

Production WHITE Draft

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This Is Us

618

"Us"

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ACT ONE

1 INT. JACK AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY 1 (1992) 1

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

Rebecca lies in bed, sleeping.

We watch her sleep in close-up, from a POV that one only has when lying in bed directly next to their loved one.

ANGLE ON JACK

The source of our POV, watching his beautiful wife sleep.

As he watches her, he notices something.

Using his fingertip he traces, without touching her, the outer corner of her eyebrow.

She stirs and he backs off. Rebecca's eyes open slowly. She sees Jack looking at her and smiles:

REBECCA

Hey.

JACK

Hey.

REBECCA

(groggy)

I had such a good dream.

JACK

Yeah? What about?

Rebecca shakes her head.

REBECCA

I just know it was good. Can't remember what it was about.

JACK

(beat, then)

Probably me.

REBECCA

(with a smile)

Probably.

JACK

Probably sex.

(CONTINUED)

REBECCA

Probably.

Jack LAUGHS, looks at her.

JACK

You have a little scar right next to your eyebrow.

REBECCA

(reflexively touching it)

Yeah.

JACK

I don't know how I never noticed it before.

REBECCA

I got too much sun the other day. It comes out when I get sun.

JACK

(can't believe it)

Never noticed it before.

She rolls over, facing him, and he examines it (*note: it's so small we don't even have to see it on camera*).

REBECCA

(explaining)

When I was a little girl, there was this little playground near my house. My dad would take me sometimes. It had a really lame slide that would give you burn marks on your butt, and a weird little rocking horse thing that only had one eye and totally creeped me out. But it had this one swing. God, I loved that swing. My dad would push me on it and one time I turned around on the way back down, and he wasn't looking, and his watch hit me, right there, above the eye. He felt terrible, but I didn't care. It was my favorite thing in the world, him pushing me on that swing.

She thinks. Jack examines her eye.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

It was such a treat for me, going there with him. But whenever we'd go, I'd just spend the entire time worrying about when he'd stop pushing me, when he'd say it was time to go home.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

1

CONTINUED: (2)

1

REBECCA (CONT'D)

(then)

I wish I enjoyed it all more while it was happening, instead of worrying so much about when it would end.

She shakes her head.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

God, I wish I could remember that dream.

JACK

It'll come to you.

REBECCA

Hope so.

Rebecca SIGHS, stands.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

Hey, Randall's math thing got cancelled. We have a Saturday with no plans. No football games, no play dates. What should we do?

JACK

Nothing?

Rebecca puts on a robe, smiles.

REBECCA

Nothing sounds very good.

Jack smiles, then:

JACK

I can't believe I never noticed your scar.

REBECCA

Hey. It's not going anywhere.

As Jack smiles, we...

CUT TO:

2

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY 1 (1955)

2

A crappy slide. A creepy rocking horse with one eye.

Young REBECCA (5) is pushed on a swing by her father.

DAVE

And now you... Swiinnnnng.

(CONTINUED)

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2 CONTINUED: 2

She SHRIEKS with glee.

3 EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY 1 (1986) 3

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

Rebecca pushes the youngest Big Three on a swing set.

REBECCA
Annnnnd we.... Swingggggg!

They giggle as she moves back and forth, keeping all three children moving.

The kids revel in her love, her attention, that swing.

4 EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY 1 (2022) 4

Kevin swings the twins on a playground.

KEVIN
And.. swingggg!!!! And again, we... swingggg!!!!

5 EXT. RANDALL AND BETH'S BACKYARD - DAY 1 (2012) 5

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

A younger Randall and Beth push little Tess and little Annie (4 and 2) on a playground swing set.

RANDALL
(with each push)
There goes the swingggggg. Swingggggggg.
And again, we... swinggggg. And we... swinggggg.

6 EXT. PARK - DAY 2 (2022) 6

Kate and Toby swing baby Jack and Hailey at the park.

KATE
We swingggg out... we swinggg back....

7 EXT. PARK - DAY 1 (2047) 7

Jack Jr. and Lucy swing their two year old HOPE.

(CONTINUED)

7

CONTINUED:

7

JACK JR.

There we go. Back and forth. And, we,
swinggggggg....

TITLE CARD: THIS IS US.

8 INT. JACK AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - BOYS' ROOM - DAY 1 (1992) 8

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

Little Randall sits upright, leaning against the headboard of his bed, lost in thought.

9 INT. REBECCA'S HOUSE - RANDALL'S BEDROOM - DAY 1 (2033) 9

Older Randall sits in bed, framed similarly. He looks to his left, where Older Beth sleeps soundly. To his right:

On the nightstand sits a pen and paper. A eulogy, unwritten. Garbled notes.

POSSIBLE FLASH: Jack contemplating his mother's eulogy.

Randall considers the task that lies ahead.

BACK TO:

10 INT. JACK AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - BOYS' ROOM - DAY 1 (1992) 10

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

We pan across the room from little Randall to little Kevin, also in his bed.

Kevin is also lost in thought, gazing at a CHIN-UP BAR hanging across their bedroom door.

11 INT. REBECCA'S HOUSE - KEVIN'S BEDROOM - DAY 1 (2033) 11

Older Kevin lies in bed with Sophie. He stands, grabs two ties. He holds the ties up in a nearby mirror, contemplates which one to choose.

He assesses his beard. It needs a trim. Something about the realization makes him smile.

12 INT. JACK AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - KATE'S ROOM - DAY 1 (1992) 12

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

(CONTINUED)

12

CONTINUED:

12

Little Kate lies in bed. She rolls over and looks at a photo of her family, framed next to her bed.

It's the iconic shot of the Pearson family, on the front lawn, post waterslide - a photo we've used so many times over the years.

It makes little Kate smile.

13

INT. REBECCA'S HOUSE - KATE'S BEDROOM - DAY 1 (2033)

13

Older Kate lies in bed with Older Philip. She's looking at the wall opposite her.

A PHOTO hangs: Rebecca and Kate on her wedding day.

A happy memory, a memory from before.

BACK TO:

14

INT. JACK AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - KATE'S ROOM - DAY 1 (1992) 14

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

Young Kate continues looking at the photo. Her smile fades, momentarily, as she considers something. Then:

JACK (O.S.)

Guys! Breakfast!

She smiles again at the sound of Jack's voice, gets up from the bed.

15

INT. JACK AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 1 (1992)

15

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

Jack makes breakfast for his kids. It's quite a process because the dude LIVES FOR THIS SHIT...

The prep, the routine, the Saturday morning extravagance of the "dad" breakfast.

Rebecca watches him out of the corner of her eye, as she sips her coffee and reads the paper.

He flips a pancake, pro-style, no spatula.

JACK

(not looking)

I know you saw that.

(CONTINUED)

15

CONTINUED:

15

Rebecca rolls her eyes. Jack flips again. He misses this one. It lands on the floor.

REBECCA

Saw that one.

Jack waves her off, undeterred, flips again.

CUT TO:

16

INT. RANDALL AND BETH'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 1 (2016) 16

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

FLIP. A spatula flips a different pancake in a different kitchen.

Randall is working the stove. Putting on a show for Beth, Tess, Annie, and... William.

RANDALL

Annie my dear? Long pour or short pour on the pancakes?

ANNIE

Long please.

RANDALL

Long pour, coming up!

Randall starts pouring chocolate syrup into the batter.

WILLIAM

Is he putting...

BETH

Only on the weekends once in a while, please don't judge me, I don't have it in me to stop this.

RANDALL

Worry not William, your son is no heathen father. Before we eat chocolate pancakes, the father rightfully demands that his children shall eat the fruit.

BETH

Oh Lord.

Randall grabs a melon, brings it over to the girls.

RANDALL

Promise me.

(CONTINUED)

16

CONTINUED:

16

TESS

Dad.

RANDALL

If you ever get married...

TESS

(sigh)

I won't elope.

Randall holds up the MELON.

RANDALL

You canteloupe.

Everyone groans/loves this.

BACK TO:

17

INT. JACK AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 1 (1992) 17

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

The kids ENTER, screaming.

KATE

Pancakes, yes!!!

JACK

Do you guys want blueberry, or do you
want chocolate...

REBECCA

Jack.

Rebecca looks to the kids, all pleading with their eyes.
She gives in with a wave.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

Just today.

(then)

And you will eat fruit too, so help me.

Jack, Rebecca and the kids eat. They talk, laugh, tell
stories, stick their faces through pancakes.

18

INT. RANDALL AND BETH'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 1 (2016) 18

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

(CONTINUED)

18

CONTINUED:

18

Randall, Beth and the girls continue enjoying breakfast together. They talk, laugh, tell stories, have fun with food, stick their face through pancakes.

At some point, we pan off of William and when we return to his seat in the same shot: Deja has taken William's place at the table.

She LAUGHS, now part of the ever evolving family journey.

19

INT. REBECCA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 1 (2033)

19

Deja, dressed for Rebecca's funeral, sits in a chair. Malik rubs her back. She checks her phone, then shakes her head at him. Whatever she's waiting for hasn't come yet.

She looks over to the kitchen, where...

20

INT. REBECCA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 1 (2033)

20

Beth (dressed in black) pours coffee. Randall ENTERS (also dressed). He approaches. She watches him.

BETH

How's writing going?

RANDALL

Slowly.

BETH

Service starts in... less than two hours.

RANDALL

I'm aware.

A beat. He sips coffee. He notices Beth looking at him.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

What?

BETH

Nothing. Just checking on you.

RANDALL

I'm good.

He takes another sips. Sees her watching him.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

(again, now with smile)

What?

(CONTINUED)

BETH

I think we need to bang out a worst case scenario.

RANDALL

About what?

BETH

You.

(then)

You go first.

RANDALL

I don't even know what we're worst case scenario-ing--

BETH

After burying your fourth and final parent, you lose it. No parent left to bury, you spend the rest of your days going to other people's parents' funerals, like a funeral creeper. Just crying single tears at funerals of parents you don't know.

(then)

Go.

RANDALL

I really don't think I'm gonna--

BETH

You buy an RV. You wake up one morning and you say: "Hey Beth, we should get an RV." I'm like, "Sure. I can get down with an RV." But then you just spend your days traveling back and forth between your parents various resting places. Just driving, from tree to tree.

(then)

You go.

RANDALL

Baby--

BETH

Mind you, I'm not even counting Miguel. I just realized that. Maybe you realize that, too. You decide you need to go to Puerto Rico, try and learn his deceased great grandmother's story, come home talking about swimming in the Atlantic Ocean with Miguel's great grandmamma's ghost-

(CONTINUED)

RANDALL

Beth.

She looks up.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

I'm okay. I am appropriately sad, and appropriately anxious about the eulogy. I have no plans to buy an RV.

BETH

Cause I don't even think you can drive an RV to Puerto Rico--

RANDALL

Nor do I have plans to commune with the spirit of Miguel's great grandmother in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. I'm centered and looking forward to this quiet next chapter with my wife, and our lives, and our eventual grandchildren.

BETH

And in terms of the quiet next chapter: where's your head at on deep fried Oreos?

RANDALL

Musing. You?

BETH

Same.

RANDALL

Honestly, I'm not sure it's for us. And I definitely don't think it's nutritious.

Beth nods. As Randall thinks about this, we return to another pretty unhealthy breakfast...

BACK TO:

21 INT. JACK AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 1 (1992) 21

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

The family sits at the table, eating their chocolate pancakes. Rebecca taps on her coffee cup with a spoon.

REBECCA

So guys, since Randall's math contest got cancelled--

(CONTINUED)

RANDALL

Mathletes.

(explaining)

It's not a contest, it's a group of math enthusiasts who compete... forget it, go ahead.

Rebecca looks at Jack, he shrugs. She gets to the point:

REBECCA

We've got a completely free Saturday.
Just us.

KEVIN

Uch.

JACK

Is it really that hard spending a single day together?

KEVIN

Uh, yes?

Jack looks at Rebecca, now she shrugs. She tries "chipper."

REBECCA

What do you guys want to do?

Kevin and Randall shrug, pick at their food.

KEVIN

Don't care.

RANDALL

Whatever.

REVEAL KATE, her hand raised, eager.

KATE

Anything we want? All day?

JACK

All day. What you got, Katie-Girl?

KATE

Several ideas.

JACK

Several ideas. I like people with several ideas...

As Jack high fives his daughter and she smiles, we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

22 EXT. JACK AND REBECCA'S DRIVEWAY - LATER - DAY 1 (1992) 22

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

Kate draws four large boxes on the driveway in CHALK.
Rebecca helps.

REBECCA

Does this line look straight, Bug?

KATE

Yeah, perfect.

ANGLE ON JACK AND THE BOYS, watching them:

KEVIN

I don't want to play foursquare with my
parents, it's lame.

JACK

Well you should have contributed a
suggestion then...

RANDALL

Kevin's right, this is stupid.

Jack turns towards Randall.

JACK

What's with you today?

He ruffles Randall's hair but Randall shrugs him off.
Jack considers his behavior, decides to give him space.

JACK (CONT'D)

(heading towards girls)

Okay, ladies, I'm coming in to check on
your chalk work. Those lines better be
dead straight...

ON KEVIN: watching as Jack heads over towards Rebecca.

23 INT. REBECCA'S HOUSE - KEVIN'S BEDROOM - DAY 1 (2033) 23

Kevin and Sophie finish dressing. Kevin still can't
decide between ties. The door opens: it's little Nicky.

NICKY

Yo.

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

"Yo?" Yes, by the way, we're all dressed
Nick, come on in, make yourself
comfortable--

NICKY

Cousins want to play foursquare out back.
That cool?

KEVIN

(looking back at ties)
Twenty minutes. And you get that suit
dirty we'll be attending your funeral
today, too.

Nicky nods. Sophie approaches Kevin from behind. She
looks at the two ties in the mirror.

SOPHIE

The green one.

KEVIN

Yeah?

SOPHIE

Your mom loved you in green.

KEVIN

(boyish/vulnerable)

Yeah?

She nods. He turns, looks at her. Sophie takes him in.
His sadness. She touches the side of his face. He leans
into her hand. They lock eyes.

ON LITTLE NICKY

At the door. Watching them. Imprinting. Modeling.

BACK TO:

EXT. JACK AND REBECCA'S DRIVEWAY - DAY 1 (1992)

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

Where little Kevin watches his own parents: Jack teases
Rebecca with chalk, grabs her, kisses her.

Little Kevin watches. Imprinting. Modeling.

REBECCA

Hey Guys. C'mon boys, we're ready to go.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

The boys head over to towards the game.

CUT TO:

25 EXT. JACK AND REBECCA'S DRIVEWAY - LATER - DAY 1 (1992) 25

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

The family stands in the squares. Off to the side, Kate lies on the driveway, happily drawing elaborate chalk drawings on the driveway.

REBECCA

Bug, don't you want to play?

KATE

No, I like drawing and keeping score. Start, we have a lot to do today.

Rebecca looks to Jack. He waves her concern off.

JACK

Okay. Who thinks they're gonna take out Big Daddy today?

(then, to Rebecca)

I'm Big Daddy.

REBECCA

Got it.

The boys just stand there moping, unenthusiastic. But Jack doesn't care, he loves this. His enthusiasm even (almost) garners smiles from his petulant pre-teens.

JACK

I plan on wiping the floor with all three of you today. It's gonna hurt. You're gonna be crying for your momma, which is good for you cause she's standing right here in box number one.

(then)

BIG DADDY! SERVICE!

He serves. As the game is played, everyone laughs and has fun despite themselves.

26 EXT. REBECCA'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY 1 (2033)

26

The future grandchildren of Jack and Rebecca play four square themselves.

(CONTINUED)

26

CONTINUED:

They LAUGH, play. Even the older grandchildren (Deja, Tess, Annie) check in, take turns.

Jack Jr. participates with the help of a BEEPING BALL.

27

EXT. JACK AND REBECCA'S DRIVEWAY - DAY 1 (1992)

27

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

The OG Pearson family continues playing and laughing.

ANGLE ON LITTLE KATE

Drawing her elaborate chalk designs on the driveway. From her POV, she watches the family enjoy one another. She has never been happier.

28

EXT. REBECCA'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY 1 (2033)

28

The grandchildren continue playing. We end watching the game through a window and realize we're in...

KATE'S POV. We are inside...

CUT TO:

29

INT. REBECCA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS - DAY 1 (2033)

29

Kate (dressed for funeral) watches her kids play. A body steps into frame, watches with her.

It's Toby. They watch their kids play.

TOBY

If it's okay with you, I'd like to say three things that surely cross multiple ex-husband lines and protocols?

KATE

(bemused)

Go on.

TOBY

Okay, number one.

(then)

She was extraordinarily proud of you.

Kate smiles.

(CONTINUED)

TOBY (CONT'D)

I am extraordinarily proud of you.

(then)

That was number two. They get a little more intense as they go.

KATE

Gotcha.

TOBY

Third one's a bit of a doozy.

KATE

Well, it's a doozy of a day, so...

Toby looks at her, turns serious.

TOBY

I love you, Kid. And even though our marriage didn't go the distance, if Doc Brown showed up here to take me for a spin in his DeLorean, I'd still go right back to that weight loss group and make funny faces at you.

Kate reacts, moved.

TOBY (CONT'D)

Back to The Future reference.

KATE

I know. I was married to you.

TOBY

(smile)

Yes, you were.

KATE

(smile)

Yes, I was.

They turn back towards the window, continue watching their children play in contented silence.

And with that, we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

30 EXT. JACK AND REBECCA'S PORCH - DAY 1 (1992)

30

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

Little Kate stands on the porch, watching the rain wash the last remnants of chalk off her driveway.

Jack approaches.

JACK

Kate: c'mon, you said you wanted to watch the old home movies next, right?

Kate nods, lost in thought. As Jack and Kate look out:

JACK (CONT'D)

Raining pretty hard.

She nods, keeps looking forward.

JACK (CONT'D)

Maybe next weekend we can play again.

(then)

Actually, maybe next weekend you'll play, and I can watch you.

Kate shakes her head "no."

KATE

I really just like being together.

(then)

Plus only four people can play. And I just slow the game down.

JACK

That's okay. All I want is for things to slow down anyway.

Kate turns toward her father, smiles.

KATE

Me too.

A beat, a moment of unspoken connection between father and daughter.

JACK

Home movies?

She smiles.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

KATE

Home movies.

31 INT. JACK AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 1(1992) 31

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

The family sits around watching home movies. Currently on screen is an old birthday video where the family plays Pin the Tail on the Donkey (EP 113) - they watch, comment on it.

But Jack is distracted, looking for a different VHS tape.

JACK

Ooh, this is the one. This is it.

Jack hits eject, pops the new one in.

Note: during the following we intercut between the family watching the scene on the TV and the actual scene itself.

32 INT. JACK AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 1 (1985) 32

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

Rebecca is finishing dishes at the sink. We watch her through the prism of a spying video camera. She doesn't know anyone is there.

Rebecca SIGHS to herself. The dishes are endless.

JACK (O.S.)

Can we show you something?

Rebecca jumps/gasps with a start.

REBECCA

Jack! You can't just--
(then, seeing)

No, no camera, please. Jack: I'm covered
in sauce, I'm a mess--

JACK

(she looks amazing)
Oh yeah, you're revolting.
(then)

We've got something to show you that we
just came up with. You ready?

REBECCA

Can I just finish--

(CONTINUED)

JACK
Nope! Big Three, enter!

The camera whirls and into the room walk 5 year old versions of The Big Three. They are so cute you pee yourself a little. They line up.

JACK (CONT'D)
Ready?

BIG THREE
Ready!

And with that, for the first time, he and the kids invent the "Big Three" chant.

Finally they get to the end...

JACK
Big Three!?

BIG THREE
Big Three!

They pound their chests as Jack whirls the camera back to a clapping Rebecca. She's floored.

REBECCA
Guys! Jack, how long did that--

JACK
Less than potty-training, more than the ABC's...

As Rebecca LAUGHS...

The entire family is heading out the door. Last to EXIT are our older Big Three. They take a collective breath.

KEVIN
You guys ready for this?

KATE
No.

RANDALL
Absolutely not.

A beat.

33

CONTINUED:

KATE

We should do the thing. C'mon, Kev,
you're up.

(to Kevin, leading)

"First came..."

KEVIN

I don't want to do the
thing.

RANDALL

Not right now, Kate.

The brothers head out. Kate watches them go.

34

INT. JACK AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 1 (1992) 34

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

Everyone is watching the video. Kate is in heaven.

KEVIN

I've seen this a million times.

RANDALL

I'm going upstairs.

KEVIN

Today sucks.

They march out of the room. Jack and Rebecca share a
confused/bemused look.

JACK

Rays of sunshine today, those two.

(then)

You want the athlete or the mathlete?

REBECCA

(thinks, then)

I'll take the athlete.

JACK

Godspeed.

They kiss, part ways.

Little Kate watches her family disperse, having lost her
hold on the family day yet again.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

35 INT. JACK AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - BOYS' ROOM - DAY 1 (1992) 35

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

Kevin lies in bed, once again looking at the chin up bar hanging over his door.

REBECCA (O.S.)

Knock knock.

Rebecca stands at the door.

KEVIN

Go away.

REBECCA

Kev, enough.

(then, gentle)

What is going on with you?

He looks at her. She cocks her head, expectant.

KEVIN

Yesterday at school we did the President fitness thing. I got the best time in the mile and I did the most sit-ups. I did just whatever on the sit and reach, but that's for girls anyway so who cares.

REBECCA

So what's the problem?

KEVIN

I couldn't do any pull ups. I don't know why, I can never do them. I can do chin ups but... I don't know, I'm not strong enough or something.

REBECCA

So you couldn't do a pull-up, what's the big deal--

KEVIN

I was just hanging there, Mom. The whole class was there watching and... I was just hanging there. For like two minutes. Everyone was laughing. At *me*, Mom. Laughing at *me*.

(CONTINUED)

REBECCA

Okay, come here.

Kevin hesitates, then sits next to Rebecca on the bed.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

First of all, I'm sure no one was laughing at you.

KEVIN

Yeah, maybe not.

(then)

Plus, I had Sophie tell a bunch of the girls I was faking it just so the un-athletic kids didn't feel bad when they couldn't do one. It played.

REBECCA

Uch. Kevin.

KEVIN

(truly upset)

I really couldn't do one, Mom.

REBECCA

Well that's okay, Kev.

(beat, then)

Everything won't always come easy for you, Bud. You're going to have to work - work really hard - to become the person I know you can become.

(then)

I think it's good for you to fail sometimes. I think it will make you stronger. I think it will make you a fighter, you know? It'll make the big victories in your life feel more special if you have to work for them a little.

Kevin shrugs. Maybe.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

You know what Dr. Jaffey said at your last checkup? He told us he thought you were going to be really tall. Like way over six feet.

KEVIN

Really?

She nods.

REBECCA

A real "jock" he said.

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

Oh God that'd be so great.

(then)

Did he say if I'd ever lose my hair?

REBECCA

(sigh)

No, we didn't get that far, Kev.

KEVIN

(small nod)

I think I'm okay there. Dad's looking good.

(then)

I feel better.

REBECCA

I'm glad. I think. I'm not sure, honestly.

KEVIN

No, that helped.

(then, sweet/genuine)

You always know what to say, Mom.

REBECCA

I do?

KEVIN

Yeah, you're pretty good at this stuff.

(then, presenting cheek)

You get one kiss.

REBECCA

(teasing)

Oh do I? Just one?

KEVIN

Don't.

As Rebecca dives on Kevin, tickling/kissing him, we...

CUT TO:

Kevin watches people arrive at his mother's funeral.

He looks to his mother's urn.

He feels a hand on his shoulder. He looks to the source.
It's Uncle Nicky. He smiles at Kevin, then:

(CONTINUED)

UNCLE NICKY

Can't believe I'm standing here. My
brother's wife's funeral.

(then)

You really f'd up my life, Kid.

KEVIN

(nodding)

Appreciate that, thank you.

UNCLE NICKY

I mean, before you came banging on that
trailer door of mine, I had it pretty
good. Didn't care about anything. And if
you don't care about anything, you don't
care when anything is gone. One day
something's missing you think, "huh, that
thing that was here yesterday, it's not
here today, wonder what's for breakfast?"
Much simpler that way.

He looks at Kevin. Puts his hand on the side of his face,
affectionate.

UNCLE NICKY (CONT'D)

You really f'd up my life, Kid. Your
mother and father would be deeply ashamed
of what you did to a sweet, sensitive,
old man like me.

(then)

You dick.

He pats his nephew's face, affectionate. Walks away.
Kevin watches him go, smiles. He turns and looks across
the room, to:

RANDALL. As we push in on Randall, his surroundings go
silent. He begins to float through his mother's funeral.

*Note: if you've been unlucky enough to attend a parent's
funeral you may recognize Randall's experience here:*

Randall floats through the day - everything a silent
blur. He greets people, receives (and gives) hugs.

He is comforted by his family, his wife, his children. He
watches Phillip be there for his sister. Sophie, Madison
and the kids are all there for his brother.

He eventually gives the eulogy. For such a verbal man,
it's strange to watch this play out in silence.

We simply see the audience react. Cry. Laugh.

(CONTINUED)

We hear nothing.

Randall floats. He floats silently through his mother's funeral. Through space and time.

CUT TO:

37 INT. JACK AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY 1 (1992) 37

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

Jack peeks in the open-door bathroom, discovers Randall at the sink. Randall is staring in the mirror at himself.

JACK

Wanna tell me what's going on with you?

Randall SIGHS, turns toward Jack.

RANDALL

Mathletes wasn't cancelled. I lied to you guys.

This catches Jack off guard, but he covers.

JACK

Why?

RANDALL

This kid in math class, has been giving me a hard time the last week or so - we'll call him David for these purposes 'cause I'm not gonna let you make this a thing. Anyways...

(then)

He's been calling me Fuzz.

JACK

Fuzz?

RANDALL

My lip, I'm getting a little hai-- don't you see?

JACK

(smiling)

Oh, sure, gotcha.

RANDALL

He was going at me kind of hard yesterday just as Rory Seltzer was sitting down in the desk in front of me.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

37

CONTINUED:

RANDALL (CONT'D)

And I just wanted to get the attention off of me, you know... so I pulled Rory's chair out from underneath him as he sat and he went down. Hard. And Mrs. Dunne saw and she told me I was suspended from Mathletes for a week and I got detention. There's a note, you guys need to sign it.

Jack is stunned.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

You don't have to say anything, I feel awful. I'll never forgive myself and I'm pretty sure Rory Seltzer is gonna have a terrible life because of what I did.

JACK

Oh, I'm sure Rory Seltzer was gonna have a terrible life no matter what.

RANDALL

Don't be funny.

Jack considers this.

JACK

Well, I'm not sure I know how to discipline someone who is already harder on himself than I am. It's a little confusing.

RANDALL

Sorry.

A beat.

JACK

I do know a thing or two about facial hair though.

(then)

Want me to teach you how to shave?

As Randall looks up we...

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

38 INT. JACK AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY 1 (1992) 38

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

Jack stands behind Randall at the bathroom mirror.
Randall's upper lip is covered in shaving cream.

Randall tentatively raises the razor blade... then stops.

RANDALL

I'm afraid I'm gonna cut myself.

JACK

(steady)

You won't.

Randall raises the razor again, when...

KEVIN

Hey, what are you guys doing!?

Randall jumps, almost slashes Jack.

RANDALL

Dad's teaching me to shave.

KEVIN

Ooh, I wanna shave.

Kevin pushes in.

RANDALL

You don't even have any facial hair--

KEVIN

Yeah, I do.

Kevin starts immediately filling his hands with shaving cream, patting it everywhere on his face.

JACK

Whoa, Kev. Easy.

(as he does it for him)

Warm water on your face first. Like that.
Then the shaving cream, a nice easy
layer, not too thick, not too thin. Like
that.

(then)

Here we go, Randall, you're up.

(CONTINUED)

Jack puts his hand over Randall's hand, helps the blade down gently over his lip. Kevin watches in awe.

KEVIN
Holy crap dude, you're shaving.

RANDALL
(through gritted teeth)
I know.

Jack smiles. Rebecca pokes in...

REBECCA
What are you guys--oh my God I am not seeing this.

JACK
(staying focused)
It's time, babe.

RANDALL
At least for me.

KEVIN
I have facial hair, it's just blonde!

Rebecca watches Jack gently shave her son for a moment.

REBECCA
I think I'm gonna cry. Or throw up. I'm not sure. Are you guys sure you should be--
-

RANDALL
Mom? I'm sorry but this is kind of a man thing?

Jack looks at her, shrugs. It is.

REBECCA
(bemused)
Okay.
(then)
Kate wants everyone downstairs for pin the tail on the donkey soon.

JACK
Okay, we'll be right down.

Rebecca takes a final look.

REBECCA
Just... don't let them maim themselves, Jack.

(CONTINUED)

JACK
Wasn't planning on it.

REBECCA
Those little faces.

RANDALL
Mom.

One final look and she EXITS. Jack grabs a second razor, helps Kevin as Randall continues shaving.

JACK
Here you go, Kev. That's good, Randall.
Nice and smooth. You can press down a little.

Jack watches his boys shave. He guides and corrects, of course, but lets them figure it out, too.

KATE (O.S.)
Guys, c'mon!

RANDALL
(to Kevin)
Why does Kate want to do all this stuff so bad?

KEVIN
It's all baby stuff.

RANDALL
I mean, we're shaving now.

KEVIN
Totally.

Jack smiles.

JACK
Don't underestimate your sister, gentlemen. She gets it. At a very young age, she gets it.

RANDALL
What?

Jack thinks, considers how to explain.

JACK
When you're young, all you want to be is older. And as you get older, all you want to do is go back. Be back.

(CONTINUED)

They keep shaving (or pretending to), barely listening.
Jack is talking to himself, now, almost as much as them.

JACK (CONT'D)

Try and appreciate the moments, you know?
That's all we're doing, collecting these
little moments. We never recognize them
when we're in them, 'cause we're too busy
looking forward. Then we spend the rest
of our lives looking back, trying to
remember them. Trying to be back inside
of them...

Jack thinks.

JACK (CONT'D)

It's strange, the things you remember.

KEVIN

You're being weird, Dad.

RANDALL

Super weird.

JACK

(smile)

You'll get it one day.

As the boys continue shaving under the watchful eye of
their father, we...

39 EXT. CABIN - DAY 1 (2033)

39

Randall sits by himself on the stairs of the old cabin.
He's still in his suit, his tie loosened.

He looks up, smiles. His three daughters approach, sit
next to him. They sit in contented silence for a beat.

TESS

You hanging in?

RANDALL

I'm hanging in. There's a thread right
about... here. I'm hanging onto it real
tight.

They smile.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

Barely slept. Up all night writing a
eulogy and I can't remember a single
thing I said.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

39

CONTINUED:

RANDALL (CONT'D)

(then)

A depressing notion on a depressing day?
May I?

They nod.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

It all just feels so... pointless. I
spent my entire childhood worrying about
losing her. I spent the past decade
abjectly terrified of it. And now she's
gone. And, yet... the birds chirp on. I
notice I'm hungry. Five minutes ago I
thought about work. Tomorrow I'll shower.

(then)

It all just feels so pointless.

(then)

Too depressing?

ANNIE

Definitely less funny than your eulogy.

TESS

(nodding)

Poetic, but sad af.

(then, to Deja)

We'll give you guys a minute.

Annie squeezes Deja's hand. Deja smiles, grateful. They
EXIT. Deja scoots next to Randall.

DEJA

It's not pointless.

(then)

Hey. You're gonna be a grandfather,
remember?

Randall looks up. He thinks. Remembers.

CUT TO:

40

INT. RANDALL AND BETH'S HOUSE - GIRLS' ROOM - DAY 2(2016) 40

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

*From EP 116: William quietly kisses his grandchildren
goodbye. He makes little Tess promise not to stop playing
chess. He takes a final smell of Annie's hair.*

William stands, quietly leaves the room. He is surprised
to find Randall standing in the hallway. William
approaches him, looks back at the girls.

(CONTINUED)

WILLIAM

Grandfather. Strange word. Grand.
(then)

Father.

(then)

Never thought of myself as either,
really.

RANDALL

Well look at you now.

WILLIAM

(lost in thought)

Well look at me now.

Randall smiles. William looks back at the girls from a distance, just shapes underneath their blankets now.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Such a strange relationship: grandparent.
It's not as complicated as parent, not
as... fraught. It's just...
unconditional. Easy. Pure love. What an
unusual thing, to love someone so
unconditionally when you know time
probably won't allow you to be a big part
of their story.

This hangs there.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

I don't remember my grandparents. I can
only access fleeting images. Smells. The
smell of pie - she made pie I think, my
mother's mother. My father's father
smoked a pipe. I remember the smell of
that pipe.

(then)

I look at those two little girls, I've
known them all of 9 months, and only now
can I even comprehend how intensely my
grandparents must have loved me. And all
I can remember are fleeting images.
Smells of pies and pipes.

(then, re: girls)

I wonder what they'll remember about me.

RANDALL

(firmly)

A lot.

William waves this off, sheepish...

(CONTINUED)

WILLIAM

A selfish thing to worry about, I know--

RANDALL

(again, even more firm)

A lot.

William and Randall lock eyes. The understanding is silent but clear: Randall will not let them forget.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

Plus you've got that real nice, real distinctive smell.

WILLIAM

Well thank God for that.

RANDALL

(teasing now)

Like shaving cream and old sweaters.

WILLIAM

Okay, okay...

William grabs his bag, changes tone.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Memphis?

RANDALL

(big smile)

Memphis.

(then)

Let's hit the road, Grandpa.

They head toward the stairs.

BACK TO:

EXT. CABIN - DAY 1 (2033)

Deja looks at Randall.

DEJA

I've been checking my phone all day. I was hoping I'd get an email, so I'd be able to tell you something that would make you smile.

(then)

I just got the email.

Randall looks up, quizzical.

(CONTINUED)

DEJA (CONT'D)

I found out the sex of the baby.

(beat, then)

It's a boy. You're gonna have a grandson.

RANDALL

(stunned)

A boy? You're sure?

Deja nods.

DEJA

And if it's okay with you... we'd like to name him William.

Randall's eyes go instantly wet.

DEJA (CONT'D)

Your grandson will be named after a man I never met. But I know him, because I know you.

(then)

It's not pointless, Dad.

Randall wipes his eyes, stands, begins to shout...

RANDALL

A BOY! FINALLY! A BOY! I'M HAVING A BOY--

DEJA

Actually, I'm having a boy but--

But he's off. And as Randall continues yelling and happy dancing until his prosthetic makeup falls off, we...

END ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

42 INT. JACK AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 1(1992) 42

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

Jack, Rebecca and Kate hang out in the living room.

Kate brings the familiar "Pin the Tail on the Donkey" box over towards the front wall, starts hanging it up.

REBECCA

You gonna show off for us, hon?

KATE

Yep!

Kevin and Randall ENTER with newfound swagger.

Their parents look up, perplexed.

KEVIN

We have shaven.

RANDALL

(motioning towards face)

Clean as a baby's bottom.

Jack and Rebecca share a bemused look. Kevin notices Kate hanging the game up.

KEVIN

No, Kate, we're supposed to hang it, you have to go close your eyes.

Kate beams at their participation.

KATE

Okay.

Rebecca sits down with Jack on this couch. He rubs her back, casual. She leans into him, yawns. They watch the kids.

REBECCA

Drowsy today.

JACK

Lazy day.

(then)

Randall got detention and suspended from Mathletes.

(CONTINUED)

REBECCA

Oh God, why--

JACK

It's fine, I'll tell you later.

A beat.

REBECCA

Kevin is terrifying and exhausting. But he's also wonderful.

JACK

I know.

(then, overwhelmed)

They're shaving.

REBECCA

I know.

Rebecca looks at Jack. Looks back at the kids.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

We sat right here a few years ago, right on this couch, and...

She considers something, then:

REBECCA (CONT'D)

You turned out to be a ten, Jack. I'd go higher but I hate when people say "scale of one-ten" and then someone answers "twelve." That's not the rules, you know?

JACK

You're a twelve.

REBECCA

(immediate)

Thank you, I love that you recognize it.

They laugh, turn back towards the kids.

JACK

Okay guys, blindfold her and spin her around, let's see if the kid's still got it.

The boys start spinning Kate around.

As they do, Jack looks down towards the pin the tail on the donkey box: it features two little white kids (boy and girl) and one black kid.

(CONTINUED)

42

CONTINUED: (2)

42

It looks remarkably like the Pearson family.

FLASHBACK TO:

43

INT. TOY STORE - DAY 1 (1981)

43

Jack and Rebecca push the one year old versions of the Big Three. Jack has a shopping basket.

JACK

Ooh, Bec, look--

Jack bends down, grabs:

THE PIN THE TAIL ON THE DONKEY GAME. He shows Rebecca.

REBECCA

Holy crap.

JACK

Is this for real?

The box is a literal representation of their family.

REBECCA

Guys, look at this.

(then, to Jack)

Maybe there's another family out there just like ours.

JACK

The Peasings.

REBECCA

(big smile)

The Peasings. They live in... Minnesota. They're very happy.

JACK

They look very happy.

Jack puts the game back. But Rebecca grabs it.

JACK (CONT'D)

Yeah?

REBECCA

Jack, when the world puts something this obvious in front of you, you don't just walk away from it. You could be missing out on something extremely important.

(CONTINUED)

43

CONTINUED:

JACK
(smile)
Fair enough. But we're never gonna use
it.

BACK TO:

44

INT. JACK AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 1(1992)44

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

Kate, blindfolded, gets spun around and let loose. She begins marching, slowly, towards the pin the tail on the donkey.

The Family talks, laughs, bets on if she'll find it.

She moves left, right, then - ever so slowly - towards the hanging "donkey."

Kate does it! She pins the tail right on the donkey.

Everyone cheers, she removes the blindfold.

JACK
Katie-Girl, how do you do that? You've
got to tell us. Are you peeking?

KATE
No.

REBECCA
Bug: c'mon. Then how?

Kate looks at her brothers. Her parents.

KATE
Before you put the blindfold on, I look
where you guys all are. And you never
shut up. As long as I know where you are,
I always know where I'm going.

Jack and Rebecca share a look. Rebecca gets up, goes and
kisses her daughter.

45

EXT. CABIN - DAY 1 (2033)

45

Randall sits, still basking in the glow of the news. Kate
and Kevin approach, sit.

KEVIN
Well you have a creepy glow about you.

(CONTINUED)

RANDALL

Got some good news. Got some very good news, on a very sad day.

They nod, press no further.

KEVIN

We don't have parents anymore.

KATE

We still have parents.

KEVIN

You know what I mean.

KATE

Yeah.

A beat.

KEVIN

What do we do now?

KATE

With our lives?

Kevin shrugs.

KATE (CONT'D)

We do what she wanted us to do. We live. We live fearlessly. I'm gonna open up so many music schools for the blind...

KEVIN

That people get resentful of blind musicians?

KATE

Exactly. I want people to think they have it too good.

Kevin smiles.

KEVIN

I'm gonna focus on the non profit, stick around home as much as I can. I like my home, I waited a long time for it. Plus my son may be a sociopath, I really should keep an eye on him.

KATE

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

RANDALL

He's worrisome.

A beat.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

DNC wants me to go to the Iowa state fair. You shake hands, eat all the junk food. Deep fried Oreos and stuff. And if the people who deep fry the food like you, maybe...

This hangs there.

KEVIN

You gonna go?

RANDALL

(shrug)

Weighing it with Beth. But if she's down? For Mom?

(then)

Yeah, for Mom I might go.

A beat.

KATE

Can I tell you guys my nightmare?

(they turn, then)

We drift. Without Mom, with our busy lives... we drift. I'm not saying we wind up estranged or anything. We still talk on the phone, share the occasional holiday, but--

RANDALL

We're not gonna drift.

KATE

We could drift.

This hangs there.

RANDALL

Secret?

They nod.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

If someone asks me to close my eyes, and picture "my family?" I don't really picture Beth and the girls. I picture Mom, and Dad, and you two. Cuter, younger versions of you two, but still...

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

Same.

KATE

Same.

RANDALL

You can never tell Beth I said that.

KEVIN

Sorry, I've been recording all of this.
You didn't say we were off the record.

RANDALL

I'm trying to hit on something real here,
Kev.

KEVIN

I'm aware Randall. You just don't have to
announce it like you're testifying in
front of congress.

KATE

Guys.

(beat, then)

First came...

She turns to Kevin. He sighs, then smiles.

KEVIN

Me.

RANDALL

And Dad said?

KEVIN

Gee.

(then)

And then came.

KATE

Me.

KEVIN

And Mom said?

KATE

Wee.

(then)

Then came?

RANDALL

Me.

(CONTINUED)

KATE

And they said:

RANDALL

That's three.

KEVIN

Big Three.

They pound their old chests.

KEVIN/KATE/RANDALL

Big Three.

They laugh, then sit there in contented silence. Kevin turns to Kate.

KEVIN

If you drifted Kate, we'd drift after you.

Randall nods in support. Kate smiles, re-affirmed.

RANDALL

Can you really drift though, Kev? Can't remember if you ever actually learned how to swim.

KEVIN

Says the guy who is built like a buoy.

RANDALL

What's that supposed to mean?

KEVIN

It means maybe lay off the Oreos, Bro. No one wants their president looking like Charles Barkley.

KATE

Guys.

A beat. They laugh, sit there.

RANDALL

She squeezed my hand. Hard. Right at the very end, right before.

KEVIN

Yeah.

KATE

I saw.

(CONTINUED)

45

CONTINUED: (5)

RANDALL

I wonder what that was.

As they think on that, we return to...

46

INT. TRAIN - CABOOSE - DAWN 1 (OUT OF TIME)

46

Rebecca lies down in her caboose bed, turns to her side.
She sees Jack.

REBECCA

Hey.

JACK

Hey.

He traces her face.

JACK (CONT'D)

I've missed that little scar.

REBECCA

Please. You didn't notice it for over a decade.

JACK

Was too busy looking at the rest of the face.

A beat.

REBECCA

I'm a little scared.

JACK

I know. But don't be.

(then)

Hey Babe?

She looks up at him.

JACK (CONT'D)

We did good.

(then)

You did so good.

REBECCA

I had so many things left to do with them...

JACK

You will. It's hard to explain, but you'll do all those things with them.

(CONTINUED)

46

CONTINUED:

REBECCA

You promise?

JACK

I do.

REBECCA

I mean, I don't need to be there for the weird stuff. I don't want to see them shower or anything...

JACK

(smile)

You won't. But you'll be there.

BACK TO:

47

INT. JACK AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 1(1992) 47

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

We pick back up with family hugging Kate after pin the tail on the donkey.

KEVIN

Okay, be honest: now that I'm shaving, do I seem more like a man? More like Dad?

Rebecca cocks her head.

REBECCA

I don't know that I see it yet, Kev.

Kevin stands up straight. Starts doing "Jack" in a deep voice, mannerisms and all.

KEVIN

Hey Bec, you know how I much I love you right, Bec? Babe? Bec?

(then)

Life is just collecting moments. Right Bec? Babe? Bec?

A beat, then Rebecca cracks up. Like... she really loses it. Of course this makes Kate crack up. Kevin is so pleased to just see everyone laughing.

Eventually Rebecca smothers Kevin in kisses again. The family piles on one another, wrestling, laughing.

48 INT. REBECCA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 1 (2033) 48

The older Big Three have now returned to the house. They watch their kids play Pin the Tail on the Donkey.

Everyone plays, teases, wrestles, laughs.

At some point, young Nicky spots his dad, lost in thought. He approaches, sits next to his dad.

Nicky puts his hand on Kevin's shoulder, comforting. Without even looking up, Kevin ever so subtly leans into his son's shoulder.

49 INT. JACK AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 1 (1992) 49

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

The OG Pearsons are happy, wrestling, laughing.

Jack sits on the couch, watching it all. He's laughing, but completely present, having that rare moment of recognizing and catching the little moment.

50 INT. TRAIN - CABOOSE - DAWN 1 (OUT OF TIME) 50

Jack and Rebecca look at each other.

REBECCA

Quite a thing, isn't it? Us finding each other in that bar that night.

JACK

Oh, I don't know.

(then)

When the world puts something this obvious in front of you, you don't just walk away from it.

He takes her hand.

JACK (CONT'D)

You ready?

REBECCA

I don't want to leave them.

JACK

You don't. You'll see.

(then)

I love you.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

REBECCA

I love you.

Rebecca squeezes his hand.

BACK TO:

51 INT. REBECCA'S HOUSE - DAY 1 (2033) 51

The family continues hanging. At one point:

Randall watches Deja, notices something:

She's absent-mindedly holding her belly. Their eyes lock.

52 INT. JACK AND REBECCA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 1(1992) 52

[PREVIOUSLY SHOT]

Jack watches his family. Wrestling and laughing.

He looks to his right.

Randall sits on the couch next to him. He is watching his father watch his family.

They share a meaningful look. A nod. Randall gets it.

Or will one day. And with that, we...

END SERIES.*But not before one little note to those still reading...*

(CONTINUED)

To my cast and crew:

In the days and weeks to come I will have more things to say to all of you directly, but I do want to take a moment to just say this:

I lost my mom in 2008. I've written about losing her a fair amount, with varying degrees of success, but never more directly than here. Never with as wide an audience.

There is no group of human beings I would trust to tell this story more than you guys.

This show has been the great surprise of my life. And an incredible gift. And it's all because of you.

Thank you for taking the ride. Let's finish this the right way, and then take a moment to celebrate what we've made together.

And so, at the risk of sounding schmaltzy, and without a great actor to help undercut the sentiment, let me end by simply echoing the theme of this final episode to all of you:

The show may be ending, but it will live on forever.

And I love you guys.

Dan

NBC/20th Television