

**FRIENDS & FAMILY**

"The Families We Choose"

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Pilot Episode

## **CHARACTERS**

Our primary characters are all between the ages of 27 and 29 and in the aspiring stage of their careers and love lives. They met at the Bolivar International House in college where Saba was the RA, Margot the Social Chair, and Diego the computer tech. Johnny and James were residents their junior and senior years.

**SABA** - OCD caretaker of everyone. Works at a non-profit. Was the RA in the dorm where our crew met and still acts like a dorm RA with everyone. More than anything, she wants to succeed on her own terms and prove her mother wrong. Her mother, Rosalind, wants Saba to settle down with a well-to-do family friend and raise a family. Saba is Ethiopian-American.

**MARGOT** - Privileged upper class white from a family of overachievers. Highly sexed but mostly because she's a sensitive soul who needs to find her match. She's working as a waitress and applying to grad schools. She'll be an amazing mother, wife, and professor someday, but right now she's sowing her wild oats and enjoying the freedom of not being focussed on her career.

**DIEGO** - Even though his dad runs a trucking business, Diego's background feels very working class. He's a graphic designer and artsy. He feels like most women don't even notice him.

**JOHNNY** - Attractive, rich, and smart. Things come easy to him. A generous spirit. Been in the US in boarding schools since he was nine. Thinks he wants to be a writer but not sure if he has the stomach for it. He is a Christian Egyptian.

**JAMES** - Super practical. In Law School. Sees education as a way to make better money and have a better life. Not caught up in any highfalutin ideas about his profession. Korean-American.

## **SUPPORTING CHARACTERS**

**ROSALIND** - Saba's overbearing mother and owner of the restaurant where our crew hangs out.

**VICTOR** - The landlord who seems to have a lot of homes and money, but things never add up. Where did his money come from? Victor is Russian.

COLD OPENINT. EXPANSIVE OFFICE - DAY

SABA stares out the window at the sweeping view of the City of Los Angeles below.

PETE KILGORE, 30s, walks in and sits down in posh leather chair in front of a huge desk. He admires a painting behind his desk as Saba sits.

PETE

Isn't this painting something?

SABA

It's beautiful. You were right.

PETE

Cost the foundation 5 grand. But, you need to spend money to make money, right?

SABA

I agree.

PETE

We've put in some best practices that will yield some synergies that will really build our foundation's brand. And you're right in the middle of it.

SABA

That's why I wanted to ask about...

PETE

--your promotion?

(sighs)

It's just not an actionable item at this time. We're going to have to wait until the next budget cycle. I'm sure you understand, we are a non-profit.

SABA

I understand.

(builds courage)

When is the next cycle?

PETE

Three, six months, one year tops.

Deflated, Saba stands and looks at her watch.

SABA

I should go, I have guests at home.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Pete hands Saba a stack of files.

PETE

Sure, but could you make copies of these before you leave. I'm taking them to the board retreat in Hawaii.

SABA

Sure.

PETE

And can you call the airline for an upgrade? Those coach seats always hurt my back.

SABA

OK.

Saba walks to the door with a stack of files.

PETE

Thanks Saba, you're a real team player.

**END OF COLD OPEN**

ACT ONEEXT. HOUSE - DAY

Saba stands at the front porch about to open the door. She pauses for a moment and takes in a DEEP BREATH. She is caught by a vision across the street.

SABA POV: A YOUNG COUPLE helps their two Young Children into the backseat of a Subaru. They are all smiles and frolicking happiness.

Saba turns away and SIGHS as she opens the door.

INT. HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Saba enters a raucous lunch party. Seated at the table are DIEGO, MARGOT, JOHNNY, and JAMES. Diego's father, DON DIEGO, 50s, holds court.

DON DIEGO

(perfect Latin lover accent)

My name is Diego Montoya de Silva  
Marquez, you keeled my father, prepare to  
die.

The table breaks up into LAUGHTER. Diego rolls his eyes. Don Diego notices Saba as she walks in.

DON DIEGO (CONT'D)

Beautiful Saba, I was afraid I wouldn't  
get to say goodbye.

SABA

I had a work meeting?

DON DIEGO

On a Saturday?

MARGOT

Those non-profits stick it to you harder  
than working for The Man.

DON DIEGO

(to Margot)

Ah, my sweet Margot. If you were with  
this man, I'd never make you work  
hard...least not in an office.

MARGOT

(flirty)

Stop it. No, where would you work me? I  
like to work real...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DIEGO

--Dad, did you pack your suitcase?

JOHNNY

Ah come on Diego.

(turning to Don Diego)

One more Don Diego. Do Michael Corleone.

Don Diego pets a fake kitty in his palms.

DON DIEGO

(turning to Margot)

I never wanted this for you. I work my whole life...I don't apologize...to take care of my family, and I refused to be a fool, dancing on the string held by all those bigshots...

Margot is entranced.

DING. Diego looks at his phone.

DIEGO

--Alright dad, that's your taxi.

DON DIEGO

I must go. I have to get my suitcase upstairs.

Don Diego trots out of the room.

MARGOT

God, Diego, your dad is so charming and handsome. It must skip a generation. Guess at least your kids will be hot.

DIEGO

Yes, it's like you and your over achieving family. Maybe your daughter won't be a waitress.

MARGOT

I'm applying to grad school.

DIEGO

In what field, male anatomy?

Saba jumps in between the two.

SABA

I need to call an emergency house meeting tonight.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHNNY  
Sweet, can I come?

MARGOT  
You don't live here.

SABA  
I'm sorry Johnny, this is a serious meeting.

JOHNNY  
But I love house meetings.

SABA  
Not this one.

JAMES  
Now I really want to come.

JOHNNY  
(to James)  
That's OK, roomie. We won't invite them to our meeting. We should go.

Johnny stands and heads towards the back door. James follows close behind.

JAMES  
See you guys.

The DOORBELL RINGS and Diego walks out of the room towards:

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Diego opens the door and a HOMELESS LOOKING DUDE, 20s, long beard, stained jacket, and pants stands there.

HOMELESS LOOKING DUDE  
Is Margot here?

DIEGO  
Does she know you?

HOMELESS LOOKING DUDE  
She's my date.

DIEGO  
(smiling)  
Take a seat.

The Homeless Looking Dude sits down on the couch.

Don Diego comes down the stairs with his suitcase.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DON DIEGO

Alright son, it was great to see you. And remember, the director of marketing job is waiting for you at Don Diego's Trucking.

DIEGO

Dad, we talked about this. I'm not coming back home.

DON DIEGO

(playful)

OK, but no more checks from me while you're out here. You're about to turn 28 kid. Give Margot a kiss. I can't believe you live with two beautiful women.

DIEGO

We're friends, dad.

DON DIEGO

I grew up in the wrong era.

Don Diego kisses his son on the forehead and leaves.

Diego looks into the living room where the Homeless Looking Dude has served himself a drink and is watching TV.

The Homeless Looking Dude holds up his cup without looking away from the TV.

HOMELESS LOOKING DUDE

Could I get some ice?

Diego walks out of the room.

INT. HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Diego sits back down at the table.

DIEGO

(to Margot)

Some homeless dude is here to pick you up.

MARGOT

His profile said he was in a band.

DIEGO

I think I've seen him standing on the side of the road asking for money with a cardboard sign.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

MARGOT

At least I can get a date.

DIEGO

And all you had to do was drop your standards.

MARGOT

Why couldn't you be more like your dad?

DIEGO

Old and horny? Please stop flirting with him. You know he's married.

MARGOT

To who?

DIEGO

My mom!

MARGOT

See, he knows how to talk to a girl.

SABA

Guys, you really need to work on your communication. I think we need to run a session.

MARGOT

Saba, please stop being our RA.

SABA

Margot, how do you feel about Diego.

MARGOT

He's an idiot.

SABA

Diego, how do you feel about Margot?

DIEGO

Loose lips, sinks ships.

MARGOT

Loose? I'm liberated.

VICTOR, 40s, dressed in a velour track suit walks in with a WORKER who takes measurements of the walls.

VICTOR

(Russian accent)

I love liberated woman. It means I don't have to call them after sex.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Saba, Diego, and Margot tense up with the entrance of Victor.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

(to the crew)

The door was open.

(to the Worker)

If the Google Couple doesn't work out, we could turn this into an extra room and add to price.

Saba looks down and averts Margot and Diego's questioning eyes.

MARGOT

Price for what?

VICTOR

Saba didn't tell you?

SABA

I already called for an emergency house meeting tonight.

VICTOR

I'm doubling the rent at the end of the month.

DIEGO

The end of the month as in one week away end of the month?

VICTOR

That month.

DIEGO

(to Saba)

When were you going to tell us?

SABA

At the emergency house meeting.

MARGOT

And I thought it was going to be about my overnight guest this weekend?

VICTOR

Ah that explains the police call. Somebody thought they were killing a cat here.

DIEGO

No, that wasn't dying pussy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

VICTOR

Me and Juan will go. You all need to talk and let me know if you're staying.

MARGOT

Is this even legal?

VICTOR

You been leaving here with no contract, no deposit, family rate. Maybe you and I could work out a new rate? Kill some cats.

Victor winks at Margot. Saba stands in between Victor and Margot.

SABA

Don't worry Victor, we'll figure it out. And we won't be moving out.

Victor walks towards the front door and everyone follows:

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Victor stops and looks into the living room.

VICTOR

Is this a new roommate?

The Homeless Looking Dude barely looks up.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

Is he a homeless?

(turns to Saba)

You kids have 'till the end of the month.

Victor leaves.

Margot looks at the Homeless Looking Dude in shock and walks up to him to shake his hand.

MARGOT

Oh, hi, Margot. Can you just give me a minute?

HOMELESS LOOKING DUDE

Sure, if I can get some ice I'll be cool.

Margot walks back to Saba and Diego.

MARGOT

(whispering to Saba and Diego)

Looks like I've reached the bottom of the Tinder dating pool.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DIEGO

You have. But what do you think about him?

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Saba washes dishes, Diego rinses, and Margot dries. They're a well oiled machine - you get the sense they've done this for a while.

MARGOT

(to Diego)

Saba, you really need to work on your communication.

DIEGO

We should run a session. How do you feel?

SABA

I feel like you need you to stop busting my balls so we can figure this out. I thought I was going to get a promotion and could handle the rent increase.

DIEGO

How can we afford double the rent?

MARGOT

Can't we put a roommate in the basement and another in the attic?

DIEGO

I don't want to lose my studio up there.

Saba opens a cabinet and puts her hand out as Diego hands her the freshly washed and dried dishes. Saba stacks the plates, cups, and pots. Margot wipes the counters.

MARGOT

Can any of us afford double the rent on our own?

DIEGO

My dad just cut me off.

MARGOT

What about Lisa Hwang, could she move in?

SABA

Engaged.

MARGOT

Really?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DIEGO  
Jeff Mercer?

MARGOT  
Moved to New York for Law School.

DIEGO  
Jenny Barts?

MARGOT  
Lesbian. Living with a girl in San Francisco.

DIEGO  
No. She's so hot.

SABA  
I guess I can ask my mom for some money until we figure something out.

MARGOT  
Sure, I'll talk to my mom too.

DIEGO  
I can post some ads for random roommates.

MARGOT  
Why don't we just ask Johnny for a loan?

SABA  
I won't do that.

DIEGO  
What's the point of having a rich friend if he can't help you when you need it. You've helped him enough times.

Finished cleaning dishes, they stare at each other.

SABA  
Lets try our parents first.

MARGOT  
Ah guys. I love living together.

The three huddle in a group hug. The Homeless Looking Dude creeps in holding his iceless cup and joins the group hug.

HOMELESS LOOKING DUDE  
I'm polyamorous too. Are there any rules to this orgy? Should I take my pants off?

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**INT. MARGOT'S PARENT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Margot enters an elegant Pasadena home - vaulted ceilings, original paintings on the wall, tasteful furniture.  
CATHERINE, 50s, slender in yoga pants, is on the phone.

CATHERINE

(into the phone)

Oh Sarah wait, it's your sister. You want to say...Oh, you are? OK. Well, bye, and congratulations. I'm so proud of you. No, that's OK, I'll tell her.

Catherine hangs up the phone.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

She was getting onto a plane to Fiji.  
Closing a deal with her boss.

MARGOT

Wow. What did she want to tell me?

CATHERINE

I can't believe it. That girl is just like your dad. She was just accepted into Yale Law School. Isn't that wonderful?

MARGOT

(expressionless)

Awesome.

CATHERINE

Now, what were you going to ask me?

MARGOT

I wanted to know if...

CATHERINE

Yes, sweetie.

MARGOT

Are my gymnastics medals still in the garage?

CATHERINE

From middle school?

MARGOT

The first place gold medals? I was going to frame them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CATHERINE  
(confused)  
We can check in the garage.

INT. ROSALIND'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Saba walks into an Ethiopian restaurant with African masks and bright colored walls. Saba looks around and is startled to see TEDDY, 30s, sitting at a table by the window. He doesn't notice Saba.

Saba turns to rush out bumping into ROSALIND, 50s, who holds a tray of drinks and appetizers. Saba pulls her mom away from Teddy's earshot.

SABA  
(whispering)  
Mom, why did you invite him? I told you I needed to talk to you?

ROSALIND  
I didn't invite him.

SABA  
I like my job and I like my life.

ROSALIND  
I don't know why you want to have that job? I pay my bus boys more.

SABA  
They pay enough.

ROSALIND  
Do they? Well, if you went with Teddy. He just bought a new BMW. Did you see it outside?

SABA  
No mom. I didn't.

ROSALIND  
At least have dinner with him. What did you need to ask me?

Saba hesitates.

SABA  
I need to borrow...some plates for a party.

ROSALIND  
No problem. I thought you were going to ask for money again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Teddy stands upon noticing Saba.

TEDDY

Saba, your mom said you might stop by.  
Want to join me for dinner?

SABA

Hi Teddy.

Saba walks towards Teddy's table and sits as Rosalind serves the drinks and appetizers.

ROSALIND

Teddy was telling me he is now a senior auditor.

TEDDY

In two years I'll be the youngest director at the IRS and I've also got my side business of preparing income tax.

SABA

Awesome.

TEDDY

Would you like me do you?

SABA

What?

TEDDY

Your tax returns?

SABA

Oh sure. Fine.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Margot sits at the table about to sip some coffee. Diego stands above her waiting for a reaction.

MARGOT

Oh, that's perfect.

DIEGO

(smiling)

I stir it exactly thirty times and then let it sit in the french press for 3 minutes.

MARGOT

You're good.

Saba walks in dressed in PJs.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

SABA

That homeless guy is sleeping on our couch.

MARGOT

He said he needed a place just for the night.

DIEGO

And you didn't invite him to your bed, it's already like a hotel.

SABA

(to Margot)

Anything from mom?

MARGOT

Just my middle school gold.

Margot holds up the medals.

DIEGO

Great. We can pool those with my citizen of the month certificates and get a Bel Air mansion. Saba?

SABA

My mom just remodeled the restaurant. I couldn't ask her for money.

MARGOT

I didn't even ask. My little sister just got into Yale. And what am I doing?

SABA

A waitress is a respectable job. Who am I kidding, I didn't ask either. My mom invited Teddy to the restaurant.

DIEGO

The tax dude?

SABA

He's a senior auditor.

MARGOT

Sexy.

SABA

My mom wants a man to take care of me.

MARGOT

That doesn't sound so bad?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DIEGO

Well, we got 34 responses to our roommate ad.

SABA

Really?

MARGOT

Hell, let's interview some roommates. We have 5 days. How hard can it be to find a roommate in this city?

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The house is tidy. Diego sits on the couch playing a video game, dressed in a wrinkled button down and chinos.

Saba walks out in a tasteful print dress and puts down some pastries on the coffee table.

Diego places a chair for interviews across from the couch.

DIEGO

I have a good feeling about this.

SABA

Yeah, what were we worried about.

They both look up at the stairway and standing there is Margot in a tight black skirt and fire engine red blouse that shows plenty of cleavage.

DIEGO

What is that?

MARGOT

Inviting and warm.

DIEGO

To a brothel?

Saba walks towards Margot and leads her back up the stairs.

SABA

Let's go for librarian.

Diego places a chair for interviews in front of the couch.

MOMENTS LATER

Saba and Margot emerge. Same skirt but now she is wearing a pastel colored Banana Republic-like sweater.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARGOT

Do I get a minivan with this wardrobe?

There is a KNOCK at the door and Margot sits on the couch.

SABA

Here we go.

Saba opens the door.

ROOMMATE INTERVIEWS - MONTAGE

BIRD LADY, 50s, large brimmed hat, long dress, lots of silver jewelry, with a bird on her shoulder sits on the chair.

BIRD LADY

Me and Peppers just need a place to live.

MARGOT

What happened with your current living situation?

BIRD LADY

Some people don't understand birds.

The Bird Lady turns to her bird and kisses it on the beak.

BIRD LADY (CONT'D)

(talking to the bird)

Do they Peppers? They just don't understand you. Not like I do. I... what's that? Oh yes, I'll tell them.

(talking to the crew)

Peppers really likes you.

SQUAWK.

CUT TO:

COMPUTER NERD, 20s, with braces and very long hair sits opposite the crew. He laughs ominously.

The crew watches him, not sure how to respond.

SABA

Very nice to meet you.

The Computer Nerd continues LAUGHING uncontrollably.

CUT TO:

MOM, 40s, piercings, tattoos, tight black T-shirt and MEGAN, 20s daughter dressed similarly, sit opposite the crew.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MOM

So it's really important that Megan live in a place where there is no excessive drinking.

MEGAN

I can't stand people who drink.

MARGOT

We're all very professional.

MOM

And any kind of boyfriends or girlfriends are not allowed to stay over night, right?

MARGOT

Who would want that kind of impurity?

MEGAN

I'm very serious about Jesus Christ. Have you all found your lord savior?

Everyone smiles. Diego does a sign of the cross.

CUT TO:

Laid back professional 20-something COOL DUDE sits on the chair. Saba, Diego, and Margot seem relaxed. There is an easy air of confidence and warmth about this guy.

DIEGO

I can't believe you were at U.C.L.A. when we were there?

SABA

Yeah, it just seems like we know so many of the same people.

MARGOT

I have to admit, you're like the first normal person we've met.

COOL DUDE

You should see some of the apartments I've been to. There was a lady with four dogs that slept and ate with her. Too much for me.

They all stand and walk towards the door.

DIEGO

We're interviewing a few more people, but we have to decide tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

COOL DUDE

Great. I have to move right away.

DIEGO

What happened to your old place?

As the Cool Dude is about to exit, he stops.

COOL DUDE

Full disclosure. I'm a registered sex offender.

MARGOT

Oh?

COOL DUDE

Yeah, but I mean. Five other guys in the fraternity had sex with that girl. She was really suggestive, if you know what I mean. Always wearing sexy clothes and talking about sex. I mean, she was practically begging for it.

Margot wraps herself tighter in her sweater.

MARGOT

OK.

SABA

Well, we'll let you know what we decide in a few days.

The door closes, leaving Saba, Diego, and Margot alone.

DIEGO

We are so screwed.

MARGOT

Not one guy I'd date.

DIEGO

Wow, we've reached a real low here.

MARGOT

That bird lady was your type. I wonder if the bird watches while she has sex and mimics her...

SABA

--Maybe I should just marry, Teddy.

MARGOT

I'm sure he'd like to audit your body.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

DIEGO  
(mimicking)  
'I'm going to have to slip you the long  
form, sweetie.'

MARGOT  
(mimicking)  
'Girls that file EZ form make me hot.'

SABA  
OK, fine, I'll ask Johnny for money.

INT. BEVERLY HILLS TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Saba knocks on the door and a surprised Johnny lets her in to his sprawling townhouse. She notices the sparse furniture and moving boxes.

SABA  
Are you moving?

JOHNNY  
Redecorating.

SABA  
We'll take any of your scraps.

JOHNNY  
Of course.

Saba gets nervous.

SABA  
I don't know how to say this.

JOHNNY  
You want to marry me and have my child.

SABA  
I need \$1500 to hold us over until next month. I mean, I know I'm going to get promoted to program director at work, it's just a matter of time. Diego will go to permanent. And by then, I should be able to find two sane roommates.

JOHNNY  
I don't know what to say.

SABA  
Cash or check.

JOHNNY  
Huh?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SABA

You can ask me, do I want that in cash or check. And I'll say a check is fine.

JOHNNY

I can't.

SABA

It's not that hard to say.

JOHNNY

No, I can't give you the money.

Saba is taken aback.

SABA

I can't believe I came. I'm so sorry. I should just go.

Saba nervously walks to the door.

JOHNNY

Saba. Wait.

SABA

I'm sorry I asked.

JOHNNY

I don't have the money.

SABA

\$1500 measly dollars.

JOHNNY

Well it doesn't seem so measly to you.

SABA

I know but...

JOHNNY

--All of my dad's assets have been frozen. I'm down to \$2000.

SABA

Oh my god. Johnny, you're broke.

JOHNNY

Thanks.

SABA

I mean, it can't be permanent.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHNNY

I'm going to hear from my attorney in a few weeks. They might be able to free up some funds.

SABA

What are you going to do?

JOHNNY

I don't know, but I have to move out of here.

SABA

Where to?

Johnny looks at Saba.

JOHNNY

With you.

SABA

But you're broke.

JOHNNY

It's only temporary. They'll free up the assets and I'll be good.

SABA

But what happens if they don't free up your assets?

JOHNNY

They have to. What happens if you don't get your job promotion?

SABA

They have to give it to me.

JOHNNY

So can I move in? Temporarily?

SABA

What about James?

JOHNNY

Him too.

SABA

I can tell Margot and Diego it's temporary.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (3)

JOHNNY

Maybe we just tell them I'm getting a new place and need to park my things at your apartment until it's ready.

SABA

Sure.

JOHNNY

You think they'll be OK with it?

SABA

Why not?

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Margot and Diego sit on the couch looking up at Saba who paces around them.

MARGOT

No way.

DIEGO

That's cool. I love Johnny.

MARGOT

Yeah, 'cause you think he'll get you laid.

DIEGO

That's not the only thing guys think of.

Saba and Margot stare at him.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

Well, it's not the only thing. Okay, sure, I'll be happy with his table scraps. It's all I think about. God!

SABA

(to Margot)

So why not?

MARGOT

I don't know.

SABA

We've known him forever.

MARGOT

I'm just not comfortable living with someone like that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SABA

What does that mean?

DIEGO

(to Margot)

You can't be serious.

MARGOT

That's not what I meant. I mean. He's a womanizer. He takes advantage of woman for his own pleasure.

DIEGO

How's that any different than what you do with men?

MARGOT

It's different. I'm a woman.

DIEGO

A white woman.

MARGOT

That is not what I said.

SABA

So you're either racist or sexist.

MARGOT

What are you talking about? I'm friends with you.

Saba and Diego roll their eyes.

DIEGO

--Dude. The, 'I have a brown friend' defense. Really?

SABA

(to Margot)

Maybe you should stop.

DIEGO

If you have something against him because he's a wealthy African, maybe you should just say it.

MARGOT

I'm not racist. He's just different. I don't trust him.

DIEGO

Well I do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SABA

Me too. And it's only temporary.

MARGOT

You guys are totally twisting my words.

DIEGO

Are we?

MARGOT

Okay. Fine. He can live here. But we'll see who's complaining when he has all his girls trailing in and out of here.

SABA

And James?

MARGOT

James is a saint

DIEGO

And Asian.

MARGOT

Oh, now who's being racist here?

SABA

(sarcastic)

I'm sure that having an Asian roommate will boost our resell value.

MARGOT

Fine, Johnny and James can live here.

**END OF ACT TWO**

ACT THREEINT. HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

The house is a bundle of activity. Margot walks in carrying a box. Johnny directs.

JOHNNY  
That goes upstairs.

Saba walks in lugging two chairs.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)  
Kitchen table.

James walks in with a huge lamp.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)  
Careful.  
(pointing up)  
Up there.

Diego carries a heap of suits in hangers.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)  
Nice. Let's see if there's room for that  
up stairs?

Johnny walks into the living room and serves himself a drink from the bar

JOHNNY (CONT'D)  
This is exhausting.

He sips the drink and lays on the couch. Victor enters holding a contract.

VICTOR  
Is Saba here?

JOHNNY  
Kitchen.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Victor hands Saba the contract and she reads it while leaning on the counter top.

SABA  
Wait, you're asking for a \$2000 deposit?

VICTOR  
That's standard protocol.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SABA

Since when does Victor Ivanov follow standard procedure?

VICTOR

Since your competing with Google couple.

SABA

Where am I going to get an additional \$2000, Victor?

VICTOR

I don't know why you stay here? Your mom's house is so big and she's by herself.

SABA

And live with my mom?

VICTOR

She makes good breakfast. What do you have here?

SABA

How do you know my mom has two extra rooms? And serves a good breakfast?

VICTOR

Boys and girls can't be friends?

SABA

(suspicious)  
I'll find the deposit.

Saba signs the contract and hands it to Victor.

SABA (CONT'D)

See if I ever use Google again? Pushing up all the rents.

VICTOR

OK. I go now.

Victor walks out the back door and Margot walks in.

SABA

You just missed your boyfriend?

MARGOT

Diego.

SABA

Victor. Are you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MARGOT

We're moving Johnny's stuff and he's laying on the couch sipping whiskey. You need to talk to him.

SABA

You handle it.

MARGOT

Aren't you the RA?

Diego walks in holding up a painting.

DIEGO

Look what he did to my painting.

SABA

Did he take your rubber duckie too?

DIEGO

Come on Saba, what are we going to do?

Johnny walks in.

JOHNNY

--You mean there is no cable and Internet hookup in my room. I have to switch rooms with somebody. I'm a writer, I need Internet.

SABA

Alright. Emergency meeting, tonight.

JOHNNY

Wait, does that mean I get to come.

SABA

(angry)

Yes. Especially you.

Everyone is taken aback by Saba's visible anger as she leaves the room. Everyone looks to each other.

JOHNNY

Is she mad?

MARGOT

I've never seen her loose her cool.

DIEGO

What do we do?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MARGOT

For starters, we all need to pull our own weight, Johnny.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Saba walks to the front door and opens it. Teddy is standing there about to ring the doorbell.

TEDDY

Saba.

SABA

I'm sorry Teddy, this is a real bad time.

TEDDY

OK, well, I just brought your tax return.

SABA

You already finished it?

TEDDY

I did the long form, it was easy.

Teddy hands Saba an envelope. She opens it up and reads. She is shocked as she looks up.

SABA

I'm getting that much back?

Saba hugs Teddy for dear life. Diego, Margot, Johnny, and James walk in.

MARGOT

(tearing up)

She's getting married, we've lost another one.

DIEGO

I knew it.

JOHNNY

So no more house meeting?

Saba pulls away from Teddy and jumps for joy as she hugs her roommates in a group hug.

SABA

We did it. We can keep the place for a little longer!

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY

Saba, dressed in a robe, takes sunglasses out of her car.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SABA'S POV: the Young Couple across the street bickers as they take out the two kids from the back seat who are in a full meltdown - lots of KID SCREAMING and kicking.

Saba puts on her sunglasses as she walks through the side gate into:

EXT. HOUSE - BACKYARD POOL - DAY

Saba makes her way past everyone. Tiki torches are lit and Hawaiian music drifts around the pool. Yes, this is a themed pool party. Thanks, Saba.

Johnny works the grill as Rosalind flirts and coaches him.

JOHNNY

I don't know why Saba put me on grill duty? This is starting to feel like military school all over again.

ROSALIND

We'll make you a good husband, Johnny.

Johnny flips a burger and singes his hand.

JOHNNY

Ah!

ROSALIND

Come on, some scars will toughen you up.

Diego in a Hawaiian shirt, serves Margot a blended drink.

MARGOT

Oh, this is kind of strong.

DIEGO

I know how you like it.

Victor talks to James.

VICTOR

I was married to an Asian woman once.

JAMES

Where from?

VICTOR

Philippines.

JAMES

I'm from Korea.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

VICTOR

Oh.

Saba takes off her robe to reveal a bikini underneath and lays down on a chaise lounge chair. She takes in the scene.

Teddy walks from the bar and hands Saba a slushy drink. She sips it.

SABA

This is perfect.

Saba sips her drink as Teddy walks back to the bar.

**END OF ACT THREE**

TAGINT. HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Diego still wearing his pool shorts walks out of Margot's room and closes the door. The door opens and Margot peaks out carrying a Hawaiian shirt.

MARGOT  
(whispering)  
Don't leave your shirt.

DIEGO  
Keep it.

MARGOT  
We have to stop this...

Diego kisses Margot passionately.

MARGOT (CONT'D)  
--we're friends.

Margot tugs at Diego to come back into the room. The door closes.

Saba's door opens and out walks the Homeless Looking Dude. He rushes down the stairs.

END OF SHOW