

SMOTHERED

"Pilot"

by

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COLD OPEN

INT. BURBANK AIRPORT BAGGAGE CLAIM - MORNING (DAY ONE)

ZACK AND GILLIAN, A MARRIED COUPLE IN THEIR EARLY THIRTIES, ENTER, PUSHING THEIR ADORABLE ONE YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, PEYTON, IN A STROLLER.

ZACK

(TO PEYTON) So, is the birthday girl excited to see her grandparents?

GILLIAN

She looks cute, right? I put her in pants from your mother and a sweater from mine.

ZACK

She looks a little warm.

GILLIAN

It's not about her. (THEN) Did you count the pictures on the mantel?

ZACK

I did. There are ten of your parents, ten of mine. No one's bigger, no one's more prominently displayed.

GILLIAN

And there are none from when your mom and dad were here in April, right?

ZACK

(CLEARLY FORGOT) Umm.....

GILLIAN

Zack, you know how crazy it makes my mom that your parents can afford to come out here more often. If she finds out they had an extra visit...

ZACK

I know. And no one wants to avoid one of her southern-fried tirades more than I do. We'll take down the picture when we get home.

AIRPORT EMPLOYEE

(ON SPEAKER) Flight 38 from Memphis, your luggage is at carousel C.

GILLIAN

(WITH INCREASING DREAD) Oh God. That's my parents. And soon yours are going to be here. And then they're all going to be here. Talking. To each other!

ZACK

Gillian, relax. I know they don't have a lot in common--

GILLIAN

A lot? They have exactly (RE: PEYTON) one thing in common. And they fight over her like she's the only Asian girl at a Jewish fraternity mixer!

ZACK

(GENTLY) Sshh, sshh, sshh. It's going to be okay. We just have to remember, no matter how crazy they make us, we can't turn on each other. Our goal for this weekend is just to stay married.

GILLIAN

Right. I love you.

ZACK

We'll see.

WE HEAR AN UNINTELLIGIBLE SHRIEK OF EXCITEMENT, THEN PATTY (EARLY FIFTIES, SCRAPPY) AND SKIP (MID-FIFTIES, EXUBERANT) ENTER. PATTY, WEARING A T-SHIRT WITH A PICTURE OF PEYTON PRINTED ON IT, RUNS OVER AND KNEELS IN FRONT OF THE STROLLER, NOT EVEN ACKNOWLEDGING ZACK AND GILLIAN.

PATTY

There's the birthday girl! You look so cute in that sweater!

ZACK LOOKS AT GILLIAN, IMPRESSED. SKIP ENTERS AND ENVELOPS GILLIAN, AND THEN ZACK, IN A FIERCE BEAR HUG.

SKIP

(FEELING ZACK'S SHOULDERS) You've been working out, haven't you?

ZACK

(MODEST) A little bit. I put a pull-up bar in the bathroom, so...

SKIP

Well, we'll have to hit the gym.

PATTY

Ooh! I have something for the baby.

SHE STARTS TO GO THROUGH ONE OF THEIR SUITCASES.

SKIP

Hey, sugar, what's on my schedule for tomorrow?

PATTY

(NOT LOOKING UP) Thighs and tri's.

SKIP

(TO ZACK, EXCITED) Thighs and tri's!

PATTY PULLS OUT A WHITE BABY'S DRESS. IT'S A MONSTROSITY OF FRILLY, LACY, TAFFETA WITH ENORMOUS PUFFY SLEEVES.

PATTY

I finished Peyton's christening dress!

GILLIAN

What?! Mom, I told you, that ship has sailed. We are not having a christening.

PATTY

But the dress...

SHE PULLS OUT A HEADBAND WITH A WIRE-ATTACHED, RHINESTONE HALO.

PATTY (CONT'D)

...And the halo.

GILLIAN

I don't care. The answer is no. We didn't have a Hebrew naming ceremony, and we're not having a christening.

ZACK

That's right, she's just going to be
our little Satanist. (OFF LOOKS) So,
is this it for luggage, or...?

FRAN (EARLY SIXTIES, PRETENTIOUS) AND ALAN (MID-SIXTIES, DRY,
DISENGAGED) ENTER. FRAN WEARS AN OUTFIT FROM CHICO'S AND
LONG, STATEMENT-MAKING EARRINGS. SHE MAKES A BEELINE FOR
PEYTON.

FRAN

Those pants are adorable!

ZACK LOOKS AT GILLIAN, MOUTHS: "WOW."

ALAN

(TO ZACK) I hope you didn't open that
e-mail I sent you about the e-mail
virus. It had an e-mail virus in it.

ZACK

I didn't, Dad. Also: hello.

FRAN

(TO SKIP AND PATTY) It is so good to
see you!

PATTY

Same here. Y'all look terrific.

FRAN

So do... (BLANCHE DUBOIS) "y'all."

SHE LOOKS TO ZACK, PLEASED WITH HERSELF. SKIP HUGS THE MUCH
SMALLER ALAN, WHICH CLEARLY MAKES ALAN UNCOMFORTABLE.

SKIP

Big guy! How was the flight from New
York?

ALAN

Better than our last flight to Paris.
A French boy spilled his juice bag on
my pants.

PATTY

Were you just in France?

FRAN

Mais, oui. It was merveilleux!

PATTY

Oh. (ONE-UPPING) We were just in
Knoxville for the day.

SKIP

Got a real good price on some gravel
for the driveway!

SHE SHOOTS HIM A LOOK: "I'M TRYING TO SOUND SOPHISTICATED
HERE".

FRAN

(RE: CHRISTENING DRESS) What is that?

GILLIAN LOOKS TO HER MOM: "CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY."

PATTY

It's something I made for Peyton.

FRAN

Well, it's very impressive.

PATTY

(BEAMING) Thank you, Fran.

FRAN

So over the top. It'll make the
perfect Halloween costume.

(MORE)

FRAN (CONT'D)

(THEN) But wait, is that an okay
costume? Mexican Baby?

PATTY

(CONFUSED) It's not a---

GILLIAN

Time to go! Mom, Dad, you come with
me and Peyton. Fran, Alan, Zack can
take you to check in to your hotel.

FRAN

We can do that later. I want to go
with Peyton. Zack, you take Skip and
your father.

GILLIAN LOOKS TO ZACK: "DO SOMETHING."

ZACK

Uhhhhh...

FRAN

Alright, let's go!

SHE AND PATTY REACH FOR THE STROLLER AT THE SAME TIME, EACH
ENDING UP WITH ONE HANDLEBAR.

GILLIAN

(TO ZACK, HUSHED) I was hoping to
avoid this particular combination.

ZACK

We'll be right behind you.

AS THE GRANDMOTHERS START TO AWKWARDLY PUSH THE STROLLER OUT
TOGETHER:

FRAN

(TO PATTY, CONSPIRATORIAL, RE: PEYTON)

When we get home, we'll have to change
her out of this awful sweater.

PATTY REACTS, SPEECHLESS.

GILLIAN

(TO ZACK) Hurry!

SHE SCURRIES AFTER THE GRANDMOTHERS, AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

SCENE B

FADE IN:

INT. GILLIAN'S CAR - LATER (DAY ONE)

GILLIAN DRIVES. FRAN AND PATTY SIT IN THE BACK, ON EITHER SIDE OF PEYTON'S CAR SEAT. PATTY SINGS...

PATTY

(TUNELESS, UNBEARABLE) "The wheels on
the bus go round and round/ Round and
round/ Round and round/ The wheels on
the bus go round and round...

...AND SO DOES FRAN. SIMULTANEOUSLY.

FRAN

(THINKS SHE'S EDITH PIAF) Frere
Jacques, Frere Jacques/ Dormez-Vous,
Dormez-Vous/ Sonnez les matines,
sonnez les matines...

AS THE GRANDMOTHERS CONTINUE THEIR ASSAULT ON AN OVERWHELMED PEYTON, AND GILLIAN LOOKS PAINED, WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE C

INT. ZACK'S CAR - A LITTLE LATER (DAY ONE)

ZACK DRIVES, WITH ALAN IN THE PASSENGER SEAT NEXT TO HIM.
SKIP LEANS FORWARD BETWEEN THE SEATS LIKE A LITTLE KID.

SKIP

Tell me, Zack. How's the video game
business?

ZACK

Really good, I think. Although I
design 3-D imaging software for
surgeons.

SKIP

(WITH A SHRUG) Well, that one you
showed me was really fun. (THEN) So,
Alan, have you been watching
"Californication" this season?

ALAN

We watch PBS.

SKIP

PBS. Which one is that? Is that the
one with "The Closer"?

ALAN

It's the one with "Nova".

SKIP

I like "Burn Notice". She's sexy.
He's okay. You know what I don't like
that much? "Bones". Although it's
pretty good. Ooh, "Castle".

ALAN LOOKS TO ZACK, "WHAT IS THIS PERSON TALKING ABOUT?",
AND WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE D

INT. ZACK AND GILLIAN'S KITCHEN/DEN - LATER (DAY ONE)

GILLIAN AND THE TWO MOMS ENTER THE OPEN KITCHEN/DEN AREA WITH PEYTON.

FRAN

She was so fussy in the car. She must
be tired.

GILLIAN

Yeah, that must be it. (SOTTO)
Because I know she likes cacophony.

PATTY

I'm going to put my stuff in the guest
room.

ON HER WAY, SHE NOTICES THE PHOTOS THAT ZACK HAS SET OUT ON
THE MANTEL.

PATTY (CONT'D)

Oh, look at all the pictures!

GILLIAN LOOKS PANICKED. THINKING ON HER FEET...

GILLIAN

Um, Peyton! Peyton needs a diaper
change!

PATTY

(STOKED) I'm on it!

FRAN

(WRINKLING HER NOSE) I'll get the
next one.

PATTY TAKES PEYTON. FRAN HANGS UP HER COAT. GILLIAN QUICKLY
SCANS THE PICTURES, GRABS THE ONE FROM APRIL, AND EXITS.

RESET TO:

INT. ZACK AND GILLIAN'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

GILLIAN ENTERS AND PUTS THE PICTURE IN HER NIGHTSTAND DRAWER. SHE BREATHES A SIGH OF RELIEF, THEN TURNS TO GO, ALMOST BUMPING INTO FRAN, WHO HAS SUDDENLY APPEARED IN THE DOORWAY.

GILLIAN

(STARTLED) Ah!

FRAN

Hi. I just wanted to put a bug in your ear about something.

GILLIAN

Okay.

FRAN

You know, I always wanted a daughter, and though Zack was quite feminine as a child, it wasn't really the same.

GILLIAN

(WHERE'S THIS GOING?) Uh huh.

FRAN

I didn't want to bring this up until you and Zack had beaten the odds and made it through Peyton's first year, but... I think it's time for us to become closer.

GILLIAN

(FROZEN SMILE) Oh.

FRAN

I know you have a "mother", but I want you to think of me as your mother, too. So. Tell me something about you. Something nobody else knows.

SFX: FRONT DOOR CLOSING.

GILLIAN

Zack! Zack's home!

SHE SQUEEZES BY FRAN AND WE...

RESET TO:

INT. KITCHEN/DEN - MOMENTS LATER

GILLIAN ENTERS AND RUNS IMMEDIATELY INTO ALAN.

ALAN

Where do you keep your phone book?

GILLIAN

Um, on the internet?

SHE PASSES BY HIM AND FINDS ZACK. SHE PULLS HIM INTO THE FOYER.

GILLIAN (CONT'D)

What took you so long?

ZACK

Sorry. Your dad made me follow someone for ten blocks who he thought was "that black guy from 'House'".

(GASPS) Did your mother see the April picture?

GILLIAN

No. But your mother wants to be closer with me!

ZACK

Oh. Well, that sounds nice of her.

GILLIAN

Oh, please. She probably thinks it'll help her get in more visits with Peyton.

ZACK

That's not fair.

GILLIAN

(AGITATED, ACCENT EMERGING) I'm just saying, she's not the type to give you a day-old biscuit without expecting a pie in return.

ZACK

Don't get all southern on me.

GILLIAN

Well, don't always defend her!

ZACK

Whoa whoa. Turning on each other.

GILLIAN

(ANGRY AT HERSELF) Dammit. You let your guard down for one second.

PATTY (O.S.)

Gillian, where are your cans of
frizzled onions?

ZACK AND GILLIAN EXCHANGE A LOOK, THEN RUSH TO THE KITCHEN,
WHERE PATTY IS HOLDING PEYTON AND LOOKING THROUGH THE PANTRY.

GILLIAN

Whatcha doing, Mom?

PATTY

I'm making Cheesy Tuna Noodle
Casserole. If you don't have the
onions, I can make do with Fritos.

FRAN, OVERHEARING THIS, SAUNTERS OVER.

FRAN

Oh, are we making dinner? Why don't
we have the choucroute I brought back
from Alsace?

SKIP

The what?

FRAN

Choucroute.

SHE PULLS A LARGE GLASS JAR FROM HER HANDBAG. IT'S FULL OF
CABBAGE AND FATTY PINK MEATS.

SKIP

(ALARMED) Is that... a baby?

ZACK

We'll be right back.

HE PULLS GILLIAN BACK INTO THE FOYER.

ZACK (CONT'D)

We need to make dinner plans, fast.

GILLIAN

Yes. Can't be ethnic. Or expensive.

ZACK

Or not expensive. How about Hugo's?

GILLIAN

They don't have a full bar. Please don't make me do this without a full bar.

ZACK

Musso & Frank?

GILLIAN

Perfect. My dad can have a steak. Your mom can say "This is so L.A." a hundred times. Wait, Peyton!

ZACK

I'll get the Striegel girl to babysit. I think she steals, but who cares.

HE PULLS OUT HIS PHONE. MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE KITCHEN, PATTY GATHERS INGREDIENTS FOR HER CASSEROLE, FRAN HUNTS FOR A SAUCEPAN, AND SKIP STARES AT THE CHOUROUTE IN TERROR.

ALAN

(SOTTO, TO SKIP) You think it looks bad in the jar? The other one broke in my bag. Customs thought I was an organ-trafficker.

GILLIAN RE-ENTERS.

GILLIAN

Put down the Cream of Mushroom soup,
Mom. We're going out to dinner.

FRAN

Oh, we are? In that case, Gillian, I
have a little something for you.

CUT TO:

SCENE E

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER (NIGHT ONE)

THE GROUP IS SEATED AT A LARGE BOOTH, HAVING DRINKS.

FRAN

I have to say, those are just so you.

WE REVEAL THAT GILLIAN IS WEARING A PAIR OF VERY LARGE, DANGLY EARRINGS THAT LOOK A LOT LIKE THE ONES FRAN HAS ON.

GILLIAN

Thank you, Fran. And thank you for saying that they "highlight the good parts of my face."

A WOMAN IN HER EARLY TWENTIES ENTERS AND STANDS IN FRONT OF SKIP AND PATTY. SHE'S WEARING PUNKY, ATTENTION-GETTING CLOTHES. THIS IS GILLIAN'S BABY SISTER, SUSIE.

SUSIE

(WITH ATTITUDE) Hi, Mom. Hi, Dad.

GILLIAN

Oh my God, Susie!

PATTY

We forgot to call and tell you we were going out to dinner.

SUSIE

Yeah. I had to find out from the babysitter where you were.

PATTY

I'm sorry, we just got caught up with Peyton and...

SUSIE

Forgot I live here, too.

SKIP

Noooo. How was Peyton, by the way?

SUSIE

What do you mean, "How was Peyton?"
She's a baby. She was, like, crying
or sleeping or something.

GILLIAN

Fran, Alan, you remember my sister.

SUSIE

Nice to see you. (TO GILLIAN) Why do
you have fishing tackle in your ears--

ZACK

(STOPPING HER) Nyahhh! (THEN) So,
Skip, how's work?

SKIP

Pretty good. Had a big sale this
week. Retired gentleman bought a like-
new RV. Gonna live the dream. (TO
FRAN AND ALAN) You two ever thought
about taking it on the road?

FRAN

(SNORTS, THEN) Can you imagine? Me,
in an RV, wearing a visor and a fanny
pack, driving to Branson to see Reba
McEntire?

ZACK

(QUIETLY) Mom, please stop describing
Skip and Patty's last vacation.

GILLIAN

Um, anyone seen any good movies lately?

ALAN

We saw the new Woody Allen.

SKIP

Who?

PATTY

You know. The little pervert with the
glasses who married his Chinese
daughter.

ALAN

What? She's not--

GILLIAN

O-kay! Football?

ZACK

(RE: FRAN AND ALAN) Really?

GILLIAN

Weather! How's everyone's weather?

PATTY

Well, it's been raining buckets in
Memphis. Monday, I was on my way to a
Tea Party rally--

FRAN

(APPALLED) You're in the--

A WAITER BRINGS FOOD TO THE TABLE.

ZACK

The food's here! Talking time over!

SUSIE

You ordered without me?

PATTY

You can have some of my veal chop.

SUSIE

I'm a vegetarian.

PATTY

Well, we'll put an end to that.

SKIP

(STANDING) Before we eat, I'd like to
make a little toast.

ZACK AND GILLIAN WHIMPER, BRACING THEMSELVES.

SKIP (CONT'D)

I know how hard it is to have people
come and stay in your home--

FRAN

And some in a hotel.

SKIP

But we're grateful for how welcome you
make us feel. Zack and Gillian, I'm
so proud of the life you've made, and
the parents you've turned out to be.
I love you both.

HE SITS. EVERYONE TOASTS. ZACK AND GILLIAN LOOK AT EACH
OTHER, MOVED. FRAN LOOKS TO ALAN: "YOUR TURN".

ALAN

(RAISING HIS GLASS) I'm not usually
one for big speeches, but... to Zack
and Gillian.

EVERYONE CLINKS GLASSES AGAIN, THEN STARTS TO EAT. IT'S A
NICE FAMILY MOMENT.

SKIP

This is outstanding.

ALAN

(APPROVING) Exactly medium rare.

FRAN

This place is so L.A.

ZACK

(SMILES) I'm glad you like it, Mom.

FRAN

Oh my God, it's much better than the
place you took us back in April.

ZACK AND GILLIAN FREEZE. EVERYONE ELSE CONTINUES TO EAT FOR
A BEAT. THEN PATTY FREEZES, TOO, FORK IN MIDAIR.

PATTY

Wait. You were here in April?

FRAN

(BRIGHTLY) Mm-hm. (THEN, REALIZING)

Ooh, is that not okay to talk about?

AS ZACK AND GILLIAN REACT, MORTIFIED, WE...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE H

FADE IN:

INT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS (NIGHT ONE)

EVERYONE IS AS WE LEFT THEM. IT'S TENSE.

PATTY

I'm just going to, um, freshen up.

SHE GETS UP AND HEADS FOR THE BATHROOM. GILLIAN FOLLOWS HER.

FRAN

Zack, je suis désolé.

ZACK

French is just making it worse, Mom.

RESET TO:

INT. LADIES' ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

PATTY IS STANDING AT THE SINK WHEN GILLIAN ENTERS.

GILLIAN

Okay, let me explain. They were on their way to Australia...

PATTY

Of course they were.

GILLIAN

...and they had a 24 hour layover. Just 24 hours. And we spent most of that time trying to get Alan a Cipro prescription in case of kangaroo bite.

PATTY

How could you not tell me?!

GILLIAN

Because I knew you'd react like this.

PATTY

I'm reacting like this because she's my only grandchild.

GILLIAN

She's Fran's only grandchild, too.

PATTY

I know, but we can't afford to come out as often as them. And when I hear that Fran is out here, getting extra time with her, even if it is just 24 hours... it hurts.

GILLIAN

Yes, but--

PATTY

I don't want to sound selfish, but... I'm your mother. If anyone was gonna get extra time with her, I always thought it would be me.

GILLIAN

(SOFTENING) Oh, mom.

PATTY

I just wish I could have some alone time with Peyton.

(MORE)

PATTY (CONT'D)

Just a few minutes when that woman is not singing in French, or crapping on Branson, or trying to make us eat fetus.

GILLIAN

(SMILES) Yeah, I'd like some of that, too. You know, she's on a mission to be better friends with me.

PATTY

Well, watch out. That woman wouldn't give you a day-old biscuit unless you paid her back in pie.

GILLIAN

Thank you! (THEN) Listen, tomorrow before the party, why don't you take Peyton out to the park. All by yourself.

PATTY

I'd love that. Now take those things out of your ears. You look like you crashed your car into a craft show.

PATTY EXITS. GILLIAN LOOKS IN THE BATHROOM MIRROR AND SHRUGS, "SHE'S RIGHT." AND WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE JINT. ZACK & GILLIAN'S BEDROOM - LATER (NIGHT ONE)

GILLIAN IS IN BED. ZACK ENTERS AND STARTS TO GET UNDRESSED.

ZACK

Sorry that took so long. I had to find my parents a room that was far enough away from the elevator that they didn't hear it, but close enough to the elevator that the elevator wasn't far away. (THEN) Anyway, what happened with your mom?

GILLIAN

She was upset, but we ended up having a really good talk. And I told her she could take Peyton out by herself tomorrow morning.

ZACK

Ooh, that's not going to go over well.

GILLIAN

Zack, this is important to me. You're going to have to stand up to your mom.

ZACK

I can do that. It's good to try new things.

GILLIAN

There is an upside for you. My mom's so crazy about making things even that she offered to get up with Peyton so we can sleep in.

ZACK

You're a genius. (YAWNING) I totally want to have sex with you.

GILLIAN

(YAWNING) That sounds so great.

ZACK

(FALLING ASLEEP) Maybe just a quick nap first.

GILLIAN

(FALLING ASLEEP) Yeah, then we'll totally go nuts--

THEY'RE BOTH ASLEEP. AND WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ZACK & GILLIAN'S BEDROOM - MORNING (DAY TWO)

THE CLOCK READS 6:00 A.M. ZACK AND GILLIAN ARE ASLEEP UNTIL:

PATTY (O.S.)

She's awake! (YELLS) Hang on, sweet potato, I'm coming! (THEN) Hand me my slippers. Hurry, you jackass!

ZACK

Glad she's letting us sleep in.

GILLIAN

It'll be over in a minute.

AFTER A BEAT, SKIP ENTERS THE BEDROOM IN FULL GYM REGALIA:
LOW-CUT, LAT-REVEALING TANKTOP AND SPANDEX SHORTS.

SKIP

Come on, Kemosabe, thighs and tri's!

AS ZACK, RESIGNED, GETS OUT OF BED, WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE K

INT. ZACK AND GILLIAN'S KITCHEN/DEN - LATER (DAY TWO)

PARTY PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY: PATTY REMOVES A CAKE PAN FROM THE OVEN AND PUTS IT NEXT TO A BOWL OF STRAWBERRIES, AND GILLIAN ARRANGES FLOWERS WHILE HOLDING PEYTON IN ONE HAND. ZACK ENTERS, FRESHLY SHOWERED, WALKING STIFFLY AND HOLDING HIS ARMS LIMPLY AT HIS SIDES.

GILLIAN

Hey, will you take Peyton for a sec?

ZACK

I can't. I can't do anything that involves tri's or thighs.

SKIP ENTERS, FULL OF ENERGY.

SKIP

Alright, I yanked out that tree-root by your front gate. What else needs doing?

PATTY

I'm actually ready to go. I can put the strawberries on the cake later.

GILLIAN

Okay. Stroller's on the porch. Have fun, you guys.

SKIP TAKES PEYTON FROM GILLIAN AS PATTY GRABS HER BAG. FRAN AND ALAN ENTER. ALAN HOLDS A CAMERA WITH AN ENORMOUS LENS.

FRAN

Good morning! We would have gotten here sooner, but it was such a trek to the elevator.

ZACK THROWS UP HIS HANDS, THEN GRABS HIS TRICEPS IN PAIN.
SKIP AND PATTY BREEZE PAST FRAN AND ALAN WITH PEYTON.

PATTY

Okay, we're off. See you later!

THEY EXIT. FRAN WATCHES THEM GO, CONFUSED.

FRAN

Where are they going?

GILLIAN LOOKS TO ZACK--"YOUR DEPARTMENT"--AND CROSSES OFF.

ZACK

So. Skip and Patty are taking Peyton
out. For the morning.

FRAN

What? That is totally unfair. Alan,
don't you think that's unfair?

ALAN

(STAYING OUT OF IT, TO ZACK) Do you
have a lint-free lens cloth?

ZACK

It's actually completely fair. You
guys had an extra day in April.

FRAN

How absurd. What is she, keeping a
tally? And if she is, they left on
the red eye the last time we were all
here, and we had a morning flight.

ZACK

Mom--

FRAN

I'm going to go catch up with her.

ZACK

No!

FRAN

(CHALLENGING) Why not?

ZACK

Because if you go... you won't get to spend any quality time with Gillian. And I know she was looking forward to you guys getting closer.

FRAN

(LIGHTING UP) She was?

GILLIAN ENTERS. AS SHE PASSES BY, SHE LOOKS TO ZACK: "HANDLED?" HE GIVES HER A LITTLE THUMBS UP. FRAN GIVES HER A CONSPIRATORIAL WINK, WHICH LEAVES GILLIAN CONFUSED. THEN THERE'S A FLASH AS ALAN TAKES A PICTURE OF HER.

ALAN

Damn. Memory card full.

GILLIAN

Too bad. I'm sure that was a keeper.

FRAN

Just delete some of those pictures from the topless beaches in France. You took about a thousand.

ALAN

I haven't downloaded them yet. And I'm thinking of entering some in the 92nd Street Y photo contest. (ASIDE, TO ZACK) The erotica category.

ZACK DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS.

ALAN (CONT'D)

Come on, take me to Radio Shack.

FRAN

Yes. (TO GILLIAN) That'll give us some of that "girl time" Zack said you wanted.

GILLIAN

What?

ZACK

Back soon!

BEFORE GILLIAN CAN PROTEST, HE BEATS A HASTY EXIT WITH ALAN. SHE SHAKES HER HEAD IN DISBELIEF.

FRAN

Finally, we're alone. So, let's open "The Book of Gillian."

GILLIAN

Oh, wow. (LOOKING AROUND) There is so much to do.

FRAN

Come on. I really do just want to get to know you better. And I'm a very good listener.

GILLIAN

(GIVING IN) Alright, you know what?
I have been kind of struggling with
whether or not to go back to work at
the law firm--

FRAN

(SALIVATING) Because you're going to
have another baby?

GILLIAN

What? No.

FRAN

(ALARMED) You're not going to have
another baby?

GILLIAN

That's not what I--

SUSIE ENTERS.

SUSIE

Hey, Fran. Hey, Gillian. Where are
Mom and Dad?

GILLIAN

They took Peyton out for a walk.

SUSIE

What? They told me to meet them he--
Unbelievable! I woke up at eleven
o'clock for this.

GILLIAN

But I'm glad you're here! You can hang out with me and Fran.

FRAN

(TO SUSIE) That's an interesting outfit for a children's party.

SUSIE

(TO GILLIAN) Later.

GILLIAN

What? No, no. Please don't go.

SUSIE

(SOTTO) She's not my mother-in-law. I don't have to be here.

SHE EXITS. FRAN RUBS HER HANDS TOGETHER.

FRAN

Now, let's get back to what we were talking about.

GILLIAN

I'd actually rather not.

FRAN

I want you to re-think this terrible decision not to have another baby.

GILLIAN

(HEAD EXPLODING) Will you excuse me for a second?

SHE EXITS TO KEEP FROM SCREAMING, AND WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE M

INT. ZACK'S CAR - LATER (DAY TWO)

ZACK IS DRIVING. ALAN HOLDS AN ELECTRONICS STORE BAG.

ALAN

...I'm just saying, what kind of
business doesn't take a traveler's
check?

ZACK LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW AND SEES SKIP AND PATTY. HE'S ABOUT TO GET THEIR ATTENTION WHEN HE NOTICES THAT THEY'RE PUTTING PEYTON INTO PATTY'S HOMEMADE CHRISTENING DRESS. HE LOOKS CONFUSED FOR A MOMENT, AND THEN NOTICES WHAT THEY'RE STANDING IN FRONT OF: A CHURCH.

ZACK

(REALIZING) Oh my God!

AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SCENE P

FADE IN:

INT. ZACK'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER (DAY TWO)

ZACK PARKS AROUND THE CORNER, OUT OF VIEW OF SKIP AND PATTY.

ZACK

Wait here, Dad. I'll be right back.

RESET TO:

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

ZACK APPROACHES SKIP AND PATTY, WHO ARE NOW PUTTING THE HALO HEADBAND ON PEYTON.

ZACK

What are you guys doing?

SKIP

Zack!

PATTY

(FORCED CASUAL) Oh, hey, Zack.

ZACK

Why is Peyton in that dress?

SKIP

She asked if she could wear it.

(THEN) Also, she started talking.

ZACK

You were going to christen her,
weren't you?!

PATTY

Your parents had extra time in April.

ZACK

How is that in any way equivalent?

PATTY

(TOTALLY SINCERE) How is it not?

SKIP

For the record, I was against this from the get-go.

PATTY

My mother was right. You are softer than hot pudding. (THEN) Come on, Zack, what's the big deal? We go in, make nice with the priest, drip drip on the baby, and no one's the wiser except Jesus, who I tell you, will be pretty goddamn happy.

ZACK

I don't get it. You hardly ever go to church. Why is this so important to you?

PATTY

I need the pictures to show my friends, alright? Religion is a competitive sport where we come from.

(MORE)

PATTY (CONT'D)

Everyone we know has pictures of their grandkids from Christmas and Easter, and all we have is some ball-less "Season's Greetings" card with Peyton in a neutral sweater without even a reindeer or a holly berry on it.

SKIP

Come on, Patty. That's enough.

PATTY

Fine. (TO ZACK) Please don't tell Gillian about this.

ZACK

I won't. She's had enough stress this weekend as it is. Now take Peyton home right now. I'd do it myself if (TO SKIP) you hadn't crippled me on that dip bar! And just so you know? To be in such good shape? At your age? Is weird!

ZACK TURNS AND STORMS OFF, AND WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE R

INT. ZACK AND GILLIAN'S KITCHEN/DEN - A LITTLE LATER (DAY TWO)

GILLIAN ENTERS THE KITCHEN. FRAN IS THERE.

FRAN

There you are. I was starting to worry about you. I thought I heard some banging on the wall.

GILLIAN

(NONCHALANT) Huh. It wasn't me, it wasn't my head.

SHE NOTICES A TUREEN OF STRANGE RED LIQUID ON THE COUNTER.

GILLIAN (CONT'D)

What's that?

FRAN

Oh, I found some strawberries on the counter, so I blended them up with onions, vinegar and garlic and, voila... strawberry gazpacho!

GILLIAN

What?! Those berries were for the birthday cake my mother was making!

FRAN

(GENUINE) Oh, no. They didn't come out of a can, it didn't even occur to me that she would be using them.

ZACK AND ALAN ENTER.

ZACK

We're back.

GILLIAN

Can I talk to you for a second?

ZACK

Uh oh.

RESET TO:

INT. ZACK & GILLIAN'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

ZACK ENTERS. GILLIAN SHUTS THE DOOR.

GILLIAN

I've had it. I'm done. Your mom is evil. She made revenge gazpacho!

ZACK

What?

GILLIAN

She was jealous that my mom was out with her only grandchild, so she took her cake strawberries and blended them into some kind of misbegotten soup that's neither sweet nor savory!

ZACK

You sound a little crazy right now.

GILLIAN

And by the way, siccing her on me is not standing up to her!

ZACK

Gillian--

GILLIAN

But I don't know why I expected anything different. You never stand up to her!

ZACK

(HAD ENOUGH) Oh yeah? You know who I did just stand up to? Your mom! Who was trying to stealth christen our daughter!

GILLIAN

What?

ZACK

That's right! I caught them just as they were about to go into a church.

GILLIAN

I don't believe you.

ZACK

Believe it! She had her all dressed up in the Mexican Baby costume!

THEY HEAR THE FRONT DOOR OPEN.

RESET TO:

INT. FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

GILLIAN CONFRONTS PATTY AS SHE ENTERS, ZACK FOLLOWS BEHIND.

GILLIAN

Were you going to christen Peyton?

PATTY

(TO ZACK) You promised!

GILLIAN

It's true?! You gave me that whole
sob story in the bathroom and then you
take her out and try to christen her?!

FRAN ENTERS, HAVING PARTIALLY OVERHEARD.

FRAN

Wait, you're having a christening?
Well, then we have to have a Hebrew
baby naming, too.

SKIP ENTERS WITH PEYTON.

FRAN (CONT'D)

I already picked out the perfect name,
(EXAGGERATED HEBREW) Bracha Yocheved
Chaya.

SKIP

(CONCERNED) Is she choking?

GILLIAN

(TO PATTY) I can't believe you went
behind my back like that!

FRAN

I would never do that to you.

GILLIAN

You? You say you want to be my
friend, and then you don't listen to a
word I say!

PATTY

("SAY IT SISTER") Mm-hmm.

GILLIAN

Don't you even start!

ALAN ENTERS.

ALAN

What's going on in here?

SKIP

(ASHAMED) Patty and I tried to christen Peyton.

ALAN

That's what all this noise is about? So you shpritz a little water on the baby. Who cares?

FRAN

(GASPS) Alan, I am shocked!

ALAN

Says the woman who served a ham at a Hanukkah party and called it "Ham-ukkah".

PATTY

(TO GILLIAN) See? Alan's on board.

GILLIAN

She's our daughter!

FRAN

And I'm just saying, since she's the only grandchild I'm ever going to have, I'd like to give her a Hebrew name.

ZACK

What do you mean, the only grandchild
you're ever going to have?

FRAN

You mean you don't know? Gillian
doesn't want to have any more
children.

ZACK

What?

GILLIAN

I never--

SKIP

Aw, honey, don't shut down the
babymaker yet. You gotta have a boy.
I need a spotter!

GILLIAN

I never said I didn't want to have
more children!

PATTY

So you do want to have another child?

GILLIAN

Yes!

PATTY

Can we christen that one?

GILLIAN

Ahhh!!!!

SFX: DOORBELL RINGS.

ZACK

And that's the guests.

BEGIN PHOTO MONTAGE:

OVER THE DULCET TONES OF FRAN, ALAN, SKIP AND PATTY SINGING "HAPPY BIRTHDAY," WE SEE THE PARTY AS CAPTURED IN A SERIES OF SNAPSHOTS TAKEN BY ALAN:

GILLIAN HOLDING PEYTON AND STARING DAGGERS AT PATTY...

SKIP LIFTING TWO BABIES OVER HIS HEAD, ONE IN EACH HAND, AS THEIR MOTHERS LOOK ON, HORRIFIED...

A GUEST SPITTING STRAWBERRY GAZPACHO BACK INTO HER BOWL...

ZACK UNTANGLING ONE OF FRAN'S EARRINGS FROM A CHILD'S HAIR...

SUSIE POURING BOURBON INTO A BACKYARDIGANS CUP...

A MILF-Y GUEST BENDING OVER TO PICK UP SOME SPILLED CHEERIOS, AND EXPOSING HER CLEAVAGE TO ALAN'S "ARTISTIC" CAMERA...

AND FINALLY, THE WHOLE FAMILY, SMILING TENSELY IN FRONT OF AN UNDECORATED SHEETCAKE...

GRANDPARENTS (V.O.)

Happy birthday, dear Peyton / Happy

birthday to you.

END PHOTO MONTAGE.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE T

INT. ZACK AND GILLIAN'S FOYER - LATER (DAY TWO)

NOW THE PARTY IS WINDING DOWN. ZACK AND GILLIAN CHEERFULLY SAY GOODBYE TO THE LAST GUESTS.

ZACK/GILLIAN

Thanks for coming. Hope you had fun!

THEY SHUT THE DOOR AND IMMEDIATELY DROP THEIR CHEERFUL EXPRESSIONS. THEY LOOK EXHAUSTED.

ZACK

So, I'm thinking, for her second birthday, maybe we build a panic room and hide in it.

GILLIAN

I am so sorry I yelled at you.

ZACK

Don't beat yourself up. We made it almost twenty-four hours before we turned on each other.

GILLIAN

Do you know what the worst part is? I've always taken some kind of sick satisfaction in knowing that your mother is crazier than mine. But my mom just took a commanding lead.

ZACK

(IMPRESSED) She came to play.

GILLIAN

Oh my God, am I going to be like her?
When Peyton has kids, is she going to
dread me coming to visit?

ZACK

(SWEETLY) Yes. And sometimes,
Peyton's husband will secretly wish he
had married an orphan. (THEN) But
don't worry. I'll always love you.

HE KISSES HER. SHE PUTS HER HEAD ON HIS SHOULDER.

ZACK (CONT'D)

Should we go see what they're doing to
our daughter now?

AND THEY WALK OUT INTO THE DEN, WHERE THE FOUR GRANDPARENTS
ARE PLAYING A GAME WITH PEYTON IN HER HIGH CHAIR. WE SEE THE
GAME FROM PEYTON'S PERSPECTIVE: ONE OF THE GRANDPARENTS POPS
UP INTO VIEW, MAKING A SILLY FACE AND A SILLY NOISE, THEN
SINKS DOWN OUT OF SIGHT. ANOTHER GRANDPARENT POPS UP, MAKING
A DIFFERENT SILLY FACE AND SILLY NOISE. THEY REPEAT THIS,
EACH GRANDPARENT TAKING A TURN. PEYTON LAUGHS, HER EYES
SHINING.

ZACK AND GILLIAN WATCH. ZACK PUTS HIS ARM AROUND GILLIAN.
SHE TEARS UP. IT'S BEEN A LONG, EMOTIONAL DAY.

GILLIAN

Look at them. Those are her four
favorite people in the world.

ZACK

I know. (BEAT) She's such an idiot.

THEY APPROACH THE REST OF THEM. THE GRANDPARENTS ARE ALL A
LITTLE ON EGGSHELLS AROUND GILLIAN.

ALAN

Good party. I took 290 pictures.

GILLIAN

Why don't we open presents?

SKIP

You must be tired, sweetie. You sure
you don't want to wait 'til tomorrow?

GILLIAN

No. Let's do it now.

AS FRAN AND PATTY GO TO GET THEIR GIFTS, GILLIAN TAKES PEYTON
OUT OF HER HIGH CHAIR.

GILLIAN (CONT'D)

Hey, Ladybug. I feel like I haven't
seen you all day.

THEY ALL SETTLE ON THE COUCH.

SKIP

Where's Susie?

GILLIAN

She left an hour ago.

SKIP

She was here?

PATTY AND FRAN COME BACK, EACH WITH A WRAPPED BOX.

PATTY

(TO FRAN) Why don't you go first?

FRAN

After you.

PATTY

Alright. (HANDING GILLIAN HER BOX)

Here you go.

GILLIAN OPENS THE BOX AND REMOVES A HANDMADE BABY QUILT.

PATTY (CONT'D)

I pieced it all by hand. Some of the fabric is from your old baby clothes.

GILLIAN

Oh, mom. It's beautiful.

FRAN

(SINCERE) Absolutely gorgeous.

SHE HANDS PEYTON TO ZACK AND GIVES HER MOM A BIG, LONG HUG.

PATTY

(QUIETLY) I'm sorry.

GILLIAN

It's okay.

PATTY

(FIGHTING BACK TEARS) I'll go see how this looks in her crib.

SKIP

(ALSO TEARING UP) I'll come help you.

(RE: HIS TEARS) Hot pudding.

THEY EXIT.

FRAN

Well, that's going to be tough to top.

SHE HANDS ZACK HER BOX. HE OPENS IT AND PULLS OUT... A SET OF KEYS.

ZACK

(CONFUSED) Keys?

ALAN

That's right.

FRAN

To our new condo in Los Angeles!

ZACK

What?

FRAN

We're moving to town!

GILLIAN

What?!

FRAN

Now we'll be able to come over all the
time!

ZACK AND GILLIAN JUST SIT THERE, IN SHOCK. SKIP AND PATTY RE-
ENTER.

PATTY

So, what was Fran and Alan's present?

GILLIAN

Uhhhhh.....

ALAN TAKES A PICTURE OF ZACK AND GILLIAN AS THEY REALIZE JUST
HOW DEEPLY FUCKED THEY ARE.

ALAN

291!

AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW