

UNTITLED ROTTENBERG & ZURITSKY PILOT

“Too Many Balls in the Air”

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Based on the Israeli series “Mother’s Day”

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TEASER

INT. MILLER BATHROOM - MORNING

It's the morning rush, and SHIRA MILLER (40ish, perpetually-stressed, pretty but can't be bothered) is wrestling with 3-year old DAPHNE to brush her teeth while her husband BRYAN MILLER (40ish, nerdy-cute) is in the shower.

SHIRA

Daphne, open your -- open. Bigger.  
(to Bryan)  
You coming out any time soon, Hon?

BRYAN

Yep, another minute.

SHIRA

I can't be late for Daphne's first day of preschool. It's the "phase-in," remember? I have to stay in there with her an extra hour in case she freaks out.

(to Daphne, sweet)

-- Which you won't.

(to Bryan)

So I'll have to work late tonight.

BRYAN

Ooh, don't kill me, but I have my tennis league.

SHIRA

(reacts, then, to Daphne)

Bigger, wider, like you're really mad --

(coaching)

Ahh! Like you've worked every weekend for the last four months and your boss is a narcissist-freak and your husband's hogging the shower and your dishwasher's broken and you're stressed-out and you just want to scream: *AHHHHHHHH!*

Shira screams, but no one reacts. JOJO, 7, enters and stares at Shira's breasts under the tight tank-top Shira sleeps in.

JOJO

Mommy, can I touch your boobs?

SHIRA

First of all, they're breasts.  
And, no. I'm not in the mood.



ACT ONE

EXT. BROOKLYN STREET - MORNING

A brownstone-lined Park Slope street filled with parents bringing their kids to school. Shira's unshowered, but the good news is, she fits right into this crunchy-intellectual neighborhood, where no one gets dolled up on a daily basis. Pushing Daphne in a stroller, Shira catches up with a neighbor, KATHY, also pushing her daughter.

SHIRA

Hi, late as usual. And I forgot to brush Daphne's hair, I'm such a bad mom.

KATHY

Please. We don't even own a brush.

SHIRA

(laughs, relieved)  
Okay, well, my whole master-plan to cook her a spinach-broccoli omelette ended with that -- a frozen waffle.

KATHY

Olivia had a lollipop. Bad Mom Hall of Fame.

Having reached a corner with a red light and no cars coming, Shira looks both ways, then keeps walking as she crosses.

SHIRA

(laughs)  
Thing is, if we really were bad moms, we wouldn't even be worrying about this stuff, right? Right?

Shira suddenly realizes she and Daphne are now crossing the street alone. She looks back to find Kathy and her daughter waiting patiently at the red light.

KATHY

I'm trying to model safe crossing!

Shira realizes she'll always win at the game of "Who's the Worse Mom?" in judgy Park Slope, and pushes on.

INT. GOOGLE OFFICES BATHROOM - MORNING

Bryan and his best friend TED MATHESON (30's, single, techie) stand at urinals. Bryan's distracted by his big ball.

TED

I'm not worried about tonight's match -- it's those two old guys from Cobble Hill. We shredded 'em last time, remember?

BRYAN

Hey, man. Has one of your balls ever gotten really big?

TED

Ummm, I don't know. I think one's always a little bigger than the other, right?

BRYAN

I'm talking much bigger.

TED

Like, tennis ball, softball...?

BRYAN

Bigger than a golf ball, smaller than a tennis ball. I think.

TED

Let's see.

Finding no one there, Bryan shows Ted his big testicle.

TED (CONT'D)

Holy crap, that's big. My bigger one's not that much bigger. I don't think...?

Ted shows Bryan his slightly larger testicle.

BRYAN (O.S.)

Yours look totally symmetrical, what are you talking about?

Unseen by them, a young INTERN enters and catches them in this ambiguous moment:

BRYAN (CONT'D)

Mine's getting bigger by the minute. Oh, God --

INTERN

Oh God -- sorry!

The Intern scurries off and shuts the door.

BRYAN

Great. Was that the intern?

INT. PRESCHOOL - LATER THAT MORNING

A small, sweet classroom where children play with the TEACHER (30's, in control), and her JR. TEACHER (20's, spunky) while the parents look on from the sides. Shira, still looking schlubby, chats with CLASS MOM (jeans, mom-clogs, flannel shirt).

CLASS MOM

Hey, I just volunteered to be class mom but I'm looking for someone to share the duties. Would you be interested?

SHIRA

Me? Oh, sorry, I can't. I work.

CLASS MOM

Oh, that's okay, so do I.

SHIRA

Right, sure, but I work full-time, I have a very stressful job, long hours... I'm in publishing.

(off her blank look)

You know Jace Ackerman? That chef who owns "Meadow," does a lot of talk shows, publishes books? I'm his ghostwriter.

CLASS MOM

Mmm-hmm. Well, I'm a cardiologist. I'm just planning on making it work somehow. Think about it, okay?

Shira is shamed and Class Mom moves away just as GWEN (30's, pretty and put-together) approaches Shira.

GWEN

So, can you explain this whole "phase-in" thing to me: Are we supposed to sneak out of here when our kid's not looking, or something?

SHIRA

No, no, that destroys trust, breaks down bonds, it's really frowned upon.

(then, low)

I'm going to be doing it in about ten minutes, my boss is this close to firing me.

Gwen laughs, then notices a white blob in Shira's hair:

GWEN

Um, I think you have something in your hair... conditioner, maybe?

SHIRA

Oh, I assure you it's not conditioner, since I never set foot in the shower today. It's probably toothpaste -- or yogurt. Yep, that's Daphne's yogurt.

As Shira tries to remove the yogurt, Gwen spots someone:

GWEN

Oh, good, there's Nate. Hi, honey!

Angle on: NATE (40ish, might as well be George Clooney) who approaches Gwen with a kiss. Shira stares, speechless.

GWEN (CONT'D)

This is my husband, Nate. Nate, this is --

NATE

Shira! No way. No way!

Shira recognizes Nate all too well. And she's horrified.

INT. GOOGLE OFFICES - LATER

Bryan and Ted are huddled over a computer screen, surfing the web for "enlarged testicle," not liking what they see.

BRYAN

This is bad. This is all very bad. Infection... tumors??

TED

The beauty of the web is, for every diagnosis that says you're going to die, you can always find another that says it's no big whoop. We just have to keep looking. Try that one.

Bryan clicks on a new site and both of their eyes widen.

BRYAN

That's it. I'm calling my doctor.

The Intern arrives and drops something in Bryan's in-box.

INTERN

Sorry about before, guys.

BRYAN/TED

No problem./Don't worry about it.

Before walking off, the Intern glances at the penises on Bryan's computer screen and blushes. Bryan dials his phone.

TED

You realize he thinks we're a couple.

BRYAN

Eh, who cares.

TED

Some of us aren't married and would like to be, one day. To a woman.

BRYAN

And some of us would like to have two balls that are remotely symmetrical.

(into phone)

Dr. Gottesman, please?

(then, to Ted)

Sorry, you're going to fall in love with a great girl and get your life ruined soon enough. I've just got bigger fish to fry.

INT. JACE ACKERMAN OFFICES - PHOTO STUDIO - SIMULTANEOUS

CLOSE ON: A sizzling plate of fish. Reveal MARTI SHIELDS (brassy, 40-ish photographer, Shira's best friend), who's shooting many different plates of food for the next Jace Ackerman book. Shira enters, still in a state of shock. And still looking like shit.

SHIRA

Marti. Something really bad just happened. I was doing the phase-in with Daphne, I finally met a mom who seemed normal... and then I met her husband. And it was Nate Frankel.

(Marti gasps)

Mm-hm. For the first time since we lived together. And I looked like this -- minus the lipstick, which I put on in the subway.

Marti looks at her, she does look pretty bad. Marti pulls her in for a hug.



MARTI

Oh, honey. That's the worst thing I ever heard. Of all days.

SHIRA

Well, Jesus. Do I look that bad?

MARTI

Okay, first of all, Nate was a passive-aggressive loser who refused to get a job. And that's why you dumped him.

SHIRA

I know, I know. I love my husband, I love my kids -- why do I care that I had yogurt in my hair when I ran into Nate Frankel? Okay, I'm done, how are you? One more thing: Who doesn't have yogurt in their hair who has little kids? I'll tell you who: Gwen, Nate's wife -- the one glamorous mom in Park Slope. It's Brooklyn. Everyone's schlubby -- even the famous authors and indie film actresses. It's like, go back to Tribeca, Lady.

MARTI

You just said you liked her.

SHIRA

I did, she was cool. Anyway, now I'm done, for real. What's going on with you?

MARTI

(bursting)

Actually -- and I'm not 100% sure, 15 year-olds don't exactly share -- but it appears that Will has his first little girlfriend!

SHIRA

Oh, cute -- yay!

(then, gulp)

Oh my God, did I even brush my teeth today? I was so busy brushing Daphne's. Smell. And be honest.

Shira breathes in Marti's face. Marti considers.

MARTI

You probably brushed.

SHIRA  
 (it's a wake-up call)  
 What's happened to me, Marti? Have  
 I let myself go?

Just then, Shira's phone rings. She answers, concerned.

SHIRA (CONT'D)  
 Honey. What'd the doctor say?  
 A "hydro"-what? Okay, okay, well,  
 that actually sounds like good  
 news, all in all. Let's count our  
 blessings, love you.

Shira hangs up and looks at Marti, calm facade shattered.

SHIRA (CONT'D)  
Aargghh! This cannot be happening!

MARTI  
 What the hell?!

SHIRA  
 One of Bryan's balls blew up like --  
 like -- this.

Shira looks around, and then grabs an orange from one of  
 Marti's set-plates.

MARTI  
 Please don't touch my props. What  
 does it mean?

SHIRA  
 It means he has to have a procedure  
 on Thursday and I have to clone  
 myself into three people, so I can  
 be by his side at the hospital;  
 with Daphne at her phase-in; and  
 here finishing Jace's book before  
 he murders me.

JACE (O.S.)  
 (saccharine)  
 Shira, I would never murder you  
 before my book is done. Is it  
 done?

Shira tenses, heads out into the hallway to catch up with...

INT. JACE ACKERMAN OFFICES - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

...JACE ACKERMAN (40-something, Mario Batali-type). They walk  
 down the hall together. Jace texts through the whole  
 conversation without looking up.

SHIRA

Hi -- Yes. Almost.

JACE

'Cause this memoir has to be a game-changer for me. It can't just be about my rooftop-farm and how much I love my kids. This is the one where I face my demons, revisit my impoverished childhood --

SHIRA

-- In Scarsdale, yes. I'm just about done. But I'm going to have to be out on Thursday 'cause Bryan's having surgery --

JACE

I told you I needed it by Thursday.

SHIRA

-- Testicular surgery.

Jace stops walking, but not texting.

JACE

Fine. Friday.

SHIRA

Monday.

JACE

Sunday night.

SHIRA

They're putting a needle in his ball and sucking out the fluid.

(no response)

They might have to remove his entire penis.

Jace looks up; it's unclear he's heard a word.

JACE

Fine, you win. Monday morning, first thing.

Back on his Blackberry, he peels off. Shira exhales.

INT. GOOGLE OFFICES - LATER THAT DAY

Bryan's at his desk on his phone.

BRYAN

Yeah, we're not going to need the court on Thursday but we will be playing tonight.

Just then, unseen by Bryan, the Intern arrives and drops something in his in-box.

BRYAN (CONT'D)

Right, "M-i-l-l-e-r." And my partner is Ted Matheson. Thanks.

The Intern clocks this. Bryan hangs up and addresses him:

BRYAN (CONT'D)

So, I'm going to need you to bring me all the log files on Thursday when I'm out of the office, okay?

INTERN

Sure, just send me the address.

Just then, Ted arrives, wearing his coat and a tennis bag.

TED

Ready?

BRYAN

I'm never going to finish that program by Thursday, this thing is coming at the worst possible time.

TED

Relax. We'll figure something out.

BRYAN

I'm starving. Do we have time to grab a bite?

The Intern watches them walk off like an old married couple:

TED

You're always starving. What do you eat for lunch?

INT. INDOOR TENNIS BUBBLE - EVENING

Several courts fill this enclosed gym where Bryan and Ted stretch before their match.

BRYAN

No, my doctor said I can play, as long as I don't get tackled. I said, "Relax, we're playing two old guys --"

BRYAN (CONT'D)

(then, low)

-- Wait, where's the other old guy?

Ted turns to see one feisty OLD GUY approach the court with a YOUNG PARTNER.

OLD GUY

Look out, I've got a ringer tonight!

TED

Yeah, what gives?

OLD GUY

Damndest thing. Last three weeks I thought I was being stood up, turns out ol' Harvey died in his sleep up in the Berkshires. Kid you not.

Bryan and Ted react.

BRYAN

Oh my God, I'm so sorry.

OLD GUY

Barely knew him, but thanks.

(then, competitive)

The good news is, Kevin here played for Binghamton. So look out!

Bryan didn't know Harvey either, but the news hits him hard.

INT. MILLER APARTMENT - LATER THAT EVENING

Shira and Bryan, still in his tennis clothes and still a little shaken-up, sit on the couch. Shira calls off:

SHIRA

Kids! Come on, this'll be quick!

(to Bryan)

How was the match?

BRYAN

I don't want to talk about it.

SHIRA

That bad?

The kids enter and jockey for seats on the couch across from Shira and Bryan.

BRYAN

Okay, so we have something to tell you.

BRYAN (CONT'D)

It's not a big deal, but we're a family, and we need to know what everyone's going through.

SHIRA

Daddy has to have an operation.

BRYAN

A minor operation, one night in the hospital. I'm young and healthy, and it's all going to be fine.

SHIRA

And that's it. So, who's hungry?

JOJO

But -- what's wrong with Daddy?

Shira and Bryan look at each other, unsure.

SHIRA

Well... Daddy has hemorrhoids.

GRIFFIN/JOJO

What?/What are hemorrhoids?

SHIRA

They're like little chunks in Daddy's tushie that can build up --

BRYAN

Stop. Let's tell them the truth, they should understand. It's called a hydrocele. And I'm having a simple hydrocelectomy.

The kids look more confused than ever, so Shira grabs one of the kid's drawing pads and a pencil and starts drawing.

SHIRA

So. If this is Daddy's penis...

(then, erasing)

Well, that's a bit of an exaggeration... It's more like this, that's better. But one of Daddy's testicles is filled with fluid and is very swollen... like a water balloon.

(off Bryan's reaction)

What? You said you wanted them to understand.

Shira's phone rings, she answers quickly:

SHIRA (CONT'D)  
Can't talk, what's up?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. MARTI'S HOUSE - SIMULTANEOUS

Marti's holding a glass of wine, trying to stay calm. Behind her, in the next room, we see her son WILL (15, but looks younger) and ALI (15, but looks older), sitting on the couch playing a video game. Both their heads are soaking wet.

MARTI  
(low)  
Uhhhh, just came home to find Will and his girlfriend hanging out, both with wet heads. What're the odds they're not showering together?

SHIRA  
Slim to none. Call you later.

Shira hangs up, plasters on a big smile for the kids:

SHIRA (CONT'D)  
Okay, pizza?

INT. ST. LUKE'S ROOSEVELT HOSPITAL - MORNING - TWO DAYS LATER

Bryan's on a gurney, being wheeled away by NURSE NORMA as Shira tries to keep up.

SHIRA  
Honey, it's all going to be fine. The sitter's doing the phase-in, and she'll pick up JoJo and Griffin after school --

BRYAN  
(realizing)  
-- Did you ever call the dishwasher guy? That thing is definitely still under warranty --

SHIRA  
It's not, it was a 90-day warranty, I told you --

BRYAN  
What?!

NORMA  
(stopping)  
Okay, guys?

NORMA (CONT'D)

I'm going to need you to pause your conversation now so we can go into surgery. Don't worry: I'll be with him from the minute he goes under until the minute he's in recovery. All told, should be two or three hours.

SHIRA

(reading her name tag)

Okay, thank you... Norma. G'bye, honey. Don't worry, I'll call the dishwasher guy!

They're gone. For the first time in a while, Shira's alone.

INT. WILL'S BATHROOM - MORNING

Marti heads in to Will's darkened bathroom. When she turns on the light, reveal in *Psycho*-movie style quick POPS of evidence of that girl: Secret deodorant! Pink lady-razor in the shower! And worst of all, a thong that isn't Marti's behind the toilet. Marti runs out, grabs her phone:

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - SIMULTANEOUS

Shira, marking up a manuscript, answers her phone:

SHIRA

Let me guess: Jace forgot I'm at the hospital today.

MARTI

No, I'm not at work yet. Sorry to bother you there, but I need serious help: Will and the new girlfriend are definitely having sex in my house.

SHIRA

Y'know, I've been thinking about that -- are you sure? He doesn't even have facial hair.

MARTI

Open your eyes, Shira. There's a big bad world out there after Nickelodeon.

SHIRA

Yesterday you said it gets easier when they get older.



MARTI

Well, I lied. If I come to the hospital, will you meet me downstairs for a quick coffee to strategize?

SHIRA

Ooh, I really shouldn't. Bryan just went into surgery.

MARTI

Okay, and how is sitting there going to help? It's not like it's Jojo's ballet recital and you can stand up and applaud.

SHIRA

I can't leave. Want to come here?

MARTI

Do you know how many germs are flying around in there? I just heard this whole thing on *60 Minutes*. One coffee, please?

Off Shira, looking torn...

EXT. TIME WARNER CENTER - LATER

Shira and Marti walk together a block from the hospital, holding coffee cups.

SHIRA

...I'm trying not to worry too much. The doctor explained that the testicle is part of the abdominal cavity. It's connected.

They stop in front of a boutique window and look inside.

SHIRA (CONT'D)

And sometimes, liquid from the abdomen leaks through a small hole in the body tissue.

(re: a dress on display)

That's cute, right?

MARTI

Very cute.

SHIRA

He said it's pretty common, but mostly with children. Ooh, and look at those pants.

INT. BOUTIQUE DRESSING ROOM - 5 MINUTES LATER

Shira and Marti are both in different outfits, Marti's zipping Shira up.

SHIRA

...So after they drain the liquid from the ball, they close the cut or hole, or whatever it is -- ooh.

Shira looks at herself in the mirror.

SHIRA (CONT'D)

Do you know how long it's been since I went shopping?

MARTI

Yes, 'cause I was with you and we went to Blockbuster video afterwards.

(then)

Did I tell you I found that slut's thong behind my toilet?

SHIRA

Yes, six times. You have to have a sex talk with Will.

MARTI

What am I going to tell him he doesn't already know?

SHIRA

Then forget the talk and just make sure he's protected. Unless you want to become a grandmother any time soon.

MARTI

That isn't funny.

SHIRA

I know it isn't. I'd better check in with the hospital again.

MARTI

Good idea.

They both dial their phones.

MARTI (CONT'D)  
 Yeah, would you tell Jace I'm going to be a little longer, I'm scouting some great locations for the photo shoot.

SHIRA  
 Hi, yes, I'm Bryan Miller's wife, just checking in on his surgery? Okay, good to know, thanks.

They both hang up.

SHIRA  
 Still in surgery.

MARTI  
 Hm. Cause there's one other thing I'd love to do, real quick.

SHIRA  
 What's that?

INT. PRESCHOOL - SIMULTANEOUS

It's after school and the Teacher is admiring the kids' artwork hanging on the wall: Animals, rainbows, flowers... and a stick figure with a penis and one huge testicle.

TEACHER  
 Uhhh, Caitlin, would you come over here and take a look at something?

The JR. TEACHER comes over, looks at the picture, reacts.

INT. HOSPITAL RECOVERY - LATER

A sleeping Bryan is wheeled out of surgery by Norma and into the recovery room, with other patients and their concerned spouses. Bryan's just starting to come to.

BRYAN  
 Shira...? Shira...?

Hearing him, the WIFE of another patient comes over, gently strokes Bryan's head.

WIFE  
 It's okay, you're okay...

Bryan smiles, comforted, still groggy. His SURGEON arrives and Norma leaves.

SURGEON  
 Well, it all went very well, the aspiration was successful.  
 (then, to the Wife)

SURGEON (CONT'D)

We did have to give him more anaesthesia than usual, so he might experience some fatigue or nausea the rest of the day.

WIFE

Thank you, Doctor.

The Surgeon walks off. Bryan finally takes a look at this woman, who he finally realizes is not Shira.

BRYAN

Who are y--?

But before he can finish, HE PUKES ALL OVER HER.

INT. NAIL-TIQUE NAIL SALON - SIMULTANEOUS

Shira and Marti are letting their manicures and pedicures dry under electric dryers. Shira's getting off the phone with the hospital.

SHIRA

Okay, well, thanks.  
(hangs up)  
Still in surgery.

Marti inspects Shira's eyebrows and upper lip, which look sunburned from the recent waxing.

MARTI

She did a good job on your brows.

SHIRA

I needed that so badly. The other day, Griffin said, "Mommy, your eyebrows look like a caterpillar." Singular!

MARTI

That boy is such a dumpling. Enjoy it while you can, soon he'll be showering with some floozy in your bathroom. Meanwhile, I'm practically a virgin again.

SHIRA

Well, maybe it's time you got back out there.

MARTI

Please, I don't have time to date.

Shira gives her a look; they've been through this before. Just then, two Korean SALON WORKERS come over and start giving Shira and Marti shoulder massages.

SHIRA

Oh my God, this is too good...  
 (then, guilty)  
 I guess technically, I could have stopped by phase-in, it's so sweet... My sitter's there, I'm sure it's fine, but ahhhhh, right there, that's the spot.

MARTI

Relax and enjoy. We didn't have any stupid phase-in when we were kids and we're fine.

SHIRA

Why do I feel such guilt? I kill myself for my kids and work my ass off and yet I feel like a horrible monster for being here.

GWEN (O.S.)

Shira? Is that you?

They look up: It's Gwen, tapping on the window then heading into the salon. Shira's like a deer in headlights but covers.

SHIRA

Gwen!

GWEN

It's funny, when I saw your sitter at phase-in this morning, I was afraid something might be wrong. But I guess not!

Gwen eyes Shira's shopping bags and massage-in-progress.

SHIRA

-- Oh, no, actually a lot is wrong. I'm in the middle of a super-stressful time.

GWEN

Sure, sure. Well, I better go pick up Lucas, I'll leave you to your fun.

But before Gwen can leave, Shira stops her, just as the salon workers begin the CHOP-CHOP cycle of the massage.

SHIRA

No, no, no, this isn't fun. My husband's in the middle of surgery, I'm at the hospital all day, I just came here 'cause --

(grasping)

-- Her son's having sex all over the house! And he's 15.

Marti reacts: Thanks a lot. Just then, they hear:

FEMALE MASSAGE CUSTOMER (O.S.)

Thank you, Lynn, that was incredible. I pulled an 18-hour shift on Friday, then a 15-hour one last night --

Shira looks over and sees that the woman in the robe looks a lot like Nurse Norma. But it can't be... right?

SHIRA

Is that...? Norma?

Shira, still in her flip-flops, waddles over to Norma.

SHIRA (CONT'D)

Norma? It's me, Bryan Miller's wife, I thought you were going to be with him until he was out of surgery?

NORMA

Oh, yeah, I was, he did great! He's been out for over an hour.

SHIRA

What?! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

Shira bolts out of the shop in her flip-flops.

MARTI

Shira, wait -- you forgot these!

Marti follows after Shira, holding her purse, shoes, and shopping bags. Gwen watches in horror from inside, as a Salon Worker approaches her with the bill.

SALON WORKER

You pay for your friends?

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. HOSPITAL - LATER

A guilty Shira, with all her shopping bags, tiptoes into a shared room to find Bryan asleep. She passes the roommate's Wife, who helped Bryan earlier.

SHIRA

Hello.

WIFE

(knitting, smug)

Hi.

Shira looks for a place to sit down, and finds no chair.

SHIRA

Do you know if there's another chair anywhere? It might be a while before he wakes up.

WIFE

Oh, that already happened.

SHIRA

It -- what? Are you sure?

WIFE

Very sure. He threw up all over me. I had to buy this sweatshirt.

SHIRA

Oh my God, I'm so sorry. I -- I had an emergency, I had to run out. Here, at least let me pay you for that.

Shira reaches for her purse. Wife keeps knitting.

WIFE

Please. I did what anyone would have done. Who was here.

Wife smiles. Shira restrains herself from strangling her.

INT. HOSPITAL - NURSES' STATION - DAY

Shira approaches the nurses' station, fired up to prove she's a good wife.

SHIRA

Excuse me, I'm Bryan Miller's wife,  
I'd like to speak to Doctor  
Gottesman about his surgery. Right  
away.

NURSE

He's on rounds.

SHIRA

Okay, well, in that case, I thought  
you'd want to know that someone on  
this desk is giving out bad  
information. I had to step away  
for a few minutes during my  
husband's surgery -- I'm sure it  
happens all the time -- and when I  
called in, I didn't get her name,  
but let's just say, *this person*  
deliberately misled me about his  
progress.

NURSE

(busting Shira)  
Nail-tique?

SHIRA

I'm sorry?

NURSE

The Korean place down the block.  
Is that where you got your eyebrows  
done?

Shira's whole face turns as red as the skin around her  
eyebrows but she refuses to go down without a fight.

SHIRA

I -- no -- this is a skin  
affliction that runs in my family.  
On my mother's side. Generations  
and generations, very painful.

The nurse just looks at her, not buying it. Shira walks off,  
trying to salvage her dignity.

SHIRA (CONT'D)

And we're missing a chair in 1701B!

INT. HOSPITAL - BRYAN'S ROOM - SIMULTANEOUS

Bryan wakes up and finds Ted, sitting on his bed.

TED

How you doin', buddy?



BRYAN  
Been better... Have you seen Shira?

TED  
Nope, but I brought these.

Ted presents a new can of tennis balls. Bryan smiles, touched, just as the Intern enters holding a big bag and takes in the sight of Ted at Bryan's bedside.

INTERN  
Oh -- sorry to interrupt -- I'll  
come back --

TED  
No, that's okay --

Too late. The Intern's already split.

INT. HOSPITAL - BRYAN'S ROOM - LATER

Ted is now gone and Shira drags a chair back to Bryan's room, unintentionally waking him up. She's overly bright.

SHIRA  
Honey. Hi! I'm so glad you're up.

Bryan looks at her, notices the redness around her brows.

BRYAN  
What'd you do to your face?

SHIRA  
Me? Nothing.

The Wife pipes in from the other side of the room.

WIFE  
How's the nausea, Bry?

BRYAN  
Much better, Ingrid. Again, I'm so  
sorry.

WIFE  
Don't forget to take your five  
o'clock --

Shira pulls the curtain shut.

SHIRA  
How are you feeling, honey?

BRYAN

Like a truck ran over my balls.  
Where were you?

SHIRA

You mean, before? I was here.

BRYAN

No, you weren't.

SHIRA

Oh, you mean before-before. I was just, you know -- running some quick errands.

(off his stare)

You needed razors, the kids needed ... school supplies. Lotta, different... school supplies.

BRYAN

(re: her shopping bags)

At Sephora? They selling school supplies there now?

Shira looks at her Sephora bag but does not back down.

SHIRA

Yes. They had a special promotion.

BRYAN

And J. Crew?

SHIRA

JoJo had no pants that fit her, she grew a foot this summer.

(Bryan's unconvinced)

Would you like to search my bags?  
Are we in airport security, now?

Just then, NURSE #2 comes in to deliver Bryan's meds.

NURSE #2

I'm afraid visiting hours are over.

BRYAN

(rolls over)

Bye. Send my love to the kids.

SHIRA

Bry, come on. You're not really mad, are you?

BRYAN

You heard the nurse.

NURSE

Ma'am? We'll see you tomorrow.

SHIRA

(to the nurse)

No, please, you can't make me leave. We're in the middle of a fight here, we just need a little more time to work it out.

BRYAN

Who's fighting? If you tell me you had urgent errands to run while I was being cut open, I believe you.

SHIRA

Well, good.

BRYAN

I mean, after 13 years of marriage, I know you wouldn't lie to my face about what's in those shopping bags. What kind of person would do that?

They stare at each other, it's a stand-off.

NURSE #2

Ma'am...?

That does it. Shira starts pulling everything out of her shopping bags in a confessional blaze of glory:

SHIRA

Okay, fine. Fine! You want to see what I bought today? I bought leggings -- and a turtleneck -- and moisturizer with SPF -- all for me! These red blotches? Got my eyebrows and my mustache waxed and I'm obviously having a bad reaction to it, because I'm a terrible, terrible person and now you know the truth.

(then)

But, I am also the mother of your three beautiful children and I've kept them alive and relatively clean since the day they were born. And that should count for something.

Nice try, but Bryan's not ready to let Shira off the hook. The intern pokes his head back in, senses the tension:

INTERN  
Still a bad time?

INT. PRESCHOOL - EVENING

We're back in the same classroom. The Teacher and Jr. Teacher are sitting with the SOCIAL WORKER (50-something). In front of them is Daphne's drawing.

SOCIAL WORKER  
Yes, this is troubling, on a number of levels.  
(re: large testicle)  
The size of this could represent the burden little Daphne is carrying.

JR. TEACHER  
That is one big burden.

The Social Worker jots down some notes as the Teacher and Jr. Teacher exchange worried looks...

INT. SHIRA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Her kids finally asleep, Shira tries to sleep but can't; she misses Bryan. She looks at her phone, debating picking it up when SFX: IT RINGS. Shira looks at the CALLER-ID.

SHIRA  
I was hoping you were Bryan.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. MARTI'S HOUSE - SIMULTANEOUS

Marti's in her bedroom, spiralling.

MARTI  
They're gone!

SHIRA  
The kids?

MARTI  
The condoms. I left them on the kitchen table, like cheese for the mouse, and now they're gone.

SHIRA  
Then you've done your job. The mouse will not impregnate the other mouse.

MARTI

But I just saw Will and he didn't even mention it. Nothing. It's driving me crazy. I mean, are we never going to talk about this?!

SHIRA

I thought you didn't want to talk.

MARTI

-- C'mon, stop pretending, we all know someone has to talk to the kid and it's not going to be my asshole ex-husband.

SHIRA

Want me to do it?

MARTI

No. But thanks.

(then, sad)

Will and I used to talk about everything, he was my little guy. We used to snuggle and sing songs. And now it's over.

SHIRA

Uch, I can only imagine.

MARTI

(realizing)

I'm all by myself. Maybe I am lonely.

Shira looks at the empty side of her bed.

SHIRA

Wanna sleep over?

MARTI

No way, your kids wake up too frickin' early.

Shira laughs.

INT. MARTI'S HOUSE - NEXT MORNING

Marti's dressed for work and busily preparing breakfast when Will lumbers in. Marti scrambles eggs as she dives right in.

MARTI

So. There are some things you need to know and I'm just going to spit them out: Sex is a big deal, I know it's uncool to say, but it is. I lost my virginity when I was 17 --

WILL

Ugh, Mom!

MARTI

-- to a nice guy named Eddie Wallens, while his parents were in Costa Rica -- and I never regretted it, but I had to start thinking like an adult. So, now that you're having sex, I expect you to use protection, and treat every woman respectfully. Her orgasm is just as important --

WILL

-- Yuck, Mom! What the hell?

MARTI

You're obviously having sex with Ali. Did you think I wouldn't notice you two were showering together?

WILL

I'm not having sex with Ali. And we're not showering together. We've just been jogging together, then showering separately. Then doing our chemistry homework.

MARTI

(hugely relieved)  
Really?

WILL

Yeah. She has a boyfriend.

MARTI

Oh. So she's just a big tease.

WILL

No. We're friends, okay?  
I wasn't even thinking about sex -- until you left me those condoms and started telling me all this gross stuff. Why do you always have to be such a freak?

Marti takes her lumps, as Will heads off, texting Ali as he goes: **My Mom's onto us. Your place?**

INT. HOSPITAL - BRYAN'S ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Shira enters the room to find Bryan asleep. She tries to squeeze into bed with him without waking him. But fails.

BRYAN

Ow, ow, ow! What are you doing?

His flailing reaction sends her flying off the bed.

SHIRA

Sorry! God, I'm used to feeling like a bad mom, not a bad wife.

BRYAN

You're not a bad mom.

SHIRA

-- But I am a bad wife? Is that what you think?

BRYAN

No, not usually. But, you know, I came out of surgery, you were nowhere to be found -- and I don't want to die alone!

SHIRA

What? What are you talking about?

BRYAN

Harvey died. Out of the blue.

SHIRA

Who's Harvey?

BRYAN

A tennis guy, I met him once, my point is: I'd like to think that when he died, his wife was not out getting her nails done.

Shira finally realizes how scared Bryan was.

SHIRA

Honey -- I let you down, I'm sorry. But I will not let you die alone. If I can help it.

It's an ice-breaker, he smiles, and she sits down with him.

SHIRA (CONT'D)

I don't know what happened to me yesterday. I feel like I've been on this gerbil wheel, and I got off for one second and just -- lost my mind.

BRYAN

It's official: Our lives have gotten too busy. Your parting words to me before surgery were, "I'll call the dishwasher guy!"

SHIRA

(laughs, then)

I guess we might need to talk more, huh? But -- you seem to manage it all so well. You read the paper every morning, you never leave the house without a shower, and you have your tennis nights. 'Member when I used to play tennis?

BRYAN

Vaguely. So how 'bout, from now on, you take the first shower in the morning. I'll deal with the kids. And if you want to start playing tennis again --

SHIRA

Uch, I don't have the energy.

BRYAN

And we start doing a regular date night, every... year.

SHIRA

Oh, I love you for being so realistic. C'mere.

She leans in and kisses him, a great, long kiss. Then:

BRYAN

And let's make sure you always get to brush your teeth in the morning, too, okay?

Shira swats him playfully. Everything's going to be okay.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO



TAG

INT. PRESCHOOL - A FEW DAYS LATER - MORNING

Shira and Bryan are at phase-in together. Shira's showered and wears her new dress. As Daphne plays and Bryan chats with another dad, Shira's approached by YASMIN, a mom.

YASMIN

Oh, hi, maybe you know: Is that the Dad who works at Google, Bryan Miller?

SHIRA

Yes -- we're actually both here at the same time, imagine that!

YASMIN

It's such a small world: My nephew is interning at Google, and I've heard great things about Bryan and his partner.

SHIRA

(thrown, then)  
Partner -- oh, you mean, Ted?  
Yeah, he's the best. And he's got a killer backhand.

Now it's Yasmin's turn to be thrown.

YASMIN

Right. So, forgive me, can I ask how you fit into this equation?

SHIRA

Oh, sure, I'm Daphne's mom.

YASMIN

(trying to keep up)  
And Bryan is...?

SHIRA

...Daphne's dad.

YASMIN

Okay, got it! Well, I think it's wonderful that you're making a family in your own way. Good for you.

SHIRA

(confused, flattered)  
Thank you..?

GWEN  
 'Morning. Great dress!

Shira turns to find Gwen.

SHIRA  
 Oh, this? Thanks. You haven't met  
 Bryan yet, have you? Honey?

Bryan joins Shira, but before he can meet Gwen, they're interrupted:

SOCIAL WORKER  
 Excuse me, Mr. and Mrs. Miller?  
 I'm Gloria Collins, the school  
 social worker. Mind if we have a  
 chat?

SHIRA/BRYAN  
 Of course...?/Certainly.

Gwen, Shira, and Bryan exchange a curious look.

SHIRA  
 (to Gwen, it's cool)  
 'Scuse us.

Shira and Bryan confer quietly as they follow the Social Worker.

SHIRA (CONT'D)  
 What do you think this is about?

BRYAN  
 (shrugs)  
 Daphne's very unusual, maybe they  
 want to test her for "Gifted and  
 Talented"? I don't know...

Shira likes the sound of that. They hold hands as they walk off, excited to learn more. And we...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW