

I HATE MY TEENAGE DAUGHTER

“Pilot”

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TEASER

SCENE A

INT. COFFEE HOUSE DAY (DAY 1)

WE ARE IN A COFFEE HOUSE IN THE MIDDLE OF DOWNTOWN AUSTIN. IT IS A FUN, QUIRKY PLACE, MADE EVEN MORE FUN BY THE FACT THAT IT ALSO SERVES BOOZE. IT IS LIGHT AND AIRY, WITH BRIGHTLY COLORED FURNITURE AND LOCAL ARTWORK ON THE WALLS. BEHIND THE COUNTER IS THE COFFEE HOUSE MANAGER, ANNIE WATSON (LATE 30'S). SHE IS PRETTY, BUT NERDY PRETTY; FUNKY BUT NOT QUITE COOL. SITTING AT THE BAR IS ANNIE'S BEST FRIEND, NIKKI MILLER. NIKKI IS ALSO VERY PRETTY, BUT IS THE KIND OF WOMAN WHO PUTS A LOT OF EFFORT INTO IT. SHE WEARS A LITTLE TOO MUCH MAKE-UP, HER HAIR IS A LITTLE BIG, HER JEANS A LITTLE TIGHT, HER BOOBS WAY TOO HIGH. THEY ARE HAVING AN ANIMATED CONVERSATION.

ANNIE

...and then you know what she said to me? You don't know how to dress. Who says that?

NIKKI

I'll tell you who says that. A bitch.

ANNIE

I know, right? I put up with that crap in high school, I'm not going to do it now.

NIKKI

I wouldn't even talk to her again.

ANNIE

Yeah, maybe I won't. (THEN, NOTICING)

Oh, no. Here she comes.

NIKKI

Uch, and she's with that other one.

What are they doing here?

TWO TEENAGE GIRLS, SOPHIE (14) AND MACKENZIE (14 1/2),
APPROACH. THEY DRESSED LIKE THEY JUST WALKED OUT OF A "SEX
AND THE CITY" SEQUEL.

SOPHIE

(TO ANNIE) Hey, Mom. (SARCASTIC)

Nice shirt.

ANNIE

(SMALL) I didn't have time to change

it.

NIKKI

(COLDY, TO MACKENZIE) Mackenzie.

MACKENZIE

(EVEN COLDER) Mother.

THE TEENS WHISPER SOMETHING TO EACH OTHER, GIGGLE DERISIVELY
AND CROSS OFF.

ANNIE

Why are they so mean to us?

NIKKI

Because we're their moms. God, I hate
them.

ANNIE

Me too.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

SCENE B

FADE IN:

INT. ANNIE'S KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - DAY (DAY 2)

ANNIE IS IN THE KITCHEN, MAKING BREAKFAST. SOPHIE ENTERS, DRESSED IN A KE\$HA INSPIRED OUTFIT. SHE CROSSES TO THE REFRIGERATOR AND OPENS IT.

SOPHIE

Hey, Mom.

ANNIE

(NOT LOOKING UP) Morning, Babe. I'm making french toast.

SOPHIE

Gross. (ANNOYED) Where's my Fage yogurt?

ANNIE

(NOTICING HER OUTFIT) Oh no no no. That is not happening. You need to go change. You're not wearing that to school.

SOPHIE

You're wearing your pajama top to work and I'm not saying anything about it.

ANNIE

(DEFENSIVE) It's not a pajama top. And we're not talking about my outfit. You need to go change. Right now.

SOPHIE

Gawd!

SOPHIE STOMPS OFF TO HER ROOM, AND WE HEAR A DOOR SLAM.

ANNIE

(CALLING AFTER HER) Go ahead and slam
your door. It doesn't bother me!

(THEN) God, that is so irritating!

MACKENZIE ENTERS FROM THE FRONT DOOR. SHE IS WEARING A
SLIGHTLY TRASHIER VERSION OF WHAT SOPHIE HAD ON.

MACKENZIE

Hey Annie. Sweet jammies. Where's
Sophie?

ANNIE

She's in her room. Changing out of
that (RE: MACKENZIE'S CLOTHES) into
something a little more appropriate.

MACKENZIE

You know she's just going to change in
the bathroom at school, right?

ANNIE

(RESIGNED) Yeah I know.

MACKENZIE CROSSES TO THE REFRIGERATOR AND OPENS IT.

MACKENZIE

Your refrigerator makes me sad.

ANNIE

Me too. Where's your mom?

MACKENZIE

Next door, fighting with my dad.

ANNIE

Oh, I'm sorry, Hon. I guess this divorce is pretty hard on you.

MACKENZIE

Are you kidding, this divorce is the best. My parents feel so guilty, I may even get a Beemer out of this.

(THEN) Do you have any liquid eggs?

ANNIE

You're an interesting girl.

MACKENZIE EXITS TO SOPHIE'S ROOM.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

(LOOKING DOWN AT SHIRT) It's fine. I look fine. (THEN) I'm going to go change.

NIKKI AND HER EX-HUSBAND GARY ENTER. GARY (EARLY 40'S) IS A GREAT LOOKING AFRICAN AMERICAN MAN.

GARY

It's unfortunate that you have to resort to name calling.

NIKKI

Well, it's unfortunate that you're such a friggin dumb ass.

GARY

Hi Annie.

ANNIE

(SUPER CASUAL) Hey Dumbass, you want some french toast?

GARY

Yes please. (TO NIKKI) I don't know why you're so upset. It's not that big a deal.

NIKKI

Oh, really? Let's ask Annie.

ANNIE

Oh God, again? Do we have to start every morning like this?

NIKKI

I want Mackenzie to go to her first high-school dance in a limo and Gary won't pay for it. He says I have to get a job.

ANNIE

That's not such a terrible idea. Maybe you should get a job.

NIKKI

I have a job. I'm a mother. And a damn good one.

ANNIE

You know Mackenzie is dressed like a prostitute today, right?

NIKKI

Prostitute? That outfit cost me three hundred dollars. She better wear it every day. (TO GARY) That reminds me, you owe me three hundred dollars.

GARY

And that reminds me. We're divorced. I give you plenty of money each month. If you want to keep on indulging Mackenzie, you're going to have to pay for it yourself.

NIKKI

I can't believe you want me to get a job. I don't want to be a working mom. Those women are pathetic. (THEN, TO ANNIE) No offense, Hon.

ANNIE

None taken. You lazy-stay-at-home whore.

NIKKI AND ANNIE LAUGH.

GARY

Man, you two are lucky you found each other.

NIKKI

(TO GARY) Hey, I have an idea. Why don't you get a job instead of playing golf with your stupid buddies?

GARY

I'm a golf pro! Those aren't my buddies, they're my clients, you lunatic!

NIKKI

I want Mackenzie to go in a limo, Gary. I don't want her to have to go through what I did. I went to my first dance in the back of my dad's chicken truck. Do you know what everyone called me after that night? (EMOTIONAL) Kentucky Fried Nikki. They filled my locker with drum sticks.

ANNIE

Oh, honey. At least you got to go to a high-school dance. I never even went to one.

GARY

You're kidding.

ANNIE

Well, I mean, I kinda went. But I never made it inside. My date had cerebral palsy and he couldn't get up the stairs. We ended up sitting in his special van while his mom served us hot cocoa from her thermos.

(MORE)

ANNIE (CONT'D)

We had a really nice time... until his
epilepsy kicked in.

THERE IS A BEAT AS GARY STARES AT THEM.

GARY

I'll give you money for the limo.

CUT TO:

SCENE CINT. ANNIE'S CAR - LATER (DAY 2)

ANNIE IS DRIVING, NIKKI IS IN THE FRONT PASSENGER SEAT. MACKENZIE AND SOPHIE ARE IN THE BACK SEAT, TEXTING.

ANNIE

(TO NIKKI) So, are you excited about tonight?

NIKKI

Hellz to the yeah.

ANNIE

I don't know what that means.

NIKKI

Me either.

ANNIE

God, I can't believe it. Our first high-school dance. I barely slept last night.

SOPHIE

It's our first high school dance. And if you go anywhere near there, I'll kill myself.

ANNIE

Of course it's your dance, that's what I meant. We're just going to poke our heads in. (TO NIKKI, EXCITED) I bought you a corsage!

MACKENZIE

(TO ANNIE AND NIKKI) Look, this dance is very important for us because we're popular. Since you two were nerds in high school, I don't expect you to understand that.

NIKKI

Hey, I wasn't a nerd. I just had a touch of alopecia...and I weighed over three hundred pounds....and my parents couldn't afford a real dentist so I had concrete teeth. So sure, I got made fun of but I certainly wasn't a nerd.

MACKENZIE

Yeah, you were a freak.

NIKKI

(SINCERE) Thank you. Big difference.

ANNIE

And I wasn't a nerd either. (WITH PRIDE) I was president of the Abstinence Club. And I started our school's "Just Say No" program. Oh, and I lettered in archery.

SOPHIE

Please tell me I'm adopted.

THEY PULL UP TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL.

MACKENZIE

Oh my god, there's Brian Collins. (TO
NIKKI AND ANNIE) Duck down, you guys.

Someone is going to see you!

ANNIE AND NIKKI DUCK DOWN AS IF THIS IS THE MOST NORMAL THING
IN THE WORLD. SOPHIE AND MACKENZIE EXIT THE CAR.

ANNIE

(CHEERY) Bye girls. Have a good day
at school!

ANNIE AND NIKKI CONTINUE THE FOLLOWING FROM THEIR CROUCHED
DOWN POSITION.

NIKKI

So, you want to go to the movies
today? (NOTICING SOMETHING) Hey!
Peanut!

NIKKI PICKS UP A PEANUT FROM THE CAR FLOOR AND EATS IT.

ANNIE

I can't go to the movies. I have to
go to work. And that wasn't a peanut,
it was a pencil eraser.

NIKKI

Oh, well. Zero calories.

THERE IS A KNOCK ON THE DRIVER'S SIDE CAR WINDOW. STANDING
THERE IS DEANNA DUNBAR, THE PRINCIPAL OF THE HIGH-SCHOOL.
SHE IS A TYPICAL TEXAS BEAUTY WHO IS ALWAYS SMILING, EVEN AS
SHE SAYS MEAN AND RUDE THINGS.

PRINCIPAL DUNBAR

(OVERLY SWEET) Hey, little mommies!

ANNIE

Hey, Deanna.

PRINCIPAL DUNBAR

(HUGE SMILE) Oopsie. Remember, when we're on school property, I prefer that you call me Principal Dunbar. It's something I ask of all the parents.

ANOTHER PARENT WALKS BY WITH HER KID.

PARENT

Morning, Deanna.

PRINCIPAL DUNBAR

Hey Sarah. Looking good. (BACK TO ANNIE AND NIKKI) I need to see you two in my office to discuss a little school business. I'm sorry it has to be a morning when you aren't feeling well, Nikki.

NIKKI

I feel fine.

PRINCIPAL DUNBAR

Really? I just thought because of the dark circles and your sallow-- (SUPER CHEERY) Oh, it doesn't matter. Who am I to say you look terrible. See you in a few.

DEANNA EXITS.

ANNIE

God, that woman is toxic. Was she that mean when you guys were in high school?

NIKKI

Well, let's see...she's making fun of me now after I've had seventy thousand dollars worth of plastic surgery. Back then I was a bald, fat girl with gray teeth. What do you think?

ANNIE

Wow. Someday you're going to show me a picture, right?

NIKKI

Ne-ver.

CUT TO:

SCENE DINT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - LATER (DAY 2)

ANNIE AND NIKKI SIT WAITING FOR THE PRINCIPAL.

ANNIE

(LOOKING AROUND) God, I practically lived in the principal's office when I was in high-school.

NIKKI

You were a bad girl?

ANNIE

No. I was a tattletale.

(REMEMBERING FONDLY) I got so much negative attention.

NIKKI REACHES OVER AND TAKES A PIECE OF CANDY OFF THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

(RE: CANDY) Don't! It's not ours.

NIKKI

Relax. After what she did to me, she's lucky I'm not taking a dump on her desk.

PRINCIPAL DUNBAR ENTERS, CARRYING A COFFEE CUP.

PRINCIPAL DUNBAR

Sorry about the wait, Mommies. If I don't get my chai latte I turn into a real C-word.

ANNIE

Nikki ate your candy!

NIKKI

(MOUTHFUL OF CANDY) What the fu--

ANNIE

(TO NIKKI) I'm so sorry. It just feels so good.

PRINCIPAL DUNBAR

(TO NIKKI, RE: CANDY) Ooh, I'd be careful with that. That's a slippery slope for you.

NIKKI

I don't have to worry about my weight anymore. That was all hormones anyway.

PRINCIPAL DUNBAR

(BIG SMILE) Of course it was. I'm sure it had nothing to do with the fact that you ate everything in sight.

(UNDER HER BREATH) Including your cat.

NIKKI

I did not eat my cat! That was just a rumor that you and your stupid friends started--(TO ANNIE, DESPERATE) I did not eat my cat.

ANNIE

Of course you didn't, Sweetie. She's joking. (THEN, TO PRINCIPAL DUNBAR)
You're joking, right?

PRINCIPAL DUNBAR

Let's just get to why you're here. I wanted to talk to you about an incident that Mackenzie and Sophie were involved in.

ANNIE

Oh, God. What did they do?

NIKKI

Was it as bad as starting a rumor that someone barbecued and ate their own cat?

PRINCIPAL DUNBAR

Your daughters locked a boy in the girl's bathroom. He was in there for two hours before someone found him.

ANNIE

Oh. Well, that just seems like typical boy, girl stuff, right?

PRINCIPAL DUNBAR

The boy they locked in the bathroom was Gerard Thompson.

NIKKI

The kid in the wheelchair? (SICKENED)

Oof.

ANNIE

(TO NIKKI) I think that may be worse
than that cat thing.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOSCENE E

FADE IN:

INT. COFFEE HOUSE, LATER (DAY 2)

ANNIE IS BEHIND THE COUNTER, PUTTING ON HER APRON. NIKKI SITS AT THE BAR. AN EMPLOYEE OF THE COFFEE HOUSE, JANE (EARLY 20'S, ASIAN) APPROACHES ANNIE.

ANNIE

(TO JANE) Hey, Jane, thanks for covering for me.

JANE

(THICK TEXAS ACCENT) My pleasure, Treasure. And FYI, we're almost out of breakfast burreetos. (TO NIKKI) How you doin', Hon?

NIKKI

(WARY) Good.

JANE CROSSES OFF.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

(RE: JANE'S ACCENT) That's weird, right?

ANNIE

It's not weird. Stop saying that.

MATT GUTIERREZ ENTERS. MATT (MID TO LATE 30'S) IS ANNIE'S EX AND SOPHIE'S DAD. HE IS GREAT LOOKING, IN A SCRUFFY JAVIER BARDEM KIND OF WAY. HE WEARS JEANS AND A COOL T-SHIRT.

MATT

(TO ANNIE) Hey, I know it's my weekend to take Sophie, but I have a little problem. My band has a gig in Amarillo. And they're paying us with money this time so I really want to do it.

ANNIE

We have a bigger problem.

NIKKI

Yeah, we do. (THEN) I have to get a job.

ANNIE

No, not that. Sophie and Mackenzie locked a handicapped boy in the bathroom. For two hours.

MATT

How?

ANNIE

How? That's not the right question. The question is, why? Why would our daughter do that? I mean, she's a good person. (OFF MATT'S LOOK) Okay, she's not a good person, but she has a good heart.

MATT

Yeah, totally. She's pretty critical of my band, though. Tejano music may not be her thing.

NIKKI

Tejano? I thought you guys were a Guns N' Roses tribute band?

MATT

Yeah, we still are. But there's a lot of money to be made in Quinceaneras, so we switched over for a while. Basically we're just singing "Sweet Child O' Mine" in Spanish.

ANNIE

Matt, we have to do something about Sophie. This is the worst thing she's ever done.

AN ATTRACTIVE MAN IN A SUIT HAS APPROACHED THE BAR.

MAN

What did Sophie do?

ANNIE

Nothing. Get your vanilla latte with extra foam and move on.

MAN

I wasn't talking to you. I was talking to my brother.

THE MAN IN THE SUIT IS MATT'S BROTHER, JACK. HE'S A BIT OLDER THAN MATT. HE IS CLEARLY MORE TOGETHER AND EQUALLY AS HOT.

MATT

Sophie and Mackenzie locked a handicapped kid in the bathroom.

JACK

Wow. That's pretty horrible, even for them.

ANNIE

Don't you have some dumb trial to get to?

JACK

Well, I just freed a man who was wrongly convicted of murder twenty years ago. So my dumb trial is over. Thanks for asking.

ANNIE

(SMALL) Oh. Now I feel bad.

NIKKI

You know, I bet I know why Mackenzie did this. She's acting out because I have to go back to work.

ANNIE

Back to work? When did you ever work?

NIKKI

Hello? I worked here last week when
that weird Korean chick called in
sick.

JANE PASSES BY CARRYING A COFFEE POT.

JANE

(CHEERFUL) I'm Chinese, y'all!

SHE CROSSES OFF.

JACK

I've been telling you for years that
giving Sophie everything she wants is
going to come back and bite you in the
ass. Well, guess what? It's ass
biting time.

MATT

Hey, don't be so hard on her.
Sophie's a difficult kid and--

JACK

I'm talking to you too, Matt. You're
not a great parent either.

MATT

Me? How can I be a bad parent? I'm
never even here.

ANNIE

(TO JACK) We don't have to defend our
parenting skills to you.

(MORE)

ANNIE (CONT'D)

(BEAT) And I don't give Sophie everything she wants. When she didn't do her homework last week, I took away her TV privledges.

JACK

Yeah. For twenty minutes, until American Idol was on.

ANNIE

It was the finals. What am I, Hitler?

JACK

Look, I know you didn't want Sophie to be like you were growing up. But you've given her too much. Too many clothes, too many shoes, too many trophies. My God, she got a trophy for knowing her address!

ANNIE

Well, I wanted her to feel good about herself.

JACK

Oh, she does. She thinks she's better than pretty much everyone.

NIKKI

(HOLDING UP HER HAND FOR A HIGH-FIVE)

Way to go, Sister.

ANNIE

Matt? You want to jump in here?

MATT

Why? As soon as I do, you and Jack start talking all over me. It's like I'm not even--

ANNIE

(TO JACK) I don't need your opinions about how to be a good mother.

JACK

I'm trying to help you!

ANNIE

I know how to parent my kid!

MATT

(TO NIKKI) See? They don't listen to me. It's like he's the dad and I'm the uncle. It really hurts my feelings.

NIKKI

(OBLIVIOUS) Hey, how many calories in a biscotti?

ANNIE

(TO JACK) Don't worry about it, okay? Sophie is going to be punished appropriately. And so is Mackenzie. Right, Nik?

NIKKI

Absolutely. I'm with you one hundred percent.

JACK

What are you going to do? Forbid them to use mascara?

ANNIE

No, we're going to take away something that's really important to them.

(DEEP BREATH) We're not going to let them go to the dance.

NIKKI

Are you insane?! They'll kill us. I'm not doing that! Let's just say no Jamba Juice for two weeks.

ANNIE

No, we have to do this together. You know Mackenzie needs this too. She runs all over you, it's not healthy.

NIKKI

That is not true. We have a very respectful relationship--

NIKKI'S CELL PHONE RINGS. SHE ANSWERS IT.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

(INTO PHONE) Hi, Kenzie. Well, I didn't hear it ring, honey. Don't be mad, I'm sorry. Don't hang up! Don't--
(CLEARLY TALKING TO NO ONE) Oh my darling daughter. I love you too.

(MORE)

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Well, I don't know if I'm the best
mom, but I'm pretty damn good.

ANNIE TAKES THE PHONE AND HANGS IT UP.

ANNIE

You with me?

NIKKI

Okay. No dance. But I still want my
corsage.

CUT TO:

SCENE HINT. ANNIE'S LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - LATER (DAY 2)

SOPHIE IS ON THE COUCH, ANNIE SITS ACROSS FROM HER.

ANNIE

...and because of what you girls did,
there is going to be a consequence.
(DEEP BREATH) You are not going to be
allowed to go to the dance tonight.

SOPHIE

We'll see.

ANNIE

No, not we'll see. You're not going,
Sophie. You're grounded, and so is
Mackenzie. We're going over to Nikki's
tonight and we're all staying home.

SOPHIE

(LAUGHING) We'll see.

ANNIE

Stop saying, "we'll see." This is
happening. This is so happening!

SOPHIE EXITS TO HER ROOM, LAUGHING.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

(CALLING OFF) Go ahead laugh it up.
Doesn't bother me! (THEN) God, that
is so irritating!

NIKKI ENTERS AND THROWS HERSELF ON THE COUCH.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Did you tell Mackenzie she's not going?

NIKKI

Yeah, I told her. And you know what happened? Her eyes turned black like a shark and she said, "Bring it, bi-otch." (TERRIFIED) I don't know how to bring it, Annie.

ANNIE

Okay, you need to calm down.

NIKKI

Why are we doing this anyway? Because Jack said to? I put my life in danger just because you have a crush on him?

ANNIE

He's my ex's brother, Nikki. Gross. I do not have a crush on him!

NIKKI

You liar. I know when you like someone. Why don't you just sleep with him and let the girls go to the dance!

ANNIE

How would that solve anything?

NIKKI

You'd get laid. It would solve a lot!

ANNIE

Nikki, we're doing this. It's the right thing to do. This has nothing to do with Jack.

NIKKI

Your lover.

ANNIE

(HAD IT) Yes. My lover. I love him. We're getting married. Everyone's invited. Not you.

NIKKI

What does it matter, I'll probably be dead after tonight anyway. (THEN) I should probably go home and hide all the kitchen knives.

ANNIE

Stop being so dramatic. (THEN) Hide the scissors too.

CUT TO:

SCENE JINT. NIKKI'S LIVING ROOM - LATER (DAY 2)

THERE IS BLACK SCREEN. A CHYRON POPS UP WITH OMINOUS MUSIC BEHIND IT: "THE GROUNDING: HOUR 1".

THE LIVING ROOM IS DECORATED IN TYPICAL "NIKKI" FASHION. LOTS OF SHINY BLACK SURFACES WITH A LITTLE LEOPARD PRINT AND GOLD THROWN IN. NIKKI AND ANNIE ARE THERE.

NIKKI

Hey, do my eyes look weird? I took a Valium. I think tonight is going to be a doozy.

ANNIE

It's going to be fine, don't be so negative. (NOTICING SOMETHING) Oh, dear God!

SOPHIE AND MACKENZIE ARE STANDING THERE, DRESSED IN PREPPY BUTTON DOWN SHIRTS, PLAID SKIRTS, AND "MUFFY" TYPE HEADBANDS. THEY STARE AT THEM SILENTLY LIKE THE TWINS FROM "THE SHINING". ANNIE AND NIKKI ARE CLEARLY TERRIFIED.

MACKENZIE

Mommy, can I talk to you alone for a minute?

NIKKI

(SCARED) Here's fine.

MACKENZIE

Sophie and I were talking and we realize you guys are totally right. What we did was awful.

SOPHIE

And we feel terrible about it. We want to apologize.

MACKENZIE

Not just to you. But to all of humanity. (TO SOPHIE, UNDER HER BREATH) One, two, three...

SOPHIE/MACKENZIE

(FLAT) We're so sorry.

NIKKI

(HOLDING BACK TEARS) Oh my God. That is the sweetest thing I've ever heard.

ANNIE

Nikki, they're trying to manipulate us. They're only saying they're sorry so they can go to the dance.

SOPHIE

Can we?

ANNIE

Absolutely not.

CUT TO:

SCENE KINT. NIKKI'S LIVING ROOM - LATER (DAY 2)

BLACK SCREEN. CHYRON WITH OMINOUS MUSIC, "HOUR 2".

ANNIE AND SOPHIE ARE YELLING AT EACH OTHER.

ANNIE

Oh, my God! You are so ungrateful! Do you have any idea how hard I have to work to give you all the things you have? My mother would never have never done the things I do for you! I was on my own. How would you like that? I had to pay for my own braces!

SOPHIE

You are the meanest person I've ever met. You are so unfair! Just because you were a big nerd in high school it doesn't mean I have to be one. I hate you! I wish you would leave me alone, at least then I'd have a little fun! You're ruining my life!

ANGLE ON: NIKKI AND MACKENZIE ENGAGED IN A BATTLE OF THEIR OWN.

NIKKI

I am nothing but nice to you. I give you everything you want! Do you know what I had in high-school? Nothing! No Prada! No Stella McCartney! Do you know how hard that was on me? You wouldn't survive!

MACKENZIE

So. So. So.
So. So. So.
So. So. So.

CUT TO:

SCENE 1INT. NIKKI'S LIVING ROOM - LATER (DAY 2)

BLACK SCREEN. CHYRON WITH OMINOUS MUSIC, "HOUR 2 1/2".

NIKKI, ANNIE, SOPHIE AND MACKENZIE ARE EXHAUSTED FROM THEIR FIGHT. THEY ARE SLUMPED IN VARIOUS PLACES AROUND THE LIVING ROOM. IT IS QUIET FOR A BEAT.

ANNIE

(CASUALLY) God, it's hot in here,

huh?

ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE.

SOPHIE

You are always complaining!
 "It's so hot in here." "It's
 too cold." "I don't know how
 to work the internet." God,
 you are so stupid! You are
 ruining my life!

ANNIE

Well, it is hot in here! I'm
 sorry I spoke! I've been
 fighting with my ungrateful
 daughter and now I think I
 have a fever! Maybe I'll
 die! Would you be happy
 then?!

ANGLE ON: MACKENZIE AND NIKKI.

MACKENZIE

Fat. Fat. Fat. Fat. Fat.
 Fat. Fat. Fat. Fat. Fat.
 Fat. Fat.

NIKKI

I am not fat! How dare you?
 It's the one thing I work
 hard at! I eat nothing but *
 diet food all day! I'm *
 starving!

CUT TO:

SCENE M

INT. NIKKI'S KITCHEN - LATER (DAY 2)

BLACK SCREEN. CHYRON WITH OMINOUS MUSIC, "HOUR 3".

ANNIE ENTERS FROM THE LIVING ROOM. SHE GOES TO A CUPBOARD, PULLS OUT A BOTTLE OF TEQUILA AND A SHOT GLASS AND SHAKILY POURS HERSELF ONE. GARY AND MATT ENTER FROM THE SIDE DOOR.

GARY

What the hell is going on here? I've gotten like fifty texts from Mackenzie.

MATT

Me too. Sophie's been texting me non-stop. (READING HIS TEXTS) "Mom is out of control. Help me, Daddy, I don't feel safe." "I heart vampires."

GARY

I can't read mine aloud. Mackenzie has a mouth like her mother.

ANNIE

Everything's fine. Nikki and I have got this, don't worry.

SHE LIFTS HER SHOT GLASS TO TAKE A DRINK AND HER HAND IS SHAKING SO BADLY SHE HAS TO PUT IT DOWN. SHE BRINGS HER MOUTH TO THE GLASS ON THE TABLE INSTEAD.

GARY

I'm a little worried.

NIKKI ENTERS FROM THE LIVING ROOM, FRAZZLED.

NIKKI

God, they are so mean. (TO ANNIE)
You can not leave me alone like that!
(NEAR TEARS) They were talking about
me in french and laughing. Frickin'
private school brats!

MATT

Alright, you know what? We're
stepping in here. This is insane.

GARY

It's time for a little tough love from
their dads.

GARY AND MATT EXIT INTO THE LIVING ROOM.

NIKKI

God! How dare they come in here to
save the day after we've been doing
this for hours. It's maddening!
(THEN, THRILLED) Ooh, tequila! Pour
me four of those, will ya?

JACK ENTERS FROM THE SIDE DOOR.

JACK

What is going on here? I got like
fifty texts.

ANNIE

I can't believe those girls!

JACK

They weren't from the girls, they were from Nikki.

NIKKI

(TO JACK) Did you bring me the pies or not?

HE HANDS HER A BAG. SHE TAKES IT AND SITS DOWN AT THE KITCHEN ISLAND.

JACK

(TO ANNIE) Look, I owe you an apology. I have no right to tell you how to parent. It's not my place, I'm just her uncle. You're a good mom...an okay mom...you try.

ANNIE

That may be the worst apology ever.

JACK

Alright, let me try again. I'm truly sorry. I really just wanted to help, but I know I can be over-bearing and I tend to tell people what to do all the time, but I'm going to stop. Right after I do this. (TO NIKKI, WHO IS EATING PIE OUT OF THE TIN WITH HER HANDS) For the love of God Nikki, use a plate and a fork! You're not a bear!

NIKKI

(SMEARED IN PIE, DIDN'T HEAR) A what?

ANNIE

Look, it's very sweet of you to apologize. I appreciate that you care so much about Sophie.

JACK

It's not just Sophie.

THIS HANGS THERE.

ANNIE

(A BIT FLUSTERED) Okay, well...do you want some coffee or something?

JACK

No, I gotta go. I have a date.

ANNIE

Oh, really? I didn't know you were dating anyone. (QUICKLY) Is it serious? Can't be too serious, I haven't seen you with anybody. Is she pretty? How old is she?

NIKKI

(TO ANNIE, "CALM DOWN) Easy.

JACK

(LOOKING AT WATCH) I really should go. (THEN) But we're good, right?

ANNIE

Yeah. We're fine. (THEN, HOSTILE)

Have a good time on your date.

JACK EXITS.

NIKKI

Oh, yeah. You don't like him at all.

(MOCKING) "Is she pretty? Do you think I'm pretty?"

ANNIE

Eat your pie, Yogi.

MATT AND GARY ENTER FROM THE LIVING ROOM.

GARY

Well, we got them settled down.

MATT

I don't think they'll be giving you any more trouble. (COCKY) We took care of it.

ANNIE

What did you do?

GARY

(SMUG) What any good dad would do. We let them express their feelings and most importantly...we listened.

MATT

Oh, and we gave them a hundred dollars so they would stop yelling at us.

(CONT'D)

ANNIE

Why would you give them
money?! This is supposed to
be punishment. God, she
always plays you like this.
Where is your backbone!

NIKKI

This is ridiculous! Why
didn't you give me a hundred
dollars?! You owe me! Give
me some money!!

MATT

I couldn't take it anymore!
She was driving me crazy!
The whining, the begging!
You're lucky I didn't buy her
a car!

GARY

I'm ridiculous?! We're
divorced, I don't have to
take care of you anymore!
Get off your ass and get a
job!

CUT TO:

SCENE PINT. NIKKI'S KITCHEN- A LITTLE LATER (DAY 2)

ANNIE IS IN THE KITCHEN TRYING TO POUR HERSELF A SHOT OF TEQUILA. HER HANDS STILL SHAKE WILDLY.

ANNIE

Damn. That may be permanent.

SOPHIE ENTERS AND SITS DOWN.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Where's your evil twin?

SOPHIE

She's up in her room blogging about how much she hates her mother.

Where's your evil twin?

ANNIE

In her room. Reading Mackenzie's blog and crying. (THEN) Listen, I'm really sorry that you had to miss your first high-school dance. But I'll tell you what I feel worse about. That you could do what you did to that handicapped boy. That was so mean, Sophie. Why would you do something like that?

THERE IS A BEAT.

SOPHIE

I know it looked really bad, but

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Gerard is the meanest kid in school. He makes fun of Mackenzie all the time. He doesn't like black people, Mom. He called Mackenzie names and made her cry. That's why we locked him in the bathroom.

ANNIE

Why didn't you just say that before?

SOPHIE

Kenzie made me promise not to. She said if her mom found out, she'd get all upset and run down to the school and embarrass her.

ANNIE

Well, she is very protective...and very insane. (THEN) Look, I appreciate you looking out for your friend, but that wasn't the way to handle it.

SOPHIE

I know. I'm really sorry. And I mean it this time.

SOPHIE HUGS ANNIE.

ANNIE

God, you drive me crazy but I love you so much.

SOPHIE

I love you too, Mom. And I didn't mean it when I said you were ruining my life.

ANNIE

I know, honey. Let's just go home.

THEY START TO EXIT.

SOPHIE

And I also didn't mean it when I said that you were too old to get a man. Or that your hair smells like hamburger. Or that you were going to die alone. Or--

ANNIE

Okay, sweetie, apology accepted!

THEY EXIT.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

SCENE RINT. NIKKI'S KITCHEN - A LITTLE LATER (NIGHT 2)

NIKKI IS THERE SMOKING A CIGARETTE. ANNIE ENTERS. STARTLED, NIKKI THROWS HER CIGARETTE OVER HER SHOULDER.

NIKKI

I'm not smoking! (THEN) Oh, it's you. Help me find that will you? Those things are like a dollar a piece now.

NIKKI SEARCHES AND FINDS THE CIG.

ANNIE

Hey, I just came back over to say, dig us, right? We set up a punishment and we followed through. I'm really proud of us.

NIKKI

(TAKING A DRAG) Yeah, we're awesome.

ANNIE

Why are you smoking in the house? You never smoke in the house when Mackenzie's here. (WITH DREAD) Where's Mackenzie?

NIKKI

(SMALL) In her room.

ANNIE

Really? Maybe I'll go up and say hi.

NIKKI

No, don't! (SEARCHING) She's...
asleep. She's... in the shower.
She's...

ANNIE

At the dance?

NIKKI

Yes. (THEN, CAUGHT) Dammit!

ANNIE

Nikki, why did you let her go?! You
just completely undermined everything
we did tonight! You have to have be a
lot stronger if you want to be a good
mother!

NIKKI

So, what are you saying? I'm a bad
mom?

ANNIE

Yes! That's exactly what I'm saying!

NIKKI

Well, I think you're a bad mom too!

ANNIE

Me? What did I do?

NIKKI

Uh, I don't know if you've noticed
this, but Sophie is a little spoiled.

ANNIE

Sophie is spoiled?! You gave
Mackenzie an Ipad for flossing!

NIKKI

Oh, all of a sudden, you have a
problem with that? But when you're
playing Angry Birds on it, it's the
greatest gift ever!

ANNIE

At least I didn't give my daughter a
tennis bracelet for starting her
period!

NIKKI

Hey, at least my daughter started
hers!

ANNIE

What is that supposed to mean?!

NIKKI

I don't know! I don't even know why
we're fighting.

ANNIE

Because Nikki, you let Mackenzie go to
the dance!

NIKKI

I know, I'm sorry, okay! I couldn't
help it!

(MORE)

NIKKI (CONT'D)

When I went to check on her I saw that she had put her party dress on. She was sobbing, Annie. It reminded me of my high-school prom. It was the worst night of my life.

ANNIE

Oh, please. That's what you said two nights ago when your jeggings split open at Costco.

NIKKI

This was worse. It was two weeks before the prom. Nobody had asked me. I didn't expect anyone to. And all of a sudden, the best looking guy in school, the quarterback, pulled me aside in the parking lot and--

ANNIE

Oh my God. He raped you?

NIKKI

No! He asked me to the prom. I couldn't believe it either. I took all the money I had saved to get my ears pinned back, and bought a dress instead. It was beautiful Annie. From the neck down I looked like a princess. An extra large princess.

ANNIE

Oh, honey.

NIKKI

We got to the dance and everything was perfect. And when they made the announcements for prom king and queen, guess who won?

ANNIE

You. And then they dumped a bucket of pig's blood on you.

NIKKI

How did you know?

ANNIE

Because that's the plot of the movie "Carrie". Are you sure you're not confusing real life and movies again?

NIKKI

I am not sure. Did John Travolta go to my high-school?

ANNIE

Unlikely.

NIKKI

All I know is the night ended with me in tears, humiliated. (THEN) With my mother praying over me and the high-school in flames.

ANNIE

(THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN) No.

NIKKI

Look, I'm sorry. I know I shouldn't have let her go. (EMOTIONAL) But I just couldn't bear the thought of Mackenzie going through one second of what I went through in high school. I want her to be happy. And pretty. But mostly happy.

ANNIE

Of course you do. That's what makes you a good mom. We're all doing the best we can. And Mackenzie is a wonderful girl.

NIKKI

Really?

ANNIE

No. But she will be. When she's in her twenties and she realizes all the incredible things you've done for her.

NIKKI

That seems like such a long time away. I'll never survive it.

ANNIE

You will. And I will too. Then we'll go live in Hawaii like we always planned.

NIKKI

So, you're not mad that I let Mackenzie go?

ANNIE

No, Sweetie. You did what you felt was right. I totally respect that.

NIKKI

Thank you. (THEN, EMOTIONAL) Oh, you should of seen her Annie. Kenzie looked like a princess. A normal sized princess. This is going to be such an amazing night for her.

ANNIE

(BEAT) Yeah.

ANNIE STARTS TO EXIT.

NIKKI

Where are you going?

ANNIE

To tell Sophie to get her dress on. We're late for the dance.

AS ANNIE EXITS, WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE TINT. SCHOOL DANCE - LATER (NIGHT 2)

SOPHIE AND MACKENZIE ARE THERE, SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS. THEY ARE SMILING AND HAPPY.

ANGLE ON: ANNIE AND NIKKI. NIKKI LOOKS BORED. ANNIE IS LOOKING AROUND, AWESTRUCK.

ANNIE

We made it Nikki. Isn't this room magical? It's more beautiful than I ever imagined.

NIKKI

Really? It's just a crappy gym decorated with a few balloons and some streamers. And it smells like weed in here. (THEN, SMELLING HER CLOTHES)
Oh, wait. That's me.

ANNIE

We did the right thing, didn't we? I mean look at them. It's a night they'll never forget.

NIKKI

Yeah. I still feel a little guilty about what they did to that poor Gerard.

ANNIE

I wouldn't worry so much about that.
The girls didn't want me to tell you
this, but there was a good reason why
they locked him in the bathroom.
Evidently the kid doesn't like black
people.

NIKKI

(OUTRAGED) Oh really?!

ANNIE

Okay, calm down, don't make a scene.
This is why they didn't want you to
know.

NIKKI

No, here's why they didn't want me to
know. (POINTING) That's Gerard
Thompson.

WE SEE GERARD THOMPSON IN HIS WHEELCHAIR. HE IS AFRICAN
AMERICAN.

ANNIE

Those little shits. We have awful,
terrible daughters.

NIKKI

(SHRUGGING) Pretty, though. And
isn't that what really matters?

ANNIE

We gotta go get them and take them
home.

NIKKI

No, not home! I can't do that again!
We have to find another way to punish
them.

CUT TO:

SCENE X

INT. SCHOOL DANCE- MOMENTS LATER (NIGHT 2)

MACKENZIE AND SOPHIE ARE THERE. A SNOTTY GIRL APPROACHES THEM.

SNOTTY GIRL

Oh, my God. I feel so bad for you.

Your moms are so embarrassing.

WE SEE A LOOK OF HORROR CROSS SOPHIE AND MACKENZIE'S FACES AS WE SEE WHAT THEY SEE. ANNIE AND NIKKI ON THE DANCE FLOOR "CRUMPING" TO A HIP HOP SONG.

ANNIE

Are they watching?

NIKKI

Oh, yeah. Everyone's watching. But I still don't get how this is punishment for them.

ANNIE

I know you don't, Sweetie.

AS NIKKI BEGINS TO SPANK HERSELF WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW