

**COWBOYS AND INDIANS**

"Pilot"

Written by

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**ACT ONE**

EXT. LOS ANGELES STREET - DAY

It's an idyllic street scene. Children are playing. Suddenly, a Prius comes screeching around the corner.

RAJ (O.C.)  
Step on it! We've got to stop your  
parents!

INT. PRIUS - DAY - CONTINUOUS

We cut into the car. ANNA is driving furiously. She is 30ish, pretty, white, and a bit of a control freak. She tries to be perceived as an intellectual physician, but occasionally slips back into her pageant queen past. She's in scrubs, glasses, just having come from work at the hospital. In the passenger seat sits her husband, RAJ, 30ish, half-Indian, half-white. He has that pan-ethnic look about him. Raj is outdoorsy, outgoing, and an accomplished musician.

ANNA  
This is why I left Arizona! They  
said they were just taking the baby  
out for a walk, and then I found  
out-- Dogs!

EXT. LOS ANGELES STREET - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The Prius jumps a curb. A man walking two dogs hurls himself out of the way.

RAJ (O.S.)  
They're just pugs! Genetic  
mutants!

INT. PRIUS - DAY

ANNA  
So are my crazy parents!

Anna guns the car.

EXT. AIRPORT HILTON - LATER

The Prius swerves crookedly into a spot. Anna jumps out and heads for the hotel. Raj hurriedly follows her, leaping cars in desperation.

INT. AIRPORT HILTON - SUNSET ROOM - LATER - **FLIP VIDEO P.O.V.**

LLEWELYN, Anna's younger sister, is recording a child beauty pageant with her Flip Video Camera. Llewelyn has just graduated from USC. She is very confident party-girl, who is surprisingly slutty for being so passionately Christian. She's also half Asian, and not that bright.

It's a sad hotel ballroom, full of about 150 desperate parents and disturbingly sexified 0-18 month old baby girls. The babies wear wigs, make-up, and frilly cupcake dresses and they're held by their overweight mothers. Llewelyn narrates as she talks shit about the contestants.

LLEWELYN (O.S.)

That's Madison in the pink. Sure, she's got pouty lips, but get a load of those chunky upper arms.

Llewelyn pans over to another baby, in blue.

LLEWELYN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

That one goes by Piper. And by the looks of it, Piper's going to wind up working the pole at a strip club down by the airport.

Piper giggles adorably, oblivious that one day she'll be a stripper. Suddenly, there's a commotion as Anna storms in.

ANNA (O.S.)

Excuse me! Excuse me!

LLEWELYN (O.S.)

Oof. Busted.

**END FLIP VIDEO P.O.V.**

Anna appears onstage. Suddenly, the second the lights hit her, she becomes PAGEANT QUEEN ANNA-- A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON. She immediately switches from a frumpy enraged doctor to an elegant pageant princess. Raj approaches Llewelyn, his sister-in-law.

RAJ

Impressive. From Doctor Schafer to Miss Tempe in two seconds flat.

LLEWELYN

She's like the Hulk, only she turns pink instead of green.

Anna walks pageant-style across the stage and heads toward her mother, MAUREEN, who sports a Chico's broomskirt and is holding a little girl in a dress with a wig. Maureen is a dynamic woman in her 50s and the toast of Tempe. She is a margarita-loving Baptist travel agent who has never been east of the Mississippi. She's highly opinionated and is never seen without mascara.

ANNA

Sorry to interrupt, but as a former queen in the greater Phoenix pageant system, I would like to call a violation of Rule 108b. I have it on good authority that this contestant is, in fact, a boy.

Anna rips off the wig. The audience gasps, even though pretty much all babies look the same without wigs.

MAUREEN

What? Impossible! This adorable princess a boy?

RAJ

Check the diaper!

ANNA

No, we don't have to check the diaper. Trust me. It's a boy.

MAUREEN

This woman is obviously confused.  
(under her breath)  
Anna, don't pull him out now. He's beating all these other fatties hands down.

ANNA

I move for a disqualification.  
Thank you, and God bless the USA!

Anna grabs her baby, PAGEANT WAVES, and walks off the stage. People applaud wildly.

JUDGE

What a star!

After exiting the stage, Anna hands Clark to Raj, they cuddle and comfort him and immediately start to get him out of his lady clothes. Raj starts to giggle at his wife.

RAJ

I've never seen that side of you before, Miss Tempe. Sure, I see the pageant smile when you're pissed, but that wave. Wow, that wave is amazing.

ANNA

Creepy, isn't it? It's some weird instinct. Like riding a bicycle. A horrible sequined bicycle.

Anna's dad, GARY, approaches her. Gary, 50s, has just retired from the pool business in Tempe. He's an affable suburban cowboy, a former local politician who will talk your ear off.

GARY

I just want to get it on the record that I told your Mom this would probably be a bad idea. Seemed a little gay to me, boy in a dress, but your mom assured me that sort of pan-ethnic look is really in right now. You should know, bud--

Gary gives Raj a hearty elbow. Raj, despite his father-in-law's ridiculousness, actually enjoys him. Anna cringes.

GARY (CONT'D)

That whole beige thing... very trendy. I think we could even convince them Clark's a little Guatemalan girl and get a whole serape thing going on. What do you think, babe?

MAUREEN

That's why I love you! So innovative! We could even go Persian. Spicy and exotic! Here's the plan for next time: we'll have some sort of get-up for a whole bunch of different races, "It's a Small World"-style, then we'll feel out the judges and--

Anna looks as if she's about to scream at them, but then suddenly chickens out, and gives them a wide pageant smile.

ANNA

We'll discuss it later. We're running late for our interview.

INT. HOSPITAL DAYCARE WAITING ROOM - DAY

Anna and Raj sit next to Llewelyn, who is holding Clark. He now looks like a little boy. They are sitting in the lobby of the UCLA hospital, just outside of the daycare.

RAJ

Well, Clark, you made a cute tranny.

LLEWELYN

Looked just like his mom used to up there, big toothy pageant smile. Minus the teeth, of course.

ANNA

Okay. No more, please. I listen to NPR now. I shop at Whole Foods. I don't want to be reminded of my days with tiaras and butt glue.

RAJ

Did you tell your parents that?

ANNA

Raj, I'm sorry. I'll always be Miss Tempe in their eyes.

RAJ

Yeah, no S-H, S-H-lock.

ANNA

You don't have to censor the "Sherlock" part.

RAJ

Your mom's got me all on edge about cursing in front of the baby. Can you please just tell them to go back to Arizona? It's been three months.

ANNA

But they've been helping us so much, babysitting him every day. I don't want to hurt their feelings.

RAJ

They've put Clark in a mattress commercial and made calendars with him dressed as a bumble bee!

ANNA

I know, but what if one day Clark told us he wanted us to leave his house? Wouldn't that break your heart?

RAJ

First off, if Clark could do anything other than scream and defecate, I'd be super psyched.

(off Anna's look)

It would kill me. But if I was being as out of line as your parents are, I would hope my son would tell me to back off.

ANNA

It's just hard because Dad doesn't really have anything to do now that he's retired.

RAJ

Your mom still has a job. She's needed in the 'zona. Which is what I call Arizona now.

ANNA

She's a travel agent, Raj. How many people need travel agents anymore? Ever heard of Orbitz?

LLEWELYN

Don't say the O word. Mom will freak.

ANNA

Oh God! Help me, he's still got lipstick on!

Anna and Raj try to scrub Clark's make-up off.

LLEWELYN

Why did they put the daycare in the hospital? Ew. Old man butt.

A man walks by, pushing an IV, exposing his buttocks.

RAJ

Look- it's the highest rated daycare on the Westside. It's right in Anna's office. And once we get him enrolled, you'll tell your parents to go home, right?

ANNA

I'll do it my way. Clark will be gone 40 hours a week. They'll get the hint. They'll see that they're not needed, and they'll head back to the land of tumbleweeds and anti-immigration laws.

LLEWELYN

Oh, can we have a going away party for Mom and Dad? I'm so good at parties.

ANNA

I've seen photos.

RAJ

Anna, I love you. But just so you know, this is the most chicken S-H way of dealing with this situation.

MISS SUE, a kindly older woman, suddenly pokes her head out.

MISS SUE

Clark Gupta-Schafer?

Anna and Raj continue their conversation and head in.

ANNA

Listen, I'll handle my parents my way. You just deal with yours.

RAJ

No problem. My parents have been totally hands off with Clark.

EXT. NELL AND PRADIP'S HOUSE - DAY

We cut to a close-up of a NASCAR hat. We pull out to reveal Raj's dad, PRADIP, who is decorating his beautiful Brentwood house with American flags and "Happy Labor Day" signs and festive red, white, and blue Christmas lights. Pradip was born in India and still has an Indian accent. He has immersed himself in American white-trash culture. His wife, NELL, pulls up to the house in her white Mercedes. Nell is white. However, she is dressed to the nines in traditional Indian garb. She has a giant papier-mâché statue of the Indian elephant God, Ganesh, on the top of her car.

PRADIP

Take that thing off of there. You're reminding all of Brentwood that we're "ethnic." I don't want my property values going down.



Nell starts to unload the Ganesh.

PRADIP (CONT'D)

Why do you need a giant Ganesh anyway?

NELL

It's going in Clark's nursery upstairs.

PRADIP

Do Anna and Raj even want a Ganesh in there?

NELL

They don't know about the nursery yet, it's a big surprise.

(off Pradip's look)

What? I can't have him in some germ-infested daycare *if the* Schafers ever leave. I'm not going to make the same mistake with Clark that I made with Raj. I'm going to be involved. This baby isn't going to turn out white.

PRADIP

You're not going to turn Clark into some Indian baby. That boy's going to bleed red, white, and blue. Like me! A true American.

NELL

No other "true American" decorates for Labor Day!

PRADIP

Muhummad Salehi-rad does! Why not decorate the nursery in honor of the blue collar men who make this country great? Like Jeff Gordon!

Pradip digs a beat-up NASCAR bumper out of his garage.

NELL

NASCAR is for white trash garbage people.

PRADIP

Well, then I guess I'm just a white trash garbage person.

NELL

I guess you are. It's not going in the nursery. Throw it away.

PRADIP

Never! My BFF gave it to me.

NELL

Your BFF can take it with him when he goes back to Tempe.

Pradip starts to well up. Nell, disgusted, takes her Ganesh and leaves.

PRADIP

Gary would never take it back. He's no Indian giver.

NELL (O.S.)

Racist!

INT. ANNA AND RAJ'S BUNGALOW - LIVING ROOM - DAY

It's a typical California bungalow... too small for a couple and their new baby, and WAY too small for a couple, their baby and their in-laws. There is an aerobed and luggage in the living room where Maureen and Gary have clearly been staying. Maureen is pouring a margarita. She hands one to Gary. He playfully slaps her on the butt.

GARY

That's why I married you. My girl knows when her boy needs a marg. Did you see my Facebook page? Pradip posted this hilarious picture of us on my wall--

Anna, Raj, Clark and Llewelyn enter.

ANNA

Mom, Dad, we have great news--

MAUREEN

Hon, must you dress like a lesbian all the time?

ANNA

Yes. Scrubs are my uniform.

MAUREEN

Why couldn't you have become a nurse? At least they look feminine in their little hats and white skirts.

RAJ

Have you been to the hospital in  
the past 30 years?

MAUREEN

B-T-Dubs, I found a low glitz  
pageant for little boys.

ANNA

No pageants for Clark, Mom.

MAUREEN

Oh. I just thought you loved your  
son, and wanted him to win some  
money for college. He may look  
Mexican, but that doesn't guarantee  
him a scholarship.

ANNA

Come on, Mom. So, here's the great  
news! Clark's going to start  
daycare next week!

Maureen and Gary are totally surprised.

ANNA (CONT'D)

It'll be perfect. I'll have him  
right where I work.

RAJ

UCLA has a cutting edge early  
childhood education program, really  
innovative stuff, and... he'll be  
there 40 hours a week.

There is a dramatic pause. Anna and Raj wait, nervous.

MAUREEN

Wonderful!

Anna and Raj look surprised at her enthusiasm.

RAJ

(sotto to Anna)

Wow, it worked!

MAUREEN

Now your Dad and I will finally get  
some time to lay out on the beach  
in Malibu. I could use a little R  
and R, know what I mean?

GARY  
Rest and 'Ritas--- margaritas!  
Hiyooo! Thanks, kids!

Gary mimes a golf swing. Raj gives Anna a look.

ANNA  
Great! Super! Well, does anybody  
want a drink? I'm really thirsty.

INT. ANNA AND RAJ'S BUNGALOW - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Anna, Raj, and Llewelyn enter. Anna looks panicked.

ANNA  
It didn't work! They're staying!

RAJ  
Just tell them the truth! Please!  
We love them, but we want them to  
go home. We want to raise our son  
on our own. Remember how we  
thought it would be? Just the  
three of us. You and me throwing  
Clark in a backpack, going for  
hikes in Topanga. Not having to  
rescue him from creepy baby  
pageants at the Airport Hilton?

ANNA  
I just have such a hard time  
confronting my parents. Whenever  
I'm around them, I still feel like  
I'm little Miss Tempe.

LLEWELYN  
Does this mean we can't have a  
going away party?

ANNA  
(getting an idea)  
No! We are having a party!

RAJ  
Wait, what?

ANNA  
My parents love parties!

Anna heads back into the living room, determined. Raj rolls his eyes. This will never work. He and Llewelyn follow.

INT. ANNA AND RAJ'S BUNGALOW - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ANNA

More good news! Before you head back to Tempe, we're throwing you a going away party!

Maureen and Gary look a little thrown.

MAUREEN

A going away party?

Raj, Anna, and Llewelyn wait nervously.

ANNA

Yes! As a little thank you for all of your help with Clark. It's the least we could do.

MAUREEN

(warming to the idea)  
Well, I do love parties.  
Especially those in my honor.

Anna, Raj, and Llewelyn look surprised and delighted at Maureen's reaction.

ANNA

It'll be a blast, Mom.

MAUREEN

And I guess I should get back to help all those ASU kids book their spring break trips to Cancun.

GARY

Before they waste all their money on Cap'n Morgan and Plan B!

Gary high fives Raj. Raj hates to admit that he appreciates the joke. Maureen gives Gary a look.

GARY (CONT'D)

Don't worry, I still think Plan B should be outlawed.

Anna rolls her eyes. She can't believe her conservative parents.

LLEWELYN

Oh! I'd like to do a little tribute to Mom and Dad at the party.

MAUREEN

That's so sweet, my little miracle.  
I thank Jesus and Donor 174 every  
day for giving me such sweet,  
talented eggs to use in my semi-  
functioning uterus.

RAJ

Ah, it had been a couple of days  
since I'd heard the semi-  
functioning ute story. Almost  
forgot it.

LLEWELYN

I'm going to need a fog machine.

MAUREEN

I can't wait to see it, sweetheart!  
(suddenly turning)  
The only problem is I hate to leave  
Clark while his soul is still in  
limbo. I don't want him to be  
forever trapped in purgatory with  
all those unwanted Plan B babies.

RAJ

What are you talking about?

MAUREEN

I just don't want to leave without  
getting Clark baptized. So, maybe  
we shouldn't have the going away  
party yet, until he's baptized.  
And I have to get a venue for the  
baptism. Might take a while. At  
least a few more weeks...

Anna and Raj start to look nervous.

GARY

Why don't we just have the baptism  
at the going away party?

Maureen shoots Gary a look. He misinterprets it.

GARY (CONT'D)

So he doesn't spend eternity  
sitting on the devil's lap.

Anna and Raj exchange pageant smiles.

ANNA

A baptism and a going away party!  
Yippee!

GARY  
 (getting choked up)  
 Can't believe I have to leave my  
 boy.

ANNA  
 Don't worry, Dad. We'll Skype,  
 we'll send you Flip Videos.

GARY  
 Pradip has Skype? Thank God!

LLEWELYN  
 Dad, your bromance with Raj's dad  
 is getting pretty gay.

GARY  
 If chicken fighting with the most  
 wonderful man on the planet is gay,  
 I don't want to be straight.

RAJ  
 Welp, we should probably go invite  
 my parents! To this awesome party  
 slash baptism!

INT. RAJ AND ANNA'S CAR - LATER

RAJ  
 Double yippee! My Hindu mom's  
 going to freak out when she hears  
 about the baptism.

ANNA  
 But if we don't baptize him, they  
 might stick around longer.

RAJ  
 Can't we just tell them that Jesus  
 isn't really our thing?

ANNA  
 Too late. I told them we go to  
 church every Sunday. And Wednesday  
 during Lent. And you sing in a  
 praise band, The Rockin' Apostles.

RAJ  
 The Rockin' Apostles? Wow, I'm so  
 cool! Do I handle snakes as well?  
 Anna you're not 13 anymore. You're  
 somebody's mom now. Your parents  
 should know who you really are.

(MORE)

RAJ (CONT'D)

They should know that we don't go to church, or to pageants. And that you curse. And that you occasionally smoke pot.

ANNA

Ugh. I'd rather just lie. It's so much easier than having to deal with them freaking out.

RAJ

Okay, fine. I think it's a bad idea, but we'll just let them do the baptism if it means they'll leave. We just won't tell my mom beforehand. You guys can just quietly baptize him while I distract her in the kitchen with some chicken tikka masala.

ANNA

Sounds like an airtight plan.

INT. NELL AND PRADIP'S HOUSE - LATER

Anna and Raj enter. Nell looks thrilled. She hugs Anna, and then smothers Raj with kisses.

NELL

Dr. Schafer! Every Indian mother's dream, a doctor child!  
And my baby boy!

RAJ

Okay, Mom. Settle. Ew. Too close to my lips. My neck. Ew! Why are you kissing me so much? Ew! Mom.

NELL

Where's my baby boy's baby boy?

RAJ

With his other grandparents.

NELL

(not thrilled)  
Wonderful!

RAJ

Merry Labor Day, Dad! Hey- we're throwing a going away party for Gary and Maureen on Saturday.

Pradip drops his glass.



PRADIP  
He's leaving already?

Pradip starts to well up.

PRADIP (CONT'D)  
Would you like to have it in our backyard? Your Dad's been working on our pool. He added lights and a fountain and it totally rules. It's like your father... the best thing ever.

ANNA  
That sounds lovely.

NELL  
Speaking of lovely, I have a little surprise for you.

Nell and Pradip lead them upstairs.

INT. BABY'S NURSERY AT NELL AND PRADIP'S - MOMENTS LATER

Nell opens the door for Raj and Anna. It's a huge room (at least 20' by 30') that houses a giant overblown nursery that's way too Indian. Their mouths drop open.

ANNA  
This is better than our house.

NELL  
I know you don't want Clark to be raised by strangers at some soulless daycare, so I am going to save you a ton of money by babysitting for you!

RAJ  
(pageant smile)  
What a great idea!

Ecstatic Nell hugs a terrified Raj. Anna gives Raj a smug look.

ANNA  
Not so easy, is it?

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

INT. MUSIC STUDIO - DAY

Raj sits at a sound board behind glass, while a Mariachi band plays festive Tejano music in the sound booth. Anna enters in scrubs. Raj smiles at her.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
Sounds like a robot circus.

RAJ  
Then I'm doing something right.  
Bueno, amigos! Let's take cinco!

TEJANO BAND  
*(Something in Spanish)*

RAJ  
Ha! Good one!

ANNA  
Do they know you don't speak Spanish?

RAJ  
I told them I'm Mexican. The joys of being beige.

ANNA  
So. Did you tell your Mom we don't need her to babysit yet?

RAJ  
No. I think maybe she should. She did build that huge nursery.

ANNA  
Are you kidding me? You were totally on board with daycare.

RAJ  
I was. Totally. But neither one of us thought my mom was even an option.

ANNA  
We thought that because she didn't show any interest in our son.

RAJ  
But now that she is interested, I think we should go with her.

ANNA

You want the woman who left you to third world nannies to raise our child in a gaudy faux Pier 1?

RAJ

It sounds crazy when you say it that way, but yes. I do.

ANNA

Wait, are you just too scared to stand up to her? Oh, I get it. After hammering me about telling my parents off, you can't!

RAJ

Did you say something about me hammering you? Heh.

(off Anna's look)

Okay, you know what? Honestly, my first reaction was, "How can I weasel out of telling my koo-koo bananas mother no?" But then, I thought about it, and realized there are some advantages.

ANNA

What possible advantages could there be? She's koo-koo bananas! Your words! Koo-koo! BANANAS!

RAJ

It would save us a ton of money. Until I'm on the other side of this glass, we can't really afford that Lamborghini bed you want.

ANNA

The Lamborghini bed can wait. I don't want to get rid of my parents just to be saddled with yours. Please. Just tell her Clark's going to daycare.

RAJ

Great. And you just tell your parents to go back to Tempe and we can cancel the going away party slash baptism that we're having just to trick them into leaving.

ANNA

And there it is. The pot calling the kettle beige. Not cool, Raj.

RAJ

It's not cool to get mad at me for not standing up to my Mom when you have never stood up to your parents ever! I really believe she's our best option.

ANNA

Well, I don't.

Anna gets up to leave, pissed, but accompanied by ridiculously festive Tejano music.

EXT. NELL AND PRADIP'S HOUSE - POOL

Gary is on the diving board, demonstrating its features.

GARY

You can adjust the amount of bounce with the roller wheel. I usually prefer about a 4.5.

(suddenly serious)

Promise me you're going to write me every day.

PRADIP

Cross my heart.

GARY

Cross your fart is more like it.

Gary punctuates his joke by doing a cannonball while making a fart noise. He splashes Pradip, who starts giggling.

PRADIP

Lemme try! Lemme try!

Pradip then does a big cannonball. As he is in the air, Gary beans him with a beach ball. Maureen and Nell watch from the porch. They are drinking iced teas.

MAUREEN

Gary, we need to get going!

GARY

Five more minutes!

NELL

They're gonna sleep well tonight.

MAUREEN

Mmm hmmm. Gary is going to miss these playdates. Girl, where did you get these cushions?

NELL

They're flown in from Mumbai.

MAUREEN

Well, I hope you washed them. That curry smell can really seep into the fibers. I booked a package tour for a couple to Bangalore and they brought me some placemats. Curry galore. But your nose is probably immune from all those years of living in India. I'm so jealous of you getting all "Eat, Pray, Love" before the movie even came out.

NELL

I moved there because of my Peace Corps work. And I stayed because I fell in love with Pradip. Then, I found a wonderful Bikram ashram---

MAUREEN

Did you have diarrhea every day? That's what my clients who've been there say. That's probably how you stayed so skinny.

NELL

It wasn't dysentery that kept me thin, it was Bikram yoga.

MAUREEN

Yoga? That sounds fun! I'm excited to get back to my Zumba classes in Tempe. I just feel like we're finally ready to leave now that we have Clarkie in daycare.

NELL

Oh, didn't you hear?

INT. BABY'S NURSERY AT NELL AND PRADIP'S - MOMENTS LATER

Nell opens the door of the nursery to show Maureen. Maureen is very taken aback. They are incredibly passive aggressive.

NELL

He's going to be staying at Grandma Nell's.

MAUREEN

But Anna and Raj told me he was going to daycare at UCLA.

NELL

Nope. They ditched that idea after I told them I would babysit him. It's an Indian tradition to keep our children in the family instead of at some disease-ridden hospital.

MAUREEN

Spectacular! I'm so glad you'll be able to have some influence over him. I was concerned that they were going to totally neglect his Indian heritage. Since they're baptizing him and all.

NELL

What?

MAUREEN

Yeah, they decided to do it at our going away party. Here. At your house.

NELL

I didn't know they were raising him Christian.

MAUREEN

Yeah, it's our family tradition... to keep our children out of hell. I guess they've all been going to church every Sunday. And Wednesdays during Lent. And Raj is in that praise band, The Rockin' Apostles.

NELL

Oh, is he?

There's going to be trouble.

EXT. NELL AND PRADIP'S - SATURDAY - AFTERNOON

The backyard looks beautiful, full of decorations and a "Goodbye, Gary and Maureen" banner. There are about 15 guests milling about. The party is just starting. Anna and Raj are setting up food on the elegant porch. Things are a little tense between Anna and Raj.

RAJ

Welp. By this evening, we'll finally be rid of our problems. They'll be in the Land Cruiser on the way back to Arizona.

ANNA

(pointed, re: Nell)  
Half of our problems. The other  
half will be upstairs raising our  
child in a nightmare Epcot Center  
version of a Calcutta slum--

RAJ

Listen, this is my mom's honest  
attempt to--

LLEWELYN

(interrupting, oblivious)  
Hey lovebirds, I have my tribute to  
Mom and Dad all ready to go, you  
just give me the cue. I checked,  
and the fog machine is safe for the  
baby.

ANNA

Why don't you wait until after the  
baptism is over? And most of the  
party is too. 'Kay, my miraculous  
little sis?

A HINDU PRIEST shows up at the side entrance.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Raj, one of your relatives is here.

RAJ

Racist. Every Indian is not  
related to me. At least, I don't  
think he is. Uncle Mohit?

The Hindu Priest looks confused.

RAJ (CONT'D)

Nope. He's not related to me.

Anna then puts on a pageant smile.

RAJ (CONT'D)

Pageant smile. Oh no.

Raj then sees what Anna is smiling about: it's Nell bringing  
out Clark in full Hindu ceremonial garb from the house.

ANNA

Why is everyone dressing up our son  
in women's clothing?

RAJ

Believe it or not, that dress is actually for boys.

Just then, Pradip enters from the house in a lungi (a Hindu loincloth-diaper thing).

RAJ (CONT'D)

And that diaper is actually for adults. Mom, what's going on?

NELL

If Maureen gets to have a baptism, I get to have a Namakarana Samskara.

ANNA

How did you hear about the baptism?

NELL

Your Mom told me.

PRADIP

I tried to talk her out of it. But you know how passionate white ladies are about their Namakarana Samskaras.

ANNA

What is a Namamamamaasmaarkra?

NELL

A Hindu naming ceremony.

RAJ

But he has a name.

NELL

Not an Indian name. We're going to call him Pashupati! Let's get some incense up in here.

Anna's pageant smile gets bigger and bigger. Raj plasters one on too.

**END OF ACT TWO**



**ACT THREE**

EXT. NELL AND PRADIP'S HOUSE - BACKYARD

Anna and Raj are panicked. Nell and the Hindu priest are performing an elaborate ceremony.

ANNA

How is this my fault!?!?

RAJ

If you would have just told your parents to leave in a normal way we wouldn't be having some weird party slash baptism slash goat sacrifice, or whatever's going on---

ANNA

Enough! Fine. Just please, stop your Mom before my parents get here--  
-- oh crap!

They turn to see Maureen and Gary arrive with a KOREAN PASTOR at the side entrance. Gary is sporting boots and a cowboy hat. Maureen is decked out in Chico's finest. Anna rushes over toward her parents, while Raj hurries toward his mom.

MAUREEN

A party? For me? What a surprise!

GARY

It wasn't a surprise, hon bun.

MAUREEN

Anna! This is Pastor Kim--

PASTOR KIM

(something in Korean)

MAUREEN

--and this is Clark's baptismal gown.

LLEWELYN

Didn't I wear that in a Miss Cinderella pageant?

GARY

Yes, but your mom sewed a cross onto it.

Maureen heads over toward the porch, while Anna tries to slow her down.

ANNA

Mom, I need to talk to you---

LLEWELYN

What happened to the Lutheran pastor?

GARY

The Korean Presbyterians are the only ones I could find who would do the last minute baptism. They're a little loosey goosey on the rules unlike those uptight Lutherans.

MAUREEN

Now, where's my baby boy?

ANNA

Mom, I just wanted to warn you---

Suddenly, Maureen sees Nell and the Hindu priest chanting in Hindi and swinging Indian clothing-clad Clark on a red sari.

MAUREEN

(scream)

WHAT IN GOD'S NAME IS HE WEARING?!?!?!?!?

ANNA

That's what I wanted to talk to you about. Nell is insisting that we also have a Namakarana Samskara.

MAUREEN

(scream)

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!?!?!?!?

ANNA

Please calm down, Mom.

MAUREEN

This is my special day!

GARY

Leave it to a liberal to dress my grandson up in that hippie get-up.

ANNA

You're about to put him in a dress! The second one you've made him wear this week!

MAUREEN

It's my party, and as a gift, I was going to get to save my grandson from a life of eternal hell.

ANNA

We're still doing the baptism, Mom.

In the midst of the chanting, Nell calls out to them.

NELL

Hi, Maureen! Gary! Did you see how cute Clark looks in his outfit?

GARY

Looks a lot like Obama in his Muslim clothes back home in Kenya.

Anna cringes as she sees a Muslim man near her father.

NELL

This is a Hindu salwar chameez flown in from New Dehli.

GARY

What was wrong with the old Dehli? Did the pastrami go bad? HA!

PRADIP

Boo-ya!

Nell turns to Pradip.

NELL

You were born in Dehli! Can't you stand up for your culture for once?

RAJ

Everyone, calm down! We're still doing the baptism, we're just doing the Hindu naming ceremony as well. It'll be a great way to celebrate all of our cultures.

PRADIP

We should do a circumcision too. Since you were a Goldberg before you were a Patel, Nell.

RAJ

No! He's already been circumcised. Hands off my kid's junk. You can dress him up like a girl, but you will not turn him into one.

The Hindu priest lights a candle. The confused Korean Pastor starts to shovel handfuls of shrimp into his mouth.

MAUREEN

This is an affront to God.

PRADIP

Which one? We have millions!  
Hiyoo!

GARY

Ka-pow-pow!

They high five. The Hindu priest pulls out a sacred bag.

HINDU PRIEST

Now, in honor of the sacred space  
between earth and heaven, we will  
shower the baby in spices---

He begins tossing flowers and spices at the baby.

MAUREEN

That's it! Get that cumin out of  
my baby's eyes. This is my special  
day! MINE!

Maureen snatches the baby and heads toward the pool.

MAUREEN (CONT'D)

Pastor Kim! Emergency baptism now!

Maureen tries to grab Pastor Kim as he downs handfuls of shrimp. She pulls him into the pool.

RAJ

Your mom's gone rogue!

ANNA

Dammit.

NELL

You get out of there, Maureen! We  
haven't lit the ceremonial fire  
yet! Give him back!

Nell starts chucking flowers at Maureen.

MAUREEN

You stop it! I'm saving this boy's  
soul!

GARY

Girls, you need to settle down.

PRADIP

It's like a handbag sale at the mall!

GARY

Bull's eye, Brown Guy!

They high five.

RAJ

Give me the baby, Maureen.

LLEWELYN

I guess it's time for my tribute.

Llewelyn cues loud dance music, probably Lady Gaga. A fog machine starts spewing fog everywhere. She starts a very skanky dance. Pradip really enjoys it. Anna and Raj try to pull Maureen out of the pool, Maureen screams.

ANNA

Mother, stop acting like a baby.

MAUREEN

I'm being perfectly rational!

Maureen kicks a beach ball at Nell. It beans her in the head. Anna screams.

ANNA

EVERYBODY, STOP! LISTEN TO ME!!!

Everyone turns and looks at her. Llewelyn stops mid-thrust.

ANNA (CONT'D)

I occasionally smoke pot and I curse!

Raj shakes his head. Anna reassures Raj.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Hang on. It's coming. Okay, now listen to me! Clark is our son. He's ours. And until he's 18, or becomes legally emancipated, Raj and I own him. His name is Clark, it's not Pashupati! We gave him that name in honor of my favorite Uncle, and that's what he will be called. And he will be dressed as a boy! Unless he chooses to do otherwise when he is older!

Raj smiles with pride at his wife.

GARY

Did you say you smoke pot? I don't think you should smoke pot and breastfeed.

PRADIP

That's very irresponsible.

NELL

That could severely stunt his--

RAJ

That's not the point! Slow your roll, people. No more pageants! No more insane nurseries! We appreciate all of your help, but he's *our* son. And we have the final say. So we've done your Nakakranashaawhatever---

NELL

My sad, white son.

RAJ

-- as well, as what I think was a baptism, although who knows? My Korean is a little rusty. But at the end of the day, we're the bosses.

ANNA

We love you, we want you to be involved in his life, but not *that* involved. We may make a few mistakes along the way. But have faith in us as parents, because we learned from the best. And we learned from you guys too.

Raj and Anna smile at each other.

RAJ

Nice.

ANNA

Thanks. You too. Felt pretty good.

RAJ

It did, didn't it?

They try to help Maureen out of the pool.

MAUREEN

Beautifully said, kids! I guess  
this is also a great time to  
announce that we're moving to LOS  
ANGELES!!!!

Anna and Raj are so shocked that they accidentally drop  
Maureen again, she gets soaking wet.

NELL

(not wonderful)  
Wonderful!

LLEWELYN

Seriously, Dad?

GARY

Surprise!

Just then Pradip starts crying loudly.

RAJ

Oh God. What's wrong, Dad?

PRADIP

I'm so happy! My Gary is going to  
be here!

Anna grabs a glass of wine, and downs it quickly.

ANNA

Screw breastfeeding.

RAJ

Formula's perfectly safe.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NELL AND PRADIP'S HOUSE - LATER

The party has ended, and it's just the family now. Maureen  
approaches Anna with wet hair and a sari. Anna is trying to  
swaddle Clark, but can't. Maureen puts down her margarita,  
and throughout the following scene swaddles Clark like a pro.

ANNA

Nice sari.

MAUREEN

Apparently, it's all Nell had for  
me to borrow. Who doesn't own a  
good sweatsuit, I say? I'm sorry  
to surprise you with the whole  
"moving to Los Angeles" thing.

ANNA

Well, we could have saved some money on the banner.

She references the "Goodbye, Maureen and Gary" banner.

ANNA (CONT'D)

I just don't get it, Mom. Why would you give up your lives in Tempe for this baby?

MAUREEN

(softening)

We're not moving here for your baby, sweetie. We're moving here for our babies.

Anna gets it. It's a nice moment. They hug.

MAUREEN (CONT'D)

I want to be here to help you while you go through this amazing time in your life. But most importantly, I want to see who my baby has become. You're obviously much more than Miss Tempe now. And trust me, it'll get easier to deal with me now that you're drinking again.

Anna and Maureen both laugh. We see now that there actually is affection between the two of them. But then--

MAUREEN (CONT'D)

I mean, seriously. How long were you going to continue breast-feeding? It totally ruins your boobs. That's why you were formula feed. No veiny raisins for me. I need another marg, girl.

Anna smiles as Maureen exits. Raj approaches Anna with two yards o' margaritas.

ANNA

Welcome to LA, Mom.

RAJ

Here. You're gonna need this.

They toast.

**END OF ACT THREE**



**TAG**

EXT. NELL AND PRADIP'S HOUSE - LATER

Gary and Pradip are playing in the pool with Clark, having a blast. Anna and Raj watch, drinking their yards o' margaritas.

ANNA

You know what? I don't think Clark should go to daycare.

RAJ

Seriously? You think he should be babysat by all these looney bins?

ANNA

We turned out okay.

RAJ

I did. But you, look at you with that pot-filled potty mouth.

ANNA

(smiling)  
&\$%# you.

RAJ

You just want to save money for that Lamborghini bed, don't you?

ANNA

I want some sweet rims on my bed. What can I say? Let's just not let our parents drive us apart again. You and I have a good thing going here. I don't want them to ruin it.

RAJ

Deal. Maybe your parents living here won't be terrible. Clark does love his Grandpas.

Pradip and Gary start wrestling, and jump out of the pool, leaving the baby floating by himself. Suddenly, the pool fountains and lights come on. It's basically like a lone baby floating in the pool at the Bellagio.

RAJ (CONT'D)

I'm going to go save the baby.

**END.** \*