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Master of None

“Parents”

(#102)

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1 INT. CASTING OFFICE - AUDITION ROOM - DAY

1

Dev finishes his audition.

DEV

Madam President, Joint Chiefs of Staff,
Prime Minister Cho, it's truly an honor
to be here in the Oval Office, though I
wish it were under better circumstances.
I just came back from a meeting with the
world's top scientists. They're all dead.
The virus, it got them all. I was able to
obtain a sample, but it's not in the
vial. It's... it's in my blood.

CASTING DIRECTOR

(very flat)

Dr. Vincent, if it's in your blood. Then
that means. The virus. My god.

DEV

Yes, the sickening... has begun.

The casting people look at each other, impressed.

CASTING DIRECTOR

Wow. Very, very powerful stuff, Dev. That
pause you took after "the sickening" was
phenomenal!

ASSISTANT CASTING DIRECTOR

Amazing pause. One of the best pauses
we've heard all day.

CASTING DIRECTOR

Thank you so much for coming in.

DEV

Thank you...
(pauses intentionally and
dramatically)
...for your time.

The room gives him a nice laugh. Dev laughs with them.

2 INT. CASTING OFFICE - HALLWAY - LATER

2

The casting director walks Dev out. The room is full of other
actors auditioning for Dr. Vincent.

CASTING DIRECTOR

That was great. Now our director is
flying in next week.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CASTING DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

I definitely want to bring you in for a session with him. My office will be in touch.

DEV

Thanks, sounds great. Any word on who the leads of the film might be?

CASTING DIRECTOR

(quietly)

Between us, they're close on Colin Salmon and Kerry Washington. And it looks like we're going with 50 Cent as the evil senator who looks the other way.

DEV

Wait, so is this a... like... black virus movie?

CASTING DIRECTOR

Yes. That's exactly what it is.

3 INT. RAMESH'S HOUSE - DAY

3

Dev's dad, RAMESH, looks at his iPad and paces back and forth.

DEV

So yeah, I got a callback for the virus movie, could be cool --

RAMESH

(not really listening)

Shit. Shit. Shit. Shit. Shit.

DEV

What? What's wrong?

RAMESH

(pointing to his iPad)

I just realized my calendar isn't updating. My friend, Dr. Ramusami, is visiting and I forgot to pick him up at the train station.

DEV

Uh oh, that's cold. Guy came all the way from India, seems like you should have picked him up.

RAMESH

I have all my appointments in the calendar. And the day before, a little "ding" comes up.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RAMESH (CONT'D)

Ding!" And then I plan my day. I listen to the dings and see what I have to do. There wasn't a ding!

DEV

You got a new iPad. You didn't transfer anything over.

RAMESH

Why don't the dings automatically transfer?

DEV

"Dings" is not a term. You gotta stop saying "dings." The appointments don't transfer automatically. You have to transfer them.

RAMESH

I've been calling you to set it up. You never call me back! Now Dr. Ramusami is probably wandering around Penn Station eating pretzels.

DEV

Ok, you don't know that he's eating pretzels. Also that's an adorable worst case scenario for being lost alone in New York.

RAMESH

I have to go get him. Can you fix the iPad for me?

Dev hurriedly starts leaving.

DEV

Eh, can I do it later? I'm going to go see X-Men and I don't want to miss the trailers.

Close in on Ramesh's face...

DEV (V.O.)

I gotta go. I'm not your personal computer guy.

FLASHBACK: RAMESH'S LIFE

Young Ramesh walks around a market, full of joy, playing with his abacus and making funny noises.

(CONTINUED)

(NOTE: These noises should match the funny noises present-day Ramesh makes when he plays with his iPad in the final scene.)
A bigger kid, a husky INDIAN BULLY, approaches.

Note: all dialogue in India is in Tamil and subtitled.

INDIAN BULLY

What is that?

CHILD RAMESH

It's my abacus!

INDIAN BULLY

Give it to me.

He snatches it.

INDIAN BULLY (CONT'D)

I think it's broken.

CHILD RAMESH

No, it works fine.

INDIAN BULLY

No... It's definitely broken.

The bully SLAMS it on the ground.

INDIAN BULLY (CONT'D)

Let me try and fix it.

He steps on it and breaks it. The bully laughs and walks away. Ramesh is sad.

CHILD RAMESH

Awww, man.

5 INT. RAMESH'S INDIAN HOUSE - 1970'S - DAY

5

TEENAGE RAMESH talks to his DAD.

TEENAGE RAMESH

Dad, I want to study in medical college
and become a doctor.

RAMESH'S DAD

Ramesh, we don't have money for that.
Work in the factory for a few years. Then
we'll see about all of that.

6 EXT. AIRPORT - U.S., 1980'S - DAY

6

STOCK FOOTAGE: Ramesh's plane lands in America.

7 INT. CLINIC - U.S., 1980 - DAY 7

An AMERICAN DOCTOR, not friendly, gives YOUNG ADULT RAMESH a tour.

AMERICAN DOCTOR

That's the basic go-round of the facility.

(speaking way too slowly and clearly)

So - do - you - understand - every - thing?

RAMESH

Yeah. So someone said when the new doctor comes to town you usually take the family to the steakhouse. Is that tonight? Should I go pick up my wife?

The doctor glances at an older doctor, who shakes his head.

AMERICAN DOCTOR

Oh... no. There... is no dinner. You can just go to the cafeteria and eat.

8 INT. CAFETERIA - U.S., 1980 - NIGHT 8

Young Adult Ramesh and Young Adult Fatima have dinner. Very few people are there.

9 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - U.S., 1980'S - DAY 9

1980's. Baby Dev is born.

10 INT. RAMESH'S HOUSE - U.S., 1990'S - DAY 10

1990's. Ramesh walks in with CHILD DEV. He's covering Dev's eyes with his hands. He takes his hands away.

RAMESH

Your eyes are closed?

CHILD DEV

Yes.

RAMESH

Okay, now open them!

CHILD DEV

A computer!

Dev runs up and starts playing with a boxy, 90's Apple computer.

(CONTINUED)

10

CHILD DEV (CONT'D)
Whoah, thanks Dad!

Ramesh looks at Dev's eyes which are beaming and so happy. We match cut to present day.

END FLASHBACK.

11 INT. RAMESH'S HOUSE - PRESENT DAY

11

Match cut to present-day Dev's face.

DEV
Can I just do it later? I'm going to go see X-Men and I don't want to miss the trailers. I gotta go, I'm not your personal computer guy.

RAMESH
(disappointed)
Okay.

Dev sends a text to Brian: "Headed over." Ramesh watches Dev leave.

12 INT. PETER'S APARTMENT - DAY

12

BRIAN sees Dev's text. He is talking with his dad PETER (60s, quiet, serious).

BRIAN
Okay, I think I'm gonna head out soon, Dad.

PETER
Did you read the *Economist* article I e-mailed you?

BRIAN
No, I didn't get a chance to do that yet.

PETER
It exposes how farm subsidies are slowly leading us to a country-wide drought within ten years.

BRIAN
Sounds uplifting! So, I should go. It was good seeing you.

PETER
Before you go, can you run and pick me up a package of rice from the store downstairs?

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

Sorry, I can't. I'm meeting Dev to see a movie, and I love answering those movie trivia questions they put up before the show. So I think I'm just going to head out.

Brian exits. Off Peter's face...

FLASHBACK: PETER'S LIFE

13 EXT. PETER'S CHILDHOOD HOUSE - TAIWAN, 1950'S - DAY 13

The house is tiny. It is one room with a dirt floor -- more of a hut than a house. CHILD PETER (age 10) is outside, playing with a chicken. He's having fun -- he loves it like a pet.

14 INT. PETER'S CHILDHOOD HOUSE - TAIWAN, 1950'S - DAY 14

Peter enters. Peter's parents and two brothers work in the kitchen area. Peter's dad calls after Peter.

NOTE: All dialogue in Taiwan is in Mandarin and subtitled.

PETER'S DAD

Toku. Go get some rice.

Child Peter walks off obediently.

15 INT. PETER'S CHILDHOOD HOUSE - TAIWAN, 1950'S - LATER 15

Child Peter gives the rice to his dad.

PETER'S DAD

We want some meat at tonight's dinner. Go get the chicken.

16 EXT. PETER'S CHILDHOOD HOUSE - TAIWAN, 1950'S - LATER 16

Child Peter walks up to the chicken, sad. Tears well up in Peter's eyes as he holds the chicken down on the ground and cuts its head off. *[Note: this happens off-screen.]*

17 INT. PETER'S CHILDHOOD HOUSE - TAIWAN, 1950'S - DAY 17

Dinner time. CLOSE ON: the chicken, now cooked and sitting in the middle of the table. Child Peter looks sad as he looks at the plate of chicken with rice.

FLASHBACK MONTAGE:

18 INT. PETER'S CHILDHOOD HOUSE - TAIWAN, 1970'S - DAY 18

YOUNG ADULT PETER, now in his twenties, and his wife speak with his parents.

PETER'S DAD
(subtitled Mandarin)
If you go to America, you won't know anyone, you won't have anything.

YOUNG ADULT PETER
(subtitled Mandarin)
I will have opportunity there. I will have a chance at a better life.

19 EXT. AIRPORT - U.S., 1980'S - DAY 19

STOCK FOOTAGE: Peter's plane lands in America.

20 INT. DINER - U.S., 1980'S - DAY 20

Young Adult Peter and his wife are in America. They're at a diner trying to get seated.

HOST
Sorry, we just don't have any tables.

They scan the room and see dozen of empty tables.

PETER
(to his wife, subtitled Mandarin)
I think they don't want to seat us because we're Asian.

The host stares back at them, unmoved.

21 INT. PETER'S CHINESE RESTAURANT - U.S., 1980'S - DAY 21

Young Adult Peter and his wife are running a successful Chinese restaurant. Young Adult Peter stands by the door greeting customers.

YOUNG ADULT PETER
Thank you for coming.

Young Adult Peter and his wife stand arm in arm, beaming at the bustling restaurant in front of them.

YOUNG ADULT PETER (CONT'D)
Business is good. Very good.

22 INT. DIFFERENT HOSPITAL ROOM - U.S., 1984 - DAY 22

US, 1984. Young Adult Peter is holding his infant son, Brian. He and his wife are overjoyed. He raises baby Brian into the air.

PETER
(subtitled Mandarin)
All our sacrifice is worth it. He will have a better life. Here, he will be able to do anything he wants.

Zoom into baby Brian's eyes...

END FLASHBACK MONTAGE.

23 INT. PETER'S APARTMENT - PRESENT DAY 23

Pull out from adult Brian's eyes...

BRIAN
Sorry, I can't. I'm meeting Dev to see a movie, and I love answering those movie trivia questions they put up before the show. So I think I'm just going to head out.

PETER
(disappointed)
I understand. Enjoy the film.

24 EXT. STREET - DAY 24

Dev and Brian are walking after leaving the theater.

BRIAN
Wow. I gotta say, out of the fifteen *X-Men* movies I've seen, that was definitely in the top nine.

DEV
Yeah. There were like 30 heroes, 40 villains. There are just too many people in these movies now.
(checking his phone)
Text from my dad: "Please come and fix my iPad. Now it won't stop dinging." Does your dad text you to fix stuff all the time?

BRIAN
I don't think my dad knows how to text. He also hates talking in person. He averages like three words a week.

(CONTINUED)

DEV

Our dads are so weird. I told my dad I made the final round of callbacks on *The Sickening* --

BRIAN

That black virus movie? That's great!

DEV

Thank you! I told him and he's like "Uh, okay, are you going fix my iPad?" How about "Hey son, I'm proud of you?" or "Hey son, great work!"

BRIAN

Oh I've never heard my dad say the word proud. It's always like "Oh that's it? That's all you've done?" If I went to the moon, honestly, he would be like, "When are you going to Mars?"

DEV

Yeah, like "Brian, you went to the moon? That's like graduating from community college. When are you going to graduate from Harvard AKA go to Pluto?"

BRIAN

I just feel like Asian parents just don't have the emotional reach to say they're proud or whatever. You ever hang out with white people's parents? They are crazy nice. I had dinner with my last girlfriend's mom once. By the end of the meal, she had hugged me more times than anyone in my family has ever hugged me in my entire life.

DEV

Yeah, dude, most white families would be so psyched to adopt me.

Dev's phone buzzes. He checks it.

DEV (CONT'D)

Ugh. Now, my dad wants to come over and have tea with his old friend, Dr. Ramusami. Can you come so I have an easy out to leave quickly?

BRIAN

You want me to hang out with your dad and another old Indian man? No. I'm not doing that, it's nice outside.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

24

CONTINUED: (2)

24

BRIAN (CONT'D)

I'm going to hang out in the park and look at NBA trade rumors on my phone.

DEV

Hey come on, be a bud here, don't make me go solo, I'll be able to leave quicker if we go together.

BRIAN

Fine, but you have to come hang out with me at the networking mixer for Asian American business professionals that my cousin James is hosting next weekend.

DEV

Alright, deal.

25

INT. RAMESH'S HOUSE - DAY

25

Dev and Brian drink tea with Ramesh and DR. RAMUSAMI (an older Indian man).

RAMESH

Brian, would you like to try some Indian snacks?

(naming the snacks while pointing to each one)

Mysore pak, murukku, mirchi, omapodi.

BRIAN

I'm okay, thanks.

RAMESH

How about some popadum?

Brian nods and takes one.

DR. RAMUSAMI

So Dev the acting is going well, then?

DEV

Yeah, well enough. I'm up for this movie. I was doing mostly commercials, but I recently have been trying to get more real acting roles. This was actually my first movie audition.

DR. RAMUSAMI

If the first audition went well, that's very good.

(CONTINUED)

DEV

Thanks. Please tell my dad. He's really puzzled why I'm not already starring in Iron Man already.

RAMESH

Iron Man movies are very good. That guy is strong and funny too!

DR. RAMUSAMI

You'll be fine. How did you get into the acting? This was something you always wanted to do?

DEV

Not really. I was walking around in Washington Square Park a few years ago and some guy said they needed a minority for a Fruit by the Foot commercial, so I did it and got paid pretty well, so I just kept doing more commercials. And from that I kind of fell into it more regular acting.

DR. RAMUSAMI

Very good. You are making a good life. At your age, your father had barely stopped working at the zipper factory.

DEV

Zipper factory?

RAMESH

Yep. I worked at the zipper factory for two years while I was trying to get money to go to medical school.

DEV

You never told me about that.

DR. RAMUSAMI

He worked very hard there before going to America. You know the little tabs that go on the end of the zipper that you pull? He made the holes in them. He was so good at that. The best. If he didn't go to America, you would probably be working in that zipper factory now, making those holes.

ON DEV'S FACE: This sinks in.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

Instead, Dev lives here. Where his biggest problem is that the wi-fi is messed up in his apartment.

DEV

Hey, that's a serious issue. Remember when we tried to watch that video of a guy falling into his own wedding cake? The buffering took a long time.

DR. RAMUSAMI

I've seen that video clip. Very funny.

RAMESH

Brian, can you send me the link please?

BRIAN

Sure.

DEV

Why didn't you just ask me?

RAMESH

I like Brian.

Dev and Brian walk past a group of elderly Chinese women doing an exercise class in the park. Brian looks at his phone.

BRIAN

Mason says Happy Endings is "poppin off."
His words. Should we go?

DEV

Sure. Man, that was pretty crazy what my dad was talking about. Working in a zipper factory? I never knew that stuff. Do you know a lot about your dad's backstory?

BRIAN

Yeah, I mean, I know the big points: he was poor. He was in another country. It was tough. And then he came here. I got the gist of it.

DEV

Isn't that the "gist" of every immigrant's story? That they immigrated and it was hard?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DEV (CONT'D)

Shouldn't you be slightly more interested in your dad's story, being that he is your dad?

BRIAN

Yeah, but again, he doesn't talk much. I once found a photo of him in the military. He just said "hard time" and went to another room.

DEV

Isn't it weird, all of us first generation kids, we have these amazing lives all because our parents made these crazy sacrifices? Shouldn't we find out more? Shouldn't we at least try to thank them somehow?

BRIAN

Like a gift or something? What would I get my dad? He doesn't really have any interests.

(beat)

He likes drinking water, staying hydrated. I could give him a gallon of water as a gift. Is there such a thing as a "water of the month" club?

DEV

What if we took our parents out to a nice dinner? We could learn more about their lives and just say thank you.

BRIAN

Yeah, sure. I bet my dad will be in. Because you know what he'll be able to drink at this dinner? Water.

Dev gets a phone call. It's the casting office. We INTERCUT.

CASTING DIRECTOR

Hey Dev, so the director's not going to be able to fly in tomorrow. He really liked your read, though, and wanted to see if you could read now via Skype.

DEV

Oh, well the my wi-fi is shoddy in my apartment. Is there any way we could do it in a couple hours? I can try to go to a friend's house?

27

CASTING DIRECTOR

Ooh, their time is pretty tight, could you find somewhere else to go quickly?

DEV

Yeah, let me grab my computer and I'll figure something out. I'll be on in five minutes.

28 INT. THINK COFFEE - DAY

28

Dev has set up his computer in a crowded Think Coffee. TODD, the director, is on Skype.

DEV

Okay, can you guys hear me?

TODD

Yep, let's read scene 22, the part of Dr. Vincent.

DEV

Yeah, okay.

Dev pulls out his script.

DEV (CONT'D)

Dr. Lorenzo, I've isolated the samples. If my calculations are correct, the sickening could infect one billion people in the next 12 hours.

TODD

(reading along flat)
My God.

DEV

Wait... one of the samples, it's missing. Oh god. The vial. It's been compromised.

TODD

(reading along flat)
Dr. Vincent, the pathogen, it's airborne...

DEV

The sickening! It's happening!

TODD

Okay, I'm going to stop you there. This is the first time we see the sickening take hold. Could you play that up more? Are you sitting down?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TODD (CONT'D)

Why don't you get up out of your chair
and act like the sickening is taking over
your body.

DEV

Sure.

Dev stands up.

DEV (CONT'D)

(going crazy, flailing around)

THE SICKENING! IT'S HAPPENING!!!! MY EYES
ARE ON FIRE! MY ARM!! MY FLESH IS TURNING
INTO FIRE!!! THE SICKENING!!!

TODD

(reading sides)

Dr. Vincent, what is happening in the
lab?

DEV

The room is contaminated! The virus,
it'll kill us all! Everyone get the fuck
out of here NOOOOOOW!!!

Customers are looking at Dev and are uneasy. A dude starts
walking out of the shop. As he's halfway through the door,
Dev starts screaming again.

DEV (CONT'D)

Wait! It's too late, lock the fucking
doors. We need to sacrifice ourselves to
stop it from spreading.

The guy looks very confused in the doorway. An EMPLOYEE at
Think Coffee walks up to Dev.

EMPLOYEE

Sir. You can't do whatever it is you're
doing here. You need to leave.

DEV

Sorry, I'm just doing an audition.
Please, I'm almost done.

(to the screen)

Sorry guys. I'll just pick it up from
there.

(back to the scene)

Holy fucking shit, no!!!!!!

DEV (CONT'D)

(to the employee)

Okay, I'm done.

(CONTINUED)

Dev looks back at his computer screen where Todd is speaking.

TODD

Alright thanks Dev. We'll be in touch.

Todd hits a sign off button on the computer, but it stays on.

TODD (CONT'D)

Why the fuck was he in a coffee shop?
Jesus Christ. Is he homeless?

DEV

Oh. Um. You guys are still signed on.

TODD

Oh shit. Sorry. All good. Thanks!

Dev, Brian, Peter, and Dev's parents, Ramesh and Fatima, are talking. Dev raises a glass.

DEV

Guys, thanks so much for coming. Brian and I wanted to take you out for a nice dinner and just say thank you. You came to this country and worked very hard. You gave us a better life and we've never really shown our appreciation.

(raising his glass)

To our parents!

A WAITER comes by.

RAMESH

Excuse me, sir! Can we also order a chicken with broccoli please?

PETER

(to waiter, in Mandarin,
subtitled)

Sorry this man is ordering chicken with broccoli. Please bring us the good dishes you only serve to Chinese people.

WAITER

(in Mandarin, subtitled)

Sure of course. Totally understand. I can't believe they think that's what we eat in Taiwan. Can you imagine?

RAMESH

What's this super special spicy Szechuan chicken?

(CONTINUED)

29

FATIMA

Anna! Why are you looking at that? You don't even eat spicy food.

RAMESH

But it's super special! Must be good.

30 INT. SHUN LEE PALACE - LATER

30

Some dishes are on the table. Fatima is eating a plate of plain rice.

FATIMA

Dev, did you bring those photos from our trip to New Zealand?

DEV

No, I forgot. I'm sorry.

FATIMA

He always takes so many photos with his camera and then we never get to see them.

RAMESH

I took a bunch of photos on the iPad.

FATIMA

No, you just took one long video.

RAMESH

Hey! That's the whole trip man! You see everything.

DEV

Ma, why are you just eating white rice?

FATIMA

I'll eat whatever I want to eat! Do I tell you what to eat? I don't even like Chinese food.

DEV

Why didn't you say something? We didn't have to come here. We could have gone somewhere else.

She continues picking at her plate.

RAMESH

This place is great. We came here once a long time ago. Your mom didn't eat anything though.

(CONTINUED)

DEV

Yeah, because she doesn't like Chinese food.

RAMESH

I like it, though. Chinese food is very good!

An awkward beat.

BRIAN

Um... another reason we wanted to take you guys out to dinner was to learn more about you and how you got here. Dad, do you have anything you'd like to share?

PETER

I cannot think of anything noteworthy.

BRIAN

Come on, there's gotta be something. What did you do when you were growing up in Taiwan?

PETER

I worked very hard.

BRIAN

Anything particularly interesting happen?

A long silence.

PETER

No.

DEV

(to his parents)

Well, what about you guys? What would you guys do when you were our age here in New York?

FATIMA

I just worked and took care of you and your father.

DEV

What about for fun?

FATIMA

(annoyed in a funny way)

Po da! We didn't do anything for fun.

RAMESH

You realize "fun" is a new thing, right? Fun is a luxury that only your generation really has. We worried about food and having a roof on our head. We didn't worry about having fun and getting drunk every night.

DEV

Alright, what about when you were kids? What would you do for fun then?

FLASHBACK: RAMESH'S LIFE

31 EXT. MARKET - INDIA, 1950'S - DAY

31

Child Ramesh and his dad walk by a vendor selling various secondhand items. The vendor is strumming a guitar and selling some as well. Ramesh's eyes light up. Ramesh runs up and picks up a guitar.

CHILD RAMESH

(Tamil, subtitled)

Daddy! Look at this guitar! Can we buy it?

RAMESH'S DAD

(Tamil, subtitled)

Put that down. Do you want a beating? We don't have time for that.

Ramesh puts the guitar back down. Ramesh and his dad leave. Ramesh looks longingly back at the guitar.

32 INT. RAMESH'S HOUSE - U.S., EARLY 1990'S - DAY

32

Ramesh brings home a guitar for Child Dev.

RAMESH

Hey man, look, I got you a guitar!

Dev is playing video games. He doesn't even look up.

CHILD DEV

Dad, I'm playing my games.

Ramesh looks disappointed. He sets the guitar down in a corner.

END FLASHBACK

RAMESH

We would run outside? I don't know. We didn't have toys or anything.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RAMESH (CONT'D)

It's not like here. When you grow up here, we have to get you all toys. We have to get you soccer team, guitar lessons, Nintendo. I wanted to play guitar, Thatha said, "No, we don't have time for that nonsense." I just studied, I ran outside, came home, ate some rice, and went to bed.

DEV

Okay. Well, Ma, what about your first day in New York? That must have been exciting.

FATIMA

I don't know. We got here, I got dropped home from the airport and then your dad went to work. I didn't know anyone, I barely even knew your father.

(to Brian and Peter)

We'd had an arranged marriage, so I'd known him for maybe a week at that point. It was hard. I just sat on the couch and waited for him.

DEV

Did you, like, read a book or watch TV or something?

FATIMA

No, I just sat on the couch and cried.

DEV

Wow. Well, that's profoundly sad.

FATIMA

You asked!

DEV

Anything else happen that you remember?

FATIMA

I was scared to answer the telephone because I had an accent and people would yell at me that they couldn't understand.

Peter perks up at this.

PETER

I was also scared to answer the phone. They yell so much! "What?" "Huh!" I just got to the country! Why are they so mad?

(CONTINUED)

32

BRIAN

That's messed up. Your English is good!
Any other stories you remember from when
you first got here or your childhood?

The waiter drops a plate of chicken and rice. Peter looks at
it and thinks of something...

FLASHBACK: PETER'S LIFE

33 EXT. PETER'S CHILDHOOD HOUSE - TAIWAN, 1950'S - DAY 33

Child Peter chops off the head of a chicken.

END FLASHBACK

34 INT. SHUN LEE PALACE - MINUTES LATER 34

Peter's just finished his story.

BRIAN

You ate your pet chicken?!

PETER

Yes.

There's a beat of silence.

RAMESH

You have any more pet chickens you can
kill? I've been waiting here for 45
minutes. Where's my chicken with
broccoli, man!

Everyone, Peter included, laughs.

PETER

Once, when Brian was younger, we were at
a restaurant. They brought out a plate of
desserts for us to look at and Brian
grabbed a piece of chocolate cake and put
it all over his face.

Everyone laughs again.

BRIAN

To be clear, I was seven.

PETER

(mimicking Brian and reaching)
"Oh, yum!"

Ramesh lets out a crazy laugh.

(CONTINUED)

RAMESH

One time, we took Dev to Pizza Hut and this girl was bullying him. She pushed him into the ball pit.

(mimicking Dev)

Daddy! That girl Wendy pushed me!

DEV

She got held back a grade. That girl was huge.

FATIMA

Ooooh I remember, she would beat him up all the time.

Peter, Ramesh, and Fatima start laughing.

PETER

(deadpan)

This is fun. I am having fun.

Dev and Brian give each other a look: this is going well.

EXT. STREET - A FEW DAYS LATER - DAY

Dev and Brian walk and talk.

BRIAN

That was great the other night, man. Never heard any of that shit before. What an insane journey. My dad used to bathe in a river, and now he drives a car that talks to him.

DEV

Crazy. So nuts to think every immigrant's story is probably insane.

BRIAN

I'm so glad we did that. I can't believe there's a universe where I wouldn't know that my dad used to ride a water buffalo named Ting Ting.

DEV

Yeah, or that my mom had a friend named Kunjilikaka.

Dev's phone buzzes. He glances up.

DEV (CONT'D)

Oh shit. Look at this text chain with all the parents!

(CONTINUED)

Brian looks at his phone. It's a really long text chain between Ramesh, Fatima, Dev, and Peter.

DEV (CONT'D)

Ton of grammar mistakes, but quite endearing.

BRIAN

My dad's on there?

DEV

Yeah, I guess they exchanged numbers after dinner. Your dad's making some pretty good wisecracks.

BRIAN

Why am I not on there?

DEV

I think there's another Brian. Brian Donkers. Someone must have screwed up. They want to have dinner again with all of us tonight.

His phone buzzes again.

DEV (CONT'D)

(reading)

My dad: "Let's 'chow' down at Mr. Chow's."

(it buzzes again)

Peter Chang: "This sounds fun. I would attend this event."

BRIAN

What's going on here?!

DEV

We can't go to dinner with them again. I can't be hanging out with Peter Chang on the regs.

BRIAN

No, I just wanted to do one dinner. I didn't want a serious relationship with my father. Tell them we can't go.

DEV

(typing)

"Sorry, Brian and I already have plans."

The phone buzzes five more times.

35

DEV (CONT'D)

Peter Chang: "Dev, don't worry, Wendy the bully won't be there haha."

BRIAN

Damn, Peter Chang coming hard with the snaps.

DEV

Brian Donkers says: "I'm in!"

36

INT. CASTING OFFICE - HALLWAY - DAY

36

Dev's phone buzzes. It's his dad: "Sorry you can't make dinner. Call me." Dev ignores it and keeps walking.

37

INT. CASTING OFFICE - CASTING DIRECTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

37

Dev walks into the casting director's office.

DEV

Hey, I'm so sorry about that weird Skype audition. If there's any way I can read again, I know I can do better.

CASTING DIRECTOR

I agree, which is why I brought you in today for a session with the studio.

DEV

Great!

CASTING DIRECTOR

But here's the thing: we just went with another actor to play Dr. Vincent.

DEV

Huh?

CASTING DIRECTOR

His agent called like literally ten minutes ago and closed his deal. You know, instead of doing another audition that would really be a waste of all of our times, I figured I would just tell you the truth. But now I'm sort of regretting that decision.

DEV

No, that's okay. I wasn't doing anything anyway.

(beat)

I guess I'll grab a water and head out.

(CONTINUED)

37

CASTING DIRECTOR

Um... that's kind of just for people to have a drink while they're waiting, not really for a to-go situation. I'm very sorry.

DEV

Are you fucking serious?

CASTING DIRECTOR

It's not for people to just take it and go. This isn't New Orleans.

Dev exits sadly.

38

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

38

Dev is leaving, he sees another text from his dad: "You must be busy. Give us a call when you can."

Dev calls his dad back.

RAMESH

Hello?

DEV

Hey Dad.

RAMESH

I just took Dr. Ramusami back to the train station. He had a good time. He loved Brian. What's up with you, man?

DEV

(down)

Nothing much.

RAMESH

Everything okay?

DEV

Yeah. It's fine... I just met with the movie people and I didn't get the part.

RAMESH

Ahh, that's okay. Mom and I were just watching your GoGurt commercial. You do a good job, man.

(imitating Dev)

Did you show the YouTube to them?

DEV

No. You don't usually show YouTube clips during auditions. But thank you.

(CONTINUED)

38

RAMESH

Well, it's okay. You'll get the next one.
We know that you are working very hard on
your acting.

DEV

Thanks.

RAMESH

Bye-bye.

Dev takes it in. He sees a music store with a guitar in the
window.

39 INT. RAMESH'S HOUSE - DAY

39

Ramesh, Fatima sit on the couch with their hands over their
eyes.. Dev stands facing them holding a guitar.

DEV (V.O.)

Eyes are closed, right?

RAMESH

Yep

NISHA

Yep

DEV

All right, open them.

Dev hands Ramesh a guitar case.

DEV (CONT'D)

Surprise! Got you a gift.

Ramesh opens the case and examines the nice acoustic guitar.

RAMESH

Ooh, very nice.

DEV

Yeah, you said Thatha wouldn't get you a
guitar, so I got you one. And I got you
a month of lessons too.

RAMESH

Thank you, Dev. You get a hug for that.

He hugs Dev.

FATIMA

No gift for me?

DEV (V.O.)

Yup, I got you something, too.

(CONTINUED)

Dev hands Fatima a nice frame with a photo of Dev, Ramesh, and Fatima.

FATIMA

Awww, that's beautiful. Thank you so much. I love you.

Fatima hugs Dev.

DEV

I love you too.

(beat)

All right, where should we go eat?

RAMESH

Mr. Chow's!

FATIMA

Ramesh, get out of here! You know I don't like Chinese food!

Dev looks at her, a little surprised and happy that she's speaking up.

DEV

You want to just cook some food at home?

FATIMA

Yeah, let me make some korma.

DEV

You sure you don't want me to take you out to dinner?

FATIMA

I like cooking for you! You don't need to take us out to a fancy dinner or anything. Why don't you just call us every week? If you did that, we'd be very happy.

DEV

(to Ramesh)

Hey, give me your iPad.

Ramesh gives him the iPad. He programs in an event, "Weekly call with Dev at 6 PM." Ramesh plays a chord badly on the guitar.

RAMESH

(singing)

"Sorry, Mr. Chow, we are not going to your restaurant today!"

(CONTINUED)

MASTER OF NONE
Shooting Draft
CONTINUED: (2)

"Parents"

[102] 29.
6/16/15
39

39

FATIMA

Stop that!

40

INT. PETER'S APARTMENT - DAY

40

Brian brings over two copies of *The Economist*. He and Peter read them together sitting next to each other on the couch.

BRIAN

You're right, Dad. We're pretty screwed.

PETER

(chuckling)

Told you.

41

INT. RAMESH'S HOUSE - DAY

41

A week later.

DEV

Hey, the guitar guy called and said you cancelled the rest of the lessons?

RAMESH

Eh, yeah, I don't know. I tried it. Didn't like it that much. My fingers hurt when I held the strings.

DEV

I thought it was your dream. What about that sad story about how Thatha wouldn't buy you a guitar you saw in the store?

RAMESH

I don't know, man. Get out of here. I'm trying to play my computer game.

Ramesh plays a game on his iPad very happily, making the same silly noises he made when he was seven years old, playing with his abacus in India sixty years ago.

END OF SHOW