

TROPHY WIFE

Written by

Emily Halpern and Sarah Haskins

First Network Draft 12/9/2011

©2011, ABC Studios. All rights reserved. This material is the exclusive property of ABC Studios and is intended solely for the use of its personnel. Distribution to unauthorized persons or reproduction, in whole or in part, without the written consent of ABC Studios is strictly prohibited.

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

EXT. CVS PARKING LOT - DAY

KATE HARRISON, 28, exits the CVS. Attractive, smiling, fresh-faced - a confident young lady with the world at her fingertips. The world and a small bag of toiletries. Two great things.

A shout distracts her from her happy reverie.

ERICA (O.S.)

Kate! Kate! Oh my God!

Kate turns, surprised to see her old friends ERICA and KIM. They're dressed to go out and holding bottles of wine.

Kate smiles as they run over to her.

ERICA (CONT'D)

We haven't seen you in forever! I heard you got married!

KIM

Are you still in culinary school?

KATE

I graduated. I'm a pastry chef at -

Kate is cut-off when a NERF DART plows into her head.

Camera turns to see BERT, 7, gleeful and laughing.

KATE (CONT'D)

BERT! No darts above the neck!

Bert runs behind a car. Erica and Kim are confused.

KIM

...is that your son?

KATE

No, no - that's my stepson. He's showing off. He knows he's not allowed to shoot above the -

HILLARY (O.S.)

KATE!

KATE

...neck.

HILLARY and NELSON, 15 - twins - march into frame. They are the Odd Couple of twinhood: Hillary is popular, smart and entitled. Nelson is a sloppy space cadet.

HILLARY

Nelson keeps trying to take my phone. Would you tell him to keep his hands to himself please and thank you?

Hillary grabs the handle of their minivan and tugs at it.

KATE

(matter of fact)

Nelson, keep your hands to yourself. Hillary - it's locked.

ERICA

So *they* are...?

KATE

Also my stepkids. Do you -

Bert, who has been circling the scene with his gun pipes up -

BERT

But we have different moms!

He shoots Kate again.

KATE

Yes, thank you, Bert. Do you guys still live downtown?

KIM

Wait, so you're wife number *three*?

BRAD HARRISON (40's) exits the CVS. He's a handsome man who looks better with each passing year. He wears glasses which hint at his age, but also make him look sexy and smart.

BRAD

Kate, do you have the keys?

ERICA

Ohmygosh is this your dad?

Nelson snorts. Hillary acts like she's going to vomit.

BRAD

Actually, I'm her husband. Brad.

ERICA

I... am so sorry.

BRAD
Don't worry about it. Thank god you
didn't see me getting my viagra
prescription.

HILLARY
DAD!

Off Erica and Kim's horrified expressions.

BRAD
I'm joking. I don't need viagra.

KATE
He only needs adult diapers.

BRAD
She's always looking out for me.
You have the keys?

KATE
I gave them back to you.

Brad pats his pockets. Empty. Whoops.

BRAD
I got this.
(to the kids)
Ok everyone! Fan out. Keys must've
fallen out of my pocket. First one
to find them wins a ride home.

NELSON
I want a ride home!

HILLARY
We're all getting a ride home,
idiot.

Kate turns back to her friends whose mouths hang open.

A Nerf Dart ricochets off her head.

KATE
So what's new with you guys?

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. HARRISON HOUSE- BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Brad is lying in bed with a thermometer in his mouth. It beeps. Kate pulls it out.

KATE

102. You are officially sick.

BRAD

No - it's wrong. I'm fine. I have to finish these briefs for work, Bert's got soccer, the twins -

KATE

It's not wrong - don't make me get the *other* thermometer.

(then)

I called Meredith - I'm not going in, so I can stay home and use my culinary skills to make you some canned chicken soup.

BRAD

You didn't have to do that.

KATE

It's done. And now I can do stuff around here. Like wedding thank you notes... Six months later.

BRAD

You have a year.

KATE

That's for the gift, not the thank you.

Brad takes her hand.

BRAD

You are my best wife so far.

KATE

(pulling her hand away)
Ruined the moment.

BRAD

Awwww -

He leans in to kiss her, but she moves away.

KATE

Here. Elbow kiss. That's all you get until you're germ-free.

He smiles and kisses her elbow. Then he opens his mouth, and starts making out with it. Kate laughs.

HILLARY (O.S.)

That's revolting.

Nelson and Hillary pop into the doorframe. Brad turns to face the kids, as Kate wipes her elbow.

BRAD

It's time you learned where babies come from.

NELSON

Dad, if you aren't going to work, can I have your phone?

BRAD

Sorry, buddy. No phone until you stop dropping them in the toilet. You don't need to play angry birds every time you pee.

NELSON

I wasn't peeing, I was p-

BRAD

Answer's no.

Kate goes to the desk, picks up a bag.

KATE

Hey Hil, I picked you up those water bottles you wanted for your Hiking Club trip this weekend.

Kate hands her the bottles. Hillary is unenthused.

HILLARY

They only had green?

BRAD

Hey guys, Kate's gonna pick you up today since I'm sick. Isn't that nice?

The twins shrug, muttering "whatever" as they walk out.

KATE

See, they're already taking me for granted. Just like a real Mom.

INT. HARRISON HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

Soup simmers on the stove. Kate is writing thank you notes.

Brad walks in and reads over her shoulder.

BRAD

"Dear Andrea, Thank you so much for the thoughtful gift. It's a wonderful colander." Wonderful colander?

KATE

"Great colander" sounds sarcastic. What are you doing up?

BRAD

I smelled soup. "Delightful colander?"

The phone rings. Kate answers it.

KATE

Hello. Harrison household. Oh really? Now? Okay. See you soon.
(hangs up, to Brad)
That was the school. They want us to come in for a conference.

BRAD

Nelson again?

KATE

Hillary.

BRAD

That's unusual. I'll get dressed.

KATE

No you won't. You want to go into a high school and be patient zero?

BRAD

Where's her Mom?

KATE

The school said Diane's stuck in surgery. Bubs - I'll handle it - I want to.

BRAD
You don't have to prove anything to me.

KATE
I'm not. If I was sick you'd do the same for me, right?

BRAD
I'd let you kiss both elbows.

Kate throws a dishtowel at him.

INT. KATE'S CAR - DAY

Kate is on the phone. It rings. MEG, Kate's 25 year old sister answers groggily.

INTERCUT WITH -

INT. MEG'S APARTMENT - DAY

MEG
'Lo?

Meg is still in bed. She's hot, hungover, and naked under the sheets. We hear soft guitar music in the background.

KATE
Hey Meg, can you do me a favor and take Bert to soccer practice today? I'm going to a parent teacher conference and Brad's super sick so-

MEG
Everything you just said sounds like an insane foreign language. But fine.

KATE
Thanks. What's that sound?

MEG
Neighbor.

We reveal the source of Meg's music: a NAKED DUDE, standing by her bed, strumming the guitar.

KATE
I'm excited. This makes me feel like a real Mom, you know?

MEG

Yeah, sounds amazing. Let me know if you ever take the kids to the dentist.

KATE

One more thing: Jackie's dropping Bert off.

MEG

Woo! More exes.

The Naked Dude starts to do an Elvis hip swivel.

KATE

Just - make sure she leaves when you leave. She has a habit of lingering. She's a lingerer-er. Are you listening?

Meg is not listening because the Naked Dude is gyrating on her leg.

MEG

Uh-huh. You know who else had a lot of wives?

KATE

Who?

MEG

Osama Bin Laden.

Kate hangs up. Meg hangs up. The Naked Dude stops dancing.

MEG (CONT'D)

Who told you to stop?

INT/EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Kate walks into the school, as another car pulls in - a nice one - and parks right next to Kate's. A very tall, fit woman emerges. This is DIANE, late 40s. Former Olympic Swimmer. Current Orthopedic Surgeon. Intimidating. Accomplished - and Hillary and Nelson's Mom.

KATE

(high-pitched, nervous)
Oh Diane! Hi! I didn't think you were coming -

DIANE
 (matter of fact)
 Of course I'm here. Hillary is my
 daughter. Where's Bradley?

They head in together to -

INT. HIGH SCHOOL/HALLWAY - DAY

KATE
 He's sick.

DIANE
 His immune system is a joke.
 (surveying Kate)
 You look exhausted.

KATE
 (kind of babbling)
 Oh? Really? I've been sleeping.
 Feeling fine, really - I mean maybe
 a little tired now and then -

DIANE
 Take a multi-vitamin. What is this
 meeting about? It had better not be
 something that goes on her
 permanent record. We take a left
 here. This school has not changed a
 bit.

They walk past a large picture of Diane in a US Olympic
 swimsuit, diving off the starting block. On the wall a sign
 says THE DIANE BUCKLEY POOL (CLASS OF '84, '92 OLYMPIC
 MEDALIST), with an arrow pointing down the hall.

Kate pauses, staring at the poster, as Diane plows ahead.

INT. HARRISON HOUSE/FOYER - DAY

The doorbell rings and Meg opens it to reveal BERT and his
 mother, JACKIE, "late 30s". An outgoing woman who describes
 herself as "fun" and "young" on her on-line dating profiles.

JACKIE
 Meggo!

MEG
 Hey Jackie - Kate has a meeting so
 I'm taking Bert to soccer today.

BERT
 (quietly)
 Nooooo.

JACKIE
 No problemo. I haven't seen you
 since we got plastered at
 kindergarten graduation.

MEG
 Good times. Ready to go, Bert?

BERT
 I want Kate.

MEG
 And we're off -

Meg picks up Bert's soccer bag and gestures out the door.

JACKIE
 You know what? I just need to grab
 some old tax returns. Go ahead.

MEG
 Cool beans.

Meg and Bert step out the door. Jackie shuts it behind them
 and heads into:

INT. HARRISON HOUSE/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jackie grabs an apple, takes a bite, flips through the mail
 on the counter, and surveys her territory. A framed picture
 of the kids sits above the sink. She adjusts its position -
 perfect - and heads into the next room.

She's baaaaaaack...

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

Meg stands on the sidelines with other parents, mostly
 talking on their cell phones.

The team warms up with jumping jacks led by their coach,
 MIKE. His shirt flaps up, revealing a flat stomach.

MEG
 Hello, abs.

A TEAM MOM approaches and taps Meg on the shoulder.

TEAM MOM

Hi there - I just wanted to introduce myself. I'm Kathy. Are you Brad's new wife?

Meg looks at her blankly - and then bursts out laughing. She laughs for a very long time.

TEAM MOM (CONT'D)

Um, I'm sorry -

MEG

No - no. Whew. No. Oh. Let me catch my breath. Oh no. Sorry. That's my sister, Kate. If I marry an old dude, he's gonna be rich.

The awkward moment is interrupted by Coach Mike:

COACH MIKE

Hi parents. Coach Duane is out today. I was wondering if one of you would mind stepping in to even out our numbers.

Meg raises her hand and steps out onto the field.

MEG

(flirty)

I played intramural in college.

Coach Mike smiles. Off Bert, putting his head in his hands.

INT. HARRISON HOUSE/BEDROOM - DAY

Brad is tossing and turning, trying to sleep. He hears a noise. He sits up - listens. Nothing.

He lies back down - when he hears a CRASH from downstairs.

BRAD

Honey - ?

Brad pulls himself out of bed, shivering slightly. He walks slowly to the door.

BRAD (CONT'D)

Kate, is that you?

Jackie steps into the doorframe.

BRAD (CONT'D)

AHHHHHH!

Brad jumps back, knocking over the bedside lamp.

JACKIE

God - you almost gave me a heart attack. What are you doing here?

BRAD

What am I doing here? It's my house.

(re: the lamp)

Thanks, Jackie.

He goes to pick up the pieces of the lamp.

JACKIE

That lamp wasn't doing this room any favors.

Off Brad -

INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM - DAY

Diane, Kate, Hillary, and Hillary's English Teacher MRS. STEINBERG - a pleasant, scattered woman in her 50's - sit in an uncomfortable circle around Mrs. Steinberg's desk.

MRS. STEINBERG

Furthermore the tone of the paper is different. And Hillary usually writes A papers. I gave this a B-. What I suspect is that this paper is not Hillary's work.

Diane and Kate gasp.

DIANE

PLAGIARISM! Hillary!

KATE

Hillary, what were you thinking?

DIANE

Exactly, Kate!

Kate is thrilled to be on Diane's team.

KATE

We expected more from you.

She looks at Diane like "right?"

HILLARY

Maybe I just wrote a bad paper.

MRS. STEINBERG
But the language doesn't sound like
you, Hillary.

Mrs. Steinberg picks up the paper and begins to read aloud.

MRS. STEINBERG (CONT'D)
"Lady Macbeth's ambition subverts
traditional gender roles throughout
the play. Even in her guilt- "

KATE
(blanching)
Oh my god.

DIANE
Indeed. Banal. Trite.

Kate shoots a look at Hillary. Hillary stares at her shoes.

DIANE (CONT'D)
Where did you get this? A friend?
The internet? A friend on the
internet?

KATE
I know where she got it.

All three heads swivel to look at Kate.

KATE (CONT'D)
(gulps)
I gave it to her.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM - DAY

Hillary is in the midst of a tearful confession.

HILLARY

I'm sorry. It was a desperate, clumsy act. I was just overwhelmed. I had model UN, the Gazette goes to press on Friday, I had violin and viola and I - I freaked out.

DIANE

That's no excuse for plagiarism. I've felt overwhelmed in my life -

MRS. STEINBERG

Probably when you were training for the Olympics and going to medical school.

DIANE

Yes. But I did not plagiarize. Because someone could have died.

Kate's not sure that makes sense.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Even if someone gives you something to plagiarize -

KATE

Wait - I didn't give it to her to plagiarize. I showed it to her to help. As an example.

DIANE

Some example.

HILLARY

(to Diane)

I knew the paper was pedestrian.

KATE

Ok - it's not a *terrible* paper. I mean, back in my day it got an A.

MRS. STEINBERG

It is not an A paper.

HILLARY

This is an AP class.

Kate frowns.

DIANE

The point is, you shouldn't have given it to my daughter and she shouldn't have turned it in.

MRS. STEINBERG

Since this is Hillary's first offence, I suggest detention.

DIANE

That's a start. But I am afraid, Hillary, that you also won't be going to Portland with the Hiking Club this weekend.

Kate looks up - not happy with that decision.

HILLARY

What?! I've been planning that trip for a month!

KATE

Y'know, Diane, that's true. Maybe -

DIANE

I will handle this, thank you Kate.

Kate shuts up, humiliated. Clearly out of the parenting club.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Kate heads to her car, frustrated, muttering.

KATE

(to herself)

"I knew the paper was pedestrian."

She gets into her car, still worked up as she turns the key in the ignition.

Kate looks up to see Mrs. Steinberg asking Diane for an autograph in the foyer.

KATE (CONT'D)

Oh give me a break...

Venting her frustration, Kate peels out - too quickly. She swipes the side of Diane's car, hitting the side mirror, knocking it off of its hinge.

Kate looks up - Diane and Mrs. Steinberg are still chatting. They didn't notice.

Kate makes a split-second decision, and pulls away. As she does she sees, standing in a doorway: Nelson, staring right at her.

KATE (CONT'D)

Nelson?

They make eye contact. Then Nelson disappears back into the school.

Off Kate: shit.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

Meg is supervising a drill. Kids are taking turns shooting on Bert in goal. Their shots all go wide or fail to reach the goal.

MEG

Lemme show you how it's done.

Meg winds up and WALLS the ball at Bert. It blazes past him.

MEG (CONT'D)

Goooooooooooooaaaaaallllllll!

She races around celebrating. The kids look annoyed.

BERT

That was too hard.

MEG

What, you think your opponents are going to take it easy on you?

BERT

My opponents are seven.

Coach Mike jogs over.

COACH MIKE

Hey all, how's it going? Are we building our skills?

MEG

(flirty)

It's going great... Just showing the boys some moves.

COACH MIKE

Just keep in mind you're not here
to win, you're here to help them
learn.

MEG

Of course.

She gives him a flirty tap on the stomach.

MEG (CONT'D)

Wow, it's like a granite countertop
in there.

She does it again. Coach Mike smiles. Bert wants to die.

INT. BRAD AND KATE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Brad lies feverish in bed with a box of kleenex, while Jackie
rummages through a file cabinet under his desk.

BRAD

(weakly)

Jackie will you just look in the -

He coughs, as Jackie produces the file.

JACKIE

Got it! In the taxes file! Duh!

Brad drops his head and shuts his eyes, as Jackie stands.

BRAD

Good... Bye Jackie.

Jackie heads to the door - then stops. She looks back at
poor, defenseless Brad, his head in his pillow.

JACKIE

What am I thinking? I can't leave
you here like this.

BRAD

(into his pillow)

Please leave me like this. Please.

JACKIE

No. It wouldn't be right. You're my
ex-husband - but you're also a
human being.

(smiles)

Nurse Jackie's going to get you
some juice!

Jackie bounds out of the room. Brad lifts his head.

BRAD
Jackie, NO!

No response - she's off.

BRAD (CONT'D)
(weakly)
No...

INT. HARRISON KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Jackie is pouring juice when the PHONE RINGS. She pauses - then answers it.

JACKIE
Harrison residence, may I help you?

Intercut with:

EXT. PHARMACY - DAY

Kate heads to her car - cold/flu medicine in one hand, her phone in the other.

KATE
Who is this?

JACKIE
It's Jackie! Who is *this*?

KATE
(annoyed)
Jackie, who let you in?

JACKIE
Oh hey Kate. Brad's very sick.

KATE
I know he's sick.

JACKIE
Don't worry I'm taking good care of him. He'll pull through.

KATE
He has the flu, Jackie, not scarlet fever. Can I speak with him please?

JACKIE
I think he should get his rest,
don't you?

KATE
(sighs)
When he wakes up, please tell him I
have his medicine and I'm getting
the twins.

They hang up. Brad calls out from upstairs:

BRAD (O.S.)
Did you just answer the phone?!

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT/INT. KATE'S CAR - DAY

Kate pulls into the parking lot. Annoyed. Her phone rings again. She answers.

KATE
Hello?

Intercut with:

INT. BRAD AND KATE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Brad lies in bed, holding the phone to his ear, whispering.

BRAD
(whispers)
It's me. I can't get her out of here.

KATE
She seems to think she's taking
very good care of you.

BRAD
Sure. If Kathy Bates "took care" of
James Caan in *Misery*. How was
Hillary's conference?

KATE
Oh, it was -

Brad hears a *click*. He looks at the phone, confused. Then he looks over, to see that Jackie has pulled the cord out of the wall jack.

Jackie looms over Brad's bed, a la Kathy Bates. She smiles sweetly and shakes her head.

JACKIE
Silly. You need your rest.

INT. KATE'S CAR - SIMULTANEOUS

KATE
(into phone)
Hello? Brad?

She hangs up, as Nelson gets into the back seat. Kate watches him in the rearview mirror. Kate makes the first move.

KATE (CONT'D)
Hi Nelson.

NELSON
Hello.

Nelson smiles. This freaks Kate out.

KATE
How are you?

NELSON
Fine.

Pause. Nelson smiles again.

KATE
Did anything interesting happen today?

NELSON
Lots of interesting things happened.

Kate's had enough. She turns sharply to Nelson.

KATE
Ok look. We both know what you saw.
And that means that you and I have
a secret. And I would like for you
to keep that secret. Ok?

Nelson shrugs.

KATE (CONT'D)
Fine Nelson. You want to blackmail
me, that's fine. What do you want?
What's it gonna take for you keep
quiet about me hitting Diane's car?

NELSON
You hit my mom's car?!

KATE

You didn't see it? Then what were we just talking about?

NELSON

I dunno. You seemed crazy.

Kate bangs her head against the back seat. Arg!

NELSON (CONT'D)

I won't tell if I can have your phone.

Kate sighs, and hands Nelson her cell phone. He mutters "awesome" as Hillary opens the door and gets in.

HILLARY

Oh, so he gets a phone now? I don't think anyone could have a worse day than this.

CUT TO:

INT. BRAD AND KATE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Brad, who is having a worse day, is in bed, coughing. Jackie sits at the foot of the bed, flipping channels on the remote.

JACKIE

What do you want to watch?

BRAD

Nothing. I want to sleep.

Jackie pauses on an episode of 'Dr. Phil.'

JACKIE

Oh my god. I have to watch this. Tyson and I are going through a rough patch.

BRAD

Who's Tyson?

JACKIE

(starts crying)
My boyfriend. My lover.

Brad rubs his temples.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Brad. I need advice. Can we do that High Fidelity thing? Where I ask you what went wrong?

BRAD

(muttering)
Can I stop you?

JACKIE

Why did we get divorced? Was it something I did?

Brad sighs - there's no getting rid of her.

BRAD

Well, as I remember, you cheated on me with your yoga teacher.

JACKIE

Yes.
(then)
But what are the things you think you did that made me do that?

Off Brad -

INT. KATE'S CAR - DAY

Kate now drives. Hillary rides shotgun, silently fuming. Nelson's in the back, fiddling with his cell phone.

NELSON

This game makes no sense.

Kate makes a left.

HILLARY

Why didn't you take Valley Vista? No one goes this way. Are you *trying* to make my life more difficult?

KATE

I don't know why you're upset with *me*! It's not *my* fault you stole my paper!

HILLARY

My mom was right. You *are* an irresponsible parent.

Thrown, Kate turns to face Hillary -

KATE

What?

- and WHAM! She drives over a pot-hole and smacks her head on the steering wheel.

KATE (CONT'D)

Ow!

Kate stops the car, and they hear a loud SQUEAK and HISSING noise - as the back tire completely deflates. Perfect.

Nelson looks up, totally oblivious.

NELSON

Oh, the phone is locked.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

The team is scrimmaging. Meg's in goal. Bert dribbles the ball towards her and SHOOTs. Meg - who sees Coach Mike watching - very obviously misses it, and lets the ball roll past her.

Bert and his teammates CHEER and RACE AROUND.

MEG

Ok, chill. It's a scrimmage, not the World Cup.

BERT

Eat my dust, farthead!

Meg frowns.

MEG

Hey Coach. Don't you think calling people fartheads is unsportsmanlike?

Meg looks up to see Coach Mike heading towards the sidelines - where he embraces a cute twenty-something girl, STEPHANIE.

MEG (CONT'D)

(to Bert)

Who's that girl?

BERT

(like, duh)

Uh, his *girlfriend*. Get a clue.

Bert runs away, laughing. Meg darkens.

MEG
Okay, farheads. Let's dance.

INT. KATE'S CAR/EXT. ROAD - DAY

Kate hangs up her cell phone and turns to the pouting Hillary and game-addicted Nelson.

KATE
The tow truck will be here soon.

NELSON
I want to be a tow truck driver
when I grow up.

HILLARY
This'll certainly help me get my
homework done sooner.

KATE
Yeah, you'll have to plagiarize
twice as fast.

HILLARY
You know, my mom will be thrilled to
hear you put our lives in danger.

KATE
I hardly put your lives in danger,
Hillary, it's a flat tire -

There's a HONK from outside.

KATE (CONT'D)
That's probably the tow truck.

HILLARY
It's not the tow truck. I called
someone who can actually *help* us.

KATE
Tell me you didn't.

Kate turns to see, pulling up next to her: Diane, her side-view mirror still dangling.

DIANE
Hello, Kate.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - EVENING

Meg tears downfield, heading for Bert in the opposing goal.

KID ON MEG'S TEAM

It's 6-1. Can you just pass it already?

Meg ignores him. Coach Mike and Stephanie watch in horror as she dribbles past one defender after another.

Finally, it's just Bert. Bert puts up his hands, determined. Meg winds up and nails the ball. It ROCKETS toward the goal and hits Bert right in the nuts.

He goes down. Meg runs over.

MEG

Are you okay?

BERT

(grunting)

Yes.

Meg taps the ball over the goal line.

Coach Mike blows his whistle and waves his arms.

COACH MIKE

Okay! That's enough for today.

Bert sits up, dejected. The other goalie/random kid approaches.

RANDOM KID

Don't bring that woman ever again.

The kid spits in the dirt and runs off. Bert lies back down.

INT. HARRISON KITCHEN - EVENING

Brad, who is obviously still sick, is making Jackie a grilled cheese sandwich. She's sitting on the kitchen island, chatting animatedly and opening a bottle of wine.

JACKIE

(opening the wine)

Maybe I'm too honest sometimes.

Tyson says I have no filter.

(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

But he's a pet therapist, not a human therapist. So how would he know? It's cool if I open this, right?

BRAD

That was a wedding present.

JACKIE

I'm not going to be a pushover like my Mom was. She never said what she wanted, so she was miserable. I won't be like that.

BRAD

No one wants you to be unhappy, Jackie.

Brad puts a grilled cheese down in front of her.

JACKIE

Put some avocado on that.

BRAD

But sometimes you could be a little more diplomatic.

JACKIE

Can you put some avocado on that, ambassador?

INT. DIANE'S CAR - NIGHT

Hillary and Diane sit in front. Kate looks like a child, stuck in back with Nelson who is totally absorbed by the games on Kate's phone.

DIANE

Why were you driving on Beverly Glen?

HILLARY

(to Diane)

I told you, Mom. She's very arbitrary.

INT. MEG'S CAR - NIGHT

Bert is buckled in the backseat, staring out the window. A bag of ice sits on his groin.

The silence is deafening.

Meg feels a twinge of remorse.

MEG

I think you're gonna do really well
against the Orange Team Saturday.

Bert glares at her.

EXT. HARRISON HOUSE - NIGHT

Diane's car and Meg's car pull into the driveway at the same time. Everyone hops out. The twins dash for the house.

HILLARY

Bye, Mom.

DIANE

I need to talk to your father -

Kate looks over and smiles at Bert who is RUNNING at her. She opens her arms for a hug - finally, a warm moment for Kate.

KATE

Hey sport. How was soccer?

BERT

I'M QUITTING!

He ducks around her arms and waddles in to the house. Kate looks at Meg - what the hell happened? Meg shrugs, like, "I have no idea!"

Kate, frustrated, chases everyone in.

INT. HARRISON LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kate and the rest of the group step in to see: Jackie, sitting on the couch with a bowl of popcorn, watching *Dancing with the Stars*. Brad is asleep next to her.

KATE

What are you still doing here?

JACKIE

It's the elimination round! Hi everyone!

DIANE

(nods)
Jacqueline.

Brad starts to wake up - he sees Kate and lights up.

BRAD
Kate - you're home!

Seeing the assembled crowd he looks confused.

BRAD (CONT'D)
Everyone's home...

Everyone starts talking - almost simultaneously, overlapping, excitable and upset. It's total noise.

BERT
I hate soccer!

HILLARY
Mom and "mom" aren't letting me go on the hiking trip!

DIANE
Bradley - there have been some very serious incidents today. A lot of irresponsible behavior. And -

BRAD
Whoa. Wait - back up. Who's irresponsible?

All eyes turn to Kate. Nelson looks at the TV and then corrects to look at Kate.

JACKIE
Oooooohhhhh -

This is the last straw for Kate. She takes the remote and turns the TV off.

KATE
Ok, that's enough. What did I do wrong today? I left Bert with a 25 year old woman who should be responsible, yet somehow ruined his favorite sport.

BERT
She hit me in the wiener.

Meg is pouring herself a glass of Jackie's wine.

MEG
The ball hit you in the wiener.

KATE
And I was an accessory to plagiarism.

HILLARY

And now I can't go on the trip.

DIANE

Which is completely appropriate.

KATE

But unfortunate. Hillary stole the paper because you put her under a lot of pressure. That's no excuse - but she's also only 15, and it's too bad because hiking is one of the only activities Hillary does because she actually likes it.

Kate glances at Diane. Diane glances at Hillary. Hillary looks at her shoes.

KATE (CONT'D)

So if I'm guilty of anything it's trying too hard.

NELSON

Yeah. Kate's awesome. She had a hard day and she really tries and I love her.

Kate puts her arm around Nelson - heart melting.

BRAD

Nelson, buddy - where'd you get that phone?

NELSON

Kate gave it to me so I wouldn't tell that she hit my Mom's car.
(proud)
It's called blackmail.

DIANE

You what?

Kate takes her arm off his shoulders.

KATE

I will write you a check. Nelson - give me the phone back.
(she takes it)
Okay, I think it's time for everyone to leave. Actually, you know what? Forget it. To make all of your lives easier, I'm going to leave.

Kate walks to the doorway - then stops, walks back, and takes the bottle of wine away from Meg.

KATE (CONT'D)

With this.

Then Kate exits.

JACKIE

It's all about her, I guess.

INT. HARRISON HOUSE/LAUNDRY ROOM - LATER

Kate is half a bottle deep in her pinot when Brad gingerly opens the door.

BRAD

I just wanted to tell you that Jackie is staying as my night nurse. I'm kidding. Everyone's gone.

KATE

So you're stuck here with me.

BRAD

No one else I'd rather be stuck with.

KATE

(sighs)

A year ago I was living with Meg in a studio apartment eating noodles for dinner. And lunch and breakfast. I have no idea what I'm doing.

BRAD

I have no idea what I'm doing either, but I know I love you.

KATE

(softly)

Say it again.

BRAD

I love you. I just hope you still love me after all the crap you went through today.

KATE

(sighs)

Yeah, I do.

BRAD

Look - I can't go back and change the circus that my life is. But I've been through enough to know when I've found the perfect person for me. And you're it. Besides, it's too late for you to change your mind.

He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a stack of envelopes.

BRAD (CONT'D)

Because I did the thank you notes.

KATE

Bubs! When?

BRAD

While Jackie was eating her sandwich. So whaddya say - can you stick it out a while longer?

Kate smiles.

KATE

Why not? I mean, you're so old, how long could it be?

Brad puts his arm around her.

BRAD

That's the spirit.

INT. BRAD AND KATE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kate is taking off her earrings when Hillary softly knocks.

KATE

Hey Hil. You finish your homework?

HILLARY

Yeah. I wanted to, um, say thanks.

KATE

For what?

HILLARY

Well - my mom decided to let me go on my hiking trip this weekend.

Kate pauses. Then smiles.

KATE
Good. You'll have fun.

Hillary walks out - but Kate calls her back.

KATE (CONT'D)
Hey Hil. You know you're still
getting punished, right?

HILLARY
Excuse me?

KATE
You stole a paper. That's serious.
No internet for 2 weeks.

HILLARY
This is like, a human rights
violation.

Hillary storms off. There's the sound of running water being
turned off, and Brad steps out of the bathroom. He settles
into bed.

BRAD
Everything ok?

KATE
(smiles)
Yeah.

She sticks out her elbow. He gives it a kiss. She snuggles
into him.

FADE OUT.

THE END

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. HARRISON HOUSE/BEDROOM - NIGHT

Brad and Kate are asleep in bed.

There is a SOFT CREAK, as the door opens. Then footsteps.

In the darkness:

KATE
Honey, did you hear that?

BRAD
Hear what?

Brad rolls over and turns on the bedside lamp, to reveal:
Jackie, standing over them in bed.

KATE
AAAAHHHHH!!!!

BRAD
AAAAHHHHHH!!!!

Pause.

BRAD (CONT'D)
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE??

JACKIE
I forgot the tax returns!

Kate lays her head back on the pillow, turns to Brad.

KATE
We need to change the locks.

FADE OUT.