WELCOME to the FAMILY

Written by:

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COLD OPENING

FADE IN:

EXT. WALTER CRONKITE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION - DAY

Pristine field. New stadium. We're in one of LA's more upscale neighborhoods. A sea of mostly WHITE families APPLAUDS politely as the PRINCIPAL announces cap and gown-clad GRADUATES, who WALK UP to the stage for their diplomas.

PRINCIPAL
Sydney Michelle Vanowen... Gregory Jasper Volk...

ANGLE ON: DAN and KATRINA Yoder, early forties. Dan's affable and fun, but not known for ROLLING with PUNCHES. Katrina PRESENTS as confident and together; only Dan is allowed behind the CURTAIN. Dan NOTICES:

DAN
She's texting!

MOLLY Yoder (prickly, feminist, rare-do-well), sits among her peers, thumbing her iPHONE.

KATRINA
Let it go, Honey.

But Dan takes out his PHONE and FIRES OFF a text...

ANGLE ON: Molly, who LOOKS UP at her dad, rolls her eyes and puts her phone away. As the list of grads nears the end, Dan and Katrina look WORRIED. They hold HANDS for support. Dan's eyes are squeezed shut; his lips MOVING.

KATRINA (CONT'D)
Are you praying?

The principal reads a DIPLOMA, his face registering SURPRISE.

PRINCIPAL
Molly Julia Yoder.

Dan SPRINGS out of his seat, FISTS RAISED in triumph...

DAN
YEAH!!! WHO-HOO!!! THERE IT IS!!!

Everyone STARES. Molly DIES of embarrassment. Katrina YANKS Dan back into his seat. He composes himself, then notices the GLARE of the couple next to him.

DAN (CONT'D)
Sorry. That really could have gone either way.

EXT. CESAR CHAVEZ HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION - SAME TIME

This school's ROUGHER around the edges; the grads and their families mostly LATINO. PRINCIPAL ORTIZ is introducing...

PRINCIPAL ORTIZ
...A young man who represented our school with distinction in Model UN, and a founding member of our math team. Our valedictorian, Junior Hernandez.

APPLAUSE. As JUNIOR, an earnest, nervous over-talker, steps to the PODIUM, his dad, CHUEY, late-thirties, inked up ex-gangster, NODS proudly, TEARS streaming down his face. Next to him, his other son, DEMETRIO, twelve, is filming on his phone; next to HIM is Chuey's ex-wife LISETTE.

ON STAGE, Junior places his iPAD on the podium, CLEARS his THROAT and leans into the mic...

JUNIOR
Fellow graduates: As Principal Ortiz mentioned, I am a mathlete. But in a way, we're all mathletes, forced to solve life's problems, both simple and complex. I'm reminded of the words of basketball legend Michael Jordan...

INSERT: iPad screen. Over Junior's speech, a TEXT pops up: **I'M PREGNANT.** Junior's EYES go WIDE, his mouth cottons. Chuey and Lisette look concerned. The crowd FIDGETS. Finally, Junior can only CROAK OUT:

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
Thank you.

MURMURS from the puzzled audience as he SKULKS back to his seat. Chuey STANDS, calls out:

CHUEY
Short and sweet! Brevity, yo.

He APPLAUDS loudly, rallying others to join him -- but a SMATTERING of sympathetic claps is the best they can offer.

FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPENING

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. YODER HOUSE - THAT AFTERNOON

Molly ENTERS, still in her GOWN, carrying her DIPLOMA.

DAN
There she is!

KATRINA
Congratulations, Sweetie.

MOLLY
Thanks.

She steps out of her gown and tosses her DIPLOMA aside.

DAN
Careful with that, it's our proof.

KATRINA
So I was thinking, I'd make one of your favorite lunches.
(re: take-out menus)
Hunan Taste, Thai Taste, or Taste of India?

MOLLY
Sorry, I gotta bounce again. Can someone drop off this gown for me?

KATRINA
Of course. Dad'll return it.

DAN
Sure, seems like something that should be my responsibility. Where's the cap?

MOLLY
Somewhere on Wilshire. I threw it out Tina's sun roof.

DAN
There was a forty dollar deposit.

KATRINA
She was having fun. Don't worry about it, Mol.

DAN
Where on Wilshire, exactly?

MOLLY
Thanks Mom. See ya later.

And she's GONE. Dan turns to Katrina, GRINNING.

DAN
She's Arizona State's problem now.

KATRINA
Come on. We're gonna miss her.

DAN
Is that why I can't stop smiling?

KATRINA
Dan, I know she's been a challenge at times...

DAN
When has she not been a challenge?

KATRINA
Knott's Berry Farm.

Katrina grabs a PHOTO of a much younger Dan and Katrina flanking little MOLLY on a carousel, everyone HAPPY.

DAN
We did used to have fun there.

KATRINA
Look at her little face. So happy.

DAN
Yup. Then that kid left us, and the big, angry one tagged in.

KATRINA
I wish we'd had just one more day at Knott's Berry Farm.

DAN
I can't give you Knott's Berry Farm. But I've got something even better. The second she leaves for the nation's leading party school--

KATRINA
I know, the big renaissance...

DAN
Exactly. We are gonna get back to us. We'll get in shape...
(off Katrina's glare)
I'll get in shape...

KATRINA
We can start going to yoga again.

DAN
Yoga. Ballroom dancing -- except not that. Sex: we're gonna be having sex constantly. I'll invent some kind of tandem pants we can wear so we won't have to stop doing it when we're out in public.

KATRINA
We do need to sex it up a bit more. I know I haven't exactly been the Giving Tree lately.

DAN
Two weeks ago, last time we did it.

KATRINA
That long? Are you sure?

DAN
It was a Monday, we had Thai Taste for dinner, and the Dodgers beat the Cubs in extra innings.

KATRINA
And yet you can't remember to renew the car insurance.

DAN
You know what? Let's right the ship here and now. Shirts off.

KATRINA
I'm not feeling it, Honey. I'm still a little under the weather.

DAN
But I said "shirts off." That's a verbal contract.

KATRINA
Sorry. I'm gonna go lie down.

She KISSES him non-arousingly, then HEADS upstairs.

DAN
This is no way to start a renaissance.

EXT. LISETTE'S APARTMENT COURTYARD - GRADUATION PARTY

The COURTYARD is dense with RELATIVES. A sign reads **CONGRATS JUNIOR!** Chuey GRILLS meat and HUGS people; Lisette sets out food. Demetrio is showing Junior something on his LAPTOP.

DEMETRIO
Look what's on Youtube.

He plays a VIDEO of Junior's ill-fated SPEECH:

JUNIOR (ON LAPTOP)
Thank you.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)
Thanks for finding that. And, I'm guessing, for posting it.

Demetrio SMILES. Junior APPROACHES his PARENTS, who HUG him.

LISETTE
So proud of you.

CHUEY
My man.

JUNIOR
Dad, I'm fairly certain the barbecue tongs are in my hair.

CHUEY
(wiping Junior's hair)
Sorry. Little extra body.

Molly has ENTERED. She APPROACHES Junior and his parents.

MOLLY
Hi, Mr. and Mrs. Hernandez.

LISETTE
Molly!
(then, tentative)
So... congratulations?

MOLLY
Yup. I made it.

CHUEY
Atta girl! Hey, grab a plate. You like meat?

LISETTE
Chuey, she's a vegetarian.

MOLLY
Yeah, sorry. I don't eat anything with a face.

CHUEY
(holds up slab of meat)
No face on this bad boy.

JUNIOR
Anyway, we should, um...

MOLLY
Yeah...

Chuey and Lisette watch Molly and Junior WALK AWAY.

LISETTE
What do you think's going to happen with them?

CHUEY
I think it's gonna go toes up. And soon, he'll have Stanford girls followin' him around like process servers.

LISETTE
They seem pretty into each other...

CHUEY
That's my worry. Girls can take a man off his path...

LISETTE
As I learned when we were married.

CHUEY
That's on you, too. For a smart lady, you shoulda' chosen better.

ANGLE ON: Junior and Molly; they've found a pocket of PRIVACY. They sit in the official TEENS IN LOVE pose (arms around each other, hands in each others back pockets). He's nervously spilling WORDS all over her.

JUNIOR
Okay, first of all, and I hope this goes without saying, yet at the same time, it bears repeating, my love for you is oceanic. It's a hothouse tulip that blooms daily. It's our expanding universe...

MOLLY
I love when you say stuff like that. And I love you too. But you know that for me, the words don't come as... um...

JUNIOR
Easily?

MOLLY
Yeah.

JUNIOR
That's okay, I feel what you're putting out to me.
(beat)
So, I guess we should pivot, and discuss the goings-on in... there.

Junior discretely points toward Molly's BELLY.

MOLLY
Yeah, let's pivot.

JUNIOR
Well, first and foremost, you need to know that I'm planning to do the right thing...

MOLLY
Why is it up to the guy to do the right thing? How do you know I'm not gonna stick you with the baby? Our society's so patriotic...

JUNIOR
Do you mean 'patriarchal'?

MOLLY
Probably.
(then)
Okay, my parents'll have your parents over for dinner tomorrow; we tell 'em then. My dad won't kill me if there are witnesses.

JUNIOR
I agree we should get them together. But I can't keep this from my parents until tomorrow.

MOLLY
Why? I keep stuff from mine all the time. They still don't even know you exist. No offense.

JUNIOR
How can you live like that?

MOLLY
It's easy. They give me my space, I take it, and every New Year's Day, we have a long talk about how we're all gonna be closer.

JUNIOR
My parents are my best friends. We share everything. They adore me.

MOLLY
Please don't make me throw up at your party.
(then)
Fine, I'll tell 'em. I just hope my dad's head doesn't fly off and hit anything valuable.

Junior takes Molly's HANDS and looks into her EYES...

JUNIOR
Molly, obstacles don't have to stop us. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up, figure out how to climb it...

MOLLY
Is that your graduation speech?

JUNIOR
The moment was crying out for it.

INT. CHUEY'S BAGELS - NEXT MORNING

At this bustling bagel/sandwich shop, Dan SITS at a table, eating a BAGEL and COFFEE, and reading emails.

CHUEY (O.S.)
'Scuse me.

Dan looks up; Chuey is there. There's some TENSION here.

DAN
What is it?

CHUEY
I think you know.

Chuey points to a SIGN: **NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINK.**

DAN
What about it?

CHUEY
How's the coffee?

DAN
Fine. Robust.

CHUEY
Good. I'm glad... Wouldn't be from Starbucks, would it?

DAN
No.

CHUEY
Then I guess it's a coincidence I found this in the trash...

Chuey holds up a STARBUCKS cup.

DAN
Not mine.

CHUEY
(re: name on cup)
No? Your name's not Dan?

DAN
Common name.
(busted)
Fine, you solved the case. You cracked it wide open.

CHUEY
You actually snuck it in, switched cups and then lied about it?
(shaking head)
Cold blooded...

DAN
Yes, it was all an unsuccessful attempt to avoid <u>this</u>. Look, as I've told you many times, it's nothing personal; I happen to prefer Starbucks coffee.

CHUEY
Then go there and drink it. Maybe they got a nice Norah Jones CD for you at the counter...

DAN
I'm not a Norah Jones fan.
(then)
Not her new stuff, anyway.

CHUEY
Just so I know, what other rules don't apply to you?

DAN
Look, every day for months, I've come in here and spent money. Does it really matter if I bring my own coffee?

CHUEY
Just tryin' to run my business. Do I go upstairs to your orthodontics office and sneak in my own braces?

DAN
Here's a thought. Maybe serve the bagels <u>without</u> the giant side of shoulder chip.

CHUEY
It's my lucky day. Got a free lecture on business management from a dude with sunglasses on his head.

DAN
I need them, with all the sunshine radiating from your personality.

CHUEY
Sorry I lack the charm of someone who's a known smuggler and a liar.

DAN
(getting up)
I don't need this. From now on, I'll go three blocks out of my way for the friendly service and passable food at Bernie's Bagels!

As Dan EXITS...

CHUEY
(calling after)
I'll call Bernie and warn him!

INT. YODER LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Dan ENTERS, holding some BROCHURES. Katrina MEETS him.

DAN
Wife! Look what I ordered...

KATRINA
A treadmill? A bench press?

DAN
On September 2nd at ten AM, Molly leaves for ASU. At 10:30, her room becomes our home gym.

Katrina SMILES, gives Dan a big KISS.

DAN (CONT'D)
Are we about to end a drought?

KATRINA
Molly's upstairs. But tonight, I'll be on you like... tourists, on line to... get a map.

DAN
See, that kind of odd sexy talk? That's how you start a renaissance.

As Dan goes in for another KISS, Molly ENTERS from upstairs. She STEELS herself...

MOLLY
Mom, Dad, I'm gonna have a baby.

Dan and Katrina stand there, SHOCKED.

DAN
You're pregnant?
(Molly nods)
Pregnant? 'Pregnant' is a word that currently describes you?!

KATRINA
Dan, calm down. Molly, how the f-- how did this happen?

MOLLY
Well, I have a boyfriend...

KATRINA
Wow. I distinctly remember talking this past New Year's about how you were going to start sharing more.

DAN
(pointed)
Apparently, she shares <u>some</u> things.

KATRINA
Called for? Really?

MOLLY
Sorry, Mom. But his name's Junior, and we totally love each other, and he's like the best guy I've ever gone out with.

DAN
I don't know, the drummer with the dinner plates in his earlobes set the bar pretty high.

MOLLY
Don't compare him to Ominous. That was just a summer fling. But with Junior, I mean, I've never felt this way before. It's <u>real</u>.

DAN
Oh, it's real. Super!
(to Katrina)
I don't even know what to say.

MOLLY
Look, I know you guys are mad...

KATRINA
I think that's fair to say.

DAN
Speak for yourself. I'm thrilled! The world's most irresponsible person is gonna be a mother. Yay!!

MOLLY
I'm not that irresponsible.

DAN
A pizza. A purse. A new iPhone. A stack of twenties. Nana's walker. What am I naming?

MOLLY
Things I've accidentally driven with on top of the car.

DAN
And now we're gonna add 'baby' to that list?

MOLLY
You know what? This is the last thing I'm ever telling you.
(starts out, then)
Oh, Junior and his parents are gonna be here for dinner at six.

Molly EXITS. Katrina CALLS after her.

KATRINA
We are not done discussing this!

DAN
<u>This</u> is how she rewards us for giving her her space.

KATRINA
Dan, I'd love to talk more, but I'm as upset as you are, <u>and</u> now I've got to go pull a dinner out of my ass.

INT. LISETTE'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

The living room is EMPTY; we hear:

CHUEY (O.S.)
He's coming.

LISETTE (O.S.)
This is ridiculous.

DEMETRIO (O.S.)
Epically lame, Dad.

Junior ENTERS, looks around, CALLS OFF:

JUNIOR
Ma? Dad here yet? I need to talk to you guys.

Chuey, Lisette and Demetrio ENTER, dressed head-to-toe in Stanford apparel: Sweats, sweatshirts, ball caps... Chuey WHISTLES; a bulldog SAUNTERS in, wearing a Stanford HOODIE.

CHUEY
Wasn't easy to get him in it. Shoulda gone up a size.

JUNIOR
This was totally... unnecessary.

CHUEY
It's what proud families do.

LISETTE
What did you want to talk about?

Junior surveys all the gear, and the PRIDE on Chuey's face.

JUNIOR
Um... It can wait.

LISETTE
Okay. Then we'll go change, and head over to finally meet Molly's parents.

CHUEY
I'm not changin'. My blood runs red. You know, Stanford red.

INT. YODER'S HOUSE - EVENING

THE DOORBELL RINGS. Katrina CROSSES to the door and opens it, revealing Chuey, Lisette and Junior.

KATRINA
Welcome. I'm Katrina Yoder.

LISETTE
Lisette. I made some dessert.

She hands Katrina a DISH as Molly and Dan APPROACH their guests. Dan and Chuey LOCK EYES.

DAN
You are absolutely kidding me.

On Dan and Chuey's CHAGRIN, and the others' confusion...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. YODER LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Everyone as BEFORE. Chuey and Dan GLARE at each other.

CHUEY
This is a joke, right?

LISETTE
What's going on?

CHUEY
He's the one I told you about, who sneaks coffee into my shop.

KATRINA
This is your bagel store guy?

DAN
Was. Now, I'm a Bernie's man.

KATRINA
Okay, clearly there's some history here. But I'm sure we can all be--

DAN
Four million people in LA, this is the guy whose son knocks up Molly.

CHUEY/LISETTE
What?!

MOLLY
You didn't tell them?!

JUNIOR
I intended to. Which I realize is not the same thing.

MOLLY
But you were all, "They're my best friends! We share everything!"

JUNIOR
My dad put a Stanford hoodie on our dog. It threw me!

CHUEY
Junior, you sure this baby's yours?

DAN
What exactly are you--
(then, to Molly)
Are you sure it's his?

CHUEY
Way to control your daughter, man.

DAN
How do you know it's her fault?

CHUEY
'Cause we raised Junior right. Man, look at him: Valedictorian. Stanford. Gonna be a scientist.

DAN
And Molly's going to ASU. After which, well, at one point, there was vague talk of something in the area of concert promotion. Until your son did his thing.

KATRINA
Okay, let's change the tone here. I'm sure Molly and Junior have talked about how they're going to make this work. Maybe they'd like to fill us in?

MOLLY
Instead of ASU, I'll do community college, and live at home.

DAN
Where, in our gym?

LISETTE
And you, Junior?

JUNIOR
I'm, um... going to defer my Stanford admission indefinitely.

CHUEY
I need to sit down.

DAN
Don't recall inviting you to.

JUNIOR
Dad, I can go to UCLA. And for money, I plan to tutor. Math, science, and SAT prep.

MOLLY
Oh, I'm gonna work, too. Piercing ears with Tina at the mall.

DAN
Who're we kidding? We all know the burden of raising this kid's gonna fall squarely on your mom and me.

CHUEY
What, 'cause the poor Latinos won't be able to contribute?

KATRINA
Dan didn't mean that.

MOLLY
Way to paint a whole ethnic group with one brush, Dad.

DAN
Whoa, when did this become about me having some issue with Latinos?
(re: Chuey)
I have an issue with <u>this</u> Latino.

CHUEY
We're done here.
(grabbing dish, to Dan)
You don't get blondies.

The Hernandezes EXIT behind Chuey. Dan EXITS upstairs, followed by Katrina, leaving the evening in RUINS.

INT. SPORTING GOODS STORE - NEXT MORNING

Chuey ENTERS, arms full of Stanford apparel. He APPROACHES a CLERK and dumps the stuff on the COUNTER.

CHUEY
Need to return this...

CLERK
Reason for return?

CHUEY
I have a boy; he's everything to me. He woulda been the first person in his family to go to college. Not just any college, <u>Stanford</u>! When I was his age, I hadn't even heard'a Stanford.
(MORE)

CHUEY (CONT'D)
Didn't know there was a place where knowledge grew on trees, just waitin' to be picked. But my boy was gonna be one of those young people, pickin' knowledge off those beautiful trees. Then, in one moment, a dream evaporates.
(re: dog hoodie)
And this one was too small.

INT. ORTHODONTIC PRACTICE - MORNING

Dan ENTERS. His partner, Dr. HARRIS MUNTZ (mid-fifties), and their receptionist GRETCHEN (thirty, party girl) are there.

DAN
Well, Molly's going to have a baby.

GRETCHEN
Congratulations.

DAN
Nope.

HARRIS
I'm so sorry.

DAN
Yes, that's what you say to someone whose life is officially over.

HARRIS
Want to talk about it, Partner?

DAN
No, I want to throw myself into my work.
(putting on white coat)
Who do I have this morning?

GRETCHEN
Harmony Pratt's waiting for you.

DAN
Ugh.

INT. TREATMENT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dan ENTERS. An obnoxious ten-year-old GIRL is in a chair.

DAN
(fake smile)
Harmony! Good to see you.

HARMONY
Dr. Yoder, you said my braces would be off before my tenth birthday. Well, that was four weeks ago, and--

DAN
Okay, let's have a look...

He plunges his fingers into her mouth, MUFFLING her. As he INSPECTS, Junior ENTERS the room. He's beyond NERVOUS.

JUNIOR
Dr. Yoder?

DAN
Oh, for god's sake. What is it?

JUNIOR
I've come to make a request, which I hope you'll consider thoroughly, because it's not a request I take lightly, nor is it something that--

DAN
Any chance you get to the point while I'm still in my forties?

JUNIOR
I'm deliriously in love with Molly, and I'd like her hand in marriage.

DAN
What?!

Dan REMOVES his fingers from Harmony's mouth.

HARMONY
When someone makes a promise, to a <u>child</u> no less, they should keep it--

He puts a BITE MOLD in Harmony's mouth, MUFFLING her again.

DAN
Look, Junior. We've always let Molly make her own decisions...

JUNIOR
Thank--

DAN
But that obviously hasn't worked, so now it's time for us to step in. Tell me, why should I actually allow you to marry my daughter?

JUNIOR
Um, I can't answer that question.
(starts to leave, then)
Not now, anyway. But ask me again in thirty years. After I've spent three decades by Molly's side, loving her like nobody else could. Providing a good life for her and the baby we're going to have. And being a dutiful and respectful son-in-law to you and Mrs. Yoder. Then you'll know why you said yes to me.

DAN
(taken aback)
Next time, lead with that.

INT. MALL - LATER THAT MORNING

At the PIERCING KIOSK, Molly trains under her friend, TINA.

TINA
Nostril piercings are twenty-five, unless they're also doing ears, in which case they can get the ears-and-nose special.

Junior APPROACHES, on a mission.

JUNIOR
May I have a moment with the woman I love?

MOLLY
Oh, hey. Can we talk in a bit? I'm in the middle of training...

TINA
That was pretty much it.

MOLLY
Okay.

Junior leads Molly ASIDE, takes her HANDS and KNEELS...

JUNIOR
Molly, the moment I stepped off the bus in your school parking lot for Model UN and saw you on your knees, looking for the iPhone that had fallen off your car, I knew we belonged together. So, to save me from the grim spectre of a moment without you, will you marry me?

MOLLY
(thrilled)
Seriously?!

She gives him a big KISS. Then...

JUNIOR
I already received your dad's permission.

MOLLY
You did what?

JUNIOR
I asked your dad. Is that bad?

MOLLY
You think it's okay for men to decide a woman's fate, like she's a sack of grain, or some chickens?

JUNIOR
I just thought it was respectful--

MOLLY
It's not respectful of <u>me</u>!

She STORMS OFF, leaving Junior confused.

INT. CHUEY'S BAGELS - LATER THAT DAY

Chuey is BEHIND the counter. Molly BURSTS IN...

MOLLY
Mr. Hernandez, I'd like to ask you for your son's hand in marriage.

Chuey STARES at Molly for an uncomfortably long BEAT.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. YODER LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT DAY

Through TEARS, Molly tells her parents:

MOLLY
He said no!

On their CONFUSION...

FADE OUT.

<u>END OF ACT TWO</u>

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. YODER LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Molly still UPSET; Dan and Katrina still CONFUSED.

KATRINA
Who said no?

DAN
To what?

MOLLY
Junior's dad. I asked him for Junior's hand, but he said no.

KATRINA
You asked him?

MOLLY
Dad gave Junior my hand, so I was fighting back against our stupid, patronizing society.

DAN
Do you mean 'patriarchal'?

MOLLY
Probably!

INT. LISETTE'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

MUSIC: THE FAMILIAR, ANNOYING "ANGRY BIRDS" THEME, ON A LOOP.

Lisette sits with JUNIOR. Nearby, Demetrio plays ANGRY BIRDS on his laptop. Chuey ENTERS, contrite, and goes to Junior.

CHUEY
My man, I am so sorry...

JUNIOR
Why? You're not the one who was stupid enough to ask her dad for her hand.

CHUEY
Wait. You asked her dad?

JUNIOR
Yes, which made her freak out. I haven't heard from her since.

LISETTE
You didn't know that, Chuey?

CHUEY
I knew nothing.

LISETTE
(suspicious)
Then why'd you say you were sorry?

CHUEY
I mean, I knew somethin' was wrong. Look at his body language, all slumped over. Like a melted question mark.

INT. YODER LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Dan, Katrina and Molly, as BEFORE...

KATRINA
Why would he say no?

DAN
He's a jerk. At least I said yes.

MOLLY
Yeah, thanks for giving me away, like some kind of plow horse.

DAN
That's okay. You make it easy to want to give you away.

INT. LISETTE'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

Chuey, Lisette and Junior...

CHUEY
You know what? I say you dodged a bullet. Marriage? That's forever.
(off Lisette's look)
Theoretically.

INT. YODER LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Dan, Katrina and Molly...

DAN
I actually think this is for the best. You guys were rushing into the whole marriage thing...

INT. LISETTE'S APARTMENT...

CHUEY
Check it out. Maybe you still go to Stanford; you come home and help with the baby on weekends...

INT. YODER LIVING ROOM...

DAN
Let me show you something.
(grabbing papers)
Last night, I Googled "Arizona State" and "Baby Nurses"...

INT. LISETTE'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME...

JUNIOR
Dad, I love Molly. My place is with her and our baby. I'm not going to commute to Stanford and come home on weekends!

CHUEY
It's the Harvard of the West!
(to Demetrio, fed up)
Mute the Angry Birds, or I put my fist through the laptop and wear it like a bracelet.

Demetrio MUTES his game...

INT. YODER'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

DAN
(re: paper)
This one knows CPR. Although she can't drive, for some reason...

MOLLY
I'm not going to ASU! I want to be here, with Junior. And engaged.

KATRINA
Sweetie, would you like us to have a talk with Junior's dad?

DAN
She's not going to want us to get--

MOLLY
Yes, please.

DAN
Let me finish: involved.
(then)
I'll pull the car around.

INT. LISETTE'S APARTMENT - LATER

The Hernandezes EAT in silence. A KNOCK at the door. Chuey OPENS it, revealing the Yoders. Molly and Junior rush together and HUG...

JUNIOR
I'm so sorry.

MOLLY
You didn't do anything wrong...

She glares at CHUEY, who starts toward the DOOR.

CHUEY
I gotta go. Bagel emergency...

KATRINA
I think you owe Molly an apology.

A BEAT; Junior and Lisette wondering what's going on.

SFX: ANGRY BIRDS MUSIC.

DEMETRIO
(quickly muting it)
Sorry. Accident.
(off Chuey and Lisette's glare)
I'm gonna go where there's less tension.

Demetrio EXITS to his room. Lisette turns to Chuey.

LISETTE
Why does she think you owe Molly an apology?

CHUEY
I dunno. Not a mind reader.

DAN
Molly -- a pioneer in feminism -- apparently asked him for Junior's hand. But guess who said no.

LISETTE
(knowing)
There it is.

JUNIOR
What?!

DAN
And nobody rejects our daughter. Except a lengthy list of colleges and universities--

KATRINA
(to Dan)
Really? Now?

JUNIOR
Dad, you actually said no?

CHUEY
I was tryin' to stop you from messin' up.

DAN
So marrying Molly is 'messing up?'

CHUEY
Oh, cut it out, Dan. You're gonna tell me you think it's a good idea?

DAN
I think it's the worst idea ever.

MOLLY
Dad, you are so not giving a toast at our wedding.

DAN
Sorry, it's how I feel. But they're eighteen, and if it's what they want to do, who are we to say no? You can't smother them.

CHUEY
Smother 'em? Dude, you didn't even know Molly had a boyfriend! The hell kind of parenting is that?!

DAN
Maybe it's the kind where my whole life's not tied to my kid's achievements!

CHUEY
If you're gonna keep talkin' at me, someone's gonna have to step between us...

DAN
I don't know why, but you've had this thing about me from the moment I stepped into--

LISETTE
Alright, enough!

The guys fall SILENT, but GLARE at each other.

JUNIOR
I just have to say that the only thing I want is to be with Molly.

LISETTE
(to Molly)
And I assume that's what you want?

MOLLY
It is.

Molly and Junior put their ARMS around each other.

LISETTE
Okay. Then Molly, I grant you Junior's hand.

MOLLY
Thank you so much, Mrs. Hernandez.

Junior and Molly HUG.

CHUEY
What? No no no. You can't decide that without consulting me.

LISETTE
Did you consult me when you said no?

CHUEY
Well, that was... I mean...

KATRINA
(sotto, re: Lisette)
She's good.

LISETTE
(to Molly and Junior)
So now you have a yes and a no. Pick one.

MOLLY/JUNIOR
Yes.

LISETTE
Congrats. Go celebrate your engagement.

Chuey FUMES; Lisette hands Junior some CASH. Molly and Junior ad-lib GOODBYES and EXIT. Dan turns to Katrina.

DAN
We should get out of here too.

LISETTE
No. I'll drive Katrina home. You two are gonna stay and talk.

CHUEY
I don't think we need to...

DAN
That's not necessary...

KATRINA
I like that idea. See you at home.

DAN
Okay, but it'll be very soon. You know we have that thing...

KATRINA
We don't have a thing.

Katrina and Lisette EXIT. Dan turns to Chuey, SHEEPISH.

DAN
I thought we had a thing.

CHUEY
You never had a thing.

The guys SIT very far apart. A tense BEAT. Finally...

CHUEY (CONT'D)
Lisette's probably gonna ask if I offered you a beer...

DAN
Tell her you did, but I said no.

CHUEY
She'll say I shoulda insisted.

DAN
Alright, well, dump some out, and leave the empties on the table.

CHUEY
That'll work.
(then)
Kind of a waste, though.

DAN
(beat)
I guess we could just drink them.

Chuey goes to the FRIDGE, returns with a couple of beers, hands one to Dan. He SITS. They start to DRINK. BEAT...

CHUEY
She's also gonna ask what we talked about.

DAN
Just say we... worked it all out.

CHUEY
Can't. She always knows when I'm lyin'. We might still be married if she didn't.

DAN
So we actually have to talk.

CHUEY
Don't see any way around it.

DAN
Fine. You go first.

CHUEY
Look, if I'd had a dad around to stop me from makin' mistakes, I wouldn'ta ended up in prison. So when I had Junior, I was like, "No way I'm lettin' this kid mess up like I did."

DAN
You did fine. He's clearly a responsible kid.

CHUEY
Yeah. But maybe you're right, I'm a little too up in his business.

DAN
You're right about me and Molly. Thing is, my dad was all over me: Grades, sports, curfews. Drove me nuts. So I tried to be more hands off with my own kid. Cut to us at the beach, discovering the giant Pegasus tattoo on Molly's back.
(awkward, re: Chuey's ink)
(MORE)

DAN (CONT'D)
Which was exciting, because tats are sweet, and we love them--

CHUEY
It's cool. Just some reminders of my past, that's all.

DAN
What were you in there for, anyway?

CHUEY
I was young and stupid. Me and this dude Rico decided to knock off a Quiznos. I go in, packin', he's waitin' in the car. While I'm in emptyin' the register, he gets a call from this lady he's been chasin', says she wants to hang with him. I get out, no Rico. Cops are there in seconds...
(mimes handcuffs)
Click. Three years, armed robbery.

DAN
(beat)
Did Rico get with the girl?

CHUEY
I sure as fuck hope so.

They both LAUGH. Then...

CHUEY (CONT'D)
But in a way, it was a blessing. Turned my whole thing around in there. Stayed outa trouble, got my GED, read everything I could...

DAN
Plus, you've got a nice bedtime story for our future grandchild.

CHUEY
I'm sure <u>you</u>'ve got some about the time you broke eighty in golf.

DAN
I resent these assumptions. You don't know me at all.

CHUEY
You don't play golf?

DAN
I do. Just never broken eighty.

INT. LISETTE'S APARTMENT - LATER

Dan and Chuey are now SEVERAL BEERS in...

DAN
How can I be a grandfather? My grandfathers were old men, with canes, and crazy, cotton candy eyebrows, who referred to movies as 'pictures'.

CHUEY
The one of mine I actually met was thirty-eight when I was born.

DAN
Once again, we bring different things to the table.

CHUEY
But I know what you mean. "For while directly we say that life is ages long, we are reminded that it is briefer than the fall of a rose leaf to the ground."
(off Dan's stare)
Virginia Woolf, yo.

DAN
Please. Don't insult me.

CHUEY
But I wish there was a way to stop the rose leaf in mid-air. Even just for a day.

DAN
You know what? There might be.

EXT. KNOTT'S BERRY FARM AMUSEMENT PARK - DAY

MONTAGE: Scenes of EVERYONE having fun, including...

-Junior plays a BASKETBALL arcade game. He misses. Demetrio steps up, MAKES a shot, and wins a big stuffed ANGRY BIRD.

-Junior and Demetrio BATTLE in BUMPER CARS. Chuey sits in his car, WATCHING them, smiling broadly... out of NOWHERE, Lisette crushes him with HER car.

-Dan, Katrina and Molly on the CAROUSEL, SMILING, just like in the PHOTO earlier.

EXT. KNOTTS BERRY FARM SNACK AREA

Dan and Katrina sit at a TABLE drinking sodas.

KATRINA
Thanks for today, Honey.

DAN
Hey, my wife wants Knott's Berry Farm, she gets it. It's who I am.

Chuey, Lisette and Demetrio JOIN THEM, Chuey with CHURROS.

CHUEY
Hooked us up some churros...

DAN
Ah, the donut of your people.

KATRINA
Dan...

DAN
It's okay, we're at that place now.
(off Chuey's glare)
Or maybe not. Where's Molly?

DEMETRIO
She and Junior are going on the Boomerang.

DAN
You know, seeing them together today? He's got brains, she's got... him. Maybe they'll be--

LISETTE
(realizing)
She can't go on a roller coaster. She's pregnant!

On their PANIC...

QUICK CUTS:

EXT. BOOMERANG ROLLER COASTER - SAME TIME

Molly and Junior at the FRONT of the LINE...

Dan, Chuey, etc, RUNNING across the park...

Molly and Junior SIT in the front car of the BOOMERANG...

Everyone LOST, consulting a MAP; Chuey and Dan ARGUING...

CHUEY
The Corkscrew! It's behind the corkscrew...

DAN
Please stop saying 'Corkscrew'!...

A bored ATTENDANT locks down Molly and Juniors' SAFETY BAR...

Dan, Chuey, etc, ARRIVE at the RIDE and push through the LINE, APPROACHING the loading platform...

The ATTENDANT pushes a BUTTON; the roller coaster STARTS, slowly CLIMBING the big first HILL...

KATRINA (O.S.)
Stop!!!

Molly and Junior TURN to see their frantic PARENTS.

LISETTE
Molly can't ride! She's pregnant!

Molly and Junior's eyes go WIDE with PANIC...

ANGLE ON: The attendant, who now sits in a chair by the CONTROLS, GROOVING to music; he's got EARBUDS in...

CHUEY
Stop the ride!!!

But the attendant remains OBLIVIOUS. Molly and Junior's CAR is NEARING the CREST of the hill...

KATRINA
Somebody do something!

Dan grabs Demetrio's ANGRY BIRD and THROWS IT...

<u>MUSIC: THE ANGRY BIRDS THEME</u>...

<u>SLOW MOTION</u>: The ANGRY BIRD FLYING across the TRACK, eventually HITTING the ATTENDANT in the head...

<u>END SLOW MOTION; END MUSIC</u>.

The ATTENDANT LOOKS UP, WTF?!, YANKS OUT his earbuds, then SEES/HEARS everyone YELLING/WAVING at him to stop. He reaches for the BUTTON. As the car INCHES over the hill...

<u>SFX: THE HYDRAULIC SOUND OF THE BRAKES</u>.

The ride GRINDS to a STOP. Molly looks SHEEPISH...

MOLLY
Sorry, guys. Brain fart...

Dan, Chuey, Katrina, Lisette and Demetrio watch, RELIEVED...

DAN
This is gonna take some doing.

CHUEY
Least you're gettin' more involved.

On Dan's reaction...

DISSOLVE TO:

DAN AND KATRINA'S BEDROOM - THAT EVENING

Dan lounges on the BED, drinking a beer. He's talking to the closed bathroom door.

DAN
Talk about things that could only happen to Molly.
(then)
But we were there for her, which, I have to say, felt pretty good, you know?

KATRINA (O.S.)
Uh-huh.

DAN
I mean, it's not often she lets us be parents anymore.
(then)
'Course, this little curveball's gonna sidetrack the renaissance a few years, but I guess I can live with that...

INT. DAN AND KATRINA'S BATHROOM - SAME TIME

CLOSE ON: A box of PREGNANCY TESTS. Katrina sits on the COUNTER, staring at a STICK...

KATRINA
(distracted)
Uh-huh...

On this, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW