

TEASER

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - DAY

STELLA DALE (30s, smartly-dressed smarty-pants) and ERIC PERKINS (30s, baby-faced neat-freak) pull rolling suitcases, tanned and rested.

ERIC

Full disclosure. My brother is the epitome of a hedonist. He may have turned the apartment into an opium den while I was gone.

STELLA

Sounds entrepreneurial to me! Listen I don't judge anyone's family. People in glass houses...

ERIC

This is me. 66.

But the numbers on the door aren't 66, they're 69 because the second 6 has flipped upside down. Eric straightens it, puts his key in the lock, the 6 falls again.

STELLA

But it's more fun the other way.

ERIC

(smiling but frustrated)  
I gave him one job when I was away.

Stella rubs Eric's back to soothe him.

STELLA

Hey, hey. Let's keep that island vibe going a bit longer. Big picture...

Eric takes a deep breath and pulls Stella in for a kiss.

ERIC

Big picture. You're so good for me.

A few more deep breaths and Eric opens the door to...

INT. ERIC & AARON'S APARTMENT - DAY

A colossal mess. In the midst of it all, like the buddha of filth, AARON PERKINS (30, fully-bearded and uber-chill) balances upside down in a headstand and watches "The Golden Girls" on his laptop, which is also upside down.

AARON  
(laughing)  
Eric, I am definitely Blanche and  
you are totally Bea Arthur.

Stella pulls her suitcase behind Eric, obscuring her view. From Aaron's perspective, we see two people standing upside down, but they're hard to make out.

STELLA  
(correcting)  
You mean Dorothy, for the analogy  
to work. You're Blanche and he's  
Dorothy. Or you could be Rue  
McClanahan. That's the other  
option.

AARON  
Who's this? Sounds like the biting  
wit of Sophia.

Aaron flips out of his headstand and stands up. Stella steps out from behind Eric.

STELLA  
(joking)  
With the stunning beauty of Rose.

Stella and Aaron's eyes meet. Anticipatory smiles fade into looks of recognition. These two know each other. Eric is consumed with collecting Aaron's half-empty kombucha bottles scattered around the room and doesn't notice.

ERIC  
(distracted)  
Aaron, this is Stella.

AARON  
Oh I know Ste--

STELLA  
Oh, I know too...how it looks. I  
just met Eric in Turks and Caicos  
two weeks ago and now I'm moving  
in. But It's only 'til I find my  
own place.

AARON  
So you're moving to Toronto?

STELLA  
Eric encouraged me to follow my  
dream, so...

ERIC  
And I want you to stay here as long  
as you need to, no rush, okay?

Stella looks and makes sure Eric is out of earshot.

STELLA  
(whispering to Aaron)  
Listen I really like your brother.  
Please don't say anything. Please.

ACT I

INT. ERIC & AARON'S APARTMENT - DAY

Stella watches Eric rinse bottles in the sink, then arrange them in a recycling bin. She occasionally glances at Aaron, doing pull-ups from the door jamb, shirtless.

ERIC  
(to Aaron)  
Stella's dad runs the all-inclusive  
resort, so she goes there all the  
time. Stella, Aaron's the one who  
told me about the resort in the  
first place.

STELLA  
Oh, really?

AARON  
After Daphne left him at the altar,  
thought he could use a pick me up.  
Went there myself a few years  
ago. Met someone. Didn't work out.

ERIC  
Great girl, she just couldn't  
handle you talking to other women,  
right Aaron?

STELLA  
Well, that's not a problem for me.  
Eric is always 100% respectful.

Eric gives Stella a peck on the cheek as he leans in front of her to pick up more kombucha bottles. Aaron drops down and does pushups.

AARON

It's a deal breaker for me. I gotta be free to mix and mingle and know my girl's confident enough in herself to realize I would never do anything.

STELLA

Oh yeah, but in defence of women everywhere, you can understand how things might look to "your girl."

ERIC

(to Aaron)

You took a long time to get over her, too. What was her name again?

AARON

Doesn't matter.

ERIC

I'm sure you could find her on Facebook if you wanted to.

STELLA

Yeah, I see a lot of guys in holiday mode, just looking to score and the second a girl says something remotely real-life, poof, they're outta there. But not Eric.

Just as Eric finally gathers the last kombucha bottle, Aaron walks to the fridge and takes out a new bottle from the 12 pack, cracks it open.

AARON

Eric's the opposite of a commitment-phobe. Hence the six engagements. Maybe this one will pan out, buddy.

(looking at Stella)

No pressure though.

STELLA

We're taking things slow.

AARON

(laughing)

Obviously.

ERIC

Hey hey, we've already travelled together and that's one of the most stressful things a couple can do. Right?

Eric smiles at Stella and walks toward the door with the recycling box full of bottles.

AARON

You know, in a guy's defence, sometimes girls break up with you before you can explain, all pre-emptive strike-like.

STELLA

Or maybe if the guy was less defensive and took the girl's feelings into account, things would have ended differently.

Eric observes their tension and puts down the box, pissed.

ERIC

Look, I can't stand this.

Aaron smiles and Stella's concerned.

STELLA

What?

ERIC

It's so obvious, okay?

Stella stands up, worried Eric knows. Aaron enjoys her squirming.

AARON

It really is, isn't it?

ERIC

There's something going on here between you two. And I want to clear it up right now. This girl, the one you fell in love with at the resort...

AARON

Yeah?

ERIC

Well I'm sure she was a decent person.

Stella exhales a bit.

STELLA  
She absolutely was. Is.

ERIC  
And I know you're a good guy,  
Aaron. But...

AARON  
But?

ERIC  
Sometimes things just aren't meant  
to be.

STELLA  
(full-on relief)  
He's right. Eric's right. Eric's  
always right.

ERIC  
Look, did something happen here? I  
think you owe it to me to say if it  
did.

STELLA  
What? NO!

AARON  
Are we giving off some sort of  
vibe, bro? Like an attraction sort  
of thing?

ERIC  
(scoffing)  
No. God no. You're not her type at  
all. It just seems like you got off  
on the wrong foot. I was worried  
you two might not get along, and it  
really matters to me that you do.

AARON  
It's all good. Right, Stella?

STELLA  
(overly perky)  
Absolutely.

ERIC  
Let's have a hug then.

Stella walks toward Eric with open arms.

ERIC  
Not with me, sweetie. With Aaron.

Stella awkwardly hugs the sweaty, shirtless Aaron.

ERIC  
To new roommates.

STELLA  
(half-hearted)  
To roommates.

AARON  
"New" roommates.

END ACT I