HERE TO STAY

"Pilot"

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COLD OPEN

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - MORNING - ESTABLISHING

An UPBEAT SONG (e.g. David Bowie’s “Queen Bitch” or Vampire Weekend’s “A-Punk”) sets the mood. A SERIES OF SHOTS of New York on a perfect morning: the skyline, bustling sidewalks, traffic on Fifth Avenue, etc.

INT. THE GUYS’ APARTMENT - SETH’S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sun streams in through the windows. A YOUNG MAN climbs out of bed, looks in the mirror, and smiles: It’s gonna be a good day. This is SETH PITTIFORD, 28. He’s a handsome white dude, smart, ambitious, well-liked. He’s everyone’s best friend.

Seth gets ready for work. A SERIES OF SHOTS: He brushes his teeth, shaves, combs his hair. He puts on a tie and pulls a jacket from the closet. His ensemble is complete: perfectly tailored black suit, white shirt, black tie.

INT. THE GUYS’ APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Seth enters and finds his roommates, RILEY TYTHMANN (pronounced Tit-man) and JOHN “JUICE” CARVER, both 28. Riley is a sarcastic, gay, Jewish guy; he’d be called lazy if he were a member of any previous generation, but since he’s not he’s just “laid back.” Juice is a handsome, ambitious, athletic black guy with a fear of being seen as a stereotype.

Seth does a model spin, seeking their approval of his outfit. The MUSIC STOPS ABRUPTLY, and the guys burst out LAUGHING.

RILEY
Nice suit. Now is that the actual one Diane Keaton wore in “Annie Hall,” or is it just a replica?

SETH
What’s wrong with the suit?

JUICE
That’s a wedding suit, dude. Or a funeral suit.
(thinking)
The dress code for those two events really should not be the same...

SETH
It’s my first day. I wanna make a good impression.
RILEY
I’m sure the other Reservoir Dogs will love you.

JUICE
It’s a tech startup, dude. You’ll be the best-dressed person there and they’ll all think you’re a goon. Is that the impression you wanna make? A goon?

SETH
I’m the CFO. I gotta turn this mother out.

RILEY
No. That phrase has been retired. It’s over.

JUICE
Trust me, Seth. I’m black. We have excellent fashion sense.

SETH
OK, first of all: You once referred to white people as “we.” You’re Carlton black. And second: You’re wearing jeans and plaid. Not exactly haute couture.

JUICE
Everyone there’ll be wearing this.

SETH
It’s a professional office, not a lumber mill. People aren’t gonna be dressed like the Brawny man.

RILEY
OK, if you’re not gonna listen to Uncle To--

Juice shoots him a look. Even though they’re best friends, that’s still not an OK phrase to use. Riley tries to salvage.

RILEY (CONT’D)
Remus... Uncle Ben? Why are all the famous uncles horrible black stereotypes?

SETH
Uncle Buck?
RILEY
If you’re not gonna listen to Uncle Buck, listen to me. If there’s one thing the gays know, it’s fashion. And art. And restaurants. And quality premium-cable programming. And penises. OK, we pretty much know everything about everything.

SETH
What’s the capital of Iowa?

RILEY
Nebraska...? Ya know what? Let’s just stick to the matter at hand. Fashion. Which I know.

He eats some cereal, BURPS, and wipes his mouth on his shirt, which, btw, says “Doo-Doo Occurs” in big, brown letters.

SETH
Yeah, you’re really crushing it.

RILEY
All right, fine. It’s your funeral.

JUICE
Or wedding.

INT./EXT. APARTMENT LOBBY - SAME TIME

At the front desk is KIRBY LOGAN, early 30s, British. He’s the building’s doorman, insomuch as he wears the uniform and gets paid to do it. But he rarely works, and spends most of his time at the guys’ apartment or hitting on female tenants. His current target is MRS. OSTERTAG, 40s, a semi-cougar getting off the elevator. He rushes to open the door.

KIRBY
Good morning, Mrs. Ostertag. You look absolutely ravishing as usual.

(moments later)

And where is Mr. Ostertag?

MRS. OSTERTAG
Out of town doing “business.” That’s what I call his assistant.

(wispering seductively)

Wish I had some “business” to take care of. Or to take care of me...
KIRBY
Well, why don’t I come by your flat later and we can have ourselves a good old-fashioned revenge fu--

MAN’S VOICE (O.C.)
Good morning, sir or ma’am...

KIRBY                MRS. OSTERTAG
(startled)          (startled)
Bollocks!         Son of a bitch!

PULL BACK to reveal a slovenly man standing six inches away, both feet firmly in their personal space. This is BARRY.

MRS. OSTERTAG
(walking away)
I should be going. Mr. Logan...

KIRBY
You bloody wanker. I had her!

BARRY
(reading from a paper)
Good morning, sir or ma’am. I am looking for Seth Pittiford...

INT. THE GUYS’ APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The guys continue their conversation.

SETH
I’m wearing the suit! And I look awesome! And everyone’s gonna be impressed! You’ll see! And you’ll see! You’ll all see!

JUICE
There’s no one else here.

A KNOCK on the door. Seth opens it. It’s Kirby, holding a garbage bag and an Igloo cooler. Suddenly, out jumps--

SETH
Barry?

BARRY
Baby bro!

Barry GRABS Seth in a huge bear hug and SQUEEZES him.

END OF COLD OPEN
ACT I

INT. THE GUYS’ APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

This is where we’re introduced to Barry Pittiford, the 35-year-old well-intentioned idiot. He’s the opposite of his younger brother Seth: dim-witted, lazy, overweight, sloppy. The disparity is obvious as they stand next to each other, Seth in a suit and Barry in a too-small T-shirt with a picture of a fat sheep that says “Ewes Not Fat, Ewes Fluffy.”

BARRY
You gonna introduce me or what?

SETH
(reluctantly)
Guys, this is my big brother Barry.

JUICE
(offering his hand)
John Carver. Nice to meet you.

BARRY
Juuuuice! I know all about you.

Barry skips the handshake and wraps him up in a bear hug.

JUICE
So this is happening...

RILEY
(quietly, to Seth)
So...based on all the stories you told us over the years, I kinda thought your brother was retarded.

SETH
What?

JUICE
OK, this needs to stop happening.

Barry finally lets Juice go, and turns to Riley.

BARRY
And you must be--

RILEY
Riley Tythmann.

BARRY
(laughing)
Tit man?
RILEY
I’m aware of the irony.

BARRY
But you’re the one who’s--

Instead of saying “gay,” Barry tilts his left hand side to side, the idiotic yet all-too-common gesture for “gay.”

RILEY
I am indeed left-handed.

BARRY
Come here, ya big gay southpaw.

Barry grabs Riley and gives him his signature bear hug.

JUICE
(quietly, to Seth)
Dude, from your stories, I totally thought he was mentally challenged.

SETH
Why did everyone think that?

BARRY
So who’s this Brooklyn person everyone’s talking about?

Barry scratches his head. As he does, he gets a whiff of his armpit. He makes a disgusted face, then smells again anyway.

SETH
(getting it)
Ooohhh...

INT. THE GIRLS’ APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

VALERIE, 28, bi-racial and equal parts neurotic and easygoing, packs stuff into a duffle bag as she talks to her roommate, AVIVA, 25, a gorgeous Long Island princess.

VALERIE
This is good. Therapeutic.

Aviva sits on the couch texting, barely paying attention.

VALERIE (CONT’D)
I mean, it’s been a month. I can’t keep his stuff forever, right?

AVIVA
Nope...
VALERIE
It sucks to just throw it away, but
I gotta move on. I guess I could
give it to the Salvation Army...

Aviva LAUGHS at a text she receives. Valerie notices that she isn’t paying any attention to her, and decides to test her.

VALERIE (CONT’D)
Or I could light the bag and myself
on fire in some sort of ritualistic
protest of the breakup. Thoughts?

AVIVA
Totally...

Valerie playfully throws a shirt at her.

VALERIE
You’re not listening to me!

AVIVA
Of course I am, sweetie. You said
you can’t keep his stuff forever.
However, you feel bad throwing it
away, so you’re considering
donating it to charity or, barring
that, self-immolating in protest.

Valerie is dumbfounded. Aviva reads a text and LAUGHS WILDLY.

INT. THE GUYS’ APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

The guys sit on the couches and chairs in the living room.

BARRY
OK. First time in New York. What
should I do first? Big Christmas
tree or World’s Fair?

SETH
It’s September, and it’s not 1939.

KIRBY
You’ve never been to New York?

BARRY
Never been out of Iowa.

RILEY
And you’re how old?
BARRY
Thirty-five.

They REACT: Wow/You’ve never left?/Don’t look a day over 40.

SETH
So why now? I’ve been here ten years and you’ve never visited.

BARRY
(pondering for a moment)
I guess it goes back to when I was six. Mom had gotten pregnant again--

SETH
Abridged version, please.
(off Barry’s puzzled look)
Short version, please.

BARRY
Oh. OK. So last week when you were back in Iowa for your party--

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. IOWAN BENNIGAN’S – NIGHT – FLASHBACK

Seth and Barry sit at a large table surrounded by RELATIVES, including their parents, MR. PITTIFORD (60s, stern) and MRS. PITTIFORD (50s, sweet, quintessential Midwestern housewife). Mr. Pittiford stands, in the middle of a toast.

MR. PITTIFORD
We’re proud of you, Seth. Your mom and I. An MBA. CFO. You’re gonna be a very successful businessman, and--

BARRY
We are the 1 percent! Occupy Bennigan’s!

Seth leans over and whispers something to Barry.

BARRY (CONT’D)
I mean, we are the 99 percent!

MR. PITTIFORD
Can you be quiet for two seconds?

Barry quiets down--

MR. PITTIFORD (CONT’D)
Anyway. Seth, we’re proud of--
--for exactly two seconds.

BARRY
(chanting)
Seth! Seth! Seth! Seth!

MR. PITTIFORD
Would you shut up, you fat idiot?!
I’m toasting your brother, the one
good thing my sperm ever did!

SETH
Gross.

MRS. PITTIFORD
It’s done other stuff, Dale.

MR. PITTIFORD (CONT’D)
Your brother’s made something of
himself. He has three degrees, a
job, a life. All you have is adult-
onset diabetes.

A BEAT, then Barry runs out, CRYING and flailing his arms.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. THE GUYS’ APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - PRESENT TIME

The guys are as they were.

SETH
Well, Dad’s kind of a peen. That’s
definitely not the worst thing he’s
ever said to or about you.

BARRY
I’m not done. I was just
establishing stuff. Act One.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. CAR / EXT. AIRPORT - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Barry drives. Seth rides in the passenger’s seat.

BARRY
Maybe he’s right. Maybe I am a fat
idiot. But the diabetes thing was
news to me. I don’t even remember
getting tested.

SETH
I think that was another fat joke.
And now it’s an idiot joke.
They pull up to the airport departures area.

SETH (CONT’D)
Look, if you don’t want Dad to be right, prove him wrong. It’s not too late. Be something great.

BARRY
Like a rodeo clown?

SETH
Not at all like a rodeo clown. Look, you just gotta figure out what your thing is. When I was 18, I went to New York. Greatest city in the world. I love it. It’s my thing. You just need to find yours. It’s not too late, Bar. Don’t let Dad be right about you.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. THE GUYS’ APARTMENT – LIVING ROOM – PRESENT TIME

The guys are as they were.

BARRY
You inspired me, bro.

JUICE
Awww. That’s so sweet.

BARRY
(indicating Riley)
I thought he was the gay one.

RILEY
Oh, burned!

BARRY
So I went home after that and started packing my stuff--

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. PITTIFORD’S HOUSE – BARRY’S ROOM – NIGHT – FLASHBACK

Barry opens dresser drawers and pulls out all his clothes. He shoves them into a garbage bag and an Igloo cooler.

RILEY (V.O.)
That’s your luggage? Really?
KIRBY (V.O.)
The cooler is filled with dirty knickers.

BARRY (V.O.)
Can I finish my story, please?
(beat)
So then I headed to the airport.

INT. AIRPORT APPLEBEE’S - NIGHT - FLASHBACK
Barry sits at the bar, four empty shot glasses before him.

BARRY (V.O.)
I was nervous. Never flown before.
So I had a drink to take the edge off. Got drunk. Missed my flight.

INT. AIRPORT GATE - LATER - FLASHBACK
Barry sits by the gate, passed out -- mouth open, drooling -- as everyone else boards the plane.

BARRY (V.O.)
So I got another flight. Had time to kill, so I went back to the bar.

INT. ANOTHER AIRPORT GATE - LATER - FLASHBACK
Barry is passed out at a different gate, just like before.

BARRY (V.O.)
But I got drunk again and missed that flight. So--

RILEY (V.O.)
Oh my god, would you hurry up?

BARRY (V.O.)
Finally caught a flight. Got here--

INT. THE GUYS’ APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - FLASHBACK
Seth opens the door. Barry bear hugs him. It’s exactly what happened like three minutes ago.

SETH (V.O.)
We already know this part, Bar.

SMASH CUT TO:
INT. THE GUYS’ APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - PRESENT TIME

BARRY
And that’s it. That’s the story.
(then)
So do I get Derek’s old room or what? And what’s your humidifier situation? My nose bleeds like a stuck pig come wintertime.

They REACT: Wintertime?!/How do you know Derek?/Etc.

Just then, Valerie enters and makes a beeline for Seth.

VALERIE
Your brother is here?!
(off Seth’s puzzled look)
Riley texted me. So Barry’s not handicapped? What’s that about?

SETH
He’s just...weird.

VALERIE
Snazzy suit, BTDubya. Is that from the Men’s Warehouse Remington Steele collection?

SETH
More like the Remington...
Awesome... collection.

VALERIE
Good one.

Val crosses the room and introduces herself to Barry, who’s suddenly very shy. Not much experience talking to girls.

VALERIE (CONT’D)
Hey Barry, I’m Valerie.
(off his awkward silence)
I’m friends with your brother. I live downstairs.

A LONG, AWKWARD BEAT. Barry is so nervous. Dripping sweat. He can’t speak. Then...he just gets up and walks away.

VALERIE (CONT’D)
(sarcastically)
I thought you said he was weird...
(then)
So what are you gonna do with him while you’re at work?
SETH
(checking his watch)
Crap. I gotta go. Riley, can you keep an eye on him today?

JUICE
Bad idea. Riley sucks with kids.

RILEY
No good with the niños.

SETH
He’s a grown man.

RILEY
See, I’m not so sure. I think we might have a “Big” scenario here. Kid in an adult’s body. Or a “Freaky Friday”-style body swap. Anyone seen Chunk from The Goonies recently? Cause I think they may have...

SETH
So what do you expect me to do? Take him with me on my first day?

VALERIE
No, Mr. Bond. We expect you to die.

She LAUGHS an evil laugh. Seth stares at her.

VALERIE (CONT’D)
‘Cause of the suit.

SETH
Oh, I got it.
(then)
Riley, please. It’s just one day.

RILEY
(reluctantly)
Fine...

From the bathroom:

BARRY (O.C.)
Hey, you guys gotta come look at this before I flush it!

Off Riley’s flabbergasted look:

END OF ACT I
ACT II

INT. OFFICE - LATER - DAY

Seth, suit-clad, stands in front of a mural of his company’s truly awful name: What’s APPenin’. He’s flanked by MAGGIE LEE, 28, the brilliant yet flighty Korean-American founder.

MAGGIE
Everyone gather ‘round. I want to introduce you to the newest, and most inappropriately dressed, member of the What’s APPenin’ team.

REVERSE ANGLE: The other EMPLOYEES. All of them are wearing some variation of jeans and plaid. It looks like a party with Paul Bunyan, Al Borland, and most of Canada. Juice was right.

SETH
(to himself)
Dammit.

MAGGIE
He’s an old college friend of mine and a great dude. Let’s hear it for our new CFO, Seth Pittiford!

The crowd applauds. Seth smiles and waves hello.

INT. SETH’S OFFICE - LATER - DAY

Seth arranges his shelves. Enter RAJ KANAKARAJ, 29, the company’s Indian-American CTO. Raj has a lot of faux-swagger and a longtime, more or less one-sided rivalry with Seth.

RAJ
Well, well, well. I knew Maggie was considering it, but I didn’t think she’d actually do it. I guess she’ll just hire anyone, huh?

SETH
She hired you, didn’t she?

RAJ
(realizing, to himself)
Damn.

(then)
So that’s how it’s gonna be? The rivalry continues? Two alpha males, horns locked, fighting, clawing--
SETH
What do you want, Raj?

RAJ
Just wanted to give you this.

Raj tries to hand Seth a beautifully wrapped gift.

SETH
Lemme guess: Another box of pubes?

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. BAR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Seth is among a large GROUP of PEOPLE wearing party hats and drinking beer. Raj approaches with a similar-looking gift.

RAJ
Happy birthday!

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A “Congratulations Graduate” banner hangs behind the table. Seth sits with his parents. Raj enters and sets a gift down.

RAJ
Mazel tov!

INT. THE GUYS’ APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM/BATHROOM - FLASHBACK

The living room is decorated for a party. Seth opens the bathroom door to find Raj, pants around his ankles, electric razor BUZZING in his hand. A gift box sits at his feet.

RAJ
Get out! It’s not ready yet!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. SETH’S OFFICE - PRESENT TIME

Seth and Raj are as they were.

RAJ
What? No! Why would you...? Just take it.

Maggie pops into the office.
MAGGIE
Hey Seth, you eat lunch yet?

SETH
I was about to meet Juice and Valerie next door. Wanna join?

MAGGIE
Who?

SETH
Juice Carver and Valerie Bedley.
   (off Maggie’s blank stare)
We went to college with them? And Riley? And Raj and his Robin Williams-like blanket of pubes?

RAJ
But alas, it is no more.

Raj offers Seth the box again. Seth slaps it out of his hand.

MAGGIE
Is Riley gonna be there? God, I’d love to see him. Swoon.

SETH
Yeah, the thing is, Riley’s super gay...

She looks at him, clearly not grasping it.

SETH (CONT’D)
It’s just that he prefers... And you don’t have a... There’s just nothing on you for him to... Ya know what, I’m just gonna go.

EXT. CAFE - LATER - DAY

Val and Juice sit at the cafe next to Seth’s office. The WAITER approaches.

WAITER
Something to drink?

JUICE
Can I get a John Daly, please?

WAITER
And for your girlfriend?
JUICE
Whoa. Not my girlfriend.

VALERIE
Why’d you assume that? ‘Cause we’re both black? You a racist, Jim Crow?

WAITER
(totally flustered)
Of course not. It’s just-- You-- I’m very sorry. I’ll get your drinks. On the house, of course.

The waiter hurries away. Juice and Val high-five.

JUICE
Jim Crow. Nice addition.

VALERIE
White people. So simple. Speaking of which...

Seth enters and sits down.

SETH
Sorry I’m late. You order yet?

JUICE
Just drinks. Free drinks.

SETH
Race card?

VALERIE
Yup.

SETH
Nice. Hey, you guys heard from Riley? He’s not answering my calls.

VALERIE/JUICE
Nope.

SETH
They’re fine, right? They’re probably fine...

INT. THE GUYS’ APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Riley sits at his desk, trying to work. Across the room, Barry does his stretches. As he bends over, his ass crack reveals itself, right in Riley’s line of sight. He SHUDDERS.
This begins a SERIES OF SHOTS of Barry annoying Riley:

-- Barry lies on the couch, headphones on, loudly singing “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” by Deep Blue Something.

   BARRY
   And I said what about Breakfast at Tiffany’s / She said I think I remember the film...

-- Barry opens a two-liter bottle of soda and it explodes everywhere, making a huge mess.

-- Riley is now wearing headphones, but they’re not drowning out the sound of Barry cutting his toenails on the coffee table. It echoes, louder and louder. Clip. CLIP. CLIP!

-- Barry back on the couch, hugging a pillow and bawling his eyes out as he loudly sings Soul Asylum’s “Runaway Train.”

   BARRY (CONT’D)
   Runaway train never goin’ back / Wrong way on a one-way track...

SERIES ENDS as Riley yanks the headphones off Barry’s head.

   RILEY
   No more. Get up. Field-trip time.

EXT. CAFE - LATER - DAY

Seth, Juice, and Valerie are finishing up their (free) lunch.

   VALERIE
   Oh, hey, how’s Maggie? I always liked her.

   SETH
   She’s good. She really wanted to come to lunch and see you but she couldn’t find time--

Seth trails off as something catches his eye. We follow his gaze down the street, where Riley and Barry are getting out of a cab. They cross the sidewalk and enter Seth’s building.

   JUICE
   That can’t be good.

Seth takes off, running toward the building.
INT. SETH’S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Barry is in mid-bear hug with a totally shocked Raj.

    BARRY
    Nice to meet you, Rog.

Barry lets him go.

    RAJ
    It’s Raj.

    BARRY
    Rog.

    RAJ
    Rajjjj.

    BARRY
    Rogggg. Like, short for Roger.

    RAJ
    R-A-J.

    BARRY
    Jar?

    RILEY
    (at a loss)
    Good god.

Seth bursts in, out of breath.

    SETH
    What the hell are you doing here?!

    RAJ
    He was introducing me to your brother, who, I must say, is just a delight!

    RILEY
    I couldn’t take it anymore, dude. I’m sorry. It was... Ya know how you hate it when people clap at the end of movies?

    SETH
    The actors can’t hear you! Totally negates the point of applause!

    RILEY
    And you just wanna slap all of them for being dumb and annoying?
    (MORE)
RILEY (CONT'D)
(re. Barry)
Well...

BARRY
My stomach hurts. Too much pop.

Maggie enters and immediately flocks to Riley.

MAGGIE
Is that Riley?! Hey!

She gives him an awkward hug.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
I wish I woulda known you were coming. I woulda worn something to--
(re. her boobs)
--accentuate these.

RILEY
Gross.

Barry approaches Maggie. He bows to her like a Japanese businessman. It’s inadvertently racist.

BARRY
Konichiwa.

RILEY
Seth!

MAGGIE
Konichiwa to you. And you are...?

BARRY
I’m Barry. Seth’s brother. I drank a whole two-liter of pop.

MAGGIE
Good for you!
(quietly, to Seth)
I didn’t know you had a handicapable brother.

VALERIE (O.C.)
Maggie! Hey!

The group looks toward the door, where Val and Juice enter.

SETH
Why are you here?! What is happening?! Why--
VALERIE
(holding up a doggy bag)
Seth said you're crazy busy, but I wanted to say hi. I brought lunch.

MAGGIE
(no idea who this is)
Heeeyyy...you...

VALERIE
It’s Val. Valerie Bedley.
(off her clueless shrug)
You have no idea who I am, do you?

MAGGIE
Not a clue.

VALERIE
Well you don’t have to be a bitch about it.

SETH
(bleeped)
Fuck me.

JUICE
This has taken an unfortunate turn.

Out of nowhere:

RILEY
I’m gay! Just wanna put that out there. Hear that, Maggie? I’m a friend of Elton. Wieners for this guy, please.

This has turned into absolute chaos. And then it gets worse. Barry’s face goes totally white. He shakes his head over and over and over. Then he leans over and--

BARFS LOUDLY into the trash can.

Everyone REACTS: What the hell/?Is that a whole chicken bone?

SETH
And we’re done here. Everyone. Go.
(to Riley)
Take him home.

Riley hesitates, and Seth gives him the evilest eye ever. Barry stands up and wipes his mouth.

BARRY
I’m all right. Just too much pop.
Seth shuffles Riley, Barry, Juice and Val out. As they leave:

BARRY (CONT’D)
Domo arigato, Maggie!

SETH
Maggie, I’m really sorry. I--

MAGGIE
(following them out)
Bye, Riley! Call me!

SETH
And you’re not even listening.
Awesome.

RAJ
Today couldn’t have gone better if--

As he walks past, Seth gives Raj a little shove. Raj tumbles over the chair behind him and onto the floor.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - ELEVATOR - LATER

Juice, Riley, Valerie and Barry wait for the elevator. The doors open; Aviva stands on the elevator. They all get on and exchange greetings with Aviva.

AVIVA
Who’s this?

BARRY
I’m Barry. Seth’s brother.

He gives her, of course, a bear hug. Since the elevator is fairly packed, it’s even more awkward than usual.

Valerie’s phone BUZZES with a text. She reads it.

VALERIE
Son of a--
(off the group’s looks)
Pete is on his way over--

JUICE (annoyed) RILEY (annoyed)
I thought we got rid of him. That guy is a pube.

VALERIE (CONT’D)
He wants to get the stuff he left at my place when we broke up.
Off Valerie’s look:

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. TRASH ROOM - MORNING - FLASHBACK

Valerie tries to cram the bag of Pete’s stuff down the trash chute. It won’t fit. She jabs at it with a broom handle. It still won’t fit. She pulls the bag out and jumps up and down on it, totally crushing it. It finally fits. Aviva stands next to her, texting, half-watching the show.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. ELEVATOR - PRESENT TIME

The gang is as they were. A DING as the elevator stops.

RILEY
There had to be a better way to accomplish that task.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The doors open and Val runs off. As the rest of the group piles off the elevator, the door to the apartment across the hall OPENS. Kirby emerges, adjusting his uniform.

KIRBY
Evening, gents. Aviva.

JUICE
What were you doing in there?

KIRBY
Oh, I was nailing Mrs. Ostertag.

MRS. OSTERTAG (O.C.)
(angry, through the door)
What did I just ask you not to do?!

KIRBY
Sorry! I was nailing Carol.

BARRY
(shouting, thru the door)
Hi Carol! I’m Barry! Seth’s brother!
INT. TRASH ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Val is in the Dumpster/trash room in the basement, pulling hard on the strap of Pete’s duffle bag. It finally comes loose, but with it comes a HUGE ROACH. She SCREAMS!

Once she regains her composure, she reaches down to open the bag -- and spots a condom draped over the zipper.

VALERIE

Nope.

She kicks the bag back into the pile of garbage and leaves.

EXT. THE GUYS’ APARTMENT - ROOF DECK - SAME TIME

Riley, Juice, Barry, Aviva, and Kirby hang out on the roof, drinking and shooting the shit. It’s their post-work ritual.

RILEY

Probably. He said I was a five.

JUICE

Out of what?

RILEY

Five, I assume.

Seth enters, hair messed up, jacket rumpled, tie loosened, shirt untucked. He’s kind of a mess.

SETH

Hey, all you morons who attempted to ruin my career: Can you please leave so I can talk to Barry alone?

KIRBY

I had no part in that. Just sayin’.

RILEY

I think what homeless Danny Ocean is trying to say is--

SETH

Out.

They all get up and file out. Once they’re gone:

BARRY

(oblivious)

So how was your first day?
SETH
Barry, I’m just gonna be blunt with you. You can take it, right?

BARRY
Probably not.

SETH
You have to go home.

BARRY
This is my home now. You said--

SETH
I said it wasn’t too late to do something with your life. But you gotta do your thing--

BARRY
I guess I could--

SETH
Not rodeo clowning. Go home and think about what your thing is, then do it. Plus, I’m sure Mom and Dad miss you. Well, Mom at least. (off Barry’s guilty look) You didn’t tell them you were leaving, did you?

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. THE PITTIFORD’S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

The Pittifords are fast asleep. The DOOR CREAKS open. Barry tip-toes in with his garbage bag and cooler. He WHISPERS:

BARRY
Mom. Dad. I’m gonna go live with Seth in New York, OK? Love you...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. THE GUYS’ APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Seth paces, on the phone. Someone picks up. Immediately:

SETH
Did you know that Barry is at my apartment right now?

INTERCUT WITH:
INT. THE PITTIFORD’S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Mr. Pittiford is on the other end of the line. He sits next to Mrs. Pittiford at the kitchen table, eating dinner. A third place is set in front of an empty chair.

MRS. PITTIFORD (O.C.)
Barry, your food’s getting cold!

SETH
So, no.

MR. PITTIFORD
No, I guess we didn’t.

SETH
Dad, you gotta talk to him. Get him to go home. He wants to live here.

MR. PITTIFORD
You kidding? This is our ticket to freedom! After 35 years! We’re nearing retirement, Seth, and it’d be nice to be able to travel without worrying about him accidentally burning down the machine shed or running over the rabbits with the mower or drinking too much pop and throwing up in the fish tank again.

SETH
So that’s a regular thing then?

MR. PITTIFORD
Sorry, Seth, but that tubby turd is your problem now.

Mr. Pittiford hangs up. Barry enters from the kitchen.

BARRY
What’d they say?

Seth can’t bring himself to tell Barry the truth. So he lies:

SETH
They said they love you and they’re proud of you and they know you’re gonna do great living in New York.

Barry runs over and gives Seth his biggest bear hug yet.

END OF ACT II
ACT III

INT. THE GUYS’ APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Riley, Juice, Aviva, Kirby, and Barry sit on the couches and chairs. Seth stands before them.

RILEY
No. No way. Absolutely not.

SETH
Come on, guys. He’s my brother. And since Derek is gone for 18 to 24 months, even with good behavior, we have an extra bedroom.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - MORNING - FLASHBACK

A man lies on his back, asleep. This is DEREK, 28, their old roommate. PULL BACK to reveal that he’s lying not in a bed, but on a kitchen counter -- and not in the guys’ kitchen. REVERSE: We were seeing him from the POV of a totally shocked family -- MOM, DAD, TEEN BOY, TEEN GIRL (SAM).

Derek rolls over, waking up. He sees the family. He’s a little confused, but no biggie. He casually hops down.

DEREK
(with a wink)
Hey Sam.

SAM
(swooning)
Hey Derek.

Then we PULL BACK to reveal that, this whole time, he has been TOTALLY NAKED from the waist down!

DEREK
Oh, BTDubs. There’s probably a girl in here somewhere. If you could find out her name for me, that’d be great. Also, if you could find out how much she charges for a blowj--
EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER - FLASHBACK

A COP slams Derek, pantsless and handcuffed, against a police car. Seth, Riley, and Juice look on in shock.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. THE GUYS’ APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - PRESENT TIME

The group is as they were.

SETH
So rent would be less. Way less.

JUICE
Eh...

RILEY
Yeah, still no.

Just then, Valerie bursts in, freaking out.

VALERIE
Gimme your stuff!

The guys REACT: What?/Huh?/I don’t share!/etc.

VALERIE (CONT’D)
I need your junk. Please.

KIRBY
I knew you’d come around.

Kirby starts to undo his belt.

VALERIE
Ew. No. Pete’s gonna be here any minute to get his stuff. And I don’t have it.

JUICE
I thought you were Dumpster diving for it.

VALERIE
I tried, but there was a roach and a condom and--

SETH
What?

JUICE
Like, a penis condom?

KIRBY
That may have been mine...
VALERIE
I just need some of your old stuff to give to him like it’s his and hope he doesn’t notice. I can’t be the girl who destroys her ex’s stuff. I can’t be the crazy girl.

RILEY
Yeah, this plan is really gonna help you dodge that bullet.

SETH
This’ll never work. But I kinda wanna see what happens, so knock yourself out.

JUICE
Just stay out of my bottom drawer. That’s my private place.

RILEY
Oh yeah, good call. Don’t look in the box in my closet marked “Erotica.” It’s my...baseball cards...

INT. THE GUYS’ APARTMENT - BEDROOMS - MOMENTS LATER

QUICK SHOTS of Valerie rifling through the guys’ stuff:

-- She takes a couple CDs off Juice’s shelf.
-- She snags a trophy off Riley’s desk.
-- She grabs an old shirt and tie out of Seth’s closet.
-- She takes a well-worn romance novel off the shelf in Riley’s closet: “Arms of the Wind” by Georgina Patton. Weird.
-- She pulls a box from Riley’s closet. “EROTICA” is written on the lid. Intrigued, she opens it to find...a highly organized collection of baseball cards.

INT. THE GUYS’ APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Back to the others: Seth, Barry, Riley, Juice, Aviva, Kirby.

SETH
Let’s just vote. All in favor of Barry taking over Derek’s old room?

Seth raises his hand. So do Kirby and Aviva. And Barry.

RILEY
He doesn’t get a vote!
SETH
Sorry, Bar. You can’t vote. So three in favor. All opposed?

Riley and Juice raise their hands.

SETH (CONT’D)
Three to two. If Valerie votes in favor, he stays.

RILEY
Two of the yes votes don’t even live here! It’s fine if they vote on what movie we watch or what bar we go to or if we should take Kirby to the hospital or just bandage it up and hope for the best. But not on apartment stuff. I declare shenanigans on this whole charade.

JUICE
Shenanigans seconded.

Valerie comes back into the living room with a box of stuff and sits on the couch with the rest of the group.

SETH
Ya know why he should get to stay?

KIRBY
So your parents can have sex without the fear of him walking in?

SETH
I moved here ten years ago, and I didn’t know anyone or anything. I was a scared kid from Iowa, two thousand miles from home. From my family. From everything I knew. But then I met you guys, and you became my family.

(re. Juice and Riley)
My brothers.

(re. Valerie)
My sister.

(re. Aviva)
My super-hot cousin that we all have to pretend isn’t hot ‘cause she’s family.

(re. Kirby)
My...stray dog we stupidly fed once and he just never went away. I love you guys. You’re my surrogate family.

(MORE)
And Barry is my real family. So that means he’s your family too. And you can’t turn your back on family.

After a LONG BEAT:

VALERIE
I vote yes.

AVIVA
Me too.

KIRBY
Standing firm on yes.

JUICE
I think I’m gonna change my vote. Boss speech, man.

Everyone looks at Riley.

JUICE (CONT’D)
Come on, man. Look at his face.

CLOSE ON Barry. A more vacant stare has never been seen.

A KNOCK at the door interrupts. Val opens it to find Pete.

VALERIE
Hey.

PETE
(cold)
Hey. You have my stuff?

She hands him the box; a shirt on top covers the contents.

PETE (CONT’D)
This isn’t my shirt.

VALERIE
(casually, covering)
Oh, it’s not? It must belong to one of the many lovers I’ve taken since we broke up. You can have it.

She looks at Aviva and the guys, who are watching intently. They give her thumbs-up: Nice/well done/good cover/etc.

PETE
None of this stuff is mine.
(pulling out a CD)
Jamiroquai? Really?
JUICE
That is an underrated band!
(covering)
Is an example of something a big Jamiroquai fan such as yourself would say...

SETH
(quietly, to Juice)
Jamiroquai? How white are you?

Pete pulls a trophy out of the box.

PETE
This has Riley’s name on it.

RILEY
(quickly)
Typo.

PETE
(looking through the box)
Where’s all my stuff? My throwback Kris Humphries jersey. My boat shoes. My calendar with daily quotes by Turtle from “Entourage.”
(searching frantically)
Hey where’s my Hollister giftcard?!

JUICE
Wow.

RILEY
See? Total pube.

PETE (CONT’D)
Valerie, where’s my stuff?

VALERIE
I kinda threw it away. After I smashed it all. I’m sorry.

PETE
You threw away my stuff? My K-Humph jers?! Come on!

VALERIE
It’s not how it sounds.

PETE
You need to grow up, Valerie. You and this ridiculous, codependent little family you have! You’re like a dysfunctional Brady Bunch!

Aviva and the guys REACT: Hey!/Not cool, man!/etc. Except Juice. He smiles, proud of the Brady Bunch comparison.
PETE (CONT'D)
You suck. You guys all suck! And,
just for the record, I cheated on--

BARRY
(losing it)
Enough! That is enough! Valerie’s
part of my new family, and I’m not
gonna stand by while you talk to
her like this!

PETE
Who’s this curly-haired tampon?

BARRY
I’m Barry. Seth’s brother.

With that, Barry puts his hand squarely in Pete’s face and
SLAP-SHOVES him out the door, SLAMMING it behind him. Faced.
Barry turns to find the group staring at him, smiling, in
total shock at what he just did.

Finally, after a LONG BEAT:

RILEY
I wanna change my vote.

Barry smiles like a dope.

INT. THE GUYS’ APARTMENT - BARRY’S BEDROOM - LATER

Barry is in bed in his new room, the covers pulled up to his
chin. He looks like a 35-year-old 8-year-old.

SETH
Just lemme know if you need
anything, OK? I’m right next door.
(beat)
G’night, Bar.

Seth turns and heads for the door.

BARRY
Hey Seth?
(Seth stops)
Love you, baby bro.

SETH
Love you too.

Seth smiles, then exits and CLOSES THE DOOR behind him.

END OF ACT III
INT. THE GUYS’ APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Seth, Riley, and Juice sit on the couch. Barry stands before them. On the coffee table is a large, sheet-covered box.

BARRY
I wanted to get you guys something, as a thank you. For the whole apartment. So while you were out, I poked around to see what you didn’t already have. By the way, Juice, your keyboard was already covered in syrup when I found it.

JUICE
God dammit.

BARRY
But I couldn’t think of anything to get you. And then it hit me!

He pulls off the sheet, revealing a cage with a FERRET in it. Juice SCREAMS at the top of his lungs, terrified!

RILEY
No, no, no, no, no!

SETH
Absolutely not! We do not need a phallic rat in the apartment.

BARRY (CONT’D)
I haven’t told you the best part. His name---
(a long, dramatic beat)
--is Ferrets Bueller.

He looks at the guys expectantly. At first, there’s no reaction. Just blank stares. After a LONG BEAT:

RILEY
OK, that’s pretty awesome.

SETH
Yeah it is. So I guess we have a pet ferret now. Well done, Bar.

Juice, still terrified, slowly climbs over the back of the couch and backs away, keeping his eye on Ferrets Bueller the whole time.

END OF SHOW