"NEW GAFFIGAN PILOT"
"THE SNIP"

Written by

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10/24/13

GAFFIGAN/THE SNIP

ACT ONE

OVER BLACK:

A burst of laughter from a happy crowd, then we hear:

JIM (V.O.)
Thanks, everybody - you've been great.

Applause, then an EMCEE'S voice:

EMCEE (V.O.)
Jim Gaffigan, ladies and gentlemen! Give it up for Mr. Jim Gaffigan.

FADE IN:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY COMEDY CLUB - NIGHT

Jim heads out of the club and out onto the street. He waves goodbye to some fellow comics waiting outside, and we follow as he makes his way along the sidewalk.

JIM (V.O.)
That's me - Jim Gaffigan. If you were expecting someone more pale, I'm sorry - that person doesn't exist. I'm a stand-up comedian living in New York City - and just so you know, the camera does add ten pounds.

As Jim turns the corner, we blend directly into:

INT. GAFFIGAN APARTMENT - LATER

Jim walks into the apartment and crosses to his wife JEANNIE, who's filling a baby bottle at the kitchen counter. He gives her a quick kiss. She turns her head to face him (but her body is still turned away). The image FREEZES on the kiss.

JIM (V.O.)
That's Jeannie - my wife. I know - she's out of my league. When we're in public together and people find out she's my wife, there's usually an audible "Really?" I used to find that flattering, until I figured out it was an insult.

THE IMAGE UNFREEZES and the scene continues. Jeanne turns to face Jim; we see she's wearing a Baby Bjorn, complete with baby. As soon as the baby comes into view, a large number 1 appears over the child, then fades away. During the following, the rest of the kids are shown one by one, and as each child is revealed, the next number blinks to life over them until we're all the way to five. (The last child is found, after a search, hidden inside the cabinet under the bathroom sink). Jim and Jeannie hunt the kids down and wrestle them into the tub, then wash them, dress them for bed and put them down for the night. During this, we see images from a normal night in the Gaffigan apartment: tooth brushing, diaper changing, stories being read, fights being broken up. *

JIM (V.O.)
If people think Jeannie and I being together is strange - they can't even begin to understand our home life. We live in a two-bedroom apartment in downtown Manhattan with - hold on, I'll let the counter catch up -

The number 5 appears over the last revealed Gaffigan child.

JIM (V.O.)
- our five children. That's right - five. If you wonder what it's like being the father of five young children, just imagine you're drowning - then someone hands you a baby.

All the kids are down. Jim clicks off the light, then takes a moment to gaze at his kids.

JIM (V.O.)
Right here - this is my favorite moment of the day. When they're all clean and happy and sleeping, and I can sit in peace and think about selling some of them. I'm joking. Kind of.

He closes the door.

INT. JIM AND JEANNIE'S BEDROOM - LATER

CLOSE ON JEANNIE'S FACE

JEANNIE
I'm pregnant.

CLOSE ON JIM'S FACE

Jim looks like he's about to respond, but the image FREEZES.

JIM (V.O.)
Remember when I was drowning and holding the baby? Well, now there's a big old shark fin swimming right at me. And now I have to act excited.

THE IMAGE UNFREEZES and the scene continues. *

JIM
(awkwardly)
Hey! Look at you.

JEANNIE
I threw up! That's how it always starts.

Jim nods, still trying to look excited.

JIM (V.O.)
That's how it starts for me, too.

INT. DELI - THE NEXT DAY

Jim sits having lunch with his best friend - fellow stand-up comic DAVE (40's). Dave smokes, has no children, has never been anywhere close to married, and is Jewish. In other words - he's the anti-Jim. Jim eats half of a big pastrami sandwich, a sleeping baby in a stroller at his side.

DAVE
Really? Another kid? What are you two doing - starting a cult?

JIM
Dave, it's not me. It's Jeannie. She's incredibly fertile. Once I thought I got her pregnant over the phone.

DAVE
You're more domesticated than my mother's cat.

JIM
Hey, I like being a dad. It gives my life meaning.
(MORE)

JIM (CONT'D)
I didn't plan on starting a new nationality - but maybe the world needs a Gaffghanistan.

DAVE
Your kids are everywhere. I mean, look -
(motioning to the stroller)
There's one here.

JIM
This is special bonding time for me and my -
(takes a look to check which child it is)
- my son. I bring him here and we split a pastrami sandwich.

DAVE
He's asleep.

JIM
Yeah, I'd better eat his half.

Jim goes for the other half of the sandwich.

DAVE
Look, I'm your pal, I love you, I'm trying to be supportive, but your life is pathetic, Jim.

JIM
That means a lot coming from a man who lives with his mother in a retirement community in Jersey City.

DAVE
A retirement community half a block from a strip club. And I love my mother.

JIM
I'm not knocking your mother, since that's the only long-term relationship with a woman you've ever had.

DAVE
Okay. You're attacking me because you hate yourself for over-populating the planet. Ever heard of birth control?

JIM
You know my wife is a Shiite Catholic.

DAVE
Then you need to get a vasectomy.

A WAITER - 70's, from some Eastern European country - passes by and stops having heard this.

WAITER
You want chicken?

DAVE
How do you get "chicken" from that? I said "vasectomy."

WAITER
We don't have that here.

The waiter crosses away.

JIM
I'm not getting a vasectomy.

DAVE
Why not? Are you chicken?

The waiter reappears.

WAITER
You want?

DAVE
(firmly)
I don't. Thank you.

The waiter goes again.

JIM
I'm not getting a vasectomy because it goes against the basic rule of being a man: you don't put sharp objects anywhere near that area.

DAVE
What about manscaping?

JIM
Please. I'm trying to eat.

DAVE
Can I have your pickle?

JIM
No.

INT. JIM AND JEANNIE'S BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

Jim's in bed, eating from a pint of ice cream. Jeannie enters from the bathroom and makes a sad face.

JIM
What? I'm using a spoon this time.

JEANNIE
No, it's not that.
(a beat, pouting)
I'm not pregnant.

JIM
Oh, I'm sorry, sweetie.

JEANNIE
You mean it?

JIM
I really do. I hope you're not too sad - because I really don't want to have to share this ice cream with you.

Jeannie crosses to get into bed.

JEANNIE
Maybe it's for the best. One more kid, I think legally we'd have to move to Utah.

JIM
And I wouldn't fit in there. I only look Mormon.

JEANNIE
Hey, don't forget - Steven found another apartment to look at. I want you to come see it because I think this might be the one.

JIM
Honey, you always say that.

JEANNIE
I never say that.

INT. NICE APARTMENT #1 - SEVEN YEARS EARLIER

Jeannie holds a baby and she's pregnant with the next one. Jim has a lot more hair and he's eating a bagel. STEVEN - Jeannie's gay best friend, former college boyfriend and her realtor as well - stands with them.

JEANNIE
Oh, Jim. I think this might be the one!

INT. NICE APARTMENT #2 - FIVE YEARS EARLIER

Jim and Jeannie walk down a hallway in the apartment. Jeannie holds a different baby and the hand of a little girl - and she's pregnant again. Jim is fatter now, has less hair, and he's eating an ice cream cone. Steven follows at a distance.

JEANNIE
(whispering)
This is it, Jim. This is the one.

EXT. NICE APARTMENT BUILDING - TWO YEARS EARLIER

Jeannie and Steven meet Jim in front of the building. There are three children now. Jeannie's pregnant again. Jim has even less hair - and he's eating a hot dog.

JEANNIE
Wait until you see inside. This, Jim - <u>this</u> is the one.

INT. ANOTHER NICE APARTMENT BUILDING - DAYS EARLIER

Jeannie and Jim follow Steven up the stairs to see an apartment. Jim carries the baby and eats a slice of pizza as the other four children follow after them.

JEANNIE
I'm getting a very strong feeling, Jim.

JIM
Let me guess. This is the one.

JEANNIE
You feel it, too!

Jim reacts as they continue to climb the stairs.

INT. JIM AND JEANNIE'S BEDROOM - BACK TO REAL TIME

Jim chuckles to himself.

JEANNIE
I don't always say that.

JIM
No, I'm laughing because - Dave and I had lunch today -

She makes a face.

JIM (CONT'D)
Yeah, I know you don't like him - I told him you were pregnant, and he said I should get a vasectomy.

JEANNIE
He's crazy.

JIM
I know.

JEANNIE
Like that would <u>ever</u> happen.

JIM
Yeah.
(a beat)
What do you mean?

JEANNIE
I mean - that would never happen.

JIM
You're saying - you wouldn't <u>let</u> me do it because we're Catholic? Like you're worried the Pope's gonna find out and take us off the mailing list?

JEANNIE
Jim, I'm not saying you <u>can't</u> do it.

JIM
Well, it sure sounds like you are. How about it's my body, my choice? You women get all militant about your reproductive rights, but a man wants a little control over his -
(vaguely motioning to his crotch)
(MORE)

JIM (CONT'D)
- you know - stuff - all of a sudden it's a problem. Huge double standard.

JEANNIE
(gently)
Honey, listen. I'm not saying you can't get a vasectomy. I'm just saying you won't.

INT. JIM AND JEANNIE'S KITCHEN - THE NEXT DAY

Jeannie packs snacks for the kids for the park. BLANCA the babysitter (late 20's, Hispanic) comes and goes, gathering coats and shoes. Jim stands at Jeannie's side, bugged.

JIM
Why won't I get a vasectomy?

JEANNIE
We're still on that? Do me a favor and make some peanut butter crackers.

Jim gets the peanut butter and spreads it between crackers during the following.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)
You won't get a vasectomy because you don't like pain. You can't even watch the kids getting their nails clipped.

JIM
I'm fine with that.

JEANNIE
Then why do you always leave the room when I do it?

JIM
You enjoy it too much. I don't want you accidentally clipping me.

JEANNIE
You get nitrous when you get your teeth cleaned.

JIM
It hurts.

JEANNIE
Right - and getting snipped won't?

Blanca has entered and overheard this.

BLANCA
(horrified)
Oh, no - mister, no. No get snipped.

JIM
Blanca, you're the one who's always saying we have too many kids.

BLANCA
Si - too many *ninos* - but they cut off your *chillito* - you a lady!

She exits.

JIM
They don't cut anything off.
(a beat, to Jeannie)
They don't, right?

JEANNIE
(amused)
You don't even know what's involved in the procedure.

JIM
You're right. That's a good point. I'm gonna call a urologist and set up an appointment and get some information.

JEANNIE
(airily)
Fine. Go ahead.

JIM
Because I'm an adult. I'm in charge of my own life and my own decisions.

JEANNIE
I agree.

JIM
(re: crackers)
Can I have one of these?

JEANNIE
No.

JIM
You think I won't make the call?

JEANNIE
Honey, I just told you to go ahead.

JIM
Oh, really? Well, if you're gonna be that way about it, I'm definitely making the call. I'm serious, Jeannie. I'm doing it.

EXT. PARK - LATER

Jim is inside the park pushing two of the kids on the swings. The other three kids are playing elsewhere. There are lots of kids, mothers and nannies around. Dave stands near Jim smoking - but outside the fence.

JIM
Of course I'm not doing it.

DAVE
Look, even if you wanted to get the procedure done - you can't. Everything the doctor needs to work on, your wife has already removed.

He smiles and takes a puff, proud of himself.

JIM
In case you're wondering - that kind of comment is why you didn't get my pickle yesterday.

One of the mothers nearby, a strong-looking BLACK WOMAN in her thirties, overhears this and reacts. Jim sees this and offers an explanation.

JIM (CONT'D)
It was an actual pickle.

DAVE
Look, forget the vasectomy -

JIM
I am not getting snipped. I'm not even making the appointment to get the information - but I have to make Jeannie think I am, because she always thinks she knows exactly what I'll do and what I won't do, and I hate it.

DAVE
I don't blame you, brother.

JIM
And then add in the fact that she's always right -

DAVE
Who can live with that?
(a beat)
But if she always knows what you're doing - won't she know you're doing this because you hate that she knows everything you do?

JIM
Okay, now you're confusing me. I can't push and think at the same time.

DAVE
You see? This is why I've never been married. Because women are controlling, castrating bitches.

The black woman turns around and scowls at Dave.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Sorry. Not you, honey.

The woman is on her feet and heading for Dave.

BLACK WOMAN
(instantly furious)
Excuse me?

JIM
Yeah, it's probably time to go.

Jim quickly moves to pull his kids off the swings as Dave tosses his butt and hurries away.

INT. NICE APARTMENT #3 - LATER

Jim stands with Steven in the living room of a very, very nice apartment. Jeannie enters, hooked into the place and loving it. Jim eats a pretzel.

JEANNIE
Okay, I know I've said this a couple times before -

STEVEN
Let me guess. "This is the one"?

JEANNIE
Are you mocking my enthusiasm, Steven?

STEVEN
(knows he's in trouble)
Of course not.

JIM
(sotto)
You're dead.

JEANNIE
Did I mock you last night when you had me on the phone for two and half hours, while I was breast-feeding and folding laundry, so you could complain about Todd who stole your Tom Ford suit jacket and who I told you not to lend that five thousand dollars to?

JIM
(to Steven)
I love how she can do that without taking a breath.

STEVEN
(contrite)
I'm sorry. You are my angel always. And Todd is Satan.

JEANNIE
Thank you. I was going to say - this could be the one for real. Do you love it, Jim?

JIM
It's half a block from a Chipotle, two blocks from the place with the cronuts, and there's a Shake Shack opening down the street. It could be the best apartment in the universe.

JEANNIE
Let me pop downstairs. I want to check the storage space again.

STEVEN
You want company?

JEANNIE
No, I have to go alone. I need to know how creepy it is down there when I'm by myself, and if someone goes with me, it'll totally mitigate the creep factor. Be right back.

She exits, leaving Jim and Steven alone. They like each other well enough, but Steven is really Jeannie's friend - so the guys don't have much to talk about.

JIM
(a long beat)
So. Todd, huh?

STEVEN
Thank god that's over. My weakness is I'm attracted to beautiful men who turn out to be horrible for me.

JIM
I have the same issue - only with donuts.
(a beat)
Did she really just say "mitigate the creep factor?"

STEVEN
I've loved that girl ever since we dated in college, but she can be a little cuckoo.

JIM
(a beat)
You don't think she's the reason you're -

STEVEN
A real estate agent? Oh, definitely.

JIM
You don't think there's any chance she could turn me - into a real estate agent?

Steven looks Jim's wardrobe up and down for a beat. He's not a fashion plate.

STEVEN
No, I think you're good.
(a beat)
I hear you're getting a vasectomy.

INT. SUBWAY CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Jim and Jeannie stand together in a crowded subway car.

JIM
What's the big deal? I don't think it's right for you to discuss my - undercarriage with Steven! Or anyone!

Jeannie turns to Jim, contrite.

JEANNIE
Okay, I'm sorry. But it was only Steven. Actually, after we talked this morning I realized I should be a better wife. If you really want to find out about a vasectomy, I should support that. *

JIM
Yes, honey - you should.

JEANNIE
I'm glad you agree. Because I found a really good urologist, and I made you an appointment.

She takes out a card and offers it to him.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)
It's Monday at three.

As Jim tries to put together a response, the image FREEZES.

JIM (V.O.)
Well played, Mrs. Gaffigan. Well played. The game is on.

BACK TO LIVE ACTION. Jim takes the card.

JIM
Thank you. I can't wait to go and learn all about my vasectomy.

JEANNIE
Excellent. You can learn all about the two <u>incisions</u> they're going to make in your <u>scrotum</u>.

JIM
Nice try. If you're saying that to scare me, it didn't work.

FREEZE ON Jim's smug reaction.

JIM (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Okay - it worked a little bit.

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE.

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. CATHOLIC CHURCH - MORNING - TWO DAYS LATER

Bells ring as the Gaffigan family leaves morning mass. Three OLDER ITALIAN LADIES see the children and smile.

OLDER ITALIAN LADY
Are all of these yours?

JEANNIE
Yes.

OLDER ITALIAN LADY
Don't you have TV?
(to the other ladies)
Sono sporchi animali.

The other women nod, disgusted, then all three move on. The family is intercepted by FATHER NICHOLAS (30's), a friendly African priest who's new to the church.

FATHER NICHOLAS
Jeannie, good morning.
(eyeing Jim, warmly) *
And who is this? *

JEANNIE
Jim. My husband.

FATHER NICHOLAS
You have a husband? How wonderful!
(to Jim)
I thought she was a widow. I would see her alone with all these children every Sunday - it made me so very sad.

JIM
(defensive)
I've been to church.

FATHER NICHOLAS
(cheerfully)
No, no, no. I came here from Africa three months ago and I would remember you because you are so fat! I am Father Nicholas Ngungumbane from Nkalanje in Zimbabwe.

JIM
Anyway, we have to run. Those bagels aren't gonna eat themselves!

FATHER NICHOLAS
Such a beautiful family.

JEANNIE
Thank you. It's hard to believe he's considering a vasectomy.

JIM
(staring at Jeannie)
Really?

MARY, the oldest Gaffigan child, tugs at her father's elbow.

MARY
Daddy, what's a vasectomy? Can I get one?

Second-oldest JAMES chimes in.

JAMES
I want one, too.

JIM
Nobody's getting a vasectomy!
(pointed, to Jeannie)
Except me.
(a beat)
Okay, I give up. You're against it - and now you've brought the church into it - and I know they're against it. So just say the word, Father Nicholas. You want me to cancel the appointment, just say it and that will be that.

FATHER NICHOLAS
It's your decision.

JIM
What?

FATHER NICHOLAS
You have to make the choice. What does your heart tell you?

JIM
Well - I don't really listen to my heart. If I did, I'd be eating vegetables.

EXT. SIDEWALK - A FEW MINUTES LATER

The Gaffigan family walks away from the church.

JIM
(annoyed)
Didn't I <u>just</u> ask you not to discuss my private - area - with other people? So what do you do - you tell a priest! What happened - the *New York Times* wouldn't take your call? *

JEANNIE
I told Father Nicholas because I thought he'd tell you not to go to the appointment, and then you'd have an out - which is what you want. Admit it. *

JIM
Three o'clock tomorrow. We'll see <u>then</u> who wants an out.

JEANNIE
Jim, that didn't even make sense.

JIM
We'll see what didn't make sense tomorrow at three.

INT. UROLOGIST'S WAITING ROOM - THE NEXT AFTERNOON

Jim stands at the RECEPTIONIST'S window in the outer office looking a little nervous.

JIM
To be clear - I'm only here for a consultation, but we've all heard stories about people getting limbs and organs removed by accident -

RECEPTIONIST
Don't worry. This is just a consultation.

JIM
Okay. You don't offer nitrous for the consultations - ?
(her expression says no)
I was kidding. Unless you do - ?
(MORE)

JIM (CONT'D)
(her expression still says no)
I'll just grab a seat.

NOW WE SEE that Jim has brought the baby in a stroller. He takes a seat next to where he's parked it. A YOUNGER MAN seated nearby looks over at the baby. Jim nods awkwardly and offers a weak smile.

JIM (CONT'D)
It's a baby. My daughter.
(another gender check)
Yeah, my daughter.

The young man looks away, uncomfortable. Dave enters and takes a seat next to Jim.

DAVE
Hey. You gone in yet?

JIM
Yeah, I went in hours ago. I just like hanging out afterward to relive the experience. Thanks for coming. This way, when Jeannie doesn't believe I was here, you can be my alibi without having to lie.

DAVE
For the record, I like to lie. But whatever. What kind of friend would I be if I wasn't here to hold your hand while you got neutered? By the way - did the same thing for my mother's cat.
(off the stroller)
What's with the baby? They serve pastrami here, too?

JIM
No, just another crafty move by my wife. She took off and left me alone at home with the baby <u>thinking</u> I'd cancel the appointment. But I showed her. I <u>brought</u> the baby. Advantage - Jim.

DAVE
My god - it's like *Game of Thrones* - only not interesting.
(a beat)
You know - you've actually shown up for the appointment. You <u>could</u> leave now.

JIM
Why didn't I think of that?

DAVE
You don't have the dirtbag gene.

JIM
I gotta get one of those. Let's go grab a sandwich.

They both stand and start out - as Jeannie and Steven enter along with the rest of the kids.

JIM (CONT'D)
What are you doing here? I can't believe you're checking up on me!

JEANNIE
Where are you going?

JIM
I'm not going anywhere! I wanted to move around a little - improve my blood flow in case the doctor needs to - poke around down there.
(a nod at Steven, sotto)
Why is he here?

JEANNIE
(a nod at Dave, sotto)
Why is he here?

DAVE
Hi, Jeannie.

JEANNIE
(sweetly, and faking it)
Hi, Dave.

STEVEN
(stiffly)
I was in the neighborhood checking out new apartments when I suddenly ran into Jeannie and the kids, and she said we should -
(flustered, to Jeannie)
I can't remember what you told me to say!

JEANNIE
(covering)
I didn't tell you to say anything, Steven.

STEVEN
We did not discuss your "undercarriage."

Jim shoots Jeannie a dirty look.

DAVE
Well, I'm here because I've been thinking about getting the procedure. I meet a lot of women, I don't want to get anybody pregnant.

A long pause as everyone stares at Dave.

DAVE (CONT'D)
I could meet a woman! It could happen!

RECEPTIONIST
Gaffigan?

JEANNIE
Jim, you know you don't really want to do this. I'm sorry if I pushed you this far - but let's just go home.

RECEPTIONIST
Gaffigan?

Jim keeps his gaze on Jeannie. He's going all the way with this thing, baby.

JIM
(steely)
That's me.

INT. SMALL EXAMINATION/CONSULTATION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

DR. WEISS (40's and very dry) enters, eyes on a patient form.

DR. WEISS
Hello, I'm Dr. Weiss -

He looks up and reacts - and now we pull out to see that all of the Gaffigans - and Dave and Steven - are jammed into the small room.

DR. WEISS (CONT'D)
Just so I'm clear - which of you is here to discuss the procedure?

JIM
Just me.

DR. WEISS
And these other people - ?

JIM
Well, these are my children - *

DR. WEISS
You realize it's not necessary to prove you need a vasectomy. I'll take your word for it.

JEANNIE *
I'm just curious. Are you allowed * to perform surgery on a mentally * unstable person? *

JIM
That's my wife. We should probably * ignore her. This is our friend * Steven. He's also our real estate * guy.

STEVEN
I work mostly downtown - if you're ever thinking about a move.

Steven hands Dr. Weiss his card.

DR. WEISS
I'm not - but thank you.

Dave offers his hand to the doctor.

DAVE
Dave Reedy. Jim's friend. I don't suppose you have any free samples of penicillin - ?

DR. WEISS
No.

DAVE
(quickly)
I'll be outside.

Dave exits.

DR. WEISS
This is quite the group you have here, Mr. Gaffigan. And this is only the consultation. *
(MORE)

DR. WEISS (CONT'D)
I can't wait to see how many people you bring to the actual procedure.

JEANNIE
He won't bring anyone to the actual procedure - including himself.

Elizabeth raises her hand.

DR. WEISS
Yes?

ELIZABETH
What's an undercarriage?

JEANNIE
Let's not bother the doctor, honey. That's Daddy's job.

DR. WEISS
I think the easiest way to explain how the procedure is done is to -

As he says the above, Dr. Weiss pulls down a chart that shows a drawing and cross-section of the male reproductive system.

JAMES
What's that?

JEANNIE
Okay, could we - ?
(a rolling up finger motion)
Let's just get that right back up where it was, yeah.

Dr. Weiss quickly sends the chart back up and out of sight.

DR. WEISS
Sorry. I can explain without the chart -

Mary raises her hand.

DR. WEISS (CONT'D)
Yes?

MARY
That looked like Florida. Was that Florida?

JEANNIE
Maybe this isn't the best place for the kids.
(MORE)

JEANNIE (CONT'D)
Come on, everybody - let's wait outside while Daddy pretends to talk to the doctor.

Jeannie herds the kids out of the room.

JIM
I'm not pretending! Go ahead, I'll give you all the details later - then you can tell Steven - and our priest - and then the entire Tri-State area!

Jeannie and the kids exit.

JIM (CONT'D)
I'm really sorry.

DR. WEISS
It's fine. Would you like me to explain the procedure now?

JIM
Yes, please.

DR. WEISS
Okay. First, we make two incisions on each side of the scrotum -

JIM
Okay, that's good. I don't need to hear anymore.

DR. WEISS
Glad I could be of service.

Dr. Weiss gets up to leave.

JIM
But - sorry - could you do me a big favor and just stay in here with me for like, fifteen minutes? I need my wife to think I'm actually considering the procedure.

DR. WEISS
I'm sorry, Mr. Gaffigan. I do have other patients to see -

JIM
Okay. Could I stay in here by myself?

DR. WEISS
(eager to escape)
Oh, by all means.

Dr. Weiss exits. Jim stands and looks around the room. He pokes around at a few things on the counter, then he pulls down the penis chart again, steps back and studies it for a beat.

JIM
It does look like Florida.

INT. NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT - LATER

Jim and Jeannie sit at a table looking out at the street. Jim wolfs down pasta.

JIM
Why aren't you eating?

JEANNIE
I'm worried about the kids. I know you wanted to talk - but I wish we'd had the time to find better babysitters.

JIM
Don't worry. Dave and Steven will be fine. Steven will be fine. Or the kids will kill them both.

JEANNIE
Yeah, probably that last one. So I suppose you want to talk about your fantasy vasectomy.

JIM
Honey, the issue isn't the vasectomy. I guess it just bothers me that you know me so well.

JEANNIE
I'm your wife. I'm supposed to know you so well.

JIM
Yeah - but shouldn't there be some mystery in the relationship?

JEANNIE
Honey, trust me. Half the things you do are a complete mystery to me.

(MORE)

JEANNIE (CONT'D)
Be honest - the issue isn't that I know you so well. It's that I'm right about you all the time!

JIM
Well, I'm right about you all the time, too!

JEANNIE
You're never right about me.

JIM
Oh - you think? How about this? I know you well enough to know that we could see the greatest apartment in the history of New York City, we could see the apartment Jesus rented when he lived in the area - and you'd <u>still</u> find something wrong with it.

JEANNIE
What are you talking about?

INT. NICE APARTMENT #3 - SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER

Jeannie has returned from checking out the storage area and is gushing to Jim. Steven stands in the background.

JEANNIE
I love this place. It's absolutely perfect. Why would anyone in their right mind ever want to sell this apartment?

STEVEN
They're divorcing.

JEANNIE
(instantly freaked out)
Oh, no - we can't live here. Let's go. Quick, quick!

STEVEN
It's not contagious!

She hurries for the door.

INT. NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT - BACK TO REAL TIME

JEANNIE
That was one apartment. And I have told you, Jim - divorce is the same as black mold. It goes into the walls and grows until it's time to claim its next victim.

JIM
Right. It's not just that apartment. It's every apartment.

INT. NICE APARTMENT #1 - SEVEN YEARS EARLIER

JEANNIE
Let's go. I don't like the energy. It's bad.

JIM
How can you tell?

JEANNIE
(sotto)
Their dog looks extremely unhappy.

INT. NICE APARTMENT #2 - FIVE YEARS EARLIER

JEANNIE
No - no good. There's a stain in the rear hall closet. I think it's blood.

JIM
I saw that stain. It was green.

JEANNIE
I know - but it was shaped like a bloodstain.

EXT. NICE APARTMENT BUILDING - TWO YEARS EARLIER

Jim, Jeannie and the kids hurry out of the building.

JIM
What was the problem with that one?

Jeannie points across the street.

JEANNIE
Right there. What's that building? It looks like a prison.

JIM
It's a bank.

JEANNIE
It looks like a prison. This won't work. I can't have the kids living across the street from a prison.

JIM
Jeannie, it's a bank.

JEANNIE
Yeah, but now I've got the prison thing in my head.

JIM
I know how you feel.

INT. NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT - BACK TO REAL TIME

JEANNIE
Okay, it's happened a couple times. That doesn't mean you know me as well as I know you.

JIM
I know there's always an issue with every apartment - because you don't want to move.

JEANNIE
Jim, we're in that tiny place! Of course I want to -

JIM
And you don't want to move because you actually love that tiny place. That's where the kids were born - where they learned to walk and where they learned to throw up on me. You'll never be able to leave all those memories - and I know it.

JEANNIE
(touched)
Okay - so you're not wrong about me <u>all</u> the time.

She leans over and gives him a quick kiss.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)
Pay the check. I want to get back to the park before the kids dismember Dave's body.

Jeannie steps away from the table as Jim throws down some bills with the check.

JIM
Okay - if you know me so well and you're always right, how much did I leave for the tip?

JEANNIE
Six dollars.

JIM
Wrong! I left seven.

JEANNIE
(smiling)
You see? Maybe I don't know you so well after all.

She exits. Jim starts to follow after her, then digs another dollar out of his pocket and slaps it onto the other bills, annoyed. He hurries out again - then turns back and retrieves the extra bill.

JIM (V.O.)
No way I'm leaving seven bucks.

He exits.

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

TAG

FADE IN:

EXT. PARK - LATER

Steven pushes three of the kids on the swings and tries to keep an eye on the other ones. Dave - as usual - smokes outside the fence. A COP stands a few feet from Dave checking a parked car.

STEVEN
Dave, they asked us both to watch the kids. Give me a hand here.

DAVE
What - and expose them to second-hand smoke? I don't think so.

STEVEN
It's a shock you're still single. *
Then let's just head back. They should be home by now.
(looking around)
I hope we still have all five.

DAVE
So we'll just grab somebody else's kid if we're short.

The cop overhears this and heads toward Dave.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Jim and Jeannie, they've got so many - it's not like they actually remember what they all look like.

STEVEN
And I'm the one who's not allowed *
to get married in some states. *
(calling off)
Kids? Time to go home. *

Steven hurries away to wrangle the kids as the cop arrives at Dave's side.

COP
Sir, what are you doing here?

DAVE
Watching the kids.

COP
Are they your kids?

DAVE
No.

COP
Why don't you come with me?

The cop grabs Dave and steers him away.

ANGLE ON

Jim and Jeannie have just arrived on the scene. They watch Steven flailing and struggling to corral the kids, and Dave being dragged off by the cop.

JIM
Told you - nothing to worry about. *

They start into the park to help Steven as we:

FADE OUT.

END TAG

END OF EPISODE