

THE UNPROFESSIONAL

"Pilot"

Written by:

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REVISED NETWORK DRAFT

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ACT ONE

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. HILARY'S OFFICE - DAY (D-1)  
(HILARY, RICHARD)

HILARY PFEIFFER-DUNNE, LATE 40'S, ATTRACTIVE, INTENSE, EMOTIONAL, OVERACHIEVER, IS MULTI-TASKING LIKE CRAZY. SHE'S LEADING A CONFERENCE CALL ON SPEAKERPHONE, SHOPPING FOR WINTER BOOTS ON HER COMPUTER AND TEXTING ON HER BLACKBERRY.

HILARY

(INTO SPEAKERPHONE) Wednesday is the day I need it. It's a productivity report. Please show me how productive you all are and get it to me when I ask for it! (NOTICING A COFFEE STAIN ON HER BLOUSE) Damn.

MARK (ON SPEAKERPHONE)

Hilary, we're telling you it's impossible to get it to you by Wednesday.

HILARY WHIPS OFF HER BLOUSE. SHE CONTINUES IN HER BRA.

HILARY

Does everyone agree that I'm asking you for something that can't be done?

WE HEAR SEVERAL VOICES AGREEING "CAN'T BE DONE." RICHARD, HILARY'S ASSISTANT - 30, GAY AND UNFLAPPABLE - ENTERS, SEES THAT SHE'S HALF UNDRESSED AND STARTS TO GO BACK OUT.

HILARY (CONT'D)

(TO RICHARD) Stay!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HE TURNS BACK AROUND. HILARY GRABS A CLEAN BLOUSE, HANGING ON THE BACK OF HER DOOR. SHE WRITES A NOTE ON A POST IT THAT SAYS "SUSHI!". SHE HOLDS IT UP TO RICHARD.

RICHARD

(RE: "SUSHI") Is this my new nickname  
or is this what you want for lunch?

HILARY SMILES AT HIS JOKE AND MIMES EATING WITH CHOPSTICKS.

HILARY

(INTO PHONE) The only way it would  
truly be impossible, Mark, is if today  
were Thursday and I was asking you for  
it yesterday. Which I'm not. Please  
don't use the word "impossible" for  
things that are actually just "not  
easy". Do you have any idea how many  
not easy things I do in a day?

JESSICA (ON SPEAKERPHONE)

We would have to work for the next 48  
hours straight.

HILARY

Look at that, everyone. Jessica has  
figured out how you're going to do it!

EVERYONE PROTESTS AS HILARY CLICKS OFF THE CALL.

RICHARD

(RE: THE HARSH PHONE CALL) Good  
morning, Mean.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HILARY

(SOFTENING) I know. I was up at three again and I couldn't go back to sleep. I started worrying about the fact that my kids eat too much processed food and on Thanksgiving Harper said she was grateful for famous people!

HILARY MOVES TO HER COMPUTER. AS SHE CHECKS HER EMAIL, RICHARD NOTICES THAT SHE'S DANCING AROUND, LIKE SHE CAN'T STAND STILL.

RICHARD

(RE: HILARY'S BOUNCING) Are we having a dance party?

HILARY

When I got to work, I had to decide whether to eat or pee, there wasn't time for both. I ate.

RICHARD

I so wish I hadn't asked. (THEN)  
Scott wants to see you.

HILARY

Of course he does. (NOTICING A POST IT STUCK TO HER COMPUTER) Oh! Please don't let me forget to turn in Dylan's Mt. Diablo permission slip. It's due in three days and I'm going to be in New York for that conference.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RICHARD

It's in your Blackberry. And I set  
two alarms to remind you before you  
go.

HILARY

Bless you. Be right back!

SHE STARTS TO RUN OUT, RICHARD STOPS HER.

RICHARD

(RE: HER UNBUTTONED BLOUSE) Your...

HILARY

Oh. Thanks. (THEN, REMINDED) When  
was my last mammogram?

RICHARD

I draw the line.

HILARY

Sure. I get that.

SHE RUNS OUT, BUTTONING HER BLOUSE AS SHE GOES, AND WE...

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE B

INT. SCOTT'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 1)  
(HILARY, SCOTT)

HILARY ENTERS. SCOTT IS HILARY'S BOSS. HE'S IN HIS 60'S  
AND TOO BUSY TO BE GENTLE.

HILARY

What's up?

SCOTT

Close the door please, Hilary.

SHE DOES. SHE WAITS FOR HIM TO SAY SOMETHING, TRYING TO  
HOLD STILL. FINALLY:

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Hilary, these past two years, you've  
really opened our eyes to the  
redundancies in this company and done  
an almost miraculous job of  
eliminating waste.

HILARY

(STILL BOUNCING) Please don't talk  
about eliminating waste.

SCOTT

Along those lines, we're phasing out  
your department. Your exit package is  
generous and you can count on a  
stellar recommendation.

ON HILARY'S STUNNED FACE, WE...

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE C

INT. HILARY'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 1)  
(HILARY, RICHARD)

HILARY SITS AT HER DESK, IN SHOCK. RICHARD IS WITH HER.

RICHARD

Are you okay?

HILARY

No. I'm not okay. I was fired! I efficiencied myself right out of a job. (THEN) Richard, I'm scared.

RICHARD

You'll land on your feet.

HILARY

No. I'm scared because I don't have to pee anymore. Where did it go?

RICHARD

There's the line again.

HILARY

What am I going to do? Where am I going to get another job?

RICHARD

Maybe you won't.

HILARY

Thanks. That's nice. That's supportive.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RICHARD

You've been working your whole life.  
Griffin's working. Maybe this is your  
chance to do something else.

HILARY

To do what else?

RICHARD

Stay home. You always said if you  
could, you would.

HILARY

I did say that, didn't I? But, that's  
when I thought I couldn't.

RICHARD

Well, now you can.

HILARY

That's right. I can. Should I?

RICHARD

Go home, Hilary. Be with your babies.

HILARY

My babies?

AND WE...

SMASH CUT TO:



ACT ONE

SCENE D

INT. HILARY AND GRIFFIN'S KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - LATER (D-1)  
(HILARY, HARPER, DYLAN, MISSY)

HILARY STANDS AT THE ENTRANCE TO HER LIVING ROOM, LOOKING AT HER "BABIES": HARPER IS HILARY'S DAUGHTER, 15, SELF-CONSCIOUS, OVER-DRAMATIC AND A LITTLE COMPULSIVE. SHE TALKS A LOT WHEN SHE'S NERVOUS, AND ALL OTHER TIMES. DYLAN, HER SON, 16, A SMART ASS - BECAUSE HE'S SMART. THE HOUSE IS UPSCALE AND MODERN, CLEARLY THE HOME OF A SUCCESSFUL COUPLE. THE KIDS ARE PLUGGED INTO VIDEO GAMES, CELL PHONES AND COMPUTERS (ALL AT THE SAME TIME). SHE BREAKS THE NEWS.

HILARY

You guys? I got fired.

SHE EXPECTS A RUSH OF COMFORT. SHE GETS NOTHING. DYLAN BLOWS UP SOMETHING IN HIS GAME AND BLOOD SPLATTER COVERS THE LARGE TV SCREEN (CALL OF DUTY).

MISSY ENTERS FROM THE KITCHEN, CARRYING A LARGE BOWL OF POPCORN. MISSY IS THE 22 YEAR OLD, ADORABLE, BEST NANNY/ASPIRING ACTRESS EVER.

MISSY

You said I should only let them have  
20 minutes of video game and internet  
time on school days so they can grow  
up to be "contributing citizens of the  
planet". If you're trying to talk to  
them, you're probably going to have to  
wait until the timer goes off.

MISSY POINTS TO A KITCHEN TIMER ON THE COFFEE TABLE WITH 15 MINUTES LEFT ON IT, THEN PLOPS ONTO THE COUCH AND PICKS UP A MAGAZINE. HILARY WATCHES, AMAZED, THEN REALIZES SHE DOESN'T HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST TECHNOLOGY. SHE TAKES A SEAT AND WAITS, AND WE...

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SCENE E

INT. HILARY AND GRIFFIN'S KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - 15 MINUTES  
LATER (D-1)  
(HILARY, HARPER, DYLAN, MISSY)

THE KIDS ARE UNPLUGGED AND STARING AT HILARY. MISSY STANDS OUT ON THE PATIO, LOOKING AT THEM THROUGH THE GLASS DOORS.

HARPER

Why is Missy outside? Why are you home? Where's Dad? Did Dylan do something? Am I in trouble? Are you guys getting divorced?

DYLAN

Shut up!

HILARY

I don't like shut up, Dylan.

DYLAN

Can we discuss this twenty minute rule? It's like some arbitrary way you make yourself feel better about your parenting.

HILARY

No.

HARPER

(HEARD IT A THOUSAND TIMES) Is this about being contributing citizens of the planet, because I'm too stressed and obsessed with You Tube to think about recycling right now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HILARY

Why are you stressed?

HARPER

(INTENSE) Because I'm obsessed with  
You Tube!

HILARY

I was fired. (OFF THEIR BLANK STARES)  
Now you say, "Sorry Mom, are you  
okay?"

DYLAN

Sorry Mom are you okay since it's such  
a sad day can we have 20 more minutes  
of video games?

HARPER

Shut up, Dylan.

HILARY

I don't like shut up, Harper. Listen,  
I need to tell you what I'm  
thinking... instead of getting another  
job, I'm thinking I'm going to stay  
home with you guys.

HARPER

Gross! Why?

HILARY

I thought you'd be thrilled.

HARPER

You're not really the mom type.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HILARY

I am. I'm your mom!

HARPER

Does Dad know about this?

HILARY

Yes. I called him in Hong Kong and he thought it was a great idea.

HARPER

Dad's wrong.

HILARY NOTICES THAT DYLAN HAS STOPPED PAYING ATTENTION AND IS STARING AT THE TV (WHICH IS OFF).

HILARY

Really? You would rather watch a TV that's turned off than have a conversation with me?

DYLAN

That seems like one of those questions you don't really want the answer to.

HARPER

What would you do at home?

HILARY

I could do all the things I haven't been able to do because I was working. Maybe I could finally volunteer at your school.

HARPER

(ON THE VERGE OF PANIC) Mom. Mom.  
Mom. Mom. No. Mom.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DYLAN

Parent volunteers were in pre-school.  
The only ones who volunteer in high  
school are just there to spy on their  
kids because they think they're  
smoking pot.

HILARY

Fine. I won't. Wait. Are you  
smoking pot? Very few people who  
smoke pot have the energy to  
contribute to the planet.

HARPER

Kill me now.

HILARY

You guys, it's going to be great. I'm  
going to be here. All the time. No  
more trips, no more late nights. From  
now on, I am going to be one hundred  
percent focused on the two of you  
every minute of every day!

HARPER

(HORRIFIED) Oh my god. Oh my god.

DYLAN

What about Missy?

THEY LOOK TO MISSY, WHO'S LOOKING AT THEM LIKE A DOG  
WANTING TO COME IN THE HOUSE, AND WE...

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE H

EXT. HILARY AND GRIFFIN'S HOUSE - DAY (D-1)  
(HILARY, JONATHAN, MISSY)

HILARY WALKS MISSY TO HER PRIUS, WHICH IS PARKED IN THE DRIVEWAY OF THEIR UPSCALE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NEIGHBORHOOD.

HILARY

So, thank you for everything. You'll be receiving a generous exit package as well as a stellar recommendation.

MISSY

Yeah but, who's going to take care of the kids?

HILARY

I am.

MISSY

You and who?

HILARY

Just me.

MISSY

Oh, I don't think that's a good idea.

HILARY

I'm not asking your opinion. I can handle my own kids.

MISSY SHAKES HER HEAD IN DISAGREEMENT, ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLY, BUT HILARY CATCHES IT.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HILARY (CONT'D)

Well, I'm not going to argue with you.

(ARGUING) Look, just because I've had help in the past, doesn't mean I'm incapable of managing this myself.

I'll be fine.

MISSY RAISES HER EYEBROWS IN AN "I DON'T THINK SO" EXPRESSION.

HILARY (CONT'D)

I don't have to prove myself to you.

(PROVING HERSELF) I have a college education. I ran a half-marathon!

I've grown my own basil!

MISSY CLICKS HER TONGUE. HILARY OPENS MISSY'S CAR DOOR.

HILARY (CONT'D)

Okay. Go, Missy. Thanks for everything.

MISSY GETS IN HER CAR AND STARTS BACKING OUT OF THE DRIVEWAY. HILARY, WANTING THE LAST WORD, YELLS:

HILARY (CONT'D)

Everything's going to be great!

MISSY LAYS ON HER HORN, GETTING IN THE LAST WORD. HILARY WATCHES HER GO, THEN NOTICES JONATHAN, 30'S, SWEET AND LOOKING A LITTLE LOST, STANDING IN HIS DRIVEWAY A FEW HOUSES DOWN. HILARY WAVES. JONATHAN CROSSES TO HER.

JONATHAN

Hi.

HILARY

Hi.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JONATHAN

I'm your neighbor. We haven't met.

But, I've seen you around. Yelling at your nanny. Yelling at your gardener.

HILARY

What? I don't yell at my gardener.

JONATHAN

I've seen you yelling.

HILARY

(INSTANTLY ANGRY) Well, I've told him four times I don't want impatiens in the front yard! We have a Japanese landscape. Impatiens are just wrong!

JONATHAN

Ah. I see. You're not yelling, you're just a little "impatiens" with him.

HILARY

Who are you?

JONATHAN

I'm Jonathan. (POINTING) We live in that house. My wife works. I stay home with our twenty-month old twin girls. Maya and Zoe. It's awesome.

HILARY

Wow. I don't think I've ever met a stay at home dad.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (3)

HILARY (CONT'D)

I stay at home with my kids, too.

Well, starting tomorrow.

JONATHAN

Yeah. It's just that my wife makes more money... it was a logical decision. Hers. I'm loving being home with the girls, though. It's awesome.

HILARY

So you said. Can I ask you a question? What do you do all day?

JONATHAN

Well, the days can be long.

HILARY

(HOPEFUL) But great?

JONATHAN

Moments of greatness.

HILARY

With what in between? (NOTICING THE DRINK IN HIS HAND) Is that a Bloody Mary?

AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE J

FADE IN:

INT. HILARY AND GRIFFIN'S KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM/INT. GRIFFIN'S  
HONG KONG HOTEL ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING (D-2)  
(HILARY, GRIFFIN, HARPER, DYLAN)

ON HER FIRST MORNING OF FULL-TIME MOTHERHOOD, HILARY HAS GONE ALL OUT. WEARING A POWER SUIT, SHE'S PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON AN ELABORATE BREAKFAST - WAFFLES, FRUIT SALAD, FRESHLY SQUEEZED JUICE. THE KITCHEN LOOKS LIKE A BOMB WENT OFF, BUT THE BREAKFAST IS BEAUTIFUL. HILARY TAKES A PICTURE OF IT WITH HER PHONE. AS SHE'S DOING THAT, THE PHONE RINGS. SHE ANSWERS.

HILARY

Honey, why are you calling me? It's  
the middle of the night in Hong Kong.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. GRIFFIN'S HOTEL ROOM - SAME TIME  
(HILARY, GRIFFIN)

GRIFFIN, HILARY'S HUSBAND, IS HANDSOME AND LIKABLE - MUCH MORE EASY GOING THAN HILARY, BUT EQUALLY SUCCESSFUL. HE HAS A PLAYFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE KIDS THAT SOMETIMES MAKES HILARY FEEL LEFT OUT.

GRIFFIN

I'm just checking in on your nervous  
breakdown. How's that going?

HILARY

Wanting to stay home with your  
children does not qualify as a nervous  
breakdown.

GRIFFIN

Honey. It does. Ask anyone who knows  
my children.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HILARY

I want to do this. It's always been my dream. Picking the kids up from school, taking them to the park for ice cream, helping them with their homework.

GRIFFIN

How old were the kids in your dream?

HILARY

Okay. I know it's going to be a little different with teenagers, but this is going to make me happy. And you said it was a great idea.

GRIFFIN

No. You called and said, "Hey Griffin, I have a great idea."

HILARY

And it is! Because you know what I don't feel for the first time in a very long time? Guilt!

GRIFFIN

About what?

HILARY

Being away from the children!

GRIFFIN

Our children?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HILARY

That horrible working mom's guilt that haunts you when you can't be on the Thanksgiving feast committee or chaperone the field trip to the planetarium.

GRIFFIN

I don't think I have that.

HILARY

How are you the favorite parent?

GRIFFIN

I've brought them shot glasses from every airport around the world.

HILARY

I'm talking about no texts in the middle of the Jr. High Jazz concert. No emails that have to be returned instead of reading a bedtime story. I threw away my Blackberry, Griffin!

GRIFFIN

Now how am I going to text you naked pictures of myself? And what are you going to do all day?

HILARY

Is knitting hard? I might make my own Christmas presents. (THEN) Grif, I have to go.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HILARY (CONT'D)

I've got to call the kids down to  
breakfast. Wait until they see it.  
They are going to flip! I'll send you  
a picture.

GRIFFIN

Okay. I love you, Crazy.

HILARY

I'm crazy for you, too.

GRIFFIN

Not what I said.

HILARY

It's what I heard. Hurry home.

THEY KISS EACH OTHER THROUGH THE PHONE AND HANG UP. SHE  
CALLS THE KIDS TO BREAKFAST.

HILARY (CONT'D)

(SWEETLY) Harper! Dylan! Breakfast!

SHE WAITS, EXPECTANTLY. NOTHING. SHE ADJUSTS THE PLACE  
SETTING, THEN CALLS AGAIN, SLIGHTLY MORE INTENSE.

HILARY (CONT'D)

You guys?! Breakfast! We don't want  
it to get cold!

ANOTHER BEAT. NOTHING. SHE TESTS THE TEMPERATURE OF A  
WAFFLE WITH HER FINGER. UNHAPPY, SHE CALLS AGAIN, EDGY:

HILARY (CONT'D)

You guys get down here! I just spent  
two freaking hours making --

SHE HEARS THE FRONT DOOR SLAM, AND WE...

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE K

EXT. HILARY AND GRIFFIN'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER (D-2)  
(HILARY, JONATHAN, HARPER, DYLAN, ROBIN)

HARPER AND DYLAN ARE WAITING WITH THEIR BACKPACKS IN THE DRIVEWAY. HILARY COMES OUT THE FRONT DOOR, INCENSED.

HILARY

You guys? Where are you going?

DYLAN

Uh, school. This is what we do when you're at work.

HILARY

I made waffles! From scratch. I woke up at 5. I squeezed orange juice. I packed lunches. The kitchen is a disaster and I fired the person who usually cleans it!

HARPER

I ate a protein bar.

DYLAN

I get a muffin at school.

HILARY

What about my waffles?

HARPER

Why do you have "crazy eyes" about waffles?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HILARY

I worked really hard on that  
breakfast.

DYLAN

Are you going to cry about waffles?

HILARY

No! I'm not going to cry about waff--

HILARY TURNS AWAY FROM THEM, BATTLING TEARS. SHE SHAKES OFF  
HER DISAPPOINTMENT AND TURNS BACK TO THE KIDS, TRYING TO  
LOOK SANE. DYLAN AND HARPER ARE STARING AT HER.

HILARY (CONT'D)

Okay. It's fine. It's just  
breakfast. Let me get my keys. I'll  
drive you to school.

BEFORE THEY CAN SAY ANYTHING, A MINIVAN PULLS INTO THE  
DRIVEWAY.

DYLAN

(REMINDING HER, UNDER HIS BREATH)

Carpool.

HILARY

I know. (SHE DIDN'T KNOW) Who do you  
think drafted the carpool schedule in  
an Excel document? Please don't talk  
to me like I'm crazy. (THEN, CALLING  
OUT CRAZY CHEERFUL) Good morning!  
The children are here! Ready to go  
learn!

HILARY CROSSES TO THE MINIVAN, DRIVEN BY ROBIN, A DOWN TO  
EARTH SUPERMOM IN HER FORTIES.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ROBIN

Wow. Mom's making a guest appearance!

What's the occasion?

HILARY

What's that? Judgement?

ROBIN

Just making conversation. I'm Robin.

Luke's mom.

ROBIN POINTS TO LUKE, AN AWKWARD AND SULLEN TEENAGER IN THE BACK SEAT.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

Will you please let Missy know that Kathleen has to switch with her and she's driving the afternoon carpool tomorrow instead?

HILARY

Missy doesn't work for us anymore.

I'm staying home with the kids now.

ROBIN

(A BEAT, THEN) Oh. Well. I'll just do the afternoon carpool myself tomorrow. It's a little complicated if you've never done it.

HILARY

I've managed eighty employees in two offices on both coasts. I think I can handle it.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (3)

ROBIN

I see. You think this housewife stuff  
is pretty easy, huh?

HILARY

(INNOCENTLY) Well, compared to a real  
job. (OFF ROBIN'S LOOK) I mean...

ROBIN

I know what you mean.

ROBIN PUSHES A BUTTON, CLOSING THE PASSENGER WINDOW.  
HILARY'S MADE AN ENEMY. HARPER SLIDES OPEN THE MINIVAN'S  
SIDE DOOR, HILARY TRIES TO KISS HER ON THE CHEEK.

HILARY

Bye, Sweetie. Love you.

HARPER MAKES A HUGE MOVE TO AVOID THE KISS AND DUCKS  
INSIDE. HILARY TRIES AGAIN WITH DYLAN, WHO BASICALLY DOES A  
NINJA MOVE INTO THE MINIVAN TO AVOID CONTACT. HILARY IS  
LEFT HANGING. ROBIN SMILES.

HILARY (CONT'D)

That's from dad! See you after  
school!

HARPER

(REMINDING) Study group.

DYLAN

(REMINDING) Guitar lesson.

HILARY

(CHEERFUL, WITHOUT MISSING A BEAT)

See you after that! Happy learning!

THE SLIDING DOOR ON THE MINIVAN SLIDES TO A CLOSE AND ROBIN  
PULLS AWAY. HILARY NOTICES, JONATHAN. ONCE AGAIN, HE'S IN  
HIS DRIVEWAY. HE WAVES. SHE WAVES, AND WE...

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE 1

INT. HILARY AND GRIFFIN'S KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - LATER (D-2)  
(HILARY, JONATHAN)

JONATHAN IS ENJOYING HILARY'S BEAUTIFUL BREAKFAST.

JONATHAN

This is spectacular. You are a good cook. You know what the girls got for breakfast? Popsicles. Made with fruit juice. What's in these waffles?

HILARY

Madagascar vanilla bean. I soaked it in Gran Marnier overnight, then scraped it into the batter as I was folding in the egg whites.

JONATHAN

Ever heard of waffle mix?

HILARY

I just wanted this to be a perfect morning --

TEARS THREATEN AGAIN. HILARY TURNS HER BACK TO JONATHAN.

JONATHAN

You're a little high strung, aren't you, Hilary?

HILARY

(WITHOUT TURNING AROUND) Little bit.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

You know there's no such thing as a perfect anything with kids, right?

HILARY

(TURNING AROUND) But I like perfect.

JONATHAN

This morning my two year old asked me why my face was ugly and the other one told my wife that her stomach was fat like a Santa. Then my wife got to go to work where people tell her she's smart and worthwhile and I had to play hide and seek with the little ingrates and act like I actually wanted to find them. If you take them personally, they'll kill you. So, act like you don't care.

HILARY

I just want them to think I'm a great mom.

JONATHAN

They will. After you're dead. And, Hilary, if you really want to be supermom, maybe lose the power suit.

AND WE...

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE M

INT. HILARY AND GRIFFIN'S KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT DAY  
(D-3)  
(HILARY, HARPER, DYLAN)

HILARY HAS TAKEN JONATHAN'S ADVICE. SHE WEARS HER IDEA OF A "MOM OUTFIT": LEGGINGS WITH RUNNING SHOES AND A LOOSE PLAID BLOUSE FROM TARGET. HARPER RUNS INTO THE KITCHEN TO GRAB FOOD AND STOPS COLD WHEN SHE SEES HILARY.

HARPER

(RE: HER OUTFIT) What is it? Finland  
day?

HILARY

What? It's comfortable. (RE: HER  
BLOUSE) I don't even have to wear a  
bra with this thing.

HARPER

Don't ever share anything like that  
with me again. I almost threw up.

HILARY

(LYING) That doesn't hurt my  
feelings. (THEN) By the way, I made  
quiche, but I don't care if you eat  
it. It's there on the table. But, if  
you want a protein bar, that's good,  
too. Either way. Makes no difference  
to me.

HARPER

(CONFUSED) So... is that quiche for  
me or not?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HILARY

Whatever.

HARPER

So...?

HILARY

Eat. I'm just saying, I don't care.

HARPER SITS DOWN AND TASTES THE QUICHE.

HARPER

It's good.

HILARY

(TOO HAPPY ABOUT IT) Really? You  
like it? (CATCHING HERSELF) Who  
cares? (THEN) I do! I'll put a piece  
in your lunch.

HILARY HAPPILY PREPARES HARPER'S LUNCH. BUOYED BY THE  
POSITIVE REVIEW OF HER QUICHE:

HILARY (CONT'D)

So, what's going on at school today?  
How are your classes? Any boys on the  
horizon?

SHE DOESN'T HEAR ANYTHING, SO SHE TURNS AROUND TO LOOK AT  
HARPER, WHO'S STARING AT HER.

HARPER

(STERN) Mom. No.

DYLAN COMES DOWNSTAIRS CARRYING A SLEEPING BAG. HE HOLDS  
IT OUT TO HILARY.

DYLAN

(RE: SLEEPING BAG) Does this smell  
like fart?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HARPER

(THINKING HE'S TALKING ABOUT THE  
QUICHE) It tastes better than it  
smells.

DYLAN SHOVES THE SLEEPING BAG IN HARPER'S FACE.

DYLAN

No, my sleeping bag. Smell it!

HARPER BATS IT AWAY, INFURIATED.

HARPER

Get it out of my face! God! Idiot!

HILARY

Don't call him an idiot.

HARPER

He put fart in my face! (TO DYLAN)  
Now I can't eat because you polluted  
the quiche!

HILARY

Honey, no, it's not polluted. It's a  
Martha Stewart recipe. I'll put it in  
the microwave. We'll nuke the fart  
right out of it!

HARPER STORMS OFF, LEAVING HER QUICHE.

DYLAN

(RE: SLEEPING BAG) I guess it's good  
enough. Two hundred sophomores eating  
Sloppy Joe's, the whole canyon's going  
to smell like fart.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HILARY

What?

DYLAN

The tenth grade environmental  
adventure. (OFF HER BLANK LOOK)  
Camping? Mt. Diablo? We leave  
tomorrow. Remember?

AND SUDDENLY, HILARY DOES REMEMBER - THE PERMISSION SLIP -  
WHICH SHE FORGOT.

HILARY

(COVERING) That's right. That's  
tomorrow.

DYLAN

I'll be gone for five days.

HILARY

Five days?

DYLAN

Yeah. It was all in the permission  
slip. (GETTING SUSPICIOUS) That you  
signed. And faxed back to school by  
the due date. (REALIZING, OFF HER  
LOOK) Oh my god, you didn't sign the  
permission slip?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

HILARY

Honey, I'm sorry! I forgot about it.  
I had it in my Blackberry and Richard  
set two alarms, but I threw away my  
Blackberry because I was one hundred  
percent focused on you!

DYLAN

Yeah. Good job.

HILARY

Okay. Listen. I will fix this, okay?  
And you will go on the trip with your  
class. And you'll see that nothing is  
impossible. Some things aren't easy,  
but do you have any idea how many "not  
easy" things I'm used to doing in a  
day? This is no problem, Sweetie.

AND WE...

CUT TO:



ACT TWO

SCENE P

INT. HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE - LATER THAT DAY (D-3)  
(HILARY, ROBIN)

HILARY ENTERS THE HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE, AND STOPS COLD WHEN SHE SEES ROBIN, BEHIND THE COUNTER.

HILARY

(RE: ROBIN) This is a problem.

Robin. Hi. You work at school?

ROBIN

No. I'm a volunteer in the office.

(AS IF EXPLAINING TO A CHILD) A  
volunteer is someone who puts in hours  
at their children's school to show  
they support their child's education.

HILARY

(RE: WHAT THE KIDS TOLD HER) Not what  
I heard. (THEN) Um, listen, I have a  
bit of a situation and maybe you can  
help me out. I completely forgot to  
turn in Dylan's permission slip for  
the Mt. Diablo trip. Can I just go  
ahead and give that to you now?

HILARY SLIPS THE PERMISSION SLIP ACROSS THE COUNTER TO  
ROBIN.

ROBIN

That was due four days ago.

ROBIN SLIDES THE PERMISSION SLIP BACK TO HILARY.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HILARY

Right. I know. Richard put in it my Blackberry... but Richard is not... well, you don't know Richard... I guess I'm used to being more of a delegator than a doer, if that makes sense, so....

HILARY SLIDES IT BACK TO ROBIN.

ROBIN

A real mom has to delegate and do. And unfortunately, we've got an outside company running the trip, and they needed the paperwork so they could process it through their insurance. It's too late.

ROBIN SLIDES IT BACK TO HILARY.

HILARY

Maybe you could give me a phone number and I can talk to someone in charge.

ROBIN

I can tell that you're used to steam rolling over people to get your way, but in this case, a deadline's a deadline. I mean, it's not like a "real job" or anything, but we take it pretty seriously.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HILARY

Oh. Okay. You're mad about that.

ROBIN

I'm not "mad", Hilary. It's typical. While you've been running off to work every day, you've left it to someone like me to organize your child's holiday pageants and Mother's Day gifts and field trips, but it's not worth anything to you because I don't have a title, I don't get paid and it won't impress anybody on a resumé!

HILARY

(MISSING IT) So, you're not mad?

ROBIN

(GIVING UP) Good luck to you.

HILARY

(KISSING UP) No, wait. I get it. And I'm sorry. Being a stay at home mom is a lot harder than it looks on Leave It To Beaver. I mean, honestly, hats off to you. I don't know how you do it. Want to have coffee sometime? My treat. Just my way of saying "thank you" for all you do.

HILARY SLIDES THE PERMISSION SLIP TO ROBIN. UNMOVED, ROBIN DROPS HER HAND ON TOP OF HILARY'S TO KEEP IT FROM GETTING ANY CLOSER.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ROBIN

No.

HILARY

I'm not really used to taking no for  
an answer.

ROBIN

Oh really? Well then, NO!

HILARY TRIES TO FORCE THE SLIP INTO ROBIN'S HAND. ROBIN  
KEEPS HER HAND SLACK, SO THE SLIP KEEPS FALLING OUT OF IT.

HILARY

Just... take... it!

FINALLY, ROBIN TAKES THE PERMISSION SLIP, WADS IT UP, AND  
THROWS IT IN THE WASTEBASKET. HILARY IS STUNNED.

HILARY (CONT'D)

I can't believe this is happening.

Look, you don't know me, but I am not  
the sort of person that lets things  
fall through the cracks!

ROBIN

Speaking of things falling through  
cracks, you do remember you're driving  
carpool this afternoon? You're  
already fifteen minutes late. Five  
more minutes and the kids have to wait  
in the detention room. And your  
daughter would rather die than have to  
go to that room. Bad memories.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ROBIN (CONT'D)

She spent a lot of time there freshman  
year.

HILARY'S STOPPED BY THIS. IT'S NEWS TO HER.

HILARY

She did?

ROBIN

You didn't know? Oh. I guess you  
were too busy not letting things fall  
through the cracks.

ROBIN WINS. HILARY RUNS OUT OF THE OFFICE, AND WE...

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE R

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY (D-3)  
(HILARY, SECURITY GUARD, TEENAGER)

THE SCHOOL PARKING LOT IS A ZOO, AS BUSES LOAD KIDS, SECURITY GUARDS ORGANIZE CARPOOL LINES, TEENAGERS WAIT IN GROUPS TO BE PICKED UP. OTHERS ARE TRYING TO GET TO THE EXIT. HILARY IS LOST. SHE PULLS UP BEHIND A SCHOOL BUS AND IS IMMEDIATELY APPROACHED BY SCHOOL SECURITY.

SECURITY GUARD

Ma'am, you can't wait here.

HILARY

Oh. I'm not waiting. I'm picking up my children and another child. I'm carpool.

SECURITY GUARD

This is the bus line. You need to go to your child's designated area.

HILARY

And how would I find that?

SECURITY GUARD

Are they a red or blue?

HILARY

A red or a blue what?

CARS START HONKING BEHIND HILARY.

SECURITY GUARD

Move off to the side, you're blocking the buses.

HILARY

Oh. Okay. But, where should I...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DONE TALKING, HE WAVES HER OFF AND WALKS AWAY. HILARY PULLS HER CAR OVER AND YELLS TO A TEENAGER CROSSING NEXT TO HER.

HILARY (CONT'D)

Excuse me! Do you know where Harper  
and Dylan Dunne line up?

THE TEENAGER IGNORES HER. SHE CALLS TO ANOTHER KID.

HILARY (CONT'D)

Excuse me! Do you know if Harper and  
Dylan Dunne are red or blue? Can  
someone please answer me when I talk?!

FINALLY BEYOND FRUSTRATED, HILARY GETS OUT OF HER CAR AND WALKS TO THE MIDDLE OF THE CARPOOL AREA. SHE YELLS:

HILARY (CONT'D)

Harper and Dylan Dunne! YOUR MOTHER  
IS HERE TO PICK YOU UP!!!!

AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SCENE S

FADE IN:

INT. HILARY'S CAR/EXT. STREET - LATER (D-3)  
(HILARY, HARPER, DYLAN, LUKE)

HILARY DRIVES WITH HARPER AND DYLAN, GLARING AT HER FROM THE BACK SEAT. LUKE SITS IN THE PASSENGER SEAT.

HILARY

Okay, I'm sorry if that was embarrassing. I guess we're all going through a period of adjustment and we're just going to have to be a little understanding in the meantime. (LOOKING IN THE REARVIEW) Can somebody please say something?

HARPER

I've spent three years at that school. Never being too popular or too nerdy, too smart or too dumb, too funny or too boring... perfectly invisible. Until today. When you turned me into "the girl with the mom who doesn't wear underwear in the parking lot".

HILARY

(SUDDENLY AWARE OF LUKE) I'm wearing underwear, Luke. I'm not wearing a bra. (THEN, TO HARPER) And why on earth would you want to be invisible?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

DYLAN

You know who turns in permission  
slips? Missy.

HARPER

You know who doesn't make a scene at  
school? Missy.

LUKE

You know who's hot?

DYLAN

We want Missy back.

LUKE

(LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW) Do you even  
know where I live?

HILARY PULLS THE CAR OVER TO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD.

HILARY

(TURNING TO THE KIDS) Excuse me, do  
you have any idea who I am?

LUKE

(GENUINELY CONFUSED) No.

DYLAN

(TO LUKE) She's the only mom in the  
tenth grade who can't return a  
permission slip on time.

HILARY

No! I am a superstar. A model of  
efficiency. At my job, people brought  
me coffee and laughed at my jokes.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HILARY (CONT'D)

They said "thank you" and didn't duck when I tried to kiss them. They were grateful for my advice and my leadership. Because I wasn't just good at my job, I was the best! They didn't just respect me, they freaking worshipped me! You got that?!

DYLAN

Pay me and I'll pretend to like you, too.

HILARY

(QUIETLY DANGEROUS) Get out of the car.

HARPER

What?

HILARY

Get out! I don't need this shit.

CONFUSED, THE KIDS GET OUT OF THE CAR. HILARY DRIVES OFF,  
LEAVING HER TEENAGERS (AND LUKE) IN A CLOUD OF DUST.

HARPER

(TO LUKE) Sorry our mom's crazy.

AND WE...

CUT TO:

ACT THREE

SCENE T

INT. HILARY AND GRIFFIN'S KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - A SHORT TIME LATER (D-3)  
(HILARY, GRIFFIN)

HILARY ENTERS TO FIND GRIFFIN, SITTING ON THE COUCH, HIS SUITCASES STILL NEXT TO THE DOOR.

GRIFFIN

(RE: HILARY'S OUTFIT) Whoa, Mommy  
clothes. Nice.

HILARY, WITHOUT EVEN SLOWING DOWN, FLIPS HIM OFF AND CONTINUES TO THE KITCHEN.

GRIFFIN (CONT'D)

Uh. How's it going?

HILARY

Now I understand why housewives drink!

SHE PULLS A COFFEE MUG, WITH HER KID'S PICTURE ON IT, FROM THE CUPBOARD. SHE PULLS A CORK OUT OF A HALF EMPTY RED WINE ON THE COUNTER AND POURS HERSELF A HEALTHY MUG-FUL. GRIFFIN CROSSES TO HER AND GENTLY ASKS:

GRIFFIN

Honey? Where are the kids?

HILARY

Don't know. Don't care. Oh. I might  
be having a nervous breakdown.

SHE TAKES A GULP OF WINE. GRIFFIN CROSSES TO HER.

GRIFFIN

Rough week?

SHE NODS AND TRIES TO BREATHE AWAY HER TEARS, BUT THEY COME ANYWAY.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GRIFFIN (CONT'D)

Sweetie. Come here.

HE HUGS HER, THEN NOTICES, HAPPILY:

GRIFFIN (CONT'D)

Hey, no bra.

HILARY

It made Harper throw up.

GRIFFIN

Well, Harper doesn't know sexy.

(THEN) Aw, I knew you weren't cut out  
for this.

HILARY PULLS AWAY FROM GRIFFIN AND STARES AT HIM.

HILARY

Really? You knew that? Well, thanks  
for believing in me, Grif. And when  
your children get home, tell them I  
said to suck it!

SHE TAKES HER COFFEE MUG AND STOMPS OUT THE DOOR, AND WE...

CUT TO:

ACT THREE

SCENE V

INT. JONATHAN'S HOUSE - PLAYROOM - LATER (D-3)  
(HILARY, JONATHAN, MAYA, ZOE)

JONATHAN IS ON THE FLOOR, PLAYING BLOCKS WITH HIS TWIN GIRLS, MAYA AND ZOE. THE GAME GOES LIKE THIS: HE MAKES A WALL, THEY SMASH IT DOWN. OVER AND OVER AGAIN. HILARY SITS ON THE COUCH, MISERABLE, NURSING HER MUG OF WINE.

HILARY

You know who I miss the most?  
Richard. He was so good to me. He reminded me about my schedule and put alarms into my phone so I always knew what I was doing and where I was going. This never would have happened with Richard. Richard made me great. (REALIZING) Wait. Maybe Richard was great and I actually sucked.

JONATHAN

(ACTING FOR THE GIRL'S BENEFIT) Okay, the wall is finished. Now, don't anybody knock it down! Okay? I'm just going to turn around for a minute, so don't touch it. (QUICKLY, TO HILARY) You don't suck. You made one mistake.

HILARY

I left the kids on the side of the road.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

You made two mistakes.

MAYA AND ZOE HAPPILY SMASH THE WALL. JONATHAN SPINS AROUND, MOCK HORRIFIED.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Hey! Who knocked down my wall?!

THE GIRLS DISSOLVE INTO GIGGLES. JONATHAN GETS ON THE FLOOR AND STARTS TO REBUILD THE WALL.

HILARY

I'm giving up my whole identity to be with those kids. And not once did anyone say, "Hey, that's amazing you're doing that! Wow. You're a great person." I mean, I didn't expect anyone to throw a party because I'm taking care of my own kids, but how about a thank you? Or a small party.

JONATHAN HAS FINISHED BUILDING THE WALL AGAIN.

JONATHAN

Okay. I'm going to turn around again.

I hope nothing happens to my wall!

THE GIRLS ARE DELIGHTED AND CAN'T WAIT TO KNOCK IT DOWN.

HILARY

I've gotten three calls from firms who heard I was laid off and are dying to meet with me. I should just take those meetings and go back to work.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JONATHAN

You should.

HILARY

I should! Serve my ungrateful family right. (THEN) Do you really think I should?

JONATHAN

I don't know.

MAYA AND ZOE SMASH DOWN THE WALL AGAIN AND WAIT, EXCITEDLY, FOR JONATHAN TO NOTICE.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Hilary, I'm so sorry. I really do want to hear about this, but can we talk after I put them to bed? They've only knocked down my wall about fifty times and it's our favorite game so they kind of need my full attention right now. You remember this age.

JONATHAN TURNS BACK TO THE GIRLS, FEIGNS SURPRISE THAT HIS WALL IS DOWN, THEN GETS BACK ON THE FLOOR TO REBUILD. HILARY STARES AT THREE OF THEM.

HILARY

(HATING HERSELF) No. Actually, I don't.

HILARY WALKS OUT, AND WE...

CUT TO:

ACT THREE

SCENE W

INT. HILARY AND GRIFFIN'S KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - LATER (D-3)  
(HILARY, GRIFFIN, HARPER, DYLAN)

HARPER AND DYLAN SIT AT THE KITCHEN TABLE, EATING PIZZA  
WITH GRIFFIN. HILARY ENTERS.

HILARY

All right. The first thing I want to  
say is, I'm sorry for losing my  
temper. It's not like me.

DYLAN

Yes, it is.

HILARY

Shut up.

HARPER

We don't like shut up, Mom.

HILARY

The other thing is, there's a  
difference between "not easy" and  
impossible. And, turning in a late  
permission slip is -- (MAD ALL OVER  
AGAIN) apparently freaking impossible!  
(THEN) I just don't understand why  
I'm getting so much resistance for  
being a wonderfully selfless person  
who wants to stay home with her  
children.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

GRIFFIN

Maybe because we didn't discuss it first, you just came home one day and told us how it was going to be.

HILARY

Why are you three "us" and I'm "you". Shouldn't we all be "we"?

GRIFFIN

Because you didn't consult us. You just demanded we go along with your plan.

HILARY

My "wonderfully selfless" plan!  
(THEN) All right. Fine. We'll take a vote. Who thinks I should not look for another job and stay home with you guys instead?

A BEAT OF SILENCE, NOBODY RAISES THEIR HAND.

HILARY (CONT'D)

Raise your hand if you want me to stay home.

NO ONE MAKES A MOVE.

HILARY (CONT'D)

I'll cook great meals and drive you to practices and orthodontists. We'll get to know each other better, we'll really come together as a family.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HILARY (CONT'D)

Let's see who thinks that would be a  
great idea.

STILL, SHE'S GOT NO TAKERS.

HILARY (CONT'D)

I want to stay home with you guys!

DYLAN

(TO GRIFFIN) Why does she want to  
stay home with us?

GRIFFIN

I don't know. You couldn't pay me  
enough.

HILARY

(AMAZED, RE: GRIFFIN) And he's the  
favorite parent? (THEN) I don't want  
to miss anything else. (TO HARPER) I  
didn't know you spent your freshman  
year in detention and want to be  
invisible. (TO DYLAN) I don't know  
when you got taller than me. And  
smarter than me. I think you guys are  
horrible and rude and funny and smart.  
And I want to hang out with you.  
Because I love you. (THEN, TO  
GRIFFIN) And I need you to believe in  
me.

HARPER

(TOUCHED) Oh, Mom.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

GRIFFIN

I believe in you, Bossy.

HILARY

Thank you. So. Who here thinks that

I should go back to work?

HARPER AND DYLAN IMMEDIATELY RAISE THEIR HANDS. GRIFFIN KEEPS HIS HAND DOWN, BUT MOUTHS TO THE KIDS "I'M WITH YOU GUYS".

HILARY (CONT'D)

Okay well, too bad! This is not a democracy. This is what's happening: I'm staying home. And you have to be nice to me sometimes. And I'm not going to pay you to like me, but I will give fifteen minutes of extra video game time for every hug.

DYLAN AND HARPER JUMP TO EMBRACE THEIR MOTHER. SHE ACCEPTS IT AS IF SHE EARNED IT - SHE'LL TAKE IT ANY WAY SHE CAN GET IT, AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY (D-4)  
(HILARY, ROBIN)

HILARY ENTERS, WITH AN ORCHID, AND CROSSES TO ROBIN.

HILARY

Good morning, Robin. Just brought a  
little peace offering to say, I hope  
we can be friends.

SHE SLIDES THE ORCHID TOWARD ROBIN.

ROBIN

No thanks.

ROBIN SLIDES THE ORCHID BACK TO HILARY.

HILARY

Seriously? I'm being a big person  
here.

HILARY TRIES TO SLIDE THE ORCHID BACK TO ROBIN, WHO PUTS  
HER HAND UP TO STOP IT. HILARY PUSHES HARDER.

HILARY (CONT'D)

Just take it!

ROBIN

(RESISTING) I don't want it!

HILARY

Take it anyway!

ROBIN

No!

ROBIN AND HILARY CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE, NEITHER ONE BACKING  
DOWN.

END OF SHOW