The Family Trap

Pilot

Written by
Bob Fisher
And
Stacy Traub

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INT. L.A.X. - DAY

ANNIE (Mandy Moore) and BEN (early thirties, a guy’s guy), newlyweds, make their way through the terminal. Annie goes to step on the people mover. Before she can, Ben stops her.

BEN
Ann - wait, wait. Our first people mover!

ANNIE
Honey, please stop carrying me over things. We’ve been married three months – people are going to think my legs don’t work.

BEN
But it’s fun – plus this way I get to grab your ass in public.

Ben picks her up and they step on the people mover.

ANNIE
Next time I’m picking you up and grabbing your ass.

Ben and Annie kiss, and he puts her down. Ben grabs his phone.

BEN
(typing)
Checking in, L.A.X.

She swats the phone out of his hand, and it drops on the people mover. Ben picks it up.

ANNIE
Do not check in! My family thinks we’re moving here next week. I built in a buffer.

BEN
Your buffer is now about fifty feet.

They look up to see her family - BARBARA (58, the matriarch, dressed up for the occasion), STEVE (60, J Crew dad, very fit for his age), KATE (34, A-type, pulled together without looking like she tried) holding her four-month-old POPPY, SARAH (30, not pulled together) and ZACH (26, stocky, failed attempt at a hipster) waiting for them at the end of the people mover.
ANNIE
How are they here? How did they know? I covered all my tracks.

BEN
I may have checked in at JFK.

ANNIE
Do you think they’ve seen us?

Annie’s family waves at them.

ANNIE
Dammit, we’re made.

BEN
How did they get through security?
That’s kind of impressive.

ANNIE
My mom buys refundable tickets.
She found a loophole in the Patriot Act.

Annie starts to walk backwards on the people mover, dragging Ben with her.

ANNIE
I don’t know if I’m ready for this.

Annie and Ben are backing into people walking the other way.

ANNIE
Excuse me, sorry, family emergency.

BEN
It’s gonna be fine.

ANNIE
Don’t be so sure about that. My family can be a handful. A couple handfuls.

BEN
I’ve met your family. They factored prominently in our wedding.

ANNIE
Not like this, you haven’t. Not in their own habitat.

BEN
(re: her family)
Look at them. They’re happy, they’re waving!
ANNIE
They’re signaling a kill.

A large group prevents Annie and Ben from walking back any further.

ANNIE
Okay, listen up, there’s not much time.

The people mover pulls them inexorably to her family.

ANNIE
Here’s how it’s gonna go down. They’re going to invite us over. We’ll say no, we’re too tired from the flight. They’ll act like they didn’t hear us. We’ll talk louder. You’ll think it’s too loud - trust me, it isn’t.

BEN
I got it.

ANNIE
Good luck. I’ll always love you!

They kiss as they finally reach the end of the people mover and are swarmed by her family, ad-libbing hellos.

BARBARA
We’re so happy you’re here! Grab your bags, you’re coming over for brunch.

BEN
(super-loud)
No! We’re too tired from the flight!

BARBARA
(deeply disappointed)
Ohhhh.

ANNIE
We’ll come over, Mom.

Annie smiles at Ben, guilty.

END OF COLD OPEN
ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. BARBARA AND STEVE’S BACK PATIO – A LITTLE LATER

A big warm Spanish house right out of a decorating magazine or a Nancy Meyer’s movie. Everyone is gathered around eating and talking. Baby Poppy naps on Kate in a Bjorn.

BARBARA
All my children together in one place. Do you know how long I’ve been waiting for this day?

ANNIE
Yes, mom, seven years.

KATE
Three months --

SARAH
And two days.

Sarah crosses through to refill her glass of Chablis.

BARBARA
I can die happy now.

SARAH
(mid-gulp)
And yet she won’t.

STEVE
So, guys, tell us about this new restaurant of yours.

ANNIE
It’s not ours, Dad. Our friend Bobby owns it - we’re just gonna run it for him.

STEVE
Working together, huh? And for a good friend. You want me to draw up a legal agreement of some sort? These things have a tendency to end badly.

BEN
I think we’ll be okay. We’ve always wanted to work in the same kitchen. Her the pastry chef, me the real chef. Little inside joke.

(more)
BARBARA
Is this Bobby with the money handsome?

SARAH
Mom --

BARBARA
What? You’re divorced and living at home.

SARAH
Which you keep reminding me of. And every time you say it I take a drink.

(takes a sip)
Which is why I’m drunk. It’s fun -- anyone else want to play?

BARBARA
I just think you need to put in a little effort, unless you’re planning on marrying your brother --

ZACH
(to Sarah)
You wish.

SARAH
I’m out.

Sarah grabs the bottle of Chablis and exits.

STEVE
Zach, if you weren’t her brother, she’d be very interested.

BARBARA
If you had a decent job. And lost a little weight.

STEVE
(sincere)
Other than that, Catch City.

ZACH
(fist bump)
You know it, Pops.
ANNIE
So Kate, where’s Veronica?

KATE
She’s performing a triple by-pass.

BARBARA
I’m so happy you married a doctor.
Even if she is a lady doctor.

KATE
That implies something else, Mom.

BARBARA
I’m sorry, I didn’t want to use the word “lesbian”.

KATE
And yet, here we are.

ZACH
Hey, got any lesbians for me?

ANNIE
You can’t really do that.

STEVE
Zach can do anything he sets his mind to.

ZACH
(fist bump)
Thanks, Pops!

EXT./INT. BEN AND ANNIE’S L.A. APARTMENT – LATER

Annie and Ben carry their bags into a small but sweet furnished apartment.

ANNIE
Hey - not so bad for an online rental with “picture unavailable.”

BEN
Finally alone. You thinking what I’m thinking?

ANNIE
We are newlyweds.

BEN
It’s kind of our job.
ANNIE
Let’s break in this couch and not think about how many other people have broken it in before us.

They kiss. Just then there’s a knock at the door. Then the doorbell. Then incessant knocking. Ben opens the door. It’s Zach. And he’s carrying a bag.

ZACH
Did you guys get my e-mail?

ANNIE
No.

ZACH
That’s right. I didn’t send it. ‘Cause it’s harder to say “no” in the flesh. So, would it be cool if I crashed here for a few days, weeks, whatever? Mom and Dad’s house isn’t working for me right now. It makes me feel like a loser. Like Sarah.  
(looking around)
I can sleep anywhere – except for that couch. That thing looks gross.

ANNIE
Listen, Zach. Ben and I just got here and --

BEN
The place is really small...

ZACH
Look, I could make a very compelling argument that starts with Feudalism and ends with why we really didn’t land on the moon but I’m sleepy so I’m gonna cut straight to the begging – please please please let me stay.

ANNIE
Fine. But just for a day or two.

Zach drops his bag.

ZACH
Awesome. You guys are the bomb. You won’t even notice me. I’ll be as quiet as a mouse.
Zach takes a seat on the coffee table. Immediately the glass shatters underneath the weight of his hefty behind.

ZACH
Call Kate - I need the lady doctor!

INT. RESTAURANT KITCHEN - LATER

BOBBY (late thirties, new money, old hairstyle) gets things set up in the kitchen as Ben and Annie enter.

BEN/ANNIE/BOBBY
Heyyy!

They embrace.

BOBBY
Good to see you guys!

BEN
You too! The place is looking great.

ANNIE
(looking around)
Wow - you spent a fortune here.

BOBBY
Don’t sweat it. Ever since I sold my app, I’ve got money to burn. No, seriously, I’m burning some right now. Anything you want, it’s yours.

ANNIE
I wouldn’t mind a blast chiller for frozen desserts.

BEN
And we’d both like floor seats for the Lakers.

BOBBY
Hey, remember when we were all poor together in New York? That was fun.

ANNIE
You mean, like, six months ago?

BEN
And how Annie and I still are?
BOBBY
Not for long, guys. We play our cards right, this place is gonna take off. I got a hot hand right now - everything I touch turns to cash. Speaking of which - Sunday, little pre-opening dinner.

BEN
You mean, tomorrow, Sunday? Like we have one day to prepare? In a brand new kitchen?

BOBBY
Just eight of my high school friends who need their noses rubbed in my success. Doesn’t need to be fancy, just perfect. Like I want them to cry. Okay, I’m out. This is your place. Enjoy. Play. Create.

Bobby exits.

BEN
Wow, tomorrow. We’ve got a lot of work to do.

ANNIE
But it’s great, right? You and me together, living the dream.

Annie’s cell rings. Caller ID reads: Mom.

ANNIE
Hey, Mom, Ben and I are a little buried right now - what’s up?

INT. BARBARA AND STEVE’S HOME - INTERCUT
Barbara walks up the staircase.

BARBARA
I’m really worried about Sarah. She locked herself in her room. And she won’t come out. I think she’s cutting.

SARAH (O.S.)
(through the door)
I’m not cutting, Mom! I just don’t want to talk to you! God!

ANNIE
Okay, I’ll be right over.
BARBARA
You’re so good, Annie. Thank God you’re home.

Annie hangs up and grabs her purse and turns to Ben.

ANNIE
See, they’re sucking me in already. This won’t take long. I’ll be back as soon as I can.

Annie gives Ben a kiss and starts out.

BEN
Don’t sweat it. I’ll just be here enjoying. Playing. Who knows, I may even create.

Bobby crosses back in on the phone.

BOBBY
I can only get floor seats for the Clippers. Hope that’s not a deal breaker.

INT. SARAH’S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Annie enters to find Sarah rapping along to Salt n’ Peppa’s “None of Your Business,” unaware that Annie has entered.

SARAH
“If I wanna take a guy home with me tonight/It's none of your business/And she wanna be a freak and--”

Annie turns off the music. Sarah turns.

ANNIE
How you doin’ there, G.?

SARAH
A lot better, actually. I know living here is making me regress. But I don’t care. I’m embracing it. It’s fun.

ANNIE
(re: Sarah’s hair)
New bangs?

Sarah fiddles with her new BANGS.
SARAH
You like ‘em? Mom says they make my nose look better. Which she thought was a compliment. Hey, remember Dave Foster from high school? (OFF ANNIE’S BLANK LOOK) Party Dave?

ANNIE
Right. Right. Kinda cute, got that DUI your senior year.

SARAH
Only made him sexier. Anyway, I called him. He took me to this party. It was so killer. They had a keg, Annie. I miss kegs. My marriage was keg-free.

ANNIE
A lot of ‘em are. Listen, I gotta get back to work. Why don’t you come with me? There’s an ice cream machine. You can put beer in it...

SARAH
That sounds cool. But I’m gonna go see what Dave’s up to.

Sarah reaches under the bed and pulls out a CONDOM she had taped beneath the frame.

ANNIE
How old is that thing?

SARAH
Does it matter?

ANNIE
Yes! Yes! It matters a lot.

Before Annie knows what’s happening, Sarah goes to the WINDOW and starts to CLIMB OUT.

ANNIE
What the hell are you doing?

SARAH
It’s just easier than explaining everything to Mom.

Sarah is out. Annie runs over and watches as Sarah climbs down the TRELLIS thick with vines.
ANNIE
This is insane?! You’re thirty!

SARAH
(CLIMBING DOWN) Not spiritually!

Annie reaches for Sarah. Her phone falls out of her shirt pocket and gets caught in a vine halfway down the trellis.

ANNIE
Sarah, can you get my --

But Sarah is already gone.

ANNIE
Come on! Really?!

Annie climbs out the window. She’s not as good at it as Sarah. When she gets to the phone, it rings. She answers it.

ANNIE
Hi, Kate.

INT. KATE’S HOUSE – INTERCUT

CLOSE on Kate.

KATE
I think I have a baby emergency. Or not an emergency. I need you to decide. Just come over.

Annie hangs up and looks down to see BOB THE POOL MAN looking up, holding his skimmer.

BOB THE POOL MAN
Hey, Annie.

ANNIE
(NONCHALANT) Hey, Bob.

BOB THE POOL MAN
Need help?

ANNIE
Nah, I’m good.

BOB THE POOL MAN
Welcome home.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

INT. KATE & VERONICA’S BABY NURSERY - SAME TIME

It’s a perfectly furnished nursery. Kate holds baby Poppy, while Annie stands beside her.

KATE
Does Poppy’s right ear look puffy?

ANNIE
Why didn’t you have Veronica look at it? She’s a doctor.

KATE
First of all, she’s a heart specialist.

ANNIE
I’m sure they covered ears at some point.

KATE
She’s saving lives – I don’t want to bother her with “Is this ear puffy?”

ANNIE
It doesn’t look puffy to me. But let’s take her temperature just to be safe. Where’s your thermometer?

KATE
It’s in the guest room. Stay with Poppy, I’ll get it.

ANNIE
No, I’ll get it.

Annie starts out of the room. Kate follows after her.

KATE
I need to get it.

ANNIE
Why do you need to get the thermometer?

KATE
Why do you need to get the thermometer?

Kate and Annie stare each other down for a beat. Kate bolts for the guest room. Annie chases after her.
INT. GUEST ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate and Annie stand staring at the room for a beat. It’s a disaster area. Baby clothes strewn everywhere, snake-like Diaper Genie bags filled with diapers, empty pizza boxes, adult clothes to be dry-cleaned, Us Weekly magazines - it’s a wreck. Annie instinctively covers baby Poppy’s eyes to shield her.

ANNIE (CONT’D)
Oh my God. What is going on here?

KATE
Look, it’s been a very bad morning.

ANNIE
All this happened today?

KATE
Okay, fine! It’s been a bad three months. I just thought I’d be better at this. I mean, I was a lawyer. And you know, I’m good at everything.

ANNIE
(heard it a million times)
I know, I know. You learned Portuguese in a day.

KATE
I mean, if you’re gonna have a layover in Lisbon... but ever since I gave birth to Poppy --

ANNIE
Three pushes, no epidural.

KATE
-- I don’t know how people do this? I’m not sleeping, and I’m emotional, and I’m not sleeping --

ANNIE
You already said that one.

KATE
I know. I’m losing it. I don’t know how Mom did this four times. It could explain a lot. I can’t even do laundry. And you know I’m great at laundry! I just keep ordering more and more onesies to replace the dirty ones.

(more)
KATE (cont'd)
I put a lock on the door. Veronica doesn’t even know about this.
(deadly serious)
And you can’t tell her. You can’t tell anyone.

ANNIE
(re: phone)
Just one picture for Sarah. It’ll give her so much hope.

KATE
No! You’re the only one who’s allowed to know. And it feels so good to tell you. I’m so glad you came back.

Kate, still holding Poppy, sighs deeply and sits down on top of a pile of clothes.

ANNIE
Let me help you clean up before the dirty diapers form into some creature that can only be stopped by love or a nuclear bomb.

Annie grabs an arm-load of clothes and carries them out to the hallway.

ANNIE (O.S.)
Let’s just put all the clothes out here to start.

Annie walks back in to see Kate completely passed out and snoring. Poppy smiles at Annie. Annie delicately takes Poppy out of Kate’s arms.

ANNIE (CONT’D)
(softly to Poppy)
Hi. I guess I’m not going to work just yet. Hopefully it won’t upset Uncle Ben.
(realizing)
Oh, that’s funny. Uncle Ben. You have an Uncle Ben.
(then, explaining)
Not the black rice guy. Although he seems like he’d be a good uncle.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

Barbara and Steve wait in the dining area as Ben comes out from the kitchen.
BEN
Hey, guys.

BARBARA
Hello, Ben. Where’s Annie? I thought she’d be here.

BEN
Oh, she texted me earlier. She said she ate a mouse. Which I think was Autocorrected from “she’s at Kate’s house.” Either way, she’s not here.

BARBARA
We were just in the neighborhood --

STEVE
--because we drove here from our house.

BARBARA
Well, we weren’t doing anything.

STEVE
(for the hundredth time)
Building a ship in a bottle is doing something.

BEN
(to Steve)
You do that? Can I watch you do that?

BARBARA
Don’t encourage him. Anyway, I was thinking, now that the whole family’s back in town, and my birthday’s coming up, that we could do a family photo this coming Sunday.

BEN
You mean, tomorrow, Sunday?

BARBARA
That’s the one.

BEN
Actually, that’s gonna be tough. We have a big dinner for eight of the owner’s friends--
BARBARA
Dinner. The photo will be done long before then.

BEN
We have prep to do--

BARBARA
You’ll make it work. I once gave a dinner party for sixty people on two hours’ notice. You know who was there? Henry Winkler. It can be done.

Ben sees he’s not going to win this fight.

BEN
I’ll talk to Annie about it.

BARBARA
Great. We’re all wearing the same thing – jean shirts.

STEVE
And before you think it’s going to be lame, the guys are wearing black turtlenecks underneath, Steve Jobs-style. R-I-P.

INT. BABY POPPY’S NURSERY - LATER

Annie is changing baby Poppy’s diaper on the change table.

ANNIE
This is my first time doing this, so go easy on me.

Annie grimaces as she wipes.

ANNIE (CONT’D)
Okay. Butt is clean. Now I just need a diaper.
(then looking around)
And... where the hell are the diapers?

INT. KATE & VERONICA’S GUEST ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Annie carries a naked Poppy into the room. She looks around for diapers and spots a box on the floor.

As she bends over to pick up the wipe, (and the baby’s bare butt is now facing out like a mini-cannon) she hears a fart come from Poppy.
ANNIE (CONT’D)
Nice one. You sound like your uncle Zach.

Annie stands up and realizes it wasn’t just a fart. Poppy just projectile pooped all over a beautiful pale pink dress laying on a pile of laundry.

ANNIE (CONT’D)
Whoa. No. That’s not good.

Poppy starts crying.

ANNIE
No. Not you. You’re good. It’s not your fault.

Kate wakes up from the crying and immediately zeros in on the destroyed dress.

KATE
Oh no. That’s Veronica’s favorite dress. I was supposed to take it to the cleaners last month.

ANNIE
Okay, so I’ll take it to the dry cleaners.

KATE
But what if it doesn’t come out? She’ll know I’m a failure. I think it’s pretty clear what we have to do here.

ANNIE
It is?

KATE
We have to burn it.

EXT. KATE & VERONICA’S BACKYARD – MOMENTS LATER

Kate and Annie stand over a BBQ grill, remnants of the dress smolder inside. Annie shields Poppy from the smoke.

KATE
(to Poppy)
Don’t tell Mommy what other Mommy did.
INT. ANNIE & BEN’S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Ben enters to find Zach kneeling next to the coffee table (with a new glass top).

ZACH
Hey, dude. Where’s Annie? I’ve left her twenty-three messages.

BEN
Which explains why her mailbox is full. I don’t know where she is, why?

ZACH
Okay, I’ll preface this by saying, my intentions were pure. I tried to fix the coffee table by screwing the glass onto it.

BEN
You tried to put screws through glass?

ZACH
I’ve seen screws go through glass before. It’s a thing. A thing I don’t know how to do. So Plan B was to use Super Glue.

BEN
And lemme guess. You Super Glued your pants to the table?

ZACH
You are good. Can you please help me? We’re five minutes away from a significant bathroom situation.

BEN
Take your pants off.

Zach does - and is magically not stuck to the coffee table anymore.

ZACH
Holy crap, dude. The genius just flies from you.

BEN
Yeah, but now I’m looking at you with no pants, so how smart can I be?
ZACH
You and me, we’re brothers now. And that’s unconditional. For instance – you murder someone, I’m there.

BEN
I’m pretty sure I’m not gonna murder someone.

ZACH
That’s what everybody thinks. But if you do – and no judgment – I’m your first call. I’ll get that dead body out to the desert so fast, no one’ll know what happened. I’ll pick up a twelver of Diet Coke, some Glad bags, and we’ll bury that corpse way out past J-tree.

BEN
What’s the Diet Coke for?

ZACH
The drive, bro. It’s dry out there.

INT. ANNIE’S CAR – LATER
Annie talks to Ben on the Bluetooth while she drives.

ANNIE
And the next thing I knew, we were burning a dress. Which took longer because then we had to bury the ashes.

INT. BEN AND ANNIE’S LA APARTMENT – SAME TIME
Ben is on the phone with Annie.

BEN
What is it with your family and burying things?

ANNIE
Did Zach gives you the desert speech? It means he really likes you.

BEN
Look, I know that your family relies on you, but you missed a whole day. We’re in pre-opening. This is the fun time.

(more)
BEN (cont'd)
I locked Bobby in the walk-in for ten minutes, it was hilarious.

ANNIE
I am sorry I missed that. I promise tomorrow we’ll lock someone in together.

Annie parks her car.

BEN
About tomorrow. Your parents came by and your mom wants us at a family photo tomorrow at their place. I tried to tell her we can’t make it because of the dinner, but she wouldn’t listen to me.

ANNIE
Don’t worry, I’ll get us out of it.

BEN
Says the person who spent the whole day taking care of her sisters.

ANNIE
Are you mad at me?

BEN
Are you outside the door right now?

ANNIE
I am. And I’m only coming in if you’re not mad at me.

Ben opens the door and lets her in. He kisses her. Zach enters, wearing basketball shorts.

ZACH
Okay, I get it. Baby making time. That’s cool, Mom’s taking me pants shopping. On account of the coffee table incident.

INT. ANNIE & BEN’S BEDROOM - MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Annie and Ben are asleep. The phone rings. Annie grabs it.

ANNIE
(into phone, groggy)
Hello?
BARBARA (O.S.)
Sarah hasn’t come home, she’s not answering her phone and it’s three in the morning. I’m worried sick.

ANNIE
It’s fine, Mom. She’s out with Party Dave.

BARBARA
You think that’s fine? His first name is “Party”!

ANNIE
Okay, Mom. I’m on it.

BARBARA
I knew you’d help. Thanks, Annie. Now I can rest easy. Good night, sweetheart.

The phone clicks. Annie gets out of bed and starts getting dressed.

BEN
Let me guess. Someone in your family needs your help.

ANNIE
I have to go find Sarah. She’s a disaster, out there somewhere with a ten-year-old condom.

Ben starts getting dressed, too.

BEN
Wait, did you say a ten-year-old’s condom?

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

INT. BEN’S CAR/EXT. VAN NESS PARK - WEE HOURS OF THE MORNING

Ben slowly drives as Annie talks on the phone.

ANNIE
(into phone)
Okay, we’re approaching the park.
Where are you? Sarah, focus. No, do
not sing Party Rock Anthem. Please.

BEN
(pointing)
Top of the jungle gym.

Annie looks out the window and sure enough Sarah is sitting at the top of the jungle gym. Ben parks.

ANNIE
Come on, let’s go get her.
(noticing)
Hey, Party Dave got a speedboat.

In the corner of a lot, hitched to a 1997 Subaru is a speedboat with “Party Dave” airbrushed across its side.

EXT. PARK - SAME TIME

Sarah is standing at the very top of the jungle gym with a fifth of vodka in her hand. Annie and Ben approach.

ANNIE
Sarah! Why in the world are you drinking in a park?

SARAH
Because I can.

BEN
You actually can’t. It’s against the law. There’s, like, signs posted everywhere, specifically saying you can’t. Look, there’s one right there.

SARAH
Suck it, sign!

Sarah throws the vodka bottle at the sign. She misses it by a mile.
SARAH
This is kind of embarrassing but could you get that for me?

ANNIE
No! Get down from there.

SARAH
Come up and get me.

Annie sighs and starts toward the jungle gym. Ben notices that PARTY DAVE is passed out on the see-saw.

BEN
What happened to Party Dave?

SARAH
I don’t know, he was so awesome in high school and now, you get ten, twelve beers in him, and he’s worthless.

Annie gets to the top of the jungle gym.

SARAH
Isn’t it amazing up here? I can see the top of the swings.

ANNIE
Yeah, really makes you think. Now let’s get down and go home.

SARAH
No way. I’m not leaving until I see the sunrise. Party Dave promised.

ANNIE
Party Dave might be dead.

They all look over at Party Dave who suddenly sits straight up and punches a fist in the air.

PARTY DAVE
Whoo-hoo!

He immediately passes out again.

BEN
All right, come on, Sarah, seriously. We’ve got a big day ahead of us. The farmer’s market opens in an hour. Just get down from there.
ANNIE
(taking Sarah’s arm)
Here, I’ll help you.

Sarah stand up and leaps off the jungle gym towards Ben, expecting him to catch her. He does not.

INT. ANNIE AND BEN’S CAR – THE NEXT MORNING

Ben drives. Annie rides shotgun, the car packed with bags and crates full of food from the farmer’s market.

BEN
Once you get the shortcakes in the oven, do you think you could help me de-bone the fish?

ANNIE
Definitely. Hold on, just got a text from Bobby.
(reading)
He’d like gold leaf to somehow factor in the dessert. And really, in as much of the dinner as possible.

BEN
Wow, he literally wants to shove his wealth down their throats.

Annie’s cell phone rings. She picks it up on speaker.

ANNIE
Hello?

BARBARA (O.S.)
Hey, Annie. On your way over to the house, could you pick up Zach’s pants from the tailor? I don’t want him wearing shorts in the photo. Too much flesh.

ANNIE
(remembering)
Oh, right. The photo!

Ben pantomimes “What the fuck?” to Annie.

BARBARA (O.S.)
You’re still coming, aren’t you?

ANNIE
Yeah, yeah, yeah – we’ll be there.
Annie hangs up.

BEN
You said you were gonna talk to her. We can’t go. We have this dinner. We’re expected to make people cry.

ANNIE
We can do both. We’ll do some prep work, go do the photo – it won’t take long.

BEN
Just like yesterday didn’t take long? We came here for us not for them.

ANNIE
I know, but they make it impossible. I told you – my family is nuts.

BEN
That doesn’t mean you have to be nuts. You can say “no” to them.

ANNIE
I actually don’t think I can. Why do you think I moved three thousand miles away? Geographical buffer!

BEN
Well, the buffer’s gone. We live here now. So you need to figure out how to set some boundaries with them.

ANNIE
Can I figure it out after we take the picture? Then, I’m going hard-core. Drawing that line.

BEN
Well, I’m drawing my own line. I’m skipping the photo and going to the restaurant. Right after we return Party Dave’s boat.

WIDEN TO REVEAL: Ben and Annie are towing Party Dave’s speedboat.
EXT. BARBARA AND STEVE’S BACKYARD - LATER

Everyone is present in jean shirts, and the dudes with their turtlenecks underneath. VERONICA (34, gorgeous, intimidating) is even here. But Ben is not. Sarah comes out of the house. She looks awful.

BARBARA
(to Sarah)
Can you at least brush your hair for the picture?

SARAH
I gave up.

She turns around and we see a hairbrush tangled in her hair.

ZACH
Word on the street is, Party Dave has a sweet boat. Should there be a booze cruise in the near future, call me. Full disclosure, I get violently seasick, but I’m willing to drink through it.

Steve comes out of the house with a camera and a tripod.

STEVE
I should wear turtlenecks more often. They’re very flattering. That Diane Keaton is really onto something.

BARBARA
Okay, everyone, places - wait, Annie, where’s Ben?

ANNIE
At work. Where I should be.

BARBARA
Well, we can’t take a family photo without Ben. It defeats the purpose. Just call him.

ANNIE
I’m not calling him, Mom. Let’s just do this.

BARBARA
Fine. But please note that I’m disappointed.
EVERYONE
(dully)
Noted.

BARBARA
(getting excited)
Okay, now: I know the suspense has been killing you.

SARAH
Sheer torment.

BARBARA
And trust me, I almost spilled it twice. But the pose for this year’s picture is -- wait for it --

STEVE
It’s a human pyramid!

BARBARA
God damn it, Steve - that was my moment!

KATE
(to Annie)
They’re all her moments.

ANNIE
Okay, Mom. I know you have a plan. Tell us where you want us to go.

BARBARA
Thank you. Bottom rung: Dad, Zach, Annie.

ZACH
Why do I have to be on the bottom?

SARAH
(re: his size)
Look at you.

ZACH
What’s that supposed to mean?

STEVE
It means you’re sturdy and strong.

SARAH
That’s not what it meant.

Zach, Annie and Steve take position on all fours.
BARBARA
Okay, next – Kate and Sarah.

ZACH
There’s a ladybug on me! Get it off!

STEVE
I got you, buddy.

Steve brushes it off of him as Kate and Sarah climb on.

BARBARA
Okay, now me and Veronica – wait, this doesn’t work without Ben. The numbers are all off.

ANNIE
Just take the picture already. I have to go.

BARBARA
It’s not just about you, Annie.

ANNIE
It’s never about me!

SARAH
Stop moving, you’re hurting my knees.

ANNIE
You’re on my back!

BARBARA
Annie, do not ruin this picture for me.

Annie, fed up, gets up, knocking the rest of her family to the ground. They react.

ZACH
Dude? New pants!

ANNIE
Do you know why Ben isn’t here? Because he’s at the restaurant, doing something that’s important to us. Which is where I should be. But instead I’m here, because I didn’t want to let anyone down.
BARBARA
Well, if you didn’t want to be in the photo, you could have said no.

ANNIE
No. I can’t say no to you - to any of you. Well, this is me drawing some boundaries. Kate, be honest with your wife. Tell her you’re overwhelmed. Tell her you need more help. Show her your shame closet!

VERONICA
Shame closet?

KATE
It’s more of a shame room. I also might have burned your dress and buried it.

ANNIE
(plowing on)
Sarah, I know your life is hard right now. But kegs and Party Dave - and I’m just going to say it - those bangs are not the answer!

ZACH
Bangs are never the answer.

ANNIE
And you, Zach!

ZACH
Oh, just ‘cause I spoke?

ANNIE
You may be the youngest, but you’re not the baby anymore. Get a job, find an apartment - own more than one pair of pants!

STEVE
Easy there, Annie.

ANNIE
No, Dad - he needs to hear it!

STEVE
You’re right. He’s my only son. I probably coddle him.
ZACH
Don’t beat yourself up, Dad. It’s only natural.

ANNIE
And Mom, I know I’m living in the same city as you now, but I’m not here for you. I love you guys, and you’re my family, but I have a new family now and his name is Ben. And I should be with him. De-boning his fish! And no, that’s not sexual.

And with that, Annie is out the door. Everyone is silent for a beat.

BARBARA
I’m very proud of Annie for speaking her mind. And I hope none of us ever do it again.

INT. RESTAURANT KITCHEN - LATER

Ben is doing prep work in the kitchen. Annie bursts through the doors.

ANNIE
You were right. I get sucked into their crazy stuff but that’s on me. And I’m sorry.

BEN
I’m feeling like the cool move here would be for me not to say “I told you so.”

ANNIE
Yeah, that would be the cool move.

A beat. Then out of the side of his mouth:

BEN
I told you so.

ANNIE
You’re such a nerd.

Annie gives him a kiss.

ANNIE
You should have seen me, Ben, I told them all off.

(more)
And it felt good. Scary. But good.
And I think I can get better at it.

BEN
That’s awesome. I’m proud of you.
Now let’s gut some fish together.

Annie smiles. She grabs the knife and gets to work.

INT. RESTAURANT DINING ROOM - LATER

The dinner is over. The table mostly cleared. Annie and Ben sit with Bobby enjoying a victory glass of wine.

BOBBY
(lifting his glass)
To you guys. The goal was to make my friends insanely jealous. I heard Scott Hall sobbing in the bathroom. Mission accomplished.

BEN
You just wait until we open this restaurant.

ANNIE
We’re going to make people jealous every day.

BOBBY
Get ready. Next week, my college friends.

Bobby crosses off.

BEN
To you and me. Living the dream.

Ben and Annie toast and drink. Just then, Barbara, Steve, Sarah, Kate, and Zach enter.

BARBARA
Before you say anything, we feel like we should apologize.

SARAH
She does.

KATE
The rest of us were forced in the car.
ZACH
I thought we were going out for ice cream.

BARBARA
We heard you, Annie. And we understand you have Ben now. And your own life. And you feel like you have to choose between us. But, sweetheart, we will always be here. Forever. There is no choice.

ANNIE
Thanks, Mom. I know you probably didn’t mean that to sound as scary as it did.

STEVE
It sounded very good in the car. Although being able to hear the score of the UCLA game would have been better.

BARBARA
Now make your brother some ice cream. I don’t want to be called a liar.

Annie starts to get up. Ben stops her.

BEN
Sit. I got this.

Ben gets up to go make the ice-cream. Sarah turns to Annie.

SARAH
BTW, I convinced Zach to move out of your place. So I can move in.

ANNIE
That’s not happening.

SARAH
Sleep on it.

And as the family helps themselves to the wine, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW