

PATTY'S AUTO

Pilot Episode

"No Start"

Written By

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COLD OPEN

CHYRON OVER BLACK: OVER HALF OF THE LICENSED DRIVERS IN THE U.S. ARE WOMEN. FEMALE: 112,124,699 MALE: 109,587,219

FADE IN:

INT. PATTY'S AUTO/SERVICE DESK - MORNING

THIS PHILADELPHIA AUTO SHOP HAS THE TYPICAL GIANT TOOL BOXES, STACKS OF TIRES, AND AN OIL STAINED CONCRETE FLOOR. BUT ONE OF THE TOOL BOXES IS BRIGHT PINK AND COVERED IN STICKERS WITH SLOGANS LIKE, "MY EYES ARE UP HERE.", AND THE SERVICE DESK WITH THE STYLISH "PATTY'S AUTO" SIGN ABOVE IT IS NEAT AND INVITING.

A GRAND OPENING BANNER HAS CLEARLY BEEN UP FOR A WHILE AND IS FALLING DOWN ON ONE SIDE. PATTY (30'S, DIVERSE, SHE'S AN, "I'M YOUR BOSS NOT YOUR FRIEND" KIND OF BOSS AND HER EMPLOYEES RESPECT HER FOR IT BECAUSE THEY KNOW WHERE THEY STAND AND WHAT TO EXPECT. MEN ARE EQUAL PARTS ATTRACTED TO AND SCARED OF HER.)

PATTY

(INTO PHONE) Ray, if you say "That's not how it's done," one more time I'm gonna reach through this phone and twist your nipples so hard you'll be begging for ways to please me. Now, let me go over this again. My loan payment gets deducted on the first. But in your fine print here, Ray, it says there's a fifteen day grace period. So I'm gonna need you to change my automatic deduction to the fifteenth so I can receive the grace your institution intended me to have -- Don't cry, Ray. This'll make us stronger.

SHE HANGS UP AS A NICELY DRESSED MALE CUSTOMER ENTERS.

JERRY

Excuse me. Are you open?

PATTY

You mean am I ready to see customers
or can I consider other people's
points of view?

JERRY

Uh, the first one.

PATTY

Then yes.

JERRY

Great because I got a flat on my '08
Audi TT. I was gonna put on the spare
and drive it to the dealer but then I
saw you right here so I pulled in.

PATTY

Glad you did. Fill this out and we'll
be happy to take care of you.

SHE HANDS HIM A CLIPBOARD AND HE WRITES HIS NAME.

JERRY

Cool. And would you mind if I talked
to the guy who's gonna do the actual
work?

PATTY GIVES HIM A LOOK.

PATTY

You want to talk to the guy who's
gonna change your tire? (LOOKING AT
THE CLIPBOARD) Jerry?

JERRY

You know, it's like handing your baby over to a stranger. I just want to tell him how she likes to be held.

PATTY

If you're considering how best to hand your baby over to a stranger, I'd say you might wanna hold off on fatherhood. (THEN) Hey, Chyna!

A BACKBOARD ROLLS OUT FROM UNDER A CAR REVEALING CHYNA (40'S, PATTY'S FORMER SHOP TEACHER AND MENTOR, SHE'S BEEN MARRIED TO HER HUSBAND FOR 18 YEARS BUT WHEN YOU MEET HER YOU MIGHT GUESS SHE WAS MARRIED TO A WOMAN).

CHYNA

S'up?

PATTY

Jerry here wants to talk to the guy who's gonna work on his car. You know where he is?

CHYNA

Aw, that knuckle dragger? No, I haven't seen him. Maybe ask Liza.

SHE GESTURES TO WHERE LIZA (LATE 20'S, UPBEAT PARTY GIRL FROM THE EAST COAST, MEN ARE ATTRACTED TO HER POSITIVITY BUT SHE PREFERS WOMEN) IS ENTERING, WEARING TIGHT COVERALLS WITH THE SLEEVES CUT OFF AND CARRYING A CARDBOARD BOX.

LIZA

Yo Mamas! Bought a margarita maker and a karaoke machine for ten bucks at a yard sale. Party starts at 5.

PATTY

If you start drinking before we close
you're fired.

LIZA

Party starts at 6:30.

CHYNA

Liza, we're looking for the guy who's
gonna work on this customer's car.
You seen him?

LIZA

Oh, ohhhh, that guy. (BEAT) No, I
haven't seen him. But Jenna's on her
way in. Maybe she knows where he is.

JENNA (OVERWHELMED MOM GOING THROUGH A DIVORCE) ENTERS.

JENNA

Hey, my dryer broke so I had to hold
my coveralls out the window while I
drove here. If you see any wet patches
it's not pee.

SHE STARTS PUTTING ON HER COVERALLS.

PATTY

Hey, Jenna--

JERRY

Okay okay, I think I got it. Only
women work here?

PATTY

Who did you think the Patty in Patty's
Auto was?

JERRY

An old Irish man?

PATTY

If you want a guy to work on your car,
you can go see The Muffler Men across
the street. Or you can borrow some
tools and change your tire in our
parking lot. But you'll grow old
looking for your spare because the '08
Audi TT ain't equipped with one and
the tire inflator kit it comes with
expired 2 years ago.

BEAT. JERRY HANDS HER HIS KEYS.

PATTY (CONT'D)

I promise to care for your baby like
she burst from my very own loins.

PATTY EXITS TO GET HIS CAR. OFF THE WOMEN'S AMUSED LOOKS
WE...

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES.

ACT ONE

SCENE A

INT. PATTY'S AUTO/SERVICE DESK - THE NEXT DAY

PATTY SORTS THROUGH A PILE OF MAIL AS LIZA WRITES UP A SERVICE ORDER AND JENNA WRITES ON A CALENDAR.

JENNA

Hey, Patty, when's your birthday?

PATTY

My mom couldn't afford to give me one.

JENNA

Oh, come on. I'm putting all our birthdays on the calendar. I love to make cakes shaped like car parts.

PATTY

Just bring me a cake every day and I'll tell you when you're getting warmer.

LIZA

Give us a hint. What's your zodiac sign? I bet you're Cancer the Crab. I just know underneath that tough outer shell is a soft chewy center.

PATTY

My zodiac sign is the one that thinks zodiacs are bullshit.

LIZA

So Capricorn. (TO JENNA) Put her down
for January.

LIZA EXITS TO THE CUSTOMER LOUNGE AS JENNA MOVES OFF AND
CHYNA ENTERS FROM THE BATHROOM STILL DRYING HER HANDS.

CHYNA

Well, I replaced a fan belt that was
chewed through by a rat. And I buried
a rat.

CHYNA CHECKS OFF A TALLY BOARD THAT READS: 100 CAR GOAL. A
PICTURE OF A PHILLY CHEESESTEAK IS AT THE 100 SLOT.

CHYNA (CONT'D)

Twenty-four hours left to get to our
goal of 100 cars in 30 days. Then as
promised you make the 45 minute drive
to Johnnie's to get us the best
cheesesteaks in Philly.

PATTY

Yep.

CHYNA TAKES IN PATTY'S WORRIED LOOK.

CHYNA

What's wrong? Do cheesesteaks make you
sad because you know they're slowly
killing us?

PATTY

(CONFIDING) Chyna, I took out a loan
bigger than King Kong's dong to open
this place.

(MORE)

PATTY (CONT'D)

And the real reason we're doing this contest is because if we don't service at least a hundred cars this month, I can't make that loan payment.

CHYNA

What did I tell you when you were my star student in shop class?

PATTY

"All you have to do is show up and I'll give you an A."

CHYNA

I may have been phoning it in toward the end there. What else did I tell you? Say it with me.

PATTY

CHYNA (CONT'D)

"Keep working the problem."

"Just keep working the problem."

CHYNA (CONT'D)

Exactly. You'd get so mad at yourself when you couldn't fix something right away. But you've only been open 6 months. It takes time to grow a business.

PATTY

(SINCERE) Thanks. (THEN) That's what I'll tell my cell mate in bank jail while she's force braiding my hair.

LIZA ENTERS WITH A HAPPY FEMALE CUSTOMER.

LIZA

And stop with the expensive gas. Your car was made to burn beer, don't give it champagne. Doesn't want it, doesn't need it, doesn't like it.

HAPPY CUSTOMER

You guys are so great. I almost didn't come here because of the Yelp reviews but I'm so glad I did.

PATTY

Wait, what? The last time I checked we had fifteen 5-star reviews. Two separate customers said they wanted to live here 'cause of how nice our bathroom smells.

HAPPY CUSTOMER

Oh, yeah, it does smell really good.
(THEN) But you might want to check YELP again. Although as I learned from being raised by a narcissist, you just can't please some people.

THE HAPPY CUSTOMER EXITS AS PATTY QUICKLY PULLS UP YELP ON THE COMPUTER. THE OTHER LADIES HUDDLE AROUND.

PATTY

See, SassyLady says, "Patty's Auto is the best thing that's happened to me since I found out my tumor was benign."

ALL THE WOMEN

(SYMPATHETIC) Aw, bless her heart/Glad she's okay./Damn.

LIZA

Uh oh. PizzaIceCream says, "If you hate money, Patty's Auto is a great place to throw it away. Mechanics? More like Auto Airheads!"

JENNA

(READING) "I drove my Chevy in for an oil change and had to have it towed out."

PATTY

What the hell? That never happened.

JENNA

You got any enemies, Patty?

PATTY

No! I don't even have any friends!

JENNA

Okay, let's follow up on that later in a trust circle.

CHYNA

(TO LIZA) I bet it was that customer who kept asking you out, Liza, but you said no. Way not to be a team player.

LIZA

Hey, I explained nicely to that guy exactly what team I played for.

JENNA

Well, don't worry, Patty. Eventually, the bad reviews'll fall to the bottom and get ignored like nuts in salad.

BUT PATTY CLEARLY IS WORRIED.

PATTY

I'll go make some follow up calls to our customers. Which version sounds more concerned? "How was your experience with us?" Or "How was your experience with us?"

BOTH VERSIONS SOUND EXACTLY THE SAME, DEADPAN. THE WOMEN SHARE A LOOK, THEN...

CHYNA/LIZA/JENNA

The first one.

PATTY HEADS TO HER OFFICE AS WE...

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE B

CHYRON OVER BLACK: THE PORSCHE BOXSTER HAS BOTH A FRONT AND REAR TRUNK FOR STORAGE. EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE IS BEST LEFT ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD.

FADE IN:

INT. PATTY'S OFFICE - LATER

PATTY SITS AT HER DESK WITH HER PHONE UP TO HER EAR.

PATTY

(INTO PHONE) Well, we'll be here if
you need us. I hope. I mean, I hope
we'll still be here not I hope you'll
need us. I'm going to hang up now.

SHE HANGS UP AND SUDDENLY NOTICES TINY (HER YOUNGER HALF-SISTER, DIVERSE, CHARISMATIC UNDERACHIEVER, HER EVERYDAY ATTIRE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HEADED TO A CLUB) STANDING IN HER DOORWAY. TINY BUSTS A MOVE AND DOES A CARDI-B STYLE RAP.

TINY

*You're living your best life, Patty B.
Yo, that's my sister and she slaved
for this. You're an owner of a shop,
you were made for this.*

PATTY SUDDENLY RAPS IN KIND.

PATTY

*In debt up to my ass but I'll pay for
this. One engine at a time turning
nickels into dimes throwing down some
rhymes--*

TINY

--she was made for this!

PATTY JOINS HER SISTER AND ROCKS A FEW DANCE MOVES THEN--

TINY (CONT'D)

Aw, I've missed this. I can't even remember why we haven't been talking!

PATTY

Cuz the last time I saw you, Tiny, you told me to drive myself off a cliff and for my ghost not to contact you.

TINY

That was a mistake on my part. I need your ghost to give me lottery numbers.

PATTY

You were upset because I wouldn't give your boyfriend who has no experience working on cars a job working on cars.

TINY

Dion knows a ton about cars. He can get one started without a key.

PATTY

Did he get that ankle bracelet off yet?

TINY

He did! And he just got a job at the Chicken King.

PATTY

Glad to hear things are looking up for you guys.

(MORE)

PATTY (CONT'D)

And for the record, I told you I was only hiring female mechanics.

TINY

Yeah, about that. If you're gonna do this all lady thing, you need to lean into it a little more. Get somebody to stand out front in a bikini top with a sign that says free car wash with oil change.

PATTY

You mean be the Hooters of auto shops? That's a good idea. And maybe I'll install a stripper pole so even when we're not working, we're working it.

TINY

I'm just saying, don't try so hard to be like the dudes. You know what they say, "Tomboy at three, cute as can be. Tomboy at thirty, you just look dirty." By the way, I have like four lipsticks in my purse if you want to borrow--

SHE PULLS OUT SOME LIPSTICKS AND APPROACHES PATTY.

PATTY

(BLOCKING) I'm good.

TINY

Speaking of dudes are you still dating that Wendell guy? I really liked him.

PATTY

Huh? Oh, no, no. Wasn't a good match.

TINY

Seemed like a great match. He was so into you.

PATTY

He had to watch videos on his phone at night to fall asleep. A grown man who can't self soothe? That ain't right.

TINY

Well, you're gonna have to learn to self soothe now.

PATTY

Okay, well, it's good to see you, Tiny. Let's grab dinner this week. I'll buy so we can go to one of the nicer fast food places.

TINY

Oh, hey, before I go I guess I should ask you about a problem I'm having with my car. It only starts half the time and only if I cross my toes and hold my breath.

PATTY

So that's why you're really here. To
get me to work on your car for free.

TINY

Not free. I will pay you.

PATTY STARES AT HER.

TINY (CONT'D)

Back.

PATTY STARES AT HER.

TINY (CONT'D)

Probably.

PATTY

Like you paid me back that money I
gave you for the Spa On Wheels starter
kit so you could do in home manicures?

TINY

Turns out people are real weird about
letting you into their house. Come on,
Pats. I'm trying to get it together
like you have. But how can I get a job
if I don't have a car that works right
to get me there?

PATTY TAKES IN TINY'S DESPERATION AS CHYNA ENTERS.

CHYNA

Hey, Patty, how 'bout I stand out
front and imitate the sweet moves of
an air dancer to bring people in?

SHE WAVES HER ARMS AND BENDS LIKE AN AIR DANCER.

TINY

Would you consider doing that in a
bikini top?

PATTY

Chyna, do you remember Tiny?

TINY

Patty's sister.

PATTY

Half-sister.

TINY

Half of your own flesh and blood!

CHYNA

How could I forget Tiny? You were in
my shop class for two days until the
unfortunate nail gun incident.

TINY

And I maintain, I was not pointing it
in that boy's direction. Even though
he had just broken up with me and I
wanted him to suffer.

PATTY

I'm not fixing your car, Tiny, but
Chyna's teaching her free Car
Maintenance Workshop today which you
can join and fix your car yourself.

TINY

No way! I just did my nails to look
like cougar heads with diamond eyes.

SHE HOLDS THEM UP AND GROWLS. PATTY SHRUGS.

PATTY

Up to you. But you know what they say,
your car's engine is like your vagina.
If you don't know how it works, how
are you going to tell somebody else
what it needs?

TINY

If my engine is like my vagina, then I
should be able to get it started with
a shot of tequila.

CHYNA

My car's engine is like my vagina. It
takes forever to warm up these days.

LIZA POPS IN.

LIZA

Oh, are we doing "car is like a
vagina?" My car is like my vagina.
It's a total chick magnet.

JENNA COMES IN.

JENNA

I got one. My car is like my vagina.
They're both named Peaches.

PATTY

I regret starting this. (TO TINY)
Class is at two.

TINY AND CHYNA SIZE EACH OTHER UP AS WE

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE C

INT. PATTY'S AUTO/SERVICE BAY - SHORT TIME LATER - DAY

CHYNA AND TINY AND 4 WORKSHOP ATTENDEES (3 WOMEN AND AN 18-YEAR OLD GUY) SURROUND TINY'S BEAT UP 2003 FORD ESCORT.

CHYNA

I taught auto shop in a high school for 25 years. And thank God I did because that's where I met my soulmate Jimmy the Janitor. When Jimmy said, "Let's expand our love and have ourselves a baby," I said, "Whatever you want Blue Eyes," and I pushed out an infant. Then I realized, holy hell, I don't know nothin' about taking care of a kid. But I figured it out. Because I loved my baby and I didn't want her to die. Your car is your baby.

TINY

I thought it was my vagina.

UNCOMFORTABLE LOOK FROM THE LONE GUY ATTENDEE.

CHYNA

When we're in mixed company it's a baby.

(MORE)

CHYNA (CONT'D)

(TO THE GROUP) Now, it's okay not to know nothin' when you bring your baby home. But it's not okay to let her grow up dirty and neglected.

SHE LOOKS AT A FACE DRAWN IN A DUST LAYER ON TINY'S CAR.

TINY

I was going to hit a car wash on the way home.

CHYNA

All righty, Tiny, pop your hood.

TINY GETS IN HER CAR. BEAT. THE TRUNK POPS OPEN.

CHYNA (CONT'D)

Good news. It's not possible to leave here knowing less than you do now.

RESET TO:

INT. PATTY'S AUTO - SNACK AREA

SINCE THERE ARE NO CARS TO SERVICE, PATTY REFILLS THE VENDING MACHINE WHILE LIZA AND JENNA CLEAN TOOLS. FISHER (30'S, SOUTHERN, HUMBLE DAD), WEARING MUFFLER MEN COVERALLS, ENTERS WITH HIS 7 AND 9-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTERS.

FISHER

Hey, ladies. Hope we're not interrupting.

LIZA/JENNA

Hey, there./What's up Fish?

PATTY

Hey Fisher, how's it going over at the Muffler Men? Your boss fixed your vending machine yet?

FISHER

Bill? Naw, but it's only been four years. I don't want to push him.
(THEN) Just picked up Ruby and Lila from school and wanted them to finally meet you ladies.

LIZA/JENNA/PATTY

Well, hello there/Welcome,
Sweethearts/Nice to meet you.

RUBY

I didn't know girls could be wrench-heads.

JENNA

Girls can be anything, Ruby. That's what I tell my boys.

FISHER

Jenna has a couple of boys right close to your all's age. If we all hung out together, it'd be just like one big blended family.

FISHER LOOKS HOPEFULLY AT JENNA.

JENNA

Or it would be just like a couple of single parents having an uncomplicated playdate.

PATTY

So what's up with Bill, anyway? I never got a thank you for that Hickory Farms basket I sent over. Doesn't he know how etiquette works? I mean, it's a stretch for me but I've got the basics down.

FISHER

Aw, I don't want to start trouble, but he's not too keen on the new competition.

LILA

Bill says "Those women ain't nothing but a bunch of Auto Airheads."

THE WOMEN ARE DUMBSTRUCK. LIZA AUDIBLY GASPS.

FISHER

Lila, it's not nice to--

PATTY

That's okay. Lila just helped us solve a mystery. Thank you, Lila.

RUBY

He also says, "They've got junk in their trunk but no gas in their tank."

PATTY'S BLOOD IS BOILING NOW.

PATTY

O-kay, I better go pay Bill a visit.
Let's see, I need a tool that'll sink
in water and is impossible to trace.

JENNA

Well, now, Patty, I always tell my
boys when they get emotional to close
their eyes and take a big deep breath.

FISHER

That sounds nice.

JENNA CLOSES HER EYES TO DEMONSTRATE.

JENNA

Deep breath in.

FISHER

Come on girls.

FISHER AND HIS GIRLS CLOSE THEIR EYES AND TAKE A BREATH. LIZA
NOTICES PATTY GRAB A WRENCH BUT IS TOO FAR AWAY TO HELP.

LIZA

Open your eyes, take her wrench!

JENNA QUICKLY OPENS HER EYES AND GRABS THE WRENCH OUT OF
PATTY'S HAND AS SHE CONTINUES TO STORM OUT.

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE D

INT. MUFFLER MEN/BILL'S OFFICE - SHORT TIME LATER

PATTY ENTERS THIS MESSY OFFICE TO SEE BILL (GRUFF, OLD SCHOOL, EAST COAST ACCENT) BENT OVER GOING THROUGH A DRAWER. SHE SLAMS HER HAND ON THE WALL AND HE LOOKS UP ABRUPTLY.

PATTY

Bill, I tried to be all mature with you. I paid extra to get the hot mustard in your gift basket. And I dared to dream of a world where your guys and my ladies could share tools and have a few beers after hours. But instead of a thank you, you cut my dream's balls off. Why you talking trash about us on YELP?

BILL IS UNFLAPPABLE AS HE SITS BACK IN HIS CHAIR.

BILL

What's this YELP you speak of? One of them blogs where ladies recommend bath balms and moisturizers?

PATTY

I knew I should have brought my wrench.

BILL

So let me get this straight, Patty. You move across the street.

(MORE)

BILL (CONT'D)

Start providing the same services we provide. And I'm supposed to say thank you?

PATTY

The "Thank you" is for the cheese and summer sausage. And half the streets in Philly have a garage on every corner. There's no reason we can't both be successful.

BILL

Oh, I'm not threatened by you. I'm annoyed by you. Not threatened. We've got a fifty-year reputation here.

PATTY

Yeah, a reputation for treating your employees like crap. When you going to get that vending machine fixed?

BILL

Come to think of it, you seem like less of an airhead and more of a blowhard.

PATTY

Well, I don't blow often, but when I do it's hard. And I use my teeth.

BILL

Are you flirting with me, Patty?

PATTY LOOKS TO A CALENDAR ON THE WALL BEHIND BILL. IT FEATURES A BUSTY MODEL IN SHORT SHORTS AND A BIKINI TOP "WORKING" ON A CLASSIC CAR.

PATTY

It doesn't look like I'm you're type,
Bill.

BILL

Yeah, she ain't as chatty.

PATTY

Be a real man and take the reviews
down. (RE: PINUP) And by the way, her
outfit is against OSHA regulations.

SHE HEADS OUT. BILL SLAMS HIS DRAWER SHUT. OH, IT'S ON.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE E

INT. PATTY'S/SERVICE BAY - SAME TIME

CHYRON OVER BLACK: "RACE CAR" SPELLED BACKWARDS IS "RACE CAR"

FADE IN:

TINY'S CAR IS HIGH UP ON THE CAR LIFT. THE WORKSHOP GROUP IS UNDER IT, POINTING TO THE UNDERCARRIAGE. TINY HANGS BACK.

TINY

How do I know it won't fall?

CHYNA

You gotta trust the machinery. And I usually throw in a little prayer.

TINY TENTATIVELY STEPS UNDER THE CAR AS JENNA ENTERS THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SHOP WITH HER TWO BOYS (JUNIOR 9, MAX 7).

JENNA

(ANNOUNCING) Kids on the property.
Everybody watch their language.

SHE TRIPS OVER A CAR JACK.

JENNA (CONT'D)

Son of a--motherless goat!

LIZA IS STACKING TIRES.

LIZA

I thought it was Jackson's weekend with the kids.

JENNA

It was but then he called and said he had an emergency.

(MORE)

JENNA (CONT'D)

Which usually means some desperate
South Philly chick swiped right.

MAX

Mom, can we--

JENNA

No.

JUNIOR

You don't know what he was gonna ask.

JENNA

Does it involve a screen? (THE BOYS
LOOK GUILTY) Make yourselves useful
and clean up around here.

THE BOYS GROAN AS PATTY ENTERS HAVING HEARD THIS LAST BIT.

PATTY

Not so fast. If you boys do any work
I'll have to pay you and all I have is
some dumb old candy bars and comic
books.

JUNIOR/MAX

Yes!/Yay!

THEY GET TO WORK AS CHYNA AND TINY LEAVE THE WORKSHOP GROUP
AND CROSS TO PATTY.

CHYNA

(TO PATTY) Is Bill gonna take the
reviews down?

PATTY

I'd say the chances of that are zero.

LIZA

Then I say we go online and rip The
Muffler Men a new tailpipe.

PATTY

Not your job. I'll handle Bill.
(LOOKING AROUND AT THE LACK OF
CUSTOMERS) But for now I'm gonna go
hand out flyers. Try to get some
customers in here.

SHE GRABS A STACK OF FLYERS AND HEADS OUT.

PATTY (CONT'D)

(TO THE BOYS) Oh, and let me know if
you find that finger my last mechanic
lost.

JUNIOR

There's a human finger in here?

MAX

Sweet!

THEY CLEAN EVEN MORE ENTHUSIASTICALLY AS PATTY EXITS.

JENNA

She's so good with kids.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE H

INT. SERVICE DESK - LATER

JENNA ENTERS TO SEE LIZA WRITING INTENTLY ON HER LAPTOP.

LIZA

Check this out. (READING) Muffler Men?
More like Muffler Monsters. They
wanted to replace my engine for three
thousand dollars. I went across the
street and Patty's diagnosed me with a
loose air hose and fixed it for fifty
bucks.

JENNA

Liza, Patty wants us to stay out of
it.

LIZA

She wants us to stay silent and closed
mouths don't get fed.

JENNA

(THINKING) When the boys are too quiet
I do panic they've discovered porn.

LIZA

Jenna, when I heard about this shop, I
got in my 2010 Ford Ranger named Lover
and drove through 2 states to beg
Patty to hire me.

(MORE)

LIZA (CONT'D)

I can't risk having to go back to work
for guys who keep bumping into my
boobs and mansplaining how to drive in
snow.

JENNA

I know. It's so nice to work for a
woman who lets me bring my kids to
work and pays me what guys make.

JENNA CONSIDERS THIS. THEN POINTS TO THE COMPUTER.

JENNA (CONT'D)

Okay, make her a retiree on a fixed
income.

LIZA

Oooh, that's good. (TYPING)
GrannyLou62.

AS LIZA TYPES WE:

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE J

FADE IN:

INT. PATTY'S AUTO/SERVICE BAY - LATER

THE WORKSHOP ATTENDEES ARE GONE. TINY IS FILING CHYNA'S NAILS WHILE THEY RELAX IN CHAIRS.

TINY

Just because you work in a mannish job
doesn't mean you have to have mannish
hands.

CHYNA

Don't go too far. Jimmy says my
callouses are a turn on.

JENNA AND LIZA ENTER.

LIZA

Aw, look at you bringing the feminine
touch to the shop, Tiny. I wanted to
bedazzle my coveralls but Patty gave
me the stink eye when I mentioned it.

LIZA NODS APPRECIATIVELY. THEN--

TINY

Don't you let my sister intimidate
you. If your heart tells you to
bedazzle, you bedazzle!

JENNA

What was Patty like as a little girl,
Tiny?

TINY

Sarcastic. Bossy. A little angry.

Pretty much like she is now.

AS IF ON CUE, PATTY ENTERS, LOOKING EXHAUSTED.

PATTY

Well, I put up fliers from one end of Philly to another. Number one question about our special--"Do I need a car to get a lube job from you?"

TINY RUSHES OVER TO HER EXCITEDLY.

TINY

Hey, Patty, guess what was wrong with my car? Clogged fuel filter. Which I fixed myself.

PATTY

Don't lie to me.

TINY

Swear to Beyonce.

PATTY

Let me see your nails.

TINY HOLDS UP HER HAND.

TINY

Three cougars lost their lives so don't ever make me do that again.

PATTY

And you smell like a gas can. Proud to know ya.

THEY SHARE A MEANINGFUL LOOK, THEN, NOTICING--

PATTY (CONT'D)

Why's your trunk open?

CHYNA

Hot Stuff thinks her engine's in
there. (RE: CAR) This doesn't look
like a Delorean to you?

PATTY PICKS UP A PACKED DUFFEL BAG FROM THE TRUNK.

PATTY

Why are you driving around with a
packed bag, Tiny? Got a sales meeting
on the coast?

TINY

Oh, I just keep that in there in case
I run into a friend and they're like,
hey, grab your heels and let's go to
Atlantic City for the weekend--

PATTY

I don't feel any heels in here.

TINY

Right, cuz then I'll be like, "That
sounds fun, but I'll probably just go
"casz".

PATTY

This just reminds me of how Mom used
to keep a packed duffel bag in her
trunk.

(MORE)

PATTY (CONT'D)

When she was trying to get the nerve
to leave a bad relationship. Are you
trying to leave a bad relationship?

TINY LOOKS BUSTED.

TINY

Well, coincidentally, I have been
considering whether Dion is really the
one for me. On account of his anger
issues. But he's working on them.

PATTY

What kind of anger issues? Has he hit
you?

TINY

No. I mean--well--it wasn't really--I
was mad, too. Look, I don't want to go
into it.

PATTY

No, you look. You're staying with me.

PATTY TAKES TINY'S DUFFEL BUT TINY GRABS IT BACK.

TINY

No, Patty. It's okay. He's really
trying to do better. And he can be
really sweet. Like if I get a bunch of
stuff to make a really good chili.
And then I make the chili.

(MORE)

TINY (CONT'D)

He'll eat like three bowls of it and
say, "That is great chili."

PATTY

Your bar is so low, you don't even
need to lift your leg to get over it.
So just shuffle away.

SHE TRIES TO GRAB THE BAG AGAIN, BUT TINY PULLS IT BACK.

TINY

Stop telling me what to do! You're
not my mom.

PATTY

No, you are!

TINY FREEZES.

TINY

Bitch says what?

PATTY

Following right in her footsteps
aren't you? Just so you know, they go
in a circle.

CHYNA

Hey, Patty, why don't we take a walk.

PATTY LASHES OUT.

PATTY

I don't want to take a walk, Chyna!
I'm doing what you always say, right?
I'm working the problem.

CHYNA

But it's not your car to fix.

BEAT. PATTY AND CHYNA SHARE A LOOK.

TINY

That's right, Patty. And anyway, I'd rather be like Mom who never stopped believing in love instead of the cold block of ice you've become who's given up on it altogether.

PATTY TRIES TO WALK AWAY BUT JUST CAN'T.

PATTY

So which one of Mom's exes is Dion most like? The one who woke us up at midnight and made us walk to the 7-11 by ourselves to buy him Cocoa Puffs? Or the one who robbed your piggy bank to bet on the dog fights? I sure hope he's not like the one who used to crawl into my bed at night.

THIS LAST LINE LANDS LIKE A BUILDING IMPLODING.

TINY

(SHEEPISH) You're forgetting all the good times.

JENNA

Oh, Patty, I'm so sorry.

PATTY

Don't feel sorry for me. I learned to take care of myself. (TO TINY) And that's all I want for you.

TINY

I can take care of myself. Although I will need to borrow a few bucks for gas money.

JUST THEN FISHER ENTERS.

FISHER

Hey Patty, just a friendly warning. Bill just read the reviews calling him Brainless Bill and he's madder than hell.

PATTY

I didn't write any reviews.

FISHER

You're not GRANNYLOU69 who said he tried to bilk her out of her pension?

PATTY LOOKS CONFUSED.

LIZA

It's actually GrannyLou62. It rhymes.

PATTY TURNS TO LIZA, LOOKING FURIOUS.

JENNA

(SOFT) And I helped. But it's just--

PATTY

Okay. I see. You all want to be the boss?

(MORE)

PATTY (CONT'D)

You think I don't know what I'm doing?
You're right! I don't! So if you
don't want to hang around while I
figure it out, then don't come in
tomorrow.

WITH EVERYONE FEELING LIKE SHIT, PATTY EXITS.

FISHER

Um...I'm really sorry if it's not
great timing but do you mind if I use
your restroom before I leave?

LIZA

You don't have a restroom at the
Muffler Men?

FISHER

Yeah we do, but yours smells like a
rainforest. Ours smells like--

CHYNA

Just use it!

AND AS FISHER HEADS TO THE POTTY WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SCENE K

CHYRON OVER BLACK: THE INVENTOR OF THE CRUISE CONTROL WAS BLIND. GETTING BLIND DRUNK IS A BAD IDEA.

INT. BAR NEXT DOOR - LATER

PATTY ENTERS THIS LIVELY HANG OUT AND HEADS TO THE BAR.

PATTY

(TO BARTENDER) Something that'll make
me forget this day but let me remember
my home security code.

AS HE POURS A SHOT, PATTY LOOKS ACROSS THE BAR TO SEE BILL STARING DAGGERS AT HER. SHE DOWNS THE SHOT AND HEADS OVER. THE BARTENDER BRINGS OVER A BEER AS PATTY SITS.

PATTY (CONT'D)

Fifty-year reputation, huh? You look
good for your age. And yes that was
hard for me to say.

BEAT.

BILL

It was my old man's business. I grew
up there. I could change a tire before
I could spell my name.

PATTY

Before you could spell BILL?

BILL

It's actually William.

PATTY

That's...a little harder. (THEN) That must've been fun. Working for your dad.

BILL NODS. BEHIND THEM, A GROUP OF DRUNK PATRONS ARE LAUGHING, GETTING ROWDY.

BILL

The only way to talk to him was to grab a tool and help him out. The last thing he said before he died was, "Why is there a pony in my room?" 'Cause they gave him so many drugs. But a couple days before that he said, "As long as you keep that business alive, I'll be turning wrenches right there beside ya."

PATTY

Our mom had a car that kept breaking down. And my mom's boyfriends would get it going again. But if she wasn't dating anybody, we had to take the bus. Which made us smell like pot and other people's tuna sandwiches. So I learned to fix it myself. And decided I wanted to live my life under a hood. Fixing problems that had solutions. Probably like your dad.

(MORE)

PATTY (CONT'D)

But I couldn't get anyone to hire me.
Except one guy. If I went out with
him. Which I did. Then we broke up and
he fired me. So I had to open my own
shop.

BILL TAKES THIS IN WHEN SUDDENLY, A DRUNK PATRON LAUGHS
UPROARIOUSLY AND KNOCKS PATTY'S BEER OVER. QUICK AS
LIGHTNING, BILL JUMPS UP AND PULLS PATTY OFF HER STOOL TO
AVOID HER GETTING DRENCHED.

BILL

(TO DRUNK PATRON) Hey, watch yourself.

DRUNK PATRON

Sorry, man.

BILL AND PATTY TAKE IN THE MOMENT REALIZING THAT BILL STILL
HAS HIS ARM PROTECTIVELY AROUND HER. HE PULLS IT AWAY.

BILL

You okay? Didn't mean to grab you.

PATTY

That's okay. And for the record, I
would have done the same thing for
you. Even though you're twice my size.
I could have used the stool for
leverage.

BILL

You're welcome.

BEAT.

PATTY

The thing is, Bill, if your shop fails, maybe you go work for a friend of your dads. Or any other shop around town. Where am I gonna go? And where are my girls gonna go? Is a guy like you gonna hire a female mechanic?

A LONG BEAT AS BILL CONSIDERS THIS.

BILL

Probably not.

HE THROWS CASH ON THE BAR AND HEADS OUT. THE BARTENDER IS FINISHING WIPING UP THE SPILL AS PATTY SITS.

PATTY

I'm willing to forget my security code now.

HE POURS HER ANOTHER SHOT AS WE...

CUT TO:

ACT THREE

SCENE M

FADE IN:

INT. PATTY'S - THE NEXT DAY - MORNING

THE WOMEN ARE WORKING WHEN PATTY ENTERS, CLEARLY FEELING THE PUNCH OF LAST NIGHT'S DRINKS. SHE TAKES A BOTTLE OF WATER FROM THE MINI FRIDGE AND GUZZLES THE WHOLE THING IN ONE TIP.

JENNA

(TENTATIVE) Um, Patty, just so you know--

PATTY

Please stop screaming.

JENNA

(BEAT; WHISPERING) Liza and I took down the reviews we wrote.

LIZA

And Patty, I know you frown on drinking at work, but a hair of the dog is the only true cure for a hangover and I may or may not have a flask in my purse--

PATTY GLARES AT HER.

LIZA (CONT'D)

I mean I definitely don't.

IT'S TENSE AS A MALE CUSTOMER ENTERS.

MALE CUSTOMER

Excuse me, my truck's running hot and
Bill at the Muffler Men said he
wouldn't have time to get to it today
so he sent me over here.

PATTY

Bill sent you here?

THE MAN NODS.

MALE CUSTOMER

Said you knew what you were doing.

PATTY

Sounds good. Just fill this out.

SHE HANDS HIM A CLIPBOARD AND HE HEADS TO THE WAITING AREA.
THEN PATTY NOTICES SOMEONE ELSE IN THE DOORWAY. IT'S TINY.

TINY

So I drove Dion to work. And he said,
how 'bout chili for dinner? And I
started to go buy stuff for chili and
then I thought--I fixed a car. I fixed
my own damn car yesterday.

BEAT.

PATTY

Who knows what else you can do?

TINY NODS.

TINY

(GROWING EMOTIONAL) And then I
thought, it would be fun to live with
you again. Like the good ol' days.
Which were really the bad ol' days.
But at least we had each other.

SHE HOLDS UP HER PACKED DUFFEL BAG AND PATTY FIGHTS BACK HER
OWN EMOTION AS SHE TAKES IT.

TINY (CONT'D)

But listen, if I'm going to be living
with you and eating your groceries and
stuff, it can't be all about you
telling me what to do all the time. I
get to give you some advice, too.

PATTY

Like what?

TINY

Let's see, how can I say this in a way
you'd understand? Take the Club off
your car, Patty. You're parked in the
garage.

THE COMMENT RESONATES WITH PATTY. SHE SMILES.

PATTY

That's fair. (SHE THEN LOOKS TO HER
MECHANICS) I'm glad none of you stayed
home today.

(MORE)

PATTY (CONT'D)

Tiny knows me better than anybody but she was wrong when she said I've given up on love. I may not have a man in my life right now but I am deeply in love with every woman here. And it is so important to me that we succeed together.

THE WOMEN ENVELOPE PATTY IN A GROUP HUG. THEN--

PATTY (CONT'D)

Oh, and by the way Jenna, my birthday's May 6.

JENNA

Awesome! Thank you! I'm thinking transmission cake for you.

SHE HEADS TO THE CALENDAR.

LIZA

Taurus the Bull. That makes sense.

TINY

Yeah, when she parts her hair a certain way, you can see her horns.

PATTY SMILES AT THE TEASE AS JENNA POINTS TO THE TALLY BOARD.

JENNA

Sorry we only made it to 86 cars this month, Patty.

PATTY

(SHRUGS) Oh, well. The bills'll be a little late. But Mom always said, "Everything until the final notice is just a suggestion." One of the more useful lessons she taught me. I think we still deserve some Johnnie's cheesesteaks. What am I getting?

SHE GRABS A PEN AND PAPER AS THE WOMEN SHOUT THEIR ORDERS.

JENNA/LIZA/CHYNA/TINY

Double cheese/Fried
onions/Ketchup/Extra mayo....

AS WE...

CUT TO:

ACT THREE

SCENE P

CHYRON OVER BLACK: 90% OF DRIVERS SING IN THEIR CARS.

FADE IN:

PATTY'S AUTO - NIGHT

LIZA PRESSES A BUTTON AND WHIRR GOES THE MARGARITA MACHINE.
JENNA, TINY, AND CHYNA, USING TOOLS FOR MICROPHONES, SING
DESTINY CHILD'S "SURVIVOR" ALONG WITH THE KARAOKE MACHINE.
JENNA'S BOYS BEAT ON A DRUM THEY MADE OUT OF HUBCAPS.

JENNA/TINY/CHYNA/DESTINY'S
CHILD (V.O.)

*Now that you're out of my life I'm so
much better/You thought that I'd be
weak without you but I'm stronger...*

PATTY WATCHES WITH A SMILE AS SHE EATS HER CHEESESTEAK
NEARBY. SHE LOOKS UP TO SEE BILL COMING HER WAY.

PATTY

Music too loud for ya?

HE SHAKES HIS HEAD "NO".

BILL

Broke up with my girlfriend. Wondered
if you'd tell her for me.

HE HANDS PATTY THE "HOT MECHANIC" CALENDAR.

PATTY

It's sad when two people who have so
much in common can't make it work.

BILL SMIRKS, STARTS TO HEAD OUT THEN TURNS BACK.

BILL

You know, it's not that I think women can't be good at working on cars. It just might take you's a little longer because of how your brains are wired to memorize lullabies and stuff.

PATTY SHAKES HER HEAD AS BILL EXITS.

CHYNA

Don't let the lift own you, Tiny. You gotta own the lift.

PATTY TURNS TO SEE LIZA AND JENNA STANDING ON THE CAR LIFT THAT HOVERS A FOOT OFF THE GROUND. TINY TENTATIVELY TAKES THEIR HANDS AND LET'S THEM PULL HER ONTO IT AND IMMEDIATELY CHYNA PUSHES THE LEVER THAT MAKES IT GO UP FURTHER. GAINING CONFIDENCE, TINY PUTS HER HANDS IN THE AIR.

TINY

Hey, Ladies! Got another one. My car is like my vagina...I only give rides to nice guys and nobody gets in the back!

TINY PUNCTUATES HER STATEMENT WITH A DANCE MOVE AND THE WOMEN HOLLER IN SUPPORT.

WITH CHYNA ON THE GROUND AND THE OTHERS IN THE AIR, THEY DANCE TO THE MUSIC AS IF PERFORMING A BLUE-COLLAR HALF-TIME SHOW.

PATTY WATCHES THESE REAL WOMEN IN ALL THEIR GLORY THEN NOTICES THE CALENDAR IN HER HAND.

SHE GRABS A NEARBY BLOWTORCH, EXPERTLY FIRES IT UP, AND OVER A STEEL DRUM, BURNS THE CALENDAR TO ASH AS WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. PATTY'S AUTO - NEW DAY

A FEMALE CUSTOMER ENTERS AND APPROACHES PATTY AT THE SERVICE DESK. NEARBY, LIZA, IN NEWLY BEDAZZLED COVERALLS, IS ON THE COMPUTER. JENNA AND CHYNA WORK NEARBY.

FEMALE CUSTOMER

My check engine light has been on for a year and a half. I've been dreading taking it into a shop but then I read all your great reviews on YELP and actually got excited to bring it here.

PATTY

We're excited to have you.

LIZA

That's her excited faced.

PATTY

Would you like to get your nails done while you're waiting for your car?

FEMALE CUSTOMER

My what?

PATTY

Your nails? There's just one person ahead of you.

SHE GESTURES TO WHERE TINY HAS A VERY RESPECTABLE NAIL STATION SET UP. SHE'S GIVING A HAND MASSAGE TO HER FIRST CUSTOMER, FISHER, WHO ALSO HAS HIS FEET SOAKING IN A TUB. HE LOOKS UNCOMFORTABLE. RUBY AND LILA LOOK THRILLED.

RUBY

Just give him something real natural
on his fingers.

LILA

Then we can go more fun on his toes.

TINY

That's what I'm talking about.

CHYNA

Feels pretty good, huh? She does a
better job than I can do with my
teeth.

FISHER SMILES AWKWARDLY, STILL NOT SURE.

FEMALE CUSTOMER

Sure, sign me up.

AND PATTY DOES AS WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW