

Mack Daddies
by
Nick Garfinkle
&
Damon Lopez-O'Dwyer

Nick Garfinkle
1633 Laurel Ave. #7
Los Angeles, CA 90046
(917) 848-8999
nick@magicpadproductions.com

Damon Lopez-O'Dwyer
399 E. 72nd St. #10H
New York, NY 10021
(917) 572-7028
damon@magicpadproductions.com

"MACK DADDIES"

SERIES OF SHOTS - IMAGES SPANNING THE PAST DECADE

Four buddies at college graduation, UCLA.

The four guys moving into a house in the Valley with two bedrooms, each with a bunk bed.

A party at the house. The four roommates in the bunk beds, each with a girl from the party.

The roommates rescue a shelter puppy.

A flock of girls surround the puppy as the roommates collect their phone numbers.

Another party at the house. Three of them under a sign that reads: "Congrats Ian and Jessica!"

One of the roommates moves out. The other three dismantle a bunk bed.

Another flock of girls surround their dog. Two of the guys get their numbers as the third guy, Ed, kisses his new girlfriend.

One of the two guys punches Ed in the face.

A party at the house. Ed sports a black eye. A sign reads: "Congratulations Ed and Charlie's Sister!" Charlie, the guy who punched Ed, hugs Ed in apology as his sister looks on.

Ed moves out with Charlie's sister.

The final two roommates--Charlie and Pete--with their now older dog and two cute female joggers.

Charlie moving out with one of the joggers. He runs back into the house without her. He and Pete lock her out and pull the shades down.

A party at the house. Ed and Charlie's Sister hold a baby. A sign reads: "It's a girl! Congratulations Ed and Charlie's Sister!"

Charlie and Pete, each with their own bedroom now in single beds, with girls from the party.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. PETE'S BEDROOM - MORNING - PRESENT DAY

PETE DILLON (thirties), a fast-talking, confident lady's man.

Pete asleep with MINDY (thirties), flirty, a little trampy. A loud ALARM goes off. Pete jumps up, startled.

PETE

What the fuck is that?!

Mindy sits up and turns off the alarm.

MIDNIGHT MINDY

It's the alarm.

PETE

I don't have an alarm.

MIDNIGHT MINDY

I brought mine. I have to meet Bill. We're picking out our wedding cake.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

CHARLIE BISHOP (thirties), a laid-back, lovable slacker.

Charlie sits at the breakfast table. Mindy enters.

CHARLIE

Good morning, Mindy.

MIDNIGHT MINDY

Hi, Charlie.

Mindy leaves. Pete comes downstairs, groggy, disheveled and barely dressed.

CHARLIE

That's the third night this month Midnight Mindy has been here.

PETE

(glum)
I know. We're living in a state of emergency, Charlie.

CHARLIE

I thought she got engaged.

PETE

Yeah. Nice guy too.

CHARLIE
Are we getting too old for this?

PETE
Hush your mouth.

CHARLIE
I called Susan last night.

PETE
That fruit loop who mailed you a report card after every date?

CHARLIE
I could never crack a B. My effort grades were good though.

Pete shakes his head. Times are tough.

PETE
And?

CHARLIE
Married. Found an A-.

PETE
What's the matter with these women? They're all getting married.

CHARLIE
I don't know. We'll take John Stamos out for a walk tonight. He'll find us some girls.

Pete and Charlie look down at their now ancient dog, whose name is JOHN STAMOS.

PETE
I hope so. He's been in a slump too.

Charlie looks at his watch.

CHARLIE
I have to go to work.

PETE
Whaddya you got today?

CHARLIE
We're testing out a new Japanese ice-cream line. I think it's fish-based.

Charlie looks out the window and sees their next door neighbor:

HOLLY JAMES (thirty), a smart and sexy single mom, and:

ISABELLE, Holly's six-year old daughter, who is never without her favorite doll, "Penny."

CHARLIE
I have to go.

PETE
What is it about her?

Charlie looks wistfully at Holly, who ties her daughter's loose shoelace and brushes the hair out of her eyes.

CHARLIE
Something. I don't know. She has kind eyes.

PETE
Kind eyes?

Holly and Isabelle head for their car.

CHARLIE
I gotta go.

Charlie grabs his keys and rushes out the door.

Through the window, Pete watches Charlie race to catch up to Holly and Isabelle while trying to appear casual.

EXT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Charlie catches Holly and Isabelle at their car.

CHARLIE
Morning neighbor! Need a ride?

HOLLY
I think I have that covered, Charlie.
Thanks, though.

Holly and Isabelle hop in the car. Holly calls out the window to Charlie.

HOLLY
Maybe ten years ago.

She winks at him and drives off.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Pete shakes his head at Charlie's failure.

PETE

What the hell. Might as well go to work too.

He walks a few feet, sits at his COMPUTER, and joins an online poker game.

PETE

Ooh, Yosemite Stan's logged in. Money to be made.

Pete turns on an audio chat function so he can trash-talk the other players in the game.

PETE

Bring it, Stan. I'm only ten grand away from my World Series of Poker buy-in.

YOSEMITE STAN (O.S.)

The buy-in is ten grand.

PETE

Exactly.

INT. FOCUS GROUP CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Well-dressed Japanese and American BUSINESSMEN peer through one-way glass into a conference room, where Charlie and OTHERS taste-test ice cream.

The ice cream disgusts everyone but Charlie, who digs it.

CHARLIE

Is this the shrimp or the scallop?

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE FOCUS GROUP CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Charlie picks up his check.

CHARLIE

Should I bring a bathing suit for tomorrow, or are we going *au naturel*?

A businessman clearly younger than Charlie walks by and looks Charlie over. Charlie admires the guy's suit, especially compared to his own shabby attire.

JAYDEN, an eighteen year-old from the focus group, approaches.

JAYDEN

Charlie, you were right, man. The campus bookstore is a gold mine.

CHARLIE

Did you check out the philosophy section?

JAYDEN

Yeah. Those chicks are freaky! I only got one number, though.

CHARLIE

Well if you strikeout, there's always easy pickings in self help. You have to be prepared for a bumpy ride, though.

JAYDEN

I never even thought of that. You're a genius, man. Thanks.

CHARLIE

No worries, friend. There's plenty to go around.

EXT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Pete and Charlie leave the house with their old, slow-moving dog John Stamos.

They walk out to the street and stop. All's quiet.

CHARLIE

Where is everyone?

A sexy lady JOGGER approaches from the distance.

PETE

Okay, here we go, here we go. Ten o'clock, Stamos. Go get her, boy. Do your thing, buddy.

Stamos lies down in a pathetic, tired heap.

CHARLIE

Come on, Johnny.

Stamos doesn't move. Pete tries unsuccessfully to drag him into the oncoming jogger's path.

PETE

Here we go. Here she comes.

The jogger reaches them.

PETE

I'm sorry, is my dog in your way?

He isn't.

JOGGER
(without breaking stride)
No.

CHARLIE
Have a pleasant evening, then.

PETE
(pointing to the dog)
That's John Stamos.

Pete and Charlie are left shaking their heads.

PETE
Johnny, baby. What's going on with you?
She was a stone cold fox. You know better
than that.

They look down the street where the jogger stops to play
with an adorable, vibrant PUPPY. She talks to the puppy's
owner, some other DUDE.

Stamos hides his head under a paw.

CHARLIE
Exactly.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE

Pete, Charlie, and Stamos return from their "walk." They
consult a giant DRY ERASE BOARD with a calendar drawn on
it. Women's names and locations fill a few of the days.

CHARLIE
(to Stamos)
We have slots to fill next week and you
are not helping us out.

PETE
I got Monday open, Charlie's got Tuesday
open. We got nothing on Hump Day. What do
we have tonight?

CHARLIE
We're okay tonight. You have a Joyce.

PETE
That doesn't sound good.

CHARLIE
You met her at Whole Foods.

PETE
I do not recall that.

CHARLIE
I have a Charlie. Wait, I'm Charlie.

Pete peers over his shoulder.

PETE
This one's with a "y."

CHARLIE
Ooh.

PETE
You met her at a Vampire Weekend concert?
That can't be right.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S CAR - NIGHT

Pete and Charlie dressed for dates. Pete drives.

PETE
What's that number again?

CHARLIE
Fifteen seven o'two.

PETE
We gotta get another car. I'm sick of
driving you around.

CHARLIE
I'm sick of driving you around.

PETE
Who's driving now?

CHARLIE
Who drove last night?

PETE
Who drove the night before?

CHARLIE
Alright, tie.

PETE
Tie. Tie goes to the driver.

Pete spots their destination.

PETE
There it is.

They pull up in front of a SORORITY HOUSE, a party underway. A shirtless COLLEGE GUY jumps onto the hood of their car and runs over the roof, yelling.

Pete and Charlie stare at the scene for a beat.

PETE
Okay, enjoy.

Reluctantly, Charlie gets out of the car.

Pete pulls away, almost running into a couple of FRAT GUYS crossing the road.

FRAT GUY
Watch it Old Head!

PETE
Super. Try not to date rape anybody.

EXT. JOYCE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Pete rings the doorbell. It GROWLS like a cougar. A raspy voice calls through the door.

JOYCE (O.S.)
Come on in, Tiger. It's open.

Pete gingerly opens the door, revealing JOYCE (pushing fifty). She wears tight leather capri pants and a sparkly, low-cut top. She holds a lit CIGARETTE and hands Pete an unidentifiable blue beverage in a martini GLASS.

PETE
Thank you. What about you?

She grabs her own DRINK off a table, then looks back and forth between her drink and her cigarette.

JOYCE
I can't decide.

INT. SORORITY HOUSE - NIGHT

Charlie dances to crappy top forty music in a sea of college kids with his intoxicated date:

CHARLY (twenty), a hot, dim-witted, slightly unhinged sorority girl.

CHARLY
(drunken close-talking)
Your name is Charlie, and my name is Charly.

Charlie's work friend Jayden spots him.

JAYDEN

Charlie! Oh my God, what are you doing here, man?

(to crowd)

This guy is dominant! He's like the father I've always wanted.

CHARLIE

Father? Really? You couldn't go with older brother?

JAYDEN

Hey, you gotta meet Tracy.

TRACY, his date, stands across the room. He waves to her.

JAYDEN

(winking)

She has abandonment issues.

Tracy comes over.

TRACY

(distraught)

Where were you?

JAYDEN

I had to freakin' pee!

They turn away to fight. Charly pulls Charlie in close.

CHARLY

When we get married, we won't even have to change our names.

INT. JOYCE'S HOUSE

Pete and Joyce at dinner. Joyce dances seductively around the table toward Pete. She holds a forkful of food.

JOYCE

Fasten your seat belt.

She swings a leg over his lap, straddling him, and stuffs the food in his mouth.

JOYCE

Air Joyce is a bumpy ride.

INT. SORORITY HOUSE BEDROOM - NIGHT

Charlie and Charly hooking up. A Vampire Weekend song plays on an IPOD.

CHARLY
Who's my daddy? Who's my daddy?

INT. JOYCE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM- NIGHT

Pete and Joyce hooking up. An 80s hair band plays on a CASSETTE DECK.

JOYCE
Who's your mommy? Who's your mommy?

EXT. SORORITY HOUSE - MORNING

Pete pulls up in the car with Stamos in the backseat.

Charlie opens the door, waking up a passed-out Jayden and Tracy slumped against it. Jayden winks at Charlie, then starts making out with Tracy.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S CAR

Pete and Charlie drive in silence for a beat, then shout nearly simultaneously.

CHARLIE
She was twenty!

PETE
She was fifty!

They both recoil.

CHARLIE
You didn't...?

PETE
Yeah. You?

CHARLIE
You had the car.

Pete nods philosophically.

PETE
Don't worry. Our luck's about to change.
I've taken drastic measures.

EXT. LOCAL BAR - NIGHT

A sign in the window reads: "Singles Night - Hosted by grindbuddies.com" Charlie and Pete enter the bar.

INT. LOCAL BAR

Two SMOKING HOT WOMEN greet Pete and Charlie at the door.

HOTTIE 1
Hi boys.

PETE
Well, hello.

HOTTIE 2
I know you. You're Charlie.

Charlie looks at Pete, confused.

PETE
I posted your photo online to create a little buzz.

CHARLIE
(sincere)
Thanks, buddy.

HOTTIE 1
(to Pete)
But what's your name?

PETE
Pete, and I like where this is going, ladies.

The hotties whip out oversized NAMETAGS, write Pete and Charlie's names on them, and slap them on their chests.

HOTTIE 2
(all business)
That's it for us. You're the last ones.

The hotties start to leave.

CHARLIE
Aren't you staying?

HOTTIE 1
God no! We wouldn't be caught dead in there. We work for grindbuddies.

HOTTIE 2
Have fun!

PETE
You two want to get together later on, or what?

HOTTIE 1

Pete and Charlie watch them leave.

CHARLIE
Why didn't you post your photo?

PETE
Just in case.

CHARLIE
Just in case what?

Pete and Charlie turn away from the door and survey the crowd. It's brutal. Everyone there fell out of the ugly tree, hitting every branch on the way down.

PETE
Just in case this.

A decidedly PLUS-SIZED LADY spots Charlie.

PLUS-SIZED LADY
Charlie?

PETE
Also, I posted you like to play the salty accordion.

The plus-sized lady licks her lips suggestively.

PETE
It's code for oral.

CHARLIE
Where do you come up with these?

PETE
I have a lot of free time.

QUICK SHOT

Pete, deep in thought, sits in a bathrobe at his desk. On his computer screen is a close-up of naked boobs.

PETE
Cagney and Lacey!

Excited, he writes this down.

BACK TO:

INT. LOCAL BAR

The plus-sized lady screams to the rest of the bar.

PLUS-SIZED LADY
It's Charlie!

A horde of UNATTRACTIVE WOMEN descend on Charlie and Pete and drag them to the bar.

PETE
(whispering to Charlie)
I'm starting to think "BBF" might mean
big, beautiful female.

CHARLIE
What did you think it meant?

PETE
Butt-bonanza Friday.

Pete notices a tall ASIAN TRANSVESTITE muscling through the crowd toward them.

PETE
And I just figured out "AT."

ASIAN TRANSVESTITE
I've been waiting for you, Charlie.

PETE
Oh, I don't like this one bit.

The mob hoist Charlie into the air and throw him down onto the bar.

ASIAN TRANSVESTITE
Body shots!

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Pete home alone. Charlie enters disheveled, his shirt in tatters.

PETE
(cheerily)
How'd it go?

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S CAR - DAY

Pete drives. Charlie fumes in the passenger seat. Stamos naps in the back.

PETE
Listen, pizza's on me today.

CHARLIE
Let's just not talk about it.

PETE
Fair enough. You lay any more groundwork
with your neighbor crush?

CHARLIE
I tried the other day when I was watering
the garden, but--

PETE
Whoa whoa whoa. We have a garden?

Charlie's cell phone RINGS. He answers.

CHARLIE
Hello?

It's his sister:

ALANA (late thirties), Charlie's older sister, married to
Pete and Charlie's former roommate Ed. Alana is sharp and
judgemental but ultimately a good person.

INTERCUTTING

INT. ALANA AND ED'S HOUSE

A kid's birthday party rages in the background. Alana
holds a phone to her ear while she directs traffic.

ALANA
You forgot, didn't you?

CHARLIE
No. What?

PETE
Where do we have a garden?

CHARLIE
(to Pete)
In our backyard. How do you not know
that?

ALANA
The birthday party.

CHARLIE
I know about the birthday party. Whose
birthday party?

ALANA
Your niece's.

CHARLIE
We're on our way. In the car now. Listen

Charlie holds his phone up to the dash.

PETE
Are there vegetables?

CHARLIE
(to Pete)
Flowers.

Charlie returns the phone to his ear.

ALANA
Then I assume you have a present.

CHARLIE
Of course I have a present.

Pete swerves, pulling into a gas station.

INT. GAS STATION CONVENIENCE STORE

Charlie at the register, a pile of assorted products on the counter. Pete peruses the aisles.

PETE
What about jerky? Kids like jerky, right?

CHARLIE
Good call. Everybody likes jerky.

PETE
Teriyaki or spicy buffalo?

CHARLIE
Why not both?

PETE
Uncle of the year!

CHARLIE
(to the clerk)
Do you guys giftwrap? No?

INT. ALANA AND ED'S HOUSE

Pete and Charlie enter with Stamos. Charlie carries a BROWN PAPER BAG.

PETE
And you water this garden?

CHARLIE
Someone has to.

PETE

We don't have an illegal for that?

Olivia, Charlie's six-year-old niece, races over and hugs Charlie's leg.

OLIVIA

Uncle Charlie!

CHARLIE

Happy birthday, Olivia.

OLIVIA

Thanks, Uncle Charlie!

PETE

That's from me too.

OLIVIA

Thanks, Uncle Pete!

Olivia hugs Pete's leg. She runs off and starts pulling items out of the bag. They include TABLOIDS, a CALLING CARD, a HOT DOG, WIPER BLADES, a car SHAMMY.

Alana comes over.

ALANA

That's a very thoughtful gift, guys.

Olivia pulls out a LOTTO TICKET.

PETE

Please, it's our pleasure.

CHARLIE

(calling over to Olivia)

That's the Cali-Combo, sweetie. That's the big one.

ALANA

Perfect.

Olivia pulls out a bag of FUNYONS.

PETE

Are those my Funyons? How'd they get in there? I told you to get two bags. You didn't ask for two bags?

ALANA

I'll be outside.

CHARLIE

Is there a bar out there?

EXT. ALANA AND ED'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

As Pete and Charlie head outside their jaws drop. Gorgeous, STUNNING WOMEN fill every nook and cranny of the yard. Time stands still as Pete and Charlie behold the glorious sight of them all--one more alluring than the next.

The exquisite multitudes beckon Pete and Charlie with their eyes as if to say, "We've been waiting for you, boys." If there's a heaven, surely this is it.

Pete grabs Charlie's arm.

PETE
What is this place?

CHARLIE
Xanadu.

ALANA
You guys okay?

CHARLIE
How often do they congregate like this?

ALANA
There's a birthday party most weekends.

PETE
Let's do this thing.

Alana laughs.

ALANA
You guys don't have a chance with these women. Most of them are married.

PETE
Meaningless.

ALANA
And none of them are looking for one-night stands.

PETE
I'll give 'em two nights.

CHARLIE
You can't stop us, sis. You can only hope to contain us.

ALANA
You're both colossal idiots.

Pete with a cluster of women.

PETE
So, where do you ladies like to party?

The women turn away from him.

Charlie in conversation with a woman.

CHARLIE
I'm sorry. I didn't catch what you were saying. I was lost in your beauty.

She laughs at him.

Pete stands over a mother breast-feeding her child.

PETE
Fuckin' nature, huh?

Charlie throws a young boy into the air and catches him repeatedly as a frightened woman looks on.

CHARLIE
Is he yours?

WOMAN
No, but you shouldn't be--

The boy's actual MOTHER rushes over, alarmed and angry.

MOTHER
What are you doing? Put him down!

Pete and Charlie check in with each other.

CHARLIE
Tough crowd.

Pete spots their next door neighbor, Holly.

PETE
Hey look, it's our neighbor. You know how I know it's her? The "kind eyes."

Charlie heads for Holly. Pete calls after him.

PETE
Ask her if that's her Indian name.

Pete sees Stamos lying next to an empty STROLLER. He has an idea. He throws Stamos in the stroller and wheels it into the crowd.

Charlie reaches Holly.

HOLLY
Hi, Charlie. How's the women's community theater going?

CHARLIE
The what?

HOLLY
I'm just trying to make sense of the traffic in and out of your house. Are you an OB-GYN? Wait, I know. You run a support group for wayward girls.

CHARLIE
I see what you're driving at, but that's Pete. He's a bit of a swordsman.

HOLLY
Uh-huh. I never would've expected to see you here. Is one of these children yours?

CHARLIE
Of course.

Charlie quickly scans the crowd, points to a nearby girl.

CHARLIE
Um, that one?

HOLLY
That's my daughter Isabelle.

CHARLIE
Oh yeah. It is.
(pointing to another kid)
How about that one?

HOLLY
I don't think so.

CHARLIE
(hopeful)
I have a dog.

Suddenly a commotion as from his stroller, Stamos pukes all over Isabelle's face.

Holly runs over to Isabelle.

WOMAN (O.S.)
Whose dog is that?

INT. ALANA AND ED'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - EVENING

Charlie and Pete with Alana and her husband:

ED (thirties), good-natured and happy but henpecked.

At the sink, Pete wrings out the SHAMMY from Olivia's gift bag.

PETE

Who knew this shammy would come in handy so soon?

CHARLIE

I don't think I've won over Holly yet.

ED

Your dog barfed on her daughter. That could be tough to come back from.

ALANA

Let me explain to you two what your problem is. You're approaching forty.

CHARLIE

Easy.

PETE

You don't know that.

ALANA

Guys your age who aren't married or at least in a serious relationship are usually creeps. You have major red flags.

ED

Seriously dudes, do you know any normal bachelors over forty?

PETE

Zorro.

CHARLIE

Batman.

Pete and Charlie nod, impressed by each other's answers.

ALANA

You get to forty without a marriage or a divorce and women assume there's something wrong with you.

CHARLIE

Divorce is a plus? If I've wrecked a marriage these women would be all over me?

ALANA

There's a vetting process. As a sisterhood, we need to know that someone, at some point, decided she wanted to spend the rest of her life with you, even if she changed her mind later.

ED
That's why I bagged your sister. The sex
isn't what it used to be, but--

ALANA
Maybe if you tried a little foreplay
before you jumped on top of me.

CHARLIE
(uncomfortable)
Okay.

ED
You know I have trouble finding it.

PETE
"Isn't what it used to be." What does
that mean exactly? No more toys? No more
role play?

CHARLIE
I think we're done here.

PETE
(aside to Ed)
You'll tell me later.

ALANA
Look, neither of you has ever been in a
real relationship. You have nothing to
offer these women.

PETE
You're saying that in order for me to
pick up one of these women, I need to be
dating one of these women? Now you're not
making any sense.

ALANA
They're looking for men to be fathers to
their children.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Charlie on the couch, reading a Batman comic book. Pete
comes downstairs, excited.

PETE
I got it.

CHARLIE
What?

PETE
I know how to prove we can be fathers.

CHARLIE

How?

PETE

It's easy. We get a kid.

CHARLIE

Hold on. You want to get married?

PETE

Oh God no. I'm not saying anything about marriage. I'm talking about having a kid.

CHARLIE

Do you have a womb I don't know about?

PETE

Better.

Pete slaps down some PRINTOUTS from the internet.

PETE

Look at these kids. They're great.

CHARLIE

You know how I feel about black market child slavery internet rings.

PETE

Hey, Chris Hansen. It's an adoption agency.

CHARLIE

You want to adopt a child?

PETE

No. We want to adopt a child.

CHARLIE

No thank you.

PETE

Come on! I never ask you for anything. I'm asking you to do this one thing for me. I bought you that smoothie on Monday.

CHARLIE

Dude.

PETE

I've always wanted a son. I want to pass along my legacy, teach him everything I know. Teach him about all my passions.

CHARLIE

Women and poker?

PETE

Exactly! And consider this--if we find the right kid, he could turn us a profit. Do you know what baseball's paying situational lefties these days?

CHARLIE

They do pitch into their forties.

PETE

See, see. You're on board.

INT. "BETTER DAYS" ADOPTION AGENCY OFFICE - DAY

Pete and Charlie sit across from an ADOPTION AGENT.

ADOPTION AGENT

Gentlemen, I know the decision to adopt is not arrived at lightly, but reached after long, careful deliberation.

PETE

Let's get down to brass tacks. What can you show us today?

ADOPTION AGENT

It doesn't work that way. For one thing, we'll need to process your paperwork, then--

PETE

About that, is peeing in public a felony?

CHARLIE

When were you arrested for that?

PETE

I wasn't, but it's only a matter of time.

ADOPTION AGENT

Are you sure adoption is right for you?

PETE

Absolutely. So is there a lineup or something? Some of that one-way glass, so nobody's feelings get hurt?

CHARLIE

We're new at this. The closest we've come is picking out John Stamos at the pound.

PETE

I mean, they're obviously not gonna be in cages. By the way, my colleague and I are gonna need a lefty. Ideally with a great

The adoption agent looks at them, horrified.

PETE
We'll settle for a promising splitter.

The adoption agent picks up the phone.

PETE
(proudly, to Charlie)
He's calling it in. Checking with the warehouse.

ADOPTION AGENT
(into the phone)
Send in Chris, please.

PETE
Ooh, Chris. I'm intrigued.

CHARLIE
Maybe he's the same age as Holly's daughter. That would be perfect.

PETE
What is that, four?

CHARLIE
Could be. Maybe ten?

PETE
She's definitely not in high school, 'cause let's be honest, I know a high school girl when I see one.

Charlie nods "good point."

PETE
(to the agent)
What's your return policy?

CHRIS, a huge, mullet-haired female security guard enters.

CHARLIE
That kid is way older than ten.

EXT. BETTER DAYS ADOPTION AGENCY

Chris removes Pete and Charlie from the premises.

PETE
(to Chris)
Stay sexy.

CHARLIE
 Dude, dibs.
 (then to Chris)
 Call me.

EXT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Pete and Charlie heading home.

PETE
 I'm not going to apologize for being a
 dreamer, Charlie.

CHARLIE
 Are you ready to take our chances with a
 new puppy?

PETE
 I'm thinking we should go beagle this
 time. Chicks dig beagles.

Charlie stops when he notices Holly's front door open. A
 FATHER exits with his SON.

FATHER
 Thanks again, Holly. Maybe next time we
 should make it a double play date.

He gives her a kiss on the cheek.

HOLLY
 I'd like that.

CHARLIE
 (to Pete)
 Did you see that?

The father and son pass Pete and Charlie.

FATHER
 Right where I want her.

He winks, gives them a cheesy two-gun salute, heads off.

CHARLIE
 You were right. We need a kid.

PETE
 I know, I get so lonely when you're at
 work.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE

Pete and Charlie sit at dueling computers, researching.

PETE
 (wistful)
 There's one of those birthday parties every week.

CHARLIE
 I think I have something. What do you know about foster care?

PETE
 Is that where you go visit old people in hospitals?

CHARLIE
 No.
 (reading)
 "Foster care parents provide temporary homes for children until they can be reunited with their biological families, or a permanent adoptive family can be found."

PETE
 How temporary?

CHARLIE
 "As little as a few weeks or months." You get all the benefits without the long-term commitment. It's your dating philosophy applied to fatherhood.

PETE
 I'm in. I'm all in.

SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. PARENTING CLASS - NIGHT

Pete, Charlie and COUPLES listen intently to an INSTRUCTOR. Pete and Charlie look nervous.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
 "Prospective foster parents must complete a parenting course."

A fellow PROSPECTIVE PARENT leans over and whispers.

PROSPECTIVE PARENT
 Relax. All you have to do is show up on time and not be an obvious psycho.

Pete and Charlie exhale.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Charlie and the couples practice mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on life-size DOLLS. Pete practices on Midnight Mindy.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
 "...and appropriate discipline techniques."

The instructor circles the room. Couples practice bringing their dolls to a "time out" stool.

PROSPECTIVE PARENT
 You have five minutes in "time out,"
 Billy. It doesn't mean I don't love you.

The instructor nods approval. He turns to Pete, who has Midnight Mindy across his knee, spanking her. Charlie can't bear to watch. Pete cries sincerely.

PETE
 I'm so sorry. I didn't want it to come to this.

The instructor glares at Pete.

MIDNIGHT MINDY
 I kind of like it.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
 "In the meantime, your assigned caseworker will interview your character references."

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE YOSEMITE STAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The CASEWORKER, a heavysset middle-aged woman, knocks on the door. It's opened by:

YOSEMITE STAN, Pete's poker buddy, fifty-something, creepy, doesn't get out much.

SOCIAL WORKER
 Are you Yosemite Stan?

STAN
 So what if I am?

Stan closes the door in her face.

INT. ALANA AND ED'S HOUSE - DAY

The caseworker with Alana and Ed at their front door.

ALANA
He wants to do what?

ED
You're kidding, right?

Alana and Ed look inside, where Charlie, pretending to be a horse, crawls around the living room with his niece Olivia on his back.

Pete, also a pretend horse, whinnies at Charlie, who whinnies back. They have a pretend horse fight as Olivia hangs on, giggling.

ALANA
Tell me you're kidding.

INT. PARENTING CLASS

CHARLIE (V.O.)
"Upon completion of the interviews and parenting course..."

The couples receive their CERTIFICATES and file out of the classroom unceremoniously.

Pete and Charlie, in their college graduation CAPS and GOWNS and highly emotional, pose for a photo with their instructor. Both their FAMILIES look on.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
"Your assigned case worker will perform a home inspection to ensure a suitable living situation for a child."

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Pete and Charlie clear out a bedroom, removing a VIDEO CAMERA and TRIPOD pointed at the bed, a giant BONG, and finally, the BED itself.

They move in a kid's RACECAR BED and decorate the ceiling with glow-in-the-dark STARS.

Charlie takes the caseworker into the bedroom for inspection, where they find Pete in a Nascar JERSEY, proudly "driving" the bed.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
"When you've satisfied these requirements, your case worker will search for an appropriate child for your unique situation."

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - MORNING

Charlie at the breakfast table. An excited Pete enters carrying an EASEL with a SHEET over it.

PETE

I was thinking we might get more credit from the ladies if we go ethnic.

CHARLIE

Interesting.

PETE

I give you, "The Wheel of Ethnicity."

Pete pulls the sheet away, revealing a crudely handmade roulette-style SPINNING WHEEL, broken up into sections labeled by ethnicity.

CHARLIE

How long did that take you to make?

PETE

I was up all night. Are you ready to spin the wheel?

CHARLIE

What does it do, exactly?

PETE

You spin the wheel. Whatever ethnicity it lands on, you get that kid. We play-act. We role play. What does it mean to have a Hispanic kid? What does it mean to have a Samoan kid? This way we're ready.

CHARLIE

You think we'll get a Samoan?

PETE

I don't know. Only the wheel knows.

CHARLIE

You know we could play-act, whatever that means, without a wheel. For example, I could just say Hispanic.

PETE

I was up all night.

CHARLIE

Okay, I'll spin.

Charlie gets up and inspects the wheel.

CHARLIE
What is "Indeterminate Asian"?

PETE
It's Asian, but you don't know which kind. And you can't ask. It's racist to ask. See, you needed the wheel. The wheel's already paying dividends.

Charlie spins the wheel. More oval than round, it only sort of spins.

PETE
(clapping)
Come on Guatemalan.

It lands on "merman."

PETE
(off a look from Charlie)
I may have been abusing marijuana.

INT. CHILD SERVICES OFFICE - DAY

LAURIE KEELER (thirties), an attractive, kind-hearted social worker sits in her cubicle, pouring over paperwork.

Pete and Charlie's caseworker approaches with a FILE.

CASEWORKER
I've got another one for your weird families program, Laurie.

LAURIE
Alternative families.

CASEWORKER
Whatever.

Laurie looks at the file.

LAURIE
It's the twenty-first century. A gay couple is pretty mainstream these days.

CASEWORKER
They're far from gay--just a couple of jackasses who live together. I think they're just bored.

LAURIE
Do they qualify?

CASEWORKER

INT. CHILD SERVICES OFFICE - LATER

Laurie stands in front of her boss' desk.

MR. BROOKS (middle-aged) is the head of the department. He is a cynical, world-weary career bureaucrat.

He leafs through Pete and Charlie's FILE.

MR. BROOKS

You want me to risk my pension for these two clowns?

LAURIE

There's something about them. They really want this. Have you seen the bedroom they set up?

She rifles through the file and pulls out a PHOTO.

LAURIE

It's adorable. And they scored really high on mouth-to-mouth.

MR. BROOKS

You know what's adorable? Your naiveté.

LAURIE

It's just provisional, like the others. If it doesn't work out, I'll take the blame.

MR. BROOKS

This is a stretch, even for you.

LAURIE

I'll take full responsibility.

Mr. Brooks considers this.

MR. BROOKS

Another experimental case meets its idealistic champion.

He stamps the file, approved.

INT. FOCUS GROUP CONFERENCE ROOM

Charlie and his colleagues test out handheld MASSAGERS.

CHARLIE

I'm enjoying the kneading and the pulsing.

His cell phone RINGS. He answers.

CHARLIE

Hello? No way. I'll be right home.

He hangs up and throws both arms in the air.

CHARLIE

It's a boy!

He runs out, hugging people on the way.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Pete and Charlie pace nervously. The doorbell RINGS. They run to the door and fling it open, revealing Laurie.

PETE

Who are you?

LAURIE

I'm Laurie Keeler.

PETE

Well Laurie Keeler, you are adorable, and I can't believe I'm doing this, but can you come back in a couple of hours?

CHARLIE

We're expecting our son.

Pete starts to close the door.

LAURIE

I know. I'm with child services.

CHARLIE

What happened to that other lady?

LAURIE

That other lady wasn't entirely sold on you, but there are over 80,000 foster care children in the state of California still in need of a home, and I'm sorry, but I don't think the program should be limited to antiquated notions of what a conventional family should look like.

PETE

Look at you--you're all worked up. It's very sexy.

LAURIE

You must be Peter.

PETE

Please, my father's name is Peter. Call me Pete.

CHARLIE

Your father's name is Frank.

PETE

Forgive me, Laurie, but you just don't expect a social worker to be so ravishing.

LAURIE

Thank you.

PETE

I mean, when I picture a social worker, I see an uglier, larger woman, who never found a husband, but needs an outlet for her love. Like that other lady.

CHARLIE

I thought that other lady liked me. She sent begonias for my garden.

PETE

(to Charlie)

I finally got a chance to get back there, by the way. It is lovely.

LAURIE

I have Lou with me. Are you ready to meet him?

PETE

Yes!

CHARLIE

Oh my God, of course!

Laurie signals to a COLLEAGUE, who exits her car with:

LOU (six years old), sweet, curious and majorly afraid of girls.

PETE

(disappointed)

He's white.

LAURIE

Is that a problem?

PETE

No. It's just--it wasn't on the wheel.

Lou and the caseworker arrive at the door.

LAURIE

Lou, I want you to meet Pete and Charlie.

LOU

(shy)

Hello Pete and Charlie.

LAURIE

I'm going out on a limb for you guys, so do this right. The future of foster care may depend on your success.

EXT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S BACKYARD

Pete squats over home plate, wearing full catcher's gear. Charlie stands behind him in a makeshift umpire's uniform: a bicycle helmet duct-taped to a kitchen strainer that hangs over his face, and a couch cushion tied to his chest.

Lou stands a full sixty feet six inches away from them, with an oversized mitt and a baseball.

Pete pounds his catcher's glove.

PETE

(calling out to Lou)

Alright, fire one in here, Sweet Lou. First pitch strike. You always wanna get ahead of the hitter.

CHARLIE

Is all this really necessary?

PETE

We gotta find out what kind of stuff he's got.

CHARLIE

This strainer smells like broccoli.

PETE

Here we go, Lou. Bring the heat.

CHARLIE

We don't even eat broccoli.

Lou rears back and throws the ball as hard as he can. It wobbles off at a forty-five-degree angle and comes to a slow stop a few feet away.

PETE

Okay, starting with the off-speed stuff. Keep 'em guessing. I dig.

CHARLIE
 (calling the pitch)
 Ball, I guess?

PETE
 Come on, Charlie. That's not very
 nurturing.

CHARLIE
 Strike?

Lou raises his arms in victory.

LOU
 Woo-hoo!

PETE
 Lookin' good, Champ!

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Lou sits across from Pete and Charlie on the couch. They stare at each other awkwardly for a while.

PETE
 (to Charlie)
 Are you hungry?

CHARLIE
 I could eat.

PETE
 (to Lou)
 We're gonna get some pizza. You want in?

INT. PIZZA CHAIN RESTAURANT

A large chain joint with several rooms and a bar. Pete and Charlie sit at the bar, Lou between them.

PETE
 So Lou, how would you feel about helping
 us meet girls?

LOU
 Girls are scary.

CHARLIE
 Dude, you are wise.

PETE
 It's actually pretty easy. Lemme tell you
 how Stamos plays it.

A WAITRESS interrupts him.

WAITRESS

Are you here for the birthday party?

Behind them, Pete and Charlie see a handful of MEN, lots of CUTE WOMEN and KIDS Lou's age stream into the restaurant and head for a back room. Their eyes light up.

LOU

Are we?

PETE

Yes we are.

INT. PIZZA CHAIN RESTAURANT - PARTY ROOM

Lou plays with a group of boys while Pete and Charlie talk to cute women:

Pete and a REDHEAD.

REDHEAD

Is that your son?

PETE

Yes. It's just the two of us now, since the accident.

Charlie and a BLONDE. Lou having his face painted.

CHARLIE

He's just such a great kid.
(calling over to Lou)
Keep your chin up, buddy!

The blonde turns to another attractive WOMAN.

BLONDE

(confidentially)
His wife ran off with her "special friend," Maureen.

The two women look at Charlie sympathetically.

Pete with a BRUNETTE.

PETE

When you make a promise like that, you never think it will actually happen.

BRUNETTE

I'm sure your bandmate is in peace, knowing his son is so well cared for.

Pete looks to the heavens.

PETE
(mournful)
He had so much more to give.

She comforts him.

Charlie with a BLACK-HAIRED BEAUTY.

CHARLIE
We barely see his mom anymore. Her cult
allows precious little contact with
"infidels."

Charlie spots Holly across the room.

CHARLIE
Excuse me.

Charlie leaves her, collects Lou and approaches Holly.

CHARLIE
Holly, hi! I want you to meet my son Lou.

HOLLY
Since when do you have a son?

CHARLIE
About three o'clock.

HOLLY
Did you rent him?

CHARLIE
I'm a foster dad.

HOLLY
(to Lou)
I am so sorry.

The black-haired beauty approaches.

BLACK-HAIRED BEAUTY
I didn't give you my number.

She hands Charlie her card and walks off.

HOLLY
I see you're busy as usual. I'll leave
you to it.

Holly walks away. Charlie winces.

LOU
It's okay, Charlie. There's more over there.

Lou points to a cluster of cute women. Charlie smiles.

EXT. PIZZA CHAIN RESTAURANT - LATER

Pete, Charlie and Lou exit surrounded by women. Pete and Charlie are taking down names and numbers like commodities traders working the pit.

PETE
Wednesday? Okay, we're on for Wednesday.

CHARLIE
I have you down for Thursday.

PETE
Saturday I can't do, but I can give you Friday.

CHARLIE
And that takes care of Sunday.

PETE
Thank you ladies. That'll do it for the week.

One woman, JENNY, looks disappointed.

PETE
Amanda, you know Jenny. Can she join us Friday night?

AMANDA smiles.

PETE
That's my girl.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE

Charlie furiously scribbles names on their DATING CALENDAR. Pete stuffs his face with leftover CAKE. Lou holds BALLOONS and PARTY FAVORS, still in his FACE PAINT.

LOU
Thanks for taking me to the party. I'll help you pick up girls anytime!

PETE
I'm gonna need it up top.

Pete and Lou high-five. Charlie finishes his scribbling.

CHARLIE
Lou, you are a goldmine.

LOU THE GOLDMINE MONTAGE

EXT. BEACH BOARDWALK - DAY

Charlie and the black-haired beauty from the birthday party roller-skate on the boardwalk. They stop to make out. Other SKATERS swerve to avoid them.

EXT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Pete throws a baseball in the yard with Lou, who's terrible. Charlie comes out and takes over for Pete.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Pete and the redhead from the birthday party in a beach volleyball game. They stop to make out. The game goes on around them.

EXT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Charlie throws a football to Lou, who can't catch it. Holly watches from her yard, amused. Pete shows up and takes over for Charlie.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Charlie and the blonde from the party watch an Indigo Girls concert on TV.

CHARLIE
I can't be hurt again. Are you sure this
isn't making you feel anything?

She jumps him. They start hooking up.

EXT. CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY - DAY

Pete entertains a circle of women. Lou runs up and hugs his legs.

LOU
I hope it's you, Pete.

Lou runs off. Pete explains to the women.

PETE

It's just like "Mamma Mia," except the third guy didn't want in.

Pete and the women look over at Charlie, who's the only adult competing in a sack race.

Charlie beats the kids and celebrates. Nearby, Holly watches in disbelief, but can't suppress a small smile.

EXT. TENNIS COURTS - DAY

Charlie and Lou play tennis. Pete and the brunette from the birthday party picnic on the grass.

Pete, mournful, looks to the sky. He strums a guitar badly. The brunette kisses him. Stamos takes the opportunity to eat off their plates.

Lou swings and misses a tennis ball. His racquet flies out of his hand and clocks someone on the next court. Charlie and Lou flee. Oblivious, Pete and the brunette continue hooking up.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Pete tied to his bed by silk SCARVES as a naked Jenny and Amanda, his Friday night menage dates, tease him. In the other bed, Charlie sleeps with a SLEEP MASK and EARPLUGS.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Pete, Charlie and Lou play poker with Yosemite Stan and two of Pete's other POKER BUDDIES. The pros bet with POKER CHIPS. Lou and Charlie use POTATO CHIPS.

CHARLIE

I think I have Uno!

YOSEMITE STAN

Why do we let him play?

PETE

Why do we let you play?

Pete slaps down the winning hand. He rakes in the poker chips, shoves the potato chips in his mouth.

PETE

This is the year I bring this dominance to the World Series of Poker.

YOSEMITE STAN
(dismissive)
You've been saying that for years.

LOU
How come I'm not in school?

CHARLIE
School! I knew we were forgetting something.

PETE
Whoa whoa whoa. What am I gonna do all day?

CHARLIE
He has to go to school.

PETE
Correction. He has to learn.

Pete gets up, grabs an old version of the game TRIVIAL PURSUIT off a shelf.

PETE
Lou, pick a color.

LOU
Green.

They're interrupted by an urgent KNOCK at the door. Charlie answers. It's Holly with Isabelle.

HOLLY
Hi. I got called in last minute to teach a tai chi class and I can't find a babysitter. And believe me, I tried everyone I could think of before coming to you.

CHARLIE
Ah, tai chi. Slow motion karate.

Charlie demonstrates his understanding of tai chi with a series of slow-motion movements that fall somewhere between martial arts and "voguing."

HOLLY
Sort of. It's more about mind, body, spirit balance.
(noticing the guests)
Am I interrupting?

CHARLIE
Not at all! We'd love to have her.

PETE

Alright, game's over. Everybody out.

Grumbling, Stan and the others head out.

PETE

(as they go)

What? I already took all your money.

They file out past Holly, who's still uncertain.

HOLLY

I hate working nights. I wish I had private clients. Then I could make my own hours.

Charlie registers this. Holly takes another long look inside the house. It's a total mess.

CHARLIE

Don't worry, the cleaning lady's coming tomorrow.

Holly hesitates one last time, but finally leaves.

PETE

We have a cleaning lady?

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Charlie and Isabelle.

ISABELLE

Um, Charlie, I need to tell you something. If my mom told you I have to go to bed at eight, she was lying.

CHARLIE

I'll keep that in mind.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Pete and Lou. Pete setting up something on the table.

PETE

Girl making you nervous?

Lou nods.

PETE

That's cool. I get that. But can I tell you a secret?

Lou nods again.

PETE
 If you can make a girl laugh, she'll
 always wanna hang with you. Wanna give it
 a try?

LOU
 (unsure)
 Okay.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Charlie and Isabelle. Pete enters with Lou trailing him.

PETE
 Guess what?

LOU
 Chicken butt!

Isabelle giggles.

PETE
 (to himself)
 Right off the bat. Kid's good.
 (to the room)
 Chicken butt is correct. And, I have a
 surprise for you in the kitchen.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The kids and Charlie follow Pete into the kitchen to find
 an elaborate ice cream sundae bar on the table.

PETE
 Make your own sundaes!

CHARLIE
 Sweet!

Lou and Isabelle jump up and down. Isabelle stops.

ISABELLE
 If my mom told you I can't have sweets
 after seven, she was lying.

Charlie nods. Pete hands out bowls overflowing with ice
 cream. They dive in on the fixings, adding vast amounts
 of marshmallows, sprinkles, whipped cream, etc.

PETE
 There you go. Don't be shy. Put some more
 chocolate syrup on there. Remember, I'm
 the cool, fun dad.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Pete chases a screaming Lou, Isabelle and Charlie out of the room, firing MARSHMALLOWS at them.

Lou, Isabelle and Charlie chase a screaming Pete back into the room, throwing COOKIES at him. Pete and Charlie fall onto the couch, exhausted.

CHARLIE

Okay guys. I think that's enough.

PETE

Alright, settle down.

Lou and Isabelle run outside, screaming.

Charlie puts his finger on his nose. Reluctantly, Pete gets up and heads outside.

EXT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Pete, breathing heavily, chases the kids around the yard.

PETE

Charlie! Little help! Charlie!

Charlie finally joins the chase, but the kids run back into the house and lock the door.

CHARLIE

Come on, guys. Let us in.

The kids run around inside, screaming and throwing COOKIES into a whirring CEILING FAN.

PETE

But I'm the cool, fun dad.

Pete pokes his head through the doggy door. The kids run into another room.

PETE

Stamos, help a brother out. Go get my keys.

Stamos ambles over to Pete and licks his face.

INT. CHILD SERVICES OFFICE

Laurie works at her desk. Her phone RINGS.

LAURIE
 (answering)
 Laurie Keeler.

INTERCUTTING

EXT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE

Pete on his CELL PHONE, Charlie hanging from the DRAINPIPE, trying to reach a second story window.

PETE
 Laurie, hi! Pete Dillon. Listen, hypothetically speaking, if we were locked out of our house, and Lou and his lady friend were inside, what should we hypothetically do?

LAURIE
 Are you saying no one is supervising them?

PETE
 Hypothetically.

CHARLIE
 I can see them through them the window!

PETE
 We can see them through the window.

The kids run out of view.

CHARLIE
 I lost them.

PETE
 We lost them.

Charlie manages to open a window and falls inside.

PETE
 Wait. Hypothetically we're back inside. Good chat.

He hangs up.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LATER

Holly, Charlie, Pete, Lou and Isabelle at the door. Holly looks Isabelle over.

HOLLY
 She actually seems okay.

CHARLIE

She was an angel.

Holly and Isabelle turn to go.

CHARLIE

Hold on. Lou wants to say something.

Lou tries to screw up his courage.

PETE

Go 'head, buddy. You got this.

LOU

Isabelle, will you please come to my birthday Saturday please?

ISABELLE

Okay.

HOLLY

It's your birthday Saturday?

Lou looks at Charlie who winks at him.

LOU

It was a Saturday.

HOLLY

A Saturday or this Saturday?

CHARLIE

Great! We'll see you then!

Charlie quickly closes the door before she can protest.

EXT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S BACKYARD - DAY

Lou's birthday party in full swing. If there's a kid's birthday party catalogue, Pete and Charlie ordered everything in it:

BALLOONS, multiple PINATAS, not one but two inflatable CASTLES, a GOAT for the kids to pet, a CLOWN, a MAGICIAN, a BELLY DANCER, a DJ, and on and on.

Charlie stands with his sister Alana and her husband Ed.

ALANA

Shit, Charlie. You're making us look bad.

ED

How'd you pay for all this?

CHARLIE
We're a little behind on rent.

Nearby, a swarm of kids wrestles Pete to the ground. A group of attractive WOMEN watch him in amusement.

Pete winks at them, rises up and roars. The kids bring him back down. The women laugh. Alana rolls her eyes. She can't believe they're falling for Pete's antics.

ALANA
(yelling at the women)
You're better than that!

EXT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S BACKYARD - A LITTLE LATER

Charlie approaches Holly.

CHARLIE
You feeling limber, partner?

HOLLY
Excuse me?

At the DJ station nearby, Pete grabs the MICROPHONE.

PETE
Ladies and gentlemen, please report to the starting line for the three or more legged race. Peace!

He drops the mic and walks off.

DJ
Hey man, that's a \$400 mic.

Charlie and Holly.

CHARLIE
I signed us up.

HOLLY
Shouldn't I race with Isabelle?

CHARLIE
Ooh, sorry, I'm afraid the lane positions have already been assigned. It's out of our hands.

Teams assemble in the yard. The teams include Ed, Alana and Olivia; the magician, the belly dancer and the clown; and numerous other partygoers.

Pete ties his leg to Lou's.

PETE
Whaddya say, Lou, should we take it easy
on them, or should we win this thing?

LOU
I don't know. I've never won anything.

PETE
Well that's about to change.

Holly and Charlie with Isabelle.

HOLLY
(to Isabelle)
You sure you don't want to race with
Mommy?

ISABELLE
I wanna go with Lou.

HOLLY
Your clever plan worked, Charlie.

As Isabelle heads over to Pete and Lou, Lou tries to run
away but, tied to Pete's leg, he can't.

PETE
You weren't scared of her all hopped up
on sugar.

Lou shrugs. Pete pulls out a SUGAR PACKET.

PETE
Granular courage. But this is your last
fix. After this, you're getting clean.

Pete gives Lou the sugar packet. He downs it.

PETE
Don't tell Charlie.

Pete ties his free leg to Isabelle's. Holly and Charlie
join them at the starting line. All the teams are ready.

PETE
Oh man, I forgot my starter pistol.

CHARLIE
You own a starter pistol?

The clown pulls out a HORN, squeezes it. Everyone takes
off in a chaotic start. Several teams fall immediately.

The clown team cruises, despite the clown hopping along
on one giant shoe. Neck-and-neck with Charlie, the clown
squirts water in Charlie's eyes from a TRICK FLOWER.

CHARLIE
My eyes! My eyes!

HOLLY
It's just water. Keep going!

The magician, belly dancer and clown pull up alongside Pete. The magician spits a BALL OF FIRE at him.

PETE
Dude, I'm paying you!

MAGICIAN
Not enough!

At the goat enclosure, a little girl opens the gate. The goat bolts into the yard and charges the clown team.

BELLY DANCER
Do something!

The clown pulls a never-ending SCARF from his pocket, the magician pulls a HANDKERCHIEF from his. They wave them like matador capes.

The goat runs through the handkerchief and crashes into Alana, Ed and Olivia. Ed's face lands in Alana's crotch.

ALANA
See, there it is. You found it.

And down the stretch they come. The clown team has the lead, Charlie and Holly second, Pete and the kids third.

CHARLIE
We can't let them beat our kids. Are you with me?

HOLLY
Let's do this.

Charlie and Holly dive headfirst and tackle the clown team to the ground. A RABBIT bounces out of the magician's hat. DOVES fly out of his jacket.

Pete hoists Isabelle and Lou into the air and hurdles the pileup of bodies. They cross the finish line, victorious.

LOU
Did we win?

PETE
You're damn right we did!

Lou and Isabelle jump up and down, thrilled. ELSA, a hot Scandinavian au pair, runs up to Pete.

ELSA
That was amazing! I am Elsa!

PETE
Elsa, that was nothing. You should see me
in the egg and spoon.

Charlie and Holly watch as Isabelle gives Lou a hug.

CHARLIE
I think we might need to start dating. If
not for us, then for the kids.

Holly thinks it over.

HOLLY
Alright. How about we take the kids to
the mall Thursday night.

CHARLIE
I was thinking just the two of us.

HOLLY
How about we take the kids to the mall
Thursday night.

CHARLIE
Perfect.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

Pete and Lou play cards.

PETE
Has Isabelle ever asked you if she looks
fat?

LOU
No.

PETE
If she does, the answer is always no. Now
birthdays are a minefield. You're gonna
want to get her something thoughtful, but
not too showy. Something that shows
you've been listening. You following me?

LOU
No.

PETE
Girls are different from boys, Lou.

LOU
I know. Boys have a penis and girls have

PETE

Wow.

LOU

And babies come from mommies and daddies holding each other in a special way.

PETE

We're there already? Okay. Just promise me you'll always wear a raincoat. I want you to be safe.

LOU

Okay.

PETE

Oh, one more thing. Never help any girl move into an apartment unless you're sure she's going to hold you in a special way.

Charlie comes into the room holding two of Lou's SHIRTS.

CHARLIE

Big date tonight, buddy. I brought you a couple of shirt options.

LOU

Pete said I should wear a collared shirt for his date.

CHARLIE

(to Pete)

You have a date tonight?

PETE

I have a date a lot of nights. You know Lou's a cash cow. Thanks, buddy.

Lou smiles broadly.

PETE

Remember, tonight you're my little brother.

(to Charlie)

We're working Elsa with the "Party of Five" angle.

CHARLIE

But I'm finally going out with Holly tonight!

PETE

Hey, congratulations!

CHARLIE

No, I need Lou. It's contingent on Lou.

PETE

Mine is too. How about that? Elsa just loves Lou.

LOU

Yeah, and she's got a great set, right Pete?

CHARLIE

What are you teaching him?

PETE

The essentials.

CHARLIE

Look, I'm going out with Holly tonight, and I'm taking Lou with me.

PETE

What time's your date? Maybe we can work out some kind of time-share.

CHARLIE

We have a five o'clock reservation.

PETE

Five? What meal is that?

CHARLIE

It's when Isabelle eats dinner.

PETE

Lou, you down with that? You have an appetite at five?

LOU

Gotta keep the ladies happy.

Pete nods in agreement. Charlie shakes his head at another "essential" teaching from Pete.

PETE

Alright, you can take Lou to your "Cocoon" dinner, but you have to make Holly drop him off at my date when you're done.

CHARLIE

Why can't I drop him off?

PETE

'Cause I'm taking the car, Miss Daisy.

CHARLIE

Lou, are you up for two dates in one night?

LOU
There's enough Lou to go around.

INT. MALL - CHAIN RESTAURANT - 5:00 P.M.

Charlie, Holly, Lou and Isabelle at a kid-friendly eatery, CRAYONS and paper PLACEMATS. Lou wears a bright yellow RAINCOAT.

ISABELLE
Mommy, am I going to see Charlie in the morning?

HOLLY
He does live next door, honey. We see him a lot of mornings.

ISABELLE
Last time we went out to dinner, I saw the man in the morning.

Holly is embarrassed.

CHARLIE
There's hope for me after all.

HOLLY
Don't count on it.

LOU
I see lots of people in the morning.

CHARLIE
Pete has a lot of friends.

LOU
Don't be sad. You have friends too, Charlie. There's Sarah and Kate and--

CHARLIE
Who wants to color?

Charlie hands out crayons to an eager Lou and Isabelle.

HOLLY
You can't get anything by them.

CHARLIE
I know. This one's whip smart.

HOLLY
I think Izzy sensed even before I did that Noah and I were headed for a D-I-V-O-R-C-E.

CHARLIE

D-I-D H-E have an affair with his secretary?

HOLLY

No.

CHARLIE

Did Y-O-U have an affair with your secretary?

HOLLY

No. And Charlie, you're spelling out the wrong words.

CHARLIE

Oh. The short ones are easier.

ISABELLE

Mommy and Daddy grew apart.

HOLLY

We lost Noah to his work.

CHARLIE

Let me guess, zoo security?

HOLLY

He founded a humanitarian organization. He's in the Congo negotiating a treaty between rebel factions and the government.

CHARLIE

That was my next guess.

Charlie stands up.

CHARLIE

Okay, Lou. Let's go.

HOLLY

What are you doing?

CHARLIE

I can't compete with that.

Holly laughs.

HOLLY

Sit down. You're doing fine.

CHARLIE

Is there money in world peace?

HOLLY

Charlie sits back down.

CHARLIE
Okay then.

HOLLY
I asked him to spend less time on
genocide. I know, but his family needed
him too.

CHARLIE
And he chose genocide. Selfish bastard.

INT. MALL

Charlie and Holly strolling, the kids a little ahead of
them powering down ice cream, Lou still in his raincoat.

HOLLY
What about you, Charlie? If you could do
anything?

CHARLIE
Well, I've always wanted a job where I
wear a suit.

HOLLY
That's it?

CHARLIE
The world respects a man in a suit. He
walks down the street and people think,
there goes somebody. Somebody with a
purpose. Somebody in a suit.

HOLLY
Surely you can--

CHARLIE
A lot of industries have gone to business
casual. But you know where the suit still
thrives? Overseas. Europe,
Asia--foreigners know what a suit means.

HOLLY
I think you'll reach that dream, Charlie.

CHARLIE
Maybe. Maybe I'm not suit material.

They walk a bit further.

HOLLY
Why is Lou wearing a raincoat?

CHARLIE
I have no idea, but he insisted on it,
and I respect that.

Charlie's phone goes off--a ridiculous teen pop RINGTONE.

CHARLIE
Sorry. Time-share's a bitch.

INT. HOLLY'S CAR - NIGHT

Holly, Charlie and the kids pull up outside a shady-looking lounge.

HOLLY
Are you sure this is it?

INT. LOUNGE

A dimly lit, seedy room with a stage at one end. Pete and Elsa sit at a cocktail table.

Charlie and Holly enter with the kids. Pete waves.

PETE
Lou! Over here, little brother.

ELSA
Hi Lou!

Elsa gives Lou a big hug.

PETE
You guys should stay for the show. It's
about to start.

Holly looks around suspiciously.

HOLLY
What kind of show is this, exactly?

PETE
It's like a modern dance, interpretive
dance kind of number. I'm a patron of so
many arts it's hard to remember which is
which.

The stage curtain opens, revealing a practically naked
BURLESQUE DANCER. Holly grabs Isabelle's hand.

HOLLY
Whoops! Time to go, Izzy.

Charlie glares at Pete.

PETE

What? She has tassels.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

A disaster area, half-eaten cold pizza on the coffee table, clothes, soda and beer bottles strewn about. The doorbell RINGS several times, followed by knocking.

Eventually, Charlie comes downstairs in his sleep attire, boxers. He answers the door. It's Laurie.

LAURIE

What happened here?

CHARLIE

Laurie? Were we expecting you?

LAURIE

Tell me you don't live like this.

A groggy Lou comes downstairs in his pajamas and sits in front of the pizza. Stamos trots over.

LOU

Mmm, pizza.

Lou and Stamos both start eating out of the box.

LAURIE

Lou, don't eat that!

The sound of giggling from upstairs. Pete runs down in his boxers. Elsa chases him in panties and one of Pete's shirts, snapping a TOWEL at his butt. They notice Laurie.

PETE

Uh-oh.

LAURIE

Do you think this is the proper environment to raise a child?

ELSA

(indignant)

Do you know what this family has been through? He's doing the best he can for his brother!

PETE

About that--

LAURIE

He's sharing pizza with the dog! Did you say brother?

ELSA
You leave Uncle Jesse out of this.

PETE
Whoa whoa whoa. His name is John Stamos.

CHARLIE
Uncle Jesse is just a character he plays.

LAURIE
I'm sorry, could you all put some pants
on?

Elsa heads upstairs. Pete and Charlie circle the room
looking for pants. Eventually, they both find SWEATPANTS.
Pete looks at Charlie's.

PETE
Hey, those are mine.

Charlie looks at his sweatpants, then at Pete's.

CHARLIE
I think those are mine.

They swap pants.

LAURIE
Why isn't Lou in school?

PETE
Because I'm all over that.

CHARLIE
Home schooling. Pete gets lonely.

LAURIE
How are you qualified for that? Do you
have a teaching degree?

PETE
He's six! And I'll have you know he's
doing Science and Nature at a fourth
grade level.

CHARLIE
How do you determine that, exactly?

PETE
Stay out of this, Charlie.

LAURIE
Lou, what's six plus four?

Lou shrugs.

PETE

Whoa whoa whoa. Math's not even a category. Ask him a pink one. He's great at the pink ones.

LAURIE

I'm sorry, pink ones?

PETE

Charlie, the course materials please.

Charlie hands Pete TRIVIAL PURSUIT. Pete reads a question from the pink category, Entertainment.

PETE

In the role of Tattoo, famed little person Hervé Villechaize opened each episode of Fantasy Island by delivering the line, "Boss, ze plane, ze plane," to what Latin actor?

LOU

Ricardo Montalban.

PETE

There it is. There's your fancy teaching degree.

LAURIE

Lou, can I speak to Charlie and Pete alone for a minute?

PETE

Go ahead, buddy. Have Elsa get you started on Sports and Leisure.

He hands Lou a box of questions. Lou runs upstairs.

LAURIE

I've made a mistake. I don't think I can let Lou stay here.

CHARLIE

What do you mean? He loves it here.

PETE

He's the best third roommate we've ever had. No offense to your brother-in-law, Charlie.

LAURIE

Look at you two. A half-naked woman running around, open containers of alcohol. My God, if my boss saw this he'd shut down the entire program. And where was Lou last night that he's not waking up till noon?

CHARLIE
You don't want to know.

PETE
(defensive)
They had tassels!

CHARLIE
We'll do better. Just tell us what to do.
We don't want to lose him.

Laurie sighs.

LAURIE
Here's what's going to happen. You're
going to put him in a proper school.

PETE
You are sexy angry.

LAURIE
Not the time, Pete.

PETE
Okay, keep me posted.

LAURIE
Clean up this place. Clean up your acts.
I'll be back to check on you, and I
better like what I see.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - MORNING

Pete, Charlie and Lou stare out the window at Holly's house. Pete looks through BINOCULARS. They wait.

Finally, Holly and Isabelle exit their house.

PETE
I have eyes on the mongoose.

LOU
Cobra team go!

They dash for the door.

EXT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Pete, Charlie and Lou cruise to their car, acting casual.

CHARLIE
Morning, neighbor.

HOLLY
How was the interpretive dance?

PETE
I learned a lot.

Charlie elbows Pete. Holly and Isabelle get in their car. Pete, Charlie and Lou get in theirs. Holly drives off, watching them in her rearview as they follow her.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S CAR

Charlie drives, tailing Holly.

PETE
Stay close, cobra leader. Not too close.

CHARLIE
Dude, she knows we're behind her.

EXT. FREMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Both cars pull up. Everyone gets out.

CHARLIE
Is this where Isabelle goes to school?

HOLLY
That is why we're here.

CHARLIE
How about that? This is where Lou goes to school!

Pete tapes a NOTECARD to Lou's pants, whispers to him.

PETE
Remember, wherever Isabelle goes, you go.

Lou looks scared.

PETE
You'll be fine. Remember chicken butt?

Lou nods.

PETE
Just work your A material. I'll pick you up when school's over, as soon as I find out when that is.

HOLLY
When did you enroll Lou?

CHARLIE
When you say "enroll," what exactly are
you referring to?

ISABELLE
Bye, Mom!

Isabelle runs into school. Lou hesitates, then follows.

PETE
Go get 'em, champ! And remember,
geography is just a fancy word for blue.

EXT. SCHOOL GROUNDS - MOMENTS LATER

Pete and Charlie circle the building, peering in all the
windows. They don't find Lou.

PETE
Where is he?

Suddenly they realize the building has a second floor.
They head to the nearest tree and jump for the lowest-
hanging branch but can't reach it.

CHARLIE
Give me a boost.

Pete interlocks his hands to make a platform. Charlie
backs way up.

PETE
What are you doing?

CHARLIE
I'm getting a running start.

PETE
Genius.

Charlie launches into a sprint, leaps onto Pete's hands
and flies toward the tree. He bounces off a branch and
hits the ground.

PETE
Dude!

CHARLIE
(in pain, wheezing)
I'm okay. Bad idea. Maybe you.

Charlie gives Pete a more conventional boost. Pete hoists
himself onto the branch.

CHARLIE

PETE
I have a plan.

Pete wraps his legs around the branch and hangs upside down, extending his arms toward Charlie.

CHARLIE
Genius.

Charlie jumps, grabs Pete's wrists. Pete strains, tries to pull Charlie up. No progress. No movement.

CHARLIE
Pull me up.

PETE
I am.

CHARLIE
Sweet.

Still no movement.

EXT. SCHOOL GROUNDS - LATER

An overturned TRASH CAN under the lowest branch. Pete and Charlie both in the tree now, by a second floor window.

CHARLIE
There he is!

INT. FIRST GRADE CLASSROOM

Lou sits next to Isabelle in class. The teacher, MRS. FRANCE, spots Lou.

MRS. FRANCE
Hi there. Who are you?

ISABELLE
That's Lou.

EXT. SCHOOL GROUNDS

Pete and Charlie watch through the window.

CHARLIE
I think she's on to him.

PETE
I told him to sit in the back.

The teacher grabs the note card Pete taped to Lou's pants. She takes out a CELL PHONE and dials.

CHARLIE
What does the note say?

Pete's phone RINGS.

PETE
Hold on, I'm getting a call.
(answering)
Hello?

MRS. FRANCE
Who is this?

PETE
Who is this?

MRS. FRANCE
This is Carol France from Fremont Elementary. I have a Lou in my class, somewhat mysteriously.

PETE
Yes, is this an emergency? Because the note said only to call in an emergency.

She looks out the window.

MRS. FRANCE
Are you in my tree?

PETE
I'm in a tree.

Mrs. France comes to the window and opens it.

PETE
Hi. Who do we speak to about enrollment?

EXT. FREMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A police SQUAD CAR parked outside, lights on.

INT. SQUAD CAR

Pete and Charlie handcuffed in the backseat. They watch Laurie and the PRINCIPAL emerge from the school.

The principal speaks to the POLICE, then shakes hands with Laurie. He glares at Pete and Charlie before heading back inside.

EXT. FREMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The police release Pete and Charlie from the car, uncuff them, and leave. Pete and Charlie face Laurie.

PETE

Thanks for coming down. Charlie's way too good looking for jail.

CHARLIE

Hey thanks, man.

LAURIE

(angry)

I don't know what I was thinking. You guys are not fit to be parents.

CHARLIE

Please, you have to give us another chance. We only started trying this morning. And we're not very bright.

PETE

I'm an idiot.

CHARLIE

Please. We're begging you. I promise, our hearts are in the right place.

PETE

We've got him talking to girls.

Laurie softens, surprised.

LAURIE

You do?

PETE

You should see him with Isabelle. He's doing material.

She stares at them for a long time.

LAURIE

If I let you keep him, it's going to be zero tolerance. One screwup and I take him away.

Pete and Charlie are elated.

LAURIE

Please don't make me regret this, for Lou's sake.

Pete and Charlie nod. They understand.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Pete and Charlie browsing the parenting section of a bookstore. They run into Holly, who's surprised to see them there.

Pete and Charlie at home, hanging a second DRY ERASE BOARD next to their dating calendar BOARD. On it they've written a check list. Item one reads:

"A TIDY HOME IS A HAPPY HOME"

Pete lifts up one end of the couch. Charlie sweeps a BRA out from under it. They check off item one.

"BALANCED MEALS ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S SUCCESS"

Pete tries desperately but fails to keep up with a TV chef. Pots and pans everywhere, ingredients strewn about.

Finally, staring at a plate containing only a sprig of parsley and three oranges, Pete opens a can of tuna and dumps it out onto the plate. He brings it to the table. Charlie and Lou applaud. They're very impressed. Check.

"READING BEFORE BED ENRICHES YOUR CHILD'S IMAGINATION"

Lou tucked in to bed. He listens wide-eyed as Charlie reads from a lad mag:

CHARLIE

Hometown Hotties. Simone from Noblesville, Indiana. Simone loves animals and hopes to one day become a veterinarian.

Pete and Stamos lie on the bed next to Lou.

PETE

Dude, show us the picture.

They check "reading" off the list, until...

Lou in class at school:

ISABELLE

Cinderella likes the prince from the ball.

LOU

Jenna from Fort Worth likes guys who aren't afraid to take the lead in bed.

Lou's teacher Mrs. France reaches for her cell phone.

Pete and Charlie erase the check next to "reading."

Charlie, Pete and Lou back at the bookstore, this time in the children's section. Pete sits on a child-sized chair, knees up to his chin, engrossed in "The Cat in the Hat."

PETE

This cat has no boundaries! Just 'cause he has the biggest hat, doesn't mean he can do whatever he wants!

Lou back in bed. Charlie and Pete read a children's book, acting out the parts.

They re-check "reading before bed," changing it to "Age appropriate reading..."

"SHARE YOUR PASSIONS WITH YOUR CHILD"

Charlie helps Lou plant flowers in his garden. Holly watches them from her window, impressed. Pete and Stamos fascinate themselves digging up worms.

"GET INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION"

Pete at Lou's school. "Career Day" written on the board. All the kids hold a hand of playing CARDS. Pete walks around the room looking at their cards.

PETE

Isabelle has aces and eights, "Dead Man's Hand." That's what Wild Bill Hickock was holding when he got shot in the head in a brothel.

The other parents shoot daggers at Pete with their eyes.

PETE

(recovering)

A brothel is a soup store.

"DO ACTIVITIES AS A FAMILY"

The three of them brush their teeth. Lou stands on a step-stool to see the mirror.

"FIND YOUR CHILD'S SPECIAL TALENT. NURTURE IT"

Charlie and Pete wince as:

Lou blows mightily into a TUBA.

Lou saws away on a VIOLIN as Stamos runs from the room, faster than he's moved in years.

Lou gets stuck between the strings of a HARP.

Pete and Charlie stare at the board. Everything is checked except for "Special Talent."

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

The place is immaculately clean and hospitable. The doorbell RINGS. Pete answers, a DISH TOWEL over his shoulder. It's Laurie.

PETE

Laurie, hi. Come on in. I'm just brining some pork.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Lou builds a model on the table out of SUGAR CUBES. The gourmet, orderly kitchen amazes Laurie.

LAURIE

Hi Lou. How's it going?

LOU

I'm learning about Eskimos!

PETE

We're making an igloo out of sugar cubes.

Lou unwraps a sugar cube, starts to put it in his mouth.

PETE

Work the program, buddy. One day at a time.

Lou puts the sugar cube down. Pete gives him a thumbs up.

PETE

(to Laurie)

Can I get you anything? Some sparkling water? I just sliced up some crudite to go with the hummus I made for Family Time: Impressions of the Day.

LOU

It's a TV-free hour of sharing and feeling.

LAURIE

You are a beautiful surprise of a man!

Impulsively, Laurie goes to give Pete a thank you kiss on the cheek, but Pete misinterprets and kisses her on the lips instead. They're both surprised and flustered.

PETE
Oh, I thought you--

LAURIE
No, no, it's my fault. I--

PETE
I shouldn't have.

LAURIE
Anyway.

Laurie turns and leaves in a hurry. Pete watches her go, discombobulated. He feels something.

LOU
What happened there?

PETE
I don't know.

LOU
You're different around her.

EXT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE

Charlie arrives home with ART SUPPLIES as Laurie runs out of the house. He waves to her but, still flustered, she doesn't notice. She gets in her car and takes off.

Charlie shrugs. He spots Isabelle riding a bike with training wheels and Holly watching.

CHARLIE
Hey, Isabelle, how 'bout this weekend I teach you to ride without training wheels.

ISABELLE
What if I fall?

CHARLIE
I won't let you.

ISABELLE
Okay.

HOLLY
Unbelievable. I've been trying for months.

Charlie and Isabelle both shrug.

HOLLY
Will you have a drink with me?

CHARLIE
It's a little late to take the kids out.

HOLLY
I was thinking adults only.

INT. CHILD SERVICES OFFICE - DAY

An excited Laurie walks into her boss Mr. Brooks' office and hands him a DOCUMENT.

MR. BROOKS
What's this?

LAURIE
It's a proposal to take my alternative families program state-wide.

Mr. Brooks laughs. Laurie doesn't.

MR. BROOKS
You're serious? Laurie, I've already recommended that any additional funds be allocated to executive compensation.

LAURIE
You mean a raise. For you.

MR. BROOKS
You'd rather waste money on a program that has little or no chance of working? You know what you need? A boyfriend.

LAURIE
But it is working. Read the proposal. It's all in there.

MR. BROOKS
Even the Dillon/Bishop police report?

LAURIE
You heard about that?

The window glass behind them RATTLES. Something hits Laurie in the head.

LAURIE
Ow.

Laurie goes to the half-open window. Down on the street, Pete, Lou and Isabelle throw pebbles until they spot her. Pete wears a silly golf outfit: plaid knickers, a goofy hat, a loud sweater vest.

LOU

PETE
I told 'em you were probably busy, but
Lou insisted.

Laurie takes in Pete's getup and smiles.

LAURIE
(to Brooks)
I told you it was working.

Brooks reluctantly opens Laurie's proposal. Laurie smiles and heads out. Brooks looks out at the window at Pete and scowls. He picks up his phone and dials.

EXT. MINIATURE GOLF COURSE - EVENING

Lou and Isabelle hack their way to the hole, many, many shots. Behind them, Laurie prepares to hit her ball.

PETE
Whoa whoa whoa. This is a birdie putt.
You're gonna need the hat.

LAURIE
(playful)
Is that the difference-maker?

PETE
No doubt.

Pete places his goofy golf HAT on Laurie's head.

PETE
Stunning.

She grins. Up ahead, Lou finally finishes the hole.

LOU
Pete, I got a twenty! Is twenty good?

PETE
Getting better every hole, champ!

Lou and Isabelle happily race off to the next hole. Pete watches them go. He looks upset.

LAURIE
What's wrong?

PETE
(angry)
I just wish we could find something he's
good at and just...nurture the shit out
of it!

INT. CASUAL BAR

Charlie and Holly with DRINKS.

CHARLIE
We've tried dance.

INTERCUTTING

Pete and Laurie at the mini-golf course. Charlie and Holly at the bar.

PETE
We've tried acting.

CHARLIE
We've tried the arts, both martial and otherwise.

HOLLY
You can't push too hard.

PETE
Are we pushing too hard?

LAURIE
He is six.

CHARLIE
You may be right.

HOLLY
(flirtatious)
We don't have to talk about the kids tonight, Charlie.

Charlie smiles. Holly has his attention.

EXT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LATER

Charlie and Holly walk from the car to the house. She stops him as he reaches the front door.

CHARLIE
What? Do I have something on my face?

She kisses him. He kisses back. Pete, Lou and Isabelle pull up in the car. Charlie and Holly, eyes closed and lost in the kiss, don't notice.

PETE
 (softly)
 Charlie. Charlie.

Charlie and Holly still don't notice.

PETE
 (louder)
 Charlie!

HOLLY
 (startled)
 Oh, I was just, um, picking up Isabelle.

PETE
 Well she's not in there.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Mr. Brooks talks to a COP.

MR. BROOKS
 What did you find?

COP
 No criminal charges, but a complaint was
 filed against them by the Better Days
 Adoption Agency.

Mr. Brooks smiles.

EXT. POOL PARTY - DAY

Isabelle plays with the boy whose father suggested a
 double play date when picking him up from Holly's.

The boy grabs Isabelle's DOLL "Penny" and taunts her with
 it. Lou marches over.

LOU
 That's Isabelle's!

Lou shoves the boy, knocking him down. Lou hands Penny
 back to Isabelle.

ISABELLE
 Thank you, Lou.

Isabelle kisses Lou on the cheek and runs off, stunning
 Lou. The boy begins to cry. His father rushes over. So do
 Pete and Charlie.

CHARLIE
 What happened, buddy?

LOU
 He took Penny.
 (pointing at the boy)
 You're on my list.

FATHER
 Your son is a bully.

CHARLIE
 (recognizing him)
 You!

PETE
 Whoa whoa whoa. He took Penny.

FATHER
 We don't push. We use our words.

CHARLIE
 I'm sorry. I'm going to have to ask you
 both to leave.

FATHER
 What?

PETE
 You heard him. You're on his list.

FATHER
 This is my house.

PETE
 Then we'll stay, but under protest. Lou,
 why don't you go cool off in the pool.

Lou dives gracefully into the pool. The other kids make
 way as he swims a fast lap with near-perfect technique.

A look of amazement from Charlie, a huge grin from Pete.

EXT. PUBLIC POOL - DAY

Lou swims laps. Pete runs the side of the pool with a
 WHISTLE. Charlie holds a STOPWATCH. Laurie watches.

PETE
 Dig, baby! Dig for home!

Lou touches the wall. Pete blows his whistle. Charlie
 clicks the stopwatch.

CHARLIE
 Thirty-four seconds!

LOU

PETE
It impressed the hell out of me.

LAURIE
You have no idea what you're doing, do you?

CHARLIE
No we do not.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

The ALARM goes off at 8:00 a.m. Pete bolts upright. Charlie lifts up his SLEEP MASK.

PETE
I still can't believe you wear that thing.

CHARLIE
What, it keeps my eye cream from evaporating.

PETE
I can't see you like this.

Lou appears in the hallway in a BATHING SUIT and GOGGLES.

LOU
If you girls are done chatting, I'm ready to get my swim on.

EXT. YMCA POOL - DAY

Lou and other KIDS swim laps. Pete and Charlie with the SWIM COACH (forties), an intense, barrel-chested man.

SWIM COACH
He's fast.

CHARLIE
We told you.

SWIM COACH
He's real fast. I don't normally do this, but we have meets for the older kids. He's good enough to take 'em on.

PETE
Hey Lou, you want to embarrass some older kids in a race?

LOU
Hells yeah!

EXT. YCMA POOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Pete, Charlie, and Lou reach their car. Lou's still dripping wet from the pool. They help him towel off and get him into his shirt.

Each taking a foot, they slip on his shoes and settle him into the backseat with a snack and a juice box. He picks up a handheld VIDEO GAME and begins playing.

Pete and Charlie settle into the front seats of the car, sighing the sigh of contented parents. Lou speaks without looking up from his game.

LOU
(casually)
I love you Pete and Charlie.

Pete and Charlie look at each other, highly emotional. They look away. Charlie starts to try to say something.

PETE
(cutting him off)
Just drive. Just drive.

EXT. HOLLY'S HOUSE - EVENING

Charlie knocks on the door. Holly answers.

CHARLIE
Are you ready to go?

HOLLY
Let's stay in.

She pulls Charlie into the house.

INT. ICE CREAM PARLOR - EVENING

Pete, Laurie, Lou and Isabelle.

LAURIE
You're doing an awful lot of babysitting.

PETE
Maybe you should throw some of that in your proposal.

LAURIE
Too late. I already gave it to Brooks. But don't worry, you were well represented.

Pete gets serious for a moment.

PETE
Why'd you take a chance on us?

Laurie hesitates, then decides to open up.

LAURIE
I know what it's like for a kid not to
have a home.

Pete processes this information.

PETE
Can I read the proposal?

LAURIE
You want to read a hundred pages on
alternative practices in foster care?

PETE
I'd like to read some of them.

LAURIE
Funny, you don't strike me as a big
reader.

PETE
There aren't a lot of books starring me.
You could bring it to dinner tomorrow
night.

An expectant moment as the invitation hangs in the air.

LAURIE
Are you asking me to dinner?

PETE
(hesitant)
Yes...if you want me to be...asking you.
Big night at casa Lou. We got the
grandparents coming over. I'm doing a
standing rib roast, some fingerling
potatoes, a little bordelaise sauce. The
whole show.

LAURIE
That I have to see.

INT. HOLLY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Charlie and Holly making out, clothes coming off.

CHARLIE
 (between kisses)
 Thank God you didn't want to watch the
 rest of that movie either.

She kisses him to stop him from talking.

CHARLIE
 I mean, I get it. The maid of honor is a
 man. What else you got?

HOLLY
 Stop talking.

They fall onto the bed in a heated embrace, until:

ISABELLE (O.S.)
 Mommy, I'm home!

Charlie and Holly freeze.

HOLLY
 What do we do?

CHARLIE
 I'll go.

Charlie runs to the door, but stops as he hears footsteps
 on the stairs. Holly covers herself with a blanket.

CHARLIE
 It's too late!

He pivots, looking for a place to hide.

ISABELLE (O.S.)
 Mommy, where are you?

HOLLY
 Up here, honey.

Charlie gives her an exasperated look and dives into the
 closet, just as Isabelle enters the room.

HOLLY
 Hi, sweetie. Did you have a fun time with
 Lou and Pete?

Lou, Pete and Laurie all enter.

PETE
 We had a great time. Whoa--!

Holly motions to the closet with her eyes. Charlie waves
 to Pete through the cracked door.

PETE
 (to Holly)
 Have you met Laurie?

LAURIE
 You have a lovely daughter.

HOLLY
 Thank you.

They stand around awkwardly, staring at each other.

PETE
 Maybe we should go. Or would it seem more
 normal if we stayed?

HOLLY
 Go!

PETE
 Right.

Laurie and Lou leave. Pete doesn't.

PETE
 Isabelle, would you like to also leave
 the room?

ISABELLE
 No.

HOLLY
 Izzy, why don't you go brush your teeth.

ISABELLE
 Okay.

Isabelle leaves. Pete continues standing there.

HOLLY
 Pete, leave!

PETE
 Sorry!

Pete finally leaves. Charlie cautiously exits the closet.

HOLLY
 I'll buy you time.

CHARLIE
 Thanks.

Holly leaves the room.

CHARLIE
 (to himself)
 Time for what?

He hunts for his clothes until Holly returns.

HOLLY
 Why are you still here?

CHARLIE
 Ohhh. Time to leave.

Holly shakes her head. She looks Charlie up and down, then closes the door.

HOLLY
 How quiet can you be?

Charlie grins. They begin kissing. Suddenly, the door starts to open. Charlie dives for the closet again. Isabelle enters with a hand on her belly.

ISABELLE
 Mommy, my tummy hurts. Can I sleep with you tonight?

HOLLY
 Of course.

Holly gives Charlie a "what can I do?" look. Charlie shrugs philosophically.

ISABELLE
 Will you tell me a bedtime story?

Resigned to his fate, Charlie lies down and makes himself comfortable in the closet.

HOLLY
 Once upon a time there was a princess,
 and a handsome, goofy prince...

Isabelle's eyes begin to flutter. Charlie's do the same.

INT. HOLLY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Holly opens the closet. Startled, she jumps back.

CHARLIE
 Morning.

HOLLY
 Again I ask, why are you still here?

CHARLIE
What do you mean?

HOLLY
I assumed you snuck out after we fell asleep.

CHARLIE
You tell a mean bedtime story.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

The living room furniture gone, replaced by mismatched tables and a fleet of mismatched chairs. Pete rushes around in an APRON, setting the tables for dinner.

Lou sits nearby, reviewing FLASHCARDS.

PETE
How you coming on those flashcards, champ?

Lou holds up a picture of Charlie's dad.

LOU
Grandpa Bert. He's Charlie's dad. Talk to him early before he gets too lit.

PETE
Right.

Lou holds up a picture of Charlie's mom.

LOU
Granny Margaret. Charlie's mom. She's a softy. Hit her up for money.

PETE
You got it.

Lou holds up a picture of Pete's dad.

LOU
Grandpa Frank. Your dad. Not to be trusted.

Pete nods. Lou holds up a large question mark.

LOU
Frank's date. Wildcard.

Lou thinks for a moment.

LOU
What about your mom?

PETE
Don't know, pal. She took off a long time ago.

Charlie comes home.

CHARLIE
Holly and Isabelle are coming to dinner.

Lou smiles, psyched to hear Isabelle's coming.

PETE
Damn it, Charlie, I needed to know this yesterday!

Pete storms out of the room. Charlie looks at his watch.

CHARLIE
No one's coming for another ten hours.

PETE (O.S.)
You just don't understand!

EXT. "BETTER DAYS" ADOPTION AGENCY - DAY

Mr. Brooks with the adoption agent who interviewed Pete and Charlie before they gave up adoption for foster care. Chris, the agency's mullet-haired female security guard, looks on.

ADOPTION AGENT
We don't normally give out this kind of information, but in this case I'm more than happy to help.

The adoption agent hands Brooks a DOCUMENT.

CHRIS
If they give you any trouble, call me.

Brooks smiles darkly.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Charlie and Lou at the door, welcoming:

PETE'S DAD FRANK, an aging Romeo with long but badly thinning hair, and his "wildcard" date LINDA.

PETE'S DAD FRANK
Where's the boy? I'm here to see the boy.

LOU
Here I am, Grandpa Frank.

PETE'S DAD FRANK
He knows my name! Good man.

LOU
(to Frank's date)
Your name I don't know. You could be
anyone.

Charlie's sister Alana, her husband Ed and their daughter
Olivia arrive with CHARLIE'S MOM MARGARET and CHARLIE'S
DAD BERT. Charlie's mom hugs Lou.

CHARLIE'S MOM MARGARET
Look at him, what a handsome boy! The
shape of that head, the nose. He's even
got your eyes, Charlie.

CHARLIE
Mom, you know he's not actually--

CHARLIE'S MOM
But it's uncanny, like it was meant to
be.

CHARLIE'S DAD BERT
And he's white! I figured he'd be ethnic.

CHARLIE
Hi dad.

Pete's dad ditches his date to talk to Charlie's mom.

PETE'S DAD FRANK
Margaret, you haven't aged a minute.

CHARLIE'S MOM MARGARET
Oh Frank, you flirt. Do go on.

Charlie's dad glares at Pete's dad. Laurie emerges from
the kitchen with Pete, in an apron and oven mitts,
holding a BAKING SHEET of hors d'oeuvres.

LAURIE
Goat cheese and sage-stuffed prosciutto-
wrapped dates, anyone?

PETE
Giada suggested basil, but I find the
sage a better compliment to the
prosciutto.

ED
What happened to you, man?

Holly and Isabelle arrive.

CHARLIE

Holly! Everyone, this is Holly and her daughter Isabelle.

CHARLIE'S MOM MARGARET

She's beautiful, Charlie.

PETE

Enough schmoozing. I need asses on chairs.

They all look at Pete.

LAURIE

(explaining)

The meal's very carefully timed.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Everyone at dinner. Pete feeds Stamos table scraps. Charlie's dad shakes his GLASS.

CHARLIE'S DAD BERT

Gonna need another scotch and water over here, Charlie. And stop drowning me with all that water.

Charlie gets up. His dad turns to Isabelle.

CHARLIE'S DAD BERT

How's my favorite granddaughter?

Isabelle stares at him blankly. He turns to Alana.

CHARLIE'S DAD BERT

What's the matter with your kid?

ALANA

Dad, that's not your granddaughter.

CHARLIE'S DAD BERT

Are you sure? Hey Charlie, where the hell's that drink?

PETE'S DAD FRANK

Lou, I hear you're quite the swimmer.

LOU

Yeah, I'm pretty sweet at it.

LAURIE

He has a big meet coming up with his team.

LOU

PETE

We may have to put an extension on the house for a trophy room.

Lou smiles. Isabelle and Olivia sit next to him.

PETE'S DAD FRANK

So Lou, which one of these fine young ladies is your girlfriend? Or are you still playing the field?

LOU

I like Olivia, but Isabelle's my boo.

The grandparents don't quite understand, but Pete and Charlie couldn't be prouder.

ALANA

Olivia and Lou are sort of cousins, Frank.

PETE'S DAD FRANK

I could tell you stories.

PETE

Please don't.

LAURIE

Frank, I would love to hear how you met Linda.

Pete smiles at Laurie, thankful she changed the subject. Linda jumps in.

LINDA

Frank's car was broken down on the side of the road, but as soon as I pulled over, it started working again. So we went for drinks to celebrate.

Pete's dad winks at Pete, who's heard this trick before.

LOU

May I please go to the bathroom?

CHARLIE

Of course, buddy.

Lou exits.

CHARLIE'S MOM MARGARET

How well mannered. Charlie, you've become a wonderful father.

Alana rolls her eyes.

CHARLIE'S MOM MARGARET
And Peter, this roast is delicious.

PETE
Thank you, Mrs. Bishop.

CHARLIE'S DAD BERT
What would you know, Margaret?
(to Charlie)
When I met your mother she thought
tortellini was an Italian sex act.

CHARLIE
(upset)
Really, Dad?

CHARLIE'S DAD BERT
You know what I call eating out? A stay
of execution.

Charlie's mom gets up from the table, flustered.

CHARLIE'S MOM MARGARET
Excuse me.

She leaves the room.

ALANA
That's nice, Dad. Real nice.

CHARLIE'S DAD BERT
She'll be fine. She's just sensitive.

PETE'S DAD FRANK
I'm going to grab a beer.

He leaves the room. The doorbell RINGS. Pete opens the
door. It's Mr. Brooks.

PETE
And you are?

LAURIE
(to Brooks)
What are you doing here?

Lou returns from the kitchen.

LOU
Granny Bishop and Grandpa Frank are
having sex in the kitchen.

MR. BROOKS
Arthur Brooks, district director, child
services.

PETE

Perfect.

Mr. Brooks follows a mass exodus into the kitchen.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Charlie's mom and Pete's dad slow-dance. Everyone enters.

PETE

It's okay, Lou, they're just dancing.

LOU

But he's holding her in a special way.

CHARLIE'S DAD BERT

You son of a bitch!

PETE'S DAD

What do you care? She says you haven't touched her in years.

ED

(to Alana)

At least I try.

CHARLIE

This is not happening.

LINDA

How could you, Frank?

PETE'S DAD FRANK

I picked you up on the side of the road.
How much loyalty do you want?

CHARLIE'S DAD BERT

That's it. We're taking care of this right now!

Charlie's dad takes off his jacket and starts unbuttoning his shirt. Pete's dad does likewise.

CHARLIE

Why are you taking your shirts off?

ED

Guys, violence is not the answer.

CHARLIE'S DAD BERT

Stay out of this, Gandhi. He insulted my wife's honor.

ALANA

Since when do you care about mom's honor?

CHARLIE'S DAD BERT
 Since today. Bring it!

Charlie and Pete's dads square off. Shirtless now, they circle each other like aging boxers. Charlie's dad pops Pete's dad in the face with a left jab.

CHARLIE'S DAD BERT
 Golden Gloves, 1965.

Pete's dad returns the favor with a jab of his own.

PETE'S DAD FRANK
 US Navy, middleweight champion.

CHARLIE
 Dad, Pete's dad, please.

Charlie steps between them just as Charlie's dad unleashes a roundhouse right. He hits Charlie by mistake.

Charlie drops, nearly hitting Stamos on his way down.

HOLLY
 Charlie!

PETE
 Stamos!

Holly rushes to help Charlie. Pete rushes to Stamos. Charlie's mom goes to her husband's side.

CHARLIE'S MOM MARGARET
 You fought for me. You're so romantic.

LAURIE
 (reassuring Brooks)
 Don't worry. This happens a lot.

Brooks clears his throat.

MR. BROOKS
 If the sideshow is over, I have something to share.

Brooks pulls out a DOCUMENT.

MR. BROOKS
 From the Better Days Adoption Agency application of Pete Dillon and Charlie Bishop. Under reason for adopting. Quote, we've got a lotta love to give. And to help us score chicks. I mean, a kid's like a dog, only better. Plus, you know, the whole love thing, unquote.

HOLLY
Is that true?

LAURIE
Did you write that?

Lou doesn't understand why everyone's upset.

LOU
I'm good at it. I'm a goldmine.

BROOKS
You boys can consider your custody
revoked.

EXT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE

Mr. Brooks stops Laurie on the way to her car.

MR. BROOKS
Laurie, a word. I will not be forwarding
your proposal to the state.

LAURIE
What? You can't judge my program based on
one family.

MR. BROOKS
Watch me. I'm closing you down.

LAURIE
What about the kids?

MR. BROOKS
I've already found them new families.

LAURIE
This has been your plan all along, hasn't
it, to kill my program so you could get
your stupid raise. You've just been
looking for an excuse to shut it down.

MR. BROOKS
(taunting)
Have I?

LAURIE
You can't do this.

MR. BROOKS
I can, and I have.

EXT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Pete, Charlie and Stamos walk Lou to a van where Lou's new family, disinterested career FOSTER PARENTS and the KIDS they already foster, await with Mr. Brooks.

Pete hands his WHISTLE to the dad.

PETE

He's got a swim meet next Friday.

Charlie hands a small POTTED PLANT to the mom.

CHARLIE

We planted this together. It should travel okay, but you're going to want to get it back in the ground as soon as you can. And it needs a lot of love.

As Lou is about to get into the car, Isabelle runs outside and hugs Lou.

Lou bravely climbs into the car. Pete and Charlie stand in silence as the car drives away.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE

Charlie and Pete sit around a quiet house.

CHARLIE

Your dad's a prick.

PETE

Your mom's a slut.

CHARLIE

Take that back!

PETE

No!

CHARLIE

Well then I understand why your mom left.

Enraged, Pete jumps at Charlie. Charlie flees.

INT. ALANA AND ED'S HOUSE - DAY

Charlie slumped on the couch. It looks like he hasn't moved in days. Alana brings Charlie a CUP of tea.

ALANA

I know it hurts, Charlie, but you can't stay on the couch forever. And you might want to consider showering.

Charlie's niece Olivia enters. He perks up.

CHARLIE

Hi Olivia. Wanna play something with me?

OLIVIA

No thanks. I'm busy.

She leaves. Charlie sinks back into the couch.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Pete sits on the couch with Stamos--eyes closed--next to him. Pete stares at the TV, but the TV is off.

The phone RINGS. Pete races to it and picks up.

PETE

Lou?

CALLER (O.S.)

Good afternoon. You've been selected to receive two free weeks of home delivery of the Times.

PETE

No! No! No! No! No!

He slams the phone down, returns to the couch.

PETE

How did I end up here, Stamos?

Stamos doesn't stir.

PETE

You hungry, buddy?

Stamos still doesn't move. Pete can't wake him.

PETE

(increasingly urgent)
Johnny S? Stamos? John?

EXT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S BACKYARD - DAY

Pete and Charlie, dressed in black, stand over a freshly filled-in plot, a lone flower planted in it.

CHARLIE
I'm not here for you.

PETE
I know.

A beat.

PETE
My dad is a prick.

Pete looks expectantly at Charlie.

CHARLIE
What? My mom is not a slut!

PETE
Okay.

Another beat.

PETE
Do you want to move back?

CHARLIE
I want Lou back.

Pete nods. They are both resolved.

PETE
Convene the council.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Pete and Charlie address:

Midnight Mindy, Charlie's focus group friend Jayden, his niece Olivia, Yosemite Stan, Charly the sorority girl, and the Asian transvestite from the singles mixer.

CHARLIE
We've asked you here today because you are the smartest people we know.

The guests look each other over. They're not buying it.

PETE
Or for your special skills.

OLIVIA
Can I tell you something? I think it's time for a treat.

Charlie slides a plate of COOKIES across the coffee table toward Olivia. Everyone grabs one.

CHARLIE
You've all been briefed. Let's open the floor to ideas.

CHARLY
I'm still mad at you. You got up to pee and never came back.

CHARLIE
Fair enough.

JAYDEN
Dude, if you had a kid, you could get mad chicks.

PETE
Why is he here?

CHARLIE
He's good at computers.

ASIAN TRANSVESTITE
I'm good at blackmailing people.

Yosemite Stan nods knowingly.

MINDY
I could seduce Laurie's boss.

PETE
Good! Good!

CHARLIE
How would that help?

MINDY
I don't know. I'm just saying I could.

Silence in the room. Everybody's out of ideas.

OLIVIA
Does Laurie's boss have a boss?

She takes a bite of cookie.

EXT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Pete and Charlie exit, determined. Holly and Isabelle--on a bike with no training wheels--ride up the street.

ISABELLE
It's Charlie. Let's show him how good I'm getting!

HOLLY
 Maybe another time.

A wistful Holly watches the boys drive off.

EXT. HOME OF GARY GARDENIA - NIGHT

Pete and Charlie knock on the front door. Pete holds Laurie's PROPOSAL. The door is opened by:

GARY GARDENIA (sixties), director of the state's social services department, a big jowly man, gruff and imposing.

PETE
 Are you Gary Gardenia?

GARDENIA
 Who are you?

CHARLIE
 The California Department of Social Services director?

GARDENIA
 Who gave you this address?

PETE
 You don't need to worry about that.

Gardenia closes the door on them. Charlie stops it.

CHARLIE
 We're very sorry, sir, but it's urgent.
 They took Lou away.

Pete thrusts the proposal into Gardenia's chest.

PETE
 It's all in here. Laurie, me, Charlie.
 We're going over Brooks' head. Work your
 government mumbo jumbo. Do your thing,
 baby.

GARDENIA
 I have no idea what you're saying.

PETE
 It's a program to expand foster care to
 alternative, non-traditional families.
 Were you not listening?

CHARLIE
 They took Lou away!

Gardenia hands the proposal back to Pete.

GARDENIA

You'll have to make an appointment with my office. I believe I have an opening in Janu-never.

He closes the door in their faces. They knock again. The door LOCKS. Yosemite Stan pulls up and exits his car.

PETE

Stan? What the hell are you doing here?

YOSEMITE STAN

He's got a poker game.

PETE

You know this guy? Why didn't you say anything at the meeting?

YOSEMITE STAN

I wasn't really paying attention.

PETE

What the hell, man?

CHARLIE

Dude, you're off the council.

INT. HOME OF GARY GARDENIA

Pete and Charlie, wide-eyed, and Yosemite Stan follow Gardenia through his opulent, spacious McMansion.

CHARLIE

This guy's a social worker?

YOSEMITE STAN

He makes more from this game than his whole salary.

INT. HOME OF GARY GARDENIA - CARDROOM

Pete, Yosemite Stan, Gardenia and two other POKER PLAYERS at a card table. Charlie stands behind Pete holding Laurie's PROPOSAL.

GARDENIA

Gentlemen, new guy, Stan, call me old school, but in my house we play five card draw, no limit, no re-buys. The buy-in tonight is ten large.

CHARLIE

Oh, come on!

GARDENIA
What's the matter, boys? Little short?

CHARLIE
(to Pete)
Where are we going to find ten large? We don't have ten large. Large is thousand, right?

Pete takes a deep breath.

PETE
Yes, and we do. I finally saved up enough for the World Series of Poker.

CHARLIE
You can't use that money. That's your dream. Maybe we can take out a mortgage.

PETE
We rent.

CHARLIE
Oh yeah. But--

PETE
(cutting him off)
Dreams change, Charlie.

Through a SERIES OF SHOTS, the poker game progresses. Gardenia's stack of chips steadily increases. Everyone else's steadily shrinks.

Gardenia knocks out poker players 1 and 2, then squares off against Yosemite Stan.

CHARLIE
Double down, Stan!

They ignore him and show their cards. Gardenia knocks out Stan, who stays to deal the cards. Gardenia has an overwhelming chip lead on Pete.

PETE
I guess it's just you and me.

GARDENIA
Are you still here?

CHARLIE
Excuse me one second.

He pulls Pete away from the table.

CHARLIE

Why is your pile of chips so much smaller than his? Maybe you should try betting on black.

PETE

Thank you Wesley Snipes. Listen, I think I've finally got him read. When he takes a sip of his drink, he's made his hand.

Charlie doesn't understand.

PETE

I have got to teach you this game. Okay, he drink equals us bad, danger, grrr.

Gardenia calls over to Pete.

GARDENIA

Whenever you're ready to finish losing.

Pete grabs Laurie's proposal and returns to the table.

PETE

That's an impressive chip stack. Gonna be tough for me to win.

GARDENIA

Practically impossible.

PETE

Let's say I do.

GARDENIA

You won't.

PETE

But on the off chance I do, whaddya say you have to read this?

Pete drops the proposal on the table.

GARDENIA

If you come back and win, I'll read anything you want.

PETE

Then let's play poker.

CHARLIE

(overexcited)

Yeah!

SERIES OF SHOTS

Pete on a winning streak: folding when Gardenia sips his drink, betting big when he doesn't, piling up chips until their stacks are roughly even, all the while Gardenia growing more and more nervous.

GARDENIA
Nice little run you put together.

PETE
Luck of the cards.

GARDENIA
What say we cash in now and both walk away winners?

PETE
Deal 'em, Stan.

Gardenia glares at Pete. They ante up. Stan deals.

GARDENIA
(betting)
One thousand.

PETE
Raise. Four thousand.

GARDENIA
You must have a hand. So do I. Reraise, four more.

PETE
Call.

GARDENIA
One card please, Stan.

PETE
I'll take four.

Gardenia laughs and discards one card. Pete discards four and shows his remaining card, an ace. Stan deals Gardenia one new card and Pete four.

GARDENIA
You came at me with nothing?

PETE
I have my ace.

Gardenia snorts derisively and takes a sip of his drink.

CHARLIE
He's drinking!

GARDENIA
(ignoring Charlie)
Ten thousand.

PETE
I'm all in.

CHARLIE
(freaking out)
He was drinking! He took a sip!

Stan counts Pete and Gardenia's chips, then smiles.

STAN
(to Gardenia)
He has you covered. You have to go all in
to call.

GARDENIA
I'm aware.

Gardenia pushes in all his chips. The final showdown.

GARDENIA
What do you have?

PETE
Dead man's hand.

GARDENIA
Aces and eights. Good hand. Just not good
enough.

Gardenia grins and shows his own hand: a full house.

GARDENIA
Kings over eights. And to think, you
almost had me nervous.

Gardenia, gleeful, rakes in the chips. Charlie's crushed.

PETE
(eerily calm)
You know, there's always been debate
about Wild Bill's kicker. Some say that
fifth card was a nine. Some say a king.
Me, I've always liked to think that when
Bill took that bullet, he was holding
one...final...ace.

Pete lays his cards on the table: three aces, two eights.
A better full house than Gardenia's.

The color drains from Gardenia's face. He slumps down in
his chair.

CHARLIE

Did we win?

Pete smiles. Charlie goes nuts, in a good way.

PETE

Keep it down, Charlie. We don't want to disturb the director while he's reading.

Gardenia picks up Laurie's proposal. He opens to the first page.

GARDENIA

Get out of my house.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Pete and Charlie pace, staring expectantly at the phone. Suddenly, Charlie heads for the stairs.

PETE

Where are you going?

CHARLIE

There's something I have to do.

INT. PETE AND CHARLIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM

Charlie takes a deep breath. He reaches into the back of his closet, pulls out a never-worn SUIT, tags still attached.

EXT. HOLLY'S HOUSE

Charlie, wearing his suit, rings the doorbell. Holly opens the door.

CHARLIE

I know you don't want to see me, but I figure you owe me one for babysitting.

HOLLY

What's all this?

Standing behind Charlie on the lawn are:

Charlie's parents, his sister Alana and her husband Ed, his work buddy Jayden and Jayden's date Tracy from the sorority party, Charly the sorority girl, and a half-dozen STRANGERS.

CHARLIE

You said if you had private tai chi clients, you could make your own hours. I realize I made the hour but, you know, going forward.

Holly is speechless.

CHARLIE

A couple of quick things, try to drop in the word "tantric." Jayden thinks this is a sex workshop.

On the lawn, Jayden mimes pelvic thrusts.

CHARLIE

Also, if you have any marriage advice, my sister and Ed, and my parents, are here to work on their relationships.

HOLLY

But I'm divorced.

CHARLIE

They think you're a widow. Scarred, but wiser for the ordeal.

Charlie points to the strangers, who are puffing hard on cigarettes and downing coffee.

CHARLIE

And that little cluster over there thinks this is an outdoor AA meeting. So, whatever you have on that. Good luck!

Charlie joins everyone on the lawn. Sorority girl Charly whispers in his ear.

CHARLY

Last night I dreamt I killed you.

Holly addresses the crowd.

HOLLY

Hello, my name is Holly.

AA FOLK

(in unison)

Hi, Holly.

CHARLY

(whispering to Charlie)
And had sex with your corpse.

HOLLY

I will be your teacher tonight for tai

Jayden looks disappointed. The AA folk look confused.

HOLLY
And sober....

Charlie motions with his head toward Jayden.

HOLLY
...tantric breathing.

Jayden and his date Tracy high-five.

HOLLY
Okay. Let's get started.

Pete runs out of the house and to their car.

PETE
Charlie we got the call! He's in. Plans
in motion! Wheels turning!

Charlie runs up to Holly.

CHARLIE
I have to go. It's about Lou.

HOLLY
Charlie, thank you. I--

CHARLIE
I know. I was a jerk and I made a huge
mistake, but you don't hate me, at least
not anymore.

HOLLY
Close enough.

Pete yells from the car.

PETE
Come on!

Charlie hurries to the car. Holly calls after him.

HOLLY
Nice suit!

INT. CHILD SERVICES OFFICE

Pete and Charlie walk in to find Laurie and her
colleagues crowded outside Mr. Brooks' office, where
Brooks and Gardenia are having a heated exchange.

LAURIE
What are you doing here?

PETE
You'll see in a moment.

Brooks exits his office. He glares at Pete and Charlie.

MR. BROOKS
This isn't the last you've heard of me.

PETE
Yeah, I'm pretty sure it is.

Gardenia emerges from Brooks' office.

GARDENIA
Effective immediately, Laurie Keeler is the new district director of child services. Congratulations, young lady. You have a remarkable vision.

Laurie is stunned. She looks at Pete. He winks.

CHARLIE
Madame director, we'd like to talk to you about permanent adoption.

EXT. LOU'S NEW FOSTER HOME - DAY

Pete and Charlie ring the doorbell.

PETE
Do you think he'll want to take our names?

CHARLIE
Lou Dillon Bishop.

PETE
Lou Bishop Dillon.

CHARLIE
Lou Billon?

PETE
Lou Dishop?

CHARLIE
Lou Bishillon?

PETE
Lou Dillishop?

A BOY answers the door. They enter the house.

INT. LOU'S NEW FOSTER HOME - CONTINUOUS

Pete and Charlie wander through the house. KIDS run around unsupervised. A TV blares from an unseen room.

CHARLIE
What is this place?

Finally, they find Lou. They run over to him.

PETE & CHARLIE
Lou!

Pete and Charlie embrace Lou.

PETE
Where's your swimsuit, buddy? Your meet's in half an hour.

LOU
I'm not going. Barry says everyone has to make sacrifices.

PETE
Barry doesn't know what the hell he's talking about. Who's Barry?

Lou's foster mom walks into the room, smoking.

FOSTER MOM
I'm Barry.

CHARLIE
What is that even short for?

PETE
How can you not take him to his swim meet? It's his special talent. You have to nurture it. Don't you know anything?

CHARLIE
Yeah. You suck.

Lou's foster dad appears in a dirty undershirt.

FOSTER DAD
It's her mom's birthday. Ninetieth.

CHARLIE
I may have misspoken.

PETE
(sincere)
God bless her. Still living alone? Does her own shopping, does she?

FOSTER DAD
What the hell are you doing here?

CHARLIE
We're taking Lou.

FOSTER DAD
I don't think so.

PETE
Oh, I think so.

Pete shoves a child services DOCUMENT into his chest.

CHARLIE
Grab your swimsuit, Lou. We're going to that swim meet!

Lou runs upstairs. A beat.

PETE
(to the foster dad)
I want my whistle back.

EXT. FREEWAY - DAY

Pete and Charlie's car swerves through traffic, horn HONKING.

EXT. SWIM MEET POOL

Pete--WHISTLE around his neck--Charlie and Lou run onto the pool deck. Kids older and bigger than Lou stand on all but one starting block.

SWIM COACH
I didn't think you were going to make it.
Get over there! This is your race. Lane eight.

Lou races to the open starting block. The coach runs over to the scorer's table and talks to an OFFICIAL, who nods.

The GUN goes off and the race begins.

Pete and Charlie run alongside the pool, cheering loudly.

Lou swims as hard as he can, keeping pace.

Across the pool, Charlie sees Holly and Isabelle running onto the deck.

A tight race to the finish. Lou barely beats out the field and wins!

Charlie, Pete, Holly and Isabelle converge by Lou. Pete pulls an exhausted but excited Lou out of the water. A group hug with a sopping wet Lou in the middle.

ISABELLE
(to Lou)
You were fast!

LOU
I know!

Holly kisses Charlie.

HOLLY
I guess your plan worked after all.

Pete finds Laurie coming through the crowd. They lock eyes. No words are necessary. They kiss, passionately.

Lou and Isabelle giggle, standing together between the two kissing couples.

EXT. YARD BETWEEN PETE, CHARLIE AND HOLLY'S - EVENING

Six months later.

A big picnic table in the yard, halfway between the two houses. Lou and Isabelle ride bikes. A new PUPPY chases after them.

Pete mans a BBQ, while Holly sets the table.

Charlie and Laurie both arrive home from work. Charlie wears a smart-looking SUIT.

Everyone converges to welcome them home. Holly kisses Charlie and Pete kisses Laurie.

The sexy lady jogger who snubbed the guys at the opening runs by. She stops to pet the puppy.

JOGGER
What's your dog's name?

HOLLY
Danny Tanner.

LOU
Whoa whoa whoa. His name is Bob Saget.

LAURIE
Danny Tanner is just a character he plays.

Pete and Charlie grin and turn their backs on the jogger.
They put their arms around their ladies.

The family heads for the dinner table.

FADE OUT.