

Cougar Town



"Counting on You"
[117]

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ACT ONE

1 INT. GRAY'S PUB - DAY (DAY ONE) 1

JULES, ELLIE, LAURIE, GRAYSON, BOBBY and ANDY have drinks.

BOBBY

I got this song stuck in my head.
You know, the one from *Titanic*?

ANDY

My Heart Will Go On?

BOBBY

Gay trap! You're gay.

JULES

That's ridiculous, Andy's not gay
because he likes *Titanic*. Everybody
likes *Titanic*. Remember when Jack
asks Rose where she wants to go...

BOBBY

To the stars.

JULES

Super gay trap! You're gay.

Everyone laughs as Jules gives high-fives all around.

JULES (CONT'D)

See, who says guys and gals can't be
friends? Look at us. Just hanging.
(nudging Laurie, cockney)
Like a couple 'o saucy lasses, right?

LAURIE

No clue what you're talking about.

JULES

That guy with the bowler hat? Come
on! What's the point of inside jokes
if you're not going to remember them?

GRAYSON

You know who says girls and guys
can't be friends? Everyone. It's a
fact. As shown in *When Harry Met
Sally*. Nora Ephron's best work.
(quick, beating Bobby and Andy)
Self gay trap. Anyway, a man is only
friends with a woman if he wants to
sleep with her.

JULES

That's crazy. You're saying any woman you're even a little nice to you want to sleep with?

GRAYSON

At least once. Look, no guy ever woke up and thought: You know, I wish I had a real cool chick to hang out and do friend stuff with.

BOBBY

What would I even do with a lady-friend? I guess I could sleep with them. Wait, that's the thing you can't do. I got nothing. Go carts?

ANDY

When I was single, I never hung out with a woman that I wasn't interested in dating.

ELLIE

Including his mom. And even there, the smell of empanadas and acrylic nails still makes him horn out.

JULES

Look, there are a lot of men who aren't just walking scrotums, and they have actual female friends. Laurie's got a ton of guy friends.

LAURIE

Totally. We go to movies and concerts. Just as friends.

GRAYSON

Have you ever slept with any of them?

LAURIE

Yeah. All of them. But just as friends. Nothing romantic.

ELLIE

Sorry Jules, but Tiny Eyes is right.

GRAYSON

I have tiny eyes?

JULES

And they're way too close together.

ELLIE

Andy and I met because we were in the same circle of friends. I slept all the way around it until I got to him.

ANDY

Wait, even Victor?!

GRAYSON

There are exceptions to the no friend rule. Like if the guy's gay, or he's friends with your friend's husband.

ANDY

Like Victor?!

ELLIE

Give me a break. He had a Saab.

JULES

You're all crazy. I saw a news story last night about a bear and a cat that were best friends. If they can be friends, so can men and women.

GRAYSON

They followed up that story this morning. The bear killed the cat.

JULES

But they didn't have sex. I mean, the bear tried but he couldn't. That's probably why he got so angry. But people aren't bears. Point to Jules. High five!

She raises her hand. No one hits it. Finally, Bobby does.

BOBBY

You can't leave a high five hanging.

CUT TO:

2 INT. JULES' KITCHEN - THE NEXT DAY (DAY TWO)

2

Jules and Laurie sit. A beat, Andy enters and grabs coffee.

JULES

Morning, Andy.

(Andy doesn't respond)

No answer, huh? Are we in a fight?
I'm so sorry, how can I fix this?

ANDY

Naw, I'm just in a funk. I'm either at work all day, or up all night with Stan. I feel like it's all I do.

LAURIE

I hear that. I work a butt-load, and by the time I go home and catch up on Facebook and Twitter I barely have time for my self.

JULES

Does the world really need another "My boss is a snore-fest" tweet?

LAURIE

That was once, and nobody cares that much about flax seeds.

JULES

Just wait until your heart explodes all over your breast cancer.

(then, to Andy)

Why doesn't Ellie help you at night?

ANDY

She can't. She takes Ambien to help her sleep, but she doesn't like giving up control, so she fights it.

POP TO:

3 INT. TORRES' BEDROOM - ANY NIGHT

3

Andy approaches Ellie (upright in bed, crooked glasses on her face, computer on her lap, and phone in her hand).

ANDY

For God sake. Just go to sleep.

ELLIE

(half asleep)

I'm not tired...

POP BACK TO:

4 INT. JULES' KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

4

ANDY

It's like sleeping next to a zombie, except instead of brains she craves Lorna Doones.

JULES

You need to do something exciting to shake things up. Every time I get a manicure I pick the same color: Vampire Red. But yesterday I was like, "What the hell?" And boom, (showing her nails) Flirty Fuschia. (realizing) Uch. What have I done? Don't look at me, I'm going to chew these off.

LAURIE

How about a motorcycle? I have one in storage. My dad gave it to me as a college graduation present.

JULES

But, you didn't graduate college.

LAURIE

Well, he would know that if he were around more.

ANDY

I always wanted a hog. I can imagine revving the throttle and watching my job, my wife, my kid disappear in the rearview. Freedom at last. (realizing Jules is there) Um. Would you mind...

JULES

I'm won't tell Ellie.

ANDY

Thank you.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. BOBBY'S BOAT - DAY

5

Bobby, and TRAVIS are there. Grayson climbs aboard.

GRAYSON

Okay, I'm here. What do you need?

BOBBY

Hey, who played the teapot in the movie *Beauty and the Beast*?

TRAVIS

Angela Lansbury.

BOBBY
Gay-trap! You're gay.

GRAYSON
So uncool to gay trap your own son.

BOBBY
It's just a word game, like the game
with the letters... you make words?

TRAVIS
Scrabble?

BOBBY
Double gay trap! You're gay.

TRAVIS
So, knowing women's names and also
knowing language is "gay." Got it.

BOBBY
Gray-Skull, it's time for me and
Bitchslap to go on our annual fishing
trip. But he bailed because he's
spending the Spring on a Kibbutz. He
already dropped sixty pounds from
toiling in the fig groves. Anyway,
you in for a man-venture?

GRAYSON
No way. I still have a BB stuck in
my knuckle from our last outing. I
should've known an afternoon of
"Whiskey Duels" wouldn't end well.

BOBBY
(re: trying to reach mid-back)
But you gotta go-- who's gonna rub
sunblock on my "Can't-Reach"?

TRAVIS
Crazy idea, you could take your son.

BOBBY
We'll be roughing it, Trav. It won't
be like that sci-fi convention we
went to. That place had AC, a food
court, and you still had a freak out.

TRAVIS
I peed at a urinal between Richard
Dreyfuss and a Cylon, I got excited.
But I'm down for a fishing trip.

BOBBY

Alright, then. Tomorrow, we fish!

GRAYSON

Will you have separate sleeping bags or share one? Share one, I bet. Gay trap! I'm not good at this, am I?

They nod in agreement as we:

CUT TO:

6 EXT. CUL-DE-SAC - THE NEXT DAY (DAY THREE)

6

Jules watches Laurie ride a motorcycle as a gleeful Andy clings to her back. As they pass, screaming like a woman:

ANDY

Woo whoo! I'm flying!!

GRAYSON

(approaching, re: Andy)
With all the shrieking, I thought a pyramid of cheerleaders collapsed.

JULES

Nope. Just Andy pallin' around with Laurie. Of course they're probably just ramping up to an all day bang-fest.

GRAYSON

Is this about the "guys and girls can't be friends" conversation?

JULES

You basically said we're not friends.

GRAYSON

No. I merely said men and women can't be friends without there being a sexual undercurrent.

JULES

There's no undercurrent with us. Especially after I saw you snot rocket on your jog yesterday. By the way, so gross. When it rains, that'll wash into the sewer and then one day I'll be drinking your hork.

GRAYSON

Look, we're attracted to each other, we're flirty-- that's our dynamic. But we don't act on it because there's only two ways it can end. Either we get married, which we don't want. Or we try it, it goes south and we're stuck living across the street from someone we feel awkward around and the friendship is over.

JULES

It's so lame men think like that.

GRAYSON

Not just men; women choose to be friends with guys they're attracted to, too. That's why we're friends.

JULES

No, we're friends because we have a lot in common. We're both divorced, single, we're neighbors.

GRAYSON

You and Tom have a lot in common. Why aren't you friends with him?

They look over at an frumpy man (TOM) watering his lawn.

TOM

Hey, Jules. Want me to water your tulips?

JULES

I'm good, Tom.

GRAYSON

So, so shallow.

Laurie and Andy pull up. He dismounts the motorcycle.

LAURIE

Okay, you've broken my ribs with your vise-grip. You ready to try it solo?

ANDY

Wait one second.

TIME CUT TO:

Andy (in full leather motorcycle outfit) walks in slo-mo.

ANDY (CONT'D)
I walked in slo-mo so you got the full effect.

JULES
I got it.

ANDY
Alright. Let's see what she can do.

He gets on and drives it a few yards before veering right into a bush -- as if he were aiming for it. He pops up:

ANDY (CONT'D)
I'll take it!

CUT TO:

7 INT. JULES' KITCHEN - LATER

7

Jules (on her laptop), Travis and Bobby are in the kitchen.

BOBBY
I'll be by later to pick you up for fishing. Don't forget your gear. Especially your camouflage hat.

TRAVIS
Right. My lucky camouflage hat. Dad, I don't even have a pole.

BOBBY
Poles? Where we're going, we don't need poles. We're noodling, baby.

TRAVIS
Do I want to know what that means?

JULES
Travis, as you know we're from the South. And Bobby's family are big fans of noodling.
(plays NOODLING VIDEO on her computer, narrating action)
Noodling is when you go out into a lake, find a hole in which a catfish is protecting its eggs, jam your arm into said hole and wait for the angry fish to latch on.

TRAVIS
Dear... God. Why call it noodling?

BOBBY
Cause your arms's the noodle.

On the video, a man raises a catfish ATTACHED ELBOW-DEEP.

TRAVIS
Ahh!

JULES
Have a nice time fish-fisting, boys.

CUT TO:

8 INT. TORRES' KITCHEN - LATER 8

Jules and Andy are seated. Laurie rifles through the fridge and pulls out a plate with cut up hot dogs. Ellie enters.

ELLIE
I was going to ask why that trashy motorcycle was parked out front, but she's here, so no need.

LAURIE
I'm just here for my money. Do you have any ketchup?

ANDY
Actually, Ellie, it's my motorcycle. I'm buying it from Laurie.

ELLIE
Oh, no, no, no, no. Absolutely not.
(to Laurie)
And you, stop eating my son's lunch!

LAURIE
You don't even have mustard in here.

JULES
Try mayo. I dated a Dutch guy once, he put mayonnaise on everything.
(re: herself, shivers)
And I mean everything.

ELLIE
Andy, how could you do something like that without asking me first?

ANDY
I asked you last night.

FLASHBACK TO:

9 INT. TORRES' BEDROOM - PREVIOUS NIGHT 9

Ellie, glasses crooked, computer open, is barely conscious.

ANDY
Can I get a motorcycle?

ELLIE
I like turtles.

POP BACK TO:

10 INT. TORRES' KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 10

ELLIE
That doesn't count! This is what I
get for marrying someone from a
culture that fries sandwiches.

ANDY
I just needed to do something for me.
You know, bust out of my funk.

ELLIE
Bust out of your "funk." Who's
stupid idea was that?

Andy and Laurie look at Jules. Jules, nervous, picks up
Stan and pretends to "save" him from choking.

JULES
Oh, no! Stan! I'll save you.
(chucks a piece of hotdog, and
GRUNTS as if from Stan)
Huh!
(then)
There we go! All clear. Saved him.
Saved your baby boy.
(off everyone's looks)
Fine, it was my idea.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

11 INT. TORRES' KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

11

Ellie yells at Jules as Andy and Laurie look on.

ELLIE

Who gave you permission to give Andy permission to buy a motorcycle?

JULES

Come on, you know he'll just sit on it in the garage and go "vroom, vroom, chugachugachuga... vrooom!"
(off their looks)
What? I do a good motorcycle.

ELLIE

Andy, you are out of your mind if you think I'm letting you keep that thing. Can you picture how ridiculous you'd look wearing one of those tacky, leather outfits?

ANDY

I have pictured it. It is beautiful.

LAURIE

This is so not a big deal. Girls ride motorcycles all the time. Um, haven't you heard that Tracy Chapman song, "*I drive a fast motorcycle?*"

JULES

Lady gay trap! I rock at this game.

ELLIE

Next time you're about to make a decision, check with me first. You're clearly not smart enough to make the right one.

ANDY

Are you really okay emasculating me like this in front of your friends?

ELLIE

I've made my peace with it.

JULES

(as Andy exits)
The guy has feelings, Ellie. And way more than most men.

ELLIE

I'd rather he be mad than dead. The thought of something happening to him terrifies me so much. I don't even care if he has a giant life insurance policy. I love that little man.

JULES

Why didn't you just say that to him?

ELLIE

When you're angry and your spouse does something idiotic, you don't reward them with nice thoughts.

JULES

That is so wrong. You should be open and honest with your spouse.

ELLIE

Oh, like you were open with Bobby? How'd that all work out for you?

LAURIE

Damn!

JULES

Too mean!

BOBBY

(entering with Travis)
Ladies, don't mind us. We're just grabbing some snacks for the road.

TRAVIS

We could just stay here. Please?

JULES

I haven't seen you drag your feet like this since I tried to bring you home from Math Camp. Don't worry, I'm sure this trip won't be that bad.

TRAVIS

Sure, what's so bad about putting your arm in a giant fish? Plus, they make great prosthetic arms now.

BOBBY

They're better than real arms. I want one so bad.

(doing robot arm/robot voice)
Thanks for the fruit cups, Ellie.

ELLIE

Everyone stop stealing Stan's food!
Mooch off Jules, she's the big dope.

JULES

Dude, enough with the mean!

CUT TO:

12 INT. GRAY'S PUB - LATER

12

Jules and Tom talk. Nearby, Grayson looks on.

TOM

Interestingly, the color of tulips
changes depending on the soil's p.h..

JULES

That is interesting, Tom.

TOM

I've got to make some p.h. of my own.

Tom heads to bathroom as Grayson approaches Jules.

GRAYSON

That was the most boring conversation
I've ever heard, and you've seen the
girls I date. Did you actually bring
him here just to prove me wrong?

JULES

Yep, and mission accomplished.

(waving hands)

Feel that? No, because there's
nothing there. That's what no sexual
tension feels like. Schooled ya!

TOM

(as he exits, to Jules)

I've got to run. But look, I have a
hot tub at my place. I'd love to see
you in it with no clothes on. We'll
splash around in my "cuddle puddle."

GRAYSON

That will make me smile forever.

JULES

Tom doesn't count. We're not even
friends. But I know there's men out
there who just want to be friends. I
will prove you wrong, Grayson.

GRAYSON
Hey, I'm starting to feel something.
(waving hands as Jules exits)
Feel that? Feels like failure.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. LAKE - DAY (DAY THREE)

13

Travis and Bobby are waist deep in the lake.

TRAVIS
This isn't so bad. The lake is
pretty, the water's warm... one
question-- why are we wearing jeans?

BOBBY
A normal bathing suit isn't gonna cut
it. We're in the wild. I can't tell
you how many times denim has saved my
hang-low from a rusty can or a pokey
tree root. Safety first, son.

TRAVIS
Right. So, noodling. What do I do?

BOBBY
Well, you want to find a good hole,
reach in and wait for a bite.

TRAVIS
Define "good hole."
(off Bobby's giddy smile)
Define "good hole" in regard to
noodling.

BOBBY
It's a hole with a catfish in it--
der. Of course, in some holes you'll
find snapping turtles or water snakes
or, you know, maybe something cool.
I found a revolver once.

TRAVIS
I think I get the general concept of
a fish eating my arm, but what's the
skill or sportsmanship in it?

BOBBY
There isn't any.

TRAVIS
Well, catfish taste good, right?

BOBBY
Not these fish, they taste like mud.

TRAVIS
Dad, I'm trying here, but I have to ask-- why would anyone do this?

Bobby is neck-deep in the water, feeling around under him.

BOBBY
Because--
(lifts arm, revealing a HUGE catfish stuck on it)
Bam! That's why.

TRAVIS
Good God!

CUT TO:

14 INT. JULES' OFFICE - DAY 14

Jules and Laurie are both on their phones, with lists.

JULES
Hi, Mark... I know this is an odd question... but we were always just friends, right? You were never looking for anything romantic.
(listens, then, annoyed)
Oh, come on, Mark! You were my chiropractor! Ugh, I knew there was no such thing as a butt alignment.

As Jules hangs up, Laurie excitedly waves to her.

LAURIE
So, you do consider Jules a friend?! And you never wanted to... Oh, you're gay. Okay, thanks, Stefan.

Laurie hangs up the phone, Jules holds up a list of names.

JULES
Every guy on here wanted more: Sex, sex, sex-- this last guy thought we dated for a year! How'd you do?

LAURIE
Sex, sex, wants to know if you're single, sex, everything but, and gay.

Andy (in leather pants) enters.

ANDY

Hey. Laurie, I just wanted to stop by to let you know that I'm not going to be able to keep the "donor-cycle."

LAURIE

Did you wear leather pants to work?

ANDY

Yeah. They look amazing but there are some sacrifices. You know how when your shoes are too tight you get blisters on the back of your foot? I've pretty much got that--
(motions to waist, legs)
Everywhere.

JULES

I'm sorry, but you can't wear those anymore. There are only two types of people that can pull off leather pants: ladies and creepy Germans.

LAURIE

And drug dealers.

JULES

Yes, and drug dealers.

ANDY

Well hey, there's one more thing I don't get to enjoy.

JULES

Look, I know you're frustrated with Ellie, but she told me the real reason she doesn't want you to have the bike is because she loves you so much. The thought of something happening to you scares her to death.

ANDY

She said that?

JULES

She did. And I wasn't supposed to tell you, but I think it's important you know how much she loves you.

ANDY

(exiting)
Interesting. I'll see you ladies later.

LAURIE
Why did you tell him that stuff when
Ellie told you not to?

JULES
Sometimes, Laurie, Ellie doesn't know
what's best for Ellie and Andy.

The phone rings. Jules picks up.

JULES (CONT'D)
Hello?... No Mark, I'm not coming in
for an alignment, you're a creep...
Three free sessions? See you Friday.
(hangs up, off Laurie's look)
Creep or not, the guy's good. Free
is free, baby.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. LAKE - DAY (DAY THREE)

15

Travis and Bobby are both up to their necks in the water.

TRAVIS
Well, I'm officially terrified.

BOBBY
I think I found a good hole. Okay,
I'm going to dive under and--

Bobby is suddenly YANKED underwater.

TRAVIS
Dad?! Dad! Are you okay?

REVEAL Bobby standing behind Travis.

BOBBY
Catfish!

TRAVIS
Ahh! What the hell?

BOBBY
(laughing)
Classic noodling prank. Now, the
catfish don't have teeth, so there's
really nothing to worry about.

Off-shore, a three fingered HILLBILLY waves to Bobby:

MAN

Hey, Bobby, good luck out there today! There's some biggins'.

TRAVIS

Dad, does that man have three fingers because of what I'm about to do?

BOBBY

I want to say no...

TRAVIS

I'm out. I'm not doing this.

As Travis trudges to shore, Bobby disappointedly calls out:

BOBBY

Aw, come on, Trav. Noodling's no fun if you do it alone!

MAN

I'll do it with you, Bobby.

BOBBY

Keep it moving, Deewayne. You got me in enough trouble already.

CUT TO:

16 INT. TORRES' KITCHEN - LATER

16

Ellie is digging through the freezer when Andy enters.

ANDY

Whatcha' doing?

ELLIE

Trying to make a snack for Stan out of a lean cuisine and daiquiri mix.

ANDY

(he kisses her)

I know the real reason you don't want me to have a motorbike. It's because you're worried something bad could happen. Well, I'm right here and I promise, I'm not going anywhere.

CUT TO:

17 EXT. TORRES' HOUSE - MINUTES LATER

17

Jules and Grayson walk toward the house.

JULES

It's just so depressing to me that men and women can't be real friends. This is like finding out that twelve hour mascara only lasts three hours.

GRAYSON

Jules, don't feel so bad. Look, guys just play the friend card because it's so hard to impress women.
(noticing something)
Speaking of which, I think you may have re-stoked the fire with Tom.

Tom (shirtless and watering his lawn) waves to Jules. He starts to water down his body with the hose.

TOM

It's so hot out today.

JULES

Have some dignity, Tom!

They enter the house.

18 INT. TORRES' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

18

Jules and Grayson enter to find Ellie and Andy mid-fight.

ELLIE

You want to know what's not fair?! I'm tired of having to think for two people. It's exhausting!

ANDY

Being married to you is exhausting!

JULES

We'll come back later.

ELLIE

No, you stay. So, Jules, is there any other secret information you want to share with my idiot husband?

ANDY

Leave Jules out of this. She did a good thing by sharing. You're the one hiding feelings from me.

GRAYSON

Okay, I don't like seeing you people as, well... real, so I'm going to go.

ELLIE

Oh, grow-up, you tiny-eyed baby.

GRAYSON

(re: Andy)

No, him. You're mad at him.

ANDY

Your problem is you're emotionally closed off, Ellie. Closed off!

ELLIE

Guess what? I've been emotionally closed off since the day you met me. Now you want me to change? Too bad. God, sometimes I don't even know why I married you.

ANDY

Well, the feeling's mutual.

JULES

No, no, stop!

ANDY

Know what? I can't take this, I'm leaving.

Andy exits with a head of steam.

19 EXT. TORRES' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

19

Everyone follows him out.

JULES

No, don't go! You guys can fix this.

ANDY

I'll be at Bobby's.

He takes off on the motorbike -- and drives into the bush again. Ellie slams the door and Jules and Grayson react.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

20 INT. JULES' KITCHEN - LATER THAT DAY (DAY THREE)

20

Jules, Grayson and Laurie talk in the kitchen.

JULES

What did I do? Andy's never bailed like that on Ellie. He usually just stands there, breathing through his nose harder and harder until he sounds like a little Cuban teapot...

(realizing)

Which would be an amazing children's book. Dibs.

LAURIE

I remember when my dad walked out on my mom. She was devastated. A week later, when she realized he had taken me and my sister with him to Mexico, she felt even worse. That turned out to be the best family vacation ever.

GRAYSON

You have a gift for distorting reality.

JULES

Why couldn't I have just minded my own business? You know what, we have to fix Andy and Ellie right now.

GRAYSON

That contradiction was so fast I think it broke the sound barrier.

JULES

This is serious. Andy and Ellie were fighting like Bobby and I did right before we got divorced. Well, except Andy wasn't wearing a golf club cover over his privates. And Ellie didn't have a truck stop waitress by the hair. And it wasn't in a public bathroom in the Tampa airport. But everything else was the same.

GRAYSON

My wife and I never fought, and she left me anyway. Marriage is fragile. I'm surprised Ellie and Andy even lasted this long.

LAURIE

You're right. Maybe I should go see
if Ellie's okay. Hey, I'm part of
this circle of friends too, right?

SMASH CUT TO:

21 INT. TORRES' KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER 21

Laurie approaches Ellie, who drinks a glass of wine.

LAURIE

Your husband owes me a crap-ton of
money for that motorbike. So before
you and him break up and split your
cash and what not, I want a check or
I start slashing tires.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. BOBBY'S BOAT - DAY (DAY THREE) 22

Jules and Grayson climb up on the boat.

JULES

I love how Bobby thinks he's
protecting his boat from theft by
locking up the captain's wheel.

REVEAL captain's wheel locked up with The Club (the iconic
steering wheel anti-theft lock from the 80s).

GRAYSON

Where's Andy? He said he'd be here.

We hear a "BEEP, BEEP." REVEAL Andy pushing his motorcycle.

GRAYSON (CONT'D)

How far did you push that thing?

ANDY

Just the last mile. I got a ticket,
too. Apparently sidewalks are
pedestrian only.

JULES

(as Andy climbs aboard)

Andy, this thing between you and
Ellie is my fault. Let me take you
home so I can fix it. I know you
don't want to spend the night on
Bobby's guest hammock that doubles as
his table cloth.

ANDY

And triples as a beach towel. Bobby is like a Native American with a buffalo. But no, I'm staying here. I'm tired of Ellie's crap.

JULES

I'm not taking "no" for an answer. Get in the car.

ANDY

No. I don't wanna, and I don't hafta. I'm not going back there with my tail between my legs. I'm a man. I don't need this.

JULES

(to Grayson, frustrated)
Will you tackle him or something?

GRAYSON

Can't. He's dressed head to toe in leather. Huge, huge gay-trap.

CUT TO:

23 EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY (DAY THREE)

23

Bobby puts fish on his plate. Travis sits across from him.

BOBBY

Sure wish you had caught something so you could join me for dinner.

TRAVIS

I'm good. I grabbed a box of Stan's Cheerios before we left the Torres'.

BOBBY

(re: eating fish)
I almost feel bad about ripping out this momma catfish's throat meat and leaving her billion babies to fend for themselves. Almost.

TRAVIS

Look, Dad, I'm sorry I didn't noodle-- wow, that word is never not going to be ridiculous. But it just wasn't for me, you know?

BOBBY

(a beat, then, pissy)
You know what, Trav? It wasn't a big deal. You should have manned-up and done it.

TRAVIS

I was hoping for more of an, "It's okay, son" kind of vibe.

BOBBY

Yeah, that's not going to happen.

TRAVIS

Wow. Well, enjoy your mud fish.

Travis walks off, a bit stunned, as Bobby eats and sulks.

CUT TO:

24 INT. TORRES' HOUSE - LATER

24

Ellie sits at her island. Grayson enters.

GRAYSON

Hey. How you feeling?

ELLIE

Since when do you care?

GRAYSON

Ellie, like it or not, ever since my divorce the people in this cul-de-sac have become like a family to me.

ELLIE

Jules sent you here to see if I was still mad at her?

GRAYSON

Bingo.

ELLIE

Jules! Get in here!

Jules enters from the sliding door with a tray of muffins.

JULES

Who wants muffins?
(of Ellie's look)
I'm so sorry I broke you and Andy.

ELLIE

Whatever. Are those pumpkin muffins?

JULES

This is serious. I need you and Andy to work so I know that a successful marriage is actually possible. So I know it's not foolish to believe that one day I can have what you have.

ELLIE

First off -- lame! Second, what's with all the doom and gloom? Andy and I are fine.

ANDY

(entering)
Somebody say my name? Ooh, muffins!

GRAYSON

Wait. You two made up?

ELLIE

Of course not. But we'll get over it. Even if he's a mule-headed dope.

ANDY

I love my smothering witch.

ELLIE

Oh, boy. I see what's going on.
(to Andy)
These two got freaked out by our fight because they have no idea what it's like to be in a solid, working relationship.

JULES

Hey, excuse me? I was married for over fifteen years.

ELLIE

Yeah, to a serial adulterer.

ANDY

With a heart of gold.

GRAYSON

She may be right. My marriage can best be described as a crap sandwich with a side of depression salad and wow -- worst metaphor ever.

ANDY

Look, Ellie and I have had way worse fights than this one. But no matter how bad it gets I know she's not just going to pack up, and leave me like some pathetic beady-eyed dog.

GRAYSON

For the last time, my eyes are normal size. My head is just slightly big.

ELLIE

When you're in a good relationship you don't sweat the bumps in the road. It's like you have a built-in safety net because you love each other so much you know you're never going anywhere. It also helps if you have a strong desire to prove your parents wrong.

JULES

I'm happy to hear you say that. And super jealous. I guess I can only hope that one day I find someone who will love me that much and will...
(looks out window at her house)
Oh God. Creepy Tom's leaving flowers on my door step. Hide me!

CUT TO:

25 EXT. LAKE SHORE - LATER

25

Travis is skipping rocks. Bobby approaches him and joins.

BOBBY

Skipping rocks. What's your record?

TRAVIS

Two. But that one hit a duck. I should feel bad about that, but I don't. It was a stupid looking duck.

BOBBY

Trav, I'm sorry about earlier. I don't care about stupid noodling. The thing is, I was hoping you'd just listen to me and do it. But you didn't. You stood your ground and made your own choice. And you know what it made me realize?

TRAVIS

That I have more in common with Mom?

BOBBY

That's a given, what with your fair skin, girlish jaw and slight figure.

TRAVIS

Wait, you think I look like a lady?

BOBBY

No, come on. Maybe if the light's just right. Look, my point is, you're eighteen -- you're not my little boy anymore. You're more man than kid. You're going to make your own choices. And that just kind of weirded me out.

TRAVIS

Good weird, right?

BOBBY

Yep. Even though it makes me feel old, it makes me feel proud, too.

A nice moment. Just then, we hear a DUCK'S QUACK.

TRAVIS

Want me to take him out?

Bobby nods. Travis wings a rock. Smack! The quacks stop.

BOBBY

That was a thing of beauty, son.

CUT TO:

26 EXT. CUL-DE-SAC - LATER

26

Andy (leather outfit, huge grin) successfully rides his motorcycle in slow circles. Ellie, Jules and Grayson watch:

JULES

So, you're letting him have ten minutes a day, with supervision, and he can never wear leather pants again.

ELLIE

Right, only ladies and creepy Germans wear those. I'm also allowing him to ride to work once a week.

GRAYSON

So he gets to ride the whole two miles to work on a street with three traffic lights and a school zone. Wow, it's just like "Easy Rider."

Laurie approaches Ellie with purpose.

LAURIE

Okay, seriously, I need my money. I want to buy this black onyx panther statue for my entry way. I'm designing my whole condo around it. I feel I should have grown-up things.

ELLIE

Relax, there's a check in the house.

LAURIE

Did you make it out to "cash"?

ELLIE

Of course. I don't want to be linked to you in any way.

As Laurie walks toward the house, Andy rides up slowly.

ANDY

Did it look like I was going fast?

ELLIE

You did, but your ten minutes are up.
(off Andy's pout)
Because I love you, I'll let you have an extra minute.

ANDY

Sweet! Want to ride it with me?

ELLIE

No, but I will take pictures of you.

She kisses him. He rides off and she follows after him holding up her camera phone. Grayson and Jules watch.

JULES

I want that someday.

GRAYSON

Me, too.

JULES

But, not now.

GRAYSON

Noooo. Later.

JULES

Much later. You know, when I'm tired of watching what I eat and I'm cool with leaving the door open when I go to the bathroom.

(a beat, then)

I was thinking... you helping me try and fix Andy and Ellie's relationship is kind of what friends do.

GRAYSON

Sure, I guess.

JULES

And while we were doing that, did you ever think about jumping my bones?

GRAYSON

(sighs, realizing)

No.

JULES

Friend trap! You're a friend! Jules Cobb has proved her point and emerged victorious! Sing some happy music in your head as I dance away, friend.

Jules walks-dances away, cocky. Tom walks up to Grayson.

TOM

Grayson... what are your intentions with Jules. Are you courting her?

GRAYSON

No I'm not, Tom. You go to town. She's all yours.

TOM

God, I want that.

GRAYSON

Well then you go get it.

Tom eagerly heads over to Jules' house. Grayson grins.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

27 EXT. CAMPSITE - THE NEXT MORNING (DAY FOUR)

27

Bobby comes out of his tent. Travis is nowhere to be found.

BOBBY
Trav? You here?

Bobby spots something approaching. His eyes well with tears:

BOBBY (CONT'D)
I've never been more proud.

WE REVEAL Travis, dripping head to toe, with a GIANT CATFISH ON HIS ARM.

TRAVIS
Please get it off. The big one
swallowed a smaller one that's on my
arm, too.

END OF SHOW