

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

STOCK FOOTAGE OF HAPPY FAMILIES TOGETHER. AT DINNER. THE PARK, ETC.

FRANKIE (V.O.)

Here in the middle we do for family. We live for family, and they always take top priority. (beat) Until they get on our nerves.

1 INT. HECK FAMILY HOME/KITCHEN -- AFTERNOON (D1) 1

FRANKIE enters and tosses her purse on the dinner table. She leans against the counter and looks around. There is no one in the house.

FRANKIE (V.O.)

Like everyone, I love my family but sometimes, just sometimes, it's nice to get rid of them.

2 INT. HECK FAMILY HOME/LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT 2

BRICK

Mom I need-

3 INT. HECK FAMILY HOME/KITCHEN -- DAY 3

SUE

MOM! I need-

4 INT. HECK FAMILY HOME/BATHROOM -- DAY 4

MIKE (O.S.)

Frankie, I need-

5 INT. HECK FAMILY HOME/KITCHEN -- AFTERNOON (D1) 5

FRANKIE (V.O.)

Sometimes, I need a break. For the first time in years I have the house to myself and I'm going to live it up.

Frankie walks to the fridge and opens it to reveal that it's almost empty.

FRANKIE

Someone really needs to get some groceries around here.

6 INT.HECK FAMILY HOME/LIVING ROOM -- AFTERNOON (D1) 6

Frankie is sitting on the sofa. Her feet are on the coffee table and she has a bottle of nail polish in her hand.

FRANKIE (V.O.)

Sometimes you just need to put your feet up and do something special for yourself.

She unscrews the lid and pulls out the wand. A lump of nail polish drops to the floor in a gooey mess.

She looks around and puts a pillow from the sofa over top of it.

FRANKIE

Someone really needs to clean up around here.

7 INT. HECK FAMILY HOME/BATHROOM -- AFTERNOON (D1) 7

Frankie stands with a bathrobe on, by the bathtub.

FRANKIE (V.O.)

To have a chance to relax, without the chaos around you.

Frankie is trying to light a half used candle. Repeatedly.

It refuses to light.

FRANKIE

Oh forget it.

Frankie puts her foot in the bath, about to get in when-

SUE (O.S.)

Mom! MOM?

Frankie ignores her.

SUE (O.C.) (CONT'D)

MOM! I NEED-

8 INT. HECK FAMILY HOME/HALLWAY -- AFTERNOON (D1) 8

Frankie swiftly opens the bathroom door to see SUE standing there looking frantic.

FRANKIE

-What?

SUE

I just found out next - are you taking a bath?

FRANKIE

I'm trying.

SUE

But it's the afternoon. Are you sick? Oh my God! You're dying aren't you?

FRANKIE

No Sue! People take baths in the afternoon - I'm sure Kim Kardashian is in the bath all afternoon.

SUE

Well, I just found out that next week is career week at school!

Sue stands waiting for a visible reaction from Frankie.

FRANKIE

And?

Frankie walks towards the kitchen as she waits for Sue to continue.

SUE

And I don't know what I want to do! Mom, this is a massive decision; one that will impact my whole life.

FRANKIE

Uh, I think you're over estimating the power of the Orson High guidance councillors.

Frankie grabs a half eaten bag of chips from the cupboard and leans against the counter eating them.

SUE

But mom, what if I go to the wrong table? What if I think I want to be a lawyer and really I should be a chef? What if I choose a brochure because it's got my favorite colors and not....

Sue continues to talk and Frankie stares at her with a sympathetic look.

FRANKIE (V.O.)

Oh, Sue. She has no idea that it doesn't matter what table she goes to, or how colorful the brochure - no matter how much you plan, life will find a way to trip you up. It always does.

Sue stares at her mother awaiting a response.

SUE

You weren't listening were you?

FRANKIE

Of course I was. Career week. Panic. I get it.

SUE

Well, I need to start thinking about what I want to do. What I want to be. Why didn't you keep asking me these questions when I was younger? Why didn't you encourage me in a direction? That's what parents are supposed to do! This is your fault.

FRANKIE

Well, to be fair I just figured out what I wanted to do; and I'm actually not a hundred percent convinced on it yet. And your father and I always tried to be supportive, but then we got cable.

SUE

I don't have a direction. I have nothing. I'm going to fail career week.

FRANKIE

I don't think that's possible. Besides Sue, you have a lot of interests. Start there. Narrow things down and see what you can make a career out of. Although, I'd rule out anything involving Justin Bieber.

Sue collapses onto a chair at the dinner table and puts her head on the table.

Frankie stares at here.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Ok. Good talk. I'll just be in the bath, you know, while you're thinking.

She starts to walk back towards the bathroom. She pauses and returns to the kitchen. She grabs the bag of chips she was eating off the counter.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
This will make things much more relaxing.

9 INT.HECK FAMILY HOME/BATHROOM -- AFTERNOON (D1) 9

Frankie stands in front of the bathtub. She turns the hot water tap on again and eats a chip.

She turns off the tap.

She puts one foot in the bathtub when-

AXL (O.S.)
MOM! MOM!

Frankie tries to ignore him.

Frankie is about to step in the tub when thunderous knocks come from the bathroom door.

10 INT.HECK FAMILY HOME/HALLWAY -- AFTERNOON (D1) 10

Frankie swings the door open to see AXL standing there.

AXL
Mom, I'm home!

FRANKIE
I know. I heard. The whole neighborhood heard.

AXL
Well, you didn't answer me. I mean, who doesn't answer their own child?

He looks in the bathroom.

AXL (CONT'D)
Are you taking a bath?

FRANKIE
YES. I am trying to take a bath. Trying being the key word.

AXL
Oh, well when's dinner?

FRANKIE
Axl, it's four in the afternoon.

AXL

Then why are you taking a bath?

FRANKIE

People take baths IN THE AFTERNOON!

AXL

Maybe so, but those people don't have kids home from college that, might I add, are starving.

FRANKIE

Why aren't you eating at college? We paid for the food there.

AXL

And have you had it? It's disgusting.

Axl grabs the bag of chips that are sitting in the sink and starts eating them.

FRANKIE

Well, I don't know what makes you think it's going to be any better here.

Frankie makes her way back into the kitchen where Sue is sitting at the dinner table, now surrounded by screwed up balls of paper.

SUE

Mom, this is impossible. I can't even start-

AXL

-Mom, what is with these chips? They're gross.

SUE

Axl! I was talking to mom.

AXL

And now you're done. Seriously though mom, quality has fallen since I left.

He makes a face and flings the bag of chips on the counter.

SUE

What about a vet? I could be a vet. I like animals.

AXL

Nah, people might get confused and try and take you home on the leash.

SUE
 AXL! Mom!

FRANKIE
 Axl.

AXL
 How about a welder? Then, you know,
 you can cover this situation.

Axl gestures to Sue's face.

SUE
 MOM!

FRANKIE
 Axl.

AXL
 Or maybe a plastic surgeon, then
 you know.

Again, he gestures to Sue's face.

SUE
 MOM!

FRANKIE
 Axl.

AXL
 What? I'm just trying to help, GOD!

FRANKIE
 Ok, Sue, keep thinking. Axl, go
 (beat) help from the other room.

Frankie starts to make her way back to the bathroom when MIKE enters.

He is limping.

SUE
 Dad! What happened?

Frankie walks back into the kitchen.

FRANKIE
 Mike?

MIKE
 It's fine. I'll be fine. I just had
 a little accident at work. I might
 have pulled a muscle in my back.
 Not a big deal.

FRANKIE

Oh, no. Do you need to go to the doctor? Because on our plan we can't go twice in a month, and Sue already went with her strep throat.

AXL

Way to be selfish Sue!

SUE

Axl! Mom!

FRANKIE

Axl!

MIKE

No, I don't need the doctor. The nurse at work said I just need to rest.

AXL

You should go in the bath. That soothes muscles.

Frankie shoots him a look.

MIKE

I just need to get to the couch.

Mike looks at Frankie, who is still in her bathrobe.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Are you alright? What's with the robe?

FRANKIE

Yeah, I was just going to go in the bath.

MIKE

In the afternoon?

11

INT.HECK FAMILY HOME/DINNER TABLE -- EVENING (D1)

11

Sue, Mike, and Axl are sitting around the table. Sue is still scribbling on pieces of paper.

Frankie, still in her bath robe, brings over a plate of bread, chicken and a jar of mayonnaise.

FRANKIE

Dinner's served.

Frankie sits down and grabs a piece of bread.

SUE
Ok, so far on my list I have, a
teacher-

AXL
-You'll frighten the children.

SUE
Calligraphy artist-

AXL
-Is that even a thing?

SUE
Dancer-

AXL, FRANKIE, AND MIKE
NO!

Frankie pauses and looks around the table.

FRANKIE
What's missing?

AXL
Real mayonnaise? What's with the
light stuff? Ugh.

Axl dollops a large amount of mayo on his bread slice and
smashes another piece of bread on top of it causing the mayo
to squelch out the sides.

Mike looks around the table.

MIKE
Are we missing an offspring?

A look of realization comes over Frankie's face.

12 EXT. ORSON LIBRARY -- EVENING (D1) 12

BRICK is sitting on the curb reading a book.

A car pulls up in front of him, Frankie is driving.

FRANKIE
Brick!

13 INT. HECK FAMILY CAR -- EVENING (D1) 13

Brick buckles in the front seat.

BRICK
You forgot about me didn't you?

FRANKIE

No! Of course not. I just know how much you love the library so I figured I'd give you some extra time there while I made dinner.

BRICK

It closed half an hour ago.

FRANKIE

Oh.

BRICK

So you did forget. (beat) Are you sick? Why are you wearing a bath robe?

14 INT. HECK FAMILY HOME/KITCHEN -- EVENING (D1)

14

Frankie and Brick enter.

Axl and Sue are throwing pieces of paper at each other.

MIKE

Hey Brick, how was your day?

BRICK

Mom forgot me.

MIKE

Well, some kids don't have moms to forget about them. Will you two knock it off, so we can eat?

Brick sits down at the table.

SUE

Axl said I couldn't be president!

AXL

No, I said you could be president-of the uggos!

SUE

Axl! Mom!

FRANKIE

Mike.

MIKE

Axl, you're sister could be president if she wanted to.

SUE

You really think so dad?

MIKE

Of course, you're American.
That's.. (beat) a prerequisite.

Frankie and Mike look at each other. Mike shrugs his shoulders.

FRANKIE

Can we just eat? Your dad's back hurts!

MIKE

Yes, my back!

The family sits in silence for a beat.

AXL

Did you really go outside in your bathrobe?

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

15 INT.HECK FAMILY HOME/ LIVING ROOM -- NEXT MORNING (D2) 15

FRANKIE (V.O.)

Mike was never one for just
lounging about or taking it easy,
even if it was doctor's orders.
Unless, of course, March Madness
was involved.

Mike is laying on the couch with his feet up, he is
struggling to get comfortable.

Sue enters with an armful of papers.

SUE

Dad, do you think I would make a
good nurse?

MIKE

Well, let's see, hand me the
remote.

Sue grabs the remote from the coffee table and hands it to
Mike.

He grabs it.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Not bad. Can I have that pillow for
my head?

He gestures to the one on the floor.

Sue grabs it and it is stuck to the carpet.

They both look at each other.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Yeah, leave that. I'll just have a
drink.

Sue smiles and checks something off her piece of paper.

She runs into the kitchen.

Frankie enters carrying bags of groceries.

FRANKIE

Remind me to never go to the Frugal
Hoosier during double coupon day.

MIKE

That bad, huh?

FRANKIE

I nearly lost an eye in the cereal aisle and then I panicked so I'm pretty sure I picked up sponges instead of bread and the milk may, or may not be, cooking oil.

Sue enters carrying an oversized glass with a bendy straw in it.

SUE

Here you go patient. It's even got a bendy straw, so you don't have to sit up.

Mike nods, impressed.

SUE (CONT'D)

Mom, I've decided, I'm going to be a nurse.

FRANKIE

Great, can you take these groceries into the kitchen, STAT.

Axl walks by and grabs a box of cereal from the grocery bag.

AXL

Oh, Frugal Hoosier own brand? Seriously mom, downhill.

Mike struggles to sit up.

Frankie sits down next to him.

They sit in silence for a moment.

MIKE

Didn't you take Brick with you?

Frankie gives a look of realization.

16 EXT. FRUGAL HOOSIER. -- DAY (D2) 16

Brick is sitting on the curb, reading a book.

A car drives up in front of him. Frankie is driving.

17 INT. HECK FAMILY HOME/KITCHEN -- AFTERNOON (D2) 17

Frankie and Brick enter.

FRANKIE

Well, I don't know. Ring a bell or something next time.

Mike is grabbing something out of the fridge.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Mike, why aren't you resting?

MIKE

I can't. Sue has taken this nursing thing to a whole new level - she offered to feed me. It's getting a bit unsettling.

BRICK

I'd kind of like that actually. The moving of my arm to my mouth has always been my least favorite part of eating.

MIKE

Well, go talk to your sister.

BRICK

In fact, the constant elbow movement of meal times could be considered a risk for repetitive strain injury.

Brick mimes eating something.

BRICK (CONT'D)

See. Constant, repetitive motion. There must be a better way.

Brick exits, still miming eating.

FRANKIE

He may cure the world one day.

MIKE

Not unless the world's ailment is lack of weird.

18 INT. HECK FAMILY HOME/SUE'S BEDROOM -- AFTERNOON (D2) 18

Sue is sitting on her bed, writing.

Brick walks in.

BRICK

Dad says you're offering to feed people.

SUE

Well, not any people Brick, sick people.

BRICK

Hmm. Would that have to be proven in some way? Like, I couldn't just say I had a headache and you'd feed me?

SUE

Why would you want me to feed you?

BRICK

Elbow movement, not worth the effort.

Brick mimes the action of putting a fork to his mouth again.

BRICK (CONT'D)

See.

SUE

I'm a nurse in training Brick - I can't use my skills to help you be lazy.

BRICK

I would beg to differ.

Brick looks down at the floor.

BRICK (CONT'D)

(whispers) Feed me.

19

INT.HECK FAMILY HOME/DINNER TABLE -- EVENING (D2)

19

Brick and Axl are sitting around the table.

Frankie brings over a gravy boat.

FRANKIE

Ok, I put this on nuke, so you know the drill. Let it sit for five minutes.

Sue enters holding Mike's hand.

SUE

Careful dad, there's a throw rug there.

MIKE

Yes, I'm not blind Sue.

SUE

And dad, this is where the floor is slanty.

MIKE

I told you, my back isn't that bad now.

SUE

You're going to be sitting down now. Bend at the knees.

MIKE

Sue-

SUE

KNEES!

Mike sits down on the chair. He fidgets a bit.

SUE (CONT'D)

Oh, wait. Let me get you a pillow. You can put it behind your back.

MIKE

Sue, really I'm-

Before he can finish Sue runs off to the living room. She reappears a moment later with a large pillow.

SUE

The only one that would be the right size is still stuck to the carpet, so I had to bring this.

She tries to squish it between Mike's back and the chair back.

SUE (CONT'D)

Dad, sit forward.

MIKE

Sue, I'm fine.

SUE

No, just sit forward.

Sue smashes the pillow down the back of Mike, he tries to resist.

The table begins to get a jostled with the commotion.

FRANKIE

Sue, be careful. The table.

SUE

Dad, seriously, just lean to the right.

BRICK

I'm trying to drink my dinner here, can we settle down?

Brick tries to slurp a big gulp of potatoes off the plate with a straw.

AXL

I could have stayed at school if I wanted to see a fight during dinner.

SUE

Shut up Axl, I'm just trying to help dad. He could injure his back even more if he moves the wrong way.

MIKE

Sue, honestly - please.

Sue yanks the pillow up causing Mike to jerk forward.

The gravy boat on the table tips over, right onto Mike's hand.

He lets out a shriek of pain.

Everyone pauses.

Mike raises his hand, gravy is dripping down his arm.

Brick walks over and, with his straw, starts to slurp the dripping gravy off Mike's arm.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

20 INT.HECK FAMILY HOME/SUE'S BEDROOM -- EVENING (D2) 20

FRANKIE (V.O.)

So as Mike nursed a bad back and
now a scolded hand, I tried to
nurse a would be nurse.

Sue is laying face down on her bed. She is sniffling.

A knock on the door, and Frankie pops her head in.

FRANKIE

Sue? Can I come in.

SUE

You better not, I might end up
damaging you too.

FRANKIE

I don't think we need to worry
about that. I've been married to
your father for that long - I'm
damaged beyond repair.

Frankie gives a half laugh.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

That was a joke, I was trying to
make a joke.

Sue sits staring at her, still with some tears running down
her face.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Sue, your dad's hand is fine. In
fact he said the pain was a welcome
distraction from his back.

SUE

It doesn't matter, I tried to help
him and ended up causing him more
harm.

FRANKIE

Yeah, but you can't tell me that
Florence Nightingale never dropped
a cup of coffee on a patient? Or
that (beat) some other famous nurse
didn't run over a patient's toe
with a wheelchair. I know from
experience those things are hard to
maneuver.

Sue sits quietly.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Ok, well you come back out when you're ready. I'll try and save you some gravy - but Brick might have sucked that one dry.

Frakie, again, gives a half hearted laugh.

Sue, again, sits quietly.

Frankie exits.

Sue takes out her notebook.

She crosses nurse off of her list.

21 INT.HECK FAMILY HOME/LIVING ROOM -- AFTERNOON (D3) 21

Mike and Axl are sitting on the couch.

MIKE

Oh, I can't believe that lay up.

AXL

I could do better than that.

Sue walks through the living room and grabs a school book of the coffee table.

MIKE

Hey, miss nurse - I could really use a drink?

SUE

I'm sure Axl would be better getting you one.

Sue walks off quickly.

Axl watches her walk out.

Brick appears from behind the coffee table. He has a several straws stuck together to form one long straw.

BRICK

Whoever is getting a drink, can you bring me some melted ice cream?

22 INT.HECK FAMILY HOME/SUE'S BEDROOM -- AFTERNOON (D3) 22

Sue is sitting at her desk.

There's a knock on the door and Axl walks in.

AXL

Hey.

SUE

Axl, please just leave me alone.

AXL

No. Hey, wait. You don't even know what I'm going to say.

SUE

Something about my face?

AXL

Well, no. Not this time.

Sue turns back to her homework on the desk.

AXL (CONT'D)

Look, hey. I just wanted to say, I think you would make a great nurse.

Sue turns to face Axl.

SUE

But dad's hand -

AXL

Dad's hand is fine. It was just a bit of gravy.

SUE

That mom nuked! In the microwave! Using radiation! What if I made dad's hand radioactive?

AXL

Um. I'm not a scientist, but I'm pretty sure that's not how microwaves work. Although, it would be cool if it were.

Sue looks down at the floor, unsure.

AXL (CONT'D)

No, but really. You care a lot, about everyone. Remember when I broke my arm four years ago? You brought me popsicles.

SUE

Because you threatened to break my arm if I didn't.

AXL

You cared enough to listen though. Or what about how you always make sure I have toothpaste in my backpack when I go back to school?

SUE
I put it in the front pocket, with
your car keys.

AXL
Thanks.

SUE
You really think I could be a great
nurse?

AXL
If you get a bit more coordination,
sure. They probably teach that in
nursing school though, so I
wouldn't worry too much about it.

Sue smiles at Axl.

She stands up and gives him a great big hug.

AXL (CONT'D)
Okay. Okay. Enough.

Sue lets him go.

SUE
Thanks Axl.

23 INT.HECK FAMILY HOME/LIVING ROOM -- AFTERNOON (D3) 23

Frankie, Axl, and Mike are sitting on the sofa.

Sue brings a drink to Mike.

He smiles at her as she goes and sits in the chair.

FRANKIE (V.O.)
So, as you can see Sue's ambitions
continued, thanks to her brother.
Mike's hand and back healed
relatively quickly and Brick
transitioned back onto solid food.
More or less because we ran out of
straws in the house.

24 INT.HECK FAMILY HOME/FRANKIE AND MIKE'S BEDROOM (D4) 24

FRANKIE (V.O.)
And me, I managed to get that
relaxing bath I wanted.

The alarm clock on the night stand reads 3:37am.

Frankie sneaks out of bed.

25 INT.HECK FAMILY HOME/HALLWAY -- MORNING (D4) 25
Sue, Brick, and Mike all stand banging on the bathroom door.

SUE
Mom! Come on!

BRICK
I need to pee, you should know the
amount of liquid I've consumed!

MIKE
Frankie, come on!

26 INT.HECK FAMILY HOME/BATHROOM --MORNING (D4) 26
The racket startles Frankie awake.

FRANKIE (V.O.)
Yeah, I don't remember any of it.

FADE TO BLACK.