

PLEASE EXCUSE OUR DAD

Written by

Maddie Chavez &  
Kavya Maran

Maddie Chavez  
(714) 746-6233  
Machavez@chapman.edu

Kavya Maran  
(512) 817-8448  
Maran@chapman.edu

WGAw #2051586

1

EXT. REYES HOUSE - NEIGHBORHOOD - MORNING

1

ELI (46), gruff and oblivious, jogs onto his front lawn. He is surprised to see a second car in the driveway.

IVY (18), the human form of teen angst, sits in her old car smoking a joint. She sees Eli jog up and ducks.

Eli stops at the front door and removes his headphones. He hears screaming from inside the house.

VIOLET (O.S.)

You fucking shit-bag! You STOLE my-

HOLLY (O.S.)

They're not yours!

Eli sighs and puts his headphones back in.

2

INT. REYES HOUSE - LIVING ROOM / PHOTO STUDIO - CONTINUOUS 2

Eli enters to see VIOLET (16), a fashionable and trendy Vlogger who lives in a permanent VSCO filter, chasing HOLLY (14), the innocent-looking baby of the family. They fight over a pair of flowery heels. They clutch one each.

Eli tries to ignore them as he takes off his shoes.

VIOLET

Why the fuck were you even in my room?!

HOLLY

We SHARE a room! And your bunions wouldn't fit in those heels anyway.

VIOLET

I told you that in confidence!

Violet shoves Holly. She falls, knocking into a coffee table.

ELI

Hey hey hey! Watch it! (Beat) That table took me 5 days to put together. And when the hell did Lily get home? Why is her car in the driveway?

HOLLY

Last night!

VIOLET

Where else would it be?

Holly gets back up dramatically and examines her arm.

HOLLY

Dad, look. I think she broke my arm-

Ivy walks in nonchalantly, stoned. She spots the shoes.

IVY

Are you fuckfaces really fighting  
over mom's heels again? Who cares-

HOLLY

I do!

VIOLET

Me, bitch!

\*

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Dad, I was trying to film today's  
vlog - "Hiking with Heels" -

IVY

Since when do you hike?

Violet rips the shoes out of Holly's hands and turns to Eli.

VIOLET

Dad, she gave them to me last.

HOLLY

She gave them to US.

Eli grabs the shoes from Violet and hands them each one.

ELI

Then here. One each.

VIOLET

Ugh! If you just cleaned out mom's  
closet, we wouldn't have to fight.

HOLLY

Yeah, it's been six months. You  
promised you'd do it and give us  
all some of her old things.

ELI

If you're that desperate for old  
shit, go to Goodwill.

Eli gets a call from an unknown number. He hesitates and answers. The girls keep talking in the background.

PHONE-CALL INTERCUT: ANGIE SCHNAPP (40s) talks on the phone while drinking a martini and pulling Christmas decorations out of cardboard boxes in her photo studio.

ANGIE  
Honey, it's me! Angie Schnapp  
from "Schnapp's Snaps  
Photography Studio".

HOLLY  
Did you still want to take me  
to get my nails done? \*

ELI  
Oh, hello. Why are you...  
calling?

VIOLET  
Uh, I don't know. I for sure  
need to get mine done but I  
feel like I could just do  
them myself too. \*

ANGIE  
Silly billy, I'm confirming  
your appointment today at 2.

IVY  
That's why I just keep it  
basic. \*

ELI  
What appoint- oh the  
Christmas card? It's July  
already? Fuck!

VIOLET  
No, that's why you are basic. \*

IVY  
Why are you always such a -

ELI  
Hey! Will you all just- shh.

Violet and Ivy exchange uneasy looks.

ANGIE  
And how's the Mrs, darling?

ELI  
The Mrs. is- uh- no longer with us.

ANGIE  
Oh honey, that's awful. But  
you had to know she was bound  
to leave you eventually.  
That's what happens when you  
marry out of your league. \*

IVY  
(whisper) Who is that?

ELI  
Angie, she's dead.

Shocked, they glance at one another when they hear her name.

ANGIE  
Oh my god, I had no idea. I'm so  
sorry. You know you all are like  
family to me... But as you know my  
policy clearly states that all  
deposits are non-refundable-

ELI  
Yeah, you remind us every year. See  
you at 2, Angie.

ANGIE  
Oh really, are you sure-

Eli hangs up. Violet and Ivy glare at Eli.

IVY  
When you say "we"...

VIOLET  
I am NOT doing the Christmas card  
without mom-

ELI  
Why the hell not?

VIOLET  
Because the card was always  
mom's idea! It would just  
feel sacrilegious to do it  
without her. I refuse to-

IVY  
Because it's fucking  
ridiculous. Traditions are  
meaningless rituals that  
society inflicts-

ELI  
Shut it! Both of you! You're going  
to put on your itchy-ass sweaters,  
plaster on a smile and get over it.  
It's just a fucking picture.

IVY  
It's not- ugh fuck you, Eli.

ELI  
Hey, that's "dad" to you.

IVY  
Ok fine. Fuck you, dad. Happy?

KRIS (15), a charismatic and overeager sidekick, enters from  
the back door, carrying an empty pie tin.

KRIS  
Hey y'all! I brought some of my  
mom's freshly baked apple strudel!  
Her secret ingredient is-

IVY  
Don't tell me. Love.

KRIS  
What? No. Dexedrine. It's for my  
ADHD.

IVY  
Of course it is.

HOLLY  
...But you do know that tin is  
empty right?

KRIS  
Sorry yeah, I dropped it when I was  
jumping over the fence. That's what  
I get for losing my key.

VIOLET  
Who gave you a key?

ELI  
Anyway...you all get ready now.

IVY  
Yeah we're not doing that-

ELI  
-And someone wake up Lily.

The girls all touch their nose. 'Not it.'

ELI (CONT'D)  
You're all useless.

Eli heads upstairs. Violet speaks in hushed tones.

VIOLET  
Lily's pretty wide awake already.

HOLLY  
Huh?

VIOLET  
Thin walls. (Beat) Let's go. This  
should be fun.

IVY  
I'm worried for you if this is your  
definition of fun.

Violet pulls her phone out and walks. Ivy and Holly follow.

3

INT. REYES HOUSE - HALLWAY / LILY'S ROOM

3

Eli bangs on Lily's door. The girls and Kris trail behind. Violet is recording on her cell phone.

ELI

Lily? Lily! You in there?

When there's no response again, he bursts in.

ELI (CONT'D)

What are you doing-

He is abruptly cut off when he sees that LILY (22) is not alone. There is a man in bed with her. Everyone screams.

LILY

DAD!

Eli lunges at the man and throws him off the bed.

ELI

WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU?

VIOLET

See, I told you!

\*

RON FRANKFURT (37) pops right back up, unscathed. He extends his hand for a handshake.

RON

Ahh, you must be the esteemed Eli.  
Ron Frankfurt. Honored to-

ELI

You've got some balls-

RON

Thank you...

Ron looks down, sees that he's naked, and grabs a pillow to cover himself.

RON (CONT'D)

Oh! My apologies. I like to sleep  
al fresco. Keeps me closer to  
nature.

ELI

And what would keep you further  
from my daughter?

IVY

Yesterday's dinner is getting  
closer to the back of my throat.

Violet talks to her camera.

VIOLET

Hey guys! It's me, Violet, and what you just witnessed was a classic throw-down between sugar-daddy and biological daddy.

HOLLY

Lily, great news! We're doing our Christmas card today!

LILY

Wait really? Why?

VIOLET

Don't listen to her.

\*

ELI

Take the melodrama down a notch. We are not in a soap opera. (Beat) We are in a dark comedy about a family dealing with loss and grief after the untimely death of their mother.

A beat.

LILY

Dad. It's just that, well, it was always, kinda... mom's thing.

VIOLET

Thank you! Doing it now is stupid.

IVY

For once, I agree with the idiots.

ELI

HEY! It was everyone's 'thing'.  
(Beat) Asses in the studio at 2 or you're all grounded.

HOLLY

Grounded? Since when do we do that?

ELI

Since beating your kids became frowned upon.

IVY

You mean illegal? Well, except in Florida.

RON

Respectfully speaking, violence can be a slippery slope. Especially when directed at children.



ELI  
How about adults?

LILY  
Come on, this is RON. Remember I  
told you all about my boyfriend?

EVERYONE  
NO.

LILY  
It's no big deal. He's just gonna  
be staying with us for a bit.

In the background, Violet starts filming again.

ELI  
Staying with-- how old are you?

RON  
Age is just a social construct.

ELI  
Construct it for me.

LILY  
Dad, be nice. He's a professor.

IVY  
Please don't say that like it's a  
good thing.

VIOLET  
A professor of what exactly?

ELI  
I'll do the questioning. (Beat) A  
professor of what exactly?

RON  
Psychology. My hope is to guide  
young, impressionable minds through  
the ups and downs of life.

IVY  
From what I heard last night, she  
was doing most of the guiding.

ELI  
I need some air.

HOLLY  
Is that a sex thing?

\*

Eli starts to walk out.

VIOLET

(Calls out) I'm not doing the card!  
Consider me officially protesting.

ELI

I'll consider you officially dead  
if you're not in that damn studio.

Eli leaves the room in a huff. Kris goes to shake Ron's hand.

KRIS

I'm Kris by the way!

IVY

No relation.

VIOLET

He's not important.

\*

KRIS

Great to meet ya. I should probably  
go now and help dad - I mean - Eli.

IVY

Careful, you might contract  
something with all that ass-  
kissing.

KRIS

Don't worry. The state made my mom  
vaccinate me.

Kris leaves. Ivy turns to leave too.

LILY

What? No welcome home hug?

Lily opens her arms. Ivy keeps walking out.

IVY

I'm gonna need you to shower first.

LILY

What's up with her?

VIOLET

She wasn't held enough as a child.  
(Beat) I'm gonna go edit my vlog.

Violet exits. Holly waves and follows her out. Lily pulls  
clothes out of one of her suitcases.

RON

What's the hurry, babe?

LILY

I feel like I should check on Ivy. She's barely spoken to me since last night. She's definitely repressing her grief and exhibiting symptoms of social withdrawal.

RON

You're so sexy when you talk psychology to me.

LILY

Focus!

RON

Mhm... well you should try-

RON (CONT'D)

Healing through vocalized re-experiencing of past traumatic distress?

LILY

Healing through vocalized re-experiencing of past traumatic distress? \*

RON (CONT'D)

You took the words right out of my mouth.

LILY

Well, you wrote the textbook.

RON

I'm glad at least someone did the required reading.

LILY

While I'm gone, do me favor and see if the other two are okay?

RON

On it.

Lily starts walking out. Ron follows her. Lily turns around and looks at him.

LILY

Babe, clothes?

Ron spins back around.

RON

Right. Clothes.

4 INT. REYES HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

4

Eli and Kris are looking through stacked cardboard boxes. Old Christmas decorations are littered all over the floor.

KRIS

Christmas really is the most magical time of the year.

Kris gets tangled up in some Christmas lights.

KRIS (CONT'D)

I expected Mrs. Reyes to be more organized. (Beat) But then again, her closet-

ELI

Again with the fucking closet! Can everyone get off my back? It's MY house. You don't even live here!

KRIS

I was just gonna say we should check her closet for the sweaters.

Beat as Eli stares at Kris.

ELI

Yeah, that's not a bad idea.

5 INT. REYES HOUSE - IVY'S ROOM - DAY

5

Lily sticks her head in. Ivy quickly shuts her drawer, then relaxes upon seeing Lily.

IVY

Ugh, it's just you.

Ivy hits a juul.

LILY

Those kill people now, you know.

IVY

Thanks for the PSA but we all gotta go somehow. Personally, I'd like my death to be cappuccino flavored.

Lily snoops around the room and peeks in a trash can.

LILY

Is that a condom?

IVY  
Don't worry. We didn't use it.

Moment of silence.

LILY  
Sooo...wanna get some ice cream?

IVY  
I'm not 11.

LILY  
Bake cookies or some shit?

IVY  
Wow, cookies OR shit? Do I get to choose? (Beat) What're you doing?

LILY  
I'm trying to spend time with you?

IVY  
Listen, I'm busy right now. Go blow your AARP member.

LILY  
I just... ok here it goes, have you talked to anyone about mom? At all?

IVY  
No. What's there to talk about?

LILY  
What? (Beat) Come with me. I know just what you need.

IVY  
A clinic?

Ivy reluctantly stands. Lily pulls her to the door.

6 INT. REYES HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

6

Ron walks into the hallway from Lily's room. As he passes Lily and Ivy, he and Lily kiss. Ivy grimaces.

LILY  
I'll see you at the studio, babe.

RON  
Okay! Don't do anything I wouldn't do!

IVY

I wasn't planning on shacking up  
with any of my students but thanks.

7

INT. REYES HOUSE - VIOLET & HOLLY'S ROOM

7

Holly is keenly watching a cheesy Christmas movie. Violet  
sits, half-watching and editing on her laptop.

HOLLY

How are you gonna do your hair?

VIOLET

I wasn't kidding. I'm not taking  
the stupid picture.

Ron enters and stands in the doorway for a few seconds.

RON

What're we watching?

Violet and Holly are both startled.

VIOLET

Fuck! Ever heard of knocking?

RON

Sorry. Just wanted to see what you  
girls were up to and perhaps have a  
conversation about the complexity  
of our multi-faceted emotions.

VIOLET

Were you always this way?

Ron sits down, crisscross apple-sauce.

RON

So! Christmas in July, huh?

VIOLET

Oh Christ.

RON

Speaking of Christ, my mother  
always used to say that celebrating  
the birth of Jesus by purchasing  
palazzo pants half off is a taint  
on the soul of man.

VIOLET

(Mutters) You're a taint on the  
soul of man.

RON  
Sorry, what was that?

HOLLY  
Our mom said she wished it could be  
Christmas all year round. (Beat) I  
know she would be happy we're still  
doing the card.

VIOLET  
This entire family is in serious  
denial.

Violet looks over at Ron.

VIOLET (CONT'D)  
You're a therapist, write that  
down.

8 INT./EXT. PARKED CAR - CEMETERY - DAY 8

Lily puts her car in park. Ivy realizes where they are.

IVY  
Why the fuck are we here?

LILY  
It's going to help you.

IVY  
Don't try to psychoanalyze me.  
Fucking your therapist doesn't  
qualify you to be one.

LILY  
But I AM your sister...who went  
through the exact same thing you  
did.

Lily gets out of the car. Ivy sighs then follows.

9 EXT. CEMETERY - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS 9

Lily and Ivy talk over the car.

LILY  
Okay I want you to try this healing  
exercise that Ron taught me.

IVY  
How many clothes do I take off?

LILY

You're gonna walk over there and talk to mom. Vocalizing your feelings to the person you lost will help the grieving process.

IVY

Did you go to college or join a cult?

Lily closes her door and comes around. Ivy pulls a joint out of her backpack. Lily gives her a look.

IVY (CONT'D)

What? I'm gonna have to be pretty high to talk to a rock.

10

INT. REYES HOUSE - VIOLET & HOLLY'S ROOM - DAY

10

Holly shows Ron some old Christmas card photos on her wall. The family (including mom) is always standing the same way.

HOLLY

This is my personal favorite: the year Violet had lice.

RON

Cool beanie.

HOLLY

She had to wear it because mom shaved off a patch of her hair.

Ron points at another card. The whole family is smiling and laughing in Christmas sweaters. Eli is holding onto Jane.

RON

You all look really happy.

HOLLY

Yeah, that was a good year. Dad broke his leg because he fell off the roof-

Violet shuts her laptop and gets up.

VIOLET

No no! You're telling it wrong. Mom took us ice-skating right before and dad fell and sprained his ankle. Mom didn't want his crutches in the photo. That's why he's leaning on her instead. (Beat)

(MORE)



VIOLET (CONT'D)

It's just wrong to do the card without mom now.

RON

I see what you're saying. Your feelings are completely valid.

VIOLET

I still don't trust you. But thank you.

Holly breaks out crying.

HOLLY

I just want mom to be HAPPY-

Eli walks by the room and see Holly crying.

ELI

What the-- No crying on Christmas!

VIOLET

It's not Christmas!

RON

Eli, could we...

Eli looks confused. Ron gets up and guides him out.

ELI

Listen, I don't have time for whatever this is.

11 INT. REYES HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

11

Eli and Ron stand face-to-face in the hallway.

RON

Eli, it is my professional opinion that your girls are struggling with some pretty heavy stuff-

ELI

It's a fucking card! You stand, you smile, click click, we're done!

RON

It's not just the card. The card is bringing up their unresolved grief. They have a lot bottled up inside. And if you ask me, so do you.

ELI  
Hey, Dr. Phil, just leave us the  
fuck alone.

RON  
Actually Dr. Phil is not a psych-

ELI  
Just back off. We're fine.

Ron, who's watching the girls in their room, doesn't see Eli storm off.

RON  
Are you? The girls are taking their  
cue from you, so if YOU ever want-

Ron turns back to see Eli is gone.

12 EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

12

Ivy sits facing the gravestone, smoking. Lily sits beside her. Ivy extends the joint to her. Lily rolls her eyes.

IVY  
You know you want to.

LILY  
You're basically the villain from  
every anti-drug PSA.

Lily hesitates, but takes the joint.

LILY (CONT'D)  
Fine. Now you just face mom and say  
how you feel.

Ivy turns her head to the stone.

IVY  
Okay, so um, hi mom. Right now I  
feel like I want to murder Lily-

LILY  
Take it seriously.

Moment of silence as Ivy stares at the stone.

IVY  
I... miss you. (Turns to Lily)  
Okay, happy?

Ivy turns back to the stone and speed-talks.

IVY (CONT'D)

I hate that we're doing this fucking card today. It's so stupid. And dad's been a nightmare about it. And about everything else. I can't get a moment's peace in the house. Everything kind of just fucking sucks and even though I'm always surrounded by people, I feel like I'm alone most of the time. I wish you were here so I could talk to you. (Beat) Well I am kind of talking to you right now. I guess I wish you could reply. The end.

Ivy leans back with a deep breath, snatches the joint from Lily and takes a hit. Lily tries to hug her.

IVY (CONT'D)

Don't you dare. (Beat) But I do kinda feel better. More relaxed.

Ivy takes another hit. An OLD COUPLE walks by and shakes their heads in judgement. Ivy gives them the finger.

13

INT. REYES HOUSE - ELI'S BEDROOM - DAY

13

Eli and Kris walk up to the closet. Eli reaches to open it and abruptly stops.

KRIS

Something wrong?

ELI

No-

Eli reaches to open the closet and stops himself again.

ELI (CONT'D)

Forget it. You go get the sweaters.

KRIS

Just me?

ELI

I'm not sending you off to Syria!  
Just grab the boxes.

Kris slides open the closet. Eli averts his eyes and goes to sit on the bed.

The closet is a mess. As Kris searches it, he talks.

KRIS

It's so cool that you guys have traditions like this. (Beat) In my family, my mom just gets drunk and dances on the table every Thanksgiving.

Kris finds a cardboard box under a pile of clothes and carries it to Eli. Kris rips open the box. Inside are five stiff and dusty sweaters. He pulls out a couple.

ELI

Holy shit! You found them!

Eli starts pulling out the other sweaters until there's one left.

ELI (CONT'D)

This one was Jane's.

Eli gazes at the sweater for a moment, taking it in.

KRIS

Awww... it looks kinda itchy.

ELI

It's uncomfortable as hell, but it's tradition.

KRIS

Yeah...that's what my mom says before she gets on the table.

Eli stares at Jane's sweater for a few more seconds.

14

INT. REYES HOUSE - VIOLET & HOLLY'S ROOM - DAY

14

Holly is laying in bed. A damp towel on her forehead. Violet sits at the edge of the bed with Ron.

VIOLET

Why did you have to cry? You know I cry if you cry!

HOLLY

(Through tears) I'm sorry!

RON

It's okay, let it out.

VIOLET

I spent \$40 on this mascara! \*

Eli barges in to rally the troops and sees the crying.

ELI  
I don't think you should be calling  
yourself a therapist.

HOLLY  
It's okay, dad. Ron's helping us  
unpack our emotional baggage.

ELI  
No, no, no, pack it back up till  
after the picture.

Kris hurries in after Eli, carrying the box of sweaters.

KRIS  
Who died?

Everyone stares.

KRIS (CONT'D)  
I mean... like recently.

ELI  
We have to be there in a half hour-

VIOLET  
We're just expressing grief in a  
transitional period.

ELI  
Violet! Let's just focus on  
transitioning your ass to the car!

RON  
I hope it's not too forward if I  
invite myself along.

ELI  
Oh, it's too forward. In fact, it's  
so forward that it goes around the  
world and kicks your not-yet-  
tenured ass out of my house  
forever.

HOLLY  
So... Dad, we'll drive over with  
Ron.

VIOLET  
I'd like to make it clear I'm being  
taken against my will.

ELI  
 Whatever. We're leaving right now!  
 Move, move, move! (Beat) Lily! Ivy!  
 Where the-

RON  
 Oh, they actually stepped out on a  
 little outing.

ELI  
 (With feigned politeness) Oh, did  
 they? Tell them to get their asses  
 to the studio NOW.

Ron pulls out his phone as they all continue walking.

RON  
 Siri, text Lily. We're heading over  
 to the studio. Studio. Studio. See  
 you there. See you-S E E

ELI (O.S.)  
 Oh for fucks sake, just type it!

15 INT. SCHNAPP'S SNAPS PHOTOGRAPHY - DAY

15

A small and intimate studio space that looks like a Pinterest board threw up. The Christmas set-up is ready for the photo.

Violet, Holly, Eli, Kris, and Ron all stroll in. Kris is carrying the box, which he plops down in a corner.

Angie walks up with a loud, obnoxious greeting and cheek kisses. She's wearing an ugly Christmas vest drinking EGGNOGG from a martini glass.

ANGIE  
 Tis the season to be jolly!

VIOLET  
 (Whispers) Oh god, I'm not mentally  
 prepared for this.

Eli sees their "crutch" family photo blown up on a large advertisement. It reads: "Summer Special: 50% Off Christmas Photos in July!" He stares at it for a few moments.

ELI  
 Fucking Christ...

Angie approaches the girls and squeezes their arms.

ANGIE

Oh my god! Look at you poor girls!  
Motherless! So brave.

Angie turns to Violet.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Did you gain a little weight, dear?

Violet fake smiles. Eli walks to the group.

ELI

Thanks for...putting this together.

He extends his hand. Angie pulls him in for a hug.

ANGIE

Dear, anything for you. And \$300.

Angie pulls away, grabs Ron's cheek, and pinches it.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

And, who is this adorable face?

RON

I'm Ron-

ELI

He's not in the picture.

VIOLET

Lily's latest boyfriend.

ANGIE

But not for long, I suspect.

Angie turns around and winks. Eli loudly clears his throat.

ELI

We're just waiting on Lily and Ivy.  
They should be here any minute.

16

EXT. CEMETARY - AT THE SAME TIME

16

Ivy and Lily are sitting by their mom's gravestone smoking.

LILY

You know... Ron's gonna be so happy  
to hear that he helped. He really  
began doubting himself when he had  
his license revoked.

IVY

I have a feeling I know why. (Beat)  
But dating your professor? Really?

LILY  
Give me a break, I graduated.

IVY  
With two bachelors. Impressive.

LILY  
Ron's technically not a bachelor  
until he finalizes the divorce.

IVY  
You sure know how to pick 'em.

Lily checks her phone.

LILY  
Oh shit, we're so late.

There's a bunch of missed calls and text messages from Ron.

LILY (CONT'D)  
Fuck, fuck. We really gotta go!

IVY  
Probably for the best. That old  
couple is definitely calling the  
cops on us.

Lily grabs her bag and hurries off. Ivy ashes the joint on  
the headstone. As she picks it up she whispers:

IVY (CONT'D)  
Thanks for listening.

Ivy walks after Lily.

IVY (CONT'D)  
Can't we ditch the photoshoot and  
get high...er?

17 INT. SCHNAPP'S SNAPS PHOTOGRAPHY - DAY

17

Violet, Holly, and Eli are dressed in their sweaters. Ron  
approaches Eli.

RON  
Hey Eli, I tried calling Lily a few  
times and she didn't pick up.

ELI  
So you're entirely useless then.

Angie walks up cheerfully, and clasps her hands.



ANGIE

Dear, I have to make it to Joe's  
for happy hour so we really need to  
wrap this up. Get it? "Wrap"?

Kris is the only one that laughs.

VIOLET

The jokes get worse every year.

ELI

If they're not here in 2 minutes,  
I'm going to KICK-

Lily and Ivy come running in, giggling and looking dazed.

ELI (CONT'D)

FINALLY! Sweaters on! Now!

Lily and Ivy clumsily do as they're told.

ANGIE

Perfect! Get into position girls!  
(To Ron) And maybe I can get one of  
you later. That'll be just for me.

LILY

Did I miss something?

RON

Don't worry. I would never date  
someone 15 years older than me.

Lily shoots him a look. The girls walk over to the backdrop  
and stand in height order. Eli stands behind the girls, to  
the left. There's an empty space next to him.

He stares at the ad. The family's grinning faces (especially  
Jane's) stare back at him. Eli starts to get misty-eyed.

LILY

Dad, are you-

ELI

No. Take the damn picture. Please.

ANGIE

Okay, now arms around each other  
like always.

The girls do so half-heartedly. Eli grows more emotional.

ELI

And who the hell am I supposed to put my arm around, Angie? HUH?

ANGIE

Maybe the boy could jump in there?

KRIS

Sure!

ELI

NO, I-

Kris lifts up his shirt to reveal a Christmas sweater underneath.

ELI (CONT'D)

(Mutters) I can't do this. You were all right. Fucking stupid idea.

Eli shakes his head and walks out.

VIOLET

Wait, what?

IVY

Was he about to cry or did he just have a stroke?

Violet grabs the phone from him. There's an icy silence.

ANGIE

Take all the time you need to pack up, dears. But I do have another appointment in 7 minutes, so try not to dilly-dally.

Angie struts off.

RON

So I'll just head back with Kris?

LILY

Yeah, and I'll pack up with the girls.

Ron and Kris head out. Ivy takes off her sweater.

IVY

So that went exactly as I expected.

Lily starts packing. Violet looks at her phone and exclaims.

HOLLY

That was so much worse than I thought-

VIOLET

Oh my god, you guys, look how many views Ron and dad got!

LILY  
Wait WHAT?!

Lily snatches the phone from Violet. The girls all lean in to watch the video of Eli throwing Ron off the bed. "Moron Gets His Ass Kicked By My Father". There are over 10,000 views.

LILY (CONT'D)  
You bitch!

Holly looks around at her sisters and smiles. She lazily leans on Violet.

HOLLY  
You know, I'm actually kind of glad we didn't end up doing the card. I thought it's what mom would've wanted but...being here... it doesn't feel the same. At all.

VIOLET  
Moral of the story: I'm always right.

HOLLY  
But I am worried about dad though. He looked so sad. What if he jumps off a bridge or something?

VIOLET  
Don't be stupid. (Beat) Considering his personality type and anger issues, he's far more likely to shoot himself in the head.

A beat. Ivy picks up the box to leave.

IVY  
Ice-cream?

LILY  
(Smiling) I'm not 11.

VIOLET  
I want Fro-yo!

HOLLY  
Yes, ice cream!

\*

They all overlap each other and argue - in a friendly way.

Eli picks up Jane's sweater from the bed. He walks over to the closet door, takes a deep breath and opens it.

He hangs it up and stands back to take in the closet for a moment. He picks a dress up off the floor and starts to fold it.

The front door slams. He goes out to see his kids laughing and holding ice cream. Ron greets them. Eli watches them for a moment, goes back to the closet, and picks up a handful of colorful high heels. He walks over to Violet and Holly's room and tosses them in the corner next to the old pair.

Throughout the whole scene, sentimental piano music is playing in the background. Eli steps out of Violet and Holly's room.

ELI  
(Yells out) Will you fucking stop  
that?!

CUT TO:

18A INT. REYES HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

18A

Kris is playing the piano and abruptly stops. The music cuts out.

KRIS  
Sorry!

**THE END**