

SULLIVAN & SON

"Last, Best, and Final"

by

Steve Byrne & Rob Long

FIRST DRAFT
August, 2011

SERIES TITLE

"Episode Title"

CAST

CHARACTER NAME..... ACTOR
CHARACTER NAME..... ACTOR
CHARACTER NAME..... ACTOR
CHARACTER NAME..... ACTOR
CHARACTER NAME..... ACTOR
CHARACTER NAME..... ACTOR

GUEST CAST

TBD..... ACTOR

SERIES TITLE

"Episode Title"

SETS

Teaser, Scene A - Scene Heading

Act One, Scene B - Scene Heading

Act Two, Scene C - Scene Heading

Tag, Scene D - Scene Heading

COLD OPENING

INT. NEW YORK APARTMENT -- DAY

A FLURRY OF ACTIVITY. ASHLEY (30'S, IS HOLDING TWO LARGE CARRY ON BAGS. STEVE (30'S, A STEVE BYRNE TYPE) STANDS AT THE DOOR, OVERNIGHT BAG IN HAND. HE'S ON HIS BLACKBERRY, AND WEARING HIS BUSINESS SUIT.

STEVE

You ready? The cab is out front.

ASHLEY

How do I look?

STEVE
(not looking up)

You look great.

ASHLEY

Steve...

HE LOOKS UP FROM HIS BLACKBERRY.

STEVE

I'm sorry. You look great. We're just in the middle of this --

ASHLEY

Don't apologize. You're a big vice president now. I love to see my man working.

STEVE

You know, most women hate that.

ASHLEY

Most women don't have such a successful boyfriend.

SHE KISSES HIM. THE CAB HONKS.

STEVE

You're taking all of that?

ASHLEY

I'm meeting your family for the first time. I want to look good.

STEVE

It's a bar in Pittsburgh. You don't have to look good. That's the whole point of Pittsburgh.

ASHLEY

How bad is this going to be?

STEVE

Remember that time we went to the Rangers game, and sat up in the nosebleed section? It's going to be those guys.

SHE DROPS ONE OF HER BAGS.

ASHLEY

Ready.

SHE EXITS. STEVE TAKES A DEEP BREATH, SHUTS THE LIGHTS OFF, AND EXITS.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPLANE -- LATER

STEVE AND ASHLEY IN A CROWDED THREE-PERSON ROW. THEY AREN'T TOGETHER -- IN BETWEEN THEM IS, OF COURSE, AN ENORMOUS PASSENGER.

ACROSS HIS GIRTH, ASHLEY SHOWS STEVE A PAGE FROM HER MAGAZINE.

ASHLEY

What do you think of this dress?

STEVE IS ABSORBED IN HIS BLACKBERRY.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

Steve?

NO RESPONSE.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

Steve?

STEVE

(looking up)

Yes?

ASHLEY

(showing magazine)

What do you think of this dress?

STEVE

It's a wedding dress.

ENORMOUS PASSENGER

(sotto to Steve)

Uh oh.

STEVE

Why are you looking at wedding dresses?

ASHLEY

Oh, come on, Steve. You're taking me to your hometown. I'm going to meet your friends and your parents...

ENORMOUS PASSENGER

(sotto to Steve)

She thinks you're going to --

STEVE

I know what she thinks.

ASHLEY

....we've been going out for a year.
It's sort of time to take the next
step.

ENORMOUS PASSENGER

A year? It's time, Steve.

STEVE

I know it's time. (THEN, TO ASHLEY)
Can we talk about this later?

ASHLEY

You just got that big promotion.

ENORMOUS PASSENGER

Congrats! What do you do?

STEVE

I work in the legal department of a
bank.

ENORMOUS PASSENGER

Sounds interesting.

STEVE

It's not. Right now, I'm reviewing the
wording on a replacement memo. Later
I'll be making sure that one of our
filings conforms to the SCC rules.

(MORE)

STEVE (CONT'D)

You see, I'm really good at reading
400 page documents and finding two
words that need to be changed.

ENORMOUS PASSENGER

Are you going to eat your peanuts.

STEVE HANDS HIM THE PEANUTS.

ASHLEY

I don't know what you're waiting for.
I don't know what you really want.
Aren't you happy? I mean, your life
is going great right now. Your
career, your girlfriend.

STEVE

I know, I know. Everything is great.

ASHLEY

Aren't you happy?

STEVE

I'm very happy.

ENORMOUS PASSENGER

(mouthful of peanuts)

You don't sound happy.

ASHLEY

What more do you want Steve?

STEVE

You know what I want, what I really
want? I want to do something that
matters.

ASHLEY

Well, this weekend, you can do something that matters to me.

ENORMOUS PASSENGER

She wants you to ask her to...

STEVE

Can I have my peanuts back.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. TAXI -- NIGHT

THE CAB MOVES ALONG. STEVE AND ASHLEY IN THE BACK SEAT.

ASHLEY

I hope we get there soon. I hate driving through these bad neighborhoods.

THE CAB STOPS.

STEVE

We're here.

HE STARTS TO PAY.

ASHLEY

Seriously?

STEVE

Don't worry. It's a very friendly neighborhood.

ASHLEY

(looking out the window)

Really? She doesn't look very friendly.

SUSAN (30'S, UPTIGHT, BABY ON HER HIP), STEVE'S SISTER, APPEARS AT THE OPEN TAXI WINDOW. SHE HOLDS A CLIPBOARD.

STEVE

Hi, Susan.

SUSAN
(pointing to clipboard)

You're twenty minutes late. The speeches have already started.

STEVE

Great to see you, too.

SUSAN

So you've ruined Dad's birthday, which I planned entirely by myself because you don't answer my emails. (TO ASHLEY) Hi, I'm Susan.

THEY EXCHANGE GREETINGS. SUSAN, STEVE, AND ASHLEY CROSS OVER TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE BAR. BEFORE THEY ENTER, SUSAN STOPS THEM.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

By the way, just so you know, there are a lot of people in there who probably don't know who you are. It's not like you come back often. So just don't expect a big "we love Steve" reception.

STEVE ENTERS.

OWEN (O.S.)

Hey everybody! Steve's here!

FROM THE BAR, SOUNDS OF CHEERS.

ROY (O.S.)

Check out that suit!

OWEN (O.S.)

You look like a congressman.

THE CHEERS TURN TO BOOS.

SUSAN

(to Ashley)

Well, the "Steve Show" has started.

Welcome to Pittsburgh.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

B

INT. SULLIVAN & SON -- NIGHT

IT'S A CLASSIC NEIGHBORHOOD TAVERN. SPORTS MEMORABILIA ON THE WALLS, PEE WEE HOCKEY TEAM PHOTOS, THE COLLECTED ARTIFACTS OF 50 YEARS OF NEIGHBORHOOD DRINKING.

AND IT'S PACKED. STREAMERS EVERYWHERE, BALLOONS, ALL EMBLAZONED "HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JACK!" THE BIRTHDAY PARTY IS IN FULL SWING.

CAROL (BLOWSY, TIPSY, 50'S BAR PATRON; HAS SEEN A LOT, AND DONE A LOT) IS MID-TOAST.

CAROL

We've all said nice things about Jack,
but I want to say something more.

Thirty years ago I sat in this bar, on
that stool, I was a young girl, I was
drinking whiskey alone, I was
pregnant, I had zero idea of who the
father of my baby was. I mean
zero..... it could've been... anyone.

ANGLE STEVE'S OLD FRIENDS OWEN (30'S), ROY (SAME AGE, AFRICAN AMERICAN), AND AHMED (30'S, ARAB-AMERICAN).

OWEN

(calling out from the crowd)

We get the idea Mom, you were popular.

CAROL

My wonderful son Owen, who is here
tonight because thirty years ago this
man stood by me.

(MORE)

CAROL (CONT'D)

My own parents rejected me, but this man, he listened to my story, and he said "Carol, you're going to get through this, but not with whiskey," and he took my drink away. And for nine months, I did not touch a drop of liquor. I mean, thank God for weed, right?

SHE TAKES A SIP AND A PUFF.

CAROL (CONT'D)

And then, holy crap, that boy came out ass-first. He tore me a new one. He connected the dots. Know what I mean ladies?

OWEN
(calling out)

We all know what you mean, Mom.

CAROL

But I brought my little boy here, and Jack held Owen in his arms, and there's the picture.

SHE POINTS TO A PICTURE ON THE WALL OF A YOUNG CAROL AND JACK HOLDING A NEWBORN.

CAROL (CONT'D)

When I see that picture, I think how much I love my son, how much I love this place, and Jack, and Jack and Coke. And --

OWEN

Can someone call my mom a cab?

AS OWEN HELPS HIS MOM DOWN FROM THE PLATFORM, STEVE BUMPS INTO MELANIE (30'S, TOMBOY-ATTRACTIVE, DRESSED IN A PARAMEDIC UNIFORM) ON HER WAY IN.

MELANIE

Hey!

MELANIE AND STEVE GREET EACH OTHER WITH A HUG.

STEVE

Melanie! You look fantastic!

MELANIE

And you look like a lawyer.

STEVE

That's the nicest thing anyone's said about my suit tonight. (THEN) You're not leaving?

MELANIE

Got to. I'm on duty.

SHE DOWNS THE REST OF HER BEER, ROY HANDS HER A FRESH ONE, WHICH SHE STARTS DRINKING.

ASHLEY

Should you be drinking if you're on duty?

MELANIE

Uh....(MAKING IT UP) I had a steak for dinner. Soaks it right up.

STEVE

Oh, hey, Ashley, this is my old friend Melanie. Melanie, this is Ashley...

ASHLEY

His fiancée.

THEY SHAKE.

MELANIE

Well, congratulations. I didn't know.

STEVE

Neither did I.

ASHLEY

Well, we've been talking about it...

AWKWARD MOMENT AS STEVE STANDS BETWEEN THE TWO WOMEN...

STEVE

(re Melanie's uniform)

And you became a paramedic. That is great. Congratulations.

MELANIE

Why, because I couldn't afford medical school?

STEVE

Melanie, don't forget, we were lab partners sophomore year. I know you. There was no way you were going to get into medical school.

SHE LAUGHS. THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER. PAUSE.

MELANIE

Well, I gotta get going... It's good to see you Steve. You look good. Prosperous.

STEVE
(re: suit and Blackberry)

Not too douche-y?

MELANIE

I'm sure in New York City it works.

ASHLEY

Nice to meet you.

SHE EXITS. ASHLEY LOOKS AT STEVE.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

So how long did you guys go out?

STEVE

We never went out.

ASHLEY

Then why'd you get all nervous?

STEVE

I wasn't nervous.

ASHLEY

Your voice got all high pitched and
quavery.

STEVE

That's because you keep telling people
we're engaged.

ASHLEY

I wouldn't have to tell people we were
engaged if you got me an engagement
ring.

OWEN RE-ENTERS, BOUNDS UP TO STEVE.

OWEN

Dude, did you see Melanie? If you do not tap that this weekend you are the queer I always knew you were. (THEN, TO ASHLEY) Hey, I'm Owen.

STEVE

He was born without a filter.

ASHLEY

Yeah, I know. I heard his mom's speech. But can I just say, as someone with a lot of gay friends, I'm a little uncomfortable with your homophobia.

OWEN

(to Steve) Did she just call me a homo?

STEVE STARTS SENDING AN EMAIL ON HIS BLACKBERRY.

ROY

(steps forward)

Hi, I'm Roy. I'm one of Steve's friends. I'm in his cell phone, under "Black Friend."

STEVE

What makes you think you're in my cell phone?

THE GUYS LAUGH.

AHMED

Hey I'm Ahmed. I'm in his cell phone
under "NO FLY LIST".

STEVE

That one is true.

SUSAN APPROACHES HOLDING 2 KIDS.

SUSAN

Steve, go over to Mom and tell her she
has to make a toast.

STEVE

Mom doesn't like talking in front of
people.

SUSAN

It doesn't matter. It's the
appropriate thing for her to do.

STEVE

Then you ask her.

SUSAN

If I ask her, she'll say no. If you
ask her to do it, she'll do it. I'm
not the great Steve.

STEVE

Oh, here we go.

SUSAN

Steve. Put the BlackBerry down! Be
here, okay?

(MORE)

SUSAN (CONT'D)

Just...go tell Mom to say
something.I've planned this party,
I've got 4 kids, I can't find 2 of
them and my husband needs to be saved
from Carol. Now go.

ANGLE OK CHA, LOOKING STERN, TABULATING PEOPLE'S DRINK TABS.
STEVE APPROACHES HER.

STEVE

Hey Mom. Really nice party.

OK CHA

It's okay.

STEVE

I think Susan did a really nice job.

OK CHA

Too many streamers. And you look fat.

STEVE

Okay. You should make a toast.

OK CHA

I don't like to talk in front of
people.

STEVE

You know Mom, a lot of these people
think the drinks tonight are on the
house.

OK CHA

Attention everyone. I want to make an announcement. It's not a free party, drinks are not on the house.

THE CROWD REACTS WITH DISMAY.

OK CHA (CONT'D)

That's right. The cake, you get a free piece, but you pay your drink tab. Thank you for coming.
(turns to her husband)

And happy birthday.

JACK

Wait a minute, wait a minute.
(calls out)

For the next one hour, drinks are on the house!

THE CROWD ROARS. ANGLE BACK TO THE GROUP.

ASHLEY

Mrs. Sullivan, did Steve tell you about his promotion?

OK CHA

What promotion?

STEVE

I was going to tell you after the party. But I just got promoted to vice president.

OK CHA IS SILENT FOR A MOMENT.

OK CHA

Hmmm. This is very good. This is a high achievement.

SHE NODS AT STEVE AND THEN MOVES OFF.

ROY

Wow. I've never seen your mom so emotional.

AHMED

She almost hugged you.

OWEN

So, you're a vice president?
Congrats, man. Does that mean if the president dies you automatically get his job?

ROY

Just say the word. We'll help you out.

STEVE

No, there's lots of vice presidents. There's executive vice presidents, senior vice presidents, associate vice presidents and even assistant vice presidents.

OWEN

Oh. Then I'm sorry I said congratulations.

ASHLEY

Actually, it's a big honor.

AHMED

Sounds like it. There's only a hundred of them.

ROY

But look at you. You got the suit. You got the Blackberry. You got the big job. You got it all, man. This is everything you ever wanted.

OWEN

And don't forget the smoking hot chick with that sweet, sweet ass. (THEN, TO ASHLEY) Sorry. No filter.

ASHLEY

I'll let that one slide.

ROY

So, tell us. You making five figures yet?

STEVE

(uncomfortable)

Um, yeah. Yeah, pretty much.

ROY

We always knew you would.

THE GUYS CLINK BEERS.

OWEN

So let me ask you something. What kind of law do you do?

STEVE

I work for a bank. I'm in securities law.

OWEN

Yeah, whatever. Anyways. I'll cut to the chase. Past few years, money's been a little tight, I had to cut back on stuff.

STEVE

Okay.

OWEN

I got rid of my car, I bike to work, eat a lot of Ramen noodles, stopped paying taxes, don't drink hard liquor, I just drink draft --

STEVE

Wait. Go back one. You stopped paying taxes?

OWEN

Yeah. They sent me some notices, but I just wrote 'Deceased' on them and sent them back. So my question is, do I need a lawyer?

STEVE

Yeah. Jeez, man, you should have called me.

OWEN

I didn't want to bug you. You've got that great life in New York.

STEVE

It's not bugging me. I know I've been gone for a bit, but you guys are my best friends. And my life is not that great, okay? It's long hours, it's kind of boring, I'm attached to this thing. (HOLDS UP HIS BLACKBERRY)

ROY

Oh, man, that must be tough. Guy wearing a tailored suit --

OWEN

-- with the hottest piece of ass in Pittsburgh --

ROY

Pulling down five figures.

AHMED

When's this guy going to catch a break?

STEVE

Actually, you're right. I am very busy. Don't call me.

HANK (60'S, BUZZ CUT, TOUGH AS NAILS) STANDS UP, CLINKS HIS GLASS.

HANK

Can I have everybody's attention? I want to say something.

STEVE

This is going to be good.

HANK

I think we all know Sullivan and Son is an institution. My father came here every night of his life, that was when your father
(points to Jack)
ran the place. I had my first beer here when I was fourteen years old. Back then this was a decent neighborhood, just regular white people. And also some Catholics. Then the Italians moved in and we all thought, "uh oh, there goes the neighborhood." By that time Jack had taken over for his father, and he said "Hank, simmer down, technically Italians are white people too." And you know what, he was right.

ANGLE: THE GUYS AND ASHLEY

ASHLEY

Oh my God.

STEVE

(happy)

It's going to get worse.

HANK

And then the coloreds started moving in, it was us and the Catholics and the Italians saying "there goes the neighborhood," and this man said "hey fellas, colored people just want a beer after work like you and me." And he was right about that too, at least about the ones who work.

ANGLE: ROY, OWEN, STEVE, AND AHMED BURST OUT LAUGHING.

ASHLEY

You guys should not be laughing. This is hate speech.

ANGLE: HANK

HANK

And he brought the neighborhood together. Of course we should've known he would. When he was serving his country in Korea, he met a lovely gal of Oriental distraction, brought her home, married her, had two little babies -- mutts running around, God knows what they are.

STEVE
(calling out)

You used to call us Gooks, Hank.

HANK

No, I called you Chinks. And I was wrong to do that. Because Chinks means "Chinese" and Gooks means all Asian cultures.

AHMED, STEVE, OWEN, AND ROY ARE LAUGHING.

STEVE

God, I've missed this.

HANK

But it doesn't matter. Because at Sullivan and Son we are all one, together, as a community -- the Catholics, the Italians, the coloreds, the Vietnamese, the normal whites -- we can all work together. To keep the Mexicans out, because that's really a line we do not want to cross. So happy birthday to a great man who taught this guy a lot about tolerance and diversity.

APPLAUSE. OWEN AND ROY TAKE THE STAGE.

OWEN

We can never repay this guy for everything he's done for us. We owe him so much.

(MORE)

OWEN (CONT'D)

Every part of our lives he's been there: coached the hockey team, gave us our first beer, gave us our first legal beer, covered for us with girlfriends, parents, the cops -- right after the Great 2009 Snowplow Incident.

THE CROWD MURMURS.

ROY

Hey, you all got your cut. (THEN) So we thought about it, we came up with the perfect gift. Jack Sullivan, tonight, me and Owen and a few of the guys are paying our bar tabs.

HE HOLDS UP A CHECK. THE PLACE GOES WILD. OK CHA SNATCHES THE CHECK, LOOKS AT IT SUSPICIOUSLY.

OK CHA

Is this good?

ROY

Absolutely.

OWEN

You mean, right this minute? No. But if you put it in Monday-Tuesday, I'm sixty percent sure it'll clear.

JACK STANDS TO CRIES OF "SPEECH, SPEECH" AS THE ROOM GOES QUIET.

JACK

I want to thank you boys for paying your bar-tab. I want to thank my son for coming all the way from New York City. And my beautiful daughter for organizing this whole party. And of course, my lovely wife Ok Cha who is the reason you guys haven't robbed me blind. Fifty years ago my father bought this bar. (HE POINTS TO A PHOTOGRAPH ON THE WALL) Thirty years ago I took over, and I've always thought of it as my bar, but tonight I realized it is ours. All of ours. Thanks for sharing it with me.

THE CROWD REACTS.

JACK (CONT'D)

So now I want you to hear it from me --
I'm retiring.

CROWD: "OH NO."

JACK (CONT'D)

We're going to put the bar up for
sale.

THE CROWD REACTS SOME MORE.

JACK (CONT'D)

It'll be okay. I'll make sure whoever
buys it keeps the tradition of
Sullivan and Son.

HANK

No Mexicans!

A COUPLE OF MEXICAN GUYS RAISE THEIR HAND.

DIEGO

Actually there are Mexicans in this
neighborhood already.

JAVIER

We come here every day.

HANK

You see? Pittsburgh is an
indefensible city -- there are three
rivers they can float in on.

AHMED

I have an idea. Sullivan and Son,
right? Why doesn't the son take over?

THE CROWD APPROVES.

OK CHA

No, no. He's a lawyer. He got a
promotion.

AHMED

He can be a lawyer here. How many
people in this room need a lawyer?

DOZENS OF HANDS SHOOT UP.

AHMED (CONT'D)

Doug, over there. What do you need a lawyer for?

DOUG

Couple of DUI's. Some custody stuff. Bigamy.

AHMED

Okay, and that's just one person. Javier, what do you have?

JAVIER

(re Hank)

Well, I don't want to say in front of him. But the usual stuff.

HANK

Put up the goddamn wall!

AHMED

The neighborhood needs a lawyer.

STEVE

That's nice, guys. But I do a different kind of law.

ROY

What kind of law do you do again?

STEVE

I do legal work for a large investment bank. I make sure that all of their offerings and statements are fully compliant with existing securities regulations.

A LONG PAUSE AS THE CROWD THINKS THIS OVER.

OWEN
(calling out)

You suck.

STEVE

I do not suck, Owen.

ROY

Yeah you do. And you sucked as a
bartender, too.

STEVE

I did not suck as a bartender. I was
the best bartender to ever work here.

JACK

Excuse me?

THE CROWD "OOHS."

STEVE

You heard me right old man.

BOTH JACK AND STEVE ARE ENJOYING THIS IN A GOOD NATURED WAY.

JACK

You think you could beat me?

STEVE

I know I could beat you.

JACK

Just remember son, everybody wants to
hear Frank Sinatra, nobody wants to
hear Frank Sinatra, Junior.

ASHLEY

What's happening?

OWEN

Bartender competition.

JACK

Three out of five?

STEVE

Two out of three.

THE CROWD OOHS.

OWEN

The rules are simple -- three drinks,
judged by speed, accuracy and
presentation.

ROY

Who's got the first drink?

ASHLEY

(excited)

How about a "Flirtini?"

BEAT.

HANK

Okay, who's got the first drink?

CAROL

I'd like a sloe comfortable screw
against the wall.

OWEN

Okay, but what about a drink?
(then)

I can't believe I made that joke about
my mom.

HANK

Number two. Bloody Mary. Number
three. A simple draught. Go!

THE GUYS FLURRY IN A FLURRY OF THINGS. ONE'S DONE. TWO'S
DONE. ON THE LAST DRINK: STEVE DELIVERS IT SOONER, BUT IT'S
OVERFLOWING AND IT'S NOT PERFECT, BUT JACK DELIVERS A PERFECT
BEER WITH A PERFECT HEAD OF FOAM.

OWEN

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is no
contest, and still, your heavyweight
bartender of the 'Burgh: Jack
Sullivan.

EVERYONE CHEERS. STEVE IS ABOUT TO MAKE A TOAST.

STEVE

I'd just like to say --

THE BLACKBERRY RINGS. HE CHECKS IT.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Oh God. This is work. I've got to
take this. Give me a sec.

ROY

Really, dude?

OWEN GRABS THE BLACKBERRY OUT OF STEVE'S HAND, TOSSES IT AT
HANK, WHO CATCHES IT. DESPITE ALL OF IT STEVE'S LAUGHING.

STEVE

Hey!

HE GOES FOR IT, HANK TOSSES IT TO OWEN, OWEN THROWS IT TO
ROY.

STEVE (CONT'D)

C'mon!

THE THREE OF THEM PLAY KEEP-AWAY FOR A LITTLE BIT. THE CROWD CHEERS. OWEN HOLDS OUT A BEER MUG. ROY IS ABOUT TO TOSS THE BLACKBERRY INTO IT, WHEN STEVE SNATCHES IT OUT OF HIS HAND.

STEVE HOLDS IT UP, MOTIONS FOR OWEN TO STAND FARTHER AWAY.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Hundred bucks says I make it.

AHMED

I'm in.

ROY

I'm in.

HE PREPARES TO TOSS IT INTO THE BEER.

ASHLEY

(as if it's a sacred object)

Steve! That's your BlackBerry!

STEVE

I know.

HE TOSSES IT. IT LANDS WITH A SPLASH INTO THE MUG. THE CROWD CHEERS.

ROY

Welcome home, buddy. Might need a couple days for that hundred.

A MANLY HUG AS WE....

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

C

INT. STEVE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

IT'S THE BEDROOM THAT A BOY WHO WAS 14 IN THE MIDDLE OF THE 1990'S WOULD LOVE. THERE'S EVEN A POSTER OF FOOTBALL SEMI-LEGEND BRIAN BOSWORTH, LOOKING APPROPRIATELY DATED AND MULLET-ED.

ASHLEY

I found your diary.

STEVE

It's a journal.

ASHLEY

It says "Steve's Diary" on it.

STEVE

It was a gift.

ASHLEY

Lot of stuff about that girl Melanie in here.

STEVE TURNS TO THE BOSWORTH POSTER.

STEVE

Hey, Brian, did you ever think this would happen? There's an actual woman in this bed.

ASHLEY

Who is that guy?

STEVE

It's Brian Bosworth. He's like the Ray Lewis of the eighties.

ASHLEY

Who's Ray Lewis?

STEVE

He's like.... forget it.

STEVE SITS ON THE BED AND BEGINS TAKING OFF HIS SHOES.
ASHLEY LOOKS AROUND THE ROOM, POINTS TO A SHELF FILLED WITH
ACTION FIGURES.

ASHLEY

Who are they?

STEVE

(like she's an idiot)

That's the Justice League of America.

ASHLEY

Where's Spiderman?

STEVE

In a totally different universe.

Because he's Marvel. Justice League
is DC.

ASHLEY

Well I'm sorry.

STEVE REMOVES A SHOE.

STEVE

Do you ever think that you're wasting
your time?

ASHLEY

Yeah. Listening to you tell me why
there's no Spiderman.

STEVE

No, I mean, do you ever think that
you're wasting your life?

ASHLEY

Oh God. I knew it. The minute I saw
you behind the bar with all of your
friends, I knew you'd be all this way.

STEVE

What way?

ASHLEY

(mocking)

I hate my job, I hate my life, I
should move back to Pittsburgh.

STEVE

I do hate all of those things.

ASHLEY

You're a corporate attorney at an
investment bank in New York City.
What could be better?

STEVE STANDS, LOOKS AT HIMSELF IN THE MIRROR IN HIS SUIT.

STEVE

Everything. People grow up and they
leave places like Pittsburgh and
that's why cities like this die. Why
is it that if you don't live in one of
three cities, you just don't count?

ASHLEY

Look, I know this sounds mean, but it's true. You've got to be in New York. Anyone who matters is there.

STEVE

My father doesn't live in New York City, but he matters. He matters to everyone in this neighborhood. This bar matters. And it's not in New York City. My father holds this place together. Everyday. By serving drinks, and listening to people's problems, and giving them a place to watch the game together. He's a hero. And what do I do all day? Nothing. You know who doesn't matter? Me.

ASHLEY

You do important work, too, Steve. You make sure one of the world's most profitable investment banks steers clear of regulatory and legal trouble, allowing it to move and shift capital resources in the most efficient way. Talk about a hero!

STEVE

Hard to fit that on a tombstone. My dad is mayor of this neighborhood and I read documents for a living looking for mistakes.

SHE COZIES UP TO HIM.

ASHLEY

I know what's going on. I get it. It's nostalgia. But you can't give up your life and your career just to come back to your little hometown.

STEVE

Why can't I?

ASHLEY

Because people don't do that.

STEVE

Why don't they?

ASHLEY

Because they're not supposed to. You're supposed to get a great job, make a lot of money, and move up.

STEVE

You sound like my mom. Are you sure you're not a Korean immigrant?

ASHLEY

Steve, you always do this to yourself. You have a great job.

(MORE)

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

You just got a big promotion. There's really only one more thing left for you to do. I mean, isn't there something you want to ask me?

STEVE

Yeah. Did you ever see the movie 'Superman 2?'

ASHLEY

That wasn't it.

STEVE

In 'Superman 2,' Superman flies to the Fortress of Solitude and he gives up all of his super powers -- flying, x ray vision, super strength -- just to become a regular guy. Just be Clark Kent.

ASHLEY

Wait. Are you comparing yourself to Superman?

STEVE

No. I'm comparing myself to Clark Kent.

ASHLEY

Well that's stupid. Because you are Superman. (THEN, SEXY) Now, you talked about a lot of stuff in that diary of yours. Want to do some of it?

SHE PUTS THE MOVES ON HIM. HE HESITATES.

STEVE

I don't know. I mean, my mom's
upstairs. And it's disrespectful to
Brian. And the League.

DISSOLVE TO:

D

INT. SULLIVAN & SON -- NEXT MORNING

JACK IS PREPARING THE BAR FOR OPENING. STEVE COMES DOWNSTAIRS FROM THE SECOND FLOOR LIVING AREA.

STEVE

Need some help opening up?

JACK

Could always use a hand.

TOGETHER THEY GO THROUGH THE RITUALS OF OPENING.

STEVE

Dad, why are you selling this place?

I mean, really?

HE THINKS ABOUT THIS, THEN:

JACK

You know when people lay awake at night and are stressed about bills, life, the future and they can't sleep?

STEVE

Yeah.

JACK

I don't do that.

STEVE

I do.

JACK

You get that from your mother. That's a Korean thing. See, I never worried about any of that stuff.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

My dad told me, this is a place people come to forget about worries. So I just always knew if I kept this place fun, and open, and treated everybody well, it would always put food on the table. But now, I'm sixty five, and I've got to think about your mother. I mean, let's face it. I'm going first. Those Koreans, they live forever. And this place, this is what we've got instead of savings. So I'd feel better to get the money, put it in the bank, and then if I go, your mother is free and clear. I guess I should have planned it better. Maybe I lived my life wrong or something.

STEVE

Are you kidding, Dad? This bar was filled with people who love you. The whole neighborhood was here. That's not a guy who lived his life wrong. When I'm your age, no one's going to be saying that stuff about me.

JACK

Sure they will. You do that important stuff with the money and the stocks and...what the hell do you do again?

STEVE

I work in the legal department of a large investment bank. I make sure that all of our filings and issuances are in full compliance with current exchange regulations.

JACK

I'm sorry. I dozed off there for second.

THEY LAUGH.

STEVE

Let me buy this place, Dad.

JACK

No, no way.

STEVE

Let me. I want to. I want to run this place.

JACK

No. No. You've got a life in New York.

STEVE

I've got a job in New York. There's a difference. I learned that last night.

JACK

No, come on. You want to move back to Pittsburgh? Take over this place?

STEVE

I do.

JACK THINKS.

JACK

It would still be Sullivan and Son.

That would be nice.

STEVE

See?

JACK

Your mother will not like this.

STEVE

Let me handle Mom. Ten years in the Big Apple, I learned a few tricks about how to handle difficult people. I'm half Korean. I know how she thinks. And you know what? She'll just have to accept it. The decision has been made. She's standing behind me, isn't she?

JACK NODS. STEVE TURNS.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Hi Mom.

OK CHA

No!

SHE STORMS OFF, INTO THE STOREROOM.

STEVE

You don't even know what I was going
to say!

OK CHA

I know exactly what you were going to
say!

STEVE FOLLOWS HER.

RESET TO:

INT. STORAGE AREA -- CONTINUOUS

OK CHA IS STOMPING AROUND THE OFFICE AREA, DOING BUSY WORK.
STEVE TRIES TO KEEP UP WITH HER.

OK CHA

You are not coming home.

STEVE

Oh yes I am.

OK CHA

No! You are staying in New York City!
That's how it works in America. You
move up and never look back.

STEVE

All my life I've been the perfect
Korean kid.

OK CHA

Not perfect. You forget about the
violin lessons.

STEVE

I worked hard. I got good grades. I went to law school. I did all the things you guys wanted me to do.

OK CHA

All the things I wanted you to do. Your father didn't care about any of it.

STEVE

That's the point. All this time I've been the perfect Korean kid. But what if, deep down, I'm really just... Irish?

OK CHA

Don't say that!

STEVE

What if I'm not half and half, Mom? What if I'm just a little bit more Irish?

OK CHA

Go to your room!

STEVE

What if Susan is the real Korean kid?

OK CHA

Stop talking!

SHE STOMPS AROUND SOME MORE, THEN SOFTENS.

OK CHA (CONT'D)

What about your fiancée? She wants to move to Pittsburgh? She ordered a Flirtini.

STEVE

I don't know, Mom. I think she's in love with the idea of marriage. I'm not sure she's in love with me.

OK CHA

That's the problem with young people, they expect to be in love, everything's about love.

STEVE

Are you telling me you didn't love Dad when you met him?

OK CHA

Of course I didn't.

STEVE

But when he brought you to the US you must've loved him?

OK CHA

(THINK, THEN) Nope.

STEVE

This conversation has taken an unexpected turn.

OK CHA

When I met your father back in Korea he was a thoughtful, smart, very kind man. Of all the men I went out with, he was my favorite.

STEVE

"Of all the men you went out with" is a curious term.

OK CHA

I was a waitress at the mess hall, I dated widely.

STEVE

Wow. Okay.

OK CHA

One day, many years after we moved to Pittsburgh, I looked out the window and I saw him walking up the street with you. You had twisted your ankle and he was carrying you in your little hockey uniform and he looked so strong and handsome and that was the moment I fell in love with your father. And that was also the night your sister was conceived.

STEVE

Oh, God, Mom, I don't need to know that.

OK CHA

Hey, you're the one digging. You don't want to know, don't poke the bear.

STEVE

Okay. Fine. But I haven't had that moment yet. And it's not going to happen in New York. I mean, there's a reason I haven't proposed to Ashley yet, right? It must mean, deep down, that I don't want to. There is no way I'm going to be happy doing what I do now, and there is no way I'm going to be happy being married to her. I just don't know how I'm going to tell her that.

OK CHA

You may not need to.

STEVE

She's standing right behind me, isn't she?

OK CHA

Yeah.

ASHLEY IS STANDING AT DOOR TO THE STOREROOM. STEVE TURNS.

STEVE

Hey, Ash.

ASHLEY TURNS AND GOES.

RESET TO:

INT. SULLIVAN & SON -- CONTINUOUS

THE REGULARS -- OWEN, ROY, AHMED, HANK -- ARE THERE ALREADY,
THE GAME IS ON, THE BEER IS POURED.

ASHELY RACES ACROSS THE BAR, AND EXITS. A MOMENT LATER,
STEVE CROSSES FROM THE STOREROOM, WITHOUT STOPPING, FOLLOWS
HER.

OWEN

Hey Steve.

STEVE

Hey Owen.

ROY

Hey Steve.

STEVE

Hey Roy.

OWEN

Your girlfriend's upset, Steve.

STEVE

Yep.

AHMED

Think she's leaving you.

STEVE

Yep.

HANK

See you in a few.

STEVE

Yep.

STEVE EXITS.

RESET TO:

EXT. SULLIVAN AND SON -- MOMENTS LATER

ON THE FRONT STOOP OF THE BAR, ASHLEY SITS, FUMING, DRINKING A CUP OF COFFEE. STEVE APPROACHES, SITS NEXT TO HER. A BEAT.

STEVE

Ashley, I'm sorry.

ASHLEY

See this coffee I'm drinking? You know, there's no Starbucks in this neighborhood. I bought this at a gas station. A gas station, Steve. It cost one dollar.

STEVE

What's wrong with that?

ASHLEY

Coffee is supposed to cost four dollars. That's how you know it's good. (BEAT) You know, this is not a nice neighborhood. It's not funky. It's just.... crappy.

STEVE

I know. That's why I like it.

ASHLEY

And I don't mean to offend you or anything, but your friends?

(MORE)

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

They're really....(SEARCHES FOR THE
RIGHT WORD)...downscale. It's like
the island of misfit toys.

STEVE

I know. That's why I like them.

A TAXI HONKS.

ASHLEY

That's my ride.

SHE GATHERS HER STUFF.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

I invested in you, Steve.

STEVE

I know. I'm sorry. But being here,
running this place, this is where I
really want to be.

ASHLEY

You wanted to do something that
matters. You know there's no
guarantee this will make you happy.

STEVE

But it's the one I really want to try.

ASHLEY

Because from now on, when they say,
"Attention, Walmart shoppers?" They'll
be talking to you.

SHE HEADS OFF.

DISSOLVE TO:

E

INT. SULLIVAN AND SON -- LATER THAT DAY

STEVE AND OK CHA ARE AT A TABLE, LOOKING SERIOUS. GATHERED AROUND THEM, HALF WATCHING THEM, HALF WATCHING THE GAME, ARE JACK, SUSAN, HANK, OWEN, ROY, AND THE REGULARS.

ROY

Owen, what does this remind you of?

OWEN

That movie, The Deer Hunter?

HANK

Don't make fun of that movie unless
you were there.

STEVE WRITES A FIGURE ON A PIECE OF PAPER AND SLIDES IT TO OK CHA.

STEVE

I know you, Mom. You're Korean. And
so am I. We can't say no to a good
deal.

SHE LOOKS AT THE PAPER, SCOFFS.

OK CHA

You call this a good deal? This is an
insult. I'm ashamed that you're my
son.

SHE WRITES DOWN A FIGURE AND SLIDES IT BACK. STEVE PICKS IT UP, READS IT, PUTS IT DOWN.

STEVE

Get me my phone. I'd like to report
an attempted rape.

HE WRITES ANOTHER NUMBER, SLIDES IT BACK. BEFORE SHE CAN REACH FOR IT, HE STOPS HER.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Look, I'm serious Mom. This is me.
I'm going to sell my car, I'm going to
cash in my 401k, all the savings I
have, I'm going to take out a loan for
the rest - this is all the money I
have in the world, this is my last,
best, and final.

HE LETS HER LOOK AT IT. THEN HER EYES FILL WITH TEARS.

OK CHA

I am so sorry Steve, but this is not
enough. This house, this bar, it's
all we have. We have bills to pay,
some medical bills, I want to sell
this to you but I can't. This is what
we need.

SHE WRITES A NUMBER ON THE SHEET AND PASSES IT BACK.

OK CHA (CONT'D)

This is my last and best and final.

HE LOOKS AT IT. LOOKS AROUND AT THE BAR.

STEVE

Deal.

OK CHA
(instantly stops crying)

Sucker!

STEVE

I knew it! I knew you were lying!
Well the jokes on you, old lady, I
could've gone higher.

OK CHA

Jokes on you. I could have gone much
much lower!

SHE BOUNDS OVER TO JACK.

OK CHA (CONT'D)

Look what we got!

JACK
(thrilled)

Jesus H. I married the right woman!

THEY HUG. THE CROWD APPLAUDS.

SUSAN
(unenthusiastic)

Oh great. Steve's coming home.

OK CHA
(to Steve)

Don't forget. You're only half
Korean!

JACK WALKS AROUND TO THE FRONT OF THE BAR, SITS ON A STOOL.

JACK

Get me a Seven and Seven. (THEN) I
like this view better.

DISSOLVE TO:

TAG

INT. SULLIVAN AND SON -- LATER THAT DAY

IT'S CROWDED. THE REGULARS ARE THERE, WATCHING HOCKEY. DOUG IS AT A STOOL, TALKING TO STEVE.

DOUG

...so at the time, see, I was in the merchant marine. No one told me a Philipino marriage was a real marriage. Cut to her, somehow getting here, knocking on my door, and that's when my Pittsburgh wife did that thing that I had to go to the hospital for. You probably read about.

STEVE

Oh. Yeah. That was you?
(OFF DOUG'S LOOK) Can you still...?

DOUG

Pretty much. So, will you take the case?

STEVE

How many wives do you have, Doug?

DOUG

Does a Philipino marriage count?

STEVE

Yes.

DOUG

Then seven.

OK CHA CROSSES OVER, ESCORTING JAVIER AND DIEGO.

OK CHA
(to Doug)

Okay, you're done now. He'll take
your case, you pay him a retainer.
Now, you two, hop up.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SULLIVAN & SON -- LATER

SAME DAY, LATER, STILL CROWDED. STEVE IS AT THE BAR...
MELANIE ENTERS, IN HER PARAMEDIC UNIFORM. SHE'S GREETED BY
THE REGULARS.

MELANIE

I heard the good news. You look
better back there than you did with
the suit.

STEVE

I agree. It's sort of like 'Superman
2.'

MELANIE

Yeah. You had to come all the way
back to the Fortress of Solitude to
give up your powers.

STEVE

Not that I think that I'm Superman.

MELANIE

Yeah, well. Can I get a beer,
Superman? Wait. I'm not on duty.
Make it a bourbon on the rocks.

HE GOES TO MAKE HER DRINK.

OWEN
(sotto to Steve)

Dude. Ask her out. You know you want
to.

STEVE

I don't know.

ROY

C'mon. We've all read your diary. Go
for it. Start your new life right
now.

STEVE CROSSES BACK TO MELANIE WITH HER DRINK.

STEVE

Hey, Melanie, you want to have dinner
sometime?

MELANIE

That'd be great.

THROUGHOUT THE FOLLOWING: CONNOR ENTERS, HEADS TO MELANIE,
KISSES HER. CONNOR IS IN A SUIT AND TIE. IN FACT, HE LOOKS
A LOT LIKE THE OLD STEVE, BUT SLIGHTLY BETTER LOOKING.

STEVE

Cool. 'Cause you know, we didn't
really have a chance to catch up or
anything, and I thought...

HE TRIALS OFF AFTER THE KISS.

CONNOR

Hey, babe. (to Steve) Can I get a
beer.

MELANIE

Steve, this is my boyfriend, Connor.

Connor, this is Steve.

CONNOR

Hey.

STEVE

Wow. Boyfriend. I didn't know.

HE SHOOTS A LOOK AT OWEN AND ROY, WHO ARE LAUGHING.

STEVE (CONT'D)

So, Connor. What do you do?

CONNOR

I'm a corporate attorney at a bank downtown. Work in the compliance department. Basically we make sure that all issues and filings from the bank are in line with existing securities and exchange regulations. (BEAT, OFF STEVE'S BLANK LOOK) It's complicated.

STEVE

No offense, Connor, but that sounds really boring.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SULLIVAN & SON -- LATER

CLOSING TIME. JUST ROY, HANK, OWEN, AND JACK.

OWEN

I got one for you. As you know, on the weekends, I often perform at children's parties as various beloved characters from the fanciful world of children's fiction. Recently, however, performing for the nephew of a friend of mine, I was denied payment. I'd like to sue. Please commence proceedings.

STEVE

Wait. Why were you denied payment?

HANK

I didn't pay you the fifty because you didn't show up as Buzz Lightyear.

OWEN

I showed up as Woody.

HANK

Buzz is a whole uniform. Woody is a plastic gun and a vest and a hat.

STEVE

What do you say we just call it two beers on the house, compliments of the court, and we dismiss this case? Closing time, fellas.

OWEN

Good to have you back, Steve.

THEY EXIT. STEVE IS THERE WITH JACK.

STEVE

Hey, Dad, want to help me close up?

JACK

Hell no. It's your pile of crap now.

JACK DOWNS HIS BEER AND HEADS OFF. STEVE GOES TO LOCK THE FRONT DOOR, REACHES UP INTO THE WINDOW AND TURNS THE NEON "SULLIVAN & SON" LIGHT OFF. IT'S HIS PLACE NOW.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW