

THE THREE OF US

"Pilot"

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CBS TELEVISION STUDIOS
FULWELL 73

NETWORK DRAFT (2nd REVISION)
1/16/20

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"Pilot"
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1.
(C/O)

THE THREE OF US

"PILOT"

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. FRANK AND BROOKE'S KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - DAY (DAY 1)
(Frank, Ashley, Mikey, Brooke, Lane)

A MIDDLE CLASS HOME IN THE SUBURBS OF MIAMI, FLORIDA. **FRANK (32)**, AN OVERTHINKER WITH A PROBLEMATIC URGE TO TAKE CARE OF EVERYBODY, BRINGS A FOLDING CHAIR INTO THE KITCHEN. HIS WIFE, **BROOKE (32)**, SWEET BUT WITH A HARD SHELL, DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S DOING.

BROOKE

Babe, we already have enough chairs.

FRANK

Exactly. But once my brother and
sister get here and we sit down for
dinner, this is the move...

HE PUSHES THE EXTRA CHAIR UP TO THE TABLE.

FRANK (CONT'D)

They'll ask if we're expecting somebody.

BROOKE

I sense a dad joke coming...

FRANK

That's when I say "Hell yes we're
expecting, because Brooke's pregnant!
With my baby!"

BROOKE

Nice. (PLAYFUL) But it's probably
yours.

FRANK

(PLAYFUL) Handsome deli guy at Publix?
Totally get it. Literally bought a
pound of cold cuts from him yesterday
that I didn't need.

THEY LAUGH UNTIL FRANK TAKES A DEEP BREATH. BROOKE'S SEEN
THIS BEFORE.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I just--

BROOKE

Sweetie, don't.

FRANK

--can't believe we're actually going
to be somebody's parents. I don't want
to mess it up. Shouldn't we need to
take a test or something?

BROOKE

We'll be fine! We're a team, remember?

Everything we touch turns to sold!

SHE GESTURES TO A **REAL ESTATE FLYER** ON THEIR **FRIDGE**. IT'S
FRANK AND BROOKE, STANDING BACK TO BACK, SMILING CHEESILY. IT
READS: "#2 RANKED HUSBAND AND WIFE REALTY TEAM IN MIAMI!"

BROOKE (CONT'D)

(HUGS HIM) You're going to be the best
daddy. (BEAT) This is when you tell me
I'm going to be the best mommy.

FRANK

(TICKLED) Wow. You are just as scared
as I am.

BROOKE

Well, you don't have to be so happy
about it. (THEN) Okay, I'm going to
change before they get here.

AS SHE HEADS UPSTAIRS...

FRANK

Walk safe. Precious cargo. I can carry
you if you want. Take advantage while
I still can. That wasn't a fat joke!
Because you're not fat! I'm going to
stop saying fat now!

JUST THEN, FRANK'S BROTHER **MIKEY (25)**, A VERY HANDSOME AND
IMMATURE BACHELOR, **BLASTS IN**. HE WEARS A MIAMI-DADE
FIREFIGHTER T-SHIRT AND CARRIES A TAKE OUT BAG.

MIKEY

Dude, we need to talk. I haven't been
able to focus on anything. But you
can't say a word to anybody.

FRANK

What is it? Wait, if it's about
another random model you saved from a
trapped elevator, I don't want to hear
it. At least not right now. (BEAT)
Maybe later. (BEAT) Fine, tell me now,
but you have to whisper.

MIKEY

No, it's not that...

MIKEY TAKES **THREE KEY LIME PIES** OUT OF THE TAKE OUT BAG.

FRANK

Three pies? This is a three pie story?

Do I need to get my inhaler?

MIKEY

It's about Ashley. I swore I wouldn't
say anything, but this is our sister,
man--

FRANK

--What is it? Spit it out!

MIKEY TAKES A DEEP BREATH. THIS IS BIG...

MIKEY

Nick told Ashley he wants a divorce.

FRANK

What? No-no-no. He can't do that!

MIKEY

He can and he did.

FRANK

But-- they've been together ten years!

MIKEY

I don't think there's a time limit.
Apparently you can blow up your
marriage at any point along the way.

FRANK

But they have a life! A kid--

MIKEY

I know! But he said he's not happy.
What did he think marriage was anyway?
Name one married couple that is hap--
(CATCHES HIMSELF) I'll get your inhaler.

FRANK

Is Ashley okay?

MIKEY

We're about to find out. She hasn't
wanted to talk about it, so I've been
letting her sit with it for a couple
days.

FRANK

Wait, a couple days?! When did she
tell you?

MIKEY

Two days ago when it happened. She
sent me a text.

FRANK

She told you in a text?! I spoke to
her yesterday. And today. She didn't
say anything. Why would nobody tell me
immediately?

MIKEY

Because she knew you'd get all
stressed out and say I told you so
because you never liked Nick.

FRANK

I would never do that.

MIKEY

Yes, you would.

FRANK

No, I wouldn't! (THEN) God, I want to.

MIKEY

I know buddy. I know.

JUST THEN, THEIR SISTER **ASHLEY (30)**, STRONG BUT A BIT BROKEN,
ENTERS WITH HER SON, **LANE (8)**. THEY AD-LIB HELLOS AS LANE
RUNS TO PLAY IN THE BACKYARD.

FRANK

(SWEETLY) Hey Ash.

ASHLEY STUDIES FRANK A BEAT. SHE SEES THE THREE PIES.

ASHLEY

(TO MIKEY) You friggin' told him!

MIKEY

I'm sorry! He's our big brother! And a
divorce is a big deal!

FRANK

Ash, when were you going to tell me?

ASHLEY

I don't know, soon!

FRANK

Are you okay?

ASHLEY

I'm fine! Do we have to get into this
right now?

FRANK

No. If you'd like we can discuss how weird it is that you told Mikey first.

MIKEY

I thought it was weird, too.

FRANK

You know you can tell me and Brooke anything.

BROOKE (O.S.)

Actually she did tell me.

THEY ALL TURN TO SEE BROOKE COMING DOWN THE STAIRS.

FRANK

(TO BROOKE) You knew too?! Why didn't you tell me?!

ASHLEY

Look, Frank, I was obviously going to tell you. But I knew you'd make it into a thing. And I didn't want to ruin your big pregnancy news.

Congrats, Brooke.

EVERYONE STOPS. HOW DOES SHE KNOW ABOUT THIS?

BROOKE

Who told her?

FRANK

(SHEEPISH) I may have told Mikey.

MIKEY

Sorry! A baby is also a big deal!

ASHLEY

I'm just going to say - it's weird you
told Mikey first.

MIKEY

Again, I thought the same thing.

ASHLEY

Okay. Now everything's out in the
open. Bad crap happening to me, as
usual. You guys are having a baby.
Yay! Can we please eat the pie and
move on now?

FRANK

We can eat the pie, but we're not done.

ASHLEY/FRANK/MIKEY

Okay, Dad./Don't call me that./Why
does he always decide when we eat?

AS ALL THREE SIBLINGS TALK OVER EACH OTHER AND START TO EAT
THEIR FEELINGS...

BROOKE

Something is seriously wrong with the
three of you.

AND WE...

SMASH TO:

MAIN TITLES: "THE THREE OF US"

ACT ONE

SCENE A

INT. FRANK AND BROOKE'S KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - LATER (DAY 1)
(Frank, Ashley, Mikey, Brooke, Lane)

ASHLEY, FRANK, MIKEY AND BROOKE ARE IN THE KITCHEN FINISHING UP THE PIES. LANE IS IN THE LIVING ROOM WATCHING TV.

FRANK

Ash, I thought you and Nick were happy.

ASHLEY

So did I.

MIKEY

I personally felt some tension, and I
miss most social cues. (OFF THEIR GLARES)
Like right now.

FRANK

(TO ASHLEY) Was there any kind of warning?

ASHLEY

A warning? It's a divorce, not a
hurricane.

FRANK

But you live together, and parent
together, and both teach at the same
middle school together. Nothing?

ASHLEY

Nothing.

MIKEY

(GENTLY) Do we think there could be...
somebody else?

ASHLEY

Nick? No way. (THEN) I mean, I guess
the intimacy hasn't really been there
for a while.

A BEAT.

BROOKE

When's the last time you two...

FRANK/MIKEY

(UNCOMFORTABLE) Oh, come on!/I don't
want to know (COVERING EARS) lalalala.

ASHLEY

It's probably been... (THINKING)
today's the fifteenth, coming up on a
Saturday-- six months.

BROOKE

MIKEY

Six months!?

Ohmigod!

FRANK

Calm down, sex maniacs! It happens.
(THEN) Ash, what have you told Lane?

ASHLEY

What am I supposed to tell him? That
his father and I haven't had sex in
nine months?

FRANK

You just said six.

ASHLEY

I lied, okay? What do you want from me?

FRANK

Look, we only want to help. (THEN)
Don't you think you should talk to Lane
about it?

ASHLEY

No. Because we don't know how any of
this is going to play out yet.

FRANK

But Nick wants a divorce.

ASHLEY

So?

FRANK

So you might want to tell your child
something.

MIKEY

I'm with Frank on this one.

ASHLEY

I'll fight you both.

MIKEY

Ash, we're not trying to gang up on
you. I want you to know none of this
is your fault. It's our family curse.

FRANK

Great, here we go again. Mikey, there
is no curse.

MIKEY

If it's not a curse, then how do you explain that in the 1920's our great grandparents got divorced. Then in the 1960's our grandparents on both sides got divorced. Mom and Dad divorced in 2001. We come from three, now maybe four generations of broken homes. All our aunts, uncles and cousins, Frank?

FRANK

(RELUCTANT) Divorced.

MIKEY

It's what we do. Aside from my life totally kicking ass the way it is, it's why I'm never getting married. I warned you, Brooke--

BROOKE

Yes. It was your toast at our wedding.

MIKEY

But you didn't listen!

FRANK

Because there is no curse!

ASHLEY

Guys! Relax! It's not a curse. We grew apart. Nobody did anything to anybody. It happens to a lot of couples.

MIKEY

Yes, couples who are cursed.

BROOKE

(TO MIKEY) I feel like you might be
the one who's cursed to keep repeating
it over and over.

FRANK

(TO ASHLEY) So that's it? You're just
giving up? You're not angry about it?

ASHLEY

Why? There's nothing to be angry
about. I just gotta keep moving.

FRANK

I feel like you're in denial.

ASHLEY

I'm not in denial.

MIKEY

She's in denial about being in denial.
Should I do another pie run? I think
we've hit a brick wall here.

FRANK

(TO ASHLEY, RE: MIKEY) Seriously? This
is the guy you told first? (THEN)
What's your next move?

ASHLEY

I don't really have one.

FRANK

Okay, where has Nick been sleeping?

ASHLEY

On the couch. It's a bit tense right now.

FRANK

Yeah, probably not great for Lane.

ASHLEY

Again, he doesn't know. He's eight.

MIKEY

But he has ears.

FRANK

Look, you guys have a lot to figure out. You and Lane should just stay here for a few days. Tomorrow the three of us can go to your place, get whatever you and Lane need, Brooke will babysit him here.

MIKEY

They can also stay at my place.

FRANK

They're not staying at your place.

MIKEY

Why? Because I live on a boat?

FRANK

No, because you have a parade of women crossing in and out, and the yacht next to you "The Godfather" probably traffics cocaine.

MIKEY

But Lane loves swimming!

ASHLEY

Guys! Thank you. Appreciate everyone's unsolicited advice about my kid and my life. I'm not doing any of it.

FRANK

Ash, we all went through this with Mom and Dad 20 years ago. They handled it horribly. Think about how it messed us up.

MIKEY

That is true. You two are pretty messed up.

FRANK

I'm just saying, we have the benefit of hindsight here. Let's do it right. I know none of this is easy. You're looking at maybe having to start over.

BROOKE

Way to build her up.

MIKEY

It could be a very hard road.

BROOKE

Keep that positivity coming.

FRANK

But you and Lane have us. You don't
need to be scared.

MIKEY

I would totally be scared.

FRANK

(TO MIKEY) Shut up! (THEN, TO ASHLEY)
Tomorrow starts the rest of your life.
We got you. I need you to trust us.

ASHLEY LOOKS AROUND THE ROOM, EVERYONE SUPPORTIVELY NODS.

ASHLEY

(A BEAT, THEN) Fine, whatever.

FRANK

Good enough for me. We'll get your
stuff first thing in the morning.

ASHLEY

By the way, what's with the extra
chair? Are we expecting someone?

FRANK

(TO BROOKE) Totally would have worked.

BROOKE NODS, AND WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE B

INT. FRANK AND BROOKE'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT (NIGHT 1)
(Frank, Brooke)

FRANK AND BROOKE ARE IN BED, LAYING IN SILENCE, THEN:

BROOKE

There's gotta be someone in the
history of your family that didn't get
divorced, right?

FRANK

Yes, of course... (THINKS) there's my
Aunt Helen on my dad's side!

BROOKE

Right. Great. (BEAT) Wait, isn't that
the Aunt whose husband died?

FRANK

Yes, but when he died they'd only
filed to split up. So, technically no
divorce--

BROOKE

Ohmigod! You guys do divorce like my
family does first communions!

FRANK

I know! Is my sister screwed?!

BROOKE

I don't know! Are we screwed?!

FRANK

I don't know!

BROOKE

Okay, let's keep calm. We'll be fine.
My side doesn't divorce. Tie goes to
the wife's family, right?

FRANK

Tie always goes to the wife.

BROOKE

We just need to really be there for
Ashley. Help her through this.

FRANK

Tell her what to do--

BROOKE

No! I mean lift her up. But at the
same time we need to be there for each
other. There's a baby in here we're
both terrified of screwing up.

FRANK

Thanks for reminding me. (THEN) Look,
my sister will be alright. And none of
my family's crap will affect our
lives, our marriage or our baby. Okay?

FRANK EMBRACES HER. AFTER A BEAT HE QUICKLY PULLS AWAY.

FRANK (CONT'D)

But I should go downstairs and check
on her and Lane real quick. You know
Ash locks everything down in that
emotional basement then Ka-blam!

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BROOKE

Totally get it.

FRANK CROSSES OUT, THEN:

BROOKE (CONT'D)

(TO TUMMY) His family might affect us
just a little.

AND WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE C

EXT. MARINA DOCK - THE NEXT MORNING (DAY 2)
(Frank, Ashley, Mikey, Aaron, Ana, Jemma, Tough Guy)

ASHLEY AND FRANK WALK ON A DOCK WITH PARKED BOATS ALL AROUND.

ASHLEY

Let's just grab Mikey and get this
over with.

FRANK

I'm telling you Ash, when you're brave
enough to say goodbye, life rewards
you with a big hello.

ASHLEY

Where'd you get that one?

FRANK

I signed you, me and Mikey up for
daily divorce affirmations.

JUST THEN ASHLEY'S PELTED WITH SEAGULL POOP.

ASHLEY

Seagull poo?! Really?! Why do I have
the worst luck?!

FRANK

No, that's good luck! See? Life's
already rewarding you!

VOICE (O.S.)

Ashley? Ashley Palmer? Is that you?

THEY TURN TO SEE THE VOICE IS **AARON (31)**, A VERY HANDSOME AND
CHARMING GUY, CLEANING HIS BOAT.

AARON

It's me. Aaron Combs. South Harbor High?
Braces? Awkward? Kind of stupid? I can
keep going.

ASHLEY

Aaron! Ohmigod, it's been years. How
are you?

AARON

I'm good. Pretty good, yeah. Recently
divorced. Wanted to do something for
myself, so I bought a boat. Didn't
realize it was called the The
Beeracuda. I'll probably want to
change that. (THEN) How are you?

ASHLEY

Me? I'm... good. My younger brother
lives here, so...

AARON

Oh, great. Well then, maybe I'll see
more of you guys when I'm on The
Beeracuda. Okay now it's starting to
grow on me.

ASHLEY

(RE: ANOTHER BOAT) Well, it's better
than the "Wet Dream", so you've got
that going for you.

AARON LAUGHS AS ASHLEY AND FRANK STEP ONTO MIKEY'S BOAT,
WHICH IS **A FLOATING BACHELOR PAD.** MIKEY'S GRINNING AT ASHLEY.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

What?

MIKEY

Look at you, Ash. You still got it.

ASHLEY

Stop it. I know him from high school.

MIKEY

I know. But I do kind of like the
revenge possibilities with Nick.

JUST THEN A VERY **ATTRACTIVE WOMAN, ANA, EXITS** MIKEY'S CABIN
IN CLOTHES FROM THE NIGHT BEFORE.

ANA

(CROSSING OFF, PLAYFUL) Text you
later, Mikey. Thanks for your help.

MIKEY

(SMILING BACK) I'm always just a 911
call away. (THEN) Don't actually call
911.

SHE LAUGHS. FRANK AND ASHLEY WATCH HER GO.

FRANK

(RE: ANA) Wow, is she Venezuelan? (OFF
THEIR LOOKS) What? I'm a student of
world culture.

ASHLEY

What happened to Liz, Mikey? You're
not seeing Liz anymore? I loved her.

MIKEY

She was great. I just-- I had to end
it. It was getting too serious. I
don't even like my boat being tied
down, so...

ASHLEY

FRANK

(TO FRANK) He's an idiot.

(TO ASHLEY) He's 25.

JUST THEN ANOTHER ATTRACTIVE WOMAN, **JEMMA**, **APPROACHES** FROM
THE DOCK WITH COFFEE AND A MUFFIN FOR MIKEY.

JEMMA

Hey Mike. I was hoping you wouldn't be
at the station. Guess I got lucky.

MIKEY

Jemma, believe me when I say I'm the
lucky one. You're the best.

MIKEY TAKES THE COFFEE AND MUFFIN. JEMMA SMILES, CLEARLY
INFATUATED WITH HIM.

ASHLEY

FRANK

(TO FRANK) Okay, he's not an
idiot.

(TO ASHLEY) I wish I was 25.

AS THEY NOD, WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE D

INT. FRANK AND BROOKE'S KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - DAY (DAY 2)
(Brooke, Lane)

BROOKE ENTERS THE KITCHEN AND SEES LANE SITTING AT THE TABLE.

BROOKE

Hey, Lane! You and me today. This is
going to be so much fun!

LANE

Aunt Brooke, why do all the adults
keep whispering stuff and telling me
to go in the other room? Do you know
what's going on--

BROOKE

--Nope, no idea. Maybe there's Key Lime
Pie for breakfast! (OPENS FRIDGE, THEN)
Ugh. This morning sickness is no joke. I
can't even look at food right now.

LANE

Don't worry. I'll pour myself cereal.

BROOKE

Really? I'm sorry. I think I just need
to lie down. But I have work calls to
make, then I need to stuff 300 real
estate flyers into envelopes.

LANE

I can stuff envelopes. I help my mom
with her work stuff all the time.

BROOKE

You do? Well, okay then. I'd love your help. And here I've been nervous about having a kid.

LANE

My mom says you and Uncle Frank are always nervous. And uptight. She was surprised you got pregnant.

BROOKE

Oh... that's... great.

LANE

(RE: FLYERS AND ENVELOPES) So I just put these in here?

BROOKE

That's it. Thank you. I'm going to lie down if you need me. (THEN) Hey, maybe Frank and I should have a few kids. Help us run our business. (LAUGHS, THEN) Maybe don't tell anyone I said that.

AS BROOKE CROSSES INTO THE LIVING ROOM TO PUT HER FEET UP,
WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE E

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING/COURTYARD - LATER (DAY 2)
(Frank, Ashley, Mikey, Extras)

WE SEE AN OLDER, TWO-STORY, ART DECO TYPE APARTMENT BUILDING. BALCONIES OVERLOOK A **SWIMMING POOL** IN THE COURTYARD. THE THREE SIBLINGS WALK TOWARD THE ENTRANCE.

MIKEY

So when are we going to tell Mom?

A BEAT, THEN ALL THREE OF THEM BUST OUT LAUGHING.

ASHLEY

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Now that's a good one. I thought you'd like it.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

Now when we get upstairs, I don't want either one of you saying anything to Nick. I just want to get my things and get out.

FRANK

Fine. I'll try. But one day I'm going to tell him exactly what I think of him.

ASHLEY AND MIKEY JUST LOOK AT EACH OTHER. FRANK NOTICES.

FRANK (CONT'D)

What?

ASHLEY

Nothing.

MIKEY

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

(TO ASHLEY) Tell him.

(TO MIKEY) I don't want to tell him.

FRANK

Tell me what? (BEAT) Guys. Say it.

ASHLEY

(BEAT) Fine. Nick has never been a fan.

FRANK

Of who? Of us?

ASHLEY

No. (BEAT) Just you.

FRANK

(SHOCKED) Me?! What the hell did I ever do?! I've always treated him just like one of you guys! (OFF THEIR LOOKS) Fair enough. (THEN) Why didn't you tell me?

ASHLEY

Because you never really liked him anyway and you'd just try to fix the situation.

FRANK

But you told Mikey?

ASHLEY

So? You tell Mikey things all the time.

MIKEY

Guys, don't be jealous. Firefighters can just handle the heat.

FRANK

I tell him things because he's the youngest. No consequences or judgment.

ASHLEY

Same. It's like shouting something
into an empty canyon.

MIKEY

(WAVING) Can you not see me?

WOMEN'S VOICES (O.S.)

Mikey!/Hey!

THEY ALL TURN. A SMALL GROUP OF YOUNG **MEN** AND **WOMEN** ARE BY
THE POOL. THEY HAVE DRINKS AND ARE WAVING MIKEY OVER.

FRANK

You know them?

MIKEY

Yeah. Our sister lives here, Frank. It's
called being friendly. (WALKING OFF, PLAYFUL)
Are you ladies drinking responsibly?

AS MIKEY CROSSES OFF, FRANK AND ASHLEY SHAKE THEIR HEADS.

ASHLEY

Let's just go upstairs and get this
over with. And again, no matter how
you feel about Nick, or how he feels
about you, he's still Lane's father.

FRANK

Yeah, a father ready to leave his
family without trying to make it work.

ASHLEY

Maybe he did try and I wasn't paying
attention.

FRANK

That's ridiculous! I can't believe
you're defending the guy.

ASHLEY

I'm not defending him. I'm just not as
pissed off as you are.

FRANK

Well, you should be!

ASHLEY

I don't know, seems like you're mad
enough for both of us!

FRANK

This is so typical of you, Ash. You've
always done this. 2nd grade - Josh
Shore stole your lunch every day. You
made him your valentine. 6th grade -
Bobby Pudney broke your bike. You said
you lost it. High school prom -
Brandon Wrisley made out with your
best friend and you--

ASHLEY

I get it, I pick bad men! But what do
you expect? Look at our family!

FRANK

It's just frustrating as hell to see
how you handle everything--

ASHLEY

You know what's frustrating? I wish,
just once, you'd stop telling me what
you want me to do. Would it be so hard
to ask me how I'm feeling and just
listen? Because that would make me
feel like you do have my back. I
honestly don't know if you're here to
help me or just criticize and make me
feel like crap.

CLEARLY UPSET, ASHLEY STARTS TO **HEAD INTO THE BUILDING ALONE.**
MIKEY WALKS BACK UP.

FRANK

(YELLING TO ASHLEY) Great, go ahead!
Get mad at me, but still not him! I'll
just be down here by the pool. With
people who are drinking margaritas at
11am - in the real world!

MIKEY

Dude, stop, this is our sister! You need to
chill! Go ahead, Ash, I'll meet you
upstairs. (THEN, QUICK SOTTO TO FRANK) I'm
totally with you, man. She handles it all
wrong. Brother's forever. I gotta go.

AS MIKEY FOLLOWS ASHLEY INSIDE, FRANK STEWS, AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE H

INT. ASHLEY'S APARTMENT - A MOMENT LATER (DAY 2)
(Ashley, Mikey)

MIKEY ENTERS ASHLEY AND NICK'S MODEST APARTMENT TO FIND HER
STANDING THERE SHOCKED.

MIKEY

What the hell? Did you get robbed?!

REVEAL THE WALLS ARE BARE, BOXES IN VARIOUS STAGES OF
PACKING, MOST OF THE FURNITURE IS GONE, IT LOOKS UNOCCUPIED.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Where's Nick?

ASHLEY

I don't know! He's not here! He left!

MIKEY

But he took everything!

ASHLEY

Thank you, Captain Obvious!

SHE CHARGES INTO HER BEDROOM. MIKEY SEES A MOUNTED BLUEFIN
TUNA ON THE WALL.

MIKEY

Wait, he didn't take the Tuna?

ASHLEY (O.S.)

He hates that thing.

MIKEY

(HEARTBROKEN) But I caught it for him.

I gave it to him for his birthday.

ASHLEY (O.S.)

I can't believe him! Why would he do
this?!

ASHLEY RE-ENTERS FROM THE BEDROOM AND SEES A **POST-IT NOTE** ON
THE FRIDGE. SHE GRABS IT.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

(READING) "I have Neil Catrick Harris"--

MIKEY

He took the cat?! Well, that's just
perfect! The girls downstairs wanted
to meet him!

ASHLEY

(READING) "Coming back tomorrow to get
the rest of my stuff. We need to
discuss Lane." (CRUMBLING NOTE) The
rest of his stuff?! And he wants to
discuss our kid?! On a post it?! What,
he thinks he can just take the cat,
then our child is next?!

SHE THROWS THE NOTE.

MIKEY

You need a drink.

MIKEY GOES TO OPEN THE KITCHEN CABINET. IT'S EMPTY.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

And he took the drinks.

ASHLEY

Of course he did! Because he's the
most selfish person on the planet!

MIKEY

Can I go get Frank?

ASHLEY

What? No! Why?

MIKEY

Because you're finally pissed. He
should see this.

RESET TO:

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS
(Frank, Eva, Extras)

FRANK IS STILL DOWNSTAIRS STEWING. SUDDENLY A **HUSBAND AND WIFE**
WALK PAST HIM, CARRYING THEIR **BABY** IN A BJORN. FRANK CLOCKS
THEM. HE'S CURIOUS. BUT ALSO NERVOUS. THIS WILL BE HIM AND
BROOKE SOON. AS HE STARES, AN ELDERLY WOMAN, **EVA**, APPROACHES.

EVA

Are you visiting someone?

FRANK

(SNAPPING OUT OF IT) Me? Oh, um, yeah.
I'm here with my sister. She lives on
the 2nd floor with her husband-- well,
soon to be ex. Prick wants to leave.

EVA

I left my husband.

FRANK

(NOT EXPECTING THAT) Oh. (TRYING TO
RECOVER) That's very brave of you.

(MORE)

(THEN) But get this, she's mad at me
for trying to help her.

EVA

Did she ask for your help?

FRANK

No, but we're family.

EVA JUST LOOKS AT HIM UNSYMPATHETICALLY.

FRANK (CONT'D)

(RE: HIM AND EVA) I kind of feel like
we're not connecting here.

RESET TO:

INT. ASHLEY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS
(Frank, Ashley, Mikey)

AS ASHLEY PACES ANGRILY, MIKEY LOOKS THROUGH NICK'S BOXES.

ASHLEY

What is wrong with him?! What kind of
person just leaves without telling
their wife?! We have a kid! I mean, at
least talk to me! It's insane! (THEN)
There has to be somebody else.

MIKEY PULLS A PAIR OF SEXY WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR OUT OF A BOX.

MIKEY

Damnit. I was hoping not to find this.
Whatever freak wore this is dirtay--

ASHLEY SNATCHES THE UNDERWEAR.

ASHLEY

Those are mine! (RE: HER PHONE)
Alright, someone named Courtney has
liked a bunch of his photos. She
"checked in" at a restaurant last
night. (THEN) Same restaurant Nick
used our open table app to make a
reservation for. (THEN) And she's the
mom of one of his students?!

MIKEY

Okay, I am really sorry, but holy crap,
you're like a detective. That's how
women figure this stuff out?!

ASHLEY

I can't believe any of this. (THEN) I
think I'm going to be sick. I can't
breathe. I can't breathe!

HE RUSHES OVER TO HOLD HER.

MIKEY

It's okay. I got you. Just inhale.
Exhale. Let's count to ten.

ASHLEY

(PANICKED) Yeah. Count to ten.

MIKEY

I'll do it with you.

ASHLEY/MIKEY

One. Two--

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ASHLEY STOPS, GRABS ONE OF NICK'S **BOXES** AND CROSSES TO...

RESET TO:

EXT. APARTMENT BALCONY - CONTINUOUS
(Frank, Ashley, Mikey, Eva, Extras)

THE **BALCONY** OVERLOOKS THE SWIMMING POOL AND COURTYARD. ASHLEY COMES OUT AND ANGRILY **THROWS THE BOX** OVER. IT WHIZZES PAST FRANK BELOW AND **INTO THE POOL. SPLASH!**

FRANK

(YELLING UP) Hey, hey! I'm sorry, Ash!

You don't have to take my head off!

MIKEY JOINS ASHLEY ON THE BALCONY AND YELLS DOWN.

MIKEY

No. Nick's gone. He took the furniture, Neil Catrick Harris and was probably having an affair. Oh, and I touched her underwear, but I don't think that's related.

ASHLEY

I'm an idiot! Go ahead, Frank! Say I told you so!

MIKEY

Maybe don't say I told you so. Kind of a fragile sitch up here.

FRANK **RUNS** INSIDE THE BUILDING. ASHLEY STARTS CALLING NICK NAMES AS SHE TOSSES MORE OF HIS STUFF OVER. MIKEY GRABS A SMALL NIGHTSTAND AND THROWS IT OVER. IT CRASHES DOWN.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

That felt good!

ASHLEY

That was mine!

MIKEY

Sorry!

HE PICKS UP A SMALL FILLED DUFFLE BAG.

ASHLEY

(ANNOYED) Also mine!

MIKEY

(ANNOYED) Maybe tell me what's his
because you're sort of taking me out
of the moment!

FRANK JOINS THEM ON THE BALCONY. HE LOOKS AT ASHLEY. BEFORE
HE CAN SAY ANYTHING...

ASHLEY

Grab a box.

FRANK PICKS UP A BOX AND LOOKS INSIDE.

FRANK

His fantasy football trophies. My co-
commissioner for 8 years. Fantasy
indeed.

FRANK THROWS THE TROPHIES OVER. THE THREE OF THEM START
GETTING MORE AND MORE INTO IT. TOSSING ALL NICK'S SHIT OVER.
IT'S ODDLY FUN AND CATHARTIC. MIKEY THROWS A BOWLING BALL.

MIKEY

Bombs away!

THEY START TO LAUGH AS IT CRASHES DOWN WITH A BANG! THE
PEOPLE BELOW CHEER THEM ON. MIKEY RUNS INTO THE APARTMENT TO
GET MORE STUFF. ASHLEY'S ABOUT TO THROW SOMETHING BUT
SUDDENLY STOPS.

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ASHLEY

(OH NO) Oh, God. Eva.

THE ELDERLY WOMAN IS BY THE POOL AGAIN. SURVEYING THE MESS.

FRANK

Oh, don't worry about her. She's
harmless.

ASHLEY

No, she's not. She's the owner of the
building.

MIKEY (O.S.)

Incoming!

MIKEY EMERGES WITH ANOTHER BOX, FIRING IT OVER AND INTO THE
POOL, SPLASHING EVA. HE LAUGHS. NO ONE ELSE DOES.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Why'd we stop?

AND WE...

SMASH TO:

SCENE J

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - A LITTLE LATER (DAY 2)
(Frank, Ashley, Mikey, Eva, Extras)

AS EVA DISAPPROVINGLY LOOKS ON, ASHLEY, FRANK AND MIKEY ARE
CLEANING UP THE MESS THEY MADE IN AND AROUND THE POOL.

ASHLEY

Eva, I want to thank you for not
calling the police.

EVA

You're lucky I'm just evicting you.

ASHLEY/FRANK/MIKEY

What?/Evicting her?/You can't do that.

EVA

Yup. I sure can.

MIKEY

Cut her some slack! Her husband just
left and he took everything! Even the
cat!

ASHLEY

Oh God.

EVA

You have a cat?!

ASHLEY

No. Because there's a very strict no
pet policy.

EVA

Nice try. I'm taking your security
deposit, too.

FRANK

Please don't--

ASHLEY

No, you know what? Go ahead! Take it
all! It doesn't matter anymore.

Literally a bird crapping on me was
the best thing that happened to me
today. I'm not even surprised. Because
this is my life! This is the way it
always goes!

NO ONE KNOWS WHAT TO SAY.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

I just... I give up.

ASHLEY STOMPS OFF. AFTER A LONG BEAT.

MIKEY

(TO EVA) Don't you have any siblings?

FRANK

(SOTTO) You're wasting your time,
she's very hard to connect with.

OFF A CONCERNED FRANK AND MIKEY, WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE K

INT. FRANK AND BROOKE'S KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - LATER (DAY 2)
(Brooke, Lane)

BROOKE CROSSES INTO THE KITCHEN AND IS SHOCKED TO SEE IT
LOOKS LIKE A HURRICANE HIT. STUFF EVERYWHERE. THIS IS WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN YOU LEAVE AN 8-YEAR OLD UNATTENDED.

BROOKE

Lane! I only napped for a couple of
hours! What did you do?!

LANE

I did arts and crafts, helped with
your flyers, then I caught a lizard
and let him swim in your toilet!

REVEAL 300 FLYERS, BADLY SHOVED INTO BENT ENVELOPES.

BROOKE

Oh God. Lane, you can't just--

LANE

Wait, I also made you a card. Read it!

HE HANDS HER A CARD. SHE RELUCTANTLY OPENS IT.

BROOKE

(READING) "Dear Aunt Brooke. I love you
and Uncle Frank and my family. I'm
having the best time here. And I hope
to be the best big brother to your baby
one day." (BEAT, RE: HIS CARD) You drew
a picture of all of us with our baby.

BROOKE IS TOUCHED. HE'S JUST A KID ABOUT TO GO THROUGH WHAT
MIGHT BE A HARD TIME. SHE PUTS HIS DRAWING OF THE FAMILY ON
THE FRIDGE.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

We love you, too.

A BEAT.

LANE

I know my parents are splitting up.

A BEAT.

BROOKE

Are you... okay?

LANE

Yeah. My friend Jenny's parents are divorced. She gets two Christmases.

BROOKE

Well, that sounds pretty cool. (OFF HIS LOOK) How about we clean this kitchen, and you can tell me more about it? (THEN) By the way, which toilet was this lizard in?

LANE

The downstairs one. But then he swam into the drain, so he could pop up in any of them.

BROOKE

(HORRIFIED) Perfect.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE 1

INT. FRANK'S CAR - A LITTLE LATER (NIGHT 2)
(Frank, Ashley, Mikey)

DISHEVELED AND DRAINED FROM THE DEBACLE BY THE POOL, FRANK DRIVES AS ASHLEY AND MIKEY SILENTLY STARE FORWARD. MOVING BOXES FILL THE BACK. THEY PASS AROUND A KEY LIME PIE, EATING FROM THE TIN WITH FORKS. IT'S A LONG BEAT OF SILENCE, THEN:

FRANK

You're going to be okay.

A BEAT.

ASHLEY

You talking to me or Mikey?

MIKEY

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

Has to be you.

I assumed, but wasn't totally
sure.

FRANK

I mean you, Ash. And Lane. We're here
for you both.

ASHLEY'S FINALLY READY TO SAY SOMETHING REAL TO THEM.

ASHLEY

I know. But I'm still... I'm scared.

FRANK AND MIKEY LOOK AT THEIR SISTER.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

My husband left me. Probably because I
didn't get him, or his jokes, I kept a
messy home, I never lost the baby
weight, and I never wanted to do
anything fun. So he got bored with me
and found it somewhere else.

FRANK AND MIKEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

FRANK

Did he say all of that to you? Because
that's horrible.

ASHLEY

No. Mom did.

FRANK

Oh, that makes sense. (THEN) Wait, you
told Mom?!

MIKEY

Are you crazy?

ASHLEY

She was going to find out anyway.
(THEN) What made her most upset was
that I told you guys first.

MIKEY

It never ends.

FRANK

You know none of what she said is
true, right?

ASHLEY

I don't know anything anymore.

FRANK

Well how about I tell you for once?
You think you have bad luck? You're
wrong.

(MORE)

You're smart and kind and generous and
the most patient person I've ever met.
You make the greatest jello molds for
the holidays that are so beautiful we
yell at whoever cuts into it. You're
the best mother, the greatest sister
and you're raising an incredible kid.
(BEAT) You're the best of us. (THEN) I
hope I can be half the parent you are.

THIS LANDS ON ASHLEY. SHE'S GRATEFUL AND NEEDED TO HEAR THIS.

ASHLEY

You already are. The moment Dad left,
you stopped being a kid and started
worrying about me and Mikey. Nobody
even asked you to. You did it anyway.

FRANK NEEDED TO HEAR THAT, TOO.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

But whenever you do need help, which
will be a lot, I'll be there. To tell
you everything you're doing wrong.

THEY LAUGH. IT'S A NICE MOMENT. A BEAT. MIKEY FEELS LEFT OUT:

MIKEY

You know, I get scared, too. (THEN)
I'm supposed to be in this hunky
firefighter calendar. But they want me
to be Mr. January.

(MORE)

And there's a lot of pressure that
goes with that month. A lot.

ASHLEY AND FRANK LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

ASHLEY

Very brave confession, Mikey. But if
you really want to be brave, try being
truly vulnerable... with one person.

MIKEY

You mean like my ex, Liz? She is a
great girl. I was an idiot.

FRANK

Don't be so hard on yourself.

ASHLEY

No, he's an idiot.

THEY LAUGH. A BEAT THEN...

FRANK

I'm sorry, Ash. For everything you're
going through.

MIKEY

Me, too.

ASHLEY

I'm not. I'm grateful. (BEAT) I have
you guys.

A BEAT. MIKEY TAKES HIS PHONE OUT.

MIKEY

Lean in.

AS THE THREE OF THEM POSE, HE SNAPS A SELFIE.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

And I think maybe... I'll text Liz
now. (TYPES) Hey Lizard. Want to grab
a drink? Shrugging guy emoji.

ASHLEY

FRANK

Shrugging guy emoji?

Baby steps.

WITH THAT, FRANK TURNS ON THE CAR RADIO. JUST SO HAPPENS **BOB
MARLEY'S SONG "THREE LITTLE BIRDS"** IS ON.

FRANK/ASHLEY/MIKEY

(RE: SONG) No way!/Wow!/That's crazy!

THIS SONG HAS SPECIAL MEANING. THEY BEGIN TO SING IT TOGETHER.

LYRICS

"WOKE UP THIS MORNING. SMILED WITH THE
RISING SON. THREE LITTLE BIRDS. PITCH
BY MY DOORSTEP. SINGING SWEET SONGS.
OF MELODIES PURE AND TRUE. SINGING,
THIS IS MY MESSAGE TO YOU-U-U."

MATCH BLEND TO:

INT. MOM'S STATION WAGON - FLASHBACK TO 2001 (DAY X)

WE SEE OUR THREE SIBLINGS, BUT **AS KIDS. FRANK (12), ASHLEY
(10), MIKEY (6)**, SITTING TOGETHER IN THE BACKSEAT, FINISHING
A KEY LIME PIE. THE **SAME BOB MARLEY SONG PLAYS** ON MOM'S CAR
RADIO. **A CHYRON READS: 2001**

LYRICS

"DON'T WORRY, 'BOUT A THING. CAUSE
EVERY LITTLE THING, GONNA BE ALRIGHT.
SINGING DON'T WORRY, 'BOUT A THING.

(MORE)

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LYRICS (CONT'D)

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(II/L)

CAUSE EVERY LITTLE THING, GONNA BE
ALRIGHT."

THE SHOT WIDENS TO REVEAL MOVING BOXES ARE IN THE WAY BACK OF MOM'S STATION WAGON. WE FINALLY REVEAL **MOM** (MID 30'S), TRYING TO REMAIN STOIC AS SHE DRIVES WITH HER THREE KIDS BEHIND HER. SHE THINKS SHE'S ALL ALONE, BUT SHE HAS THEM. AND THEY HAVE EACH OTHER. AS FRANK TAKES HIS YOUNGER SIBLINGS HANDS, THE SONG CONTINUES, AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

EXT. FRANK AND BROOKE'S GARAGE - DAYS LATER (DAY 3)
(Frank, Ashley, Mikey, Brooke, Lane)

EVERYONE IS STANDING BY A DETACHED GARAGE BEHIND THE HOUSE.

ASHLEY

Why are we all looking at your garage?

FRANK

We know you've been staying in our
teeny tiny guest room the past few
days while you look for an apartment.

But we wanted to show you something...

LANE HAPPILY PRESSES THE CLICKER. THE GARAGE DOOR LIFTS,
REVEALING IT'S **BEING CONVERTED INTO AN APARTMENT**. IT'S BY NO
MEANS DONE, BUT IT'S A START. THE **PICTURE** LANE DREW OF THE
FAMILY EARLIER IS NOW FRAMED ON THE WALL.

ASHLEY

What is this?

FRANK

Your new apartment. If you say yes.

ASHLEY

I-I love it, but we can't stay here.

BROOKE

Oh, yes you can. Full disclosure, it's
sort of more for us than you. Frank
and I can get each other worked up
about everything in front of us. And
with this baby coming...

FRANK

It would be nice to have someone who's
done this before.

ASHLEY

(BEAT, TO LANE) Sweetie... do you want
to live here?

LANE NODS AND CHEERFULLY RUNS OFF TO PLAY. AS THE CAMERA
PULLS BACK ON OUR FAMILY, THEY CHECK OUT HER NEW APARTMENT...

FRANK

(NOTICING) Wait, isn't this the
mounted bluefin tuna Mikey gave Nick?

ASHLEY

Yes, Nick hated it.

MIKEY

Doesn't matter. I never liked him
anyway.

ASHLEY

What? Why didn't you ever tell me?

FRANK

He told me.

ASHLEY

Why would you tell him and not me?

BROOKE

Okay, something is seriously wrong
with the three of you.

AS BROOKE SHAKES HER HEAD, THE THREE OF THEM ARGUE, AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF PILOT