THE McCARTHYS

"Pilot"

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. RONNY AND JACKIE'S SECOND FLOOR APARTMENT - (DAY 1)

RONNY McCARTHY (late 20s, tall, neurotic) sits on his sofa watching *The Sound of Music*. His father, ARTHUR McCARTHY (60s, tall, not always politically correct), sits at the other end of the sofa reading *The Boston Globe*. Arthur looks up and sees Julie Andrews on screen wearing a big floppy hat and carrying a weird shaped bag--a valise.

ARTHUR
Is that Mary Poppins?

RONNY
(torn, then)
Yes.

They watch for a bit.

ARTHUR
Is she Mary Poppins in this?

RONNY
(firmly)
No.

They watch a bit more.

ARTHUR
Well, I like her gym bag.

MARJORIE McCARTHY (50s, loving, exhausted, no filter) enters wearing a nice black dress. She watches Julie Andrews on TV.

MARJORIE
(to the TV)
That's right, Maria, run back to the nunnery. Why should you take care of Christa-fah Plummah's kids?
(to her husband)
Ar-tha, why are ya up here in Ronny's apahtment? The wake's in an hour.

ARTHUR
I was reading Fatty's obituary. *The Globe* <u>actually</u> called him James 'Fatty' McFadden.
(sweetly)
He would've liked that.

MARJORIE
Ronny, I need your rent. Also, we're gonna miss *The Solver* when we're at the wake, so VCR it.

RONNY
I thought you hated *The Solver*.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. ARTHUR AND MARJORIE'S LIVING ROOM - LAST WEEK

Marjorie and Ronny watch TV. Maura Tierney is on screen.

MAURA TIERNEY
(putting down a folder dramatically)
I solved it.

MARJORIE
(yells at TV)
I solved it! That's your catchphrase?! You're an embarrassment, Maura Tierney!

BACK TO:

INT. RONNY AND JACKIE'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

MARJORIE (CONT'D)
Hey, you and I gotta watch somethin' on Friday nights. Is *The Solver* as good as *The Closer*? No. It's offensive to Kyra Sedgwick to even ask that. But *The Closer*'s ovah, and we have to move on!
(then)
God, I miss it.

RONNY
About Friday nights--.

MARJORIE
Where's Jackie? Need her rent.

RONNY
She's trying on dresses.

They hear a HOWL OF RAGE from one of the bedrooms.

ARTHUR
Sounds like they fit.

A smoke alarm goes off downstairs.

MARJORIE
Oh shit, the baked potatoes.

Marjorie exits. JACKIE McCARTHY enters from her bedroom. She's late 20s, overweight, and swings wildly from overconfidence to insecurity. She's also desperate for attention, which may explain her VERY SPARKLY DRESS.

JACKIE
(looking for a fight)
Don't staht with me! This dress is perfectly appropriate for a wake! I'm dressed to CELEBRATE Fatty's life! It's a pahty for the dead! It's a jazzy remembrance!
(can't keep it up)
It's the ONLY DRESS THAT FIT!
(angry at the world)
I HATE EVERYTHING!

Jackie sits between Ronny and Arthur on the sofa. She takes the remote and switches from the movie to a basketball game.

RONNY
Dad, I guess we'll continue our in-depth discussion of the film later.

ARTHUR
(already into the game)
What? Huh? Oh. I'm good.

SEAN McCARTHY (early 30s, dim, tall, chubby) comes down from the third floor apartment. He's a former star athlete, but the only thing he's maintained is his upbeat attitude. Right behind him is GERARD McCARTHY (30, competitive, very short). He's the one little guy in the family and <u>mad</u> about it.

SEAN
(noticing the game)
That center's like a young me.

GERARD
Sean, that center's like you if you were black, a hundred pounds lighter and actually knew how to pass the ball sometimes.

SEAN
(sincerely)
Gerard, I couldn't pass to you in high school because the bench was out of bounds.

Gerard is pissed. Marjorie returns and looks at her family.

MARJORIE
(to herself, weary)
God, I've got a lotta kids.
(then, louder)
We're going to a wake. We don't have time to watch basketball!

ARTHUR
Fatty was my assistant coach for nineteen years. Watching basketball is how we honor him.

JACKIE
I can't believe he's dead!

Jackie starts sobbing.

GERARD
Jackie! It's not a competition to see who can be saddest!

MARJORIE
Oh, Jackie. Cheer up. At least you're presenting at the Academy Awards. Apparently.
(then)
I need everyone's rent please.

Gerard, Sean, and Jackie hand her checks.

RONNY
I have an announcement.

People split their attention between Ronny and the game.

RONNY (CONT'D)
Seeing our old friend Fatty die so suddenly has reminded me that life is short. And I think I've been in a real rut for a while now. So I've decided to make a serious effort to get a boyfriend.

Jackie mutes the TV. Everyone's listening now.

RONNY (CONT'D)
Instead of watching *The Closer*, I want to go out and be A Closer.

SEAN/GERARD
Ronny, no./ We <u>hate</u> wordplay.

RONNY
Good feedback. Thanks. I'll miss that kind of support because I'm giving my thirty days notice. I'm moving out.
(off their shocked looks)
Living in a three decker with all of you, while delightful, will not help me find a guy. I mean, what do I do if I meet someone? Parade him past all of you?

SEAN
(sincerely)
You guys do love to parade.

Ronny looks at his mother, who seems particularly shocked.

MARJORIE
You're still gay?

RONNY
What? Yeah. I came out like two years ago. Don't you remember?

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. ARTHUR AND MARJORIE'S LIVING ROOM - TWO YEARS AGO

MARJORIE
Wow. That's big news. Should we have a highball?

RONNY
Okay, but isn't 10 AM a little early for whiskey?

ARTHUR
We didn't judge you.

BACK TO:

INT. RONNY AND JACKIE'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

MARJORIE
Well, of course I remember. But since that day, we've never met anyone you've dated. So I didn't know if you were still pursuin' it.

RONNY
Um. Yup. Still giving it a go.

MARJORIE
(not pleased)
And I guess that means cutting all ties with your family. How nice.

RONNY
No! I just spend so much time with you guys that I'm starting to feel like I'm...theoretically gay. As opposed to actually gay.

They all stare at him.

GERARD
Fun fact. Saying "theoretically gay" made you sound actually gay.

SEAN
Which was your goal!

JACKIE
So now you don't have to move out!

SEAN
He's staying! Yay!

Ronny's siblings start clapping and chanting.

SEAN/GERARD/JACKIE
Ronny! Ronny! Ronny!

Arthur joins in without really knowing why he's doing it.

RONNY
(yelling over the chant)
No! I'm not staying! Guys, this is not a cogent argument! You're just clapping and repeating a word!

They continue chanting anyway.

MARJORIE
(to Ronny)
You're tearing this family apart.

Off Ronny's stressed out look...

FADE OUT.

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. BACKYARD BASKETBALL COURT - LATER

Sean, Gerard, Jackie, and Ronny play basketball in their fancy wake clothes. Ronny has the ball. Sean defends him.

RONNY
I don't even want to play!
(yelling while shooting)
This is a nightmare!

Marjorie comes outside, still upset that Ronny's moving out.

MARJORIE
Ronny, that court's for tenants only!

RONNY
Oh no! Don't take away basketball! The thing I love least in the world.

GERARD
Mom, we can take one car because Katrina's not coming to the wake.

Everyone badly feigns disappointment.

GERARD (CONT'D)
She doesn't like funeral homes.

EVERYONE ELSE
(mumbling)
She doesn't like anything.

GERARD
DON'T mumble about my wife!

JACKIE
We're gonna be late. Where's Dad?

MARJORIE
On the phone. Apparently, someone named Darryl Silver's moving here from New York and considering playing for your father's team.

JACKIE
(so excited)
Darryl Silver! DARRYL SILVER!

SEAN
He’s a high school All American!

GERARD
Darryl Silver could win Dad’s team their first state championship!

RONNY
No one throws a three seconds hail mary foul shot like Darryl Silver!

Ronny’s siblings stare at him.

GERARD
You’re just trying to be dumb.

SEAN
(impressed)
He almost used “hail mary” right.

JACKIE
He only knows that one because he had a crush on Doug Flutie.

Ronny nods because she’s right. Arthur comes outside.

ARTHUR
It’s between me and two other schools! Darryl’s mom’s calling me later with her decision!

JACKIE/GERARD/SEAN
Darryl Silver!/ He dominates the boards!/ His threes are legendary!

RONNY
(trying to join in)
His name is...fun too.

ARTHUR
Oh Man, I wish Fatty were here. I always thought I’d hand my dynasty off to him when I retire next year.

Marjorie pats Arthur’s back (The McCarthy version of a hug).

ARTHUR (CONT’D)
I guess I’ll have to hire my new assistant-slash-successor soon. But, hey, you don’t talk about that stuff on the day of a man’s wake.

SEAN/GERARD/JACKIE
Right./ No./ It’d be inappropriate.

The three of them bow their heads solemnly. Then...

SEAN/GERARD/JACKIE (CONT'D)
(fighting to say it first)
I'm your guy!/ Pick me!/ I WANT IT!

INT. FAMILY CAR - LATER

The whole family's in the car. Arthur drives.

ARTHUR
Well, the A.D. did say it was up to me. And I would like to pass my dynasty off to a McCarthy.

MARJORIE
Pick Jackie then. She's dressed like she's on *Dynasty*.

Jackie scowls.

RONNY
You know, my tenth grade class is reading *King Lear* right now, and I gotta say, this situation is very *King Lear*. A father passing on his kingdom. His children fighting.

Ronny's siblings stare at him.

SEAN/JACKIE/GERARD
Thanks Ronny./Good tidbit./Perfect time for Shakespeare.

MARJORIE
Ronny, don't interrupt your siblings attempts to become more involved with their family.

SEAN
Dad, as a two-time *Boston Globe* All Star, I just wanna remind you that I was a two-time *Boston Globe* All Star. Also, I'm not a screamer like Gerard is with your JV team.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. SCHOOL GYM - LAST YEAR

A ninth grader on Gerard's team shoots an air ball from the foul line. Fans yell, "Shake it off" and "Good try."

GERARD
THAT'S WHY YOU PLAY JV!

Everyone is shocked and looking at Gerard, who repeats...

GERARD (CONT'D)
THAT'S WHY YOU PLAY JV!

BACK TO:

INT. FAMILY CAR

GERARD
Sean, you're too OUT OF SHAPE to yell! You had to take a rest while you were getting INTO THE CAR!

JACKIE
Dad, forget those two. I've coached at all your summer camps, and I'm a cable access celebrity!

MARJORIE
And, Jackie, how many times have you been fined for swearing when announcing the games on cable?

JACKIE
(mutters angrily)
Only two BLEEP times.

MARJORIE
Wow. You are a real lady, Jackie. To think I named you after Jackie Kennedy. Which is possibly the real reason that family is cursed.

JACKIE
You can't pin John John on me!

Sean, Gerard, and Jackie start yelling over each other.

ARTHUR
Hey! If you all don't shut up, none of you are getting the job!

An awkward silence fills the car. Jackie starts crying.

MARJORIE
Don't waste it on us, Annette Bening. Save it for the wake.

Ronny laughs.

MARJORIE (CONT'D)
Don't laugh at my jokes, Ronny.

RONNY
Don't make Annette Bening jokes that only appeal to your gay son.

GERARD/JACKIE
Uch. Again?/ We get it, Ronny! You're gay!

INT. FUNERAL HOME MAIN ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Like most Irish-American wakes in Boston, Fatty's is loud and feels like a party. Fatty's body is in what looks like a double wide open casket, and there's a basketball in his dead hands. The McCarthys wait to sign the guest book. Sean and Ronny are next to each other at the end of the line.

SEAN
Ronny, I'm actually really proud of you for trying to meet someone.

RONNY
(touched)
Thanks.

SEAN
I mean, if you want some penis, you gotta work for it, right?

RONNY
(uncomfortable)
Right. That is what I always say...and how I always phrase it.

SEAN
Hey. Here's some now.

Sean indicates a handsome FUNERAL DIRECTOR, who stands near the guest book. Sean walks up and starts signing.

SEAN (CONT'D)
(to Funeral Director)
Hey, I'm Sean. And this is my brother Ronny, who was just saying how <u>handsome</u> you look in that black suit. Once you go black right?

Sean smiles and walks away. Ronny is mortified.

RONNY
I'm sorry. That expression is not about suits. He's insane. I did not say any of that.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR
(smiling)
Even the handsome part?

Ronny looks surprised and then smiles too.

ANGLE ON:

Arthur talks to some other coaches, including JOHN COLWELL (a typical Boston asshole).

JOHN COLWELL
It's a shame Fatty never lived to see you coach a team all the way to the state title, Arthur. But then again, I guess it would have been impossible for him to live forevah.

The other coaches laugh. Arthur tries to laugh too.

JOHN COLWELL (CONT'D)
And this is your <u>last</u> chance at a title before you retire. Maybe you should try to get Darryl Silver.

ARTHUR
(covering)
He's great, but he lives in New York. Hey, if we're putting together a fantasy team, let's go all the way with it. I want Bird, and Jordan, and Catherine Zeta Jones.

JOHN COLWELL
Arthur, I know you're trying to get Darryl. I also know that Darryl's gonna play for me at St. Barnabus. But, hey, I'll tell him you're interested. Maybe he's got some sort of state-championship-phobia.

The others laugh.

ARTHUR
(seething, but covering)
Well, Coach Colwell, today's about grieving, not recruiting.

Arthur walks solemnly over to Fatty's casket. When he kneels to pray, his cell phone rings, and he answers immediately.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Mrs. Silver? No, no, perfect time!

Arthur walks outside hoping for good news about Darryl.

ANGLE ON:

Ronny's still talking to the Funeral Director, who's smiling.

RONNY
(flirtatiously)
I'm going to write my number in the guest book here, oh, just because.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR
(looks at it, puzzled)
Wait. Does your whole family all really live at the same address?

RONNY
Oh, yeah, but, um...I'm moving out real soon. And the only reason we've all stayed there is because we all teach or coach at the high school down the street. So it's super convenient.
(off his look)
I guess the main thing though is that I'm moving out real soon.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR
It seems...kind of...creepy.

RONNY
Wow. So you...
(gestures to casket)
...think I'm creepy.
(picks up pen again)
Okay, I'm gonna write the word "irony" in the guest book. Because it did just pay us a visit.

Ronny tries to march off dramatically but ends up knocking over a photo collage of Fatty. Marjorie approaches and helps Ronny put it back on the stand.

RONNY (CONT'D)
Thanks, Mom.

MARJORIE
(sad)
Happy to help. Might be the last thing we ever do together.

RONNY
Here we go.

MARJORIE
“Gay sons are the best.” Your Aunt Katie told me that when you were four years old and playing with a doll. She said, “He’s a little weird, sure. But he’ll take care of you when you’re old. And some of them even like to iron.” Well, Aunt Katie was full of it. You never did my ironing. And now this.

RONNY
Aunt Katie drank perfume.

MARJORIE
I just can’t believe you’re moving out. It’s appropriate that we’re at a wake. We can mourn both Fatty ...and my happiness. Now that my favorite son is abandoning me.

RONNY
Jesus. Who’s Annette Bening now?
(then)
And why are we using her name this way? She’s a very nuanced actress!

They see Arthur return and walk to the front of the room.

ARTHUR
Excuse me, everyone. If I could have your attention for a minute. I wanted to say a few words about Fatty McFadden.

The crowd quiets down, comforted by someone eulogizing Fatty.

ARTHUR (CONT’D)
He and I worked so well together that we only ever fought about one thing. Why he was called Fatty. He thought it was a nickname for McFadden. I thought it was for other reasons.

The crowd laughs.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
Reasons that cause a 44 year old man to have a heart attack.

No one laughs. Most grimace. Marjorie shakes her head.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
But as big as Fatty's ass was, his heart was even bigger. And he always rooted for the underdog. The fact that our team won the league every year but never won a state title drove him crazy. And I hope he's looking down and listening right now because we're gonna win that title this season-- for him. And, in fact, I just got some very exciting news. Darryl Silver will be playing for our team this year.

Some people in the crowd buzz with excitement. Others wonder why this eulogy has become a press conference.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
And the person I think should be my new assistant and help me get that title is someone Fatty would definitely approve of.

Sean, Gerard, and Jackie all look hopeful.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
He's a real underdog, and the best man for the job. My son Ronny!

Everyone is stunned, especially Ronny.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
In fact, I'd like to give Ronny the basketball Fatty's holding as a symbol of the passing of the guard.
(after Funeral Director whispers in his ear)
But it's glued, so we can't.

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. ARTHUR AND MARJORIE'S FAMILY ROOM - LATER (NIGHT 1)

All four siblings are yelling at Arthur.

GERARD/SEAN/JACKIE
Ronny?!/ Seriously!/ Why not pick Mom?!

RONNY
I don't want this job, Dad! And I'm not even remotely qualified!

JACKIE/GERARD/SEAN
Yeah!/ See!/ He's a dummy!

MARJORIE
(calmly sipping a highball)
This is fun.

ARTHUR
It's a surprising choice, but Ronny knows the players from teaching at the school, and more importantly, he thinks like a winner.
(off their dubious looks)
When Ronny wants something, he goes after it. Like this whole try-to-find-a-boyfriend thing.

JACKIE
What?! Ronny is terrible at finding boyfriends, and he'll be even worse at coaching!

RONNY
Well, I'd say it's probably a tie.

ARTHUR
I think you three are being offensive to Ronny.

SEAN
We're not saying a gay man can't coach basketball. We're saying Ronny can't coach basketball.

GERARD
We're not offensive to gays,
Ronny's offensive to basketball.

RONNY
And even if I were interested, I'd still say no. I've got to focus on more important goals. I need love and passion in my life way more than I need a coach job.

JACKIE
Seriously?! Who says "coach job"?

GERARD
Who says "passion"?!

SEAN
Who says "if I were"?

ARTHUR
Ronny, the choice is yours, but I'd love to spend more time with the son I know the least.

RONNY
(surprised and moved)
Really? You would?

Father and son share a rare real moment.

JACKIE/SEAN/GERARD
Gross./ What is happening?/
Suddenly we have emotions?

ARTHUR
Just don't say no yet, Ronny.
Sleep on it.

RONNY
(after a beat)
Okay. I'll think about it.

SEAN/GERARD
WHAT?/ THIS IS CRAZY!

JACKIE
I think I'm gonna throw up.

No one believes her. Marjorie rolls her eyes.

GERARD
Oh, we're doing drama? Here's some more! I quit as JV coach!

Gerard storms off. Everyone is silent.

MARJORIE
Jackie, look what you did.

JACKIE
I didn't EVEN DO ANYTHING!

Jackie's so mad she throws her purse at the wall hard.

MARJORIE
See. I knew you'd do something.

INT. RONNY AND JACKIE'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON 2

Sean and Gerard enter. Ronny is dressed up. Jackie looks like shit and sits on the sofa in her robe.

SEAN
So you slept on it, Ronny. Are you taking the coaching job or not?

GERARD
Ronny, you DON'T KNOW BASKETBALL! When we were talking about the '86 Celtics, you started yappin' about a wheelchair kid from *Glee*!

RONNY
For the millionth time, THAT ACTOR's NAME IS KEVIN McHALE! I GOT CONFUSED!

SEAN
Wait, Ronny, why are you all gussied up?

JACKIE
He's going to a gay bah happy hour.

GERARD
So you stole a job from us and now you're celebrating! Real nice!

SEAN
(considering the phrase)
"Gay bah happy hour." You know what's fun? Gay and happy mean the same thing, so you could also call it, "Happy Bah Gay Hour."

GERARD
Sean, that's NOT FUN! Focus!

RONNY
What if I did coach with Dad? What do you care, Gerard? You're a great coach! Go get another job!

GERARD
(as if he's been insulted)
What the hell does that mean? I'm a "great coach".

RONNY
Okay. We should really be nicer to each other if we can't even recognize a sincere compliment.

SEAN
Gerard, now he's saying you can't even recognize stuff.

RONNY
(to Gerard)
Remember when I was still playing junior high hoop, and I was afraid of the ball.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. ARTHUR AND MARJORIE'S DINING ROOM - 17 YEARS AGO

Young Gerard holds a basketball and talks to Young Ronny.

GERARD
We're going to play Dangerous Catch!

RONNY
But Mom's Waterford crystal and hummels are in here.

GERARD
THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED DANGEROUS CATCH!

Gerard whips the ball at Ronny, who screams.

RONNY
But they're so valuable!

Ronny miraculously catches the ball. He's amazed.

BACK TO:

INT. RONNY AND JACKIE'S LIVING ROOM

GERARD
That was fun back then. Being taller than you.

RONNY
Gerard, you found a strategy--terror--that helped me catch the ball. You're a good coach, and there are other people in the world who'll see that besides Dad.

GERARD
(touched but covering)
This time you said "good coach." Last time you said "great." Why the change?

SEAN
Hey, Ronny, what about me?

RONNY
Sean, a wise man once said to me, "If you want some penis, you gotta work for it."

SEAN
I don't know, Ronny. Penis just ain't for me.

RONNY
I'm saying figure out what you want and go do something to get it!

Sean mulls that over and nods. He and Gerard start to leave.

RONNY (CONT'D)
Hey, guys! All that stuff I just said was sort of like coaching. Maybe I really could be good at it.

Gerard and Sean look at Ronny. It's as if they're seeing him for the first time. Then...

SEAN
No. You'd be bad at it.

They start to exit.

SEAN (CONT'D)
(to Gerard)
It's cute. He wants to be like us.

GERARD
(frustrated)
There is no US.

SEAN
We're practically roommates.

GERARD
We are NOT ROOMMATES! I live with my wife, and you live in the creepy attic room above us! Which my wife does NOT like.

SEAN
(mumbling)
Your wife doesn't like anything.

GERARD
MUMBLING DOESN'T WORK IF YOU DO IT RIGHT NEXT TO ME!

They exit. Ronny looks at Jackie, who does a slow clap.

JACKIE
(dramatically)
Well, you've fixed their problems, but I bet you can't help me, Oprah.

She starts sobbing and won't stop. Ronny puts on his coat.

RONNY
I'm going out to look for love tonight, and no family drama is going to stop me!

Jackie runs to the bathroom. Ronny hears her throwing up.

RONNY (CONT'D)
Not even that. Not even really loud vomiting.
(then)
Wow, that's loud.

SMASH TO:

INT. RONNY AND JACKIE'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jackie leans over the toilet as Ronny enters with Marjorie.

RONNY
There's actually been more crying than vomiting. She won't tell me what's wrong.

MARJORIE
(whispers to Ronny)
I'll get it out of her.

Marjorie starts rubbing Jackie's back.

MARJORIE (CONT'D)
(with a Southern accent)
That's it, darlin'. Get that nasty old poison out. And I'll get you a long, cool glass a ginger ale.

RONNY
(sotto)
A Southern accent? Oh my God. Are you trying to be *The Closer*?

Marjorie shushes him.

MARJORIE
(Southern accent)
What confuses me, Jackie, is why--.

JACKIE
(blurts)
I'm pregnant with Fatty's baby!

Marjorie and Ronny stare at each other in shock.

RONNY
Wow. That accent really works.

MARJORIE
You slept with Fatty McFadden?!

JACKIE
Yes! He was my lover!

Marjorie and Ronny wince. Jackie sobs even louder.

MARJORIE
Stop crying and tell me what you're going to do about all this!

JACKIE
I have no idea! It's just a big mess! And the worst thing is...

MARJORIE
What?! WHAT'S WORSE THAN THIS?!

JACKIE
I just...I know I won't be nearly as good a mother as you were.

Marjorie is stunned. She can barely speak.

MARJORIE
You thought I was a good mother?

JACKIE
I mean you're tough. Sure. But, yeah, I think you're great.

Marjorie considers this for a moment and then says...

MARJORIE
Once again, you've made a huge mistake. You said you won't be a good mother, but you will. 'Cause I'm gonna help you with the baby.

JACKIE
Oh my god! Really?!

MARJORIE
(wary)
Yes.

JACKIE
Oh thank you! Thank you!
(hugging her, then)
But can we please wait to tell Dad?

MARJORIE
Gladly.

The three of them look at each other.

JACKIE
If Fatty was here, he would thank you both. He was respectful. As a man and a lover.

RONNY/MARJORIE
(standing up)
I'm out./ Gotta go.

INT. STAIRWELL IN GROUND FLOOR HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Marjorie heads downstairs. Ronny comes out of his apartment.

RONNY
You were really great with Jackie.

MARJORIE
Well, I'm surprised she even needed her mother.

MARJORIE (CONT'D)
Most people don't seem to these days. Most people just move out.

RONNY
(fed up)
Hey! Everyone always needs their mother! And they especially need her when they're trying something new, like finding a boyfriend!

MARJORIE
Well, I don't know how to do that!

RONNY
Well, neither do I! So maybe try to help me figure it out! Be like Maura Tierney and crack the case! Then you can say, "I solved it!"

MARJORIE
I will NEVER say that! It is a TERRIBLE catchphrase!

Arthur comes out of his apartment.

ARTHUR
What the hell is going on?

RONNY
(pointing at his father)
Dad thinks I can make changes in my life. Why can't you be like him?

MARJORIE
Oh you guys are close now? He says you can coach and suddenly you're Lloyd and Jeff Bridges?!

RONNY
Yes we are! And why is that your example?! You know what, Dad? I officially accept your offer to be assistant coach!

MARJORIE
You can't do that! It's crazy!

RONNY
I <u>can</u> do that, Mom! And it's <u>not</u> crazy! Why wouldn't I spend more time with Dad? He thinks I'm a winner! He makes me believe I can have it all! A guy, my own apartment, <u>and</u> a coach job!

RONNY (CONT'D)
Might even get some new sweaters or lamps! I don't know. This is just off the top of my head! But it's all because my dad believes in me!

ARTHUR
Ronny, stop pickin' on your mutha! She's not the bad one! I am.

Marjorie and Ronny both look confused.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
(very uncomfortable)
I do believe in you, Ronny, but the truth is...Darryl Silver's mother is a lez. And she wants her son to play at a school that's tolerant and gay friendly. When I told her my gay son was my assistant...she said Darryl would play for me.

Marjorie and Ronny are both shocked. Ronny turns to Arthur.

RONNY
So basically you just used me.
(getting more upset)
Let me say this so you understand.
(yelling like a ref)
Foul!

Before Arthur can apologize or explain that Ronny was making the "time out" gesture instead of the "foul" gesture, Ronny storms off. Marjorie looks at Arthur for a long time.

MARJORIE
Just a heads up. Not sure the tolerant folks are saying 'lez' these days.

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. ARTHUR AND MARJORIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 2

Marjorie reads in bed. Arthur enters looking sad.

ARTHUR
All my kids hate me. This whole situation really is like *King Lear.*
(off her dubious look)
Going through a tough time. You couldn't just let me have that one?

MARJORIE
I'm sorry. And no, I couldn't.

ARTHUR
Ronny won't talk to me, and Jackie seems even more bizarre than usual.

MARJORIE
(lying for Jackie)
Oh, Jackie? No. She's always been that bizarre. When she was born, the doctor was like, "It's a girl. And she's bizarre." That's just Jackie.

ARTHUR
You're right. What about Ronny?

MARJORIE
I'll try to think of a way we can make him forgive us. But he's pretty upset. It won't be easy.

She goes back to her book. Suddenly she puts it down. A plan has come to her. She grabs the phone.

MARJORIE (CONT'D)
(excited)
I gotta call Jackie! And Sean and Gerard! I solved it!
(then)
Damn it! Why would I ever say that?

INT. RONNY'S BEDROOM - NEXT AFTERNOON (DAY 3)

Jackie enters and sees a grumpy Ronny in bed with his laptop.

JACKIE
Ronny, get up!

RONNY
No!

JACKIE
You've been in here for almost twenty-four hours! I'm taking that laptop. Porn won't help!

RONNY
It's *Grey's Anatomy*.

JACKIE
That's even worse. Now get up!

RONNY
NO!

She drags him out of bed and throws him into the hallway.

RONNY (CONT'D)
What the hell?

JACKIE
I'm crazy strong from the baby hormones. Cool, right?

INT. STAIRWELL IN GROUNDFLOOR HALLWAY - LATER

Jackie steers a surprised Ronny to their parents' apartment.

RONNY
Liar! You said we were going out!

JACKIE
Out to Sunday dinner.

RONNY
No!

Jackie pushes him to her parents' door.

RONNY (CONT'D)
God, you <u>are</u> strong.

Marjorie opens the door.

MARJORIE
Thank you, Jackie. You can go in.

Jackie makes sure Ronny isn't leaving, and then enters.

MARJORIE (CONT'D)
(looking guilt-ridden)
I need to apologize. I understand why you wanna move out. It's just...I'm gonna miss you. A lot.

Ronny softens.

MARJORIE (CONT'D)
I also know that I haven't been supportive enough of your efforts to meet someone. None of us have. And we hope this makes up for it.

INT. ARTHUR AND MARJORIE'S FAMILY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Marjorie leads Ronny into the family room.

MARJORIE
(proudly)
We made you a gay bah!

Ronny's shocked because there <u>are</u> some gay people there.

MARJORIE (CONT'D)
Look at all your options!

Ronnie looks more closely and realizes that his options aren't great. Jackie brings over an average guy (TOMMY).

JACKIE
Ronny, you remember my junior prom date Tommy O'Gara? Tommy's gay now! Yeah. Little bit of false advertising back in the day for old Jackie. Ha ha.
(then)
Seriously, Tommy, that's a crappy thing to do to a girl. I chipped in for a party van. I mean, c'mon.

Gerard brings over an IRISH GUY (30s, tall, plain, intense).

GERARD
Here's mine. Declan from Galway. Irish accent. Sexy right?

IRISH GUY
I need a green card.

RONNY
Wait. That doesn't make any sense. Are you even gay?

IRISH GUY
I'll do what it takes.

Marjorie grabs Ronny and introduces him to a GROSS LIBRARIAN.

MARJORIE
Your father and I wanted you to meet Mr. Brown from the library.

GROSS LIBRARIAN
(condescendingly)
I already have a partner.

RONNY
Um. Okay.

GROSS LIBRARIAN
But I did bring you some books on homosexuality. Think you'll enjoy.

Ronny sees *Menage: Party for Three*. The librarian nods.

RONNY
Oh, thanks, but I don't read... scary books.

Sean walks over with his offering.

SEAN
Lesbian. Best I could do. I work at a lot of basketball camps. These are the gays I meet.

INT. ARTHUR AND MARJORIE'S DINING ROOM - LATER

This whole motley crew sits at the dining room table.

JACKIE
(flirty, to Tommy)
Tommy, there's something still here, right? Or am I crazy? Also, do you like kids?

RONNY
(to Irish Guy)
You know gay marriage isn't legal yet, right?

IRISH GUY
I'll wait.

ARTHUR
(raising a glass)
I just want to welcome our guests and say how glad I am that all of my children are here.

People clink glasses and drink. Ronny does not. He's still pissed at his father. Arthur notices this and looks sad.

GERARD
I have news! But first, apologies. My wife Katrina feels bad that she couldn't make it tonight.

SEAN/RONNY/JACKIE
Oh./ Well./ She should never feel bad about that.

GERARD
(too excited to notice their sarcasm)
Now the news! I was inspired by some stuff Ronny said, so I followed up on a job I heard about at the wake, and I'm proud to say that I will be assistant coach to John Colwell at St. Barnabus!

People ad lib congratulations. Gerard looks at Arthur.

ARTHUR
Working for my arch rival? Wow.
(then, sincerely)
Good for you, Gerard.

Before a surprised Gerard can respond, Sean stands up.

SEAN
Well, also inspired by Ronny, I made some calls too, and, I will be the JV coach at St. Barnabus!

People ad lib congratulations.

GERARD
Are you KIDDING me?! No! NO!

ARTHUR
Colwell's buildin' a real brain trust over there. Good work, Sean!

SEAN
Thanks, Dad! Gerard, we're gonna be roommates and workmates!

GERARD
WE ARE NOT ROOMMATES!

While Gerard yells, Jackie sees the lesbian talking to Tommy.

JACKIE
Hey, Tommy's mine. Back off, slut!

SEAN
Jackie! Don't call her that!

ARTHUR
And don't call her a lez.

JACKIE
I'm sorry! I'm emotional!
Because--
(dramatically)
Because I was Fatty McFadden's
lover! And I'm carrying his child!

SEAN/GERARD
No!/ Gross.

A shocked Arthur looks at Marjorie.

MARJORIE
(badly feigning surprise)
What?!

ARTHUR
Jackie, please tell me this is a
joke! Fatty was my friend. You're
my daughter! He would never!

JACKIE
He would always!

ARTHUR
He wouldn't!

JACKIE
He would!

GERARD
So you were really Fatty's <u>lover</u>?
Like an ongoing thing or once?

JACKIE
That is NONE of your business!
(then, immediately)
Once! Fine! Are you happy now?!
Once after the Hyde Park game!

SEAN
That was a great game! I would have slept with Fatty that night.

RONNY
(standing up)
THIS SEEMS LIKE THE PERFECT TIME FOR A TOAST! Or maybe the worst time, but let's see what happens. Raise your glasses, people! To my sister, Jackie! For providing the world with another McCarthy!

Jackie scowls.

ARTHUR
Here here.
(off Jackie's surprised look)
I don't know what "here here" means, but I'm gonna be here for you. Here here for you.

SEAN
Careful, Dad. Wordplay.

Jackie tears up, very grateful to her father.

JACKIE
(overwhelmed, crying)
Ronny, do some more toast!

RONNY
Yes! Okay, um, a big congrats to my brothers on their new jobs!

Sean pats Gerard's head. Gerard slaps his hand away.

RONNY (CONT'D)
And to all of you, for giving me a gay bah. Or what you think a gay bah is. Which is maybe not this. And though I don't think there are any matches here--

GROSS LIBRARIAN
You're no prize yourself.

RONNY
Wow. Okay. All feedback is useful. What I'm trying to say though is that I really appreciate the effort.

MARJORIE
(lying to mend fences)
The gay bah was actually your father's idea.

Ronny looks at Arthur, who refuses to lie to his son again.

ARTHUR
It was your mutha's idea. But it was a good one.

RONNY
(touched by his honesty)
Well then...thanks to all of you.

Everyone clinks glasses and drinks.

SEAN
Hey, Ronny, since there are so many great things happening around here, maybe you shouldn't move out.
(starts a chant)
Ronny! Ronny! Ronny!

Marjorie, Arthur, Gerard, and Jackie join in.

EVERYONE
Ronny! Ronny! Ronny!

RONNY
(yelling over chant)
Again! Not the most articulate argument! Seriously, it's just clapping and repeating my name!
(after a beat, hiding how much he's enjoying it)
Okay! Fine! I'll stay a <u>little</u> while longer!

The family claps and cheers. The Irish Guy stoically tries to kiss Ronny, who assures him he doesn't have to.

EXT. BACKYARD BASKETBALL COURT - LATER

The party has transformed into a very strange pick up basketball game. Ronny walks over to Arthur who's watching.

RONNY
Wow. The librarian's playing?

ARTHUR
Yup. It's three on three, and he told me he's great in a threesome.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
He also gave me a book.
(off Ronny's smile)
Ronny, I'm sorry about everything. You don't have to coach with me. I'll make do without Darryl Silver.

RONNY
(touched by his dad's vulnerability)
You know what? I'll do it.

ARTHUR
Hey! Really?! That's great!

Arthur beams while he and Ronny watch the game for a bit.

RONNY
I think Gerard should pretend to shoot and <u>then</u> pass to Sean under the hoop. Then Jackie's prom date wouldn't keep blocking his shots.
(off Arthur's look)
Hey, after all these years, I've picked up <u>some</u> basketball knowledge. Just through osmosis.

ARTHUR
You <u>have</u> been pretending to be dumber than you are about sports!

RONNY
Yes, sir, I have!

ARTHUR
Ha! So you really do know what three seconds means!

RONNY
Yes, sir, I...actually don't. Sorry. Hey, it's just osmosis. There are huge gaps.

ARTHUR
You know, osmosis has worked for me too. That's why I know so much about Judy Andrews movies.

Ronny smiles. In the game, Gerard throw an alley-oop to Sean. The brothers high five and talk trash to the librarian and Tommy. Marjorie and Jackie join Arthur and Ronny.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
Jackie, I need a JV coach. And I was really hoping to find a pregnant lady. Any interest?

JACKIE
No thanks! I'm gonna be spending Friday nights with my Mom!

Jackie looks thrilled. Marjorie takes a big sip of wine. When Jackie joins the game, Ronny turns to Marjorie.

RONNY
You know, Mom, this whole dating thing...I just want to find what you and Dad have.

MARJORIE
(surprised)
Well, Jesus, Ronny, I hope you can do better than that.

ARTHUR
(laughs, then)
You know, Ronny, I think you're gonna be a pretty good coach.

RONNY
Really?

ARTHUR
Yeah. 'Cause a coach has to see the whole court and what every player needs, and you already kinda do that with all of us. You're good at seeing what we need.
(then)
You're good at a lotta stuff.

Ronny is very moved. He goes to hug Arthur, who looks startled. Ronny pulls back at the last moment.

RONNY
I was going to hug you, but I could see that you did not need that.

ARTHUR
(nodding)
Good eye, Ronny. Good eye.

FADE OUT.

END ACT THREE

TAG

INT. ARTHUR AND MARJORIE'S FRONT DOOR - LATER

Marjorie stands at the door as Ronny leaves.

MARJORIE
Goodnight, Ronny. You're my favorite.

CUT TO:

INT. ARTHUR AND MARJORIE'S FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Marjorie stands at the door as Sean leaves.

MARJORIE
Goodnight, Sean. You're my favorite.

CUT TO:

INT. ARTHUR AND MARJORIE'S FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Marjorie stands at the door as Gerard leaves.

MARJORIE
Goodnight, Gerard. You're my favorite.

CUT TO:

INT. ARTHUR AND MARJORIE'S FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Marjorie stands at the door as Jackie leaves.

MARJORIE
Goodnight, Jackie.

And she closes the door.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW