

The Pink House

"Pilot"

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Network Draft
January 14, 2010

TEASER

INT. PINK HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Sunlight shines through the blinds of an old pink bungalow-style ocean front house in Manhattan Beach, California. John Fitzgerald (FITZ) and Rob Burnett (BERNIE) are both in their twenties, handsome and in good shape. Bernie wears a University of Arizona t-shirt. They are led through the house by the owner, MAGGIE, a woman in her fifties. She has a "too much time in the sun" look: Leathery skin, bleach blonde straw hair, thin but saggy. She smokes a long cigarette. She has a band-aid on her cheek where she's had something recently removed.

MAGGIE

Tenants are responsible for
utilities. I'll include the
furniture but it must be maintained
in its current condition.

Bernie looks at the weathered white sectional couches.

BERNIE

So, keep it filthy. Got it.

Maggie stares at Bernie. He tries to hold her gaze but it's too much, he looks down.

MAGGIE

Rent's thirty-five-hundred a month.

She opens the door that leads to the beach. The sea breeze blows in accompanied by the sound of waves crashing.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

The ocean's free. Ah, the sea air
does the body good.

Maggie takes a huge drag off her cigarette, burning it down by half. The boys look on slack-jawed.

FITZ

Uh, thanks, Maggie, give us a
moment to talk it over.

Maggie extinguishes her cigarette on the sole of her shoe, then saves the butt in her shirt pocket. She exits to the back of the house. Fitz and Bernie looks out at the beach.

BERNIE

Have you ever seen anything like this? We walk out the back door and we'd be on spring break every day, except... except nothing! We'd be on spring break every day!

FITZ

It's beyond amazing. But there's no way.

BERNIE

Fitz, one can't ascend from college to real life too quick. You'll get the bends.

FITZ

We can't afford this place. We should be looking for a crappy two bedroom apartment in a neighborhood where the billboards are in Spanish, saying not to shoot your guns in the air.

BERNIE

Why do you hate Thomas Jefferson?

FITZ

Bernie, I'm not getting pulled into one of your asinine conversations.

BERNIE

Seriously. He wrote that we must pursue happiness. But you're like, go to hell, T Jeff. Why? Did a bus driver do something to you on a third grade visit to Monticello...? I hit it right on the head, didn't I? Son-of-a-bitch. You were just a kid on a field trip. That bastard took not only your innocence, but your respect for the principles that founded this great nation. And that's the greater crime. To make you whole again, we have to find that driver and confront him.

Fitz ignores Bernie.

FITZ

How did I let you talk me into coming to LA?

BERNIE

I'm going to find you a life.

FITZ

I have a life and a career waiting for me back in Minneapolis.

BERNIE

If you stay there, you'll work for your father in his meat packing plant, wait for boring Barbara to graduate physical therapy school, get married and have four kids before you're thirty, like your brothers.

FITZ

Barbara isn't boring.

BERNIE

She's so boring. Don't take that away from her. It's the most interesting thing about her.

(THEN) Fitz, there's a small window when you have no responsibility -- no wife, no kids, no mortgage... Right now, we are in that window. This is our time to take chances. If we fail to act, we just might lead ordinary lives.

FITZ

Yeah, that's all good, bravo, but we still can't afford this place. Between us we have three hundred dollars and a coupon for a free side salad at the Macaroni Grill.

BERNIE

Don't worry, I'll go talk to Steak-

Um Face about the price.

Fitz laughs. Bernie exits to the back of the house to look for Maggie. Fitz stares out at the ocean. He then catches his reflection in the window and carefully moves an errant hair back into place.

Two girls in their twenties, JAMIE and EMILY, peek their heads in through the door that leads down to the strand (the sidewalk that separates the houses from the beach). Jamie is tall, thin and beautiful. She is of Indian descent. Emily wears a sweatshirt, Chicago Cubs hat and cut-off jeans. She is super cute but isn't in amazing shape like everyone else at the beach and isn't going to change for anyone. For the record, she's not fat. She's beach fat. Emily carries a puppy in her arms.

EMILY

Hi.

FITZ

You've got it all wrong.

EMILY

(THROWN) What?

FITZ

Guys are supposed to get a puppy so girls like you will stop and talk to them.

Emily smiles, flattered.

FITZ (CONT'D)

(CATCHING HIMSELF, QUICKLY) I have a girlfriend.

EMILY

Calm down, I'm Emily.

JAMIE

Hi, I'm Jamie.

FITZ

Fitz. Well, John. Fitz is my nickname. It's short for Fitzgerald. True story. Not a good one. So, you guys looking at the rental?

EMILY

I wish. We live in the building behind this.

JAMIE

When I hit it big, the first thing I'm going to do is buy a huge place right smack on the strand.

FITZ

You're an actress?

JAMIE

Oh, no, no. I moved here from Atlanta to meet a super rich guy, marry him and have his babies. (OFF FITZ'S LOOK) I know it sounds shallow but I've made my peace. I'll do charity work to offset it. And I won't wear fur... Most fur. I'm trying to get a job at a really nice restaurant where I can meet someone wealthy.

FITZ

So... you're an aspiring waitress.

EMILY

(TO JAMIE) Why do you tell people that? It makes me look like an idiot for being with you.

JAMIE

I'm seen with you and you're fat.

EMILY

I am not fat.

JAMIE

(TO FITZ, GOSSIP) This morning she ate two sides of a bagel both with creamed cheese.

EMILY

I'm a normal person. I eat breakfast.

JAMIE

You know the decorative bread basket they sometimes bring you at restaurants? She eats from it.

EMILY

It's not decorative!

JAMIE

(SMILES AT FITZ, FLIRTY) So, you must be doing okay if you're moving in here.

FITZ

No. In fact, right now my buddy's trying to talk the landlady down on the price. We're basically broke.

JAMIE

(SMILE FADES) Oh. Just great.

EMILY

Maggie's our landlady too. She's totally cheap. She'll never give you a break on the rent.

FITZ

Bernie can do it. He can talk anyone into anything. In college he convinced the fire marshal to let us have a bonfire in our dorm room. And he somehow convinced my father into letting me take a year off and live in LA. My dad's a hard ass. He wouldn't give someone the morning off to give birth. He'd, like, let them have the baby in the break room and charge them for the paper towels.

JAMIE

Well, your friend's not going to have any luck with Maggie. She's completely unreasonable.

Just then, Maggie enters buttoning her shirt. She throws Fitz the house keys.

MAGGIE

Seven-hundred a month. It's all yours.

Maggie exits the house. The girls are amazed.

INT. BACK BEDROOM - FOLLOWING

Fitz, Jamie and Emily walk in to find Bernie sitting on the bed in his boxer shorts, putting his pants back on.

BERNIE

We've got ourselves a killer pad!

(TO GIRLS) Hi!

FITZ

(GROSSED OUT) You piled the crypt keeper landlady?

BERNIE

I did. In exchange for cheap rent, she gets her way with me up to five times a month. If we want free cable I have to-- I can't actually say it out loud without throwing up in my mouth. (TO JAMIE) You're cute. Wanna go out?

JAMIE

Not unless your last name is Getty.

Fitz's phone rings.

FITZ

(INTO PHONE) Hey Dad, Bernie and I just rented an amazing place right on the beach.

FITZ'S FATHER

(THROUGH PHONE, LOUD AND BLEEPED)
You're not renting shit! You're coming home and getting to work.

FITZ

But Bernie talked to you about
giving me the year off.

FITZ'S FATHER

(THROUGH PHONE, LOUDER) Are you out
of your fucking mind? Did college
fuck up your brain? I told dumb-
ass you could have two days off and
they're over!

Fitz shoots Bernie a look. Bernie smiles coyly and waves.

FITZ'S FATHER (CONT'D)

If you're not home by Monday I'm
giving your job away to your stupid
fucking cousin!

Fitz's father hangs up. Fitz looks shocked. Maggie enters.

MAGGIE

Did I leave my smokes in here?

Bernie looks under the covers, pulls out a pack of cigarettes
and tosses it to her.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Weak throw.

Maggie puts them in her pocket and exits.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE**INT. THE KETTLE - DAY**

This is the Jekyll and Hyde of restaurants. During the day, it's a family restaurant and after nine o'clock it turns into a rowdy bar and pick-up joint. Bernie, Fitz, Emily and Jamie sit in a booth surrounded by families having lunch. There is a round of beers on the table. Bernie and Jamie look at the menu. Emily stares at Fitz who looks troubled.

EMILY

So what are you going to do about your father? You gonna stay or go home to Minneapolis?

FITZ

What choice do I have? At home I have a job. Here I have nothing. I'd be trading a stable career for searching for work in the worst job market ever. And college didn't prepare me for anything except ordering a Hawaiian pizza drunk at two in the morning.

BERNIE

(PUTTING DOWN THE MENU) He's staying.

FITZ

Can you just focus on your own life for once and leave mine alone?

BERNIE

(MOTIONING LIKE A FOOTBALL REF)
Fitz's request is up... and it's short! It's no good!

FITZ

(AMUSED) You're a high-functioning moron.

BERNIE

You should listen to me. Have I ever steered you wrong?

FITZ

Yes, many times.

BERNIE

(PROUDLY) Many times, that's right.

EMILY

What about you, Bernie, what are you gonna do?

BERNIE

I'm destined for greatness.

EMILY

Based on what?

BERNIE

(SINCERE WHISPER) Nothing.

Bernie turns to Jamie.

BERNIE (CONT'D)

(MATTER-OF-FACT) So, we should hook up.

JAMIE

(GENTLY) Honestly, I have to admit, I am attracted to you. But I'm only falling in love with a man who has his own plane and/or island. I promised myself. You understand.

BERNIE

I respect that, but I can't accept that. Bernie never takes no for an answer.

A waitress approaches. She is in her late sixties. Her name tag reads, "CONNIE." She is Brazilian and speaks with an accent.

CONNIE

Ready to order?

FITZ

I'll have the chicken sandwich.

BERNIE

I'll have that too. But instead of the chips, a side of cole slaw.

CONNIE

No substitutions.

Connie points to a sign on the wall that says, "NO SUBSTITUTIONS!"

BERNIE

Connieeee... who would know?

CONNIE

I've worked here at the Kettle for twenty-seven years. Never made a substitution.

FITZ

And here we go...

BERNIE

Connie, Connie, Connie. (THINKS)

Did you make that sign?

CONNIE

No, the owner made it.

BERNIE

So it's his rule. Is he here?

CONNIE

He died five months ago.

BERNIE

Oh, I'm sorry.

CONNIE

I'm not. Man was a son of a bitch.

If he wasn't buried in Scotland,

I'd spit on his grave.

BERNIE

Connie, you can spit on his grave
all the way from here in Manhattan
Beach.

CONNIE

(BEAT) I'm listening.

BERNIE

Make the substitution, Connie.
Give me the cole slaw and ruin that
Gaelic bastard's afterlife.

Connie stares at Bernie for a long moment. Then:

CONNIE

(WRITES ON HER PAD) Chicken
sandwich with a side of cole slaw.

Emily shakes her head in disbelief.

FITZ

(TO EMILY) I'm telling you...

Bernie smiles at Jamie and mouths, "I will have you." Jamie smiles and shakes her head "no." She rubs her thumb and forefinger together and mouths "money."

CONNIE

How about you, girls?

JAMIE

House salad.

CONNIE

Dressing?

JAMIE

Never ever.

EMILY

I'll have a cheeseburger and fries.

JAMIE

Don't you want a boyfriend?

EMILY

Go to hell, pixie stick.

Connie exits to put in the order. Bernie and Fitz look at each other, confused.

FITZ

When we met I assumed you guys were friends or something.

JAMIE

(LAUGHS) Hardly.

EMILY

I moved out here with my best friend from Chicago.

FLASHBACK

EXT. MANHATTAN BEACH SIDEWALK - DAY

Emily and BETHANY walk wearing shorts and t-shirts.

EMILY (V.O.)

It was our first day at the beach.

INT. MANHATTAN BEACH BAR - DAY

Emily and Bethany enter and stop in their tracks. They look around at all the blonde haired girls in nothing but bikinis.

BETHANY

Oh, my God. There's no one in here
over a hundred pounds. In Chicago,
I'm hot. Here, I'm the girl you
settle for when it's last call.
Screw this. I'm out.

Bethany storms off, leaving Emily in the doorway.

END FLASHBACK

INT. KETTLE - BACK TO SCENE - DAY

Bernie, Fitz, Emily and Jamie are as we left them.

EMILY

Bethany moved back home. She
lasted a day. I put an ad for a
roommate on Craigslist and (RE:
JAMIE) this q-tip answered.

We hear a DING. Fitz presses a button on his phone and holds it to his ear.

FITZ

Voice mail from my father.

EMILY

Maybe he feels bad.

FITZ

(LISTENS) No. He's yelling...
more yelling, come home and work
for me... Now cursing...

(MORE)

FITZ (CONT'D)

Cursing at Bernie.... Back to yelling... Yelling at my mother. She picked a bad time to walk in the room... Cursing... Grumble -- I think he's winded. Wore himself out... Oh, he caught his breath and he finished strong... Now he thinks he hung up. Now he's yelling at the TV.

Fitz hangs up.

FITZ (CONT'D)

Well, that's that.

BERNIE

C'mon. Just stay here and see what happens. Anything is possible.

FITZ

I'm not a big "anything is possible" kind of guy.

BERNIE

If you're gonna work for the rest of your life, it should be something you love. You love meatpacking? Flank steak in Saran wrap, is that your passion?

We see in Fitz's eyes that it clearly isn't.

JAMIE

Natalie Portman equates meat eating to rape. I read that.

EMILY

(TO FITZ) That's how she joins the conversation.

BERNIE

Look, I know you think I have all the answers--

FITZ

You know I don't think that--

BERNIE

Shhh. The truth is I'm in the same boat as you. I don't know what I'm gonna do. But I'm sure as hell gonna do something I love for the rest of my life.

FITZ

Okay, smart guy, what do you love?

Bernie thinks for a moment then looks at the beer in his hand.

BERNIE

I love Guinness.

Emily and Jamie laugh.

BERNIE (CONT'D)

No really. I love the taste, the texture, the sound the pub draft cans make when you crack them open.

Bernie picks up a Guinness can from the table, holds it up to his ear and opens it slowly. CA-CHUNK. He shivers in ecstasy.

BERNIE (CONT'D)

Ahh. Hear that? You know what that is? It's the sound of fun.

(MORE)

BERNIE (CONT'D)

It's the sound of a night out with good friends. It's the sound of the ocean at midnight as you strip off your clothes and dive in. It's the sound of the engine the first time your dad let you take the car out by yourself. It's the sound of Mia being declared queen of Genovia in *The Princess Diaries Two* and finally kissing Nicholas...

FITZ

(OFF EMILY'S LOOK) We watched it when we were sick. It was pretty good. (HAND TO HEART) Gets ya'.

BERNIE

...It is the sound that was made when God extended his finger, touched Adam and brought him to life!

A MAN, sitting with some colleagues at the next table, turns to Bernie.

MAN

Excuse me--

FITZ

I apologize for my friend.

MAN

No, I've never heard anybody talk so passionately about Guinness.

The man hands Bernie a card.

MAN (CONT'D)

I'm the regional manager for Diageo Beverage Company. We're the country's biggest importer of premium beers. This place is one of my accounts. Give me a call. I think I have a job for you.

Bernie takes the card and smiles at Fitz.

EMILY

Unbelievable.

BERNIE

(TO FITZ) See, getting a job's not so hard. Now it's your turn. I'm making it my mission to find you your dream job by Monday. Okay?

Fitz relents with a half-smile. Just then, Connie walks up and puts a plate of food on the table.

CONNIE

I also brought you a free order of waffle fries. (CALLS UPWARDS) Rot in hell, O'Hurley!

EXT. PINK HOUSE - STOOP - DAY

Bernie and Fitz move a La-z-boy recliner up the stairs with great difficulty.

FITZ

We should have just left this thing at school.

BERNIE

Never! I love this chair. My great grandfather would sit in it and listen to FDR give his fireside chats to the country.

FITZ

None of that's true.

BERNIE

Of course not. I pulled it from a dumpster and lift...

As they try to get the chair through the door, a guy, who is handing out fliers to people on the strand, walks up and tucks a neon green flier into the cushion of the La-z-boy, then moves on.

BERNIE (CONT'D)

Okay, so, dream job. What were you good at in college? (THINKS) Your shower caddy was always well organized...

FITZ

Yeah, employers really look for that sort of thing.

Bernie sees Jamie and Emily walking toward them on the strand.

BERNIE

Jamie and Emily headed this way.

Fitz sniffs his t-shirt then checks himself out in the reflection of the glass door.

BERNIE (CONT'D)

Ooo, does someone have a thing for Emily?

FITZ

No.

BERNIE

Very good. You know what I'd like to do right now? Let's talk about Barbara and her sensible shoes. I didn't even know Rockport made footwear for women.

Fitz shoves the chair forward, pushing Bernie into the wall.

BERNIE (CONT'D)

Ow.

The girls walk up.

EMILY

Hey.

FITZ

(NONCHALANT) Oh, hi.

EMILY

(RE: THE CHAIR) You guys need help?

BERNIE

Please, we have this.

JAMIE

Doesn't look like you have it.

The guys scoff and throw out their chests.

BERNIE

Spartans! Prepare for glory!

FITZ

For Sparta! For freedom! To the death!

They lose their grip and drop the chair.

FITZ (CONT'D)

We don't have it.

Emily grabs Fitz's end of the chair.

EMILY

Go around and help Bernie.

FITZ

But it's heavy. And you're a--

EMILY

Girl? I'm a girl from Chicago.

Get your ass over there.

Fitz's moves to help Bernie. Emily tips the chair on its side and is able to maneuver it through the door. Fitz looks at her enamored.

FITZ

That was amazing.

EMILY

Thank you.

Emily and Jamie head inside. As the boys follow:

BERNIE

What, Barbara doesn't move
furniture?

FITZ

No, physical activity gives her a
cold. Most things give her a cold.

They enter the house.

INT. PINK HOUSE LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

There are moving boxes stacked up. Jamie sits on the couch with her feet up on the coffee table, flipping through a magazine.

EMILY

(TO JAMIE) You can help, you know?

JAMIE

(WITHOUT LOOKING UP) No thank you.

Emily picks up a golf club and moves toward Jamie but Fitz takes the club out of her hand.

FITZ

I don't get it. If you guys don't like each other, why do you spend so much time together?

Emily and Jamie look at each other and think for a moment. Not having a good answer, they both just shrug. Bernie unpacks a Wii.

BERNIE

(TO FITZ) Hey, you were great at Guitar Hero! Maybe you can be a guitar hero.

FITZ

Incredibly helpful. Why am I even unpacking?

BERNIE

Beers will help us think.

Bernie exits to the kitchen as Emily helps Fitz put some books onto a shelf.

FITZ

(TO EMILY) So what do you do for work?

EMILY

I'm a sales rep for Parker Pharmaceuticals.

FITZ

Fun.

EMILY

Nooo. It's so stressful. That's why I live at the beach. It's the most relaxing place in the world. Here I don't have to think about the cholesterol drug I'm pushing that evidently makes people really really drowsy.

FITZ

Drowsy's not so bad.

EMILY

By drowsy, I mean comas.

FITZ

Oh.

EMILY

If you like, I can get you an interview? You'll hate yourself but the money is fantastic.

Bernie enters with four beers, tossing them out as he walks in the room.

BERNIE

Out of the question! I told you I'm gonna help you find your dream job.

FITZ

But I don't know what my dream job is.

EMILY

What did you want to do when you were a kid?

FITZ

I don't know...

EMILY

A fireman, police officer...

FITZ

I wanted to be Captain Picard.

JAMIE

Who?

EMILY

Captain Jean-Luc Picard from *Star Trek: Next Generation*.

JAMIE

(TO EMILY) It's so gross that you know that.

FITZ

Picard was a bad ass. He was old but handsome and totally in control. I'd be hanging out on the bridge, sitting in that chair and I'd spin around and say, "Number One, make it so" and then Riker would make it so. And then he'd be like, "Let's go for a hike on the holodeck." And I'd be like, "The holodeck always becomes real and people get trapped inside it.

Let's stop using the holodeck."

Emily looks at Fitz amused.

BERNIE (O.S.)

Wait! I know what your dream job
is!

ANGLE ON Bernie who is holding up the neon green flier from the La-z-boy. It reads, "Male Models Wanted For Reality Show."

BERNIE (CONT'D)

Remember senior year when you
modeled clothing for the Spring
Fling charity event? You told me
how cool it would be to be a model.
You were going off about the
traveling, the free clothes, the
girls changing in front of you...

FITZ

I was drunk when I said it. I was
just screwing around.

BERNIE

(TO THE GIRLS) He loves clothes.
When most guys just throw something
on, Fitz "gets ready to go out."

FITZ

He's joking. (TO BERNIE; ANGRY
WHISPER) I will kill you.

BERNIE

(RE: MOVING BOX) Let's see what we
have here in your vanity box.

FITZ

(EMBARRASSED) It doesn't say that.

Bernie holds up a box marked "My toiletries." He starts taking out its contents.

He runs around the room, tossing jars and containers to Jamie and Emily as Fitz tries to stop him.

BERNIE

Hair enhancers, molding pastes,
maximum hold, medium hold--

FITZ

(TO EMILY) Sometimes I want to add
texture without sacrificing shine.
All guys do that.

She smiles as Bernie tosses her another jar.

BERNIE

Curling balm, texture blast, pube
hair relaxer...

Fitz tries to swipe it out of Bernie's hand but Bernie ducks out the door to the stoop. The girls laugh as they follow Bernie outside.

FITZ

That's not a real one! Bernie,
damn you, tell them it's not a real
one!

He exits to the stoop.

EXT. STOOP - CONTINUOUS

It's a busy day on the strand, crowded with rollerbladers, joggers, girls in bikinis walking their dogs and guys without shirts checking out the girls in bikinis. Fitz finally grabs the box out of Bernie's hand and starts gathering up his hair supplies. Bernie puts his arm around Fitz.

BERNIE

Look at this day, Fitz! It's
beautiful! Life is precious.

(THEN) You know what I do each
morning?

FITZ

Make me introduce myself to the girl you brought home so you can figure out what her name is?

BERNIE

I look in the mirror and ask myself, am I doing exactly what I want to be doing? If the answer is no, then something's gotta change. Fitz, this is our time to follow our dream. Not what someone else wants for us, but what we want for us. You have a dream. You can't let it go. (GROWS LOUDER WITH EACH SENTENCE) Here, is where we make our stand! No retreat, no surrender; that is Spartan lore. And by Spartan lore we will stand and fight!

FITZ

(DEADLY SERIOUS) It's an honor to die at your side.

BERNIE

It's an honor to have lived at yours.

Fitz's and Bernie share an intense look, then:

FITZ

(UNIMPRESSED) Yeahhh, I'm not so sure about the whole dream following thing.

BERNIE

This sounds like you need to hear a little story about two friends of mine, who like yourself were struggling to make ends meet, not sure what to do...

FITZ

What are you talking--

Bernie picks up a remote and presses a button. From the outdoor speakers, "Living on a Prayer" by Bon Jovi starts to play. Bernie sings to Fitz.

BERNIE

(SINGS) TOMMY USED TO WORK ON THE DOCKS / UNION'S BEEN ON STRIKE / HE'S DOWN ON HIS LUCK--

FITZ

(LOOKING AROUND; EMBARRASSED)
Bernie, people are looking.

BERNIE

(SINGS) SO TOUGH, SO TOUGH.

Bernie sings to Jamie.

BERNIE (CONT'D)

GINA WORKS THE DINER ALL DAY /
WORKING FOR HER MAN, SHE BRINGS
HOME HER PAY / FOR LOVE, FOR LOVE!

Jamie smiles as Bernie jumps up on the top of the stoop. The bustling strand has come to a halt in front of the Pink House. The joggers, the rollerbladers, bicyclists all stop and listen.

BERNIE (CONT'D)

SHE SAYS WE'VE GOT TO HOLD ON TO
WHAT WE'VE GOT / 'CAUSE IT DOESN'T
MAKE A DIFFERENCE / IF WE MAKE IT
OR NOT / WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER AND
THAT'S A LOT / FOR LOVE - WE'LL
GIVE IT A SHOT!

Through the following, as Bernie continues, a big spontaneous number breaks out where everyone is dancing and uproariously singing along with Bernie.

BERNIE/EVERYONE

OHH WE'RE HALF WAY THERE / OH, OH,
LIVIN' ON A PRAYER / TAKE MY HAND
AND WE'LL MAKE IT I SWEAR / OH, OH,
LIVIN' ON A PRAYER!

Fitz surveys the scene. It's absolute pandemonium. Moms with strollers and middle-aged women have joined in the mix. Bernie is in full rock star mode.

BERNIE

GINA DREAMS OF RUNNING AWAY / WHEN
SHE CRIES IN THE NIGHT / TOMMY
WHISPERS: BABY IT'S OKAY, SOMEDAY!

Bernie jumps around using the stoop as his stage and kisses a passing girl as he sings.

BERNIE/EVERYONE

WE'VE GOT TO HOLD ON TO WHAT WE'VE
GOT / 'CAUSE IT DOESN'T MAKE A
DIFFERENCE / IF WE MAKE IT OR NOT /
WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER AND THAT'S A
LOT / FOR LOVE - WE'LL GIVE IT A
SHOT / OHHH WE'RE HALF WAY THERE /
OH, OH, LIVIN' ON A PRAYER!

Fitz scans the crowd to see Emily and Jamie have joined in as well, dancing and singing along with several hot guys with surfboards.

BERNIE/EVERYONE (CONT'D)

WE'VE GOT TO HOLD ON READY OR NOT /
YOU LIVE FOR THE FIGHT WHEN IT'S
ALL THAT YOU'VE GOT / OHHH WE'RE
HALF WAY THERE / OH, OH, LIVIN' ON
A PRAYER / TAKE MY HAND AND WE'LL
MAKE IT I SWEAR...

Bernie holds out his hand to Fitz, offering him a cell phone. Fitz looks out to the exuberant dancing crowd, then looks to Bernie. Bernie nods for him to take it. He looks to Emily, he looks out onto the strand, then back to Bernie -- a moment of decision. Fitz snatches the phone from Bernie's outstretched hand. Bernie smiles. Fitz has now been converted. He makes a call.

FITZ

(INTO PHONE) Dad, it's me, John.
You can give my job away, I'm
staying! I'm gonna be a model!

The crowd cheers. Fitz holds the phone out and all we hear is Fitz's dad cursing him out. Fitz hangs up the phone and he and Bernie bring the song home together.

BERNIE/FITZ/EVERYONE

OHH WE'RE HALF WAY THERE / OH, OH,
LIVIN' ON A PRAYER / TAKE MY HAND
AN WE'LL MAKE IT I SWEAR / OH, OH,
LIVIN' ON A PRAYER!

The music stops and the people go about their business and on their way.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. "SO YOU THINK YOU CAN BE A MALE MODEL" OFFICE - MORNING

Good looking guys of all ages mill about waiting for their chance to go in. Bernie reads from an information packet.

BERNIE

The winner of this show gets a
hundred-grand and a modeling
contract with Guess.

A HANDSOME GUY comes out of the door to the audition room,
hands held high.

HANDSOME GUY

Next round baby! Going to Hawaii!

FITZ

I'm totally hotter than that guy.

BERNIE

He's not fit to wear your eventual
line of fragrances.

FITZ

(EXCITED) I can't believe I'm here.
I should be sitting in that drafty
office with the water-stained
ceiling tiles selling cow eyes to
cat food companies. But now I'm
going to be a model!

A STAGE MANAGER walks out and reads from a clipboard.

STAGE MANAGER

John Fitzgerald.

BERNIE

That's you! We're here! He's
here!

(MORE)

BERNIE (CONT'D)

(TO FITZ) You're gonna do great.
Remember what we've been practicing
for the last two weeks.

FITZ

Stand tall. Take big strides.

BERNIE

And when you get to the end of the
ramp, don't forget to show them
your power face. Let's see your
power face.

Fitz poses with an intense look.

BERNIE (CONT'D)

Powerful.

Bernie licks his hand and smooths Fitz's hair. Fitz bats him
away and exits into the audition room.

INT. AUDITION ROOM - LATER

It's a little room with a catwalk down the middle. Three
judges sit behind a folding table: A well-groomed OLDER
JUDGE, a FEMALE JUDGE, and an Ashton Kutcher-looking ACTOR.
Fitz stands on the stage facing the judges.

OLDER JUDGE

You will show us three looks.
Business. Casual. Swimwear.

FITZ

I'm ready.

ACTOR

Then the catwalk... (DRAMATIC) is
yours.

We do a series of cuts of Fitz's audition. He struts up and
down the runway, confident. First in a suit, then slacks and
short sleeve shirt, finally, a skimpy bathing suit.

The music stops. Fitz stands in front of the judges in his swim trunks.

FEMALE JUDGE

Um... no.

OLDER JUDGE

No.

ACTOR

No.

FITZ

So... I'm not going to Hawaii?

ACTOR

No.

FITZ

Oh.

Fitz, thrown, exits dejected.

INT. "SO YOU THINK YOU CAN BE A MALE MODEL" OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Fitz is greeted by Bernie who is waiting excitedly.

FITZ

They said no.

BERNIE

What? Wait! How can you not be moving on to the next round?

Bernie storms into the audition room, followed by Fitz.

INT. AUDITION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bernie jumps on the stage and faces the judges.

FITZ

Bernie--

BERNIE

No. These guys are out of their minds. (TO JUDGES) You guys are out of your minds. I'll have you know, this man right here sold for forty-five dollars at the ATO bachelor auction.

The judges are unsure how to respond to this.

FITZ

It's okay. Let's go.

BERNIE

We are not going anywhere until they explain themselves!

OLDER JUDGE

Okay, then, I'll start. (TO FITZ)
Your face, it is boring to me.

FEMALE JUDGE

Your eyes are too close together,
your nose is ill proportioned for
your face and you slouch.

ACTOR

Your legs are skinny and your chest
is uneven.

OLDER JUDGE

To be honest, I don't know what
possessed you to come here today.

Fitz looks at the red light on the video camera, then does a slow turn to Bernie. Bernie looks at the judges, incensed, then looks at Fitz's chest.

BERNIE

Wow, it is uneven. I never noticed that.

INT. CHEVY CELEBRITY - FOLLOWING

Fitz drives in silence. After a long beat:

BERNIE

So, you want to try In and Out Burger? I hear it's good.

Fitz just stares straight ahead.

BERNIE (CONT'D)

You can get grilled onions but they're not on the menu. You just have to know to ask.

Fitz gives him nothing. A beat of silence.

BERNIE (CONT'D)

(QUIETLY TO HIMSELF) I thought that was interesting.

INT. PINK HOUSE - LATER

Fitz storms in followed by Bernie. They enter to see Jamie lounging on their couch.

BERNIE

What are you doing here?

JAMIE

I let myself in. Your place is a trillion times nicer than ours. I'm going to be here a lot. Get used to it. (TO FITZ) How'd it go, Fabio?

FITZ

I'm praying for early onset
Alzheimers so I don't have to
remember this afternoon.

JAMIE

That bad?

FITZ

They made me sign a waiver.
Everyone back home is going to see
me humiliate myself when it airs.

Fitz puts his head in his hands.

BERNIE

C'mon, this is a good thing. It's
like that joke, "How do you make a
sculpture of an elephant?"

FITZ

Oh my God, my life is ruined.

BERNIE

"You cut away everything that isn't
an elephant." Now you know you're
not going to be a male model. It's
off the list. You're one step
closer to finding out what you're
really meant to do.

FITZ

Will you stop talking? I can't
believe I actually thought you were
going to find me my dream job. I'm
not you. I'm a normal person.

(MORE)

FITZ (CONT'D)

I'm not supposed to live my dreams,
I'm supposed to take what I can
get! God, I dicked around with you
for two weeks and threw away my
entire career. I have nothing. I
have to call my dad and beg for my
job. I won't even get my job. My
cousin has my job. My dad'll
probably punish me and make me work
the floor steaming hides off dead
carcasses. Steam totally frizzes
out my hair!

BERNIE

Let's just--

FITZ

"Let's just" nothing! From now on,
I want you to stay away from me.

BERNIE

Fitz's request is up... and it's
wide to the left!

Bernie motions like a football ref. Fitz stares daggers at
him.

FITZ

I can't do this.

BERNIE

Can't do what?

FITZ

(MOTIONS BETWEEN THEM) This.

Hanging out with you.

(MORE)

FITZ (CONT'D)

This isn't college anymore. It's
time to grow up.

Fitz starts to head up the stairs.

BERNIE

Fitz, come on, I'm sorry, okay?

FITZ

It's too late, Rob. I'm done with
you. Don't come near me, don't
talk to me. Don't call me.
There's nothing you can do to fix
it, so don't try.

Fitz continues upstairs and exits. Bernie is shocked.

BERNIE

He called me by my real name.

Bernie slumps down on the couch. Jamie sits next him.

JAMIE

He'll come around.

BERNIE

No, I've never seen him this pissed
before. I think I broke him. He's
the only one who puts up with me.

JAMIE

So fix it.

BERNIE

He said there's nothing I can do.

JAMIE

What happened to never taking no
for an answer?

Jamie gives him a supportive pat on the shoulder and heads for the door, leaving Bernie considering what she just said.

INT. FITZ'S ROOM - DAY

Fitz lies on his bed. His iPhone dings. He looks at the screen. It reads: "You said, don't come near me, don't talk to me, don't call me. You didn't say anything about texting. :)" Under the message the time reads 1:04 PM. Fitz throws the phone back on the bed.

We do a series of dissolves, each starting with the dinging sound and a different text message on the iPhone screen. Fitz ignores each of them.

"Remember when you lost my comb? I forgave you for that."
1:15 PM

"'For man with no forgiveness in heart, life worse punishment than death.' Mr. Miyagi - Karate Kid II." 2:40 PM

A photo text of Bernie comes on the screen. He's in front of a florist shop holding out flowers as a peace offering. 3:18 PM

"You don't have to talk to me, but there's something down here you should see." 6:47 PM

Fitz looks at the iPhone and considers.

INT. PINK HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

Fitz walks down.

FITZ

Listen, Bernie, I'm serious, I'm not interested in any of your stupid little games.

Fitz looks over and notices in place of the La-z-boy is now an odd-looking leather chair.

FITZ (CONT'D)

Is that what I think it is?

BERNIE

Captain Picard's chair from *Next Generation*? Yeah.

FITZ

(THROWN) What's it doing here?

BERNIE

Well, I remembered what you said about when you were a kid wanting to be Picard, so I thought I could get you to meet him. I got one of those star maps and found his house, jumped the gate and rang the bell but the maid said he was in London and she was calling the police. So then online I found a Patrick Stewart impersonator but it turned out he was really a Michael Chiklis impersonator trying to branch out, so then I realized you wanted to be Picard. I tracked down a prop warehouse in Van Nuys where they had the Star Trek stuff in storage and here it is. I had to slip the guy who worked there three hundred bucks so now all we have to our name is the coupon for Macaroni Grill. Sit. Sit in it.

FITZ

That's the actual chair?

BERNIE

Yup.

Fitz sits in the chair. He settles in, enjoying the feel of it.

FITZ

(QUIET AUTHORITY) Make it so.

(SMILES) Very cool.

BERNIE

So, you still pissed at me?

Fitz stands up and puts a hand on Bernie's shoulder.

FITZ

Yeah, of course. But I'll get over it.

BERNIE

Good, 'cause, I can handle a lot of things, I just can't handle you being mad at me. I'm sorry for pushing you into all of this. So... I'm releasing you.

FITZ

You're what?

BERNIE

Releasing you. You have my permission to do what you choose with your life.

FITZ

I don't need your permission.

BERNIE

Shhh. You don't have to thank me. You'll embarrass us both.

FITZ

I wouldn't have believed this day could turn around.

Fitz sits back down in the chair and pivots back and forth.

FITZ (CONT'D)

This is awesome. I can't believe
you got this.

BERNIE

I told you, anything's possible.
(THEN) Just answer me this and I'll
never bother you again. Are you
going home to minus fourteen degree
weather and a chinless girlfriend
because you want to or because
you're scared and willing to
settle?

Before Fitz can answer...

JAMIE (O.S.)

Hey, guys, get out here, you're
missing the sunset!

EXT. STOOP - CONTINUOUS

The clouds in the sky reflect the pink and orange of the
setting sun. Jamie's hair blows in the ocean breeze. Fitz
enters followed by Bernie who carries Guinness pub cans. He
pops one open and closes his eyes, reveling in the sound. He
hands it to Jamie.

BERNIE

Syrup of the gods.

JAMIE

Thanks.

Bernie hands Fitz a can and opens one for himself. Emily
walks up dressed in a business suit. She carries her heels
in her hands. She rips her panty hose off her legs.

EMILY

I hate these things. Why is it so
damn important that my legs be
beige?

She grabs Bernie's beer out of his hand, takes a big swig,
then stares out at the beach and takes a deep breath.

EMILY (CONT'D)

All better. There's something
about the ocean...

They look out towards the beach and take it all in. The
ocean makes big problems seem not so big and makes life feel
a lot more doable.

JAMIE

You want to go get something to
eat?

FITZ

I'm scared.

Jamie looks at him oddly.

JAMIE

I guess we could order in.

FITZ

No, I was talking to Bernie. I
don't want to settle. I don't want
to be forty, staring at those water-
stained ceiling tiles thinking, "I
wish I had."

Fitz opens his pub draft can.

FITZ (CONT'D)

You hear that? That's the sound of
me not leading an ordinary life.

Bernie smiles. Fitz holds up his beer and toasts.

FITZ (CONT'D)

Here's to T Jeff and the pursuit of
happiness.

BERNIE

Look at this, we're both in LA,
living at the beach, I've got a job
working for a beer company and my
bar tabs are covered by my expense
account...

Bernie puts his arm around Jamie.

BERNIE (CONT'D)

Life couldn't be better.

Just then, Maggie, the landlady walks up. She's drunk and is
looking particularly dreadful. One pantyhose is down around
her ankle. She slaps Bernie on the back.

MAGGIE

Okay, Meat, it's time to saddle up
and pay the rent.

Maggie drags a shell-shocked Bernie up the stoop and into the
house.

END OF SHOW

TAG**INT. KETTLE - NIGHT**

The restaurant has now been converted to a night club/pick-up joint. Connie is still working, but instead of handing crayons to annoying children, she's handing out shots to annoying drunks. Fitz, Bernie and Jamie sit at a booth. Emily joins them with a tray full of shots. She gives one to each of them, four shots remain on the tray. Jamie holds up her shot.

JAMIE

Well, boys, I was hoping one of those two dorks who created Google would move in, but I'm glad you guys did.

They all down their drinks.

EMILY

And the rest are for me.

Emily downs another one.

FITZ

Rough day at work?

EMILY

You know how we addressed the problem with our allergy medicine that causes seizures? We gave it a brand new grape flavor.

JAMIE

That's nothing. Last week, I went on a date with a guy named Baskin only to find out he wasn't part of the ice cream fortune. (GROSSED OUT) I let him get in my bra.

FITZ

Nope. I win. My father cut me off and gave my place in the family business to my cousin Chet, my girlfriend is mad at me, I have no job and apparently, my chest is uneven.

BERNIE

I've got you all beat. (TO FITZ) I got us free cable.

As Bernie fights back down the vomit, we:

END TAG