PHYS. ED

"Pilot"

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PHYS. ED

"PILOT"

COLD OPEN - SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. GYM - NIGHT (DAY 1)
(JANIE, ED)

THE NATHAN HALE HIGH SCHOOL FIVE-YEAR REUNION IS IN FULL SWING. A BANNER READS, "WELCOME BACK CLASS OF 2007."

SURROUNDED BY A GROUP OF ATHLETIC, GOOD-LOOKING FRIENDS IS ED SPECTOR, HANDSOME AND CONFIDENT, WITH A WRY SMILE. HE EXCUSES HIMSELF TO GET ANOTHER DRINK AT THE BAR.

ED'S JUST ABOUT TO GET THE BARTENDER'S ATTENTION WHEN A WOMAN CUTS IN FRONT OF HIM.

JANIE

Gin and tonic, please. (INDICATING A LOT) Gin. (A LITTLE) Tonic.

MEET JANIE MACALLISTER (TYPE "A" PERSONALITY, PRETTY BUT INTENSE). ED TURNS TO HER AND GLANCES AT HER NAME TAG.

ED

Janie? Janie MacAllister?

JANIE

Ed Spector, right?

SHE SMILES. SHE CLEARLY KNOWS WHO HE IS.

ED

Wow, you look great.

JANIE

I've had a lot of work done.

SHE SMILES, KIDDING. ED LOOKS AT HER, INTRIGUED.

ED

So what have you been up to? Where are you these days?

SHE TAKES HER DRINK.

JANIE

You're sweet to ask, Ed, but it's okay. You don't have to pretend we were friends in high school.

ED

Well, maybe we weren't friends, but I always noticed you.

JANIE

Wow, I am so flattered. Ed Spector noticed me. You spent all that eyeball energy on little old me? And to think, you could have been noticing a ladybug, or a shiny penny!

ED CAN'T HELP BUT LAUGH.

ED

I never realized how funny you are.

JANIE

Probably because you've never spoken to me before in your life.

ED

I'm sensing that maybe you didn't like me very much in high school--

JANIE

More like “hated.”

ED

Hated? Really? You didn’t find me just a little bit charming? Were you aware of the fact that I once did some sort of amazing athletic thing in a very important sporting event?

JANIE SENSES SOMETHING. HER EYES NARROW.

JANIE

You’re not in some sort of twelve step program where you have to go back and apologize to everyone you’ve ever wronged, are you?

ED

Uh, no, and p.s. how did I ever “wrong” you?

JANIE

(EYES HIM) You have no idea, do you?

ED

No idea about what? We never even had any classes together.

JANIE

Oh, my God. Seriously? Mr. O’Mally’s class? It went you, girl with the baby, Smelly Sue, me.

(MORE)

JANIE (CONT'D)

I'm pretty sure we had classes together every year since seventh grade.

ED

Oh. (EMBARRASSED) Look, all I'm trying to say is... people change. I'm not the same person I was in high school and just talking to you now, I'm thinking I was pretty stupid for not getting to know you better back then. I'm not trying to hook up with you. Unless that's on the table. (CATCHES HIMSELF) I'm sorry. Look, I'm just trying to be... I don't know, grown up. (OFF HER BLANK STARE) Say something. Are you going to throw your drink at me? 'Cause this is a new jacket...

SHE STUDIES HIM FOR A MOMENT.

CUT TO:

SCENE B

INT. ED'S BEDROOM - NIGHT
(ED, JANIE)

ED AND JANIE LIE IN BED TOGETHER, POST COITUS.

ED

That was... (a) amazing, (b) incredible, or (c) impressive. (OFF HER LOOK) There's no right or wrong answer here.

BUT JANIE JUST GETS UP AND STARTS GETTING DRESSED. BACK TO REALITY, SHE'S SUDDENLY VERY SELF-CONSCIOUS AND MORE THAN A LITTLE EMBARRASSED.

ED (CONT'D)

Wait, where are you going? (OFF HER LOOK) Well, can I call you?

JANIE

I don't think that's a good idea.

ED

But when will I see you again?

JANIE

Look, Ed. It was fun, but this isn't me. I don't do... this. Obviously there were some unresolved feelings from high school but now they're resolved, so... good job!

ED

So that's it?

SHE FINISHES GETTING DRESSED.

JANIE

There’s always the ten-year reunion.

AND WITH THAT, SHE RUSHES OUT OF THERE, ABOUT TO EMBARK ON HER WALK OF SHAME. ED LOOKS GENUINELY HURT.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE C

INT. GYM - DAY (DAY 2)
(ED, JACK, GERALD, SETH)

MONDAY MORNING, ED STANDS IN FRONT OF HIS NINTH GRADE BOYS. THE GYM IS BACK TO NORMAL AFTER THE REUNION.

ED

Welcome to ninth grade, guys. I'm Mr. Spector and today's my first day, too. You might not know this, but I went to school here. See those championship banners hanging up there? All me, baby. See that dent in the wall? My head made that.

ED IS BEAMING. ONE COOL KID, JACK, ERASES ED'S SMILE WITH:

JACK

Is that why you're a gym teacher now?

ED

Yeah, so anyway, I had a lot of crazy-fun things planned for us, spear guns, nunchucks, lawn darts and such, but it's raining outside, so who's up for some kickball? (NO REACTION) Awesome. So... (CHECKS CLIPBOARD) Pete Abernathy? Seth Bohmer? You guys want to be captains and pick up teams?

ONE NERDY KID, GERALD, RAISES HIS HAND.

ED (CONT'D)

Yes?

GERALD

Why are we doing this?

ED

Because it’s raining.

GERALD

No, I mean picking up teams. You know it’s not 1955 anymore, right? Couldn't we just go odd-evens or alphabetically or something. It'd be a lot faster. It's just, picking up teams. It's a barbaric ritual that undermines our self-esteem and reinforces social hierarchies. It's demeaning.

SETH

So's your balls.

AND WITH THAT, SETH PULLS DOWN GERALD'S PANTS, EXPOSING HIS TIGHTY-WHITIES FOR THE WHOLE CLASS TO SEE. THE CLASS BURSTS OUT LAUGHING BEFORE GERALD QUICKLY PULLS THEM BACK UP.

ED

Knock it off, you guys! We have zero tolerance for bullies here at Hale High. You know what? Gerald’s right. Boom. Done. No more picking up teams from now on. This is what the end of apartheid must have felt like. (OFF THEIR STARES) No? Okay, let’s just go odd-even. Where’s the kick balls?

CUT TO:

INT. GYM - MOMENTS LATER
(ED, JANIE)

ED HAS SOME SMALL BALLS THAT A TODDLER MIGHT USE. THE KIDS LOOK SEVERELY UNDERWHELMED.

ED

This is the best I could find, guys. You'll have to make do for now, but I promise you I'll fix this.

JUST THEN, JANIE ENTERS THE GYM! SHE SEES ED AND IS STUNNED.

JANIE

Ed?! What are you doing here?

ED

I work here. Today's my first day. Are you like stalking me?

JANIE

I work here, too, Einstein.

ED

What? Why didn't you mention this when we... you know.

JANIE

Why would I tell you where I worked? I was looking forward to never seeing you again.

OFF HER REACTION, WE...

FADE OUT:

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE - SCENE D

FADE IN:

INT. GYM - DAY
(ED, JANIE, KARL)

ED AND JANIE HAVE MOVED TO THE BLEACHERS. JANIE IS STILL VISIBLY UPSET.

ED

I think we should talk about what happened.

JANIE

I'd really rather not. Look, it was a mistake--

ED

A mistake? A mistake is dropping a ball or missing a shot. You didn't drop any balls and I didn't miss any shots.

JANIE

Can we just move on?

ED

No, we can't just move on. You slept with me!

JANIE

That doesn't mean I like you!

ED LOOKS HURT. JANIE RUBS HER BROW IN FRUSTRATION.

JANIE (CONT'D)

This can't happen, Ed. This is my career. Please, can we just move on?

ED

Okay, fine. Whatever. (THEN) I was going to make you an omelette.

JANIE

Are you through? Look, the reason why I'm here is to let you know that some of your students will be skipping gym on Fridays for Model U.N.

ED

Well, I can't just excuse them for no reason.

JANIE

Model U.N. is a legitimate extra-curricular activity.

ED

Yes, well, while I'm sure the people of Darfur appreciate your nonbinding resolutions, if a student doesn't have a medical excuse, I don't have to let him go.

JANIE

You know what, forget it. I'll come back when you're done crying.

SHE TURNS TO GO BUT ED STOPS HER.

ED

Wait. Look. It's just, I was planning on doing some really cool stuff on Fridays. A little Cy-Yo, a little Zumba--

JANIE

Who cares, Ed? It's just gym.

THIS STRIKES A CHORD WITH ED.

ED

Excuse me, physical education is a real class.

JANIE

It doesn't count toward your G.P.A.

ED

Neither does Model U.N.

JANIE

Says the guy teaching kids how to kick a ball.

ED

Says the woman seeking my permission. (SMILES) Are you flirting with me?

JANIE

Are you going to excuse my kids or not?

ED

Yes. Fine. Take them. No big deal.

JANIE ROLLS HER EYES AND LEAVES.

ED (CONT'D)

You're welcome.

SHE FLINCHES, THEN CONTINUES ON. ED SMILES.

KARL (O.S.)

I think she likes you.

STARTLED, ED TURNS TO SEE KARL, THE SCHOOL CUSTODIAN (I.E., JANITOR) STANDING THERE WITH A SODA CAN.

ED

Jesus. You scared me.

KARL

I'm Karl. Want a sip of my Mountain Dew?

ED

Um, yeah, no thanks.

KARL

I think Ms. MacAllister likes you.

ED

What are you, high? She hates me.

KARL

I am a little high. You want to get baked?

ED

No, I'm good, thanks.

HE TURNS TO LEAVE, THEN STOPS HIMSELF.

ED (CONT'D)

You really think she likes me?

CUT TO:

SCENE E

INT. TEACHERS' LOUNGE - DAY
(ED, MATT, ALAN)

ED WALKS IN TO THE BUSTLING LOUNGE WITH HIS LUNCH TRAY. HE SCANS THE CROWD, SEATED BY CLIQUE, THEN SEES AN EMPTY SEAT NEXT TO NERDY MATT NEALY.

ED

Mind if I join you?

MATT

Sure, be my guest.

ED SITS DOWN AND THEY SHAKE HANDS.

MATT (CONT'D)

Matt Nealy. Chemistry.

ED

Ed Spector. I'm the new P.E. teacher.

MATT

Cool, man. Hey, we should join a gym together. I have a two-for-one coupon in my Entertainment Book. There's supposed to be a ton of hot women there, it's like insane. Blow it up.

MATT HOLDS OUT A FIST FOR "BUMPING." ED STARES AT HIM BEFORE RELUCTANTLY BUMPING FISTS THAT "BLOW UP." MATT SEES HIM STARING AT "HANDSOME MEN'S CLUB" PRESIDENT ALAN RAPPAPORT AND CLEAVA-TASTIC WENDY KLEINMAN.

MATT (CONT'D)

That's Alan, English department, pretentious jerk. And the hot one is Wendy, history teacher, cheer coach.

(MORE)

MATT (CONT'D)

The scuttlebutt is he's tiptoeing through her tulips.

ED

(TRIES TO ACT NONCHALANT) What about Janie? What's her deal? I mean, we actually went to high school together here at Hale, but you know, people change.

MATT

Oh, I gotcha. More of a "hot librarian" man, eh? Not me. I'm all about the boobs. You should have seen my girlfriend back in math camp. She totally could have been a boob model.

ED

Uh, yeah, she sounds sweet.

JUST THEN, THE BELL RINGS.

MATT

Gotta run. Nice meeting you. I'll save this seat for you tomorrow.

MATT GETS UP, BUT IN DOING SO, TRIPS AND DROPS HIS TRAY. FOOD SPLATTERS EVERYWHERE. AND SURPRISINGLY, EVERYONE CLAPS, ALAN LEADING THE CHARGE.

ALAN

Bravo. Bravo.

ED

(RE: CLAPPING) Seriously?

CUT TO:

SCENE F

INT. TEACHERS' LOUNGE - PHOTOCOPIER - DAY
(ALAN, ED)

ED WAITS IN LINE TO USE THE PHOTOCOPIER. ALAN SAUNTERS IN WITH SOME PAPERS AND A PRETENTIOUS QUILL PEN.

ALAN

Sorry to do this, folks, but I have to cut the line here. I've got a super-important English test sixth period.

SOME GRUMBLING, BUT NO ONE SAYS ANYTHING. EXCEPT ED:

ED

So why didn't you make those copies beforehand?

ALAN

Ah, New Guy. "Ours is not to reason why, ours is but to do or die."

ED

What the hell's that supposed to mean?

ALAN

It's Tennyson.

ED SQUINTS AT THAT NON-ANSWER AS ALAN CUTS THE LINE.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TEACHERS' LOUNGE - PHOTOCOPIER - LATER
(ALAN, ED)

ALAN FINISHES AND STOPS AT THE END OF THE LINE TO TALK TO ED.

ALAN

Hey, New Guy, sorry if we got off on the wrong foot there. How about we start all over again? I'm Alan.

ED STUDIES HIM AND SEES HE'S BEING SINCERE.

ED

Yeah, okay. Ed.

THEY SHAKE HANDS.

ALAN

Great. So how's your first day going? Anything I can help you with?

ED

Well, actually, we could use some new kickballs in the gym. I guess there were some budget issues...

ALAN

Oh, Ed, if you want anything that costs money around here, you have to go through Sally.

ED

The Vice-Principal?

ALAN

Yup, and between you and me, "she partaketh of the mead and wine." So if you need anything, just buy her a few drinks after school. We all do it.

ED

Won't that seem a little weird? Like we're on a date or something?

ALAN

(LAUGHS) Trust me, Sally will not

think it's a date. You'll see.

ED

Okay, thanks.

ALAN PATS HIM ON THE BACK AND TUCKS HIS QUILL PEN BEHIND HIS EAR.

CUT TO:

SCENE G

INT. SALLY'S OFFICE - DAY
(SALLY, ED)

ED KNOCKS ON THE DOOR WHERE SALLY CAVANAUGH, THE SOMEWHAT-OLDER, SUPER-CHRISTIAN VICE-PRINCIPAL, IS WORKING.

SALLY

Come in, come in, Ed. How's your first day going?

ED

Good. Great, actually. But I did have a few questions.

SALLY

You can't officially make the kids pray in class, but if you call it meditation, I won't stop you.

ED

No, that's not it. Actually I was thinking, there's a lot to go over... maybe we should just grab a drink after school.

SALLY

Sure, sounds good.

SHE LOOKS BACK DOWN.

ED

Okay then.

ED IS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED HOW EASY THAT WAS.

CUT TO:

SCENE H

INT. SHENANIGANS - NIGHT
(SALLY, ED)

ED AND SALLY ARE DRINKING FRUITY COCKTAILS WHEN THE JALAPEÑO CHEESE POPPERS ARRIVE AT THE TABLE. ED POPS ONE INTO HIS MOUTH, BUT JUST THEN, SALLY BOWS HER HEAD.

SALLY

Bless You, Our Lord Jesus, for the

bounty which you have provided us.

CRAP. ED TRIES NOT TO CHEW, BUT THE SHIT IS HOT!

SALLY (CONT'D)

May this food bring sustenance to our

bodies...

ED'S MOUTH IS AN INFERNO. HIS EYES ARE WATERING.

SALLY (CONT'D)

... and our souls. Amen.

ED CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE. HIS MOUTH SPRINGS OPEN AND THE JALAPEÑO POPPER FALLS OUT AND PLOPS ONTO THE TABLE.

ED

Amen.

SALLY STARES AT HIM FOR A SECOND THEN CAN'T HELP BUT LAUGH. THE TENSION RELIEVED, ED LAUGHS AS WELL.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- ED LAYS OUT HIS BUDGET PROPOSAL TO SALLY WHO LOOKS IT OVER.

- MORE DRINKS ARRIVE AT THE TABLE.

- SALLY HANDS ED A REQUISITION FORM. SHE ORDERS MORE DRINKS.

- ED PUNCHES SOME NUMBERS INTO HIS PHONE CALCULATOR AND SHOWS SALLY. SHE CLINKS GLASSES WITH HIM.

CUT TO:

SCENE J

EXT. SALLY'S DOORSTEP - NIGHT
(ED, SALLY)

ED DROPS SALLY OFF AT HER DOORSTEP WHERE A HALF-SCALE ILLUMINATED CERAMIC JESUS STATUE GREETS VISITORS.

ED

So thanks again for the help. I will fill out the requisition form in the morning.

SALLY

Aren't you forgetting something?

ED

No, I don't think--

SALLY GRABS ED BY THE BACK OF THE NECK AND KISSES HIM. ED STRUGGLES TO BREAK FREE.

ED (CONT'D)

Sally!

SALLY

It's okay, Ed. My cats are asleep.

SHE GRABS ED'S ASS. ED BREAKS FREE AND TAKES A GIANT STEP BACKWARDS.

ED

Wait, wait, wait. Sally. No, this isn't going to happen.

SALLY

But I thought--

ED

Sally, I just wanted to ask you for some advice.

(MORE)

ED (CONT'D)

You know, colleague to colleague.

About the equipment for the gym.

SALLY

So this isn't a date?

ED

Wait, what?

SALLY

Oh, I'm sorry for making that

unforgivable assumption!

SHE STARTS CRYING.

ED

No, Sally. I'm sorry. You're a very...

beautiful and... (HER MASCARA IS

RUNNING) sexy lady. (SHE PERKS UP) I'm

just not attracted to... you know,

women of your generation.

SALLY

Thanks a lot!

SHE BAWLS EVEN HARDER.

ED

That's not what I meant. Look, I'm

sorry. All right?

SALLY

I'm sorry, too, Ed. I'm sorry I lied.

Because you don't have a snowball's

chance in (SHE COVERS THE CERAMIC

JESUS'S EARS) h-e-double hockey sticks

at ever getting that equipment!

SALLY ENTERS HER HOUSE AND SLAMS THE DOOR BEHIND HER.

ED

Sally... Sally?

NO RESPONSE. CERAMIC JESUS JUST STARES AT HIM. A BEAT, THEN THE LIGHT TURNS OFF INSIDE JESUS.

CUT TO:

SCENE K

INT. TEACHERS' LOUNGE - DAY (DAY 3)
(ED, MATT, JANIE, ALAN, WENDY)

ED WALKS INTO THE LOUNGE AND SEES PEOPLE SNICKERING AND POINTING AT HIM. ED GOES UP TO MATT.

ED

What's going on?

MATT

Dude, how was she?

ED

How was who?

MATT

Come on, man. Don't keep secrets from your best friend.

ED

If you don't tell me what's going on right now, I swear I'll--

JANIE (O.S.)

He's talking about this.

REVEAL JANIE BEHIND ED WITH HER IPAD. ED LOOKS AT THE SCREEN.

ED

What the hell is the "Hale-Fire"?

JANIE

Anonymous student blog. Mostly gossip. Today's headline: "New Gym Teacher Nailing Miss Cavanaugh!"

ED

That's not what happened!

ALAN COMES OVER WITH HIS CREW IN TOW.

ALAN

Ed and Sally, sitting in a tree!

WENDY

B-O-N-E- (THINKING) I-N-G!

THEY ALL LAUGH AT ED'S EXPENSE. JANIE ROLLS HER EYES AND TURNS TO LEAVE. ED GOES AFTER HER. HE WHISPERS:

ED

Janie, wait. I didn't sleep with her.

You have to believe me.

JANIE

I don't care. Do whatever you want.

ED

(LOSES IT) I don't get you. First you sleep with me, then you say you hate me, now you're mad at me because I slept with someone else-- which by the way didn't even happen!

REVEAL EVERYONE IS GAPING AT THEM. EVERYONE CLEARLY HEARD WHAT ED JUST SAID. JANIE LOOKS EMBARRASSED.

JANIE

You're such an idiot.

AND SHE STORMS OFF. ED LOOKS CRUSHED. A BEAT, THEN...

MATT

Wait. You slept with Sally and Janie?

(BEAT) Blow it up.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO - SCENE L

FADE IN:

INT. TEACHERS' LOUNGE - DAY
(ED, ALAN, WENDY, MATT)

ED CONFRONTS ALAN.

ED

You set me up.

ALAN

I'm very disappointed in you, Ed. Such bad form to cheat on poor Sally with Janie. Or was it the other way around? Either way, it's not how we like the teachers to conduct themselves around here.

ED

Are you... "differently abled"? Because it would be helpful for me to know that.

ALAN

I don't know how things used to be back when you were luge champ or whatever it was, but now you are but a lowly gym teacher, "full of sound and fury," signifying a loser who nobody takes seriously. Hamlet, act 3, scene 5.

ED

It's MacBeth. Have you ever even read Shakespeare? Look, I thought we were supposed to be past these childish antics. I thought we were supposed to be teachers.

WENDY

(MIMICKING) I thought we were supposed to be teachers. Waaa! I'm Ed. I'm the gym teacher and I care about my kids!

THE BELL RINGS AND WENDY AND ALAN TAKE OFF. ED IS LEFT ALONE WITH MATT.

ED

Wow, I am totally back in high school.

MATT

Deep. (OFF ED'S LOOK) Come on, it's not so bad. The other teachers do mean stuff to me all the time-- turns out Wet Willie's Water Park is really a bath house. But, hey, people still think I'm wicked cool. It'll blow over.

ED

Thanks, Matt, but I'm not concerned about my reputation. (SIGHS) It's just-- I don't know. I like her.

MATT

Well, maybe you can buy her an edible arrangement.

(MORE)

MATT (CONT'D)

Or, ooh, have you been to Color Me Mine? I meet a lot of single moms there--

ED

You know what? Thanks, but I think I just need to talk to her.

ED TAKES OFF.

MATT

Yeah, that'll never work.

CUT TO:

SCENE M

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

ED WALKS DOWN THE HALLWAY TO JANIE'S CLASSROOM WHEN HE SEES SETH PUSHING GERALD UP AGAINST A LOCKER. ED BREAKS IT UP.

ED

Guys! Come on. Seth, what is your

problem with Gerald anyway?

SETH

Dunno, he just bugs me.

GERALD

I never even looked at you!

ED

Look. Just... get back to class.

THEY GO OFF IN SEPARATE DIRECTIONS AND ED CONTINUES ON TOWARDS JANIE'S CLASSROOM WHEN SOMETHING ELSE CATCHES HIS ATTENTION. HE STOPS IN FRONT OF ALAN'S CLASSROOM. HE SPIES ON HIM THROUGH THE LITTLE WINDOW.

RESET TO:

INT. ALAN'S CLASSROOM - DAY
(ALAN, MARIA, MARIO, DEBBIE, NANCY, SUNG)

ALAN STANDS AT THE FRONT OF THE CLASS.

ALAN

Okay, time's up. Stop writing. Jason,

stop writing. Okay.

HE GOES OVER TO THE OVERHEAD PROJECTOR AND TURNS IT ON. PROJECTED ON THE BLACKBOARD IS THE "ANSWER KEY."

ALAN (CONT'D)

Let's see how everyone did. Mark off

five points for each wrong answer.

ONE GIRL, MARIA, RAISES HER HAND.

ALAN (CONT'D)

Yes? Maria?

MARIA

Um, yeah. It's like on number twelve I put Hamlin and you've got Hamlet or whatever. Can I give myself full credit for that?

ALAN

Hamlin's close. How about you take off two points?

MARIA

Okay, Mr. Rappaport.

ALAN

Anyone else? Okay, we done here? How did we do?

ALAN TAKES OUT HIS QUILL PEN AND OPENS UP HIS GRADE BOOK.

ALAN (CONT'D)

Mario?

MARIO

95.

ALAN

Debbie?

DEBBIE

100.

ALAN

Nancy?

NANCY

100.

ALAN

Sung?

SUNG

90.

RESET TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

ED CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT HE'S SEEING.

CUT TO:

SCENE N

INT. JANIE'S CLASSROOM - DAY
(JANIE, ED)

ED KNOCKS ON JANIE'S DOOR AND ENTERS THE EMPTY CLASSROOM WHERE JANIE IS GRADING QUIZZES.

JANIE

What now?

ED

Did you know Alan lets his students grade their own quizzes?

JANIE

What do you mean?

ED

Okay. I'm in his class. My paper's all wrong. I got nothing. "Ed, how did you do?" "I got 100, Mr. Pretentious Quill Pen."

JANIE

Well, that explains why he's been teacher of the year three years in a row. So what? Why do you care?

ED

Because it's not fair. Do I let my students use steroids?

JANIE

I don't know, do you?

ED

It's teaching 101-- don't create incentives for the kids to lie instead of learn.

JANIE PUTS DOWN HER PEN. HE'S GOT HER ATTENTION NOW.

JANIE

What do you want, Ed?

ED

Office romances happen all the time. People will get used to it.

JANIE

You don't even remember what you were like back in high school, do you?

ED

Forget high school! Look. I like you and deep down I think you like me, too. I just want to see where this goes because if there's one thing I know, it's that this isn't a fling.

SHE'S TORN. HER BRAIN IS TELLING "THIS IS NOT A GOOD IDEA." BUT HER HEART IS TELLING HER...

SHE KISSES HIM!

CUT TO:

SCENE P

INT. JANIE'S CLASSROOM - LATER
(STUDENT)

A BRA LIES ON THE FLOOR UNDER THE DESK, NEXT TO SOME SHOES, A SHIRT, AND MEN'S UNDERWEAR.

WE MOVE UP THE DESK AND SEE SOCKS IN AN OPEN DRAWER.

FURTHER UP THE DESK ARE A PAIR OF PANTIES STREWN ONTO THE CHAIR.

FINALLY, WE PEER OVER THE DESK AND SEE THE CLASSROOM FULL OF STUDENTS, SITTING THERE, SILENTLY WAITING FOR THEIR TEACHER.

STUDENT

Where's Ms. MacAllister?

RESET TO:

INT. SUPPLY CLOSET - DAY
(JANIE)

NAKED, JANIE AND ED PEER THROUGH THE SLATS IN THE SUPPLY CLOSET DOOR IN THE BACK OF THE CLASSROOM.

JANIE

(WHISPERS) Now what, genius?

OFF ED'S REACTION, WE...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE - SCENE Q

FADE IN:

INT. SUPPLY CLOSET - DAY
(ED)

ED AND JANIE ARE STILL STUCK IN THE CLOSET.

ED

(WHISPERS) Twenty minute rule. After twenty minutes someone will declare class cancelled and we'll be all set.

RESET TO:

INT. JANIE'S CLASSROOM - DAY
(STUDENT #1, STUDENT #2)

STUDENT #1

Shhh! What was that?

STUDENT #2

Something in the closet.

CHUCK, THE LARGE FOOTBALL PLAYER, GOES TO THE DOOR. THE WHOLE CLASS WATCHES. UNSURE, HE SLOWLY GRIPS THE DOOR KNOB. TURNS IT. AND PULLS! BUT IT DOESN'T BUDGE.

RESET TO:

INT. SUPPLY CLOSET - DAY
(JANIE, ED)

ED IS DESPERATELY PULLING THE DOOR CLOSED.

JANIE

(WHISPERS) Do something!

ED

(WHISPERS) Like what?

JANIE

(WHISPERS) Think!

RESET TO:

INT. JANIE'S CLASSROOM - DAY
(CHUCK)

CHUCK

I think it's stuck.

RESET TO:

INT. SUPPLY CLOSET - DAY
(JANIE, ED)

ED GRABS THE EXTRA AMERICAN FLAG AND RIPS IT IN HALF. ED RIPS HIS HALF OF THE FLAG AND FASHIONS IT INTO LOIN CLOTH AND A BANDIT'S MASK.

JANIE

(WHISPERS) That's ridiculous. I'm not

going out there half-naked.

ED

(WHISPERS) It's the only way.

JANIE

(WHISPERS) No way!

ED

(WHISPERS) On three.

JANIE QUICKLY STARTS RIPPING HER FLAG INTO A BIKINI AND MASK.

JANIE

(WHISPERS) Ed!

ED

(WHISPERS) One...

RESET TO:

INT. JANIE'S CLASSROOM - DAY
(MARIA, CHUCK)

CHUCK LOOKS BACK TO HIS CLASSMATES FOR IDEAS.

MARIA

Try again. There's someone in there.

CHUCK

Randy, help me here.

RESET TO:

INT. SUPPLY CLOSET - DAY
(ED)

ED

(WHISPERS) Two...

RESET TO:

INT. JANIE'S CLASSROOM - DAY

RANDY HAS JOINED CHUCK AT THE DOOR. CHUCK GRABS THE KNOB AND RANDY GRABS CHUCK. THEY...

RESET TO:

INT. SUPPLY CLOSET - DAY
(ED)

ED

THREE!

INT. JANIE'S CLASSROOM - DAY
(ED, JANIE)

...PULL! THE DOOR FLIES OPEN, KNOCKING CHUCK ON TOP OF RANDY.

ED AND JANIE DART OUT OF THE CLOSET IN THEIR AMERICAN FLAG CLOTHES AND MASKS.

KIDS GASP IN SURPRISE AS ED AND JANIE RACE OUT OF THE CLASSROOM.

RESET TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY
(ED, JANIE)

ED AND JANIE RACE DOWN THE HALLWAY.

ED

Head for the gym!

BUT ALL OF THE SUDDEN, JANIE STOPS.

JANIE

Our clothes!

ED

Leave them!

JANIE

They'll know it was us!

ED

Crap.

HE STOPS, RACES BACK INTO JANIE'S CLASSROOM...

RESET TO:

INT. JANIE'S CLASSROOM - DAY
(ED, JANIE)

AND GRABS THE CLOTHES OFF THE DESK.

THE CLASS CHEERS AND APPLAUDS THE MYSTERIOUS STREAKER.

ED RACES OUT OF THE CLASSROOM.

RESET TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY
(MATT)

ED AND JANIE RUN DOWN THE MOSTLY EMPTY HALLWAY, PASSING ONLY MATT ON THE WAY. WITHOUT EVEN LOOKING UP,

MATT

Hey, Ed.

CUT TO:

SCENE R

INT. OUTSIDE THE LOCKER ROOMS - DAY
(JANIE, ED, GERALD)

ED AND JANIE QUICKLY FINISH GETTING DRESSED.

JANIE

I can't believe I fell for this again!

ED

Fell for what? How is this my fault?

JANIE

You seduced me!

ED

You kissed me!

JANIE RUBS HER BROW IN FRUSTRATION.

JANIE

Ugh, Ed, look. This can never happen again.

ED

Well obviously. There was only one flag in there anyway.

JANIE

I'm serious. This is my place of work and I take my job seriously.

ED

I do, too.

JANIE

Do you?

ED

Yes.

JANIE

Well, the Ed Spector I knew was all about organizing double dog ditch days and beer bong bonanzas. And your crowning achievement, the double dog ditch day beer bong bonanza.

ED

You just can't get past that, can you? You just can't accept that we're different people now than we were in high school.

JANIE

People don't change! Since you entered the picture, you've ruined my reputation in front of my colleagues and now you've got me streaking down the hallway half-naked! You're sucking me into your chaos!

ED

Look, I'm sorry about what happened. But why can't we just start over again?

JANIE

It's not that simple.

ED SEES HE'S NOT GOING TO CONVINCE HER.

ED

You know what? You're absolutely right. Maybe we should just forget this ever happened.

JANIE

Good.

SHE HEADS OUT. ED LOOKS PISSED.

JUST THEN, GERALD WALKS BY.

GERALD

Hey, Mr. Spector, your fly's open.

ED LOOKS DOWN AND SEES THE SEAT OF HIS PANTS WHERE HIS FLY SHOULD BE. HE LOOKS BACK UP. A BEAT, THEN ED REACHES AROUND BACK AND ZIPS UP HIS PANTS.

CUT TO:

SCENE S

INT. TEACHERS' LOUNGE - DAY
(ED, MATT)

ED VENTS TO MATT.

ED

It's over.

MATT

You don't know that.

ED

Yes, I do. I've totally screwed this up. Janie was right. I am an idiot.

MATT

You slept with two women in your first week here! Idiot? Or role model.

ED

Okay first, I didn't sleep with Sally. Ugh, look, this was supposed to be my second chance here. Used to be, I didn't even think about my future. I had a soccer scholarship, girls willing to do anything I wanted, and more friends than I knew what to do with. But after college, things didn't really pan out. I spent three weeks playing soccer for a Greek club team before they cut me.

MATT

These girls who would do anything you wanted. What kinds of things are we talking about here?

ED

The point is, it took some setbacks and some disappointments to put things in perspective. But it made me realize that what I really want to do is teach. And to find someone I really connect with. And now I've blown it.

MATT SEES ED IS IN A FUNK. HE HAS TO DO SOMETHING.

CUT TO:

SCENE T

INT. SALLY'S OFFICE - DAY
(JANIE, SALLY, STUDENT)

JANIE KNOCKS BEFORE ENTERING SALLY'S OFFICE.

JANIE

Can I talk to you about the Model U.N. trip?

SALLY

Sure, come in.

JANIE

I had to have a couple students be excused from gym.

SALLY

Okay. Did you run that by Ed?

JANIE

Yeah. He's fine with it. (SINCE YOU BROUGHT IT UP...) You know, Ed and I went to Hale together.

SALLY

No, I didn't know that.

JANIE

Yeah, so, hey, did you know there's a rumor going around about you two?

SALLY

Yes, well, that was all a big misunderstanding. Trust me, nothing happened.

JANIE

Oh, yeah, of course. That's what I thought.

SALLY

Though I wish things turned out differently. Ed's awfully nice.

JANIE

Well, he wasn't always so nice. Did you know he ran against me for class president. Totally last minute, as a goof. I worked hard on that campaign. I had a platform. I was going to build an organic garden! He promised to get a real panther for our school mascot and won in a landslide.

SALLY

He seems to be bringing out some pretty strong feelings...

JANIE

I've worked hard for everything I've gotten in life. I care about this town and this school and I beat out a dozen other applicants to get this job. I want to inspire these kids and make a difference.

(MORE)

JANIE (CONT'D)

He just gets everything handed to him on a silver platter and couldn't care less about what he's got.

SALLY

(REALIZING) You had a crush on him!

JANIE

No. Definitely not.

BUT SALLY CAN TELL THE TRUTH AND JANIE TURNS A LITTLE RED IN EMBARRASSMENT.

SALLY

Well, I obviously don't share your history with him, but now he seems like a pretty great guy.

JANIE

Why are you being so nice to him?

SALLY

Well, no one likes getting rejected, Janie, but Ed seems to really care about his kids now. And he's got a positive attitude and a kind heart.

JANIE

Yeah, I suppose.

SALLY

And he's got a great ass.

SALLY CROSSES HERSELF. JANIE IS ACTUALLY STARTING TO SEE ED IN A NEW LIGHT. JUST THEN, A STUDENT KNOCKS ON THE DOOR.

STUDENT

Ms. MacAllister? This note is for you.

SHE HANDS JANIE A NOTE AND JANIE READS IT.

JANIE

Would you excuse me?

SHE HEADS OUT.

RESET TO:

INT. OUTSIDE SALLY'S OFFICE - DAY
(JANIE, MATT)

JANIE CONTINUES ON WITH THE NOTE IN HAND. SHE FAILS TO NOTICE MATT SPYING ON HER. MATT SMILES.

CUT TO:

SCENE U

INT. GYM - DAY
(GERALD, ED, PETE, SETH)

ED HAS A DRAWSTRING BAG FULL OF NEW RUBBER KICK BALLS.

GERALD

Where'd you get the new kick balls,

Mr. Spector?

ED

Funny story actually. Apparently, if

you change the requisition form from

"kick balls" to "faith globes," it

gets approved right away.

JANIE ENTERS THE GYM, NOTE IN HAND, WHEN SHE SEES ED WITH HIS STUDENTS. SHE STOPS AND HANGS BACK OUT OF SIGHT, OBSERVING.

ED (CONT'D)

All right then, A through L on this

side--

BEHIND HIM, ANOTHER KERFUFFLE BREAKS OUT BETWEEN SETH AND GERALD WHERE SETH PUTS GERALD IN A CHOKE HOLD. ED TURNS AROUND AND BREAKS IT UP.

ED (CONT'D)

Quit it, you guys! Enough is enough!

GERALD

He started it!

ED SIGHS.

ED

Okay, you know what? Change of plan.

Kick ball is cancelled today. Today

we're going to learn self-defense.

THE BOYS ACTUALLY SEEM PRETTY PSYCHED BY THIS.

ED (CONT'D)

Gather around. (THEY JOIN HIM ON THE MAT) Now the first rule of self-defense is: Never start a fight, but always finish it. Gerald, put me in a head lock like Seth did. (GERALD DOES) If someone has you in a choke hold, just grab his thumbs and pull!

HE PULLS GERALD'S THUMBS AND BREAKS THE LOCK.

ED (CONT'D)

Now you can take them down where they can't threaten you anymore.

HE DROPS A KNEE AND SENDS GERALD FLYING INTO THE MAT. THE BOYS SEEM IMPRESSED. SO DOES JANIE. GERALD GETS UP.

ED (CONT'D)

Now Seth, come here. (HE DOES) Since you're so good at it, let's have you choke Gerald again.

SETH RELUCTANTLY REPEATS HIS CHOKE POSITION.

ED (CONT'D)

Okay, Gerald, now just like I did. Thumbs...

GERALD PULLS SETH'S THUMBS TO BREAK THE HOLD.

ED (CONT'D)

... and take down.

GERALD <u>THROWS</u> SETH OVER HIS SHOULDER ONTO THE MAT.

PETE

Whoa! That was cool.

ED

Close, but not quite perfect. Let's go again. Seth...

SERIES OF SHOTS: GERALD REPEATEDLY THROWING SETH ONTO THE MAT. AFTER THE LAST TAKE-DOWN, SETH GETS UP SLOWLY.

SETH

Weak sauce.

THE KIDS GATHER TO CONGRATULATE GERALD WHO BASKS IN THE ATTENTION. JANIE IS IMPRESSED.

ED

Now I don't want to lecture you, but even though some of the things you do here may seem like harmless fun, your victim does not see it that way. Trust me, I wish I could take back some of the stuff I did back then, because hurting people doesn't make you cool, it just makes you a jerk. Remember, high school doesn't last forever, but what you do there can come back to haunt you.

JANIE SMILES AT THIS.

ED SENSES SOMETHING. HE LOOKS BACK AT THE ENTRANCE, BUT JANIE'S ALREADY GONE. ED RETURNS TO HIS KIDS.

ED (CONT'D)

Okay, now who's next?

HANDS SHOOT UP.

CUT TO:

SCENE V

INT. TEACHERS' LOUNGE - DAY (DAY 4)
(ALAN, ED, WENDY, JANIE)

ALAN SHOWS ED THE "HALE-FIRE" BLOG ON HIS PHONE.

ALAN

"Mr. Spector Dumps Miss Cavanaugh for Miss MacAllister"? Exciting first week, huh, Ed?

ED

Now how did a student blog find out about something that was said in the Teachers' Lounge? Methinks something is rotten in the state of Denmark.

ALAN TRIES TO LOOK INNOCENT. WENDY JUMPS TO HIS DEFENSE.

WENDY

Yeah, too bad this is America, dumbass.

THEY LAUGH AT HIM BUT ED JUST IGNORES THEM. THEY FINALLY TAKE OFF, REVEALING ONLY JANIE ACROSS THE TABLE.

JANIE

I sat in on your class yesterday.

ED

You did?

JANIE

Yeah, I saw your presentation on self-defense.

ED

And...?

JANIE

I don't know, there might be some hope

for you.

ED SMILES.

JANIE (CONT'D)

By the way, I don't think we've had a

chance to meet yet. My name is Janie.

SHE COMES OVER AND OFFERS HER HAND.

ED IS SURPRISED, BUT HE GETS IT. SHE'S GIVING HIM HIS FRESH START.

ED SMILES. THEN HE SHAKES HER HAND.

ED

Hi. I'm Ed.

JANIE

(JUST TO BE CLEAR...) Just friends.

ED

We'll see.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

TAG - SCENE W

FADE IN:

INT. TEACHERS' LOUNGE - DAY (DAY 5)
(MRS. JENKINS, ALAN, MRS. TANG, MRS. JIMENEZ, MR. O'HARE)

A LINE OF ANGRY PARENTS WAITS TO TALK TO ALAN.

MRS. JENKINS

Since when is a 90 average a "C"?!

ALAN

It's not. It must be a computer glitch.

MRS. TANG

Well we've got Army recruiters calling us every day. Why did you sign up my Nancy for the Army?!?

ALAN

I don't know what you're talking about.

ANOTHER PARENT ACCOSTS ALAN.

MRS. JIMENEZ

You sent a letter of recommendation to Harvard saying that Ricky is "one of your most talented special ed students"?

ALAN

I assure you, that is not the letter I sent.

ANOTHER PARENT HOLDS UP A PIECE OF PAPER.

MR. O'HARE

Well, did you send this email to Travis asking him to meet you after school for "one on one sex education"?

ALAN

No!

MORE PARENTS RUSH ALAN WITH A FLURRY OF QUESTIONS AND ACCUSATIONS.

MATT AND ED TRY TO KEEP A STRAIGHT FACE.

FADE OUT:

END OF TAG

END OF EPISODE