

REBOUNDING

"PILOT"

Written by

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&

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Rev. Writers' Draft

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS - DAY

MUSIC CUE: "99 Problems" by Jay-Z. In SLO MO, ala *Reservoir Dogs*, we see three late 20 something guys, bad-ass in their own minds, approaching an outdoor basketball court dressed to play. They are DAVE TELLER (30, tall, good-looking guy's guy. He's confident and by far the best athlete in this crew), RAVI SHAH (29, Indian American, mannered, fastidious, a little uptight) and ELI KAPLAN (27, an overweight musician with a Jew-fro, he's sweet, awkward, undyingly loyal).

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The great thing about basketball is that, while you're playing, you can't think about anything else going on in your life.

Music ends, slo mo ends. Our guys see that the court is occupied by three 12-year-old boys playing ball.

TELLER

Alright, kiddies. Hit the swings. Big boys are going to play now.

KID #1

Screw that. We're here, old man. You want the court, you're gonna have to play us for it.

ELI

What are you, like, twelve?

KID #1

(to Eli, re: weight)
Ha ha ha, what are you, like, 275?

ELI

(whispering, to others)
These guys are mean.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And the worse things are going off the court, the more you want to take your frustrations out on the court.

RAVI

(to the kids)
Let's get this ass-whippin' started. I'll shoot for outs.

He chucks up an ugly air-ball.

RAVI (CONT'D)

(covering)

After I put our ball over there.
Your ball looks newer.

FREEZE on Ravi. CHYRON: "Ravi".

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Ravi is there with his girlfriend, Susan.

RAVI

You're leaving me?

SUSAN

You're just not an easy person to
be with. You're too uptight.

He reflexively slides a coaster under her soda can just as
she is putting it down.

RAVI

That's not fair, Susan.

SUSAN

You have a very particular way that
you want things to be. Your car,
your clothes. Look at this
furniture. I just don't feel like
I live up to the rest of it.

RAVI

Who can live up to a Ligne Roset
sofa, it's a work of art.

(then)

I mean, of course you do.

EXT. OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS - BACK TO SCENE

Our three guys play vs. the three little kids. QUICK CUTS of
the little kids outplaying our guys. Beating them off the
dribble. Stealing passes. A kid in a yarmulke quickly
drives by Eli and scores.

TELLER

Whose got the kid in the yarmulke?!

ELI

Please don't yell at me! I'm going
through a very rough time.

FREEZE ON Eli. Chyron: "Eli".

INT. RECORDING STUDIO - DAY - FLASHBACK

A band is laying down some tracks for a catchy inspirational alt rock song. The band members consist of four super hip, very good-looking rocker guys in their mid twenties. Eli enters, disheveled, carrying his bass and dropping pieces of paper from a pile of sheet music he's clutching.

ELI

Sorry, sorry. I couldn't find my keys. Or my glasses. Or, oddly, my cat. Turns out my cat had 'em. My keys, not my glasses. Can you imagine my cat in glasses? That'd be hilarious.

SID

Didn't you get our message?

ELI

No... Why, what's up?
(noticing)
Who's this guy?
(super friendly)
Hi.

He waves to Tony, a devastatingly handsome and hip twenty-something holding a bass guitar. An uncomfortable beat.

SID

That's... our new bass player.

ELI

What are you talking about? I'm the bass player.

The guys look away, awkwardly.

SID

Sorry, Eli. This is really hard. You're amazing. You're a musical genius. It's just... the label wanted us to make a change.

ELI

A change? Why?

The CAMERA PANS to a poster of the band ("Five Second Rule") on the wall. It's the three skinny good looking rocker guys, dressed in hip tight clothes, making cool serious rocker faces. And then there's Eli, also dressed in tight clothes, but looking ridiculous. He's got a big goofy grin and holding his bass and attempting a split in the foreground.

SID

Who knows?

EXT. OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS - LATER

Teller dribbles while talking smack to the little kid guarding him.

TELLER

Okay, little dude, I'm not even gonna waste the effort faking you out. I'll tell you exactly what I'm gonna do. Drive straight up the lane and --

The kid steals the ball and passes to the kid in the yarmulke who drains a three.

TELLER (CONT'D)

Who's got him?!

FREEZE ON Teller. Chyron: "Teller".

EXT. TOAST - BREAKFAST JOINT - DAY

Teller is having brunch with Ravi and Eli.

TELLER

(grave news)

I'm in love.

ELI

That's great.

(then)

Right?

TELLER

No. It's too soon! This wasn't the plan. I was supposed to bone my way all through my thirties. Then marry a much younger woman with whom I had little in common when I was like forty-five.

RAVI

What happened?

TELLER

(growing anger)

I met this amazing woman. The sex is mindblowing. She loves sports. She can quote with scary accuracy from any Bill Murray movie. She's me with breasts.

ELI

It's what you've always been
looking for.

Teller bangs his fist on the table.

TELLER

(annoyed)
I've never been happier.

EXT. DANNY'S HOUSE - DAY

A 1920's Spanish home in the Grove area of Los Angeles. Our narrator and main man DANNY MARKLE (Early 30's, reasonably good looking, a man in crisis who is raw and exposed, think Jon Favreau in *Swingers*) exits to take his little dog ROONEY (4, small white, somewhat "girly" dog) for a walk.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

But sometimes... sometimes things
are going so badly that you don't
even feel like playing at all.
That's my story. And if you run
into me, I'll probably tell it to
you.

Outside Danny runs into the mailman who is delivering mail.

MAILMAN

Hey, there. How's it going?

Danny lets out a big sigh.

DANNY

... Not well.

MAILMAN

Oh. I was... just kind of making
conversation.

The mailman starts to turn away, then:

DANNY

(lost in thought)
Her name was Jenny...

MAILMAN

Okay.

INT. AD AGENCY OFFICE - ELEVATOR - DAY - FLASHBACK

Danny is there. The elevator doors open and JENNY (26, beautiful brunette with a million watt smile) gets on.

DANNY (V.O.)

We met at work. And I charmed her
right from the start.

DANNY

Hi, I'm Danny.

JENNY

I think you have mustard on your
tie.

He does.

EXT. GROVE OUTDOOR MALL - FLASHBACK - DAY

Jenny and Danny eat at an outdoor cafe at the mall.

DANNY (V.O.)

I remember the first time we told
each other I love you. Or rather,
we sort of did. We had only been
together a couple months...

LATER. Jenny and Danny walk with shopping bags.

DANNY (V.O.)

We were at the mall and Jenny had
forgotten her phone in the car. So
as she ran back to the parking
structure, I yelled out "W!!!".
That's the section we were parked
in. But she misheard me and yelled
back--

JENNY

I love you too!

DANNY (V.O.)

And then I yelled--

DANNY

No, I said W!

Jenny laughs and buries her head in her hands in
embarrassment.

DANNY (V.O.)

And from then on "W" was our little
coupley thing we said to say I love
you.

EXT. ANIMAL SHELTER - DAY - FLASHBACK

Jenny and Danny walk down the street, hand in hand and enter an animal rescue place.

DANNY (V.O.)

And because it felt so right, we moved quickly. We adopted a dog and made up a silly voice for him.

INT. ANIMAL RESCUE PLACE - DAY - FLASHBACK

Danny and Jenny are there signing the papers to adopt ROONEY, who Jenny is holding.

DANNY (V.O.)

He called me "guy" and Jenny "girl" because he was a dog. And dogs aren't good with names.

Danny is having second thoughts.

JENNY

You said you liked him.

DANNY

No, I do. ...it's just, is he a little *small*?

JENNY

Look, only take him if you want him. But I love him.

(to dog)

W, doggy.

DANNY

Okay, you're right. I like him. You like him. Who cares if he's a little on the small side.

Danny starts to sign the paperwork.

JENNY

Oh my God, look at this little bag. We could carry him around in it.

DANNY

(to shelter employee)

How long do these small dogs live?

We FREEZE on the image of a happy Danny and Jenny and their new dog. Under the following the picture washes out in a bright white FADE.

DANNY (V.O.)

And with that our life was starting. Or so we thought. We were engaged in April and Jenny got sick shortly after...

EXT. DANNY'S HOUSE - BACK TO SCENE

Danny finishes up telling the mailman his story.

DANNY

She died three months ago.

A somber beat. The mailman just hugs Danny.

MAILMAN

I'm so sorry...
(reading name on letter)
Danny.

INT. DANNY'S HOUSE - DEN - LATER

Danny is watching TV on his blue couch with Rooney. His landline rings. He looks at it. It's a call from "Teller". He puts the phone down without answering it and it stops ringing. Immediately his cell phone starts ringing. Danny sighs and picks up.

DANNY

Hey, Teller.

INTERCUT WITH: EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - CONTINUOUS

Teller is walking with Eli and Ravi.

TELLER

(into phone)
Yo, bro. You're coming out with us tonight. We're coming to grab you.

DANNY

No, Teller. I'm not even home right now.

TELLER

Oh, really? Cause you haven't gone out in three months. Sure you're not just sitting there on that blue couch with your pants around your ankles? Don't make Rooney watch that, dude. That's animal abuse. I *will* call someone.

DANNY

Okay, I gotta go.

TELLER (O.S.)

(over phone)

I'm serious, bro!

Danny hangs up. We see Teller, Ravi and Eli appear in the window. They were just outside Danny's house. Teller raps on the window.

TELLER (CONT'D)

(yelling through window)

Do it in the bathroom like the shameful act that it is!

DANNY

My pants are up!

EXT. DANNY'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - SHORT TIME LATER

Danny is having beers with Teller, Eli and Ravi. The house is nicely renovated with a pool and an outdoor fireplace.

DANNY

I'm just not ready to be going out again yet. I'm emotional. I'm dramatic. I keep crying during Lifetime channel movies.

TELLER

Why are you watching Lifetime channel?

DANNY

I don't know, it speaks to me. The point is, I'm a mess. And everyone is a mess around me. They don't know how to act. The pity in their eyes, with the head tilt and the "heeeey." I can't even go in the kitchen at work. That's where they corner me. I call it the Sympathy Kitchen.

Eli is lovingly cradling Rooney, as if he's a baby.

ELI

What do you think Rooney dreams about?

TELLER

Okay, you're creepy with that dog.

ELI

We have a special connection. And I'm not allowed to have pets in my building.

DANNY

Trust me, it's better for everyone if I just hole myself up for a while.

RAVI

Can I say something? And I hope you take this as supportive. You were *kind of* a mess before.

DANNY

Thank you.

TELLER

I know you miss her, man. We all do. But at some point you gotta get back out there and start living your life.

RAVI

We could've used you at ball today. We got beat by three little kids. Eli was really huffing and puffing.

ELI

I have exercise induced asthma. My victory is just stepping out on the court.

TELLER

And Ravi, he's single now. Guy needs a wingman at the bars.

RAVI

We need to be there for each other. We're going through the same thing.

DANNY

Yeah, not sure it's *exactly* the same thing.

RAVI

No, no. I hear you. I can't even imagine. Not the same. Although Susan and I were together a very long time.

(beat)

Kinda similar.

TELLER

Look, have you had the worst year on record, Danny. Absolutely. But you still have a lot going for you. Look at this backyard. It's a panty melter. If I had this house and I weren't dating Taryn--

DANNY

Living with Taryn.

TELLER

-- I would pull so much tail.

DANNY

I'm really not ready to be dating again.

ELI

That makes total sense. There's no right or wrong in your situation.

TELLER

It's been *months*. I would literally go on a shooting spree.

RAVI

That's because you're a sex addict.

TELLER

According to *Maxim* I'm within the high end of the normal range. Man, I would pull so much tail if I lived here.

DANNY

And if you weren't in a committed relationship with a woman you love.

TELLER

It's like a dagger, dude. Do you always have to bring that up?

ELI

I painted you a picture. To cheer you up.

He hands Danny the picture. It's a small framed water color drawing of a dog that looks as if it were done by a third grader. In the corner is written the word "Rooney."

DANNY

Thank you. This is very normal.

Eli smiles.

INT. AD AGENCY - BREAK ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Danny is in the kitchen, getting some coffee. A thirty-something co-worker, TODD, is rubbing his shoulder sympathetically.

TODD

Anyway, I just wanted to let you know... we are *all* thinking about you.

A beat. Todd keeps rubbing Danny's shoulder. Danny shifts, uncomfortable.

DANNY

Thank you, Todd.

TODD

I'll see you in the meeting.

Todd exits. Danny quickly puts some sweetener in his coffee and starts to hustle out of the kitchen when a middle aged middle manager, RICKI, enters and intercepts him.

RICKI

(head tilt, sympathetic)
Heeeey. How are you?

EXT. PARKING LOT - EVENING

Danny exits work for the day. He's heading for his car in the parking lot, when he spots **a beautiful redhead with a ponytail** jogging by on the sidewalk. She is **wearing a University of Wisconsin tee-shirt**. They make eye contact and without breaking her stride she flashes him a big smile as she jogs off. Just then, Teller and his girlfriend TARYN (27, smoking hot, super secure, a female Teller) approach on foot.

TELLER

Hey, man. You remember Taryn.

DANNY

Hey, how you--

TARYN

Do not tell me the score of the Laker game. I'm recording it. I will literally kill you.

DANNY

(confused)

What are you guys doing here?

Behind Danny, we see Eli and Ravi pull up in a car. They get out and creep up on Danny.

TELLER

Look, I know what you told us about not going out and needing some time and all that. I just wanted to tell you that we heard you.

DANNY

(a little confused)

Okay, thanks...

TELLER

But we're ignoring it. Baby bird needs a push out of the nest!

DANNY

What?

From behind Ravi puts a pillowcase over Danny's head.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(muffled screams)

Ghhaah!!

TELLER

You'll thank us for this!

ELI

I'm so sorry, Danny!

They stuff Danny into the backseat.

RAVI

(to onlooker)

It's cool. He's our friend.

TARYN

Go go go!

As the car screeches away, we... FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. CHURCHHILL - THAT NIGHT

A busy, fun West Hollywood bar. Danny is there with Teller, Ravi, Eli and Taryn.

ELI

I'm just saying, I think they would allow it. They have an outdoor patio here.

DANNY

Yeah, I just don't think Rooney would enjoy going to a bar.

TELLER

(to Eli)

It's weird, dude. Stop.

A cute 20-something woman passes by.

TARYN

(to Danny)

What about her? She's cute.

RAVI

Not loving her in those Tory Burch flats. Very two years ago.

DANNY

I don't know.

TELLER

Come on, Danny. I can't be out there myself, so I'm depending on you. I need a friend who I can live vicariously through.

(to Ravi and Eli)

No offense, you guys.

RAVI / ELI

I certainly do take offense. / Completely get it.

TELLER

(to Taryn)

Not that I would trade monogamy for anything.

TARYN

Hey, I told you -- anytime you want, one week off, no questions asked. Of course it's a two way street... There's this cute guy at work, looks like a young Al Pacino.

TELLER

Yeah, see, that's the part I don't really like.

(then)

I'll be right back.

Teller crosses off.

DANNY

Is it hot in here? I think I'm having a panic attack.

TARYN

Perfectly normal. You haven't been out in a very long time.

(noticing)

What is that?

Danny has taken something out of his pocket and started playing with it.

DANNY

It's a kneadable eraser. I like to play with it when I'm nervous.

Taryn considers this, then:

TARYN

Woman's point of view -- that's actually just odd enough to be a conversation piece. I say go with it. It's pure you.

DANNY

(smells eraser)

It smells good too.

TARYN

Maybe don't do the smelling thing.

ELI

(to Danny)

Come on. Buck up. This is fun, right? The guys, some beers. Ravi's lemondrop.

DANNY

(deep breath)

I guess it's not that bad. It is good to see you guys. But that was messed up how you got me here. Please don't ambush me like that again.

RAVI / ELI / TARYN

Absolutely. / No problem. / You got it.

Teller crosses back in, leading the girl from earlier, Charlotte.

TELLER

Danny, this is Charlotte.
Charlotte, Danny.

TARYN

(to the group)

Go go go!

They all scatter, Ravi and Teller pulling Eli away, leaving Danny and Charlotte alone.

ELI

(being led off)

I'm sorry, Danny! I didn't know!

An awkward beat.

DANNY

Hey.

Danny smiles nervously, then smells his eraser.

INT. CHURCHHILL - LATER

The gang tries to not be too obvious about it as they sneak glimpses of Danny talking to Charlotte across the way. Teller, however, makes no effort to be subtle about watching them. He just stares, proudly.

TARYN

(to Teller)

Don't just keep staring at them.
You're gonna cramp his game.

(then)

What's happening now?

TELLER

They're still talking.

TARYN

How's he doing?

TELLER

It seems good.

TARYN

Seriously, Teller, you're making it weird.

(then)

What's about now? What's going on?

RAVI

Did I tell you guys I ran into Susan on a date? It was horrible. The dude was a mess. Bad haircut, crazy ungroomed eyebrows--

ELI

Wait, I'm sorry, you're mad the guy was bad looking?

RAVI

That reflects poorly on me. That's the follow-up? That's the group I'm now a part of?

TARYN

Yeah, you want your ex dating someone hot.

RAVI

Thank you.

TELLER

Any chance Susan chose him because he's, I don't know, straight?

RAVI

Not this again. I'm gay because I have a sense of style? You sound like the dad from *Billy Elliot* before his turn in the second act.

ELI

We would love you either way. You know that, right? It gets better.

TELLER

(re: Danny, impressed)

This is unbelievable. Look at him. Danny is *killing* it.

ELI

(proud)

Our little man is getting back out there.

TELLER

See, you put a guy in a game situation, the instincts just take over. And he just keeps *talking*. He is really in the zone.

ANGLE ON: Danny talking to Charlotte. We hear the end of a familiar story.

DANNY

And from then on "W" was the little coupley thing Jenny and I said to say "I love you." Or sometimes just --

He makes a W with his hands. ANGLE ON: our gang is watching Danny from across the way.

TELLER

(worried)

What is that? What is he doing with the hands?

ELI

Oh man, he's telling the W story.

RAVI

He's a mess!

TARYN

Go! Go! Go!

They hurry toward Danny and Charlotte. ANGLE back on Danny and Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

(trying to make it better)

I'm glad you at least have Rooney. Pets can be such a comfort.

The gang crosses in.

TELLER

Hey, so, we having fun?

Danny is oblivious.

DANNY

It's weird. Now instead of sleeping in our bed like he used to do, Rooney spends every night in the living room sitting on the top of the sofa. He just stares out the window, waiting for Jenny to come home.

Danny gets a little emotional.

CHARLOTTE

That's the saddest thing I've ever heard.

Moved, Charlotte puts her hand on Danny's. The guys all notice this. Immediately Ravi turns to another nearby girl. Rapid fire:

RAVI

My girlfriend just broke up with me.

ELI

I got kicked out of my band.

DANNY

(emotional)
Excuse me.

Danny crosses off.

INT. BAR BATHROOM - A SHORT TIME LATER

Danny looks at himself in the mirror, shaken and upset. He bends down and washes his face in the sink. He comes up and is startled to see Charlotte in the mirror, standing inside the bathroom behind him.

CHARLOTTE

Hi, Danny.

DANNY

Bah! What are you doing in here?

CHARLOTTE

I want to heal you.

DANNY

Excuse me?

CHARLOTTE

Your cute friend told me how long it's been. Let me heal you, Danny.

She touches him.

DANNY
I'm okay, really.

CHARLOTTE
Shhh! Don't say a word. Stop thinking.

She kisses him, long and hard.

DANNY
You're very nice. Really. It's just that I'm --

CHARLOTTE
Shhh!

She kisses him again.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
You're hurting, you need love. I want to heal you. I want to heal you so bad.

DANNY
This is not the most hygenic --

CHARLOTTE
I want to heal you in half.

DANNY
Okay, that seems like a bit of a contradiction.

CHARLOTTE
I've never done anything like this before.

She grabs him and lifts him onto the sink.

DANNY
Wow.

CHARLOTTE
Pilates.

DANNY
And believe me, it shows. You're very attractive. And fit. It's just that I'm really not--

She jumps on top of him and kisses him again. She reaches down and starts trying to unbutton his pants.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Hey! Whoa!

CHARLOTTE

What's the worst that could happen?

DANNY

I don't know, I could start crying,
you could get pregnant, I could get
a social disease.

Then suddenly -- BOOM -- their combined weight **rips the sink**
from the wall. A geyser of water sprays all over them.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Oh my God!

CHARLOTTE

I'm really sorry!

They fall. He fights his way through the water and
eventually manages to shut it off.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Okay, that just sobered me up and
now I feel awkward. I have a
boyfriend. Let's just pretend this
never happened.

She straightens herself up best she can and exits, her wet
shoes "squishing" loudly as she does. After a beat a man,
LARRY, enters. He recognizes Danny.

LARRY

Danny?

(re: himself)

Larry Jacobsen. From Accounting.

DANNY

Oh, hey, Larry.

LARRY

Listen, I heard about all the stuff
you've been going through.

(head tilt, sympathetic)

How ya doing, bud?

As Larry rubs Danny's shoulder, sympathetically... FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

Danny walks Rooney. He is stopped and talking to a thin, well-coiffed man wearing an ascot.

DANNY

(re: Rooney)

No, I know he *is* very small. But I like women.

MAN

I'm sorry. My mistake.

DANNY

Happens all the time. I'm flattered. Have a good one.

Danny walks toward his house, when a woman, AMANDA (33, harried, angry) pulls up in her car and gets out.

AMANDA

There you are. I've been calling.

DANNY

Yeah, my phone got kind of waterlogged.

AMANDA

Well, I just got off work and Joey is still with the babysitter. So I have one solid hour to take care of the other special man in my life.

DANNY

Kind of an unhealthy way to describe your brother.

Amanda hands him a book.

AMANDA

Here. You need to read this. There were a few nights this kept me from sticking my head in the oven.

DANNY

(reading title)

"I Will Survive -- A Woman's Guide to Divorce". You do realize our situations are pretty different.

AMANDA

Of course. I'm not beginning to equate the two. Although experts do say divorce is like a death. And you never have to worry about running into Jenny--

DANNY

Oh my God, Amanda!

AMANDA

I'm just saying, the book helped. Now I have the tools to calmly deal with it if I go out for frozen yogurt and bump into Larry and that whore.

DANNY

Okay, well, I'm kinda beat, but thanks for checking in.

AMANDA

I just want to help you! I'm your sister. Why do you always insist on doing everything yourself?

DANNY

I'm fine. I just really feel like being alone.

They enter Danny's house.

INT. DANNY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Danny opens the door. Teller, Ravi and Eli are there. Eli is cradling Rooney like a baby.

TELLER

There's our boy! Tell us what happened. Leave out nothing. I'm starved for new sex stories, so I've carved out a half hour and I'm turning off my phone.

Amanda enters, having heard this.

AMANDA

Do you think about nothing else, Teller?

TELLER

(sees Amanda)
Oh, God.

ELI
(smitten)
Hi, Amanda.

AMANDA
(to Danny)
You had sex tonight? It's a little soon.

TELLER
No, it's not.

DANNY
And no I didn't.

TELLER
He might just be saying that.
Please just be saying that.

ELI
There's no right or wrong in your situation.

TELLER
(to Amanda)
Please go so he can tell us.

DANNY
Nothing happened. Well, a lot happened, but nothing good. I told you guys. I'm a mess. Nothing good was going to happen.

RAVI
We saw her follow you to the back and then you guys both disappeared.

DANNY
She wanted to give me pity sex in the bathroom.

AMANDA
Ew.

TELLER
Bathroom sex. God, I love this. But you're going way too fast. Start at the beginning.

DANNY
I've discussed this enough.

RAVI

Hey, come on. We're both back out there. And it's not going to be easy. But we need to be able to talk about this stuff. We're going through the same thing.

DANNY

No, we're-- what is wrong with everyone?

AMANDA

Yeah, Ravi, that's ridiculous. You can't compare your situation to what Danny and I are going through.

Danny just throws up his hands.

DANNY

(ushering them out)

Alright, thanks, guys. Fun night. Great times. We'll have to do it again real soon.

ELI

Okay, I'm pretty sensitive, something's wrong. That sounded like sarcasm.

TELLER

Thank God you're here to break the code, Eli.

ELI

(to Teller)

And there it is again.

DANNY

Look, I appreciate all this. And everything you guys have been trying to do for me. But really -- tonight was a sign. Let me handle this my way.

TELLER

Alright, listen. Danny, you got hit with the big one, but look at us. We all have our own problems. Eli got kicked out of his band. Ravi just got dumped. And me -- I'm stuck in a loving relationship with super hot woman.

RAVI

(aside to Eli)

Even his bad stuff is good.

TELLER

The point is, we lean on each other. And you should too. Life is going to set picks. And we need each other to help fight through them.

(then)

See how I tied it into basketball?

ELI

That was neat.

TELLER

So what do you say -- tomorrow we get back out there and give it another shot?

DANNY

No! Look! I don't know how many times I have to say it -- I'm not ready.

AMANDA

He's upset. Maybe you guys should go.

DANNY

You, too, Amanda!

AMANDA

But Sweetie --

DANNY

Just back off! I'm not ready to feel better! And I'm not ready to make small talk and be charming again -- hell, I wasn't charming before -- I'm not ready to pick up women, I'm not ready to forget her, okay?! I fell in love once my entire life and, this miracle happened, she loved me too. Do you have any idea how incomprehensible that was to me, that there was a beautiful and smart and funny female of our species that loved me back? And now she's gone. And I still miss her.

(MORE)

DANNY (CONT'D)

I know guys are supposed to recover from these things faster, but I guess I must be part woman--

ELI

We all are.

DANNY

Cause I'm not ready to forget her and "get back out there". I just need some time to be alone.

TELLER

Buddy--

DANNY

Please just go.

AMANDA

Maybe if you --

DANNY

(firmly)
Please!

Danny opens the door. Reluctantly, they all exit.

INT. DANNY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - A COUPLE NIGHTS LATER

Danny is turning off the lights in the house. Rooney sits on the top of the couch, staring out the window as he always does at night. Danny pats Rooney's back and gives him a kiss on the head.

DANNY

Night, bud.

INT. DANNY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATER

Danny is in bed. He's watching a movie on Lifetime and tearing up a bit.

WOMAN (ON TV)

Whoever thought that three divorced women would find happiness running a gourmet tea shop together?

OTHER WOMAN (ON TV)

I love you crazy broads. You know what else -- I came up with a plan for us to all murder each other's husbands.

DANNY
(tearing up)
They deserve it. You go, girls.

The movie goes to commercial and Danny flips the channel to Jimmy Kimmel on TV.

JIMMY KIMMEL (ON TV)
I'm really excited about this next band. If they sound as good as they look, they're going to be the next big thing. Please welcome... Five Second Rule!

Eli's former band appears on screen. They launch into the song we heard them rehearsing earlier. The crowd goes crazy.

DANNY
No way...

As the song continues to play, we CUT AROUND to our different characters homes. UNDER MUSIC:

INT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Amanda is in bed reading a book ("Our Turn: Women Who Triumph in the Face of Divorce"). Her four year old son JOEY sleeps next to her.

INT. RAVI'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ravi is trimming his eyebrows.

INT. TELLER'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Teller is in bed. Taryn walks around the bedroom getting ready for bed. Teller's cell phone rings and we see the picture of the caller "Meghan" come up. She's a hot girl. With tremendous pain, frustration and difficulty, Teller hits "ignore".

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Eli is watching the band perform on TV. We hear the outgoing message on an answering machine.

ELI (V.O.)
I can't get to the phone, so leave a message after the...
(imitating)
... beeeeeeeeeeeep.

The machine beeps.

ELI'S MOTHER (O.S.)

(on machine)

Eli, it's your mother. Your father and I are watching your band on the television and we don't see you. What's wrong? Are you okay? Call us back. And wear your nightguard.

INT. DANNY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The MUSIC ENDS. Danny turns off the TV and starts to turn in. We hear the pitter patter of tiny feet approaching. Danny turns to see Rooney in the doorway.

DANNY

Rooney? What's up, little guy?

Rooney looks at him, then back toward the living room, then back to Danny. Then Rooney just runs and leaps onto the bed and burrows himself in next to Danny. Danny is touched by his dog's ability to do what he could not: start to accept and move forward. Danny pulls Rooney in tight and the two friends go to sleep together.

DANNY (CONT'D)

W, Rooney.

EXT. OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS - THE NEXT DAY

Teller, Ravi and Eli approach.

TELLER

(noticing)

Aw, dammit.

They arrive to find the three little kids who beat them before playing on the court.

KID #1

Back for more, ladies?

DANNY (V.O.)

There's a term in basketball -- "the first step". Michael Jordan, Dr. J, Kobe Bryant -- they were all amazing at taking people off the dribble. And the way they did that, was with a killer first step.

Danny shows up, Rooney under his arm and proceeds to tie Rooney's leash to a bench. The guys are happy to see him.

DANNY

Hey, guys.

TELLER

Alright!

(to kids)

Now you guys are in trouble.

Teller throws Danny a ball.

ELI

Take my spot. I'll hang with
Rooney.

The game gets underway, our guys schooling the little kids with Danny's help.

DANNY (V.O.)

I've always had a horrible first
step. I'm slow. And I'm not that
coordinated. And I have ankles
that sprain easily.

Danny gets double teamed by the yarmulke kid and another little kid, causing him to pick up his dribble.

DANNY (V.O.)

But maybe it's not important what
your first step is like. Maybe
it's just about taking that first
step. And about knowing where to
find help when you need it.

Danny passes the ball to Teller, who drives past his defender and scores. Our guys celebrate way too much, taunting the little kids.

EXT. OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS - LATER

Post-game. The guys hang courtside, drinking gatorade and water.

RAVI

Hey, so I got a date with this
really ugly girl I met at the
coffee shop. Two can play at this
game!

TELLER

Man, I miss meeting new chicks.

DANNY

But you met your soulmate.

TELLER

Seriously, dude, just stop.

As the guys continue their banter we see the **pretty redhead from before**, jogging by in the nearby park. **She's wearing the same U. of Wisconsin tee-shirt.** The guys don't notice her. We follow the redhead as she jogs away **REVEALING she is wearing U. of Wisconsin running shorts which have a big red "W" on the rear.** Though Danny may not know it, hope is on the horizon. As Eli's former band's song SWELLS inspirationally, we... FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW