UNTITLED SEBASTIAN MANISCALCO PROJECT

"Pilot"

story by

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teleplay by

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COLD OPENING

A

FADE IN:

INT. MARCONI'S - NIGHT
(CUSTOMER, WIFE, DENNY, SEBASTIAN)

MARCONI'S IS AN OLD-SCHOOL, FAMILY-STYLE CHICAGO PIZZERIA -- RED BRICK WALLS, LONG WOODEN BAR, ETC. ALL OF THE DOZEN OR SO TABLES AND BOOTHS ARE FILLED WITH HAPPY PIZZA-LOVERS.

A CUSTOMER SITS AT A TWO-TOP WITH HIS WIFE. THE WAITER, DENNY, (LATE-30'S, LANKY, CARE-FREE), TAKES THEIR ORDER.

CUSTOMER

We'll start with one caesar salad, split onto two plates. Dressing on my half, but she'll have hers on the side.

WIFE

I don't like it too soggy.

DENNY

(WRITING DOWN ORDER) One non-soggy half-salad for the lady.

CUSTOMER

And for our pizza, we're gonna go with the "Classico." Only, instead of onions, maybe you can throw on some extra sausage.

DENNY

This is your first time at Marconi's, isn't it?

CUSTOMER

It is. Why, is there a problem?

DENNY LOOKS OVER IN THE DIRECTION OF THE HOST'S PODIUM. THE CAMERA PUSHES IN ON THE RESTAURANT'S OWNER -- SEBASTIAN MARCONI -- UNTIL HE'S FRAMED IN A DRAMATIC CLOSE UP.

SEBASTIAN

Yeah, there's a problem.

SEBASTIAN AMBLES OVER TO THE TABLE LIKE AN OLD WEST SHERIFF IN A TOWN WHERE ORDER NEEDS TO BE RESTORED.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

This is a restaurant, not your kitchen. There are certain rules that need to be followed. First rule: you don't like onions, don't order a pie with onions. Second rule: no substitutions. I'm making a profit of four cents on this thing as is, and you want to sub in double meat for no veg?

THE CUSTOMER IS ABOUT TO RESPOND, BUT DENNY SHAKES HIS HEAD SLIGHTLY, LETTING THE GUY KNOW SEBASTIAN'S NOT DONE.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

When I was growing up, ordering at a restaurant was a simple process. You looked at a menu and said: "I'll have this." If you didn't want pickles on your burger, you took 'em off when it came to the table. It wasn't a negotiation.

THE CUSTOMER AGAIN LOOKS TO DENNY. DENNY HOLDS UP A FINGER AS IF TO SAY "ONE MORE SECOND."

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

It was the code my parents raised me with: You work hard, you keep things moving, you make sure you're never the problem. Now, I can't control the rest of the world. I can't stop people from cutting their toenails in the airport, or punching giant holes in their ears in the name of fashion. But, I can control what goes on in my joint. And that's why at Marconi's, if you order the Classico, you get the Classico.

THE GUY LOOKS AT DENNY, WHO NODS SLIGHTLY -- IT'S FINALLY HIS TURN TO SPEAK.

CUSTOMER

Onions are fine, we'll just pick them off.

DENNY

Very good. I'll get those caesars out to you right away.

DENNY HEADS OFF FOR THE KITCHEN. SEBASTIAN SMILES TRIUMPHANTLY AT THE CUSTOMER, AS WE...

SMASH TO:

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

B

FADE IN:

INT. MARCONI'S - LATER THAT NIGHT
(DENNY, SEBASTIAN, VINCENT, CHARLOTTE)

DENNY TURNS THE SIGN ON THE FRONT DOOR FROM "OPEN" TO "CLOSED." HE CROSSES THROUGH THE EMPTY RESTAURANT TO A BOOTH WHERE SEBASTIAN SITS WITH HIS FATHER, VINCENT, (65, STRONG, HANDSOME, IMPECCABLY DRESSED AND GROOMED.)

DENNY

That was awesome how you destroyed

those new customers.

SEBASTIAN

I didn't destroy them, Denny, I just

let them know what's expected of them

if they want to eat here.

VINCENT

You shoulda kicked 'em out. They don't

follow the Code, they gotta go.

SEBASTIAN

Pop, you weren't even here. You have

no idea who we're talking about.

VINCENT

I hear things. Just because you're

running the place now, doesn't mean I

don't still have my sources.

SEBASTIAN

Denny told you.

VINCENT

(DENNY DID) I can't reveal my sources.

SEBASTIAN TURNS TO THE BAR WHERE CHARLOTTE, (21, HOT, CAN'T BE BOTHERED), STANDS TEXTING.

SEBASTIAN

Hey, Charlotte, can you bring us over three scotches?

CHARLOTTE

I'm on my break.

SEBASTIAN

Break? We're closed.

CHARLOTTE

Oh, then I'm off the clock. See you tomorrow.

CHARLOTTE GRABS HER PURSE AND EXITS. SEBASTIAN WATCHES HER LEAVE, THEN TURNS TO VINCENT.

SEBASTIAN

Why'd you ever hire her?

VINCENT

What's the matter with you, your eyes don't work?

SEBASTIAN

Yeah, I know she's hot and brings in business, but she's a terrible bartender. She'd never even heard of a vodka tonic 'til two days ago when I had her make me one.

VINCENT

How was it?

SEBASTIAN

Horrible. She made it with Red Bull.

SEBASTIAN NOTICES DENNY STARING INTENTLY AT HIM.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

What's with the staring?

DENNY

I want to see if you've changed.

SEBASTIAN

Since when, five seconds ago?

DENNY

No, since you moved in with Rebecca.

SEBASTIAN

Why would moving in with my girlfriend change me?

DENNY

Dude, that's what women do. They're like spiders -- they date you for a while, tempting you toward their web. Then once you move in, bam! The caterpillar you've been your whole life is suddenly now a butterfly.

SEBASTIAN

What?

VINCENT

I agree.

SEBASTIAN

You agree with the spider-caterpillar thing?

VINCENT

No, that's idiotic. But, I do agree it's wrong for a man to move in with a woman before marriage.

SEBASTIAN

Really? This from the guy who left his wife -- my mother -- and took up with a Ukrainian woman -- not my mother -- who he is now living with.

VINCENT

Totally different. Svetlana and I aren't having kids.

DENNY

That you know about. (THEN) Wait, that doesn't work.

SEBASTIAN

(TO DENNY) Okay, Mr. Expert, enlighten me. Exactly how is Rebecca gonna change me?

DENNY

Oh, it'll be subtle at first. Some new clothes here, a foreign film there. All in a sinister plot to turn you into her perfect man.

SEBASTIAN

You've been married to Janis for ten years yet you haven't changed one bit.

(MORE)

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

You still got the same haircut you had when you were eight years old.

DENNY

(SAD) The haircut’s all I have left.

SEBASTIAN GETS UP.

SEBASTIAN

Well, I appreciate your concern-slash-paranoia, but there’s nothing to worry about. No one’s changing nobody.

DENNY

Really? You haven’t noticed anything weird since you moved in?

SEBASTIAN

Not at all. I hate to destroy your ridiculous theory, but living with Rebecca isn’t any different from how it was when we were just dating. It’s totally, 100% normal.

SMASH CUT TO:

C

INT. SEBASTIAN AND REBECCA'S FOYER - THAT NIGHT
(CLAUDE, SEBASTIAN, REBECCA)

SEBASTIAN ENTERS THE FRONT DOOR OF HIS NEW HOME -- A FUNKY, CHICAGO BROWNSTONE. CLAUDE (28, GAY, NO BOUNDARIES) ENTERS WEARING A TANK TOP AND BIKINI BRIEF UNDERWEAR.

CLAUDE

Well, if it isn't the man of the house returning from the salt mines!

SEBASTIAN

Okay, Claude, I got a bunch of questions, so I'm gonna just start firing.

CLAUDE

Oooh, fun. It'll be like a game show.

SEBASTIAN

What the hell are you doing here?

CLAUDE

(QUICKLY, LIKE GAME SHOW CONTESTANT) I'm your girlfriend's business partner and we run our interior design company out of the house. Ding! Next question.

SEBASTIAN

Why aren't you wearing pants?

CLAUDE

I spilled mimosa on them and now they're in the wash. Ding!

SEBASTIAN

If I give you some sweat pants, will

you leave immediately?

CLAUDE

No way. I wouldn't be caught dead in

sweatpants. Ding!

SEBASTIAN

Nope, no ding. You got that one wrong.

SEBASTIAN REACHES INTO THE CLOSET, PULLS OUT SOME SWEATS AND TOSSES THEM TO CLAUDE.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Goodbye, Claude. Thanks for playin'.

CLAUDE

But, I--

SEBASTIAN

Out.

CLAUDE QUICKLY PUTS ON THE SWEATS AND EXITS.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Rebecca? Where are you?

REBECCA (O.C.)

In the bedroom. I have a surprise for

you!

SEBASTIAN

A bedroom surprise? Now we're talkin'.

SEBASTIAN RUSHES UP THE STAIRS AS WE...

RESET TO:

<u>INT. SEBASTIAN AND REBECCA'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER</u>
(SEBASTIAN, REBECCA)

REBECCA, (30, EARTHY, WARM) IS IN THE BEDROOM. SEBASTIAN ENTERS, UNBUTTONING HIS SHIRT.

SEBASTIAN

You get the lights, I'll put on some

Marvin Gaye.

REBECCA

Marvin Gaye? Oh, you thought... bedroom

surprise... that's not what I meant.

SEBASTIAN

(BUMMED) Oh.

HE STARTS TO BUTTON HIS SHIRT BACK UP.

REBECCA

But, I could be down for a little session.

SEBASTIAN

(PSYCHED) Oh.

HE STARTS TO UNBUTTON AGAIN.

REBECCA

But before we pay a visit to

Lovetown... Here's your surprise.

SHE HANDS HIM A SMALL DEPARTMENT STORE BAG.

SEBASTIAN

Did you just say we were gonna be

visiting "Lovetown?"

REBECCA

Didn't feel right leaving my mouth, I

was hoping you didn't notice. Come on,

check out your present.

SEBASTIAN REACHES IN AND REMOVES A SCARF. HE LOOKS AT IT QUIZZICALLY.

SEBASTIAN

A scarf? But, it’s not winter.

REBECCA

It’s not for warmth, babe, it’s an accent piece. Here, try it on.

SHE WRAPS THE SCARF AROUND HIS NECK AND INSPECTS IT.

REBECCA (CONT’D)

Oh, I love it! What do you think?

SEBASTIAN

Not sure. I’m not really an accent piece kind of guy.

REBECCA

That’s the point. It’s different. Change is good, right?

SHE CROSSES TO THE BED AND STARTS TO UNMAKE IT. SEBASTIAN LOOKS CONCERNED, MOUTHING THE WORD “CHANGE?”

REBECCA (CONT’D)

I was thinking you could show it off at our party.

SEBASTIAN

Who said anything about a party? I thought we were just having a few friends over.

REBECCA

I know, but since we’re celebrating moving in together, I figured why not expand it a little? I mean, the more the merrier, right?

SEBASTIAN

Wrong. The more the un-merrier. People don't know how to behave at parties -- they arrive empty-handed, they stand around in little texting clusters taking selfies.

REBECCA

How can they text and take selfies at the same time?

SEBASTIAN

Two phones? Maybe an app? It's the spirit of the observation, not the specifics.

REBECCA

But, I love having a house full of people. Are you saying we're never gonna have a party?

SEBASTIAN

Look, I know this hard for you to hear. But, now that we're living together, not everything's gonna be the way you want it.

REBECCA

Don't be so sure. I have ways of getting what I want. (EMBRACING HIM, SEXY) What do you say about the party?

SEBASTIAN

You think this obvious tactic is gonna work on me?

REBECCA

(SEXY) It’s the only tactic I got.

SHE KISSES HIM.

SEBASTIAN

It’s a pretty good tactic. Fine, let’s throw a party.

REBECCA

Yes! Now go put on that Marvin Gaye and I’ll meet you in Lovetown. (THEN) Why do I keep saying that?

AND WE...

CUT TO:

D

INT. MARCONI'S - THE NEXT DAY
(MARIA, SEBASTIAN, CHARLOTTE, DENNY)

SEBASTIAN ENTERS THE RESTAURANT CARRYING A SMALL PACKAGE. HE IS IMMEDIATELY APPROACHED BY HIS MOTHER, MARIA (65, STILL ATTRACTIVE, A BALL OF ENERGY.)

MARIA

I got a bone to pick with you, mister.

SEBASTIAN

'Morning, Ma. What'd I do?

MARIA

It's what you didn't do. You're having a party and you don't invite your own mother?

SEBASTIAN

We did invite you. In an evite.

MARIA

Now you're just making up words.

SEBASTIAN

You get it through e-mail. And before you say, "I don't have e-mail"--

MARIA

I don't have e-mail.

SEBASTIAN

Okay, after you say "I don't have e-mail", I think I've solved the problem. Welcome to the Digital Age, Ma.

HE UNWRAPS THE PACKAGE HE'S HOLDING. IT'S AN IPAD.

MARIA

I don't know how to work one of these.

SEBASTIAN

Which is why I hired you a computer teacher. (TURNS TO BAR) Charlotte?

CHARLOTTE

I'm not a computer teacher.

SEBASTIAN

You're not a bartender either, but I'm paying you, so... teach.

HE HANDS CHARLOTTE THE IPAD AND CROSSES AWAY, ONLY TO BE IMMEDIATELY INTERCEPTED BY DENNY.

DENNY

Hey, I'm not sure Janis can make the party.

SEBASTIAN

Oh really, how come?

DENNY

Because I'm not telling her about it.

SEBASTIAN

Right, I keep forgetting you hate spending time with your wife.

DENNY

Why do you think I'm here right now? My shift doesn't start for another six hours.

ANGLE ON: CHARLOTTE AND MARIA SEATED AT A TABLE. CHARLOTTE IS SHOWING MARIA THE IPAD.

CHARLOTTE

First thing I do every day is Google my old boyfriends to see if any have died.

MARIA

Oh, I like the sound of that. (TYPES) Vincent Marconi...

CHARLOTTE

(RE: SCREEN) Hey look, Marconi's Yelp page. Click on it.

MARIA

Click? Yelp? Are you having a stroke, dear?

CHARLOTTE

Yelp is an online review site. (CLICKS ON PAGE) See?

MARIA

(READING) "Best deep dish in Chicago." "Old school the way it's should be." "Stick with the pizza and avoid the lasagna." What the hell?!

CHARLOTTE

Haters gotta hate.

MARIA

That my lasagna recipe. Who is this "Alan J." character? What paper does he review for?

CHARLOTTE

Paper? You don't understand, he's probably just some loser who lives in his parents' basement.

MARIA

Then what gives him the right to slander my lasagna?

CHARLOTTE

It's kinda my generation's specialty. Someone does something, someone else mocks it, then someone else mocks the guy who mocked it. The Internet's awesome.

MARIA

Well, I can't let this Alan J. guy criticize my recipe.

CHARLOTTE

Sweet, let's post a comment. (TYPES) Hey, Alan. Does the "J" stand for jackass or jag-off? (CLICKS) See, anonymous attacks make everything better.

AS MARIA CONTINUES TO READ ALAN J.'S REVIEW, WE...

CUT TO:

E

INT. SEBASTIAN AND REBECCA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT
(CLAUDE, SEBASTIAN, REBECCA)

SEBASTIAN ENTERS TO FIND CLAUDE AND REBECCA SITTING ON THE COUNTER AND DRINKING CHAMPAGNE.

CLAUDE

(RE: SEBASTIAN) Put away the bubbly.

Grandpa's home.

SEBASTIAN

Right. Grandpa cuz I'm mature and responsible and don't sit around drinking champagne on a Tuesday.

REBECCA

We're celebrating. Claude's getting a dog.

CLAUDE

He's the cutest thing. I met him down at the shelter and I knew I just had to have him.

SEBASTIAN

What breed is he?

CLAUDE

Oh, you thought I was talking about the dog. I meant the guy who runs the shelter. (THEN) Are you a dog-lover, Sebastian?

SEBASTIAN

Dogs are alright. They may be filthy and pea-brained, but at least they know better than to sit on the kitchen counter.

REBECCA

Oh, right, sorry. (TO CLAUDE)

Sebastian has a thing about that.

THEY GET OFF THE COUNTER.

SEBASTIAN

Now that I'm living here, this is an Italian home. And in an Italian home, the counter top is sacred ground. It's where food gets prepared. I don't want to cut prosciutto where your asses have been.

CLAUDE

You are a fiery one, aren't you?

REBECCA

So, Sebastian, the party plans are taking shape. The DJ's booked--

SEBASTIAN

DJ?

REBECCA

The caterer says she'll hire the bartenders--

SEBASTIAN

Bartenders -- plural?

REBECCA

All we need to do is get Cassie's birthday cake.

SEBASTIAN

Wait, it's your sister's birthday?

REBECCA

Not for two weeks.

SEBASTIAN

Then why's she having a cake at <u>our</u>

party?

REBECCA

Well, she hinted that she wanted one.

SEBASTIAN

What was the hint?

REBECCA

"Here's the number of the bakery I want

you to order my birthday cake from."

CLAUDE

I gotta say, Sebastian, I'm impressed. I

never would've pegged you for the big

party type.

REBECCA

He's not. But, we're gonna change

that. Aren't we, babe?

SEBASTIAN

Sure looks that way.

SEBASTIAN WONDERS IF THERE'S TRUTH TO DENNY'S THEORY, AS WE...

FADE OUT.

<u>END OF ACT ONE</u>

ACT TWO

H

INT. MARCONI'S - SEBASTIAN'S OFFICE - THE NEXT MORNING
(VINCENT, SEBASTIAN)

SEBASTIAN SITS AT HIS DESK. VINCENT SITS ACROSS FROM HIM, EXAMINING SEBASTIAN'S NEW SCARF.

VINCENT

It's not winter. I don't get it.

SEBASTIAN

Apparently it's called an accent piece.

VINCENT

I'm not sure those two words even go together.

SEBASTIAN

I can't believe I'm saying this, but I think Denny may be right. Rebecca is out to change me. And the worst part is, I'm pretty sure it's working.

VINCENT

How so?

SEBASTIAN

(RELUCTANT) I like the scarf.

VINCENT

Then what's the problem?

SEBASTIAN

The scarf's a symbol, Pop. I'm not an accent piece guy. I'm not a house full of people guy. I'm not a sit on the kitchen counter guy.

VINCENT

(ALARMED) People are sitting on the counter? That's sacred ground.

SEBASTIAN

I took care of it. But I think it's just a small victory in a losing battle. Tonight's party's a perfect example -- it's not at all what I want, yet I'm letting it happen.

VINCENT

Son, being in a relationship means doing stuff you don't wanna do from time to time.

SEBASTIAN

But, I feel like I'm doing stuff I don't wanna do <u>all</u> the time.

VINCENT

Just wait til your married.

SEBASTIAN

So, I'm supposed to tolerate all this stuff I can't stand?

VINCENT

Your number one job is to keep your woman happy. And, if that means putting up with a Code violation or two, that's what you gotta do.

SEBASTIAN

Thanks, Pop. I appreciate it.

VINCENT

Hey, what are fathers for?

THEY START TO GET UP.

SEBASTIAN

Alright, the party starts at 7, but you can come early if you want.

VINCENT

Oh, I'm not going to your party.

SEBASTIAN

What? Why?

VINCENT

I told you, I can't celebrate something I don't believe in. If you wanna live with someone, you get married first.

SEBASTIAN

But, what about all that stuff about relaxing the Code?

VINCENT

That's for women, not sons.

HE EXITS. SEBASTIAN SITS THERE STUNNED, AS WE...

CUT TO:

J

INT. MARCONI'S - THAT DAY
(SEBASTIAN, DENNY, CHARLOTTE, MARIA)

SEBASTIAN SITS AT THE BAR WITH DENNY.

SEBASTIAN

Can you believe my dad? I mean, talk about hypocrisy.

DENNY

Maybe his neck was so cold he couldn't think straight. (THEN) That was a shot at your--

SEBASTIAN

Scarf. Yeah, I got it.

CHARLOTTE PLACES TWO DRINKS FILLED WITH DARK LIQUID IN FRONT OF THEM.

CHARLOTTE

Two soda waters with lime.

SEBASTIAN

This is soda water?

CHARLOTTE

I doubt it. I'd never heard of that so I just pressed a random button on the gun.

DENNY

But, where are the limes?

CHARLOTTE

Did you ask for limes?

SEBASTIAN

When you put the drinks down, you said

“two soda waters with limes.”

CHARLOTTE

Oh, yeah, I did. Good catch.

SHE PLOPS A LIME IN EACH OF THEIR DRINKS. SEBASTIAN LOOKS OVER TO A TABLE TO SEE HIS MOTHER STANDING WITH HER IPAD.

SEBASTIAN

What the hell’s she doing?

CHARLOTTE

She’s comparing Alan J.’s Yelp picture

with everybody in the restaurant.

SEBASTIAN

Aw, jeez.

SEBASTIAN CROSSES TO MARIA. DENNY FOLLOWS.

MARIA

(TO MALE DINER) ‘Scuse me. Would you

mind smiling like a dirty weasel?

CONFUSED, THE GUY OBLIGES MARIA AND SMILES.

MARIA (CONT’D)

Not weasely enough. Again.

SEBASTIAN PULLS MARIA AWAY FROM THE DINERS.

SEBASTIAN

Ma, you gotta stop.

MARIA

I’m not stopping until I find Alan J.

SEBASTIAN

Why would he come back to a restaurant he didn't like?

DENNY

He liked the restaurant. It's just your mom's lasagna he hated.

SEBASTIAN

Don't you have a shift to get ready for?

DENNY

Nope. I'm off today.

MARIA

Sebastian, honey, this has been a difficult couple of months for me. What with your dad and me splitting up, and now him living with that Russian woman, cooking God-knows-what in my kitchen.

DENNY

Ukrainian. And her pierogis are actually quite-- (THEN) I'm gonna go get ready for my shift.

DENNY SCURRIES AWAY.

SEBASTIAN

Ma, I get that you're going through a rough time, but how is finding this Alan J. gonna fix anything?

MARIA

I'm not sure. All I can tell you is that little bitch is going down.

MARIA HEADS OFF FOR THE NEXT TABLE. SEBASTIAN CROSSES BACK TO CHARLOTTE.

SEBASTIAN

You better do something about this.

CHARLOTTE

Why me?

SEBASTIAN

You Millenials love living your lives in public -- tweeting, sending pictures of your junk everywhere, tattle-taling on restaurants you don't like. Your people created this problem, and as their representative, you need to fix it.

CHARLOTTE

Fine, I'll take care of it. After my cigarette break.

SEBASTIAN

Since when do you smoke?

CHARLOTTE

I don't, but I thought you'd get mad if I said I was taking a kale break.

SEBASTIAN

Kale break?!?

CHARLOTTE

See, told you you'd get mad.

SHE TAKES A CRUNCHY BITE OF KALE. SEBASTIAN REACTS, AS WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE K

INT. SEBASTIAN AND REBECCA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT
(SEBASTIAN, REBECCA)

IT'S THE NIGHT OF THE PARTY.

SEBASTIAN, WEARING HIS SCARF, STANDS WITH REBECCA. A BAR IS SET UP IN ONE CORNER. A FEW WAITERS AND WAITRESSES PASS INNOCENTLY BY THEM. SEBASTIAN FOLLOWS ONE OF THE WAITERS WITH HIS EYES.

SEBASTIAN

Look at that guy.

REBECCA

What, he's just setting up an hors d'oeurves station.

SEBASTIAN

He's casing the joint. Making a mental inventory of the stuff he's gonna come back and steal. But, I'm on to him.

REBECCA

What are you gonna do, follow him all night? (THEN) Oh my God, you're gonna follow him all night.

THE DOORBELL RINGS.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

Our first guest! Come on.

THEY START TO CROSS TO THE FOYER.

SEBASTIAN

This would be so much easier if my dad was here.

REBECCA

Oh, that's sweet.

SEBASTIAN

He could keep eyes on this character

when I'm off doing host stuff.

REBECCA

Less sweet.

REBECCA STARTS FOR THE FRONT DOOR. SEBASTIAN FOLLOWS WHILE KEEPING HIS GAZE FIXED ON THE WAITER.

RESET TO:

INT. SEBASTIAN AND REBECCA'S FOYER - CONTINUOUS
(CASSIE, TREVOR, SEBASTIAN, REBECCA, WAYNE, CLAUDE, MARIA)

REBECCA OPENS THE DOOR TO REVEAL HER SISTER CASSIE (31, HIGH-STRUNG, INSECURE, SELF-ABSORBED) AND HER 5-YEAR-OLD SON TREVOR.

CASSIE

The birthday girl's here! Let's get

this party started.

TREVOR

Hi, Aunt Rebecca and Uncle Sebastian.

CASSIE

Oh, he called you Uncle Sebastian.

Isn't that cute?

SEBASTIAN

Adorable. It's gonna be so great having

a 5-year-old child at an adult party.

REBECCA

Hey, where's Wayne?

CASSIE

He'll be here in a sec. He and his

bros took a separate cab.

SEBASTIAN

"Bros?"

CASSIE

His fraternity brothers are in town so

he brought them along.

CASSIE'S HUSBAND WAYNE (32, SMOOTH IN A BAD WAY) ENTERS WITH HIS FRAT BUDDIES ENTER.

WAYNE

Gentlemen, this is my sister-in law,

Rebecca, and her boyfriend Sebastian.

You can call him Sea-Bass.

SEBASTIAN

Or Sebastian.

WAYNE

But, I have someone far more important

for you to meet. The bartender.

THE GUYS HEAD OFF FOR THE BAR. SEBASTIAN PULLS WAYNE ASIDE.

SEBASTIAN

Hey, Wayne. Can I talk to you?

WAYNE

What is it, Sea-Bass?

SEBASTIAN BRISTLES. IT'S CLEAR TO EVERYONE EXCEPT WAYNE THAT HE HATES HIS NICKNAME.

SEBASTIAN

I count four "bros" You brought a plus-

4 to a party without asking?

WAYNE

Oh, I told Rebecca about it. She said

the more the merrier.

SEBASTIAN

Really? Well, that seems to becoming one of her favorite sayings.

WAYNE

Thanks for having us, dude. Tonight is gonna be epic!

WAYNE HIGH-FIVES SEBASTIAN AS HE RUSHES INTO THE LIVING ROOM.

CASSIE

You guys, we have a surprise for you.

SEBASTIAN

(NOTICING) If it's the fact that you're empty-handed, I'm not surprised.

TREVOR

The surprise is I learned all the words to "Get Lucky." I'm gonna sing it later for mommy's birthday.

CASSIE

Give them a preview, Trevor.

SEBASTIAN

That's alright, he doesn't have to--

TREVOR

(SINGING AND DANCING) *She's up all night 'til the sun/ I'm up all night to get some/ She's up all night for good fun...*

CLAUDE (O.C.)

(HIGH-PITCHED HARMONIZING) *I'm up all night to get lucky!*

EVERYONE TURNS TO SEE CLAUDE IN THE DOORWAY. HE HAS A DOG ON A LEASH DRESSED IN A DOGGIE SWEATER.

REBECCA

You brought the dog!

SEBASTIAN

You brought the dog?

CLAUDE

This is Ferragamo, my new bestest buddy.

SEBASTIAN

Is that thing trained?

CLAUDE

Like does it do tricks?

SEBASTIAN

Like does it crap all over the floor?

CLAUDE

Don’t worry, I’ll clean up after him. I brought poopy bags with me. (PATS CHEST) Right in here.

SEBASTIAN

You just patted a spot where there’s no pocket.

CLAUDE

Oh, right. That was my other shirt. I changed at the last minute cuz it made me look fat.

REBECCA

Well, the shirt you’re wearing looks really good.

CLAUDE

I know, right? And it's such a better color on me.

SEBASTIAN

Guys, I hate to break up this thrilling fashion discussion, but I got bad news for you. This is a human party. Ferragamo goes out back.

CLAUDE

Out back? But Rebecca told me to bring him.

SEBASTIAN

That's ridiculous. Rebecca would never-- (OFF HER LOOK) Really? So now "the more the merrier" applies to animals?

REBECCA

He couldn't leave him alone on his first night.

SEBASTIAN

Then, he shoulda, I dunno, stayed home.

REBECCA

He's just a little puppy. We can't have him outside all by himself.

SEBASTIAN

Fine, bring the damn dog in.

CLAUDE

Yay! Did you hear that, Ferragamo? The horrible grouchy man said we can stay!

CLAUDE AND FERRAGAMO MAKE THEIR WAY INTO THE PARTY. MARIA ENTERS WITH A TRAY OF FOOD.

MARIA

Hi, honey. I need to go warm my lasagna up in the kitchen.

SEBASTIAN

(TO REBECCA) See, that's proper etiquette. You come to a party, you bring something for the hosts.

MARIA

This isn't for you. Charlotte tracked down Alan J. on Face-something and invited him to the party.

SEBASTIAN

Ma, you don't invite a guest without first running it past the host.

MARIA

Aw, you sound just like your father.

MARIA RUSHES OFF TO THE KITCHEN TO WARM UP HER LASAGNA.

REBECCA

See, isn't this fun?

SEBASTIAN'S REACTS, DISPLEASED. AFTER A BEAT, CLAUDE POPS HIS HEAD BACK IN.

CLAUDE

I'm gonna need one of those poopy bags.

OFF SEBASTIAN'S REACTION, WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

L

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER
(GUESTS, CASSIE, DENNY, SEBASTIAN, CLAUDE, WAITER, REBECCA, MARIA, VINCENT)

THE PARTY GUESTS ARE SINGING TO CASSIE.

GUESTS

Happy Birthday, dear Cassie/ Happy

birthday to you.

CASSIE

Oh my God, you guys! I had no idea you

were going to embarrass me like this!

SEBASTIAN STANDS WITH DENNY.

DENNY

Why didn't you tell me it was Cassie's

birthday? I feel like a jerk showing

up without a gift.

SEBASTIAN

For once, you're not the jerk in this

scenario.

CLAUDE APPROACHES.

CLAUDE

Hey, Sebastian, is the beef grass-fed?

SEBASTIAN

It better be for the amount I paid.

CLAUDE

Phew. I do not want Ferragamo eating

steak with hormones or antibiotics.

SEBASTIAN

Ferragamo? Sorry, but the dog is not

eating a steak. They're for the guests.

CLAUDE

Oh, well he just assumed...

CLAUDE MOTIONS ACROSS THE ROOM WHERE FERRAGAMO IS LICKING A PLATE CLEAN.

SEBASTIAN

You know, I'm starting to think the dog

can stay, but you have to go.

SEBASTIAN CROSSES OVER AND PICKS UP THE PLATE FROM THE GROUND. THE SUSPICIOUS WAITER COMES UP TO HIM.

WAITER

Would you like me to take that, sir?

SEBASTIAN

Yeah. But that's all you're gonna be

taking. Do we understand each other?

WAITER

Not really.

THE WAITER WALKS AWAY. CASSIE AND REBECCA PASS BY.

SEBASTIAN

Happy non-birthday, Cass. You want me

to get you a slice of cake?

CASSIE

Is it gluten-free?

REBECCA

No.

CASSIE

Then I'll pass, thanks.

CASSIE WALKS AWAY. MARIA RUSHES UP TO SEBASTIAN AND REBECCA.

MARIA

Where do you keep your good china?

SEBASTIAN

Alan J.?

MARIA

Charlotte’s got him cornered out back. If he doesn’t like my food this time, I’m gonna smash the plate over his head.

REBECCA

With my good china?

MARIA

I’m exaggerating, dear. I wouldn’t really do that.

REBECCA LOOKS TO SEBASTIAN, WHO MOUTHS THE WORDS “YES, SHE WOULD.” SEBASTIAN TAKES A PAPER PLATE OFF A TABLE.

SEBASTIAN

Here’s a paper plate, Ma. Go play nice.

MARIA WALKS AWAY, TESTING THE VIABILITY OF THE PAPER PLATE AS A WEAPON.

REBECCA

(NOTICING) Hey, you’re not wearing your scarf. I thought you liked it.

SEBASTIAN

I do, but it’s like a million degrees in here. Is something wrong with the thermostat?

REBECCA

No, Claude thought he heard Ferragamo sniffle, so he cranked up the heat.

SEBASTIAN

Well, as long as the dog's comfortable.

REBECCA

So, did you ever hear from your dad?

SEBASTIAN

There's nothing to hear.

REBECCA

You don't think there's any chance he'll come?

SEBASTIAN

No way. The man's Sicilian. Holding a grudge is the national pastime over there.

REBECCA

I wouldn't be so sure. Look.

REBECCA POINTS. VINCENT IS STANDING IN THE DOORWAY.

SEBASTIAN

Dad?

SEBASTIAN AND REBECCA CROSS TO VINCENT.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

I'm so glad you're here. Let me take your coat. And every other layer you may be wearing -- there's a sniffling dog inside.

VINCENT

I can't come in.

SEBASTIAN

Oh.

VINCENT

Not until I apologize.

SEBASTIAN LAUGHS. THEN, HIS BROW FURROWS.

SEBASTIAN

Oh, you're serious.

VINCENT

Sebastian, you're my son. And even though I don't agree with your choice, I do know that I brought you up the right way. It's not my place to question your decisions.

SEBASTIAN

Wow, that's actually kinda... evolved. No offense, but what the hell happened to make you change your mind?

VINCENT

(POINTING TO REBECCA) She did.

REBECCA

I may have called to suggest he reconsider his position.

VINCENT

It was not a suggestion. Frankly, I was afraid of what was gonna happen if I didn't show.

REBECCA

Turns out I have two tactics.

VINCENT

You got a keeper here, son.

SEBASTIAN

(SMILING) I know.

REBECCA

Well, as much as I could sit here all night and listen to how great I am, I have a party to host. (THEN, TAKING OFF SWEATER) God, it's like a friggin' sauna up in here.

SHE WALKS AWAY, LEAVING SEBASTIAN AND VINCENT -- THE TWO KEEPERS OF THE CODE -- TO OBSERVE THE PARTY.

VINCENT

Who the hell are all these people?

SEBASTIAN

No idea.

THEY LOOK AT WAYNE AND HIS FRAT BUDDIES SHOTGUNNING BEERS.

VINCENT

Animals.

SEBASTIAN

Tell me about it. And check out Mr. Flip-Flops.

THEY LOOK AT A GUY WEARING FLIP-FLOPS.

VINCENT

You don't show your toes at a party. It's just not right. (THEN,) Keep your eye on that waiter. I don't like the way he's casing the joint.

CLAUDE APPROACHES.

CLAUDE

Did you see that tall drink of water in the flip-flops? I just love a guy with a nice set of toes.

SEBASTIAN

Hey, where's Ferragamo?

CLAUDE

Oh, he's around here somewhere. (LOOKS AROUND) There he is. What are you chewing on now, you little scamp?

SEBASTIAN FOLLOWS CLAUDE'S GAZE TO DISCOVER FERRAGAMO GNAWING ON WHAT REMAINS OF HIS PARTY SCARF. SEBASTIAN'S EYES NARROW, AS WE:

CUT TO:

SCENE M

EXT. SEBASTIAN AND REBECCA'S BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER
(SEBASTIAN, DENNY, VINCENT)

SEBASTIAN IS TYING FERRAGAMO'S LEASH AROUND A TREE IN THE SMALL BACKYARD AREA. DENNY AND VINCENT ARE THERE TOO.

SEBASTIAN

And that, my friends, is how the law is laid down.

DENNY

Was Claude upset when you took the dog?

VINCENT

Who's Claude?

SEBASTIAN

Rebecca's business partner.

VINCENT

Can't picture him.

SEBASTIAN

5'10", short hair. You've met him like ten times.

VINCENT

Doesn't ring a bell.

DENNY

He's gay.

VINCENT

Oh the gay guy. Why didn't you just say that?

THEY STEP THROUGH THE SLIDING DOOR AND INTO THE PARTY.

RESET TO:

INT. SEBASTIAN AND REBECCA'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS
(WAYNE, SEBASTIAN, CLAUDE)

AS THEY WALK BACK INTO THE PARTY, WAYNE APPROACHES.

WAYNE

Sea-Bass, quick question. Where would be the best place to puke and then pass out?

SEBASTIAN

Your house.

WAYNE

(CHUCKLES) Yeah, no chance of that.

WAYNE TAKES A SWIG OF BEER, THEN WALKS AWAY. CLAUDE APPROACHES.

CLAUDE

Sebastian, did you make sure Ferragamo has enough water?

SEBASTIAN

Yeah, I used the hose to fill up a big bowl for him.

CLAUDE

Hose? But he only drinks bottled water.

SEBASTIAN

His last owner poured acid in his eyes. He'll be fine with tap.

CLAUDE HOLDS OUT SOME BOTTLES OF WATER.

CLAUDE

Pretty please? Pretty pretty pretty pretty pretty--

SEBASTIAN

Gimme the bottles.

SEBASTIAN GRABS THE WATER AND HEADS BACK OUT TO THE BACKYARD.

RESET TO:

EXT. SEBASTIAN AND REBECCA'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS
(SEBASTIAN, VINCENT)

SEBASTIAN STEPS BACK INTO THE YARD, DENNY AND VINCENT FOLLOWING.

SEBASTIAN

I'm telling you, Claude may be the most

annoying person I've ever met.

VINCENT

Who's Claude?

SEBASTIAN GIVES HIS DAD A LOOK, THEN CROSSES TO THE TREE WHERE HE TIED UP THE DOG. BUT, TO SEBASTIAN'S HORROR, ALL THAT'S TIED TO THE TREE IS THE LEASH. FERRAGAMO IS NOWHERE IN SIGHT. OH SHIT.

AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

P

FADE IN:

EXT. SEBASTIAN AND REBECCA'S BACKYARD - AS BEFORE
(VINCENT, SEBASTIAN, DENNY, REBECCA)

SEBASTIAN, DENNY AND VINCENT STAND AS BEFORE. SEBASTIAN HOLDS ONTO FERRAGAMO'S EMPTY LEASH.

VINCENT

I don't see what the big deal is.

SEBASTIAN

Pop, the dog is missing.

VINCENT

So? The gay guy was giving it food and shelter in return for nothin'. If that mutt thinks he can do better, screw him.

DENNY

Speaking of looking for a new place to live, once Rebecca finds out you lost the dog, you can stay with us for as long as you need.

SEBASTIAN

Not necessary. Rebecca's never going to know about this.

MIRRORING THE SHOT IN THE COLD OPEN, THE CAMERA ZOOMS IN ON SEBASTIAN UNTIL HE'S IN A HEROIC CLOSE-UP.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

We're finding that dog.

SEBASTIAN SMILES, A LOOK OF SELF-SATISFACTION ON HIS FACE. UNTIL--

REBECCA (O.C.)

What do you mean “find”? Where’s

Ferragamo?

WIDEN: TO REVEAL THAT REBECCA HAS JOINED THEM IN THE BACKYARD.

DENNY

I’ll leave a key under the mat.

DENNY QUICKLY EXITS.

SEBASTIAN

I don’t know what happened. I tied him

up real good, I left for two minutes,

and when I came back he was gone.

REBECCA

Claude is going to lose his mind.

VINCENT

Who’s Claude?

SEBASTIAN

The gay guy, Pop. How about you go

poke around the party and see if you

can find the dog? I think I have some

groveling to do here.

VINCENT EXITS.

SEBASTIAN (CONT’D)

Rebecca, I--

REBECCA

I’m sorry.

SEBASTIAN

You’re sorry? For what?

REBECCA

For all this. This giant party. I know this isn't your thing, but I pushed you into it.

SEBASTIAN

You didn't push. You nudged. And there may have been a little shove here and there. Okay, you pushed.

REBECCA

And you know what the funny thing is?

SEBASTIAN

I lost a dog?

REBECCA

How is that funny?

SEBASTIAN

I don't know. I'm still kinda jumpy from you sneaking up on me.

REBECCA

The funny thing is that I'm not even enjoying myself.

SEBASTIAN

You're not?

REBECCA

I used to love having a house full of people. But, tonight, all I can focus on are the Code violations. Did you see the guy in flip-flops?

SEBASTIAN

Yeah, that guy's gotta go.

REBECCA

I guess since we're living together, I'm starting to see the world through your eyes.

SEBASTIAN

Wait, are you saying I changed you?! But, I thought you were trying to change me.

REBECCA

Why would I want to change you?

SEBASTIAN

Because Denny said--

REBECCA

Okay, you listening to Denny's advice is one thing that is gonna change.

SEBASTIAN

Rebecca, you can't change. You're the nice one between the two of us. If you start noticing all the stuff that's wrong with people, we're gonna end up like those two old guys on the Muppet Show.

REBECCA

Fine, neither of us changes. Deal?

SEBASTIAN

Deal.

THEY SHAKE HANDS. THEN, HE PULLS HER IN FOR A HUG AND KISS.

REBECCA

Uh-oh.

SEBASTIAN

What?

REBECCA

I think I know where Ferragamo went.

SHE DIRECTS SEBASTIAN'S ATTENTION TO A BIG HOLE IN THE FENCE.

SEBASTIAN

Alright, in my defense, I was not very careful when I tied up that dog.

REBECCA

You know what, Claude rescued that thing and gave it a home and food. If it thinks it can do better, screw him.

SEBASTIAN

I've never loved you more.

THEY HEAD TOWARD THE SCREEN DOOR, AS WE...

CUT TO:

R

INT. SBEASTIAN AND REBECCA'S HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER
(SEBASTIAN, REBECCA)

REBECCA AND SEBASTIAN WALK DOWN THE HALL.

SEBASTIAN

Since we established you're the nice one, you should be the one to break it to Claude.

REBECCA

No way. You're the mean one. Delivering bad news is right in your wheelhouse.

SEBASTIAN NOTICES THAT THE DOOR TO THEIR BEDROOM IS AJAR.

SEBASTIAN

Hey, didn't we close our bedroom door?

REBECCA

Yeah, we definitely did.

SEBASTIAN

What kind of dirtbag goes into the host's bedroom? When I'm at someone's house, I close my eyes when we pass the master bedroom out of respect.

REBECCA

(LISTENING) I think they're still in there. Oh, they are going down.

THEY PUSH OPEN THE DOOR AND WALK INTO...

RESET TO:

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS
(SEBASTIAN, CHARLOTTE, ALAN J., REBECCA, CASSIE)

REBECCA AND SEBASTIAN ENTER TO DISCOVER CHARLOTTE MAKING OUT WITH A YOUNG, NERDY GUY.

SEBASTIAN

Charlotte?

CHARLOTTE

Oh, hey. This is my friend Alan.

SEBASTIAN

Alan? As in Alan J?

ALAN J.

(PERKING UP) You've read my stuff?

SEBASTIAN

You don't talk.

ALAN J.

Fair enough.

SEBASTIAN

Charlotte, why are you making out with this guy in my bedroom?

CHARLOTTE

I wasn't planning on it. I brought him in here to try your mom's lasagna and I guess one thing led to another.

REBECCA NOTICES THE EMPTY CASSEROLE DISH ON THE GROUND.

REBECCA

(RE: CASSEROLE) Well, you seemed to really like it.

ALAN J.

I did not. Too much ricotta, not enough mozzarella and the noodles were embarrassingly overcooked.

SEBASTIAN

Okay, it's time for you to go.

SEBASTIAN MAKES A MOVE FOR THE INCREASINGLY NERVOUS ALAN J.

CHARLOTTE

Wait, Sebastian. If you kick his butt, he won't change his review.

SEBASTIAN

Why would he change his review? He just said he hated my mom's lasagna.

CHARLOTTE

I know. And that's why I offered to make out with him if he changed it.

ALAN J.

It was really a no-brainer.

CHARLOTTE

See, Sebastian. Millenials aren't any different from old people like you. At the end of the day, we're just looking for someone to make out with.

REBECCA

But, I don't get it. If you didn't like the lasagna, why'd you eat all of it? You practically licked the plate clean.

ALAN J.

I didn’t eat it. Your dog did.

SEBASTIAN

Dog?! You’ve seen the dog?!

CHARLOTTE

(POINTING TO CLOSET) He’s in there.

But, it didn’t sound like all that

lasagna was agreeing with him.

ALAN J.

Who can blame him? What with the

overabundance of-- (OFF THEIR LOOKS)

We’ll go now.

ALAN J. AND CHARLOTTE EXIT. SEBASTIAN PEERS INTO THE CLOSET.

SEBASTIAN

Well, I found the dog.

REBECCA

How bad is it in there?

SEBASTIAN

We’re gonnna maybe want to move.

CASSIE POKES HER HEAD IN FROM THE HALLWAY.

CASSIE

Oh, there you are. We’ve gotta leave.

I want to get out of here before Wayne

throws up.

WE HEAR CHEERS AND CHANTS OF “WAYNE, WAYNE, WAYNE!” CASSIE LOOKS BACK DOWN THE HALLWAY, THEN POKES HER HEAD BACK IN.

CASSIE (CONT’D)

Too late. Sorry about that guys.

SEBASTIAN

I guarantee it's not the most disgusting thing I'll have to clean up tonight.

CASSIE

Well, thanks again. (TO REBECCA) I'll talk to you tomorrow. And, Sebastian, I'll see you at my birthday party.

SEBASTIAN

Oh, another birthday party. Where are you having it?

CASSIE

Here. Rebecca was so sweet to offer. Bye.

CASSIE EXITS. SEBASTIAN GLARES AT REBECCA.

REBECCA

(HOPEFUL) It'll be fun.

SEBASTIAN REACTS, AS WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE