

ACT 1

EXT. MEDICAL PAVILION -- DAY

We see a peaceful shot of beige buildings as NURSE is heard off-screen.

NURSE (V.O.)
Jay Pritchett, Dr. Klein will see
you now.

INT. WAITING ROOM

JAY, reading a magazine in a quiet waiting room, gets up and walks off-screen.

JAY (V.O.)
You know, for someone as old as me,
I'm in surprisingly solid shape.

INTERVIEW -- JAY

JAY (CONT.)
I eat okay, I play golf, and I only
smoke when the Dodgers win...or
lose. But my hearing is starting to
go a little, and I have no idea
why.

CUT TO:

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S LIVING ROOM

We flashback to Jay sitting on the couch, drinking scotch and peacefully watching TV. GLORIA enters the room on the phone, mid-conversation with her relatives from Columbia.

GLORIA
-and I just found that dress that I
thought I accidentally donated to
charity - oh say hi to Jay!

Gloria suddenly puts the phone up to Jay's ear. Before he realizes what's happening, a discordant symphony of bilingual greetings is screamed. We can hear it from a distance. Jay lurches forward.

JAY

Jesus!

CUT BACK:

INTERVIEW -- JAY

Jay stares into the camera with disdain.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE

Jay sits on the examination table. DR. KLEIN enters, briefing himself with notes on his clipboard.

DR. KLEIN

All right Mr. Pritchett. After reviewing the results of your hearing test it looks like you're inner ear is damaged due to exposure to abnormally high volumes.

JAY

My wife's from Columbia, the windows shake when she orders takeout.

DR. KLEIN

Just to be on the safe side I'm going to have you try out a cochlear implant for about a week to see if it makes a difference.

JAY

A hearing aid? Come on, doc, I don't want to look like some sad, old idiot.

OLD MAN, who's much older than Jay, slowly walking by the door wearing a hearing aid, stops in front of the doorway.

OLD MAN

(To Jay)

Buzz off, jackass.

He shuffles away slowly, angrily.

JAY

I guess they work.

"Old Birds"

DR. KLEIN

You'd be surprised how they've improved people's lives. And after a few hours you'll hardly even realize it's there.

Jay mulls over the idea, then nods reluctantly.

JAY

All right, fine. As long as I won't look stupid.

DR. KLEIN

(Writing on clipboard)

Of course. Now would you like that in "inconspicuous indigo" or "unassuming chartreuse"?

Jay stares at Dr. Klein in disbelief.

INT. PHIL AND CLAIRE'S KITCHEN

CLAIRE, exhausted, leans against the kitchen counter, trying to focus on important expense reports. PHIL enters in an unusually great mood.

PHIL

And a good morning to my betrothed. How does thine morning treat thee?

CLAIRE

(Tired)

Doth...fine...

PHIL

Geez Louise I haven't slept that well since I fell off that parade float.

CLAIRE

Phil that was a coma.

PHIL

I'm telling you that new mattress is like magic - speaking of magic...

Phil gets closer to Claire, looking like he's going to kiss her. Claire purses her lips. The moment is ruined when Phil pulls a button from behind her ear.

CLAIRE

Is this a button?

"Old Birds"

PHIL
I couldn't find any coins. Could
you sew that back on for me?

We see Phil's pants are missing a button, they're undone
around his waist. Claire sighs loudly and grabs the button
from Phil's hand.

PHIL (CONT'D)
What's the matter? You sleep okay?

CLAIRE
(Trying to act natural)
Yeah...yeah. I slept like a rock.

INTERVIEW -- CLAIRE

CLAIRE
I didn't sleep like a rock, because
rocks don't have ears, or husbands.
Ever since we got this new mattress
to help Phil's back he's been
sleeping so much better. But...

CUT TO:

INT. PHIL AND CLAIRE'S BEDROOM

It's dark and quiet, seemingly very peaceful. Phil and Claire
are sound asleep in their beds. After about 3-4 seconds Phil
bursts out singing "I Wanna Dance with Somebody" while still
sleeping. He's giving it his all. Claire's eyes shoot open.
This goes on for a few more seconds as Claire stares straight
ahead in horror.

CLAIRE (O.S)
(While Phil's singing is
still heard in the
background)
He usually sticks to 80's hits, but
one night he did all of "Stairway
to Heaven."

CUT TO:

Another night, same situation, but Phil just making guitar
noises as Claire stares straight ahead.

CUT TO:

"Old Birds"

INTERVIEW -- CLAIRE

CLAIRE

I've never seen him this rested and happy, and we've gone through so many mattresses and mattress pads - he even bought this alpaca wool from some guy that's supposed to realign your spine.

CUT TO:

INTERVIEW -- PHIL

PHIL

All I'll say is never trust a Buddhist you meet in a Steely Dan fan club chat room.

CUT TO:

INTERVIEW -- CLAIRE

CLAIRE

Would it be awful for me to ruin this for him?

INT. PHIL AND CLAIRE'S KITCHEN

As before

PHIL

I think I'm coming down with something, my throat feels dry.

CLAIRE

(Under her breath)

That's 'cuz you're straining on the high notes

PHIL

What?

CLAIRE

Nothing.

INT. CAM AND MITCH'S KITCHEN

MITCH appears in the doorway. He sees CAM with 3 cockatoos in bird cages on the kitchen counter, Cam looks distressed, keeping an eye on the birds.

MITCH

Cam-

CAM

Shhhh, Mitchell this is Beyonce, Kelly and Michelle. Girls this is my husband, Mitchell.

MITCH

I guess I'll just ask "why" and let you take over.

CAM

(Slightly fearful)

These are Pepper's birds. Every 3 months he lets a friend watch them while he marches at Disney Land for the characters to free the nipple. It's my turn to watch them, and Pepper said if all goes well he can get Lily into that dance academy she won't shut up about.

MITCH

Wow, ok. That was a lot-

Cam aggressively shushes Mitch, who starts speaking in a more hushed voice.

MITCH (CONT'D)

-Why are you whispering?

CAM

Pepper bought them from a merchant in Finland who claimed these birds used to be used in Russian espionage so they're trained to respond to certain code words.

MITCH

Which are?

CAM

So far we know not to say "hands," "dingo" and "Sean Penn."

MITCH

Sean Penn?

"Old Birds"

The birds start to get riled up.

CAM
Bootylicious, bootylicious.

Mitch stares.

CAM (CONT'D)
That calms them down.

Mitch sighs.

MITCH
Okay this is all you today. Please
just cover those things up.

Cam reluctantly throws sheets over the cages.

CAM
What crawled up your butt?

MITCH
I have to help my dad move my
grandmother's old couch to a
storage unit today.

CAM
Aw, I loved that couch, I feel like
if you throw away that couch you
throw away a piece of your
grandmother.

MITCH
Well we dumped her ashes in the
cushions after she died so
technically yes we're dropping Nana
off in storage today. Can we please
move on?

CAM
(Taken aback)
Okay.

MITCH
I'm sorry, my dad's just been
riding me up a wall about getting
rid of this couch. He's retired. He
has all the time in the world, but
everything we do has to be now now
now!

The birds start freaking out in their cages under the sheets.
The cages start rattling and moving across the counter.

"Old Birds"

CAM
I forgot about "now!" I forgot
about "now!"

Cam frantically puts his arms over them to try and keep them
in place. Mitch watches on.

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S FOYER

Jay walks through the front door, Gloria runs in anxiously to greet him, MANNY follows behind. Jay is now wearing a bright green (technically chartreuse), unflattering ear piece.

GLORIA
Jay, sweetie, how was the
appointment - Aye!

Gloria slaps his ear.

JAY
What the hell?

GLORIA
I thought you had a grasshopper in
your ear like a pencil.

MANNY
What is that thing?

JAY
It's a trial hearing aid, but after
that hit I might need to upgrade to
a helmet.

MANNY
Hmmm, I wouldn't have pegged you
for an "unassuming chartreuse" kind
of guy.

JAY
They were out of "inconspicuous
indigo."

GLORIA
Does this mean-
(Whispers)
-we have to start whispering?

JAY
What? No. Nothing's different. I'm
just doing this so I can prove that
nothing's really wrong with me and
this stupid piece of plastic
doesn't make a difference.

GLORIA
(Still whispering)
How long do you-

"Old Birds"

JAY

Gloria. Please. Stop whispering.

GLORIA

How long do you have to wear it for?

JAY

A week, but honestly at this rate probably not past 2.

MANNY

Let me know if you need help with anything Jay.

JAY

Oh for chrissake, why is everyone treating me like I'm dying? I'm fine. As a matter of fact, this is the best I've felt in 20 years.

Jay grabs Gloria and goes to dip her, hurting his back in the process. He shouts out and drops her. Gloria falls on the floor with a thud.

INT. PHIL AND CLAIRE'S KITCHEN

Claire comes into the kitchen to find Phil, dressed in an apron and chef's hat, baking scones.

CLAIRE

Phil? What's going on?

PHIL

Just a little something for my daily dose of Claritin.

CLAIRE

Okay, not too thrilled about the nickname, (noticing what Phil's made) but wow.

PHIL

Raspberry scones, baked to perfection, just like my wife.

Claire smiles and picks one up to eat.

PHIL (CONT'D)

WAIT!

Claire is shaken up and almost drops the scone.

"Old Birds"

PHIL (CONT'D)
Almost forgot the chocolate
drizzle.

Phil takes her scone, drizzles some chocolate onto the top
then kisses the scone lightly.

PHIL (CONT'D)
(Whispers)
Be free.

He hands the scone back over to Claire, wipes some chocolate
off of his lip.

CLAIRE
Phil there's something I need to
tell you-

PHIL
You sound concerned. Take a bite.
Let the warm raspberry filling melt
your troubles right down your
throat.

Claire, a little unsure about this good mood Phil's in, gives
in and takes a bite.

CLAIRE
(Chewing)
It's about the mat-Oh my god this
is amazing.

PHIL
Right? Now what were you saying?

Claire stops in her tracks and thinks.

CLAIRE
Oh nothing.

PHIL
Oh come on, tell me. You "scone"
you want to.

Phil cracks up, Claire laughs along with him to be polite,
but makes eyes with the camera. They laugh for an
uncomfortably long time. ALEX walks into the room, but
immediately turns around and exits.

INTERVIEW -- CLAIRE

CLAIRE

I don't know, I'm not necessarily against this new Phil. He's happier, he bakes scones, he even cleans the house. Earlier today he was mopping the ceilings.

INT. PHIL AND CLAIRE'S LIVING ROOM

We see Phil scrubbing the ceilings with a mop, Claire stands there, intrigued but okay with it.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

I didn't have the heart to tell him he was just ruining the paint.

Similarly to before, Alex appears by her mother, sees what's happening, then immediately exits.

INTERVIEW -- CLAIRE

CLAIRE

I could put up with a few songs at night if the days are going to be like this.

INT. MITCH AND CAM'S HOUSE

Gloria enters, holding JOE, followed by Manny.

GLORIA

Cam! It's me! I have your baking tray!

CAM (O.S.)

I'll be down in a minute, you can just leave it in the kitchen!

They walk into the kitchen. Gloria drops the tray off on the kitchen counter, they notice three sheets covering something.

GLORIA

What the-

She peaks under the sheet.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

It's a bird!

"Old Birds"

Gloria and Manny each pull off the sheets.

MANNY

Three birds. Wow, of everyone in our family to go off the deep end Mitch and Cam weren't my front runners.

GLORIA

Why do they have so many birds?

MANNY

I don't know, but that would explain why their paint looks chipped.

The two turn around and face the wall opposite of the birds as Manny points out the spotty paint job. While they're faced away, Joe unlocks the birds' cages. By the time Gloria turns around and realizes what Joe's doing it's too late.

GLORIA

No (sounds like now), Joe! No!

The birds take off. Gloria and Manny scream and duck in cover. Cam enters and gasps.

CAM

What's going on?

MANNY

Joe let the birds out of their cage!

We hear things crashing and breaking around them as the birds begin their reign of terror.

CAM

Oh sweet Jesus! Bootylicious!
Bootylicious!

GLORIA

Aye thank you, Cam, but is this really the time for compliments?

Cam stares into the camera. He is suddenly interrupted by the screeching of the birds. They crouch a little, in survival mode now, whispering slightly to avoid being attacked.

MANNY

These things are vicious.

One bird screeches.

"Old Birds"

CAM

Shhhh - I think Beyonce's communicating with Kelly and Michelle.

MANNY

For a reunion tour?

CAM

No, the birds are named Beyonce, Kelly and Michelle.

MANNY

Oh, well that sucks for two of them.

Cam makes a face of agreement.

INTERVIEW -- JAY

JAY

Gloria's been on me about getting my mother-in-law's couch out of the garage for the past month, and now I've got a hearing aid. I want to get rid of this thing before she puts me in a wheelchair.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S FOYER

Jay opens the door for Mitch. We see in addition to his hearing aid Jay is now brandishing a walking cane. Mitch stares at Jay.

JAY

What?

MITCH

Oh nothing, I just didn't know you were transitioning into a pimp.

JAY

For your information, it's a trial hearing aid. And this (lifts up cane) is because of an accident around the house.

MITCH

Did that accident have to do with you feeling a little too confident?

JAY

Let's just get your grandmother's couch out of here before I stuff you in there with her.

MITCH

Dad you can't lift a couch in your condition, I'll come back another day when you're feeling better.

JAY

"In my condition" I could still fold you like a lawn chair. We're moving this thing now, I don't want to hear about it anymore.

MITCH

You won't have to if you just turn your hearing aid off, sir.

Jay Glares at Mitch.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S LIVING ROOM

JAY

Lift!

They try to lift the couch, it goes nowhere. They look at each other.

JAY (CONT'D)

You're not lifting.

MITCH

I'm lifting with my heart, dad.

JAY

Can you take this seriously?

MITCH

I don't know, "an environmental lawyer and an old man try to lift a couch" literally sounds like the beginning of a joke, so...

INT. PHIL AND CLAIRE'S KITCHEN

Claire is sitting at the kitchen table, reading. She's starting to nod off a little bit. LUKE enters with his friend, BLEACH, a slightly older looking man. He looks dirty and wears a lot of denim.

"Old Birds"

LUKE

Hey mom!

She jumps a little.

CLAIRE

Hey, sweetie.

She looks at Bleach, not liking what she's seeing.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Who's your friend?

LUKE

This is Bleach.

BLEACH

Sup I'm Bleach.

LUKE

Yeah.

CLAIRE

...Ok.

We cut back and forth. We see Claire, concerned. Luke's smiling. Bleach stares at Claire, not in a threatening way, but more like he's just lost. He suddenly coughs loudly and lazily, not covering his mouth or excusing himself.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Ok, great. Luke, honey, can I talk to you for a minute?

LUKE

Ooh, might have to take a rain check on that. Bleach was gonna show me how to hot-wire a bus.

BLEACH

It's not harder than hot-wiring a car, it's just more tedious.

Phil enters in the same great mood.

CLAIRE

Oh, Phil! Phil!

PHIL

Hello my beautiful family. What is that surprisingly intoxicating aroma of morning dew and cigarettes?

"Old Birds"

CLAIRE

That is Luke's new friend, Bleach.

BLEACH

(To Phil)

Sup I'm Bleach.

CLAIRE

Yep, good ol' Bleach over there was about to teach our only son to hot-wire a bus.

PHIL

(To Bleach)

An engineer. You're like a young da Vinci.

BLEACH

Bless you.

CLAIRE

Phil.

She motions for him to come to her.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Phil there's no way you're actually okay with this...thing being around Luke. He looks like he was electrocuted!

PHIL

Well I imagine the first few times you hot-wire a bus you make some mistakes-

CLAIRE

Phil!

PHIL

Honey relax. Luke is old enough to make decisions for himself.

INTERVIEW -- PHIL

PHIL

Do I think Claire's acting strange? Don't you think I'd know my own wife? We've been married for (he tries to remember how long they've been married for) x amount of years.

INTERVIEW -- CLAIRE

CLAIRE

I love my husband dearly but his
judgment is being completely
clouded by this good mood he's in.
I didn't think a mattress could do
that to someone.

Bleach appears in the background, after a second Claire turns
around as if one of the crew pointed him out to her.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Get out of here!

END OF ACT 2

ACT 3INT. MITCH AND CAM'S KITCHEN

Cam, Manny and Gloria are huddled up in the kitchen. We hear crashes and glass breaking in the living room.

GLORIA

Cam, hurry. Do something.

MANNY

Yeah Ellen's on in an hour.

CAM

Oh I know. I think if we're quiet enough we can sneak out through the front door.

GLORIA

But what if they see us?

MANNY

This is a classic example of predator vs prey.

CAM

Which one are we?

MANNY

(Referring to Cam)

In that shirt, prey.

Cam looks at his shirt. Gloria subtly makes a face.

MANNY (CONT'D)

If it comes to a confrontation we let our body's natural responses of fight or flight kick in.

Gloria and Cam nod. They look around the corner. Everything's quiet. They step out a few steps, but as soon as they do the birds start screeching and flying overhead again. Cam, Gloria and Manny scream and just start running across the room, past the couch.

CAM

Flight! Flight! Flight!

While running and screaming, Cam knocks over an end table to serve as a distraction, but it doesn't do much.

"Old Birds"

EXT. STORAGE LOCKER PAVILION

Jay and Mitch pull up to a storage place.

MITCH

Finally.

JAY

What's the rush with you today?

INTERVIEW -- MITCH

MITCH

It took us 2 hours to get to this storage locker. I could've crab-walked there and still had an hour to sulk. My dad couldn't read any of the road signs but whenever I tried to help him he sprayed wiper fluid on the windshield so neither of us knew where we were going.

INTERVIEW -- JAY

JAY

The letters on street signs today might as well be written in Chinese. They're so small nobody can read them. I could just drive with my eyes closed.

INTERVIEW -- MITCH

MITCH

We drove through the desert. I didn't even know we had deserts by us, and quite honestly I don't think we do.

EXT. PARKING LOT

Mitch and Jay get out of the car, Jay notices clumps of dirt stained onto car door.

JAY

Oh for the love of god, it looks I like I drove this thing through the Grand Canyon.

MITCH

You might've. For all we know we could've gone to the North Pole with your driving.

JAY

I'm gonna have to stop by a car wash on the way home.

MITCH

Okay fine, let's just hurry please.

JAY

Will you relax? All day today you've been on me about getting this over with. I don't want anymore complaints from you or else I'm taking your grandmother out of the couch and dumping her down your pants!

A family with young children walking by stares at them.

JAY (CONT'D)

(Waving his cane at them)

Nothing to see here, jackals! Move along!

Mitch stands there, embarrassed and ashamed of Jay.

MITCH

Dad there's no way we're going to be able to carry this all the way to your storage unit.

JAY

We'll be fine if you just man up a little.

MITCH

Dad you just called a family of four "jackals" and shooed them away with your cane. This is beyond masculinity.

JAY

Fine.

MITCH

Let's ask these guys coming out if they'll help. (Checks his pockets) I don't think I have any cash, do you?

JAY
(Annoyed)
Yes I have cash, you jackal.

MITCH
Did you hear someone use that word
somewhere?

INT. PHIL AND CLAIRE'S KITCHEN

Phil, Luke and Bleach are all talking in the kitchen. Claire is unable to concentrate with all the noise. She slams her pen on the table in frustration.

CLAIRE
Phil can I have a word with you in
the other room?

PHIL
But Bleach was just about to eat
this banana with the peel still on
it.

BLEACH
There are actually a lot of
nutritional benefits the peel
offers that we tend to overlook in
western culture.

CLAIRE
Phil!

PHIL
All right. Sorry fellas, the old
ball and chain is-a-callin' -

Claire yanks Phil by the arm.

PHIL (CONT'D)
- Ah! Sweetheart your grip. Have
you been free climbing?

INT. STAIRWELL

PHIL
(concerned)
What's the matter? You seem on edge
today. Were the scones dry?

CLAIRE
No, no the scones were golden brown
perfection, but I'm under-baked.

"Old Birds"

PHIL

Under-baked cookies are the best-

CLAIRE

Phil, I am tired. I do not get enough sleep at night.

PHIL

What? I thought you loved the mattress.

CLAIRE

It's not the mattress it's you. For whatever ungodly reason, ever since we got that new mattress, you've been belting 80's hits in your sleep.

PHIL

Oh my god...am I good?

Immediately.

CLAIRE

No.

PHIL

Well with a little vocal training I could probably-

CLAIRE

No, Phil you're not listening. We need to get rid of that mattress. I don't know why else you would've started singing in your sleep all of a sudden.

Phil is silent, sullen.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

I know it's made you really happy, but I'm miserable. And I just have so many things pulling me in every direction I can't afford to be tired all the time. And I know you really like it, but-

PHIL

(Grave, upset)

It's fine. We'll get a new one tomorrow. Marriage is about making sacrifices, right?

"Old Birds"

Phil walks out. Claire watches him, shocked and concerned, then

INT. MITCH AND CAM'S LIVING ROOM

The living room is a mess. Things have been broken, knocked over and flipped in the struggle with these birds. Cam, Gloria, Manny and Joe are hiding behind a couch. A bird zooms above them, they scream. Gloria throws a nearby book at the birds.

CAM

Gloria what are you doing?

GLORIA

We have to do something before these birds rip out our eyes!

CAM

These are Pepper's birds and if anything happens to them then he is going break my ass.

MANNY

What?

Birds zooms overhead again, followed by more screams.

CAM

Bootylicious!

MANNY

Uncle Cam the code isn't working.

CAM

They must have adapted. They're learning fast. Before we know it they'll know how to use guns and Facebook.

The birds fly by again.

GLORIA

Vete al infierno, demonios!

As she's yelling Gloria grabs a nearby vase and throws it across the room.

CAM

Gloria, no!

The vase shatters against a wall.

"Old Birds"

MANNY

Mom that was porcelain!

GLORIA

I don't care if it was made of diamonds! Someone do something before these wing demons kill us!

MANNY

(Pointing)

Wait wait wait, what's that one doing? It's left the group.

CAM

Oh my god, Beyonce's going solo!
Beyonce's going solo!

We hear birds screeching, Beyonce flies overhead

MANNY

And now Kelly and Michelle are getting angry!

CAM

So much for sisterhood.

EXT. CAR WASH

Mitch and Jay drive up to the car wash. CAR WASH WORKER, a young man (18-22) greets them. He has great energy.

CAR WASH WORKER

Hey there how's everyone doing today!

JAY

You just spit on me.

CAR WASH WORKER

Sorry about that sir, maybe we can send you through the machine to clean you off (laughs obnoxiously and loud)

JAY

Let's move this along.

CAR WASH WORKER

Okey dokey pokey, I'm just going to need you to fill out some information on this tablet here and we'll get you started right away.

"Old Birds"

He hands Jay the tablet.

JAY

What the hell do I do with this thing? Why can't I just give you money so you can wash my car.

CAR WASH WORKER

That may be how it worked in your generation, boss-man, but nowadays we use touch screens to make everything more efficient.

JAY

What's more efficient than me handing you money and you washing my car?

CAR WASH WORKER

(Drops the happy facade)

Listen grandpa, I'm doing this to get off parole, I have no problem jacking another car if you want to keep this up.

Jay and Mitchell look worried. They start using the tablet.

EXT. CAR WASH TRACK

Jay and Mitch drive onto the track for the car wash.

INT. CAR WASH TRACK

Their car is guided along on the track, starts getting washed.

JAY

Can you believe that kid out there?

MITCH

Did you hear yourself? That kid was so nice to you, until he threatened to steal your car. Is your hearing aid on too tight?

JAY

What - Oh I forgot I had it on. That explains why you sound extra whiny today.

MITCH

(Sarcastic)

That's great, dad. Real mature. To think I didn't want to spend the day with you.

JAY

Just think soon we'll be out of here and you won't have to deal with me anymore.

The car abruptly stops and the lights go off. The car wash has broken down.

END OF ACT 3

ACT 4INT. PHIL AND CLAIRE'S BEDROOM

We see Phil struggling to pull the mattress off of their box-spring. Claire enters.

CLAIRE
Phil what are you doing?

PHIL
(Still pulling hard)
I'm fixing the issue.

CLAIRE
Phil stop, you're going to hurt yourself.

PHIL
(Empty inside)
Nothing that happens to me will hurt more than the pain I've caused you.

CLAIRE
Okay, what's going on here? It's a mattress.

PHIL
It's not just a mattress it's the last thing we have in this house that makes me happy.

CLAIRE
What?

PHIL
I haven't sold a house in weeks, you're always working, the kids are doing their own things. I don't have a lot to look forward to nowadays. I thought finally, here's something we both enjoy, but apparently not.

CLAIRE
Phil I-

Phil starts pulling at the mattress again.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Phil, no. No stop-stop.

"Old Birds"

PHIL
(Panting)
Is it hot in here?

He slumps down against the bed, Claire gets down with him.

CLAIRE
Sweetheart you know I love you, and you and the kids are my number one priority, and they feel the same about you. I've been stressed out too, and maybe that's why I've buried myself in my work so much. I promise you, you, Haley, Alex and Luke are the most important things in the world to me. I don't want you to ever forget that.

PHIL
I love you.

CLAIRE
I love you too.

Bleach enters.

BLEACH
Hey I broke your whole sink.

INT. MITCH AND CAM'S LIVING ROOM

We see a shaky, first person perspective of Cam.

CAM
Hello to whoever sees this. I'm recording this as a my final goodbye to those I love, just in case I don't make it. Tell the police that the cause of death was birds with an attitude over one's solo career. Lilly, sweetheart, I love you. Mitchell, I left \$6,000 cash in a bag on top of the fridge, use it to buy a new husband.

GLORIA
Cam what are you doing?

We see he was recording himself on his phone.

CAM
(Sniffling)
I'm saying my goodbyes.

"Old Birds"

A phone update sound is heard.

CAM (CONT'D)
Ooh Khloe Kardashian went into labor.

GLORIA
Cam you need to get a hold of yourself. We can't do anything if you we don't all stay calm.

MANNY
Mom, where's Joe?

GLORIA
Joe?

They look over the couch and see Joe sitting in the middle of the room.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
Oh my god! Joe! Someone do something they're going to eat my baby!

Suddenly the door opens. PEPPER is standing there. He looks around the room.

PEPPER
Oh my god...this color is awful
(Sees Joe) Lilly, sweetheart,
you've gotten so westernized since I last saw you. (Calling out) Cam!
I'm back early! Those prudes at Disney tried telling me "for the hundredth time" that Minnie Mouse is not a sex symbol!

The birds start flying around again.

PEPPER (CONT'D)
(To birds)
Girls what are you doing?

CAM
(Scream whisper)
Pepper! Pepper!

PEPPER
Couch! Couch!

Cam pops out from behind the couch.

"Old Birds"

CAM

No, Pepper it's me Cam.

PEPPER

Oh thank god! I thought that absinthe from this morning was still-nevermind.

CAM

Pepper your birds are a nightmare, they won't listen to any of the code words.

PEPPER

(Calls out to birds)
Okay ladies now let's get in formation!

The birds fly back in their cages.

PEPPER (CONT'D)

Everyone knows modern Beyonce is a natural bird tranquilizer.

Cam, Gloria and Manny get up from behind the couch and follow Pepper over to the kitchen. Gloria grabs Joe.

CAM

God how did I miss that?

PEPPER

(Closing the cages)
Cam, don't get to down on yourself. You were just never meant to succeed. It's not in your loins.

Pepper tries to pick all three birds at once, but can't.

PEPPER (CONT'D)

I'll send for Michelle.

He starts to walk out.

CAM

But they're all okay and that's all that matters, right? Do you think you can look into that dance academy for Lily still? We'd all really appreciate it.

PEPPER

After seeing how clumsy you were with my birds I don't think dance really runs in your genetics.

"Old Birds"

Pepper exits, then.

CAM
She's adopted!

GLORIA
Cam, sorry about that.

MANNY
Yeah, we'll help you clean up.

CAM
Thank you, both. Can't really blame anyone here. I just care about Lily so much and I want to give her the world.

MANNY
Speaking of, where is Lily?

CAM
Oh shoot I was supposed to pick her up from her friend's place 2 hours ago.

Cam runs out of the house, panicked.

INT. CAR WASH TRACK

Mitch and Jay sit in the dark, the only light coming from the lights in the car.

JAY
What's it been an hour now?

MITCH
No that's just what 5 minutes with you feels like. Maybe I can-

Mitch trails off as he opens the door to try and walk out, as soon as he does. He immediately pulls the door closed as one of the car wash units slams into his door and water pours from overhead. The track is still not moving. Car Wash Worker's voice comes on over an intercom.

CAR WASH WORKER (V.O.)
Hey there folks looks like we're experiencing some technological difficulties, but we should have everyone out of here shortly. Don't go anywhere (Laughs obnoxiously).

JAY

What am I at Dolly World?

MITCH

This is great. My entire day is pretty much gone.

JAY

What's with you?

MITCH

I finally get time off from work and I spend it arguing with you about a couch with my grandmother's ashes inside.

JAY

You sound like an old lady.

MITCH

You make no-

They're cut off by two machine parts slamming into their car again.

MITCH (CONT'D)

You make no sense. For a month you won't leave me alone about getting Nana's couch out of the house, now we're doing it and you want to take all the time in the world and do this and do that. It's never ending.

JAY

Is it such a problem to want to live my life?

MITCH

I have work tomorrow, you're retired and can do whatever you want whenever you want. I have limited time to see my family.

JAY

Yeah well maybe I have limited time too.

MITCH

What do you mean?

JAY

I don't know, ever since that doctor visit when I got this monstrosity (touches his hearing aid), and then I hurt my back, I just feel...

JAY AND MITCH (SIMULTANEOUSLY)
(CONT'D)

Old.

Jay glares at Mitch.

MITCH (CONT'D)

Dad you are old, that's literally how life works.

JAY

Yeah, well, I hate it. I don't have energy, my bones feel weak, I can't get off a couch or chair without grunting. I'm just worried I'm not going to be able to give Joe the father he deserves.

MITCH

Dad, Joe is the luckiest kid in the world. I know we had our issues growing up, but we made it through. And now you've learned from your mistakes. Joe has an amazing life ahead of him.

Jay smiles.

JAY

How about we say this never happened?

MITCH

Deal.

Jay puts his hand on Mitch's shoulder affectionately as they share a smile. The machine hits their car again suddenly, causing them to jump.

JAY (V.O.)

I'm still not happy about getting old. Obviously it's going to happen, but even now I'm still learning things. Like that it's not about how long you live, it's about how much you get out of the time you have.

"Old Birds"

INT. CAM AND MITCH'S HOUSE

We see Cam and LILY come home to find Manny, Gloria, and Joe cleaning up. Cam looks grateful and he and Lily go to help them.

JAY (V.O.)
It's about the people you love that
you'd do anything for.

INT. CAR WASH TRACK

Jay and Mitch sit in the car, suddenly they start moving and celebrate, relieved.

JAY (V.O.)
It's about the small moments that
you don't always realize have a big
impact on you right away.

INT. PHIL AND CLAIRE'S BEDROOM, NIGHT

JAY (V.O.)
And it's about knowing when to let
go and live a little.

Phil is singing "I Don't Want to Miss a Thing" by Aerosmith. Claire is woken up by it. She looks at Phil, then looks back ahead. She sings the chorus with him.

INTERVIEW -- JAY

JAY
Put that on a fortune cookie.

Jay takes the hearing aid off of his ear and throws it to the side.

END OF SHOW