

PLAYING THE FIELD

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Millenium Pictures

PLAYING THE FIELD (REV. 2-14-11)

*

BLACK.

TITLES BEGIN:

THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE OVER:

SPORTSCASTER (V.O.)
...And with that goal, George Dryer has
lifted the green and white to victory and
this crowd is **going crazy**...

*

1 SOCCER STAR GEORGE DRYER - SERIES OF SHOTS 1

Rugged, brash, youthful, fearless... too handsome for his own
good and a wonder with a soccer ball...

Overlapping COMMENTATORS speaking different languages (some with
subtitles) bring us through the highlights of George Dryer's
career. From Scotland... to Italy... to the US...

He dribbles, kicks, scores, passes, slides-- all to the great
delight of fans who chant his name, wear his #8 jersey and name
their kids after him.

Against Totti, Beckham and all the game's biggest names, we see
he is fearless and unintimidated.

A blue collar player-- mud on his chin, dried blood below his
nose and a smile on his face ear to ear... with each
collision... each score... each win... each kick...

SPORTSCASTER (V.O.)
And they're shouting his name here in
Glasgow as they will for years to come...
Long live King George!

George waves to the adoring fans and flashing cameras...

CROWD
Dryer... Dryer... Dryer...

The glory... The high life... The 90's for George Dryer...

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

2 **SUPER: "10 YEARS LATER"** 2

GEORGE (V.O.)
And now **for CSN Sports in Washington**, I'm
George Dryer...

*

COME UP ON:

A TV MONITOR - GEORGE DRYER'S BROADCAST

George, 40 now, in a blue blazer and tie delivers what appears to be a **traditional and straight ahead** newscast. *

GEORGE

...On a last second penalty kick, DC United beat the Colorado Rapids 4-3. With that victory... *

... just then we hear an O.S. PHONE RING. It throws George for a moment, but he keeps going...

GEORGE

...with that victory, the United have put together their longest win streak since... *

Phone RINGS again. Too distracted now, George waits.

WIDE SHOT REVEALS: we are not watching George on TV, but instead that we are in...

3 INT. GEORGE'S RENTED GUEST HOUSE - NIGHT

3

The living room of George's rented guest house which he's recently moved into yesterday. (Unopened moving boxes everywhere)

Beneath George's jacket and tie, he wears just boxers and socks. A VIDEO CAMERA sits on a tripod, filming what was to be an audition tape. He watches himself in the monitor.

Through the machine we hear a **RECORDED MESSAGE:** *

AUTOMATED VOICE (ANSWERING MACHINE) *

This is American Express with an urgent message for George Dryer... *

George surveys the room: Aside from the boxes, a neon sign from the bar George recently owned (and lost) called **"Dryer's Goal"**... Some oversized soccer trophies... A life sized cut-out of George advertising a Scottish beer...

AUTOMATED VOICE *

If you are George Dryer, please call 800-327-2177 as soon as possible. Thank you. *

The line disconnects. Georges takes a moment, clears his head, then throat, then tries the news again... *

GEORGE

On a last second penalty kick, DC United beat the Colorado Rapids 4-3.... *

(loses his place) *

DC United beat the Colorado Rapids. *

(gives up) *

How about them Rapids? *

4 EXT. GEORGE'S GUEST HOUSE - MORNING 4

A small but very nice guest house sits at the bottom of the driveway from its expansive-- albeit very Iranian-- main house counterpart. We see George through the guest house window.

5 INT. THE GUEST HOUSE - MORNING 5

George is filling a shopping bag with memorabilia from his career-- soccer balls, autographed photos, trophies, he looks at this one particular medal, weighs it in his mind, then throws it in the bag. He heads out the back door of the guest house.

6 EXT. DRIVEWAY OUTSIDE GUEST HOUSE - MORNING 6

He heads towards his 2001 Convertible Mercedes (dented, but still a relic of better times gone by).

PARAM (O.S.)
(thick Persian accent)
Mr. George... Mr. George...

George turns and sees PARAM, his pudgy mid-50's Persian landlord, limping down the hill from the main house.

GEORGE
(scurrying to his car)
Param, hey, I'm just heading out--

*

PARAM
(rushing as best he can)
Yes just-- the security deposit, it hasn't
cleared yet, and--

*

*

George hops in the car. The top is down and he waves to Param as he starts the car. *

*

GEORGE
I'm on it, Mate. I'm going to the bank right
now.

*

*

*

He waves to Param as he zips down the driveway and out of sight. *

7 INT. ALL-PRO SPORTS MEMORABILIA SHOP - DAY 7 *

The 50-ish OWNER of "All Pro Sports Memorabilia" shop sifts through George's assortment of **soccer related items**. Among them: a plaque from "Buckingham Palace" signed by the Queen. There are also random signed soccer balls and jerseys.

THE OWNER
Is that Beckham there?

GEORGE

Playoff game. Quarter finals in the
Champions league...

George nods, waits quietly, nervously, as the owner glances at his computer screen on which he's pulled up George Dryer's soccer profile from ESPN.COM.

Along with some stats is a PHOTO of a young fresh-faced George, a boyish smile, in his "**GLASGOW CELTIC**" soccer uniform. *

THE OWNER

There you are... Cool...

George points to a a PHOTO of him and his teammates pouring champagne on each other, posing with soccer legend Pele.

The owner looks up, he's made up his mind.

OWNER

It's fun stuff, I'll take it.
(George tries to hide his relief)
I can give you 600 dollars for everything.

Clearly, George was hoping for much more than this.

GEORGE

600? I had thought... That's Pele there.
And Bill Clinton-- I would think his
autograph alone--

OWNER

Nah, not really. He went a little autograph
happy in the second term. Plus, soccer in
the US...
(shrugs)
600.

George looks at the stuff he once treasured, takes a moment, but he doesn't have much choice--

George drives along a fairly upscale residential street. He pulls up to --

-- a house where STACIE, his ex-wife, is climbing into a SAAB along with her and George's 9 year old son LEWIS in a soccer uniform. Stacie is a well maintained, attractive wife who weathered through George's worst years. As George pulls to a stop, he BEEPS his horn, catching Stacie's attention.

GEORGE
(through the window)
Hey, hey-- I'm here! Sorry, the traffic, I
uh--

*
*

George waves from the car. Stacie bites her lip, annoyed that George is late. But at least this time he actually showed up.

STACIE
He's been out here a half an hour, George...

George shrugs at her-- Helpless, per usual-- Lewis leans out the back window of the Saab.

GEORGE
I know, hop in the car, Champ.

*

LEWIS
We're gonna be late...

*

GEORGE
(opens Lewis's car door)
We'll be fine.
(grabs his bag)
Besides, I got a big surprise for you.

*
*
*
*

George hustles Lewis over and into his two-seater Mercedes.
Stacie looks at George disapprovingly.

*
*

GEORGE
I can take him for dinner after?

*

STACIE
(torn)
He has homework.

*

GEORGE
What if we're back by seven?

*
*

STACIE
(gives in)
Seven, fine.
(as he runs to the car)
That's not eight fifteen, not quarter to
ten.

*
*
*
*
*
*

George waves as he puts the car into drive--

*

LEWIS
Bye Mom!

*
*

George's Car races down the driveway as Stacie watches.

*

George sits next to Lewis, a bright sensitive kid who loves but doesn't trust his father. They struggle for conversation.

*

GEORGE

Say, Champ, I'm sorry I haven't visited in a few months.

LEWIS

It wasn't a few months. It was four months.

(a beat)

It was a plethora of months.

GEORGE

A "plethora", huh?

LEWIS

It means a lot.

George nods, knowing well what it means, and that it's true.

GEORGE

Yeah well, -- that's what this big news is, see-- I told your Mom already, but-- I'm moving back to town.

This gets Lewis's interest, though he's not sure he believes it.

LEWIS

You moved here?

GEORGE

You bet I did. And wait til you see this place. You got your own room. A swimming pool even. Figure we'll do a sleep over real soon, how about that?

Lewis looks at George. So many promises, all the time, they always sound good, and yet if only they actually happened.

11 EXT. SOCCER FIELD - LATER

11

George stands on the sideline of Lewis's practice. On the chain link fence behind him hangs a sign reading "**Your Kids Are Watching**". A handful of PARENTS and NANNIES sit in the stands reading on their I-PADS, texting, chatting-- COACH LEN, a heavyset non-athletic businessman, leads the team in jumping jacks. He does about 1 for every 5 the kids do.

The Coach's cell phone rings. He checks the caller ID--

COACH LEN

Kids, I got to grab this call real quick. Let's do a once around the field in the mean time-- Loosen a up a little.
(pointing to one BOY)
Ian, would you lead everyone off?

ETHAN THE KID HE CALLED IAN

My name's Ethan, not Ian.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

Len is into his call by now and waves as if to say "Yeah, right Ian, Ethan, whatever"... Ethan (Ian) begins running around the field, and all the kids follow. *

LUPE, a Hispanic Nanny of one of the kids, mentions to George: *

LUPE *

(re: the coach on the phone)
No wonder they're 0 and 4. *

George glances at Len, still on the phone. *

COACH LEN

Is that so? Is that so? Well I'd like to see it. I'd like to see it.

George watches the kids, some are still running, some have started goofing off, some lie on the ground resting. *

12 INT. CHILI'S RESTAURANT - DAY

12

*

George and Lewis sit across from each other having dinner.

GEORGE

You know, I was a big macaroni and cheese guy when I was your age too. I knew the guy that invented it actually. It was a kitchen collision, did you know that? Two waiters were rushing with food-- macaroni-- cheese--

With his hands, George indicates a CRASH. Lewis offers a slight smile. When the two are alone, it's always a struggle.

GEORGE

So, you doing okay at school?
(he nods)
How about at home? All good?

LEWIS

Yeah. Mom and Matt are getting married. *

This is a huge surprise for George and it affects him more than he thought it would. Not that he'd show it.

GEORGE

...really? I, uh... I hadn't heard. When? *

LEWIS

Next month or something. *

GEORGE

Oh, that's uh... She didn't tell me. *

George doesn't know what else to add. He keeps eating his salad. Lewis keeps eating his mac & cheese. The WAITRESS comes by to clear some dishes. No one says a word.

13 EXT. LEWIS'S HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

13

Lewis and George approach the tasteful house that long ago George bought for his family and more recently lost in a sad but uneventful divorce. Stacie greets them at the door.

STACIE

Hey guys. How was it?

LEWIS

Great, Mom... Dad told me the news, that
he's moving here.

Stacie smiles to seem pleased, though her lack of words speaks
volumes. MATT, Stacie's Fiancee and the soon-to-be Step Dad for
Lewis, appears in the house and comes towards the threshold, the
unspoken boundary of George & Stacie's divorce.

MATT

Hey Guys... Hi George...
(to Lewis)
How was practice, buddy?

LEWIS

(entering the house)
Great Matt. I got three goals.

MATT

Three goals?
(bangs fists with Lewis)
Holy smokes. Save some for the season.

Matt knows there are things to discuss between Stacie and George
and he excuses himself.

MATT

I'll get Lewis started in the shower.
(to George)
'Night George.

GEORGE

Bye. Goodnight Champ.

LEWIS

See ya, Dad.

Lewis and Matt head upstairs. Stacie and George look at each
other-- they still have not exchanged a word. A beat.

STACIE

I'm sorry to hear about the bar closing.

GEORGE

(playing it off no big deal)
Well, you know, in this economy, it's...
Better to cut bait and... move on...

Another failure of George's. A beat.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

GEORGE

And... Lewis told me your big news.
(which makes Stacie awkward)
Congratulations.

STACIE

Thanks. I had meant to tell you myself,
and...

GEORGE

No, no look-- It's no big... It's great.
It's...

There is clearly tension here. And it's clearly time to go.

GEORGE

Anyway, I should go--
(yells to O.S. Lewis)
Lewis! You take care, Mate.

LEWIS (O.S.)

(from upstairs)
Bye dad!

George is about to leave, and she is about to close the door.

GEORGE

He's got practice again Friday if I can take
him. 3 o'clock. Sharp this time.

She considers it.

STACIE

3 o'clock. Sure.

George walks away and she stares at him.

14 EXT. STACIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

14

George at the bottom of the driveway he watches lights GO OUT
from the house and life he once had.

INT. GEORGE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

George sits on his couch and reviews his sports casting tape,
checking how it plays. He seems pensive.

15 INT. GEORGE'S MERCEDES - DAY

15

George pulls into the parking lot of a local TV Station. He sees
EXECS heading inside. He looks at his audition tape. He stares
at the entrance trying to summon the confidence to go in.

16 INT. LOCAL TV STATION - NEWS STUDIO - DAY

16

CHIP JOHNSON, walks George through the station on the way to the news set. CHIP is American, well spoken, well-educated ex athlete who is genuinely happy to see George. They both walk along corridors, followed by a couple assistants.

CHIP

Man it's great to see you George. I think about our days on the road all the time.

GEORGE

Some good times, huh?

CHIP

I kick myself for not writing a book. Not that anyone would believe it, but-- as good as you were on that field, no one was better off it.

They enter the control room. There are a few OPERATORS.

CHIP

Gentlemen, bet you all remember the great number 8, my old teammate George Dryer...

George smiles, embarrassed.

GEORGE

Hi fellas...

The operators smile back, a few recognizing him, a few just being courteous. George and Chip enter a smaller room. Through the glass, we see a green screen, cameras, lights on and a weather guy on air.

CHIP

So what are you up to? Last I heard, you were doing some real estate deal up in... Canada or something. What the hell do you know about Canada? Or real estate?

*

GEORGE

Vacation homes, in Winnipeg. I was just a spokesman, so--

(now the reason he's here)

And now, I'm thinking about doing-- something you had suggested a while back, in fact, sportscasting. And I put a little demo together--

(holds up a video tape)

I thought I'd show it to you first.

Chip seems confused, but tries to remain respectful.

CHIP

When did I suggest that? Sportscasting?

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

Well, it was probably 3, 4 years ago, but...

*

Chip is bright and perceptive and senses a desperation on George's part and takes the tape.

CHIP

No, look-- I'll definitely check it out...

(taking the tape)

They're always looking for someone to replace me here, so--

They both laugh, trying to cover for any awkwardness. Chip walks towards the news set, and George walks with him.

Just then DAWN, Chip's assistant comes over.

DAWN

Chip, on in two...

Dawn checks out George as she walks off. They both start following Dawn to the control booth. *It's time to go on air.*

*

CHIP

Hey, stick around, okay? We'll grab a drink.

*

Chip gives George a quick, but sincere, pat on the back, then takes off to the set. Dawn puts Chip's stuff on a nearby director's chair and fixes his collar as he walks. People from hair and make up also add in their final touches as Chip slips into his chair behind his desk.

*

SPORTS ANCHOR

... Now for a look at the match-ups in today's game against the revolution, here's Chip Johnson. Chip?

*

*

*

*

Chip begins his broadcast. He's damn good... and George knows it. So much so, George feels foolish for being there.

17 EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

17

George watches practice from the sidelines. Only three PARENTS in the stands; one is *Lupe again*. Coach Len is on the phone again, as two lines of 6 kids stand across from each other and kick the ball back and forth.

*

*

Lupe nods to George regarding Coach Len.

*

PLAYER

Coach, that's 50 passes, should we keep going?

The Coach covers his ear and gestures "keep going, keep going".

COACH LEN

(into phone)

If that's so, I'd like to see it. All I'm
saying is, if that's so--

*

A stray ball rolls over towards George. He considers it, sees
the bored ignored kids... He digs the ball out of the dirt with
his toe and kicks it up. It lands perfectly under his arm.

*

*

*

Lupe notices and seems a bit impressed.

*

GEORGE

(to a kid)

Hey buddy, go in the goal, okay?

The kids, and even parents in the stands, instantly notice how
expertly George carries the ball from foot to foot without ever
looking down. Lewis approaches his Dad *quietly, nervously*--

*

LEWIS

What are you doing?

*

GEORGE

Hold the balls, everyone. Hold the balls.

*

LEWIS

Dad, you're not supposed to...

*

*

A second ball is on the ground. George uses his foot to SPIN the
ball backwards towards him, it rolls up his leg, onto his thigh.
All the kids are impressed. Two balls in his hands now.

*

*

GEORGE

You kids all like to shoot, right?

*

*

(they all raise their hands)

*

And who wants to score some goals this
season? Anyone?

*

*

(a beat)

*

Okay so, maybe it's time we learn how to
kick properly, huh?

*

*

He drops the ball to the ground, pins it under his foot.

*

GEORGE

We don't kick into the ball, you see? We put
our foot next to the ball. We lock the
ankle, and we follow through with the
shooting foot. Like this--

*

*

*

*

*

He then powers his foot through the ball and it goes right into
the goal, literally almost scalping the poor kid in the goal.
The goalie is on the ground, still doesn't know what happened.

*

*

*

GEORGE

Now who else thinks they can try that?

*

*

18 LUPE - IN THE STANDS 18 *

Lupe looks up from her magazine as George commandeers the practice. All the kids are lined up with their balls, planting their foot next to the ball and shooting. Just those few simple fundamentals have at least a small immediate effect. *

19 GEORGE - ON THE FIELD 19 *

Coach Len, still on the phone, notices George and waves appreciatively to him. George is watching the kids all kick towards the goal. *

GEORGE *

Good, there you go, good... *

A stray ball pops out of play towards George, he goes to clear it, and in doing so, (PURPOSELY) flicks off to the left, at Len, hitting him right in the ass. *

GEORGE *

Sorry-- ! *

Coach Len, still on the phone, motions "No problem". *

20 OMITTED 20 *

21 INT. GEORGE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 21 *

George is watching a soccer game on TV. His phone rings. He picks it up. It's Stacie. *

GEORGE *

Stacie...

STACIE (FILTERED)

Well, you always were good at first impressions, George...

22 INT. STACIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 22 *

Stacie sits at the bureau in her bedroom, on the phone.

STACIE *

Apparently you made such a splash at practice, they want you to run the team. *

INTERCUT THEIR CALL:

GEORGE *

Wait, what does that mean? *

22 CONTINUED:

22

STACIE

It turns out, Coach Len doesn't really have time to *be the Coach*... and they want you to do it instead--

*

INTERCUT THEIR CALL:

GEORGE

Look, I'm, I'm flattered, just-- I'm in the middle of a couple of things right now, and--

STACIE

(interrupting him)

Jesus, George-- It's not about you being flattered. *It's not a press conference, you know?*

*

*

(a beat)

*

It's about-- *Lewis*. For once, why can't you give him what he wants?

*

George thinks about it, overwhelmed by the idea of it--

COACH JACOB (V.O.)

Kids, say "Hi" to your new coach--

23 EXT. THE SOCCER FIELD - DAY

23

JACOB, a pudgy sweet-faced assistant coach, introduces an uncomfortable looking George to the team.

*

ASSISTANT COACH JACOB

This is Lewis's Dad, Coach George.

*

A smattering of "Hi Coach George", "hi Coach"...

ASSISTANT COACH JACOB

We're all fortunate to have George, because believe it or not, he was a professional soccer player from England. Pretty exciting, huh kids?

*

*

Jacob claps for George, and the kids follow his lead. Lewis watches his Dad nervously.

GEORGE

Thank you. Thanks.

(after a beat)

I'm from Scotland, actually.

They all react to the correction with more applause.

GEORGE

In any case, I've never actually coached before, but I did play the game, from when I was about your age-- And, it's *about the best game there is--*

*

*

*

(CONTINUED)

No one says anything. They just stare at him.

GEORGE

When I was a kid, I'd carry that ball with me everywhere I went. Always bouncing it off my knee. Off the garage. On the way to school... And if you do that, one day you realize, you don't just play soccer, but you're a soccer player.

Several kids raise their hands, including:

SAMANTHA, a tomboy, whose mother Denise would much rather her be in dresses and makeup.

GRIFFIN, shy, parents are both surgeons, never show up to the game, he's taken everywhere by his Nanny.

ETHAN, a very sweet overly-sophisticated kid who hangs out with his parents so much, he sounds like them sometimes.

HUNTER, son of Carl and Patti, the richest and most dysfunctional parents on the team.

GEORGE

You got a question?
(to Samantha)
Just, yell it out--

SAMANTHA

How much should we kick the ball every day?

GEORGE

I don't know. Whenever you have one handy I suppose.

GRIFFIN

Is an hour a day enough?

GABE

(overlapping)
I have Trumpet lessons on Wednesday, should I do it after that or before?

ETHAN

(overlapping))
I have Hebrew lessons on Tuesday, can I practice extra on Monday instead?

GEORGE

(interrupting)
Okay look, it's not a homework assignment. It's just-- the more you put into it the more you get out... But if you do practice every day, you know, kick the ball back and forth with your Mom or your brother, you will get better. Can everyone agree to that?

One girl ALLY raises her hand.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

GEORGE

Yes-- ?

ALLY

Coach-- I had a brother... but he died. *

(of George's look) *

... I have a sister though. Should I play with her? *

George looks at Jacob like "How do you stop this?"

ASSISTANT COACH JACOB *

Okay, kids, why don't we take field--

24 EXT. PARKING LOT - LATER

24

We are pushing in on a parked car. Here we reveal DENISE: attractive, 36, on her cell phone. *

Taken by George's looks and athleticism, as well as his focused attention on the kids, she removes her glasses and peers curiously... forgetting for a moment she's on the phone.

WOMAN'S VOICE THROUGH PHONE

Denise-- ? You there-- ?

DENISE

(snapping to)

Yeah, I'm here-- Say again?

She follows George with her eyes as she listens.

25 EXT. THE FIELD - 20 MINUTES LATER

25

The kids are in two lines, each kid kicks the ball back and forth between him and his partner in the opposite line.

GEORGE

Toe pointed down, right? Ankle locked.

(blocks another shot)

Let's try to aim for the corner

Nearly every kick goes 20 feet past the person they're kicking it to. No one seems to know which ball is theirs.

GEORGE

And on the laces, right? Everyone know where the laces are?

EXT. PARKING - END OF PRACTICE *

Denise has been joined by other moms in the parking lot. George is standing mid-field, while the kids are in a circle around him. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He passes to one, they pass back to him, he passes to another-- almost always fooling the person he's passed to. The kids are all smiles.

A second cute Mom, BARB, a nervous divorcee approaches Denise.

BARB
Who's the new coach?

DENISE
News to me.

A 3rd WOMAN, PATTI KING, late 30's, walks up between the cars.

PATTI
Gotta be Stacie's Ex. Remember? The soccer player.

BARB
Soccer player? What does he do now?

DENISE
What else do you need him to do?

THE FIELD - CARL

An elegant man 25 years George's senior-- the richest dad on the team, or in the league for that matter-- approaching George--

CARL
You got 'em moving, Coach, I'll give you that--
(shaking his hand firmly)
Carl King-- Hunter's Dad. Promised the big guy I'd drop by after work so--

GEORGE
Always welcome. George Dryer--

CARL
A true pleasure, George. Believe me, when I heard we had a champion soccer player out here, boy it doesn't get any better than that--

GEORGE
Well, that was a long time ago, so--

CARL
Hunter and I looked you up on youtube. I mean, I always felt soccer athletes didn't get the credit here they deserved... But to be over there, in the thick of it you know-- It got Hunter's attention anyway.
(before George can answer)
In any case, Len told me to give this check to you--
(hands him an envelope)
It's to sponsor the team.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARL (cont'd)

A little something I do every year for the kids. Goes to trophies, uniforms--

GEORGE

I'm sure everyone appreciates that.

CARL

Well, my wife and I appreciate what you and the kids are doing out here. All I ask is--

(leaning in; quietly)

-- let's keep it low key you know?

GEORGE

I do. I got it.

CARL

If you want to let Hunter start at Goalie--
As long as we don't call attention to it.

*

GEORGE

Goalie it is.

CARL

Or, I got a daughter with a voice like Barbara Streisand-- If they sing the Star Spangled Banner before games -- as long as it's...

*

Carl gestures "low key" with his hand.

GEORGE

Low key, you got it.

CARL

And Coach, let's catch up one of these days. I'd like to hear what you've been up to since soccer...

GEORGE

Well, a little this and that, so--

CARL

(sincerely interested)

Hmm. Love to hear more about it. I'm always looking for something interesting.

George waves, though he's not quite sure just what he agreed to.

*

27 INT. GEORGE'S GUEST HOUSE - NIGHT

27

He enters the guest house with a bag of Jack In The Box. He hits the "PLAY" button on his message machine.

*

*

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

MOM 1 (ON MACHINE)

Hi Coach, this is Aaron's Mom, Coach Len had
promised Aaron he could play offense opening
day so hopefully none of that has changed--
Call me at 905-5063.

*
*
*
*
*

George rummages through some overdue bills. Next message begins: *

MOM 2 (ON MACHINE)

Hi Coach, it's Alan's mother, Alan
apparently hasn't gotten to kick the ball as
much as some of the other kids and, if you
could call me at...

*
*
*
*
*

George walks out of the room. *

28 EXT. THE SOCCER FIELD - GAME DAY

28

Bright sunny day. Energy and color everywhere. Groups of kids
in their soccer uniforms parade to their respective fields.

Mothers rub sunscreen into resisting kids' cheeks. Father's
give last second advice about "How to pass, how to score".

Across the parking lot, George sees Lewis and Stacie exiting
their car. Lewis sees his Dad and waves "hi". Georges smiles
and waves to him. Bon on his way to Lewis, Barb, the young cute
divorcee, intercepts him. She is fragile, a bit jittery and
more than a tad neurotic.

BARB

Coach George? Can I talk to you a moment?

GEORGE

Sure, I just want to get my son, and--

BARB

Sure, of course--

*

(then ignoring his request)

It'll just take a second.

(tagging alongside him)

How's he doing?

GEORGE

Who?

*

BARB

Billy. I'm sorry, I'm-- Billy's Mom. Barb.

GEORGE

Right, Billy's Mom. I'm sorry, I--

BARB

Thing is-- You've seen him play, he's not
good. I know. His kicking and that...form.

She stops, and he stops with her.

(CONTINUED)

BARB

... I ask his Dad to play with him, but if his Dad listened to me, well, you know, without rehashing the whole split-up...

Even she seems exhausted by her own neurosis, she takes a breath. George responds, as usual, calmly.

GEORGE

I think he's gonna be fine.

BARB

You do?

GEORGE

A lot of the kids don't have much experience. If he needs extra help, I'm happy to--

Though she has a smile of great relief plastered across her face, tears seem to be not far behind them--

GEORGE

... spend time with him or--
(as tears start streaming)
I don't-- Why are you crying?

BARB

I don't know. I uh--
(clearing her tears)
But thank you. You're right. It is gonna be fine. Thanks Coach.

Embarrassed but happy, she smiles, takes a deep breath and gives George a short but nice hug of "thanks". What she doesn't know is, this is George's first hug in some while, and it stays with him as she walks away and George watches her go, sees in distance Lewis walking towards him with a smile. *

31 EXT. THE STANDS - THE TEAM MOMS - GAME IN PROGRESS 31 *

A few MOMS watch George coach from the sidelines. He goes from kid to kid getting them set: moving some two feet to the left and some three feet to the right. George literally picks up the GOALIE and moves him back. The kids think it's funny. The moms notice too. Stacie is in the stands and observes them talking. *

MOM 1 *

The kids are crazy about him. *

MOM 2 *

Aaron didn't want to leave practice the other night. Three hours they were there. *

MOM 3 *

I don't think Larry's spent 3 hours with Tony his entire life. *

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

Stacie listens to the Moms go on with admiration, which worries her. She looks at George on the field. They exchange glance.

*
*

32 GEORGE - THE SIDELINE - LATER THAT GAME

32

George watches Lewis dribbling the ball down towards the goal.

GEORGE

Side to side, Lewis! Look for your wings.

Lewis gets closer and closer, a DEFENDER is gaining on him. George can't believe it. But the defender is catching up fast.

GEORGE

Look for a pass, Lewis. Look for a...

Just then Lewis loses his footing, the ball gets away, Lewis slips on the grass. The ball heads the other way.

GEORGE

Okay, that's all right. Get 'em next time.

But Lewis doesn't look at his Dad, seemingly uncomfortable with the public feedback on his performance-- even if constructive.

George looks at his bench players, checks his roster.

GEORGE

Okay, Griffin, you ready to go in-- ?
Who's Griffin-- ?

End of the bench sits a shy 9 year old GRIFFIN being urged by his nanny-- Lupe.

LUPE

Griffin, your coach needs you.

George notices Griffin and approaches--

GEORGE

What's up, buddy? A little gun-shy?

GRIFFIN

I don't want to play until my Mom and Dad get here.

GEORGE

Okay, are they in the parking lot, or-- ?
Do you see them?

LUPE

They say, coming soon--

Without Griffin seeing, she motions "they're not coming".

GRIFFIN

They said 2 o'clock, Coach and it's 2 now.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

Lupe shakes her head to George "not now, not ever".

GEORGE

Okay pal, maybe you want to jump in there, score a couple goals for me, and then next period, we can--

(Griffin shakes head "no")

Well, you hang back for now, and lemme know when they're here, okay?

He gives Griffin a supportive pat which he (and Lupe) appreciate. He checks the line up card.

GEORGE

Ethan? Who's Ethan?

ETHAN

(raising his hand)

Hi Coach. My parents aren't here either, but I can play.

GEORGE

Good man. You know where to go?

ETHAN

(while walking to field)

They're having an open house today. They're asking a million two-fifty but they'll take a million seventy.

GEORGE

Go to your position.

33 CARL - IN THE STANDS - DAY

33

As the kids play, Carl sits next to his wife Patti. George's team scores a GOAL. The kids all jump up and down. The score is now 10-1, but it's a start.

*
*
*

GEORGE

Okay, we're on the scoreboard, coming back. Let's go...

*
*
*

Carl & Patti watch as George high-fives all the kids.

*

CARL

He played against Beckham. Now he's coaching our kids. How great is that?

PATTI

(eyeing George as if he was prey)
Pretty great...

35 EXT. SOCCER FIELD PARKING LOT - AFTER THE GAME - DAY 35 *

George loads the equipment into his trunk as Stacie gives Lewis his overnight bag. **Matt** waits off to the side. *

STACIE
Your toothbrush is in there. And pajamas--

LEWIS
Mom-- I'll be fine.

STACIE
And make sure he takes a shower-- ?

GEORGE
Showers and brushed teeth. House rules.

She approaches George, glances back at both Lewis and **Matt**.
She's a little nervous about this first sleep out in a while...
and she's taking it out on George. *

STACIE
(after a beat)
Well, he's all yours.
(pointedly)
Try not to lose him.

She walks off, kisses Lewis's cheek--

STACIE
Have fun, okay?

LEWIS
Bye, Mom. Bye **Matt**. *

36 INT. GEORGE'S MERCEDES - AFTERNOON 36

Lewis and George drive towards the parking lot EXIT. As they wait to make a turn into traffic, a BMW pulls up next to them. Denise is driving; her daughter Samantha is in the back.

DENISE
So you're Lewis's Dad-- ?

George turns and sees Denise. Beautiful and Sexy.

DENISE
Denise. Samantha's Mom. The kids have been friends since Kindergarten.

GEORGE
George. But we've met before, haven't we?

Lewis and Samantha look at each other through the car windows.

36 CONTINUED:

36

DENISE
Not that I remember...
(softly; flirting)
And I'd remember.

GEORGE
Sorry, you looked familiar, but...

DENISE
Unless "*Westbrook down to the 10, the 5, and
touchdown*" rings a bell...

*
*

GEORGE
Of course, the *Football girl at CSN... You
covered the Skins...*

*
*

She is appreciative that he remembers her.

*

DENISE
See Coach, you're not the only one who used
to be someone.
(eyes her daughter)
Well, see you when I see you.

Denise drives off into traffic, a little recklessly even. George
looks at Lewis.

37 EXT. GEORGE'S GUEST HOUSE - NIGHT

37

Lewis and George walk up to the guest house.

GEORGE
Remember, I'm still gettin' unpacked--

*

38 INT. GEORGE'S GUEST HOUSE - NIGHT

38

George turns on the lights, they walk inside. There's been some
effort to tidy up, but it's still dark and cluttered.

GEORGE
Not bad for a couple of bachelors, huh?

Lewis wanders the apartment, pleased. He goes to the window.

LEWIS
And we're allowed to use the pool?

GEORGE
Allowed? That's the first thing I asked
about... Not to mention--

*

George opens the door to the second bedroom.

*

GEORGE
Your own room. How about that?

*
*

(CONTINUED)

It is an equally cluttered room with a treadmill, computer and sleeper couch.

GEORGE

I thought we'd fix it up together. I figure maybe a little of Mom's good taste has rubbed off on you, huh?

ON the window sill in Lewis's room, George has put a photo of a YOUNG GEORGE and STACIE with 2 YEAR OLD LEWIS. *

LEWIS

Is this me?

GEORGE

Of course it's you! That was in Italy.

LEWIS

I was in Italy? Did I like it?

GEORGE

Who doesn't like Italy? You loved it.

Lewis stares at the picture, to imagine Italy. They look at it together. George stares at his son for a moment. The picture gives him a sadness, it's a life so long ago, his son barely remembers it... and in some ways, it's all he remembers. *

Lewis walks out, leaving George staring at it. *

LEWIS

What's down here? *

INT. GEORGE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT *

Lewis walks in, sees George's King Sized bed. *

LEWIS

Wow... this bed is giant. *

Lewis spins around and falls backwards on the bed. He looks happy. George lies next to him on the bed. *

GEORGE

So, not bad, huh? *

(he nods) *

Figure one of these nights if it's warm enough we'll take a "midnight swim". How do you like that? *

LEWIS

But my bedtime is 8:30. *

GEORGE

No, no-- when the "midnight swim" is on, the "midnight swim" is on... That's just the way it is. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Lewis is happy.

*

39 INT. LEWIS'S BEDROOM AT GEORGE'S - LATER THAT NIGHT 39

Lewis lies in bed half asleep, yawning, as George tucks him in. *

GEORGE

Anything you need, I'll be right in the next room, okay?

(kissing his forehead)

I'll see you, Champ.

LEWIS

Good night Dad...

They smile. And then Lewis closes his eyes, starts to drift off. George touches his hair.

40 INT. GEORGE'S BEDROOM - LATE AT NIGHT 40

George sits at his computer. He talks aloud as he types--

GEORGE

Dear Team... Good (re-typing) great game today... Next practice is....

(looking for schedule; then)

--Tuesday at 4... Coach George...

(seeing his reflection)

Coach George.

He presses SEND. George looks at the clock-- 2 AM-- and gets up to retire for the night. Just then a new e-mail comes in-- DING. George sees the clock: 2:01 AM. He reads the letter:

E-MAIL #1: "HI COACH, YOU'RE UP LATE"

The SENDER is "DM@Hotmail.Com". He looks at the team roster, sees the e-mail is from: "DENISE". He considers writing back. Instead, he gathers his stuff to go, but as he leaves the room... ANOTHER DING. He goes back to the screen.

E-MAIL #2: "I KNOW YOU'RE THERE, COACH"

George takes a beat. Looks at the roster more closely. "Player: Samantha... Mom: Denise... Dad: Tony". At 2:02 AM. George seems a little intrigued by it. He presses "Reply to Sender", thinks what to write.

LEWIS (O.S.)

Dad?

Startled, George turns and sees Lewis standing there. George clicks the e-mail file closed like he's hiding something.

GEORGE

Hey Mate, what's doing--?

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

LEWIS
I had a bad dream.

GEORGE
Oh, well, that's, you want a glass of warm
milk maybe-- ?

LEWIS
I don't know. Does that help?

42 INT. LEWIS'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

42

*

George tucks Lewis into bed tightly.

GEORGE
Yep, this is definitely gonna solve the
problem. *The old warm milk trick.* You think
you can try closing your eyes again?

*

Lewis squints a little.

*

LEWIS
There's a light in my eyes.

*

*

*George looks around, sees a flood light from the main house
pointing into Lewis's room.*

*

*

GEORGE
*Okay, well there's the culprit... hold on...
(gets up; draws the blinds)
There you go. Better?*

*

*

*

*

But it's not better. A beat.

*

LEWIS
I want to call Mom.

GEORGE
(this hurts)
Mom? She'll be asleep by now. We can figure
this out ourselves, don't you think? A
couple of blokes like us?

LEWIS
I miss Mom.
(George takes that in)
I wanna go home.

*

43 EXT. STACIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

43

*

The door opens and Stacie appears in a nightgown, hugs Lewis.

STACIE
Go hop in my bed, 10 minutes and then off to
your room.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

He nods and races off. George shrugs to his Stacie.

GEORGE
Some start, huh?

It's her first moment of empathy for him.

GEORGE
Anyway,...

He starts to walk off. A beat, then...

STACIE
George--
(as he turns)
You didn't lose him overnight. Just give
him time.

GEORGE
How did you get to be so much more grown up
than me?

STACIE
Someone had to, George.

She smiles, in her eyes a sweetness we've not seen before.

GEORGE
Just, when we were kids...

STACIE
(stops him)
George... we haven't been kids for a long
time. It's time to move on. We've all moved
on, but you... Take care. *

She disappears into the house. George walks back to his car and
stops, thoughtful and troubled on the curb. He breathes deeply. *

44 EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

44

Practice. A sunny Spring day. Stacie and Lewis arrive at the
field, looking for George. A moment later, we see George pull in
and park his car.

LEWIS
There's Dad.

STACIE
I'll see you after practice, okay?
(as Lewis nods)
Have fun!

Lewis smiles, walks out of the car and moves towards his dad.

45 THE PARKING LOT AT THE FIELD - SAME

45

George grabs the equipment from the trunk, waves again to Lewis and begins towards him. Team sponsor Carl intercepts him. *

CARL

Hey Coach-- Let me give you a hand. *

Carl grabs the lightest bag and walks with him. George maintains eye contact with his son off in the distance.

CARL

So my wife Patti and I are having a little party Friday night. We were hoping you'd join us. *

GEORGE

Oh, Friday, well, uh...

CARL

A few congressman from the hill are coming, some doctor friends, a local artist-- you like art?

GEORGE

Sure, just-- Saturday morning Lewis and I are going to the soccer match early, so... *

CARL

Hey Coach--
(re: himself)
Team sponsor. You're not gonna leave me hanging are you?

(Off George's look)

Besides, some advertising guys I know from Rio are coming. I don't have to tell you what they think about soccer in Brazil, George... Have the right cocktail-- with the right Brazilian -- you could find yourself spokesman for your own Sangria. *

They both laugh, though George isn't quite sure at what. *

GEORGE

Well, maybe just for a drink--

CARL

-- that a boy... *

(his cell phone rings)

This is Brazil now-- Fingers crossed. *

Carl hands George the equipment bag he was carrying. Carl walks off, talking into his phone in Portuguese. *

George is ready to make a bee-line for Lewis, but just then, a suddenly ENTHUSIASTIC gleeful Barb steps in front of him.

BARB

Hi.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

GEORGE

Hi.

Lewis sees that George has been waylaid again and walks off.

BARB

I just want to apologize for the other day.

George keeps walking with Barb by his side.

GEORGE

Look, don't even think about it.

BARB

No, no, it's just since the divorce, I tried to be so tough, I got myself to a point where I was too tough. I wasn't me. I couldn't feel, I couldn't cry. I got so strong, I couldn't cry-- Oh my God...sorry...

She stops, so he stops to. Tears stream from her eyes. The harder she tries to stop them, the more they pour out.

BARB

--and it's important sometimes in life to cry.

GEORGE

I got to say, I think you're over it. You seem pretty okay now.

He's kind of kidding her, but it makes her smile. George then sees Lewis who for the first time notices him.

BARB

Some mess, huh?

(clears tears)

Thanks Coach. You're terrific.

She gives him a hug-- like the other day, maybe even longer, and definitely longer than appropriate. When she clears frame, George sees Lewis standing on the field watching him. George smiles to him, a bit embarrassed as they finally meet.

LEWIS

That was Billy's Mom.

*
*

GEORGE

Right. Billy's Mom.

*
*

46 THE PRACTICE - THE FIELD - AN HOUR LATER

46

George is watching as the kids are definitely improving. The game is much more free flowing.

*
*

47 PRACTICE - LATER

47

George is about to blow the whistle to end practice. Lewis has the ball, near the goal, he kicks it-- just a foot wide. George blows the WHISTLE.

*
*
*

GEORGE
Good practice, everyone. Grab some water.

LEWIS
Did you see that shot, Dad? Almost, huh?

*
*

GEORGE
Trust me. You got plenty of goals in your future.

*
*
*

Then from behind him he hears Denise:

*

DENISE (O.S.)
Get a good night's sleep, Coach?

George turns, sees Denise behind him. Leaning against the fence.

DENISE
I'm a night owl, too.
(ala an owl)
Whoo. Whoo.

GEORGE
Sorry, I got your e-mail this morning and--

DENISE
That's okay, Coach. Just wanted to tell you
-- I ran into a mutual friend of ours.

GEORGE
Who's that?

DENISE
Chip Johnson. I was at CSN when he first started there.

*

GEORGE
My old teammate. We roomed together on the road.

DENISE
That must have been some room. And some road.
(they both laugh)
So newscasting-- huh George? Apparently damn good too.

*
*

It's been so long since George has been complimented and received any good news, he's skeptical--

*
*

GEORGE
He said that-- ?

*
*

(CONTINUED)

DENISE

He said you were a natural.

GEORGE

That's-- You think he was sincere?

DENISE

Enough to scare him from kicking it upstairs.

(they both laugh)

He didn't say that, but I saw the pile it was in. Anyway, I asked him for a copy. Who knows, I still got a few people I could send it on to.

GEORGE

Oh well, that's-- Any thoughts you had would be great.

At that moment, they hear KIDS APPLAUDING from the field. George looks over and sees Ethan has put his Gatorade on the middle bench of the three-tier aluminum stands. Then he lines up the soccer ball ten foot away. Carl's son Hunter approaches.

HUNTER

You got no shot, Ethan.

ETHAN

Oh yeah, then how much if I knock it over?

HUNTER

Two dollars. Half today, half next week.

Then Carl comes over. Showing off, per usual:

CARL

How 'bout twenty bucks?
(takes out his billfold)
Twenty bucks a bottle.

The kids-- and even the parents eyes- light up.

ETHAN

That's an X-box game per shot.

CARL

And here, let's make it easier on you. Pick your target.

Carl puts out 5 different colored Gatorade and water bottles cross the 3 tiers of the stands.

Ethan lines up his shot, from about 10 feet away, then he runs in, kicks it, and it spills wide.

CARL

Not bad, not bad, who else?

(CONTINUED)

KIDS

Me/me/I'll do it

The kids all start to line up.

CARL

Come on, parents too. Jacob, Patti --?

The single Mom Barb gets up, shrugs to the other Moms.

BARB

I'm a single Mom with bills.

Everyone is having a great time with it.

The kids mostly miss by a mile or more. Barb and one of the Dads are even worse. George watches bemused by it all.

CARL

Do I have to move it closer? I got a stack of twenties here, no one wants any of it?

A DAD tries but misses and seems to pull a muscle while trying. They're all smiling, having fun, when Griffin has a thought:

GRIFFIN

Coach, can you do it?

George looks up, not wanting to do that at all, but the genie is out of the bottle. Suddenly everyone looks up.

GEORGE

Can I do it? You think I want to take this poor bloke's twenty dollars? Let's go.

CARL

By all means George, show us how it's done.

GEORGE

It's getting late guys, come on... Lewis, let's hit it.

LEWIS

(excited, to his dad)
Come on, Dad. Do it!

But Carl is intent on making it happen now and will not take "no" for an answer.

CARL

But to make it more interesting... \$100.
(off their looks)
But, since you're a pro...

Carl moves the ball to mid-field, 40 feet from the target.

(CONTINUED)

PARENTS IN STANDS

Go get em coach! / You can do it! / Get
dirty, Coach / Dive in head first coach.

GEORGE

This is silly, I haven't taken a real shot
in ages.

Carl smiles to him, challenging him.

George surrenders and walks towards the ball. The parents and
players burst in applause. He's intimidated. But he looks down
at the ball and goes in to kick it, he stubs his foot and it
goes wide. Everyone's very disappointed.

GEORGE

20 feet wide, isn't that what you asked for?

Everyone laughs.

CARL

Take another stab, Coach. Money plays.

Someone retrieves the ball, George puts it down, lines it up
again, stretches this time, readies himself...

PARENTS/KIDS

Come on Coach... Nail it in there, coach.

George misses again. Even wider this time.

GEORGE

Like I said, it's been a million years. Go
for it, Jacob. You take it.

Griffin puts the ball in front of George. Carl nods, give it
another go. George takes a deep breath, lines it up, snaps the
kick and skins the edge of the Gatorade bottle... It wobbles on
the bench, twirls about, teeters on the edge... and falls over.

CARL

(holds up his bills)
Well done, Coach.

The parents and the kids now give a great enthusiastic applause.
Carl then goes to the bleachers and stands the bottle back up.
Feeling confident, or at least competitive now:

CARL

How about double or nothing?

Carl smiles at George, challenging him. The ball is in place. *

George feels the high and tense expectation in the eyes all the
parents and kids. He lines up his shot, approaches, snaps a kick
and NAILS the Gatorade bottle, sends it FLYING over the stands.

CUT TO:

*

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

48 A new ball. George snaps another kick, into a different colored *
Gatorade bottle on the top bleacher. With his left foot, he
goes towards the other bleacher even further away and knocks a
water bottle into the air.

Even greater applause.

It's Carl Vs George, as the kids and parents all take great
notice. Three out of three. And he's just getting started.

49 PARKING LOT OUTSIDE CENTER FIELD -

49

Matt and Stacie climb out of their SAAB. They notice an excited *
crowd and head towards it with great curiosity.

50 GEORGE - THE FIELD

50

Now George locks in, backwards, forwards, bending shots into the
dozen water and Gatorade and lemonade plastic bottles that are
left in the stands after the practice--

KID NEXT TO LEWIS

That's 12 in a row--

A Blue Gatorade and Red Gatorade burst in the air and combine.

LEWIS

Thirteen...

ETHAN

And three thousand dollars....

Kids, Denise, Dads, Patti, Lewis, Barb-- they all watch George
in amazement!

Carl, rich as he is, is sweating bullets, squeezing his wallet.

Stacie notices the commotion is about George which makes her
more nervous than anything else. But Lewis looks back at her and
couldn't be prouder of his Dad or more impressed.

Stacie watches George being watched and knows it's the start of
nothing good... and certainly not what he came for.

George sees her and seems embarrassed about how competitive he's *
suddenly gotten, in front of the kids, showing off, not to *
mention, taking Carl's money-- *

Final shot: Purposely, George sends the ball wide by inches. *
Looks at Carl, shrugs. Carl seems aware that George missed it on *
purpose and smiles appreciatively. But no doubt, for the second *
time in his life, he is a star!

51 INT. GEORGE'S MERCEDES - NIGHT 51

George, dressed for a party, follows a line of expensive cars up the seemingly endless driveway to Carl's massive, sprawling house. A giftwrapped bottle of champagne is beside him.

52 INT. CARL & PATTI KING'S HOUSE - NIGHT 52

George enters the expansive foyer with a 30 foot ceiling, holding his bottle of champagne. It's hardly the "small dinner party" Carl described. He drifts through a crowd of people, passing tuxedoed waiters carrying fancy trays of appetizers.

George grabs a piece of shrimp off a platter as he searches for Carl. He finds himself in a hallway that has hundreds of pictures of Carl with race drivers, politicians, actors, etc...

WOMAN AT PARTY (O.S.)

So you must be the new coach...

George looks up and sees a VERY ATTRACTIVE WOMAN-- CONNIE.

GEORGE

I'm George. I'm sorry, I'm still learning everyone's names--

CONNIE (THE WOMAN)

I'm not on the team. I'm Connie. A friend of Patti and Carl's--

(shaking his hand)

They mentioned something about a new coach. I took a shot.

GEORGE

Well either I forgot to take off my whistle, or I really don't fit in.

She smiles, then adds--

CONNIE

In this crowd-- that's not necessarily a bad thing--

(a beat)

In any case, Coach, I was going to continue my tour down that-a-way-- Which-a-way were you going?

George ponders her "invitation", in fact, he looks like he's about to take her up on it when he hears--

CARL (O.S.)

George!!!

(as George turns)

I'm looking all over for you.

George looks back and Connie is gone.

53 THE PARTY - A BIT LATER

53

At Carl's request, George tells tales from his past to a GROUP of extremely amused and interested sycophants-- In the group Carl has dragged in a trio of BRAZILIAN BUSINESSMEN...

GEORGE

... so we had just beaten Manchester United and someone comes by the locker room and says the Queen wants to meet me...

The group begin laughing at George's story immediately.

GEORGE

So what I didn't know was, when the Queen wants to meet you, she just comes to meet you. So I'm sitting there, not a stitch of clothes, and she walks straight into the locker room--

They laugh again, validating Carl's new best friend. Carl pays particular attention to the Brazilian guys who love it. Carl jokes with them in Brazilian. They all nod in agreement.

CUT TO:

THE PARTY - LATER THAT NIGHT

George is performing for another crowd

GEORGE

So the bloke sneaks up from behind me and I hit him with the Glasgow Kiss...

(off their looks)

In the States, I think it's called a "head butt"...

(they all laugh)

Anyway, I'm going on an on, but...

But surely no one minds. They love it. And mostly Carl.

CARL

The Glasgow kiss. I'd like to introduce that at the office, huh? That'd put an end to those 2 hour lunches.

They all laugh again, validating Carl's new best friend. A few people disperse, except for one OLDER MAN, ARI TIPTON.

PUBLISHER (ARI)

Wonderful stories, George. Did you ever think of putting them on paper?

GEORGE

I can't imagine, uh--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARL
Ari's in publishing. We actually just
bought a stake in his company.
(needling Ari)
A controlling stake I'm happy to report--

ARI TIPTON
George, I want to grab some of that crab
shit over there before it disappears, but at
some point we should talk...
(shakes his hand; to Carl)
We should talk...

The Publisher heads off, but not before nodding to Carl some
vote of approval. George and Carl take a moment.

CARL
Now aren't you glad you stopped by?

GEORGE
Seems crazy, I tell two stories, I'm an
author.

CARL
I only pick winners, George.
(his house; his life)
You don't get all this by picking losers.
(laughs; a beat)
You've had a unique ride.

Carl beckons to a ROVING PHOTOGRAPHER who snaps a few quick
shots of him and George, then moves into the party.

CARL
To be in that locker room-- To have that
bond--
(on a roll)
In my business, they don't watch your back,
they go for it. For instance--
(motions across room)
... the woman against the fireplace-- In
the red scarf.

He points out a PRETTY YOUNG RED-SCARF WOMAN across the room.

CARL
I feel completely comfortable telling you, I
am not sleeping with her--

Carl laughs, and so does George, but mostly from awkwardness.

CARL
But I can't say that about the woman she's
talking to.

George laughs first now, but Carl is quite serious. Carl and
the GIRL in question exchange glances showing us it is true.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARL

And the funny thing is, I know you least of everyone here, but I trust you the most.

Patti, Carl's hot Southern Belle wife, walks up holding her customary bottomless drink.

CARL

Honey, have you met the Coach? My wife, Patti. Is she gorgeous Coach, or is she gorgeous?

GEORGE

You had it right the first time.
(they all smile)
Thanks for having me, Mrs. King.

CARL

Well, I see the Councilman over there...if you'll both excuse me for a moment...

Carl heads to the COUNCILMAN, leaving them alone. A beat.

PATTI

So how's life on the trophy shelf of Carl King Incorporated?

GEORGE

I'm sure it's not as calculated as that sounds.

PATTI

Well, don't be so sure until you're sure, Coach.

Carl is back-slapping and laughing with the Councilman. He beckons to the photographer again, who snaps a few shots.

PATTI

I've thrown enough parties to know who they're for and why. The only thing I can't figure out is, he usually invites at least one woman he's currently sleeping with and...I mean it's not a criticism, a powerful man like him, how could he deny himself the thrill-- ?

(looking around the room)

I just can't seem to spot her yet. Unless that-- ?

(re: girl in red scarf)

There, in the red Chanel scarf. Seems about the perfect age. For him anyway.

It's the one girl Carl said he WASN'T sleeping with.

GEORGE

I'm sure you're just being paranoid, Mrs. King.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PATTI

Well you're just sure of everything tonight,
aren't you Coach?

(noticing a guest)

My girlfriend just got back from her
honeymoon, but-- To be continued-- ?

She takes off to join-- of all people-- Connie from earlier.

George, momentarily alone, looks across the room. He sees the circle of "admirers" whom he told stories to earlier; they beckon to him. He sees Carl with his arm around some Senator; points out George. Patti and Connie giggle then smile at George.

It's all so phoney and sordid. To George, they all move, speak and laugh in SLOW MOTION. He feels himself a complete outsider playing out his "15 minutes" for all to see. He gasps for air.

54 EXT. FRONT OF CARL'S HOUSE - END OF THE NIGHT 54

George waits at the valet parking stand. Nearby, he notices a car port beneath which are an assortment of fancy cars: Ferraris, Porsches, a Hummer. Inconspicuously, George wanders over to a flashy yellow Lamborghini, peeks inside.

CARL (O.S.)

Well don't just stare at it.

George turns, startled to find Carl has appeared from nowhere.

CARL

Give it a spin.

GEORGE

Lewis saw it in the parking lot the other day. He thought it was a rocket ship.

George's Mercedes is pulled up by a PARKING VALET--

CARL

(re: George's Mercedes)

Senor, put this with the others.

(to George)

The keys are inside. Have some fun. See you at practice, Coach.

55 EXT. THE LAMBORGHINI - NIGHT 55

George drives fast. The night air in his face. For a moment, he's 21 again, the whole world in front of him. He smiles.

56 EXT. FRONT OF GEORGE'S HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT 56

The Lamborghini pulls up to George's guest house, where an unfamiliar car and WOMAN are in the driveway.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

Hello-- ?

As he nears the woman, he sees it is Barb, from the team.

GEORGE

Barb-- ?

BARB

Hi. I got your address off the roster
and... I was in the neighborhood and--
(sees Param's mansion)
Wow, is that your house? I guess I should
have figured.

*
*
*
*

GEORGE

(re: the guest house)
Actually, that's my house... For the time
being, for...
(a beat)
Barb, is everything all right?

*
*
*
*
*

BARB

Yes, fine.

She forces a smile to emphasize that she's "fine". But realizes she hasn't explained why she's there then--

BARB

(ranting, but in a sweet way)
Just-- lately, Friday nights have started
to get to me. I drop Billy at his Dad's.
Every week I keep saying I'm going to make
some fabulous plans, with friends, dance all
night, sleep late... But instead, I find
myself driving in circles and-- Just
without Billy home, I-- I...
(her point:)
I'd have a drink if you were offering. Are
you offering?

*

57 INT. GEORGE'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

57

He picks up beer bottles and clothes as they enter. He's self-conscious of his place; she's just glad for the company.

*

BARB

(as he makes the drink)
Truth is, I don't even drink anymore. When
I'm with Billy, I'm the only one in
charge... And then when I'm not with him,
I'm, what if he calls, what if needs me...

*
*
*

GEORGE

(hands her a drink)
Have a drink.

(CONTINUED)

BARB

Sorry. Thanks.
(toasting)
To... our kids.

GEORGE

To sleeping well.

They click. As she goes to take a sip, she sees a shelf of pictures with Lewis, George and even Stacie. Lewis is less than three in each photo.

BARB

You must miss Lewis not **living with you--**
you guys being as close as you are.

*

Her perception of him and Lewis as "close" strikes him--

GEORGE

Sure I do. You just... get used to it after
a while. Not that you don't miss him, you
just get used to it.

One picture on the shelf is an old holiday card from George, Stacie and Lewis: **"The Dryers Wish You Joy & Happiness"**

BARB

And what if I don't want to get used to it?
That sounds even worse.

She looks at her drink, then polishes it in one gulp. She goes to refill it herself.

BARB

But, you got to keep moving ahead, right?

GEORGE

Maybe you should take it easy.

*

BARB

(pours it anyway)
Like, you know what I decided? I think it's
time to start dating.

*

GEORGE

Well, good for you--

BARB

I think so. Just no set-ups.
(sips her drink)
I should be able to attract at least a
dinner and a movie on my own. I'm not
saying I'm Cindy Crawford or anything, but I
could be worse, right?

GEORGE

That could be your slogan. On the internet,
"You've dated worse!"

(CONTINUED)

BARB

(after a beat; shy)

Actually, I'm already on the internet. Could I show you? I'd love your opinion.

She crosses to his desk and sits before his laptop. She punches up "MATCH.COM"...

GEORGE

Trust me, I'm the last person you need advice from... Really--

She flips through dozens of photos of single women-- He notices:

GEORGE

So this is how they do it? So much for sitting home in your underwear waiting for the phone to ring.

*

Just then her profile appears-- A totally adorable but conservative photo with a statement below.

*

BARB

Not a very sexy shot, I know, but I just don't want to come off like some party girl.

She reads it--

BARB

"Single Mom here from North Virginia, I'd put a name, but it wouldn't be a real one. I'm 30-something something-- See problem with name. Like every other profile I've read, 'I'm fun and smart and eager to meet someone who's bright and kind and cute and honest'... Except I'm telling the truth. Dare you to see for yourself".

She stops reading. Then instantly becomes self-conscious.

BARB

Okay, that's stupid, and no wonder no one's called yet or--

She reaches to cancel her profile, but George intercepts.

GEORGE

No, no, that's...

BARB

Or change it at least. And the picture--
(trying to delete it)
I gotta delete it or...

*

*

*

GEORGE

(wrestling away the mouse)
No, that was good. That was cute--

*

*

(CONTINUED)

They tug of war a little on the keyboard... They both acknowledge the tangling of hands and then slowly undo them.

GEORGE

Hey, anyone can have a slump, okay? I'm smack in the middle of one myself.

BARB

(appreciates that; though she doesn't believe it)
And you think people'll call based on that?
I mean, if you didn't know me, you'd call that person-- ?

GEORGE

Of course. You're gonna need a personal screener you're gonna get so many hits.

Though he really handed it to her as more of a gift than an invitation, she's vulnerable and appreciative.

GEORGE

Anyway, it's late, and... I got a big day tomorrow...

She smiles and then opens the door to leave. He adds:

GEORGE

Hey, like I tell the kids. Just keep kicking. Eventually it'll go in.

Encouraged and energized, probably the most confident she's felt in years, she heads down the driveway. He turns to go to bed.

Moments later-- a KNOCK at his door. He opens it and she's there, trembling, all nerves, not sure herself why she's there.

GEORGE

You're not gonna cry are you?

She LUNGES at him, a year and a half of celibacy and anxiety, they fall into a hungry passionate kiss--

BARB

It's been so long, George. Just take it slow with me-- Just be slow with me...

While kissing him, she reaches to her shirt, struggles with a button, gives up instantly, and with both hands, she RIPS HER OWN SHIRT apart, (so much for "taking it slow")-- buttons flying everywhere. They sink towards the ground in a heap.

BARB

Oh my... Oh my...

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

58 EXT. GUEST HOUSE - MORNING 58

It is 10:40 AM, the next morning, the sun just showing itself for the first time. The Lamborghini sits out front. *

59 INT. GUEST HOUSE - GEORGE'S BEDROOM - MORNING 59

The phone RINGS and awakens George. He groggily looks at the clock: "10:40 AM". He notices Barb is gone-- but a note is left on her pillow, written in her lipstick: "**Thanks for breaking my slump - xoxo - Barb**". He smiles to himself, pleased. Just then, the phone RINGS again. *

GEORGE

Hello-- ?

MAN'S VOICE ON PHONE (FILTERED)

George, did I wake you? It's Carl.

GEORGE

Carl?

Half-asleep, George looks at the clock, then out the window sees the Lamborghini. It comes to him "which Carl".

GEORGE

Is everything okay, Carl?

CARL (FILTERED)

Well, I hate to bother you with this, but do you keep cash around the house by chance?

GEORGE

Cash? *

60 INT. JAIL - DAY 60

Carl is on the phone. In the corridor of the jail. *

CARL

\$10,000 to be exact. I know it's a lot to keep on hand, but it's bail.

George shakes his head to make sure he's not still dreaming.

GEORGE

So you're in, jail then? What uh-- ?

CARL

It's nothing really, after the party, Patti had a few too many drinks, as she'll do, things got heated, after that, what I did and what she says I did-- that's two different things, so...

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED:

60

GEORGE

But she called the police-- ?

CARL

Unfortunately it's not the first time, but
if you wouldn't mind swinging by the house,
I have at least that much in my night stand.

All seems resolved, but George is greatly conflicted. Beat.

GEORGE

The thing is, Lewis and I are going to the
soccer match today.

CARL

George, I certainly understand. But I
guarantee you it won't take more than 45
minutes. So if you can squeeze it in, I
won't forget it...

*
*
*

George sees the Lamborghini in the driveway, and feels a sudden
obligation to Carl... even if it's at Lewis's expense. He's
pissed, conflicted, frustrated. As if-- *Why always him?*

61 INT. THE LAMBORGHINI - DRIVING

61

He's racing in and out of traffic trying to get to Carl's as
fast as he can. He's on the phone.

GEORGE

Hey champ, do I got a big surprise for you.
Remember that cool car we saw the other day?

62 INT. LEWIS'S HOUSE. LEWIS'S ROOM -- DAY

62

Lewis in on the phone with his dad.

GEORGE (FILTERED)

Your darn right the rocket ship car. How'd
you like to go to the game in that?

LEWIS

You bought a Lamborghini?

GEORGE

Well not yet. We gotta make sure we like it
first, right!

63 EXT. CARL'S MANSION - DAY

63

He turns into Carl's property, winds up the long driveway:

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED:

63

GEORGE
(and now the bad news)
The thing is, I gotta help a friend right
now, and I'm gonna be about a half hour
late, okay?

*
*
*

64 INT. LEWIS'S HOUSE - LEWIS'S ROOM -- DAY

64

Lewis is clearly disappointed.

LEWIS
We're not gonna miss the game, are we?

GEORGE
(walking to Carl's front door)
Don't worry. These things never start on
time. Just a half hour. 45 minutes tops.
(re: the car)
I'll see you soon, promise!

*
*
*

George hangs up.

Lewis, in his room, hangs up. And turns to see Stacie.

65 EXT. FRONT DOOR AT CARL'S - MORNING

65

He knocks, no answer. Rings bell. Nothing. He's very anxious,
about to knock again when-- PATTI answers in sports bra and work
out tights, wiping her brow.

PATTI
He called you? Jesus.

GEORGE
I'm not taking sides. I just wanna get the
money and get outta here.

PATTI
You want to bail him out, be my guest.
(as George enters)
It's not the first time it's happened.

66 INT. CARL'S HOUSE - MORNING

66

She leads him through the house on the way to the bedroom.

PATTI
Wouldn't care so much, but he does it right
in front of the kids, throwing glasses,
making threats, knocking chairs over.

GEORGE
To be honest, he didn't even tell me what
happened--

(CONTINUED)

PATTI

Well, what he'll say happened and what I say will be two different stories...

GEORGE

He did say that much...

They make a number of turns on the way to the bedroom, the walls are adorned with tasteful art, antiques in every nook.

PATTI

Yes, I'm afraid Carl's gotten a little... feisty in his old age. 64 this past January in fact.

(shrugs)

You're probably wondering what I'm doing with him anyway.

GEORGE

No, no-- I wasn't wondering--

PATTI

Everyone assumes it was the money.

GEORGE

I didn't assume it. Or wonder it.

(tapping his watch)

I just really need to grab the money, and...

PATTI

You think you can do that in front of your kids and not pay some price for it?

GEORGE

(after a beat)

Like I said, he didn't go into detail.

She leads him into the bedroom.

67 INT. CARL & PATTI'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

67

A sprawling master suite with a giant four poster bed.

PATTI

You would never do that, George. A secure man would never have to prove himself that way. Don't you agree George? A real man...
Whose still young enough to remember how to please a woman...

*
*

He looks up, shocked. *Did he hear her correctly?*

*

PATTI

In any case, that side's his, and I've got to jump in the bath, so...

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

She heads towards the bathroom. George, still unnerved from her coarse turn, goes to the night table. In the night table, he finds an envelope with an endless supply of hundred dollar bills. He begins counting--

PATTI (O.S.)

And George--

George turns around just as Patti disappears into her bath.

PATTI

I saw you talking to Lupe, that little boy Griffin's Nanny-- ? If you could find out what they're paying her, I think she's fabulous. You'll do that for me?

Just then, HUNTER, Carl's soccer playing son, enters.

HUNTER

Hi Coach-- do you think I can play offense this Saturday?

George is speechless.

68 INT. MCLEAN COUNTY JAIL - MORNING

68

George checks his watch, it's already pushing 12:15. George checks the clock, stresses. Asks the DESK SERGEANT.

*
*

GEORGE

Hey Mate, I've been here over an hour. Is Carl King almost ready?

DESK SERGEANT

He's coming. Take it easy.

*

George is very anxious. Picks up his phone and calls Stacie.

*

GEORGE

Look, it's me again...

*
*

STACIE (FILTERED)

George, if you blow this off, I--

*
*

GEORGE

No! I'll be there! It's just-- I got a situation and, when I see you, I'll--

*
*
*

STACIE (FILTERED)

George, are you coming or not?

*
*

GEORGE

Yes, I'm just-- tell Lewis to be patient! A half hour more. Maybe less.

*
*
*

Carl appears, untarnished by his stay, smiling, ready to go.

*

69 INT. THE LAMBORGHINI - MORNING

69 *

Carl drives George now, they head home. George looks very anxious. Carl has all the time in the world.

CARL

I hope Patti didn't bust your balls too much. I know she plays the victim, but trust me, she's no angel. At the tiniest disagreement, always threatening to walk out, hinting at other men. I had her followed even, several times; thousands of dollars for a photographic tour of North Virginia's finest shopping.

(a beat)

No, at the end of the day, Patti knows how good she has it.

George nervously checks the clock.

70 EXT. CAR PORT AT CARL'S HOUSE - DAY

70

They pull up to the car port where George's Mercedes is parked. George jumps out of the car and races around to the driver's side. Carl get out of the car.

CARL

Well, thanks again, Coach. I owe you one.
That's your car there, right?

*
*

Carl pockets the Lamborghini keys, points to George's Mercedes

*

CARL

Your key should be on the floor.

Carl walks past the car port towards his front door. George looks at his old Mercedes, then at the Lamborghini which was his "tardy excuse" until now. *Can he simply say something?*

Carl is about to enter his house, when he hears George:

GEORGE (O.S.)

Uh Carl-- ?

Carl turns and sees George searching the inside of his car. Picks up the Mercedes key. Thinks about it. Then pockets it.

GEORGE

Carl-- You say they left the key-- ?

George shrugs "no key". Carl has no time to deal with it.

CARL

Christ-- Look George, I don't know where the guy is. Do you mind if we just square up tomorrow instead?

*
*

(CONTINUED)

70 CONTINUED:

70

Carl tosses him the Lamborghini key.

71 INT. LEWIS'S HOUSE - DAY

71

Lewis is sitting in front of the TV playing XBOX. He is wearing his DC United soccer Jersey, a hat, and has been that way for hours. And he's hurt.

Just then a LOUD sportscar is heard from outside. Stacie looks out the window and sees George jump out of a yellow shiny Lamborghini, approaching the front door. Lewis hears it, but shows no interest, playing his XBOX.

STACIE

He's here Lewis.

(to response)

And wait til you see this car he's in.

Lewis tries to resist caring, but he HEARS the LOUD ENGINE from outside and is too curious not to at least look. Lewis goes to the window.

*
*
*

STACIE

I'm sure he has a good reason. Come on, get your stuff.

*

Lewis runs to get his stuff as Stacie looks out the window at George exiting the Lamborghini. She sighs, wondering what the hell he's up to now.

*
*
*

The door bell rings and she opens.

*

72 EXT. LEWIS'S HOUSE - DAY

72

Stacie and George meet at the front door. Before she can scold him, he tries to beat her to the punch and explain:

*
*

GEORGE

Look, this was not my fault...

*
*

STACIE

George I don't even want to hear the excuse this time.

*
*
*

GEORGE

It's not an excuse, it... Just, it's like I'm jinxed. Carl, you know Carl King-- ?

*
*
*

STACIE

George, I don't give a shit about Carl King. I only care about our son!

*
*
*

Just then Lewis appears.

*

GEORGE

Hey Champ...sorry to keep you waiting.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

Lewis sees the car in the background.

*

GEORGE

What do you think? Worth the wait, right?

LEWIS

(walking towards the car)

The game started an hour ago.

*

GEORGE

Don't worry about it. It's all about the second half anyway.

*

Lewis turns and kisses his Mom. Undeniably, he is excited about the car, even if unhappy with George. Stacie glares at George.

*

*

Lewis gets in the Lamborghini, a KID LEWIS'S AGE comes out of the house across the street-- JOEL, staring at the vehicle.

KID ACROSS STREET (JOEL)

Hi Lewis. Cool car.

LEWIS

Hi Joel. See you.

Lewis is conflicted-- proud of his friend's response... and at the same time, slightly upset at George.

*

INT. THE LAMBORGHINI - DRIVING - DAY

*

Lewis is touching all the buttons in the car.

*

LEWIS

I told you we were gonna miss the game...

*

*

GEORGE

Careful with those buttons there, you don't wanna hit the ejector seat by accident.

Ignoring George, Lewis touches another set of buttons now.

*

GEORGE

Look, I didn't count on so much traffic, but--
- I promise we're gonna have even more fun.

*

*

*

Lewis touches a button and the glove compartment opens up, and inside is an ENVELOPE OF HUNDRED DOLLAR BILLS is there.

LEWIS

Woah. Hundred dollar bills!

*

Lewis reaches for it, but George intercepts and returns it to the glove compartment.

*

*

GEORGE

Hey come on, that's not ours...

*

Lewis stops playing with buttons, looks a little sullen. Beat. *

LEWIS *

So what are we gonna do? *

GEORGE *

Anything you want. You like bowling? *

LEWIS *

Yeah, it's all right. *

GEORGE *

Or maybe miniature golf-- ? *

Lewis nods. A beat passes. George has an idea: *

GEORGE *

Or, if you think you're up for it-- *

Then George stops his thought, which makes Lewis curious. *

LEWIS *

What? *

George jerks the car to the side of the road, slows down on the shoulder. Lewis is curious what he is doing. A beat. *

GEORGE *

Let me ask you a question, and be honest with me, okay? *

(as Lewis looks up) *

If I let you take the wheel, you think you could handle this baby? *

LEWIS *

What are you talking about? *

GEORGE *

The car. I mean, anyone can go to some old soccer game, but how often does a 9 year old get to drive a Lamborghini? *

Lewis lights up. *Really?* *

Tentatively they drive down a dirt road, George pushes the gas pedal while Lewis steers, 10 miles an hour at the most, Lewis is a combination of panic and exhilaration...

Going faster, Lewis relaxed, turning, steady, steady, and they make the turn... A victory of sorts...

30 mph, 40, faster-- Big smiles for both guys. They make a few sharp turns, then some figure 8's.

74 CONTINUED:

74

Then driving, by a lake, on a dirt road, fast and slow... it's scenic and poetic, Lewis's face is bright shiny smiling and it's joyous moment for both of them.

75 EXT. PICNIC AREA BY LAKE - LATE AFTERNOON

75

The car is parked off a dirt road by a lake. Just past the car, Lewis and George are on a patch of grass both looking up into the sky, the warm sun.

LEWIS

Hey Dad? What are you thinking about?

GEORGE

Oh, I dunno. Maybe that herd of cows you almost mowed down back there.

(they both laugh)

What are you thinking about?

LEWIS

(a beat)

Are you sad Mom's getting married?

This catches George by surprise. He takes a moment with it.

GEORGE

Sad? No uh-- why?

LEWIS

Yeah, I talked to Mom about it, and I decided not to call him Dad. Just you, you know?

This never occurred to George, but just the thought of it puts a shiver in him. For a moment George can't speak.

LEWIS

I was also thinking maybe we could take that midnight swim later? Can we?

He gathers himself enough to tell him:

GEORGE

You bet, Champ. The midnight swim it is.

76 EXT. THE LAMBORGHINI - EARLY EVENING

76

The Lamborghini speeds down the highway.

77 INT. THE LAMBORGHINI - EARLY EVENING

77

George drives along, Lewis has dozed off in the passenger seat.

They pass RFK STADIUM. A banner across the stadium reads: "DC UNITED - DON'T MISS THE EXCITEMENT!"

(CONTINUED)

77 CONTINUED:

77

As George passes by, he hears CHANTING, "**DRYER, DRYER, DRYER**"...

Just then, his CELL PHONE RINGS and takes him out of his momentary reverie. George looks at Lewis who is asleep next to him. George talks into the cell phone.

GEORGE

Hello?

DENISE (FILTERED)

Your posture needs work... And the tape
looks a little on the home made side.

*
*

With Lewis right there-- albeit asleep -- George become self-conscious about Denise calling him and picks up the receiver.

78 INT. DENISE'S BEDROOM AT HOME - EARLY EVENING

78

Denise is lying in bed with George's image freeze-framed on her TV, from his living room audition tape.

DENISE

But you sparkle. And you've got presence.

*

INTERCUT THEIR CALL -

DENISE

That's what I told my old station manager
anyway. And-- this is the wildest part but--
he told me ESPN is looking to build up their
soccer coverage--

*
*

GEORGE

For ESPN? Are you kidding-- ?

*

DENISE

He even said we could re-film your tape at
his studio. It's unbelievable, George... And
Connecticut is beautiful and...

*
*
*

GEORGE

(never occurred to him)
Oh, Connecticut...

*
*
*

George stops himself, realizes what he was just offered, moving
again, just when things were good...

*
*

DENISE

So I suggest we make that demo sooner than
later. What are you doing now?

*
*

GEORGE

Now?

George looks at his son.

79 EXT. DENISE'S HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

79

George and Lewis approach the front door.

*

LEWIS

Why are we going to Samantha's house?

*

GEORGE

Well that's the thing see... Daddy's trying to get this job doing sportscasting, you know, and...

*

*

*

Lewis nods, wanting to understand. George rings the bell.

*

GEORGE

Well, Samantha's Mom thinks she can help. So if you can give me about 45 minutes, we can knock it out and be back in plenty of time for our swim.

*

*

*

*

*

Lewis wants to believe in his Dad and seems to. He nods, seems okay with it even.

*

*

The door opens and ARACELLI, Denise's housekeeper, answers.

ARACELLI

Hi. Hi Lewis. Come in. Mrs. Meyers'll be right out.

*

80 INT. DENISE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

80

They follow Aracelli inside the beautifully put together home. Denise enters-- makeup, hair done. George notices this instantly and is aware something's up.

*

DENISE

Hi Guys-- Hi Lewis--
(yelling off-screen)
Sammy? Lewis is here.

*

*

*

*

*

(to Lewis)
Wait til you see what Sammy got for her birthday. Do you like trampolines?

*

Lewis nods. Samantha comes downstairs.

*

DENISE

(to housekeeper)
Aracelli, we're gonna head out, but there's pasta and garlic bread for the kids, okay?

*

*

*

*

Lewis realizes that they're now leaving the house.

*

LEWIS

Where are you going?

*

*

(CONTINUED)

80 CONTINUED:

80

DENISE

Don't worry, we'll be right down the street.
We'll be back in an hour tops.

*
*

LEWIS

(to George)
You said 45 minutes

*
*
*

Denise is halfway out the door. Lewis looks at his Dad.

*

GEORGE

The key is, don't get too tired, okay Champ?
We're still on for that swim, right?

*
*

Lewis nods. George kisses his forehead.

*

GEORGE

One hour.

*
*

81 INT. STUDIO AT THE STATION - EVENING

81

George is wearing a sports coat that she has picked for him. She is readying the studio, pointing lights, clearing the news desk off, looking at the chair through the monitor.

GEORGE

So where is your husband?

DENISE

He's on a golfing trip-- In Hilton Head or--

*

She starts to wire the microphone to him.

*

DENISE

Get comfortable with the room. Think of
this as your chair. Your living room.
(re: teleprompter)
Those are your friends watching.

She finishes wiring him. He puts the coat back on. She flips a few switches and text appears on the teleprompter.

DENISE

Remember, 90 percent of what you say doesn't
mean a damn thing. It's how you say it--
(re: the teleprompter)
Read some so we can get a level.

*

Words scroll on the teleprompter. He reads them.

GEORGE

... the Los Angeles Galaxy came into
Washington today and shut out the United
with a late goal by...

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

81 CONTINUED:

81

DENISE

Okay, good, but take it down an octave. And
don't rush. Okay? I'll be in the booth.

He nods. She disappears through the double doors and into the
control booth, seen through the double panes of glass.

INT. CONTROL BOOTH AT NEWS STUDIO - NIGHT

She is watching him do his report on soccer.

DENISE

Okay, you ready George? And remember, be
yourself... Just like you are on the
field... Loose, cool... bring us into the
action..... Whenever you're ready...

He appears on all the monitors, the red light goes on.

INT. STUDIO AT THE STATION - NIGHT

He is doing his newscast and it's fun, almost like he talks to
the kids, much more free-form than we saw earlier.

82 CONTROL ROOM - FINAL TAKE OF THE NIGHT

82

She watches through the control room window. His confidence and
his delivery have all improved, and she's quite taken with him.

GEORGE

And that's it for sports-- Back to you,
Denise...

She smiles at him. He did great. The RED LIGHT turns off. She
gives him a "double thumbs up" through the glass.

He watches as she shuts down the studio... Turns off the
monitors... pulls the tape they just recorded on.

INT. STUDIO AT THE STATION - SAME

George is still at the desk as she comes in with the tape.

He remains seated at the news desk and she ad-libs with him
newscaster style-- they have definite rapport, good-natured
flirting, for now anyway-

DENISE

(ala newscaster)

Well, thanks again for that update, George.
And do keep us posted.

GEORGE

I will. Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Denise turns off the cameras one by one. A beat.

DENISE
For instance, we hear you're coaching Youth Soccer.

GEORGE
Yes. And it's been a lot of fun. A challenge, but--

She dims some of the lights and walks towards him.

DENISE
Some say it's the parents that require the most work. Agree?

GEORGE
Well, I'm dealing with that on a parent by parent basis so--

She hops onto the desk and sits facing him.

DENISE
And the Moms-- Single Dad like yourself. Has that been distraction or inspiration?

GEORGE
I guess that's on a Mom by Mom basis--

She then lies down sideways on the table, like food on a buffet.

DENISE
And how about me-- ? Distraction or inspiration?

It's officially crossed the line now, and he wants out.

GEORGE
("why you doing this?")
Denise--

DENISE
George--

GEORGE
We should really get home...

DENISE
(after a beat)
Did you know I'll be 36 in May?

GEORGE
36-- ?

DENISE
Some people think I look only 32. Which did you think. 32 or 36?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GEORGE

Are those the only choices? I take 32.

DENISE

I've had some work done, I'm not ashamed to say. Tony was against it, but then again, he doesn't like me to even put on makeup. I swear I could gain 200 pounds, and he wouldn't say a word.

GEORGE

Not exactly grounds for divorce.

DENISE

Full unconditional acceptance, have you ever heard anything so reprehensible?

(a beat)

Regardless, for my birthday last year, I bought these for myself.

*
*
*

She opens her shirt and reveals her chest to George--

GEORGE

I promised Lewis we'd be back in an hour, and...

*
*

DENISE

(re: still her breasts)

Dr. Shoenberg did them. They say he's the best in the city.

GEORGE

Is that right?

She backs him against the news desk.

DENISE

Do you see how they're uneven across the top?

GEORGE

That sounds like a loaded question.

DENISE

Hardly. Unevenness is his speciality, so they don't look fake. Now do you see?

GEORGE

(as she kisses him)

Denise, you have so much to lose.

*

DENISE

(flip)

I'm not leaving my family, George. I'm just looking for laughs...

*

She kisses his chest. Grabs his hand, guides it under her skirt.

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DENISE
Just do it, George. Just shut up and do it.

83 INT. DENISE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

83

Denise and George enter into the living room. Samantha and Lewis are fast asleep on the couch. Aracelli is half-asleep on the couch, watching Spanish TV. She looks up at George.

GEORGE
(checks his watch)
We're a little later than we thought but...
(goes to Lewis)
Hey Champ, you up? We can still get that swim in if we hurry.

But Lewis is fast asleep. He picks Lewis up and carries him over his shoulder.

84 EXT. GEORGE'S GUEST HOUSE - NIGHT

84

George eases the Lamborghini into the driveway. Lewis has fallen fast asleep in the passenger seat. George pops out of the car, puts Lewis over his shoulder and walks towards the guest house.

INT. LEWIS'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

He brings Lewis into his room, lays him on the bed. George has given up on the swim, but Lewis's eyes open just slightly.

LEWIS
(after a beat)
Did we miss it?

George lights up...

GEORGE
You mean, the swim? No, no we got 5 minutes still. You up for it?

Lewis nods his head.

EXT. OUTSIDE GEORGE'S RENT A HOUSE - 11:56 PM

The two guys strip down to their boxers by the edge of the pool.

GEORGE
Let's go. We got 3 minutes to beat it.

LEWIS
Is the heater on?

GEORGE
I don't know for sure.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEWIS *
Is it cold? *

GEORGE *
I always say, jump now, ask questions later. *
(a beat) *
Ya ready? *

LEWIS *
1,2,3, jump-- *

They jump, brace themselves anticipating freezing water, *
SPLASH!!! It takes a moment for them to realize just how cold *
it is, and then they both start to scream, yell, laugh, splash *
each other, the midnight swim at its best... *

EXT. DRIVEWAY OUTSIDE GUEST HOUSE - NIGHT *

Param drives up on his Lexus, sees the Lamborghini in front. *
Then he hears the SPLASHING. He gets out of his car. *

GEORGE *
Mr. George? Mr. George...? *

EXT. BACKYARD AT GEORGE'S GUEST HOUSE - NIGHT *

Lewis and George are just out of the pool, towels around them, *
still laughing. Just when George hears Param: *

GEORGE *
Mr. George, are you there? *

George pushes Lewis towards's his house. *

GEORGE *
Okay buddy, you go jump in bed and I'll be *
in in a sec, okay? *

Lewis rushes inside, when Param appears. *

GEORGE *
Oh, hey Param. *

PARAM *

Mr. George-- I am at my wit's end. Women *
and Lamborghinis at all hours of the night--

GEORGE *
(shhshing him) *
I know, I know... *

PARAM *
(sees Lewis, whispers) *
By tomorrow, I need the security deposit and *
this month's rent, or I must evict you. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GEORGE *
Tomorrow, don't worry, I'll have it. *
(Param starts walking away) *
What time tomorrow? *

Frustrated, Param just shakes his head and keeps walking. *

Just then George's cell phone RINGS. He gets it. *

GEORGE *

Hello-- ?

PATTI (FILTERED)
Hi George. It's Patti.

GEORGE
Patti?

PATTI (FILTERED)
Patti. Patti King. Carl's wife? *

GEORGE
Mrs. King, can I call you back?

PATTI (FILTERED)
You can, or we can talk when you get home.
I'm in your bed, George.

GEORGE
I'm sorry, you're-- where?

PATTI (FILTERED)
In your bedroom. I got the address off the
roster. The door was unlocked, so I took
the liberty.

George looks at his guest house where LIGHTS ARE OFF-- *

PATTI (FILTERED)
And let me tell you, this is some bedroom,
George-- a little Iranian for my tastes,
but these closets are fabulous.

Then he sees Param heading to the main house where the lights
are ON. George yells to Param... *

GEORGE *

Param-- ! Wait! *

(as Param turns) *

Maybe we can take care of this now... *

Param starts back towards George. George continues his call. *

GEORGE
Patti, I don't think you're actually in my
bedroom.

87 INT. PARAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

87

Patti is under the covers in a very lavish and beautiful and expansive Iranian styled bedroom.

PATTI

Oh yes I am, George. I also took the liberty of removing my clothing, so try not trip over my panties on the way in.

*

INTERCUT GEORGE BY THE POOL AND PATTI IN PARAM'S BEDROOM

*

George motions to Param that he'll be right there... and then turns away to continue his call.

*

*

GEORGE

What I mean is, I believe you think you're in my bedroom, but you're actually in my Iranian Landlord's bedroom. I live in the guest house.

*

*

*

*

Patti suddenly notices that there are quite a few framed (Iranian) family photos, with kids, cousins, babies.

PATTI

I'm where-- ?!

GEORGE

I live below, in the guest house.

She scrambles about the bedroom trying to get dressed.

PATTI

Well, why didn't you put that on the goddamn roster? I thought you were some kind of Goddamn hot shot soccer star. A guest house?

She hangs up the phone, pissed.

*

George's line disconnects. Param looks at him.

*

GEORGE

It's in the car. As long as you don't mind cash.

*

*

*

88 INT. THE LAMBORGHINI - MOMENTS LATER

88

George gets into the car. Can he really take Carl's money? He opens the center console. Stares at the stack of crisp hundreds.

*

*

Then he sees Patti quickly (and unbeknownst to Param) run down the driveway from the main house, barefoot, holding her shoes.

*

*

GEORGE

(counting slowly)
One hundred... Two hundred...

*

(CONTINUED)

88 CONTINUED:

88

PARAM
I'm sure it's fine, it's--

GEORGE
--wait, 300...400.

He hands Param the cash.

89 INT. THE GUEST HOUSE - NIGHT

89

George rushes into the guest house, see Lewis who is fast asleep.

From the other room, he hears Patti:

PATTI (O.S.)
Georgie...

George looks up, frustrated and pissed he goes into...

90 GEORGE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

90

George walks into his bedroom where Patti is under the covers.

GEORGE
Mrs. King.

PATTI
Patti...

GEORGE
Patti... My son's in the other room! And even if he wasn't, what about Carl?

PATTI
Oh stop it, he lent you his Lamborghini.
He's a lot more possessive about that than about me... Unless you're disappointed by what you see...

She pulls the sheets down slowly revealing herself to him.

PATTI
Which you better not be... I just had these done. Dr. Lasky, best in the city.

She pulls the sheets down slowly revealing herself to him.

GEORGE
I heard Dr. Shoenberg was the best.

PATTI
(offended by the comparison)
Schoenberg-- ? I suppose for a certain level of woman he's... sufficient.

He crosses to the bed and hand Patti her clothes.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

Whatever the case may be, I'd like you to dress and go, Mrs. King. Now please.

She sees he's serious. George looks down the hallway to make sure Lewis is still fast asleep. He is. He goes back to Patti. *

She sits completely still and silent.

GEORGE

Why aren't you moving?

PATTI

I'm feeling very foolish right now.

GEORGE

No reason to feel foolish. Just, to go.

PATTI

You're going to tell him, aren't you?

GEORGE

No, no, my God no. And besides, if you go home now, there'll be nothing to tell.

PATTI

He'll ask where I was. I don't lie well. I should have a drink.

George looks at her.

PATTI

Can I have a drink?

He studies her for a second. Should he believe her?

GEORGE

Fine. One drink and then you go...

Frustrated, he goes to the bar, pours a drink, brings it to her.

Then he quickly goes out into the hallway for a moment... Checks Lewis' room. Still fast asleep. He then returns to the bedroom and Patti hasn't moved an inch... Still naked, her glass full.

GEORGE

Why aren't you drinking?

PATTI

I was waiting for you. I can't drink alone.

(a beat)

I can't eat alone, go to the movies alone, drink alone. I'm habitually co-dependent. Three different doctors have diagnosed it.

GEORGE

Look, drink, don't drink-- frankly I don't care. But I'd like you to go.

(CONTINUED)

89 CONTINUED:

89

She studies him, look at the drink...

PATTI

Wow. Testy, George. I like that.

She then guzzles the drink in one shot and hands it back to him.

GEORGE

Why are you doing this?

PATTI

Because you're the first thing in years to
come along that he wants, that I can have
first.

*

He sees how unstable she is and handles her with kid gloves.

GEORGE

I like you too, Mrs. King, but my son is in
the other room and I need you to get dressed
and leave.

*

Patti studies him a beat and sees that he's done with her. She
scoops up her clothes and marches into the bathroom.

PATTI

Well, my my, we are a hot shot, aren't we?

Just then he hears Lewis:

LEWIS (O.S.)

Dad?

George spins around and sees Lewis standing outside the room.

GEORGE

Lewis. You're up?

*

LEWIS

I'm not tired.

*

*

GEORGE

Of course you're tired.
(takes Lewis's hand)
Here, let me help--

*

*

*

*

INT. LEWIS'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

*

He puts Lewis back into bed.

*

LEWIS

Who were you talking to?

*

*

GEORGE

Who? Uh...

*

*

Just then they hear the TOILET FLUSH from the bathroom.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEWIS
Is someone here?

GEORGE
(after a pause)
...just a friend of mine stopped by, so... A
good friend, and...

*
*
*

From the bathroom we hear Patti SOBBING softly through the door. *

GEORGE
(after a beat)
...she's very sad...
(standing up)
In fact, I better make sure she's okay. So,
why don't you go back to sleep, and I'll
check on you soon, okay?

*
*
*
*
*

92 INT. GEORGE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

92

George enters the bedroom and approaches the bathroom door where Patti is now SOBBING freely through the door.

GEORGE
(softly at the door)
Mrs. King-- ? Are you okay?

He grants her that. Waits. But then muffled through the door he hears what appears to be: a low guttural MOAN-- ?

GEORGE
Mrs. King-- ?

PATTI (O.S.)
Go away--

GEORGE
(after a beat)
You wouldn't, uh, you wouldn't do anything
funny in there, would you--?
(more crying)
Right?

PATTI (O.S.)
What do you care...

*

GEORGE
I care a lot. And I'm sure underneath it
all, Carl cares too.

Silence. Then a GLASS SHATTERS. George perks up.

GEORGES
Mrs. King, did something break?

No response. Nervous now, George looks at the door, he gently turns it and it's locked.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

Mrs. King? I'd like you to unlock the door.

He HEARS a creaking noise. Then the sound of water running.

GEORGE

I'm gonna count to three, Mrs. King, and then I'm coming in... Okay? One-- Please, Mrs. King.... Two...

He has a bad feeling and slams into the door, on the second slam, the lock pops open. He enters and doesn't see her. Silence. Sees BROKEN GLASS in the sink next to some Advil. He turns, she is behind the door, smiling, smug. He is nonplussed.

PATTI

It fell.

(off his look)

What did you think, I was gonna slit my wrists--?

GEORGE

I don't know what to think--

PATTI

Much too messy. No no, that's not how I would do it. Do you want to know how I would do it, George?

He looks into her eyes and sees great sadness.

GEORGE

It can't be that bad. If it were, you'd leave. Regardless of the money, at some point you'd have to leave. And you'd be okay. You would.

Then a light turns on in her head--

PATTI

You're right. I mean, it wouldn't just be up to him. I'd get a lawyer... There'd be judges, there'd be...

She starts heading into the bedroom fully naked... and runs smack into...

LEWIS - CONTINUOUS

Enters the room, Patti standing there naked. Patti SCREAMS.

PATTI

Lewis!

LEWIS

(overlapping)

Mrs. King!

(CONTINUED)

92 CONTINUED:

92

George races in...

*

 GEORGE
Lewis...

*

*

 PATTI
George!

*

*

 GEORGE
Mrs. King!

*

*

George hands Patti the pile of her clothing which she starts putting on at lightning speed. Lewis is confused, but casual.

*

*

 LEWIS
Is Hunter here?

*

*

 PATTI
No, no, I came to take a shower at...

Dressing quickly, putting wrong limbs into the wrong holes...

*

 GEORGE
The water was broken at her house--

 PATTI
It was all... cold, so... Your Dad was kind enough to, uh...

*

*

 GEORGE
(taking Lewis by the shoulder)
Here let me help you get into bed... Say
Goodbye to Hunter's Mom...

Lewis waves goodbye to Patti, as George leads Lewis to the hallway. He then comes back in the room and looks at her. Sternly. He doesn't need to say a word.

 PATTI
I'm going, I'm going... To be continued.

She exits the back patio door. George goes towards Lewis's room.

93 INT. LEWIS'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

93

George enters Lewis's room to find him under the covers.

 LEWIS
Is Hunter's Mom better now?

 GEORGE
Yes. So, I think the nicest thing to do is, let's not tell anybody we saw her here tonight, okay? It'll be a secret between me and you. Can we do that?

Lewis nods. George looks exasperated.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

How about you? You think you're ready to go to bed yet?

Lewis doesn't respond. Confused and thrown off by what he saw. *

GEORGE

(after a beat)

I bet if we both lie here very very quiet... just like that, you'll fall asleep. Wanna try? *

Lewis nods. They both lie there. Dead silence. A beat. *

LEWIS

Dad-- why did you and Mom break up? *

GEORGE

I guess... we weren't meant to be. *

A pause. *

LEWIS

She said she loved you very much. *

A longer pause. George is very surprised to hear that. *

GEORGE

She said that? *

LEWIS

She also said she was very unhappy. *

They both stare pensive at the ceiling. *

95 EXT. PARKING LOT AT SOCCER FIELD - DAY

95

George carries his equipment toward the field, trying not to get waylaid. Parents yell to him:

MOMS/DADS/KIDS

Hey Coach / Go get 'em today, Coach --

He waves to them, forces a smile, then hears from nearby:

DENISE (O.S.)

Oh George-- ?

George looks up and sees Denise standing by the boys room.

GEORGE

Oh hey, how's it going?

DENISE

Well, how it's going is-- it turns out, I'm not the only one who thought you had style--

(CONTINUED)

95 CONTINUED:

95

He looks at her puzzled.

DENISE (CONTD)

My station manager, George. He's sending the tape to Bristol, Connecticut. He said he thinks you got a real shot.

GEORGE

What-- ? I mean, wow, that's--

DENISE

Just don't forget the girl who said it first.

(a beat)

And also Coach-- when you're out there today, whenever you see me tug on my ear--
(tugging on her ear)
Like this-

GEORGE

Yes-- ?

DENISE

(glances down at his crotch)

That means I'm imagining you on top of me--

GEORGE

Okay well, I'm gonna go to the game now.

DENISE

And one last thing, Coach--

Against the back of the boys bathroom, with no one around (or so it appears), she plants a great kiss on his lips.

96 INT. BOYS BATHROOM AT SOCCER FIELD - DAY

96

Lewis comes out of the bathroom and sees his Dad and Denise kissing. Lewis immediately retreats, unseen, into the bathroom. He hides, deeply affected.

97 EXT. SOCCER FIELD - MOMENTS LATER/DAY

97

George heads towards the field. As he approaches the stands looking for Lewis, people wave and wish him "Good luck". He can't help but notice the various women who have been complicating his life recently. Patti, sitting with Carl. Barb. Denise. And Stacie who seems to sense it.

*

The kids are all spread out on the sideline stretching, getting warmed up. George approaches Lewis.

GEORGE

Hey Lew. Got you at Center Mid today. Did you know that was my favorite position?

(CONTINUED)

Lewis can barely look at George-- Walks past him towards the field. George goes to follow, but is intercepted by Barb who smiles from ear to ear. Stacie notes this curiously.

BARB

Oh hi Coach--

GEORGE

(taken aback)

Barb-- Hi--

He is self-conscious and immediately retreats down field a bit, away from his players. She follows him. He asks her quietly.

GEORGE

I was gonna... Is everything okay?

BARB

Not bad, George. Except--

(off his look)

-- for this big silly smile I haven't been able to get off my face since our night together--

GEORGE

Well, it's a drag, but think of the money you'll save in Kleenex--

George watches the kids warm up passing, mentions to Hunter:

GEORGE

Lock your ankle, Hunter. Good.

Barb follows him down the sideline as George observes the kids.

BARB

So I just wanted to say, whatever that was the other night, there's no reason for it ever to be awkward between us.

GEORGE

I agree. And I'm glad one of us said it.

BARB

We're adults. Both single. If it happens, great, if it doesn't... It's only about what's best for the kids.

(a beat)

Well I should get back before people start talking... See you, Coach...

She walks back to the stands. He catches Stacie looking at him.

George watches Lewis go down field to get the ball.

GEORGE

Let's take it down the line, guys. Give and go. Let's do it.

Lewis gains control of the ball, as George's phone rings. A second ring. He presses "IGNORE" on his cell phone. *

He watches Lewis, dribbling the ball, when a moment later his cell phone rings again. He finally gets it. *

GEORGE

This is George...

WOMAN'S VOICE (FILTERED)

... Oh hi George, how's the game going?

Lewis blows past two kids and is on his way towards the goal. *

GEORGE

(no idea who it is)

Good, fine, can I call you back?

WOMAN'S VOICE (FILTERED)

You know who this is, don't you?

GEORGE

No. Who is this?

WOMAN'S VOICE (FILTERED)

It's Patti.

He looks at the stands and sees Carl who smiles at him, but Patti is no longer with him. In fact, it's Denise next to him and she not only smiles, but she tugs on her ear. *

Lewis passes to Ethan who loses it. Samantha recovers... *

George looks six rows above Denise and finds Patti, sitting by herself on the top bench of the bleachers, phone to her ear. *

GEORGE

Patti-- ? *

PATTI (FILTERED)

I just wanted to tell you-- *

Lewis gets the ball and is driving it towards his goal... George sees the beginning of the play, but is caught up in the phone-- *

PATTI (FILTERED)

Assuming you're alone tonight... *

George looks back at Lewis who seems to lose then get back control of the ball towards mid-field...

PATTI (FILTERED)

I thought I'd cash in my rain check. *

(CONTINUED)

98 CONTINUED:

98

Lewis is heading towards the goal, fans are standing to cheer, Stacie tries to get George's attention away from his call.

GEORGE
(puts the phone back to his ear)
Mrs. King, *we discussed this...*

*

PATTI
Tonight, George... We'll talk about it tonight?

*

*

Lewis gets to the goal, focuses in on the goal and then takes a kick, which flies through the air and INTO THE GOAL.

PATTI (FILTERED)
Are we on?

*

George hears the crowd YELL and sees that he has missed Lewis scoring a goal. Everyone jumps on Lewis to congratulate him.

George *puts the phone down*, follows Lewis to the sideline.

*

99 EXT. SIDELINE - CONTINUOUS

99

George approaches Lewis who is drinking a Gatorade. Stacie watches from the stands.

GEORGE
Hey, that was some goal, Champ. Your whole life you remember your first goal.

LEWIS
(walking away)
You didn't even see it!

*

GEORGE
I saw the whole thing! It was fantastic.

*

REFEREE
(blows the whistle)
Let's go players, on the field...

*

The kids all go out into the field.

100 THE FIELD - SERIES OF MOMENTS

100

Lewis seems very intense, angry, begins to play very aggressively. He knocks into kids randomly. Seems to play more and more out of control with each moment...

He *SLIDE TACKLES* a player from behind. The Referee blows his whistle, says to George.

*

*

REFEREE
Coach, I need you to watch your player.

*

*

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

He's fine. The guy tripped him.

*

More aggressive play; Lewis out of control, scared, pissed...
Grabs a kid's shirt.

*

George looks at Griffin on the sideline--

*

GEORGE

Griffin, I need to sub you in for Lewis, can
you do that for me?

*

*

*

GRIFFIN

Uh... my parents are coming in fifteen
minutes... Can I wait til then Coach?

*

*

*

Just then, the ball comes to Lewis, but he is staring at George
and doesn't even kick it. Just then Ethan comes by, kicks it
back into play and Samantha puts it into the GOAL.

*

*

*

Lewis's teammates jump up and down in each other's arms, but
Lewis stays on the ground, upset. George approaches Lewis.

GEORGE

I'm sorry I missed the goal. What do you
want me to say?

REFEREE

Coach, you need to get off the field.

GEORGE

(ignoring ref; to Lewis)
Is this about Hunter's Mom? I told you, I
was just being a good friend.

*

*

Lewis looks away. George chases after him.

*

REFEREE

Coach, I need you off the field now--

*

George tries to console the Ref and Lewis at the same time.

*

GEORGE

I understand, just--

*

*

LEWIS

I want to talk to Mom--

Lewis starts towards the stands, but George blocks his path.

GEORGE

No, no-- this is about us, right? Not about
Mom.

*

Stacie watches from the stands, praying George will let it go--

GEORGE

I'm out here with your friends busting my
ass for your team so tell me the problem.

LEWIS

(overlaps)

I hate soccer, and I hate you!

*
*
*

Lewis races towards Stacie, who has come from the stands to get her son. Amidst the celebrating of the team's big WIN, George watches Stacie put her arm around Lewis and walk him to her car.

George and Stacie exchange a long glance from afar.

*

101 INT. GEORGE'S LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

101

George lies on his bed, distraught. There is a KNOCK on the door. He opens it to find Stacie.

*

STACIE

Can I come in?

Before he can answer, she walks into the living room. He cleans up food wrappers and strewn about pieces of clothing as he goes.

GEORGE

Hey... I haven't found a cleaning lady yet,
but--

*

STACIE

Why are you doing this to him? He's nine
years old. Just cause he knows some big
words, just cause he's bright--

*

GEORGE

I shouldn't have coached. It was a mistake,

*

STACIE

Oh, well that's unnecessary because that's
what he wants to do-- quit.

(a beat)

Why can't you be straight with him?

GEORGE

I don't know what you--

STACIE

You give all this attention to the Dads and
Moms, which-- I don't even want to ask,
George, but why can't you give that to him?

*

(a beat)

What did he ever do to you other than
idolize you-- ?

George stands there hating himself for hurting Lewis.

(CONTINUED)

101 CONTINUED:

101

STACIE

He was 4 years old when you left that house... not that you were really there before that. Every few months we get a call, Dad's coming into town, and he gets his sweatshirt and his ball, some drawing he made that he actually thinks you'll give a crap about-- And we wait, and we wait, cause sometimes you come, sometimes you don't...

(a beat)

To tell you truth, I liked it better when you moved to Canada for whatever scam you had going that time... At least I didn't have to make up excuses for why you weren't coming by.

(a beat)

Yeah. That's been his last 5 years...

She can't hide her disdain for him at the moment, and the truth is, deep down he thinks even less of himself.

STACIE

I'm done covering for you. And he's too old to lie to.

She goes out the door and leaves.

102 INT. GEORGE'S BEDROOM - EVENING

102

George sits on the edge of his bed, pensive.

DISSOLVE TO:

103 EXT. LEWIS'S HOUSE - NEXT DAY

103

George's car pulls up to the house.

104 INT. STACIE & LEWIS'S HOUSE - DAY

104

Stacie is making soup in the kitchen. She looks out the window to see George get out of his car, dressed in his coach's uniform-- sleeves, hat. She goes to the front door to meet him. We hear STORMS in the distance.

STACIE

(guarded)

There's no game today.

GEORGE

I was hoping to talk to Lewis.

She considers it, then allows him into the den where Lewis is playing X-box 360. Lewis barely looks up.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

So-- Mom said you were thinking about quitting the team... And I got to say, I think that'd be a real mistake, you know-- ?

LEWIS

What's the point? I'm not good anyway, so--

GEORGE

Well, I don't agree with that. See, I know your Mom may have given you your good looks and your smarts, but you're a Dryer, kid, and we play soccer, that's all there is to it, it's in our blood.

(Lewis shrugs)

You think I was kidding about your speed?

(a beat)

So what do you say we go down to that field, and start getting ready for playoffs. How about it?

*
*
*
*
*
*

Lewis is hardly ready to surrender yet, but he thinks about it.

105 EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

105

It is raining. Lewis and George are under the snack stand overhang, never having gotten the equipment out. The fields are empty. The skies are gray.

GEORGE

Well, we gave it a shot, right?

LEWIS

It's just typical...

GEORGE

Typical? What does that mean?

LEWIS

Nothing ever works out for our family.

George has become used to his own losing streak, but when his kid feels it's rubbed off on him, it makes him sad.

GEORGE

Plenty stuff works out. You gonna let a little rain ruin our day? When I was about your age, when it rained, do you know the first place we went?

Lewis shrugs: half doesn't know, half doesn't care.

GEORGE

Right down to the park. The more it rained, the more mud there was, the more fun. We'd play all day, first one to a hundred wins.

(CONTINUED)

LEWIS

What did you win?

GEORGE

(occurs to him)

I don't know actually. We were so busy having fun, I don't know if we ever actually got to a hundred or not.

George takes a ball out of the bag as the rain really pours now.

GEORGE

But, successful is the man who makes Plan B work-- haven't you heard that saying?

George drops the ball onto his knee, kicks it onto his foot and then begins down the field. Lewis watches him the whole way.

George is not just fast for 40, he's fast for fast. Graceful, athletic and natural. He gets within ten feet of the goal, pulls his leg back and snaps a kick, INTO THE GOAL, but at the same time, slips, pops up in the air and lands in a big puddle of water and mud. He looks up, sees he scored, then to Lewis:

GEORGE

One nothing. Your turn.

Lewis isn't sure. George kicks him the ball, it lands right at his feet.

GEORGE

Come on...

Lewis digs his toe underneath the ball and, after struggling through a few attempts, manages to pick up the ball and put it on his thigh. He juggles it a few times, then bounces it off his knee, onto the field and starts running down field, the rain pouring hard. George picks him up at the other end... Lewis goes around George and heads towards the goal... 15 feet away, about to kick it... he too slips and lands in a puddle.

He gets up, and he's fine, and the ball is in the goal. 1-1. Big smile now on Lewis.

EXT. STACIE'S KITCHEN - DAY

*

Stacie is putting a seating chart together for her wedding when she hears more THUNDER from outside. She picks up her umbrella and car keys and heads to the door.

*

*

*

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - SHOTS

*

George tutors Lewis in carving a turn... In kicking between his legs... In stealing it from the defender...

*

*

106 INT. STACIE'S SAAB - DAY 106

Stacie pulls into the parking lot. From a distance, she sees two lone figures on the rainy field. Lewis and George running up and down the muddy field, playing one on one soccer. *She cries silently. A beat. She leaves.* *

107 EXT. SOCCER FIELD - SHOTS 107

Racing from one end of the field to the other. Falling, sliding. Both guys head to toe in mud. Both crack up. Exhausted. And happy. Night grows on them as we... *

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

108 INT. GEORGE'S GUEST HOUSE - NIGHT 108

George is just out of the shower, wearing his robe, talking to Lewis in the other room.

GEORGE

I think I got most of the mud out of my ear,
how about you?

George walks into the living room, and Lewis is fast asleep on the couch, in front of the fire, so peaceful.

109 INT. LEWIS'S BEDROOM AT GEORGE'S - CONTINUOUS 109

George puts him into bed, gently pulls the covers over him. He looks at him lovingly. Touches his face.

110 INT. KITCHEN AT GEORGE'S - LATER THAT NIGHT 110

George walks to the refrigerator and opens it up. Can't decide what to take when the phone RINGS. He glances at the clock, it's late. A drunken DENISE is heard through the machine.

DENISE (ON MACHINE)

Hi George, it's Denise-- You there?

George looks at the machine, keeps typing, not interested-- she then sort of SINGS into the phone:

DENISE (ON MACHINE)

Georgie...

(as he reaches to turn it down)

I see your car...

This worries him. He picks up the phone.

(CONTINUED)

DENISE (FILTERED)
I came to surprise you, George.

He looks out the window and sure enough there's a BMW parked across the driveway. He closes the curtain quickly.

GEORGE
(closing Lewis's door)
Yeah look, Lewis is here, so-- Can I call you tomorrow?

DENISE (FILTERED)
Not if you want your good news tonight, George.

GEORGE
Good news? What do you mean?

DENISE
Why don't you come out, and I'll tell you. *

111 EXT. GEORGE'S GUEST HOUSE - NIGHT

111

George comes out in his shorts and t-shirt. *She stands against her car in the driveway... He stands on his porch, a bit away...* *

GEORGE
Well-- ?

DENISE
Here, George, come here. *

He crosses to *her*. She has a big smile on her face, her eyes are bloodshot-- A bottle of champagne *in her car*. *

GEORGE
Okay, so you're drunk. *

DENISE
Well that's not a very nice hello. *
Especially when I have good news for you. *

She leans over, pushes the door open.

GEORGE
(flip; no expectations)
What? They liked the tape, or-- ?

She gives him a coy look. *Pauses, then--* *

DENISE
They didn't just like it George-- *
(it doesn't register)
ESPN, they want to fly you up there, *to meet you in person...* *
You're the only one they're *even talking to,* George. *

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

111 CONTINUED:

111

DENISE (cont'd)
It's not official yet but-- they told my
station manager you were "it".

*

He hasn't been "it" in years and it chills him.

GEORGE
You wouldn't make this up or--?

DENISE
To making it. Again.

*

She kisses him and he's so excited about what's happening, he
kisses her right back... Before she goes too far, before he
realizes what he's doing and stops himself...

*

*

GEORGE
Look, I appreciate what you did for me. I
really do, Denise. But, my son's inside and--
he needs me.

*

*

*

*

(goes to leave)

*

I'm no one to preach, to anyone... But it
all happens in a blink and... you should do
whatever you can not to miss it.

*

*

*

He heads towards his front door, disappears inside.

*

We stay with Denise. After a moment, she drives off.

*

112 INT. GEORGE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

112

He closes the door behind him, the guest house is very quiet.
He walks to Lewis's bedroom, but doesn't see Lewis. George
moves towards the hallway bathroom...

GEORGE
Lewis-- ?

113 INT. GEORGE'S BEDROOM - LATE AT NIGHT

113

George enters his bedroom where Lewis is lying peacefully under
the covers of the king sized bed, eyes half open. He had no
idea George was gone.

*

LEWIS
Hi Dad. ..

GEORGE
What's up sport?

*

LEWIS
I just want to sleep in here.

A beat. George regards him, tentatively gets into the bed too.

*

LEWIS
I love you, Dad.

*

*

(CONTINUED)

113 CONTINUED:

113

GEORGE
(caught by surprise)
I-- I love you too, buddy.

*
*
*

He moves closer in the bed by just the tiniest bit, but in some ways, it's the furthest he's travelled in years. Unseen by Lewis, moved, cries silently.

*
*

DISSOLVE TO:

114 INT. GEORGE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

114

George and Lewis are both fast asleep, sprawled across the bed. From the main house, we HEAR Param and his WIFE yelling in Farsi. George awakens, follows the sound into the backyard.

115 EXT. GEORGE'S BACKYARD AT GUEST HOUSE - MORNING

115

George sees the Asian POOL MAN skimming leaves. They both hear Param and his WIFE yelling in Farsi, from the main house.

Then a RANGE ROVER comes ripping down the driveway.

GEORGE
(to the pool man)
What's going on?

POOL MAN
Well, I don't speak Farsi, but from what I could tell, she caught Param running around on her...
(off George's look)
She found a pair of panties in her bedroom.
Can you believe it? Param?

George, the tenant from hell, shrugs and goes back inside.

116 INT. AIRPLANE TO CONNECTICUT - DAY

116

George is on the plane. He looks out the window.

117 EXT. NEWS STUDIO AT ESPN - DAY

117

George is driving a rental car and enter the grand parking lot of ESPN studios.

118 INT. NEWS STUDIO AT ESPN - DAY

118

George walks along a very long and vast corridor. On the walls hang PHOTOS of the greatest athletes of all time and all sports. He passes Hall of Fame Baseball Player REGGIE JACKSON, some one yells "YO REG" and Reg smiles back and then nods to George.

(CONTINUED)

118 CONTINUED:

118

Colleagues. Equals. George stops in front of a big window where other former superstars work in a great tv studio.

119 INT. NEWS STUDIO AT ESPN - DAY

119

He meets with a TRIO of execs who clearly already like him.

WOMAN EXEC

What we responded to was a rawness and an authenticity... And we want to continue in that direction...

MAN EXEC

It's a world America doesn't understand for the most part. And we want you to tell them what they're missing.

120 INT. NEWS DESK - DAY

120

George is doing a demo of the news. What Denise taught him is working. His accent in tact, using Scottish sayings, he delights the execs. He seems very comfortable and he's good too!

EXEC

(waves to George)

That'll work, George. Beautiful. That's a wrap on George, guys.

The Execs all talk amongst themselves and are clearly pleased.

EXEC 2

Really nice work, George.

George sits at the news desk. Overwhelmed.

121 EXT. STUDIO AT ESPN - DAY

121

George is walking back to his car. He feels loved and wanted again. His cell rings and picks it up excited.

GEORGE

Hello?

CARL (FILTERED)

George, it's Carl.

GEORGE

Carl, hey, can I... Can I buzz you back a little bit later.

CARL

Of course, George just a quick question--

122 INTERCUT WITH CARL AT HIS HOUSE - DAY

122

(CONTINUED)

121 CONTINUED:

121

Carl sits in the backyard talking on the phone, while he watches Hunter and another BOY play soccer on the vast lawn.

CARL

(a beat; lowering his voice)
The other night, Patti and I had a little...
tiff, and-- No more than usual, or so I
thought, but afterwards she stormed out and,
well-- no one's caught wind of her since.

A million thoughts fly through George's head...

GEORGE

Gee, I hope she's okay.

Execs walk by on the parking lot and even mention to George.

EXECS

Good work, congratulations, George...

CARL

In all probability she went up to our place
in New York... or down to Boca.

(shrugs)

I only even bring it up because I checked
and the last call she made was to you...

(George stammers to find the
right reaction)

...so I was just wondering if she gave any
indication of anything.

George steps into his rent-a-car.

GEORGE

Right. I remember, Hunter had lost his...
shin guards, or... I think shin guards--

Carl sees Hunter on the lawn, wearing his shin guards.

CARL

Well, if you hear from her, let me know,
okay? Some piece of work, huh? Did I tell
you?

Carl LAUGHS over the phone, and George's breathing constricts.

123 INT. AIRPLANE BACK HOME - DAY

123

George looks out the window, excited, nervous. Deep in thought.

124 EXT. DRIVEWAY AT GEORGE'S - DAY

124

George pulls into his driveway and ahead of him, he sees Lewis
and Stacie waiting for him. He pulls over and exits the car,
surprised to see them. He leaves his SUITCASE in the car.

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

Hey...what are you doing here?

*

*

STACIE

Lewis wanted to surprise you. His open school night is tonight, and... we thought you'd like to come.

*

LEWIS

You'll get to meet my teacher, Dad.

*

GEORGE

That sounds great. I just want to change my shirt, and I'm in okay?

*

*

He sees a gifts' basket in front of his door. He grabs it, opens it and it reads "Welcome to New England". He quickly shoves it into his pocket. Lewis and Stacie approach.

LEWIS

What's that basket for, Dad?

The enter the house.

GEORGE

(re: the basket)

Oh that's-- from one of the families-- You coach and suddenly...

George peers out the window and notices a BLUE JAGUAR parked across the street.

125 INT. GEORGE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

125

They head inside. George puts the gift basket on the table. Inside the basket of wine and fruit, he sees a book of "LIVING IN NEW ENGLAND"-- He surreptitiously turns it over.

GEORGE

So, what's your teacher's name?

*

George notices an OPEN WINDOW in the living room. It strikes George as odd, confused why it's open.

*

*

LEWIS

Mrs. Gelfound, she's really nice. And she's a huge soccer fan, too.

George then notices there is a TOILET FLUSH from the back of the guest house. No one else hears it.

LEWIS

She may even ask you for an autograph. I told her you probably wouldn't mind.

Then he hears WATER RUNNING.

(CONTINUED)

125 CONTINUED:

125

GEORGE

Would you excuse me for-- I'll be right...
(heading out of the room)
Lewis, be a gentleman, get your Mom
something to drink.

George slips down the hallway--

126 INT. GEORGE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

126

George enters and finds Patti, this time fully dressed. Smoking a cigarette on a chair by the window. Shuts the bedroom door behind him.

PATTI

Got the address right this time.

GEORGE

What are you doing here?

PATTI

I'm free. I'm finally free.

*

(spins around)

I don't care about the money. I don't care
about the cars

GEORGE

I have my son in the next room. I really
need you to leave immediately...

He also turns on the radio. Goes quietly to Patti, speaks softly.

PATTI

Don't you want to hear my news?

GEORGE

Outside. I'll hear it outside.

127 EXT. OUTSIDE THE GUEST HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

127

He pulls her alongside the house, they duck under the windows as they pass by unseen by Stacie & Lewis.

PATTI

Your son is here again? My God, did you get
full custody all of a sudden?

They walk around the yard and approach the street.

GEORGE

Well, What happened with Carl? You know
they're all panicked about you.

(CONTINUED)

127 CONTINUED:

127

PATTI

I'm out, George. Don't you see, you were right, I don't have to stay.

GEORGE

No, no, I'm not right. I'm not anything.

PATTI

Please don't be negative about this. I've been looking for the strength to do this for years. This is my defining moment.

GEORGE

I realize that. But I can't be part of the definition.

Then from inside the house, we hear Stacie.

STACIE (O.S.)

George we should get going--

Patti seems to recognize the voice, then notices the Saab in the driveway-- She knows Stacie is there. Feels threatened.

PATTI

My my, you are a tough one to get over, huh?

GEORGE

Goodbye, Mrs. King.

Patti, for the second time in a week, heads off to her car empty handed. George looks at his front door and goes towards it.

128 INT. LIVING ROOM AT GEORGE'S - CONTINUOUS

128

George enters through the front door of the house, which confuses them for a second since he left through the back.

GEORGE

Sorry, just-- All ready when you are.

129 INT. LEWIS'S SCHOOL - NIGHT

129

Lewis takes his parents through his classroom. George observes the many parents, with the kids, all familiar with each other, first name basis everywhere...

They approach Lewis's teacher MRS. GELFOUND.

MRS. GELFOUND

Hi Stacie, hi Lewis. Where's [Matt](#)?

*

But, of course, George is there and it's momentarily awkward.

STACIE

This is George. Lewis's father...

(CONTINUED)

MRS. GELFOUND

Oh, forgive me. George. It's nice to meet you finally. Lewis has told us so much about you.

GEORGE

He has?

MRS. GELFOUND

(to Lewis)

Lewis, why don't you show take your parents to your desk and show them your work...

Lewis leads his parents around the class. It's the first time he's ever gotten to lead both parents anywhere, and he seems to relish in it, says hi to other kids with their parents...

LEWIS

Hey Aaron...

(to another kid)

Hey Jake...this is my dad...

George sees all the other families there and realizes, if only for that moment, he is just like them... A regular old parent at open school night... the one thing he always feared most... and now covets most.

They arrive at Lewis's desk. All his work is atop it. Lewis sits at his desk and they sit at either side of him. There is a packet of TESTS which Stacie looks through.

STACIE

Wow, Lewis, look at all these spelling tests, Lewis... A... B... A... And then Math... A... B...

LEWIS

Spelling's my best subject... Dad, did you get good grades in school?

GEORGE

(joking)

Oh yeah. All A's. Every subject. A. A+. A-. I was an A-machine.

STACIE

(skeptical)

A pluses, huh? I'd like to see some of these reports cards if you still have them...

LEWIS

Yeah, me too Dad.

They all laugh. Then they come across his book of DRAWINGS.

They leaf through it. Random crayon and marker drawings-- A boy playing soccer... A Mom in the kitchen... They get to a picture of a LADY WITH FRIZZY HAIR and a striped dress.

(CONTINUED)

129 CONTINUED:

129

GEORGE

Wait, is that me? Do I have that dress
still? Is that my hair?

*
*

LEWIS

That's the science lab teacher, Dad.

*
*

STACIE

Don't embarrass him.

*
*

Then they turn the page to a picture of a Dad, a Mom and a 9
year old boy. The Mom looks just like Stacie somehow... the boy
is Lewis... and the Dad has a soccer jersey on... reads #8.

*
*
*

It moves George beyond words.

*

132 EXT. GEORGE'S GUEST HOUSE - EVENING

132

They pull up to the guest house and all get out.

GEORGE

Come on in, for a minute?

LEWIS

Yeah Mom, will you tuck me in?

133 INT. GEORGE'S GUEST HOUSE - NIGHT

133

George and Stacie are having a glass of wine in the kitchen.
Lewis comes out in his pajamas.

STACIE

Uh oh, some awfully cute little man looks
he's ready to go to bed.

She follows Lewis into the bedroom. George pours more wine into
the glasses. He hears her talking softly to Lewis from the other
room. Then a door close.

Stacie walks into the room, he hands her her wine.

STACIE

I should go.

GEORGE

You know, when I tell Lewis stories from my
past, sometimes it feels like I'm talking
about someone else.

*

GEORGE

Some of the decisions I made...

*
*

STACIE

It was a long time ago, George.

*

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

I know. But... Sometimes it feels like it
was yesterday. Like nothing's happened
since.

*
*
*

She senses a vulnerability in him and it unsettles her a bit.

STACIE

Anyway, we're glad you came tonight...

*

She gathers her things. He watches her.

GEORGE

Just when I see you and Lewis sometimes,
when I drop him off at... our old house...
I forget sometimes, for just a split second,
sometimes do you forget I don't live there
anymore?

He reaches out for her hand. It's a surprise to her, and maybe
even to him. She deliberately moves it.

STACIE

Don't George...

GEORGE

That we could go right back to the place it
went wrong and just start over-- take a trip
to Italy, even, where it all started... What
about that?

He reaches his hand out again, but she doesn't push him away as
fast this time. Then he LEANS IN TO KISS HER-- She trembles as
they kiss, softly and gently. It ends.

STACIE

Why are you doing this?

*

Their lips meet again, passionately this time. Without breaking
the kiss, they sink down to the couch. For a moment she lets
herself go, lost in the moment, but before she completely
succumbs, she catches herself, jumps up, frazzled. Tries to
catch her breath. Twenty years of chemistry rushing back.
Sentimental and powerful but also surreal.

STACIE

You shouldn't have done that, George.

*

She gathers her stuff, adrenaline, fear...

134 EXT. OUTSIDE GEORGE'S GUEST HOUSE - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 134

She walks briskly to her car, fumbles for her keys. George
follows her.

(CONTINUED)

134 CONTINUED:

134

GEORGE

You don't have to go. If you don't want to,
you can stay right here.

She keeps putting the key in, but she's too frazzled to realize
it's upside down. He approaches her at the car.

STACIE

Why would you do this? When after all this
time, finally, I have some respect for you,
why would you want to take it away?

She gets the door open and climbs behind the wheel.

GEORGE

So that's it? Because he's respectable-- ?
For what, I'm just curious, for moving into
my house. Taking my wife, my kid.

*

She inserts the key in the ignition block. Starts it.

STACIE

He didn't take your family. He saved your
family. You left it on the side of the
street for the trucks to come get and he
saved us--

She shifts into gear. Tears fill her eyes. *Puts the window up.*

*

They look at each other through the windshield.

*

GEORGE

Forgive me. I'm sorry.

*

*

She drives off.

*

135 INT. STACIE'S CAR - NIGHT

135

*

Stacie pulls into the driveway. Sees a flash of *Matt* walking
around inside the house.

*

She checks her face for smeared lipstick. She swallows a mint.
She is nervous. Her cell phone RINGS. She turns off the phone.

*

136 INT. KITCHEN AT STACIE'S HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT

136

Stacie is making tea as the phone RINGS. *Matt* walks inside.

*

MATT

Aren't you gonna get it?

*

STACIE

I'm sure it's my mother again, more last
minute invites.

(shuts the ringer off)

I'll speak to her tomorrow--

(CONTINUED)

136 CONTINUED:

136

But he knows something's wrong with her.

MATT

You okay?

STACIE

Yeah, just-- so much to do.

(composing herself)

I'll see you in bed.

Matt looks at her for a long moment. Then he gives her a kiss and leaves the room. She sees the button on the phone still lighting up-- though the ringer is off.

137 INT. GEORGE'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

137

George is on the living room sofa where he fell asleep the night before, still dressed. The PHONE RINGS and wakes him. He opens his eyes, surprised it's morning. He looks at the phone. Stacie? He gathers himself, answers.

GEORGE

Hello - ?

MAN'S VOICE (FILTERED)

George? This is Tom Minton. With ESPN. Am I calling too late?

GEORGE

No, no, hi, how you... Not at all...

TOM (FILTERED)

I just wanted to tell you-- Welcome to ESPN, George...

(he can't believe it)

You'll be getting a call from Mr. Lazarus in the morning but I just wanted to give you the good news myself...

GEORGE

That's a great news....thanks...it's really a fantastic news Mr. Minton...

MR.MINTON

Take care...

GEORGE

Yes, you too...

He hangs up. It's a mix of emotions.

138 INT. GEORGE'S CAR - DRIVING - MORNING

138

George is driving Lewis home, very pensive. He pulls into the driveway at Stacie and Lewis's home. He looks inside the front window, doesn't see Stacie... But instead Matt comes out.

(CONTINUED)

MATT

Hey guys. Big game today!

(to Lewis)

Your Mom left your uniform on your bed.

Lewis races inside.

LEWIS

See you at the field, Dad!

MATT

(to George)

Well good luck today, Coach. See you at the field?

GEORGE

Sure...

(fishing for Stacie)

You driving over the three of you, or--

MATT

Actually, Stac had to run over to the wedding dress shop again. Three times and it still won't zipper.

139 INT. WEDDING DRESS SHOP ON BEACH DRIVE - DAY

139

George walks into the elegant wedding dress shop.

SHOP LADY

Hi, can I help you-- ?

GEORGE

(walking past her)

I'm looking for Mrs. Dryer. Is Mrs. Dryer here?

SHOP LADY

You can't go back there-- Sir-- ?!

He continues past a handful of BRIDES-TO-BE; some of them cover up as he passes, some seem to enjoy the intrusion.

In the back he finds Stacie, dressed all in white, an ITALIAN TAILOR helping her through her final fitting, in the mirror.

She sees George and becomes extremely self-conscious, feeling violated. A beat.

GEORGE

Hi.

STACIE

What are you doing here? How did you know I was even--

(CONTINUED)

Stacie realizes the ITALIAN TAILOR and some of the FITTERS are watching. She pulls George towards the dressing room.

STACIE

You can't just come in here and do this.

GEORGE

I know, I uh--

STACIE

You're an adult, George. Why don't you have any concept of what you can and can't do?

GEORGE

I know. I'm aware it's, the timing is...
It's off. But... The thing is--

*

(after a beat)

I'm lost without you. And I always have
been.

*

She sees a sense of urgency and sincerity in him.

GEORGE

See, since Lewis came back in my life, the whole time I'm trying to make up for everything I missed. You know, where can I take him, what can I give him, to make up for all the... So he can forgive me.

(a beat)

But the truth is, there's only one thing he really wants. And it's us.

STACIE

(impacted; after a beat)

I'm getting married in two weeks, George.

Thoughts of Matt in pain, pleasing Lewis, throwing herself back into uncertainty-- all cross her mind at the same time.

*

GEORGE

I know. But there's a family here that could have been and still can be. And I have a plan for us.

*

*

STACIE

How many plans did we have, George? I can't hear anymore plans.

*

*

*

She looks at the door suddenly as her escape hatch.

GEORGE

Not just a plan but a tremendous opportunity, to be an actual sports anchor. On ESPN. For real. I've been hired today... I start in a week.

*

This surprises her-- and scares her, as suddenly the un-viable is perhaps viable.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

It's chance of a life time really... for the second time. So I was looking through this book about "what to do in Connecticut", you know those travel books and-- they had this whole chapter on "family life"-- parks and schools, and how safe it is and I thought, "what's the point of going to a place like that if I don't bring my family?" And I realized I don't have to. That this is our second chance too, not just mine.

*
*
*
*

She looks at him, incredulous.

STACIE

I can't just pick up and go to Connecticut... because after all these years you suddenly have some damn new plan.

*
*

Interrupts her. Holding her face with both hands.

GEORGE

It'll be different this time. It will.

*

STACIE

(exhausted by the memories)

I can't go through it all again. Not with a nine year old. Not all these years later.

*

She looks in his eyes, solemnly, pleading almost--

STACIE

If you care for us, really care for us, let me go. Please.

She exits, leaving him to absorb the moment. After a beat, he sinks to the floor. No energy. No plan. Lost.

*

The befuddled Italian tailor comes into the room.

TAILOR

Scuse, but-- I think she awaiting for you--

George gets up, looks out the window-- Stacie's in her car, head against the wheel. Waiting. For him.

140 INT. STACIE'S CAR IN THE PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER 140

The passenger door opens and George gets in, sits next to her. Silence. A beat. She doesn't even look up.

STACIE

Damn you, George. Damn you.

GEORGE

I meant everything I said. I will never leave again! Ever ever again...

(CONTINUED)

140 CONTINUED:

140

He reaches to touch her but she pushes him away.

STACIE

No, don't! Don't touch me. Stop it!

GEORGE

Okay. Okay.

STACIE

If I want to be touched, I'll tell you, okay? I'll decide.

GEORGE

Okay.

STACIE

It can't all go at your pace. It can't all be about you.

GEORGE

Fine, you just tell me what to do. Your pace. You decide.

She kisses him with great passion. Unable to control herself. Then it turns into a hug then she punches his chest a whole bunch of times. Then he holds her against his chest. She pushes away from him. She's fragile, and scared.

STACIE

Why couldn't you have stayed away for two more months?

GEORGE

Cause we belong together, Stacie. We just belong together...

She lowers into his arms, more comfortable this time. Closes her eyes, holds him-- her one great love, father of her son and the man who put her through this sad and turbulent relationship.

STACIE

Even if I could love you again, how can I trust you?

GEORGE

I'm gonna make you trust me.

(a beat)

I'm for real this time.

STACIE

I need to tell Matt the right way. He's been so good to us. I owe him that.

*

GEORGE

I understand.

(CONTINUED)

140 CONTINUED:

140

STACIE

And Connecticut-- I can't just pick up and--
 Our whole life is here...

*
*

GEORGE

(nodding; still hugging her)
 We'll work it out. We'll-- we'll find a
 great school for him there. The station
 manager has kids his age, the... We'll make
 it work. I promise.

*
*
*
*

She's emotional about it, and George feels for the situation.
 She checks her watch again, it's time to go.

STACIE

How do I sit at that game with him? What do
 I say when he smiles at me? When he holds
 my hand? How can I do this to him?

*

GEORGE

Everything's going to work out. I promise.

141 INT. WEDDING DRESS STORE - SAME

141

The shop owners, the tailor and the other brides are watching
 through the window. George and Stacie hugging in the car.

OLDER LADY

That's a couple that can really talk. They
 have a shot.

SALESCLERK

I don't think that's the groom.

They all look at each other. Really?

142 EXT. SOCCER FIELD PARKING LOT - DAY

142

George's Mercedes follows Stacie's Saab into the lot. The two
 cars split up and park separately. They avoid eye contact.

143 EXT. THE SOCCER FIELD - DAY

143

People call to George, excited to see him.

PARENTS/KIDS

Hey Coach, how's it going Coach!/ Big game
 today, Coach.

George walks with his equipment bag towards the field. He sees
 Lewis standing with Matt who gives George a big wave and smile.

*

Barb passes by with a MAN IN HIS 50'S. They have their arms
 around each other and both look quite happy.

(CONTINUED)

BARB

Hi Coach, go get 'em today!
(whispers back to George)
Match dot com. So far so good.

Barb winks at George and walks off with the guy. Lewis and Matt *
approach George.

LEWIS

Hey Dad, Matt and I just looked up my *
horoscope. It says "You will be
victorious".

GEORGE

Well, that and a few goals we should be
okay.

Stacie walks up, and the moment is definitely awkward.

MATT

So, do we have a dress? *

She forces a smile and nods. Matt puts his arm around Stacie. *

STACIE

Well, good luck today, guys.

MATT

Go get em, Lewis. *

George watches Stacie and Matt head to the stands. They say a *
casual "Hi" to Denise and her husband TONY who are suddenly hand *
in hand.

The REFEREE yells to George.

REFEREE

Let's get this show on the road, Coach. *

GEORGE

You got it, Ref. *

145 EXT. SIDELINE OF SOCCER FIELD - DAY

145

The team all huddle around George for his pre-game pep talk. *
They are in a huddle, George's arms around them. *

GEORGE

Final game of the season, kids. You all know *
your roles. You know you can do it. So let's *
give it everything we got. *

(they all nod) *

For all the marbles, okay? Let's get these *
wankers! *

The starting squad all run to the field screaming and cheering. *
George turns and sees Griffin on the bench. *

(CONTINUED)

145 CONTINUED:

145

GEORGE

Grif, I don't wanna force you to do anything
you don't want to, but-- It is the
championship game and-- We're short handed
so--

GRIFFIN

Maybe in the second half.

GEORGE

(a beat)

Look, I get the whole Mom and Dad thing. I
wouldn't even ask just-- the way you were
kicking in practice the other day, you might
be that secret weapon that can push us over
the top.

(gets his interest)

But if you do it-- don't do it for your
parents. Or for me. Get in there for you.

Griffin considers it, and nods. He stands up. Lupe cheers.

GRIFFIN

Let's get these wankers, Coach!

146 REFEREE

146

Blows the whistle

REFEREE

Blows the whistle to start the game.

SOCCER FIELD - THE KICK OFF

The ball is kicked and the game is on.

148 EXT. SIDELINES AT SOCCER FIELD - DAY

148

George looks into the stands. Patti with Carl. Denise and her
husband. Barb and her Match dot com boyfriend. Stacie and Matt.

149 EXT. THE FIELD - DAY

149

George watches Lewis move the ball down field with much more
grace than any time before. He passes to Lewis who passes over
to Ethan and then over to Griffin...

George looks up in the stands for Stacie. He sees Stacie sitting
next to Matt. Then George sees Carl who sits next to Patti.

150 EXT. THE STANDS - CONTINUOUS 150 *

Stacie, close up, we see she is ambivalent. Surrounded by
parents who are all cheering the team on. Stacie is silent, her
head spinning, watching George. *

151 INT. THE SIDELINES - CONTINUOUS 151 *

George watches his team playing very fluidly as they move the
ball down field. *

Carl comes down the sidelines towards George: *

CARL *

Coach, am I interrupting? *

GEORGE *

Team sponsor. It's your sideline too. *

The two men watch the game for a moment. *

GEORGE *

I saw Patti in the stands. I guess, like you
said, it was nothing. *

CARL *

Nothing like a championship game to put the
old family back together, right George? *

(as George nods) *

At least for the day anyway. *

Action happens on the field. The clock is ticking down. *

CARL *

In any case, I have a little something to
show you... *

(takes out an envelope) *

Souvenirs of the season, I guess you could
say... *

A stack of photos, the first is of George and the entire team. *

Then some random shots of George instructing the team, kicking
over the Gatorade bottles, teaching the team how to kick... *

GEORGE *

This is very thoughtful, Carl. Thank you. *

CARL *

They get more interesting as you go... *

A few more "nice photos" then suddenly a shot of Patti outside
his house... and then a shot of Patti in his bedroom, shot
through the blinds... *

(CONTINUED)

151 CONTINUED:

151

A great SHOT BLOCK happens on the field followed by CHEERING, but George doesn't even turn his head. He looks at Carl who stares back at him dead serious.

CARL

I know, George. I know everything.

George is stunned. Time suddenly stands still. He flips pictures, Patti naked in his bed, George & Patti talking on the side of the house...

CARL

Funny thing is, I thought I had mentioned hiring people in the past to, you know, keep tabs on Patti. So when you showed up in the photographs, I have to say I was quite surprised, George.

GEORGE

Carl, I never touched her--

CARL

You know, all along, I had this strong sense you were still in love with your ex-wife. Patti first mentioned it. Womens intuition I guess. But, if you're still in love with your ex, why are you sleeping with my wife?

GEORGE

I never laid a hand on her. You've gotta believe me.

Players, coaches and refs walk past them as they talk softly.

CARL

Do you hate me? Do you hate my son? Does he not... play defense to your standards?

GEORGE

She came over all depressed, I mean, she practically tried to kill herself in my house, Carl, she uh--

-Photo of Patti standing there naked as Lewis walked in.

CARL

I bet that led to an interesting conversation.

(closes the envelope)

Quite the full service coach, aren't you?

GEORGE

Carl, it's not what it appears.

CARL

It never is, George-- Like Patti sitting up there in the stands next to me, sharing a pretzel, you'd never know that she just served me divorce papers.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

151 CONTINUED:

151

CARL (cont'd)

Of course I'm not telling you anything you
don't know. This was your suggestion, wasn't
it?

GEORGE

I didn't advise her to do anything-- All I
want is my family back. The same as you.

Just then George's cell phone rings, he looks at the CALLER ID
and it's Stacie... Phone RINGS again.

CARL

Go ahead, George. If it's Patti, please ask
her where my 9-iron is.

George picks it up, answers.

GEORGE

Hi...

STACIE

I'm sorry...

(a beat)

I can't do it.

He looks into the stands, can't find her.

GEORGE

What do you mean? Where are you?

STACIE

I can't do it. I can't do it now. I can't do
it at all.

He finally finds her on her cell phone by the bathrooms.

GEORGE

But everything we just said. About us.

STACIE

(crying)

You were always romantic George. It was
everything else that didn't work. I can't,
George.

The phone disconnects just when he hears LOUD CHEERING, the ball
is down field, the ball goes to Lewis...to Ethan... To Griffin.

Shot on goal, it bounces back, and Lewis kicks it in. Score.
Game over.

People are going crazy in the stands.

George looks at Stacie, she gets into her car and starts to
drive off. Matt looks for her.

Lewis races into George's arms. He tries to act happy for his
son, he hugs him...

(CONTINUED)

151 CONTINUED:

151

LEWIS

We did it, Dad! We did it!

George holds him, but it's anything but a celebration.

In the distance, we see Carl walking alone, joined by his son,
whom he doesn't give much attention.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE FIELD - DAY

We see a WIDE SHOT of the field full of parents celebrating with
their kids.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE FIELD - DUSK

George is sitting on the field. He seems devastated. The sun
goes down behind him.

155 INT. GEORGE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

155

The place has been stripped bare. George sits on a cheap
folding chair in his stark empty living room. No boxes, no
clutter, no beer cans. And no longer home, either.

There is a KNOCK on the door, he glances out the blinds, *Stacie?*
But he sees it's Denise. He opens the door, curious.

GEORGE

Hey...

DENISE

Hi... I just wanted to say "goodbye".

She looks around the apartment, everything in boxes.

DENISE

Caught you just in time, huh?

(he nods)

You're gonna do great up there.

GEORGE

I finally saw your husband at the field. I
wish you luck, too.

DENISE

He was never a bad guy, you know? I just--
things get confusing sometimes.

George nods. Does he ever know. A beat.

(CONTINUED)

155 CONTINUED:

155

DENISE

So, anyway-- goodbye. And thanks.

156 EXT. STACIE AND LEWIS'S HOUSE - MORNING

156

George waits nervously at the door, his filled-to-the-brim car is behind him. The door opens and Stacie is there.

GEORGE

Hi...

STACIE

Hi...

GEORGE

I understand. I do. You deserve to have someone more like... Matt. I tried to be that, but...

(a beat)

I'll still always love you.

She can't say that back.

STACIE

(a beat; shaken)

I'll get Lewis... Good luck, George.

She walks away and Lewis comes to the door.

GEORGE

Hey, I thought we'd take a little walk before you went to school.

157 EXT. SIDEWALK AROUND STACIE'S HOUSE - MORNING

157

Lewis and George take a walk around the block.

GEORGE

So, I don't know if Mom told you, but I got this job-- To be a sportscaster, on TV.

LEWIS

ESPN. Mom told me. That's pretty awesome, right?

GEORGE

It is, it really is, except, it's in Connecticut is the thing. Did she tell you that?

LEWIS

Yeah. Kind of. Not really.

(a beat)

How far is Connecticut?

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

Not too bad really. Four hundred miles or
so-- Plus it's real beautiful country
there, I think you'll really like it.

Lewis' carpool pulls into the driveway, taps the HORN.

LEWIS

So I'm not going to see you all the time
anymore-- ?

He can't lie to Lewis. Not anymore. A beat.

GEORGE

No. Not initially.

(a beat)

But, I get weekends off, and I'll be making
a bunch of money, so every chance I get,
I'll fly in, and sometimes you'll visit me,
and... And I'm gonna put a good life
together for us... They tell me if I do well
there, it'll be real easy for me to get a
job anywhere I want.

He nods. And George nods too.

LEWIS

Who's going to be my coach?

GEORGE

Well, between us, I'll always be your coach,
but they'll give you some guy who I bet is
great and loves kids, like I do.

They both smile. Lewis tries to wipe a tear from his eye and
that puts tears in George's eyes.

GEORGE

I got a little something for you--

George takes out a small bag, reaches his hand in it--

GEORGE

This is from the finals... I thought you'd
like it.

George removes his SOLID GOLD EUROPEAN CUP MEDAL, offers it to
Lewis. "**GEORGE DRYER, CELTIC**" engraved in the side. Lewis puts
it around his neck. They are back at Lewis's house. His carpool
pulls up in front of the house where they are now.

GEORGE

You should go. Don't wanna be late.

They hug, both cry on each other's shoulder.

LEWIS

I'm gonna miss you, Dad.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

I love you so much.

George walks to his car, waves one final time to Lewis, gets in and leaves...

INT. KITCHEN AT STACIES - MORNING

Stacie is watching the farewell between George & Lewis. We stay on Stacie's face for a moment. She's torn.

Matt walks into the room behind her.

MATT

Hi.

This startles her. She pretends to be okay

STACIE

Hi... Hungry?

MATT

I'd take some fruit if we have.

She goes to the refrigerator without showing her face. While hidden by the refrigerator door, she clears her tears.

MATT

So he left, huh? Maybe he finally will get his shit together. For Lewis's sake, I hope so.

She disappears out the kitchen, goes upstairs and into the hallway bathroom. Locks the door.

Matt looks up, wondering why she dashed out so quickly.

INT. UPSTAIRS BATHROOM AT STACIE'S - MORNING

The water is running. She is bawling. The more she tries to compose herself, the less she can.

A moment later there is a KNOCK at the door.

MATT (O.S.)

Honey? You okay?

She takes a deep breath. Throws water on her face.

MATT (O.S.)

What's going on, Stac?

She dabs her eyes with a towel. Tries to force a SMILE on her face, like a practice-smile to see if she can even fake it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She opens the door, and finds herself face to face with Matt.
She forces the nicest smile she can muster at the moment.

STACIE

Anyway, I have a busy day, so...

But there is one new TEAR on her cheek that she didn't get a
chance to wipe away... She clears it, but it's too late.

STACIE

I'm sorry...

MATT

(her tear)
Tell me that's not for him.
(she can't)
Tell me I didn't waste three years for
nothing.
(a pause)
After three years, the least you owe me is
the truth.

A long pause. She's petrified. But tells the truth which is:

STACIE

I never stopped loving him.

158 INT. GEORGE'S MERCEDES - DAY

158

George drives along the highway, sees sign: **"Interstate North"**.

159 EXT. THE HIGHWAY - LATER THAT DAY

159

George's car drives along an empty highway and a sign that
reads: **"1 mile to Virginia State Border"**.

INT. GEORGE'S MERCEDES - LATER THAT DAY

George crosses the PENNSYLVANIA border and then looks into his
rear view mirror, sees the backside of the bear waving.

Shots of roads into roads, tunnels and bridges...

He pulls up to a sign that says **"WELCOME TO CONNECTICUT"**.

161 EXT. THE MERCEDES - DAY

161

He passes the Connecticut state border. George's car slowly
loses speed and pulls onto shoulder of the Highway and stops.
Puts his head on the dashboard, and cries.

DISSOLVE TO:

162 INT. GEORGE'S MERCEDES - LATER 162 *

George, eyes red from crying, suddenly energized with a plan, starts the car back up. He turns the wheel and fish tails across a CORN FIELD-- dust and corn flying in the sky, he heads back "home"... which he's just realized is wherever Lewis is. *

163 EXT. LEWIS AND STACIE'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON 163 *

Peaceful day in suburbia. Lewis is in his front yard juggling his soccer ball, from his knee, to his feet, back up to his knee, off his head, then kicking it against the garage door. *

Lewis sees his Mom in the kitchen, then continues practicing. *

George's car pulls up to the sidewalk, the suitcases still clinging onto the roof. George gets out and sees his son. *

LEWIS *

What are you doing here? *

GEORGE *

(approaching him on the lawn) *

I was on my way, to Bristol and I started thinking, well what if I wake up tomorrow and feel like taking another walk with you. *

(a beat) *

I mean, I gotta drive 5 hours to take one walk around the block, you know? *

LEWIS *

What about being on TV? *

GEORGE *

I don't have it all worked out, but-- I figure if I'm good enough for them, gotta be good enough for someone here, right? *

LEWIS *

Too bad the season's over. That was fun. *

GEORGE *

Well, it's never too early to start practicing for next year. *

With that, Lewis spins the ball up onto his thigh, then knees it back to his Dad about ten feet away. *

LEWIS *

First to a hundred wins? *

164 STACIE - IN THE HOUSE 164 *

Comes down the stairs, through the living room, glances outside and is shocked to see George and Lewis playing on the lawn. *

165 GEORGE AND LEWIS - THE FRONT LAWN

165

George dribbles through Lewis's legs then shoots, but Lewis blocks it and comes back the other way, dribbling.

GEORGE

Remember, on the laces, right?

They chase each other from one side of the lawn to the other, each time a little more gracefully, than the time before.

GEORGE

Now you got it. Just like that.

Then he sees Stacie standing on the lawn, looking at him.

LEWIS

Like this, Dad? Check this out, Dad...

But George is locked on Stacie, notices something different about her. She seems to also notice something of him too.

STACIE

I thought you'd be in Connecticut by now.

GEORGE

I can't go to Connecticut. I can't go anywhere without Lewis. I've missed too much already, you know?

She studies George and sees his sincerity. So many years, so many bad choices, and finally, he grew up.

STACIE

Where you gonna live?

GEORGE

Haven't figured it out yet, but-- that never stopped me before, so...

STACIE

You must be hungry from the drive... if you want, dinner'll be ready soon.

Lewis watches from down the lawn, senses something is happening.

GEORGE

Sure...

She stares at him, and then heads to the front door. He follows her, but stops at the threshold-- til now, his boundary.

After a beat, she reaches her hand out and invites him in--

STACIE

If you want to get washed up first.

(CONTINUED)

165 CONTINUED:

165

He comes inside... first time since they were married... It's surreal for him. Stacie sees Lewis on the lawn, still unsure of what's going on, but sensing it's good.

*
*
*

STACIE
So, you coming too?

*
*

Lewis takes the stairs two at a time, and disappears into the house... with his Mom and Dad both... looks up in wonderment...

*
*

The front door closes, and at last, the Dryers are home again.

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FADE OUT

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THE END

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