

STEP-DAD

written by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SOMEBODY'S BACKYARD - DAY

A KID'S BIRTHDAY PARTY IS IN FULL SWING: A PINATA, BIRTHDAY CAKE, A POSSIBLY DRUNK CLOWN, ETC. ADAM (32, AWESOME BUT NEW TO RESPONSIBILITIES) TALKS TO HIS GIRLFRIEND'S FRIEND LIZ (38, RACHAEL HARRIS).

LIZ

So how's it going with Michelle?

ADAM

It's good. Really good. She's awesome and the kids are great. You know, it's kinda crazy. Like one minute you're this single dude and then bang! Your girlfriend has a three-year-old and an eight-year-old and you're like Insta-Dad.

EMILY (8, TOO SMART) OVERHEARS THIS.

EMILY

You're not my dad.

ADAM

Right. I'm just your mom's boyfriend. Not trying to be your dad. Just trying to be your... buddy.

EMILY ROLLS HER EYES AND WALKS AWAY.

ADAM (CONT'D)

That's new. The eye roll. I think she might become a teenager before she turns nine. Last week, her school called and said she's already texting at a sixth grade level.

ADAM'S GIRLFRIEND MICHELLE (36, AWESOME BUT OVERWHELMED BY RESPONSIBILITIES) APPROACHES, HOLDING A PLASTIC BAG IN FRONT OF HER.

MICHELLE

Bryce just took a dump in the yard. I don't think anyone saw him, but if someone asks say it was that dirty kid Jesse. You need to take this to the trash.

ADAM

(RE: PLASTIC BAG) That's full of human poo? No. No way.

MICHELLE

You want to wipe his butt instead?

ON ADAM'S DREAD AS HE WEIGHS HIS OPTIONS...

MAGNUS (PRE-LAP)

Right on the grass? Like a dog?

INT./EXT. TACO TRUCK - DAY

WE SEE A FOOD TRUCK WITH TACOS DEL SEOUL: KOREAN TACOS PAINTED ON THE SIDE. ADAM WORKS INSIDE THE TRUCK WITH HIS PARTNER, MAGNUS (32, THE KOREAN AZIZ ANSARI). CUSTOMERS ARE OUTSIDE EATING.

ADAM

Yes. Exactly like a dog.

MAGNUS

And you just grabbed the bag. With your bare hands.

ADAM

Versus wiping his butt? Yes. That's the choice I made. It's not like I wanted him to drop a hot one on the lawn so I could carry the bag around like a souvenir, trying to figure out where the dumpster was. I don't know, maybe there's something wrong with the kid.

FEMALE CUSTOMER

I wouldn't sweat it. Sounds like he's potty-training. It happens. I raised three boys, they're a little slower than girls. He'll be fine.

THE FEMALE CUSTOMER GRABS HER TACOS AND CROSSES OFF.

MAGNUS

Yeah and if he's not, you can hit him with a newspaper or rub his nose in it.

ADAM

I'm glad you think this is so funny.

MAGNUS

Funny? I don't think this is funny. This sucks. I miss having my wingman. I miss hitting up the bars and trolling for poon.

(MORE)

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

I miss striking out and ending up doing shots of tequila while playing fake-field-goals-only Madden. But what I miss most is not having to talk to you about your girlfriend and raising her kids like a sucker.

ADAM

You could be happy for me. You could be happy that I'm with someone who makes me happy.

MAGNUS

Boring.

ADAM

Come on, you know I've always wanted a wife and kids. It's just I thought I'd get married first, then have kids.

MAGNUS

Whatever, enjoy your stupid Benjamin Button relationship.

ADAM

What does that even mean?

MAGNUS

If you don't get it, I don't have time to explain it.

(MORE)

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

Are you coming over to Charlie's later for the beer pong tournament? Or do you have to do like a science fair project about a potato or something?

ADAM

You sound like an idiot. Everyone knows science fairs are in the spring. I can't come to Charlie's because I have to go to Emily's school play. Which should be only super-weird since I get to meet Michelle's ex-mother-in-law and her lover for the first time.

MAGNUS

You have the worst life out of anyone I know. And what about our kimchi bet? You're not even halfway through the jar.

MAGNUS POINTS TO A 32 OZ. JAR OF KIMCHI.

ADAM

Sorry. I'm not eating that, then sitting in an auditorium for an hour. It's disrespectful. For everybody.

MAGNUS

I can't believe you're pussing out. It's a five dollar bet! You never would've done this before you had fake kids. Unbelievable.

ADAM THINKS ABOUT THIS FOR A BEAT, THEN:

ADAM

You're right. Thanks for keeping me
in check.

MAGNUS HANDS HIM HIS FORK AND ADAM DIGS IN.

INT. AUDITORIUM LOBBY - LATER

ADAM, MICHELLE AND BRYCE (3, A BALL OF TERROR) WALK
OUT OF THE AUDITORIUM. MICHELLE DIGS IN HER PURSE.

ADAM

(TO BRYCE) Did you eat your toy truck?

BRYCE

I don't know.

ADAM

You don't know if you ate a truck?

MICHELLE PULLS THE TOY TRUCK OUT OF HER PURSE.

MICHELLE

(RELIEVED) Found it.

BRYCE GRABS THE TRUCK AND IMMEDIATELY PUTS IT IN
HIS MOUTH.

ADAM

Great. Now he's gonna eat it.

MICHELLE

As long as he's not sweating kimchi,
I'm okay with it.

ADAM

I just gotta get it out of my system.
You can't turn down a five dollar bet.
It's like a rule.

DAVE (38, MORE JAY HARRINGTON THAN JAY HARRINGTON), HIS MOTHER LAURA (65, JANE CURTIN) AND HER LOVER LES (60, STEPHEN TOBOLOWSKY) WALK UP. THEY SAY HI.

DAVE

(TO ADAM) Hey, Champ!

DAVE GRABS ADAM'S HAND AND PULLS HIM IN FOR A HUG.

DAVE (CONT'D)

(SOTTO) FYI, I call every dude who's banging my ex-wife "champ."

ADAM

That's cool because I bro-hug every dude whose ex-wife I'm banging. Or whatever.

LAURA

Adam, it's so good to finally meet you! Les and I wanted to ask if you guys wanted to come over with the kids tomorrow night for dinner.

ADAM

Yeah, that'd be great.

MICHELLE SHOOTS HIM A LOOK, WTF? EMILY WALKS UP, DRESSED IN A T-SHIRT THAT READS "ROSA PARKS."

MICHELLE

Sweetie, you were amazing!

EVERYONE AD-LIBS "CONGRATULATIONS."

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

It was awesome how you didn't let those dinosaurs make you sit in the back of the bus.

ADAM

Yeah, but maybe next year the third-graders shouldn't write the play.

AS DAVE, LAURA AND LES CONTINUE TO TALK TO EMILY, MICHELLE PULLS ADAM TO THE SIDE.

MICHELLE

Why did you say yes to dinner with Laura and Les?

ADAM

You seem mad.

MICHELLE

I'm not mad. It's just I know I didn't prep you for this, but when Laura asks us to dinner, tell her you have a meeting. You have an event. You're on a committee. You're hypoglycemic. Whatever you do, you don't say yes.

ADAM

So basically just don't be honest with them.

MICHELLE

Yes! Exactly! You have to trust me. I've been dealing with those nutjobs for ten years and that's the only way to survive. Oh God, you have so much to learn about everything. Do you even know the seven signs of Autism?

ADAM

Man. Women's brains are like:

"Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa..."

MICHELLE

I don't have time for this.

DAVE WALKS UP.

DAVE

You guys are going to have so much fun
at this dinner. (TO ADAM) And hey,
don't sit in my seat at the table.
Just kidding, you're already banging
my ex-wife. What do I care?

MICHELLE

This is exactly why I divorced you.

DAVE

But it's also exactly why you married
me.

MICHELLE

But now I'm with a normal human being.
Les, can you take a picture of me,
Adam and the kids? We don't have one
of us all together. (POINTED AT DAVE)
Like a family.

MICHELLE WRANGLES EMILY AND BRYCE AS ADAM SMILES
AND MAKES THE BEST OF IT. BEFORE LES CAN TAKE THE
PICTURE:

EMILY

I'm not being in this stupid picture
with that guy.

ADAM

Me?

EMILY

Yeah. You.

EMILY PULLS AWAY FROM MICHELLE AND CROSSES HER ARMS.

MICHELLE

Just get in the picture. It's a family
picture.

MICHELLE GRABS EMILY, PULLING HER INTO THE PICTURE.

EMILY

(CRYING) He's not my family...

THIS IS AWKWARD. ESPECIALLY FOR ADAM.

ADAM

Not trying to be your family. Just
trying to be your buddy.

EMILY CRIES EVEN MORE.

MICHELLE

Sorry this sucks. Maybe you should've
just gone to that beer pong tournament.

ADAM

Nah. Those things are always lame.

INT. CHARLIE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

MAGNUS SINKS A PING PONG BALL IN THE OTHER TEAM'S
CUP AND THROWS HIS ARMS UP IN VICTORY. A HOT BLONDE
KISSES HIM FULL ON THE LIPS. THEN A HOT BRUNETTE
KISSES HIM. AROUND HIM IS THE BEST PARTY EVER.

MAGNUS

This is the best party ever!

EXT. ADAM'S APARTMENT BUILDING - THAT NIGHT

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF A NOT-SO-GREAT APARTMENT BUILDING.

INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

MICHELLE EATS ICE CREAM ON THE COUCH AS ADAM WALKS OUT OF THE BATHROOM, HOLDING A WET TOWEL.

ADAM

What's going on with this? Why do you just throw your wet towel on the floor every time? My apartment isn't a hotel.

MICHELLE

Look, I pick up after everyone at my house, so when I stay over here, it is hotel.

ADAM

Fine. The rate is a thousand dollars a night.

MICHELLE

Totally worth it.

MICHELLE GIVES ADAM A KISS.

ADAM

Why do you think Emily hates me?

MICHELLE

I don't think she hates you. Things got a little more real today when she saw all of us together. And I shouldn't have used the F-word.

ADAM

You said fu--

MICHELLE

Family. Don't worry about it. I'm sure she'll be fine.

ADAM

Yeah, but what if she isn't fine? What if she turns sixteen and takes a baseball bat to my convertible?

MICHELLE

I think you're catastrophizing. And you don't even own a convertible.

ADAM

But I will. A red one. With keyless entry. Anyway, I just need to bond with Emily. Like me and Bryce are cool because we have this natural bond.

INT. PUBLIC RESTROOM - YESTERDAY

ADAM AND BRYCE STAND AT URINALS, URINATING.

BRYCE

We both got balls.

ADAM

(NOT SURE HOW TO ANSWER) Yep.

INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - BACK TO SCENE

MICHELLE

Men can pretty much bond over anything. Sometimes I'm jealous. Of the bonding, not the balls.

ADAM

But what I'm saying is what if I can't bond with Emily? This is new territory for me. I'm used to things more along the lines of does her cat hate me? Or, is her rottweiler going to eat my shoes because we're having sex? (THEN, TO CLARIFY) Me and its owner, not me and the dog. You know what I'm saying. I'm gonna call her.

MICHELLE

You're crazy. Look, I know you're new to all of this and want to change the world in two seconds, but I've been doing this for a while. You need to just leave Emily alone. She'll get over it. Just like she got over hating SpongeBob. SpongeBob didn't have to call her on the phone. Eventually she just got used to him and Bryce could watch the show without her screaming until she passed out.

ADAM

Okay. I know I'm a rookie, but maybe I have some good ideas, too. It's kinda like I'm Kobe and you're Shaq.

MICHELLE

I'm Shaq?

ADAM

Yeah, you're like the grizzled veteran--

MICHELLE

I'm grizzled?

ADAM

Just go with me on this. Shaq's a great basketball player and all, but he needed Kobe as a teammate to finally win a championship.

MICHELLE

What? Everyone knows Shaq didn't need Kobe. Kobe needed Shaq.

ADAM

No.

MICHELLE

Yes.

ADAM

Look, we could argue this forever. The point is when they played together and got along, they won three championships. When they argued and fought, zero championships.

MICHELLE

So you should stop arguing with me and just do what I say. Leave the Emily thing alone.

ADAM

Whatever. I'm calling her. (LOOKS AT HIS PHONE, THEN) Actually, this is a good example of a chance for us to play together because I don't know her cell number.

MICHELLE

(GRABBING PHONE) Fine. Have it your way.

MICHELLE DIALS THE NUMBER AND CLICKS IT ON SPEAKER PHONE. IT RINGS, THEN:

EMILY (O.S.)

Hello?

MICHELLE

Hey sweetie, it's Mommy and Adam on speaker.

ADAM

Heyyy, buddy.

EMILY (O.S.)

I hate you!

THEY HEAR A CLICK. THERE'S A LONG BEAT OF SILENCE, THEN:

MICHELLE

Yeah... (BEAT) You wanna do shots of tequila until we pass out?

ADAM

I wanna try.

AS THEY EXIT TO THE KITCHEN...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT./EXT. TACO TRUCK - THE NEXT DAY

ADAM AND MAGNUS SERVE CUSTOMERS.

MAGNUS

Man. A woman who understands the Shaq-Kobe dynamic and does shots of tequila. I may have been wrong about Michelle. Does she still have two kids?

ADAM

Yes.

MAGNUS

Forget it. Not worth it.

ADAM

I know Michelle just wants me to ride this whole thing out, but I can't. I feel like Emily is testing me. It's like she can't say she likes me because it's scary. Like I'm replacing her dad or something. So instead she says she hates me and now I have to decode the whole thing and figure out what's going to finally make her say she likes me.

MAGNUS

She's eight. How complicated can this really be? Just buy her some candy. Or a pony.

A REGULAR CUSTOMER, AMANDA, 30S, CHIMES IN.

AMANDA

Don't buy her anything. That's a temporary fix. You need to bond with her.

MAGNUS

How does a grown man bond with an eight-year-old girl and not get arrested?

ADAM

Well, a pedophilia joke isn't helping.

MAGNUS

You don't know. Maybe Emily likes pedophile jokes. Maybe that's the way to her heart.

ADAM

You're an idiot.

MAGNUS

Whatever. I'd rather be a hilarious idiot than you.

AMANDA

I'm saying you should do an activity together. Figure out what she likes to do and do it with her. Like my daughter is into chess, so my husband and I play chess with her every night.

MAGNUS

(UNDER HIS BREATH) Par-tay.

ADAM

Easy. Amanda's a regular.

MAGNUS

A regular who doesn't tip.

AMANDA SHEEPISHLY REACHES INTO HER PURSE AND PUTS \$10 IN THE TIP JAR. SHE SLINKS OFF.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

I feel like I won that battle.

INT. MICHELLE'S KITCHEN - LATER

MICHELLE AND LIZ DRINK RED WINE LIKE IN A NANCY MEYERS MOVIE.

LIZ

So, I found out my gay ex-boyfriend is straight again, Emily hates Adam, what else is going on?

MICHELLE

That's pretty much it. Oh and I joined a new gym, so I belong to three now.

LIZ

You know you can just break up with gym, right? They don't have feelings.

MICHELLE

I know. But I hate confrontation. Which is why there's still a locker full of my workout clothes at Bally's.

LIZ

I can't believe Adam said yes to dinner over at Laura's. Does she still get her picture taken with Santa every year?

MICHELLE

Yep. I just hope she mellows out
someday.

LIZ

Do you know any old person who's gotten
less crazy? My mother just bought a
TV for her dog.

INT. KITCHEN CORNER - FLASHBACK

A TEACUP YORKIE WITH BOWS IN HER HAIR EATS FROM A
DOG BOWL AND WATCHES A TINY 10" LCD TV ON THE GROUND
IN FRONT OF HER.

INT. MICHELLE'S LIVING ROOM - BACK TO SCENE

MICHELLE

What does the dog even watch?

LIZ

Cooking shows.

ADAM ENTERS, CARRYING A BLUE HULA HOOP.

ADAM

Hey, ladies.

HE KISSES MICHELLE ON THE FOREHEAD.

MICHELLE

What's with the hula hoop?

ADAM

Well, I know Emily likes to hula hoop,
so I'm going to hula hoop with her.
It's going to be bonding time.

MICHELLE

So you're not going to just ride it out? Even after the phone call?

ADAM

Nope. Sometimes the rookie has to motivate the veteran and shake things up a little bit. Figuratively and literally with this hula hoop.

LIZ

I've always told Michelle you've got girlish hips.

ADAM

Did you just lick the inside of that queso jar?

LIZ

Don't worry about what I did.

LIZ PUTS DOWN THE QUESO JAR. THE PHONE RINGS.
ADAM ANSWERS.

ADAM

(INTO PHONE) Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. LAURA & LES'S DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

LAURA WORKS OUT WITH A SHAKE WEIGHT AS SHE TALKS ON THE PHONE.

LAURA

Hi, it's Laura. How are you feeling?

ADAM

Feeling great. Beautiful day. Just bought a hula hoop. Life's good.

MICHELLE STARTS SIGNALING TO ADAM LIKE A MAD WOMAN.

LAURA

Great. Then we're back on for dinner tonight.

ADAM

(UNSURE) Yes. We're back on for dinner tonight.

MICHELLE LOOKS AT ADAM LIKE HE JUST PUNCHED HER.

LAURA

Food poisoning can sometimes take days to get over. I'm glad you're already better. So I'll see you guys tonight?

ADAM

Yep. Tonight. Bye, Laura.

ADAM HANGS UP. MICHELLE JUST STARES AT HIM.

ADAM (CONT'D)

You seem mad.

MICHELLE

Yeah.

ADAM

Because you told Laura I had food poisoning so we wouldn't have to go over there for dinner tonight.

MICHELLE

Yeah.

ADAM

Well, you should've told me.
(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

How am I supposed to learn if you never
tell me anything? (OFF HER LOOK) You
did tell me.

MICHELLE

Yeah.

INT. MICHELLE'S LIVING ROOM - LAST NIGHT

ADAM PLAYS XBOX WITH HEADPHONES ON. MICHELLE COMES
IN AND STARTS TALKING TO ADAM, WHO SEES HER, BUT
THEN LOOKS BACK TO HIS GAME. HE CAN'T HEAR HER AND
WE CAN'T EITHER. ALL WE CAN HEAR IS EXPLOSIONS,
GUNFIRE AND ANOTHER PLAYER ONLINE:

PLAYER (O.S.)

We need to take the tower where the
sniper rifle spawns so these twelve-
year-old jerks stop smoking our asses.

ADAM

Copy that.

MICHELLE THINKS HE'S TALKING TO HER AND CROSSES
OFF, PLEASED.

INT. MICHELLE'S KITCHEN - BACK TO SCENE

ADAM

Sorry my busy isn't as important as
your busy.

MICHELLE

And what's my busy?

ADAM

Coming up with crazy-ass plans.

MICHELLE

Me? You're the one holding a hula hoop.

ADAM

Why is that crazy?

MICHELLE

Because boys suck at hula hooping. Everyone knows that. It's for girls.

ADAM

Which is why when I'm great at it, Emily will think I'm the most awesome dude.

ADAM CROSSES OFF.

MICHELLE

(CALLING AFTER) Or the most girly dude.

EXT. MICHELLE'S HOUSE - LATER

MICHELLE WATCHES FROM THE WINDOW AS ADAM, HOLDING HIS HULA HOOP, WALKS UP TO EMILY, WHO STOPS HULA HOOPING.

ADAM

Hey.

EMILY

Why do you have that?

ADAM

I thought we could do this together. Just the two of us. Hanging out. Hula hooping our hearts out.

LONG BEAT AS EMILY SIZES HIM UP. ADAM GIVES THE HULA HOOP A SPIN AROUND HIS WAIST AND TRIES TO WORK HIS HIPS. THE HOOP DROPS STRAIGHT DOWN HIS BODY.

EMILY

You didn't even try.

ADAM

Well, I'm new. There's a learning curve.

HE TRIES AGAIN AND FAILS. MICHELLE SHAKES HER HEAD.

EMILY

Move your hips. Like this.

SHE DEMONSTRATES AND KEEPS IT GOING FOR THE REST OF THE SCENE.

ADAM

Got it.

ADAM TRIES AND FAILS OVER AND OVER DURING THE FOLLOWING:

EMILY

Move your hips!

ADAM

I am moving my hips!

EMILY

No, you're not!

ADAM

I am!

EMILY

Be serious. Do it like me!

ADAM

I'm trying!

ADAM FINALLY GETS THE HANG OF IT.

EMILY

You're doing it!

ADAM

I'm doing it! We're doing it!

Together!

ADAM LOOKS TO MICHELLE, WHO SMILES. THEY GIVE EACH OTHER THUMBS UP.

SUDDENLY, AND MOSTLY BECAUSE OF THE HEIGHT DIFFERENCE, ADAM'S HULA HOOP CRACKS EMILY'S HEAD.

BOTH HOOPS DROP TO THE GROUND AND THERE'S A BEAT OF SILENCE AS ADAM WAITS TO SEE IF SHE'S OKAY. THEN:

EMILY

(CRYING A LA NANCY KERRIGAN) Why?!

Why?! Why?!

SMASH TO:

INT. LAURA & LES'S DINING ROOM - LATER

ADAM, MICHELLE, EMILY AND BRYCE SIT AT THE DINING ROOM TABLE WITH LAURA AND LES. EMILY HAS A BANDAGE ON THE CORNER OF HER RIGHT EYE. SHE LOOKS PISSED.

LAURA

(TO EMILY) You know, stitches aren't that big of a deal. I had eight of them when I had your daddy.

MICHELLE

Okay, Laura. That's good.

ADAM

Emily won't accept my apology because she says I did it on purpose.

EMILY

You did. And I'm not blinking either because I'm afraid you might throw a yo-yo at my face or blast me with a hockey stick.

LAURA

So, anyway, it's great to have you guys over for dinner.

LES

And not only that, it's great to have you in our family now, Adam.

ADAM

It's great to be here.

LAURA

You're nothing like Dave, which is a nice change of pace for us. It's not like you get to pick your kids, right?

ADAM

Sure.

LES

But I guess now we do. And we pick you two!

AWKWARD BEAT. WE HEAR A DING FROM THE KITCHEN.

LAURA

Yay! Fondue time. Get ready!

LES

Oh, I can't believe we forgot to tell you guys. We picked up guest kimonos on our trip to Japan, so after-dinner tea will be breathtaking.

ADAM

Well, domo arrigato obviously.

LAURA AND LES HEAD BACK INTO THE KITCHEN TO GRAB THE FONDUE.

MICHELLE

Seriously. Fondue for kids? It's basically hot molten cheese, open flames and tiny swords.

BRYCE

I like swords.

ADAM

Who cares about that?! (SOTTO TO MICHELLE) Fucking kimonos.

MICHELLE

You can't complain. We're here because of you. Just shut up and let me think of one of my crazy-ass plans to get us out of this.

EMILY

Adam, remember when you split open my head with your hula hoop? I do.

ADAM

I'm gonna make it up to you. Do you want a pony? I'll buy you a pony.

EMILY

I'm not a baby.

ADAM

Ponies are for babies?

MICHELLE

Give me Bryce's napkin ring.

ADAM DOES. MICHELLE TUCKS IT INTO HER PURSE.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

(VERY LOUDLY) Bryce, did you eat your
napkin ring?!

BRYCE LOOKS CONFUSED. BUT TO BE FAIR, HE ALWAYS
LOOKS CONFUSED.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Oh my gosh! Bryce!

SHE GRABS BRYCE AND MOTIONS FOR ADAM TO COME WITH
HER. LAURA RUSHES IN.

LAURA

What happened? (NOTICING EMILY) What
are you doing?

EMILY

Trying to put this silverfish in Adam's
water.

INT. LAURA & LES'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

ADAM, MICHELLE AND BRYCE ENTER THE BATHROOM AND
SHUT THE DOOR.

BRYCE

I didn't eat my napkin ring.

ADAM

What exactly are we doing?

MICHELLE

Look, rookie, having kids means always having an excuse to leave. Now we just say Bryce threw up the napkin ring.

BRYCE

I didn't throw up.

ADAM

I don't know what I'm going to do about Emily. Somehow busting her head open made things worse.

MICHELLE

There's no time for talking about that right now. Make vomiting noises.

ADAM

For real?

MICHELLE

Do you want to wear a kimono?

ADAM STARTS MAKING VOMITING SOUNDS. REALLY CONVINCINGLY. THERE'S A KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

LAURA (O.S.)

Is everyone okay?

MICHELLE

I think Bryce is sick.

ADAM FAKES ONE LAST HEAVE. BRYCE CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE AND THROWS UP INTO THE SINK FOR REAL.

ADAM

(NOTICING) Is that a pair of Barbie shoes?

MICHELLE

No, they're Cinderella's slippers.

BRYCE

I ate them for lunch.

ADAM

Oh my God.

MICHELLE

What?

ADAM

I know how to bond with Emily.

EXT. DISNEYLAND - THE NEXT DAY

ADAM, MICHELLE AND THE KIDS ARE AT THE ENTRANCE.

ADAM

Behold Disneyland!

EMILY/BRYCE

Yay!

ADAM

The answer was so obvious: little girls
love Disneyland. Right, Emily? High-
five.

EMILY GIVES HIM A WEAK HIGH-FIVE WHERE GRAVITY DOES
MOST OF THE WORK.

MICHELLE

I just don't think this is a good
idea...

ADAM

We're doing this. You can wait in the car. Do you want to wait in the car?

(BEAT) I didn't think so. Let's do this!

BEGIN DISNEYLAND MONTAGE

AND THUS WE BEGIN OUR MONTAGE OF ADAM AND EMILY RIDING EVERY RIDE IN THE PARK. WE WON'T HEAR ANY DIALOGUE, INSTEAD HEARING AN UPDATED PUNK VERSION OF "IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL."

--ADAM, MICHELLE, EMILY AND BRYCE RIDE THE MAD TEA PARTY, SPINNING AROUND AND AROUND. THE RIDE FINISHES. EMILY GIVES ADAM A VERY DEAD FISH HIGH-FIVE. BRYCE SCREAMS "AGAIN" AS MICHELLE LOOKS NAUSEOUS.

--ADAM AND EMILY RIDE THE FLYING DUMBOS. ADAM PUTS HIS ARM ACROSS HER FOR EXTRA SAFETY. A LITTLE BIT BETTER HIGH-FIVE.

--ADAM AND EMILY WALK OUT OF THE HAUNTED MANSION AND SHARE A A NICE SUBSTANTIAL HIGH-FIVE. EMILY'S WARMING UP.

--MICHELLE AND BRYCE FINISH THE MAD TEA PARTY RIDE AGAIN. MICHELLE: "ANOTHER RIDE, MAYBE?" BRYCE: "NO. AGAIN!"

--ADAM AND EMILY BOTH EXIT THEIR RESPECTIVE BATHROOMS AND HIGH-FIVE. THIS IS AWESOME.

--ADAM AND EMILY RIDE SPACE MOUNTAIN. AFTERWARDS, A BIG-TIME HIGH-FIVE. ADAM IS FEELING PRETTY GOOD.

--ADAM AND EMILY RIDE THE SLOW STORYBOOK LAND CANAL BOAT RIDE. THEY BOTH LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND GIVE AN "EH" GESTURE.

--ADAM AND EMILY RIDE SPLASH MOUNTAIN AND GET TOTALLY SOAKED. THEY GIVE EACH OTHER A SUPER-WET HIGH-FIVE (WHICH LOOKS AWESOME BECAUSE WE SLO-MO IT AND WATER SPLATTERS EVERYWHERE!).

--MICHELLE AND BRYCE FINISH THE MAD TEA PARTY RIDE AGAIN. BRYCE SAYS "AGAIN" AS MICHELLE HOLDS HER FINGER UP, "ONE SECOND," AND RUNS OFF-SCREEN.

(EVERYONE KNOWS SHE THROWS UP HERE, BUT WE DON'T SHOW IT BECAUSE SHE'S A LADY.)

--COMPLETELY SOAKED, ADAM AND EMILY GET THEIR PICTURES TAKEN WITH THE PRINCESSES! BOOM! HARDEST HIGH-FIVE EVER!

END MONTAGE

EXT. DISNEYLAND PARKING LOT/INT. ADAM'S CAR - LATER

ADAM, MICHELLE AND THE KIDS GET IN, SWEATY, WET AND EXHAUSTED.

ADAM

That.

EMILY

Was.

ADAM/EMILY

Awesome.

THEY HIGH-FIVE.

MICHELLE

You guys are so cute!

EMILY

Mommy, guess what? Adam and I fell in love because we high-fived so much.

ADAM DOES A SMALL FIST-PUMP, VICTORIOUS.

MICHELLE

Aw, that's nice. I'm glad you like my boyfriend now.

EMILY

No, Mom. Me and Adam are getting married. Like for real married.

ADAM

(PLAYFUL) That's very sweet, but you're a little too young for me, don't you think?

EMILY

(DEAD SERIOUS) We're not getting married now. We're going to wait until I turn twenty-one.

ADAM LOOKS AT MICHELLE, A LITTLE HELP HERE?

MICHELLE

But honey-pie, what about me? Adam is my boyfriend. What am I supposed to do if you guys get married?

EMILY

Find someone else. You found someone after Daddy left.

ADAM

(RESIGNED) She makes a lot of good points.

MICHELLE

Yes. Which is why I said you should've--

ADAM

I got it.

AS ADAM STARTS THE CAR...

BRYCE

You guys are getting married.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT./EXT. TACO TRUCK - A FEW DAYS LATER

ADAM AND MAGNUS CLEAN UP THE TRUCK IN A RARE MOMENT WITH NO LINE. MICHELLE AND LIZ SIT AT A TABLE.

ADAM

Disneyland was a total disaster. Worst place on Earth. I'm just too awesome at bonding. You know, I take Emily out and show her a good time and now she wants to marry me.

MICHELLE

I can relate to that.

MICHELLE SMILES AT ADAM, WHO SMILES BACK.

MAGNUS

Gross.

LIZ

I think it's cute that Emily wants to marry you.

ADAM

That's great because I think it's creepy.

MAGNUS

Seconded.

MICHELLE

You know what? It wouldn't be creepy if you would just stop acting like Kobe and jacking up airballs, feed it to me, Shaq, in the post and let me dunk it home.

ADAM

Your version of dunking it home is just doing nothing.

MICHELLE

Right. You spent all yesterday trying to talk her out of the whole marriage thing and how'd that go?

MAGNUS

Yeah, how'd it go?

ADAM

Who's side are you on?

MAGNUS

Whoever's winning. How'd it go?

ADAM

Good. It went great. Awesome.

INT. MICHELLE'S DINING ROOM - YESTERDAY

ADAM, MICHELLE, EMILY AND BRYCE EAT BREAKFAST.

EMILY

Adam, I'm so glad we're getting married.

ADAM

Yeah, about that. Isn't Joseph from next door your boyfriend?

EMILY

Thanks for reminding me.

EMILY QUICKLY TEXTS ON HER CELL PHONE.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Not anymore.

ADAM

Wait. What did you just do?

WE HEAR A DING.

EMILY

(RE: CELL PHONE) Whoa. He's really mad. He wants to fight you. (THEN, DREAMILY) Adam, we're gonna have so many babies. Like a million. Love you!

EMILY KISSES ADAM ON THE CHEEK AND EXITS. BEAT, THEN:

MICHELLE

Don't worry. Emily has like no tolerance for pain. I bet she quits after a thousand.

ADAM HAS ALREADY LEFT THE ROOM.

INT./EXT. TACO TRUCK - BACK TO SCENE

MAGNUS

So wait. Did her ex-boyfriend kick your ass or what?

ADAM

No, he's grounded so I've got a week to prepare.

AN OLDER MALE CUSTOMER IS AT THE COUNTER, EAVESDROPPING.

OLDER MALE CUSTOMER

You know, it's very common for little girls to want to marry their fathers. It's actually nice and quite normal in forming the father-daughter bond.

ADAM

That's great, but she's my girlfriend's daughter, not mine.

OLDER MALE CUSTOMER

Oh. Then that is awkward. Well, don't sweat it. It'll pass.

THE CUSTOMER GRABS HIS TACOS AND CROSSES OFF.

MAGNUS

Screw that. You gotta dump her, dude. Give her the cold shoulder. Don't call her, text her or email her. Eventually she'll just assume you're not in a relationship anymore. You've done it to a million girls.

LIZ

(TO MICHELLE) That's something to look forward to.

ADAM

No, I think that old guy was right.
Emily's probably just trying to figure
out her relationship with me. It'll pass.

MICHELLE

So you're going to listen to that guy
but you wouldn't listen to me?

MAGNUS

To be fair, Adam's known Richard for a
lot longer than you.

INT. ADAM'S CAR/EXT. LAURA & LES'S HOUSE - THE NEXT
DAY

ADAM DRIVES AS MICHELLE SITS THERE QUIETLY.

ADAM

What?

MICHELLE

Nothing.

ADAM

I know you wouldn't have taken Wilshire.
I don't care. This whole thing is
stupid. Why are we meeting Dave at
his mother's house to get your kids?

MICHELLE

His mom's is halfway between, it's
fine. I do things like this, then he
owes me a favor. It works.

ADAM

Like pretending to like Laura and Les works.

MICHELLE

Yes.

ADAM

This is why you belong to two different gyms.

MICHELLE

It's three now. Look, you know I hate confrontation and they're the only grandparents in town. I need to be on good terms with them so I can get them to babysit for free, pick the kids up from school and buy them weird clothes that may be age inappropriate.

ADAM

Yeah, that tube top she bought Emily was a bad scene.

THEY PULL UP IN FRONT OF LAURA AND LES'S HOUSE.
MICHELLE'S CELL PHONE RINGS.

MICHELLE

(INTO PHONE) Hello? Uh-huh. Okay.
Yep. Yep. (HANGS UP) Dave still has the kids and is running an hour late.
We'll just go grab a coffee or something.

ADAM

Um, yeah. I don't know about that.

ADAM MOTIONS TO LAURA AND LES STANDING ON THEIR PORCH, WAVING.

INT. LAURA & LES'S DINING ROOM - AN HOUR LATER

ADAM, MICHELLE, LAURA AND LES SIT AT THE TABLE, ENJOYING AN ELABORATE JAPANESE TEA CEREMONY AND EATING HOMEMADE SUSHI. THEY'RE ALL WEARING KIMONOS. FUCKING KIMONOS.

LAURA

And I was just telling Les how much the kids look like Adam. It's uncanny.

LES

That was my word, "uncanny."

LAURA

It's like you could be their father.

ADAM

If I had a time machine and some tequila.

LAURA

You're so funny. Dave's not funny.

WE HEAR A DOOR OPEN.

DAVE (O.S.)

(SING-SONGY) They're baaaaack.

LES

See? Poltergeist reference. Not funny.

EMILY RUNS IN AND JUMPS UP ON ADAM'S LAP.

EMILY

Adam! My husband-to-be!

ADAM

Awesome. Missed you, too.

ADAM HUGS HER AWKWARDLY. DAVE AND BRYCE ENTER.

DAVE

I hear you're marrying my daughter,
Champ. (TO MICHELLE) So I guess that
means you're back on the market...

MICHELLE

Yes, Dave. All of this is really
happening.

DAVE

Don't forget the magazine I bought
you, Em.

DAVE HANDS HER A COPY OF MODERN BRIDE.

EMILY

Adam, I have so much to show you. I
already picked out the flowers, but I
need your help with the cake.

LAURA

How cute! You know, we went to a
wedding last month and they had spice
cake. It was delicious.

LES

I always like it when they do different
types of cake on each tier, so everyone
gets what they want.

DAVE

That's a cool idea.

MICHELLE

I don't know about the spice cake.

Kids don't like spice cake.

LAURA

Oh. Are kids going to be invited to
the wedding?

ADAM LOOKS ON AS THIS ALL GOES OFF THE RAILS:

LES

Yes and have you thought about what
time of year you want to get married?

MICHELLE

Well, if it's a winter wedding, you
can wear darker colors. Like purple.

DAVE

We're definitely having an open bar.

ADAM

(SNAPS) What are you guys doing?!
What are you talking about? This isn't
really happening. This is never going
to happen.

EMILY

What?

ADAM

Emily, this is crazy. We're not getting
married.

EMILY

You mean we're not getting married
right now, but we are getting married
when I turn twenty-one.

ADAM

No, sweetie, I'm sorry. I gotta dump
you.

EMILY

Dump me? I've never been dumped before.
I don't want to be dumped.

ADAM

I'm sorry, but we're not getting
married. Look, I'm trying to figure
all this out just like you are and
it's confusing. I don't know how to
be a father to kids who aren't mine.
I don't know how to deal with an ex-
husband. Not to mention an ex-mother-
in-law and her boyfriend--

LES

Lover.

ADAM

Her lover. And it's a lot.

EMILY

But I love you.

ADAM

And I love you, too. But as a daughter.
Or a buddy or whatever. The truth is
I can't marry you because I want to
marry your mother.

MICHELLE

You do?

ADAM

Of course I do. Why do you think I
put up with all this? Look, together
we can win a million championships.
But apart... who knows?

MICHELLE

Really?

ADAM

Of course. Why do you think I looked
up the seven signs of Autism?

MICHELLE

That is so sweet.

AS MICHELLE GOES TO HUG ADAM:

EMILY

(TO ADAM) I hate you! Why are you so
mean to me?! Why are you ruining my
life?!

EMILY RUNS OVER AND BURIES HER HEAD IN DAVE'S CHEST.

LES

(TALKING OVER EMILY) So I guess that means you guys are engaged!

LAURA

We're so happy for you! Let's open a bottle of sake so we can all kanpai!

LES

That's Japanese for cheers.

LAURA AND LES EXIT TO THE KITCHEN.

DAVE

(CONSOLING EMILY) I'm sorry he hurt you, sweetie. This just reinforces what I always tell you: I'm the only man you can trust. The only man in the world.

MICHELLE

Oh my God. Really, Dave? You know what? Next time just drop the kids at my place. Now we're stuck here for who knows how long dressed up like Japanese whores.

ADAM LOOKS AT MICHELLE, MORE HELPLESS THAN HE'S EVER SEEN HER BEFORE.

ADAM

(THINKS, THEN) Bryce! Don't eat that ball of wasabi!

ADAM SHOVES THE ENTIRE BALL OF WASABI INTO HIS MOUTH.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Bryce! He ate it. I can't believe he
ate it. We gotta go! Talk to you
guys later!

MICHELLE SMILES AT ADAM, HER HERO. HE SMILES BACK,
THEN GRABS BRYCE. MICHELLE GRABS EMILY AND THEY
HEAD OUT.

MICHELLE

(TO ADAM) That was awesome, but why
didn't you just put it in your pocket?

ADAM

I thought about doing that, but these
are my good pants.

AFTER THEY'RE GONE:

DAVE

(CALLING OFF) Mom, was Adam wearing
my kimono?

INT. MICHELLE'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

ADAM AND MICHELLE SIT ON THE COUCH. WE CAN HEAR
EMILY CRYING FROM THE OTHER ROOM.

ADAM

So I guess we all learned a valuable
lesson today.

MICHELLE

That you want to marry me because I
know best and you should just listen
to me because it will save everyone a
lot of pain and agony?

ADAM

No. I was going to say that a lifetime of five dollar bets to eat ridiculous things pays off. Not so much as a burp after eating enough wasabi to kill a squirrel.

MICHELLE

Well, it's not all roses. Your sweat's starting to burn my nose.

ADAM

The body finds a way to cope.

MICHELLE

(SNUGGLING UP TO HIM) Are you finally willing to admit that Kobe needed Shaq more than Shaq needed Kobe?

ADAM

No.

MICHELLE SHOOTS HIM A LOOK.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Because... if Kobe only listened to Shaq, he never would've gone to Disneyland and never bonded with Emily. And even though it went way wrong, it was totally worth it.

ADAM KISSES MICHELLE. MICHELLE WINCES AND PULLS BACK.

MICHELLE

Your mouth is so spicy. How much longer?

ADAM

I don't know. Usually things work
their way through in about five hours
or so.

MICHELLE

(GETTING UP) Okay. Come to bed in
five hours. Love you.

ADAM

Love you, too.

MICHELLE GIVES HIM ANOTHER KISS, THEN EXITS. AFTER
A BEAT, ADAM SNIFFS HIS ARMPIT. NOT BAD. THEN
LICKS HIS ARM.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. MICHELLE'S LIVING ROOM - A WEEK LATER

ADAM WATCHES TV. FROM OUTSIDE WE HEAR:

BOY (O.S.)

Adam! Adam! Come out here and let me
kick your ass!

EXT. MICHELLE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

ADAM OPENS THE DOOR TO SEE JOSEPH (8) STANDING IN
THE FRONT YARD, DRESSED IN A KARATE GI.

JOSEPH

As of five minutes ago, I'm not
grounded. So let's get it on.

ADAM

Oh, right. Forgot about you, Joseph.
Listen, Emily and I broke up so it's
all good. She's totally yours.

JOSEPH

I don't believe you. Her Facebook
still says "in a relationship."

ADAM

(SIGHS) Go home, Joseph.

JOSEPH STARTS TO PERFORM A COMPLICATED KARATE FORM
(KATA). AFTER A FEW BEATS:

ADAM (CONT'D)

Okay. I'm going inside.

AS ADAM GOES INSIDE AND JOSEPH CONTINUES HIS KATA,
WE KNOW THIS ISN'T THE END OF THEIR BATTLE.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW