

AMY'S BROTHER

Written by

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Fade in on a relaxing beach with a clear sky and the sound of waves. Suddenly the ocean sound is replaced by a ring tone. An iPhone notification pops up saying "ALARM. SNOOZE. OK."

INT. MATTHEW'S BEDROOM- MORNING- CONTINUOUS

The "beach" is a white noise app on an iPhone on a bedside table. A hand stops the alarm. We see the hand belongs to MATTHEW BENJAMIN, 40's, gay, controlled, in his immaculate bedroom. He begins his morning routine.

EXT. MATTHEW'S BACK YARD

Matthew, wearing goggles, stands at the edge of his pool. He starts the timer on his watch, dives in, and swims laps.

INT. MATTHEW'S BATHROOM - LATER

Matthew, in the shower, turns off the water as he finishes. He immediately begins to squeegee the glass shower door.

INT. MATTHEW'S KITCHEN - LATER

Matthew, in an undershirt and trousers, is on the phone. He's drinking coffee and eating yogurt.

MATTHEW

Hi, Brad and Jessica, it's Matthew Benjamin. The listing agent said 9AM works to see the house on Willow Crest. See you soon!

Matthew hangs up, grabs a note pad with the heading "MATTHEW BENJAMIN. REALTOR. REGENT REALTY." Written on it is "TO-DO LIST". He crosses off "CONFIRM WITH THE COOPERS". "MORNING SWIM" and "BREAKFAST" have already been crossed off above it.

INT. MATTHEW'S HOME OFFICE - LATER

Matthew multi-tasks while on the phone. On the desk are photos of him and friends (mostly gay men). The last photo is of Matthew, a blonde guy, and a dog looking like a family.

MATTHEW

Hi, my car needs its 15,000 mile service, but I won't hit 15,000 til Friday. Can we do it then please?

He crosses "MAKE CAR SERVICE APPOINTMENT" off to-do list.

INT. MATTHEW'S BEDROOM - LATER

Matthew, on phone, ironing shirt.

MATTHEW

Rick. Matthew Benjamin. I saw the beginnings of hard water stains on my pool tile. Can you look at it when you clean next, please?

He writes "CALL POOL GUY" on the list. Then crosses it off.

EXT. MATTHEW'S FRONT DOOR - LATER

Matthew, on phone, exits his well-manicured Los Feliz home, wearing a suit. He gets in his Audi in the driveway.

MATTHEW

Hey, Josh, I'm on my way to meet the Coopers right now. Then I'll head into the office.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. REGENCY REALTY OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

JOSH, Matthew's assistant(20's, gay, sharply dressed), sits in a cubicle, talking on a headset in a busy high-end realty office. While organizing Open House signs, he finds one with dirt on Matthew's photo. He wet wipes it til it's flawless.

JOSH

OK. And Martin told me to remind you about the sales meeting at 12.

Matthew starts to back out of the driveway.

MATTHEW

Thanks. Tell him I'll be-

EXT. MATTHEW'S DRIVEWAY- CONTINUOUS

A Lexus SUV pulls in his driveway, rear-ending Matthew's car.

INT. MATTHEW'S CAR- CONTINUOUS

MATTHEW

Oh my God!

JOSH
What happened?

MATTHEW
I just got hit! By an SUV!

JOSH
In front of your house?!

MATTHEW
I'm still in my driveway! Some
crazy woman just rammed me!

JOSH
Lock the doors. It could be one of
those robberies!

Matthew looks closer in his rear view mirror.

MATTHEW
My God. I think that's my sister.

JOSH
Your sister? Why would she--

MATTHEW
I gotta go.

Matthew hangs up and gets out of his car.

EXT. MATTHEW'S DRIVEWAY- CONTINUOUS

MATTHEW
Amy?

AMY KAUFMAN, 40's, usually very put-together and self-assured, right now is a mess. She gets out of her car to see the damage to his bumper. Her eyes seem a little manic.

AMY
Matty! Hey! I'm so sorry. I had no
idea you were backing out! Oh my
God. That looks awful! Sorry. Is
this a new car? It's cute.

MATTHEW
What are you--?

AMY
I was just driving with the kids
and I thought "Let's go see Uncle
Matty in Los Feliz!" (to car) Zach,
Abby! Say hi!

ZACH (15, charismatic, cool) and ABBY (12, smart, quiet) weakly wave from the car. Confused, Matthew waves back.

AMY (CONT'D)

Haven't they grown? I mean, you haven't seen them since Hanukkah. It's crazy. That was like 9 months ago. The clothes you got them then don't even fit anymore. They were on the small side to start with--

MATTHEW

Amy, what are you talking about?

AMY

Why, do I seem weird?

MATTHEW

Yes!

AMY

I forgot to put on makeup.

MATTHEW

You crashed into me! What is wrong--

AMY

Can I talk to you for a sec?

Amy squats as if looking at the car damage, bringing Matthew with her. She's really hiding the conversation from the kids.

AMY (CONT'D)

I left Mark. I caught him cheating so I took the kids, packed a few things, and left him.

MATTHEW

Oh my God. Amy, I'm so sorry.

AMY

I'm not. Fuck him. Fuck HIM.

MATTHEW

What'd you say to the kids?

AMY

I didn't tell them yet. Didn't tell anybody. Not my friends. Not mom and dad. Do NOT say a word to them. I don't want to hear their shit. I'm fine. I just need a few hours to figure out what I'm going to do next and what to tell the kids.

(MORE)

AMY (CONT'D)

Can you hang out with them while I do that?

MATTHEW

I have to go to work.

AMY

On a Saturday?

MATTHEW

It's Wednesday.

AMY

It is? Shit. They have to go to school. I haven't slept in over 24 hours. My brain isn't working. Can you take them?

MATTHEW

No. I can't. I have a whole day.

AMY

Oh, a whole day? I didn't know you had a whole day. Next time I'll go through your assistant. I'll just take them. See you next Hanukkah.

MATTHEW

Wait. I'll do it. You stay. I'll tell my clients I'm running late.

AMY

Thank you. They go to Shelton Academy. Do you know where it is?

MATTHEW

I went there! With you, remember?

AMY

Do you know the best way to go -

MATTHEW

Amy! I know how to do things.

AMY

Okay. (to kids, smiling) Hey, kids, Uncle Matty's gonna drive you to school. Won't that be fun?

INT. MATTHEW'S CAR- DAY - LATER

Matthew, Zach, and Abby are driving in awkward silence. Abby is in the back seat. Finally...

MATTHEW

There's a lot of traffic, huh? I didn't expect all this traffic.

No reaction.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

So this is fun. We never get to hang out together.

ZACH

I thought that's how you liked it.

MATTHEW

I'm sorry?

ZACH

My dad says you never see us because you're too self-involved.

MATTHEW

Well, your dad doesn't know everything, okay. So... What else does he say about me?

ZACH

That you're abnormally uptight.

MATTHEW

That's not... I mean, everyone's entitled to their... But it's not true... I'm actually pretty cool.

ZACH

Do you smoke weed?

MATTHEW

Do *you*?

ZACH

Yeah, but don't tell my mom.

MATTHEW

Well, don't tell ME then. Jesus! Your little sister's right there.

ZACH

She knows. And we both know our parents are getting a divorce.

MATTHEW

Oh. Well, I don't know about that. But, if they are, act surprised.

Matthew sees Abby looking at him. Her hair is tangled, her clothes are rumpled and mismatched.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
Abby, you're awfully quiet.

ABBY
I'm just thinking.

ZACH
Yeah, she's always thinking. About how she's smarter than everyone. She likes to quietly judge us.

MATTHEW
There's nothing wrong with being smart. What are you thinking about?

ABBY
What are you thinking?

MATTHEW
What?

ABBY
It's not "what are you thinking about?". You don't end a sentence with a preposition.

MATTHEW
Grammar. That's fun. Thanks for the correction. What are you thinking?

ABBY
That I don't like your shirt.

ZACH
Told you.

MATTHEW
Oh. Well, I actually get a lot of compliments on it.

ABBY
Really? Like what?

MATTHEW
You know what, I'm not explaining men's fashion to a 13 year old.

ABBY
I'm 12.

MATTHEW

Exactly.

Beat. Matthew looks down insecurely at his shirt.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

(sotto) Shit.

INT. MATTHEW'S LIVING ROOM- DAY

Amy lays on the couch, a pillow over her face. Then she throws the pillow and sits up. She can't sleep.

AMY

Aahhh!

Amy rifles through a hastily packed overnight bag, pulling things out. She finds her toiletry bag and hunts through it.

AMY (CONT'D)

Come on, Ambien.

Nothing.

INT. MATTHEW'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Amy opens and inspects Matthew's organized medicine cabinet.

AMY

Claritin...Vitamin C....Fish
oil...Red Yeast Rice? Jesus.
(sees some Tylenol PM)
Here we go.
(looks inside bottle)
One?! It's a start.

She swallows the pill and closes the cabinet.

INT. MATTHEW'S GUEST BATHROOM- MOMENTS LATER

Amy looks through drawers. Nothing. She yanks open a medicine cabinet, not realizing it's a mirror. It pops off the wall.

AMY

Oh shit!

She catches it and carefully hangs it back up.

INT. MATTHEW'S LIVING ROOM- DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Amy, frustrated, cases the room. She notices a well-stocked dry bar. She pours a scotch, downs it, and exhales.

EXT. SHELTON ACADEMY- DAY- LATER

Matthew's car pulls up in front of SHELTON ACADEMY, an expensive private school, as kids are arriving.

INT. MATTHEW'S CAR- CONTINUOUS

MATTHEW

Okay. Your mom'll pick you up. Or me. I'm not sure. Someone will.

ZACH

Whatever.

Zach gets out. A bunch of friends greet him. He's clearly popular. Matthew notices Abby has her hand on the door handle, not moving and staring out the window.

MATTHEW

Abby?

ABBY

Yeah. Just a second.

A group of pretty girls, Abby's age, stand near the car, talking and laughing. Matthew realizes what's going on.

MATTHEW

Hold on.

He pulls the car up several feet so Abby can avoid getting out right in the middle of those other girls.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

I had a hard time in school myself.
I wasn't exactly popular-

Abby gets out before Matthew finishes and shuts door.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

Okay. Great talk.

Matthew pulls away as his phone rings. He looks and answers.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

Hey, Josh.

MARTIN (V.O.)
It's not Josh. It's Martin-

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. Regency Realty Office - CONTINUOUS

MARTIN, an authoritative Office Manager, is standing by Josh's desk, using his phone. Josh sits passively.

MARTIN
-I took the kid's phone because I know you don't pick up when I call. You're coming to the sales meeting?

MATTHEW
Yes, Martin, I will be there.

MARTIN
Good. Cause I hired a taco cart to inspire you people. That's what a good Office Manager does. So don't make me look like an asshole.

MATTHEW
Ok. I just have to meet Christian, show my clients his listing on Willow Crest, then I'll be there.

MARTIN
Christian? (laughing) Watch your back. He's a snake. Luckily he's our snake. Makes us a lot of money. More than you. He paid for the taco cart. Christian es Numero Uno. You're number two. See you at the meeting. Here's your Girl Friday.

Martin tosses the headset to Josh and exits. Josh has been looking at pictures of Amy, Zach, Abby, and Amy's husband, MARK (40's, handsome) on FACEBOOK. Family photo in front of a gorgeous home, skiing in Aspen, tennis with girlfriends, laughing with the Obamas. In all, Amy is perfectly coiffed.

JOSH
Sorry. How's your sister? What's crazy is I forgot you even had one. I Facebooked her. She's so pretty. And her world looks amazing!

MATTHEW
Yeah, she's always led a pretty charmed life.

INT. MATTHEW'S BATHROOM- DAY- LATER

Amy, mouth agape, has nodded off in the bath, drink resting on tub. She startles awake to the sound of the front door unlocking and someone entering.

AMY
Matthew?....Matty?

The terrier from Matthew's office photo runs into the room.

AMY (CONT'D)
Where'd you come from?

MAN'S VOICE (O.C.)
Matthew?

The blonde guy from the photo enters. It's Matthew's ex-boyfriend, NEIL(40's). Amy screams and quickly covers up.

NEIL
What are YOU doing here?!!

AMY
It's my brother's house, Neil! What are you doing here!

NEIL
I have a key.

AMY
Why? You broke up two years ago.

NEIL
We share Barker. I'm dropping him-

JAVIER(30's), Neil's current boyfriend, enters.

JAVIER
What's going on?

AMY
Jesus! Who the hell is this?

JAVIER
I'm his boyfriend, Javier.

AMY
Well, get the fuck out, Javier. (to Neil) You too, asshole.

NEIL
Great to see you, as always, Amy.
Enjoy your day-drinking.

Neil and Javier exit.

AMY
Hey! HEY!

Amy quickly puts a towel on and runs out. Barker follows her.

INT. ENTRY WAY- CONTINUOUS

Neil and Javier walk to front door. Amy runs in.

AMY
Hey! You walked all over Matthew
and then you dumped him. You don't
get a key. Give it to me.

NEIL
Amy, you don't intimidate me. I'm
not your brother. Or your husband.

Amy snatches the keys from Neil's hand. He tries to grab them
back and they start to struggle. Barker barks.

NEIL (CONT'D)
Give me back my keys!

AMY
No! Get out!

As Amy lifts her arms to get the key out of his reach, her
towel falls off. Neil jumps back to avoid her naked body.

NEIL
Oh Christ! Cover yourself up!

AMY
No. Get out. I won.

NEIL
No, you didn't. I just don't want
your tits slapping my face.

AMY
They're kryptonite for you guys,
right? (chasing them with her
breasts) GET OUT!

Neil and Javier run out the front door. Amy slams it shut.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. WILLOW CREST DRIVE HOUSE- DAY

Matthew pulls up to a house. He gets out and runs up to the front door. His clients, BRAD and JESSICA, stand at the door laughing with CHRISTIAN BANKS, slick, late 30's, handsome.

MATTHEW

Brad, Jessica, so sorry I'm late.
Hello, Christian.

CHRISTIAN

Matthew.

MATTHEW

Thanks for showing us the house.
Should we go in?

JESSICA

Christian just walked us through.

CHRISTIAN

Yeah, we weren't sure how long you would be. No worries, it's not for them. They're looking for something a bit more modern, open floor plan, lots of closets for Jessica and Brad wants a man cave. Right, Brad?

BRAD

(laughs) You got it.

CHRISTIAN

(laughs) I'm the same, man.

MATTHEW

Yeah. That's what we've been looking for, for months. There's just not a lot out there right now.

CHRISTIAN

Really? I can think of three houses. They're pocket listings, so Matthew might not know them. One's just around the corner on Bloom. I can take you there now if you want.

JESSICA

Sure!

CHRISTIAN

Great. Let's go.

MATTHEW
Yeah, let's all go.

MATTHEW'S PHONE rings. He sees it's Neil calling.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
Hey, Neil. Is there any way I can--

NEIL (V.O.)
I'm at your house right now and you
need to get here immediately.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. MATTHEW'S FRONT LAWN - CONTINUOUS

Neil paces on the lawn while Javier sits and listens.

NEIL
Your sister is drunk and naked and
she physically attacked me.

JAVIER
It was sexual assault.

MATTHEW
What?!?

NEIL
I was dropping off Barker. She
freaked out, stole my car keys, and
locked me out. I can't even leave!

AMY (O.S.)
Go suck a dick, Neil!

NEIL
You hear that? Do something, or
I'll call the police.

MATTHEW
No! Don't do that. I'm on my way.
(hangs up)

CHRISTIAN
Everything okay, Matthew?

MATTHEW
Yeah. Sorry. An inspector just
found black mold at another
property. Can we reschedule?

CHRISTIAN

Well, I can just take them myself.

MATTHEW

No, I should be there. I really--

CHRISTIAN

Come on, Matthew, I won't poach your clients. (then) Though I would take less commission since I represent the sellers too.

Everyone laughs, Matthew nervously.

MATTHEW

Okay, let me deal with this and catch up with you guys.

JESSICA

(to Christian) Is that true? We would save on commission?

Matthew hears that, winces, and runs to his car.

EXT. MATTHEW'S HOUSE- DAY - LATER

Neil and Javier are waiting. Matthew pulls up and gets out.

NEIL

I did not need this today, Matthew. Javi and I should have been on the road to Santa Barbara by now.

MATTHEW

I'm so sorry. I'll get your keys.

INT. MATTHEW'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Matthew, Neil, and Javier enter. Amy's bag is spilled out all over the floor, along side a sopping wet towel. Matthew picks it up and folds it. An empty Scotch bottle is on the table.

MATTHEW

Amy!

NEIL

Did she drink all that herself?

Matthew notices the French doors to the back yard are open. He sees Barker at the edge of the pool looking at... Amy, in her underwear, lifelessly floating face down in the pool.

MATTHEW

AMY!

JAVIER

Oh my God!

Matthew runs out, leaps into the pool fully clothed. He grabs Amy, who startles and fights back. She's alive and drunk.

AMY

What the fuck! What are you doing?!

MATTHEW

I thought you were dead!

AMY

I was holding my breath!

MATTHEW

Neil said--

AMY

(mimics) Oh, Neil said something?
Really? That guy's a ZERO.

NEIL

I'm right here.

AMY

(points to Neil) Zero. (points to herself) Hero. Hey, hey, Matty, I got your key back from that zero.

MATTHEW

I GAVE it to him, Amy! Where is it?

AMY

I threw it in the deep end.

NEIL

The smartkey to my car is on there.
Those cost 200 bucks to replace!

AMY

Sucks for you, I guess.

MATTHEW

I'll get them!

MATTHEW dives under the water.

JAVIER

As a neutral party, I really think
you need to learn some boundaries.

AMY

Great. Thanks a lot, Dog Whisperer.

MATTHEW comes up with keys and pulls himself out of the pool.

MATTHEW

I got 'em. I hope it's not broken.

NEIL

It is.

AMY

You're broken.

NEIL

You know what, Amy? You're a bully. That's why Matthew never wants to be around you. I don't know how your husband takes it. He must love punishment... and cellulite.

Neil and Javier exit.

AMY

SCREW YOU! I had two kids! (to Matthew) Why does he still have a key? He treats you like a door mat!

MATTHEW

No, he doesn't.

MATTHEW starts taking off his wet shoes, socks and shirt.

AMY

Door Matty. Door Matty gives him a key, Door Matty still has his pictures up everywhere, Door Matty lets him waltz in with his little Spanish boy toy, Door Matty-

MATTHEW

Stop calling me Door Matty!

AMY

Stop doing stupid shit. Get some self worth and get over him! By the way, this is love, not *bullying*.

MATTHEW, annoyed, goes inside, holding his clothes.

AMY (CONT'D)

Hey!

AMY gets out of the pool and chases after him.

INT. MATTHEW'S BEDROOM- CONTINUOUS

Matthew enters and gets a towel to dry himself. He sees Amy's clothes all over the floor. He picks them up. Amy enters.

AMY
I am not a bully.

MATTHEW
I didn't say you were.

AMY
You didn't say I wasn't! Is it true? Do you avoid me?

MATTHEW
I have to get back to my clients.

AMY
Your clients? My marriage just fell apart. You're my brother. You need to be here for me.

MATTHEW
Oh, like you were when Neil and I broke up?

AMY
I called you immediately.

MATTHEW
You texted me a week later.

AMY
It was three LONG texts! That I put a lot of thought into!

MATTHEW
Look, Amy, I have a life. And it existed before you rammed your car into me today. There is a list of--

He pulls a soaking wet to do list out of his pocket. The ink has run together and it's unreadable.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
My list. Oh my God. My list!

AMY
What is wrong with you?

MATTHEW

YOU! You come in here, your *stuff*
is everywhere, you're dripping--

AMY

Well, this was ALL part of my plan.
Win Homecoming Queen, marry a rich
guy, have two kids, build a dream
life, then have my husband cheat on
me so I can drip all over my little
brother's rug one day. Sorry my
life's inconveniencing you.

MATTHEW

Your life has always inconvenienced
me! Since we were kids, you just
suck the air out of everything.

AMY

I sucked the air out? You walked
around like Eeyore all the time.

MATTHEW

I was a closeted gay kid!

AMY

I made myself throw up!

MATTHEW

When?

AMY

Four or five times. Before prom.

MATTHEW

Oh, how tragic. You know what they
called me in high school? "Amy's
brother". Like I didn't even
warrant my own name. Well, guess
what, I have a life now. I'm
Matthew and I want my goddamn LIST!

AMY

(flattered) People called you
"Amy's brother"?

A cell phone rings. They both stop and look around for it.

AMY (CONT'D)

That's me.

MATTHEW

I assumed.

Matthew finds it vibrating in his bathroom sink.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
Why is your phone in my sink?!?!

AMY
I was taking a bath.

He sees the empty bottle of Tylenol PM.

MATTHEW
Did you down all these?

AMY
You only had one. But maybe that's
why I am feeling a bit wonky.

MATTHEW
Right. It wasn't the scotch.

Matthew looks at phone. It reads "Kid's School" on screen.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
It's the school.

AMY
Oh, no. Should I...do I sound
drunk, like if you closed your eyes-

MATTHEW
(answers it himself) Hello?... Yes,
but she can't talk right now. Can I
take a message?... Why?...Yes. I'll
tell her. She'll be there shortly.

Matthew hangs up.

AMY
What happened?

MATTHEW
She just said Zach's in the Dean's
Office and you need to come now.

AMY
Oh fuck.(Beat) Can you--

MATTHEW
No! Amy, I have to go back to work-

AMY
Come on! All you have to do is drop
me off. I'll take a cab home. I'll
be sober by the time we get there.

EXT. SHELTON ACADEMY PARKING LOT- DAY

Matthew's Audi pulls up and parks.

INT. MATTHEW'S CAR- CONTINUOUS

MATTHEW
How you feeling?

AMY
Better. Much better.

AMY tries to unbuckle the seat belt, but can't figure it out.

AMY (CONT'D)
Thank you so---what's the trick to
this... Seriously...
(aggressively struggling)
WHO THE FUCK made this thing?!?

MATTHEW
I'll go! I'll say you're sick.

He gets out of the car. Amy talks through the open window.

AMY
Thank you, Matty! You're a good
brother. Tell them I have the flu.
No, a migraine! Nothing gross.

INT. DEAN'S OFFICE- DAY

Matthew and Zach are seated next to each other. DEAN HARBOR,
female, 70's, stern, sits behind her desk.

DEAN HARBOR
I'm sorry that Amy has such
terrible diarrhea.

MATTHEW
Yeah, it's pretty uncontrollable.

DEAN HARBOR
And you are?

MATTHEW
Dean Harbor, I'm Matthew Benjamin.
I was a student here, remember? (no
reaction, sighs) Amy's brother?

DEAN HARBOR
Oh, yes. (then) Well, we called
because one of our teachers found
drugs in Zach's possession.

She pulls out a vape pen and puts it on the desk.

DEAN HARBOR (CONT'D)
A vaporizer with marijuana. It fell
out of his pocket during class.

MATTHEW
Oh my God.

DEAN HARBOR
And drugs on campus are grounds for
expulsion.

ZACH
That's not fair! I don't know how
it got there. It's not mine.

DEAN HARBOR
Then tell me who it belongs to.

ZACH
I don't know who.

DEAN HARBOR
Are you protecting somebody?

ZACH
No! I swear, I don't--

MATTHEW
It's mine.

	DEAN HARBOR	ZACH
Yours?		What?

MATTHEW
Yes. I own it. I drove Zach to
school, he asked if I had a pen. I
said he could take one from my bag,
but he must have grabbed my
vaporizer. It looks just like a
pen. See?
(picks up the vape)
I have a medical marijuana card for
my, um...stress. So when I'm
stressed, I just suck on this-
(he sucks on vape)
And I'm better.

A huge plume of vapor comes out of Matthew's mouth.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
Oh, it's on. Oops. Sorry.

DEAN HARBOR
You can't smoke drugs in here.

MATTHEW
I'm sorry. (coughs) Luckily this is
all legal! (nervous laugh)

DEAN HARBOR
Well, I am required to bring this
to the disciplinary committee.

MATTHEW
Oh, please don't. It's all my
fault. Listen, Zach doesn't know
this yet, but the real reason Amy
isn't here is because she and Mr.
Kaufman just decided to divorce.

ZACH
(feigning) Divorce? Oh my God.

Zach drops his face into his hands and pretends to cry.

MATTHEW
Could I just take him home and
maybe we can forget all about this?

The Dean Harbor looks at an upset Zach.

EXT. SHELTON ACADEMY ENTRANCE- DAY

Matthew and Zach are walking out of the school.

MATTHEW
I didn't like any of that.

ZACH
You were so baller. That was really
cool. I'm so glad it was you in
there and not my mom. Where is she?

MATTHEW
She's drunk in the car.

ZACH
What?

MATTHEW

Look- (points to an empty space)
Where's my car? I parked it
right...She stole my car drunk!

ZACH

Isn't that it over there?

We see Amy in Matthew's car, passed out with a foot hanging
out the opened window. Matthew presses a button on his key.
The car makes a BEEP, BEEP! noise. Amy bolts up, startled.

AMY

What the hell?!

MATTHEW

(to Zach) Yeah. That's it.

INT. MATTHEW'S CAR- MOMENTS LATER

Amy yells at Zach, who's in the back seat. Matthew is in the
driver's seat, staring forward.

AMY

I can't believe you brought pot to
school! What were you thinking?

ZACH

I was thinking I might want to get
a buzz on this morning, like you.

AMY

I'm an adult! I have real problems.

ZACH

Like drinking?

MATTHEW

You know, we spend so much of our
lives in buildings where we're
supposed to be "educated", but
learning can happen anywhere. Not
just in "designated buildings".
Like in a park or hot air balloons.

AMY

Are you high?

MATTHEW

No. I did take a little hit in the
dean's office, but that wouldn't be
enough to get me high.

ZACH

It's pretty strong stuff. When's the last time you smoked?

MATTHEW

I don't know. College.

ZACH

How long ago was that?

MATTHEW

(playfully) None of your business, cowboy! (then) Oh my God, I'm high! Oh, no. We gotta go now. I know my body and I only have a limited window to drive. We need to pull Abby out of class now cause I will not make it back here.

AMY

I'll go get her.

MATTHEW

No, you reek of scotch. I'll go.

AMY

Well, you don't seem functional.

MATTHEW

Zach, who seems more functional?

ZACH

It's kind of a tie. Maybe you?

MATTHEW

Yeah! Okay, where's her class?

ZACH

(points) It's on the corner. Last window at the end.

MATTHEW

I'm going in. We don't leave anyone behind. (as he exits) Like Israel!

Matthew exits, slamming the door. Amy and Zach look confused.

INT. ABBY'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Abby and students listen to the teacher, MR. RICHTER (40s), lecture. Matthew appears outside the window, looking for Abby. He sees her and taps on the window. No response.

He taps again. A MALE STUDENT notices. Matthew gestures to get Abby. The student taps Abby and points to the window.

MALE STUDENT
(to Abby) That dude.

Abby sees Matthew. He gestures for her to come outside. Abby shakes her head "no". Matthew gestures again, more pointedly.

ABBY
(quietly) I'm in school.

MATTHEW
(mouthing) We have to go!

Suddenly, Mr. Richter opens the window, surprising Matthew.

MR. RICHTER
Can I help you?

MATTHEW
Yeah, hi. Hello. I'm Abby's uncle.
Aren't I, Abby?

ABBY
(embarrassed) Yeah.

MATTHEW
She's so embarrassed. Hi. Listen,
I'm so sorry to interrupt your
lesson of ...what are you teaching?

MR. RICHTER
The American Revolution.

MATTHEW
Oh, I was so bad at history. I was
always like, what? Listen, there's
been a bit of a family emergency.

MR. RICHTER
Oh, no.

MATTHEW
Nothing too bad, but I need to take
her home right now. Her mom and
brother are over there in the car.

MR. RICHTER
Okay. Normally I don't turn
students over to strange men at the
window, but we've met before.

MATTHEW

We have?

MR. RICHTER

You're Matthew. I was on a softball team with your boyfriend, Neil.

MATTHEW

Oh, yeah! Hi.

MR. RICHTER

(to Abby) Abby, your uncle's going to take you home.

Abby collects her stuff.

MATTHEW

Thanks for understanding. Abby?

Matthew reaches through the window, as if to lift Abby out.

MR. RICHTER

You know, it might look better if she leaves through the door.

MATTHEW

Oh, right, right, right. Ha.

Abby exits through classroom door.

MR. RICHTER

Well, I hope everything's okay. I'm Brendan, by the way.

Mr. Richter shakes Matthew's hand. Abby walks up.

MATTHEW

Thanks. Brendan. Nice to meet you. I'm Matthew. But you already know that because you said it, right? Also, Neil and I aren't together anymore. But we still share a dog. It poses some issues.

ABBY

Should we go?

MATTHEW

Yes. Have a great class, everyone!

INT. MATTHEW'S CAR- DAY

Matthew and Abby slide into the car and close the doors.

MATTHEW
Got her, let's go.

ABBY
What's going on?

ZACH
Mom's drunk and we need to get home
before he's too high to drive.

ABBY
Oh.

AMY
(to Matthew)
You okay?

MATTHEW
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yes, definitely,
yeah. Wait, what was the question?

CUT TO:

INT. UBER CAR-DAY

The family are now in an Uber. Matthew is in the front seat.

MATTHEW
So how do you like working for
Uber, Kevin?

UBER DRIVER
It's great. But I'm a people
person. Do you want a water?

MATTHEW
I would LOVE some water, Kevin.

Matthew takes water and gulps it.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
That was the best water. I'm going
to give you five stars.

UBER DRIVER
Thanks, man.

Matthew's phone rings. He answers.

MATTHEW
Matthew Benjamin.

MAN'S VOICE

Hey Matthew.

MATTHEW

Who's this?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. Regency Realty Conference Room - CONTINUOUS

MARTIN sits eating a taco at a conference table beside a taco cart. A CHEF is spooning taco meat into ziplock bags.

MARTIN

It's Martin. I borrowed the taco guy's phone so you'd pick up.

MATTHEW

Oh no, the meeting! I'm sorry. My sister had terrible diarrhea.

MARTIN

Hardly anyone showed. You know how many tacos I'm stuck with?

Josh and a few other assistants peek in the room.

JOSH

Can the assistants have food?

MARTIN

Do you have real estate licenses?

JOSH

No.

MARTIN

Then get the hell outta here. (to Matthew) Huge waste of money. Christian wasn't even here to get Realtor of the Month. He's been with the same damn clients all day.

MATTHEW

Wait, what? Where?!

CUT TO:

EXT. GLEN HOLLY DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD - LATER

The Uber stops abruptly across the street from a house with a For Sale sign. CHRISTIAN, JESSICA and BRAD walking up.

MATTHEW

Oh my God! I knew it! That's him!

AMY

The date rapist in the blue suit?

MATTHEW

Yeah. Those are my clients. He showed them a house earlier because I was late, then there was another house and I said fine, but this is a different house altogether. He's stealing them from me and he does crap like this all the time.

AMY

Well, do something about it.

MATTHEW

I'm not gonna cause some big scene.

AMY

Why not? Scenes are awesome. Think how good it'd feel to tell him off.

MATTHEW

That would feel really good.

AMY

Go do it.

ZACH

Yeah, go do it, Uncle Matt.

MATTHEW

Ok! (to driver) Can you wait a sec?

UBER DRIVER

Absolutely. Go get 'em, man.

MATTHEW

I am not gonna be Door Matty! Woo!

Matthew exits the car, slamming the door. Then re-opens it.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

Sorry I slammed the door.

AMY

Go!

Matthew slams the door again.

EXT. FRONT YARD OF A MODERN HOUSE- CONTINUOUS

Christian, Brad and Jessica are approaching the front door. Matthew sprints up the front walk to them.

MATTHEW

Hey, guys! You checking out another secret Christian Banks listing?

CHRISTIAN

Matthew! We just got on a roll looking at places.

MATTHEW

Really? How cool. How many places?

They all look at each other, clearly caught.

CHRISTIAN

Just a few. I was gonna call, but it felt like you had a lot going--

MATTHEW

(smiles) Oh, how thoughtful! Phone calls can be so annoying. By the way, I don't believe you. You're stealing my clients and you're a horrible weasel of a shit.

JESSICA

Matthew, we were just--

MATTHEW

Jessica, Brad, you both want very different things and I think your marriage is in danger. Bye!

Matthew walks away as they look stunned. He yells back to them as he gets into the Uber.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

And, FYI, this house has been on the market for over a year, it needs a new foundation, and the hillside behind it is rapidly slipping. The more you know! See you at the office, Christian!

The Uber screeches away. Amy sticks her head out the window.

AMY

YEAH! I'M MATTHEW'S SISTER!!!

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. MATTHEW'S BACK YARD - NIGHT

The family sits at the patio table, finishing dinner.

AMY

Thank you so much for making
dinner, Matty. It was delicious.

MATTHEW

My pleasure. Now I'm gonna see what
I have for dessert!

Matthew collects the plates and goes into the house.

ZACH

Dude still has the munchies.

AMY

Hey, you owe him. If it had been
your father in the Dean's office
today, trust me, you wouldn't be
smirking right now. Got it?

ZACH

Yeah.

AMY

I have something to tell you two.
The reason I've been acting so
weird today or lately...

ZACH

We know. You're getting divorced.

AMY

You do? (to Abby) Both of you?

Abby nods "yes". Amy tears up.

ZACH

So what's going to happen?

AMY

I don't know. I know I'm supposed
to because I'm the adult, but I
don't. I have to figure this out.
But it'll be okay. At some point.
Just don't ask me when. I mean, you
can ask, but I won't know. Okay?

ZACH/ABBY

Okay.

INT. MATTHEW'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Matthew is eating ice cream out of the carton. Amy enters.

MATTHEW

There was only a few bites left and
I couldn't resist. It's so good.

AMY

You deserve it.

MATTHEW

I do. I told off Christian Banks.
Thanks for bullying me into that.

AMY

It's what I do.(then)I just told
the kids. They already knew. Zach
seems okay. Abby never opens up so
I have no idea how she feels.

MATTHEW

I think she hates me.

AMY

That's how everyone feels around
her. She's just really guarded.
(beat) I lied earlier. I didn't
leave Mark. He left me weeks ago.
He's been living with his
girlfriend. I've been telling the
kids he's on business trips and
kept up a pretty good front until
last night when our bank called.
Apparently we're broke. Mark hasn't
paid the mortgage for a year. They
wanted me to know the house was
being repossessed in the morning.

MATTHEW

Jesus. So you don't have a home?

AMY

I stayed up all night like a crazy
person, trying to figure out where
to go and...I came here.

MATTHEW

Oh, Amy. Of course you guys are
welcome to stay here--

AMY

Thank you.

MATTHEW

-for a couple of days, but-

AMY

A couple of days?

MATTHEW

Yeah. I just... We made it through today. But I just can't-

AMY

We're not like this everyday.

MATTHEW

It's not you, it's me. When I'm around you, I start to feel like I did when we were kids. I don't want to feel like that anymore. Sorry.

AMY

Okay.

Amy leaves.

INT. MATTHEW'S BEDROOM- NIGHT -LATER

Matthew sits on his bed next to Barker, talking on the phone.

MATTHEW

I feel awful about it, but-

NEIL (V.O.)

Don't. You're a saint for letting her stay at all after today.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. UPSCALE HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Neil, on phone, sits on the bed flipping through a magazine.

NEIL

You did the right thing. She'd drive you crazy. And you're not the easiest person to live with either.

MATTHEW

What does that mean?

NEIL

You cannot handle people in your space. I was always on egg shells.

MATTHEW

So I should be alone for the rest of my life?

NEIL

You might be happier.

Javier enters the hotel room with an ice bucket.

NEIL (CONT'D)

I gotta go. Javi's back with ice.

Neil hangs up. There's a knock at his bedroom door.

MATTHEW

Come in.

Abby opens the door. Barker goes to her and she pets him.

ABBY

I just wanted to say good night.

MATTHEW

To me or to him?

Abby notices Matthew's shirt from earlier shrivelled and hanging from a hanger to dry.

ABBY

What happened to your shirt?

MATTHEW

It got attacked by the pool. Dry clean only. Don't get too happy about it, but I think it's a goner.

ABBY

Sorry I was mean today.

MATTHEW

Well, none of us were at our best.

ABBY

You were okay. Except for the showing up high to my class.

MATTHEW

Really? That's not a normal thing for uncles to do at your school?

ABBY

Were you really not popular when
you were a kid?

MATTHEW

Not at all. Your mom was though.

ABBY

Yeah, I know. So's Zach.

MATTHEW

Yeah, but they're dumb.

ABBY

(smiles) Yeah. Thanks for letting
us stay here for a couple of days.

MATTHEW

You guys can stay as long as you
like, Abby.

ABBY

We can? But my mom said--

MATTHEW

Well, she doesn't know what she's
talking about. Tell her I said so.

ABBY

Okay. Night.

Abby exits, closing the door. Matthew puts the phone in the
dock on the bedside table and turns on the white noise app.

MATTHEW

We're going to have company,
Barker. And I'm fine with it.

He turns off the lamp and lays down to sleep. BEAT. He hears
the sound of muffled voices coming through the walls.

AMY (O.S.)

Abby, did you brush your teeth?

ABBY (O.S.)

Zach's still in the bathroom.

SFX: pounding on the bathroom door.

AMY (O.S.)

Abby needs to brush her teeth!

ZACH (O.S.)
I'm taking a dump! Use Uncle
Matthew's!

ABBY (O.S.)
My toothbrush's in there!

AMY (O.S.)
Her toothbrush is in there! And
Matthew's asleep!

ZACH (O.S.)
Leave me alone!!

Matthew turns up the white noise to drown the yelling.

END OF SHOW