

VINCE UNCENSORED

“Pilot”

Written by

Phoef Sutton

Warner Bros Television
Conaco TV

Network Draft

SERIES TITLE

"Episode Title"

CAST

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

GUEST CAST

TBD..... ACTOR

SERIES TITLE

"Episode Title"

SETS

Teaser, Scene A - Scene Heading

Act One, Scene B - Scene Heading

Act Two, Scene C - Scene Heading

Tag, Scene D - Scene Heading

"VINCE UNCENSORED"

ACT ONE

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY

VINCE DONOHUE IS IN HIS LATE 40S, RUGGEDLY HANDSOME, THOUGH HE'D NEVER DESCRIBE HIMSELF THAT WAY. HE WORKS WITH HIS HANDS AND THINKS WITH AN IRREVERENT MIND. NOW, HOWEVER, HE IS ON A HOSPITAL GURNEY, BEING PREPPED FOR SURGERY. DR. NEIMAN, MID 30S, WITH A VERY LARGE HEAD, APPROACHES VINCE.

DR. NEIMAN

Hello Mr. Donohue, I'm your
neurosurgeon.

VINCE

Those are five words you never want to
hear.

DR. NEIMAN

It's six actually.

VINCE

I have a brain aneurysm, you can't
expect me to do math. (READING HIS
NAME TAG) Is your first name really
Igor?

DR. NEIMAN

Yes.

VINCE

It doesn't strike you as at all funny
that you're a brain surgeon named
Igor?

DR. NEIMAN

I'm your brain surgeon named Igor.
Does that still strike you as funny?

VINCE

I know it shouldn't, but yes, it does.
(THEN) And don't skate over the
surgery like that. Tell me what
you're going to do. Every step.

DR. NEIMAN

All right. First I'll remove a
section of your skull, then I'll
spread the brain tissue apart--

VINCE

Whoa! We couldn't start with two
Advil and see how it goes?

DR. NEIMAN

Not unless you were planning on being
dead.

VINCE

That wasn't on my bucket list. Well,
it was, but it was the last thing on
my bucket list.

DR. NEIMAN

It usually is. (THEN) Now, the
recovery process from a procedure like
this can be long and difficult.

(MORE)

DR. NEIMAN (CONT'D)

Do you have a good support system at home? A quiet place to recuperate?

VINCE

Well, Igor, I live in a house full of women. I have a fine wife and three lovely daughters, so I guess what I'm saying is... can I stay at your place?

THEY PUSH VINCE THROUGH THE SURGERY DOORS, AS WE:

CUT TO:

INT. DONOHUE HOUSE - VINCE AND JANET'S BEDROOM - MORNING

CHYRON: FOUR MONTHS LATER.

VINCE IS SLEEPING PEACEFULLY. JANET DONOHUE, FORTIES AND LOOKING VERY PRETTY AND YOUTHFUL, IS UP GETTING DRESSED. SHE LOOKS OVER AT VINCE. TAKES A LONGER LOOK AT HIM. BENDS OVER THE BED -- LOOKS AT HIM INTENTLY.

JANET

Hey!

VINCE WAKES UP, STARTLED. BLAAH!

JANET (CONT'D)

Just checking for signs of life.

VINCE PLAYFULLY GRABS HER AND PULLS HER ON TO THE BED.

VINCE

(ALA DR. FRANKENSTEIN) It's alive!

THEY KISS. FOR AN OLD MARRIED COUPLE, THEY HAVE A SPARK.

JANET

Do you think the kids heard us last night?

VINCE

So what if they did? You could have been screaming 'please don't stop' about any number of things.

JANET

That was you.

VINCE

It's all a blur.

SHE GETS UP. CHECKS HERSELF IN THE MIRROR.

JANET

Do these jeans make my ass look fat?

VINCE

No, not at all. That ass looks fat, that's all there is to it. In jeans, out of jeans. As matter of fact, the jeans kind of help hold it in.

JANET SHOOTS HIM A LOOK.

VINCE (CONT'D)

What? I like a little junk in the trunk. Also, I like to say 'junk in the trunk.'

JANET

You know, you never used to talk that way before your brain... thing.

VINCE

Didn't I? I thought that way.

JANET KISSES HIS HEAD.

JANET

I kiss your brain.

VINCE

What for?

JANET

For healing. And for liking my fat
ass.

VINCE

It could be fatter!

JANET

(SERIOUSLY) You doing okay?

VINCE

Are you kidding? Life is great.
Bryce is doing fine at college. It's
Rosie's first day at Middle School.
Marnie broke up with her biker
boyfriend.

JANET

He rode a Vespa.

VINCE

That's a gateway bike. (PETTING THE
CAT) You're starting the new school
year and I'm going back to work. I
have a feeling that this is going to
be a red letter day, right Baxter?

THE CAT LOOKS AT HIM.

VINCE (CONT'D)

I just jinxed it, didn't I?

JANET

Oh, so much.

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

INT. DONOHUE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

VINCE AND JANET ENTER. MARNIE (A 15 YEAR OLD GIRL WITH ELECTRIC RED HAIR, TEMPORARY TATTOOS AND A BAD ATTITUDE) IS WORKING ON HER LAP TOP, WAITING FOR THE DIAL-UP SIGNAL.

MARNIE

Dad, for God's sake, we're the last family in America to have dial-up.

THE FAMILIAR WHINE OF THE DIAL-UP SIGNAL COMING ON.

MARNIE (CONT'D)

Listen to that sound. It hasn't been heard since the mid-nineties.

VINCE

The mid-nineties was the Golden Age, Marnie. Just ask Dolly the Cloned Sheep.

MARNIE

I don't get that reference. I know, I'll look it up on Wikipedia. Should take me about half an hour.

JANET HANDS HIM A LIST.

JANET

On the way back from your check-up
with Dr. Neiman could you pick up some
Tampax? Regular for me, super
absorbent for Marnie?

VINCE

A father's proudest day.

HE POCKETS THE LIST.

VINCE (CONT'D)

You know, if I had sons I could be
teaching them to shave.

MARNIE

You could teach me to shave.

VINCE

(QUICKLY) That's your mother's job!

THEY PASS ROSIE. 12 YEARS OLD BUT SHE LOOKS YOUNGER. THE
FRESH BLUSH OF CHILDHOOD IS ON HER CHEEKS -- AND SHE WANTS TO
KEEP IT THERE. SHE IS HANDCUFFED TO THE STAIRWAY BANISTER.

VINCE

Hey, Rosie.

JANET

Morning, Rose.

ROSIE

Hey, Dad. Mom.

JANET

What's the story here?

MARNIE

Oh. Rosie handcuffed herself to the
banister. She's protesting the fact
that she has to go to Middle School.

ROSIE

It's the entrance to the dread teen years. The official end of childhood.

SHE HOLDS A BARBIE UP.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

This the last time I'll be able to play with my Barbies without it looking weird.

VINCE

Too late. (OFF JANET'S LOOK) Well, it looks weird. Especially with the handcuffs.

JANET SITS DOWN ON THE STAIR NEXT TO ROSIE.

JANET

I know you're scared. But Middle School is a wonderful adventure. I should know, I've taught there for eight years. You'll make new friends, learn new things. You'll love it.

VINCE

That's not what you said last night. You said Middle School was a kind of hell on Earth, where they take kids at the most unpleasant age and just let them stew in their own juices, like Lord of the Flies.

ROSIE

(WELLING UP) That's not the one with
Frodo in it, is it?

ROSIE STARTS TO RUN UP THE STAIRS, CRYING. SHE FORGOT ABOUT
THE HANDCUFFS. IT CATCHES HER AND PULLS HER BACK.

JANET

(TO VINCE) Nice.

VINCE

What? You said it, I didn't?

SHISHIR KAPUR ENTERS - VINCE'S THIRTY-ISH PARTNER.

SHISHIR

Hey, partner!

VINCE

Shishir! What are you doing here? I
thought you were going to meet me at
the site.

SHISHIR

I thought you might need a ride. You
know, since...

VINCE

Since the aneurysm fried my brain?

SHISHIR

No, I just... well, yeah.

VINCE

I appreciate your concern, but I'm one
hundred per cent recovered. You look
like hell, though.

SHISHIR

I do? Well, Lina and I had a long talk last night.

VINCE

The kind that ends with you sleeping on the sofa?

SHISHIR

It was either that or keep talking to her. But if you say you're okay, fine. I'll meet you there. It's just that... you act different. More...

VINCE

Honest? Forthright? Above board?

SHISHIR

Yeah. It's very creepy.

A HORN HONKS OUTSIDE.

SHISHIR (CONT'D)

That's Lina. She's in a hurry to get to work. I better go.

JANET

Why doesn't she come in?

VINCE

(MATTER OF FACT) She doesn't like us.

SHISHIR

My wife likes you. She just has trouble showing it because...

VINCE

Of her rabid dislike for us? (WAVES
OUT THE WINDOW) Hi, we don't like you
either.

JANET

It's a good thing she can't hear you.

SHISHIR

She can read lips.

THE HORN HONKS AGAIN. VINCE LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW.

VINCE

Wow. You can sense the hideous tension
from here.

SHISHIR

It's Monday. We always start Monday
with hideous tension. Then we move on
from there. See you at the site.

SHISHIR GOES. JANET CHECKS HER WATCH.

JANET

We're going to be late. See if you
can use some of that forthrightness to
get your daughter loose.

VINCE SITS ON STAIR NEXT TO ROSIE.

VINCE

Rosie, Rosie, Rosie. I know you like
being a kid, but there's a lot of
great things about growing up.

ROSIE

Like what? Driving? You get in accidents. Dating? You have to kiss boys. Voting? They always disappoint you. Working? You end up with a brain aneurysm.

VINCE

Is that what this is about? You think if you grow up, your brain will pop?

ROSIE

Growing up didn't do you much good.

VINCE

It did me lots of good. I got to fall in love with your mom. I got to watch you kids grow up. (THEN) And you know what one of the best things is? All those jokes you don't get now? You get them! All those things they say you'll understand when you're older? You understand them!

ROSIE

I guess I could give it a try.

SHE HANDS VINCE THE KEY TO THE CUFFS. VINCE UNLOCKS THEM.

VINCE

Where'd you get these, anyway?

ROSIE

That tool chest you keep in your
bedroom. They were right under that
back massager.

VINCE PAUSES...

VINCE

I'm wrong. Never lose that innocence.

ROSIE SHRUGS AND HEADS OUT, AS WE:

CUT TO:

INT. A CLIENT'S HOUSE - DAY

VINCE AND SHISHIR ARE CONSULTING ON A JOB.

VINCE

And then we have the issue of the
wiring. Is it conduit or flex? We
might have to pull the whole ceiling
to have a look--

SHISHIR

How often do you and Janet have sex?

VINCE

Okay, we'll talk about that. Five or
six times.

SHISHIR

A month?

VINCE

A week.

SHISHIR

No wonder you had an aneurysm.

VINCE

No, that's after the aneurysm.

Before? I don't, three times a month?

SHISHIR

What changed?

VINCE

Well, ever since then I live each day as if it's going to be my last. And on my

last day, I want to have sex. And

listen to Journey. Escape preferably.

You know that album?

SHISHIR

I'm too young.

VINCE

Screw you.

SHISHIR

Lina and I hardly ever have sex

anymore. Ever since the baby.

VINCE

You don't have a baby.

SHISHIR

No, but we baby sat for her sister two

years ago. It put her off the whole

thing.

VINCE

Have you tried talking about it?

SHISHIR

Yeah, but it doesn't seem to help.

VINCE

Has it occurred to you that maybe that's because, and this is just off the top of my head, mind you, she's emotionally frigid with a borderline personality disorder? Also she's a total bitch?

SHISHIR

Eh, I knew that when I married her. But every once in awhile, when there's a warm breeze blowing and she gets mood elevators in just the right balance? Nirvana.

VINCE

Not everyone has that.

MR. SANGSTER, THE HOMEOWNER COMES IN.

MR. SANGSTER

Hey, Guys, how's it looking?

VINCE

Mr. Sangster! We have a preliminary estimate for remodel.

SHISHIR HANDS HIM A DOCUMENT. SANGSTER GLANCES OVER IT.

MR. SANGSTER

So it'll take six weeks, huh?

VINCE

That means it'll take nine. (OFF
SANGSTER'S LOOK) You always want to
add three weeks to an estimate.
That'll put you in the ballpark.

MR. SANGSTER

But the amount is accurate?

VINCE

Oh, Good Lord no. You gotta figure
we'll charge twice that.

MR. SANGSTER

Why are you telling me this?

VINCE

Don't you realize that a contractor's
estimate is a work of fiction? Like
The Great Gatsby or the State Budget?
It's meant to approximate real life,
not represent it.

MR. SANGSTER

But you're telling me the truth now?

VINCE

Who knows? Equipment could fail, the
price of materials could go up. This
is really just a shot in the dark.

MR. SANGSTER

You know, it's refreshing to hear a
contractor admit that.

VINCE

Glad you feel that way. So do we get
the job?

MR. SANGSTER

God, no. And clean up after
yourselves when you go.

VINCE

Oh, we'll get right on that. (THEN)
We won't.

MR SANGSTER

I figured that.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - MRI ROOM - DAY

VINCE IS IN A HOSPITAL GOWN AND PREPARING TO RIDE THE MRI
MACHINE. DR. NEIMAN OFFICIATES. VINCE HOPS ONTO THE TABLE.

VINCE

Did I ever thank you for saving my
life, Doc?

DR. NEIMAN

Every time I see you. And you gave me
that Operation game for my birthday. You
know, we could use that little buzzing
sound in real people. It would save a
lot of lives.

VINCE

Igor, I've got a problem. As much as
I admire your work on my head, I think
you might have screwed me up.

(MORE)

VINCE (CONT'D)

Ever since the surgery, I've had these sudden outbursts of, well, honesty. It just cost me a job.

DR. NEIMAN

I suppose the condition you describe could happen with damage to both frontal lobes, which may be caused by a hemorrhage from an anterior communicating artery aneurysm.

VINCE

I understood the words 'both' and 'could.'

DR. NEIMAN

I'll check you out for a bilateral frontal lobe injury.

VINCE

Yes. That's where you screwed me up. What does that mean?

DR. NEIMAN

It's possible that your, for want of a better word, 'censor' may have been affected. The little thought process between when you think something and when you say something.

VINCE

That's interesting. (THEN) You have a huge head, you know that? Really, it's a Lex Luthor size head.

DR. NEIMAN

You see what I mean? Most people don't say that.

VINCE

But I bet they think it. It's massive!

DR. NEIMAN

Post-aneurysm aphasia can take many forms. Yours is a fairly mild case. You should be grateful and just learn to cope with it.

VINCE

Like you cope with having a gigantic head?

DR. NEIMAN

Exactly like that. Just stay out of stressful situations where you're called upon to express your opinion.

VINCE

You mean 'life'?

DR. NEIMAN

Hey, I just save 'em, I don't know how to live 'em

DR. NEIMAN GOES OUT TO SWITCH ON THE MRI MACHINE, AS WE:

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

JANET ADDRESSES A CLASSROOM OF KIDS WHO COULDN'T CARE LESS.

JANET

The French and Indian War increased
tension between Great Britain and the
American colonies, because?...

THE BELL RINGS. THE CLASS BOLTS.

JANET (CONT'D)

...of the alien invasion from the
planet Altair V, and the shape
shifting creatures that were defeated
by George Washington.

THE CLASS EMPTIES. VINCE IS IN THE BACK OF CLASS, WAITING.

VINCE

There's so much I don't know about
history.

JANET

Aren't you supposed to be fixing
somebody's house?

VINCE

I just went to see Dr. Neiman. He
says my censor is broken. I just go
around saying what I really feel.

JANET

Vince, what else is new? You've been
doing that for two months now. We all
think it's kind of cute.

VINCE

Cute? You think it's cute to be married to a guy who constantly tells you when he's thinking about having sex with you? How 'bout now? We could shut the door. I'll be quick.

JANET

Look, I love that you still want to have sex with me. I just wish you wouldn't tell me in front of everybody. Like Harper.

ANGLE ON HARPER, A STUNNED SEVENTH GRADER WHO IS STILL IN A CORNER OF THE ROOM.

JANET (CONT'D)

Hi, Harper. Can I help you, honey?

HARPER

I just had a question about Alexander Hamilton, but it'll keep.

HARPER HURRIES OUT OF THE ROOM.

VINCE

See? This is a problem. And on top of that, I lost a job. I can't go around being honest with homeowners. It breaks the Contractor's Code.

JANET

You just have to learn how to handle your new-found...

VINCE

Abilities? Superpowers?

JANET

Remember, with great power comes great irritation.

VINCE

Maybe I should think twice, speak once.

VINCE'S CELL PHONE RINGS. HE CHECKS IT.

VINCE (CONT'D)

It's my annoying, pain in the ass of a sister. (TO JANET) Hey, that's what I always called her. It's kind of a nickname. (ON THE PHONE) Hey, Wendy!

ROSIE DARTS INTO THE ROOM, HIDING.

JANET

Rosie, what's wrong?

ROSIE

Middle School is filled with nothing but bullies and mean girls and kids who only care about where they rank in the pecking order!

JANET

I know it's hard.

ROSIE

And you know what's worse? I'm popular! What does that say about me?

TWO POPULAR GIRLS POKE THEIR HEADS IN THE DOOR.

POPULAR GIRL #1

Rosie! There you are!

POPULAR GIRL #2

Wanna eat lunch with us?

ROSIE

Sure.

ROSIE HEADS OUT, HEAD HUNG LOW.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Pray for me.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DONOHUE HOUSE - DAY

VINCE WALKS UP TO THE HOUSE TO FIND WENDY DONOHUE-RAUTHMORE, LATE 30S, TRYING TO LOOK YOUNGER, OUTSIDE THE DOOR.

WENDY

Remember, the Chinese word for crisis
is the same as the word for
opportunity!

VINCE

Then your life has been full of
opportunities, Sis.

WENDY

Please, this isn't about me. I've
come to terms with the fact that I've
lost my house, my husband, my job.
That I am, in your words, "a complete
sad sack loser."

VINCE

When did I say that?

WENDY

You put it on Facebook.

VINCE

Well, I wanted people to know what you'd been up to.

WENDY

And you were right. But I've decided to turn myself around. I had an epiphany. I know what I'm supposed to be. A Life Coach.

VINCE BURSTS OUT LAUGHING. THEN CATCHES HIMSELF;

VINCE

Oh, you're serious.

A SERIOUS LOOKING YOUNG MAN COMES OUT OF THE HOUSE.

YATES

She's looking for vermouth.

VINCE

Mom's here?

WENDY

One thing at a time. I want you to meet my first client, Greg Yates.

VINCE

Hey, how are you? How did you come to pick my sister?

YATES

I saw her ad on Craigslist. She also sold me a bed.

VINCE

I can see why you need a Life Coach.

(THEN) What's Mom doing here?

WENDY

That's the crisis. Mom and Dad have been kicked out of Sunset Village. Too much fighting. It was disturbing the other residents.

VINCE

Dammit. Well, one of us is going to have to take them in. Rock, paper, scissors? I won't cheat this time.

WENDY

It's more complicated than that.

SHE LEADS VINCE INSIDE.

VINCE

I probably would've cheated.

RESET TO:

INT. DONOHUE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ALAN DONOHUE, MID-80S, IS SITTING WATCHING A RE-RUN OF HOUSE, HAPPY AS A CLAM. WENDY AND VINCE ENTER. YATES HANGS BACK.

VINCE

Hey, Pop.

ALAN

(RE: TV) That House -- he's always right and they never listen to him. It's amazing they can make that work for two hundred episodes.

VINCE

Well, that's one of the advantages of losing your short term memory. (THEN) Dad, Wendy tells me you've been having some problems with Mom.

ALAN

No problem, we're breaking up.

VINCE

Now? Dad, you're eighty-five, I don't think you're going to do any better.

ALAN

Your mother and I have spent thirty wonderful years together. Unfortunately, we've been married for fifty-five. (LAUGHS) You see what I did there? It's funny 'cause it's true. It's also sad 'cause it's true. It's funny and sad.

VINCE

(TO WENDY) Where's Mom?

YATES POINTS TOWARD THE KITCHEN.

INT. DONOHUE HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

GEORGIA DONOHUE, MID-80S BUT TRYING TO LOOK MID70S, IS SITTING IN THE KITCHEN, SIPPING FROM A GLASS.

GEORGIA

When are you gonna start stocking vermouth in this damn house?

(MORE)

GEORGIA (CONT'D)

I had to make my martini with gin and olive juice. Loathsome.

SHE DOWNS IT IN ONE GULP.

VINCE

Mom, I was just talking to Dad--

GEORGIA

I don't know why you bother talking to that man. No matter how loud I yell at him, he doesn't answer.

VINCE

Maybe if you didn't yell at him?

GEORGIA

That doesn't work, he never wears his hearing aid. Yelling is the only way to get through to the man.

SHE MIXES HERSELF ANOTHER DRINK.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)

It's my own fault. I never should have married a man who was so much older than me.

VINCE

You're six months younger than him.

GEORGIA

Chronologically, maybe. Don't you know that eighty-four is the new seventy-two?

VINCE

What's seventy-two?

GEORGIA

The new sixty-one. So you see how far apart we are. I want to go dancing, he just wants to watch his doctor shows. And yet he refused to support me when I needed a medical procedure of my own!

VINCE

(WORRIED) What medical procedure?

ALAN

(FROM THE OTHER ROOM) She wanted a boob job!

GEORGIA

Oh, you heard that, did you? (TO VINCE) I wasn't having it done for cosmetic reasons. Since they've sagged, they affect my balance. You don't want me to break a hip, do you?

ALAN WALKS IN, RESIGNED.

ALAN

You're an old lady, Georgia. Embrace that. Nobody cares what you look like. Getting a pair of plastic double Ds stapled to your chest won't change that.

VINCE

(TO GEORGIA) Double Ds?

GEORGIA

It's all about weight distribution,
you wouldn't understand.

VINCE

I still don't think this is enough of
a problem to break up over.

GEORGIA

Please. Who's talking about breaking
up?

ALAN

I am. I've had enough of your yelling
and your drama. I'm drawing to the
close of the my life, and I want to do
it in dignity and peace. Watching
House.

GEORGIA

All right, I'll let you watch your
doctor shows. But you have to let me
get my vaginal rejuvenation surgery.
I'm pretty sure I can get Medicaid to
cover it.

VINCE

My God, Mom, other than TSA agents,
who's gonna see these things?

ALAN

You can be rejuvenated all you want,
Georgia. On your own time. I'm
through.

ALAN EXITS. GEORGIA TAKES SWIG.

GEORGIA

He's bluffing. He'll be back.

VINCE

I don't know. I think you finally
pushed him too far. He's fed up. And
you know what? I don't blame him.

GEORGIA

You used to be so polite before your
little brain thing.

VINCE

You mean my mental rejuvenation?

GEORGIA

Don't make fun, it's major surgery.

SHE GOES OFF.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DONOHUE HOUSE - EVENING

A FAMILY CONFAB. VINCE, JANET, WENDY, MARNIE AND ROSIE.
YATES OBSERVES.

VINCE

All right, we've got to figure out
what to do with Mom and Dad. I'm
afraid Wendy and I are going to have
to split them between us.

WENDY

Agreed. (TO YATES) You getting this?
We state the problem and agree to
solve it.

YATES

(TAKING NOTES) It seems so simple.

VINCE

(TO WENDY) How much is he paying you?
Never mind. Just to be fair, on the
count of three, why don't we both say
which one we want to take. Mom or Dad.
Okay? One, two, three--

VINCE & WENDY

Dad!

VINCE

Now that that's out of the way, we
have to figure out who'll take Mom.

WENDY PULLS A DECK OF CARDS OFF THE SHELF.

WENDY

High card gets Dad?

VINCE

Go for it.

THEY DRAW. LOOK AT THEIR CARDS:

VINCE (CONT'D)

Arm wrestle you for it Best two out
of three!

WENDY

Sorry, bro.

VINCE

Come on! You know Mom drives me
crazy.

WENDY

Mom drives everybody crazy.

VINCE

It's not just that. It's another
woman in the house. I love them, but
they've got me surrounded. I'm the
only man in house except for the cat,
and we cut his balls off! Bring
another woman in here, and I'll drown
in estrogen!

PAUSE. ALL OF THE WOMEN ARE STARING AT HIM.

VINCE (CONT'D)

I said I love it, right?

JANET

Look, we'll take Georgia in, of
course. Vince and I will just give
her our bedroom, so she doesn't have
to take the stairs. We can move into
Bryce's old room. We were wondering
what to do with that anyway.

VINCE

I was going to turn it into a man
cave.

JANET

It can still be a man cave. Only now
it will have a woman in it.

VINCE

I'll have to explain the concept of a
man cave to you sometime.

A YOUNG WOMAN ENTERS (BRYCE). SHE CARRIES LUGGAGE AND LOOKS
DISTRAUGHT.

BRYCE

Hey, everybody.

VINCE

JANET

Bryce!

What's wrong?

BRYCE (CONT'D)

I've dropped out of college and I'm
moving back home!

EVERYONE RUSHES TO HER. JANET AND VINCE HANG BACK.

JANET

You had to jinx it, didn't you?

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. DONOHUE HOUSE - DAY

BRYCE IS NEAR TO TEARS. EVERYONE IS AROUND HER. WE JOIN HER IN MID-SPEECH.

BRYCE

...And when I started taking my first exam, I just froze.

JANET

Oh, Bryce, I'm so sorry.

BRYCE

I mean I couldn't remember any of my high school Spanish. It was gone.

GEORGIA

I say she takes a year off. Goes backpacking through Europe.

MARNIE

Cool! Did you ever see Hostel?

WENDY

Grandma's right. A Gap Year is one of the best things a young person can give themselves.

VINCE

Yeah, Wendy should know, she's still on hers. (TO WENDY) You never went back to college, did you, Life Coach?

WENDY

You're conveniently forgetting about my degree in Business Management from ITT Tech.

VINCE

Doesn't that come with a free briefcase?

WENDY

(DISAPPOINTED) Not anymore.

BRYCE

I just need some down time. I'm burned out.

VINCE CAN'T HOLD IT IN ANY LONGER.

VINCE

I'm sorry. Burned out? After a month? Try working non-stop for a year, with maybe two weeks off. 'Cause that's what the rest of your life is going to be like.

GEORGIA

I think what she did was very brave. You ought to congratulate her.

VINCE

Congratulate her? For failing? (TO BRYCE)
'Cause that's what you did, right? Am I missing something? Bryce, you never failed at a thing in your life.

(MORE)

VINCE (CONT'D)

You got straight 'A's. You were the only kid on dean's list who wasn't on Adderall! Now, you have one bad test and you cave? That doesn't sound like the Bryce I know. That sounds like your Aunt Wendy!

BRYCE BURSTS OUT CRYING AND RUNS FROM THE ROOM.

WENDY

Words can wound, bro!

JANET GIVES VINCE A WITHERING LOOK AND FOLLOWS HER. EVERYONE HURRIES AFTER BRYCE. VINCE IS LEFT THERE WITH ALAN AND YATES. ALAN LOOKS UP FROM THE TV.

ALAN

What did he do?

YATES

He spoke his mind.

ALAN

That's why everybody hates House.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DONOHUE HOUSE - BRYCE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

JANET AND VINCE ARE CAMPING OUT IN BRYCE'S OLD ROOM. JANET IS LOOKING DAGGERS AT VINCE.

VINCE

All right, now we're in Bryce's room. Bryce is with Marnie in her room. Mom's in our room and Dad is staying with Wendy. Have I left anybody out?

JANET

Yeah, where are you going to sleep?

VINCE

What? I thought you said my honesty
was cute?

JANET

That was before you made your daughter
run from the room in tears.

VINCE

Well, I'm sorry I made her cry, but
somebody had to say it. There's such a
thing as coddling your kids too much.
When they screw up, you have to call
them on it. Otherwise, you end up with
a thirty-two year old kid, living at
home, afraid to try anything. Like
the Bernstein's daughter.

JANET

The Bernstein's daughter has Epstein
Barr Syndrome.

VINCE

Or, as we used to call it, Lazy Bones.

JANET

You know there's a problem with you
saying everything that comes into your
head. Now I know everything that
comes into your head!

SHE SLUGS HIM WITH A PILLOW AND SHOVES HIM OUT THE DOOR.

CUT TO:

INT. DONOHUE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

VINCE TRIES TO SLEEP ON THE SOFA. GEORGIA SITS, DRINKING A BLOODY MARY, WATCHING HOUSE. VINCE LOOKS AT THE TV.

VINCE

Is there ever a time when that show
isn't on?

GEORGIA

The USA network is all House, all the
time. Besides, the bastard's got me
hooked on it.

VINCE

Stop calling him a bastard.

GEORGIA

Oh, he's fine with it.

VINCE

Obviously, he's not. He left you. He
left you 'cause you hound him, you
drink too much and you constantly call
the paramedics because of heart
palpitations and "accidentally" show
them your boobs.

GEORGIA

You used to suckle these breasts.

VINCE

For a week!

GEORGIA

You preferred formula!

VINCE

Here's an idea. Go to Dad and say
you're sorry.

GEORGIA

For what?

VINCE

It doesn't matter! He'll say he's
sorry too and you'll kiss and make up.

GEORGIA

Hmmph. Sounds like a lot of work.

DISGUSTED, VINCE GETS UP AND CROSSES TO THE KITCHEN.

RESET TO:

INT. DONOHUE HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

JANET AND MARNIE ARE UP AND EATING BREAKFAST AS VINCE ENTERS.

JANET

(AS SHE SEES VINCE) Hmmph.

VINCE

You're spending too much time with my
mother.

MARNIE

If you two are going to get divorced,
hurry up. I'm the last one of my
friends whose parents are still
together. How do you think that makes
me feel?

BRYCE ENTERS, IN HER FOOTY PAJAMAS. SHE SITS AT THE TABLE.

BRYCE

Hey. (TO VINCE) Hey, Dad.

VINCE

Look, I shouldn't have said--

BRYCE

No, you were right. I failed. Thanks for calling me on it. I let college defeat me. There were a lot of reasons. I broke up with my boyfriend--

JANET

Oh, I'm sorry.

VINCE

You had a boyfriend?

BRYCE

But that's not enough for me to give up on college altogether. Thanks for kicking my ass, Dad. I mean, look at all the crap you had to put up with this year, Dad.

VINCE

You mean almost dying?

BRYCE

Yeah, that's a lot worse than freaking over a test. So I've decided to stay here, enroll in community college.

(MORE)

BRYCE (CONT'D)

I'll get my basics taken care of, and then go off to Northwestern in a couple of semesters, when I'm ready.

JANET

And you'll still be living at home!

VINCE

Yeah, it'll be just like high school, except I'm paying for it.

MARNIE

(TO BRYCE) What room are you getting?

BRYCE

Well, I figured I'd move into your room and you'd bunk on the futon.

MARNIE AND BRYCE LOCK EYES... THEN RUN FROM THE ROOM.

MARNIE

BRYCE

I get the bed!

Over my dead body, you little creep!

THEIR PARENTS WATCH THEM GO;

VINCE

Ah, they grow up so fast.

JANET

Not fast enough.

VINCE

Now who's being honest?

JANET

It's contagious.

SHISHIR ENTERS THROUGH THE DRIVEWAY DOOR.

SHISHIR

Hey, good news! Sangster decided to go with us!

VINCE

Really?

SHISHIR

Yeah. Everyone else he went to came up with estimates that were cheaper and took less time. He figured they were the real liars.

VINCE

Whereas we had the decency to tell him we were liars up front?

SHISHIR

Exactly! This honesty stuff works!

I'm going to try it on my wife! She's not going to know what hit her.

SHISHIR GOES. SO HE DOESN'T HEAR VINCE SAY;

VINCE

Neither will you.

GEORGIA ENTERS, DRESSED TO GO OUT.

JANET

Georgia, are you going out?

GEORGIA

Yeah. (TO VINCE) You were right, son.

I'm going to go talk to your father.

SHE GOES OUT.

VINCE

Did she just say I was right?

JANET

Maybe we're in one those parallel universes where you have a beard and I'm happy at work.

VINCE

(CHECKING) Nope, no beard.

JANET

Crap.

ROSIE ENTERS, DRESSED FOR SCHOOL.

ROSIE

Hey, Mom, some of the kids want me to run for class President. I'm not so sure. That's so much responsibility.

SHE GRABS A PIECE OF TOAST AND WALKS OUT.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

It might be better to just sit back and enjoy being in Middle School, you know?

SHE GOES. VINCE AND JANET LOOK AT ONE ANOTHER.

JANET

Everything worked out.

VINCE

I have superpowers.

JANET

I'll make you a costume after work.

VINCE

I'd rather have my spot back in bed.

JANET

Who says you can't have both?

CUT TO:

INT. DR. NEIMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

VINCE SITS ON A EXAMINATION TABLE, IN A PAPER ROBE. DR. NEIMAN LOOKS OVER HIS CHART.

DR. NEIMAN

All right, you've got yourself a clean bill of health. No more aneurysms, no anomalies. You're a very lucky man!

VINCE

Great. Then why am I naked?

DR. NEIMAN

I don't know, no one asked you to do that. (THEN) The best news is, you have no bilateral frontal lobe injury.

PLEASED WITH HIMSELF;

DR. NEIMAN (CONT'D)

So the problem you describe is probably just psychological.

VINCE

(WORRIED) What do you mean?

DR. NEIMAN

You had a near death experience. It's bound to affect you.

(MORE)

DR. NEIMAN (CONT'D)

Maybe you just don't want to put up
with people's crap any more. Even
your own.

VINCE

...Can you keep this to yourself?

DR. NEIMAN

I'm not sure I know what you mean.

VINCE

Stop toying with me! Do you want five
hundred dollars, I'll give you five
hundred dollars! Just don't tell my
wife!

DR. NEIMAN

(CHUCKLING) Check your bill. I make
five hundred dollars every minute.

(CHECKS HIS WATCH) Oop, there I go!

DR. NEIMAN LEAVES. VINCE LAYS DOWN ON THE TABLE, DISTRAUGHT.

VINCE

Big head.

CUT TO:

INT. DONOHUE HOUSE - EVENING

VINCE WALKS IN THE FRONT DOOR, PREOCCUPIED. HE IS GREETED BY
AN ANGRY MARNIE.

MARNIE

Are you trying to ruin my life?

BRYCE

Why do I have to share a bedroom with
Lisbeth Salander here?

MARNIE

See? I don't get her references!

BRYCE

Read a book!

MARNIE

Nerd!

BRYCE

Geek!

VINCE

I thought those were the same thing.

THE TWO GIRLS ROLL THEIR EYES.

MARNIE/BRYCE

Dad!

THE GIRLS GO OFF.

VINCE

The worst possible insult.

GEORGIA IS THERE, KNOCKING BACK TEQUILA SHOTS.

VINCE (CONT'D)

Hi, Mom.

GEORGIA

Shove it.

VINCE

What happened with Dad?

GEORGIA

I did like you said, I said I was sorry.
And you know what he said? "Get out of
the way, you're blocking House!" He owes
me an "I'm sorry!"

SHE GOES OFF TO WATCH HOUSE. JANET COMES UP TO HIM;

JANET

Rosie's having a crisis.

ROSIE

The captain of the lacrosse team, and
the quarterback of the football team
both asked me to go a movie Saturday!
And that's when iCarly's on!

JANET

She's caught in a transition.

VINCE

Evidently.

SHISHIR MARCHES IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR.

SHISHIR

Vince! I did it!

VINCE

Did what?

SHISHIR

Exactly what you would do. I walked
up and told Lina just what I think of
the way she treats me.

(MORE)

SHISHIR (CONT'D)

It was the most liberating experience of my life. I feel like I'm ten feet tall.

VINCE

That's great, man.

JANET

What did she say?

SHISHIR

Oh, I was too afraid to listen to that. As soon as I was done, I booked it out of there. I need to give her some time to cool off.

VINCE

How long?

SHISHIR

Forever. I said some truly awful things.

HE BURSTS OUT CRYING, AS WE:

CUT TO:

INT. BRYCE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

VINCE AND JANET ARE GETTING READY FOR BED.

JANET

If only you could use your superpowers for goodness instead of destruction.

VINCE

I don't have any superpowers.

JANET

Well, you can't fly or shoot webs--

VINCE

No, I mean it. Dr. Neiman said the condition doesn't exist. There's no medical reason for me not being able to shut up.

JANET

Wow.

VINCE

That's right. I'm just an a-hole. It's like the Incredible Hulk wasn't caught in a radioactive blast. He's just Bruce Banner who loses his temper and throws things around a lot.

JANET

But you weren't like this before.

VINCE

No. Before I was a latent a-hole.

JANET

So what happened?

VINCE

I don't know. I almost died. It changed me. Into an a-hole.

JANET

But wait -- you told me what the doctor said.

(MORE)

JANET (CONT'D)

You didn't have to do that. You could have let me go on believing you couldn't help yourself. Why didn't you?

VINCE

I don't know. I couldn't help myself.

JANET

Don't you see? That means you can't help yourself.

VINCE

That's right. Screw Igor Neiman. I really am the blameless victim of a bizarre, as yet unnamed medical condition. Maybe they could call it Vince Donohue Syndrome. Wouldn't that be cool?

JANET LOOKS AT HIM. SHE MEANS IT WHEN SHE SAYS THIS:

JANET

I'm proud of you, you know. You didn't give up. (HEARTFELT) You almost left us. Thanks for sticking around.

THEY HUG. IT TURNS INTO A KISS. THEY START TO MAKE OUT. ON THE BED. THEY STOP...

VINCE

This is Bryce's bed.

JANET

It would be wrong.

VINCE

Very wrong.

THEY SLUMP DOWN ON THE BED. THEY LAY IN SILENCE FOR A BEAT.

VINCE (CONT'D)

I can still listen to Journey, right?

JANET

Put on "Who's Crying Now?".

HE GETS UP TO PUT IT ON, AS WE:

CUT TO:

INT. DONOHUE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - THAT NIGHT

ROSIE HOLDS HER MALIBU BARBIE AND HER SIXTIES LONDON STACY.

ROSIE

Middle School. Week one. Already
when I play with my Barbies it's with
a sense of post-modern, ironic
detachment.

GEORGIA WATCHES HOUSE AS VINCE AND JANET COME DOWNSTAIRS AND
HEAD TO THE FRONT DOOR.

GEORGIA

Where are you two going?

VINCE

To a motel.

JANET EYES ROSIE.

JANET

We have to talk. About grown-up
stuff. We should be back in a couple
of hours.

VINCE

Or twenty minutes.

THEY GO. ROSIE TURNS GEORGIA.

ROSIE

Five days in Middle School and I
already got that joke. It should put
me in therapy for about a year.

GEORGIA

Get your Grandmother a mojito.

SHE GOES, AS WE;

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF SHOW