

Untitled Justin Adler Project

"Pilot"

by  
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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. STREET - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

A row of brownstones on a quaint street in Georgetown, an upscale neighborhood in Washington, DC.

CUT TO:

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

A bachelor pad with hints of mom's decorating help. PAUL, 28, sweet and eager for approval, and his girlfriend, JILLIAN, 29, sexy, are cleaning up after dinner. They are very affectionate and cute together.

PAUL

The dinner you made was incredible.

Jillian wipes off a dish into the trash can and takes the opportunity to covertly rearrange the garbage to hide to-go containers from a restaurant.

JILLIAN

It was nothing. And we got to feed each other without people in a restaurant making fun of us.

Paul and Jillian smile and kiss.

PAUL

I really want to say something to you right now but I can't because it's too soon and I'll sound crazy.

Jillian glows. She knows what he wants to say.

JILLIAN

I want to say it, too.

PAUL

You do? But it's too soon, right?

JILLIAN

After two months? It's insane. Ah! What is wrong with us?

They are both laughing now with nervous, excited energy.

JILLIAN (CONT'D)

What if we agree to say it without actually saying it? Is that crazy?

PAUL

I think it's the opposite of crazy.

They stare at each other with meaning. Then:

JILLIAN

Oh my God, I can't believe we just didn't say it.

They kiss passionately.

PAUL

I want you to come to a great party with me in a couple of weeks.

JILLIAN

Okay, what is it? Who's going to be there?

PAUL

My sister and brother-in-law, their three kids, my mom and dad, my brother, his wife, and their new Chinese baby they're bringing back from China.

Jillian is confused.

JILLIAN

So, you're asking me to meet your family?

PAUL

Well, when you say it like that you put so much pressure on it.

JILLIAN

What pressure?

PAUL

The stressful kind. My family is really close, they mean everything to me. And you know how I feel about you. I think I made that pretty clear just now when I didn't say it. So if things don't go well I'll lose everything in the world I care about. On top of which, I've never introduced any of my girlfriends to my family before because none of them have been good enough until you, so my whole life has been leading up to this moment.

Paul finally takes a breath. Jillian stares at him a beat.

JILLIAN

You're right. I'm putting way too much pressure on it.

CUT TO:

INT. VANESSA AND CHARLES'S HOUSE - DAY

An impeccably designed home with the finest of everything. Paul's beautiful sister, VANESSA, 36, domestic goddess, is talking to her husband, CHARLES, 37, polo playing rich, with a huge ego. Charles is thumbing through a polo magazine, "Polo Life." We see he is the polo player on the cover.

VANESSA

Hon, do you ever feel old?

CHARLES

Sure, I feel like I have the wisdom of a two-hundred-year-old man.

VANESSA

No, I mean old. I have one brother who's just fallen in love for the first time, I have another brother who is about to have his first baby from China -- they have their whole lives ahead of them. But me, I'll be forty in a couple years and our kids barely need me now. What do I do?

CHARLES

I think I know what's wrong. You feel old compared to Paul and Derek because you're the oldest.

VANESSA

How is that supposed to make me feel better? You really think you have the wisdom of a two-hundred-year-old man?

CHARLES

Hey, I didn't say it was a smart two-hundred-year-old man.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMERCIAL JUMBO JET - DAY (FEW WEEKS LATER)

CLOSE ON Paul's sweaty, unhappy looking brother, DEREK, 34. The CAMERA PANS over to reveal his new adopted Chinese baby, LILY. He's staring down at the baby like she's an alien. The CAMERA TILTS UP to KIMMY, 33, very shy. She is smiling down at Lily in her arms. Kimmy looks at Derek and, catching himself, he quickly smiles.

DEREK

You already love her, don't you?

KIMMY

Yeah.

(then)

You want to hold her?

DEREK

No. I don't want to drop her.

KIMMY

Where is there to drop her?

DEREK

Kimmy, we're thirty thousand feet in the air.

(then)

I don't feel well.

KIMMY

Your stomach?

DEREK

(whining)

Yeah.

Derek unbuckles his seat belt and gets up.

DEREK (CONT'D)

(re: his stomach)

I'll be right back. Need anything?

KIMMY

(confused)

From an airplane bathroom?

Derek walks down the aisle toward the bathroom. The jet is a two-five-two seating configuration. He looks at the passengers sitting in the two seats against the windows to his left, as he walks. It seems as if everyone is a white couple, both straight and gay, holding their new Chinese babies. Each couple looks happier than the previous, overjoyed by the children they finally get to love. Except one DAD toward the back, on the aisle.

He looks as miserable as Derek. Derek, seeing this kindred spirit, decides to lean down and talk privately to the guy.

DEREK

Hey. Buddy. I'm thinking the same thing. Maybe there was a reason we couldn't have our own kids, because maybe we weren't meant to be parents.

DAD

No, I just hate flying. This is the happiest day of my life.

As the man reaches for a barf bag, we:

CUT TO:

EXT. GEORGETOWN SIDEWALK - THAT EVENING

Their mother and father, CLAIRE and DAN, 58, always bickering but always in love, walk to their car parked on the street in front of their house. Claire is talking to her daughter, excited.

CLAIRE

(on cell phone)

Vanessa, Sweetie, I spoke to your brother, it's official. We're the proud grandparents to a twenty-three pound bouncing baby girl. She entered the country at 2:30pm. The flight was bumpy, but Derek said mother and baby are doing fine. Although, I'm sure Kimmy still won't help with the dishes tonight... Okay, we're on our way.

Claire hangs up.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

I worry about our daughter trying to do too much for this party when she's been so sick. You know how overboard she goes to make everything restaurant quality.

DAN

I thought you said Vanessa got a tooth pulled?

CLAIRE

(clearly covering something)

Yes.

(MORE)

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

She was so sick they had to pull a tooth. Anyway, Paul and his new girlfriend aren't there yet so we don't have to hurry.

CUT TO:

INT. DAN AND CLAIRE'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Dan pulls out into the street, accelerating. Claire screams.

CLAIRE

Why are you driving like a [beep]-ing [beep]-hole?!

DAN

You said hurry.

CLAIRE

I said we don't have to hurry. You have the worst hearing. Your hearing is awful.

DAN

So what do we know about Paul's girlfriend?

CLAIRE

I heard she volunteers at a suicide hot-line. Can you imagine? I'd be terrible at one of those places. I'd tell them to do it already. Who needs the aggravation?

DAN

Does she have big boobs?

CLAIRE

What is the matter with you?

DAN

I just look out for my son.  
(re: Claire's modest chest)  
I don't want him making the same mistakes I made.

Dan laughs.

CLAIRE

Oh!

She playfully hits Dan with a laugh. They smile and kiss, like teenagers. But this causes Dan to nearly hit a car.

DAN

Son of a --

CLAIRE

What the [beep] are you doing? You are the worst driver.

CUT TO:

EXT. GEORGETOWN SIDEWALK - MOMENTS LATER

Paul is walking with Jillian who carries a sweet bouquet of flowers in a little vase. Paul looks nervous.

PAUL

...My mom is great but can be a little critical, and my sister is amazing but can be a little competitive. You'll be fine. You look awesome. Did you bring anything else to wear?

JILLIAN

This outfit's cute. You're stressed for no reason, you know that? You need to relax.

PAUL

You're right. Our one hope is that they'll be so distracted by this Chinese baby we'll skate through.

Jillian stops Paul and kisses him. She starts to unbuckle his belt.

PAUL (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

JILLIAN

Helping you relax.

CUT TO:

EXT. GEORGETOWN SIDEWALK - MOMENTS LATER

Paul is standing up against a tree, behind some bushes, when Dan and Claire trudge up the sidewalk, oblivious.

CLAIRE

Hello, Sweetheart.

PAUL

(surprised)  
Hi, Mom. Dad.

DAN

What are you doing?

PAUL

Oh. I was just picking flowers...

He reaches down and picks up Jillian's full vase of flowers.

CLAIRE

Where is your new friend?

Jillian stands up behind the bushes, dusting her knees off.

JILLIAN

Hi, I'm Jillian. It's so nice to finally meet you!

CUT TO:

EXT. GEORGETOWN SIDEWALK - A LITTLE LATER

Kimmy and Derek push their new baby in a stroller. They approach a magnificent home in Georgetown.

KIMMY

Your mother and Vanessa are going to be watching me like a hawk with Lily. Taking notes, giving unwanted opinions.

Derek rings the door bell. He stares at the baby, unhappy.

KIMMY (CONT'D)

It's really important I show them I can do this. That I'm a good, confident mom.

DEREK

(not really listening)  
Got it.

The shy Kimmy takes a breath and puts on a confident smile as Derek, looking miserable, looks up from the baby to her.

DEREK (CONT'D)

Kimmy, I think we've made a huge mistake adopting this baby.

The door opens to Derek's entire family greeting them with "Congratulations!" "Oh my God!" and other squeals of excitement, as Kimmy looks at Derek, stunned.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. VANESSA AND CHARLES'S FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

MUSIC CUE: "WHAT GOES ON" by Velvet Underground, as performed by Elizabeth Mitchell, plays over the following:

Various SHOTS of the happy family greeting each other with affectionate hugs and kisses -- this is clearly a family that loves each other:

Vanessa is wearing an apron over her very chic outfit.

Vanessa's husband, Charles, holds their dog, CHUCKER. But Chucker isn't a lap dog, she's a sixty-pound Irish Setter...

Claire is lovingly holding the baby with Dan admiring her over Claire's shoulder...

Jillian with Paul, meeting members of the family. They all shower her with warm hugs and hellos. Paul looks on, proud of Jillian's confidence. He's pleased. So far so good...

Vanessa's three perfect kids, JONAS, 9, JOHNNA, 8, and JADE, 5, holding Lily's little hands, touching her tiny feet...

Derek and Kimmy showered with congratulations, and "oohs" and "ahhs" over their new baby. But after what just happened outside, both of them are trying to put on brave faces...

END MUSIC.

Claire is holding Lily.

CLAIRE

(re: Lily, loving)

I love my sweet little Chinese dumpling.

DAN

Those cheeks.

Dan starts giving Lily kisses, and doesn't stop.

CLAIRE

(re: kissing)

Stop it. You're slobbering on her.

DAN

I am not.

CLAIRE

You are, and I can't see her.  
 (looks at Derek and Kimmy)  
 I actually think she's a  
 combination of both of you.

DEREK

What are you talking about?

Kimmy is struggling to keep it together, and in fact, wipes a tear from the corner of her eye. The CAMERA PANS to Paul and Jillian as Vanessa approaches them holding Jillian's flowers.

VANESSA

Thank you again for these flowers.  
 I know the perfect place for them.

JILLIAN

Of course. I always think fresh  
 flowers can really brighten up a  
 dining...

Jillian can now see there is an amazingly exotic and large, floral centerpiece on Vanessa's dining room table.

JILLIAN (CONT'D)

(trailing off)  
 ...room table. See? You have  
 some. Did you steal those from a  
 wedding?

VANESSA

Can you imagine?

Paul laughs too hard, trying to make everyone comfortable.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

No, I grew them in my green house.  
 You know what, I'll put mine in the  
 bathroom and put yours on the  
 table. But I need help moving the  
 orchids. They're arranged by Asian  
 region and I don't want them to get  
 mixed up.

PAUL

That's really nice of you, Ness.

JILLIAN

No, mine can go in the bathroom.

PAUL

Wow, did you hear that? That is so  
 nice of Jillian. Let's do that.

Vanessa smiles and exits to the bathroom with Jillian's vase.  
Paul is mad at himself.

PAUL (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I should have told you  
she grew her own exotic plants.

JILLIAN

It's okay. Is there anything else  
you didn't prep me about?

PAUL

She made everything in this room.

JILLIAN

She made everything?

PAUL

Well not everything. Just the art,  
the sculptures and the furniture.

JILLIAN

(intimidated)

Okay. Well, you're lucky I'm not  
easily intimidated.

We see Jillian look nervous for the first time as the CAMERA  
PANS to Claire holding the baby, with Dan, Derek and Kimmy.

CLAIRE

(trying to be sweet)

Kimmy, you are the best mother.  
The best.

Kimmy is just standing there, not even holding her daughter.

DAN

And isn't being a dad the greatest  
feeling in the world?

DEREK

(strained)

Oh, yeah, are you kidding? Yeah...

With this, Kimmy chokes back an awkward, guttural cry. She  
attempts to smile through it, barely keeping it together.  
Dan has been holding an old, dusty bottle of wine.

DAN

I have something for you kids. A  
sixty-one Chateau LaTour. It was  
given to me by my father the day  
Derek was born.

(MORE)

DAN (CONT'D)  
And I vowed then to drink it with  
Derek the day his child was born.

DEREK  
(too much for him)  
Wow. Dad...

As Dan hugs Derek, Kimmy can't hold it together any longer. She bursts into tears and runs from the room. The family watches her go as Vanessa re-enters from the bathroom.

VANESSA  
Uh-oh, what did I miss?

DEREK  
Nothing. It's probably just those  
new mom hormones.

CLAIRE  
Go, Honey. Help your wife.

Derek nods and exits, dreading the conversation awaiting him.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)  
For being so shy, she's extremely  
emotional.

VANESSA  
And always over nothing. I'm sure  
she's mad at me.

PAUL  
Well, we know it wasn't something  
Jillian did. We know that.

Jillian looks at Paul, not sure what he's talking about.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
(aside)  
You're doing great.

JILLIAN  
Good. I was starting to not be so  
sure.

PAUL  
Are you kidding? My sister-in-law  
is having a total meltdown. How  
can you not look good compared to  
that?

Paul kisses Jillian reassuringly.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDY - MOMENTS LATER

Derek is trying to talk to an upset Kimmy.

KIMMY

What you said outside the door  
really upset me.

DEREK

I didn't want to upset you. I just  
thought I'd take a stab and say it  
and see if it's what you were  
thinking, too.

(double checking)

Is it?

KIMMY

I don't want to talk to you until  
you're ready to be a dad. I just  
want to make it through this night  
and go home.

DEREK

I feel like we say that every time  
we come over here.

They go to exit. Kimmy is pissed off.

KIMMY

Ugh! I'm sure they're talking  
about us right now.

DEREK

No, they're not.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

It's clear the family has been gossiping because they all  
stop talking as soon as Derek and Kimmy enter.

DEREK

See? They're just standing around  
silently.

Vanessa is now holding the baby, really taken by her.  
Charles is also admiring Lily. We see a threatened Kimmy,  
clearly bothered by Vanessa holding her daughter.

VANESSA

Oh, Honey, I'm jealous. I want  
another baby.

CHARLES

My junk is tied off, remember? I'm not sure what it takes to untie it, but I have a feeling I wouldn't like it. Do you know, Dan?

DAN

How should I know? My Pez dispenser's still full of candy.

VANESSA

(re: Lily, only joking)  
Well then I want to keep this one.

Vanessa laughs. The CAMERA PANS to Kimmy, who doesn't like this at all. She possessively takes the baby back.

CHARLES

(as if there was a line)  
Actually, Vanessa said I could hold her next. Thanks. Thank you.

Charles gently takes the baby back from an incredulous Kimmy.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

The family (except Vanessa) is standing, mingling, drinking and talking. Charles is holding the baby and singing her a quiet lullaby. Derek and Kimmy look miserable, not talking. Claire and Dan are talking to Jillian and Paul.

CLAIRE

Isn't Paul just the sweetest?

Claire puts her arm around him and hugs him from the side. Paul's embarrassment grows with every word exchanged.

PAUL

Okay...

DAN

You know what he is? He's a nice guy.

PAUL

All right...

CLAIRE

We think he's quite a catch, but you're his first girlfriend we've met.

JILLIAN

I know. That's a lot of pressure.  
I don't want to disappoint --

CLAIRE

I think he was embarrassed by the others. Well, they say screw the sluts and marry the virgins.

PAUL

All right.

CLAIRE

Are you a virgin?

PAUL

Don't answer that.

CLAIRE

Oh, who cares? I got knocked up by Dan here when I was twenty.  
Molested when I was thirteen.

JILLIAN

Oh, my God.

CLAIRE

It was consensual. But that's what they're calling it now, when you have sex so young. Molestation.

JILLIAN

Are they?

DAN

She can't go ten minutes without bringing that up.

The CAMERA PANS to Vanessa, who enters with a tray of insanely sophisticated hors d'oeuvres to serve. She has taken her apron off to reveal a very low-cut top displaying new large breasts and ample cleavage.

VANESSA

(to Dan, re: appetizer)  
I have tuna towers.

DAN

(taking two)  
Thanks, Sweetheart.  
(to Jillian)  
So, I understand you're suicidal.

JILLIAN

I'm not suicidal. But, I do  
volunteer at a suicide hot-line.

Dan notices Vanessa's new breasts and does a small double  
take. The CAMERA PANS to Paul who is also staring blatantly  
at his sister's breasts with a profoundly confused  
expression. Jillian takes a tuna tower from Vanessa's tray.

JILLIAN (CONT'D)

(re: food, impressed)

Thank you. Wow.

CLAIRE

Vanessa's remarkable. She's  
written several cook books. She  
even has one for children to use.

VANESSA

Remind me to give it to Lily.

The CAMERA PANS to Charles trying to sing a lullaby to Lily.  
He stops, looks up, and addresses the room:

CHARLES

(to everyone)

Shh! Quiet. Everyone. I can't  
hear myself sing. Thank you.

Charles goes back to singing his lullaby to Lily. It's weird  
and everyone in the room awkwardly stands around quietly  
waiting for him to finish singing softly to the baby.  
Vanessa continues to go around the room serving her "tuna  
tower" hors d'oeuvres. Jillian notices Paul staring at  
Vanessa's chest. She frowns. EVERYONE WHISPERS THROUGHOUT  
THE REMAINDER OF THE SCENE:

JILLIAN

Why are you staring at your  
sister's breasts?

PAUL

(still staring at them)

I'm not staring at her breasts. I  
know what hers look like and those  
are not hers.

JILLIAN

Really? That explains why your  
father looks so confused.

The CAMERA PANS to Dan, who is indeed very confused.

PAUL  
 (re: breasts)  
 This is good. Just as my mom was  
 moving in on you, out come those  
 like two giant life boats rescuing  
 us.

JILLIAN  
 (disappointed)  
 By taking the attention off me.

PAUL  
 (relieved)  
 Exactly.

Derek and Paul exchange a glance. Derek indicates Vanessa  
 and then gestures big boobs. Paul nods. Kimmy, meanwhile,  
 is looking at Vanessa.

KIMMY  
 (to Derek)  
 Typical Vanessa. I show off a  
 baby, she has to show off twins.

Derek is about to whisper something back, Kimmy stops him.

KIMMY (CONT'D)  
 Don't talk to me.

The CAMERA PANS to Claire.

CLAIRE  
 I'm worried about Derek. He looks  
 unhappy.

DAN  
 (distracted)  
 Huh? Oh. Yeah.  
 (then)  
 Hey, I know Vanessa's been sick,  
 but did she have some sort of chest  
 infection? Because it looks  
 swollen.

Claire rolls her eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

Claire is putting out serving utensils. Dan trails her.

DAN  
(skeptical)  
And this whole tooth-pulling story  
doesn't add up for me.

CLAIRE  
Get your head out of your ass, Dan.  
She had her boobs done.

Dan is stunned.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)  
Charles gave them to her for his  
birthday.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Paul is getting a couple of cocktails. Vanessa is there.

VANESSA  
Is Jillian in the bathroom?  
(off Paul's nod)  
Paul, she's super cute.

Paul is trying incredibly hard not to look at his sister's  
boobs. He looks up high, awkwardly.

PAUL  
Really? Thanks. Your opinion  
means a lot to me.

VANESSA  
I'm so happy for you.

She sweetly hugs her brother. It's a nice moment but he  
doesn't want to get too close to her new breasts.

VANESSA (CONT'D)  
Oh, Mom said she wants to take some  
family photos with the baby, but  
she doesn't want Jillian in them.  
You know, in case she's not around  
in the future.

Paul blinks a lot as he reels slightly from this indictment.

PAUL  
(trying to recover)  
Oh. Okay. Awesome.

VANESSA

Have you seen, Derek? I should tell him, too, before I forget. Mom thinks we better take one without Kimmy, just in case.

CUT TO:

INT. FAMILY ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kimmy is on the couch feeding Lily. Jillian is seated next to them, less confident than we've seen her. Across the room, Paul is entering with drinks and bumps into Derek, who is going into the kitchen. Paul is preoccupied with what Vanessa just told him about Jillian.

PAUL

Vanessa wants to talk to you. Hey, let me ask you something. What do you think of her? You like her?

Paul nods toward Jillian, but Derek looks over at Lily next to Jillian, thinking Paul is referring to her. Derek chugs his entire cocktail before speaking.

DEREK

(wiping mouth)

Honestly? It's hard. I don't know her, yet I'm supposed to instantly love her.

PAUL

Well, not instantly. I hope you instantly like her, though.

DEREK

I know this sounds harsh, but I can't even say I like her.

Paul is taken aback.

PAUL

Dude. I don't believe you just said that.

DEREK

Why? All she does is sit there. She doesn't do anything. She doesn't say anything. You have to do something for me to like you.

PAUL

That's a good point. I see your point. That's a really good point.

DEREK  
That's all I'm saying. You don't  
have to get all pissy.

PAUL  
No, you're right. You're right.  
It's my fault. Give me a hug.

They hug.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
Just, give her another chance,  
okay? For me.

DEREK  
I'll try. I mean, it's not like  
she came from a store and you can  
just return her.

Dan approaches them. He's still in disbelief over Vanessa.

DAN  
Did you kids know about your  
sister's... lift?

PAUL  
No. Mom told me she was off  
getting her scuba certification.

DEREK  
Why is it Mom only keeps Vanessa's  
secrets? I guarantee everyone  
would have known about it if one of  
us got a boob job.

CUT TO:

INT. GUEST BEDROOM - LATER

Derek enters to find Kimmy having just changed Lily.

DEREK  
Hey. So, I just had a really good  
conversation with my brother. And  
he made a lot of sense.  
(re: Lily)  
I want to try.

Kimmy is relieved.

KIMMY  
Would you like to hold her? You  
haven't even held her yet.  
(MORE)

KIMMY (CONT'D)

But you better do it fast, before  
your sister flies in and carries  
her off in her talons.

Kimmy holds out Lily for Derek to take her. Derek looks at  
Lily and takes a step back. He indicates his stomach.

DEREK

On second thought, I'll be right  
back. I think I may have brought a  
little something back from China.

Derek exits, leaving Kimmy frustrated.

KIMMY

(calling after him)  
Yeah, a baby.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Paul is talking with Jillian.

PAUL

Okay, so here's the deal, reports  
are coming in, I'm not naming  
names, but things are heading a  
little south for us. And it's my  
fault, I'm holding you back.

JILLIAN

I could have told you that, if  
you'd let me speak.

PAUL

I know.

JILLIAN

You're telling me what to do, what  
to say. You have to let me spend  
some time with them and be myself.  
I'm incredibly charming, you know.

PAUL

You're right. Go, be charming. I  
release you.

JILLIAN

Thank you.

Relieved, she kisses him and starts to head off. He follows  
her. She looks at him, confused.

PAUL

Oh, no one can get released alone here.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

A stressed out Derek lights up a joint. Not wanting to blow the smoke into the bathroom, he tries to blow it into the ventilation fan in the bathroom ceiling. But in order to blow the smoke into the fan, he has to stand on the toilet seat. But as he tries to climb up on the seat, he slips off and falls out of frame with a grunt. After a beat, exhaled smoke appears in the frame, and billows up.

CUT TO:

INT. FAMILY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dan and Claire are there. Kimmy is there with Lily. And for some reason no one can figure out, Charles is brushing Chucker with a sterling silver brush. Jillian and Paul enter.

DAN

...It makes sense. If you can't make your own child, why not get one made in China? Everything else is made there.

JILLIAN

(confidently)

What are we all talking about?

CLAIRE

Look at you. Someone's come out of her shell.

(encouraging)

Kimmy, did you see Jillian's come out of her shell?

Kimmy rolls her eyes to herself. Vanessa enters having made a costume change into another, even more low-cut top.

JILLIAN

I love that top, Vanessa.

VANESSA

Aren't you sweet? It's my cooking outfit. Mom, we should get started on dinner.

PAUL  
Jillian can help. She's a pretty amazing cook.

JILLIAN  
(slightly hostile)  
No, no I am not, Paul.

PAUL  
She's being modest. She's fantastic.  
(to Jillian, sotto)  
Here's your chance to spend some time with them.

CLAIRE  
Jillian's going to help us then.  
(encouraging)  
Hear that, Kimmy? Jillian's helping us with dinner.

Jillian catches Kimmy shaking her head, mouthing, "Don't do it." Jillian looks back panicked to Paul, who gives her an encouraging thumbs up, as Claire pulls her into the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - A LITTLE LATER

Jillian is nervously peeling potatoes as Claire and Vanessa exit into the dining room to set things up. They talk privately as they go:

CLAIRE  
(re: Vanessa's breasts)  
Of course they look real. They're fabulous. And the important thing is you feel better about yourself.

VANESSA  
You know what's weird, I don't have all the feeling back in my nipples yet.

CLAIRE  
You're better off without it.

They exit through a swinging door, as Paul enters from the other side. He comes up to Jillian, kissing her from behind.

PAUL  
How are things going in here?

She turns on him. They speak in hushed tones.

JILLIAN  
Remember those great dinners I made  
you?

PAUL  
Yeah?

JILLIAN  
I didn't. I got them from  
restaurants and faked it so you'd  
be proud of me.

PAUL  
What?

JILLIAN  
I can't cook.

Paul is in disbelief. He looks at what she's preparing.

PAUL  
So what is that?

JILLIAN  
They asked if I made a good truffle  
risotto, and I said yes.

Jillian knows she's really screwed up.

PAUL  
Risotto? Why are you peeling  
potatoes?

JILLIAN  
I don't know!

PAUL  
Oh, God... Okay. This is no big  
deal.  
(then)  
Break the oven.

JILLIAN  
What?

PAUL  
Break it! Break it! No one will  
be able to cook and we'll order  
carry-out.

Paul picks up a cookbook.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
Quick, hit it with this. Break it!

A frantic Jillian takes a cookbook with Vanessa's picture on the back cover from Paul, and starts banging the top of the stainless steel range. It does absolutely nothing to it.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Not the top. Hit the knob. Strip it so it can't turn on.

JILLIAN

Sorry, I've never attacked an oven before.

Jillian tries to bang off the "on/off" oven knob.

JILLIAN (CONT'D)

(noticing second oven)

What about that one?

PAUL

Damn it, they're everywhere.

Paul grabs another cookbook and attacks that oven's knob.

JILLIAN

I'm really seeing a side of you tonight I've never seen before.

PAUL

I think I can now say the same about you.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM / BACK PORCH - LATER

Charles carries Chucker to the back door, which has a doggy door in it. He puts her down.

CHARLES

Carry on with your business.

Chucker obediently exits outside, through the doggy door.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Charles enters to find a commotion in the kitchen. Dan is now there with Paul, Jillian, Vanessa, and Claire.

CHARLES

What's going on?

VANESSA

None of my ovens will turn on.

Jillian and Paul try to not look guilty.

CLAIRE

(overly dramatic)

Order hot dogs. The whole night is ruined.

JILLIAN

I know a great place for carry-out.

PAUL

It definitely tastes home-cooked.

Paul and Jillian exchange a look.

DAN

Do it. I'm faint from hunger.

VANESSA

Wait. I have an idea.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Vanessa has rigged the fireplace to be a make-shift wood-burning oven. She is cooking short ribs over the open flame.

Claire, using towels and oven mitts, helps her steady the cast iron skillet. The family (except Derek) is impressed.

DAN

It's like you're out on the prairie, only you girls don't have hairy underarms.

CHARLES

(mimes diddling his underarm hair)  
Ah, the dreaded wet grass.

CLAIRE

(proud)  
I doubt anyone on the prairie could braise short ribs like my Vanessa.

VANESSA

(to Charles)  
Get me some more wood, Sweetie. Paul, grab the bellows. We need the fire hotter.

A nervous Paul takes the bellows by the fireplace and starts puffing air into the flames.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

I think this is going to work.

The CAMERA PANS to Jillian who looks on, amazed. Kimmy is next to her, feeding a bottle to Lily.

JILLIAN

(re: Vanessa)  
She's like super woman. Is there anything she can't do?

KIMMY

Fail.

Vanessa calls over her shoulder.

VANESSA

Jillian --?

JILLIAN

(coming to attention)  
Yes!

VANESSA

I need the long tongs in the drawer next to the sink.

JILLIAN  
I can do that.

As an anxious Jillian jogs to the kitchen:

JILLIAN (CONT'D)  
(to herself)  
I can do that... I can do that...

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Derek, looking terrible, exits the bathroom tucking his shirt in. Traces of smoke leak from the bathroom. His niece, Johnna, enters past him to use it. She reacts.

JOHNNA  
It smells like your car in here,  
Uncle Derek.

Derek exits into the living room.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jillian comes jogging back in, holding the long tongs out in front of her to give to Vanessa.

JILLIAN  
(re: tongs)  
I got 'em!

Dan approaches Derek with his special bottle of wine.

DAN  
Now that dinner is back on, I think  
it's time to open this --

Jillian doesn't see Dan step to Derek to hand the bottle out to him. She accidentally knocks it from Dan's hand with the tongs as she goes past, and the bottle smashes on the hardwood floor. Dan's empty hand remains extended out in front of him like he's still holding the wine. Everyone looks at the floor, stunned.

DEREK  
Dude....

Paul sees what Jillian has done. She is mortified.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Paul is consoling Jillian, who is trying to keep it together.

JILLIAN  
(holding back tears)  
I can't believe I did that.

PAUL  
Don't worry about it. They don't  
even care.

ANGLE ON: Derek is on his hands and knees licking the wine  
off the floor. Dan is standing over him.

DEREK  
Drink with me, Dad. The wine might  
have turned a little, but that  
could also be the floor cleaner I'm  
tasting.

Claire hands Dan a sponge.

CLAIRE  
At least suck it from a sponge like  
a civilized person.

ANGLE ON: Jillian and Paul. Jillian is coming untethered.

PAUL  
As long as you don't cry, you're  
still ahead of Kimmy.

JILLIAN  
I'm taking deep breaths. I'm  
holding it together. I'm just  
feeling a lot of pressure to be  
perfect, and I'm not sure how much  
more I can take.

Vanessa is still cooking at the fireplace. She looks back.

VANESSA  
Jillian. I made a little room in  
here for your risotto, if you're  
ready.

JILLIAN  
(brightly)  
Okay. I'll get it.

Jillian turns and quickly exits. Paul looks after her, confused. We hear the sound of crying, as we...

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM / LIVING ROOM - LATER

...But it's Lily who is crying. Kimmy can't get her to stop. Derek stands next to her, helpless.

DEREK  
(re: Lily)  
I think we got a bad one.

KIMMY  
We didn't get a bad one.

DEREK  
I think we got a bad one.

Charles, Vanessa, Claire, Paul, and the three kids are seated. (Jillian is not there.) Dan is standing, giving a toast as Derek and Kimmy deal with Lily over by the entrance to the living room.

DAN  
All right. First off, I'd like to thank --

CLAIRE  
(reminding him)  
Vanessa and Charles.

DAN  
I'm getting to them, Claire.

CLAIRE  
For opening up your amazing home.

DAN  
I got it. I'd like to also welcome Jillian. We're so happy to have you, even after the incident.  
(realizing her absence)  
Where is she?

PAUL  
(looking down, depressed)  
I don't know.

VANESSA  
She said she was going to get her risotto and we haven't seen her since. Don't worry.

Vanessa rests a reassuring hand on Paul's shoulder.

VANESSA (CONT'D)  
I made some.

It's awkward and no one decides to pursue it.

DAN  
And finally, to Derek and Kimmy,  
bringing in the newest member of  
our family, Lily...

Lily continues to cry, louder now.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Who clearly takes after her  
grandmother, screaming at me as I'm  
trying to speak. We love you all.  
(patting his belly)  
Now let's eat before I waste away  
into nothing.

Vanessa has stood up and approaches Kimmy to help with Lily.

VANESSA  
It's probably just gas. Here, I'll  
burp her.

KIMMY  
(politely declining)  
That's okay, thanks.

VANESSA  
Are you sure?

DEREK  
Why don't you just let her help?

KIMMY  
Fine.

Annoyed and desperate, Kimmy hands Vanessa the baby. Vanessa cradles Lily in her arms, rocking her, walking her around.

VANESSA  
(to Lily)  
Shhhzzzz. Whooooshhhh. Shhhhzzzz.

KIMMY  
(privately to Derek)  
If you're not willing to hold the  
baby, that's your problem. But I  
need you to get your sister to stop  
acting like the baby is hers.

DEREK  
 She's not acting like it's her  
 baby.

Lily has stopped crying. Kimmy and Derek look over at  
 Vanessa.

KIMMY  
 (re: Vanessa, realizing)  
 Is she... breast feeding her?

Derek takes a closer look. The CAMERA PANS to reveal it's  
 true. Lily has indeed pulled Vanessa's low-cut top to the  
 side and is sucking on her nipple in front of everyone. But  
 Vanessa, whose nipples still don't have all their feeling  
 back, is oblivious. Kimmy exits, upset again. Without  
 thinking, Derek has dashed across the room to Vanessa, who is  
 watching Kimmy go.

VANESSA  
 (re: Kimmy, oblivious)  
 Oh no, is she crying again --

DEREK  
 I'll take her. I think she might  
 be hungry.

Derek grabs his daughter from Vanessa.

DEREK (CONT'D)  
 And you might want to pull up  
 your...

VANESSA  
 Whoops.

Vanessa quickly fixes her shirt, embarrassed.

CLAIRE  
 (to Vanessa, re: breasts)  
 I told you they looked real.

Derek looks down at Lily, realizing he is holding his  
 daughter for the first time. Then:

DEREK  
 Here Mom, you take her.

CLAIRE  
 Absolutely not. She's your child,  
 you hold her.

DEREK  
 But I don't know what I'm doing.

CLAIRE

Of course not. Your father didn't talk for three days when Vanessa was born. And he had nine months to get himself ready to be a dad. You had a plane ride to China. You'll be fine.

Claire kisses Derek, not worried about him. The CAMERA PANS to Charles. He notices Chucker is going to the bathroom in the corner of the room.

CHARLES

Chucker! No! In this house, we all go to the bathroom outside.

He takes her by the collar and drags her toward the back of the house to let her outside. As he goes:

CHARLES (CONT'D)

What a disappointing girl. I'm sorry, but you'll have to walk yourself.

CUT TO:

INT. BACK HALLWAY / BACK PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Charles pulls Chucker along to put her outside. But before he gets to the back porch, he stops. We see two legs of someone lying face down on the ground. The legs appear to belong to Jillian. Charles is frozen, unsure what to do.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Charles has gone to get Paul. They are walking quickly back to the back porch. Paul looks concerned.

PAUL

Do you think it was intentional?

CHARLES

I don't know what happened.

CUT TO:

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM / BACK PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Charles and Paul enter. We now see Jillian is on the floor, stuck in the doggy door. Her body is inside, and her head and arms are outside, and therefore OFF CAMERA.

Chucker is there, barking at her, pulling on her pant leg with a growl, desperate to get Jillian out of her little door.

CHARLES

Chucker! No!

PAUL

Jillian, are you all right?

JILLIAN (O.C.)

I'm stuck. I'm stuck, Paul. You have to get me out.

CHARLES

Lift her feet. I'll open the door.

Paul lifts up her feet as Charles unlocks the door with a key. He slowly pulls the door open with Jillian still in it. Her body slides back with the door as it opens. Still stuck, Paul can at least talk to Jillian's face. She's been crying.

PAUL

What are you doing in the door?

JILLIAN

I wanted to slip out without anyone seeing me, but I couldn't get the door open, so I tried to get out this way, but my arms got pinned above my head and...

(starts crying)

I got stuck...

CHARLES

Excuse me for interrupting. I need to go apologize to Chucker for yelling at her before I knew all the facts.

Charles exits, leaving Jillian and Paul alone.

JILLIAN

This was an important night for you and I ruined it. Now you'll never bring another girlfriend home to meet your family again.

PAUL

I don't want to bring another girlfriend home. I want you. This is my fault. I put too much pressure on you.

JILLIAN

No. I wanted to be perfect for you.

PAUL

You are.

JILLIAN

Really? Will you wipe my drool?

Paul wipes her mouth, as Vanessa sticks her head in. She bends down to speak to Jillian.

VANESSA

(sweet)

Hi... You okay? The fire department is on the way. Paul can I talk to you for a second?

Paul joins Vanessa by the entrance to the hallway.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

(sotto)

Mom wants to take the family pictures with the baby now, while Jillian is in the door.

PAUL

So, she just wants me to leave her here like this?

VANESSA

I'm sure it'll just take a minute. The water bowl's there.

Paul looks at Jillian in the door, considering the situation.

MUSIC CUE: "WHAT GOES ON" by Velvet Underground, as performed by Elizabeth Mitchell, plays over the following:

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK PORCH - LATER

CLOSE ON Claire and Dan standing next to each other.

CLAIRE

Isn't Paul the sweetest? He must really like this girl.

We PULL BACK to reveal the whole family is lined up for a photograph on the back porch steps.

At the center of the group, on the bottom, is Jillian stuck in the door, her head and hands coming through. Paul is kneeling next to her, smiling.

PAUL

I really want to say it...

JILLIAN

I want to say it, too...

Vanessa has changed again into something even more revealing and is striking a sexy, chest-out, pose. Charles is next to her holding Chucker. Their three kids are in front of them at the bottom of the steps. On the other side, Claire is with Dan, who is holding a tupperware container. In it is a sponge, red with wine. He squeezes a little into his mouth. Next to them are Kimmy and Derek. Derek is holding Lily. Dan squeezes some wine into Derek's mouth, too. Kimmy looks at Derek holding Lily, and smiles.

KIMMY

You want me to hold her?

He smiles back at Kimmy.

DEREK

I got her.

They kiss.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Okay, on three. One, two, three.

The family poses as a CAMERA FLASH goes off. We reveal A FIREMAN has taken their picture. Another fireman stands next to him, waiting patiently.

FIREMAN

All right. Let's get you out of that door.

CLAIRE

Wait. One more. And let's just have fun with this one.

As the fireman prepares to take another photo of the family, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW