

KEEP CALM
AND
KAREY ON

Written

By

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COLD OPEN

1 INT. KITCHEN (DAY 1) 1

KAREY, 30's, (funny, vibrant and vulnerable) cooks dinner with her English husband, PAUL, 30's, (Colin Firth-ish) as DESTINY, 15, (purple hair and matching attitude) steals the car keys from Karey's purse while texting Arkel, 13, (upbeat, handsome and Black) to meet her in the garage.

KAREY
I have to say, I think we're doing a pretty good job with the kids.

PAUL
I would have said so.

ADAM, 7, a wannabe soldier, runs in wearing fatigues. He gasps, moans then lies motionless on the floor.

ADAM
(Opening his eyes) How's that?

KAREY
Like grandpa last Christmas, all over again.

PAUL
You might work on your writhing a bit.

2 INT. GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER 2

Arkel meets Destiny in the garage.

ARKEL
What do you need help with?

DESTINY
Pushing the car out. We're supposed to wash it.

They push it out of the garage. Arkel stops when they get halfway down the driveway, next to the hose, but Destiny keeps pushing it towards the street.

ARKEL
(Confused) Hey, where you going?

DESTINY
A friend's house. I'll wash it there.

ARKEL
You're *stealing* the car!?

DESTINY
I'm not stealing it - it's ours.

3 INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 3

We see Destiny pushing the car, through the kitchen window, as Adam shows Karey a large, colorful picture he’s drawn.

ADAM
(Pointing) Here's me and Destiny.

FREEZE FRAME on the caricatures of Destiny and Adam.

KAREY (V.O.)
My niece and nephew, who I adopted, cause their parents are very busy... doing drugs and criminal stuff.

ADAM
(Points to picture) There’s you and dad. And that’s Uncle Jeff sleeping on the couch.

FREEZE FRAME on caricature of Uncle Jeff on the couch.

KAREY (V.O.)
My brother who lives with us. He’s a NINJA: no income, no job, no assets.

KAREY
Who's that guy in the cave?

ADAM
(Upbeat) That’s my dad in prison.

FREEZE FRAME on caricature of Adam’s Dad in the cave.

KAREY (V.O.)
My other brother, who combined a love of crack and poor home robbery skills to wind up behind bars.

KAREY
Ok. And who’s this holding a bat?

ADAM
It's not a bat, it's a syringe.

KAREY
(Upbeat) Oh, I see, your mom.

ADAM
(Points to pic) And there's Arkel.

FREEZE FRAME on Arkel’s caricature.

KAREY (V.O.)
Three months ago I met Arkel and fell in love. He’s a cool kid with a cool name who needed a home. Out of all mine, he's the best. Probably cause he's not blood related.

PAUL
What's that in the clouds... a bee?

ADAM
That's Arkel's mom. She's in heaven.

KAREY
She’s not in heaven, she's in Inglewood. (To Paul) I mean considering all this (Motions to the picture) we're doing great!

Through the window we see Destiny in the car on the street.

4 EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS 4

Arkel tries to reason with Destiny.

ARKEL
It's not our car, its Mom's.

DESTINY
First of all, she's not our mom. And second of all, (Cheery) bye.

She gives it gas and drives into the neighbor’s trash cans.

5 INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 5

Karey and Paul hear a CRASH and look out to see Destiny smushed behind the airbag of their car.

ARKEL
Mom!!!

Arkel runs to the house, steps in one of Adam's military traps and is hoisted upside down, screaming and twisting about.

ADAM
I caught someone!

KAREY
Oh my god!!

PAUL
Now *that’s* writhing.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

6 INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - NIGHT 6

The family's at the table having dessert, except Destiny.

KAREY
Mmmm this is sooo good and chocolatey. If you hadn't taken the car you could be having some.

DESTINY
I'll just sneak down at 2am and get my own.

KAREY
No you won't - cause we're gonna eat it all right now.

She scoops more ice cream into everyone's bowls.

PAUL
Do I have to? You know I'm lactose intolerant.

Karey looks at him and he pushes his bowl forward for more.

DESTINY
I don't know why you're freaking out. It's not that big a dent. Gypsies can bang it out for you.

KAREY
They can also read your palm and tell you how long you'll be in juvie. And I'm not worried about our dent as much as the one in Mrs. Byrd's trash can.

PAUL
She's the founder and only member of the Neighborhood Watch.

KAREY
And since we got Arkel she only watches us. Get a TV already. The point is, you don't have a license and you're not old enough to drive.

DESTINY
My mom let me drive all the time.

ADAM
To 7-11, the liquor store, this guy named Crank’s house...

PAUL
Well, your driving days are done. We're going to follow the law.

DESTINY
(Alarmed) All of them?

KAREY
Yes, and you have the right to remain silent.

ADAM
If we were attacked by space aliens and needed ammo and you weren't home, Destiny could drive us to get some.

ARKEL
I know a guy on Crenshaw who could hook us up.

KAREY
That’s comforting. Adam, we’ve been over this, if aliens invade, I will be here.

PAUL
And she can kick some alien ass - on the off chance they do have asses.

KAREY
Hey, how ‘bout an alien party for your birthday? We’ll dress up as Star Wars characters.

ADAM
I don’t want a party.

KAREY
You gotta have a party. What’d you do last year?

ADAM
Nothing.

KAREY
Nothing?

Adam shakes his head and looks down. Destiny comes to his aid.

DESTINY
We didn't have birthday parties.

ADAM
It's just remembering the day you were born. It's stupid. (Brightly) Can I watch Sponge Bob?

Karey's brother JEFF, (25) enters.

KAREY
Sure honey, and speaking of sponges, Uncle Jeff's home.

JEFF
Guess who went shopping at Barney's?

KAREY
The department store? You're not supposed to go back there, they were very clear about that.

JEFF
No, Barney our neighbor. He had a garage sale. And look what I got!

He opens his jacket to reveal he's wearing a priest shirt.

KAREY
A priest shirt?

PAUL
Everyone'll think you're a priest.

JEFF (CONT'D)
I know. I'm gonna milk this puppy for all it's worth. And this way, if I get hit by a truck, I'm on the (Points to heaven) guest list.

7 EXT. STREET - LATER THAT NIGHT 7

Paul and Karey each hold the handle of their trash cans.

KAREY
Go, go, go.

They race out across the street, shrouded by darkness.

PAUL
I don't feel right about switching our trash cans with Mrs. Byrd's.

KAREY
We can't let her see those dents and give her another reason to look down on the kids, she already called the cops cause Arkel was wearing a hoodie. (Then) Do you think I was being too hard on Destiny?

PAUL
Hard on her? I can't digest dairy, and ate three bowls of ice cream. My stomach's killing me.

Now across the street, Paul takes Mrs. Byrd's trash can and starts to push it back to their house.

KAREY
Wait! We've got to exchange the trash. If she looks in and sees our stuff, we're busted.

PAUL
This is bloody illegal.

He begrudgingly opens her trash and pulls out a wine bottle.

PAUL (CONT'D)
And this is bloody expensive. Remember when we used to drink wine like this?

KAREY
Yes. (Sees a shoe box in trash) And I used to buy shoes like this? I'm jealous of her trash.

PAUL
If I find a golf ball in here I'll kill myself.

They trade out the garbage from the trash cans as they talk.

KAREY
But what do we have that she doesn't?

PAUL
Credit card bills, an old mini-van and painful gas?

KAREY
No, the kids.

PAUL
I was getting to them.

KAREY
One of whom's turning eight and has never played pin the tail on the donkey but has probably been used as a drug mule. We've got to give him a party that'll make up for all the ones he's never had. That shows him he's important and loved and that his future is really bright.

PAUL
Will this party also cure global warming?

KAREY'S FANTASY POP: The house's filled with balloons. Adam's surrounded by family as he blows out the candles on his cake.

KAREY
Did you make a wish honey?

ADAM
(Proudly) Yes, to go to college.

Karey beams at her son. BACK TO REALITY.

PAUL
A lot of pressure to put on a cake.

KAREY
Well then it'll know how we feel. (Hands him a razor blade) Now, let's scrape the numbers off these cans.

They start to scrape as Karey's cell phone rings. Karey looks at her Caller ID.

KAREY (CONT'D)
Oh, it's my sister, trying to get me to come to one of her shows.

PAUL
Don't answer it.

KAREY
I can't screen her calls, that's dishonest. Keep scraping that eight needs to be a three. (Into cell) Hey Penny, look, I'm sorry but I can't...

PENNY (O.S.)
--I'm not trying to get you to my gig.

KAREY
(Relieved) You're not?

PENNY (O.S.)
(Pained) No, my appendix burst. I need a ride to the hospital.

KAREY
Oh my god! Where are you?

INT. DIVE BAR - INTERCUT AS NEEDED

PENNY, (Lena Dunham type) sits at the bar, on her cell, holding her little Pug, VIVIAN, dressed in Burberry.

PENNY
Luna Park. You gotta buy a ticket to get in. Hurry, I'm in a lot of pain.

KAREY (O.S.)
Penny, I can't come see you sing, it's a school night.

PENNY
(FAKING AGONY) Ahh ahhh ehhh!

She hangs up and they race back to the house with their new dented cans.

KAREY
My sister's insane.

PAUL
Darling, your whole family's a bit... off-kilter.

KAREY
They're *full blown* <u>*nuts*</u>! Someone definitely peed in my gene pool.
(Then) Thank God, it skipped me.

A CAR DRIVES by, she ducks down and hides behind her trash can, pulling Paul down next to her.

PAUL
Yes, thank God it skipped you.

INT. GROCERY STORE - NEXT DAY (DAY 2)

Jeff, wears his priest shirt as the CASHIER rings up cake mix, eggs, sugar, frosting and milk.

CASHIER
Hello, Father. Having a party?

JEFF
Yes. A birthday party for an under-privileged boy back at the...

CASHIER
Rectory?

JEFF
Yes. The Rectory. Where I live.

CASHIER
Oh, that's so sweet.

JEFF
(Reaches for wallet) Just part of the job.

CASHIER
Oh no, Father. Please, it's on us.

JEFF
Really?

She nods "yes." He quickly grabs some gum and a phone card.

10 INT. KITCHEN - LATER 10

Jeff, in his priest shirt, shows Karey all the groceries he's got.

KAREY
Wow. You got all this stuff for free? Next time, I'm gonna send you to the jewelry store.

Destiny enters.

DESTINY
Karey, where's the bleach?

KAREY
Why? Did you kill someone and need to get the blood stains out?

DESTINY
No, I'm gonna dye my hair.

KAREY
Not with Clorox, that'll make it fall out. How bout this? Do your homework and Jeff'll go get some peroxide.

DESTINY
How ‘bout this? No.

She storms off.

JEFF
You should do what Mom did and put Valium in her soda. We were easy to get along with and in bed by six.

KAREY
I know but that’s crazy, illegal and a fallback plan at best. (Then) And I’m not gonna be like Mom. She was so...

JEFF
-- *self-centered?*

KAREY
Yes, but...

JEFF
--inappropriate?

KAREY
Yes, but ...

JEFF
-- drunk?

KAREY
That’s it!

DOTTY (O.S.)
(Loud/sing songy) Surprise!

Their mother, DOTTY, (Joanna Lumley) enters, carrying a dress.

KAREY
Mom, I didn’t know you were coming.

DOTTY
That’s why I said “surprise”. Jeff, don’t you look dashing in a dog collar. You could be on America’s Next Top Priest.

Adam’s sneaks in, in combat garb with his Nerf gun.

KAREY
Do I have a laser on my face?

Too late, he's fired. Karey leans back, “Matrix” style and dodges the Nerf bullet as it flies over her head in SLOW MO and sticks to the oven door behind her.

KAREY (CONT’D)
Adam, no shooting above the neck!

DOTTY
Unless it’s botox, sweetie. Then you can hit grandma all you want.

ADAM
(To Grandma) Wanna play army with me?

DOTTY
I’d love to but I’m already playing find the martini shaker.

JEFF
I’ll play with you. (Grabs Adam and turns him upside down) Aha! Now you’re my Prisoner of War.

He tickles Adam who laughs hysterically as they exit.

DOTTY
Karey, I got your dress for Saturday.

Dotty reveals a gaudy, fuchsia, taffeta dress.

KAREY
I’m a little old for a Quinceanera.

DOTTY
I should say so. This is what you’re wearing to your father’s funeral.

KAREY
We’re burying dad <u>again</u>?!

DOTTY
We have to, he comes to me at night. He’s miserable by that smelly lake.

KAREY
Can’t we hang an air freshener on his tombstone? We can’t keep burying him! And not Saturday, it’s Adam's birthday.

DOTTY
How am <u>I</u> supposed to know that?

KAREY
He's your ***grandson***.

DOTTY
Well, I can't move the funeral, the minister's not available til July and I'll lose my deposit on the doves.

KAREY
I didn’t know anything about this.

DOTTY
I told you weeks ago at brunch.

KAREY
No you didn’t. That never happened.

DOTTY
Oh, I see, when I forget things it's “a black out” but when *you* forget things they “never happened.”

KAREY
How could we have brunch? You don’t wake up till four, you don’t eat. And I’d never agree to wear fuchsia.

DOTTY
Excuse me, Nancy Drew. I’m trying to make your father happy. He did give you a little something called life.

KAREY
I know, but you've buried him three times already and Adam's never had a birthday party. *Ever.*

DOTTY
Then he won't miss this one.

KAREY
I say this with love, you’re the worst mom ever.

DOTTY
Worst mom ever? Well, I don’t know if I’ll win but it’s an honor just to be nominated.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

11 INT. HALLWAY/DESTINY'S ROOM - LATER (NIGHT 2) 11

Karey and Paul walk down the hall towards Destiny's room.

KAREY
I can't believe mom's throwing another funeral for my dad. She keeps digging him up like a dog with a bone.

PAUL
Well, obviously, we don't have to go.

KAREY
Paul, you don't know this because you're British and you don't know a lot of things... like baseball. But in America, when your parents die, you have to go to their funeral. No matter how many they've had.

PAUL
Well, we haven't had a chance to get dressed up and go out in a while. It'll be like a date. A really sad date. And we'll have Adam's party on another day.

Karey looks around to make sure they're alone then opens Destiny's door.

KAREY
No, we can't! We only have a few years to make a difference in his life. If we don't, we might as well sign him up for prison right now. (Then) Cough if you hear her coming.

PAUL
I'm not sure you sign people up for prison. And why am I coughing?

She enters Destiny's room, stealth-like.

KAREY
Cause I'm gonna find Destiny's diary and give Adam a birthday party on his frickin' birthday.

Karey crawls under Destiny's bed.

PAUL
You're acting like a criminal. And Adam said he doesn't want a party.

KAREY
I'm not a criminal, I'm a multi-tasker. And Adam wants a party so bad he's pretending that he doesn't. Like you do with sex.

She starts going through Destiny's drawers.

PAUL
Sex? Did I hear you mention sex? Since the kids arrived we haven't had much in the way of hanky panky. Or even just some hanky.

KAREY
Well, tonight might be your lucky night, cause this is kinda exciting. I just need to find that diary.

PAUL
(Invested) Are we sure there is one?

Karey starts knocking on the wall to find a hollow space.

KAREY
Yes, I bought her one so I could read it. Just like my mom read mine and her mom read hers. (RE: no hollow spot) Damn it.

PAUL
Check under her pillow.

KAREY
(As if) Oh Paul....(Lifts pillow and sees diary)-- you are definitely getting laid.

She sits on Destiny's bed to read it.

KAREY (CONT'D)
Da da da da ditched school, da da da some guy named Pete... oh, here I am. (Reads) "Karey makes me sick. She's a mean, bossy ass-clown." (Then) Wow, Adam and Arkel call me "mom" and Destiny calls me an "ass-clown."

PAUL
A mean and bossy one.

KAREY
Thank you, Paul.

PAUL
Don't let that ruin your mood.

KAREY
No wonder she's rebelling, she hates me.

PAUL
She just doesn't know you the way I do.

KAREY
(Gets idea) That's it! I'll show her how fun and cool I am and maybe she'll stop rebelling. (Then) I'm fun and cool, right?

PAUL
Especially with your clothes off.

He grabs her and pulls her out of the room.

12 INT. KAREY'S MINI-VAN - AFTERNOON (DAY 3) 12

Karey drives Arkel and Destiny. She hands Destiny a booklet.

KAREY
(Big smile) Destiny, I got you a really cool surprise. The official driver's handbook. Tada!

DESTINY
(Opens it) "Rules of the Road"?

KAREY
Yep. All of them! So you can study for your driver's test next year and pass it the first time!

Destiny reads a bit then looks up.

DESTINY
You just made a rolling stop.

KAREY
(Upbeat) See? You've learned something already. (Then) So, we're going to the mall, I'm gonna meet Penny at the tailor's and you guys are gonna get Adam birthday presents.

ARQUEL
Cool!

DESTINY
He said he didn't want a party.

KAREY (CONT'D)
Well, presents and cake and lots of people - isn't necessarily a party.

ARKEL
Sometimes it's an AA meeting.

KAREY
How did you know about that?

ARKEL
My mom used to make me go in and get her paper signed for court.

KAREY
You're such a helpful person, Arkel.

DESTINY
You forgot to use your blinker.

KAREY
And so are you. (Then) So, I'm giving you each thirty bucks to get Adam a gift.

ARQUEL
Cool.

DESTINY
If I only spend 22 can I keep the other 9?

Arkel and Karey give each other an "Oy" look.

ARKEL
You'd have *eight dollars* left.

DESTINY
Whatever. I don't need math. The job I get isn't gonna use it.

Karey worries what that is. FANTASY POP: A dark, smoky room filled with MEN. A strobe light flashes to the cheesy music.

EMCEE (O.S.)
Now, live on our stage, America's <u>favorite</u> porn star... Destiny!

Karey snaps BACK TO REALITY.

KAREY
So, what are you planning on being?

DESTINY
(Duh) Famous. (Then) And you're stopped inside the crosswalk.

KAREY
(Still smiling) And still the air bag didn't deploy. Pretty amazing, huh?

DESTINY
I'm a better driver than you. I've just never driven a stick.

KAREY
Well, that may be, but you're not driving until you get a license.

DESTINY
A license or *my* license?

KAREY
Your license. From the DMV, not some guy downtown for fifty bucks.

DESTINY
They're not fifty, they're a hundred.

KAREY
See... you are good at math.

Arkel spots a police car coming their way.

ARKEL
The Po-po!

Karey and the kids reactively duck. Beat. Karey sits back up.

KAREY
(To self) What am I doing?

13 INT. MALL - MOMENTS LATER 13

Arkel and Destiny get off the escalator.

DESTINY
What store are you going to?

ARKEL
I'm not telling you. You might try to steal something.

DESTINY
I'm not a thief.

ARKEL
Not a *good* one.

DESTINY
At least I'm not a butt kisser like you. “Mom this, Mom that.” She's so strict. My mom let me stay out as late I wanted, eat what I wanted, go to school when I wanted...

ARKEL
No wonder you're still in 8th grade.

DESTINY
Shut up.

ARKEL
Look, maybe you’re not happy here but I am. So, don’t mess it up for me.

As Arkel and Destiny part ways, we push in on....

14 INT. MALL TAILOR SHOP - CONTINUOUS 14

Karey and Penny stand in front of mirrors in fuchsia dresses as two WOMEN do alterations. Penny holds Viv, also in fuchsia.

KAREY
My face hurts from fake smiling so much with Destiny.

PENNY
My face hurts from singing but you wouldn’t know cause you never come to my gigs anymore. (Mocks) “It's a school night, I don't want to bring my kids to a bar.”

KAREY
Book a show between dinner and homework and I’m there. It would also help if all your songs weren’t about sex.

PENNY
Hey, I write what I know.

The Korean women eye each other a little grossed out.

PENNY (CONT’D)
And dude, I'm raising Vivian. She’s way harder than a kid cause I can't just dump her off at school all day and chillax.

KOREAN WOMAN # 1
(To Karey) This color no good for you.

KAREY
I know.

PENNY
We didn't pick it.

PENNY
And don't be so hard on yourself. Sure, you sacrificed your career and your goals for those kids. But how well was that going anyway?

Karey sticks Penny with a pin. Penny yelps and slugs her back.

KOREAN WOMAN #2
Stand still.

KOREAN WOMAN # 1
Bride always want to be prettiest so make bridesmaids look ugly.

KAREY
Thank you.

PENNY
Actually, our father died and...

KAREY
--we commemorate him by looking as bad as possible.

They try not to laugh but can't help themselves.

15 INT. ARKEL AND ADAM'S BEDROOM - NEXT DAY (DAY 4) 15

Karey, on her cell, passes by and sees Arkel and Adam with a cardboard box between them and three cards on top of it.

ADAM
Arkel's showing me a magic trick!

ARKEL
It's not a magic trick. It's "Three Card Monte."

ADAM
Mom, you won't hafta give me lunch money anymore! I can earn my own!

KAREY
(Into cell) Penny, hold on. (To kids) No. No. No "Three Card Monte". No "Two Card Monte". No "Full Monte". No anything with the word "monte"!
(MORE)

KAREY (CONT'D)
You don’t hafta worry about lunch money. (Into cell) Okay, I’m back.

She picks up the cards and leaves the room.

16 INT. DESTINY’S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 16

Karey pockets her phone and enters to see Destiny drawing a barbed wire tattoo on her upper arm. Karey puts on a smile.

KAREY
Look at that. You’re such a great artist. Wanna help me make your brother’s cake?

DESTINY
Are you trying to bond with me?

KAREY
Yes. (Confident) How’s it working?

DESTINY
It’s not, and I don’t wanna go for a walk or get our nails done either.

KAREY
How ‘bout get our noses pierced? (Off her face) Come on. What can I do to make you like me?

DESTINY
Put a lock on my door.

KAREY
Can I put it on the outside? (Then) Kidding.

DESTINY
Seriously, leave me alone.

KAREY
Destiny, we’re a family, I know it’s a little f’ed up, but we have to be there for each other. And that’s what I’m doing, being here for you.

DESTINY
Thanks. Can you go do that someplace else?

KAREY
Absolutely. (Then) Is there any thing else I can do?

DESTINY
Close the door on the way out.

KAREY
Done. I am officially backing off and giving you some space.

DESTINY
Thank you.

KAREY
Your welcome. (Then) How ‘bout a little “back off” hug? (Nothing) Come on. Just one, then I’m outta here.

Destiny rolls her eyes and, reluctantly, gives her one.

KAREY (CONT’D)
Now, give me back my keys.

17 INT. KAREY AND PAUL’S BEDROOM - NIGHT (NIGHT 4) 17

Paul is almost asleep, Karey is not.

KAREY
I think I made a little progress with her. I really do.

PAUL
Great honey. Good night.

KAREY
Not a lot but like a molecule. We’re a molecule closer. She told me she wants me to leave her alone and I can do that. (Then) I’m gonna go check on her.

PAUL
(Opens an eye) Honey, she doesn’t want to be treated like a child.

KAREY
Then I’ll check on her like an adult.

18 INT. DESTINY’S ROOM 18

Karey peeks in to see Destiny asleep. The window’s open, curtains gently blowing. She tiptoes to her bed, looks down, pulls the covers back to find pillows. Oh God. She’s gone.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

19 INT. FAMILY ROOM/KITCHEN - LATER (NIGHT 4) 19

Penny rushes in with Vivian, both wearing skirts and hats.

PENNY
Here I am again for you.

KAREY
Destiny's gone. She ran away.

PENNY
Now I feel bad for my bitchy entrance. Is there a chance she's been micro-chipped? (Off Karey's look) No?

Dotty enters with RUDY, a handsome/sleazy Cuban guy.

DOTTY
I got your text, so I'm here, but I'm on a date. Rudy, this is my oldest daughter, Karey, and my overweight-but-still-has-a-pretty-face-daughter, Penny.

PENNY
Mom, I'm not overweight.

DOTTY
Please, you need to lose 50 pounds.

PENNY
Maybe 10.

DOTTY
40.

PENNY
15.

DOTTY
35.

PENNY
20.

DOTTY
Sold.

KAREY
Mom, Destiny's gone. She ran away.

DOTTY
What?!

KAREY
Paul's out looking for her. I'm sitting here by the phone in case she calls, which I know she won't.

Karey starts to cry and Dotty crosses to her and hugs her.

DOTTY
Oh, honey.

PENNY
I just can't believe it.

DOTTY
Me either. I thought this was going to be a surprise party for me.

KAREY
My text said "emergency family meeting."

DOTTY
What can I say? I'm a positive thinker.

KAREY
This is why I never had kids. Cause, look at us, we're crazy!!

PENNY
(Covers dogs ears) Vivian doesn't need to be invalidated like this.

KAREY
Vivian's not part of our family.

PENNY
(Gasps) No wonder Destiny left.

DOTTY
Girls! Please! We have a guest.

KAREY
I'm a crappy mom. I knew I'd mess it all up and something like this would happen.

DOTTY
This is not your fault Karey. Children are difficult and while you <u>secretly</u> wish they'd run away, when they do, you can't help but feel (searching) guilty.
(MORE)

DOTTY (CONT'D)
But don't worry, she'll come back. They always do.

KAREY
How do you know that?

DOTTY
Because you did. Remember when you were ten and ran away?

KAREY
No.

PENNY
That was me.

DOTTY
Huh. Anyway, Jeff ran away once and so did Vince, on several occasions, and look, you're all fine.

KAREY
Mom, Jeff's pretending to be a priest, all of Penny's songs are about blow jobs and Vince is in prison. We're not fine!

DOTTY
What I meant is, you'll see her again. She'll come back and you'll live to screw up another day.

KAREY
God, I hope so.

DOTTY
Honey, being a parent isn't easy. What did you expect?

FANTASY POP: Karey, Paul and the kids are dressed as the Von Trapp family and walk along a mountaintop, singing "Climb Every Mountain" from "Sound of Music". BACK TO REALITY.

KAREY
I know it's unrealistic.

RUDY
Yah, no guy's gonna wear lederhosen.

Jeff stumbles in the back door wearing his new favorite shirt. He can barely walk or talk.

JEFF
I should've been a priest. I got free drinks, I even got laid.

DOTTY
Of course you did, you're a total PILF.

He falls over and ends up sprawled across the coffee table.

DOTTY (CONT'D)
(To Rudy) That's my son Jeff. Isn't he handsome?

KAREY
Jeff, I hope you didn't drive home.

JEFF
No, Destiny picked me up.

KAREY
What?!

PENNY
She took the car again? She should start chipping in for gas.

Destiny enters.

KAREY
Destiny! Go to your room! You're grounded!

Destiny stomps off and Karey follows her. Jeff falls from the coffee table to the floor and lies in a heap. Dotty admires him.

DOTTY
He doesn't have a bad side.

20 INT. DESTINY'S BEDROOM/BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER 20

Destiny storms through her room into her bathroom, locking the door. Karey's follows her and uses a credit card to open it.

DESTINY
I don't wanna talk to you!

KAREY
Good, cause I'm gonna talk and you're gonna listen! I'm done being nice! You purposely disobeyed me!

DESTINY
No, I didn't! You said "We're supposed to be there for each other." Uncle Jeff called me and was too drunk to drive so I picked him up and drove him home!

KAREY
And I bet you couldn't wait to get behind the wheel again and do something illegal! You knew Paul and I were right here, but no, you just had to sneak out!

DESTINY
Because he called me. He probably didn't want to be judged by you! "My brother sleeps on my couch, I'm raising my other brother's kids."

KAREY
Well I am and you broke the law, you cannot drive! Do you understand me? You are a child!

DESTINY
You don't get it! I was the one who picked up my mom when she couldn't drive, I made sure we had food, I got Adam to school, I've been a mother longer than you have!

KAREY
(Stunned) I didn't...

DESTINY
--You just want me to be a child so you can be "Mother of the Year"!

KAREY
You deserve a great mom. Or at least someone who's trying to be.

DESTINY
Well it isn't you. You're the worst mom ever!

Destiny slams the bathroom door in Karey's face as Dotty peeks around from the hallway.

DOTTY
And the torch is passed.

21 INT. GARAGE - THE NEXT MORNING (DAY 5) 21

The garage is Paul's refuge, his workshop with tools, incomplete projects and a "Keep Calm And Carry On" poster. He paints the hull of a model sailboat red as Karey paces.

KAREY
I don't think I can do this. In fact, thinking has nothing to do with it, I have proof. I don't know what the hell I'm doing.

PAUL
Did I ever tell you about the time my Mum and Dad flipped their jeep in the deserts of Pakistan?

KAREY
(Not another story about them) No.

PAUL
Dad's face was cut up rather badly, so Mum pulled out a needle, took a thread from her shirt, stitched him up and *off they went*. Like my grandfather said during the Blitz, "Unless the bomb landed ***right*** on top of you - it was a miss."

KAREY
What has that got to do with us?

PAUL
Defeat's a choice. One we're not going to make. You'll see, it'll come right in the end.

KAREY
The end?! I don't know if I can make it that far. This middle part is kicking my ass.

22 EXT. CEMETERY - SATURDAY (DAY 6) 22

The camera pans past DOZENS OF GUESTS who help themselves to the open bar and hor d'oeuvres as Penny plays guitar, Viv at her feet, also dressed in fuchsia, to find Paul, Karey and the kids getting out of their car by the funeral reception.

PAUL
Okay guys, this is a funeral so we need to be on our best behavior.

Karey pats down Adam, finds a toy gun and pockets it.

KAREY
Arkel, pull your skinny jeans up. Adam, no peeing on the lawn. Destiny, I know you're not talking to me, but don't talk to the bartender either. I have a Breathalyzer in my purse.

23 EXT. CEMETERY - MOMENTS LATER 23

Jeff walks across the cemetery in his priest shirt, drinking a water, when he passes a GROUP OF PEOPLE at a grave site.

WIDOW
Father, could you help us? Our pastor's ill and couldn't make it and we need someone...

JEFF
--I'm sorry but I have another funeral to attend.

WIDOW
(Crying) He was such a good man. Couldn't you just say a few words on his behalf?

Their hopeful faces look at him.

JEFF
(Sotto) Oh, what the hell.

He speaks fake Latin and sprinkles some water on the casket.

24 EXT. CEMETERY - MOMENTS LATER 24

Karey sees Dotty and Rudy having champagne.

KAREY
Mom you brought a date to dad's funeral?

DOTTY
What was I supposed to do? Leave him in the car with the window cracked?

Arkel approaches Destiny as she walks along the tombstones.

ARKEL
You a'ight?

DESTINY
This is not how I wanted my life to be. (Then) I just can't wait till my mom comes back.

ARKEL
You know, I was four when I went to foster care. I cried every night for my mom. Took me two years to catch on that she wasn't gonna come back. So I started hoping to get adopted. After seven years of that, I was all "Mmm, that ain't gonna happen either." But here I am. So, you're right, this isn't how I figured my life would be. It's better. (Long beat) Though Moms can't cook worth a damn. I mean, her fried fish? That was nasty.

DESTINY
I know. Why can't we have cereal for dinner like a normal family?

25 EXT. CEMETERY GRAVE SITE - MOMENTS LATER 25

Everyone's still drinking and talking.

MINISTER
Alright folks, you've had "last call". We're starting the service.

The family sits in the front row. Dotty addresses the crowd.

DOTTY
I'm glad you all came to help me honor John and move him to this lovely spot. I still can't believe he's gone. One minute he was full of life, the next minute he was - not. And he didn't have a long hospital stay, where his hair falls out from Chemo and his breath stinks. And by the time he's dead you're like "Thank God!" It wasn't like that. When you love someone and they're gone, it's hard to let go. But that's what we have to do.

The camera finds Destiny taking in every word.

DOTTY (CONT'D)
Thank you for helping me honor the past and embrace the future.

Dotty releases THE DOVES. They attack her. The minister retakes the stage as Jeff sneaks into his seat.

MINISTER
Since Mr. Reynolds fought in the Korean War, soldiers from the 36th division of the U.S. Army are here to give him a military send off.

Adam perks up in his chair as four soldiers, in dress uniform aim their rifles in the air and fire off several rounds.

ADAM
Mom, look! A 21-gun salute!

KAREY
I know. (To Paul) Who arranged this?

PAUL
I wanted Adam's day to be special.

KAREY
Oh, Paul. (Then) Is that live ammo? I just saw a dove go down.

The soldiers fold the flag draped over the coffin and hand it to Adam. He takes it and salutes them as they march off.

MINISTER
And now a few words from his daughter.

Karey walks up to the front and looks at everyone.

KAREY
What can I say about Dad... that I haven't said before? He would've been impressed at this turn out. Traditionally, the fourth funeral's a smaller affair. We've already mourned him, so today let's celebrate his life. It wasn't perfect. He had a lot to handle; his business, family, girl friends. I see a few of you here today. But he knew how to make all of us feel special, no matter what. And in his memory, I'd like to make someone here feel special. His grandson, Adam, who's eight years old today.

A confetti gun goes off showering all the guests. Karey turns the funeral wreaths around to display "Happy Birthday Adam." She cues Penny to sing "Happy Birthday".

PENNY
(ala Jennifer Hudson) Haaaa-pppyyyy.

KAREY
Penny!

PENNY
(Regular) Happy birthday to you.

Everyone sings along as two ZOMBIES emerge with presents and Jeff carries the zombie cake. Destiny watches Adam, who's shell-shocked at first but then grins from ear to ear. He hugs Karey.

ADAM
(So sincere) Thank you!

KAREY
I knew you wanted a party.

ADAM
I did. (Whispers) I just didn't want to cost too much.

With that he runs off and to blow out his candles.

PAUL
Did you make a wish?

ADAM
Yep. For an army tent and some real grenades.

Paul gives Karey a "you win some you lose some" face. He cuts the cake and Karey hands out pieces. Penny crosses over.

PENNY
Thanks for hiring me. This is a big place you never know who could be here.

KAREY
(Hands her cake) You were great.

DOTTY
(Yelling) No cake for Penny!

Adam, Destiny, Arkel and Jeff play keep away from the zombies. One grabs Jeff and his PRIEST SHIRT RIPS. He shrieks.

KAREY (V.O.)
Sometimes things work out. It always takes me by surprise when they do. But we gave Adam the best funeral birthday party ever; with cake, zombies and a 21-gun salute. Surrounded by people who love him. And some he didn't know.

The camera lands on some OLDER CONFUSED FUNERAL GUESTS.

PAUL
You can't put a price on family.

KAREY
No, you can put a restraining order on them. (Beat) But they're only good for six months.

PAUL
I can't believe how happy everyone is.

KAREY
It's like we're all on drugs. (Then) You don't think my mother drugged the punch?

Destiny WHIZZES BY in a GOLF CART, when a Zombie gets in her way she swerves and SMASHES into a tree. But right before she does, she yells out.

DESTINY
Moooommm!

Tears run down Karey's face as she and Paul race over.

KAREY
I'm coming!!

Karey embraces Destiny, as we hear:

KAREY (V.O.)
The day couldn't have ended more perfectly. (Beat) Unless we had insurance.

26 EXT. CORCORAN PRISON YARD - DAY 26

Karey's brother, Vince, sits on the bleachers, reading the letter and looking at the photos Karey's sent: Adam eating birthday cake next to Destiny and Arkel, Destiny looking hip and cool with her arm in a sling and Adam in full army attire, saluting a huge flag in the backyard.

KAREY (V.O.)
We miss you, Vinnie. Hang in there, only six years to go. You know what they say, time flies when you're making a gun out of soap. (Worried) Please don't make a gun out of soap.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

27 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT (NIGHT 6) 27

Karey unloads the dishwasher as she sings.

KAREY
Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens.

She hands a plate to Arkel who waltzes away, singing.

ARKEL
Brown copper kettles and warm woolen mittens.

He hands the plate to Adam who sits on top of the counter.

ADAM
Brown paper packages tied up in string.

Paul waltzes across the kitchen with a pan.

PAUL
These are a few of my favorite things.

Penny comes in holding Vivian.

PENNY
When the dog bites.

Jeff, mops the floor as he crosses in.

JEFF
When the bee stings.

Destiny, brushing her purple hair in a dreamy way.

DESTINY
When I'm feeling sad.

Dotty waltzes in with a martini.

DOTTY
I simply remember my favorite things.

EVERYONE
And then I don't feel... so... bad.

A Nerf bullet hits Karey in the face, snapping her out of her fantasy. She looks over to see her family at the table, shooting guns, laughing and eating Cherrios for dinner.

END OF SHOW