

DICKS EVERYWHERE

"Pilot"

Written by

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COLD OPEN

A VERY FAST MONTAGE ZIPS BY.

INT. CHURCH ALTAR - DAY - FLASHBACK

CHYRON: 1988: Husband #1

ANNA (V.O.)
Kind of a long story. My dad
knocked my mom up before they got
married.

ELEANOR (optimistic and kooky) stands in a modest wedding dress, lovingly holding her pregnant belly next to a MAN whom we don't see.

INT. DIVORCE COURT - DAY - FLASHBACK

CHYRON: 1989: **Ex**-Husband #1

Exasperated, Eleanor holds a wailing newborn, ANNA. The Man, seen only from behind, speeds towards the exit.

ANNA (V.O.)
That part is short.

JUDGE BACCUS (young, Black) smiles kindly at Eleanor.

INT. CHURCH ALTAR - DAY - FLASHBACK

CHYRON: 1990: Husband #2

Eleanor beams beside a new man, ED (Black, serious but warm), who holds Anna as she tosses flower petals into the air.

ELEANOR
(whispering)
Very good, sweetheart!

ANNA (V.O.)
But next came Ed. He's the best.

Out of flowers, she throws her arms around his neck.

INT. DIVORCE COURT - DAY - FLASHBACK

CHYRON: 1998: **Ex**-Husband #2

Anna pretends to read *Matilda* while Eleanor thrashes around.

ELEANOR

Crazy?! I am not crazy. Crazy is his obsessive desire to spend time with... sick... people over me!

ED

Eleanor, I'm a doctor.

Ed throws up his hands to Judge Baccus.

ED (CONT'D)

I can't deal with this anymore.

A tearful Eleanor looks at Anna and mouths "I'm sorry." Anna smiles back at her.

INT. CHURCH ALTAR - DAY - FLASHBACK

CHYRON: 1999: Husband #3

Eleanor adjusts her cleavage in a promiscuous wedding dress.

ANNA (V.O.)

Luckily, Nick gave her all the attention she craved from Ed.

LIZZY (Nick's spastic daughter, same age as Anna), as a bridesmaid, turns to a pre-teen Anna at the altar.

LIZZY

(whisper yelling)

I can't wait to be sisters!

CLOSE ON: NICK (hot AF, no self-control) grins and winks.

INT. DIVORCE COURT - DAY - FLASHBACK

CHYRON: 2005: **Ex**-Husband #3

PULL BACK from Nick's wink to REVEAL that he's now lusting after the Busty Stenographer. Teenage Anna texts on her Nokia phone while squeezing Lizzy's hand beside her.

ANNA (V.O.)

Unfortunately he was also giving it to lots of other women.

Eleanor and Judge Baccus (older, still Black) gawk at Nick.

ELEANOR

Really?

JUDGE BACCUS

Really?

CLOSE ON: A text from her mom, "I'm sorry xo." Anna looks up and smiles at her pained mother, bringing her comfort.

INT. CHURCH ALTAR - DAY - FLASHBACK

CHYRON: 2007: Husband #4

Eleanor showboats in a tacky number complete with hat and pink bedazzled bow. Anna, as the Maid of Honor, wears a magenta chiffon dress. Lizzy is there too as a bridesmaid.

ANNA (V.O.)

Next came Hector. Sweet, kind...
and too good to be true.

Beside Eleanor is HECTOR (Latino, metro she thought) in a dapper tux.

HECTOR

You look *so elegant*.

INT. DIVORCE COURT - DAY - FLASHBACK

CHYRON: 2010: **Ex**-Husband #4

Hector wears an ensemble that says "real out now" (mini hat).

JUDGE BACCUS

(to Eleanor, chastising)
Really.

Eleanor looks to Anna, reading Bad Behavior by Mary Gaitskill, and mouths "I'm sorry," totally mortified. Anna smiles and shakes her head, more than a little judgy.

INT. CHURCH - DAY - FLASHBACK

CHYRON: 2012: Husband #5

At the altar, Eleanor stands beside a MAN we can't identify.

ANNA (V.O.)

Another chardonnay, please.

INT. DIVORCE COURT - DAY - FLASHBACK

CHYRON: 2013: **Ex**-Husband #5

Judge Baccus puts his head in his hands.

ANNA (PRE-LAP)

Wait, not allowed to talk about
Number Five. Confidentiality
clause. But he's not not someone
you know.

Anna posts on twitter: #Tigerblood #TriedToStopHer. She looks up, prepared to chastise, until she sees that Eleanor is just heartsick. Anna loses the attitude, and offers a small smile.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY - PRESENT DAY

Anna, late twenties and a little on edge, charms her hot seat mate, WILLIAM, over a glass of wine.

ANNA

Moral of the story, she's finally given up on marriage. Hashtag that celibate life.

(beat)

Sorry, that was a real thorough answer to 'Do your parents live in Boston?'

WILLIAM

I don't mind at all. But wow. That's a lot to drag a kid through.

ANNA

You know, I've recently come to that same conclusion.

EXT. BASEBALL DUGOUT - DAY - FLASHBACK

Charity game day for the San Diego Padres! A poised Anna stands among the home team with a clipboard.

ANNOUNCER (O.C.)

It's Special Olympics Day at Petco Park! Today's first pitch will be thrown by hometown hero, Ethan Brady, who won a gold medal in Roller Skating in the 2014 games.

APPLAUSE as a young man, ETHAN, standing next to Anna waves.

DAVID, a handsome bench coach, sneaks a kiss with Anna and whispers in her ear. Then drops to one knee. PLAYERS around them catch on and start to cheer.

ANNOUNCER (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls! Looks like our very own Special Events Manager, Anna Saks, has something she needs to say!

A phony, bitter female REPORTER hastens to the dugout to cover this.

REPORTER

What a magical day! For her.

Her cameraman, PHIL, loosens his collar.

PHIL
(whispering)
Babe, we talked about this, I'm
gonna leave Debbie.

CLOSE ON: Anna's panicked face on the Jumbotron.

ANNA
WHAT THE [BLEEP], DAVID?! ARE YOU A
RETARD?! BECAUSE ONLY A [BLEEP]ING
RETARD WOULD [BLEEP]ING PROPOSE
AFTER I TOLD HIM I NEVER WANTED TO
GET [BLEEP]ING MARRIED!

DAVID
Whoa. Just tying my shoe, Anna.

Anna looks around and we hear INTENSE BOOING in the b.g. She looks at Ethan shaking his head.

ANNA
Oh my God! I'm so sorry. I've never
said that word before. I didn't
mean *retarded* retarded.
(beat, frantic)
Well, now I can't stop saying it!

DAVID
Man, your mother really did a
number on--

Without a word, she drops her clipboard and sprints away.

DAVID (CONT'D)
(calling after her)
You're running into the bleachers!
That's not making this any better!

Reporter looks into the camera, smug.

REPORTER
Swing and a miss. Back to you, Bob.

The crowd continues to boo at Anna's face on the big screen.

INT. AIRPLANE - NIGHT - BACK TO PRESENT

We come back on Anna, cringing at the memory. She drops her hand on his crotch.

ANNA

Meet me in the bathroom, Sexy Seat
Mate Who Refuses to Divulge His
Name.

WILLIAM

It's William. I've told you three
times.

She shrugs and takes off. After a beat, he tears after her.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Eleanor (elegant in her 50s, still kooky) and Hector (his outfits are only getting worse) are now best friends. They prepare a special "welcome home" breakfast for Anna in Eleanor's beautiful Cape Cod kitchen. "Woman's World" by Cher plays. Hector reveals a flower arrangement. It's hideous. He ties a leopard scarf around the vase. It's worse.

ELEANOR

Oh my.

HECTOR

(proud)

I know.

Hector notices Eleanor wringing her hands, distracted.

HECTOR (CONT'D)

Uh oh. Tell me you told Anna about your new boyfriend Robert. Per that video we're all pretending we haven't seen, the one I haven't set as my ringtone... Our girl does not like surprises.

ELEANOR

I couldn't find the right time. We've only been seeing each other a month! But after I tell her how we met, I know she'll love him, too.

POP TO:

EXT. BOSTON COMMON - DAY - FLASHBACK

Strolling along on a sunny afternoon, Eleanor gets BEANED IN THE HEAD BY A FOOTBALL. Hard.

ELEANOR

HELP!! OH MY GOD!! I'VE BEEN SHOT!!

In the b.g., ROBERT (50s, a true mensch) runs towards her.

INT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - BACK TO PRESENT

ELEANOR

After that, Hector.

HECTOR

I know, I just love that part.

POP TO:

EXT. BOSTON COMMON - LATER - FLASHBACK

Robert scolds two scrawny TEENAGE BOYS while holding his Dunkin Donuts iced coffee to Eleanor's head.

ROBERT

What is the matter with you savages? There was a lady walking by! Were you raised by animals?

Eleanor has hearts in her eyes. One of the boys takes a menacing (but not really) step towards Robert.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Okay okay, I think you've learned your lessons. Especially you with the moustache. Come on, ma'am.

An arm around Eleanor, he hastens her away.

INT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - BACK TO PRESENT

Eleanor is lost in her romantic memory.

HECTOR

Whatever gets you wet, El.

He cranks up the music and spins her around dramatically.

ELEANOR

Hector! These dance moves!

HECTOR

Much like homosexuality, I found rhythm later in life.

His gyrating pelvis knocks the vase to the floor.

ELEANOR

I hope you're gentler in the bedroom.

HECTOR

(sad)

Maybe we can still do something with the scarf?

She pats his arm with love.

INT. AIRPLANE - AFTERNOON

As people are exiting the plane, William turns to Anna.

WILLIAM

(smiling)

Well, that happened. I'd love to--

Anna grabs her carry on and wordlessly hurries away.

INT. LIZZY'S CAR - AFTERNOON

She collapses with a sigh into the backseat and slouches down to avoid being seen. Lizzy (weird as ever) drives. Nick (still hot, still a cad) rides shotgun.

LIZZY

Oh, I know that body language.
What's his name?

ANNA

It never came up. Thanks for
grabbing me on such short notice!

NICK

Our pleasure. And hey, you got me
out of a really lame date, so thank
you.

Anna and Nick fist bump. Lizzy frowns.

LIZZY

You've been sleeping with Jill for
ten months. Slipping out during her
mother's wake was not okay.

NICK

What's not okay is an open casket
when her mother clearly died in a
horrific fire. Am I wrong? Anyway!
Anna Bear, we saw that video...

ANNA

Please, Nick. So not a big deal.

NICK

Ehhh, felt like a pretty big deal.

POP TO:

INT. NICK'S OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK

Nicks's at his desk watching the video on Youtube. It has
MILLIONS of hits. We hear the female Reporter's audio.

REPORTER (O.S.)

Poor Anna. She must be the most hated person in San Diego! And rightfully so.

(calling out)

So, David, you're single now?

NICK

(at the screen)

Awful.

(below his desk)

Not you, Ginger. Don't stop.

INT. LIZZY'S CAR - BACK TO PRESENT

LIZZY

Plus side, you looked super skinny. Our weekly FaceTimes do not do you justice.

ANNA

Agreed. But honestly, it was the best thing that happened to me.

LIZZY

Which part? Abandoning that hot perfect man or when people threw trash at you?

ANNA

(beat)

Yes. Because I now know I'm a freakin' mess.

Lizzy and Nick make weak noncommittal noises.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Just like with how skinny I looked, you're right to agree. Think about it, how could I not be a mess after everything Mom put me through?

NICK

She caused you to say 'retard' near a hot mic?

ANNA

I mean, kind of! Due to my garbage upbringing - no offense.

(beat)

But I figured it's the perfect time for the prodigal daughter to return and allow her to make amends. You know, now that she's single.

NICK

Single? What makes you say that?

ANNA

Sleuth that I am, I saw she disabled her Match profile. Which, as you can imagine, frees up a lot of her time. She's finally on the wagon!

NICK

Anna, you know--

Lizzy turns up the radio, drowning him out. It's the Mariah Carey/Boyz II Men classic, "One Sweet Day."

LIZZY

Oh my God, Anna! This was our jam!
(sotto to Nick re: Anna)
Do not unleash that in here.

Lizzy sings loudly as Anna rests her head against the window and smiles.

EXT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DUSK

Anna gets out of Lizzy's car; Hector is in the driveway.

HECTOR

Is that Anna Nicole Smith?!

ANNA

Aww, no. 'Cause she's dead.

HECTOR

Two tragic beauties, both caught in the whirlpool of the limelight.

He admires her at arm's length, and gives her a warm hug. He then pulls away and quickly checks his watch.

HECTOR (CONT'D)

Well, I don't need to be here for this so shante you stay and I'll,

ANNA

Sashay away.

HECTOR

Sashay away.

ANNA

How lucky am I that I can quote RuPaul with my father?

Anna heads inside as Hector leans into the passenger window.

HECTOR

Lizzy, love that perm.

He leans in a little closer, sniffing with an impish grin.

HECTOR (CONT'D)

Nick, smelling like stank and regret as always.

NICK

Okay. Take care, Hector.

Hector's phone rings - Anna's voice from her public meltdown: "ARE YOU [BLEEP]ING..." He quickly silences it and tears off.

INT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

Anna enters and drops her bags.

ELEANOR (O.S.)

Anna? Is that you, honey?

ANNA

Who else would it be?

Eleanor tears around the corner and embraces Anna tightly.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Aw, Mom, it's okay. Alright now you're hurting me. I can't breathe.

ELEANOR

Mothers are allowed to smother! Especially when their babies are going through a rough time.

ANNA

By your pitying tone, I'm guessing you saw the video. Honestly, Mom, it's fine. It's actually given me a lot to think about.

(really selling it)

So let's sit down, order some takeout, and really talk. You look great; single life agrees with you.

ELEANOR

Thank you, honey, but--

Robert enters with a shopping bag.

ROBERT

Lucy, I'm home!

ANNA

(not playing along)

Anna's home. Who the hell are you?

ELEANOR

Anna, this is Robert... My
boyfriend.

ANNA

Your what now?

ROBERT

It's so nice to meet you, Anna!
Despite the comments section on
your video, you seem like a very
lovely girl.

(helping, but not helping)

Not a [BLEEPING] [BLEEPY] [BLEEP].

INT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATER

Anna sits at the table glowering over her wine glass after
dinner as Robert and Eleanor recount their adorable story.

ELEANOR

...And then Robert rescued me.

ANNA

From a football.

ELEANOR

(not hearing Anna)

You should have seen him in action!

Robert goes to get something from the other room, kissing
Eleanor as he exits. Anna rolls her eyes and makes a hidden
jerk off motion.

ANNA

Real sorry I missed all that.

Robert returns with a shofar in one hand and an apple, plate,
and bear of honey in the other.

ROBERT

Happy New Year!

ANNA

That a giant crack pipe you're
holding, Robert? It's September.

ELEANOR

Which is when we celebrate Rosh
Hashanah, the Jewish New Year.

ANNA
Mom, we're WASPs.

ELEANOR
But Robert is not. And that's okay.

ANNA
Sure, Jews are fine. But Mom, I
actually really need to--

But Eleanor is preoccupied with how shakily Robert is slicing the apple. He knocks over the plate as he pours honey on it.

ELEANOR
(to Robert)
Are you all right?

ANNA
No, because I'm trying to have a
conversation, but you--

ROBERT
Just a little nervous. Eleanor,
forgive me for getting all
verklempt, but with your daughter
here, I see no better time. I know
it's only been a month but...

He gets down on one knee...

ANNA
(frantic)
Please just be tying your shoe!

And presents a ring.

ROBERT
Will you marry me?

ANNA
(whispering)
Just say no, Mom, just say no.

ELEANOR
Oh-- I-- I... YES! Of course yes!

Eleanor leaps into his arms. Anna squeezes her wine glass so tightly it SHATTERS in her hand.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Eleanor cleans up from dinner, elated. Anna is reeling.

ELEANOR

Honey, did you really think I
wasn't going to get married again?
Come on, it's my thing.

Eleanor mocks jazz hands. Her joke doesn't land with Anna.

ANNA

What kind of loser proposes to a
woman he's only known for a month,
who's been married five times?!
(off El's guilty look)
Nice. You never told him.

ELEANOR

At first, it was just carnal 'Thank
you for saving my life' sex--

ANNA

Dear God, please--

ELEANOR

--But then it became more than
that. Anna, I have this feeling...

ANNA

And per your track record, do the
opposite of whatever that is!

Eleanor takes Anna's hand.

ELEANOR

It's different this time. Robert's
special.

ANNA

Mom, think about it. All of your
marriages ended in fiery train
wrecks, but at least they started
off normal and honest. This one is
already beginning with a lie. Work
with me, Mom, I can't help you if
you don't help yourself.

ELEANOR

For Christ's sake this isn't rehab.

ANNA

Of course not. The cornerstone of rehab is honesty.

ELEANOR

Very funny. I will tell him, Anna. Maybe even tonight.

ANNA

That's a huge relief. Yes. Tonight. Promise?

ELEANOR

I do.

Anna chugs from the wine bottle. Eleanor watches, put off.

ANNA

I'm sorry, those words. I can't.

INT. ED'S PEDIATRIC PRACTICE - HIS OFFICE - NEXT DAY

Anna's on the couch, therapy style, feet up. Ed (loves scotch, barely tolerates kids) sits at his desk looking over a medical chart. Throughout it all, he's still her favorite.

ED

Ah, come on, do you need to put your shoes all over the couch?

ANNA

Hey, I came here for your warm company and a preemptive script for UTI meds, not a lecture.

ED

As both your father and a pediatrician, I can't tell you how proud that makes me. Let's hear it.

ANNA

He's just so... *uch*. And together they're just so... *uch*.

ED

Yeah, that private school tuition was worth it.

(beat)

What's the real problem here?

ANNA

Oh God, is it dementia already? Sometimes I forget how old you are.

(slowly, loudly)

(MORE)

ANNA (CONT'D)

The problem is Robert.

(off his look, genuine)

It's just, I came all the way home to deal with why I'm so crazy, which is apparently the result of her never-ending marriages. And her getting married again kinda takes a dump on that a million different ways.

ED

No one's taking a dump anywhere, Anna.

(re: chart)

Unlike this boy's Scoliosis, Robert's temporary. My money says he won't even make it to the church.

This lands with Anna and she looks hopeful.

ANNA

I mean he's Jewish, but point made.

ED

Fine, the Jewish church. Now, I hear my little princess is famous! Something about a Jumbotron? Can you come show me on the YouBoot?

Anna cringes and tries to divert.

ANNA

Sure... Or we could go to the track and play the ponies. Ya know, live up your final days, old man!

ED

Now, Anna, you know how Susan feels about gambling and how I feel about abandoning my sick little patients.

PARENT (O.S.)

Joey, we do not doody in the hall!

ED

Like I always taught you, go out the window. It's faster.

INT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - ANNA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Anna lies in bed looking at a photo of her and Judge Baccus in court, both in judiciary robes. She's holding a candy bucket and the frame says "Happy Halloween."

ROBERT (O.S.)

Anna? It's Robert. Can we talk?

ANNA

(wary)

All right.

He steps inside.

ROBERT

Thought I'd come say good night.
Also I wanted to tell you... I
know. And it's okay.

ANNA

(tentatively hopeful)

It is?

ROBERT

I know how hard it is. My wife
passed away and I also have a kid.
Navigating this stuff is tough.

ANNA

That's all you know? Robert, you
met a month ago--

ROBERT

I also know that I never thought
I'd love anyone ever again. Life is
short and I'm not going to waste a
minute.

He sits on the edge of Anna's bed, serious yet vulnerable.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Trust me, there's nothing you could
say that would change that.

ANNA

But Robert--

ROBERT

I'm a good man, Anna. I promise.

She can only nod in response, bothered that her mom broke her promise. He smiles then exits.

Anna looks to the Halloween frame one more time, and then closes her eyes and takes a deep, "well, here we go" breath.

ANNA (V.O.)

God grant me the serenity to accept
the stupid things I cannot change,

INT. ELEANOR'S CAR/EXT. NICK'S RESTAURANT - NEXT DAY

Anna rolls up while on the phone. Nick hands her a to-go cup through her window. They fist bump and she drives off.

ANNA (V.O.)

The courage to change the things I
can,

INT. ED'S PEDIATRIC OFFICE - DAY

Ed's Edlerly Receptionist hands him a message memo, "You were right about the new guy. Never gonna make it to that Jew Church. Nick's at 8. NO SUSAN. Xo, Anna."

ANNA (PRE-LAP)

And the wisdom to know the
difference. Maybe.

INT. NICK'S RESTAURANT - BAR - NIGHT

Anna struts in, cinched and lifted. Nick and Lizzy are there.

LIZZY

Were you talking to yourself?

ANNA

Just saying I saw the patio and
it's perfect!

NICK

Remind me what it is you're doing?

ANNA

Oh, just something special for my
Mom's latest.

LIZZY

Your mouth says special but your
eyes say crazy. I know this is
hard, but you're being weird.

ANNA

I'm great! Thirsty, but great.

NICK

Good enough for me. And hey, any
excuse to see your mother in a
cocktail dress, right?

A scorned female BARTENDER half his age scowls at him.

ANNA

This calls for a celebratory drink!
One part victory, two parts vodka.

INT. ELEANOR'S CAR - NIGHT

Eleanor and Robert both look nice. He drives, humming with excitement and grinning like a fool.

ROBERT

Boy, I am really excited for this
'family dinner.' Anna's words, not
mine. Can you believe it?
(then)
Oh shoot, there it is!

Robert pulls a sudden U-ey into the valet stand at "NICK'S."
Eleanor clocks this and her brain spins into action.

ELEANOR

OH NO!

ROBERT

What?! What's wrong?

ELEANOR

I completely forgot to set the DVR
for Anderson Cooper. He's doing
that special tonight on transgender
kids with cleft lips. So help me,
Robert, I can't miss that.

ROBERT

We'll catch part two, the 'after.'

ELEANOR

(faking)
Yeah. And... OW! OW! OUCH!

ROBERT

What?! What now?

ELEANOR

My foot. It... hurts me.

ROBERT

We'll be inside in no time, El,
then you can just sit and relax.

ELEANOR

Wait Robert, there's something I
need to tell you--

But he's already jumped out of the car. Eleanor crosses herself, then digs in her purse to find an RX bottle. A VALET ATTENDANT opens her door.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
Don't you judge me.

She shakes out two Xannies and takes them down.

INT. NICK'S RESTAURANT PATIO - NIGHT

CLOSE ON: Eleanor and Robert weave around tables crowded with DINERS. The atmosphere is very Provence, strung garden lights sparkling above. They FREEZE once they come to their table - Hector and Nick are on one side; Lizzy and Anna (buzzed) on the other. WIDEN TO REVEAL: PENIS PARAPHERNALIA EVERYWHERE.

ANNA
Hi, guys!

Eleanor puts her palm to her mouth. A long beat of silence.

HECTOR
(explaining, tentative)
I was pitched a bachelorette party.

ANNA
No, you weren't.

INT. ELEANOR'S CAR - DAY - FLASHBACK

Anna's on the phone with Hector.

HECTOR (O.C.)
So, I assume this is a bachelorette party? What's the theme?

While driving, a car cuts her off. She lays on the horn.

ANNA
DICKS! DICKS EVERYWHERE!

INT. NICK'S RESTAURANT PATIO - BACK TO PRESENT

HECTOR
Oh.

Ed strolls in. He scans the silent room and slowly sits.

ED
[BLEEP].

ANNA
Robert, I'd like you to meet my
dads, Eleanor's ex-husbands. Three
of the party of five.
(MORE)

ANNA (CONT'D)

Four more than the one she told you about.

(finger guns to Ed)
Private school math!

ROBERT

(sotto to Eleanor)
All of them? Even the gay designer with the bad taste?

Hector inhales dramatically, having heard.

ELEANOR

Hector, honey, he didn't mean that.

HECTOR

Too bad my hearing isn't as bad as my taste, Mr. Burlington Coat Factory!

He crosses his arms and swivels around with a "harumph!".

ELEANOR

(to Robert)
I can explain!
(pointing to Ed)
Anna's lousy dad drove me to him...
(pointing to Nick)
Who drove me to him...
(pointing to Hector)
Who, yes fine, drove me to him...

Eleanor stops... this isn't helping.

ANNA

(drunk)
So, million dollar question, who's Robert gonna drive you to?

Crickets. Anna slurps her drink. Robert looks wrecked.

ELEANOR

Anna, what is wrong with you?

LIZZY

Unhinged. I called it.

ANNA

Unhinged?! I'm the only one who's thinking clearly! I mean, come on, Mom, Robert's 'the one?'

ELEANOR

Yes. He is.

ANNA

Really? 'The one' like Hector was
'the one?'

Hector flicks his hand but does not turn around.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Or Nick?

NICK

I'm only in here to avoid a pissy
bartender. Also, hello Eleanor.

He winks at Eleanor. She does not have time for that.

ANNA

Or Ed? Who, no, is not my pop-pop,
but one of my fathers.

ED

Anna, you're being a goddamn idiot.

Anna twirls a light up penis charm around her finger, which
flies off and plunks into a stranger's soup.

ELEANOR

I've never been so hurt, Anna. And
Nick once tried to sleep with your
nana, so that is saying a lot.

NICK

(quietly raising a glass)
See you on the other side,
Beatrice.

ROBERT

I think I should go.

Robert exits and Eleanor chases after him.

ANNA

And there she goes. What a shock.
Running off with a new man and
leaving her daughter with a mess of
discarded dicks!

Hector swivels around, pissy.

HECTOR

Again. I thought this was a
bachelorette party.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. NICK'S RESTAURANT - VALET STAND - NIGHT

Mother and daughter have the face-off that's been years in the making. Anna is, for once, a geyser of emotion.

ELEANOR

How could you do that to me?

ANNA

How about 'you're welcome?!' I just saved you save you a sixth trip down the aisle! What do you think happens once he finds out you lied to him? He leaves you, and I can't watch you go through that again.

ELEANOR

You don't know that for sure!

ANNA

Really? I think my almost 30 years of being dragged through 'Hello/I love you/Good-bye' begs to differ.

ELEANOR

Is that why you're here? To humiliate and punish me?

ANNA

What? No! I came back here to make things right! To give you the opportunity to fix things!

Eleanor is exasperated and completely caught off guard.

ELEANOR

What do I need to fix, Anna?

ANNA

ME. US. EV-ER-Y-THING.

(beat)

I had a stable life with a perfect guy that all came crashing down THE MINUTE HE BENT DOWN TO TIE HIS SHOE. That's how terrified I am of turning into you.

Stung, but Eleanor doesn't back down.

ELEANOR

And what a terrible thing that would have been.

(MORE)

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Becoming a woman who loves her daughter more than life itself, and gives her everything from piano lessons to preteen electrolysis. What a monster I was!

(beat)

Lots of kids come from divorced homes, and they have it much worse. Look at poor Lizzy! Nick's been with so many women, she doesn't even know who her real mother is.

ANNA

That's not how it works! Besides, Lizzy didn't miss field trips to go to divorce court. Lizzy didn't miss Christmas one year because you were too sad to get out of bed. The most embarrassing moment of Lizzy's life wasn't turned into a widely-circulated meme!

ELEANOR

I DON'T KNOW WHAT A MEME IS!

ANNA

IT'S NOT GOOD, MOM! IT'S NOT GOOD!

They take a breath.

ELEANOR

Anna, I did my best. But you're an adult now. And one day you'll have to wake up and realize you can't blame all your problems on me.

ANNA

Maybe it'll happen the same time you wake up and realize you can't use men to solve all of yours.

Damn. The Bartender comes out holding a GIANT PENIS-SHAPED ICE CREAM CAKE that's starting to melt.

BARTENDER

Either of you want this? I can't. It reminds me too much of Nick.

INT. NICK'S RESTAURANT - BAR - SAME

Ed, Nick, and Hector sit at the bar. In moments like this, they're comrades-in-arms. Ed jabs at his phone while the others watch Anna stalk away from Eleanor outside.

NICK

Damn, Eleanor's still got it.

HECTOR

(still smarting)

I'm going to be the bigger person
and say 'poor Robert.' Yeesh.

ED

How did we not know until tonight
that Anna was so screwed up?

HECTOR

Some of us caught wind last week.

Hector hits something on his phone; the video finally plays.

ED

Christ almighty.

(beat)

Alright guys, we have to fix her so
she can fix this. We're all in this
crap pile together.

NICK

You're right. We gotta make this
right for our girls. Hell, for
Robert. He's one of us now.

HECTOR

(sipping a cosmo, judgy)

Hmmm, is he?

ED

Easy, Hector. You're barely one of
us.

EXT. BOSTON AQUARIUM - MORNING

The sun rises over the Boston Aquarium.

INT. BOSTON AQUARIUM - CONTINUOUS

Bird's-eye view of Anna, passed out on a bench in front of a
wall of fish. Smearred makeup and last night's clothes.

NICK (O.S.)

Wakey wakey, Anna. Open your drunk
little eyes.

Anna looks up to see Ed, Nick, and Hector standing over her.

ANNA

How did you find me?

ED

This is where I took you the day
your mom told you we were splitting
up. I know it's your favorite sad
place.

HECTOR

(to Ed)

It is?

(to Anna)

Should we have come here instead of
the Ram Rod?

Tears start to stream down Anna's face.

NICK

I've never seen her cry before.

ED

It's okay honey, let it out.

ANNA

(through sobs)

I don't know what a real
relationship is...

ED

That's it, keep going.

ANNA

I had sex with a random guy on a
plane...

The men exchange grimaces/shrugs.

HECTOR

Uh, sure. Let that out, too.

ANNA

When I was little, I had dirty
dreams about Foghorn Leghorn.

Hector pats her head.

NICK

Let's put some of it back in.

ANNA

I just have so many feelings, and I
don't know from where or why or
what to do with them...

The guys exchange looks.

ED

Yeah, well, we talked about that.
And we think it's our fault, Anna.

ANNA

How? I like it. But how?

ED

You had it rough, what with all the
marriages and divorces. But you
were so grown up about it, we
always talked to you more like
friends instead of fathers.

Anna sits up and wipes her eyes.

NICK

I fist-bumped you in the car about
bailing on a wake. Not great.

ANNA

You also brought me a curbside
mudslide while I was driving.

The dads scowl at him.

NICK

I know, I said not great.

HECTOR

I made your meltdown my ringtone
and called you Anna Nicole Smith.
That wasn't very sensitive.

ED

Sure, we spent all day at the
track, but in my defense that's
where we had your fifth birthday.

(beat)

Gotta admit, not too sorry about
that. Anyway, because we were all
pinch hitters in the dad game, we
never thought it was our job to
discipline you. So we didn't. The
only real thing we taught you was
how to bail on an uncomfortable
situation.

ANNA

That's true! Thanks, guys. I feel
much better.

She gets up to leave, but they plop her back down.

ED

But that stops now.

NICK

Like you said, you're a disgusting mess--

ANNA

--I never used the word disgusting--

NICK

--But you're our disgusting mess.
So, let's clean you up together.

Nick nudges Hector, who steels himself.

HECTOR

Anna, what you did last night was stupid. Now get up, clean yourself off, and go apologize to your mother! Oh God, that was so mean, I almost fell over from the shock.

ANNA

(quietly)

I'm scared Robert left.

NICK

Then he's no better than us. But if he didn't, then he is.

ANNA

I guess if I came home to fix things with Mom, that includes him now, too.

ED

(to the dads)

Look at that, making progress already!

Anna eats up all the praise.

ANNA

Cool! So, would you mind telling Mom and Robert the good news? I'm pretty wiped.

HECTOR

What? Get in the car! Are you a retard--

(catches himself)

Oh God! Did she get that from me?

EXT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - DAY

Nick's car pulls up. Ed's in the front and Hector sits in the back with Anna.

ANNA

Maybe we should circle the block.
Talk this through some more?

ED

I'm exhausted.

NICK

I have plans.

HECTOR

Just get out.

ANNA

Okay, okay. I'm going.

INT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

She slinks in, expecting the worst. And bumps into Robert!

ANNA

You're still here!
(sotto, realizing)
You really are special.

ROBERT

Last night I ducked out to get the
car. Your mom had a problem with
her foot, so--

Anna lunges at him for a hug. He's overcome and pats her.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

I'll give you two some time alone.

INT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Anna enters. Eleanor looks up from her coffee. It's tense.

ANNA

So. Robert's sticking it out?

ELEANOR

It was a rough night, but we got
through it. Anna, I realized that
each marriage was a reaction to the
one before it. But this time it's
really just about Robert.

ANNA

I'm glad. Mom, I am so sorry.

ELEANOR

Funny, I was always the one saying that to you.

ANNA

Yeah, not loving this. I feel horrible for last night. I was... not at my best.

ELEANOR

Well, after everything you've just been through and the years of being such a trooper, I suppose you get one pass.

Anna lightly claps her hands, the mood lightening. Then,

ANNA

Also, sorry for all the wangs.

ELEANOR

(clipped)
Never speak of it again, please.

ANNA

Deal. Absolutely. Sorry.

ELEANOR

What hurt most was hearing that your takeaway from childhood is love being something to avoid at all costs. Sure, sometimes it's full of disappointment, infidelity, and latent homosexuality, but it's worth it. It's why I kept trying. One day I hope you will, too.

ANNA

Not quite ready yet. But as you've already gone through every eligible man in the state, here seems like a safe place to wait it out.

ELEANOR

Does that mean you'll stay?

ANNA

As long as you and Robert can keep the carnal action to a minimum, I want to stick it out for a while.

Anna smiles and Eleanor smiles back.

INT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Robert and Anna toast bagels while Eleanor sits at the table. Anna reaches into her purse and presents Robert with a mug of a fugly, fugly fish labeled "Black Crappie."

ANNA

Robert, I present to you this Black Crappie mug as a token of my sincerest apologies. Also sorry it's a mug that says 'Crappie.'

ROBERT

Apology accepted.
(sotto to Anna)
It's not your fault your mother screwed up and didn't tell me.

ANNA

(sotto to Robert)
Right? Thank you.

ROBERT

You got this mug from the aquarium gift shop, didn't you?

ANNA

Yeah, how'd you know?

ROBERT

I'm the facilities manager there.

ANNA

(geniune)
Really? That's pretty cool, Robert!

They join Eleanor at the table.

ROBERT

Too bad I have to head over there after breakfast. I got a call about a break-in. What degenerate animal breaks into an aquarium?

POP TO:

INT. BOSTON AQUARIUM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Face against the tank, Anna sings/cries to a beluga whale.

ANNA

*And I know you're shining down on
me from heaven / Like so many
friends we've lost along the way...*

INT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - BACK TO PRESENT

ANNA

Shameful. Hey, pass the lox.

The doorbell rings. Eleanor loses it.

ELEANOR

Damn it, Anna! Can't we have one nice meal together without you inviting my ex-husbands?!

ROBERT

Actually, I invited someone.

ELEANOR

Oh?

ROBERT

I got a call yesterday from my kid, but in the midst of all the... I'll just say excitement, I didn't want to drop that bomb on you!

Robert exits the kitchen.

ANNA

Can't wait to meet Robert's daughter. Wonder if she also likes to walk around with no pants, when someone's in the TV room just trying to get through a Lean Cuisine.

Just then Robert walks in with William. FROM THE PLANE.

ROBERT

Anna, Eleanor, I'd like to introduce you to my son, William.

As Anna and William regard one another with shock, we...

SMASH TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE