

The Captain

“Pilot”

Written by

John Hamburg

NETWORK REVISED DRAFT
December 28, 2006

Copyright 2006 CBS Paramount Network Television, a division of CBS Studios Inc.
All Rights Reserved.

This Script is the Property of CBS Paramount Network Television, a division of CBS Studios Inc. and may not be copied or distributed without the express written permission of CBS Paramount Network Television. This copy of the script remains the property of CBS Paramount Network Television. It may not be sold or transferred and it must be returned to CBS Paramount Network Television promptly upon demand.

THE WRITING CREDITS MAY OR MAY NOT BE FINAL AND SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR PUBLICITY OR
ADVERTISING PURPOSES WITHOUT FIRST CHECKING WITH TELEVISION LEGAL DEPART



EXT. CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA - DAY

JOSH FLUM, late 20s-early 30s, walks down the street with his buddy, MARTY TANNER, same age. Josh wears jeans and an INSIDE-OUT polo shirt.

Marty, with his designer suit and expensively 'tousled' haircut, looks like the world is his oyster.

MARTY

Josh, no, I don't want to hear it.
You're not moving back to New York.

JOSH

Marty, my life is less settled than when we were in college. At a certain point, I have to face the fact that it's not working out for me in L.A..

(sniffs)

Are you wearing cocoa butter?

MARTY

No, I think it's the trees. Look, this is perfect timing. A place just opened up in The Captain.

JOSH

I don't know what that means.

MARTY

The Captain. El Capitan. My apartment building. This old movie actress lived there for like fifty years. She dropped dead last week and I think I can get you in.

JOSH

I own a house. If I stay in L.A., why would I move into your building?

MARTY

Because, the mortgage on that place is an albatross around your neck. Sell it, with the profit you can quit your job, have all day to finish writing your next movie.

JOSH

I'm miserable out here. Everyone knows about my incident. I have *sciatica*. Who gets *sciatica* at my age?

MARTY

You just need a change of scenery. The Captain is quiet, no one'll bother you. I'll be right upstairs. Trust me, I'm like a life-coach, I know what I'm talking about.

JOSH

You're a business manager. You do Wilmer Valderama's taxes and suddenly you're a shaman?

MARTY

A little bit, yeah.

JOSH

I thought it's impossible to get in there.

MARTY

The building manager is this woman named Zelma Kohl. She's like a Nazi. Literally, I think she was in the S.S.. Anyway, I have Claire buy her a thousand dollar suit from Neiman Marcus for Christmas every year... she'll do anything for me.

JOSH

Alright, I'll think about it.

They stop in front of a COFFEE BEAN AND TEA LEAF. SHIV, a 19 year old Indian man, steps out of the shop.

SHIV

Josh, I need you back on register, please.

Josh takes off his shirt, turns it around -- we now see that it has the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf logo.

MARTY

Call me in the morning, there's a waiting list a mile long. Later, brah.

Marty holds out his hand. Josh reluctantly slaps it and Marty pulls him into one of those hip-hog hugs.

JOSH

We're two white guys. Do we really need to hug like that?

Marty walks towards his Lexus sportscar. Josh turns to Shiv.

SHIV

You were on break for thirteen extra minutes.

JOSH

I know, Shiv. I'm sorry.

SHIV

I can be a nice guy, but please do not be testing me.

Beat. Josh looks at Shiv, at Marty, getting into his LEXUS, at the Coffee Bean. And...

JOSH

You know what... I quit!

Shiv takes this very calmly.

SHIV

No problem. Will you please launder your shirt and bring it back tomorrow?

JOSH

Yeah, of course. It was nice working with you.

END OF COLD OPEN

EXT. LOS ANGELES - DAY

Josh drives his '98 Honda Civic through the opulent, leafy neighborhood of Hancock Park. His car is packed with STUFF.

IN THE BACKSEAT -- an ACADEMY AWARD juts prominently out of a MOVING BOX filled with photos and knickknacks.

Josh turns onto Rossmore Avenue, looks up and sees a beautiful 10 story Spanish-style building. On the roof, a neon sign reads: **El Capitan**.

INT. EL CAPITAN - LOBBY - DAY

Large, high-ceilinged, ornate. There is a console, behind which a doorman sits. The elevator is just beyond that. Further on, an area with couches and chairs.

UNCLE SAUL, tan, 50s, talks with the doorman, JESUS, late 30s, enthusiastic, sweet-faced.

Uncle Saul considers himself an authority on every subject, and he speaks in declarative sentences. He points to a case of Poland Spring water.

UNCLE SAUL

I'm telling you right now, Poland Spring is hands down the greatest water in the world.

JESUS

No, 'cause they say that Fiji is the best.

UNCLE SAUL

I understand that, Jesus. I read the same literature you do, but it's all advertising. That water isn't even made in Fiji.

JESUS

It's not?

UNCLE SAUL

It's bottled in Milwaukee. Poland Spring is crisp. It's clean. Have you ever spent time in Maine?

JESUS

No, but I've read every Stephen King. MISERY is so good... ooh, I'm getting goose-bumps.

They're interrupted by a BUZZ. They look to the door. Josh stands outside, a GOLF BAG slung around his back.

UNCLE SAUL

Ah. Mr. Flum has arrived.

JESUS

He looked better at the Oscars.

UNCLE SAUL

That was six years ago. The kid's been through the spin cycle. Buzz him in.

Jesus does. Josh opens the door, enters.

JOSH

Hi, how you doing? I'm Josh... the new tenant.

JESUS

Welcome to El Capitan, Josh. I'm
Jesus, the daytime attendant.

Saul extends a hand...

UNCLE SAUL

And that makes me Saul Fish. But
everyone calls me Uncle Saul.

JOSH

Nice to meet you, Jesus... Saul.

UNCLE SAUL

I really prefer Uncle Saul.
Anything you need, Jesus is your
man. Whatever he can't do, I'm
sure I can take care of.

JOSH

You work here too?

UNCLE SAUL

Do I work here? No, Josh, I *live*
here. The Captain's been my home
for twenty six years, through four
marriages, and seventy nine
episodes of a little TV show called
THREE'S COMPANY. I was a writer on
T-Co back in the seventies.

JOSH

Alright. Well, I just have a few
boxes in the car. Jesus, could you
give me a hand?

JESUS

No, sir.

JOSH

Aren't you the doorman?

JESUS

I'm the *attendant*. It's against
union rules for me to lift anything
above five pounds. In case I get
injured.

JOSH

I see. I'll be back in a sec.

UNCLE SAUL

Welcome home, Josh.

INT. JOSH'S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

A sun-filled one bedroom with great period detail and antique furniture. Josh unpacks, pausing to stare at a FRAMED PHOTO in his hands, of himself with an ATTRACTIVE WOMAN, on a beach.

The ROTARY HOUSE PHONE rings. He puts down the photo, finds the old phone in the kitchen, answers it.

JOSH

Hello?

MARTY (O.S.)

How'd the move go?

JOSH

Easy. I sold my house furnished so I brought like three boxes. Is it weird to sleep in a dead actresses bed?

MARTY (O.S.)

Yes. She probably nailed Cary Grant on that mattress. I'll come down and say hi.

JOSH

No, I'll come up. It's ridiculous that I haven't met your baby yet. Give me two minutes.

INT. NURSERY - MOMENTS LATER

A perfect THREE MONTH OLD is sleeping in her perfect crib in her perfect pink nursery. Marty, Josh and CLAIRE, Marty's WELL-PUT-TOGETHER wife stand over the crib.

JOSH

Oh, man, she's really cute.

MARTY

I know. She's my little princess. Right, Eunice? Aren't you Daddy's princess?

JOSH

See, this is why I need to go back to New York. I want to get married. Start a family.

CLAIRE

People do that in L.A. too.

JOSH

I can't date anymore women in the entertainment business. I need to meet a civilian.

CLAIRE

Well, I'll keep my eyes peeled. It's great to see you, Josh. I can't believe it's been so long.

JOSH

I know. I've been a little... reclusive the past year.

CLAIRE

I'm glad you're doing better. Alright, I'll give you two some guy time.

Claire exits. Eunice turns over, adorably.

JOSH

Look at her! It's like the best thing ever, right?

MARTY

It's fine.

JOSH

What do you mean, 'It's fine?'

Marty closes the door, speaks in a loud whisper.

MARTY

I'm going out of my skull here. I have no connection with this thing.

JOSH

This thing? You mean your beautiful new baby?

MARTY

I know! Everyone says it's so great, but to me it's like having some pooping stranger in my house. It's gross. I don't like watching women poop.

JOSH

She's not a woman. She's a baby.

MARTY

Also, her name. Eunice? What is that?

JOSH

It is kind of old fashioned.

MARTY

'Cause we had to name her after Claire's dead grandma. I wanted to call her Skyler. You ever meet an ugly girl named Skyler. Never. Every Skyler is hot. What guy is gonna say, 'You know who's hot? Eunice Tanner. Oh, man, that Eunice is smokin'.'

JOSH

Do you really want guys to refer to your daughter as 'smokin'?'

MARTY

You're missing the point.

(beat)

I can't stop thinking about this girl who shampoos my hair.

JOSH

That's the point?

MARTY

No, it's tangential. She's twenty three. Pierced nose. Tattoos. It's very erotic to get your head shampooed.

JOSH

I wouldn't know. I go to an old Korean guy.

MARTY

It's hot. I get it done three, four times a week.

JOSH

That's what it is. Your hair smells like coconuts.

MARTY

She uses some kind of Creme de Cacao conditioner. It gives Claire hives, but, what can I do?

Claire calls up...

CLAIRE (O.S.)
 You boys going down to the party?
 I'll stay and watch Euny.

JOSH
 What party?

MARTY
 Whenever a new tenant moves in, the
 building throws a little fiesta
 welcoming them.

JOSH
 That's so nice.

MARTY
 I'm telling you, you're gonna love
 it here.

INT. THE LOBBY - MINUTES LATER

A "Welcome Home" banner hangs from the ceiling. Various
 RESIDENTS mix and mingle. Marty introduces Josh around. A
 70 YEAR OLD MAN in a military uniform passes by.

JOSH
 Who's that?

MARTY
 That's The General. The rumor is
 he's a war hero, but he doesn't
 like to talk about it.

JOSH
 Maybe he shouldn't wear the
 uniform.

A WOMAN in her mid-30s walks by -- looks at Josh and Marty
 suspiciously.

JOSH (cont'd)
 Why is she looking at me funny?

MARTY
 She does that to everybody. We
 call her Weird Girl. No one knows
 her name, what she does.

JOSH
 She's kinda cute.

MARTY

Stay away. Apparently she hasn't set foot outside the building in eight years.

Marty spots ASTRID, gorgeous, fresh-faced, twenty four. He calls out to her...

MARTY (cont'd)

There's the sexiest girl in the building.

Astrid pokes Marty in the ribs.

ASTRID

Shut up, dork-face.

MARTY

Astrid, this is my best friend in the world, Josh Flum. He just moved into 5C.

ASTRID

Josh, it is so great to meet you, Josh.

JOSH

Astrid, it's great to meet you too, Astrid.

ASTRID

I know, I'm a goofball, but I've been meeting so many people since I moved here, and it's so hard to keep track of all the names.

MARTY

Josh is a very talented writer and director. He won an Academy Award.

ASTRID

No... sway! Are you swerious?

JOSH

It was just for a short film.

MARTY

He's a genius. He could totally help you with your auditions.

ASTRID

Oh... smy god. I'm going in for the sequel to the remake of WHEN A STRANGER CALLS tomorrow. That'd be amazing.

JOSH

Yeah, I don't think I'd be much help.

MARTY

He's just modest. He'd be happy to work with you.

Marty pulls Josh to the side of the party.

MARTY (cont'd)

What's the matter with you? I thought you want to meet a wife.

JOSH

She's like two years old. She puts S's in front of her words for fun. I'm looking for marrying material.

MARTY

How many dates have you been on since Jeanine broke it off?

JOSH

I can't remember.

MARTY

Josh, she has a boyfriend. You gotta move on.

JOSH

I have. I'm totally over her.

MARTY

Then why did Jesus tell me he saw a framed photo of the two of you in one of your moving boxes.

JOSH

How the hell did Jesus see that?

MARTY

He's very observational.

JOSH

Alright, fine. I guess I feel like there's unfinished business there.

Just then... CHARLENE, a bombshell of a woman in her early 50s walks up to Josh and Marty. She oozes sex.

CHARLENE
Hello, Martin.

MARTY
Charlene.

CHARLENE
I wanted to welcome your friend to our little corner of the world. Charlene Van Ness. Apartment 1B... as in... *booyyyy*.

JOSH
How's it going? Josh Flum.

She takes hold of his hand... and does not let go. For so long that it gets weird. Josh finally withdraws.

CHARLENE
I look forward to knowing you, Joshua.

She walks away.

JOSH
Okay, that was the strangest forty five seconds of my life. Why does she look familiar?

MARTY
She was on one of those shows... KNOTS LANDING, FALCON CREST, I can't remember which one.

JOSH
She looks good.

Uncle Saul walks up to them.

UNCLE SAUL
Good? Fifty three years old, she's still got a tush like a buttery chardonnay.

Just then, various tenants start clinking their glasses and calling out 'Speech.' Josh steps forward.

JOSH

Okay, okay. I'm Josh Flum. I just moved into 5C, but, most of you seem to know that already.

Anyway...

(points to the banner)

...thank you so much for welcoming me to El Capitan.

The tenants look a little confused. By the front door, HOPE, late 20s-early 30s, earthy, incredibly appealing, enters. She tries to SNEAK to the elevator without being noticed.

Josh notices her, instantly smitten. He continues...

JOSH (cont'd)

Since Marty moved in, he's talked a lot about the building, and now I see why.

(starts tearing up)

The fact that you'd throw an entire party for me... it's just... I uh...

(really crying now)

...I really appreciate it. Thanks again. Here's to you all.

Beat. Silence. Then...

UNCLE SAUL

What the nuts are you doing up there?

JESUS

The party is for Zelma Kohl, the building manager. She just got back from the hospital...

He points to ZELMA KOHL, stern, 50s.

ZELMA KOHL

Ze put a ball bearing in my hip.

JOSH

Oh. I see. I'm really sorry, Mrs. Kohl. Do you prefer Frau? Fraulein? Or just--

(off her blank look)

Okay, I should finish unpacking.

Josh passes by a laughing Marty, walks to the elevator, totally embarrassed. Hope turns to him...

HOPE
Nice speech.

Josh shakes his head in silent agony.

END OF ACT ONE

INT. EL CAPITAN - LOBBY - NIGHT

Hope and Josh wait for the elevator together.

JOSH

My friend, Marty, told me the party was in my honor.

(off her look)

We were college roommates, you do that kind of stuff.

HOPE

You got pretty choked up.

JOSH

It's a thing with me, I tend to cry when I speak in public. What are those?

Josh points to a cloth pouch filled with...

HOPE

Acupuncture needles. I'm in school for Chinese Medicine.

JOSH

Does that stuff work? I have sciatica, someone said it could help.

HOPE

Oh, it's amazing. Actually, I've never worked on a sciatic patient. Could I give you a session?

JOSH

I'm okay for now.

HOPE

Come on, I know what I'm doing. I just had my final exam today.

JOSH

Um... sure. I'm Josh by the way.

HOPE

Hope.

The elevator doors open. They step inside.

HOPE (cont'd)

You're kind of young to have sciatica.

JOSH
Yes, I'm aware of that.

The elevator doors close...

INT. HOPE'S APARTMENT - MINUTES LATER

Josh lies under a sheet on a portable massage-style table. He looks terrified, because, on the walls and shelves, there are DOZENS OF MASKS OF GOBLINS, ALIENS, OTHER ASSORTED CREATURES.

Hope is preparing her acupuncture needles.

JOSH
So, before you start sticking needles into me, are you like a devil worshipper or something?

HOPE
It's my brother's apartment. He designs creatures for movies. He's working in New Zealand so I'm house-sitting. Here we go.

She sticks a needle into his leg.

JOSH
How'd you get into Chinese Medicine?

HOPE
I was a chef in New York. Very stressful job. It all went to my lower back. The pain got so bad I could barely walk, let alone cook.

JOSH
I know how you feel. Mine shoots right down my leg.

HOPE
It's the worst. So, I went to see this acupuncturist, she put some needles in me, saved my life. I, quit the restaurant, decided to come out here and study with her teacher, Master Lee.

She leans really close to his face, putting a needle in his forehead. The intimacy is clearly stressing Josh out.

HOPE (cont'd)
Don't forget to breathe, okay?

JOSH
(wincing)
Yup.

HOPE
What's wrong?

JOSH
No, nothing. I just--

Hope looks down, notices something.

HOPE
Oh. You've got kind of a pup tent
down there.

JOSH
This is so embarrassing. Hope, I'm
really sorry.

HOPE
For what? Being a human being?
You think about sex all day. I
think about sex all day. It's no
big deal.

JOSH
I know, I just--

HOPE
Seriously, it's fine. I'm actually
kind of flattered.

She shoots him a slight smile.

JOSH
Okay, you just confirmed it.
You're the coolest woman I've ever
met.

HOPE
If you got to know me, you'd see
I'm a neurotic mess just like you.

JOSH
How do you know I'm a neurotic
mess? Did Marty say something--

HOPE

Josh, your muscles are insanely tight, you have sciatica and you just started weeping at a cocktail party in the lobby of your building.

JOSH

Right, I guess those are giveaways.

HOPE

We all have our stuff, and that...
(puts a final needle in him)
...is what makes us interesting. Close your eyes and think about unicorns or something. I'll be back in ten minutes.

She heads to the back of the apartment.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. OUTSIDE HOPE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Hope and Josh talk in her doorway.

JOSH

That was incredible. I can't believe I have an acupuncturist living beneath me.

HOPE

Just until tomorrow.

JOSH

What do you mean?

HOPE

I'm moving back to New York after I get certified. I can't wait. It's too pleasant out here for me.

Beat. Josh takes this in. Then...

JOSH

I'm actually thinking about moving back there too.

HOPE

What are you talking about? You just moved in here.

JOSH

No, this is temporary. I'm a New Yorker. I need to live in a city where you can walk.

HOPE

I grew up in Brooklyn. I never drove a car until last year. I've been in eleven fender-benders since I got here.

JOSH

Eleven? Okay, that's... yeah, you really need to move back.

HOPE

Well, then, maybe I'll see you in New York.

JOSH

Not if I see you first.

She nods, closes the door. Josh heads downstairs.

INT. JOSH'S FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

He heads towards his apartment.

JOSH

'Not if I see you first?' Who talks like that? Idiot.

INT. JOSH'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

As he enters, he looks down, sees a NOTE on the floor.

Curious, he picks it up, opens it. It reads: **I must speak with you. Charlene. 1B.** A lipstick kiss is visible under her name.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF CHARLENE'S APARTMENT - MINUTES LATER

Josh rings Charlene's doorbell. She opens it in a silk bathrobe, her ample cleavage spilling out.

CHARLENE

Hello, Joshua.

JOSH

Hi. I got your note so--

CHARLENE

Come in, come in.

INT. CHARLENE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

It's like an apartment from a romantic comedy of the 1930s. Lovely, plush antique furniture, mixed in with modern touches like a PLASMA TV and an EXERCISE BALL. Charlene mixes two elaborate COCKTAILS...

CHARLENE

Josh, I'm sure you're familiar with my body of work.

Beat. Should he lie or not?

JOSH

Yes, I am. I'm a big fan.

CHARLENE

Well, then, it's a mutual admiration society. Because I think you are a brilliant filmmaker.

JOSH

Oh, thanks. You saw my short film?

CHARLENE

I read about it on the World Wide Web.

(hands him his drink)

To new friends.

Josh reluctantly clinks her glass. She fixes her gaze on Josh, making him very uncomfortable.

JOSH

So, what did you want to talk to me about?

CHARLENE

I have a movie idea, Joshua. And I want you to write and direct it. It's an erotic thriller. I'm going to play the lead.

JOSH

Well, it sounds... exciting, but, I'm actually trying to finish this script I've been working on for, like, the last five years.

CHARLENE

I understand. You think a 42 year old woman can't possess raw sex appeal. I'm afraid you're wrong.

JOSH

No, that's not it. 42, huh? You look... I mean, I was gonna guess early-30s.

CHARLENE

There's a gym in the building. I cross-train daily.

And she takes off her robe, standing naked (implied, of course), in front of Josh. It's clear, from our tasteful camera angle, that she has a great body. Josh gulps.

JOSH

Sweet lord. You are naked.

CHARLENE

(approaching him)

I want you to take this journey with me, Josh. It's going to be a magnificent ride.

And as she throws her arms around him, we FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. EL CAPITAN - ESTABLISHING - MORNING

People walk dogs. Birds chirp. Sprinkler's sprinkle.

INT. EL CAPITAN - BY CHARLENE'S FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

The door opens. Josh, his hair and clothes ruffled, slinks out. He sees Uncle Saul and Jesus eating breakfast by the attendant's area.

Josh gingerly closes Charlene's door, tiptoes towards the stairs, twenty feet away from the attendant's station. He hits the first stair -- it seems like he's home free, when...

UNCLE SAUL

Care for a bagel and lox?

Josh turns around. Uncle Saul holds up a bagel.

JOSH

Thanks, no, I'm just exercising. Doing some aerobic stair work.

UNCLE SAUL

Don't worry, pal, we won't say a word.

JESUS

Oh, yes, your secret's safe with us.

JOSH

There's no secret. Nothing's going on.

Josh is about to head back upstairs...

UNCLE SAUL

You're in good company. Jonathan Silverman lived in the building for three years. He spent his first night in the House of Charlene too.

JOSH

I have no idea who that is.

UNCLE SAUL

Johnny Silverman? The star of a little picture called WEEKEND AT BERNIE'S?

JOSH

Okay, guys, seriously, can we keep this between us?

UNCLE SAUL

What did we tell you, hotshot. The two of us are brick walls. Mum is the word. Jesus, am I right?

JESUS

Oh, yes, mum is the word.

UNCLE SAUL

Mum.

JESUS

Mum.

JOSH

Thank you.

Uncle Saul holds up a bagel.

MARTY

You little Dirt Devil! You nailed Astrid, didn't you!

JOSH

No, that's not--

Marty raises his hand for a high-five...

MARTY

Five me out! I'm psyched! What does she go with down there, a thong? Nothing? No underwear? I knew it! These girls all dress like porn stars today. Why did I get married so young?

JOSH

Marty--

MARTY

You know how much Wilmer Valderama spent on condoms last year?! Eighty-three hundred dollars! People are hooking up left and right and I'm sitting on the sidelines!

JOSH

Nothing happened with Astrid!

MARTY

You did it with Hope? I've been trying to flirt with her for three months, she won't even--

JOSH

I wish it was Hope. I think I fell in love with her over an acupuncture session. But, I slept with Charlene! She's like a sexual predator! I had no recourse!

Beat. Marty processes the news. Then...

MARTY

You know what... it's a start. So listen, I have to crash here for a few days until this shampoo thing blows over.

JOSH

Marty, no, how am I supposed to get any work done?

MARTY

I'm quiet as hell. I'm like a gentle breeze. You won't even know I'm here.

Josh's cell-phone rings. He looks at the Caller I.D..

JOSH

It's Jeanine.

MARTY

Don't answer it.

JOSH

I'm gonna answer it.

Josh is about to pick it up when Marty KICKS the phone out of his hand, it flies across the floor. Josh dashes for it. Marty follows, TACKLING Josh before he can grab the phone. The two of them AWKWARDLY WRESTLE until Josh elbows Marty in the stomach, flips open the phone.

JOSH (cont'd)

Hello?

(playing innocent)

Hey, how's it going? Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

Well, I appreciate you telling me.

Send my congratulations to Esau.

Ezra, sorry. Bye, Jeanine.

Josh hangs up. He looks stricken.

MARTY

Engaged?

JOSH

Getting married May 25th in Santa Barbara. Oh, and they just bought a house... on June Street.

MARTY

That's like two blocks from here.

JOSH

We're not experiencing an earthquake, right?

MARTY

I don't think so.

JOSH

Okay, then, I'm having a panic attack.

MARTY

You're not gonna get naked and run down the street again?

JOSH

I need to get some air.

Josh stumbles out of his apartment.

INT. EL CAPITAN - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Josh walks towards the elevator, passing Weird Girl taking out the trash. She eyes him, shakes her head in disapproval.

INT. EL CAPITAN - ELEVATOR - MOMENTS LATER

Josh rides down with THE GENERAL -- whose RIDICULOUSLY SMALL DOG stands by his feet.

THE GENERAL

Heard you spent some time in the foxhole with Charlene last night.

Josh looks at him in disbelief.

INT. EL CAPITAN - LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

The doors open revealing Astrid in a tight gym outfit.

THE GENERAL

Get down and give me twenty!

ASTRID

Seriously? Okay!

She dives to the floor when...

THE GENERAL

At ease, soldier, I'm just funning with you. But no joke, calisthenics are a great way of staying fit.

Astrid nods. The General exits. Astrid turns to Josh, playfully pokes him in the ribs.

ASTRID
So, you like older women, huh?

JOSH
(looks to Jesus)
Are you kidding me?!

ASTRID
Can you work with me on that
audition this afternoon? I want to
book it so bad, I'm *frekking oot*.

JOSH
Today's not a great day, Astrid.

ASTRID
No prob, I'll check back tonight.
See ya, stud!

She enters the elevator, the doors close. Josh storms up to the attendant's desk, where Jesus hands him some papers.

JESUS
Mrs. Kohl gave me your lease
agreement. She said you need to
sign it today.

JOSH
How many people did you tell?!

JESUS
I don't know what you mean.

JOSH
Jesus, come on! I thought you said
mum is the word.

JESUS
I did! Mum was the word!

UNCLE SAUL (O.S.)
Take it easy on him.

Josh looks to the seating area, where Uncle Saul is stretching. He wears shorts and a golf shirt.

UNCLE SAUL (cont'd)
Jesus can't keep a secret for
anything.

JESUS

It's true. I try so hard, but I have to face facts... I'm a blabbermouth.

UNCLE SAUL

It's okay, Flum. We're family here. Family shouldn't keep secrets.

JOSH

We're not family! I don't even know you people! Anyway, it doesn't matter.

(hands the lease back to Jesus)

I'm moving back to New York. Take care guys, it was nice meeting you.

Josh turns to head out. Uncle Saul calls out...

UNCLE SAUL

One round.

JOSH

What are you talking about?

UNCLE SAUL

I saw your clubs when you moved in. I'm a member across the street.

JOSH

Really? I've always wanted to play Mid-Wilshire.

UNCLE SAUL

It's a terrific track. One round, then you can go back East, where it's twenty-six degrees I might add.

EXT. MID-WILSHIRE COUNTRY CLUB - DAY

Uncle Saul and Josh stand on the first tee. Uncle Saul lines up behind his ball like a pro, picking out his target.

JOSH

How often do you play?

UNCLE SAUL

I try to get out six or seven times a week.

(MORE)

UNCLE SAUL (cont'd)
 There's trouble 220 yards on your
 left, so you're gonna want to favor
 the right, play a fade.

Josh nods. Uncle Saul addresses his ball, coils back, in one of the ugliest golf swings you've ever seen, and SHANKS HIS SHOT, hitting it twenty yards.

UNCLE SAUL (cont'd)
 Goddamnit! Freakin' car alarms!
 I'm taking a mulligan.

JOSH
 No problem.

As Uncle Saul tees up another ball, Josh feels something on his neck. He reaches back... and pulls out an ACUPUNCTURE NEEDLE. He chucks it into a nearby trash can.

Uncle Saul swings, hits his ball 100 yards into the woods.

JOSH (cont'd)
 Nice contact.

UNCLE SAUL
 I'll have a shot from there.

Josh tees up his ball. Uncle Saul, against all golf etiquette, starts talking.

UNCLE SAUL (cont'd)
 Josh, Los Angeles, is a tough town.
 It's lonely, spread out, difficult
 to connect with other human beings.

JOSH
 Uh-huh.

UNCLE SAUL
 But that's why El Capitan is so
 important. It's an island in the
 middle of the ocean. An oasis in
 the desert.

While Saul takes a breath, Josh swings, lacing his drive down the middle of the fairway. They walk down the fairway, Josh carrying his bag, Uncle Saul using a REMOTE to guide a hands-free, MOTORIZED PULL-CART.

UNCLE SAUL (cont'd)

When I drive home at night and I see that green sign up there, the words El Capitan glistening in the evening sky, it's like a beacon. I know I'm home.

JOSH

It's a nice building. There's just some... things I want to pursue back in New York.

UNCLE SAUL

I get it. You don't like everyone knowing your bees-wax. Who cares if a few neighbors know that you had a romp with Charlene? That you're the son of some famous professor back in New York. That you've spent the past six years working on a script you don't think you'll ever finish. That you had a nervous breakdown and ran naked down Santa Monica Boulevard. You think that matters to any of us?

JOSH

How do you know all that stuff?

UNCLE SAUL

Marty gave us a little background before you moved in. So what? I got four ex-wives, I haven't written an episode of TV since the first season of THE ROPERS, and I'm secretly in love with a woman who sleeps with half the young bucks who move into the building.

JOSH

You're in love with Charlene?

UNCLE SAUL

Have been for years. Unrequited, of course. My point is, the gang of us in that white tower, we all have our crosses to bear. In a funny way, it's what keeps us together.

(then)

But you're moving back to New York, so what am I blabbing on about?

Uncle Saul stands over his ball. He's got no shot, so he kicks his ball onto the fairway. Josh shakes his head.

UNCLE SAUL (cont'd)
Up your nose with a rubber hose.
It was an unplayable lie.

JOSH
Were you just quoting Vinnie
Barbarino?

UNCLE SAUL
Nice memory. I did half a season
on WELCOME BACK KOTTER in '78.

EXT. EL CAPITAN - DAY

Josh and Uncle Saul head towards the building.

JOSH
Thanks again for the round.

UNCLE SAUL
We match up pretty well. I'm sorry
to see you go.

Hope has her head in the way-back of her INSANELY DENTED, Volvo station wagon. Josh approaches.

JOSH
Looks like you're ready to roll.
Hey, I should get your number.
Maybe we can get dinner or
something when I move back.

Hope emerges from the car. It looks like she's been crying.

JOSH (cont'd)
What's wrong?

HOPE
I'm staying in L.A..

JOSH
What are you talking about?

HOPE
I failed my exam. I left a needle
in Master Lee's left butt cheek.
He discovered it in the shower this
morning...

Beat. Then, she throws her arms around Josh, SOBBING. ON JOSH'S FACE -- as he holds Hope, he looks up at the building, making a decision in his mind.

END OF ACT TWO

INT. EL CAPITAN - LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

Josh runs up to Jesus.

JOSH

Did you tell Kohl I was moving out?

JESUS

Yes. She was already calling the wait list. She's German so she's very organized

INT. MANAGER'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Zelma Kohl sits at a desk. Josh enters.

JOSH

Mrs. Kohl? Josh from 5C. Again, sorry about the other day, I--

ZELMA KOHL

Our business is done here, Mr. Flum. Ve are moving on.

JOSH

No, I changed my mind. I want to stay.

ZELMA KOHL

I vish zere vas a vay, but zere is not.

Beat. Zelma feels her beautiful, business suit.

JOSH

It looks like you could use a new suit.

ZELMA KOHL

True, zees one is tattered to bits, but, my favorite store, Neiman Marcus, on Vilshire Boulevard, is too extravagant.

JOSH

What's your size?

ZELMA KOHL

Really, I think it will be impossible to get you back in. But I am an eight regular.

INT. EL CAPITAN - LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

Josh exits the office.

JESUS
What did she say?

JOSH
It's gonna cost me a grand, but I think I'm back in.

JESUS
Something in cream or peach would go very well with her skin.

UNCLE SAUL
I guess our little talk had some impact, huh? They don't call me Uncle Saul for nothing.

Hope re-enters the building, wiping her eyes.

HOPE
Jesus, can I borrow the luggage rack?

JESUS
It's okay, I'll help you out.

Uncle Saul and Josh watch Jesus and Hope exit.

JOSH
I thought he's not allowed to lift anything.

UNCLE SAUL
He made up that rule years ago. Total B.S.. So, listen, I want to help you out with your script. I already have a few ideas for you.

JOSH
You don't even know the story.

UNCLE SAUL
Every story's the same. It's always about a guy wanting to get a girl.

Beat. Josh stares at Hope through the glass doors. She's a mess -- but an adorable mess. She and Jesus talk animatedly. Uncle Saul points to Hope.

UNCLE SAUL (cont'd)
Marrying material.
(off Josh's look)
Marty told me you're looking.

Hope enters, lugging a heavy box. Jesus carries a light one.

HOPE
You're really confusing me. Are
you moving to New York or not?

JOSH
Yes, no, I am... not. I'm staying
here, for a little while.

HOPE
Cool.

She smiles. It practically melts Josh's heart. Then...

HOPE (cont'd)
So... you slept with Charlene?

Josh whips his head over to Jesus.

JESUS
I didn't say anything! I swear!

JOSH
You just told her right now.

JESUS
I know! I'm such a blabbermouth!

UNCLE SAUL
Alright, kids, I'll see you at
dinner.

JOSH
What are you talking about?

UNCLE SAUL
I host a meal on the roof every
Sunday. Julia Child here finally
agreed to cook for us.

HOPE
That was when I thought it was my
last meal at El Capitan.

UNCLE SAUL
We got a full house, Tootsie Roll.
You're not backing out.

Uncle Saul gets on the elevator. Josh motions to Charlene's.

JOSH
Nothing happened.

Behind Josh -- Jesus nods. "Yes it did."

EXT. EL CAPITAN - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

Sure enough, the El Capitan sign glistens in the evening sky.

EXT. EL CAPITAN - ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Beneath the neon sign, a long candlelit dinner table has been arranged. Various TENANTS are seated, including Josh, Hope, Astrid, Charlene, The General, Claire, Eunice, and Jesus, still in his attendant's outfit.

The food looks incredible. Uncle Saul clinks his glass.

UNCLE SAUL
First off, I want to thank the pretty lady to my left for this delicious repast. We're glad you're staying with us, Hope.

HOPE
(weak smile)
Thanks, Saul.

UNCLE SAUL
I really prefer Uncle Saul.

UNDER THE TABLE -- Charlene puts her hand on Josh's thigh. He removes it. She puts it back.

UNCLE SAUL (cont'd)
Second, let's have a moment of silence for our dear departed neighbor, Ms. Lana Moore. Rest in peace, darling. We were lucky to know you.

After a ridiculously SHORT moment of silence...

UNCLE SAUL (cont'd)
Finally, I'd like to officially welcome our newest tenant, Academy Award Winner Josh Flum. He's already experienced some of the wonders of El Capitan...

CHARLENE
Don't start in, Saul!

UNCLE SAUL
The point is, Josh has been through a lot these past few years. Winning an Oscar, succumbing to the pressure to be the next big thing, running naked down Santa Monica--

JOSH
Can we just eat, please?!

UNCLE SAUL
Great idea. Le Chaim, everybody. To life. And to neighbors.

They all clink glasses.

UNCLE SAUL (cont'd)
Long live El Capitan...

INT. EL CAPITAN - JOSH'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

Josh enters his dark apartment. He goes to the bedroom, throws his shirt and pants off, and gets into bed.

JOSH
Ah!

Josh lies on top of Marty, who's under the covers.

MARTY
You mind if I take the bed, dude?
I have a breakfast meeting at 7.

JOSH
I mean, yes, but, fine.
(he stands up)
I saw Claire and Eunice at Uncle Saul's dinner.

MARTY
I miss them so much! I'm nothing without those princesses!

He loses it. Blows his nose into Josh's pillow case.

JOSH
You are the worst life coach in history.

MARTY

Yeah, I know. Hey, thanks for taking me in, man. I love you.

Josh nods, exits the room.

THE LIVING ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Josh stares at the photo of him and Jeanine on the beach. Finally, he tosses it into the trash. Picks up the house phone, dials. We SPLIT-SCREEN to Hope, in her apartment.

HOPE

Hello?

JOSH

Hey, it's Josh, from 5C. I just wanted to thank you. That meal was incredible.

HOPE

I'm glad you liked it.

JOSH

The driving thing aside, you are a woman of many talents. Have you always cooked or--

HOPE

Josh, I have to go... I'm on long distance with my boyfriend.

Josh looks like he's been punched in the gut. A NOTE is slipped under his door. Lipstick kiss visible.

JOSH

Oh, okay. Cool. Cool-cool-cool. Buenos noches.

(then)

I don't know why I said that. I don't even speak Spanish. I mean, I took a couple of courses in--

HOPE

I'll see you tomorrow, okay, Josh. Goodnight.

Hope hangs up. Josh walks to the door, picks up the note. It reads: **Come downstairs, Joshua. The adventure begins...**

He stands in the dark living room, note in hand. Marty's loud snoring audible from the bedroom.

EXT. JOSH'S WINDOW - CONTINUOUS

As Josh decides his next move, we PULL BACK and WIDEN OUT, catching signs of LIFE through the various WINDOWS of EL CAPITAN.

-The General lovingly brushes his little dog.

-Astrid acts out a scene from her audition.

-Uncle Saul practices his putting.

-Wearing headphones, Weird Girl dances like crazy to a song on her iPod

-Hope practices putting acupuncture needles into a dummy as she talks on the phone.

-Charlene mixes two Manhattans.

And as we get further and further back, we...

FADE OUT:

END OF EPISODE ONE