

ACT ONE

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING (DAY ONE)  
(Tim, Vanessa, Kristin)

VANESSA, MID-40S, COOKS BREAKFAST WHILE TYPING ON HER IPHONE. SHE GETS A BLOB OF WAFFLE BATTER ON HER PHONE, TRIES TO WIPE IT OFF, THEN JUST LICKS THE BATTER OFF THE PHONE AS TIM, 50S, ENTERS. VANESSA, CAUGHT AND EMBARRASSED, PUTS DOWN HER PHONE. TIM SHAKES HIS HEAD, THEN CHECKS OUT THE FOOD.

TIM

(SUSPICIOUS) Eggs, bacon, waffles...

Uh-oh, what happened?

VANESSA

Can't I just make all your favorite things for no reason? (OFF TIM'S LOOK)  
Yeah, remember when I went back to work and I swore I could do it all? We both knew I was lying. I need your help.

TIM

(RELIEVED) Oh, thank God. I was worried you wrecked my truck.

VANESSA

If I'd dinged your truck again I'd be licking more than just the phone.

TIM

Wow, I think I owe my mom apology.  
Turns out I did marry a tramp.

VANESSA

Work's just gotten crazy and once again  
Jason isn't pulling his weight.

TIM

(SHAKES HEAD) Typical Jason.

VANESSA

Do you know who Jason is?

TIM

Of course, I listen to your work tales.  
He's your... assistant.

VANESSA

Assistant, department supervisor, same  
thing. He's thirty and thinks he knows  
everything. Which he does, if you need  
to know about the "Matrix" trilogy. I  
thought I was done raising kids.

TIM

Just like I said - classic Jason.

VANESSA

Uh-huh. Where do I work?

TIM

(LONG BEAT, THEN) So what do you need  
me to do? I'm happy to do anything, as  
long as it doesn't involve wearing a  
nametag. They're too chummy.

VANESSA

I just need two things, no reason to  
make them more difficult than they are.

TIM

I don't know what you're saying.

VANESSA

Yes you do. You pick at things and create problems that aren't there.

TIM

No, I find problems that are there and make everyone else aware of them. Some might call it a gift. So what do you need me to do?

VANESSA

Well, tomorrow I need you to pick up Christeo? (OFF TIM'S BLANK STARE) The Greek foreign exchange student who's coming to live with us? I can't be there so you'll have to attend an orientation for host families.

TIM

That sounds like a nametag situation.

VANESSA

And don't scare him. While he's here he's supposed to live the life of a typical American teenage boy.

TIM

You mean playing video games all day and falling asleep with a Pop-Tart in his mouth? We already have one of those.

(MORE)

TIM (CONT'D)

Speaking of which, why aren't we sending Howie to Greece? I thought it was supposed to be an exchange.

VANESSA

Leave Howie alone. He's going through stuff.

TIM

He never leaves his bedroom. How is there stuff? Stuff is outside.

VANESSA

His new school schedule arrived. He got the mean math teacher.

TIM

Mean? You know, I wish I were a boy in school now. The male teachers can't hit you anymore and the female teachers have sex with you. I'll talk to Howie.

VANESSA

No.

TIM

Why not? Work's slow since we tore down that hospital. That was a fun job, until Bobby and Ronnie got hurt and, well, there was no place to take them to. I do have some meeting with Ed but I could blow that off.

VANESSA

You can't blow off your boss. And stay away from Howie. The only other thing I need you to do is drive Eve to soccer practice. They're scrimmaging the boys all week to make them tougher.

TIM

Those boys aren't tough. They're all Howies. They run around and get hair gel in their eyes and crash into the goal posts and cry.

VANESSA

Why are you watching young boys play soccer?

TIM

I'm pretty sure I just explained why.

KRISTIN, 22, VANESSA AND TIM'S GO-GETTER DAUGHTER, ENTERS FROM OUTSIDE. SHE CARRIES A BOX OF DONUTS.

KRISTIN

Good morning.

TIM

Donuts? What a pleasant surprise. You didn't have to do that.

KRISTIN

Yeah I did. Your truck sort of had an accident.

OFF TIM'S LOOK WE...

CUT TO: