

HOW TO MAKE A MAN

"Pilot"

written by

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DRAFT DATE

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COLD OPENING

FADE IN:

PICTURE: THE JENSEN FAMILY in the early 1990's, posing outside an elementary school in Salt Lake City, Utah. They look like the poster family for nice white people.

JOSH JENSEN, 11, beams as he is flanked by his mother, BONNIE JENSEN, and father, THANE JENSEN. He's holding a framed award reading: "**Hope of America.**"

JOSH (V.O.)

This is me. I'm the Hope of America.
It's an award you win in sixth grade
for being the best. My parents took
the day off from work to see me
receive it. Pretty rad, huh?

PICTURE: The Jensen Family in the mid 1990's, huddled around Josh, now 12, as he blows out the candles on a birthday cake surrounded by FRIENDS, FAMILY, and huge presents.

JOSH (V.O.)

My family was the best. We took cool
vacations. Never really argued. Had a
nice house that barely ever got dirty.
Plus, we knew how to celebrate.

PICTURE: The Jensen Family in the mid 1990's, all dressed in white robes, standing around a pool of water. BISHOP OLSEN, the church leader, wraps his arms around the Jensen clan.

JOSH (V.O.)

We became members of the Church of
Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
after my dad said he heard a calling
from Heavenly Father. Right before my
thirteenth birthday. Our whole family
converted to the Mormon Church at the
same time. Because...that's what the
Jensens do. We support each other.
Family means a lot to us. Most of my
friends usually had at least two other
siblings, but my parents only wanted
me. I was their golden boy.

INT. SALT LAKE CITY INTL. AIRPORT - BAGGAGE CLAIM - DAY

It's now 1997. Among the crowd of TRAVELERS, FAMILY MEMBERS, and AIRPORT EMPLOYEES stands Josh, 15, next to Bonnie, now in her early 40's, eagerly waiting near an escalator. Both Josh and Bonnie are dressed in their Sunday best.

JOSH

Do you think he brought me back something from India?

Bonnie sly averts her gaze and shrugs.

BONNIE

Who's to say?

JOSH

You. You're to say.

BONNIE

I can't.

JOSH

Pretty please! With a cherry on top.

BONNIE

A cherry? Ew. No son of mine eats cherries.

JOSH

I'm your one and only son. Which means if you have a secret, you have to tell me. Like, now.

BONNIE

I certainly do not. Who made up that crazy rule, huh?

JOSH

C'mon! Dad's been gone for a month. He hasn't called. He e-mails just you. We are missing church for this! I even put on my Dockers because you said to look nice. Why can't you just tell me?

Bonnie nervously bites her lip.

THANE (O.S.)

Bonnie! Josh!

They look up to see Thane, also in his early 40's now, waving from another floor near one of the escalators.

JOSH

Dad!

Josh runs up the escalator that's moving downwards, bumping into people and their bags, upsetting the flow of traffic.

THANE

Josh, hold on! I'm waiting for --

JOSH

-- I'm just excited to see you --

THANE

-- me too, buddy. But I have to --

BONNIE

-- Josh, use the other escalator!

Josh hops the railing onto the upward bound escalator. Bonnie shakes her head, grinning, and also boards the escalator moving upwards. Josh cups his hands, calling to his dad.

JOSH

You've been gone a month!

THANE

Feels like an eternity!

JOSH

Mom was trying to play it cool and pretend that you didn't come home with something, but I know you brought us back something...

Josh freezes on the escalator, his voice trailing off as he comes into view of his father, arm around a small Indian boy, MITHUN, 5, with a prosthetic leg, playing with a toy.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Who's that?

Bonnie makes it to the top of the escalator, runs toward Mithun, and holds him tightly in her arms.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Mom? Dad? What's going on here?

Thane and Bonnie hug, tears in their eyes. They turn to Josh, presenting Mithun in front of them.

THANE

Josh, meet your new little brother.

JOSH (V.O.)

Then...everything changed.

CAMERA FLASH/PICTURE: The Jensens, with their new son at the airport. Thane proudly smiles. Bonnie joyfully holds Mithun in her arms. Josh stares into the camera, lost in a stupor of confusion.

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. JENSEN VAN - DAY (MOVING)

Thane drives the van. Bonnie sits in back, playing with Mithun, who does not seem to be interested at all in his toy any more. Josh rides shotgun, arms crossed, stoney faced.

The awkward silence ensues until Thane tries to break it:

THANE

Sorry we didn't tell you earlier.

JOSH

Or at all.

BONNIE

We wanted to.

JOSH

So then why didn't you?

BONNIE

Well, because your father...and I thought it would upset you.

JOSH

You're right! I'm upset! That you didn't tell me I was getting a baby brother.

THANE

To be fair, we tried to discuss the possibility with you.

INT. JOSH'S BEDROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

1995. Josh watches television and munches on chips. Thane and Bonnie open the door, gingerly sitting on the bed with Josh.

BONNIE

Hey Joshie, your dad and I have a question for you.

JOSH
I'm listening.

He isn't.

THANE
Well...your mother and I have wanted
to know...you should tell him...

BONNIE
No, you should.

THANE
I really think you should.

BONNIE
All right.

THANE
No, I'll do it. Okay, okay. How would
you like a little brother or sister?

Josh picks up the remote, not even looking at his parents.

JOSH
No thanks.

He changes the channel on the TV. Bonnie and Thane are
dumbfounded, quietly retreating out of Josh's bedroom.

INT. JENSEN VAN - DAY (MOVING)

1997. Back to the awkward ride from the airport.

JOSH
That was your attempt at trying to
discuss it! Are you kidding me?

THANE
Josh, this isn't your decision.

JOSH
Then why did you ask?

BONNIE
Because we wanted to include you.

THANE
We're in this together. As a family.

JOSH (V.O.)
Dad wishes he was deep. Especially in
moments like these.

(MORE)

JOSH (V.O.) (CONT'D)

In his mind, someone is on standby at all times for a quote from him so they can put it on an inspirational poster to sell at the mall.

Josh smushes his face against the car window.

THANE

Family is the greatest truth there is.

Josh looks in the rear view mirror to see Bonnie playing with Mithun's little hand, lost in this new child.

JOSH (V.O.)

My mom usually looks like she has a lot to say, but just isn't. I'm not sure why. It didn't used to be like this. What's happening to us?

JOSH

What's his name?

BONNIE

Hmm? Sorry. What did you say?

JOSH

The name. Of your new son.

THANE

You mean your new brother.

BONNIE

Mithun. His name is Mithun.

Josh turns to look at his mother and Mithun in the backseat.

JOSH

What's wrong with his leg?

BONNIE

Thane, you want to take this one?

THANE

We'll talk about it some other time, Josh.

Mithun suddenly points to Josh.

MITHUN

Josh!

BONNIE

Oh my gosh! Did you hear that?

JOSH
I didn't hear anything.

THANE
You will. This was a mission...

JOSH (V.O.)
Dad was always talking about how he wish he'd gotten a better mission assignment after joining the church.

INT. JENSEN KITCHEN - DAY (FLASHBACK)

1996. Thane shifts through a pile of mail on the table while Josh and Bonnie eat dinner. He finds an envelope and starts to tear it open.

THANE
This is it, you guys! My mission assignment. The church has requested that I serve in...
(reads the letter)
...Salt Lake City.

JOSH
Is there another one? Like, in Guam?

THANE
No. Just here. Part time.

He slumps in his chair, disappointed.

INT. JENSEN VAN - DAY (MOVING)

Thane continues droning on.

THANE (CONT'D)
...which is why I was sent to find this child by our Lord and Savior, to be a blessing unto our family. And now, our church is going to welcome its newest member.

Josh slow claps. Mithun giggles and claps too. Josh turns around in his chair, glares at Mithun, who grins in return.

INT. LATTER DAY SAINTS WARD HOUSE - DAY

Bishop Stephen Olsen, now in his late 50's, stands before a CONGREGATION in the main sanctuary. The Jensen family make their way up to the platform in front of the church.

BISHOP OLSEN

Everyone! Welcome back Elder Jensen
from his special trip to India.

The crowd cheers, sings, and applauds the Jensens.

THANE

Mission. It was a mission.

BISHOP OLSEN

Elder Jensen, can you tell everyone
about the special quest you've been on
for the last month?

THANE

Yes. First, I want to apologize for
not dressing up in my usual Sunday
best. I think we can all agree that I
usually kill it in that department.

A meek, polite laugh from the congregants.

BONNIE

(with gritted teeth, smiling)
Get to the part about our son, Thane.

THANE

Oh, yes. Right! As many of you know,
Bonnie and I have been hoping for
another child for quite some time.

JOSH (V.O.)

They have?

JOSH

(to Bonnie)
You have?

Bonnie puts a finger to her lips, signaling for quiet.

BONNIE

Due to reasons beyond our knowing,
Heavenly Father has seen it only fit
to bless us with only one biological
offspring...

JOSH

...so I'm an offspring now. Great...

THANE

...but then he spoke to me. Called to
me. Said travel to a land. To
Calcutta. "There is a special mission
for you," he said. And that mission...

(MORE)

THANE (CONT'D)
(tearing up)
...that mission was our second son.

The church erupts in applause. Bishop Olsen cues them to start singing another joyous tune.

Bonnie, holding Mithun, goes to put her other arm around her husband only to have him lift the child from her and present Mithun Simba-like to the congregation.

Josh crosses his arms, refusing to sing. Bishop Olsen leans down, whispering into Josh's ear.

BISHOP OLSEN
Hey Josh. Are you wearing Dockers?

JOSH
Yeah...?

BISHOP OLSEN
Nice. Pants.

Puzzled, Josh turns to Bishop Olsen. He winks at Josh.

EXT. JENSEN TOWN HOUSE - DAY

The Jensen van pulls into the driveway of a duplex condo on a street lined with identical town homes and perfectly manicured lawns.

Thane bounds out of the van and rushes assist Bonnie with getting a now sleeping Mithun out of the backseat. Josh slugs out of the passenger side door.

BONNIE
Out like a light. Already a better sleeper than you know who.

JOSH
Is it me? I bet it's me. It's me, huh?

Next door, in front of the connecting duplex, a moving truck is being unloaded. MOVERS carry furniture while THE KINGS, a good looking Black family from the South, haul boxes inside.

THANE
Well, looky here. Hi new neighbors!

Thane crosses the small shared lawn, hand extended to MORRIS KING, early 40's, pushing a dolly up the driveway.

JOSH (V.O.)
He always has to be so friendly.

BONNIE

Man, you dad never misses a chance to tell people who he is, huh?

Josh turns to his mom, who offers him a knowing grin.

THANE

Howdy, neighbor! Thane Jensen. Next door. That's my wife, Bonnie, son Josh, and my newest addition, Mithun.

Bonnie politely waves. Josh does too, but only half-heartedly. Morris sets the dolly down, removes a glove to shake Thane's outstretched hand.

MORRIS

Nice to meet, y'all. Morris King. And this...goddamnit, where the hell are they? Better not be taking a break! Leaving me to do all the work. Dimitri! Claudia! Get out here and meet the next door neighbors!

DIMITRI KING, 15, thick glasses, walks outside with his mom,
CLAUDIA KING, late 30's, very pretty. Both are sweaty.

CLAUDIA

Can you let us have one second inside so we don't pass out?

MORRIS

These are the neighbors. The Jensens.

Carrying Mithun, Bonnie crosses over to the Kings, motioning for Josh to do the right thing and follow her. He begrudgingly obeys, throwing his head back in mock disgust.

CLAUDIA

Well...I'm Claudia. But I'm sure you could hear that from Morris' barking.

MORRIS

I don't bark. But I will bite if we don't get this done in time and have to pay these guys extra.

Dimitri and Josh size each other up while their parents chat.

JOSH

Hey. I'm Josh.

DIMITRI

Dimitri.

JOSH
So...do you like sports?

DIMITRI
Only when they're on video games.

JOSH
Cool. Me too. Which ones?

DIMITRI
Just the good ones, obviously.

JOSH (V.O.)
Can't wait to be best friends, dude.

Claudia leans down to get a better look at Mithun.

CLAUDIA
And who is this?

BONNIE
Mithun.

THANE
All the way from Calcutta, India.
Fresh off the plane this morning.

MORRIS
We just came from Houston.

THANE
What brings you out to Utah?

MORRIS
New job.

THANE
Congratulations, sir.

CLAUDIA
For me, actually. Morris is a work-at-home-slash-stay-at-home dad.

BONNIE
That's great! Where will you be working?

CLAUDIA
Up at the University's hospital.
Finishing up my residency in the pediatric unit, then full-time.

Mithun wakes up, cranky and fussy. Claudia mouths "Sorry" to Bonnie, who smiles and waves her off.

THANE

Between this little guy here and you
three moving in, looks like the
neighbors about to see a bit of color.

Claudia politely nods. Bonnie's cheeks flush red. Thane
remains oblivious to what he said.

MORRIS

Thanks for the welcome wagon.

Morris clears his throat and goes back to the dolly as
Claudia unloads another box from the truck.

JOSH

I just got a Nintendo 64?

DIMITRI

Really?!

JOSH

Maybe we could play sometime?

DIMITRI

Okay. But I get first controller.

MORRIS

Dimitri! C'mon boy. We ain't got all
day! Time is money and I don't like
wasting either of them.

Dimitri joins his mom and dad at the moving truck. Thane
waves an overly friendly good-bye to the Kings.

THANE

That went well! Nice people. Their boy
is a little weird though, huh?

Bonnie shakes head in embarrassment and with a crying Mithun,
goes into their home.

Josh follows him mom, his dad behind him.

INT. JENSEN TOWN HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Thane closes the front door once everyone is inside the home.

THANE

What? What did I say?

BONNIE

"A bit of color," Thane! Really?

THANE

I can say that now. I have a son who is a bit of color. More than a bit.

Bonnie unloads cranky Mithun into her husband's arms.

BONNIE

Great. Then you can be the one to try and get him back to sleep for a nap.

THANE

Happy to do so. If you could whip us up some lunch, that would be nice.

She stares at Thane. He smiles back at her. Finally, Bonnie heads into the kitchen to prepare the meal.

JOSH (V.O.)

Okay, this is getting awkward.

JOSH

I'll be in my room if you need me.

Josh starts to go upstairs, but isn't three steps when --

THANE

Hey, Joshie...?

He stops and turns towards Thane.

JOSH

Yes, father of mine?

THANE

I know this is hard. And that we didn't give you much warning.

BONNIE (O.S.)

(from the kitchen)

Leave me out this.

JOSH

How about any warning at all?

THANE

I know, I know. It all happened so quickly. But you have a new brother now so we all have to make sacrifices.

Josh cocks a skeptical eyebrow.

JOSH

What kind of sacrifices?

THANE
Well, y'know your room?

JOSH
Yeah?

THANE
It's not upstairs any more.

INT. JENSEN BASEMENT - DAY

In a large, unfinished basement are all of Josh's bedroom items: bed, TV, posters, dresser, etc. Josh stands next to Thane, mouth agape. Mithun snuffles in Thane's arms, two fingers in his mouth for comfort.

THANE
Your mom and I just think it will be better if Mithun is closer to us right now in case he needs anything.

JOSH
How did all my stuff get down here?

THANE
Funny story. I sent Bishop Olsen an e-mail asking if he and a few members could come by this morning, use the spare key, and help move your stuff downstairs, as well as new stuff up to Mithun's room. I swear, I'd be lost without the church and it's members. Truly a blessing to have them in our lives, don't you think?

JOSH (V.O.)
Oh no. Does that mean Bishop Olsen went through my stuff?

INT. LATTER DAY SAINTS WARD HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Earlier this morning, when Bishop Olsen whispers to Josh.

BISHOP OLSEN
Nice. Pants.

He winks.

INT. JENSEN BASEMENT - SAME

Back to the basement. Josh shudders.

JOSH
Creepy.

THANE

It'll grow on you in time. Trust me.
With Mithun getting adjusted, you'll
want your privacy.

JOSH

Dad, I don't want this. Any of this.

THANE

You've been spoiled for so long, Josh,
but it's good to learn how to share.

JOSH

I thought I was enough for you and
mom. Why do we have to have this new
kid here at all?

THANE

Because Heavenly Father commanded it
to be so. And I, as your Earthly
Father, agree with him. This is a big
opportunity. No more little boy stuff.
Grown man stuff from here on out.
Being a sibling is a chance to really
show the world what you're made of. To
step up to the plate and be a man.

JOSH

But I liked things the way they were.

Thane rubs Josh's hair in a playful manner.

THANE

You'll see. You're going to love being
a big brother.

Mithun cries out, upset again and struggling in Thane's arms.

Thane heads out of the room and is so distracted by his new
son that he turns off the light on his eldest one.

Josh stands in the darkness by himself.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. JENSEN LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The Jensen's home rests serenely, peaceful and quiet. Then, somewhere, from another room, a SOFT CRY radios out.

INT. JENSEN KITCHEN - NIGHT

Microwave clock reads **3:32 A.M.** The cry turns into a WHINE.

INT. JENSEN BASEMENT - NIGHT

Josh, asleep in bed, opens his eyes as the whine graduates to a full volume SCREAM.

JOSH (V.O.)

You've got to be kidding me!

INT. JENSEN KITCHEN - NIGHT

Bonnie searches for something underneath the sink. Thane rummages through the pantry. Mithun, seated on the table, wails at the top of his lungs.

BONNIE

Thane, how do we even know what to do?

THANE

I know what to do! They gave me a pamphlet in the airport.

BONNIE

Then where's the pamphlet?

Josh enters from the door that leads the basement.

JOSH

What the heck is going on?

BONNIE

Josh! Sweetie, I'm so sorry. Did we wake you?

JOSH

Only into the nightmare that is now my life.

THANE

Have you done something with the first aid kit, Josh?

JOSH

No. Why would I? It's not even --

Josh takes a seat at the table, noticing that Mithun's prosthetic leg is detached and laid out on the table.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Holy frick! What happened to his leg?

Thane stops. Bonnie does too, checking for Thane's reaction.

THANE

We don't swear in this house.

JOSH

"Frick" isn't a swear. It's a substitute swear. I swear it is. I mean --

THANE

I very much dislike swears and cuss words. Heavenly Father doesn't like them much either.

BONNIE

Thane, do we have to do this now!

JOSH

Mr. King actually swore earlier today and you didn't say anything to him.

THANE

That's his house! Next door!

BONNIE

Speaking of which, you might want to keep your voice down. I'm sure they --

The sound of the DOORBELL turns the Jensen's heads.

THANE

Who is that?

BONNIE

Who do you think, Thane?

Another three RINGS, this time with more force. Then comes the hard sound of KNOCKING.

THANE

Josh, take Mithun upstairs.

JOSH

Me?

THANE

Just do what I say! Now!

Josh picks up Mithun and awkwardly carries him up towards the staircase. Bonnie runs after with Mithun's leg, tucking it into the space between her two boys.

JOSH (V.O.)

Gross! Gross, gross, gross...

Josh heads up the stairs as his parents collect themselves at the front door before opening it --

INT. JENSEN TOWN HOUSE - DOORWAY - CONTINUOUS

-- to see Morris and Claudia, in their pajamas, sleepy-eyed, and not thrilled to be awake at this hour.

MORRIS

Is there a problem?

Thane puts on his plastic happy face.

THANE

Oh no! Did we wake you?

CLAUDIA

That boy has some pipes on him.

Bonnie joins Thane in the doorway.

BONNIE

I am so sorry about that. Mithun has a prosthetic leg that came off. I don't know how or why, but it's really bothering him.

CLAUDIA

Did he tell you how to put it back on?

BONNIE

I don't know. Maybe? Sorry. We're not even sure he speaks English or would know how to tell us even if he does. I can't believe we don't know!

THANE

I know how to do it, okay? Now, I'm just going to run to the grocery store and get some supplies. Be right back.

Thane grabs his jacket and his keys, makes his way past his wife and the Kings, and climbs into the van.

INT. MITHUN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Josh plops Mithun down on the twin bed. He looks at the prosthetic leg and covers it with a blanket. Mithun sobs.

JOSH

Hey, c'mon now. Please don't cry.

But Mithun only cries louder.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Okay, okay. Sorry. Don't worry. It's going to be all right. Uh...

(looks around the room)

Hey, Mithun. Look! This is my room.

Josh shows Mithun what was once his bedroom now decorated with stuffed animals, some children's books, and a dresser.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Well, it used to be.

Mithun catches his breath and starts to calm down the more Josh speaks to him. Josh notices one stuffed animal in particular: it's an shark in a tuxedo.

INT. JENSEN TOWN HOUSE - DOORWAY - NIGHT

Bonnie, Morris, and Claudia all watch Thane drive away.

MORRIS

Why is your husband so fake?

Bonnie winces. Claudia jabs Morris with her elbow, a signal to shut up. Morris clears his throat.

CLAUDIA

Are you all right?

BONNIE

I'm fine. I'm worried about Mithun. About everything, honestly.

CLAUDIA

Want me to come take a look?

BONNIE

That...would be incredibly helpful.

Claudia steps inside the Jensen's home.

MORRIS

Bad sign for a first night's sleep.
Your baby screaming and your husband
is running around scared as hell.

CLAUDIA

Morris, go back to bed.

MORRIS

Don't have to tell me twice.

Morris walks across the lawn to the King's home.

INT. MITHUN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Josh watches Mithun play with the tuxedoed shark, the tears subsiding and joy growing on his face.

JOSH

Chocolate Chip was my favorite when I
was growing up. I used to slide down
the stairs in a laundry basket with
Chocolate Chip in my arms.

INT. JENSEN TOWN HOUSE - STAIRCASE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Late 1980's. YOUNG JOSH, 6, rides with his animal collection down the stairs in the laundry basket. Chocolate Chip is in his arms as Josh's co-pilot.

JOSH (V.O.)

And then one day, even after I had
stacked the pillows really high,
Chocolate Chip and I had an accident.

IN SLOW MOTION the laundry basket tips over, sending Young Josh and Chocolate Chip flying straight towards the wall.

INT. MITHUN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Back to Mithun, listening to Josh's story with all of his attention. Josh continues with his story.

JOSH

Knocked out my first two baby teeth
and split open my chin. Had to be
rushed to the hospital. Mom took me.
Held my hand the entire way and sang
songs she knew I liked.

INT. JENSEN VAN - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Late 1980's. Bonnie drives the van, holding the hand of a bloody faced Young Josh's. She sings to him as he cries out in pain, squeezing Chocolate Chip.

JOSH (V.O.)

Even when she forgot the lyrics. Which was a lot. Pretty much always. But she kept singing. Mom never stopped.

INT. MITHUN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Josh, lost in thought, snaps back to see Mithun with heavy eyelids and his arms wrapped tight around Chocolate Chip.

JOSH

Chocolate Chip is good. But our mom is even better.

(pauses, takes this in)

Our mom.

At that moment, Bonnie enters the room with Claudia. Josh motions for them to be quiet and points to sleeping Mithun.

INT. JENSEN KITCHEN - NIGHT

At the table, Bonnie and Claudia sip tea while Josh drinks hot cocoa from a big mug.

CLAUDIA

Probably just woke up scared is all. I can totally come back in the morning and help out when he's fully awake.

BONNIE

I...can't thank you enough. Truly.

CLAUDIA

Don't thank me. I didn't do anything. But I do hope Dimitri and this young man right here can become friends. He needs somebody. Didn't have any in Houston. Or ever, for that matter.

JOSH

Why not?

CLAUDIA

Well, Josh. Dimitri...he's different. His brain works a different way. He's smart, I'll tell you that. But sometimes he doesn't understand the way other people feel.

(MORE)

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

But I could tell today that he was interested in getting to know you better.

JOSH (V.O.)

Sounds like a blast.

(beat)

Oh, who are you kidding, Josh? You need a friend, too.

Josh nods approvingly and looks to Bonnie.

JOSH

Mom, where's dad?

Bonnie checks the microwave clock. It's **4:52 A.M.**

BONNIE

I don't...know, actually.

CLAUDIA

Pretty late. I'm going to head back to bed and try to get some shut eye. Knock on my door when he's up, okay?

BONNIE

Yes. Of course. Thanks again.

CLAUDIA

We're neighbors. Where I come from that means we look out for each other.

She leaves the Jensens. Bonnie goes back to her tea.

JOSH

Mom, I don't know if I ever thanked you for taking me to the hospital that one time when I fell down the stairs.

BONNIE

You don't have to thank me, Josh. I'm your mom. I'll take you to the hospital. To school. To Scout meetings and religious study class, even though I know you find it boring. I'll do anything for you for as long as I can.

(deep breath)

Including apologizing. I wish I could blame your dad, entirely, but I can't.

JOSH

Apologizing for what?

BONNIE

This. All of it. We've been trying to adopt for a while, but the process is long. Unpredictable. Then this opportunity came up and we...your father knew it was meant to be. But still, we should've trusted that you were mature enough to handle it. Not spring it on you at the very last second.

JOSH

So then why are you angry at dad?

BONNIE

That obvious, huh?
(Josh winces)
That's marriage. It's complicated.

JOSH

Was I not enough for you guys?

BONNIE

Josh...you are more than enough. Can I tell you something? When I found out I was pregnant with you, I can't really say I expected it or was ready to become a mom.

JOSH

But you had, like, a year to prepare.

BONNIE

Try nine months. I dropped out of school. Quit my job that was going to hire me full-time when I graduated. Stopped working at the radio station. Going out as much. Y'know, doing things for me. Instead, I did them for you. Just like you did tonight for Mithun. I know how much of a shock this is, but you're going to love being an older brother. Trust me.

Josh rolls his eyes.

JOSH

Dad said the exact same thing.

BONNIE

Ah, crap. I was hoping I could be the good, motivational parent this time.

JOSH

You are. You always are.

Bonnie pretends to doff a hat and bow. Josh laughs.

BONNIE

Don't tell your dad you said that.

THANE (V.O.)

Said what?

Josh and Bonnie, shocked, turn to see Thane.

BONNIE

Thane? I didn't hear you come in.

THANE

And I didn't hear what you said.

BONNIE

Nothing. Did you get the first aid stuff?

THANE

I tried. Drove to Albertsons. They didn't have anything. Then to Smiths. Again, all out.

BONNIE

And that took you almost two hours?

Thane holds out his hands innocently.

THANE

I'm back now, aren't I? Sounds like the little guy is asleep.

BONNIE

That was all Josh's doing.

THANE

Really? Thanks for holding down the fort, big man. Whew! I'm beat. Wake me up when it's time for breakfast, will you, Bonnie, so we can discuss the punishment for ol' potty mouth here.

Thane ascends the stairs. Josh slams back of his cocoa.

JOSH (V.O.)

Wait. Is my dad is an...asshole?

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. JENSEN LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Claudia puts the final touches on adjusting Mithun's prosthetic leg. He wiggles around next to Bonnie on the couch, playing with Chocolate Chip and laughing.

BONNIE

You are a miracle worker.

CLAUDIA

Well, I guess I am pretty good at what I do.

INT. JENSEN KITCHEN - SAME

Thane and Morris eat breakfast, chewing in silence until:

THANE

Sorry if I made yesterday weird.

MORRIS

You're making now weird.

THANE

Can I ask you something?

Morris sips his coffee, waiting for another bombshell remark.

THANE (CONT'D)

How do you...deal with your son?

MORRIS

What do you mean "deal" with Dimitri?

THANE

I could tell yesterday...well, uh, he's a little...strange, yeah?

MORRIS

Okay, I'm going to stop you right there. My boy's got the Aspergers.

THANE

Yeah, that's what I meant. I just don't like saying it because of the swear word attached to it.

MORRIS

Doesn't make him strange. Doesn't make him weird. It makes him different. Now, I don't always like it. I don't always understand it. But I know one thing: he is my son and I accept him for who he is as best as I can.

THANE

But...how?

Morris dives back into his plate of eggs.

MORRIS

"How?" My god, man, this ain't your first rodeo! What about your eldest?

THANE

Josh was easy. He's kind of a people pleaser. We had a rough moment here and there 'cause we spoiled him but...

They look over to the living room where their wives are talking and doting over Mithun.

MORRIS

...but now you're worried about this one. That it won't be easy.

THANE

I mean, his leg fell off. He can't speak English. We're, y'know, white.

MORRIS

No? Really?

INT. JENSEN BASEMENT - MORNING

Seated in front of the television, N64 controllers in their hands, Josh and Dimitri having some competitive fun playing a video game.

DIMITRI

I shot you.

JOSH

I know.

DIMITRI

You're not really good at this game,
are you?

A big explosion happens on screen. They press their
controllers frantically.

JOSH

I could beat you at Smash Bros.

DIMITRI

That games for little wusses.

JOSH

Dude, shut up!

DIMITRI

What're you going to do about it,
wuss?

JOSH (V.O.)

Seriously?

JOSH

I'm going to make you...my...biggest
bitch. That's what I'm going to do.

Dimitri pulls his eyes away from the screen to stare at Josh.
Josh finally turns to Dimitri, who then snorts with laughter.

DIMITRI

You just said "bitch." That's a bad
word. My dad doesn't even say that.

JOSH (V.O.)

And what will my dad say when you tell
him I said that word, Dimitri?

DIMITRI

You're funny. I'm glad we're friends.

Josh smiles.

JOSH

Same.

They go back to playing their game.

INT. JENSEN KITCHEN - MORNING

Morris continues eating as Thane drones on and on.

THANE

I mean, I'm tough.

MORRIS
Oh yeah, you tough.

THANE
I'm a man.

MORRIS
Sure are.

THANE
So why am I so --

MORRIS
-- worried?

THANE
I'm not worried. I'm --

MORRIS
-- afraid?

THANE
I'm not afraid!

MORRIS
So why'd you ran off last night?

Thane squirms in his chair.

THANE
I...didn't...run off.

MORRIS
Sure looked like you did.

Morris stares down Thane, who eventually turns his head away.

INT. JENSEN LIVING ROOM - SAME

Bonnie and Claudia watch Mithun play with Chocolate Chip.

BONNIE
Can I get you something else besides
breakfast? You've done so much for us
and we're supposed to be welcoming you
guys to the neighborhood.

CLAUDIA
Well, if you got the fixings, I
wouldn't say no to a Bloody Mary.

BONNIE
Oh...well, uh...

CLAUDIA

Or a vodka tonic. What are three day weekends for after all?

She laughs. Bonnie sighs.

BONNIE

I'm sorry...we don't --

CLAUDIA

-- fine. A mimosa. Pull my leg --

BONNIE

Drink. We don't drink.

Claudia pulls herself together, realizing Bonnie's sincerity.

CLAUDIA

Like, at all?

BONNIE

We used to. I...used to. In fact, I went pretty hard back in the day, especially when I worked at the radio station. There were some parties, let me tell you...and then...

CLAUDIA

And then...?

BONNIE

Thane had the family converted to the church. And...we...don't...drink.

CLAUDIA

So what do you do for fun?

BONNIE

That's a good question.

The DOORBELL rings.

Thane and Morris poke their heads out of the kitchen just as Josh and Dimitri run upstairs excitedly to see who is at the front door. Bonnie goes to answer it and reveal --

INT. JENSEN TOWN HOUSE - DOORWAY - CONTINUOUS

-- POOJA MUKHERJEE, mid 20's, a suitcase by her side, standing on the stoop in the morning sun.

POOJA

Good morning. Is this the Jensen household? Thane Jensen's home?

BONNIE

It is. How can I help you?

Thane, holding Mithun, joins Bonnie at the door.

THANE

Honey, who is at the door...?

He trails off and his eyes widen with fear when he sees Pooja, who, at the same time, sees Mithun.

POOJA

Mithun!

BONNIE

I'm sorry, but who are you?

POOJA

My name is Pooja Mukherjee and that boy right there is my son, who was kidnapped by that man right there!

Pooja points an accusing finger towards Thane.

Bonnie turns to Thane, deer in the headlights, who gulps.

Mithun howls and points ecstatically to Josh.

MITHUN

(in Bengali, subtitled:)
Mommy, mommy! That's my big daddy brother, Josh.

Josh blinks.

JOSH (V.O.)

I'm what now?

BLACKOUT.

END OF PILOT