THE MISTAKE

"Pilot"

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TEASER

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. NICE RESTAURANT - NIGHT (NIGHT 1)

JEFF AND GAIL O'DONNELL (MID-40'S, BLUE-COLLAR) SIT AT A TABLE WITH THEIR DAUGHTER, GRETCHEN (24, PUT-TOGETHER, WEARING A SMART PANTSUIT). JEFF RAISES A GLASS.

JEFF

I want to toast Gretchen on her big, new job. It feels like yesterday that I was rocking my little girl to sleep. And now, here she is -- a consultant. A consultant!

GAIL

Amazing. (GENUINELY CONFUSED) Do you know what that is?

JEFF

No idea! Kid grows up, gets a job Dad doesn't understand -- it's the American Dream. (THEN) To Gretchen. You make us proud.

VOICE (O.S.)

Ahem.

JEFF TURNS. WE REVEAL THEIR SON, MAN-CHILD KYLE (21), ALSO AT THE TABLE.

JEFF

(DEEP, CLEANSING BREATH) Yes?

KYLE

Aren't you going to toast me, Dad?

JEFF

The toast was for her. (PATS HIS ARM) If it helps, when I finish the bottle, it will be because of you.

GAIL

No, he's right, tonight's been all about Gretchen. Kyle, how's senior year going?

KYLE

What, I'm supposed to perform now? At the drop of a hat? I'm not Jay Leno!

JEFF

To Kyle! (RAISES GLASS) I don't understand you.

A WAITER DROPS OFF THE CHECK. JEFF GOES FOR IT.

GRETCHEN

(GRABS CHECK) No, Dad. You've done so much already. Let me.

A BEAT. JEFF IS FLOORED.

GAIL

Are you crying?

JEFF

Don't call attention to it.

CUT TO:

SCENE B

EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER (NIGHT 1)

JEFF AND GAIL WALK TO THEIR CAR, IN GREAT SPIRITS.

GAIL

How adorable was she in her little pantsuit? When I was her age, it was all halter tops and mini-skirts.

JEFF

(REMEMBERS FONDLY) You were trashy. (LOOSENS TIE) Hon, the finish line is in sight. Gretchen's in the city with her big job, Kyle graduates college in June, then it's time for us to sow or reap, whichever the easy one is.

GAIL

I can't believe it's finally happening.

JEFF

Now it's about us. You got your degree, you're gonna start teaching. Friday afternoons I'll pick you up in a car that is not the mini-van, we'll head for the shore...

AT THEIR MINI-VAN BOTH GO FOR THE PASSENGER SIDE AND COLLIDE.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Wait, where are you going?

GAIL

The... place the drunk people sit.

JEFF

Me, too. Huh.

GAIL

Yeah, you seemed too happy. (THEN)

I'll be fine in an hour, let's walk it

off.

JEFF

(GETS IDEA) We could. (SUGGESTIVE)

Or...

HE SLIDES OPEN THE BACK DOOR, AND RAISES AN EYEBROW. SHE SMILES. FREEZE FRAME. THE TITLE APPEARS: "THE MISTAKE".

MAIN TITLES: CLOSE ON: THE BACK WINDOW OF A MINI-VAN. WE SEE OLD, PEELING STICKERS, STICK FIGURES REPRESENTING A MOM, A DAD AND TWO KIDS. THEN A FIGURE OF A **NEW BABY** IS SLAPPED ON.

FADE OUT.

ACT ONE

SCENE C

FADE IN:

ART CARD: "ONE MONTH LATER"

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY (DAY 2)

GAIL SHOWS JEFF AROUND HER NEW CLASSROOM. THE CHAIRS ARE IN A SEMI-CIRCLE.

GAIL

(EXCITED) See? No more rows. The kids sit in a horseshoe.

JEFF

I don't understand -- how do you cheat?

GAIL

(NOTICES) Are you chewing gum?

SHE HOLDS OUT HER HAND. JEFF PUTS HIS GUM IN HER PALM.

JEFF

(IMPRESSED) You are ready for your first day.

HE KISSES HER AND EXITS. KIDS FILE IN. A CELL PHONE RINGS.

GAIL

Okay, kids, I hate to be the heavy so early, but no cell phones in class.

STUDENT

That's yours.

GAIL

Ah. (ANSWERS PHONE) Hello? ... Hi, Doctor Whitney. I can't really talk right now. ... (FACE FALLS) What? I'm what? That's impossible, I'm old. (ON A DIME) You checked it three times? Well, that's insulting.

THE SCHOOL BELL RINGS. GAIL IS FRAZZLED.

GAIL (CONT'D)

I've got to go. (HANGS UP, RUNS TO DOOR, CALLS) Jeff! Jeff!

NO RESPONSE. PANICKED, SHE SENDS HIM A TEXT.

GAIL (CONT'D)

(TO SELF) Can't deal with this now. Focus. (TO STUDENTS, COMPOSED) Good morning, class. My name is (WRITING ON BOARD) Mrs. ... O... Don-nell.

SHE TURNS TO FACE THE CLASS.

STUDENT #2

Why did you write "Mrs. Pregnant"?

REVEAL THE BOARD. SHE HAS IN FACT WRITTEN THIS.

GAIL

Okay, you need to raise your hand -- the horseshoe is not a free-for-all!

JEFF APPEARS IN THE WINDOW OUTSIDE. GAIL TURNS TO THE CLASS.

GAIL (CONT'D)

This will take just a sec. (TEACHER VOICE) Please open your books -- any book -- and memorize page seventeen.

GAIL RUSHES TO JEFF AT THE CLOSED WINDOW.

GAIL (CONT'D)

(MIMES BELLY, MOUTHS) I'm <u>pregnant</u>.

JEFF

(MISUNDERSTANDS, HANDS WIDE) Fat? <u>No</u>. (THEN) Okay, a little. (MIMES) We'll start running!

GAIL

(MOUTHS, FRUSTRATED) No, I'm <u>pregnant</u>.

JEFF

(NOT UNDERSTANDING) What?

STUDENT #2 JOINS HER AT THE WINDOW.

STUDENT #2

(LOUDLY TO JEFF) She's pregnant.

GAIL

(TO CLASS) That's it! Everybody back in rows!

JEFF REACTS, STUNNED, AND WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE D

INT. O'DONNELL HOUSE - LATER (DAY 2)

WE ARE IN A MODEST, WORKING CLASS HOME IN A JERSEY SUBURB. JEFF AND GAIL SIT IN SHOCKED SILENCE.

GAIL

It's just... I can't... Our plans...

JEFF

I had all these parts saved from old jobs, I was gonna turn the kids' rooms into a home theater...

GAIL

I just started my new career.

JEFF

I was gonna start wearing Hawaiian shirts.

GAIL

That was never gonna happen. (THEN) This is crazy. At my age? The doctor said the odds are like winning the lottery.

JEFF

Call me crazy, I would have chosen lottery.

GAIL

Can we do this? I'm scared, Jeff.

JEFF SEES HE'S NEEDED. HE HAS TO FIX THIS.

JEFF

(FIRM) We can do it. And it's going to be great. I'm gonna make sure it's great. (STANDS, MASSAGES HER BACK) I'll stock the fridge with your favorite foods, get you one of those belly pillows, and do a better job pretending to listen to you.

GAIL

I remember this -- Pregnancy Jeff. You get really protective and supportive. (THINKS) Why aren't you just that way all the time?

JEFF

(SHAKES HEAD) Not sustainable. Like fossil fuels.

GAIL

I remember when I was having Gretchen and that horrible nurse wouldn't give us a private room. Pregnancy Jeff yelled and got us that room. It was the moment I knew it was okay that you had accidently gotten me pregnant.

JEFF

(SMILES) And here we are again. (GRABS FRAMED PHOTO) Look at this. You and baby Gretchen.

GAIL

But I'm so young there. I look like Angelina Jolie.

JEFF

(SUPPRESSES LAUGH) Yes. Yes you do. (THEN) But you're not just young. You're happy. You will be happy.

GAIL

And we can do it? The money?

JEFF

Let me worry about that. We'll manage. What's gonna make you happy? You wanna tell the kids?

GAIL

That could be nice. (THINKS) We should go to the same place we told Gretchen I was pregnant with Kyle.

JEFF

You just want ice cream.

GAIL

Like, this minute or I'm gonna die.

CUT TO:

SCENE E

INT. SIR SCOOPS-A-LOT ICE CREAM PARLOR - LATER (DAY 2)

GAIL AND JEFF SIT AT A TABLE WITH GRETCHEN AND KYLE.

JEFF

We called you here tonight with some pretty big news. Your mom and I --

GRETCHEN

Are getting divorced. We know.

GAIL

What?! Why would you think that?

GRETCHEN

It's okay. People grow apart. You stayed together for the kids, now you can drop the ("cha-RAD") charade.

KYLE

(TO GAIL) I have somebody fantastic to set you up with.

GAIL

We're not getting divorced.

GRETCHEN

Then what are we doing at Sir Scoops-a-Lot? This is where every parent in the "Three Towns" takes their kids to break the news.

JEFF

Look, your mother and I love each other very much and --

GAIL

(BLURTS) We're having a baby! Yay!

THERE'S A STUNNED SILENCE.

KYLE

You're having a baby <u>and</u> you're getting divorced? Who's the baby gonna live with?

JEFF

There is no divorce! (THEN) It's pretty exciting, huh?

GRETCHEN

But you guys were at the finish line. The average cost of a baby over its lifetime is $300,000. Not including --

GRETCHEN (CONT'D)

-- college, or a cost of living increase. Even if you amortize it --

KYLE

Blah, blah, blah. I'm Gretchen. Numbers, numbers. I'm perfect. Toast me.

GRETCHEN (CONT'D)

Seriously? (POINTS TO KYLE) You're gonna have another one of these? (THEN) I just realized something. People are gonna think it's my kid and you're, like, raising it for me or something. (BEAT) You know what? That's better. Let's just tell people that's what this is.

KYLE

(REALIZATION) Oh, my God. This explains everything.

JEFF

What does it explain exactly?

KYLE

I'm a middle child. It's why I lack direction, why I can't form lasting relationships, my brushes with the law...

JEFF

We haven't even had the baby yet.

KYLE

It's <u>always</u> about the baby. I'm a person too!

GAIL

We thought you'd be happy for us.

KYLE

Please. I'm sick to my stomach.

A WAITER PUTS A GIANT SUNDAE IN FRONT OF KYLE. HE DIGS IN.

KYLE (CONT'D)

(MOUTH FULL OF ICE CREAM) You want happy? Go tell Mee-Maw and Paw-Paw.

CUT TO:

SCENE H

INT. SIR SCOOPS-A-LOT ICE CREAM PARLOR - LATER (DAY 2)

JEFF AND GAIL HAVE JUST SHARED THE NEWS WITH GAIL'S PARENTS, KINDLY-LOOKING MEE-MAW AND PAW-PAW (70'S).

PAW-PAW

Are you crazy?

MEE-MAW

You're just so old.

GAIL

You, too?

JEFF

Come on, guys. You are such super grandparents.

PAW-PAW

We were super grandparents. The best. We crushed that bitch.

MEE-MAW

We just watched The Entourage. Your father really liked it.

PAW-PAW

Your kids pee-ed and pooh-ed on every inch of our condo and we loved it. But that day is done. The next diaper that gets changed is gonna be mine. Have this kid, but we are no longer Mee-Maw and Paw-Paw. I am Steve and this is Rachel.

JEFF

But it's good news. A baby. It's exciting. Joyous!

MEE-MAW

Were you trying?

JEFF

What are we, idiots?

PAW-PAW

Well, at least we finally all got to go to Sir Scoops-a-Lot. Not bad.

MEE-MAW

Your father and I almost brought you during the bicentennial when he slept with his secretary, Rita.

PAW-PAW

(REMEMBERING) Rita.

GAIL

Rita? Gross.

JEFF

Come on, people. Can't we find <u>something</u> nice to say?

MEE-MAW

Well, I'm happy. I thought this was going to be about taking my car away.

GAIL

Oh, that meeting is coming.

JEFF AND GAIL GET UP TO GO AND WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE J

INT. CUSTOMER'S HOUSE - NEXT DAY (DAY 3)

JEFF AND HIS BEST FRIEND, KEITH (SHAGGY, 49) WEAR MATCHING UNIFORMS AS THEY INSTALL A HUGE TV IN A NICE HOME THEATER.

JEFF

You know what I like best about installing an eighty-six inch TV? They're coming out with a ninety-two inch next year. (TO TV) Don't get too comfortable, buddy.

KEITH

I gotta ask, when you and Gail were having sex, did you ever stop to think about me?

JEFF

More of a role-playing thing. She's you. I'm a veal parm from Solly's.

KEITH

What about our plans? Me and Erica were excited to travel with you.

JEFF

We still can.

KEITH

Yeah? We getting that cabin next summer? With a two-week-old? That sounds great, but I think I'm gonna ask my dentist to do some voluntary root canal.

JEFF

Look, this is not what I thought I'd be doing either. But right now, Gail is super-fragile about the baby and I am doing everything I can.

KEITH

Pregnancy Jeff?

JEFF

He rides again: I'm giving massages... watching "Scandal"... telling her she's prettier than the "Scandal" Lady. I even made an appointment with our old OB, Dr. Lexington.

KEITH

Sexy Lexy?! I swear Erica only got pregnant again so he could examine her more. (THEN) You do realize your friends -- all of us -- we've stopped having sex because of you guys.

JEFF

(THINKS) I'm okay with that.

KEITH

(SHRUGS) Yeah, me too.

AND WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE K

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - LATER (DAY 3)

JEFF AND GAIL WAIT FOR THE DOCTOR. GAIL SMILES.

JEFF

I knew seeing Doctor Lexington would make you happy. (BEAT, NOTICING) Did you put on lipstick?

GAIL

Don't be silly. (THEN) Gosh, look at that view.

AS HE TURNS, GAIL SPRAYS A CLOUD OF PERFUME, THEN LEANS INTO IT. DR. LEXINGTON ENTERS. VERY OLD AND VERY BALD.

DR. LEXINGTON

Well, it's been a looong time.

GAIL

Ahhhh! (SOTTO) What happened? What did that old man do to Dr. Lexington?

JEFF

I'm not gonna lie. Part of me is really happy about this.

DR. LEXINGTON

Great to see you again... (SQUINTS) Mr. and Mrs. Ibrahim.

GAIL

We're the O'Donnells. You delivered our kids, Gretchen and Kyle back in the nineties? When you had hair?

DR. LEXINGTON

Right, the O'Donnells. Sorry, the eyes aren't what they used to be.

NOT WHAT GAIL WANTED TO HEAR.

JEFF

(TRYING) But when you're delivering a baby, everything just kicks into gear.

DR. LEXINGTON

Hear? No, hearing isn't too good either. (REACHES INTO DRAWER) Would either of care for an animal cracker?

HE STRUGGLES TRYING TO OPEN A BAG OF ANIMAL CRACKERS.

DR. LEXINGTON (CONT'D)

Hard to get these open and get one out (TRIES) Ugh-ugh. (TRIES) It's stuck. (TRIES) I thought I had it. (TRIES) I can't seem to get it out.

HIS STRUGGLES ARE MAKING GAIL VERY UNCOMFORTABLE. IT'S AS IF SHE IS THE BAG, AND HER UNBORN CHILD THE CRACKER.

DR. LEXINGTON (CONT'D)

It's a slippery sucker. (TRIES) Okay, I got it.

GAIL

(TO HEAVENS) Thank you, God!

DR. LEXINGTON

Whoops, I broke its neck. Chopped the head clean off.

GAIL

This isn't going to work.

DR. LEXINGTON

And I tore the bag. Yikes.

GAIL

I'm outta here.

GAIL QUICKLY EXITS. DR. LEXINGTON DOES NOT NOTICE.

DR. LEXINGTON

(TO JEFF) Alrighty, Mrs. Ibrahim,

let's get you up in those stirrups.

JEFF HEADS OUT, AND WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE M

INT. O'DONNELL HOUSE - LATER (DAY 3)

GRETCHEN, KYLE, MEE-MAW AND PAW-PAW ARE THERE. JEFF ENTERS.

JEFF

Good, you're here. We need to talk.

KYLE

Now you're getting a divorce?

JEFF

Enough! Look, I need you to get on board. Gail needs you. She's supported you all through things far more stupid than us having a baby. Gretchen, your figure skating lessons come to mind. Kyle, your figure skating lessons really come to mind.

KYLE

Maybe if I hadn't inherited your weak ankles...

JEFF

Starting now, no more cracks. I want smiles, excitement... It shouldn't be hard! It's a baby -- babies are good!

KYLE

Hitler was a baby. You're saying Hitler was good?

JEFF

Provocative as always. (HANDS BOX)
And we need room for the baby, so take this stuff to your dorm or chuck it.

KYLE

I still play with this.

GRETCHEN

You still play with G.I. Joe dolls?

KYLE

Well, I would if he'd ever gotten me Missile Command Headquarters.

JEFF

All I want to see is enthusiasm and support. You owe her that. We clear?

GRETCHEN/KYLE/PAW-PAW

Absolutely. Okay. You got it.

MEE-MAW

I hope you're this supportive when I'm pregnant. (TO OTHERS) We're trying.

JEFF

Mee-maw!

MEE-MAW

Last one! Don't take away my car!

CUT TO:

SCENE P

INT. DOCTOR'S WAITING ROOM - DAYS LATER (DAY 4)

GAIL AND JEFF SIT.

JEFF

This is gonna be our guy. Keith's sister loved him. He delivered all four of her animal crackers.

A YOUNG COUPLE SITS NEXT TO THEM. THE WOMAN LEANS IN.

YOUNG WOMAN

Can I ask you something? We've been really on it about low VOC and no BPAs but do we need to be BPS free, too?

GAIL

(NO IDEA) Yeah.

YOUNG WOMAN

(TO HUSBAND) Told you! (TO GAIL) I'm Jayden. This is my husband.

YOUNG MAN

(OFFERS HAND) Hi, I'm Jayden.

GAIL

Sorry, you're both Jayden?

HE-JAYDEN

"Jayden" was, like the most popular name for guys and girls in --

JEFF

(QUICKLY) Don't say the year. (THEN) I'm Jeff. This is my wife, Gail.

SHE-JAYDEN

Ga-EL? Is it Israeli? Ga-EL. Ga-EL.

GAIL

Actually, it's --

HE-JAYDEN

So exotic. It's like you're from planet Krypton or something.

GAIL

No, it's just something people used to call girls a looong time ago.

HE-JAYDEN

Is this your first, Ga-EL?

GAIL

We already have two. And our son is not handling it well.

HE-JAYDEN

Aww. I remember when my brother was born, my parents bought a toy "from the baby" to give to me. I ate it up.

SHE-JAYDEN

How old is your little guy?

JEFF

Twenty-one.

THIS SILENCES THEM. A YOUNG NURSE APPEARS WITH A CLIPBOARD.

YOUNG NURSE

O'Donnell? Ga-EL O'Donnell?

CUT TO:

SCENE R

INT. DR. WARBURTON'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 4)

JEFF AND GAIL ARE THERE. DOCTOR WARBURTON (40'S) ENTERS.

DR. WARBURTON

Jeff and Gail? I'm Dr. Warburton. Great to meet you. Let's take a look at your file.

JEFF

We don't want to know the sex of the baby. We're old-fashioned that way.

GAIL

And in the way that we're from a long, long time ago.

DR. WARBURTON

I'm sorry, is everything okay?

JEFF

My wife is just a little sensitive. I mean, we have kids at home that are as old as most of your patients.

DR. WARBURTON

Believe me, I see it all the time now. Dad has a first family, starts over years later with his new bride.

JEFF

(PULLED UP) First family?

GAIL

(PLEASED) New bride?

A BEAT.

GAIL

(ELATED) How old do you think I am?

JEFF

(PISSED) How old do you think I am?

DR. WARBURTON

(TO GAIL) Well, you're having a baby. You can't be much more than forty. (TO JEFF) Whereas a dad could be sixty, seventy...

GAIL

Huh, I didn't think of it that way. This actually makes me seem younger.

JEFF

Do you think I'm sixty, seventy...?

DR. WARBURTON

You could be any age.

JEFF

But I'm not. I'm one age. Guess it.

GAIL

(GIRLISH) Doctor, I'm actually forty-five.

DR. WARBURTON

Oh, I wouldn't have guessed that. But it does explain the super-ovulation.

GAIL

Super-ovulation?

DR. WARBURTON

Women over forty are over five times more likely to release multiple eggs.

GAIL

Okay, so that's why we got pregnant?

DR. WARBURTON

No. It's why you're having twins.

JEFF AND GAIL ARE SHOCKED.

JEFF

Twins?

DR. WARBURTON

That's right. (POINTS TO SONOGRAM) One baby... two babies.

JEFF AND GAIL SHARE A LOOK. "WHAT THE HELL?!"

JEFF

(GRASPING) And you're sure she didn't... swallow a doll?

DR. WARBURTON

Quite sure.

GAIL

(BEAT, HOPEFUL) Could you check?

FROM THE MAIN TITLES: WE SEE THE SAME STICK FIGURES AND BABY AS BEFORE. THEN **ANOTHER BABY** IS SLAPPED ON.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE T

FADE IN:

EXT. O'DONNELL HOUSE - LATER (DAY 4)

JEFF AND GAIL REACH THE DOOR. HE IS REELING FROM THE NEWS.

JEFF

Twins. Two. It'd be like if we'd had Gretchen and Kyle at the same time.

(REALIZES, WITH HORROR) Oh, God.

What if they're both Kyle?

GAIL

Are you okay?

JEFF

I just... I need a second to think.

RESET TO:

INT. O'DONNELL HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

THEY ENTER TO FIND PAW-PAW, MEE-MAW AND THE KIDS YELLING...

THE GROUP

Surprise!

JEFF

Please. Not now.

PAW-PAW

But we're excited about the great baby coming at the right time!

GAIL

We're having twins.

THEY GASP.

GAIL (CONT'D)

And the doctor thought I was Dad's second wife. (OFF LOOKS) But that's not as important.

MEE-MAW

Twins? Really?

GAIL

Apparently multiples are very common in older moms. There's this thing that happens --

KYLE

Super-ovulation, also known as ovarian hyperstimulation. (OFF LOOKS) What? I was pre-med.

GRETCHEN

You were pre-med for six days.

KYLE

Six days more than you!

GAIL

Guys, why don't you give Dad and me some time?

SHE USHERS THEM OUT THE DOOR.

MEE-MAW

(WHISPERS TO PAW-PAW) Are we still pretending to be excited?

THEY EXIT.

JEFF

Twins. Two cribs, two schools, two sets of braces. What if they're like the weird twins from "The Shining"?

GAIL

(UPSIDE) Or they could be like the Rodkey twins.

JEFF

Who?

GAIL

Jason and Doug Rodkey? Guys from my high school? I dated both of them.

JEFF

How is that supposed to help me?

GAIL

(SHRUGS) I was hot.

JEFF

Why are you so okay with this?

GAIL

I don't know. Maybe it's the hormones but I feel like this... powerful earth mother. Giving life to two babies. Like some kind of Angelina Jolie.

JEFF

Will you stop with the Angelina Jolie?

GAIL

(UNSETTLED) I know this is a lot, but you're still excited, right?

HE REALIZES HE HAS TO BE. FOR HER.

JEFF

What? Yeah. Of course. Pregnancy Jeff is getting on the twins train! We'll cut back where we have to. I'll take on more jobs... I got this.

AS HE CROSSES TO THE KITCHEN, HIS FACE FALLS. HE'S CLEARLY FREAKED OUT. GAIL LOOKS AT HERSELF IN THE MIRROR AND SMILES.

GAIL

(QUOTES DOCTOR, PLEASED) "You don't look a day over forty..."

JEFF (O.S.)

You're not my second wife!

GAIL

A doctor says I could be!

CUT TO:

SCENE W

INT. O'DONNELL HOUSE - DAY (DAY 5)

A **NOW VERY PREGNANT** GAIL, TALKS TO A PIZZA DELIVERY GUY.

CHYRON: "EIGHT MONTHS PREGNANT"

GAIL

Six months! I'm only six months!

Gimme a break -- it's twins!

JEFF CROSSES THROUGH.

JEFF

(CHIPPER) Just installed the car seats!

GAIL

You know they have to face backwards now?

HE CROSSES BACK OUT.

JEFF

(MORE CHIPPER) Gonna re-install the car seats!

HE EXITS.

CUT TO:

SCENE X

ART CARD: "REALLY EIGHT MONTHS PREGNANT"

INT. O'DONNELL HOUSE - DAY (DAY 6)

AN EVEN BIGGER GAIL GRABS A BUNCH OF APPETIZERS FROM A TRAY HELD BY JEFF AS SHE TALKS WITH FRIENDS AT HER BABY SHOWER.

GAIL

(SHOVELS APPETIZERS) God, these are good. Thanks, Pregnancy Jeff. I'll miss you when you're gone. Like a McRib. I could really go for a McRib.

HE KISSES HER AND MOVES ON. HE MEETS KEITH.

KEITH

Seriously? A co-ed baby shower? The sandwiches are so small, people keep saying "onesie"...

JEFF

Gail wanted it. Plus everything we get is one less thing I have to buy.

KEITH

(SMILES) You see the nursery yet?

JEFF

No! She wants to surprise me but she's had workers in there day and night.

KEITH

It's top-of-the-line. No expense spared, you poor bastard.

MEE-MAW

(CLAPS HANDS, TO ROOM) Present time!

ALL GATHER AROUND. GRETCHEN HANDS GAIL A GIFT.

GRETCHEN

Here, Mom, start with mine.

GAIL OPENS THE GIFT. IT'S A BOOK.

GAIL

(READS TITLE) "Mandarin for Babies".

GRETCHEN

It's the most widely spoken language in the world. By 2030 it will be <u>the</u> language of global business.

KYLE

(DRY) I forgot how much fun you are at parties.

GRETCHEN

(PERFECT ACCENT) BUN tyen-shung duh ee-DWAY-RO.

KYLE

Mommy, Gretchen is teasing me in Chinese again!

GAIL

(IGNORING, GRABS ANOTHER GIFT) Okay, this one is from Fran and Brian. Let's see -- (UNWRAPS GIFT, HOLDS UP CUP HOLDER) No way! For the Orbit stroller? You guys!

JEFF

Now we're talking! (WRITES) Fran and Brian... five-hundred dollar stroll--

GAIL

No, hon, this is just the cup holder.

JEFF

For the stroller. That I am never buying. (UPBEAT) Thanks, guys! (THEN) I've actually got a little something. Kyle?

KYLE PUSHES A LARGE, WRAPPED GIFT TO THE FRONT. GAIL OPENS IT TO REVEAL AN OLD CRIB.

GAIL

What's this?

JEFF

It's the kids' crib. I found it in the attic, cleaned it up, painted it, got rid of the mice. It's good as new.

GAIL

Right. Is that a drop-side crib?

JEFF

(POPS SIDE DOWN) Sure is!

GAIL

(GENTLY) They don't use those anymore, sweetie. The baby's head can get caught.

JEFF

People are so paranoid now. This thing is solid.

HE CLOSES THE CRIB. IT FALLS IMMEDIATELY. HE CLOSES IT AGAIN. IT FALLS. HE SLAMS IT SHUT. NO DICE. HE GIVES UP.

FEMALE FRIEND

And you can't use bumpers anymore. Suffocation risk.

JEFF STARES DAGGERS AT THE WOMAN.

JEFF

(WRITES) Gail's work friend, Joan... lots of opinions, no gift. (RE: CRIB) Take it away, Kyle. (TO GAIL) I'll go shopping tomorrow. Get you a new crib.

JOAN

(CORRECTING) Two cribs.

JEFF

(IMMEDIATELY) Thanks, Joan!

WE HEAR A SNAPPING SOUND FROM BEHIND THE CRIB.

KYLE

Ow!

JEFF TURNS TO SEE... KYLE STRUGGLING UNDER THE THING.

KYLE (CONT'D)

My head is stuck!

CUT TO:

SCENE Y

INT. IT'S A BABY BABY BABY WORLD - NEXT DAY (DAY 7)

JEFF AND GRETCHEN SHOP. JEFF, SHELL-SHOCKED, PUSHES A CART WITH ONE HAND, DRAGS TWO STROLLERS BEHIND WITH THE OTHER.

JEFF

(DROPS BOXES IN CART) Two of this... two of this... (RE: PACKAGE) I don't know what this is, let's get three...

GRETCHEN

Dad, I'm worried about you. You haven't told any of these strangers how much money I make.

A YOUNG SALESWOMAN APPROACHES.

YOUNG SALESWOMAN

Welcome to It's a Baby Baby Baby World. My name is Jayden.

JEFF

Oh, for the love of God. (RE: LIST) I think I have everything. Literally. I just need "crib skirts"?

YOUNG SALESWOMAN

Yes, we have some lovely sets of crib skirts and bumpers.

JEFF

No, no bumpers. I've heard enough from the "Joans" of the world. I'll just take a crib skirt.

YOUNG SALESWOMAN

I'm sorry. We only sell the set.

GRETCHEN

That's actually a very smart way to move inventory. (PULLS OUT HER IPHONE, PRESSES A BUTTON) Baby equipment. Possible growth industry.

JEFF

Cut me a break. We're having twins.

YOUNG SALESWOMAN

So, you'll need two sets. (LIKE IT'S FUN) A set of sets.

JEFF

No. No sets. I've already spent a fortune here on wipe warmers, bottom butters and Hooter Hiders. This is where I draw the line! Open it up and sell me the damned skirt.

YOUNG SALESWOMAN

I can't. These are a set.

JEFF

So, make it <u>not</u> a set.

YOUNG SALESWOMAN

But it's a --

GRETCHEN

(PANICKY) Let's go, Dad. She's going to say "set" again.

YOUNG SALESWOMAN

I can't break up the... bundle.

JEFF

Yes, you can. Watch.

HE PULLS A LEATHERMAN OFF HIS BELT AND OPENS THE PACKAGE.

JEFF (CONT'D)

There. Problem solved.

YOUNG SALESWOMAN

(HORRIFIED) The sets!

HE STARTS GRABBING MORE PACKAGES AND TEARING THEM OPEN. GRETCHEN DIALS HER PHONE.

GRETCHEN

(INTO PHONE) Hi, Mom? Do you remember the time Dad tried to take shrimp home from the all-you-can-eat buffet...

A SECURITY GUARD APPROACHES JEFF AS HE TEARS THE SETS APART.

JEFF

Be free, crib skirts! Be free!!!!

CUT TO:

SCENE Z

INT. JEFF AND GAIL'S - A LITTLE LATER (DAY 7)

GAIL ENTERS AND SITS. JEFF FOLLOWS, WITH HIS HEAD DOWN.

GAIL

Well, that was interesting. I didn't know malls had their own jail cells.

JEFF

They think they're so great since they got that Cheesecake Factory.

GAIL

(BEAT) What's going on, Jeff?

HE WAVES HER OFF, "I'M FINE."

GAIL (CONT'D)

Come on. Talk to me.

JEFF

(DEEP BREATH) Okay. I've tried to hold it together but I know how hard it is to raise a kid, and now two at once? The money, the energy... I don't see how we're gonna do it.

GAIL

(AGHAST) You can't say that!

JEFF

(THROWN) You told me to tell you!

GAIL

Don't listen to me! I just ate fish with peanut butter on it!

(MORE)

GAIL (CONT'D)

(THEN) We weren't ready for Gretchen, look how that turned out. At least my mom isn't making us get married this time.

JEFF

But we were young! We weren't beat from all the work and diapers and Kyle shoving a marble up his nose when he was three and Kyle swallowing your earrings. Which just happened last week. Why? (THEN) Now I try to rally and be "Pregnancy Jeff" but it's like I'm this... fat Superman, and the suit doesn't fit anymore.

GAIL

So stop! I release you from being Superman! Does that make it better?

JEFF

But we were so close. We had plans...

GAIL

Plans? Come with me to the nursery.

JEFF

I can't take the nursery right now.

GAIL

You're coming. (TRIES TO STAND) Follow me. (TRIES AGAIN) Pull me up!

CUT TO:

SCENE AA

INT. GRETCHEN'S OLD ROOM - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 7)

GAIL LEADS JEFF IN. THE "NURSERY" IS A SCREENING ROOM WITH BLACKOUT CURTAINS, PLUSH CHAIRS...

JEFF

(CONFUSED) This isn't a nursery.

GAIL

No, it was a surprise for you, you dummy. Because you're being so great.

JEFF

I wish I'd held it together a little longer. (THEN) How did you...?

GAIL

Keith helped me, he used a bunch of parts from your old jobs, just like you originally planned. Only smaller.

JEFF

So the babies can share a room? (NOTICES) And is there a screen?

SHE PRESSES A BUTTON. A HUGE SCREEN LOWERS FROM THE CEILING.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Niiiice!

GAIL

(TOUGH) Now, you listen to me. Next week is Kyle's graduation.

(MORE)

GAIL (CONT'D)

It may not be the finish line, but it's still something, and you are going to sit there and smile and enjoy your life and stop freaking out about these things inside me. Can you do that?

JEFF

(SCARED OF HER) I'll try.

GAIL

You better! Now, let's christen your theater. What should we watch?

JEFF

Bruce Lee, "Enter the Dragon"?

GAIL

(HEAD IN HANDS) Oh, God, why did I build this?

CUT TO:

SCENE BB

INT. COLLEGE GRADUATION - ONE WEEK LATER -- (DAY 8)

GRETCHEN, AGAIN IN A PANTSUIT, SITS BETWEEN HER PARENTS, THE GRANDPARENTS DOWN THE AISLE. JEFF TUGS AT HIS COLLAR.

JEFF

(RE: COLLAR) I hate this thing. I only got into TV installation so I wouldn't have to wear a suit.

GRETCHEN

It's amazing we're related.

COLLEGE DEAN

Natalie Abels... Gregory Armstrong...

AS THE DEAN CONTINUES TO READ NAMES, GAIL WINCES.

GRETCHEN

Aw, Mom, are you getting emotional?

GAIL

(EYES CLOSED) Mm-hmm. So proud.

SHE DOES SOME QUICK, CLEANSING BREATHS.

GRETCHEN

Wait, are you in labor?

GAIL

A little.

GRETCHEN

We need to go to the hospital!

GAIL

No! This is a big day for this family. I can make it until we hear Kyle's name called.

COLLEGE DEAN

Elaine Chang. Eugene Chang. George Chang. Janice Chang --

GAIL

(DYING) Why are there so many Changs in this school?!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - MOMENTS LATER

THE DEAN READS NAMES. GAIL IS MORE AND MORE UNCOMFORTABLE.

COLLEGE DEAN

Chris Oakley. Frank Obermeyer.

GAIL

Oh, thank God, the O's. Come on O'Donnell. (PAIN) O'Doooonnnnellll!

JEFF

I know! So close I can taste it!

COLLEGE DEAN

Terry Packer. Emily Peters.

GAIL

P's? No P's! They skipped Kyle!

THE FAMILY LOOKS AT EACH OTHER, CONFUSED. KYLE APPEARS.

KYLE

I was afraid this might happen. Looks like I'm not gonna graduate this year.

JEFF

What?!

KYLE

My advisor thinks it was because of the turmoil at home with the babies.

JEFF, SILENT, STANDS AND CROSSES TO KYLE. SUPER TENSE.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Don't hurt me. (BEAR HUG FROM JEFF) What is this? I'm scared.

JEFF

Son, you've given me a great gift: today was <u>never</u> going to be the finish line. Twins or no twins, as long as I have you in my life, <u>there is no finish line</u>. Thank you!

KYLE

It feels good to help.

GAIL

Uh, we should go -- I'm in labor.

THE OTHERS

What? Oh, my God! Get the car!

AS <u>THEY RUSH OUT</u>, GRETCHEN TURNS TO KYLE.

GRETCHEN

If you didn't think you were graduating, why did you let us come?

KYLE

It's called "being an optimist", Gretchen!

CUT TO:

SCENE CC

INT. HOSPITAL RECEPTION - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 8)

JEFF PUSHES GAIL IN A WHEELCHAIR. THE OTHERS FOLLOW.

JEFF

Can we get some help, please?!

(STRESSED, UNDOES TIE) Uch, this thing is killing me.

GAIL

("SYMPATHETIC") Oh, my God. Do you want my wheelchair?

A NURSE APPROACHES.

KYLE

Patient's contractions are three minutes apart. Multiples and advanced maternal age --

GAIL

Drugs! Now!

YOUNG NURSE

You're so close to delivery, I'm not sure there's time for an epidural.

JEFF

Look, Nurse --

GAIL

Jeff, you don't have to do anything. It'll be okay. (CONTRACTION) Ohhhhh! (TO NURSE) Please!

JEFF CAN'T TAKE IT ANY MORE.

JEFF

No. She will have her drugs.

MUSIC: DRAMATIC BUILD

JEFF (CONT'D)

Nurse... Jayden probably?

YOUNG NURSE

It's Kayden, actually.

JEFF

Where is the anesthesiologist?

YOUNG NURSE

Dr. Bhansali is in the cafeteria.

JEFF

What does he look like?

YOUNG NURSE

Short, mustache. Indian.

JEFF

(TO GAIL) Don't worry, babe, I've got this.

JEFF PULLS APART HIS SUIT A LA CLARK KENT BECOMING SUPERMAN.

MUSIC CUE: SUPERMAN THEME.

JEFF (CONT'D)

I hate that suit.

HE RUNS OFF TO SAVE THE DAY.

CUT TO:

SCENE DD

INT. CAFETERIA - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 8)

JEFF COMES RUNNING IN. HE LOOKS AROUND AND SPOTS A SHORT INDIAN MAN WITH A MUSTACHE.

JEFF

My wife needs you. And I'm not taking

"no" for an answer.

THEY RUN OUT TOGETHER.

CUT TO:

SCENE EE

INT. DELIVERY ROOM - LATER (DAY 8)

JEFF SMASHES THROUGH THE DOORS WITH THE INDIAN MAN.

JEFF

Gail, I got him.

JEFF SEES GAIL BEING ADMINISTERED TO BY ANOTHER INDIAN MAN. HE IS INJECTING HER.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Who's this?

DR. BHANSALI

I'm Dr. Bhansali, the anesthesiologist.

JEFF

So, who's this?

DR. BHANSALI

That is Chet. He works in the cafeteria. (TO GAIL) How do you feel?

GAIL

(DRUGGED) Gooooooooood!

JEFF

Thanks, Doctor. (THEN) Thanks, Chet.

CHET

Am I still going to get the discount on the home theater installation?

JEFF

(LYING) Of course.

CHET AND THE DR. BHANSALI LEAVE.

GAIL

I'm hungry.

YOUNG NURSE

I'm sorry, you can't eat anything.

THE YOUNG NURSE EXITS.

JEFF

I stole you a couple of honey packets from the cafeteria.

JEFF TEARS A PACKET AND GIVES IT TO HER TO SUCK ON.

GAIL

("MY HERO") You're my McRib!

JEFF

Are you ready for this?

GAIL

No.

JEFF

Me neither. Let's do it.

HE KISSES HER. THE YOUNG NURSE RETURNS.

YOUNG NURSE

I'm sorry, Mrs. O'Donnell, we couldn't reach your obstetrician. The covering doctor is on his way.

THE DOOR MAKES A NOISE. SOMEONE IS PUSHING ON IT.

JEFF

(CALLS) Pull, don't push!

IN WALKS... OLD DR. LEXINGTON.

DR. LEXINGTON

Sorry, I couldn't get that open. It was really stuck. (SEES THEM) Hello, Mr. and Mrs. Ibrahim.

JEFF AND GAIL REACT.

JEFF

(TO NURSE) Kayden, there have to be other doctors in this hospital. Give us a selection.

DR. LEXINGTON

(MIS-HEARS) A c-section? I'm a little rusty, but alright.

THE NURSE GUIDES HIM OUT.

CUT TO:

SCENE HH

INT. RECOVERY ROOM - LATER (DAY 8)

JEFF AND AND AN EXHAUSTED GAIL ADMIRE THEIR BABIES.

JEFF

(BABY TALK) Who was one-hundred-percent planned? You were. Yes, you both were.

GRETCHEN, KYLE, MEE-MAW AND PAW-PAW PEEK THEIR HEADS IN.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Hey, guys. (TO GRETCHEN AND KYLE) Come meet... your little brothers.

THEY ENTER AND SURROUND THE BABIES.

GRETCHEN

Oh, my God! Boys! (TO BABIES, "I LOVE YOU" IN MANDARIN) Wo ai ni.

KYLE

(CHECKS OUT BABIES) Eh, I was cuter.

GAIL

Kyle, the babies got you a little something.

JEFF HANDS HIM A GIFT.

KYLE

What? For me? (OPENS IT) Missile Command Headquarters? Thank you, babies! How did you know?

(MORE)

KYLE (CONT'D)

(TO JEFF AND GAIL) By the way,

there's no housing for fifth-years.

I'm moving back home.

GAIL NODS. JEFF IS LOST, GAZING AT THE NEWBORN IN HIS ARMS.

GAIL

(TO JEFF) How do you feel?

JEFF

Happy. (A LITTLE SURPRISED) Young.

GAIL SMILES. A BEAT. WE HEAR A VOICE FROM THE HALL.

YOUNG WOMAN (O.S.)

Look who it is!

HE-JAYDEN PUSHES SHE-JAYDEN IN WHEELCHAIR. SHE HOLDS A BABY.

HE-JAYDEN

We had ours too! Meet baby Ga-EL.

SHE-JAYDEN

We'll see you around the playground!

THEY ROLL OFF. JEFF AND GAIL CALL AFTER THEM.

JEFF GAIL

It's Gail! (TO BABY) Rhymes with pail!

THE TWINS START TO CRY. KYLE SNIFFS.

KYLE

I think they went to the bathroom.

PAW-PAW

(RELENTS) Fine. Just this once.

AS PAW-PAW GOES TO CHANGE THE TWINS, WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. NURSERY – DAYS LATER (NIGHT 9)

THE ROOM IS DARK. JEFF ENTERS AND TAKES THE CRYING BABIES OUT OF THEIR CRIBS.

JEFF

Okay, guys. It's okay.

HE SITS IN A RECLINER, ROCKING THE BABIES. JEFF PICKS UP A REMOTE, PRESSES A BUTTON. A SCREEN DROPS DOWN AND A MOVIE STARTS TO PLAY. **THE NURSERY AND THE SCREENING ROOM ARE ONE.**

JEFF (CONT'D)

Perfect nursery, right? Blackout

curtains, comfy chair...

FROM A BOWL NEXT TO THE CHAIR, JEFF GRABS TWO PACIFIERS, POPS THEM INTO THE BABIES' MOUTHS. FROM A BOWL ON THE OTHER SIDE, HE GRABS A HANDFUL OF M&M'S AND SHOVELS THEM INTO HIS MOUTH.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Just me and my favorite little guys in

the whole wide world.

KYLE (O.S.)

(FROM NEXT DOOR) Thanks, Dad! Can't

hear that enough!

JEFF CRANKS UP THE VOLUME. HE AND THE BABIES SETTLE IN, AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW