THE JONESES

Written by
Liz Tigelaar

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Mojo Films

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAWN

We OPEN on a SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD. The sun rises, NEWSPAPERS get tossed onto doorsteps, the street starts to wake up. We LAND on one sprawling house in particular...

INT. HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - MORNING

DAVE, mid-40s, disheveled (in a sexy way), trudges down the hallway. He runs into JEN. *Think Evan Rachel Wood*. She holds TWO LARGE CUPS OF COFFEE.

DAVE
Double-fisting it this morning?

JEN
Finals week.

She beelines for her bedroom. SLAMS the door with her foot.

INT. HOUSE - JEN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Jen looks toward her bed. In it, a GUY who epitomizes who you don't want your daughter with: scruffy, hot and definitely not in high school. She smiles.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Dave greets KATE -- mid 40s, stunning even in a ponytail and robe. *Think Sandra Bullock*. Dave stops at the coffee maker, confused.

KATE
It's a Jura Impressa One-Touch.
K.C. sent it over.

DAVE
That all you wanna talk about?
Coffee?

Off her silence...

DAVE
I'm gonna mow the lawn.

KATE
Dave --

CONTINUED:

DAVE
Don't.

OFF KATE, at a loss.

INT. HOUSE - GARAGE - MORNING

Dave sits on a John Deere EZTrak Z235 lawn mower. He untangles a jumble of rope and bungee cords. Then takes a deep breath.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

NICK walks in dressed for school. *Think Landon Liboiron*. Flannel, army jacket, shaggy hair and beanie.

KATE
Jen up?

NICK
I heard her. All night.

A beat as the meaning of that lands on Kate. She yells:

KATE
Jen!

As she storms out...

INT. HOUSE - JEN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Outside, we HEAR the faint sound of the mower. Jen grabs Scruffy's jeans and throws them at him.

JEN
Get outta here. Just... go.

She pushes him out the window, just as Kate walks in.

JEN
Jesus. Knock much?

KATE
Was someone just in here?

Kate clocks the two coffees. A beat.

JEN
No?

Suddenly, we HEAR a BLOODCURDLING SCREAM.

EXT. HOUSE - MORNING

Kate, Jen, and Nick run around the house, where they find Scruffy, frozen, still standing on the roof, staring down at the pool.

They follow his gaze to REVEAL: THE DEEP END OF THE POOL. THE LAWN MOWER SITS AT THE BOTTOM. Nick stumbles back, horrified.

NICK
Oh my god...

We REALIZE THAT DAVE is bungee-corded to it. He's dead.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

We CUT TO QUICK SHOTS of a 2014 Mercedes B-Class Hybrid SUV, as it careens down a tree-lined interstate. It tows a small U-Haul, a shiny Thule's clipped to a roof rack. Inside sits:

INT. MERCEDES SUV - DAY

Kate, in the passenger seat. An iPad on her lap, she fiddles with an engagement ring and wedding band on her ring finger.

MAN'S VOICE (O.C.)
Man, this thing rides smooth. Like a living room on wheels.

She looks to the driver's seat to REVEAL: STEVE JONES, 40's -- handsome, laid back -- at the wheel. *Think David Duchovny.* He smiles.

STEVE
Think the 2015'll ride like a bedroom?

She gives him an obligatory smile.

EXT. MOCKINGBIRD LANE - DAY

"Design Within Reach" trucks roll past sprawling McMansions. They pull up to a house with a "sold" sign in front of it. We SEE QUICK SHOTS of boxes being unloaded. A 2013 Navy Blue Jeep Wrangler Unlimited is carefully backed off a flat-bed.

KATE (PRELAP)
It says there are approximately five thousand teenagers in this town.

INT. MERCEDES SUV - DAY

Kate reads off her iPad.

KATE
Four high schools, three private schools...
(looks to the back seat)
Hopkins is ranked the highest.

Behind her sit JEN and NICK, headphones on, iPhones out.

KATE
Think about what extra-curriculars you want to get involved in.

JEN
Try none.

Kate looks at Jen. Jen corrects herself.

JEN
I mean, sounds fun. Mom.

Jen and Nick share a smile. As if in on a joke.

INT. MCMANSION - DAY

A handful of nondescript men set up furniture. A giant black and white FAMILY PHOTO of the Joneses is hung on the wall. And we HEAR:

KATE (PRELAP)
Lakeside's the closest country club -- with the highest rated course.

INT. MERCEDES SUV - DAY

Steve looks at Kate.

STEVE
I haven't played golf in ten years.

She smiles.

KATE
Looks like you'll be getting your swing back.

This time it is Steve's turn to give an obligatory smile.

EXT. MCMANSION - DAY

Moving trucks pull out, just as the Joneses pull up. Across the street, LARRY SIMON looks up from trimming his hedges. He's nice guy, late 40s, but a little beaten down by life. *Think Gary Cole*. Steve gets out, squints into the sun as he looks at the sprawling house, awed.

STEVE
I can't believe we live here.

Jen and Nick walk into the house, unfazed. Kate's matter-of-fact.

KATE
Home sweet home.

We PRELAP: the DOORBELL RINGING.

EXT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Larry and his wife, SUMMER, stand on the doorstep. Summer holds a giant Cellophane-wrapped BASKET. The DOOR OPENS TO REVEAL: THE JONESES, standing in the doorway, arms linked.

KATE/STEVE/JEN/NICK
Hi!

Larry and Summer are a little taken aback. Summer's ditzy but sweet. *Think Judy Greer*.

SUMMER
We're the Simons. From next door. I'm Summer, this is my husband, Larry.

They step inside and see, already, the entire house has been unpacked -- every detail meticulously attended to, everything state-of-the-art. Steve extends a hand.

STEVE
Steve Jones.

LARRY
Pleasure.

SUMMER
We just wanted to bring you these samples as a welcome gift. But I'm sure you're in no mood for guests.

The Joneses light up, all too eager.

CONTINUED:

STEVE
No, no.

KATE
Please. Come on in.

Steve takes the basket. And hugs Summer. Summer's caught off guard...

SUMMER
Oh, my...

As they pull apart, she explains by rote, flustered:

SUMMER
"A move can leave your skin a wreck, but by applying the Robustion Aphrodite moisturizer just once a day will restore your skin's healthy glow."

Larry explains, a little embarrassed for her:

LARRY
Summer's hobby is selling this stuff.

STEVE
Who better to do it?
(to Summer)
You're a vision of beauty.

Summer beams. Kate's jaw tenses, almost imperceptibly.

KATE
I'm Kate. This is Jen and Nick.

STEVE
Do you have kids? Tell 'em to come on over.

Larry and Summer exchange an awkward look.

SUMMER
We couldn't --

LARRY
-- it's a long --

SUMMER
-- No one's fault.
(then)
Your home, it's beautiful.

KATE
Would you like a tour?

Steve slaps Larry on the back.

CONTINUED: (2)

STEVE
Follow me, Lar. You look like you could use a drink.

As the Joneses usher the Simons inside...

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - DAY

Kate leads Summer through the house.

SUMMER
I can't believe you just moved in.

KATE
All we did was show up. And have the good sense to hire the right people.

SUMMER
That photo. It's incredible.

KATE
Should have seen me the day of. Cyclops zit. Right between my eyes. Thank god for photoshop.

Kate and Summer pass by Steve and Larry in the kitchen. We STAY WITH the guys.

LARRY
So Scottsdale, huh? You relocate for work?

STEVE
For ourselves. Kate and I wanted a season other than hot.

Larry takes a sip of his beer, then:

LARRY
Wow! Is that... caramel? What's this beer?

STEVE
Atlantic Ale. I get it shipped from Nova Scotia. But they're about to start selling it in the states.

Larry nods to a stack of GOLF MAGAZINES.

CONTINUED:

LARRY
You golf? I'm a member down at Lakeside.

KATE (O.C.)
Every chance he gets.

Kate sidles back up to Steve.

LARRY
You should join me tomorrow. Got a tee time at noon --

STEVE
I don't know. Until Kate's design business is up and running, someone's gotta keep the lights on around here.

KATE
Don't be silly.
(to Larry)
He'd love to.

SUMMER
(to Steve)
What line of work are you in?

STEVE
Money management -- day trading, mostly.

KATE
He mostly works on keeping me happy.

Larry and Summer look on, envious of their perfect marriage.

EXT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - NIGHT

A NEIGHBOR walks his dog and clocks the Joneses framed in the picture window, eating dinner at the dining room table. They laugh and talk, looking every bit the perfect family.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Steve passes a scantily-clad Jen, who heads to bed.

JEN
Night, Daddy.

He watches her go. Jesus.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Steve walks in to find Kate, getting ready for bed, Big Gulp and Slim Jim on her nightstand. We see their pajamas match. Framed pictures are meticulously placed around the room.

STEVE
Our wedding photo? You look... wow.

KATE
Don't act so surprised. You were there, remember?

He flops down on the bed.

STEVE
So... the Simons were great.

A beat.

KATE
You were a little over-the-top.

STEVE
What? I was being friendly.
(noticing the Slim Jim)
You're not seriously eating that --

KATE
Friendly's fine --

STEVE
-- because that's not actually food.

KATE
-- but you can't hug someone you barely know. It's like dating. Play hard to get.

He starts to get under the covers. She hesitates.

STEVE
What?

A beat.

KATE
The guest room's got that great Tempur-pedic...

CONTINUED:

Steve gets it, then:

STEVE
Guess you got that “hard to get” thing down pat.

As he leaves...

INT. THE JONESES’ HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Steve tosses an obscene number of throw pillows off his bed. He lays down and stares up at the ceiling, perplexed.

INT. THE JONESES’ HOUSE - HALLWAY/GUEST ROOM - LATER

After midnight. TWO SOCKED FEET tiptoe down the long staircase, into a first-floor bedroom. QUICK SHOTS of clothes coming off and we PAN UP to JEN as she slips into bed... WITH STEVE. She kisses his neck. And just as Steve wakes up and realizes, a HAND GRABS Jen by the hair.

KATE
Get up! Now!

JEN
What the hell -- let go of me!

STEVE
Whoa, whoa, whoa -- what’s going on?

STEVE
Nothing happened!

Kate throws a topless Jen into the hallway.

INT. THE JONESES’ HOUSE - HALLWAY/STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS

Jen storms upstairs. Kate and Steve follow. Nick appears.

NICK
Wow. Way to jack those Daddy issues to a whole new level --

Jen fires back.

JEN
I’m the one with Daddy issues?

Stung, Nick retreats to his room. Jen defends herself to Kate.

JEN
If you’re not gonna do him, why can’t I?

CONTINUED:

KATE
You wanna dry-hump men twice your age, go back to stripping in Vegas.

STEVE
Wait, stripping? What?

JEN
You don't get to control my sex life.

KATE
I'm head of this household. I get to control <u>every</u> part of your life.

Jen marches up the stairs, pissed. Kate turns on Steve.

STEVE
Don't look at me! I didn't even know what was happening!

Kate's blunt.

KATE
I didn't choose you as a husband and you didn't choose me as a wife. But if you want to get off on the right foot in this family, <u>not</u> screwing our daughter would be a good start.

Kate storms up the stairs, leaves Steve as confused as we are. And OFF KATE'S door SLAM, we:

SMASH TO:

<u>TITLE CARD: THE JONESES</u>

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

WE OPEN ON - PANCAKE BATTER HITTING A SIZZLING GRIDDLE

And PULL BACK to REVEAL:

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - KITCHEN - NEXT MORNING

Steve makes breakfast for everyone. Nick walks in.

NICK
You sleep okay?

STEVE
Very funny.
(then)
You hungry? We got pancakes, bacon, toast --

Kate comes in, on a mission, followed by Jen.

KATE
Jen has something she wants to say.

JEN
Sorry about last night.
(by rote)
You're new, I took advantage --

STEVE
My daughter hitting on me wasn't covered in my orientation manual.

KATE
We may not be a real family, but we need to operate as a team.

And now we fully understand: They aren't a real family. This is their job.

KATE
I fought hard to get this market, so we need to take advantage.
(then, to the "kids")
Today's a big day, you guys are starting at a new school, people need to notice you...

Nick eyes Jen's skirt that barely covers her ass.

CONTINUED:

NICK
They should.

KATE
Your personas stay the same as in Dayton. But you're each moving up a grade.

JEN
What? I'm always a sophomore!

KATE
You've been one four times. I think you can handle it. And forget cheerleading. The girls with the highest e-score at Hopkins play soccer.

JEN
Soccer? The only balls I've ever kicked belong to the pervs at the club who didn't get what "no touching" meant.

KATE
Since segmentation is much higher with teen girls than teen boys, let's put your focus there.
(beat, to Nick)
That means get a girlfriend, A-SAP.

She hands Jen two pictures. And Nick one.

KATE
Marlo Collins and Mia MacIntrye have been identified by the Corporation as trendsetters. Their parents make close to a million annually.
(to Nick)
Talia Sheridan could be a good focus for you.

NICK
What's her deal?

KATE
She'll be a helpful connector. Tutors every dumbass in school. Focus on the rich ones.

Kate turns to Steve.

CONTINUED: (2)

KATE
K.C.'s scheduled us an interview at the country club today, so while you golf, I'm going to get a blowout, maybe a mani-pedi --

JEN
You could use a facial. I'd say it's laugh lines, but...

Kate glares, then turns back to Steve.

KATE
We'll meet in the lobby once you're done with Larry.

A beat. Steve hedges.

STEVE
Maybe there's something else to do with Larry. My golfing days, they're behind me.

KATE
Steve, you were a professional golfer. TaylorMade and Nike are two of the Corporation's biggest clients, which is part of the reason you were recruited for this job.
(then)
Joining a country club is company policy. It's the fastest way to meet new people.

STEVE
We met Larry and Summer. They're people.

KATE
The <u>right</u> people. Did you smell Larry's cologne? It screams no money. Or terrible taste.
(beat)
Now K.C.'s going to be breathing down our necks, she's expecting sales --

STEVE
Five years straight, I sold more Jags than anyone else in the state.

CONTINUED: (3)

JEN
Pro golfer to car salesman? Ouch.

Steve gives her a look. No shit. Kate lays it out.

KATE
This is more than selling cars. It's stealth marketing. We're not just pushing <u>things</u>, we're pushing a lifestyle. If people want to be us --

NICK/JEN
"They'll want what we have."

KATE
Exactly. We're not here to just live the American Dream. We're here to <u>sell</u> it.

Kate, Nick and Jen gather their stuff to go.

NICK
I'll drive. If I'm a sophomore, I have my license, right?

KATE
Yes, but the Jeep's Jen's. We're surprising you with a car for Christmas.

Nick deflates. Jen grabs the keys, happily. Winks at Steve.

JEN
Bye, Daddy.

STEVE
Wait. What about breakfast?

KATE
That's what real families do.
(then)
You're Steve Jones now. Get to know him.

They take off. Steve sits down to eat. <u>Alone</u>.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Jen and Nick get out of her Jeep. He grabs a new skateboard out of the back. Slams the door, miffed. Jen looks at him.

CONTINUED:

JEN
You're not seriously still mad about the Jeep?
(then, laughing)
Remember how Dave would drive around in that Porsche Spyder but then he'd be wearing, like, a Tommy Bahama shirt when he was off the clock?

Nick smiles. The memory is bittersweet now. Then:

NICK
Do you know why he did it?

She looks at him. Not going there.

JEN
C'mon, bro. This is the fun part.

She starts walking. Nick throws down his skateboard, catching the eyes of a group of GUYS who notice. Jen saunters by them. They notice her, too.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Steve flips through family vacation photos -- Aspen, the Eifel Tower, rafting the Colorado river. He sees an OLDER PICTURE tucked behind it and pulls it out to REVEAL: the exact same rafting trip with DAVE'S FACE in place of his. He flips it over. It reads: "Kate, Jen, Nick and Dave Johnson, Rafting 2010." He flips his picture over: "Kate, Jen, Nick and Steve Jones, Colorado Rafting 2012." Wow.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Nick tries to open his locker. But it's stuck. A studious-looking girl, TALIA, tacks a TUTORING FLYER to a bulletin board. *Think Sarah Ramos*. She notices him and we recognize her from the picture Kate gave to Nick.

TALIA
You're new, right?
(hands him a FLYER)
Math and science are my speciality.

NICK
What about lockers? Although if I can't get it, I doubt you can.

She notices his skateboard.

CONTINUED:

TALIA
Birdhouse and Blitz?

NICK
You know skateboards?

Talia bangs her fist on his locker. It POPS open.

TALIA
Things aren't always what they seem.

She walks off. OFF NICK, intrigued by her.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CHEMISTRY LAB - DAY

Jen walks into class. Hands her schedule to the teacher.

TEACHER
We have a new student with us today. Jennifer Jones.

JEN
It's Jen.

TEACHER
Sit anywhere that's open.

Jen recognizes MIA AND MARLO, who look her up and down, threatened. As she sits, she notices Marlo's flats:

JEN (CONT'D)
Tori Burch, right? She just came out with those in python. They'd look great on you.

Marlo beams. OFF JEN, it's too easy.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Steve pokes around tons of PRODUCTS -- an Element Smokeless BBQ, Frontgate Floating Pool Speakers, Nike Lumar Swingtip Golf Shoes. He finds a set of TAYLORMADE ROCKETBALLZ GOLF CLUBS. Inspects them, impressed. And we HEAR:

HAIRDRESSER (PRELAP)
So what are we doing today?

INT. SALON - DAY

Kate gets ushered into a chair by a HAIRDRESSER.

CONTINUED:

KATE
Whatever you think. Except a bowl cut. Not gonna make that mistake twice.

A woman, ANNIE, laughs, then notices Kate's bag.

ANNIE
Oh my god, is that a Farbod Barsum?

KATE
An anniversary present. From my husband.

Another woman, LUCY, chimes in.

LUCY
Nice husband. It probably cost more than my wedding.

Kate laughs. The women drool with envy.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - STEVE'S CLOSET - DAY

We SEE fifty versions of the same golf shirt. A WHITE IMAC sits on a small white table. Steve clicks it ON. And it begins selecting OUTFITS for him. OFF STEVE, amazed.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CHEMISTRY LAB - DAY

Jen takes notes with Mia and Marlo. The teacher rambles.

MIA
Oh my god, when is lunch? My stomach is literally eating itself.

Jen reaches into her bag. Hands Mia a diet lollipop.

JEN
Skinnypops. They'll suppress your appetite and work your suction muscles. Your boyfriend will love it. Mine does.

MIA
Who's your boyfriend?

JEN
He's older. High school boys aren't my thing.

Suddenly, the TEACHER interrupts.

CONTINUED:

TEACHER
Excuse me, Jennifer.

JEN
It's Jen.

TEACHER
Can you answer the question? And please convert it from Fahrenheit to kelvin?

Jen has no clue what he's even talking about.

JEN
Calvin? Like... "and Hobbs?"

Everyone laughs. The Teacher's mildly annoyed.

TEACHER
Kelvin, as in its thermodynamic temperature. The absolute scale?

JEN
Sorry. The only Absolut I'm familiar with goes with orange juice.

Everyone laughs again. The Teacher rips off a hall pass.

TEACHER
To the principal's office. Now.

OFF JEN, pleased, and the SOUND OF RINGING takes us to:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PAYPHONE - DAY

Nick at a payphone. Finally, an answering machine picks up.

WOMAN'S VOICE
Hi, you've reached the Goransons...

Nick hangs up. Then sees Jen beeline to the Jeep.

NICK
Jen! What the hell -- wait!

But she peels out without him.

EXT. SALON - DAY

Kate, Annie, and Lucy leave the salon, cracking up.

CONTINUED:

ANNIE
Wait, seriously? In the coat room... at the Met...

KATE
Tucked between a fur coat and a pile of umbrellas. It was hot. Literally.

LUCY
And they arrested you...

KATE
They threw us in holding cells across from each other. Steve didn't even have pants on, I'm dying laughing, like, "What are we going to do?" And he looks at me with these blue eyes. And goes, "Marry me"...
(shrugs)
So I did.

Annie and Lucy swoon. Kate gives hugs goodbye.

KATE
I gotta get to Lakeside. This was so much fun.

ANNIE
Let's make a plan soon.

Kate smiles, but as soon as her back's turned she drops it.

EXT. THE PLACE - DAY

Jen stumbles upon a cool outdoor restaurant -- a BIG RED BARN with tree stumps for bar stools, a hand-painted menu nailed to a tree. A cute bartender, SAM, early 30s, approaches. *Think Kris Polaha.*

JEN
Shot of Patron. Silver.

SAM
We're not actually open yet.

JEN
Rough day at the office. Make an exception?

CONTINUED:

SAM
Lemme see an I.D.? You don't look old enough to drink.

She hands it over. He inspects it.

SAM
Jennifer Mitchell. '88. I stand corrected.

Appeased, he pours the shot. Jen flirts.

JEN
I bet you're a lot cuter when you're not standing.

He passes her the shot. She downs it, then smiles:

JEN
I'll have another.

SAM
You gonna wanna eat something? To soak up that alcohol?

Jen looks at a TANK OF LOBSTERS.

JEN
Not unless you have anything besides those.

SAM
Not in your budget?

JEN
It's not the money. It's the principle.

SAM
The boiling? They don't feel a thing.

JEN
Wrong. It's not that they don't feel, they just aren't smart enough to register that what they're feeling is pain.
(then)
I did a report. Fifth grade.

He leans in, intrigued by her.

CONTINUED: (2)

SAM
Not to open a can of worms here...
Any issues with scallops?

Jen laughs. There's some chemistry here. Sam moves off to place the order. Jen watches him go, titillated. She grabs her phone, scrolls down to DAD. As she considers, the WHACK OF A GOLF BALL takes us to:

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB - GOLF COURSE - DAY

Steve's ball sails on to the green, just feet from the hole. Larry and the other guys, ANDY and MARK, are impressed.

LARRY
Nice swing, Jones.

Steve hands his driver off to Larry to try out.

STEVE
It's the new Rocketballz line from TaylorMade. They make anyone look good.

Larry hits the ball into the water. *Not anyone*.

LARRY
Who needs a beer? I'm buying.

As Larry orders from a SNACK SHACK, the KID behind the counter stops him:

KID
Actually, Mr. Simon... the GM's been tryin' to reach you. There's a problem... with your account...

Steve steps in, overhearing, wanting to spare Larry.

STEVE
Hey. First round's on me.

Mark notices a gadget on Steve's glove.

MARK
That a watch?

STEVE
GolfSense Swing Analyzer. Sends data over your Bluetooth.
(then)
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

STEVE (CONT'D)
You know what they say: he who dies with the most toys wins.

A beat as that lands on Larry. Steve feels bad. Suddenly, Steve's phone rings. It's JEN.

STEVE
Sorry, guys... my daughter...

As he moves off to take the call, happy for the excuse...

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - LOBBY - DAY

Kate glances at her watch. MICHAEL, the GM, appears.

MICHAEL
Mrs. Jones? I'm Michael, the General Manager here. All set for the interview?

KATE
Yes. My husband should be here any minute...

OFF KATE, wondering: *where the hell is Steve?*

EXT. SANDDOLLAR HOTEL - DAY

Steve knocks on a hotel room door, that opens to REVEAL: JEN.

JEN
What took you so long?

STEVE
It was mid-round. I had to finish.

JEN
So do we.

She grabs him, kisses him and pulls him inside, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. SANDDOLLAR HOTEL - DAY

Steve and Jen lay in bed, post-coital. The room is cheesy.

STEVE
I'd kill for a cigarette.

JEN
Too bad NicoDerm's a client. Kate can't even smoke. That's why she stress-eats that crap.
(then)
So... aside from your career tanking, what happened that made this seem like a good idea?

STEVE
The job? Or you?
(off her look)
Great salary, free housing, full benefits. Felt like a no-brainer.

JEN
No one gives up their life to do this. Unless it's worth giving up.

STEVE
Was yours?

JEN
Where else is someone like me gonna make six figures?

STEVE
So you and Nick have been with Kate for a while, huh? What happened to the guy before me? Numbers weren't good? Bad in bed?

A beat. Jen rolls on top of him.

JEN
You'd have to ask Kate.

He looks at her, skeptically.

CONTINUED:

STEVE
How old are you really? 'Cause no "seventeen year old" can do what you just did...

JEN
Twenty-five tomorrow.

STEVE
What? We gotta celebrate.

JEN
I think we just did. Twice.
(getting out of bed)
Anyway, my real family never did anything. I hardly expect my fake one to.
(then)
Gonna shower. Then we should bounce.

STEVE
What? Why?

JEN
Our hour's up. And Kate's gonna wonder where we are...

Suddenly, it dawns on Steve. Kate. And the SOUND OF A CAR SCREECHING TO A HALT takes us to:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Kate pulls up to the high school, A BAG OF FUNYONS in her lap. She sees Nick's with a group of SKATER GUYS. HONKS. As he gets in the car...

KATE
Where's Jen?

He covers.

NICK
She took off. With friends.

KATE
You make any? That have boobs?

NICK
It's only the first day.

CONTINUED:

He sees Talia getting into a BEAT UP OLD TRUCK in front of him.

NICK
I talked to her.

Kate clocks Talia, then looks at Nick.

KATE
And?

NICK
(admits)
It was just for a second.

KATE
Well, you know what they say: every second counts.

Kate hits the GAS and SLAMS her CAR into Talia's. CRUNCH. Nick looks at Kate. *What the hell?*

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - A LITTLE LATER

Nick stands by Talia's dented bumper. Kate hangs up. Talia's near tears.

KATE
Triple A's on their way. We should exchange insurance --

TALIA
I'm dead. I'm seriously dead. I only have my permit, I'm not really supposed to drive alone --

KATE
I can call your parents, explain everything --

TALIA
I live with my uncle. This truck, it's his. He's going to kill me. This is the last thing he needs --

KATE
Then he doesn't even have to know.
(to Nick)
Why don't you give... what's your name?

CONTINUED:

TALIA
Talia.

Kate looks at Nick, then nods to her car.

KATE
Give Talia a ride home.
(to Talia)
Just tell your uncle you left the truck at school. I'll have it back here and fixed by morning.

TALIA
You don't have to do that...

KATE
It's my fault you're in this mess. Yeah, I do.

Talia sighs, relieved.

TALIA
Okay... thanks.

KATE
Anytime.

She gives Talia a calming hug. And gives Nick a wink. OFF NICK, taking in Kate's skills. She's good.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Steve paces in his boxers, leaving a message for Kate. The shower runs in the b.g.

STEVE
Hey, it's me. I know I missed the thing at the country club -- I'll explain everything later, I just --

Suddenly, Steve HEARS a key in the door. It opens to REVEAL: SUMMER. Steve freezes, a deer in headlights. He sees a cleaning cart. Realizes:

STEVE
Summer? Do you... work here?

SUMMER
I'm sorry, I ---

She quickly glances around the room. Sees women's clothes scattered around -- a bra, a thong... it doesn't look good.

CONTINUED:

STEVE
I can explain...

But she hurries out. Jen walks out, naked, drying her hair. Steve looks like he's seen a ghost.

JEN
What?

SMASH TO:

EXT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - PICTURE WINDOW - NIGHT

The Joneses eat dinner, framed in the picture window, smiling, passing dishes back and forth. Their outward image picture perfect, but through Kate's smile:

KATE
Where the hell were you?

We CUT INSIDE TO SEE:

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A very different picture. In reality, everyone eats their own meal, that they made or picked up on their own.

KATE
The interview? You never showed.

And instead of a family conversation, it only appears that way -- Jen sings along to her iPod. Nick's into a game he's watching on TV, Kate and Steve talk through their smiles.

STEVE
Something... came up.

Steve looks to Jen for help. She takes her headphones out.

JEN
I got sent to the principal's office so I bounced. Then I got a flat tire. Guess we shoulda' gone with Michelin on the Jeep after all.

KATE
You got sent to the principal's office on the first day?

CONTINUED:

JEN
You put me in Chemistry. It was that or show I don't have a clue what's going on. It's not like the Corporation does our school work for us.

KATE
You took it when <u>you</u> were in school. Doesn't it ring a bell?

STEVE
Look, I think Jen's point is: if we're a fake family, shouldn't we be making these fake decisions together?

KATE
No. I tell you what to do. You do it.

STEVE
If I'd wanted that, I could've stayed married.

KATE
If you'd stayed married, you probably wouldn't be here in the first place.

The truth hits Steve like a slap in the face. Suddenly, the doorbell rings. Steve throws down his napkin and gets up to answer it.

EXT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - DOORSTEP - NIGHT

Steve opens the door to REVEAL: a WOMAN, K.C. -- *think Lauren Hutton* -- stands holding a piping hot, fresh baked apple pie.

K.C.
Hello, Neighbor.

SMASH TO:

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kate, Steve, Jen and Nick sit on the couch, eating pie. K.C. sits in front of them, a sweet, sadistic smile on her face. Steve tries to make small talk.

STEVE
This... is delicious.

CONTINUED:

K.C.
The apples are native to the Andes. You ever been?

STEVE
I'm not much of a world traveler.

Kate looks uneasy. K.C. continues.

K.C.
Oh, you'd love the Andes. Maybe the Joneses need a vacation there.
(then)
Though there is some risk involved. You ever hear of people who fall into those giant crevasses? And just... disappear?

OFF STEVE, *huh? K.C.* looks him directly in the eye.

K.C.
When you failed to show up for the Lakeside interview, we enabled our GPS device. Your car was traced fifteen miles outside of town, to the Sanddollar Hotel.

And now it makes sense: K.C. is their boss.

KATE
Wait... a hotel?

STEVE
What're you, Big Brother?

JEN
Since when are we tracked?

K.C.
You work for the top stealth marketing firm in the country. There's nothing we don't track. Including our employees in the field.
(looks at Jen)
It appears a young woman checked into the same hotel under the name "Joey Potter."

As it dawns on Kate, Jen shrugs innocently.

JEN
I loved that show.

Kate turns to Steve, livid.

CONTINUED: (2)

KATE
You missed the interview because you were having sex with Jen?

Steve looks to K.C. Hesitant to say the truth.

K.C.
What you do behind closed doors, that's your business. But if it affects your image, that's ours. Skipping school, missing an important interview -- that's a problem. Getting caught by your neighbor -- that's a catastrophe.

As this lands on Kate...

KATE
Wait... what?

STEVE
Summer walked in on me at the hotel. Turns out, she works there. Who knew?

Kate can't believe what she's hearing. She turns to K.C.

KATE
After everything that happened, this market is the only thing I asked for. And you stick me with some washed-up, incompetent hack. As if being saddled with a nympho for the last three placements isn't bad enough?

JEN
I crushed the Dayton market, Lady. I had better numbers than you did.

K.C.
But to Kate's point, our clients expect progress and if your actions are jeopardizing that, we can make a change.

NICK
(bitter)
We just had a change.

K.C. softens. She knows losing Dave was tough.

CONTINUED: (3)

K.C.
Dave's suicide was... unfortunate.

This is the first Steve's heard of it. He reacts.

STEVE
Wait, he killed himself? Why?

A beat. K.C. fields this question.

K.C.
This job, the stress, the pressure, the compartmentalizing... not everyone can handle it.
(beat)
And if any of you can't, a quick trip to the Andes will fix that. We'll tell the neighbors there's been a tragedy, we'll pack up whoever is left and send them to a new market.

KATE
I want to make this work. Here. In this market.

K.C.
Forty-eight hours. That's how long you have to start logging sales and repair the damage with Summer. No one's going to want to be you if they think your husband is cheating.

KATE
I'll fix it, K.C. I will.

K.C.
You wanna stay here, you better.

K.C. throws down an Andes vacation brochure as a final threat and leaves. OFF THE JONESES, their "family" in jeopardy.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Steve walks in to find Kate on a mission -- getting out party goods -- frozen foods, champagne, cocktail plates, napkins...

STEVE
On a scale of one to hating my guts, where we at?

She ignores him, knee-deep in plans.

KATE
The soonest we can get another meeting with Michael is next week. If we can't get into the country club right away, we'll make the country club come to us.

STEVE
Look, about what happened with Jen --

KATE
We're throwing a party. Nick and Jen are going to focus on getting their friends from school over --

STEVE
(trying to help)
Okay, well... I can call Larry --

Kate stops. She looks at him, incredulous.

KATE
To what? Invite his broke-ass over or to tell him you're not a lying, cheating scumbag?

STEVE
Yeah... that.

Kate raises her voice a little.

KATE
Call Annie.

A HOUSE BLUETOOTH PHONE suddenly gets activated. We HEAR it dialing. Steve looks around, perplexed. As he realizes:

CONTINUED:

STEVE
Seriously? That's cool.

As it RINGS, Steve admits:

STEVE
Look, Kate. Larry -- I feel bad for the guy.

KATE
That's the problem. Things like *feelings* get in the way. Steve Jones needs to care about one person: himself.

And we HEAR:

ANNIE (O.C.)
Kate?

Kate shifts into fun, friendly "Kate Jones" mode.

KATE
Annie, it's me. I had so much fun yesterday. Any interest in coming over tonight? We'd love to meet Jack.

ANNIE
Sure. That'd be great actually. What can we bring?

KATE
How 'bout a small army of friends? Steve's got a case of Veuve that's dying to be drunk...

OFF KATE, taking action...

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Jen runs around the track with Mia, who struggles to keep up.

MIA
You gotta slow down. You're making me look bad.

JEN
It's these Nike Flyknits. They weigh, like, an ounce.

CONTINUED:

Suddenly, she slows. Notices a MAN in the stands staring at her. Clearly, out of place. She's flustered. To Mia:

JEN
Grabbing my SmartWater. Be right back.

She veers off. And we HEAR:

NICK (PRELAP)
Everything... it's fine.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Nick's on the payphone again.

NICK
Yeah, I got relocated. Our whole team did... almost.
(a beat)
Yeah, still marketing...
(then)
Is, um... Dad around?
(a beat)
Well is there better time to call?
(another beat)
I know he's said that... Mom, it's been over a year --

Nick stops, cut off. His eyes well with tears, despite trying to squash them down.

NICK
Yeah, I get it. Okay, bye.

He hangs up, crushed. Suddenly, Talia walks up, excited.

TALIA
So your mom not only fixed the truck, she got me new tires and a new transmission...

She can tell something's wrong.

TALIA
You okay?

From the look on his face, it's clear he isn't. He takes off, embarrassed. Talia watches him go, concerned. And we HEAR:

CONTINUED:

JEN (PRELAP)
How the hell did you find me?

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - UNDER THE BLEACHERS - DAY

Jen confronts a tattooed, sketchy deadbeat, CARL. He's late 40s but life hasn't been kind.

CARL
Those letters you sent. Bragging about your fancy marketing job.
(then)
What the hell are you doing at a high school?

JEN
It's my job. And those letters weren't to you.

CARL
We tried to track you down in Dayton --

JEN
I moved.

CARL
Spider told me.

JEN
Spider has a big mouth.
(then, self-conscious)
Look, everyone thinks I go here, so just... be cool.

Carl laughs.

CARL
That's ironic. Didn't you drop out after sophomore year? All one plus two equals to you is a threesome.

He steps toward her. Touches her.

CARL
You look good.

She steps back.

JEN
Don't.

CONTINUED:

He cuts to the chase, pissed.

CARL
Fine.
(then)
Denise. She wants to see you.

OFF JEN, shocked, then softening...

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - KATE'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Kate -- dressed for the party -- sits on her bed, laptop out. She CLICKS on an ICON, that enables a video device that shows the INSIDE OF A NON-DESCRIPT TRUCK. It's empty. From the look on her face, she's disappointed.

She keeps that window open, but begins CLICKING THROUGH a series of INTERVIEW FOLDERS -- Steve's folder is at the top, followed by Nick, Dave, Jen, and various other co-workers. She clicks on STEVE'S INTERVIEW.

A QUICKTIME FILE pops UP on screen. Steve talks directly to the CAMERA. He looks more disheveled, a little over-weight. We HEAR K.C.'s VOICE.

K.C.'S VOICE
To take this job, you essentially walk away from your life. Are you prepared to do that?

STEVE (ON SCREEN)
I've tried being me. For forty-three years. And I've got shit to show for it.
(then)
Fake or not, it'd be nice to be the guy I thought I'd be.

A beat. Kate feels for him. Suddenly:

NICK
Kate?

She shuts the laptop quickly and looks up at Nick.

NICK
The first guests are here.

Kate forces a smile.

KATE
Be right down.

CONTINUED:

Nick leaves. Kate clicks out of the interviews, leaving only the TRUCK VIDEO FOOTAGE. Talia is now IN THE FRAME, driving. Kate smiles. Good.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - NIGHT

The cocktail party is in full swing and the Joneses operate as a finely-tuned machine. Kate opens the door to MORE GUESTS.

KATE
Annie. And you must be Jack. Come in, come in...

JACK
Your home is gorgeous.

KATE
(to Jack)
So is your wife.
(to Annie)
I could never pull that top off. Unless I buy bigger boobs. Which Steve would love...

Suddenly, Larry and Summer arrive. Kate's shocked to see them.

KATE
Summer...

Steve rushes to greet them.

STEVE
Glad you both could make it...

Jen breezes by with a tray of hors d'oeuvres.

JEN
Crab cakes?

Larry grabs a handful.

LARRY
I'll have one. Or two.

Nick collects purses and coats...

NICK
These'll just be in the guest bedroom. It's the one down the hall, with the exposed fireplace.

CONTINUED:

Nick moves off.

INT. THE JONESES HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nick sets the purses and coats down, then takes two cell phones out of two coat pockets. He places them on an electronic mat to scan them and download what's on their browsers.

KATE (O.C.)
What the hell --

Nick spins around. At first we think he's caught, but then:

KATE
There's no one in your demo. Did you and Jen invite anyone?

Nick switches the phones. Scans the second one.

NICK
Sorry. I meant to, but --

KATE
-- But what? I pretty much handed you your new girlfriend on a silver platter.

Nick stuffs both phones back into their respective coat pockets.

KATE
I can't do the entire job for you. So next time I tell you to do something, do it.

OFF KATE, fuming, the SOUND OF A POP takes us to:

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Steve pops another bottle of champagne. Jen comes in to the kitchen for a refill.

JEN
I need a favor.

STEVE
Like... a sexual one?

JEN
No.

CONTINUED:

STEVE
Good, 'cause I'm already on Kate's bad side.

JEN
You've gotta cover for me. I've got somewhere I need to go.
(before he can protest)
Consider this my birthday present.

STEVE
You said I gave you two.

JEN
I faked one so it doesn't count.

STEVE
Wait, seriously?
(off her look)
Fine, fine, fine. Look, everyone just got here, you can't leave yet...

He hands her a fresh tray of hors d'oeuvres.

STEVE
Just pass these out and I'll... think of something to get you outta' here.

OFF STEVE, knowing this can't be good.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - KATE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kate leads Annie, Lucy, Summer and a handful of other women on a tour. Lucy holds up a wedding photo.

LUCY
Was this in Napa?

KATE
Tuscany, actually.

We SEE the photo. It's a MUCH YOUNGER Steve and Kate. They are scampering through a vineyard.

KATE
We eloped. And by eloped, I mean, we snuck in to that vineyard. That's us getting chased out halfway through the ceremony...

CONTINUED:

LUCY
You and Steve have had quite the life.

KATE
We finally had to settle in suburbia out of sheer exhaustion.

Summer looks at the wedding picture.

SUMMER
Isn't it sad that half of all marriages end in divorce?

A beat.

LUCY
Aren't you Larry's second wife?

Summer nods, sheepishly. Kate goes to retrieve something from the closet.

KATE
I have our whole wedding album in here somewhere...

We see TWELVE THICK TERRY CLOTH BATHROBES, all with different hotel insignias. Annie notices.

ANNIE
Wow. Quite a collection.

Kate feigns embarrassment.

KATE
Oh, god. Long story.
(explains)
Steve and I won this couples' seminar in Vegas -- all about how to keep your marriage exciting. The trip was paid for, we figured what the hell...
(then)
One of the things we learned is how important the element of surprise is. So once a month, I send Steve a text... all it says is the name of a hotel and a time... the more random the better.

The women listen, riveted.

CONTINUED: (2)

KATE
We meet. We... connect. We leave. I always keep a souvenir.

Kate pulls out the Sanddollar robe.

KATE
I picked this one up yesterday.

A beat as Summer realizes that woman was Kate. Steve wasn't cheating at all.

SUMMER
Wow. Your marriage, it really is... perfect.

A beat, then:

LUCY
And what was the name of that seminar?

OFF KATE, problem solved, as the selling continues...

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - NIGHT

Andy, Mark, Jack, Larry and a few GUYS stand around the flatscreen TV. Steve holds the remote and explains:

STEVE
Everything on the DVR can be streamed right to my Mercedes...

Jen's about to slip out, when Kate walks downstairs with Summer, who rambles nervously:

SUMMER
"We have products for every skin type. Dry, oily, combination..."

KATE
Jen?

Jen covers.

JEN
Sorry. I thought someone was at the door.

Kate looks over, monitoring Steve. Larry takes the remote.

CONTINUED:

LARRY
Right to your car, huh? This is incredible...

Steve makes eye contact with Kate, who gives him a look. *Larry? Really?* Steve looks at Jack.

STEVE
Hey. You seen this?
(to Larry)
Can Jack check it out for a sec...?

As Kate watches the exchange, Summer continues:

SUMMER
...which would be great for your T-Zone issue. Dry here, oily there.

Kate turns to her, masking her annoyance.

KATE
Summer, I work with a lot of sales reps. The best way to sell is to wait for people to ask.
(beat)
Now excuse me, I need to check on the crab cakes.

SUMMER
They're delicious, by the way. Who makes them?

KATE
Chef Auberge. And believe it or not, they're <u>frozen</u>.

As Kate heads toward the kitchen, Jen gives Steve a look. She taps where her watch would be. It's been an hour. As Kate makes her way past Steve, he GRABS her out of nowhere and PLANTS A GIGANTIC KISS ON HER.

Everyone stops and stares. Kate's taken aback at first, but has no choice but to settle into it... giving Jen enough time to sneak out the front door.

Finally, Kate and Steve pull apart. The men nearly applaud.

STEVE
Wow.

Kate looks stunned. For all their pretending, something about that kiss felt decidedly, unexpectedly... <u>real</u>.

EXT. RV PARK - NIGHT

Jen bangs on the door of a BEATEN UP RV. The door OPENS to REVEAL: a woman, DENISE. Jen gives a slight shrug, revealing a little girl side of her we haven't seen.

JEN
Hey, Mama.

And OFF THIS TWIST...

EXT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

Kate and Steve hold hands -- the loving couple -- as they say goodbye to the last guests.

ANNIE
I swear, I'm going to dream of that six-burner Viking tonight...

KATE
Cardio Barre tomorrow?

ANNIE
Done. Coffee after. And we should check out that cupcake vending machine you read about.

As Annie and Mark leave, Kate drops Steve's hand immediately.

KATE
What was that kiss?

STEVE
Some of my best work.

KATE
You follow my lead, not the other way around.

STEVE
You said it yourself. "If people want to be us, they'll want what we have." And Steve Jones has you.

Kate sees right through his bullshit. He's distracting her from the bigger issue at hand.

KATE
Where's Jen?

OFF STEVE, shit.

INT. RV - NIGHT

The inside of the RV is a wreck. Jen sits across from her mom. Carl lingers. Denise takes Jen in. Shakes her head.

DENISE
It's crazy. You look so grown up.

JEN
It's been six years.

A beat as that hangs in the air.

JEN
But, you know, thanks for showing up. Nice to know you still remember.

Denise looks at her confused. Then realizes: Jen's birthday. From the look on Denise's face, it's clear she forgot. And Jen knows it. Denise tries to cover.

DENISE
What are you? Twenty-three now?

JEN
Twenty-five.

DENISE
I woulda' brought a present but Carl lost his job, we got evicted...

Carl gives her a look. Enough pussyfooting around.

DENISE
We're a little short on cash.

CARL
(corrects her)
A lot short.

Jen deflates. She knows exactly where this is going. She gets up to leave.

JEN
Yeah. We're done.

Carl blocks her.

CONTINUED:

CARL
You want word to get out? That you're getting bank to live some fake life? Pretending you're some All-American girl-next-door?
(then)
I know what you really are. We both do.

Jen tries to shove him out of the way and in a quick motion, he BACKHANDS HER across the face. She stumbles back, dazed. Then looks him square in the eye.

JEN
Was that for old times' sake?
(then)
Nothing you do can hurt me more than she already has.

The door slams loudly as she leaves.

INT. JEEP - NIGHT

Jen gets into the car. She breaks down crying. Clearly in much more pain than she's letting on. And we HEAR:

KATE (PRELAP)
Where the hell have you been?

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - NIGHT

Kate confronts Jen, who's just walked in the door. Jen's hood is up. She tries to blow by her but Kate intercepts her. Steve tries to help. To calm things down.

STEVE
Hold on, Kate...

KATE
Jen, wait --

JEN
Get off my back --

KATE
You're lying, you're sneaking around --

Jen stomps up the stairs. Nick appears at the top of the banister. Kate follows and grabs her.

KATE
We're not done here!

CONTINUED:

Jen's hood falls off. We REVEAL the side of her face is black and blue.

KATE
Oh my god, Jen.

STEVE
What the hell --

KATE
Jen, wait --

JEN
Spare me the mom act. 'Cause that's what all this is, right? An act? You don't give a shit about me any more than you gave a shit about Dave!

Kate's stung. Nick looks confused.

NICK
What?

KATE
(to Jen)
You don't know anything about me and Dave.

JEN
I know you broke this heart. You tossed him aside faster than your 4S. It wasn't just sex to him, he actually loved you.

A beat as Nick takes this in, shocked. This is clearly news to him. Jen's relentless.

JEN
That John Deere didn't drive him to the pool. <u>You did</u>.
(to Steve)
You think sleeping with me gets you into trouble? Well, don't even <u>think</u> about sleeping with her.

Jen storms upstairs, followed by a pissed off Nick. Steve looks at Kate, who's clearly shaken, wracked with guilt.

FADE OUT.

<u>END OF ACT FOUR</u>

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

EXT. MOCKINGBIRD LANE - EARLY MORNING

The sun rises, NEWSPAPERS get tossed onto doorsteps, the street starts to wake up. We LAND on one sprawling house in particular... THE JONESES.

EXT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - POOL - NEXT MORNING

Steve walks out, on a mission.

STEVE
Kate... Kate?

He sees a BODY floating in the pool. KATE. Her eyes are wide open, staring blankly at the sky.

STEVE
Jesus! KATE!

Steve jumps in the pool and grabs her. She flails, startled.

KATE
Oh my god! What the hell --

Steve's breathless, relieved. She's alive.

STEVE
Jesus Christ. I thought...

Jen and Nick run out. They see Kate and Steve in the pool.

KATE
What? What did you want?

A beat. He admits:

STEVE
K.C.'s here.

OFF this strange family tableau...

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EARLY MORNING

All four Joneses sit on the couch, packed in like sardines. Close physically, far apart emotionally. Steve and Kate are still wet. K.C. stands in front of them.

CONTINUED:

K.C.
As you know, it was important you come in and hit the ground running. You had a major setback to overcome. The country club was one way into this town.
(smiles)
But clearly, not the only way.

The Joneses look at each other, a moment of hope.

K.C.
That party, getting people into your home, having your neighbors see everything first hand -- your Viking appliances, your Design Within Reach couches, your Apple TV... it went a long way in rectifying your bumpy start.

She clicks a remote. The flatscreen is a MONITOR. A GRID of the town pops up.

K.C.
Here's your house. Here's your neighborhood. And here's a look at which of our products have been everything from Google-searched to purchased by people you've interacted with.

K.C. hits a button. A complicated GRAPH of figures and charts pops up.

K.C.
The Farbod Barsum bag... a <u>huge</u> sale.

There's a BLOOP noise. A dot appears in the neighborhood. Kate beams.

K.C.
TaylorMade, Tori Burch...

More BLOOPS and DOTS in and around the town.

K.C.
Skinnypops, Birdhouse and Blitz...

Kate looks at Nick, encouragingly.

CONTINUED: (2)

KATE
Nice.

But he ignores her. Still reeling from the Dave news. K.C. continues.

K.C.
Viking, GolfSense, Atlantic Ale...
(then)
And the biggest sale. The Mercedes G-Class Hybrid SUV. For that, you can just look out your window.

K.C. points across the street. Steve looks out to see LARRY. Washing his BRAND NEW MERCEDES. She looks at Steve, pleased.

STEVE
Larry bought my Mercedes?

A beat as it lands on Kate. Steve out-sold her.

K.C.
Hook, line and sinker. Targeting him was genius.

Kate looks down, sheepishly. Steve throws her a bone.

STEVE
Just following Kate's lead.

Kate looks at Steve, surprised. K.C. hands out envelopes.

K.C.
Your first paychecks, commission included...
(then)
It's a long road ahead, but consider the Joneses' trip to the Andes postponed... at least for now.

She tosses a set of car keys to Steve.

STEVE
What's this?

K.C.
Can't let old Larry get too comfortable. That's the name of the game. You gotta keep up.

OFF STEVE, considering...

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Steve opens the garage door to REVEAL: a new 2014 AUDI R8, all electric e-tron sports car. He's floored. Kate walks up.

KATE
You didn't have to give me credit --

STEVE
-- Get in.

As Kate does...

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - NICK'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jen finds Nick in his room, doing homework.

JEN
Wanna crack into that Wii U in the garage? See how it works?

Nick doesn't look up.

JEN
Okay. Who're you mad at? Dave, Kate or me?

NICK
D) All of the above.
(then)
Dave killed himself. Kate caused it. And apparently, you knew all about it.

JEN
The one thing I <u>do</u> know is Dave couldn't keep it straight. The line between real and pretend. And if you can't do that, you can't do this job.
(then)
When Kate realized his feelings were real, she ended it. He couldn't deal.

A beat as Nick takes that in. Jen looks at him, curiously.

JEN
Can <u>you</u>? Because we knew Dave five months. You're taking his suicide pretty hard.

CONTINUED:

Nick looks down. *Yeah, maybe he is.*

JEN
Don't make the same mistake he did. The worst thing you can do in this job is care.

NICK
Right. It's just a paycheck to you. That's why you're doing this.

JEN
What're you doing it for?

He looks at her. Admits.

NICK
My dad, he kicked me out. I wasn't the son he wanted.
(then)
I guess I'm doing it for a second chance.

Nick goes back to doing his homework. As Jen takes that in, her gaze falls onto Talia's TUTORING FLYER on his desk. OFF JEN, thinking about second chances...

EXT./INT. RV - DAY

Steve and Kate POUND on the RV door. The door SWINGS OPEN to REVEAL: DENISE. She comes face to face with Kate.

KATE
Denise Mitchell?

DENISE
(stammers)
Yes... why?

Kate pushes past her and marches into the trailer. She gets right in Carl's face, fearless.

KATE
You're pretty ballsy for a guy with two felony strikes. So unless you want to be arrested for assault and rot in jail for the rest of your life, I'd leave town and make sure Jen never sees you or hears from you again.

CONTINUED:

DENISE
What's going on? Who the hell are you?

Kate's disgusted.

KATE
More of a fucking parent to your kid than you are.

Kate pushes past her and storms out of the trailer, past Steve, who watches her go, stunned.

EXT. MOCKINGBIRD LANE/INT. STEVE'S CAR - A LITTLE LATER

Steve and Kate drive home in silence.

STEVE
Would it be wrong to say... that was hot?

A beat.

KATE
Yes.

Another beat. She smiles. So does Steve. An actual real moment between them. Then:

STEVE
Listen, what Jen said last night... If you ever want to talk...

KATE
The less we know about each other, the better.

STEVE
Okay. But you don't have to shut me out. Because of Dave.

Kate looks at him, gives the slightest of sad smiles.

KATE
Yeah, actually. I do.

As Kate's words land, they pass Larry in his MERCEDES SUV. Steve breaks the moment between them. Calls out:

STEVE
Larry! Nice car, man.

CONTINUED:

Larry takes in Steve's new Audi.

LARRY
You, too.

OFF LARRY. Keeping up with the Joneses is going to be harder than he thought.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - PICTURE WINDOW - NIGHT

The same NEIGHBOR from the beginning walks his dog past the Joneses' house. He glances into the picture window where the Joneses sit, eating. Steve carries in a plate and we HEAR:

STEVE
Who needs seconds? We got more eggs, bacon, sausage...

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

He sets a plate with a single pancake down in front of Jen.

STEVE
A day late, but...

Jen looks at him, shocked. There's a LIT CANDLE in it.

JEN
Seriously?

Steve smiles. Seriously. OFF THIS UNLIKELY FAMILY...

EXT. THE PLACE - NIGHT

Jen looks at an address she's written down, confused. Talia runs down a staircase.

TALIA
Are you Jen?

JEN
Oh, yeah. I thought I was at the wrong place.

TALIA
I live upstairs. My uncle owns the bar. Random, I know.

JEN
No more random then me calling you.
(then)
Tell me you know what kelvin is.

CONTINUED:

Suddenly, Sam walks out from upstairs. He sees Jen.

SAM
You back for another round?
(then)
Jennifer Mitchell, right? '88. I never forget an I.D.

Talia looks at Sam, confused. He must have the wrong girl.

TALIA
She's in high school. With me.

OFF SAM, confused and JEN, busted.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - KATE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

It's late. Kate walks in. There's a box of Twinkies, Hostess Cupcakes, and Sno-Balls in the center of her bed, plus a note: "*In case of emergency -- Steve.*" There's also a bottle of Tums. Kate can't help but smile, touched.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - HALLWAY - LATER

TWO SOCKED FEET make their way down the hall past...

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - NICK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nick stares up at the ceiling, a lot on his mind. He pulls a picture out of his nightstand.

We SEE it's Nick and ANOTHER GUY, arms around each other's shoulders, looking very much like a couple. And as we start to get a hunch as to why his relationship with his dad is strained...

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

The socks tiptoe across the reclaimed wood floors.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - GARAGE - NIGHT

Steve sits in a Pledos reDO Leather lawn chair, as he pulls an Atlantic Ale out of his Igloo Glide Pro-Cooler. A hot dog grills on his Element Smokeless BBQ, as a movie gets projected from his iPod on the wall of the garage. He puts his feet up, puts the hot dog in a bun, takes a bite, then swigs his beer. Being Steve Jones ain't bad at all.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Jen tiptoes down the hall and pushes open the door to:

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - KATE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kate looks up from her laptop at Jen.

JEN
I just wanted to say... thanks.

KATE
I was protecting our cover.

JEN
Still. Thanks.

Jen leaves. Kate can't help but smile. Progress. She turns her attention back to her laptop. CLICKS on INTERVIEW FOLDERS until she finds her own. Her IMAGE pops up ON SCREEN. She looks at least a decade younger.

KATE (ON SCREEN)
...Katherine Bradshaw and I'm interviewing for a sales position at the Phoenix Corporation...

K.C.'S VOICE
And you're currently married?

KATE (ON SCREEN)
That'll change. Soon.

K.C.'S VOICE
With a three year old? Talia?

KATE (ON SCREEN)
Yes, Talia.

K.C.'S VOICE
Because if you join Phoenix, that'll change, too.

Kate nods, understanding that. She nods, torn.

KATE (ON SCREEN)
That's the whole idea.

And as we realize that Talia is Kate's daughter, we finally understand why this town, and this girl are so very important, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF PILOT