...Then Came Elvis

"Pilot"

Written By

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ACT ONE

1 EXT. BACKYARD - PASADENA - MORNING (D1) 1

A father, MEL, carries a chainsaw in his right hand while holding hands with his son, HENRY, with his left. Henry is way too old to be holding his father's hand.

HENRY
...Well, if we're definitely getting a dog, I call dibs on naming him.

MEL
We're not naming the dog Optimus Prime. He already has a name. It's Elvis.

HENRY
Oh, I like that.
(then)
If we ever get a cat though...

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
When I was fourteen, my parents got divorced. Which made me like fifty percent of kids in America. One kinda huge difference was...

Henry stops walking. And so does Mel.

MEL
Okay, Henry, tell me what tree to cut down.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...my dad was blind. As in "what the hell's a blind guy doing with a chainsaw?!"

Henry shakes his head -- are they really doing this?

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
Mom gave me that haircut. And despite what it looks like, she can see fine.

HENRY
This one right here.

Henry takes his dad's hand and puts it on the trunk of a tree.

MEL
Got it. Two quick things: How tall's the tree and where's our house?

HENRY
Super tall and over your right shoulder.

MEL
My right shoulder?!

HENRY
You know what, why don't we just go grab some Jamba Juice?

MEL
Nonsense. My kids want a pool, they're getting a pool.

Mel takes off the cover, feels for the choke and pumps it.

MEL (CONT'D)
Okay, this is now a Danger Zone. Go inside until I yell "Safety Zone."

HENRY
How 'bout just a hot tub? We could--

MEL
Danger Zone!

Mel fires up the chainsaw and Henry hightails it out of there. Just as Henry reaches the deck, he turns to see:

MEL (CONT'D)
Timber!

CLOSE ON Henry's face in awe as his father takes down the tree.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
I met the most amazing man I'll ever meet in my life when I was four and a half minutes old.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL Henry's been joined by his sister, KATIE, 16, nose ring, texting on her phone, all attitude.

KATIE
(still texting)
Why is he wearing safety glasses?

HENRY
Safety glasses? That's what's tripping you up?

The two stand and watch in silent disbelief for a beat, then:

MEL (O.C.)
Safety Zone!

HENRY
(duty calls)
I gotta go.

As Henry runs back to point out the next tree, we cut to...

MAIN TITLES: "…THEN CAME ELVIS"

2 EXT. FISHER FRONT YARD - LATER (D1) 2

A HUGE pile of fresh cut firewood lines the driveway.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
The craziest part of my parents getting divorced was how I found out...

MEL (O.S.)
Hike!

PAN OVER to see Henry hike a football to Mel. Henry goes long, shouting the whole way.

HENRY
(announcer voice)
Henry Fisher explodes out of the back field. He's fast, he's quick--

MEL
He's got one more play before clarinet practice.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...But in order to fully appreciate the irony, you're gonna need a little backstory: Dad went blind when he was eleven...

Mel tracks Henry's voice and throws a perfect spiral. Henry catches the ball and runs towards Mel who now plays defense.

HENRY
He's got one more defender to beat. He's at the thirty, the twenty...

As Henry bobs and weaves, Mel chases after Henry's voice.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...Before you picture a blind guy selling pencils on the corner, my dad never let the fact that he couldn't see keep him from doing anything...

Mel catches Henry and tackles him to the ground, a bit too hard.

3 EXT. THE ROSE BOWL PARKING LOT - LATER (D1) 3

Katie's in the driver's seat of the family's SUV, trying to parallel park but the SUV is currently jerking back and forth. Lady Gaga plays from the car stereo.

MEL (O.C.)
Clutch, clutch, clutch!

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...Even when it probably should've.

REVEAL Mel sitting shotgun. Mid-lesson. The SUV stalls.

KATIE
I can't do this. I'm gonna be the only sixteen-year-old in California without a license!

Mel feels for the stereo and turns off the music.

MEL
Katie, sweetie...

KATIE
Get ready, everybody, here it comes.

MEL
...I went to law school blind.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
It's like he went to law school just so he could say that to his kids.

Mel opens the passenger door and gets out.

HENRY (O.S.)
Oh, God.

WIDEN TO REVEAL Henry sitting with his mother, JOYCE, on the curb. She's SMOKING A PIPE lost in her iPad.

JOYCE
(re: iPad)
Button, do you think I'd look sexier if I had bangs like Zooey Deschanel?

HENRY
Mom. I'm your son.

JOYCE
Which is why I trust your opinion.

Joyce looks up to see Mel using his hands to feel around the hood as he navigates his way to the driver's side.

JOYCE (CONT'D)
Mel! You should not be--

MEL
Relax, Joyce, there's no game today!
(sniffing)
And why don't you just slap a patch on like everyone else?

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
Mom started smoking a pipe because she thought it was better than smoking cigarettes. Not sure 'bout that. A lot of kids' moms smoked cigarettes...

Joyce cups her hand over the bowl of the pipe and relights it.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...No one else's mom was Popeye.

HENRY
This is brutal. Can I just walk home?

JOYCE
No. You know I don't trust this neighborhood.

HENRY
Ugh. Because of Anthony Hooper?

JOYCE
He disappeared right outside Pinkberry!

MEL
That was like three years ago, Joyce! And they found him that afternoon!

JOYCE
But he was never the same!

MEL
They didn't even take his yogurt!
(then, to himself)
No one wants that crap.

Mel is now sitting behind the wheel.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
I should mention, before they got divorced, my dad actually hid his blindness from everyone outside our family. He wasn't embarrassed. He was just proud...

In one move, Mel dumps the SUV perfectly between two trash cans.

MEL
Constitutional law was hard, sweetie. Parallel parking is easy.

Mel gets out to resume the lesson...

MEL (CONT'D)
(singing)
"P-p-p-poker face..."

...but the SUV starts rolling.

KATIE / HENRY / JOYCE
Dad! / Dad! / Mel!

MEL
I got it. I got it.
(hoping back in rolling car)
Just showing you how important it is to set the parking brake.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...The only person outside the family who knew Dad was blind was the coolest kid I knew. My best friend Runyen...

4 INT. FISHER KITCHEN - DAY - FLASHBACK (FB1) 4

Henry sits at the breakfast table with RUNYEN, who is basically Vince Vaughn. If Vince Vaughn were fourteen and Asian. Mel enters dressed for work.

RUNYEN
Mel Baby! Khakis go with everything, smart. Suspenders and a belt? I'm gonna give you a pass because of the whole eyes no worky thing.

Runyen takes it upon himself to pop Mel's collar. Mel can't help but smile at the kid's audacity.

MEL
(messing with him)
I'd kick you out if I didn't think it was important for my son to have Black friends.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...Technically, Dad never lied about his eyesight...

5 INT. LAW FIRM - DAY - FLASHBACK (FB2) 5

Mel and his colleague, KEN, 40s, greet a potential client, BILL.

KEN
Mel Fisher, I'd like you to meet--

Mel extends his hand immediately, forcing the guy to meet his handshake.

KEN (CONT'D)
--Bill Duffy.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...But he did trick 'em a lot.

6 INT. RESTAURANT - DAY - FLASHBACK (FB3) 6

Ken and Bill sit at a table, waiting. Mel enters and puts a "playful" arm around Henry who again walks on Mel's left side.

MEL
(making a show of it)
Get in here! You are <u>not</u> too old to get a hug from your old man!
(then, sotto)
Okay, what do we got?

HENRY
(sotto)
They're both here. Table's ten steps away, empty chair's at three o'clock. And Ken's fly is wide open.

Mel confidently walks to the table and takes the empty seat.

MEL
Ken, Bill. Hope it's okay that I brought our youngest associate. Tae Kwon Do got cancelled.
(sotto, gesturing)
Ken, barn door.

Ken quickly zips up. Henry looks at the menu.

HENRY
("innocently" for Mel's benefit)
Ahi tuna burger? Uch. I'm just getting a quesadilla.

MEL
Whatever you want, bud. But I'm getting the ahi burger. Sounds delicious.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
With me at his side...

7 INT. FISHER DEN - NIGHT - FLASHBACK (FB4) 7

Henry and Katie stand playing Wii tennis.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...I could help him with anything...

Mel enters, plowing into a glass coffee table.

MEL
Son of a bitch!

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...Except that damn coffee table.

Henry and Katie reset the glass for the millionth time.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
For as long as I could remember, I was his human guide dog...

8 INT. FISHER DINING ROOM/DEN - BACK TO PRESENT (D1) 8

Mel stands holding ELVIS, a beautiful German Shepherd that wears a U-SHAPED HARNESS. At the sight of Henry, Elvis wags his tail excitedly.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...Which is why I was surprised when he got a real one.

Mel ties the leash around a leg of the dining room table. Katie texts in the den, dubious.

HENRY
Sweet. My very own seeing eye dog.
(then, to Mel)
That's actually mostly yours.

MEL
The correct term is “guide dog.” He doesn't see for me, he guides me. Like a GPS that drools.

KATIE
(eyes still on phone)
Perfect. A trained animal. That was the only thing missing from this circus.

MEL
Now, Henry, it may take him a while to get used to you...

Henry drops to his knees and Elvis runs into his arms, dragging the table with him, licking his face like crazy.

MEL (CONT'D)
(unaware)
...Just let him sniff your palm. Get to know your scent. You know, first date stuff.

Henry wrestles with Elvis, then stops, realizing something.

HENRY
Wait a minute. I thought the whole reason we never got a dog is because Mom's allergi--

Henry sees Joyce SNEEZING that chain of eight consecutive sneezes where you stop saying, "Bless you."

KATIE
Yeah, douche. Dad's moving out.

JOYCE
(between sneezes)
Don't call-- your brother-- a douche.

MEL
Look, Mom and I talked about this and we both agree we'd be happier if--

Mel crosses and plows into the coffee table. CRASH!

MEL (CONT'D)
Son of a bitch! Every time!

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
Aaaand that's how I found out my parents were getting divorced.

As Katie and Joyce reset the glass top, Elvis gives Henry's hand a comforting lick. But Henry moves away.

HENRY
(to Katie)
So even the dog knew before me?!

As Katie shrugs, we...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

9 INT. MARRIOTT HOTEL - THAT NIGHT (N1) 9

Mel, Henry, and Elvis walk into the lobby. Henry pushes a bellman's cart while eating a sandwich.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
A lot of kids blame themselves for their parents' divorce...

Elvis steps up on the cart and sneaks a bite of hanging turkey, ripping all the meat from the sandwich.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...but I was pretty certain this one was the dog's fault.

HENRY
You're really pushing it, dude.

They approach the CLERK at the registration desk.

MEL
Checking in.

CLERK
Okay, no, no, no. No dogs allowed.

MEL
It's okay, he's a guide dog.

CLERK
Yeah... No. We have a strict "no pet" policy.

MEL
And I have a strict "don't break the law" policy.

HENRY
Ohhhhh...
(reading clerk's nametag)
Kevin. If you can still take a sick day, I'd do it.

MEL
I'm a blind attorney--

HENRY
Can't see a thing.

To prove it, Henry waves his hand in front of Mel's face.

MEL
And California Civil Code 54.1 makes it illegal to deny lodging to someone using a service animal.

HENRY
It's a civil code, Kev. Our hands are tied.

MEL
If you don't give me a room right now, I will sue you so fast that by the time the dust settles this place will be called the Mel Fisher Hotel.

HENRY
Maybe Fisher & Son.

MEL
We'll see how the logo looks.

As Kevin quickly types into his computer, Mel and Henry stand there, savoring their win.

10 INT. HOTEL SUITE - A LITTLE LATER (N1) 10

An amazing suite. Henry and Mel kick back on a king-sized bed, scraping the last of the fudge from their sundaes.

MEL
I gotta hand it to Kevin. He really redeemed himself with these hot fudge sundaes. I might even post a nice comment on Yelp. Nah, probably not. Kinda bloated.

Just then, Mel's talking watch announces the time.

ELECTRONIC WATCH VOICE
It's - nine - o'clock - PM.

MEL
Oh, wow. I promised Mom I'd get you home.

HENRY
Or... I could stay here and we could get Kevin to send up some sweet potato fries. Huh? Huh? We're eating out of order, but it could be fun.

MEL
Buddy, I can't think of a better way to have started off our new life, but you've got school tomorrow, I've got a deposition. And most importantly, we gotta get you home before Mom thinks you got Hooper-ed.

HENRY
But doesn't it make more sense-- just thinking logically here-- for me to stay and help you navigate the new place.

MEL
(getting up)
Don't worry about me. I've got Elvis.

As Henry gets up, Elvis takes Henry's place on the bed.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
And before I even got the hot fudge off my face, my job had just been outsourced to a dog.

11 EXT. / INT. FISHER HOUSE - LATER (N1) 11

Henry exits the cab to find Joyce sitting on the front steps, smoking her pipe. She blocks his way.

JOYCE
Welcome home. Take off your clothes.

HENRY
What?

JOYCE
(through sneezes)
Your clothes-- are covered-- in dander.

A beat. She's serious. Henry takes off his shirt.

JOYCE (CONT'D)
Look, Button--

HENRY
Please stop calling me Button--

JOYCE
I promise, once Dad finds a real apartment, you can stay with him as much as you want. Pants.

He does a quick look to make sure no neighbors are watching, waves hi to Mrs. Goldfein, then reluctantly removes his jeans.

HENRY
What's wrong with the hotel?

JOYCE
Hotels are where rock stars go to do their pot. Look at me.

HENRY
Please don't do "look at me."

JOYCE
Look at me.
(holding his face)
I know there're a lot of changes going on right now, but we're still going to be the same family we always were.

HENRY
Did you... get braces?

Joyce smiles, proudly displaying her new metal mouth. Katie appears at the screen door.

KATIE
That's right, Button. And apparently, as a personal favor to you and me, she turned down the Invisaligns.

Joyce dumps tobacco out of her pipe and crosses over to her.

JOYCE
Oh, there you are, Kitten. What are you doing Thursday after school?

KATIE
I told you. I'm going to the mall with Meagan.

JOYCE
Perfect.
(then, heading in)
I need to get clothes too. We can all go together.

KATIE
Perfect? We? What?

Too late. Joyce's gone.

KATIE (CONT'D)
I'm gonna have to get pregnant to get out of here.

12 INT. SCHOOL BUS - THE NEXT DAY (D2) 12

Henry sits on the back of the bus with Runyen who is eating some crazy Korean dish out of tupperware.

RUNYEN
Wow, so Joyce got braces and Mel got a guide dog. Big week for the Fisher family, huh?
(offering food)
Degi Gui?

HENRY
No, God no. I mean, I'm glad Dad got Elvis but--

RUNYEN
I get it. You feel like you're being replaced.

Henry stares out the window and sighs.

RUNYEN (CONT'D)
Are you gonna be like this the whole field trip, 'cause if so, I'll go sit with Bobby Lacito. I will not have you wrecking the botanical gardens for me.

13 INT. BUS / EXT. UPSCALE STREET - A FEW MINUTES LATER (D2) 13

Henry and Runyen are filing off the bus with the rest of the students who are lining up on the sidewalk.

RUNYEN
I'll tell you what you gotta do. You gotta find something you can do that Mr. Costello-- I refuse to call him Elvis-- can't.

HENRY
Like what?

Henry and Runyen exit the bus.

RUNYEN
I don't know. Like opposable thumb stuff. Open olive jars, fold socks into balls, challenge Mel Baby to some pretty intense thumb wrestling.

Henry spots something across the street.

HENRY
Oh my God, that's it.

RUNYEN
Yeah. Even your best trained dogs can't thumb wrestle.

HENRY
No. Look.

Henry points to a sign that says "Apartment for Rent."

HENRY (CONT'D)
I'm going to get my dad an apartment. That's something a dog can't do.

RUNYEN
That's also something a fourteen year old can't do.

Henry starts to walk towards the apartment.

RUNYEN (CONT'D)
What are you doing? You can't leave a field trip. We signed a permission slip!

HENRY
(crossing off)
Put away the spicy pork and cover for me!

Runyen tries to psych himself up like a boxer about to enter the ring as he walks over to the TEACHER. Just as he gets there... he takes off his backpack, undoes the strap and drops to the sidewalk, "wailing" in a full Korean meltdown.

RUNYEN
Puloju soyo! Puloju soyo! My backpack broke!

The teacher immediately puts all her focus on consoling him.

TEACHER
It's okay, it's okay. We can fix it. Or we'll get you a new one!

RUNYEN
Nega wha'nasoyo! Nega wha'nasoyo! Jansport doesn't make this one anymore!

Runyen looks and sees Henry has made it to the apartment building and, on a dime, pulls himself together.

RUNYEN (CONT'D)
Oh, wait, it just snaps back together.
(offering tupperware)
Degi Gui?

14 INT. RENTAL OFFICE - A MINUTE OR TWO LATER (D2) 14

Henry stands in the doorway. The building manager, FRED, mid-40s, African-American, sits behind a big desk on his cell phone.

FRED
(into phone, intense)
...That's just it, everyone brings wine to a dinner party. But I'm not everyone. That's why I brought the cactus.

He sees Henry and covers the phone.

FRED (CONT'D)
Can I help you?

HENRY
Is the apartment still available?

FRED
You running away from home?

HENRY
Actually, my dad is.

Fred gets what Henry means.

FRED
Well, bring him back, I'll give him a tour. And a stress ball.

Henry starts to walk away and Fred returns to his call.

FRED (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Manny, a bottle of wine lasts one night. Cacti outlive most people. You know what, tell Cindy I want my cactus back.

Henry turns back.

HENRY
Here's the deal, my dad's blind. I'm going to be his eyes on this. If I like the place, he'll like the place. So how 'bout you go ahead and give me that tour.

15 INT. APARTMENT - A MOMENTS LATER (D2) 15

Mid-tour. Henry's checking out an impressive walk-in pantry.

HENRY
Very nice. This would hold a lot of Twizzlers.

Fred isn't sure if Henry is kidding. He laughs. So does Henry. Who then immediately goes back to business.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Are dogs allowed in the building?

FRED
No pets.

HENRY
What about guide dogs? There's a penal code law that says you have to allow them.

FRED
(with a smile)
Then I guess we're going to allow them. How old are you?

HENRY
Fourteen and a half.
(fair is fair)
How old are you?

FRED
Forty-three.
(off Henry's skeptical look)
And a half.

Satisfied, Henry flips the switch and tests the garbage disposal.

16 INT. LAW OFFICES - LATER (D2) 16

Mel, dressed in a suit, deposes a WITNESS. Mel has him on the ropes as his LAWYER, the STENOGRAPHER and Bill look on.

MEL
...So you shredded the papers?

LAWYER
Objection.

MEL
This isn't the trial. It's just a deposition.
(to witness)
You'll answer.

WITNESS
I did. But only because I didn't think they were relevant to the case.

MEL
Random papers, not relevant, you thought let's go ahead and shred 'em?

LAWYER
Objection.

WITNESS
That's right.

MEL (CONT'D)
(to court stenographer)
Tell me you got every word of that, Janice.

JANICE
All the way through "Tell me you got every word of that, Janice."

MEL
I love you. Type that. Don't type that.

LAWYER
(desperate)
Can we adjourn until tomorrow?

MEL
The thing is we're all here today.

Ken comes in and whispers in Mel's ear.

KEN
You got a phone call. Henry's principal. He sounds pretty angry.

MEL
(to opposing council)
But if tomorrow is better for everyone, I say we do that.

17 INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - LATER (D2) 17

Mel, still in a suit, Henry and Elvis sit with PRINCIPAL SLOAN, 40s, who holds a permission slip like an affidavit.

PRINCIPAL SLOAN
Is this not your signature? Did you not agree to stay with the group and to say no to drugs?

HENRY
I needed to find my dad an apartment.

MEL
Joyce and I have separated. It was mutual. Not that you asked, but just to be clear.

PRINCIPAL SLOAN
That's tough stuff. Wendy and I have taken a little
(making a time-out sign)
T.O. ourselves.

HENRY
The place is great, Dad. You gotta see it. I tried to give the guy a nineteen-dollar deposit, but he wouldn't take it.

MEL
This is not about the apartment, this is about you just walking off down King Street like the school rules don't apply to you.

PRINCIPAL SLOAN
King Street? That's a sweet section of town.
(then, back on track)
The point is, you can't just leave when-- Laundry in the building?

HENRY
Four washers, three dryers.

PRINCIPAL SLOAN
Cable?

HENRY
Included.

PRINCIPAL SLOAN
Basic.

HENRY
Premium.

MEL
I think we're all sold on the apartment, but can we get back to what my son did?

PRINCIPAL SLOAN
Mel, I know where you're going with this and I agree. Given the circumstances, I'm going to suggest the discipline for this come from home.
(getting up, grabbing keys)
If you'll excuse me, I need to run a quick errand.
(crossing to his assistant's office)
Helen, pull up Westside Rentals.

He's gone. Henry leans back in his chair, proud.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
I was feeling pretty good about myself. I had gotten Dad an apartment <u>and</u> gotten out of the principal's office with very little collateral damage.

Henry gives the dog the middle finger.

MEL
This is not good.

HENRY
(smiling, confidently)
Don't worry about it. Fred and I connected over Downton Abbey. That apartment isn't going anywhere.

MEL
Neither are you. Your mom's picking you up any minute.

HENRY
You told her?

MEL
Just because Mom and I are getting divorced doesn't mean we're not both still your parents.
(getting up)
We talked and we agree you need to be punished.

HENRY
Punished? You know, when Bobby Lacito's parents split, he got a Vespa.

MEL
Awesome. You're grounded for two weeks.

Henry sits there, stunned. Elvis looks over at Henry, cocking his head, as if to gloat.

MEL (CONT'D)
I'm gonna go snatch that apartment, before your principal makes it his new bachelor pad. And apparently you're going clothes shopping with Mom and Katie. Sorry. You dug your own grave on that one.

<u>END OF ACT TWO</u>

ACT THREE

18 INT. MEL'S APARTMENT - THE NEXT DAY (D3) 18

Mel and Ken celebrate with their client Bill. Beers and snacks are strewn on the GLASS COFFEE TABLE.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
So I got my dad a sweet apartment. Where he could celebrate with his buddies...

MEL
They settled for the full amount. Who settles for the full amount?!

They all clank beer bottles. Elvis barks in camaraderie.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...and my archenemy...

Mel rewards Elvis with a potato chip.

MEL
Bup, bup. I can lick my own fingers.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
Me, I was enjoying a two-week vacation...

19 INT. MALL - LATER (D3) 19

A defeated Henry sits on a bench outside FOREVER 21, surrounded by bags of lady clothes, playing a game on his phone.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...with a couple of teenage girls.

Katie storms out of the store WEARING ANIMAL PRINT SKINNY JEANS.

KATIE
How could you buy the same pants as me?!

Joyce exits wearing the SAME SKINNY JEANS.

JOYCE
Because they're awesome! And I didn't get the belt. Should I have gotten the belt? Let me try on the belt.

KATIE
No!

JOYCE
Button, who looks hotter in these jeans, your mother or your sister?

Henry's cell phone rings. The Caller ID says, "Dad."

HENRY
I gotta take this, it's my therapist.
(into phone)
Hey, Dad.

MEL (ON PHONE)
I need you to come over right away. And bring bacon bits.

Henry's confused.

20 INT. MEL'S APARTMENT - INTERCUT 20

Remnants from the party are in the background. Mel paces.

MEL
Elvis got out.

21 INT. MEL'S APARTMENT - A FEW MINUTES LATER (D3) 21

Henry, Katie and Joyce, pipe in hand, have joined Mel.

MEL
...And when I went to get his food from the pantry, I must have left the front door open--

JOYCE
This place is great. Is that fridge Sub-Zero?!

MEL
How 'bout we find the missing dog, then check out the appliances?

As Joyce packs her pipe, Katie grabs her keys.

KATIE
(to Henry, sotto)
I'll drive with Sherlock, you take Magoo.

Henry, Joyce and Katie start to head down the hall.

MEL
Henry.

Henry turns to see his dad standing with his left arm out. Henry's needed again. With renewed purpose, he assumes his position on Mel's left side and proudly leads him out the door.

22 EXT. MEL'S APARTMENT - MINUTES LATER (D3) 22

Henry and Mel, arm in arm, quickly walk the street.

MEL
Elvis! Elvis!

HENRY
Elvis, where are you?!

An attractive WOMAN, late 30s, is locking up her bike.

WOMAN
(playful)
Have you tried Graceland?

MEL
(to Henry, sotto)
Is that a woman on a bike?

HENRY
Yeah, late thirties, pretty cute--

MEL
No, I'm not talking about that-- But I like where your heads at.
(to woman)
Miss, we need to borrow your bike.

WOMAN
Excuse me?

MEL
I wouldn't ask, but there's a little boy who's lost his dog. And he's very, very sad.

She looks at Henry who willingly plays the part.

WOMAN
Ohhhh.

MEL
(with a smile)
Little confession. That boy is me.

She smiles.

WOMAN
Of course, take my bike.

She gives Henry the bike.

MEL
Thanks. Here's my card in case you ever need legal advice. Or want to grab some sushi.
(to Henry, sotto)
I'm trusting you on the cute thing.

23 INT. FISHER SUV - SAME TIME (D3) 23

Katie's at the wheel, Joyce is sitting shotgun, currently using her nervous mom imaginary steering wheel and brake.

KATIE
That's ridiculous. Elvis was not kidnapped!

JOYCE
He's a beautiful dog. A lot better looking than that Anthony Hooper.

KATIE
Just look for him.

JOYCE
Elvis! Here boy! If we find him, make sure you don't run him over with the car.

KATIE
Don't kill Dad's guide dog. Got it.

JOYCE
(shaking her head)
There's that Pinkberry.

KATIE
(at her breaking point)
What are we doing?!

JOYCE
What do you mean? We're looking for Elvis.

KATIE
But why? Why does Dad have a guide dog? Why does he have an apartment? Why are you dressed like me?!

24 EXT. PASADENA STREET - SAME TIME (D3) 24

Henry pedals the BIKE. Mel sits on the seat holding Henry's waist.

MEL
You're pedaling so slow.

HENRY
You weigh like four thousand pounds!

MEL
Switch.

HENRY
What?!

MEL
Switch! If I can drive a car, I think I can ride a bike.

As Henry considers this...

25 INT. FISHER SUV - SAME TIME (D3) 25

Things are even more heated between Katie and Joyce.

KATIE
...But you had your chance to be a teenager!

JOYCE
That's just it, I didn't. I went from being someone's daughter to being someone's wife to being someone's mother--

KATIE
Well, I would like to be someone's daughter. Can we make that happen?!

JOYCE
I'll tell you what, after we find Elvis, you and I, we'll go to Starbucks, and just taaalk and taaaalk and talk.

KATIE
No! God, no!

JOYCE
I just think that we should--

Katie lays on the horn to drown out whatever idea Joyce's about to pitch.

26 EXT. PASADENA STREET - SAME TIME (D3) 26

Mel PEDALS AND STEERS THE BIKE, as Henry sits behind him.

HENRY
Look out, look out, look out!

MEL
Be more specific!

HENRY
Stop the bike! Danger zone!

Mel stops the bike.

MEL
Why did we--?

A giant FedEx truck speeds by, blowing back their hair.

MEL (CONT'D)
Good call.

Mel reaches back and tugs the strings on Henry's hoodie.

MEL (CONT'D)
Thanks for doing this.

HENRY
Of course.

MEL
Mom said you were worried I didn't need you any more.

HENRY
I didn't tell her that.

MEL
She's everywhere. That's our burden.

They share a laugh.

MEL (CONT'D)
I do need you, buddy... I need you to be my son.

A sweet moment... that is interrupted by a long car horn. Henry looks up and sees a familiar SUV driving past.

MEL (CONT'D)
Katie and Mom?

HENRY
You made the right move getting out of the house.

As they chuckle, Mel starts pedaling again.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
I'm ashamed to admit it. But when we were on that bike, just me and Dad, a part of me didn't want us to find Elvis...

27 INT. MEL'S APARTMENT - LATER (N3) 27

Mel, arm in arm with Henry, Katie and Joyce return. No Elvis.

KATIE
Okay, so I'll post it on Facebook....
(to Mel)
Any chance you took a picture of Elvis?

MEL
I'll just call the Guide Dog Foundation and tell them what happened. I can't be the first blind guy to lose a dog.
(then)
Henry, hand me the phone.

Henry picks up the cordless phone and hands it to Mel. As Mel dials, Henry notices Elvis's dog bowl by his feet.

HENRY
(to Katie and Joyce)
That's weird, it's still full.

MEL
(on phone)
Yes, hello. Jeffrey Harawitz's office please.

HENRY
What dog takes off when there's a full bowl of food?

JOYCE
(through a sneeze attack)
One-- that was-- kidnapped.

Henry looks over to see Joyce sneezing right near...

HENRY
The pantry!

Henry opens the door to find Elvis! Who rushes out, tail wagging. Henry, Katie and Joyce cheer.

MEL
Guys, guys, I'm on the phone.
(into phone)
Mr. Harawitz, there's no easy way to tell you this--

KATIE
Dad, Henry found Elvis!

Elvis barks. And jumps up on Mel.

MEL
(into phone, seamless)
...Thanks again for the great dog. Keep up the good work. Let's talk soon.

Mel hangs up and turns to Henry.

MEL (CONT'D)
You do realize you're my favorite son. And not just because I only have one.

As Henry and Katie give Elvis water, Joyce crosses to Mel.

JOYCE
Melvin Fisher. You still surprise me. I know what you did. And it was very sweet.

Mel listens to make sure the kids are out of earshot.

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

JOYCE
Jeffrey Harawitz? Your freshman roommate is now the head of the Guide Dog Foundation?

MEL
He's always loved animals.

JOYCE
You put Elvis in the pantry. It's just like what you did on our first date. Going to the museum the day before with your brother and memorizing the paintings.
(as Mel)
"Louis the fourteenth was very proud of his legs and thus they're featured prominently in all his portraits."

MEL
(proud)
That comment got me a second date.
(then, re: Henry)
You said he needed to be needed.

She puts her hand on Mel's arm.

MEL (CONT'D)
Maybe two divorced people can keep a little secret?

She squeezes his arm. We PULL OUT TO REVEAL Katie has witnessed this exchange.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
Katie only told me what Dad did much later. Like I said, he never lied, but he did trick us a lot.

As Mel and Joyce join Katie, Henry and Elvis:

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
When people say "seeing eye dog," they're wrong...

28 EXT. MEL'S APARTMENT BUILDING - LATER (N3) 28

Henry lets Elvis do his business on a small strip of grass. Fred waves as he walks into the building.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...The dog doesn't see for you, it guides you. Safely, in the direction you're supposed to be heading...

29 INT. MEL'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - LATER (N3) 29

Mel, Henry, Katie and a sneezing Joyce stand together, eating Chinese take-out as Elvis devours his bowl of food.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...While at first I thought Elvis was breaking our family up, it turns out that big ball of fur was really bringing us closer together...

30 INT. MEL'S APARTMENT - FOYER - LATER (N3) 30

Mel and Elvis stand at the doorway saying goodbye to everyone.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...The divorce would allow all of us to finally discover who we needed to be. For Mom...

31 EXT. MEL'S APARTMENT - LATER (N3) 31

Katie and Joyce walk to the car.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...it would take far longer than anyone could have ever expected...

Katie takes off the belt she's wearing and wraps it around her mom's waist. Joyce delights in it. Then eyes Katie's earrings.

KATIE
(curt)
Please just finish this phase of your life as fast as possible.

32 INT. MEL'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME (N3) 32

A ball rolls into frame.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...For Dad, this would be the beginning of an amazing journey...

As Elvis is about to get the ball, Henry grabs it, and he and Mel play "keep away" the way they played football before.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...As much as his pride didn't want him to admit to the world he was blind, it was even more important for him to be a good father...

MEL
Hey, I got you something.

Mel feels for something on the empty table. Henry sees an envelope sitting on the mantle that says, "Henry." Henry quietly takes the envelope and puts it on the coffee table for Mel to "find." He does. Mel hands it to Henry. Outside, there's a LONG CAR HORN. They share a laugh.

MEL (CONT'D)
Don't let them kill each other.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...At the time, I would have changed just about everything that was happening...

Henry quickly hugs Mel and exits with the envelope.

33 INT. APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 33

Henry stops, opens the envelope and reaches in.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...But looking back...

He pulls out a key marked "Henry's."

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...I wouldn't change a thing...

He clenches it in his hand and looks back at the apartment, beaming. Just then, Elvis scampers out, eager to say goodbye.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...I learned something that I would have to learn over and over again...

HENRY
(calling back to Mel)
Guide dog out here!

He gets down on one knee and gives Elvis a proper hug goodbye.

ADULT HENRY (V.O.)
...That more often than not, the tough things that happen in life often make way for greater things than you could possibly imagine.

Henry turns to see the most beautiful fourteen-year-old GIRL he's ever seen opening the door to the apartment next door.

GIRL
Do you live here?

He looks at the key and then back at her.

HENRY
Yeah. I guess I do.

GIRL
(petting Elvis)
You're lucky your dad's blind.
(off Henry's confused look)
They don't let us have dogs in the building.

An awkward beat, then:

HENRY
My mom smokes a pipe.

GIRL
What?

HENRY
I just want you to know everything.

She smiles.

GIRL
I'm Jenny.

Henry smiles. Until... CRASH!

MEL (O.S.)
Son of a bitch!

HENRY
(duty calls)
I gotta go.

As Henry runs back in the apartment, we...

END OF SHOW