



UNIVERSAL CABLE PRODUCTIONS

DIFFICULT PEOPLE

PILOT

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DIFFICULT PEOPLE
As of March 24, 2014

EXT. NYC MIDTOWN THEATER-NIGHT

JULIE (35, Jewish, big naturals) walks while listening to her iPod. We ZOOM IN to see her music switch from Beyoncé's Drunk in Love" to R. Kelly's "Ignition"

JULIE

No thanks.

She gets in front of the Broadway theater where ANNIE: The Musical is being performed. She's clearly waiting for somebody. She opens TWITTER on her phone and types something in. We see: "I can't wait until Blue Ivy...."

BILLY (O.S.)

Julie!

Julie looks up to see BILLY (35, gay, loud) approaching.

JULIE

Billy!

She puts her phone away. They WALK INSIDE toward their seats.

JULIE (CONT'D)

I love Annie. Isn't it funny how FDR is a total hero in this play, even though in real life, he let millions of Jews die?

BILLY

SO funny. I love that he was born during a time when handicapped people still had to wear blankets on their laps.

JULIE

When you're in a wheelchair, your lap is your most prominent attribute. Why cover it up with a blanket?

BILLY

It's more like an accessory, like when older women wear huge eyeglasses or statement necklaces to draw eyes up to their faces instead of down toward their horrible bodies.

They get to their seats.

JULIE

Hey, did you get my voicemail yesterday?

BILLY

The one where you just played me the audio from Sally Field's Boniva commercial?

JULIE

Yeah, and then I hung up!

Julie realizes Billy isn't even smiling.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Hey, come on. You love that ad. What's wrong? Has Josh called?

BILLY

No. It's been a week. We're done.

JULIE

Oh, Billy! I'm so sorry.

BILLY

I'm really upset. Josh was so hot. And not a moron.

JULIE

Well, he's clearly a moron if he broke up with you. I hate him.

BILLY

Thanks, Jules. By the way, I liked today's Real Housewives recap.

JULIE

I'm so funny when I write mean things about TV shows! Why hasn't anyone hired me to write for one?

BILLY

Because our lives are garbage and it's the world's fault.

As Billy strips off his layers...

BILLY (CONT'D)

I hate winter. I wish I never had to go outside.

JULIE

Oh, I've been an indoors kid since I was little. I used to spend every recess in the library, even during nice days.

BILLY

That's adorable.

JULIE

I have such happy memories about the library water fountain. It had the most delicious water.

BILLY

Actually, MY library had an incredible water fountain too.

JULIE

You know what would be smart...

As they take their seats, a MOM IN HER 30'S shuffles into the row in front of Julie and Billy. She's with TWO SIX YEAR OLD TWINS--a BOY and a GIRL. The mom has bitchface and seems shifty.

JULIE (WHISPERING) (CONT'D)

...what if we went into business selling bottled library fountain water.

BILLY

Oh my God, yes. That is BRILLIANT.

JULIE

How do you go about doing something like that?

BILLY

Wait. Okay, this is going to sound insane. But oddly enough, I met somebody who sells water in milk cartons as an alternative to bottled water. It's good for the environment.

JULIE

Doesn't the water inside taste like milk?

BILLY

I don't think so.

JULIE

It seems like it would. (Billy shrugs) How do you know him?

BILLY

I met him last week, at that premiere at UCB, remember?

JULIE

Yes, that party. God, I still can't believe they turned Evan's podcast into a feature film.

BILLY

We can always say we knew him when! As though that's ever been anything someone has wanted to say about one of their famous friends.

JULIE

Meanwhile, Mindy Kaling is following me on Twitter now and I have no idea how to use that for my own financial gain. Um, I can't pay my rent with fav's and retweets.

BILLY

So, should I set up a meeting with this water guy? Even though we have no idea what we're doing?

JULIE

Of course! How hard can it be to start a business?

BILLY

Plus, we're great in the room.

The kids in front of Julie and Billy are making MORE AND MORE NOISE. Julie winces.

JULIE

Yecch. I hate the sound of children laughing.

They open their Playbills. A SHEET drops out of both--Billy reads it.

BILLY

Oh, FUCK! Annie is an understudy tonight! And her name is Taylor? This generation.

JULIE

If she blows this role, I swear to God, I will strap down my tits and get on stage to take over.

Mom and kids look back, reasonably perturbed.

MOM

Excuse me, would you mind watching your language?

Theater Mom turns back around, annoyed.

JULIE

How's your dad, by the way?

BILLY

Not well.

There's a pregnant pause here: Julie is keeping Billy company with empathy. Even though there is nothing said, Julie reaches over and squeezes his hand.

JULIE

Well, if it makes you feel any better, according to Deadline today, Ellen Pompeo is moving over to ICM from CAA.

BILLY

That will be a good fit for her.

The LIGHTS DIM. The show starts with the children GIGGLING in the orphanage.

JULIE (LOUDLY)

UCCGH!

INT. JULIE'S APARTMENT-LATER THAT NIGHT

Julie enters her TINY APARTMENT to the sound of CONSTANT LOUD CONSTRUCTION NOISES. As her TWO BASSET HOUNDS run up to her, Julie greets ARTHUR (40), her boyfriend. Arthur is patient, dresses like Paul F. Tompkins and loves Julie unequivocally. When Julie enters, Arthur is chopping up a quince.

JULIE (TO DOGS)

Puppies! Hi Arthur.

ARTHUR

Hey, Noodles. How was the play?

JULIE

Fun! What are you slicing?

ARTHUR

A quince.

JULIE

What the hell is a quince?

ARTHUR

It's like an apple combined with a pear. Somebody at the office wrote a book about them.

JULIE

Wait: somebody who works in public television wrote a book about something boring?

ARTHUR

Here - I made you a plate.

JULIE

Thanks.

ARTHUR

What's new with Billy? Last time you said he was hung up on that guy.

JULIE

Oh, Josh. He's out of the picture. Who dumps a guy right before The Oscars? They're like gay Yom Kippur!

Julie switches tone to seductive and sweet. She crawls over to Arthur and feeds him a slice of fruit. Touches his bowtie.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Hey babe... do we still have to go to Gaby's Oscar party Sunday?

ARTHUR

Yes, of course. I'm making wings and bringing prosecco. I'm gonna wear my new bowtie. The herring bone.

JULIE

Wahhh, but I want to stay at home and live-tweet the show in my pajamas.

ARTHUR

I know. You can't. That's anti-social and Gaby's my boss. She's a big deal at PBS and we have to go.

JULIE

But the internet clamors for my signature brand of snark! I have...how many Twitter followers do I have now?

Julie brings the chicken and her phone over to the couch. As her attention shifts, we see the HOUNDS devour her chicken from the plate. Soon, they start eating the table.

JULIE (LOOKING AT HER PHONE) (CONT'D)

Oh, no.

ARTHUR

What?

JULIE

I made a joke about Blue Ivy earlier...

ARTHUR

Jay-Z & Beyonce's kid?

JULIE

Yeah, and now I have all these really angry mentions on Twitter from people who hate me. They're being so mean! "Unfollow. Kill yourself" From SpinClassAddict77.

ARTHUR

What was the joke?

JULIE

Well, it was also an R. Kelly joke.

ARTHUR

R. Kelly the infamous sexual predator and pedophile?

JULIE

Allegedly. Yeah. Alleged those things.

ARTHUR

What did you say?

JULIE

I said something like, "I can't wait for Blue Ivy to be old enough for R. Kelly to piss on her." In less than 140 characters. Was that bad?

ARTHUR

It's not great.

JULIE

Should I delete it?

ARTHUR

I don't know.

JULIE

People are tweeting me that it wasn't the kid's fault that she's famous enough to be the target of a joke about a sex criminal.

ARTHUR

They're not wrong.

JULIE

I hate this! I hate fighting with people. I just like saying crazy shit and leaving the room before it's reacted to. Unless people like what I say. Then I stay in the room!

ARTHUR

Right, I know. I've met you before. You're what some would call a coward.

JULIE

I'm non-confrontational. (BEAT) I'm going to delete that piss baby joke.

ARTHUR

Be my guest. I'll make espresso.

JULIE (RE: TEXT)

Done.

Angle on the HOUNDS: They have licked Julie's plate clean and they are now tearing up the couch. Julie SMILES as Arthur focuses on his cooking.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Aw. They're trying to eat the couch.

INT. ROMAN'S-DAY

Billy is waiting tables at Roman's, a hip cafe on the Lower East Side. Clientele are cool millenials who make a big deal about their coffee. We see Billy waiting on two girls on a brunch date.

BILLY

...because, ma'am, if I substituted fruit for potatoes for you, then I'd have to do it for everybody else who asks. And that...would not be ideal. Do you understand?

He smiles in a rigid, false way. CHLOE, Billy's manager, approaches him. Chloe is quirky, grounded, compassionate.

CHLOE

Hey, Billy, can I have a word?

Billy follows Chloe behind the bar.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

I've gotten more complaints from staff and customers today than usual. Is everything all right?

BILLY

Oh, I just heard from Chelsea lately. They said I'm a bad fit for their panel.

CHLOE

I'm sorry. But, in all honesty, I don't know what that means, because...

BILLY

You don't have a TV.

CHLOE

...I don't have a TV.

BILLY

Yes, I know, Chloe. You're very different from everyone else in the world who doesn't have a TV because you talk about it all the time.

CHLOE

You know, you remind me sometimes
of my friend Rod back in
Portland...

BILLY

Chloe, please, with this story
again. Can you kindly stop not
being my manager, I have to get
back to table six. It's a lesbian
couple, and they don't eat milk or
bread. The two things you'd put
down first if you were going
grocery shopping.

A timid, Jared Leto-looking moron asks Billy for the check
while he talks to Chloe.

CHLOE

Just, please, Billy. Try a little
harder.

MALE CUSTOMER

Excuse me, can we please get the
check?

BILLY (TO HIMSELF)

Who do you think you are, Felicity
Huffman on Emmy night 8 years ago?

He looks at Chloe, who shoots him a "No-no" look.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Coming right up. My pleasure sir.
Hey, do me a favor and have a great
day.

INT. MICHAEL'S-DAY

MARILYN (60s), a narcissistic Jewish psychiatrist, reads the
Wall Street Journal, waiting for her daughter. Julie enters.

MARILYN

Oh, hi! Don't you look pretty when
you smile.

JULIE

Hi, mom.

MARILYN (RE: HER NEWSPAPER)

Do you know this "LENNA" Dunham?

JULIE

Yeah, we're Twitter friends from when she did her first movie.

MARILYN

Well, apparently she's doing great and she's younger than you. She has tattoos. Anyway, this article says it's a great time for women right now, in comedy.

JULIE

That's very helpful, mom.

MARILYN

Aren't you going to ask if I finished my hypnosis course?

JULIE

Wow, that would have been a breakneck pace for changing the subject, if both subjects weren't you.

MARILYN

I finished my hypnosis course! When can I practice on you?

JULIE

You're not hypnotizing me.

MARILYN

It's not like I tell you you're a chicken and you act like a chicken.

JULIE

That may very well be, but I don't want you to do it to me.

MARILYN

Well, you're lucky to have a mom who's a shrink.

JULIE

Yes. I'm a walking gratitude list.

As the busboy sets down water....

MARILYN

I asked for sparkling. (TO JULIE)
How's Billy?

JULIE

He's okay. He can't get over this guy Josh is the only thing.

MARILYN

Oh, I can hypnotise him!

JULIE

Hmm.

MARILYN

Yes! It's not like I tell him he's a chicken and he becomes a chicken or anything.

The busboy comes back and sets Pelligrino in front of Marilyn. She ignores him and looks at her blackberry.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

Did you get that email I sent you about Palestine? Because I'm about to resend it.

INT. RECEPTION AREA- DAY

A reception area. Billy & Julie walk & talk en route to Kevin's office.

JULIE

So what was this guy doing at Evan's premiere anyway?

BILLY

He said he was a big podcast fan. I still hit on him, even after that. Then I found out he had a wife and kids.

JULIE

Isn't that the pilot episode of LOOKING?

BILLY

Oh, I'm so relieved premium cable has finally cracked Grindr.

INT. KEVIN'S OFFICE - DAY

KEVIN PULLMAN (30s), a well-meaning guy douchey bro sits across from Julie & Billy. There are boxed water cartons on every available surface.

KEVIN

So, you two are in comedy! Do you like Daniel Tosh?

Julie and Billy look at Kevin. They are not smiling.

JULIE

So, Mr. Pullman...

KEVIN

It's Kevin.

JULIE

Keving?

KEVIN

Kevin.

BILLY

Keving, you're in the water business. We don't know anything about that. But we have an amazing idea.

JULIE

It occurred to us recently that the water that comes from water fountains in libraries is by far the coldest most delicious water.

BILLY

So, why not bottle it?

KEVIN

Well, we don't bottle here. We're boxed water? Have you seen our cartons? They're really cool, they're biodegradeable...

JULIE

Does the water inside of them taste like milk?

KEVIN

No.

JULIE

Not even a little bit?

KEVIN

No, not even a little bit.

JULIE

It seems like they would.

KEVIN

Well, they don't. Because these containers are brand new. They're not recycled from old milk boxes.

JULIE

Yeah, but it still seems like the water inside of them would taste a little milky.

KEVIN

Well, did you want me to sample some of your...what was it called?

BILLY

Library Water Fountain Water.

JULIE

We don't have any with us.

KEVIN

Oh.

JULIE

Listen, Kevin. This is a great idea if you just tap into your memories of being a child surrounded by books.

BILLY

Although, to be honest, you seem like a kickball at recess type.

JULIE

Like, the first kid picked?

BILLY

I am unable to trust or relate to anybody who grew up popular or accepted.

JULIE

I developed asthma just to make sure I would never be around sports or people who play them.

KEVIN

I guess I'm not sure how to help yo-

JULIE (LOOKING AT A PHOTO OF KIDS ON KEVIN'S DESK)

Hey--Are those your kids?

KEVIN

Yes. That's Memphis and that's
Maverick.

JULIE

What?

KEVIN

The girl's name is Memphis and the
boy's name is Maverick.

BILLY

What?

KEVIN

The girl's name is Memphis and the
boy's name is Maverick. They're
fraternal twins.

A BEAT in which Julie and Billy look at each other and make a
silent decision.

JULIE

We have to go.

Julie grabs a CHARLESTON CHEW miniature as she leaves. HARD
CUT to..

INT. ROMAN'S-AFTERNOON

A WOMAN WITH THE SIDES OF HER HEAD SHAVED beckons Billy.

CUSTOMER

Excuse me? Do you know the WiFi
password?

BILLY

Yes, it's "Nobody Cares About Your
Book Proposal, Everybody Can Tell
You Were Molested Just By Looking
At You." All lowercase.

Julie walks in.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Hey- I was just thinking about you.
What's more of a turn off- veganism
or judaica?

JULIE

I don't know. I guess Judaica.

BILLY

YES. If I was going home with a guy and he had a big clay mezuzah outside his place, I'd be like "is a circumcised experience worth it?"

JULIE

Is that anti-Semitic? Or is that not possible, because we're Jewish.

BILLY

Oh, it's possible. I feel homophobic whenever I go to my gym.

JULIE

But Judaica in particular is a turnoff?

BILLY

Yes. Unless you're Elliot Gould in 1972, spare me a Jewish star necklace buried in chest hair.

Billy notices Julie is upset/distracted.

BILLY (CONT'D)

What's wrong? Why are you here?

JULIE

They were shooting a scene for GIRLS at the bar across the street from me, so I couldn't get into the apartment.

BILLY

You're joking.

JULIE

I wish I was joking. If it weren't real, it would be too on the nose.

BILLY

Aren't you guys friends?

Here is where Julie cracks.

JULIE

Yeah, but, what? Am I supposed to send Lena Dunham a DM on Twitter that says, pardon me, but because you're using the bar across the street from my Manhattan apartment as a location for an episode of your extremely good show about young people being awkward and failing in New York City, I am TRAPPED OUTSIDE, not only of New York City but out of the only business I've ever wanted to take part in since before I could even want sex, or love, or a mom who can experience empathy, or literally any fucking thing else? And I can't get in to feed my dogs, and I can't get my power cord so I can sit here and write a recap of an iconic late night TV show that wouldn't hire me even if I somehow did, at one point, go to Harvard, because I'm 35, female, and I don't diet. And for what? For the defeat of knowing my mother is right when she says "Life's not fair." And a bunch of comments under my recap that say "Way to go, Julie!" "You're my favorite, Julie!" And I read every single one of them. And although there are plenty of anonymous people on the internet who appreciate me, they will never, ever be enough.

A beat. Billy looks at Julie.

BILLY

There's nothing wrong with you.

JULIE

I'm weird.

BILLY

So am I. It's better that way, because we can find each other and it makes a good story. If freaks didn't ever find each other, the Bee Girl at the end of the Blind Melon video would have just killed herself or gotten bypass surgery.

Billy smiles. Julie takes a deep breath.

JULIE

Okay, I'm going to write at the bar.

BILLY

I'm going to go over there and think about Susan Sarandon.

JULIE

I love you.

BILLY

I love you too.

JULIE

Thank God.

BILLY

I know, thank God.

INT. MARILYN'S OFFICE-DAY

Marilyn's office looks like an Anthropologie. There are tapestries fucking everywhere. Billy lies on the couch.

MARILYN

Why don't you tell me why you're here today, Billy?

BILLY

I'd like to eat less pasta.

MARILYN

I thought there was a boy?

BILLY

There is a guy I'm trying to get over, too. Josh. But honestly, if you can just hypnotise me to stop eating pasta all the goddamn time, I'd be thrilled.

MARILYN

I'm not eating sugar right now. It takes a lot of resolve.

BILLY

Okay.

MARILYN

So, Billy, now what I want you to do is close your eyes and take some deep breaths.

Marilyn switches on an iPod attached to a speaker. The sound of WAVES fills the room. Her voice gets sort of sexy.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

What I want you to do now is to picture a staircase. You're at the bottom of the stairs now, and when you get to the top, you'll be hypnotized. I have a very breathy voice and I'm very good at this so just let go.

As Marilyn talks, we pan around her office and see framed photos of Marilyn, an article about Marilyn from the Great Neck Gazette with the headline "Local Therapist Shares The Secret of Her Success: "I Put 'Me' First." Among all the Marilyn imagery lives a COMICALLY SMALL piece of construction paper. In the center is a childhood photo of Julie. It is pasted atop what was clearly a grade school assignment. The paper reads: "When I grow up I want to be a _____." In the blank space, we see the word "LAWYER" written in a child's handwriting, in crayon.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

This is your time. This is all about you. Think about the shoes you're wearing. How do they feel? I usually wear Aerosoles. I also like Merrills. Zappos is terrific.(BEAT)

BILLY

Are you still hypnotizing me?

MARILYN

Yes. Take another deep breath. Now you're on the fourth step. Your hands and legs are heavy. Congratulations. You are hypnotized.

BILLY

Okay.

MARILYN

Billy, you have to knock it off with the pasta.

BILLY

All right.

MARILYN

And this guy, what's his name?

BILLY

Josh.

MARILYN

You have no interest in him anymore.

BILLY

Got it.

MARILYN

Now I want to take this time to bonus hypnotize you to be safer around the house. Do you have a Carbon Monoxide detector?

BILLY

Yes.

MARILYN

Good. I would also like it if you agreed right now to get out of any cab you find unsafe. If if you ever feel uncomfortable, ask the driver to pull over and call an Uber. And when you do, look closely at the photo of the driver they're sending.

BILLY

Okay.

MARILYN

I mean, some of these people barely know their way around the city. Can you imagine being stuck in traffic and needing to go to the bathroom?

BILLY

I can't.

MARILYN

Well, it happens, and now there are more unlicensed cab drivers than ever. I read it in the Wall Street Journal.

BILLY

You did?

MARILYN

They have local stories too, and articles about TV. Apparently it's a big time for women in comedy.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY-OSCAR NIGHT (A FEW DAYS LATER)

Julie and Arthur walk up a flight of stairs from the lobby to the front door of his boss's apartment for her Oscars party.

JULIE (LOOKING AT HER PHONE)
 Can we at least leave early? I'm missing the chance to land so many pre-Oscar zingers.

ARTHUR
 Come on, Noodles. I ask so little of you, and I'm your boyfriend.

GABY (30's, plain, friendly and bookish) answers the door.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
 Gaby! (Searching for a compliment)
 Don't...those shoes look comfortable!

INT. OSCARS PARTY

A tiny, dark apartment. People sit on improvised seats-- ottomans, folding chairs, the floor. Nobody at this party seems fun. Most are older, many seem like stuffy jerks who listen to too much public radio.

GABY
 Guys, this is Arthur and Julie. Do you guys like seaweed or coconut water? We're not serving either, we were just talking about food before you got here!

ARTHUR
 I finished that Quince book, by the way. What was it called again?

GABY
 It's just called "QUINCE."

An OLDER WOMAN stands up.

OLDER WOMAN
 Everybody please look down, I lost an earring. It's made entirely out of hemp.

JULIE (TO HERSELF, OUT LOUD)
 I'm at a terrible party.

We hear a DOORBELL. Gaby answers. It's Billy.

BILLY

Hi, I'm Billy. Julie invited me to your home.

GABY (LOOKING AT JULIE & ARTHUR)

Oh!

Julie makes an "I'm sorry, but what can ya do?" face to Arthur.

INT. KITCHEN-MOMENTS LATER

Gaby and Arthur are pouring drinks when Julie enters.

ARTHUR (TO JULIE)

So, I was just telling Gaby how you and Billy might be on your phones all night, tweeting the Oscars, so she shouldn't get offended.

GABY

I don't "get" Twitter. Why would I want to let people know what I had for lunch today?

JULIE

It doesn't have to be that.

GABY

Do you get paid to tweet?

JULIE

No. I do a lot of things I like doing for no money.

GABY

I love that!

JULIE

It's not a choice.

GABY

But, wait- can you delete a Tweet or a Twit or whatever if you want to?

JULIE

Yeah- the other day I tweeted something about Blue Ivy that I took down.

The THEATER MOM from Scene one happens to walk into the kitchen at that very moment!

THEATRE MOM
Blue Ivy? She's so cute.

GABY
Julie, this is Kathy.

KATHY
Don't I know you?

Julie notices Kathy's iPhone case. It says "WHAT WOULD TAYLOR SWIFT DO?" against a rainbow background.

JULIE
No, but look! We have the same iPhone case!

KATHY
Do you like Taylor Swift?

As they all WALK INTO THE (crowded) LIVING ROOM:

JULIE
No, it's just ironic. I bought it with Diet Coke coupons after the last one fell into a touch tank at the Coney Island Aquarium. LONG STORY.

GABY (SMILING)
So what did you say about Blue Ivy?

KATHY (LINGERING ON JULIE)
I swear, I feel like we've met.

JULIE
Oh, I said something like, I can't wait for Blue Ivy to grow up...

KATHY
She's already so big!

OLDER WOMAN (RE: TV)
Somebody mute the commercials.

The background noise coming from the TV GOES OUT just as Julie says the following, to a deathly silent and captive room.

JULIE
...Yeah, so anyway I said something like "I can't wait for Blue Ivy to get older..or, what was it? Oh. Old enough for R.

(MORE)

JULIE (CONT'D)

Kelly to piss on....her." So, like...she'd still be a child, you know. Because R. Kelly likes pissing on...kids that are older than infants. Allegedly. But, you know. Not by much. Because he's basically a sex offender. Allegedly. And, depending on whether the charges are true, an alleged pedophile.

There's a pause--a terrible, long silence-- as people react to this horrible joke.

Arthur, who is used to Julie, pops a piece of cheese into his mouth.

KATHY

I remember who you are now. You sat behind me at a Broadway show. Annie. With your gay friend.

Billy enters the kitchen and pages through a People magazine.

BILLY (TO HIMSELF)

If John Mayer was a serial killer, literally none of us would notice.

KATHY

Yes, I remember both of you! You hate the sound of children laughing and singing!

BILLY

Just laughing.

JULIE

If they're not pitchy, we don't mind a tune.

KATHY

Clearly, you're both disgusting people. And YOU (she points to Julie)! You think it's funny to make jokes about urinating on children?

JULIE (GETTING DEFENSIVE)

Obviously I don't, because I took down the tweet.

KATHY

You just took it down because you got in trouble!

JULIE

Of course I did! If people loved it I would have left it up! What's Kathy short for anyway, Katherine?

KATHY

Yes!

JULIE

Fine. Big deal.

ARTHUR (TO JULIE)

Noodles, come on. The show is back on. Let's watch TV and pretend what just happened didn't happen.

BILLY

Yeah, we might be missing a crucial Giuliana Rancic moment on the red carpet. What if she and Maria Menounous interacted with each other?

JULIE

Can you imagine?

BILLY

I'd kill myself.

JULIE

Well, the two of their matchstick bodies would start a fire, so you could just throw yourself right into it.

BILLY

You know, that's how Gene Siskel died.

ARTHUR

Julie, Billy. Please: I need you guys to be more polite to non-"each other" people. Please. Just for tonight.

JULIE

This experience is really stressing me out, Arthur!(COUGHS) Ugh-I can barely swallow.

BILLY

Are you having a panic attack? (TO ARTHUR) She gets dry mouth when she starts to panic or if she's anxious.

ARTHUR

Yes, I know, we've been dating for seven years.

Arthur hands Julie a can of soda. Then, he pulls Julie aside.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Drink this. Are you ok?

Julie nods; chugs the soda.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Okay, good. Listen, Noodles. I love you and I know this party is a nightmare experience. But it's my boss's place, and I need you and Billy to behave, just for a little while longer. Okay?

JULIE

Okay.

They kiss, and return to Billy.

BILLY

Sorry about that, Arthur. We'll keep a low profile.

As though on cue, FOUR CUTE HIPSTER-ISH GAY MEN on the other side of the front door from Gaby burst in.

FOUR GAY GUYS

BILLY!

Gaby looks at Billy and Julie like, "Who are these people?"

BILLY (TO GABY)

I'm so sorry, I forgot to ask your permission before I invited over a few people.

LINUS

We brought hummus and MDMA!

As Billy and the guys go in the next room, Julie and Arthur mosey over to the area near the front door. Note: Julie KEEPS DRINKING SODA.

Kevin, the Boxed Water guy from earlier (!!) emerges from a closed door with a FLUSH. He's surprised to make eye contact with Julie.

JULIE
You!

KEVIN
You.

Kathy walks over to Kevin and takes his hand.

KATHY
Kevin, do you know her?

KEVIN
We met the other day, she came in to pitch me library water.

JULIE
Keep your voice down!

KEVIN
Nobody's going to steal that idea.

JULIE (RE: KATHY & KEVIN)
Why are you holding hands?

KATHY
We're married, idiot.

KEVIN
Remember? I showed you a photo of our kids.

JULIE
Mentos and Marlboro!

KATHY
Memphis and Maverick! They were at the play with me. Don't you remember children?

JULIE
Of course I don't remember children!

KATHY
You hate children.

JULIE
I do not hate children.

KATHY

You probably touch children!

JULIE

That makes no sense! I'm not sexually attracted to children! I hate children!

KATHY

A-ha!

Kevin comes around. He has his coat on and he's handing Kathy hers.

KEVIN

Let's get out of here. Sorry, Gaby. I just don't feel comfortable in the same room...

JULIE

...As a strong feminist woman?

KATHY

No, as an asshole!

KEVIN

Two assholes.

JULIE (YELLING INTO THE NEXT ROOM)

Billy, come out here. Kevin wants to say goodbye to you.

BILLY (YELLING BACK)

Send Kevin regards to his children, Motorhead and Mahoney.

Kevin and Kathy slam the door. They're gone.

JULIE (TO GABY)

Gaby, are there more snacks?

BILLY

We want more snacks.

EXT. THE STREET - LATER

Julie, Billy and Arthur walk down the street. Julie is swigging a half-empty bottle of ginger ale she clearly swiped from the party.

BILLY

How's your dry mouth?

JULIE

Not great. Those snacks were salty!
What were those again, Arthur?

ARTHUR

Wasabi pretzel chips with sea salt
on them. Gaby must have made them,
since they were all different
sizes.

JULIE

God, I hate her.

BILLY

Hey, Julie? Do you...do you see
who's coming toward us? Or is that
a mirage?

In the distance we see JOSH (30's), adorable, tall, great
body, the whole bit. He's walking toward them.

BILLY (TO HIMSELF) (CONT'D)

Josh.

Josh sees Billy. He walks over to the gang in slow-motion.

JOSH

Billy.

BILLY

Hey Josh. What are you doing in
this neighborhood?

JOSH

I moved.

BILLY

You did? When?

JOSH

Just this week. I found a great
apartment right near the train.

JULIE

Where IS the train, anyway? We've
been trying to get out of this
horrible neighborhood forever.

JOSH

Oh, it's just 2 blocks in that
direction...

At that, Josh TURNS AROUND so that the back of his head is turned to Julie, Billy and Arthur. We see that JOSH IS WEARING A YARMULKE.

Billy's face immediately goes from pining to disgust.

BILLY
Is that a yarmulke?

JOSH
Yeah! I started going to shul
mor...

Billy walks away, cutting him off mid-sentence. He's done with his crush. Just then, a cab pulls up.

BILLY
No. Goodbye. (Beat.) TAXI!

INT./EXT.- BACK OF A CAB- LATER THAT EVENING

ARTHUR
(TO DRIVER) We're making two stops?
Both over the bridge.

CAB DRIVER
Do you have directions?

JULIE
I have a map on my phone...

Julie grabs her phone from her bag. As she slides it ON, we see over Julie's shoulder a BACKGROUND PHOTO featuring KATHY, KEVIN, and THEIR TWO KIDS (Please don't make me repeat their names).

JULIE (CONT'D)
Oh no. This isn't my phone. Look!

She shows Billy.

ARTHUR (TO CAB DRIVER)
Just follow the signs to the
Brooklyn Bridge.

JULIE
That jerk Katherine took my phone
by mistake. Unless she did it on
purpose for some kind of garbage
person reasons.

BILLY

I'm sure she'll give it back once she figures out the mix-up. I mean, she can't be a total monster.

JULIE

So, wait-- you're telling me you're completely over Josh? Just now?

BILLY

Yes! I have zero feelings for him whatsoever.

JULIE

And you don't think any of that had to do with my mom hypnotising you earlier today?

BILLY

No. You saw him! Now, he's the kind of Jewish guy who wears a yarmulke all the time.

JULIE

What about pasta?

BILLY

Oh, I'd stick my dick in a bowl of pasta right now.

WE DISSOLVE INTO - A WHILE LATER.

Arthur & Billy seem annoyed. Julie is in agony for reasons we'll soon learn. The driver is clearly lost.

ARTHUR

Just turn right here. Right--Oh dear, no. Now we're on the Tri-Boro bridge.

JULIE

This isn't even funny. I feel like I'm going to explode.

BILLY

Oh, god, you CHUGGED that ginger ale.

JULIE

I'm going to have to wet myself in this car.

BILLY

Here, I'll read you some more Oscar tweets to distract you.

JULIE

Okay.

BILLY

Just calm down. You're not going to piss yourself. Here's one from Gabe. He said: "Fun Fact: after the #Oscars, Martin Scorsese will get into his little house & let all the balloons take him on the trip of a lifetime."

JULIE

Funny.

ARTHUR (TO CAB DRIVER)

Okay, now we're in the Bronx.

BILLY

Here's one from...wait. Here's one from you? From half an hour ago. Holy shit.

JULIE

What does it say?

INSERT of Julie's Tweet. Julie reads it out loud.

JULIE (CONT'D)

"I am a jerk who hates kids & probably molests them too & I think it's funny when they get pissed on when in fact I deserve 2 get pissed on."

She and Billy look at each other. Julie closes her eyes for a second, then looks down: her lap is SOAKING WET.

BILLY

Touché, Kathy. Touché.

Julie, Billy, Arthur and the Cab Driver ride in total, awkward silence for a beat or two. Then, we CUT TO a shot of the cab speeding away into the night as HARD KNOCK LIFE plays. Fade out.

END.