CREATURES

"Pilot"

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Final Draft
COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. ACKERMAN HOUSE: DINING ROOM -- NIGHT

JENNA ACKERMAN, thirties, is serving dinner to her family.

    JENNA
    I think you guys will love this. I found it in my grandmother's recipe book that was in the attic the whole time.

At the table is her husband MICHAEL, thirties.

    MICHAEL
    Smells good, honey.

Also at the table is their two children, EMILY, sixteen, and DAVID, seven.

    DAVID
    (teacher's pet-like)
    It does smell good, mom.

    EMILY
    (pleading)
    I hope it doesn't taste like crap.

Last at the table is Jenna's mother, FRANCINE, sixties. She has a thing for psychedelic clothing.

    FRANCINE
    You actually found that old piece of--

    JENNA
    (cutting her off)
    Mom!

Michael tries to relieve the tension between them.

    MICHAEL
    Anyway, so what did you cook tonight, honey?

    JENNA
    Something we haven't had before in a long time.

Jenna smiles as she sets it down on the table.

    JENNA (CONT'D)
    Meatloaf.

Emily gets up and leaves, repulsed.
EMILY
Gross.

JENNA
(angry)
Where are you going?

EMILY
Up to my room. I'm not eating that.

JENNA
Then what are you eating?

Emily starts for the stairs.

EMILY
Anything but that.

Emily goes upstairs to her room. Jenna looks at Michael, scoffs. David grabs her arm, looks into her eyes.

DAVID
It's times like these where you wish
I was an only child, I know.

They all look at David...then nod.

FRANCINE
Are you gonna serve the damn food or not?

CUT TO BLACK:

MAIN TITLES
ACT ONE

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

Michael tries to adjust a lavaliere mike, but he's having a bit of trouble doing so.

MICHAEL
Can I have some help?

JENNA TALKING HEAD

Jenna is putting a stray lock of hair behind her ear. She smiles at the camera.

JENNA
(to crew)
How do I look?

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL
(fiddling with the mike)
I think I got it.

FRANCINE TALKING HEAD

Francine is smoking.

FRANCINE
I don't care if the sign says "No smoking". If I need a smoke, I'm gonna smoke.

EMILY TALKING HEAD

Emily, who is socially and fashionably conscious and your typical teenage girl, is glaring at the camera.

EMILY
This is all a bunch of crap.

She gets up and leaves.

DAVID TALKING HEAD

David, cute little kid, is going over the things he loves. It seems to be alphabetized.

DAVID
I love apples, bananas...

JENNA TALKING HEAD

Jenna's going over the pictures of their family vacations in the past couple of years.
JENNA
We took a lot family vacations in the past.

B-ROLL: The corresponding pictures.

JENNA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Florida, Cape Cod, Myrtle Beach, California.

FRANCINE TALKING HEAD
Francine blows out a cloud of smoke.

FRANCINE
I'm the grandmother, always will be.
Nothing's gonna change that.

She takes another drag.

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL
All I want is to do the best for my family, because...
(searching for the words)
I love them.

JENNA TALKING HEAD

JENNA
I'm not going to leave this earth until I know I provided the best for my family.
(smiles)
I'm a good mother. Just look at our refrigerator.

JENNA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I know that what I'm doing is the right thing.

DAVID TALKING HEAD
As before.

DAVID
...lollipops, Matchbox cars...

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL
I'm really the breadwinner of the family.
(MORE)
MICHAEL (CONT'D)
You know, I go to work and Jenna
cooks and cleans and does...woman
stuff.

JENNA TALKING HEAD

JENNA
I don't really care about the whole
"me-man, you-woman" setup. I actually
like being the stay-at-home wife.
Michael's the man of the house and
he knows what he's doing.

EMILY TALKING HEAD

Emily gets a text. She checks it, calls the number.

EMILY
Omigosh, are you serious? ... With
who? ...
(can't believe it)
NO!!!

DAVID TALKING HEAD

David's still going.

DAVID
...I love spiders, I love turtles, I
love...

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL
I just love my family.

JENNA TALKING HEAD

JENNA
I love my family.

FRANCINE TALKING HEAD

FRANCINE
Hey, somebody's gotta keep me out of
the "Home".

EMILY TALKING HEAD

EMILY
They're okay.
DAVID TALKING HEAD

DAVID
...I love yo-yos, I love zebras...Oh, I almost forgot...and I love my family.

He gives a cute smile to the camera.

CUT TO BLACK:
ACT TWO

EXT. ACKERMAN HOUSE -- MORNING

CLOSE ON a suburban house in row of similar houses.

SUPER: "THE ACKERMANS"

MICHAEL (V.O.)
This is our house.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET -- CONTINUOUS

More indistinguishable houses with perfectly cut green lawns in front of them crowd the street like birdhouses.

MICHAEL (V.O.)
This is our street.

EXT. SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT -- CONTINUOUS

A whole maze of houses, streets, and lawns, tightly put together as one.

MICHAEL (V.O.)
This is where we live. Been here ever since the kids were born.

INT. ACKERMAN HOUSE: MASTER BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Michael, dressed for work, is putting on his tie. Jenna is still sleeping in bed. He leans over and pecks her on the cheek.

MICHAEL
Bye, honey.

JENNA
(groggy)
...bye...
  (then)
...wait!

She sits up and turns on a nightstand lamp.

JENNA (CONT'D)
You're not staying for breakfast. I was going to make pancakes.

MICHAEL
As tempting as that is, I'd prefer to grab something on the way to work.

As Jenna considers this,

MICHAEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Jenna can cook, but when it comes to pancakes...
MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Let's just say it's like eating generic food. It has... neutral quality.

INT. ACKERMAN HOUSE: MASTER BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

As before.

JENNA
(hurt)
Okay.

She lays back down, going back to sleep.

MICHAEL
(before he leaves)
Do we need anything?

JENNA
...grocery list...on the counter...

EXT. ACKERMAN HOUSE -- LATER

Michael leaves the house, makes for his car in the driveway, takes out his car keys.

SUPER: "MONDAY...WORK"

MICHAEL (V.O.)
Monday is when we kick right back into our weekly schedule.

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
After a crazy weekend, it's time for work and school.

INT. ACKERMAN HOUSE: KITCHEN -- MUCH LATER

Jenna makes breakfast for the kids. Emily comes downstairs, brushing her hair. Jenna catches her.

JENNA
I made you some cereal.

EMILY
Not hungry.

JENNA
(suspicious)
Why? You had a lacrosse game yesterday.
EMILY
I'm just not hungry. I had a big dinner.

JENNA
(beat, matter of fact)
You had a peanut butter and jelly sandwich because you refused to eat my meatloaf.

EMILY
You can't blame me, it tastes like crap.

Jenna points at the door.

JENNA
Go catch your bus.

As Emily exits,

JENNA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I don't know what's wrong with her. She use to be my sweet little girl.

B-ROLL: Emily as a cute little girl.

JENNA TALKING HEAD

JENNA (CONT'D)
I really don't know what happened along the years.

B-ROLL: Emily texting during their family game night.

JENNA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I just hope she changes.

INT. ACKERMAN HOUSE: KITCHEN

David comes running down the stairs. Jenna stops him.

JENNA
Hey, hey, hey, whoa, no running in the house.

DAVID
Sorry, mom.
(sees cereal, moans)
I thought we were going to have pancakes.

JENNA
Well, something came up, now sit and eat your cereal.

Over David as he sits,
SUPER: "THE BABY OF THE FAMILY"

JENNA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
David is the baby of family. He's just my little boy.

JENNA TALKING HEAD

JENNA (CONT'D)
I went through a tough pregnancy with him, but he came through and I'm just lucky to have him.

INT. ACKERMAN HOUSE: KITCHEN

As before.

DAVID
(eyes his cereal in disgust)
Gross.

JENNA
What?

DAVID
My cereal's all soggy.

Jenna sighs. She crosses over to David.

JENNA
David, do you know that there are children in third-world countries that would give anything for a scrap of food to eat, including your soggy cereal?

DAVID
(handing his bowl to Jenna)
Well, could you give them this, because I don't want it.

Jenna grabs the bowl, dumps it into the sink.

JENNA
C'mon, you have to go to school.
(then)
Mom?! Mom, it's going on eight.

FRANCINE
(coming down the stairs)
Yeah, yeah, I'm coming.

JENNA
Are you eating here or there?
FRANCINE
There. They have better food.

ZOOM ON: Jenna, hurt.

JENNA (V.O.)
Every other day, mom goes to the senior center in the basement of St. Mary's.

B-ROLL: Seniors talking, playing pool, playing board games, watching old television shows, etc.

Jenna grabs her mother's hand. Francine quickly pulls away.

FRANCINE
Hey!
(beat)
I'm not that old. I don't need to be walked.

INT. MICHAEL'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

Michael is listening to the radio. It's a station that plays old songs. Michael's singing along, offkey.

MICHAEL
("My Life" Billy Joel)
I don't care what you say anymore, this is my liffffeee.

EXT. OFFICE PARKING LOT -- MUCH LATER

Michael pulls into an empty space. His best friend, LARRY, thirties, pulls in as well. They exit their cars, meet up.

LARRY
Michael, what's shaking?

MICHAEL
(beat, shakes head)
No.

MICHAEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I don't know what's wrong with Larry. Mid-life crisis? Some weird way of showing depression? I have no idea, but it's gotta stop.

INT. JENNA'S CAR -- LATER

Jenna drives; Francine is in the passenger's seat. David is the back seat, looking out the window.

Jenna stops in front of David's school.

JENNA
Okay, honey, have a good day.
DAVID
Okay, mom. I love you.

JENNA
Love you, too.

Jenna kisses David's cheek.

DAVID
Bye.

JENNA
Bye.

David exits the car.

JENNA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
David has trouble at school.

JENNA TALKING HEAD

JENNA (CONT'D)
He has a lot of bullies harassing him and it's just terrible that my little baby boy has to suffer bullying.

INT. JENNA'S CAR

FRANCINE
I think it's good for him.

Jenna doesn't believe this.

JENNA
Mom!

FRANCINE
What? You were bullied when you were a kid and that didn't bother you. You didn't even care.

JENNA
Mom.
(beat)
I cried every night.

FRANCINE
No, you didn't.

JENNA
Yes, I did.

FRANCINE
Oh, please, that's a bunch of crap.

Francine takes out a cigarette.
JENNA
(can't believe this)
Mom, you can't smoke.

FRANCINE
Why the hell not?

JENNA
You have lung problems. The last thing you want to do is smoke.

JENNA TALKING HEAD

JENNA (CONT'D)
Mom has a serious lung problem. She can't smoke or something bad might happens.
(beat)
Bad bad.

INT. JENNA'S CAR

FRANCINE
(rolling down the window)
I don't care about my health problem, if I'm gonna smoke, I'm gonna smoke.

JENNA
Oh, no, you don't.

Jenna pulls over. She tries to reach for the cigarette.

FRANCINE
What the hell are you doing?

JENNA
I'm not going to let you smoke and jeopardize your health.

FRANCINE
Stop it!

Jenna grabs the cigarette and throws it out the window.

ZOOM ON: Francine's glare.

FRANCINE (CONT'D)
I can't believe you.

JENNA
(what?)
Me?

FRANCINE
Yeah.
(beat, points)
You.
JENNA
I can't believe you!

FRANCINE
I can't believe you just snatched my smoke and...
   (shaking her head)
   ...threw it out the damn window.

Jenna puts the car in drive.

JENNA
   (trying to keep cool)
   Mom, I'm sorry.

Francine looks out her window, clearly angry.

FRANCINE
   Yeah, whatever.

ZOOM ON: Jenna, hurt even more.

JENNA
   Do you want something to eat?

FRANCINE
   Just drop me off.

INT. OFFICE: MICHAEL'S CUBICLE -- LATER

Michael is playing "basketball" with crumpled balls of paper and a waste basket. He misses every shot.

MICHAEL
   Dammit.

Larry pokes his head over the cubicle.

LARRY
   Heads-up: Richard's monthly employee inspection.

MICHAEL
   I'm ready.

He shoots -- misses.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
   Goddammit.

LARRY
   You suck, man.

MICHAEL
   I know, I don't need a thirty-year-old teenager telling me that I do.
LARRY
Whatever you say, Homes.

INT. ACKERMAN HOUSE: KITCHEN -- AFTERNOON

Jenna is cooking. Her pan catches on fire.

JENNA
Oh, damn! What the...

She grabs the fire extinguisher, puts it out.

JENNA (CONT'D)
God.

JENNA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
That was close.

INT. ST. MARY'S CHURCH -- BASEMENT -- LATER

Francine and another senior are playing pool. So far, she's winning.

FRANCINE
(laughing)
I'm beating your ass, Louis.

Her opponent, LOUIS, is fed up.

LOUIS
Whatever you say, Francine.

FRANCINE
(yelling)
Oh, you don't believe me. The proof is right in front of you.

She's clearly enjoying this. It's Louis's turn. He accidentally knocks the white ball in instead of the one he was aiming at. Francine is laughing like a madman.

FRANCINE (CONT'D)
(yelling)
You can't even hit the damn ball in, you old bag of dust.

LOUIS
(getting angry)
Whatever, Francine.

FRANCINE
(yelling)
You better run for your money, because I'm coming to get it.

She hits four balls in at the same time. She goes crazy. While she loses her mind, Louis sits in a chair.
He pokes the senior next to him.

    LOUIS
    (whispers)
    What a bitch.

    FRANCINE (O.S.)
    Who's next, bitches.
    (cackles)

CUT TO BLACK:
ACT THREE

INT. ACKERMAN HOUSE: KITCHEN

Right now, Jenna's busy looking for the right pots and pans in a bottom cabinet. The pan she used is burnt.

JENNA
(muttering)
Where the hell is...

JENNA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
When the kids are at school and Michael's at work and mom's at the senior center, I like to cook early because it gives me something to do, you know. Opposed to just sitting around all day watching soap operas. I went there, and I'm not going back.

Jenna goes deep inside the cabinet.

JENNA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
That's why now I just record them.

The doorbell rings. Startled, Jenna hits her head. She gets out, rubbing her head.

JENNA (CONT'D)
Dammit.

INT. OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

Michael is walking to the water cooler. He grabs a paper cup and starts to fill up. A very sexy woman, DAISY, twenties, walks up to the cooler, grabs a cup, waits.

DAISY
(starting a conversation)
So, they said it was going to rain.

MICHAEL
Yeah.

DAISY
(flirtatiously)
So, do you...have any work to do.

MICHAEL
I just have to fax some papers.

DAISY
Sounds...

She runs her hand up his arm. He has mixed feelings.
DAISY (CONT'D)
...fascinating.

Michael suddenly gets it.

MICHAEL
I'm sorry, Daisy.

He takes her hand off him.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
But I'm married.

Daisy, hurt, backs away. Michael lumbers off. Another co-worker, Daisy's friend GINGER, joins Daisy to comfort her as she cries.

GINGER
It's okay. There's other fish in the sea.

DAISY
But not as goofy, and yet sexy, as him. I'm gonna get him if it's the last thing I'll do.

INT. ACKERMAN HOUSE: LIVING ROOM -- LATER

Jenna, still rubbing her head, answers to a Hispanic woman, RENEE, and man, JIM. Jenna is confused: Who are they?

RENEE
Hi, my name is Renee, we just moved in next door.

JIM
Yeah, hi, my name's Jim.

JENNA
(surprised)
Really. Wow. Well, hi, my name is Jenna, it's nice to meet you.

RENEE
It's nice to meet you, too.

An awkward beat.

JENNA
So, um...
(them)
Come in, come in, it's kind of cold outside.

RENEE
Oh, thank you. It is kind of cold.
(to Jim)
Right, Jim?
JIM
Yeah, it is, I thought it was spring.

INT. ACKERMAN HOUSE: LIVING ROOM -- LATER
Jenna gives Renee and Jim a cup of coffee each, then takes her own and sits down.

Another awkward beat.

JENNA
So, are you having trouble adapting to the development?

RENEE
Oh, no, we lived in one before this one. It's just our kids we're worried for, you know. New school, new house, that whole bit.

JENNA
Oh, it must be so hard.

JIM
No, they're kind of use to it. This is our tenth move in the past...

ZOOM ON: Jenna, her eyes wide -- ten times!

RENEE
Five years.

JIM
Right, five years.

JENNA (V.O.)
What the hell? Ten times in the past five years.

JENNA TALKING HEAD

JENNA (CONT'D)
I don't know what to say. I shouldn't really say anything, I don't want them to be offended or anything. (laughs nervously, then) ...Ten times, Jeezus.

INT. ACKERMAN HOUSE: LIVING ROOM

JENNA
So, do your kids go to school nearby?

JIM
Yeah, they're pretty close.
INT. WILLIAM HENRY HIGH -- STUDY HALL -- CONTINUOUS

ALVARO, a very, very handsome Hispanic boy, seventeen, is studying from a textbook in the foreground.

EMILY (O.S.)
(whisper)
He's so hot.

In the background, Emily and her friends are stuck on taking pictures of him with their cellphones.

EMILY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
He's the hottest boy I've ever seen.

EMILY TALKING HEAD

EMILY (CONT'D)
And I'm not talking about, "Oh, he's so cute" kind of hot, I'm talking about total full-on sex appeal "Damn!" kind of hot.
(beat, where she gets a text)
Hold on.

She gets her phone out, checks it, then puts it back.

EMILY (CONT'D)
I GTG, but BTW...

INT. WILLIAM HENRY HIGH -- STUDY HALL -- CONTINUOUS

Alvaro senses the eyes on him, hears the giggles. He looks over at Emily and her friends...to find them reading their textbooks, their cellphones gone from sight.

EMILY (V.O.)
...he's just hot, period.

INT. ACKERMAN HOUSE: LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

RENEE
Our other one is home. He's sick.

JENNA
Oh...
(then, a light bulb turning on)
How old is he?

RENEE
Alfie is seven.

JENNA
That's how old our David is. Maybe, when he feels better, Alfie can come over and they could play.
RENEE
That's great idea. Right, Jim?

JIM
Yeah, I mean...he doesn't know anyone else around here.

RENEE
Great! How about this Saturday?

JENNA
His calendar's empty...to my knowledge. They can play then.

JENNA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I really think David needs to make a new friend.

JENNA TALKING HEAD

JENNA
I mean, apart from the bullying, David can make all the friends he wants to, because he's nice, smart, and gentle. He can be pretty, um...sensitive, at times.

B-ROLL: David at his seventh birthday party, where a clown comes out and David starts crying maniacally.

JENNA (CONT'D)
He did watch "It" with his father the night before and he was still kind of shaky.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET -- LATER

Emily is walking home when she spots Alvaro on the other side of the street. Wanting to hide, she ducks behind a few garbage cans. But it's too late. He's spotted her and the camera and is crossing the street.

EMILY
(to camera)
Thanks, you gave me away, asshole.

Alvaro peeks over the cans. He has a somewhat thick accent.

ALVARO
...Hello?

EMILY
(embarrassed)
...Hi.

ALVARO
You look familiar...that's right, you're in my study hall.
EMILY
Yeah.

ALVARO
And you and your friends were taking pictures of me.

EMILY
Yeah...
(wait)
...uh, I mean--

ALVARO
I already knew.

EMILY
How?

Alvaro grabs her hand to pick her up and they start to walk home together. Emily can't help but blush.

ALVARO
A little thing called peripheral vision.

EMILY
...Right.

INT. ST. MARY'S CHURCH -- BASEMENT -- CONTINUOUS MONTAGE:
Francine beating every person in the room, including the staff.

Then,

FRANCINE (CONT'D)
Is that the best you all got? You all play like crap!

Everyone glares at her.

FRANCINE (CONT'D)
What the hell you looking at? If you gotta problem, speak up!

INT. ACKERMAN HOUSE: LIVING ROOM
Jenna, Renee, and Jim are all laughing, post-joke. The phone rings, and Jenna leaves to answer it.

JENNA
Excuse me for one moment.

RENEE
Not a problem.
Jenna picks it up.

JENNA

Hello?

It's a NURSE from the senior center.

NURSE

I'm sorry, but you need to pick up your mother now, she is a nuisance to the rest of the seniors.

Jenna sighs.

JENNA (CONT'D)

Sure, I'm so sorry for what she did.

NURSE

It's okay.

(then)

If I were you, I'd hurry.

CUT TO BLACK:
Alvaro and Emily are walking. They're getting close to Emily's house.

ALVARO
(pointing)
Is that where you live?

EMILY
Yeah.

ALVARO
Really? We live next door.

EMILY
That's strange.
(laughs nervously)

EMILY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I don't know why I'm acting like a total nerd.

EMILY TALKING HEAD

EMILY (CONT'D)
I guess that's what you feel like when you're with a totally super üper hot guy.

EXT. ACKERMAN HOUSE -- LATER

Jenna comes running out the house. Emily and Alvaro are crossing the yard, stopping when they see her running.

EMILY
Mom?

JENNA
No time to talk.

Jenna gets into the car quickly. She backs out of the driveway and drives down the road in a hurry, speeding.

Jim and Renee comes out of the open doorway.

RENEE
Where did she go?

JIM
What happened?

ALVARO
Mom? Dad?

Emily sighs.
EMILY
I have no idea.
(then)
I'm Emily, her daughter, by the way.

INT. JENNA'S CAR -- LATER

JENNA
Mom, what were you thinking? You humiliated all those elderly citizens.

FRANCINE
So what? They got their asses whipped by the master.

Jenna sighs.

JENNA
Mom, you just can't--

Jenna is interrupted by her cellphone. She picks it up while Francine takes out a cigarette. Jenna frowns at her and Francine puts it back, sighing, just like a spoiled teenage brat.

JENNA (CONT'D)
Hello?

Silence. Then,

JENNA (CONT'D)
Oh my God!

She hangs up, turns the car around.

FRANCINE
(what?)
What?

JENNA
David's in the hospital.

INT. OFFICE -- MICHAEL'S CUBICLE -- EVENING

Michael is getting his coat on, ready to leave. Larry pokes his head over the cubicle again.

LARRY
Hey, are you doing anything later?

MICHAEL
Just going home.

LARRY
Come on, come to the bar later. There's a party that's a can't miss.
MICHAEL
I don't know, my wife--

LARRY
Seriously, you can't get away for one night.

Michael thinks about this.

MICHAEL (V.O.)
If you think about it, Larry's right about that.

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL
Jenna's never let me out of the house at night. I guess one time won't hurt.

INT. OFFICE

MICHAEL
I guess one time won't hurt.

LARRY
(happy)
All right!

INT. ACKERMAN HOUSE: LIVING ROOM

Emily tries to be a good houseguest, what with Jenna gone.

EMILY
So, does anyone want any juice?

Renee, Alvaro, and Jim look at her...nod.

RENEE/JIM/ALVARO
Sure.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING AREA -- LATER

Francine sits in the area, alone. A RECEPTIONIST is behind the desk, making a personal call. Francine takes out a cigarette, lights it. The receptionist catches her.

RECEPTIONIST
(attitude)
Ma'am, this is a smoke-free environment.

Francine is pissed off.

FRANCINE
I'm sorry, but I need to smoke, so can you leave me the hell alone?
RECEPTIONIST
(confused, angry)
I'm sorry?

FRANCINE
You're damn right you're sorry, and if I'm bothered again, I'm going to tell your boss that you're making personal calls to your boyfriend, you little whore.

The receptionist's mouth is agape. She can't believe this.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Jenna is stroking David's bandaged head, crying.

JENNA (V.O.)
David had gotten into a fight at school.

JENNA TALKING HEAD

The boys all ganged up on him and now he's in the hospital with stitches in his head.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

JENNA
(voice croaky with tears)
I'm sorry, honey.

DAVID
I love you, mom.

JENNA
I love you, too, baby.

The receptionist, from the waiting area, comes in.

RECEPTIONIST
I'm sorry, but you need to get your mom the hell out of here.

JENNA
I'm sorry, she's a handful.

RECEPTIONIST
You're damn right she is.

JENNA
(re: David)
Is he okay?

The receptionist nods.
RECEPTIONIST
I think so. You can sign him out.

Before Jenna can say something,

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
And yes, I'm lying to get you out of here fast...
(catching her mistake)
...or I'm not.

DAVID
Yes, you are.

RECEPTIONIST
I know.

CUT TO BLACK:
ACT FIVE

INT. BAR -- NIGHT

Michael is alone at the counter, a little tipsy. The BARTENDER gives him his ordered drink.

BARTENDER
Are you sure you can handle it?

MICHAEL
Yes, I have a very strong liver. Thank you.

Larry comes up to him. He's drunk like hell, very sluggish.

LARRY
Hey, buddy.

Michael backs away.

MICHAEL
Whoa, how much did you drink?

LARRY
I don't know. I was in a drinking game with Big Kenny.

Michael is stunned.

MICHAEL
Big Kenny? Big-Livered Big Kenny?

LARRY
Yup, yup, yup...and I beat the shit out of him, too.

MICHAEL
(his mind blown)
Damn.

MICHAEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Big Kenny drank so much, if you ever outdrank him--

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL
--you'd usually die. How did Larry beat him? I haven't the slightest bit of clue how.

INT. BAR -- EARLIER

Larry and Big Kenny's drinking game. It seems like the whole bar is looking at them, betting, watching.
LARRY
That's eight glasses, you little bitch!

BIG KENNY
Not for long.

Big Kenny (a beast of a man) drinks the glass in front of him in seemingly one big gulp. The bar cheers -- They can't believe this. Larry has to up his game.

He grabs three glasses and drains them like they're nothing. The bar is in a frenzy.

BIG KENNY (CONT'D)
Screw this, I'm drunk enough.

He gets up and leaves, the bar cheers Larry on.

BAR
Larry!  Larry!

DISSOLVE INTO:

INT. BAR -- PRESENT

Larry's imitation of the cheering.

LARRY
Larry!  Larry!

A GIRL turns around in the chair next to Larry.

GIRL
(to Larry)
That's not what happened.

Silence. Girl goes back to a nice GUY offering to order her a drink.

LARRY
(to Michael)
Bitch is lying.  You know I got skills.

Big Kenny walks up, who has obviously heard the whole thing.

BIG KENNY
Don't make up shit about me or I'm gonna kill your ass.

He walks away. Larry calls after him.

LARRY
Hey, I can sue for threatening to kill me...or something.
Big Kenny turns around with a balled up fist and an angry look on his face. Really intense.

BIG KENNY
Threat? ... Or a fact?

LARRY
Sorry, sorry.

He turns to Michael.

LARRY (CONT'D)
So, what have you been drinking?

MICHAEL
Enough.

LARRY
Enough? Are you kidding me? All you had was some wine.
(to bartender)
Hey, get my main man here the hardest stuff you have.

The bartender nods.

MICHAEL
No, Larry, I gotta drive home tonight, I have a family--

LARRY
So...oh, come on. One little drink can't hurt.

Michael thinks about this. ZOOM ON: Michael.

MICHAEL
Okay, okay. I'll have a drink. But only one.

LARRY
All right.

The bartender places a drink in front of Michael -- hard liquor.

CUT TO:

INT. CLUBBING AREA -- DANCE FLOOR -- LATER

Michael is absolutely drunk. He's going crazy on the dance floor, getting lost in the crazy crowd.

MICHAEL
(over the music)
I LOVE THIS SONG!!!
INT. BAR

Michael's back from the dance floor, sweating from dancing most of the night away. An eager Daisy walks up, dressed sexily in a skimpy outfits. Michael likes this.

DAISY
Hey, Michael.

MICHAEL
Hey.

He has really noticed her now. No more co-worker. Sensing this and liking it, Daisy touches his shoulder.

DAISY
Come on, let's dance.

Michael thinks about it.

MICHAEL
Okay. I think I've cooled down enough.

Hey, he's drunk.

DAISY
(eager)
Come on.

MICHAEL
(sluggish)
Yeah, yeah, yeah...let's go.

He grabs her waist and leads her to...

INT. CLUBBING AREA -- DANCE FLOOR

...the dance floor where they dance to the music, enjoying each other, wanting each other.

Michael sees Larry trying to get a GIRL.

LARRY
Come on, girl, lets go to my house.

GIRL
Girl? I have a name. Besides, I don't know anything about you.

LARRY
...I'm uncircumcised.

Disgusted, she walks away.

LARRY (CONT'D)
Come on, don't act like a bitch. I know your name! Shaniquah, right?
He follows her. Michael laughs and the DJ switches the track to a slow song. Michael and Daisy look at each other and start to dance with the slow music.

MICHAEL
(noticing, but still too drunk to do anything about it)
I don't feel right doing this.

DAISY
Why? We both know what we both want from the other...

MICHAEL
...

DAISY
You're the most beautiful and smartest man I've ever know.

Flattered, Michael looks at Daisy lovingly...and they slowly come together to kiss.

EXT. ACKERMAN HOUSE -- NIGHT

Jenna pulls into the driveway to find Emily on the steps, waiting. Jenna, Francine, and David exit the car, meet up with Emily.

JENNA
I'm so sorry, honey.

EMILY
I waited all day for you. I'm a terrible host.

JENNA
David had to get stitches.

Emily looks at David's bandaged head...and laughs.

JENNA (CONT'D)
It's not funny.

Francine is tired of all this "family crap".

FRANCINE
I'm tired of all this family crap.
I'm going to bed. Peace.

Francine enter the house. Jenna sighs. Then,

JENNA
Where's Michael?
INT. DAISY'S HOUSE

Michael and Daisy are kissing passionately. He leads her to her king-size bed. They lay down. They get on top of each other.

Then,

DAISY
Do you have a condom?

MICHAEL
Who cares? Let's do it old style.

Daisy giggles naughtily, and they go under the covers.

CUT TO BLACK:
INT. RENEE AND JIM'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Renee, Jim, and Alvaro enter the house.

RENEE
They're a nice family. Crazy, but nice.

JIM
Yeah.

Jim looks at Alvaro.

JIM (CONT'D)
Cute girl, huh.

Alvaro laughs.

ALVARO
Dad, I have a girlfriend.

JIM
I'm just saying...

ALVARO
I know.

RENEE
I wonder how Alfie's doing. I'm gonna go check.

She goes upstairs...

INT. RENEE AND JIM'S HOUSE -- ALFIE'S BEDROOM

...to find her other son, ALFIE, seven, Hispanic, very cute, the one who's suppose to be sick, dancing on his bed to Michael Jackson's "Thriller".

RENEE (CONT'D)
(shocked)
Alfie!!!

Alfie turns off the music, turns around, and looks at his mother, shocked as well.

ALFIE
Mom, I'm still very very sick.

He coughs. Very fake.

ALFIE (CONT'D)
Please forgive me.
RENEE
No need. I'm tired and I don't need anymore crap. I've had a busy day and I don't need anything else. Good night.

She closes the door. As she leaves,

ALFIE
Sorry.

INT. RENEE AND JIM'S HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM

Alvaro has gone upstairs. Jim is watching television. Renee joins him.

JIM
How's he doing?

RENEE
He's still sick, but okay.

Beat.

JIM
Faked it?

RENEE
Yeah.

JIM
Knew it.

They share a small kiss...

JIM (CONT'D)
Love you.

RENEE
Love you, too.

...and watch television together.

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF SHOW