HEY JOE

"Pilot"

Written by

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Writer's Draft
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COLD OPEN A

FADE IN:

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT LAWN - DAY
(Joe, Kristie, Moving Man, Extras)

A TREE LINED SUBURBAN STREET IN COLUMBUS, OHIO. THE CAMERA LANDS ON AN ASIAN COUPLE (EARLY 30'S) SURROUNDED BY THE CHAOS OF MOVING DAY. JOE WONG, A SWEET-NATURED CHINESE IMMIGRANT PULLS HIS CHINESE AMERICAN WIFE, KRISTIE ASIDE TO ENJOY THE MILESTONE OF BUYING THEIR FIRST HOUSE. SHE'S EIGHT MONTHS PREGNANT, BEAUTIFUL AND VERY TYPE A.

JOE

(SOAKING IT IN) We did it.

KRISTIE

Actually we're still in the middle of doing it. We'll have done it when the movers are gone, we've unpacked all of the boxes, put together the baby's nursery and you've finally hung the mirror over the mantle that will be leaning against the living room wall for the next six months.

JOE

How do you know I won't put it up right away?

KRISTIE

Will you?

JOE

Probably not. I still haven't decorated my house in *Minecraft* and I've had that for years.

KRISTIE

You procrastinate in the real world by playing video games so you can procrastinate in the virtual world?

JOE

I'm like an M.C. Escher painting of laziness.

KRISTIE

I don't buy it. You worked your ass off so we could afford our own place.

JOE

I know I was kind of picky through the whole house search process. Thanks for indulging me.

KRISTIE

I think it's sweet that you wanted to get a place that looked like your old host family's.

JOE

Hopefully without the racist neighbor who always called me "Pearl Harbor."

JOE PULLS OUT A PHOTO. IT'S OF 15 YEAR-OLD JOE WITH HIS ALL AMERICAN HOST FAMILY BACK IN THE 90'S. JOE AND KRISTIE'S HOUSE IS A SMALLER STARTER HOME VERSION OF HIS HOST FAMILY'S.

JOE (CONT'D)

The semester I stayed with them was the best experience of my life.

(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)

(THEN, OFF HER LOOK) Aside from us falling in love, getting married... the coming birth of our baby.

KRISTIE

You didn't have to say that.

JOE

I also didn't have to have a poster of Chairman Mao in my bedroom growing up but better safe than sorry.

KRISTIE

You're comparing me to a Communist dictator?

JOE

(CHANGING SUBJECT) My host dad was a doctor, my host mom was a judge, my host sister was a cheerleader and my host brother Chad was--

KRISTIE

--the captain of the football team.

JOE

I've told you this before.

KRISTIE

(SMILES) Once or twice. (RE: PHOTO) Wow, your host family looks like they fell out of a Ralph Lauren ad.

A MOVING MAN APPROACHES CARRYING A CARDBOARD BOX.

MOVING MAN

(LOUD AND DELIBERATE, RE: BOX) Where do you want this?

KRISTIE

(SEETHING) I was born and raised in Ohio and my husband has a PhD in computer science. We speak English. Is the problem that you can't read? We wrote a room on every box.

THE MOVER POINTS TO CHINESE CHARACTERS WRITTEN IN SHARPIE.

KRISTIE (CONT'D)

(SHEEPISH) My husband must have packed that one.

JOE

Kitchen.

KRISTIE

(APOLOGETIC, TO MOVING MAN) If it makes you feel better the only foreign language I know is bad high school French, I can't read Chinese either. (BETWEEN US) It's all squiggly lines and boxes, am I right?

THE MOVING MAN WALKS AWAY, DISGUSTED.

JOE

(TO KRISTIE) I guess that makes you the racist neighbor.

<u>DISSOLVE TO:</u>

COLD OPEN B

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY
(Joe, Kristie)

JOE AND KRISTIE ARE UNPACKING BOXES. A MIRROR LEANS AGAINST THE WALL.

JOE

I'm definitely not going to miss living with your parents. Especially waking up at five every morning to the sound of them emptying their dishwasher.

KRISTIE

They've been doing that since I was a little girl. It's the Cheng family wake up call.

JOE

When I was a kid, my neighbor had a rooster that woke everyone up crazy early. One day my dad got fed up and made a dish he called: sweet and sour alarm clock.

KRISTIE TAKES IN THE ROOM.

KRISTIE

It's going to be great having a place to ourselves. Just the two of us.

JOE

Until baby Fabio comes.

KRISTIE

I know you fell in love with America in the 90's but we're not naming our son Fabio.

JOE

Tupac?

KRISTIE

No.

JOE

Simba?

KRISTIE

No.

JOE

Come on, I've always dreamed of holding my infant son over my head like in the *Lion King*.

KRISTIE

(SOFTENS) Oh, I love that movie. (THEN) No.

SFX: DOORBELL

KRISTIE (CONT'D)

Who's that?

JOE

(EXCITED) I'll get it! Maybe it's a Jehovah's witness! Ooo, or a kid selling wrapping paper.

KRISTIE

Why are you so excited?

JOE CROSSES TO THE DOOR.

JOE

I've always wanted to be bothered at home like a real American. FYI: I had the phone company take us off the "Do Not Call List".

JOE STOPS AT THE DOOR.

JOE (CONT'D)

I wonder who it is. The suspense is killing me.

KRISTIE

This is like the world's worst game show. Open the door.

JOE OPENS THE DOOR TO REVEAL A GUY IN HIS THIRTIES, SLIGHTLY FRAT-ISH. IT'S CHAD, JOE'S FORMER HOST BROTHER. (THINK SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT)

JOE

Chad?!

CHAD

Hey, Joe.

ON JOE'S SURPRISE, WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/ KITCHEN - A LITTLE LATER
(Joe, Kristie, Chad)

JOE, KRISTIE AND CHAD ARE ON THE COUCH.

JOE

I tried looking you up when I moved to Columbus a year ago.

CHAD

Yeah, sorry, I'm never on Facebook. I got tired of seeing pictures of what other people are eating. (TO IMAGINARY FACEBOOK POST) I get it, you really like your truffle burger.

JOE

(EXCITED) That was me! I even put up pictures. (THEN) So what have you been up to?

CHAD

I bought a couple of houses to flip...

JOE

That's cool.

CHAD

And then the market crashed.

KRISTIE

Ouch. Sorry.

CHAD

After that I invested in a Blockbuster Video franchise...

JOE

That’s cool.

CHAD

And then it went out of business because of Netflix.

JOE

In all fairness who could have seen that coming?

KRISTIE

(SOTTO) Everybody, Joe. Everybody. (THEN, TO CHAD) Can I get you something to drink?

CHAD

I’ll take a beer.

KRISTIE

(REALIZING, EMBARRASSED) Sorry, we just moved in. We actually don’t have anything.

CHAD

I guess I could do a light beer.

KRISTIE

Yeah, again we don’t have anything.

JOE

How about water? You can drink it right out of the faucet here. Advantage, America.

KRISTIE

Three waters coming up. I'll see if I can rustle up some snacks.

WE FOLLOW KRISTIE INTO THE...

RESET TO:

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS
(Kristie)

KRISTIE OPENS UP THE FRIDGE... IT'S EMPTY. SHE LOOKS IN A FEW BOXES BUT CAN'T FIND ANYTHING TO EAT. KRISTIE SPOTS HER PURSE AND EMPTIES IT'S CONTENTS ON TO THE TABLE.

KRISTIE

(TAKING INVENTORY, TO HERSELF)
Saltine crackers, Sudafed and pre-natal vitamins. Jesus, I'm like a meth head who really cares about her baby.

RESET TO:

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM
(Joe, Chad)

JOE AND CHAD AS THEY WERE.

CHAD

It's not all bad I still have like fifteen hundred VHS tapes in a storage locker if you ever want to watch a movie.

JOE

Thanks. I'll have to borrow a VCR

from someone but that sounds great.

CHAD

Cool. It's $3.99 for the first night

and $1.99 each night after that.

(THEN) I have a favor to ask...

RESET TO:

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER
(Joe, Kristie)

KRISTIE HAS SPREAD OUT HER RANDOM ASSORTMENT OF SNACKS ON A PLATTER. THERE'S A PITCHER NEXT TO A JUICE GLASS, A BEER STEIN AND A OHIO STATE TRAVEL MUG.

KRISTIE

(RE: RANDOM ASSORTMENT OF FOOD) What

do you think?

JOE

It looks like a Charlie Brown

Thanksgiving.

JOE TAKES A SIP FROM THE MUG.

JOE (CONT'D)

Actually, this lemon water is pretty

tasty.

KRISTIE

I crushed a cough drop up and mixed it

in to the pitcher.

JOE

(FEIGNS ENJOYMENT) Mmmmmm. So good.

JOE SURREPTITIOUSLY PUTS THE MUG DOWN.

JOE (CONT'D)

So what would you say to Chad staying with us for a little bit?

KRISTIE

(SUSPICIOUS) What's a little bit?

JOE

Couple days, week... few months tops. Until he gets back on his feet.

KRISTIE

Are you kidding? No. That guy's a disaster. He's never getting back on his feet.

JOE

He's got no place to stay. He's my brother.

KRISTIE

Host brother.

JOE

He's more than that. He's my hero...

AS JOE BEGINS TO TELL A STORY, WE...

FLASH BACK TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE B

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - FLASHBACK - 1997
(15 year-old Joe, 15 year-old Marcus, 15 year-old Chad, Jock #1, Jock #2, Jock #3, Lucia, Extras)

IT'S LUNCH TIME IN A BUSTLING SCHOOL CAFETERIA. 15 YEAR-OLD JOE IS AT A MODEL U.N. MEETING. HE SITS IN FRONT OF A PLACARD THAT READS: MEXICO. THREE JOCKS APPROACH.

JOCK #1

Hey, Jackie Chan!

15 YEAR-OLD JOE

(GENUINELY EXCITED) Jackie Chan's here? Sweet!

JOCK #1

I'm talking to you.

15 YEAR-OLD JOE

I'm Joe Wong. You thought I was Jackie Chan? That's cool. He's awesome.

JOCK #1

I was being sarcastic.

15 YEAR-OLD JOE

Yeah, I don't really get sarcasm. We don't have that in China. Just respect, hard work and those little finger handcuffs.

JOCK #1

(RE: PLACARD) Why are you the Mexican Ambassador?

15 YEAR-OLD JOE

China was already taken.

ANGLE ON: A SKINNY AFRICAN AMERICAN MARCHING BAND NERD, MARCUS SITTING IN FRONT OF A PLACARD THAT READS: CHINA. HE GIVES A SMALL PRAYING HANDS BOW.

JOCK #1

(TO JOE) Well, Mr. Ambassador, I have

a complaint about my tacos. They're

not crunchy enough.

THE JOCK PICKS A TACO OFF HIS TRAY AND SMASHES IT INTO JOE'S CHEST.

15 YEAR-OLD JOE

(LOOKS AROUND, NERVOUS) Any chance

Jackie Chan actually is here?

SUDDENLY, 15 YEAR-OLD CHAD STRIDES IN AND STICKS A FINGER IN THE JOCK'S CHEST.

15 YEAR-OLD CHAD

Nobody messes with my brother.

THE JOCKS BACK DOWN AND THE ENTIRE MODEL U.N. BREAKS INTO APPLAUSE.

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE C

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - BACK TO PRESENT
(Joe, Chad)

JOE POKES HIS HEAD THROUGH THE SWINGING KITCHEN DOOR AND GIVES CHAD A THUMBS UP.

JOE

Great news, you can stay!

CHAD

You told her about my idea to open a

chain of book stores?

JOE

Let’s keep that between us for now.

ON JOE, WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE D

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NEXT MORNING
(Joe, Kristie, Chad)

JOE AND KRISTIE COME DOWN THE BACKSTAIRS TO THE SMELL OF BACON AND EGGS. CHAD COOKS UP A STORM AT THE STOVE.

KRISTIE

Are you making breakfast?

CHAD

Yeah, I hope that's okay. I wanted to thank you guys for letting me stay here.

KRISTIE

Where did you get all of this stuff?

CHAD

I went out early to buy groceries.

JOE

(POINTEDLY TO KRISTIE) He bought groceries.

CHAD

The pastries are from a little place down the street and I made fresh squeezed orange juice.

JOE

(POINTEDLY TO KRISTIE) Fresh squeezed orange juice.

KRISTIE

(SOTTO, TO JOE) I can hear him.

JOE

(POINTEDLY TO KRISTIE) You can hear him. (THEN) I don't know why I said that like that.

KRISTIE AND JOE TAKE A SEAT AT THE TABLE. CHAD JOINS THEM.

KRISTIE

(TO CHAD) Thank you.

JOE

This is great. I was just going to drink a glass of Kristie's famous cough drop water on the way to work.

CHAD

What do you do, Joe?

JOE

I'm a computer graphics programmer. Have you ever heard of the game *Call of Duty*?

CHAD

Oh my god, you created *Call of Duty*?!

JOE

Kind of, I created the algorithms for the code that the programmers used to make the sideburns in *Call of Duty*.

KRISTIE

All graphics programmers have a specialty. Joe's is sideburns.

JOE

Best sideburns in the business.

CHAD

Why sideburns?

JOE

When I stayed with your family I watched every episode of *Beverly Hills, 90210*. I wanted Luke Perry's sideburns. (TO KRISTIE, EXCITED) How about Luke Perry for the baby's name?

KRISTIE

No.

JOE

Brandon Walsh?

KRISTIE

No.

JOE

Brenda Walsh?

KRISTIE

Every video game company in the world wanted to recruit Joe. He could have gone anywhere. San Francisco, New York, London...

CHAD

And you picked Columbus?

JOE

Ever since I was a foreign exchange student here I've wanted to come back.

CHAD

You realize they have Starbucks and Gaps in other cities too?

JOE

Good one. I wish.

KRISTIE

I'm glad he chose Columbus. If he hadn't we never would have met.

JOE

She was the first person I saw when I stepped off the plane. (REALIZING) I moved sixty eight hundred miles from Beijing to meet a Chinese girl.

KRISTIE

(REMINISCING) I was standing in line at Panda Express.

JOE

Chinese-ish.

ON JOE, WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE E

INT. VIDEO GAME COMPANY - BULLPEN - DAY
(Joe, Spencer, Programmers)

A GEEK-CHIC OFFICE WITH AN OPEN FLOOR PLAN. JOE WORKS NEXT TO A ROW OF OTHER PROGRAMMERS. SPENCER, 20'S, APPROACHES.

SPENCER

This was my desk when I was the sideburn guy. Now they've got me doing stubble in the basement. Thanks a lot for taking my job.

JOE

You're welcome.

SPENCER

I was being sarcastic, idiot.

JOE

Sorry, I don't really get sarcasm.

SPENCER

The only thing I don't miss about my old workstation is the power problem.

JOE

What power problem?

SPENCER KICKS JOE'S PLUG OUT OF THE WALL AND HIS COMPUTER GOES DARK. THE OTHER PROGRAMMERS IN JOE'S ROW LAUGH.

JOE (CONT'D)

(TO SELF) I have got to learn sarcasm.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE H

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT DAY
(Joe, Chad, Kristie)

JOE STUDIES FROM HIS CITIZENSHIP BOOK. CHAD ENTERS.

CHAD

Whatcha doing?

JOE

Studying for my US citizenship test.

CHAD

But you and Kristie are married, doesn't that automatically give you citizenship? At least that's what I learned from the movie *Green Card* with Andie MacDowell and that French guy who looks like Shrek.

JOE

It's still a long process. But nothing great is ever easy. I love this country.

CHAD

Want me to quiz you?

JOE

Sure.

JOE HANDS HIM THE BOOK.

CHAD

Who is Ben Franklin?

JOE

(THINKS, THEN) The reason convenience stores get robbed.

CHAD

What is the second amendment?

JOE

(THINKS, THEN) The reason convenience stores get robbed.

CHAD

Who won the first season of *Survivor*?

JOE

That's in there?

CHAD

No, but it should be. Got to know your American history.

KRISTIE COMES DOWN THE FRONT STAIRS.

KRISTIE

Did the cable guy come yet?

JOE

Nope. (THEN, RELISHING) Waiting all day for the cable guy who never shows up. Strike another one off my American bucket list.

KRISTIE

(TO CHAD, EXPLAINING) Everything's new to him.

(MORE)

KRISTIE (CONT'D)

(TO JOE) I don't know what we're going to do, we have to go to Lamaze class.

CHAD

I'll wait for the cable guy.

JOE

(POINTEDLY, TO KRISTIE) He'll wait for the cable guy.

KRISTIE

(TO CHAD) Thanks.

CHAD

No problem. Hey if you want, while you guys are out I can hang the mirror over the mantle.

KRISTIE

(POINTEDLY, TO JOE) He's hanging the mirror.

JOE

Yeah, now I see how the repeating thing gets annoying.

AS JOE AND KRISTIE EXIT, WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE J

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER
(Chad, Madison)

CHAD CHECKS THE MIRROR HE JUST HUNG WITH A LEVELER.

SFX: DOORBELL

HE CLIMBS OFF THE STEP STOOL AND CROSSES TO THE FRONT DOOR.

CHAD

(GRUMBLES, TO HIMSELF) It better not be a Jehovah's Witness or a kid selling wrapping paper.

CHAD OPENS THE DOOR TO A MILFY NEIGHBOR, MADISON HOLDING BROWNIES.

MADISON

Hi.

CHAD

Hello.

MADISON

I live down the street and I noticed the moving truck yesterday. Welcome to the neighborhood.

CHAD

That's really sweet of you. Come on in.

MADISON WALKS INTO THE ROOM.

MADISON

Beautiful place.

CHAD

Thanks. I told my real estate agent I had to have it. (SING SONG) Bidding war.

MADISON

(PLAYFUL) Oh, you're bad.

CHAD

Very bad.

MADISON PICKS UP A FRAMED WEDDING PHOTO OF JOE AND KRISTIE.

MADISON

Why do you have so many pictures of Chinese people?

CHAD

They came with the frame. Everything's made in China these days.

ON CHAD, WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE K

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER
(Joe, Kristie)

JOE AND KRISTIE ENTER THE KITCHEN THROUGH THE BACK DOOR.

JOE

Sorry I'm a terrible breathing coach.

KRISTIE

You'll get it.

JOE

It's my one job and I suck at it.

It's like that old saying: "Those who

can-- do. Those who can't-- sit at

the side of the bed and hold a cup of

ice chips."

KRISTIE

(EXAGGERATED LAMAZE BREATHING) Ooo,

ooo, ooo.

JOE

(NOT GETTING IT) Shoo, ooo, ooo.

SFX: EXAGGERATED BREATHING: "OOO, OOO, OOOH" FROM OFF SCREEN.

JOE (CONT'D)

That's pretty good.

JOE AND KRISTIE PUSH OPEN THE KITCHEN DOOR AND CROSS INTO THE...

RESET TO:

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS
(Joe, Kristie, Chad, Madison)

JOE AND KRISTIE FREEZE WHEN THEY SEE CHAD AND MADISON HAVING SEX.

CHAD

Uh-oh.

CHAD AND MADISON PULL THEIR CLOTHES OVER THEMSELVES.

MADISON

Who are you?

CHAD

(COVERING BADLY) A team of Asian cat burglars?

MADISON

Call 911.

KRISTIE

This is our house.

MADISON

(WEAKLY) Welcome to the neighborhood.

JOE

(TRYING TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT, UPBEAT)

Wow, the mirror looks really good over the fireplace!

ON JOE, WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE J

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER
(Joe, Kristie)

JOE AND KRISTIE ARE IN THE KITCHEN. KRISTIE IS NOT HAPPY.

KRISTIE

I want Chad out of the house.

JOE

It was definitely inappropriate. (BEAT) And a little confusing. I couldn't tell whose legs were whose. But to be fair we didn't really set clear ground rules. We never told him he couldn't have sex in our living room.

KRISTIE

There are two things that every house guest knows: wipe up the sink after you're done and don't have sex against your host's flat screen.

JOE

I can't kick him out. He's my brother.

KRISTIE

Host brother.

JOE

His parents took me in. I can't turn my back on Chad.

KRISTIE

I understand you're fond of him but I've known guys like him my whole life. They're charming and fun but at the end of the day they only think about themselves.

JOE

That's not him. He stood up for me. "Nobody messes with my brother", remember?

KRISTIE SOFTENS.

KRISTIE

Alright, fine. He can stay but you have to get him in line. Be strict. You're going to be an Asian dad soon. Live up to the stereotype.

JOE

I can do that.

JOE PUSHES OPEN THE SWINGING DOOR AND CROSSES INTO THE LIVING ROOM.

RESET TO:

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM
(Joe, Chad, Kristie)

CHAD STANDS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM. JOE JOINS HIM.

CHAD

She’s pretty pissed, huh?

JOE

(LOUDLY FOR KRISTIE’S BENEFIT) Not just her. Me.

CHAD

Sorry, dude.

JOE

(LOUDLY) I’m really disappointed.

(SOTTO) Not really. (THEN, LOUDLY) Really.

CHAD CATCHES ON.

CHAD

(LOUDLY) Is there anything I can do?

JOE

(LOUDLY) How about try acting like an adult?

CHAD

(LOUDLY) You’re right.

JOE RAISES HIS HAND FOR A HIGH-FIVE AS KRISTIE ENTERS FROM THE KITCHEN.

JOE

(RE: MID HIGH FIVE, COVERING) Don’t make me hit you.

KRISTIE

Joe!

JOE

Sorry honey, I got worked up. I was just getting old school with him. Like penal colony old.

KRISTIE

That's not necessary.

CHAD

Kristie, I want to apologize. This is your home and I should have respected that.

KRISTIE

Okay but next time you have the urge to bang a slut neighbor do it in her living room.

CHAD

Got it. Thank You.

SATISFIED, KRISTIE EXITS UP THE FRONT STAIRS.

CHAD (CONT'D)

(THEN, SINCERE) Joe, I'm really sorry I put you in that position.

JOE

Don't worry about it. I mean, don't do it again. But don't worry about it.

JOE PULLS HIS LAPTOP OUT OF HIS BAG. HE TRIES TO OPEN IT BUT IT'S GLUED SHUT.

CHAD

(RE: JOE'S SIGH) What's wrong?

JOE

This guy at work glued my laptop shut.

CHAD

(LAUGHS) That's hilarious. I mean, what a jerk.

JOE

He's got it in for me because he used to be the company's sideburn expert.

CHAD

My Junior year in high school, coach made me the starting quarterback. The guy I replaced made my life hell. Especially in front of the rest of the team. Ultimately, bullies bully because they're insecure about their position in the group. If you get everyone behind you, you'll have all the power.

JOE

How am I supposed to do that?

CHAD

Don't back down. Remember the company recruited you. You're the star.

JOE

Yeah, that's not really a Chinese concept. To us the group is way more important than the individual.

CHAD

Well, you're in America now. We like our heros. You're John McClane from *Die Hard*.

JOE

In China, we rooted for the police department in that movie. Back home, *Die Hard* was called: *We're Just Trying To Do Our Jobs But This Crazy White Guy Keeps Making It Harder*.

ON CHAD'S PUZZLED EXPRESSION, WE...

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE M

INT. VIDEO GAME COMPANY - NEXT MORNING
(Joe, Spencer, Programmer extras)

JOE IS AT HIS WORK STATION WHEN SPENCER APPROACHES. THE PROGRAMMERS ON JOE'S ROW STOP WORKING TO WATCH.

SPENCER

(RE: IMAGE ON JOE'S MONITOR) Nice work. I wish I was as good as you.

JOE

(REVELATION) You're being sarcastic!

SPENCER

Yeah, so?

JOE

You're saying something you don't mean. I finally get sarcasm. This is awesome! Thank you.

SPENCER

Wait, now you're being sarcastic, aren't you?

JOE

Yeah, it's fun.

SPENCER

I hope you backed up your work today.

SPENCER KICKS JOE'S PLUG OUT OF THE WALL AGAIN BUT THIS TIME JOE'S MONITOR STAYS ON AND THE OTHER PROGRAMMERS' COMPUTERS ON THE ROW GO DARK.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

What the--? (REALIZING) You switched the plugs?

JOE

(SARCASTIC) Ya think? (THEN, EXCITED) Hey, I’m getting good at this.

AS SPENCER LOOKS AROUND AND SEES AN ANGRY MOB OF PROGRAMMERS WALKING TOWARD HIM, WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE P

INT. BUCKEYE BAR & GRILL - LATER
(Joe, Marcus, Extras)

JOE WAITS ON A BAR STOOL FOR TAKEOUT. A WAITER, MARCUS, AFRICAN AMERICAN, 30'S, APPROACHES.

MARCUS

Joe Wong? It's me, Marcus from high school. (OFFICIOUS) "China hereby places a trade embargo on Mexico."

JOE

Ambassador Marcus! Wow, I feel terrible that I didn't recognize you right away and you knew it was me.

MARCUS

Don't feel bad. I've actually been calling every Asian guy that's come in here Joe Wong and this is the first time I've been right.

JOE

You'll never guess who's staying with me. My old host brother Chad.

MARCUS

Why? That guy was an asshole in high school.

FLASH BACK TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE R

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - FLASHBACK - 1997
(15 year-old Joe, 15 year-old Marcus, 15 year-old Chad, Jock #1, Jock #2, Jock #3, Lucia, Extras)

THE FLASHBACK WE SAW EARLIER BUT THIS TIME FROM MARCUS'S POV. 15 YEAR-OLD CHAD STANDS WITH 15 YEAR-OLD JOE.

15 YEAR-OLD CHAD

(TO JOCKS) Nobody messes with my brother.

THE JOCKS BACK AWAY. THE MODEL U.N. APPLAUDS.

15 YEAR-OLD JOE

Thanks, Chad.

15 YEAR-OLD CHAD

Any time. (RE: TACO SPLATTERED SHIRT) You better take care of that before it stains.

15 YEAR-OLD JOE EXITS. 15 YEAR-OLD CHAD APPROACHES A STUNNING FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT FROM SPAIN, LUCIA, 16.

LUCIA

That was pretty awesome.

15 YEAR-OLD CHAD

Kind of like John McClane from *Die Hard*.

LUCIA

(SMITTEN) A lot like John McClane from *Die Hard*.

ONE OF THE JOCKS GIVES CHAD A CONSPIRATORIAL HEAD NOD.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE T

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER
(Joe, Chad)

JOE STANDS WITH CHAD RETELLING MARCUS'S VERSION.

JOE

You only stuck up for me to get in Madame Ambassador from Spain's pantalones. (PUTTING IT TOGETHER) Those guys were on the football team. You set that up.

CHAD

Um, I don't know... maybe. Yes.

JOE

Did you even like me?

CHAD

I like you now. (TRYING TO SAVE IT) We're bros.

JOE

Anything else I should know, bro?

CHAD

Nothing really. (QUICKLY, UNDER BREATH) Threw out your homework, put your sneakers in the freezer, stuck your tooth brush in the toilet. Stole twenty bucks out of your wallet to buy groceries for breakfast the other day--

JOE

Wait, you stuck my toothbrush in the toilet? American toothpaste doesn't really taste like pee?!

CHAD

Sorry.

JOE

When I came here last year the airline only let me bring three suitcases. I filled two of them with Chinese toothpaste!

CHAD

You've got to look at it from my point of view. How would you feel if your parents suddenly dropped the bomb that you've got to share your room with a stranger? Just so they could fill a void in their lives.

JOE

What void?! Your parents were perfect.

CHAD

Maybe it looked that way but it was just a show for the neighbors. My dad was a drunk, my mom was sleeping with her tennis instructor and my sister was snorting her A.D.D. medicine.

THIS HITS JOE HARD.

JOE

Get your stuff and go.

JOE EXITS THROUGH THE OPEN KITCHEN DOOR INTO THE...

RESET TO:

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM
(Joe, Kristie)

KRISTIE IS THERE. JOE WALKS OVER TO THE MANTLE AND PICKS UP THE PHOTO OF HIS HOST FAMILY. HE LOOKS AT IT A BEAT AND CRUMPLES IT UP.

KRISTIE

Stop! What are you doing?

JOE

It was all a lie. None of it was

true. I based my whole life on a lie.

KRISTIE

I heard, I'm sorry. But ultimately it

was a good thing.

JOE

What are you talking about?

KRISTIE TAKES THE PICTURE FROM HIM AND SMOOTHS IT OUT. SHE LEADS HIM TO THE COUCH.

KRISTIE

Maybe it was a lie but it made you who

you are today. If you hadn't had

those experiences in the U.S., you

wouldn't have worked so hard to get

back here. And we would never have

met.

JOE

I guess that's true.

KRISTIE

And if we had never met, we wouldn't be having the baby we're having right now.

JOE

My English is still a little rusty. You mean the baby we're having "soon".

KRISTIE

No. Now. We're having the baby right now! My water broke.

JOE

We're having the baby!

CHAD RUNS IN.

CHAD

We're having the baby?!

JOE

We're having the baby!

JOE AND CHAD JUMP UP AND DOWN.

KRISTIE

Actually, I'm the one having the baby. Can we move this (RE: CELEBRATION) to the hospital?

AS THEY RUSH OUT, WE...

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE V

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER
(Joe, Kristie, Chad, baby)

KRISTIE IS IN BED HOLDING THEIR NEWBORN BABY. JOE GAZES AT HIS NEWBORN.

JOE

(RE: BABY) He's perfect. And you were amazing in there.

KRISTIE

Our Lamaze teacher would be proud of you. You got the breathing down.

JOE

To be honest I was thinking about Chad's sex sounds.

KRISTIE

We'll leave that out of the baby book.

CHAD APPEARS IN THE DOORWAY.

CHAD

Am I interrupting? The nurse said you wanted to see me.

JOE

We wanted to thank you for driving us to the hospital.

CHAD

Well, I was kind of blocking you guys in. Sorry about that.

JOE

You were loading your stuff up because I threw you out. I'm the one who should apologize.

CHAD

No, you shouldn't I was an a-hole in high school.

JOE

You had a lot going on. I get that now.

KRISTIE

(EXASPERATED) Oh my god, this is more painful than giving birth. Just make up already.

JOE

Kristie and I talked about it. You're welcome to stay with us until you're more financially secure.

CHAD

Thanks, I appreciate that.

THEY EXCHANGE A BRO HUG.

CHAD (CONT'D)

So did you guys pick a name?

KRISTIE

We did.

KRISTIE HANDS THE BABY TO JOE.

JOE

(TO CHAD) I'd like you to meet...

Eddie Vedder Wong.

KRISTIE

We're going to just call him Eddie.

The "Vedder" part can be between him

and his future therapist.

JOE

(MARVELS, TO BABY EDDIE) I can't

believe that you were just born and

you're already an American citizen.

(BEAT) Do you even know who Ben

Franklin is?

CHAD AND KRISTIE SMILE AS JOE CRADLES HIS SON.

CHAD

I'm going to leave you guys alone.

CHAD TIPTOES TOWARD THE DOOR, THEN STOPS.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Are you guys sleeping here tonight?

Because I have a date with this really

hot trauma nurse and-- (OFF THEIR

LOOKS) We'll go to her place.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

EXT. HOUSE - TWO WEEKS LATER
(Joe, Kristie, Chad, Baby Eddie, Female Jogger)

JOE AND KRISTIE ARE RAKING LEAVES IN THE FRONT YARD. BABY EDDIE VEDDER SLEEPS IN A NEARBY PACK N' PLAY.

JOE

Look at us raking leaves. It's the

American dream.

KRISTIE

You realize we're going to have to do

this again tomorrow. It never stops.

JOE

We're getting a gardener.

CHAD APPROACHES WITH A CUTE LULULEMON-CLAD JOGGER.

KRISTIE

I thought you said Chad was helping.

JOE

He is.

CHAD

This is Leila. She's volunteered.

KRISTIE

For what?

JOE

(HANDS CAMERA) I need a new photo.

THE JOGGER SNAPS A SHOT OF JOE, KRISTIE, BABY EDDIE AND CHAD ARM IN ARM RECREATING THE TABLEAU OF JOE'S HOST FAMILY PHOTO.

WE FREEZE FRAME ON THE PICTURE OF THIS NEW AMERICAN FAMILY AND THEN...

FADE OUT.