

THE CONNERS

"Sorry, We're Open"

by

Tarryl Benedetto

8551 W. Olympic Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90035  
630-849-7357  
tarrylauthor@gmail.com

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. CONNER HOUSE - DAY (D1)

(JACKIE, DARLENE, BEN, HARRIS, MARK)

THE COUCH AND TV ARE GONE, AND HAVE BEEN REPLACED WITH A MESS OF PILLOWS, BLANKETS, SLEEPING BAGS, AND A BEAN BAG CHAIR. DARLENE, BEN, HARRIS, AND MARK HUDDLE AROUND JACKIE ON THE FLOOR. JACKIE HOLDS HER CELL PHONE.

1 JACKIE

Everyone know their character?

2 DARLENE, BEN, HARRIS, MARK

Yep.

Ready.

Mm hm.

3 JACKIE

Curtain's up.

JACKIE PRESSES A BUTTON ON THE PHONE AND HOLDS IT UP TO HER EAR.

CUT TO:

INT. BEV'S APARTMENT - DAY

(BEVERLY)

BEVERLY picks up her LANDLINE PHONE.

4 BEV

Helloooo?

INTERCUT -- PHONE CONVERSATION

JACKIE ROLLS HER EYES AT THE SOUND.

5 JACKIE

Hey Mom, it's Jackie.

6 BEV

Oh Jackie. I'm miserable stuck inside  
my apartment!

7 JACKIE

I know, Mom. You'd prefer to be miserable anywhere you can.

8 BEV

They said on the news that the state's reopening! I need to go outside and visit!

9 JACKIE

Mom, I wouldn't do that. The virus has wiped out Landford. Buildings are crumbling. There are sick people all over the place. It's like the apocalypse out here!

JACKIE HAND SIGNALS TO HARRIS, WHO BEGINS TO MAKE EXAGGERATED COUGHING AND RETCHING NOISES.

10 BEV

Good heavens, where are you?

11 JACKIE

I'm on the sidewalk, or what's left of it.

JACKIE HAND SIGNALS BEN.

12 BEN

(ACCENT) Excuse me, ma'am. Do you have a loo roll for me wee children?!

BEN ALSO MAKES COUGHING SOUNDS.

13 JACKIE

Please stay away Sir! Mom, everyone's infected and walking around like zombies!

14 DARLENE

(OLD LADY VOICE) Excuse me ma'am, I'm  
bleeding from my orifices, can you  
help me?!

15 MARK

(CHILD VOICE) Do you know where my  
Mommy is? I think they took her to the  
hospital.

16 JACKIE

IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD OUT HERE!

17 BEV

Good heavens!

18 JACKIE

Mom, stay inside as long as you can!  
I'll keep dropping off your groceries,  
medicine, and Oprah magazines.  
Whatever you do, don't open that door!

19 DARLENE, BEN, HARRIS, MARK

Please help me!

TOILET PAPER!

HELP ME FIND MY MOMMY!

20 JACKIE

Oh God, they're chasing me Mom!

21 BEV

Run, Jackie, run!!!

22 JACKIE

GAAAHHHHH!!!!

JACKIE ENDS THE CALL AND GIVES THEM A STANDING OVATION.

23 JACKIE

Bravo, everybody! Now, I've got some actor notes. Harris, we need more from your character. She has a story we haven't heard yet. Mark, even though you're playing a child, play to the top of your intelligence.

24 MARK

(IN CHARACTER) Yes ma'am!

25 JACKIE

Ben, reflect on your character's 'why.' I can feel your 'how' but I can't feel your 'why.' And Darlene, you absolutely nailed it. Don't change a thing.

DARLENE DOES A HALF-BOW.

26 JACKIE (CONT'D)

Everybody, reflect on your notes and we'll do regular rehearsals. If we keep nailing this, we can keep Bev inside her apartment for the next year or more!

THEY ALL CHEER.

SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. THE LUNCHBOX - DAY (D1)

(JACKIE, BECKY)

JACKIE ENTERS FROM THE BACK WITH A BUFFET TRAY OF LOOSE MEAT AND PLACES IT INTO THE COUNTER. BECKY USES A TAPE MEASURE TO MEASURE THE DISTANCE BETWEEN TABLES. BOTH OF THEM WEAR GLOVES AND MASKS BEARING THE LUNCHBOX LOGO OR CARTOON SMILES/LIPS.

27 BECKY

Alright, we've got all the tables six feet apart, enough toilet paper to satisfy Donkey Kong, and hand sanitizer at every table.

28 JACKIE

Whoa! How were you able to get that much hand sanitizer?

29 BECKY

The stores were still out so I just mixed Skol vodka with vaseline. You can feel it working!

30 JACKIE

I'm ready too!

JACKIE PULLS OUT A HAND-MADE SIGN FROM UNDER THE COUNTER THAT READS: "SOCIAL EGG-SOLATE DURING THE HAM-DEMIC! COVID-19% OFF ANY OMELETTE!" AND HANGS IT ON THE WALL ABOVE THE COAT HOOKS.

31 BECKY

Did you come up with that all by yourself, or did you hire the top advertisers in the land?

32 JACKIE

It's 9:00 o'clock!

33 BECKY

Here goes! We're back in business!!

BECKY RUNS TO THE DOOR, UNLOCKS THE DEADBOLT, AND FLIPS THE OPEN/CLOSED SIGN.

NO ONE ENTERS. BECKY AND JACKIE WALK TO THE DOOR AND PEER OUTSIDE.

34 BECKY

That is a very bad sign.

BECKY AND JACKIE GLANCE UP AT JACKIE'S SIGN.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE B

INT. CONNER LIVING ROOM - DAY (D1)

(DARLENE, BEN, D.J, HARRIS, MARK, MARY)

D.J. WEARS A MAGICIAN OUTFIT AND STANDS IN FRONT OF DARLENE, BEN, HARRIS, MARY, AND MARK, WHO SIT/LIE AMONG THE MESS OF BLANKETS AND PILLOWS.

35 D.J.

And now ladies and gentlemen, I will dazzle you with real magic: the magic of comedy.

36 DARLENE

It physically hurts.

37 D.J.

For my next trick, I'll make my entire self-esteem disappear! To do it, I'll just need a time machine that can go back to my childhood!

38 BEN

(PITY LAUGH) Heh heh heh heh...

39 DARLENE

Is this what you guys worked on during quarantine?

40 MARY

Every. Single. Day.

41 D.J.

Tada! My talent disappeared before your very eyes! Okay, for this next trick, I'll need a volunteer.



NO ONE RAISE THEIR HANDS.

42 D.J. (CONT'D)

Yes, you enthusiastic young lady!

Please, come up to the stage.

HARRIS GRUMBLES AND GETS OFF THE FLOOR AND STANDS NEXT TO D.J.

43 D.J. (CONT'D)

Alright, what's your name?

44 HARRIS

You know my name.

45 MARY

Dad, read your freaking audience.

46 D.J.

Alright, you-know-my-name, I'm going  
to turn *you* into *my* wife.

EVERYBODY GROANS. MARY PLOPS HER FACE IN HER HANDS.

47 MARY

I knew that was going to sound gross.

48 D.J.

Just hold this piece of paper and read  
the magic words!

D.J. HANDS HARRIS A PIECE OF PAPER. HARRIS READS FROM IT:

49 HARRIS

"You're disappointing, and half the  
man you were when I met you."

50 D.J.

Tadaa! She turned into my wife before  
your very eyes! Thank you! Thank you!

D.J. BOWS.

51 DARLENE

I thought he used to do real magic.  
Er, real fake magic.

52 MARY

His hand-eye-coordination was beyond  
repair, so we had to play to his  
strengths: his weaknesses.

53 BEN

The past three months has shown me  
that without television, family is  
rough.

54 HARRIS

Living in the dark ages seemed a lot  
cooler in school.

SUDDENLY, DAN'S VOICE COMES BLARING IN VIA A MEGAPHONE,  
OFF-SCREEN:

55 DAN (O.S.)

(MEGAPHONE) WAITER! WAITER NEEDED!

NO ONE REACTS.

56 MARK

Why do I always have to be the one to  
help Grampa?

57 BEN

Because you're the nicest and most  
caring.

58 DARLENE

Serves you right.

MARK ROLLS HIS EYES AND RUNS THROUGH THE KITCHEN THROUGH THE BACK  
DOOR TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE C

INT. GARAGE - DAY, CONTINUOUS (D1)

(DAN, MARK)

DAN SITS ON THE LIVING ROOM SOFA WITH ICONIC AFGHAN AND BEATS AWAY ON A NINTENDO CONTROLLER ATTACHED TO D.J.'S OLD SUPER NINTENDO (FROM EPISODE "THE BACK STORY" FROM "ROSEANNE" SEASON 4) AND THE LIVING ROOM TELEVISION. NEXT TO HIM IS A MEGAPHONE. BESIDE THE SOFA IS A 7-FOOT TALL BEER CAN CASTLE, MADE OF EMPTY BEER CANS AND ALMOST FULLY FORMED EXCEPT FOR A HALF-COMPLETED SILO TOWER. DAN'S QUARANTINE BACHELOR PAD IS ALSO SET UP WITH A DART BOARD, A HOCKEY GOAL, A BASKETBALL HOOP, AND A CD BOOMBOX.

MARK APPEARS IN THE WINDOW SILL TO THE LEFT OF THE DOOR, HOLDING A PEN AND NOTEPAD. DAN FOCUSES ON THE VIDEOGAME AS THEY SPEAK:

59 MARK

Hey Grampa. Now that everything's reopening, can I live in here with you?

60 DAN

Sorry, my boy, too dangerous.

61 MARK

Can I come chat once in a while?

62 DAN

Nope, too dangerous for chatting or bonding, sorry. DAMMIT, DONKEY KONG!

63 MARK

But we miss you, Grampa.

64 DAN

Too dangerous to miss each other, sorry kid.

65 MARK

Alright. What'll ya have today, bub?

66 DAN

Any corndogs left?

67 MARK

Fresh out.

68 DAN

How about chicken wings?

69 MARK

Yes, right next to the freshly  
battered lobster.

70 DAN

Anything that was once alive that's  
now crammed inside a microwavable box?

71 MARK

We've pretty much only got milk, a few  
cans of Spaghettios, or trail mix  
minus the M&Ms Harris pulled out.

72 DAN

This is really gonna cut into your  
tip. Surprise me.

73 MARK

You got it, bub.

MARK EXITS OUT OF THE WINDOW. DAN POLISHES OFF A BEER CAN AND  
PLACES IT ON TOP OF THE BEER CASTLE'S UNFINISHED SILO TOWER.

74 DAN

Soon my kingdom will be completeth.

(RE: TV) DAMMIT LUIGI!

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE D

INT. CONNER LIVING ROOM - DAY, CONTINUOUS (D1)  
(DARLENE, BEN, D.J, HARRIS, MARY, MARK)

ALL THE CHARACTERS ARE EXACTLY WHERE WE LAST SAW THEM IN THE LIVING ROOM, EXCEPT MARK IN THE KITCHEN BACKGROUND MAKING SPAGHETTIOS.

75 HARRIS

I'm going for a walk! Love you guys!

76 DARLENE

Hey, why do you love us so much lately?

77 HARRIS

What do you mean?

78 DARLENE

I've never seen you so affectionate. You and Odessa haven't been looting vacant stores have you?

79 HARRIS

No, that takes the challenge out of it. Mom, the world shut down, nobody could see each other, and it made everyone depressed. I've never been happier.

80 DARLENE

Alright fine, but don't forget your mask.

HARRIS PICKS UP HER MASK FROM THE CLOSET, A HALLOWEEN MASK OF A DISTURBING BLOODY MONSTER, AND SLIPS IT ON. HARRIS SKIPS TO THE FRONT DOOR AND EXITS THROUGH IT GAILY.

81 D.J.

We'd better head out too.

D.J. AND MARY GET UP AND HEAD TO THE FRONT DOOR.

82 DARLENE

Aww, DeeJ, but Ben was just getting into your act.

83 D.J.

I'll write a set just for you man!

84 BEN

(WEAKLY) Yayy.

85 MARY

Dad I think we're gonna have to turn your act into an abstract art performance. Like, you're not "supposed" to get it, you know?

86 D.J.

So I'm an artist now?!

MARY GLANCES BACK AT DARLENE AND BEN.

87 MARY

(PITIFULLY) Yes, Father, you're an artist now...

88 D.J.

I knew it!!

D.J. AND MARY EXIT.

89 BEN

Oh my gosh!

90 DARLENE

I know. I feel guilty. That brain damage was definitely my fault. We

just need to keep him away from any attorneys.

91 BEN

No, it's *just us!*

92 DARLENE

Oh my god. Is hasn't been just us since...

93 BEN

Yeah. Since before the pandemic. Let's see if we can create a new virus of our own...

BEN CRAWLS OVER TO DARLENE.

94 DARLENE

My kid is in the kitchen!

95 BEN

That's never stopped you before.

96 DARLENE

I'm just not...feeling it.

97 BEN

But we haven't....since.

98 DARLENE

I know.

99 BEN

You weren't missing it as much as me?

100 DARLENE

Oh, you were missing it?

101 BEN

Of course! Weren't you?!

102 DARLENE

Honestly, I think quarantining together sort of fast forwarded our relationship. It's like it skipped over our entire honeymoon phase, and now I'm just kind of sick of honey.

103 BEN

Ouch.

104 DARLENE

I'm not sure which is worse -- isolating apart, or isolating together. I mean, before all this, when we'd see each other it was a like a treat. Now I know you so well that I could set my watch according to your bowel movements. You're 30 seconds past due by the way.

105 BEN

It's like you can see right through me.

106 DARLENE

I feel like we're second year lovers that got teleported to year ten. We got robbed.

BEN TOUCHES DARLENE'S KNEE.

107 BEN

We're still us. We're still in love. Are you not into me anymore?



108 DARLENE

I feel like I'm into you, on top of  
you, underneath you, all around you,  
24/7 with you.

109 BEN

Are you saying you're not attracted to  
me anymore?

DARLENE DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING. BEN SUDDENLY GETS UP AND STORMS  
INTO THE HALLWAYS.

110 DARLENE

Wait, where are you going?!

111 BEN

Don't you already know?!

BEN EXITS INTO THE BATHROOM, SLAMMING THE DOOR.

112 DARLENE

Oh yeah. See ya in a minute, 45  
seconds.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE E

INT. THE LUNCHBOX - NIGHT (D1)

(JACKIE, BECKY, BEVERLY ROSE, BEV, CUSTOMER)

JACKIE SITS CROSS-LEGGED ON THE COUNTER AND EATS LOOSE MEAT FROM THE BUFFET PANS WITH HER BARE HANDS. BECKY CRADLES LITTLE BEVERLY ROSE IN HER ARMS.

113 BECKY

Don't worry, Bevvv. The Fedex box I'll ship you in to your Daddy in Mexico will have air holes.

114 JACKIE

(MOUTH FULL OF MEAT)

There has to be a way we can save our business.

115 BECKY

No one has any money left and no one wants to sit in a restaurant around other people.

116 JACKIE

(MOUTH FULL) Then we'll operate to go!

117 BECKY

I tried that, but no one orders diner food to go! That's like ordering a beer from The Lobo to go.

118 JACKIE

(CRAMMING MORE MEAT IN HER MOUTH)

Whatever customers we do get, we have

to focus on upselling them. Upsell,  
upsell, upsell.

119 BECKY

Here comes someone now!

JACKIE JUMPS OFF THE COUNTERTOP AND SPITS FOOD IN HER MOUTH INTO THE SINK, AND SPRINGS BACK UP WITH A WIDE SMILE, WIPING AWAY ANY RESIDUE OFF HER MOUTH.

CUSTOMER ENTERS.

120 JACKIE

Hello Wilda! Welcome back, great to see you. Just you today?

121 CUSTOMER

I'm just getting a caesar salad to go.

122 JACKIE

No, no stay. Relax. Take your shoes off. Let your hair down. Open your wallet.

123 CUSTOMER

Just a caesar salad to go, please.

JACKIE PREPARES THE SALAD. BECKY RINGS HER UP ON THE REGISTER.

124 BECKY

Can we add some chicken to your salad, Wilda?

125 CUSTOMER

No thank you, I'm vegetarian.

126 BECKY

Oh perfect, all the chickens we slaughtered were vegetarians too!

127 CUSTOMER

No thank you.

128 JACKIE

How about a coffee? Americano, mocha?

129 CUSTOMER

I don't drink caffeine, thank you.

130 JACKIE

Piece of pie?

131 CUSTOMER

I'm avoiding sweets, thank you.

JACKIE HANDS CUSTOMER THE SALAD IN A TO-GO CONTAINER.

132 JACKIE

Wilda, I'm growing concerned that your  
life is completely devoid of pleasure.

133 CUSTOMER

My male whores would say otherwise.

CUSTOMER HANDS BECKY HER CREDIT CARD. BECKY SWIPES IT AND HANDS  
IT BACK TO HER. CUSTOMER PROMPTLY EXITS WITH HER SALAD.

134 BECKY

I bet she tips her gigolos a lot  
better than she just tipped us.

135 JACKIE

Okay, opposite approach. Whoever walks  
in next, we won't pressure, we'll  
butter them up. Smother them in  
compliments and love, and see what  
happens.

BEVERLY PROMPTLY ENTERS. JACKIE SHAKES A FIST TO THE CEILING.

136 JACKIE (CONT'D)

(TO CEILING) Why do you hate me?

137 BEV

How are my favorite loveless maidens?

138 JACKIE

Mom, what are you doing outside of  
your apartment? You could get sick!  
Hopefully.

139 BEV

I got tested. Apparently I already got  
the virus and never had any symptoms,  
so I'm safe to roam.

BEVERLY SITS AT THE COUNTER.

140 BECKY

(TO JACKIE) Nothing can kill her.

141 JACKIE

(TO BECKY) You can't kill a virus with  
a virus.

141 BECKY

Are you hungry, Gramma Bev? Your  
granddaughter who's named after you  
sure is...

143 BEV

I'd order something but my doctor said  
no more greased filled crap,  
unfortunately. But I did bring  
something for you!

BEV PULLS OUT A LETTER AND PLACES IT ON THE COUNTER.

144 JACKIE

Final notice. Do these banks know that a massive pandemic happened?

145 BEV

Cheese Splatters from across town doesn't seem to have a problem bringing in customers right now.

146 JACKIE

Yeah, because all their food is filled with chemicals. We went organic.

147 BECKY

Which means none of our customers is addicted to our food. God we're stupid!

148 BEV

Well, they're interested in taking over the lease, and they're one of my favorite restaurants, so I've decided to let them!

149 JACKIE

Okay, what do you want this time Mom? Grovelling? Begging? Pleading? Open mouth sobbing? Which part of my soul do you require this time?

150 BEV

Oh dear, none of that nonsense, just the restaurant.

151 JACKIE

Oh, so just my livelihood and dreams.  
Bargain!

152 BEV

Tell you what. If you can put together  
a business proposal for the restaurant  
that's sound, I'll *consider* it. Or pay  
the money to the bank directly, that  
works too. The choice is yours! I know  
working gals love to have their  
choices.

BEV WALKS TO THE DOOR. AS SHE OPENS IT, SHE TURNS BACK TO JACKIE  
AND BECKY.

153 BEV (CONT'D)

My, my. Look how far feminism got you  
both.

BEV SMILES AS SHE EXITS.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. LANDFORD BANK - MORNING (D2)

(JACKIE, BECKY, BEVERLY ROSE, JIM)

JACKIE AND BECKY (HOLDING BEVERLY ROSE) SIT DOWN WITH JIM THE BANKER (FROM "THE CONNERS" SEASON 2 EPISODE "BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED CONNERS").

154 JIM

It's nothing personal. There's nothing I can do.

155 JACKIE

We never missed a single payment until COVID! You know, when times are good, the banks are happy to take our money and build empires with it, but then when times are bad, you drop us like we're hot!

156 JIM

I'm really sorry, there's just nothing I can do.

157 BECKY

There are vegetative patients at the hospital that would find that phrase deeply offensive if they could speak!

158 JIM

The bank was bought out several months ago, and we don't make exceptions the way we used to. I'm just following my



orders, trying to stay afloat like you guys.

159 JACKIE

Oh I see, so you're just following orders here, you have no control.

160 JIM

Exactly.

161 JACKIE

Becky, did you know that Jim used to be on the high school football team with your Dad? Wide-receiver.

162 BECKY

That's amazing! Do you ever miss being a real man?

163 JACKIE

Becky, don't be so hard on the poor guy. The world needs Jims. What would the real movers and shakers do without Jims to shovel after their crap, like kicking two struggling women out of their small business after a pandemic? You're doing your part, Jim.

164 BECKY

You're so right Jackie. In many years when he passes away, they'll honor his legacy on his tombstone: "Here Lies Jim: There Was Nothing He Could Do."

JIM GROWLS.

165 JIM

FINE. I get your point.

JIM GETS UP AND BRISKLY WALKS OUT OF HIS OFFICE DOOR.

166 JIM (CONT'D)

HEY NELSON!

JACKIE AND BECKY WATCH THROUGH THE GLASS WALL AS JIM GIVES AN IMPASSIONED SPEECH TO A COLLEAGUE (PRESUMABLY NELSON). JIM GESTURES TOWARDS JACKIE AND BECKY. THE COLLEAGUE BARELY APPEARS TO SAY ANYTHING, AND WALKS IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION, EXITING. JIM RE-ENTERS THE ROOM TO A HOPEFUL-LOOKING BECKY AND JACKIE.

167 JIM (CONT'D)

I'm fired.

168 JACKIE

You know Jim, this entire thing has just been you, you, you.

169 BECKY

You should really get help.

JACKIE AND BECKY STAND UP AND EXIT PAST JIM,  
AS HE SINKS TO HIS KNEES.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE B

INT CONNER GARAGE - NIGHT (N2)

(DAN, LOUISE)

DAN BLASTS AEROSMITH FROM THE CD PLAYER SPEAKERS AS HE GULPS BACK A BEER CAN. HE PLACES IT ON TOP OF THE BEER CASTLE, FINALLY COMPLETING THE TOWER. LOUISE ENTERS THE WINDOW, UNBEKNOWNST TO DAN.

170 DAN

I hereby crown thee, Dan Connerius of  
714 Delawarius Landfordia Illinoiyus.  
You are the king of the castle. Take  
your throne at the seat of  
isolationary bliss. AHHHHH!

DAN REELS BACK, SEEING LOUISE IN THE WINDOW.

171 LOUISE

Behold - the king of all the dorks of  
the land!

172 DAN

Louise!

173 LOUISE

King Danarius!

DAN TURNS DOWN THE MUSIC.

174 DAN

How are you, babe?

175 LOUISE

Well, social isolation made me pretty  
lonely, but apparently you're living  
your best life.

176 DAN

That's not true, I'm sick without you.

177 LOUISE

I see that. Disturbed you could say.

178 DAN

You know I can't leave yet. I'm a very high risk demographic.

179 LOUISE

So what does that mean? I'll never see you again unless we're both wearing military grade gas masks?

180 DAN

And gloves.

181 LOUISE

You know, back in high school you were Daredevil Dan Conner. I'd never expect you to be like you were back in high school, but I would have expected you to take a risk for me, eventually.

LOUISE EXITS THE WINDOW.

182 DAN

Louise... LOUISE! Wait! (INTO MEGAPHONE) Louise! I was going to name you Empress of my kingdom!! I've almost taken the entire Mario Kingdom! Louise, I need you! Come back!

DAN THROWS THE MEGAPHONE TO THE SIDE. HE PUNCHES THE BEER CASTLE,  
WHICH EXPLODES. DAN WATCHES THE ENTIRE CASTLE CRUMBLE TO THE  
GROUND. BEAT.

183 DAN

THAT WAS AWESOME!!!!

DAN DROPS TO HIS KNEES AND HASTILY STARTS STACKING THE CANS ON  
TOP OF EACH OTHER AGAIN.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE C

INT. CONNER KITCHEN -- NIGHT (N2)

(MARK, BEN)

184 DAN (O.S.)

(MEGAPHONE) I need my three course  
dinner now!

MARK RUNS IN FROM THE LIVING ROOM AND SHOUTS OUT THE BACK DOOR:

185 MARK

SPAGHETTIOS IT IS!!

MARK BEGINS PREPARING SPAGHETTIOS AGAIN. THE FRONT DOOR SLAMS SHUT AND BEN ENTERS THE KITCHEN. HIS BEARD AND HAIR ARE DYED JET BLACK AND METICULOUSLY TRIMMED. HE WEARS A LEATHER JACKET AND HOLDS A BOUQUET.

186 MARK

EW! Why are you hot?! Gross!

187 BEN

Is your Mom around?

188 MARK

Ew! Even if I knew where she was I  
wouldn't wing man my own Mom for you!

189 BEN

Sorry, kid. Just between you and I,  
things haven't been exactly hot  
between us lately, since we've all  
been crammed in the same living  
quarters.

190 MARK

I never needed, need, or will need to  
know that.

191 BEN

I'm just trying to get us back to the magic of when we first met. I have no idea what happened.

192 MARK

ARE YOU GOING DEAF OR AM I GOING MUTE?!

193 BEN

I'm sorry, buddy, I have no one else to talk to about this.

194 MARK

Can't you talk to Grampa?!

195 BEN

Sure - Hey Mr. Conner, can you help me understand why your daughter doesn't want to bone with me anymore? Yeah that'll go great.

MARK IMMEDIATELY WALKS TO THE OVEN, OPENS IT, AND PUTS HIS BODY INSIDE, HEAD FIRST.

196 BEN (CONT'D)

Okay, okay, I'm sorry! You're right!

197 MARK

I'm going to give you some advice, and in exchange, we will never talk about this as long as we roam the Earth, deal?

198 BEN

Deal!

199 MARK

You're turning into my Dad.

200 BEN

Wait, what?

201 MARK

My Mom fell for you because you challenged her. You were competitive with her. And then when the pandemic trapped you in the house with us, you became passive. Agreeable. Submissive. Just like my Dad.

202 BEN

I did?!

203 MARK

(MOCKING HIM) I DID?! Yes, you freaking gaywad!

204 BEN

Hey, you're not supposed to say that!

205 MARK

Then don't act like such a gaywad!

BEN HUGS MARK.

206 BEN

Thank you, buddy. Thank you!



207 MARK

Ew, did you get that cologne out of  
the thirst section of JC Penny? It  
smells like desperation.

BEN SMELLS HIS OWN ARMPIT.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE D

INT. CONNER LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (N2)

(JACKIE, BECKY, HARRIS, BEVERLY ROSE)

JACKIE paces back and forth as BECKY holds BEVERLY ROSE on the ground in front of the COFFEE TABLE. Both eat from a plate of BANANA BREAD.

208 JACKIE

It's times like these that define us as businesswomen, Becky. The greatest American innovations were born from moments of desperation like this.

209 BECKY

Yes.

210 JACKIE

So don't hold back. Let those ideas flow. Spitball, brainstorm, just a flurry of ideas. Let's go Becky!

211 BECKY

I don't hear you coming up with anything!

212 JACKIE

I'm the Life Coach, I coach, you do. Now do Becky, do!

213 BECKY

Nothing's coming to me.

214 JACKIE

I don't mean to freak you out, but the fate of your child's life depends on

your ability to revolutionize our  
business into a cash cow.

215 BECKY

Alright, here's an idea based on Bevvv  
Rose: A fusion restaurant.  
Mexican-American. We can have foods  
combining both cultures, like  
enchilada Doritos!

216 JACKIE

Dammit Becky, it's called Taco Bell  
and there's five of them in Landford.

JACKIE AND BECKY TAKE MORE BITES OF BANANA BREAD.

217 JACKIE

We'll turn The Lunchbox into the new  
Hooters. Becky, are you comfortable  
walking on top of the counter?

218 BECKY

Last time I tried that I made a human?

HARRIS ENTERS THE FRONT DOOR IN HER BLOODY MONSTER HALLOWEEN  
MASK.

219 JACKIE

Hey, Mom.

HARRIS RIPS OFF THE MASK. SHE GESTURES TO THE BANANA BREAD.

220 HARRIS

That's where I left that! WHO ATE  
THESE?!

221 BECKY

(MOUTH FULL OF BREAD)

I have no idea.

222 HARRIS

It's loaded with pot. I've been selling them like hotcakes ever since the pandemic began.

223 BECKY

You have?! We can't even sell hotcakes like hotcakes!

224 JACKIE

I just ate like four of them.

225 BECKY

I had three! I almost gave one to little Bevvv!

226 JACKIE

Are we going to be okay?!

227 HARRIS

Calm down. Everything is going to be fine! You're both about to enter a new dimension and it will change you forever. But you're good!

JACKIE AND BECKY LOOK AT EACH OTHER IN HORROR. HARRIS GRABS BABY BEVERLY ROSE.

229 HARRIS

I'll take her for safekeeping until you return to your bodies.

HARRIS EXITS UP THE STAIRS.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO.

ACT THREE

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. CONNER KITCHEN - MORNING (D3)

(JACKIE, BECKY, BEN, HARRIS, MARK, BEVERLY ROSE)

JACKIE SLEEPS IN THE SINK, AND CLUTCHING A NOTEBOOK. HARRIS ENTERS CARRYING BEVERLY ROSE.

230 HARRIS

Are you guys back on Planet Earth yet?

JACKIE WAKES UP AND LOOKS AROUND. SHE CALLS BACK TO THE SINK JOKE FROM EPISODE "A STASH FROM THE PAST" FROM SEASON 6 OF "ROSEANNE":

231 JACKIE

Oh my god. I was convinced this was the bathtub and I was growing like Alice in Wonderland!

232 HARRIS

Where's Becky?

233 BECKY (O.S.)

Hello? Harris? Jackie?

234 JACKIE

Becky, where are you?!

The CABINET DOOR underneath the sink swings open, revealing BECKY inside.

235 BECKY

I got the munchies to an excruciating degree. We were out of food, so I crawled under here to die in the fetal position.

236 JACKIE

(RE: NOTEBOOK) I wrote down ideas for the restaurant! Let's see:  
"Non-building picnic-based restaurant, recline all the seats and turn the ceiling into a planetarium but use the actual sky, do murder mystery theater where victim is the food the audience is eating," and then I wrote "make audience feel complicit" with a massive question mark made out of really amazing fractal patterns.

237 BECKY

Damn Harr Bear, that was some grade A ganja. Did you make it yourself?

238 HARRIS

Yep, we've been growing and baking in Odessa's apartment. We started with a little pot plant last year, now it's like walking into the secret garden.

239 JACKIE

Have you ever considered opening up a formal business?

240 HARRIS

Of course. It sucks doing it in Odessa's apartment. Her oven is on the verge of going out, and takes twice as long to bake as it should.

241 BECKY

Wouldn't that be nice to use a big  
industrial oven?

242 JACKIE

And get paid for all your hours of  
baking and growing?

243 HARRIS

Paid for my hours? You better make me  
and Odessa partners.

244 JACKIE

(COWBOY ACCENT) Well alright, Partner.  
You've got yerself a deal.

245 HARRIS

You're still toasted, aren't you?

246 JACKIE

(COWBOY ACCENT) Yes ma'yam.

MARK AND BEN ENTER.

247 BEN

Have you guys seen Darlene anywhere?

248 BECKY

Not any more than strictly necessary.

249 MARK

She hasn't been home since yesterday  
and her phone is off.

250 BEN

I'll call 911! - they probably  
arrested her again.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT THREE

SCENE B

INT. LOUISE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (N3)

(DAN, LOUISE)

DOORBELL SOUNDS. LOUISE OPENS HER DOOR. DAN STANDS THERE WITH TWO INDUSTRIAL GAS MASKS (WEARING ONE, HOLDING THE OTHER) AND A FLOWER BOUQUET.

251 LOUISE

AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!

LOUISE TRIES TO SLAM THE DOOR SHUT, BUT DAN REACHES OUT AND BLOCKS IT.

252 LOUISE (CONT'D)

(SCREAMING) I'VE GOT A GUN!!!

LOUISE GRABS A PISTOL FROM UNDER HER BED AND AIMS IT AT DAN AS DAN HOLDS UP HIS HANDS AND DROPS THE FLOWER BOUQUET. DAN LIFTS HIS MASK UP.

253 LOUISE (CONT'D)

254 DAN

AND I'VE USED IT ON

IT'S JUST ME BABE!

SOMEONE BEFORE!!!

BEAT. LOUISE FLINGS HER ARMS OPEN WIDE, TOSSING THE GUN ASIDE IN ONE MOTION, AND RUNNING TO DAN.

255 LOUISE

Danny Boy!!! You're here!

DAN HANDS HER THE SECOND GAS MASK AND SHE SLIPS IT ON OVER HER HEAD, AS DAN SLIPS HIS BACK DOWN OVER HIS FACE.

DAN AND LOUISE WRAP THEIR ARMS AROUND EACH OTHER. DAN DIPS HER DOWN AND "KISSES" HER PASSIONATELY, BOTH STILL WEARING THE MASKS.

256 LOUISE

(MUFFLED) I missed you Danny Boy.



257 DAN

(MUFFLED) I miss you too my Loui-Lady

258 LOUISE

(MUFFLED) You what?

259 DAN

(MUFFLED) I SAID I MISSED YOU TOO MY  
LOUI-LADY

260 LOUISE

(MUFFLED) OH AREN'T YOU JUST THE  
SWEETEST!

261 DAN

(MUFFLED) I'M THE MEANEST?

262 LOUISE

(MUFFLED, SCREECHING) SWEETEST!

263 DAN

(MUFFLED, SCREECHING) WHAT?!

264 LOUISE

(MUFFLED) NOTHING, SHUT UP!

265 DAN

(MUFFLED) OKAY!

DAN AND LOUISE "MAKE OUT" PASSIONATELY WITH THEIR MASKS ON.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT THREE

SCENE C

INT. CONNER LIVING ROOM - DAY (D3)

(JACKIE, DARLENE, BEN, BECKY, HARRIS, MARK, POLICE OFFICER 1 & 2)

POLICE OFFICER 1 AND 2 SPEAK WITH JACKIE, BECKY, BEN, HARRIS, AND MARK.

266 JACKIE

Listen, fellas, we've got a possible  
10-57, we're simply requesting a  
10-62A so you can do a 10-23.

267 POLICE OFFICER 1

Description?

268 BEN

Female, pale, frail, 5'5" about 100  
pounds.

269 POLICE OFFICER 2

70s, 80s?

270 BEN

40s.

271 POLICE OFFICER 2

And last seen?

272 BEN

Yesterday around 3.

273 POLICE OFFICER 1

It's only been 21 hours. A person's  
only missing after 24 hours.

274 HARRIS

Why is that even a thing? Don't you  
watch true crime?

275 POLICE OFFICER 2

No, we only live it. Please enlighten us.

276 HARRIS

The real grizzly stuff happens within the first few hours.

277 BECKY

She's probably nothing but a brillow pad by now.

278 JACKIE

Boys, if you could do us a favor and at least 11-10 us, that way if it becomes 10-45B we won't have to 10-67 and make you 10-97; dispatch can just 10-98 for a 10-57 right away before it gets 10-45C.

279 MARK

This isn't like her. She wouldn't leave us this long without letting us know.

280 POLICE OFFICER 1

Let me offer you some advice. You're the one who saw her last right?

281 BEN

Correct.

282 POLICE OFFICER 1

Romantic partner? Not quite husband  
but everyone knows it's inevitable  
kind of deal?

283 BEN

Ish, yeah.

284 POLICE OFFICER 1

Right. You ever think that *maybe* she  
was feeling a bit stifled and needed  
some space?

285 POLICE OFFICER 2

Of course you didn't. Needs of her  
own? Preposterous. Murdered? Much more  
plausible!

286 POLICE OFFICER 1

If only we could give out tickets to  
underappreciative almost-husbands.

287 POLICE OFFICER 2

We'd pave the streets in gold.

THE POLICE OFFICERS TURN TO EXIT.

288 BEN

Where the hell are you going?!

289 POLICE OFFICER 1

Your almost-wife is fine, Sir. It's  
only been 21 hours.

290 POLICE OFFICER 2

Call us back in 3 hours. We'll assume  
she's kidnapped then.

POLICE OFFICER 2 PUTS HER HAND ON THE FRONT DOOR AND OPENS IT.

291 JACKIE, BECKY, BEN

Please don't 10-19!!  
Don't leave!  
Where are you going?

DARLENE STANDS IN THE DOORWAY HOLDING A PAPER BAG.

292 DARLENE

Hey everyone....!

BOTH POLICE OFFICERS ROLL THEIR EYES / SHAKE THEIR HEADS. DARLENE REACHES INTO THE PAPER BAG AND PULLS OUT SEVERAL SOUVENIRS: KEYCHAIN, SNOWGLOBE, MAGNET, BOTTLE OPENER.

293 DARLENE (CONT'D)

Who wants souvenirs from Rockford,  
Illinois?!

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT THREE

SCENE D

INT. CONNER LIVING ROOM - DAY (D3)

(DARLENE, BEN)

DARLENE AND BEN SIT ON THE FLOOR. DARLENE TWIDDLES WITH A ROCKFORD BOTTLE OPENER.

294 DARLENE

Thanks for making your hair look  
stupid for me.

295 BEN

No! We are not back to casual small  
talk. The hair looks hot, Mark said  
so, and I haven't forgiven you!

296 DARLENE

I understand. I'm sorry.

297 BEN

Why couldn't you just tell me you were  
going away for a night?

298 DARLENE

I thought about it, but it strangely  
defeated the purpose.

299 BEN

So you meant to freak me out?!

300 DARLENE

It wasn't my target objective! I just  
needed to know that I'm still a  
singular human being, and not just an

appendage on some girlfriend boyfriend  
children mother monster!

301 BEN

Oh whatever. I've seen your teenage  
comic book drawings, that's right up  
your alley.

DARLENE SMILES.

302 BEN (CONT'D)

No, stop smiling. It's not okay!

IT MAKES DARLENE SMILE WIDER.

303 BEN (CONT'D)

No! Smile show over!

DARLENE TRIES LOOKING SERIOUS, BUT A SMILE BREAKS THROUGH AGAIN.

304 BEN (CONT'D)

You love seeing me miserable don't  
you?!

305 DARLENE

Not miserable, passionate. Alive. That  
was the Ben I fell in love with.

306 BEN

No, this isn't about me! It's about  
what you did! I don't know if I can  
forgive you for this, Darlene. I feel  
betrayed, I feel hurt, I feel lied to.  
I'm devastated. How am I supposed to  
be okay with what happened, Darlene,  
tell me!!

307 DARLENE

Because being away from you made me  
feel crazy bones hot for you.

BEN FREEZES.

308 BEN

Oh.

DARLENE KISSES BEN.

309 BEN (CONT'D)

I guess I can find it in my heart to  
forgive-

310 DARLENE

Shut up and get upstairs.

SHE PUSHES HIM TOWARDS THE STAIRS.

DISSOLVE TO:



ACT THREE

SCENE E

INT. CONNER KITCHEN - NIGHT (N3)  
(JACKIE, BEV, BECKY, HARRIS)

JACKIE, BECKY, AND HARRIS SIT AT THE KITCHEN TABLE WITH BEV, WHO SCARFS DOWN BANANA BREAD, AND LEAFS THROUGH A BUSINESS PROPOSAL.

311 BEV

My, my. Three generations of Harris women, teaming up together to sell drugs. How quaint.

BEVERLY TAKES ANOTHER MASSIVE BITE OF BANANA BREAD.

312 BEV (CONT'D)

Harris, you're still young. You can still make something of yourself. Don't let your aunt and your aunt's aunt trap you in their aunt hill. This family's got enough aunts! Go get some damn uncles!

BEVERLY EATS MORE BREAD. JACKIE, BECKY, AND HARRIS EYE EACH OTHER.

313 BEV (CONT'D)

Why stop at marijuana? Why not add a prostitution ring? Or harvest organs? I'm sure all those pretty young women you keep electing to Congress will make sure that all becomes legal quite soon!

BEVERLY CONTINUES EATING.

314 BEV (CONT'D)

Honestly you could make a fortune just  
selling this bread. What's in it?

315 JACKIE

Organs.

316 HARRIS

It's loaded with pot, Nana.

BEVERLY LAUGHS OUT LOUD. SHE SEES HARRIS NOT LAUGHING BACK, AND  
HER FACE FALLS.

317 BEV

You aren't serious?

318 HARRIS

Nana, you're about to enter a whole new  
plane and what you find there will  
alter you for the rest of your life.

319 BEV

But I've never done drugs my entire  
life!

320 BECKY

You're about to make up for lost time.

321 JACKIE

It's okay, Mom, we're going to help  
you through it. But first, you're  
going to help us, by signing our  
proposal.

JACKIE HANDS BEVERLY A PEN.

322 BEV

You're evil!

323 JACKIE

I'm so sorry, Mom, there's nothing I  
can do.

FADE OUT.

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. CONNER LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (N3)  
(BEV, D.J, GEENA, MARY)

D.J. STANDS BEFORE BEVERLY, GEENA, AND MARY IN FULL MAGICIAN UNIFORM, HOLDING PIECES OF PAPER.

324 D.J.

And presto! My subpar report cards  
from school magically turned into  
final notice bills!

BEVERLY BUSTS OUT IN HYSTERICAL LAUGHTER.

325 D.J. (CONT'D)

For my next trick, I'm going to read  
your minds!

326 BEV

Oooo!!

D.J. PUTS FINGERS ON EACH OF HIS TEMPLES AND STARES AT GEENA.

327 D.J.

Let's see.... "I can't believe I  
married this chooch."

BEVERLY LAUGHS AGAIN. D.J. LOOKS AT MARY.

328 D.J.

"How did this guy survive in  
Afghanistan?"

BEVERLY LAUGHS AGAIN. MARY AND GEENA GIVE MEAGER PITY LAUGHS.

329 BEV

Do me! Do me!

330 D.J.

I hear that all the time, but you're  
my grandmother!

BEVERLY HOWLS IN LAUGHTER.

331 D.J. (CONT'D)

I'm killing! I just have to get my  
audience stoned and I'm amazing!

MARY TURNS TO GEENA.

332 MARY

Mom, you're 100% sure he's my Dad,  
right?

333 GEENA

Yes, sweetie, I've double checked. I'm  
so sorry.