

"MOTHER"

Written by

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Hello Writers. We are a sit-com writing room working on a pilot of a new show. This is a multi-cam show in the tradition of "Everyone loves Raymond" "Roseanne" etc. The network has read the script and has just called with notes. Our job it to "punch-up" (improve) the script. The areas that the network wants changed are in red and double underlined. Pages: 12,19,23 and 44. Any other punch-ups are welcome but our first priority is to change the things the network wants changed.

Please pre-read and come prepared.

Let's have some fun and get some better jokes on page. Thank you for helping.

ANY QUESTIONS BEFORE THE SESSION PLEASE EMAIL ME AT
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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

A NICE KITCHEN, FAMILY ROOM COMBO. TOYS ARE STREWN AROUND AND A FAMILY COMPUTER IS JUST OFF THE KITCHEN. THIS IS THE HOME OF BARRY AND GAIL SHERMAN, AN ATTRACTIVE COUPLE IN THEIR THIRTIES. BARRY SITS AT THE COMPUTER AS GAIL HOVERS NEARBY.

BARRY

Done.

GAIL

This is with the new software, right?

BARRY

Yes, it's the new software, but really, Gail, the numbers are not going to change.

GAIL

Can you try and be positive here?

THEY PULL THE PAGES FROM THE PRINTER AND LOOK OVER THEM.

BARRY

Here's the total with you NOT going back to work and taking care of the kids full time. Here's the numbers with you going back to work, us getting full time child care AND paying your mother's rent every month.

GAIL LOOKS VERY HARD AT THE FIRST PAGE.

GAIL

Okay, I'm ready. Show me.

BARRY REVEALS THE OTHER PAGE.

BARRY

Here are the numbers with your mother living here and taking care of the kids while you're at work.

GAIL
(Disappointed)

You're right, it's the same numbers as last time we ran it. In these hard economic times, it makes financial sense that she lives here.

BARRY

You know many Asian societies the generations live together, take care of each other. It promotes respect and... other stuff.

GAIL

There are also Inuit societies that put the elderly on ice flows and just wave good-by? We really should explore all our options.

BARRY

She is so good with little Em, and Ryan loves her.

GAIL

He loves anyone that will buy him ice cream. We need to have that "talking to strangers" talk with him again.

BARRY

It's going to be fine with her here, even if she is a little bit...

FROM THE BACK DOOR, **LORAINÉ** ENTERS. SHE IS A FIVE FOOT TWO BALL OF ENERGY. SHE IS A MEAN, NARCISSISTIC WOMAN, BUT THINKS SHE IS THE NICEST PERSON ON EARTH.

LORAINÉ

There's something wrong with the toilet back there. It's nice if you like camping, running two miles holding your gut.

GAIL

I'll call the plumber tomorrow.

LORAINÉ

How you people call that place a guest house is beyond me.

GAIL

We don't park the cars in there
anymore, Mother, it's a guest house.

LORAINA TAKES IN THE ROOM FULL OF STUFF.

LORAINA

How do you live in all this? People
are going to think pigs live here.
Someone could trip and fall. You get
sued and I'm living on the street. You
might think it's funny, but I'm
serious. Also, Barry could you look on
that computer and get some information
on iron in the blood? I think I may
have iron in my blood, I don't have
the energy I used to. And my bones
hurt. Maybe look up bones hurting.
Does that computer have that?

GAIL

Mother, you should see a doctor.

LORAINA

Doctors, what the hell do they know.
You know what they call the person
that graduates last in medical school?
Doctor. Besides I'm fine, it's just my
bones. Oh and the cable is fuzzy back
there. Why is the cable fuzzy?

BARRY

Do you have it on channel three?

LORAIN

How the hell should I know?

SHE EXITS TO THE BATHROOM.

BARRY

What's with her bones?

GAIL

Her bones are fine. It's all the stuff
wrapped around them that's the
problem.

BARRY

I'll go have a look at the cable.

LORAIN (O.S.)

Pigs, pigs live here.

GAIL

First, let's run the numbers again.

BARRY

Absolutely.

THEY GO BACK TO THE COMPUTER.

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

INT. KITCHEN - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

GAIL, IN A BUSINESS SUIT, IS ON THE PHONE. LITTLE **EMILY**, TEN MONTHS-OLD, SITS IN A HI-CHAIR. BARRY, DRESSED IN SWEATS, ENTERS WITH A BIKE.

BARRY

I am really looking forward to...

GAIL HOLDS UP A FINGER TO STOP HIM AND SHOW HIM THAT SHE IS ON THE PHONE. BARRY CONTINUES HIS CONVERSATION TO EMILY.

BARRY (CONT'D)

... Going green. Daddy is riding his bike to work saving the environment.

RYAN, A CUTE LITTLE FIVE-YEAR-OLD, ENTERS. GAIL HANGS THE PHONE UP AND BEGINS PREPARING BREAKFAST AND THE BABY BAG.

RYAN

Kermit is green. You're Kermit.

RYAN LAUGHS AT HIS OWN JOKE.

GAIL

You haven't ridden your bike in like ten years.

BARRY

The old adage about riding a bike was about riding a bike. I'm not going to fall off.

BARRY EXITS OUT THE FRONT AS LORAINÉ ENTERS FROM THE BACK. SHE GIVES THE KIDS A BIG HUG AND KISS. THEY ARE HER JOY.

RYAN

Morning Grandma.

LORAINIE

Morning everyone. Ryan, can you go get
grandma a quilt for her room?

RYAN RUNS OFF.

GAIL

Mother, is there something wrong with
the heater back there?

LORAINIE

No, it's fine. The quilt is for that
thin mattress, but I guess a roll-away
makes more sense. When I'm dead you
can just roll me right out.

GAIL

Mother don't say things like that.

LORANIE

What did I say?

GAIL JUST LET'S IT DROP

GAIL

I don't need you to watch Emily until
later this morning. I'm taking her to
Sunny Day Preschool to check it out.
I really hope they have room for
Emily. They don't take just anyone.

LORAINIE

The kid is not even one yet.

GAIL

I've got to get her on the list to get in when she's three. I'll drop her back off before I go to work.

LORAINÉ

You people and your preschools. Just a breeding ground for disease. Half those kids are biters at that age. God knows you were. I still have scars.

GAIL

Mother... (Switching gears) the plumber is coming this afternoon. It wasn't easy finding one that could get here today, but I did.

LORAINÉ

Plumber?

GAIL

The toilet back there?

LORAINÉ

I just jiggled the handle it's fine. You panic too much. You'd think, being a mother, you'd learn not to panic so much.

GAIL

(Biting her lip) I will cancel the plumber.

RYAN ENTERS WITH A QUILT.

LORAINÉ

Thank you, Ryan.

RYAN SITS BACK DOWN AT THE TABLE AS BARRY ENTERS WITH HIS BICYCLE. HE IS SWEATY AND BREATHING HARD.

BARRY

I may need to work my way up to this.

I barely made it three blocks.

LORAINÉ

Getting some exercise? I should have exercised when I was young, I wouldn't be falling apart now. Oh, what did the internet say about my bones?

BARRY

Sorry, I haven't gotten to it yet.

LORAINÉ

Oh... You always seem to be on that computer, so I just thought it wouldn't be much trouble. But you're better off exercising. You are getting a little flanky.

GAIL

Mother, Barry wasn't exercising, he wants to ride his bike. He wants to help the environment.

LORAINÉ

Global warming? I'm so sick of all those goofballs scientists. The glaciers are melting, so are my bones.

GAIL

Mother, the scientists say...

LORAINÉ

Scientists, please. It's cyclical, every ten million years the earth warms up, no one knows why. Put on some shorts and leave me alone.

BARRY TRIES TO LIGHTEN THINGS UP.

BARRY

Yeah, honey. You know what they call the person who graduates last in scientist school? Scientist.

LORAINÉ

You two have to stop believing everything you hear on TV. Okay Ryan, hurry up.

LORAINÉ HEADS TO THE DOOR, RYAN JOINS HER.

LORAINÉ (CONT'D)

We still can catch the last half of Sean Hannity.

LORAINÉ EXITS BARRY AND GAIL ARE HORRIFIED.

BARRY

Well... it's good for the kids to hear
different sides of things.

GAIL GIVES BARRY THE WIFELY LOOK.

GAIL

Scientist school? You were mocking my
mother.

BARRY

She said I was flanky.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - LIVING ROOM - LATER

GAIL IS GETTING DINNER READY. BARRY IS SAMPLING THE FOOD.

GAIL

Hey, I talked with Margery, we can get her sister's cleaning lady once a week. If you think we can afford it.

BARRY

We can't afford to have people think pigs live here.

GAIL GRABS TWO TOILET LOCKS OFF THE TABLE.

GAIL

By the way we need to put the toilet locks back on the toilets. Emily took seven steps today.

BARRY

And you figure it's eight to the toilet, then splash.

OFF HER LOOK. HE GRABS THE LOCKS AND HEADS TO THE BATHROOM. WE HEAR A SMALL **CRASH** OUTSIDE.

GAIL

Mother is home.

BARRY

I keep moving the trash cans and she keeps hitting them.

BARRY HEADS TO THE BATHROOM.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - SAME

LORAIN IS DRIVING, RYAN IS IN HIS BOOSTER SEAT IN THE BACK SEAT EATING ICE CREAM. EMILY IS IN HER BABY SEAT.

LORAIN

Damn, I told your father a hundred times to move those trash cans. Oops, don't tell your folks I said damn.

RYAN

I won't.

LORAIN

Good boy and remember we don't tell that Grandma got a speeding ticket and said The F word to the policeman. Grandma might get thrown out and you'd never see her again. Ever! You wouldn't want that, would you?

RYAN

(Sadly)

No.

LORAIN

Good boy.

LORAIN SMILES, SHE LOVES THAT LITTLE BOY SO MUCH.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - LIVING-ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

GAIL IS NOW SETTING THE TABLE AS BARRY ENTERS THE ROOM WIPING HIS HANDS ON A TOWEL.

BARRY

I'm going to need a new watch, turns out this one is not waterproof.

LORAINA ENTERS, CARRYING EMILY, WITH RYAN ON THEIR HEELS.

LORAINA

Traffic was horrible. I'm banning that mall. Madness, sheer madness.

GAIL

Go wash up for dinner, Ryan.

LORAINA

Barry, I don't mean to harp about it, but you really need to move those trash cans.

BARRY

Maybe we should just put them in the neighbor's yard.

LORAINA

That's where they are now.

THE PHONE RINGS.

GAIL

Oh that could Ms. Thorp from the pre-school, cross your fingers.

LORAININE

Pre-school again? God forbid you let
the kid be a kid.

LORAININE HEADS TO THE BATHROOM AS GAIL ANSWERS THE PHONE.

GAIL

Hello. Oh hi, Margery. No, I thought
you might be the pre-school. Oh well,
that's good. (TO BARRY) Her sister's
cleaning lady is free tomorrow.

FROM THE BATHROOM WE HEAR LORAININE YELL.

LORAININE (O.S.)

Oh for God sakes! Are you worried
someone is going to steal something
out of the toilet.

GAIL

Got to go, we have an emergency.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - LIVING-ROOM - LATER

GAIL IS CLEARING THE DISHES AS BARRY, LORAINÉ AND RYAN START ON DESSERT, LORAINÉ'S HOMEMADE CAKE.

BARRY

This cake is fantastic, Loraine.

LORAINÉ

It's dry. I could really bake when I was younger. Hard to stir the batter with bad bones. Wish I knew what caused bad bones.

BARRY

I will find out.

BARRY HEADS TO THE COMPUTER

GAIL

Mother you hardly ate any dinner.

LORAINÉ

I don't want to fill up. I'd hate to have to make a mad dash, out to the back house. Or have an accident trying to unlock the toilets in here.

GAIL

Mother the guards are easy to unlatch.

BARRY

I'll show you again.

LORAINÉ

It's fine. You want to lock your toilets, lock 'em.

(MORE)

LORAINNE (CONT'D)

We never had locks and you never fell
in, but I suppose it's different
today.

GAIL

It's not different you just...

THERE IS A KNOCK ON THE BACK DOOR. AT THE BACK DOOR WE SEE
MARGERY, AN OVERWEIGHT WOMAN IN HER THIRTIES.

MARGERY

Hope I'm not disturbing.

LORAINNE GETS UP TO GREET HER.

LORAINNE

Margery, my favorite neighbor. You are
looking so good.

MARGERY

Thank you, I'm on a new diet, I've
lost five pounds it's such a struggle.

LORAINNE

Margery, you are too hard on yourself.
You are perfect the way you are.

LORAINNE GIVES MARGERY A GENUINE HUG. MARGERY GETS EMOTIONAL.

MARGERY

You're so nice. My Mother just calls
me fat. You are the mother I never
had. Gail, you're so lucky.

GAIL

Yep, lucky me.

LORAINÉ

Margery, sit, you're just in time for some cake and coffee. Homemade. One of the best ones I've made in years.

BARRY

Not at all dry.

MARGERÝ

Oh no, I can't stay. I just brought over a list of the cleaning stuff Ermalinda likes to use.

LORAINÉ

What's this?

GAIL

We hired a cleaning lady she's going to be coming here once a week.

LORAINÉ

Margery, you are a savior. An absolute savior. Look at this place, Gail could use the help. Ermalinda? What kind of name is that?

MARGERÝ

She's from El Salvador.

LORAINÉ

Oh.

MARGERÝ STARTS TO EXIT.

LORAINÉ (CONT'D)

Hang on, take some cake to go.

LORAINA PUTS A GIANT SIZE PIECE OF CAKE ON A PLATE AND HANDS IT TO MARGERY.

MARGERY

Well, I have been good all week.

LORAINA

Then you deserve it.

MARGERY EXITS.

LORAINA (CONT'D)

How does a person even get that big?

No will power. Ticking time-bomb,

that's what that sad girl is. No

wonder her mother calls her fat.

Well, I'm tired, I'm going to bed.

LORAINA HEADS TO THE BACK DOOR.

LORAINA (CONT'D)

Oh if you're going to have a cleaning

lady might want to hide anything

valuable. They all steal.

SHE IS OUT. THE PHONE RINGS, GAIL ANSWERS IT.

GAIL

Hello... Oh, yeah... really? Okay.

GAIL HANGS UP THE PHONE.

GAIL (CONT'D)

That was the preschool. Emily is

rejected.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - LIVING ROOM MORNING

IT IS A RAINY MORNING. GAIL IS AGAIN ON THE PHONE DRESSED IN BUSINESS ATTIRE, EMILY IS IN THE HIGH-CHAIR AND RYAN IS AT THE TABLE. BARRY ENTERS WITH HIS BIKE, HE IS WET.

BARRY

Made it five miles before the rain
started.

BARRY GRABS SOME TOAST. GAIL IS STARING OFF.

GAIL

What are we going to do about Emily?
She is going to be educationally
impaired.

BARRY

Can't we just put her where Ryan went?

GAIL

That place was terrible. All he
learned was how to kick and spit. It
was a big waste of time.

BARRY

I don't know, those skills come in
handy at the office.

LORAINA ENTERS FROM THE BACK.

LORAINA

It's freezing out there. Can't be more
than 57 degrees.

(MORE)

LORAINE (CONT'D)

Who would have thought it could even
get this cold, this time of year?

GAIL

Point taken, mother. Global warming is
all a myth. It's all made-up, a fairy
tale for stupid liberals.

LORAINE

What? I'm just commenting on the
weather. Geez, I make one comment and
you jump all over me. Ryan, get your
stuff let's get going.

RYAN

The clock says I still have time.

LORAINE

Ah, people drive like imbeciles in the
rain. We need all the extra time we
can get. Hurry, hurry, hurry.

LORAINE GRABS EMILY AS RYAN GETS HIS STUFF.

GAIL

Okay, mother, I didn't mean to jump on
you, it's just this preschool thing is
driving me nuts.

LORAINE

Don't worry about it. Come on, Ryan,
early bird catches the worm.

RYAN

Yuck.

LORANIE

Let's go, hurry, hurry, hurry.

RYAN GETS HIS RAIN COAT ON. LORAINIE PUTS HER COAT ON AS WELL AND QUICKLY LEAVES.

BARRY

Wow, your mom was sure in a rush to get out of here.

GAIL

Yeah, that was nice, wasn't it.

CUT TO:

INT. TRAFFIC SCHOOL - LATER

A MEDIUM SIZE ROOM WITH ABOUT TWENTY PEOPLE OF VARIOUS SHAPES AND SIZES, THE INSTRUCTOR, **MR. SANJEEB**, FIFTIES, INDIAN, IS AT THE FRONT OF THE ROOM. THERE IS LARGE BANNER IN THE FRONT THAT READS: "COMEDY TRAFFIC SCHOOL."

MR. SANJEEB

Okay, welcome to Comedy Traffic school

I am Mr. Sanjeeb. Here's a good joke

to start out the with. A monkey...

LORAINA ENTERS WITH EMILY AND SITS NEAR THE BACK.

LORAINA

You wouldn't believe how hard it was

to find a parking space.

MR. SANJEEB

You can't bring a baby in here.

LORAINA

Well, I could leave her in the car,

but you people would probably give me

a ticket for that too.

EVERYONE LOOKS AT HER IN HORROR.

LORAINA (CONT'D)

That was a joke. The sign says "Comedy

Traffic school." Did anyone else get a

ticket over by the mall?

EIGHT PEOPLE RAISE THEIR HANDS.

LORAINA (CONT'D)

It's a damn speed trap. And you sir,

should be ashamed of yourself.

THE STUDENTS LOUDLY AGREE.

MR. SANJEEB

I don't have anything to do with the ticketing. I just teach the class.

LORAINÉ

Right, and they wouldn't need so many classes if there wasn't a speed trap giving innocent people tickets. I see how it all works.

THE CLASS AGAIN AGREES. LORAINÉ IS RALLYING THE TROOPS.

MR. SANJEEB

One has nothing to do with the other. I don't set these things up.

LORAINÉ

It seems very fishy to me. I'd like to see your passport.

LARGE INTIMIDATING MAN

Yeah, I smell some rotten fish up in here.

THE LARGE MAN "HIGH FIVES," LORAINÉ.

MR. SANJEEB

Now class, please, if you would like to protest your ticket this is not the forum. At the end of the day I sign your forms and the ticket does not show up on your record. That is all. Now everyone sit.

LORAININE

Okay, maybe he's right. Let's give him the benefit of the doubt. I'm willing to do that. What do you say everyone?

THE CLASS AGREES. EVERYONE TAKES A SEAT.

MR. SANJEEB

Thank you, but you still can't have a baby in here. So, if you don't leave, I cannot start and these people will not be able to complete the course and have their tickets erased.

NOW THE CROWD IS ON MR. SANJEEB'S SIDE. THEY LOOK AT HER.

LARGE INTIMIDATING MAN

Maybe you should get that baby on out of here.

LORAININE

Maybe you should lay off the KFC.

Okay, fine.

SHE STARTS TO LEAVE. SHE LOOKS AT THE BANNER.

LORAININE (CONT'D)

Comedy traffic school? This whole thing is a joke.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - LIVING ROOM - LATER

LORAINIE ENTERS WITH EMILY. THE CLEANING LADY **ERMALINDA**, HISPANIC, FORTIES, IS IN THE KITCHEN CLEANING. LORAINIE IS SHOCKED TO SEE THE STRANGE WOMAN. SHE GRABS A NEAR BY WII GUITAR AND GETS READY TO SWING.

LORAINIE
(Screaming)

911! 911!

ERMALINDA
Why are you screaming 911?

LORAINIE
That's the number I'm going to call.
I'm giving chance to run.

ERMALINDA
So, you figured I broke in here to
clean.

LORAINIE PUTS THE WII GUITAR DOWN.

LORAINIE
Oh yeah, okay. You're that Mexican
lady they hired.

ERMALINDA
And you're Mrs. Sherman's mother.
They told me about you. By the way
I'm from El Salvador, not Mexico.

LORAINIE
Tell me you didn't come through Mexico
to get here?

ERMALINDA

You got me. Now, if you don't mind I'm going to get back to work.

ERMALINDA GOES BACK TO CLEANING.

LORAINA

Well, this is perfect. Here, watch little Emily. I need to be somewhere and if I leave now I might be able to get credit for the whole day.

LORAINA PUTS EMILY DOWN AND TURNS TO THE DOOR.

ERMALINDA

No, no no. I'm just here to clean.

LORAINA

Don't worry, I'll pay you a little extra.

ERMALINDA

No, I'm not good with kids.

LORAINA

That's ridiculous. Child care is second nature to you people.

ERMALINDA

What do you mean, "you people?"

LORAINA REALIZES THAT SHE INSULTED ERMALINDA.

LORAINA

I don't know, I'm sorry, I'm desperate.

(MORE)

LORAINNE (CONT'D)

I need to get back to traffic school
and they don't allow babies. Now it
won't be any trouble. She doesn't
talk, barely walks. They locked the
toilets so she can't fall in.

ERMALINDA

Why don't you just do the "online"
traffic school?

LORAINNE

They have traffic school on the
computer?

ERMALINDA

They got everything on the computer.

LORAINNE

You know how to work a computer?

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - LIVING ROOM - LATER

LORAINЕ IS PLAYING AND SINGING WITH RYAN AND EMILY. THE PLACE IS SORT OF A MESS. GAIL AND BARRY ENTER.

BARRY

Just think of all the extra time
you're going to have when I start
riding. You won't have to pick me up
or drive me to work anymore.

GAIL

And you won't be so flanky.

GAIL LOOKS AROUND. THE PLACE DOES NOT LOOK MUCH CLEANER THAN
WHEN SHE LEFT. BARRY HUGS THE KIDS THEN SITS AT THE COMPUTER.

GAIL (CONT'D)

The house is still a mess. It doesn't
look like Ermalinda did anything.

LORAINЕ

Don't be ridicules. The place looks a
hundred times better.

GAIL

You were here, mother, what was she
doing all day?

LORAINЕ

Ah, cleaning. What else?

GAIL

I don't get it, Margery spoke so
highly of Ermalinda, but I think we're
going to have to fire her.

LORAINЕ, FEARING ERMALINDA MIGHT SQUEAL, HAS TO DIG IN.

LORAININE

You'd actually fire that poor woman.
Do you know how hard those people's
lives are? She sends money to her
family back in El Salvador. She's
hoping to bring her son to this
country one day. And you want to fire
her for not finishing what would have
taken ten people a week to do? Gail,
I'm ashamed of you.

GAIL

Well, maybe you right. I should give
her a second chance, I mean she seems
so nice. There was a pretty big mess.

BARRY LOOKING AT THE COMPUTER SCREEN AS IT BOOTS UP SEES A
"TRAFFIC SCHOOL" SCREEN APPEAR.

BARRY

Traffic school? Who's been on-line to
traffic school?

LORAININE IS HORRIFIED.

GAIL

What?

LORAININE

Maybe your Internet is broken.

GAIL COMES AROUND TO JOIN HIM AT THE COMPUTER. BARRY DOES A
FEW MORE KEY STROKES AND WE SEE LORAININE'S NAME ON THE FORM.
GAIL AND BARRY JUST LOOK AT LORAININE.

GAIL

Mother, did you fill this out?

BARRY

You got a speeding ticket?

LORAIN

This place is a mess. You need to
fire that Ermalinda.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - LIVING ROOM

BARRY, GAIL AND LORAINÉ ARE AT THE COMPUTER.

GAIL

You got a ticket? A speeding ticket?

Were the kids in the car with you?

LORAINÉ

Now don't get all excited. That online traffic school took it off my record.

It's like it never happened.

GAIL

That's not the point. Ryan, were you in the car when Grandma got a ticket?

RYAN STARTS TO GET UPSET. HE LOOKS AT GRANDMA AND THEN TO GAIL.

RYAN

I don't know.

RYAN RUNS OUT OF THE ROOM.

LORAINÉ

You didn't have to upset him like that.

LORAINÉ HEADS TO THE BACK HOUSE, SHE DOES NOT WANT THIS CONFRONTATION.

LORAINNE (CONT'D)

I'll tell you one thing. There should
be some law against people spying on
what other people do on the computer.
And for another, it was a speed trap.

SHE'S OUT THE DOOR.

GAIL

I can't believe she was speeding with
the kids in the car.

BARRY

Well some good news. Now that she
knows how to use the computer she can
look up that iron and bone nonsense on
her own.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

GAIL IS FEEDING EMILY. LORAINNE ENTERS.

GAIL

Mother we really have to talk about
what happened yesterday.

LORAINNE

Gail, for God's sake I got a speeding
ticket. It's not the end of the world.

GAIL

Not the ticket. Ryan told me you made
him promise not to tell me. He's very
upset.

LORAINNE

You're the one that upset him, not me.
You shouldn't have asked him about it.

BARRY, DRESSED IN SWEATS, ENTERS WITH HIS BIKE. HE IS PULLING
HIS PANTS OUT OF HIS BUTT.

BARRY

I'm getting closer. Now if I can
figure out how to stop my pants from
crawling up my butt.

GAIL AND LORAINNE DON'T LAUGH.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Okay, I'm going to hit the shower.

RYAN

Morning.

RYAN PASSES BARRY ON HIS WAY TO THE KITCHEN.

LORAININE

Ryan, from now on whenever you see your Grandma doing anything bad, you run and tell your mommy, better yet you write it down. It will help you with your writing.

LORAININE SEARCHES FOR A PAD AND PENCIL.

RYAN

Okay. I guess.

GAIL

Mother, please. Ryan, you do not have to report everything Grandma does.

LORAININE

I didn't say everything, I said if he sees me doing anything bad.

RYAN GETTING UPSET AGAIN RUNS TO HIS ROOM.

GAIL

Mother, how could you. This is really too much. Maybe this just can't work with you here.

GAIL HEADS TO THE BEDROOM.

GAIL (CONT'D)

Ryan, honey it's okay mommy will explain everything, again.

OFF LORAININE'S SHEEPISH LOOK WE:

CUT TO:

INT. SUNNY DAY PRESCHOOL - LATER

A DOZEN PRESCHOOLERS RUSH OUT WITH PARENTS. MS. THORP, A BOOKISH WOMAN IN HER MID-THIRTIES STARTS TO CLEAN UP. LORAINA ENTERS WITH EMILY. LORANIE LOOKS AROUND.

LORANIE

This is what all the fuss is about? I don't see it.

MS. THORP

Can I help you?

LORAINA

I'm Lorraine Wattly. This is Emily.

MS. THORP

Emily, she looks so familiar.

LORAINA

She was here the other day.

MS. THORP

Yes, that's right, but I believe I already told her parents...

LORAINA

Yes, no room at the inn. I know. I just heard so much about you and this place. I wanted to see how a good one is run. For comparison, you know. Pre-school is so very important.

MS. THORP

Well, that's very kind. And you are?

LORAINA

I'm Emily's Grandmother.

MS. THORP

How nice, you're visiting from?

LORAINÉ

Visiting, oh no. I live here, with
Emily, and her parents.

MS. THORP

How nice. Unusual these days.

LORAINÉ KEYS IN ON A FRAME ON A SHELF. IT'S A PHOTO OF MS.
THORP AND HER MOTHER, SEATED, WITH A TEA POT ON A SMALL SIDE
TABLE. IT LOOKS LIKE THEY ARE GENUINELY FOND OF EACH OTHER
AND HER MOTHER LOOKS VERY OLD.

LORAINÉ

Family is so very important. What a
beautiful frame. Where did you get it?

MS. THORP

Thank you. Ah, my mother actually sent
it to me. That's her.

LORAINÉ

How nice. Does she live in town?

MS. THORP

Unfortunately no, she's all the way
across the country.

LORAINÉ

Shame. I know it would kill my
daughter, having me that far away. And
it would kill me as well. Are the two
of you close?

MS. THORP

Very.

THIS COULD BE PAY DIRT.

LORAINÉ

Distance. (She Sighs) The older generation doesn't have much time, you know. Every day is so very precious. Do you have children

MS. THORP

No, my mother always wanted to be a grandmother, but...

MS. THORP STARTS TO WELL UP JUST A LITTLE.

LORAINÉ

Dear, I'm going to take you for a nice cup of tea.

MS. THORP

That is so kind. My mother and I drink tea together.

LORAINÉ

Oh, really?

THEY SHARE A MOMENT AS WE:

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - LIVING-ROOM - NIGHT

DINNER TABLE. NO ONE IS TALKING. LORAINA LOOKS AT HER WATCH.
BARRY TRIES TO GET SOME CONVERSATION GOING.

BARRY

So, Loraine, how was your day today?

LORAINA

Fine.

BEAT

BARRY

Okay. Gail, how was your day?

GAIL

Fine.

BEAT

BARRY

Ryan, I'm guessing your day was fine?

RYAN

I guess.

BEAT.

BARRY

Well, I think tomorrow I'm ready to
ride my bike to work the whole way.

MORE SILENCE AS LORAINA LOOKS AT HER WATCH, AGAIN.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Lorraine, why do keep looking at your
watch every five minutes? Do you have
somewhere you need to be?

LORAINÉ

What, no. I just like to know what
time it is.

MORE AWKWARD SILENCE. BARRY TRIES TO GET A RAISE OUT OF
LORAINÉ.

BARRY

You know, Loraine, with all those
digital clocks they have today, half
the kids can't even tell time. That's
got to bug you, huh?

ANOTHER LONG BEAT. MORE SILENCE.

BARRY (CONT'D)

So... what time is it?

THE PHONE RINGS. GAIL GETS IT.

GAIL

Hello... Yes... Really? Wow... That
is so great... Thank you very much.

GAIL HANGS THE PHONE UP.

GAIL (CONT'D)

That was Ms. Thorp, from Sunny Day.
She found a spot for Emily. We're on
the list.

BARRY

That's great.

GAIL

She also said she's looking forward to
my mother's baked goods?

LORAINA STARTS TO HEAD TO THE BACK HOUSE.

LORAINA

Thank God that pinched-faced spinster finally called. My stomach has been in knots. Maybe it was all the tea I drank while I listened to that woman prattle on.

GAIL

What did you say to her?

LORAINA

What do you care? Emily is in and I think we can consider the whole speeding ticket incident even. All this drama over nothing.

LORAINA EXITS.

GAIL

Barry, it wasn't about the speeding ticket it was about...

BARRY PUTS HIS ARM AROUND GAIL.

BARRY

I know that and you know that. And more than likely she knows that.

GAIL REALIZES THAT THERE IS NO SENSE PURSING THIS FURTHER.

GAIL

You're right. (Beat) I wonder what she did to that poor Ms. Thorp.

BARRY

It's too gruesome to think about.

GAIL

I'm just glad she's on our side. Most
of the time.

THEY HEAD TO THE BEDROOM.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. OFFICE - NEXT DAY

A SMALL INSURANCE OFFICE. BARRY, WEARING SWEATS, ENTERS WITH HIS BIKE. LORAINA ENTERS BEHIND HIM WITH EMILY. CO-WORKERS LOOK ON.

BARRY

Thank you for the ride, Loraine.

LORANIE

Couldn't just leave you there by the side of the road crying. Christ, this is where you work. Well not everyone can be Bill Gates. I hope they have good benefits.

THEY BOTH NOTICE HE IS THE ONLY ONE NOT IN BUSINESS ATTIRE.

BARRY

I forgot a change of clothes.

LORANIE

You didn't really think this thing out did you? Okay, I'll go home and get your suit, but you owe me.

LORAINA LEAVES. A CO-WORKER, LEROY JENKINS WALKS BY.

LEROY

Your mother in-law she just said; "you owe me." You're screwed.

THE WHOLE OFFICE LAUGHS BARRY SHAKES HIS HEAD.

END OF SHOW