ALL STARS

"When in Rome"

by

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COLD OPEN

INT. MALL PLAY AREA - DAY

GARY (30’s, cerebral, YOUNG ALBERT BROOKS) stands next to a large rock wall with his son AUGUST, aka GUS (7, alpha male).

GUS
But, I can do it!

GARY
Just because you can do something doesn’t mean you should. I don’t think Josh here would be much help if something went horribly wrong.

The gangly mall employee nods in agreement as IRENE, (30’s, dramatic) approaches in heavy makeup carrying a shopping bag.

IRENE
Sorry, that took longer than I thought. Not my fault. They gave me a hard time until they recognized me.

QUICK POP TO:

INT. MAKEUP DEPARTMENT - FLASHBACK

Irene looks at herself in the mirror at the makeup counter.

MAKEUP GIRL
We’ve used three tubes. If we do any more you have to start paying.

A MAKEUP BOY approaches and pulls the makeup girl aside.

MAKEUP BOY
Do you realize who you are talking to? This woman was “Nanette” in No, No, Nanette! She’s Broadway royalty!
(to Irene)
I am honored to have you grace my station. I’m sure men must tell you this all the time, but I dressed up like you for Halloween.

IRENE
Then you know that I need more blush.

BACK TO SCENE:

GARY
Why are you wearing fake lashes?

IRENE
(taken aback)
It’s Thursday.
GUS
I wanna climb the rock wall but Dad won’t let me.

IRENE
I think he should go for it!

As Gary and Irene continue to discuss, Gus hands the mall employee money and is put into a harness.

GARY
He could break a hip!

IRENE
Oh, you spend too much time hanging out with old people.

GARY
I’m a geriatrics doctor, I’m not “hanging out” with the old people.

IRENE
Well, you sound like one.

GARY
Look, maybe if he took some climbing lessons...

SFX: A bell RINGS.

GUS (O.S.)
I did it!

Gary and Irene look up to see Gus waving to them from the top of the rock wall.

GUS (CONT’D)
Oh, yeah! Uh-huh! I’m the man!

MALL EMPLOYEE
Most kids don’t make it up there.

A nearby MOM approaches.

MOM
He’s quite an athlete.

IRENE
We’re trying to accept him for who he is.

GARY
It’s nobody’s fault. It’s not a choice. He was just... born this way.

END OF COLD OPEN
ACT ONE

INT. MALL - LATER

Gary, Irene and Gus walk by “Sports Authority.”

IRENE
We need to pop in here for some sports equipment.

GARY
Why?

GUS
Didn’t mom tell you? I’m on a soccer team now!

Gus runs into the store as Gary looks at Irene.

IRENE
He didn’t even have to audition.

INT. SPORTS AUTHORITY - CONTINUOUS

Irene enters followed by Gary.

GARY
Why didn’t you tell me about this?

IRENE
Because I knew how you’d react.

Gary stares at Irene for a beat.

GARY
I’m freaking out.

IRENE
See?

GARY
I don’t want August playing organized sports. He’s too competitive as it is!

QUICK POPS TO:

INT. ROTHMAN KITCHEN - FLASHBACK

Irene, Gary and Gus eat dinner. Gus slams his fork down.

GUS
Done!
INT. BATHROOM — FLASHBACK

Gary and Gus brush. Gus slams his toothbrush down.

GUS
Smoked!

INT. BATHROOM — FLASHBACK

Gary and Gus stand at the toilet with their backs to us. Gary finishes. Gus continues peeing and smiles at Gary.

GUS
That all you got?

BACK TO SCENE:

GARY
I don’t think we should be encouraging him.

IRENE
That’s what parents are supposed to do. They encourage their kids!

GARY
To play piano. To learn to paint. To keep bees.

IRENE
Keep bees?

GARY
(defensive)
Honeycomb is awesome.
(then)
Besides, I thought you wanted him to be a tap dancer.

IRENE
And do makeup, but we don’t always get what we want.

Irene gestures to a basket of knee pads.

IRENE (CONT’D)
(flirtatious)
Can you believe they sell these here?

GARY
Yes. They’re knee pads.

Irene giggles and takes a pair.
GARY (CONT’D)
The only thing I know about soccer is that I don’t like it.

IRENE
Yeah, well you’re not Gus.

GARY
When did he become “Gus”? His name is August, as in Strindberg.

A SALESWOMAN approaches with Gus who carries a ton of soccer paraphernalia.

SALESWOMAN
Okay, I think this is it: size four ball, cleats, shin guards...

IRENE
We’ll take it all! And one of these Damn Yankees costumes, too!

Irene hands the saleswoman a baseball jersey.

GUS
Where’s your archery department?

GARY
Let’s wrap this up, my sister and Ty are gonna be at our house soon and Legos don’t build themselves.

Gary holds up a bag from the Lego Store.

INT. ROTHMAN KITCHEN - EVENING

Impeccably furnished mid-century home where Gary, Gus and TY (THINK TAYE DIGGS) build the Roman Colosseum out of Legos.

GARY
(professorial)
Great architecture combines math and creativity. Behold - the Colosseum!

GUS
Aww, yeah! We’re gonna win the Lego smackdown again this year!

Gus proudly picks up a Lego trophy as Gary smiles.

GARY
That’s not why we enter this competition. It’s not about winning.
TY
Then why do you do this every year?

GARY
It’s about family coming together to
enrich our brains while we “connect.”
Pun intended!

Ty GROANS as Gus begins to bounce a soccer ball on his knee.
Gary looks at him, disappointed.

GARY (CONT’D)
You know, August, gladiators used to
fight in the Colosseum.

GUS
NOICE! I wanna be a gladiator.

GARY
I don’t think so. They fought to the
death.

GUS
Only sucks if you lose.

Ty swipes the ball from Gus and looks at it, nostalgic.

TY
Man, I used to love soccer. And I was
good, too! So good!
(then, to Gus)
Do you wanna go out back and kick the
ball around a little?

GUS
Yeah! Lemme just finish this.

Gus snaps a Lego brick onto the Colosseum.

GUS (CONT’D)
Okay, let’s go!

Gus and Ty exit as Gary calls after them:

GARY
(upset)
What about the Colosseum? Rome wasn’t
built in a day... With only one guy!

Irene and SUSIE (Gary’s opportunistic twin) approach with
bowls of popcorn.
SUSIE
(re: Colosseum)
This thing is huge! Why do you guys have to do everything so extreme?

GARY
August is our only child, everything we do is for him.

IRENE
Why do something unless you’re gonna do it full out? Wait a minute. I should dress like Cleopatra!

GARY
This is not a costume event. You’re not supposed to wear costumes.

IRENE
That’s what you said last year but the audience loved us!

QUICK POP TO:
Irene and Gus stand next to a Lego Eiffel Tower dressed like dirty peasants as Irene sings Les Misérables.

IRENE (CONT’D)
(singing)
I had a dream my life would be/so different from this hell I’m li-ving!

A nerdy man by a huge Lego castle shakes his head, bummed.

BACK TO SCENE:

GARY
That was historically insane. The revolution was decades before they built the Eiffel Tower!

IRENE
(playfully pouty)
Come on, Gary. Don’t make me make you feel guilty for taking me away from Broadway and everything I know and love.

GARY
Moving to the suburbs was your idea!

IRENE
Well, who wants to raise a child in the city?!

(MORE)
IRIENE (CONT'D)
It’s settled, I’m Cleopatra. Gus could be Mark Antony. We can make a Lego chariot out of his scooter!

The doorbell rings and the front door opens to reveal three large men: JOSE LUIS (foreign), DANNY (softy), and RUSTY (sarcastic), aka “THE THREE BEARS.” (Irene’s gay Greek Chorus)

JOSE LUIS
Knock-knock. Let’s get this party starting!

IRENE
It’s “the three bears”!

RUSTY
Hey, Goldilocks.

Rusty hands Irene a bottle of rosé as they air kiss.

GARY
Is it Bachelor night already?

INT. ROTHMAN LIVING ROOM – LATER

Irene and the bears drink rosé as they watch The Bachelor. Danny cries as the bachelor hands a rose to a woman on TV.

THE BACHELOR (ON TV)
I feel a strong connection to you. Like we were lovers in another life.

IRENE
Gary doesn’t love me like that. He loves hummus like that.

RUSTY
I can’t believe he didn’t choose her. What do you have to do to get a rose?

JOSE LUIS
This season, everything...

INT. ROTHMAN KITCHEN – CONTINUOUS

Gary continues to build the Colosseum with his twin sister.

SUSIE
Now that we’re alone, like we were in mom’s womb, I can finally tell you about my new business.
GARY
(wary)
You’re starting another business?

SUSIE
It’s called “Movement Water.” It provides all the weight loss benefits of food poisoning without the poison!

Gary looks to make sure Irene can’t hear.

GARY
(hushed)
How much money do you need this time?

SUSIE
I’m not asking for money, Gary. But it would really help me if I could get your medical stamp of approval.

GARY
Oh, well that’s easy. (then) No.

Susie looks bummed as Gary stares out the window at Ty and Gus who are talking and laughing.

GARY (CONT’D)
(jealous)
How is he having such a satisfying conversation with a seven year old? It’s like they’re on the same level.

SUSIE
What’s that supposed to mean?

GARY
I’m just saying, he communicates well with children. What do you think they’re laughing about? Is there something funny about soccer?

SUSIE
What is your problem Gary? Most non-asthmatic kids play soccer.

GARY
I don’t want August to become one of those meatheads who only cares about winning. What about developing your brain and not your body?

SUSIE
That’s great but I don’t think he’s a nerd.
GARY
What happened to my sweet boy who would sit on the ground and play Legos with me for hours?

SUSIE
He learned how to walk.

Gus enters dribbling a soccer ball on his knees.

GUS
Yo, yo, check it!

The ball bounces across the room and knocks a wall of the Colosseum down. Irene enters as Gus frowns, apologetic.

GARY
It’s the fall of an empire.

TY
Don’t worry, I saw what he did wrong.

Ty grabs the ball and exits with Gus.

GARY
This is a disaster.

IRENE
You’ll just rebuild it.

GARY
I’m talking about August! Soccer is a high stress sport. I have painful memories of cracking under the pressure when I was his age.

QUICK POP TO:

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - FLASHBACK

Gary as a child wears a soccer uniform and cries as kids scream at him to pass the ball.

GARY (V.O.)
It’s not easy to play soccer while you’re crying.

BACK TO SCENE:

IRENE
Don’t be such a drama queen.
GARY
You didn’t see my coach. He was like a sociopathic drill sergeant.

SUSIE
Well, it’s 2015. I don’t think it’s like that anymore.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD – DAY

COACH STEVEN, (30’s, intense) paces as he screams:

COACH STEVEN
You are my soldiers and I am going to lead you in glorious battle!

We reveal that he is screaming at a team of small children, which includes Gus.

COACH STEVEN (CONT’D)
ARE YOU READY TO GET ON “THE WINNING TRAIN”?!?

TEAM
GUS
Yeah! YOU KNOW I’M READY!

ANGLE ON: Gary, who looks traumatized, he wipes sweat from his brow. Irene puts her arm around him.

IRENE
Do you wanna go sit in the car? You probably don’t want to watch this.

END ACT ONE
ACT TWO

Gus looks ecstatic as he watches Coach Steven demonstrate a kick. Gary and Irene watch from the side of the field.

IRENE (CONT’D)
Oh my god, he’s so happy.

GARY
For now. They haven’t started playing yet. And is he wearing sunscreen?

Gary puts on his fishing hat as he and Irene wander over to a line of parents seated in camping chairs.

COACH STEVEN
... we’re gonna work hard so we can go out there and grind those poor bastards into a greasy pulp!

Gary turns to a mom, VAL (30’s, handsome woman).

GARY
Didn’t Patton say that before he stormed Normandy? He’s a little much.

VAL
He’s my husband. I’m Val.

Val extends her hand and gives Gary a firm handshake.

VAL (CONT’D)
We’re both alphas so it’s really intense in our house.

GARY
You’re hurting my hand.

VAL
You must be Gus’s parents! It’s so nice to meet you!

Val pulls some forms out of the side saddle of her camping chair and hands them to Irene.

VAL (CONT’D)
Here’s the sign-up sheet for parental volunteers, which are mandatory.

IRENE
(reading form)
Wow, this is... a lot.
I barely make it to half the practices with work. What do you do? Or, are you–

**TIGHT ON:** Val’s lips in SLOW MOTION.

**VAL (CONT’D)**

Just a moooommmmmmm.

Gary’s eyes go wide as Irene looks like she’s been punched.

**IRENE (V.O.)**

(singing)

_I had a dream my life would be_/so
different from this hell I’m li-ving!

**VAL**

But, being a mom is a full-time job, am I right? Come, meet people!

Val clutches Irene’s forearm like a bird and leads her away.

**IRENE**

You’re hurting my arm.

Gary is approached by a dad, **TOM RICE** (fratty) who stands next to him, impressed, as they watch the kids practice.

**TOM RICE**

How do you get your kid to focus like that on the field?

**GARY**

I have no idea. I’m not into sports.

**TOM RICE**

Wanna trade kids? Hunter’s afraid of the ball.

**ANGLE ON:** HUNTER, a very slight boy who picks a dandelion and closes his eyes as he makes a wish.

**HUNTER**

I hope the soft serve truck has sprinkles today.

Meanwhile, Irene stands with the team moms.

**VAL**

Any ideas for this year’s spirit wear?
IRENE
Well, I know this guy named “Broadway Bruce” who can bedazzle just about anything. I mean this guy poops sparkles. He’s in New York but-

TEAM MOM
We were thinking burgundy sweatshirts.

IRENE
(laughing)
Burgundy’s not a color, it’s a stain!

A GRUFF MOM in a burgundy sweatsuit glares at Irene.

GRUFF MOM
It’s our team color.

Irene shrinks back as an excitable mom, DONNA BANELLI approaches. She tries to maintain a calm appearance even though she is about to burst.

DONNA BANELLI
(weird whisper)
I know who you are.

IRENE
Excuse me?

DONNA BANELLI
I got into musical theater in highschool because my boyfriend was obsessed with it. You’re “Nanette”! But don’t worry, nobody knows!

IRENE
I’m sure some of them know.

DONNA BANELLI
Nobody knows. But, don’t worry, I won’t tell anyone.

IRENE
(coy)
You can tell someone...

DONNA BANELLI
Oh, no. I know how you people are. You don’t want anyone to make a big deal about you.

Irene looks at Donna Banelli in disbelief as the other moms dish about how oversized they want the sweatshirts to be.
BACK ON: The dads who watch the kids practice with Coach Steven.

COACH STEVEN
Okay, Gus! How bad do you want it?!
HOW BAD DO YOU WANT IT?!

GARY
(annoyed)
He wants it, alright?

Irene walks over to Gary.

IRENE
This is not what I was expecting. It’s like these people don’t watch the Tony awards.

GARY
We won’t be here long. August is my son, there’s no way he’s going to enjoy being put under this much pressure.

Gus scores a goal and Coach Steven runs onto the field and puts Gus on his shoulder like a parrot, as Gus laughs.

COACH STEVEN
GUS JUST GOT ON THE WINNING TRAIN!
CHOO! CHOO!

Gary watches this display as Hunter’s dad leans over to him.

TOM RICE
I’m serious about trading.

INT. OFFICE – LATER

Tight on Gary’s face.

GARY
(therapy session)
I mean, seriously, “the winning train”? I’ve never seen my son like that. He was like an animal - he was breathing heavy and his eyes became hard and cold.

WIDEN TO REVEAL: Gary is doing rounds at the hospital talking to an old patient, MR. DIXON, who sucks on a lollipop.

MR. DIXON
He sounds like a spitfire!
GARY
Yeah, but I’m not that type of dad.

MR. DIXON
Well, if your son plays soccer, what does that make you?

GARY
Depressed?

MR. DIXON
No. A soccer dad. Unless what you’re saying is you don’t want to be his dad.

GARY
No, I do.

MR. DIXON
Then it’s time for you to accept your truth. Now, why don’t you join me in a marijuana lollipops? It’ll calm you down.

Mr. Dixon offers Gary a green lollipop.

GARY
I’m good, man.

INT. GUS’S BEDROOM – NIGHT

Gus lies in bed holding a soccer ball as Irene belts “Moonshine Lullaby” like Ethel Merman.

IRENE
(singing out)
SO COUNT YOUR SHEEP/MAMA’S SINGIN’ YOU TO SLEEP!/With a moonshine lullaby...

GUS
Mom, do you ever miss Broadway?

IRENE
Sweetpea, moving here was my idea. And sure, I loved being on stage, but–

Irene leans over and whispers in Gus’s ear.

IRENE (CONT’D)
You are my one true love.

She kisses him and exits.

IRENE (CONT’D)
I’ll be here all week!
INT. GARY AND IRENE’S BEDROOM – NIGHT

Gary sits in bed reading a book as Irene enters.

IRENE
Whatcha reading?

He shows her the cover: Soccer for Nerds.

GARY
I volunteered to referee the scrimmage at the next practice. Just because I can’t play soccer doesn’t mean I can’t be involved.

IRENE
That’s perfect, you love rules and regulations!

GARY
I’m not gonna let this new phase damage my connection with my son. I don’t want to end up like my patients all alone at the nursing home because their kids never visit.

IRENE
(freaked)
Where am I in this scenario?

Gary continues reading as Irene turns on the TV.

IRENE (CONT’D)
I gotta finish watching The Bachelor.

ANGLE ON: the TV where we see a woman run into a man’s arms and wrap her legs around his torso as they hug.

IRENE (CONT’D)
We never hug like that.

GARY
Hm?

IRENE
I want us to talk about how much we love each other and hug like they do on The Bachelor.

GARY
(confused)
You think that what happens on The Bachelor is real?!
Gary’s laptop CHIMES.

GARY (CONT’D)
Another email about the kickoff game. I better put it in the calendar.
(then, re: computer)
Wait a minute. It’s the same day as the Lego competition.

IRENE
But, Gus and I are dressing up. What are we gonna do? It’s Sophie’s Choice!

GARY
I don’t agree with that but this is a Rothman family tradition. I’ll just email the coach to let him know we’re missing the game.

Gary quickly types an email and hits send.

GARY (CONT’D)
We don’t have to change our entire lives for this soccer team.

His phone DINGS. Gary’s eyes go wide.

GARY (CONT’D)
Coach Steven just texted “CALL ME” in all caps! Receiving a text that says “CALL ME” in all caps is horrifying.

IRENE
You’re a doctor. He can’t just get you on the phone whenever he wants.

Gary’s cell phone rings and he and Irene jump.

GARY
Now he’s FaceTiming me!

Gary fumbles with the phone and Coach Steven’s face appears.

GARY (CONT’D)
(sunny)
Hi Coach Steven!

COACH STEVEN
We need Gus. It’s the kickoff game! I don’t wanna lose.

GARY
I understand that but-
COACH STEVEN
Right on, brother. So, we’ll see Gus on Saturday.

Coach Steven’s image freezes as he hangs up.

GARY
This is ridiculous.
(typing)
I’ll just text Coach Steven “CALL ME.”

They wait for the phone to ring. It does not.

GARY (CONT’D)
He’s probably just dialing...

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Irene wears a burgundy sweatshirt bedazzled with the words: “Just for kicks!” She claps as the bears open the lid on a tupperware revealing:

RUSTY
Soccer ball cupcakes with frosting that looks like grass!

DANNY
(humble brag)
It’s just a Barefoot Contessa thing.

Gus enters dressed in his soccer uniform.

GUS
Mom, we have to go. The scrimmage is starting soon!

Gus exits as Gary rushes in dressed in work clothes.

GARY
Sorry I’m late, another patient died.

RUSTY
(to Danny)
Remind me never to let Gary be my doctor.

GARY
Do you have my ref uniform?

IRENE
Here, I picked it up when I got my Cleopatra costume.
Irene hands Gary a ref costume, which was clearly purchased at a sex shop. Gary stares at a hunky guy on the label.

GARY
This is not regulation.

IRENE
Oh, it’s fine. This is a soccer practice for kids!

GARY
You’re right.
(reading package)
“Blow my whistle” is perfect.

Gary holds up a whistle shaped like a penis (blurred out, of course).

IRENE
We’ll get you a different whistle.

DANNY
How did Gus deal with having to miss the first game?

GARY
I’m planning on telling him after the scrimmage. I don’t want to mess with his head before the game.

RUSTY
Then don’t let him see this.

Rusty takes the penis whistle as Gary exits to get dressed. Irene takes a punch bowl out of the refrigerator and hands it to Danny.

DANNY
What’s this?

IRENE
White sangria for the parents. I gotta go full out if I’m gonna impress these soccer bitches.

DANNY
Aren’t you going a little overboard?

IRENE
Listen, I’ve given up everything: my career, my dream of having a son who’ll take me to shows and inherit my wigs. If I’m going to be a soccer mom I need to be queen of the soccer moms.
RUSTY
You were a guest judge on RuPaul’s Drag Race. Isn’t the rest just gravy?

Gary enters dressed in his ref stripper costume which is very tight and shiny.

GARY
Is it too tight?

RUSTY
You look hot - good. You look good!

Irene grins at Gary as Gus enters.

GUS
My Dad’s a ref! This is so cool.

Gary smiles, pleased.

GUS (CONT’D)
Now, can we please go?!

DANNY
We’ll put these in the car for you.

The bears take the cupcakes and sangria and exit with Gus.

IRENE
You do look good.

GARY
I feel good. This is gonna be great for August and I. I think I’m gonna be a amazing ref.

IRENE
Gary, I like this cocky side of you. So assertive.

GARY
I think it might be the costume.

IRENE
Whatever it is, it’s hot.

Irene kisses Gary.

GARY
Should I be concerned that you’re turned on by me not acting like myself?

Irene puts her finger on Gary’s mouth.
IRENE
Shh. You’re ruining it.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD – DAY

Coach Steven glares at Gary in his ref stripper costume as Irene sets up her sangria.

COACH STEVEN
This isn’t some play where you dress up and pretend. This is real life.

IRENE
You wanna talk real life? I did eight shows a week and shared a dressing room with Harvey Fierstein!

Gary is shocked to find Ty on the side of the field in a perfect camping chair.

GARY
Ty, what are you doing here?

TY
Laughing my ass off at the way you look. Gus told me about the scrimmage so I figured I’d come to support.

COACH STEVEN
Refs on the field!

GARY
I’d like to stay and chat but I have a job to do.

Gary walks off with all the dignity he can muster.

JUMP CUT TO:

SCRIMMAGE MONTAGE:

- A kid falls.

TEAM DAD
He tripped him! What’re you, BLIND?!

Gary pulls out red and yellow cards but drops them when the ball whizzes past his head.

- The ball goes off sides.

GARY
(exasperated)
Is that green? Who’s going that way?
TEAM DAD
It’s like you don’t care who wins!

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - LATER
Halftime. Gary walks over to Irene, winded.

GARY
It’s halfway over.

IRENE
Intermission!

Irene proudly passes out cupcakes as the kids CHEER.

GUS
Yeah, Mom! (high-pitched) What-what!

But the team parents are furious.

TEAM MOM
Don’t eat that!

Irene watches as parents knock the cupcakes out of their kid’s hands in SLOW MOTION like a disaster movie as Coach Steven stomps on them.

TY
They don’t want their kids eating that because of the second half sugar crash.

Donna Banelli approaches licking her finger.

DONNA BANELLI
It’s a shame. They’re so moist...

TEAM MOM (O.S.)
Put that down, Cody!

Irene looks over to see a mom chasing after a toddler who holds an orange slice which he took out of the sangria.

TEAM DAD
These kids don’t understand that the fruit is soaked in alcohol!

GRUFF MOM
Who brings sangria to a soccer game?!

The gruff mom picks up the punch bowl and dumps it in the trash. Irene watches, bewildered.
IRENE
Okay, even I think that was a little dramatic.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD – LATER

Gary stands by the goal with the ball. Coach Steven stands at the center of the field.

COACH STEVEN
We start the second half at the middle of the field! Kick the ball to me!

It’s far. Gary takes a deep breath and kicks the ball – right into a kid’s face who is five feet away. He has a bloody nose.

TEAM DAD
Is there a doctor here?

GARY
(tentative)
I’m a doctor.

BOY
(irrational)
STAY AWAY FROM ME!

COACH STEVEN
Great, now we’re short a player.

GARY
I remember this one! To avoid forfeit one player must switch sides.

Gus’s teammates BOO.

GUS
Let’s just send them our worst player. You don’t mind, do ya Hunter?

Hunter bursts into tears. Gary looks at Gus, disappointed. Has he just witnessed his son turn into an asshole?

GARY
That’s it! August is out! And he will not be playing in the game Saturday!

COACH STEVEN
(pleading)
But, we need Gus. We’re facing The Hellcats! He’s our secret weapon!
GARY
He is MY son so I am the one who will
decide if he plays or not.

Everyone stares at Gary on the edge of their seats.

GARY (CONT’D)
And he will not be playing.
(then)
Wasn’t that obvious?

GUS
Mom, do something!

IRENE
Your father is right.

GUS
But, Dad-

GARY
No! The Rothmans are out!

Gary tears his breakaway ref stripper costume off and storms
off the field... with dignity.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

INT. HALLWAY/GUS’S BEDROOM - EVENING

Irene exits the bedroom holding a plate with one bite of cake left on it and a half-full glass of milk.

IRENE
This is really bad. He’s not eating.
(then, off look)
Well, what am I supposed to do? I’m stressed! You’re up.

GARY
You got some frosting...

Gary wipes Irene’s lip, then enters the bedroom to find Gus sitting on the bed, looking bummed.

GUS
Why did you sign me up for soccer if you didn’t want me to play?

GARY
I want you to play – the right way. You hurt someone’s feelings out there.

GUS
I was just trying to win.

GARY
But winning isn’t everything.

GUS
It is to me.

GARY
What about being compassionate? What about being a team player?

GUS
My team needs me.

GARY
This family is also a team. And we need you if we’re going to win the Lego competition.

GUS
I thought you said winning wasn’t everything.
GARY
I wasn’t finished... By “winning,” I mean supporting each other and spending time together as a family. And if we bring home the trophy... so be it.

EXT. COMMUNITY CENTER - ONE WEEK LATER

Gary and Ty (dressed as Caesar) push the Colosseum into the Lego competition on a dolly. They are followed by Irene dressed as Cleopatra (without the wig) and Gus who rides a Lego chariot dressed as Mark Antony.

GARY
Is Susie still mad at me for not endorsing her poison water?

TY
You can support her next idea. That woman is a business machine.

GUS
This blows. Can I play a game?

Gary tosses Gus his cell phone.

IRENE
Where are the bears? Rusty borrowed my black wig when he dressed like Xena on Halloween. I need it back.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - LATER

Gary puts finishing touches on the Colosseum when Irene runs up.

IRENE
I can’t find Gus anywhere!

GARY
What do you mean? We’re about to be judged.

Gary, Irene and Ty look alarmed as they search the community center looking for Gus.

EXT. COMMUNITY CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

Gary looks outside and stops when he sees Gus playing a pickup basketball game with a group of nine year old street ballers. He watches in SLOW MOTION as Gus holds his own against these tough players, slapping high fives and smiling ear to ear. Irene and Ty join and they watch Gus play.
GARY
He’s with his people.

TY
I’m gonna pretend I didn’t hear that.

IRENE
Gus, it’s starting! You need to come inside!

Gus drops the ball and runs over to his parents.

STREET BALLER
(pissed)
We’re in the middle of a game!

GUS
I gotta help my dad with this Lego thing! It’s important to him.

This lands on Gary, who recognizes that his seven year old son is displaying more compassion than him.

GARY
(contemplative)
He is a team player.

Gus approaches.

GARY (CONT’D)
Listen... champ. We have to leave now if we’re going to make it to your soccer game.

GUS
What about the Colosseum?

GARY
Who cares. Rome fell because they didn’t adapt with the times.

Gus smiles, excited.

GUS
Wait, I don’t have my uniform.

IRENE
We don’t have time to go home and get it.

GARY
We can do this. We are a team.

Gary whips out his phone and dials. SPLIT SCREEN with Susie.
GARY (CONT’D)
Susie! I need you to pick up August’s soccer uniform and take it to the field! Stat!

SUSIE
I dunno, it seems like our relationship is only about what I can do for you.

Gary sighs.

GARY
Fine! I will endorse your pooping water.

SUSIE
Be there in ten!

TY
I like this hustle but how are we gonna do this? The soccer field is five minutes away but with traffic and parking it’ll take at least half an hour to get there.

Gary picks up the Lego chariot and turns to Gus.

GARY
Your chariot awaits.

Gary and Gus take off down the sidewalk on the chariot.

GARY (CONT’D)
Meet us there!

EXT. SOCCER FIELD – DAY

The team is getting destroyed by “The Hellcats.” Coach Steven looks distraught but smiles when he sees Gary and Gus (dressed as Mark Antony) heading toward him on the chariot.

COACH STEVEN
My soldier arrives...

EXT. SOCCER FIELD – MOMENTS LATER

Gus is now dressed in his uniform. Coach Steven puts his hand on Gus’s shoulder.

COACH STEVEN
Kill them.
(then, screaming)
Hunter! You’re out!
GUS
Wait, I don’t want to take his place.
That’s not fair.

Hunter approaches, relieved.

HUNTER
It’s fair! Totally fair.
(whispers to Gus)
Thank god you came.

Gus and Hunter high five.

HUNTER (CONT’D)
Heads up. When no one was looking, I
vomited a little behind the goal.

JUMP CUTS of Gus playing: A kid on “The Hellcats” pushes Gus. Gus aggressively steals the ball back and charges down the
field like a complete badass.

HUNTER (CONT’D)
He’s awesome.

GARY
(proud)
That’s my son.

HUNTER
You teach him those moves?

GARY
Yes. In a way. Actually, no.

Coach Steven stares at something off screen.

COACH STEVEN
What the hell is that?

GARY
(scared)
That’s my wife.

The parents mumble in amazement as Irene runs onto the field
dressed like Cleopatra (now in her wig) followed by the three
Bears who are dressed as Egyptian slaves.

IRENE
Did we make it in time?

DONNA BANELLI
(tickled)
That’s so “Nanette.”
There is a smattering of applause from the team parents. Irene smiles and takes her bow.

**COACH STEVEN**  
(to Gary)  
What is it with you people and costumes?

**TY**  
What do you mean, “you people”?

Irene and the bears join Gary, Ty and Susie on the sidelines. Susie hands Gary a bottle of “Movement Water.”

**IRENE**  
Are you really going to drink that?

**GARY**  
Yes. She is my twin sister and I support her even though it has always turned out badly.

Susie smiles as Gary goes to take a sip then stops.

**GARY (CONT’D)**  
Is this safe?

**SUSIE**  
It’s perfectly safe. Pending an FDA inquiry.

Gary takes a swig.

**GARY**  
It tastes great.

**SUSIE**  
Good! It takes about a half hour to kick in!

**JUMP CUT TO:**

Gus does a bicycle kick and scores a goal as Gary, Irene, Ty, Susie and the bears go nuts, SCREAMING and CATCALLING.

**TOM RICE**  
Nice bicycle kick.

**GARY**  
That’s a bicycle kick? He just did a bicycle kick! THIS IS SO EXCITING!
Gus beams and takes Gary by surprise when he runs over and jumps into his arms, hugging him with his legs wrapped around Gary’s waist. Irene’s eyes go wide.

IRENE
“*The Bachelor hug.*”

GARY
(overcome)
It’s amazing.

Gary holds Gus tight and realizes that his connection with his son is as strong as it ever was. Gus stoically retakes the field as Gary wipes a tear from his eye.

TOM RICE
I thought you weren’t into sports.

IRENE
We’re not.

GARY
GO GUS!

IRENE
(touched)
You just called him Gus.

DANNY
(breaking down)
He just called him Gus!

COACH STEVEN
(re: game)
Okay, we just need one more to tie this up.

The ref blows the whistle.

REFEREE
That’s game! “The Hellcats” win!

The other team rejoices as Coach Steven SCREAMS and falls to his knees as the parents shake their heads, disappointed.

GARY
(ecstatic)
What a great game! I think I just got on “The Winning Train!”

JUMP CUT TO:

Gary and Irene are on the field grasping hands with the other parents in a line to do the “victory tunnel.”
GARY (CONT’D)
(uncomfortable)
How long is this gonna take?

IRENE
Are you okay?

GARY
I’m feeling something in my stomach.

COACH STEVEN
It’s called pride. Get used to it.

RUSTY
(mouthing to Danny)
Is he gay?

Finally, Gus and his teammates run through the tunnel as Gary let’s go of Irene’s hands and darts off the field in agony.

COACH STEVEN
What’s his rush?

Susie offers Coach Steven a bottle.

SUSIE
“Movement Water”?

Coach Steven begins to chug as Gus spots Gary running off the field.

GUS
EVERYBODY FOLLOW MY DAD!

The team chases after Gary as he screams.

GARY
NO!

END OF ACT THREE
TAG

INT. ROTHMAN LIVING ROOM – LATER

The house is packed with the team who talks loudly while eating pizza. SportsCenter blares from the TV where Ty holds court. Gary stands with Irene (still dressed as Cleopatra).

GARY
Why are you still wearing that?

IRENE
Because I’m hosting a party.

GARY
This is not our party. Why did Gus invite everyone over here?

IRENE
Because this is our life now, Gary! Trust me, we don’t want Gus to be that kid on the team with the weird parents.

The bears approach.

DANNY
We just ran out of pizza.

RUSTY
There’s about to be a mutiny.

IRENE
What do we do?

Jose Luis nods as he connects his iPhone to a speaker.

JOSE LUIS
Don’t worry, I got this.

“Cha Cha Slide” by DJ Casper begins to BLAST and the entire room starts to do the dance. Gary and Irene watch Gus laugh as he dances with his teammates.

GARY
What’s going on? He fits in so well with these people.

IRENE
I’ll tell you what’s going on: he’s normal. And if we don’t want to mess this up for him we need to convince these people that we’re normal too.
Gary considers this, she’s right. He looks at Irene.

    GARY
    You may wanna lose the wig.

Irene looks at Gary dumbfounded as they begin their adventure raising a normal boy in an eccentric home.

    GUS
    I love this song.

Gus pulls his parents over to do the terrible dance with him as we... FADE OUT.

    END OF SHOW