THE UNAUTHORIZED GREG GARCIA PILOT

By

Greg Garcia

CBS Television Studios
i/a/w Amigos De Garcia

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. STREET - DAY

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE HANDSOME COMEDIC ACTOR IN HIS EARLY THIRTIES? WHOEVER IT IS, THAT'S STEVE STEVENSON. ***(I'M GOING TO PICTURE JOHN CUSACK IN HIS PRIME BEFORE HE GOT CREEPY AND DYED HIS HAIR JET BLACK.)*** THROUGH THE LENS OF A NEWS CAMERA, WE SEE STEVE INTERVIEWING AN OLD WOMAN IN HER FRONT YARD.

OLD WOMAN

It came out of the woods, looked me right in the eye, and then went back into the woods.

STEVE

That must have been scary.

OLD WOMAN

Not really.

STEVE LOOKS OFF-CAMERA.

STEVE

Got it?

WE NOW ESCAPE THE LENS OF THE NEWS CAMERA TO SEE IT'S BEING HELD BY DEWEYNE THOMPSON. DEWEYNE IS 22. ***(FEEL FREE TO PICTURE A YOUNG CHRIS ROCK. THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.)***

DEWEYNE

Got it.

STEVE

Let's wrap it up.

STEVE WALKS OVER TO ANOTHER PART OF THE STREET IN FRONT OF SOME WOODS. DEWEYNE FOLLOWS HIM.

DEWEYNE

So, you really won't even think about it? One party.

STEVE

Deweyne, I'm at least ten years older than everyone you hang out with. I'd feel old.

DEWEYNE

Dude, you're on TV. When I tell girls at bars that I know you, they flip out.

STEVE

Shut up.

DEWEYNE

I'm serious. You're somewhat famous and recently divorced. Do you know how many guys would kill for that situation?

STEVE POSITIONS HIMSELF IN FRONT OF THE WOODS.

STEVE

Roll it.

DEWEYNE PUTS THE CAMERA ON HIS SHOULDER AND STARTS RECORDING.

STEVE (CONT'D)

In three, two... Authorities say that bears are common in this area and it's really nothing special that one came out of the woods for a moment. I'm Steve Stevenson, walking your streets.

STEVE PUTS THE MICROPHONE DOWN AND THEY START TO WALK TO THE VAN.

DEWEYNE

Come on, it's one party. You've got that great house and you're just sitting in there every night all by yourself.

STEVE THINKS FOR A BEAT.

STEVE

These girls who know who I am, what do they look like?

CUT TO:

INT. STEVE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

WE'RE IN A NICE HOUSE WHERE THERE IS A PARTY GOING ON. IT'S FULL OF COOL-LOOKING PEOPLE IN THEIR EARLY TWENTIES. STEVE IS TALKING TO AN ATTRACTIVE WOMAN IN HER EARLY TWENTIES, TRISHA. THEY TALK OVER THE LOUD MUSIC.

STEVE

So you really don't think I'm old?

TRISHA

Will you stop saying that? It's nice to talk to a man who's a real grown-up. Most of these guys still live with their parents. I just can't believe I'm actually standing next to you. (AS HIM) Steve Stevenson, walking your streets.

STEVE

You're good at that.

TRISHA

I'm good at more than that.

TRISHA WINKS. DEWEYNE CROSSES TO STEVE AND LEANS IN BEHIND HIM.

DEWEYNE

Looks like you made a new friend.

STEVE TURNS TO DEWEYNE.

STEVE

You can have a party here anytime you want.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

STEVE PULLS UP TO A HOUSE IN HIS LEXUS CONVERTIBLE. A FUNNY-LOOKING WOMAN ACROSS THE STREET IN HER MID-FIFTIES, JUNE, IS WATERING HER LAWN.

JUNE

Hello, Mr. Fancy. Is there a bear in the area or are you just slumming it in the old neighborhood?

STEVE

Hi, Mrs. Davis. Just stopping by to give my sister something.

STEVE CROSSES TOWARDS THE HOUSE.

JUNE

(CALLING OFF) I hope it's a pair of pruning sheers. Your mother would not be happy to see what her azaleas are looking like these days.

CUT TO:

INT. DEBBIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

STEVE'S SISTER, DEBBIE, IS CLEANING UP BREAKFAST PLATES. HER HUSBAND, ADAM, IS IRONING A SHIRT. THEIR SEVEN-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, SHELLEY, IS WATCHING THE NEWS ON TV. ***(FOR DEBBIE AND ADAM, I'M GOING TO PICTURE ANNA FARIS AND EITHER SETH ROGEN OR DAVE CHAPPELLE. FEEL FREE TO DO THE SAME. FOR THE SEVEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL, I'M PICTURING A YOUNG NATALIE PORTMAN.)*** STEVE ENTERS THROUGH THE BACK DOOR.

STEVE

Hey.

DEBBIE

Hey. If you want breakfast, I made sausage.

SHELLEY OPENS HER MOUTH AND SHOWS STEVE HER FOOD.

STEVE

Looks great. I'll pass.

STEVE TAKES AN ENVELOPE OUT OF HIS POCKET AND HOLDS IT OUT TO ADAM.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Here.

ADAM

Oh, uh... yeah, that's kinda between you and your sister.

DEBBIE TAKES THE MONEY OUT OF STEVE'S HAND.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Thanks, though. We'll pay you back. People just aren't buying mattresses in this economy. Which is crazy because you really need to change your mattress every five to seven years.

STEVE

Is that true?

ADAM

No. We're sleeping on a mattress in your parents' old room that's at least thirty years old and it's amazing. Lumpy but so soft. It's like the Gilbert Grape lady rocks us to sleep every night.

DEBBIE

It's hard to... (PUMPS HER FIST A FEW TIMES) on it though. Tough to get traction.

STEVE LOOKS AT DEBBIE AS IF TO SAY, "WHY THE HELL ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT?" ON THE TV, WE SEE AN ANCHOR WOMAN ON THE NEWS. THE FEEL OF THE NEWS IS SMALL TOWN AFFILIATE.

ANCHOR WOMAN

Let's go to Steve Stevenson, who's got some exciting news from our good friends at Mickey D's. Steve?

ON THE TV, THEY CUT TO STEVE IN A MCDONALD'S.

STEVE

That's right, Gail. The McRib is back.

SHELLEY

Uncle Steve, how are you there if you're here?

STEVE

They pre-tape all my stuff.

SHELLEY

Do they pre-tape all the important up-to-the-minute, breaking news or just your stuff?

STEVE SHOOTS DEBBIE A LOOK. ANGLE BACK ON THE TV.

STEVE

(ON TV) The delicious, often elusive barbecue pork sandwich is passing through Leesburg for a limited time and folks just can't get down here fast enough.

THE INTERVIEW CUTS TO STEVE TALKING TO AN IDIOT. (***I'M GOING TO PICTURE T.J. MILLER AS THE IDIOT.***)

IDIOT

I'm going to get two. Two sandwiches. I'm going to eat one now and take one home. I have a coupon. I'd like two sandwiches please.

THE IDIOT HANDS THE COUPON TO STEVE.

STEVE

Okay. Alright, thanks. We'll get this to the right person.

IDIOT

I'm going to take one home.

BACK IN THE KITCHEN, OUR CHARACTERS GO BACK TO TALKING AS THE INTERVIEW STILL PLAYS.

DEBBIE

Pretty hard-hitting stuff.

(MORE)

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

Good thing Mom and Dad paid for your journalism degree.

STEVE

I could say the same about your birth control pills.

ADAM

(GLUED TO THE TV) Shhhhh. I want to hear how long it's in town for.

TREVOR, FOURTEEN YEARS OLD AND GOTH, ENTERS WITH A SMART PHONE. ***(TREVOR IS A YOUNG LEO DICAPRIO.)***

TREVOR

Smile, bro.

TREVOR TAKES A PICTURE OF STEVE WITH HIS PHONE.

STEVE

Why did you take a picture of me? (TO DEBBIE) Why did he take a picture of me?

DEBBIE

Trevor, why did you take a picture of your uncle?

TREVOR

I need it for your profile. I opened up a Twitter account for you.

TREVOR TAKES A SAUSAGE OFF OF SHELLEY'S PLATE. SHE PUNCHES HIM AS HARD AS SHE CAN.

SHELLEY

Get your own, weirdo.

STEVE

That's okay. The station already gave me a Twitter account. @SteveStevenson. I don't use it.

TREVOR

This one's better. It's @TheRealSteveStevenson. And you don't have to do anything. I'm tweeting for you. It's blowing up. You've already got five-hundred and eight followers.

STEVE

What? No, you can't just--

TREVOR

(TYPES) "Tummy-aches are a drag. Can't stop making ploppies." (LAUGHS) You're such a tool on here.

TREVOR EXITS.

STEVE

You can't do that. (TO DEBBIE) Tell him he can't do that.

DEBBIE

Can't. We promised if he didn't pierce his genitals, we'd let him do whatever he wanted to on the internet. You gotta pick your battles.

THE PHONE RINGS. ADAMS LOOKS AT THE CALLER ID.

ADAM

Florida area code.

HE TOSSES THE PHONE TO DEBBIE.

DEBBIE

I talked to them yesterday.

SHE TOSSES IT TO STEVE.

STEVE

This isn't my house. They're not calling for me.

STEVE TOSSES IT TO DEBBIE. SHE ANSWERS.

DEBBIE

Hello?

IN A SPLIT SCREEN, WE SEE CAROL, STEVE AND DEBBIE'S MOTHER, ON THE PHONE. (***FOR CAROL, PICTURE YOUR FAVORITE ACTRESS IN HER SIXTIES. I'M GOING WITH DIANE KEATON.***)

CAROL

Your father flooded the basement.

DEBBIE

Again?

CAROL

Yep. Same way. Left the hose on all night. Claims he got distracted by a squirrel. I swear to God I should get a tax deduction for living with him.

DEBBIE

(TO STEVE) Dad flooded the basement again. (INTO PHONE) Steve's here, I'm putting you on speaker.

SHE DOES.

STEVE

Hey, Mom.

CAROL

Can't talk long. We don't have unlimited long distance like you do, Mr. Moneybags.

STEVE

If you break it down, it actually costs--

CAROL

Debbie, we're driving up to stay with you until the landlord dries things out, but your father said he needed to ask you something. Tom! Pick up!

DEBBIE

You're coming here today?

CAROL

Yeah, we're leaving in a hour. (YELLS) Tom! Pick up the phone.

TOM, DEBBIE AND STEVE'S FATHER, PICKS UP THE PHONE. AS HE DOES, HE HITS THE RE-DIAL SO WE HEAR THE PHONE DIALING A NUMBER. HE'S STANDING IN AN UNFINISHED, FLOODED BASEMENT. (***FOR TOM, I'M GOING TO PICTURE A LESS CONFIDENT LARRY DAVID***.)

CAROL (CONT'D)

(OVER THE RE-DIALING) Good Lord.
(MORE)

CAROL (CONT'D)

Could you pick up the phone one time without hitting the re-dial button with your chin? It's like your idiot trumpet fanfare announcing the king of stupidity has arrived.

THE DIALING STOPS.

TOM

Hello.

DEBBIE

What do you need, Dad?

TOM

What kind of toothpaste do you have?

DEBBIE

I don't know.

STEVE

You're not packing toothpaste?

TOM

Your mother said not to waste ours 'cause I can use yours. She doesn't want me to bring socks either.

CAROL

They'll have socks. When have we ever been there and there weren't socks laying around everywhere you look? I can't believe this is what we're paying long distance for.

(MORE)

CAROL (CONT'D)

It's toothpaste, Tom. You can use whatever they have.

TOM

Cinnamon hurts my tongue.

CAROL

This is ridiculous. We'll see you tonight. Tom, hang up the phone.

CAROL HANGS UP THE PHONE. TOM DOESN'T.

TOM

(CALLS) She never answered about the toothpaste!

DEBBIE

It's not cinnamon, Dad.

TOM

Okay, good. Cause cinnamon hurts my tongue.

CAROL PICKS UP THE PHONE.

CAROL

Tom, hang up!

TOM HANGS UP.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Debbie, we'll see you tonight. Steve, tell Janice I'm bringing Boggle and I've been practicing.

DEBBIE GIVES STEVE A LOOK.

STEVE

(BEAT) Okay. Bye.

HE HANGS UP.

DEBBIE

I can't believe you haven't told them about the divorce.

STEVE

You know how they feel about divorce. I'm hoping the longer I've been divorced, the more they'll have to accept it. Plus, they're not that young anymore. Things happen. No need to tell them if I don't have to.

DEBBIE

You're rooting for our parents to die so you don't have to tell them you got a divorce?

STEVE

No. No. That's awful. I'm not rooting for them to die so I don't have to tell them about my divorce. If anything, I would be rooting for them to die so they don't have to suffer the pain of knowing. It's called empathy. But I'm not rooting. I'm just milking the clock and letting life do its thing.

ANGLE ON THE TV, WHERE STEVE IS STANDING WITH THREE <u>IDIOT WOMEN</u>, WHO ARE STARING INTO THE CAMERA AND PUMPING THEIR FISTS. (***I'M PICTURING THE CRAZY-LOOKING SISTERS FROM "THE FIGHTER."***)

IDIOT WOMEN

Keep! The! Pickle!

STEVE TURNS TO THE CAMERA.

STEVE

Okay. So to recap, that's eight people who take the pickle off and five who don't. Be sure to share those statistics at the water cooler tomorrow while everyone else is talking about the economy. You'll be a big hit. I'm Steve Stevenson, walking your streets.

ADAM

(TURNS TO STEVE, DISAPPOINTED) You never said when they're gonna stop--

STEVE

Next Tuesday.

ADAM

Really? Wow. That is a limited time.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

THE ROOM IS DARK. THE DOORBELL RINGS. STEVE COMES DOWNSTAIRS IN HIS BOXERS. HE LOOKS THROUGH THE PEEP HOLE, WHERE HE SEES HIS MOTHER AND FATHER CARRYING SUITCASES. CAROL IS LOOKING AT SOMETHING ON TOM'S EAR.

CAROL

What is that? Is that attached?

Please tell me that's not attached.

SHE TUGS ON IT, AND HE PULLS AWAY.

TOM

Ow. Leave it.

STEVE OPENS THE DOOR AND THEY COME IN.

STEVE

What are you doing here? You're supposed to be staying at Debbie's.

CAROL

We had a fight. You know your sister. Difficult since the day she was born. She came out sideways. Afterwards, the doctor said it looked like I gave birth to a chain saw.

STEVE

Yeah, I recall you mentioning that during your toast at her wedding. (TO TOM) What started the fight?

TOM

The color purple.

STEVE

The movie?

TOM

No. The color.

CAROL

She painted the purple room green. It's called "the purple room," how can it be green?

(MORE)

CAROL (CONT'D)

She thinks just because she pays rent (POINTING AT STEVE) -- and don't think I don't know where that money is coming from -- that she's allowed to redecorate my house all willy-nilly. And don't even get me started on the azaleas.

CAROL DIGS IN HER PURSE FOR SOMETHING.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Anyway, I said some things, she said some things, your father didn't say anything, I remembered some other things I wanted to say, woke her up in the middle of the night and said some more things... and now we're staying here.

CAROL TAKES OUT A PRESCRIPTION BOTTLE.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Can I have some water? After all this folderol, I'm never going to get to sleep without my sleeping pill.

STEVE CROSSES TO THE KITCHEN.

STEVE

Yeah. I'll get it. Have a seat. Both of you, sit down.

STEVE EXITS. CAROL TURNS TO TOM.

CAROL

Take the bags upstairs and try not to bang into the wall. I can still see the scrapes you left during the Thanksgiving luggage massacre.

AS TOM TURNS TO GO UPSTAIRS, CAROL REACHES OVER AND YANKS OFF THE HAIR ON HIS EAR.

TOM

Ow!

CAROL

It needed to be done.

SHE TOSSES THE HAIR AND CROSSES TOWARDS THE KITCHEN AS TOM TAKES THE SUITCASES UP THE STAIRS. AS HE DOES, HE SCRAPES THEM AGAINST THE WALL AND GRIMACES.

CAROL (CONT'D)

(WITHOUT TURNING AROUND) Unbelievable.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

STEVE IS POURING WATER OUT OF A BOTTLE INTO A GLASS. CAROL ENTERS.

CAROL

What are you doing?

STEVE

Getting you water.

CAROL

From the tap. I want water from the tap.

STEVE

I poured this already.

CAROL

I don't want to use up all your fancy water. It's the same thing that comes out of the faucet for ten times the price. I'm fine with tap. Pour it back.

STEVE

It's already poured, why don't you--? You know what, not worth it.

STEVE STARTS TO POUR THE WATER BACK INTO THE BOTTLE AND IT SPILLS OVER THE EDGE.

CAROL

Well, don't spill it. It's expensive.

STEVE

I'm doing the best I can. It's not engineered to go this direction.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVE'S HOUSE - HALLWAY/BEDROOM - SAME TIME

TOM WALKS DOWN THE HALLWAY AND STOPS AT A BEDROOM DOOR. HE LIGHTLY KNOCKS ON THE DOOR.

TOM

Janice?

TOM OPENS THE DOOR TO SEE TRISHA SITTING UP IN BED, TOPLESS.

TOM (CONT'D)

Oh goodness, you're not Janice.

TRISHA COVERS HERSELF.

TOM (CONT'D)

(POINTING, TRYING TO BE POLITE) I can still see a little nipple under your left wrist.

TRISHA

Maybe just stop looking.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SHORT TIME LATER

CAROL AND STEVE ENTER FROM THE KITCHEN. CAROL POPS A PILL IN HER MOUTH AND DRINKS SOME WATER AS TRISHA COMES DOWNSTAIRS GETTING DRESSED, FOLLOWED BY TOM.

TOM

I'm very sorry. You've got nothing to be ashamed of by the way.

CAROL

Who are you? (TO STEVE) Who is that?

STEVE

Her name is Tanya.

TRISHA

Trisha.

STEVE

Trisha.

TRISHA

I should go. (TO TOM AND CAROL) Nice meeting you.

TRISHA EXITS.

CAROL

What the hell is going on? Where's Janice?

STEVE

Okay, look. Sit down.

CAROL

No. Where's Janice?

TOM

Is Janice dead?

STEVE

She's not dead. Please, sit down.

CAROL

No. People always tell you bad news when you sit down. I'm gonna stand.

STEVE

But whether you're standing or sitting, I'm still going to say the same thing.

CAROL

We'll see about that. I'm gonna stand.

STEVE

Fine. Stand. Janice and I split up.

CAROL

What?

STEVE

Janice and I got a divorce.

TOM

What?

CAROL

No. No. No. No. No. You're not getting divorced.

STEVE

We already did.

CAROL STICKS HER FINGER IN HER MOUTH AND TRIES TO GET HERSELF TO GAG. SHE DRY HEAVES.

STEVE (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

CAROL

I'm trying to get the sleeping pill up. I can't fall asleep now. We're in the middle of an emergency.

SHE STICKS HER FINGER BACK IN HER MOUTH AND GAGS AGAIN.

STEVE

It's not an emergency. It happened three months ago.

CAROL

Three months? I have to call her. (GAGS) What's her number? (GAGS) What's her number?!

STEVE

Mom, please don't throw up.

CAROL

This can't be happening. You got married in my church. (GAGS) You were both so happy. For your first dance, you danced the dance from "Dirty Dancing." (GAGS) That's not the kind of marriage that ends in divorce.

STEVE

Look, this is good news. Divorce isn't a bad thing. It means a marriage that wasn't working is over. We should celebrate that. If a happy marriage ended up in divorce, that would be sad. But happy marriages don't end in divorce.

CAROL THINKS FOR A BEAT AND THEN CALMS DOWN A LITTLE.

CAROL

I never thought of it like that. I guess that kind of makes sense.

TOM

What? No. This is outrageous. He can't get a divorce.

CAROL

You heard him, Tom. What's done is done. The important thing is he's happy.

TOM

(BESIDE HIMSELF) The important thing is he's happy? Are you kidding me? (TO STEVE) Divorced. Just like that. And now you're having sex with anyone you can get your hands on?

FRUSTRATED, TOM WALKS UPSTAIRS.

STEVE

(CALLING AFTER HIM) Well, if you must know, it hadn't gotten to that point yet, but I'm single for the first time in a long time. I'm allowed.

AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS, TOM WAVES HIS HAND AT STEVE IN DISGUST AND EXITS.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Wow. I kinda thought you'd take it worse than he would.

CAROL

Well, I don't know why you thought that. I'm a reasonable person. Him? Who knows what goes on in that empty head of his. (THROUGH A YAWN) You know how many times I've told him not to put metal in the microwave? Sixty-three. Sixty-three times.

TOM COMES BACK DOWNSTAIRS HOLDING A SUITCASE.

STEVE

Dad, what are you doing?

TOM

Leaving.

CAROL

Tom, stop it. I'm not crawling back to Debbie's house and apologizing.

TOM

Oh, you're not coming with me.

CAROL

Excuse me?

TOM

Forty-three years of marriage. Forty three years of mah mah mah blabbity blah blah blah. And every time I brought up divorce, you convinced me we had to stay together for the children. First they were too young, they needed both their parents. Then they were in college and that kind of turmoil could disrupt their education. Then, after they got married themselves, God forbid we set a bad example and show them that divorce is an option. Well, apparently it is an option. (RE: STEVE) This one gets a divorce and all you can say is that the important thing is that he's happy? Happy? I want to be happy.

STEVE

Dad, you can't do this. You've been married for forty-three years.

TOM

Let's call it thirty-three since we haven't had sex in ten.

CAROL

That's not true. Last year on your birthday. In the shower.

STEVE

Oh, my God.

TOM

You walked in on me masturbating.

STEVE

Please stop.

CAROL

And I stayed until you finished your business. That counts.

STEVE

I think I'm blacking out.

STEVE SITS DOWN.

TOM

I'm done, Carol. If he gets to be single, so do I. Find someone else to put cream on your feet since I never could do it right anyway.

CAROL

You run your fingers between my toes like you're sawing a piece of wood.

TOM

I wish I <u>was</u> sawing a piece of wood. I'd get less splinters.

TOM EXITS. CAROL SLOWLY TURNS TO STEVE.

CAROL

Look what you did.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. STEVE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

CAROL IS ON THE PHONE.

CAROL

Ten to four? That's the smallest window you can give me? (BEAT) What's your name? (BEAT) You're kidding? How did your parents expect anyone to be able to pronounce that? It sounds like a sneeze.

STEVE COMES DOWN THE STAIRS LOOKING AT HIS BARE FEET.

STEVE

Mom, did you clip my toenails while I was sleeping?

STEVE STARTS TO LOOK AT HIS TOES IN DISBELIEF.

CAROL

Just a smidge. Not enough to wake you. Now that you're up, I'd like to get another shot at the left pinky. (INTO PHONE) What? He's thirty-four. (BEAT) Because I went to check on him in the night and his feet were outside of the covers so I-- you know what? I don't have to explain myself to you. (TO STEVE) Will we be here from ten a.m. until four p.m. a week from Saturday?

STEVE

I don't know. Why? Who are you talking to?

CAROL

Ahcudalic or Ahcungala. Ahcu-something. (INTO PHONE) Sweetheart, I hear you, but every time you say it, it sounds different to me. (TO STEVE) She works for the movers. I'm having all my stuff shipped from Florida.

STEVE

What? You and Dad split up ten hours ago. Don't you think it's a little early to--

CAROL

This divorce was forty-three years in the making. It's over. And tomorrow's the first. I'm not paying another month's rent if I don't have to.

SHE HOLDS HER EAR AWAY FROM THE PHONE A LITTLE.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Your phone keeps doing this weird beeping thing.

STEVE

That's probably call waiting.

CAROL

(FANCY) Call waiting? You pay for that too, huh? You understand you don't have to spend every penny they give you, right?

STEVE TAKES THE PHONE FROM CAROL.

STEVE

Please hold. (CLICKS THE PHONE) Hello?

CUT TO:

INT. DEBBIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

DEBBIE IS ON THE PHONE. TOM IS IN THE BACKGROUND PUSHING BUTTONS ON THE MICROWAVE.

DEBBIE

Get over here.

TOM STARTS THE MICROWAVE AND IMMEDIATELY WE SEE BLUE SPARKS FLY OUT OF THE MICROWAVE CAUSED BY THE FACT HE PUT METAL IN THE MICROWAVE. TOM TRIES TO TURN OFF THE MICROWAVE, BUT IS GETTING BURNED BY THE BLUE SPARKS JUMPING OUT OF IT. DEBBIE TURNS TO WATCH HIM FOR A BEAT AND THEN TURNS BACK TO THE PHONE.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

Get over here now.

CUT TO:

INT. DEBBIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - LATER

DEBBIE AND STEVE ARE IN THE LIVING ROOM. TOM IS IN THE KITCHEN WITH SHELLEY, WHO IS PUTTING BAND-AIDS ON HIS HAND.

TOM

I didn't know it was a rule for all microwaves.

(MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)

I thought it was just the one at our house that you couldn't put metal in.

SHELLEY

Why do my parents call you Forrest Gump?

TOM

I don't know. Maybe they think I look like Tom Hanks.

ANGLE ON DEBBIE AND STEVE IN THE LIVING ROOM.

DEBBIE

I've already got two kids. I can't take care of a third. He's helpless. Mom did everything for him. He asked me to clip his toenails this morning.

STEVE

Well, I don't know what to tell you. He wants out and she seems fine with it. What are we supposed to do? Force them to be miserable together so we don't have to deal with them?

DEBBIE

Okay. Yeah. I vote for that.

STEVE

I think we're stuck with them until we can figure out where everyone is going to live.

(MORE)

STEVE (CONT'D)

If you want, I'll switch with you. Let's switch. You take Mom.

DEBBIE

No way. Dad might be like living with a three-month-old monkey, but Mom is like living with... Mom.

STEVE

Please. She's talking about making Mommy's Fried Chicken. I hate Mommy's Fried Chicken. Mommy uses cumin and corn flakes.

DEBBIE

Bon appetit, I'm not switching. Besides, you and Mom should be together. You're very similar.

STEVE

(LONG BEAT) That was uncalled for.

TOM ENTERS AND SHOWS STEVE HIS FINGERS.

TOM

Check it out. Band-aids. If your cheap mother was here, she would fold up a little square of tissue paper and stick it on with scotch tape.

DEBBIE

Or she would have stopped you from almost burning the house down by putting metal in the microwave.

TOM

(TO STEVE) Make sure you tell your mother I had real band-aids on.

STEVE

I don't know if I--

TOM

And tell her they were the expensive ones with little cartoon characters on them. It'll kill her.

TOM EXITS.

STEVE

Why would you say I'm a lot like Mom?

DEBBIE

Please. I saw your face when you saw that those band-aids had cartoon characters on them.

STEVE

It feels a little showy. And call Mom crazy, but maybe I wouldn't have to pay your rent if you used a little tissue and scotch tape once in a while.

TREVOR WALKS THROUGH THE LIVING ROOM AND TAKES A PICTURE OF STEVE WITH HIS PHONE.

TREVOR

(TYPES) "The first person to see me and say, 'Howdy do, Mr. Sexy Pants' wins twenty dollars."

TREVOR EXITS.

STEVE

I hate your son.

DEBBIE

Yeah, we're not all that fond of him ourselves.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

CAROL IS WATCHING STEVE ON TV. STEVE IS ON THE NEWS, STANDING IN FRONT OF TRAFFIC WITH AN ODD GROUP OF TEN INDIVIDUALS.

STEVE

So, as for now "Driving While Stupid" isn't currently against the law, but if this neighborhood watch association gets their way, pretty soon people will be getting pulled over for...

BEAT. STEVE NODS HIS HEAD TO THEM.

GROUP

(STARTING AND ENDING AT DIFFERENT TIMES) Driving while you're being stupid!

STEVE

I'm Steve Stevenson, walking your streets.

STEVE ENTERS THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR.

CAROL

You were just on TV. Why don't they give you any of the real stories?

STEVE

They will. You need to work your way up. Even Dan Rather started out doing--

STEVE SNIFFS THE AIR. HE SNIFFS AGAIN. HE GETS A SOUR LOOK ON HIS FACE.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Mom? Did you... did you fart?

CAROL LEANS TOWARDS STEVE AND SNIFFS THE AIR.

CAROL

Yes.

STEVE

That's gross. Go outside or something.

CAROL

I didn't know about it. You'll see. This happens when you get older. They just slip out.

STEVE

(DISGUSTED) Uhhhhhh.

CAROL

Oh relax. It's a fart. It's not the end of the world. Some people think they're funny.

STEVE

When you can hear them. When you can hear them, they're funny. Without the sound, they're just gross.

CAROL

(JUST A TINY BIT GROGGY) Oh, you're acting silly. You're a silly billy. Silly Billy Bear that's you. Bear. Beary beary silly.

STEVE LOOKS AT CAROL FOR A BEAT.

STEVE

Have you been drinking?

CAROL

No. I took a sleeping pill. All this divorce rigmarole has my head full of snakes. I can't relax.

THE DOORBELL RINGS. STEVE CROSSES TO IT.

STEVE

I think you're already supposed to be in bed when you take one of those pills.

CAROL

I'm going. I just wanted to stay up to say goodnight.

STEVE ANSWERS THE DOOR TO REVEAL DEWEYNE WITH A KEG ON A DOLLY.

DEWEYNE

Howdy do, Mr. Sexy Pants.

STEVE

I'm not giving you twenty dollars.

HE PUSHES THE KEG IN THE HOUSE.

DEWEYNE

Someone beat me to it, huh? You ready to go again tonight?

STEVE

Uh, yeah, tonight might not be a great night for a party. Deweyne, this is my mother. Mom, Deweyne.

DEWEYNE

Nice to meet you.

CAROL

Nice to meet you. Apparently I passed gas recently, so if that's made its way over to your area, I apologize.

DEWEYNE

I definitely walked into something over here, but I wasn't going to say anything.

CAROL

Your mother raised you right.

STEVE

Look, I don't think we can have a party here tonight. I've got family stuff going on.

CAROL

That's ridiculous. Have your party. I'm going to bed. You won't bother me.

CAROL HEADS UP THE STAIRS AND THEY WATCH HER GO. AS SHE WALKS UP THE STAIRS, SHE FALLS INTO THE WALL A FEW TIMES. EVENTUALLY SHE DISAPPEARS.

DEWEYNE

Let's party.

CUT TO:

INT. DEBBIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

DEBBIE, ADAM, SHELLEY, AND TOM ARE WATCHING TV. TREVOR IS ON HIS PHONE. DEBBIE TURNS THE TV OFF.

DEBBIE

Alright, nine o'clock. Shelley, go to bed. Trevor, go do whatever creepy things you do until morning.

THE KIDS DISAPPEAR. DEBBIE FOLDS SOME BLANKETS.

TOM

At home, your mother always watches the same movies over and over like a lunatic, so that's the first time I ever watched one of those reality shows. That was some fancy dancing. Which ones were the stars?

ADAM

It's hard to say. Each season the stars are getting more and more obscure and the dancers are getting more and more well-known. It's a toss-up.

DEBBIE

The fat women and the straight guys are the stars, Dad.

TOM

That makes sense.

TOM LOOKS AT THE FOUR REMOTES ON THE TABLE CURIOUSLY.

TOM (CONT'D)

Listen, you guys mind if I watch a little news before I turn in?

ADAM

No problem. You want me to turn it on for you?

DEBBIE

He's a grown man, Adam. He can turn on a TV by himself. (DRAGGING ADAM TOWARDS THE KITCHEN) Goodnight, Dad.

CUT TO:

INT. DEBBIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

DEBBIE PULLS ADAM INTO THE KITCHEN AND THEN LOOKS INTO THE LIVING ROOM.

ADAM

What are you doing? There's no way he's going to figure out which remote to use and how to use it. You should have seen me trying to teach him how to work the ice dispenser earlier. I started yelling, he started panicking, I felt bad and started to cry, ice was everywhere. It was like the last ten minutes of "Titanic" in here.

DEBBIE

Let him try on his own. Give an old man his FOX News and you misinform him for one night. Let an old man get frustrated trying to get his own FOX News and he might just go crawling back to his wife who knows how to work a remote.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

THE PARTY IS IN FULL SWING, AS THEY SAY. STEVE IS TALKING TO TRISHA, THE YOUNG WOMAN HE WAS WITH WHEN HIS PARENTS CAME OVER. TRISHA IS GIVING HIM A HARD TIME.

TRISHA

So how did things go with Mommy and Daddy the other night? Did you get grounded for having a girl over without permission?

STEVE

I got a stern talking to, but they assured me they weren't so much mad as they were disappointed.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVE'S HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

IN AN SLEEPING PILL STUPOR, CAROL GETS UP OUT OF BED AND WALKS INTO A WALL AND FALLS DOWN. SHE GETS UP AND WALKS INTO THE HALLWAY.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

WEARING HER NIGHTGOWN, CAROL WALKS DOWN THE STAIRS IN A DAZE. STEVE IS STILL TALKING TO TRISHA.

TRISHA

Where do your parents live, anyway?

They had suitcases with them, right?

BEHIND TRISHA, CAROL WALKS THROUGH THE PARTY. STEVE SEES CAROL BUT KEEPS TALKING TO TRISHA TO KEEP HER FROM SEEING CAROL.

STEVE

They're currently in transition.

Going through some life changes.

Figuring things out.

CAROL EXITS INTO THE KITCHEN.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

CAROL ENTERS THE KITCHEN, WHERE DEWEYNE IS HANGING OUT WITH SOME WOMEN. THEY ALL WATCH AS CAROL CROSSES TO THE FREEZER, TAKES OUT A GALLON OF ICE CREAM, TAKES A SPATULA OFF THE COUNTER, AND EXITS BACK INTO THE LIVING ROOM.

DEWEYNE

God bless 'em. Old white women love

their ice cream.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

DURING THE FOLLOWING DISCUSSION BETWEEN STEVE AND TRISHA, CAROL ENTERS FROM THE KITCHEN, CROSSES TO HER PURSE, TAKES A DVD OUT OF IT, AND PUTS IT IN THE DVD PLAYER. STEVE KEEPS AN EYE ON CAROL THE WHOLE TIME.

STEVE

No, Dick Clark was the guy who did

the New Year's Eve stuff before Ryan

Seacrest. He recently passed away

though.

CAROL SITS ON THE COUCH WITH HER ICE CREAM AND HER SPATULA.

TRISHA

Are you talking about the old guy who would come on and do the comedy stuff with the funny voice? He's dead? He was hilarious.

"DIRTY DANCING" COMES ON THE TV AND CAROL STARTS TO FAST FORWARD.

STEVE

No, that wasn't a funny voice. He had a stroke.

TRISHA

I think you're thinking of someone else. This guy definitely had a funny voice. (IMITATING HIM) It was really goofy and slow.

STEVE

You should probably stop doing that.

CAROL STOPS THE MOVIE AT THE BIG DANCE SCENE. SHE TURNS IT UP LOUD. TRISHA TURNS TO SEE HER.

TRISHA

Is that your mother?

STEVE

Excuse me.

STEVE CROSSES TO CAROL, WHO IS TRYING TO EAT THE ICE CREAM OUT OF THE GALLON JUG WITH THE SPATULA. IT'S NOT GOING WELL. CAROL IS QUITE GROGGY AND SPACED OUT.

STEVE (CONT'D)

What the hell are you doing?

CAROL

I'm watching a movie. What are you doing?

STEVE

I'm having a party. In my house. With young people who don't understand what it's like to have a mother over forty-five. You need to go back to bed.

STEVE PAUSES THE MOVIE.

CAROL

I can't. I have to watch this movie once a week. I've been studying it for three years. As soon as I can get your father to watch it, I'm going to ask him to do the big dance with me on our fiftieth wedding anniversary. Just like you and Janice did. You and Janice have such a good marriage. I think it's because you did that dance. (LOOKING AROUND) Is Janice at the party?

STEVE

Mom, Janice and I aren't married anymore. Remember? And you and Dad aren't married anymore either. You took a sleeping pill and you're acting crazy.

CAROL TRIES TO GET SOME ICE CREAM OUT WITH THE SPATULA, BUT IT FLICKS A CHUNK OF IT ACROSS THE ROOM AND HITS SOMEONE IN THE FACE.

CAROL

I need a spoon. The spatula was a bad choice.

STEVE

Fine. If I get you a spoon, will you go upstairs?

CAROL

I'll think about it.

STEVE

Stay put.

STEVE QUICKLY CROSSES TO THE KITCHEN.

STEVE (CONT'D)

(TO TRISHA) Just a sec.

STEVE EXITS INTO THE KITCHEN.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

STEVE COMES IN THE KITCHEN TO FIND DEWEYNE SITTING WITH EIGHT WOMEN. HE AND ALL THE WOMEN ARE BALANCING SPOONS ON THEIR NOSES.

STEVE

What are you doing with my spoons?

DEWEYNE

Abby showed us this cool trick she learned at camp last summer.

STEVE

Last summer? How old are you?

ABBY

Eighteen and three quarters.

STEVE

Good Lord.

STEVE OPENS THE UTENSIL DRAWER AND THEN TURNS AND POINTS TO EACH OF THEM AS HE COUNTS.

STEVE (CONT'D)

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, you used my last spoon. My mother took a sleeping pill and she needs a spoon.

CARRIE

Is she having a seizure?

ABBY

How do you know how many spoons you have?

JILL

Old people always know that kind of stuff.

STEVE GLARES AT DEWEYNE.

DEWEYNE

He's not old. You're not old, boss. (SOTTO TO JILL) You want to go back to having parties in the parking lot of Jack in the Box? (TO STEVE) Here, man, you can have my spoon.

DEWEYNE HANDS STEVE HIS SPOON AND STEVE STARTS TO WASH IT THOROUGHLY.

DEWEYNE (CONT'D)

Dude, it was just on my nose. You don't have to give it a "Silkwood" shower.

JILL

What's a "Silkwood" shower?

DEWEYNE

(SOTTO) It's an old-person reference. Saw it on "Leno."

CUT TO:

INT. DEBBIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

LOOKING A LITTLE FRUSTRATED, TOM IS STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT THE REMOTES. HE OPENS A DRAWER IN A NEARBY DESK AND PULLS OUT A COUPLE MORE REMOTES. HE POINTS ONE AT THE TV.

CUT TO:

INT. DEBBIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

DEBBIE AND ADAM ARE IN BED. WE HEAR THE NOISE OF GEARS LOUDLY MOVING BENEATH THEM.

ADAM

I think he just opened the garage.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

STEVE COMES OUT OF THE KITCHEN WITH A SPOON. CAROL IS ON THE COUCH CRYING AND WATCHING THE BIG DANCE SCENE IN "DIRTY DANCING." THE REST OF THE PARTY IS GONE.

STEVE

Where did everyone go? Where's Trisha?

CAROL

(THROUGH CRYING) They left.

(MORE)

CAROL (CONT'D)

Apparently I was bumming them out. They said something about drinking in the parking lot at Jack in the Bucket.

STEVE SITS DOWN ON THE COUCH NEXT TO CAROL.

STEVE

Why are you crying?

CAROL

I wasted three years learning this stupid dance and I wasted forty-three years of my life with the wrong man.

STEVE

No, no, Mom. It's okay. People get divorced. It just happened to me, too, remember.

CAROL

You're young. (RE: MOVIE) You can still have this again one day. I'll never have this. My life is over.

CAROL STICKS HER HAND IN THE ICE CREAM AND SCOOPS A HANDFUL IN HER MOUTH.

STEVE

Your life isn't over, Mom. And I'm not as young as you think. I definitely learned that tonight.

CAROL

(CRYING HARDER) Which makes me even older.

STEVE

No, no, that's not what I meant. I meant you and I are more alike than I thought. We're both starting over in a world we know little about. Don't give up. (RE: MOVIE) You will have that one day. With someone you love. I promise.

CAROL LOOKS AT HIM FOR A BEAT.

CAROL

You're a good son. You're a liar, but you're a good son. I'm sorry I ruined your party.

CAROL TAKES THE SPOON, GRABS HER ICE CREAM, AND HEADS TOWARDS THE STAIRS. STEVE PICKS UP THE REMOTE AND STARTS TO REWIND THE MOVIE. AS CAROL IS ABOUT GO UP THE STAIRS...

STEVE

Mom?

SHE TURNS. STEVE HITS THE BUTTON ON THE REMOTE AND THE SONG FOR THE BIG DANCE NUMBER STARTS TO PLAY.

STEVE (CONT'D)

I'm not a liar.

HE EXTENDS HIS HAND TO START THE DANCE. CAROL THROWS HER ICE CREAM AGAINST THE WALL AND JOINS HIM. THEY DANCE THE DANCE STEPS TO THE BIG "DIRTY DANCING" SCENE. AND THEY DO IT AS WELL AS A SON AND HIS DRUGGED-UP MOTHER IN A NIGHTGOWN CAN. DEWEYNE WATCHES FROM THE KITCHEN WITH JILL AND ABBY.

JILL

This is so sweet. It's a shame she won't remember any of this in the morning.

DEWEYNE

It's a shame he will.

STEVE PULLS CAROL CLOSE TO HIM AND LOOKS IN HER EYES FOR A BEAT.

STEVE

(SNIFFS) Did you fart?

CAROL

Probably.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. DEBBIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - MORNING

DEBBIE AND ADAM COME DOWNSTAIRS TO FIND TOM WATCHING TV.

DEBBIE

Dad? Did you go to bed last night?

TOM

Nope. I had a little trouble with the remote, but I eventually figured it out about a half an hour ago, so I thought at this point I'd just stay up.

DEBBIE AND ADAM SHARE A LOOK.

ADAM

Well, alright. Good for you for sticking with it. We're gonna make some coffee. You want a cup?

TOM

I'd love one.

DEBBIE

Actually, I was thinking we'd take a walk, so you might have to make your own coffee, Dad.

DEBBIE DRAGS ADAM INTO THE KITCHEN.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

He got lucky with the remote.
(MORE)

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

The coffee maker has small buttons and hot water. We could be a second-degree burn away from getting him out of here.

DEBBIE HURRIES OUT THE BACK DOOR. ADAM FOLLOWS HER.

ADAM

Your parents do not bring out the best in you.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

STEVE ENTERS FROM UPSTAIRS DRESSED FOR WORK TO FIND CAROL ON THE COUCH DRINKING COFFEE.

CAROL

How did you sleep?

STEVE

(DOES SHE REMEMBER?) Okay. You?

CAROL

Like a rock. I didn't even hear your party. You want me to make you breakfast? I could make my famous waffles.

STEVE

Can't. I'm running late.

CAROL

(DISAPPOINTED, BUT TRYING TO HIDE IT)

Oh. Okay. That's fine.

STEVE

(SEES HER DISAPPOINTMENT) But I'll be home for dinner. Any chance I could talk you into making Mommy's Fried Chicken?

CAROL

Always happy to make your favorite.

STEVE EXITS. THE PHONE RINGS AND CAROL ANSWERS IT.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Steve and his mother's house. (BEAT) Well, well, two times in one morning. What now?

WE INTERCUT WITH TOM STANDING IN DEBBIE AND ADAM'S KITCHEN.

TOM

It's not the remote this time. I can't figure out their coffee maker.

CAROL

What kind is it?

TOM

It's a black one.

CAROL HANGS HER HEAD IN FRUSTRATION FOR A BEAT, THEN:

CAROL

Okay, you're gonna have to start reading all the buttons to me.

TOM

Let me get my glasses.

HE STARTS TO LOOK, NOT REALIZING THEY ARE ON HIS HEAD.

CAROL

You know, the only reason I'm helping you with this is so you'll learn to live on your own.

TOM

I know.

CAROL

Find 'em yet?

TOM

No.

CAROL

(BEAT) I had a dream last night that you and I danced the "Dirty Dancing" dance from the movie.

TOM

Yeah, that's never gonna happen.

CAROL

Thank God for that. Find 'em?

TOM

Not yet.

CAROL

Are they on your head?

TOM CHECKS. THEY ARE. HE TAKES THEM OFF.

TOM

Nope.

TOM SITS AT THE TABLE AND STOPS LOOKING. A BEAT.

CAROL

Find 'em?

TOM

Not yet.

CAROL

Do you remember where you had them

last?

TOM

Maybe the bathroom. Hold on.

TOM SETS THE PHONE DOWN AND CROSSES TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM.

TOM (CONT'D)

(CALLING) Found 'em.

CAROL ROLLS HER EYES. TOM CROSSES BACK TO THE PHONE AND PUTS IT TO HIS EAR, ACCIDENTALLY HITTING THE RE-DIAL BUTTON WITH HIS CHIN. IT BEEPS FOR A WHILE, THEN...

CAROL

I'm not gonna miss this.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW