

SHRINKING - PILOT EPISODE

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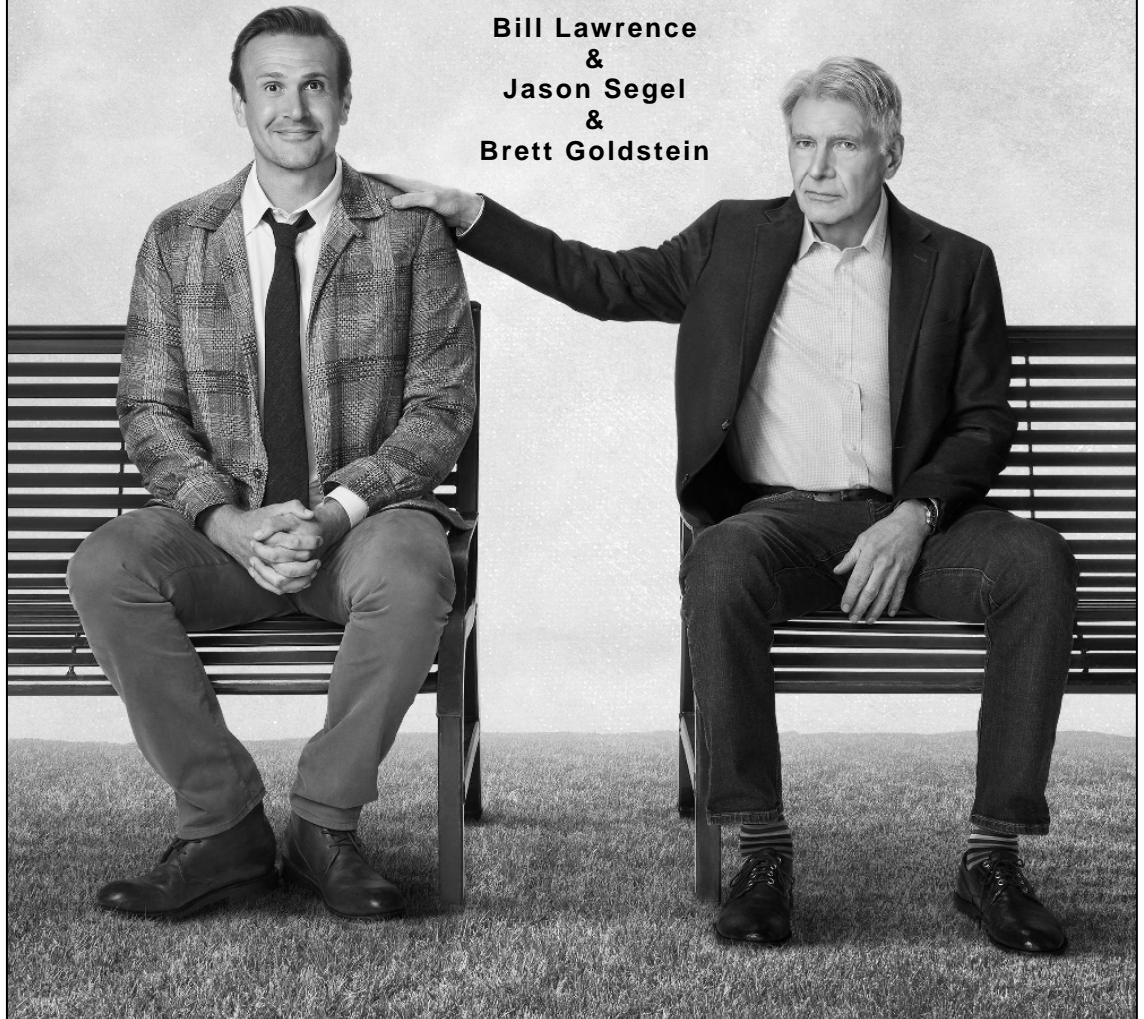
JASON SEGEL HARRISON FORD

SHRINKING

PILOT EPISODE

by

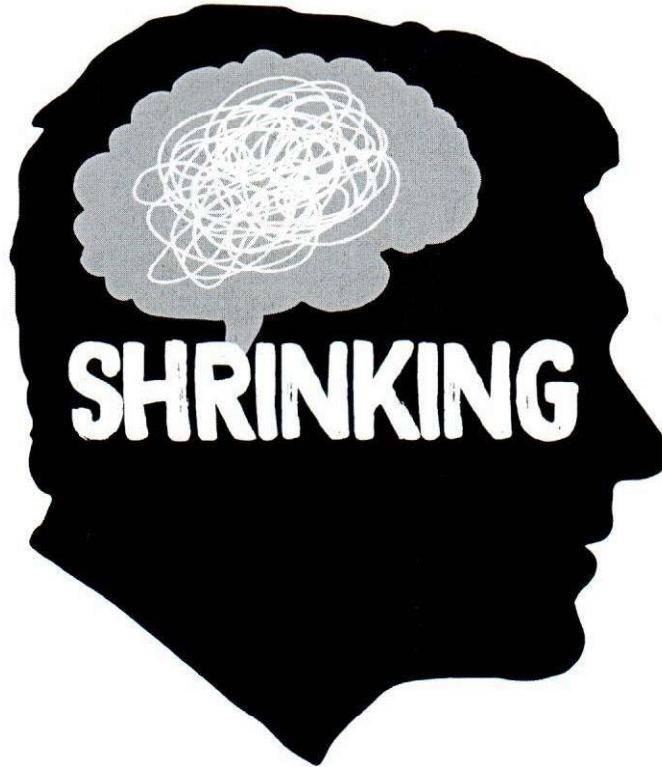
Bill Lawrence
&
Jason Segel
&
Brett Goldstein



PRODUCTION DRAFT
April 27, 2022

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Episode 101

"Pilot"

Written by

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Directed By

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Prod # T12.17451

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SHRINKING

Ep. 101 – “Pilot”
REVISION HISTORY
Pink Pages – April 27, 2022

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COLOR</u>	<u>PAGES AFFECTED</u>
12/6/21	Studio Draft	Full Draft
12/11/21	Revised Studio Draft	Full Draft
12/13/21	Network Draft	Full Draft
01/11/22	Revised Network Draft	Full Draft
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04/14/22	White Production Draft	Full Draft
04/26/22	Blue Production Draft	Full Draft
04/27/22	Pink Pages	18, 25

SHRINKING

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Speaking Roles

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JIMMY.....	Jason Segel
PAUL***	Harrison Ford
LIZ.....	Christa Miller
GABY.....	Jessica Williams
BRIAN.....	Michael Urie
SEAN.....	Luke Tennie
ALICE.....	Lukita Maxwell
TIA.....	Lilan Bowden
DEREK.....	Ted McGinley
GRACE (PATIENT).....	Heidi Gardner
STEVEN (PATIENT).....	Matt Knudson
MIDDLE-AGED GUY W/ NO CONNECTIONS (PATIENT)	
PATIENT W/ RECURRING RELATIONSHIP ISSUES (PATIENT)	
OCD PATIENT (PATIENT)/WALLY.....	Kimberly Condict
WOMAN W/ FEAR OF ABANDONMENT (PATIENT)	
OTHER PATIENTS	
KIARA.....	Ashley Elyse Rogers
SARAH.....	Rosslyn Luke
GRACE’S HUSBAND / DONNY.....	Tilky Jones
MALIK.....	Jack Stuart
BIKER.....	Daniel Dasent
MAN (BULLY).....	Keenan Henson

SHRINKING

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Set List

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EXTERIORS

GAS STATION

JIMMY'S HOUSE

- Pool
- Front Door
- Carport/Driveway
- Side of House (Montage)

LIZ AND DEREK'S HOUSE

- Front Porch
- Dining Room Area

LIZ AND JIMMY'S STREET

MIDTOWN STREET

- Side Street

MMA GYM

OFFICES (Medical Center Building)

- Front Entrance
- Balcony

PARK

- Soccer Field

PASADENA

- Where Jimmy Bikes/Leaves Bike

STREET

- Where Jimmy and Sean Run

INTERIORS

GRACE'S SISTER'S

JIMMY'S HOUSE

- Kitchen
- Living Room
- Den (Montage)
- Jimmy's Bathroom (Montage)

JIMMY'S CAR

LIZ AND DEREK'S HOME

- Bedroom
- Dining Room Area

LIZ'S CAR (Montage)

MMA GYM

OFFICES

- Jimmy's Office (aka Private Office)
- Gaby's Office
- Paul's Office (Montage)
- Hallway
- Kitchenette
- Stairwell

PAUL'S APARTMENT

SHRINKING

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18	N2
19	FB1-N
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30	D4
31A-C (Montage).....	M1-M3
31D (Montage)	M4
31E (Montage)	M5
31F (Montage).....	M6
31G (Montage)	M7
31H-J (Montage)	M8-M10
31K (Montage)	M11
31L (Montage).....	M12
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36-45	D6

1 INT. LIZ AND DEREK'S HOME - BEDROOM - 3AM (N1)

A dark bedroom with windows open. PIANO POP MUSIC drifts in from next door. Also a SPLASH, then GIGGLES. This repeats. LIZ, (50, acerbic, caring but painfully frank) is in bed, eyes open, by her sleeping husband, DEREK (55, sleepy).

LIZ

Derek.

He doesn't move. We hear another SPLASH and GIGGLES.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Are you awake? It's your turn.
Derek? Are you faking?

He doesn't move. After a beat, without opening his eyes...

DEREK

Can't you just do it?

She gets out of bed, then, under her breath:

LIZ

You fuckhole...

DEREK

Love you.

2 EXT. LIZ AND JIMMY'S STREET - MOMENTS LATER (N1)

Now in a robe and slippers, Liz steps out of her house.

She moves toward her neighbor next door, the source of the music. As she approaches, a WOMAN, in her bra and underwear, appears over the top of the fence then splashes into a pool obscured below. It is strangely beautiful, ethereal even. Liz looks over the fence...

3 EXT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - POOL - CONTINUOUS (N1)

TWO YOUNG WOMEN laugh in the pool. There's booze strewn around. It's a sad three-person party. Sitting on a deck chair is JIMMY, in sweats and a t-shirt. Jimmy looks like a guy who hasn't been treating himself very well because he hasn't, not since HIS WIFE PASSED AWAY. Jimmy plays air piano to the song, which is 'ANGRY YOUNG MAN' by Billy Joel.

LIZ

Hey! Jimmy! *Jimmy!*

He catches sight of Liz and stops.

(CONTINUED)

JIMMY

Hey, Liz. Just playing some air piano. How are you?

LIZ

I'm great, thanks. What the fuck are you doing?

JIMMY

Oh no. It's late, isn't it?

LIZ

It's three in the morning.

JIMMY

(genuine and charming)

Oh no, sorry, that's awful. I'm awful. We'll be quiet.

She takes in the scene, then lasers in on a bowl of pills next to a bowl of pretzels. She gestures to them.

LIZ

What's in the bowl?

JIMMY

Pretzels.

LIZ

I know what pretzels are. The other bowl.

JIMMY

Oh, Adderall. Maybe some painkillers. Definitely some painkillers. Y'know what, let me turn the music off.

He does. The women in the pool, SARAH and KIARA, react disappointed ("Awwwww.")

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I know, I know. Billy Joel's the king.

LIZ

Where's Alice?

JIMMY

She's sleeping.

LIZ

Who are these girls, Jimmy?

(CONTINUED)

Jimmy looks back at the girls, hesitating...

JIMMY
Those are my friends.

LIZ
Are they hookers?

JIMMY
I don't think so.

LIZ
Did you pay them money?

JIMMY
I feel like we're going 'round in
circles here. Girls, come say "hi."

LIZ
(whispers)
No! I do not want to say hi! Do not
do that to--
(they arrive at the fence)
Hi.

KIARA
Hi, I'm Kiara.

LIZ
Hello, Kiara.

KIARA
What's your name?

LIZ
Let's not worry about it.

JIMMY
This is Liz and that's Sarah.
(to the girls)
If you want any more of those
pills, help yourselves.

KIARA
I don't put that shit in my body.

SARAH
Same heresies.

JIMMY
Am I the only one that's been doing
these? Oh my god, that's so sad.
(then, assessing)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

3

CONTINUED: (3)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

...Maybe it's time to wrap it up
ladies.

As they gather their clothes and head inside:

LIZ

Goodnight, Jimmy.

JIMMY

'Night. And again, I'm so sorry.

LIZ

(sincerely)

I know.

Jimmy seems so broken, Liz can't help but feel sorry for him.
The moment is interrupted by the women YELLING from the door.

KIARA/SARAH

Goodnight, Liz!

LIZ

Goodnight, Kiara. Goodnight, Sarah.

4

EXT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - DAWN (D2)

As Kiara and Sarah get into their LYFT, Jimmy calls over.

JIMMY

Text me so I know you got home
okay!

They drive off. Jimmy waves and watches them go. His
sprinklers START SPRAYING HIM.

5

INT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER (D2)

He enters to find his daughter, ALICE (17, stoic, too world-
weary for someone her age), cleaning up. He watches her as
she empties drinks and throws away half-finished joints.

JIMMY

Oh, hey. Morning.

By rote, she hands him a glass of water and some ibuprofen.
He takes them shamefully. On the counter, she notices a
PICTURE FACE DOWN. She casually turns it upright: Jimmy, his
DECEASED WIFE, TIA, and a younger Alice. One perfect family.

Alice, all business, opens the fridge and takes out items:

(CONTINUED)

5

ALICE

There's your overnight oats. If you want any berries, there's a new bag in the freezer.

He watches her, stunned at how great she is.

JIMMY

Hope I didn't keep you up last night.
(nothing from Alice)
Alice?

Alice is quite cavalier and goes about her business:

ALICE

Same ol' shit, bro.

JIMMY

"Bro?"

We hear a CAR HORN. Alice grabs a banana and her backpack.

ALICE

Liz is giving me a ride.

JIMMY

Hey, would you tell her--
(she's gone)
Bye...

He sighs, frustrated with himself. Jimmy slams his fists on the table (*fuck this*), gets up purposefully, and marches out.

6

EXT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - CARPORT - A LITTLE LATER (D2)

Jimmy has changed. He gets in his car. Turns the ignition, nothing. It's empty. He's frustrated, but won't be deterred. Hops out. ALICE'S MOUNTAIN BIKE is in the corner. He lifts it up, catching the pedal against his shin. He stumbles around, cursing for a moment. Then puts on her PINK HELMET.

7

EXT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS (D2)

NEEDLE DROP TBD as he bikes out of his driveway.

8

EXT. PASADENA - MOMENTS LATER (D2)

We start on a pack of MIDDLE-AGED BIKERS IN LYCRA. They pass a very OUT OF BREATH Jimmy.

(CONTINUED)

8

CONTINUED:

Lots of 'watch out', 'on your left', cursing, etc.

BIKER

Get the fuck out of the way!

JIMMY

(cheery)

Suck my dick!

Further ahead, he hits a pot hole. The bike veers into the pavement. He jumps off and looks. The CHAIN HAS BROKEN. *Fuck.* He looks around. Then HIDES THE BIKE IN A NEARBY BUSH. He looks at it like, *yeah that solves that*, and walks away.

9

EXT. MEDICAL CENTER BUILDING - MORNING (D2)

Jimmy, sweaty, arrives on foot and looks up at the building. A sign nearby reads "RHOADES COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL THERAPY CENTER." Jimmy takes a deep breath, *here goes*, and heads in.

10

INT. OFFICE - STAIRWELL - MOMENTS LATER (D2)

Jimmy goes up the stairs and pushes open a door to a small private office.

11

INT. PRIVATE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS (D2)

There is a man sitting in one of two chairs waiting. This is STEVEN (50s, blazer and slacks). He's taken aback by Jimmy's appearance.

STEVEN

Wow. You okay?

Jimmy nods and uncomfortably sits.

JIMMY

Sorry I'm late.

(smiles, gets nothing)

Steven, what's on your mind today?

We end this mislead, as we realize this is Jimmy's office. He is not going to get help. He is the THERAPIST.

TITLE: SHRINKING

12 INT. OFFICE - KITCHENETTE - AN HOUR LATER (D2)

Jimmy HOLDS HIS HEAD UNDER THE SINK, drowning his face for WAY TOO LONG. GABY, (33, whip-smart) walks in.

GABY

'Sup, Jimmy?

Gaby puts her empty coffee cup in the sink next to his face. Jimmy does not remove his head from the sink.

JIMMY

Morning, Gaby...

She exits. We PRE-LAP Jimmy's next line.

JIMMY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

So, what's on your mind today?

CUT TO:

13 INT. JIMMY'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER (D2)

We see a MONTAGE of Jimmy's patients that day, like:

- A MIDDLE-AGED GUY with no family or friend connections that just complains about how awful people are.
- A PATIENT dealing with the same recurring relationship issues, both with his mom and his romantic life.
- AN OCD PATIENT talking about "inside clothes" and "outside clothes."
- A WOMAN dealing with a fear of abandonment.
- And a FEW OTHERS depending on future stories.

This parade of people repeating the same complaints over and over weighs on Jimmy. We see Jimmy's frustration grow until...

14 INT. JIMMY'S OFFICE - LATER (D2)

This time it is GRACE (early 30's). She has a fragile look. Jimmy is clearly in his own head, frustrated that he's as stuck as anyone he's treating, especially...

GRACE

This time it was my fault. I left my sunglasses at the store. He was so mad we had to go back.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GRACE (CONT'D)

Turns out they weren't at the store; they were just on my head. But then I left my purse there. He kept going on and on about how dumb I am.

JIMMY

You're not dumb.

GRACE

I don't know. I forget stuff, I lose stuff. I don't even know where my social security card is.

JIMMY

No one knows where their social security card is.

GRACE

He said if it weren't for my great tits, no one would want to take care of me. So that's almost nice.

JIMMY

It's not nice.

As Grace goes on, Jimmy puts his FACE IN HIS HANDS. The camera pushes in as he struggles with building frustrations.

GRACE

I know. But... He loves me. He's just under a lot of stress. He always tells me his boss is a real bitch. And he's--

JIMMY

ENOUGH!

They are both surprised by his outburst.

GRACE

What?

JIMMY

Sorry, it's just we've been doing this for two years now. Grace, I've never seen a guy tell a woman that she's dumb and lucky she has great tits and thought to myself, "wow, they must really be in love." And you always say how great he is, well I saw him. He's got too many muscles, it's gross. No one likes that.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

14

CONTINUED: (2)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

His shirts are too tight, his goatee is soooo stupid, and what's that word - fugly, he's fugly, okay? He's a fugly, fugly man. Fugly inside and out.

GRACE

I'm not sure what's happening.

Neither is Jimmy. He takes a deep, calming breath.

JIMMY

Your husband is emotionally abusive. He's not working on it and doesn't intend to. He has made you think it's all you deserve and *it isn't*. Fucking leave him.

She sits back, stunned. Jimmy is a little stunned too.

GRACE

It's not that easy--

JIMMY

It is. You don't have kids. Head to your sister's in Vancouver.

GRACE

But-

JIMMY

This isn't a discussion. Leave him or I'm done being your therapist. Call me when you're out of there.

There is a LONG BEAT OF SILENT TENSION. Jimmy knows that he's gone too far. Just as he's about to walk his words back...

GRACE

Okay.

There's a beat as they both process this. Shellshocked, Grace LEAVES. We stay with Jimmy, *what just happened?*

15

INT. OFFICE - KITCHENETTE - AFTERNOON (D2)

DR. PAUL RHOADES (75, very frank with a twinkle, blue collar shrink) is sitting. Paul has mild signs of Parkinson's, which he and his colleagues are aware of. He intently watches Gaby fill her GIANT WATER BOTTLE from the water cooler.

GABY

Something on your mind, Paul?

(CONTINUED)

PAUL

That's too much water.

GABY

Look at this skin. DAF. That's "dewy as fuck." I pound one of these a day. No more migraines. Sleeping like a baby. And my bad knee is now a good knee. Get on board. I mean, do you know what percentage of you is actually water?

PAUL

I know what percentage of me doesn't give a shit.

GABY

That's just the dehydration talking.

Paul can't help but smile. Jimmy enters, with the energy of an excited kid with a secret.

PAUL

How goes it, kid?

JIMMY

Normal.

(off his look)

Yeah, I'm normal, it's a normal day, just doin' it normal style.

(then AWFUL segue)

Paul, you know what I was thinking?

GABY

Is it about how normal you are?

JIMMY

Do you guys ever get so mad at your patients that you can't even hear what they're saying and you just want to shake them? Don't get me wrong, I'm rooting for all of them, I am, I'm like, "Come on, fucked up person, you can change!" But they never do.

PAUL

Compassion fatigue. We all hit these walls. You listen. You ask questions. You stay non-judgmental.

(off Jimmy's eye roll)

And you don't make that face.

(CONTINUED)

JIMMY

But we know what they should do!
Don't you ever wish we could just
make them do it?

PAUL

Great idea. We should rob our
patients of any autonomy, and their
ability to help themselves. We
should just be psychological
vigilantes.

GABY

Clocking the sarcasm, but that
actually sounds badass.

JIMMY

Doesn't it?

Paul ignores their joking and stares through Jimmy.

PAUL

What did you do?

JIMMY

What? I didn't do anything.
(off his look)
I didn't. I'm just stuck with a few
patients - trying to think of ways
to shake things up. Anyway, got
someone else right now. Gonna go
handle it by... the... book.

He exits. Paul watches him go. Then turns to see Gaby take a
super long sip from her water bottle.

PAUL

You know, Virginia Woolf tried to
drown herself too.

INT. OFFICE - HALLWAY - END OF DAY (D2)

Jimmy heads out, exhausted. He takes out his cell and texts
Grace: "**Just checking in.**" Three dots come up as if she's
responding. They disappear. He reacts, *shit*. Gaby enters, as
always, with her water bottle.

GABY

Where are you going?

JIMMY

Home. Maybe a bath. I moved a TV in
there so I can watch movies.

(CONTINUED)

GABY

Living the dream. I need to ditch a referral on you.

(hands him a file)

Easy peasy: young soldier, was overseas, discharged six months ago. He keeps getting busted for assault. Parents are freaking out.

JIMMY

(re: file)

This isn't easy peasy.

GABY

Come on, I cover for you all the time.

JIMMY

Yeah, but I'm really pumped for my bath movie. I've never seen the original Home Alone.

GABY

That's more important than my thing.

JIMMY

Fine, I'll do it.

Gaby does the classic Macaulay Culkin hands on face pose.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

GABY

You'll get it later. Goodnight.

She's gone. Jimmy removes his coat.

INT. JIMMY'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER (D2)

Jimmy is now across from SEAN (22, distant, seemingly unthreatening). He seems gawky and young, except for the way he looks at Jimmy, trying to figure him out. Jimmy is looking down at the file, trying to cram it all in. He wants to do a good job for this kid, but he is EXHAUSTED.

JIMMY

Why don't you tell me why you think you're here?

SEAN

Bar fight. Court ordered anger management blah blah blah.

JIMMY

What happened?

SEAN

Same as always. Someone got in my face. I wasn't having it. He bumped my shoulder. Like, "fuck you."

JIMMY

Did he say, "fuck you?"
(off Sean's silence)
So it was more of an implied "fuck you." I hate those.
(re: Sean)
Are you doing one of those now?

SEAN

Maybe. Look man, I got in a couple fights, no big deal, but they called the cops. I tried to explain to my parents--

Jimmy has to YAWN. His cheeks shudder as he tries to STIFLE IT. But it comes out:

SEAN (CONT'D)

-are you yawning?

JIMMY

No.

SEAN

-are you fucking serious, dude?

JIMMY

Okay, I was yawning. But it has nothing to do with you or your story. Your story is riveting. Please go on.

SEAN

Can I go?

JIMMY

Of course. Sorry.

Sean gets up emotionless, exits. Jimmy is pissed at himself.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Fuck!

18 EXT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - EARLY EVENING (N2)

Jimmy walks up the driveway and unlocks the door to his house. He calls out.

JIMMY

Hello?

He follows the SOUND OF A FIGHT into the living room.

19 INT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - FLASHBACK (FB1-N)

His wife, TIA, (37, kind) is on the couch watching TV. Jimmy stands in the doorway. He glances at the TV. A man is PUNCHING another man. It's an MMA MATCH AND IT'S BLOODY. He looks away.

JIMMY

Ugh. That's so gross.

TIA

Had a long day. This relaxes me.

JIMMY

You've got a problem.

He glances back at the TV, just in time to see something graphic. He winces. Tia laughs.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I could take any of those guys.

He makes a jokey stance, like he's a karate fighter.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

'Cause if it's really no rules, I'm gonna pinch.

He comes towards her, pinching his thumb and finger together.

TIA

Don't be a puss. There's no pinching in MMA.

JIMMY

There should be. Pinch!

He PINCHES her.

TIA

Ow! Stop.

(CONTINUED)

19

JIMMY

Okay. Pinch!

She tries to get him in a HEADLOCK. He keeps pinching her saying "pinch!" each time he does. They both LAUGH as she tries to wrestle him to the ground. He picks her up and BODY SLAMS her onto the couch. She is laughing so much. So is he.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I heard a rib crack. You okay?

She FLIPS herself out from under, landing on top of him. She looks him in the eyes and as she leans in for a KISS... the lights from a car, ILLUMINATE the wall through the window.

A20 INT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - BACK TO PRESENT (N2)

Jimmy sits up, turning to see the car. THE ROOM IS NOW EMPTY. The MEMORY hurts his heart.

The car doors open. Jimmy WATCHES AS LIZ AND ALICE go into Liz's house.

20 INT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER (N2)

Jimmy checks his phone. No word from Grace. Fuck.

He opens the message chain between him, KIARA, and SARAH. The last text is from them and reads: "**Home safe!**" with a heart on it.

He types in "*What are you two up to tonight?*"

"Nothing. Wanna hang?"

He takes a moment. Looks out the window. Types:

"Nah, I'm busy."

"Then why did you ask?"

"Not sure."

A thumbs down emoji pops up.

JIMMY

That's fair.

21 I/E. LIZ AND DEREK'S HOME - DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER (N2)

Jimmy SNEAKS around in the dark. He sees Liz and Alice through the window eating dinner. Liz asks questions, Alice answers sweetly.

Jimmy wades through a WAIST HIGH BUSH when it SETS OFF A SECURITY LIGHT. He FREEZES. Liz and Alice look back. He WAVES. Alice rolls her eyes, focuses on her dinner. Liz comes to the window, opens it.

LIZ

Hi, Jimmy.

JIMMY

Hi, Liz.

LIZ

You're in my bushes.

JIMMY

Yep. I am... Great bushes by the way. Really well kept. Is it topiary? Is that what you call it?

LIZ

I don't fucking know, Jimmy. Some guy does 'em.

JIMMY

How's Alice?

LIZ

(looks back)
You okay, Alice?

Alice gives a THUMBS UP but doesn't look at Jimmy.

LIZ (CONT'D)

She's fine. She's fed. She had soccer practice tonight.

JIMMY

Soccer started?

Liz looks dead at him. Genuinely shocked.

LIZ

Yeah. And she's a rock star this season.

JIMMY

Huh.

(CONTINUED)

21

LIZ
(makes a decision)
I'm sorry, but I gotta ask. Is this
you forever?

This stings Jimmy. She sees it.

JIMMY
I don't know.

LIZ
(considers it, then)
You haven't eaten. I'm getting you
a plate.

22

EXT. LIZ AND DEREK'S HOME - FRONT PORCH - MOMENTS LATER (N2)

The front door is open. Jimmy waits by it. Alice ZIPS BY HIM
with her backpack, going towards their house.

JIMMY
How was your day, was it-

Alice doesn't break stride and says nothing back.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
We'll talk more later.

Liz hands Jimmy a PLATE OF CHICKEN. He looks at it, grateful.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Thanks. Is this all white meat?
(off her look)
Doesn't matter. I love it.

LIZ
Alice is amazing. Before you know
it, she'll be gone to college and
you'll wish you hadn't screwed it
up so bad that she never wants to
come home.

JIMMY
Think I might've already done that.

LIZ
Oh, fuck it, then.
(then)
Get back in the game, Jimmy.

This sits with him. He then reaches for the chicken.

(CONTINUED)

22

LIZ (CONT'D)

Don't be an animal. Wait 'til you
get home and use a fork.

Jimmy nods. The second Liz's door closes, he digs into the
food with his hands like an animal. Derek, gets out of his
car, home from work, and passes Jimmy without slowing.

DEREK

Jimmy.

JIMMY

(mouthful)

Derek.

DEREK

Thought I was done raising kids, so
thanks for that.

JIMMY

No problem. You're gonna love
dinner. It's amazing.

23

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - MORNING (D3)

Paul is awkwardly shaving as he talks on the phone. *

PAUL

...Look, I support trying to
connect with Alice, but don't force
it. It won't work.

23

INT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME TIME (D3)

Jimmy is making an omelette for himself and Alice. From now
on we INTERCUT.

JIMMY

I don't know, she loves omelettes.
I think it'll work.

PAUL

Always feel free to call me first
thing in the morning to ask a
question and then tell me I'm
wrong. It's what I live for.

Right then, Alice enters. Jimmy covers, so he's not talking
about her.

(CONTINUED)

JIMMY

Three o'clock is perfect. Bye.

Jimmy hangs up. As Paul reacts, unfazed:

PAUL

Dipshit.

Jimmy talks to Alice.

JIMMY

Morning. Got early practice today?
For the soccer that's started?

ALICE

Weight room.

JIMMY

Oh, I know all about the weight
room.

(flexes, makes sounds)

Doosh! Doosh!

(no smile)

Cool. I'm making you an omelette.
Exercise needs protein.

Alice opens the fridge. Takes out two overnight oat jars.

ALICE

Here's your oats, these are mine.

JIMMY

(re: omelette)

This is almost done.

ALICE

I'm happy with my oats. Liz can't
take me, so I'm gonna bike in.

He looks down at the eggs, *uh oh*.

EXT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - SIDE OF THE HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER (D3)

Alice stands next to where her mountain bike used to be.
Jimmy stands in the doorway behind her.

ALICE

Where's my bike?

JIMMY

That's crazy. Where *is* your bike?

25 EXT. PASADENA - LOCATION WHERE JIMMY LEFT BIKE - MORNING (D3)

Jimmy grabs the mountain bike and helmet from the bush where he left it. He struggles to put it in the back of the car.

26 INT. JIMMY'S OFFICE - MORNING (D3)

Sean stares at Jimmy. He has Sean's folder in front of him.

JIMMY

I'm glad you came back.

SEAN

No choice. I told my dad you sucked balls, but my mom said she didn't know what else to do, and then she cried again.

JIMMY

Look, you're right. I did suck balls. But I want you to know, I'm normally very good at this.

(HIS PHONE RINGS)

Sorry, that should be off.

Sean rolls his eyes. Jimmy takes out his phone. IT'S GRACE.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I have to take this.

SEAN

Of course you fucking do.

JIMMY

Hi, Grace!

Jimmy holds up a hand to quiet Sean, mouths 'just one sec.'

26 INT. GRACE'S SISTER'S - VANCOUVER - SAME TIME (D3)

Grace is at her sister's. We INTERCUT.

GRACE

I did it... I left. I'm with my sister.

JIMMY

I'm so proud of you. I have to call you back, 'cause I'm with a patient. But I will, okay? Promise.

(CONTINUED)

GRACE

Okay. I just... thank you, Jimmy.

She hangs up. Jimmy smiles. Jimmy reacts, pumped, and ad libs: "Fuck yeah!", etc. Sean looks at him confused.

JIMMY

That was someone I helped. I helped the shit out of her.

SEAN

Why are you bragging?

JIMMY

'Cause I want you to give me another shot. Last time I was probably a little high and drunk from the night before. I've had some shit going on.

Sean is surprised by the admission. Jimmy takes a PICTURE OUT OF THE FOLDER.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Look, Sean, we have to talk, because this isn't a picture of someone who got into a 'no big deal' bar fight with you.

Jimmy shows the picture. It's a MAN'S FACE, BEATEN SEVERELY.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

This is a guy who you kept hitting even after he was unconscious. Once with a bottle. Is that right?

SEAN

(beat, then decides)
Yeah.

JIMMY

And this has been happening a lot?
(Sean nods)
What sets you off?

SEAN

Someone bumping me, someone looking at me funny, someone breathing... I don't even know what's going on until it's over...
(almost vulnerable)
Can you make it stop?

Jimmy considers this.

(CONTINUED)

26

JIMMY

Don't know. There's a chance. You trust me?

SEAN

Fuck no.

JIMMY

Doesn't matter. I'm a psychological vigilante.

(stands)

Let's go find someone for you to beat up.

SEAN

Wait, what?

27

INT. MMA GYM - DAY (D3)

Jimmy walks Sean into an MMA gym. There are people in a ring wearing pads. They are going at it. Sean looks interested.

SEAN

MMA? You like this shit?

JIMMY

Not a fan, no. It's super dangerous.

A big man, GREG, comes over.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Hey! My friend Sean here would like to spar. He's a veteran and seems really good at hitting people.

28

INT. MMA GYM - MOMENTS LATER (D3)

Sean is padded up and in the ring with Greg. Jimmy watches. Sean starts with understandable trepidation and gets hit in the ribs. We suddenly see his violent side as Sean explodes and throws six quick punches. But Greg is experienced, blocks them, and cracks Sean hard in the face. Jimmy winces, then claps.

JIMMY

You got this, Sean. Hey--

Sean looks over. Jimmy makes a crab claw with his hand.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Pinch him!

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

Sean reacts confused, and gets hit again.

29 EXT. MMA GYM - LATER (D3)

Sean, with a bloody nose, bruises, and fat lip, sits on a bench next to Jimmy. Both eat POPSICLES from a nearby truck.

JIMMY

Put that on your lip for a sec,
it'll help with the swelling.

(Sean does)

I think we made progress.

SEAN

Really?

JIMMY

I wanna say yes.

SEAN

So, you just wanted to see me get
my ass kicked?

JIMMY

I read your file. Your time
overseas was filled with trauma and
violence. And all that violence is
still in you, and it keeps finding
ways to come out. What you resist,
persists. That's Carl Jung. I know
that because I know shit. I guess I
figure if you beat the crap out of
someone who is totally cool with
it... maybe that'll keep you from
kicking the shit out of anyone who
breathes wrong in a bar somewhere.
Then we can get to figuring out
what's underneath all this. With
you not in jail.

SEAN

(considers, then)

You think it'll work?

JIMMY

Definitely. Or it'll make your
bloodlust stronger and you'll be
twice as dangerous. We'll see.

Sean smiles. They sit eating their popsicles in peace. Then:

(CONTINUED)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Still think you shoulda pinched
him.

Jimmy notices BRIAN (same age, upbeat, business suit. Brian
joins the show in episode 2) at a gas station. Jimmy looks
panicked and suddenly hides behind Sean.

SEAN

Who was that guy?

JIMMY

My best friend. Nicest guy in the
world, we gotta get outta here
before he sees us.

Jimmy gets up, Sean follows.

SEAN

You're pretty fucked up.

JIMMY

No more than you.

Sean can't help but smile a bit. We PRE-LAP Gaby from the
next scene.

GABY (O.S.)

You made him fight people?

INT. GABY'S OFFICE - MORNING (D4)

Gaby, still with her water bottle, is at her desk opening an
Amazon box. Jimmy is there.

JIMMY

Yeah, I know it's crazy, but I
think there's something to it and
he's starting to trust me... What
do you think?

Gaby takes a new water bottle out of the box. It is much
smaller than hers, but it is the exact same color.

GABY

I think this water bottle looks
like my water bottle's baby.

JIMMY

Okay.

GABY

Do you think Paul would use this?
I've been working on him for a
while. One of the articles I read
said with Parkinson's, you're
especially vulnerable to
dehydration. I'm going to sneak it
onto his desk.

JIMMY

That's sweet. And intrusive. Kind
of your trademark. Why aren't you
answering my question?

GABY

Because that shit with Sean is so
unethical I feel like an accomplice
just hearing about it. So instead,
I'm gonna focus on this shit.

She hugs him. Jimmy is surprised by it. He hugs her back.

GABY (CONT'D)

Nice to see your spark back though.

Gaby exits with the small water bottle. Jimmy smiles.

31A-L INT. MMA GYM / JIMMY'S HOUSE - MONTAGE (M1-M12)

Music cue: **Angry Young Man by Billy Joel.**

PUNCH! A MONTAGE of fights in the gym. This has been a weekly
thing. Sean HIT in the face. Jimmy REACTS. The passage of
time is shown through marks on Sean's face and the color of
his vests changing. At one point, we see Sean IN A HOLD. He
PINCHES the guy to get out of it. Jimmy looks delighted.

Interspersed, we see scenes of Jimmy and Alice, including:

- Alice is doing homework in the den with her BEATS on. Jimmy
enters, asks if she wants to watch TV. "I'm doing homework."
She gathers her stuff and walks out. Stung, Jimmy takes his
cell phone to call...

- Paul is on the phone with Jimmy again. He reaches back and
we REVEAL he is on the toilet. He flushes. *
*

- Jimmy "finds" her bike in the carport. She is not
impressed.

- Gaby sneaks the "baby" water bottle onto Paul's desk.

(CONTINUED)

31A-L CONTINUED:

- Jimmy watches Liz and Alice animatedly talking as Liz drives Alice off to school over the course of a few days.

- Alice is in the den again, BEATS on, studying. This time, instead of intruding, Jimmy quietly slinks in, trying not to disturb Alice. He sits quietly on the couch with a BOOK. She looks at him. He makes the mistake of slightly smiling. She gets up and leaves. He reacts, defeated.

- In the bathroom, we catch a glimpse of a photo on the wall of BRIAN MARRYING Jimmy and Tia. Jimmy is in his bath, watching a 75-inch TV dragged in with an extension chord and balanced on a chair. On the screen, Macaulay Culkin in Home Alone makes 'the face'.

JIMMY

Now I get it.

32 INT. OFFICE - HALLWAY - MORNING (D5)

Jimmy enters and goes into his office...

33 INT. JIMMY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS (D5)

Only to find Paul in his chair waiting for him. It startles Jimmy.

JIMMY

Whoa! Hey, Paul. You good?

PAUL

Sit down, Jimmy.

JIMMY

Is this gonna be a fun talk or-

PAUL

I just got a call from Sean's dad. Apparently he came home from your "session" missing part of a tooth, and he wants us to pay for it?

JIMMY

So not a fun talk.

34 INT. JIMMY'S OFFICE - MINUTES LATER (D5)

Paul sits as Jimmy paces, a little manic, explaining himself.

(CONTINUED)

JIMMY

I don't know how I got here either.
I guess one thing kinda led to the
other. No way I make Sean fight
cage matches, if I hadn't already
forced Grace to leave her husband.

PAUL

You did what?

JIMMY

It's good. She left the country.
She's psyched about it!

PAUL

Christ, Jimmy.

(then)

I thought I told you to sit.

JIMMY

If I sit, I'll feel like I'm in
trouble.

PAUL

You are.

JIMMY

I think I can help people if I get
my hands a little dirtier. Can't
you just give me some rope here?

PAUL

(sighs)

Be me for a second. Would you trust
you? The answer is no.

JIMMY

You didn't let me be you.

Paul gestures, *go ahead.*

JIMMY (CONT'D)

(as Paul)

I always believe in whatever you
wanna do, Jimmy. You're the best.

(off Paul's look)

You're competent and very handsome.

Paul can't help but smile.

PAUL

I don't talk like that.

(then, softening)

I'm worried about you.

(CONTINUED)

JIMMY

I get it. I know this last year,
I've been... not great. But I feel
like I'm onto something. Let me
keep going. Please?

Paul considers him for a very long beat.

PAUL

Are you at least *trying* to be
careful? You're not gonna burn your
career down and take me with you?

JIMMY

Coin flip. Look, Paul--

PAUL

If it's possible for you, just give
me ten seconds of silence to think
about this.

Jimmy gets nervously silent for ten seconds, but he still
squirms as Paul stares at him. Finally, acquiescing:

PAUL (CONT'D)

Get out of here.

Jimmy exhales, relieved, and heads out. He gets to the door.

JIMMY

This is my office.

PAUL

That took you longer than it should
have.

Paul gets up and leaves.

EXT. MMA GYM - END OF DAY (D5)

Sean, with a black eye, sits with Jimmy on their bench. This
time they have slushies. Sean presses his against his eye.

JIMMY

What truly makes you happy?

SEAN

Blue slushies.

JIMMY

Me too. But seriously. When were
you last happy?

SEAN

I don't want to think about it.
(off Jimmy's look)
Every time I remember something
that made me happy, I see where I
am today, and I get pissed...
'Cause that time is gone. I'm not
getting it back.

JIMMY

I know how you feel.

SEAN

Fuck you.

Sean looks away.

JIMMY

My wife died. She was killed in a
car accident. Last time I saw her,
we were in a fight. It was...
brutal.

Sean looks at him, surprised by his candor.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

And sometimes, sometimes I can't
help thinking about the good stuff.
I don't want to. But once in a
while, a really great memory of her
sneaks up on me. Even just little
dumb things. And when I come out of
it, I feel like I want to... I
don't know. It's just so awful
without her... I wish I could
remember her and not feel that way.

SEAN

(beat)
You supposed to tell me this shit?

JIMMY

Probably not.

Sean nods. Jimmy smiles. A moment of connection.

EXT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - THE NEXT MORNING (D6)

We start full frame on Jimmy's phone. A text reads: **My sister
and me on her deck.** He touches the text and we see a picture
of Grace and GRACE'S SISTER happy and smiling. Jimmy smiles,
on a high, grabs his paper. Derek walks by, walking his DOG.

(CONTINUED)

36

JIMMY
Morning, Derek!

DEREK
Hey, Jimmy. Just walking the dog I
didn't want.

JIMMY
(re: phone)
My patient moved into her sister's
house.

Derek's jovial, but doesn't break stride.

DEREK
Sounds like the day's off to a
great start for both of us.

Jimmy manages to side step his sprinklers this time as he
cheerfully heads inside.

37

INT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MINUTES LATER (D6)

Jimmy has gotten Alice's oats out. Alice enters from upstairs
with her backpack, a little stressed.

JIMMY
Got some fresh blueberries for your
morning oats. 'Cause I know you
love your oats. Even though no one
loves oats. They taste like wet
paper.
(no response)
Sit. Eat. We don't have to talk or
anything.

ALICE
Have you seen my jersey?

Jimmy couldn't be more excited to tell her-

JIMMY
I washed it for you.

He tosses it to her, so proud. She catches it, looks at it
for a beat. He waits, expectantly.

ALICE
It's not enough. What you're trying
to do. You've been walking around
for so long like it only happened
to you, but it happened to us. It
happened to me.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

37

CONTINUED:

ALICE (CONT'D)

And I'm dealing with this on my own because I had to. So please don't think that blueberries and washing a shirt is enough to make me forgive all that.

Jimmy reacts. She exits.

38

EXT. MIDTOWN STREET - AFTERNOON (D6)

Sean walks through the streets. He heads toward a couple. The WOMAN eyes him up. The MAN of the couple clocks this. As they pass him, the man shoulder barges Sean.

MAN

You got a problem?

Sean spins around. His face goes cold as the man walks back to him. Tension. SOUNDS BLARE as the man gets right in Sean's face, staring him down. The sounds build to a crescendo and-

39

EXT. OFFICE - BALCONY - SAME TIME (D6)

Jimmy exits the kitchenette onto the balcony walkway when his phone vibrates. He answers.

JIMMY

Hello.

SEAN (PHONE V.O.)

Can you... can you come get me?

40

EXT. MIDTOWN - SIDE STREET - AFTERNOON (D6)

Jimmy pulls up to a side street. Sean is there, sitting on a curb, head in his hands. Jimmy tentatively steps towards him, slow, like someone approaching a wounded animal.

JIMMY

Hey, Sean.

No answer. He gently sits down next to him. Sean keeps his head in his hands. His voice is quiet.

SEAN

A guy... he bumped me as I was walking past.

JIMMY

That's not smart... What happened?

(CONTINUED)

Sean gets up, starts pacing, adrenaline pumping.

SEAN

I looked at his fat fucking face,
and I just... I walked away.

(off Jimmy's look)

I didn't do *anything*. And now I'm
so fucking furious, I feel like
kicking your ass instead.

JIMMY

I gotta be honest, Sean. I don't
love that idea.

SEAN

I wouldn't do it. I just wanted to
tell you what happened, that's all.

Sean continues pacing. Jimmy considers this for a second,
then RAISES HIS ARMS, VICTORIOUS:

JIMMY

Yeah! Two for two, bitches!

SEAN

What are you doing?

JIMMY

I'm celebrating! You didn't kill a
random douchebag. Progress, baby!
Being mad is okay. I'm mad all the
time. Mad, fine. Punch, bad. You
hungry? I'm hungry.

SEAN

You're batshit crazy, man.

JIMMY

I'm just pumped. Let's eat. Wanna
grab some dinner?

SEAN

Sure, but don't you have to feed
your kid?

JIMMY

She has a soccer game. Apparently
she's very good.

SEAN

So why aren't you there? Oh shit,
is it 'cause I called you?

(CONTINUED)

40

JIMMY
No, it's 'cause I'm awful.

SEAN
(unfazed)
Fuck that. Let's go.

Sean heads towards Jimmy's car. Jimmy considers, then:

JIMMY
Okay.

Jimmy hurries to the car. He starts it and they zip away.

41

I/E. JIMMY'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER (D6)

Jimmy has stopped. Traffic is bumper to bumper.

JIMMY
We're not gonna make it. It starts
in ten.

SEAN
Why is there so much traffic? Is it
'cause of the game?

JIMMY
Yeah. This is because of a high
school girls' soccer game.

Frustrated, Jimmy weaves his car out of traffic, onto the sidewalk, and gets out. Sean follows.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
We're only two miles away. Let's
hoof it.

SEAN
You can't just leave your car here.

JIMMY
I'm a white guy in Pasadena. The
cops'll probably just take it back
to my house for me.

Sean nods and runs. Jimmy runs after.

42

EXT. STREETS - MOMENTS LATER (D6)

Jimmy is almost instantly out of breath, holding Sean's shoulder at a light.

(CONTINUED)

42

JIMMY
Let's pace ourselves.

SEAN
Dude, when's the last time you exercised?

JIMMY
Right after the accident, my best friend made me play pickleball to cheer me up, and I rolled my ankle. So like a year.

SEAN
Hold my hoodie string and keep up.

43 EXT. PARK - MOMENTS LATER (D6)

They run through the park. Sean running, and we REVEAL Jimmy panting behind, holding the stretched out hoody string.

After a few running cuts, Jimmy straining in each, Jimmy finally trips, and goes down. He grabs his ankle.

JIMMY
Yep. That's the pickle ankle.

Sean stands over him.

SEAN
Oh, get your ass up.

Jimmy just looks up at him.

44 EXT. SOCCER FIELD - MOMENTS LATER (D6)

The school soccer field. Sean rounds the corner of the parking lot, CARRYING JIMMY ACROSS HIS SHOULDERS, like a fallen soldier. They get to the field right on time. Sean puts Jimmy down, and lets him limp to the sideline.

Jimmy passes MALIK (a faculty member we will meet in 102).

JIMMY
Did I miss anything?

MALIK
Just starting.

Parents lined along the side. Sunshine. Jimmy, sweaty as fuck, takes a position next to Sean.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Referee's WHISTLE. The teams are in formation. Alice is up front. She hasn't noticed him. The players start the game. Alice immediately does a one-two pass. SHE'S GOOD.

We see Jimmy's intoxication at watching her play well.

The ball goes out of play for a corner. As Jimmy looks over to the corner flag, he catches Liz (without Derek) along the row. Liz clocks him and nods. He nods back, making a face like, 'check her out!'

The ball is looped over the defense. Alice runs full speed, catching the ball with her heel, and tips it forward to her teammate, who SCORES.

They all CHEER. Jimmy involuntarily LEAPS to his feet, as does Sean. Jimmy hugs Sean, cheering.

JIMMY

You see that?! Go, Alice!

Alice's team CELEBRATES around her. She nods, accepting it, but remains stoic. She then glances up to the stands, and SEES HER DAD WATCHING. She doesn't smile, but we see it affect her. She's back on the ball, a twinkle in her eye.

Jimmy and Sean, side-by-side, watch the game. It's idyllic. Another goal is scored. They leap up and cheer again. A true happy ending...

Then, Jimmy sees AN IMPOSING MAN on the other side of the field. He seems to be LOOKING STRAIGHT AT JIMMY.

Jimmy squints. *Is he walking towards us?* Then it becomes clear... this guy is walking straight across the field. STRAIGHT TOWARD JIMMY.

Some react, but most don't notice. The guy reaches Jimmy and GRABS HIM by the lapel.

GRACE'S HUSBAND

You fucking told my wife to leave me!? That's what I paid for??

He HEADBUTTS Jimmy. Then KICKS him when he's on the ground. We hear SCREAMS. The other parents, in shock, leap back, terrified. The girls on the field look over as GRACE'S HUSBAND, DONNY, starts to HIT Jimmy. Liz RUSHES OVER to help.

And then, all of a sudden, DONNY IS PULLED OFF of Jimmy. By, of course, Sean. Sean, his face cold, then proceeds to PUNCH Donny in the face. Over and over. Parents step in to try and pull him off. MORE punches fly.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: (2)

Liz covers her face as she sees blood spurt. IT IS CHAOS.

45 EXT. SOCCER FIELD - LATER (D6)

An ambulance and three police cars, their lights flashing, are at the side of the field. The game's been called. Parents scream at each other.

We see Sean, handcuffed and bleeding, being led into the back of a police car.

Donny is on a stretcher, being put into the ambulance.

Jimmy sits on the grass, face covered in blood, holding an ice pack to his cheek. He's staring, in shock, at the people walking around.

Alice comes into view. She stands over him, then kneels down so her face is near his.

ALICE

(meaning it)

Thanks for coming to my game, Dad.

Jimmy smiles at her.

JIMMY

I would have come sooner, it's just... you look so much like your Mom.

She nods, understanding. And we float away...

END.