

'RAISING KIDS'

An original short length screenplay.

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FADE IN.

INT. KENNY'S HOUSE - DAY

KENNY, 26, stands with SARAH, 30, just outside their bathroom.

They then come together, hold hands and hug.

They both smile, excited.

KENNY

So, what is it. Can you say?

SARAH

Yes.

He pulls back away from her, stares into her eyes.

They both still smile.

KENNY

Yes what?

SARAH

Yes, I'm pregnant.

Kenny lets out a loud cheer.

KENNY

Yes, fucking hell, that's great.

SARAH

So, is that great news then?

He nods.

KENNY

Too fucking right, it's great news.

She laughs.

They come back together, hug and kiss.

INT. JAMIE'S CAR - DAY

JAMIE, 37, drives.

Kenny sits next to him on the front passenger seat.

He looks over at him.

KENNY

Sarah's pregnant, found out today.

Jamie smiles.

JAMIE

Good.

Kenny laughs.

KENNY

You don't sound very happy for me, I thought this would be big news.

Jamie laughs.

JAMIE

It is.

KENNY

So where's the excitement?

JAMIE

Well I know you've both been trying for a while now, I've been excepting this.

Kenny shakes his head.

KENNY

I can't believe I'm going to be a father.

JAMIE

Surreal?

KENNY

It's more intense than anything else.

JAMIE

I'm happy for you.

KENNY

Too fucking right, and as you should be.

Jamie smiles.

JAMIE

She's going to get fat now though.

KENNY

Her boobs are going to get big too.

Jamie laughs.

INT. BABY CLOHTES SHOP - DAY

Sarah looks through a bunch of different brightly coloured baby clothes with some of her all female FRIENDS.

As they pick through different cute outfits they're all getting gradually more and more excited.

INT. PUB - DAY

Jamie and Kenny sit at a small table with BEN, 28, off away in a quiet corner of the pub.

Each of them has a pint of beer out in front of them.

BEN

It's great news man, I'm happy for you.

KENNY

There's a bunch of fears now though.

Ben smiles.

BEN

There's no fears yet, there's a
while yet before it even comes out.

Kenny laughs.

KENNY

Do you mind not talking about my
child like that.

BEN

Sorry, but my point remains,
there's nothing to worry about.

JAMIE

I can understand why you might be
nervous though, it's all so new.

BEN

I'm not worried or scared by the
fact it's new, I'm scared about
lots of other things.

JAMIE

Our parents had both of us while
they were both still younger than
you are now. If a couple of morons
like them can do it I'm sure you
can pull it off.

KENNY

I'm not worried by my age. I've
worked at that dole office now for
seven years and I've seen all kinds
of kids walking in. So what worries
me, even at this stage is how I'm
going to raise my kid up to be
nothing like those fucking scum
kids that I see day in day out.

BEN

That's a bit harsh.

KENNY

Don't get me wrong, some of the people
who come in are genuinely looking for
something, but it's the people in

their early to late twenties that piss me off. And I don't even know why I'm calling them kids because they're not. They come in because they just don't want to work. They're angry at everything, they turn up with this fucking insane attitude and they're always looking for a fight at a drop of a hat. So why are they like that. Were they born scum. We're they knocked about too much by their parents. Do they feel unloved. What is it. How did they turn out like that?

BEN

Fuck knows, but that's a pretty big question to be asking.

JAMIE

Some of them are born that way. Some of them get raised that way.

KENNY

So that's what I want to try and figure out, and that's what I'm scared of, how do I raise my kid?

BEN

Spare the rod spoil the child. It's not the right thing to say in this day and age, but I believe it's true.

Jamie smiles.

JAMIE

You really do?

Ben nods.

BEN

I do. If you spoil the kid they'll turn out shitty. Kids need boundaries and harsh discipline. To the point where they maybe even need to be a

little bit scared of you.

KENNY

No, that's pretty fucked up.

BEN

No it's not. I think I'm right. I know hitting kids is out as an idea these days, unpopular, but it's true.

KENNY

What the fuck are you talking about, were you born in the fifties or something.

Ben smiles.

BEN

I got hit as a kid, and I bet you two did as well.

KENNY

Yeah, and?

BEN

I turned out ok.

KENNY

No, you turned out to be an asshole just like everyone else.

BEN

Hitting kids works. They get the message.

KENNY

I'm not going to spank my kid, that idea is out straight away. And yeah I got spanked as a kid, and I know what it did to me, so I'm not going to do it to someone else. The idea that you've got to hit to be respected is just insane to me. And if you thought about it for longer than five minutes you'd agree with me.

JAMIE

It horrified me. Our dad would use his belt and anything else he could get his hands on.

BEN

But like I've already said, you both turned out ok.

Kenny shakes his head.

KENNY

No, I don't even speak to my parents. And I hate to think that my child who still isn't even born yet could grow up to feel the same way about me as I feel about my own dad.

Ben smiles.

BEN

And how do you feel about him?

KENNY

Nothing, I don't feel anything for that man.

Jamie turns away from him, unable to look at him.

INT. JAMIE'S CAR - DAY

Jamie drives.

Kenny sits next to him.

Jamie quickly glances across at him.

JAMIE

Did you mean what you said in there?

KENNY

What part. Which bit of what I said do you mean. I said a lot.

JAMIE

Don't you talk to mum or dad anymore?

KENNY

Yeah, not really. Only when you're with me. I don't visit them on my own. I don't think I can anymore.

Jamie's shocked to hear this.

JAMIE

Why?

KENNY

It's linked to what I was saying in there. Dad used to beat the shit out of us. And it's something that's very clearly scarred into my memory.

JAMIE

Yeah I know, but you've still got to have something to do with him.

Kenny shakes his head, dismisses it.

KENNY

When I was a kid I remember thinking as soon as I get older enough to do it, I'm getting the fuck away from that fucking psychopath.

JAMIE

Fucking hell Kenny.

KENNY

What Jamie, I don't have to love them, and I don't have to have anything to do with them if I don't want to, and I don't.

JAMIE

But you have to love them, these are the only parents you're ever going to have.

KENNY

And they raised me to feel like this. You reap what you sow.

JAMIE

But are you really this traumatised from your childhood?

KENNY

No, it's not that I was traumatized by this. Whenever I got hit I was just waiting for it to be finished. I always felt bad watching them do it, almost embarrassed for them. They both did it. And it trained and taught me to fucking hate them.

Jamie shakes his head, annoyed.

JAMIE

I don't know bro, I just feel like you really shouldn't be saying this.

INT. KENNY'S HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - NIGHT

Kenny lies out across the sofa with Sarah, she's on the outside of him, her back pressed against his chest.

He wraps an arm around her and hugs her as they both stare out towards the television.

INT. SARAH'S CAR - DAY

Sarah drives.

Kenny sits next to her on the front passenger seat.

He looks over and stares at her.

KENNY

Don't be mad with me ok?

She quickly glances across at him, slightly annoyed.

SARAH

I don't know why you're been like this.

KENNY

We'll tell your parents first together, but I'll tell mine on my own.

SARAH

Why?

KENNY

I know they'll have something to bitch about.

SARAH

But I don't think they will.

KENNY

That's because you're sweet and try to see the best in everyone. We will tell them together, I just need to tell them first on my own.

EXT. SARAH'S PARENTS HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY

Kenny and Sarah stand with their arms wrapped around each other in front her PARENTS, they're both in their late 50's.

Sarah's dad hands them both a glass of champagne each.

Both her parents then smile excited.

KENNY

Thank you.

SARAH'S DAD

Congratulations to the both of you.

SARAH'S MUM

Yes, congratulations, this is wonderful news.

SARAH'S DAD

To the happy couple and soon to be

new parents.

Her parents lift up their champagne glasses.

Kenny and Sarah both laugh.

Everyone's smiles, they then toast and drink.

INT. KENNY'S OFFICE - DAY

Kenny sits behind his small cluttered desk inside his small cultured office, large filing cabinets are in every corner.

A MAN, 22, sits slumped in a chair in front of him on the other side of his desk.

KENNY

What have you applied for since the last time I spoke to you?

The man shrugs, doesn't care and needs to show it to Kenny.

MAN

A few different things I guess.

KENNY

Like what?

MAN

Just the things you told me to apply for.

KENNY

And has anyone called you back from the positions you've applied for?

MAN

No.

An awkward pause.

KENNY

And how does that make you feel?

He shrugs again.

MAN

I don't care, fuck them, I'm not
bother about other people anyway.

INT. KENNY'S WORK - BREAK ROOM - DAY

Kenny stands up at the counter and slowly makes himself a cup
of coffee.

INT. KENNY'S OFFICE - DAY

Kenny's back behind his desk, he looks out at another MAN,
32, he sits in that chair in front of him.

MAN TWO

Is this going to take long?

KENNY

No. It's not.

MAN TWO

I've got a doctors appointment today,
so I can't stay long.

KENNY

This isn't going to take long, we go
through this every two weeks, I just
need to check what jobs you've been
applying for. You've been coming to
see me for the passed four years,
you know the drill by now.

The man smiles.

MAN TWO

I can't stay long, the doctor said
he needs to see me. He said it was
really important.

KENNY

Are you even telling me the truth
right now?

The man laughs.

MAN TWO

Don't call me a fucking lair mate.
I'll walk if you disrespect me
again like that. Don't dare call me
a fucking lair.

KENNY

What's your doctor name then?

MAN TWO

Mate, don't try and pull this
bullshit with me. I'm not bothered.
I'll fucking do one, I don't fucking
care about been here at all.

INT. KENNY'S WORK - ROOM - DAY

Kenny stands up by a large printer and waits for a large
amount of paper to finish coming out.

INT. KENNY'S OFFICE - DAY

Kenny sits back behind his desk and looks across at a
WOMAN, 25, who sits in that chair in front of him.

KENNY

So you want to take your son out of
school?

She nods.

WOMAN

He's getting bullied, and I' not
going to stand for it.

KENNY

And what's your plan?

WOMAN

I'm going to home school him, I
know it'll be a full time job but
I'm willing to do it.

KENNY

And what do you think qualifies you

for this?

WOMAN

Well I don't know much about maths or nothing, but I love my son and I'm going to school him at home.

INT. JAMIE'S CAR - DAY

Jamie drives.

Kenny sits next to him, still dressed in his work clothes.

Kenny looks across at Jamie, smiles.

KENNY

Thanks for coming with me.

JAMIE

That's alright, I wasn't doing anything else.

KENNY

But still, I want to say thanks, I didn't want to do this on my own, I haven't spoke to them in around six months, so something is going to kick off.

JAMIE

But you really should take Sarah to see them to break this kind of news to them.

KENNY

No, I don't want her to be here for this.

JAMIE

Why not?

KENNY

I don't want her to ever have to be in the same room as them. She's already met them once and that was enough.

JAMIE

That's pretty messed up Kenny.

INT. KENNY'S PARENTS HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Kenny and Jamie sit at the table with their PARENTS, both 50.

KENNY

So, that's the news, that's why I wanted to meet up with you today.

His mum smiles.

His dad has no real change in his stony expression.

KENNY'S MUM

Oh that's wonderful news, but where is she today?

KENNY

She's with her sister.

KENNY'S MUM

Oh that's a shame, but this is still great news, I'm so happy for you both.

His mum looks across at her husband for a response.

KENNY'S DAD

Well this is certainly big news.

KENNY'S MUM

Well I can't wait, both of you were so cute when you were babies.

Jamie smiles.

JAMIE

Thanks mum, but I'm still pretty cute now.

KENNY'S MUM

And I hope the baby will take after

you Kenny, I don't know what Sarah was like when she was little, but you were both so well behaved, a couple of lovely little boys.

KENNY'S DAD

That's down to how they were raised. So you've got a hard job to raise this child in the same way. But I'm sure you can manage that.

Kenny shakes his head, laughs.

KENNY

I'm not raising my child your way. So you can forget about that right now.

JAMIE

Kenny, don't.

KENNY'S DAD

What's that supposed to mean?

KENNY

Remember how you used to hang your belt off the door handle of mine and Jamie's room when we were little. As we went to bed you would always do that as some kind of fucked up warning for us not to talk to each other at night.

KENNY'S MUM

Kenny!

JAMIE

Kenny please, not now.

KENNY'S DAD

Don't ever talk to me like that. It was all about discipline, making sure you acted right, I had a job as your father to make sure you turned out right.

KENNY'S MUM

Please can we not argue for god's shake. We did this the last time we were together.

KENNY'S DAD

Kenny you need to stop brining the passed up, it's not how you remember it.

KENNY

When you beat the shit out of us it was because you and mum hated each other, so you took it out on us because you didn't know how to end it with each other and you still don't.

KENNY'S DAD

Watch your fucking mouth boy.

KENNY'S MUM

Me and your father never hated each other.

Kenny turns his attention onto her.

KENNY

You've got nothing in common with this man. And you were just as bad, you'd smack us across the face too. And you would always turn your fucking rings around on your fingers just before you did it.

His mum drops her head down, upset.

Kenny comes back to his dad.

KENNY'S DAD

What the fuck has gotten into you?

KENNY

I'm not going to pretend like I love either one of you anymore, that's what happened.

His mum starts to cry.

JAMIE

Fucking hell Kenny, just shut the hell up.

KENNY

No Jamie, I need to say this. I'm not ignoring this anymore.

Jamie stands up out of his chair, moves over to his mum and puts an arm around her.

KENNY'S DAD

Say it then. Get it off your chest. But understand that yes I was hard on you, the both of you. But it's what you both needed. So stop acting like a victim.

KENNY

Hitting kids to teach them about discipline and how to act is wrong and doesn't even work.

KENNY'S DAD

It was how I was raised.

KENNY

Yeah, and look at how fucked up you turned out.

KENNY'S DAD

And who the hell do you think you are. And when this bastard child is born let's see how you handle it. You soft fuck. You think you're going to be some cool parent who's going to listen and always be calm with his child. Bullshit. You'll do what I did to you, and what my father did to me.

KENNY

Using a belt on us, just because we mouthed off. Using your fucking belt on us. Giving us a level of pain

before we could deal with it.

KENNY'S DAD

You'll raise that child of yours right, or I'll do it for you. You'll come running to me for help so you best shut your mouth right now.

KENNY

No, from this day on you're going to stay the fuck away from me and the fuck away from my family.

KENNY'S DAD

Get out of my fucking house.

Kenny stands up, looks over at Jamie.

KENNY

Jamie, come with me.

JAMIE

No Kenny, not like this.

KENNY

Jamie, come with me, fuck them off. You know I'm right about everything I've just said.

JAMIE

Yeah, I know you're right, but I'm staying.

KENNY

Fine, find me when you're ready.

Kenny then turns around and exits.

INT. KENNY'S HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - NIGHT

Kenny sits on the sofa with Sarah.

They both look out towards the television in front of them.

Kenny reaches over to her and wraps an arm around the back of her.

She smiles, leans over and rests her head down against his chest.

With his other hand Kenny reaches over and rests it gently down onto her stomach.

FADE TO BLACK
THE END