

Children Not Admitted
by
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FADE IN:

INT. SUPERMARKET -- EVENING

SAUL GOODMAN (34) -- a normally confident sales executive who is a tad neurotic -- pushes a cart through the produce section.

He consults a shopping list. Several items -- "CARROTS, POTATOES, LAMB" -- appear on the list. One item -- "BLUEBERRY MUFFINS" -- is underscored several times and set off with an asterisk.

BAKERY -- LATER

Saul hovers over a single container of blueberry muffins.

Two hands -- Saul's and a small child's -- reach for the container at the same time. Saul's fingers reach it first.

CHECKOUT LINE - LATER

Saul places his items on the conveyor belt. A MOTHER (32) and YOUNG CHILD (6) stand in line ahead of him. The Young Child clutches the container of blueberry muffins to his chest.

EXT. PARKING LOT -- LATER

Saul loads his bags into his car. Across from him, the Mother loads her items into her SUV. The Young Child whispers into the Mother's ear. She smiles, nods, ruffles his hair.

Saul leans in to place the last shopping bag in the trunk. A small hand, holding a single blueberry muffin, appears under his nose.

Saul backs off instantly. He pulls out a handkerchief, places it on the ground, then takes ten paces backwards.

SAUL

Put the blueberry muffin on the handkerchief, then back away.

The Young Child places the muffin on the handkerchief, then runs back to his mom. She folds the Young Child into her arms, twiddles a finger at the side of her head, then bundles the Young Child into the SUV. She jumps in, guns the engine and screeches out the parking lot.

Saul watches them leave. The Young Child waves. Saul waves back. Then, with shaking hands, he enfolds the muffin in the handkerchief and picks it up. He takes a bite. His face registers sheer delight.

INT. JANET CARTER'S OFFICE

JANET CARTER (33) -- a business suit with a biological clock ticking like a time bomb -- sits alone at her desk. She flips through a photo album.

A progressive series of photographs of Janet show her:

-- Holding a small baby boy.

-- Holding the same baby now one year old.

-- Holding the same baby now a toddler.

-- Hugging the same child, now six, at a breakfast table. They toast each other with their cups. Janet's cup proclaims, "WORLD'S GREATEST AUNT."

Janet touches the photographs tenderly. She sighs, closes the album, tucks it into her briefcase.

INT. MICHELLE DAVIS' APARTMENT -- KITCHEN -- EVENING

MICHELLE DAVIS (32) -- an attractive professional and single mom -- stands at the stove. Her son, KEVIN (6), lays the table for dinner. Kevin, a tad more mature than his years, could not be cuter.

Michelle puts food out on the plates. They work as a well-practiced team.

INT. SAUL'S APARTMENT -- KITCHEN

A small but serviceable kitchen.

Saul arranges carrots on the work top. He picks up a large knife.

Janet wanders in. She looks serious.

JANET

You know what I was thinking...

SAUL

Just a moment.

Saul puts down the knife. He takes a dish towel from a hook on the work top. Janet attempts to speak.

Saul puts a finger to his lips. He winds the towel around his head like a Swami, then stretches his arms straight out like the Frankenstein monster.

He stands in front of Janet. Closes his eyes. Presses the tips of his fingers against her temple. Jiggles his arms as if he's receiving a message.

SAUL

You're thinking about peeling potatoes.

He gestures at the potatoes on the work top. Janet smiles, picks up the peeler and gets to work.

SAUL

If I'd known this towel had so much power I would have worn it long before now.

He removes the towel.

JANET

How's work?

SAUL

Let me smell your breath.

He sniffs Janet's breath.

SAUL

Can't smell booze so it must still
be the magic towel.

He begins chopping carrots.

JANET

I can't ask you how your day went?

SAUL

There's a first time for
everything.

Janet pauses her peeling.

SAUL

How's work with you?

JANET

Fine. Finer than fine.

SAUL

You got your prom --

JANET

Saul!

SAUL

Janet!

JANET

Be careful with that knife.

Saul looks down. The knife blade is millimeters from his fingertips. Janet takes the knife and replaces it with the peeler.

They swap places and tasks. They work in silence for a moment.

SAUL

You tell me your good news and I'll
tell you mine.

JANET

What makes you think I have good
news?

Saul points to the towel.

JANET

They asked me to run the
orientation for new hires.

SAUL

That's good.

JANET

Gooder than good. It's a promotion
and more money.

SAUL

Good job.

Saul leans over to peck Janet on the cheek. She turns to
face him at the same time. Their lips meet.

The kiss takes them by surprise. It's a little awkward at
first, then Janet responds and it becomes a real kiss.

JANET

Did you slip a carrot in your
pocket or are you just pleased to
see me?

She leads Saul into the

BEDROOM

where they fall onto the bed in a tangle of arms, legs,
shedding clothes and hungry kisses.

LATER

Saul lies on his back staring up at the ceiling. He beams. Janet snuggles into him.

JANET

What's your news?

SAUL

What do you think about Fresno?

JANET

I try not to.

SAUL

Our sales and marketing director quit.

JANET

Bummer. Who's replacing him?

INT. ZEVON CORPORATION

A sign outside an office reads: "RONALD BIGGS. SALES & MARKETING DIRECTOR."

Kevin perches on the edge of a desk across from the office. He reads a picture book. He glances up at Michelle. She winks. He winks back.

Michelle removes the sign from the office door. She replaces it with one that announces, "SAUL GOODMAN. SALES & MARKETING DIRECTOR."

Michelle steps back to admire the sign. Kevin gives her a thumbs-up. Michelle buffs the sign with her jacket sleeve. She melts. Kevin giggles.

Michelle glances at her watch. Is it really that late?

She scoops Kevin off the desk.

INT. SAUL'S APARTMENT -- BATHROOM

Saul and Janet relax in the tub. He soaps her back. She removes a yellow rubber duck. Drops it on the floor.

SAUL

I never thought they'd pick me.

Saul returns the rubber duck to the tub.

JANET

You're not always who you think you are.

Janet drops the rubber duck back on the floor.

SAUL

There's only one teeny problem...

JANET

I can't move to Fresno.

Saul attempts to pick up the rubber duck but Janet stays his hand.

SAUL

There going to put me up in a hotel during the week.

JANET

For how long?

SAUL

Depends.

Janet turns. Kisses Saul's ear.

JANET

I've got some other good news for you.

Saul's face says, What could be better than a raise and a promotion?

JANET

I'm changing cups.

SAUL

A thirty-eight D would be nice.

JANET

It says, "World's Greatest Aunt."

SAUL

You've been demoted.

JANET

I need a different cup. One that says... One that... We're going to have a baby.

Saul jumps out of the tub, shocked and afraid. He scoops up the rubber duck. Presses it to his chest.

SAUL

You're pregnant!?

He wraps a towel around himself. Uses it to dry off the rubber duck.

JANET

Not yet. But tonight felt like --

SAUL

I thought we'd discussed this?
It's too soon to have a baby.
We're not even married and --

JANET

I'm thirty-three years old, Saul.
My clock is ticking.

Saul places a hand to his ear.

SAUL

Sounds more like a time bomb to me.

JANET

Har-har-har.

BEDROOM

Janet sits on the edge of the bed in her bathrobe. Saul still wears the towel and clutches the rubber duck.

SAUL

Janet... Honey... Now's not a good time. You just got your promotion. I'll be living --

She brushes her hair.

JANET

It's a perfect time. We can finally get some money together.

SAUL

Let me think about it.

She slaps the hair brush on the bed.

JANET

No more thinking. Time for action.

SAUL

Action? We're not planning to invade Iran.

KITCHEN -- LATER

Saul now wears a matching bathrobe. He perches on a bar stool as Janet makes coffee.

JANET

You said you wanted to have kids.

SAUL

I do. But I can't.

Janet's eyes fill with sympathy. Then they harden.

JANET

This isn't that stupid latent genes thing again?

Saul shrugs.

JANET

For the thousandth time, Saul, you
are not going to blimp out like
your mother.

He shrugs.

JANET

Or get a bump on the --

SAUL

Blob.

JANET

-- or get a blob on the end of your
nose like your father.

Saul shrugs.

JANET

Your mother was, what, three
hundred pounds. You're one-thirty
soaking wet.

SAUL

There's still time.

Saul touches his nose. Strides toward the

BATHROOM

where he takes out a small plastic ruler from the medicine
cabinet. He stands before the mirror on a set of digital
bathroom scales and checks his weight. He's 129. He places
the ruler against his nose.

An ink line from a felt-tip pen marks off the ruler at two
and nine-sixteenths inches. Saul re-measures his nose.

SAUL

Janet!

Janet rushes into the bathroom. Saul holds the ruler up to the light.

SAUL
It's starting!

Janet rolls her eyes.

SAUL
Check it out.

Janet grabs Saul's hand. Inspects the ruler.

JANET
Same as before. And before that.

SAUL
My nose feels funny.

JANET
I can't talk to you when you're
being stupid like this.

She stomps out of the bathroom. Saul trails behind her into the

KITCHEN

Janet gulps her coffee.

SAUL
They've done tests about this --

JANET
They should test you. Starting
with your brain.

INT. MICHELE DAVIS' APARTMENT -- EVENING

FRANKIE SCORATINO (35) -- thinks he's the Italian Stallion --
sits on the couch next to Michelle.

They sip coffee. Frankie edges a tad closer. Michelle
scuttles a scone further away.

DEBBY (O.S.)
Michelle, honey. I'd like to speak
with you a moment.

Frankie raises an eyebrow.

DEBBY (O.S.)
I'm in the kitchen, honey.

MICHELLE
I know perfectly well where you
are... Mother.

DEBBY (O.S.)
Then get in here.

Michelle drags herself to her feet.

MICHELLE
(to Frankie)
This won't take but a moment.
(to Kitchen)
Then we can go.

KITCHEN

DEBBY DAVIS (55) -- mother, grandmother, guardian of virtue --
busies herself pulling freshly-baked cookies from the oven.
She sets them out on a plate as they talk.

Michelle salutes.

MICHELLE
Number One Daughter reporting for
duty as ordered.

DEBBY
Oy, the pisk on her? When did you
get such a big mouth?

MICHELLE
Mother?? I hope those cookies are
just for you.

DEBBY

I may share them with my favorite grandson that I'm baby-sitting while his mother paints the town red.

MICHELLE

I'm not painting the town any color, Mother. We're just going to dinner.

DEBBY

This is your third date with whassisname?

MICHELLE

Frankie.

DEBBY

He has a last name?

MICHELLE

Scoratino.

DEBBY

Doesn't sound Jewish.

MICHELLE

That's because he's Italian.

Debby takes Michelle's arm.

DEBBY

Why don't you two stay home? I got cookies...

MICHELLE

We're going to dinner.

DEBBY

On your third date. You know what happens on the third date?

MICHELLE

We go to dinner.

DEBBY

He'll try to get into your pants is what happens. He'll expect to get laid.

MICHELLE

What if I say, no?

Debby snorts. Michelle pulls away. Debby pulls her back around.

DEBBY

I know. You're a "grown woman now with a six-year-old son."

MICHELLE

Exactly.

DEBBY

Just remember that when you're with Freddie Scallops out there.

MICHELLE

It's Frankie Scallops, I mean, Scorotino.

DEBBY

Whatever. I just know you can do better.

MICHELLE

They're not exactly beating down the door right now, Mother.

DEBBY

Be patient, Michelle. Mr. Right will come along.

MICHELLE

Sure. He's next in line after Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny.

INT. MURRAY ROTH'S HOUSE -- EVENING

Saul and Janet sit at the dinner table with MURRAY ROTH (35) -- tall, gaunt and good with numbers -- and his wife GERI ROTH (31) -- perky and petite.

Murray and Geri sneak glances at each other. They smile a secret smile.

Saul and Janet eat without acknowledging each other.

SAUL

... so enough about me, Murray,
let's talk about you. What do you
think of my promotion?

MURRAY

You know how old that joke is?
Older than you.

JANET

I got a big promotion too.

GERI

Congratulations.

MURRAY

To both of you.

GERI

Murray had some weirdo in his
office the other day, didn't you,
hon?

MURRAY

I thought he wanted me to prepare
his taxes, you know. You wanna
pass the potatoes there, Geri?

GERI

How long are your arms?

MURRAY

Okay, okay, okay.

Murray snags the potatoes.

MURRAY

So this guy pops his head around my door and says, "It was you. You knocked up my sister."

SAUL

Say what?

MURRAY

I know, I know, I know. So I'm like, "Sister? I don't know you. I sure don't know your sister. And," I say, "I'm a happily married man."

Geri bussess him a big one on the cheek.

GERI

He is. Very.

SAUL

What made him think it was you?

MURRAY

"Anyhow," I says, "if I'm going to knock anyone up it'll be my wife."

Geri beams.

GERI

And he did.

JANET

I'm sorry. What?

MURRAY

We're pregnant. Emerson is going to have a new baby brother.

GERI

Or sister.

MURRAY

Or sister.

Murray slips an arm around Geri's shoulders. Now they both beam.

JANET
Congratulations.

SAUL
Yeah. Mazel tov.

Janet glares at Saul. Saul glares at Murray. Murray looks at Geri as if to say, "What did I do?"

INT. MICHELE DAVIS' APARTMENT

Frankie looks at Michelle as if to say, "What did I do?"

Michelle perches at the edge of the couch. Frankie lolls back. Two empty coffee cups sit on the coffee table.

MICHELLE
It's getting late and I have to get up early in the morning.

FRANKIE
It's not even eight-thirty.

MICHELLE
I have things to do before I go to work.

FRANKIE
So have I.

He takes Michelle in his arms. Kisses her. She resists. He insists. She pushes him off.

MICHELLE
This is not appropriate.

FRANKIE
It's our third date.

During this: Frankie tries to get all over Michelle who keeps fighting him off.

MICHELLE

I can count.

FRANKIE

It's our third date.

MICHELLE

You said that already.

FRANKIE

On all third dates I've ever had
before...

MICHELLE

I'd like you to leave now.

FRANKIE

Methinks the lady doth protest too
much.

MICHELLE

Methinks the gentleman should take
a hike.

FRANKIE

You invited me in for coffee,
remember?

MICHELLE

You've drunk it. It's time to go.

Frankie manages to lock on to Michelle and secures her in an embrace.

KEVIN (O.S.)

Mommy?

KEVIN DAVIS (6) stands in the doorway, bleary-eyed, but still incredibly cute. Michelle and Frankie spring apart instantly. Michelle scoots over to Kevin.

KEVIN

Hello. I'm Kevin. Who are you?

FRANKIE

No one.

MICHELLE

Go on back to bed, honey. Mommy'll
be along in a minute to tuck you
in.

She swats him playfully on the rump. He wobbles back to his
room.

Frankie jumps up off of the couch. Glances at his watch.

FRANKIE

You're a fine looking lady and
everything...

MICHELLE

But?

FRANKIE

I'm not looking for a ready-made
family right now. I still got
years to burn.

MICHELLE

I have matches in the kitchen.
Maybe I can help?

Frankie edges toward the door.

FRANKIE

You never said you had a rug-rat
and --

MICHELLE

Good-bye, Frankie.

FRANKIE

Yeah.

Frankie slips out. Michelle leans her forehead on the door.
Then locks it.

KEVIN (O.S.)

Mommy?

MICHELLE

Coming, honey, coming.

DEBBY (O.S.)
Michelle?

MICHELLE
I'll be right there, Mom. Give me
a minute.

INT. SAUL'S APARTMENT -- BATHROOM -- LATER

Saul steps off the bathroom scales, then moves to the bathroom mirror. He cleans his teeth. Janet slips up behind him. She wears a T-shirt and nothing else. She slips a hand down the front of his boxers.

JANET
Let's not go to bed angry.

Saul tries to wriggle free.

SAUL
I have a headache.

Janet massages Saul's crotch.

SAUL
I'm not in the mood.

JANET
Tell that to Mr. Frisky.

She rubs herself against him.

SAUL
You took your pill?

JANET
What do you think?

Janet spins Saul around. He attempts to speak. She covers his mouth with hers.

BEDROOM

Janet pushes Saul back onto the bed. She falls on top of him.

BATHROOM -- LATER

Saul slips the ruler back into the medicine cabinet.

JANET (O.S.)
Come to bed, sugar.

BEDROOM

Janet lies in bed with her legs in the air. Saul wanders in from the bathroom.

SAUL
You can put your legs down now,
Janet. I finished five minutes
ago.

JANET
I'm helping the sperm speed their
way to the uterus.

SAUL
They don't have cab fare?

JANET
Har-har-har.

Saul slips into bed. Janet rocks back and forth.

SAUL
Wait a minute. If you took your
pill...

Janet rocks harder.

JANET
If Geri can get pregnant twice...

Saul grabs Janet's leg. Stops her rocking. She starts again.

JANET

This is my prime time. I'm ovulating.

SAUL

You tricked me.

JANET

You seemed willing enough at the time.

Saul moves his head in time with Janet's rocking.

SAUL

We agreed it's not the right time for kids.

JANET

You agreed. With yourself.

Janet rocks even harder.

LIVING ROOM -- LATER

Saul sits alone nursing a coffee. Maps and papers litter the coffee table.

Saul's finger traces a route on the map from Belmont in Northern California to Fresno.

SAUL

Seven inches on the map. There's no way I can commute that far every day.

He dusts his hands off: one-two-three. Glances toward the bedroom.

SAUL

Problem solved.

He reaches for a document with the heading "CONTRACT FOR EMPLOYMENT" and skips to the last page. Signs his name with a flourish.

EXT. CITY PARK -- DAY

Saul and Murray hover near an ice cream concession. They clutch ice cream cones. Murray holds his wrapped in a handkerchief. Saul holds his in his hand. Ice cream drips on Saul's fingers. He licks it off.

They walk through the park.

MURRAY

You've been trying not to have sex
with Janet??

SAUL

Six days now.

INT. SAUL'S BEEDROOM -- NIGHT -- FLASHBACK

Saul lies in bed staring at the ceiling. There is a space of eighteen inches between him and Janet.

MURRAY (V.O.)

You're kidding me?

Janet rolls over toward Saul. He rolls away until he perches on the edge of the bed.

MURRAY (V.O.)

You're not even tempted?

SAUL (V.O.)

It's not safe anymore.

Janet throws out an arm. Saul flinches. Topples off the edge of the bed.

BACK TO PRESENT

Murray stops on a dime. Points his cone at Saul.

MURRAY

Not safe? You got an STD or something?

SAUL

She's been skipping her pill.
Wants to start a family.

MURRAY

You'd make a terrific father.
You're real good with Emerson.

They walk. Then Saul stops.

SAUL

You ever heard of the
Multigenerational Transmission
Process?

MURRAY

Sounds like a job for AAMCO.

They head for the parking lot.

SAUL

The Trickle Down Effect?

MURRAY

Of course. I'm a CPA.

Saul is not amused.

MURRAY

What exactly is trickling down
then, apart from ice cream on your
chin?

Saul wipes his chin, then licks his hand. Murray adjusts his handkerchief so he can eat more ice cream.

SAUL

Nothing. Forget it.

MURRAY

Your father's dead, Saul, he can't
hurt you anymore.

SAUL

What if I, you know...

MURRAY

You mentioned this to Janet?

SAUL

Nuh-uh. She already thinks I'm nuts.

MURRAY

And you're telling me because...

SAUL

I thought if I was insane you could get me a tax break on my medication.

Murray almost believes this, then shakes his head.

SAUL

I'll be thirty-five in two weeks and I can't come to Emerson's sixth birthday party.

MURRAY

Why not? It's for four and up.

SAUL

Think it through, Murray.

MURRAY

Your dad was...

SAUL

Thirty-five.

MURRAY

And you were four?

SAUL

Six.

Murray stops walking.

MURRAY

That's the same age as... Holy
crap!

INT. ZEVON CORPORATION -- DAY

Saul stands in front of the sign on his office door. He beams. He buffs the sign with his sleeve, then looks around to see if anyone notices.

The coast is clear. He slips into his new office.

SAUL'S OFFICE -- LATER

Saul shuffles papers around on his desk. HARRISON WOODMAN (25) leans against the desk. Harrison oozes testosterone. Right now, he looks earnest, which he considers to be his best feature.

SAUL

No offense, Harrison, but I'm not
big on clubs. Why don't you let me
buy you a birthday drink in the
hotel bar?

HARRISON

Not a chance, Lance. I really
punched the jelly to arrange the
sales conference on the same day as
your birthday.

SAUL

That's very thoughtful.

HARRISON

No sweat, Brett. So you have to
come.

SAUL

I don't like crowds.

HARRISON

Okie-dokie, Smokey. What about I get a few people together and we all have dinner? You gotta eat?

SAUL

You fly, I'll buy.

Harrison furrows his brow.

SAUL

You pick the place, I'll pick up the tab.

HARRISON

No way, Jose. We fly and we buy.

INT. SAUL'S HOTEL ROOM -- NIGHT

Saul stands in front of the mirror. He uses his ruler to check the end of his nose. He steps onto a brand new set of bathroom scales. He's 130.

SAUL

So far so good.

He steels himself, then strides out the door.

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT -- LATER

Family style restaurant. Saul and his gang sit at a table for ten. The meal is over. People drink coffee and talk.

Harrison sits next to Saul. Michelle sits next to CANDACE, a very hot blonde.

Candace heads for the bathroom. Harrison watches her go, then smiles as Michelle also heads for the bathroom.

HARRISON

Sorry, Maurie, but Candace is so hot I'm getting tan just looking at her.

Harrison bounces to his feet, then flops down in Michelle's empty chair.

Candace returns from the bathroom, sees Harrison sitting in Michelle's chair. She gives herself a final tweak, smiles, then sits down next to Harrison.

Michelle returns from the bathroom. She spots Harrison talking to Candace, then shakes her head and smiles. She sits next to Saul.

MICHELLE

Harrison's in my seat.

SAUL

It's a fair exchange.

The WAITER returns with Saul's credit card. He signs the check.

MICHELLE

You didn't need to do that.

SAUL

Family tradition. My birthday, my treat.

He rises. Michelle rises.

Saul goes over to Harrison.

SAUL

Gotta go. Great party.
Everything's taken care of.

HARRISON

You're a great boss, Hoss.

Harrison salutes. Saul salutes back. Candace giggles.

EXT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT -- LATER

Saul stands on the sidewalk. He takes a deep breath.

Michelle pops out the restaurant. She waves a cooling hand in front of her face.

MICHELLE

Great party. Thanks again.

Saul nods.

MICHELLE

Where you parked?

SAUL

I walked.

Michelle raises an eyebrow.

SAUL

My hotel's not far from here.

Michelle hesitates for just a fraction.

MICHELLE

Walk with me. I'll give you a ride.

They stroll off together.

MICHELLE

How you settling in?

SAUL

So far, so good. You and I should get together soon. Run over your training program.

MICHELLE

We could do that now. Just let me make a call and --

SAUL

We're still off-duty. We'll have lunch tomorrow. The company will pick up the tab.

They walk a little further.

MICHELLE

Do you --

SAUL

I --

MICHELLE

Go ahead.

SAUL

You first.

MICHELLE

You going to relocate?

SAUL

Depends.

MICHELLE

What does Janet think of you being away all week?

SAUL

She plays racquetball.

Michelle stops. Looks hard at Saul for a moment. Then cracks up.

SAUL

She does.

MICHELLE

I believe you.

SAUL

She's in some kind of a league. Or she visits with her sister and brother. One's just had another baby and the other's having their first.

MICHELLE

Sounds great.

SAUL

I can never remember which is which.

MICHELLE

You guys don't have kids.

SAUL

It's not the right time.

Michelle flinches. She quickly turns it into a smile.

SAUL

I've just gotten my promotion and Janet's been promoted too. She's a training manager like you and --

MICHELLE

A simple "no" would be fine. We're here.

Michelle points to a mid-size high-end import parked under a street lamp.

SAUL

Nice wheels.

MICHELLE

I think they're alloy or something.

SAUL

What I meant was --

MICHELLE

I know what you meant. I was just joshing with you.

I/E. MICHELLE'S CAR

Michelle fires up the engine.

SAUL

I haven't been joshed with in some time.

MICHELLE

Then you're long overdue for some
joshment.

SAUL

Is that even a word?

MICHELLE

It is now.

She slips the selector in Drive.

MICHELLE

Seat belt. I'd hate to lose you.

LATER

The car pulls up outside of a two-star hotel. Parked cars
line the curb.

SAUL

Home sweet home.

Michelle scans the line of parked cars. She spots a space.
Then parallel parks. Zoom. One-two-three.

SAUL

Good job!

MICHELLE

It's a gift.

They hunker down in their seats.

SAUL

The meeting tomorrow... you fly,
Zevon will buy.

MICHELLE

I know a great place. Not
expensive and the food is
excellent. Unless you don't like
Reuben sandwiches?

SAUL

I was raised on them. Until I was
bar mitzvah, I thought my first
name was Reuben.

MICHELLE

You know how old that joke is?
Older than you.

INT. KOSCHMANN'S KITCHEN -- DAY

Busy deli. Loud crowd. Waiters weaving back and forth.

Saul and Michelle sit close together in a small booth working
their way through two huge Reuben sandwiches.

Saul attempts to jam the entire sandwich in his mouth. It
resists.

Michelle cuts her sandwich in half.

MICHELLE

You blocked out two whole hours?
Geeze, I feel like I'm playing
hooky.

SAUL

I'll write you a note.

They laugh easily. Michelle rummages around in her satchel.
Saul gives up trying to cram the Reuben into his mouth. He
cuts it in half.

MICHELLE

The training schedule's in here
someplace...

SAUL

We'll get to that in a minute.
First I have to balance the cosmos.

MICHELLE

Are you... God? Because if you
are, I have some questions.

SAUL

You know stuff about me. It's only fair we go quid pro quo.

Michelle plays with her sandwich, cutting it into quarters. Saul does the same with his.

SAUL

Tell me something I don't know.

MICHELLE

Like what?

SAUL

Brothers? Sisters? Felony arrests?

Saul picks up part of his sandwich.

MICHELLE

No. Yes. No. Sister. Estelle. Younger. One daughter. Now you.

SAUL

Only child. My folks are dead.

Saul puts his sandwich down uneaten. Michelle touches Saul's hand.

A brief moment of silence.

MICHELLE

My father is dead. I planted a tree in his name. In Israel.

She cuts her sandwich into eighths. Saul does the same.

MICHELLE

I went to Israel once. So I looked for his tree.

SAUL

You found it?

MICHELLE

Not exactly. But I wrote his name on a piece of paper and stuck it on a tree thought he'd like.

Saul laughs.

SAUL

You make me laugh. I like that.

MICHELLE

My father always said that laughter was the best medicine. You want to hear my favorite joke?

SAUL

Shoot.

Michelle grins. It spreads to Saul. They both giggle.

MICHELLE

Wait. I haven't told you the joke yet.

Saul claps a hand over his mouth.

MICHELLE

There are two eggs in a pan of boiling water and one egg says, "My God, it's hot in here!" And the other egg says, "This is nothing. Just wait till you get outside, someone'll smash your head in!"

They both guffaw. People look over at them but they are oblivious to the stares.

SAUL

That's a terrible joke.

MICHELLE

I know.

Finally, they stop laughing. Wipe tears from their eyes.

SAUL

I can't remember the last time I
had so much fun.

MICHELLE

Me either.

They both look down at their uneaten sandwiches.

SAUL

That was the best Reuben I never
ate.

INT. TRAINING SCHOOL

Classroom fitted out with desks and computer terminals.

Janet sits alone at the teacher's desk. She marks papers.

DWAYNE SINCLAIR (35) -- a modest hunk -- strides into the
room. He watches Janet until she looks up, then retains eye
contact.

Janet sizes him up. A twenty-point check.

JANET

Can I help you?

DWAYNE

I'm Dwayne Sinclair from --

JANET

I know who you are.

DWAYNE

I just took on a new hire and...
Can you fold an extra head into
your orientation class?

He continues to check her out. She pretends not to notice.

JANET

You're cutting it pretty close.

She makes a big production out of checking her schedule. She looks up from her computer now and again to flick a glance at Dwayne.

DWAYNE

I really appreciate this.

JANET

You could've emailed me. You didn't have to --

DWAYNE

It's no bother. I was only next door.

JANET

That's the boiler room.

DWAYNE

The other next door.

JANET

Janitor's closet.

Dwayne holds up his hands in surrender.

DWAYNE

Busted.

JANET

I'm seeing someone.

DWAYNE

Only on weekends.

JANET

And Wednesdays. Sometimes he comes home in the middle of the week.

DWAYNE

So you're single Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

JANET

Not Friday. He comes home at eight on Friday. And I play racquetball on Tuesday and Thursday.

DWAYNE

What do you do Mondays?

JANET

What do you do?

DWAYNE

I eat dinner at Franco's on Bush at Van Ness.

JANET

Good restaurant.

DWAYNE

I get there at eight.

JANET

What's the name of your new hire?

DWAYNE

Jackson Johnson. He answers to "J.J."

Janet hits a key. The computer chirps.

JANET

Everything's set then.

DWAYNE

Good.

Dwayne tips his head to Janet. She returns the gesture.

EXT. DUCK POND -- LATER

Saul and Michelle sit on a bench watching the ducks swim and dive.

MICHELLE

You like ducks?

SAUL

I have one of my own. I keep it in
the tub.

MICHELLE

Is it... yellow?

SAUL

Busted. Now you tell me a secret.

MICHELLE

I had my nose done.

SAUL

Stand sideways.

She complies. Her palpates her nose.

MICHELLE

It had a bump you could launch a
ski jump from.

SAUL

This isn't your real nose?

MICHELLE

Came out of a catalog.

SAUL

Excellent choice.

MICHELLE

Pick of page seventeen.

They watch a family feeding the ducks. A SMALL BOY (6)
throws a piece of bread at a lone duck. It falls short and
another duck pounces on it. The Small Boy tries again with
the same result. The BOY'S MOTHER tries. But she can't
reach the duck either.

MICHELLE

We should head back.

SAUL

Wanna eat your Reuben first?

They unwrap their sandwiches.

The Small Boy tugs on Saul's pant leg. When Saul looks down he flinches. The Small Boy points to the lone duck.

SAUL

Back in a minute.

Saul accompanies the Small Boy to the edge of the pond. He plucks off a piece of crust from his sandwich, then hurls it out at the lone duck. It lands by its bill. The lone duck snaps it up.

Saul hands a piece of crust to the Small Boy. He tries again but fails.

Michelle and the Small Boy's Mother watch.

Saul takes another piece of crust.

SAUL

Okay. Try this.

Saul spins around on his axis like he's doing the shot put, then "pushes" the crust into the lone duck's path.

SAUL

Now you.

Saul tears off several pieces of crust for the Small Boy who emulates his shot put actions. This time the crust makes it to the lone duck's path. The Small Boy jumps up and down with glee.

The Small Boy "pushes" more crusts at the lone duck. The Boy's Mother catches Saul's eye and mouths "Thank you."

Saul nods and returns to Michelle.

MICHELLE

You're good with kids.

SAUL

Only other people's.

INT. MURRAY ROTH'S HOUSE

Murray and Saul finish up converting the sofa into a temporary bed.

SAUL
Janet is ovulating.

Saul unpacks.

MURRAY
This is a first for us. I've never helped you stay out of a woman's pants before.

EXT. MURRAY ROTH'S HOUSE -- MORNING

Saul stows his bag in the trunk.

MURRAY (O.S.)
Psst! Sailor! Want a good time?

Saul looks up to see Murray sitting on the roof drinking coffee.

MURRAY
I'm an accountant. I like to live dangerously. So sue me.

ROOF -- MOMENTS LATER

Saul and Murray perch on the roof side-by-side.

MURRAY
The math doesn't add up.

SAUL
Will they ask for your CPA back?

MURRAY
If your father was thirty-five and you were six when... when everything first started...

SAUL

My life is reduced to arithmetic.

MURRAY

Work with me here.

INT. MICHELE DAVIS' APARTMENT

Michelle makes breakfast for Kevin, phone to her ear. He helps lay the table.

MICHELLE

... Saul. Yes, mother, like Saul
Bellow the author.

She puts Kevin's food out then makes her own.

MICHELLE

He's just a friend, mother. Okay,
he's my boss too. Yes, mother, I
know what they say.

She pours coffee for her and juice for Kevin. She pats Kevin on the head. Squeezes his shoulder. Brushes his cheek with her fingers.

MICHELLE

One, he's living with someone,
though I don't think it's going
anywhere. And two, he doesn't want
children.

She strokes Kevin's hair.

MICHELLE

I think he likes children but
doesn't want any of his own. I
have no idea.

She watches Kevin eat.

MICHELLE

Yes, mother, I guess he doesn't
know what he's missing.

EXT. MURRAY ROTH'S HOUSE

Saul snags Murray's cup. Drinks from it. A female pigeon lands on the roof. A moment later a male pigeon lands beside it.

The male pigeon puffs himself up. Struts his stuff.

MURRAY

You're thirty-five now, which was your father's age when he began --

SAUL

I know what he began. What's your point?

MURRAY

If you and Janet had a baby today, this minute and you are destined to abuse that child when it is six...

SAUL

This isn't helping.

MURRAY

Patience, patience, patience. I'm getting to the good part.

Murray snags the cup back and takes a hit of his coffee. The male pigeon makes the equivalent of pick-up lines.

MURRAY

When your child is six, you won't be thirty-five any more. You'll be...

Saul looks blank.

MURRAY

Thirty-five plus six equals...

Saul still looks blank.

MURRAY

You need a calculator?

SAUL

I know what thirty-five plus six equals.

MURRAY

Then say it.

SAUL

Forty-one.

MURRAY

Which means --

Saul fidgets then slips. He grabs hold of Murray who grabs hold of the roof.

MURRAY

Don't take me with you! I'm an expectant father.

The pigeons fly off... then land in the exact same spots and pick up the dance again.

MURRAY

Which means you will have avoided the cyclic victimization phase and emerged safely on the other side of the Multi-Generational --

SAUL

I won't be thirty-five any more.

Saul process this information.

SAUL

I won't be thirty-five any more!

Saul kisses Murray on the cheek.

SAUL

My cousin the CPA. Your mother would be so proud.

Murray pushes him off. The male pigeon continues to strut and throw out his lines. The female pigeon turns her back.

She trots across the roof. The male pigeon waddles after her. He repeats his courtship routine.

INT. DEBBY'S APARTMENT

Debby wears her nightgown. It's built for comfort. She holds the phone to her ear with one hand and plays paddleball with the other. She's good.

DEBBY

As a matter of fact I am. It calms me down. What??

She miss-hits. Starts over.

DEBBY

Tell him now. Let's not go through that Freddie thing again. Okay, Frankie, whatever.

EXT. MURRAY ROTH'S HOUSE

The pigeons have resolved their differences and now go at it with a vengeance. Saul turns he head away.

MURRAY

So you can fix up your relationship with Janet and go back to having sex.

SAUL

There's just one teeny tiny problem.

MURRAY

It's just like riding a bicycle.

SAUL

I met this woman.

Murray heaves a super sigh.

SAUL

When I say "met"... She works for
me and --

MURRAY

Uh-oh.

SAUL

It's okay. The math still works,
right?

I/E. MICHELLE'S CAR -- NIGHT

Saul and Michelle hunker down in her car outside of his
hotel.

MICHELLE

How was your trip home?

SAUL

Mathematical.

Michelle puzzles this then plows on.

MICHELLE

What did Janet have to say for
herself?

SAUL

Never saw her.

MICHELLE

How come?

SAUL

It didn't feel right.

Michelle makes a decision.

MICHELLE

You got anything to drink in your
room?

SAUL

They keep the mini-bar well
stocked.

MICHELLE

Let's raid it.

INT. SAUL'S HOTEL -- ELEVATOR -- LATER

Saul and Michelle stand side-by-side. He punches the button for the fourth floor. The elevator lurches into motion throwing Michelle off balance.

Michelle collides with Saul. She grabs onto him to steady herself. This puts her face inches from his.

Saul grips Michelle. Pulls her toward him. They clutch each other. Kiss ferociously.

The elevator bumps to a halt.

INT. ROOM #415

Saul and Michelle launch themselves into the room. They tumble onto the bed. Tug at each other's clothing.

The message light flashes on the phone.

MICHELLE

Oh, God, I am so sorry.

SAUL

What? What is it?

MICHELLE

I have to pee.

Saul points to the bathroom. Michelle disentangles herself and heads in that direction.

Saul sits up. Takes a breath. Notices the message light. He pauses. Then picks up the phone and hits "2-3-4."

SAUL

This is four-fifteen. My message
light's flashing.

DESK CLERK (V.O.)

Janet Carter would like you to
return her call.

SAUL

What time did the message come in?

DESK CLERK (V.O.)

Seven-thirty, sir.

Saul hangs up. Checks his watch. Dials his home number.

After six rings, the answering machine kicks in.

SAUL'S VOICE (V.O.)

"This is Saul Goodman and --"

JANET (V.O.)

(sleepy)

Janet.

SAUL

You left a message.

JANET (V.O.)

I'm ovulating.

SAUL

Say what?

JANET (V.O.)

I need your sperm.

SAUL

Janet, I'm in Fresno. Best I could
do is FedEx it overnight.

Michelle bounces out the bathroom beaming like an
incandescent lamp.

MICHELLE

There's a ruler in there marked off
at two and nine-sixteenths inches.
I sure hope that's not the size of
your --

She realizes Saul is on the phone. She deflates. Saul
places a hand over the mouthpiece.

SAUL

(mouths)

Janet.

Michelle's smile dims. She picks up her purse. Stomps to
the door without looking back.

JANET (V.O.)

Will you be home at the weekend?

Saul half-rises to stop Michelle. The door slams shut. He
sags back onto the bed.

SAUL

I will now.

JANET (V.O.)

I'll save some eggs for you.

INT. SAUL'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Janet sits up in bed. Alone.

She glares at the bathroom.

JANET

(calls)

Did you hear what I said?

Saul pads into the bedroom. Slips into bed. Fluffs his
pillow. Settles down.

Janet turns to face him, arms folded across her chest.

JANET

I'm giving you notice. Get me pregnant or get gone.

Saul rolls his eyes.

JANET

(without looking)

And don't do the eye thing. I'm serious.

Janet jumps out of bed. She gathers bedding from the closet.

JANET

Since we're not sleeping together, we're no longer sleeping together.

Janet motions for Saul to get up. He stands before her in his T-shirt and boxers. She hands him the bedding. Pops a pillow on top like a cherry.

JANET

If you're not willing, if you're not capable of giving me what I want, then I'll have to look elsewhere.

SAUL

I hear Romania's having a close-out on twins.

Janet slaps him. Hard.

LIVING ROOM -- LATER

Empty. The pillow and bedding rest in a neat pile on the sofa.

The phone rings.

SAUL (V.O.)

Michelle?

MICHELLE (V.O.)

Where are you?

I/E. SAUL'S CAR

Saul drives down I-5 talking into his Bluetooth.

SAUL

On my way. I have to see you.

MICHELLE (V.O.)

Me too.

INT. MICHELLE DAVIS' APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS

Michelle sits at the coffee table. Debby kibitzes.

DEBBY

Is it him? The famous Saul
Goodman? That doesn't want
children?

INTERCUT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION -- SAUL AND MICHELLE

Saul drives in silence for a moment.

MICHELLE

I won't be in on Monday.

Debby puts a hand on Michelle's brow.

DEBBY

You don't feel hot.

SAUL

But you're coming back to work? I
am going to see you again?

MICHELLE

If you want to.

DEBBY

What? If he wants to what?

SAUL

I do. Very much.

Michelle puts her hand over the phone.

MICHELLE
Mother! Go see if Kevin's okay?

DEBBY
You should tell him about Kevin.
See what the great Saul says then.

MICHELLE
I'll be in on Monday.

DEBBY
Suddenly, you're feeling better?

Michelle points to Kevin's bedroom. Debby shuffles out.

DEBBY
(over her shoulder)
What sort of a man doesn't want
children?

SAUL
We could meet later today?

MICHELLE
You're coming to Fresno?

DEBBY (O.S.)
He'd better not come here. We have
plans.

Saul taps his Bluetooth.

SAUL
Michelle?

MICHELLE
There's something I need to tell
you.

SAUL
Me too. But not over the phone.

MICHELLE

We could meet at the deli on
Monday. Twelve-thirty?

SAUL

I'll be there. With bells on.

INT. MALL -- DAY

Busy mall.

Michelle, Debby and Kevin ride the escalator. Michelle looks concerned. Kevin watches his mom. He frowns. Debby digs Michelle in the ribs. She brightens. Kevin smiles.

INT. SAUL'S HOTEL ROOM -- BATHROOM

Saul measures his nose. Checks his weight. No change.

INTERCUT -- SAUL AND MICHELLE

-- Michelle tries on clothes while Debby and Kevin make faces.

-- Saul watches television in his hotel room.

-- Debby tries on clothes while Michelle and Kevin make faces.

-- Saul dozes in front of the television.

-- Michelle and Debby watch Kevin try on clothes. They kvell.

-- Saul eats a room service dinner.

--- Michelle, Debby and Kevin sit in a theme restaurant. They tuck into ice cream sundaes. Michelle seems deep in thought.

-- Saul stares at the blank television screen in his hotel room. An unfinished cup of coffee rests on the table.

INT. KOSCHMANN'S KITCHEN -- DAY

Saul sits at the same table as before. He scrutinizes the entrance.

Michelle appears, framed in the doorway. She seems suffused with an inner radiance.

Saul sees the most beautiful woman in the world. He gasps. Leaps out of his chair.

Michelle walks toward Saul. He steps out to greet her. They stand, just inches apart.

Saul raises his hand. He hesitates for the briefest moment. Then he touches Michelle's face.

She nestles her cheek against his hand.

They flow into each other's arms. Kiss.

The regulars clap. They whistle. They cheer.

Saul and Michelle realize they are not alone. They sit. Reach for each other's hands across the table.

SAUL

God, I missed you.

MICHELLE

I'm glad, because I missed you too.

A WAITER (50) -- sore feet, aching back -- scoots over to their table.

WAITER

You wanna order, 'cause believe me,
you can't live on love.

Saul and Michelle exchange glances.

MICHELLE

Two Reubens.

SAUL

Two Reubens.

WAITER

Four Reubens? That, you can live on.

MICHELLE

No. Just one Reuben each.

SAUL

Two Reubens between us. One each.

WAITER

Forgive me if got excited. For a minute there, I thought my ship had come in.

The Waiter slogs back to the kitchen.

Michelle squeezes Saul's hand.

MICHELLE

Tell me something you've never told anyone else. Not even Janet.

SAUL

Does a rubber ducky count?

MICHELLE

Okay. Anyone else except your rubber ducky.

SAUL

I'm terrified of sharks.

MICHELLE

So am I.

SAUL

I'm afraid they're planning to get me.

MICHELLE

That's irrational.

SAUL

Tell me about it.

MICHELLE

Do you surf? Sail?

SAUL

No way!

MICHELLE

Scuba?

SAUL

You're kidding me.

MICHELLE

Do you spend any time in or on the ocean?

SAUL

Not a second.

MICHELLE

Then you've got as much chance of being eaten by a shark as you have of one turning up in your bath tub.

SAUL

I know. That's why I have my rubber ducky.

MICHELLE

Against a shark?

SAUL

The power of the ducky knows no bounds.

EXT. CITY STREETS -- LATER

Saul and Michelle stroll along a side street.

SAUL

Since you didn't make fun of me about the sharks, I'm going to tell you another secret.

MICHELLE

Does this also involve sea creatures?

He shakes his head.

SAUL
Children.

He takes a deep breath. Lets it out slowly.

SAUL
I'm going to talk for a while and you have to promise me that you won't say anything until I'm through. No matter how ridiculous it sounds.

MICHELLE
I think you're safe. The shark thing set the bar pretty high.

SAUL
Then be prepared to go up on your tippy-toes. When I was six years old...

INT. SAUL'S CAR -- LATER

Saul and Michelle sit in the car. Michelle stares straight ahead.

SAUL
You're the second person I've told this to.

MICHELLE
Apart from Janet?

SAUL
My cousin Murray was the first.

MICHELLE
You haven't told Janet?

SAUL
There's no point any more.

MICHELLE

That is exactly the point. If our relationship is to go anywhere, you have to explore every possible angle with Janet first. I don't want there to be any doubts in your mind.

SAUL

I didn't mean what I think you thought I meant. Well, I did mean that, but I meant something else instead.

MICHELLE

I think we should have stuck with the shark thing.

SAUL

Simply stated, even if I wanted to have kids with Janet, I don't want to have kids with Janet and --

MICHELLE

Saul... I love you, but --

SAUL

Say that again.

Michelle hangs her head.

MICHELLE

Busted.

SAUL

Me too.

They kiss.

SAUL

There's something else you need to know.

Michelle searches his eyes.

SAUL
Simply stated --

Michelle puts a finger to his lips.

MICHELLE
Complicated. Make it complicated.

SAUL
My cousin Murray did the math
and...

EXT. CITY STREETS -- CONTINUOUS

Saul and Michelle walk hand-in-hand.

SAUL
... that means that if we had a kid
now, I mean, well, you know what I
mean.

MICHELLE
God save me, but I think that I do.

SAUL
See? We're communicating.

MICHELLE
This breakthrough that your cousin
Murray effected...

SAUL
Cure.

MICHELLE
Does it apply to other people's
children?

SAUL
I'm not sure. I know I can't put
it to the test on my own kids
because, well, I'm hardly likely to
have a full-grown six-year-old kid
right now.

They walk in silence for a moment.

MICHELLE

Say you adopted a child?

SAUL

Good, good. That's a good question.

MICHELLE

And?

SAUL

And technically, the child would be mine. I see where you're going with this. Maybe when push comes to shove, Janet and I can't have kids and we adopted a six-year-old boy, would I abuse that child?

MICHELLE

... would you?

SAUL

Technically, the child would be mine, so chances are --

Michelle glances at her watch.

MICHELLE

Don't you have to get back to the office?

SAUL

I'm not going back to the office. I'm going to confront Janet.

They turn around. Step up the pace. Saul checks his watch.

SAUL

I have to do this face-to-face. She should be home from work by the time I get there.

He stops. Kisses Michelle.

SAUL

Thank you. For convincing me to do
the right thing.

MICHELLE

Then it's my turn.

INT. SAUL'S APARTMENT -- EVENING

Saul wanders around the empty apartment.

SAUL

Janet? Janet? Janet?

He checks his watch. It reads 6:30 PM. He picks up the
phone. Punches in some numbers.

SAUL

Janet Carter, please... What time
did she leave? Six? Excellent.

DEN -- LATER

Saul uses his iPad to search the Internet. A framed
photograph of Janet sits on the desk. She looks serious.

Saul's stomach rumbles. He checks his watch. It reads 8:00
PM. He addresses Janet's photograph.

SAUL

Where are you?

KITCHEN -- LATER

Saul makes himself a sandwich. Grabs a beer from the fridge.
He takes them into the

LIVING ROOM

He sits in front of the television. Checks his watch. Eats.

LATER

A few sandwich crumbs dot the plate. Saul finishes up a second bottle of beer.

BEDROOM -- LATER

The toilet flushes in the bathroom. After a moment, Saul wanders into the bedroom. He checks the digital clock on the bedside table.

The display reads: "12:30 AM."

Saul crawls into bed.

LATER

The display on the digital clock now reads: "1:00 AM."

Saul sleeps soundly.

Two cars drive up. Their headlights sweep the room. They park outside.

Two car doors slam, one after the other.

After a moment, a single car door slams. An engine turns over. A car drives away. Its headlights sweep the room.

Saul tosses in his sleep.

LATER

The display on the digital clock reads: 1:10 AM."

Saul sleeps soundly.

The toilet flushes in the bathroom. After a moment, Janet creeps into the bedroom. She tip-toes to the bed, slips quietly between the sheets.

Saul snaps awake.

SAUL

Janet?

JANET

I didn't want to wake you.

Saul glances at the digital clock. Registers the time.

SAUL

What time is it?

JANET

Ten after one. What you doing home on a Monday?

SAUL

Where've you been?

JANET

I met some friends and we went out for dinner and a movie.

SAUL

Which friends?

JANET

From work. You don't know them. And before you ask, we went to see "Bridesmaids."

SAUL

Must've been a late show.

JANET

We went back to Nicole's for coffee, okay? Satisfied? Is the third degree over now, officer?

SAUL

I just wanted to talk with you.

JANET

I'm here now. Talk ahead.

SAUL

I have to pee.

Saul heads for the bathroom.

JANET
Oh, for fuck's sake!?

Janet scoots out of bed. Heads for the kitchen.

JANET
(calls back)
I'm making coffee. Meet me in the
kitchen.

KITCHEN -- LATER

Janet perches on a stool. She sips her coffee.

Saul paces the floor.

JANET
Run that by me again? Cyclic what?

SAUL
Victimization. It's an aspect of
the Multigen --

JANET
If this is more blimp and blob
shit, it's not funny anymore, Saul.

She looks into Saul's eyes.

JANET
It's really true? Your father...

She drops down off the stool. Backs away from Saul.

JANET
I can't have babies with you!

SAUL
There's more. Murray --

Janet holds out both arms to ward him off.

JANET

I don't want to hear any more.
Dwayne was right. I should cut my
losses.

SAUL

Dwayne? Who's Dwayne?

JANET

A friend.

SAUL

Are you sleeping with him?

JANET

Not yet.

LIVING ROOM -- LATER

Saul sleeps on the sofa. He tosses and turns.

INT./EXT. SAUL'S CAR -- MORNING

Saul's car barrels down I-5.

Clothes and boxes fill the back of the car. They spill over
onto the passenger seat and footwell.

Saul speaks into his Bluetooth. The Bluetooth hangs partway
out of his ear. He fiddles with it as he drives.

MICHELLE (V.O.)

Saul?

SAUL

Hi.

INT. MICHELLE'S APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS

Michelle paces with the phone to her ear. She wraps and
unwraps the cord around her finger.

MICHELLE

You okay? You sound --

SAUL (V.O.)

Fine. I'm fine. I thought...

MICHELLE

How did it go with....

Debby sticks her head around the door.

DEBBY

That Prince Charming is it?

INTERCUT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION -- SAUL AND MICHELLE

Saul eases his shoulders.

MICHELLE

Tell me what Janet said.

DEBBY

I'll make coffee.

She heads for the kitchen.

SAUL

She's seeing someone else.

Michelle beams, then looks guilty.

MICHELLE

Another man?

SAUL

Yeah, another man. Dwayne or Dweeb
or whatever.

MICHELLE

There's a lot of that going around.

Saul doesn't respond.

MICHELLE

You want to talk about this another time?

SAUL

Thanks.

Michelle pulls the telephone cord tighter around her finger.

MICHELLE

There's something I have to tell you.

SAUL

If you're seeing another man... or a woman, let me live in ignorance for a while.

MICHELLE

Nothing like that.

SAUL

Then let's talk about it when I see you.

MICHELLE

Come over for dinner tonight.

SAUL

What should I bring?

MICHELLE

Your toothbrush.

Debby strides into the room with two coffees.

DEBBY

I heard that!

Michelle reaches out for a coffee. Debby holds back.

DEBBY

Did you tell him?

During this: Each time Michelle reaches for her coffee, Debby holds back.

MICHELLE

What?

DEBBY

That you're from Planet Ostrich.

MICHELLE

Tonight. At dinner. Just the two of us.

DEBBY

You're not inviting Kevin?

MICHELLE

Maybe you're from Planet Ostrich?

Debby starts to speak, changes her mind. She hands Michelle the coffee.

DEBBY

Maybe Kevin should spend more time with his grandma?

Michelle melts. Hugs Debby.

MICHELLE

Thanks, mom.

INT. MICHELLE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Saul and Michelle sit at the dining table, sipping wine. Their partially eaten meal cools on the table.

SAUL

... and I can't stay in the hotel forever. I better get started on finding a place here.

MICHELLE

I thought you weren't hot about Fresno?

Saul toasts her.

SAUL

That was before.

Michelle smiles. They both kick back in their chairs. Look at each other.

MICHELLE

What do you feel like doing?

SAUL

Making out.

He stands. Michelle remains seated.

SAUL

Did I say something wrong?

MICHELLE

There's something I have to tell you.

Saul drops back into his chair.

SAUL

You're not still pissed from that night in my hotel room?

She waves her hand in the air.

MICHELLE

That's so yesterday.

SAUL

Then what?

Michelle sucks in a humongous breath.

SAUL

This is a big one, huh?

MICHELLE

Let's take our wine to the sofa.

SAUL

So we are making out?

MICHELLE

That depends on you.

They move over to the sofa.

SAUL

Hey, I'm a guy. I'm ready to make out twenty-four-seven. But I'll need bathroom breaks.

MICHELLE

Remember we had that conversation about your cyclic victimization?

SAUL

Of course. And you said --

MICHELLE

I asked you if it affected adoption.

Saul makes the connection.

SAUL

You have an adopted son?

MICHELLE

No. I have a natural son.

SAUL

That's okay, then. So what was your question?

MICHELLE

He's six.

SAUL

Who's six?

MICHELLE

Kevin.

SAUL

Who's Kevin?

MICHELLE

My son.

SAUL

You have a son?

MICHELLE

Kevin.

SAUL

If you have a son, why are you thinking of adoption?

MICHELLE

I'm not. It was a hypothetical.

SAUL

That's good.

He shuffles closer to Michelle. Then stops. Stands. Paces from one end of the sofa to the other.

SAUL

Did you just say you had a son?

Michelle watches him. She looks anxious now.

MICHELLE

Kevin.

SAUL

And he's six?

MICHELLE

Uh-huh.

SAUL

Years old. He's six years old?

MICHELLE

Seventy-two months.

SAUL

That's definitely six years old.

He paces around the sofa.

SAUL
Kevin is your son?

Saul increases his pace.

Michelle rises. She paces in the opposite direction.

SAUL
You sure he's six?

MICHELLE
Last birthday.

SAUL
Kevin?

MICHELLE
My son.

SAUL
I thought he was a hypothetical?

MICHELLE
Nope. He's real enough.

They cross paths. Saul stops. Michelle stops.

SAUL
Does he have to be six?

MICHELLE
That's how old he is.

They both walk. Together. In the same direction.

SAUL
Do you have a small ruler I could
borrow?

Michelle squints at him.

SAUL
Never mind. What were we talking
about?

MICHELLE

I have a son.

SAUL

Kevin.

MICHELLE

He's six years old.

Saul shakes his head.

SAUL

This is not good. This is not
good. This is not good.

MICHELLE

We'll figure something out.

Saul stops. Paces the other way. Michelle watches him.

SAUL

I can't adopt him. Too dangerous.

MICHELLE

You don't have to adopt him.

SAUL

But if we get married...

MICHELLE

Nobody mentioned marriage.

SAUL

I love you, Michelle. I want to
marry you.

MICHELLE

Was that a proposal?

SAUL

But I can't. Marry you. Geezus!
Why didn't you say something
before?

MICHELLE

I --

SAUL
This is fucked. This is totally
fucked.

MICHELLE
Saul!?

Saul looks around.

SAUL
He's not here, is he? He is, isn't
he? He's in the apartment right
now.

MICHELLE
He's at my mother's.

Saul collects his things.

SAUL
I gotta go.

He heads for the door. She rushes to intercept him.

MICHELLE
Saul, you're not going to abuse
Kevin.

He sidesteps around her. Yanks open the door.

SAUL
You don't know that for sure.

MICHELLE
Not a hundred per cent. But --

He slips out the door.

MICHELLE
-- what about us?

SAUL (O.S.)
You should've said something.

Michelle collapses against the door.

MURRAY (V.O.)
You know what your problem is?
You're your own worst enemy.

INT. SAUL'S HOTEL ROOM -- LATER

Saul's eyes are red. He holds the phone to his ear.

MURRAY (V.O.)
Are you meshugge altogether!?

SAUL
He's six years old, Murray.

INT. MURRAY'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Murray sits at the dining table in his PJs. Geri brings over two coffees. She wears a housecoat. She's very pregnant.

Geri sets a coffee down in front of Murray, then sits next to him.

GERI
Is he meshugge?

MURRAY
Not clinically.

SAUL (V.O.)
Geri there?

MURRAY
Yeah.

SAUL (V.O.)
How's she look?

MURRAY
Like a Buick.

Geri punches Murray.

MURRAY
But in a good way.

INTERCUT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION -- SAUL AND MURRAY

Saul runs a hand through his hair.

SAUL
She should have told me.

MURRAY
You're right. She should have told
you.

SAUL
Damned straight.

MURRAY
She was probably scared shitless
after what you told her.

SAUL
You think so?

MURRAY
Yes, Saul, I think so.

GERI
What's he going to do now?

MURRAY
Geri wants to know what you're
going to do now?

Geri pokes Murray in the ribs.

GERI
You want to know too.

MURRAY
What are you going to do now?

Saul shrugs.

MURRAY
Saul?

SAUL

I don't know, Murray. I really don't know.

MURRAY

(to Geri)

He doesn't know.

GERI

He needs his head examined.

MURRAY

You need your head examined, cuz.

Geri hits Murray.

GERI

Don't tell him that!

MURRAY

Saul, this obsession of yours has cost you one relationship already.

GERI

Janet was wrong for him.

SAUL

Janet was wrong for me.

MURRAY

Be that as it may, you've got a second chance with Michelle.

SAUL

She should've told me.

MURRAY

Get-fucking-over-it! Do you love this woman?

SAUL

Yes.

MURRAY

Do you want to spend the rest of your life without her?

SAUL

No.

MURRAY

Then get yourself fixed.

SAUL

I think my nose is growing.

MURRAY

Good night, Saul.

EXT. CITY STREETS -- FRESNO -- NIGHT

Saul shuffles along the street, head down, hands thrust deep in pockets. He stops. Pulls out his cell phone. His fingers hover over the keypad.

The cell phone rings. He almost drops it.

SAUL

... Hello?

JANET (V.O.)

Saul?

SAUL

Janet?

EXT. CARLMONT MALL -- BELMONT

Janet strolls through the mall.

JANET

Hi.

SAUL

I was just about to call you.

JANET

What about?

INTERCUT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION -- SAUL AND JANET

Saul walks by several shops.

SAUL

You first.

Janet hesitates. She side-steps into a small plaza.

JANET

It's... You know I'm seeing Dwayne,
right?

SAUL

You mentioned him the night --

JANET

He's a really nice guy. Bright,
good look --

SAUL

I don't need his resume.

JANET

Sorry, Saul, I'm a little nervous.

SAUL

I've never known you to be -- Are
you pregnant?

JANET

I wish! That's the problem, right
there. It's like history repeating
itself.

SAUL

Give me a hint.

JANET

I want to start a family and he --

SAUL

Did you guys break up already?

JANET

No, nothing like that. But he seems, well, reluctant to make love and that's how it was with me and you and do you think he's got that cyclic thing like you and Jesus I'd be oh-for-two and will you speak to him?

Saul shakes his head clear.

SAUL

Speak to him?

JANET

Man-to-man, you know.

SAUL

Sure. I'll call him now. Hi, Dwayne, my ex-girlfriend tells me you're not boffing her regularly since she announced she wants to get pregnant and --

JANET

Okay, Saul, I get it.

SAUL

You want my opinion?

JANET

That's why I called.

SAUL

Ease off. The poor guy's known you for what, ten minutes and you're planning a family, no wonder --

JANET

But the clock's ticking, Saul, real loud.

SAUL

Then buy some ear plugs. Give him a chance to adjust.

Janet nods. Slowly at first, then with understanding and determination.

SAUL

Janet?

JANET

I was nodding.

SAUL

Good.

JANET

You were going to call me?

SAUL

I, er...

LATER

Janet stands by her car in the parking lot. Saul heads back the way he came.

SAUL

You're right. I should see the doctor.

JANET

Maybe he can give you a pill?

INT. DR. HYMAN SCHLOSSBERGER'S OFFICE -- DAY

Saul squirms in his chair as DR. HYMAN SCHLOSSBERGER (62) observes him.

DR. SCHLOSSBERGER

Anti Cyclic Victimization Pill?
Never heard of that sucker?

SAUL

Maybe it's in beta testing?

DR. SCHLOSSBERGER

Don't think there is such an animal, son. And even if there was, you've yet to convince me you're a candidate.

SAUL

First the beaten child and then the child beater.

DR. SCHLOSSBERGER

That come with your cornflakes, did it, son?

Saul touches his nose.

SAUL

See this? There's going to be a blob there pretty soon. I can feel it growing.

Dr. Schlossberger sighs. He's traveled this road many times before.

DR. SCHLOSSBERGER

Okay, okay, okay.

Saul perks up as Dr. Schlossberger examines his nose. He palpitates the end of it.

Saul produces his ruler.

DR. SCHLOSSBERGER

Got one of my own, thanks.

Dr. Schlossberger takes out a Vernier caliper. He measures Saul's nose carefully. He makes a note in his file. He shows the file to Saul.

DR. SCHLOSSBERGER

How long have you been my patient, Mr. Goodman?

SAUL

Four months.

Dr. Schlossberger points to entries in the file.

DR. SCHLOSSBERGER

Four months. And do you know how many times I have measured your nose in that time, Mr. Goodman?

SAUL

A lot?

DR. SCHLOSSBERGER

Eight. And guess what I found today?

SAUL

Same as last time?

DR. SCHLOSSBERGER

And the time before.

SAUL

What about my weight?

Dr. Schlossberger motions Saul to hop on the bathroom scales. He fiddles meticulously with the adjustments until he is completely satisfied.

DR. SCHLOSSBERGER

Hmmm...

SAUL

I knew it!

DR. SCHLOSSBERGER

There has been a shift in your weight.

Saul's eyes widen in genuine fear.

DR. SCHLOSSBERGER

You've lost five pounds.

He makes a note in his file.

SAUL

Maybe it's lull before the storm?

Dr. Schlossberger expels an exasperated sigh.

DR. SCHLOSSBERGER
What co-pay do you have for this
visit, son?

SAUL
Twenty-five dollars. Why?

DR. SCHLOSSBERGER
It's not nearly enough.

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE -- EVENING

A converted living room. Saul rests in a recliner across
from DR. ELAINE WEINSTEIN (52), matronly with wild hair.

Dr. Weinstein dangles a crystal on a silver chain in front of
Saul's face. The crystal reflects the overhead light into a
series of rainbows that dazzle his eyes.

SAUL
Thanks again for seeing me on such
short notice. I appreciate --

DR. WEINSTEIN
Hush. Breathe deeply. Try to
relax.

SAUL
Your ad said sixty-minute therapy.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Fifty-five minutes. I need a break
between patients.

SAUL
Fifty-five, sixty... so long as I'm
cured tonight. I plan to see
Michelle tomorrow.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Relax.

Saul watches the crystal swinging back and forth... back and forth... back and forth.

DR. WEINSTEIN

Take deep breaths. Deep breaths.
Deep breaths.

Saul takes an exaggerated deep breath.

DR. WEINSTEIN

When you first came in, you said "I think I am a child beater."

SAUL

I do. I mean, I don't beat children. Not yet anyway. But I think --

DR. WEINSTEIN

You did not say, I am a child beater. But I think I am a child beater.

SAUL

Am I missing something?

DR. WEINSTEIN

Only that the answer to your problem is right in front of you.

SAUL

The crystal?

DR. WEINSTEIN

Don't be a schmuck.

SAUL

I can't see the connection.

Dr. Weinstein watches Saul for a moment to make sure he's serious. She pushes herself to her feet, then goes over to a cabinet.

Saul observes her as she puts down the crystal. She returns to with two squat, orange-scented candles.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Hold out your right hand, palm
down.

Saul extends his hand as instructed. She balances one of the
candles on it.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Keep that steady. No matter what
happens.

Saul keeps his hand as steady as he can. Dr. Weinstein
lights the candle.

SAUL
What the --

DR. WEINSTEIN
Keep the candle steady!

Saul reins himself in.

SAUL
(re: candle)
What is this?

DR. WEINSTEIN
A security candle. To relieve the
stress.

She sits back, watches him balance the candle.

SAUL
Are we doing regressive therapy
now?

DR. WEINSTEIN
That would be like taking a step
backwards.

She gestures for him to hold out his other hand. He does.
She places the other candle on it, then lights it.

SAUL
What's this one?

DR. WEINSTEIN

A confusion candle.

SAUL

It looks just like the first one.

DR. WEINSTEIN

By you.

SAUL

Is this it, then? The sixty-minute
-- excuse me -- fifty-five minute
cure?

DR. WEINSTEIN

The candles? Sure. They burn out
the bad memories.

Saul's hands drop. He raises them quickly.

SAUL

I thought you were going to
hypnotize me so I know whether my
father really did beat me or if
it's an induced memory that I use
to mask my real fear of commitment?

DR. WEINSTEIN

Maybe I should pay you?

SAUL

Aren't you at least interested in
how I got like this?

DR. WEINSTEIN

Let me ask you a question. You
have a terrible headache. You go
to your doctor and he says, "I can
tell you why you have the headache
or I can cure the headache and
you'll never get it again." Which
do you choose?

Dr. Weinstein raises Saul's hands so the candles' flames are
level with his eyes. He squints to see her.

DR. WEINSTEIN
The fee's the same.

SAUL
Cure the headache?

She blows out the candles, takes them off his hands.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Time to face your fear.

SAUL
You want me to run out now and beat
the crap out of some kid?

DR. WEINSTEIN
We can cure that too, if you like?

SAUL
What?

DR. WEINSTEIN
Being such a smartass.

SAUL
I apologize. I'm nervous.

DR. WEINSTEIN
And I apologize. I was
unprofessional.

Dr. Weinstein gestures to the couch.

DR. WEINSTEIN
I want you to lie on the couch.
Make yourself comfortable.

Saul does as instructed.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Close your eyes. Relax. Take deep
breaths.

Dr. Weinstein watches Saul closely until she is satisfied.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Remember the security candle?

SAUL
... yes.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Because of the power of that
candle, you now feel secure. You
can do anything. You can say
anything. You can feel anything.

Saul nods.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Remember the confusion candle?

SAUL
... yes.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Because of the power of that
candle, you are no longer confused.
You can see everything clearly.
You know the truth when you see it.

Saul nods.

DR. WEINSTEIN
You are feeling secure. You are
feeling clear and confident. I
want you to imagine you have a six-
year-old son. You're in his
bedroom. You're bouncing a quarter
off of his bedsheets.

Saul's eyes flicker.

DR. WEINSTEIN
It's okay. Remember the candles.
You are clear. You are confident.
You are bouncing a quarter off of
your son's bedsheets. Say it.

SAUL

I am clear. I am confident. I am bouncing a quarter off of my son's bedsheets.

DR. WEINSTEIN

The quarter bounces four times instead of five. You take off your belt.

Saul's eyes move rapidly beneath his lids.

DR. WEINSTEIN

You wrap it around your hand.

Saul wriggles, squirms. He pulls a face.

DR. WEINSTEIN

What do you see? How do you feel?

SAUL

He looks terrified. Scared out of his mind. He looks ashamed. He's crying.

Saul looks terrified. He looks scared. He looks ashamed. He sobs.

He sits up.

SAUL

I can't do this. I'm not a monster.

DR. WEINSTEIN

You're not a child beater either.

SAUL

I could never do that. Not to my own child. Not to anyone's child.

DR. WEINSTEIN

I know.

SAUL
I'm not a child beater. I'm not a
child abuser.

DR. WEINSTEIN
I know.

SAUL
I'm not my father.

DR. WEINSTEIN
What about your nose?

Saul touches his nose.

SAUL
My nose is fine. It'll always be
fine.

DR. WEINSTEIN
And your weight?

SAUL
I'm one-thirty soaking wet. I'm
not going to blimp out like my
mother.

DR. WEINSTEIN
Whatever you say. You decide who
you are and what you'll be.

SAUL
That was terrible. That poor kid.
How can they do things like that?

DR. WEINSTEIN
They dance to a different tune.

A buzzer sounds. Dr. Weinstein smiles.

DR. WEINSTEIN
How's that for timing?

INT. KOSCHMANN'S KITCHEN -- DAY

Saul and Michelle sit at their favorite table. Two half-eaten Reuben sandwiches lie on plates next to them.

SAUL

... and what she did was guerilla therapy, which only works in certain cases like mine. She said that the feelings won't go away overnight. There'll be a residue.

MICHELLE

Like quitting smoking.

SAUL

She used that exact same analogy. She said I should purposely place myself in situations of stress so I can heal faster.

MICHELLE

You could give up your job and teach first grade?

Saul smiles.

SAUL

Meanwhile, she wants to see me at least once a week.

MICHELLE

Are you ready?

Saul exhales. Michelle squeezes his hand.

SAUL

Okay. I'll meet you there.

EXT. DUCK POND -- LATER

Saul stands by the edge of the pond. He throws bread crumbs to the ducks.

Michelle approaches from behind. She has two children in tow: Kevin and RACHEL (8).

Michelle steps up behind Saul. She taps him on the shoulder. He jumps. The kids nudge each other. They giggle. Saul spins around.

Michelle puts her arms around the kids.

MICHELLE
Kevin... Rachel... This is my
friend Saul Goodman.

An awkward moment as the two kids watch Saul. He makes no move to greet them.

MICHELLE
Saul?

Saul offers his hand to Kevin. He shakes it politely. He and Rachel do the same.

MICHELLE
Rachel is my sister Estelle's
little girl.

Rachel beams at the mention of her mother's name.

MICHELLE
Though not so little any more.

Rachel beams at this compliment too.

MICHELLE
This guy, Kevin, I don't know where
he came from. We found him in a
paper bag on the stoop.

KEVIN
Did not. Santa Claus brought me as
a Christmas present.

MICHELLE
Then what happened to the little
boy in the paper bag?

KEVIN

Mommy? I'm six years old. There was no little boy in a paper bag.

MICHELLE

Busted.

Rachel notices the ducks. She points them out to Kevin.

KEVIN

Mommy, mommy, mommy! Duckies! I love duckies!

Rachel and Kevin run to the edge of the pond.

MICHELLE

Careful! Don't go too near the edge.

Rachel takes Kevin's hand. Pulls him away from the water's edge.

RACHEL

I'll watch him, Aunt Michelle.
(to Saul)
I'm eight.

MICHELLE

(to Saul)
You okay?

They move to the children. They let their trailing hands touch each other. They caress each other's fingers.

RACHEL

Hey, Aunt Michelle, I bet there are fish in here. Let's go fishing.
Can we? Huh? Can we?

MICHELLE

I don't think that's allowed.

Kevin waves to the ducks. Michelle and Saul stand on either side of him.

KEVIN
Hello, duckies! Duckies, duckies,
duckies, hello!

Kevin tugs on Saul's pant leg.

KEVIN
What are they called?

SAUL
Mallards.

KEVIN
Mallards, mallards, mallards!
Hello, mallards!

Kevin leans forward. Saul and Michelle both place a hand on his shoulder at the same time.

SAUL
Not too close now, Kevin.

MICHELLE
Not too close, honey.

Saul and Michelle exchange glances. She smiles at him.

Kevin looks up at Saul. Tugs on his pant leg again.

KEVIN
Why did their mommy call them all
by the same name?

Kevin wobbles. Saul reaches out instinctively. Grabs onto the back of his shirt.

SAUL
Mallard is a collective -- Whoa
there, young feller.

Kevin grabs hold of Saul's leg. Holds onto him.

KEVIN
Why? Why did their mommy call them
all by the same name?

SAUL
Michelle?

MICHELLE

You started it.

SAUL

You started --

Kevin tugs on Saul's pant leg.

KEVIN

Why?

Saul looks down at Kevin. Then he drops down to eye-level.

SAUL

See, Mallard is just their family name. Like my family name is Goodman. Saul Goodman, see? And your family name is Davis. Kevin Davis, see?

RACHEL

Our family name is Lester.
"Estelle, Rachel and Barry Lester cannot come to the phone right now, so please leave a message."

Rachel moves closer to Saul. Michelle makes room for her.

Saul shares his bread crumbs between Kevin and Rachel. They start a little contest to see who can throw the food out the farthest.

Then they run out of bread crumbs.

MICHELLE

Okay. Who's for ice cream?

SAUL

Oh, me-me-me!

KEVIN

Chocolate chip for me. Chocolate chip.

RACHEL

I like Rocky Road. My dad likes Rocky Road too. But my mom prefers Butter Pecan Swirl.

MICHELLE

And the Mallard Man?

SAUL

I'm going to have a mix of all three.

KEVIN

Me too. I want a mix of all three.

RACHEL

Yes. I'd like to try that too.

Michelle takes Kevin and Rachel's hands. They move off. Saul tags along by Kevin's side.

SAUL

Okay. Pop quiz.

Kevin takes Saul's hand.

SAUL

What are prehistoric animals called when they sleep?

MICHELLE

I have no idea.

SAUL

Dinosnores.

MICHELLE

That's terrible.

RACHEL

I got one, I got one. What is a myth?

MICHELLE

It's --

RACHEL
A female moth.

MICHELLE
Knock-knock-knock.

SAUL
Who's there?

MICHELLE
Abbott.

SAUL
Abbott who?

MICHELLE
Abbott time you answered the door.

KEVIN
Knock, knock...

FADE OUT.

THE END.