THIS LITTLE PIGGY
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COLD OPEN

CHYRON: 11:13 P.M.

INT. BEDROOM – NIGHT

HENRY GRAHAM (40), AN EXHAUSTED HUSBAND AND FATHER OF TWO AND HIS WIFE SARAH (38), AN EXHAUSTED WIFE AND MOTHER OF TWO, LAY IN THEIR BED. HENRY IS TRYING TO SLEEP. SARAH IS SITTING UPRIGHT AND WATCHING TV AT TOO LOUD A VOLUME.

TV ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
As the Lost Boys of Darfur crossed the Sudanese desert, their greatest fear was not the government, dehydration or disease, but hungry lions.

HENRY
(SOFTLY) Sweetie.

SARAH
Is it too loud?

HENRY
That’s just one of my concerns. Can you turn it off?

SARAH
In a minute. I’m trying to relax.

HENRY
Really? This helps you relax, what we’re watching right now?

SARAH
It’s white noise.

HENRY
No, honey, this is actual noise. It’s the noise of African children being chased by lions. Please, honey, I need to get to sleep.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

SARAH
You’ve got the day off. Sleep in.

HENRY
I’m not sleeping in. This is my first
day off in eight months. It’s going to
be a big day, a huge day. We’ve got
the wine party.

SARAH
Oof, how could I forget. I think
you’re putting way too much importance
on this wine party.

HENRY
No, no, no, if anything I’m not putting
enough importance on it. This is the
first party we’ve planned in twelve
years that doesn’t involve a moon
bounce and Spongebob Squarepants.
Sweetie, I’m telling you, I don’t want
to have to choose between you or this
wine party.

EMMA (6), AN ANXIOUS BUT SWEET LITTLE GIRL, ENTERS THE ROOM.

EMMA
Mommy?

TV ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
The lions come at night,
attacking from all
directions. The boys only
defence is what they grab
from the ground. Only the

HENRY
(URGENTLY) Turn it off! Turn
it off! Turn it off!

(CONTINUED)
SARAH TURNS OFF THE TV.

SARAH

(TO EMMA) Hey, honey. What’s going on? Did you pee your bed?

EMMA

No. Yesterday when we drove by the graveyard where Nanna’s buried, I think a ghost got inside my mouth.

HENRY

Why do you think that, honey?

EMMA

Well, Colin said---

HENRY

That’s enough. We get it. Your brother is an idiot. (YELLING) Colin!

COLIN (O.C.)

What?!

HENRY

Come in here! We want to talk to you about getting an Xbox!

COLIN (12), A SMART-ASS CARBON COPY OF HIS FATHER, RUNS INTO THE ROOM.

COLIN

Really?

HENRY

No. I lied.

EMMA

Lying’s wrong.
HENRY
I have no regrets. Colin, don’t lie to your sister.

COLIN
Get me an XBox and I’ll stop.

SARAH
No, you’ll stop now.

COLIN
Asking me not to tease her is liking asking a lion not to eat a Lost Boy of Darfur.

SARAH
You heard that?!

HENRY
Of course he heard it! The sound of screaming children does have a tendency to carry. Now everybody, get out of here! I have a wine party tomorrow!

EMMA
I’m scared. Can I sleep with you?

HENRY
No.

SARAH
Yes you can. Come here.

EMMA JUMPS IN BED.

HENRY
Colin, go to bed.

COLIN DOESN’T MOVE.

(CONTINUED)
COLIN
Can somebody turn on the light in the hall?

HENRY
You scared yourself, didn’t you?
Tough! Go!

COLIN TURNS ON THE HALL LIGHT. A GHOSTLY WOMAN STANDS THERE.

COLIN
Ghost! Close your mouths!

SARAH
It’s Aunt Janet. There’s nothing to be afraid of.

JANET
I think I’m a lesbian.

HENRY PICKS UP THE REMOTE AND TURNS THE TV BACK ON.

TV ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Having survived the night, the lost boys enjoy a somber breakfast of lion dung and their own urine.

END OF COLD OPEN
ACT ONE

CHYRON: 12:41 A.M.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

HENRY, SARAH AND JANET (37), AN OVEREDUCATED, UNDEREMPLOYED DREAMER, SIT IN THE KITCHEN.

HENRY

Listen, we’ve been going over and over this for--- (NOTICING TIME) Oh my God, it’s almost one in the morning! (TO JANET) Bottom line, you can’t just blurt out to the kids that you’re a lesbian. It’s kind of a big thing for them to wrap their heads around.

SARAH

Although, I have to say, a lot of Emma’s classmates have same sex parents. And of course Colin knows about lesbians. That’s why he’s lost his Internet privileges.

JANET

Then why is it a problem?

HENRY

It’s not the lesbian part that’s the problem. I don’t care if you sew a penis on and call yourself Lloyd.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

SARAH
We just want to know if you’re serious about this or is this like you were with pottery or archery or being Muslim?

JANET
If I wasn’t allergic to the Burka material and to chick peas, I would still be a Muslim!

SARAH
We just want to make sure it’s not a fad.

JANET
It’s not a fad! Lesbians aren’t cool anymore! If I wanted to be cool I’d get pregnant or buy an iPhone!

HENRY
You can’t afford an iPhone.

JANET
This is our relationship right here. I have a wonderful dream that fills me with hope and then my brother destroys it.

HENRY
Hey, none of my dreams have come true, either! Look at me, I manage a drug store and have a family!

SARAH
Henry! I’m sitting right here!
HENRY
Sweetie, I love you guys but my dream was to be a famous comic book artist with a lot of lovers. Now, I’m not saying I’m unhappy. I’m just saying that not every American gets to live their dreams like Bill Gates or Kid Rock. Most of us have to stuff our dreams down. So do what I do, Janet, stuff it down and replace it with a wine party.

JANET
Look, I know that my moving back in here has been a burden to you guys---

HENRY
No, no, don’t throw that in my face. Mom and Dad left the house to me, but I have always said it’s yours and Eric’s too.

JANET
Well it doesn’t feel like a home when I can’t express my sexuality.

HENRY
I own this place and I rarely get to express my sexuality! Stuff that down too!

JANET
No I won’t! I’m coming out! Go ahead! Call me brassy!

(MORE)
JANET (CONT'D)

Point at my ill fitting jeans and my short, practical hair cut! I don’t care! I’m here and I’m queer! And that’s something you can toast at your precious wine party!

JANET EXITS. THERE’S A BEAT.

HENRY

Can you believe her? (OFF OF SARAH’S ANGRY LOOK) Why are you mad?

SARAH

Your family murdered your dreams and you get no sex. What am I suppose to do with that information?

HENRY

(TIMIDLY) Stuff it down?

CHYRON: 2:17 AM

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

HENRY AND SARAH ARE ASLEEP.

EMMA (O.C.)

Daddy!

HENRY JOLTS AWAKE.

HENRY

(HALF ASLEEP) Lost Boys! Lesbians!

EMMA (O.C.)

Daddy!

HENRY

What is it, honey? Is it the ghost in your mouth?
CONTINUED:

EMMA (O.C.)

No! I peed my bed!

SARAH

(TO HENRY) You know I can’t, so don’t ask.

HENRY

I’ll go. But this wine party’s going to happen.

HENRY BEGRUDGINGLY GETS UP TO HELP EMMA.

INT. EMMA’S BEDROOM – CONTINUOUS

HENRY ENTERS. EMMA STANDS OFF TO THE SIDE OF HER BED.

EMMA

I’m sorry, Daddy.

HENRY

Honey, it’s okay. Accidents happen.

HENRY BEGINS TO CHANGE HER BED.

EMMA

Mommy doesn’t like it.

HENRY

Mommy just doesn’t like the smell of pee pee. It makes her vomit. Also, ironically, the smell of vomit makes her vomit. And, honey, that’s a never ending cycle you don’t want to see.

EMMA

Did you pee your bed?

HENRY

Oh God no. But your Uncle Eric did. Like a fire hose. He wore pull ups into his early teens.

(CONTINUED)
EMMA
Did Aunt Janet pee her bed?
HENRY
I don’t know. I guess we could go in there and give it the old sniff test. Because she’s actually sleeping in her childhood bed. In her childhood room. And that gives daddy a shiver.
EMMA
Are you mad at Aunt Janet?
HENRY
No. I love her. We’re happy she’s here. And she can stay here as long as she wants. That’s what families do even if they don’t want to. We’re a team.
EMMA
Like soccer?
HENRY
Exactly. Except there’s no coach and the players have been forced together and no one listens to each other and everyone’s playing a different game.
EMMA
Then how do you win?
HENRY
Oh no, honey, you don’t win. There’s no trophies in the family game.

SARAH IS STANDING RIGHT THERE.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

SARAH

(TO HENRY, HARSH) What are you doing?

HENRY

I’m comforting her.

SARAH

Wrap it up! (SNIFFS AND GAGS)

CHYRON: 3:55 A.M.

INT. BEDROOM – LATER

HENRY AND SARAH LAY IN BED.

SFX: LOUD, AWFUL SNORING.

CLOSE ON: HENRY’S WIDE AWAKE FACE. HE’S NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS SOUND. THE ATTRACTIVE YOUNG LADY NEXT TO HIM IS SNORING LIKE A DUDE.

HENRY

(NUDGING SARAH) Honey, you gotta turn on your side.

SARAH

(GROGGY) What?

HENRY

Turn on your side. You’re snoring like a drunken walrus.

SHE TURNS ON HER SIDE.

SFX: AN EVEN WEIRDER SOUND COMES OUT OF HER.

HENRY (CONT’D)

Oh my God. What is that? Honey, you need to sleep on your face.

SFX: DOORBELL

HENRY (CONT’D)

(FRUSTRATED) No!

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

SARAH
Who could that be?

HENRY
(WHISPERS) Shhh! We're not answering it.
Nobody rings the doorbell at 4 am except
religious kooks or homeland security.

SFX: THE DOORBELL

SARAH GETS OUT OF BED AND GOES TO THE WINDOW. HENRY GRABS FOR
HER BUT MISSES.

HENRY (CONT'D)
(WHISPERING) Sarah! Don't let them see
you! Be smart!

SARAH
They know we're here. Both our cars are
in the driveway. If you'd clean out the
garage, we could park them in there.

HENRY
(WHISPERING) Don't think I'm doing
that today. I have a wine party.

SARAH LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW.

SARAH
(HORRIFIED) Oh my God!

HENRY
What is it? A drifter?

SARAH
It's Eric.

HENRY
Who?

SARAH
Your brother.

(CONTINUED)
HENRY

(HORRIFIED) No! I don’t want to get religious here, but I don’t think God likes wine parties.

SFX: DOORBELL RINGS AGAIN.

HENRY DOESN’T MOVE.

SARAH

(BEAT) Get the door!

HENRY GETS UP TO LEAVE.

HENRY

I wish it was a drifter.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

LIMBO

CHYRON: 7:38 AM

INT. KITCHEN - A SHORT TIME LATER

IT’S BREAKFAST. HENRY STILL WITH NO SLEEP. JANET, SARAH AND THE KIDS, ALL AROUND THE TABLE, PLUS ERIC (30) HENRY’S MATERIALISTIC, STATUS CONSCIOUS YOUNGER BROTHER.

ERIC

Here, kids, here’s a couple fifty dollar bills. Get yourself some candy or some skis.

COLIN

Awesome!

HENRY GRABS THE MONEY FROM ERIC.

HENRY

No, no, no, no. Give it to me, Eric. You can’t give a kid fifty bucks. In kid dollars that’s like a million.

SARAH TAKES THE MONEY FROM HENRY.

SARAH

(TO HENRY) No, no, no. Give it to me. You’ll lose it. (TO ERIC) He once left a signed pay check on the steam table at a Panda Express.

JANET

(TO ERIC, SUSPICIOUS) What are you doing here?

(CONTINUED)
ERIC
Well, first, hello to you my wonderful sister.

JANET
Hello. Now what are you doing here?

ERIC
I’m here for the party.

HENRY
What? I sent the e-mail as a courtesy. I mean, I’m happy you’re here, but I didn’t think you’d come all the way from Florida.

JANET
He’s lying. There’s something else going down.

ERIC
(HANDS UP, SMILING) Alright, you got me. I did have to come here for business. I’m looking at some property here.

JANET
Lie number two. You hate Portland.

ERIC
You’re wrong this time, Cold Case. I happen to love this town.

HENRY
No, Cold Case is right. I wonder, if by any chance, you remember leaving here and shouting out your car window, "Portland is a rain soaked crap heap."

ERIC
I didn’t say that.
HENRY
I have it on video.

ERIC
People change, bro. Anyway, the trip gave me an opportunity to road test my new Jag.

JANET
You drove here?! (TO HENRY) There’s something going on!

ERIC
America’s going on. I saw a lot of the country you never see from a plane.

SARAH
Beautiful?

ERIC
Yes. It’s nice. Well, patches of nice. Not Kansas. Or Ohio. Come to think of it, America is mostly open fields and meth labs. It’s kind of like the Road Warrior, ya know, people looking for gas with sawed off shotguns. I mean they’re good people at heart. Just keep your eye contact to a minimum.

SARAH
I want to hear all about it, but I’ve got to walk the kids to school.

HENRY
(TO ERIC) Danforth Elementary. Where we went.
ERIC
It’s right around the corner. Why
don’t the kids walk themselves?

SARAH
Um, white vans, crawl spaces, Internet
slave auctions. For more specifics go
to MSNBC and check out the “To Catch A
Predator” marathon.

EMMA
Daddy, will you take care of my
digi-pet today?

HENRY
No. Absolutely not. Daddy has his wine
party. Take it to school with you.

SARAH
She can’t take it to school.

EMMA
If it beeps once you feed it. If it
beeps twice, you clean up it’s poop.
If you don’t, it will die.

HENRY
Just put it on pause.

EMMA
It doesn’t have pause.

HENRY
Then take the batteries out of it.

EMMA
(TEARING UP) Then it will die for sure.
HENRY
Alright, but I’m not talking to it.

SARAH
Come on, everybody, we have to go!

SARAH AND THE KIDS EXIT. THE SIBLINGS ARE LEFT AT THE TABLE ALONE. THERE IS AN UNCOMFORTABLE SILENCE.

HENRY
Well here we are? Right back at the exact same breakfast table that we sat at as kids.

JANET
We began life here and it’s here where we shall die.

HENRY
That’s not exactly the sentiment I was going for.

ERIC
Yeah, I’m only thirty.

JANET
I gotta go to work.

HENRY
I didn’t know you got a job. Did you tell me this?

JANET
No. Because I knew you’d tease me.

HENRY
Why? Did you get a job at an ice cream shop or something?

HENRY AND ERIC HAVE A LAUGH. JANET STARES BLANKLY.

(CONTINUED)
HENRY (CONT’D)

(SERIOUS) You mean you did get a job
at an ice cream shop?

JANET

It’s a nice place. It’s upscale, okay.
They mix ice cream on a marble slab.

HENRY

Tell me something, Janet, does your
PhD in library science help or hurt
you when crushing Reeses Pieces into a
hunk of Fudge Swirl?

JANET

Here we go.

ERIC

I want to know the name of the place.
Is it called "Ice Cream Mix ‘Em Up?"

JANET

No.

HENRY

"Cold Slab McCreamery Works"?

ERIC

"Grandpa Freezie’s Cream’n Mash?"

JANET

Well, well, well, my two brothers
teasing me. Just like old times. The
only thing missing is Eric wetting the
bed and Mom catching Henry
masturbating in his tree fort.

A BEAT OF SILENCE.
JANET (CONT’D)

Anything else, boys? (BEAT) I didn’t think so. Good day to you both.

JANET EXITS PROUDLY.

ERIC

You did that in our tree fort?

HENRY

Yeah. So.

ERIC

It had no walls. It was just a platform.

HENRY

Drop it!

CHYRON: 9:14 AM

INT. UNFINISHED ROOM — A LITTLE WHILE LATER

HENRY SHOWS ERIC HIS “PROJECT” ROOM. IT’S IN AN UNFINISHED STATE.

ERIC

What did you do to mom’s scrap booking room?

HENRY

I’m renovating it. I’m turning it into a media room.

ERIC

Well I see two things missing. There’s no media. And there really isn’t any room.

HENRY

You have to use your imagination. It’s gonna be like one of those man caves. If I didn’t have this place I’d go nuts. You’d see me on the news: Local Man Snaps Like Twig.

(CONTINUED)
ERIC
You got a lot on your plate, bro. And by that I mean Janet.

HENRY
She’s okay. She satisfies my wife’s desire to have a third child. Oh, and FYI, she’s a lesbian this week.

ERIC
Is that allowed in the Muslim faith?

HENRY
That was last week. I’d like to explain this further, but as I mentioned, I have a wine party to prep for.

ERIC
Henry, you’re more of a juice box, canned beer, type of guy. I took a blimp tour of wine country. Why don’t you let me take care of the wine.

HENRY
I couldn’t ask you to do that.

ERIC
No worries. It’s done. Tina will help me.

HENRY
(CALMLY TERRIFIED) Tina’s here? I thought you and Tina separated?

ERIC
We went to therapy. It only took three sessions. Turns out all we had to do was respect each other.
HENRY
Well where is she?

ERIC
I left her out in the Jag.

HENRY
It’s been three hours!

ERIC
She’s fine. She’s on her Blackberry.

HENRY
Well go get her.

ERIC STARTS TEXTING HER.

HENRY (CONT’D)
What are you doing?

ERIC
I’m texting her. (HOLDS UP PHONE, LAUGHING) She took a picture of herself sitting out there.

HENRY
(RE: PHONE) She looks angry.

ERIC
No, that’s what she looks like when she laughs.

SFX: INCOMING TEXT BEEP.

ERIC (CONT’D)
(READING) Yeah, I don’t think she’s coming in. Anyway, I’m on it. Later.

HENRY
Thanks a lot. I can grab a power nap.

ERIC EXITS. HENRY IS ALONE. THE HOUSE IS FINALLY QUIET.
HENRY SITS DOWN IN A RATTY RECLINER AND CLOSES HIS EYES.

SFX: DIGI-PET ALARM

CARTOON DOG (V.O.)

(GOOFY CARTOON VOICE) Woof, woof. I need to be fed.

HENRY

Damn it.

HENRY TRIES PUSHING BUTTONS.

CARTOON DOG (V.O.)

Woof, woof. That’s the wrong button. I don’t need to be cleaned, silly. I need to be fed. Hurry up, woof, woof.

HENRY PUTS THE DIGI-PET UNDER A PILLOW.

SFX: MUZZLED CARTOON DOG “WOOF, WOOF”

HENRY

WINE PARTY!

CHYRON: 1:47 P.M.

INT. HOME OFFICE - DAY

SARAH SITS IN HER HOME OFFICE WHERE SHE DOES FREELANCE GRAPHIC DESIGN.

SARAH

(ON PHONE, HEATED) You guys keep sending me renewal notices for Newsweek. I pay them. And then in three weeks I get another renewal notice and I forget I already paid it and I pay it again. I think you guys got a little scam going, don’t ya? (BEAT) Oh you don’t think it’s a scam?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

SARAH (CONT'D)

How long am I subscribed for? (BEAT)
Nineteen years?! I want that money
back!

HENRY COMES IN.

HENRY
Honey, where's the broom?

SARAH
(ON PHONE) You're putting me on hold?!
Son of a bitch!

HENRY
Honey, where's the broom?

SARAH
(CONFUSED) What do you want the broom for?

HENRY
To sweep the kitchen floor.

SARAH
You understand why I'm confused,
right? You've never cleaned anything.
You realize that, right?

HENRY
(ANNoyed) Where's the broom?!

SARAH
It's in the closet in the mud room.
(CALMER) Oh and Dad called. Now don't
get mad.

HENRY
(MAD) What?!

SARAH
They can't watch the kids.
HENRY
(GROANING) What?!

SARAH
Mom twisted her ankle ballroom dancing.

HENRY
Isn’t that convenient. On the night of the wine party, they suddenly take up ballroom dancing. Doesn’t that sound a little suspicious?

SARAH
No. They like dancing.

HENRY
Two seventy-five year old people shimmying around on those paper thin ankles? They never wanted this wine party to happen.

SARAH
You’re sounding crazy.

HENRY
Am I? Eric brought Tina with him!

SARAH
No! I thought they broke up.

HENRY
Apparently not! And now your mom pulls her bullcrap ballroom dancing stunt which means the kids are going to be here!
SARAH
What’s wrong with the kids being in their own house?

HENRY
I can’t be myself around those two! I have to smile and be “strong” and tell them the world is okay! I wanted one night to drink heavily with my friends and smoke weed.

SARAH
You haven’t smoked weed since you were sixteen and got so paranoid that you thought the door to the bathroom was the gateway to Hell.

HENRY
You weren’t there! Look, I’m gonna have a good time and nothing’s going to stop me. Nothing!

SFX: DIGI-PET

CARTOON DOG (V.O.)

Please feed me. I’m dying.

HENRY STRUGGLES WITH THE BUTTONS ON THE DIGI-PET.

HENRY
Damn it!

SARAH
This wine party is making you a different person.

HENRY
(CURT) Where’s the broom again?
SARAH
Mud room, my love.

HENRY STOMPS OUT.

SARAH (CONT’D)
(CALLING AFTER HIM) If you need help operating the broom, give me a yell! It’s pretty self-explanatory, but I’d be happy to give you a quick tutorial!

HENRY (O.C.)
Zip it!

CHYRON: 2:39 P.M.

INT. LIVING ROOM – LATER

HENRY’S ON A STEP LADDER. HE CLEANS A WINDOW. SARAH WALKS BY AND THE SIGHT OF HIM INTRIGUES HER. SHE STOPS.

SARAH
You really are cleaning.

HENRY
Yes, I am.

SARAH
(SEXUAL) Mmm. You’re making that window really shine.

HENRY
They’re really dirty up at the top.

SARAH
(SEXY) Yeah, real dirty.

HENRY
(CONFUSED) What’s happening with you?

SARAH
I can’t explain it, but watching you clean is turning me on.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

HENRY

Very funny.

SARAH

Oh no, it's not a joke.

HENRY SQUIRTS THE WINDOW WITH WINDEX AND SEDUCTIVELY Cleans IT. IT MAKES SQUEAKING NOISES.

SARAH (CONT’D)

(MOANS)

HENRY

(QUICKLY) When do you need to pick up the kids?

SARAH

(QUICKLY) Fifteen minutes. Is that enough time?

HENRY

You and I both know I could do it twice in that time.

SARAH

Let's do it right on the couch.

HENRY

Not on the couch. That's where people will be sitting.

SARAH

C'mon!

HENRY

I guess I could just Febreeze it later.

SARAH

(MOANS)

SARAH PULLS HENRY DOWN ON THE COUCH.

(CONTINUED)
SFX: DIGI-PET

CARTOON DOG (V.O.)

(SAD) So weak! I trusted you!

SARAH PICKS UP THE DIGI-PET AND EXPERTLY HANDLES IT.

CARTOON DOG (V.O.) (CONT’D)

(HAPPY) Gulp! Yummy! You never really appreciate life until you almost starve to death!

HENRY AND SARAH GO AT IT.

CHYRON: TWO MINUTES LATER

HENRY AND SARAH ARE NUDE UNDER AN AFGHAN BLANKET.

SARAH

Well, I hope that took the edge off.

HENRY

Just the opposite. The whole time I kept thinking of all the things I had to do before the wine party.

SARAH

But you finished.

HENRY

Oh yeah, I finished.

ERIC (O.C.)

Finished what?

PULL OUT TO REVEAL ERIC AND HIS WIFE TINA (28), A BEAUTIFUL BUT TIGHTLY WOUND MATERIAL GIRL STANDING IN THE DOORWAY.

HENRY

How long have you been standing there?

(CONTINUED)
ERIC
Not long enough to see anything, but
just long enough to feel very
uncomfortable.

SARAH
Hello Tina.

TINA
Hello Sarah. That’s a beautiful
afghan. Did you make it?

SARAH
No. I bought it at Target. (BEAT)
Maybe you guys could face the wall
while Henry and I get dressed.

TINA
That sounds perfect.

TINA AND ERIC TURN AROUND. HENRY AND SARAH START TO SHUFFLE
OFF WITH THE AFGHAN COVERING THEM. AS THEY GO, HENRY PICKS UP
A NEARBY BOTTLE OF FEBREEZE AND SQUIRTS THE COUCH.

chyron: 3:15 PM

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

COLIN PLAYS HIS VIDEO GAME AND TINA IS ON HER BLACKBERRY.
SARAH FINISHES MAKING COLIN A SNACK.

SARAH
(TO COLIN) Here you go, sweetie. Now
listen, an hour of video games and then
I want to you to do your homework.

(BEAT) Repeat what I just said.

COLIN
Video games.

SARAH
You got it. Good for you.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

COLIN
Mom, I heard a joke. Playboy asked
Sarah Palin to pose nude. She said she
was willing to do as long as there was
no interview.

SARAH LAUGHS. COLIN TAKES HIS SNACK AND LEAVES.

SARAH
(TO TINA) I shouldn’t have laughed at
that. Boy, you know the country’s in
trouble when a ten year old is telling
political jokes.

TINA
(LOOKING UP) Did you say something? I’m
sorry I haven’t been listening to you
at all.

SARAH
Nothing important, just me and my
child. Can I fix you something, Tina?

TINA
That would be great, I’m starving.
Here are some of my dietary
restrictions. I’m doing a whole no
carb, no sugar, no dairy, no wheat
gluten thing. And that’s really it. Oh
and no grapes.

SARAH
You can’t eat grapes?
TINA
I can. I just hate them. It's peasant food.

SARAH
Well, here's what we have. We have Cocoa Puffs, baloney, peanut butter and jelly, two strawberry Yoo Hoos and week old Mushu Pork.

TINA
I think I'll just have bottled water. Flat not fizzy.

SARAH
We don't have any. I could strain the tap water through a sweater.

TINA BURSTS INTO TEARS.

TINA
(CRYING) What am I doing here? I don't want this life!

SARAH
(COMFORTING) What life?

TINA
Yours. No offence. I shouldn't be here. You know, when Eric and I separated I almost married a rapper who owned an island but I couldn't enjoy it because I kept thinking of Eric. Also I witnessed the rapper burn down a neighbor's house.

(CONTINUED)
SARAH
Sounds lovely.

TINA
It was. But Eric kept popping up in my head. We love the same Hotels, we both love reality shows and hate books, for Christmas we both separately got each other gift certificates for mani-pedis. It’s like we’re one person. I mean what is that?

SARAH
Well I can’t be sure, but it sounds like some strange version of “love.”

TINA
No. It can’t be. I’ve never loved anything. I had a dog. It got hit by a car. I didn’t care. I had a pony. I left the gate open and it ran through town and the police shot it. I felt nothing. But when it comes to Eric, I’m just helpless. I’m sorry to dump all this on you. You know what, I’ll just shop for myself while we’re living here.

SARAH
(STUNNED) Living here?

TINA
Didn’t Eric tell you?
SARAH
No. Isn’t that funny?

TINA
I should leave him! I hate this “love!”
I’m going to text him right now!

SARAH
You do that.

INT. THE LIVING ROOM – CONTINUOUS
ERIC LOOKS AT HIS PHONE.

SFX: TEXT BEEP

HENRY
You can answer that if you want.

ERIC PUTS IT AWAY.

ERIC
Not important. By the way, I picked you out some really nice bottles of wine. I got a ’78 Andre Torqueville.

(OFF HENRY’S REACTION) Don’t worry I talked the guy down from $400 to $325.

HENRY
(NERVOUS) Heh, heh. Perfect.

ERIC
It’s my pleasure, bro. I know this party is important to you.

HENRY
Well do you need some help bringing the wine in?

ERIC
No. It’s still down at the store.

(CONTINUED)
HENRY
Are they delivering it?

ERIC
(LAUGHING) You have to pay for it first.

HENRY
You didn’t pay for it?! I thought you were taking care of it.

ERIC
Yeah, I picked it out.

HENRY
Eric what’s going on?

ERIC
You know what, I’m a little tight right now. But that’s why I’m in Portland. Lot of opportunities. Lot of honey pots up here.

HENRY
What about Florida?

ERIC
It’s all good. But I’m just looking for other challenges. I mean you can only take so much sunshine.

HENRY
So do you want to stay with us while you’re stirring your honey pots?

ERIC
No, no. Come on, I’m not Janet. I booked a double suite up at the Hilton. You guys can come up.

(MORE)
CONTINUED: (2)

ERIC (CONT'D)

Kids can play in the pool. They got a spa and a butler service. When J Lo’s in Portland, that’s where she stays.

TINA IS SUDDENLY THERE. SARAH IS RIGHT BEHIND HER.

TINA

And who’s paying for that? Are you going to tell your brother or am I? I think I will because I’ll enjoy it.

ERIC

Tina, boundaries!

TINA

Eric, truth!

SARAH

The miracle of therapy.

ERIC

Okay, here it is. No big deal. I don’t know if you’ve heard, but the real estate market took a little bit of a turn. So I had to let go of some of my toys. The SUVs, the jet skis, my house and the show dogs.

HENRY

Whoah. In the middle of that, did you say “house?”

ERIC

Yeah. We got rid of the winter house.

HENRY

But didn’t you sell your summer house last year?
ERIC

(AGREEING) Uh huh.

HENRY

So you don’t have a house.

ERIC

Not in Florida, no.

HENRY

Where in this country do you have a house?

ERIC

In this country? Nowhere.

HENRY

So you have a house out of this country?

ERIC

Not at this time.

HENRY

So you don’t have a house?

ERIC

Not at this time.

HENRY

So you do need to live here.

ERIC

No.

TINA

Yes.

ERIC

Yes, we do.
TINA
Right now we’re living in the Jag. Uggh.

SARAH
Isn’t the Jag a two seater?

ERIC
(BRAGGING) Yeah, it’s an ‘08 coup.
Not meant to be lived in. Not a lot of
sleeping area.

HENRY
Are you guys in debt?

ERIC
No.

TINA
Yes.

ERIC
Yes, very much so.

HENRY
How much?

ERIC
Rough number. If I had to guess, high
four million.

HENRY
Four million dollars?!

ERIC
We won’t be a bother. We’ll stay in
your man-cave.

HENRY
(HORRIFIED) No!

(CONTINUED)
ERIC
What’s the matter?

HENRY
(EERILY CALM) For psychological reasons, I’m going to stuff all this down. Number one: I have a wine party in three hours. Number two: there’s nothing I can do about a four million dollar debt.

ERIC
Trust me. No there is not.

HENRY
If you’ll excuse me now, I need to go pick up the wine.

HENRY WALKS TOWARDS THE DOOR. SARAH MOVES TO HIM AND HOLDS HIM.

SARAH
It’s going to be fine.

HENRY
Do you know you’re not even looking at me right now?

SARAH
I can’t. I’m so scared.

HENRY
Me too. I’ll see you in a bit.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

CHYRON: 4:28 PM

INT. WINE SHOP – LATER

A WINE MERCHANT UNPACKS WINE BEHIND A COUNTER. HENRY ENTERS.

HENRY

Hello there.

WINE MERCHANT

Hello.

HENRY

It’s my day off, the first in eight months, and against all obstacles I’m having a wine party tonight.

WINE MERCHANT

Very good.

HENRY

I think so. Now my brother came in here earlier. You may remember him: good looking guy, four million dollars in debt.

WINE MERCHANT

I think I remember him. He’s got quite a nose for wine that guy. He picked you out some nice stuff. In fact he insisted on going in the back and looking around. He found an old crate I didn’t even know was there.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

WINE MERCHANT (CONT'D)

He pried it open with a crow-bar and
pulled out three bottles of rare
Bordeaux covered in straw. I mean it
was like Indiana Jones and that Ark of
The Covenant.

HENRY

That’s good news. I just need the
total for all the wine.

THE WINE MERCHANT PRINTS OUT A TOTAL AND SLIDES IT ACROSS THE COUNTER.

HENRY (CONT'D)

(READING IT, THEN LOOKING UP) No, I
want the bill for the wine, not the
purchase price of your store.

WINE MERCHANT

That is the bill, sir. That Indiana
Jones wine really jacked the price up.

HENRY

Hmm. I feel sorry for you.

WINE MERCHANT

Why’s that?

HENRY

It’s never the people who really
deserve it who pay the price.

WINE MERCHANT

What are you talking about?

HENRY LEAPS OVER THE COUNTER TO CHOKE THE WINE MERCHANT.
INT. POLICE STATION – LATER

JANET, DRESSED IN HER ICE CREAM PARLOR UNIFORM, WAITS FOR HENRY TO BE RELEASED. A SHEEPISH HENRY WALKS UP TO HER.

HENRY

Thanks for coming. Where’s Sarah?

JANET

Your wife needed to take care of your children. (TEASING) You remember them? The innocent victims in this horrible situation.

HENRY

Couldn’t they stay with Eric and Tina?

JANET

She didn’t feel she could leave them with people who might sell them. But Sarah did send me with this message. (READING FROM A NOTE) “Be careful in the joint. Do what you must to survive. I promise I won’t re-marry.”

HENRY

I guess if you’ve never done time, it’s fun to joke. I hope I didn’t put your job in jeopardy down at (READING LOGO ON HER APRON) “Uncle Shivers Olde Tyme Ice Cream Mix and Twist?” Wow. That’s a mouthful.

(CONTINUED)
JANET
It’s fine. I told my manager that I had to go pick up my brother who had gone off his meds and he seemed okay with that. So when you come into the store, it would be helpful to me if you could fake a seizure.

HENRY
Of course. I’m half way there anyway. I’m going to cancel the wine party.

JANET
It’s eleven at night Henry. That ship has sailed. I’m very sorry. I know it meant a lot to you.

HENRY
I think I just wanted one thing to go smoothly...or right.

JANET
That was your first mistake. But here’s a little ray of sunshine. I got the wine shop guy to drop the assault charges.

HENRY
How did you do that?

JANET
I agreed to go on a date with him. Once the gash you gave him heals, he’s going to be a good looking man.
HENRY
You stuffed down your lesbian urges for me?

JANET
No. I was very attracted to him. Which made me think. The percentage of lesbians that want to have sex with men is very low.

HENRY
Well there you go. Let’s get out of here. I need someone to scrub me down like they did to Meryl Streep in Silkwood.

CHYRON: 11:48 P.M.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER
HENRY AND JANET ENTER. SARAH, ERIC AND TINA STAND UP WHEN THEY SEE HENRY.

EVERYONE
Surprise!

HENRY
What’s the surprise? That your seated exactly where I left you?

SARAH
It’s a wine party, honey. The kids are asleep. We’re all adults here. You can drop "F" bombs. And, look, I rolled some joints.

HENRY
Where did you get the pot?

SARAH
It’s oregano.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

TINA
I wouldn’t smoke those. I read that oregano causes nasal polyps.

SARAH
Thank you Tina.

HENRY
I really appreciate this guys. This wine party has everything. But wine. And a party.

ERIC
That’s where you’re wrong, bro.

ERIC PULLS OUT A BOTTLE OF WINE.

HENRY
My God, that’s that Indiana Jones wine.

ERIC
Yeah, I found it in another store. I didn’t get the discount but I thought what the hell and maxed out my last credit card.

HENRY
Are you insane? You’re four million dollars in debt.

ERIC
Now, I’m four million, four hundred dollars in debt. (SHRUGGING) Eh. Enjoy.

HENRY
Thank you. This is really great. (EXCITED) Well let me open ‘er up.

(CONTINUED)
TINA
Ughh. None for me. My Blackberry just ran out of juice. That means it’s bedtime. Good night. And Eric, if you’re gonna make a lot of noise when you come to bed, sleep somewhere else.

ERIC GOES TO GIVE HER KISS ON THE LIPS AND SHE TURNS HER CHEEK. SHE EXITS.

JANET
She’s quite a catch.

ERIC
That means a lot coming from an Islamic lesbo.

HENRY
More wine for us.

SARAH
I can’t believe I’m saying this, but maybe Tina’s right. It’s really late. Maybe we could do it tomorrow when we’re all fresh.

HENRY
So this surprise is really for a surprise party ten hours from now?

SARAH
I’m sorry, honey. I’m exhausted. I just want to go upstairs and put on that documentary about Serbian death squads and drift off.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
SARAH (CONT'D)

(TO JANET AND ERIC) And I just want you all to know that (SIGHING, TENSE) we’re happy you’re here. Our home (SIGHING, TENSE) is your home.

EVERYONE

Good night.

SHE KISSES HENRY ON THE CHEEK AND LEAVES.

ERIC

Did anyone believe that?

JANET

She said it a little stiffly.

HENRY

Give her a break you guys. In twenty four hours she’s seen her home transformed into a flop house for wealthy drifters and the sexually confused.

ERIC

Fair enough.

HENRY

Fine. Just the sibs then.

JANET

Henry don’t hate me. My arms are so sore from pushing jelly bellies into French Vanilla, I’m going to have to brush my teeth with my feet. I’m gonna go to bed too. I love you guys, but I can only take you in small doses.
HENRY/ERIC

Good night.

SHE EXITS. HENRY LOOKS AT ERIC.

ERIC

Sorry bro. I’m Audi 5000.

HENRY

What does that mean?

ERIC

It means I’m goin’ to bed too. Don’t drink that alone. That’d be way too sad. Thanks again for letting us stay. It means a lot.

HENRY

Stay as long as you need.

ERIC

Oh, and if you hear something in the morning, that’ll be Tina. Her eyes pop open at 4:30 like a vampire. She makes a lot of noise. Very selfish woman. Good night.

HENRY

You got your pull-ups?

ERIC

(SARCASTIC) Great to be home.

HE EXITS. HENRY’S LEFT ALONE. HE ADMires THE BOTTLE OF WINE.

SFX: DIGI-PET

HE PULLS THE TOY OUT AND SETS IT ON THE TABLE.
CONTINUED: (5)

CARTOON DOG (V.O.)

Oops, I had an accident. My bottom

needs to be cleaned—-

HENRY SMASHES THE TOY WITH THE WINE BOTTLE. THE BOTTLE BREAKS
AND POURS OFF THE TABLE. HENRY TRIES TO CATCH THE RUN OFF AND
THEN, IN DESPERATION, HE POSITIONS HIS FACE AT THE EDGE AND,
IN THE SADDEST MOMENT OF THIS HALF HOUR, HE LETS THE WINE
WATERFALL INTO HIS MOUTH.

END OF SHOW