

# " INTERVENTION! "

Written by:  
Jim Boston

1312 N. 48th Ave., #324  
Omaha, NE 68132  
402 556-3340  
Huskercyclone@netzero.net  
1-14-2025

FADE IN:

EXT. FRIARS ROAD - DAY

SUPER: SAN DIEGO, CA, 11-8-2003

Vehicles stream onto this already-busy street from the Qualcomm Stadium parking lot.

One of those vehicles, a 2003 Pontiac Grand Prix sedan, moves into an opening in the Friars Road traffic.

INT. PONTIAC GRAND PRIX - DAY

RAHSAAN JOHNSON (31, a thinker; NFL/WWE-sized, Black) drives as A SPORTS TALK STATION blasts out of the car's stereo.

A scowl fills Rahsaan's face.

RICHIE (V.O.)

You're listening to Richie McConnell on ESPN 710. Let's take another call. Patricia...you're on 710.

PATRICIA (V.O.)

Thanks, Richie. Long-time listener, first-time caller.

RICHIE (V.O.)

What's on your mind?

PATRICIA (V.O.)

What's wrong with the Chargers? Let me count the ways.

RICHIE (V.O.)

Okay.

PATRICIA (V.O.)

First of all, Richie, their defense gives up too many yards and too many points. No wonder they've lost eleven of their last twelve games.

RAHSAAN

Wait a minute!

RICHIE (V.O.)

It's more than that.

PATRICIA (V.O.)

That defense leaks worse than a cheap diaper!

Rahsaan tries to stifle a laugh.

PATRICIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 And they oughta give LaDainian Tomlinson the ball more often. And bench Drew Brees and make Doug Flutie the starting quarterback.

RAHSAAN  
 C'mon! Give Brees a chance!

PATRICIA (V.O.)  
 And they oughta stop using five defensive backs. Put that third linebacker back in.

RICHIE (V.O.)  
 I don't know, Patricia. With all the passing going on in the NFL these days--

Rahsaan looks through his rear-view mirror and finds...a San Diego Police car heading toward the Grand Prix.

PATRICIA (V.O.)  
 And trade David Boston back to the Cardinals. And trade Rahsaan Johnson someplace.

RAHSAAN  
 Hey! I got a sack last Sunday!

Rahsaan clicks the stereo OFF...only to find the cruiser's lights flashing and SIREN SOUNDING.

EXT. FRIARS ROAD - DAY

The Grand Prix pulls to a stop at the first convenient spot. The police car stops in back of Rahsaan's Pontiac.

SDPD officer RAUL MONTERO (40) hurries out of the cruiser and runs toward the Pontiac's driver's side.

INT. PONTIAC GRAND PRIX - DAY

Rahsaan rolls the driver's-side window down. He pulls out his wallet to extract his driver's license as Raul reaches the former's car.

RAUL  
 Good afternoon.

Raul catches Rahsaan's slow nod. The officer accepts the Chargers defender's license.

RAUL (CONT'D)

I coulda pulled out my gun and shot you.

Rahsaan exhales with another slow nod.

MAIN TITLES APPEAR OVER ACTION.

Raul examines Rahsaan's driver's permit.

RAUL (CONT'D)

So you're Rahsaan Johnson.

RAHSAAN

Yes. Yes, I am.

RAUL

Do you realize you've got a broken taillight?

RAHSAAN

I didn't realize that. Must've happened during the team meeting.

RAUL

This wouldn't happen if you Chargers would start winning games again. You Chargers have lost eleven out of your last twelve games, you know.

Raul continues to examine Rahsaan's license.

RAHSAAN

We're trying our best.

Rahsaan watches Raul pull out a pad.

As Raul writes, Rahsaan rests his head on the Pontiac's steering wheel.

RAHSAAN (CONT'D)

We've got Minnesota tomorrow. As long as all fifty-three of us work together--

RAUL

You take some of that big salary you're getting and pay this ticket.

RAUL(CONT'D)

(hands ticket to Rahsaan)  
And get that taillight fixed.

Rahsaan accepts the ticket, then receives his license.

RAHSAAN

I'll get it taken care of on  
Monday.

Raul looks skeptical.

RAHSAAN (CONT'D)

This coming Monday.

RAUL

Make sure.

RAHSAAN

You've got my word.

RAUL

Have a nice day.

As Raul walks toward the cruiser, Rahsaan pockets his license and the ticket...before he buries his head in his hands.

EXT. JOHNSONS' HOUSE - NIGHT

SUPER: SAN DIEGO, CA, PRESENT DAY

SOME SKATEBOARDERS glide past a Mission-style house in the Mission Valley neighborhood on this hot July Saturday.

INT. JOHNSONS' LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The big screen TV projects A BASEBALL GAME...but the sound's DOWN and Rahsaan (now 52) doesn't pay attention.

He, his wife ROSALIND PARKER JOHNSON (51, witty), their son KWAME (13), and their daughter A'JA (12) sit and gab at two sofas that surround a coffee table.

RAHSAAN

I got so ticked off at everything  
that happened that day that, the  
next day, I took it all out on  
anybody who wore a Minnesota  
Vikings uniform.

KWAME

Dad, did the Chargers win?

RAHSAAN

Darn right! Forty-two to twenty-eight.

All four Johnsons high-five it.

A'JA

(to Rahsaan)

Did you get any sacks?

RAHSAAN

Doggone right I did, A'ja. Got one...and the whole team got three.

ROSALIND

A'ja...Kwame...I watched the game on TV.

Six eyes stare in shock at Rosalind.

ROSALIND (CONT'D)

Doug Flutie threw a three-yard touchdown pass to David Boston to give San Diego the game's first six points.

RAHSAAN

The same David Boston that lady on the radio wanted to see traded back to Arizona.

(stands up)

Can I get you three anything to drink?

ROSALIND

Honey...why don't you surprise us?

Rahsaan shakes his head "yes," heads for the kitchen, and...

ROSALIND (CONT'D)

One thing about it, kids: Your dad doesn't listen to sports talk radio anymore.

...returns with four bottles of Gatorade (or a competitor).

KWAME

Thanks, Dad.

A'ja and Rosalind AD LIB their gratitude; all four Johnsons drink away.

A'JA  
 Dad...our neighbors are people of  
 color, too. Did they get stopped by  
 the cops like you did?

Rosalind and Kwame eyeball Rahsaan.

RAHSAAN  
 I don't know...

Rahsaan sits back down.

ROSALIND  
 Well...there's one way to find out.

RAHSAAN  
 We're hosting the next neighborhood  
 potluck...two weeks from today.

ROSALIND  
 (taking a sip)  
 I know at least two of our  
 neighbors will dish.  
 (another sip)  
 And not just food.

A'ja, Kwame, Rahsaan, and Rosalind click their bottles.

EXT. JOHNSONS' HOUSE - DAY

A pickup truck passes by.

INT. JOHNSONS' LIVING ROOM - DAY

Rosalind, Rahsaan, Kwame, A'ja, and NEIGHBORS sit, converse,  
 and eat a variety of entrees/salads/desserts on this Potluck  
 Saturday...while the TV shows ANOTHER BASEBALL GAME.

GUS ANDERSON (71, lively, authoritative, bitter; Black, New  
 York brogue) wags a finger while he talks to potluck  
 participants around him.

GUS  
 Yeah, I got stopped by a California  
 Highway Patrol officer...back in  
 1992.

Several sets of eyeballs turn to Gus.

GUS (CONT'D)

I was coming back here from a record show in LA...and this officer stopped me on I-5, just outside of San Clemente.

KELLY CHO (55, team-oriented, wary), a plate of tacos in her hands, bounds in from the kitchen.

KELLY

I hear you, Gus. That Nixon country is something else.

GUS

Well, this officer pulled me over. I had a 1978 Ford Granada back then. Back seat was loaded. He thought I was carrying weed and coke and all that.

Kelly takes a seat next to her husband, BRIAN WU (63, fun-loving, passionate), who groans while he hears Gus' story.

GUS (CONT'D)

I spent twenty minutes trying to show this "CHiPs" reject there were used records and used CDs in those boxes in the back seat of my car.

RUSSELL BEDARD (41, impulsive), his wife SASHEEN (42, calm), and their daughter MEGHAN (16, resourceful) nod at Gus.

All three Bedards are Native Americans.

SASHEEN

Sounds as if that officer was hungry for a ticket.

RUSSELL

Sasheen, it was more like he was hungry to kill somebody.

GUS

(pointing at Russell)  
Yeah! That!

Most of the participants AD LIB their agreement.

RAHSAAN

(standing up)  
Eat up, everybody! There's plenty more left!



GRACIELA GARCIA (41, perky, down-to-Earth) grabs her plate, jumps out of her seat, and...watches husband FERNANDO (48, kooky; heavysset) shrug.

GRACIELA  
I'm on it, Rahsaan! Can't get  
enough of those chicken wings!

Rosalind eyes Graciela (who heads for the kitchen), then Rahsaan, then Meghan.

ROSALIND  
Meghan...why don't you tell 'em  
what happened when you tried to get  
an organ teacher?

Meghan receives withering looks from JEREMY WU (11), his sister ANNABELLE (13), SELENA GARCIA (12), and Selena's brother JAVIER (11)...who all look up from their plates.

Result: A'ja and Kwame stare Annabelle, Javier, Jeremy, and Selena down.

KWAME  
Listen, don't dis Meghan. She's  
cool.

MEGHAN  
Thanks, Kwame.

Graciela returns with a new plate of chicken wings.

A'JA  
(to the dissenters)  
You should check out her YouTube  
videos.

Jeremy and Selena shake their heads sideways.

MEGHAN  
Speaking of YouTube...  
(takes a bite)  
I had to go to that because Pamelyn  
O'Brien wouldn't give me organ  
lessons.

SASHEEN  
And Pamelyn's one of the best organ  
teachers in the San Diego area.

Fernando groans.

GRACIELA

(sits back down)

She lives and teaches over by Balboa Park. She once bought ten dozen yellow roses from our flower shop.

RUSSELL

You know what she said to Meghan?

(takes a sip)

She told her: "It's too complicated an instrument for somebody of your ethnic persuasion."

Some adult mouths fly open.

KELLY

I hope those flowers died on arrival.

FERNANDO

And I hope she cut her hands on the thistles...I mean thorns!

Javier and Selena titter...only to cover their mouths when A'ja and Kwame eyeball them.

BRIAN

Rahsaan...you know how you quit listening to sports talk radio after you got pulled over for that busted taillight?

RAHSAAN

Yeah. I hear you, Brian.

BRIAN

Well, me and Kelly quit listening to all talk radio.

KELLY

And we don't care if it's news, sports, or anything else.

(taking a bite)

And it's all because I called that Rush Limbaugh wannabee.

GUS

I thought they were all Rush Limbaugh wannabees.

BRIAN  
 And told him to stop calling COVID-19 "the Chinese flu."

KELLY  
 They banned me from calling that station for the rest of my life.

Kelly finishes what's on her plate...

ANNABELLE  
 (to Jeremy)  
 One thing about Mom: She's got...

JEREMY  
 Intestinal fortitude.

ANNABELLE  
 (with a nod)  
 Guts.

...and returns the plate to the kitchen.

RAHSAAN  
 Speaking of guts...

Rahsaan gestures the seven children and the other seven adults into a huddle of sorts.

When Kelly realizes something big's about to happen, she joins the huddle of sorts.

RAHSAAN (CONT'D)  
 It wouldn't be bad if we could get all those people together who've been dissing us because of our colors.

GUS  
 And teach 'em a lesson.

ROSALIND  
 A lesson they'll never forget.

JAVIER  
 How're we gonna do that, Mrs. Parker Johnson?

A sly grin crosses Rosalind's face.

SELENA

And besides...those cops who  
stopped Mr. Johnson and Mr.  
Anderson are old men by now.

FERNANDO

Javier...Selena...it's too late for  
those old men, anyway.

Selena and Javier shrug.

ROSALIND

But, no...Rahsaan and I went online  
one day, and we checked out Jane  
Elliott's methods for getting  
people to stop being racist.

Some adult heads nod.

SASHEEN

When I was little, I saw her on  
"The Oprah Winfrey Show." Never  
ever forgot that.

Fernando points to Rosalind, then to Sasheen.

SASHEEN (CONT'D)

Not long after watching that show,  
I wanted to grow up to be a  
teacher...or at least work with  
children in some way.

FERNANDO

Jane Elliott...didn't she do a  
movie with Elvis Presley?

Rahsaan and Rosalind crack up.

GRACIELA

No...not that Jane Elliott.

GUS

The one who did a movie with Elvis  
spells her last name with one T,  
not two. And she used to play on  
"General Hospital."

A grinning Fernando nods.

SASHEEN

Rahsaan's right...Rosalind, too. If we all put our heads together, we could stage our own antiracism workshop.

RAHSAAN

Whaddya say, everybody?

Potluck participants eyeball each other.

GUS

We've got a chance to sock it to some people who've got it coming.

RAHSAAN

And teach 'em what unity's about.

Russell and Graciela shake their heads "yes."

KELLY

Let's do it!

Rahsaan, Rosalind, and Co. place their hands in the middle of the huddle and cheer themselves hoarse.

When the cheering dies down:

GUS

Even if I can't get hold of that "CHiPs" reject...I'd like to get hold of my old boss. The one who got me started selling records.

GRACIELA

Speaking of lesson...there's a young sacker at the Ralphs over on Friars Road we'd like to work with.

Selena nods at Graciela.

SELENA

Yeah, Mom. 'Cause of him, we now shop at the Ralphs on Midway Drive.

Fernando grits his teeth.

ROSALIND

It'd be great to pull that cop Raul over...but we'd probably all get killed if we did that.

KWAME

With or without him calling for  
backups.

Kwame earns nods from his fellow Johnsons.

ROSALIND

I've got somebody else in mind...

Rosalind attracts stares from A'ja, Kwame, and Rahsaan.

EXT. SAN DIEGO ZOO - DAY

An August Sunday...Rahsaan, Rosalind, A'ja, and Kwame stroll  
toward the front entrance of this iconic attraction.

ROSALIND

(to Rahsaan)

Hon...you remember me talking about  
the husband-and-wife realtors who  
got me into Amway?

RAHSAAN

Huh?

ROSALIND

This was before I met you.

A'JA

(pointing to Rahsaan)

And you'd just retired from the NFL  
after the Washington Commanders  
released you.

KWAME

After one season.

Rahsaan's is a heavy nod.

A'ja receives a heavy nod from Kwame.

A'JA

I know...they weren't the  
Washington Commanders when Dad  
played in the NFL.

Meghan, Russell, and Sasheen reach the zoo's front entrance.

A'JA (CONT'D)

They were still using a name Meghan  
and her folks spent years trying to  
get 'em to change.

The Johnsons' youngest turns around...and eyes the Bedards.

A'JA (CONT'D)  
Oh, hi, Meghan, Mr. Bedard, Mrs.  
Bedard!

The two families AD LIB salutations.

MEGHAN  
I can't wait 'til we do that  
antiracism workshop!  
(to Rosalind)  
Have you found somebody to bring to  
the workshop?

A huge smile fills Rosalind's face.

EXT. SAN DIEGO ZOO ELEPHANT ODYSSEY - DAY

A LARGE CROWD watches from a sidewalk as Kelly nurses an elephant back to good health.

Brian, Annabelle, Jeremy, Sasheen, Russell, Meghan, Rahsaan, Rosalind, A'ja, and Kwame try to inch closer to the action.

When the elephant proves to be its own self again, cheers ring out from the visitors.

Gus, Graciela, Fernando, Javier, and Selena arrive...only to look dumbfounded.

Annabelle turns to the five stragglers.

GRACIELA  
Annabelle, sounds like we missed  
something big.

ANNABELLE  
Mom cured an elephant of a cold.

FERNANDO  
Is that all?

BRIAN  
That's all, Fernando.

Fernando's mouth hangs open.

JEREMY  
They don't call her the best animal  
trainer in the whole San Diego Zoo  
for nothing!

Kelly bows to the crowd, which bursts into cheers again.

When the crowd thins down to her neighbors:

KELLY

Let me get cleaned up...and I'll  
see you guys at dinner!

GUS

I've got the place picked out.

JAVIER

Actually...me and  
(points to his sister)  
Selena picked it out.

Gus nods at Selena and Javier, then at Kelly.

GUS

Actually...all three of us did.

Kelly smiles as she heads away from the elephant.

EXT. SYDNEY'S GRILL AT SAN DIEGO ZOO - DAY

Gus and the four families he lives alongside chow down at a space that packs plenty of patio seating (mostly for foursomes)...and features some umbrella tents.

RAHSAAN

Well...that's a new one. I didn't  
think elephants could get colds.

KELLY

They sure can, Rahsaan. Since  
they're mammals, elephants are  
susceptible to several diseases  
that we human beings suffer.

JEREMY

Yeah...like colic, pneumonia,  
colds, consti--

ANNABELLE

Jeremy...we're trying to eat.

Jeremy shakes his head "yes" and goes back to his food.

FERNANDO

Kelly, I'm curious...how did you  
cure that elephant?



KELLY

I gave him that rich, rich broth  
they call "Elephant's 'Cure.'"
   
(takes a sip)
   
And then I gave him a couple of my  
twelve-hour cold capsules.

Some eaters shrug...others look puzzled...still others grin.

ROSALIND

Speaking of drug...racism is a drug  
to some people.

Sasheen flashes a confused look.

ROSALIND (CONT'D)

It's true. Just like some people  
use alcohol as a crutch to help 'em  
talk to another human being, some  
people use bigotry as a crutch to  
help 'em avoid some folks.

Fernando's eyes light up.

FERNANDO

Hey, Rosalind...I've got an idea!

ROSALIND

Hit it.

FERNANDO

I read Suzanne Somers'  
autobiography...then I watched the  
TV-movie version.

GUS

I read the book, too.

FERNANDO

Toward the end of the book, her  
mom, dad, sister, sister-in-law,  
nephews, and nieces walked into her  
brother's house to get him to stop  
drinking.

Some heads nod.

KWAME

Well...alcohol is a drug.

A'JA

That's what our home room teachers  
say.

BRIAN

Uh huh...sounds like we're staging an intervention.

KELLY

That's right...just like the intervention they pulled on the CEO of the company that you used to work for.

BRIAN

Which one?

KELLY

The company that made toys for pets before filing for bankruptcy.

ROSALIND

And that's how we're gonna get the bigots in our lives to come to our antiracism workshop.

SELENA

Also known as a sensitivity-training session.

A few eaters nod.

RAHSAAN

Only we're not gonna be so blunt about it.

SASHEEN

(nodding)

After all, if we went blunt, we could get injured or killed.

Russell takes a bite, then nods at Sasheen.

RUSSELL

We lure them by appealing to the things they like.

Some eaters AD LIB their agreement with Russell.

MEGHAN

Speaking of like...

(takes a bite)

I'm all stoked to find out who the Johnsons are gonna bring to the workshop.

RAHSAAN

Well, Meghan...let's just say they  
like to travel.

Rosalind flashes a sly grin.

EXT. BABICHES' HOUSE - DAY

Here's an earth-colored, two-story house in the Torrey Pines  
section of town.

August has reached its final Friday.

INT. BABICHES' LIVING ROOM - DAY

Spacious...and decorated to the hilt.

MELANIE BABICH (61, sometimes carefree, sometimes rigid; no  
filter) and husband MARK (61, strives to please) play  
checkers at a card table when the doorbell RINGS.

Mark jumps up to grab the front door...Melanie follows him.

MELANIE

Mark, if you sold houses the way  
you play checkers, we'd be  
bankrupt.

He opens the door...and when the result reveals A'ja, Kwame,  
Rahsaan, and Rosalind, Mark's mouth flies open.

MARK

Rosalind...Rahsaan...and Company!  
Come in!

When the Johnsons do just that, Melanie shakes her head "no."

MARK (CONT'D)

Welcome to our pad! So nice to have  
you here.

Kwame and his sister look around before taking seats. As the  
parents find seats, Melanie approaches Rosalind.

MELANIE

You know, Rosalind Parker, you  
could've been one of the greatest  
Amway/Quixtar distributors we've  
ever had here in Southern Calif--

A frantic Mark tries to wave Melanie into silence. No dice.

ROSALIND  
I wanna make it up to you, Melanie.

MELANIE  
What's your plan?

ROSALIND  
Well, I told Rahsaan, A'ja, and  
Kwame how you like to travel.

A'ja eyeballs her brother...Mark's eyes light up as he sits  
back down.

MELANIE  
Where're we going?

RAHSAAN  
It's a surprise.

Mark nods with a grin.

A'JA  
Mrs. Babich, we all saw your  
Website and found out how you and  
your husband love surprises.

Melanie and a grinning Mark stare at A'ja.

MARK  
All I can say is: When are we  
going?

RAHSAAN  
Right now!

MELANIE  
Now wait just a minute! Mark and I  
aren't ready!

KWAME  
A'ja and Mom and Dad and I are all  
packed up. Our bags are in the SUV.

RAHSAAN  
(to Mark and Melanie)  
We'll wait on you while you pack.  
It's just a weekend trip.

Mark and Melanie look at each other...then give Rahsaan and  
Rosalind a nod each.

The Babiches' living room erupts in cheers.

ROSALIND

And since this is a surprise...and  
to make the surprise work...you two  
oughta wear this.

Rosalind yanks a pair of blindfolds from her pants pocket.

EXT. AM 760 SAN DIEGO HEADQUARTERS - DAY

A striking, modern-looking building minutes from San Diego  
Bay and from Interstate 15.

INT. AM 760 SAN DIEGO STUDIO - DAY

RICHARD SHINGLEDECKER (62, paternalistic, egotistical) and  
BAKER HINES (47, shifty) chat in a medium-size studio whose  
large TV shows a GIF version of Old Glory.

Both men wear headphones and speak into mikes.

BAKER

And if I...when I get back in  
office, you can bet your life I'll  
help make America great again.

Richard wears a toothy smile.

RICHARD

There you have it, Americans! My  
guest today has been Baker Hines.  
He wants his Congressional seat  
back...that's right, he wants to  
flip that seat red.

Baker flashes his own ear-to-ear smile.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Let's help him, loyal listeners!  
(to Baker)  
Thank you for coming on "The  
Richard Shingledecker Show."

BAKER

The pleasure's all mine, Richard.

RICHARD

Fellow Americans, I'll be back on  
Monday. Have a great weekend.

Baker and Richard set their headphones on the desk, then  
shake hands.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
Great show, Baker...Congressman  
Hines.

BAKER  
Great host!

EXT. AM 760 SAN DIEGO HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Richard and his radio guest stroll the parking lot to reach their late-model Lincoln Corsairs when Brian, driver Kelly, Jeremy, and Annabelle climb out of their 2019 Honda Odyssey.

Kelly waves at Baker and the talk host.

KELLY  
Wait a minute, you guys! It'll just  
take a few minutes!

RICHARD  
Didn't I ban you from my air?

BRIAN  
We just wanna make up for that!

RICHARD  
This better be good. I've got a  
wife to come home to.

As Baker opens the door to his own Lincoln, Annabelle and Jeremy wave their arms and sprint toward it.

ANNABELLE  
Mr. Hines, you should be in on  
this, too.

Baker slithers into his car's driver's seat.

BAKER  
I've got a campaign rally to go to.

Jeremy blocks the door before a stunned Baker can close it.

JEREMY  
Annabelle and I checked your  
campaign Website.

ANNABELLE  
And we found out you've got nothing  
going this weekend.

Baker looks flummoxed.

Brian and Kelly lead Richard away from the talkster's Corsair and toward Annabelle, Baker, and Jeremy.

RICHARD

What's this all about?

KELLY

We're going on an expedition. This morning.

BRIAN

And we wanted to invite you and former Representative Hines.

KELLY

It's just for this weekend.

JEREMY

(points to Richard)

And you'll be back in time to go back on the air.

RICHARD

I don't go on any trip without my wife.

KELLY

Bring her, too!

A sly grin forms on Richard's face.

ANNABELLE

Our bags are packed. They're in our minivan.

BRIAN

Don't worry, you guys. It's got room for all seven of us.

Several heads nod.

BAKER

(eyeballing Kelly)

You haven't told us where we're going.

KELLY

Just go home, pack your bags, get in our van, and enjoy the ride.

Richard looks speechless.

A grin replaces his speechless look.

KELLY (CONT'D)

That goes for you, too, Baker.

Baker shrugs before he closes his car's driver's-side door.

EXT. PAMELYN O'BRIEN'S HOUSE - DAY

A modest house in the Balboa Park neighborhood.

INT. PAMELYN O'BRIEN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

White's the dominant color here in this cozy space.

PAMELYN O'BRIEN (41, flashy duds, stern mind) sits on a sofa while best pals HALSEY HAMILTON and GELSEY STRICKLAND (both 12) play a classical piece on a five-manual Allen organ.

The two preteen girls end their rollicking rendition with a bang...and Pamelyn looks half-amused, half-stunned.

PAMELYN

Very...interesting.

Gelsey and Halsey jump up from the bench and do high fives.

HALSEY

Thank you, Ms. O'Brien.

PAMELYN

Tell me where you got that from.

GELSEY

Halsey and I went online and found out about this organ duo from Canada.

Halsey turns the organ off.

HALSEY

Rachel Mahon and Sarah Svendsen.

GELSEY

Better known as "Organized Crime."

HALSEY

And they combine serious organ playing with comedy.

GELSEY

And it looked so fun that Halsey and I decided to try it ourselves.



PAMELYN  
 (with a slow nod)  
 Fine...but just remember, Gelsey  
 and Halsey: Make sure you get all  
 the bugs out. All the everloving  
 bugs out.

HALSEY  
 We will!

Gelsey shakes her head "yes," then she and Halsey grab their  
 music books once a car horn HONKS O.S.

PAMELYN  
 See you next week! Make this work!

GELSEY  
 (heading out)  
 Don't worry! We will!

Halsey follows Gelsey out of Pamelyn's house...

EXT. PAMELYN O'BRIEN'S HOUSE - DAY

...where a 2020 Toyota Camry waits outside.

On the other side of the street sits a 2015 Chevy Suburban...

INT. CHEVY SUBURBAN - DAY

...in which Russell (the driver), Sasheen, and Meghan watch  
 Gelsey and Halsey climb inside the Toyota.

The Toyota takes off...Russell turns to his passengers.

RUSSELL  
 Let's do it!

Meghan and Sasheen AD LIB their agreement.

EXT. PAMELYN O'BRIEN'S HOUSE - DAY

The Bedards jog out of the Chevy and toward Pamelyn's house.

SASHEEN  
 (gestures to Russell)  
 Allow me.

Sasheen arrives at the front door first and rings the  
 doorbell; Russell and Meghan line up behind her.

Pamelyn opens the door...and looks slackjawed.

PAMELYN  
What...have we here?

SASHEEN  
A chance to make amends.

PAMELYN  
You're that counselor in the  
University Park area whose daughter  
wants to play the organ--

SASHEEN  
We didn't come to talk about that.

Meghan and Russell now flank Sasheen.

MEGHAN  
Mom and Dad and I just wanted to  
invite you to an expedition...and  
we're leaving right now.

PAMELYN  
Is this your idea of a joke?

RUSSELL  
No way, Pamelyn! And besides, this  
weekend trip is nothing compared  
with all the places the organ has  
taken you all these years.

MEGHAN  
Don't you wanna have some fun, Ms.  
O'Brien?

Shock continues to cover Pamelyn's face.

SASHEEN  
All our bags are packed!

RUSSELL  
(pointing toward Chevy)  
We'll be glad to take you, Pamelyn!  
It'll be fun!

Pamelyn gestures Meghan, Russell, and Sasheen inside.

INT. PAMELYN O'BRIEN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

The foursome take seats.

PAMELYN  
You'd better be right.

RUSSELL  
It's all good. We'll wait while you  
pack.

As Pamelyn walks toward her bedroom to pack, Meghan eyeballs that Allen organ.

She rises from her seat...only to sit back down.

EXT. FERNANDO AND GRACIELA'S FLOWERS - DAY

It's a modest-but-bright-looking building by the zoo.

INT. FERNANDO AND GRACIELA'S SALESFLOOR - DAY

Graciela and Fernando do business with A YOUNG COUPLE who buy some heart-shaped balloons.

GRACIELA  
(hands out receipt)  
Thanks for shopping with us.

Fernando nods at the young couple, who accept the receipt.

FERNANDO  
We really appreciate you.

Balloons in hands, the young twosome wave at the older duo on the way out of the store.

Now the two proprietors look at each other.

FERNANDO (CONT'D)  
Graciela, honey...you wanna make  
the call or not?

GRACIELA  
You'd better do it, Fernando.  
(with a grin)  
You're much better at celebrity  
impersonations than I am.

A shrugging Fernando yanks his cell phone from his shirt pocket. He punches a phone number.

INT. CUSTOMER SERVICE AREA AT RALPHS ON FRIARS ROAD - DAY

EMPLOYEES behind the counter wait on CUSTOMERS at this busy supermarket when store director LLOYD NEFT (40s) pulls out his own cell phone.

LLOYD  
 (into phone)  
 Ralphs on Friars Road. This is  
 Lloyd. How may we help you?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

Fernando grits his teeth.

FERNANDO  
 (into phone)  
 Uh...I was wondering if Kyle's  
 working this weekend.

LLOYD  
 Uh...no. Why do you ask?

Lloyd backs away from the counter.

FERNANDO  
 (mimics game show host)  
 I just wanted to let Kyle  
 know...he's just won...a free trip!  
 I just need his phone number.

LLOYD  
 Well, I'll be a...okay.

Fernando breathes relief while Lloyd goes back to the counter  
 to access a computer.

LLOYD (CONT'D)  
 May I ask who this is?

FERNANDO  
 (tries to do Rod Serling)  
 Submitted for your approval: A  
 longtime customer...

Now Lloyd pulls up his store's employee directory.

LLOYD  
 I see...you're the one who likes to  
 do impersonations.

FERNANDO  
 (in his real voice)  
 Lloyd...you busted me.

LLOYD  
 Here's Kyle's phone number.

Fernando and Graciela grab pens (or pencils) and a sheet of paper each as the couple await the information.

EXT. NEW SALEM STREET - DAY

A 2015 Nissan Maxima tools down the street.

INT. NISSAN MAXIMA - DAY

Gus drives while a blindfolded GEORGE RODENBERGER (68, fatherly) rides up front.

GUS  
George, don't take that blindfold  
off!

George's nod is slow and tired.

GEORGE  
Just tell me where we're going.

GUS  
Top secret.

Gus keeps one eye on the street and the other on George.

In the meantime, dead silence...for a few seconds.

GEORGE  
Can I open my eyes now? I wanna  
know where we're going!

GUS  
You like surprises, don't you? I  
remember that's what you told me!

The Nissan pulls into the parking lot of:

EXT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER - DAY

A sprawling complex on the north part of town.

Fernando, Graciela, Javier, and Selena escort KELVIN WITHEM (52, rude), his wife LEAH (52, sheepish), and their son KYLE (19, hotheaded) across the lot and into the building.

All the Garcias and all the Withems carry suitcases...and Leah, Kyle, and Kelvin wear blindfolds.

Gus jumps out of his car and grabs his and George's luggage from the trunk.

He watches George grab that blindfold.

GUS  
 (slams trunk lid)  
 LEAVE THAT BLINDFOLD ALONE!

Gus sets the two suitcases down and helps George climb out of the Maxima.

GUS (CONT'D)  
 Take my hand.

A still-blindfolded George tries to feel his way toward Gus' hands...but Gus grabs one of George's hands.

With his free hand, Gus picks up George's suitcase and puts it in George's free hand. Gus lunges for his own suitcase.

At last, the two men stagger toward the rec center.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER LOBBY - DAY

The Bedard, Cho Wu, Garcia, and Johnson families crowd around the receptionist's station...as does Gus Anderson.

All sixteen keep a close watch on Baker, George, Kelvin, Kyle, Leah, Mark, Melanie, and Pamelyn...all still blindfolded and behind the sixteen.

In back of those eight: Richard, who hugs his wife HOLLY SHINGLEDECKER (65, insecure). Both wear blindfolds, too.

Behind her desk, receptionist WHITNEY KELLOGG (39, Black) gazes out at the sea of people and their suitcases.

WHITNEY  
 I see you all made it.

Some people AD LIB their agreement with Whitney...an act that draws MAT BURKMAN (42, NFL-sized; White) and HASSAN SCALES (49, Black) into the lobby.

RAHSAAN  
 Those of you with blindfolds...go ahead and take 'em off.

The Blindfolded Ten rip their coverings off.

Mark's, Leah's, and George's mouths fly open...Baker shrugs.

MAT  
 Everybody...welcome to the Mira Mesa Recreation Center.

Holly goes after Kelly; Richard follows.

HOLLY

This isn't San Diego International  
Airport!

KELLY

Listen...nobody said anything about  
an airport.

Pamelyn and Melanie charge toward Sasheen and Rosalind.

PAMELYN

Both of you tricked us! You and  
your husbands tricked us!

MELANIE

Of all the sneaky, underhanded--

SASHEEN

We promised you an expedition.

ROSALIND

An expedition is a trip. And we  
told you this was gonna be a  
weekend trip.

Kyle and Kelvin sprint toward Graciela and Fernando in an  
effort to pound them...but Hassan and Mat grab Kyle and  
Kelvin, respectively.

The tumult grows...until Whitney whistles all into quiet.

RAHSAAN

(to Kelvin and Kyle)

I see you've met Hassan Scales and  
Mat Burkman...two of my old  
teammates with the Chargers.

Kelvin and Kyle grunt while still in Mat's and Hassan's grip.

KELVIN

You better tell us why we're here!

KYLE

Yeah! You better tell us what the  
hell we're doin' here!

Richard steps aside and pulls out his cell phone...Kelly  
sprints to his side.

KELLY

Hand it over!

RICHARD

Hell, no!

KELLY

Okay.

Kelly yanks the phone out of Richard's grasp before he can put the device to his ear.

KELLY (CONT'D)

All the rest of you we've brought  
in...turn in your cell phones!

Hassan lets go of Kyle...who now joins his dad in Mat's grip.

Melanie, Baker, and Pamelyn pull out their phones...but Kelly, Brian, and Gus come after the threesome.

GUS

Don't get any ideas!

BAKER

This is a free country, you know.

KELLY

Free country my ass!

BRIAN

Great comeback, Kelly!

Brian and Kelly do a one-handed high five.

While Baker looks stunned, Hassan grabs a box from behind Whitney's desk, then holds the box out for all the perpetrators to see.

HASSAN

Put 'em in here!

Kelly throws Richard's phone into the box...Holly, Leah, Melanie, Pamelyn, Baker, George, Kelvin, Kyle, and Mark place their phones in the same box.

KELLY

You'll get 'em back at the end of  
the weekend!

Most of the perpetrators seethe.

BAKER

(pointing to Kelly)

We want answers! We want them now!



PAMELYN  
Or we're calling the police!

Pamelyn looks to Whitney...only to earn a "thumbs down."

WHITNEY  
This phone is off limits to you.

And Pamelyn cringes.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER CRAFT ROOM - DAY

Gus and his fifteen neighbors stand at the front...the ten perps sit at tables.

Each person, neighbors and perps alike, wears a name tag that features his or her first name.

Kwame, Jeremy, and Selena veer off to the side to record the whole thing on a camcorder apiece.

GRACIELA  
Everybody, remember: This weekend,  
we're on a first-name basis.

The youngest participants do doubletakes...so does Baker.

MEGHAN  
(to Baker)  
Even you.

Meghan goes to the side to record it all on her cell phone...setting off Baker's jealous look.

RAHSAAN  
You ten wanted to know why you're  
here...well, here's the reason.

Rahsaan turns to Sasheen.

SASHEEN  
The ten of you will participate in  
a sensitivity-training weekend.

LEAH  
Why?

FERNANDO  
Because down through the years,  
you've performed racist acts on us.

Fernando receives jeers from most of the seated.

SASHEEN  
Microaggressions.

KYLE  
Yeah. Right.

Melanie jumps out of her seat.

MELANIE  
Who the hell are you people calling  
racists?

RICHARD  
So typical of you liberals. You  
just love to play the race card.

Richard's colleagues cheer while Gus wags a finger at him.

GUS  
Look who's talking about playing  
the race card! You do it every  
chance you get!

RICHARD  
(standing up)  
How in the world would you know?

Richard heads toward the front when Holly grabs his arm.

HOLLY  
Sit down, honey. You don't want  
another stroke.

A shrugging Richard returns to his seat.

HOLLY (CONT'D)  
You had one last year.

RAHSAAN  
C'mon, everybody. Let's all calm  
down. Let's all cool off.

A'JA  
Dad...oops, Rahsaan's right.

Melanie sits back down.

ROSALIND  
All we wanna do is give our side of  
the story...basically, all we want  
is a dialog.

Some folks nod...but Kelvin seethes.

KELVIN

So, you wanna talk? You said we committed a whole bunch of Michaelaggressions.

Rosalind nods as Sasheen chuckles.

KELVIN (CONT'D)

Well, let's go!

ROSALIND

We'll get to you later, Kelvin. But first, I wanna talk about the first time Melanie, Mark, and I met.

MARK

Wait a minute--

ROSALIND

Mark, you, Melanie, and I remember the first sales meeting I attended. It was back in February 2005.

The Two Babiches grow attentive.

ROSALIND (CONT'D)

Mark, you were cool with me attending.

MARK

I'm glad you came, Rosalind.

ROSALIND

I took notes, paid attention to the speaker, did it all at that megachurch where you had that meeting you invited me to.

A smug look crosses Melanie's face.

ROSALIND (CONT'D)

There was one other newcomer at that meeting. Mark, I know you were cordial to both me and him.

MARK

Well...thank you. I try.

ROSALIND

(nodding)

Thank you.

ROSALIND (CONT'D)

But, Melanie, you were cordial to the other newcomer...and when I shook your hand, you told me: "Treat this like a business...not a hobby."

MELANIE

It actually IS a business.

ROSALIND

You didn't repeat that to the other newcomer. I heard you!

Kelvin, Kyle, Melanie, Pamelyn, and Richard roll their eyes.

ROSALIND (CONT'D)

I felt that you were talking down to me. I actually did hear what the speaker said that night!

A'ja and Kwame smile at their mother.

ROSALIND (CONT'D)

Melanie...would you have talked down to me if I were White?

A smirking Melanie stares at Rosalind for a few seconds.

Kelvin seethes at Rosalind.

KELVIN

WHY DON'T YOU BLOW IT OUT YOUR--

RUSSELL

(to Sasheen)

Did you bring a baby bottle or pacifier or something?

The room breaks out in laughter (stronger among the mentors than among the perpetrators).

SAME SCENE - A BIT LATER

Hassan and Mat now stand (or sit) among the mentors and perps. Half the throng gazes at a gagged Kelvin.

BRIAN

Pamelyn...telling Meghan that you wouldn't give her any organ lessons 'cause she's Indigenous and because you don't think she's smart enough to dig the organ wasn't too cool.

SASHEEN

And as an educator, you should know better. We should strive to teach all children.

RUSSELL

Besides, Pamelyn, we do more than sit around in a circle and bang drums.

Pamelyn rolls her eyes.

MEGHAN

YouTube is cool as an alternative, but it only goes so far.

PAMELYN

Listen, studies show that--

GUS

(gesturing at Pamelyn)  
That's not gonna fly. I remember this actor named Betty Ann Carr.

GEORGE

Don't you mean actress, Gus?

FERNANDO

George, if a woman can be a host on TV instead of a hostess, she can be an actor instead of an actress.

Some occupants AD LIB their agreement with Fernando.

RAHSAAN

Gus, go ahead and testify.

GUS

Thanks, Rahsaan.

Gus takes a few steps toward Pamelyn.

GUS (CONT'D)

Anyway, Betty Ann Carr did a show called "Cade's County." Glenn Ford's first TV show. Carr played the dispatcher, Betty Ann Sundown.

PAMELYN

What's your point?

GUS

I saw an article about her in "TV Guide" when "Cade's County" was still on. It talked about how Carr also played the bass viol, guitar, piano, banjo, zither, and organ.

Fernando's eyes light up.

JAVIER

Wow! All those instruments!

GUS

And another thing, Javier: Betty Ann Carr was a Native American.

Bunches of eyes stare at Pamelyn.

SAME SCENE - A BIT LATER

Fernando, Graciela, Javier, and Selena hold hands.

SELENA

Kyle...we remember the time last year you jumped down our throats for hurrying inside the store you work at.

Kyle tries to snore.

RAHSAAN

Kyle, Selena's talking to you.

The youngest Withem sits straight up...much to the dismay of Leah and a still-gagged Kelvin.

SELENA

We had to hurry.

JAVIER

Our grandfolks from Chicago were flying into town.

SELENA

And they were gonna get together with our grandfolks from here in San Diego.

FERNANDO

(grits teeth at Kyle)

Face it: You were just bugged because we walked past a couple of White customers.

KYLE

Oh, spare me!

GRACIELA

Another reason we quit shopping at your store was...you kept making fun of the recyclable shopping bags we use.

KYLE

They all got flowers on 'em!  
'Specially that little bitty bag you kept bringin' in.

Some perps titter.

KYLE (CONT'D)

You can't get no groceries in a little bitty bag like that!

Gus, Sasheen, and Rosalind shake their heads "no."

So does Holly.

HOLLY

Kyle...you can if you try.

RICHARD

Honey, whose side are you on?

KYLE

Where'd you get that damn bag, anyway? And how come they all got flowers on 'em?

GRACIELA

We won that bag for doing volunteer work for a nursing home not too far from our flower shop.

Kelvin listlessly shakes his head sideways.

FERNANDO

That's right, Kelvin: Our flower shop. Me and Graciela's.

BAKER

What kind of country has this become?

RICHARD

Tell me about it, Baker.

FERNANDO

Wait a minute! Don't you two  
remember those FTD commercials  
Merlin Olsen used to do on TV?

Now Rahsaan's eyes light up.

FERNANDO (CONT'D)

Pro Football Hall of Famer Merlin  
Olsen, for crying out loud!

RAHSAAN

Now you're talking! Preach on!

FERNANDO

Merlin Olsen turned me on to  
flowers in the first place.

Graciela nods with a huge smile.

SAME SCENE - STILL LATER

Kelly and Sasheen stare Baker and Richard down.

SASHEEN

It's an honor to have a radio talk  
host and a former member of the US  
House of Representatives with us.

Richard and Baker look confused.

KELLY

The reasons you two are part of  
this sensitivity-training weekend  
are obvious.

Kelly yanks a computer printout from her pants pocket.

KELLY (CONT'D)

And legion.  
(unfolds printout)  
I'm not gonna read 'em all...we've  
got other things to do here.

SASHEEN

Many, many other things.

ANNABELLE

We all did research on you two.

Richard smirks.



MEGHAN

(to Richard)

And we found out you once said the Chargers moved back to Los Angeles because people here got sick and tired of going to Qualcomm Stadium to watch the Crips and the Bloods.

RICHARD

(bolting up)

I DID NOT SAY THAT!!

All four Johnsons eyeball each other.

KELLY

You did, too. It's on YouTube.

BRIAN

And that's a racist statement if there ever was one...since most of the players in the NFL are Black.

SASHEEN

And a true microaggression.

RICHARD

Oh, come on.

Richard sits back down as Baker rises.

BAKER

And what about me?

JEREMY

We remember you were sentenced to twenty months in jail for embezzling campaign funds.

Baker's is a heavy breath.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Why aren't you still in jail?

BAKER

Uh...uh...Trump...pardoned me.

RUSSELL

The same Donald Trump who wanted peaceful protestors shot and killed in the summer of 2020.

A flummoxed Baker sits back down.

Leah strolls to his side.

LEAH  
I wouldn't let those kids show  
disrespect like that if I were you.

Several of Leah's fellow perps cheer themselves hoarse.

KWAME  
Leah...they're telling the truth.

Leah stares in anger at Kwame.

SAME SCENE - A BIT LATER

A perplexed George eyeballs Gus.

GEORGE  
Just level with me. Just tell  
me...what did I do? Why am I here?

GUS  
George...I remember all those times  
you talked down to me while I was  
working at your record store.

GEORGE  
Gus, I was just guiding you.

GUS  
And you kept talking down to me  
long after I started my own store.

GEORGE  
C'mon. I was trying to be a mentor.

GUS  
You went too far the day Clarence  
Thomas became a Supreme Court  
justice back in 1991.

GEORGE  
You still remember that?

GUS  
Effing right! You told me: "Gus,  
you should be proud to have someone  
of your race on the Supreme Court."

Most of the perpetrators applaud.

GUS (CONT'D)  
We had one in Thurgood Marshall.

Gus walks over to George's side.

GUS (CONT'D)

I agreed with Thurgood Marshall's politics...but not Clarence Thomas' politics.

(points at George)

I'm a Navy vet. Then I went to college. Got a business degree.

KYLE

Sit down!

Now Gus walks around the tables.

GUS

San Diego State University.

(pointing to Kyle)

I can think for myself! I've got a brain! I know how to do research!

LEAH

Yippee.

GUS

I don't like when people talk down to me. Just because I'm this color doesn't mean I'm stupid!

GEORGE

There you go again, Gus...using race in every argument you make.

GUS

Well, that's what this country's founders did!

RICHARD

THE HELL THEY DID!

Kelvin tries to work the gag away from his mouth.

GUS

Get a damn clue, Richard! The Northern states had to compromise with the Southern states so that all thirteen states could become one country.

While Kelvin continues to take his gag off, his colleagues jeer Gus, who returns to the front of the room.

A'JA

Mr. Ander...Gus is right. If the Northern states didn't let the Southern states have slavery, Betsy Ross would've sewn fewer stars on the flag.

Richard stews...Pamelyn sizzles.

PAMELYN

(to A'ja)

They're teaching you that critical-race-theory crap in school, aren't they?

A'JA

Nope.

KWAME

Both A'ja and I are learning it on our own.

A'JA

On our iPads.

Most of the mentors bust out in laughs.

KWAME

And A'ja and I don't see anything crappy about critical race theory.

Now some mentors applaud.

GEORGE

Since we're talking about race...why aren't we doing this at the Martin Luther King Recreation Center?

RAHSAAN

We tried to book the MLK Center...but you know how busy it gets the last week in August.

KELLY

Especially August twenty-eighth.

George rests his chin on his fists.

SAME SCENE - STILL LATER

The ten perpetrators continue to sit around the tables. Some mentors find seats around the room's perimeter.

Rosalind, Kwame, A'ja, and Rahsaan still stand up front...along with any remaining mentors.

ROSALIND

Of the ten people we brought in,  
how many of you have blue eyes?  
Raise your hands.

No perps raise hands.

ROSALIND (CONT'D)

This can't be right.

George raises his hand...Melanie does...Baker, Pamelyn, Richard, and Kelvin send their hands aloft.

KWAME

Baker, George, Melanie,  
Pamelyn...stand up. You too,  
Richard and Kelvin.

All six adults rise.

RAHSAAN

We've got something for you six.

A'JA

You'd better close your eyes first.

MELANIE

Oh, all right.

George (he stares at the floor), Baker, Kelvin, Melanie, Pamelyn, and Richard shut their eyes.

RICHARD

This can't be good.

RAHSAAN

You don't know that.

Rahsaan pulls out six blue collars, then walks toward the six blue-eyed perps.

RAHSAAN (CONT'D)

Everybody else...don't move.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER GAME ROOM - DAY

Brian, Fernando, Graciela, Gus, and Kelly escort Baker, George, Kelvin, Richard, Pamelyn, and Melanie into a room that sports foosball, billiards, and ping-pong tables.

All six perpetrators now wear those blue collars.

GUS  
You six stay here in this room.

KELLY  
When the time comes, we'll come  
back and get you.

The six blue-eyed perps watch the five mentors leave the game room. The last mentor to split closes the door.

Melanie's eyes sparkle when she spots the pool table.

MELANIE  
(on way to pool table)  
Anybody up for a game?

Not a peep from a perp.

MELANIE (CONT'D)  
I know Mark would be up for a game.

GEORGE  
Melanie...I don't think they put us  
in here to play games.

Pamelyn gives George a boy-are-you-wrong look.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER CRAFT ROOM - DAY

Rahsaan, Kwame, Rosalind, and A'ja (all out front) instruct Holly, Kyle, Leah, and Mark.

Sasheen, Russell, Meghan, Selena, Jeremy, Javier, and Annabelle sit among the four perps.

Kyle looks smug...his fellow green-eyed perps look puzzled.

ROSALIND  
Now you folks know just how  
inferior blue-eyed people are.

RAHSAAN  
They commit most of the crimes in  
America, they initiate most of the  
divorces, they're...just  
genetically inferior.

Kyle's smug look turns into a big smile...but Sasheen's cross look drives Kyle's smile away.

A'JA

If I were you four, I'd write all  
this down.

Javier and Jeremy pass pens (or pencils) and sheets of paper  
to the four green-eyed perpetrators.

Scribbling starts when Kelly, Gus, Graciela, Fernando, and  
Brian return with the six blue-eyed culprits.

RAHSAAN

Sit down, you six.

Richard, Pamelyn, Melanie, Kelvin, George, and Baker take  
seats...and receive pens/pencils and paper from Jeremy,  
Javier, and Meghan.

RICHARD

(pointing to Rahsaan)

Nobody tells me what to do. Nobody.

ROSALIND

Not even your boss at iHeart Radio?

Some occupants laugh.

ROSALIND (CONT'D)

Richard, you're on our turf. We're  
gonna tell you what to do.

KWAME

It's for your own good.

RAHSAAN

So...you six who just came in,  
write this down: "Blue-eyed people  
are genetically inferior."

Kelvin, Melanie, and Pamelyn seethe...Baker's and George's  
mouths drop.

RICHARD

I'm not writing anything down!

Rahsaan moves toward Richard...the latter scribbles away.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER KITCHEN - DAY

Richard and his fellow perps (some seated) gab over  
coffee/tea/pop/juice/water.

Kelvin's now gagless.

MARK

They had us write down everything we did...everything we felt, saw, or heard while we were in there.

Some colleagues grumble.

MARK (CONT'D)

It was pretty eye-opening.

Richard charges up to Mark.

RICHARD

You know who's running this so-called seminar?

(takes a sip)

Human rubbish! HUMAN CRAP!

Leah, Kyle, and Kelvin kneel at Richard's feet...to salute.

Mark exhales while he and a shrugging George eye each other.

BAKER

(to George and Mark)

You know, you should listen to Richard's show more often.

Baker catches Mark's grimace.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER CRAFT ROOM - NIGHT

"Billy Jack" WRAPS UP on a big-screen TV to which a laptop's connected. Most of the throng applauds.

RUSSELL

We hope you enjoyed "Billy Jack."

SASHEEN

Even more important...we hope you learned something from it.

Perps eyeball each other...mentors nod.

RAHSAAN

Russell, Sasheen, and Meghan, thanks for bringing us the movie.

MEGHAN

You're welcome, Rahsaan.

(to the audience)

Any questions or comments...especially from you guests?



Crickets...for a few seconds.

GEORGE

Gus...

All eyes converge on Gus and George.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I saw this movie when I was a teen.

GUS

Me, too. Then I joined the Navy.

GEORGE

And I'll never forget the part where Bernard poured sugar on that little Indi...Indigenous girl.

Sasheen shakes her head "yes."

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I burned inside when I first saw that.

KELVIN

Oh, stop it!

GEORGE

When I saw that scene again tonight, Gus, I thought about you.

Gus' mouth flies open.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry for not taking you so seriously all these years...for talking down to you...for not respecting your opinions.

Kyle and Pamelyn pretend to gag...Richard seethes.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Or even the right to your opinions.

George and Gus stroll toward each other.

The two men shake hands; as that handshake becomes a hug, mentors applaud...and seven perpetrators jeer.

Contrast: Mark nods in understanding...Holly looks perplexed.

PAMELYN

What's your problem, Holly?

RICHARD  
(points at his wife)  
What's on your mind?

HOLLY  
Well...I loved the way that little  
blonde girl sang and played guitar.

Gus and George break their nod to smile at Holly.

EXT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER - DAY

A FEW JOGGERS stride by on this early Saturday morning.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER GYM - DAY

A'ja, Annabelle, Brian, Fernando, George, Graciela, Gus, Javier, Jeremy, Kelly, Kwame, Mark, Meghan, Rahsaan, Rosalind, Russell, Sasheen, and Selena sleep on one end of the gym.

Baker, Holly, Kelvin, Kyle, Leah, Melanie, Pamelyn, and Richard doze at the gym's other end.

Kyle rises, heads for the other side of the gym, and...punches Annabelle in the back.

He punches Gus in the back, then scurries back to his own sleeping bag (or blanket).

Gus and Annabelle wake up. He's livid...she's baffled.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Kelvin brushes his teeth at a sink when...James Brown's "Say It Loud- I'm Black and I'm Proud" (or a similar tune) BLASTS OUT of the rec center's ceiling speakers.

Leah's hubby spits water from his mouth in disgust...as a frantic Fernando finishes brushing his own teeth nearby.

As the song plays, Rosalind leaves the shower with a smile.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER GYM - DAY

The session's youngest mentors dress to THE BEAT of the Staple Singers' "Respect Yourself" (or something similar) when Gus and George nod to the music.

Kelly and Brian snap their fingers to said beat.

Baker and Pamelyn flee from the gym...fully dressed or not.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER KITCHEN - DAY

The music on the PA system CONTINUES STRONG.

This time, it's a rap such as "The Message," by Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five.

Meghan and her parents eat donuts and drink pop/tea/coffee/water...but Richard spills his coffee.

And Holly drops her cup of java.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER LOBBY - DAY

With Gil Scott-Heron's "'B' Movie" or something else of his NOW PLAYING OVERHEAD, Whitney approaches the locked front door...when Kyle sprints to her side.

KYLE

Turn that motherf--

WHITNEY

(unlocks front door)

No.

KYLE

(grabbing Whitney)

I said--

Whitney pins Kyle to the wall when Mat and Hassan come in through the front door.

HASSAN

Whitney...is everything all right?

WHITNEY

Now it is.

Mat flashes a toothy smile.

SAME SCENE - A BIT LATER

Richard, Pamelyn, Melanie, Leah, Kyle, Kelvin, Holly, and Baker stand next to Whitney's desk.

All eight perps look furious as THE STILL-STRONG MUSIC changes to Joyner Lucas' "Devil's Work."

HOLLY

(singing)

*Oh beautiful for spacious  
skies,/For amber waves of  
grain;/For--*

Holly cajoles her fellow perpetrators into singing.

BAKER, HOLLY, RICHARD  
*Purple mountain majesties/Above the  
 fruited plain!*

Richard stares in anger at Melanie, Pamelyn, Kyle, Leah, and Kelvin...while "Devil's Work" CONTINUES and mentors and converts alike arrive.

Not a blue collar in sight this morning.

BAKER, HOLLY, KELVIN, KYLE, LEAH,  
 MELANIE, RICHARD  
*America! America!/God shed His  
 grace on thee,/And crown thy good  
 with brotherhood/From sea to--*

Holly cuts this impromptu choir off when she realizes all that singing can't drown out a rap.

She zeroes in on Pamelyn.

HOLLY  
 You're a music teacher! Why didn't  
 you sing along with us?

PAMELYN  
 We don't have the same vocal range.

HOLLY  
 (to her husband)  
 I should've brought my uke with me.

RICHARD  
 Honey, "America the Beautiful"  
 sounds dumb on a ukelele.

Holly stews.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER SIDE ROOM - DAY

No music blares out of the center's PA system.

Sasheen, Russell, Meghan, Gus, and George stand opposite Kyle, Kelvin, and Leah in this space adjacent to the gym.

KELVIN  
 George, you're a traitor! A damn  
 traitor!

George shakes his head sideways.

LEAH

How could you do this to us?

GEORGE

Well...I just wanted to be on the right...I mean correct side of history.

Sasheen and Gus give George a "thumbs up" apiece.

RUSSELL

Kelvin, Leah, Kyle...we've gotta talk. Both sides have to talk.

MEGHAN

It's the only way that both sides can heal.

Meghan and Sasheen eyeball each other in understanding.

KYLE

Look, you snowflakes! There ain't nothin' to heal!

GUS

(pointing at Kyle)

There's plenty to heal! A lot more than you...any of you three...really think!

KELVIN

BULL!

(face to face with Gus)

Why aren't you people satisfied? Barack Obama got to be president. Kamala Harris got to be vice president. Remember?

Kyle moves in on Gus, too.

KELVIN (CONT'D)

James Brown, Maria Taylor, and Curt Menefee host NFL pregame shows on TV. What more do you people want?

SASHEEN

Respect.

Kelvin and Kyle back away from Gus.

SASHEEN (CONT'D)

Justice...equity...human treatment. Same things we all want.

LEAH

We do?

Gus sighs.

SAME SCENE - A BIT LATER

Gus pulls a newspaper clipping (or computer printout) from his pants pocket and shows the document to the Withems.

Leah's, Kyle's, and Kelvin's eyes sparkle.

GUS

What can you tell us about this?

LEAH

We came to Washington, DC, for the rally on January sixth, 2021.

Gus grimaces...Sasheen turns in a heavy nod...George's and Russell's faces freeze.

GUS

If that insurrection had succeeded, and Donald Trump became a dictator, wouldn't that have rendered songs like "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "America the Beautiful" useless?

Kyle and his folks look dumbfounded.

SASHEEN

Gus...these songs were useless right from the start.

Gus snaps his fingers in understanding...but he and Sasheen watch Kelvin and Kyle clench their fists.

Kyle and Kelvin come after Sasheen and Gus. George and Russell block the Withem males' path...and the foes back off.

Meghan turns to Gus.

MEGHAN

At least we know who hit you and Annabelle last night.

Now Leah shows her fists to Meghan!

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER GAME ROOM - DAY

Rosalind, Richard, Rahsaan, Kwame, Holly, and A'ja sit around a card table...all in the utmost of nervous calm.

KWAME  
 (to Holly and Richard)  
 Don't worry. We've had "the talk."

A'JA  
 That's right. I was six and Kwame  
 was seven.

Richard and his wife nod at each other in approval.

RAHSAAN  
 Richard, I just wanna know...why do  
 you hate me? What did I do to you?

Total silence...for a few seconds.

RAHSAAN (CONT'D)  
 Granted...I was a rookie with the  
 Chargers the year they lost Super  
 Bowl 29.

Not a single response from Holly or her husband.

Awkward calm all around...until Rosalind perks up.

ROSALIND  
 Holly...I understand you  
 homeschooled your and Richard's  
 three children.

Holly's face glows.

HOLLY  
 All the way up to high school.

RICHARD  
 Our two sons go to college up in  
 Irvine.

A'JA  
 UC Irvine?

HOLLY  
 Nope. Concordia University Irvine.

A'ja and Kwame shrug.

RICHARD  
 Our daughter Johanna had to turn  
 turncoat on us and enroll at the  
 University of Minnesota.

HOLLY  
Twin Cities.

RICHARD  
She's hanging out with all those  
liberals.

HOLLY  
What's worse...she's become a  
liberal herself!

ROSALIND  
Well, they were the only school  
that offered her a full harp  
scholarship.

RICHARD  
We patriots love harp music, too.

KWAME  
Richard...we're patriots, too.

Kwame gestures toward his fellow Johnsons.

KWAME (CONT'D)  
We just do it differently.

Richard rests his chin on one of his fists.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER CRAFT ROOM - DAY

Fernando, Graciela, Javier, and Selena sit across a table  
from Baker and Pamelyn.

Baker looks in lust as Javier holds a smartphone.

BAKER  
Young man...let me see your phone.

JAVIER  
No.

BAKER  
How old are you, young man?

Javier points to his own name tag as he continues to hold on  
to that smartphone.

JAVIER  
Eleven.

Baker turns to Graciela and Fernando.



BAKER  
And you trust him with this device?

GRACIELA  
Absolutely, Baker.

Selena dredges up her own smartphone.

SELENA  
Besides, with Mom and  
Dad...Graciela and Fernando both  
working, Javier and I use our  
phones for emergencies.

Pamelyn looks fit to be tied.

FERNANDO  
Like the one we're in right now.

PAMELYN  
You got that right.  
(standing up)  
YOU AND YOUR CRONIES KIDNAPED US!

GRACIELA  
No, we didn't. You and your fellow  
guests consented to this trip.

Pamelyn sits back down.

FERNANDO  
Remember: This is an expedition.

Selena and Javier shake their heads "yes."

FERNANDO (CONT'D)  
An expedition's a trip...and we're  
taking a trip inside each other's  
minds.

JAVIER  
With that in mind, Baker...why  
don't you show us what you know  
about the United States  
Constitution?

Baker's eyes light up.

SELENA  
Baker...why don't you start with  
Article One?

Baker's mouth drops.

BAKER

Can't any of you give me a hint?

PAMELYN

(stands back up)

This is such a blatant display of disrespect for a former Congressman!

FERNANDO

You mean Congresscritter.

A livid Pamelyn sits down again as Baker flashes a deer-in-the-headlights look.

SELENA

(to Pamelyn)

He did embezzle campaign funds.

JAVIER

And his votes did help keep White Privilege alive.

Pamelyn bangs the table.

BAKER

Children...I know the Second Amendment. Forwards and backwards.

All four Garcias shake their heads sideways.

SAME SCENE - A BIT LATER

Javier, Selena, Graciela, and Fernando stare Pamelyn down.

GRACIELA

You're one of the finest organ instructors in town.

A smiling Pamelyn nods.

GRACIELA (CONT'D)

You've got the floor right now. Here's your chance to set the record straight.

FERNANDO

What were those studies you were gonna cite to justify not taking Meghan on as a student of yours?

Pamelyn's face freezes.

She turns to Baker...who draws a blank.

FERNANDO (CONT'D)

If it's any consolation, Graciela and I earned biology degrees from the University of San Diego.

PAMELYN

So? Biology isn't music.

GRACIELA

(walks toward Pamelyn)

It's all right. Just tell us where you got those studies that you used as your reason not to teach Meghan.

Graciela watches Pamelyn smirk.

SELENA

(to Javier)

She must've been listening to Richard Shingledecker's radio show.

Javier, Graciela, and Fernando nod...while Pamelyn huffs.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER KITCHEN - DAY

Annabelle, Brian, Jeremy, Kelly, Mark, and Melanie form a circle in the middle of the kitchen. All drink water/pop/coffee/tea/juice.

MELANIE

(staring Mark down)

You do remember how to pronounce D-I-V-O-R-C-E, don't you?

MARK

C'mon, Melanie. Don't start that again.

Melanie mocks her husband.

MARK (CONT'D)

We've got a chance to clear the air with some very nice people.

MELANIE

Very nice people? They conned us into spending this weekend in this two-bit--

KELLY  
 (pointing to Melanie)  
 You agreed to take this trip!

MARK  
 Melanie, look.  
 (takes a sip)  
 We both needed to be here. I've  
 learned a lot since yesterday...and  
 you can, too.

BRIAN  
 Mark's right.  
 (downs his drink)  
 I hadn't seen "Billy Jack" in a  
 long time.

Brian sets his cup/glass/bottle/can aside.

BRIAN (CONT'D)  
 It was great to see Tom Laughlin  
 make those moves again.

Brian attempts a karate move...but stops short when his  
 kitchen cohorts back away.

MARK  
 (hugging Melanie)  
 We can do this. If I can quit  
 smoking, you can quit  
 microaggressions.

Melanie pushes Mark away...Kelly approaches her.

KELLY  
 You're still upset because Mark's  
 brother John was part of history.

Mark's wife cringes.

JEREMY  
 Annabelle and I found out John was  
 a classmate of Ruby Bridges at, uh--

ANNABELLE  
 William Frantz Elementary School in  
 New Orleans.

JEREMY  
 And John was one of the first to  
 befriend Ruby.

MARK

Honey...Ruby Bridges was the first African-American child to attend William Frantz School. It was back in 1960.

MELANIE

John doesn't have your money.

MARK

It's not always about money!

Melanie's and Mark's discussion escalates into an AD LIBBED argument...and Kelly, Jeremy, Brian, and Annabelle struggle to cool things down.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER CRAFT ROOM - DAY

The mentors, perps, and converts watch a 1976 TV-movie called "Farewell to Manzanar."

Kyle, Leah, and Kelvin struggle to stay awake.

Richard, Pamelyn, Holly, and Baker burn inside.

Annabelle, Brian, Jeremy, and Kelly nod in understanding...and George, Gus, and Mark watch the movie while taking notes.

Sasheen sits next to an openmouthed Melanie.

MELANIE

Why are we watching this...this...

SASHEEN

It's part of our history.

Melanie gives Sasheen a "yeah, right" look.

EXT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT - DAY

A FAMILY walks toward this Taco Bell/Chipotle kind of place.

INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT DINING ROOM - DAY

Rahsaan and his fellow mentors feast alongside converts Mark and George (as well as Pamelyn and her fellow perps).

HOLLY

Hey, Rosalind...why are these kids involved in this thing? Don't they have classmates they can work on?

ROSALIND

We're just trying to teach our kids  
to be better citizens.

KWAME

Besides, Holly, if we got other  
kids to come, we'd have to ask  
their folks to come, too.

A'JA

And we'd have so many people in  
this intervention we'd have to rent  
Petco Park.

Holly looks dumbfounded...and Rahsaan beams.

FERNANDO

Well, Holly...you know you can't  
really kid a kid.

Selena and Javier high-five each other.

Baker watches Jeremy and Annabelle bring full cups of pop  
back to their table. As the two children sit down, Baker  
turns to their parents.

BAKER

I really must disagree with you two  
calling our relocation centers from  
World War 2 concentration camps.

BRIAN

Well, Baker, that's what they  
really were.

Annabelle and her brother shake their heads "yes."

BAKER

(taking a bite)

You're indoctrinating the children.

Jeremy and his sister shake their heads sideways.

BAKER (CONT'D)

Auschwitz and those other places in  
Nazi Germany...now those were  
concentration camps.

KELLY

So were Manzanar and the other nine  
places like that here in America.

JEREMY

(sipping his pop)  
I read that when those Japanese  
Americans were relocated, they  
didn't get to live normal lives.

ANNABELLE

Just like in that movie we saw.

KELLY

See that, Baker? That's what made  
'em concentration camps.

BAKER

They were internment camps!

KELLY

Concentration camps!

As Kelly and Baker continue to argue, Brian, Annabelle, and  
Jeremy wolf down their food.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER CRAFT ROOM - DAY

Baker's and Kelly's rift continues as they take seats  
alongside the other intervention participants.

Gus bolts from his seat and goes to the front, where he  
gestures the twosome into quiet.

GUS

That's what we're talking  
about...what Kelly and Baker are  
doing. We've gotta talk. That's why  
we're all here.

Most remaining perpetrators groan...most mentors cheer.

GUS (CONT'D)

When you come right down to it,  
we've got to admit...as a nation,  
our original sin is racism and the  
White Privilege that comes with it.

KELVIN

GO BLOW IT OUT YOUR--

GEORGE

C'mon, Kelvin! Listen!

Kelvin stares in anger at George.

GUS  
Thanks, George.

Gus receives a "thumbs up" from George.

GUS (CONT'D)  
Anyway, all ten of you we brought  
in have benefited from White  
Privilege...and you're responsible  
for helping us change it.

Some heads nod.

GUS (CONT'D)  
We're all in this together. All of  
us. Period.

Pamelyn jumps up and approaches Gus.

PAMELYN  
Gus, I'm so damn sick and tired of  
your bellyaching.

The Three Withems cheer.

PAMELYN (CONT'D)  
You know, other groups have had to  
struggle. It shouldn't be different  
for the, uh, Blacks. You know that!

GUS  
Pamelyn, you know of any other  
ethnic group that didn't volunteer  
to come to America? Any other group  
brought over here to be slaves?

Half the throng applauds.

PAMELYN  
You people need to pull yourselves  
up by your bootstraps.

Holly, Leah, Melanie, and Richard erupt in loud cheers.

GUS  
I've done that! I've lucked out!

Pamelyn sits back down.



GUS (CONT'D)  
 But you'd be surprised at what happens every time we get together and pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps. Every time!

Gus clicks both the TV and the laptop hooked up to it on.

GUS (CONT'D)  
 I wanna show you what happened when a whole neighborhood of people pulled themselves up by their very own bootstraps.

With a few mouse clicks, A DOCUMENTARY about the 1921 destruction of an all-Black neighborhood in Tulsa emerges from the TV screen.

SAME SCENE - TWO HOURS LATER

Many in the throng look stunned as the film ENDS.

Kyle, Kelvin, and Leah smirk...Gus seethes.

RAHSAAN  
 Thanks, Gus. We needed that.

Rahsaan watches Gus nod.

GUS  
 Anybody else got any questions? Comments? Anything?

Nobody else says a word...but Kyle walks up to Gus.

KYLE  
 It just goes to show you...things were much better when slavery was the law in this country.

The youngest Withem backs Gus toward a wall. He swings at Gus...but the older man ducks.

GUS  
 Sit down! Cool down! Violence--

KYLE  
 At least you people knew your place! And stayed there!

Leah and Kelvin look gleeful...Richard and Baker smirk.

Kyle pins Gus to the wall and grabs Gus' throat...when Rahsaan sprints to pull Kyle away from Gus.

Kyle remains in Rahsaan's grip...George and Rosalind look after Gus.

Gus manages a breath before he eyes Rosalind and George.

GUS  
So...Kyle wants to go back to the  
days of slavery.

The Navy veteran stares at Kyle as Kelly joins George, Gus, and Rosalind.

GUS (CONT'D)  
(to George and Rosalind)  
I think we can help him.

KELLY  
I've got some things in the van.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER GYM - DAY

Meghan bearhugs a blindfolded-and-gagged Kyle...Brian ties Kyle's legs together while Jeremy holds Kyle's outstretched arms (arms that Annabelle binds together).

Kyle's down to his underpants.

Kyle tries to fight...but his is a losing cause.

MEGHAN  
So, Kyle...you played cornerback in  
high school.

Leah's and Kelvin's son tries to nod.

MEGHAN (CONT'D)  
Well, guess what? I'm a wrestler in  
high school.

Annabelle, Brian, Jeremy, and Meghan lead Kyle to a nearby wall just off the basketball court.

ANNABELLE  
Stay right there, Kyle.

Now Annabelle joins Gus and a bullwhip-wielding Kelly in front of the free-throw line.

The other intervention participants wait in various degrees of nervousness.

While Kyle faces the wall, Kelly hands Annabelle the whip.

KELLY  
How's that feel in your hands?

Annabelle smiles at her mom.

SAME SCENE - A BIT LATER

CRACK! CRACK! CRACK!

One after another, Annabelle, Gus, and Kelly take turns whipping Kyle...at point-blank range.

When the threesome take another turn with the whip, Kelvin and Leah charge after them...but George and Mark grab Leah and Kelvin, respectively.

A'ja, Javier, and Meghan tape the whipping.

SAME SCENE - STILL LATER

The scars on Kyle's back multiply.

CRACK! CRACK! CRACK!

While Kelly, Annabelle, and Gus continue to whip Kyle, Pamelyn approaches Rahsaan.

PAMELYN  
Rahsaan, stop this right now.

RAHSAAN  
Gus and Kelly and Brian are in  
charge right now.

Pamelyn bristles...Mark and George maintain their grip on Kelvin and Leah.

SAME SCENE - EVEN LATER

CRACK! CRACK! CRACK!

The whipping continues...Kyle's now-bloody back shows more stripes than a Cincinnati Bengals helmet.

When Pamelyn runs toward Gus, Kelly, and Annabelle, Russell and Sasheen block her path.

Richard and a tearful Holly hug each other in a corner.

SAME SCENE - LATER YET

CRACK! Kyle collapses to the floor.

Gus drops the whip.

The gym falls silent...for a few seconds.

Leah fights to loosen herself from George's hold.

LEAH  
(to Gus)  
YOU'VE KILLED OUR SON!!

GUS  
You don't know that!

George lets go of Leah and Mark releases Kelvin. Both parents run to Kyle's side.

Rahsaan strolls to another corner to break out his phone.

EXT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER - DAY

A now-unbound Kyle lies on his stomach on a gurney as paramedics GOLDIE (a woman of 56) and KIRK (a man of 39) slide him into their ambulance in the parking lot.

Kyle's back now sports bandages.

Leah and Kelvin (both with their phones and family suitcases) board the ambulance.

INT. AMBULANCE - DAY

Goldie drives, Kirk rides shotgun, and Kelvin and Leah sit around their still-unconscious son.

GOLDIE  
Kirk, I've never seen welts like that on somebody's back since I watched "Roots."

Kyle's folks grunt.

KIRK  
Which "Roots" you mean, Goldie? The one with O.J. Simpson...or the re--

LEAH  
Is our son gonna live or not?

GOLDIE  
We're about to find out.

KELVIN  
Well, hurry up, you two!  
(gesturing)  
You know, they were bullshi--

KIRK  
(to Goldie)  
Good thing the hospital's a short  
drive from here.

Goldie nods at Kirk.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER GYM - DAY

Gus is hot under the collar. He retrieves the bullwhip as the other participants encircle him.

GUS  
Who's next?

He walks toward Holly and Richard.

GUS (CONT'D)  
How about you two?

As Gus strolls toward Richard and Holly, he waves the whip. The twosome back up with each step Gus takes.

GRACIELA  
Gus...maybe you'd better drop the  
whip.

Kelly sprints to Gus' side. She grabs the whip...and hands it to Annabelle.

KELLY  
I've got a better idea.

Baker turns to Melanie...Gus and Kelly AD LIB strategy.

BAKER  
They wouldn't have gotten away with  
this at the Martin Luther King  
Recreation Center.

MELANIE  
Well, duh!

Kelly, Brian, and Gus surround Holly and Richard.

BRIAN  
Richard...you know what you get for  
calling some people human rubbish?

GUS  
 (pointing to Richard)  
 And for constantly referring to  
 this state as Chinafornia?

Gus and Brian team up to lift Richard.

RICHARD  
 PUT ME DOWN!

Fernando rushes to Brian's and Gus' side to escort Richard  
 from the gym.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
 I'M AN OLD MAN!

BRIAN  
 So are me and Gus!

Melanie, Baker, and Pamelyn hurry to the door to block the  
 four men...but all seven mentor children jump in the way of  
 the three perps.

They watch Richard, Gus, Fernando, and Brian leave the gym.

Kelly wags a finger at Holly.

KELLY  
 We know damn good and well why you  
 homeschooled your three children.

HOLLY  
 Let me tell you something, Kelly--

KELLY  
 You did it to keep 'em away from  
 people of color!

Graciela sneaks up to Holly.

HOLLY  
 DON'T YOU DARE EVEN GO THERE!

GRACIELA  
 Speaking of going there...

Kelly and Graciela lift Holly.

GRACIELA (CONT'D)  
 It's true that you and Richard like  
 to travel together.

The rest of the throng watches Graciela and Kelly wrestle Holly out of the gym.

Pamelyn stares daggers at Rosalind and Rahsaan.

And Sasheen and Russell stare daggers at Pamelyn.

EXT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER - DAY

Hassan and Mat stand by a dumpster in the rear; they watch Brian, Fernando, and Gus drag Richard toward the receptacle.

Not far behind: Kelly and Graciela, who shove a kicking-and-screaming Holly toward the trash bin.

HASSAN

Mat, this is what they mean by  
cruel and unusual punishment.

Mat and Hassan open the dumpster.

MAT

I heard this punishment fits the  
crime. Big time.

Graciela and Kelly put Holly inside the dumpster.

KELLY

Ladies first.

Holly lands on a layer of full thirty-gallon trash bags...only to whimper.

Richard lands on the same layer of full trash bags.

The force of his fall breaks one of the bags.

RICHARD

I'LL SUE! I'LL SUE EVERY DAMN--

Brian, Fernando, Graciela, Gus, Hassan, Kelly, and Mat team up to close the dumpster...then walk away.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER HALLWAY - NIGHT

Rosalind and Rahsaan stroll the hallway; Pamelyn and Melanie follow in hot pursuit.

MELANIE

Both of you have some 'splaining to  
do. Heavy 'splaining!

Pamelyn wags a finger at Rahsaan and Rosalind.

PAMELYN  
GET IT DONE!!

The two perpetrators walk away...arm in arm.

MELANIE  
I don't care what they say, Pam!  
They kidnaped us...can I call you  
Pam? Or do you prefer Pamelyn?

With Melanie and Pamelyn out of eyesight, Rahsaan and Rosalind pull out their cell phones.

RAHSAAN  
Rosey...I've gotta admit it: We bit  
off more than we can chew.

ROSALIND  
But it sure tasted good.

The Johnson parents go their separate ways to make calls.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER CRAFT ROOM - NIGHT

Baker, George, Mark, Melanie, and Pamelyn sit at a table.  
Melanie draws doodles on a stray piece of paper.

Melanie looks up from the paper and sees Mark and George, who both now have their cell phones back.

MELANIE  
You two aren't serious about this,  
are you?

MARK  
Honey, I am.

MELANIE  
Look here: They murdered Kyle.

BAKER  
And then they threw my favorite  
talk-radio host and his wife in the  
dumpster out back.

PAMELYN  
Mark, do you really want to follow  
that? Do you?

MARK  
Kyle hit Gus twice. And he hit  
Annabelle. Never mind that he  
mistook her for Kelly.



GEORGE

And if you're gonna hit people,  
you've gotta expect to get hit.

Baker chuckles.

PAMELYN

Richard didn't hit anybody.

GEORGE

Well...you shouldn't call people  
garbage...or trash...or rubbish.

George rises from his chair.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I wanted to keep listening to  
Richard's show.

(walks around table)

But when he started calling people  
human rubbish, that did it.

Melanie resumes doodling.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I was taught that God doesn't make  
junk. That's what my folks taught.

PAMELYN

Get real, George!

MARK

It's already real! You guys...they  
sure aren't messing around!

Melanie throws her pen or pencil down.

George stops to notice Melanie's artwork.

GEORGE

Melanie, I really like that.

MELANIE

You've got good taste.

GEORGE

Well, thanks.

(sits back down)

Anyway...I've learned my lesson.  
I'm not about to go back to my old  
ways...and besides, I don't feel  
like sleeping in a dumpster.

Mark shakes his head "yes."

EXT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER - NIGHT

Gelsey and Halsey stroll toward the dumpster; both girls tote a trash bag apiece.

HALSEY  
Who in the world ever thought a  
pizza party at a rec center would  
be a blast?

GELSEY  
Anyplace where there's pizza, it's  
gotta be a blast.

HALSEY  
You're right about that, Gelsey.

GELSEY  
I really liked when those two ex-  
Chargers tossed us those little  
bitty footballs.

Halsey and Gelsey reach the dumpster.

HALSEY  
You got yours?

Gelsey sets her trash bag down and pats her jeans pockets.

GELSEY  
Yep! How 'bout you, Halsey?

Halsey puts her trash bag down, feels her jeans pockets, and flashes her buddy a wide smile.

HALSEY  
Are you ready to feed the monster?

GELSEY  
Can Fernando Tatis Jr. hit?

The two organ students lift the dumpster's lid...and find...Richard and Holly asleep among the trash!

Gelsey and Halsey close the dumpster lid, eyeball each other, and scream!

The twosome flee the back of the recreation center.

They leave those trash bags behind.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER CRAFT ROOM - NIGHT

Baker looks longingly at George's cell phone.

BAKER  
May I use your phone?

GEORGE  
(shakes his head "no")  
Sorry.

MARK  
Baker...I've gotta charge my own  
phone. Darn battery!

The ex-Congressmember snaps his fingers in disappointment.

MARK (CONT'D)  
But, hey...I've got something  
better. A lot better.

One by one (or two by two), mentors file into the craft room.

PAMELYN  
This had better be good.

MARK  
It's called empathy.

Baker shrugs...Melanie seethes...a few mentors clap...Pamelyn  
shakes her head "no."

GEORGE  
Aw, come on! One thing I got from  
that film Gus showed us was that  
lots of times, people of color put  
themselves in our place.

PAMELYN  
No, George! You come on!

MARK  
(smiles at Pamelyn)  
You know he's right.

Now all sixteen mentors reach the craft room. Most sit down.

MARK (CONT'D)  
A little empathy goes a long  
way...so just put yourself in the  
place of any one of the people who  
brought us here...

PAMELYN

You mean take on the mind of a kidnaper...a murderer?

RUSSELL

Nobody died!

SASHEEN

Pamelyn, we've been through this time and time again: You and the others we brought in said "yes" to this whole expedition.

Rahsaan walks toward Pamelyn...

RAHSAAN

We had to put ourselves in your shoes in order to be able to pull this off.

...only to go back to his old spot when she glowers at him.

BAKER

Let's face it...it was clever.

Melanie and Pamelyn jeer Baker.

MARK

Mel, honey, you know it was clever.

MELANIE

D-I-V-O-R-C-E!

KELLY

A divorce isn't gonna solve one damn thing!

MELANIE

(pointing to Kelly)  
Stay outa this!

MARK

Mel...calm down. Listen.

Mark catches Melanie's sour look.

MARK (CONT'D)

Since yesterday, I've been able to put myself in John's place...because he was able to put himself in Ruby Bridges' place.

Pamelyn and Melanie groan.

PAMELYN

Mark, who's this Ruby Bridges  
you're talking about? Is she  
related to Todd Bridges from  
"Diff'rent Strokes?"

Gus, Brian, and George chuckle...Melanie jumps up and stares  
Pamelyn down.

MELANIE

What in the whole wide world are  
you talking about?

Most of the throng busts out in laughter.

EXT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER - NIGHT

Gelsey, Halsey, Hassan, and Mat (all wear rubber gloves)  
stand by the dumpster.

So do those two trash bags.

HALSEY

(to Hassan and Mat)  
You mean those two bodies in there  
aren't really dead bodies?

MAT

That's right, Halsey.

HASSAN

They're actually asleep.

GELSEY

I guess they must be homeless.

Hassan shakes his head sideways.

HASSAN

Nope, Gelsey. That's Richard and  
Holly Shingledecker in there.

GELSEY

AM 760 must be conducting a stunt.

MAT

No way!

HASSAN

They're in there because Richard  
keeps talking that stuff.

Gelsey and Halsey look at each other in confusion.

MAT

He comes on the radio and keeps calling people rubbish and trash and garbage.

HALSEY

Oh boy...

HASSAN

And one time, Richard said:  
 (tries to mimic him)  
 "The only phrases minorities should ever use are 'yes, sir,' 'no, sir,' 'yes, ma'am,' and 'no, ma'am.'"

Gelsey blows an imaginary bubble.

HALSEY

Oh boy...

The two adults and two children HEAR banging from inside the rec center dumpster.

MAT

And Holly's in there because she homeschooled their three children to keep 'em away from minorities.

HALSEY

Oh boy...

GELSEY

So that's why they're in there.

Mat and Hassan nod as THE BANGING CONTINUES.

HASSAN

Gelsey...Halsey...what do you two think we oughta do?

MAT

Think we should leave 'em in there?

Somehow, the dumpster lid flies open...and Holly and Richard peek up from the receptacle.

HOLLY

Hey, which one of you's got a cell phone I can use?

Not a peep from the foursome outside the dumpster.

EXT. SEAFOOD RESTAURANT - NIGHT

This is a Red Lobster-type eatery by the Mira Mesa place.

INT. SEAFOOD RESTAURANT DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Rahsaan, Rosalind, and their fellow mentors eat alongside Baker, George, Mark, Melanie, and Pamelyn in a spot HALF FULL OF CUSTOMERS.

Lloyd and wife FARRAH NEFT (40s) chow down at a table toward the middle.

The eaters not only enjoy the cuisine...they also dig THE SPORTS EVENTS playing on two or three big-screen TVs.

RAHSAAN

Baker, Melanie, Pamelyn...we don't really know that Kyle's dead.

MELANIE

It's just a question of time.

RAHSAAN

(through bites)

If it'll make you feel any better...I remember when the Baltimore Ravens came to town. We barely won that game.

A few heads nod.

RAHSAAN (CONT'D)

One of our safeties stuck the Ravens' tight end and sent him airborne after he made the catch.

ROSALIND

(to Rahsaan)

Honey, I watched that game on TV.

Kwame, Rahsaan, and A'ja stare openmouthed at Rosalind.

ROSALIND (CONT'D)

That tight end ended up on his head...and lay there for all of fifteen minutes.

PAMELYN

(to A'ja and Kwame)

Kids, she's making this up.

ROSALIND

No, I'm not!

(takes a drink)

In fact, both the Chargers and the Ravens thought Baltimore's tight end died right there on the Qualcomm Stadium turf.

A'ja's nod is a slow, slow one.

RAHSAAN

He just had the wind knock out of him. That's all.

PAMELYN

Well, that safety didn't use a bullwhip on him.

RAHSAAN

No. He just used his helmet.

Baker and Fernando stare at Rosalind.

ROSALIND

I know...Qualcomm Stadium had grass instead of artificial turf.

A boisterous cheer emerges from half the crowd: They watch THE BASEBALL GAME (San Diego at Kansas City) heat up on one of the TVs.

The rest of the eaters turn around to watch the Padres rally.

ON TV: A SAN DIEGO BATTER smacks a long fly ball...but before the ball reaches its destination, a card that says "BREAKING NEWS" appears on the screen.

And the restaurant crowd AD LIBS collective displeasure.

INT. "FOX 5 NEWS" STUDIO - NIGHT

Weekend anchors SHEILA MELENDEZ (30s) and JUSTIN REIMERS (40s) sit alongside weekend sports guy KEITH RUST (50s) at the anchor desk.

Justin and Sheila look serious...Keith's a bit gleeful.

SHEILA

I'm Sheila Melendez.

JUSTIN

I'm Justin Reimers.



KEITH  
And I'm Keith Rust.

Keith receives Sheila's and Justin's withering looks.

SHEILA  
This just in: A severe whipping  
took place at the Mira Mesa  
Recreation Center earlier today.

JUSTIN  
The whipping happened during a  
sensitivity-training session  
conducted by former San Diego  
Chargers defensive end Rahsaan  
Johnson.

A frown forms on Keith's face.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
Johnson's wife, former Chargers  
cheerleader Rosalind Parker  
Johnson, was also a training-  
session conductor.

KEITH  
The couple now run a public-  
relations firm here in San Diego.

SHEILA  
Our Cass Dempster is standing by at  
the Sharp Healthcare facility on  
Activity Road. Cass?

EXT. SHARP HEALTHCARE ON ACTIVITY ROAD - NIGHT

CASS DEMPSTER (late 20s), mike in hand, stands in front of  
the hospital's emergency entrance.

CASS  
Sheila, the victim was rushed here  
to the Sharp Healthcare facility  
after receiving, according to the  
paramedics, more stripes on his  
back than a Cincinnati Bengals  
football helmet.

INT. SHARP HEALTHCARE/ACTIVITY ROAD EXAM ROOM - NIGHT

Kelvin and Leah stand next to Kyle, who sits on a gurney.

Across from the Withem family: Cass and REPORTERS from San  
Diego's other five newsgathering TV stations.

SIX CAMERA OPERATORS (one from each newsgathering TV station) crowd the room.

If possible, all three Withems wear mikes.

INT. SEAFOOD RESTAURANT DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Kyle's face fills up the TV screens.

Lloyd flips his fork in shock when he sees Kyle's face on TV.

FARRAH

Lloyd...are you all right?

LLOYD

Farrah, that's one of our sackers at the store!

INT. SHARP HEALTHCARE/ACTIVITY ROAD EXAM ROOM - NIGHT

Kyle tries to breathe as he answers reporters' questions.

KYLE

They blindfolded me...they gagged me...they tied up my arms and legs...they had me strip down to my...underpants...

Leah hangs her head while Kelvin seethes.

CASS

Mr. and Mrs. Withem, what are your thoughts about the incident?

LEAH

All three of us were tricked into coming to the Mira Mesa Center. None of us wanted to come.

INT. SEAFOOD RESTAURANT DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Melanie pushes her plate aside to stare Rosalind and Rahsaan down...Pamelyn stares daggers at Russell and Sasheen.

INT. SHARP HEALTHCARE/ACTIVITY ROAD EXAM ROOM - NIGHT

Kyle grimaces when Leah tries to hug him. She backs off.

KELVIN

My wife and I run a bar on University Avenue...and we're losin' money this weekend 'cause we ain't there to run that bar.

Kelvin tries to hug Kyle...only to refrain.

KELVIN (CONT'D)  
That wasn't no sensitivity-trainin'  
weekend. More like a witch hunt.

RODNEY BURRELL (40s), mike in one hand, raises his free hand.

RODNEY  
This is Rodney Burrell from NBC 7.  
Do any of you intend to press  
charges against the Johnsons and  
others involved in the session?

KELVIN  
Damn straight we do.

Leah and Kyle nod.

INT. SEAFOOD RESTAURANT DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Lloyd pushes his plate away while Farrah eyeballs him.

FARRAH  
So...that was the "free trip" that  
customer called you to say that  
Kyle won?

LLOYD  
Uh...huh.

Those eaters who recognize Rahsaan stare him down.

RAHSAAN  
Nobody died.

GUS  
Besides...Kyle hit people first.  
(takes a bite)  
Nobody asked him about that!

Some customers scoff.

JEREMY  
You know the media.

Jeremy gains high fives from those around him.

EXT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER - DAY

A 2010 Ford Fiesta pulls into the parking lot. Once the car comes to rest, MARY JEAN OBERBILLIG (51, White) departs from the driver's side.

Mary Jean walks toward the front entrance...but stops short to find a 2008 GMC pickup truck reach a parking space.

JUBILEE DAVIS (71, Black; native of Guyana) jumps out of the truck from the driver's side and bounds toward Mary Jean.

MARY JEAN  
You must be Rahsaan's old  
psychology prof from the U.

Jubilee shakes her head "yes."

JUBILEE  
(points to Mary Jean)  
Weren't you a San Diego Charger  
cheerleader...alongside Rosalind?

MARY JEAN  
That's me!

JUBILEE  
Then we've come to the right place.

The two women walk, arm in arm, toward the rec center.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER LOBBY - DAY

Jubilee and Mary Jean walk into a space where Rosalind, Rahsaan, and their fellow mentors AD LIB a nervous conversation with Melanie, Baker, and Pamelyn.

In another space, Mark and George eyeball a newly-cleaned-up twosome: Richard and Holly.

GEORGE  
Wow!

MARK  
You two sure wear it well.

RICHARD  
Thank you, Mark.  
(to Holly)  
This is the first time I've ever  
worn one of your perfumes.

Holly drapes a hand on her husband's shoulder.

HOLLY  
And it's gonna be the last time you  
wear one of my perfumes.

Richard, Mark, and George laugh...Holly stews.

INT. MIRA MESA RECREATION CENTER CRAFT ROOM - DAY

Jubilee, Mary Jean, Rahsaan, and Rosalind stand at the front while the rest of the throng sits around the tables.

Each participant wears a name tag.

Mary Jean and Jubilee look out at a stunned throng.

JUBILEE

Mary Jean and I watched the news last night.

MARY JEAN

We found out about the do-it-yourself intervention.

A buzz develops at the tables.

RAHSAAN

You guys, it's all good...we just wanted to bring a more professional touch to this expedition.

PAMELYN

There's that word again.

Those around Pamelyn gesture her into silence.

ROSALIND

Mary Jean's now a professional counselor...and Jubilee now teaches psychology at San Diego State.

RAHSAAN

I was one of her students at the University of Miami...Florida.

Jubilee wags a finger at Rahsaan.

JUBILEE

If only you and Rosalind had come to me before you embarked on this.

ROSALIND

Yeah, but, Jubilee...Kyle probably would've hit you and then he would've tried to hit on Mary Jean.

Annabelle and Jeremy shrug.

Fernando, George, Graciela, and Gus laugh.

FERNANDO

All jokes aside...this was supposed to be our day to lead.

JAVIER

We were looking forward to showing a movie.

SELENA

We had our choice of showing "La Bamba," "Selena," or "The Milagro Beanfield War."

Graciela pulls out a flash drive for all to see while Mary Jean and Jubilee eyeball one another.

Baker looks longingly at Mary Jean.

BAKER

Mary Jean...please get me out of here!

MARY JEAN

Sorry...no can do.

Baker sighs.

MARY JEAN (CONT'D)

Face it, Baker: I'm not your campaign manager anymore. I'm not even a Republican anymore.

Raul (now 61) strolls through the door...in his casual duds.

RAUL

I couldn't help it...I heard about this on the news. I needed to come.

Most of the seated participants turn around and spot Raul.

RAHSAAN

It's okay...grab a name tag, put your name on it, and...

ROSALIND

You're welcome to take a seat.

Raul scribbles his name on a tag, slaps the tag onto his shirt, and sits down at the last empty seat.

A'JA

You're the officer who stopped Dad...I mean Rahsaan.

MELANIE

(to Raul)

Do your job! Make arrests!

RAUL

I'm not on the force anymore.

Baker looks deflated...Holly grits her teeth...Richard, Pamelyn, and Melanie look fit to be tied.

RICHARD

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE NOT  
PROTECTING US ANYMORE?

Richard's rant attracts AD LIBBED reactions.

JUBILEE

Folks...folks...calm down.

No dice.

JUBILEE (CONT'D)

Please...calm down.

Jubilee receives her wish.

JUBILEE (CONT'D)

Now that we're here in this room, I  
believe we've all got explanations.  
And we all need to hear each other.

Several heads nod.

JUBILEE (CONT'D)

We need to start all over again and  
just unpack our stuff.

GRACIELA

That was our idea, too!

Rosalind and Rahsaan swap places with Graciela and Fernando.

MARY JEAN

Who'd like to go first?

All eyes turn to Raul.

Selena, Kwame, and Jeremy break out their camcorders.

RAUL

I quit the week after George Floyd  
was killed by those police officers  
in Minneapolis.

Raul catches heavy nods from several participants.

RAUL (CONT'D)

One of my fellow officers here in San Diego said he'd like to go to the ghetto and do the same thing Derek Chauvin did to George Floyd.

KELLY

Hoo boy.

RAUL

We're supposed to protect and serve...not rid the city of people of color for even the smallest of crimes.

MARK

You're right, Raul.

RAUL

Since when is passing a bad twenty worth taking somebody's life?  
(eyes on Richard)  
I don't want to be part of that.

Richard looks mortified.

SAME SCENE - A BIT LATER

Holly breathes hard before she testifies.

GRACIELA

It's all right. Take your time.

HOLLY

I'm originally from Miami...Florida...and I grew up in a Bible-believing home.

Some folks shake their heads "yes."

HOLLY (CONT'D)

We didn't have a TV...but we had an old piano. And a balance beam. Right there in our living room.

Meghan does a doubletake.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

My dad was a gym teacher. My mom was a homemaker.



HOLLY (CONT'D)

And they both were into the  
"Southern Strategy" that got  
Richard Nixon elected.

BRIAN

Uh huh.

HOLLY

Oh...did I tell you I went to  
religious schools until I came out  
here to go to college?

Richard grins.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

You'd be surprised at all the peer  
pressure in those religious schools  
I went to.

RICHARD

Holly...

HOLLY

And another thing: Not having a TV  
meant I had to sneak over to a  
friend's house to watch "All in the  
Family." Or "The Brady Bunch."

A nodding Fernando chuckles.

SAME SCENE - MINUTES LATER

A glum Gus testifies.

GUS

I grew up in an alcoholic household  
as the second of six  
siblings...I've got three brothers  
and two sisters.

Gus removes a handful of cough drops from his shirt pocket.

GUS (CONT'D)

Anybody like a cough drop?

Nobody says a word (some shake their heads sideways) while  
Gus sticks a cough drop in his mouth.

GUS (CONT'D)

First alcoholic I ever met in my  
life was Mom. I had to face a whole  
lot of faultfinding in that  
apartment back home in Queens.

Several heads nod.

GUS (CONT'D)

When Mom wasn't putting me and my siblings down, my siblings put me down. I was the family scapegoat.

Gus puts the other cough drops back in his shirt pocket.

GUS (CONT'D)

It got to the point where I refused to ask Mom, Dad, or any of my brothers or sisters for advice. And God help me if I talked to any White authority figures!

RICHARD

Gus...I'd like a cough drop.

Baker, Holly, Melanie, and Pamelyn stare at Richard as he accepts a cough drop from Gus.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Thank you.

GUS

You're welcome.

PAMELYN

Watch out, Richard--

The rest of the group eyes Pamelyn...who covers her mouth.

GUS

I had to get out of there...so I joined the Navy.

(rests chin on fists)

It was that or get drafted into the Army to go to Vietnam.

JUBILEE

Where were you stationed at first?

GUS

Right here, Jubilee. I lucked out.

Some heads nod.

GUS (CONT'D)

I wanted someplace where I could really be myself...once I got out of the service. So I stayed here...and I liked it.

GEORGE

Gus...I'm glad you stayed.

GUS

Thanks...once I got discharged, I thought about changing my name.

A few participants chuckle.

SAME SCENE - A BIT LATER

Melanie fidgets during her own testimonial.

MELANIE

I grew up in Seattle...my dad was a cop and my mom was a homemaker.

Raul's nod is slow.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Dad was always putting Blacks down, putting Browns down, Asians...talking about how they're not as smart as Whites.

Pamelyn's face freezes.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

He'd hide behind statistics. And when he wasn't hiding behind the stats, he'd fall back on what he saw on TV.

Melanie continues to fidget.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Every time he saw a Black person get caught by the cops on TV, Dad would say: "See? I told you..."

Now Melanie strolls over to Rosalind's side.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Rosalind...

The two women hold each other's hands.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry for talking down to you...so damn sorry.

Rosalind and Melanie hug.

ROSALIND  
It's all right, Melanie.

MELANIE  
I'm glad you four talked me and  
Mark into coming here.

Mark stands up to applaud...Rahsaan claps...everybody else  
but Pamelyn and Holly cheers.

Holly and Pamelyn look too stunned to react.

EXT. SPRECKELS PAVILION AT BALBOA PARK - DAY

This iconic, World War 1-era space teems with SPECTATORS of  
just about all ages.

ANDREW LIEBSOHN (17) plays a hymn on Spreckels' famous four-  
manual 1915 Austin pipe organ while fellow recitalists  
Gelsey, Halsey, and Meghan sit in the front row.

A few rows back: A'ja, Annabelle, Brian, Fernando, Graciela,  
Javier, Jeremy, Kelly, Kwame, Rahsaan, Rosalind, Russell,  
Sasheen, and Selena.

Selena, Russell, and Kwame catch it all on camcorders.

Pamelyn, Mary Jean, Jubilee, Gus, and George sit in the next  
row behind.

A few rows further back: Melanie and Mark, who hold hands.

Andrew's set ends...and he bows once the applause begins.

JUBILEE  
(to those around her)  
All the time I've lived here, this  
is the first time I've ever set  
foot in Spreckels Pavilion.

MARY JEAN  
Not you, too?

SAME SCENE - A BIT LATER

Andrew sits next to Meghan as Halsey and Gelsey team up at  
the Austin to turn "100 Bottles of Beer on the Wall" into a  
rollicking classical piece.

Some spectators titter...others sit in shock.

George turns to Gus.

GEORGE

Where's the seriousness?

GUS

Halsey and Gelsey know what they're doing. They're just having fun...and that's where it's at.

George's nod is slow.

SAME SCENE - STILL LATER

In "The Hokey Pokey," Gelsey and Halsey duet at the organ for the first quarter of this Ray Anthony rouser.

Gelsey turns hooper and leaves the playing to her BFF.

Halfway through the tune, Halsey and her bestie switch roles.

Now it's the home stretch...and while some spectators do the title dance, Halsey and Gelsey team up to play those keys and stomp those pedals.

At the end, strong applause rings out...Gelsey and Halsey bow and bow away.

And Pamelyn breathes relief.

MEGHAN

Andrew, that's a tough, tough act to follow.

ANDREW

That's what you've gotta do.

He watches Meghan head for the organ.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Good luck.

Meghan answers with a "thumbs up."

SAME SCENE - LATER YET

YouTube-trained Meghan proves masterful during her rendition of a classical piece.

Halsey and Gelsey eyeball the performer they flank: Andrew.

HALSEY

When Meghan isn't playing organ, she's a wrestler in high school.

Gelsey nods in agreement.

ANDREW  
You're pulling my leg. She doesn't  
look like a wrestler.

GELSEY  
How'd you like her to put you in a  
headlock when the recital's done?

Andrew's mouth flies open.

SAME SCENE - EVEN LATER

Meghan wraps up the final selection in her set: A tune by one  
of San Diego's rock icons...something by Gary Puckett or  
Jason Mraz or Stephen Bishop or Kat Hammock.

Some audience members clap to the beat...at song's end, the  
rhythmic clapping becomes all-out applause.

Now the applause morphs into a standing ovation!

SAME SCENE - MINUTES LATER

Gelsey and Halsey high-five THEIR PARENTS, then rush over to  
Sasheen, Russell, Pamelyn, and Meghan.

RUSSELL  
Put 'er here, Meg!

Meghan and her folks break out in high fives.

PAMELYN  
(to Russell and Sasheen)  
You have every reason to be proud  
of your daughter.

SASHEEN  
Thank...thank you...it means so  
very much to hear it from you.

It's high fives for Gelsey, Halsey, and Meghan.

PAMELYN  
Sasheen, Russell, Meghan...you've  
taught me something. A whole lot.

Russell and Sasheen eyeball each other, then Pamelyn.

PAMELYN (CONT'D)

In fact, you reminded me that everybody's got the ability to learn...regardless of what they look like or what they've been through in life.

RUSSELL

Sasheen and I really take that message seriously.

PAMELYN

With that in mind...Meghan, I'd be honored and humbled if you'd allow me to help you take your playing to the next level.

Meghan looks stunned. She turns to Sasheen and Russell...to Halsey and Gelsey.

HALSEY

She's tough.

GELSEY

But she's great!

A smile grows on Meghan's face.

MEGHAN

YES!

Meghan reaches out to hug Pamelyn.

MEGHAN (CONT'D)

You've got yourself a deal!

The twosome embrace...for a few seconds. Then:

PAMELYN

Hey! I like high fives, too!

Their hug becomes...a high five!

EXT. SHARP HEALTHCARE ON ACTIVITY ROAD - DAY

Kelly, Jeremy, Gus, Brian, and Annabelle stroll from the parking lot toward the hospital.

GUS  
 Kelly, I still can't get over it.  
 You got your inspiration to be an  
 animal trainer because you saw  
 Barbi Benton tame a lion on "Circus  
 of the Stars."

KELLY  
 Well, I figured: "If a former  
 'Playboy' playmate can tame a lion,  
 then I sure can, too."

Annabelle beats her colleagues to the revolving door.

INT. SHARP HEALTHCARE/ACTIVITY ROAD LOBBY - DAY

Annabelle, Brian, Gus, Jeremy, and Kelly head right for the  
 front desk, where receptionist LORI BARNETT (50s) eyes them.

LORI  
 Can I help you?

ANNABELLE  
 We're here to see Kyle.

JEREMY  
 Kyle Withem.

LORI  
 Hang on a minute.

Lori grits her teeth before she...punches 911 on the phone.

SAME SCENE - MINUTES LATER

A gleeful Lori watches TWO POLICE OFFICERS (a man in his 40s  
 and a woman in her 30s) handcuff the bewildered quintet.

OFFICER #1  
 We're lucky to have enough  
 handcuffs for the five of you.

OFFICER #2  
 Otherwise, we woulda had to call  
 backup. Woulda been a good--

Leah walks behind Kelvin, who pushes a wheelchair-bound Kyle  
 into the lobby.

Kyle frantically waves his arms toward the officers.

KYLE  
 Let 'em go!



KELVIN  
WHAT THE HELL?

Lori and the two officers look bewildered.

KYLE  
Let all five of 'em go. I won't  
press charges! I had it comin'!

LEAH  
Must be the drugs, Kelvin.

The two officers shrug before they unshackle Gus, Brian,  
Kelly, Annabelle, and Jeremy.

KYLE  
Officers...I assaulted Annabelle. I  
assaulted Gus. Twice.

LORI  
What...the...

KYLE  
That's the truth, Lori! And I  
almost choked Gus to death.

OFFICER #1  
First time I heard about this.

OFFICER #2  
Kyle...do you understand what this  
all means?

KYLE  
Yes, I do...they were actin' in  
self-defense. I deserved that  
whippin' they gave me.

Kelvin grits his teeth...Leah takes labored breaths.

LEAH  
Officers...Kyle's old enough to  
make his own decisions.  
(stares into space)  
We'll stand by his decision.

KELVIN  
Kyle, this means you can't stay  
with us no more.

One officer turns to the other as Kyle nods at Kelvin.

OFFICER #2  
Our job is done, then.

OFFICER #1  
Have a nice day, everybody.

As the officers leave the lobby, OTHER PEOPLE come in.

Gus approaches Kyle.

GUS  
I didn't know what else to do...

All eyes focus on Kyle and Gus.

GUS (CONT'D)  
When you tried to choke me, I went beyond wanting to reconcile...I wanted to retaliate...I thought about all the racist slights I've ever had.

KYLE  
Gus...I hear you.

KELVIN  
Leah, I've heard everything!

KYLE  
Gus...from what I learned since we were together...I...well, I know I don't wanna do the White Supremacy thing no more. It just don't pay.

Several heads nod as Gus and Kyle attempt to hug.

BRIAN  
Kyle...we'll be glad to help you move into your own place.

JEREMY  
Let us try to make it up to you.

KYLE  
As long as you let me try to make it up to you first.

Kelly, Annabelle, and Brian inch closer to Kyle and Gus...Kelvin and Leah approach Lori's desk.

KELVIN  
We need to go someplace and barf.

Lori's mouth hangs open.

INT. JOHNSONS' LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A'ja, Fernando, Graciela, Javier, Kwame, Rahsaan, Rosalind, and Selena play Monopoly at a kitchen table (it might include a leaf).

RAHSAAN

Rosey and I didn't wanna hog all the power at the intervention. So...we wanted to make like Bobby Ross or Marty Schottenheimer.

Graciela and Fernando break into smiles.

ROSALIND

Well...it's true. Good head coaches in football let their OCs really run the offense, their DCs really run the defense...

GRACIELA

And they let their special teams coordinators actually run those special teams.

All other eyes but Fernando's stare at Graciela.

FERNANDO

She's right!

The Monopoly game continues strong.

FERNANDO (CONT'D)

I so wanted to be like Merlin Olsen...but I just couldn't get to the quarterback.

Javier snaps his fingers...Rahsaan nods.

FERNANDO (CONT'D)

So...they put me on special teams and made me a long snapper.

A'JA

But you still made the team, Fer...Mr. Garcia.

The doorbell RINGS...and stops the game.

Rahsaan jumps up to open the door...and looks surprised to find Baker, Richard, and a backpack-wielding Holly.

RAHSAAN

Holly, Baker, Richard! C'mon in!

When the threesome enter the house, the other Monopoly participants abandon the table to meet the trio.

ROSALIND

Can we get you three anything?

BAKER

No, that's okay. We can't stay.

RICHARD

We were passing through the neighborhood...and we figured: "Why not touch base with the Johnsons?"

RAHSAAN

Have a seat! Take a load off!

The eleven of them find seats...Holly sets her backpack out of harm's way.

BAKER

It's fortunate that we're all seated for this.

(stands up)

First of all...I've decided I'm canceling my House campaign.

Ten mouths hang open.

BAKER (CONT'D)

I've come to realize I did too much damage when I was in Congress.

(to Fernando)

You were right to call me a Congresscritter.

Baker sits back down.

RICHARD

Speaking of damage...all these years I've had my own talk-radio show, I've done too much damage to this country.

HOLLY

Richard...wait a minute...

RICHARD

In light of that, I've decided to quit my talk show.

HOLLY  
Have you thought this through?

RICHARD  
Holly...iHeart Radio has a great  
401(k) program. We'll be all right.

Richard and Holly hug...then the former shakes Rahsaan's and  
Rosalind's hands.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
If Mark Babich can quit smoking, I  
can quit microaggressions, too.  
(to Kwame)  
And besides, I'd like to try your  
brand of patriotism. The healing  
kind of patriotism.

Kwame (he's all smiles) and Richard shake hands.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
I don't care if my judge father  
turns over in his grave over this  
decision I've made.

Holly looks flummoxed.

KWAME  
That's really brave of you, Mr.  
Shingledecker.

RICHARD  
It's all right, Kwame...you can  
still call me Richard.

HOLLY  
I'm sorry...I need more time...to  
think about this.

GRACIELA  
It's all right, Holly. At least we  
had a conversation...together.

RAHSAAN  
And that's the reason we went to  
great lengths to get every last one  
of you together.

SELENA  
It's just like Mr. Johns...I mean  
Rahsaan says: "If you don't talk it  
out...you can't heal."

Some in the crowd shake their heads "yes."

FERNANDO

Speaking of conversation...Kyle  
called to apologize to our family  
for being rude to us.

JAVIER

We might even start shopping at the  
Ralphs on Friars Road again!

The living room breaks out in applause.

HOLLY

Say, everybody! You know what all  
this good news means?

Some shake their heads sideways...so Holly goes to her  
backpack to pull out her ukelele.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

See how you like this one!

FREEZE FRAME after Holly strums eight (or so) lively bars.

FADE OUT.

THE END