

Our Home Your Home

"Pilot"

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COLD OPEN

EXT. GATED COMMUNITY - DAY

A car with a "State of California" emblem on the door pulls up to the gated entrance leading to upscale homes.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

The driver is CASEWORKER (50), socially-awkward with glasses. The passenger is TROY (16), socially-stylish with headphones.

Troy whips off the headphones.

TROY

Yo, these houses bigger than my whole hood. That a garage or a condo?

CASEWORKER

According to my paperwork this is the neighborhood of your new group home.

TROY

Look, two bedrooms, ten bedrooms, granite countertops. Don't matter. I don't need to be in no group home. I can take care of myself.

CASEWORKER

Well The California Department of Social Services disagrees. And so do I.

(then)

And granite's out. Go with quartz.

(off Troy's look)

Non-porous. Requires no sealing.

EXT. UPSCALE NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

The car drives into a cul-de-sac and pulls into a driveway.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

CASEWORKER

This can't be right. Can this be right?

TROY

I don't know, homie check your damn clipboard.

And Caseworker rechecks the paperwork on his clipboard.

CASEWORKER

You mean to tell me these people plan to run a group home for inner city kids in this house? In this community?

Troy considers, then:

TROY

Inner city kids? Why not. Dysfunctional kids? Well that's this whole damn neighborhood. You right, homie lets bounce.

CASEWORKER

Wait.

(then)

Could this be a scam?

(off Troy's look)

Yea... See, some people start group homes so they can over-bill the state, collect a nice fat monthly payment.

TROY

Man that's dirty.

(then)

Cash or check?

CASEWORKER

Troy, I'm your caseworker. My job is to ensure your wellbeing.

TROY

Cool. I take gift cards.

CASEWORKER

Look, you see anything strange here, anything out of place? Pick up the phone and call me. Okay? CALL ME!

AFTER A BEAT

MARISSA (O.S.)

WELL HELLO!

FRONT DOOR

And there waves a stunningly beautiful blonde girl with a euphoric smile. MARISSA CRYSTAL, (26).

And then the front door opens wider to the even stranger euphoric smiles of: TED CRYSTAL, (49), handsome. AMY CRYSTAL (45), bubbly. LEVI CRYSTAL (20), bald. And finally JOSH CRYSTAL (15), tall.

TED/AMY/LEVI
WELL HELLO!

JOSH
HOWAREYOUUU!

A CELL PHONE RINGS. Caseworker sees it's his phone. REVEAL
Troy with his own phone to his ear making the call.

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONEINT. CRYSTAL HOME - DAY

Open floor plan. Simple, cool, smart and efficient.

Amy holds the front door as Troy lugs in two heavy suitcases. Josh, arms crossed, stares like a curious spectator.

Josh is interracial with special needs, but you can't tell by looking at him. He's tall, good looking, high functioning--

--and without warning he snatches the headphones from Troy's unsuspecting head.

TROY
Yo, Lil'Homie!

JOSH
YOUNOTHAPPY?

Amy hands Troy the headphones.

AMY
Sorry. He does that.
(then)
Josh, apologize.

JOSH
(to Troy)
YOUCANGOHOME.

Troy clueless, looks to Amy.

AMY
(to Troy)
He's sorry.

Ted, Levi, and Marissa walk in carrying nothing.

AMY (CONT'D)
Whoa I see like six extra hands yet attached to them are six gimpy arms. What example are we setting here, guys?

MARISSA
Says the lady who uses words like "gimpy arms"?
(then)
Try "physically impaired arms", mom.

AMY

I'll remember that when I break yours.
How's that for politically incorrect?

MARISSA

Well, you break my arms, I can't move
out of the house. You'd be stuck with
me, mom.

Amy's face scrunches, trying to hold back tears.

AMY

And that would be just dandy.

TED

Honeybun please. No tears. Your makeup
will run. Then I'd be the one crying.
Besides, one bird leaves the nest,
another one flies right in. Right,
Troy?

Troy drops the heavy suitcases with a "thud".

JOSH

YOUNOTHAPPY?

INT. CRYSTAL HOME - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Caseworker, CLIPBOARD in hand, surveying the premises like a
skeptical inspector. He moves off as the family makes their
way into the living room -- Troy dragging in suitcases.

TED

(to Amy)

We offered to help but he doesn't
trust anyone not from his "hood".

(to Troy)

What's the name of your neighborhood
again? "Blueberry Avenue"?

TROY

(insulted)

"Blueberry"? I look like a poptart to
you?

MARISSA

OMG. The strawberry ones?
Daaangerous.

(then)

We even eat 'em cold. Right Josh?

Josh shakes his head "no". Troy thrown off guard.

TROY

Uh... yea... as I was sayin'.
(gang signs)
I'm straight up notorious gangsta T-
Roc from nightmare on Grape Street
Jordan Down Watts West Siiide the
original one-oh-three killa playahata
crip gang Hump Daaaay!

AMY

Well isn't that a mouth full.

TED

And a good memory too.

TROY

Y'feel me?

MARISSA

Wait. That last part?
(silly you)
Did you make that up?

TROY

Oh. You caught that, huh?

MARISSA

It's really dated.

TROY

Then how 'bout this.
(then)
...the original one-oh-three killa
playahata crip gang
(McDonald's theme song)
"Bah da buh buh bah"--

MARISSA

Uh, yea, no. Besides, I think Justin
Timberlake owns that.

TROY

On the real?

Marissa and Ted nod a definite "yes". Amy nods "yes/no/yes".

LEVI

Mother? Father? Please let us end the
pop culture and fast food references
and begin our introductions?

TED

You're absolutely correct, son.

(then)

Troy? WE'RE THE CRYSTALS.

Ted, Amy, and Marissa with creepy smiles and welcoming arms.

JOSH

(to Troy)

YOUCANGOHOME.

BEAT.

LEVI

(to Troy)

I'll show you your room.

INT. CRYSTAL HOUSE - HALLWAY/TROY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Levi leads Troy to his new room. Troy carrying the heavy suitcases.

LEVI

I convinced Mother and Father to...
put aside their own preconceived
notions of who or what they think you
are and allow you to speak for
yourself...

Levi stops at the room.

LEVI (CONT'D)

...by starting with a blank slate:

REVEAL the room is completely EMPTY with bare white walls.

Troy drops the suitcases -- like bookends -- BEAT.

TROY

I sleep, I wake up. Guess I'm human.
And humans got beds. Lets start there.

LEVI

Well not all people sleep in beds my
friend. Clay or bamboo is the choice
of some cultures. Like the rural
Chinese, or the American Phish Heads.
(then)

The Punjabi culture of Pakistan? They
get a good night's sleep on the
"Manjaa".

(then)

Made of tied ropes and hide of
Himalayan Goral.

TROY

Yea well in the South Central culture?
We sleep on MATT-TRESSES y'feel me?

(then)

Might put 'em on the floor to escape
catchin' a slug, but, we on
Mattresses!

(then)

Wait. What the hell you sleep on?

LEVI

A Sealy Posturepedic.

(off Troy's look)

What? My chiropractor's suggestion.

INT. CRYSTAL HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Caseworker with clipboard inspecting inside the cabinets. He pulls out a canned good, inspects label, not satisfied...

He pulls out clipboard -- "CHECKS THE BOX".

KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

...a pot on the stove, he lifts the lid, sniffs -- makes a sour face, slams lid back down --

...pulls out clipboard -- "CHECKS THE BOX".

INT. CRYSTAL HOUSE - TROY'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Troy drops both suitcases in the middle of the room.

TROY

Tell yo moms and pops save they money.
I don't plan on stayin' here.

LEVI

Look, Troy. I understand. You miss your hood, you miss your friends. Now some would say leave all that behind and look forward but, I feel humans need to confront their troubled pasts, in order to... embrace their brighter futures.

TROY

Okay Dr. Phil, then what WAS my room's future before you got involved?

LEVI

Well, Mother and Father would have labeled you as a "Gamer", setting up your room with Xbox Two and PS5.

TROY

Xbox Two and PS5? Yo, those ain't even out yet.

LEVI

Or labeled you as a "T.V. Junkie."
Installing internet accessible flat screens on every wall so you could...
"binge."

TROY

Every wall?

LEVI

Even the ceiling. But worst of all?
You would've been given an Apple Cinema 27" Wide screen.

(off Troy's WTF? look)

Labeling you a "MAC User".

(off Troy's WTF? look)

Exactly. What if you're a "PC User"?

Insulted, Troy takes in the emptiness of the room.

TROY

So show who I really am? Embrace my past?

LEVI

Precisely.

TROY

Then on that wall I want a shelf to hang my gats. My brass knuckles would look crazy cool hangin' on the wall over there. Oh and right here? I need a safe to secure da bud and stash my cash. Y'feel me?

Levi drops his head.

LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Levi leads Troy back down the stairs. Upon seeing them, Ted, Amy, and Marissa rise from the sofa in anticipation.

TED

Well?

MARISSA

Did you like your new room?

AMY

What did you decide? Did you like
Levi's advice?

Levi and Troy exchange looks, then Levi turns to everyone.

LEVI

Xbox and flat screens it is.

KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Ted walks in, headed for the fridge, sees Caseworker
inspecting under the sink.

TED

Whoa. I thought you just check the
house to be sure you don't find
anything that says serial killers or
weed heads.

Caseworker pulls out clipboard -- "CHECKS THE BOX".

CASEWORKER

Mr. Crystal. As Troy's caseworker, my
job is to ensure his wellbeing.

TED

I would hope so.

CASEWORKER

Good. 'Cause I'll need to inspect
everything. Electrical outlets? Must
be tamper-proof. Bathroom and kitchen
floors? Are they washable?

(Ted nods, puzzled)

Are there adequate handrails, ramps,
and do the stairs creek, Mr. Crystal?

TED

No, but our headboard makes a ton of
noise.

Caseworker pulls out clipboard -- "CHECKS THE BOX".

CASEWORKER

Are these premises free of rats,
roaches, and other pesky vermin--

TED

Do the neighbor's count?

CASEWORKER

You own guns or other weapons? Hmmm?

Ted is about to speak when:

CASEWORKER (CONT'D)
Revolver or semi-automatic?

TED
Look. I'm just here to make some
lemonade for our new guest.

Ted goes to open the fridge but Caseworker puts his hand in front of the door.

CASEWORKER
Tell me something, Mr. Crystal--

TED
There's no weed or severed heads in
that refrigerator I promise.
(on second thought)
Well, definitely no weed.
(on third thought)
Well, definitely no severed heads.

CASEWORKER
A group home? Way out here? In this
house, in this beautiful neighborhood?
What's your deal.

TED
Deal?
(then)
Well, how 'bout my wife and I worked
hard and were blessed to afford this
house, in this beautiful neighborhood.
Two grown children, raising a third.
We thought, why not extend the love?
(then)
Check that off on your clipboard.

Ted tugs the refrigerator door, Caseworker steps aside.

CASEWORKER
I've been doing this a long time, Mr.
Crystal. Seen it all.
(looks Ted in the eye
pointedly)
SEEN, IT, ALL.

TED
Would you like something to drink? A
beer perhaps?

CASEWORKER
BEER, Mr. Crystal?

TED

Something stronger? How 'bout some
klonopin.

Caseworker pulls out clipboard -- "CHECKS THE BOX".

LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

All sit on the super plush sectional sofa. Troy emotes a story. Josh, arms crossed, listens with a big smile. Amy leaning in completely engrossed. Levi has his arm around Amy comforting her.

TROY

...and Nino puts the barrel in his
face and is all like "are you my
brother's keeper!" And Gee Money is
all like "come on, Nino. Don't shoot."
And then BLAM!

AMY

Oh my god.

TROY

(nonchalant)
Off the roof he go.

AMY

Why that's just awful.

TROY

Story of my life.

Amy's eyes well up, she stands and starts for the bathroom
all shaken. She stops, turns to Troy with a motherly smile.

AMY

You're home now.

And she darts off all choked up. Marissa rolls her eyes.

MARISSA

Story of your life? Really?

TROY

"Rock-A-Bye Baby".

MARISSA

Yea... so... were you like playing the
Chris Rock part or the Bill Nunn part?

TROY

Dang, really?

MARISSA

New Jack City's like, my fav. Well,
behind Boyz n the Hood, Baby Boy, and
Menace II Society of course.

(in her head)

Or is it Menace II, Boyz n the Hood,
then Baby Boy.

LEVI

My sister's... teenybopper years were
pretty much filled with urban blight,
civic disinvestment and racial
disparity.

(then)

All on VHS of course.

MARISSA

Still. I get the struggle.

LEVI

Maybe try Langston Hughes.

MARISSA

VHS or Blu-ray?

BEAT.

Levi purses his lips, turns to Troy.

TROY

(to Marissa)

You know, you almost alright.

(back to Levi)

And what the hell is "Length and
Huge"?

INT. CRYSTAL HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Ted carries a tray with a pitcher of lemonade and drinking
glasses. He crosses the bathroom, and as he does, he hears
whimpering. He backs up, pushes the door to see Amy leaning
over the sink.

TED

Hey honeybun? You alright in there?

Amy turns to us -- her makeup running, lines of black
eyeliner streak down her face. She looks ghoulish.

AMY

(in tears, hysterical)

I love him soooo mu uh uh uh uh uch!

And on this, Ted closes the door on her and turns around.

CASEWORKER

...standing there. Pulls out clipboard. "CHECKS THE BOX".

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. CRYSTAL HOME - LIVING ROOM (NEAR STAIRCASE)

Amy has gathered the entire family together including Troy and Caseworker, into a group like she's a tour guide.

AMY

Now everyone gather 'round.

No one moves.

AMY (CONT'D)

Closer.

No one moves.

AMY (CONT'D)

Okay good. The first part of the guided tour will take place on the lower levels where we'll get a brief history of the home's construction-- before and after the war-- and then we'll move on to...

...as Amy rambles on...

MARISSA

(sotto, to Ted)

Why is she doing this?

TED

Shhhh! It gives her purpose.

MARISSA

What? I thought her family gives her purpose?

TED

Hmmm, yea... maybe around her birthday.

(then)

Look, she's doing it for Troy. She wants him to feel comfortable.

Marissa considers, then:

MARISSA

How come I never got a tour? Why can't I feel comfortable?

TED

Shhhh! Does it matter now? You're moving out!

MARISSA

Thank god.

AMY

AMY

Uh, excuse me? Rude people in the back?

Ted and Marissa shrink like caught school children.

AMY (CONT'D)

(resumes)

...and finally the guided tour will take us to the "mezzanine"--

(then)

--well "second floor", where we'll get a detailed history of the life and times of the Crystal family, then finally ending with the tour's complementary servings of milk and cookies.

TED

Wait. Did you say "Detailed History"?

AMY

You're going to love the video exhibition.

TROY

Tour? "video exhibition?" We ain't in no damn museum.

AMY

Betcha you'll change your mind after the video exhibition.

TROY

Okay then where the dinosaurs at?

AMY

You'll meet the grandparents during their Hanukkah visit.

INT. CRYSTAL HOUSE - LOWER LEVEL STAIRCASE - MOMENTS LATER

Amy leads the group down steep stairs -- single file. The only light is coming from the hallway above, putting them in silhouette. It looks kind of perilous.

AMY

Watch your step people.

TROY (O.S.)

I can't see!

CASEWORKER (O.S.)

Someone forgot to change a light bulb.

AMY (O.S.)

Ted? Can you assist please?

TED (O.S.)

I can't see!

INT. CRYSTAL HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Amy enters into the finished basement. Nice carpeting, LCD mounted on the wall, a bar...

Levi's paying attention. The rest of the group? Dragging their feet. Marissa rolls her eyes, Ted checks his watch. Josh? Arms crossed, amused by it all.

AMY

...and here is where the Crystals spend much of their Sunday. As a family. A time to relax in solace and leisure.

TED

(nudges Troy)

"Lets get ready for some footbaaaall!"

INT. CRYSTAL HOUSE - LAUNDRY ROOM

A small room. The group squeezed in. THE DRYER IS ON AND THE WASHING MACHINE IS SPINNING SO THE NOISE IS DEAFENING! Hands cup ears.

TED

(to Caseworker)

THIS IS WHERE WE DO THE LAUNDRY--

AMY

(to Caseworker)

NOOOO! THIS IS WHERE I...

(then)

I... DO THE DAMN LAUNDRY!

INT. CRYSTAL HOUSE - LOWER LEVEL STAIRCASE - MOMENTS LATER

The group labors back up those perilous stairs. Amy, arms crossed, huffs up the stairs still simmering.

TED

Who has Josh?

MARISSA
I'm scared daddy.

INT. CRYSTAL HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Amy aka "tour guide", leads as the group files through door.

AMY
(in a strange Southern Belle
accent)
...the lower level originally designed
to staff the domestics
(eyes directly on Ted)
until the landowner stepped in and
changed those plans.

TED
Uh... thanks for the tour, Scarlett. I
think we're done.

AMY
Done? What about the video
exhibition?

CASEWORKER
And the milk and cookies?

TED
Chocolate chip?

AMY
I made my coconut macaroons.

INT. CRYSTAL HOME - SECOND FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

AMY (O.S.)
...originally built in 1997, the house
and its accompanying walls...

Amy enters the hallway from the stairs followed only by
Caseworker and Troy.

AMY (CONT'D)
...have seen its fair share of damage
most likely caused by the Crystal
siblings' years of excessive sugar
consumption.

Amy at the "MEDIA ROOM" door. She gestures Troy and
Caseworker to proceed inside. They exchange nervous looks.

EXT. UPSCALE NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Josh walks out of the house and continues walking until he reaches the sidewalk. He makes a left and walks a few yards down until he reaches the lawn that borders the neighbor's lovely Mediterranean style house. Josh finds a shady spot and...

SITS

JOSH

...completely content. He doesn't need playmates, he doesn't need toys. At this moment, all he needs is his spot -- sitting on the lawn, in the shade. Bliss. Then:

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Hi Josh.

EXT. UPSCALE NEIGHBORHOOD - MOMENTS LATER

Josh SITS, waves...

MALE'S VOICE (O.S.)

Hi Josh.

EXT. UPSCALE NEIGHBORHOOD - MOMENTS LATER

Josh SITS, waves, smiles...

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Hi Josh.

KID'S (O.S.)

Hey Joshua.

REVEAL: THE UPSCALE NEIGHBORHOOD and Josh WAVING to anyone who strolls by. Kids, dog walkers, moms pushing strollers. This is a typical day for Josh -- his routine. Josh WAVES.

INT. "MEDIA ROOM" - CONTINUOUS

MALE NARRATOR VOICE (O.S.)

*...and pride of a true American family
and their exciting daily adventures...*

Amy in the dark, eating a coconut macaroon cookie, sipping a glass of milk, completely engrossed to what's being projected on the wall:

...grainy home movie footage of Ted and Amy in their young 20's, a cute little six year old Marissa and baby Levi, accompanied by that cheesy documentary music, with MALE NARRATOR, etc...

-- think those old propaganda films of the 50's.

MALE NARRATOR VOICE(CONT'D)
...dad has found a way to escape the
daily grind and join the family to
relax on the beach during a well
deserved and much needed vacation....

-- Ted in shorts waaaaay too tight, a cigarette dangling from
his mouth, beer in hand, pinching the butt of a sexy young
Amy while she holds baby Levi.

MALE NARRATOR VOICE(CONT'D)
...now mom, don't let the kids wake up
dad...

Quick cut showing Ted passed out in a lounge chair -- little
Marissa picking up lit cigarette -- Amy knocks it out of her
little hand and blocks the camera lens.

EXT. UPSCALE NEIGHBORHOOD - CONTINUOUS

JOSH - as we left him. Sitting comfortably in the shade. He
watches as the NEIGHBOR, wearing slippers and carrying a tall
coffee mug, makes his way down to the mailbox.

HERMAN RUSH (62), African American, Republican.

No mail, he slams the mailbox shut then notices Josh staring
at him. Herman familiar with this routine, approaches Josh.

*Absurdly, Herman believes Josh can't understand him unless he
raises his voice and changes his speech pattern.*

HERMAN
REMEMBER, WHAT WE, AGREED TO, JOSH?

Josh amused, arms crossed.

Herman waves his hand signaling Josh to move off his
property. Josh does by schooching an inch left.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
(points)
YOUR PROPERTY. MY PROPERTY. GOT IT?

Josh amused, arms crossed.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
Ehhh...

Herman starts off, then does a double take: Caseworker's
"State of California" car in the Crystal's driveway.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
VISITORS, JOSH?

Josh amused by him, stands up, walks away. Herman slighted, then with coffee mug in hand, marches back into his house.

INT. "MEDIA ROOM" - MOMENTS LATER

MALE NARRATOR VOICE
*Oh what do we have here? Looks like
Little Marissa has found herself in a
heap of trouble.*

*Grainy footage of little Marissa on the staircase in tears
because she caught her little head between the stair rails.*

MALE NARRATOR VOICE (CONT'D)
No fear little one. Daddy's here.

*Grainy footage of Ted doing the absolute wrong thing by
trying to free her by pulling her little legs.*

ON TROY AND CASEWORKER: MOUTH AGAPE -- HORRIFIED

Caseworker pulls out clipboard -- "CHECKS THE BOX". And then suddenly a hand reaches up behind Troy and YANKS off his headphones -- JOSH.

TROY
YO CHILL LIL'HOMIE!

JOSH
YOUNOTHAPPY?

TROY
DO I LOOK HAPPY???
(to Caseworker)
YO! CASEWORKER! LETS BOUNCE! FOR REAL!

And Troy darts from the "Media Room"...

INT. CRYSTAL HOME - SECOND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

...and he STORMS down the hallway towards his room passing Ted, Marissa, and Levi along the way. **SLAM!** Amy and Caseworker enter. Concerned looks.

MARISSA
See? We're not the only ones who hate
mom's coconut macaroons.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. CRYSTAL HOUSE - BACKYARD POOL - DAY

Caseworker skimming the algae filled pool. He pulls the pole out of the water showing a net filled with muddy leaves. Disgusted, he drops the pole back into the water

Caseworker pulls out clipboard -- "CHECKS THE BOX".

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ted, sipping tea, is looking out the window into the backyard. Amy is on the sofa thumbing through a magazine.

TED

You think that caseworker guy is good at his job?

AMY

I don't know. Why.

TED

Because he sucks at pool cleaning.

Amy responds with a mopey sigh. Ted goes to sit next to her.

TED (CONT'D)

Honeybun. It'll be okay.

AMY

Maybe we should go up there.

TED

Not at all. Levi's up there. He talks "youth" better than we can.

INT. CRYSTAL HOUSE - HALLWAY/TROY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

tap, tap, tap

Levi with his ear to the door.

LEVI

My friend? Please. Come join us.

(then)

Pretty please?

Levi musing over Troy's headphones.

LEVI (CONT'D)

Josh says he's sorry, Troy.

(then)

Well, in his way.

(MORE)

LEVI (CONT'D)

(smiles to himself, then)

If you haven't noticed, we're a unique family. Very unique. Maybe a little too unique. But, we are family.

(a beat, then)

And we hope you become family too.

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Marissa labors down the stairs carrying a large moving box with both hands.

TED

Sweetie. You'll pull a muscle and hurt yourself.

(then)

Have your mother help.

Amy slumps like she's going to cry again.

AMY

You're really going through with this?

MARISSA

Adulthood? Yea I thought I'd give it a try.

AMY

But it's all happening so fast. I thought you were moving in with Molly in like three weeks?

MARISSA

Don't feel bad. Molly's husband? He thought he had a whole lifetime.

(then)

She booted him out last night.

AMY

You're kidding me. They were planning a whole life together. A big house in the country. Lots of dogs and children. What happened?

Marissa clunks down the box with a devilish look.

MARISSA

I dunno. Change of plans?

Ted approaches Marissa skeptically.

TED

Marissa? Have you been meddling into your friend's marriages again?

MARISSA

No, not meddling.

(then)

Maybe a little instigating.

TED

Gees, Marissa.

(to Amy)

She's playing marriage counselor again.

AMY

"Counselor" as in "counsel" her friends to boot their husbands out the door.

TED

I don't get it. What is this with you not wanting to see any of your friends happy, enjoying their own lives?

MARISSA

I dunno.

(then)

I'm evil?

AMY

Now now. I wouldn't go that far.

(then)

Well maybe a little.

TED

Now that's no way to talk about our evil daughter.

MARISSA

No she's right. You both are. All my friends are living their wonderful lives. Marriage, kids. Me? Still living at home with mommy and daddy. The sheltered boomerang child.

Marissa plops down on the sofa.

MARISSA (CONT'D)

I need to do this. I need to finally be on my own. Be independent.

AMY

I get it, sweetie. It's just, you're our first born.

(then)

Well, our only born.

(then)

(MORE)

AMY (CONT'D)

Look, it's just really tough seeing you "all grew up". But, I understand. You need to spread your wings. Fly from the nest. Be independent.

And they hug for a long beat. Then:

MARISSA

Daddy did you put gas in my car?

TED

Filled it up.

MARISSA

Thank you daddy.

Then Ted notices the single large box.

TED

Where's the rest of your stuff?

MARISSA

Oh I'm just bringing the essentials until Molly's husband moves his belongings out.

TED

You mean his stuff is still there?

MARISSA

Well, yea. So is her husband.

TED

What? I thought you said she booted him out?

MARISSA

Not out of the house, silly. Out of their bedroom.

Ted throws up his hands and proceeds to pick up the box -- but Amy beats him to it. She lifts the box and starts off.

MARISSA (CONT'D)

Wait, mom where are you going with my things?

AMY

Back to your nest!

Amy starts to respond but Ted steps in her way.

TED
Don't fight it Miss Independent.
(then)
At least not today.

A beat, then:

MARISSA
Oh alriiiiight.

And she and Ted hug. Then:

TED
Can you do me a favor?
(off her look)
Can you help your brother.

MARISSA
Oh alriiiiight.

She starts off, then:

MARISSA (CONT'D)
Wait. Which one?

TED
The unique one.

INT. CRYSTAL HOUSE - HALLWAY/TROY'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

tap... tap... tap...

Levi as we left him, ear to the door. Marissa arrives.

MARISSA
Step aside Gandhi.

POUND! POUND! POUND!

MARISSA (CONT'D)
TROY GET YOUR BUTT OUT HERE!

LEVI
Subtle.

Marissa pauses to think a moment, then it comes to her. She steps to the door.

MARISSA
TROY?
(then)
AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?
(beat)
AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?
(MORE)

MARISSA (CONT'D)

(then)

MAN WE ALL WE GOT!

(then, softer)

We all we got.

After a beat, the door finally opens -- TROY.

LEVI

"Rock-A-Bye Baby".

TROY

(to Marissa)

You know you do a really bad Wesley Snipes impression.

Marissa rolls her eyes, smiles.

TROY (CONT'D)

(to Levi)

Thanks for those words, homie.

LEVI

Your welcome... "homie".

They shake. And then Levi extends the headphones.

LEVI (CONT'D)

And Josh says he's sorry.

(then)

In his way.

Troy regards the headphones.

TROY

And I'll say apology accepted...

Then Troy pulls out his ipod and shows it to them.

TROY (CONT'D)

...my way.

MARISSA

By sharing your playlist? How sweet.

TROY

Well Lil'Homie ain't heard it yet.

(off Levi and Marissa's look)

Maybe I'm a little unique too.

EXT. UPSCALE NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Josh sitting on the lawn -- wearing Troy's headphones.

Herman, in slippers, carrying his coffee mug, comes out of his house but remains on his walkway not wanting to trample on his pristine lawn.

HERMAN
NOW WHAT, ABOUT, OUR AGREEMENT?

Josh amused, arms crossed.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
NOW I KNOW, YOU HEAR, ME JOSH.
(then)
YOU, ARE SITTING, ON MY PROPERTY.
YOU, CAN'T SIT, ON MY PROPERTY.
UN DER STAND?

Josh STANDS up. And remains there amused -- arms crossed.

AMY (O.S.)
I GUESS, HE DOES, MR. RUSH.

Amy crosses in.

AMY (CONT'D)
(to Josh)
Lets go, buddy.

HERMAN
(to Amy)
I JUST, DON'T WANT, MY La--
(then)
I just don't want my lawn ruined.

AMY
Loud and clear, Mr. Rush.
(then)
Really, loud and clear actually.
(then)
Josh is your hearing okay after that conversation?

JOSH
YOUNOTHAPPY?

AMY
Oh I'm very happy, Josh.

JOSH
TODAAAAY?

AMY
(looks at Herman Rush
pointedly)
EVERYDAY.

Josh presses the PLAY button on Troy's ipod: (GUITAR)

...and Josh takes Amy's extended hand as she gently leads him away from Herman Rush and his pristine lawn...

PHILLIP PHILIPS

Hold on, to me as we go As we roll
down this unfamiliar road And although
this wave is stringing us along Just
know you're not alone...

...Cause I'm gonna make this place your home...

The music from Troy's ipod underscoring the tone of our show.

ON HERMAN RUSH: sips his "coffee", skeptically looking at:

CRYSTAL HOUSE DRIVEWAY - TROY AND CASEWORKER

...standing beside Caseworker's car. Ted, Amy, Marissa, Levi, and Josh look on. Caseworker extends a hand to Troy who goes to shake it but Caseworker pulls Troy in and HUGS him...

...Troy pulls away from the awkward hug. With a final wave, Caseworker gets into his car, backs out of the driveway, and drives off crossing:

HERMAN RUSH

...now even more skeptical as he watches the car leave but this new kid (Troy), remains.

He sips his coffee, grabs his newspaper but does a double take:

ANOTHER STATE CAR -- ANOTHER CASEWORKER...

...zips by Herman, and pulls into the Crystal's driveway.

DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Ted, Amy, Levi, Marissa, Josh, and Troy greet the OCCUPANTS inside the car. The door with the "State of California" emblem swings open...

ON HERMAN -- his eyes go WIDE. And we:

FADE OUT:

...Cause I'm gonna make this place your home...

END OF SHOW