

**AMERICAN JUDY**

"Pilot"

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Story by  
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Revised Network Draft 1/17/12

CLOSE ON: A GOLDFISH, LYING NEXT TO ITS BOWL IN A SMALL PUDDLE. Reveal we are in...

1 INT. CHUCK'S BEDROOM - DAY 1

... An eight year-old boy's room. JUDY walks past, holding some LAUNDRY. She GASPS when she sees the fish.

JUDY

Oh no! No no no no! I've only been a step-mom for a week. I can't start killing pets. No. Please don't die little fish! Come on. You have so much to live for. The little bubbly treasure chest...  
(realizes)  
You're dead.

2 INT. HALLWAY - DAY 2

Judy dials her phone. She feels awful.

JUDY (INTO PHONE)

Dean? Hi, honey. I know you're still in the air, but call me when you land. I think I may have killed Chuck Norris' fish. I mean, not really, but I found it so I feel responsible...

3 INT. FOYER - DAY 3

The DOORBELL RINGS. Judy answers the door to find THE SHERIFF (40, busty & blonde) in her full uniform.

THE SHERIFF

So you killed my son's fish. What have you been here for a week?

Judy feels bad enough.

JUDY

Did Dean call you? I thought he was still flying.

THE SHERIFF

We were married for fifteen years. I still have the voicemail code.

JUDY

(beat, realizing)  
To his cell phone?

THE SHERIFF

Let's see the crime scene.

She walks right in. Judy has to catch up.

4 INT. BATHROOM - DAY

4

Judy and The Sheriff stare down into the toilet bowl as the The Sheriff FLUSHES.

THE SHERIFF

You're telling Chuck Norris. When his hermit crab died he cried for weeks. This blood's on your hands.

JUDY ONE (O.S.)

What happened?

They turn to see JUDY ONE (60's, Judy's new MOTHER-IN-LAW) with ANNIE (14, pretty and reserved).

JUDY ONE (CONT'D)

I just picked the kids up from school. Who's bleeding?

JUDY

Hi, Judy.

THE SHERIFF

(to Annie, smug)

Your new stepmother killed your brother's fish.

Annie scoffs. Good luck with that. The Sheriff nods to Judy One, curt (it's still chilly between them).

THE SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Judy One.

JUDY ONE

Hello.

CHUCK NORRIS (O.S.)

(from downstairs)

Grandma! Don't tell Judy I made a picture for her in art class!

JUDY ONE

Well someone's going to have to go break that child's heart.

They all look at Judy.

5 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

5

CHUCK NORRIS (8, energetic, named by his mother) stares up from the couch at JUDY. The Sheriff, Annie and Judy One stand to the side, waiting for the explanation.

JUDY

(nervous)

Okay. Listen, Chuck Norris... I know you've been through a lot of changes recently. You know, with your dad marrying me, and me moving up here from L.A.... And the thing is, sometimes life brings you changes you didn't see coming...

(gets a little emotional)

And I'm so, so sorry about this. But it seems that... your fish has died.

Chuck stares at her for a beat. She tries to smile.

CHUCK

What fish?

JUDY

The -- the fish. That was in your room.

CHUCK

Oh. Was that still in there?

(realizes)

Jeez, I can't remember the last time I fed it.

Judy can't believe this. Judy One rolls her eyes and exits. Annie walks out too.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

Can I get a snake?!

JUDY

A snake? Oh. Jeez, that's probably something we should *all* discuss...

She glances back to the Sheriff for help.

THE SHERIFF

Well, my job here is done.

And she exits. Chuck stares up at Judy.

CHUCK

Pleeeeeease?

Judy's in way over her head.

**OPENING TITLES**6 INT. JENNINGS HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

6

Dean (40, very handsome in his PILOT'S UNIFORM) enters.

DEAN JENNINGS

Try not to get too excited. But I brought you home a present.

He hands her a little BAG OF AIRLINE PEANUTS. She laughs.

JUDY

Tiny peanuts. That will never not be funny. How was your day?

DEAN JENNINGS

Ah, another jackass in first class refused to turn off his phone. He got really nasty to the flight attendants. So I gave him the old "bump and dump". Every time he got out of his seat I "ran into" some turbulence.

He pretends to jostle a steering wheel, a guilty smile.

DEAN JENNINGS (CONT'D)

How about you?

JUDY

Good. My editor loved my Johnny Depp interview, so I didn't have to write.

DEAN JENNINGS

And how were the kids?

JUDY

Good. We all got a little closer...

7 INT. MASTER BEDROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

7

Chuck Norris approaches the CLOSED BATHROOM DOOR.

CHUCK NORRIS (O.S.)

Hey Judy do we have any hot dogs?!

He swings the door OPEN.

8 INT. MASTER BATHROOM - SAME (FLASHBACK)

8

Judy is SITTING ON THE TOILET. She YELPS.

JUDY

Um --

CHUCK NORRIS

I need some hot dogs, Tyler once ate fifteen hotdogs in under a minute and didn't throw up so I want to try that.

Judy is extremely uncomfortable.

JUDY

Yeah... they'd be in the kitchen.

CHUCK NORRIS

Do you know Tyler has a komodo dragon and he gets to feed it live mice?

JUDY

I... did not.

CHUCK NORRIS

So do we have hot dogs?

JUDY

Chuck? Do you think I could maybe have a little privacy?

CHUCK NORRIS

Why? Are you pooping?

Judy looks horrified.

9 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (PRESENT)

9

Dean laughs.

DEAN JENNINGS

Sorry, sorry.  
(tries to suppress it)  
And how was Annie?

Judy exhales. *Well...*

10 INT. KITCHEN - DAY (FLASHBACK)

10

Judy is putting some things away in the kitchen. Annie enters, chatting her phone.

ANNIE

(into phone)

...Meagan's our best forward but Coach benched her because she ditched practice to hang out with Jared. She's way into Jared --

(glances at Judy)

Call you back.

Judy smiles at Annie, warm. Annie needs to reach past Judy to open the fridge. Judy moves out of her way.

JUDY

You didn't have to stop talking on my account.

(bright, chummy)

Girl code. I keep it zipped.

Now Annie needs to open a cabinet. But Judy's in her way. Judy always seems to be in the way of whatever drawer or cabinet Annie is trying to open. It's like a very awkward dance.

JUDY (CONT'D)

So *Jared*, huh...?

ANNIE

Mmm.

Annie quickly exits, dialing her phone again.

11 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (PRESENT)

11

JUDY

I can't get more than one word out of her. Ever. I think she hates me.

DEAN JENNINGS

Hon, she's a fourteen year old girl. That's all you get.

(imitates)

"Mmmn" or "Ehnn". It's not you.

Judy isn't so sure.

DEAN JENNINGS (CONT'D)

Well how 'bout you? Did you get out at all? Get to know the town a little better?

JUDY

It got to know me...

THEY CROSS INTO THE KITCHEN.

12 EXT. MESA VISTA WEST ELEMENTARY - DAY (EARLIER)

12

AT SCHOOL PICK-UP, Judy walks past a group of MOMS.

MOM 1

I know what theme we should do for the fund-raiser this year: Nineties! Bust out the flannel shirts, ladies.

The Moms nod approval. Judy smiles, jumps in feet first.

JUDY

Fun! And people could dress like warring rap stars.

(throws a "W" sign)

*West sieeeede!*

She mimes HOLDING A GUN SIDEWAYS and SHOOTING gangsta style. The women look at her like she's from another planet. She slowly lowers her "gun".

13

EXT. MESA VISTA PARK - DAY (EARLIER)

13

Judy JOGS around the PARK. A GROUP of MESA VISTA WOMEN jog up ahead of her. Judy speeds up to catch them.

JUDY

Hi! Mind if I run with you guys or is this a private club? The Mesa Vista Milers -- par-tayyy!

Judy pumps her fists in the air.

JOGGING MOM

We're an addiction support group.

JUDY

(mortified)

Of course by "party", I meant, like a...

(lets them run off)

See ya.

14

INT. JENNINGS HOME - KITCHEN - DAY (PRESENT)

14

DEAN JENNINGS

Oh jeez. You're miserable up here.

JUDY

I'm not miserable. It's beautiful up here. There's grass and trees, and nobody leaves used condoms on your front steps...

DEAN JENNINGS

You sound nostalgic. I thought your friend was coming up for lunch today. From L.A.. Claire?

JUDY

She cancelled. Again. All my friends promised they'd visit. Not one has. They all suck.

DEAN JENNINGS

I'm sorry. Hey, I did bring something great home!

(reaches in his bag)

The wedding DVD's done! Now you can watch the biggest mistake you ever made in HD.

JUDY

Don't be so hard on yourself. I've made *much* bigger mistakes.

They smile and kiss, still passionate newlyweds. And that's when Chuck Norris bounds into the room.

CHUCK NORRIS

Dad! Tyler's parents are letting him go to Las Vegas by himself!

DEAN JENNINGS

Okay, *who* is Tyler?

CHUCK NORRIS

He used to go to Mesa East. Now he's in my P.E.. I told Judy about him. He's seen every "Saw" movie when I can't even watch PG-13's.

DEAN JENNINGS

Well. Tyler's parents obviously love him way more than we love you.

Chuck Norris pours himself a large glass of Sunny-D.

CHUCK NORRIS

Tyler has a sixty dollar bill.

JUDY

I'm not sure that's true.

CHUCK NORRIS

Can he come over?

DEAN JENNINGS

Sure. I'll talk to his parents.

CHUCK NORRIS

AWESOME!!!

Chuck runs out, thrilled.

JUDY

See, that's what I want.

DEAN JENNINGS

Sure, who wouldn't want a sixty dollar bill?

JUDY

A Tyler. I just need one new friend I can be excited about. I'd love that.

DEAN JENNINGS

Then let's make it happen. Let's find you a friend. We can go through the school directory and introduce you to some moms. You're bound to hit it off with somebody. Don't worry. I got you into this mess, I'm gonna fix it. I'm a fixer.

We hear a CRASH from the LIVING ROOM.

CHUCK NORRIS (O.S.)

Oops. I think I need the mop. And maybe the vacuum.

JUDY

I got it, fixer.

15

INT. JENNINGS HOME - HALLWAY

15

Judy hurries down the hall with PAPER TOWELS. Passes the GUEST BATHROOM, reaching in to switch off the light.

THE SHERIFF

Hey!

Judy SCREAMS, startled to find The Sheriff, in her FULL UNIFORM, CURLING HER HAIR in the bathroom.

JUDY

Oh god. How long have you been here?

THE SHERIFF

I hit the gym on the way to work. This is closer than my place so I showered here.

(beat)

I see you changed the hand towels. Don't see what was wrong with the ones I had in here.

Judy doesn't know what to say. The Sheriff puts on lip gloss and in the mirror. She glances at Judy and laughs.

JUDY

What?

## THE SHERIFF

Nothing.

(chuckles)

It's just, usually the hot blonde with the fake boobs is the second wife, not the first. But hey, Dean always has to do things his own way...

(rolls her eyes)

Well, time to protect and serve.

She shoots FINGER GUNS at Judy and exits.

**VIDEO FOOTAGE - DEAN AND JUDY'S WEDDING:**

The piano intro to ADELE'S "SOMEONE LIKE YOU" plays as the CAMERA focuses on DEAN AND JUDY, dancing at their RECEPTION. The CAMERA PANS to the STAGE, where CHUCK NORRIS begins SINGING (SHOUTING) INTO THE MIC.

## CHUCK NORRIS

*I heard that you're settled down  
That you found a girl...*

16

INT. JENNINGS HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

16

Judy and Dean are curled up on the couch watching the VIDEO. Dean cringes.

## DEAN JENNINGS

I never should have promised him he could sing at the wedding. It was either that or let him do magic.

## JUDY

(re: the video)

Do I look unhappy?

## DEAN JENNINGS

Right now we could be watching: "*Is this your card? No? Is this your card...?*"  
Oof, can I fast forward this?

## JUDY

No!

(listens for a beat, yikes)

Maybe a little. The next part is my favorite anyway. We cut the cake after this...

He FAST FORWARDS.

## JUDY (CONT'D)

And you gave that sweet toast about our first kiss-- Wait too far. You missed it.

DEAN JENNINGS

No, I didn't.

JUDY

Yeah, we cut the cake before the bouquet toss. Go back.

It just cuts back to Chuck singing. They look confused.

DEAN JENNINGS

It's not there.

JUDY

It has to be there. They missed the cake cutting? How could they not shoot that?

DEAN JENNINGS

Maybe they shot it and didn't cut it in?

JUDY

(disappointed)

Well at least they got everything else...

DEAN JENNINGS

No. You're hired to do a job you do the whole job. You don't half-deliver a baby.

JUDY

That sounds... uncomfortable.

DEAN JENNINGS

I'm calling the video guy. I'm going to have that clown look through all the tapes. I'm gonna fix this. You know why?

JUDY

You're a fixer.

DEAN JENNINGS

(he nods, proud)

Hey, what'd you do about the big friend search? Did you call any of those moms?

JUDY

I did. I actually set up a few lunches. I'm going on some friend dates!

DEAN JENNINGS

Friend dates. Good for you. But hey, don't put out so easy like you did with me.

JUDY

I make no promises.

17

INT. CAFE - DAY

17

Judy sits down with PAM (30's), PTA President material.

JUDY

Thanks for having lunch with me. I figured there are probably a lot of nice people up here I haven't had the chance to meet.

PAM

Oh absolutely. There are so many nice people up here!

A WAITRESS approaches. Judy smiles, but PAM IGNORES HER.

PAM (CONT'D)

Really. A ton of nice people. I mean you couldn't have moved to a nicer community.

WAITRESS

Can I tell you the specials today?

PAM

(snaps)

What the hell?! Can you not see we're having a conversation here?! Because I'm assuming they're not paying you minimum wage to interrupt people all day!

She dismissively waves her off. The waitress shrinks away. Pam turns back to Judy with a SMILE.

PAM (CONT'D)

So what were we talking about?

JUDY

All the nice people...?

PAM

Right.

(beat)

The other great thing about this neighborhood is that it's very white.

Judy almost chokes on her ice water.

18

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

18

Judy sits with BOBBI (30's), who has a Kate Gosselin haircut.

BOBBI

It's so funny that you're married to Dean! You know we went to high school together, right?

JUDY

You mentioned that, yes.

BOBBI

Oh my god, I was *dying* for Dean to ask me to prom.

(sing-songy, "oh well")

Buuut he didn't.

(leaning in)

What's he like? At home. Does he...walk around with his shirt off? I always thought he might.

JUDY

Uh...

BOBBI

(laughs)

Oh my god, listen to me!

(leans in again)

He does, doesn't he?

19 INT. UPSCALE RESTAURANT - DAY

19

Judy sits at lunch with LAURA (30's, very tan), who just STARES AT HER PHONE, TEXTING. Judy sits there smiling, waiting for Laura to look up. Eventually, Judy opens her mouth to say something, but LAURA HOLDS UP A FINGER -- AND KEEPS RIGHT ON TEXTING. Judy slumps in her seat.

20 INT. MEXICAN RESTAURANT - DAY

20

Judy lunches with TARA (40), very tan and displaying way too much cleavage.

TARA

So my ex was like: "I think you stay out too late and drink too much." And I was like "O.M.G. M.Y.O.B." Right?

(notices)

Helloooo, those hotties are totally clocking us.

Tara smiles, very flirty at someone. Judy turns around to see TWO YOUNG HIGH SCHOOL GUYS looking at Tara.

JUDY

(horrified)

Them? They're like sixteen!

TARA

Yummy. Let's send them a drink.

21 INT. WEIRD FALAFEL PLACE - DAY

21

Judy sits across from WENDY (30's), kind of plain, with stringy hair and adult braces. She's showing Judy pictures of her PET BIRDS on her phone.

WENDY

And this little guy is named Dr. Doug Ross. He's a rascal, yes he is! You've got to see this video of him trying to open a tub of kettle corn...

Judy watches, a little weirded out.

JUDY

Wow. So all thirty two birds are named after characters played by George Clooney...?

(not going to give up)

Well... if you ever want to grab a movie or something--?

WENDY

I totally would. But I'm moving next week. But thanks for lunch.

Judy nods. You're welcome.

22 EXT. STRIP MALL - DAY

22

Judy is getting out of her car in front of a KUMON-type tutoring place. She's on her phone.

ANNIE

(through phone)

Yeah.

JUDY

Hey, Annie, it's Judy.

(silence)

Hello?

ANNIE

(through phone)

Yeah?

JUDY

Oh, I... Wasn't sure if you were there. I'm picking up your brother from tutoring and I'm a little early so I'm going to stop in the market. Do you need anything?

ANNIE  
(through phone)  
Cereal.

JUDY  
Oh -- okay. Any specific kind of...

CLICK. Annie hung up. Judy heads into the market.

23

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

23

Judy is pushing a cart past some BULK FOOD BINS. There's an EIGHT YEAR OLD BOY sticking his hand in the YOGURT PRETZEL BIN and eating directly from it.

Judy stops, feeling like she should say something, but she doesn't. Then the boy SNEEZES INTO HIS HAND... AND PUTS IT BACK INTO THE PRETZEL BIN. Judy has to intervene.

JUDY  
Um, excuse me. Sorry, is your mother around?  
(tries to be gentle)  
It's just, well... it's probably not the best idea to eat directly from the bin. You know? Don't worry, you're not gonna get in trouble.

BOY  
(full of attitude)  
Oh -- no? I'm not gonna get in trouble? Wow, I can't tell you how relieved I am not to get busted by the [BLEEP]ing yogurt pretzel police.

Judy looks taken aback. He's very foul-mouthed.

BOY (CONT'D)  
And my mom isn't here because she had to go to work so I'm waiting for a ride, not that that's any of your [BLEEP]ing business. Listen, [BLEEP], why don't you roll your ginger ass back the [BLEEP] up that aisle and leave me the [BLEEP] alone?

He grabs one more handful and walks away. Judy is aghast.

24

EXT. STRIP MALL - DAY

24

Judy is putting her packages in the trunk when Chuck Norris walks out of the TUTORING PLACE.

JUDY

Hey, Chuck. Over here.

CHUCK NORRIS

(excited)

Judy! Tyler's mom dropped him off so we could hang out and said you could drive him back to our place. Can you?!

JUDY

Um, sure. Tyler's mom dropped him off where?

CHUCK NORRIS

She had to work so he's in the store getting some yogurt pretzels.

Judy looks back at the store...

JUDY

(full of dread)

Oh I don't like where this is going.

25

EXT. JUDY'S MINIVAN - DAY

25

In the back seat, Chuck Norris happily rides next to the rude BOY FROM THE STORE. This is TYLER. Chuck Norris is excitedly showing him a game on his DS. Meanwhile, Tyler keeps KICKING THE BACK OF JUDY'S SEAT. Just little annoying kicks. Judy grits her teeth as the HEADREST KEEPS BUMPING HER HEAD.

At a RED LIGHT, Judy turns to look at the CAR NEXT TO HER. She's surprised to recognize WENDY, in a STATION WAGON full of BIRDS. She calls out her open window.

JUDY

(friendly)

Wendy? Hey!

Wendy turns to see Judy. She looks caught.

JUDY (CONT'D)

I thought you said you were moving.

WENDY

(she lied)

Yeah... I... uh --

And Wendy just FLOORS IT, zooming away from Judy. Judy sits there, utterly rejected, getting kicked repeatedly in the back of the head.

END OF ACT

ACT TWO26 INT. JENNINGS HOUSE - DAY

26

Judy enters. BEHIND HER, WE SEE CHUCK NORRIS WITH TYLER.

CHUCK NORRIS

Let's make a Tosh video! How long can you stay underwater?

JUDY

Please don't --

They race up the stairs, already gone. Judy looks rattled. She enters the kitchen...

27 INT. JENNINGS HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

27

To find Judy One looking through the pantry.

JUDY

Hi Judy!

She takes one of the grocery bags from Judy.

JUDY ONE

Hello Judy. Don't you look nice. Where were you, a big party?

Judy looks down at her jeans and basic sweater.

JUDY

...Picking Chuck up at the tutor.

JUDY ONE

In those shoes.

Judy looks down at her simple boots, confused. Judy One begins unpacking the bag.

JUDY ONE (CONT'D)

I could have picked Chuck up at the tutor. Goodness, it's getting so that if I don't play chauffeur I never get to see my grandchildren at all.

Judy One studies a BOX OF CRACKERS from the bag.

JUDY ONE (CONT'D)

What was wrong with the supermarket brand?

JUDY

I--

Judy One continues unpacking.

JUDY ONE

Not that I mind having my social life back, mind you. It was a lot of work helping Dean raise those kids without you-know-who...

JUDY

Of course. And you've done such an amazing job.

Judy One studies a brick of CHEDDAR from the bag.

JUDY ONE

*Organic* cheese. Ooh la la.

She puts the cheese away.

JUDY ONE (CONT'D)

So. Dean tells me you're having trouble finding friends.

JUDY

Oh. Yeah. It's...been a little difficult.

JUDY ONE

I told Dean there are some lovely girls in my waterobics class. You should come.

JUDY

Oh, thanks. It's not that I'm having trouble meeting people, I'm having trouble connecting.

JUDY ONE

*Connecting?* What is that? If you're friendly, you make friends. "Connecting".

She says it like it tastes bad. ANNIE ENTERS.

JUDY

Annie knows what I'm talking about. Female friendships are super-complicated, right? With the social media and the bad hair days and the popular girls judging you and telling the entire ninth grade you peed in the pool when you *totally didn't*...

This is clearly a personal moment for Judy. She snaps out of it and looks at Annie.

JUDY (CONT'D)

That didn't happen. I just was making up an example. From scratch.

Annie just looks grossed out and exits.

JUDY ONE

I'm not sure you should come to waterobics.

28

INT. JENNINGS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

28

Judy is in the corner of the living room that's serving as her office. She's at a little desk, looking at her laptop and TALKING ON THE PHONE.

JUDY

...Look, if she wants the cover I'm going to need more than two hours for the interview...

We see Tyler come down the stairs, alone. He starts wandering through the living room, looking at the family pictures. JUDY COVERS THE PHONE.

JUDY (CONT'D)

Where's Chuck Norris, honey?

Tyler is holding an UNWRAPPED CANDY BAR. A melty one.

JUDY (CONT'D)

Oh, look what you have. Maybe you should eat that in the kitchen.

Tyler takes a huge bite of the candy. He stares at her, chewing like a menacing cow.

JUDY (CONT'D)

(into phone)

My deadline's the 25th...

(to Tyler)

Can I get you a napkin?

Tyler looks at her. Smirks. Reaches for a SILVER FRAMED WEDDING PHOTO.

JUDY (CONT'D)

No. No!

(into phone)

Not you.

(hisses to Tyler)

Don't you dare. Do not.

He looks at her, dead-on, and WIPES HIS CHOCOLATE COVERED HAND down a CREAM CASHMERE THROW on the edge of the sofa. Judy GASPS like she's been shot.

JUDY (CONT'D)

That was a wedding gift!

Tyler smiles and heads back upstairs. Judy's eyes narrow.

29

INT. DRY CLEANERS - DAY

29

Judy stands at the counter with the chocolate-covered blanket. The DRY CLEANER (60's) examines the stain.

DRY CLEANER

I don't know if this will come out.

JUDY

It has to come out. My mother in law bought this for me.

Her VOICE CATCHES. She tries not to, but BEGINS TO CRY.

JUDY (CONT'D)

She paid full price. She *never* pays full price...

DRY CLEANER

I'll try my best. You wanna sit down?

JUDY

(through tears)

I thought people up here were supposed to be nicer. But my stepson's friend hates me and I'm pretty sure my husband's ex-wife wants me dead.

(looks around, paranoid)

She's not *here* is she? It's just so *hard*, moving someplace new. I just feel like I'm putting myself out there but no one seems to like me and what if I never fit in? What if I'm just going to be a square peg in this round hole of a town forever?... I'm sorry --

WOMAN (O.S.)

There's nothing to be sorry about.

Judy TURNS. There's a nice-looking WOMAN in her 30's, with a cute haircut and a warm smile. This is GAIL.

GAIL

We've all been there. There's nothing easy about making a fresh start.

Judy snuffles and manages a smile.

GAIL (CONT'D)

I just moved back to Mesa Vista after being away for eight years. It's like the first day of freshman year all over again.

(leans in, a secret)

No one will sit with me at lunch either.

Judy laughs. Gail joins in. Judy wipes her eyes.

JUDY

Ugh-- god, when did I become such an emotional basketcase?

GAIL

I don't know, but you're a basketcase with great shoes.

JUDY

Do you like them? I thought they were cute.

GAIL

Are you kidding? If we were the same size I'd stab you in the neck and rip 'em off your feet right now.

They laugh again.

GAIL (CONT'D)

Forget the blanket, wanna go next door and get a coffee?

JUDY

Really? Yes. I'd like that.

They smile at one another. New friends.

30

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

30

Judy is getting ready for bed. Dean is sitting at a small desk, looking at a VIDEO CAMERA.

JUDY

...and it turns out we have so much in common! Beyond the fact that she just moved into the neighborhood. She's really funny! And super well-read. I mean, I don't know who has that much time to read so many books! Anyway, we're going to lunch together next week. I think I found my new friend!

DEAN JENNINGS

That's great. Maybe we'll solve both problems today.

(off her look)

The video guy was taking forever looking for our cake cutting footage, so I went over there and got all the original tapes and I'm looking through them myself.

He holds up the camera.

JUDY

You did? Yay fixer!

DEAN JENNINGS

(heroic)

Give me a problem and I shall slay it.

JUDY

(smile fades)

Mm. Funny you should mention... So what do you think about this *Tyler* kid?

DEAN JENNINGS

What about him?

JUDY

I feel kinda bad saying this about a little kid but I think he's the devil.

DEAN JENNINGS

Whoa. Okay, I'll tell Chuck he can't hang out with him.

JUDY

Really? It's that easy? Wow, I'm like a Mafia don, I can just make people disappear.

(points at Dean, a warning)

Make sure no clues lead back to me. You keep things clean.

DEAN JENNINGS

I think *Tyler's* parents are friendly with The Sheriff. I'll go through her.

JUDY

Wait, should we do this? What will it say to Chuck if I take his new friend away? Because we really have started to bond, and it's important to me how he feels --

DEAN JENNINGS

(sudden)

HA! I knew it! I found it! The cake cutting!

JUDY

You did?! Let me see!

DEAN JENNINGS

No, let me show you on the TV. The big moment needs the big screen.

Dean puts the camera down to plug it in, and it's pointing at Judy. She sees herself on the bed on the TV. She poses in a more flattering angle as Dean rewinds.

JUDY

Is this what I look like in bed?

(tries to be sexy)

"Hey there, Captain Jennings. Care to join me for a "layover"? Can I get you a headset for our in-flight entertainment? That'll be an extra *five dollars*..."  
Wait. That's not -- let me start again.

Dean laughs and presses play on the camera. It ABRUPTLY CUTS TO JUDY BEING PORNY ON THE BED. She cringes.

JUDY (CONT'D)

Oh god, look at me. My porn name should be Pale Rider.

DEAN JENNINGS

(looking at the camera)

What the-- ? Oh no... Oh no no no no!  
(sickened)

I just erased it. I just recorded over it. I hit the wrong button. I can't believe I just did that. Dammit!

JUDY

Really? Did you erase all of it?

Dean just GROANS in aggravation. Judy looks disappointed.

JUDY (CONT'D)

(jokes)

We could always cut in the footage from your first wedding.

Dean shudders.

DEAN JENNINGS

I will fix this.

31

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

31

EIGHT YEAR OLDS play SOCCER as their parents watch them in FOLDING CHAIRS on the sidelines. We find Judy sitting with Dean, Judy One and The Sheriff.

JUDY ONE

(to Judy)

Well that's an interesting jacket for daytime. You can go straight from here to a nightclub.

Judy looks at her SIMPLE COTTON JACKET, confused. Then she sees BOBBI from her friend date. Bobbi walks past, her eyes LOCKED ON DEAN the entire time.

BOBBI

Judy.

(full of innuendo)

*Hi Dean.*

Judy scoots closer to Dean. They watch the game.

JUDY

These new chairs are nice.

THE SHERIFF

So now you're an expert on chairs too?

JUDY

What? No... What?

THE SHERIFF

(can't hold back)

Dean told me what you said about Tyler. You know his parents are close friends of mine. They are good people.

JUDY

Oh... I'm sure. I just --

THE SHERIFF

But I guess after a couple of weeks of being a step-parent you think you can decide what's best for my son?

DEAN JENNINGS

Nobody said that.

THE SHERIFF

Oh come on. She's thinks she's better than everyone here. It's so obvious. Look at that jacket.

She gets up and walks away. Judy looks confused.

JUDY

What's wrong with my jacket? I don't think I'm better than anyone!

DEAN JENNINGS

She'll get over it.

JUDY

Oh, so now you're not the fixer??

Dean stands up and sighs, resigned:

DEAN JENNINGS

No, I'm the fixer...

He gets up to talk to The Sheriff. Judy looks distraught.

JUDY ONE

(to Judy)

I think you're better than her.

Judy smiles, surprised.

JUDY ONE (CONT'D)

(reflects)

Then again, it's not like that's some huge accomplishment.

32

INT. JENNINGS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

32

Annie sits on the sofa, texting. Judy enters.

JUDY

Okay, your grandmother will be here in a few minutes. Your mom is coming to pick me up for lunch. Your dad set it up so we could work this whole Tyler thing out.

Annie doesn't look up.

JUDY (CONT'D)

I had to cancel plans with my new friend Gail too...

(quickly)

But obviously this is more important. I mean, it's family.

Annie SHRUGS. Judy takes this as an invitation.

JUDY (CONT'D)

I know. Trust me, I don't know how this got blown so out of proportion.

(MORE)

JUDY (CONT'D)

I never said Tyler wasn't good enough for  
Chuck Norris, I just said he...

Annie's PHONE RINGS. She answers and then walks into the  
kitchen, where we hear her LAUGHING and CHATTING AWAY.

JUDY (CONT'D)

Nice talking to you.

Judy gives a little wave.

33

EXT. SQUAD CAR - DAY

33

The Sheriff drives through the suburban development.

THE SHERIFF

Hope you like P.F. Chang's. That's where  
we're having lunch.

JUDY (O.S.)

Great... Uh, are you really going to make  
me sit back here?

We REVEAL: Judy is in the BACK OF THE SQUAD CAR.

THE SHERIFF

Regulations. Civilians ride in the back.

JUDY

But I've seen you let Annie ride in  
front.

THE SHERIFF

Well yeah.  
(pointed)  
She's family.

Judy slumps back in the seat. It's gross back there.

JUDY

So uh... Have you been in to that new tea  
shop next to the bank?

(silence)

They must have a hundred different kinds  
of tea. More maybe. Who knew there were  
so many different teas? I didn't.

THE SHERIFF

Really? You're gonna small talk me about  
tea?

The Sheriff SLOWS at a 4-WAY STOP.

THE SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Because we've got an issue here about  
Chuck Norris, a big one.

JUDY

I'm sorry. You're right, I was just--

A WHITE HONDA goes TEARING THROUGH THE INTERSECTION,  
completely disregarding the STOP SIGN.

THE SHERIFF

Look at that, did you see that? Son of a--

The Sheriff flips the SIREN and takes off after the  
Honda. Picks up her P.A..

THE SHERIFF (CONT'D)

*Pull over. PULL. OVER.*

The Honda SPEEDS UP. The Sheriff looks surprised.

THE SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Is he fleeing the scene? They never run.  
Oh it's on.

The Sheriff looks excited, SPEEDS UP. Judy looks nervous.

JUDY

Whoa, you're going really fast.

THE SHERIFF

Duh. That's why they call it a high speed  
chase?

They careen around a corner. Judy looks a little gray.

JUDY

It's just-- I tend to get carsick.  
Especially in the back seat.

THE SHERIFF

It's all right. People vomit back there  
all the time.

Judy looks even more nauseous. The Sheriff FLOORS IT  
through a RED LIGHT and Judy's head BANGS against the  
back of the seat.

END OF ACT

ACT THREE

34

EXT. STREETS OF MESA VISTA - DAY

34

Back to the HIGH SPEED CHASE. The sheriff's SQUAD CAR SPEEDS THROUGH RED LIGHTS, SIRENS BLAZING, CHASING AFTER THE SUSPECT.

Judy is in the back, hanging on and looking terrified.

JUDY

(quietly praying)

Oh god I finally got married and now I'm going to die...

The Sheriff's POLICE RADIO squawks.

POLICE RADIO

*We ran the plates on that White Honda. Suspect recently served eight years in state prison. Recently paroled. Proceed with extreme caution.*

THE SHERIFF

(more fired up)

Oh, you're going back to jail, dirtbag.

She speeds up.

JUDY

Didn't they just say use caution? This doesn't seem cautious...

THUMP! They SPEED OVER A DIP IN THE ROAD. JUDY BOUNCES UP IN HER SEAT -- head almost hitting the roof.

THE SHERIFF

Okay, so this whole Tyler thing...

JUDY

I'm sorry. What?

THE SHERIFF

Chuck Norris and Tyler. At first I was pissed that you don't think my friends are good enough to hang out with my own son... But what really bothers me is that you think you know better than me as a mother...

JUDY

You really want to talk about this now?

THE SHERIFF

What? You can't have a conversation in a car?

SWERVE! Judy's head knocks into the window. Ow!

JUDY

Of course. And look, I really didn't mean to uh...

(trying to stay focused)

Insult your parenting in any way...

(notices)

Truck!

The Sheriff narrowly avoids a DELIVERY TRUCK. Judy gasps.

JUDY (CONT'D)

You've raised a couple of great kids and I'm loving getting to know them.

SCREECH! The Honda whips a U-TURN so the SHERIFF DOES THE SAME. Judy closes her eyes and squeals as they spin.

JUDY (CONT'D)

I'm just brand new at this step-parent thing and I'm trying not to make any horrible mistakes --

THE SHERIFF

Oh you are a dumbass!

JUDY

Actually, I think I'm being very nice.

THE SHERIFF

Not you. *That* dumbass. He just drove himself into a dead end.

The SHERIFF smiles and speeds ahead.

35

EXT. RESIDENTIAL CUL-DE-SAC - DAY

35

They follow the suspect into a cul-de-sac.

THE SHERIFF

Now he's trapped. What was he thinking?!

The suspect STOPS in front of a SUBURBAN HOUSE. The Sheriff stops. She and Judy stare out the windshield.

THE SHERIFF (CONT'D)

(into her mic)

*Get out of the vehicle and spread your arms and legs on the ground!*

No response. The driver won't get out.

THE SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Judy get down.

The Sheriff unbuckles her seatbelt.

JUDY

What are you going to do?

THE SHERIFF

I said get down!

The Sheriff RACKS THE SLIDE ON HER HANDGUN. Judy's eyes widen and she drops to the floor of the back of the car.

THE SHERIFF (CONT'D)

When people get cornered they get desperate. There's no telling what this guy might do. Now I have to go out there. That's my job. But if anything happens to me... Well, I need to know I've got someone there to raise our kids.

JUDY

(touched)

"Our" kids?

The Sheriff stares out the window. She looks a little more vulnerable.

THE SHERIFF

Look, maybe this isn't the easiest thing for me either...

Judy listens from the floor.

THE SHERIFF (CONT'D)

The truth is, deep down, I don't know, maybe I'm a little bit threatened by you. Which is stupid because I'm so much hotter than you... And yes, I may only be admitting this because I'm about to go face that psycho in that car and who knows what could happen... But maybe there's a part of me that hoped we could actually get along. Even become... I don't know, friends.

JUDY

(moved)

Ohh. You really mean that?

The Sheriff doesn't answer. She exhales and gathers herself. And then bursts out of the car. Judy hears the door close.

JUDY (CONT'D)

Sheriff?

We stay with Judy on the floor as we hear the SHERIFF SHOUTING. We can't make much out, but she seems to be YELLING at the suspect to get out of the car. Then we hear some STRUGGLING. Judy looks scared.

JUDY (CONT'D)

Are you okay? What's going on?! Can I get up yet?

Judy stays down, reaches up for a DOOR HANDLE. There are none.

JUDY (CONT'D)

Oh my god there are no door handles. Of course, why would they put door handles in the back of a squad car?

(panicking)

Because then an innocent person who's trapped with a crazy psycho outside just has to wait to get murdered!

We hear more yelling. Then a LOUD THUMP. Then there's silence.

JUDY (CONT'D)

Sheriff?! What happened?! Oh please don't be shot. Please don't be shot.

After a few tense moments we hear the Sheriff.

THE SHERIFF (O.S.)

It's okay. It's all over!

Judy looks up to see the Sheriff walking over to the side of the car. We can see the BACK OF THE PERP in HANDCUFFS. The Sheriff opens the door to let Judy out. She gets out of the car, sweaty and relieved --

JUDY

Oh thank god, I thought I was going to--

-- and comes face to face with:

GAIL

Judy?!

GAIL IS THE PERP.

JUDY

*Gail?!*

GAIL

Judy!

THE SHERIFF

(confused)

You two know each other?

GAIL

Oh yeah. We're best friends!

The Sheriff looks at Judy. What?!

JUDY

Oh no-- new friends. Very, very new friends. We just met. Once.

GAIL

I got your message about lunch. Next week would have been great for me. But now...

Gail makes a "what-can-you-do" face about the handcuffs. The Sheriff eyes Judy.

JUDY

(horrified)

We had so much in common...

The Sheriff puts Gail into the car.

GAIL

I know! We can totally email! Once I get computer privileges... Oh, hey! Would you mind picking up the mail here at my house while I'm gone?

Judy's looks back at the house, not sure how to answer.

GAIL (CONT'D)

(gruesome warning)

Oh, and don't look under the shed.

(beat)

I'm just kidding!

But then Gail shakes her head -- she's not kidding. The Sheriff slams the door shut. Glowers at Judy.

THE SHERIFF

And you want to criticize my friends?

She walks around to the driver's side.

JUDY

Hey, I'm really glad we had that talk. It was nice to hear you say those things. I'd like that too. To be more friendly...

The Sheriff looks at her like she's crazy.

THE SHERIFF

What?

JUDY

What you just said in the car before.

THE SHERIFF

(covering)

What did I say? I was all pumped full of adrenaline. I don't remember anything.

JUDY

Oh... okay. So maybe we'll do a rain check on P.F. Changs?

THE SHERIFF

Just shut up before I make you sit in the back again.

Judy nods and gets in the car.

36

INT. JENNINGS HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

36

Judy exits her bedroom, wrapped in a WHITE ROBE, wet hair, relieved to have showered off this day. She nearly bumps into Annie, who is headed down the hall to her room. Judy smiles, and to her surprise, Annie actually STOPS.

ANNIE

High speed chase, wow.

JUDY

I know, right? It was crazy! Oh my god, Annie-- I was terrified. I mean your mom puts on the siren--

(makes siren noise)

WHHOOOO! And we're tearing around corners--

(makes a tire squeal noise)

REEEEEE! And other cars were like--  
HONNNNK!

Annie has already walked past her. She ENTERS HER ROOM AND SHUTS THE DOOR. Judy looks crestfallen for a moment, but then:

JUDY (CONT'D)  
 (counts on her fingers)  
 "High, speed, chase, wow". Four. Four  
 words!

She pumps her fist in quiet victory. Heads off down the stairs.

DEAN JENNINGS (O.S.)  
 Jude? Come in the kitchen for a sec.

37

INT. JENNINGS HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

37

Judy OPENS the door to the kitchen. It's LIT by tons of CANDLES. In the center of the KITCHEN TABLE is a beautiful, white CAKE. In the corner, THE VIDEO CAMERA, set up on a TRIPOD. Dean Jennings turns on his IPOD speaker. "FIRST DAY OF MY LIFE" by Bright Eyes plays. Judy looks at Dean Jennings and melts.

DEAN JENNINGS  
 This moment will exist on video.

He holds up a SILVER CAKE KNIFE.

DEAN JENNINGS (CONT'D)  
 And I didn't think we should register for one of these. Come here...

Judy smiles, so touched. Realizes.

JUDY  
 Wait, I'm in my robe. My hair...?

DEAN JENNINGS  
 You look perfect.

He holds his hand out. She joins him in front of the cake. They hold the knife together.

DEAN JENNINGS (CONT'D)  
 Ready? One, two, three.

They make the first cut together. And KISS.

DEAN JENNINGS (CONT'D)  
 I'm sorry my ex-wife took you on a high speed chase.

JUDY  
 That's okay.

DEAN JENNINGS

And I'm sorry your new friend turned out to be a criminal.

JUDY

Yeah... that one stings.

DEAN JENNINGS

You'll find another one. In the mean time... you've got me. I'm your best friend.

JUDY

Awww. And my fixer.

DEAN JENNINGS

Always.

JUDY

I love you, Dean Jennings. You're like the Captain Sully of wedding videos.

DEAN JENNINGS

Okay, can everyone move on about that guy already? How is he a hero? First, he flew right into those birds, then he put the plane into the river. I manage to land on the runway every time. Where's my parade?

JUDY

How about some cake?

She puts a little FROSTING on his nose. Dean smiles and gives her a kiss. Then he takes a big swoop of frosting to put on Judy's face.

JUDY (CONT'D)

No, no -- I just got out of the shower!

They playfully tease each other with the frosting, and we PULL BACK on this sweet scene... We land on the screen of the VIDEO CAMERA, where the message is flashing: "END OF TAPE". And the camera SHUTS OFF.

END OF ACT

TAG

38

EXT. STRIP MALL - DAY

38

Judy walks along the storefronts. Then she spots: TYLER. Headed her way, EATING AN ICE CREAM CONE. He looks really happy with it too. He looks up, spots Judy. HER EYES NARROW. HIS EYES NARROW. It's like an old west standoff.

They walk toward one another, the air thick with tension. Finally, Judy looks away, defeated. Tyler smirks, malevolent. Winner! But just as Judy passes, SHE THROWS HER HIP OUT, WHACKING HIM IN THE ARM. DOINK! Tyler's ICE CREAM CONE GOES FLYING and lands on the pavement. SPLAT!

Judy looks at him and LAUGHS, almost maniacally.

JUDY

Still doesn't make up for my blanket you  
little [BLEEP].

Victorious, she smiles and turns -- to see THE SHERIFF, who is rolling by in her SQUAD CAR. She witnessed the entire incident.

The Sheriff just shakes her head at Judy and drives on.