LET'S PRETEND THIS NEVER HAPPENED

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Temple Hill
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COLD OPEN

INT. VARIOUS FAMILIES' KITCHENS - NIGHT

We see POPS of different families at their respective dinner tables: At one table, the DAD uses bread sticks to make walrus tusks. The kids rolls their eyes.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Everyone thinks their family is weird.

POP TO: another family's table, the MOM sits down wearing a TON of MAKE UP that matches her bedazzled shirt. The kids share a WTF look.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
I bet you do, too.

POP TO: A family's Big Fat Dad falls asleep eating corn on the cob.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Well, hush, little rabbit. Let me give you some perspective.

CUT TO:

INT. THE PURDY LIVING ROOM - DAY

JENNY (15, adorably neurotic) and SUMMER (14, sweet and perfect) are watching the opposite of a flat screen TV.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
When I was a kid I remember watching sitcom families and thinking it was weird that no one was covered in blood.

FLOYD (40s, covered in blood) enters carrying a dead raccoon.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
My dad, Floyd, loved to bring home roadkill.

CUT TO:

INT. TAXIDERMY SHED - DAY

We pan across shelves full of taxidermied animals.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
He wasn't a psychopath he just liked to clean them, mount them...

We land on Floyd working on his latest creation.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
-- and occasionally dress them up fancy.

With a *ding* Floyd puts a tiny hat on a tiny raccoon head.

ADULT JENNY
He was a professional taxidermist. He was also a man with big ideas. Some good, some not so good. Like when he came home from the bar with two assistants.

Reveal two grizzled dudes working nearby: DAMON and HAUNCH.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
They may look scary, but they're just ex-cons who don't talk much and spend lots of time in a shed in our backyard working with knives. And that was one of his good ideas.

CUT TO:

EXT. PURDY HOUSE - DAY

JOANN (40, a firecracker) coasts her beater of a car slowly up the dirt driveway.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
My mom, Joann, was in charge of managing our money. And since we didn't have any, she did everything she could to save a buck. Like when her brakes started to give out, instead of replacing them, she came up with a better solution.

Joann aims the car at a skinny tree. The tree bends a little but stops the car. Joann pumps her fist -- victory!

CUT TO:

INT. JENNY AND SUMMER'S ROOM - NIGHT

We PAN ACROSS pictures of Summer and her friends.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
My little sister: Summer, the favorite child. Adorable. Popular. And always smiling.

We LAND ON SUMMER sound asleep in her bed with the world's biggest grin on her face.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Even in her sleep. And then there were my grandparents.

CUT TO:

INT. GRANRUTHIE AND GRAMP'S HOUSE - DAY

CLOSE UP on Granruthie doing her make up:

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Sweet Granruthie who drew her eyebrows on different, every single day...

She finishes her second eyebrow, indeed crooked. Gramps enters, gesturing angrily. Granruthie's unfazed as always.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
And Gramps, who I'm sure loved his wife even though he never, ever, ever showed it, wore giant, old people sunglasses even indoors.

Gramps takes off his sunglasses. He has a CRAZY TWITCHY EYE.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
But since they covered his stroke eye, we were all glad he did. I wish I could say at least I was normal. But that's not the case.

CUT TO:

INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT COUNTER - DAY

Jenny stands there awkwardly as the cashier punches in Jenny's order.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
My mom said I was, “different.” Google seemed to think I had “a severe untreated anxiety disorder.” It came out about ten times a day: like when this lady asked,
(as the lady’s lips say this)
“Do you want fries with that?”

Jenny’s eyes go WIDE. A beat. She runs out.

CUT TO:

INT. PURDY FAMILY KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jenny sits at the kitchen table along with her rowdy family.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
If I could, I would go back and tell fifteen-year-old me to embrace the craziness, because all that stuff is what makes her unique. And when she gets older she’ll look back and appreciate every second of it.

Floyd pulls a squirrel out of a cardboard box and tosses it at Jenny:

FLOYD
Jenny, catch!

As Jenny reacts the best she can:

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
But I’d be lying.

As the family carries on, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. PURDY HOUSE - DAY

The decor tells us three things: this family loves wood panelling, taxidermy and Texas. Jenny, Summer and Floyd sit by an old, air conditioner hanging out the window. Through another window we see Joann's car slowly hit the "brakes tree" with a thud.

JENNY
Mom's home.

ADULT JENNY (V.O)
You'd think by the size of our TV it was 1994. Nope. That's 2014.

Joann enters opening the mail, wiping sweat off her brow.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
That summer was hotter than the hinges of hell. I'm kidding. Not all Texans talk like that. Well, my mom does.

JOANN
Woo! It's hotter than the Devil's back in a pair of long johns when he's flipping flapjacks.

FLOYD
Yeah, you can't imagine how bad that taxidermy shed smells.

JENNY
(re: his stench)
We get the idea.

JOANN
(re: piece of mail)
What the-... The electricity bill is twice as much as normal.
(re: A/C)
I knew when we found this thing on the side of the road it was too good to be true. How are we gonna pay for this bill?

SUMMER
(totally sincere)
I can sell my hair.

JOANN
Aren't you a little angel for volunteering that. But you girls don't worry about this -- your dad and I will figure it out.

FLOYD
I heard a rattlesnake got loose in the church air vents. There's a reward for anyone who can get him out. You grease me up enough I could squeeze in there. Done.

JOANN
You know I love your big ideas...

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
She doesn't.

JOANN
But I got this -- we'll just have to cut back.

The family stares at her, then cracks up.

FLOYD
Aren't we cutting back already? Or are you saying we have to fire the butler?

JENNY
Wait, what about my college fund?

Jenny, Floyd and Summer laugh. Adult Jenny laughs, too.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
There was no college fund.

Joann isn't finding this as hilarious as they all were.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
We were laughing then, but we wouldn't have if we'd realized what Mom meant by cutting back...

As Joann UNPLUGS THE A/C and the family reacts we:

CUT TO:

MONTAGE: Floyd sniffs a sponge, winces and drops it in the trash; Joann catches it and puts it back in the sink. Joann rations out tiny bits of toothpaste. She serves Sloppy Joes

that are 90% bread and only a tad “sloppy.”

CUT TO:

INT. PURDY LIVING ROOM - DAY

Joann enters to find Jenny, Summer and Gramps (asleep).

JOANN
Guess who went clothes shopping?!

SUMMER
New clothes?!

JENNY
You’re kidding!

Jenny notices Joann’s carrying a trash bag.

JENNY
Please tell me inside that trash bag are regular shopping bags from actual stores.

JOANN
I know this isn’t exactly a Rodeo Drive shopping spree, but I got to a garage sale right when they were closing. They said anything I could fit in this bag for a dollar!
(showboating)
Whoop, there it is!

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Once again, this was not 1994.

Summer and Jenny dump the bag out and look through it. Summer puts on a red top (OVER HER CLOTHES). It looks great.

JOANN/JENNY
Gorgeous./Wow.

SUMMER
(takes shirt off)
Here, Jenny. See if you like it.

Jenny tries it on (OVER HER SHIRT). Through camera magic the shirt that looked great on Summer looks horrible on Jenny.

JOANN/SUMMER
(searching for positives)
It’s red./Such a pretty red.

JENNY
Summer could wear a bath mat and look good. But I can't wear this stuff. I don't want people to think I'm weird.

JOANN
You are weird. Even after all that therapy -- what a waste.

JENNY
Maybe if I went more than once.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
I only got that one session because I asked for it for my birthday.

JENNY
Look, I know I'm weird, but I don't want everyone else to know that. My goal is to skate through high school unnoticed. That's why I don't make eye contact, I hide in the showers during gym class and since I hate the cafeteria I found a great new place to eat lunch.

SUMMMER
In the back of Vice Principal Miller's Ford Fiesta?

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Yup. The floor was covered in fries and diet pills.

JENNY
How'd you know?

SUMMER
Everyone knows. They call you Jenny Fiesta.

JENNY
People are talking about me? I'm the weird girl? What about that Becca kid with the caved-in nose?

SUMMER
She came up with Jenny Fiesta.

Jenny begins to hyperventilate.

JOANN
Breathe, Jenny!

JENNY
How? I just found out my worst fear came true: I've been outed as a freak. I can't show my face again. I want to be home-schooled like the Reynolds.

JOANN
They're not home-schooled, they're in a cult. Ever notice they all have the same haircut, same name, they walk in height order...

JENNY
Sounds good to me.
(Summer tries on a shirt)
Dammit, Summer, how can you make a sweat stained jersey look cute?... I have to do something. I need new clothes, new personality, a new name -- cause I don't want to be Jenny Fiesta anymore.

Gramps wakes up and without skipping a beat shouts:

GRAMPS
Ruthie! Get me a beer!

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Yeah, he even wakes up yelling at her.

JOANN
She's not here.
(then, realizing)
Ruthie!

As Joann runs out the door, Gramps goes back to sleep:

CUT TO:

EXT. PURDY HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Joann opens the car door to find a sweaty Ruthie.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
My grandma is not senile. She's not stupid. She just has no sense of self preservation.

JOANN
I thought you were right behind me! You're baking in there!

GRANRUTHIE
I must have dozed off. Can I have some water?

She hands Granruthie a giant bottle of water. She CHUGS IT.

CUT TO:

INT. JENNY AND SUMMER'S BEDROOM - LATER

The sisters are on their own beds. Summer's side is pink, frilly, full of trophies. Jenny's side is the opposite. We HEAR a BEEP BEEP BEEP from outside.

FLOYD (O.S)
Come on out here! Look what I got!

The sisters share a look:

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Those words were never good. They meant Dad had another big idea.

CUT TO:

EXT. PURDY HOUSE - A SERIES OF POPS

In each pop, Floyd reveals what's in the back of his pickup.

FLOYD
Rusted up wheelchairs!// Bee hives!
(the excons from Cold Open)
New assistants!// Old lawn mowers!

CUT TO:

INT. PURDY HOUSE - LATER

Jenny (concerned) and Summer watch as Floyd pulls the cord that starts the mower engine. As it whirls into life we see that he has rigged it up as a power source for the A/C.

FLOYD
Now we can run the A/C for practically free.

SUMMER
You're a genius!

JENNY
Dad, this is crazy--
(feels the cold air)
Oh, wow. You are a genius!

Joann enters to see this.

FLOYD
Not bad huh? I just need to patent this: my lawnmower-airconditioner. It's a hybrid. All the blue states will eat it up.

JOANN
Isn't this dangerous?

FLOYD
I'm prepared. Summer show her the fire extinguisher.

Summer holds up a bucket of dirt.

JOANN
Look, I don't have time to play with the A/C. We still have a ways to go on paying down that electric bill. I think I need to go cash out our nest egg.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Our "nest egg" was a pile of tires we'd collected over the years that we could sell if times got tight.

FLOYD
Okay. How can I help?
(rubs her shoulders)
C'mon, I'll deal with the tires.

Joann does enjoy the massage, until: the A/C starts to smoke.

FLOYD (CONT'D)
Summer...

Summer throws dirt on it. It sparks and dies.

FLOYD (CONT'D)
See? I know what I'm doing.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - CHAIR, TEXAS - DAY

Jenny and Summer walk down a tiny MAIN STREET with a couple shops. Jenny wears the red shirt from the bag.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Our house was hot and miserable, so I took Summer out to enjoy all that our town had to offer.

SUMMER
The library has a new book return slot!

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
There wasn't much.

They approach a bench in front of BIG GUS'S GROCERIES AND FEED where some teens hang out, including a blond girl, Vivi.

JENNY
Great. They're probably over there making fun of Jenny Fiesta.

SUMMER
Maybe not. Let's go over and-

JENNY
There's no word you can end that sentence with that will make me say yes.

SUMMER
You said you wanted to change.

JENNY
I do. Relax, I already have a plan-

Jenny points at Big Gus's window- there's a help wanted sign.

SUMMER
Get a job?

JENNY
I meant going in and getting my own soda. You know how I hate dealing with people at registers.

SUMMER
Jenny, a job is way better! You'd be forced to talk to people and put yourself out there.

JENNY
I'd rather have my pinky sliced off with a chainsaw and sewed back on.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
And I was saying that as someone who that actually happened to.

CLOSE ON: her slightly crooked pinky finger.

SUMMER
(re: Jenny's crappy shirt)
How about new clothes? If you got a job you wouldn't have to wear those garage sale things that look so disgusting on you-
(gasps, never more sorry)
I didn't mean that.

JENNY
Can't you just give me some of your baby-sitting money?

SUMMER
I would, but I already donated it to kids with cancer.

JENNY
Dammit, Summer.
(then)
You really think getting a job will be worth it?

Vivi walks by ignoring Jenny. She stops, noticing something. Then, disgusted:

VIVI
Is that my old shirt?

Jenny dies inside as Vivi walks off.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Is it over? I couldn't watch.

JENNY
Adios, Jenny Fiesta. I'm getting a job.

CUT TO:

INT. PURDY HOUSE - DAY

Joann does dishes as Jenny and Summer enter.

SUMMER
Mom, guess what Jenny did while-

From outside we hear: BEEP BEEP BEEP!

FLOYD (O.S)
Come on out here! Look what I got!

The ladies share a look:

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Again, those words were never good.

CUT TO:

EXT. PURDY HOUSE - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Jenny, Summer and Joann exit to find Floyd, Damon and Haunch by Floyd's pickup truck which is covered by a tarp.

FLOYD
I reinvested our nest egg.

JOANN
What do you mean "reinvested?" We need that tire money.

FLOYD
I traded them for something that's a guaranteed money maker:

Jenny lifts up the tarp a little. BIG TURKEYS jump out from underneath it and start running amok around the yard. Joann and Jenny are horrified, but Summer is thrilled:

SUMMER
Turkeys!

Off Joann's WTF look, we:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. PURDY HOUSE - DAY

Everyone's where we left them. The turkeys still run around.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
You can tell a lot from people's body language: My dad, proud of his idea. My mom, angrier than she'd ever been. Me: terrified of a turkey.

Jenny runs screaming as a turkey chases her around the yard.

FLOYD
He likes you. I'm gonna call that one Jenkins.

JOANN
Turkeys?! You traded our nest egg for turkeys?!

FLOYD
No, these here beautiful creatures are Wisconsin Jumbo Quails. That's what we're calling them cause quails are worth more than turkeys. Our money problems are solved.

JOANN
You're going to have to connect the dots for me, Floyd.

FLOYD
I'm going to breed them. Won't be too hard. I mean I've bred cows, goats, snakes. Should be the same thing give or take a few legs.

JOANN
This is why I don't let you help.

SUMMER
Please don't fight.

JOANN
(sincerely sweet)
Oh baby, we're not fighting. You're daddy's just being stupid.

FLOYD
Stupid?

JOANN
That tire money could've made ends meet this month.

FLOYD
You're worried about the short term. I'm looking ahead to the future. I get this quail operation up and running and we don't have to eat bologna sandwiches at Summer's wedding-
(catches himself)
Summer or Jenny's wedding.

JOANN
Well, what about what we're going to eat this week? While you're living in your fantasies I'm gonna focus on things that'll make a difference <u>now</u>, like really hammering down on coupons.

FLOYD
Fine. You do your coupons, I'll turn these wild birds into our family fortune. May both of these equally valid ideas be fruitful.

JOANN
I guess we'll see.

SUMMER
Don't worry, guys. Jenny got a job. That should help.

Joann chokes. Floyd's jaw drops.

JOANN
You did?!

FLOYD
Does that mean you're cured now?!

JENNY
Not even close.

JOANN
I'm really proud of you. But we're not taking money from our kids.

JENNY
(full of shit)
Whatever's best for the family.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Oh, they were never gonna see a dime of that. That money was going toward clothes. I was fifteen. Don't judge me.

CUT TO:

EXT. BIG GUS'S GROCERIES AND FEED - LATER

Joann drives Jenny and Granruthie. She coasts her car into a parking spot.

JOANN
Ready for your first day of work?

JENNY
I feel like I just drank a gallon of poisoned well water.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
And again I was saying that as someone who that happened to.

The car jumps the cement block and then jumps the one for the spot in front. It's left straddling the two vertical spots.

JENNY
When are you going to get your brakes fixed?

JOANN
When money shoots out of a rooster's butt.

They all exit the car. Joann has a disposable film camera.

JOANN (CONT'D)
Hold up. I need to document this.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Okay, with that camera, now I am starting to believe this was 1994.

JOANN
(as Jenny hides her face)
You're always complaining that we only take pictures of Summer.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
That is true.

CUT TO:

INT. PURDY HOUSE - FLASHBACK

Teenage Jenny flips through photos. CLOSE ON shot after shot of Summer, then ONE picture of little Jenny holding a duck:

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Finally one of me.
(the back reads)
“Jenny and her Duck, Daffodil.
Later he drowned in a toilet bowl.”
How a duck drowns, I’ll never know.

BACK TO SCENE:

They are as we left them. Jenny seems anxious.

JOANN
There’s nothing to be nervous about. See that man?

Joann points at a Large Bob’s Big Boy-esque sign of Big Gus.

JOANN (CONT’D)
Back in school, Gus was a rich, dorky, little turd always bragging about having cable, and dental insurance. He needed that insurance when your dad punched him in the mouth for making fun of his shoes for squeaking. I mean, they squeaked. He sounded like there was a muppet chasing him. But Gus got what he deserved.

JENNY
Is this a pep talk?

JOANN
Yes. That little turd overcame being unpopular in high school. Now he owns a whole grocery store. That can be you, too.

GRANRUTHIE
Sweetie, she’s not saying you’re a turd.

JOANN
That’s right. Now go on.
(as Jenny heads in)
You got this, girl! Forget Jenny Fiesta! You come from a long line of strong, independent women!
(then, notices and fixes)
(MORE)

JOANN (CONT'D)
Ruthie, your wig's crooked. Now, you know I love your son, but he's about to get schooled. Thanks to my mad couponing skills we're about to get food for the week for under thirty bucks. Peanut butter's on sale. So is jelly. Let's do this.

CUT TO:

EXT. PURDY HOUSE - DAY

Floyd and Summer stand by a crate that holds the turkeys. Damon and Haunch are nearby. CARLOS the mailman approaches.

FLOYD
I'll show your mom the future's worth investing in. She may think these are just some wild birds, but I've been working with them all morning. Watch.

Floyd talks to the turkeys like a horse trainer.

FLOYD (CONT'D)
Whoa... steady... steady.

He opens the crate and the turkeys IMMEDIATELY RUN AFTER CARLOS, nipping at his heels and chasing him around.

CARLOS
Floyd! Call off your turkeys!

FLOYD
Whoa, quails! Whoa!

CARLOS
This is it. I helped you ship a chicken to Iowa, I delivered mail when you had a squirrel living in there because he kept to himself, but this is too much. You can get your mail at the post office.

As Carlos makes a dash for his truck. The turkeys follow.

FLOYD
Jenkins! Come here! Quails, come!

SUMMER
On the bright side, looks like they learned how to follow people.

FLOYD
I didn't teach them that. Shoot. Maybe this is stupid.

SUMMER
I think your ideas are awesome.

FLOYD
It is so hard not to pick favorites...

CUT TO:

INT. BIG GUS'S GROCERIES AND FEED - LATER

Jenny stacks cans. She is approached by a co-worker.

CO-WORKER
Hey, have you seen Mark?

Jenny freezes like a deer in headlights. As the confused coworker walks away, Jenny pumps herself up:

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
If I was going to get rid of Jenny Fiesta I had to be strong. I had to overcome my fears. Be the woman I was destined to be.

JENNY
(calls off, bravely)
He was getting a soda!

CO-WORKER
Cool. Thanks.

Jenny smiles huge. Victory!

CUT TO:

INT. BIG GUS'S - DAY

Joann's at the register with SCOTT, the cashier. She sees Granruthie on a rickety ladder reaching for a high shelf.

JOANN
Ruthie! Get down from there. You're gonna kill yourself.

GRANRUTHIE
(a worker helps her down)
They have those tissues I like.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
P.S. She lives to be ninety-four.

JOANN
(handing coupons to Scott)
Here you go.

SCOTT
Sorry, Mrs. Purdy. We're not doing coupons anymore.

JOANN
What?! There's no way. No way!

BIG GUS (a short version of the sign) walks up to Joann.

BIG GUS
Hey, Joann. Everything okay here?

JOANN
Well, I think just like the big Homecoming Game four years ago, Scott here has dropped the ball. He won't ring up my coupons.

BIG GUS
Sorry, we're no longer honoring them. Times are tight. Have to cut back.

JOANN
I saw that giant, new sign outside. Looks like times are loosey-goosey.

SCOTT
That'll be $56.45.

JOANN
Shush it, you third-string butterfingers.

CUT TO:

EXT. BIG GUS'S GROCERIES AND FEED - CONTINUOUS

The same group of kids from the first act are hanging out next to Big Gus's. Vivi walks over to them.

VIVI
Hey, citizens.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
God, she always said the coolest things. Why can't I think of things like that?
(then)
How is she still making me feel bad as an adult?

VIVI
Party at my house tonight. Everyone's invited.

Vivi leaves. The kids react and disperse revealing Jenny, throwing garbage bags into the dumpster, was there, too.

JENNY
I think I was just asked to my first party!

DUNCAN, a bitter, 50-year-old cashier drinks from a flask.

DUNCAN
I could give a flying--

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Duncan was grumpy. His wife had just left him. But that didn't dampen my spirits.

Jenny, thrilled walks back inside.

CUT TO:

INT. BIG GUS'S - CONTINUOUS

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Jenny Fiesta was on her way to becoming Jenny Party. Yes, I know they mean the same thing.

In the distance we HEAR someone yelling:

JOANN (O.C.)
You're burning my biscuits, Gus!

Jenny walks over to see what the commotion is. A crowd gathers around Joann and Granruthie, who talk to BIG GUS.

BIG GUS
My store. My rules. No coupons.

JOANN
This is ridiculous. Some of us are struggling here. Meanwhile the rich get richer. The one percent. War on Christmas.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
My mom was jumbling her headlines.

JOANN
You're making a mistake. And know what? You just lost one of your most loyal costumers. And I'll be damned if my kid works here.
(calls off)
Jenny! Jenny!

Jenny hides among the crowd, a co-worker says, re: Joann,

CO-WORKER
What a psycho. Glad I'm not Jenny.

JENNY
(covering her name tag)
Me, too.

As Jenny runs to the back of the store to hide from her mom:

CUT TO:

INT. PURDY HOUSE - NIGHT

Joann, Summer and Granruthie make dinner. Outside, the turkeys go wild. Jenny rushes in before Jenkins can follow.

SUMMER
How was work?

JENNY
Do you mean before or after the security guard dragged Mom out?

JOANN
He didn't drag me. He escorted me. So, Jenny, you were there? Funny. Cause I called your name a bunch. Maybe you didn't hear. I know my voice doesn't always carry.
(it carries, she was clearly being sarcastic)
Dinner!!!

Gramps enters as Joann puts sad sandwiches on the table.

GRAMPS
Bologna? So you just gave up?

JOANN
It's all we've got.

SUMMER
Let's all take some breaths.

JENNY
I heard you yell for me, but I was hiding. You're so embarrassing.

JOANN
I knock over one banana display and suddenly I'm embarrassing.

JENNY
You know how hard today was for me. You almost ruined everything!

Jenny runs upstairs as Floyd enters.

FLOYD
Where's she going? It's dinner.

JOANN
She's not having dinner.

GRAMPS
Lucky her.

JOANN
Then don't eat it!
(to Floyd)
So, you here to gloat about the fact that my coupons didn't work?

FLOYD
Not going to gloat. Just think this could be a lesson in having faith in your husband and--

A tiny bit of blood starts to seep through his white shirt.

JOANN
You bleeding, Floyd?

FLOYD
Fine. The quails are out of control. That doesn't mean all my ideas are stupid. I've got dreams.

JOANN
We're too poor to dream!
(off Summer's gasp)
Summer, you can still be a dolphin scientist... Look, Floyd, I had dreams, too: to see the Grand Canyon, be on the Price is Right, pick out hats for Kenny Chesney. But somebody's got to be the responsible one. It's me. I'm all alone keeping this family afloat.

FLOYD
(gets up and exits)
I'm sorry you feel that way.

GRAMPS
(re: sandwich)
These smell like dog breath.

JOANN
Fine! No one has to eat them!

Joann angrily scoops up all of the sandwiches and storms off. Summer, traumatized, runs out:

SUMMER
Why does everyone have to yell?

GRAMPS
Now what am I going to eat?!

Gramps storms out leaving Granruthie alone at the table, smiling, oblivious to the fight. Gramps returns to:

GRAMPS (CONT'D)
Why are you still sitting there!!!

GRANRUTHIE
Sorry.

She leaves. Now the family dinner table is totally empty.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. PURDY HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - LATER

WE PAN across the taxidermied animals that decorate the room: frozen, still-eyed. Some cute, some scary. We hit THE COUCH where Gramps and Granruthie watch TV frozen, still-eyed.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Granruthie and Gramps had already gotten over our big family blow up.

Joann stews nearby. Summer bites the crap out of her nails.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
But Summer hadn't.

SUMMER
Mom--

JOANN
Again. I'm not apologizing.

SUMMER
Okay.

CUT TO:

INT. TAXIDERMY SHED - DAY

Damon and Haunch watch as Floyd adjusts the glass eyes on a taxidermied dog. The eyes are noticeably crossed.

FLOYD
What do you think, guys?

Haunch checks it against a picture of the dog when it was alive... it was cross-eyed then, too. He nods his approval.

FLOYD (CONT'D)
Can you believe Joann says she's all alone? Like I don't help. I care about our future. Let me guess. You guys think she's got a point. Why? Cause I don't clip coupons and worry about the bills? Because I'm not the one that makes sure the kids get to school and everyone is fed and healthy and-
(getting it)
Maybe you guys have a point.
(MORE)

FLOYD (CONT'D)
I could be more focused on helping her in the day-to-day. Thanks for telling it to me like it is. I know what I got to do.

CUT TO:

INT. JENNY AND SUMMER'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jenny is getting ready. Summer enters.

SUMMER
You need to apologize to Mom.

JENNY
Why? You think I was wrong?

SUMMER
(tugging at her hair)
I don't know. I just want someone to apologize to someone. I can't stand the tension-
(notices in her fingers)
My hair's falling out.

JENNY
I'm not rehashing that fight now. I'm going to a party.

SUMMER
A party? Don't mess with me. I'm very vulnerable right now.

JENNY
I'm not messing with you. The job thing worked. People are starting to think I'm normal.

SUMMER
I'm so happy for you. You're going to make friends. Get popular. You could be Prom Queen!

JENNY
I'm not talking about Prom Queen. I just don't want to be called Jenny Fiesta.

SUMMER
Good, that was never gonna happen.

Jenny opens her window and starts to climb out.

SUMMER (CONT'D)
Are you sneaking out?

JENNY
I can't deal with Mom and Dad right now.

She climbs out.

CUT TO:

EXT. PURDY HOUSE - NIGHT

Jenny drops a few feet and lands on an old mattress.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Finally living like Sanford and Son paid off.

Jenny heads off. As she walks the turkeys make a commotion as they start following her. She kicks them away.

CUT TO:

INT. TAXIDERMY SHED - MOMENTS LATER

Damon and Haunch are there. Joann storms in.

JOANN
Those damn turkeys are going crazy. Where's Floyd?

CUT TO:

INT. BIG GUS'S GROCERIES AND FEED - NIGHT

Floyd enters. It's almost closing time. Gus spots him.

BIG GUS
Floyd?

FLOYD
I heard what happened today. Those coupons are really important to Joann. Is there anything I can do to get you to change your mind?

BIG GUS
Wow. That took a lot of courage for you to come down here and ask me for help. I admire that.
(MORE)

BIG GUS (CONT'D)
Joann can have her coupons.
(Floyd looks relieved)
But you have to let me punch you in the face.

Off Floyd's surprise, we:

CUT TO:

EXT. BIG GUS'S PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

In her own "old people's car" Granruthie drives Joann, Gramps and Summer -- slowly.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Since my mom's brakes were officially shot, she had Granruthie drive. Not the best driver when you're in a rush.

JOANN
C'mon. You drive like a grandma.

GRAMPS
Why do we have to be here anyway?

JOANN
If Floyd's about to cause trouble in there, we have to stop him.

CUT TO:

INT. BIG GUS'S GROCERIES AND FEED - SAME TIME

Gus is getting ready to punch Floyd.

BIG GUS
Now you promise you won't hit back?

FLOYD
As long as you keep up your end of the deal.

As Gus starts taking off his man jewelry, the family bursts in. It looks like Floyd and Gus are getting ready to fight.

JOANN
Floyd, stop! Don't hit him!

FLOYD
I'm not going to hit him. He's going to hit me.

JOANN
Why?

FLOYD
So you can get your coupons back. I know you think you're alone in this, but you're not.

JOANN
Forget the coupons. I don't want you doing this. I'd rather eat bologna sandwiches for life.

GRAMPS
Screw that, hit my son! I wanna eat!

BIG GUS
Enough. How bout all y'all get out of my store? Take your business to the other grocery store in town. Oh, wait, there isn't one.

CUT TO:

INT. VIVI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Music plays. There are lots of people. It's bumping.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
It was my first party and I was rocking it.

Jenny dances and laughs with her fellow party-goers.

JENNY
Brodie! Kylie! Looking good!

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
I'm kidding it was more like this.

CUT TO:

Same party, except Jenny sits awkward and alone on a couch. She picks up a "cell phone" and dials.

ADULT JENNY (V.O)
I know what you're thinking: how can a girl that poor have her own cell phone? It wasn't a phone. I'd found a remote and was trying to look busy. I was doing my best not to say anything weird.
(MORE)

ADULT JENNY (V.O) (CONT'D)
Do anything weird. Basically not be me. I was going to bury Jenny Fiesta that night.

Jenny notices something over by the door.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Well, me and the turkeys...

CLOSE ON JENNY as she shakes her head and mouths “no, no no.” CLOSE ON: JENKINS in the doorway. He cocks his head to the side. A beat. Then CHAOS. Jenkins and his cohorts run amok. Teens scream. Feathers fly. Furniture gets ruined. In slo-mo it’s almost beautiful. The slo-mo is broken by: Vivi, who runs over to Jenny, pissed.

VIVI
Your turkeys are shitting up my house!

JENNY
(meekly)
They’re quails?

VIVI
Get out! You don’t belong here.

Jenny bolts out the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. VIVI’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jenny runs outside.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
This was the most embarrassing thing that had ever happened to me. Up until that party all I’d wanted to do was hide how weird I was. But the turkeys made that impossible. Word of this would spread across my small town and I’d never again have a chance of being seen as normal. So why did I feel like laughing?

Jenny starts to giggle. It becomes a full blown laugh.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Complete and utter defeat is actually pretty freeing. I couldn’t hide who I was anymore.
(MORE)

ADULT JENNY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
So instead I decided to embrace it. That was the moment I went from a shy, anxious, terrified chick to what I am today: a shy, anxious, terrified chick, who doesn't care if people know it. And let me tell you -- this way is a lot more fun. I was no longer Jenny Fiesta.

Jenny starts to walk away, passing other party goers:

JENNY
(confidently)
Hi. Hey. What's up.

The turkeys flock behind her like her entourage.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
I was Jenny Turkey Shitter.

JENNY
Come on guys. Let's go home.

CUT TO:

EXT. BIG GUS'S PARKING LOT - LATER

Floyd stands next to Joann as she stares at the Big Gus sign.

JOANN
Man, I hate that smug face. He thinks just cause he's got money he can screw over us little people.

She throws a rock at the sign. Floyd hugs her.

JOANN (CONT'D)
Thanks for trying in there.

FLOYD
Thanks for working so hard for us.

JOANN
You know, I like that you dream. It's nice to imagine we can do better than this. But be honest. Are you seriously not scared? I mean, we've got nothing.

FLOYD
Are you kidding? You've got me. We got our family.

HONK! Reveal Gramps, Granruthie and Summer standing by Granruthie's car. Gramps is honking the horn.

GRAMPS
Come on, already!

JOANN
In a minute!

FLOYD
(ignoring Gramps)
What more could we want? Besides Kenny Chesney. Come on. Like I wouldn't look good in one of his big ol' hats?

JOANN
He's got nothing on you. Will you remind me of all of this the next time I go nutso in a grocery store?

FLOYD
They really called security on you?

JOANN
Yeah, no wonder Jenny was upset.

FLOYD
She's a teenager. She's programmed to be mad at her parents. She'll come around soon enough.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Jenny drives.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Sooner than he realized. I was dying to tell my family what had happened at the party. When I went home and no one was there, I hopped in a car to look for them. Fortunately, it's a small town and there weren't many places to look.

PULL OUT: Jenny sees her family and swerves into Big Gus's parking lot.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Unfortunately, the only car left at our house had no brakes.

She tries to stop the car but can't. She bashes into the Big Gus sign. The family is stunned. The sign starts wobbling. It's about to fall. Granruthie is RIGHT UNDER IT. Gramps "runs," concerned and pushes her out of the way.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Awww. I guess he does love her.

GRAMPS
Ruthie! What the hell. You dummy!

Jenny gets out and runs to her family. They all hug.

JOANN
Jenny! That was awesome.

FLOYD
Did you see that! Woo!

SUMMER
Everyone loves each other again!

Big Gus runs out and sees the damage.

BIG GUS
I'm gonna sue your asses!

JOANN
Good luck! We don't have anything!

CUT TO:

INT. PURDY HOUSE - NEXT NIGHT

The family happily enjoys dinner together.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
Okay, we still had money problems. Even more now cause we had to pay to fix that sign. And I had my new nickname. And Summer's nervous bald spot hadn't started to grow back. But Dad was right. We had each other and everything was going to be fine. For us. Another thing my dad was right about: the quails. They were a good investment.

Joann places a giant cooked turkey on the table.

ADULT JENNY (V.O.)
So? We eat our pets. Get over it.

Jenny rips a drumstick off and takes a big bite.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

EXT. PURDY HOUSE - DAY

Joann hangs laundry, Jenny reads under a tree. Summer and Floyd water a tomato plant together as Gramps and Granruthie drink sweet tea on the porch. Damon and Haunch paint a fence. It's almost Norman Rockwell-esque:

Carlos the mailman nervously approaches and checks the yard for turkeys.

FLOYD
No worries, Carlos. The turkeys are gone.

As Carlos breathes a sigh of relief and heads to the mailbox.

JOANN
Everything's back to normal here.

ANGLE ON: Carlos at the mailbox. He opens it up to find a SQUIRREL INSIDE IT. Carlos shrugs.

CARLOS
Yes it is.

He hands the squirrel the mail. It takes it in it's tiny hands and goes back in the mailbox. As Carlos shuts the mailbox lid, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW