

Tigelaar

"The Joneses"

10/31/12

THE JONESES

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Mojo Films

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAWN

We OPEN on a SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD. The sun rises, NEWSPAPERS get tossed onto doorsteps, the street starts to wake up. We LAND on one sprawling house in particular...

INT. HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - MORNING

DAVE, mid-40s, disheveled (in a sexy way), trudges down the hallway. He runs into JEN. *Think Evan Rachel Wood*. She holds TWO LARGE CUPS OF COFFEE.

DAVE
Double-fisting it this morning?

JEN
Finals week.

She beelines for her bedroom. SLAMS the door with her foot.

INT. HOUSE - JEN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Jen looks toward her bed. In it, a GUY who epitomizes who you don't want your daughter with: scruffy, hot and definitely not in high school. She smiles.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Dave greets KATE -- mid 40s, stunning even in a ponytail and robe. *Think Sandra Bullock*. Dave stops at the coffee maker, confused.

KATE
It's a Jura Impressa One-Touch.
K.C. sent it over.

DAVE
That all you wanna talk about?
Coffee?

Off her silence...

DAVE
I'm gonna mow the lawn.

KATE
Dave --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE

Don't.

OFF KATE, at a loss.

INT. HOUSE - GARAGE - MORNING

Dave sits on a John Deere EZTrak Z235 lawn mower. He untangles a jumble of rope and bungee cords. Then takes a deep breath.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

NICK walks in dressed for school. *Think Landon Liboiron.* Flannel, army jacket, shaggy hair and beanie.

KATE

Jen up?

NICK

I heard her. All night.

A beat as the meaning of that lands on Kate. She yells:

KATE

Jen!

As she storms out...

INT. HOUSE - JEN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Outside, we HEAR the faint sound of the mower. Jen grabs Scruffy's jeans and throws them at him.

JEN

Get outta here. Just... go.

She pushes him out the window, just as Kate walks in.

JEN

Jesus. Knock much?

KATE

Was someone just in here?

Kate clocks the two coffees. A beat.

JEN

No?

Suddenly, we HEAR a BLOODCURDLING SCREAM.

EXT. HOUSE - MORNING

Kate, Jen, and Nick run around the house, where they find Scruffy, frozen, still standing on the roof, staring down at the pool.

They follow his gaze to REVEAL: THE DEEP END OF THE POOL. THE LAWN MOWER SITS AT THE BOTTOM. Nick stumbles back, horrified.

NICK

Oh my god...

We REALIZE THAT DAVE is bungee-corded to it. He's dead.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

We CUT TO QUICK SHOTS of a 2014 Mercedes B-Class Hybrid SUV, as it careens down a tree-lined interstate. It tows a small U-Haul, a shiny Thule's clipped to a roof rack. Inside sits:

INT. MERCEDES SUV - DAY

Kate, in the passenger seat. An iPad on her lap, she fiddles with an engagement ring and wedding band on her ring finger.

MAN'S VOICE (O.C.)

Man, this thing rides smooth. Like a living room on wheels.

She looks to the driver's seat to REVEAL: STEVE JONES, 40's -- handsome, laid back -- at the wheel. *Think David Duchovny.* He smiles.

STEVE

Think the 2015'll ride like a bedroom?

She gives him an obligatory smile.

EXT. MOCKINGBIRD LANE - DAY

"Design Within Reach" trucks roll past sprawling McMansions. They pull up to a house with a "sold" sign in front of it. We SEE QUICK SHOTS of boxes being unloaded. A 2013 Navy Blue Jeep Wrangler Unlimited is carefully backed off a flat-bed.

KATE (PRELAP)

It says there are approximately five thousand teenagers in this town.

INT. MERCEDES SUV - DAY

Kate reads off her iPad.

KATE

Four high schools, three private schools...

(looks to the back seat)

Hopkins is ranked the highest.

Behind her sit JEN and NICK, headphones on, iPhones out.

KATE

Think about what extra-curriculars you want to get involved in.

JEN

Try none.

Kate looks at Jen. Jen corrects herself.

JEN

I mean, sounds fun. Mom.

Jen and Nick share a smile. As if in on a joke.

INT. MCMANSION - DAY

A handful of nondescript men set up furniture. A giant black and white FAMILY PHOTO of the Joneses is hung on the wall. And we HEAR:

KATE (PRELAP)

Lakeside's the closest country club -- with the highest rated course.

INT. MERCEDES SUV - DAY

Steve looks at Kate.

STEVE

I haven't played golf in ten years.

She smiles.

KATE

Looks like you'll be getting your swing back.

This time it is Steve's turn to give an obligatory smile.

EXT. MCMANSION - DAY

Moving trucks pull out, just as the Joneses pull up. Across the street, LARRY SIMON looks up from trimming his hedges. He's nice guy, late 40s, but a little beaten down by life. *Think Gary Cole.* Steve gets out, squints into the sun as he looks at the sprawling house, awed.

STEVE

I can't believe we live here.

Jen and Nick walk into the house, unfazed. Kate's matter-of-fact.

KATE

Home sweet home.

We PRELAP: the DOORBELL RINGING.

EXT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Larry and his wife, SUMMER, stand on the doorstep. Summer holds a giant Cellophane-wrapped BASKET. The DOOR OPENS TO REVEAL: THE JONESES, standing in the doorway, arms linked.

KATE/STEVE/JEN/NICK

Hi!

Larry and Summer are a little taken aback. Summer's ditzy but sweet. *Think Judy Greer.*

SUMMER

We're the Simons. From next door.
I'm Summer, this is my husband,
Larry.

They step inside and see, already, the entire house has been unpacked -- every detail meticulously attended to, everything state-of-the-art. Steve extends a hand.

STEVE

Steve Jones.

LARRY

Pleasure.

SUMMER

We just wanted to bring you these samples as a welcome gift. But I'm sure you're in no mood for guests.

The Joneses light up, all too eager.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

STEVE

Follow me, Lar. You look like you could use a drink.

As the Joneses usher the Simons inside...

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - DAY

Kate leads Summer through the house.

SUMMER

I can't believe you just moved in.

KATE

All we did was show up. And have the good sense to hire the right people.

SUMMER

That photo. It's incredible.

KATE

Should have seen me the day of. Cyclops zit. Right between my eyes. Thank god for photoshop.

Kate and Summer pass by Steve and Larry in the kitchen. We STAY WITH the guys.

LARRY

So Scottsdale, huh? You relocate for work?

STEVE

For ourselves. Kate and I wanted a season other than hot.

Larry takes a sip of his beer, then:

LARRY

Wow! Is that... caramel? What's this beer?

STEVE

Atlantic Ale. I get it shipped from Nova Scotia. But they're about to start selling it in the states.

Larry nods to a stack of GOLF MAGAZINES.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY

You golf? I'm a member down at
Lakeside.

KATE (O.C.)

Every chance he gets.

Kate sidles back up to Steve.

LARRY

You should join me tomorrow. Got a
tee time at noon --

STEVE

I don't know. Until Kate's design
business is up and running,
someone's gotta keep the lights on
around here.

KATE

Don't be silly.
(to Larry)
He'd love to.

SUMMER

(to Steve)
What line of work are you in?

STEVE

Money management -- day trading,
mostly.

KATE

He mostly works on keeping me
happy.

Larry and Summer look on, envious of their perfect marriage.

EXT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - NIGHT

A NEIGHBOR walks his dog and clocks the Joneses framed in the
picture window, eating dinner at the dining room table. They
laugh and talk, looking every bit the perfect family.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Steve passes a scantily-clad Jen, who heads to bed.

JEN

Night, Daddy.

He watches her go. Jesus.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Steve walks in to find Kate, getting ready for bed, Big Gulp and Slim Jim on her nightstand. We see their pajamas match. Framed pictures are meticulously placed around the room.

STEVE
Our wedding photo? You look...
wow.

KATE
Don't act so surprised. You were
there, remember?

He flops down on the bed.

STEVE
So... the Simons were great.

A beat.

KATE
You were a little over-the-top.

STEVE
What? I was being friendly.
(noticing the Slim Jim)
You're not seriously eating that --

KATE
Friendly's fine --

STEVE
-- because that's not actually
food.

KATE
-- but you can't hug someone you
barely know. It's like dating.
Play hard to get.

He starts to get under the covers. She hesitates.

STEVE
What?

A beat.

KATE
The guest room's got that great
Tempur-pedic...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Steve gets it, then:

STEVE
Guess you got that "hard to get"
thing down pat.

As he leaves...

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Steve tosses an obscene number of throw pillows off his bed. He lays down and stares up at the ceiling, perplexed.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - HALLWAY/GUEST ROOM - LATER

After midnight. TWO SOCKED FEET tiptoe down the long staircase, into a first-floor bedroom. QUICK SHOTS of clothes coming off and we PAN UP to JEN as she slips into bed... WITH STEVE. She kisses his neck. And just as Steve wakes up and realizes, a HAND GRABS Jen by the hair.

KATE
Get up! Now!

JEN
What the hell -- let go of
me!

STEVE
Whoa, whoa, whoa -- what's
going on?

STEVE
Nothing happened!

Kate throws a topless Jen into the hallway.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - HALLWAY/STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS

Jen storms upstairs. Kate and Steve follow. Nick appears.

NICK
Wow. Way to jack those Daddy
issues to a whole new level --

Jen fires back.

JEN
I'm the one with Daddy issues?

Stung, Nick retreats to his room. Jen defends herself to Kate.

JEN
If you're not gonna do him, why
can't I?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATE

You wanna dry-hump men twice your
age, go back to stripping in Vegas.

STEVE

Wait, stripping? What?

JEN

You don't get to control my
sex life.

KATE

I'm head of this household. I get
to control every part of your life.

Jen marches up the stairs, pissed. Kate turns on Steve.

STEVE

Don't look at me! I didn't even
know what was happening!

Kate's blunt.

KATE

I didn't choose you as a husband
and you didn't choose me as a wife.
But if you want to get off on the
right foot in this family, not
screwing our daughter would be a
good start.

Kate storms up the stairs, leaves Steve as confused as we
are. And OFF KATE'S door SLAM, we:

SMASH TO:

TITLE CARD: THE JONESES

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

WE OPEN ON - PANCAKE BATTER HITTING A SIZZLING GRIDDLE

And PULL BACK to REVEAL:

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - KITCHEN - NEXT MORNING

Steve makes breakfast for everyone. Nick walks in.

NICK
You sleep okay?

STEVE
Very funny.
(then)
You hungry? We got pancakes,
bacon, toast --

Kate comes in, on a mission, followed by Jen.

KATE
Jen has something she wants to say.

JEN
Sorry about last night.
(by rote)
You're new, I took advantage --

STEVE
My daughter hitting on me wasn't
covered in my orientation manual.

KATE
We may not be a real family, but we
need to operate as a team.

And now we fully understand: They aren't a real family. This is their job.

KATE
I fought hard to get this market,
so we need to take advantage.
(then, to the "kids")
Today's a big day, you guys are
starting at a new school, people
need to notice you...

Nick eyes Jen's skirt that barely covers her ass.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NICK

They should.

KATE

Your personas stay the same as in Dayton. But you're each moving up a grade.

JEN

What? I'm always a sophomore!

KATE

You've been one four times. I think you can handle it. And forget cheerleading. The girls with the highest e-score at Hopkins play soccer.

JEN

Soccer? The only balls I've ever kicked belong to the pervs at the club who didn't get what "no touching" meant.

KATE

Since segmentation is much higher with teen girls than teen boys, let's put your focus there.

(beat, to Nick)

That means get a girlfriend, A-SAP.

She hands Jen two pictures. And Nick one.

KATE

Marlo Collins and Mia MacIntrye have been identified by the Corporation as trendsetters. Their parents make close to a million annually.

(to Nick)

Talia Sheridan could be a good focus for you.

NICK

What's her deal?

KATE

She'll be a helpful connector. Tutors every dumbass in school. Focus on the rich ones.

Kate turns to Steve.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KATE

K.C.'s scheduled us an interview at the country club today, so while you golf, I'm going to get a blowout, maybe a mani-pedi --

JEN

You could use a facial. I'd say it's laugh lines, but...

Kate glares, then turns back to Steve.

KATE

We'll meet in the lobby once you're done with Larry.

A beat. Steve hedges.

STEVE

Maybe there's something else to do with Larry. My golfing days, they're behind me.

KATE

Steve, you were a professional golfer. TaylorMade and Nike are two of the Corporation's biggest clients, which is part of the reason you were recruited for this job.

(then)

Joining a country club is company policy. It's the fastest way to meet new people.

STEVE

We met Larry and Summer. They're people.

KATE

The right people. Did you smell Larry's cologne? It screams no money. Or terrible taste.

(beat)

Now K.C.'s going to be breathing down our necks, she's expecting sales --

STEVE

Five years straight, I sold more Jags than anyone else in the state.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JEN

Pro golfer to car salesman? Ouch.

Steve gives her a look. No shit. Kate lays it out.

KATE

This is more than selling cars. It's stealth marketing. We're not just pushing things, we're pushing a lifestyle. If people want to be us --

NICK/JEN

"They'll want what we have."

KATE

Exactly. We're not here to just live the American Dream. We're here to sell it.

Kate, Nick and Jen gather their stuff to go.

NICK

I'll drive. If I'm a sophomore, I have my license, right?

KATE

Yes, but the Jeep's Jen's. We're surprising you with a car for Christmas.

Nick deflates. Jen grabs the keys, happily. Winks at Steve.

JEN

Bye, Daddy.

STEVE

Wait. What about breakfast?

KATE

That's what real families do.

(then)

You're Steve Jones now. Get to know him.

They take off. Steve sits down to eat. Alone.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Jen and Nick get out of her Jeep. He grabs a new skateboard out of the back. Slams the door, miffed. Jen looks at him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JEN

You're not seriously still mad
about the Jeep?

(then, laughing)

Remember how Dave would drive
around in that Porsche Spyder but
then he'd be wearing, like, a Tommy
Bahama shirt when he was off the
clock?

Nick smiles. The memory is bittersweet now. Then:

NICK

Do you know why he did it?

She looks at him. Not going there.

JEN

C'mon, bro. This is the fun part.

She starts walking. Nick throws down his skateboard,
catching the eyes of a group of GUYS who notice. Jen
saunters by them. They notice her, too.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Steve flips through family vacation photos -- Aspen, the
Eifel Tower, rafting the Colorado river. He sees an OLDER
PICTURE tucked behind it and pulls it out to REVEAL: the
exact same rafting trip with DAVE'S FACE in place of his. He
flips it over. It reads: "Kate, Jen, Nick and Dave Johnson,
Rafting 2010." He flips his picture over: "Kate, Jen, Nick
and Steve Jones, Colorado Rafting 2012." Wow.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Nick tries to open his locker. But it's stuck. A studious-
looking girl, TALIA, tacks a TUTORING FLYER to a bulletin
board. *Think Sarah Ramos*. She notices him and we recognize
her from the picture Kate gave to Nick.

TALIA

You're new, right?

(hands him a FLYER)

Math and science are my speciality.

NICK

What about lockers? Although if
I can't get it, I doubt you can.

She notices his skateboard.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TALIA
Birdhouse and Blitz?

NICK
You know skateboards?

Talia bangs her fist on his locker. It POPS open.

TALIA
Things aren't always what they
seem.

She walks off. OFF NICK, intrigued by her.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CHEMISTRY LAB - DAY

Jen walks into class. Hands her schedule to the teacher.

TEACHER
We have a new student with us
today. Jennifer Jones.

JEN
It's Jen.

TEACHER
Sit anywhere that's open.

Jen recognizes MIA AND MARLO, who look her up and down,
threatened. As she sits, she notices Marlo's flats:

JEN (CONT'D)
Tori Burch, right? She just came
out with those in python. They'd
look great on you.

Marlo beams. OFF JEN, it's too easy.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Steve pokes around tons of PRODUCTS -- an Element Smokeless
BBQ, Frontgate Floating Pool Speakers, Nike Lunar Swingtip
Golf Shoes. He finds a set of TAYLORMADE ROCKETBALLZ GOLF
CLUBS. Inspects them, impressed. And we HEAR:

HAIRDRESSER (PRELAP)
So what are we doing today?

INT. SALON - DAY

Kate gets ushered into a chair by a HAIRDRESSER.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATE

Whatever you think. Except a bowl cut. Not gonna make that mistake twice.

A woman, ANNIE, laughs, then notices Kate's bag.

ANNIE

Oh my god, is that a Farbod Barsum?

KATE

An anniversary present. From my husband.

Another woman, LUCY, chimes in.

LUCY

Nice husband. It probably cost more than my wedding.

Kate laughs. The women drool with envy.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - STEVE'S CLOSET - DAY

We SEE fifty versions of the same golf shirt. A WHITE IMAC sits on a small white table. Steve clicks it ON. And it begins selecting OUTFITS for him. OFF STEVE, amazed.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CHEMISTRY LAB - DAY

Jen takes notes with Mia and Marlo. The teacher rambles.

MIA

Oh my god, when is lunch? My stomach is literally eating itself.

Jen reaches into her bag. Hands Mia a diet lollipop.

JEN

Skinny pops. They'll suppress your appetite and work your suction muscles. Your boyfriend will love it. Mine does.

MIA

Who's your boyfriend?

JEN

He's older. High school boys aren't my thing.

Suddenly, the TEACHER interrupts.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TEACHER

Excuse me, Jennifer.

JEN

It's Jen.

TEACHER

Can you answer the question? And please convert it from Fahrenheit to kelvin?

Jen has no clue what he's even talking about.

JEN

Calvin? Like... "and Hobbs?"

Everyone laughs. The Teacher's mildly annoyed.

TEACHER

Kelvin, as in its thermodynamic temperature. The absolute scale?

JEN

Sorry. The only Absolut I'm familiar with goes with orange juice.

Everyone laughs again. The Teacher rips off a hall pass.

TEACHER

To the principal's office. Now.

OFF JEN, pleased, and the SOUND OF RINGING takes us to:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PAYPHONE - DAY

Nick at a payphone. Finally, an answering machine picks up.

WOMAN'S VOICE

Hi, you've reached the Goransons...

Nick hangs up. Then sees Jen beeline to the Jeep.

NICK

Jen! What the hell -- wait!

But she peels out without him.

EXT. SALON - DAY

Kate, Annie, and Lucy leave the salon, cracking up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANNIE

Wait, seriously? In the coat room... at the Met...

KATE

Tucked between a fur coat and a pile of umbrellas. It was hot. Literally.

LUCY

And they arrested you...

KATE

They threw us in holding cells across from each other. Steve didn't even have pants on, I'm dying laughing, like, "What are we going to do?" And he looks at me with these blue eyes. And goes, "Marry me"...

(shrugs)

So I did.

Annie and Lucy swoon. Kate gives hugs goodbye.

KATE

I gotta get to Lakeside. This was so much fun.

ANNIE

Let's make a plan soon.

Kate smiles, but as soon as her back's turned she drops it.

EXT. THE PLACE - DAY

Jen stumbles upon a cool outdoor restaurant -- a BIG RED BARN with tree stumps for bar stools, a hand-painted menu nailed to a tree. A cute bartender, SAM, early 30s, approaches. *Think Kris Polaha.*

JEN

Shot of Patron. Silver.

SAM

We're not actually open yet.

JEN

Rough day at the office. Make an exception?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM

Lemme see an I.D.? You don't look old enough to drink.

She hands it over. He inspects it.

SAM

Jennifer Mitchell. '88. I stand corrected.

Appeased, he pours the shot. Jen flirts.

JEN

I bet you're a lot cuter when you're not standing.

He passes her the shot. She downs it, then smiles:

JEN

I'll have another.

SAM

You gonna wanna eat something? To soak up that alcohol?

Jen looks at a TANK OF LOBSTERS.

JEN

Not unless you have anything besides those.

SAM

Not in your budget?

JEN

It's not the money. It's the principle.

SAM

The boiling? They don't feel a thing.

JEN

Wrong. It's not that they don't feel, they just aren't smart enough to register that what they're feeling is pain.

(then)

I did a report. Fifth grade.

He leans in, intrigued by her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SAM

Not to open a can of worms here...
Any issues with scallops?

Jen laughs. There's some chemistry here. Sam moves off to place the order. Jen watches him go, titillated. She grabs her phone, scrolls down to DAD. As she considers, the WHACK OF A GOLF BALL takes us to:

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB - GOLF COURSE - DAY

Steve's ball sails on to the green, just feet from the hole. Larry and the other guys, ANDY and MARK, are impressed.

LARRY

Nice swing, Jones.

Steve hands his driver off to Larry to try out.

STEVE

It's the new Rocketballz line from TaylorMade. They make anyone look good.

Larry hits the ball into the water. *Not anyone.*

LARRY

Who needs a beer? I'm buying.

As Larry orders from a SNACK SHACK, the KID behind the counter stops him:

KID

Actually, Mr. Simon... the GM's been tryin' to reach you. There's a problem... with your account...

Steve steps in, overhearing, wanting to spare Larry.

STEVE

Hey. First round's on me.

Mark notices a gadget on Steve's glove.

MARK

That a watch?

STEVE

GolfSense Swing Analyzer. Sends data over your Bluetooth.

(then)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVE (CONT'D)

You know what they say: he who dies
with the most toys wins.

A beat as that lands on Larry. Steve feels bad. Suddenly,
Steve's phone rings. It's JEN.

STEVE

Sorry, guys... my daughter...

As he moves off to take the call, happy for the excuse...

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - LOBBY - DAY

Kate glances at her watch. MICHAEL, the GM, appears.

MICHAEL

Mrs. Jones? I'm Michael, the
General Manager here. All set for
the interview?

KATE

Yes. My husband should be here any
minute...

OFF KATE, wondering: *where the hell is Steve?*

EXT. SANDDOLLAR HOTEL - DAY

Steve knocks on a hotel room door, that opens to REVEAL: JEN.

JEN

What took you so long?

STEVE

It was mid-round. I had to finish.

JEN

So do we.

She grabs him, kisses him and pulls him inside, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. SANDDOLLAR HOTEL - DAY

Steve and Jen lay in bed, post-coital. The room is cheesy.

STEVE

I'd kill for a cigarette.

JEN

Too bad NicoDerm's a client. Kate can't even smoke. That's why she stress-eats that crap.

(then)

So... aside from your career tanking, what happened that made this seem like a good idea?

STEVE

The job? Or you?

(off her look)

Great salary, free housing, full benefits. Felt like a no-brainer.

JEN

No one gives up their life to do this. Unless it's worth giving up.

STEVE

Was yours?

JEN

Where else is someone like me gonna make six figures?

STEVE

So you and Nick have been with Kate for a while, huh? What happened to the guy before me? Numbers weren't good? Bad in bed?

A beat. Jen rolls on top of him.

JEN

You'd have to ask Kate.

He looks at her, skeptically.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVE

How old are you really? 'Cause no
"seventeen year old" can do what
you just did...

JEN

Twenty-five tomorrow.

STEVE

What? We gotta celebrate.

JEN

I think we just did. Twice.
(getting out of bed)
Anyway, my real family never did
anything. I hardly expect my fake
one to.
(then)
Gonna shower. Then we should
bounce.

STEVE

What? Why?

JEN

Our hour's up. And Kate's gonna
wonder where we are...

Suddenly, it dawns on Steve. Kate. And the SOUND OF A CAR
SCREECHING TO A HALT takes us to:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Kate pulls up to the high school, A BAG OF FUNYONS in her
lap. She sees Nick's with a group of SKATER GUYS. HONKS.
As he gets in the car...

KATE

Where's Jen?

He covers.

NICK

She took off. With friends.

KATE

You make any? That have boobs?

NICK

It's only the first day.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He sees Talia getting into a BEAT UP OLD TRUCK in front of him.

NICK
I talked to her.

Kate clocks Talia, then looks at Nick.

KATE
And?

NICK
(admits)
It was just for a second.

KATE
Well, you know what they say: every
second counts.

Kate hits the GAS and SLAMS her CAR into Talia's. CRUNCH.
Nick looks at Kate. *What the hell?*

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - A LITTLE LATER

Nick stands by Talia's dented bumper. Kate hangs up.
Talia's near tears.

KATE
Triple A's on their way. We should
exchange insurance --

TALIA
I'm dead. I'm seriously dead. I
only have my permit, I'm not really
supposed to drive alone --

KATE
I can call your parents, explain
everything --

TALIA
I live with my uncle. This truck,
it's his. He's going to kill me.
This is the last thing he needs --

KATE
Then he doesn't even have to know.
(to Nick)
Why don't you give... what's your
name?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TALIA

Talia.

Kate looks at Nick, then nods to her car.

KATE

Give Talia a ride home.

(to Talia)

Just tell your uncle you left the truck at school. I'll have it back here and fixed by morning.

TALIA

You don't have to do that...

KATE

It's my fault you're in this mess. Yeah, I do.

Talia sighs, relieved.

TALIA

Okay... thanks.

KATE

Anytime.

She gives Talia a calming hug. And gives Nick a wink. OFF NICK, taking in Kate's skills. She's good.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Steve paces in his boxers, leaving a message for Kate. The shower runs in the b.g.

STEVE

Hey, it's me. I know I missed the thing at the country club -- I'll explain everything later, I just --

Suddenly, Steve HEARS a key in the door. It opens to REVEAL: SUMMER. Steve freezes, a deer in headlights. He sees a cleaning cart. Realizes:

STEVE

Summer? Do you... work here?

SUMMER

I'm sorry, I ---

She quickly glances around the room. Sees women's clothes scattered around -- a bra, a thong... it doesn't look good.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVE

I can explain...

But she hurries out. Jen walks out, naked, drying her hair. Steve looks like he's seen a ghost.

JEN

What?

SMASH TO:

EXT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - PICTURE WINDOW - NIGHT

The Joneses eat dinner, framed in the picture window, smiling, passing dishes back and forth. Their outward image picture perfect, but through Kate's smile:

KATE

Where the hell were you?

We CUT INSIDE TO SEE:

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A very different picture. In reality, everyone eats their own meal, that they made or picked up on their own.

KATE

The interview? You never showed.

And instead of a family conversation, it only appears that way -- Jen sings along to her iPod. Nick's into a game he's watching on TV, Kate and Steve talk through their smiles.

STEVE

Something... came up.

Steve looks to Jen for help. She takes her headphones out.

JEN

I got sent to the principal's office so I bounced. Then I got a flat tire. Guess we shoulda' gone with Michelin on the Jeep after all.

KATE

You got sent to the principal's office on the first day?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JEN

You put me in Chemistry. It was that or show I don't have a clue what's going on. It's not like the Corporation does our school work for us.

KATE

You took it when you were in school. Doesn't it ring a bell?

STEVE

Look, I think Jen's point is: if we're a fake family, shouldn't we be making these fake decisions together?

KATE

No. I tell you what to do. You do it.

STEVE

If I'd wanted that, I could've stayed married.

KATE

If you'd stayed married, you probably wouldn't be here in the first place.

The truth hits Steve like a slap in the face. Suddenly, the doorbell rings. Steve throws down his napkin and gets up to answer it.

EXT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - DOORSTEP - NIGHT

Steve opens the door to REVEAL: a WOMAN, K.C. -- *think Lauren Hutton* -- stands holding a piping hot, fresh baked apple pie.

K.C.

Hello, Neighbor.

SMASH TO:

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kate, Steve, Jen and Nick sit on the couch, eating pie. K.C. sits in front of them, a sweet, sadistic smile on her face. Steve tries to make small talk.

STEVE

This... is delicious.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

K.C.

The apples are native to the Andes.
You ever been?

STEVE

I'm not much of a world traveler.

Kate looks uneasy. K.C. continues.

K.C.

Oh, you'd love the Andes. Maybe
the Joneses need a vacation there.

(then)

Though there is some risk involved.
You ever hear of people who fall
into those giant crevasses? And
just... disappear?

OFF STEVE, *huh?* K.C. looks him directly in the eye.

K.C.

When you failed to show up for the
Lakeside interview, we enabled our
GPS device. Your car was traced
fifteen miles outside of town, to
the Sanddollar Hotel.

And now it makes sense: K.C. is their boss.

KATE

Wait... a hotel?

STEVE

What're you, Big Brother?

JEN

Since when are we tracked?

K.C.

You work for the top stealth
marketing firm in the country.
There's nothing we don't track.
Including our employees in the
field.

(looks at Jen)

It appears a young woman checked
into the same hotel under the name
"Joey Potter."

As it dawns on Kate, Jen shrugs innocently.

JEN

I loved that show.

Kate turns to Steve, livid.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KATE

You missed the interview because
you were having sex with Jen?

Steve looks to K.C. Hesitant to say the truth.

K.C.

What you do behind closed doors,
that's your business. But if it
affects your image, that's ours.
Skipping school, missing an
important interview -- that's a
problem. Getting caught by your
neighbor -- that's a catastrophe.

As this lands on Kate...

KATE

Wait... what?

STEVE

Summer walked in on me at the
hotel. Turns out, she works there.
Who knew?

Kate can't believe what she's hearing. She turns to K.C.

KATE

After everything that happened,
this market is the only thing I
asked for. And you stick me with
some washed-up, incompetent hack.
As if being saddled with a nympho
for the last three placements isn't
bad enough?

JEN

I crushed the Dayton market, Lady.
I had better numbers than you did.

K.C.

But to Kate's point, our clients
expect progress and if your actions
are jeopardizing that, we can make
a change.

NICK

(bitter)
We just had a change.

K.C. softens. She knows losing Dave was tough.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

K.C.

Dave's suicide was... unfortunate.

This is the first Steve's heard of it. He reacts.

STEVE

Wait, he killed himself? Why?

A beat. K.C. fields this question.

K.C.

This job, the stress, the pressure,
the compartmentalizing... not
everyone can handle it.

(beat)

And if any of you can't, a quick
trip to the Andes will fix that.
We'll tell the neighbors there's
been a tragedy, we'll pack up
whoever is left and send them to a
new market.

KATE

I want to make this work. Here.
In this market.

K.C.

Forty-eight hours. That's how long
you have to start logging sales and
repair the damage with Summer. No
one's going to want to be you if
they think your husband is
cheating.

KATE

I'll fix it, K.C. I will.

K.C.

You wanna stay here, you better.

K.C. throws down an Andes vacation brochure as a final threat
and leaves. OFF THE JONESES, their "family" in jeopardy.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Steve walks in to find Kate on a mission -- getting out party goods -- frozen foods, champagne, cocktail plates, napkins...

STEVE

On a scale of one to hating my
guts, where we at?

She ignores him, knee-deep in plans.

KATE

The soonest we can get another
meeting with Michael is next week.
If we can't get into the country
club right away, we'll make the
country club come to us.

STEVE

Look, about what happened with Jen --

KATE

We're throwing a party. Nick and
Jen are going to focus on getting
their friends from school over --

STEVE

(trying to help)
Okay, well... I can call Larry --

Kate stops. She looks at him, incredulous.

KATE

To what? Invite his broke-ass over
or to tell him you're not a lying,
cheating scumbag?

STEVE

Yeah... that.

Kate raises her voice a little.

KATE

Call Annie.

A HOUSE BLUETOOTH PHONE suddenly gets activated. We HEAR it dialing. Steve looks around, perplexed. As he realizes:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVE
Seriously? That's cool.

As it RINGS, Steve admits:

STEVE
Look, Kate. Larry -- I feel bad
for the guy.

KATE
That's the problem. Things like
feelings get in the way. Steve
Jones needs to care about one
person: himself.

And we HEAR:

ANNIE (O.C.)
Kate?

Kate shifts into fun, friendly "Kate Jones" mode.

KATE
Annie, it's me. I had so much fun
yesterday. Any interest in coming
over tonight? We'd love to meet
Jack.

ANNIE
Sure. That'd be great actually.
What can we bring?

KATE
How 'bout a small army of friends?
Steve's got a case of Veuve that's
dying to be drunk...

OFF KATE, taking action...

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Jen runs around the track with Mia, who struggles to keep up.

MIA
You gotta slow down. You're making
me look bad.

JEN
It's these Nike Flyknits. They
weigh, like, an ounce.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Suddenly, she slows. Notices a MAN in the stands staring at her. Clearly, out of place. She's flustered. To Mia:

JEN

Grabbing my SmartWater. Be right back.

She veers off. And we HEAR:

NICK (PRELAP)

Everything... it's fine.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Nick's on the payphone again.

NICK

Yeah, I got relocated. Our whole team did... almost.

(a beat)

Yeah, still marketing...

(then)

Is, um... Dad around?

(a beat)

Well is there better time to call?

(another beat)

I know he's said that... Mom, it's been over a year --

Nick stops, cut off. His eyes well with tears, despite trying to squash them down.

NICK

Yeah, I get it. Okay, bye.

He hangs up, crushed. Suddenly, Talia walks up, excited.

TALIA

So your mom not only fixed the truck, she got me new tires and a new transmission...

She can tell something's wrong.

TALIA

You okay?

From the look on his face, it's clear he isn't. He takes off, embarrassed. Talia watches him go, concerned. And we HEAR:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JEN (PRELAP)
How the hell did you find me?

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - UNDER THE BLEACHERS - DAY

Jen confronts a tattooed, sketchy deadbeat, CARL. He's late 40s but life hasn't been kind.

CARL
Those letters you sent. Bragging
about your fancy marketing job.
(then)
What the hell are you doing at a
high school?

JEN
It's my job. And those letters
weren't to you.

CARL
We tried to track you down in
Dayton --

JEN
I moved.

CARL
Spider told me.

JEN
Spider has a big mouth.
(then, self-conscious)
Look, everyone thinks I go here, so
just... be cool.

Carl laughs.

CARL
That's ironic. Didn't you drop out
after sophomore year? All one plus
two equals to you is a threesome.

He steps toward her. Touches her.

CARL
You look good.

She steps back.

JEN
Don't.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He cuts to the chase, pissed.

CARL

Fine.

(then)

Denise. She wants to see you.

OFF JEN, shocked, then softening...

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - KATE'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Kate -- dressed for the party -- sits on her bed, laptop out. She CLICKS on an ICON, that enables a video device that shows the INSIDE OF A NON-DESCRIPT TRUCK. It's empty. From the look on her face, she's disappointed.

She keeps that window open, but begins CLICKING THROUGH a series of INTERVIEW FOLDERS -- Steve's folder is at the top, followed by Nick, Dave, Jen, and various other co-workers. She clicks on STEVE'S INTERVIEW.

A QUICKTIME FILE pops UP on screen. Steve talks directly to the CAMERA. He looks more disheveled, a little over-weight. We HEAR K.C.'s VOICE.

K.C.'S VOICE

To take this job, you essentially walk away from your life. Are you prepared to do that?

STEVE (ON SCREEN)

I've tried being me. For forty-three years. And I've got shit to show for it.

(then)

Fake or not, it'd be nice to be the guy I thought I'd be.

A beat. Kate feels for him. Suddenly:

NICK

Kate?

She shuts the laptop quickly and looks up at Nick.

NICK

The first guests are here.

Kate forces a smile.

KATE

Be right down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Nick leaves. Kate clicks out of the interviews, leaving only the TRUCK VIDEO FOOTAGE. Talia is now IN THE FRAME, driving. Kate smiles. Good.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - NIGHT

The cocktail party is in full swing and the Joneses operate as a finely-tuned machine. Kate opens the door to MORE GUESTS.

KATE

Annie. And you must be Jack. Come in, come in...

JACK

Your home is gorgeous.

KATE

(to Jack)

So is your wife.

(to Annie)

I could never pull that top off. Unless I buy bigger boobs. Which Steve would love...

Suddenly, Larry and Summer arrive. Kate's shocked to see them.

KATE

Summer...

Steve rushes to greet them.

STEVE

Glad you both could make it...

Jen breezes by with a tray of hors d'oeuvres.

JEN

Crab cakes?

Larry grabs a handful.

LARRY

I'll have one. Or two.

Nick collects purses and coats...

NICK

These'll just be in the guest bedroom. It's the one down the hall, with the exposed fireplace.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Nick moves off.

INT. THE JONESES HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nick sets the purses and coats down, then takes two cell phones out of two coat pockets. He places them on an electronic mat to scan them and download what's on their browsers.

KATE (O.C.)
What the hell --

Nick spins around. At first we think he's caught, but then:

KATE
There's no one in your demo. Did you and Jen invite anyone?

Nick switches the phones. Scans the second one.

NICK
Sorry. I meant to, but --

KATE
-- But what? I pretty much handed you your new girlfriend on a silver platter.

Nick stuffs both phones back into their respective coat pockets.

KATE
I can't do the entire job for you. So next time I tell you to do something, do it.

OFF KATE, fuming, the SOUND OF A POP takes us to:

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Steve pops another bottle of champagne. Jen comes in to the kitchen for a refill.

JEN
I need a favor.

STEVE
Like... a sexual one?

JEN
No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVE

Good, 'cause I'm already on Kate's bad side.

JEN

You've gotta cover for me. I've got somewhere I need to go.
(before he can protest)
Consider this my birthday present.

STEVE

You said I gave you two.

JEN

I faked one so it doesn't count.

STEVE

Wait, seriously?
(off her look)
Fine, fine, fine. Look, everyone just got here, you can't leave yet...

He hands her a fresh tray of hors d'oeuvres.

STEVE

Just pass these out and I'll... think of something to get you outta' here.

OFF STEVE, knowing this can't be good.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - KATE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kate leads Annie, Lucy, Summer and a handful of other women on a tour. Lucy holds up a wedding photo.

LUCY

Was this in Napa?

KATE

Tuscany, actually.

We SEE the photo. It's a MUCH YOUNGER Steve and Kate. They are scampering through a vineyard.

KATE

We eloped. And by eloped, I mean, we snuck in to that vineyard. That's us getting chased out halfway through the ceremony...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCY

You and Steve have had quite the life.

KATE

We finally had to settle in suburbia out of sheer exhaustion.

Summer looks at the wedding picture.

SUMMER

Isn't it sad that half of all marriages end in divorce?

A beat.

LUCY

Aren't you Larry's second wife?

Summer nods, sheepishly. Kate goes to retrieve something from the closet.

KATE

I have our whole wedding album in here somewhere...

We see TWELVE THICK TERRY CLOTH BATHROBES, all with different hotel insignias. Annie notices.

ANNIE

Wow. Quite a collection.

Kate feigns embarrassment.

KATE

Oh, god. Long story.

(explains)

Steve and I won this couples' seminar in Vegas -- all about how to keep your marriage exciting. The trip was paid for, we figured what the hell...

(then)

One of the things we learned is how important the element of surprise is. So once a month, I send Steve a text... all it says is the name of a hotel and a time... the more random the better.

The women listen, riveted.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KATE

We meet. We... connect. We leave.
I always keep a souvenir.

Kate pulls out the Sanddollar robe.

KATE

I picked this one up yesterday.

A beat as Summer realizes that woman was Kate. Steve wasn't cheating at all.

SUMMER

Wow. Your marriage, it really
is... perfect.

A beat, then:

LUCY

And what was the name of that
seminar?

OFF KATE, problem solved, as the selling continues...

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - NIGHT

Andy, Mark, Jack, Larry and a few GUYS stand around the
flatscreen TV. Steve holds the remote and explains:

STEVE

Everything on the DVR can be
streamed right to my Mercedes...

Jen's about to slip out, when Kate walks downstairs with
Summer, who rambles nervously:

SUMMER

"We have products for every skin
type. Dry, oily, combination..."

KATE

Jen?

Jen covers.

JEN

Sorry. I thought someone was at
the door.

Kate looks over, monitoring Steve. Larry takes the remote.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY

Right to your car, huh? This is incredible...

Steve makes eye contact with Kate, who gives him a look. *Larry? Really?* Steve looks at Jack.

STEVE

Hey. You seen this?
(to Larry)
Can Jack check it out for a sec...?

As Kate watches the exchange, Summer continues:

SUMMER

...which would be great for your T-Zone issue. Dry here, oily there.

Kate turns to her, masking her annoyance.

KATE

Summer, I work with a lot of sales reps. The best way to sell is to wait for people to ask.

(beat)

Now excuse me, I need to check on the crab cakes.

SUMMER

They're delicious, by the way. Who makes them?

KATE

Chef Auberge. And believe it or not, they're frozen.

As Kate heads toward the kitchen, Jen gives Steve a look. She taps where her watch would be. It's been an hour. As Kate makes her way past Steve, he GRABS her out of nowhere and PLANTS A GIGANTIC KISS ON HER.

Everyone stops and stares. Kate's taken aback at first, but has no choice but to settle into it... giving Jen enough time to sneak out the front door.

Finally, Kate and Steve pull apart. The men nearly applaud.

STEVE

Wow.

Kate looks stunned. For all their pretending, something about that kiss felt decidedly, unexpectedly... real.

EXT. RV PARK - NIGHT

Jen bangs on the door of a BEATEN UP RV. The door OPENS to REVEAL: a woman, DENISE. Jen gives a slight shrug, revealing a little girl side of her we haven't seen.

JEN

Hey, Mama.

And OFF THIS TWIST...

EXT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

Kate and Steve hold hands -- the loving couple -- as they say goodbye to the last guests.

ANNIE

I swear, I'm going to dream of that six-burner Viking tonight...

KATE

Cardio Barre tomorrow?

ANNIE

Done. Coffee after. And we should check out that cupcake vending machine you read about.

As Annie and Mark leave, Kate drops Steve's hand immediately.

KATE

What was that kiss?

STEVE

Some of my best work.

KATE

You follow my lead, not the other way around.

STEVE

You said it yourself. "If people want to be us, they'll want what we have." And Steve Jones has you.

Kate sees right through his bullshit. He's distracting her from the bigger issue at hand.

KATE

Where's Jen?

OFF STEVE, shit.

INT. RV - NIGHT

The inside of the RV is a wreck. Jen sits across from her mom. Carl lingers. Denise takes Jen in. Shakes her head.

DENISE

It's crazy. You look so grown up.

JEN

It's been six years.

A beat as that hangs in the air.

JEN

But, you know, thanks for showing up. Nice to know you still remember.

Denise looks at her confused. Then realizes: Jen's birthday. From the look on Denise's face, it's clear she forgot. And Jen knows it. Denise tries to cover.

DENISE

What are you? Twenty-three now?

JEN

Twenty-five.

DENISE

I woulda' brought a present but Carl lost his job, we got evicted...

Carl gives her a look. Enough pussyfooting around.

DENISE

We're a little short on cash.

CARL

(corrects her)

A lot short.

Jen deflates. She knows exactly where this is going. She gets up to leave.

JEN

Yeah. We're done.

Carl blocks her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARL

You want word to get out? That
you're getting bank to live some fake
life? Pretending you're some All-
American girl-next-door?

(then)

I know what you really are. We both
do.

Jen tries to shove him out of the way and in a quick motion,
he BACKHANDS HER across the face. She stumbles back, dazed.
Then looks him square in the eye.

JEN

Was that for old times' sake?

(then)

Nothing you do can hurt me more
than she already has.

The door slams loudly as she leaves.

INT. JEEP - NIGHT

Jen gets into the car. She breaks down crying. Clearly in
much more pain than she's letting on. And we HEAR:

KATE (PRELAP)

Where the hell have you been?

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - NIGHT

Kate confronts Jen, who's just walked in the door. Jen's
hood is up. She tries to blow by her but Kate intercepts
her. Steve tries to help. To calm things down.

STEVE

Hold on, Kate...

KATE

Jen, wait --

JEN

Get off my back --

KATE

You're lying, you're sneaking
around --

Jen stomps up the stairs. Nick appears at the top of the
banister. Kate follows and grabs her.

KATE

We're not done here!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jen's hood falls off. We REVEAL the side of her face is black and blue.

KATE
Oh my god, Jen.

STEVE
What the hell --

KATE
Jen, wait --

JEN
Spare me the mom act. 'Cause that's what all this is, right? An act? You don't give a shit about me any more than you gave a shit about Dave!

Kate's stung. Nick looks confused.

NICK
What?

KATE
(to Jen)
You don't know anything about me and Dave.

JEN
I know you broke this heart. You tossed him aside faster than your 4S. It wasn't just sex to him, he actually loved you.

A beat as Nick takes this in, shocked. This is clearly news to him. Jen's relentless.

JEN
That John Deere didn't drive him to the pool. You did.
(to Steve)
You think sleeping with me gets you into trouble? Well, don't even think about sleeping with her.

Jen storms upstairs, followed by a pissed off Nick. Steve looks at Kate, who's clearly shaken, wracked with guilt.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

EXT. MOCKINGBIRD LANE - EARLY MORNING

The sun rises, NEWSPAPERS get tossed onto doorsteps, the street starts to wake up. We LAND on one sprawling house in particular... THE JONESES.

EXT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - POOL - NEXT MORNING

Steve walks out, on a mission.

STEVE

Kate... Kate?

He sees a BODY floating in the pool. KATE. Her eyes are wide open, staring blankly at the sky.

STEVE

Jesus! KATE!

Steve jumps in the pool and grabs her. She flails, startled.

KATE

Oh my god! What the hell --

Steve's breathless, relieved. She's alive.

STEVE

Jesus Christ. I thought...

Jen and Nick run out. They see Kate and Steve in the pool.

KATE

What? What did you want?

A beat. He admits:

STEVE

K.C.'s here.

OFF this strange family tableau...

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EARLY MORNING

All four Joneses sit on the couch, packed in like sardines. Close physically, far apart emotionally. Steve and Kate are still wet. K.C. stands in front of them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

K.C.

As you know, it was important you come in and hit the ground running. You had a major setback to overcome. The country club was one way into this town.

(smiles)

But clearly, not the only way.

The Joneses look at each other, a moment of hope.

K.C.

That party, getting people into your home, having your neighbors see everything first hand -- your Viking appliances, your Design Within Reach couches, your Apple TV... it went a long way in rectifying your bumpy start.

She clicks a remote. The flatscreen is a MONITOR. A GRID of the town pops up.

K.C.

Here's your house. Here's your neighborhood. And here's a look at which of our products have been everything from Google-searched to purchased by people you've interacted with.

K.C. hits a button. A complicated GRAPH of figures and charts pops up.

K.C.

The Farbod Barsum bag... a huge sale.

There's a BLOOP noise. A dot appears in the neighborhood. Kate beams.

K.C.

TaylorMade, Tori Burch...

More BLOOPS and DOTS in and around the town.

K.C.

Skinny pops, Birdhouse and Blitz...

Kate looks at Nick, encouragingly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KATE

Nice.

But he ignores her. Still reeling from the Dave news. K.C. continues.

K.C.

Viking, GolfSense, Atlantic Ale...

(then)

And the biggest sale. The Mercedes G-Class Hybrid SUV. For that, you can just look out your window.

K.C. points across the street. Steve looks out to see LARRY. Washing his BRAND NEW MERCEDES. She looks at Steve, pleased.

STEVE

Larry bought my Mercedes?

A beat as it lands on Kate. Steve out-sold her.

K.C.

Hook, line and sinker. Targeting him was genius.

Kate looks down, sheepishly. Steve throws her a bone.

STEVE

Just following Kate's lead.

Kate looks at Steve, surprised. K.C. hands out envelopes.

K.C.

Your first paychecks, commission included...

(then)

It's a long road ahead, but consider the Joneses' trip to the Andes postponed... at least for now.

She tosses a set of car keys to Steve.

STEVE

What's this?

K.C.

Can't let old Larry get too comfortable. That's the name of the game. You gotta keep up.

OFF STEVE, considering...

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Steve opens the garage door to REVEAL: a new 2014 AUDI R8, all electric e-tron sports car. He's floored. Kate walks up.

KATE

You didn't have to give me credit --

STEVE

-- Get in.

As Kate does...

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - NICK'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jen finds Nick in his room, doing homework.

JEN

Wanna crack into that Wii U in the garage? See how it works?

Nick doesn't look up.

JEN

Okay. Who're you mad at? Dave, Kate or me?

NICK

D) All of the above.

(then)

Dave killed himself. Kate caused it. And apparently, you knew all about it.

JEN

The one thing I do know is Dave couldn't keep it straight. The line between real and pretend. And if you can't do that, you can't do this job.

(then)

When Kate realized his feelings were real, she ended it. He couldn't deal.

A beat as Nick takes that in. Jen looks at him, curiously.

JEN

Can you? Because we knew Dave five months. You're taking his suicide pretty hard.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Nick looks down. *Yeah, maybe he is.*

JEN

Don't make the same mistake he did.
The worst thing you can do in this
job is care.

NICK

Right. It's just a paycheck to
you. That's why you're doing this.

JEN

What're you doing it for?

He looks at her. Admits.

NICK

My dad, he kicked me out. I wasn't
the son he wanted.

(then)

I guess I'm doing it for a second
chance.

Nick goes back to doing his homework. As Jen takes that in,
her gaze falls onto Talia's TUTORING FLYER on his desk. OFF
JEN, thinking about second chances...

EXT./INT. RV - DAY

Steve and Kate POUND on the RV door. The door SWINGS OPEN to
REVEAL: DENISE. She comes face to face with Kate.

KATE

Denise Mitchell?

DENISE

(stammers)

Yes... why?

Kate pushes past her and marches into the trailer. She gets
right in Carl's face, fearless.

KATE

You're pretty ballsy for a guy with
two felony strikes. So unless you
want to be arrested for assault and
rot in jail for the rest of your
life, I'd leave town and make sure
Jen never sees you or hears from
you again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DENISE

What's going on? Who the hell are you?

Kate's disgusted.

KATE

More of a fucking parent to your kid than you are.

Kate pushes past her and storms out of the trailer, past Steve, who watches her go, stunned.

EXT. MOCKINGBIRD LANE/INT. STEVE'S CAR - A LITTLE LATER

Steve and Kate drive home in silence.

STEVE

Would it be wrong to say... that was hot?

A beat.

KATE

Yes.

Another beat. She smiles. So does Steve. An actual real moment between them. Then:

STEVE

Listen, what Jen said last night... If you ever want to talk...

KATE

The less we know about each other, the better.

STEVE

Okay. But you don't have to shut me out. Because of Dave.

Kate looks at him, gives the slightest of sad smiles.

KATE

Yeah, actually. I do.

As Kate's words land, they pass Larry in his MERCEDES SUV. Steve breaks the moment between them. Calls out:

STEVE

Larry! Nice car, man.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Larry takes in Steve's new Audi.

LARRY

You, too.

OFF LARRY. Keeping up with the Joneses is going to be harder than he thought.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - PICTURE WINDOW - NIGHT

The same NEIGHBOR from the beginning walks his dog past the Joneses' house. He glances into the picture window where the Joneses sit, eating. Steve carries in a plate and we HEAR:

STEVE

Who needs seconds? We got more eggs, bacon, sausage...

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

He sets a plate with a single pancake down in front of Jen.

STEVE

A day late, but...

Jen looks at him, shocked. There's a LIT CANDLE in it.

JEN

Seriously?

Steve smiles. Seriously. OFF THIS UNLIKELY FAMILY...

EXT. THE PLACE - NIGHT

Jen looks at an address she's written down, confused. Talia runs down a staircase.

TALIA

Are you Jen?

JEN

Oh, yeah. I thought I was at the wrong place.

TALIA

I live upstairs. My uncle owns the bar. Random, I know.

JEN

No more random than me calling you.
(then)
Tell me you know what kelvin is.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Suddenly, Sam walks out from upstairs. He sees Jen.

SAM

You back for another round?

(then)

Jennifer Mitchell, right? '88. I never forget an I.D.

Talia looks at Sam, confused. He must have the wrong girl.

TALIA

She's in high school. With me.

OFF SAM, confused and JEN, busted.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - KATE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

It's late. Kate walks in. There's a box of Twinkies, Hostess Cupcakes, and Sno-Balls in the center of her bed, plus a note: "*In case of emergency -- Steve.*" There's also a bottle of Tums. Kate can't help but smile, touched.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - HALLWAY - LATER

TWO SOCKED FEET make their way down the hall past...

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - NICK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nick stares up at the ceiling, a lot on his mind. He pulls a picture out of his nightstand.

We SEE it's Nick and ANOTHER GUY, arms around each other's shoulders, looking very much like a couple. And as we start to get a hunch as to why his relationship with his dad is strained...

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

The socks tiptoe across the reclaimed wood floors.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - GARAGE - NIGHT

Steve sits in a Pledos reDO Leather lawn chair, as he pulls an Atlantic Ale out of his Igloo Glide Pro-Cooler. A hot dog grills on his Element Smokeless BBQ, as a movie gets projected from his iPod on the wall of the garage. He puts his feet up, puts the hot dog in a bun, takes a bite, then swigs his beer. Being Steve Jones ain't bad at all.

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Jen tiptoes down the hall and pushes open the door to:

INT. THE JONESES' HOUSE - KATE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kate looks up from her laptop at Jen.

JEN

I just wanted to say... thanks.

KATE

I was protecting our cover.

JEN

Still. Thanks.

Jen leaves. Kate can't help but smile. Progress. She turns her attention back to her laptop. CLICKS on INTERVIEW FOLDERS until she finds her own. Her IMAGE pops up ON SCREEN. She looks at least a decade younger.

KATE (ON SCREEN)

...Katherine Bradshaw and I'm interviewing for a sales position at the Phoenix Corporation...

K.C.'S VOICE

And you're currently married?

KATE (ON SCREEN)

That'll change. Soon.

K.C.'S VOICE

With a three year old? Talia?

KATE (ON SCREEN)

Yes, Talia.

K.C.'S VOICE

Because if you join Phoenix, that'll change, too.

Kate nods, understanding that. She nods, torn.

KATE (ON SCREEN)

That's the whole idea.

And as we realize that Talia is Kate's daughter, we finally understand why this town, and this girl are so very important, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF PILOT