

TIL LIFE DO US PART

Written by

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Inspired by actual events

Amidst the current chaos, a middle-aged woman confronts her past when her estranged, gay, long-dead father bursts through the veil looking young and groovy, ready to make amends—and he's not alone.

½ Hour Single-Cam [Episodic] TV | Irreverent Family Comedy | Cable Streaming

FADE IN:

EXT- SULLIVAN DRIVEWAY - DAY - COLD OPEN

LAURIE SULLIVAN(53) drives her SUV and approaches the garage of the Sullivan house in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania with the windows open. A loud THUD is heard on the roof of the car. She hits the breaks.

LAURIE

What in the cornbread hell?

CHRISTOPHER SULLIVAN(16) and LAWRENCE DYE(65) are in the 3 acre backyard near the koi pond with golf clubs. Laurie gets out and picks up the golf ball that hit her car.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

(to Lawrence)

Grandpa! Again?! Really?!

LAWRENCE

Bad wind today, Laurie!

LAURIE

(to self)

There's no wind. May as well be living back in Florida if some old geezer is gonna be clocking my car with golf balls.

EDNA DYE(65) comes out of the house, smiling. Laurie hugs her.

EDNA

Oh honey, don't call Grandpa a geezer. Did you get baking powder?

LAURIE

Yes, Grandma.

She reaches into the open back window and pulls out a can and hands it to Edna. Christopher runs over. He's wearing a *CADDYSHACK* t-shirt and fishing hat. Lawrence also runs over, more slowly.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

(to Christopher)

How's the golfing coming?

Christopher does his Bill Murray from *CADDYSHACK* impression.

CHRISTOPHER

'What an incredible Cinderella story, this unknown, comes outta nowhere to lead the pack.'

LAURIE

I. Hate. That. Movie.

EDNA

Lawrence, I need you to peel apples. Come on. You've caused enough problems out here.

Lawrence hands his golf club to Christopher. Then he and Edna both vanish into thin air. Laurie and Christopher smile at each other.

LAURIE

Can't believe I'm actually used to that.

END COLD OPEN

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Laurie and KIERAN SULLIVAN(21) prepare dinner, seamlessly doing everything in tandem. Christopher and Edna help. Christopher is chopping onions when Kieran takes the knife.

KIERAN

Let me do it. It's more expedient.

LAURIE

Mike, your son is being a jackass again.

At the kitchen table, MIKE SULLIVAN(54) plays chess with Kieran's fraternal twin, TOMMY SULLIVAN(21) and Lawrence. Tommy wears his cowboy hat and plays both men at once on two boards. Mike is focused and doesn't look up.

MIKE

Kieran, stop being a jackass.

KIERAN

So much for brunoise. We'll have random chunks like a soup kitchen.

MIKE

Nobody cares, Gordon Ramsay.

LAURIE
 (to Kieran)
 Everyone can't be a master chef at
 age three like you were.

Tommy check-mates Mike and Lawrence in rapid succession. Mike shakes Tommy's hand and goes to wrap his arms around Laurie in the kitchen. She leans back against him lovingly.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
 Tommy, you should let them win once
 in a while.

TOMMY
 Nope.

KIERAN
 Absolutely not.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
 Kieran and I aren't like the rest
 of you. We operate differently.

KIERAN
 Correct.

MIKE
 You're twins, big fu--

Laurie elbows him and he adjusts his language in front of Edna and Lawrence.

MIKE (CONT'D)
 --Friggin deal.

KIERAN
 It is a big deal, Michael. We are
 rare and conduct ourselves as such.

MIKE
 Yeah! Like those twins from *THE
 SHINING*? I see that in you guys.

Everyone smiles and laughs except Kieran and Tommy who stare at each other. No one notices the kitchen faucet sputtering and turning on by itself amidst the happy noise.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S ROOM - NIGHT

Christopher wakes up and sees a MAN opening his door and walking out of his room. Christopher sits up.

CHRISTOPHER
 Dad?

The man stops abruptly but doesn't turn around. He is backlit from the hall light so he's dark and shadowed. He does a really bad impression of Mike's voice.

MAN

Yeah, just checking on you. Later,
uh, sport. Buddy? Yeah.

The man vanishes into thin air and Christopher just shakes his head.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Mike is walking past the basement bathroom when the faucet turns on by itself. He approaches very cautiously and gets close to it. The faucet pops off and sprays him in the face.

MIKE

Mother fu--!!!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

Laurie loads the washing machine and turns it on. It makes a loud, strange groaning sound and starts shaking violently. Laurie runs out of the laundry room.

LAURIE (O.C.)

Oh shit!! Mikey!! Mikey!!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT KITCHEN - DAY

Kieran and Tommy sit at the kitchen table, each reading identical copies of the "Wall Street Journal" with coffee cups in front of them with their names on them. As the kitchen sink turns on by itself, they lower their papers and look over, then it turns off. They raise their papers and it turns on again. They lower their papers and it turns off. They stare at each other for a long moment.

KIERAN AND TOMMY

Dad!!!

INT. MIKE'S HOME OFFICE - DAY

The office is filled with computers. An Elvis poster is next to Mike's eagle scout plaque. A picture of Mike, Laurie, the boys, CHELSEA(31), ELENI(27) and YANISSA ORTIZ(27) is next to a wedding picture of Mike and Laurie with young Chelsea and Eleni. Yanissa appears in several other family photos. Laurie enters and puts a receipt on his desk. He enters dripping wet, drying himself with his shirt. She hides the cupcake.

MIKE

I may actually run screaming into the woods if my life doesn't improve dramatically. Unless you happened to bring me a birthday cupcake?

LAURIE

It's not your birthday yet.

MIKE

It's my birthday month, which was your idea by the way. My month has been shitty and I want a cupcake.

LAURIE

What happened this time?

MIKE

Basement kitchen faucet. Your twins were yelling for help.

LAURIE

My twins?

MIKE

All the weird plumbing bullshit I've been dealing with for the past month? I don't know anymore. Demons? Pukwudgies?

LAURIE

Pukwudgies live in Massachusetts.

MIKE

Demons it is! So-cupcake?

LAURIE

Grandma just baked a pie and you get a carrot cake for your party on Saturday. You don't need a cupcake.

MIKE

The highlight of my shitty month
has been your Grandma's baking.

LAURIE

Are you really OK lately? I can see
how stressed you are with
everything going on in the house.
And Grandpa and Grandma being back
on top of all that.

MIKE

I love having them back but it's
just different than I expected.
They were in their 90s when I knew
them and they used to just sit
around like furniture. And they're
in their 60s now. How--

She puts her hand over his mouth without missing a beat.

LAURIE

Yanissa told us all of this when
she brought them back. They get to
choose their age apparently.
Grandma said their 60s was the best
time of their lives.

He gently removes her hand.

MIKE

When this all happened I expected
the furniture version again.
They're running around like
lunatics. And the popping in and
out is giving me agita.

LAURIE

They're just excited to be back.
And listen, we're all on a learning
curve. It's new for everybody,
especially Yanissa.

Laurie looks at a picture of Yanissa with her and Mike at
Yanissa's graduation.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

Poor thing. Try to imagine how
she's been feeling for the past
month. All she's been through.

MIKE

I know, I know. I'm just beat.

Mike walks over to the desk and winces at some receipts. Laurie hands him the cupcake and he brightens. She yawns.

MIKE (CONT'D)
You had another bad dream?

EXT. NYC STREET - DAY - FLASHBACK

A dream sequence of JACK HARRISON(38)recreating a scene from *FUNNY GIRL* dressed as Fannie Brice. He has a mustache and short, dark hair and is happily sashaying down the sidewalk in the orange dress and fur hat. Then Jack stops and smiles directly into the camera.

JACK
Hey, lambkin.

Laurie wakes up abruptly beside a sleeping Mike.

LAURIE
What the actual fuck?

END FLASHBACK

INT. MIKE'S HOME OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

LAURIE
Yeah, uh, no biggie.

MIKE
Good, I think the worst is--

CHRISTOPHER (O.C.)
Dad! The toilet is overflowing!

Mike runs out.

MIKE (O.C.)
I'll be out screaming in the woods!

A golf ball hits the exterior of the house and Laurie jumps.

LAWRENCE (O.C.)
Fore!

INT. HOOTENANNY RESTAURANT - DAY

The Hootenanny is a family-friendly western themed restaurant. Eleni enters through the front door wearing a pink, sequined cowgirl outfit with a nametag. A large taxidermied bear is at the front door. She speaks to it.

ELENI

I told my parents I was going to New York to become a writer but instead I'm in New Jersey in this establishment. Looking like a runner up toddler pageant queen.

Yanissa rushes in the front door in her identical cowgirl costume. Her hat and glasses are askew. She steadies herself against the bear.

INT. HOOTENANNY RESTAURANT - DAY - FLASHBACK

Montage with VO

Yanissa and Eleni wait tables, clean up and do an hourly line-dance with a country soundtrack while pretending to play the violin and accordion.

YANISSA (V.O.)

In addition to being an underpaid waitress in this 5th level of Hee Haw purgatory, I'm also an extremely powerful medium. One in a hundred million actually. Lucky me.

EXT. VARIOUS PLACES IN NEW JERSEY- DAY

Eleni and Yanissa stand on a bridge over a river. Yanissa is shoved into the water by an invisible force.

Yanissa is walking behind Eleni on a sidewalk and is lifted straight up out of frame. Eleni doesn't notice.

YANISSA (V.O.)

Mediums run in my family but only one at a time. My grandma died a month ago and I immediately got hit with a blast of power. I lit up like a Christmas tree. Now I'm the Puerto Rican Theresa Caputo. Times ten, on steroids. Ghosts are everywhere. They hang out unseen on their side of the veil and watch over their loved ones. I've always had a sense of them but now I can see and communicate with them easily. And, evidently, I can accidentally bring them to our side of the veil. Still dead, but able to do what living people do.

(MORE)

YANISSA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Most are nice, like Laurie's
 grandparents but some are just
 raging assholes.

END OF FLASHBACK

INT. HOOTENANNY RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Yanissa puts herself back together.

YANISSA
 What does your Grandpa look like?!

ELENI
 What are you, mental? You just
 brought him back from the dead.

YANISSA
 I'll speak more slowly. Not your
 Great-Grandpa, *pendeja*, your
 Grandpa. Laurie's dad.

ELENI
 Jack? Dark hair and eyes. Handsome.

YANISSA
 Uh huh. How old was he when he
 died?

ELENI
 Like 38. Back in the 70's.

YANISSA
 And he enjoyed musicals?

ELENI
 You too?! I love *FUNNY GIRL*.

YANISSA
 Yeah, because you're 70.

ELENI
 He hijacked my favorite movie.

YANISSA
 Your over-riding concern is that he
 thinks he's Judy Garland?

ELENI
 Barbra Streisand!

YANISSA
 Do I fucking look like IMDB?

ELENI

Why are you asking about him?

Yanissa sighs, adjusts her cowgirl hat and punches the bear.

INT. YANISSA'S BEDROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Yanissa is asleep. Jack is leaning against her dresser and wearing a 1970's era leisure suit. He clears his throat, but she doesn't wake up. She has a stack of very old grimoires on the dresser. He drops one on the dresser-she doesn't wake up. He looks over a shoe caddy behind him. He pulls out one, judges it as ugly and casts it aside. He settles on a flat, looks at her and then throws it at her. She finally wakes up.

JACK

Oh groovy, you're up.

YANISSA

Who might you be?

JACK

Jack Harrison. I'm Laurie's father.

YANISSA

You're the one thinks he's Bette Midler?

JACK

Barbra.

YANISSA

Don't care. Why are you here?

JACK

You helped my former in-laws,
Laurie's grandparents. I need help
too and-

YANISSA

And how are you here? Like, all the
way here. You can't come through by
yourself.

Jack is very evasive. She notices the clock.

YANISSA (CONT'D)

I'm late for work. Go away until I
reach out later. Understand?

Jack nods, give a peace sign and vanishes.

END FLASHBACK

INT. HOOTENANNY RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

ELENI

So that's where Mom gets her personality.

The line-dance soundtrack (like "Before I Knew It" by Mason Ramsey) starts. Yanissa walks away leaving Eleni alone.

YANISSA (O.C.)

It's your turn on the accordion.

INT. MIKE AND LAURIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

The large bedroom has a king-size bed. A Drooper doll from the *BANANA SPLITS* TV show is on her side of the bed. A Hepplewhite chair sits by the window. Laurie folds laundry as Mike comes out of the bathroom.

MIKE

There's a Carole King cover band at bingo tomorrow. It's gonna be crazy. Christopher is gonna help out. I'll pick him up after.

LAURIE

Ok, but they better not start with that puddin' shot nonsense again.

MIKE

Babe, it's ok, he's 16. And he's level-headed.

LAURIE

Those old broads get grabby when they drink. That's why you quit helping out.

She grabs his butt and smiles.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

With this legendary ass of yours. Speaking of Christopher, he's being weird today. He asked me about my father earlier.

MIKE

Your dad? There's a guy I'd love to punch out.

LAURIE

Mikey, come on.

MIKE

When I fell for you, I fell in love with Chelsea and Eleni too. I couldn't walk out on them ever. And I'm not even their real dad.

She smacks him in the side of the head.

LAURIE

We don't say "real dad" or "half-sibling" in this house.

MIKE

You know what I mean. If you and I hadn't made it, I'd have wanted to stay in their lives. And your dad just takes off and stays gone? From his own daughter? Fucking asshole.

LAURIE

He was gay. Things were more complicated back then. Plus he had to deal with my mother. When Christopher asked about him it just made me think. All these years later and I still don't know how I feel about him. The forgiveness journey goes on I guess. It doesn't matter anyway. Listen, is this really about Chelsea being down in Florida?

Mike won't make eye contact.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

You have nothing to worry about. She wants to get to know her...*him*, it doesn't have anything to do with you. She adores you.

MIKE

I've just enjoyed not having to deal with him or share Chelsea and Eleni for all these years.

LAURIE

Chelsea's on her forgiveness journey too.

MIKE

Why's everyone on a journey but me?

LAURIE

Because you're an unenlightened
dumbass.

He grabs her and they hold each other close and laugh.

INT. ELENI AND YANISSA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The top level of a three story house in New Jersey has a mix of old Italian and hippie bohemian. Yanissa and Eleni enter and hear loud music coming from Eleni's closed bedroom (like "Don't Bring Me Down" by ELO). They cautiously go down the hall and open the door to see Jack dancing around.

YANISSA

Seriously though?!

Jack stops, turns off the music and goes directly to Eleni.

JACK

Eleni, I'm your Grandpa Jack. Gosh,
you're so lovely-

YANISSA

(to self)

Never said I was lovely.

ELENI

How are you here? I thought you
needed--

JACK

--Never mind all that.

YANISSA

I have serious questions. And
thanks for waiting, by the way.

JACK

I'm more than happy to answer your
questions later. I'm just desperate
to see Laurie.

(to Eleni)

I thought you could help me. You
know her better than anyone. I just
didn't want to come at her in an
overt way.

YANISSA

Overt? You? Never!

ELENI

I don't know. I-I can't think about
this right now.

Eleni goes to the bathroom as Yanissa faces Jack.

YANISSA

Don't take it personally. Father
issues are a sore subject for our
little flower. So-can I offer you
something? Boxed wine? Spray
cheese? Dirt from your homeland?

INT. SULLIVAN KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mike is behind the dishwasher fixing it when water sprays him
in the face. He jumps up as Laurie enters.

MIKE

I'm calling a goddamn exorcist!

He does the sign of the cross as Tommy enters from the
garage. His t-shirt says "Catalano's Butcher Shop".

TOMMY

Gonna get a new dishwasher, Dad?

LAURIE

Or a professional to look at it?
You're still repairing the flood
damage in the basement and
everything else that keeps going
tilt. Plus working full-time.

Mike just stares at her, deep in thought.

TOMMY

Why don't I pay for it, you could
pay me back whenever.

MIKE

Do I look like I need charity?

They stare at each other then Tommy stiffens and leaves.

LAURIE

What is wrong with you! He was just
trying to help!

Laurie starts to follow Tommy but Mike stops her.

MIKE

Babe, don't go! I just-I can't keep up. That fucking basement flood is gonna end up costing me ten grand-

She stops him speaking, softens a bit and hugs him.

LAURIE

Anything I can do?

Water from behind the dishwasher sprays up and hits him in the side of the head. He remains calm.

MIKE

May I have a towel?

Laurie leaves and tries to stifle laughter.

MIKE (CONT'D)

I hear you.

LAURIE (O.C.)

Yeah, you deserved that one.

INT. TOMMY'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Tommy is sitting in his bed staring at the wall. There is a knock at the door.

TOMMY

Yes.

Mike opens the door and holds up a chess piece. Tommy walks right past Mike grabbing the chess piece out of his hand.

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

(In Russian)
I will defeat you.

MIKE

(In Russian)
In your dreams.

INT. BASEMENT LIVING AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Mike and Tommy sit on the floor around a coffee table playing chess. Dozens of chess trophies can be seen in the room.

MIKE

I lost to your Great-Grandpa the other day.

TOMMY

Well, you're both hobbyists.

MIKE

Unlike you.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Unlike myself.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

I was the highest ranked player in the state. For three years in a row.

MIKE

Sure. You always give a trophy tour to anyone who has the misfortune of entering your sanctuary down here.

(pause)

Listen, I, um-

TOMMY

I know.

MIKE

We're cool?

TOMMY

Yup.

MIKE

You're a good kid, Tommy. I've been an ass lately.

TOMMY

Lot going on. Your expertise in all things computer-related doesn't necessarily translate to household appliances. It's alright.

MIKE

Ok. One last trip to Home Depot, then I'll call in the posse. Deal?

TOMMY

Yup.

MIKE

(Russian accent)

And we agree that I am superior chess player?

TOMMY

(In Russian)

In your dreams.

INT. ELENI AND YANISSA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Eleni opens her bedroom door and is startled because Jack is right there waiting. She goes into the kitchen for coffee, gets a cup for herself and offers him one in a Beatles mug.

ELENI

Kinda shady to come to me with this, you know. I literally know nothing about you. Except you walked out on Mom when she was, like, three and then came around again a few years later for five minutes and then conveniently died.

JACK

(to self)
Conveniently?
(to Eleni)
I need to tell her some things.

ELENI

Send an email.

JACK

A what?

ELENI

Write a letter. Send a carrier pigeon, I don't know!

JACK

You're quite harsh, kid. Is your mother this way?

ELENI

She's actually amazing, always looking out for me. A friend but still Mom, you know? Oh! Wait til you get a load of Mike!

JACK

The husband?

ELENI

Yeah. "The husband". My step-dad technically, but he's dad to me and Chelsea.

(to self)
Something she needs to be reminded of.

(to Jack)

(MORE)

ELENI (CONT'D)

Mike knows all the history, helped pick up the pieces. He'll go to the mat for her. Good luck.

Yanissa comes out of her room and stands next to Jack.

YANISSA

Are we leaving yet?

ELENI

I need more time, I'm just not ready for this yet, Grandpa.

Jack and Yanissa nod in support.

EXT. YANISSA'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Yanissa and Jack walk out to the driveway. He runs ahead.

JACK

Shotgun!

He and Yanissa get in the car and she starts it. She doesn't move and Jack seems confused.

YANISSA

5, 4, 3, 2--

Eleni suddenly gets in the back seat.

ELENI

When I said more time, I meant more than 2 seconds.

YANISSA

Who forced your ass in the car?
Nobody.

ELENI

Why's he get to ride up front?

YANISSA

He called shotgun.

(to Jack)

Listen, Laurie and Mike basically raised me. They supported me 100% as I've gone through this lovely part of my life where I'm suddenly being harassed by dead people. So I have a personal stake in this, I'm not some psychic hot-line intermediary.

(MORE)

YANISSA (CONT'D)

I'm still adjusting to all of this other-worldly shit and have a lot to learn but I do know enough to personally bind and rebuke your polyester-clad ass to Cleveland if you hurt these people.

Jack smiles and nods in admiration.

YANISSA (CONT'D)

Remember, stay in the car while we talk to Laurie. Oh, as an aside, there's not a lot of men who could make that orange dress work the way you did. Kudos.

ELENI

Agree to disagree.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Mike and Laurie are making out against the kitchen island when Eleni and Yanissa walk by the kitchen window. The girls loudly enter. Eleni makes puking sounds. Mike zips up.

MIKE

Call first maybe!?
(to Laurie)
Guess I'm going out to Home Depot now. Can I get you anything?

LAURIE

A handyman. My husband is incompetent. Hot but incompetent.

MIKE

Sounds like a loser, I'd dump him.

LAURIE

Can't. He's paying for Comic Con next month. Oh, don't forget to pick the baby up from bingo later.

Mike is pensive, and puts his forehead against hers for a long moment. He hugs both girls and leaves.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

What's going on with you two? You never show up unannounced.

ELENI

Remember when you first showed me *FUNNY GIRL*? Yaya and I have both-um-

Eleni can't speak so Yanissa takes over.

YANISSA

So, your dad's in the car.

Laurie looks out the glass doors that open to the backyard.

LAURIE

Actually he's by the pond.

YANISSA

I mean, he's by the pond.

(to self)

Fucking asshole.

ELENI

Shocker.

INT. HOME DEPOT - DAY

Mike is looking at dishwashers when VIC CATALANO(55) walks up. He wears a shirt with "Catalano's Butcher Shop" on it just like Tommy's. He has a nametag.

MIKE

You leave Tommy alone at the shop too long, he'll take over.

VIC

It's my name on the building. He knows who's in charge. So, you going to bingo tonight?

MIKE

Hardly. You going?

VIC

Hell no. Those bingo bats are handsy. I got a great ass, ya know?

MIKE

Oh please, my ass is legendary. Way better than yours.

A SECURITY GUARD stops and stares at them suspiciously.

VIC

(to guard)

You got an opinion?

Vic turns his back and shakes his ass. The guard moves on but keeps looking back.

VIC (CONT'D)

(to Mike)

How's the basement coming along?

MIKE

I cannot catch a fucking break. Now the dishwasher has turned against me again. And Laurie's grandparents-

VIC

-Nah, I don't wanna hear nothing about any of that.

He gestures behind Vic, pretending they're there.

MIKE

Why not? They're right over there.

Vic jumps and does the sign of the cross.

VIC

Jesus Christ! Mary, Joseph!
The hell's wrong with you?!

Mike just laughs. Vic punches him in the arm.

VIC (CONT'D)

I don't know how ya do it. Living like that, with dead people. Ain't right. Ya got some balls on ya.

MIKE

Can you possibly stop talking about balls and asses in the middle of Home Depot?

VIC

But we can talk about...
(in Italian)
...dead people?

MIKE

Careful, they can hear you, don't make 'em mad.
(ghost sound)
Ooooo.

VIC

Knock it off! Hell kinda Catholic are you anyway?

MIKE

Severely lapsed. That's lapsed, not pro-lapsed. Don't need you talking about assholes too. We're already on Barney Fife's radar over there.

VIC
As godfather to all them kids, I
feel it's my duty--

MIKE
Ah, chill out, Vito Corleone.

VIC
I'm serious!

Mike puts his hand on Vic's shoulder.

MIKE
It's OK. I have a good feeling.
Things are about to calm down.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Laurie stares out the window and is shaky.

LAURIE
Why am I shaking?

ELENI
We'll go with you.

LAURIE
No. I have to do this alone.

EXT. SULLIVAN BACKYARD POND - MOMENTS LATER

Jack nervously stands by the pond with his back to the house in an early 60's suit with a paisley shirt. Laurie approaches cautiously.

LAURIE
You were supposed to wait in the
car.

Jack turns slowly to her and shrugs. She sits on the bench facing the pond and he sits next to her.

JACK
It's nice here. It's peaceful.

LAURIE
When I was little and mom said you
were gonna start coming around
again, I didn't know what to call
you. I didn't remember you. I stood
in front of the bathroom mirror and
tried out all the usual names.

(MORE)

LAURIE (CONT'D)

Dad, Daddy, Pop. And none of them felt right. I don't even remember what I decided. I feel that way now.

JACK

I like the koi fish. This weather today and huge yard reminds me of that field that day when we ate-

JACK (CONT'D)

-Chicken and biscuits.

LAURIE

Chicken and biscuits.

JACK (CONT'D)

And I taught you to--

Both simultaneously gesture side arm throw.

JACK (CONT'D)

--throw side arm.

LAURIE

Throw side arm.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

I was the only straight girl in that whole softball league.

He turns to her and she hesitantly turns to him.

JACK

You're so beautiful.

LAURIE

Well, I look like you.

Jack shrugs again and smiles.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

Why are you here?

JACK

I tried to reach you after I died but you couldn't see me so I stepped back. Been out of it, everything is so different in the world now.

LAURIE

You have unfinished business or something?

JACK

Something. But maybe we could just have this moment together and dig into everything another time.

LAURIE

Another time? You're actually sticking around?

Jack looks away.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

I get to ask. Obviously, you didn't know you were gonna die. It took me a few years to process that and not blame you. But those years up to that moment? After you bailed on me, a three year old? And left me with--her. Now I've got a husband and kids who I adore and who count on me. And I'm supposed to just what--have you over for dinner tonight? 'Hey kids, look, it's Grandpa. The man I never talk about. The man who wrecked me so completely that I had zero self-worth well into my 30s. Pass the potatoes'.

JACK

There's some things I want you to know about me, things I want to say. I would have done things differently if I hadn't been so afraid of you.

LAURIE

Of me?

JACK

I was used to fear. I lived most of my life in fear but that was nothing compared to how I felt about you. From the moment you were born and I held you, I was petrified. Because so much of my life was a lie, but you were the truest part of me. And I thought, OK, I can do this, I can live this lie for you. And that scared me to death. I felt like I was drowning, suffocating everyday. When I told your mom I couldn't do it anymore, I was sure I'd lose you forever. And part of me figured that might be better. Having no father is better than having a phony Ward Cleaver. Do people still know about Ward Cleaver?

LAURIE

Yes, we still know about the icon that is Ward Cleaver. You dads never had a chance after him.

JACK

I just didn't know how to act around you so I kept putting off seeing you. Eventually she told me not to come anymore. In the 70's there weren't self-help books--

LAURIE

--I figured out you were gay when I grew up.

JACK

You did?

LAURIE

I'm extremely intuitive plus--

She gestures at his outfit.

JACK

I chose this ensemble because it was basic and straight-forward.

LAURIE

With that shirt? Slightly more gay-forward.

JACK

What does your intuition say now?

LAURIE

I don't know. No part of me is functioning right now. I wanna hug you and I also wanna puke.

JACK

Please don't puke on the outfit, it's new.

Laurie smiles and softens a bit.

JACK (CONT'D)

We'll take things really slow, see what happens. I will fight to stay though, I have to be honest. I'm ready to do what I was unable to do decades ago.

She is torn.

JACK (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Lambkin. I want to fix things. Is there a more current TV dad that I could emulate, since Ward Cleaver is off the table?

LAURIE

Red Forman?

Jack nods and shrugs, ignorant to who that is.

JACK

So, I can hang out?

LAURIE

This place is turning into the Poltergeist house.

JACK

Who are they?

LAURIE

It's gonna take years to update you on cultural references. I need to talk to Mike later. There's been a lot going on lately.

JACK

Yeah, I know--I mean, I heard?

LAURIE

And, shocker, Mike's not your biggest fan. We're also gonna talk about you using Eleni to get to me. Not cool. However, in your place, I'd have done the same thing. In addition to my stunning good looks, I guess I get my manipulative qualities from you too.

JACK

Good looks, calculating tendencies. Dare I hope you're also a spendthrift?

LAURIE

Of course, I'm a--

JACK AND LAURIE

Taurus.

LAURIE

You can't be here when Mike gets home, OK?

Jack nods. She starts back to the house, then turns.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
Any chance you could lose the
mustache? I always hated it.

Jack smiles as she leaves. Tommy pulls into the driveway.

JACK
(to self)
You called me Daddy, by the way.

EXT. SULLIVAN DRIVEWAY - DAY

Tommy gets out of his car with a package of meat.

TOMMY
Hey Mama, who's that?

LAURIE
My-

She thinks and then smiles.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
-Daddy. Your Grandpa Jack.

She walks into the house. Tommy and Jack look at each other across the yard. Jack has lost the mustache already. Tommy tips his cowboy hat.

TOMMY
Howdy, I'm Tommy! Twin A, heir to
the throne!

He holds up the package of meat.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
Salami?!

Jack shrugs and pats the bench next to him. Tommy heads over.

INT. SULLIVAN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Laurie is sitting alone when Mike enters smiling.

MIKE
Ta Da! Your white knight returns
with a brand new dishwasher.

LAURIE
My dad is here.

Mike stares blankly for a long moment before looking around.

MIKE

Like here now? Here. Wait. What?
Here?

LAURIE

He wants to hang around like my
grandparents.

MIKE

Yanissa's grandma dies and everyone
makes a beeline for all of us. Why
all at once? Is it the Revelation?
Do I need to start repenting?

She's not laughing.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Sorry. I'm just worried about you.
Grandpa and Grandma are one thing
but your dad-

LAURIE

I wanna give him a chance. What
kind of person am I, what kind of
mother, if I don't walk the talk?
We didn't raise the kids to hold
grudges or be unforgiving.

MIKE

Forgiveness is one thing, having
him hanging around here is another.

LAURIE

Don't you see that we're getting
second chances here lately? It's a
miracle. Who gets that? Nobody.

MIKE

I just--

LAURIE

What's going on with you lately?
It's more than the current water-
related hijinks and the influx of
dead people. Something's on your
mind, you're not yourself. I want
you to talk to me.

MIKE

It's just everything. And turning
55 is bumming me out.

LAURIE

Why? You know what I see when I look at you?

MIKE

Gray hair and crow's feet?

LAURIE

No, dummy. The handsome guy I met on a blind date all those years ago.

MIKE

I remember. Although, I'm partial to our second date.

LAURIE

Yeah, you would be.

MIKE

Hang on, how old is your dad?

LAURIE

38.

MIKE

Oh, fantastic.

LAURIE

You gonna be nice?

MIKE

I just bought an expensive dishwasher, I'm a nice guy.

LAURIE

Where's Christopher?

Mike's eyes widen, he gets up and dashes out.

INT. BINGO HALL - NIGHT

Christopher is trying to calm old people as they are rocking out to the Carole King cover band, standing on chairs, and downing shots. Christopher rushes around until he finally hides in a corner behind a stack of cases of Ensure. He looks at his cell but it's dead.

CHRISTOPHER

Dad! Dad! Where are you?!

INT. FAMILY ROOM - DAY

Jack is sitting on the couch chatting with Lawrence and Edna and nervously stands as Mike enters the room. Lawrence and Edna encourage Jack as he extends his hand.

JACK
Hi Mike. Nice to-

Mike looks him up and down, sighs and crosses his arms.

JACK (CONT'D)
Ok wow, listen I, I know this is--
I'm glad you're down with me
sticking around.

MIKE
Did you really think I'd tell my
wife no?

JACK
You're intense. Cool. Very groovy.

Lawrence gets up and stands between them, and puts his arm around Mike. Edna gets up and puts her arm around Jack.

LAWRENCE
Michael. Come on, son.

MIKE
(to Jack)
I swear to God if you hurt her-

EDNA
Michael, honey.

JACK
I have no intention of doing
that.

Edna guides Mike to the kitchen.

EDNA (O.C.) (CONT'D)
Let's get you some breakfast.

Laurie comes in, hugs Lawrence and awkwardly hugs Jack, notices the missing mustache and hugs him again.

INT. SULLIVAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Laurie shows Jack photos of the kids through the years. There's a tenseness but they are warming up to each other. He and Mike shoot glares at each other. Jack puts his arm possessively around Laurie while engaging in a stare-down and Mike goes into his office and shuts the door hard. Laurie looks concerned.

JACK

Mike will come around, don't worry. He's just used to being the only man in your life. And that's over now. I'm really looking forward to getting to know you and my grandchildren.

LAURIE

And Mike.

Jack pauses, looks at the closed door, then back at Laurie.

JACK

And Mike. Of course.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Jack is eating salami and speaking to Lawrence as they stand around the island. He is agitated but Lawrence is calm.

JACK

I have to tell her. I need to do it soon. Really, really soon!

Lawrence nods, pats his shoulder and exits as Christopher enters. He hugs Jack hard. Jack is happy to see him.

CHRISTOPHER

Hi, Grandpa! You're here! I didn't tell Mom I saw you in my room the other night. Is that ok? I don't like to lie.

Jack ponders for a long moment, then smiles.

JACK

Lying is necessary sometimes.

Christopher smiles and leaves. Opening guitar riff from George Harrison's "What Is Life" begins. Jack sighs.

JACK (CONT'D)

(to self)

Yeah, that wasn't me.

The kitchen faucet sputters loudly behind Jack. He glares up at the heavens and shakes his head.

BLACKOUT

Song continues to play over pictures of Jack and Laurie together when she was very small.