

WORST. DINNER. EVER.

Based on a true story*

*The dinner part, not what comes after.

Written by

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EXT. BROOKLINE FUNERAL HOME - DAY

A bucolic funeral home in suburban Boston. Fallen leaves blow past a cardboard placard:

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ELIZABETH HAYDEN.

We hear a commotion coming from inside. The mourners must be really worked up. The doors open to reveal-

INT. BROOKLINE FUNERAL HOME - DAY

Chaos. Flowers shredded. Hors d'oeuvres flying. Two MEN just absolutely wailing on each other in front of the open casket, the crowd around them screaming. They are:

DANNY HAYDEN (20s, average). The son and aspiring murderer of-

CHARLES HAYDEN (50s, silver fox). Father/puncher of Danny and widower of-

ELIZABETH HAYDEN (deceased).

DANNY

(punching)

...Because it's mom's funeral you selfish prick!

CHARLES

(punching)

Stop making a scene you entitled little shit!

As various uncles and nephews pry them apart-

DANNY

If I ever see you again, I will
fucking kill you!

CHARLES

Not if I kill you first!

The world slows down as Danny breaks free of his Uncle's grip, grabbing a WREATH and charging Charles. Charles picks up one of the cardboard placards, wielding it like a club. Right as they're about to make contact:

DANNY (V.O.)

So, yeah, that was the last time I saw my father.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

CHYRON: 5 years later.

Danny lounges on a lawn chair, casually addressing a cluster of his fiancée Kate's horrified family members.

DANNY

Sorry, what was the question again?

KATE'S UNCLE

...Where did you grow up?

DANNY

Oh! Boston. I'm local.

A banner behind him reveals that this is his and Kate's Engagement Party.

KATE'S AUNT

Did you get arrested?

DANNY

Nah. By the time the police got there, Charles had fled and I was tearfully choking down a sheet cake.

(takes a sip of his drink)

The cops said I was too sad to bring to jail.

KATE BUTLER (30s, bubbly) slips in, touching Danny on the arm.

KATE

Can I steal my fiancé for a second?

She gives him a quick kiss, heading towards the buffet table.

KATE (CONT'D)

You doing ok? I know this is a lot of family to meet in one sitting.

DANNY

It's cool. Your Aunt was just telling me that every politician is a secret lizard person. Or is working on their behalf. It wasn't totally clear.

KATE

(laughing)

I probably should have warned you about her.

DANNY

I'm just honored that you want me to meet your family.

KATE

I like showing you off.

DANNY

Wish I could return the favor.

KATE

You know, if you ever wanted to introduce me to your da-

DANNY

(downing his drink)

Mmm. These gin spritzes are really filling up the ol'... piss sack?

KATE

Don't call it that.

DANNY

Back in a moment.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Danny washes his hands, eyes lingering on a framed photo of Kate with her parents DOUG and CINDY. They're so happy, so content, so loving.

CINDY (O.S.)

...Told me they don't speak anymore.

DOUG (O.S.)

That's rough.

Danny peeks around the door, ears burning.

CINDY

Kate says Danny's not even inviting him to the wedding. Can you imagine not inviting your father to the biggest day of your life?

DOUG

The guy must be a real piece of work. Danny's a good kid. It's such a shame...

Danny blushes, touched.

DOUG (CONT'D)
 ...Because I heard his dad is
loaded.

CINDY
 Doug!

DOUG
 What? He put his kid through hell,
 the least he could do is pick up
 the check.

Danny ducks back behind the door, frowning.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

It's two in the morning. Danny can't sleep. He's staring at a photo on the wall: a teenaged Danny and his mom on some far-flung beach, accompanied by what's clearly OPTIMUS PRIME pasted over his dad's face.

KATE
 (stirring)
 You ok?

DANNY
 I heard your parents talking about me. And my dad. Just brought up a lot of feelings.

KATE
 Danny Hayden, you're strong and smart and I love you and it's totally fine to feel feelings.

He gives her a kiss.

DANNY
 And you, Kate Butler, are my best friend.

KATE
 (sly)
 That's all?

DANNY
 ...And an amazing, accomplished woman that I'm lucky to be marrying.

KATE
 Ah hmm.

DANNY

...Even if you are better than me
at Mario Kart. And sex.

KATE

Damn straight.

Kate catches Danny glancing over at the photo.

KATE (CONT'D)

He can't be that bad, can he?

DANNY

Who, Optimus Prime?

Kate gives Danny a shove.

DANNY (CONT'D)

My father is not a great guy, no.

KATE

And yet you're his son. Which means
he must have done something right.

DANNY

That was my mom's doing. She was
more the "nurturing and learning"
type. Charles Hayden was more the
"yelling and criticizing you until
you crap your pants in front of
every other boy at horse camp"
type.

KATE

(sotto)

Wait, what?

DANNY

And after what he pulled at her
funeral, well, I'm not sure I can
ever forgive him.

KATE

But he's family. And you know how
important family is to me....

DANNY

I don't like where this is going.

KATE

...So if we're going to start a
family together, I want to meet
your dad before we get married.

This hits Danny like a sock full of quarters.

DANNY

Is there any way I can talk you out of this?

KATE

Nope. Mind's made up.
(off his look)
Please, Danny?

Danny glances at his fiancée, then directly into Optimus Prime's dead, robot eyes.

DANNY

For the record, this is a terrible idea, but...I'll call him.

Kate hugs Danny.

KATE

Thank you. I know this is a lot to ask for.

DANNY

It's going to be awkward as hell.

KATE

I'm sure he'll love to hear from you. Time really has a way of changing people.

INT. PRUDENTIAL TOWER - HAYDEN FINANCIAL GROUP OFFICE - DAY

Office drones click away in a modern, open floor plan office. Totally normal, except for the YELLING we hear from the corner office.

CHARLES (O.S.)

...Because any idiot sheep can make money charging five bucks a blowjob at the bus station glory hole.

Charles Hayden, somehow even MORE full of piss and vinegar than the last time we saw him, screams at a potential client (GARY), dressed in a shirt with little boats on it.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

But the smart ones, the sharks who want to create wealth, give their money to me. Listen, Gary, you might dress like a total dipshit-

GARY

(hurt)

My wife bought me this shirt. She likes the little boats.

CHARLES

-But that doesn't mean you are one. You give me your business and we're talking twenty percent returns, guaranteed.

GARY

That sounds...nice?

Charles reaches his hand out.

CHARLES

So what do you say? You gonna be a wealthy shark or a glory hole sheep?

GARY

Wealthy shark!

They shake hands as Charles points Gary towards the door.

CHARLES

I'll have my people reach out with the account information.

Charles' CFO and LAWYER enter, passing their shellshocked yet smiling new client.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Gentlemen! Why do you look like your mistresses just found out about your sugar babies?

CFO

We have a problem, Charles.

LAWYER

We've been seeing some...irregularities in one of our bigger accounts.

CFO

Airgid, to be precise.

CHARLES

The Irish? What crawled up their potato holes and died?

LAWYER

That's remarkably racist.

CFO

We've been getting calls from their accountants all morning.

LAWYER

I already reached out to an outside auditor-

CHARLES

An outside auditor? You've got to be shitting me! What kind of clown college gave you a law degree?

LAWYER

Dartmouth.

CHARLES

Say the full name.

LAWYER

(quiet)
...UMass Dartmouth.

Charles smirks at him.

CFO

It's standard procedure in a case like this.

CHARLES

No. We'll handle this internally. End of story.

The CFO and Lawyer share a look.

LAWYER

Charles, we've got to be particularly careful with these clients.

CFO

They're not the kind of people we want to be on the wrong side of.

Charles holds up his finger, quieting the room.

CHARLES

You're worrying too much, fellas. I've got this under control, just like I always do.

LAWYER

But if you need help-

CHARLES

That's the one thing I never need.
Now if you'll excuse me...

He shows them the door. They take the hint, leaving Charles alone. As soon as the door closes, his facade breaks.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Shit. Shit! Shit!

Over his shoulder, we spot a familiar framed photo on the wall - Danny, Elizabeth and Charles (sans robot head) at the beach.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

CLOSE UP on Optimus Prime's face. Pull back to reveal Danny, glaring at him.

DANNY

Ok, Danny. It's just a phone call.
You can do this.

-Danny starts typing "CHARL-" into his phone, then freaks out and throws it across the room.

-Danny paces furiously.

DANNY (CONT'D)

He's your dad! You can call him!

-Danny sits on the couch, SCREAMING INTO THE VOID.

-Danny continues pacing.

DANNY (CONT'D)

You can't do this, you can't do
this, you can't do this...

-Danny opens a bottle of scotch, sniffs it, and GAGS.

-Danny, curled up in the fetal position.

-Danny DOWNS THE BOTTLE OF SCOTCH.

-Danny types Charles' name into his phone.

DANNY (CONT'D)
 (drunk)
 Why aren't you here, Charles?

We see the screen - he's typed CHJARLKES. No results.

-Danny PUKES the scotch into a trash can.

Danny lays on the couch, miserable. He looks at his phone's lock screen - a picture of him and Kate, blissfully happy moments after he proposed to her. He focuses on her face.

He GULPS, types in Charles' name correctly, and hits CALL.

INT. ART GALLERY - DAY

SAMANTHA GREER (50s, stylish as fuck) stares at a single blue dot on a blank white WALL.

SAMANTHA
 It's just so...beautiful.

Charles approaches behind her, kissing her cheek.

CHARLES
 What is?

SAMANTHA
 The piece.

He looks around the room, confused.

CHARLES
 Weren't we supposed to be looking at art?

SAMANTHA
 We are.

She nods at a small metal nameplate - "Blue Planet. Nakamura. 2018."

CHARLES
 (rubbing his temples)
 It's a dot, Samantha.

SAMANTHA
 It's stunning.

CHARLES
 It's insane.

SAMANTHA

I need it.

She nods at the DIRECTOR, who approaches them. Charles' phone RINGS. He pulls it out of his pocket.

CHARLES

Let's try not to spend more than six figures, ok?

SAMANTHA

(scoffing)

For a Nakamura? Good luck.

He glances down at his phone, face going as white as the room.

DANNY HAYDEN.

RING. RING. Charles steps away from Samantha, bringing the phone to his ear.

CHARLES

(spooked)

Hello.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Danny, phone to his ear, rocks back and forth on the couch.

DANNY

Hi.

CHARLES

Hi.

DANNY

Hello.

A moment of silence.

CHARLES

Why are you calling me?

DANNY (CONT'D)

I'm getting married.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Oh.

DANNY

To Kate.

CHARLES
I assume that's your fiancée?

DANNY
Yeah.

CHARLES
Great.

More awkward silence. Finally-

DANNY
She wants to meet you.

Charles looks SHOCKED.

CHARLES
Oh. Uh, ok.

DANNY
So, I think we should do it. Meet.
In person.

CHARLES
You really think that's a good
idea?

Danny weighs his last chance to back out, then plunges ahead.

DANNY
I think it's what mom would have
wanted.

CHARLES
Oh. Yeah. You're probably right.

Charles glances up at Samantha, who's happily talking to the
Curator.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
Fine. Next week. I know a place.

DANNY
Lots to catch up on. It's been five
years.

CHARLES
But who's counting.

Another awkward beat.

CHARLES (CONT'D) DANNY
Bye. See you then.

Charles quickly hangs up as Samantha gets within earshot.

SAMANTHA
Who was that?

CHARLES
(sighing)
My son.

A beat. Then-

SAMANTHA
YOU HAVE A SON?

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Danny takes a DEEP breath. Then-

DANNY
Ok. Cool. I did it. It wasn't that bad! This is going to be ok, right? I mean-

EXT. CAFE - DAY

Kate flips through a menu as Danny monologues.

DANNY
Charles could have changed. People change all the time! Like, I used to wear a leather cuff, then stopped when you told me it made me look like an off-duty magician. So he could have done the same thing. Emotionally. Because-

INT. SPIN CLASS - DAY

Kate spins vigorously. Danny keeps ranting.

DANNY
Who am I to say the guy hasn't chilled out and moved on? I heard he got remarried. That's got to count for something, right? Sure-

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

He continues.

DANNY

What he did at my mom's funeral was unconscionable, but maybe I'm ready to forgive him? I'm thinking that-

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Danny and Kate have sex. Danny persists.

DANNY

If he agreed to sit down with us, there's got to be something inside him ready to reconcile, right?

KATE

Not the time, Danny.

DANNY

Unless of course this is a set-up. Because as long as I've known the guy, he's never just done the right thing out of the kindness of his heart. Shit, this could be a trap. So-

INT. UBER - NIGHT

Danny and Kate are nicely dressed, seated in the back of an Uber.

DANNY

I'm making an executive decision. That's it. Dinner's cancelled.

They pull up to a drop-off station.

KATE

Too late, we're here.

DANNY

Damn it.

They step out of the car. They arrive outside of-

EXT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - NIGHT

A massive mall/skyscraper complex in the middle of downtown Boston. A DUCK BOAT speeds down the road, nearly clipping Danny as he steps out of the car.

DANNY
Hey! Watch it!

As they head for the entrance-

DANNY (CONT'D)
Last chance. We can bail and get
Indian food and eat it in bed like
kings.

KATE
We're going to this dinner.
(touching his shoulder)
Just keep an open mind about
tonight, ok? That's all I ask.

Danny melts at her touch - she's right.

DANNY
Yeah. Ok.

They enter-

INT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - MALL - NIGHT

The place is packed with shoppers pouring out of businesses:
clothing stores, seafood restaurant, a gym, even a friggin'
Tesla dealership. A consumer's paradise.

Danny and Kate navigate their way through the crowd, headed
towards a smiling, handsome Host (NATHAN) waiting behind a
desk labeled "Pinnacle."

DANNY
Reservation's under Hayden.

NATHAN
(Irish accent)
The rest of your party has already
arrived. Please proceed to the
elevators.

Danny gives Kate a look.

DANNY
Elevator?

She shrugs. They walk towards a set of polished brass doors,
hand in hand.

DANNY (CONT'D)
This is going to be ok, right?

KATE

Even if everything goes south,
you've still got me.

DING. They walk inside the elevator. At the desk, Nathan's smile drops. He checks his watch as a couple approach the stand.

MAN

Hey, reservation for Nguyen.

NATHAN

Sorry. Restaurant's closed tonight.

As he points the confused couple away-

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Prudential Center - Boston's
premier entertainment destination.

CLIP PACKAGE

Sweeping shots of the Prudential Center.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Situated on 23 acres of prime
Massachusetts real estate, the
Prudential Center has become New
England's hub for food, fashion,
and fun.

Shots of people admiring a TESLA.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Sign up for a virtual test drive in
our Tesla dealership.

Shots of people dancing in a CLUB.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Dance the night away at Nomar's.

Shots of people eating with a BEAUTIFUL VIEW.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Or take in the sights AND the
tastes of Pinnacle, Massachusetts'
tallest restaurant.

DANNY (O.S.)

That son of a bitch.

Pull back to reveal-

INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Danny's watching the video on a TV embedded in the elevator while Kate reads Pinnacle's Yelp page on her phone.

Faint audio from the promo video can be heard in the background.

DANNY

He knows I don't do heights. He's trying to get in my head.

KATE

(ignoring him)

The price on their Yelp page is a dollar sign cubed.

In BG: "Or work up a sweat at the Hub Sports Club."

DANNY

It all makes sense. His office is in this building. It's a power move.

KATE

(looking at her phone)

They have seafood towers for one. I can eat my weight in lobster, just like I always dreamed of!

On the TV:

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Or have fun times with family at the Cheesecake Factory: Boston's favorite dining destination.

DANNY

That's where we should be going instead.

Kate puts her phone down.

KATE

It's gonna be ok, Danny. Really. I'm gonna meet your dad, we'll eat enough shellfish to give ourselves mercury poisoning, and then we'll go home. No drama. Ok?

DING. The door opens. Kate steps out, turns around, and offers Danny her hand.

THROUGH A SECURITY CAMERA, we see Danny gulp, take her hand, and depart. Pull back to reveal:

INT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - SECURITY OFFICE - NIGHT

A bank of security monitors. The Security Guard (RIAN) swivels in his chair, pressing a large red button to trigger the FIRE ALARM.

INT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - NIGHT

Various shoppers, diners and other pedestrians stream out of the Pru. The entire mall empties out.

INT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - SECURITY OFFICE - NIGHT

Rian flips another switch, watching on-screen as the various SECURITY GATES slam down and the emergency staircases LOCK. He picks up his radio.

RIAN
Ground floor secure.

INT. PINNACLE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A MAÎTRE D' leads Danny and Kate through the opulent restaurant - elegant diners eating overpriced New American cuisine.

DANNY
(exhaling)
Meet Charles. Mercury poisoning. No drama.

The Maître D' shows them their table - Charles and Samantha are already seated. Danny and Charles LOCK eyes - the first time they've seen each other in five years.

Blood boils. Pupils dilate. Fists are clenched. A standoff.

MAÎTRE D'
(oblivious)
Bon appetite.

EXT. CELL TOWER - NIGHT

SNIP. A masked man cuts a large copper cable. He pulls out his phone - no service. Perfect.

As the lights of the tower fade out, the man swivels an AIR RIFLE around his torso, shooting a GRAPPLING HARPOON into the ground next to a waiting HELICOPTER.

He attaches the steel wire to the tower, clips on and zip-lines to the ground as the chopper spins up.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. PINNACLE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Charles swirls his water, eyes locked with Danny. Neither wants to be the first to speak. The tension is unbearable.

Samantha raises from the table, gracious.

SAMANTHA

Danny, Kate, I'm Samantha, Charles' wi-

(thinking about it)

Lovely to meet you.

She leans forward, hugging Danny.

DANNY

(stiff)

Nice to meet you.

KATE

Wait, you're Samantha Greer!

SAMANTHA

One and the same.

Kate smacks Danny's arm.

KATE

Danny, why didn't you tell me your dad was married to friggin' Samantha Greer!

DANNY

...Because I don't know who that is?

(to Samantha)

No offense.

KATE

The creator of Mode De Vie.

(blank look from Danny)

The lifestyle blog.

(blank look from Danny)

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

She makes Gwyneth Paltrow look like
a pile of wet crap.

Samantha, laughing, leans in to hug Kate.

SAMANTHA

I'll make sure to mention that to
Gwyn next time we're in the
Hamptons.

KATE

(in awe)
You smell like fresh blueberries!

Charles raises from the table. This is it. The big moment.

DANNY

Charles.

CHARLES

Daniel.

They're unsure how to approach each other. After a moment,
Danny leans in for a hug, only to find Charles' outstretched
hand poking into his gut. They awkwardly shake hands.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Have a seat.

They oblige him. There's a lot of rustling, pulling out
napkins, gently arranging glasses - but no conversation.
Finally-

DANNY

So, here we are.

CHARLES

Yep.

DANNY

The four of us.

CHARLES

Uh huh.

DANNY

Lots to talk about...

Absolute silence at the table. Kate fidgets in her seat.
Samantha glances around the room. Charles takes a sip of
water.

DANNY (CONT'D)

I-

KARLEIGH (O.S.)

Good evening!

They're startled by the sudden appearance of the waitress, KARLEIGH (20s).

KARLEIGH (CONT'D)

Welcome to Pinnacle. Is this your first time dining with us?

	CHARLES		DANNY
No.		Yes.	

KARLEIGH

Well, for the newcomers, we're a farm to table restaurant focused on sustainability. We locally source all our ingredients from local artisans, including eggs from our own quail coops on the roof!

KATE

I want those.

KARLEIGH

Could I start you off with-

Charles holds up a finger, SILENCING HER.

CHARLES

We'll do two orders of the risotto, the flank steak and the pork chops.

KATE

And a seafood tower.

Charles gives her a look. She stares back, unafraid. Samantha picks up on it, cutting the tension.

SAMANTHA

And a bottle of the Benoît Gautier Vouvray. It'll pair well with the seafood.

Kate gives her a smile.

KATE

(sotto)
God you're cool.

Charles waves his hand at Karleigh.

CHARLES

Off you go.

She departs. More angry, angry silence.

Behind them, the band picks up their instruments. Light jazz fills the restaurant. Danny breaths in. This is his shot. He's going to go for it.

As he does, the SAXOPHONE starts up.

DANNY	SAXOPHONE
So we're getting married-	Tooooooot tootle toot toot toot.

He stops talking at the same moment as the saxophone. He tries again.

DANNY (CONT'D)	SAXOPHONE (CONT'D)
And I know it's kind of awkward.	Tooooootle tootly toot toooooooooot.

He stops again, exasperated. The sax dies down.

DANNY (CONT'D)	SAXOPHONE (CONT'D)
But Kate and I talked, and we'd love to have you at our-	Tooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooot.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Jesus Christ!

Danny gives up. The universe is against this happening. Back to the silence.

SAMANTHA
So, Kate, how did you and Danny meet?

EXT. BOSTON SUBURBS - NIGHT

The helicopter cuts through the night sky above twinkling houses below. The Pilot speaks into his radio.

PILOT
Five minutes out.

INT. PINNACLE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

SCHMLMP. Kate absolutely goes to town on the seafood tower while Danny and Charles continue to glare at each other.

KATE
(mouth full)
Samantha, I love your earrings.

SAMANTHA

Oh, thank you! I got them at this great little gallery down on Harrison.

KATE

Belichick Fine Arts?

SAMANTHA

Yeah! How did you know?

KATE

The bakery I work at is right down the street. You should come by sometime! It'd be awesome to have a celebrity there.

(housing an oyster)

It'd really help distract from all the Yelp reviews about seagull crap on the front steps.

Charles cradles his glass of wine.

CHARLES

Seagull shit on me once. Know what I did?

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Paid this little guy to kill the damn thing.

DANNY

Tried to pay me to murder a bird.

Kate looks taken aback.

DANNY (CONT'D)

I was eleven! And what kind of parent hands an eleven year old a loaded handgun?

CHARLES

The bartender said it was fine for you to borrow it!

KATE

You gave him a gun?

SAMANTHA

Why was your child in a bar?

CHARLES

Sorry for trying to teach you a valuable life lesson.

DANNY

Which was?

CHARLES

Don't let anyone fuck with your family.

DANNY

Oh, that's rich coming from you after mom's funeral.

Samantha clears her throat.

SAMANTHA

If you'll excuse me, I need to powder my nose.

KATE

(getting the hint)

Yeah, me too.

Kate slurps down one last oyster as they depart, unnoticed by the men at the table. Danny downs his wine.

DANNY

What you did was unforgivable, Charles.

CHARLES

Sor-ry. It's not like there's a guidebook for how to cope with your wife's death.

DANNY

There's literally hundreds of them! I'll send you the Amazon link.

CHARLES

And then what, I should go to some doctor feel-good to take a big ol' mind shit?

DANNY

It's called therapy and it's incredibly effective!

Karleigh pops up at the table.

KARLEIGH

Is everything-

DANNY

Fine, thank you!

CHARLES

Get lost!

She warily departs. A moment, then-

It all comes out.

DANNY (CONT'D)
 I can't believe I thought it
 was a good idea to reach out
 to you after what you did you
 megalomaniacal piece of-

CHARLES (CONT'D)
 Just because I did what I
 needed to do doesn't give you
 the right to judge me you
 goddamn asshole-

INT. PINNACLE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

A busy team of CHEFS work the line, plating dishes and doing chef shit. The HEAD CHEF looks disapprovingly at one of the plates going by. He glares at a group of LINE COOKS lead by a SOUS CHEF (40s, Irish).

HEAD CHEF
 New guy! Straighten up your plating
 or I'll ship your ass back to
 Dunkies.

BEEP BEEP. The Sous Chef checks his watch alarm then nods to his crew, who reach under their stations and pull out SILENCED AUTOMATIC WEAPONS.

HEAD CHEF (CONT'D)
 Hey, easy there guy, I was just
 kidding about-

PLINK PLINK PLINK. The Head Chef and half the kitchen drop dead. The Sous Chef removes his whites, revealing a black jumpsuit beneath it. His men do the same, slipping on tactical gear and ski masks from beneath their workstations.

SOUS CHEF
 30 seconds.

They give him a nod, reloading their guns. The biggest line cook GRINS.

LINE COOK
 This is going to be fun.

INT. PINNACLE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Danny and Charles are REALLY going at it. The other diners are taking notice.

CHARLES
 ...Because I was trying to move on
 with my life!

DANNY

It's called processing! And at least I'm strong enough to deal with what happened to us!

CHARLES

Yeah, you're a regular tough guy who can't even talk to his old man without his girlfriend saying it's ok.

Danny slams down his wine glass so hard it cracks. He's furious, not noticing the kitchen door opening behind him.

DANNY

That's it. I'm gonna do what pancreatitis and hereditary alcoholism couldn't and FUCKING END YOU.

CHARLES

Oh yeah? You and what army?

PLOP. Something small and cylindrical lands in the remains of the seafood tower.

DANNY

What the-

BOOM.

The room turns into BLINDING WHITE LIGHT. It slowly dissipates, revealing-

Charles sprinting out of the room.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(ears ringing)

What are you-

Danny turns his head, revealing-

ARMED MEN STORMING THE DINING ROOM.

They're shouting...something. It's impossible to hear after that flashbang.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(ears ringing)

Run!

Danny chases after Charles.

INT. PINNACLE - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

They stumble into the lobby, winded. Charles tries the door, but it's LOCKED. That's weird.

CHARLES
Shit. It won't budge.

DANNY
Charles! What the hell just happened?

Charles scans the room.

CHARLES
Something bad.

DANNY
But-

Charles' eyes land on a staircase leading UP.

CHARLES
There!

EXT. ROOF - NIGHT

Charles bursts through the door, finding himself TRAPPED - nothing but a 52 story drop on every side. Danny catches up to Charles, bumping into him and nearly sending them toppling off the ledge.

CHARLES
Watch it!

Danny SHRIEKS, recoiling from the edge of the building.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
Shh! Keep it down! You want them to know we're up here?

They take a moment, catching their breath.

DANNY
Charles?

CHARLES
What?

DANNY
Where are Kate and Samantha?

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Kate runs her hands under the super-loud hand dryer while Samantha scrolls through pictures on her phone.

SAMANTHA

...It's just the most amazing piece. A blue dot surrounded by the most blinding, beautiful white.

Samantha flashes a picture of the blue dot to Kate.

KATE

And Charles just bought it for you, on the spot?

SAMANTHA

It didn't hurt that I had just learned about the existence of Danny.

Kate LAUGHS.

KATE

Charles is...

SAMANTHA

Complicated?

KATE

I was going to say "an asshole."

SAMANTHA

(laughing)

He talks a big game, but underneath that facade is a truly loving and caring man.

KATE

Because you're, like, and don't take this the wrong way, almost too good for him.

SAMANTHA

Maybe I just like a fixer upper. When I met him he was wounded, but I could tell that there was something wonderful underneath just waiting to come out. And he hasn't disappointed me yet.

(a beat)

Present circumstances excluded.

KATE

It's weird, right? They can be such amazing men on their own, but when they're together...

SAMANTHA

It's like me and Martha Stewart in the same room. Just a recipe for disaster.

KATE

I just wish they could show the same love they have for us for each other.

SAMANTHA

Well, let's hope tonight changes things, because I, for one, would be honored to have you as my daughter in law.

KATE

That is, literally, my dream come true.

They LAUGH.

KATE (CONT'D)

I think we can get this dinner back on the right track.

Kate opens the door, revealing-

TERRORISTS ZIP-TYING EVERYONE IN THE DINING ROOM. One of the men glances up at the cracked bathroom door. Kate quickly closes it.

KATE (CONT'D)

(whispering)

Shit!

SAMANTHA

What!?

KATE

I think one of them saw me.

SAMANTHA

Who saw you?

KATE

Guys with guns. Big ones.

The color drains from Samantha's face.

SAMANTHA
We've got to hide.

KATE
Where?

SAMANTHA
Here.

She drags Kate into a bathroom stall just as the DOOR OPENS.
The terrorist enters, followed by his buddy.

EXT. ROOF - NIGHT

Charles walks to the edge of the building, spotting a WINDOW
WASHER CART about five stories below them.

CHARLES
Check it out. Window washer.

Danny, terrified of his current circumstances, keeps his back
pressed firmly against the wall.

DANNY
Cool.

CHARLES
I say we jump.

DANNY
Are you crazy?

CHARLES
It's our only option.

DANNY
I'm not jumping off of a
skyscraper!

CHARLES
No bad ideas in brainstorming.

DANNY
How about we call the cops?

They both take out their cell phones.

DANNY (CONT'D)
No bars.

CHARLES
(smacking his phone)
Me neither. 5G my ass.

DANNY

Of course this happened tonight!
Nothing can just be normal with us!

CHARLES

Calm down. I'll figure something
out.

DANNY

Calm down? We're stuck on top of a
fifty story building filled with
masked gunmen!

CHARLES

I said I'll figure this out!
Just...trust me.

DANNY

Charles, don't take this the wrong
way, but I'd rather throw myself
off the building than trust you.

There's a faint WHUPWHUPWHUP sound below them, growing louder
by the second. But they're completely oblivious to it.

CHARLES

Jesus. This is just like horse camp
all over again.

DANNY

I was nine!

CHARLES

You were a pussy! I was trying to
teach you how to stand up for
yourself!

DANNY

God I hate you!

CHARLES

I hate-

The HELICOPTER rises up behind them, catching them in a
search light.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Get down!

The helicopter swoops low over them. They duck behind the
horizontal vent, trapped.

COOOOO. Charles looks across from them - the QUAIL COOPS.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
 ...What's with the birds?

DANNY
 It's the quail! From the
 restaurant! Which we were just told
 about!

CHARLES
 (ignoring him)
 Shh. I have an idea.

He dives across the open space, rolling to a stop at the
 coop. He dramatically throws open the doors.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
 Fly!

Nothing happens. The Quail just look at him, perplexed.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
 Really thought that would work.

The helicopter winds up to make another pass. Danny points to
 a VENT.

DANNY
 There!

He grabs Charles and makes a break for it as the searchlight
 chases them. They slam into the metal, opening the grate and
 looking down into the darkness.

CHARLES
 We really doing this?

DANNY
 What other choice do we-

QUAIL (O.S.)
 COOOOOO!

The helicopter makes another low pass over the rooftop. The
 Quail, spooked, FLY DIRECTLY AT THEM, sending them sliding
 down the vent.

INT. VENT - NIGHT

Charles and Danny SCREAM as they tumble through the abyss.
 They land in-

INT. AIR DUCT - NIGHT

There's no room to move. They're stuck.

DANNY

I don't wanna die like this.
Pancaked in a heating duct, covered
in quail-

CREAK. The duct COLLAPSES due to their weight, sending them sprawling into:

INT. DOUCHEBAG OFFICE - NIGHT

They land with a THUD.

CHARLES

-Shit.

DANNY

Worst. Dinner. Ever.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Two terrorists (AIDEN and OSCAR) creep through the bathroom, rifles scanning the room. Aiden approaches a bathroom stall, nods to Oscar, and KICKS IN THE DOOR.

Nothing there.

AIDEN

Check the next one.

Aiden speaks (like all the terrorists) in an IRISH ACCENT.

At the end of the row, Kate and Samantha are precariously perched on a toilet.

KATE

(whispering)
Who are they?

SAMANTHA

Men wearing ski masks. Never a good
thing in a women's restroom.

KICK. KICK. KICK. They're getting closer.

Kate reaches into her purse, fumbling for something.

Aiden and Oscar reach their stall. Last one.

AIDEN

Do it.

Oscar nods, then KICKS IN THE DOOR.

PSSSSSSSSST.

Oscar gets a face full of PEPPER SPRAY. He tumbles backwards, revealing his stunned partner.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

What the-

Aiden rushes towards Kate and Samantha. Kate lets loose another spray as Samantha bumps into her.

PSSSSSSSSST.

He gets a face full too - but so do the ladies. The stall's filled with an acrid cloud of orange mist. Kate's struggling to breath, Samantha's blinded. They fall forward, knocking Oscar to the ground.

SAMANTHA

Jesus, my eyes!

KATE

It tastes like death!

Kate crawls towards the sink, but Oscar grabs her ankle. She KICKS him in the face before furiously swatting water into her eyes.

KATE (CONT'D)

The water just makes it worse!

Aiden, blind, wildly swings his gun around the room. Samantha, on her feet, knocks into him. Aiden takes a swing at her, but pounds the WALL instead, fracturing his hand. Samantha tries to duck around him but trips, smacking into a mirror.

SAMANTHA

Ow!

Kate rears up, turning towards Oscar and DIVE TACKLING forward. She comes about a foot short, crashing into the floor. Oscar trips over her, landing NECK FIRST on the sink. It snaps with a sickening CRUNCH.

KATE

Are necks supposed to make that noise?

SAMANTHA

Oh, no, he's super dead.

Aiden grabs his silenced pistol, aims blindly and EMPTIES THE CLIP - exactly halfway between Kate and Samantha. They look at each other, shrug, then RUSH Aiden as he reloads. He holds it up, finger on the trigger-

INT. DOUCHEBAG OFFICE - NIGHT

CLICK.

Danny turns on the lights as Charles staggers to his feet.

CHARLES

(wincing)

My chiropractor's gonna have to bust out the big guns.

DANNY

What is this place?

Charles spots large logo spray-painted on the wall.

CHARLES

(reading)

Grindd? What's the second D stand for? Douchebag?

There's gaudy merch everywhere - t-shirts, skateboards, coolers, the whole nine yards.

DANNY

Looks like they make energy drinks out of Bitcoin.

Charles spots a Grindd-branded SNOW MOBILE in the center of the room.

CHARLES

Sweet ride.

DANNY

What, you're going to take a snowmobile down 40 flights of stairs?

CHARLES

No bad ideas in brainstorming.

DANNY

You keep saying that! And then having terrible ideas!

CHARLES

Then what do you think we should do?

DANNY

I don't know! The only thing I'm thinking about right now is Kate and Samantha being terrorized upstairs while we get murdered in an office Kid Rock would consider tacky. And all because I went to dinner with you.

CHARLES

Oh, come on. Neither of us could have predicted it would be this bad.

EXT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - GARDEN

The helicopter lands in the enclosed GARDEN at the base of the tower. The co-pilot (SEAN) slides open the side door, unloading a CRATE onto a dolly and rushing it into the building.

INT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - SECURITY CAMERA - NIGHT

He heads down the hallway, passing the HOST STATION. Nathan joins him, entering the elevator to-

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

The elevators open on the empty workspace. They wheel the crate through the cubicles, towards a large CORNER OFFICE.

INT. CHARLES' OFFICE - NIGHT

They pass a framed photo - THE PHOTO OF CHARLES, DANNY AND ELIZABETH AT THE BEACH.

Oh shit, they're in Charles' office.

Sean opens the case, revealing tools, computers, tarps, ammonia. Definitely not stuff good people have. Nathan pulls out a handheld metal detector, sweeping it over Charles' desk.

NATHAN
(into headset)
We're in the office. Beginning
search now.

Angle on the framed photo, a two dimensional Charles watching these thugs ruin his stuff.

INT. PINNACLE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Their leader, the aforementioned Sous Chef CALLUM, grins under his ski mask.

CALLUM
Copy, Nathan.

He scans the dining room - his men are moving from hostage to hostage, pulling up their heads. They're trying to ID someone. But no luck so far.

Callum clears his throat.

CALLUM (CONT'D)
Ladies and gentlemen, apologies for
the inconvenience. But would Mr.
Hayden present himself?

Nothing from the terrified customers.

CALLUM (CONT'D)
Mr. Hayden, please.

Still nothing. He pulls out his pistol, firing it into the ceiling. The crowd SCREAMS.

CALLUM (CONT'D)
I'll ask one more time.

Callum's radio crackles - Rian in the security office.

RIAN (O.S.)
Callum! We've got movement two
floors down. Grindd office.

Callum nods at three of his men (SULLY, MAC and CHRISTIAN).

CALLUM
Take him alive.

INT. DOUCHEBAG OFFICE - NIGHT

Danny paces while Charles tosses a Grindd-branded football from hand to hand. They look awfully alone in the floor-sized office.

DANNY

So: the emergency staircases are locked, our phones aren't working, and we have no way to get either upstairs to rescue Kate and Samantha.

CHARLES

Or downstairs to the ground floor to escape.

DANNY

Thanks, Charles. Needed that reminder about how totally screwed we are.

This sets Charles off.

CHARLES

Stop calling me Charles, damn it! I'm your father! Call me dad!

DANNY

Yeah, but, are you?

CHARLES

What do you mean?

DANNY

Well, you kind of stopped being my father as soon as mom died. And, honestly? I think we're both better off with you out of my life.

Charles, heading for the door, struggles to hide how much that stung.

CHARLES

Well, I know when I'm not wanted. If we don't make it out of here tonight alive, I'll see you in hell.

DANNY

See you there, Charles Fucking Hayden.

Charles SWINGS the door open revealing a SQUAD OF GOONS.

CHARLES

Ah, crap.

The bad guys RUSH into the office.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Split up!

DANNY

I'm trying!

Danny jumps behind a Grindd cooler as Sully sprays it with bullets. Unappetizing green liquid spills out into Danny's mouth.

DANNY (CONT'D)

It tastes like death!

Charles is keeping Mac and Christian at bay with a large inflatable can of Grindd.

CHARLES

Stay back!

DANNY

Just hit them!

CHARLES

Don't tell me what to do!

Christian lunges, but Charles BONKS him, sending him to the ground.

DANNY

Told you.

Charles WINDS UP, swinging at Mac, who ducks. WHAM. He smacks Danny right in the face.

DANNY (CONT'D)

My nose!

Charles can't help but smile, just a little bit. Danny staggers backwards, tripping over Christian. Christian rolls over, getting on top of Danny and punching him.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Stop!

CHRISTIAN

No!

Danny flails around, knocking a Grindd SKATEBOARD off a display. He shoves Christian, grabs the skateboard, and BREAKS IT OVER HIS HEAD. Christian drops, knocked out.

Sully peels off, headed for Danny while Mac closes in on Charles. He reaches onto the merch shelf, throwing everything he can at them - t-shirts, footballs, a "Grindor the Grinddawg" stuffed animal. Nothing's working.

CHARLES

Screw this.

Charles hops on the SNOWMOBILE, flicking it to life. As the engine revs-

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Oh baby. This has got to be an OSHA violation.

Charles GUNS the engine, kicking the snowmobile to life. It SLAMS into Mac, sending him sprawling.

Across the room, Sully has his gun trained on Danny. It's hopeless.

WHAM.

Charles SLAMS the snowmobile into Sully's legs, fracturing them. Charles extends his hand.

DANNY

(impressed)

Charles Fucking Hayden.

CHARLES

Get on.

Danny jumps on the back of the snowmobile. Charles guns the engine, turning the machine towards Christian and Mac, both struggling to stand up.

It LURCHES forward, building up speed.

DANNY

Ahhhhh-

It's gaining on them. They raise their rifles.

DANNY (CONT'D)

hhhhhh-

WHAM. They slam into the terrorists, sending them flying.

DANNY (CONT'D)

hhhhhh!

Danny turns around, admiring the carnage. Charles squeezes the brakes.

CHARLES

Uh oh.

CRASH. The snowmobile SMASHES into the plate glass window, front half dangling precariously off the side of the building. 47 stories above the ground.

DANNY

Charles!

CHARLES

Hold on!

The snowmobile leans forward. Charles scootches back, trying to balance it.

DANNY

I don't want to die!

CHARLES

Then move back!

Danny and Charles do their best to balance - one wrong move, and they plummet to their death. But about twenty feet below them, just to the left, is-

CHARLES (CONT'D)

The window washer!

Indeed it is.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

We can make it if we jump.

DANNY

Are you out of your mind?

The snowmobile LURCHES forward.

CHARLES

You've got two options, Danny. Jump and maybe live, or stay put and definitely die.

Danny looks behind them - the bad guys are STIRRING. It's now or never.

DANNY
Charles?

CHARLES
What?

DANNY
I hate you. So, so much.

CHARLES
Right back at ya, buddy.

Charles JUMPS, twisting in the air while flipping Danny off.

He falls for what feels like forever. The world is black and terrifying. But them-

WHAM. Charles lands HARD on the platform. He rolls on his back, smile forming on his face.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
It actually worked!

The bad guys are getting on their feet. Danny's sweating, on the verge of a panic attack.

He looks over the edge. It's a real long drop.

DANNY
I can't do this.

On the platform-

CHARLES
Jump!

DANNY
I can't!

CHARLES
Remember when you were a kid and I taught you how to dive? Close your eyes and lean forward. It's easy.

DANNY
That ended with me waking up in the hospital a week later!

CHARLES
Just jump off the goddamn building!

Danny gulps, positioning himself. BLAM. The goons SHOOT at him. He stumbles forward, off the snow mobile.

DANNY

Ahhhhhhh!

He falls through space. This is the second worst moment of his life. The platform is close, but not close enough.

CHARLES

(slow motion)

Danny!

Charles reaches out, GRABBING DANNY'S HAND and pulling him towards the platform. He braces his feet against the platform, struggling to hold onto his son.

DANNY

Don't drop me!

Danny's slipping - all that sweat is lubing up his hand. With a HEAVE, Charles yanks Danny onto the platform, tumbling backwards. They lay for a moment, gasping for air. And then-

They begin LAUGHING.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Oh my God!

CHARLES

You jumped!

DANNY

I fell!

CHARLES

You're alive!

DANNY

I'm alive!

PLINK. A bullet from above hits the CONTROL PANNEL.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(defeated)

Aww, c'mon.

GROAN. BLAM. The SAFETY BRAKE releases, sending them plummeting towards-

INT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - GARDEN - NIGHT

The platform rushes towards the ground. At the base, waiting for them, is the HELICOPTER.

Danny and Charles look at each other - this is it. Twenty feet from the ground, when-

SQUEEEEEEEEEEEK.

The platform jolts to a halt five feet above the ground, sending them to the deck of the window washer with a SMACK.

DANNY

Is...is it over? Are we dead? Are we in hell?

Charles swings down from the platform, dropping onto the ground.

CHARLES

I don't think hell would have a Talbots.

Danny hops off the platform after him.

Inside the helicopter, the pilot SPOTS THEM. He unholsters his pistol, grabbing the radio.

PILOT

We have contact in-

GROAAAAAN.

Above them, the snowmobile comes loose, tumbling down the building.

DANNY

Run!

Danny grabs Charles, rushing him towards the mall as the snowmobile CRASHES INTO THE HELICOPTER.

BOOM.

The helicopter explodes, the force of the shockwave sending Danny and Charles to the ground.

From above, we see a flash of light in the courtyard - but not enough for the outside world to see something's amiss.

In the courtyard, a jagged piece of the snow mobile's hood lands directly between Charles' legs.

CHARLES

Ahhhh!

DANNY

Charles! Are you ok!

Charles stops screaming, feels his crotch, and scoots back.

CHARLES

Yeah. That was a close call.

DANNY

Oh my god.

CHARLES

What?

DANNY

Grindd is just...kale juice?

He nods at the hood fragment - a picture of a bottle of Grindd and the slogan "Blow a load of kale."

Charles spots one of the glass doors leading inside has been blasted open.

CHARLES

Come on, let's get out of here.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The boom shakes the restaurant, causing the guests to SCREAM. Callum's head snaps up as he fingers his radio.

CALLUM

Rian! What was that?

RIAN (O.S.)

The target just fell off the building.

CALLUM

He what?

RIAN (O.S.)

And the helicopter exploded.

CALLUM

It what?

RIAN (O.S.)

This is bad, Callum.

Aiden and Oscar, adjusting their ski masks, step out of the bathroom. Callum isn't paying attention. His radio is inches from his mouth.

CALLUM
If he's dead, we're not getting our
money. Get down there and see if
there's a body.

Callum lowers his radio, acknowledging his men.

CALLUM (CONT'D)
Aiden, was there anyone inside the
bathroom?

The men look at each other.

CALLUM (CONT'D)
Are you deaf? Was there anyone in
there?

One of the men shrugs.

AIDEN
(clearly lowered voice)
Negative.

Callum does a double take - what's with Aiden's voice? But-
CHIRP.

Callum's radio springs to life.

RIAN (O.S.)
He's alive!

INT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - SECURITY OFFICE

Rian watches grainy security video of Danny and Charles
stumbling through the mall.

RIAN
Ground floor. Near the Talbots.

INT. PINNACLE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Callum gives a SIGH of relief.

CALLUM
Fionn.

He turns to a terrorist (FIONN) who's currently menacing the
SAXOPHONE PLAYER.

SAXOPHONE PLAYER

(weak)

Please don't hurt me.

FIONN

I would like to turn your face into
a urinal.

CALLUM

Fionn!

FIONN

(turning toward Callum)

Yes?

CALLUM

Grab your tools and head down
there.

Fionn reaches for his bag, conspicuously dodging a seafood
tower on the table next to him.

CALLUM (CONT'D)

Aiden, Oscar-

He nods at the bathroom terrorists.

CALLUM (CONT'D)

Make sure we get Mr. Hayden alive.

The terrorists look at each other, shrug, then depart the
bathroom doorway. When the door swings, we see-

A MAN'S FOOT STICKING OUT FROM UNDER THE STALL.

INT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - NIGHT

Charles and Danny skulk through the deserted mall.

DANNY

Where are the elevators?

CHARLES

Ahead to the left.

DANNY

Maybe they're still working - AHH!

Danny recoils from a figure shrouded in shadow.

CHARLES

That's a mannequin. It's not going
to hurt you.

DANNY

Sorry, I'm a little on edge what with being punched, shot at, and dropped out of a window next to an EXPLODING HELICOPTER.

CHARLES

Just...a little discretion would be nice.

That sets Danny off. He wheels on Charles.

DANNY

You know where none of this would have happened?

CHARLES

Don't say-

DANNY

The Cheesecake Factory!

CHARLES (CONT'D)

The goddamn Cheesecake Factory.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

You and that restaurant.

They're so wrapped up with each other that they don't notice Fionn slowly walk up behind them.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

You should be grateful I even wanted to go out tonight! You're the one who begged to see me.

DANNY

Begged? I politely asked you to go to dinner to meet my fiancée because that's what the bigger man does!

CHARLES

Oh, you're the bigger man?

DANNY

Damn straight I am! Because for once I'm-

WHOOSH. Fionn BLACK BAGS Danny.

CHARLES

What the-

WHOOSH. A black bag on Charles. The world goes dark.

INT. SEAFOOD RESTAURANT - NIGHT

OVER DARKNESS

DANNY

Where are we?

CHARLES

(sniffing)

...The aquarium?

WHOOSH. The bags are pulled off. Danny and Charles are zip-tied to a pair of folding chair, seated back-to-back in the middle of the dining room.

Fionn, ski-mask off, unrolls a cloth of stainless steel tools, grinning like a psychopath.

FIONN

Gentlemen. You have made our lives difficult. But no longer.

He unbuckles a bag, pulling out a small vial (SODIUM AMYTAL) and two needles. He quickly crosses to the Haydens, jabbing them with the needles.

DANNY

Hey! Easy, guy.

CHARLES

What is that shit?

FIONN

Something to loosen your tongue. My boss has questions, so I've been sent to make sure you're... compliant.

DANNY

Really don't like how he said "compliant."

Fionn picks up a scalpel, advancing on the men.

FIONN

Now, do either of you make much use of your perineum?

DANNY

That's the taint! He's going to stab our taints!

CHARLES

Shh! Keep quiet.

DANNY
Screw that! He's going to torture
us unless we talk.

CHARLES
He's going to torture us regardless
of what we say.

Fionn SLUGS Charles in the face.

FIONN
That's true.

CHARLES
(spitting out blood)
Thank you.

FIONN
May I begin my questioning now?

CHARLES
Blow me.

He gives Charles another smack.

FIONN
I'll take that as a yes.

DANNY
What do you want from us?

FIONN
The money.

DANNY
I have, like, eight hundred dollars
in my checking account. It's yours
if you want it.

WHAM. A right hook.

FIONN
Our money.

DANNY
Yeah, fine, semantics. It's your
money now.

Fionn STABS Danny in the leg with the scalpel.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Gah!

FIONN
No more games.

CHARLES
Don't stab my kid!

FIONN
Then give me what I want.

DANNY
What do you want?

FIONN
The truth.

DANNY
You want some truth? Here's some truth: I don't want to be here. The only reason I came tonight is because my fiancée made me. If it were up to me, the next time I'd see this sociopath would be at his funeral. Now PLEASE take this knife out of my leg.

Danny looks taken aback. That was an awful lot of truth in a very short amount of time.

FIONN
Good. Looks like the drugs kicked in. So where is-

Charles glares at Danny.

CHARLES
You think I wanted to be here tonight? After you all of a sudden decided you hated me for no good reason?

FIONN
Stop it!

DANNY
You've done a lot of bad things in your life, Charles, but you have to know why I hate you.

FIONN
Let me interrogate you! I'm in charge here!

DANNY
 (ignoring him)
 You went on a date before mom's
 funeral!

That admission SILENCES the room.

FIONN
 ...Seriously? That's fucked up.

DANNY
 Thank you, torture guy.

Fionn SMACKS him.

DANNY (CONT'D)
 That's why we haven't talked in
 five years. What you did...it was
 just the last straw.

Charles sits with this, silent, pain clear on his face. He
 turns his head to Fionn.

CHARLES
 Hey, dipshit. Let him go and I'll
 tell you where I hid your money.

A beat.

DANNY
 Wait, hid what? What the hell?

FIONN
 Speak.

CHARLES
 (quiet)
 It's... it's...

Fionn leans in close, trying to hear him.

FIONN
 It's where?

WHAM. Charles kicks Fionn right in the dick. The torturer
 reels back in a world of hurt.

FIONN (CONT'D)
 My piss sack!

He stumbles, knocking into the table and pricking himself
 with one of the exposed NEEDLES.

FIONN (CONT'D)

Ahh!

DANNY

What are you talking about,
Charles?

CHARLES

It's a lot to explain right now.

Fionn, pulling the needle out of his forearm, glares at them.

FIONN

You are dead men.

Fionn CHARGES THEM. Charles rolls hard to his left, knocking himself (and the folding chair) over and putting Danny in Fionn's path.

DANNY

Do you have something to do with
these pricks showing up tonight?

Fionn throws a punch, connecting with Danny's jaw.

CHARLES

So what if I do? It's not like I
could make things worse.

Fionn throws another punch, but this time Danny's ready. He jumps, kicking Fionn in the chest. Fionn stumbles backwards, tripping over Charles.

DANNY

But you could try to make it
better! Because I know we can be
better than this.

CHARLES

I know we can too! And it kills me!
I don't appreciate you like I
should!

Danny bends down, reaching behind himself to help Charles to his feet.

DANNY

You mean it?

CHARLES

It's the drugs. I don't know what
I'm saying.

DANNY
 (grinning)
 Yeah, sure.

WHAM. Fionn' fist connects with Danny's face.

FIONN
 Tell me where our goddamn money is!

DANNY	CHARLES
We were having a moment, jerkoff!	This doesn't concern you, dickhead!

FIONN
 Enough! You should be thankful to
 have each other! I would kill to
 have my father back if I hadn't
 killed him to begin with!
 (sotto)
 Wow, these drugs are strong.

Charles head butts Fionn.

CHARLES
 You're not a part of this
 conversation!

Fionn shoves Charles, grabbing Danny and dragging him towards
 one of the open fish tanks.

DANNY
 Nononononono-

WHOOSH. He dunks Danny's head under the water. A moment
 later, he lifts it up.

Danny has a SEA URCHIN stuck in his forehead.

DANNY (CONT'D)
 Gaaaaaah! Get it off get it off get
 it off!

Charles charges Fionn, jumping into a drop kick.

CHARLES
 Get off of him!

Fionn reels backwards, tripping over Charles' chair and
 landing in-

AN OPEN LOBSTER TANK.

FIONN
 No!

Fionn THRASHES in the tank, his face swelling like a balloon, all hell breaking loose. After a moment, the thrashing stops.

Danny takes in the sight.

DANNY

Do...do you think he's dead?

Fionn ROARS out of the tank, face swollen like a baboon's asshole. A nasty allergic reaction.

FIONN

Our...money...

He takes a step towards them, then collapses to the ground.

CHARLES

Yeah, champ. I'm pretty sure he's dead.

Charles reaches down to Danny's leg, pulling out the scalpel and slicing through their zip ties and freeing them. Danny, in shock, doesn't even notice.

DANNY

We killed a guy.

CHARLES

Hey, he killed himself. Any good lawyer could prove that. But, all things considered, you did good.

Danny yanks the sea urchin out of his forehead, tossing it aside.

DANNY

Yeah. You too.

A nice moment. Danny grabs Fionn's gun off the table.

DANNY (CONT'D)

So what's this about his money?

CHARLES

(re: the gun)

Hey, careful with that thing. It's not a-

BLAM. Danny accidentally fires off a round, dropping the gun.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

-Toy.

DANNY
 (slurred speech)
 My finger slipped.

CHARLES
 Uh oh.

DANNY
 What?

CHARLES
 Those drugs he gave us. They're
 really, really strong.

Danny lays down on the floor.

DANNY
 Maybe we just have a little nap and
 then all this will be over.

Charles SLAPS Danny.

DANNY (CONT'D)
 Hey!

Danny SLAPS Charles.

CHARLES
 (ignoring him)
 If we don't find a way to get our
 heads straight, we're toast.

DANNY
 What are we supposed to do?

CHARLES
 I have an idea. It's a little
 risky, but I think it'll work.

DANNY
 Never thought I'd say this, but...
 (gulping)
 ...Fine.

INT. SPORTS CLUB - LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Charles jimmies open his CFO's locker while Danny sits on a
 bench, holding his head.

DANNY
 Hurry up. I'm not sure how much
 longer I can stay awake.

Charles turns around with a small bag full of white powder -

CHARLES

Are you cool enough to have done cocaine before?

DANNY

...You're kidding, right?

CHARLES

It's the only way we get back on an even keel. Otherwise, we'll be sitting ducks and then we're as good as dead.

DANNY

This is a terrible idea, Charles.

CHARLES

It's our only idea, Danny.

DANNY

Aren't you not supposed to mix uppers and downers? Didn't that kill a bunch of people?

CHARLES

Name one.

DANNY

John Belushi. Chris Farley. Phillip Seymour Hoffman.

CHARLES

Ok, but-

DANNY

River Phoenix. The guy from Kris Kross.

CHARLES

Danny, I survived the 80s. You're gonna have to trust me on this one. Now, come do some drugs with your dad so we can save Kate and Samantha from terrorists.

Danny shrugs - what else can he do?

DANNY

I just sniff it, right?

CHARLES

Watch.

Charles digs a little bit of coke out of the baggie with his credit card, inhaling.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
WHOOOOO there we go. Your turn,
sport.

Charles hands the baggie to Danny. He copies his dad, digging some coke out with the credit card.

DANNY
Father of the year, ladies and
gentlemen.

CHARLES
(sarcastic)
Oh, NOW you'll call me your father.

Danny flips him off, puts his nose down and SNIFFS.

DANNY
Holy shit, I get why this ruins
lives. I feel amazing! Should we
buy a speedboat?

TALL TERRORIST (O.S.)	SHORT TERRORIST (O.S.)
Charles?	Danny?

At the doorway, two TERRORISTS face them.

DANNY
Ahh!

Danny picks up the gun, EMPTYING THE CLIP into the ceiling.
As pieces of plaster rain down on them-

TALL TERRORIST
Wait!

The goons take off their masks, revealing-

DANNY	CHARLES
Kate!	Samantha!

DANNY (CONT'D)
We were just about to go upstairs
and rescue you!

KATE
Really? Because it looks like you
and your shit head dad are stuffing
your faces with coke.

DANNY

Well, yeah, but it's only to counteract the drugs we were injected with by that guy we killed.

KATE

You WHAT?

Charles goes to hug Samantha.

CHARLES

Samantha, thank God you're alive, I don't know what I'd do if-

She SLAPS him -

SAMANTHA

Charles Hayden! What did you get us all involved in?

INT. PINNACLE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Callum, pacing, picks up his radio.

CALLUM

Fionn, what's your status?

Nothing.

CALLUM (CONT'D)

Fionn?

No response.

CALLUM (CONT'D)

Respond, Fionn.

(sotto)

Damn it. This is all going to shit.

FITZ, gun drawn on the crowd of diners, glances over.

FITZ

Boss, what's the exfil plan if the helicopter's out of commission?

CALLUM

(annoyed)

I'm working on it.

Fitz nods to TOMMY to guard the group, then heads towards the women's bathroom.

CALLUM (CONT'D)
 Fitz! Use the men's. We're
 criminals, not savages.

FITZ
 No way. The women's is always so
 much nicer.

Fitz enters the bathroom, passing next to a standee for-
 RIDE THE DUCKS - BOSTON'S BEST TOURIST EXPERIENCE.

Callum grins, a plan formulating.

CALLUM
 Interesting...

INT. PINNACLE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Fitz pees, whistling. He finishes up, looks down at his
 zipper, and sees a FOOT poking in from the stall next to his.

FITZ
 What the-

He rushes over, kicking open the door. It's Aiden, stripped
 down to his underwear and unconscious.

FITZ (CONT'D)
 (shaking Aiden)
 Aiden! Aiden! Wake up!

Aiden stirs.

FITZ (CONT'D)
 What happened?

AIDEN
 The women. They're mine.

INT. SPORTS CLUB - NIGHT

Kate removes her disguise while Samantha glares at Charles.

SAMANTHA
 Who are these people?

CHARLES
 It's all a big misunderstanding.

Samantha winds up, SLAPPING Charles.

SAMANTHA

Charles Hayden, tell us the truth
right now or I swear to God I'm
leaving you.

Charles rubs his face, ashamed.

CHARLES

So...I've been keeping my company
afloat by offering stellar returns
to less than reputable clients by
paying out returns using money from
subsequent investors.

A beat.

DANNY

You're running a Ponzi scheme?

CHARLES

Ponzi scheme is such an ugly term.
I prefer "tiered investment
solution."

SAMANTHA

Oh dear God.

KATE

You ponzi'd money from terrorists?
Do you have a death wish?

Danny can't help but LAUGH.

DANNY

This whole time I was intimidated
by you, and it turns out you're
just Bernie Madoff with less hair.

KATE

Who did you steal from? The
Cartels? Yakuza? Russians? Those
are all the criminals I know from
TV.

CHARLES

Worse.
(a beat)
The IRA.

The others share confused looks.

DANNY

Like, a retirement account?

CHARLES

No. The Irish Republican Army.
They're kind of like a mafia mixed
with a paramilitary death squad.

DANNY

Oh. That's much worse.

SAMANTHA

How much of the death squad's money
did you steal, Charles?

CHARLES

About...seventy five million
dollars.

Shocked faces all around.

KATE

We're dead.

DANNY

I knew tonight was a terrible idea.
(wheeling on Kate)
You just had to meet Charles before
the wedding.

KATE

Because I thought he was an
asshole, not an international
criminal!

CHARLES

Technically, everything I did was
in the states, so that's a
misnomer.

Samantha SLAPS Charles again.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

I deserved that.

SAMANTHA

But why did you do this, Charles?
Why did you do something so
monumentally risky and stupid?

CHARLES

Because of you.

SAMANTHA

Excuse me?

CHARLES

Well, not because of you, but...
Samantha, I love you so, so much.
We both know you could have any man
you wanted, and I just wanted to
make sure I was able to give you
the lifestyle you were accustomed
to. I just...I didn't want to risk
losing you. I can't be alone again.

SAMANTHA

Charles, I love you for you, not
for your money. But putting us in
the crosshairs of a death squad is
a pretty goddamn huge violation of
trust!

Kate FIRES into the ceiling, getting everyone's attention.

KATE

Hey! Let's all just take a beat,
calm down, and figure out how to
get out of this situation. Ok?

She glances around the room at nodding heads.

KATE (CONT'D)

Where is the money, Charles?

CHARLES

It's on a hard drive hidden in my
office, converted into
cryptocurrency.

DANNY

Great, we'll pay the criminals in
Dogecoin.

CHARLES

But there's no way we can get up
there.

KATE

So our best bet is to find a way
out of the building, go straight to
the cops, and explain the whole
situation.

CHARLES

...No.

SAMANTHA

Charles!

CHARLES

Counter, I'll go to my attorneys who will find a way to convey this information to the government.

KATE

Good enough.

DANNY

How are we gonna get out of the building if they always seem to know where we are?

Charles has a realization.

CHARLES

The security cameras! That's how they've been tracking us.

DANNY

Then we've got to knock them out.

SAMANTHA

How do we do that?

INT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - SECURITY OFFICE - NIGHT

Rian watches the video feed as Sean picks through the helicopter wreckage.

RIAN

Boss wants that grappling cannon upstairs ASAP.

SEAN

(over radio)

Copy. What's the location of the Haydens?

Rian flips through video feeds, looking in vain for the Haydens.

RIAN

(sotto)

Where did they go?

CHARLES (O.S.)

Right here, chuckle fuck.

He turns to find Danny, Kate and Samantha holding their guns on him.

RIAN

Oh.

DANNY

You're the guy who's been watching us all night?

RIAN

I've watched the two of you barely escape death while arguing about absolutely nothing, yes.

Kate SMACKS him in the face with the butt of her gun.

KATE

That's called family.

CHARLES

(to Danny)

I like her.

DANNY

(to Charles)

I know, right?

Rian rubs his jaw, glaring at them.

CHARLES

Where are the controls for-

BLAMBLAMBLAM. Danny's gun shreds the security console.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

-The security cameras. Damn it, Danny!

DANNY

I didn't mean to! This thing just goes off on its own!

RIAN

Those were the controls for the security cameras.

CHARLES

Oh. I take it back. Good job, Danny.

RIAN

You really think my comrades are gonna let you walk out of here? You must be stupider than you look.

(MORE)

RIAN (CONT'D)

When this is over, you'll all be dead and I'll be walking away a free, rich man.

Kate SIGHS, aims at Rian's feet, and fires. He FLINCHES.

KATE

Then I guess we're gonna take you with us. Move.

DANNY

We're taking hostages now? Cool, cool.

INT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - HALLWAY - NIGHT

They walk Rian, hands and feet bound by extension cords, down the hallway, triumphant. Charles nods at Danny, who winks at his father. Kate and Samantha HIGH FIVE.

KATE

We did it! We're getting out of here alive!

SAMANTHA

After how terrible tonight was, what do you say we try getting dinner again? For real, this time.

KATE

I'd like that.

CHARLES

Let's pump the brakes a little bit.

DANNY

Yeah, I'll feel a lot more confident when we're outside.

RIAN

(sneering)

You'll die in this building. After all, why do you think we picked tonight?

DANNY

That's...a good question, actually. Why did this happen tonight? You guys could have just walked into Charles' office on a weekday, shot him in the face, then got your money back.

DANNY
Why would you do that?

CHARLES
I had to hide the money somewhere
no one would ever look while
maintaining access to it! And
stashing it in your trust fund was
a workaround. Also, surprise, you
have a trust fund.

Danny SHOVES Charles.

DANNY
You fucking pig! You put me in
danger! You put Kate in danger! And
for what? Fucking money?

Charles SHOVES Danny.

CHARLES
It's a lot of fucking money!

They're about to throw down. This is it. Gametime.

DANNY
You're a dead man-

KATE
Where did the guy go?

DANNY
What?

Rian is gone.

CHARLES
Ah, shit.

SAMANTHA
There!

She points down the hallway. Rian is shuffling away, hands
and feet still bound by the extension cord.

RIAN
Au revoir, Haydens-

KABLOOSH. Rian's head EXPLODES, his body dropping to the
ground.

A beat.

CHARLES/KATE/SAMANTHA
 Damn it, Danny!/Danny, you
 idiot!/Jesus, Danny!

DANNY
 It wasn't me this time! I swear!

CHARLES
 Then how did his head explode?

DANNY
 Probably those guys?

They turn to find Aiden, wearing a SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY GRANDMOTHER t-shirt but still without pants, leading two of his comrades towards the group. Their guns are raised, trained on the Haydens.

BLAMBLAMBLAM.

A burst of gunfire divides the group - Danny and Samantha taking refuge behind a kiosk on one side, Charles pulling Kate behind a wall on the other.

DANNY (CONT'D)
 Kate!

BLAM. A bullet snaps off the plaster an inch above her head. Charles grabs Kate, pulling her through the door of the NIGHTCLUB.

Aiden and his goons are gaining on Danny and Samantha, shooting wildly. Danny peers over the kiosk, lining up his shot, when-

THUD.

Blood pools on Danny's left sleeve. He drops down behind the kiosk, in shock.

DANNY (CONT'D)
 Did I just...get shot?

SAMANTHA
 Not too badly.

Blood SPURTS out.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
 ...Never mind.

Aiden is steps away now. They're done for.

DANNY

I don't want to die like this!

SAMANTHA

It's ok. We're going to make it.

DANNY

Really?

SAMANTHA

I mean, it's theoretically possible.

QUAIL (O.S.)

Coooooo!

Danny looks over at a heating duct - the QUAIL. Their salvation. He flops over, aiming the gun with his left arm, but Samantha puts her hand on the gun -

SAMANTHA

Give it here.

DANNY

You sure?

SAMANTHA

If I can hit a clay pigeon after drinking half a case of champagne at Joanna Gaines' baby moon, I can hit a heating duct.

DANNY

Kate's right. You are cool.

She aims carefully and, with pinpoint accuracy, SHOOTS the grate. They hold their breath.

Nothing happens.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Ah, c'mon.

PLINK. The grate falls, unleashing a TORRENT OF QUAIL onto the terrorists. Birds obscure the room as Aiden fires wildly.

AIDEN

Kill these fucking things!

By the time they clear, Danny and Samantha are GONE.

INT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Charles and Kate creep through the darkened nightclub.

KATE

Danny's right. You are the worst person I've ever met.

CHARLES

C'mon now, that's not fair.

KATE

You are definitely not invited to our wedding.

Charles reaches a light switch. He flips it - the club bursts into light.

It's not just lights - MUSIC and LASERS start blasting. Shit is PUMPING.

KATE (CONT'D)

Turn it off!

TERRORIST (O.S.)

In here!

KATE

Shit!

Charles grabs Kate, ducking behind the DJ booth.

CHARLES

We're cornered.

She peers over the DJ booth - spotting a big red button reading "FOAM."

KATE

I have an idea.

CHARLES

What?

KATE

You ever been to a foam party?

CHARLES

No.

KATE

You have now.

WHAM. She hits the button, causing torrents of FOAM to shoot out of pipes on the wall.

KATE (CONT'D)
(shouting)
Over here, dicknose!

The two terrorists enter the foam. Across the room, Kate and Charles sneak into the piles of bubbles.

INT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - CHEESECAKE FACTORY - NIGHT

Slumped behind the bar, Samantha patches Danny up with a napkin.

SAMANTHA
Sorry, this is the best I can do on short notice.

DANNY
Thanks for getting us out of there.

SAMANTHA
Oh, it's no biggie. We all know how terrible a shot you are.

DANNY
(laughing)
Yeah, I would have thought years of playing Xbox would have prepared me better.

SAMANTHA
Still, good idea to use those birds as a distraction.

DANNY
It was awesome, right?

SAMANTHA
It was.

DANNY
I guess...if I have to have a step mom, it's cool that it's you.

SAMANTHA
Ooo, "step-mom" makes me sound old. Maybe just call me "Samantha."

DANNY
I can work with that.

She smiles. Maybe they can be friends after all.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Ah!

Blood pours out from under the napkin.

DANNY (CONT'D)

It's bad, isn't it?

Samantha gingerly pulls his arm out, inspecting.

SAMANTHA

Well the good news, if you can call it that, is that the bullet went straight through.

DANNY

Oh, goodie.

SAMANTHA

Let me see if I can find a first aid kit.

Samantha departs. Danny grabs a bottle of liquor from above him, taking a sip.

INT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

EDM blasts as Kate and Charles slip and slide through the bubbles. They can make out two shapes in front of them. Kate stops Charles, motioning to them.

KATE

You take the left, I'll take the right.

Charles nods, stalking off to the left and disappearing into a column. Kate inches forward, closer and closer, then LEAPS-

-Onto a cardboard cutout of a smiling baseball player.

KATE (CONT'D)

Damn it!

A figure in the bubbles a few feet ahead of her raises something that looks suspiciously like a gun.

BLAM. Bullets CUT THROUGH THE FOAM. Kate runs and dives, sliding away from the gunfire.

FITZ (O.S.)

Did you hit her?

TOMMY (O.S.)

I don't-

CHARLES

Surprise, motherfucker!

WHAM. Charles tackles one of the terrorists (TOMMY), sending the both of them sprawling across the bubble-slicked floor. They grapple for each other, neither able to get a firm grip on the other.

Tommy gets the upper hand, flipping himself on top of Charles and WAILING on him.

TOMMY

This-

(punch)

Was-

(punch)

Supposed-

(punch)

To be easy!

Charles spits BLOOD in his face.

CHARLES

When it's me, it's never easy!

Charles ROLLS, tossing Tommy aside. It's quiet for a moment, before a HAND reaches in, dragging Charles away.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Ahhhh!

He passes through the bubbles, vibrating with the music and pulsating with light.

He reaches the edge of the dance floor, looking up at his captor-

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Kate?

KATE

Family doesn't abandon family.

She drags them to the DJ booth. Below them in the foam, two figures slowly approach. Kate looks to her left, grinning.

With a KICK, she knocks over a SPEAKER STACK into the foam, ELECTROCUTING THE DANCEFLOOR. The music hits a CRESCENDO. The lights BLOW OUT. The figures on the dance floor JOLT with electricity. After a moment, they fall with a thud.

CHARLES

Holy shit. Good work.

KATE

I couldn't let these assholes kill my future father in law. My fiancé would never forgive me.

CHARLES

Remind me never to get on your bad side.

INT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - CHEESECAKE FACTORY - NIGHT

Samantha walks back to the bar with a FIRST AID KIT.

SAMANTHA

Found this in the employee locker room, along with some very choice pornography.

She pops the box open, rummaging around.

DANNY

We shoulda come here instead.

SAMANTHA

The Cheesecake Factory?

DANNY

Yeah.

SAMANTHA

Why do you love this place so much?

DANNY

Whenever my mom and I would come downtown to visit Charles, he'd always be working late. So we'd come to the Cheesecake Factory. My mom would have a drink, I'd have some mozzarella sticks, we'd talk and catch up and she'd tell me stories and it was the best.

SAMANTHA

I get it. This place has a lot of meaning to you.

DANNY

She always made me feel warm and welcome. Plus, they make a heck of a milkshake.

SAMANTHA

Maybe that's why Charles avoided it
- specifically because he knows how
much it meant to you and your mom.

DANNY

I dunno.

SAMANTHA

Perhaps he knew how tonight might
go, terrorists aside, and didn't
want to taint your happy memories
of the place.

DANNY

I don't think Charles can be that
thoughtful.

SAMANTHA

Oh, you'd be surprised. When he
wants to be, Charles Hayden is the
an incredibly caring man.

DANNY

(rolling his eyes)
Sure.

SAMANTHA

Seriously! Our first date, he made
me feel like I was the only person
on Earth that mattered. And he
never stopped. But, you know what?
I kinda wish we'd come to the
Cheesecake Factory.

DANNY

I knew I liked you.

SAMANTHA

It would have been much better than
that brunch place in Beacon Hill.
It was sweltering. Who keeps the
heater on in October in Boston?

Something clicks in Danny's head.

DANNY

How long have you guys been
together?

SAMANTHA

5 years.

DANNY
Was your first date October 14th?

SAMANTHA
Ok, that's spooky. How did you know that?

DANNY
Because...

Blood drains from his face.

DANNY (CONT'D)
...You're the woman Charles went on a date with before we could even bury my mother!

SAMANTHA
(whispering)
Don't yell!

DANNY
(whispering)
I'm sorry! But I'm furious!

SAMANTHA
I didn't realize what was happening that day. But the Charles I met was so...vulnerable. And terrified. And lost.

DANNY
Yeah, because he was hadn't even laid his wife to rest!

Blood SEEPS out of his wound.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Damn that hurts!

Samantha presses gauze up to the bullet hole.

SAMANTHA
And I'm here to make sure you both get a fresh start. I want you to have a family, Danny. We both do.

DANNY
Yeah, sure.

SAMANTHA
I know it's not going to make up for everything, but...what if I got you some cheesecake?

Danny glares at her.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

I'm gonna get you some cheesecake.

She departs, leaving Danny behind the bar.

DANNY

It's not going to make up for what he did!

A beat.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Red Velvet if they have it, Oreo if they don't.

THUD.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Samantha?

He hears footsteps approaching. A figure turns the corner. Danny can tell by the hairy legs and bulge that it's definitely not Samantha. THUNK. Aiden KNOCKS DANNY OUT.

INT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Kate and Charles stagger through the hall, covered in bubbles. They've seen better days.

RING RING.

They look around, puzzled. All the SECURITY PHONES around them are ringing.

KATE

That's...good, right? Or terrible?

Shrugging, Charles picks up.

CHARLES

Hello?

CALLUM (O.S.)

Charles Hayden. So glad we could finally connect.

INT. CHARLES' OFFICE - NIGHT

Callum points his gun at Danny and Samantha.

CALLUM

We have your wife and son. If you would like them to continue to exist, please head up to your office. Right. Goddamn. Now.

INT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - HALLWAY - NIGHT

CLICK. Charles goes white as a ghost.

KATE

Charles? Where are they?

Charles looks up through a skylight towards the tower above them.

CHARLES

Up there.

INT. CHARLES' OFFICE - NIGHT

Callum puts down the radio, smiling.

CALLUM

Get ready.

Sean nods at Danny and Samantha.

SEAN

What about them?

CALLUM

They're bait. And after the transaction....dispose of them.

DANNY

We can hear you, you know.

CALLUM

Oh, yes. I was counting on that.

INT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Kate glances at Charles, who's SHELLSHOCKED.

KATE

Charles?

CHARLES

I never meant for anyone to get hurt.

(MORE)

CHARLES (CONT'D)

You're a bystander - you don't
deserve to be involved in all this.

KATE

I'm not a bystander. I'm family.
And family looks out for each
other, no matter what. Even if a
member of the family got tied up
with a well armed faction of the
Irish mafia.

CHARLES

What's the point? I fucked up, and
there's no way this ends well.
There's no one to blame but myself.

KATE

We can do this, Charles! We can
rescue Danny and Samantha! But if
we're going to do that, we need to
put our heads together and fucking
work together.

CHARLES

What if we do save them? Danny will
never forgive me. He already hates
me.

KATE

He doesn't hate you, Charles. If he
hated you, we wouldn't be here
tonight. If he didn't think your
relationship was worth salvaging,
then he wouldn't have tried! Your
son will die hating you if you
don't do anything. He'll live and
respect you if we save them. So,
what do you say, Charles?

Off Charles, contemplating.

INT. CHARLES' OFFICE - BULLPEN - NIGHT

DING. Charles and Kate step off the elevator, confident. Kate
smiles at Charles.

KATE

We got this.

Callum stands in the doorway of Charles' office, arms opened
wide.

CALLUM

Charles! So good to see you. And I see you brought this...lovely girl with you.

Aiden GRUNTS behind him.

CALLUM (CONT'D)

(to Aiden)

Easy there. You'll get your chance.

They enter the corner office. The air rifle from the helicopter sits on the desk. And for some reason, all the terrorists are in REPELLING GEAR. Even Aiden, though he's still pants-less.

Charles glares at them, defiant.

CHARLES

I might have done some pretty shitty things tonight-

DANNY

-More like my entire life-

CHARLES

-But that ends now. Take me and let them go. They're not part of this.

CALLUM

(chuckling)

You made them a part of this. I'm not going to clean up your mess for you. Now, if you'd like your son's brains to stay in his head, our MONEY, please.

Charles scans the room - he has no other option. He crosses the room, picking up the smashed framed photo of himself, his wife, and Danny.

DANNY

(sotto)

You kept the photo-

Charles CRACKS the frame, revealing a small external hard drive.

DANNY (CONT'D)

-Because that's where you hid the hard drive. ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

SAMANTHA

I think it's sweet Charles hid it behind your picture.

DANNY

Yeah, just like it was sweet for him to bring the woman he slept with before my mother's funeral to dinner.

SAMANTHA

Hey, I didn't sleep with him until two weeks after your mother's funeral. Nope, doesn't sound any better that way.

Charles tosses the hard drive to Callum.

CHARLES

Here. Take your money. It's all on here.

Callum grins, nodding to Nathan who pulls out a LAPTOP from one of the cases. As he plugs in the hard drive-

CALLUM

The eight digit passcode, please.

Charles looks around the room. All eyes are on him. He looks at Danny with COMPLETE LOVE, something we've never seen on his face.

CHARLES

0. 6. 0. 6. 1988.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

My son's birthday.

DANNY

The day before my birthday?

CHARLES (CONT'D)

What do you mean the day before your birthday?

DANNY

I know when my birthday is, and it's the goddamn seventh of June!

CHARLES

Oh. Well, I was close, wasn't I?

DANNY

That's it!

Danny smacks Callum's gun out of his face and RUSHES Charles.

CHARLES

What the-

WHAM. Danny SLUGS Charles.

DANNY

I've been waiting my whole life to do that you king sized donkey dick!

CHARLES

Watch your mouth you little punk! I brought half of you into this world and I can sure as shit take all of you out of it!

Aiden raises his gun, but Callum puts his hand on it.

CALLUM

Let them fight.

Charles TACKLES Danny. They roll around on the floor, taking out 30 years worth of RAGE. They roll into Sean's feet, knocking him down.

SEAN

Hey! Watch it!

Aiden and Nathan try sidestepping them, but there's not a lot of room in the office. Charles jumps off of Danny, taking a swing at Nathan! Now it's a full on, chaotic BRAWL.

Danny lunges for Aiden's feet. Aiden pivots, putting Danny in a leg-lock. His penis pops out of his underwear, gently resting gently on Danny's forehead.

DANNY

Get it off! Get it off!

Callum tries to line up a shot, but it's no use. This is pure, swirling chaos. He grabs the hard drive, picks the air rifle off the desk, and pulls the trigger.

PWOOMP. SMASH. The pneumatic cannon fires a GRAPPLING HOOK through the windows towards-

EXT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - DUCK BOATS - DAY

The sidewalk next to the DUCK BOATS. Their way out.

INT. CHARLES' OFFICE - NIGHT

Danny slams Aiden into his desk, sending a letter opener SLIDING towards Kate and Samantha. Kate grabs it, turning on Sean.

KATE
Hey, asshole!

Gunner turns towards her!

KATE (CONT'D)
Don't get...stabbed...shit!

She STABS Sean in the leg.

KATE (CONT'D)
I had something but just lost it.

He reaches down, PULLING the letter opener out of his leg and advancing on Kate.

SAMANTHA (O.S.)
Have a nice fall.

SEAN
(confused)
It's May.

WHAM. Samantha KICKS Sean out the window. He plummets to his doom, landing with a small SPLAT.

KATE
God DAMN you're cool.

Callum takes aim at Danny, but Danny ducks, sending Callum's shot directly into Nathan's gut. Nathan slumps to the floor, dead.

Charles grabs Nathan's gun, aiming it at Callum, who grabs Samantha as a human shield. Aiden has his gun trained on Kate. Danny, not wanting to feel left out, picks up the broken picture frame like a bat. They're at a standoff.

CHARLES
Let them go.

CALLUM
Put down the gun.

CHARLES
Never!

Callum nods at Aiden, who attaches himself and Callum to the steel cable.

CALLUM
Goodbye, Haydens.

And with that, Callum and Aiden grab Kate and Samantha and ZIP-LINE down the cable towards the duck boats.

KATE
Danny!

DANNY
Kate!

Danny and Charles rush to the window - they're too late.

DANNY (CONT'D)
We've got to go after them.

Charles, quieter than we've ever seen him, holds the smashed picture of himself, Danny, and Elizabeth.

CHARLES
You're right Danny.

DANNY
Great, so we'll go downstairs and-

CHARLES
No, you're right about what happened. At the funeral. When your mom died, my world collapsed. So I did what I always did. I tried to move on.

He reaches down to Nathan's body, pulling off his harness.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
I get that it wasn't the RIGHT thing to do and it wasn't the right TIME to do it, but I had to do it to escape despair. I'm not sorry I met Samantha, but I am sorry I didn't do more to make you feel like I was still your dad.

He slips the harness on, facing Danny.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
Family is everything, and it took me way too long to figure that out.

Danny looks embarrassed.

DANNY

I'm sorry too. I shouldn't have acted the way I did. For what it's worth, I always knew there was a guy in there worth saving.

CHARLES

Really?

DANNY

Yeah, dad.

CHARLES

(sotto)

He called me dad.

Charles attaches the harness to the steel cable, reaching out his hand.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Let's go save the women we love.

DANNY

(admiring)

Charles Fucking Hayden.

Danny peers over the edge - even several stories lower, it's still an impossible distance. But what other choice does he have? He bear-hugs Charles.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Don't drop me.

CHARLES

Promise. One. Two.

Charles LEAPS forward, sending them shooting down the zip-line.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Threeeeeeeee.

EXT. DUCK BOATS - NIGHT

Aiden straps the women into the tourist vehicle. Callum looks up, grin turning into a frown.

CALLUM

Unbelievable.

Charles and Danny are ZIPPING after them, SCREAMING at the top of their lungs.

AIDEN
They don't know when to quit.

KATE
(grinning)
No, they don't.

Callum jumps in the drivers seat, turns over then engine, then peels out.

EXT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - NIGHT

Danny and Charles glide down, still screaming, surrounded by city lights. It'd be beautiful if it wasn't so terrifying.

INT. PINNACLE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The diners are tied up, looking bored. Through the glass behind them, we see Danny and Charles flying through the night sky.

SAXOPHONE PLAYER
Do...you think they just forgot
about us?

Karleigh SHRUGS.

KARLEIGH
At least we're getting OT.

EXT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - NIGHT

A hundred feet off the ground. The harness LOOSENS. Looks like it wasn't meant to support the weight of two grown men.

DANNY
Charles!

CHARLES
Stay with me, Danny!

Twenty feet.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
Almost there-

SNAP. The harness SPLITS, dropping a screaming Danny and Charles through a SKYLIGHT onto-

INT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - T SHIRT KIOSK - NIGHT

They roll away, shirts having broken their fall.

DANNY

Damn it!

They look around - back inside the mall.

CHARLES

How the hell are we getting out?

Danny look around, eyes resting on their salvation. As he grins-

DANNY

I know exactly how.

INT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - HALLWAY - NIGHT

A TESLA whips around the corner, destroying kiosks and information stands as Danny gets up to speed, Charles grinning beside him.

DANNY

Whoooo!

They approach the STEEL GATES.

CHARLES

This thing's not going to be able to take down those gates.

DANNY

That's not the plan.

He veers off to the side, aiming the car towards an embankment and LAUNCHING IT THROUGH A PLATE GLASS WINDOW.

EXT. PRUDENTIAL CENTER - NIGHT

The car hangs in the air. Danny screams. Charles covers his eyes. A flock of QUAIL flaps around them. Then - BAM. They hit the street, hard.

The car rolls to a stop.

DANNY

We made it-

BLAM. The airbags deploy, then recede, leaving the powder-covered Danny and Charles looking stunned.

DANNY (CONT'D)
I think I broke my nose. For real,
this time.

CHARLES
Is the car still drivable?

Danny dries the accelerator. The car LURCHES forward.

DANNY
Yeah.

CHARLES
Then gun it.

They take off down the street, chasing the Duck Boat.

EXT. BOSTON STREETS - NIGHT

They maneuver the car behind the speeding duck boat.

CHARLES
Pull up next to them. I can get out
and jump to the boat.

DANNY
I have an even better idea.

He puts on AUTOPILOT. The car maintains speed behind the former military vehicle.

DANNY (CONT'D)
We're going together.

Charles climbs onto the hood.

CHARLES
Steady. Steady.

They're inches away. Charles LEAPS, landing on the back ladder.

Up front, Callum looks in the rear view mirror, spotting the car.

CALLUM
Haydens!

He turns on the PROPELLER, which spins menacingly towards Danny. It's inches from liquifying him when he JUMPS-

-And catches Charles' outstretched hand! The propeller pulverizes the hood of the Tesla, sending it careening into a lamppost.

INT. DUCK BOAT - NIGHT

Danny and Charles peer over the stairwell, staring straight at-

-Aiden's bulge.

DANNY

Ah, crap.

Aiden YANKS Danny up into the boat, laying a beating on him.

CHARLES

Leave my son alone you Gaelic
Winnie the pooh!

Charles LAUNCHES over, landing on Aiden's back. They struggle with him as the amphibious boar CAREENS towards a pier.

Up front, Samantha and Kate are stashed behind Callum, holding on for dear life.

SAMANTHA

We've got to help them!

Kate has an idea.

KATE

Cover your eyes.

SAMANTHA

Oh no.

KATE

Oh, yes.

Kate pulls out the PEPPER SPRAY, just enough for one last squirt.

At the back of the boat, Aiden gets the upper hand on Danny and Charles. He rears up, grabbing his pistol.

AIDEN

Any last words?

KATE (O.S.)

Yeah.

He turns towards Kate and Samantha.

KATE (CONT'D)

Put on some goddamn pants!

Kate SPRAYS him in the face. Aiden SCREAMS as Samantha hits him with a right hook, sending his handgun flying. Aiden reels back, witnessing the combined power of Kate, Samantha, Charles and Danny. It's impressive.

AIDEN

You people are animals.

CHARLES

Wrong.

DANNY

We're family.

Kate and Samantha KICK Aiden, KNOCKING HIM OFF THE BOAT. His body crashes to the street, disappearing in the darkness.

KATE

WOW that felt good. Which wave of feminism is kicking a pants-less terrorist off a speeding aquatic truck?

SAMANTHA

Fifth, I think.

BLAM. They look around, reacting to the gunshot.

DANNY

Everyone ok?

SAMANTHA

Yeah.

KATE

I'm fine.

CHARLES

What?

Charles turns, revealing his EAR'S BEEN SHOT OFF.

DANNY/KATE/SAMANTHA

Holy shit!/Oh my God!/Charles!

CHARLES

What? I can't hear you!

They all mime touching their ears. Charles follows suit.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

My ear! My beautiful ear!

CALLUM (O.S.)

Haydens!

They turn to see Callum pointing a gun at them from the driver's seat.

CALLUM (CONT'D)

This was supposed to be easy! We were supposed to be in and out without any complications!

DANNY

Sorry, pal. Family is complicated.

Callum fires, barely missing Danny's head. The bullet smacks into the FUEL TANK, setting off a jet of flames from the middle of the boat.

The boat JOLTS, barreling towards the end of the pier.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Hold on!

WHUMP. The boat SLAMS off the pier, dangling over the water. Callum is THROWN to the deck, gun flying into the water.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Get to the back! We've got to balance it out!

KATE

Are you sure that'll work?

DANNY

This is, like, the second time this has happened to us tonight!

They make their way to the back of the duck boat, trying to use their weight to land it back on the pier.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Kate! Samantha! The boat's gonna blow! Jump off!

KATE

What about you guys?

CHARLES

Don't worry about us, just jump.

Samantha catches Charles' eye.

SAMANTHA

Charles. I love you.

CHARLES
 (grinning)
 Love you too.

They JUMP, rolling on the ground. But their weight offset sends the boat rolling closer to the water. It's nearly vertical now. Danny clings onto a seat.

DANNY
 Hold on!

CHARLES
 I'm slipping!

Danny lunges to grab Charles, but misses. They slide down, landing on the critically injured Callum on the windshield. The glass SPIDERWEBS, moments from cracking.

CALLUM
 If I die, you die with me!

Callum KICKS the glass, BLOWING OUT THE WINDSHIELD.

CHARLES
 Danny!

DANNY
 Dad!

He grabs Charles' hand, bracing himself against the driver's seat and holding on for dear life. Charles sees the HARD DRIVE resting on a piece of metal inches away. He tries grabbing it, but SLIPS in Danny's hands.

DANNY (CONT'D)
 Let it go, Charles.

CHARLES
 It's 75 million dollars!

DANNY
 You have your life, you have your son - you don't need the money, Charles. You're not going to be alone any more.

Charles looks at his son. He's right. He glances at Callum.

CHARLES
 Hey, asshole. Fetch.

Charles BANGS the boat, sending the hard drive falling off the metal ledge.

Callum reaches out to grab it, LETTING GO OF CHARLES' LEG. He slides off the boat, hitting the water. The boat LURCHES.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Danny!

Danny HEAVES, swinging Charles into the water. It gives one more fatal LURCH. Danny LEAPS, splashing down next to his dad. Underneath the dangling boat, Callum bobs up, holding the hard drive in TRIUMPH.

CALLUM

I did it! I won! I-

CREAK. WHUMP. The duck boat FLIPS, landing directly on Callum. The impact ignites the rest of the fuel tank.

BLAM. The boat explodes, sending pieces of Callum's body around Boston harbor. The water is still for a moment. No signs of life. SPLASH. Danny and Charles break the surface, alive! They CHEER.

DANNY

We did it!

CHARLES

We-

(dawning on him)

-lost 75 million dollars. But we're alive!

DANNY

Dad? There's something I'd like to ask you.

CHARLES

Anything, buddy.

DANNY

Would you and Samantha come to our wedding?

CHARLES

Wouldn't miss it for the world.

They HUG as flashing lights and sirens let us know that emergency services are on their way.

INT. WEDDING - CEREMONY - NIGHT

OFFICIANT

I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may now kiss each other!

Danny and Kate are married! In the audience, Charles and Samantha cheer. Kate's dad leans to her mom -

DOUG

So, when do we give him his half of the bill?

INT. WEDDING - RECEPTION - NIGHT

People laughing. Dancing. Jumping in a bounce house. Danny and Kate, devouring the CHEESECAKE FACTORY catering, completely in love at the sweetheart table.

CLINK CLINK CLINK. Charles (with his surgically repaired ear) stands, readying his toast.

CHARLES

Hello, everyone. You may not know me, but I'm Charles, Danny's father.

Cheers from the other guests.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

It took a lot for us to get here tonight. But I just wanted to say, I couldn't be prouder of the two people sitting here before us tonight. Kate, you're one of the strongest women I've ever met. It's an honor to have you join the family. And Danny...

He dabs his eyes with a tissue.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

I your mother would be so proud of the man you've become. I know I sure am. Love you, Danny

DANNY

Love you too, dad.

MUSIC BLASTS. Everyone's dancing, having the time of their lives. It's absolute bliss.

EXT. WEDDING - NIGHT

Outside the wedding, a BLACK VAN pulls up. Aiden, face deformed by hitting the asphalt in their previous encounter, steps out with a new gang of Terrorists. Looks like it's round two.