Fat, Forty and Fired

"Pilot"

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WRITER'S REVISED NETWORK DRAFT

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COLD OPEN

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. NICK AND KATE'S BATHROOM - NIGHT (N-1)
(NICK, KATE)

NICK MARSH, MINUTES AWAY FROM TURNING 40, STANDS IN FRONT OF A MIRROR IN HIS BATHROOM. NICK IS A CONFIDENT, DRIVEN, AD-EXECUTIVE WHO HAS THE BODY OF A MAN WHO HAS SPENT THE LAST TWENTY YEARS HAVING TWO-SCOTCH POWER LUNCHES AND SITTING BEHIND A DESK. NICK HOLDS HIS SHIRT UP WITH ONE HAND, AND ALTERNATELY SUCKS IN, AND LETS OUT, HIS GUT. *

NICK

(SUCKS IN GUT) Thirty-nine. (LETS OUT GUT) Forty. Huh. (SUCKS IN GUT) Thirty-nine. (LETS OUT GUT) Forty. (LESS PATIENT) Thirty-nine. (A LITTLE ANGRY) Forty. (THEN, CALLING OFF) Kate, get in here! Something's wrong.

KATE, YOUNG-LOOKING 39, NATURALLY PRETTY, LEFT HER JOB AS A FULL-TIME GRAPHIC DESIGNER FOR SIX WEEK MATERNITY LEAVE 12 YEARS AGO, REPLACED BEING SEXY WITH DRIVING CARPOOL, ENTERS IN HER BATHROBE. * * *

KATE

Did Henry put Grace's fish in the toilet again? I don't know why he thinks that's funny.

NICK

(LAUGHS) It's pretty funny. (THEN) I think the skinny mirror is broken.

KATE

(LOOKS IN MIRROR) You're right. It looks like I lost four pounds.

NICK

No, the other way! I was looking at my stomach in the mirror, to see what it will look like tomorrow when I turn forty, and I couldn't see an ab. I always see an ab in this mirror.

KATE

I love your little one-pack.

NICK

Right? (THEN) You think someone used something different to clean it?

KATE

(GOING ALONG WITH HIM) Maybe.

AS NICK GOES TO EXIT, KATE PICKS HER SHIRT UP AND LOOKS IN THE GOOD MIRROR, IMPRESSED. ON HIS WAY OUT, NICK CATCHES A SIDE VIEW OF HIMSELF.

NICK

And, honey, can you do me a favor? When Lucinda comes on Wednesday, can you please tell her not to wash my clothes in hot water. She shrunk my sweats.

AS NICK EXITS, A HUGE CHYRON DROPS: **FAT.**

CUT TO:

COLD OPEN

SCENE B

INT. NICK AND KATE'S BEDROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER (N-1)
(NICK, KATE)

AS NICK WAITS IN BED, KATE EMERGES FROM HER CLOSET WEARING NICK'S SWEATS AND T-SHIRT.

KATE

What a day. I just want to get into bed, answer my client's email, deal with this one PTA thing and Go. To. Sleep.

KATE COLLAPSES INTO BED, THEN GRABS HER IPAD. NICK STARTS KISSING HER NECK.

NICK

(TRYING TO BE "NAUGHTY") You like PTA talk, don't you?

KATE

What are you doing?

NICK

My birthday's in three minutes, I figured we could fool around in my thirties and forties in the same night.

KATE

Wow, that is very tempting. But I'm just too tired tonight. We'll do it tomorrow. I have it blocked off.

NICK

What'd you put it in your iCalendar? (REALIZING) You put it in your iCalendar? (LOOKING) From 11-11:30? You're giving it a half hour?

KATE

Is that a lot or a little?

NICK

(THINKS) I'm not sure. (THEN) Look, I won't negotiate for sex, because it's demeaning to both of us. But I will rub your shoulders and let you answer your e-mails while we do it. Plus, I'll give you a hundred dollars.

KATE

You want me to be a prostitute?

NICK

I don't like labels.

KATE

I love you, but I'm exhausted. I will fall asleep. Or cry from fatigue.

NICK

I can power through it.

WITH A SIGH, KATE ROLLS ONTO HER SIDE. NICK STARTS TO RUB KATE'S SHOULDERS. AFTER A MOMENT, WE HEAR KATE SNORING. NICK LOOKS AT THE CLOCK, AS IT TURNS TO 12:00. A GIANT CHYRON CRASHES DOWN: **FORTY.**

CUT TO:

COLD OPEN

SCENE C

INT. NICK'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY (D-2)
(NICK, STUART)

A WELL-APPOINTED MANHATTAN OFFICE, ADVERTISING AWARDS ADORN THE SHELVES. ABOVE NICK'S DESK IS A "SPORTSADE" POSTER FEATURING A SPECIAL NEEDS ATHLETE ATTEMPTING SOME RIDICULOUS CHALLENGE WITH THE SLOGAN "ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE". NICK IS SITTING AT HIS DESK UNDER THE POSTER, EATING A BIG SLICE OF BIRTHDAY CAKE, OPENING YET ANOTHER BOX OF "DEPENDS" ADULT DIAPERS GIVEN BY WISE-ASS CO-WORKERS. JUST THEN, STUART, 50'S, DISTRAUGHT, BURSTS IN.

STUART

(PANICKING) Oh, my god. I have bad news, Nick. It's bad. Real bad. There's no way to sugar coat it. It's bad news.

NICK

Calm down. Nothing's that bad.

STUART

Our biggest client, SportsAde, went to another agency.

NICK

Oh, my god. That's bad news, Stuart. It's bad. Real bad.

STUART

I told you!

NICK

I came up with their iconic slogan, "Anything is Possible." You don't leave iconic. How is that possible?

STUART

The worst part is, the old man is making me fire people. I've never fired anyone. I have a pool guy at home, and I don't have a pool! I live in an apartment, Nick!

NICK

(CALMING) Take it easy. We're ad men. Our job is to repackage crap, and make it look like candy. We turn fear into hope. Tell the people you're firing, "The company is going through some changes. And change is hard, but the bigger the change, the bigger the opportunity. And you are about to get a huge opportunity."

STUART

Genius. This is why you were the best creative director at the agency.

NICK

Thank-- What do you mean "were"?

STUART

(BEAT) "The company is going through some changes..."

AND A GIANT CHYRON DROPS DOWN: **FIRED.**

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

SCENE D

FADE IN:

INT. NICK'S CAR/INT. NICK AND KATE'S KITCHEN- LATER THAT DAY (D-2)
(NICK, KATE, GRACE, HENRY)

NICK IS DRIVING HOME, TALKING ON HIS BLUETOOTH.

NICK

Hey, it's me.

KATE (V.O.)

Hi! You sound like you're in your

car. Did they let you off work?

NICK

They did, in fact.

NICK IS ABOUT TO TELL HER, WHEN HE HEARS "BOOP, BOOP, BOOP."

NICK (CONT'D)

What is that? Is that a car alarm?

KATE (V.O.)

No, it's Henry.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. NICK AND KATE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS (D-2)
(KATE, HENRY, GRACE, BABY)

KATE IS HOLDING THEIR ONE YEAR-OLD BABY, AS HENRY, 8, TOTAL A.D.D., TORMENTS HIS OLDER SISTER, GRACE, 11, TOTAL O.C.D., AS GRACE TRIES TO DO HER HOMEWORK.

HENRY

Boop, boop, boop!

GRACE

Mom! Henry's being annoying!

NICK

When the hell did he start booping?

KATE

Right after he stopped beeping.

END INTERCUT.

INT. NICK'S CAR - CONTINUOUS (D-2)

NICK

I didn't even know he was beeping.

GRACE (V.O.)

Henry ruined my homework! It's ruined! It's all ruined! I'll never get into college!

HENRY (V.O.)

Boop! Boop! Boop!

KATE (V.O.)

It's not ruined. Stop booping. Shoot, the baby's throwing up. Honey, are you almost home?

WE REVEAL THAT NICK HAS PULLED INTO HIS DRIVEWAY.

NICK

(BEAT, THEN) I have a meeting. Let's just meet at the restaurant at nine.

AS NICK BACKS HIS CAR OUT OF THE DRIVEWAY AND DRIVES OFF, WE:

CUT TO:

SCENE E

INT. BAR - A LITTLE LATER (D-2)
(NICK, DERRICK, EXTRAS)

NICK IS WITH HIS BEST FRIEND DERRICK, 40, AFRICAN-AMERICAN, * WEARING SCRUBS. NICK IS SHOVELING DOWN GOLDFISH CRACKERS.

NICK

Unbelievable, right?

DERRICK

Yeah. You just ate an entire bowl of Goldfish in two minutes. It's like Shark Week at Pepperidge Farms.

NICK

Hey! I just lost my job of 20 years. All I have to show for it is a year's severance, two cases of SportsAde and three boxes of adult diapers.

DERRICK

That's not all. (RE: NICK'S BELLY) You also have an extra fifteen pounds.

NICK

Thank you, Derrick. Some day I hope I can repay you by being a jackass in your moment of need.

DERRICK

Sorry, man. So how's Kate taking it?

NICK

Didn't tell her. I was going to do it when I got home, but as I was pulling

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

into the driveway, the kids started screaming, so I came here instead.

DERRICK

Ah, the “drive-by.” Boom.

NICK

You can’t just put “boom” after something and make it a thing. I just didn’t want to deal with it.

DERRICK

I’m not judging; I do the drive-by all the time. Sometimes I’ll sit across the street from my house in my car and listen to the ball game until I see the lights in my kids’ room go off.

NICK

You should write a parenting book.

DERRICK

I just know my limitations. For me, I prefer being “Uncle Dad”. Boom.

NICK

You said the “boom”, obviously you want me to ask what “Uncle Dad” means.

DERRICK

I avoid the bad parts -- homework, bed times, morning -- and show up for the good parts. Thus, “Uncle Dad.” Boom.

NICK

My Dad had a similar parenting style. We called it “Neglect”. Boom.

DERRICK

It’s not neglect. My kids love me.

NICK

My kids love me, too.

DERRICK

Because you’re an “Uncle Dad”.

NICK

I’m not an Uncle Dad. I may miss the hard parts, but only because of work.

DERRICK

Then why don’t you go home now and help put your kids to bed?

NICK

Because I’m celebrating my freaking birthday with my jackass best friend!

DERRICK

Settle down, “Uncle Dad.” (THEN) Boom. (BEAT) So, when are you going to tell Kate?

NICK

Well, Kate’s very sensitive, so I’ll have to pick the moment carefully.

CUT TO:

SCENE H

INT. STEAK HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER (N-2) *
(NICK, KATE, STEVIE)

NICK IS AT A TABLE, DRINKING A SCOTCH AND POUNDING CHEESE * BREAD. KATE ENTERS, CHEERFULLY, HOLDING A BOUQUET OF HELIUM * "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" BALLOONS.

KATE

There's the birthday boy!

NICK

(IMMEDIATELY) I got fired.

KATE LETS GO OF THE BALLOONS, THEY FLOAT UP TO THE CEILING. *

KATE

What? (THEN, RE: BALLOONS) Shoot.

NICK

We lost the SportsAde account, so they

let go half of the agency.

KATE

Oh, Nick. I am so sorry.

THROUGHOUT THE FOLLOWING, NICK WOLFS DOWN CHEESE BREAD, WHILE KATE TRIES TO DISCRETELY PULL THE BREAD BASKET AWAY FROM HIM.

NICK

Me, too. But it's a big opportunity. *

Tomorrow I'll get my resume out to *

every ad agency in the tri-State area, *

and I'll call my old clients to see if *

they need in-house help.

KATE

I think you should slow down.

NICK

I'm just brainstorming, Kate. If you have any ideas, throw 'em in.

KATE

I meant with the cheese bread. You're getting this weird, orange glow. It's kind of scary.

NICK

I'm fine. Just burning a little nervous energy. You watch, I'm going to have another job in a week.

KATE WATCHES NICK MANICALLY EAT THE BREAD AND DRINK SCOTCH.

KATE

Maybe you should take some time off. *
You've worked so hard, it might be *
good to recharge and... get healthy. *

NICK

(MOUTH FULL) I'm healthy. (SWIGS SCOTCH, THEN, HANDING GLASS TO PASSING BUSBOY) One more, please. (THEN, HANDING BREAD BASKET) Ooh, and bread.

KATE

I've also noticed lately you've been a little, well, how do I say this--

NICK

(IMPATIENT) What Kate? I've been a little what? Please get to it!

KATE

(DEADPAN) Impatient.

NICK

I'm sorry. You're right. You know I love you. I've just been stressed.

KATE

I know. (THEN) You know what, it's your birthday. Let's celebrate. (TAKING CARDS FROM HER BAG) I brought a birthday card from your dad.

NICK OPENS THE CARD AND PULLS OUT A CHECK.

NICK

Fourteen dollars. Never fails.

KATE

It's so odd.

NICK

He's been giving it to me since I was a kid. It's nice and sentimental.

KATE

That's what's odd. Your father never does anything nice <u>or</u> sentimental.

NICK

Not true. He gave you a <u>very</u> warm handshake at our wedding.

KATE

It's my favorite picture. (HANDING ANOTHER CARD) The kids made you this.

NICK

(OPENING IT) No check. (READING)

"Happy Birthday, Rick". Who's Rick?

KATE

Hm. You sure it doesn't say "Nick"?

NICK

It says "Rick." Why is my son calling me by my first name, and why isn't he getting my name right? (NOTICING) Our daughter signed it "From Grace"?

KATE

(POSITIVE SPIN) Got her name right. *

NICK

(STUNG) You think our kids love me? *

KATE

That's a silly question.

NICK

Is it, Kate? Have you ever gotten a card that said, "Dear Blate, Happy Birthday, from Grace?"

KATE

In fairness, Blate's not a name. And I'm around the kids all the time.

STEVIE, THE WAITER, APPROACHES WITH NICK'S BREAD AND SCOTCH.

STEVIE

Happy birthday, Nick. (TO KATE) I love this guy.

STEVIE HANDS KATE HER BALLOONS HE RETRIEVED AND CROSSES OFF. *

NICK

He knows my name, and he loves me.

KATE

Well, you probably see him more than you see the kids.

NICK

(REALIZING) I am an "Uncle Dad." (OFF KATE'S LOOK) It means I'm not around to parent. It's a Derrick thing. It works if you add "Boom." *

KATE

That's why I was saying maybe you should take a little time off.

NICK

(LIGHT BULB) You're right. I should take the year off and spend it with you and the kids. *

KATE

(LETS BALLOONS GO) What? (THEN, RE: BALLOONS) Shoot. *

NICK

You said yourself, I'm not healthy, I'm impatient, the kids don't even know who the hell I am. It's a great idea. *

KATE

I meant, like a week or two. You * can't be without a job for a year.

NICK

I won't be. I'll make my job reconnecting with you and the kids. I'll use the year's severance pay. What's the down side? *

KATE

Well, you're not great away from work. We've taken exactly one family vacation and you ended it after two days because you were bored.

NICK

I felt like "rain forest, monkeys, volcanoes. I get it already." This will be a different kind of vacation. *

KATE

(CONFUSED) What do you plan on doing?

NICK

I'll do what you do. Have fun. Bond with the kids. Go to the spa.

KATE

<u>That's</u> what you think I do all day?

NICK

(REALIZING, QUICKLY) No.

KATE

(RE: HER PHONE) This is my to-do list. The closest thing to “fun” is going to my gynecologist. Which I guess is like the spa because I wear a robe and wish I had time to wax.

NICK

(TAKING KATE’S PHONE) All these pages are your to-do list?

KATE

I know. It keeps growing. It’s been passed down through three generations of phones. Some of the things at the beginning were put in using a stylus.

NICK

Why don’t you just do them?

KATE

Because I think it’s fun having a giant list of things I haven’t done. (THEN) I have a part-time job and three full-time kids. Things come up.

NICK

Then I’ll help you do them. (RE: LIST) Not the waxing. I mean, I can try the waxing, but I don’t think that will be good for either of us. (THEN)

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

Okay, here we go. Clean garage. I can do that in an hour. *

KATE

First of all, I think at this point you need to a permit to even go into our garage. Second, nothing takes an hour. I don't think you understand what it's like being home. *

NICK *

Then let me find out. I'll make my own list. I'll bond with the kids, I'll get into shape, I'll even bring sexy back into our marriage. *

KATE *

I think our marriage is fine. *

NICK

The last time we had sex, you shouted out our daughter's name.

KATE

(EMBARRASSED) I thought I forgot to sign her permission slip.

NICK *

Remember what I said the first night of our honeymoon? *

KATE *

"You can't get pregnant in a hot tub." *

NICK *

No. I said we'd always be a team. *

Then we went and did our own things. *

KATE *

And my thing was raising the baby we *

had after I got pregnant in the hot *

tub. (THEN) Why don't you just think *

about it. A year is a long time. *

NICK *

Tell you what: I'll try it for a week. *

If having me around doesn't make all *

our lives better, I'll do whatever it *

takes to get a job. (KATE SOFTENS) *

Come on. Do it for our kids. Do it *

for us. Do it... so I don't sing a *

slow, sad version of "Sexy Back".

(SINGING, SAD) "Iiii'm briiinging..." *

KATE

(QUICKLY) Okay, one week. *

NICK

(SINGING, HAPPY) "Sexy back! Whoo!

Those other fathers don't know where

it's at. Whoo! Bring it to me girl!

Yeah, yeah. Go head we go!"

AS KATE TRIES TO DISAPPEAR BEHIND HER MENU, NICK SINGS WHAT * HE THINKS ARE THE WORDS TO "SEXY BACK,". *

END OF ACT ONE *

ACT TWO

SCENE J

FADE IN:

INT. NICK AND KATE'S KITCHEN - THE NEXT MORNING (D-3)
(NICK, KATE, LEN, GRACE, HENRY)

CHYRON: **DAY ONE.** (AS OMINOUS AS THE CHYRONS IN "THE SHINING")

NICK, WHO'S WEARING TIGHT JEANS THAT HE HASN'T WORN IN MANY YEARS, IS SETTING OUT BREAKFAST AS GRACE AND HENRY ENTER. THEY ARE BOTH DRESSED FOR SCHOOL, BUT HENRY IS IN HIS SOCKS. *

NICK

(CHEERFUL) 'Morning kids.

GRACE

What are you doing here? (PANICKED) *

Is it Saturday? Did I miss school?! *

NICK

Calm down. You didn't miss school.

HENRY

Where's mommy? *

NICK

She's sleeping. *

GRACE

But you're never here when we wake up.

NICK

I am now. And I'm taking you to

school, too.

GRACE

Why?

NICK

Because that's what good fathers do.

HENRY *

Where's mommy? *

NICK *

Sleeping. Where are your shoes? *

HENRY

(LOOKING AT HIS FEET) I don't know.

NICK

Go upstairs and put your shoes on.

HENRY EXITS.

GRACE

So, seriously. Why are you here?

NICK

Grace, I lost my job. But it's good. *

I'm going to use the time off to do *

the things that are really important. *

This is what I'm doing the first week. *

NICK REFERENCES A WHITEBOARD: "NICK'S TO DO LIST: ANYTHING IS * POSSIBLE." UNDERNEATH IT SAYS: "HAVE FUN WITH KATE," "LOSE 7 * POUNDS," "CLEAN GARAGE", "SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH KIDS." *

NICK (CONT'D)

This last one is the most important.

GRACE

Why?

NICK

Because I don't want you signing any

more of my cards, "From Grace."

GRACE

Why?

NICK

(LOSING PATIENCE) Because I'm your dad! You love your dad. (THEN) Come on, I made you breakfast.

GRACE LOOKS AT THE GRAPEFRUIT AND YOGURT NICK HAS SET OUT. *

GRACE *

We usually eat sugar cereal. *

NICK

Not anymore. It's crap. *

HENRY RE-ENTERS, BAREFOOT.

HENRY

You said, "crap".

NICK

No-- (NOTICING) You went to get * shoes. Why are you barefoot? (HENRY * STARES BLANKLY) Get your shoes on! *

HENRY <u>EXITS</u>. GRACE POKES AT THE GRAPEFRUIT WITH HER FORK.

NICK (CONT'D)

It's good for you. You need to start eating healthy so you don't get fat.

GRACE

You think I'm fat?

NICK

No. I just don't want you to <u>get</u> fat. You have my body type.

GRACE

Oh my GOD!

NICK

Well, don't act like that's the worst thing in the world!

HENRY RE-ENTERS FROM UPSTAIRS, NOW SHIRTLESS.

NICK (CONT'D)

What the hell! Where's your shirt?

HENRY

Crap.

KATE COMES DOWNSTAIRS WITH HENRY'S SHIRT, SHOES AND SOCKS. *

KATE

What's going on?

GRACE

Daddy said I'm fat! *

NICK

No, I said you would get fat.

HENRY

Crap crap crap crap crap.

NICK

Stop saying crap!

GRACE

I'm never eating again!

KATE

Grace, grab your backpack. Henry, here are your clothes, put them on in the car. You'll eat on the way. *

GRACE

(TO NICK) You're mean.

NICK

(YELLING OFF) I'm not mean!

GRACE AND HENRY EXIT. KATE CROSSES TO THE KITCHEN TO GRAB A COUPLE OF CEREAL BARS AND MILK BOXES. NICK FOLLOWS.

NICK (CONT'D)

I'm not mean. I was just trying to get them to eat healthy. All of a sudden, Grace went nuts and Henry turned into a foul-mouthed stripper.

KATE

Around here, we call that "morning." *
Be patient with the kids. It's not *
going to happen overnight. *

NICK *

I know. That's why I'm giving it a *
week. (OFF KATE'S LOOK) I know what *
you're thinking: "Not a great start." *
But don't worry, I'll be fine. *

KATE *

No, I'm thinking, "Are you wearing my *
jeans?" *

NICK *

No, they're mine. I haven't worn them *
in a while. Since I don't have to *
wear a suit, I can be comfortable. *

KATE *

Are they comfortable? They look like * they hurt. Want me to get you a new * pair? I can put it on my list. *

NICK *

I have my own list. And I don't need * a new pair. I just have to re-break * these in. *

KATE *

I think if you sit down in those, * you're gonna need a new pair of * something. *

NICK *

Very funny. Go. *

KATE KISSES NICK AND EXITS. NICK GOES TO SIT DOWN BUT HIS * JEANS ARE WAY TOO TIGHT. HE CROSSES TO HIS "TO DO" LIST. *

NICK (CONT'D)

(WRITING) "Get new jeans." *

NICK'S DAD, <u>LEN</u>, 60'S, COLD, GRUFF, <u>ENTERS</u> FROM THE BACK DOOR * AND GOES TO GET COFFEE.

LEN *

What are you doing here? *

NICK

Well, Pop, I live here. What are you * doing here? *

LEN

I come here every morning to get my coffee. (THEN) You get my check? *

NICK

Yeah, thanks. (THEN) Listen, I got fired. But don't worry, I'm fine. I decided to take some time off and * spend it with Kate and the kids. *

LEN

Give me the check.

NICK

What?

LEN

What was the one piece of advice I gave you when you were ten?

NICK

Uhhh... "Don't be a schmuck."

LEN

And you didn't listen. So, give me the check.

NICK TAKES THE CHECK FROM HIS WALLET AND GIVES IT TO HIS DAD.

LEN (CONT'D)

Schmuck. (THEN) And lose some weight. You look like a big fatso.

LEN TAKES HIS COFFEE AND EXITS. NICK GOES TO THE BOARD AND STARTS WRITING ON IT.

NICK

Bond with father.

CUT TO:

SCENE K

INT. "THE ROCK" CROSS FIT GYM - A LITTLE LATER (D-3)
(NICK, DERRICK, GREGG, SHIRA, EXTRAS)

NICK AND DERRICK ENTER THE "CROSSFIT" STYLE GYM: A LARGE, OPEN SPACE WITH HANGING RINGS, BANDS, BALLS, KETTLE BELLS. *

DERRICK *

What does Kate think about you being home? *

NICK *

I'd say she's cautiously pessimistic. That's why I'm trying it out for a week. To prove I can do it. *

DERRICK *

Be careful. We had a 38 year-old cardiologist at the hospital who had a heart attack. Took a month off to be with his family. (SOMBER, POINTING UP) He's no longer with us. *

NICK *

He died? *

DERRICK *

Moved to Upstate New York. Owns an organic farm. Totally off the grid. *

NICK *

Why didn't you just say that? Why'd you have to do a mislead like he died? *

DERRICK *

I didn't. I could've said, "He bought * the farm." My point is, be careful. *

NICK *

I'll be fine. I just have to get * through a few simple items on my list. * (LOOKS AROUND) Wow, they changed this * place since the last time I was here. *

DERRICK

When was the last time you were here?

DERRICK GIVES HIS GYM CARD TO SHIRA, THE GIRL AT THE FRONT DESK, WHO SCANS IT AND DERRICK GOES THROUGH THE TURNSTILE.

NICK

Couldn't have been that long ago. *

SHIRA SCANS NICK'S CARD. THE TURNSTILE STOPS.

SHIRA

Sir, your membership expired in April.

NICK

Guess I haven't been here since April.

SHIRA

April, 2001.

DERRICK

You had three kids and two Presidents * since you've been to the gym? *

NICK

Just go to your Zumba class. (HANDS * CREDIT CARD TO SHIRA) Renew me please. *

DERRICK

Okay, but save your old membership card. It's an antique, it's probably worth something.

DERRICK CROSSES OFF. NICK ENTERS AND POKES AROUND. HE TRIES * DOING AN EXERCISE FROM HANGING RINGS BUT GETS STUCK IN A RING * AND TANGLED IN THE STRAPS. GREGG, 24, FIT, COOL, UNDERSTATED, * SMOULDERING CONFIDENCE (THINK RYAN GOSLING IN "CRAZY, STUPID LOVE") SIPS A SPORTSADE AND WATCHES. HE APPROACHES NICK.

GREGG

I can help you.

NICK

I'm okay. Just doing some ring-o's. *

GREGG

Not with that. With (RE: ALL OF NICK) that. (THEN) Gregg Steele. I'm a * trainer. I'm going to train you.

NICK

Nick Marsh. I just got fired. I'm * not hiring a trainer.

GREGG

I'm going to show you a picture of the girl who's in my bed right now.

GREGG TAKES OUT HIS PHONE AND SHOWS IT TO NICK.

NICK

Listen, Gregg, I really don't -- (OFF PHONE) -- those are boobies.

GREGG

Her name is Xennifer. I met her in a bar last night. We did it twice before we even left the parking lot. Then once when we got home. Then once when we woke up this morning.

NICK

You and I are exactly the same. In that we both have phones.

GREGG

Then she made me an omelette. Then we did it again. Then I went to work. Then she sent me this picture. And you know why? Because I have this. (LIFTS SHIRT, REVEALING SIX PACK ABS) <u>This</u> makes life better. *

NICK *

(BEAT, THEN) When do we start? *

GREGG

We already started. There are two ways to do this: The hard way. Or the really hard way.

NICK

Really hard way. I have to lose seven * pounds this week. (OFF A RIPPED GUY) * What's he doing? I want to do that.

GREGG

He's doing the Burpee Challenge. He starts with one burpee, then adds one a day until he gets to 100. It's almost impossible for you to do that.

NICK

Anything is possible. I just saw a girl named Xennifer's boobies.

GREGG

I like you, Nick Marsh. Hold my Pomegranate SportsAde. This is a burpee. (DEMONSTRATING EFFORTLESSLY) Plank. Push-up. Kick. Clap. One.

NICK

No problem. (LANDS WITH A THUD) Oof. *
(STRUGGLES TO DO A PUSH-UP) Arrh!
(DRAGS FEET) Ullllgggh! (DOES A *
SMALL JUMP) Ahhh! (BREATHLESS) One. *

GREGG

Right on.

NICK

Why do they call them burp (HE BURPS UP A LITTLE VOMIT). Never mind.

GREGG SLOWLY SIPS HIS POMEGRANATE SPORTSADE, AND WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE L

INT. NICK AND KATE'S HOME OFFICE - CONTINUOUS (D-3)
(KATE, MEREDITH)

KATE IS DOING A GRAPHIC DESIGN PROJECT ON HER COMPUTER AS HER SNARKY YOUNGER SISTER, MEREDITH, STANDS BY, EATING LUNCH.

MEREDITH

Why would anyone voluntarily spend a year with their kids if it wasn't court ordered? (THEN) Wait, is he doing this to make me feel bad for being a stay-at-work mom?

KATE

Yes, Meredith. He purposely lost his job of twenty years so his sister-in-law would feel worse about herself.

MEREDITH

Don't make me sound like I'm a mental patient. I have my therapist for that. Who, by the way, also thinks it would have been nicer for me if you had gone back to your job full-time instead of working from home.

KATE

Well, you know me, I'm selfish.

MEREDITH

No you're not. You're perfect. That's your one flaw. (THEN) Anyway,

(MORE)

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

so, what's it like having Nick around? *
Endless nooners? *

KATE

What's "endless new nurse?" *

MEREDITH *

Not "new nurse", nooners. Daytime *
sex. *

KATE *

God no. I don't have time for that. *
I don't even have time for this *
conversation. *

MEREDITH

Well, you better make time. One thing *
I learned when Dan was out of work is *
that men get their self-worth from two *
things: Sex and a job. And if they
don't have a job, you gotta give them
"a job." If you know what I mean.

KATE

That's a tough code to crack.

MEREDITH

So, what do you do to keep Nick *
interested?

KATE

I breathe.

MEREDITH

If he's going to be unemployed for a while, you might want to raise the bar past "being alive".

KATE

Trust me, there are two things Nick will <u>always</u> be interested in: sex and cheese bread. If I could dress up as cheese bread we wouldn't even be having this discussion.

MEREDITH

Dressing up's good. What's your lingerie situation?

KATE

I don't really have any. I get up for the baby in the middle of the night, and lingerie's not comfortable. I mostly wear Nick's clothes to bed.

MEREDITH

That is <u>super</u> sexy. Every man loves sleeping with a version of himself.

KATE

I also have a Little Bo Peep outfit I made a couple of years ago for a Halloween party at the kids' school that raised some eyebrows.

MEREDITH

Also sexy. If you're a clown at a children's party. Show me your bra.

MEREDITH GOES TO LOOK DOWN KATE'S SHIRT.

KATE

Stop it. What are you doing?

MEREDITH

Is that a nursing bra?

KATE

It's comfortable!

MEREDITH

It's sad. *

KATE *

Merry, I love you, and I appreciate * your concern about my love life, but I * have work to do. *

MEREDITH *

Okay. Suit yourself. But don't blame * me when Nick gets tired of watching * (RE: KATE) "This Old Spouse."

MEREDITH EXITS. KATE CONSIDERS THIS, THEN LOOKS AT HER SAD * BRA, AND WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE M

INT. NICK AND KATE'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT (N-3)
(NICK, KATE)

NICK, STILL IN WORKOUT GEAR, HOBBLES TOWARDS THE BED, WINCING WITH EVERY STEP. HE LOWERS HIMSELF WITH A PAINED GROAN. WITH HIS LAST BIT OF ENERGY, HE ROLLS HIMSELF ONTO HIS SIDE.

KATE (O.S.)

Nick? Is that you?

NICK

(PAINED "YES") Ehhh.

KATE (O.S.)

Hold on, I have a surprise for you.

KATE EMERGES FROM THE BATHROOM, DRESSED AS "LITTLE BO PEEP." SHE'S ACTUALLY KIND OF SEXY. NICK IS FACING AWAY FROM HER.

KATE (CONT'D)

Surprise!

NICK USES ALL HIS ENERGY TO ROLL OVER.

NICK

Did I miss one of the kid's parties?

KATE

No. I'm being sexy. For your belated

birthday.

NICK

Wow. (PULLING SOMETHING) Ow. (THEN) *

I don't remember scheduling this. *

KATE

I'm being spontaneous. (THEN) *

Although I could put a load of colors

in while we-- you know what? No.

SHE HOPS ON TOP OF HIM.

NICK

(PAINED) Ooh ooh ooh ooh. I'm really sore. *

KATE

Okay. Let me rub your shoulders.

SHE DOES.

NICK

Ouch! Easy. Ah! (THEN) Honey, I know "future" me will look back on this moment and hate me for what I'm about to say, but I don't think I have the energy to do this.

KATE

It's okay. I'll do most of the work.

NICK

I'm really in a lot of pain. I may cry.

KATE

I can power through it.

IN A MIRROR OF THE COLD OPEN BEDROOM SCENE, KATE STARTS RUBBING NICK'S SHOULDERS AND KISSING HIS NECK. JUST THEN, WEHEAR NICK SOFTLY "SOBBING." IT'S HUMILIATING FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED. A CHYRON CRASHES DOWN: **END OF DAY ONE.** AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SCENE P

FADE IN:

INT. NICK AND KATE'S BEDROOM / INT. KITCHEN - NEXT DAY (D-4)
(NICK)

A CHYRON LANDS WITH A THUD: **DAY TWO**

NICK IS IN BED, SLEEPING. HE WAKES WITH A START AND LOOKS AT THE CLOCK: IT'S 12:30 IN THE AFTERNOON!

NICK

(PANICKED) I'm late! (THEN) For what? (THEN, REALIZING) Nothing.

NICK SLOWLY GETS OUT OF BED, STILL SORE FROM YESTERDAY.

RESET TO:

INT. KITCHEN - A MOMENT LATER (D-4)
(NICK)

NICK ENTERS FROM UPSTAIRS.

NICK

Kate?

HE LOOKS AROUND, NO ONE'S THERE.

NICK (CONT'D)

I have nowhere to be. I can do anything. I can do this. (DANCES FOR A MOMENT, THEN) Okay. What else?

NICK WALKS OVER TO THE REFRIGERATOR, THEN NOTICES HIS "TO DO" LIST WHICH HAS EXPANDED TO INCLUDE "TAKE KIDS TO SCHOOL" AND "BURPEE CHALLENGE" (NOTHING HAS BEEN CROSSED OFF). HE LOOKS AT "BURPEE CHALLENGE," AND "BOND WITH DAD." HE STEADIES HIMSELF FOR A BURPEE, THEN STOPS AND WE... *

CUT TO:

SCENE R

INT. LEN'S APARTMENT - A LITTLE LATER (D-4)
(NICK, LEN)

LEN OPENS THE DOOR TO REVEAL NICK. *

NICK

Hey, Pop.

LEN

Still not working, huh? *

NICK

I'm taking off so I can spend quality time with my family. Like this.

LEN

Well, I'm watching the Mets game. You can stay if you want.

THEY CROSS TO THE COUCH. AFTER A LONG SILENT BEAT:

NICK

See? Isn't this nice?

LEN

(OFF TV) Everybody in the stadium * knows he's going to throw a slider low and away, yet this rookie is going to swing at it. (PISSED) Unbelievable! * They brought this kid up way too soon.

NICK

Pop, you ever wish you had spent less * time at work, and more time with me and mom?

LEN

You can kill yourself second-guessing these things.

NICK

I guess you did what you thought was best.

LEN

What? I'm talking about the Mets. They obviously thought this kid was good enough to be in the majors, who am I to second guess that?

NICK

Right. *

LEN

Money drives a lot of these decisions.

NICK

And rookies cost a lot less.

LEN

What? I'm talking about why people don't leave jobs. I made a good living. You don't give that up. *

NICK

I fell right into that one.

LEN

You never really know the right * choice. You just gotta think with *

(MORE)

LEN (CONT'D)

your head and not your heart. And don't be a schmuck.

NICK

(CONFUSED) Me or the Mets?

LEN

Both of you.

NICK

It's always great talking with you.

LEN

Why do we have to talk? My father and I never talked. You know what our longest conversation was? He said, "Hey, Dumb-dumb, move, I can't see the radio."

NICK

Why did he need to see the radio?

LEN

I don't know, we didn't talk!

NICK

Alright, this was fun.

NICK GETS UP TO LEAVE.

LEN

Wait. You're gonna need this.

LEN GIVES NICK HIS BIRTHDAY CHECK BACK.

NICK

Thanks, Pop. But you know I don't cash these.

LEN

"Don't be a schmuck" is just not sticking with you, is it?

NICK

I keep them because it's the only time you're ever sentimental. You're gruff on the outside, but those checks tell me deep down you're a loving father. *

LEN

You know it's only fourteen dollars? *

NICK

Yes. And I know the reason you've always given me fourteen dollars is because mom left when I was fourteen and you wanted to let me know that you were there for me. *

LEN

The reason is because ten dollars seemed like too little and fifteen seemed like too much.

NICK

(LONG BEAT, THEN) Wow, I really am a schmuck. *

CUT TO:

SCENE S *

INT. NICK AND KATE'S KITCHEN - A LITTLE LATER (D-4)
(NICK, GRACE, HENRY)

GRACE AND HENRY ARE AT THE KITCHEN TABLE. GRACE IS DOING HER HOMEWORK, HENRY IS EATING DINNER, LOOKING LIKE HE MIGHT BE NAKED (HE'S NOT, HE'S WEARING TIDY WHITIES). NICK ENTERS. *

NICK

Hey. (NOTICING HENRY) Are you--?

Nevermind. (THEN) Where's your mom?

GRACE

Upstairs putting the baby to sleep.

If you yell at us, she can hear you.

NICK

I'm not going to yell at you. What are you doing?

GRACE

Stupid math. It's impossible.

NICK

Anything is possible. And it's not * stupid, math is the most practical * thing you'll learn in fifth grade.

GRACE

I'm in sixth grade.

NICK

(LYING) I know. (READING) "What is the least common multiple of 8, 9, 12 and 16?" (NO IDEA) This is stupid. * You'll never need to know this. *

GRACE

I'm going upstairs. *

NICK

Wait. I want to talk about yesterday. *

GRACE *

Uch. Why do we have to talk? *

NICK *

Because I don't want to be the kind of *
dad who doesn't talk to his kids, or *
let them know how he feels or sends *
them a check for a weird amount you *
think is sentimental but is really *
just mean. *

GRACE *

Was that the talk? *

NICK *

No. When I was at my old job, if I *
screwed up, I took the heat for it.
My team loved me for that. You're my
team now. And I screwed up yesterday. *
I shouldn't have lost my cool, and I
should not have implied that you're
fat. (QUICKLY) Because you're not.
You're a perfectly-sized 12 year-old.

GRACE

I'm eleven.

NICK

(LYING) I know. (THEN) Look, being home is a big adjustment for me. I know I can be impatient, and get frustrated and yell and seem mean...

HENRY

And that's why we hate you.

NICK

You hate me? I'm your father. You're supposed to love me. Why do you think I want to take year off from work?

GRACE

Because you got fired.

NICK

No, because I want us to be a better family.

GRACE

It was easier when you were working.

NICK

Well, guess what? It was easier for me, too!

THIS HANGS IN THE AIR. AFTER A BEAT, GRACE RUNS UPSTAIRS, UPSET.

NICK (CONT'D)

Grace! I didn't-- Crap. (CUTTING HENRY OFF) I know I said crap.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE T

INT. GARAGE - LATER THAT DAY (D-4)
(NICK, KATE)

NICK IS TRYING TO CLEAR SPACE IN HIS EXTREMELY CLUTTERED GARAGE. EVERY TIME HE MOVES SOMETHING, SOMETHING ELSE TAKES ITS PLACE. HE THEN GRABS A "WORLD'S BEST DAD" STATUE FROM YEARS AGO. HE TOSSES IT OVER HIS SHOULDER LEADING TO WHAT SEEMS LIKE A TEN SECOND LONG OFF-SCREEN CRASH. KATE ENTERS. *

KATE

Hey. I was looking for you. What are you doing?

NICK

I'm trying to get one freaking thing * crossed off my list. It's * unbelievable. I have nothing to do * and I can't seem to do it! The only * thing I've actually accomplished is * writing a list. *

KATE *

Then I'll wait to tell you that Henry * erased your list. (OFF NICK'S * DEJECTED LOOK) Honey, I warned you. *

NICK *

No, you think you warned me. But you * didn't. Not enough. You know how I * say "Anything is possible"? Staying home is impossible. This is the first * time I've felt like a failure. *

KATE

Oh, come on. *

NICK

It's true. I made the varsity *
football team as a freshman. I was *
the youngest person ever to make *
Creative Director at my old firm. I *
met the most beautiful girl in college *
and asked her to marry me.

KATE

Aww.

NICK

And when she said no, I asked you.

KATE

Really? You can't have a nice moment?

NICK

Apparently not! (THEN) I'm going to *
start looking for a job tomorrow. *
I'll just try to be the best Uncle Dad *
I can. (THEN) Gregg won't be happy, *
but he's got Xennifer, so... *

KATE

I don't know what you're saying. *
Nick, you've only been home two days. *
Give yourself a chance. *

NICK

It's not me I'm worried about. It's the kids. They told me they hate me. They went from "Dear Rick, from Grace" to "We hate you." Another week of me being around the house, they'll chop me into pieces and throw me in the garage. And the police will never find me in here, Kate. They will never find me.

KATE

Honey, the kids tell me they hate me all the time.

NICK

No, they don't.

KATE

Okay, they don't. But they have. When I tell them to turn off the TV, or tell Grace not to bite her hair or Henry to wear pants to baseball.

NICK

But they also tell you they love you.

KATE

Yes, when they want something. But trust me, "I hate you" is the new "I love you." It just means they have a relationship with you.

NICK

I don't know. *

KATE

I do. Look, they made you another *
card.

KATE HANDS NICK A HOME MADE CARD.

NICK

It's a picture of a fat guy yelling.
(NOTICING, HAPPY) Hey, they got my
name right!

KATE

See! Baby steps. *

NICK SMILES. HE MARRIED OUT OF HIS LEAGUE AND HE KNOWS IT. *

NICK *

Look what I found. *

NICK HANDS KATE A PHOTO ALBUM.

KATE

Our wedding album! (OFF PICTURE)
Wow. Look how high my boobs were.

NICK

(OFF PICTURE) Mine, too.

KATE *

<u>That's</u> when anything was possible. *
Look how young and happy... and stupid *
we were. (TO PICTURE) Don't believe *
him about the hot tub. *

THEY LAUGH. NICK THEN STARTS TO CLEAR A SPACE ON THE FLOOR. *

KATE (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

NICK *

I gotta cross something off that list. *

NICK TAKES A BREATH, THROWS HIMSELF INTO THE AIR, LANDS INTO A PUSH-UP AND DOES A BURPEE WITH A GIANT GROAN.

NICK (CONT'D)

One!

HE DOES ANOTHER BURPEE, ACCOMPANIED BY A HUGE GRUNT. *

NICK (CONT'D)

Two! *

NICK COLLAPSES, BREATHLESS. *

KATE

(LAUGHING) Those were some really

sexy noises.

NICK PULLS KATE DOWN ON THE FLOOR WITH HIM. THEY'RE HAVING A * MOMENT. AFTER A BEAT... *

KATE (CONT'D) *

I know "future me" may regret what I'm *

about to say, but I think you should *

put off getting a new job. *

NICK *

You mean, for the rest of the week? *

KATE *

I mean for the rest of the year. I *

think it'll be good for the kids to *

have you around. And eventually, I *

think it will be good for you too. *

NICK

And what about for you? *

KATE

I think it could be real good for me. *

KATE KISSES NICK. *

NICK *

Mmm. What's that for? *

KATE *

Just being spontaneous. *

SHE THEN GRABS THE REMOTE AND PRESSES THE BUTTON. THE GARAGE * DOOR STARTS TO CLOSE. *

NICK

Wait are we-- *

KATE

Uh-huh.

NICK

(SINGING) You're bringing sexy ba--

KATE

Don't ruin it.

THE GARAGE DOOR CLOSES.

NICK (O.S.)

You know, I heard you can't get *

pregnant in a garage. *

A CHYRON LANDS: **END OF DAY TWO.** AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. NICK'S CAR - THE NEXT MORNING (D-5)
(NICK, KATE (O.S.))

NICK IS ON THE PHONE WITH KATE.

NICK

Okay, bad news, I wasn't able to find gluten-free pancake batter, but good news, I passed a restaurant that has an open-mike night. I think I'm going to put that on my list.

KATE (O.S.)

It's craziness here. The baby has a fever, I think Henry bit the dog and Grace locked herself in her room.

NICK

When did we get a dog?

KATE (O.S.)

Long story. Are you almost home? Someone has to take the kids to school and someone needs to pick up medicine.

PULL OUT TO SEE THAT NICK IS IN FRONT OF HIS HOUSE. HIS CAR KEEPS DRIVING. AFTER A BEAT IT STOPS, THEN BACKS UP.

NICK

I'll be right in.

AS NICK PARKS HIS CAR AND MAKES HIS WAY UP TO HIS HOUSE, A CHYRON DROPS: **DAY THREE.**

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW