THE GABRIELS

Written by

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COLD OPEN

INT. GABRIEL HOUSE - MORNING

KEN GABRIEL (40s, child-like, devilish energy) sits at the table while his wife GAIL (the more mature of the two, but barely) scrambles to get breakfast on the table.

The doorbell RINGS.

GAIL
(alarmed)
Who’s that?

KEN
(annoyed)
Probably another welcome gift.

GAIL
These people are relentless.

ANNA (15, cute yet sharp with an awkward edge) and JOSH (12, oblivious to social cues) sit down at the table.

ANNA
Is somebody going to get the door?

KEN
And have to make small talk with a neighbor?
(with disgust)
“The trees on our street are a hundred years old?! Tell me more!”

JOSH
It might be another pie.

KEN
What happens after the pie?

Josh is confused.

KEN (CONT’D)
Empty pie plate. They’ll expect us to bring it back to them, washed. Just like that, we have to see them again. It’s a trap.

GAIL
Not to mention they’ll expect us to bake them something in return. Everybody’s keeping score.
KEN
(nodding)
Pie for a pie.

The doorbell RINGS again. Ken shakes his head, growing more and more annoyed.

KEN (CONT’D)
They’re like friendship zombies. They keep coming at you no matter what you throw at them.

ANNA
So you bake a pie. It’s not that big a deal.

KEN
Pies lead to dinner invites and barbecues. Next thing you know you’re watching slideshows of other people’s vacations. Why would I water down quality family time like that?

The doorbell RINGS again.

Josh peeks through the peephole.

JOSH
Large woman with pie.

GAIL
It’s probably Bonnie.

KEN
Alright. Nobody panic. We need a plan.

JOSH
(excited)
Mace her through the mail slot?

GAIL
Something without assault.

ANNA
(exasperated)
Why can’t we just be normal?

KEN
(inspired)
I got it.
EXT. GABRIEL HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

BONNIE KLABUNDE (sweet, mid-western, Caucasian, heavy set, 40s) stands on the doorstep holding a pie.

Behind her, the Gabriel family car SQUEALS out of the garage in reverse, and PEELS OFF down the street.

END OF COLD OPEN
ACT ONE

INT. GABRIEL HOUSE - MORNING

The pie sits in the center of the kitchen table. The Gabriels stare at it like it’s a bomb.

KEN
Who leaves a pie on a doorstep?  What’s wrong with these people?

GAIL
Should we eat it?

KEN
What’s the point?  Every bite will taste like social obligation.

Ken tosses it onto the counter, where there’s already a pile of “welcome” pies.

KEN (CONT’D)
Shoot me if I ever let myself go like that.

JOSH
Head or chest?

ANNA
He was kidding, you retard.

GAIL
Your brother’s not retarded.  He’s just a little too literal sometimes.

KEN
Can we get back to the pies please?  These neighbors are trying to trap us in an endless friendship spiral, not to mention give us diabetes.  Did you see that woman?

GAIL
Bonnie does seem to have put on weight even since we moved here.

JOSH
What do you think she weighs now?  Over two hundred?

KEN
Two-twenty.
GAIL
Women don’t weigh as much as you think.

KEN
Okay, I’ll guess she’s two hundred on the dot.

Ken grabs a small leather-bound book from the shelf.

JOSH
The Book of Wagers?

KEN
Yep. This is a perfect family bet. You ready, Josh?

JOSH
Put me down for two-ten.

Ken records Josh’s guess.

KEN
Gail, Anna, what do you think?

ANNA
I’m not betting on Bonnie’s weight. I like the Klabundes.

JOSH
Anna has a crush on Peter Klabunde!

ANNA
I barely know him.

GAIL
Let’s keep it that way. We see enough of that family as is.

KEN
Ladies, I need your wagers.

GAIL
Count me out.

ANNA
Plus how can you even bet on this if you’re never going to know her actual weight?

Ken thinks about it.

KEN
EXT. MIDWESTERN SCHOOL - DAY

Reveal the school is heavily decorated for Homecoming.

INT. SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DAY

The tables are filled with students in various cliques joking around, playing music for each other, demonstrating PDA, etc.

Meanwhile Anna eats lunch by herself, reading a book, occasionally looking up at the fun other people are having.

Suddenly she is approached by PETER KLABUNDE (clean cut, mixed race).

PETER
Hey, Anna. Did you guys get the pie my mom brought over?

Peter sits next to her.

ANNA
Yes. Delicious. The whole neighborhood has been so welcoming.

PETER
Cool. So are you going to Homecoming?

ANNA
I don’t know yet. Hopefully.

PETER
I was wondering...
(working up courage)
...would you like to go to Homecoming with me?

She mulls it over.

ANNA
Um... Sure. That would be nice.

PETER
That’s great! I was a little nervous about asking you cause...

Peter is unsure whether to continue.

PETER (CONT’D)
Never mind.
ANNA

What?

PETER

Does your family have something against my family?

ANNA

No. Not at all.

PETER

It’s just, your parents never say hi to us when we’re in the yard.

ANNA

My parents hate waving.

PETER

(taken aback)

Really?

ANNA

(shrugging)

They think it’s phony.

Peter sneezes.

ANNA (CONT’D)

See you in Hell.

PETER

Huh?

ANNA

Sorry. It’s this thing we say in my family instead of “God bless you.”

Peter sneezes again.

ANNA (CONT’D)

See you in Hell.

(beat)

I’m really sorry. It’s a reflex at this point.

INT. - SCHOOL - 6TH GRADE CLASS - DAY

Josh sits in class while his TEACHER addresses the students.

TEACHER

Today we’re going to talk about Columbus...
As she goes to pull down a map, the metal cannister falls off the wall and knocks the teacher out cold.

The class is stunned, except for Josh, who HOWLS in laughter.

**INT. PRINCIPAL’S OFFICE RECEPTION – AFTERNOON**

Josh is seated outside the principal’s office next to his parents. They are not pleased.

**GAIL**
Your father and I don’t appreciate getting called to the principal’s office.

**KEN**
What’s wrong with you?

**JOSH**
But dad. It was funny. It’s not like she died.

**KEN**
Of course it was funny. You can’t laugh at everything that’s funny.

**GAIL**
Sometimes you have to bottle it up.

**KEN**
This is my fault. I never taught him the difference between an inside laugh and an outside laugh.

**JOSH**
What’s an inside laugh?

**KEN**
We’ll go over it later it.

**GAIL**
For now, just try not to laugh when people get hurt.

**KEN**
You know what? This has nothing to do with laughing at an injured teacher. This is about Facebook. Klabunde tried to friend me the other day.

**GAIL**
And you declined?
KEN  
(nodding)  
He probably thinks it was racially motivated.

GAIL  
Why would he think that?

KEN  
Because...  
(hushed tone)  
He’s from Africa America.

GAIL  
That’s ridiculous. This has nothing to do with Facebook.

KEN  
Don’t be so naive.

The RECEPTIONIST approaches them.

RECEPTIONIST  
Principal Klabunde will see you now.

INT. PRINCIPAL’S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Ken and Gail sit in front of the school principal, TOM KLABUNDE (African American, straight-laced, churchy smile).

TOM  
I heard Bonnie left you folks a pie this morning.

GAIL  
So delicious. Listen, about Josh....

Ken puts his arm on Gail.

KEN  
I’ll handle this.

Ken turns to Tom.

KEN (CONT’D)  
Let me explain something to you about my Facebook philosophy.

GAIL  
Drop it. Tom doesn’t care that you didn’t accept his friend request.
TOM
She’s right. That’s not why we’re here.
(beat)
But just out of curiosity, why didn’t you accept my request?

Ken gives Gail an “I told you so” look.

KEN
Because we’re not friends. You seem like a nice fellow, but we’re not friends.

TOM
We could be. Let’s start on Facebook and see where it goes.

KEN
I have six Facebook friends: my wife, my children, my mother, my cousin, and Dockers.

TOM
The pants?

GAIL
He’s obsessed with Dockers. Obsessed.

TOM
Interesting. Listen about Josh. He seems to have some social difficulties here at school. He hasn’t made any friends. He doesn’t really understand how to talk to other people. And I don’t think he’s using deodorant.

GAIL
(to Ken)
Who does that sound like?

Ken sniffs his pits.

KEN
I’m good.

GAIL
The rest is you.

TOM
I notice your whole family doesn’t socialize all that much.
KEN
Of course not. Waste of time.

GAIL
We like our family time.

TOM
Family time is great. But sometimes it’s good to make friends.

KEN
I’ve tried that a couple times. It didn’t take. Then I decided the best way to make friends is to actually make them. That’s why I had kids.

TOM
(intrigued)
I see.

KEN
But the clock is ticking. Before you know, they’ll grow up, move out, and it’ll just be me and the wife sitting around talking about soup.

Gail turns to Tom.

GAIL
This is what he does. He gets very into stuff. Borderline compulsive. Whether it’s a brand of pants, or a family tradition--

KEN
You love our Gabriel Family Traditions!

GAIL
I do. Most of them.
(back to Tom)
But sometimes he takes things a little too far.

KEN
Look, my family never did stuff together. I don’t want to be like that.

(MORE)
KEN (CONT'D)
I would rather just have fun with my wife and kids than have to share them with boring strangers. I don’t see how that’s compulsive.

Gail nods at Tom.

TOM
Listen, we’re hosting a little neighborhood picnic this weekend. You guys might actually enjoy it.

Ken looks at Gail with dread.

INT. WOMEN’S CLOTHING STORE - DAY
Anna comes out of a dressing room wearing a fancy dress and models it for Gail.

GAIL
So how into this Klabunde kid are you?

ANNA
He’s okay. But everybody else has dates already, so....

GAIL
I get it. You want to fit in. I was your age once too. (beat) Now about sex...

ANNA
(embarrassed)
Mom!

GAIL
I know it feels good. Just don’t get pregnant.

ANNA
Mom!!!

GAIL
I get the temptation. Multiracial babies are simply exquisite. I just don’t think we could handle that much of Tom and Bonnie. The birthdays, the joint holidays, they’re just too friendly for us.
ANNA
Why are we so weird?

GAIL
We’re not that weird.

ANNA
It’s only a matter of time before we alienate everyone in town and nobody’s parents let them hang out with me. It’ll be Menomonee Falls all over again.

INT. GABRIEL HOUSE – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Ken is sitting down across from Josh. Ken has his iPad handy.

KEN
Here’s how it’s gonna work. I show you an image and you tell me if it’s an outside laugh or an inside laugh.

JOSH
Got it.

Ken holds up the iPad.

KEN
Monkey dressed as waiter.

JOSH
Outside laugh.

KEN
Nailed it.

Ken changes the image.

KEN (CONT’D)
Monkey dressed as Hitler.

JOSH
Can we come back to Hitler? That one always confuses me.

KEN
Hitler’s tricky.

Gail and Anna come home.
KEN (CONT’D)
How did dress shopping go?

Anna, clearly upset, ignores Ken and goes straight upstairs. Ken turns to Gail.

KEN (CONT’D)
What’s wrong?

GAIL
Menomonee Falls.

INT. KEN & GAIL’S BEDROOM

Gail gets ready for bed as Ken tries to read.

GAIL
Maybe we should go to that picnic tomorrow.

KEN
I thought the four of us could go out on the pond.

GAIL
We’ll have plenty of time to use the pond. We should do something with the community.

KEN
Since when do you care about the community?

GAIL
We’ve moved the kids around a bunch now. Burned through a lot of towns.

KEN
(fondly reminiscing)
Yeah. Good times.

GAIL
We promised Anna we weren’t gonna move again.

KEN
That was your idea. I don’t like promises. They’re phony.

GAIL
Not if you keep them.
Ken rolls his eyes.

GAIL (CONT'D)
We both promised we’d stay in the same place until she’s finished school. That means getting to know people, even if it kills us. The picnic could be a good start.

Ken thinks about it. He gets an idea.

KEN
Well, if we do go, maybe I can get a couple in beers in Bonnie and get lucky.

GAIL
Excuse me.

KEN
Get her to admit her weight. Two hundred, baby!

GAIL
She’s more like one-eighty.

Ken raises an eyebrow.

KEN
Is this an official bet?

Gail knows it’s wrong to bet, but... she can’t help herself.

GAIL
(excited)
I know I can win this.

Ken pulls out the Book of Wagers and records Gail’s bet.

KEN
And. You. Are... in the book.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

EXT. PARK - DAY

The Gabriels get out of their family car and head towards the picnic.

ANNA
I really appreciate you guys coming.

GAIL
I actually think this could be good for us.

JOSH
How is this good?

GAIL
Maybe I can recruit some patients.

ANNA
Mom, you can’t try to rope these people into therapy. They’re here to have a good time.

GAIL
I need the business. Until your father goes back to work, I’m the only breadwinner.

KEN
I have bigger fish to fry. I’m hoping to get Bonnie’s digits, and I don’t mean her phone number.

GAIL
Hon, you’re getting carried away again.

ANNA
Dad, you cannot ask Bonnie her weight! I’m going to homecoming with her son.

KEN
Relax. I’m gonna play it cool.

GAIL
We should mingle. Maybe we’ll find some people we actually like.
KEN
I like you guys. Let’s mingle with each other. Follow any sports, Josh?

GAIL
This does not count as mingling.

ANNA
I’ll go find Peter. Mom you should say hello to Bonnie.

Gail and Anna head off.

KEN
Well, I guess I should go find Tom.

JOSH
What should I do?

KEN
I don’t know. Go find one of your friends.

Josh looks at Ken confused. Ken remembers that Josh has no friends.

KEN (CONT’D)
Right. Just don’t set anything on fire.

Josh nods in agreement as Ken heads off.

Josh, now alone, notices a game of musical chairs being rustled up by a FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR holding a giant stuffed squirrel (the high school team mascot). There are already a large group of small kids signed up to play.

FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR
(calling out)
2 minutes until musical chairs. Come on kids, winner gets this giant stuffed “Sammy the Squirrel”

Josh approaches the neighbor.

JOSH
Is it okay if I play?

FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR
You’re a little big for musical chairs, don’t you think?
JOSH
(not getting it)
I can fit in the chairs just fine.

The neighbor stares at Josh for a beat, then shrugs and invites him into the circle.

MEANWHILE

Anna catches up to Peter, who’s surprised to see her.

PETER
You came?

ANNA
My whole family’s here.

PETER
Neighborhood get-togethers are my family’s favorite tradition -- after holidays of course.

ANNA
Us too. We love holidays.

PETER
What’s your favorite? Mine’s Halloween.

ANNA
We don’t do Halloween. I think my favorite would have to be Ash Monday.

PETER
Ash Monday?

ANNA
You guys don’t celebrate Ash Monday?

PETER
No.

Anna starts to realize that this may be a Gabriel-only holiday.

ANNA
Never mind.

PETER
What is it?
ANNA
(embarrassed)
The first Monday in January we take all the Holiday Cards people have sent us and we burn them in the fireplace.

PETER
Why?

ANNA
My dad likes to make a ceremony out of it where he holds up the card and he goes through all the grievances he has with that family. Sometimes it’s that somebody took a parking spot. Sometime he’s just mad at their turtlenecks. Then he throws it into the fire and we all yell, “BURN. BURN. BURN.”

Anna realizes Peter is taken aback.

ANNA (CONT’D)
It’s really weird. Right?

PETER
I wouldn’t say weird. Your family is...
   (searching for the word)
   ...interesting.

BACK TO:

MUSICAL CHAIRS

Josh is playing musical chairs very aggressively with the smaller children. He body checks a kid sending him to the ground.

MEANWHILE

Ken and Gail eat lunch with Tom and Bonnie.

BONNIE
I want a second bowl of chili, but I really shouldn’t.

Ken and Gail exchange glances.

KEN
Why is that? Has something recently given you a reality check? If so, be specific.
BONNIE
I just want to eat a little healthier.

TOM
Go for it babe. It’s the Neighborhood Picnic.

KEN
Trying to fatten her up for sex, I see.
(with admiration)
Your culture fascinates me.

Gail shudders at Ken’s inappropriateness.

GAIL
You know, Bonnie, if you’re eating more than normal, maybe there’s a reason. Menopause? Grief?

BONNIE
My father did pass away last April.

GAIL
It’s good to talk about it.

BONNIE
I talk to Tom, and God.

GAIL
But sometimes it’s good to talk to a professional. For those nights when you can still smell your dad’s pipe smoke wafting into the room. You become a scared little girl again. You start thinking about swallowing that bottle of pills in the medicine cabinet so you can feel your daddy holding you in his big strong arms one last time.

Bonnie wipes a tear from her eye.

GAIL (CONT’D)
That’s when you need a professional. Here’s my card.

Gail hands Bonnie her business card.

KEN
Have you guys heard about the formula to find your maximum ice luge speed?
(MORE)
Ken (Cont’d)
It’s your weight divided by three, plus fifteen. What’s your speed, Bonnie?

Bonnie is still reeling from Gail’s hard sell.

Tom
Let’s do me! I’m one-seventy, so divided by three is...

Bonnie sees somebody she knows across the picnic.

BONNIE
I’m so glad Dr. Barr could make it!

Ken turns and sees Dr. Barr (60s, respectable) making a plate of food.

KEN
That’s your doctor?

BONNIE
For our whole family.

Ken jumps up from the table.

BACK TO:

Musical Chairs

When the music stops, Josh elbows a kid to the ground. Some concerned parents are starting to gather around.

Meanwhile

Ken introduces himself to Dr. Barr.

Dr. Barr
You just bought a home on the pond, right? My wife and I live a few houses down from you. Just built a new pier. You know, instead of cedar, I decided to use—

Ken
That’s great. So listen, I’m helping the Klabundes install a hammock on their porch and I’m gonna need to know how much each of them weigh, especially Bonnie.

Dr. Barr
I’m sorry, that would violate doctor-patient confidentiality.
KEN
Perhaps my friend Mr. Hamilton
could change your mind.

Ken slips a twenty into Dr. Barr’s breast pocket.

DR. BARR
Are you trying to bribe me?

Ken dangles a glossy coupon in front of the doctor’s pocket.

KEN
Dockers coupon?

BACK TO:

MUSICAL CHAIRS

It’s down to the last few kids. There’s a crowd gathered around. Josh knocks down a sweet little girl in a dress – drawing BOOS and JEERS from angry adults.

Ken and Gail find each other amidst the scene Josh has created.

KEN (CONT’D)
I think we should get out of here.

GAIL
Before they lynch us.

INT. GABRIEL FAMILY CAR – A FEW MINUTES LATER

Ken drives the family home. Josh has the giant stuffed squirrel on his lap.

GAIL
That was fun.

ANNA
Really? Did you have fun making Bonnie cry?

GAIL
Did I make her cry or did I help her cry? Big difference. She needed it.

Ken enjoys that Gail is being reprimanded.

KEN
You can’t bring her anywhere.
ANNA
And what about you? You tried to bribe the neighborhood doctor.

KEN
I just tried to get him a good deal on khakis.

ANNA
And monkey boy over here -- as if his stench isn’t bad enough -- has to go and beat up a bunch of kids half his size.

JOSH
Dad always says, “win by any means necessary.”

GAIL
He wasn’t being literal.

KEN
Yes, I was.

GAIL
I just hope we didn’t mess anything up with you and Peter.

Anna holds in a smile.

ANNA
No. It’s cool. Peter thinks we’re interesting.

KEN
He didn’t happen to mention how much his mother weighs, did he?

ANNA
(sarcastic)
It didn’t come up.

KEN
Peter would never admit that his mom is two bills, anyway.

ANNA
She’s not two hundred! She’s one-ninety at most.

Ken gleefully pulls out his Book of Wagers.

KEN
You’re in the book.
ANNA
That was not a bet. Erase it.

KEN
Ah but there is no erasing from the Book of Wagers.

ANNA
Why not?

KEN
The book has been in the family seven generations. Gabriels have been writing down their bets in here for over a hundred and fifty years. So don’t ask me about erasing a bet, ask your dead ancestors.

ANNA
You bought the book at K-mart last summer.

KEN
The rules are the rules.

INT. GABRIEL HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

Ken looks around furtively as he makes a secret phone call.

KEN
(into phone)
Hey Tom. The fam and I had such a good time today at the picnic and doggone it, we don’t want the fun to end. Would you guys be interested in coming over later for a little dessert on the boat? (beat)

Great, we’ll see you at nine.

Ken hangs up. Josh enters and looks at his dad curiously.

JOSH
What was that?

KEN
That bet is being settled tonight.

Josh smiles.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

The family is in the kitchen together.

ANNA
(confused)
You invited them over? You never invite anyone over. Ever.

KEN
I thought it might be fun to take them out on the pond.

GAIL
Your dad’s trying. You should encourage him.

KEN
Yeah. Encourage me.

ANNA
(still distrustful)
Okay... I guess.

KEN
Son, I need you to help me get the boat ready.

GAIL
(to Ken, re: Josh)
Just make sure he puts on some deodorant.

KEN
(doesn’t care)
Sure, whatever.

EXT. DOCK - NIGHT

Ken and Josh lift cinder blocks into their boat.

JOSH
What are we doing?

KEN
We are going to turn this boat into a scale.

With each block, the boat sinks a little lower in the water. Josh makes tick marks on the side of the boat with a marker.
KEN (CONT'D)
Each tick mark represents ten pounds. Knowing how much the four of us weigh, I’ve set the other seats as controls. So if we get Bonnie to sit here...

Ken points to a seat.

KEN (CONT’D)
We can determine her weight within ten pounds based on how much the boat sinks into the water.

Josh smiles proudly.

PRE-LAP of the Gabriel’s doorbell RINGING.

INT GABRIEL’S HOUSE – NIGHT
The Klabundes arrive. Everyone exchanges niceties.

TOM
This is so nice that we’re finally getting to know each other. After all, we may need to plan a wedding someday.

Gail is panicked.

GAIL
(scrambling)
The Gabriel family tree is a mess. (hushed tone)
We have a bit of a midget problem.

The Klabundes aren’t sure what to make of this.

INT. KITCHEN – MOMENTS LATER
As Gail and Ken prep dessert together, Ken hums gleefully.

GAIL
What’s going on?

Ken can’t contain himself.

KEN
We’re settling the Bonnie bet.

GAIL
How?
KEN
On the boat. Josh and I made a scale.

GAIL
Oh my god. That genius.
(suddenly realizing)
But we can’t.

KEN
We have to. Thirty years from now, these will be priceless memories for the kids.
(nostalgic)
Remember that time Dad made us weigh the neighbor? He was the greatest.

Gail is torn. She knows it’s funny. She knows its wrong.

GAIL
You can’t do this. This dance is really important to Anna.

KEN
It’s too late Gail. The train has left the station. The pass codes have been entered.
(beat)
We just need to make sure she sits in the right seat.

GAIL
So the train hasn’t left the station?

KEN
Technically, no.

EXT. DOCK – NIGHT
As everyone boards the boat, Ken tries to control the seating from his seat behind the steering wheel.

KEN
Bonnie why don’t you sit in the back corner? That’s where the nicest breeze is.

GAIL
(firmly)
No, Bonnie sit next to me up here.
KEN
(equally firm)
No Gail. She’s our guest. She needs to sit where the nice breeze is.

GAIL
(through her teeth)
It’s chilly out Ken. She doesn’t need a breeze.

BONNIE
I’ll just sit over here.

Bonnie sits down in the non-scale seat. Ken hangs his head, defeated. Josh comes over to Ken looking to console him about their loss.

JOSH
You tried.

Then Ken gets a waft of Josh’s body odor, and gets an idea.

KEN
(motioning with his hand)
Go sit next to Bonnie. Now.

As Josh plants himself next to Bonnie, and she immediately notices the smell.

JOSH
Hey, Mrs. Klabunde.

Ken motions for Josh to lift his arms in the air. Josh follows along, intensifying the odor. She tries breathing off to the side. She tries covering her mouth. It’s no use.

BONNIE
You know what? It is a little warm out. Maybe I will move to that breezier seat.

KEN
That’s a great idea.

Bonnie moves to the other side of the boat. Gail gets up to block Bonnie, and Ken gets up to block Gail.

GAIL
Get out of my way.

KEN
You’re not ruining this for me. I need this.
As Bonnie settles in the scale-seat, Josh peeks over the side of the boat and counts the tick marks.

Anna watches with confusion as her parents tussle.

    ANNA
    Is anybody steering the boat?

We see the boat is veering towards a dock. Dr. Barr sits on the dock fishing. With the Gabriels’ boat heading right for him, Dr. Barr dives off his dock to safety.

Peter lunges for the steering wheel, but it’s too late. The boat CRASHES into Dr. Barr’s dock. Wood splinters as the Gabriels’ boat grinds to a stop.

    KEN
    (to Josh)
    Did we get it?

    JOSH
    We got it.

Dr. Barr climbs to shore.

    DR. BARR
    My new dock!

Ken turns to him.

    KEN
    Oh hey, Dr. Barr. Could you take a look at a rash for me? I think I may need some ointment.

EXT. GABRIEL’S HOUSE - LATER

The Klabundes are saying goodbye to the Gabriels.

    BONNIE
    This was interesting.

    GAIL
    So sorry. We aren’t normally so reckless on the water.

Bonnie and Tom leave the house. Peter lingers to say good night to Anna.

    ANNA
    What time you want to pick me up tomorrow?
PETER
I don’t think the dance is such a good idea anymore.

ANNA
(caught off guard)
Because of the boat crash?

PETER
No. Because you guys weighed my mom.

Peter hands her the Book of Wagers.

PETER (CONT’D)
Your dad dropped this.

Anna is shocked, mortified. She looks back at Ken.

ANNA
You didn’t...

KEN
The good news is you won.

JOSH
Yeah, congrats.

Peter leaves. Anna runs upstairs angrily.

JOSH (CONT’D)
Sore winner.

INT. ANNA’S BEDROOM – THE NEXT NIGHT

Anna is sitting at her computer, head phones on, sullen. Her Homecoming dress is on the floor. Ken enters.

KEN
This is your first win since Birth Mark or Burn Victim.

(nostalgic)
Now that was a bet.

Anna doesn’t respond.

KEN (CONT’D)
You don’t want to be at that dance tonight. Moving your body rhythmically to music is one of the most nonsensical things humans do.

Ken “dances” by mockingly bending his knees.
ANNA
Please leave.

KEN
Anna--

ANNA
I said, leave.

Ken knows he’s in trouble.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ken walks in and finds Gail on the phone...

GAIL
Are you sure Mrs. Schultz? With a husband who travels that much, I’d be paranoid if I were you. He could have a whole other family somewhere. Good to talk to somebody.

(beat)
Alright then.

Gail hangs up.

KEN
(genuinely hurting)
She still won’t talk to me.

GAIL
I hope your little bet was worth it.

KEN
It’s like they say, if you weigh the bull sometimes you get the horns.

GAIL
She’s the only one in her class not going to that dance.

Ken thinks about it. He feels badly until...

KEN
I got it.

PRE-LAP SIREN
EXT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

The high school is surrounded by emergency vehicles.

Next to the front door of the school sits a lone backpack.

A BOMB SQUAD, wearing haz-mat suits, operate a remote controlled bomb-diffusing robot. They steer it toward the backpack.

BOMB SQUAD CAPTAIN
Building is clear. Proceed to unzip target alpha-one.

The robotic device slowly unzips the backpack.

BOMB SQUAD CAPTAIN (CONT'D)
Do we have an image?

A couple of TECHS analyze a video screen.

TECH 1
Image up.

TECH 2
It looks likes baked goods. Pies I believe.

REVEAL Ken parked in his car across the street, watching the whole scene from behind dark sunglasses. He drives off, a sly smile on his face.

INT. GABRIEL HOUSE - NIGHT

Ken and Gail do crosswords in bed. Anna enters, alarmed.

ANNA
The news says there was a bomb threat at the high school.

KEN
Yeah. They had to cancel the whole thing. Turns out you weren’t the only one who didn’t go.

Anna looks at Ken suspiciously.

ANNA
You didn’t have anything to do with this, did you?

Ken shrugs coyly.
KEN
The less you know the better.
Anna rolls her eyes at her dad, but we can tell she’s amused.

ANNA
Can I be honest with you?

KEN
You’re relieved because you didn’t really want to go to that dance?

Anna gives Ken a hug.

ANNA
Thanks dad.

Anna exits. Ken turns to Gail.

KEN
Today it’s a stupid dance, what’s next? Sleepovers? Team sports? How much more torture will we have to endure?

GAIL
You’re probably going to have to deal with people not named Gabriel, every now and then.

KEN
I’m sure we’ll find ways to amuse ourselves.

Gail shakes her head -- she knows Ken is a lost cause.

GAIL
We’re not gonna last a year here, are we?

KEN
(intrigued)
That’s an interesting question.

Ken digs around in the night stand drawer.

KEN (CONT’D)
Where’s the Book of Wagers?

END OF ACT THREE
INT. GABRIEL HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ken is sitting down across from Josh. Ken has his iPad handy. They are back to the “inside laugh/outside laugh” lessons.

KEN
Amputee.

JOSH
That’s a tough one.
(unsure)
Inside laugh?

KEN
Excellent. You’re really getting the hang of this. Now I’m just gonna make a slight adjustment here.

Ken changes the image again and holds it up for Josh.

KEN (CONT’D)
Double amputee.

Josh is really perplexed. His wheels start turning.

JOSH
If amputee is inside laugh, then double amputee is a double negative, so... outside laugh?

KEN
We’ll keep working on it.

END OF SHOW