

THE LUNCHROOM

Episode Twelve

"Love Conquers All"

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TEASER

EXT. CAR - DAY

BEGIN SONG ("Auto Pilot" - Queens of the Stone Age)

A crappy old blue NISSAN SENTRA blasts down the road.

TITLE CARD: "Friday Afternoon"

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

SONG CONTINUES.

BRIAN VANDELE leans over the steering wheel. He swigs the Red Bull in his hand every so often. STACY CIFARETTO sits next to him and holds onto whatever she can for dear life. Behind her, baby GRACIE sleeps peacefully.

STACY

Slow down!

BRIAN

(hyper)

What? Why?! We're almost there!
It's the home stretch.

STACY

Damn it, Brian! Slow down!

BRIAN

Don't be such an old lady.

STACY

Considering you installed the baby seat "using the force," I have the right to be an old lady since my child is in the back of this damn car! Now slow down!

BRIAN

My car, my rules. Oh crap! Yellow light.

Brian speeds up.

STACY

(re: Brian's behavior)

Brian when was the last time you had some sleep?

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN
(scoffs)
Sleep?

He laughs uproariously.

BRIAN
Who needs sleep? Hell, life is
something that only happens when
you can't sleep!

STACY
Brian! You're not even on the road
anymore!

BRIAN
Oops.

Brian jerks the steering wheel the other way.

BRIAN
Besides I've found an effective way
to sleep AND drive. I close one eye
and let that side of brain get some
rest while my other eye is open and
focused on driving. I think it's
what truckers do to stay focused.

STACY
Is that what you've been doing?
Jesus, I thought you were just
having a stroke.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Brian's car passes a sign which reads "Centerville: Next
Exit."

BRIAN (O.S.)
I think my brain is shutting
down...

The Car slowly drifts until it's off road.

STACY (O.S.)
Brian! Brian!

The car quickly veers back onto the road.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN (O.S.)
My bad.

SONG FADES AWAY.

TIME FADE TO:

EXT. VANDELE HOUSE - LATER

The Sentra is now parked in the driveway. Brian slowly approaches the front door. Stacy is right behind him with the baby in a carrier.

As they get closer Brian's walking turns into sneaking.

STACY
Why are we walking like this? This is home, not Mordor.

BRIAN
You've been gone for like a year. Things have changed.

Beat.

BRIAN
Oh and way to make a *Lord of the Rings* reference. You're only seven years late to that party, sis.

Brian slowly opens the front door.

CUT TO:

INT. VANDELE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Stacy and Brian slowly enter the house. Brian looks around.

BRIAN
Okay. I think it's safe.

He takes one step forward before:

DEBBIE (O.S.)
Where the hell have you been?!

STACY
Nice work.

Brian and Stacy's mother DEBBIE VANDELE stands in front of them in her robe. She's unsteady on her feet but pissed enough to fool anyone into thinking her sober enough.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

What the hell were you thinking?!

BRIAN

Well he said if I pulled off my pants and did a little dance I would pass gym class.

DEBBIE

Faking your death!?

BRIAN

Oh that.

DEBBIE

You scared the shit out me and your little friends!

BRIAN

I...

Brian stop in his tracks, realization creeps slowly into his brain.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

(upset)

My stuff! Oh my God! What the fuck was I thinking? My light saber Wii controller! Fuck, that cost me a fortune!

Brian steps aside to bang his fist on the wall. Debbie now notices Stacy and the baby for the first time.

STACY

(nervous)

Hi mom.

BRIAN

(overlapping)

My inappropriate Spider-Man! Casey is never gonna give that back.

DEBBIE

(notices baby)

What the -

Beat.

DEBBIE

What is that?

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN
(sarcastic)
Dunno. We found it on the lawn. We
were hoping you could tell us.

Stacy elbows Brian.

STACY
She's mine, mom. She's...um, she's
my daughter.

DEBBIE
(flabbergasted)
Daughter? You mean...

Stacy nods. Debbie walks over the to the baby. She smiles.

STACY
Her name is Gracie Elizabeth.

DEBBIE
She's beautiful. Oh thank God.

STACY
Really?

DEBBIE
You're not a rug muncher anymore!

Stacy is shocked by her mom's reaction.

STACY
(stunned)
Uh, wow. That was kinda
inappropriate.

DEBBIE
I'm gonna get a drink to celebrate.

STACY
You do that, mom.

Debbie walks past a distraught Brian and pauses to smack him
upside the head.

DEBBIE
You're damn lucky your sister had a
baby! Faking your death...how
stupid is that?

Brian rubs his head and looks ruefully at the door. He walks
back to Stacy who counts silently.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

What are -

STACY

(overlapping)

Wait for it...

Brian flinches at the sound of glass crashing, Stacy doesn't move.

DEBBIE (O.S.)

Oh sweet mother of Christ! That little slut made me a grandma.

Gracie cries loudly in Stacy's ear exactly on cue.

STACY

And there it is.

Stacy scoffs.

STACY

And you said things changed.

CUT TO:

OPENING CREDITS.

Marvin Gaye's "Ain't That Peculiar" plays over the credits.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL - LUNCHROOM - MORNING

Title Card: "Following Monday"

The lunchroom is filled with the entire high school teaching staff. Everyone is scattered around talking among themselves. Near the doorways, there's a table full of refreshments.

Title Card: "Spring Break - Teacher Catch-Up Week"

MR. COX, the shop teacher, and MR. KLEIN, the Spanish teacher, walk over to the refreshment table. Both look like their souls have been crushed from years of teaching.

(CONTINUED)

COX

I can't believe it. Every year it's the same thing. Those little brats get a whole week off while we come in and work.

Cox pours them some punch.

KLEIN

Yeah, but at least it gives me a chance to catch-up on my grading...and my drinking.

Klein pulls out a flask and pours a LARGE amount of it into their drinks.

COX

Don't skimp on the booze, Harry. It's been a long year.

He finishes pouring and is putting the flask away when newly appointed Principal DIANE BALLARD enters the lunchroom. Klein and Cox scatter away.

BALLARD

(chipper)

Good morning, everyone!

Groans, and half hearted "good mornings" are heard.

BALLARD

All right everyone, grab something to drink and eat then head back to your offices. We only have one week to get all this work done. So catch yourselves up on grading and look over the binders with the information about next year. Sound good?

More groans. Everyone slowly files out, heading to their respective rooms.

BALLARD

(to herself)

No wonder everyone hates the principal. Even *I* thought that was too chipper.

Ballard begins to head out as well when MR. JOHN PARKER comes up behind her.

(CONTINUED)

PARKER

Diane! Just the person I wanted to see.

BALLARD

I can't really talk, John. I have so much work to do.

PARKER

Don't worry this won't take long. I just wanted to show you my list of demands.

She stops and turns to him.

BALLARD

Wait, what? What demands?

PARKER

Well if I'm going to continue teaching here, I need some better accommodations.

BALLARD

John, this isn't the ti -

PARKER

(overlapping)
Just hear me out.

Parker pulls out a paper from his pocket which he reads from.

PARKER

Demand number one: you have to fire teachers.

BALLARD

Which ones?

PARKER

All of them if possible. Demand number two: we need a *Paperboy* game cabinet in the teacher's lounge.

BALLARD

What's *Paperboy*?

PARKER

What's *Paperboy*!? What are you retarded?

Ballard looks offended.

(CONTINUED)

PARKER

Um, scratch that last remark.
Demand number three: I want my
birthday recognized as a holiday,
thus we must get the day off.

BALLARD

Do you really think you'll get any
of those?

PARKER

With the exception of the *Paperboy*
machine...yes. Yes I did.

BALLARD

Normally I love your dry sense of
humor but considering I've got to
hire three new teachers, file the
paperwork for the French Club fund
raiser, create a budget for next
year, meet school board trustees,
and have about eight hundred
different meetings with eight
hundred different people it's safe
to say I'm not in the damn mood.

Parker's cocky smile disappears.

BALLARD

Your demands are denied. Now please
get to work, John.

Defeated, Parker slowly starts to walk away.

BALLARD

Thank you, John.

Parker mumbles an insult.

CUT TO:

INT. VANDELE HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME DAY

Brian stands at the counter, talking on the phone. Stacy
enters while quietly rocking Gracie.

BRIAN

Yeah, well I hope you burn in hell
too bitch!

Brian slams the phone.

(CONTINUED)

STACY

Who was that?

BRIAN

Casey's little sister. For an eight year old she's got quite the mouth on her.

STACY

Why were you yelling at an eight year old?

BRIAN

Because it turns out the guys fucking went away for the week! And she told me she broke my Jedi Wii Controller. Little bitch.

STACY

They went without you? That's a dick move.

BRIAN

There was some miscommunication. They thought I was coming back this Friday instead of last Friday. They didn't know we were coming home early.

STACY

Where did Centerville's best and brightest head off to anyway?

BRIAN

Pittsburgh.

Stacy scrunches her face in disgust.

STACY

(repulsed)

Eww. Gross.

BRIAN

I know. Joel wanted to check out some artsy fartsy music school and decided to bring the guys with him to make a trip out it. Well everyone except Reichter.

STACY

What, he didn't want to go?

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

Nah. He's not allowed in the state of Pennsylvania. Court ordered.

Stacy rolls her eyes.

STACY

Don't worry. What exciting thing could happen to them in fucking Pittsburgh?

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. VAN - SAME

JOEL MAYBERRY drives, WILL COOPER sits in the passenger seat, and CASEY JENNINGS & BROCK WARNER sit in the back.

WILL

Pull over, man. That Cadillac looks like it needs help.

Joel does so. After a moment there's a knock at the window.

JOEL

Guess that's the other driver.

Joel rolls down his window to reveal that it's famous actor BILLY DEE WILLIAMS aka Lando Calrissian himself.

BILLY DEE WILLIAMS

Hello there. I'm Billy Dee Williams. My car broke down and I was wondering if you could drive me to a nearby *Star Wars* convention.

All four guys starting screaming like the rabid fans they are.

CASEY

OH MY GOD!!!
LAAAAAANNNNNNNNDOOOOO!!!!

WILL

(flushed)
I think I just jizzed in my pants!

BILLY DEE

(smiling)
Ha ha. Lando's still got it baby.

CUT TO:

INT. VANDELE HOUSE - DAY

Brian nods in agreement.

BRIAN

Yeah, you're right. Screw those guys. Looks like it's just me and Reichter for spring break this year.

Brian begins to leave.

STACY

Oh hey who was that that called a while ago?

BRIAN

Beats me I didn't answer.

STACY

Why not? What if it's mom and she's naked and lost in ST. Louis again?

BRIAN

Didn't recognize the caller I.D. Mom says I'm not supposed to talk to anyone I don't know.

Stacy laughs.

STACY

What are you seven years old?

BRIAN

I wouldn't laugh. There was an incident last fall where I, uh...well I don't want to get into the details but I lost my dog.

STACY

You had a dog?

Brian sniffles, almost fighting tears.

BRIAN

(choking up)
I used too.

He leaves the room. Stacy looks slight embarrassed.

STACY

Oops.

(CONTINUED)

Stacy goes over to the phone and notices the answering machine is flashing red.

STACY

At least the machine got it.

Biting her lower lip, she presses the button.

MARILYN (V/O)

Hey you. I heard you're back in town. Why haven't you called? I've missed you.

This hits Stacy like a ton of bricks. Beep.

MARILYN (V/O)

Hey Stace. Thought I ring you up again. I hope I haven't started up a game of phone tag.

Marilyn weakly laughs. Stacy is still mentally freaking out.

MARILYN (V/O)

(serious)

Please give me a call back.

Stacy pulls out a table chair and sits down. She ignores the baby a bit, staring off in her own world. Beep.

DAVE ATTANASIO (V/O)

Hey Stacy, I heard you're back in town. Listen I'm all about you being with another girl. It's all good, right? We should go out get -

She gets up and presses the delete button really fast. The baby makes some noises but Stacy is too busy flipping out over the messages. Once the baby starts to cry loudly Stacy snaps out of it.

STACY

Oh I'm so sorry baby. Are you hungry?

Stacy starts looking for baby formula while trying to calm the baby down.

CUT TO:

INT. PARKER'S ROOM - NOON

Parker is sitting at his computer, really into whatever he's looking at. Mr. Klein enters a bit sloshed. Parker sees him and is instantly annoyed.

PARKER
Oh, hey Klein.

KLEIN
Johnny boy!! How are you doing!

PARKER
Don't call me Johnny, Klein.

KLEIN
You got it, John-Boy.

Parker rolls his eyes and struggles to find something to talk to him about.

PARKER
So...how goes the drinking?

KLEIN
Fantastic. I'm starting to think alcohol poisoning is an urban legend.

PARKER
(under breath)
Tell that to your liver.

KLEIN
Kid, I tell you. Twenty years down the line when your soul is all withered up and gone you find that drinking helps you get you through the day and reassures you that death will come soon to relieve you of all this.
(pause)
You know sometimes I think Kurt Cobain had the right idea, John.

Parker is stunned.

PARKER
Wow. That was incredibly disturbing, man.

(CONTINUED)

KLEIN

Sorry, about that. Sometimes I have "sober" moments.

PARKER

(fed up)

Why are you even here? Don't you have something to be working on, Klein?

KLEIN

No, not really. I've been busy all morning fixing the *Lost* Wikipedia page. There are some fucking idiots out there I tell ya'.

PARKER

Damn it! You're the one that changed all the stuff I wrote!

KLEIN (CONT'D)

That and I've been looking over the new policies for next year. Jesus, I can't believe some of the stuff they are going to do.

PARKER

Yeah like what?

KLEIN

You didn't read the policy, did you John-Boy?

PARKER

I never read them. I just stare at them and replay old *Battlestar Galactica* episodes in my head.

KLEIN

Well they're instating a new policy to extend the Special Needs program. Apparently students with grades of C or lower are going to be put in the program.

PARKER

What?! C students count as special needs now? That's like 3/4 of the school.

He searches his desk until he finds the policy paper.

(CONTINUED)

PARKER

Why are they doing it?

KLEIN

Beats me. I think it had something to do with test grades or funding.

PARKER

Seems a bit unethical even for this school.

Parker finds the policy and reads it over.

KLEIN

Hey a bunch of us are going to go point and laugh at the gym teachers. You wanna join in?

PARKER

Scram boozier!

Klein shrugs and leaves. Parker continues to intently read the policy.

CUT TO:

INT. SHAKE SHOP - LATER

Brian and REICTHER enter the surprisingly crowded shake shop in the middle of a discussion.

BRIAN

You know when you think about it, aren't vampires technically zombies?

REICTHER

No. Are you out of your mind? Zombies are the living dead, whereas vampires are soulless humans inhabited by immortal demons.

BRIAN

Yeah but when you look at -

REICTHER

(overlapping)

I said they're immortal demons! End of story.

Brian sighs.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN
I wish I was with the guys.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. VAN - SAME

The Guys are still driving with Billy Dee Williams in tow.

JOEL
Don't worry, Mr. Calrissian. We'll
get you there in time.

BILLY DEE WILLIAMS
Please, call me Billy Dee.

JOEL
I'd rather not.

BILLY DEE WILLIAMS
Guys I can't thank you enough for
this. Hey, when we get to the
convention how would you guys like
to meet George Lucas?

Everyone gasps.

WILL
(excited)
Do we?

Will turns to Brock.

WILL
(whispering)
Brock, get your taser ready.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. SHAKE SHOP - SAME

Brian and Reichther get in line. While Brian looks over the
menu, Reichther is taken aback by something else.

REICTHER
By Odin's beard!

BRIAN
What? What is it?

(CONTINUED)

Reichter is silent. He's staring at the girl who's working the cash register. This is LAURA PENTECOST. She's a young girl, no more than seventeen. She's petite, blonde, and has a friendly face with innocent eyes.

A gigantic smile comes across Reichter's face. Brian tries to snap Reichter out of it but can't.

BRIAN
Reichter! Reichter!

Snaps his fingers. Nothing. Waves his hand in front of his eyes. Nothing. Smacks him in the face. That works. Reichter snaps out of it.

REICTHER
(bewildered)
Brian...who is that magnificent creature!?

BRIAN
Her? I think that's Laura Pentecost. She's in my math class.

REICTHER
(captivated)
Laura...her name is Laura.

BRIAN
Dude, what's wrong with you?

REICTHER
I dunno. I feel all warm inside like a bunch of pixies burrowed inside of me and covered my heart with low fat butter.

BRIAN
I think you're in love...or going insane.

REICTHER
You know, instead of just getting something to go why don't we eat here.

BRIAN
Dude, I got *Left 4 Dead* at home and you want to eat here?

REICTHER
We've got all week for *Left 4 Dead*. What's wrong with just spending a little time here?

Brian groans while Reichter continues to stare.

BRIAN
Why don't you talk to her?

REICTHER
What are you insane?! I can't do that!

BRIAN
You're right. Engaging in conversation with someone your interested in is preposterous.

REICTHER
Have you ever talked to Cathy?

Beat.

BRIAN
Touché.

REICTHER
Brian, you know me. I'm not what you would call a people person.

BRIAN
(sarcastic)
What? You? No, never.

REICTHER
If I talk to her, I'll end up being honest. And if I'm honest I'll say something regrettable.

BRIAN
You know I've never seen you like this before, Reichter...it's down right scary.

Without realizing it, the guys are next in line. Laura gives them a second but decides to get their attention.

LAURA
Can I help you guys?

Reichter screams.

REICTHER
She speaks!!!

Reichter backs up and falls backwards into a table. He quickly gets up and stumbles out of the place knocking into every chair and every person on his way.

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

Oh God. What happened?

BRIAN

Um...he's just having a Vietnam flashback.

LAURA

He was in Vietnam?

BRIAN

No, that's what makes it so crazy.

CUT TO:

INT. VANDELE HOUSE - STACY'S ROOM - LATER

Stacy stands over Gracie, quietly watching her. Gently she strokes her cheek with her index finger. Her cellphone goes off again with that familiar ring tone. The ringing is almost like a dagger in her chest.

Quickly she hits silence. A quick flash shows that it was 'MARILYN.' Quickly she takes the battery out.

Stacy then changes Gracie's diaper on top of a box with a towel underneath. She coos at the baby as she seals the diaper, then sits down on the bed and prepares to feed the baby.

STACY

Hungry Gracie? Mommy's ready for you. Seriously ready. Eat. A lot.

She looks out her window and sighs.

STACY

Mommy got a job today sweetie.

Stacy paces around the room, rubbing Gracie's back to burp her.

STACY

So now mommy can bring in some money so I can keep you in clean clothes and diapers. Maybe you can go to college.

We can suddenly hear music in the distance. Stacy goes goes to the window and pulls up the blinds.

(CONTINUED)

STACY'S POV:

Out in front yard is DAVE ATTANASIO, standing on top of his crappy car, holding a blaring boom box. The song is "I Kissed a Girl" by Katy Perry.

Stacy sighs and closes the blinds.

STACY
(to Gracie)
Make smarter choices than me.

She walks by the doorway and looks out. Brian plays a video game as the phone rings. Stacy shuts the door behind her.

Stacy is gently rocking the baby, staring off into space.

CUT TO:

INT. VANDELE HOUSE - MINUTES LATER

Stacy walks into the living room. Brian is laughing his ass off watching an episode of *The Flintstones*.

BRIAN
Oh that Barney Rubble. What an actor!

Brian notices Stacy.

BRIAN
Hey.

STACY
Hey.

BRIAN
Where's the baby?

STACY
Sleeping.

BRIAN
What, again? Lazy baby.

STACY
Babies sleep for, like, sixteen hours a day.

BRIAN
Lucky. Do nothing but grow for nine months then sleep all day.

(CONTINUED)

STACY
(yawning)
And keep me up at night.

BRIAN
Then go to sleep now.

STACY
Can't. Once you become a parent
sleep is like the unicorn - it's
rumored to exist, but I doubt I
will see any. Where's Reichter?

BRIAN
Eye humping the cashier at the
Shake Shop.

Beat.

BRIAN
That Marilyn girl called again.

STACY
I figured.

BRIAN
Told her you couldn't answer
because you had violent diarrhea.

Stacy punches Brian in the arm. He laughs.

STACY
Jerk.

BRIAN
(smiling)
Don't make me your personal
answering machine then.

STACY
Sorry, it's just that...

Beat. Struggles to say it.

STACY
I thought I had this all worked
out. I'd come home, get a job and
take care of the baby. Easy.

BRIAN
Sure.

STACY
But there's Marilyn, you know
Marilyn.

BRIAN
The lesbian. Got it.

STACY
(embarrassed)
And then there's Dave...

BRIAN
The retard with a thing about
cemeteries?

STACY
He's a gravedigger.

BRIAN
(worried)
Wait, he's not the dad is he?

STACY
Actually he is.

Brian shakes his head.

BRIAN
Poor baby. Her genes suck.

STACY
Bite me.

BRIAN
Hey, my kid's genes will suck, too.

STACY
What do you think I should do?

Brian stops watching TV and looks at Stacy for the first
time. She's clearly distraught.

BRIAN
You should just be true to yourself
because, you know, you're the one
that's gotta live with it.

Stacy blinks, surprised.

STACY
Wow. That's almost sage.

BRIAN
I'm pretty smart when I wanna be.

He turns back to the show. THUD.

STACY
What was that?

BRIAN
(embarrassed)
That would be the two liter of Dr.
Pepper I put the freezer this
morning. Sounds like it exploded.

Brian heads for the kitchen. Stacy gets up and walks to her room.

BRIAN (O.S.)
Aw man! And all over my hot
pockets!

CUT TO:

INT. VANDELE HOUSE - STACY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She enters and walks past her computer. The screen blinks with an icon about an instant message from Marilyn. Stacy puts the battery back into her cellphone and precedes to dial a number.

Beat.

STACY
Hey...you wanna get together?

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL - MAIN OFFICE - NEXT DAY

Parker carries the new policy under his arm as he enters the principals office. The door has a paper covering Steven's name showcasing the name 'Diane Ballard.'

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL - PRINCIPALS OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Parker enters, slamming the door.

PARKER
Diane we need to talk.

Suddenly he notices newly appointed superintendent BOB STEVENS is sitting across from Ms. Ballard.

PARKER
(surprised)
You?!

STEVENS
John! How wonderful to see you.

PARKER
What are you doing here? Didn't you get another job?

STEVENS
Sorta. I'm still the boss of everyone, I just get paid more.

PARKER
Yeah, sounds nice. Anyway, Diane I've got to talk to you about this new "special needs" policy.

BALLARD
Special needs policy? What's that?

Ballard searches her desk for the paper.

PARKER
Let me refresh your memory. It's the policy where you bump average students into the special needs class. Thus standardize test scores go up and so does the school's funding. Sound familiar?

BALLARD
No! I would never approve something like that.

She continues to look around for it.

STEVENS
Well, Diane that's because you're *Interim* Principal. You can't approve shit.

(CONTINUED)

Ballard's offended.

STEVENS
It's my policy.

BALLARD
Your policy?

PARKER
Now it all makes sense.

STEVENS
I've been pushing for it for years.
Now that I'm superintendent I can
finally get it through.

PARKER
There's so many things wrong with
this I don't know where to begin.
Although morally wrong is a good
start.

STEVENS
I have my reasons for doing this
you know. This school is so behind
every one else. Technology wise,
sports wise, education wise. We're
a few bad test scores away from
shutting down and merging with
Richmond schools.

BALLARD
(about Richmond)
But how would everyone afford the
bullet proof vests?

PARKER
So you're going to play savior by
sacrificing some innocent kids?

STEVENS
Well maybe if they would have
applied themselves a little more
they wouldn't be in this situation.

BALLARD
Once the board finds out about
this-

STEVENS
(overlapping)
They already signed off on it. They
thought it was to give more funding
to the after school programs.

(CONTINUED)

BALLARD

They just took your word for it?
They didn't read it?

STEVENS

No one on the board reads anything
they sign. Just summarize it in a
sentence, everyone signs, and we
all get home in time for 60
Minutes.

PARKER

You motherfucker!

STEVENS

Hey! Watch it, Parker.

PARKER

You can't do this. Just...fucking
people like you shouldn't get away
with things like this.

Stevens smiles.

STEVENS

I already have.

Parker is restraining himself from hitting Stevens.

STEVENS

You can't stop what's already done,
John.

His right hand has formed a fist, ready to throw a punch.

STEVENS

John, Ms. Ballard and I have some
things to discuss. So if you could
leave that would be wonderful.

Parker's ready to do it but catches a glimpse of Ballard
shaking her head. Against his wishes he doesn't do it,
instead leaving the room in a huff.

STEVENS

I'll give you a little heads up,
Diane. John Parker is the reason
you'll end up hating this job years
from now.

He laughs. Ballard looks at him with contempt.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHAKE SHOP - NIGHT

Reichter and Brian stand outside of Shake Shop.

REICTHER

Alright, I give you the note and you deliver it for me. She reads it and falls madly in love with me because she realizes I'm a kind and deep soul. God, this is exciting. This is just like what "Cyrano de Bergerac" did.

BRIAN

(giggling)

Wasn't he the dude with the nose that looked like a dick.

REICTHER

Yes. Yes he was.

They begin to giggle like little children.

REICTHER

(serious)

Back on topic. Go deliver the note!

BRIAN

You got it, man.

Brian goes into the shake shop.

CUT TO:

INT. SHAKE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Brian enters and is immediately distracted by a table consisting of KIRK, the pothead and JOSEPH SAID, the foreign exchange student.

KIRK

Hey Brian.

Brian goes over to their table.

BRIAN

Kirk. Joseph. What's up guys?

JOSEPH

Nothing much. We're kinda surprised. We heard you were dead.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

The rumors of my demise have been greatly exaggerated.

KIRK

(laughs)

Man if I had a dime for every time I've blacked out and someone thought I was dead.

Brian notices they are playing with two Nintendo DS.

BRIAN

What are you guys doing?

JOSEPH

Pokemon, man. We decided to cut back on the drugs and invest in a less harmful yet less cool addiction...video games.

KIRK

I'm playing Diamond and he's on Pearl. And we're battling to see who can be the very best...like no one ever was.

JOSEPH

To catch them is my real test, to train them is my cause...

KIRK + JOSEPH

(shouting)

POKEMON!

KIRK

You want in, Brian?

BRIAN

Fucking a', man!

Brian takes a seat next to Joseph.

CUT TO:

TITLE CARD: "3 Hours Later"

EXT. SHAKE SHOP - LATER

Reichter on the ground, near the front door. A CRAZY BUM sits next to him.

CRAZY BUM

So I say "Mr. President if you want me to kill Fidel Castro I need a lumberjack, a pirate, and a ninja."

REICTHER

(bored)

You don't say.

Brian finally comes with Kirk and Joseph. All three passionately sing the Pokemon theme song.

REICTHER

(angry)

What the hell man!

BRIAN

Oh hey Reichter.

REICTHER

I've been out for like three hours talking to a fucking bum! You were just supposed to deliver a letter!

BRIAN

Oh, about that. See turns out she wasn't working tonight.

REICTHER

What?!

BRIAN

Yeah one of the girls told me she traded shifts so she could have the night off.

REICTHER

When did you find this out?

BRIAN

An hour ago.

Reichter grabs Brian and starts shaking him

REICTHER

THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU COME OUT AND TELL ME?!

Beat.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN

Dude...I found a Mr. Mime. You know
how rare that is?

Reichter screams and storms off.

KIRK

What's he so upset about?

The Bum notices the guys and stands up.

CRAZY BUM

Are you the men the President
assigned to me?

CUT TO:

EXT. VANDELE HOUSE - NEXT DAY - EVENING

Establishing shot. The sun is just about to set.

CUT TO:

INT. VANDELE HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Stacy eats across the table from DAVE ATTANASIO, who has an
annoying grin through the meal. Stacy says nothing.

DAVE

I'm psyched you called, I mean, I
know you were with Madeleine -

STACY

Marilyn.

DAVE

Right, yeah, and I know you were
disappointed when we, you know, did
it -

Stacy rolls her eyes.

DAVE (CONT'D)

But I know I'll be better. I've
been practicing.

Stacy stiffens. She leans in with fluttering eyelashes.

STACY

Dave! You've been seeing another
girl since I left?

(CONTINUED)

DAVE

No...I was practicing. You know...

He lifts his hand to mime but Stacy puts up her hand to cut him off.

STACY

Got it.

She shakes her head.

STACY

(to herself)

Christ, he's a winner.

DAVE

So what's new with you?

Gracie shows her acute sense of timing again as the baby wail reaches the kitchen.

STACY

Wait here. I have a surprise.

She runs off, leaving him dumbfounded. Dave follows her out into the living room.

CUT TO:

INT. VANDELE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Moments later, she appears holding Gracie. Dave looks shocked.

STACY

Surprised?

DAVE

Oh shit. You stole a baby. Wow, where'd you get it?

STACY

No, I didn't steal it.
She's...ours.

Dave's jaw drops. He looks happy.

DAVE

You serious?

Stacy looks as though she's dropped a brick.

(CONTINUED)

STACY

Yeah. Her name's Grace. She's our daughter.

DAVE

She's...can I hold her?

She places her in Dave's arms. He holds her and Stacy steps back to let father and daughter get together.

DAVE

Grace Attanasio.

STACY

(correcting)

Grace Cifaretto.

DAVE

Yeah. That works.

STACY

I'm glad you feel that way.
Because, um, because I think, we
should be together...like a family.

Stacy says the words as though she's being eaten from within.

DAVE

(happy)

My own family. Wait till Ma finds out.

STACY

Oh joy.

DAVE

Hey Grace, I'm daddy.

Grace fidgets in Dave's arms as Stacy watches them together.

STACY (V/O)

Okay, okay, this might work. He's not bad to look at. AS long as we never talk, this might work.

DAVE

And hey, if you still want to do whatever with Maggie -

STACY

Marilyn.

DAVE
Yeah, right. I'm totally into it.

Stacy groans.

STACY
I need a drink.

DAVE
What?

STACY
I mean. Let's have a drink to
celebrate.

DAVE
Aren't you underage?

STACY
I've got a kid, I think I'm an
exception.

DAVE
Hey, I think she feel asleep. I'll
put her back in her crib.

STACY
Thanks.

He takes two gentle steps.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL - SAME

Parker sits on the front steps of the school, smoking a
cigarette. After a moment Ballard appears behind him.

BALLARD
Smoking isn't allowed on school
grounds.

PARKER
(sarcastic)
You don't say?

Ballard takes a seat next to him. Parker offers her a hit of
his cigarette. She takes it and takes a long drag.

Beat. Neither are sure of how to break the silence. Ballard
gives him the cig back.

(CONTINUED)

PARKER

I don't really mind the kids, the paperwork, or the soul crushing. But it's people like Bob that make it harder to sleep at night.

Takes another drag.

BALLARD

There is some good news. Stevens says the board is going to make me the official Principal soon.

PARKER

You don't seem to be too happy.

BALLARD

Can you blame me? Knowing half the student body is about to be fucked over.

Beat.

PARKER

I'm running out of ideas, Diane. I think I might just have to resort to violence. Might have to have Bob head butt a bullet.

They laugh.

BALLARD

John!

PARKER

You know you would love to see it.

He gets up and throws his cig away.

BALLARD

What should we do?

PARKER

Dunno. Like I said, I'm just about done with all this.

He leaves. Diane is left with her thoughts.

CUT TO:

INT. SHAKE SHOP - LATER

Reichter sits at his usual table, admiring Laura from afar.

REICTHER

Oh Laura...I want Huey Lewis to
sing a ballad about our love.

Reichter sighs. He rises and begins to take baby steps
towards the counter, coaching himself.

REICTHER (V/O)

All right, Reichter. You can do
this. Just go over there and talk
to her. You've talked to plenty of
girls. Like...um...your mom. That
counts, right?

Beat.

REICTHER (V/O)

Did I just ask myself a question?
God I'm nuts.

Reichter gets halfway across the room when a fight breaks
out between two white boys who think they are black.

GUY #1

Yo' you better tell your girl to
stop insulting my girl through
MySpace!

GUY #2

Well tell your girl to stop
insulting my girl through Facebook!

Reichter tries to make his way through.

REICTHER

Excuse me guys.

Guy #2 grabs Reichter and throws him into a table.

GUY #1

Oh shit! That was an innocent
bystander man!

The two run away. Reichter slowly loses consciousness.

FADE TO:

INT. VANDELE HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME

Stacy strolls in and reaches for a pair of glasses. She pulls out a jug of Gallo wine and looks out the glass door and sees MARILYN outside. She can't believe her eyes. She goes to the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. VANDELE HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Stacy walks towards Marilyn, still holding the wine.

MARILYN

Gallo? For me? You shouldn't have.

STACY

Marilyn? Wh-what are you doing here?

MARILYN

I kept calling but you didn't answer so I came over. What's with the idiot?

STACY

Um, I don't know how to tell you this -

MARILYN

You're getting back together? With him?

STACY

Um, y-yeah...but -

MARILYN

Why?

STACY

He's the father of my daughter.

Marilyn takes a step back, shocked. She reaches for the wine.

MARILYN

I think I need that.

Stacy pulls the wine away.

(CONTINUED)

STACY

No way!

MARILYN

You've obviously had too much. How could you choose that hunk of meat?

STACY

It's not the best solution, but...he's the father. And...and I have to do what's best for Gracie -

MARILYN

Gracie and Stacy?

STACY

Shove it! Why can't you be more supportive? You...you should have heard how happy my Mom was when she saw I had a baby and figured it meant I wasn't a lesbian. This is what everybody will be happy with.

MARILYN

Everybody but you. Jesus Christ Stacy. After all this time are you still clamoring for acceptance from every human being you come in contact with? What's it matter if you're with me instead of Dave.

Marilyn straightens and folds her arms.

MARILYN

At least it takes more than one hand to count up all my IQ points.

Stacy fails to suppress a laugh. Beat.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

I know you still love me Stacy. You wouldn't have sent me two or three e-mails a day for the last six months if you didn't.

She puts her hand on Stacy's shoulder. Stacy trembles at her touch.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

We can be together. I would love nothing more than to know I get to spend every day with you. And the baby isn't a problem. I'll help you

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MARILYN (CONT'D) (cont'd)
raise her. C'mon Stacy, fuck
everyone else. Fuck every single
human you come in contact with.
Just me, and you, and Gracie.
That's all that matters.

Stacy pauses on Marilyn's words, and rubs her cheeks on
Marilyn's hand. For the first time all night, she genuinely
smiles.

BEGIN MUSIC MONTAGE (Portastatic - "Cheers and Applause")

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Dave walks into the kitchen and looks out the glass door. He
sees Stacy and someone else outside. He grins and goes out.

CUT TO:

EXT. VANDELE HOUSE - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Stacy opens her eyes and moves closer to Marilyn.

STACY
The truth shall set me free.

MARILYN
God that was fucking corny.

They laugh. She pulls Marilyn into an embrace and tenderly
kisses her. Dave watches and gets excited.

DAVE
Sweet Jesus.

Stacy turns towards him.

STACY
Get out.

Reality sets in for Dave.

STACY
Go practice.

DAVE
No problem.

Dave leaves. Stacy and Marilyn embrace and spin.

(CONTINUED)

FADE TO:

INT. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - SAME

Stevens is locking up his new office and whistling. When he walks out into the main lobby he's greeted by the school board president, ROY TEMPLE and two police officers.

STEVENS

Hey, Roy. What's going on?

TEMPLE

Robert, you're a smart man. When one misleads the entire school board, making them think money is being used for one thing but it's actually being used for something completely different, something unethical...what's that called?

Temple raises his hand to show he's holding the 'Special Needs' policy.

STEVENS

...Fraud?

TEMPLE

Good boy.

The police officers move in and begin handcuffing Stevens.

FADE TO:

INT. SHAKE SHOP - SAME

Reichter is lying on the ground, slowly regaining consciousness. Laura is by his side holding an ice pack to his face.

LAURA

Take it easy there. You got hit pretty hard.

Reichter smiles.

REICTHER

(dazed/out of it)
You've got really pretty eyes.

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

Thank you.

Laura smiles too.

FADE TO:

EXT. VANDELE HOUSE - SAME

Stacy and Marilyn are still embracing. Marilyn runs her hands through Stacy's hair.

MARILYN

I've missed this so much.

STACY

Me too. Come on. Let's go inside and you can meet my daughter.

They walk back to the house hand in hand.

MARILYN

Can't wait.

They walk to the house and Debbie walks into the kitchen, slightly buzzed. She sees Stacy with Marilyn.

DEBBIE

Aw crap.

FADE TO BLACK.

(Song continues to play over credits)

END OF EPISODE