JOE & JOE & JANE

"Pilot"

Written By

Joe Port

&

Joe Wiseman

Revised Network Draft
12.23.12

ACT ONE

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. WAXMAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

JANE WAXMAN (30, TOUGH BUSINESS WOMAN WITH A SOFT MUSHY CENTER) READS TO SON OLIVER WAXMAN (2 YEARS OLD).

JANE

And the Duck and the Squirrel lived

happily ever after. The end.

REVEAL: JOE WAXMAN (EARLY 30'S, NERDY, CONFLICT AVOIDANT, **ALWAYS** WEARING A CLASSIC VIDEO GAME T-SHIRT) AND JOE DOUGAN (30, PASSIONATE, MOODY, BIT OF A DOG) STARING AT OLIVER. DOUGAN IS TAKING NOTES.

WAXMAN

(A LOT RIDING ON THIS) So... did you

like it, buddy?

OLIVER MAKES A RASPBERRY NOISE.

DOUGAN

What is that? I don't know what to do

with that.

JANE

Guys, he's two. He didn't eat the

book, that's a thumbs up.

DOUGAN

There is a lot riding on this, Jane!

We wowed them with the Adventures of

Detective Duck. Then hit a bit of a

sophomore slump. This third Duck book

will make or break us.

WAXMAN

(TO OLIVER) Did you like the drawings? Daddy did those. And Uncle Joe Dougan did the words.

OLIVER

Cake!

DOUGAN

I can't work with this. (LOOKING AROUND) Where's the talking one?

JANE

Sydney's getting ready for pre-school. I have a couple thoughts, if you'd like to hear them.

DOUGAN

(DISMISSING) No, that's okay.

WAXMAN

She just wants to help.

DOUGAN

Oh, and what makes her qualified to judge a children's book?

JANE

Well I'm a mom. And a children's book editor.

DOUGAN

So two reasons, that's all you've got.

JANE

It's just, the Scary Bear character. Is she a little... scary?

DOUGAN

Y'think?

WAXMAN

Dougan.

DOUGAN

(TO JANE) No, you always do this. The book launch party is in three days. We have to read this thing to a room full of "taste-maker" seven year olds --

WAXMAN

I'm still not sure what that means.

DOUGAN

-- and we don't have time to be making changes based on your ridiculous concerns! (THEN, WORRIED) Do you really think the bear's too scary? I told Waxman the teeth were too big.

MELISSA UNGER (LATE 20'S, EARLY 30'S, HOPELESSLY UPBEAT DESPITE LIFE ALWAYS GIVING HER LEMONS) ENTERS THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR WITH A BIG CARRYING CASE OF COFFEE.

MELISSA

Good news! I was heading to my open house but the clients called and fired me, so... I brought coffee!

WAXMAN

(TO JANE) The words are always depressing but they come out so upbeat.

JANE

Aww, thank you, Melissa.

MELISSA

It was no problem. I got a flat tire on my way so I was able to run across the freeway and grab some bagels too. (THEN) I'm going to say hi to Sydney!

MELISSA CROSSES OUT.

WAXMAN

Is it me or is she over all the time?

JANE

She's going through a rough... let's just say life. The point is she thinks of us as family. Can't you find it in that adorable heart of yours to be a little understanding?

WAXMAN

(SOFTENING) I guess so.

JANE

Awww, I lerf you.

WAXMAN

I lerf you too.

JANE GIVES HIM A SQUEEZE, THEN HEADS IN FOR A KISS.

JANE

I'm coming in for a cous-cous.

WAXMAN

Permission graham crackered.

DOUGAN

(TO OLIVER) I can't watch this.

JANE

(TO WAXMAN) Hey, why don't you come by the office today? We'll grab lunch, just you and me.

DOUGAN

Nope. Uh-uh. It's bad enough you've got us running around doing errands all day, like this isn't a real job.

JANE

You guys went to a movie yesterday afternoon. And took a cooking class.

DOUGAN

For inspiration! You have a whole building full of people to grab lunch with. Waxman's all I've got.

WAXMAN

(TO JANE) Since when can you even get away for lunch?

JANE

Since I got my amazing new assistant. She is a game changer.

(MORE)

JANE (CONT'D)

She’s smart, proactive, such a hard worker. Not to mention super cute and just a pleasure to be around.

DOUGAN

She single?

JANE

(IMMEDIATELY) You wouldn’t like her.

DOUGAN

Come on!

WAXMAN

Aren’t you dating like three people?

DOUGAN

Monica fell out. (EXPLAINS) She used the word “literally” all the time. Literally all the time. My point is there’s an open spot in the rotation.

JANE

She’s not single, okay? She’s engaged.

BEAT.

DOUGAN

... Did they set a date?

JANE

Oh my God.

DOUGAN

That’s a whole other level!

AND WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE B

INTERSTITIAL - CHILDREN'S BOOK PAGE

WE SEE A PAGE FROM JOE & JOE'S "DUCK" BOOK. AS SILLY GOOSE AND SCARY BEAR LOOK ON, DETECTIVE DUCK LOOKS THROUGH A MAGNIFYING GLASS, MAGNIFYING HIS EYE FROM THEIR POV.

TEXT: "DETECTIVE DUCK WAS ABOUT TO UNCOVER AN IMPORTANT CLUE AND QUACK THE CASE WIDE OPEN."

INT. LENHOFF PUBLISHING - LATER

BUSTLING CORPORATE OFFICE, MID DAY. JANE IS IN HER OFFICE. HER ASSISTANT SOPHIA (25, CUTE, EFFICIENT) ENTERS.

SOPHIA

I heard your husband is coming by with Sydney so I took the liberty of getting this little stuffed unicorn for her.

JANE

Awww.

SOPHIA

And this Lego Millenium Falcon for him.

JANE

He has so many toys already. But he'll love it, thanks. (UNENTHUSED) I should get to work on those quarterly reports.

SOPHIA

Let me do those.

JANE

No, Sophia. They are the worst. Last time I had to pull like three all nighters. I can't let you.

SOPHIA

Jane, I'm doing it. End of discussion.

JANE

If you murdered someone, I would never tell.

WAXMAN, DAUGHTER SYDNEY (4) AND DOUGAN ENTER.

WAXMAN

Look who's here! (SELLING, RE: DOUGAN) I thought instead of having lunch with either *one* of you, I could have lunch with *both* of you!

JANE

(NOT HAPPY) I mean, I guess.

DOUGAN

(ANNOYED, TO WAXMAN) You said we were just popping in.

WAXMAN

See? Everybody's happy. (NOTICING, GASPS) A Lego Millenium Falcon!? Sydney, do *not* open that box. It's a toy, it's not for playing.

DOUGAN

(TO SOPHIA, FLIRTY) Hey, there.

JANE

(IMMEDIATELY) Nope.

JANE USHERS SOPHIA OUT TO THE BULLPEN.

WAXMAN

Hey, so I was leaving the house and Melissa stopped by again. And she stayed and she's just watching TV.

JANE

Okay, I should tell you now. Melissa may actually be living at our place.

WAXMAN

When you say "may"...

JANE

I mean she's living at our place. She moved into the guesthouse last week. (OFF HIS REACTION) It's just till she gets back on her feet. I should've discussed it with you first. I was worried you wouldn't want her there.

WAXMAN

We don't lie to each other, babe.

JANE

I didn't lie. I just didn't tell you. Do not beat yourself up for not understanding the difference.

WAXMAN

I think you just like having her around cause she makes you feel good about yourself by comparison.

JANE

That's ridiculous. She doesn't "make me feel good about myself".

WAXMAN

The woman dated an inmate last year. Who ended it because "he needed more space."

JANE

Okay, maybe it's a side benefit. But I just want her to be happy. (PANICKED) Wait, where's Dougan??

INT. BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

DOUGAN IS FLIRTING WITH SOPHIA, WHO SEEMS TO ENJOY IT.

DOUGAN

Children's books are okay, but I'm also working on a novel. I mean the main character will still be a duck, but he'll use much bigger words. (THEN) So when's the wedding date?

SOPHIA

What? I don't even have a boyfriend.

DOUGAN

(REALIZING) JANE!!!!!

INT. JANE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

DOUGAN ENTERS, HOT.

DOUGAN

Why did you tell me Sophia was engaged?

JANE

(TO WAXMAN) See, now *that* was a lie.

(TO DOUGAN) She works for me and I see you all the time. It's all just so messy. What if it doesn't work out?

DOUGAN

I can't believe this.

JANE

(TO WAXMAN) Why did you have to bring him to lunch?!

WAXMAN

I just wanted us all to be happy.

DOUGAN

You can't please everyone, Waxman.

JANE

That is what I am always telling him.

DOUGAN

The things we put up with, Janey. (THEN) I like it when we get along like this.

WAXMAN

Are we done here?

DOUGAN

I'm still asking out your assistant.

JANE

No, you're not! (THEN) Joe, weigh in.

WAXMAN

Maybe they'll fall in love.

JANE

Joe, shut up.

SOPHIA POPS HER HEAD IN.

SOPHIA

Can I say something?

JANE

This doesn't concern you, Sophia!

WAXMAN

Jane.

JANE

Fine. You're right. They're adults.

DOUGAN

Thank you. Sophia, would you like to go to dinner with me tomorrow tonight?

JANE

No! (THEN) Sorry, I was just shouting, as one might during a horror movie when something awful is about to happen.

SOPHIA

I'd love to, Dougan.

JANE

Don't go in there! (THEN) I'm sorry, I'm done now. Have fun, kids.

AND WE... FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE C

INT. WAXMAN HOUSE - KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

WAXMAN DIGS THROUGH THE FRIDGE. JANE READIES FOR WORK.

WAXMAN

Babe, have you seen my breakfast pie?

JANE

Putting “breakfast” in front of it doesn’t make it healthy.

WAXMAN

It’s got eggs, fruit... (FINDING IN FRIDGE) I guess I could have some of this breakfast pizza.

MELISSA ENTERS IN WORKOUT CLOTHES AND HANDS WAXMAN SOME CASH.

MELISSA

If I’m staying here, I am not going to be a mooch. So... I’m opening my own personal training side business! (RE: CASH) And *that* is an advance from my first client.

JANE

You hear that, Joe? This go-getter is making things happen.

MELISSA

The workout clothes set me back. And I *will* need to buy some free weights.

ANNOYED, WAXMAN HANDS MELISSA BACK THE CASH.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

That doesn't completely cover it.

JANE

We'll write you a check.

WAXMAN REACTS. THE DOORBELL RINGS. JANE OPENS THE DOOR REVEALING: WALTER (50'S, AFRICAN-AMERICAN, A THERAPIST WHO'S A LITTLE MEDDLESOME) THERE WITH A WHITE POLICE OFFICER.

WALTER

Don't worry, everything's okay.

OFFICER

(RE: WALTER) We found this guy in an SUV on Sunset and Fairfax--

JANE

"This guy" happens to be my step dad. And that "SUV" -- he bought with his "money" that he earned from his "job" which is "not selling crack." Or are you too small minded to see that?

WALTER

I blew out a tire and Frank here insisted on giving me a lift.

JANE

Oh. (SUPER SWEET) Thank you.

WALTER ENTERS AND THE COP LEAVES. EVERYONE AD-LIBS HELLOS.

WALTER

I had to get out of the house. (TO JANE) Your mother is driving me crazy.

JANE

Yeah, you're divorced and still living together. It's a weird situation.

WALTER

It's not that weird. Okay, since her new husband moved in, it's gotten a little weird. (THEN) It's just scary the thought of being on my own.

DOUGAN ENTERS.

DOUGAN

Does Sophia like Italian food?

JANE

I wish you weren't going out with her.

DOUGAN

Hey, it's not as easy for me as you think. We work from home a lot. Where am I going to run into a single woman? Excuse me, Melissa, I'm trying to get to the fridge.

JANE

Okay, but if she doesn't like you don't get all dramatic and mopey. You're basically a teenage girl.

DOUGAN

That is totes not true.

WAXMAN

Wait, where's the breakfast pizza?

WE SEE MELISSA IS STUFFING A PIZZA BOX INTO THE TRASH.

MELISSA

Sorry, I know myself, I can't have stuff like this around. Not after all that pie I ate last night.

SHE EXITS.

WAXMAN

I want her gone.

JANE

Fine, letting Melissa stay here was a decision we should've made together.

WAXMAN

Are you... admitting you were wrong? (TO DOUGAN AND WALTER) You heard it too, right? I'm just checking, I'm on some pretty strong allergy meds.

JANE

But you tell her to move out. It's hard for me since she's my friend. See, marriage is all about compromise.

WAXMAN

We're not going to the Harry Potter theme park for our anniversary, are we?

JANE

That was never going to happen. (KISSES HIM) Lerf you.

JANE AD-LIBS GOODBYES AND EXITS.

WAXMAN

Well, I guess the man of the house has spoken. (OFF WALTER'S CHUCKLE) What?

WALTER

Jane is my daughter and I love her. But I'm also a therapist and, in my professional opinion, you got *played*. She knows you don't have it in you to tell Melissa to move out. You're famously conflict avoidant.

WAXMAN

I don't know about famously.

DOUGAN

Joe, our lawyer still calls you "Jeff."

WAXMAN

Okay even if that *is* what Jane is thinking, it won't work because I *will* tell Melissa to move out.

WALTER

That would be a healthy sign of growth.

WAXMAN

And I may bring up going to Harry Potter Land again too!

WALTER

Less healthy sign of growth but okay.

AND WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE D

INT. LENHOFF PUBLISHING - BULLPEN - THE NEXT DAY

SOPHIA IS WORKING ON THE QUARTERLY REPORTS. JANE ENTERS.

JANE

I'm not even going to ask how your date with Dougan went. None of my business.

SOPHIA

(EXCITED) It went amazing!

JANE

TELL ME EVERYTHING!!!! Did he pick you up or did you meet at the restaurant?

SOPHIA

I drove to his place and we walked.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. WAXMAN HOUSE - BASEMENT OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

DOUGAN IS TELLING WAXMAN ABOUT THE DATE.

DOUGAN

That way after dinner they have to come back to get their car.

INT. LENHOFF PUBLISHING - BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

SOPHIA

His dog is so cute. I think it really liked me.

INT. WAXMAN HOUSE - BASEMENT OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

DOUGAN

When I hugged her at the door I shmeared her jacket with bacon grease.

THE PHONE RINGS.

WAXMAN

It's Jane. (HITS BUTTON) Hey, Babe.

You're on speaker.

WE SPLIT-SCREEN WITH JANE IN HER OFFICE. SOPHIA IS AT HER DESK IN THE BULLPEN.

JANE

(INTO PHONE, EXCITED) Oh my God, she

loved it! How pretty is she??

DOUGAN

She's very pretty!

JANE

THIS IS AMAZING!!!!

WAXMAN

Jane, don't get ahead of yourself.

JANE

I'm not. I'm just saying if they end

up getting married, think about how

great that could be. I mean Dougan,

you're going to be around anyway --

I've come to accept that -- but at

least you can be with someone awesome

for me. (BEAT) Hello?

DOUGAN

Yeah, I don't think I'm going to see

her again.

IN THE BULLPEN, SOPHIA CROSSES BY WITH SOME FILES SINGING "I'M WALKING ON SUNSHINE". JANE SHOOTS HER A THUMBS UP.

DOUGAN (CONT'D)

She did this thing at dinner. It was like she sneezed but it didn't make any noise. It was weird.

JANE

Is it possible you're being shallow?

DOUGAN

Jane, if she's silent sneezing on a first date, what other skeletons are buried in that closet?

SOPHIA

(CROSSING, SINGING) *And it's time to feel good! Whoo -- alriiiight!*

JANE

I told you not to go out with her.

DOUGAN

I should go.

WAXMAN

Lerf you!

JANE

Joe, don't let him hang --

DOUGAN PRESSES THE BUTTON, HANGING UP.

DOUGAN

I do feel kinda bad. (SIGHS) Wanna try that new taco place for lunch?

WAXMAN

(IMMEDIATELY) Yes.

INT. JANE'S OFFICE – CONTINUOUS

SOPHIA

Was that Joe and Joe? I don't mean to pry. I'm just so excited. Aaaaah!

JANE

(FEIGNING) Aaaaah!

SOPHIA

Did Dougan say anything about me? Don't tell me. What did he say?

JANE FEELS BAD. SHE KNOWS SHE'LL HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO DELIVER THE HARD NEWS SINCE DOUGAN OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T.

JANE

(SIGHS, THEN) Look, sometimes in life one person experiences a date in one way and the other person --

SOPHIA

Oh my God, he didn't like me.

JANE

No no no no no.

SOPHIA

So, he did like me?

JANE

(THINKS) ... No. (THEN) He's an idiot. Don't even worry about him.

SOPHIA

I don't feel well. Would you mind if I went home?

JANE

You know what I do when I'm upset. Throw myself into work as a distraction. Just dive right in there.

SOPHIA

I need a little time to process this.

JANE

Absolutely. This is about *you* and what *you* need right now. Which might be taking the quarterly reports with you to keep your mind occupied.

SOPHIA

(BREAKING) I'll see you later.

SOPHIA CROSSES OUT, UPSET.

JANE

("CURSES") Dougan!

AND WE... FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SCENE E

INTERSTITIAL - CHILDREN'S BOOK PAGE

WE SEE ANOTHER PAGE FROM THE KIDS BOOK. IT'S A PICTURE OF SCARY BEAR CHASING A POLICE DETECTIVE DUCK.

TEXT: "AND THEN SCARY BEAR CAME HOME VERY ANGRY AT DETECTIVE DUCK, FOR HE HAD MESSED WITH HER HONEY."

INT. WAXMAN HOUSE - KITCHEN/ LIVING ROOM - NEXT MORNING

WAXMAN AND DOUGAN WORK IN THE KITCHEN. WALTER WATCHES FOX NEWS AS SYDNEY SITS NEXT TO HIM ON THE COUCH.

WALTER

(RE: TV) Fair and balanced. Can you believe this crap? Who watches this?!

SYDNEY

You do, Grandpa. All the time.

MELISSA ENTERS WITH A MIDDLE AGED WOMAN (MRS. LIEBERMAN).

MELISSA

Okay, now give me ten squats. (TO WAXMAN) It was starting to mist so I had to move Mrs. Lieberman's workout. Are you guys using that kitchen table?

WAXMAN

(ANNOYED) Yes!

MELISSA

Hey, we all have to live here you know.

SHE CROSSES OUT WITH MRS. LIEBERMAN.

WALTER

Say something already.

WAXMAN

I'm just waiting for the right time.

WALTER

(IMITATING CHICKEN) Bok bok bok bok!

WAXMAN

You are like the worst therapist ever!

THE PHONE RINGS. DOUGAN CHECKS IT.

DOUGAN

It's our agent. (ANSWERING) Hey, Matt, how was the honeymoon?

SPLIT SCREEN WITH:

INT. MATT SAVAGE'S SUV - CONTINUOUS

SPLIT SCREEN WITH: MATT SAVAGE (30'S, OVERGROWN FRAT BOY).

SAVAGE

Awesome. Crushed it. The Mrs. will not walk right for a week.

DOUGAN

Okay, my fault for asking.

SAVAGE

The big launch party is tomorrow night. Hear the little Latino kid from *Modern Family* might show up. You ready?

WAXMAN

Just putting the finishing touches on.

SAVAGE

Idea bomb: at the reading you guys dress up like characters from the book.

(MORE)

SAVAGE (CONT'D)

Joe, Jr., you're the duck. Joe, Sr., the goose. Boom. What do you think?

DOUGAN

I hate it.

SAVAGE

I hate it too. Gotta run, late for my waxing.

WAXMAN

Not gonna ask what you're getting--

SAVAGE

My butt. Love you!

END SPLIT SCREEN. JANE ENTERS, A CRAZY GLINT IN HER EYE.

JANE

I haven't slept in thirty six hours. I'm strung out on Diet Mountain Dew and my eyeballs are itchy.

DOUGAN

(CHIPPER) You want a waffle?

JANE GRABS DOUGAN BY THE LAPELS.

JANE

You're going out with her again!!

DOUGAN

No, I'm not!

WAXMAN

Jane, take it easy.

JANE GRABS WAXMAN BY THE LAPELS.

JANE

Why did you bring him to lunch??

WAXMAN

How is this my fault??

JANE

(TO DOUGAN) It's one thing if you want to go around breaking girls' hearts, but now you're messing with *my* life.

DOUGAN

I'm sorry. I don't know what to say.

JANE

She is a human being with feelings, and I need her functioning for at least the next week, then you can crush her.

WAXMAN

Dougan, think about it from the girl's point of view.

JANE

Which obviously shouldn't be difficult.

WAXMAN

You take rejection harder than anybody. When Hannah dumped you, you listened to Adele for a week and gained six pounds on Chunky Monkey.

DOUGAN

It's walnuts, it's fudge, it's a hug in a bowl.

WAXMAN

Why not give Sophia what you would want in this situation? A second chance.

DOUGAN

You really know me.

WAXMAN

You've been my best friend since we were eleven. And the Dougan I know doesn't want to hurt anyone.

DOUGAN

You went all emotional on me.

WAXMAN

It's a move I have, I choose not to use it often.

DOUGAN

(MOVED) I love it when Waxman lets us in, Janey.

JANE

He's so cute.

DOUGAN

Alright, I'll do it. Come here, you. Janey, get in on this.

THEY HUG WAXMAN.

WAXMAN

Guys, please, no, stop.

AND WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE H

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

DOUGAN SITS ACROSS FROM SOPHIA.

WAITER

Some pepper for your salad?

THE WAITER CRANKS A PEPPER MILL. SOPHIA STIFLES A SNEEZE. THE WAITER LOOKS AT DOUGAN, “WHAT WAS THAT?” DOUGAN SHRUGS.

SOPHIA

I was a little surprised you called. Jane gave me the impression you might not want to see me again.

DOUGAN

(DISMISSIVE) Jane.

SOPHIA

You... don’t like her?

DOUGAN

The relationship between a writing partner and the spouse... we’re like two nations warring over a natural resource: Waxman’s time. And she’s just a piece of work to begin with. Sometimes I think she became an editor--

SOPHIA

-- just so she can tell people why they’re wrong for a living? (CATCHES HERSELF) Please don’t say I said that.

DOUGAN

No, really, *you’re safe here*. Go on...

SOPHIA

She's nice, but she can be so...

SOPHIA / DOUGAN

Controlling.

DOUGAN

(SMITTEN) Oh my God. (SEES HER IN NEW LIGHT) Tell me, what other things do you hate about Jane?

AND WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE J

INTERSTITIAL - CHILDREN'S BOOK PAGE

A PICTURE OF SILLY GOOSE CELEBRATING, A WALRUS HOLDING HIM ALOFT IN VICTORY.

TEXT: "AND SILLY GOOSE JUMPED FOR JOY. WITH THE WISE WALRUS'S HELP, HE HAD FACED HIS FEARS AND OVERCOME THEM"

INT. WAXMAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

ANGLE ON: MELISSA, HOLDING THE FEET OF MRS. LIEBERMAN, WHO IS DOING SIT-UPS.

MELISSA

Alright, last five, make 'em count.

WE PULL WIDE TO REVEAL WAXMAN NEARBY, HOLDING THE FEET OF ANOTHER MIDDLE-AGED TRAINING CLIENT. WAXMAN CAN FEEL WALTER GLARING AT HIM FROM THE COUCH.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

And two and one. Nice job. Break

time, ladies, help yourself to whatever

you want from the kitchen.

THE WOMEN CROSS OFF.

WALTER

I can't watch this anymore. (THEN)

Melissa, may I have a word with you?

WAXMAN

Stop it! I'll do it.

MELISSA

Do what?

WAXMAN

Nothing, it's just... I mean, you know

we love having you here, right?

WALTER

Just rip it off like a band-aid.

WAXMAN

I can't.

MELISSA

What's happening?!

WALTER

I'm going in! I'll do it!

WAXMAN

(BLURTING) Melissa, I want you to move out!!!

MELISSA

What?

WAXMAN

(SHOCKED) Oh my God -- I did it.

MELISSA

You want me to move out?

WAXMAN

(BLURTING) I can't stand having you here! (SHOCKED) I did it again!

MELISSA

(HURT) I see.

WAXMAN

I feel so alive!!

WALTER

I think she's really upset.

WAXMAN

I'm the king of the world!!! -- wait,

what?

MELISSA

(SADLY) I'll just go get my things.

WAXMAN

No, Melissa...

SHE CROSSES OFF. SYDNEY HAS WANDERED INTO THE ROOM.

SYDNEY

Daddy, why are you being mean to Aunt

Melissa?

WAXMAN

No, honey, I know it's hard to

understand, but this is actually

healthy. Daddy's growing. Right,

Walter?

WALTER

You may have been *a little* harsh.

MRS. LIEBERMAN

(SHAKING HEAD) Monster.

DOUGAN ENTERS THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR, OUT OF BREATH. A BEAT AS EVERYONE TURNS TO LOOK AT HIM.

DOUGAN

(BIG ANNOUNCEMENT) I'm in love.

AND WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE J

INT. STORYOPOLIS - NIGHT

THE BOOK LAUNCH PARTY! SEVEN YEAR OLDS MILL ABOUT ALONG WITH PARENTS AND INDUSTRY ADULTS. THERE'S A STAGE WITH A GIANT CARDBOARD BACKDROP THAT LOOKS LIKE PAGES FROM THE DUCK BOOK. ADDITIONALLY, A FEW ACTORS IN MASCOT-LIKE COSTUMES MINGLE (THEY'RE DRESSED LIKE CHARACTERS FROM THE BOOK -- DETECTIVE DUCK, SILLY GOOSE, SCARY BEAR, ETC). WAXMAN, DOUGAN AND MATT SAVAGE ARE THERE. JANE CROSSES IN WITH SOPHIA AND WALTER.

SOPHIA

We just met an eight year old who wrote her own concerto. (NOT MUCH REACTION) And the boy who burp-sings *Gangnam Style* in that YouTube video.

WAXMAN / SAVAGE

Where? / I've been trying to sign him.

JANE

(RE: DOUGAN AND SOPHIA) Look at you two. It's crazy. If I hadn't hired Sophia, none of this would be happening.

WAXMAN

Hey, what about me -- Lunch Guy.

DOUGAN

Lunch Guy played a role.

SAVAGE

And me -- I made Sophia "uncomfortable" during her job interview, then recommended her to Jane when she turned down my agency.

WALTER

Success has a thousand fathers.

DOUGAN

But to be fair I think Jane deserves most of the credit.

SOPHIA

Yep, we really bonded because of her.

SOPHIA AND DOUGAN SHARE A KNOWING GLANCE AND LAUGH.

JANE

Hahahaha, I don't get it.

"SCARY BEAR" PASSES, PROMPTING A KID TO SCREAM AND RUN AWAY.

JANE (CONT'D)

I'm not saying anything.

WAXMAN

(TO SERVER) Excuse me, do those have nuts in them?

THE SERVER TURNS AROUND TO REVEAL IT'S:

MELISSA

Oh, hey guys. (EXPLAINS) The training thing didn't work out. But I caught on with this catering company.

JANE

It is rough out there. (REALIZING) I really am blessed to do what I do.

WAXMAN

Feeling good about yourself?

JANE

Stop it.

WAXMAN

(TO MELISSA) Listen, about before...

MELISSA

Nope, you asking me to move out was the kick in the butt I needed.

WAXMAN

You know, it's okay to be upset about things sometimes.

MELISSA

I've moved in with my folks and have a front row seat to their golden years. Tough luck? How about blessing in disguise?

WAXMAN

(LOSING IT) What is wrong with you?

MELISSA

I better get back to work.

SHE CROSSES OFF. SAVAGE CHECKS OUT HER ASS.

SAVAGE

I used to make a living off girls like that. God, I miss the hunt. Walter, you're single now, right?

JANE

Matt.

SAVAGE

I need to at least live vicariously through someone.

JANE

You are not *Crazy Stupid Loving* my father.

WALTER

Honey, I've been with one woman in thirty years and I'm wearing *Brut* after-shave. (TO SAVAGE) I'm in.

DOUGAN

(TO SOPHIA) I'm glad we're not out there anymore. It's a jungle.

THEY KISS.

JANE

(SING SONG) You're welcome.

WAXMAN

Lunch Guy also says you're welcome.

JANE

Hey, I made this happen.

WAXMAN

I should at least share in the credit.

WALTER

Guys, guys. As a man who does couples therapy for a living, let me declare a winner and a loser in this situation: Jane is most responsible.

WAXMAN

You're just saying that cause she's your daughter.

WALTER

No, she's the one who forced Dougan to go on the second date.

SOPHIA

What?

DOUGAN

Wait.

WALTER

Oops.

SOPHIA

You only went out with me because Jane forced you?

DOUGAN

No. I mean, yes. But then I really started to like you when we bonded over hating Jane.

JANE

What?

SAVAGE

(TO WALTER, RE: SOPHIA) Now this girl is about to become available. But you don't want to pounce right away.

JANE

(TO SOPHIA) Why do you hate me?

SOPHIA

Why did you force him to go out again?

JANE

I didn't want to see you hurt.

DOUGAN

No, she wanted you to do those quarterly reports. (TO JANE) If I'm going down I'm taking you with me.

JANE

(TO WAXMAN) You just *had* to have lunch with all of us.

WAXMAN

And there it is.

SOPHIA

(TO DOUGAN) I don't need your pity dates. Don't call me. Jerk.

DOUGAN

No, Sophia, wait--

SHE CROSSES OFF, ANGRY. DOUGAN IS HURT. MELISSA CROSSES IN.

MELISSA

(TO DOUGAN) I know things seem bad right now, but this could be the best thing that ever happened to you.

WAXMAN

Oh my God!

AND WE...

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

SCENE K

INT. STORYOPOLIS - LATER

ONSTAGE IN FRONT OF THE GIANT “DUCK BOOK” DISPLAY, JOE AND JOE SIT ON BARSTOOLS, READING ALOUD TO A GROUP OF ASSEMBLED SEVEN-YEAR OLDS WHO SIT INDIAN-SYLE ON THE FLOOR. PARENTS AND ADULTS LINE THE WALLS BEHIND THE KIDS.

WAXMAN

(READING, SUPER CHIPPER) *And it was the happiest day of Detective Duck's life for, as he joyfully exclaimed...*

WAXMAN LOOKS TO DOUGAN, WHO IS STARING OFF INTO SPACE.

WAXMAN (CONT’D)

(CLEARS THROAT) *As Duck joyfully exclaimed...*

DOUGAN

(DESPONDENT) *I’m so happy, because I found true love.*

WAXMAN

That's right! Whoever thought a Duck and a Squirrel would end up together? But that's how it happened. And as Duck would tell you...

DOUGAN

They lived quackily ever after. (THEN) I can’t do this.

WAXMAN

(HUSHED) Dougan, keep it together.

DOUGAN

(TO KIDS) Love is lie!

ANGLE ON: JANE, WALTER AND SAVAGE IN THE AUDIENCE.

WALTER

(TO JANE) The kids really shouldn't be

seeing this.

DOUGAN STORMS OFF STAGE, BUMPING INTO THE DISPLAY. THE DISPLAY FALLS OVER, REVEALING: MELISSA AND A BUSBOY AGGRESSIVELY MAKING OUT BEHIND IT.

JANE

Or that.

MELISSA COMPOSES HERSELF AND PICKS UP HER TRAY OF HORS D'HOEVRES. SHE CROSSES TO SOME HORRIFIED NEARBY MOMS.

MELISSA

(OFFERING) Quiche?

AND WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE L

INT. STORYOPOLIS - LATER

THE PARTY IS OVER AND OUR GANG SITS, COMMISERATING, AS A JANITOR SWEEPS UP. THE TINNY SOUNDS OF DOUGAN'S IPHONE PLAYING ADELE'S "SOMEONE LIKE YOU" SERVE AS BACKGROUND MUSIC.

WAXMAN

(TO JANE, RE: DOUGAN) We have to do something. I can't stand seeing him like this.

DOUGAN

(TO MELISSA) Do you guys have any Chunky Monkey?

JANE

Okay, you can't be *that* upset. You went on two dates. And you only bonded over hating me.

DOUGAN

It wasn't just that. Sure, we had that solid foundation, it was something to build off. But once I gave her a chance I realized she's pretty great. She's funny and smart. And her eyes were like the exact same color as mine. It was like staring into my own eyes.

WAXMAN

(UNDERSTANDING) I know that's something you've been looking for.

DOUGAN

And who knows what it might have become if I hadn't been such a jerk.

JANE

You... wanted it to become something?

DOUGAN

Why is that so surprising?

JANE

I don't know. I guess I always think of you as some sort of player.

DOUGAN

Look... how do I put this? Maybe Sophia could be the one. Maybe not. I don't know exactly *who* it is I'm looking for, but I do know *what* I'm looking for. (RE: WAXMAN AND JANE) I want what you guys have.

JANE GASPS, TOUCHED.

DOUGAN (CONT'D)

Don't make a big deal out of that.

JANE

I LOVE that.

DOUGAN

Not *exactly* what you guys have. With the baby talk and the made up words, I mean it's *weird* --

JANE

(NEAR TEARS) He wants what we have.

DOUGAN

Can I rephrase that?

WAXMAN

(TO DOUGAN) Genie's out of the bottle.

JANE

You need to win this girl back.

DOUGAN

She never wants to talk to me again.

JANE

(TO DOUGAN) Hey! I don't care. If there's a chance in this crazy world for two people to have what we have --

DOUGAN

Ah, jeez.

JANE

-- then you have to at least try to make it happen.

BUSBOY

(TO MELISSA) Just to be clear, I don't want what they have. I'm happy with whatever this is.

WAXMAN

(TO DOUGAN) You want to win her back? You need a big romantic gesture.

JANE

Yes, your *Say Anything* moment. A boombox held over your head. Something that will sweep her off her feet.

WALTER

(TO JANE AND JOE) Not to rush anybody, but you guys are kind of my ride.

MELISSA

(TO DOUGAN) What would be meaningful to her? Is there some inside joke, something you talked about?

DOUGAN

I got it! The Duck book. She loves it. She wouldn't stop talking about it on our date.

JANE

What are you going to do exactly?

DOUGAN

(DRAMATIC) I'm going to go win back my squirrel.

A PRETTY WAITRESS PASSES BY.

SAVAGE

(TO WAITRESS) Hey. This is my buddy Walter.

AS WALTER INTRODUCES HIMSELF, WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE M

INT. ELEVATOR - THE NEXT DAY

WAXMAN AND DOUGAN RIDE IN A CROWDED ELEVATOR. WE CAN ONLY SEE THEIR HEADS, AS PEOPLE STAND IN FRONT OF THEM.

DOUGAN

I feel ridiculous.

WAXMAN

Are you kidding me? We look great.

THE ELEVATOR STOPS, PEOPLE EXIT, REVEALING WAXMAN AND DOUGAN ARE DRESSED IN THE MASCOT COSTUMES FROM THE BOOK LAUNCH PARTY (WAXMAN IS SILLY GOOSE, DOUGAN IS DETECTIVE DUCK. THEY HOLD THEIR GIANT MASCOT HEADS BY THEIR SIDES). THE DOORS CLOSE.

WAXMAN (CONT'D)

Besides, I wouldn't let you go through this alone. I'm here for you, bud.

DOUGAN

You just wanted to wear the costume.

WAXMAN

(STOKED) Does yours have a little fan inside? This is so cool. (THEN) Hey, you don't really *hate* Jane, do you?

DOUGAN

She's the one who hates *me*. She's never given me a chance.

WAXMAN

She can be tough, but she thinks of you like her brother. "Idiot" is a major term of endearment with her.

DOUGAN

(A LITTLE SAD) I don't know, maybe she

and I just aren't meant to be friends.

THE DOORS OPEN. THEY PUT ON THEIR "HEADS" AND EXIT THE ELEVATOR. RESET TO:

INT. LENHOFF PUBLISHING - BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

THE OFFICE IS BUSTLING. IT'S A BUSY WORK DAY.

DOUGAN

Now remember the plan, I'll head in

first --

WAXMAN

Then I'll come in with the song and

we'll double team her.

DOUGAN

Can we not refer to it like that?

WAXMAN CROSSES OFF. DOUGAN LOOKS AROUND, A LITTLE OVERWHELMED. ABOUT TWENTY PEOPLE CROWDED AROUND A NEARBY DESK STARE AS DOUGAN WADDLES OVER TOWARD SOPHIA'S DESK.

SOPHIA

(NOTICING HIM) Oh my God.

DOUGAN

(OVERWHELMED) I didn't think there'd

be so many people hanging around.

WORKER

It's Steve's birthday.

DOUGAN

(TO SOPHIA, DIVING IN) We had a rocky

start. But there's room in this duck's

heart. Won't you be my Happy Squirrel?

(MORE)

DOUGAN (CONT'D)

We can live quackily ever after. Or ignore that part cause I was really on the fence about saying it.

SOPHIA

Happy Squirrel?

DOUGAN

It's from the book. You love that part. You were talking about it at that sushi place the whole -- ohhh, that might have been Monica.

SOME GROANS FROM THE ONLOOKERS.

SOPHIA

You are, and continue to be, the worst.

WAXMAN APPROACHES, DRESSED AS SILLY GOOSE.

WAXMAN

Honk! Here comes Silly Goose! How's it going?

BIRTHDAY STEVE

Not well.

DOUGAN

Okay, Steve, just stay out of it.

WAXMAN BLOWS INTO A TUNING WHISTLE.

WAXMAN

(SINGING) *There once was a Duck named -*

- Aaaaaah!!!

WAXMAN FLINCHES, JERKING HIS ENTIRE BODY.

DOUGAN

What happened?

WAXMAN

The stupid fan. I think it cut my nipple.

HE STARTS TO FLAIL ABOUT WILDLY, KNOCKING STUFF OFF SOPHIA'S DESK AS HE ATTEMPTS TO UNPLUG THE FAN INSIDE HIS COSTUME.

WAXMAN (CONT'D)

Who designed this???

SOPHIA

Jane! Can you get out here please?!

WAXMAN STOPS FLAILING, HAVING TURNED OFF THE FAN. JANE EMERGES FROM HER OFFICE... DRESSED AS SCARY BEAR.

JANE

I know you were nervous about this plan. I thought maybe I could help out too.

DOUGAN

(TOUCHED) You dressed up as Scary Bear for me?

JANE

I know I don't make it easy on you, but deep down I'm glad you're in our life. Still hate me?

DOUGAN

I never hated you. (RE: WAXMAN) It's just tough sharing this guy sometimes. Although he's partly to blame for that.

JANE

Oh, he's a huge part of the problem.

SOPHIA

Why *do* you try to please everybody? It just ends up ruining things.

WAXMAN

Okay, guys, maybe wrap it up here.

DOUGAN

(TO JANE) I guess if I have to share him, I'm glad it's with you.

THEY HUG. IT'S AWKWARD BECAUSE OF THE LARGE WAISTED COSTUMES.

JANE

(RE: HUG) That was not effective.

WAXMAN

So what do you say, Sophia? How about giving this guy one more chance?

JANE

How about giving us all another chance?

DOUGAN

Be our happy squirrel.

WAXMAN

Join us.

SOPHIA

(BEAT) You are all insane!

DOUGAN

What?

SOPHIA

I don't know what this weird three person thing is, but you all deserve each other. Dougan, I don't want you back. I don't want to see any of you ever again.

JANE

But... we work together.

SOPHIA

Not anymore.

WAXMAN

Are you... breaking up with us?

JANE

So you'll finish the reports and that's that, huh?

SOPHIA

I'm out of here.

SHE GATHERS UP HER THINGS, THEN "SNEEZES", EMITTING NO NOISE AS USUAL. JOE, JOE AND JANE ALL LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

JANE

Okay, that *is* strange.

SHE "SNEEZES" AGAIN.

JANE / DOUGAN / WAXMAN

Just let it out! / What's wrong with you! / It's so weird!!

AND WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE P

INT. WAXMAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

WAXMAN, DOUGAN AND JANE ARE ON THE COUCH.

WAXMAN

(EATING) Mmmm. Steve's birthday cake is amazing. (OFF DOUGAN'S LOOK) What? I'm just trying to salvage some victory from the whole situation. (TAKES BITE, MOUTH FULL) I'm here for you, bud.

MELISSA CROSSES IN LUGGING A SUITCASE.

MELISSA

That's the last of my things. Dougan, buck up. Everything will be okay.

DOUGAN

It's just hard meeting good people.

JANE

Hey, you'll meet someone else. Someone worthy of the three of us.

WAXMAN

Plenty of good single ladies out there.

DOUGAN

Melissa, you're blocking the TV.

MELISSA EXITS THE FRONT DOOR. WALTER CROSSES IN FROM THE BACK, WEARING A BATHROBE.

WALTER

You guys mind if I turn on O'Reilly?

JANE

(OFF WAXMAN'S LOOK) My dad may be living in the guesthouse now. I was going to tell you. But then I didn't.

DOUGAN

(ASIDE TO WAXMAN AND JANE, RE: WALTER) This guy's going to be over all the time now? It's a little invasive.

WAXMAN

(TO WALTER, REALIZING) Wait, so you weren't trying to help me grow. You were just trying to create a vacancy.

WALTER

(SELF SATISFIED) You got Waltered.

THE PHONE RINGS.

DOUGAN

I got it. (ANSWERS) Hello?

SPLIT SCREEN: <u>INT. MATT SAVAGE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS</u>

SAVAGE

Joe, Jr., the Tastemakers loved your immature stomp off stage! They called it "relatable." People are talking. The book is a hit!

EVERYONE REACTS, CELEBRATORY.

JANE

(TO WAXMAN) Awww, I'm so proud of you, cuddle muffin.

WAXMAN

I lerf you, Jangel.

DOUGAN

Again, I can’t emphasize enough how different the thing I want is.

AND WE... FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW