

UNTITLED GOLDBERGS SPIN-OFF

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COLD OPEN

EVERYBODY DANCE NOW! As C & C Music Factory BLASTS, images take us back to the 90s -- everything from "Friends" to Kurt Cobain to "Titanic" to Michael Jordan to "Fresh Prince."

LUCY (V.O.)

People say the 90s were the last great decade. Sure, maybe there were too many flannel shirts and Right Said Fred said nothing right. But aside from that, it was awesome.

INT. WILLIAM PENN ACADEMY - DAY - 1990SOMETHING

WE SEE VARIOUS CLIPS around our 90s updated school -- girls dressed like the Spice Girls, a handmade poster for the "Seinfeld Club," a kid checks his schedule on a Palm Pilot.

LUCY (V.O.)

The President was playing the sax on TV and America was getting online. It was an exciting time of change. Well, for most of us.

INT. GYM - DAY

WHAP! A kid is nailed with a ball to the face. A dodgeball game is underway as COACH MELLOR stalks the sidelines in his short shorts. Whistle gleaming. A man in his element.

LUCY (V.O.)

Back then, every school had a teacher like this. Rick T. Mellor. The classic gym coach who wore his feelings on his sleeve and short shorts on his thighs.

MELLOR

There is no triumph without "try!"  
So "try" harder!

(then)

Never give up! Unless it's a seat to an old lady on a bus!

(then)

Dream of success! Then force yourself awake and jump some rope!

(then)

Winners never quit! Neither does my ex-wife's lawyer! Back off!  
You can't get blood from a stone!

LUCY (V.O.)

The man never changed... even when things began to change around him.

BOOM! The gym doors burst open as BEVERLY GOLDBERG makes a dramatic slo-mo entrance. A dodgeball flies towards her. Mellor steps in, catching it like a ninja.

MELLOR

Whoa! No one hit the blonde lady!

BEVERLY

Coach you are as fine a gentleman as you are an athlete.

MELLOR

Kindness is just another muscle, and I keep it jacked.

BEVERLY

Sorry to bother you on your first day back, but we gotta talk.

MELLOR

Dammit! Look, your last little schmuggie graduated last year. You have no one left here to overprotect and inappropriately interfere with.

BEVERLY

Adam is my schmoopie not schmuggie. And you're right. No more kids means no more Bevy. I'm here to say goodbye.

MELLOR

(gets misty)

Ah dammit, I'm gonna miss those glorious sweaters.

BEVERLY

Aw, don't you worry. I'll still lurk around.

MELLOR

No, we all want you gone. I'm just a bit raw, that's all. Glascott was made Head of School over me. How could that happen?

BEVERLY

Well, the man does have a PhD in education from Yale.

MELLOR

And I have a PhD in winning from Life University. I just...

(then, sincere)

I wanted that job. I'm a Coach. It's what I do, what I love. I wanted to see this school win.

BEVERLY

Rick. Just 'cause you didn't get put in charge doesn't mean this school doesn't need you.

MELLOR

You're right. It's not about me. It's about the kids.

We REVEAL a FROSH GEEK is dangling at a rope above them.

FROSH GEEK

Coach, help! I can't get down!

MELLOR

Stop thinking and start doing, champ! I believe in you!

(to Beverly)

He's been up there for an hour.

BOOM! The gym doors burst open as ANDRE GLASCOTT makes a dramatic slo-mo entrance. He strides like a bad-ass in his sweater vest and loafers.

LUCY (V.O.)

And even though a few were stuck in the past, you always had teachers like Andre Glascott ready to lead their school into the future.

BAP! Glascott gets PEGGED in the head by a dodgeball. THE SLOW MO CUTS OUT. Mellor and Beverly wince.

GLASCOTT

Ah, dangit! Wow, that burns! I know you did that on purpose, Cody!

Mellor blows his whistle, taking immediate control.

MELLOR

Alright, hit the showers! And wear flip flops! Summer break was a blow out party for the fungus in there!

(to Glascott)

You okay, boss-man?

GLASCOTT

Takes a lot more than a shockingly hard rubber ball to slow down, Ol' Glascott.

BEVERLY

I'm proud of you, Andre. With me outta your way, you can do anything.

Beverly hugs him, tears in her eyes.

GLASCOTT

Gotta admit, I'm kinda sad you won't be around to make my life harder, scarier and more difficult in every way.

BEVERLY

That is literally the nicest thing anyone's ever said to me.

GLASCOTT

There's gonna be alot of changes around this place, Mellor. Hope you're ready.

Another dodgeball PEGS Glascott. Mellor stifles a giggle.

MELLOR

That's ten laps, Cody! Nice arm though.

GLASCOTT

(angrily rubs his neck)

Yep. Lotta changes.

MELLOR

Well, it's been a hell of a ride, Mrs. G. Time to give you a Coach's highest honor -- a 21 squat salute.

Indeed, Mellor has begun to do squat thrusts. BAM! The kid drops from above and hits the floor OUT OF FRAME.

**END OF COLD OPEN**

ACT ONE

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

We CRANE down through the spacious library past the oversized PC computers and microfiche machines. We find LUCY WINSTON (mid 30s, legit cool, in colorful 90s attire a la Elaine Benis) sitting across an empty table from Glascott.

LUCY (V.O.)

It was September 1st, 1990- something, the day that changed everything for me and my kids. And all I had to do was get through the weirdest job interview of my life.

GLASCOTT

So... Lucy, is it? I see you worked as the administrative secretary at a dental practice for seven years. But do you think you're ready for the high-octane world of our school's front office?

LUCY

Well. I can answer phones, make copies and also I'm your sister so gimme the stupid job.

GLASCOTT

Let's keep this professional. Next question -- you going to Mom's for Thanksgiving?

LUCY

Seriously? That's your question?

GLASCOTT

Please, I hate it when you're not there! She's mean and critical and puts raisins in the yams!

LUCY

Okay, clearly working for you will be complicated. But it means free tuition for my kids. This place has computers and sports and theater and not one metal detector in sight.

GLASCOTT

It also has the best perk of all --  
Me and my constant support and  
guidance to help undo all your poor  
life decisions.

LUCY

Don't make me punch you at my job  
interview, Andre.

GLASCOTT

I'm just saying, I told you not to  
marry a roadie! You wouldn't listen!

LUCY

You were a college nerd! I was  
just seventeen! And he had a  
Corvette and an ass like Rick  
Springfield! I had no choice!

GLASCOTT

Uch. How is Keg anyway?

LUCY

Keg is Keg. Last I heard he was in  
Japan touring with the Red Hot  
Chili Peppers.

GLASCOTT

Oh, they're good. The one guy  
plays guitar with just a sock on  
his wiener.

LUCY

Flea. I think Keg actually handles  
the socks.

An awkward beat. Glascott throws his arms around her.

GLASCOTT

You got the job! Welcome to  
William Penn Academy!

LUCY

Thank you. Honestly, this is a  
life saver. The kids are gonna be  
freakin' thrilled!

**EXT. PARKING LOT/FRONT OF SCHOOL - THE NEXT DAY**

Lucy parks her Isuzu Trooper and gets out with her daughter  
FELICIA (16, a rebel in Doc Martens).

FELICIA

This sucks donkey dong.

LUCY

For now. In time it'll suck  
smaller donges until there's no  
donges at all.

FELICIA

You realize you're making me give  
up my entire life, right?

LUCY

That's the point. Last year, it  
was like you had a one way ticket  
to drinking town. And drugs town.  
And possibly sex town.

FELICIA

Where is this town? It sounds  
awesome.

GIGI pops in. She's a 14 year-old quirky gung-ho gal with  
Aspergers... which wasn't a thing in the 90s.

GIGI

Well, I'm super pumped to learn and  
make new best friends!

LUCY

That's because you're a kick-ass  
kid who's positive and happy.

FELICIA

And weird. And socially awkward.

GIGI

I'm gonna run ahead to put up my  
signs for the Happy Harmony Club.

LUCY

Uh-oh, I mean, what's that, punkin?

GIGI

It's an acappella club that sings  
boy band songs. It's gonna be a  
fun way to meet kids like me and  
Oscar.

OSCAR nervously climbs out of the car. He's Gigi's polar  
opposite twin, painfully shy and introverted and A GIANT.

OSCAR

Please don't group me in with you.

GIGI

You got it, bro! Twin powers  
activate!

OSCAR

Don't do that.

Gigi runs towards school. Just then a basketball from a pick-up game across the parking lot rolls towards Oscar.

LUCY

Show 'em what you got, bud.

Oscar picks it up and chucks it a CRAZY long distance. It lands right in one of the kid's hands. The jocks explode. Their suave leader, DUFFY, calls to him.

DUFFY

Yo, c'mon over! We need a center!

LUCY

That's your in, Oscar. No one sees  
you as the shy quiet kid at this  
school -- annnnd he's running away.

Indeed, Oscar is SPRINTING inside like Carl Lewis. Glascott happily approaches, finger gunning at his niece Felicia.

GLASCOTT

Hey hey! Here comes trouble! I'm  
joking of course, we desperately  
hope this is a new chapter for you.

FELICIA

Hi, Uncle Andre. Thank you for  
putting me in this awful situation.

LUCY

She thinks I'm gonna stalk her in  
the halls. Which I am.

GLASCOTT

No no. We need clear boundaries  
here. Lucy, I need you to trust  
your daughter and not interfere.  
Felicia, you gotta promise to make  
good choices at this school.

FELICIA

I like the part where she stays the hell out of my life. It's a deal.

LUCY

Dammit. I guess I could back off.

GLASCOTT

Great! If anyone gives either of you trouble, lemme know and I'll handle it. Everyone respects Unkie Andre around this place.

Just then, Glascott notices his red Tercel has been sprayed with 90s silly string to read: "I Heart Ass."

GLASCOTT (CONT'D)

Dangit! Somebody vandalized Burgundy Lightning!

LUCY (V.O.)

And so I began my new job and the new challenges that came with it.

**INT. RECEPTION AREA/GLASCOTT'S OFFICE - DAY**

Lucy sits at her desk dialing into AOL on her desktop PC. We hear the HIGH PITCH SHRIEKS of a 90s dial up modem until Andre's interrupts.

GLASCOTT (O.S.)

Hello? Hello? Hey, Luce? I think the phone lines broke!

LUCY

Hang up, Andre! I'm checking your email!

GLASCOTT (O.S.)

My bad, boss! Oop, I'm the boss! My bad again.

Lucy shakes her head as Mellor enters.

MELLOR

Howdy! You must be the new brains of the operation. I'm Coach.

LUCY

Lucy. Nice shorts.

MELLOR

Thanks. They may not breathe, but they demand respect. If ya' need anything, just holler. I'm the eyes and ears and biceps of this place.

Glascott charges out of his office.

GLASCOTT

Stop! No need to help, I'm on it. I just called you here to have a chat. Step into my office, Rick.

Mellor crosses into Glascott's office. REVEAL a MAINTENANCE MAN is removing Glascott's office door.

MELLOR

What's Stanley doing with your door?

GLASCOTT

I asked him to remove it. It's a symbol of the school's new open door policy.

MELLOR

Even for bathrooms and stuff?

GLASCOTT

No, just this one.

Glascott takes a seat behind his desk. On it is a gleaming new nameplate which reads: "ANDRE GLASCOTT, PhD".

GLASCOTT (CONT'D)

Listen, I have a real opportunity to change the very fabric of this school. I want this campus to be a safe, open space of communication. How's that sound?

MELLOR

Like communism.

GLASCOTT

The 80s are done. I got a big list of things that need to change around here -- we need respectful language, sensitivity training, healthy lunches, no more throwing chairs and chalk at students.

MELLOR

But that's how Mrs. Boxerbaum gets her students to shut their pie holes during social studies.

GLASCOTT

Not anymore.

MELLOR

Oh, I see what this is. You want Coach to be your muscle.

GLASCOTT

What? Why would I want that?

MELLOR

Well, you're coming in on the first day and telling teachers how to do their job. That's gonna get ugly.

GLASCOTT

Ya think? I was hoping they'd kinda graciously accept my ideas with a respectful hug?

MELLOR

Hah! So who's the first sucker on your list?

GLASCOTT

Uh... his name's Todd? You don't know him.

Glascott glances down at his list. At the top of his progressive ideas -- "CANCEL DODGEBALL". He GULPS.

MELLOR

Wait, am I the sucker? You don't like the way I teach?!

GLASCOTT

Of course I do! You're the best we got! That's why I called you in!

MELLOR

You mean... I'm getting a promotion?

Glascott sighs, unable to break Mellor's heart.

GLASCOTT

You're getting a promotion!

MELLOR

Hot dog! You don't know how badly I needed this, Andre. So what am I? Second Head of School?

GLASCOTT

Oh God, no. But you are... um, Head Coach of School.

MELLOR

I've never heard of that before.

GLASCOTT

It's part of my new approach to education. Empowering the great people who work for me.

MELLOR

Now I can buy that boat!

GLASCOTT

Don't buy a boat! It's not a money kind of promotion. You're basically exactly what you are now, but... better.

MELLOR

Gotta admit, Andre. I thought you were soft. A pushover. But this promotion just proves me wrong. Let's celebrate with power shakes!

Mellor pulls a couple of bottles from his duffle bag.

GLASCOTT

Oooh, gotta be firm on this one. No power shakes.

MELLOR

Put it to your lips and drink!

Glascott flinches and drinks. It's thick and gross.

MELLOR (CONT'D)

That's the taste of victory! And onions and egg and a whole mess of beans.

GLASCOTT

I do taste beans. Now, if you don't mind, I don't wanna be late for my first faculty meeting.

MELLOR

I'd make it fast. In seven minutes  
you will have to poop.

GLASCOTT

Ah, dangit!

**INT. TEACHERS LOUNGE - DAY**

Mellor and Lucy watch as a thrilled Glascott leads the meeting  
in front of the faculty. This is his moment. He's pumped.

GLASCOTT

...And as part of my new inclusive  
agenda, I invite all of you to  
participate in our first "All  
School Community Share Session."

MELLOR

What the hell is that?

GLASCOTT

A chance for us all to celebrate,  
bond and build community spirit.

MELLOR

You mean a pep rally!? I'm in!  
I'll arrange everything -- rowdy  
rags, confetti cannons, marching  
band geeks!

GLASCOTT

No, stop. It's not a pep rally,  
this is my thing.

MELLOR

I think we all agree pep rallies  
fall under the purview of Head  
Coach of School.

GLASCOTT

Again. It's not a pep --

A bright-eyed boy hustles in with roller blades slung over  
his shoulder and a "No Fear" shirt. This is CHUCK BROWN.

CHUCK

What up?!

LUCY

Sorry, sweetie. This meeting's  
teachers only.

GLASCOTT

Actually, this boy isn't a student.  
This boy's a science teacher.

LUCY

He's a whatnow?

CHUCK

It's okay. Happens a lot, cause  
I'm hip and on the students' level  
and say boo ya! I also collect  
slap bracelets.

MELLOR

Also your tiny body plays a part in  
everyone thinking you're a child.

CHUCK

Word! Sorry I'm late, my blades  
met up with a tiny pebble and they  
did NOT get along. What'd I miss?

MELLOR

I'm planning a pep rally. Good  
meeting, team! Same time tomorrow!

GLASCOTT

Wait, you can't just --

The bell RINGS drowning out Glascott. Everyone heads out.  
Glascott turns to find MADAME CHARBENAU (50S, sultry).

MADAME CHARBENAU

I think you did tres magnifique,  
Andre!

GLASCOTT

Oh, Madame Charbenaux, you are very  
close to me right now.

MADAME CHARBENAU

Will I sit with you at coach's pep  
ral-lee?

GLASCOTT

It's not a ral-lee! It's an all  
school community -- know what?  
It's fine. We're all on the same  
team here.

INT. GLASCOTT'S OFFICE - DAY

Glascott angrily paces in front of Lucy.

GLASCOTT  
Mellor is my enemy! Where does he  
get off planning my all-school  
community share session? I'm Head  
of School!

LUCY  
Well, he's Head Coach of School.

GLASCOTT  
I made that up!

LUCY  
Why would you do that?!

GLASCOTT  
It was a fake promotion 'cause I  
didn't have the heart to cancel  
dodgeball!

LUCY  
Oooh. I think you gotta tell him.

GLASCOTT  
Of course I do! This is horrible,  
I just wanted to impress you and  
you've already seen the cracks!

LUCY  
Andre, I'm your sister. Impressing  
me went out the window years ago.

GLASCOTT  
Aw. You always know just what to  
say.

LUCY  
I'm not here to judge you. I'm  
here to help you, just like you're  
here helping me with my kids.

GLASCOTT  
And I give you my word, I will  
protect those little angels with  
all my -- OH GOD NO!

Out the window, Glascott spots Felicia sitting in a grove of trees by the quad with a group of burners. Their leader is MIKE STAMM, a grungy kid in a Soundgarden t-shirt.

GLASCOTT (CONT'D)  
This is a disaster! Felicia found those bad kids so fast!

LUCY  
What? Who are they!?

MELLOR (O.S.)  
TREE PEOPLE.

REVEAL Mellor is standing behind Lucy looking out the window.

LUCY/GLASCOTT  
Gah! / Don't do that!

LUCY  
Who are tree people!?

MELLOR  
A bunch of jokers and tokers who spend lunch hacky sacking and devil sticking. That's their leader, Mike Stamm.  
(then)  
Although I don't know who that sour puss is with him.

LUCY  
That's my daughter.

MELLOR  
She's lovely.

LUCY  
Unbelievable. First day she's already hooked up with Dazed and Confused.

GLASCOTT  
We all agreed, Lucy. Trust your daughter. The key to healthy adolescence is having the freedom to make your own choices.

MELLOR  
Freedom!? You need to forbid her from looking at those hippies!

GLASCOTT

Why are you even in my office?!

MELLOR

There's no door so I just came in.

LUCY

You think I shouldn't trust her?  
Our deal was I'd give her space --

MELLOR

Don't worry! I'll fix this! The  
best thing for a troubled kid like  
her is a contact sport to channel  
her girl rage!

Mellor storms into the HALLWAY, Glascott and Lucy giving chase.

GLASCOTT

No stop! Doesn't matter what he  
thinks! I'm the educator here. I  
got a damn PhD. I'm handling this!

MELLOR

With what? Hugs and feelings and  
ponies and rainbows? Teenagers need  
fear and intimidation -- the two  
pillars of education!

GLASCOTT

Okay, there's four pillars and none  
are scary or mean! Lucy, they made  
me Head of School for a reason. I  
know what I'm talking about.

LUCY

You're right. I gotta go with my  
brother on this.

MELLOR

Alright, my brother. You win this  
round.

GLASCOTT

You do know I'm her actual brother,  
right?

MELLOR

I did not.

Just then, Gigi runs up holding a sign up sheet.

GIGI

Guys, huge news! Someone finally signed up for my acapella club!

Glascott coolly takes Gigi's sign-up sheet.

GLASCOTT

See what happens when you have a little faith in kids?

(re: sheet)

Funny, I know all the students, but not this Anita Schlong -- Oh my!

GIGI

I know! I already made a friend!

Gigi excitedly grabs the sheet and runs off.

MELLOR

Good news is that happy little oddball has no clue how hard the world will be.

LUCY

That's my daughter.

MELLOR

You have a lovely family.

LUCY (V.O.)

And so I took my brother's wise advice and decided to completely trust Felicia.

**INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT**

Lucy is in the laundry room SNIFFING Felicia's sweater like a madman. WE REVEAL Felicia is next to her.

FELICIA

Whatcha doin'?

LUCY

Gah! Just making sure this stinks enough to wash. Laundry detergent is expensive stuff.

FELICIA

Are you smelling it for crack smoke?

LUCY

Crack?! What the -- no! I mean,  
yes, I -- why would you say crack?

FELICIA

To freak you out.

LUCY

I was sniffing for ganj okay? I saw  
you with the tree people at lunch!

FELICIA

Tree People? Don't put labels on  
us. We're just a loose collective  
of burners and oddballs.

LUCY

Us?! So you are a tree person!

FELICIA

Okay, you promised to leave me  
alone. So leave me alone.  
(thrilled)  
After all, Uncle Andre has it  
covered.

Felicia exits. Lucy watches her go with PANIC in her eyes.

**EXT. SCHOOL TRACK - DAY**

Lucy marches up to Mellor as he coaches the track team.

LUCY

You need to save my daughter from  
the tree freaks!

MELLOR

But Glascott clearly said his touchy  
feely garbage is the way to go.

LUCY

Look, my brother's always been too  
nice. Felicia doesn't need ponies  
and rainbows. She needs the Head  
Coach of School to get her in line.

MELLOR

That's what Coach does best. Well,  
that and benching three times my  
body weight.

LUCY

Let's just keep this between us. I don't want to crush Andre.

MELLOR

Totally get it. Truth is, I care about that man. He promoted me, and believes in me. I will respect and honor him by going behind his back and never telling.

LUCY

Thanks. Um, should we be standing here? Those kids are throwing javelins.

MELLOR

Look at that kid's noodle arms. He couldn't throw more than a hundred feet.

BAP! A javelin lands VERY close.

MELLOR (CONT'D)

Whoa! Not bad, Horowitz!

Lucy forces a smile, nervous she's betrayed her brother.

**END ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Felicia heads down the crowded hallway with Mike Stamm.

LUCY (V.O)

It had been a day since I vowed to Felicia that I wouldn't interfere in her life. And so I got this guy to do it.

Felicia rounds the corner and runs right into Mellor.

MELLOR

Hey now! Just the girl I was looking for! Go run ten laps around school, Mike Stamm!

Mike Stamm runs off. Felicia looks worried.

FELICIA

What's happening right now?

MELLOR

I wanted to make you aware of our mandatory sports policy. Every student's required to be on a team.

FELICIA

I haven't played sports since field hockey in sixth grade.

MELLOR

Field hockey! Perfect! Practice is at lunch, so be there and not anywhere else like the trees or the back of a van.

FELICIA

Why would I be in the back of a --

MELLOR

We also scrimmage on Saturday nights when the parties happen and on prom night when kids get very reckless and loose moraled.

FELICIA

But that's the whole point of high school!

MELLOR

Not anymore! See you on the field!

Mellor rushes off leaving a confused Felicia behind.

**INT. MATH CLASSROOM - DAY**

Mellor slips into Chuck Brown's classroom. Chuck is in a karate gi and slashes with chalk at fractions on the board.

CHUCK

Kee-ya! Reduce here and here. And four-sixteenths has been dishonored and is now a lowly one-quarter.

Chuck bows to the class. The kids laugh. The bell rings.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

Alright, student-sans! Remember to do your dojo work! Sayonara!

The kids file out of the class, high fiving Berman.

MELLOR

What in our beloved America was that?

CHUCK

I'm teaching kids how to reduce fractions, but making it fun.

MELLOR

But... math isn't fun. It sucks.

CHUCK

It's fun thanks to me.

MELLOR

I was here. It was still lame. But the good news! I've got a recruit for your field hockey team! A young lady who'll benefit greatly from the power of sports!

CHUCK

But you always say field hockey is an offense to hockey hockey.

MELLOR

I've decided to look past that. Oh, by the way, first practice is during lunch. Tell your girl team!

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Lucy watches from a distance as Gigi goes table to table handing out fliers. After she crosses away, a table of cool, mean girls laugh and mock her.

CATHY  
More like Sad Loser Club.

Huge laughs. Way too huge. Glascott pops in next to Lucy.

GLASCOTT  
Lucy, you seen Mellor around?

LUCY  
Oh, um, not sure. I think he's in the library or at a dentist appointment. I wouldn't know.

GLASCOTT  
Are you spying on Gigi?

LUCY  
Hey, I agreed to stay out of Felicia's life. You can't expect me not to help Gigi.

GLASCOTT  
I meant all your kids. Trust me, they'll find their own way. After all, I'm the one with the--

LUCY  
PhD, I got it. You mention that a lot.

Glascott heads off. Gigi happily passes by Lucy.

GIGI  
Hi, Momma! So good to see you!

Gigi gives Lucy a big hug and exits. Lucy sees Cathy and the popular girls roll their eyes. Lucy calmly approaches them.

LUCY  
Hi, are you, um...

CATHY  
Uh, Cathy Lee.

LUCY

Right! Cathy. Your mom stopped by to drop off your prescription. She wanted me to keep it in my desk.

CATHY

What are you talking about?

LUCY

You know, your lotion for...  
(glancing down)  
*Tchk-tchk.*

CATHY

I... don't need lotion...

LUCY

Oh, I'm sorry. That's a secret.  
My bad. Okay.

Cathy's friends snicker and exit. Lucy pulls her in close.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Ever roll your eyes at my sweet girl again, you'll have a severe case of crabs. Get it?

Cathy nods in horror.

**EXT. FIELD - DAY**

Felicia walks to the center of the field where Mellor stands with Chuck Brown, still in his karate outfit. There are a handful of girls in their field hockey uniforms.

MELLOR

Okay! What a healthy way to spend lunch hour! Hockey on a field!

FELICIA

Why is there a boy on the team?

CHUCK

I'm not a boy. I'm a coach. I'm just hip and unorthodox.

FELICIA

And you look like a seven-year-old wearing pajamas.

FIELD HOCKEY GIRL

I'm hungry.

MELLOR

You shoulda ate before practice!

FELICIA

You mean, like lunch? I am so  
angry right now.

MELLOR

Let's see that anger on the field!  
Now let's ruin God's true hockey!

Mellor blows his whistle. It's game time!

CUT TO:

BOOM! Felicia levels Chuck to the dirt and scores.

CHUCK

Um, penalty?

FELICIA

Know what, Coach? This feels right.

Mellor beams. His plan is working -- until -- he spots a  
livid Glascott marching across the field for them.

GLASCOTT

Tell me this is not what I think  
this is!

MELLOR

Okay, ladies! Run laps 'til your  
insides hurt! You too, Chuck!  
Don't argue, go!

They all groan and run off -- even Chuck.

GLASCOTT

We agreed it's my job to help  
Lucy's kids!

MELLOR

You agreed, I agreed, Lucy didn't.

GLASCOTT

What?

MELLOR

It's nothing personal. All that  
happened was your own flesh and  
blood secretly went behind your  
back to use my superior methods.

GLASCOTT

That's very personal and it's not your call!

MELLOR

But she likes it! It's time to stop talking about feelings and put your trust in athletics! It's why you made me Head Coach of School!

GLASCOTT

No! That's ridiculous! There's no such thing! I made it up!

MELLOR

What?

GLASCOTT

I never wanted to promote you! I wanted to cancel dodgeball, but didn't have the heart!

MELLOR

But... dodgeball is the staple of my entire curriculum!

GLASCOTT

And it embodies everything that I want to change around here! That means no more pep rallies, no more power shakes, and no dodgeball!

MELLOR

This is why I should've gotten your job! I could've finally gotten some real respect around here, but they gave it to a complete push-over!

GLASCOTT

Well, all you are is a gym coach. That's why I got the job.

This cuts Mellor deep. He takes a moment.

MELLOR

Alright then, boss. What you say goes. No more dodgeball.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. GYM - DAY

Bad-ass military music plays. A group of freshman gym students including Oscar sit on the floor. Mellor stands in front of them, deadly serious.

MELLOR

Today, we're gonna play the grand-daddy of all gym sports. DODGEBALL.

Mellor paces like Tyler Durden from "Fight Club".

MELLOR (CONT'D)

Before we start, the first rule of dodgeball is: You do not talk about dodgeball. Second rule of dodgeball is: You do not talk about dodgeball.

GEEK

Coach, I have a doctors note that says due to water on my knee, I can sit out.

MELLOR

Fine! Go sit in the hall and tell me if Glascott's coming. The rest of you! On my whistle!  
(then, to Oscar)  
And you. New biggen. Go easy.

Mellor gives lumbering Oscar a huge wink. He trembles.

OSCAR

Um, I have water on my knee too. And my elbows. Anywhere that bends really.

MELLOR

Freakishly huge and a sense of humor! Have at it.

Mellor blows his whistle. Everyone scrambles as the combat begins. Jocks whip balls at the weak. Oscar is a huge target and hides behind a wall of geeks.

OSCAR

Gah! I give up! Just hit me gently and I'll lie down and surrender!

DUFFY

Dude! The new kid's a colossal wuss-bag! Attack the giant!

Oscar is PELTED with balls. He curls up on the floor. It doesn't stop. Mellor winces at the onslaught.

**INT. RECEPTION AREA - DAY**

Lucy watches aghast as Mellor leads in Oscar with a bloody nose.

MELLOR

Call Nurse Steve! Stat! This giant but surprisingly weak baby bird is quite a bleeder!

LUCY

He's my son.

MELLOR

Again. Lovely family.

LUCY

Oscar, what happened?!

Glascott comes barreling out of his office. Mellor panics.

MELLOR

Uh, standard gym class accident. Parachute got a little nuts.

GLASCOTT

Were you playing dodgeball?!

OSCAR

First rule of dodgeball: You do not talk about dodgeball. So no?

MELLOR

Atta boy, shy giant.

GLASCOTT

You think you're a real smarty pants, don't you?

MELLOR

I never wear pants. And like you said, I'm not the brain here. All I am is a gym teacher.

GLASCOTT

(to Lucy)

And you. This is how you thank me for giving your kids a second chance? By going behind my back?!

LUCY

Okay, stop making this about your ego like you always do! This is about Felicia!

FELICIA (O.S.)

Excuse me?

REVEAL Felicia and Mike Stamm are in Glascott's office.

GLASCOTT

Ah, dammit! There's no door so she heard everything!

LUCY

What is she doing in there?

GLASCOTT

They were cutting class. I was gonna work on some responsibility role playing scenarios.

LUCY

You were cutting class?!

FELICIA

Don't even start. You had no right to involve these people in my life!

LUCY

It was one day and you were already tree people! I had to do something!

FELICIA

All you're doing is making me pay for you getting pregnant at seventeen and marrying Peter Frampton's assistant guitar tech!

LUCY

He was lead guitar tech!

FELICIA

Just 'cause Dad's not around doesn't mean I need some meathead in short shorts or Uncle Urkel to father me!

GLASCOTT

For your information, Steve Urkel was a small side character who exploded into a national treasure so that is high praise.

LUCY

Give it a rest, Andre! You put a spin on everything and act like you have all the answers, but your life is a complete mess like mine!

GLASCOTT

Hey, my life is finally looking up! The only problem I have is this whistle-toting numbskull!

MELLOR

Don't you dare bring my whistle into this! Don't you dare!

GLASCOTT

You wear it everywhere! It's weird! I saw you at the mall with it!

MELLOR

You think I'm a joke, but you don't know how I struggled growing up, lost, with no one who cared. Sports saved me and gave me self worth. All I want is to give that to my students. You should be thanking me for helping your sister 'cause you can't hack it.

GLASCOTT

That's it. You're fired.

MELLOR

Wait -- what?

GLASCOTT

Who's the push-over now?

Glascott storms into his office.

GLASCOTT (CONT'D)

Dangit! There's no door to slam!

**END ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

**INT. GYM - DAY**

A banner that once read "Pep Rally" is painted over with the words "ALL SCHOOL COMMUNITY SHARE SESS" That's it. There wasn't room for all the letters on the sign. Lucy sits with the faculty, glaring at Felicia sitting with the tree people.

LUCY (V.O.)

My brilliant plan of sending my kids to a better school had gone to hell. And I'd taken my brother and Coach Mellor down with me.

Glascott takes the podium to weak applause.

GLASCOTT

Thank you for that enthusiastic smattering! I'm your new fearless leader and friend Mr. Glascott. Very excited for a new year of respect and togetherness.

ERRRRRT!!! We REVEAL Mr. Mellor DRAGGING from his office a large steamer trunk filled trophies and equipment.

MELLOR

Ooh. Bad timing. Just clearing out my office. Should I come back?

GLASCOTT

No, just get it over with!

Mellor LOUDLY drags the trunk for a painfully long time. EVERYONE watches in awkward silence. Lucy feels awful.

GLASCOTT (CONT'D)

Okay! Welcome to our first ever All-School Community Share Session, a new tradition where we can unite, bond and communicate.

JOCK

William Penn rocks!

Kids start to cheer. Glascott bangs the mic.

GLASCOTT

Please, no outbursts. This is not a pep rally, it's a share session. So put away those fun rowdy rags.

The band awkwardly begins to play.

GLASCOTT (CONT'D)  
And no lively marching band!

The music stops.

GLASCOTT (CONT'D)  
I've asked the faculty to do a  
presentation, performance or  
meditation to start the new year.  
Let's enjoy together as a community.

We REVEAL MADAME CHARBENAUX has set up her harp in the center of the gym. She plays a haunting melody with all her heart and soul. Glascott closes his eyes to feel the music. Then -- BANG! Mellor is back lugging his dumbbells across the gym.

MELLOR  
Again, my apologies. You wouldn't believe the amount of equipment a man accumulates over the twenty years he's dedicated to children.

GLASCOTT  
How many trips is this gonna take?

MELLOR  
Hard to say. Alone? Maybe twenty.

GLASCOTT  
Dammit! Someone help him!

A few kids help Mellor as Madame Charbenaux finishes playing.

GLASCOTT (CONT'D)  
That was an inspiration and also frustrating. Now, are there any students who would like to come up and express themselves?

Gigi stands up in the bleachers. Lucy's eyes go wide as her daughter walks towards Glascott. Felicia and Oscar look panicked as Gigi reaches the podium and grabs the mic.

GIGI  
Thanks, Uncle Andre! I'm Gigi, president of the Happy Harmony Club. Do you like acapella? Do you like boy bands? Then this is for you!

MIKE STAMM  
(coughs)  
Freak.

Felicia sinks lower, not brave enough to stick up for Gigi.

LUCY  
(under her breath)  
Please sit please sit please sit.

GIGI  
It seems my posters weren't selling  
the excitement of this club, so I'm  
gonna show you what we're all about.

Gigi blows a pitch pipe and begins to sing the Backstreet  
Boys opus "I Want it That Way".

GIGI (CONT'D)  
Two, three, four! YOU AREEEEE, MY  
FIRE / THE ONE, DESIRE / BELIEVE,  
WHEN I SAY / I WANT IT THAT WAY.

LUCY (V.O.)  
In that moment, I had no idea how  
to help Gigi. Having her mom drag  
her out of there was definitely not  
gonna help her social status.

Gigi's voice is weak and her timing's off. Felicia and Oscar  
look helpless as kids snicker and boo. Lucy's had enough.

LUCY  
Dammit, I gotta save her --

A hand falls on Lucy's shoulder. It's Glascott.

GLASCOTT  
Don't. That's my job. And I know  
just what to do.

**EXT. WILLIAM PENN ACADEMY - DAY**

Glascott madly sprints out of the school.

GLASCOTT  
Rick! RICK! RIIIIIIICK!

We REVEAL Mellor is packing his El Camino. It's literally  
jammed to the gills with trophies. Glascott stops before  
him, out of breath.

GLASCOTT (CONT'D)

You were right, it should've been a pep rally! It's a total shit show and I need your help to save it!

MELLOR

Sorry. I'm not a teacher anymore.

GLASCOTT

You'll always be a teacher.  
(then, with difficulty)  
Look, I know we have different styles. I tried mine, it didn't work. But I know what will. A little muscle and hustle.

MELLOR

Those are my things.

GLASCOTT

Please. My niece is in there. She needs me. Needs us.

Mellor nods, fire in his eyes.

**INT. GYM - MOMENTS LATER**

People are laughing as Gigi continues to sing.

GIGI

AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A HEARTACHE /  
TELL ME WHY / AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A  
MISTAKE / TELL ME WHY.

Suddenly, Mellor and Glascott step on either side of GIGI and BEGIN TO SING WITH EVERYTHING THEY'VE GOT.

GIGI/MELLOR/GLASCOTT

AM I, YOUR FIRE? / YOUR ONE,  
DESIRE.

Gigi gives Glascott a huge smile. Glascott beams and REALLY gets into it. He spins and dances, Mellor and Gigi following.

GIGI/MELLOR/GLASCOTT (CONT'D)

YES I KNOW, IT'S TOO LATE / BUT I  
WANT IT THAT WAY.

Mike Stamm holds up a milk carton and winds up to throw at Gigi.

FELICIA

Oh God --

Oscar suddenly leaps up and rejects him -- slapping it back in his face and splattering milk all over the tree people.

OSCAR

That's my sister! Now listen to the stupid awesome song and clap along!

Duffy and the jocks see the awesome move and go nuts.

DUFFY

Dude! Gentle giant is a bad-ass!

The marching band grabs their instruments and play. Kids leap to their feet and sing along. THE MUSIC SOARS. It's epic.

EVERYONE

I NEVER WANNA HEAR YOU SAY / I WANT IT THAT WAY.

Chuck wheels out a confetti cannon machine and turns it on. Madame Charbenaux cries with joy. When the song ends, the crowd goes nuts. The BACKSTREET BOYS version BEGINS as Lucy runs up and squeezes a beaming Gigi with all her might.

GIGI

Mom, stop! You're embarrassing me!

Mellor and Glascott watch the moment, beaming with pride.

MELLOR

This was one hell of an All School Community Whatsit, Andre. You're gonna be a great Head of School.

GLASCOTT

Not without my Head Coach of School.

MELLOR

You mean...

GLASCOTT

You were right. You got the energy I need to help me run this place.

MELLOR

So I get a raise and half your office?

GLASCOTT  
You get nothing.

MELLOR  
I'll take it!

Mellor puts a loving arm around around Glascott. Just then, Felicia passes by with Mike Stamm and the tree-ites.

GLASCOTT  
How about tomorrow we take another shot at helping Felicia? Together. As a team.

MELLOR  
You got it, partner.

**EXT. TREE PEOPLE TREE GROVE - DAY**

ROOAAAAARRRRRR! Mellor attacks a giant tree trunk with a ROARING CHAINSAW. Mike Stamm, Felicia and the tree people watch on in horror. Glascott and Lucy charge in.

GLASCOTT  
Whoa-whoa! The hell are you doing?!

Mellor stops the saw.

MELLOR  
I thought we were on the same page!  
No trees means no tree people!

FELICIA  
Are you kidding me? I told you, I already have a dad.

GLASCOTT  
And he's not here -- but we are.

LUCY  
Andre, you don't have to --

GLASCOTT  
(fired up)  
No, I do. I'm the head of this damn school and your uncle so you will respect me. Now get your butt to field hockey practice or we got real trouble!

FELICIA

Alright, chill. Tell Coach Chuck  
I'm not gonna go easy on him.

Felicia looks at Lucy and can't help but grin. For the first time... she feels like she has a dad -- two dads -- looking out for her.

MELLOR

As for the rest of you! Trees are  
closed for lunch! Andre Glascott  
is Head of School and there's gonna  
be some big changes to this place!

Glascott looks at Mellor with a smile. They do make a good team. Then -- CRACK! The tree snaps and falls, flattening a nearby car. It's a red Tercel.

GLASCOTT

Ah, man. I just had to park  
Burgundy Lighting in the shade.

**INT. SCHOOL - VARIOUS - DAY**

The Backstreet Boys swells as we see our heroes in action:

-Felicia levels a large opponent on the playing field. A REF blows a whistle and calls a penalty. Mellor goes nuts and screams at the ref. Felicia watches on with a smile.

-In a classroom, Madame Charbenaux speaks fluent French with Duffy the jock. It's impressive.

-Chuck is back in class and making math fun, wailing on bongos and singing about calculus.

LUCY (V.O.)

Truth is, I never thought much of  
my brother being a teacher. I  
thought... it was just another  
boring job. But that day, I saw  
what he really is. Sure, teachers  
aren't always perfect and don't  
have all the answers...

**INT. HALLWAY - DAY**

We see a shy geeky girl approach a sign-up sheet for Gigi's Club. She puts her name on the top line.

LUCY (V.O.)  
But the good ones give you more  
than just information from a book.  
They encourage you to be your best.

We REVEAL Gigi running up, beyond thrilled. It's a bit much,  
but the shy geeky girl has found a friend.

**INT. CAFETERIA - DAY**

Felicia heads in and spots Mike and the tree people at a  
table. They wave her over. Felicia takes a moment and sits  
at an empty one. She's alone, but not giving up.

LUCY (V.O.)  
Even when you didn't think you  
needed help.

Suddenly, Oscar and Gigi sit down with her. Felicia smiles.

**INT. RECEPTION AREA - DAY**

Lucy, Mellor and Glascott watch as the maintenance man  
finishes putting Glascott's door back on.

LUCY (V.O.)  
And yeah, the pay sucks and the  
hours are long. But the best  
teachers -- the ones like my  
brother and Coach -- do it cause  
it's who they are.

Glascott goes inside his office, waves and closes it. Mellor  
gives a nod of respect. He tries to open it and it's locked.

CHYRON: DEDICATED TO OUR CHILDHOOD HEROES. TEACHERS.

We CUT TO OLD 90s FOOTAGE AND INTERVIEWS WITH...

The real Mr. Mellor. The real Mr. Glascott. The real Chuck  
Brown. That's right -- these teachers are real and still  
work to this very day...

**END ACT THREE**