

"BAD TEACHER"

A pilot

Written by

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COLD OPEN

EXT. NIXON MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

A few Safety Patrol girls help students cross the street. A Mercedes flies by buzzing the School Zone like Maverick in "Top Gun". An awkward LILY (12), spills her hot chocolate.

LILY
Dammit! Not again.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

The Mercedes pulls up. Out gets MEREDITH DAVIS (30), sexy, confident, a woman other women hate. She takes a sip of Ice Blended then just tosses it half-full on the ground.

INT. BLACKMON LAW FIRM - DAY

Meredith drops her keys on GERRY's desk.

MEREDITH
It's out front; I know the mileage.

GERRY
We've been through this. I'm not a valet. I'm a paralegal.

MEREDITH
And my husband--

GERRY
Ex-husband.

MEREDITH
Spends a lot of money at this firm.

HOWARD
(walking in)
Meredith! Hi! Gerry, take care of her car or go to law school, okay?

INT. HOWARD'S OFFICE - DAY - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Meredith sits across from Howard, a fatherly lawyer.

HOWARD
I'm so sorry about the divorce.

MEREDITH
Me too. Ray cheated on me with a younger, *allegedly* hotter girl.

HOWARD

Just get a job. Okay? I'm sorry, doll, but I have another meeting.

MEREDITH

Can Gerry bring my car around?

HOWARD

It's not your car anymore. But he can take you home to get your stuff and then drop you somewhere if you'd like. Good luck, Meredith.

INT. MEREDITH'S MERCEDES - DAY

Gerry drives Meredith. The car is crammed with stuff.

MEREDITH

My friend's house is on the right.

GERRY

The tables sure have turned.

MEREDITH

You're still a paralegal.

EXT. GIANT FANCY HOUSE - DAY

Gerry peels out. Meredith is left with garbage bags of stuff from her old house. BRIE (32), a trophy wife, comes out.

BRIE

Mere Bear! I'm so sorry. It's everyone's worst nightmare... to accidentally sign a pre-nup. You can stay in the guest house as long as you want. But the remodel's not quite done yet so you have to use the bathroom in the main house. It's only a five minute walk.

Brie heads in. Meredith takes a deep breath and follows.

INT. BRIE'S GUEST HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

The guest house is definitely unfinished. A depressed Meredith watches TV on a pull-out couch next to a pile of bills. She kills ants with the job listings. Brie enters.

BRIE

Can you pick Lily up from school?

MEREDITH

I'm in the middle of stuff, Brie.

BRIE

I'll give you twenty bucks.

MEREDITH

C'mon, it's your daughter. Forty.

BRIE

Step-daughter. Thirty.

Meredith is not thrilled but needs the cash.

EXT. NIXON MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Meredith eats Cheetos. Her fingers are covered in Cheeto dust. A snotty BOY walks out and gives her a look.

BOY #1

Parent pick-up is by the gym.

As the boy walks by, Meredith wipes her Cheeto fingers on his backpack. Lily comes out. She's the Safety Patrol pre-teen we saw earlier.

MEREDITH

Lily. Your mom sent me to get you.

LILY

That's what child molesters say.

MEREDITH

Don't flatter yourself. I'm Brie's friend, Meredith. I'm staying in your guest house for a while.

Lily starts walking. Meredith follows.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

It's a long walk, I hope you have something interesting to share.

LILY

(begrudgingly)

Today my social studies teacher, Ms. Guerrero, got transferred because she had a total breakdown. She liked Coach Kotsky but he didn't like her. She hung pictures of his penis up all over school.

As they walk past the exit to the school parking lot, they're almost hit by a BMW. The handsome DAD DRIVER jumps out.

DAD DRIVER

Oh my God! I'm so sorry! I'm late. My ex-wife flaked and I had to do carpool. I wasn't looking.

MEREDITH

My neck is really aching.

DAD DRIVER

I didn't even touch you.

MEREDITH

I feel dizzy and post-traumatized.

DAD DRIVER

I don't have my checkbook. Sorry.

MEREDITH

You can't blame me for trying.

INT. BRIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Meredith has white wine and brie with Brie.

MEREDITH

Unfortunately, the guy didn't hit me. He was rich. And single.

BRIE

There are quite a few rich single dads at that school.

MEREDITH

Really?

BRIE

A girl can look.

MEREDITH

Brie, that's it! I don't just need any job. I need a job where I can meet another rich husband. I should teach at Lily's school.

BRIE

Isn't teaching hard?

MEREDITH

Lily's teacher put pictures of an adult man's penis all over school and only got transferred. They pretty much can't get fired, get summers off and leave at three o'clock. It's the perfect job. And if I play my cards right, I can retire next year with a new rich husband.

BRIE

But how can you get a teaching job without any experience?

MEREDITH

Because I *will* have experience.

INT. BRIE'S HOUSE - LATER

Meredith looks at a social studies teacher's resume on the web. Meredith highlights it and drags it to her resume.

INT. NIXON MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Meredith sits with PRINCIPAL CARL GAINES (mid-40's), who is confident but searching. He looks at her resume, impressed.

MEREDITH

When I heard about Ms. Guerrero, I realized it was a message from the universe. I have to get back to the kids. FYI my speciality is kids from broken homes.

PRINCIPAL CARL

After my divorce, I felt the same way. I threw myself into work.

MEREDITH

(knows she's got her in)
I'm divorced too! And only people who have been through it understand the pain. You really have to surround yourself with other divorced folks. It's just so hard.

PRINCIPAL CARL

It's the pits, which is my support group, P.I.T.S. People In Terrible Situations. It's kinda an umbrella group.

MEREDITH

My husband cheated on me and left me with no money but I'm still rich. Rich in knowledge and love for children.

PRINCIPAL CARL

You're an inspiration, Meredith.

MEREDITH

I've heard that a lot.

PRINCIPAL CARL

I'd love to have that kind of positive energy around here. The crystals just aren't enough.

We see he has a lot of crystals on his desk.

PRINCIPAL CARL (CONT'D)

I'm gonna push this through as an emergency hire. You're more than qualified. My secretary will give you all the paperwork. I'll let you know if there's a problem. But hopefully, we'll see you next week.
(hands her a red apple)
Welcome to the Nixon Middle family.

MEREDITH

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!
Oh, and is it at all possible to get an advance on my paycheck?

PRINCIPAL CARL

We don't really do that.

MEREDITH

I would never ask but it's for medication. I have--

PRINCIPAL CARL

(stops her; doesn't want to pry)
I'll make an exception.

INT. BRIE'S GUEST HOUSE - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

Satisfied with herself and energized by her new plan, a happy Meredith makes a bong out of the shiny red apple Principal Carl just gave her. Looks like we found our "Bad Teacher".

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

EXT. NIXON MIDDLE SCHOOL - MORNING

The school is buzzing. A school bus pulls up. Kids pour off including Lily. Behind Lily is Meredith, in a sexy top, pencil skirt and Jimmy Choo high heels. She turns heads.

MEREDITH

So, where do I go?

LILY

Just walk through the main hall and the Teachers' Lounge is at the end.

A little boy then comes off the bus butt first lugging a Louis Vuitton rolling bag. He sets it next to Meredith.

MEREDITH

(handing him a dollar)

Thanks.

(then)

Can I have seventy-five cents back?

INT. HALLWAY - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Meredith walks down the hall, certainly out of place. She stops at a vending machine to get a muffin. She only has seventy-five cents. She looks in her wallet. There's nothing. Her funds are running low. She looks over and sees a locker with a bag lunch in it. She swipes it and continues down the hall picking through the contents. She pulls out an orange and tosses it, hitting a boy, leaning over. He looks up and thinks another boy threw it and pushes him.

INT. HALLWAY BY TEACHERS' LOUNGE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Principal Carl talks to a boy with a bulge in his pants.

PRINCIPAL CARL

But see everyone knows it's a sock.

Principal Carl notices Meredith and goes up to her.

PRINCIPAL CARL (CONT'D)

Good Morning, Meredith! I hope you got the welcome packet I sent.

MEREDITH

I did. And the flamingo socks. They didn't match my outfit today.

PRINCIPAL CARL
Those are for Crazy Sock Friday.
The first Friday of every month.

MEREDITH
Looking forward to it already.

PRINCIPAL CARL
I'm so happy you're here. This weekend was so dark. I curled up with a pile of Hungry Man dinners and put feelings into words. Did I mention I'm writing a self-help book, "The Principles of Principal Carl"? I am. I'd love your input.

Meredith steels herself, eyes on the rich husband prize.

INT. TEACHERS' LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

The teachers are all gathered when Carl and Meredith enter.

PRINCIPAL CARL
Everyone, this is our new social studies teacher, Meredith Davis.

There are a few claps.

MEREDITH
Thank you.

A JANITOR runs in.

JANITOR
Fight by the lockers!

PRINCIPAL CARL
Ginny, go ahead and get started.
(running out)
No cops. No cops!

GINNY (27), uptight busy body history teacher, steps forward.

GINNY
Great to meet you. We're about to do morning announcements if you want to take a seat. Or borrow it!

JOEL (30), a cute shorts wearing Jason Segel-esque coach, pulls a chair out for Meredith. He has a laid back vibe and it seems like he'd wear shorts no matter what he taught. Meredith sits back and pulls trail mix out of the sack lunch. She picks all raisins out of it and puts them on the table.

GINNY (CONT'D)

If you didn't see my profile in Middle School Educator magazine, I have copies. One per person, please. Okay, we need monitors for Safety Patrol. Any heroes?

Nobody raises their hand. People avert their eyes.

GINNY (CONT'D)

Irene, do I see your un-manicured hand in the air?

We ANGLE ON IRENE (mid-40's), a shy introverted drama and English teacher. A little uncomfortable in her own skin.

IRENE

I do light exercise after school.

GINNY

Great!

IRENE

It's required by my doc--

GINNY

See you in the morning.

GINNY (CONT'D)

Anyone else gonna help Irene out? I know she can talk a lot but there is a small stipend--

MEREDITH

(perking up at "stipend")
I'll do it with her.

Irene mouths "thanks". She has an instant friend crush. The bell RINGS. Teachers get up to leave.

GINNY

Okay, everyone. Remember you gotta be hard. You gotta be tough. You gotta be stronger. You gotta be cool. You gotta be calm. And you gotta work together!

MEREDITH

What's next? Is she gonna tell us not to go chasing waterfalls?

Joel turns to Meredith as she surreptitiously knocks the raisins she's collected onto the floor.

JOEL

Your mother doesn't work here.
(off no reaction)
Coach Kotsky or Joel. I teach gym.
We went to high school together.

MEREDITH

I don't remember you.

JOEL

Well, I remember you.

MEREDITH

I'm sure you do. I was the hottest girl in school. I bet you jerked it to me a thousand times.

JOEL

(you can't embarrass me)
Probably. Thanks for the memories.

Meredith doesn't seem that interested in Joel, regardless of their past. She has a goal and she's focused on it. Ginny and Kim (23), a shy submissive type, come up to Meredith.

GINNY

Ginny Taylor-Clapp, Faculty President. And this is Kim, my student teacher.

KIM

Nice to meet you.

GINNY

Remember your ears are your best learning tool, Kim. Okay.
(handing book to Meredith)
Here's a copy of the Teacher's Handbook. Great 411 in there. On start times, dress codes, etc.

MEREDITH

Save the tree. It's the standard stuff, right? No running... No horseplay... No glass...

GINNY

Those are pool rules.

Just then a kid, MATTY, runs in.

MATTY

That teacher stole my lunch!

He points to Meredith, holding the bag that says "Matty".

MEREDITH

Or confiscated it. Childhood obesity. It's everyone's problem.

Ginny nods as Meredith pinches Matty's non-existent fat.

INT. HALLWAY - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Meredith walks out. Joel follows.

JOEL

You really don't remember me?

MEREDITH

I don't.

JOEL

We did that senior project together, "So, What is Email?" No? Fine. Look, you were pretty stuck up in high school but you were always nice or rather not a *total* bitch to me. So, I'm gonna be nice to you. Nixon Middle is like prison. And just like in prison you need friends. Friends who watch your back in the shower-- Now I'm just sounding like a creep.

Meredith can't help but smile a little. Irene comes up.

IRENE

We didn't meet. I'm Irene. Thanks so much for teaming up with me.

MEREDITH

I have bills to pay.

IRENE

I used to be Ginny's favorite, then I disagreed with her about corporal punishment. She replaced me with that spank happy student teacher and never looked back. I'm like a lone wolf expelled by the pack. But you're new. So we can form a pack together, a best friends pack.

Meredith looks a little worried. Irene is intense.

JOEL

Irene. Tuck it in.

IRENE

Anyway, Safety Patrol is gonna be fun. We get badges and slickers.

MEREDITH

I'm not wearing a badge or slicker.

IRENE

Me neither. They're so dumb.

(then)

Hey, why don't you eat lunch with us? Our treat.

MEREDITH

I nap at lunch, but you guys can give me the cash equivalent.

JOEL

(sarcastic)

What a great way to get to know each other.

(points to classroom)

This is actually you.

IRENE

Excited for your first day?

We see Meredith has already disappeared into her room.

IRENE (CONT'D)

She's pretty cool.

JOEL

And pretty terrible. But the most interesting thing that's happened around here in a long time.

INT. MEREDITH'S CLASSROOM - DAY - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Meredith has her iPod playing Dr. Dre, while the kids enter.

DR. DRE (ON SPEAKERS)

Bitches ain't shit but hoes and tricks. Lick on these nuts and--

MEREDITH

(turning music off)

Good morning. I'm your new social studies teacher, Ms. Davis.

Meredith picks up chalk. It looks like she's gonna write her name on the board but she writes "Class Dues \$25".

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

Checks should be written to "cash".

(handing out cards)

Okay.

(MORE)

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

To get to know you better, I'm handing out student information cards. Please fill them out. Name. Address. Whether your parents are divorced or unhappily married. How many cars fit in your garage. Standard stuff.

PARKER (12), a smart kid, raises his hand.

PARKER

I don't know how many cars fit in my garage. Maybe ten?

MEREDITH

Wait. Everyone shut-up. A house with a ten car garage?

PARKER

It's an apartment.

MEREDITH

(grabbing card)

Don't worry about it.

(then; back to class)

Let's talk about summer vacation. What did you guys do? Club Med? Beach vacay? European adventure?

NOAH (12), a popular boy, raises his hand.

NOAH

We drove to the Grand Canyon--

MEREDITH

Next.

JALISSA (13), a popular girl, raises his hand.

JALISSA

We went on a boat to the Bahamas.

MEREDITH

Was your mom there?

JALISSA

Yes.

MEREDITH

Did your parents fight?

JALISSA

Yes.

MEREDITH

Is she fat?

(off look)

You don't have to tell me. I can see on your face that she is.

(taking his card)

Okay, keep filling out your cards.

I'm running to the bathroom.

Number one, so no funny business.

When I get back, I'm gonna show you something cool called Google Maps Street View. We're gonna randomly start with kids who have pools.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Ginny and Kim enter with a fire extinguisher, to find Meredith holding a lit cigarette.

MEREDITH

I just took this away from a girl. Sad. I let her off the hook, she has bigger issues. Acne, fupa etc.

GINNY

Well, good thing you stopped her.

MEREDITH

Just doing my job, inspiring greatness. And building foundations for learning.

KIM

I've heard that somewhere.

Meredith walks out, past an inspirational poster that says, "Teaching inspires greatness and builds foundations for learning." Ginny and Kim's interest is slightly piqued.

EXT. STREET - DAY

We see the nerdy girls from the Cold Open (Bronwen, Lily and Kelsey), in neon reflective Safety Patrol gear, practicing.

LILY

See. You raise the flag on your right but lower it on the left.

BRONWEN

That's awesome, Lily.

LILY

I learned it at Safety Patrol Camp.
We can practice this weekend.

Irene leads Meredith up to the group.

IRENE

Girls, this is the other Safety
Patrol advisor, Ms. Davis.

EVERYONE

Hey./Hi./Great.

MEREDITH

So, when do I get my stipend?

IRENE

It's added to our paychecks.

MEREDITH

When do we get our paychecks?

IRENE

Friday.

MEREDITH

Morning or after--
(just noticing)
Lily, you're in Safety Patrol?

LILY

I'm captain.

MEREDITH

(to group)
I live in Lily's guest house.

LILY

She's friends with my dumb stepmom.

MEREDITH

You stay late to help kids cross
the street for free, that's dumb.

BRONWEN

It's a great way to meet people.

KELSEY

You're really pretty, Ms. Davis.

MEREDITH

I know. And I'm also photogenic.

LILY

Okay, Patrolers. We're piling up.

Students wait to cross. Lily heads out. The other girls unfurl their flags. Meredith sits in a folding chair.

MEREDITH

I'll be here. Supervising.

IRENE

Yeah. Me too... after I help a little bit.

Irene walks off. Meredith pulls out a magazine marked "DO NOT REMOVE FROM LIBRARY". Mean girls, BELLA (14) and JAMIE (14), walk up with a few boys.

JAMIE

Oh, look, it's the Nerd Patrol.

KELSEY

Wrong. It's Safety Patrol.

BELLA

Same diff. Nice sashes, lesbos.

Everyone LAUGHS. Meredith tries to ignore them.

BRONWEN

Thanks. Because there's nothing wrong with being gay or bi--

Meredith can't sit by. She gets in the mean girls' faces.

MEREDITH

Okay, move it along, Water Bra. And take Panty Lines with you.

The mean girls huff off and their friends follow.

BRONWEN/KELSEY

Thanks, Ms. Davis./Thank you.

MEREDITH

You have to fight fire with fire. It doesn't get better right away.

BRONWEN

I hate the popular kids--

MEREDITH

This isn't therapy. Unless you pay me a hundred and fifty dollars, then it can be anything you want.

Bronwen and Kelsey look bumped. Meredith SIGHS.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

Lay low and wait for a few popular girls to get pregnant. Then you'll move up socially. I was popular but smart. I was on the pill. Those girls aren't smart and have definitely let a guy go "under the shirt". It won't be too long.

KELSEY

Middle school is the worst.

MEREDITH

Not worse than having a job. I can't believe we have to do this all again tomorrow.

EXT. SCHOOL - NEXT MORNING

We hear a bell RING. Irene and Meredith walk towards school.

IRENE

My other car really isn't a ferret.

MEREDITH

It's quite a bumper sticker.

A fancy car pulls up, out climbs JALISSA, from class. JALISSA'S DAD, a good-looking guy, gets out and hugs her.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

Hey, Rich-girl-from-my-class. What does your dad do?

JALISSA

He's an investment banker. I'm gonna be one when I grow up.

MEREDITH

Don't. That job emasculates men. You'll end up alone at forty trying to get your groove back by adopting a foreign baby or getting into wine. But you did give me an idea.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Meredith stands in front of her class, excited.

MEREDITH
Friday is Career Day!

She writes on the board, "Class Dues are still \$25."

MEREDITH (CONT'D)
You guys are gonna invite guest speakers. We'll start with men. Successful men. If your parents are divorced, maybe dad doesn't see you enough. Get him involved. But don't limit it to dads. It can be a brother or uncle. Shout out who you've got. Who's got a doctor?
(a few hands go up)
No dentists.

PARKER
My uncle is a Podiatrist.

MEREDITH
Are you serious right now?

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Meredith's come around a little and eats with Joel and Irene. They watch Ginny and Kim walk through the cafeteria with CDs.

GINNY
Junk for Funk! Trade junk food for a CD from my own collection.
(taking candy from a kid)
You will take the Amy Grant CD.

MEREDITH
What's the deal with Ginny? She's everywhere. I just want to do the least amount of work possible and be left alone.
(off their looks)
...to help kids.

JOEL
Almost saved it.

IRENE
Just don't get on Ginny's bad side. I know she got Ms. Guerrero fired. Those penis pictures had Ginny written all over them.

They HEAR some kids singing (Parker, Jalissa and Noah) in another part of the cafeteria and look over.

KIDS

Bitches ain't shit but hoes and tricks. Lick on these nuts--

GINNY

That song is not okay for school.

NOAH

We learned it in Ms. Davis's class.

MEREDITH

Snitch.

Ginny throws her a look. Meredith heads over.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

I got this.

IRENE

Be careful.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

Kids, that song isn't right.

Ginny nods approvingly. Irene and Joel relax.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

Because bitches can be anything they want. Bitches can be doctors. Bitches can be astronauts. Bitches can even be the President. Which you'll learn at Career Day. Knowledge. Pass it on. Now scat.

JALISSA

Thanks, Ms. Davis.

The kids leave Meredith with Ginny's disapproving glare.

GINNY

One, we try not to use "bitches" to describe our female students. Two, Career Day is my thing. I do it every year. It's the official one.

MEREDITH

Career Day is definitely my thing. I have successful people coming, who sound like great prospects for the students. I'm not cancelling.

Meredith's firm. Nobody's gonna stand in her way.

GINNY

I would reconsider reconsidering.

MEREDITH
 (I'm not backing down)
 I already printed the flyers.

GINNY
 (sure you want to do this)
 You already printed the flyers?

MEREDITH
 (I'm not scared of you)
 I already printed the flyers.

GINNY
 (you're a c word)
 There's really something different
 about you, Meredith.

MEREDITH
 Yeah, I'm like a hundred times
 hotter than any other teacher here.

GINNY
 That's not it.

Ginny and Kim walk off. Irene looks nervous. Joel LAUGHS.

JOEL
 Brilliant diplomacy.

MEREDITH
 (triumphant)
 Thank you.

IRENE
 Ginny might have sounded like she
 wasn't mad, but she was. I know.
 I hope there's no dirt on you,
 because she'll find it. She can
 find it anywhere. Even under your
 fingernails. With the magnifying
 glass she carries on her key chain.

MEREDITH
 (calming Irene)
 What could she possibly find on me?

But of course we know there's dirt. Meredith watches Ginny
 and Kim walk away. Ginny turns and catches Meredith looking.
 She smiles the smile of someone, who's gonna try and destroy
 Meredith. We see a little anxiety cross Meredith's face.
 She hopes she didn't win the battle, only to lose the war...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. PRINCIPAL CARL'S OFFICE - MORNING

Ginny and Kim enter to find Carl meditating on a yoga mat.

PRINCIPAL CARL

Excuse you. I'm in the middle of putting myself first. Okay? Because in order to last you have to put yourself first. Does that make sense? It's the title of the second chapter in my book.

KIM

I think I like it--

GINNY

Kim. Please.

(to Carl)

We have a problem. The new social studies teacher thinks she's having a Career Day this Friday.

PRINCIPAL CARL

And?

GINNY

And, I have an official Career Day every Spring. The Times wrote about it last year.

PRINCIPAL CARL

You took out an ad.

GINNY

They ran it.

PRINCIPAL CARL

Ginny, you're Faculty President. Set a good example here and resolve this without getting the administration involved.

GINNY

But something is off about her. She wears thongs.

PRINCIPAL CARL

Don't know how you know that but remember it's just her first week.

GINNY
You're right, Principal Carl.

Ginny steps out of the office and turns to Kim.

GINNY (CONT'D)
We have to show her who's boss.

INT. TEACHERS' LOUNGE - DAY

Joel, Irene and Meredith work on posters for Career Day.
There are other teachers around too. Just then Ginny and Kim
come in holding a large Career Day banner.

GINNY
By the power vested in me as
Faculty President I took down your
Career Day banner. It's confusing
since it isn't the official one.

MEREDITH
Oh, thanks so much. You know what
will make it not confusing.

Meredith rolls out some butcher paper.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)
Irene, make a new banner that says,
"The BEST Career Day".

Ginny and Kim storm out. Other teachers clap.

IRENE
Nobody's ever stood up to Ginny.
This calls for a liquid
celebration.

MEREDITH
Yeah, it does.

Irene exits. Meredith looks through a Lost & Found box.

JOEL
So, you're really doing this, huh?

MEREDITH
Ginny's not gonna stop me from
getting rich successful men into my
classroom... to teach the kids.

JOEL
Oh. That's why you care so much.
You want to meet a rich single dad.

MEREDITH

If I can kill two birds, the bird of educating youth and the bird of me meeting a rich guy, with one Career Day stone, why not?

JOEL

Nice. Confessions from a High School Prom Queen.

MEREDITH

How about Confessions from a High School Nobody I Don't Even Remember?

JOEL

I didn't vote for you for Prom Queen. How's that for a confession?

Irene comes back with sodas, not what Meredith was expecting.

IRENE

Hope you like Squirt.
(off Lost & Found box)
Did you lose something?

MEREDITH

Yep. Something expensive.
(pulls out gold necklace)
Here it is.

JOEL

(ribbing)
Your famous Virgin Mary pendant?

MEREDITH

It goes with everything.

Joel smiles. An old dynamic has clearly resurfaced. Everything is about her but he doesn't let her get away with anything. And she likes it.

EXT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Ginny and Kim regroup in the hall.

GINNY

It'll be okay. Life doesn't give you an obstacle you can't overcome.

Ginny turns to go down the hall and trips over a mop bucket.

EXT. STREET - DAY

We come up in the middle of a talk between Meredith, Irene and the girls. They are listening intently to Meredith.

MEREDITH

...and I ended up getting paid but it was a disaster. Moral of the story: Never text naked pictures. They'll be out there forever and you can't control the lighting on those camera phones. You could end up with weird shadows everywhere.

IRENE

Men on eHarmony can be pretty persuasive.

Lily comes over.

LILY

You guys, we need to be doing our job. Keeping kids safe.

KELSEY

We're talking to Meredith.

Lily huffs off.

MEREDITH

Next question before I get bored.

BRONWEN

I just got my period. Is my life like totally over?

MEREDITH

Congratulations.

BRONWEN

I know. I'm a woman now.

MEREDITH

Screw that. You just got a free pass to miss anything you want. Church, family dinners, all of 8th grade-- you just have the say the magic word "cramps". You'll be riding that baby to Menopause.

BRONWEN

I can get out of ballet. Cool.

MEREDITH
 Manipulating the system. Now that
 makes you a woman.

BRONWEN
 Thanks for being honest. Adults
 are never honest. It's cool.

Meredith is genuinely touched. We REVEAL Kim and Ginny
watching from afar. Ginny is on full alert.

INT. BUS FIVE - DAY

Meredith rides next to Lily. Lily reads a book.

MEREDITH
 Why are you reading? You can do
 that when we get home.

LILY
 You mean when we get to "my" home.

MEREDITH
 I'm living there too.

LILY
 As a guest.

MEREDITH
 Why don't you read when we get to
 "your" home, where I'm a guest?

LILY
 Brie only lets me read on the
 elliptical. Why don't you want me
 to read? Are you bored because
 your little sycophants aren't here?

MEREDITH
 Whoa. Someone needs a chilaxative.

LILY
 Way to destroy the English
 language.

MEREDITH
 What do you mean by sycophants?

LILY
 You've created a patrol of Meredith
 worshippers, who wait at your feet
 for morsels of trite wisdom.

(MORE)

LILY (CONT'D)

The patrol used to be the place I fit in, now nobody listens to me.

MEREDITH

Somebody's jealous.

LILY

Meredith, we're outsiders. We don't fit in. We eat lunch in a supply room so we don't have to go to the cafeteria. You're just a hot popular girl giving obvious advice. It might make you feel good but it's surfacey. You're just like all of Brie's vapid friends. Why don't you just become a realtor too?

Lily moves to another seat. Meredith is hurt.

MEREDITH

Fine. I quit. I don't need your stupid Nerd Patrol. I should be focused on meeting a rich husband, not saving kids' lives!

EXT. LILY'S NEIGHBORHOOD/HOUSE - DAY

Lily rushes off the bus ahead of Meredith. We see Ginny and Kim behind them in Ginny's car. They follow Lily and Meredith to their house. Lily goes in the front door. Meredith goes around back. Ginny notices the trash bins are on the curb. She gets out and opens them then closes them as if she has gone too far. She gets in her car and backs into them, spilling their contents. She rolls down the window.

GINNY

Oh my God! I better clean that up.

Ginny gets out and digs through the trash. She unwads a piece of paper to find Meredith's resume. Ginny sees the door open. Brie comes out with a smallish dog.

BRIE

C'mon, Pepsi. Do your business.

Ginny puts the resume in her pocket. Ginny jumps in the car and floors it. But it's still in reverse. She hits the trash can again making a big ruckus. Pepsi begins to BARK.

INT. BRIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Meredith's having her usual white wine and brie with Brie.

BRIE

Lily said you're supervising Safety Patrol. I thought you were just teaching to meet a rich husband.

MEREDITH

I am. I heard Safety Patrol is a great way to meet people.

(then; changing subject)

So, what have you been up to?

BRIE

I went to this workshop today led by this Indian man, think Depak Chopra, who taught me to eat mentally. He described a five course meal in detail. I was such a mental pig. It was delicious. I still didn't "eat" the carbs though. Old habits die hard.

Brie LAUGHS. You can see Meredith is bored.

MEREDITH

I taught my kids how to use Google Street View so we could look up the rich kids' houses but then a kid suggested we look up the Taj Mahal. It was pretty amazing.

BRIE

Yeah, but their take-out is terrible. It's run by Indians.

MEREDITH

(disappointed)

I think I'm gonna hit the hay.

BRIE

Oh, the gardener wanted me to ask if you've been peeing in the rose bush outside the guest house?

MEREDITH

(clearly she did)

Of course not. That's crazy.

INT. MEREDITH'S CLASSROOM - MORNING

We see a banner, "Welcome to the Best Career Day." It's a packed house. Several classes are there including Irene's and Joel's. An attractive man, DR. GRANT, stands up front.

DR. GRANT

So, I operate on hearts. Open heart surgery mostly.

MEREDITH

(flirting)

How about closed hearts?

(then)

Okay, kids. Do you have some questions you want to ask?

PARKER

Dr. Grant. Do you love your wife?

DR. GRANT

I'm divorced.

NOAH

How many houses do you have? Don't include lake houses.

DR. GRANT

Three, I guess.

JALISSA

How best would you describe your tax bracket?

Joel leans into Meredith.

JOEL

Interesting questions.

MEREDITH

They're a smart group.

INT. GINNY'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Ginny's playing a game with her history class. Everyone has a historical figure's name on a Post-it note on their forehead. They have to guess who it is. Ginny has "Napoleon" on her forehead. Jamie, the mean girl, is at the front, she has a note stuck to her that says, "Bill Clinton".

JAMIE

Did I hook-up with a Kardashian?

GINNY

Maybe.

Ginny's phone RINGS. She picks it up.

GINNY (CONT'D)

I have to take this. Sorry.
Hello, this is Ginny Taylor-Clapp.

(beat)

Yes. I did leave the message.
About a teacher you had there for
six years. Meredith Davis.

(beat)

So, you've never heard of her. No
record? Perfect.

Ginny hangs up. She turns to Kim, whose back is to us.

GINNY (CONT'D)

Kim, we've got her.

KIM

Really?

Kim turns. We see she has a note on her forehead that says, "Get Milk". Ginny rips it off and heads out. Kim follows.

INT. MEREDITH'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Ginny bursts in with Principal Carl. The whole scene Ginny has the "Napoleon" Post-it on her forehead.

CARL

Ginny, what's going on?

MEREDITH

We're in the middle of Career Day.

GINNY

I guess we'll have to cancel it.
Luckily, the official one is in
March.

(to entire room)

Attention everyone. Ms. Davis is a
fraud. She didn't work at Windsor
Park K-12, where she claimed to
work for six years on her resume.
They've never even heard of her.

Everyone REACTS. Ginny pulls out the crumpled resume and hands it to Principal Carl. Meredith whispers to Joel.

MEREDITH
Is your brother still a cop?

JOEL
So, you do remember me from high school.

MEREDITH
Can he get me a restraining order?

JOEL
I'm sure.

PRINCIPAL CARL
Meredith, is this true?

Meredith stands up to address Carl and the whole room.

MEREDITH
It's true. Meredith Davis didn't work at Windsor Park.

GINNY
We know.

MEREDITH
When I was younger I had a stalker. My beauty, smarts and bikini ready body made me a target. I went out with the guy for a few weeks and when I ended it, he didn't get it.
(to eligible men)
Once I went to bed with him he couldn't imagine a life without me.
(back to whole group)
I had to change my name and move states. But after six years and a failed marriage I decided to come back home. And come back to Meredith Davis.

GINNY
This is bullshit.

PRINCIPAL CARL
Language.

MEREDITH
I can get a copy of the restraining order. I'm sorry I wasn't up-front about it. But it was a dark part of my life.

PRINCIPAL CARL

Meredith, I'm so sorry. This is embarrassing. C'mon, Ginny. You've done enough damage in front of all these parents.

(sotto; to Ginny)

This ends here. This ends today.

Meredith is swarmed by the single men. Joel is amused.

DR. GRANT

You are an amazing woman.

JOEL

So strong.

A SINGLE DAD

And brave.

MEREDITH

And free tonight! We should have Career Day every day. Seriously.

Meredith notices Irene by herself. She whisper yells to her.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

Irene! Get in on this. You can't marry your ferrets.

(then; to men)

Alright, who's taking me out first? There's a sign-up sheet on the wall.

JOEL

(to Meredith)

Okay. That's a little presumptuous.

MEREDITH

Is it?

Meredith points to the sheet. There's a line. Joel nods; giving it to her. Meredith is psyched. Her plan is working.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Meredith exits class with Dr. Grant, Parker and Irene.

PARKER

Do you think I could be a surgeon, Dr. Grant?

DR. GRANT
Maybe. Want to watch a surgery?

PARKER
Really? Awesome!

DR. GRANT
See you next weekend, Meredith.

MEREDITH
Yeah you will.

Dr. Grant and Parker walk-off, leaving Meredith and Irene.

IRENE
Parker seems really inspired. What a successful Career Day.

MEREDITH
(missing point)
I know. I got like ten numbers. And you got a referral for a skin rash. Still a win.

IRENE
I knew we'd become friends. We're friends, right?

MEREDITH
Of course we're work friends. Okay. I'm gonna slip out early. I have tennis.

IRENE
It's one o'clock.

MEREDITH
On a *Friday*. Just cover for me.

Meredith then notices Bronwen ahead, who slips into a room.

INT. STORAGE ROOM - DAY

Meredith and Irene enter to find the Safety Patrol eating lunch in the storage room. It's pretty pathetic.

MEREDITH
What are you guys doing?

LILY
Eating lunch. What's it to you? You quit Safety Patrol.

MEREDITH

It's sad.

KELSEY

Not anymore. We put up posters to make it look like we're outside.

Kelsey points to some posters of beach scenes.

MEREDITH

You can't do this.

LILY

This is what I was talking about, Meredith. You don't understand--

MEREDITH

Look, I know I was blessed with a perfect rack and the ass to match. But that doesn't mean I haven't felt like you guys. I was married to a really rich guy, who contrary to popular belief I actually fell in love with eventually and then he cheated on me with someone younger. And now I'm a woman without a country... club. I'm an outcast. And a charity case. I don't fit in with the teachers here either. I'm different. I know that. And you're different. I know that too. But you only don't fit in if you think you don't fit in. You've gotta fake it 'til you make it. Trust me.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Meredith struts into the cafeteria with Irene, Bronwen, Lily and Kelsey. They turn heads and hold theirs high.

IRENE

I thought you had tennis.

MEREDITH

(I'm as surprised as you)
Yeah. I thought I did too.

Irene gets it. They pass Joel, who smiles. He sees what Meredith's doing for the patrol. They walk by Ginny and Kim. As Meredith passes, Ginny stops her. The girls continue on.

GINNY

I may have been wrong this time,
but I'm not letting my guard down.

Ginny menacingly licks a yogurt lid and hands it to Kim.

GINNY (CONT'D)

I'm saving these for breast cancer
research.

MEREDITH

Good luck with that.

Meredith catches up to the group. They sit down.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

See. It wasn't that bad.

LILY

She's right.

The girls look around, nobody's paying much attention.
They're relieved. They take out their sack lunches. Joel
comes over. Meredith stands up out of ear shot of the girls.

MEREDITH

About the restraining order thing--

JOEL

I don't need to know the whole
story. Your secret is safe with
me. In case you were worried.

MEREDITH

I thought I was gonna have to sleep
with you to get you to stay quiet.
(off his reaction)
Kidding. I'd never sleep with you.

JOEL

But you do remember me from high
school. So, looks like I win.

MEREDITH

Of course I remember you. That's
how I know I'd never sleep with
you.

Meredith sits back down. Joel smiles. A high school crush
just might have been reignited.

LILY

You aren't like Brie at all. I
hope you stay in Safety Patrol.

KELSEY

You're gonna come back, right?

MEREDITH

Only because I need the money.

BRONWEN

Ms. Davis, you're the coolest teacher we've ever had.

MEREDITH

Really? The "best" teacher you've ever had? Wow. Thanks.

BRONWEN

"Coolest" teacher.

MEREDITH

The "best" teacher. Aww. You're probably just on your period.

(then)

Okay, I'm gonna grab lunch before the line gets any longer.

Meredith gets up and runs into Principal Carl.

PRINCIPAL CARL

Sorry about earlier, but I want you to know I've got your back. I know you're gonna do great things here. And don't forget, next week is Crazy Sock Friday.

MEREDITH

It's on my calendar.

Meredith heads to the lunch line. It's really really long. She takes her place. She has a place... We PULL OUT to see the crowded cafeteria, Meredith's home for now.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

EXT. NIXON MIDDLE SCHOOL - A FEW MINUTES LATER

All is calm at Nixon Middle School until we HEAR an alarm go off. The fire alarm. Kids begin pouring out of the cafeteria including the Safety Patrol girls, Joel, Irene, Ginny, Kim and Principal Carl.

PRINCIPAL CARL

Everyone keep moving towards the faculty parking lot in an orderly fashion! I said single file not triple file.

The kids head in an unorderly fashion to the faculty parking lot. Talking. Yelling. Running. It's chaos.

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

In an empty peaceful cafeteria, Meredith leisurely serves herself lunch because there's no longer a line. She has her pick of tiny milks and square pizzas. The last thing she grabs is a shiny red apple. She might be getting a little bit better but she's still a "Bad Teacher"...

END OF SHOW