

Five and a half Dads

"Pilot"

written by

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INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

KAYLA (almost 11, tomboyish, stubborn, brave) stands with her back to a whiteboard. A class of bored middle schoolers look back at her. She glances at her TEACHER, who smiles and nods. Kayla takes a deep breath, faces us, and begins.

KAYLA  
(to camera)  
My summer was awesome. First off, I  
got a puppy this summer! He's a  
beagle named Rover, and he's my  
best friend.

INT. LIVING ROOM - (FLASHBACK)

A beagle puppy comes romping across the living room floor into Kayla's arms. She beams.

KAYLA (V.O.)  
And I got dessert every. single.  
day. Fresh pancakes and *conchas* in  
the morning...

INT. KITCHEN - (FLASHBACK)

Bill's hands pour pancake batter onto a steaming skillet. Pedro's hands pull fresh *concha* bread out of the oven. (don't worry, we'll meet them later)

KAYLA (V.O.)  
Any candy I wanted with lunch...

Thomas' hands push a bowl of Cadbury roses into the frame. To his left, Gabe's hands push a bowl of skittles. To his right, Travis' hands push a bowl of Now or Later's.

KAYLA (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
And a massive ice cream sundae for  
dinner!

In front of her is the biggest ice cream sundae you've ever seen, with all the fixings. Jeff's hands plop a dollop of whip cream on her nose.

KAYLA (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
But that wasn't all. Pretty soon,  
my dad had the best surprise ever.  
(MORE)

KAYLA (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
We were going on a cruise for a  
whole month!

EXT. DOCK - (FLASHBACK)

A cruise ship blows its horn as it pulls up to Kayla, Rover,  
and her dad Bill waiting on the dock.

KAYLA (V.O.)  
That's right, Rover and I swam in  
the pool every day, had food  
fights, got to steer the ship once,  
and I did a kickflip off the ROOF-

ROBBIE (O.S.)  
Uhhhh... Kayla?

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

We are back in the classroom. The students are flabbergasted,  
mouths open. Someone's bubble gum pops in their face.

One small boy, ROBBIE (11, a little scruffy, Kayla's best  
friend), has his hand raised. Kayla flashes an annoyed look  
to camera, then turns her attention to the interruption.

KAYLA  
Yes, Robbie?

We focus in on Robbie. As he speaks, the environment changes  
around him...

INT. TREEHOUSE - DAY

He's sitting on the floor of a treehouse, on a woven rug made  
of colorful recycled bags.

ROBBIE  
I know I wasn't here for the WHOLE  
summer, but that's not how your  
summer went.

KAYLA  
(defensive)  
What do you mean.

ROBBIE  
Well first off, they wouldn't let  
you steer the ship.

KAYLA  
They let kids do that sometimes!

ROBBIE  
And I KNOW you can't kickflip that high.

KAYLA  
I CAN TOO!

BILL (O.S.)  
Kayla! It's time for school!

Kayla pops her head out of the treehouse window and yells back down, a little too forcefully.

KAYLA  
I'M COMING, DAD.

She turns back to Robbie, and they begin climbing down the rope ladder.

KAYLA (CONT'D)  
Well then what am I supposed to say for my summer speech?

ROBBIE  
I dunno. Maybe the truth?

KAYLA  
I CAN kickflip, you know.

ROBBIE  
Not off a boat.

KAYLA  
How about off a car?

CUT TO:

EXT. DRIVEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Kayla stands with her skateboard on **Bill's CAR**. She takes a deep breath, then pushes off. Robbie watches intently, arms crossed.

It's silent as she rides down the length of the car's roof. As her board flies off the car, she flicks her foot.

In SLOW-MOTION, the board begins turning in a **perfect kickflip...**

Then Bill appears in frame, holding the mail.

He looks up and screams as the board comes flying straight toward his face. Still in slow-motion, Robbie cheers in delight, and Kayla yells, infuriated.

BILL/KAYLA  
NOOOOOOOOOO-

ROBBIE  
YEAAAAAAAAHH-

FREEZE FRAME ON THE CHAOS: TITLE CARD - **FIVE AND A HALF DADS**

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

BILL (dad age, quiet, unassuming, a bit of a pushover, sweater vest) holds an icepack to his face as he dials a number on their corded landline above the tile kitchen counter. He pulls the icepack away for a moment to reveal a HUGE BLACK EYE.

KAYLA

I'm really sorry dad. I didn't know the paint would scratch like that.

BILL

Oh honey you have nothing to worry about. Me and the car just look a little more "vintage" now, huh? But I definitely can't drive you to school with one eye...oh hello? Gabe?

KAYLA

(to camera)

He'll be calling my dads now, probably, to see who can take me to school.

BILL

Oh hi Gabe! I was just wondering...

KAYLA

Gabe is my mom's first husband. That's before I was around.

We follow Bill's phone chord to the receiver of the call...

INT. GABE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

GABE (he won't reveal his age, black, spiritual, an empath, always expensively and femininely dressed) tears through his room in a silk floral bathrobe with the phone tucked between his ear and shoulder.

KAYLA (V.O.)

She says she loved him very much, but high school relationships never work out. Plus, it turns out he's more into guys. It's okay though, I've always called him dad, and he brings me nail polish sometimes.

His bedroom looks like *Free People* and *Vogue Magazine* vomited everywhere. Gabe tosses a boho tapestry aside as he looks for a specific shirt in the maximalist room. A man sits up in his bed, groggy, rubbing his eyes.

GABE

Yes yes, absolutely I can take her!  
Oh honey not an issue, not at all.  
But I will be running late... maybe  
give Jeff a call?

EXT. JEFF'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

A phone rings. JEFF (the most "dad" dad you ever met) is flipping burgers (yes, at 7am) on his massive grill, in sunglasses, sandals, and a faded Hawaiian shirt (his uniform). He picks up.

KAYLA (V.O.)

Mom went in pretty much the  
opposite direction with her second  
husband. Jeff is more like a throw  
you in the pool and yell at the  
football game dad. He's the one  
that taught me my softball pitch!

JEFF

Yello. Bill! Yeah no problem, let  
me just find my driving shoes hehe.  
Did you call Tom?

INT. THOMAS' LIBRARY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Classical music swells. THOMAS (dad age, British, proper, obnoxiously well-read) is reading an encyclopedia like it's a comic book. The bookshelves around him seem to stretch forever into the sky. He takes the needle off the record player as the phone rings.

KAYLA (V.O.)

My mom met Thomas when she went  
back to school for her Masters. I  
usually fall asleep when he talks,  
but that means he's great for  
bedtime stories and sometimes  
homework.

Thomas picks up.

THOMAS

Speaking? Ah, Bill. Oh of course,  
I'll putt right on over.  
(MORE)

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Say Bill, have you ever heard of *sesquipedalianism*? I was just studying up on it and it has some absolutely fascinating implications. Did you know that...

KAYLA (V.O.)

He would be my best dad for homework, but he has a propensity to lecture. "Propensity" is a word he taught me.

EXT. KAYLA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A motorcycle engine revs. Brakes squeal as the shiny spiked wheels slide to a stop. A heavy black boot hits the floor. Swinging off the motorcycle is PEDRO (dad age, Latino, overprotective and over-affectionate). A Spanish guitar strums.

KAYLA (V.O.)

Pedro was my last dad before Bill. Most people think he's pretty tough, but...I know the truth.

Kayla comes running out of the house towards Pedro.

KAYLA

Dad!

He scoops her up in his arms and spins her around, kissing her on both cheeks repeatedly.

PEDRO

*Mija!* Oh *mi corazon*, *mi chiquita linda*, what, has Bill not been feeding you? Did you eat breakfast *mija*? Ay no, you need a full tummy before your big first day of middle school!

He carries her into the house. Kayla shrugs to camera.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Kayla sits at the kitchen table, now chowing down on a full breakfast spread. Pedro has a little floral apron on over his leather motorcycle gear. He dusts flour off his hands. Bill sips some coffee in-between bandaging an icepack to his face. His hands seem to be in a constant state of motion.



BILL

Oh I'm so glad you made it Pedro, I really don't know what I'd do without you, really. No one else was going to make it in time.

PEDRO

No problem, *compadre*, you rest your puffy eyes. Ah, almost time to go, Kayla.

Kayla nods through a mouthful of food. She takes a gulp of orange juice and turns back to us.

KAYLA

(to camera)

Pedro thinks he's taking me to school, but there's one last dad. Travis and my mom had me when she was "rebounding" from Gabe. Travis is really busy, because he has a big job and he's really important. But it's my first day of middle school, so he'll be here.

INT. FRONT DOOR - DAY

Pedro opens the front door. Kayla stands behind him with her TONY HAWK BACKPACK on. The door swings open: Jeff, Gabe, and Thomas wave.

KAYLA

Dads!

Kayla hugs them.

PEDRO

You're too late, I'm taking her.

JEFF/GABE/THOMAS

(disappointed dad noises)

PEDRO

Let's go, *mija*.

JEFF

Wait! First day of school picture!

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Pedro rides his motorcycle down a neighborhood street. Kayla sits in front of him with a giant motorcycle helmet and leather jacket on. She taps his arm.

KAYLA  
No dad, here. Here!

PEDRO  
What? Your school isn't for another block.

KAYLA  
Dad STOP!

He stops.

KAYLA (CONT'D)  
You can't drop me off, it's not cool.

PEDRO  
I'm not cool?

KAYLA  
Love you bye!

She hops off the motorcycle, ditching the jacket and helmet. Around a corner come Robbie and SARAH (Robbie's big sister, sweet, feminine, a grade above Kayla). They continue the walk to school while Pedro drives off.

KAYLA (CONT'D)  
Hi Sarah, hi Robbie! That was close. My dad almost dropped me off.

ROBBIE  
Oh yeah that would have been so bad on your first day. Good thing I warned you.

SARAH  
You two are ridiculous. Have you worked on your summer speech any more Kayla?

KAYLA  
Naw, not yet. It's not due 'til tomorrow anyway, maybe I'll dream up a good one.

ROBBIE

I dunno, you should get on that. A good speech can land you with the popular kids for lunch.

SARAH

Maybe.

EXT. SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

They approach the school, and Sarah branches off from the group.

SARAH

Well, my classes are this way. Good luck you guys!

KAYLA

Wow. She's brave, going at it alone.

ROBBIE

I know, right? Good thing you have me. Sarah taught me all the rules so I can show you the ropes. It may be our first day in middle school, but we have a cheat sheet.

MONTAGE SCENES:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Robbie and Kayla walk into class. Robbie guides her to the middle seats against the window.

ROBBIE

First rule of middle school: seating. Sit in the front and you get picked on, sit in the back and you're with the emo kids.

In the back, the emo kids glare at him.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

(whispers)

And they will tear you apart.

He slaps his new desk.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)  
Middle, next to the window. Prime  
location for note-passing, plus you  
get a heads up on what's for PE  
practice.

Through the window, a group of miserable middle schoolers do  
"high knees" around the track. Kayla shudders.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

A bell rings. Kayla and Robbie walk down the rowdy hallway.

ROBBIE  
Rule number two: don't walk to  
class alone. Or go to the bathroom  
alone. That's where the bullies  
wait.

Two BULLIES hold a small kid over the trashcan by his legs.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)  
Imagine if that was a toilet.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The teacher writes a question on the board. Kayla's hand  
shoots up. Robbie grabs it and pulls her arm down.

ROBBIE  
Don't raise your hand.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Kayla finished her worksheet and goes to stand up. Robbie  
stops her.

ROBBIE  
Don't turn it in first.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The teacher holds up some paper.

TEACHER  
Who wants to run this to the office  
for me?

Robbie hisses to Kayla, his eyes glued to his desk.

ROBBIE

*Don't make eye contact.*

Kayla looks down and gulps. A moment of tension. The teacher points to a small girl in a checkered dress.

TEACHER

Penelope! Why don't you take this to the principal for me please.

The whole class choruses in their shame and disapproval.

CLASS

Ooooooooooooo!

The small girl hangs her pigtailed head as she walks out. Robbie lifts his eyebrows: *see?*

END MONTAGE SCENES

EXT. RECESS - DAY

The bell rings. Finally, it's recess.

Kayla takes a big breath of fresh air as she walks outside with Robbie.

She smiles at the clouds.

She looks around at the kids running in the grass.

She spots a magnificently climbable tree.

KAYLA

Hey Robbie, wanna go climb that tree?

Wait. Where's Robbie?

A group of boys come into focus in front of her. They laugh and slap Robbie on the back. She frowns and approaches.

BOY

Ew get away from us.

BOY 2

Who is that, Robbie, your little girlfriend?

The boys laugh and ignore her. Robbie turns to her. He rubs the back of his neck.

ROBBIE

Oh, yeah. And there's one more rule, I forgot. In middle school, boys and girls can't be friends.

KAYLA

(to camera)

*WHAT?*

END ACT ONE