Paging Dr. Freed

Pilot

Written by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 INT. OFFICE - EVENING (N-1) 1

We are close on the face of Dr. David Freed, 30's. It's a handsome face. A kind face. A successful face. A tormented face.

DAVID
...So my father is retiring tomorrow night and my brother and I are taking over the practice.

STEPHANIE (O.S.)
Practice?

DAVID
We're gynecologists.

STEPHANIE (O.S.)
All of you?

DAVID
Sort of the family business. Some families are in retail. We're in vaginas.

STEPHANIE (O.S.)
Hmmm.

We widen to reveal David is lying on a couch and Stephanie Roussso, early thirties is seated in a chair. Her tailored suit shows off her athletic legs. Think Dr. Melfi, 20 years ago. She holds a pad and pencil.

DAVID
What does that mean?

STEPHANIE
Nothing. Go on.

DAVID
Anyway, he and my mother are moving to Boca.

STEPHANIE
Nice.

DAVID
Yeah.

STEPHANIE
You sound conflicted.

DAVID
Well, on one hand, there is a slight feeling of abandonment.

STEPHANIE
Hmmmm.

DAVID
What?

STEPHANIE
Nothing. So, you were saying, “on the one hand, you’re feeling abandoned...”

DAVID
But on the other hand, I’ve never felt so free. When their plane takes off, it’ll be like my life is taking off with it. Finally, I can date who I want. I can eat when I want. I can spend my money how I want. Frankly, it’s why I’m here.

STEPHANIE
People come here for all sorts of reasons, Dr. Freed.

DAVID
I suppose.

STEPHANIE
So... what do you think?

DAVID
Very comfortable.

Widen further to reveal that we are in a furniture showroom.

STEPHANIE
You look good on it.

DAVID
I’ll bet you say that to all your customers.

STEPHANIE
It’s my job.

DAVID
You’re good at it.

There is clearly more than a couch sale going on here.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I'm sold.

STEPHANIE
Me, too.
(a beat then)
Oh, you're talking about the couch. I'll go start the paperwork.

Stephanie exits. David watches her for a beat, then lies back on the couch. His torment has been replaced by a smile.

2 INT. EXAMINATION ROOM #1 - THE FOLLOWING MORNING (D-2) 2

A typical exam room decorated with a chart of the female reproductive system, etc. But it also has touches that let us know this is a successful practice that caters to its upscale clientele, like the Herman Miller chair Howard sits in while he and his very pregnant wife, Karen wait.

HOWARD
Honey, Dr. Freed is the best.

KAREN
So help me God, if he tells me to go home and wait again, I'm going to kick him.

HOWARD
Sweetie, he's--

KAREN
Right in the balls. I'm not kidding. I want this thing out, Howard.

David enters, wearing a medical coat and holding a chart.

DAVID
Good news. Karen, what you had was not a contraction.

KAREN
And you're sending me home?

DAVID
Yes.

Karen starts to stand.

HOWARD
Karen--

KAREN
Shut up, Howard.

She tries to stand up, but can't. She's too big.

HOWARD
You know, Doctor, I read on-line that intercourse can help bring on labor.

KAREN
Howard, if you so much as <u>think</u> about having sex with me, you're going to need to go into labor just to get my shoe out of your ass.
(then)
Help me, Howard!

DAVID
Karen, listen to me. I know you're uncomfortable.

KAREN
You know? How could you possibly know?!
(then)
Howard?!

David kneels down and looks at her right in the eye.

DAVID
I promise that by this time next week you will be a mother and your beautiful baby will be in your arms and you're going to look into his eyes and know that it was all worth it.

KAREN
(softening)
Really?

DAVID
Really.

The door opens. David's brother, <u>Dr. Jonathan Freed</u>, pops his head in. Although Jonathan is two years younger, you might not know it to look at him. He blames marriage and two kids.

JONATHAN
Sorry to interrupt.

DAVID
(annoyed)
I'm with a patient.

JONATHAN
It's important.
(then)
Again, sorry to interrupt.

David ducks out. David helps Karen to her feet.

DAVID
Howard, help her relax. Massage her, feed her, do whatever she wants. But nothing she doesn't. And for your own sake, make sure she wears comfortable shoes.

KAREN
Thanks, Doctor, you're wonderful.

She gives him a hug.

DAVID
Page me if you need anything.

David exits.

HOWARD
I told you he was the best.

Karen kicks Howard in the balls.

3 INT. OB/GYN PRACTICE - KITCHEN AREA/HALLWAY 3

David and Jonathan walk down the hallway to the kitchen. Along the way, David grabs some patient charts from the nurse's station.

JONATHAN
Mrs. Pincus gave me the finger.

DAVID
What the hell are you talking about? Mrs. Pincus is seventy-five years old.

JONATHAN
There's no age limit on the finger.

DAVID
This is what you consider important?

JONATHAN
There was real anger behind it. I think she figured out we stole her lawn jockey.

DAVID
That was twenty-five years ago. It was racist. We did her a favor. And she did not give you the finger.
(looking at chart)
I don't like the blood work we got back on Mrs. Miller.

He hands the chart to Jonathan, who takes a look. David pours himself a cup of coffee.

JONATHAN
I see what you mean. We should probably get her back in for a biopsy.
(hands chart back, then)
I cannot believe you're taking her side.

DAVID
Jono, I just don't think it was her.

David takes his coffee and exits to the hall. Jonathan follows. The hallway buzzes with activity. This is a very busy practice.

JONATHAN
So random old ladies are roaming the produce department giving me the finger?

DAVID
Maybe she was pushing up her glasses.

He does the motion, middle finger extended. David enters his office. Jonathan follows.

4 INT. DAVID'S OFFICE 4

A well appointed office with an impressive view of the Washington D.C. skyline. Book shelves are lined with medical texts, diplomas from David's top-notch training are on display, and David's expensive taste in abstract art is well represented.

JONATHAN
She wasn't wearing glasses.

DAVID
Well, maybe you said something.

JONATHAN
Not a word. It was completely unprovoked. One minute I'm looking at a nectarine, the next -- bang!!

DAVID
So what did you do?

JONATHAN
I gave her the finger.

DAVID
You gave Mrs. Pincus the finger?!

JONATHAN
No. But you were awfully quick to believe that.

DAVID
I'm sorry.
(then, sitting at his desk)
You gave her the finger, didn't you?

JONATHAN
She gave it to me first!

ROSE (O.S.)
Speaking of giving the finger to old ladies...

They turn to see the office manager, Rose Ailon, 40's. She holds patient files and other paperwork.

ROSE (CONT'D)
...you both have patients waiting, you have surgery scheduled for noon and
(to David, handing him an envelope)
here's your speech for tonight.

DAVID
(slipping it into his pocket)
Thanks, Rose.

JONATHAN
You wrote something for Dad? I thought you were just going to wing it.

DAVID
I decided not to.

JONATHAN
Well, I was going to wing it because you were winging it. You set me up.

ROSE
He was never gonna wing it.

David smiles at Rose, enjoying how she presses Jono's buttons.

5 INT. EXAMINATION ROOM #2 5

David enters to find a well-dressed woman lying on the examining table with her feet - expensive shoes and all - in the stirrups.

DAVID
Good morning, Mrs.--

WOMAN
I've been waiting for fifteen minutes. This is no way to run a practice, Doctor.

DAVID
Mom?

WOMAN
Sweetheart.

DAVID
I have asked you not to put your feet in the stirrups.
(then, re: patient chart)
Where the hell is Mrs. Rinsler?

WOMAN
I sent her to pee in a cup.

The woman sits up. Meet Phyllis Reed, 60+. Attractive, well-coiffed, and a ball-buster.

DAVID
She's eight and a half months pregnant, so essentially you've created a circus act. What are you doing here?

She climbs off the table and gives David a kiss.

PHYLLIS
I'm worried about your father.

DAVID
I've never seen him so happy.

PHYLLIS
So you agree I should be worried.
(then)
What is that?

She reaches for a spot on his forehead; David avoids her hand.

DAVID
Nothing.

PHYLLIS
You should get that looked at.

She reaches for it again. David avoids her.

DAVID
Would you stop? It's nothing.

PHYLLIS
You're the doctor.

DAVID
Yes I am, Mom. And unless you're looking for a family discount on a pap smear, I think we're done here.

PHYLLIS
Do you remember your late Uncle George?

DAVID
No.

PHYLLIS
You wouldn't. Nobody has any photos of him. Anyway, he had something like that on his head.

DAVID
And it killed him?

PHYLLIS
Eventually. But first it ruined every picture he was ever in. And now nobody remembers him.

DAVID
Mom, I have surgery at noon and a waiting room full of--

PHYLLIS
I think your father's screwing around.

DAVID
That's ridiculous. Dad's not screwing around.

PHYLLIS
Well, if he's doing any screwing it's around, because he's certainly not doing any screwing at home.

DAVID
You know what, why don't I give you that pap-smear because I'd prefer that--

PHYLLIS
Do you know how long it's been since your father made love to me?

DAVID
What do you want? Money? I will pay you not to tell me--

PHYLLIS
Nineteen months.

DAVID
Oh, God.

PHYLLIS
Ever since the prostate thing.

DAVID
It wasn't a "thing," Mom, it was cancer.

PHYLLIS
You know I'm not comfortable with that word. Anyway, apparently your father's got erectile dysfunction.

DAVID
And now, so does his son.

PHYLLIS
Oh, grow up, David. Don't tell me you never discuss this kind of thing with your patients?

DAVID
You're my mother; frankly, I don't like discussing anything with you.

PHYLLIS
I may be your mother, David, but I'm also a woman. I have needs. I have desires. I like a lot of sex.

DAVID
Seriously, if we stop this conversation right now, I'll let you touch my pimple.

PHYLLIS
Tumor.

DAVID
It's not a tumor, but if it were, this conversation would kill it!

PHYLLIS
Well, I'm sorry I tried to share.

DAVID
(softening)
Look, maybe you should discuss this with your own doctor.

PHYLLIS
Footer? Please, it's bad enough he sees my business, he doesn't have to know it as well. You know what? If you're not comfortable, let's forget I mentioned anything.

DAVID
Good idea. I'll have Rose schedule me a lobotomy.
(calling off)
Rose!

David exits.

6 INT. HOSPITAL - DOCTOR'S LOCKER ROOM 6

David, wearing scrubs, is furiously washing his hands. Jonathan, also in scrubs, looks on.

DAVID
There are some things a son should never have to hear his mother say.

David scrubs harder.

DAVID (CONT'D)
For instance: "I'm going to let the Nazis take you instead of your brother."

Scrub, scrub.

DAVID (CONT'D)
<u>That</u> ranked second.

JONATHAN
Yeah, like Mom would choose me over you.

David stares at Jonathan for a beat, then resumes scrubbing. Dr. Eric Baron, African American, 30's, enters. He is an anesthesiologist and knows David from medical school.

ERIC
Gentlemen.
(to David)
Where were you last night? I paged you like nine times.

DAVID
Well, the first eight, I was in surgery. Then I went shopping.

ERIC
So gay. Anyway, I was at the Doctor's Without Borders dinner and I sat across from your girlfriend.

JONATHAN
Girlfriend? Why am I always the last to know?

DAVID
I don't even know what he's talking about.

ERIC
I'm talking about Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton.

DAVID
Oh for god's sake. Let it go.

ERIC
I'm not the one with the obsession.

DAVID
It was one dream five years ago. And it was mostly political.

ERIC
I took pictures.

DAVID
Lemme see.

Eric pulls out his cell phone and shows the boys.

ERIC
The first one is just me and her. The rest, I just put the phone under the table and clicked away.

David and Jono react as Eric scrolls through the photos.

DAVID
I can't even tell what I'm looking at.

JONATHAN
It looks like out-of-focus pillars.

ERIC
Those would be her legs.

DAVID
Wow.

Another doctor enters. Eric snaps the phone shut.

ERIC
Harold.
(then, to David)
So, what were you shopping for?

DAVID
A new couch.

JONATHAN
Mom and Dad gave you their couch.

DAVID
Yes they did.

This news is not sitting right with Jonathan.

JONATHAN
You're getting rid of it?

DAVID
It's a thirty-year old sectional with Sanka stains.

JONATHAN
Sanka lifts out. David, you can't get rid of that couch. Mom loves it.

DAVID
I hate it.

JONATHAN
That couch outlasted eight presidents and mom's uterus. You know how much it means to her.

DAVID
That may be why I hate it. But none of that matters because she's moving.

JONATHAN
What about when she visits?

DAVID
She'll never visit me; you're the one with kids.

JONATHAN
And a wife she hates.

DAVID
Good point. But I'll take my chances. Because unlike you, I'm not afraid of Mom.

JONATHAN
Oh, please, you're way more afraid of her than I am.

DAVID
No, I'm not.

JONATHAN
You're crazy.

DAVID
Me. I'm not the one giving the finger to every old lady that reminds me of Mom.

JONATHAN
What are you saying?

DAVID
At least I'm dealing with my issues on a conscious level!

ERIC
Boys, boys. Settle down. If you're going to fight over a woman, it really shouldn't be your mother.

DAVID
Well, I'm taking a stand. Starting with the couch.

ERIC
Good man. And if you need someone to help you break in the new couch, might I suggest Claudia in pediatrics.

JONATHAN
(jealous)
You bastard.

ERIC
Oh, yes.

JONATHAN
So when do you get the new one?

DAVID
Could be ten weeks. But Stephanie's trying to find me one in a warehouse.

ERIC
Stephanie?

DAVID
The saleswoman.

Jonathan and Eric pick up on David's gleam.

JONATHAN
There's a Stephanie.

DAVID
Indeed there is. I think I'll go see her at lunch.

JONATHAN
I think we'll go with you.

ERIC
Just to make sure she's there--

The other doctor exits.

ERIC (CONT'D)
Harold -- we should <u>call</u> her.

Eric flips open his phone and taunts David with the pictures.

ERIC (CONT'D)
Please tell me this ends the obsession.

DAVID
Not necessarily.
(looking at the phone)
I'd still vote for her.

7 INT. FURNITURE STORE 7

Lunch time. David, Jonathan, and Eric stand next to the couch David wants to buy. They are talking to Stephanie.

DAVID
...So I was kind of hoping I could get it a little sooner.

STEPHANIE
(flirting)
Expecting company?

DAVID
(flirting)
Hopefully.

STEPHANIE
Well, let me go talk to my manager.

She crosses away. They watch her go.

DAVID
So what do you think?

ERIC
I would.

DAVID
Of the couch?

ERIC
Yeah, like this is about a couch. I'm gonna browse.
(noticing saleswoman with a big butt)
I need an end table.

Eric crosses off. David and Jonathan sit on the couch.

JONATHAN
I wish I was him.

DAVID
Not this time. He really does need an end table. So, what do you think of Stephanie?

JONATHAN
She's terrific. I tell ya, if I were single...
(then)
She giving you a deal?

DAVID
Will that make a difference?

JONATHAN
Of course not. She's beautiful, she's smart. God bless.
(then)
Anything less then ten-percent, I wouldn't get involved.

DAVID
It's no wonder Mrs. Pincus gave you the finger.

Stephanie comes back over, carrying a clipboard.

STEPHANIE
Good news. You can have the floor model and you can have it tomorrow.

DAVID
That's great.

JONATHAN
I don't know. The floor model?

STEPHANIE
Of course we'll have it cleaned and give you a discount of five-percent.

JONATHAN
Five?
(sotto, to David)
Walk away.

DAVID
(to Stephanie)
Five is perfect.

STEPHANIE
(handing David her clipboard)
Do me a favor and fill out the delivery info and we'll get everything set up.

JONATHAN
Most places give--

DAVID
Shut up.
(off clipboard)
What's the "Rest For The Weary" program?

STEPHANIE
Oh, you can donate your old couch to charity. When we deliver your new couch, we'll take away your old one and give it to a family in need.

JONATHAN
So some family gets a free couch and he can't even get ten-percent?

DAVID
Sign me up.

Stephanie smiles at him. David smiles back.

8 INT. DAVID'S OFFICE - LATER 8

David, wearing a tuxedo, is standing in front of a mirror adjusting his bow-tie. Perfect. He examines his "pimple." He's not worried. In fact, he's not worried about anything.

The door to his office opens and Phyllis enters.

PHYLLIS
I'm a nervous wreck.

She immediately crosses to the mirror, pushing David aside, and checks herself. She is also in evening wear.

DAVID
I thought we were meeting at the club.

PHYLLIS
Your father wanted to stop by the office one last time.
(still looking at herself)
You look nice.
(a beat, then pointedly)
You're welcome.

DAVID
Sorry, I didn't realize you meant me.

PHYLLIS
Except for that thing on your head. Which reminds me, I forgot to call the photographer!

DAVID
Mom, relax. He'll be there. And if not, I have my camera.

PHYLLIS
This whole thing is a mistake.

DAVID
The dinner?

PHYLLIS
Retirement, going to Boca... I think we should call the whole thing off.

DAVID
What?! No! No, no, no.
(then, off her look)
I mean, once the stress of the move is behind you, it'll be like a second honeymoon. I'm sure you'll resume all of your... activities.

PHYLLIS
I hope to God you're right, because I hate golf.
(then)
Let's get your father.

She exits. The blood returns to David's face.

9 INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 9

They walk a couple of doors down and stop outside another door with a nameplate that reads "Stanley M. Freed, MD." David knocks on the door and he and Phyllis enter into:

10 INT. STANLEY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS 10

The scene before them is horrific. We see the bare-ass of Stanley Freed as he pounds away on Rose, the office manager. She sits on the desk, facing the door and over Stanley's shoulder can see that David and Phyllis have just walked in.

ROSE
Oh, God!

DAVID
Oh, Jesus!

PHYLLIS
Erectile dysfunction my ass!

Stanley turns around and sees David and Phyllis.

STANLEY
Phyllis?

DAVID
Rose?

Stanley holds onto Rose.

PHYLLIS
For God's sake, Stanley, can't you at least have the decency to stop?

Stanley doesn't respond.

PHYLLIS (CONT'D)
Stanley!

DAVID
Dad?

ROSE
Dr. Freed?!

Jonathan Enters, in his tux. He is completely oblivious.

JONATHAN
Who's ready to retire?

Stanley falls to the floor, his dead naked ass to the world.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

11 INT. JONATHAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - TWO DAYS LATER 11

A tastefully decorated suburban living room. A steady stream of mourners come and go freely. David stands next to a table overflowing with food. He is talking to an Old Man.

OLD MAN
Twenty-five thousand vaginas the man probably examined. Who knew one more would kill him?

DAVID
It was a shock to us all, Rabbi.

ANGLE ON: Phyllis, dressed in black and dabbing her red eyes with a tissue, sits on the sofa. To her left is Jonathan who holds a plate of food. To her right is Jonathan's wife, Mimi. She's attractive but still carries some of her baby weight, which she's probably had since she was a baby. She holds a tissue box and offers comfort to Phyllis.

MIMI
Mom--

PHYLLIS
I'm not your mother.

MIMI
(undeterred)
--I know it's hard, but in times of tragedy, I find it helpful to look for the silver lining.

PHYLLIS
So who's stopping you? Go.

JONATHAN
Mom, Mimi's just trying to help.
(holding up plate)
I really think you need to eat something.

PHYLLIS
I can't eat.

MIMI
You know, when my Dad passed away, I couldn't eat either. I lost thirty-two pounds.

PHYLLIS
Maybe when your mother goes, you'll lose the rest.

Mimi's on the verge of snapping at Phyllis; Jono, having witnessed this dynamic countless times, takes action:

JONATHAN
(to Mimi)
Honey, why don't we go get ourselves something to eat?

ANGLE ON: David who is accepting condolences from some guests.

DAVID
...thank you so much for coming.

The guests cross away, just as Jonathan and Mimi approach. Mimi immediately starts to load up a plate of food, her typical response to dealing with Phyllis induced stress.

DAVID (CONT'D)
(looking over at Phyllis)
You know, I don't think I've ever seen my mom cry.

JONATHAN
I did once. At our wedding.

MIMI
And it wasn't her. It was me. Bitch.

She eats something off her plate.

JONATHAN
I thought you weren't eating carbs.

MIMI
A man is dead. I can have a pastry.

Jonathan starts to cry. Mimi comforts him.

MIMI (CONT'D)
Oh, sweetie. I'm sorry. Look, I'm putting the ruggelach down.

JONATHAN
It's not the ruggelach.
(composing himself)
Sorry.

MIMIMIMI
Oh, baby, don't be sorry. It's okay.

DAVID
She's right, Jono. Let it out.

JONATHAN
(deep breath)
I'm fine.

MIMI
I'm gonna go and check on the boys. You two talk, okay?

She gives Jono a kiss and walks off.

JONATHAN
How are you doing?

DAVID
Alright, I guess. It kind of hits me in waves.

JONATHAN
Yeah.

DAVID
You know what memory I can't get out of my head? The time he came and took us out of school and wouldn't tell us where we were going.

JONATHAN
(remembering)
Game one, 1979 World Series. Orioles, Pirates.

DAVID
Worst seats in the Stadium.

JONATHAN
And it was freezing. I drank so much hot chocolate, I threw up.

DAVID
How great was that?

JONATHAN
I'm really gonna miss him.

DAVID
Yeah, me too.

The brothers give each others a supportive hug.

DAVID (CONT'D)
You know, this doesn't have to change anything.

JONATHAN
What do you mean?

DAVID
I realize that we've lost a parent...

JONATHAN
Yeah?

DAVID
(sotto)
But I think that we should stick to our goal. And try and lose the other one.

JONATHAN
(sotto)
What are you saying?

DAVID
Mom needs to go.

JONATHAN
You want to kill her?

DAVID
Of course not! We're not the freakin', Menendez brothers.
(then)
Why, do you?

JONATHAN
No.
(then off his look)
Oh, like you never considered it.

DAVID
Of course I have, but that's not what I'm talking about. I just want her to move to Florida. Like she planned.

JONATHAN
I'm with you. I mean, it's not like that much has changed. Dad was going away anyway.

DAVID
Exactly. And we were supportive of <u>that</u>.

JONATHAN
Exactly.

DAVID
By not encouraging Mom to still move, we'll be doing her a disservice.

JONATHAN
What kind of sons would we be?

DAVID
The worst kind. We owe this to her.

JONATHAN
It's all about her.

DAVID
It always is.

Eric approaches.

ERIC
Guys, I am so sorry.

DAVID
E. Thanks for coming, man.

ERIC
You know how much I loved your dad.

He gives David a hug. David notices Stacee, a beautiful, twenty-something woman standing there.

DAVID
Hello.

ERIC
Oh, David. Jono. This is Stacee.

STACEE
Thanks for having me. Great party.

DAVID/JONATHAN
Sure. / No problem.

ERIC
(to David)
That was a really moving eulogy you gave.

STACEE
And on such short notice.

DAVID
Yeah, well, I had a retirement speech already written so I really just had to substitute the word "Florida" with "Forest Lawn."

JONATHAN
I just winged mine. Wung. Wang? None of those sound right.

ERIC
(to Stacee)
Are you thirsty?

STACEE
I'd love a cosmo.

Eric and Stacee cross away.

JONATHAN
That guy can get a date for anything.

Phyllis, obviously distraught, rushes by.

DAVID
Mom?

As she heads to the bathroom, David and Jono go after her.

12 INT. JONATHAN'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER 12

Phyllis is crying.

JONATHAN
It's okay, Mom. Let it out.

PHYLLIS
(sobbing harder)
Why? Why?

DAVID
These things happen. There's no good answer.

PHYLLIS
I know. But Rose?

JONATHAN
We were thinking of letting her go anyway.

DAVID
Let's not be hasty. Rose is really very good--

PHYLLIS
She's a murderer!

JONATHAN
She's history.

PHYLLIS
It's not enough that he died, but he had to humiliate me as well? The son of a bitch.

DAVID
Mom, I think you need to try and deal with one thing at a time. You have to properly mourn his death first, and then you can be angry at him. We can all be angry at him.

PHYLLIS
It's just hard knowing he didn't want me anymore.

Phyllis looks at herself in the mirror.

PHYLLIS (CONT'D)
Jesus Christ, look at me. I'm old. My neck looks like a scrotum.

The door opens and Eric and Stacee start back in.

ERIC
...We can do it right here in the--oh, sorry.

He quickly pushes her back out and closes the door.

PHYLLIS
Who's that with Eric?

JONATHAN
His date.

PHYLLIS
I used to have an ass like her.

What can you say when your mother tells you this?

DAVID
Good for you.

PHYLLIS
And your father loved it. He loved it! I'll bet you didn't know that about him, did you boys? He was a real ass-man.

DAVID
Good to know.

PHYLLIS
Don't get old, boys.

DAVID
Too late.

PHYLLIS
So now what? I've got nothing. No husband. And no home. I'm homeless. I'm a sixty...something homeless widow with a scrotum for a neck and an ass that nobody loves.

JONATHAN
Come on, Mom. You're not homeless.

Phyllis starts to sob.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
You've got a beautiful place in Boca.

David and Jonathan exchange a "good save" look.

PHYLLIS
You're right. I should at least try and make a go of it in Florida.

DAVID
That's a very healthy attitude.

PHYLLIS
I mean, I owe it to your father. He was looking forward to it so much.

DAVID
So much.

She starts sobbing.

PHYLLIS
Besides, all our stuff is already there. All the memories of the life we shared...

DAVID
Exactly. They're all down there.

PHYLLIS
Except for one thing.

DAVID
Whatever it is, we'll get it. In fact, we'll overnight it.

JONATHAN
I'll drive it down myself.

DAVID
Even better.

PHYLLIS
I want my couch back. I can't leave without it.

Phyllis sobs as David and Jono cry on the inside.

13 INT. ANDREA'S - NIGHT 13

A bustling Georgetown bistro. A regular hang for David, who sits across from Stephanie. She looks fabulous.

STEPHANIE
You know, when you called, I was a bit caught off guard. I mean, I kind of expected you to still be in mourning.

DAVID
Well, truth be told, I needed something to take my mind off the whole thing. So, thank you.

STEPHANIE
You're welcome. I'm really glad you called.
(then, putting her hand on his)
How's your mom doing?

DAVID
She's doing okay. Hanging tough.

STEPHANIE
Well, consider yourself lucky to still have her.

DAVID
I pinch myself nearly every day.
(then)
Speaking of my mother--

STEPHANIE
Both my parents are gone.

DAVID
Oh, I'm sorry, I--

STEPHANIE
No, no. It's okay. I never actually even knew them. I was orphaned right after I was born.

DAVID
Wow.

STEPHANIE
I'm sorry, you were about to say something about your mother.

DAVID
Was I?
(then)
Oh, right. Um, remember that couch of hers that I couldn't wait to get rid of?

STEPHANIE
Oh, that totally reminds me...

She reaches into her purse and takes out a photograph.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
I wanted to show you this.

She hands him the photo.

DAVID
Whoa, look at all these kids. Is this you at the orphanage?

STEPHANIE
No. That is the Martinez family. And they're sitting on your mom's old couch.

DAVID
Look at that. You can hardly even see it under all...twelve of them. And look, Mrs. Martinez is pregnant again.

STEPHANIE
She is. If ever a family needed a new couch, it's the Martinez family.

DAVID
If ever a family needed birth control, it's the Martinez family.
(then)
Stephanie, I need the couch back.

STEPHANIE
What?

DAVID
Well, not really me. I don't want it at all. But my mother really has an emotional attachment to it.

STEPHANIE
So does the Martinez family.

DAVID
They've had it for two days.
(then)
Look, I'll happily buy them a new couch.
(off Photo)
Two new couches.

STEPHANIE
So this is it? This is the reason you asked me out? To get a couch back?

DAVID
Not entirely, I--

STEPHANIE
(getting up)
I think I should leave.

DAVID
No, please don't leave. I really like you. It's the grief talking. If you had a mother, you'd understand.

And with that, Stephanie is gone. David smacks himself in the head for being so stupid. How could he let her get away? After a beat he notices that she has left the photo behind. He picks it up and looks at it closely.

David's POV: Tight on the photo. The patriarch of the Martinez family is wearing a work shirt with the name "Hector' embroidered on it.

Back on David. He takes out his cell and calls information.

DAVID (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Yes, in D.C. For Hector Martinez.

14 INT. U-HAUL TRUCK - DAY 14

David sits behind the wheel of the truck. Jonathan, riding shotgun, is terrified to be in this neighborhood.

DAVID
There's the house.

JONATHAN
Oh, look at that. They have three other couches in the front yard.

DAVID
We're not here to judge.

JONATHAN
You're right. Besides, I'm wrong. Those aren't couches. They're the back seats from those cars on the lawn.

DAVID
Let's do this.

Jonathan is terrified.

15 EXT. MARTINEZ HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - MOMENTS LATER 15

David and Jonathan stand in front of the door. Jonathan is about to ring the door bell but David stops him.

DAVID
What the hell is wrong with us? Three days ago, we were on our way to Dad's retirement party. We were standing at the threshold of a new life...and now look where we're standing. Our father is dead. The man in whose giant footsteps we followed is laying in the ground and we've hardly even taken the time to think about him. All we've thought about is ourselves. We're so desperate to have Mom out of lives that we've forgotten what family really means. And now, here we are, about to take back charity from a family that actually cares for one another. What kind of men are we?

SFX: Jono's cell phone rings. He checks the caller ID.

JONATHAN
It's Mom.

DAVID
Ring the bell.

MATCH CUT TO:

16 INT. DAVID'S APARMENT - LATER 16

SFX: A doorbell rings in:

A nice apartment in a luxury building. David's furniture reflects a man whose priorities do not include furniture, but clearly he is a man who likes electronics. A large flat-panel TV hangs from the wall. A B&O sound system has a place for prominence. A large book and music collection fills the floor to ceiling shelves. Modern, abstract art adorns the walls. But the boldest statement is Mom's burnt orange sectional couch.

David enters, fresh from the shower, wearing a robe and whistling a happy tune. As he heads towards the door he passes the couch and pats it.

DAVID
That'll be mommy, coming to get you.

He continues to the front door and opens it revealing Phyllis mournful in black. She enters talking.

PHYLLIS
I thought about what you said.

DAVID
Come in.

She crosses to the couch and sits down. David follows.

PHYLLIS
But you had it backwards. I need to deal with the anger first, and then I can mourn your father's death.

DAVID
Alright. Whatever works.

She pulls a pack of cigarettes out of her purse.

PHYLLIS
Do you mind if I smoke?

DAVID
Since when do you smoke?

PHYLLIS
I'm starting...
(lighting up)
...right now. At first I thought what I was feeling was grief. But it wasn't; it was guilt.

DAVID
About what?

PHYLLIS
I never wanted to go to Florida. Your father did. He loved golf and was sick of the cold and I agreed to go. But I didn't want to leave you and your brother. And to be so far from little Ben and Zach? It was breaking my heart.

DAVID
Of course?

PHYLLIS
After the funeral, Mimi told me to look for a silver lining. Which at first I dismissed as her usual idiotic patter - which reminds me, I was horrible to her and should probably buy her something nice. But she's so hard to buy for--

DAVID
Mom, focus.

PHYLLIS
Anyway, I began to think, maybe there is something positive in your father's death. The silver lining was that I didn't have to move after all.

DAVID
Uh huh...

PHYLLIS
But thinking that made me feel so damn guilty I felt sick and I thought, I <u>have</u> to go. For him. And then it hit me: your father was the guilty one, not me. He's the one who should rot in hell. So I sold it.

DAVID
Sold what?

PHYLLIS
The place in Boca. Furniture, carpet, everything. I want a clean slate. Plus I made about a hundred grand.

David sits down heavily on the couch. His color drained.

DAVID
So, you're not moving?

PHYLLIS
All the people I care about are here. I'll find myself a new place in town. In fact, I saw some "For Sale" signs in the building next door. We could be neighbors.
(she takes a deep drag on her cigarette)
Your father's death just might be the best thing that ever happened to me.

DAVID
But, but... the couch... I, I--

PHYLLIS
I know how much you like it, so it's yours.
(then)
I'm going to make myself a cup of Sanka. You want?

DAVID
I'm good, thanks.

Phyllis exits to the kitchen. David lies back on the couch.

PHYLLIS
Did I ever tell you, you were conceived on that couch?

We are close on the face of Dr. David Freed. It's a handsome face. A kind face. A successful face. A tormented face.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO