

STAR ISLAND

“Pilot”

Written by

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COLD OPEN

EXT. NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE -- MORNING

We see the normal hustle and bustle of New York. Cars honking, yellow cabs everywhere, and busy business people.

EXT. GROUP HOME -- MORNING

We see a house in a suburban neighborhood just outside of the city. The house looks rundown and out of place from the outside. It looks rather out of place in the neighborhood that it's in.

INT. GROUP HOME -- MORNING

The inside of the house is very cluttered, worn down, and not well funded. Kids are running around like they are crazy zoo animals. There are spilled and crushed Cheerios on the floor and clothes are left everywhere. It is apparent the house isn't cleaned that often. It is a group home for disabled children and orphans. CARLY (14, who is blind) TRIPS over a fallen stool. AUDREY (16, a level-headed girl who is a glass half-full kind of person. Even at a young age, she has the instincts of a mother) helps Carly out.

AUDREY

Oh! Be careful there, Carls.

Audrey hands Carly her walking stick.

CARLY

Thanks Audrey.

INT. KITCHEN -- MORNING

The kitchen is just as messy as the rest of the house. Dishes are piled high in the sink, old food is left out in the open, and everything has an old and dirty hue to it.

LINDA (40s, the main caregiver in the group home. She looks a bit older than her age because of all the stress that comes along with her job) is making breakfast for everyone. Audrey walks into the kitchen.

AUDREY

(To Linda)

Hey, good morning. Waffles coming along?

DEREK (11, African-American, he is a bit rambunctious, but is still sensible) walks into the kitchen.

DEREK
Aw, waffles again?

LINDA
Yes, Derek. Waffles again. Did you brush your teeth?

DEREK
No...

Linda passes a stern look which makes him go to the bathroom to brush his teeth. Linda reverts her attention back to Audrey.

LINDA
Did you get the twins in the shower?

As Linda and Audrey are talking, Linda tries to finish making breakfast. She then adds more dishes to the giant heap in the sink. She lets out a sigh knowing she has a lot of work to do and the day is only getting started.

AUDREY
Yeah. They're getting dressed right now.

LINDA
Thank you.

LINDA continues CLEANING and PREPARING breakfast, a routine that seems like it takes longer every time she does it.

LINDA (CONT'D)
Waffles. One or two?

AUDREY
Eh, one.

LINDA
One delicious waffle for Audrey, coming right up!
(a beat)
Oh shoot, I forgot! Can you get the mail?

AUDREY
(sarcastically gasps)
You forgot to flirt with Ron while he takes an hour "delivering" our mail?

LINDA

So what if he takes an hour? He can take all the time he wants!

AUDREY

Okay, single and ready to mingle, does not mean mingle with the mailman.

LINDA

I know. I went to a bar last week and I met Ron there, and we talked. Then... he told me he was the mailman.

AUDREY starts walking towards the front door and makes a face like "unbelievable!"

AUDREY

(as she walks out)

Let me go get the mail!

Audrey walks to the front door of the house. She sees the mail and picks it up. As she's walking back to the kitchen, she looks through the mail. She notices something different; she received a letter. She puts all the rest of the mail on the kitchen counter. Linda notices the letter Audrey still has in her hand.

LINDA

Oh, you got a letter! Is it that music program you signed up for?

AUDREY

Uhm, I don't know yet.

She opens up the envelope, It says:

Happy Birthday Audrey! From Burke and Bradley's Ice Creamery.

It came with a \$3 off coupon for a sundae special. She's disappointed.

LINDA

So, what's the news?

AUDREY

It's nothing. It's just junk mail.

Audrey tears up the letter and coupon and trashes it.

Today is her birthday, but that doesn't matter to her, it never has. She then walks upstairs to her room.

INT. AUDREY'S ROOM -- MORNING

Audrey grabs her iPod Shuffle, puts in the earphones, hits play, lays on her bed, and shuts out the world. Not too long after Audrey got into her room, Linda enters.

LINDA

Knock, knock.

AUDREY

Hey.

LINDA

So, today is the big day!

(a beat)

Are you ready to meet your new family?

AUDREY

You're my family.

(a beat, then)

My real family.

LINDA

(Smiles)

I'll always be here for you no matter what. And I'd much rather have you be brought up in a nice home like theirs. Out there. Not stuck here, in this group home.

AUDREY

But who's gonna help you with all the housework and taking care of the kids?

(scrambling)

And what about Carly, I mean she's blind. And then the twins and Derek! I mean, will you be able to do it all? I don't want you to be left on your own to do all the work around here.

LINDA

Don't worry about that. I can manage. And plus, I have Derek. He would be more than happy to help out around the house. He told me himself. But you, Audrey...

(a beat)

You have a real future ahead of you. And I want you to get the best that you can get, so you can be the best that you can be.

AUDREY

(Still scrambling)

But what about the music program? I signed up for that. I mean I have to do it. I can't just skip out on that, that's just like, selfish and like unlawful or something.

LINDA

You didn't even get the acceptance letter. But, screw that music program! You'll have much better opportunities. You want to go with your new family. I know it. So be happy about it!

AUDREY

I guess. My stuff is all packed and set.

LINDA

Oh! Here, I didn't want to give this to you yet...

Linda runs to her room to get something. She returns with something in her hands.

LINDA (CONT'D)

I mean you couldn't possibly think I forgot your birthday right? I wanted to give this to you right before you left, but since you made this moment so emotional...

It's a small box. Even though Audrey wasn't expecting much, she expected more than a box.

AUDREY

A decorative box! Thanks!

LINDA

I know it's not much, but I think you'll like it. Open it. It's a music box with the most precious items I could find.

Inside the box is a case of fallen out teeth, pictures of her and the other kids and Linda, also a snowglobe of NYC.

LINDA (CONT'D)

It's your childhood. It's your old life.

(MORE)

LINDA (CONT'D)

I wanted you to have some things to remember your old life now that you are starting a new one.

(Tearing up)

Happy 16th!

Audrey starts to cry as well when she sees Linda shed some tears.

AUDREY

(Sniffles)

It's perfect. I love it. It'll get me through a lot.

They hug each other.

LINDA

(Sniffles)

Okay. Let's stop this sobfest. Get ready.

AUDREY

Okay, but you have to help me decide what to wear when I first meet them!

Audrey picks up two casual dresses, probably the best she has.

They laugh and then start going through Audrey's closet.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. AUDREY'S ROOM -- MIDDAY

After trying on countless outfits, Audrey thinks she found the one.

AUDREY

Does this look okay?

LINDA

You look great!

AUDREY

Hopefully good enough for a fashion designer.

LINDA

They're coming to adopt you not write a fashion review about the fashion taste of poor teenagers.

The doorbells RINGS. It's the new family.

AUDREY

Oh God.

(Rambling)

I'm not ready. What if I spaz out and act like a crazy person? What if they don't want me? I've been waiting like my entire life for something like this to happen and now I can't even handle myself like a normal person!

Linda holds her to calm her down before she has a panic attack. She speaks to Audrey with a soothing voice.

LINDA

You'll be okay. Now go answer the door before Derek does and scares them off.

Audrey and Linda leave the room to go downstairs and answer the door. They see that Derek beat them to it.

INT. GROUP HOME -- DOWNSTAIRS -- MIDDAY

At the door stands SEAN ASTOR (43, a tall man dressed in an Armani suit) and his wife, HELENE ASTOR (39, a very beautiful woman, medium height, who is wearing a gorgeous dress and a pair of Louboutin heels that compliment her outfit). Clearly, they are an extremely wealthy couple.

DEREK

(Speaking to the Astors)

And did you know Audrey sleepwalks sometimes? She fell down the stairs once and broke her wrist!

AUDREY

Thaannkk you, Derek, that's enough!

Linda grabs Derek away from the door

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Sorry, about that.

SEAN

Oh, its okay.

(A beat)

So, you must be Audrey.

AUDREY

I am.

SEAN

It's a pleasure to finally meet you, Audrey. My name is Sean and this is my wife, Helene.

AUDREY

Hi. (This time to Helene)

Audrey shakes Sean's hand and tries to shake Helene's hand but Helene goes in for a hug.

HELENE

It's so great to finally meet you!

Audrey feels a little shy and nervous hugging Helene.

AUDREY

It's great to meet you too! Please, come in.

Sean and Helene walk into the house.

INT. FAMILY ROOM -- MIDDAY

They all sit at the coffee table on the couches, including Linda who has come back from making sure Derek doesn't interfere again.

AUDREY

Do you guys want some coffee?

SEAN

Um, sure, I think I could go for some.

HELENE

Me too.

Audrey goes into the kitchen to make everyone coffee.

LINDA

So we already got the legal matters dealt with and you kept them in a safe file correct?

HELENE

Yes we're just so glad that it is finally time to bring her home with us!

Audrey comes back with the coffee and sits down.

HELENE (CONT'D)

So Audrey, Linda told me you're really into music.

AUDREY

Yeah I am. I like to compose and play my own songs.

HELENE

Oh that's fantastic! That reminds me of my great-aunt. She just loved music. She composed her own symphony.

AUDREY

Really? That's amazing!

SEAN

Maybe if you keep it up, we'll be watching you conduct your own symphony at Carnegie Hall.

Audrey smiles.

AUDREY

Maybe someday.

There's a pause between conversation.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Do you guys want anything to eat like crackers or chips?

HELENE

Oh, no. We're okay.

Awkward silence. Then Helene CLINKS her coffee mug to the table.

LINDA

(Staring at Helene's shoes)
Oh! I like your shoes!

HELENE

Thanks. They're Louboutins.

LINDA

(Whispers to Audrey)
I thought it was Louis Vuitton.

AUDREY

(Whispers back)
No. Different things.

LINDA

(To Helene) They're lovely. They must be impossible to walk in.

HELENE

Thank you and it's a challenge at first, but then you get used to them.

LINDA

Oh, tell her about Lisa and Ruf?
(struggling to say the dog's name)
Ruffus, is it?

HELENE

Yes, Ruckus is our dog and Lisa is my daughter. She's great. You two will get along really well.

SEAN

While you women talk, I'll take these mugs to the kitchen.

LINDA

Okay. Thanks.

While Sean is walking to the kitchen, he bumps into Carly and accidentally spills some of the remainder of the coffee on her.

SEAN

Oh, I'm so sorry. I didn't see you there.

CARLY

I didn't see you either.

AUDREY

Well, he's not the blind one.

SEAN

Hey can I get that shirt dry-cleaned for you?

CARLY

No, don't worry about it. I can't even tell it's dirty.

Carly laughs at her own blind joke.

Helene now feels extremely awkward and wants to escape this place before anything else strange happens.

HELENE

Uh okay. So we should be heading out now. We don't want to miss our flight.

AUDREY

Sure. Let me just get my things and say goodbye to everyone.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- A) Audrey goes upstairs to get her suitcases.
- B) She enters her room and pulls out her bags and suitcases.
- C) She takes in a deep breath, she closes the door, emotionally saying goodbye to her room.
- D) She comes back downstairs ready to leave.

END OF SERIES

There is only one check in bag and a carry-on for Audrey placed in front of the front door. She didn't own much, as you can see.

HELENE

That's all?

AUDREY

Yup.

Audrey doesn't realize that the amount of things she has is rather little.

LINDA

Everyone come say bye to Audrey.

All the kids in the house come to say goodbye.

KID 1

Don't leave us Audrey.

KID 2

(To Kid 1)

She's adopted now.

KID 3

We'll miss you.

AUDREY

(Towards the twins)

Learn to stop fighting each other.

DEREK
Promise you'll visit?

AUDREY
I promise. And you be good to Linda
and help out around the house when
she asks you to. Promise?

DEREK
I promise.

Derek and the other members of the group home are
disappointed that the girl they spend so much time with is
now leaving.

They're hugging her.

LINDA
I'll miss you, send me a postcard!
And don't forget where you came
from.

AUDREY
(sarcastically)
Linda, I'm gonna send you parcels.
And don't worry, I won't.

SEAN
Alright, All good to go then?

AUDREY
I think so.

They head for the limo waiting outside the house.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF GROUP HOME -- MIDDAY

The limo trunk closes and limo pulls away. Audrey waves
goodbye once more. Camera pans out and up and shows the limo
driving away. Not too long around the limo leaves the house,
we see another black private car following them. We can't see
who's inside. It's clear they're being followed.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. LIMO -- MOVING -- MIDDAY

Audrey, Sean, and Helene are sitting in the limo. Audrey is looking nervous. She's even shaking a bit.

HELENE

Sweetie, don't be so nervous.

Audrey didn't realize it was that apparent.

AUDREY

Is it that obvious?

Helene smiles and gives a slight nod.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Sorry. It's just that I've lived at the group home all my life. It's like a part of me you know? I guess I'm just scared of starting a new life.

HELENE

Don't worry. Adjusting won't be so hard.

SEAN

She's right. You'll have friends in no time too. A girl as pretty as you will have all the boys lining up just to talk to you.

Audrey blushes. She's never heard such a nice complement before.

AUDREY

Thank you.

Receives a text message and checks it:

I'LL MISS YOU! :)

She tries to reply but her phone is too slow.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

UGH, I hate this phone! It's so stupid, it's like it was *designed* to be slow.

HELENE

Oh! You thought we didn't know it was your birthday! I'm sorry I didn't find time to wrap it though..

Helene hands her her gift.

AUDREY

OH MY GOD! AN IPHONE?!

HELENE

Mmhmm, we already loaded our phone numbers in it, but we can get your contacts in when we get home.

AUDREY

This is amazing! Thank you. At least I won't have to deal with this piece of junk anymore!

HELENE

Mmhm.

AUDREY

So, do you guys live in Miami or where do we live exactly?

HELENE

Star Island.

SEAN

It's off the coast, south of Florida.

AUDREY

Oh, I think I've heard of that place. Isn't that the place with all the huge mansions and it's where all the famous people?

SEAN

Well the famous people live there only when they're not living in one of their other 15 houses.

Audrey Giggles.

HELENE

It's true, if you can afford a Star Island mansion, you have many other houses.

EXT. LIMO -- MOVING -- MIDDAY

The limo makes it to the airport. Once they get there, Sean helps Audrey get her things out of the car.

EXT./INT. AIRPORT -- MIDDAY

They then walk into the airport.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- A) They check in their luggage.
- B) They go through security.
- C) They make it to the gate.
- D) They board the plane.

INT. PLANE CABIN -- MIDDAY

Once everyone is seated, the flight attendant starts the normal plane procedure talk. Audrey looks scared out of her mind. Sean sees this and tries to comfort her.

SEAN
Scared of flying?

AUDREY
I never been in a plane before.
I've always wanted to, but now that
I'm in one, I don't know anymore.

SEAN
It's not so bad. It's actually kind
of fun.

Audrey gives Sean a look that says "Really? Fun? You think this is fun?" The plane engines start and the plane started moving to the takeoff lane.

AUDREY
(Takes a deep breathe, too afraid
to talk)
Is this where I'm supposed to chew
gum or something?

SEAN
We haven't even left the ground
yet.

AUDREY

I heard on 20/20 that plane issues that cause deaths are usually at the takeoff.

SEAN

The chances of that happening are very slim.

Audrey looks at Helene to see how she is. She's sleeping with an eye mask on her face.

AUDREY

How is she asleep?

SEAN

She thinks staying awake on a flight is a waste of time, so she sleeps to make it go by faster.

Helene takes off her eye mask. She isn't asleep.

HELENE

Well, I didn't get into my deep sleep yet. Oh! Audrey, I forgot to let you know. Tomorrow night we have to go to the Mask the Illness Benefits Gala for Alzheimer's research. We'll get you something to wear for that evening.

SEAN

We might even announce you being a part of our family.

Audrey smiles and puts her head back. From the overhead speaker the flight attendant speaks.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Passengers, please make sure your seatbelt is fastened and secure. Make sure your tray tables and chairs are in the upright position. Also, please turn off all electronic devices. I will let you know when it is safe to use them again. So sit back, relax, and enjoy your flight.

The plane then takes off.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE AIRPORT LANDING STRIP -- AFTERNOON

We see the plane land in Miami. The Astors and Audrey make it to the outside of the airport, get into a limo, and head to Star Island.

INT./EXT. LIMO -- MOVING -- AFTERNOON

As limo driver is driving, we see shots of Miami. They finally arrive at the house. Audrey is in awe of the size of the house.

INT. OUTSIDE THE ASTOR HOME -- AFTERNOON

HELENE

So, this is it!

AUDREY

Wow! This house is amazing!

SEAN

Come on. Let's go inside.

Sean helps get Audrey's things out of the limo. Then they go inside.

INT. THE ASTOR HOME -- AFTERNOON

Once Sean opens the door, Audrey's jaw drops. The inside of the house looks like it is the house of a royal family. The first thing she sees is the grand staircase. It looks like a staircase that belongs in a lavish hotel. There are also beautiful chandeliers hanging throughout the house.

SEAN

Let me show you to your room.

Sean leads Audrey her up the stairs. Audrey doesn't know what to expect for her room. She's sees how fancy the whole house is, so she believes her room will be just the same.

INT. AUDREY'S NEW ROOM -- AFTERNOON

SEAN

So, this is your room. You have your own full bathroom, a walk-in closet, and a flat-screen TV. If you need anything else Helene and I will be downstairs.

AUDREY

Okay, thanks.

Once Sean leaves the room, Audrey starts exploring her room. The room is the size of suite in a hotel. The closet is equivalent (if not bigger) to the size of her old room. As she's looking around, she hears a girl's voice coming from down the hall. Audrey notices she sounds a bit younger. She starts eavesdropping on the girl's conversation. The girl is LISA (14, she is a witty young girl who is quick with comebacks and insults, but she also has a softer side).

INT. LISA'S ROOM -- EVENING

LISA

(On the phone) I don't even know why my parents adopted her. I mean, do they even know anything about her? She could be a psycho or something. (A beat) I know, right? Like honestly, if they wanted to add a new member to the family or whatever, they could've gotten a puppy. At least that would be more enjoyable. She's like from the Bronx or Brooklyn or something. I don't even know.

Audrey walks into Lisa's room. She pretends she didn't hear anything Lisa said.

LISA (CONT'D)

Hold on, she's in my room.
(Now directed to Audrey)
What?

AUDREY

I just wanted to introduce myself.
Hi, I'm Audrey.

She sticks her hand out for it to be shook. It isn't.

LISA

I know. Welcome to my house.

Audrey stands there for 3 seconds more.

LISA (CONT'D)

And you're still here why?..

(Now on the phone)

Hello? Okay hi. She's gone. You should've seen her.

Audrey walks out. She's shocked at how rude Lisa is.

LISA (CONT'D)

She came to my room to introduce herself. And I was like "Uh, no. I don't care!" (A beat) I know!

INT. AUDREY'S ROOM -- EVENING/NIGHT

Audrey changes into her pajamas. She also starts putting away her clothes in drawers and the closet. She notices Linda's gift in her bag. She picks it up and sits on her bed to look at it. She looks through the box full of little items that provide great memories of her life in the group home. She smiles and puts the box on her nightstand. She does some unpacking. Once she's done, she grabs the TV remote, gets into bed, and surfs through the channels. It was definitely an upgrade from the standard cable she had back in the group home.

INT. THE ASTOR HOME -- MORNING

Audrey is walking downstairs with a basket of laundry. She is looking for the laundry room to clean of her dirty clothes. As she is walking through the house, she overhears Sean and Helene talking at the breakfast table.

HELENE

Sean, we can't tell her all about Amanda just yet. She just got here yesterday.

SEAN

She's going to have to find out sometime.

HELENE

I know, but give it time. We don't want to overwhelm her with all that information yet.

Audrey walks in acting as if she didn't hear anything.

AUDREY

Good morning.

SEAN

Good morning. Did you sleep well?

AUDREY

Yeah I did. (A beat) I just wanted to know where the laundry room is.

HELENE

Oh don't worry about that. Rita will take care of your clothes.

(Helene calls for Rita)

Rita! (Back to Audrey) Oh and you should get dressed because we have to go to St. Ignatius to enroll you for school. Let's leave at 12?

AUDREY

Okay.

Audrey gets dressed and then she leaves with Helene and Lisa to go to registration.

INT. MERCEDES MCLAREN/EXT. ST. IGNATIUS -- MOVING -- MIDDAY

They get to the school. It's a very beautiful school. Camera pans down the school and Helene, Audrey and Lisa are walking in the quad. Lisa's friend calls her.

LISA

(To friend) Hey!!

She runs off to greet that friend. A teen girl call out to Helene. She's with another girl and her mother. It's BRENNNA DAVIS (16, a fun-spirited girl who's always the life of the party, drop-dead gorgeous and she knows it) and ALISHA PATEL (15, Indian, who rebels against her parents but is intelligent and beautiful because of them). They were Amanda's friends. Brenna is with her mom, MICHELLE DAVIS (40, she's a hip mom who stays in the know with all the pop culture. Think Tiffani Thiessen. She is also Helene's best friend).

BRENNNA

It's so great to see you Mrs. A!

HELENE

You too. I miss you girls. Girls, meet Audrey. Audrey, meet the girls.

BRENNA

Hi. I'm Brenna.

ALISHA

Hey. I'm Alisha.

AUDREY

Hi. (Waves) Audrey.

BRENNA

Mom, we're gonna go walk around.

MICHELLE

Okay sweetie.

BRENNA

(To Audrey) C'mon. You're coming too.

Audrey smiles to Helene as she walks off with the girls.

MICHELLE

Does she know about Amanda?

HELENE

No not yet. I mean she just got here right?

MICHELLE

Yeah, give her some time to adjust, maybe she'll find out on her own?

HELENE

I don't know if I want that. I think I should be the one to let her know.

EXT. ST. IGNATIUS CAMPUS -- MIDDAY

Audrey and the girls are walking around the school. Brenna and Alisha are giving Audrey a mini tour. As they're walking, there are whispers from other students about how Audrey is adopted and is replacing Amanda.

TEEN GIRL 1

Look, that's her.

TEEN GIRL 2
She's the adopted girl?

TEEN GIRL 3
I can't believe they replaced
Amanda so quickly.

TEEN GIRL 4
She looks kinda nice.

ALISHA
Don't you guys have something
better to do? Or is that not til
midnight when your pimp tells you
to make him some money? Hoes.

They quickly walk away from them

AUDREY
What were they saying about me?

BRENNA
Nothing. I didn't hear anything.

AUDREY
What? That I'm the new girl or
something?
(A beat)
Wait. Who's Amanda?

BRENNA
Who's Amanda??! She's like the
reason you're here. She was our
best friend.. but she commit
suicide this summer.

AUDREY
She's the reason I'm here? Wait
why?

ALISHA
She sent us a note. (To Brenna) I
don't think we're supposed to tell
her everything.

Audrey stares at the both of them waiting for more
information.

BRENNA
So, our moms are done! We better
get going I still have to make sure
all the party preparations are
taken care of! So, see you later?

AUDREY

Later?

BRENNA

Yeah, you're coming to the Benefits Gala right?...Helene told you about it?

AUDREY

Oh right, Yeah.

BRENNA

Great! So we'll talk then. It's gonna be fun. Trust me. And you can meet new people. Not them of course (points to whisperers).

Audrey and Helene smile as they walk away.

HELENE

See. I told you you wouldn't have trouble making friends. C'mon. We have to get ready for the Gala. (To Lisa) Lisa sweetie, let's go.

LISA

(To her friends) Bye guys!

They get in the car and head back home.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. HELENE'S ROOM -- AFTERNOON

Helene helps Audrey find something to wear.

HELENE

I have tons of dresses you can wear. Here, try this one on.

AUDREY

Do you just make clothes for you and your family with your company?

HELENE

Well, no. But it helps being the head of the company to get the new clothes. And you girls show them off for me. It all works out great in the big scheme of things!

Helene finds a dress for Audrey to try on. The dress looks very elegant and stylish at the same time. It is one of Helene's designs that was originality made for Amanda.

HELENE (CONT'D)

How about this one?

The dress looks amazing on Audrey.

AUDREY

Does it look good?

HELENE

You look stunning, and it fits perfectly! Now all you need is some jewelry.

Helene gives Audrey a pair of gorgeous diamond earrings.

AUDREY

Oh, I can't.

HELENE

Yes, you can.

Helene puts the earrings in for her. Audrey knows she looks really beautiful. She's never felt this way in her whole life.

INT. GRAND STAIRCASE -- EVENING

Sean is downstairs waiting for the ladies to finish getting ready. He is looking sharp in the suit he is wearing. He looks at his Rolex to check the time.

SEAN

Hey, are you guys ready to go?

As soon as he says this, Audrey, Lisa, and Helene stand at the top of the stairs. They are all dressed to the nines.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Wow, you all look amazing!

AUDREY, LISA, AND HELENE

(Simultaneously) Thank you!

The walk down the stairs practically in unison.

HELENE

We should get going though. We don't want to be late.

SEAN

Alright then. Let's go!

They make it down the stairs, grab their coats and clutch purses, and they all head out the door.

INT./EXT. BRENNA'S ESTATE -- EVENING

When they get to the Brenna's house, a lot of the guests have already arrived. The party is in full swing. Extravagant parties where no expenses are spared on catering, floral arrangements, lights and elegance are usual in Star Island. Like most mansions in Star Island, they can be completely transformed for any occasion.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

A) Close-up on a waitress carrying appetizers of ceviché and mini bruschetta to the party guests.

B) The socialites at the party are laughing and drinking their wine.

C) All the teens at the party are dancing with each other and having a good time.

D) A shot of the bartender doing tricks with the mixer before pouring a drink for someone.

E) A wealthy couple drop a check with a large sum of money in the glass box for collecting donations and funds for the cause.

F) Angle on an invitation brought to the party. It includes the name of the function:

"Let's Not Forget This Night"

Raise Money Towards Alzheimer's Research

HOSTED BY: The Davis Family

G) A shot of the Astor family at the door.

END OF SERIES.

Once they walk inside the house, Brenna spots Audrey and signals her to come to where she is. Audrey walks over to her. Michelle comes up to greet the rest of the family.

MICHELLE

(To Helene and Lisa)

Looking lovely as always! Fresh designs?

HELENE

No. Actually, Lisa's wearing Dior.

MICHELLE

(To Lisa)

You look beautiful, honey!

LISA

Thank you!

CUT TO:

Audrey walks up to Brenna and her friends.

BRENNA

Hey!

AUDREY

Amazing party!

BRENNA

Thanks. I planned it. Benefits the fight against Alzheimer's right?

Brenna takes a look at Audrey's dress. Just a slight less elegant than Brenna's, but too close for her like.

BRENNA (CONT'D)

Hun, next time, wear something that isn't Helene's. You might come off looking like a walking advertisement for her.

Audrey looks at her dress feeling a bit self-conscious now.

BRENNA (CONT'D)

Oh, meet Sebastian, Ryan, and Kian.

SEBASTIAN THOMAS (16, he is a ladies man. A true player.)

RYAN ORTEGA (16, he's very handsome. He looks your typical All-American teen guy. He's tall and athletic. He's also a very charming guy, but doesn't make the brightest decisions.)

KIAN MARKOS (16, Greek, medium height. He's very suave and the one thing he loves most is his family.)

AUDREY

Hi.

RYAN

Hi.

KIAN

Hey.

Sebastian TURNS around with a drink in his hand and looks deep into Audrey's eyes.

SEBASTIAN

Hello.

He kisses her hand.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

You have very pretty eyes.

AUDREY

(Blushes)

Thank you.

BRENNA

(Interrupts and speaks directly to Sebastian)

She got it from her momma!

(a beat)

Ew, Creep! She just got here, don't pounce on her right away!

() This is Audrey, Mr. and Mrs. A adopted her. She's gonna be going to school with us.

SEBASTIAN

(Now to Sebastian, Kian
and Ryan)

I'm glad, it means that I get to
see a lot more of you.

RYAN

(To Brenna)

Wow babe. Didn't know you're a part
of the welcoming committee.

BRENNNA

Shut up. I just wanted to help
Audrey.. you know, adjust.

KIAN

(He speaks to Audrey)

Don't hang around this one for too
long. She'll make you go crazy.

Brenna punches his shoulder.

KIAN (CONT'D)

Ow!

BRENNNA

Shouldn't you be with your
girlfriend or something?

KIAN

I should be. Have you seen her?

BRENNNA

No, but here's an idea. Go look for
her.

KIAN

(Sarcastically)

Oh, I think I'll try that. Thanks
Bren.

He walks away.

RYAN

Hey, I'm gonna get a drink.

Ryan leaves to go to the bar.

SEBASTIAN

(To Audrey)

You look so beautiful, you know,
you'd look better without that
dress on.

(MORE)

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)
How about I take you back to my
place? We can have a real party.

BRENNA
Sebastian, tone it down a notch.

SEBASTIAN
Brenna, if you hadn't caked on all
that unnecessary makeup, I might be
hitting on you... But, you have a
boyfriend anyway. As a matter of
fact, he looks pretty lonely right
now.

Brenna turns her head and sees Ryan at the bar. He indeed
looks lonely.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)
If you're with him, why are you
still after me?

A bit angry, Brenna smirks at Sebastian and then goes to
Ryan.

AUDREY
Whoa. What happened there? Do you
two have history or something?

SEBASTIAN
Brenna is the type of girl who gets
everything she wants, but doesn't
know what she wants.

(A beat)
So, this place is new to you? Where
are you from?

AUDREY
New York.

SEBASTIAN
Oh, nice, like Manhattan? I've been
there a few time.

AUDREY
(nervously chuckles)
Not exactly.

SEBASTIAN
Well, I should show you Miami
sometime.

AUDREY
Sure. That'd be nice.

Sebastian smiles, but his smile kind of gives a tell that he has a hidden agenda. Audrey seems rather pleased that someone is interested in her.

EXT. POOLSIDE -- NIGHT

We see Lisa walking over to her friends, but then her mother's friend CINDY HARRIS (51, she's one of those family friend's whom you've never seen but claims they've known you since birth) walks up to Lisa and decides to chat with her for a little bit.

CINDY

Lisa! My, I haven't seen you in so long! You haven't changed one bit!

LISA

(Laughs) Yeah.

Lisa doesn't really want to talk, but Cindy doesn't take the hint.

CINDY

Come on, you need to eat! Have you tried the appetizers? They're great. Here, take a plate.

She hands her a plate and the waiter serves her a few appetizers. Lisa smiles just to be polite. Finally, Cindy walks off and Lisa goes to her friends.

FRIEND 1

Who was that?

LISA

I don't know. She just some random old lady that forced me to get food.

Lisa eats some of the food on her plate. Her bites are small and deliberate.

EXT. POOLSIDE BAR -- NIGHT

Brenna is standing at the bar to be with Ryan and to get herself a drink. Desperate to drink off her conversation with Sebastian.

BRENNA

Hi, Vodka Martini.

BARTENDER (20s, looks young and flirty, could become a familiar face)

BARTENDER
Aren't you a little too young to be
drinking a vodka martini?

BRENNA
Does it matter?

Reluctantly, the bartender serves her the drink. Brenna takes it and immediately takes a sip. The drink really hit the spot.

BRENNA (CONT'D)
Thanks.

The bartender looks at her like he expects something.

BRENNA (CONT'D)
What?

BARTENDER
Aren't you going to tip me?

BRENNA
Do I look like I have cash on my
body? (takes a quick sip of her
drink) God! What do you take me
for? A whore?

She walks away angry. Ryan quickly puts some money in the tip jar for Brenna and goes after her.

RYAN
Classy (sarcastic)

BRENNA
(in annoyance)
Uck, Shut up.

INT. BRENNA'S HOUSE FOYER -- NIGHT

Alisha and Kian are standing next to each other.

KIAN
Hey, I've been looking everywhere
for you.

ALISHA
Aww, that's cute. I just got here!

Kian reaches in to kiss her on the cheek, but Alisha pulls away.

ALISHA (CONT'D)
Uh no, parents.

KIAN
Right. Sorry.

Brenna walks in with Ryan following her.

BRENNA
Heeey! You're late!

ALISHA
Indian standard time!

BRENNA
Or just fashionably late! Alisha, you look gorgeous.

ALISHA
Thanks. You too by the way. Oh, is she here?

BRENNA
Yeah, she's outside.

Camera pans over to Ryan and Kian.

RYAN
(To Kian) Hey, can we talk?

KIAN
Sure. What's up?

RYAN exchanges a quick head nod to signal the front door. He wants to go out for a smoke.

Brenna and Alisha keep talking. Ryan and Kian head for the front door.

EXT. OUTSIDE BRENNA'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

As soon as Ryan and Kian are out of the house, Ryan reaches into his pocket and pulls out a pack of cigarettes. He takes one out and puts it in his mouth. He hands the pack over to Kian.

KIAN
No thanks.

Ryan puts the pack back in his pocket. He is a tough guy.

KIAN (CONT'D)
So, what's up?

Ryan lights his cigarette and pockets the lighter too.

RYAN
It's Brenna, man. Honestly, I just don't know if I really want to be with her anymore. Lately, we've just been so distant, you know?
(He sighs as tries to process his thoughts)
I don't know. Maybe I should end things now and not have to worry about it. She's just such high maintenance. I don't know what she wants from me.

KIAN
Just do want you think is best.

RYAN
But, that's the thing. I don't know what's best. I mean, I love Brenna. We've been together for so long, but I just don't know what to do.

Ryan takes a hit of his cigarettes hoping it'll make him feel better.

RYAN (CONT'D)
I don't know how you and Alisha do it. You two seem so perfect.

KIAN
(Laughs)
Believe me, we're far from perfect. I can't even give her a kiss on the cheek because she doesn't want to tell her parents about us yet.

Ryan and Kian both laugh. There's a slight pause between the conversation.

RYAN
So what'd you get Alisha for her birthday?

KIAN
I haven't gotten anything yet.

RYAN

Dude. Her birthday is in like 2 weeks! You know she's gonna expect something expensive. She's turning sixteen, she wants something special.

KIAN

Don't worry. I got it under control. I'll swing by the jewelry store or something next week.

RYAN

(Chuckles)

Okay.

Ryan and Kian walk back into the house.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. POOLSIDE -- NIGHT

Sebastian and Audrey are still talking. They seem to be really hitting it off.

SEBASTIAN

So, I have a question for you.

AUDREY

Shoot.

SEBASTIAN

How does a beautiful girl like you still not have a drink?

Audrey blushes.

AUDREY

No one offered me one.

SEBASTIAN

Let me get you something. What'll you have? A martini? Sangria?

AUDREY

A Coke will be fine.

Sebastian goes to the bartender and gets Audrey's drink.

CUT TO:

Sean is chatting with his fellow friends. They are drinking their beers together. Then, a woman walks up to Sean and taps him on the shoulder. It's JEN CAMPBELL (34, a tall and skinny woman with evenly tanned skin. She looks younger than her age)

JEN

Hey, can I borrow you for a sec?

SEAN

Uh, sure. (To the guys) Excuse me for a minute guys.

Jen and Sean walk aside.

SEAN (CONT'D)

What's up?

JEN

I just wanted to know if you finished the plot points for the new book.

SEAN

Uh, yeah, that's still in progress. You know with the adoption and stuff, I've just been really swamped.

JEN

Yeah, yeah, I get it. Just get it to me when you can.

SEAN

I will.

Jen understandingly rubs his arm.

JEN

Enjoy your evening.

She walks off.

CUT BACK TO:

Sebastian comes back with Audrey's drink and gives it to her.

AUDREY

Thank you.

Audrey takes a sip of her drink and immediately tastes something different instead of just Coke. There's rum in it.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

This has alcohol in it.

SEBASTIAN

I don't get it. What's the problem?

Audrey tries to walk off to try to find her friends while in disgust. Sebastian stops her and comes in the way from leaving.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Whoa, where are you off to?

AUDREY

(Disgusted by his presence) Looking for the others.

SEBASTIAN

You don't need the others, you just need me.

AUDREY

Who are you? What'd you snort when you went to go get my drink?

SEBASTIAN

Aw, don't be like that. We can have so much more fun together. My offer still stands, you know.

He starts getting close to her and feeling her up.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

I have a better idea. How about we don't even go to my place. We can just do it here.

He tries making out with her and push himself onto her. She doesn't like this.

AUDREY

Get off me!

She pushes him away but he's too strong.

SEBASTIAN

Where are you trying to go? I just wanna get to know you.

Audrey sees Lisa scurry into the bathroom.

AUDREY

Stop! Leave me alone!

She pushes him off and then throws the drink in his face.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Oops, my bad.

SEBASTIAN

YOU BITCH! You just ruined my suit!

AUDREY

I asked you to stop.

Audrey leaves to catch up to Lisa.

INT. POOLSIDE BATHROOM PUBLIC STYLE -- NIGHT

Lisa goes into the bathroom stall and shut the door. We see her lift the toilet seat, she gets on her knees, sticks a finger in her mouth and throws up. Audrey walks in as she throws up. Audrey doesn't suspect that Lisa is bulimic.

AUDREY

Lisa. Are you okay?

The toilet flushes. Lisa gets out of the stall. She ain't looking too hot.

LISA

Yeah, I'm fine.

Brenna and Alisha run in. They just saw Audrey run in so they followed to see what happened.

AUDREY

Oh my God. Did you just throw up?

LISA

Yeah. So what?

BRENNA

Ew!

(A beat)

I-I mean, are you okay?

LISA

I'm fine.

AUDREY

Was it something you ate? Too many 'Pigs in a Blanket'?

LISA

Something like that.

BRENNA

You really don't look good, you wanna rest upstairs?

LISA

No, I'm good.

AUDREY

I think we'll head home.

LISA

Oh, we don't have to. Honestly, I'm fine.

AUDREY

No, we're going 'cause I don't feel too well either. Come on.

Audrey makes her way to the door.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Alright, I'll see you guys later. It's a great party Brenna! I just don't feel too well to enjoy it.

BRENNA

Aww, thank you! Get better!

Lisa and Audrey walk out of the bathroom.

BRENNA (CONT'D)

I'm so confused. Why did the new girl just leave my party?

ALISHA

'Cause she felt sick?

BRENNA

Uck, no! That was a total lie!

BRENNA AND ALISHA

(After a moment of thought)
Sebastian!

Brenna and Alisha leave the bathroom and pass by Sebastian. Brenna stomps on Sebastian's foot

ALISHA

Ass!

EXT. BRENNA'S HOUSE FRONT DOORSTEPS

In the driveway there is a line of limos and the chauffeurs are circled together. Audrey and Lisa step out on the stairs and one chauffeur opens the doors to the limo in the front.

AUDREY

Thanks, home please.

They get into the car and head for home.

EXT. POOLSIDE -- NIGHT

Helene and her friends are talking about their maids.

WOMAN 1

...And I simply told Guadalupe, No, you can't order a meal for yourself.

(A beat)

When we ordered take out. I mean, I still let her take home the leftovers, but we already pay her enough to take care of her family.

WOMAN 2

I had a similar experience like that too! Our nanny doesn't even pick up after Pookie! I pay her forty an hour for what? Uncleaned dog poop?!

WOMAN 3

Wait how much? Forty?! Shut up. Mine only gets twenty-five. And she does everything.

WOMAN 2

You shut up! Twenty-five? Uck, does she have like any friends to nanny for me?!

HELENE

(A bit bored from the same old conversations)

Excuse me, ladies. Ran out of wine!

Helene walks away from the table the gossip ladies are seated at, makes her way to the bar.

WOMAN 2

Oh. My. Gosh. Did you hear about the convict she's raising in her home?

WOMAN 1

Convict? I just thought she was from the Bronx.

WOMAN 4

Uck, the Bronx? That's enough legal punishment already.

WOMAN 5

And after Amanda's death? So soon?

WOMAN 2

Ugh, poor Lisa, she's been through a lot.

EXT. POOLSIDE BAR -- NIGHT

Helene is gulping down a fresh glass of white wine. Michelle walks up to Helene by the bar.

MICHELLE

It must be tough.

HELENE

To sit through the gossiping ladies group?

MICHELLE

Yeah, but to sit through the gossiping ladies group hoping they don't start a topic about you when at some point or another, you started one about them.

HELENE

(Sighs)

Did I make the right choice for adopting Audrey? Did I even think about how hard it would be for her-- for the rest of our family? Or-or what did I even do wrong for Amanda to-to just give up her own life?

MICHELLE

I don't think you've done anything wrong. I do think that you're a strong woman, Helene. And, you have to stay strong, if not for yourself and your family, but for the gossiping ladies too.

Helene and Michelle laugh.

HELENE

Thanks Michelle.

MICHELLE

Come on.

Helene and Michelle walk off.

We see some quick shots of Miami at night.

EXT./INT. THE ASTOR HOME -- NIGHT

Audrey and Lisa at home. Lisa goes to her room, changes her clothes, gets into bed and turns on the TV. Audrey changes her clothes too and then goes to check up on Lisa.

INT. LISA'S ROOM -- NIGHT

AUDREY

Hey. Are you feeling any better?

LISA

Yeah. And honestly, I was fine at the party. We didn't have to leave.

AUDREY

So I know you don't like me very much and we definitely got off on the wrong start.

LISA

Oh really? Where'd you get that idea?

AUDREY

I just want to get to know you. That's all. And I'm sorry for rushing out of the party, that probably didn't help you like me anymore than you did or didn't before.

LISA

Okay, well, whatever. Then, let's talk. Get to know me.

AUDREY

So when's your birthday?

Lisa is completely uninterested in this conversation.

LISA

July 14th.

AUDREY

Okay, uh..You like school? What's your favorite class?

LISA

Uhm I don't know English? You?

Audrey sees Mean Girls on her desk.

AUDREY

Uhhh, I like math.

LISA

Ew, stop. Why??

AUDREY
Because...it's the same in every
language.

Lisa gets the reference.

LISA
You like Mean Girls?

AUDREY
It's my favorite movie.

LISA
Mine too. Wanna watch it?

AUDREY
(Smiles)
Sure. It beats trying to make
friends with drunk people.

LISA
Hey, it's for a good cause.

They both laugh. Lisa puts in Mean Girls and they start
watching it.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. POOLSIDE -- NIGHT

Helene is socializing with all the people at the party. Sean decides it's time to make the big announcement to everyone.

SEAN
(To his friends)
Excuse me.

He walks away to find Helene. Once he finds her, he whispers in her ear--

SEAN (CONT'D)
We should tell everyone now.

Helene is feeling more confident about her choices.

HELENE
Okay.

They both walk to where they will be seen by everyone. Michelle (in the center of attention) raises her wine glass and clinks it with a knife.

MICHELLE
Could I have everyone's attention please.

All eyes are now on Michelle.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
First off, I'd like to thank everyone for coming to this Benefits Gala for Alzheimer's research and donating to help find a cure for this awful disease. We raised over \$25,000 tonight! Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Everyone applauds.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
Now, I'm going to turn the attention over to Sean and Helene Astor. I know they have some special news for everyone.

She hands over the mic to them. They are nervous, but they also know the news should come as no surprise to everyone.

HELENE

Thank You.

SEAN

Let's give it up for Michelle one more time for putting this beautiful event together.

Everyone gives Michelle a round of applause.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Alright, so, hello everybody. It's nice to see you all. We come here today with some news we'd like to share with everyone.

(a beat)

Helene and I decided to adopt a child. Uh, a teenager actually. Her name is Audrey and she's here with us today.

Sean is looking for Audrey in the crowd but he can't find her.

HELENE

Audrey, could you please wave if you're here?

Everyone turns their heads looking around for Audrey.

HELENE (CONT'D)

She must be with the girls.

(she smiles nervously)

Anyway, we just wanted to publicly welcome her to our family as well as our wonderful circle of friends.

People clap to be respectful.

ANGLE ON ALISHA AND BRENNA

We see Alisha and Brenna talking to each other.

ALISHA

Doesn't everyone already know about Audrey?

BRENNA

Yeah, but know they're secretly saying "We know you all know about her, but now we're making it public so you can stop the whispers".

ALISHA

I think announcing her arrival is kind of weird, it's like they're showing off a new trend.

(a beat)

Adopting.

BRENNA

Well, whatever Amanda wants, Amanda gets. I just don't know why Amanda would want her parents to adopt a girl who reminds me of like a lost dog.

ALISHA

She's not that bad. I liked the stunt she pulled on Sebastian.

Brenna and Alisha continue to sip their drinks nonchalantly and observe the current show going on

INT. LISA'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Lisa is asleep on Audrey while watching Mean Girls. Audrey gets up smoothly, turns off Mean Girls and properly adjusts Lisa so she stays sleeping. Audrey walks downstairs to get a glass of water. She remembers the conversation she heard when Sean and Helene were talking before she came in with her laundry. She goes into the master bedroom in search of anything about Amanda.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Audrey looks through all the drawers to find the letter she was looking for.

AUDREY

(To herself)

Come on, where is that letter, I need answers.

She continues to looking through stuff. After a while, she sighs and gives up. She decides to head back to her room.

INT. AUDREY'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Audrey is tired and wants to find out why she was adopted. It clearly wasn't out of the goodness of the Astors' hearts. Audrey picks up a framed photo of Amanda, Alisha and Brenna off the bedside table.

AUDREY
(To herself)
Who are you Amanda? And how the
hell do you know me?

Sticking out of the velvet backing of the frame is a piece of paper. Audrey's finger brushes it gently and she notices it's there. She flips the frame over and gently pulls out the mysterious slip of paper.

(black screen)

END OF PILOT PRESENTATION