

UNITED WE FALL

"Pilot"

Written by
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Exhibit A

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

EXT./ESTAB. RYAN FAMILY HOUSE - 2 A.M.

LITTLE GIRL'S VOICE (O.S.)

Mom?... Mom?... Mom?

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS
(EMILY, JO, BILL)

BILL RYAN AND HIS WIFE JO, BOTH MID-30S, LIE IN BED, ASLEEP. WE REVEAL: THEIR 6 YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, EMILY, STANDING OVER THE BED AND STARING AT THEM LIKE A COMPLETE CREEP.

EMILY

Dad!

BILL SHOOTS UP IN BED AND SCREAMS. THIS CAUSES EMILY TO SCREAM. ALL THIS SCREAMING CAUSES JO TO SCREAM.

JO

Emily! What are you doing up? It's--

BILL TURNS ON HIS LIGHT, KNOCKING A TON OF STUFF OFF HIS NIGHTSTAND, INCLUDING A GLASS, WHICH SHATTERS.

BILL

I'll vacuum that later.
(looks at phone, groans)

It's 2 a.m.!

JO

Did you have a nightmare? Are you
sick?

EMILY

Can I have my iPad? I want to look at pictures of mummies.

BILL

(beat)

Can she?

JO

No!

BILL

Yeah, that's right, no!

JO

It's a school night, go to bed!

EMILY

Can I at least have a popsicle?

JO

Can she?

BILL

No! Go, right now! And if you wake your sister-- no-- no more National Geographic for Kids!

EMILY EXITS, SULLEN.

BILL

Did I handle that right?

JO

Bill, you threatened to punish her by taking away geography.

BILL

Her obsession with the pharaoh is very weird. It's gotta be why she doesn't really have friends.

JO

Or maybe the kids in her class suck.

BILL

You think that's why the teacher called us in for a conference?

JO

Because of the sucky kids?

BILL

I wish she told us why we need to come in. Now I can't stop worrying.

JO

I hate when people won't just tell you why they want to talk over the phone. Just text me, even if it's bad.

BILL

Totally. Why do you want to look at me while I get bad news?

JO

That's psycho. The teacher is psycho.

BILL

I wish Emily could connect with just one kid.

(MORE)

BILL (CONT'D)

These things snowball - I ate a booger
the first day of kindergarten, then I
didn't have friends until college.

JO

Yeah, I dunno. I always had friends.

BILL

Thanks Jo, great 2 a.m. talk.

BILL TURNS OFF THE LIGHT AND ROLLS OVER.

JO

Listen, whatever it is, she's our kid,
we love her, and we'll deal with it.

WE HEAR A DOOR SLAM O.S. AND THEN A TWO YEAR OLD SHRIEK.

BILL

Aaaaand she woke the baby.

JO TURNS ON HER LIGHT, KNOCKING OVER A BUNCH OF STUFF,
INCLUDING A GLASS, WHICH SHATTERS.

BILL

I'll vacuum that later.

JO

Unless they both become billionaires,
this is a giant waste of time.

BILL SMILES, EXHAUSTED, AND PULLS HIS PILLOW OVER HIS HEAD AS
WE FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONEEXT. HOUSE - PORCH - 5:30 A.M.

(JO, BILL)

BILL AND JO, STILL IN PAJAMAS, SIT IN ADIRONDACK CHAIRS, WATCHING A BEAUTIFUL DENVER SUNRISE. EMILY AND HER TWO YEAR-OLD SISTER, LULU, LIE ON THE GROUND COLORING AND EATING POPSICLES.

JO

I hate the sunrise. I hope I never see it again.

BILL

I'm going to say something and promise you won't laugh at me.

JO

Okay.

BILL

Let's take one day and practice gratitude. No matter what happens, let's be positive.

JO BURSTS OUT LAUGHING. BILL SCOWLS.

JO

Why?

BILL

Because it's 5 a.m., we woke up to a roomful of broken glass, we've already given the kids dessert, and we have this conference. We can't change this stuff, but we can change our attitude toward it.

JO

Is this because you read that Deepak Chopra tweet?

BILL

Kinda.

JO

You know what? I like it. You're on. A *mal tiempo, bueno cara.*

BILL STARES, BLANKLY.

BILL

Right, yeah. Let's each say something we're grateful for right now.

BILL

I love you.

JO

Fruit's okay. I sometimes like fruit. Then it gets rotten.

INT. KITCHEN - 7 A.M.

(BILL, JO, EMILY/LULU, SANDY, EMILY)

BILL POURS SUGAR CEREAL FOR THE KIDS, WHO ARE ON IPADS. EVERYONE IS NOW DRESSED. LULU IS IN A HIGH CHAIR. JO ENTERS. (NOTE: THROUGHOUT THE SCENE AND SHOW, BILL AND JO HAVE AN EASY, RELAXED CHEMISTRY, LOTS OF TINY DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION)

BILL

You look nice.

JO

Thanks. You're wearing my jeans.

BILL

I am?

JO

Wow, this is so depressing for both of us.

BILL

Remember-- be positive.

JO

It's cool you can still fit into them after two babies.

BILL NOTICES WATER ON THE COUNTER, THEN LOOKS AT THE CEILING.

BILL

Hey, is there a leak here?

JO CHECKS IT OUT.

JO

Yeah. It's small, it'll be fine. I'll fix it this weekend.

BILL

You're sure?

JO PUTS A BOWL UNDER THE LEAK.

JO

I'm a contractor, I'm positive. There, I'm being positive.

SANDY, BILL'S EXTREMELY JUDGMENTAL MOTHER, 70S, ENTERS,
HOLDING HER IPAD.

EMILY/LULU

Hi grandma! / Grammy!

SANDY

Oh, goodness, my dolls, you're loud!

BILL

Morning, ma.

SANDY

What? I can't hear a word you say,
speak up! And why are you letting the
kids have sugar cereals and iPads?

SANDY SHAKES HER HEAD IN DISGUST, POURS HERSELF SOME SUGAR
CEREAL, THEN BURIES HER HEAD IN HER IPAD. BILL GLOWERS.

JO

(Sotto, teasing)

Remember-- positivity.
(then)

Sandy, would you like some scrambled
eggs?

SANDY

Sure. You know me, I'm easy.

JO PUTS A PLATE IN FRONT OF SANDY.

SANDY

(pushing plate away)

These are burnt.
(off iPad)

Oh my God, a lizard ate a woman in
Arizona.

JO

Sandy, do you have anything positive
to say?

SANDY THINKS FOR A SECOND.

SANDY

My friend Mildred had a stroke.

JO

That's-- that's a wide miss.

BILL, SENSING AN IMPENDING BLOWUP, INTERVENES.

BILL

Okay, mom, here's your coffee. Kids,
watch this, new trick: "Z, Y, X, W, V,
U, T, S, R--"

JO

What are you doing?

BILL

The alphabet backwards.

JO

To confuse her? She doesn't know it
forwards.

BILL

No, you remember Scott, the other
engineer at work who makes sure
bridges don't collapse?

JO

Yeah.

BILL

He got a DUI yesterday. On the way to work.

JO

That's insane.

BILL

Yeah, we probably shouldn't drive over any of Scott's bridges. But also, if you know the alphabet backwards, you'll never fail the test.

JO

Maybe just don't drink and drive.

BILL

Yes. That's a teaching moment, kids.

JO

Okay, Emily, *vamonos*. Bill, see you at the conference. Noon.

BILL LEANS DOWN TO EMILY.

BILL

Are you in trouble at school? Have you been disruptive?

EMILY

I don't know, dad. Have yoooooooouuuuu been disruptive? Boop!

EMILY "BOOPS" BILL ON THE NOSE. JO AND EMILY EXIT. A BEAT, THEN LULU THROWS HER CEREAL BOWL ON THE FLOOR. BILL STARTS CLEANING IT UP.

SANDY

I would never have let you touch my
nose.

BILL

Ah, the good old days.

SANDY

And this one just threw her cereal off
the table.

BILL

Yeah. That's what two year-olds do.

SANDY

You never would have done it.

BILL

Because you would have threatened to
take my dog away.

SANDY

Hey, I let you have a dog.

BILL

So you could make me think you'd take
him.

SANDY

Exactly, and it worked.

BILL

Through fear! It was emotional abuse!

SANDY

It was a different time. No one knew
what that was.

BILL

In 1998?!

SANDY

You came out fine. Look at how happy
you are right now.

BILL

I have to consciously try to be
positive because I always feel like
the world is going to take my dog!

SANDY

I'm not going to be criticized for
using discipline. You don't, and
that's why you have to go to a
conference.

BILL

We don't know why we have to go to the
conference - that's the whole point of
the conference! To tell us why we're
at the conference!

SANDY

Okay, then what's your big enlightened
way of dealing with this cereal
hoodlum?

BILL THINKS FOR A SECOND. THEN, HE PICKS LULU UP FROM HER
CHAIR, PLACES HER ON THE FLOOR, AND PUTS HER BOWL IN FRONT OF
HER. LULU HAPPILY STARTS MUNCHING HER CEREAL LIKE A DOG,
WHILE SANDY SHAKES HER HEAD IN DISAPPROVAL. BILL, SATISFIED,
PATS THE BABY ON THE HEAD.

BILL

Good Lulu. Grandma can't take you
away.

INT. CAR - NOON
(BILL, JO)

BILL AND JO SIT IN THEIR CAR IN THE SCHOOL PARKING LOT.
THEY'RE BOTH EATING ICE CREAM CONES. JO LOOKS AT HER PHONE,
WHICH BUZZES WITH MULTIPLE TEXTS.

BILL

Isn't it amazing how much better ice
cream tastes when there's no kids
around?

JO

It's the lack of shrieking.
(re: her phone, annoyed)

Oh my God.

BILL

What?

JO

My nine brothers put me on a text
chain about politics.
(typing)

"I don't know how you got my number.

Please remove me from this list."

BILL SMILES.

BILL

Look at us. My mom's right. We're not
real adults. The teacher is going to
see right through us.

JO

Well, we'll finish the ice cream
before we go in.

BILL

I bet the teacher's a real adult. Not
someone like us who plays phone games.

JO

I bet she's never even looked at TMZ.

BILL

I bet she eats salads.
(beat, then)

This sucks. We should tell her Emily's
awesome and all the other kids are the
problem.

JO

Seriously, how are we going to handle
this? We could do what my dad would
have done.

BILL

What?

JO

Skip the conference.

BILL

No. We're smart people. We can figure
this out. Can I be honest and
constructive for a second?

JO

Okay.

BILL

You tend to need everyone to like us,
so don't hold my hand just to make us
look good.

JO

I don't need to be liked, you do.

BILL

No, you do.

JO

Okay, can I be honest and constructive
for a second?

BILL

Sure.

JO

You get too emotional when we talk
about the kids, so don't start crying,
then use this as your personal
therapy.

BILL

Alright, um, just being honest and
constructive again, don't laugh even
when she doesn't say a joke, you do
that and it's weird.

JO

Also being "H and C," don't volunteer
to have me make tacos for the class,
or I'll yell at you in the car after.

BILL

Okay, that feels like enough honesty
and constructiveness.

JO

I know this feels scary, but maybe
it's simple. Remember, we're being
positive? We can be real adults for
ten minutes. We'll listen, not talk.
It's about Emily, not us.

BILL

Great. Listen, don't talk. Got it.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

(BILL, JO, MRS. SHAW, BILL/JO, ENTHUSIASTIC MOM)

BILL

I mean, wasn't Einstein unusual?
Wasn't Picasso? Wasn't...

JO

Cardi B?

BILL

(re: teacher)

She's not gonna know who that is.

WIDEN TO REVEAL THEY'RE SITTING IN TINY CHILDREN'S CHAIRS
ACROSS FROM THE TEACHER, MRS. SHAW, 50S, WHO CAN'T GET A WORD
IN EDGEWISE.

MRS. SHAW

First of all, hello.

BILL/JO

Hello. / Hi.

MRS. SHAW

Take a deep breath. You seem nervous
that I called you in.

JO

Nooooo...

BILL

Well, when someone won't tell you
something on the phone, it's always
something bad like cancer. But how
would you know if we have cancer?

You're not a doctor.
(beat, then)

Sorry.

MRS. SHAW

I only wanted to chat because I
remember how nervous I was sending my
first child to school, and I just
wanted to tell you in person--

BILL AND JO EXCHANGE A NERVOUS LOOK.

MRS. SHAW

I think Emily's great.

JO

What?

BILL

Really?

JO

Wow, that's terrific.

BILL

Actually a giant relief.

JO

And feels a bit like you
could have texted it.

BILL

So she gets along with other kids?

JO

Because it seems to us like she kinda
has zero friends.

MRS. SHAW

Emily's so creative. Her best friend
is her imagination, and that makes it
hard to socialize. She actually
reminds me of a student I had years
ago, who wound up going to Harvard.

BILL

Oh!

JO

Wow.

MRS. SHAW

He was later arrested for insider
trading.

BILL

Uh oh.

JO

That's not good.

MRS. SHAW

He then made up for it by building a well for a Bolivian village.

BILL

That is good.

JO

I like him now.

MRS. SHAW

The fresh water caused warlords to attack the village, and make it the center of their drug cartel.

BILL

Well, that is bad.

JO

But doesn't really sound like his fault.

MRS. SHAW

The last I heard, he'd moved to Nepal on a journey of self-discovery.

JO

That's interesting.

BILL

And sounds positive.

MRS. SHAW

Where he was crushed by an avalanche.

BILL

Oh boy.

JO

At no point during this story, have I seen any of it coming.

MRS. SHAW

They never found his body, so he may still be alive.

BILL

Wow, this has been an emotional roller coaster! And?

MRS. SHAW

And that's it. He's probably dead.

BILL AND JO STARE AT EACH OTHER, PERPLEXED.

JO

Anyway, um, back to our daughter...

MRS. SHAW

Emily's terrific. I know it's challenging to watch her struggle socially, but she's happy. You're obviously doing a great job with her.

BILL AND JO TAKE THIS IN. THEN, WITHOUT WARNING, BILL STARTS BLUBBERING.

MRS. SHAW

Oh my.

BILL

This morning my mother said I was raising my kids wrong, but she's wrong! She's wrong about me!

JO

No! No therapy!

JO TAKES BILL'S HAND AND SMILES. HE PULLS HIS BACK.

BILL

No hold hands look good!

JO

Well, really Mrs. Shaw, thank you for your time.

BILL

So, just to sum up, you think she's okay? And she'll be fine the rest of her life?

JO

And we're doing a way better job than our parents?

MRS. SHAW

That's not for me to say. But you should keep encouraging Emily's unique passions. She's obsessed with Egypt and the museum has a "Young Explorers" program. You should sign her up.

BILL

Huh. How far away is the museum?

MRS. SHAW

Unfortunately, it's fifty miles away.

JO

(overdoing it for Bill)

Oh, we'll definitely look into it.

BILL

Thank you so much.

THEY WALK OUT TO THE HALLWAY AND CLOSE THE DOOR.

BILL

Positivity works! She really liked us!

JO

I know! It's exciting to be liked!

AS THEY ARE ABOUT TO LEAVE, AN ENTHUSIASTIC MOM WALKS BY.

ENTHUSIASTIC MOM

Hi!!!

JO

Hi!!!

THE ENTHUSIASTIC MOM WALKS OFF.

BILL

Who was that?

JO

I don't fuckin' know!

INT. BILL AND JO'S KITCHEN - THAT NIGHT
(BILL, SANDY, MALE VOICE, JO, GARY, EMILY)

BILL AND JO, STILL ON A HIGH FROM THE SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE,
PICK UP THE REMNANTS OF A 5 P.M. CHICKEN NUGGET DINNER. SANDY
IS STILL ON HER IPAD.

BILL
(re: iPad)

Mom, what were you even doing on that
thing all day?

SANDY

Looking at the time.

BILL AND JO SHARE A SILENT "WHAT THE FUCK?" LOOK.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Helllloooooooo...

GARY, BILL'S SUPER-COOL, COSMOPOLITAN, GAY-GLAMOROUS BROTHER ENTERS, HOLDING A GIFT.

JO

Hi, Gary!

GARY

Hello, gorgeous. The two year-old was scratching at the door, so I let her out.

JO SPRINTS OUT OF THE ROOM TO CHASE LULU.

GARY

Oops, was that bad?

GARY WALKS OVER AND GIVES SANDY A BIG HUG.

SANDY

My angel.

GARY

My angel.

BILL

I thought you were in Sardinia.

GARY

Uch, I had to come back. It was exhausting. I mean, how much sleep can you get, right?

BILL

You're exhausted from too much sleep?

GARY

I knew you'd understand. Dearest
beautiful mother, this is for you.

GARY HANDS HER THE GIFT. SANDY'S BRIGHTENS.

SANDY

Oh my goodness and it's wrapped! On my
birthday, Bill just handed me
something totally unwrapped.

BILL

Because you said you can't open it
with your arthritis! And it was that
iPad!

SANDY

Still. I would have appreciated the
effort.

(beat, then to Bill)

Can you open this? I can't, my
arthritis.

BILL OPENS THE GIFT.

SANDY

Oh, wine! How thoughtful!

BILL

Terrific. Anger fuel.

GARY

Well, I have to run.

BILL

What? Why?

SANDY

This was such a nice visit. You're so thoughtful.

GARY

Oh, it was nothing.

BILL

Literally, it almost was. Any less and it would have been.

GARY

Until I see you again, mother, you will be in my heart. Bye Bill.

GARY EXITS. SANDY SIGHS CONTENTEDLY.

SANDY

It's just nice Gary is so generous with his time, because, Bill, you can be, well... selfish.

BILL

What? He's single, he has no kids, he does whatever he wants--

SANDY

And still he finds the time--

BILL

He was here maybe forty seconds!

SANDY

And he always does nice things for me.

BILL

I let you live here!

SANDY

And here you are, lording it over me.

While he brings me wine, just because.

JO RE-ENTERS.

JO

Well, the kids somehow broke the TV,
and they're getting ready for bed.

BILL

You know what? We were positive today,
and it worked. How about we open the
wine and celebrate?

BILL BEGINS TO OPEN THE WINE AND POUR.

SANDY

Celebrate what?

JO CHECKS THE BOWL SHE PUT OUT THIS MORNING.

JO

Well, the leak is fine.

BILL

And our conference went great. The
teacher loves Emily.

SANDY

She doesn't think her artwork is
profoundly disturbed?

BILL

No. And in spite of what you seem to
think, she said we're, "Great
parents."

BILL HANDS THEM EACH A GLASS. JO TOASTS.

JO

For the first time since we had the baby, everything seems under control. You know what? This second, I think I'm finally as happy as I was right before we got married and had kids.

BILL

We're back on the "Island of Tranquility." I bet this is how Gary feels every second.

JO

Remember? I had a cool loft. You had a motorcycle... and hair.

BILL AND JO EMBRACE.

BILL

Maybe I should get a motorcycle.

JO

Maybe you should get some hair.

BILL

(coy to Jo)

Maybe tonight we...

JO

I think we do. And you know what will make it extra spicy?

BILL

What?

JO

The commitment.

SANDY

Disgusting.

EMILY (O.S.)

Mom!

BILL

Not now, sweetie! Mommy and Dad are on
the island of tranquility.

JO

How about a third kid?

BILL

Let's see how buzzed we get.

EMILY

Mom! Mom! Look!

SHE TURNS AROUND, WE ANGLE ON BILL AND JO, WHOSE JAWS DROP.

BILL

Oh my God!

SANDY

Why is that outside her body?!

JO

We need to go to the ER! Now!

SANDY

My poor doll! This is why I told you,
"Either be a doctor or marry a
doctor!" Oh, I hate being right!

BILL

Mom, we need you to watch the baby!

CLOSE ON: SANDY'S EMPTY WINE GLASS.

SANDY

I was very thirsty.

BILL AND JO GRAB EMILY AND LULU AND RUN OUT. AFTER A BEAT,
SANDY POURS THE OTHER GLASSES OF WINE INTO HER GLASS AND
OPENS HER IPAD.

SANDY

Waste is a sin.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER
(DR. ROMAN, JO, BILL, BILL/JO)

CLOSE ON: THE FACE OF DR. ROMAN, MID 40S, SERIOUS.

DR. ROMAN

It's a prolapsed rectum.

REVEAL: BILL PACES WITH CONCERN. JO SITS, COMPOSED.

JO

Well, bye-bye positivity, hello
reality.

BILL

Oh my God! Oh my God! Is she going to
be okay?

DR. ROMAN

She should be.

JO

So what exactly happened?

DR. ROMAN

Well, a prolapsed rectum is - for lack
of a more graceful description - when
your entire, um, butt falls out of
your body.

BILL

Is this because my wife ate oysters
before she knew she was pregnant?

DR. ROMAN

That's not how anything works.

BILL

Is Emily going to need emergency surgery? Why can't it be me, not her? Does she need a new rectum? Is there a list? If so, how do we get her to the top of the rectum list? I will bribe you.

JO

I'm sorry, you have to forgive my husband, he-- what excuse would be acceptable here?

DR. ROMAN

There really isn't one.

BILL

So anyone's butt can fall out at any moment?

DR. ROMAN

Yes.

BILL

That is such a design flaw! What kind of life is this?!

JO

Bill! Callate!
(then calm, to Doctor)

Will Emily be okay? Are we looking at surgery?

DR. ROMAN

No, it's pretty common in children her age. If she relaxes for the next hour or two, everything should naturally go back into her body, and after that it's a matter of simply making sure she's getting enough fiber.

BILL

So it won't happen again?

DR. ROMAN

Oh no, it could easily happen again, and you'll never know when or where, but also, maybe it won't.

BILL

So on top of everything else that's going on, we're basically living with a butt time-bomb? We'll never be on Tranquility Island again!

DR. ROMAN

Where's that?

JO

It's in Maine.

DR. ROMAN

I love Maine. For your daughter's file, can you tell me what happened?

JO

We don't know exactly, we were in the other room. She screamed for us--

DR. ROMAN
(skeptical)

Uh huh...

BILL

But you know how it is with kids, they scream all the time and it's usually nothing.

DR. ROMAN
(looks up from file)

So you typically ignore her screaming?

JO

No, I mean, we're not "helicopter parents."

BILL

But at the same time, we're not "free range parents."

JO

We have no style. We're kind of "nothing parents."

BILL

We're always just there, yet at the same time... not.

JO

We were there, just in the other room.

DR. ROMAN NOW LOOKS MORE CONCERNED.

DR. ROMAN

Doing what?

JO

Cleaning up dinner. Having a glass of wine.

DR. ROMAN

Wine, hm. Do you drink every night?

BILL/JO

No. / Very rarely.

BILL

That's probably why it went right to our heads and we were flying.

JO SHOOTS HIM A "WHAT WAS THAT?!" LOOK.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

(JANE, JO, BILL, JO/BILL, DR. ROMAN, EMILY, KIMMY)

JO AND BILL SIT TOGETHER. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DESK IS A 23 YEAR-OLD WOMAN WHO CLEARLY ONLY WEARS GLASSES TO APPEAR MORE BUSINESS-LIKE.

JANE

Hi, my name is Jane Cosgrove, I'm a social worker--

JO

Whoa, whoa, whoa. Social worker?

BILL

Are we in trouble? Do I need to get my attorney?

(Sotto, to Jo)

(MORE)

BILL (CONT'D)

Do I need to google attorneys and pick one really fast?

JANE

No. I just have to ask you a few questions and make sure there are no parenting issues.

JO

Okay...

JO TAKES BILL'S HAND.

BILL
(to Jo, re: hand)

I'm gonna let this one slide.

JANE OPENS A MANILA FOLDER.

JANE

Looking at your kids' files, it seems like they wind up in the ER a lot. This is your third visit already this year.

JO

Well, what can we say. We're just big fans of this hospital.

BILL

We're the entire reason there's a health insurance crisis in this country.

JO

Until our kids came along, the whole nation was fine.

BILL AND JO LOOK WORRIED THEIR CHARMING BANTER DIDN'T WORK.

JANE

Can you explain the reason for all these visits?

JO

Well, sometimes it's impossible to keep your kids from hurting themselves, even if you're ten feet away. The first visit, Emily broke her arm roller skating in the driveway.

BILL

She's probably not going to be an Olympian.

JO

The next visit, she got a staph infection, we think from the mats in gymnastics.

BILL

I guess a kid pooped in the mats and instead of throwing them out, they re-used them. A mom organized a Facebook group about it and there are still, like, fifty posts a day.

JO

The third visit, both kids were
firehose puking, and I saw a news
report on Ebola. Turns out I just
undercooked some fish nuggets.

BILL

Pobody's nerfect.
(beat, then)

No? Okay.

JANE WRITES IN THE FILE.

JO

Growing up, one of my brothers
skateboarded off the roof. You should
bust my dad.
(beat)

He's fine now. The brother.

BILL

So... we're good, right?

JANE

Yes. I mean, it's clear nothing
criminal took place, maybe just a
little bit of... negligent parenting.

JO

Excuse me?

BILL LOOKS AT JO AND SEES THAT TROUBLE'S A'BREWIN'.

BILL

Uh oh.

JO

How old are you, Jane?

JANE

Twenty three.

JO

And do you have children, Jane?

JANE

No.

JO

Do you have pets, Jane?

JANE

No.

BILL

Not good when she starts using your
name a lot.

JO/BILL

Not now, Bill. / Okay.

JO

So you have no one or nothing you take
care of besides yourself?

JANE

No and I'm sorry, no offense, this
isn't about me. It's about you.

JO

No, this is about you, because you
have no idea what life is.

JANE

Excuse me?

JO

Ten years ago, I was you. No responsibilities, and life was easy. And now, everything is hard. I work full-time and have two children who need meals, clothes, and educations. There are forty fingernails and toenails I have to cut before I do my own!

JANE

I don't see how--

JO

You have no idea what it means to to have children depend on you. The pressure, knowing you can't possibly do everything right but you have to do it all anyway. Every single day, while your mother-in-law questions every single thing you do.

BILL

(sotto)

Kind of a cheap shot.

JO

And then you make sure your kid is fed
and safe and you send this beautiful
child out into the world, and no one
at school will be friends with her and
then her organs go flying out of her
body! So God forbid if you take a
second to enjoy yourself, have a sip
of wine, and something bad happens!
Well, let me tell you - that's not
negligence, it's called, "Life." So,
if our daughter's butthole is back in
her body, we'd like to go home now,

JANE!

BILL

Yeah!

JO GETS UP AND HI-FIVES BILL. SHE WALKS OVER TO A STROLLER
WITH A BLANKET OVER IT (LULU) AND QUIETLY STORMS OUT. JANE
SITS SHOCKED, AS BILL LINGERS.

BILL

This is the first time I've been able
to sit down all day.

JO (O.S.)

Bill!

BILL LEAPS OUT OF THE CHAIR.

BILL

I'm up!
(quick, to Jane)

(MORE)

BILL (CONT'D)

I'm so tired I forgot - our other
kid's still in the hospital!

BILL DASHES OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEINT. HOSPITAL ROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

BILL AND JO ENTER, HOLDING A SMALL STUFFED PENGUIN THEY BOUGHT AT THE GIFT SHOP. EMILY AND ANOTHER SIX YEAR-OLD WITH A SHAVED HEAD, KIMMY, LIE ON TWIN BEDS WATCHING "BOSS BABY." LULU IS STILL ASLEEP IN HER STROLLER. DR. ROMAN WRITES ON EMILY'S CHART.

BILL

How we doing?

DR. ROMAN

Nature has run its course. She's all good to go.

JO

Thank you, doctor.

DR. ROMAN

I heard you yelled at Jane.

JO

Yeah. Sorry, I snapped.

DR. ROMAN

I'm a parent, I understand. Sometimes you just need to yell at a stranger. Besides, she made a big error in the softball game last weekend, so good.

HE EXITS. BILL AND JO APPROACH EMILY.

JO

(re: penguin)

Look what we got you!

EMILY TAKES THE STUFFED ANIMAL AND HUGS IT.

EMILY

His name is Samuel. He's lives in
Antarctica and his main predator is
seals. I love him.

BILL

You ready to go, kiddo?

EMILY

Already?

BILL

Yep. We only get to be here six hours
this time, sorry.

EMILY TURNS TO KIMMY, SURPRISING BILL AND JO.

EMILY

It was fun watching a movie with you,
Kimmy.

KIMMY

Thanks for letting me eat your Jello.

EMILY

No problem. I don't like blue.

KIMMY

Maybe you can come back here and play
with me sometime?

EMILY

That'd be fun. Bye.

KIMMY

Bye.

BILL AND JO LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND TRY TO HIDE THEIR RELIEF THAT SHE'S MADE A FRIEND. THEY START TO WALK OUT. AS THEY REACH THE DOOR, EMILY STOPS.

EMILY

I get to go home, but Kimmy has to stay here and I don't want her to be alone.

EMILY RUNS BACK AND GIVES KIMMY THE PENGUIN.

EMILY

Sammy will take care of you.

BILL AND JO AGAIN LOOK AT EACH OTHER, AND WE CAN TELL WHAT A BITTERSWEET MOMENT IT IS FOR THEM. BILL STARTS TO TEAR UP.

BILL

(covering)

Stupid "Boss Baby."

EMILY RUNS BACK OVER TO THEM.

JO

We talked to your teacher today and we're going to a special program where you get to learn about mummies.

EMILY

I don't care about that anymore. I like zombies now.

SHE DOES AN EVIL CACKLE, AND BILL AND JO GLANCE AT EACH OTHER, NEWLY CONCERNED.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - A FEW MINUTES LATER
(JO, BILL, GARY, MATT)

BILL, JO, EMILY, AND LULU STAND AT THE COUNTER. BILL AND JO SIGN DISCHARGE DOCUMENTS, HAND IN THE FORMS TO THE ATTENDANT, AND TAKE THEIR COPIES.

JO

Thank you. Nine hundred dollars seems reasonable.

BILL

Our insurance will cover that right?

JO

I guess. It should, except the deductible.

BILL

Right.

(beat, then)

This is probably a bad time to admit this, but I actually have no idea what a deductible is. I've been faking it for years.

JO

I kinda get what it is, but don't really know how to explain it.

SHE SHRUGS AND THEY WALK OUT. AS SOON AS THEY GET TO THE DOORS, GARY BURSTS IN. OF COURSE, HE'S IMPECCABLY DRESSED.

GARY

Oh my God, I got here as soon as I could.

BILL

Gary, I texted you four hours ago. You texted back, "Be there in five."

GARY

Right. I meant hours. I rushed, so I'm early.

JO

Well, none of my brothers showed tonight.

BILL

Nope. Zero-for-nine. But at least no one stared angrily at me while combing their mustache.

JO

So we appreciate you coming.

BILL

Even when it's way too late to help.

GARY

Of course. It's no problem. I was actually going out anyway. You guys want to go out?

BILL

Uh, no Gary, we can't go out, because we kinda have the kids.

GARY

Right, yeah, that is such a bummer.
Well, we all have to live with our choices!
(to Emily)

Hi, angel!
(then)

(MORE)

GARY (CONT'D)

I should go, my car's blocking an ambulance.

GARY STARTS TO LEAVE.

BILL

Hey, Gary? Can I ask you a serious question?

GARY

Uch, fine.

BILL

You have this great, glamorous life, you're rich--

GARY

You'd hate being rich. There's no much paperwork. I had to buy a second file cabinet.

BILL

You do everything you want, but do you ever feel like you're missing out by not settling down? Does it ever just feel, like, empty?

GARY

Oh, God no.

JO

Yeah that's-- that's what we feared.

A BEAT, THEN: JO SEES A MAN WITH A MUSTACHE.

JO

One of my brothers did show! Aw, hi
Matt!

MATT

I'm only here because my foot's
infected. It was on the text chain.
You unsubscribed.

BILL

Hey Matt.

MATT

(disgusted)

Bill.

MATT TAKES A SMALL COMB OUT OF HIS BACK POCKET AND ANGRILY
STARES AT BILL WHILE VIOLENTLY COMBING HIS MUSTACHE.

INT. CAR - LATER

(BILL, JO, BILL/JO)

BILL DRIVES, WITH JO IN THE PASSENGER SEAT. THE KIDS ARE
ASLEEP IN BACK. THE MOOD IS QUIET AND REFLECTIVE.

BILL

Gary gets to live on tranquility
island.

JO

I know, but after the hospital, it's
not hard to be grateful. Just seeing
that little girl--

BILL

I know. We're really blessed.

JO

Yeah.

BILL

You're my rock.

JO
(teasing)

I wish I had a rock.

BILL

It's really nice.
(tearing up slightly)

Sorry, I'm a bit overwhelmed.

JO

Well, remember my wedding vow, "When
you laugh, I'll laugh with you, and
when you cry--"

BILL/JO

"I'll laugh at you."

JO

Well, we got through today and you
even helped a little. And now we
finally get to go home.

BILL TAKES HER HAND.

JO

Aww. Hand hold.

JO KISSES BILL'S HAND, AND THE CAR SWERVES A BIT. SUDDENLY,
THERE'S A POLICE SIREN IN THE BACK WINDOW.

BILL

Really? I'm done. I'm done. I'm just
done.

INT./EXT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

A COP SHINES A FLASHLIGHT IN THE DRIVER'S SIDE WINDOW.

COP

Sir, step out of the car.

EXT. ROADSIDE - MOMENTS LATER
(BILL, COP, EMILY, JO, LULU)

BILL TENTATIVELY WALKS HEEL-TO-TOE IN A STRAIGHT LINE AS THE FAMILY WATCHES NERVOUSLY. HE PAUSES.

BILL

I'm sorry. I've had just a nightmare
day. Do we-- Do we really need to do
this right now?

COP

No, just call the station and we'll
schedule it whenever it works for you.

BILL

Really?

COP

No. It's now or jail.

BILL LOOKS TOWARD THE FAMILY CAR, COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED.

EMILY

C'mon, dad!

JO

Do it for... Deepak Chopra! And us!

AS BILL TAKES A DEEP BREATH, KATIE PERRY'S "SWISH SWISH"
KICKS IN. BEGIN MONTAGE OF BILL TAKING A FIELD SOBRIETY TEST:

-BILL GETS TO THE END OF THE LINE, THEN SMILES, RELIEVED, AND
PLAYFULLY MOONWALKS BACKWARD.

-BILL STANDS ON ONE LEG, HOLDS HIS HEEL, THEN JUMPS THROUGH
HIS LEG! HE THEN GRABS THE BACK OF HIS LEG, HE DEFINITELY
PULLED SOMETHING. JO GRIMACES.

-BILL ALTERNATES PUTTING HIS INDEX FINGERS TO HIS NOSE AS THE
SIREN ACTS AS A STROBE LIGHT. THE FAMILY DANCES IN THE CAR.

-BILL RECITES THE ALPHABET BACKWARDS.

BILL

M, l, k, j, i-- i-- i--

JO LOOKS ON, NERVOUSLY. THE COP SMILES, MAYBE HE'S GOT BILL.
BILL GULPS. THEN, OUT OF NOWHERE:

LULU

H!

BILL LOOKS TO LULU, SURPRISED AND FILLS WITH PRIDE.

BILL

H! G, f, e, d, c, b, a! Yes!

BILL RAISES HIS ARMS TRIUMPHANTLY AS THE FAMILY CHEERS.

EMILY

He practices the test at home.

BILL

And this is why you should always
practice, whether it's DUI tests, or
the violin.
(then, to cop)

When you're a parent, it's always a
teaching moment.

COP

Fine, you're sober.

JO

Have a good night, officer.

COP

Turn that music off!

JO PUSHES THE DIAL AND THE MUSIC INSTANTLY CUTS OUT.

JO

BILL

How did the baby know that?? I don't know!!

EXT. PORCH - LATER

(BILL, JO, SANDY)

BILL HOLDS A SLEEPING EMILY WHILE JO CRADLES A SLEEPING LULU.
BILL FISHES IN HIS POCKET FOR HIS KEYS.

BILL

Well, the Island of Tranquility. We
almost had it there for a second.

JO

You know what? Screw the Island of
Tranquility.

BILL

Aw, why?

JO

Because it's a tiny island. It's
always the same, sunny and perfect,
day after day, and that gets boring.
We get to see the whole world.

BILL

Yeah, look at everything that happened
just today. That was so much life.

JO

We don't both have to be positive all
the time. Because that's... insane.

BILL

And, scientifically, even if we're
both negative, two negatives make a
positive.

JO

Can you not be a nerd for one second
and just kiss me?

THEY KISS, SMOOSHING THE SLEEPING KIDS IN BETWEEN THEM.

JO

We can get through anything, together.

BILL OPENS THE DOOR AND WE SEE A GIANT PILE OF RUBBLE IN THE
CENTER OF THE HOUSE. THE CEILING HAS COLLAPSED.

JO

Guess I was wrong about the leak.

SANDY PEEKS OUT OF HER ROOM, IN HER NIGHTGOWN.

SANDY

I didn't touch anything, I swear.

BILL AND JO STEP OVER THE RUBBLE AND HEAD TO BED.

BILL

JO

Well, goodnight.

Night!

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. BILL AND JO'S BEDROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER
(BILL, JO)

BILL AND JO BLISSFULLY FLOP ONTO THEIR BED, WEARING PAJAMAS.

BILL

I'm actually kind of bummed that cop
didn't send me to jail.

JO

Why?

BILL

In jail, there's no kids, plus you get
to read and they cook for you and do
your laundry.

JO

Jail sounds like paradise.

BILL

We get thrown in jail together
sometime. It'd be a free vacation.

JO

Mmmmm, I'd like that. Goodnight.

THEY SPOON AND JO CLICKS OFF THE LIGHT. AFTER THREE SECONDS,
THE ALARM RINGS. IT'S 6 A.M.!

JO

Dammit!

END OF SHOW

*