

"THE HOLE"

by David Misch

EXT. PATIO - DAY

CLIFF AND WENDY SEGAL (30's-40's) STAND BY A POOL UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON LA'S WEST SIDE. THE HOUSE BEHIND THEM IS SPACIOUS BUT UNPRETENTIOUS. THEY STARE AT THE HOLE IN THE GROUND; CLIFF GESTURES GRANDLY.

CLIFF

Some day, my son, all this will be  
yours.

WENDY

The hole? The equipment? Santa Monica?

CLIFF

The hole.

THEY STARE.

WENDY

I like it at night.

CLIFF

It's 11 in the morning.

WENDY

Kinda my point.

CLIFF

Well I think it's beautiful.

WENDY

It's a hole.

CLIFF

Which, when filled with concrete,  
steel piping and us, will become our  
very own pool.

WENDY

You may want to put in some water.

CLIFF

Water's for wusses.

SHE SIGHS.

CLIFF (CONT'D)

What is your problem?

WENDY

It's so L.A.

CLIFF

We've lived here 15 years.

WENDY

And we're becoming L.A. Our cat's on  
Prozac.

CLIFF

She crapped in my headphones.

WENDY

Reason enough to drug her.

CLIFF

Your sister's on it and she never  
touched my headphones.

WENDY

Touché. Oh, no, I meant "you asshole",  
I always get those mixed up.

LARISSA (13) SLIDES A GLASS DOOR AND COMES OUT TO JOIN THEM.

LARISSA

Will it be ready?

CLIFF

You have my word.

WENDY/LARISSA

Verbal contract!

CLIFF

Hey, I'm the lawyer, you're the not-  
lawyers.

LARISSA

If it isn't ready for my birthday I'll  
do something you won't like that I  
haven't figured out yet.

CLIFF

Noted.

THEY REGARD THE HOLE.

LARISSA

How rich are we?

CLIFF AND WENDY EXCHANGE A GLANCE.

WENDY

Richer than almost everyone in the  
world. Poorer than almost everyone we  
know.

LARISSA

You always say that.

CLIFF

It's always true.

LARISSA

So we can afford Westfield.

CLIFF

If our only child wishes to go to a  
horrifically expensive private school  
filled with snobby, shallow,  
pretentious rich kids instead of a  
lovely neighborhood public school with  
surprisingly high admission rates to  
the UC system, that's your decision.  
It won't make either of us love you  
any less, except me.

LARISSA ROLLS HER EYES. THEN:

LARISSA

It doesn't look like it'll be ready.

CLIFF

Pools can be very deceptive. Kinda  
like clients from the music industry.  
(ARM AROUND HER) Don't worry, honey,  
it'll be done in time and you'll have  
the bestest birthday party ever.

LARISSA

I'm so reassured.

WENDY

Honey, Daddy and I have a lot on our plates right now, so he's doing the pool and I'm doing the school.

CLIFF

But that's only 'cause she loves you more.

LARISSA

You're really droll. (THEN) I've been texting with this girl, Gillian -- hearing about her parents actually makes me appreciate you guys.

CLIFF

We don't beat you as much?

LARISSA

Her dad's having an affair and her mom drinks.

WENDY

That's awful. Do you want to invite her for a sleepover?

LARISSA

No. Sleepovers aren't the answer to everything, b-t-dubs.

CLIFF

"B-t-dubs"?

LARISSA

Teenage stuff, dad.

SHE RETURNS TO THE HOUSE.

WENDY

I wonder where she gets her  
condescending sarcasm.

CLIFF

You realize you said that with  
condescending sarcasm.

WENDY

So whassup, Pool?

CLIFF

Contractor this afternoon. School?

WENDY

I hired a consultant.

CLIFF

You whatted a what-what-ant?

WENDY

Cliff, you trust me?

CLIFF

Yeah, but I didn't think you'd find a  
way for us to spend more money.

WENDY

It gets worse -- she charges just to  
consult, tutoring's extra.

CLIFF

If we locked the brat in her room till  
college, we'd be rich.

(MORE)

CLIFF (CONT'D)

(LOOKS) Everywhere I look I see our money, coming up from the ground, waving in the breeze... All this landscaping -- environmentally-friendly, bank account-hostile. I saw some weird bird pecking the solar panels.

WENDY

I'll talk to it. You like the grass, right? Never needs mowing.

CLIFF

What's the technology on that again?

WENDY

Each blade has tiny digital sheep.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PATIO - A FEW HOURS LATER

BOYLE, A BLUE-COLLAR POOL GUY IN HIS 40'S, TALKS WITH CLIFF.

BOYLE

--- and a lotta this ecological crap -- which is really good and saves you something over the long haul, don't get me wrong, I'm all for ecology -- but that crap adds up, know what I'm sayin'?

CLIFF

Yes, it costs a fortune to save money.  
Not to mention my wife has  
philosophical issues with the pool.

BOYLE

Philosophical, huh? My issue's  
concrete.

CLIFF

What is it?

BOYLE

Concrete. There's a shortage,  
everything's going to rebuild Iraq.

CLIFF

Don'tcha just hate the Mideast?

BOYLE

No, in fact I'm from Indiana. But no  
worries, I'll find concrete somewhere.  
Your real problem is I can't pour  
while there's a nest.

CLIFF

Nest?

BOYLE

Some bird built a nest in the pool.

CLIFF

By pool do you mean tree?



BOYLE

I mean the dirt on the north side; in Santa Monica you can't mess with nesting birds.

CLIFF

How long will it nest?

BOYLE

Weeks, years, somethin' in there.

CLIFF

I don't believe this. Couldn't you just start work and it'll, y'know, fly off?

BOYLE

You got city permit people here all the time -- they see that, I lose my license.

CLIFF

(IN SHOCK) We're doomed.

BOYLE

Well, be fair -- you're doomed. (THEN)  
You're in show business, right?

CLIFF

Entertainment lawyer.

BOYLE

So you know stars.

CLIFF

Some.

BOYLE

Like who?

CLIFF

Um, why?... Um, well..

HE SEES SOMEONE INSIDE THE HOUSE TALKING TO WENDY (BOYLE DOESN'T NOTICE).

CLIFF (CONT'D)

Jim Jeffries.

BOYLE

No kidding. I like that show he's on, he's real people. 'Cause here's the thing -- if somehow someone scared the bird off, you'd be okay. But if that's gonna happen...

CLIFF

You'd like to meet Jim Jeffries.

BOYLE

Well, meeting's okay, but really...

CLIFF

How are you for lunch Thursday.

BOYLE

Pretty free.

CLIFF

I'll call him right now.

HE HURRIES INTO THE HOUSE...

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

... GRABS JIM (MID-30'S, REGULAR GUY IN THE JIM BELUSHI MODE), WHO WAS ABOUT TO COME OUT, AND PULLS HIM AWAY.

CLIFF

Over here over here.

JIM

Over where over why?

CLIFF

I can't let the pool guy see -- he  
wants to meet you. Wendy, distract him  
-- wave, for God's sake, wave!

WEIRDED OUT, SHE DOES.

JIM

You should borrow the cat's Prozac.

CLIFF

If he meets you casually, I won't be  
doing a favor and he might not let me  
scare the bird.

JIM

This is one of those things where it's  
more interesting if you don't know  
what's going on, right?

CLIFF

Just have lunch with him and he'll  
finish the pool. Wendy, for God's sake  
stop waving!

WENDY

(DOES) My man, I love him so.

SHE LEAVES. CLIFF REGARDS JIM.

CLIFF

You don't look right.

JIM

You channeling my mother?

CLIFF

The guy's starstruck, you gotta be a star.

JIM

Cliff, my whole thing is regular guy, regular values. People relate because I'm not a star.

CLIFF

Be one or I'll send you back to the gutter you came from.

JIM

It wasn't a gutter, it was gutter-adjacent. Anyway, I've thanked you for my career so no playing the Guilt card.

CLIFF

I'm playing the Guilt Organ.

JIM

Well, you have an impressive organ, and that's not something I usually say before my third Fuzzy Navel..

CLIFF

Does it bother you being a cliché, the wacky gay next-door neighbor?

JIM

I live nowhere near you and, officially, I'm in the closet. You're the cliché -- the rich white liberal who won't valet-park 'cause it's elitist but pays a hundred bucks for cheese dip.

CLIFF

Be fair, there was wine.

JIM

Sorry, you're a man of the people. Although if you ask me, a Prius and a big house is a diet soda with fries. Anyway, you owe me -- I gave you my best friend as a client and now he's a show-biz God. (THEN) Does he return your calls?

CLIFF

He has. He could. About the pool guy -- he kind of expects... What he knows about you... He believes...

JIM

He thinks I'm straight so butch it up.  
Cliff, as you well know my sexual  
orientation is really an open secret.

CLIFF

But not wide open. Not open all night.

JIM

Actually, open all night, closed  
weekdays.

CLIFF

So, basically, everyone knows you're  
gay except for America.

JIM

Which is fine. I don't really have a  
lot in common with most gay people.

CLIFF

Other than sex.

JIM

There are some shared interests. The  
point is, I try to maintain a degree  
of dignity and self-resp---

CLIFF

(PUSHES HIM AWAY) Hide!

JIM HIDES BEHIND A SOFA AS BOYLE COMES IN FROM THE POOL.

BOYLE

You got a raccoon. Some plants are dug  
up, they eat the roots.

CLIFF

Maybe the raccoon'll eat the bird.

BOYLE

Probably won't go in the hole.

Probably why the bird built there.

CLIFF

Where'd you learn construction, the  
Audubon Society?

BOYLE

Jersey. So, you need coyote urine.

CLIFF

People always say that to me.

BOYLE

Smell freaks the raccoons.

CLIFF

Well, I'm pretty sure there's a 24-  
hour wildlife discharge place on  
Sepulveda so I'll just go get me some  
coyote urine. Boy, must be a bitch to  
milk 'em.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - A FEW DAYS LATER

VOICES O.S. AS CLIFF AND WENDY ENTER WITH SHANNON (LATE  
20'S), AN ALL-BUSINESS PANTS-SUITED SCHOOL CONSULTANT.

WENDY

--- we can spread out here, it'll be  
comfier.

SHANNON

"Comfier". You don't hear people say  
"comfier" very much.

CLIFF

We're trying to bring it back. Later  
you'll meet our cat, Bathing Costume.

LARISSA ENTERS.

WENDY

Here she is, the woman of the hour.

LARISSA

Hi.

SHANNON

I'm Shannon. (TO WENDY) I understand  
you're a psychologist.

WENDY

A therapist, yes. I work with kids  
here and in the inner city.

LARISSA DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO; CLIFF INDICATES SIT.

SHANNON

That must be challenging.

WENDY

A lot of 'em are really screwed up --  
drugs, sex, cutting. And the inner  
city kids have problems too.

SHANNON

(THIN SMILE) Yes. So. You graduated  
from Stanford? (WENDY NODS;

(MORE)



SHANNON (CONT'D)

TO CLIFF) And you're University of  
Stonybrook. (CLIFF NODS) Mm.

CLIFF

Would it help if I re-enrolled at  
Yale?

SHANNON

Yes.

WENDY

Where did you go?

SHANNON

Yale.

CLIFF/WENDY

Mm.

SHANNON

So... (GLANCES AT LARISSA; THEN, TO  
CLIFF/WENDY) ... tell me what you want  
for Larissa.

WENDY

Well, she's not really challenged now  
so we'd like to get her into a really  
stimulating environment.

SHANNON

And her areas of interest?

WENDY

Well, she loves music...

SHANNON SHAKES HER HEAD.

WENDY (CONT'D)

She doesn't?

SHANNON

I may not have been clear. What are her accomplishments.

WENDY

She's editor of the paper.

SHANNON

A public school paper.

WENDY

It's the only kind her public school has.

CLIFF

Bastards.

WENDY

(QUICKLY) She's on the track team.

SHANNON

Let's not spread ourselves too thin.

CLIFF

(TO LARISSA) You're off the track team.

LARISSA

Can I go?

THEY TURN TO HER THEN LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

CLIFF

I guess so.

SHE DOES.

SHANNON

Based on Larissa's grades, the private schools you listed as aspirational are... (LOOKS AT LIST) No... no... no... Has she participated in any unusual programs? I have a client who's doing relief work in the Sudan.

CLIFF

I'm pretty sure she can spell Sudan.

SHANNON

May I ask a question that's seemingly not relevant, but is? Are you significant benefactors to your alma maters?

WENDY

I give a little to Stanford each year.

SHANNON TURNS TO CLIFF.

CLIFF

Waiter asks Groucho Marx for a tip. He says "You got change for a ten?", waiter says "Sure!", Groucho says "Then you won't need the dollar I was gonna give you." That's how I feel about donating to rich schools.

SHANNON

That could be a problem.

WENDY

Because the schools are going to judge Larissa on how much we'd give beyond tuition?

SHANNON

Mr. and Mrs. Segal, I'll work with you if you like. But the truth is, either Larissa gets all A's this year or she stops a war in Liberia or you offer the schools lots of money. Those are your options.

CLIFF

Did we mention she cured cancer?  
(SHANNON STARES AT HIM; TO WENDY) We shoulda led with that...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. LIVING ROOM - A FEW DAYS LATER

CLIFF READS AS WENDY ENTERS FROM THE PATIO, MASKED AND GLOVED WITH A BOTTLE.

CLIFF

Radiation leak all cleaned up?

WENDY

God is this crap rank.

CLIFF

It's not crap, it's piss.

WENDY

I stand corrected. Also nauseous. How do coyotes ever mate?

CLIFF

Maybe they don't pee when doing it.

WENDY

I married the Nature Channel.

CLIFF

Turn me on, honey, it's wildlife 24/7.

WENDY

More like 20 minutes a week but we'll get into that later.

CLIFF

I could get into it now.

WENDY

Ooo, lame double entendres make me hot. (NOTICES BOTTLE; READS) "For deer"?

(MORE)

WENDY (CONT'D)

Cliff, I don't want to be one of those hyper-critical wives but you got the wrong kind of coyote urine.

CLIFF

(TAKES BOTTLE) "To prevent deer." Use it anyway, we don't want deer.

WENDY

We don't have deer.

CLIFF

("IMPRESSED") Works fast.

WENDY

I can't believe I spent two hours... Screw it, we'll put up a sign saying "Coyote Rest Stop" and hope for the best.

CLIFF

In other nature news, I called the Audubon Society and our bird's a titmouse.

BEAT.

WENDY

Don't even.

CLIFF

(GRINS) Whatever do you mean? Anyway, Boyle's right, it's protected.

WENDY

(SHRUGS) So things'll have to wait.

CLIFF

I promised Larissa a pool party.

WENDY

You lied. It's a life lesson -- men  
are scum.

CLIFF

I'm thinking about... encouraging the  
bird to leave.

WENDY

Cliff...

CLIFF

What?

WENDY

We're members of the Sierra Club.

CLIFF

I'm not sure I renewed.

WENDY

Cliff...

CLIFF

Boyle's booked solid, if he moves to  
another job we might not get him, or  
anyone, till next summer.

WENDY

Tough titmouse.

DOORBELL RINGS.

CLIFF

That's him. Boyle gets lunch with Jim in exchange for me getting rid of the bird.

WENDY

Which, of course, you're not doing.

CLIFF

Wendy, seriously, it's not like the bird's gonna die, it'll relocate. Like us!

WENDY

If there's a nest there's gonna be eggs.

CLIFF

Do you know how they feed their young? They vomit into their mouths.

WENDY

Cliff, ever since I was a little girl I dreamed of moving to California and having a backyard filled with coyote urine and titmouse vomit. You're not taking that away from me.

DOORBELL.

CLIFF

I only wanta keep our options open, will you just be polite, stay on his good side?



WENDY

Nuh-huh, I got work. You're the entertainment lawyer, I'll leave the sucking to the professional.

CLIFF

Enough with the double entendres.

HE OPENS THE DOOR, BOYLE ENTERS, WAVES AT THE EXITING WENDY.

BOYLE

(SNIFFS) You got the one for deer?

CLIFF REACTS.

BOYLE (CONT'D)

(RE: WENDY) Your wife a stay-at-home mom?

CLIFF

No, she's just got weird hours.

BOYLE

So you can't count on her. Isn't that the way with women now.

CLIFF

Eee-yeah.

BOYLE

Doesn't understand you, am I right?

CLIFF

No, she does. Drives me nuts.

BOYLE

(SEES POSTER) "Sierra Club". Which of you's the tree-hugger?

CLIFF

I've never hugged a tree. I cuddled a bush but it was college, everyone was experimenting.

BOYLE

(NOTICES LEAFLETS) "West Side Anti-Poverty League".

CLIFF

You certainly do find things, don't you.

BOYLE

No offense, Cliff, but it kills me when rich people whine about how tough the world is.

CLIFF

It's Wendy. She doesn't get how hypocritical it is to live well and still think about other people.

DOORBELL.

CLIFF (CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen, presenting... !

HE OPENS THE DOOR TO REVEAL JIM IN FULL STAR DRAG: ASCOT, SUNGLASSES, JODHPURS, POLO BOOTS.

JIM

I'm sorry I'm sorry, the polo game ran into extra innings. And Clooney's pony -- I swear, that stallion's had more steroids than Lance Armstrong.

CLIFF

Jim, this is Nate Boyle.

BOYLE

Jim Jeffries -- man, I am such a fan.

JIM

You are? I love fans! (CONFIDENTIALLY) You know, if I didn't have fans I might not be famous.

BOYLE

Yer kidding me, that's how it works?

CLIFF

Nate, why don't you have a seat outside while Jim and I bring the food.

BOYLE

I can help...

JIM

Please, I've been working with the kitchen staff all week on canape technique. You just run along...

BOYLE EXITS TO THE PATIO.

CLIFF

Okay, is that supposed to be not gay?

JIM

Are you giving me notes? Gay notes?

CLIFF

This guy's incredibly conservative -- if he catches on he'll probably pour the concrete with us in it. (INDICATES OUTFIT) Who're you supposed to be, Noel Coward after gay conversion therapy?

JIM

I don't know what a star's supposed to be like, most of the ones I know are just regular people. Regular, rich people. Regular, rich, incredibly successful people. Regular, rich, incredibly successful people with perfect teeth, unbelievable sex lives and hybrid SUV's.

CLIFF

Fine, then be yourself only not gay.

JIM

Cliff, this isn't work and you're not my producer. I'll pretend to be rich, I'll pretend to be superficial, I'll pretend to be arrogant and self-centered, but I will not stoop to acting straight unless I get paid.

JIM EXITS TO JOIN BOYLE ON THE PATIO.

CLIFF

I'll just bring the food myself, shall  
I?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

CLIFF ENTERS WITH A TRAY OF FOOD AND SEES WENDY LOOKING AT  
THE PATIO THROUGH THE GLASS DOOR.

CLIFF

What?

WENDY

Nothing.

CLIFF

(LOOKS) Hm. Are they... ?

WENDY

They're taking off their shirts.

CLIFF

It's hot.

WENDY

I'll say.

CLIFF

What is with you?

WENDY

Nothing, you must be very happy,  
they're getting along great. What'd  
you tell Jim?

CLIFF

To butch it up.

WENDY

Good thinking.

BEAT.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Boyle's gay, y'know.

CLIFF

What?!

WENDY

You couldn't tell?

CLIFF

No. But in my defense he's not.

WENDY

Is.

CLIFF

Based on what?

WENDY

His looking, acting and being gay.

CLIFF

Women's intuition? That's so cute.

WENDY

(EYES HIM) I took karate at the  
Learning Annex.

CLIFF

Stop or I'll sue.

THEY WATCH THE PATIO.

WENDY

Y'know, scaring the bird is wrong.

CLIFF

So, rather than frighten it, you'd  
prefer I... hold the titmouse?

SHE REGARDS HIM.

CLIFF (CONT'D)

Caress the titmouse? Kiss the  
titmouse?

WENDY

What're you, twelve?

CLIFF

People say that. It's my youthful  
glow.

WENDY

I may vomit, and not in your mouth.  
You need to think about whether this  
bird is something you'd want Larissa  
to know about.

CLIFF

She won't.

WENDY

Morality is what you do when no one's  
watching.

CLIFF

(RE: PATIO) Then we shouldn't watch.

(IN TANDEM, THEIR HEADS BEND TO THE SIDE.)

WENDY

They're laying on the grass.

CLIFF

Crushing the digital sheep.

WENDY

So, to terrorize a titmouse, you asked your gay best friend, who acts straight professionally, to act straight in his personal life, and it turned out it was better for him to act gay. Don't you find that ironic?

CLIFF

I find it confusing.

WENDY

Integrity, Cliff. Hypocrisy.

CLIFF

Is this a trick question?

WENDY

Like all well-off people we're screwing up the earth, but we know that and we try to minimize it, and we try to act with integrity. That means, whenever possible, not doing things just to get what we want.

CLIFF

You think I'm an asshole.

WENDY

Yes. But cute.



CLIFF

Fine. The titmouse stays.

WENDY

(KISSES HIM) Join me for lunch?

THEY SIT AND EAT WHILE WATCHING THE PATIO ACTION.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ADMISSIONS OFFICE WAITING ROOM - A FEW DAYS LATER

LARISSA READS WHILE CLIFF AND WENDY LOOK OUT THE WINDOW.

WENDY

Beautiful campus, huh?

CLIFF

Too beautiful. It's like one of those places where at the end of the movie someone runs through yelling "They eat people!"

LARISSA

(LOOKS UP) Is the bird still in the pool?

A BEAT.

CLIFF

Have you ever heard the expression "pregnant pause"?

LARISSA

(SIGHS) The bird's still in the pool.

(EXAMINES SELF) I don't look right.

(TO WENDY) Why would you let me choose these clothes?

WENDY

I know it's difficult to believe,  
looking at your father and myself, but  
we know nothing about how to dress.  
When I was your age I never thought  
about clothes or makeup.

LARISSA

Just drugs and sex, huh?

WENDY

No no, not drugs.

CLIFF HAS PICKED UP A LEAFLET.

CLIFF

"Parents are expected to volunteer a  
minimum of 25 hours per year." So you  
pay lots of money to work for them for  
free.

WENDY

(READS) "It is inappropriate for  
children to carry large amounts of  
cash or display expensive jewelry at  
school." Communists.

CLIFF

If Larissa can't wear her diamond-  
encrusted scrunchie, the terrorists  
win.

THE DOOR OPENS; HALEY, THE ADMISSIONS OFFICER, IS A SERIOUS  
GUY IN HIS 30's.

HALEY

Mr. and Mrs. Segal?

THEY START IN; LARISSA GRABS HER PARENTS AND WHISPERS:

LARISSA

I'm not getting interviewed? The consultant wasn't interested in me, the school isn't, it's like everyone only cares about the money.

CLIFF

They grow up so fast.

WENDY

Sorry, honey, I forgot, it's separate interviews -- someone'll come while we're in there.

CLIFF AND WENDY GO IN THE OFFICE.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HALEY'S OFFICE - MINUTES LATER

CLIFF AND WENDY SIT IN FRONT OF HALEY'S DESK.

HALEY

So tell me what you're looking for in an educational institution.

WENDY

Really good teachers, of course, and a nice mix of students, kids from different socio-economic levels...

CLIFF

Black people.

WENDY

No! I mean, you know, income...

CLIFF

No, really, we'll take black, brown,  
any colors you got.

HALEY

Westfield embraces diversity and  
offers all its students wonderful  
opportunities for a successful life,  
and career.

CLIFF

That's what we're after.

WENDY

Mm-hm.

HALEY

Westfield broadens horizons, sharpens  
minds, and almost certainly increases  
earning prospects.

WENDY

Yes.

CLIFF

Terrific.

HALEY

Many of our families are so grateful for the opportunities we provide that they feel compelled to gift the school in a manner commensurate with the advantages their students receive.

BEAT.

WENDY

Really.

CLIFF

Fascinating.

BEAT.

HALEY

Do you imagine you might be one of those families?

BEAT.

CLIFF

I can imagine that.

HALEY LOOKS AT WENDY.

WENDY

I bet he can.

SHE "SMILES" AT CLIFF; HE "SMILES" BACK; HALEY SENSES SOMETHING'S WRONG AND SCRIBBLES ON A PAD.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ADMISSIONS OFFICE WAITING ROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

CLIFF AND WENDY COME OUT, FOLLOWED BY HALEY, LOOKING NONCOMMITTAL.

HALEY

You'll be hearing from us very soon.

CLIFF

Wonderful, thanks!

THE DOOR CLOSSES.

CLIFF (CONT'D)

(TO WENDY) And thank you. "I bet he can" -- did you deliberately sabotage us?

WENDY

Cliff... remember a long time ago, in a galaxy far away, when we had principles?

CLIFF

I have principles, I just don't have integrity. Look, we can afford it, everyone does it, and it's the only way she'll get in.

WENDY

Right.

SHE'S NOT BUDGING.

CLIFF

Y'know, you're kind of my moral spell-check. It's really irritating.

WENDY

Love you too.

HER CELL RINGS; SHE TAKES IT AS LARISSA COMES IN.

CLIFF

How'd it go?

LARISSA

I have no idea, she barely asked anything. Am I sure I want to go here?

CLIFF

I forget.

LARISSA

No, I do, I just don't want to apply.

WENDY

(SHUTS CELL; TO CLIFF) Your cell's off -- that was Boyle's boss.

CLIFF

Boyle's with Jim in Cabo?

WENDY

Boyle's in jail. Arrested for diverting concrete.

CLIFF

Oh my God.

WENDY

It was some big building project, not us. But unfortunately...

LARISSA

No pool party, even if the bird leaves.

CLIFF

Still, I think we've all learned a valuable lesson. I just have no idea what it is.

LARISSA

That Daddies make the worstest birthday parties ever?

THE FRONT DOOR OPENS AND A GIRL COMES IN.

LARISSA (CONT'D)

Gillian?

GILLIAN

Larissa!

LARISSA

What're you doing here?

GILLIAN

Visiting my dad.

LARISSA

(TO CLIFF, WENDY) This is the girl I told you about.

HALEY COMES OUT.

GILLIAN

Hi dad. (INDICATES LARISSA) Larissa and I have been texting.

LARISSA

Yeah, we tell each other everything.

HALEY

Everything?



HALEY LOOKS AT CLIFF AND WENDY. THE DRINKING, THE AFFAIR -- DO THEY KNOW? CAN HE RISK FINDING OUT?

LARISSA

(TO CLIFF, WENDY) Pregnant pause?

CLIFF AND WENDY NOD.

HALEY

(BIG SMILE TO CLIFF, WENDY) You'll be hearing from us very soon.

GILLIAN GOES IN; HALEY CLOSES THE DOOR.

LARISSA

So how'd your interview go?

CLIFF

Terrible.

LARISSA

So I'm not getting in?

WENDY

Oh, you're definitely getting in.

LARISSA

I don't understand.

CLIFF

Grownup stuff, honey.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PATIO - A FEW WEEKS LATER

KIDS FROLIC... IN THE EMPTY HOLE, WATCHED OVER BY PARENTS, CLIFF, WENDY, JIM AND BOYLE, IN SHORTS. A SIGN NEARBY READS "WELCOME RACCOONS". WENDY HOLDS OUT HER CELL TO JIM.

WENDY

Have you seen our titmouse?

JIM

A rodent with boobs? Not interested.

BOYLE

(LOOKS AROUND) So where is it?

CLIFF

Flew away last week. Left an empty nest and a pile of droppings.

JIM

Just like my last boyfriend.

BOYLE

(TO CLIFF, WENDY) Hey, good news -- my boss says you'll have concrete by August.

CLIFF

No offense, Boyle, but why aren't you in jail?

BOYLE

Crazy thing, there has to be a trial first.

CLIFF

(TO BOYLE) So you're out on bail.

JIM

No, he shivved a guard, hijacked a school bus and knocked over a Bermuda shorts store.

BOYLE

You're bitchy. Me likee. I'm thinking  
conjugal visits.

JIM

You can conjugate me anytime.

CLIFF

Hey hey, party's PG-13, guys.

LARISSA COMES UP.

LARISSA

(RE: JIM AND BOYLE) Knew it.

CLIFF REACTS.

LARISSA (CONT'D)

Mommy and Daddy, you're the bestest  
Mommy and Daddy in the whole wide  
world!

WENDY

(TO CLIFF; SING-SONG) Condescending  
SAR-casm...

CLIFF

Is this a bad time to tell her she's  
adopted?

WENDY

We agreed to wait till it'll cripple  
her emotionally.

LARISSA

Actually, we're kind of having fun. I  
have no idea why.

CLIFF

For the young, heartbreak is a turn-  
on.

WENDY

That's very wise. Does it make sense?

CLIFF SHRUGS.

LARISSA

Why're you standing around? C'mon in,  
the water's nonexistent!

SHE GRABS THEIR HANDS.

CLIFF

This is sweet -- our own little over-  
privileged, hypocritical, and now  
borderline-delusional family. (TO  
WENDY) Shall we take the plunge?

WENDY

Sure. Water's for wusses.

THEY JUMP IN, FOLLOWED BY JIM, BOYLE AND THE OTHER PARENTS.

THE END