

\$#!% MY DAD SAYS

"Pilot"

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ACT ONE

SCENE A

EXT. ED'S BACKYARD GARDEN - NIGHT

(HENRY, ED, TIFF)

HENRY, MID-TWENTIES, STANDS IN THE CLEARING. HE'S LESS THAN STRIKINGLY HANDSOME, BUT HIS AWKWARD CHARM GOES A LONG WAY WITH GIRLS. IN FRONT OF HIM STANDS TIFF, TWENTY-ISH, CHATTY, SHORT AND ANNOYING.

THEY STAND IN THE MIDDLE OF A THRIVING BACKYARD VEGETABLE GARDEN. YOU CAN SEE THE BACK DOOR TO THE HOUSE THROUGH GIGANTIC TOMATO BUSHES.

TIFF

So then cut to him all like, "Wow, you look amazing," and I'm all, "I don't date smokers..." Cut to his cousin getting us bottle service... Cut to him boob-grazing my BFF Stacey. *Cut-to-me-being-like*, "No. Clap-off. (CLAPS TWICE) I'm done with you."

HENRY

(AS NICE AS POSSIBLE) Alright, fun story, so... Cut to me nodding and uh... thanking you for a nice night, Tiff. Fade out, end of date.

TIFF

Henry, is something wrong? Did you not like the restaurant? It's like every night there is Friday!

HENRY

No, no, I'm familiar with the T.G.I.Friday's concept and enjoy it.

(MORE)

HENRY (CONT'D)

(NERVOUS) It's just -- random thought
-- Ha, how come you used a picture of
Cindy Crawford for your dating
profile? Because, you know, it's
supposed to be a picture of you, so...

TIFF

Well, we look exactly alike. You know
-- because of the mole.

TIFF POINTS TO THE MOLE ABOVE HER LIP, ONE OF MANY...

HENRY

Yes. You... you definitely have
several moles.

TIFF

I know. Guys love 'em, right? (THEN,
NOTICING GARDEN) Wow, these tomatoes
are amazing!

TIFF REACHES FOR A TOMATO.

HENRY

Oh, don't touch those, please!

TIFF

Oh, what's gonna happen? The garden
boogie man gonna come and get me?

SUDDENLY, THE BACK DOOR BURSTS OPEN REVEALING ED, 72, FARM-
RAISED, VIETNAM VET AND RECENTLY-RETIRED SURGEON. SURLY,
CANTANKEROUS, A FOUNTAIN OF WISDOM WITH THE PRESSURE OF A
FIRE HOSE.

ED

All you need to know is I don't
believe in warning shots!

ED STANDS AT THE BACK DOOR OF HIS HOUSE. HE IS COMPLETELY NAKED AND POINTS A SHOTGUN AT HENRY AND TIFF.

TIFF

(EYES ON THE SHOTGUN) AHH! (DOWN TO ED'S CROTCH) AHHHH! (BACK TO THE SHOTGUN) AHHHHHHH!

TIFF TAKES OFF RUNNING THROUGH THE GARDEN.

HENRY

Dad! What are you doing?

ED

I heard a noise. It's after nine.
That's when the gun comes out. You
know that.

ED TURNS AROUND AND GOES BACK INSIDE, EXPOSING HIS BARE ASS.

CUT TO:

SCENE B

INT. UNEMPLOYMENT AGENCY - DAY
(HENRY, SAM, JANETTE, EXTRAS)

CHYRON: TWO WEEKS EARLIER

HENRY STANDS IN LINE WITH HIS FEMALE ROOMMATE AND BUDDY, SAM, 26. SMART, WAIFISH-TOMBOY. SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE COULD BE THE DRUMMER IN AN INDIE-ROCK GIRL BAND. IF SHE EVER PUT HER HAIR BEHIND HER EARS SHE'D REVEAL THAT SHE'S, IN FACT, QUITE BEAUTIFUL.

HENRY

You should see her picture. She looks exactly like Cindy Crawford.

SAM

How do you know it's not a picture of Cindy Crawford?

HENRY

What kind of desperate person would do that?

SAM

Internet's not for dating, dude. It's for stalking people you're dating.

HENRY

Who else am I going to date?

SAM

How about someone you've actually met?

HENRY

(TOTALLY UNAWARE) Like who, you?

SAM MIGHT HAVE ANSWERED "WHY NOT?" BUT HENRY INTERRUPTS HER AS HE MOVES TO THE FRONT COUNTER TO SPEAK TO JANETTE, AN AFFECTLESS UNEMPLOYMENT AGENCY WORKER.

HENRY (CONT'D)

(TO SAM) Watch. I bet I can get her to say the word "name." (TURNS TO JANETTE) Hi, Janette. Lovely to see you again.

JANETTE

Name?

HENRY STEPS UP TO THE COUNTER.

HENRY

Henry Bennett. Here's my form.

JANETTE STARTS PROCESSING THE FORM.

SAM

You coming with me to dodgeball tonight? I can't wait to drill that hipster kid right in his ironic moustache.

HENRY

I can't. It's my dad's birthday. I have to go over there.

JANETTE FINISHES PROCESSING HENRY'S FORM.

JANETTE

According to our records, you've already received your last unemployment check.

HENRY

That can't be. I'm owed one more. I don't get this stuff wrong.

JANETTE

Fill out form "B" over there (POINTING AWAY) and come back in two days.

HENRY

But my rent's due tomorrow and I know you owe me one more check now. C'mon, I did everything right! (RE: FORM) I actually applied for the jobs on this form! Even the one that said "Functioning limbs optional!"

JANETTE

Form "B." (POINTING) Over there.

HENRY AND SAM WALK AWAY.

HENRY

Sam, I swear to you they owe me a check. Can you front me 'til I get it?

SAM

Sure. I'll just pawn one of my Faberge eggs. I'm broke too, dude. Don't make me have to get a new roommate off Craigslist. (THEN) Ask your dad.

HENRY

My dad's not that guy.

SAM

Just do something really nice for him and when he thanks you, ask him for

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

the money. That's how I got a car
from my stepdad.

HENRY

What'd you have to do?

SAM

(BLOWING PAST IT) Just ask your dad.
I've never heard you ask him for
anything.

HENRY

So be nice to him and then hit him up
for the money. (THINKS) Maybe
that'll work. It's his birthday.
I'll get him a present. Who isn't
happy when they get a birthday
present?

SMASH CUT TO:

SCENE C

INT. ED'S HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER
(HENRY, ED, VINCE, KATHLEEN)

ED SITS IN HIS CHAIR EATING GRAPE NUTS AND WATCHING THE NEWS.
HENRY STANDS OVER HIS FATHER PRESENTING A JAR OF ALMOND ROCA
WITH A SAD BOW SLAPPED ON TOP OF IT.

ED

(RE: THE PRESENT) If that's not booze
or sweat pants, it's going in the
garbage.

HENRY

(TO HIMSELF) Ah, the joy of giving in
Ed's house...

HENRY SITS ON THE COUCH NEXT TO HIM. HE TOSSES THE ALMOND
ROCA ON THE COFFEE TABLE.

ED

(TALKING TO TV) Why is that news? A
guy died. So what? He didn't do
anything but die. If he did something
tomorrow, that would be news.

HENRY

So how ya doin', Dad?

ED

I'm fine. My cucumbers are coming in
nicely. Better than last season.

HENRY

Yeah, I noticed. The garden looks
great. Those cucumbers are amazing.
You must be really proud.

ED

They didn't invent a cure for river blindness, they're just big cucumbers.

(THEN) Take a few when you leave.

(THEN) How's that girlfriend you're living with?

HENRY

Sam's not my girlfriend, she's just a friend. I haven't dated anyone seriously since Emily and I broke up. I'm in kind of a slump.

ED

Don't worry about it. Girlfriends are like subway trains -- if you miss one there'll be another one coming soon, and if you're not in a rush, you get to pick the one that smells the best.

HENRY

Hopefully she doesn't open up for thousands of commuters.

ED

I don't know what that means.

HENRY NOTICES THE DRIVER'S MANUAL ON THE COFFEE TABLE.

HENRY

What's with the driver's manual?

ED

I turned seventy-two today. My license expires at midnight. I have

(MORE)

ED (CONT'D)

to take the whole damn test again. If I don't pass, I'll lose my license.

HENRY

Look, if worse comes to worst, you'll get a bike. It'll keep you in shape.

ED

A bike?! Look out that window. Does it look like we're in Bangkok? I'm not getting on a bike.

HENRY

You're right. I forgot you have to be Thai to ride a bike now.

ED

If I can't drive, what am I? A shut-in with giant cucumbers.

HENRY

Why don't you think you're going to pass?

ED

That test is tricky. It's like it's designed to weed out the people who can't concentrate.

HENRY

So unfair. (THEN, LIGHT BULB) Well, listen, why don't I help you study? Wouldn't that be nice? It's something nice I could do for you. And I want

(MORE)

HENRY (CONT'D)

to do something nice for you and not
just so you'll do something nice for
me, although that would be nice.

JUST THEN, VINCE AND KATHLEEN BENNETT ENTER, THE SELF-
DESCRIBED KING AND QUEEN OF CONDOS. HE'S 40. SHE'S LATE
30'S. EVEN THE MOST SUCCESSFUL CONDO BROKERS ARE KIND OF
CHEESY AND THESE ARE NOT THE MOST SUCCESSFUL. THEY ENTER
SINGING A SONG WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR ED'S BIRTHDAY. IT'S TO
THE TUNE OF MICHAEL JACKSON'S "BAD".

VINCE

Bom. Bom. Bom. Bom-bomp!

KATHLEEN

Bom. Bom. Bom. Bom-bomp!

VINCE/KATHLEEN

*Because he's Dad. He's Dad! You know
it.*

KATHLEEN

You know, hoo!

VINCE

*And the whole world's got to answer
right now just to tell you once again.*

KATHLEEN

He's Dad!!

THEY HIT A POSE.

ED

(TO HENRY) What is that?

HENRY

It's "Bad."

ED

I know, but's what the name of the
song?

HENRY

Oh, I'm not sure.

KATHLEEN

Happy Birthday, Ed!!

VINCE

Happy Birthday, Pop.

ED

Thank you, Vince. Thank you,
Kathleen.

VINCE

We got you a little something.

KATHLEEN

You'll never guess --

VINCE

It's a key chain!

SHE LOOKS AT HIM LIKE EVERY WIFE IN THE WORLD LOOKS AT HER
HUSBAND WHEN HE DOES SOMETHING STUPID.

ED

(RE: KEYCHAIN, READING TAG) "Vince
and Kathleen Bennett. The King and
Queen of Condos."

VINCE

Do you like that? I picked the font.
It's Helvetica.

KATHLEEN

(TO ED, RE: KEY CHAIN) Read the other side.

ED

(READING) "Everything we touch turns to sold."

VINCE

It's funny, right?

ED

What's with these gifts? If I wanted piles of crap all over my house I'd buy a bird.

KATHLEEN

Okay, this is the significance of the key chain. We just got a listing that's perfect for you: One bedroom, one and three-quarters bath...

ED

Great, I can piss in a three-quarters bath. Cross that off my bucket list.

KATHLEEN

There's a community pool so you could meet people. And ready for this... it has a private garden space!

VINCE

We just figured it's time to down-size a little bit. You don't need all this. Plus you're all alone out here.

ED

It's very nice that you two were worried about me. I will take it under consideration, but right now the only move I'm making will be in the upstairs bathroom. So if you'll excuse me...

KATHLEEN

(TO VINCE) I hate when he announces it.

VINCE

He's a very comfortable man.

ED GETS UP AND LEAVES THE ROOM.

HENRY

What the hell was that about?!

KATHLEEN

I'll tell you what that was about. Your brother and I actually spend time thinking about the fact that your father is getting on.

HENRY

At least you're not spending time thinking about our father getting off.

KATHLEEN

That's disgusting!

VINCE

(TO HENRY) Good one. (THEN) Do you think he still does?

KATHLEEN

Vincent, please! (THEN, TO HENRY)
Someone in this family has to do the
right thing.

HENRY

Now, by "the right thing," do you mean
selling the house he's lived in for
forty years and collecting a
commission on that, and then selling
him a condo and collecting a
commission on that? Is that the
"right thing" you're talking about?

KATHLEEN

We are doing this for your father's
benefit, not ours.

HENRY

Well, that's just not true.

VINCE

(NOT THAT MENACING) Be careful what
you say to my wife.

HENRY

But that's a lie.

VINCE

(NOT THAT MENACING) Be very careful,
Henry.

HENRY

But she's lying.

VINCE

(NOT THAT MENACING) That's my wife.
Be careful.

HENRY

She's a liar.

VINCE

(STILL NOT MENACING) Careful what you
say.

HENRY

You married a liar.

VINCE

(NOT A MENACE) Careful.

KATHLEEN

(TO VINCE) Well done, Lancelot.

KATHLEEN'S PHONE RINGS. SHE LOOKS AT IT.

KATHLEEN (CONT'D)

(RE: PHONE) Uch. It's the Chungs.

They better not be pulling out of the
deal. (SHE PICKS UP; INTO PHONE)

Hello. Oh, hello Mrs. Chung, it's
Kathleen. What can I do for you?

(LISTENS, INTO PHONE) I'm confused.

Do you mean there are crows on the
roof of the condo? (THEN, INTO PHONE)

Oh, you want to close on the condo.

Well, wonderful. Let me walk outside
and we can figure everything out.

SHE EXITS. HENRY LOOKS AT VINCE.

HENRY

So you're doing it for Dad's benefit,
not for the money.

VINCE

That's right.

HENRY

Swear you're not doing it for the
money?

VINCE

Yep.

HENRY

Swear on your life?

VINCE

Yes, I do.

HENRY

Swear on your home entertainment
center?

VINCE

Yeah, I'm doing it for the money. Of
course I'm doing it for the money.

HENRY

It's not cool.

VINCE

What do I owe him?

HENRY

He's our dad.

VINCE

He's the enemy of imagination! The minute I could comprehend the idea of Santa Claus, he told me there was no such thing and any Santa I saw was either an out-of-work actor or a pervert.

HENRY

I know, every Christmas at the mall I lived in fear of getting fondled or being handed a head shot and a resume.

VINCE

It was never "Great job, Vince," or "I'm proud of you, Vince," or "That was a beautiful violin recital, Vince." All I got was "Now I know what it sounds like when a penguin gets gang-banged."

HENRY

Dad's not the kind of guy who just gives you his respect. You have to earn it.

VINCE

Well I've tried that, it doesn't work. If Dad taught me anything, it's to be practical and realistic. I sell condos. Dad's a potential customer. End of story.

HENRY

That's sad.

VINCE

No, you know what's sad? You still think you and Dad are going to wear matching sweaters, sip cocoa, and be in a commercial for life insurance together. Well, guess what, brother? That's not life with Ed. Ask my mom, ask your mom. It's Grape Nuts, CNN, farts and disapproval.

HENRY

That's you, not me.

VINCE

Really? You and Dad have such a good thing going? When's the last time you spent more than a half hour with him? (NO ANSWER; THEN) That's what I thought. See that's the difference between you and me. I don't need Dad's respect because I have self-respect.

KATHLEEN (O.C.)

(YELLING) Vince, get out here! I need to write on your back.

VINCE

(CALLING) Coming, honey.

VINCE JUMPS UP AND EXITS AS WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE D

INT. ED'S LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT
(ED, HENRY)

HENRY CLEANS UP THE LIVING ROOM. ED WATCHES A MUTED CNN AND LISTENS TO THE OLDIES STATION ON THE RADIO.

HENRY

Okay, dishes are done. I swept the floor and wiped down the table so it looks nice. Nice, nice, nice. I still need to disinfect--

ED

Son, sit down. The house is clean enough. We didn't accidentally kill a hooker, we had dinner.

HENRY

Okay, you're right.

HENRY SITS DOWN ON THE COUCH NEXT TO ED. HE LIFTS UP THE ALMOND ROCA TIN AND GRABS THE DRIVER'S MANUAL UNDERNEATH.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Let's go over some of the sample driving tests.

ED

(RE: TIN) You really didn't need to get me that stupid gift.

HENRY

It's your birthday. A hollow gesture from the Ninety-ninety Cent Store is the least I could do.

ED

The universe is 14 billion years old.
Giving a gift every time a year passes
is like having a parade every time you
break wind. Get me a gift if I pass a
kidney stone.

HENRY

Why that?

ED

If I pass a rock through my drainpipe,
trust me, I'll deserve more than a
freakin' pat on the back.

HENRY

And speaking of not that, how about we
study for your driving test?

ED

Fine.

HENRY

(READING THE BOOKLET) Okay, you've
been involved in a minor traffic
collision with a parked vehicle and
you are unable to locate the owner.
You must, A) Leave a n--

ED

What part of town am I in?

HENRY

I dunno, downtown. It's not import--

ED

I don't go downtown. Smells like urine and tomato paste.

HENRY

Fine, then you're down the street at the store.

ED

Which store, the one with the slow kid that works in produce?

HENRY

No, the other one.

ED

I like the one with the slow kid. He knows his vegetables.

HENRY

It doesn't matter! God, it's like you have like A.A.R.P.A.D.D.

ED

I don't what that is. (THEN, RE: TV)
Look at that yutz on the news. He's not an anchorman. He's an actor with a trimmed beard and a hundred-dollar haircut. Cronkite was an anchorman. This guy should be playing Santa at the mall.

HENRY

You were an army doctor! You performed surgeries in a war zone, why can't you focus on this?!

ED

Cause it's BS. It doesn't matter.

HENRY

It'll matter when you can't drive.

ED

You're right. You're right. Go ahead.

HENRY

(READING BOOKLET) "You are approaching a railroad crossing with no warning devices and are unable to see 400 feet down the tracks in one direction. The speed limit -- "

HENRY STOPS READING AND GETS LOST IN THE SONG THAT HAS JUST COME ON THE RADIO. IT'S ETTA JAMES SINGING "STORMY WEATHER."

ED

What? I'm listening. Railroad tracks, go on...

HENRY

No, it's the song. You hear it?

ED LISTENS. A SMALL SMILE CROSSES HIS FACE.

ED

Yeah, I hear it. What do you know about it?

HENRY

I know.

ED

You don't know.

HENRY

Yeah, I do. This is the song you and Mom used to dance to after you put me to bed.

ED

How do you remember that? You were five years old. You had more years than teeth.

HENRY

Some things you just remember.

ED

I don't believe you.

HENRY

Oh, really? Does this look familiar?

HENRY GETS UP AND PRETENDS TO DANCE WITH A PARTNER.

HENRY (CONT'D)

(IMPERSONATING ED) "One, two, three, sway. One two three, dip. Let's go, Barb. Stay with me."

ED

That looks nothing like me. First off, it's six counts between the sway and the dip. I'm not a maniac.

ED GETS UP AND TAKES HIS SON'S HAND. THEY START TO DANCE.

ED (CONT'D)

Don't lead. One, two, three, four,
five, sway. One, two, three, four,
five, dip.

ED DIPS HENRY. HENRY LOOKS UP AT HIS DAD. THEY ARE BOTH
TOUCHED BY THE MEMORY, THEN:

HENRY

I bet you were a good husband when you
wanted to be.

ED

I don't know about that...

ED LIFTS HENRY BACK UP.

ED (CONT'D)

What do you need, Henry?

HENRY

What do you mean?

ED

You've been here all night. You
cleaned up the house, you're helping
me study. What do you need, money?

HENRY

Why would you say that?

ED

It's not that strange. Vince would do
it.

HENRY

Yeah, well... I'm not Vince.

ED

You don't need money from me?

HENRY

Dad, I'm not going to lie to you.

(LONG PAUSE) No.

ED

Alright then.

HENRY OPENS HIS ARMS TO CONTINUE DANCING.

ED (CONT'D)

Put your hands down. I'm not some
Vietnamese-lady boy. The dance is
over.

ED WALKS OFF.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE E

FADE IN:

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - THE NEXT DAY
(HENRY, SAM, CAT GIRL)

THE APARTMENT IS SPARSE. IT'S NOT MUCH MORE THAN A GLORIFIED DORM ROOM.

SAM

Dude, he actually asked you if you needed the money and you said "No"?!

HENRY

Dude, you don't understand.

SAM

Dude, you don't understand. There has been a freak show of potential roommates parading through this apartment all morning. One was an ex-con. One chick hugged me, started to cry, and then said hello. Danny Bonaduce.

HENRY

There's another Danny Bonaduce?

SAM

No!

HENRY

Listen, I'm sorry. I just can't ask him for money. I don't want to be that guy. My brother's that guy. It's a respect thing.

SAM

So he's going to respect you more when you're living in your car?

HENRY

Jewel did it, and look at her. She's ... a bad poet.

SAM

I don't get it, it's not like you and your dad have some great relationship.

HENRY

But I'm starting to think that we could now.

SAM

(SIGHS; THEN) What exactly happened when he asked you if you needed money?

HENRY

Well, we were dancing and when he dipped me, he looked me in the eyes and asked me if I was being nice to him because I needed money. I just couldn't disappoint him, so I said "No." Then he called me a Vietnamese lady-boy.

SAM

That's weirder than me and my stepdad.

HENRY

Look, I know I'm owed that last unemployment check. That'll buy me

(MORE)

HENRY (CONT'D)

another month with you here, and I'm
sure I can get a job in that time.

SAM

Dude, it'd be so much easier if you --

HENRY

I'm not asking my dad for money, okay?
I'm just not. (THEN) I gotta go pick
him up and take him to the DMV. I'll
talk to you later.

HENRY EXITS. AFTER A BEAT, SAM CROSSES TO KITCHEN, READS THE
EMERGENCY NUMBERS ON THE WALL, PICKS UP THE PHONE AND DIALS.

SAM

(INTO PHONE) Hi, is this Dr. Bennett?
My name is Sam -- No, I'm not his
girlfriend, we're just roommates. No,
I'm straight. No, he's straight.
Listen, the reason I'm calling --

VOICE (O.C.)

Sam!

SAM

(INTO PHONE) I'm sorry, can you hold
on one sec. (CALLING OFF) What?

DANNY BONADUCE ENTERS.

DANNY BONADUCE

(RE: APT) I like it, but you should
know I get my kids every other weekend.

OFF SAM'S LOOK WE:

CUT TO:

SCENE H

INT. ED'S HOUSE

(VINCE, ED, KATHLEEN)

ED HANGS UP THE PHONE AND CROSSES TO THE KITCHEN TABLE WHERE KATHLEEN AND VINCE ARE SITTING.

ED

(RE: PHONE CALL WITH SAM) She sure sounds like a lesbian to me.

VINCE

(INTERESTED) Who?!

KATHLEEN

It doesn't matter. And you can put your tongue back in your mouth, Vince. What is it with you and the lesbians?

VINCE

What? I was just asking.

KATHLEEN

(TO ED) God forbid I should wake up in the middle of the night and not catch him on his laptop watching Amber and Keiko playing the most nauseating game of ping pong I've ever seen.

VINCE

Kath, can we not do this in front of my dad?

ED

Please. This is a shock to me? You know when I realized Vince would enjoy lesbian porn? The day I heard the

(MORE)

ED (CONT'D)

doctor say "Congratulations, it's a boy."

VINCE

(TO ED) Good one.

KATHLEEN

We are getting VERY far afield here!

VINCE

(BACK ON TRACK) Right, right. So the reason we like this new place for you, Pop, is 'cause it's close to town, it's more manageable, and there'd be people around. You won't be isolated like you are here.

KATHLEEN

Of all my babies, this one, I think, is best suited to you.

ED

You don't call condos "your babies."
You know what you should call "your babies?" Your babies.

KATHLEEN

(WOUNDED) Vince, you want to take that?

VINCE

Pop, we talked about this. You know there's some reproductive issues that we're working on, in consultation with --

KATHLEEN

(BLURTING OUT) My vagina is broken,
Ed!

ED

Christ, that came at me fast.

KATHLEEN

I may not be able to have human
babies, so I call my condos my babies!
Is that such a terrible thing?!

VERY LONG PAUSE FROM ED. HE'S FROZEN. HIS GENERATION HAS NO
IDEA HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS LEVEL OF CANDOR FROM A WOMAN.

ED

So it's a one-bedroom, one and three-
quarters bath?

VINCE

Yeah, it's perfect, right?

ED

I just have one question. Are you
doing this for my benefit, or are you
doing this because you want to make a
sale?

VINCE

(PRETENDING TO BE OFFENDED)
Dad, come on. You're not
just another customer.

KATHLEEN

We would never. It would be
in violation of the local San
Diego realtors' oath and we
take that very seriously.

ED (CONT'D)

Alright, alright, alright. Since
you're doing it for my benefit, I

(MORE)

ED (CONT'D)

don't see how I could say no to that kind of generosity. Go ahead, put the house on the market.

VINCE

We'll get right on that, Pop. And you're gonna love this new place.

KATHLEEN

Like I said, this is my baby that's most perfectly suited to you.

ED

Great, can't wait to... meet my grandson.

CUT TO:

SCENE J

INT. ED'S LOCAL DMV - LATER
(ED, HENRY, DMV EMPLOYEE)

HENRY AND ED STAND IN LINE. THEY'RE SECOND FROM THE DESK, BEHIND WHICH SITS A MULLETED DMV EMPLOYEE WEARING AN AMERICAN FLAG T-SHIRT THAT READS: "THESE COLORS DON'T RUN."

DMV EMPLOYEE

(LISTLESS) Next.

ED AND HENRY APPROACH THE COUNTER.

ED

I've been here two hours and everyone looks like they want to shove a shotgun in their mouths. Let's get this show on the road.

HENRY SHEEPISHLY HANDS THE DMV EMPLOYEE A FORM.

HENRY

(TO DMV EMPLOYEE; RE ED) He's here for the driving test.

THE DMV EMPLOYEE READS ED'S PAPERWORK, LOOKS UP, AND ENUNCIATES AS IF ED'S NEARLY DEAF.

DMV EMPLOYEE

Mis-ter Ben-nett, please take a look at the chart a-bove me!

ED

Hey, buddy, I'm not some confused Slovak wandering around Ellis Island. Turn the volume down.

DMV

Excuse me?

HENRY

He's just a little nervous about the
test. Sorry.

THE DMV EMPLOYEE POINTS AT A GIGANTIC "E" AT THE TOP OF THE
SNELLEN EYE CHART.

DMV EMPLOYEE

(ONLY A LITTLE LESS LOUD) Can you tell
me what the top most image is?

ED

It's two squirrels fornicating.
(THEN) What the hell does it look
like? It's a gigantic "E."

DMV EMPLOYEE

(GETTING ANNOYED) The line below
that?

ED

Let's see. F-U-C--

HENRY

(INTERRUPTING) Dad, Dad, Dad! (TO
DMV EMPLOYEE) Can you just give us a
sec? Just one sec.

HENRY PULLS ED ASIDE.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Look, I get it. You hate this place.
Just keep it cool for ten more
minutes. Ten minutes. It's like when
you sit through Andy Rooney's segment
on "60 Minutes." All you gotta do is

(MORE)

HENRY (CONT'D)

get through that ten minutes without
throwing your bourbon at the wall.

ED

I hate that man. And his so-called
opinions.

DMV EMPLOYEE

(SMUG) Sir, are you ready, or do you
need some more time to gather your
thoughts?

ED

No, I gathered them and decided I
couldn't wrap my head around why
someone would leave the house wearing
a shirt that stupid.

HENRY

Andy Rooney!

DMV EMPLOYEE

Sir, I wear this shirt because I love
America!

ED

I love my ex-wife's meatballs but I
don't wear a shirt made out of them.

HENRY PULLS ED ASIDE ONCE MORE.

HENRY

(TO DMV EMPLOYEE) Just one more
second, I promise. Please.

ED

(TO HENRY, RE: SHIRT) It's
disrespectful to our country.

HENRY

(HUSHED) Hey, everyone has to do this
test, okay? It's pointless and
stupid, but if you piss these people
off, you don't pass their test. It's
over. You can't drive. I don't want
that for you. Is that what you want?

ED CALMS A BIT, BUT STILL LOOKS AGITATED.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Listen. A wise man once told me:
"Son, sometimes you gotta stick your
hand up a mule's ass to make it run,
but it's better than standing in a
field all day yelling at it."

ED

I like that.

HENRY

So what's it gonna be?

SMASH CUT TO:

SCENE K

INT. ED'S CAR - DAY
(ED, HENRY)

ED HAPPILY DRIVES ALONG WITH HENRY IN THE PASSENGER SEAT.

ED

(WAVING TEST) Seventy-one is still passing.

HENRY

Yes, it is. (THEN) I can't believe a meter maid gave us a parking ticket while we were in the DMV. It's so wrong. I mean, we shouldn't pay it just on principle.

ED

Don't be so outraged. You're not a freedom fighter in the civil rights movement. You double-parked.

HENRY

I see passing your driving test has practically swallowed your edge.

ED

I feel good.

HENRY

You just went through a stop sign.

ED

It looked yellow to me. (THEN) So where am I taking you?

HENRY

We have to stop by the unemployment office. They screwed up. They owe me a check.

ED

Oh, right. (THEN) About that... here.

ED HANDS AN ENVELOPE TO HENRY.

HENRY

What is this?

ED

Rent money.

HENRY

Oh, Dad, I --

ED

That gal you're not sleeping with, with the man's name, told me about your situation.

HENRY

Why did she do that?

ED

Maybe she wants to sleep with you.

HENRY

(RE: ENVELOPE) Dad, I'm not taking this.

ED

Henry, I understand. You didn't ask me for the money last night because

(MORE)

ED (CONT'D)

you were worried about my disapproval.
I appreciate that, but you can stop
worrying.

HENRY

Really, Dad, I don't want it.

ED

Henry, take the money. You need it.
Really, son, I approve.

HENRY

But I don't.

ED NODS APPRECIATIVELY, TAKES THE ENVELOPE BACK AND DRIVES
HIS SON TO WHERE HE'S GOING.

CUT TO:

SCENE L

EXT. SAM'S APARTMENT - LATER
(HENRY, SAM, BONADUCE)

HENRY KNOCKS ON THE DOOR. SAM OPENS IT AND STEPS INTO THE HALLWAY.

SAM

Dude, where have you been? I've been texting you all morning.

HENRY

I was at the DMV and unemployment. You know government buildings are the natural enemy of cell service. What did you need so badly?

SAM

Just read your texts.

HENRY LOOKS AT HIS BLACKBERRY.

HENRY

(READING) *"Dude, where the F are U?"*

(SCROLLS and READS NEXT TEXT) *"Answer my texts, D-bag. About to rent apt to total A-H. (THEN) You know that's one word, right?"*

SAM

Just keep reading.

HENRY

(SCROLLS, READS) *"I'll borrow money from my stepdad 'cause it's you. You in?" (THEN) Sam, that's really cool*

(MORE)

HENRY (CONT'D)

of you. What would you have to do to get it?

SAM

(BLOWING PAST IT) There should be another text there.

HENRY

(READING) *"Too late, you dumb M-F. New roommate will give me six months up front."*

SAM

You were supposed to call me!

HENRY

But you knew I'd get the money. You called my dad.

SAM

Yeah, but he said, "If he's the kid I think he is, he won't accept it."

HENRY

He said that...?

SAM

And I figured you weren't getting that check from unemployment. I mean, there's no way you were right and they were wrong.

HENRY HOLDS UP AN UNEMPLOYMENT CHECK.

SAM (CONT'D)

(RE: CHECK) I'm so bummed. I really just... You know, you and I...

HENRY

What are you trying to say?

SAM

(NOT ABLE TO "SAY IT") I just really like living with you, dude...

SHE LOOKS DOWN.

HENRY

(CHANGING SUBJECT) So, who moved in?

Fat girl? Cat girl? Ex-con?

SAM OPENS THE DOOR TO REVEAL THE ROOMMATE: A HEAVY-SET GIRL WITH TATTOOS SITTING ON A COUCH WITH SEVERAL CATS.

ROOMMATE

(RE: TV) "27 Dresses."

SAM CLOSES THE DOOR AGAIN.

SAM

(RE: ROOMMATE) All of the above.

(THEN) Where you gonna go?

HENRY

I'll figure something out. I'm a grown man.

SMASH CUT TO:

SCENE M

INT. ED'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT
(ED, HENRY, VINCE, KATHLEEN)

HENRY FACES ED HOLDING A BOX OF HIS STUFF.

ED

Rule one: Inside plants, you water.
Every morning.

HENRY

Every morning?

ED

You just take a damn hose and you put
it over the plant. You don't even pay
rent.

HENRY

Gotcha.

ED WALKS UP TO THE THERMOSTAT; POINTS.

ED

Rule two: Thermostat is 63 degrees,
no hotter.

HENRY

That's jacket weather.

ED

So wear one. (POINTS OUTSIDE) Rule
three: Don't touch my garden unless I
say so.

HENRY

(SMILING) I dated a girl who had that
rule.

ED

That some kind of sex joke? Rule four: Don't make stupid jokes while I'm talking. Rule five: I go to sleep at nine. Anyone walking on my property after that without my prior notification will be greeted by my shotgun.

HENRY

You sleep naked. I doubt you're gonna get up and pull a shotgun out.

ED

Try me.

ED POINTS TO THE HALLWAY.

ED (CONT'D)

Your room's first door on the left.

HENRY EXITS TO THE HALLWAY AND OFF-CAMERA. WE HEAR HIM JIGGLE THE DOOR KNOB.

HENRY (O.C.)

There's no lock on the door!

ED

No locks in my house. I want to walk into a room, I walk in. You wanna do your nasty business, hang a sock on the door. Welcome home.

VINCE AND KATHLEEN ENTER IN A RUSH.

VINCE

I just got your message! What gives, Dad?

ED

I changed my mind. I don't wanna sell. Your brother's gonna be living here.

VINCE

What?

ED

Hey, family's family. Times are tough. And I can't have two men doing their business in one and three-quarters baths.

KATHLEEN

What about our family, Ed? That condo was our baby...

ED

Gonna have to find another sitter, I guess. (THEN) Y'know, you seem pretty upset considering you said you were doing this solely for my benefit. I mean, it's no skin off your asses, right?

VINCE AND KATHLEEN STAND, TEETH GRITTED.

KATHLEEN

Upset? We're not... upset.

VINCE

You have no idea just how not upset we
are.

KATHLEEN

(HUFFS) Let's go, Vincent!

KATHLEEN AND VINCE BUST OUT THE DOOR, SLAMMING IT. A BEAT,
THEN THE DOOR OPENS BACK UP AND VINCE POKES HIS HEAD THROUGH.

VINCE

We're still on to watch the game here
tomorrow, right?

ED

Damn right. I'm making sausages.

VINCE

Ha! Nice!

VINCE CLOSES THE DOOR AND EXITS. HENRY COMES OUT OF HIS ROOM
BACK INTO THE LIVING ROOM. ED IS PREPARING TWO BOWLS OF
GRAPE-NUTS.

HENRY

Uh, did I hear that right? You told
Vince you were gonna sell the house?

ED

Nah, I don't think I'd ever sell this
place.

HENRY

Good. I just want to say I thought
what Vince did was kind of crappy.

ED

Hey, don't judge your brother. He
does the best he can. Plus his mother

(MORE)

ED (CONT'D)

was nuts. Made good meatballs, but
was full of crazy.

HENRY

I guess you're right. We all do the
best we can.

ED

No. You? You can do better. We
still got a shot with you.

HENRY SMILES. THAT WAS ALMOST APPROVAL.

HENRY

So why'd you tell Vince that you'd
sell? Was this whole thing a test or
something?

ED HANDS HIS SON A BOWL OF CEREAL, THEN SITS DOWN IN HIS
RECLINER AND UN-MUTES CNN.

ED

Son, do I look like the type of man
with a master plan?

A FATHER AND SON EAT THEIR GRAPE-NUTS, AS WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW