

THE NEW 20

by
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Second Network Draft

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ACT ONE

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. CUMBERLAND KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - MORNING

AN UPSCALE KITCHEN. DEAN CUMBERLAND (40), A GOOD-LOOKING, FIT SURGEON ENTERS IN BASKETBALL ATTIRE WITH HIS LIFELONG BEST FRIEND, SETH SULLIVAN (40), ALSO IN HOOPS WEAR. SETH IS NOT SO IN SHAPE. THEY'VE JUST PLAYED A PICK-UP GAME.

DEAN

My only question is this; are you aware that you travel every time you drive to the hoop?

SETH

That's an illusion because my first step is so quick.

SETH SITS HEAVILY AT THE TABLE AND TAKES OFF ONE OF HIS TWO KNEE BRACES. DEAN OBSERVES.

DEAN

Yeah, you're a blur out there. (THEN, AMAZED AT ALL OF SETH'S BRACES) Do you have polio?

SETH LAUGHS SARCASTICALLY. DEAN HANDS HIM A BEER.

SETH

I hope you're savoring these last few hoops games.

DEAN

I'll still have time for hoops.

SETH

Not once the kid comes. (OFF BIKE IN THE CORNER) And there's no putting on your shiny tights and biking either. In fact, you should just give the bike to me.

DEAN

(RE: SETH'S GUT) Are you going to ride it to the bakery?

SETH

Maybe. Or I might make love to my wife on it.

DEAN

Not without a spotter.

SETH

I'm a young empty nester, bra. My future is full of bikes. And afternoon sex in the living room. And sleeping in. And getting baked. And RV'ing.

DEAN

You realize you're not retiring, right?

SETH

I'm retiring from day to day parenting. And now I'm on adult spring break.

DEAN

(HEARD IT BEFORE) Like the one you
never got to go on.

SETH

Like the one I never got to go on.

DEAN

To Daytona Beach.

SETH

Only the college boys were invited.

DEAN

(ENOUGH ALREADY) You had just had a
baby.

SETH

Exactly. I was living the life of a
forty year old at twenty and now I'm
reversing that. And you, you're just
beginning a slow slide to load city.

DEAN

Don't worry about me. I got it.

SETH

He's got it, folks! Dr. Cumberland's
got parenting! Scrubbing in like it's
another surgery.

DEAN

Give me the knife and let me slice.

SETH

He's cutting open his baby. Good God.
You have no idea what's coming.

(MORE)

SETH (CONT'D)

(LOOKING AROUND) Do you even have a
crib?

DEAN

(NEVER HEARD OF IT) What's a crib?

SETH

(INSPECTING FURTHER) And I see you
haven't baby-proofed.

DEAN

You need to relax.

SETH

I can't. I'm in a baby death trap.

SETH WALKS OVER TO A BOOK SHELF AND SHAKES IT HARD. A BIG
BOOK FALLS TO THE GROUND WITH A THUD.

SETH (CONT'D)

Ow Dad, I was just crushed on the soft
spot of my head by a pretentious art
book. By the way, babies have a soft
spot on their head.

DEAN

Yeah, we actually covered both heads
and babies in medical school.

SETH

And what do we have here?

SETH STICKS HIS FINGER IN AN ELECTRIC SOCKET, CONVULSES LIKE
HE'S AN ELECTROCUTED BABY.

DEAN

Okay, please stop killing my baby.

CUT TO:

SCENE B

INT. CUMBERLAND LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT DAY

TESS (40), DEAN'S BEAUTIFUL AND VERY PREGNANT WIFE, SITS ON THE COUCH READING THE PAPER. DEAN BRINGS HER A MUG OF TEA.

DEAN

I thought you might like some tea.

TESS

Aren't you sweet? (THEN) Hey, what do you think of the name Lee?

DEAN

I think we're having a girl, not a Confederate general.

TESS

Well, I still like Caroline.

DEAN

Our baby can't have the same name as Seth's new RV. It's confusing.

CAROLINE

Why? Are they going to be in school together? (THEN) Did you get a crib?

DEAN

I'm still researching.

TESS

What does that mean?

DEAN

I did not get a crib.

TESS

You are aware that this baby is
coming. There's no stopping her.

DEAN

I'll get it tomorrow.

TESS

It's not just the crib. You haven't
read any of the books. You didn't
even sit down with our mid-wife.

DEAN

That's a protest. I'm a surgeon,
Tess. Mid-wives are like our enemies.

TESS

Wouldn't cancer be your enemy? AIDS?
Tuberculosis?

DEAN

Mid-wives are our human enemy.

TESS

Grace has done over a hundred births.

DEAN

I don't care how many notches she's
put in her dream catcher, she's not a
doctor. It's like you're spitting in
the face of science.

TESS

When you give birth to a baby, you can
use whoever you want.

DEAN

I did give birth and I did use a
doctor. My kidney stone?

TESS

Please.

DEAN

They say it's the male equivalent of
childbirth.

TESS

Yeah, men say that. Sweetheart, I'm
being serious. I don't want to feel
alone during this whole thing.

DEAN

(HUGGING HER) You're not alone. I'll
get the crib and read the books.

TESS

Thank you.

DEAN

How about the name Anne?

TESS

I love it. Of course, I'm partial.
It's my middle name.

DEAN

(BEAT) I should know that.

ON TESS AGREEING HE SHOULD, WE;

CUT TO:

ACT BREAK

ACT TWO

SCENE C

INT. SULLIVAN KITCHEN - LATER

AMY, SETH'S WIFE, A PRETTY FORMER TOMBOY, SITS AT THE KITCHEN TABLE HAVING COFFEE. SETH WALKS IN WEARING A ROBE.

SETH

What time is it?

AMY

Eleven.

SETH

Yes! I wanted to get up at ten, but I ignored the full bladder and just gutted it out.

AMY

You're a real sleep warrior.

SETH GRABS A CUP OF COFFEE.

SETH

So what are we going to do on this fine Saturday? Beach? Movie? Afternoon lovemaking sesh in the living room?

AMY

I thought we'd plant those peonies near the oak tree.

SETH

Gardening? Doesn't sex in the kid
free living room sound more fun?

AMY

Hey, I wanted to fool around this
morning but you blew me off.

SETH

I was going for a sleep record.

AMY

Snooze you lose.

SETH

Can we at least get high first?

AMY

If that makes pruning more fun for
you, knock yourself out. (THEN) I
almost forgot. I have a surprise for
you.

SETH

(MOVES TOWARD HER, SEXY) Do you?

AMY

You know how you're always talking
about wanting to know Spanish?

SETH

(STILL SEXY) Si.

AMY

I signed us up for Spanish I.

SHE HANDS HIM A BROCHURE.

SETH

(NO LONGER SEXY) Wow. And it's on
Saturday night.

AMY

That's when the best teacher is; Senor
O'Connor. And I thought maybe we
could bike to class.

SETH

No. I don't want to bike with you.

AMY

We won't race.

SETH

You always say that and then you do.

AMY

It's true. I love to race. (THEN)
Don't forget bug spray, the mosquitoes
are brutal.

SHE HEADS OUT AND SETH REALIZES HE HAS TO GARDEN.

CUT TO:

SCENE D

INT. CUMBERLAND LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

SETH KNOCKS ON THE DOOR. DEAN ANSWERS IT.

SETH

Surprise.

DEAN

What's up?

SETH

I know you needed a crib, so...

SETH REVEALS A GIANT WOOD CRIB.

SETH (CONT'D)

I present to you the Sullivan family
crib. Made by a licensed contractor.
(GESTURES TO HIMSELF) This guy. A
gift from my family to yours.

DEAN

Cool. (INSPECTING THE CORNER POSTS)
Are these little...goblins?

SETH

Clowns. Hand-carved. Both my kids
loved them. Except Pete. Who came
into this world with circus fears.

DEAN

This is perfect. Thank you.

SETH

My pleasure.

DEAN

So how's adult spring break?

SETH

I spent the morning gardening.

DEAN

I remember how they gardened in
Daytona Beach. The girls all drunk in
their big green rubber boots, coyly
throwing potting soil.

SETH

And then we went for a bike ride. Amy
raced and beat me.

DEAN

So she's still undefeated.

SETH

And, drum roll please, I've got
Spanish class tonight.

DEAN

Saturday night Spanish class? Dude,
she's choosing all the empty nest
activities.

SETH

She's dictating the pace of play.
It's all her ideas of fun.

DEAN

You've got to get some of your stuff
on the schedule.

SETH

I suggested getting high and making
daytime love.

DEAN

You really want to live the exact
twenties you were on course to live.

SETH

I also suggested a movie.

DEAN

You need to come up with real stuff.
Real interests. Something just for
you.

SETH

(THINKING) Something just for me...

DEAN

Come on. If you could do anything in
the world, first thing that pops into
your head, no wrong answer.

SETH

Take voice lessons.

DEAN

No. Not that. Can't be that.

SETH

(THINKS BEAT, THEN) Learn the guitar.

DEAN

Learn the guitar! That you can do.

SETH

The Chinese kid next door plays and it looks fun. Not for him. His Dad really rides him. But it seems like it should be fun.

DEAN

Sounds like we need to do some guitar shopping.

SETH

I'll ask the Chinese kid for some recs. And learn his name. I should know that.

DEAN GRABS THE SIDE OF THE CRIB.

DEAN

Let's put this in the corner.
(STRAINING TO LIFT) Mother of God.
It's heavy.

SETH

Solid oak, built to earthquakes code.
No safer place to be when the big one hits.

CUT TO:

SCENE E

INT. CUMBERLAND LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT DAY

TESS IS FOLDING TINY BABY CLOTHES. DEAN WHEELS THE GIANT CRIB IN FROM THE KITCHEN.

DEAN

Ta da. Our new crib.

TESS

(LOOKING UP FROM FOLDING) No.

DEAN

What do you mean "no"?

TESS

It's a wooden monstrosity.

DEAN

She's built to code. There's no safer place to be when the big one hits.

TESS

It's like a medieval pit where you fight babies.

DEAN

It's a gift from the Sullivans. Seth made it.

TESS

That's very sweet. No.

DEAN

Did you see the goblin clown carvings? Some kids love them.

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TESS

Please go buy a crib.

ON DEAN'S DEFEATED LOOK.

CUT TO:

SCENE H

INT. SULLIVAN LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

AMY'S AT THE KITCHEN TABLE, DRESSED FOR A BIKE RIDE. SETH COMES DOWN.

SETH

What time is it?

AMY

Ten forty-five.

SETH

Damnit.

AMY

You're off your sleep game. (THEN) I thought it'd be fun to go for another bike ride.

SETH

I don't think so.

AMY

Because I beat you? We can switch bikes. You take the three speed.

SETH

I've actually got an errand.

AMY

Where?

SETH

The guitar store.

AMY

What's at the guitar store?

SETH

The freshest corn in town. What do
you think?

AMY

You're taking up the guitar?

SETH

Yup.

AMY

That sounds like fun.

SETH

Rock stars seem to enjoy it.

AMY

Well, maybe I'll go with you.

SETH TAKES A DEEP BREATH AND SITS DOWN ACROSS FROM HER.

SETH

I was thinking, you know, it might be
good for us to have things we do
together and then things we like to do
on our own. Our own passions.

AMY

What about Spanish?

SETH

You can have Spanish.

AMY

You always said you wanted to know it.

SETH

Yeah, I want to know Spanish. Not
learn it. I want someone to download
it into my head.

AMY

Why didn't you say something?

SETH

I am.

AMY

Okay. That's fine. You do the guitar
and I'll do Spanish.

SETH

Thanks honey.

HE KISSES HER AND LEAVES.

AMY

I want to do guitar.

CUT TO:

SCENE J

INT. GUITAR STORE - LATER

DEAN AND SETH BROWSE AROUND A GIANT GUITAR CENTER.

SETH

How about as a back-up crib?

DEAN

Nope, she says she doesn't even want
it in the house.

SETH

That's harsh. Both my kids loved that
crib.

DEAN

Except Pete.

SETH

Yeah, he'd get a little skittish in
there.

DEAN

Anyway, the heat's on. I've got to
get a crib. Tomorrow. For sure.

(NOTICES A COOL GUITAR) Dude.

HE PICKS UP IT UP.

DEAN (CONT'D)

This is the guitar Eddie played. Van
Halen at the Forum. Sophomore year.

SETH PICKS IT UP.

SETH

It's pretty sweet but I want to go
acoustic.

DEAN

You want to un-plug?

SETH

(PICKS UP ANOTHER GUITAR) Look at
this beauty.

DEAN STUDIES IT A BEAT.

DEAN

It seems small.

SETH

It's a travel guitar. Which is good
for me because I'll be playing outside
a lot. At the park and whatnot.

DEAN PICKS UP ONE RIGHT NEXT TO IT.

DEAN

It does feel good in the hands. They
usually feel too big.

SETH

The Chinese kid next door has one.
They're awesome.

DEAN

Yeah. This feels real good.

ON DEAN'S SMILE, WE;

CUT TO:

SCENE K

INT. CUMBERLAND LIVING ROOM - LATER

DEAN WALKS IN WITH A GUITAR. HE'S SURPRISED TO SEE TESS ON THE COUCH.

DEAN

Are you okay?

TESS

I'm having contractions.

DEAN

What? Already?

DEAN CROSSES TO HER, CONCERNED.

TESS

Yeah. She's early. Did you get the crib?

DEAN

Nope. I got a guitar. (OFF HER LOOK)

I thought I had a month.

AS THEY GET READY TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL, WE;

CUT TO:

ACT BREAK

ACT THREE

SCENE 1

INT. CUMBERLAND LIVING ROOM - TWO DAYS LATER

DEAN IS ON THE GROUND, PUTTING TOGETHER THE CRIB. TESS IS ON THE COUCH, PEERING INTO A BASKET CONTAINING AN UNSEEN BABY.

TESS

She doesn't have that crazy baby cone head.

DEAN

That's because she's perfect.

TESS

No, it's because Grace did a great job with the birth.

DEAN

I could've done without the chanting.

KNOCK AT THE DOOR. DEAN CROSSES. IT'S SETH AND AMY.

SETH

There they are!

DEAN

Come in, come in.

HUGS ALL AROUND. SETH AND AMY PEER IN AT THE BABY.

AMY

Oh my God! I just want to eat her.

SETH

She's beautiful.

AMY

(TO TESS) I cannot believe you did this without drugs. When I had Pete, my vagina was higher than Seth.

SETH

In my defense, Weird Science had just come out on video and the baby was two days early.

TESS

The birth really wasn't that bad. Dean was right by my side. Well, next to Grace.

DEAN

She took pole position. Boxed me out of my own daughter's birth.

SETH NOTICES THE DISASSEMBLED CRIB ON THE FLOOR.

SETH

Trying to put the crib together?

DEAN

I am putting the crib together.

SETH

Want me to take a look?

DEAN

I got it.

SETH

You know I'm handy.

DEAN

I'm handy. I fix human hearts.
That's like the ultimate handy.

TESS

Are you sure we even need a crib? The
baby could just sleep in the guitar.

AMY

(OFF SETH) Your genius got one too?

TESS

Oh yeah. Every new Dad needs a small
girl's guitar.

DEAN

It's a *travel* guitar.

SETH

They're good if you like to play
outdoors.

AMY

And how's that going? The jam
sessions in the park?

SETH

I'm starting lessons with the Chinese
kid next week.

AMY

Terry?

SETH

Is it Terry? Good to know.

TESS

(NOTICING BABY) Looks like somebody
needs to be changed. (PICKS HER UP)
I'm going to put her in that little
outfit you guys got us.

AMY

Can I come? I want to see all her
little clothes!

THEY CROSS OFF.

SETH

So how's it going new Dad?

DEAN

It's good.

SETH

Greatest thing ever. Absolutely.
(BEAT, THEN) Stressful, though.

DEAN

(COCKY) Not really.

SETH

That's because you've been in the
hospital. They take care of
everything. It's like a hotel.

DEAN

Not a great hotel. There's a lot of
blood.

SETH

Well, you're home now and it's about
to get real.

(MORE)

SETH (CONT'D)

For the first time in your life,
you're responsible for another person.
It's not about Dean-O anymore. No
more jetting off to Paris.

DEAN

Did France go through with that baby
ban?

SETH

But don't worry. I'll be there when
it gets hairy. And bra, it will get
hairy.

DEAN

Cool.

SETH

I've been in the poop. Literally. So
whatever you need, I'm here. To help.
Share a little wisdom. Whatever.

DEAN

Cool.

SETH

Cool. (LONG BEAT, CAN'T TAKE IT) I
don't feel like you appreciate the
offer I just made.

DEAN

Well, I didn't ask for help.

SETH

You're not so arrogant as to think you
can get through this on your own?

DEAN

I might be that arrogant.

SETH

Fantastic. Then consider my offer
pulled. Baby X will get no help from
Uncle Seth.

DEAN

Actually, we're not doing the fake
uncle thing.

SETH

What does that mean?

DEAN

Tess had a lot of fake uncles growing
up and it was confusing for her. Only
real uncles are going to be called
uncle.

SETH

So I'm just Seth? (DEAN NODS) And I
was going to re-name the RV Louise and
give you Caroline.

DEAN

Really?

SETH

Not anymore buddy, not anymore.

AS SETH STORMS OFF, WE;

CUT TO:

SCENE M

INT. SULLIVAN LIVING ROOM - NEXT DAY

SETH PLUCKS AWAY AT HIS GUITAR. HE HAS NO IDEA HOW TO PLAY.
AMY LISTENS IN THE DOORWAY.

AMY

That's really beautiful. Did you
write that?

SETH

Yeah, it's called Smart Ass. I don't
want to blow you away but it's about
you.

AMY

So I'm like Sharona from "My Sharona"?

SETH

Exactly.

AMY

Hey, we need to talk.

SETH

I know. I feel kind of bad about
freezing you out of my guitar hobby.

AMY

Well, it's important that we have our
own things.

SETH

No, you just wanted to do stuff
together and that's what I want too.
So...

HE HANDS HER A BOX. SHE OPENS IT.

AMY

A harmonica?

SETH

I thought we could jam. Maybe some
blue grass.

AMY

That's really sweet. (THEN) I got a
job.

SETH

What?

AMY

At St. Judes. Coaching Girls
Softball. The varsity.

SETH

I didn't even know you were looking.

AMY

Well, you got me thinking when you
said we should do our own thing.

SETH

You know, I rarely know what I'm
talking about.

AMY

No, you were right.

SETH

I'm just surprised. I didn't know you wanted to work.

AMY

I didn't. I loved being a Mom but the kids are gone and I'm like what's my identity now?

SETH

So you went for softball coach?

AMY

You know how much I loved coaching Tiffany's teams. And this school is great. The girls have their own weight room.

SETH

Do they need that? (THEN) What about doing stuff together?

AMY

We'll have plenty of time.

SETH

Well... (BEAT, NO CHOICE)

Congratulations, honey.

THEY KISS. ON AMY EXCITED AND SETH PUTTING ON A BRAVE FACE,
WE;

CUT TO:

SCENE P

INT. CUMBERLAND LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

DEAN WALKS IN LOOKING WIPED OUT. TESS EMERGES FROM THE
BEDROOM CARRYING THE BABY.

DEAN

That was a rough one. Six hour by-
pass surgery.

TESS

I wish I got to give someone heart
surgery.

DEAN

It's not really that relaxing.
Because you could kill them.

TESS

My boobs hurt from that breast pump.
I feel like a cow.

DEAN

You're going to lose the weight.

TESS

Because the pump attaches to my breast
like they're udders. That's why I
feel like a cow.

DEAN

Well...you look great.

TESS

(LOOKING AT HER AWAKE BABY) I just don't understand why she's up all the time? Does she have baby insomnia?

DEAN

Why don't you take off? Let me hang with her.

TESS

You want to solo? You've never done that.

DEAN

Take the whole day. The doctor is in.
SHE HANDS HIM THE BABY.

TESS

Deal. I pumped. It's in the fridge.

DEAN

Got it. Go do something to relieve that stress. Go to the gym. (OFF HER LOOK) Not because you need to but because you want to.

SHE EXITS. DEAN TAKES A DEEP BREATH. HE LOOKS AT HIS BABY. HE SMILES. SHE WAILS. ON HIS LOOK, WE;

CUT TO:

SCENE R

INT. SULLIVAN LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

SETH SITS ALONE ON THE COUCH WITH HIS GUITAR AND THE HARMONICA ON A STAND AROUND HIS NECK. HE STARTS TO PLAY BOTH INSTRUMENTS SIMULTANEOUSLY. HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO PLAY EITHER. IT SOUNDS LOUD AND TERRIBLE. HE'S GETTING INTO IT UNTIL HE HEARS...

TEENAGER (O.S.)

(SHOUTING FROM NEXT DOOR) Hey Mr. Sullivan, could you keep it down. I'm trying to practice.

SETH

(SHOUTING BACK) Sorry, Terry.

SETH SITS WITH HIS INSTRUMENTS. BEAT. HE'S BORED.

CUT TO:

SCENE 5

INT. CUMBERLAND LIVING ROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

DEAN WALKS WITH A WAILING BABY TRYING TO COMFORT IT.

DEAN

Okay. You're okay. How about a song?
I don't know a lot of lyrics. I'm not
really a singer, guitar's my thing.
(BABY WAILS LOUDER) Okay. How about
some Pete Townshend. (STARTS SINGING
LIKE A LULLABY) *Rough boys don't walk
away, I nearly missed you.* (THE BABY
QUIETS DOWN) *Tough boys, come over
here, I want to bite and kiss you.*

DEAN STOPS SINGING, CONFUSED BY THE HOMOEROTIC LYRICS.

DEAN (CONT'D)

What is this song about? And why is
it the only one I know?

THE BABY STARTS CRYING AGAIN.

RESET TO:

INT. CUMBERLAND KITCHEN

DEAN CROSSES TO THE KITCHEN AND PULLS OUT A BOTTLE OF BREAST
MILK AND STARTS TO ASSEMBLE A COMPLICATED TOP FOR IT.

DEAN

Just have to put on the special nipple
so you don't get gas.

(MORE)

DEAN (CONT'D)

Because if you get gas, you...well,
you don't really seem like you could
get more upset but we don't want to
know what that looks like. And here's
the milk.

THE BABY STARTS DRINKING FROM THE BOTTLE AND THEN THE TOP
COMES OFF SPILLING MILK ALL OVER HER.

DEAN (CONT'D)

Oh, I'm so sorry. We'll get you a new
outfit.

RESET TO:

INT. NURSERY - MOMENTS LATER

DEAN CARRIES HER INTO THE NEXT ROOM, STILL CRYING. HE
SEARCHES FRANTICALLY THROUGH HER DRAWERS FOR AN OUTFIT. HE
PLACES HER IN HER CRIB AND PLACES OUTFITS NEXT TO HER.

DEAN

These are all giant.

HE NOTICES A STUFFED PADDINGTON BEAR WEARING A YELLOW
RAINCOAT. ITS ABOUT THE RIGHT SIZE.

CUT TO:

SCENE T

INT. SULLIVAN LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

SETH IS STANDING IN FRONT OF HIS MIRROR WEARING THE GUITAR WITH THE STRAP AROUND HIS NECK. HE THEN REVERSES IT, PUTS THE GUITAR ON HIS BACK AND ONLY THE STRAP IS IN THE FRONT - A VINTAGE 80'S ROCK GUITARIST ALBUM COVER LOOK.

SETH

We call this the Gunslinger.

HE THEN KICKS OUT HIS FRONT LEG LIKE HE'S DAVID LEE ROTH.

CUT TO:

SCENE V

INT. NURSERY - A FEW MINUTES LATER

THE BABY IS WEARING THE TEDDY BEAR'S YELLOW SLICKER. DEAN PLACES HER IN THE CRIB. SHE'S STILL CRYING. HE TURNS A NOISE MACHINE ON. TROPICAL RAIN FOREST SOUNDS. BEAT. SHE CRIES. HE PICKS UP THE PHONE.

CUT TO:

SCENE W

INT. SULLIVAN LIVING ROOM -CONTINUOUS

TIGHT ON THE PHONE AS IT RINGS. PAN DOWN TO SETH, WHO'S ATTEMPTED THE SPLITS IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR A LA DAVID LEE ROTH. HE STRUGGLES TO GET UP AND ANSWERS THE PHONE.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. CUMBERLAND NURSERY - CONTINUOUS

DEAN ON THE PHONE.

DEAN

What's popping?

SETH

My groins. (THEN, OFF BACKGROUND NOISE) Is that your baby crying in the jungle?

DEAN

She's a little fussy right now.

SETH REALIZES DEAN'S IN THE WEEDS.

SETH

(FISHING) How's it going?

DEAN

Good. Why don't you come over?

SETH

And...

DEAN

Hang out with me and the baby.

SETH

Because...

DEAN

She won't stop crying.

SETH

And you need...

DEAN

Just come over.

SETH

Sure. One condition. You name her
Seth.

DEAN

No.

SETH

I demand to be an uncle.

DEAN

Get over here.

DEAN HANGS UP.

SETH

Yes!

SETH BOLTS OUT THE DOOR.

CUT TO:

SCENE X

INT. CUMBERLAND KITCHEN - AN HOUR LATER

DEAN HOLDS THE BABY AS SETH CHECKS THE TEMPERATURE OF THE MILK. THERE ARE TWO EMPTY BOTTLES ON THE COUNTER.

SETH

She wasn't drinking the milk because it was too cold. But it can't be too hot either. That's just knowledge that comes from experience. Experiential knowledge. You'll pick it up. It's about listening, learning, respecting. Respecting the teacher. The teacher being me.
(POURS MILK ON BACK OF HAND) This temp is just right.

DEAN

Then let's have it Goldilocks.

SETH CROSSES OVER AND HANDS DEAN THE BOTTLE. DEAN STARTS TO FEED THE BABY. SETH GENTLY LOWERS DEAN'S FEEDING HAND.

SETH

Not too high. The bottle should be roughly parallel with the ground.

SETH WATCHES DEAN FEED HER, THRILLED TO BE HELPING.

CUT TO:

SCENE Y

INT. CUMBERLAND LIVING ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

SETH AND DEAN WATCH THE BABY SLEEP IN HER LITTLE CHAIR. NOTE ABOUT THE LIVING ROOM: IT HAS GLASS DOORS THAT VIEW OUT ONTO THE PATIO.

DEAN

Thanks man.

SETH

Hey, that's what uncles do.

DEAN

No.

SETH

To be determined.

DEAN

No.

SETH

Let's have a beer.

DEAN

I've gotta stay sharp in case she starts wailing again.

SETH

One beer. You got to savor the victories. When's the last time you even had a beer?

DEAN

Three days ago.

SETH

See?

DEAN

That's not really that long ago.

SETH CROSSES TO THE KITCHEN.

RESET TO:

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

SETH GETS A COUPLE OF BEERS OUT. HE TOSSES ONE TO DEAN.
DEAN NOTICES SETH'S GUITAR.

DEAN

Why'd you bring that?

SETH

I take it everywhere - it's a travel
guitar. Hey, check this out.

SETH SLINGS THE GUITAR OVER HIS BACK AGAIN.

SETH (CONT'D)

The Gunslinger.

DEAN

Whoa.

DEAN GRABS HIS INSTRUMENT AND DOES THE SAME THING.

DEAN (CONT'D)

Just once I'd love to walk into
surgery with this baby on my back.

THEY STAND TOGETHER A BEAT, A COUPLE OF GUNSLINGERS. THE
BABY STIRS.

SETH

We should put her in her crib.

DEAN

Yeah.

SETH

My crib.

DEAN

No. Tess hates that thing.

SETH

Just try it. Where is it?

DEAN

Out on the patio.

SETH

That doesn't even stress me out
because it's totally weatherproofed.
Let's get it.

DEAN, TOO TIRED TO PUT UP A FIGHT, HEADS OUT TO GET IT.

RESET TO:

EXT. PATIO - CONTINUOUS

DEAN CROSSES TO GET THE CRIB. SETH FOLLOWS.

DEAN

Don't close the doo--

SETH CLOSSES THE DOOR BEHIND HIM. TRIES TO OPEN IT. CAN'T.

SETH

It's locked.

DEAN

Why?

SETH

I didn't want the baby to get out.

DEAN

She can't hold up her own head.

SETH

Just get the hide a key. (OFF DEAN'S
GLARE) See, that's part of baby-
proofing. Having a spare key.

DEAN LOOKS THROUGH THE GLASS DOOR AT THE BABY. SHE STARTS TO
CRY.

DEAN

She's crying.

SETH

You know what you gotta do.

DEAN

What?

SETH

You gotta jump through the glass door.

DEAN

What are you talking about?

SETH

It's like the Mom who pulls the car
off her kid. It's what parents do.

DEAN

You never once jumped through a glass
door.

SETH

I was never called upon.

JUST THEN, TESS WALKS IN THE DOOR.

DEAN

Oh good, Tess is home.

AND THIS IS WHAT TESS SEES. HER CRYING BABY ALL ALONE IN THE ROOM AND HER HUSBAND AND HIS BEST FRIEND LOCKED OUT ON THE PATIO, BEERS IN HANDS, GUITARS SLUNG OVER SHOULDERS GUNSLINGER STYLE. SHE GLARES AT DEAN.

DEAN (CONT'D)

Oh no, Tess is home.

SHE WALKS PAST DEAN, PICKS UP THE BABY AND CROSSES OFF WITHOUT LETTING THEM IN. BEAT.

SETH

Think how much less pissed she'd be if
you were covered in shattered glass.

ON DEAN IN TROUBLE, WE;

CUT TO:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

SCENE Z

INT. CUMBERLAND LIVING ROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

DEAN SHIMMIES IN THROUGH AN OPEN WINDOW AND LANDS WITH A THUD ON THE FLOOR. TESS IS HOLDING THE BABY.

DEAN

How was the gym?

TESS

(RE: BABY'S OUTFIT) She's in Paddington's yellow slicker? Were you expecting indoor rain?

DEAN

I'm sorry.

TESS

Oh my God. (SEES EMPTY BOTTLES) What the hell happened to all my breast milk?

DEAN

I'm sorry.

TESS

That stuff is liquid gold!

DEAN

I'm sorry.

TESS

You're scaring me, Dean. It was one thing when you weren't preparing when I was pregnant. I thought "Oh, he'll get it together when the baby comes." But the baby's here and I can't even leave her alone with you? That's not fair. I can't do this by myself.

SHE STORMS OFF. DEAN CALLS AFTER HER.

DEAN

I'm sorry.

BEAT.

SETH (O.S.)

(FROM OUTSIDE WINDOW) Is she gone?

CUT TO:

SCENE AA

EXT. CUMBERLAND DRIVEWAY - A LITTLE LATER

DEAN AND SETH STAND BY THE RV. "CAROLINE" IS AIRBRUSHED ON THE SIDE. DEAN GESTURES TO THE RV.

DEAN

Is it smart to use this for short drives?

SETH

I love the satellite radio.

DEAN SITS ON THE BUMPER OF THE RV. BEAT. HE TURNS TO SETH.

DEAN

You lied to me. You told me to have kids. It's a "blast".

SETH

Gotcha.

DEAN

I'm serious. I'm exhausted, I'm not connecting with the baby, Tess hates me.

SETH

It's only been a week.

DEAN

It's been a bad week.

SETH

Dude, it's going to get amazing. Trust me.

DEAN

Why is it amazing?

SETH

You'll see.

DEAN

Seriously, everyone says being a
parent is so amazing but they never
tell you why.

SETH

You'll see.

DEAN

No, I'm a parent now and I don't see.

SETH

You will.

DEAN

I'm going to hit you.

SETH

Believe me, I wish I was just starting
out with my kids again.

DEAN

Please. You're on adult spring break.
You've talked about this forever.

SETH

Amy got a job.

DEAN

Really?

SETH

Yeah, she's going to coach softball at St. Jude's.

DEAN

I've seen those girls practice. They have giant shoulders.

SETH

It's like all of a sudden, my kids are gone, my wife isn't home and who am I? I was always the young family guy, the one everyone looked up to because he could totally deal.

DEAN

I don't know if --

SETH

And now all I do is stand in front of a mirror with a guitar.

DEAN

Well, you could actually learn to *play* the guitar.

SETH

I'm serious. I don't know who I am anymore.

DEAN

(BEAT) I'll tell you who you are.

SETH

Who?

DEAN

You're Uncle Seth.

BEAT. SETH IS MOVED. AND THEN WE HEAR FROM THE DOORWAY.

TESS (O.S.)

No!

THE DOOR CLOSES.

DEAN

Sorry.

SETH

It felt good. To hear it. I'm not
going to lie.

ON DEAN'S APOLOGETIC LOOK, WE;

CUT TO:

SCENE BB

INT. SULLIVAN LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

SETH ENTERS THE DARKENED ROOM, WITH HIS GUITAR. FROM THE COUCH HE HEARS A HARMONICA. HE LOOKS OVER. IT'S AMY. WE STAY TIGHT ON HIS FACE.

SETH

Hey, you're wearing nothing but a harmonica.

AMY (O.S.)

Well, it's not the afternoon but it is the living room and the kids won't be home for, well, forever...

SETH

Oh, they're gone, aren't they?

AMY (O.S.)

Yes, they are.

SETH SLINGS THE GUITAR ONTO HIS BACK AND HEADS TO HIS WIFE.

CUT TO:

SCENE CC

INT. CUMBERLAND LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

THE LIVING ROOM IS DARK. DEAN IS FEEDING THE BABY. TESS ENTERS, GROGGY.

TESS

When did she wake up? I didn't even
hear her.

DEAN

It's alright. I got her.

TESS STANDS NEXT TO DEAN AND LOOKS AT THE BABY.

DEAN (CONT'D)

I think we should name her Caroline.

TESS

Really? What about the RV?

DEAN

I don't care. It's a great name.

TESS

(TO BABY, TESTING IT) Hey Caroline.

AS THE BABY SMILES UP AT THEM, WILDLY ADVANCED FOR HER AGE,
THEY SMILE BACK HAVING FOUND THEIR NAME.

CUT TO:

SCENE DD

EXT. CUMBERLAND DRIVEWAY - A FEW DAYS LATER

SETH AND DEAN STAND ON EITHER SIDE OF THE CRIB NEXT TO SETH'S RV.

SETH

One. Two. Three.

THEY TRY TO GET IT UP INTO THE BACK OF THE RV. IT'S TOO HEAVY. THEY PUT IT DOWN.

SETH (CONT'D)

(BEAT) We could just leave it here.

DEAN

It would be nice for the baby to have an outdoor crib.

FRONT DOOR OPENS.

TESS (O.S.)

No!

TESS GOES BACK IN THE HOUSE.

SETH

Does she just camp out with her ear to the door?

AS SETH AND DEAN ATTEMPT TO LIFT THE CRIB AGAIN, WE;

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW