

LEGAL ALIENS

by

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Pilot:

"The Family We Choose"

WGA Registered

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TITLE CARD: 1997

COLD OPEN - INT. ROGER'S CAR / EXT. HOUSE - EVENING

ROGER (40s), YIN (40s) and their daughter, SAMANTHA (11-12) pull up to the front of a house that screams, "One of five model homes!" Roger is in the driver's seat, Samantha's in the passenger seat and Yin's in the backseat - this is their normal seating arrangement. Hanson's "MMMBOP" plays on the radio.

On the lawn is a FOR SALE sign with a SOLD sticker across it. Roger proudly looks out at the house.

ROGER

This is it... I hope you guys love it.

SAMANTHA

This one?

ROGER

What? You don't like it?

SAMANTHA

It's not that I don't like it--

YIN

I don't like it.

SAMANTHA

I just thought you would pick something more--

Better. YIN

Unique. SAMANTHA

Bigger! YIN

Home-y. SAMANTHA

YIN

There's not even a garage!

ROGER

You guys don't like it?

No... SAMANTHA

Yes. YIN

(CONTINUED)

SAMANTHA

Look, Dad, I don't want to sound ungrateful... But if you're gonna pick out a fake home, you might as well go all-out.

ROGER

Do you have any idea how hard it is to find a home in a better school district so that you can pretend that you live there so your only child can get the best education the Palm Beach County school system has to offer?!

Roger pulls up to the mailbox and pulls out the contents.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Ya know, growing up in Canada, I would dream of owning a home like this!

SAMANTHA

Sorry, Dad, it's just not our taste.

ROGER

This is the thanks I get from my family for doing my honest best.

He rifles through the mail and plucks out an envelope.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Yes! Previous homeowners' phone bill! These are SO EASY to forge. Those dumb-dumb school administrators won't have a clue--

Samantha and Yin stare.

ROGER (CONT'D)

It's for your education!

YIN

Next time, I pick the house.

They DRIVE OFF in what we now see is a beat-up Toyota Tercel, exiting a pristine gated community.

END OF COLD OPEN

(CONTINUED)

ACT ONE

EXT. HOME - LATER

Their real home - an unfortunate prefab house on cement blocks. The lawn is overgrown and weed-ridden.

INT. HOME - CONTINUOUS

Roger sits in front of a Word Processor, surrounded by a variety of "tools" for forging the phone bill.

ROGER

Okay, Samantha, if someone asks you where you live, what do you say?

SAMANTHA

(by rote)

1104 Hibiscus Drive--

Sam runs in and out of her room trying on different outfits.

ROGER

And what's the house like?

SAMANTHA

Peach colored stucco. Three bedrooms, one and a half bath. Small front yard but the back yard has a great patio space for entertaining-- Ugh, this outfit is stupid!

The home phone RINGS. Yin answers.

YIN

(into phone)

Hello? Who? No. William not here.

CLICK. Entering through the back sliding glass door is WILL (20s), a sweet doe-eyed bohemian and tenant. He carries a laundry basket.

WILL

Hey Yin, have I received any calls?

YIN

No.

ROGER

Yes, Will. Someone just rang you.

(CONTINUED)

WILL

Oh shucks. Was it a lady? I've been playing phone tag with my mom all week! Let me try her now.

YIN

Don't forget, it's a PAY-phone...

ANGLE ON: A landline phone, and next to it is a jar full of quarters labeled "PAY-PHONE! 25 cents per call!" Will takes a quarter out of his robe and drops it in the jar.

ROGER

Ya know what would be useful around here? One of them nice new cordless phones! Will could take the phone right out to his tent and never miss a call again! Happy to drive us to the mall to take a look-see--

YIN

NO MALL!

WILL

(into phone)
Mommy? Mommy!

ROGER

Oh, I'm sorry that I want our tenants to have the latest and greatest technology!

YIN

Roger, we're still paying off the "technology" in the backyard!

ANGLE ON: A gigantic television satellite dish that looks like it should be at NASA, but instead takes up space in their shabby, weed-ridden backyard. It sits between a rickety clothes line and Will's tent.

ROGER

Oh, I'm sorry that I want our family to experience the 154 channels that satellite television has to offer!

YIN

We've got bills to pay, Roger.

Samantha runs in with a different outfit on.

SAMANTHA

How does this look?

(CONTINUED)

ROGER
Beautiful, sweetheart.

YIN
It's very cute, Samantha.

WILL
(into phone)
Love you too, mommy. Night-night.
(to Sam)
Oh, honey, I love it--

SAMANTHA
I know! I know! It sucks!

She runs off and frantically goes through her clothes.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
This sucks! That sucks! All of my
clothes SUCK! This backpack sucks!
My hair sucks! Transferring schools
SUCKS! EVERYTHING SUCKS!

ROGER
Upset about transferring schools,
eh?

YIN
That's literally what she just
said.

ROGER
I'm sorry, dear. I know we've moved
a lot, and you've had to transfer
schools, a lot, cause of, uh, my
job instability--

YIN
Financial instability.

SAMANTHA
No, it's not that...

ROGER
This time is different though.
You're taking a spot in Martin
Luther King Jr. Middle School's
nationally-recognized "Science and
Technology Program"! My girl's
gonna learn about *technology*!

SAMANTHA

Yeah and that's cool. I dunno...
It's just... I'm in middle school
now and... I still haven't figured
out how to make friends.

YIN

What? You have friends-- those twin
girls, Catty and Corky.

SAMANTHA

Callie and Carrie.

YIN

Yeah, those. They're nice.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK - INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - NIGHT

Evil-looking twin girls, CALLY and CARRIE, stand over
Samantha, holding candles.

CALLY AND CARRIE

Don't worry, Samantha.

CALLY

We know what we're doing...

CARRIE

We saw it in *The Craft*.

POV Cally and Carrie: Samantha tied and gagged, lying in the
middle of room-sized pentagram drawn on the floor. She puts
on a brave face under the duct tape.

CUT BACK to present--

SAMANTHA

Uhh yeah...

ROGER

Why haven't you ever said anything
to us before?

SAMANTHA

Because you and Mom don't have
friends.

ROGER

What? No...

YIN

We have friends.

(CONTINUED)

SAMANTHA

Mom, you don't have friends. In fact, all you have is enemies.

ROGER

I have friends! Like Steve! Steve's my friend. I see Steve every day.

SAMANTHA

That's because Steve works at Dunkin Donuts and you're there every day.

ROGER

Okay... Would someone who *wasn't my friend* honor an expired coupon? And I'll have you know that Steve is on our emergency contacts list!

SAMANTHA

Are you on his?

Silence as Roger and Yin realize they have no friends.

ROGER

Alright! I might not be on Steve's emergency contact list and he might not be aware that he's on mine. But there's one thing I do know: the foundation of all good relationships is BUTTER. When you butter someone up, they can't help but like you. So, when you meet kids at school tomorrow, think of nice things to say, compliment the heck out of them, and then BOOM, friends!

Will walks by carrying his clean laundry.

ROGER (CONT'D)

For example, my good pal here could look at this bill and say to me...

Roger shows his phone bill forgery to Will.

ROGER (CONT'D)

"Oh wow, you did such a good job on this forgery, Roger! You can't even tell that another name used to be there!"

(CONTINUED)

WILL

Wow, that is a good forgery!

ROGER

Thank you, I'm pretty handy with White Out and a word processor.

WILL

Your dad's a smart man.

ROGER

Here's the kicker: Butter someone up enough, before you know it, they'll do anything for you.

Roger suddenly starts folding Will's laundry.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Cause people are suckers.

YIN

It brings me great sorrow to say this but: you all are right. People are suckers. And I don't have friends. Just enemies. But that's going to change because I want to be a better role model for Samantha. And to prove that people are suckers. So I'm going to be how they say, "friendly" starting now... Will, you are two hours late paying rent. But we are friends now, so don't worry. You only have to pay half the late fee.

WILL

Aw, thanks, Yin!

INT. ROGER'S CAR / EXT. MLK MIDDLE SCHOOL - MORNING

A sign at the front of the school reads: **Martin Luther King Jr. Middle - A Science and Technology School**

ROGER

Have a wonderful first day, sweetheart.

Sam kisses Roger on the cheek then exits.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Can't wait to hear about all the technology you learn about!

(CONTINUED)

(to Yin)
She's getting so big, Yin. One day
she's not gonna need us.

SAMANTHA
Dad?

ROGER
YES? YES! She still needs me!
Daddy's here! Yes, dear?

Sam leans in the passenger window.

SAMANTHA
Dad, can you please not go to the
mall and get distracted and then
forget to pick me up on time?

ROGER
What? Okay... I was late a few
times because I was in traffic--

SAMANTHA
Coming from the mall.

ROGER
Well, I wasn't gonna go to the mall
today anyway! Unless you need
something?

SAMANTHA
No, Dad.

She walks off. Roger yells after her:

ROGER
Have you ever thought that maybe
your mother might need something at
the mall?

CUT TO:

EXT. BURGER KING / INT. ROGER'S CAR - MINUTES LATER

Yin is now the one standing outside the car, leaning in.

YIN
Roger, I do not need anything at
the mall. And neither do you.

Yin takes an envelope of cash out of her purse.

(CONTINUED)

YIN (CONT'D)

This is rent money from Will. You go pay for the phone bill and then deposit the rest at the bank.

ROGER

Yes, dear.

She slowly hands over the envelope, then snatches it back.

YIN

I repeat: DO NOT GO TO THE MALL.

ROGER

Yin, please, have a little faith.

CUT TO:

EXT. MALL - MINUTES LATER

Roger's car pulls into the mall parking lot.

INT. MLK MIDDLE SCHOOL, HALLWAYS - DAY

Samantha walks around looking for her classroom. As she passes STUDENTS in the hall, she practices giving compliments in her head. A GROUP OF GOTHS walk by.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

Nice eyeliner, ladies!

She passes a GROUP OF GIRLS IN GLITTER JEANS.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

Loving those glitter jeans!

Sam, distracted by all her mental-complimenting, bumps into MEGAN, a scowl-faced girl in athletic wear.

MEGAN

'Scuse you!

Megan gets right up in Sam's face.

SAMANTHA

Oh, sorry... Wow... I really like your freckles!

MEGAN

What?

(CONTINUED)

SAMANTHA

Uh, your face! It's beautifully freckled!

MEGAN

Aww, thank you. I really like that HUGE ZIT you're sporting!

Megan and her FRIENDS laugh.

SAMANTHA

Oh, no, really, I like your freckles! It was a compliment--

MEGAN

Ohh... You were giving me a compliment? My bad. Now that I know that, can I just say that I really love your Spice Girls shirt?

SAMANTHA

Omigod, really?

MEGAN

No! Dweeb.

Megan shoves Sam to the side and walks off with her crew.

INT. BURGER KING, BREAK ROOM - DAY

Yin's COWORKERS are laughing as Yin walks in. Yin immediately joins in, trying way too hard.

YIN

Hello, my *friends*!

Everyone's stunned by Yin's sudden sociable demeanor.

WENDY

Oh, hi, Yin... You alright?

YIN

Of course, *buddy*! Can't a couple of *friends* have a good laugh together?

WENDY

Sure. But I don't think I've ever heard you laugh.

(CONTINUED)

RITA
And you hardly ever talk to us.

WENDY
Or even look in our direction.

JIM
Yeah, Yin, most days it seems like
you hate us.

YIN
What? No... What would make you
think that?

FLASHBACK - EXT. BURGER KING - AFTERNOON

As Yin gets into the backseat of the family car, Wendy, Jim
and Rita exit the restaurant.

JIM / RITA / WENDY
Bye, Yin! / Goodnight! / See ya!

Yin looks at them point-blank, then spits out the window.

YIN
(to Roger)
Drive.

CUT BACK to present--

YIN
Can't a couple of friends have a
good spit at each other? Cause, you
know, back in Vietnam, friends--
uh, spit at each other. It's like,
giving a *compliment*.

JIM
Really?

YIN
Yes... So is pretending not to see
someone, or ignoring someone when
they talk to you. All are signs of
friendship and respect. Especially
spitting.

JIM
Wow! So what did you mean when you
spat at me the other day?

(CONTINUED)

YIN

Uh, I was saying, "You look very handsome today!"

JIM

Well, talk about "lost in translation"! Thank you, Yin!

RITA

Ooh, ooh, spit at me! Spit at me!

Yin spits. Rita claps excitedly.

RITA (CONT'D)

What did that one mean?

YIN

Uhh, "You have a beautiful smile!"

WENDY

My turn!

Yin spits.

YIN

"Love that glitter eyeshadow!"

They all hug Yin, who doesn't know how to deal.

WENDY

Alright, alright. Y'all can exchange spits on your break. Time to clock in.

Jim and Rita chuckle as they exit.

RITA

Isn't she just darling?

JIM

And to think, this whole time we just thought she was mean.

WENDY

Yin, I like this side of you. In fact, I think you should run the register today. Give you a break from the kitchen.

This is Yin's worst nightmare.

(CONTINUED)

YIN

You want me to *interact with people*?

WENDY

Yes! That friendly attitude is exactly what we need at the register.

(laughing)

Just don't spit at anyone!

INT. MLK MIDDLE SCHOOL, HEALTH CLASS - MINUTES LATER

The SCHOOL BELL RINGS as Sam rushes in. MRS. CASTLE, a middle-aged woman whose sweet exterior contrasts with her drill sergeant mannerisms, approaches.

MRS. CASTLE

May I help you?

SAMANTHA

Yes. Is this Health Science?

MRS. CASTLE

Name?

SAMANTHA

Samantha Trinh.

MRS. CASTLE

Transferred here from Palm Lake Middle, yes?

SAMANTHA

Yes... I definitely live at 1104 Hibiscus Drive... The one with the peach stucco exterior. There's not a huge front yard, but the patio--

MRS. CASTLE

Alrighty. I'm Mrs. Castle. Class, please welcome our new student, Samantha.

Sam turns towards the class, spotting Megan and her crew.

MEGAN

Welcome, Samantha.

MRS. CASTLE

Take any open seat.

(CONTINUED)

Sam nervously looks around to find that the only empty seat is next to Megan. She goes and sits.

MRS. CASTLE

Okay, class, turn to page 73.
Reproductive System.

A mixture of GROANS and CHUCKLES from the class.

MEGAN

Psst... Hey... I really like your
name... "Samantha".

SAMANTHA

Aw, really?

MEGAN

Nope.

Megan and her crew laugh.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. MALL / INT. ROGER'S CAR - LATER

Roger sips on a Dunkin Donuts coffee, staring at the envelope of cash. He decides to start the car and begins to drive off. But then parks again. Then he decides to leave again, then parks. He keeps doing this to a point where it looks like he's just driving in circles.

INT. BURGER KING, REGISTER - LATER

An ELDERLY MAN rifles through his several pockets, slow as molasses. Yin stands there in misery.

ELDERLY MAN

...I know I have the coupon around here somewhere...

YIN

(in Vietnamese)

Back in Vietnam, I was an attorney.

INT. MLK MIDDLE SCHOOL, HEALTH CLASS - LATER

An illustrated anatomical image of MALE AND FEMALE SEXUAL ORGANS projects against a screen, Mrs. Castle points to it with a baton. Various looks of horror/disinterest/curiosity on the STUDENTS' faces.

MRS. CASTLE

...And then the male's sperm will travel out through the urethra and into the female's vagina where they will have to fight their way up through the cervix, into the uterus where, depending on the time of menstrual cycle, an egg may lie in waiting. Upon successful insemination, the female body will dispense, 40 weeks later, a newborn baby!

Like magic, she pulls out a BABY SIMULATOR DOLL.

MRS. CASTLE (CONT'D)

Which leads us directly into this week's homework... Each of you will become *parents*.

(CONTINUED)

The class GROANS. A student seated on the other side of Sam, FELICIA, who has an air of "Homey don't play dat" meets class clown, whispers to Sam:

FELICIA

Omigod, not this. Every semester, Mrs. Castle makes her health class take home these "babies" - even though half of us haven't even reached puberty.

Sam chuckles quietly. They exchange smiles.

MRS. CASTLE

Who can tell me what the average teen pregnancy rate is here in Palm Beach County? Hm? No one? TWENTY-SIX PERCENT! Yes, one in four of you will become a teen parent... Which one of you will it be? I'll tell you who: NONE OF YOU. Not on my watch. Please come up when your name is called.

Mrs. Castle opens the closet where there are ROWS OF BABIES in carriers, all in white skin tones.

MRS. CASTLE (CONT'D)

Felicia?

Felicia makes her way up to the front and picks up a baby.

FELICIA

Why are they all white?

MRS. CASTLE

Cause this is a public school.

Felicia sits back down and leans over to Sam, holding her white baby up to her dark complexion.

FELICIA

How much you wanna bet that people are gonna think I'm the nanny? I think I'll name her "Emma". When I'm 35 - which is the age my mom said I can have a baby - I hope I have a girl that I can name Emma.

SAMANTHA

I like Emma! Like Emma Bunton from Spice Girls. If I have a girl, I'm gonna name her Mel B.

FELICIA
Oh, I'm Felicia, by the way.

SAMANTHA
Samantha.

FELICIA
Omigod, is that Leonardo DiCaprio
on your binder? Isn't he so hot in
Titanic?

Megan butts in.

MEGAN
I love Leonardo DiCaprio!

SAMANTHA
Really?

MEGAN
Nope.

MRS. CASTLE
Megan?

Megan stands up, laughing. Samantha turns back to Felicia,
who's now knee-deep in conversation with ANOTHER STUDENT.

EXT. HOME DRIVEWAY / INT. ROGER'S CAR - LATER

ROGER
(to self)
See, Yin? I didn't go to the mall.

INT. HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Roger drops the ENVELOPE OF CASH on the coffee table.

ROGER
Let's see what's playing on the ol'
satellite TV...

As he flips through the channels, his eyes dart back at the
ENVELOPE OF CASH. He's tempted. He stops at an episode of
RICKI LAKE, which seconds later, cuts to a COMMERCIAL for
CIRCUIT CITY: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJnO4SHJmf0>

Roger salivates as it plays.

(CONTINUED)

CIRCUIT CITY VOICEOVER
Circuit City has guaranteed low prices on the top brands you want! And friendly advice to answer all your questions! Stop by today and plug in to the savings in EVERY department! Like this RCA VCR with VCR plus, just \$119.99! This GE refrigerator with ice maker, only \$499.99! And listen to this Sony 50-disc CD changer with remote, for our lowest price ever, just \$169.99! Plug in to low prices all over the store - only at Circuit City!

He picks up the cash and makes a beeline for the door, but:

WILL (O.S.)
 Howdy, Roger--

ROGER
 I'M NOT GOING TO THE MALL!

Will enters through the back sliding glass door wearing a bathrobe and shower cap, and carries a shower caddy.

ROGER (CONT'D)
 Cause this here money is for paying bills! Not for purchasing the latest gadgets at Circuit City, where I can plug in to low prices all over the store!

WILL
 Okey dokey. Can you let me know if you hear the phone ring?

ROGER
 Absolutely. Cause I'll be right here. Not at the mall. Unless, you wanna go...?

WILL
 Nah.

ROGER
 Eh! You know what? You should get a cordless phone! So you could bring it out to the tent with you!

(CONTINUED)

WILL

I dunno. I like cord-full phones.

ROGER

Okay, okay... Then you, my friend, need a phone cord extension! Get that cord-full connection and never miss a call again!

WILL

Yeah?

ROGER

Oh yeah. And I know exactly where to get one! I can take you there now to have a look-see! Or, uh, after your shower?

WILL

Hmm..... Sure.

ROGER

(like he won the lottery)

YES I'M GOING TO THE MALL!!!!!!!!!!!!

(collects himself)

I mean, uh, whenever you're ready.

INT. BURGER KING, REGISTER - LATER

Yin stares at the CLOCK. It reads 11:59am.

CUSTOMER

Hm... I'll do a... Whopper, extra--

As the clock hits 12:00, Yin immediately ditches the register, leaving behind a long line of customers.

YIN

Wendy, I take break! They're your problem now, SUCKER!

WENDY

Who you calling "sucker"?

Yin catches herself.

YIN

Oh, Wendy, didn't I tell you? I didn't say "sucker" like you guys say in English. I say, "soo-kah". See, in Vietnamese, "soo-kah" means how you say, "friend" or "homey".

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

Yin, I'm on to you... SOO-KAH!

(laughing)

Enjoy your break, honey-- or should
I say, SOO-KAH!

YIN

Thanks!

(cackling to self)

Sucker.

INT. MLK MIDDLE SCHOOL, CAFETERIA - LATER

Sam stands in the lunch line, holding her BABY. She then spots Megan and her crew heading towards her. She scrambles to pay then bolts for the door.

EXT. MLK MIDDLE SCHOOL, CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

Sam looks wild with her backpack hanging open, baby in one arm and a lunch tray in the other. As she runs out, her baby's head SMACKS into the door.

SAMANTHA

Oh! I'm so sorry, Mel B!

FELICIA (O.S.)

Samantha?

Felicia and other girls from Health class, WHITNEY and LEELI are hanging out and tending to their babies. Notorious B.I.G.'s "MO MONEY, MO PROBLEMS" plays on a small BOOMBOX.

SAMANTHA

Hey, Felicia!

FELICIA

You're just in time. Check out this dance routine we're working on.

SAMANTHA

Oh, cool!

FELICIA

Okay, let's show Samantha what we practiced... 5, 6 - 5, 6, 7, 8!

Just as the dance gets going, a BABY CRIES.

(CONTINUED)

FELICIA (CONT'D)
Oh god. Who's baby is that?

Samantha finds the crying baby.

WHITNEY
Man, that's my baby.

SAMANTHA
Don't worry, I got it.

The girls continue their dance. Then ANOTHER BABY CRIES.

FELICIA
Omigod...

SAMANTHA
I got it!

LEELI
Man, we're never gonna be able to
practice with these babies.

SAMANTHA
Don't worry. You guys keep dancing,
I'll watch them.

Sam finds the crying baby and the girls continue their
dance. Then ANOTHER CRIES.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
I'm on it!

CUT TO:

EXT. MLK MIDDLE SCHOOL, CAFETERIA - A LITTLE LATER

Sam sits in the middle of several babies, rocking them in
their carriers with both her hands and feet, smiling, as the
girls dance.

INT. CIRCUIT CITY - LATER

Roger carries many shopping bags. He wanders around like a
kid in a candy store. Will trails along with his one bag.

ROGER
Will, would you look at all this
technology? It's a great time to
be alive.

(CONTINUED)

WILL
(like a robot)
Beep-boop, beep-boop. I am
tech-nol-ogy.

Roger scans the room and his eyes land upon a DESKTOP
COMPUTER. A CIRCUIT CITY EMPLOYEE is loading AOL. Roger is
entranced by the DIAL UP SOUNDS.

ROGER
What-- What is that?

EMPLOYEE
Oh, hi. Have you ever had a demo of
America Online? Or surfed the World
Wide Web?

ROGER
"World Wide Web"?

EMPLOYEE
Oh, it's very exciting, sir.
America Online puts the world at
your fingertips in a matter of
seconds! It's the latest and
greatest technology.

ROGER
Latest and greatest technology...

The trio circle the computer - their faces are lit up by the
monitor. ANGELIC MUSIC PLAYS over the final DIAL UP NOTE.

ROGER
My god... It's so beautiful.

END ACT TWO

(CONTINUED)

ACT THREE

INT. HOME, LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Roger leads Yin and Sam into the living room with his hands over their eyes. In the background, Will watches and dances to MTV's *The Grind*.

ROGER

No peeking! Almost there... Oh boy, you guys are gonna love it!

YIN

You better not have gone to the mall.

ROGER

No... I, uh, found this on the side of the road-- Surprise!

SAM

Oh my god! You found a new computer on the side of the road??

YIN

What road??

ROGER

Uh... the corner of Military Trail and Belvedere!

YIN

Which corner?

ROGER

Uh the northeast corner-- behind the Chili's... Yin, look, Samantha needs it... for her education! Here, lemme fire this puppy up.

Roger clicks around, then we hear it start to DIAL.

SAM

So cool!

YIN

Who's dialing our PAY-phone??

ROGER

No, Yin, it's the computer. It's dialing up to the WORLD WIDE WEB. You'll see! Any second now...

(CONTINUED)

Sam's baby starts CRYING. She leaves. The DIAL UP TONE continues as Roger waits with bated breath.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Any second...

Yin cautiously walks away. Then dances with Will.

YIN

Guess what, Will... I made friends today... Suckers.

WILL

I'm so excited for you. Having friends is the best! Exchanging funny stories, asking each other for advice, going out on friend dates--Ah, it's wonderful!

Sam enters with her baby.

YIN

My friends better not expect that shit from me. Samantha, let me hold my robot grandchild.

Yin lovingly takes the baby, baby-talking to her.

YIN (CONT'D)

My sweet Mel B...

SAMANTHA

Guess what? I made friends too! I think... I mean, we hung out at lunch, so...?

Yin grimaces at the idea of lunch with friends.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Also, I may have made an enemy. But who cares? I have friends! I think.

YIN

An enemy? Oh I love a good enemy. Tell me more about this enemy.

SAMANTHA

Well, Dad's advice backfired. I complimented this girl's freckles and she did not like that. So now she hates me. But it's fine, cause I HAVE FRIENDS-- I think!

(CONTINUED)

YIN

Your father may know "friends"--

SAMANTHA

He really doesn't--

YIN

But *I* know enemies.

SAMANTHA

Something tells me I shouldn't
listen to you.

YIN

Listen to me, Samantha. If you
don't get a hold of your enemy now,
she will forever have a hold on
YOU. Now, tomorrow, when you see
her, you're going to apologize and
ask her for forgiveness. Tell her
you really want to be "friends".
Soon she will begin to trust you,
let you into her inner circle, and
before you know it, she will
divulge her deepest, darkest
secrets, which you will record and
store away until THE PERFECT MOMENT
OF REVENGE!

Yin cackles as she strokes the baby.

WILL

Oooh, scary!

YIN

It's how they say, "Keep friends
close... and enemies in closet."

SAMANTHA

I dunno...

YIN

Trust me, I do this all the time
with the weak. And besides, you're
a mother now... You gotta be tough,
like a mama bear. Let your inner
mama bear ROAR!

Yin roars until Sam joins her. Will then joins in.

WILL

Roaring's fun! Aw, I should call my
mama bear.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER
Guys, guys! It's happening!

FINAL DIAL-UP TONE. Will picks up the phone, hearing the funny DIAL-UP CONNECTION SOUNDS.

WILL
(playful, robotic)
Beep-boop? Beep-boop!

AOL DISCONNECTS.

ROGER
Wait, no! Will! Hang up!

WILL
Beep-boop? Oh, gotta run!

He hangs up.

INT. MLK MIDDLE SCHOOL, HALLWAYS - NEXT DAY

Megan and friends, with babies, approach Sam.

MEGAN
Oh, look, it's Samantha. Nice butterfly clip!

SAMANTHA
Really? Thanks--

MEGAN
Nope.

SAMANTHA
Okay, look, Megan. I know we started off on the wrong foot. So I wanna apologize. Cause... I want us to be friends.

MEGAN
Really?

Samantha hesitantly nods.

MEGAN (CONT'D)
Well... If you wanna be my friend--

SAMANTHA
(singing)
--I gotta get wit your friends?
Sorry.

MEGAN

If you wanna be my friend, you're gonna have to prove yourself.

SAMANTHA

Sure... What do you have in mind?

CUT TO:

INT. MLK MIDDLE SCHOOL, HALLWAYS - MOMENTS LATER

Samantha stands holding five babies as Megan and her friends walk off, baby-less and laughing.

MEGAN

Thanks, *friend!*

We hear the "*Ha-ha-ha-ha! Yo! I'll tell you what I want, what I really-really want!*" from the top of Spice Girls' WANNABE, which plays over a **TOTALLY 90s...**

MONTAGE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - LATER

Yin greets her coworkers and immediately tries to go to the kitchen to avoid small-talk. Wendy blocks the door, forcing Yin to stay and chat.

Roger sits in the dark glued to the computer, laughing and mumbling to himself. Will enters carrying a bucket of hot water and soap.

Sam and a classroom of students sit in front of computers with WINDOWS 95 Word documents open - some play OREGON TRAIL, others mock up MEMOS. MR. COULTER, a middle-aged man covered in RED SOX gear, makes the rounds.

MR. COULTER

I better not see any of youse playing Oregon Trail until those memos are done.

Sam, with babies, attempts to keep up. A student sat beside her, GEMMA, who's equal parts geek and grunge, notices Sam struggling. She leans over.

GEMMA

Don't forget the paragraph breaks.

SAMANTHA

Thanks.

(CONTINUED)

Yin takes her lunch and hides behind the dumpster. Rita and Jim appear out of nowhere, startling Yin. She grimaces as they sit down with her.

Samantha tries to balance the five babies as she takes things in and out of her locker.

Yin hides in the bathroom. Wendy and Rita enter. Yin stands on the toilet.

As Roger sits at the computer, Will washes Roger's hair.

Sam, totally exhausted, looks around for Felicia and friends at lunch, but they're nowhere to be found.

--END MONTAGE--

INT. MLK MIDDLE SCHOOL, AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

Sam wanders around looking for a quiet place. She stops in front of the AUDITORIUM door. She enters and overhears Gemma, ERIC and KATE, theater geeks, rehearsing Shakespeare.

ERIC

Hark! She speaks--uh... I will set down what comes from her, to satisfy my--uh, remembrance the more strongly!

GEMMA

Out, damned spot! Out, I say! One, two. Why, then, 'tis time to do it. Hell is murk--

One of the BABIES STARTS TO CRY.

SAMANTHA

Oh! Sorry! Victoria's very colicky today.

Gemma squints into the audience.

GEMMA

Who said that?

SAMANTHA

Uh, me... I just snuck in. Gemma, right? I'll--we'll-- leave now. Sorry to interrupt your rehearsal.

(CONTINUED)

GEMMA

No, you can stay. We're just doing
some scenes from Macbeth for fun.
This is Eric and Kate.

ERIC

Greetings.

KATE

Hi.

SAMANTHA

Hey. You guys really don't mind? I
mean, these kids cry a LOT.

ERIC

I'm sure the Bard had his fair
share of crying children in the
audience. That and public
executions.

KATE

If I can't act in front of a lively
audience, am I truly an actor?

SAMANTHA

Okay, if you say so--

A baby CRIES. And then ANOTHER CRIES. And then ANOTHER.

CUT TO:

INT. MLK MIDDLE SCHOOL, AUDITORIUM - A LITTLE LATER

ERIC

God, God forgive us all! Look after
her; Remove from her the means--
Uh, line?

Eric, Kate and Gemma hold babies as they rehearse. Samantha
sits in the audience, on book.

SAMANTHA

"...of all annoyance, And still
keep eyes upon her."

ERIC

Remove from her the means of all...

INT. BURGER KING, BREAK ROOM - LATER

Yin tiptoes around, gathering her stuff, then:

WENDY

Yin! We're taking you out for drinks tomorrow - we won't take no for an answer, soo-kah!

INT. HOME - LATER

Sam runs around trying to care for all the babies. Yin angrily exercises to a TAE BO VIDEO, punching the air.

YIN

Stupid! Friends!

SAMANTHA

Dad, I'm starving, can you make dinner soon?

ROGER

One minute, dear. I'm just about to "Ask Jeeves" a quick question...

YIN

Roger, get off that computer!

ROGER

(snickering)

"Jeeves... *Where is the... butt?*"

SAMANTHA

Fine! I guess I'll make myself dinner, cause you know, I gotta do EVERYTHING around here! Just going to school full time and taking care of NOT ONE but FIVE KIDS - no big deal! Would be great to have some help around here, but I guess I'm the only adult in this household--

A baby CRIES.

SAMANTHA

OH MY GOD! Not you, Geri Halliwell!
I NEED A BREAK!

Sam storms out the back sliding glass door.

EXT. HOME BACKYARD, WILL'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

Sam taps on Will's tent.

SAMANTHA

Will?

WILL

Come in.

Sam enters Will's tent, which is surprisingly homey. He's in the middle of eating a feast.

SAMANTHA

Sorry to interrupt. I needed to get away from the kids.

WILL

Oh, honey, lemme make you a mocktail. It'll help take the edge off. You hungry?

Sam nods as Will takes out a cocktail making set.

SAMANTHA

Starving!

Sam grabs a drumstick and chows down.

SAMANTHA

Thanks... Will, can I ask you something? How do you know if someone's your friend? Like, know-know?

WILL

Hmm... Well, I'm not sure there's an official answer, but I think you know you found a friend when... You have fun together. And you have each other's back.

SAMANTHA

So I *do* have friends-- I hope. Now I just need to figure out what to do about my enemy.

WILL

Well, Yin is the pro when it comes to enemies. But I think when the time comes, you'll know what to do.

SAMANTHA

She's really not--

(CONTINUED)

SAMANTHA

Will? We're friends, right?

WILL

Of course, honey.

SAMANTHA

I wish we were family.

WILL

Why do you say that?

SAMANTHA

Cause my parents are crazy.

WILL

That's true. But I imagine being a parent *makes* you crazy. And makes you do crazy things, so your child can have the best.

SAMANTHA

I see what you mean. I mean, I'm not the perfect parent, but I'd do anything for my little ones - Mel B, Mel C, Emma, Victoria, and Geri Halliwell.

WILL

So would your parents. No, your mom may not wear her heart on her sleeve, but she always makes us pho when we're sick. And no, your dad doesn't have any friends, but he'd give you the shirt off his back. In fact, *this is his shirt*.

Will points to the shirt he's wearing, which is a RED MAPLE LEAF that reads: **I HEART CANADA, EH!**

WILL (CONT'D)

Because of them, I get to pitch my home in your backyard. And I get to have you all in my life--

SAMANTHA

Almost like we're family.

WILL

I believe there's a saying that goes, "Friends are the family we choose."

(CONTINUED)

SAMANTHA

I like that. Ya know, I bet my parents would let you rent out the den if you ever wanted to, like, not live in a tent.

WILL

Aw, that's a sweet offer. But I love living in the great outdoors.

WIDE SHOT: Will's tent sits in the family's backyard, which sits in the the middle of a suburban neighborhood, which sits in the very un-rural city that is West Palm Beach.

WILL (CONT'D)

However, I have been a little scared sleeping out here ever since Yin mentioned all that "Mama Bear" business.

SAMANTHA

Are there bears in Florida?

WILL

Hmm... I dunno. Oh wait! What was that? Do you hear that?

They pause. Will suddenly stretches out like a bear and roars. Samantha screams then roars back. They laugh. Will picks up the phone (disconnecting AOL).

WILL

Speaking of which, I should call my mama bear...

We hear Roger scream "Nooooo!" from the house. Spice Girls' "MAMA" plays over another...

MONTAGE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - WEEKEND

Sam wanders back into the house and finds her mom fast asleep on the couch with all the babies. She lies down with them.

Later on, Yin wakes up and puts a blanket on Samantha who's fast asleep. A little later, Sam wakes up to a BABY CRYING. She finds Roger fast asleep at the computer and puts her blanket on him.

THE NEXT DAY, Yin stands on the street corner where Roger says he found the computer, investigating. She spots the CHILI'S then turns and sees a CIRCUIT CITY. She heads over.

(CONTINUED)

Will talks on the phone in his tent as Roger scowls at him through a window. As soon as Will hangs up, Roger joyfully logs onto AOL.

Yin, Sam and Will eat dinner with the babies when there's a KNOCK at the door. Yin answers. It's her coworkers. She goes to close the door but they barge in.

Roger surfs the web, zombie-like. When suddenly AOL DISCONNECTS. Sam dances with her babies to a SPICE GIRLS' MUSIC VIDEO playing on MTV. Yin seethes as her coworkers drink and laugh around her.

Roger keeps trying to log on to AOL to no avail, then:

ROGER

No... No... Nooooooooo!

-- END MONTAGE, FADE INTO...

EXT. MLK MIDDLE SCHOOL, HALLWAYS - DAY

Samantha hums "Mama" to herself as she wanders the halls.

FELICIA

Yo, Sam.

SAMANTHA

Hey, Felicia--

FELICIA

Sorry I missed you at lunch on Friday, had drill team rehearsal. But let's hang today?

SAMANTHA

Yeah, I'd love to--

GEMMA

Hey, Samantha, the theater troupe is running some Streetcar scenes after school if you and the kiddos wanna join.

SAMANTHA

Oh, awesome, we'll see you there--

MEGAN (O.S.)

OH HI, BUDDY.

Megan and crew shove their way in.

(CONTINUED)

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Thanks for watching the rugrats.

SAMANTHA

Oh, no worries. Mel C and Geri Halliwell had a few bad nights, but otherwise, we've been having fun.

MEGAN

Okay... Well, give 'em back now.

SAMANTHA

Oh... Why?

MEGAN

Cause we gotta *look* like we're taking care of them. Duh.

SAMANTHA

I don't think that's healthy for them. They can just stay with me.

MEGAN

What?? Look, you'll get them back after school. Hand them over.

Sam looks down at the babies, and starts to hand them over but then:

SAMANTHA

No.

MEGAN

Excuse me?

SAMANTHA

I said, "NO." They're NOT your babies-- And yes, I know, they're not technically REAL babies, but they're more real than any of you will ever be-- So I'm gonna protect them, cause... I'M THEIR MAMA BEAR!

Samantha roars in Megan's face.

MEGAN

You FREAK! GIVE ME THOSE BABIES OR ELSE--

FELICIA

Or else, WHAT?

(CONTINUED)

GEMMA

Yeah, just what are you gonna do?

Felicia and Gemma are right up in Megan's face. Everything SLOWS DOWN as Samantha realizes she has friends, then:

MEGAN

You guys are insane.

Megan and her friends walk off.

FELICIA

Are you okay?

SAMANTHA

Yeah, I think so. Thank you guys for having my back. Even after I roared.

GEMMA

That was... unexpected.

FELICIA

But pretty funny though.

They all crack up.

INT. HOME - LATER

Roger is repeatedly trying to dial up to AOL to no avail.

WILL

Hey, Roger. You paid the phone bill, right? I'm not able to call my mama.

Roger looks at the EMPTY envelope, realizing his mistake.

EXT. BURGER KING - LATER

RITA

Alright, should we carpool?

JIM

I can fit us all in my Celica.

WENDY

What do you want to do, soo-kah?

Roger's car PULLS UP. Yin gets in the car, ignoring them.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY (CONT'D)

Oh, is Roger joining us?

RITA

Should we just meet you there?

JIM

Yin?

WENDY

Soo-kah?

Yin rolls down the window, then spits out of it.

YIN

(to Roger)

Drive.

INT. HOME, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Spice Girls' "SAY YOU'LL BE THERE" plays on a boom box. Sam, Yin, Roger and Will sit around with the babies. The brand new desktop computer is now gone, replaced with the old WORD PROCESSOR. Roger looks like a detoxed man.

ROGER

It feels good to just be with my family, eh? Thank you, Yin, for showing me that I had a problem.

YIN

Aw, I'll always be here to expose your flaws, sucker.

ROGER

Love you too, soo-kah. "Soo-kah" means "loved one" in Vietnamese.

WILL

And thank you both for letting me buy the computer!

ANGLE ON: The desktop computer sitting in Will's tent.

YIN

With a "friends and family discount" too--

WILL

Free pay-phone use for a whole month!

The PHONE RINGS.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

Oh. Wow. Phone's back on...

Roger tries to make a run for it. They all attack Roger.

ROGER

Just a few minutes! Please!

END OF SHOW