

Tall Tales of the Hendersons.

Pilot by

Seb Gran

There should be one  
contact address only  
in the bottom left  
hand corner.  
Always include a phone  
number and an e-mail  
address if you have one.

FADE IN:

EXT. THE HENDERSON'S HOUSE - DUSK

ROSE (50's, kindly lady) and BERNARD (50's, gentleman) walk up the driveway with a wrapped up bottle as a gift. They are dressed for a formal dinner, wrapped up in winter coats. They hesitate to ring the doorbell.

BERNARD

How do I look?

ROSE

Like a gem, Bernard. You can stop sweating over it.

BERNARD

I don't know about this, Rose. I hear things.

ROSE

About the Hendersons? Rosie's been so kind to us, and their children are darlings.

BERNARD

(Hushed.)

I really didn't want to be here tonight!

ROSE

Bernard. You're going to behave and we're going to have a lovely evening.

(Nervous gulp.)

Rose rings the DOORBELL, which makes Bernard jump. The wooden door opens with a hydraulic hiss and an ominous green glow. Rose and Bernard enter, the door SLAMMING shut behind them with the sound of a Battleship's watertight door.

INT. THE HENDERSON'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Dream American suburbia, family photos, warm and inviting. From the perspective of a guest we are greeted by MARK (40's, bookish dad, smart sweater.) who shakes an O.S. hand.

MARK

Hello Bernard, such a fantastic sweater you're wearing!

ROSIE (50, nice dress, a bit kooky.) Imposes on the guests.

ROSE

My goodness Mark, don't impose yourself onto our guests! Rose, you look so darling!

(Ruffles off-screen hair)

And your hairdo is just to die for!

(Shouts upwards.)

Brent, Josie! The Millers are here!

MARK

Where are those little hellraisers!

(Whispers to O.S. guests)

Please forgive the little blighters, they're a handful.

A trap door OPENS, Josie (Teen, wearing dirty overalls and goggles) and Brent (13, Dressed as a waiter) emerge. Mark and Rosie sternly address them.

MARK (CONT'D)

And what have you two been doing that's more important than entertaining our guests?

JOSIE

I've been synthesising rubber to reduce our carbon footprint.

BRENT

And I've been preparing dinner.

MARK

Enough of your hijinks for one night. Now apologise to the Millers for your tardiness.

JOSIE

Sorry.

BRENT

Sorry.

The two children exit into the DINING ROOM DOOR. Mark leans in to apologise to our P.O.V.

MARK

I'm so sorry for their behaviour.

Rosie lunges forward to grab the O.S. WINE BOTTLE GIFT. She rips off the wrapping then drinks the whole thing quickly.

ROSIE

Well that was awful.

Mark shoots her a stern look.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Although I'm sure they didn't  
deliberately give us a terrible  
bottle of wine!

(Laughs nervously.)

I'm so sorry, I can't even... We're  
just so excited to have you over!

(Claps hands.)

MARK

It's truly a pleasure. Let me hang  
up your coats and I'll bring you on  
through.

The P.O.V shifts to Rose and Bernard, stood motionless,  
mouths wide open.

INT. THE HENDERSON'S DINING ROOM - EVENING

An immaculate dining table with soft classical music playing.  
Candles are lit, plates set along with a ridiculous  
assortment of cutlery.

Mark is at the head of the table. Rosie and Josie face Rose  
and Bernard, sat in discomfort, both wearing their coats  
suspended in mid-air by floating coat hooks.

ROSIE

(To Rose and Bernard.)

So, do you come here often?

BERNARD

No. It's your house.

ROSIE

Oh yes, of course. And you also  
live in a house?

ROSE

Yes, we're your next-door  
neighbours.

They all sit in silence for a moment. Bernard sees a picture  
of the family on the wall, outside the Statue of Liberty.

BERNARD

That's a lovely photograph, when  
did you take that?

MARK

Oh yes! That picture was taken the  
day that we moved to America!

BERNARD

Ah yes, I never could place your accents. Where are you from originally?

Ireland.

ROSIE

England.

MARK

Josie and Mark glance at each other nervously, fumbling their words.

MARK (CONT'D)

Erm... Aye-ngland!

BERNARD

Ayengland.

MARK

Yes. We emigrated but four weeks ago.

ROSE

That's not right, we've been neighbours for two years now.

ROSIE

Most of that must have been over the phone.

ROSE

What?

MARK

While we wait for that delinquent boy of ours to finish making the hollandaise sauce, I'll tell you the story of how the Hendersons immigrated to America!

JOSIE

Dad, no! I think I'll just die from embarrassment!

MARK

Daughter, your eventual demise and any embarrassment you feel will be incidental events. Our flight across the pond started as many do. With an aeroplane flight...

INT. 60'S AIRLINER - DAY

An airliner cabin full with passengers, Mark, Rosie, Josie and Brent sat on an aisle together, dressed in 60's vintage clothing. An AIR STEWARDESS passes Mark a Martini, he sips from it.

MARK

Lovely. Stewardess, I wonder if it would be all right for us to go into the cockpit and have a little word with the captain.

AIR STEWARDESS

Absolutely, sir. Nothing bad could ever come of allowing strangers into a cockpit!

The family rise from their seats.

INT. AIRLINER COCKPIT - DAY

A modern airliner glass cockpit, PILOT and CO-PILOT at the controls, they overlook a vista of New York City. Mark, Rosie, Josie and Brent crowd into the cockpit. Mark shakes the Pilot's hand.

MARK

How do you do? I'm Mark Lee, and these are my family the Hendersons.

CO-PILOT

Why is your last name different from the rest of your family's?

MARK

I wanted to keep my mother's maiden name in the family. But I couldn't remember what it was, so I chose Lee instead.

CO-PILOT

That makes no sense.

Mark points at the Empire State Building.

MARK

Could you take us down over there, as close to Manhattan as possible?

PILOT

No can do sir. I'm afraid that I'm only permitted to land the plane on a registered runway at a recognised airport.

MARK

I didn't know that's how that worked. Good grief. Political correctness gone mad. Oh well, I'm sure we can make the rest of the way there by foot.

EXT. RUNWAY - DAY

A LIGHT AIRCRAFT, it's single engine roaring. Mark, Rosie, Josie and Brent stand by the plane, with suitcases. The Pilot and Co-Pilot from before are in the cockpit. Mark SHAKES the Pilot's hand through the open cockpit door and gives him some money.

PILOT

Welcome to New York City!

MARK

Keep the change!

Mark steps back. The engine hums louder as the light aircraft taxis away. The family look away from the plane to reveal...

EXT. SUBURB AT THE EDGE OF THE AIRPORT - DAY

The runway seamlessly joins a suburban street, another straight road on a hillside ahead of Mark, Rosie, Josie and Brent. Central Manhattan is visible in the distance.

ROSIE

Honey, isn't this neighbourhood a little closer to the outskirts than we hoped?

JOSIE

Yeah, dad. I thought you said we were moving to central Manhattan!

MARK

Perhaps it's providence.

BRENT

Providence is in Rhode Island dad.

MARK

Well, I say this is a perfectly wholesome neighbourhood.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE & SIGN - THUNDER STORM, DAY

Creepy music plays. Lightning strikes illuminating a sign that reads: WELCOME TO SLEEPY HOLLOW.

EXT. SUBURB AT THE EDGE OF THE AIRPORT - DAY

Mark and Rosie close their umbrellas, the four are soaked with water, a few clouds in the air swiftly dissipate.

MARK

That was a fast thunderstorm.  
Children, you wait here. Your  
mother and I will go and look for a  
nice house for us to buy.

BRENT

But dad, this airport is so boring.

MARK

In which case, why don't you go and  
visit an authentic American store  
in the mean time and seek out an  
authentic American bargain.

JOSIE

Yes, Brent. Maybe we can find an  
authentic American family to take  
us in!

MARK

Yes Josie, that's the spirit!  
(Pause)  
Wait, what?

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE THE DAIRY BARN - DAY

Josie and Brent walk down the street with their suitcases towards the Dairy Barn store.

MARK (V.O.)

So as Rosie and I sought out a home  
to call our own, Josie and Brent  
were soon to discover the value of  
commerce.

JOSIE

I miss home.

BRENT

America certainly has nothing over  
Ayengland.



They now stand outside the Dairy Barn. Unassuming, small and dinghy.

JOSIE

What a sorry looking store.

BRENT

I miss Frarks and Frencers. Their selection of fleshy gourds were to die for.

JOSIE

As was their clandestine counter-intelligence department.

Brent shoots Josie a look.

JOSIE (CONT'D)

I actually found it once.

BRENT

Alas, In America, I fear I will never meet my culinary potential.

Brent and Josie open the shop door.

INT. DAIRY BARN - DAY

The store is much larger and more upmarket than it appears on the outside, with shelves full of fresh fruit, vegetables and exotic ingredients. Brent is in love. Josie is open mouthed at the sight of the Counter-Intelligence Equipment Aisle.

BRENT

I've died and gone to heaven.

Josie sifts through a shelf of Geiger Counters.

JOSIE

Look at all the Geiger Counters!

Brent grabs a basket, filling it with food.

BRENT

Seven cultivars of aubergine!  
Paprika that would make the Turks  
at Buda flush with envy. At last,  
my arm is complete!

(Gasps)

Brent stands before a GOURD as tall as he is. BODHI (Benevolent, wizened shopkeeper) is next to him.

BODHI

That is the Mataram Gourd, the largest species in the world. Cultivated exclusively in the mountains of Java. The succulence of this gourd drove the sultans of old to madness. But one error has deadly consequence. Only the greatest of master chefs can harness it's flavour.

BRENT

Then that is what I must do.

BODHI

Such confidence for one so young. Before you begin, you must understand the first rule of commerce.

Brent accidentally leans on the gourd, which FALLS over and cracks.

BODHI (CONT'D)

You break it, you bought it.

(Pause.)

That's the rule. You breaking the gourd was incidental.

INT. DAIRY BARN COUNTER - DAY

Bodhi fills a SHOPPING BAG full of ingredients, Brent is sadly holding a COMICLY LARGE CARRIER BAG with the damaged GOURD inside. The CASH REGISTER loudly opens and money changes hands.

Josie comes up to the counter with a trolley full of DRONES, GRAPPLING HOOKS, HOMING BEACONS and BIONIC HANDS.

BRENT

Golly. You're not building another weaponised exoskeleton are you sis?

JOSIE

And why not? It's in the second amendment. I love America now.

Money changes hands.

BODHI

Thank you for your custom. May I interest you in our two for one offer on titanium cylinders.

Josie's eyes light up.

BRENT

No she is not. She's spent enough money today, this one.

Josie pouts, taking her shopping bags outside.

BODHI

Before you go, young one. I would like you to have this.

Bodhi passes Brent a huge ancient COOKERY BOOK.

BODHI (CONT'D)

The pages of this ancient codex contain the recipes for every soup, broth, curry and omlette known to man, the Dialogues of Gregory and the entire Vulgate Bible. This cook book has been passed down my family for a millennia, and now I pass it on to you.

BRENT

This is an incredible honour. I'm overwhelmed with gratitude.

BODHI

(Pause.)

That will be eight dollars.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

A REALTOR shows Mark and Rosie around a dream house.

REALTOR

There are bathrooms on the ground floor and upstairs. The kitchen comes with a double oven range. The house also averages around 36 miles to the gallon.

MARK

The house moves?

REALTOR

We're on a fault line.

They move into the kitchen.

REALTOR (CONT'D)

The floor plan features a dining and living / flex space, proximity to the Risen Savior Christian Academy and Bloomingdale Elementary School as well as a fully-fenced backyard with a view of the river Hudson so fine that Woody Allen once punched the previous owner of this house in the stomach out of sheer jealousy.

Rosie slams her purse down on the table.

ROSIE

We'll take it!

Mark takes Rosie's hand, taking her to one side.

MARK

(Hushed.)

Darling. I thought that we decided that you would consult me before this family makes any reckless financial decisions.

Mark turns around and slams Rosie's purse down onto the table.

MARK (CONT'D)

We'll take it!

REALTOR

An excellent choice for your family.

Mark looks at Rosie smugly.

REALTOR (CONT'D)

With a 20% down payment of \$135,000, the total price of this home is \$675,000

MARK

Will you accept 675,000 Japanese Yen instead?

REALTOR

No.

MARK

That's a tad out of our price range then.

ROSIE  
Perhaps we could look at some more  
affordable options.

EXT. RUSTIC SHACK - DAY

Rosie, Mark and Realtor stare at the awful house. A rusted  
piece of metal FALLS off of the wall.

MARK  
I've got to say. When you said  
affordable options, I didn't think  
that they'd be... this affordable.

ROSIE  
I'm catching tetanus just looking  
at it.

REALTOR  
This is my house. We're just here  
to pick up pictures of the house I  
was telling you about.

MARK  
...Oh.

REALTOR  
I'd invite you in for a drink, but  
I wouldn't want you to catch  
tetanus would I?

BRENT (V.O.)  
Awkwarrrrrd!

INT. THE HENDERSON'S DINING ROOM - DAY

Brent is standing over the dinner table, a pot of FOOD in his  
hands, looking expectedly at Mark.

MARK  
Quiet son, I'm telling the Mirrors  
a story.

BRENT  
Dinner is served. Bon appetit.

Brent lays out SHRIMP SOUP for each person. Bernard frowns.

BERNARD  
I don't know if Rose told you, but  
I'm afraid I'm terribly allergic to  
sea food.

ROSIE  
 That's all right, so is Mark.  
 (Pause, then she claps  
 twice.)  
 Allergies off!

A faint mechanical whirring, then Mark starts eating the shrimp.

MARK  
 I must say, this is cooked to  
 perfection! We may civilize the boy  
 yet!

Brent rolls his eyes. Bernard cautiously tastes the food, then eats more.

BERNARD  
 This is remarkable! How is this  
 even possible?

ROSIE  
 It's a feature of the house! You  
 must get one of these installed.  
 And if you ever need to deactivate  
 it, all you have to do is clap  
 twice and say:  
 (Claps twice)  
 Allergies on!

Bernard and Mark start choking severely. Rose reacts with horror.

JOSIE  
 Mother!

ROSIE  
 Oh, dear me. Choke up, chicken.  
 Brent's cooking isn't quite that  
 dreadful.

Calmly pats Mark on the back, he's swelling up.

JOSIE  
 For goodness sake.  
 (Claps.)  
 Allergies off!

Mark and Bernard slump forward, relieved and catching their breath.

MARK  
 (Laboured breathing.)  
 God strewth.

ROSE

Erm... when you've got your breath back, we'd love to hear about how you arrived at this house.

MARK

Of course. Where did I leave off? That's right.

INT. THE HENDERSON'S EMPTY LIVING ROOM -DAY

The Realtor shows Mark, Rosie, Josie and Brent around the pristine, empty house.

REALTOR

While not as upmarket, 260 Church White Plains boasts many of the features you would find in an equivalent property in New York County for a fraction of the price, with hovercraft access across the river Hudson for your every day commuting needs.

JOSIE

And there's enough electrical outlets in the basement for me to complete my Mecha-armour suit!

MARK

I have to say, this is ideal for our family. We'll buy the house.

REALTOR

Fantastic. You should contact the real estate agent immediately.

MARK

...I thought that you were the real estate agent.

REALTOR

Oh no, this is just a little hobby of mine. I pretend to be a realtor for the sheer thrill!

MARK

But how did we get in here?

REALTOR

We broke in! I'm the finest keysmith this side of the Appalachians!

Loud knocking on door.

COP (O.S.)

This is the NYSP! Open up! We have  
the place surrounded!

Realtor opens a window, begins to climb out.

REALTOR

Remember. You didn't see me, you  
don't know me.

EXT. GRASS RIDGE - DUSK

Mark and Rosie sit on the ridge, looking across the River  
Hudson, holding hands. They watch a distant HOVERCRAFT cross  
the river.

ROSIE

When you wedded me in 08, you did  
promise me a fine vista of the  
Hudson one day.

(Pause.)

Why do they use Hovercraft here?

MARK

Governor Andrew Cuomo banned  
bridges in New York state. Turns  
out he's always harboured a deep-  
seated hatred for bridges since  
childhood.

ROSIE

It's a good thing that your mother  
isn't alive to see this. She was  
always so mortified by the prospect  
of one day having to travel by  
hovercraft.

MARK

Oh, she is alive.

ROSIE

What?

MARK

And she will be moving in with us.

Rosie smiles, initially calm. She stands up, screaming with  
fury.

ROSIE

FUUUUUUUUUUU...



INT. THE HENDERSON'S DINING ROOM - EVENING

Rose and Bernard look appalled.

ROSE

Language!

Mark looks defensive, Rosie, Josie and Brent are just embarrassed.

MARK

That's what she said. Rosie truly despises my mother!

ROSIE

I do not! I just think that my life is much happier without her around.

BERNARD

Your mother sounds like quite the character. What happened when she asked to move in?

MARK

Ah, yes. As I was saying...

EXT. JFK AIRPORT - DAY

DOINA (Very old, grumpy, wearing babushka.) Stands outside the terminal. As she talks, traditional Romanian music plays. Mark, Rosie, Josie and Brent look unhappy to be there, standing by the family car.

MARK

Hello Ma. How was your flight?

DOINA

Oh, it was terrible. They tried to scan my bags at security, I could tell the younger ones were trying to gleam a look to see what they could burgle off of old Grandma Doina. And the in flight food, they served us better mush at Stalag 17. I will never fly with these common criminals again, I tell you.

MARK

Yes, flying is quite the occasion. Let me take your bags.

Doina wraps a CANE around Mark's hand.

DOINA

No, I am not so old and decrepit that I cannot handle my own baggage. But I am so old and decrepit that I will require a several hour long bunion massage. Put one of the little tykes to work, they have nimble hands.

MARK

Kids, is there something that you'd like to say to your Grandma Doina?

JOSIE

Yes. Why do you speak like that? You've lived in West Bromwich all your life.

MARK

And doesn't Rosie look just marvellous?

DOINA

I still can't believe that you married that vile harlot.

ROSIE

I'm right here.

DOINA

I can see, I accidentally reattached my retinas when I banged my head on the overhead compartment. When I look around at the world, I miss being blind.

INT. FAMILY CAR - DAY

Mark and Rosie are in the front of the well to do car. Doina is sat in between Josie and Brent, both disturbed by her presence. Josie is eating an Apple.

MARK

You're going to love it out here, Ma. The fresh air, the rolling pastures, the Bronx.

DOINA

Can you drive that death trap more carefully? I've got haemorrhoids so inflamed that they're about to start a race war with my varicose veins.

BRENT

Grandma, why do you always smell like rotten turnips?

DOINA

Why, would you like some turnips?

BRENT

I think you know that I would.

Josie opens the window, about to throw the apple core out. Doina smacks her hand.

DOINA

No tossing the core! You must eat it all, I abhor food waste!

Car begins to slow down.

MARK

Ma, I've got something I have to tell you.

The car parks, Mark gets out and the rest of the family follow.

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

Mark looks out across the river, Doina next to him. Rosie, Josie and Brent stay by the car to avoid the fallout.

MARK

It turns out, there's this law against Bridges in New York State, and the only way across the river is by Hovercraft.

DOINA

There is no way I'm getting in one of those death machines. I would sooner jump off a cliff than go anywhere by Hovercraft.

ROSIE

Excellent, we have a solution!

DOINA

Hovercraft are a con pushed on us by Big Hover to undercut boats and drive small independent shipping companies out of business.

Brent is holding the COOK BOOK, ominous chanting heard.

BRENT  
I've got a solution!

MARK  
Say what?

BRENT  
I know how we can get Grandma  
across the Hudson without the use  
of a Hovercraft. We shall use the  
power of commerce!

INT. THE HENDERSON'S KITCHEN - DAY

Brent is carving the fruit from the inside of the damaged  
GOURD. He add ingredients to a bowl, following instructions  
in the SANSKRIT PAGES of the book.

BRENT (V.O.)  
I'll use the secrets of the ancient  
cook book that Bodhi gave me to  
create a gourd pie so chewy and  
tasty that people will pay anything  
just to have a slice.

Brent chants sinisterly as he throws in some flour, the bowl  
begins to glow with evil power.

BRENT (V.O.)  
It's fortunate that I took classes  
on ancient Sanskrit during Summer  
School.

EXT. PIE SALE - DAY

Mark, Rosie and Josie lay out picnic tables on a grassy area  
by the river, nailing down a banner: NEW YORK PIE FESTIVAL.  
Time passes, the festival is now full of people chatting  
inaudibly and eating pie. Children climb atop a walking MECH  
SUIT, a sign: RIDE THE MECH SUIT, \$2

BRENT (V.O.)  
And by the end of the day we'll  
have raised enough money to build a  
bridge over the river, and by the  
time that Andrew Cuomo knows any  
different, we'll be on the other  
side.

MARK (V.O.)  
This might just work.

Brent is COUNTING OUT MONEY when he spots something. There's a BRIDGE across the river already. Josie is next to him looking at it.

BRENT

Sis, was that bridge always there?

JOSIE

No, it got here this morning.

BRENT

How?

JOSIE

I ordered it on Amazon Prime. Next day delivery.

BRENT

I ask again. How?

(Pause.)

No, this is great.

Brent runs into the crowd.

BRENT (CONT'D)

Dad! Get grandma now and get her across the...

Brent arrives at a table followed by Josie. Mark is sat there, under duress. In front of him is RIVERS CUOMO.

RIVERS CUOMO

I see you're raising money for a new bridge, and you didn't even invite me.

BRENT

Rivers Cuomo! I can explain...

Everything stops.

BERNARD (V.O.)

Hold on. Rivers Cuomo? From Weezer? I thought you said it was Andrew Cuomo that banned the bridges!

MARK (V.O.)

Hold on, you're right.

Everything resumes. Rivers Cuomo is now ANDREW CUOMO.

MARK (V.O.)

That's more like it.

BRENT

Sir, please don't...

ANDREW CUOMO

Boy, I've made a lot of serious errors of judgment in my time, but the incident with the bridges was a dark time in my life, and my one biggest regret of my professional career.

JOSIE

Really? This is the one thing that you feel remorseful for.

ANDREW CUOMO

So I thought that I would make amends by giving this bridge my blessing!

The crowd cheer.

MARK

Andrew Cuomo can do no wrong!

ANDREW CUOMO

Now, I would like to taste this famous gourd pie I have heard so much about.

The crowd clap as a slice is cut out for him. Brent watches intently.

BODHI (V.O.)

The succulence of this gourd drove the sultans of old to madness. But one error has deadly consequence.

Bodhi is next to Brent.

BRENT

Oh, hello Bodhi. I thought you were an internal monologue in my head.

BODHI

I get that a lot.

Andrew Cuomo eats a bite of the pie. His pupils dilate, he stands up, KNOCKING OVER the table.

ANDREW CUOMO

This bridge must be stopped.

Andrew Cuomo barges through the crowd, Brent and Mark following. Andrew Cuomo sees the MECH SUIT and dons it.

ANDREW CUOMO (CONT'D)  
It's evil must never again pollute  
our land!

The suited up Andrew Cuomo ROCKETS into the sky, headed for the BRIDGE. Brent uses a WALKIE TALKIE.

BRENT  
Sis! Come in, it's an emergency!

Josie is next to him.

JOSIE  
I can see that.

Brent puts away the walkie talkie.

JOSIE (CONT'D)  
Didn't you see me?

BRENT  
I lack peripheral vision. The Iron  
Cuomo is going to blow up the  
bridge!

JOSIE  
Iron Cuomo? I built it.

BRENT  
But I coined it.

Andrew Cuomo charges into the bridge.

ANDREW CUOMO  
Jeronimo!

The bridge EXPLODES in a ball of flame.

ROSE (V.O.)  
Hold on a moment.

INT. THE HENDERSON'S DINING ROOM - EVENING

Rose and Bernard look confused, pudding in their bowls. Mark, Rosie, Josie and Brent sat across from them.

ROSE  
He flew into the bridge?

MARK  
Yes.

BERNARD

Did he survive?

MARK

I'm not sure. I don't really follow politics.

BERNARD

Also none of this makes any sense. You said you needed to cross the Hudson to get to this house, but we're on the same side of the Hudson as New York.

MARK

No we're not.

BERNARD

The other side of the river is New Jersey!

MARK

Are you questioning mine and my family's integrity?

Rose puts her plate aside.

ROSE

Oh really, this story is becoming quite preposterous. I'm afraid it's getting quite late, and Bernard and I have much to do...

Mark locks the CAR DOOR now attached to his chair, pressing in the button. A LOCKING sound is heard across the house. Rose and Bernard look to the FRONT DOOR, a CAR DOOR SWITCH built in locks.

MARK

No. You're going to listen to the rest of the story.

Rose and Bernard both sit down, terrified.

MARK (CONT'D)

As I was saying...

EXT. PIE SALE - DAY

The crowd dissipates, the burning bridge visible. Mark, Rosie, Josie and Brent are cleaning up.



MARK (V.O.)

Things were looking down, and it turned out that Amazon didn't accept returns on damaged bridges. Then, Rosie had an idea.

ROSIE

I have an idea.

MARK

Oh no. Not another one of your famous ideas. We're still not welcome on three continents following your previous escapades.

ROSIE

Oh don't be foolish, I'm not going to destroy the Statue of Liberty am I?

JOSIE

Mom, I'll pay you \$50 to give up on your plan right now.

ROSIE

I'll pay you \$100 if you help me enact it.

JOSIE

That works too.

ROSIE

Now Mark, what does your mother hate more than anything else?

MARK

Let's see, the French, the Chinese, half of the Balkan nations, doughnuts, Vegan Sausage Rolls, Port Jackson Sharks, Joe Longthorne, chocolate spread, pigtails, I could go on.

ROSIE

Wasting... food.

EXT. ALL YOU CAN EAT "RESTAURANT" - DAY

The façade of an "ALL YOU CAN EAT RESTAURANT", obviously fake. Mark, Rosie, Josie and Brent help Doina out of the car outside the "Restaurant".

ROSIE (V.O.)

And at what type of restaurant do you have total personal control over the size of your portions, therefore eliminating food waste as a factor? An all you can eat restaurant. Except it won't be a restaurant.

The family enter the restaurant. The façade collapses to reveal they entered a HOVERCRAFT.

INT. HOVERCRAFT - DAY

The hovercraft interior is disguised as a restaurant. Mark, Rosie, Josie, Brent and Doina are sat at the table, a WAITER serving them water. A loud humming sound, the water VIBRATES.

ROSIE (V.O.)

We'll set off across the Hudson, have a nice meal then by the time we finish we'll be on the other side of the river and old Grandma Doina will be none the wiser. Like I said, fool proof.

JOSIE (V.O.)

You didn't say that.

ROSIE (V.O.)

Shh. Grandma looks like she's going to say something.

Doina crosses her arms.

DOINA

It's awfully noisy in here.

ROSIE

Yes, that will be the air conditioning.

DOINA

And the water's vibrating a lot.

MARK

Ah yes, that will be the famous dancing drinking water of New York state!

DOINA

And the service is so slow, I've been nursing this complementary dancing water for 20 minutes!

ROSIE  
That'll be because hovercraft don't  
traditionally serve...

Mark nudges Rosie in the ribs.

ROSIE (CONT'D)  
I mean, all you can eat restaurants  
are notoriously slow!

DOINA  
I will be so livid if I discover  
that you tricked me into going on a  
hovercraft disguised as an all you  
can eat restaurant!

Mark, Josie and Brent give Rosie a knowing look.

DOINA (CONT'D)  
Such poor service, I'm going into  
the kitchen to complain!

Doina gets up, headed for a door labelled COCKPIT, Mark tries  
to stop her.

MARK  
No, don't Ma! You know how it is,  
they probably ran out of carp so  
they're out catching more!

DOINA  
Ah, the restaurant cockpit! That's  
about right, it is like a pit of  
cocks around here!

Doina bursts in.

INT. HOVERCRAFT COCKPIT - DAY

The HOVERCRAFT PILOT is at the controls, throws up his hands  
in surprise and surrender when Doina slams the door open.  
Mark, Rosie, Josie and Brent try to restrain her.

MARK  
Ma, I told you you're not allowed  
in the kitchen!

Doina scowls, studying the instrument panel.

DOINA  
Such an unusual kitchen.

MARK

It is, isn't it? Let's sit down at our table, I saw a waiter with some chicken wings.

ATC (O.C.)

Hovercraft 24 come in, your last transmission was garbled.

DOINA

Hovercraft? You are telling me you've deceived your elderly mother into embarking aboard the most degenerate, abhorrent mode of transportation known to man. You are a cruel boy, and...

Doina clutches her chest and collapses onto the Hovercraft Pilot knocking them both out. She nudges the THROTTLE, sending it into overdrive.

ROSIE

Mark! What did you do?

MARK

What do you mean? It's your plan! Did you account for the restaurant veering out of control over the Hudson?

BRENT

Dad, do something!

Mark takes to the controls, speaking into an INTERCOM.

MARK

Mayday! Mayday! The pilot has been incapacitated! I need immediate assistance and guidance on how to land the hovercraft!

JOSIE

Dad! That intercom goes through to the cabin! We're the only people on board.

MARK

Not to worry, I can steer this! My Grandpa flew Lancaster's during the war, It's in my blood! Despite the fact that piloting skills are not genetically passed on.

The family peer out of the cockpit.

ROSIE

I see land! We're gonna make it.

They celebrate. Mark realises what's about to happen.

MARK

We are. She's not.

A large structure is up ahead, Mark pulls up.

EXT. HOVERCRAFT - DAY

The Hovercraft pulls up, SMASHING THROUGH the STATUE OF LIBERTY, DECAPITATING IT. The Hovercraft splashes into the ocean.

MARK (O.S.)

Is everyone okay?

DOINA (O.S.)

This buffet salmon is still alive!

INT. THE HENDERSON'S DINING ROOM - EVENING

Rose and Bernard really don't want to be here anymore. Mark, Rosie, Josie and Brent at the other side of the table.

ROSE

You... decapitated the Statue of Liberty?

ROSIE

But the Hovercraft was salvageable.

BERNARD

You expect us to believe that load of horse plop? If that's all true, then where's your Mother now?

Doina is at the opposite end of the table, eating soup.

DOINA

I have been here all evening, you ignorant bastards.

MARK

Anyway, that was the story of how we came to be in America and learn to appreciate the value of the American way of life.

ROSE

How did destroying the Statue of Liberty teach you the value of the American way of life?

BERNARD

I think that's enough regaling for one night. Rose and I would like to leave now, thank you very much.

INT. THE HENDERSON'S HALLWAY - EVENING

Mark, Rosie, Josie and Brent see Rose and Bernard out as they hurriedly try to open the front door.

MARK

Oh, I nearly forgot.

Mark pulls out some car keys, presses a button and the front door opens. Mark shakes Bernard's hand.

MARK (CONT'D)

Well, Mr and Mrs Miller, it's been a real gas.

ROSIE

You must invite us over for supper some time!

ROSE

Yes, someday... I'm sure.

MARK

I'll get the valet to bring around your car.

ROSE

We walked here.

MARK

That makes sense, I'm not entirely sure we even have a valet... anymore.

EXT. THE HENDERSON'S HOUSE - EVENING

Mark, Rosie, Josie and Brent wave from the doorway, Rose and Bernard walk away as fast as possible.

BERNARD

Well, that was terrifying.

ROSE

I stand corrected.

The front door closes.

BERNARD

And those ridiculous stories, who  
do they think they're kidding with  
those awful tall tales?

ROSE

Completely beyond the pale. Just  
who do the Hendersons think they  
are?

As they walk down the driveway, we see the HEADLESS STATUE OF  
LIBERTY towering above the Henderson's house in their back  
garden.

END