SMOTHERED

"Pilot"

by

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COLD OPEN

INT. BURBANK AIRPORT BAGGAGE CLAIM - MORNING (DAY ONE)

ZACK AND GILLIAN, A MARRIED COUPLE IN THEIR EARLY THIRTIES, ENTER, PUSHING THEIR ADORABLE ONE YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, PEYTON, IN A STROLLER.

ZACK

(TO PEYTON) So, is the birthday girl excited to see her grandparents?

GILLIAN

She looks cute, right? I put her in pants from your mother and a sweater from mine.

ZACK

She looks a little warm.

GILLIAN

It's not about her. (THEN) Did you count the pictures on the mantel?

ZACK

I did. There are ten of your parents, ten of mine. No one’s bigger, no one’s more prominently displayed.

GILLIAN

And there are none from when your mom and dad were here in April, right?

ZACK

(CLEARLY FORGOT) Umm.....
GILLIAN
Zack, you know how crazy it makes my mom that your parents can afford to come out here more often. If she finds out they had an extra visit...

ZACK
I know. And no one wants to avoid one of her southern-fried tirades more than I do. We’ll take down the picture when we get home.

AIRPORT EMPLOYEE
(ON SPEAKER) Flight 38 from Memphis, your luggage is at carousel C.

GILLIAN
(WITH INCREASING DREAD) Oh God. That’s my parents. And soon yours are going to be here. And then they’re all going to be here. Talking. To each other!

ZACK
Gillian, relax. I know they don’t have a lot in common--

GILLIAN
A lot? They have exactly (RE: PEYTON) one thing in common. And they fight over her like she’s the only Asian girl at a Jewish fraternity mixer!
ZACK

(GENTLY) Sshh, sshh, sshh. It’s going to be okay. We just have to remember, no matter how crazy they make us, we can’t turn on each other. Our goal for this weekend is just to stay married.

GILLIAN

Right. I love you.

ZACK

We'll see.

WE HEAR AN UNINTELLIGIBLE SHRIEK OF EXCITEMENT, THEN PATTY (EARLY FIFTIES, SCRAPPY) AND SKIP (MID-FIFTIES, EXUBERANT) ENTER. PATTY, WEARING A T-SHIRT WITH A PICTURE OF PEYTON PRINTED ON IT, RUNS OVER AND KNEELS IN FRONT OF THE STROLLER, NOT EVEN ACKNOWLEDGING ZACK AND GILLIAN.

PATTY

There’s the birthday girl! You look so cute in that sweater!

ZACK LOOKS AT GILLIAN, IMPRESSED. SKIP ENTERS AND ENVELOPS GILLIAN, AND THEN ZACK, IN A FIERCE BEAR HUG.

SKIP

(FEELING ZACK’S SHOULDERS) You’ve been working out, haven’t you?

ZACK

(MODEST) A little bit. I put a pull-up bar in the bathroom, so...

SKIP

Well, we’ll have to hit the gym.
PATTY
Ooh! I have something for the baby.

SHE STARTS TO GO THROUGH ONE OF THEIR SUITCASES.

SKIP
Hey, sugar, what’s on my schedule for tomorrow?

PATTY
(NOT LOOKING UP) Thighs and tri’s.

SKIP
(TO ZACK, EXCITED) Thighs and tri’s!

PATTY PULLS OUT A WHITE BABY’S DRESS. IT’S A MONSTROSITY OF FRILLY, LACY, TAFFETA WITH ENORMOUS PUFFY SLEEVES.

PATTY
I finished Peyton’s christening dress!

GILLIAN
What?! Mom, I told you, that ship has sailed. We are not having a christening.

PATTY
But the dress...

SHE PULLS OUT A HEADBAND WITH A WIRE-ATTACHED, RHINESTONE HALO.

PATTY (CONT’D)
...And the halo.

GILLIAN
I don’t care. The answer is no. We didn’t have a Hebrew naming ceremony, and we’re not having a christening.
ZACK

That's right, she's just going to be
our little Satanist. (OFF LOOKS) So,
is this it for luggage, or...?

FRAN (EARLY SIXTIES, PRETENTIOUS) AND ALAN (MID-SIXTIES, DRY, DISENGAGED) ENTER. FRAN WEARS AN OUTFIT FROM CHICO’S AND LONG, STATEMENT-MAKING EARRINGS. SHE MAKES A BEELINE FOR PEYTON.

FRAN

Those pants are adorable!

ZACK LOOKS AT GILLIAN, MOUTHS: "WOW."

ALAN

(TO ZACK) I hope you didn’t open that
e-mail I sent you about the e-mail
virus. It had an e-mail virus in it.

ZACK

I didn’t, Dad. Also: hello.

FRAN

(TO SKIP AND PATTY) It is so good to
see you!

PATTY

Same here. Y'all look terrific.

FRAN

So do... (BLANCHE DUBOIS) "y'all."

SHE LOOKS TO ZACK, PLEASED WITH HERSELF. SKIP HUGS THE MUCH SMALLER ALAN, WHICH CLEARLY MAKES ALAN UNCOMFORTABLE.

SKIP

Big guy! How was the flight from New
York?
ALAN
Better than our last flight to Paris.
A French boy spilled his juice bag on
my pants.

PATTY
Were you just in France?

FRAN
Mais, oui. It was merveilleux!

PATTY
Oh. (ONE-UPPING) We were just in
Knoxville for the day.

SKIP
Got a real good price on some gravel
for the driveway!

SHE SHOOTS HIM A LOOK: “I’M TRYING TO SOUND SOPHISTICATED
HERE”.

FRAN
(RE: CHRISTENING DRESS) What is that?

GILLIAN LOOKS TO HER MOM: "CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY."

PATTY
It's something I made for Peyton.

FRAN
Well, it's very impressive.

PATTY
(BEAMING) Thank you, Fran.

FRAN
So over the top. It'll make the
perfect Halloween costume.

(MORE)
(THEN) But wait, is that an okay costume? Mexican Baby?

PATTY

(CONFUSED) It's not a---

GILLIAN

Time to go! Mom, Dad, you come with me and Peyton. Fran, Alan, Zack can take you to check in to your hotel.

FRAN

We can do that later. I want to go with Peyton. Zack, you take Skip and your father.

GILLIAN LOOKS TO ZACK: “DO SOMETHING.”

ZACK

Uhhhhh...

FRAN

Alright, let's go!

SHE AND PATTY REACH FOR THE STROLLER AT THE SAME TIME, EACH ENDING UP WITH ONE HANDLEBAR.

GILLIAN

(TO ZACK, HUSHED) I was hoping to avoid this particular combination.

ZACK

We'll be right behind you.

AS THE GRANDMOTHERS START TO AWKWARDLY PUSH THE STROLLER OUT TOGETHER:
FRAN

(TO PATTY, CONSPIRATORIAL, RE: PEYTON)

When we get home, we’ll have to change her out of this awful sweater.

PATTY REACTS, SPEECHLESS.

GILLIAN

(TO ZACK)  Hurry!

SHE SCURRIES AFTER THE GRANDMOTHERS, AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPEN
ACT ONE

SCENE B

FADE IN:

INT. GILLIAN'S CAR - LATER (DAY ONE)

GILLIAN DRIVES.  FRAN AND PATTY SIT IN THE BACK, ON EITHER SIDE OF PEYTON'S CAR SEAT.  PATTY SINGS...

PATTY

(TUNELESS, UNBEARABLE) "The wheels on the bus go round and round/ Round and round/ Round and round/ The wheels on the bus go round and round...

...AND SO DOES FRAN. SIMULTANEOUSLY.

FRAN

(THINKS SHE’S EDITH PIAF) Frere Jacques, Frere Jacques/ Dormez-Vous,
Dormez-Vous/ Sonnez les matines,
sonnez les matines...

AS THE GRANDMOTHERS CONTINUE THEIR ASSAULT ON AN OVERWHELMED PEYTON, AND GILLIAN LOOKS PAINED, WE...

CUT TO:
SCENE C

INT. ZACK’S CAR - A LITTLE LATER (DAY ONE)

ZACK DRIVES, WITH ALAN IN THE PASSENGER SEAT NEXT TO HIM. SKIP LEANS FORWARD BETWEEN THE SEATS LIKE A LITTLE KID.

SKIP

Tell me, Zack. How’s the video game business?

ZACK

Really good, I think. Although I design 3-D imaging software for surgeons.

SKIP

(WITH A SHRUG) Well, that one you showed me was really fun. (THEN) So, Alan, have you been watching “Californication” this season?

ALAN

We watch PBS.

SKIP

PBS. Which one is that? Is that the one with “The Closer”?

ALAN

It’s the one with “Nova”.

SKIP

I like “Burn Notice”. She’s sexy. He’s okay. You know what I don’t like that much? “Bones”. Although it’s pretty good. Ooh, “Castle”.
ALAN LOOKS TO ZACK, “WHAT IS THIS PERSON TALKING ABOUT?”, AND WE...

CUT TO:
SCENE D

INT. ZACK AND GILLIAN’S KITCHEN/DEN – LATER (DAY ONE)

GILLIAN AND THE TWO MOMS ENTER THE OPEN KITCHEN/DEN AREA WITH PEYTON.

FRAN
She was so fussy in the car. She must be tired.

GILLIAN
Yeah, that must be it. (SOTTO)
Because I know she likes cacophony.

PATTY
I’m going to put my stuff in the guest room.

ON HER WAY, SHE NOTICES THE PHOTOS THAT ZACK HAS SET OUT ON THE MANTEL.

PATTY (CONT’D)
Oh, look at all the pictures!

GILLIAN LOOKS PANICKED. THINKING ON HER FEET...

GILLIAN
Um, Peyton! Peyton needs a diaper change!

PATTY
(STOKED) I’m on it!

FRAN
(WRINKLING HER NOSE) I’ll get the next one.

PATTY TAKES PEYTON. FRAN HANGS UP HER COAT. GILLIAN QUICKLY SCANS THE PICTURES, GRABS THE ONE FROM APRIL, AND EXITS.

RESET TO:
INT. ZACK AND GILLIAN’S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

GILLIAN ENTERS AND PUTS THE PICTURE IN HER NIGHTSTAND DRAWER. SHE BREAThes A SIGH OF RELIEF, THEN TURNS TO GO, ALMOST BUMPING INTO FRAN, WHO HAS SUDDENLY APPEARED IN THE DOORWAY.

GILLIAN

(STARTLED) Ah!

FRAN

Hi. I just wanted to put a bug in your ear about something.

GILLIAN

Okay.

FRAN

You know, I always wanted a daughter, and though Zack was quite feminine as a child, it wasn’t really the same.

GILLIAN

(WHERE’S THIS GOING?) Uh huh.

FRAN

I didn’t want to bring this up until you and Zack had beaten the odds and made it through Peyton’s first year, but... I think it’s time for us to become closer.

GILLIAN

(FROZEN SMILE) Oh.
FRAN

I know you have a “mother”, but I want you to think of me as your mother, too. So. Tell me something about you. Something nobody else knows.

SFX: FRONT DOOR CLOSING.

GILLIAN

Zack! Zack’s home!

SHE SQUEEZES BY FRAN AND WE...

RESET TO:

INT. KITCHEN/DEN - MOMENTS LATER

GILLIAN ENTERS AND RUNS IMMEDIATELY INTO ALAN.

ALAN

Where do you keep your phone book?

GILLIAN

Um, on the internet?

SHE PASSES BY HIM AND FINDS ZACK. SHE PULLS HIM INTO THE FOYER.

GILLIAN (CONT’D)

What took you so long?

ZACK

Sorry. Your dad made me follow someone for ten blocks who he thought was “that black guy from ‘House’”.

(GASPS) Did your mother see the April picture?
GILLIAN
No. But your mother wants to be closer with me!

ZACK
Oh. Well, that sounds nice of her.

GILLIAN
Oh, please. She probably thinks it’ll help her get in more visits with Peyton.

ZACK
That’s not fair.

GILLIAN
(AGITATED, ACCENT EMERGING) I’m just saying, she’s not the type to give you a day-old biscuit without expecting a pie in return.

ZACK
Don’t get all southern on me.

GILLIAN
Well, don’t always defend her!

ZACK
Whoa whoa. Turning on each other.

GILLIAN
(ANGRY AT HERSELF) Dammit. You let your guard down for one second.
PATTY (O.S.)

Gillian, where are your cans of frizzled onions?

ZACK AND GILLIAN EXCHANGE A LOOK, THEN RUSH TO THE KITCHEN, WHERE PATTY IS HOLDING PEYTON AND LOOKING THROUGH THE PANTRY.

GILLIAN

Whatcha doing, Mom?

PATTY

I’m making Cheesy Tuna Noodle Casserole. If you don’t have the onions, I can make do with Fritos.

FRAN, OVERHEARING THIS, SAUNTERS OVER.

FRAN

Oh, are we making dinner? Why don’t we have the choucroute I brought back from Alsace?

SKIP

The what?

FRAN

Choucroute.

SHE PULLS A LARGE GLASS JAR FROM HER HANDBAG. IT’S FULL OF CABBAGE AND FATTY PINK MEATS.

SKIP

(ALARMED) Is that... a baby?

ZACK

We’ll be right back.

HE PULLS GILLIAN BACK INTO THE FOYER.
ZACK (CONT'D)

We need to make dinner plans, fast.

GILLIAN

Yes. Can’t be ethnic. Or expensive.

ZACK

Or not expensive. How about Hugo’s?

GILLIAN

They don’t have a full bar. Please
don’t make me do this without a full
bar.

ZACK

Musso & Frank?

GILLIAN

Perfect. My dad can have a steak.
Your mom can say “This is so L.A.” a
hundred times. Wait, Peyton!

ZACK

I’ll get the Striegel girl to babysit.
I think she steals, but who cares.

HE PULLS OUT HIS PHONE. MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE KITCHEN,
PATTY GATHERS INGREDIENTS FOR HER CASSEROLE, FRAN HUNTS FOR A
SAUCEPAN, AND SKIP STARES AT THE CHOUCRUTE IN TERROR.

ALAN

(SOTTO, TO SKIP) You think it looks
bad in the jar? The other one broke
in my bag. Customs thought I was an
organ-trafficker.

GILLIAN RE-ENTERS.
GILLIAN

Put down the Cream of Mushroom soup,
Mom. We’re going out to dinner.

FRAN

Oh, we are? In that case, Gillian, I
have a little something for you.

CUT TO:
SCENE E

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER (NIGHT ONE)

THE GROUP IS SEATED AT A LARGE BOOTH, HAVING DRINKS.

FRAN

I have to say, those are just so you.

WE REVEAL THAT GILLIAN IS WEARING A PAIR OF VERY LARGE, DANGLY EARRINGS THAT LOOK A LOT LIKE THE ONES FRAN HAS ON.

GILLIAN

Thank you, Fran. And thank you for saying that they "highlight the good parts of my face."

A WOMAN IN HER EARLY TWENTIES ENTERS AND STANDS IN FRONT OF SKIP AND PATTY. SHE'S WEARING PUNKY, ATTENTION-GETTING CLOTHES. THIS IS GILLIAN'S BABY SISTER, SUSIE.

SUSIE

(WITH ATTITUDE) Hi, Mom. Hi, Dad.

GILLIAN

Oh my God, Susie!

PATTY

We forgot to call and tell you we were going out to dinner.

SUSIE

Yeah. I had to find out from the babysitter where you were.

PATTY

I'm sorry, we just got caught up with Peyton and...

SUSIE

Forgot I live here, too.
SKIP

Noooo. How was Peyton, by the way?

SUSIE

What do you mean, "How was Peyton?"

She's a baby. She was, like, crying or sleeping or something.

GILLIAN

Fran, Alan, you remember my sister.

SUSIE

Nice to see you. (TO GILLIAN) Why do you have fishing tackle in your ears--

ZACK

(STOPPING HER) Nyahhh! (THEN) So, Skip, how’s work?

SKIP

Pretty good. Had a big sale this week. Retired gentleman bought a like-new RV. Gonna live the dream. (TO FRAN AND ALAN) You two ever thought about taking it on the road?

FRAN

(SNORTS, THEN) Can you imagine? Me, in an RV, wearing a visor and a fanny pack, driving to Branson to see Reba McEntire?
ZACK
(QUIETLY) Mom, please stop describing Skip and Patty’s last vacation.

GILLIAN
Um, anyone seen any good movies lately?

ALAN
We saw the new Woody Allen.

SKIP
Who?

PATTY
You know. The little pervert with the glasses who married his Chinese daughter.

ALAN
What? She’s not--

GILLIAN
O-kay! Football?

ZACK
(RE: FRAN AND ALAN) Really?

GILLIAN
Weather! How’s everyone’s weather?

PATTY
Well, it’s been raining buckets in Memphis. Monday, I was on my way to a Tea Party rally--

FRAN
(APPALLED) You’re in the--
A WAITER BRINGS FOOD TO THE TABLE.

ZACK
The food’s here! Talking time over!

SUSIE
You ordered without me?

PATTY
You can have some of my veal chop.

SUSIE
I'm a vegetarian.

PATTY
Well, we'll put an end to that.

SKIP
(STANDING) Before we eat, I'd like to make a little toast.

ZACK AND GILLIAN WHIMPER, BRACING THEMSELVES.

SKIP (CONT'D)
I know how hard it is to have people come and stay in your home--

FRAN
And some in a hotel.

SKIP
But we’re grateful for how welcome you make us feel. Zack and Gillian, I’m so proud of the life you’ve made, and the parents you’ve turned out to be.

I love you both.

HE SITS. EVERYONE TOASTS. ZACK AND GILLIAN LOOK AT EACH OTHER, MOVED. FRAN LOOKS TO ALAN: “YOUR TURN”.
(RAISING HIS GLASS) I’m not usually one for big speeches, but... to Zack and Gillian.

EVERYONE CLINKS GLASSES AGAIN, THEN STARTS TO EAT. IT’S A NICE FAMILY MOMENT.

This is outstanding.

(APPROVING) Exactly medium rare.

This place is so L.A.

(SMILES) I'm glad you like it, Mom.

Oh my God, it's much better than the place you took us back in April.

ZACK AND GILLIAN FREEZE. EVERYONE ELSE CONTINUES TO EAT FOR A BEAT. THEN PATTY FREEZES, TOO, FORK IN MIDAIR.

Wait. You were here in April?

(BRIGHTLY) Mm-hm. (THEN, REALIZING) Ooh, is that not okay to talk about?

AS ZACK AND GILLIAN REACT, MORTIFIED, WE...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

SCENE H

FADE IN:

INT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS (NIGHT ONE)

EVERYONE IS AS WE LEFT THEM. IT’S TENSE.

PATTY

I’m just going to, um, freshen up.

SHE GETS UP AND HEADS FOR THE BATHROOM. GILLIAN FOLLOWS HER.

FRAN

Zack, je suis désolé.

ZACK

French is just making it worse, Mom.

RESET TO:

INT. LADIES’ ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

PATTY IS STANDING AT THE SINK WHEN GILLIAN ENTERS.

GILLIAN

Okay, let me explain. They were on their way to Australia...

PATTY

Of course they were.

GILLIAN

...and they had a 24 hour layover. Just 24 hours. And we spent most of that time trying to get Alan a Cipro prescription in case of kangaroo bite.

PATTY

How could you not tell me?!
GILLIAN
Because I knew you’d react like this.

PATTY
I’m reacting like this because she’s my only grandchild.

GILLIAN
She’s Fran’s only grandchild, too.

PATTY
I know, but we can’t afford to come out as often as them. And when I hear that Fran is out here, getting extra time with her, even if it is just 24 hours... it hurts.

GILLIAN
Yes, but--

PATTY
I don’t want to sound selfish, but... I’m your mother. If anyone was gonna get extra time with her, I always thought it would be me.

GILLIAN
(SOFTENING) Oh, mom.

PATTY
I just wish I could have some alone time with Peyton.

(MORE)
PATTY (CONT'D)

Just a few minutes when that woman is not singing in French, or crapping on Branson, or trying to make us eat fetus.

GILLIAN

(SMILES) Yeah, I’d like some of that, too. You know, she’s on a mission to be better friends with me.

PATTY

Well, watch out. That woman wouldn’t give you a day-old biscuit unless you paid her back in pie.

GILLIAN

Thank you! (THEN) Listen, tomorrow before the party, why don’t you take Peyton out to the park. All by yourself.

PATTY

I’d love that. Now take those things out of your ears. You look like you crashed your car into a craft show.

PATTY EXITS. GILLIAN LOOKS IN THE BATHROOM MIRROR AND SHRUGS, “SHE’S RIGHT.” AND WE...

CUT TO:
INT. ZACK & GILLIAN'S BEDROOM - LATER (NIGHT ONE)

GILLIAN IS IN BED. ZACK ENTERS AND STARTS TO GET UNDRESSED.

ZACK

Sorry that took so long. I had to find my parents a room that was far enough away from the elevator that they didn’t hear it, but close enough to the elevator that the elevator wasn’t far away. (THEN) Anyway, what happened with your mom?

GILLIAN

She was upset, but we ended up having a really good talk. And I told her she could take Peyton out by herself tomorrow morning.

ZACK

Ooh, that’s not going to go over well.

GILLIAN

Zack, this is important to me. You’re going to have to stand up to your mom.

ZACK

I can do that. It’s good to try new things.
GILLIAN
There is an upside for you. My mom’s so crazy about making things even that she offered to get up with Peyton so we can sleep in.

ZACK
You’re a genius. (YAWNING) I totally want to have sex with you.

GILLIAN
(YAWNING) That sounds so great.

ZACK
(FALLING ASLEEP) Maybe just a quick nap first.

GILLIAN
(FALLING ASLEEP) Yeah, then we’ll totally go nuts--

THEY’RE BOTH ASLEEP. AND WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ZACK & GILLIAN’S BEDROOM - MORNING (DAY TWO)

THE CLOCK READS 6:00 A.M. ZACK AND GILLIAN ARE ASLEEP UNTIL:

PATTY (O.S.)
She’s awake! (YELLS) Hang on, sweet potato, I’m coming! (THEN) Hand me my slippers. Hurry, you jackass!

ZACK
Glad she’s letting us sleep in.
GILLIAN

It’ll be over in a minute.

AFTER A BEAT, SKIP ENTERS THE BEDROOM IN FULL GYM REGALIA: LOW-CUT, LAT-REVEALING TANKTOP AND SPANDEX SHORTS.

SKIP

Come on, Kemosabe, thighs and tri’s!

AS ZACK, RESIGNED, GETS OUT OF BED, WE...

CUT TO:
SCENE K

INT. ZACK AND GILLIAN’S KITCHEN/DEN – LATER (DAY TWO)

PARTY PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY: PATTY REMOVES A CAKE PAN FROM THE OVEN AND PUTS IT NEXT TO A BOWL OF STRAWBERRIES, AND GILLIAN ARRANGES FLOWERS WHILE HOLDING PEYTON IN ONE HAND. ZACK ENTERS, FRESHLY SHOWERED, WALKING STIFFLY AND HOLDING HIS ARMS LIMPLY AT HIS SIDES.

GILLIAN

Hey, will you take Peyton for a sec?

ZACK

I can’t. I can’t do anything that involves tri’s or thighs.

SKIP ENTERS, FULL OF ENERGY.

SKIP

Alright, I yanked out that tree-root by your front gate. What else needs doing?

PATTY

I’m actually ready to go. I can put the strawberries on the cake later.

GILLIAN

Okay. Stroller’s on the porch. Have fun, you guys.

SKIP TAKES PEYTON FROM GILLIAN AS PATTY GRABS HER BAG. FRAN AND ALAN ENTER. ALAN HOLDS A CAMERA WITH AN ENORMOUS LENS.

FRAN

Good morning! We would have gotten here sooner, but it was such a trek to the elevator.
ZACK throws up his hands, then grabs his triceps in pain. Skip and Patty breeze past Fran and Alan with Peyton.

PATTY
Okay, we’re off. See you later!

They exit. Fran watches them go, confused.

FRAN
Where are they going?

Gillian looks to Zack—"Your department"—and crosses off.

ZACK
So. Skip and Patty are taking Peyton out. For the morning.

FRAN
What? That is totally unfair. Alan, don’t you think that’s unfair?

ALAN
(STAYING OUT OF IT, TO ZACK) Do you have a lint-free lens cloth?

ZACK
It’s actually completely fair. You guys had an extra day in April.

FRAN
How absurd. What is she, keeping a tally? And if she is, they left on the red eye the last time we were all here, and we had a morning flight.

ZACK
Mom--
FRAN
I’m going to go catch up with her.

ZACK
No!

FRAN
(CHALLENGING) Why not?

ZACK
Because if you go... you won’t get to spend any quality time with Gillian. And I know she was looking forward to you guys getting closer.

FRAN
(LIGHTING UP) She was?

GILLIAN ENTERS. AS SHE PASSES BY, SHE LOOKS TO ZACK: “HANDLED?” HE GIVES HER A LITTLE THUMBS UP. FRAN GIVES HER A CONSPIRATORIAL WINK, WHICH LEAVES GILLIAN CONFUSED. THEN THERE’S A FLASH AS ALAN TAKES A PICTURE OF HER.

ALAN
Damn. Memory card full.

GILLIAN
Too bad. I’m sure that was a keeper.

FRAN
Just delete some of those pictures from the topless beaches in France. You took about a thousand.
ALAN
I haven’t downloaded them yet. And
I’m thinking of entering some in the
92nd Street Y photo contest. (ASIDE,
TO ZACK) The erotica category.
ZACK DOESN’T KNOW HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS.

ALAN (CONT’D)
Come on, take me to Radio Shack.

FRAN
Yes. (TO GILLIAN) That’ll give us
some of that “girl time” Zack said you
wanted.

GILLIAN
What?

ZACK
Back soon!

BEFORE GILLIAN CAN PROTEST, HE BEATS A HASTY EXIT WITH ALAN.
SHE SHAKES HER HEAD IN DISBELIEF.

FRAN
Finally, we’re alone. So, let’s open
“The Book of Gillian.”

GILLIAN
Oh, wow. (LOOKING AROUND) There is
so much to do.

FRAN
Come on. I really do just want to get
to know you better. And I’m a very
good listener.
GILLIAN

(GIVING IN) Alright, you know what? I have been kind of struggling with whether or not to go back to work at the law firm--

FRAN

(SALIVATING) Because you’re going to have another baby?

GILLIAN

What? No.

FRAN

(ALARMED) You’re not going to have another baby?

GILLIAN

That’s not what I--

SUSIE ENTERS.

SUSIE

Hey, Fran. Hey, Gillian. Where are Mom and Dad?

GILLIAN

They took Peyton out for a walk.

SUSIE

What? They told me to meet them he--Unbelievable! I woke up at eleven o’clock for this.
GILLIAN
But I’m glad you’re here! You can hang out with me and Fran.

FRAN
(TO SUSIE) That’s an interesting outfit for a children’s party.

SUSIE
(TO GILLIAN) Later.

GILLIAN
What? No, no. Please don’t go.

SUSIE
(SOTTO) She’s not my mother-in-law. I don’t have to be here.

SHE EXITS. FRAN RUBS HER HANDS TOGETHER.

FRAN
Now, let’s get back to what we were talking about.

GILLIAN
I’d actually rather not.

FRAN
I want you to re-think this terrible decision not to have another baby.

GILLIAN
(HEAD EXPLODING) Will you excuse me for a second?

SHE EXITS TO KEEP FROM SCREAMING, AND WE...

CUT TO:
SCENE M

INT. ZACK'S CAR - LATER (DAY TWO)

ZACK IS DRIVING. ALAN HOLDS AN ELECTRONICS STORE BAG.

ALAN

...I’m just saying, what kind of business doesn’t take a traveler’s check?

ZACK LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW AND SEES SKIP AND PATTY. HE’S ABOUT TO GET THEIR ATTENTION WHEN HE NOTICES THAT THEY’RE PUTTING PEYTON INTO PATTY’S HOMEMADE CHRISTENING DRESS. HE LOOKS CONFUSED FOR A MOMENT, AND THEN NOTICES WHAT THEY’RE STANDING IN FRONT OF: A CHURCH.

ZACK

(REALIZING) Oh my God!

AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

SCENE P

FADE IN:

INT. ZACK’S CAR - MOMENTS LATER (DAY TWO)

ZACK PARKS AROUND THE CORNER, OUT OF VIEW OF SKIP AND PATTY.

ZACK

Wait here, Dad. I’ll be right back.

RESET TO:

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

ZACK APPROACHES SKIP AND PATTY, WHO ARE NOW PUTTING THE HALO HEADBAND ON PEYTON.

ZACK

What are you guys doing?

SKIP

Zack!

PATTY

(FORCED CASUAL) Oh, hey, Zack.

ZACK

Why is Peyton in that dress?

SKIP

She asked if she could wear it.

(THEN) Also, she started talking.

ZACK

You were going to christen her, weren’t you?!

PATTY

Your parents had extra time in April.
ZACK

How is that in any way equivalent?

PATTY

(TOTALLY SINCERE) How is it not?

SKIP

For the record, I was against this from the get-go.

PATTY

My mother was right. You are softer than hot pudding. (THEN) Come on, Zack, what's the big deal? We go in, make nice with the priest, drip drip on the baby, and no one’s the wiser except Jesus, who I tell you, will be pretty goddamn happy.

ZACK

I don't get it. You hardly ever go to church. Why is this so important to you?

PATTY

I need the pictures to show my friends, alright? Religion is a competitive sport where we come from.

(MORE)
PATTY (CONT'D)

Everyone we know has pictures of their grandkids from Christmas and Easter, and all we have is some ball-less "Season's Greetings" card with Peyton in a neutral sweater without even a reindeer or a holly berry on it.

SKIP

Come on, Patty. That's enough.

PATTY

Fine. (TO ZACK) Please don’t tell Gillian about this.

ZACK

I won’t. She’s had enough stress this weekend as it is. Now take Peyton home right now. I’d do it myself if (TO SKIP) you hadn’t crippled me on that dip bar! And just so you know? To be in such good shape? At your age? Is weird!

ZACK TURNS AND STORMS OFF, AND WE...

CUT TO:
SCENE R

INT. ZACK AND GILLIAN’S KITCHEN/DEN - A LITTLE LATER (DAY TWO)

GILLIAN ENTERS THE KITCHEN. FRAN IS THERE.

FRAN

There you are. I was starting to worry about you. I thought I heard some banging on the wall.

GILLIAN

(NONCHALANT) Huh. It wasn’t me, it wasn’t my head.

SHE NOTICES A TUREEN OF STRANGE RED LIQUID ON THE COUNTER.

GILLIAN (CONT’D)

What’s that?

FRAN

Oh, I found some strawberries on the counter, so I blended them up with onions, vinegar and garlic and, voila... strawberry gazpacho!

GILLIAN

What?! Those berries were for the birthday cake my mother was making!

FRAN

(GENUINE) Oh, no. They didn’t come out of a can, it didn’t even occur to me that she would be using them.

ZACK AND ALANENTER.
ZACK
We’re back.

GILLIAN
Can I talk to you for a second?

ZACK
Uh oh.

RESET TO:

INT. ZACK & GILLIAN’S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER
ZACK ENTERS. GILLIAN SHUTS THE DOOR.

GILLIAN
I’ve had it. I’m done. Your mom is evil. She made revenge gazpacho!

ZACK
What?

GILLIAN
She was jealous that my mom was out with her only grandchild, so she took her cake strawberries and blended them into some kind of misbegotten soup that’s neither sweet nor savory!

ZACK
You sound a little crazy right now.

GILLIAN
And by the way, siccing her on me is not standing up to her!

ZACK
Gillian--
GILLIAN

But I don’t know why I expected anything different. You never stand up to her!

ZACK

(HAD ENOUGH) Oh yeah? You know who I did just stand up to? Your mom! Who was trying to stealth christen our daughter!

GILLIAN

What?

ZACK

That’s right! I caught them just as they were about to go into a church.

GILLIAN

I don’t believe you.

ZACK

Believe it! She had her all dressed up in the Mexican Baby costume!

THEY HEAR THE FRONT DOOR OPEN.

RESET TO:

INT. FOYER – MOMENTS LATER

GILLIAN CONFRONTS PATTY AS SHE ENTERS, ZACK follows behind.

GILLIAN

Were you going to christen Peyton?

PATTY

(TO ZACK) You promised!
GILLIAN

It’s true?! You gave me that whole sob story in the bathroom and then you take her out and try to christen her?!

FRAN ENTERS, HAVING PARTIALLY OVERHEARD.

FRAN

Wait, you’re having a christening? Well, then we have to have a Hebrew baby naming, too.

SKIP ENTERS WITH PEYTON.

FRAN (CONT’D)

I already picked out the perfect name, (EXAGGERATED HEBREW) Bracha Yocheved Chaya.

SKIP

(CONCERNED) Is she choking?

GILLIAN

(TO PATTY) I can’t believe you went behind my back like that!

FRAN

I would never do that to you.

GILLIAN

You? You say you want to be my friend, and then you don’t listen to a word I say!

PATTY

("SAY IT SISTER") Mm-hmm.
GILLIAN
Don’t you even start!

ALAN ENTERS.

ALAN
What’s going on in here?

SKIP
(ASHAMED) Patty and I tried to christen Peyton.

ALAN
That’s what all this noise is about?
So you shpritz a little water on the baby. Who cares?

FRAN
(GASPS) Alan, I am shocked!

ALAN
Says the woman who served a ham at a Hanukkah party and called it “Ham-

PATTY
(TO GILLIAN) See? Alan’s on board.

GILLIAN
She’s our daughter!

FRAN
And I’m just saying, since she’s the only grandchild I’m ever going to have, I’d like to give her a Hebrew name.
ZACK
What do you mean, the only grandchild you’re ever going to have?

FRAN
You mean you don’t know? Gillian doesn’t want to have any more children.

ZACK
What?

GILLIAN
I never--

SKIP
Aw, honey, don’t shut down the babymaker yet. You gotta have a boy. I need a spotter!

GILLIAN
I never said I didn’t want to have more children!

PATTY
So you do want to have another child?

GILLIAN
Yes!

PATTY
Can we christen that one?

GILLIAN
Ahhh!!!!

SFX: DOORBELL RINGS.
ZACK

And that’s the guests.

BEGIN PHOTO MONTAGE:

OVER THE DULCET TONES OF FRAN, ALAN, SKIP AND PATTY SINGING "HAPPY BIRTHDAY," WE SEE THE PARTY AS CAPTURED IN A SERIES OF SNAPSHOTS TAKEN BY ALAN:

GILLIAN HOLDING PEYTON AND STARING DAGGERS AT PATTY...

SKIP LIFTING TWO BABIES OVER HIS HEAD, ONE IN EACH HAND, AS THEIR MOTHERS LOOK ON, HORRIFIED...

A GUEST SPITTING STRAWBERRY GAZPACHO BACK INTO HER BOWL...

ZACK UNTANGLING ONE OF FRAN’S EARRINGS FROM A CHILD’S HAIR...

SUSIE POURING BOURBON INTO A BACKYARDIGANS CUP...

A MILF-Y GUEST BENDING OVER TO PICK UP SOME SPILLED CHEERIOS, AND EXPOSING HER CLEAVAGE TO ALAN’S “ARTISTIC” CAMERA...

AND FINALLY, THE WHOLE FAMILY, SMILING TENSELY IN FRONT OF AN UNDECORATED SHEETCAKE...

GRANDPARENTS (V.O.)

Happy birthday, dear Peyton / Happy birthday to you.

END PHOTO MONTAGE.

DISSOLVE TO:
SCENE T

INT. ZACK AND GILLIAN’S FOYER - LATER (DAY TWO)

NOW THE PARTY IS WINDING DOWN. ZACK AND GILLIAN CHEERFULLY SAY GOODBYE TO THE LAST GUESTS.

ZACK/GILLIAN

Thanks for coming. Hope you had fun!

THEY SHUT THE DOOR AND IMMEDIATELY DROP THEIR CHEERFUL EXPRESSIONS. THEY LOOK EXHAUSTED.

ZACK

So, I’m thinking, for her second birthday, maybe we build a panic room and hide in it.

GILLIAN

I am so sorry I yelled at you.

ZACK

Don’t beat yourself up. We made it almost twenty-four hours before we turned on each other.

GILLIAN

Do you know what the worst part is? I’ve always taken some kind of sick satisfaction in knowing that your mother is crazier than mine. But my mom just took a commanding lead.

ZACK

(IMPRESSED) She came to play.
GILLIAN
Oh my God, am I going to be like her?
When Peyton has kids, is she going to
dread me coming to visit?

ZACK
(SWEETLY) Yes. And sometimes,
Peyton’s husband will secretly wish he
had married an orphan. (THEN) But
don’t worry. I’ll always love you.

HE KISSES HER. SHE PUTS HER HEAD ON HIS SHOULDER.

ZACK (CONT’D)
Should we go see what they’re doing to
our daughter now?

AND THEY WALK OUT INTO THE DEN, WHERE THE FOUR GRANDPARENTS
ARE PLAYING A GAME WITH PEYTON IN HER HIGH CHAIR. WE SEE THE
GAME FROM PEYTON’S PERSPECTIVE: ONE OF THE GRANDPARENTS POPS
UP INTO VIEW, MAKING A SILLY FACE AND A SILLY NOISE, THEN
SINKS DOWN OUT OF SIGHT. ANOTHER GRANDPARENT POPS UP, MAKING
A DIFFERENT SILLY FACE AND SILLY NOISE. THEY REPEAT THIS,
EACH GRANDPARENT TAKING A TURN. PEYTON LAUGHS, HER EYES
SHINING.

ZACK AND GILLIAN WATCH. ZACK PUTS HIS ARM AROUND GILLIAN.
SHE TEARS UP. IT’S BEEN A LONG, EMOTIONAL DAY.

GILLIAN
Look at them. Those are her four
favorite people in the world.

ZACK
I know. (BEAT) She’s such an idiot.

THEY APPROACH THE REST OF THEM. THE GRANDPARENTS ARE ALL A
LITTLE ON EGGSHELLS AROUND GILLIAN.

ALAN
Good party. I took 290 pictures.
GILLIAN

Why don’t we open presents?

SKIP

You must be tired, sweetie. You sure you don’t want to wait ‘til tomorrow?

GILLIAN

No. Let’s do it now.

AS FRAN AND PATTY GO TO GET THEIR GIFTS, GILLIAN TAKES PEYTON OUT OF HER HIGH CHAIR.

GILLIAN (CONT’D)

Hey, Ladybug. I feel like I haven’t seen you all day.

THEY ALL SETTLE ON THE COUCH.

SKIP

Where’s Susie?

GILLIAN

She left an hour ago.

SKIP

She was here?

PATTY AND FRAN COME BACK, EACH WITH A WRAPPED BOX.

PATTY

(TO FRAN) Why don’t you go first?

FRAN

After you.

PATTY

Alright. (HANDING GILLIAN HER BOX)

Here you go.

GILLIAN OPENS THE BOX AND REMOVES A HANDMADE BABY QUILT.
PATTY (CONT’D)

I pieced it all by hand. Some of the fabric is from your old baby clothes.

GILLIAN

Oh, mom. It’s beautiful.

FRAN

(SINCERE) Absolutely gorgeous.

SHE HANDS PEYTON TO ZACK AND GIVES HER MOM A BIG, LONG HUG.

PATTY

(QUIETLY) I’m sorry.

GILLIAN

It’s okay.

PATTY

(FIGHTING BACK TEARS) I’ll go see how this looks in her crib.

SKIP

(ALSO TEARING UP) I’ll come help you.

(RE: HIS TEARS) Hot pudding.

THEY EXIT.

FRAN

Well, that’s going to be tough to top.

SHE HANDS ZACK HER BOX. HE OPENS IT AND PULLS OUT... A SET OF KEYS.

ZACK

(CONFUSED) Keys?

ALAN

That's right.
FRAN
To our new condo in Los Angeles!

ZACK
What?

FRAN
We're moving to town!

GILLIAN
What?!

FRAN
Now we’ll be able to come over all the time!

ZACK AND GILLIAN JUST SIT THERE, IN SHOCK. SKIP AND PATTY REENTER.

PATTY
So, what was Fran and Alan’s present?

GILLIAN
Uhhhhhh......

ALAN TAKES A PICTURE OF ZACK AND GILLIAN AS THEY REALIZE JUST HOW DEEPLY FUCKED THEY ARE.

ALAN
291!

AND WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW