

INT. DAD'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Dad, dressed in a button up and khaki's slowly opens his eyes. He rubs his aching head then notices his hands are caked with blood.

He bolts up in the bed. His shirt is covered in blood.

Frantically he rips off his shirt and cleans his hands with the shirt.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

Dad hides the shirt under the pillow and stands up trying to look inconspicuous.

The door opens and Mom and They walk in. They both have huge smiles from ear-to-ear.

MOM

Oh good, you're up. And it looks like you're feeling better.

THEY

Yes, that's an admirable erection.

Dad looks and sure enough, he has morning wood. He sits back down on the bed and crosses his legs.

THEY (CONT'D)

Speaking of love, Mom and I think you need an injection of love.

MOM

(teasing re: erection)
But not the kind you're thinking of.

They and Mom LAUGH.

Dad feigns a smile and steals a look at his pillow. The bloody shirt is peeking out a bit.

THEY

(laughing)
Men, and their one track minds!

MOM

(laughing)
I know, it's like "no, we're not going to have MORE sex."

Dad forces a laugh and slides the rest of the shirt under the pillow.

They gets very serious.

THEY

Dad, you need to find a way to
release your love and compassion.

MOM

You have to.

THEY

You have to.

DAD

I have to?

MOM

(to herself)

Jesus, he's hopeless.

They pulls Mom into a corner and despite his whispering, Dad
hears them.

THEY

(whispering)

Look, we knew he might react this
way. Just stick to the plan.

(overly aggressive)

Look Dad, you need to get with the
plan! We're trying to save your
life! You need love and compassion,
goddamnit!

DAD

Y-yeah. Okay, sure.

They and Mom are both very frustrated with Dad's answer.

MOM

Look, just...

(deep breath)

I have something for you.

Mom walks out of the room, giving They time to say...

THEY

It's from both of us.

And mom returns holding a very small and very harry DOG. She
crosses to Dad and hands it to him.

MOM

(whisper)

Just... try and not be so
difficult. Okay?

Dad looks lost and has no idea what's going on.

DAD
 (whisper)
 I-I love it.
 (to They)
 I love it.

PAL (O.S.)
 Knock knock!

Pal pops his head in the door. He's wearing a polo, khakis and a backpack.

THEY MOM
 Hey Pal. Hey Pal.

PAL
 That's my name, don't wear it out.

They, Mom and Pal all share a laugh.

PAL (CONT'D)
 Say, what'cha got there?

MOM
 We got Dad a dog. You know, to help with his love and compassion.

PAL
 Love and compassion. So important.

MOM THEY
 So important. Very important.

PAL
 What do you think of the little guy, Dad?

The dog is licking Dad's face.

DAD
 Wet.

PAL
 (laughing)
 Oh man! This guy. Always thinking with his pecker.

THEY
 (laughing)
 Men, and their one track minds!

MOM
 (laughing)
 Always with the sex!

THEY
 That reminds me. Mom, can I speak
 with you downstairs for a moment
 regarding something corporate?

MOM
 Why yes, of course.

Mm and They leave.

PAL
 Don't worry. Dad and I will teach
 the dog how to fetch porn!

THEY (O.S.)
 (laughing)
 Men, and their one track minds!

Once Dad is sure they're alone--

DAD
 Pal, what happened last night?!
 What was on that pizza?
 (showing him the bloody
 shirt)
 And that body? Who was that?!

PAL
 Pbbt. That is easily explained
 away, but listen...
 (whisper)
 Mistress wants to meet.

DAD
 (stunned)
 What?

PAL
 I figure I can sneak her in when
 the rest of the family goes to the
 "put your hands up in the air and
 say the same thing as me" ceremony.

Pal takes off his backpack and starts rummaging around.

DAD
 Pal, no. She--she can't come here.

PAL

But listen, you can't tell her
you're in here against your will.
You have to promise.

DAD

Wha -- no. Pal, I don't even know
what to say to Mistress. She's part
of the reason I'm in this goddamn
mess! An Jesus, just look at me! At
the state I'm in!

PAL

Oh, I can help in the looks
department.

Pal takes a tacky YELLOW PAISLEY TIE out of his back and
wraps it around Dad's neck. He tightens it.

DAD

So tight.

PAL

Oh man! There he goes again,
thinking with the brain between his
legs!

SMASH CUT TO:

They is sitting in a reading chair holding a book.

THEY

(laughing)

Men, and their one track minds!

CUT BACK TO:

PAL

This is the business man's tie of
discretion with a deflection array.
It'll simultaneously keep you sharp
and safe by delivering 1,000 volts
of electricity to your skull.

DAD

Another shock collar?! Come on Pal,
I'm your best friend!

Pal is heading out the door.

PAL

Dad, you're like my brother and I
love you, you know?

(MORE)

PAL (CONT'D)
But if you take it off I'll have to
kill you. Good luck tonight!

Pal walks out the door.

Dad sits on the bed, defeated and scared. He tries taking off
the tie, but gets a shock.

Dog jumps on the bed and licks Dad.

DAD
Get outta here, you mangy mut!

He pushes Dog off the bed, and Dog lands with a WELP!

Dad immediately regrets his decision.

DAD (CONT'D)
Oh jeeze. Are you okay?
(picking up Dog)
You're stuck doing what everyone
else tells you, just like me.
Sucks, huh buddy?

Dog licks Dad's face.

DAD (CONT'D)
We gotta come up with a name for
you. Well, you sure are harrty, so
why don't I call you... Dog.

Dog BARKS.

DAD (CONT'D)
(laughing)
Sounds good to me too, Dog. Wait a
second... what's this.

Dad inspects Dog's collar. There is a small pocket sewn into
the seam.

Dad leaps up and grabs a small piece of paper and a pen. He
writes: BEING HELD PRISONER. NEED HELP ESCAPING.

He folds the paper and slides it into the collar. He pets
Dog.

DAD (CONT'D)
We're gonna get outta this place
together, Dog.

Dog BARKS.

DAD (CONT'D)
(laughing)
You're the man now, Dog.

Dog stares blankly.

DAD (CONT'D)
(to himself)
Fucking Sean Connery.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dad paces the room as Dog sits patiently.

The door opens and Pal pops his head in.

PAL
Is the coast clear?

DAD
Um, yeah, but I really think this
is a bad idea. Is... is she here?

PAL
Yeah, but remember you can't tell
her about what's going on here.

DAD
Don't worry. I won't say anything.

Dad and Dog exchange a wink.

Pal exits and re-enters with Mistress. She has a bag over her head. He takes off the bag.

Mistress and Dad politely smile, but uncomfortably avoid eye contact.

MISTRESS
Hi.

DAD
Hey.

PAL
I used the bag to make sure she did
know how to get back here.

DAD
She's um, been here before.

PAL
Oh my gosh! Duh! When you guys had
the affair, right!

The word 'affair' makes Dad and Mistress uncomfortable.

PAL (CONT'D)
Yuuuup. Guess you remember
someone's house when you have
illegal extra-marital sex with
them.

Again, Dad and Mistress avoid eye contact.

PAL (CONT'D)
Dog sure is taking a liking to this
place.
(laughing to himself)
I'm sure you two took a liking to
dog-ie style!

DAD
JUST GO!

PAL
(unfazed)
Alright-y. See you later.

Pal closes the door behind him. The silence in the room is
only broken by the TICKING of the wall clock.

After a moment--

DAD	MISTRESS
It's good to see --	How have you --

Dad silently scolds himself and Mistress crosses her arms.

DAD
Sorry. Do you want to sit down?

MISTRESS
No. Not really. I really want to...
get this over with. I have plans
tonight.

DAD
Like, with someone?

MISTRESS
That's none of your business.

DAD
Oh... um, okay.

MISTRESS
Where's you family?

DAD
Huh? Oh, they're at the "stand up
and sit down when I tell you"
ceremony. They'll won't be back for
a few hours.

Dad looks out the window just to make sure they're alone.

MISTRESS
Is it nice, getting rid of them for
a while.

DAD
Um, I'm a little jealous that they
get to leave the house. Feels like
I've been stuck in here for a
while.

MISTRESS
Maybe you deserve it.

DAD
Yeah. Maybe.
(pause)
So, how've you been?

MISTRESS
Oh gosh. Good, I guess. I quit
drinking and I don't fuck married
men, so that's cool--

DAD
Jesus.

MISTRESS
What?

DAD
Why are you making this so hard on
me?

The door flies open and Pal pops his head in.

PAL
Hard on?! One track mind, this guy!

SMASH CUT TO:

They is in a bubble bath drinking a glass of red wine.

THEY
 (laughing)
 Men, and their one track minds!

CUT BACK TO:

Pal leaves and closes the door.

Mistress is confused.

DAD
 It's just something they do.
 (changing gears)
 Listen, if I remember the situation
 correctly both of us were present
 during the affair.

MISTRESS
 You took advantage of me--

DAD
 Oh, come on! I didn't use any mind
 control, you're a grown woman.

MISTRESS
 You told me I was beautiful--

DAD
 You are beautiful, and if that's
 all it takes to get you in bed then
 you must have been pretty loose
 before you met me.

Dad and Mistress both recoil from this statement.

Mistress grabs her things and heads for the door. Dad gets in
 her way. She struggles to get around him.

DAD (CONT'D)	MISTRESS
I'm sorry. That was uncalled for--	Get out of my way!

DAD
 Just hold on a second.

In the tussle Mistress slaps Dad. This brings the struggle to
 an end. Dad rubs his face and Mistress paces the floor.

MISTRESS
 I'm not sorry about that.

DAD
 No. No, I deserved that.
 (after a moment)
 (MORE)

DAD (CONT'D)

We were so young when we got married. It's like this grand plan someone else has for you, but then you wake up and you're a different person and she's a different person. And I'm not blaming the institution of marriage, we all change. The man I was ten years ago is nothing like the man I am today.

Dad crosses and sits down on the couch. Still rubbing his face.

DAD (CONT'D)

And then I saw you, and it was like you weren't even a woman--

MISTRESS

Wow. Thanks.

DAD

No, you were like this... beacon. You were this promise of hope and freedom and change.

Mistress sits with him on the couch.

MISTRESS

That is your problem. I'm none of those things. I'm me, but you didn't see that, did you?

DAD

No. You're right, I didn't.
(he takes her hand)
I am so sorry.

MISTRESS

Thank you. And... you're right. I knew what I was doing. It was like...
(laughing)
You were like a "time out" on my life. I told myself that the rules didn't apply when I was with you for some reason. Like... it wasn't an affair or wrong, but a vacation.

They both smile at this absurd idea.

MISTRESS (CONT'D)

But eventually you have to end the vacation and come home.

DAD

Yeah.

The moment hangs in the air like a thick smoke. Dad decides to break it.

DAD (CONT'D)

I read somewhere that scientists believe that there are an infinite amount of parallel universes. And any time a decision is made another parallel universe is created, so any world you can imagine is going on someplace else. So maybe in another universe--

Mistress grabs her purse and stands up.

MISTRESS

I've been living someplace else most of my life. I think it's time I start living here. Goodbye.

Mistress crosses to the door.

DAD

(to himself)

Living here.

In a panic Dad stands and grabs Dog.

DAD (CONT'D)

Wait a sec.

(holding up Dog)

This is Dog. He's a... um... Dog. I'd really like it if you gave him a home.

MISTRESS

(confused)

I don't think I have room for a dog in my--

DAD

He's great! Potty trained, and he's got this beautiful collar.

Mistress takes a deep breath and exhales. She's exhausted.

DAD (CONT'D)

You'd be saving his life, more than anything. You know I'm too selfish to take care of him.

(laughing)

(MORE)

DAD (CONT'D)
The poor thing would probably
starve.

MISTRESS
I really don't--

DAD
You wanna pet him? He has this
crazy hair, but it's soft.

Mistress breaks down and pets Dog.

DAD (CONT'D)
See?

MISTRESS
You are a cutie aren't you?

DAD
(in a silly voice)
Take me home!
(his voice)
That was supposed to be Dog
talking, not--

MISTRESS
I got it.
(deep breath)
Okay, Dog. My place is a mess, so
get ready for that.

DAD
(silly voice)
Hoo-ray!
(in his voice)
Again, that was supposed to be Dog.

MISTRESS
(snapping)
I've joked around with people
before, I know how it works.

DAD
Right. Sorry.

MISTRESS
I've pretended to be a dog before.
(to Dog)
Okay you. Let's go.

DAD
(silly voice)
Thank you.

(MORE)

DAD (CONT'D)
 (normal voice)
 Seriously, thanks.

MISTRESS
 Good bye.

Mistress walks out the door and closes it behind her.

Dad reflects on the situation and absentmindedly put his hand on the doorknob that shocks him with a BUZZT!

DAD
 Goddamnit! Ugh! Every time.

INT. CAR - AFTERNOON

Mom is driving with Sis and Bro in the backseat.

Bro is playing a game on his cell phone while Sis is reading a book titled, *TEEN ROMANCE AND THE SYSTEM*.

We hear a loud THUD and Sis jumps.

SIS
 Mom! Bro kicked me!

BRO
 Did not!

MOM
 Bro? Sis? Did we just come from the
 "we all sit in the same place and
 think the same thing" ceremony?

BRO
 (defeated)
 Yes.

SIS
 (defeated)
 Yes.

MOM
 The whole point of that was to be
 honest and loyal to the family, and
 now here you are harming that very
 fabric. Is that what you're doing?

BRO
 No.

SIS
 No.

MOM

That's good to hear, because
honestly and loyalty in a family is
what separates us from the beasts,
and Mexicans.

Bro goes back to his game and Sis reads her book.

Mom beams with pride.

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Dad is sitting on the couch looking at a framed picture of
his family.

Dog runs through the doggie door with a BARK!

Dog hops up on Dad's lap.

DAD

Dog? What are you doing you mangy
mut?

He picks up Dog and walks to the door.

He grabs the door knob and is again shocked with a BUZZT!

DAD (CONT'D)

OH MAN! I can only blame myself at
this point.

He sucks on his sore fingers then notices Dog's collar.

DAD (CONT'D)

The note.

(searching the collar)

The note's gone. Oh... oh thank
god!

(snuggling Dog)

We're getting outta here. You hear
that, you dumb old Dog?! We're
getting the F out!

(Holding Dog at arm's
length)

And hey, for the record, I'm really
happy you came back.

He holds Dog at Arm's length and looks him over.

DAD (CONT'D)

There is something about you. Huh.
You a just a damn good-looking Dog!
Let's get these collars off!

Dad yanks at the NECKTIE and walks to the kitchen. The Necktie shocks him with another BUZZT.

DAD (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Come on!

STAR WIPE TO:

INT. DINNING ROOM TABLE - NIGHT

Mom, Bro and Sis sit around the table. They all stare at Dad, who is happily feeding table scarpers to Dog.

Mom cuts her food without taking her eyes off of Dad.

MOM
So, how was your day today?

DAD
(with food in his mouth)
Hmm? Me? Oh, well... it was pretty quiet. Hung out with Pal and um, you know. Did guy stuff. Nothing too exciting to talk about.

Bro and Sis share a look and giggle.

BRO
(laughing)
And did he force you to wear that tie or did you lose a bet?

Bro and Sis laugh.

MOM
Kids.
(they stifle their laughter)
What kind of "guy stuff" do you two get into?

Bro and Sis giggle even harder at this.

Dad wants to laugh along but Mom looks pissed.

DAD
Jeeze. I dunno. Pal told me that his truck is rattling when he drives on the freeway. I told him that it might be his distributor cap.
(chuckling)
(MORE)

DAD (CONT'D)

Luckily for me, I couldn't offer to help him fix it.

(taking a bite of food)

Gosh, what else. Oh! He gave me this tie which I can't take off without getting a shock, but on the bright side all of this shocking is helping me lose weight.

Mom cuts her already cut meat without breaking eye contact with Dad.

Dad is starting to sweat, but he smiles and feeds Dog another table scrap.

MOM

You didn't have anyone else over today, dear?

DAD

Anyone else? Mom, who else would come over to our place? I mean, it's not like I can exactly throw a party!

Dad delivers this for a laugh, but it's met with silence.

SIS

Why don't you give Dog some more food, Dad?

Bro laughs.

Dad is confused, but tries to keep it light.

DAD

You guys have a good time at the "sing the same as me" ceremony?

MOM

Oh yes. We learned about all sorts of virtuous things. What did we learn about Bro?

BRO

Um... there was a lot of singing together.

MOM

And what did we sing about?

SIS

Telling the truth, dumbass.

MOM
Sis, don't talk to Bro like that.

DAD
Yeah, watch it.

MOM
She is correct. We sang about truth today. Is truth important to you, Dad?

Now Dad is squirming in his seat.

DAD
Well, yeah. But I mean, it's important to everyone. It's kinda like saying I don't like to drown puppies. Everyone would agree to that.

MOM
Oh, I don't know. Some dogs need to be put down.

DAD
(to Dog)
Don't worry, Dog. She doesn't mean you.

Bro and Sis laugh uncontrollably.

DAD (CONT'D)
Bro! Sis! I am your Dad and you will stop laughing this instant.

Bro and Sis stand.

Dad tries to keep his composure as they tower over him.

MOM
Who else came over today, Dad?

DAD
I told you... it was just me and Pal. W-what's the matter with you? I've really been listening to They. I think I can be a better member of the system.

BRO
Jeez Dad. It's hard to take you seriously with that stupid tie.

SIS

Yeah, Dad. That tie is the worst.
You gotta watch out. It could get
caught on a nail and really
strangle you!

Sis reaches down and grabs the Necktie, strangling Dad.

Dad fights but is being shocked.

DAD

Ahh! It's shocking me! Stop!

BRO

No Sis! Stop! A Dad must pass this
tie down to his son.

Bro grabs the tie out of Sis's hands and continues to choke
Dad.

DAD

Mom! Help!

MOM

Bro, don't kill your Dad.

DAD

(choking)
That's it?!

Bro pulls out a knife and slices the tie off of Dad's neck.

Dad stands, his hand around his neck.

DAD (CONT'D)

What is the matter with you two?! I
am your Dad. And why are you
laughing?!

Bro and Sis can't stop laughing. Bro looks in the direction
of Dog.

DAD (CONT'D)

What does this have to do with Dog--

Dad looks down and recoils in terror.

Now with the Necktie off he can see the truth. Dog isn't Dog,
but in fact Mistress.

She's wearing a collar and foam is dripping down the sides of
her mouth. Her eyes are crazy and she begins to BARK wildly.

DAD (CONT'D)

No!

(to Mom)

What did you do?

Bro and Sis's laughter fills the air.

DAD (CONT'D)

What did you do?!

MOM

No! You did this, Dad. Now, feed
your Dog some more table scraps.

Dad SCREAMS and tries to comfort Mistress, but she bites his
hand.

DAD

Goddamn you all!

He slaps Mistress and runs from the room.

Mom, Bro and Sis all laugh and throw bits of food to
Mistress, who eats them as they fly towards her face.

FADE TO BLACK.