

JOE  
My Jets chair? Are you kidding me,  
Lennon?

LENNON  
What? Joe...

JOE  
Did Jessica not want it?

LENNON  
No, Joe, it's just not working in  
here anymore.

JOE  
Yeah, a lot of things aren't  
working in here anymore.

LENNON  
I don't understand why you're  
getting so upset about this.

JOE  
Cause you and I wanted to do chili  
and Scoops and that was our plan  
and why is this couch over here and  
is she gonna be here for 24 years  
like Angelo's sister-in-law?

LENNON  
She's getting a divorce. What am I  
supposed to do? Kick my best friend  
out on the street?

JOE  
I never said that!

LENNON  
Keep your voice down!

JOE  
Oh, is the princess taking a nap? I  
wouldn't want to WAKE HER UP! AHH!

LENNON

I'm sorry that for once in our entire relationship I can't put you first without you having a mental breakdown?

JOE

You know what? If you and Jess love each other so much, why don't you just get a cabin in the Berkshires and open a lesbian candle shoppe!

Joe goes into his office and slams the door.

LENNON

Great! I LOVE scented candles!

Jess comes out and follows Len into the living room.

LENNON (CONT'D)

I don't want to talk about it.

JESSICA

Len, please, you don't have to do all this stuff for me.

LENNON

But I do. Because if I don't, then you'll go back to Peter and we'll be right back where we started.

JESSICA

No, Len. My marriage is over. Do you really think I'd go back to him?

LENNON

You went back the first time he cheated on you.

JESSICA

You know what, Lennon? If you had something to say about that, you should have spoken up.

LENNON

Why? So you could ignore me for three years like you did to Rav?

JESSICA

That's not fair.

LENNON

See what you made me do? I can't  
make both of you happy. So screw  
Lazy Sunday!

Joe comes out.

JOE

What? No!

LENNON

And you can both go shove these  
tealights RIGHT UP YOUR ASS!

ACT THREE

EXT. RAV'S BAR - THAT NIGHT

Jess and Rav sit on a bench outside.

JESSICA

Well, I always said that Joe was a ticking time bomb.

RAV

Who did you say that to?

JESSICA

Myself. Nobody listens to me.

RAV

What are you doing? He's obviously right for her.

JESSICA

He may well be right for her, but it's just not the right time!

RAV

Why? Because on top of everything you've lost, you're afraid you're gonna lose your best friend too?

JESSICA

No!

*(A beat. And Jess bursts into tears)*

RAV

Okay, there we go.  
 (rubbing her back)  
 You guys are way too far up each other's butts for that to happen. And you have other people here for you besides Len, you know.

JESSICA

Like who?

RAV

Get off my bench.

JESSICA

I have you, I get it.

She leans her head on his shoulder.

INT. LEN & JOE'S KITCHEN - LATER THAT NIGHT

Jess comes in the kitchen to find Len amidst the chaos of pots and pans, rubbing a lamb shank against a cheese grater.

JESSICA

Lennon, stop. What are you doing?

LENNON

I'm trying to make ground beef out of lamb shanks!

JESSICA

Calm down. I'm sorry, I think I was just afraid --

LENNON

I'm sorry, too, but we don't have time for that! We have to make Joe's chili, cause it wasn't fair and we had a plan and I deflated the Jets chair and now he'll never forgive me.

JESSICA

You listen to me, I didn't spend the last three years in a loveless marriage watching only the Barefoot Contessa, to be defeated by Joe's Monster chili. We can do this!

INT. LEN & JOE'S KITCHEN - THE NEXT MORNING

Len is crafting homemade Scoops out of a batter, Jess is blowing up the Jets chair and Queenetta is boiling wieners.

LENNON

Q, pick up the pace on the wieners.  
Jess, ETA on the Jets chair?

Jess can't answer, she's out of breath. Joe walks in.

JOE

Are you guys making my Monster chili? And are these Scoops?

He picks up one from the muffin tin and it falls apart.

JOE (CONT'D)

Homemade Scoops, this is the nicest thing anyone has ever done for me.

LENNON

Joe, I'm sorry. I just got carried away with taking care of Jess and I forgot all about our stuff.

JOE

I don't want you to stop taking care of people. That's what you do best. I just have to get used to it, cause I don't have anyone like that. Except you.

From the corner, Jess wheezes. She's finished the chair.

JOE (CONT'D)

You know we have a pump for that.

JESSICA

(out of breath)

Fuck you.

INT. LEN & JOE'S LIVING ROOM - A FEW HOURS LATER

Rav and a few other friends have arrived. Joe sits proudly on his Jets chair. Jess approaches.

JESSICA

So, everyone is VERY excited. I've got champagne chilling and a few other things up my sleeve. I'll just need a five minute warning.

JOE

Cool. Hey, Jess, watch this.

He catapults a Cheeze-It from the cup holder into his mouth.

JOE (CONT'D)

Nailed it.

Rav stands near Len in the kitchen.

LENNON

Rav, will you taste this chili? It's got Monster Energy Drink in it and my tongue has gone numb.

(A beat. Rav stares at Len.)

LENNON (CONT'D)

Why are you crying?

RAV

Get over here, kid.

Rav hugs Len really hard.

RAV (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
You're all grown up.

Over by the hot apps station, Jess urgently speaks with Queenetta.

JESSICA  
So, Queenetta, when Len says yes,  
I'll give you the signal and you  
shoot off the confetti gun.

QUEENETTA  
And then tomorrow, you gonna say  
yes to some new pants.

Jess frowns and reaches for a weiner. (*Queenetta slaps her hand*).

QUEENETTA (CONT'D)  
Nuh-uh. Fighting weight.

INT. LEN & JOE'S DINING ROOM - AFTER DESSERT

Everyone waits at the table for Joe to make his move. They keep looking at Jessica excitedly like, this is it!

JOE  
Okay. Well, if we've all had our  
fill of Monster chili... I have an  
announcement to make.

Joe stands up.

JOE (CONT'D)  
We all know how much Len does for  
us. Rav, all that stuff for your  
bar; Jess, she's helping you, cause  
you're really losing your shit  
right now...

JESSICA  
I'll be okay, guys.

JOE  
And for some reason, she loves ME.  
And that's pretty much the most  
awesome thing that's ever happened  
to me. So, Len...

Everyone takes a deep breath in.

JOE (CONT'D)

Will you... go with me to the  
William Wallace Memorial?

LENNON

In Scotland?!  
(to everyone)  
That's the *Braveheart* guy  
everybody!

Everyone looks at Jess like, is that it?

JESSICA

IS THAT IT?

JOE

Yeah! We're going to see where Mel  
Gibson got his guts torn out!

LENNON

(in a Scottish accent)  
"Are you ready for a WAR?!!"

Jess grabs Joe and drags him into the bathroom.

JESSICA

Are you going to do it in Scotland?

JOE

Do what?

JESSICA

Propose!

A knock on the bathroom door. It's Lennon.

LENNON

Let me in. Everyone's staring at me  
with tears in their eyes.

Jess lets Len in and they squeeze into the tiny bathroom.

LENNON (CONT'D)

What's going on in here?

JESSICA

Are you gonna get married or what?!

LENNON

Yeah, of course...

JOE

Really?

LENNON

Yeah. I mean, not right now, but, I  
wanna be with you forever.

JOE

I wanna be with you forever.

JESSICA

But Joe, what about the ring?

LENNON

What ring?

JESSICA

I found an ugly-ass ring in Joe's  
drawer. A snake swallowing a heart.

JOE

Oh, THAT ring. Okay. When we were  
on our first date at Medieval  
Times...

LENNON

It was so awesome. I got to hold a  
live falcon.

JESSICA

Wow. You two are perfect together.

JOE

Anyway, while you were off getting  
another turkey leg, I bought that  
ring. Cause I just wanted something  
to remember the day I met you.

Len begins to cry and Joe kisses her. Jess cries too.

JOE (CONT'D)

Why are YOU crying?

JESSICA

I wan be wih you guy furevah too.

JOE

I didn't get a word of that.

LENNON

She wants to be with us forever  
too.

Three-way hug.

INT. LEN & JOE'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

They come out of the bathroom smiling and crying, and everyone thinks the proposal has happened. (*Everybody claps and cheers.*) A slideshow of Len & Joe photos begins on the TV.

JESSICA  
(trying to call it off)  
Guys... Guys...

Queenetta shoots off a confetti gun.

TAG

INT. LEN & JOE'S BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

Len and Jess lie on the bed.

JESSICA

Now, I know that in the future I'm not supposed to get involved, but if THAT was the ring he was gonna propose with, I should have said something, right?

LENNON

Oh yeah, you should have come to me immediately.

Just then, Joe dances into the bedroom and not seeing Jessica, drops his towel.

JOE

Get a load of my premium meats!

Joe turns and sees Jess.

JESSICA/JOE

AHHH!

JESSICA

IT'S LIKE YOU WANT ME TO SEE THIS!!

END OF SHOW