

FOUR PLAY

a pilot by:

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. NURSERY - LATE NIGHT

WE ARE IN A SPECTACULARLY DECORATED NURSERY. LIGHT STRAINS OF "MAMA'S GONNA BUY YOU A MOCKINGBIRD" PLAY FROM THE MUSIC BOX BY THE DOOR. TWO PARENTS, LEIGH (LATE 30'S, TALL, BRUNETTE) AND NATHAN (40, CUTE AND QUIRKY) ARE RANSACKING A CRIB. LEIGH IS PANICKED, NATHAN IS CALM. IN THE CRIB IS AN ADORABLE BABY (MADDIE, CHINESE, 6 MONTHS) STARING UP AT A MOBILE WITH STUFFED SEA CREATURES, INCLUDING A ONE-EYED SQUID.

LEIGH

She swallowed it. I know she did.

NATHAN

Not necessarily.

LEIGH

Well, then where did it go, Nathan?!

Normally squid eyes don't disappear.

NATHAN

And normally babies don't eat squid eyes.

LEIGH STARTS LOOKING ON HER HANDS AND KNEES.

LEIGH

In happier times, that sentence would've made me laugh.

NATHAN

I know, honey, we'll just keep it in our back pocket.

LEIGH STANDS UP, EMPTY HANDED. MADDIE COUGHS A LITTLE. LEIGH PICKS HER UP AND HOLDS HER. NATHAN DIALS HIS CELL.

LEIGH

Oh dear God. We've only had her two months and we already broke her. China's going to come take her back.

NATHAN

(INTO PHONE) Hello, yes, Dr. Tannis? It's Nathan and Leigh. We're so sorry to call you at home again, but we think Maddie swallowed a plastic squid eye, actually, and...

LEIGH

Tell him it's the size of a very small mulberry.

NATHAN

(TO LEIGH) A mulberry?!

LEIGH

Semantics? Really?!

NATHAN

(INTO PHONE) Yes. Maddie seems fine, but... (BEAT) Okay. I guess we could just... (BEAT) We'll do that. Thank you.

HE HANGS UP.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Okay, can you do "calm" now? My shift was up two minutes ago.

LEIGH INHALES DEEPLY AND NODS. NATHAN EXPLODES.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

He says if we want to be really careful we should go to the emergency room and get an x-ray. Oh, my sweet Maddie, my sweet baby girl.

LEIGH

(SOOTHINGLY) That's only if we don't find it. Which we will.

(BEAT) Imminently.

NATHAN LOOKS AT HER.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

I can't help that it calms me to talk fancy.

NATHAN NODS. HE LOOKS UNDER MADDIE'S MATTRESS.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

It placates me. It assuages. (BEAT)
And, also? 97% of all babies who swallow toys make a full recovery.

NATHAN GASPS.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

What? What?!

NATHAN

Squid eye! Squid eye!

LEIGH

Oh my God, we didn't break the baby!

NATHAN

We didn't break the baby!

THEY HUG. THEN CAREFULLY PUT MADDIE BACK IN HER CRIB. NATHAN TAKES LEIGH'S HAND AND SMILES.

LEIGH

How do people DO this?!

NATHAN

I love the crap out of you, wife
person.

LEIGH

My poet. I love you, too. (TO
MADDIE) Goodnight, angel.

MADDIE GURGLES HAPPILY, AS THEY WALK OUT.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

THEY WALK DOWN THE HALL.

NATHAN

Do they need you in early tomorrow?

LEIGH

Yup. Let's see, if I fall asleep
right now... (LOOKS AT HER WATCH)
I will still be way screwed.

NATHAN

Well, I'm on duty tonight. Don't
you worry about a thing.

LEIGH

You're my hero.

NATHAN

You're my breadwinner.

THEY STOP AND FACE EACH OTHER. A QUICK KISS ON THE LIPS,
AND THEY EACH OPEN DOORS ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE HALLWAY.

INT. LEIGH'S ROOM

THERE, IN HER BED, IS A MAN IN HIS MID-30'S, (OLIVER,
BEAUTIFUL, ARTISTIC, DRESSED ONLY IN BOXERS). HE LOOKS UP
AND SMILES.

INT. NATHAN'S ROOM

THERE, IN HIS BED, LIES A MAN IN HIS MID 40'S, (MIKE, WEARING ARMANI SPECS, VERY SOPHISTICATED). HE'S WORKING ON A LAPTOP.

INT. HALLWAY

NATHAN AND LEIGH LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND SMILE.

NATHAN

Good night.

LEIGH

Good night.

THEY BOTH GO IN THEIR RESPECTIVE ROOMS.

FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONEINT. LEIGH'S ROOM - SIMULTANEOUS

LEIGH WALKS IN HER DOOR AND BARELY CLOSES IT BEFORE SHE'S ATTACKED BY OLIVER AND THROWN ON TO THE BED. SHE LAUGHS.

OLIVER

I've never done it with a married woman before.

LEIGH

Actually, I believe you did three times last night.

OLIVER

I meant in the larger sense.

LEIGH

Ooh, hello...speaking of larger...

THEY KISS. LEIGH SUDDENLY STOPS. SHE GETS UP AND WALKS TO A CHEST OF DRAWERS.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

Oops, before I forget, I found this in my sock drawer this morning.

SHE HOLDS UP A TINY, SILVER CUFFLINK.

OLIVER

Oh yeah, I left it here by mistake the other night so I tossed it in there for safe keeping.

SHE HANDS IT TO HIM.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

(SMILES) I don't really have
anywhere to put it right now.

HE PUTS IT ON THE BEDSIDE TABLE, THEN KISSES HER AGAIN. HE
POINTS TO THE BABY MONITOR.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

She can't actually hear us, can
she?

LEIGH

No. Plus, she's a hundred and eighty
days old. Shock her, I dare you.

OLIVER

Rising to the challenge as we speak.

LEIGH

I get so turned on by lame
innuendo...

INT. NATHAN'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

NATHAN ENTERS. HE LOOKS AT MIKE AND SMILES, THEN WALKS OVER
AND GIVES HIM A HUGE KISS ON THE MOUTH. MIKE SMILES.

MIKE

I've been thinking.

NATHAN

What have I said about that?

MIKE

I'm serious.

NATHAN

Okay. Then I'm mildly concerned.

MIKE

I've been commuting forty five minutes every night from my house to yours since you brought Maddie home.

NATHAN

I know. I know, I should do more of the driving, but...

MIKE

And it's been over a year since your business went under.

NATHAN

You're doing wonders for my self esteem here, honey.

MIKE

My lease is up in a couple of months, and I think we should talk about me moving in. (BEAT, SMILES) I just feel like it's time. I'm here every night anyway and I could help out with Maddie. And with the rent.

NATHAN

You want to move in here? With me? With us? Here?

MIKE

I do.

NATHAN

That's...huge.

MIKE

It's not small.

NATHAN

Just you, me, my wife, and my
child... (BEAT, SINCERELY) I would
love that.

MIKE

(SMILES LASCIVIOUSLY) Prove it.

WE HEAR MADDIE'S CRY OVER THE MONITOR: WAAAAAAA!

INT. HALLWAY - SAME TIME

LEIGH AND NATHAN BOTH OPEN THEIR DOORS.

NATHAN

Sweetie, I've totally got this.

LEIGH

I'm still up, I'll go too.

THEY WALK DOWN THE HALLWAY. NATHAN IS POSITIVELY GIDDY.

NATHAN

I have to tell you something.

LEIGH

Me too. Mine involves an errant
cufflink. But you go first.

NATHAN

Mike is interested in perhaps moving
in. Here. With us. Full time!

LEIGH SAYS NOTHING.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Part of the family.

SHE STILL SAYS NOTHING. HE SHAKES HIS HEAD AND SMILES.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

It's just been such long time since
I've felt this way about anybody,
I'd kind of given up hope, you know?

THEY ARRIVE AT MADDIE'S DOOR.

INT. NURSERY - SAME TIME

LEIGH PICKS UP A CRYING MADDIE.

LEIGH

She's not wet. I think she just
wants to be held. (CUTELY, TO
MADDIE) I get that way too,
sometimes. Yes I do...

NATHAN

(SINGING QUIETLY) Rock-a-bye baby,
on the tree top. This song gets
real creepy, so soon I will stop.
(SPEAKING) Chime in, Mommy.

LEIGH

(SINGING) Your cradle's not falling,
your bough will not break. But
please stop your crying, and sleep
for Godsake.

MADDIE STOPS CRYING, NATHAN KISSES HER HEAD, AND LEIGH PUTS
HER BACK IN THE CRIB. THEY TIPTOE BACK INTO THE HALLWAY.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME TIME

LEIGH AND NATHAN WALK BACK TO THEIR RESPECTIVE ROOMS.

NATHAN

And it wouldn't be that different
from now, really. He's here all
the time anyway...

SHE SAYS NOTHING.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

I can't help but notice you're not
really participating.

SHE SAYS NOTHING.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Even a facial expression would be
really helpful here.

LEIGH

Shouldn't you talk to your wife
before you move your boyfriend in?

NATHAN

(SMILES) You might actually own
that sentence.

SHE DOESN'T LAUGH.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Okay. Sorry. I'm just excited,
and I know how much you like him,
so I thought you'd be happy for us.

LEIGH

I am. I'm just...

BEAT. SHE DOESN'T FINISH.

NATHAN

Are you okay?

LEIGH

Yeah, no, I'm fine. Fine. Totally
fine.

THEY STOP AT THEIR DOORS. NATHAN JUST LOOKS AT HER.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

I'm "fine"-ish. I'm..."fine"
adjacent. (SMALL SMILE) I can see
"fine" from my house.

NATHAN

We can talk through all of this
tomorrow. We'll figure it out. I
promise.

NATHAN KISSES HER FOREHEAD AND THEY ENTER THEIR ROOMS.

INT. KITCHEN - NEXT MORNING

MIKE AND NATHAN SIT AT THE TABLE, DRINKING COFFEE AND
LAUGHING. LEIGH COMES IN, DRESSED FOR WORK, AND CAREFULLY
PLACES OLIVER'S CUFFLINK AT ONE OF THE PLACE SETTINGS.

LEIGH

(SMILES) Good morning, gentlemen.

NATHAN HANDS HER A CUP OF COFFEE. BEFORE SHE SIPS --

LEIGH (CONT'D)

Who made the coffee this fine day?

MIKE

Him.

LEIGH

Dammit.

MIKE

I know, right?

LEIGH

Would it kill him to add another scoop? This is like someone whispered the word "coffee" over a cup of hot water. Once. A very long time ago. In a language the water didn't quite understand...

MIKE

(LAUGHS, TO NATHAN) When she's right, she's right.

LEIGH

Believe it or not, it used to be worse. One time, he actually ---

SHE STOPS, AND LOOKS AT MIKE'S HAND.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

Is that my mug?

MIKE

Umm, well? It's plain and white, so I can't really tell...

LEIGH

It has the little crack at the top from when Maddie knocked it over. I love that mug.

MIKE

Oh. Sorry. Mind if I use it?

SHE TAKES A BEAT.

LEIGH

No, no. We can share. (BEAT) I mean, I've been through a lot with it, and it means the world to me -- possibly more than any mug ever has -- but seriously: use it. It's fine.

MIKE

Okay. Thanks. I'll be careful...

LEIGH

(BUILDING IN INTENSITY) It's fine, because I know you're not "absconding" with it or "purloining" it, per se. You're "sharing" it with me. Which is great. Super peachy, even. (WITH DIFFICULTY) As long as I keep reminding myself that, deep down inside, it'll always be "my mug". And that my mug loves me and is there for me. My mug is my rock, through richer and poorer and --

SHE HEARS HERSELF. AS SHE EXITS --

LEIGH (CONT'D)

I have to get to work.

MIKE LOOKS AT NATHAN. FROM THE OTHER ROOM, WE HEAR MADDIE CRY. NATHAN SQUEEZES MIKE'S HAND.

NATHAN

That might've been about more than the mug.

MIKE

You think?!!!

NATHAN

And it warrants a discussion, but
it'll have to be in a few minutes.

MIKE NODS. NATHAN EXITS, AND A VERY SLEEPY OLIVER ENTERS.

OLIVER

(TO MIKE) Mothercrapsucker! You
scared me.

MIKE

Morning. I'm Mike. We've passed
in the night...

OLIVER

Oliver.

MIKE

I'm Nathan's. Nine months, eight
days.

OLIVER

Oh. I'm Leigh's. Four dates...

(CHECKS WATCH) Seven hours.

NATHAN RUSHES IN WITH MADDIE. HE SHOWS HER TO MIKE.

NATHAN

Do her eyes look crossed to you?!

MIKE

She's fine. She's probably just
having trouble focusing.

NATHAN

Is that normal?!

MIKE

Nathan, seriously, give it a half
an hour before we embrace the panic.

NATHAN

(TOTALLY PANICKED) Okay.

HE RUSHES MADDIE OUT OF THE ROOM. OLIVER SITS.

NATHAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Nice to see you again, Oliver!

MIKE

Welcome to the madness.

OLIVER

No kidding, right? (BEAT) How'd
they get together in the first place?

MIKE

Do you two actually talk?

OLIVER

She said discussing her husband
wouldn't be construed as sexy.

MIKE

Fair enough. Watch the first season
of "Will and Grace", focusing on
episodes 3, 5, and 8. It's faster.

OLIVER

Couldn't they raise a kid together
without actually getting married?

MIKE

She's a single woman a sneeze away from forty and he's a single, gay man three years ahead of her. Not strongly sought after criteria in the adoption market. (BEAT) I was married for ten years. To a woman. And we have a son.

OLIVER JUST LOOKS AT HIM.

MIKE (CONT'D)

I bloomed very late. But, the point is: most parents end up being sexless, friendly roommates anyway, so they cut out the middle man.

OLIVER

So, basically that's me now. I'm the middle man.

OLIVER NOTICES THE CUFFLINK ON THE TABLE.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Hey, that's mine.

MIKE

Leigh put it there.

OLIVER

(CONFUSED) She must really really want me to take that thing home.

MIKE

Where did you leave it?

OLIVER

Her sock drawer.

MIKE STUDIES HIM FOR A MOMENT, THEN SHAKES HIS HEAD.

MIKE

Oh, my dear boy. Please, never mention the information I'm about to impart. 1. Treat her like a deer: gently hold out your hand and let her approach you. Do NOT startle her or make sudden moves. 2. Under no circumstances should you ever mention the "C" word...

OLIVER

"Cufflink"?

MIKE

(HE WHISPERS) "Commitment".

OLIVER

You're scaring me.

MIKE

(SOFTLY) I've seen very bad things.

OLIVER

Why are you helping?

MIKE

I'll have more time with my boyfriend if you're sleeping with his wife.

(SMILES) No, I'm rooting for you.

You had me at "mothercrapsucker".

INT. NURSERY - LATER THAT DAY

NATHAN AND MIKE LOOK AT MADDIE'S EYES.

NATHAN

Oh God, they're still crossed. I
did it, I broke the baby.

MIKE

All you did was pick her up.

NATHAN

Zealously. I picked her up
zealously.

MIKE

(REACHING FOR MADDIE) May I?

MIKE TAKES HER, MAKES A FUNNY FACE, AND SHE LAUGHS.

NATHAN

(SMILES) I'm so glad you're here.

MIKE

I'm glad I'm here, too. (BEAT) So
how do we convince your wife that
what this marriage clearly needs is
a live-in boyfriend?

NATHAN

I don't know. I didn't expect her
to react like that.

MIKE

No kidding, that woman seriously
doesn't want anything coming between
her and her...mug.

NATHAN

I'll talk to her. I promise.

THEY HAVE A MOMENT. THE PHONE RINGS. NATHAN ANSWERS.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Dr. Tannis, thank God...is she okay?!

(BEAT) Should I bring her in, just
in case? I live very close by...

(BEAT) Okay. Thank you.

HE HANGS UP THE PHONE.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

He thinks I'm insane. But he doesn't
have the threat of a Chinese invasion
hanging over his head.

MIKE

Oh, God. Don't.

NATHAN

They're coming. When we least expect
it. China's coming to make sure we
haven't screwed up a piece of their
homeland.

MIKE

An entire country is not coming.
One social worker is. Someday.
And she's probably American.

NATHAN

Doesn't matter. One crossed eye
and it's Red Dawn.

MIKE

Those were Russians.

NATHAN

Still red, my friend. Still red.

LEIGH ENTERS. SHE'S A MESS. SHE TAKES MADDIE FROM MIKE.

LEIGH

How is she?

NATHAN

Dr. Tannis says it can sometimes happen at her age, but to watch her carefully for 48 hours, and if it doesn't fix itself he'll suggest an eye specialist, and I'm terrified.

LEIGH

Oh God. And the Chinese are coming.

NATHAN

I know. Calm me.

LEIGH

Let's just...ruminant.

THEY HOLD HANDS AND TAKE DEEP BREATHS.

MIKE

You guys, she'll be fine. Like the doctor said, sometimes this happens.

SUDDENLY, RAPID FIRE BETWEEN NATHAN AND LEIGH --

LEIGH

Fuzzy shrimp!

NATHAN

From the place?

MIKE

You guys are hungry?!

LEIGH

With the puffy...

NATHAN

And the itchy...

MIKE

Who was puffy and what was itchy?

LEIGH

(TO NATHAN) The ER nurse had me
take a picture of your face every
half hour and chart any changes.

NATHAN

Yes! But let's make it every fifteen
minutes for Maddie.

LEIGH

Even better!

NATHAN AND LEIGH EXCITEDLY LEAVE THE ROOM WITH MADDIE.

LEIGH (O.S.) (CONT'D)

The camera's in the kitchen drawer!

NATHAN (O.S.)

The porch has natural light!

MIKE STANDS ALONE. AFTER A BEAT --

MIKE

Good call with the whole "puffy-
itchy-fuzzy-shrimp-natural-light-on-
the-porch"...thing. (BEAT)
(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

Says the invisible baby uncle-type-
person to no one in particular.

(BEAT) Yup. I fit in perfectly...

HE SHAKES HIS HEAD AND WALKS OUT THE DOOR.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. FRONT PORCH - A LITTLE LATER

LEIGH AND NATHAN SIT ON THE STEPS, CAREFULLY STUDYING A STACK OF PICTURES OF MADDIE'S EYE.

LEIGH

I think pictures 18 through 24 show remarkable ocular improvement.

NATHAN

But the eye in 21 is squintier than in 19. (BEAT) I'm glad we decided to do it every five minutes instead.

LEIGH

Yes. Some would say "highly neurotic", I simply say "good parenting".

THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER FOR A BEAT. NATHAN SMILES.

NATHAN

Perhaps every fifteen minutes would lower us to a nice "middling neurotic".

LEIGH

What will we do with all that extra time?!

NATHAN

Wanna talk about your Mike issue?

LEIGH

Not even a little bit.

NATHAN

(GENTLY) It all would've been easier
if you and I had just worked, huh?

LEIGH

Except you were single handedly the
worst sexual experience of my life.

NATHAN

Right?! It's like having 'Nam
flashbacks. And honestly? I
couldn't find you less attractive.

LEIGH

You make me feel like a beautiful
princess.

THERE'S A BEAT.

NATHAN

Wanna talk about your cufflink issue?

LEIGH

That's so not an "issue". I was
only thinking of Maddie.

NATHAN

Sweetie, I love you, but you're
gonna have to connect the dots on
that one.

LEIGH

He can't just leave stuff lying
around like that. It could be Squid
Eye Redux, for God's sake.

NATHAN

Assuming she could reach your sock drawer and open it. With her super-baby strength. And power of flight. (BEAT) Anyway, good. I was worried that you were just pushing him away because you were scared you might actually have a feeling for him.

LEIGH

Okay, now I want to talk about my issue with Mike.

NATHAN

My plan worked perfectly.

LEIGH

He stole my mug!

NATHAN

He must be shot! (BEAT) Look, I think he should move in. He's great with Maddie. He could help us.

LEIGH

Nathan, we've only had her two months, and look what we went through to adopt her in the first place. We got married, we had every square inch of our lives studied for over a year, and we topped it all off with a two week trip to China.

(MORE)

LEIGH (CONT'D)

I can now say "where is the library?"
 along with forty seven other useful
 phrases in Mandarin, for God's sake.
 (BEAT) What's wrong with keeping
 it just the three of us for a while?

NATHAN

Okay, this right here is a long way
 from "fine adjacent".

LEIGH

87% of a child's emotional bonding
 takes place during the first year
 of her life. I want it to be with
 us.

NATHAN

So, you're afraid having too much
 love around the house might actually
 hurt our child?

THEY OPEN THE DOOR. THERE STANDS LEIGH'S MOM (LUCY, LATE
 60'S, SWEET LOOKING) AND LEIGH'S DAD (BOB, EARLY 60'S, LOOKS
 LIKE AN AGING FOOTBALL PLAYER) HOLDING A PAPER BAG.

LUCY

I called here earlier and some man
 told me Maddie had an accident. We
 came as quickly as we could.

LEIGH

Hi, Mom. Dad. (SOTTO, TO NATHAN)
 Totally Mike's place to worry them.
 Very appropriate. Really.

NATHAN BITES HIS LIP. THEY ENTER THE HOUSE.

LUCY

Is the poor thing in her crib?

LEIGH NODS. LUCY CROSSES OUT.

LUCY (CONT'D)

You know, I love that child as if
she were really yours.

BOB

We figured with all the drama, you
didn't have time to cook, so we
brought special take out. (PROUDLY)
It's Chinese!

LEIGH

(SOTTO, TO NATHAN) What he lacks
in subtlety, he makes up for in
enthusiasm.

LUCY CROSSES IN WITH MADDIE.

LUCY

Here's our little angel...

BOB

She took the slow boat right into
our hearts.

NATHAN

(SOTTO, TO LEIGH) Racist, yet oddly
touching.

LUCY LOOKS AT MADDIE'S EYES, THEN AT NATHAN.

LUCY

What did you do to my grandbaby?!

NATHAN

Are you guys hungry? I'm famished.

NATHAN USHERS PEOPLE INTO THE DINING ROOM. HE TURNS TO LEIGH.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Can we go fight again? That was
way more fun...

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

THE FAMILY IS DEVOURING THEIR TAKE OUT.

LUCY

How long until the next picture?

LEIGH

Six minutes.

BOB

Please pass the Kung Pao Ginger
Chicken, LeighLeigh. (BEAT)
"LeighLeigh". That would have been
a hell of a name for Maddie.

LEIGH

She's our child, Dad. Not a panda.

LUCY

Nathan, how is work? Any interiors
being designed by you lately?

NATHAN

No, still looking. Right now, my
only work is the round the clock
care of your granddaughter.

LUCY

Yes. Nicely done so far. (BEAT)
I did some research before we came
over and I hate to tell you, but
sometimes this eye issue is genetic.

SHE LOOKS POINTEDLY AT NATHAN.

NATHAN

We adopted her from China. You're
clear on how my genes have nothing
to do with this, right?

LUCY

I think it's the stress. Babies
are very perceptive, and she knows
somewhere in her sweet little heart
you're not married for real.

LEIGH

Oh my God, Mom, it's been almost
two years! We are married for real.
Why are we still talking about it?

LUCY

Because even your child knows there's
a big, gay elephant in the room!

NATHAN

Thanks, Lucy. You flatter me...

BOB

Nathan, you own the cow, but you're
not drinking the milk.

NATHAN

Beautifully put, Bob.

BOB

You're not sucking at the teat.

NATHAN

Completely got it the first time.

LUCY

(TO LEIGH) You ran from every non-gay you ever dated.

LEIGH

I know! Because --

LUCY

Before you blame us yet again: yes, your father left, but he came back. Every single time.

LEIGH

We're supposed to be talking about Maddie!

LUCY

We are! I'm simply saying that this abnormal arrangement is causing the poor child dismay.

LEIGH

What "arrangement"? A mom, a dad, and baby who all love each other very much? For God's sake, we're the definition of normal.

(MORE)

LEIGH (CONT'D)

We couldn't be more normal. We're
normal wrapped in more normal
liberally smothered in a fine normal
sauce, I mean we --

JUST THEN, IN THE OTHER ROOM, THE DOOR OPENS. MIKE ENTERS.

MIKE (O.S.)

Sweetheart, I know I left pretty
suddenly this morning and I'm sorry.
So, now it's time for some nasty
make up...

HE ENTERS, SEES THE PEOPLE AND THE MEAL, AND STOPS COLD.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Moo shu.

EVERYONE JUST STARES AT HIM.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Moo shu.

NATHAN

Yup. Second time really sold it.

LEIGH

(QUICKLY) Oh look at that! Time
for a picture.

BOB

LeighLeigh, maybe her eyes are just
supposed to look that way.

LUCY

(TO NATHAN) Or maybe it's all the
"Moo Shu" you boys are having.

LEIGH EXITS. MIKE LOOKS AT NATHAN. WHAT?!

NATHAN

After a while, you just go numb.

BOB

She needs to sleep on her stomach for the night. That'll cure what ails her.

LUCY

Yes, Bob, because everyone knows eyes cross when you sleep on your back. (TO MIKE, POINTEDLY) Out of curiosity, what are your intentions toward my daughter's husband?

LEIGH ENTERS. SHE AND LUCY LOOK AT MIKE EXPECTANTLY.

MIKE

(LOOKS TO NATHAN) I... don't really know how to answer that...

NATHAN LOVINGLY TAKES MIKE'S HAND. LEIGH NOTICES.

NATHAN

We're talking about him moving in, actually.

LUCY

Oh, wonderful! And, Mike, are you married, too?

MIKE

Well, I was, Lucy.

BOB

Before you got gay?

MIKE

Yes, Bob. Before I got gay. We had a son.

BOB

And will he be living here, too?

LUCY

Yes, by all means, heap it on. A divorced father of one can live with my daughter and her gay husband and help them raise their newly adopted Asian child. It's so Norman Rockwellian it just melts your heart. Please, tell me there's more...

OLIVER ENTERS, ON A MISSION. HE'S HOLDING UP A TINY EYEPATCH.

OLIVER

Hey Leigh, I know how to help Maddie. When I was six, this fixed my friend Dudley's lazy eye in a month.

BOB

(DELIGHTED) Yo ho ho!

LUCY

(TO OLIVER) Who are you, exactly?

OLIVER

I'm Leigh's...

LEIGH FREEZES. LUCY STARES AT OLIVER.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

...friend. Just a friend. (BEAT)
We're friends.

LUCY

(SMILES) Ah, good. A morsel of hope.

LEIGH

(DRYLY) Why are you smiling, Mom? You're scaring me...

LUCY

Because, darling, my Christmas newsletter is going to be the talk of the town this year! (TURNS TO OLIVER) Are you employed?

OLIVER

(CONFUSED) Yes.

LUCY

Do you like your mother?

OLIVER

Yes.

LUCY

Have you ever been to prison?

OLIVER

No.

LUCY

Marry my daughter. Marry her now.

LEIGH

Mom, stop!

LUCY

Sweetheart, your husband is in love with another man. That never turns out well.

BOB

She's right, it's rare!

LUCY

Once he moves in, you'll be a third wheel at best. (RE OLIVER) And here's another fish, right here in your sea! He's obviously desperately in love with you...

LEIGH

(TO OLIVER) You said you could do casual!

OLIVER

(TO LEIGH) It was just a cufflink!

NATHAN

(TO LUCY) I love your daughter!

MIKE

(LOUDLY) Moo shu!

EVERYONE SHUTS UP AND LOOKS AT HIM. HE LOOKS AT NATHAN.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Third time's really the charm.

UNCOMFORTABLE SILENCE ALL AROUND...

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. FRONT PORCH - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

LEIGH AND NATHAN SIT. DRINKING WINE. A BIT SHELL SHOCKED.

LEIGH

That was exactly how I wanted my
parents to meet my four night stand.

NATHAN

Hey, at least Captain Cufflink fared
far better than Mister Moo Shu.

(BEAT) How can your mom possibly
find all this abnormal?

LEIGH

You're a big gay elephant.

NATHAN

You're a milky teated cow.

LEIGH

Oh God, every second tonight felt
like decades. Nay, eons.

NATHAN

"Nay"? Really?

LEIGH

Yes, Nathan, it placates me. (CHECKS
WATCH) We have seven minutes and
forty seconds.

NATHAN

You wanna talk about the Mike thing?

LEIGH

Not even a little bit.

NATHAN

(AFTER A BEAT) I think your parents think we're making a mockery of the institution of marriage.

LEIGH

No one can tell me we're not more real than some guy on tv picking a wife out of a line-up and bestowing her with a damn tulip.

NATHAN

I love using reality television as a barometer of acceptable behavior.

LEIGH

It does make us much better people, don't you think?

THEY TAKE A LONG LOOK AT EACH OTHER. TIME TO DIVE IN.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

Have you thought about how you would feel if I asked Oliver to move in?

NATHAN

Sweetie, I've met you. You don't even want his cufflink to move in.

LEIGH

Salient point.

NATHAN

But look, just because you're a commitment-phobe doesn't mean I
(MORE)

NATHAN (CONT'D)

have to be. (BEAT) Are you afraid I'll be so distracted with Mike, you'll have to take care of Maddie alone? Because that won't happen.

LEIGH

No! No, I'm... (HONESTLY) I'm afraid you two will take such good care of her together that I'll just be extra baggage.

NATHAN

(DAWNING ON HIM) You feel like I'd be abandoning you if he lived here.

LEIGH

(DEFENSIVE) No! That's ridiculous. Not "abandoned". No. More like..."deserted". (QUIETLY) Some might say "forsaken".

HE GENTLY TAKES HER HAND.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

If he moves in, I'm afraid you'll make pancakes...with him. You'll sing our lullaby to Maddie...with him. You'll play with his hair on our couch while you watch stupid movies. With him. (QUIETLY) I'm afraid he'll be your wife.

THEY'RE SILENT FOR A BIT. SHE LOOKS DOWN AT HER FEET.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

You promise you think we're real?

NATHAN

Look at me.

SHE DOES.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

We are real. I love you as much as anybody has ever loved anybody.

LEIGH LOOKS AT HIM. AS VULNERABLE AS WE'VE SEEN HER.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

I love that you use words like "perambulate" when you mean "walk". I love that you get stressed and you quote fake data. You think I don't know, but I do...and 92% of the time I find it 100% charming.

SHE LAUGHS.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

I love that you are terrified of commitment, and yet you married me because you knew we'd be a good family. And, Leigh, I love...possibly more than anything else...I love how much you love Maddie. (BEAT) You are my home. And you always will be. No matter who else comes in or out of our lives.

LEIGH

(SLIGHT SMILE) I married a Cameron
Crowe movie.

NATHAN

Wine makes me chatty.

LEIGH

Seriously, if you were straight,
you'd have to scoop me up and take
me right to bed after all that.

NATHAN

I still can. But then I'd just
play with your hair and tuck you
in.

THEY SMILE. THEY HAVE A MOMENT.

LEIGH

I want whatever's best for you.
Even if it's weird for me for a
while. (BEAT) You're my home,
too.

NATHAN LOOKS AT HER FOR A LONG BEAT.

NATHAN

Maybe you're right.

LEIGH

I'm sorry. What?

NATHAN

Maybe it should just be the three
of us here for a while.
(MORE)

NATHAN (CONT'D)

You and Maddie are the most important things to me. I don't want to upset that.

SHE TAKES HIS HAND.

LEIGH

Are you really okay with this?

NATHAN

I'm "okay" adjacent. But the difference between us is, I actually mean it. (BEAT) At least my boyfriend didn't try to make our child a small Chinese pirate.

LEIGH LAUGHS.

INT. NATHAN'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

MIKE IS SITTING IN BED WORKING ON THE LAPTOP.

NATHAN

Hi.

MIKE

Hi. Sorry about making dinner with your in-laws that much more awkward.

NATHAN

Don't flatter yourself. You barely made a dent.

MIKE

(AFTER A BEAT)

(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

You know, I skipped work and stayed here to help when you were freaked the hell out by crossed baby eyes and the Chinese invasion...

NATHAN

I love that band.

MIKE

I'm serious. I tried to talk you down for a solid hour, but five seconds of puffy-itchy-fuzzy-shrimp-code-talk with her and... (BEAT)
Look, I don't know if I fit here. But I'd like to try, because moving in would help me know we're working toward something. So you and Leigh can take all the time you need, but I just want you to know that's how I feel.

NATHAN

I promise you, you do fit here.

MIKE

Thank you. (BEAT) I love you, Stupid.

NATHAN LOOKS AT HIM. HE CAN'T TELL HIM "NO" RIGHT NOW.

NATHAN

I love you, too. (BEAT, SMILES)
Dumbass.

INT. LEIGH'S ROOM -SIMULTANEOUS

LEIGH ENTERS TO FIND OLIVER SITTING ON THE BED.

OLIVER

Can I talk to you for second?

LEIGH

I'm not eyepatching my baby.

OLIVER

No. I mean about us.

SHE IMMEDIATELY GETS UNCOMFORTABLE.

LEIGH

42% of all couples who discuss
serious matters before bed split
within days.

OLIVER

(SMILES) You're making that up.

LEIGH

Wh...Nathan?

OLIVER NODS. LEIGH SHAKES HER HEAD.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

Bastard.

OLIVER

Can I ask you something personal?

SHE LOOKS VERY UNCOMFORTABLE.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Understand, I'm just making
conversation. I've got no interest
in you whatsoever for anything other
than sex.

HE'S KIDDING, SHE KNOWS IT. SHE LAUGHS.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Why does my cufflink scare you?

LEIGH TAKES A DEEP BREATH.

LEIGH

It's not about the cufflink. (BEAT)

It's what that cufflink could
possibly represent...like a pair of
socks...or a jacket...

OLIVER

Like commitment?

LEIGH

Augh. I hate that word.

OLIVER

I know.

LEIGH

Mike?

OLIVER NODS. LEIGH SHAKES HER HEAD.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

Bastard.

OLIVER

I'm just gonna ask it: what happens
if, totally by accident, I start to
like you more than a little?

Someday? Way in the future?

SHE SMILES AT HIM. THEN --

LEIGH

I could be amenable to the idea.
Mayhaps. (SHE TRIES) I think...you
are...very nice.

OLIVER

(LAUGHS) Be still my heart.

LEIGH

I'm sorry. (RAPID FIRE) Look,
you're charming and smart and
sexy...so very very sexy... and I'm
trying. But yes, this is hard for
me, this...intimacy stuff. I mean,
I don't even like the word
"intimacy", because it brings up
images of erectile dysfunction
commercials - which is certainly
not a problem of yours, by the way -
and now I'm veering off topic which
I do all the time when I'm as
spectacularly uncomfortable as I
obviously am right now, but I do
have a point and it's this: please
be patient. (BEAT) I'll try my
damnedest not to run if you try
your damnedest not to push.

HE TAKES A BEAT.

OLIVER

Can I have my own key to the house
now?

HE'S KIDDING AGAIN, SHE'S CHARMED.

LEIGH

(LAUGHS) Bastard.

OLIVER

Or at least my own drawer for my
delicates?

SHE LAUGHS AND THEY KISS PASSIONATELY.

INT. KITCHEN - NEXT MORNING

NATHAN IS IN THE EARLY STAGES OF MAKING PANCAKES, WHILE LEIGH
IS MAKING COFFEE. NATHAN IS A BIT DISTRACTED.

LEIGH

(RE COFFEE) Notice the heaping
scoops. Heaping. The secret's in
the heap.

NATHAN NODS, AND KEEPS MAKING BREAKFAST.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

Did you tell Mike?

NATHAN

How's Oliver?

LEIGH

Really?! We're just gonna gloss
right over it, are we?

NATHAN

Fine.

(MORE)

NATHAN (CONT'D)

I couldn't tell him last night, but
I will. I swear. But you... you're
trying to nudge Oliver away. (BEAT)
Nudger.

LEIGH

Not a word.

NATHAN

Wallputterupper.

LEIGH

Actually less of a word. (BEAT)
And this time, I'm trying not to.

MIKE ENTERS, HOLDING MADDIE. SHE IS WEARING HER PATCH.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

It's actually kind of adorable.

MIKE LIFTS MADDIE'S LITTLE HAND.

MIKE

(BABY PIRATE VOICE) Yo ho ho and a
bowl of mashed peas!

NATHAN

Let's check on her eye.

HE GENTLY REMOVES HER PATCH. SHE'S ABSOLUTELY FINE!

LEIGH

Oh my God!

NATHAN

She's perfect!

LEIGH

I'm gonna go grab the camera!

SHE RUNS OUT THE ROOM.

MADDIE

(BABY BABBLE, TO NATHAN) Bagawapa.

NATHAN AND MIKE LOOK AT EACH OTHER IN AWE.

NATHAN

She just called me Bagawapa.

HE TAKES MADDIE. MIKE LOOKS OUT THE DOOR, THEN --

MIKE

(PANICKED) She's gotta say it again.

NATHAN

Don't pressure her. She's only six months old, for God's sake.

LEIGH STARTS TO ENTER, BUT HOLDS BACK AND LISTENS TO MIKE.

MIKE

Leigh's the mommy. Trust me, she can't miss her baby's first word.

(TO MADDIE) Do it for your mommy, sweetie. C'mon, Maddie. (BABY VOICE) Bagawapa! Bagawapa!!!

LEIGH ENTERS.

MADDIE

Bagawapa!

MIKE

(TO LEIGH) Oh my God, she called you Bagawapa!!! Isn't this amazing? She talked for the very first time ever!

LEIGH

(TO MADDIE) I'm so proud of you!

LEIGH LOOKS AT MIKE AND SMILES WARMLY.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

I'm sorry for the, you know, coffee mugging incident.

MIKE

Thank you. I promise I'll become fluent in puffy-itchy-fuzzy-shrimp-code.

LEIGH

I have no idea what you mean by that, but thank you.

NATHAN

(TOUCHED) "And his heart grew three sizes that day..."

LEIGH LOOKS AT NATHAN FOR A BEAT, THEN GOES TO THE COUNTER AND GRABS A KEY. SHE HANDS IT TO MIKE.

LEIGH

Will you please come live with me and my husband already?!

HE LOOKS AT HER, WALKS TO THE CABINET, HANDS HER "HER MUG", TAKES THE KEY FROM HER, AND SMILES. THEY HUG.

OLIVER ENTERS. HE GIVES LEIGH A KISS.

OLIVER

Have you made me breakfast, woman?

LEIGH

Yes, I cooked a box of cereal.
(MORE)

LEIGH (CONT'D)

It's in the cupboard. (BEAT) Look
at Maddie's eyes!

OLIVER DOES. HE SMILES PROUDLY.

OLIVER

I put the patch on her during the
night. I'm just sayin'.

MIKE

(TO OLIVER) Guess what? I'm moving
in!

OLIVER

Nice. (BRAGGING) My cufflink?
Totally in her drawer...

LEIGH SMILES. OLIVER GOES TO TAKE HER HAND.

MIKE

(SOTTO) No sudden moves...

OLIVER SMILES AND TAKES MIKE'S HAND INSTEAD.

OLIVER

(TO MIKE) You complete me.

NATHAN

(TO LEIGH) I'm making pancakes.
Are you in?

LEIGH

Always.

MIKE

(TO OLIVER) Be warned: her cooking
is a slice of morning fresh hell.

LEIGH

(TO MIKE) You, drink a steaming
cup of shut up. (TO NATHAN) You,
just let me stir something.

MIKE

I'd rather eat an old fuzzy shrimp.
Hell, I'd rather eat a squid eye.

LEIGH LOOKS AT NATHAN. THEY LAUGH.

LEIGH

Okay, now it's kinda funny....

AS THEY GO ABOUT A "NORMAL" MORNING, WE SLOWLY...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW