# Broke-Ish

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COLD OPEN

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

SEAN MURPHY, 40's, dressed office casual stands in line to get coffee talking on his cell with his best friend, DAN JOHNSON.

SEAN

No, I'm not in the office yet. I need some java to kick-start my day. (beat) No, those damn millennials who moved above us were partying all night. (beat) Who the hell parties on a Tuesday night? (beat) Yeah, well, we were younger then. Oh shit, I just became old.

The line moves forward, and Sean gets a call from his boss NANCY MILLER, Late 50's. His ringtone for her is Elton Johns's "The Bitch is Back."

SEAN (CONTD)

Oh, I gotta get that; it's the bitch.

Split screen Sean and Nancy

NANCY

Good Morning Sean.

SEAN

Hi Nancy, (beat) I didn't realize I had switched lines. Good morning.

NANCY

The bitch?

SEAN

No, I said the.. um.

NANCY

Save it; if I don't get called bitch at least three times before noon, I'm losing my touch.

SEAN

Um, okay, so it's six AM, this must be your first bitch of the day.

NANCY

Please, that was my housekeeper at breakfast. Are you on your way to the office?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NANCY (CONT'D)

We have a meeting with the partners, and I need you on your A game.

SEAN

On my way, I stopped for some coffee. I had a rough night. These millennials moved in and threw a massive party. I didn't get any sleep.

NANCY

Poor baby, I was up until four am having drinks with a client. And millennials are like forty now, so suck it up.

SEAN

Wait, I'm in my forties.

NANCY

Uh-huh? So, get me a mocha latte with half-calf cream. Actually, get me two.

SEAN

Yeah, sure. I should be there soon; the line is moving kinda slow.

Sean gets to the front of the line, and suddenly all the employees stop working and start staring at the ceiling.

NANCY

Well, cut the goddamn line; I need you and those lattes in the office in ten.

SEAN

Not sure I'm going to make it; the whole staff just stopped working.

NANCY

What the hell are they doing?

SEAN

Um, it looks like an impromptu scene from Nope.

Sean looks around and then tries to get the attention of JULIE, late 60's, old hippie, Manager.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Uh hey, what's going on?

Julie tries to ignore him.

CONTINUED: (2)

SEAN

Hey, I just need a black coffee and a.. a

Nancy screams through the phone.

NANCY

A MOCHA LATTE HALF CAFE.

SEAN

And that.

Julie gives an evil look to Sean and then responds.

JULIE

This is our every twenty-minute break to deal with and release our anxiety.

SEAN/NANCY

YOUR WHAT?

JULIE

Here at Whole Cup of Love, we give all our employees an anxiety break to de-stress from all the caffeinated hostility from our capitalist customers.

NANCY

Sean, deal with this woke crap and get to the office.

Nancy hangs up.

SEAN

Look, I hate to interrupt this.. uh.. whatever you called it, but I have a sleep-deprived boss and a big meeting to get to, so if you could just put this off for a second.

The BARISTA, late 60's' old Hippie, glares at Sean.

BARISTA

Stop sending out your negative vibes, you're escalating my anxiety.

SEAN

Yeah, I don't want to do that, but I need my.

JULIE/BARISTA

Just wait your turn, Boomer.

CONTINUED: (3)

SEAN

Boomer? Hey, I'm gen X, dammit. And I'm pretty sure I am youn....

Julie and Barista give Sean a nasty look, and Sean stops mid sentence.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Not a boomer.

JULIE

Gen X, Boomer, you're all part of the corporate class.

SEAN

Look, I appreciate that you all are taking this, um.

BARISTA

Anxiety break from the negativity of capitalism.

SEAN

Right, and I totally support that, but today is my first day back in the office; we have a big meeting with our CEO and our biggest client, and I need some of your fantastic coffee to get me going. Is that okay?

JULIE

What do you do?

Sean tries to say his job without saying it.

SEAN

I, um, well, provide music.. to media content to help people decide how best to... um, best purchase items to enhance their lives.

JULIE

And you do that how?

SEAN

(reluctantly)

I work in advertising.

JULIE/BARISTA

(screaming)

CAPITALIST STOOGE!

CONTINUED: (4)

SEAN

Yep. (beat) Wait, isn't this a chain coffee shop? Yeah, I worked on the media campaign for you.

JULIE

We prefer to think of ourselves as a mini socialist resistance inside of the greedy corporate structure.

SEAN

And how does your General Manager feel about these breaks?

JULIE

He (beat) is not a fan.

SEAN

Let's make a deal, you get me my coffee, and I won't tell your boss about the breaks.

JULIE

Deal.

BARISTA

Are you just going to let this boomer intimidate us?

Julie yells at Barista.

JULIE

We're Boomers. Get his fucking coffee, or you're working the afternoon Karen book club shifts.

BARISTA

So that was one black coffee and one what?

SEAN

Mocha Latte Half Cafe.

Barista rings up the order.

BARISTA

That will be forty five dollars.

SEAN

Wow. Okay.

Sean hands over his credit card. Barista swipes it, and there is a loud BEEP.

CONTINUED: (5)

BARISTA

Sorry Mad Men, your card is declined.

TITLE: Broke-ish

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

ANA MURPHY, 40's, Latin X, is trying to sleep, but her phone keeps blasting. Ana tries to ignore her phone but eventually gives up and reaches for it. Ana reads the texts.

ANA

Are you kidding me?

Ana gets out of bed in her PJ's and enters the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ana opens the apartment door to reveal a very hung-over-looking AMY ALPHRA. 40's, dressed very provocatively and looking like she has been up all night.

AMY

Hey neighbor? I forgot my key.

ANA

Morning neighbor. And I just remembered that I need to get your key back.

Ana lets Amy into a modest apartment, with basic furniture.

ANA (CONT'D)

Those kids upstairs kept me up all night. What about you?

AMY

Oh, they kept me up all right.

ANA

Did you party with them?

AMY

Honey, when I hear people having fun, this gal dives in. Please tell me you have coffee.

Ana gives Amy a nasty stare.

ANA

No, sorry, I was trying to sleep over all their...your wild parting. Wait, what time is it?

Amy looks at her smartwatch.

AMY

Seven fifteen.

ANA

Oh, crap. The kids. I need to get them up.

AMY

Are they back in school already?

ANA

For about six months. Remember, that's how you've been able to hide out here and day drink while I work.

AMY

Oh, right. That was way more fun when you were at the office.

ANA

What?

AMY

Nothing.

ANA

Can you make coffee while I get them up?

AMY

Make my own coffee? Anything is possible. Do you have any Kahula?

ANA

No, you finished it yesterday.

**AMY** 

Damn.

Ana moves towards the bedrooms while Amy heads to the kitchen.

ANA

Gena, Masey, get moving, I overslept, and the school train needs to get a move on.

CONTINUED: (2)

GENA ORTIZ, a late Teen female dressed like a hip artist, and MASEY MURPHY, a preteen dressed in PJ's and carrying a teddy bear and pillow, come out of their rooms very sleepy.

GENA

Mom, can I stay home today? I got no sleep, and my eye bags make me look terrible, and I have my art show today.

MASEY

Maybe your tired because you were up all night talking to some boy.

Gena shoots Masey a nasty look.

ANA

Blame aunt Amy. She was partying with our fuc..

Ana catches herself.

ANA (CONT'D)

Fun, new, very loud, and late-nightloving neighbors. Plus everyone will be looking at your art.

AMY

Ana, Gena's looks are part of her art. Also you could tea bag.

ANA

Amy!!!

AMY

Oh god Ana, you place wet tea bags on your eyes to reduce swelling. Get your mind out of the gutter.

**GENA** 

Thank Ms. Alphra.

AMY

Also works on gun shot wounds.

MASY

Aunty Amy, were you praying last night?

AMY

What dear?

CONTINUED: (3)

MASEY

I kept waking up and thought I heard you screaming Jesus Christ.

Ana shoots Amy a nasty look, and Amy slinks away into the kitchen.

AMY

The walls are too thin in this place.

ANA

Where's Liam?

Behind Ana and the family LIAM MURPHY, 20'S, dressed in anarchist clothes, is opening the front door, sees the family, and tries to sneak back out. Ana sees him.

ANA (CONT'D)

Freeze mister.

Liam stops and then enters the living room.

LIAM

Hi Ana, I was just getting some morning exercise.

Ana walks over and smells Liam.

ΔΝΔ

(screaming)

AMY!

Amy reluctantly enters the living room.

AMY

Hi Liam.

LIAM

Hi, Ms. Alphra. How are you today?

ANA

Do not pretend that you were not upstairs at that party Mister. Amy, did you see Liam at the party?

Liam looks at Amy pleadingly.

AMY

No, I do not believe he was.

ANA

Mmmm Hmm. I will deal with you two later. First, I have to get Gena and Masey to school.

CONTINUED: (4)

Ana notices that Masey is in her PJ's.

ANA (CONT'D)

Masey, sweetie, you need to get ready for school?

MASEY

I am.

ANA

Is there some special event at school today that I didn't know about?

MASEY

Yesterday, I overheard the teachers discussing how we might have a shelter-in-place drill today.

ANA

Oh my god, but why are you dressed for a sleepover?

MASEY

We all have our special hiding space whenever we have a drill.

**GENA** 

Mine is next to Kyle.

AMY

Oh, that hot brooding boy on your Instagram?

**GENA** 

Yeah.

ANA

Masey, I still need help understanding.

MASEY

My hiding spot is in the closet, and I always nap, so I decided to have my pillow and Mr. Fluffers.

ANA

Ay dios mío, what is happening to this country? My biggest fear at your age was passing math.

AMY

Mine was escaping that cult.

### CONTINUED: (5)

LIAM

Well, that's what we get when the gun lobby buys our politicians.

GENA

Our Gym teacher said it's the price we pay for our freedoms.

ANA

That's horrible, considering what we're paying, we should be free from our kids growing up traumatized. (beat) I will bring this up at the next PTA meeting.

**GENA** 

Mom, you've never been to a PTA meeting in your life.

**AMY** 

I went to a PTA meeting once. I got bored and dropped Molly. Turns out PTA people are not very touchy feely.

ANA

Well, it's time I started going.

LIAM

Look out, PTA and Gun Lobby, Anna's getting woke.

ANA

Hey, you're not the only liberal in this family. Your dad and I used to protest nuclear weapons back in the eighties.

LIAM

Excellent job on that. Now maybe your generation can solve the climate issue?

ANA

You might want to dial the snark back.

Liam moves away towards his bedroom. Ana looks at Amy and whispers.

ANA (CONT'D)

I love Liam, but that kid will drive me to day drink.

CONTINUED: (6)

AMY

Way ahead of you.

Amy chugs her coffee.

AMY (CONT'D)

This is why I only date divorced men with limited custody.

ANA

Okay, guys, let's get going.

Liam from the hallway.

LIAM (O.C.)

Using a Male dominant Noun for the feminine is genderism.

ANA

Serous?

Amy looks at Jordan and Masey, staring at Ana.

AMY

Masey, let's find you something more appropriate for school.

MASEY

Okay, but I shelter better in my PJ's.

INT OFFICE - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Sean walks into the conference room with three coffees. Several business people are sitting at the table, some wearing masks; Nancy is wearing a smart business outfit, and she approaches Sean.

NANCY

Well, you are not too late. Is that my coffee?

SEAN

Yeah, yours are the two with X's on them.

NANCY

Gimme, Gimme. God, I am so hungover. The clients wanted to go to a strip club.

SEAN

I thought we couldn't expense those anymore because it's misogynist.

NANCY

Well fortunately, they don't speak great English, so I took them to Drag Karaoke. (beat) You should have seen them throwing twenties at those Queens. I thought they were going to riot when Mr. Chen started tossing hundreds.

Nancy mimics making it rain.

SEAN

Sounds fun.

NANCY

It was not. So how did you get past the Barista's strike?

SEAN

Easy, blackmail. Oh, and the coffee was thirty bucks.

Nancy takes a sip of her coffee and spits it out.

NANCY

Well, it didn't work; this latte is terrible. You got overcharged. I hope you didn't tip.

SEAN

That explains the evil grin they had when I got my order. So about the...

JEFF FRANKLIN II, 60's, dressed in an expensive suit, walks into the conference room, and all the chatter stops. With him is his Son, JEFF FRANKLIN III, 40's overweight and dressed like a trendy 20 year old.

NANCY

Well, the big man is here; I hope his speech is more palatable than this poisoned latte. He's looking to cut people.

SEAN

Yep, don't worry. I am ready to pitch. I really can't afford to lose my..

Nancy notices Jeff III. Nancy to Sean.

CONTINUED: (2)

NANCY

Oh, crap, he brought trophy wife number one's afterbirth. That man child is more useless than a shakeweight vibrator.

JEFF II

Well, hello, everyone. So great to see you all in person and not one of those.

Jeff freezes to mock zoom calls. Then continues.

JEFF II (CONT'D)

Zoomie calls.

Everyone laughs awkwardly.

JEFF III

Good one, dad.

JEFF II

I know all of you are as excited as I am to be back in the office. I swear if I had to look at the gorgeous views from my Nantucket home for one more day.

Nancy to Sean

NANCY

Poor thing, he should have had to quarantine with a husband, teenage son, and housekeeper, who all did nothing but order door-dash and binge Dr. Pimple Popper.

JEFF II

And you all must be happy to have a break from your families, and back with your work family.

Sean to Nancy.

SEAN

I miss wearing sweatpants all day.

NANCY

I miss making nasty comments with the mic off during work calls.

SEAN

Yeah, your mic wasn't always off.

CONTINUED: (3)

JEFF II

So, I have some exciting news. My son Jefferson Franklin the third has just spent the summer as an influence, something or other, in Europe, so I am proud to announce.

NANCY

If he gives that moron my job, I'm going to HR and claiming hostile work environment.

SEAN

Isn't all work hostile?

Nancy laughs and nudges Sean.

JEFF II

VP of product influencing.

NANCY

Oh, crap. I think he just made that paste eater our boss.

INT. MURPHY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ana is on her laptop editing a steamy TV show section, and Amy is sleeping on the couch behind her. Then, Ana gets a video call from her mom, MARIA LOPEZ, 70's. The conversation is subtitled.

ANA

Hola mamá.

(Hi, Mamma.)

MARIA

¿Te veré a ti y al gringo para cenar el domingo?

(Will I see you and the Gringo for dinner Sunday?)

ANA

Su nombre es Sean y es mi esposo.

(His name is Sean, and he's my husband.)

GINA

Sí, sí, es un buen hombre, pero podrías haberte casado con un buen mexicano.

(Yes, yes, he is a fine man, but you could have married a nice Mexican man.)

ANA

Adiós mamá.

(Bye Mamma.)

GINA

Adiós, mi hermosa hija.

(Bye, my beautiful daughter.)

Ana hangs up on Maria, and Amy sits up on the couch.

AMY

Wow, she is a piece of work. Why does she hate Sean?

Ana jumps.

ANA

Holy shit. I thought you were sleeping off last night or this morning.

AMY

I was, but that riveting conversation woke me, plus the sound of couples getting it on always gets me up. So what's up with your Mamá and Sean?

ANA

Oh, she likes Sean; she is just a traditional Latina who thinks Latino women should be with Latin Men making Latin babies... Wait you speak Spanish?

AMY

Sí.

ANA

Why didn't you ever mention that before?

AMY

Porque encuentro que la gente dirá cosas interesantes sobre ti cuando piensen que no puedes entenderlos.

(Because I find that people will say interesting things about you when they think you can't understand them.)

CONTINUED: (2)

AMY (CONT'D)

Or think your napping. (beat) That last one is how I caught my last husband cheating on me. (beat) the idiot actually called his mistress in front of me.

ANNA

En serio?

(Seriously?)

AMY

Serio. The worst part was when they started having phone sex next to me.

Amy gets up and walks over to Ana.

AMY (CONT'D)

Plus, I have a thing for Latin Men, so it helps to speak their language.

ANA

You're just full of surprises.

AMY

I'm like an onion, keep peeling me and I will make you cry.

Amy reaches into her pocket and takes out a letter.

AMY (CONT'D)

I better get going. Oh, this was on our doors this morning. I forgot to give it to you.

Amy hands it to Anna. Ana opens it and reads it.

ANA

Are you fucking kidding me? They're turning our apartments into condos.

AMY

Yep. It's cool though, I've been meaning to diversify my portfolio into real estate.

ANA

Congratulations. I hope your next neighbor will be as understanding of your eccentricity as I am.

Liam is walking by and stops to listen to the conversation.

# CONTINUED: (3)

AMY

It's only one point five.

ANA

One point five for this place?

AMY

Well, it not a great deal, but the housing market is hot.

ANA

Housing market? These are moderate apartments with barley any amenities.

AMY

They will condo anything these days. You and Sean can't swing that? He must doing well in advertising and you edit top TV shows.

ANA

If we had that kind of money we would own a house. Why do you think we live here. Raising three kids, private schools and the cost of living in this city ain't cheap.

AMY

You could sell one of the kids, or start an OnlyFans.

ANA

Nah, if I sell a kid my mother will notice, and who wants to see this middle aged old punk Latina naked?

Amy winks at Ana.

AMY

MILF punk Latina? I'm sure there's a demand for that. Those pervs are into to anything.

Anna throws a pillow at Amy.

AMY (CONT'D)

See, your a natural.

INT. OFFICE HALLWAY - DAY

Sean and Nancy are walking towards a conference room with their laptops.

NANCY

I can't believe that sack of human excrement is now our boss.

SEAN

Your boss, you're my boss.

NANCY

Yeah, if he fires me, he will be your boss, so we don't want to keep the original trophy wife's retard spawn waiting.

SEAN

I don't think you can say that word anymore.

NANCY

Oh please, I've been calling my son that since birth.

SEAN

How is family therapy going?

NANCY

Good, real good. Doctor Wong thinks we're making real progress.

SEAN

I don't want you to get another HR complaint.

NANCY

Please, I eat HR Managers for lunch.

## INT.CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Sean enters, all the other executives are sitting around the conference table with their laptops open. Sean takes a seat next to Nancy as Jeff III is starting his speech, kicked back at the head of the table with his ten thousand dollar sneakers on the table.

JEFF III

Hey John, thanks for joining us.

SEAN

It's actually Sean.

JEFF III

That's what I said. Anyway, as I was saying about my excellent work promoting clubs in Amsterdam.

Nancy and Sean talk to each other over Teams.

INSERT LAPTOP MONITORS INTERCUT WITH SEAN AND NANCY

NANCY TEAMS

Good job, John.

SEAN TEAMS

Did he mansplain my name?

JEFF III

And my club promotions on Tik Tok had over five hundred thousand followers.

NANCY TEAMS

Hell, my dog has that many followers from his pooping videos.

Sean tries not to laugh. Jeff III shows a video he made at a club.

INSET VIDEO

Jeff is at a club drinking champagne from a women's Bra and surrounded by young Europeans drinking, dancing, and ignoring Jeff III.

JEFF III

Hell yeah, this fucking club rocks. Drinks on me.

Everyone starts to celebrate Jeff III.

BACK TO SCENE

JEFF III

And that was how I took that club from a zero to Jeffery's the hero.

Bob, one of the executives, raises his hand.

JEFF III (CONT'D)

Yes, the guy in the ugly suit.

BOB

Ah, I was wondering if you ever mentioned the club in your post because I can't figure out how that video helped the brand.

JEFF III

Well, the brilliance of that video is that I never said the name of the club, so people had to Google it. It's called a mystery. Look it up when you're sitting at home looking for a job.

**BOB** 

Wait, I'm fired?

JEFF III

Like my dad said to my last stepmom, hit the bricks bitch.

Bob gets up and angrily grabs his things, and leaves while giving Jeff III the finger.

INSERT TEAM CHAT

NANCY TEAMS

Damn, that was harsh. Wonder if I can get you Bob's parking spot.

SEAN TEAMS

Stop. That was f'd up.

NANCY TEAMS

Check out the comments on his video.

In the background, Jeff is going on about the social media campaign they have been assigned for an oil company while Sean reads the comments.

INSERT SOCIAL MEDIA

@londonRipper647: Hey all get to club 88 in Soho. Some old YankWanker is buying drinks. Sucha tool.

@Parisnotslut: Cet idiot américain repère des boissons.
VIENS ICI

(This American idiot is spoting drinks. 888 GET HERE)

@pETeAmsterdamage666:Deze totale twap-yank heeft een Amex Black. Pak haar, word boos.

(This total twap yank has an Amex Black. Get here, get pissed.)

Sean looks at Nancy.

NANCY TEAMS

Yeah, that's our new boss. Welcome to true white privilege male life, with a side of nepotism thrown in. :)

SEAN TEAMS

I'm proof white privilege isn't equally distributed.

#### IN. MURPHY HOME-NIGHT

Sean walks in. Ana is drinking wine on the couch. Sean grabs a glass, pours it, and joins her.

SEAN

Hello love.

Sean and Ana kiss.

ANA

Hola mi amor.

SEAN

Tish, that's French.

Sean kisses Ana's arm like Gomez to Marticia.

ANA

It's spanish, you Addams Family perv. I love you.

Ana and Sean kiss again.

ANA (CONT'D)

How was Your day?

SEAN

Well, I almost got canceled at the coffee place this morning. And my new boss is a middle aged influence who's never worked a day in his life, and his tennis shoes cost more than what I make in a year (beat) So just great (beat) How was your day?

ANA

Well, let's see. Masey's school had a shelter-in-place drill. And she wanted to wear her pj's because she likes to be comfy when hiding in a closet.

SEAN

WTF, that's terrible. Points to Masey for at least wanting to be comfy, to what must be her new normal.

ANA

Yeah, great world we're giving our kids.

SEAN

How did we let the world get this screwed up?

ANA

Oh, and Liam and Amy were partying with our new neighbors last night.

SEAN

(enthusiastically )

Oh, he was?

Ana gives Sean a nasty look.

SEAN (CONT'D)

I, mean, at least he went to a party. That's a step up for that kid.

ANA

He's not a kid, we need to stop treating him like one.

SEAN

I tried to get him an internship at the firm, but he said he didn't want to end up in a dead-end job like me.

ANA

Well, he needs to start doing something.

SEAN

I know a coffee shop that would be perfect for a budding socialist.

ANA

Oh, that reminds me, speaking of our capitalist oppressors.

Ana hands Sean the letter. Sean reads it.

SEAN

Are they serious?

### CONTINUED: (2)

ANA

Si. They are turning all the apartments into condos.

SEAN

This place? It's not even nice for what we pay.

ANA

Yep, one point five for a three bedroom eight fifty square, with no pool and a shared laundry.

SEAN

Do we have enough in our savings for a down payment?

ANA

Would we want to? And plus what savings?

SEAN

It has been our home for five years We could borrow from our retirement. Better than trying to find a new apartment in this market.

ANA

I'd rather retire before we turn ninety thank you, and we exhausted that during the lock-down to cover our cost of living, when we were both furloughed. All that DoorDash Uber Eats add up.

SEAN

Right. How did life get so crazy?

ANA

We sold out for a big paycheck.

SEAN

And when is that arriving?

ANA

Remember when we had dreams of greatness? You were going to be a famous song writer.

SEAN

And you were going to be an independent film maker.

CONTINUED: (3)

ANA

And we were going to be wealthy and live in Europe.

SEAN

Yes, the days of romantic dreams, and no clue what student loan debt was.

Ana places her legs over Sean's.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Wanna go to a bar and get drunk like we did in the old days, when we were young rebels and having money was evil.

ANA

I'd love to my handsome man.

Ana looks Sean in the eyes with pure love. Then gets serious.

ANA (CONT'D)

But speaking of student loan debt, I have an early day tomorrow.

SEAN

Yeah, me too.

ANA

Oh, right, who's your new client?

SEAN

A big oil company wants us to lie to consumers about their environmental record, and I just helped my favorite rock band sell out their biggest hit to them.

ANA

How much did they sell out for?

SEAN

It would literality would make you cry.

ANA

And we sold our souls for this.

Ana waves her hand around.

SEAN

Yep. We sure did. To the American dream.

CONTINUED: (4)

Sean raises his glass for a toast.

ANA

To soul crushing debt.

SEAN

And working ourselves to death.

ANA

Together.

Ana and Sean toast, then kiss, then from upstairs, the sound of loud electro music and a raging party starts. We hear Amy screaming over the music.

AMY (V.O.)

JESUS CHRIST!!!

FADE OUT.