COWBOYS AND INDIANS

"Pilot"

Written by

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ACT ONE

EXT. LOS ANGELES STREET - DAY

It’s an idyllic street scene. Children are playing. Suddenly, a Prius comes screeching around the corner.

RAJ (O.C.)
Step on it! We’ve got to stop your parents!

INT. PRIUS - DAY - CONTINUOUS

We cut into the car. ANNA is driving furiously. She is 30ish, pretty, white, and a bit of a control freak. She tries to be perceived as an intellectual physician, but occasionally slips back into her pageant queen past. She’s in scrubs, glasses, just having come from work at the hospital. In the passenger seat sits her husband, RAJ, 30ish, half-Indian, half-white. He has that pan-ethnic look about him. Raj is outdoorsy, outgoing, and an accomplished musician.

ANNA
This is why I left Arizona! They said they were just taking the baby out for a walk, and then I found out-- Dogs!

EXT. LOS ANGELES STREET - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The Prius jumps a curb. A man walking two dogs hurls himself out of the way.

RAJ (O.S.)
They’re just pugs! Genetic mutants!

INT. PRIUS - DAY

ANNA
So are my crazy parents!

Anna guns the car.
EXT. AIRPORT HILTON - LATER

The Prius swerves crookedly into a spot. Anna jumps out and heads for the hotel. Raj hurriedly follows her, leaping cars in desperation.

INT. AIRPORT HILTON - SUNSET ROOM - LATER - FLIP VIDEO P.O.V.

LLEWELYN, Anna’s younger sister, is recording a child beauty pageant with her Flip Video Camera. Llewelyn has just graduated from USC. She is very confident party-girl, who is surprisingly slutty for being so passionately Christian. She’s also half Asian, and not that bright.

It’s a sad hotel ballroom, full of about 150 desperate parents and disturbingly sexified 0-18 month old baby girls. The babies wear wigs, make-up, and frilly cupcake dresses and they’re held by their overweight mothers. Llewelyn narrates as she talks shit about the contestants.

LLEWELYN (O.S.)
That’s Madison in the pink. Sure, she’s got pouty lips, but get a load of those chunky upper arms.

Llewelyn pans over to another baby, in blue.

LLEWELYN (O.S.) (CONT’D)
That one goes by Piper. And by the looks of it, Piper’s going to wind up working the pole at a strip club down by the airport.

Piper giggles adorably, oblivious that one day she’ll be a stripper. Suddenly, there’s a commotion as Anna storms in.

ANNA (O.S.)
Excuse me! Excuse me!

LLEWELYN (O.S.)
Oof. Busted.

END FLIP VIDEO P.O.V.

Anna appears onstage. Suddenly, the second the lights hit her, she becomes PAGEANT QUEEN ANNA-- A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON. She immediately switches from a frumpy enraged doctor to an elegant pageant princess. Raj approaches Llewelyn, his sister-in-law.

RAJ
Impressive. From Doctor Schafer to Miss Tempe in two seconds flat.
LLEWELYN
She’s like the Hulk, only she turns pink instead of green.

Anna walks pageant-style across the stage and heads toward her mother, MAUREEN, who sports a Chico’s broomskirt and is holding a little girl in a dress with a wig. Maureen is a dynamic woman in her 50s and the toast of Tempe. She is a margarita-loving Baptist travel agent who has never been east of the Mississippi. She’s highly opinionated and is never seen without mascara.

ANNA
Sorry to interrupt, but as a former queen in the greater Phoenix pageant system, I would like to call a violation of Rule 108b. I have it on good authority that this contestant is, in fact, a boy.

Anna rips off the wig. The audience gasps, even though pretty much all babies look the same without wigs.

MAUREEN
What? Impossible! This adorable princess a boy?

RAJ
Check the diaper!

ANNA
No, we don’t have to check the diaper. Trust me. It’s a boy.

MAUREEN
This woman is obviously confused.

(under her breath)
Anna, don’t pull him out now. He’s beating all these other fatties hands down.

ANNA
I move for a disqualification. Thank you, and God bless the USA!

Anna grabs her baby, PAGEANT WAVES, and walks off the stage. People applaud wildly.

JUDGE
What a star!

After exiting the stage, Anna hands Clark to Raj, they cuddle and comfort him and immediately start to get him out of his lady clothes. Raj starts to giggle at his wife.
RAJ
I’ve never seen that side of you before, Miss Tempe. Sure, I see the pageant smile when you’re pissed, but that wave. Wow, that wave is amazing.

ANNA
Creepy, isn’t it? It’s some weird instinct. Like riding a bicycle. A horrible sequined bicycle.

Anna’s dad, GARY, approaches her. Gary, 50s, has just retired from the pool business in Tempe. He’s an affable suburban cowboy, a former local politician who will talk your ear off.

GARY
I just want to get it on the record that I told your Mom this would probably be a bad idea. Seemed a little gay to me, boy in a dress, but your mom assured me that sort of pan-ethnic look is really in right now. You should know, bud--


GARY (CONT’D)
That whole beige thing... very trendy. I think we could even convince them Clark’s a little Guatemalan girl and get a whole serape thing going on. What do you think, babe?

MAUREEN
That’s why I love you! So innovative! We could even go Persian. Spicy and exotic! Here’s the plan for next time: we’ll have some sort of get-up for a whole bunch of different races, “It’s a Small World”-style, then we’ll feel out the judges and--

Anna looks as if she’s about the scream at them, but then suddenly chickens out, and gives them a wide pageant smile.

ANNA
We’ll discuss it later. We’re running late for our interview.
INT. HOSPITAL DAYCARE WAITING ROOM – DAY

Anna and Raj sit next to Llewelyn, who is holding Clark. He now looks like a little boy. They are sitting in the lobby of the UCLA hospital, just outside of the daycare.

RAJ
Well, Clark, you made a cute tranny.

LLEWELYN
Looked just like his mom used to up there, big toothy pageant smile. Minus the teeth, of course.

ANNA
Okay. No more, please. I listen to NPR now. I shop at Whole Foods. I don’t want to be reminded of my days with tiaras and butt glue.

RAJ
Did you tell your parents that?

ANNA
Raj, I’m sorry. I’ll always be Miss Tempe in their eyes.

RAJ
Yeah, no S-H, S-H-lock.

ANNA
You don’t have to censor the “Sherlock” part.

RAJ
Your mom’s got me all on edge about cursing in front of the baby. Can you please just tell them to go back to Arizona? It’s been three months.

ANNA
But they’ve been helping us so much, babysitting him every day. I don’t want to hurt their feelings.

RAJ
They’ve put Clark in a mattress commercial and made calendars with him dressed as a bumble bee!
ANNA
I know, but what if one day Clark told us he wanted us to leave his house? Wouldn’t that break your heart?

RAJ
First off, if Clark could do anything other than scream and defecate, I’d be super psyched.
(off Anna’s look)
It would kill me. But if I was being as out of line as your parents are, I would hope my son would tell me to back off.

ANNA
It’s just hard because Dad doesn’t really have anything to do now that he’s retired.

RAJ
Your mom still has a job. She’s needed in the ‘zona. Which is what I call Arizona now.

ANNA
She’s a travel agent, Raj. How many people need travel agents anymore? Ever heard of Orbitz?

LLEWELYN
Don’t say the O word. Mom will freak.

ANNA
Oh God! Help me, he’s still got lipstick on!

Anna and Raj try to scrub Clark’s make-up off.

LLEWELYN
Why did they put the daycare in the hospital? Ew. Old man butt.

A man walks by, pushing an IV, exposing his buttocks.

RAJ
Look– it’s the highest rated daycare on the Westside. It’s right in Anna’s office. And once we get him enrolled, you’ll tell your parents to go home, right?
ANNA
I’ll do it my way. Clark will be
gone 40 hours a week. They’ll get
the hint. They’ll see that they’re
not needed, and they’ll head back
to the land of tumbleweeds and anti-
immigration laws.

LLEWELYN
Oh, can we have a going away party
for Mom and Dad? I’m so good at
parties.

ANNA
I’ve seen photos.

RAJ
Anna, I love you. But just so you
know, this is the most chicken s-h
way of dealing with this situation.

MISS SUE, a kindly older woman, suddenly pokes her head out.

MISS SUE
Clark Gupta-Schafer?

Anna and Raj continue their conversation and head in.

ANNA
Listen, I’ll handle my parents my
way. You just deal with yours.

RAJ
No problem. My parents have been
totally hands off with Clark.

EXT. NELL AND PRADIP'S HOUSE - DAY

We cut to a close-up of a NASCAR hat. We pull out to reveal
Raj's dad, PRADIP, who is decorating his beautiful Brentwood
house with American flags and “Happy Labor Day” signs and
festive red, white, and blue Christmas lights. Pradip was
born in India and still has an Indian accent. He has
immersed himself in American white-trash culture. His wife,
NELL, pulls up to the house in her white Mercedes. Nell is
white. However, she is dressed to the nines in traditional
Indian garb. She has a giant papier-mâché statue of the
Indian elephant God, Ganesh, on the top of her car.

PRADIP
Take that thing off of there.
You’re reminding all of Brentwood
that we’re “ethnic.” I don’t want
my property values going down.
Nell starts to unload the Ganesh.

PRADIP (CONT’D)
Why do you need a giant Ganesh anyway?

NELL
It’s going in Clark’s nursery upstairs.

PRADIP
Do Anna and Raj even want a Ganesh in there?

NELL
They don’t know about the nursery yet, it’s a big surprise.
(off Pradip’s look)
What? I can’t have him in some germ-infested daycare if the Schafer’s ever leave. I’m not going to make the same mistake with Clark that I made with Raj. I’m going to be involved. This baby isn’t going to turn out white.

PRADIP
You’re not going to turn Clark into some Indian baby. That boy’s going to bleed red, white, and blue. Like me! A true American.

NELL
No other “true American” decorates for Labor Day!

PRADIP
Muhummad Salehi-rad does! Why not decorate the nursery in honor of the blue collar men who make this country great? Like Jeff Gordon!

Pradip digs a beat-up NASCAR bumper out of his garage.

NELL
NASCAR is for white trash garbage people.

PRADIP
Well, then I guess I’m just a white trash garbage person.
NELL
I guess you are. It’s not going in
the nursery. Throw it away.

PRADIP
Never! My BFF gave it to me.

NELL
Your BFF can take it with him when
he goes back to Tempe.

Pradip starts to well up. Nell, disgusted, takes her Ganesh
and leaves.

PRADIP
Gary would never take it back.
He’s no Indian giver.

NELL (O.S.)
Racist!

INT. ANNA AND RAJ’S BUNGALOW – LIVING ROOM – DAY

It’s a typical California bungalow... too small for a couple
and their new baby, and WAY too small for a couple, their
baby and their in-laws. There is an aerobed and luggage in
the living room where Maureen and Gary have clearly been
staying. Maureen is pouring a margarita. She hands one to
Gary. He playfully slaps her on the butt.

GARY
That’s why I married you. My girl
knows when her boy needs a marg.
Did you see my Facebook page?
Pradip posted this hilarious
picture of us on my wall--

Anna, Raj, Clark and Llewelyn enter.

ANNA
Mom, Dad, we have great news--

MAUREEN
Hon, must you dress like a lesbian
all the time?

ANNA
Yes. Scrubs are my uniform.

MAUREEN
Why couldn’t you have become a
nurse? At least they look feminine
in their little hats and white
skirts.
RAJ
Have you been to the hospital in the past 30 years?

MAUREEN
B-T-Dubs, I found a low glitz pageant for little boys.

ANNA
No pageants for Clark, Mom.

MAUREEN
Oh. I just thought you loved your son, and wanted him to win some money for college. He may look Mexican, but that doesn’t guarantee him a scholarship.

ANNA
Come on, Mom. So, here’s the great news! Clark’s going to start daycare next week!

Maureen and Gary are totally surprised.

ANNA (CONT’D)
It’ll be perfect. I’ll have him right where I work.

RAJ
UCLA has a cutting edge early childhood education program, really innovative stuff, and... he’ll be there 40 hours a week.

There is a dramatic pause. Anna and Raj wait, nervous.

MAUREEN
Wonderful!

Anna and Raj look surprised at her enthusiasm.

RAJ
(sotto to Anna)
Wow, it worked!

MAUREEN
Now your Dad and I will finally get some time to lay out on the beach in Malibu. I could use a little R and R, know what I mean?
GARY
Rest and ‘Ritas---margaritas!
Hiyooo! Thanks, kids!

Gary mimes a golf swing. Raj gives Anna a look.

ANNA
Great! Super! Well, does anybody want a drink? I’m really thirsty.

INT. ANNA AND RAJ’S BUNGALOW - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Anna, Raj, and Llewelyn enter. Anna looks panicked.

ANNA
It didn’t work! They’re staying!

RAJ
Just tell them the truth! Please! We love them, but we want them to go home. We want to raise our son on our own. Remember how we thought it would be? Just the three of us. You and me throwing Clark in a backpack, going for hikes in Topanga. Not having to rescue him from creepy baby pageants at the Airport Hilton?

ANNA
I just have such a hard time confronting my parents. Whenever I’m around them, I still feel like I’m little Miss Tempe.

LLEWELYN
Does this mean we can’t have a going away party?

ANNA
(getting an idea)
No! We are having a party!

RAJ
Wait, what?

ANNA
My parents love parties!

Anna heads back into the living room, determined. Raj rolls his eyes. This will never work. He and Llewelyn follow.
INT. ANNA AND RAJ'S BUNGALOW - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ANNA
More good news! Before you head back to Tempe, we’re throwing you a going away party!

Maureen and Gary look a little thrown.

MAUREEN
A going away party?

Raj, Anna, and Llewelyn wait nervously.

ANNA
Yes! As a little thank you for all of your help with Clark. It’s the least we could do.

MAUREEN
(warming to the idea)
Well, I do love parties. Especially those in my honor.

Anna, Raj, and Llewelyn look surprised and delighted at Maureen’s reaction.

ANNA
It’ll be a blast, Mom.

MAUREEN
And I guess I should get back to help all those ASU kids book their spring break trips to Cancun.

GARY
Before they waste all their money on Cap’n Morgan and Plan B!

Gary high fives Raj. Raj hates to admit that he appreciates the joke. Maureen gives Gary a look.

GARY (CONT’D)
Don’t worry, I still think Plan B should be outlawed.

Anna rolls her eyes. She can’t believe her conservative parents.

LLEWELYN
Oh! I’d like to do a little tribute to Mom and Dad at the party.
MAUREEN
That’s so sweet, my little miracle.
I thank Jesus and Donor 174 every
day for giving me such sweet,
talented eggs to use in my semi-
functioning uterus.

RAJ
Ah, it had been a couple of days
since I’d heard the semi-
functioning ute story. Almost
forgot it.

LLEWELYN
I’m going to need a fog machine.

MAUREEN
I can’t wait to see it, sweetheart!
(suddenly turning)
The only problem is I hate to leave
Clark while his soul is still in
limbo. I don’t want him to be
forever trapped in purgatory with
all those unwanted Plan B babies.

RAJ
What are you talking about?

MAUREEN
I just don’t want to leave without
getting Clark baptized. So, maybe
we shouldn’t have the going away
party yet, until he’s baptized.
And I have to get a venue for the
baptism. Might take a while. At
least a few more weeks...

Anna and Raj start to look nervous.

GARY
Why don’t we just have the baptism
at the going away party?

Maureen shoots Gary a look. He misinterprets it.

GARY (CONT’D)
So he doesn’t spend eternity
sitting on the devil’s lap.

Anna and Raj exchange pageant smiles.

ANNA
A baptism and a going away party!
Yippee!
GARY
(getting choked up)
Can’t believe I have to leave my boy.

ANNA
Don’t worry, Dad. We’ll Skype, we’ll send you Flip Videos.

GARY
Pradip has Skype? Thank God!

LLEWELYN
Dad, your bromance with Raj’s dad is getting pretty gay.

GARY
If chicken fighting with the most wonderful man on the planet is gay, I don’t want to be straight.

RAJ
Welp, we should probably go invite my parents! To this awesome party slash baptism!

INT. RAJ AND ANNA’S CAR – LATER

RAJ
Double yippee! My Hindu mom’s going to freak out when she hears about the baptism.

ANNA
But if we don’t baptize him, they might stick around longer.

RAJ
Can’t we just tell them that Jesus isn’t really our thing?

ANNA
Too late. I told them we go to church every Sunday. And Wednesday during Lent. And you sing in a praise band, The Rockin’ Apostles.

RAJ
The Rockin’ Apostles? Wow, I’m so cool! Do I handle snakes as well? Anna you’re not 13 anymore. You’re somebody’s mom now. Your parents should know who you really are.
(MORE)
RAJ (CONT'D)
They should know that we don’t go
to church, or to pageants. And that
you curse. And that you
occasionally smoke pot.

ANNA
Ugh. I’d rather just lie. It’s so
much easier than having to deal
with them freaking out.

RAJ
Okay, fine. I think it’s a bad
idea, but we’ll just let them do
the baptism if it means they’ll
leave. We just won’t tell my mom
beforehand. You guys can just
quietly baptize him while I
distract her in the kitchen with
some chicken tikka masala.

ANNA
Sounds like an airtight plan.

INT. NELL AND PRADIP'S HOUSE - LATER

Anna and Raj enter. Nell looks thrilled. She hugs Anna, and
then smotheres Raj with kisses.

NELL
Dr. Schafer! Every Indian mother’s
dream, a doctor child!
And my baby boy!

RAJ
Okay, Mom. Settle. Ew. Too close
to my lips. My neck. Ew! Why are
you kissing me so much? Ew! Mom.

NELL
Where’s my baby boy’s baby boy?

RAJ
With his other grandparents.

NELL
(not thrilled)
Wonderful!

RAJ
Merry Labor Day, Dad! Hey- we’re
throwing a going away party for
Gary and Maureen on Saturday.

Pradip drops his glass.
PRADIP
He’s leaving already?

Pradip starts to well up.

PRADIP (CONT’D)
Would you like to have it in our
backyard? Your Dad’s been working
on our pool. He added lights and a
fountain and it totally rules.
It’s like your father... the best
ting ever.

ANNA
That sounds lovely.

NELL
Speaking of lovely, I have a little
surprise for you.

Nell and Pradip lead them upstairs.

INT. BABY’S NURSERY AT NELL AND PRADIP’S – MOMENTS LATER

Nell opens the door for Raj and Anna. It's a huge room (at
least 20' by 30') that houses a giant overblown nursery
that's way too Indian. Their mouths drop open.

ANNA
This is better than our house.

NELL
I know you don’t want Clark to be
raised by strangers at some
soulless daycare, so I am going to
save you a ton of money by
babysitting for you!

RAJ
(pageant smile)
What a great idea!

Ecstatic Nell hugs a terrified Raj. Anna gives Raj a smug
look.

ANNA
Not so easy, is it?

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

INT. MUSIC STUDIO - DAY

Raj sits at a sound board behind glass, while a Mariachi band plays festive Tejano music in the sound booth. Anna enters in scrubs. Raj smiles at her.

   ANNA (CONT’D)
   Sounds like a robot circus.

   RAJ
   Then I’m doing something right.
   Bueno, amigos! Let’s take cinco!

   TEJANO BAND
   (Something in Spanish)

   RAJ
   Ha! Good one!

   ANNA
   Do they know you don’t speak Spanish?

   RAJ
   I told them I’m Mexican. The joys of being beige.

   ANNA
   So. Did you tell your Mom we don’t need her to babysit yet?

   RAJ
   No. I think maybe she should. She did build that huge nursery.

   ANNA
   Are you kidding me? You were totally on board with daycare.

   RAJ
   I was. Totally. But neither one of us thought my mom was even an option.

   ANNA
   We thought that because she didn’t show any interest in our son.

   RAJ
   But now that she is interested, I think we should go with her.
ANNA
You want the woman who left you to third world nannies to raise our child in a gaudy faux Pier 1?

RAJ
It sounds crazy when you say it that way, but yes. I do.

ANNA
Wait, are you just too scared to stand up to her? Oh, I get it. After hammering me about telling my parents off, you can’t!

RAJ
Did you say something about me hammering you? Heh.

(off Anna’s look)
Okay, you know what? Honestly, my first reaction was, “How can I weasel out of telling my koo-koo bananas mother no?” But then, I thought about it, and realized there are some advantages.

ANNA
What possible advantages could there be? She’s koo-koo bananas! Your words! Koo-koo! BANANAS!

RAJ
It would save us a ton of money. Until I’m on the other side of this glass, we can’t really afford that Lamborghini bed you want.

ANNA
The Lamborghini bed can wait. I don’t want to get rid of my parents just to be saddled with yours. Please. Just tell her Clark’s going to daycare.

RAJ
Great. And you just tell your parents to go back to Tempe and we can cancel the going away party slash baptism that we’re having just to trick them into leaving.

ANNA
And there it is. The pot calling the kettle beige. Not cool, Raj.
RAJ
It’s not cool to get mad at me for
not standing up to my Mom when you
have never stood up to your parents
ever! I really believe she’s our
best option.

ANNA
Well, I don’t.

Anna gets up to leave, pissed, but accompanied by
ridiculously festive Tejano music.

EXT. NELL AND PRADIP'S HOUSE - POOL

Gary is on the diving board, demonstrating its features.

GARY
You can adjust the amount of bounce
with the roller wheel. I usually
prefer about a 4.5.
(suddenly serious)
Promise me you’re going to write me
every day.

PRADIP
Cross my heart.

GARY
Cross your fart is more like it.

Gary punctuates his joke by doing a cannonball while making a
cuff noise. He splashes Pradip, who starts giggling.

PRADIP
Lemme try! Lemme try!

Pradip then does a big cannonball. As he is in the air, Gary
beans him with a beach ball. Maureen and Nell watch from
the porch. They are drinking iced teas.

MAUREEN
Gary, we need to get going!

GARY
Five more minutes!

NELL
They’re gonna sleep well tonight.

MAUREEN
Mmm hmmm. Gary is going to miss
these playdates. Girl, where did
you get these cushions?
MAUREEN
Well, I hope you washed them. That curry smell can really seep into the fibers. I booked a package tour for a couple to Bangalore and they brought me some placemats. Curry galore. But your nose is probably immune from all those years of living in India. I’m so jealous of you getting all “Eat, Pray, Love” before the movie even came out.

NELL
I moved there because of my Peace Corps work. And I stayed because I fell in love with Pradip. Then, I found a wonderful Bikram ashram---

MAUREEN
Did you have diarrhea every day? That’s what my clients who’ve been there say. That’s probably how you stayed so skinny.

NELL
It wasn’t dysentery that kept me thin, it was Bikram yoga.

MAUREEN
Yoga? That sounds fun! I’m excited to get back to my Zumba classes in Tempe. I just feel like we’re finally ready to leave now that we have Clarkie in daycare.

NELL
Oh, didn’t you hear?

INT. BABY’S NURSERY AT NELL AND PRADIP’S - MOMENTS LATER

Nell opens the door of the nursery to show Maureen. Maureen is very taken aback. They are incredibly passive aggressive.

NELL
He’s going to be staying at Grandma Nell’s.

MAUREEN
But Anna and Raj told me he was going to daycare at UCLA.
NELL
Nope. They ditched that idea after
I told them I would babysit him.
It’s an Indian tradition to keep
our children in the family instead
of at some disease-ridden hospital.

MAUREEN
Spectacular! I’m so glad you’ll be
able to have some influence over
him. I was concerned that they
were going to totally neglect his
Indian heritage. Since they’re
baptizing him and all.

NELL
What?

MAUREEN
Yeah, they decided to do it at our
going away party. Here. At your
house.

NELL
I didn’t know they were raising him
Christian.

MAUREEN
Yeah, it’s our family tradition...
to keep our children out of hell.
I guess they’ve all been going to
church every Sunday. And
Wednesdays during Lent. And Raj is
in that praise band, The Rockin’
Apostles.

NELL
Oh, is he?

There’s going to be trouble.

EXT. NELL AND PRADIP'S - SATURDAY - AFTERNOON

The backyard looks beautiful, full of decorations and a
“Goodbye, Gary and Maureen” banner. There are about 15
guests milling about. The party is just starting. Anna and
Raj are setting up food on the elegant porch. Things are a
little tense between Anna and Raj.

RAJ
Welp. By this evening, we’ll
finally be rid of our problems.
They’ll be in the Land Cruiser on
the way back to Arizona.
ANNA
(pointed, re: Nell)
Half of our problems. The other
half will be upstairs raising our
child in a nightmare Epcot Center
version of a Calcutta slum--

RAJ
Listen, this is my mom’s honest
attempt to--

LLEWELYN
(interrupting, oblivious)
Hey lovebirds, I have my tribute to
Mom and Dad all ready to go, you
just give me the cue. I checked,
and the fog machine is safe for the
baby.

ANNA
Why don’t you wait until after the
baptism is over? And most of the
party is too. ’Kay, my miraculous
little sis?

A HINDU PRIEST shows up at the side entrance.

ANNA (CONT’D)
Raj, one of your relatives is here.

RAJ
Racist. Every Indian is not
related to me. At least, I don’t
think he is. Uncle Mohit?

The Hindu Priest looks confused.

RAJ (CONT’D)
Nope. He’s not related to me.

Anna then puts on a pageant smile.

RAJ (CONT’D)
Pageant smile. Oh no.

Raj then sees what Anna is smiling about: it’s Nell bringing
out Clark in full Hindu ceremonial garb from the house.

ANNA
Why is everyone dressing up our son
in women’s clothing?
RAJ
Believe it or not, that dress is actually for boys.

Just then, Pradip enters from the house in a lungi (a Hindu loincloth-diaper thing).

RAJ (CONT’D)
And that diaper is actually for adults. Mom, what’s going on?

NELL
If Maureen gets to have a baptism, I get to have a Namakarana Samskara.

ANNA
How did you hear about the baptism?

NELL
Your Mom told me.

PRADIP
I tried to talk her out of it. But you know how passionate white ladies are about their Namakarana Samskaras.

ANNA
What is a Namamamamaasmaarkra?

NELL
A Hindu naming ceremony.

RAJ
But he has a name.

NELL
Not an Indian name. We’re going to call him Pashupati! Let’s get some incense up in here.

Anna’s pageant smile gets bigger and bigger. Raj plasters one on too.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

EXT. NELL AND PRADIP'S HOUSE - BACKYARD

Anna and Raj are panicked. Nell and the Hindu priest are performing an elaborate ceremony.

ANNA
How is this my fault?!?

RAJ
If you would have just told your parents to leave in a normal way we wouldn’t be having some weird party slash baptism slash goat sacrifice, or whatever’s going on---

ANNA
Enough! Fine. Just please, stop your Mom before my parents get here-- oh crap!

They turn to see Maureen and Gary arrive with a KOREAN PASTOR at the side entrance. Gary is sporting boots and a cowboy hat. Maureen is decked out in Chico’s finest. Anna rushes over toward her parents, while Raj hurries toward his mom.

MAUREEN
A party? For me? What a surprise!

GARY
It wasn’t a surprise, hon bun.

MAUREEN
Anna! This is Pastor Kim--

PASTOR KIM
(something in Korean)

MAUREEN
--and this is Clark’s baptismal gown.

LLEWELYN
Didn’t I wear that in a Miss Cinderella pageant?

GARY
Yes, but your mom sewed a cross onto it.

Maureen heads over toward the porch, while Anna tries to slow her down.
ANNA
Mom, I need to talk to you---

LLEWELYN
What happened to the Lutheran pastor?

GARY
The Korean Presbyterians are the only ones I could find who would do the last minute baptism. They’re a little loosey goosey on the rules unlike those uptight Lutherans.

MAUREEN
Now, where’s my baby boy?

ANNA
Mom, I just wanted to warn you---

Suddenly, Maureen sees Nell and the Hindu priest chanting in Hindi and swinging Indian clothing-clad Clark on a red sari.

MAUREEN
(scream)
WHAT IN GOD’S NAME IS HE WEARING?!?!?!?!

ANNA
That’s what I wanted to talk to you about. Nell is insisting that we also have a Namakarana Samskara.

MAUREEN
(scream)
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!?!?!?!

ANNA
Please calm down, Mom.

MAUREEN
This is my special day!

GARY
Leave it to a liberal to dress my grandson up in that hippie get-up.

ANNA
You’re about to put him in a dress! The second one you’ve made him wear this week!
MAUREEN
It’s my party, and as a gift, I was going to get to save my grandson from a life of eternal hell.

ANNA
We’re still doing the baptism, Mom.

In the midst of the chanting, Nell calls out to them.

NELL
Hi, Maureen! Gary! Did you see how cute Clark looks in his outfit?

GARY
Looks a lot like Obama in his Muslim clothes back home in Kenya.

Anna cringes as she sees a Muslim man near her father.

NELL
This is a Hindu salwar chameez flown in from New Dehli.

GARY
What was wrong with the old Dehli? Did the pastrami go bad? HA!

PRADIP
Boo-ya!

Nell turns to Pradip.

NELL
You were born in Dehli! Can’t you stand up for your culture for once?

RAJ
Everyone, calm down! We’re still doing the baptism, we’re just doing the Hindu naming ceremony as well. It’ll be a great way to celebrate all of our cultures.

PRADIP
We should do a circumcision too. Since you were a Goldberg before you were a Patel, Nell.

RAJ
No! He’s already been circumcised. Hands off my kid’s junk. You can dress him up like a girl, but you will not turn him into one.
The Hindu priest lights a candle. The confused Korean Pastor starts to shovel handfuls of shrimp into his mouth.

MAUREEN
This is an affront to God.

PRADIP
Which one? We have millions! Hiyoo!

GARY
Ka-pow-pow!

They high five. The Hindu priest pulls out a sacred bag.

HINDU PRIEST
Now, in honor of the sacred space between earth and heaven, we will shower the baby in spices---

He begins tossing flowers and spices at the baby.

MAUREEN
That’s it! Get that cumin out of my baby’s eyes. This is my special day! MINE!

Maureen snatches the baby and heads toward the pool.

MAUREEN (CONT’D)
Pastor Kim! Emergency baptism now!

Maureen tries to grab Pastor Kim as he downs handfuls of shrimp. She pulls him into the pool.

RAJ
Your mom’s gone rogue!

ANNA
Dammit.

NELL
You get out of there, Maureen! We haven’t lit the ceremonial fire yet! Give him back!

Nell starts chucking flowers at Maureen.

MAUREEN
You stop it! I’m saving this boy’s soul!

GARY
Girls, you need to settle down.
PRADIP
It’s like a handbag sale at the mall!

GARY
Bull’s eye, Brown Guy!

They high five.

RAJ
Give me the baby, Maureen.

LLEWELYN
I guess it’s time for my tribute.

Llewelyn cues loud dance music, probably Lady Gaga. A fog machine starts spewing fog everywhere. She starts a very skanky dance. Pradip really enjoys it. Anna and Raj try to pull Maureen out of the pool, Maureen screams.

ANNA
Mother, stop acting like a baby.

MAUREEN
I’m being perfectly rational!

Maureen kicks a beach ball at Nell. It beans her in the head. Anna screams.

ANNA
EVERYBODY, STOP! LISTEN TO ME!!

Everyone turns and looks at her. Llewelyn stops mid-thrust.

ANNA (CONT’D)
I occasionally smoke pot and I curse!

Raj shakes his head. Anna reassures Raj.

ANNA (CONT’D)
Hang on. It’s coming. Okay, now listen to me! Clark is our son. He’s ours. And until he’s 18, or becomes legally emancipated, Raj and I own him. His name is Clark, it’s not Pashupati! We gave him that name in honor of my favorite Uncle, and that’s what he will be called. And he will be dressed as a boy! Unless he chooses to do otherwise when he is older!

Raj smiles with pride at his wife.
GARY
Did you say you smoke pot? I don’t think you should smoke pot and breastfeed.

PRADIP
That’s very irresponsible.

NELL
That could severely stunt his--

RAJ
That’s not the point! Slow your roll, people. No more pageants! No more insane nurseries! We appreciate all of your help, but he’s our son. And we have the final say. So we’ve done your Nakakranashaaawhatever---

NELL
My sad, white son.

RAJ
-- as well, as what I think was a baptism, although who knows? My Korean is a little rusty. But at the end of the day, we’re the bosses.

ANNA
We love you, we want you to be involved in his life, but not that involved. We may make a few mistakes along the way. But have faith in us as parents, because we learned from the best. And we learned from you guys too.

Raj and Anna smile at each other.

RAJ
Nice.

ANNA
Thanks. You too. Felt pretty good.

RAJ
It did, didn’t it?

They try to help Maureen out of the pool.
MAUREEN
Beautifully said, kids! I guess this is also a great time to announce that we’re moving to LOS ANGELES!!!!

Anna and Raj are so shocked that they accidentally drop Maureen again, she gets soaking wet.

NELL
(not wonderful)
Wonderful!

LLEWELYN
Seriously, Dad?

GARY
Surprise!

Just then Pradip starts crying loudly.

RAJ
Oh God. What’s wrong, Dad?

PRADIP
I’m so happy! My Gary is going to be here!

Anna grabs a glass of wine, and downs it quickly.

ANNA
Screw breastfeeding.

RAJ
Formula’s perfectly safe.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NELL AND PRADIP'S HOUSE – LATER

The party has ended, and it's just the family now. Maureen approaches Anna with wet hair and a sari. Anna is trying to swaddle Clark, but can’t. Maureen puts down her margarita, and throughout the following scene swaddles Clark like a pro.

ANNA
Nice sari.

MAUREEN
Apparently, it’s all Nell had for me to borrow. Who doesn’t own a good sweatsuit, I say? I’m sorry to surprise you with the whole “moving to Los Angeles” thing.
ANNA
Well, we could have saved some
money on the banner.

She references the “Goodbye, Maureen and Gary” banner.

ANNA (CONT’D)
I just don’t get it, Mom. Why
would you give up your lives in
Tempe for this baby?

MAUREEN
(softening)
We’re not moving here for your
baby, sweetie. We’re moving here
for our babies.

Anna gets it. It’s a nice moment. They hug.

MAUREEN (CONT’D)
I want to be here to help you while
you go through this amazing time in
your life. But most importantly, I
want to see who my baby has become.
You’re obviously much more than
Miss Tempe now. And trust me,
it’ll get easier to deal with me
now that you’re drinking again.

Anna and Maureen both laugh. We see now that there actually
is affection between the two of them. But then--

MAUREEN (CONT’D)
I mean, seriously. How long were
you going to continue breast-
feeding? It totally ruins your
boobs. That’s why you were formula
feed. No veiny raisins for me. I
need another marg, girl.

Anna smiles as Maureen exits. Raj approaches Anna with two
yards o’ margaritas.

ANNA
Welcome to LA, Mom.

RAJ
Here. You’re gonna need this.

They toast.

END OF ACT THREE
TAG

EXT. NELL AND PRADIP’S HOUSE - LATER

Gary and Pradip are playing in the pool with Clark, having a blast. Anna and Raj watch, drinking their yards o’ margaritas.

ANNA
You know what? I don’t think Clark should go to daycare.

RAJ
Seriously? You think he should be babysat by all these looney bins?

ANNA
We turned out okay.

RAJ
I did. But you, look at you with that pot-filled potty mouth.

ANNA
(smiling)
$%# you.

RAJ
You just want to save money for that Lamborghini bed, don’t you?

ANNA
I want some sweet rims on my bed. What can I say? Let’s just not let our parents drive us apart again. You and I have a good thing going here. I don’t want them to ruin it.

RAJ
Deal. Maybe your parents living here won’t be terrible. Clark does love his Grandpas.

Pradip and Gary start wrestling, and jump out of the pool, leaving the baby floating by himself. Suddenly, the pool fountains and lights come on. It’s basically like a lone baby floating in the pool at the Bellagio.

RAJ (CONT’D)
I’m going to go save the baby.

END. *