

THIS IS US (SPEC)

"Good Enough"

Written by

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ACT 1

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY (PITTSBURGH, 1978)

People in upscale clothing eat dinner as they laugh and chat. JACK, 30 and humble sit with REBECCA, (30) and sweet at a table in the corner by the window. They're a little out of place here.

REBECCA
How ya feelin babe?

She brushes her hand through his hair.

JACK
I'm good.

An empty chair sits in front of them and a worry look crosses Jack's face. Jack kisses Rebecca's cheek.

JACK (CONT'D)
I'm good babe.

Approaches them is Rebecca's hard to please father DAVE, 60. He protects his expensive white suit as leans over the table and kisses his daughter on the opposite cheek.

DAVE
My little girl.

Jack reaches his hand out for a shake as her father observes his naked wrist. He then reaches his hand out with a GOLD watch, and shakes his hand with judgement.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY (LOS ANGELES, 2020)

KEVIN, 40 charming and SOPHIE, 40 and perfect are out to dinner on a rooftop. Their view over looks the CITY.

SOPHIE
(laughing)
I couldn't believe it was you.
You've never made that face for me before.

KEVIN
Okay enough, enough alright.

SOPHIE
No. But seriously, I love it.
Congratulations once again babe.

Sophie smiles as she tucks her hair behind her ear. Kevin looks to the right - in the view we see lights shining on a BILLBOARD with his FACE on it - a promiscuous one.

KEVIN

Do you?

DING - a notification sounds on Kevin's phone

-- CLOSE ON SCREEN : Maddie's name.

SOPHIE

Yes. I love it!

Sophie stares at Kevin in admiration, then notices a look of worry cross his face with his head down.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Kev.. what is it? What's wrong?

A BABY CRIES in the restaurant. Kevin puts down the phone suddenly remembering where he is.

KEVIN

Oh I don't know Soph.

Sophie throws him her famous comforting smile. He stares.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Sophie loves it huh?

She reaches over the table and grabs his hand.

SOPHIE

Only if that's okay with Mr. Man himself.

A MOTHER holding the CRYING BABY scurry's past their table, Sophie looks displeased.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

(laughing)

Now, that's not okay.

Kevin pretends to laugh and looks back down to Maddie's text.

KEVIN

Yea.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY (1978)

Jack wipes his forehead.

DAVE
So, tell me son.

JACK
What's that sir?

DAVE
What's your favorite club?

REBECCA
Dad.

JACK
Oh sir I don't really... get down
that way too much.

Rebecca looks at him and smiles.

DAVE
Oh no?

JACK
I really like spending time with my
Rebecca that's all. Not really the
club guy sir.

DAVE
What kind of guy are you then?

JACK
Well I...

DAVE
Because any man of real class would
have known I was talking about
golf, son.

REBECCA
Dad!

JACK
Ohhh. Golf. Right, sorry sir.

DAVE
So... Club?

JACK
My favorite club is um, it has to
be the Club 55, sir.

Rebecca squeezes Jack's thigh underneath the table.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY (2020)

A WAITRESS approaches the table with the bill. Sophie's eyes gets big as she looks at the amount. She playfully tosses it to Kevin as he catches it.

He puts his card in the binder, hands it to the server, smiling at Sophie.

KEVIN

The only really reason Mr. Man is okay with it.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY (1978)

A WAITRESS approaches the table and hands Jack, Rebecca, and her father MENU'S. Rebecca and her father immediately look through the menus as Jack places his down.

JACK

Oh, I'll just take a burger with cheese ma'am.

She smiles and picks up the menu.

WAITRESS

You got it!

JACK

Thank you miss.

The father looks at Jack and then clears his throat.

REBECCA

(angrily)

Okay. Is something wrong dad?!

FATHER

Oh, no darling.

(beat)

I just, I don't know. As a man, I guess it takes me bit more to get full. But that's just me.

Rebecca hands the waitress her menu.

REBECCA

I'll take a burger too.

WAITRESS

Two burgers coming up.

REBECCA
Thank you ma'am.

FATHER
What's with all of this ma'am
stuff.

JACK
You know what Bec? Your dad is
right.

Jack reaches out for the menus.

JACK (CONT'D)
Here babe.

REBECCA
Jack.

JACK
What would you like babe?

REBECCA
A burger. I said I would like a
burger... Jack!

Jack takes a look at the menu.

JACK
We'll take two of your number
sevens please.

Her father looks at the both of them curiously then chuckles.

FATHER
Well how bout that.

Rebecca gives her father a deadly stare. Jack squeezes her
knee under the table and she quickly removes it.

INT. RANDALL'S HOME - TESS'S ROOM - CLOSET - DAY

A HAND intensively swipes through CLOTHES in a closet, then
reveals it to be TESS, 9 and anxious at the moment. She
searches but finds nothing then walks to her room door.

She scans both ways of the HALL, then SPRINTS across it to
enter --

INT. RANDALL'S HOME - RANDALL AND BETH'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tess looks inside one drawer and finds paperwork. She moves on to the next and finds music records. Finally, in the third drawer she lands on a MAKEUP BAG.

Tess grabs a few items out of the bag then walks to their door. She scans both ways of the hall, then jets back across.

INT. KATE AND TOBY'S APARTMENT - DAY

KATE, 40 and dealing with weight issues, jog in place with pink and blue FLASHCARDS in her hand. TOBY, 40 and upbeat, sprints to her with a DIAPER BAG slightly out of breath.

TOBY

Boom! I win!

Kate stops the STOPWATCH.

KATE

Not quite, skinny boy. Flashcard said under thirty. She shows him the time on the watch.

KATE (CONT'D)

You made thirty three.

TOBY

Oh come on, that's impossible! Check the bag. I got all the items, that has to count for something.

Kate pulls out all the items in the diaper bag.

KATE

Nope! You're missing a pacifier.

Toby points to JACK JR, (3) as he sits in the HIGH CHAIR with a PACIFIER in his mouth. Kate shrugs.

KATE (CONT'D)

Sometimes yo gotta play dirty.

TOBY

(seductively)

Don't talk to me like that unless your'e ready to back it up.

Kate playfully pushes him away.

KATE
Stop. We have company.

TOBY
Oh c'mon, right after you tell me
to steal from him? Our own child.

Kate hands Toby the flashcards.

KATE
It's momma's turn.

Toby jogs in place then flips over a card.

TOBY
Baby monitor, a toy, and three cans
of baby food.

Kate SPRINTS off. Toby starts the stopwatch.

TOBY (CONT'D)
(to jack)
Forgive your mother son. I'd never
betray you this way.

INT. KATE AND TOBY'S APARTMENT - JACK JR'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate grabs a BABY MONITOR out of the crib and a STUFFED ANIMAL from the toy bin. She approaches a cabinet and opens it to find TWO cans of baby food. She grabs them and jets.

INT. KATE AND TOBY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Kate approaches Toby out of breath as he stops the watch.

TOBY
Where's the third can?

Kate's face turns from eager to distress.

KATE
That's all we had. Remember Jack is
moving on to solid foods next week.

TOBY
So... basically, I win!

Kate hits Toby on the back, then finds her way to rest on the couch to catch her breath. Before she sits, she picks up the toy on the seat.

KATE

How are you not sad? Our baby is growing up.

Toby looks over at Jack then sits next to her.

TOBY

He's still a baby Kate.

KATE

Yea, but still... He's not as little as he used to be.

TOBY

Soon we'll have another little one to do it all over again with.

Kate observes the baby toy in her hand.

KATE

Who's to say they'll bring us a baby to foster. There a full grown kids that need homes.

TOBY

Full grown kids?

KATE

You know what I mean.

TOBY

I never thought about that, actually.

KATE

Does it change your mind?

TOBY

Not one bit.

KATE

Good me neither. So, what's your bet?

TOBY

Ahhaa, so I do win?!

KATE

Give it to me before I change my mind.

TOBY

Uhhh... karaoke at the Light's Out bar.

KATE
Who?

TOBY
You.

KATE
That's not happening.

TOBY
Oh you know you want to!

KATE
No, actually I don't. Ever.

Kate stands up and begins to clean up the mess they made.

TOBY
How come? Kate your sooo good.

KATE
Because, I'd rather not humiliate myself.

TOBY
Humiliate yourself?

KATE
Yes. Humiliate, embarrass, disgrace. Need anymore synonyms?

TOBY
Humiliation is a bit of an overkill don't you think?

KATE
No. I do not think.

TOBY
Really? Humiliate?!

KATE
Yes Toby! Standing on stage looking like this is asking for humiliation. Something I would rather not sign myself up for. You dropped 45 pounds not me. So do yourself a favor... and drop this!.

TOBY
Woah.

FEMALE CRUSH
Umm.. What's that noise?

BETH (O.S)
(singing)
"Got to do wit it! Got to do wit
it!"

TESS
Oh that? That's just my mom being
lame. You know how that is?

FEMALE CRUSH
Oh. I think she sounds nice.

Tess takes a moment to think to herself.

TESS
Yea, she's cool or whatever.

CRUSH
Right...
(beat)
Hey, what kind of lip stick is
that?

INT. RANDALL'S HOME - HALLWAY

RANDALL, 30 and a super dad, holds his laptop typing and
walking at the same time.

TESS (O.S.)
Juicy juicy. I only like this kind
to touch these lips.

Randall stops in his tracks and can't help but to knock on
Tess's door.

RANDALL
Hey Tess.

INT. RANDALL'S HOME - TESS'S ROOM

He slightly opens the door and through the mirror he sees
Tess's reflection. He opens his eyes wide and closes the
door. Tess hangs up the phone and smears her lip stick.

TESS
Yea dad!

RANDALL
Can I come in.?

Randall cracks the door more as Tess run's to shut it.

TESS

Now's not the best time actually.

RANDALL

Got it.

Tess closes the door with a face full of embarrassment, which turns to guilt as she looks down at her phone.

INT. KEVIN'S CAR

Kevin is at a TRAFFIC light as he scrolls through his phone.

CLOSE ON SCREEN --

Him and Maddie's text thread shows endless photos of Maddie in the decoration store with no responses from Kevin. Kevin places his phone down. The light turns green and drives off.

INT. KEVIN'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Kevin turns left and rides pass KIDDIE LAND, an indoor game park. In the parking lot he sees a family of four.

He admires as the FATHER lifts his daughter and places her on his neck.

Kevin makes right and drives straight for awhile. He passes by a little boy attempting to walk his oversized dog as his DAD laughs and chases after him. He admires once again.

INT. RANDALLS HOME - RANDALL AND BETH'S BEDROOM - DAY

Randall enters his bedroom, places his laptop on the bed, then watches Beth sings and dance to Tina Turner.

RANDALL

Don't hurt em now!

He joins in and the two of them sing and dance playfully.

BETH

Come on baby!

Randall jokingly hits a move.

BETH (CONT'D)

Show me what you got then!

Randall embraces her with a hug and a soft kiss.

RANDALL
I love you woman.

BETH
I love you too babe.

RANDALL
How was your day?

BETH
Oh, Me and Tina had a good day!

She rubs his head.

BETH (CONT'D)
What was yours lookin like?

RANDALL
You and Tina, huh?

Randall notices the drawer that's slightly opened.

BETH
Yes. Me and my girl have been
jammin out alll day.

Beth releases from the hug, turns the volume up, and starts to dance again.

RANDALL
(slightly yelling over the
music)
This Tina, or the one in our kids
room?

BETH
(slightly yelling back)
What?

Randall pauses the music.

RANDALL
Have you checked your make up
drawer lately?

BETH
What are you talk'n about babe?
(beat)
And you never even answered me. How
was your day?!

RANDALL
Just check it.

BETH
Fine

Slightly out of breath from dancing, Beth opens her drawer and notices the emptiness of the bag. Randall sits on the bed, opens his laptop, and begins to work.

BETH (CONT'D)
(confused)
You got something you wanna tell me...?

RANDALL
Yup. I think ya girl Tina's a little closer than you think.

Beth ponders then comes to a revelation. She toys with the bad with nostalgia.

BETH
(smiling)
Aww, that's cute.

RANDALL
Cute?! Did you just say cute woman?

She walks over and finds a place next to Randall on the bed. She sits Indian style.

BETH
Yea sure it's cute. I remember this phase very clearly. I snuck in my moms room several times! However, I used to take her pearls and pretend like I was Marilyn Monroe!

RANDALL
Beth, there's nothing cute about this. I heard her talk'n about having juicy lips and -

BETH
Randall relax.
(beat)
It's just a phase. She's growing up.. trying to find herself.

Randall takes off his glasses.

RANDALL
I just don't want the phase to last forever.

BETH
It won't.

RANDALL
How do you know?

BETH
Because it wouldn't be phase.

Beth gives him a kiss on the forehead, gets off the bed, and dances her way to the bathroom.

Randall takes a deep breath.

RANDALL
(to himself)
Mine did.

INT. KATE AND TOBY'S APARTMENT - KICTEHN - MOMENTS LATER

Kate wipes off the counters then tosses the rag in the sink. She exhales and approaches the refrigerator that has photos taped to it.

She notices the tiny PHOTO of her mother singing on a stage. She looks at it, smiles, then ponders curiously.

Suddenly, she takes it down.

INT. KATE AND TOBY'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Kate sits on the couch and opens a lap top. Jack jr sits in a high chair besides her.

KATE
I don't know Jack. Maybe you dad's right.

CLOSE ON LAP TOP SCREEN --

-- "Karaoke bars near me" is typed in the search engine.

KATE (O.S.)
Okay, let's see here.

Kate exhales and scrolls on the lap top intrigued.

KATE (CONT'D)
This one's kinda cool.
(beat)
I think.

She scrolls.

KATE (CONT'D)
This one's kinda not!
(beat)
I'm sure of it.

She scrolls.

KATE (CONT'D)
Karaoke for toddlers?! Aww. Almost
there Jack.

She chuckles and adjusts his Jack Jr's pacifier.

She scrolls.

KATE (CONT'D)
(laughing)
Karaoke for dogs?! People have
officially lost it. I'd love to see
it tho.

Kate takes a moment.

CLOSE ON LAP TOP SCREEN --

-- "Karaoke for fat people" is in the search engine.

Kate scrolls as her face goes from being intrigued to
disgusted.

KATE
Yea no I'm not doing this.

She shuts her lap top.

KATE (CONT'D)
(to baby Jack)
I will not embarrass myself.

END ACT 1

(CONT'D)

(CONT'D)

ACT 2

INT. RANDALL'S HOME - KIRCHEN - DAY

Tess sits at the kitchen table scrolling on her cell phone with a distraught look on her face while Beth cooks. The room has an awkward silence. Randall enters in, notices Tess, and plays it cool.

RANDALL

What's cookin what's cookin?

BETH

Macaroni, yams, and lamb chops.

RANDALL

Just like I like it, diabetes calling my name.

BETH

Don't talk like that.

RANDALL

Oh, for your cookin woman I'll take it.

BETH

Well, I'm using this new air fryer I got so you don't have to.

RANDALL

You have all the solutions. Have I told you how grateful I am for you at all today?

Randall embraces her with another hug.

BETH

Randall, I love you baby but you just gave me a hug, I'm trying to feed my family.

RANDALL

(whispering in her ear)
Do you see our daughter over there?

BETH

Boy, if you don't-

RANDALL

(whispering)
Do you see her or not!

BETH
 Yes Randall. I have two eyes just
 like you.

RANDALL
 (whispering)
 I think it's your turn.

BETH
 My turn to what?

RANDALL
 (whsiepring)
 You know.

Beth laughs and pulls away.

BETH
 Nice try babe. You have the issue,
 not me.

She turns on the air fryer and walks away. Before she exits
 the room she swiftly turns around.

BETH (CONT'D)
 You tried to sweet talk me twice
 today for your own good. Imma
 remember that.

Beth walks out.

RANDALL
 It wasn't even like that babe! I
 love you.

BETH (O.S.)
 As Tina would day.. I'm a fool in
 love.

Randall takes a looks at Tess as he ponders and prepares to
 approach Tess who's looking down at her phone.

CLOSE ON CELL --

-- Tess has back to back texts from Laila asking "*what
 happened?*"

Tess closes her phone and Randall takes a seat at the table
 across from her.

RANDALL
 Hey Tess.

TESS
Look dad about earlier-

RANDALL
What happened earlier?

TESS
Oh, please dad. Look, I know it was weird, but I just want to drop it.

RANDALL
Drop... what?

TESS
Perfect.

A NOTIFICATION goes off on her phone.

Tess picks up her phone to check it.

RANDALL
So, is that her?

Tess doesn't respond.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
(to himself)
My baby girl's ignoring me... This day came sooner than I'd hope.

TESS
Sorry Dad, but I literally just asked you to drop this.

Another NOTIFICATION goes off. As frustration builds, Tess exhales immensely.

RANDALL
You know when I had my first girlfrie-

TESS
Dad! Oh my Gosh, please! She's not my girlfriend.

RANDALL
So, what is she?

TESS
I don't know.

RANDALL
Sure you do.

TESS

A crush... okay? She's my crush there you go. Does that work for you?

RANDALL

It's a start.

TESS

Why are you doing this?

Tess looks upward.

TESS (CONT'D)

Pleeease make it stop.

Randall looks up to the ceiling.

RANDALL

Is that how it works?

TESS

I sure hope so.

RANDALL

You have father who cares. Poor you.

Another NOTIFICATION goes off. As Tess goes to pick it up, Randall reaches over, turns it face down, then places one hand on top of hers.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

I just don't want you making the same mistakes I did.

INT. KEVIN'S CAR

Kevin rides pass a father and his teenage son playing catch with a baseball in the park. Kevin looks up with a face of annoyance.

KEVIN

Are you kidding me right now?

EXT. JACK AND REBECCA'S HOME - OUTSIDE - (1990)

RANDALL(10), plays basketball with JACK(40).

Randall shoots.

It misses the net - AIR BALL. As it bounces, Jack catches it.

Jack shoots - SWISH, nothing but net.

He bounces the ball back to Randall who fumbles it through his hands then chases after.

Randall shoots and it bounces off the RIM.

JACK
Closer son.

RANDALL
Not close enough.

JACK
Well keep trying. You know what they say?

RANDALL
Practice makes perfect.

JACK
No, perfect practice makes perfect.

Jack approaches Randall and places his hands around the ball correctly. Jack's hands overlay Randall's.

JACK (CONT'D)
It's all about the form.

Together they shoot the ball - SWISH.

JACK (CONT'D)
Now you try.

Randall takes a deep breath. Shoots and air balls... again.

RANDALL
I suck! This is stupid. Why do I suck at everything?

JACK
You don't suck at everything.

RANDALL
Everything, physical. Why do I suck at everything physical then?

Jack runs after Randall's loose ball. He catches it, then approaches him.

JACK
We all have our strengths and weaknesses.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)
Sports just happen to be one of
your... not so strong attributes.

RANDALL
Can you just pass me the ball?

Beat.

JACK
Randall, it's just a game. It's
supposed to be for fun kiddo.
(beat)
Are you relaxed? Breathe son.

RANDALL
Well, anything I do I want to be
good at it.

JACK
Not such a bad thing. Just remember
to give yourself time.

He bounces the ball to Randall who catches it.

JACK (CONT'D)
Good catch. Let's go for a basket.

Randall shoots, he misses.

RANDALL
Oh my gosh! I don't have time.

JACK
You're twelve!

RANDALL
Exactly, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was
nine! Did you know he was 5'8
before he even graduated from the
eighth grade?

He passes the ball to Jack.

JACK
(laughing)
No. I didn't. But it doesn't
surprise me that you do.

RANDALL
He could dunk too.
(sad)
And look at me.

Randall places his hands on his head out of frustration.

JACK

Did you know... THE Michael Jordan was cut from his middle school team.

RANDALL

No way.

JACK

In fact he didn't even make the team to begin with.

RANDALL

How come?

JACK

Coach said he wasn't "good enough". But he believed in himself when no one else did.

Another air ball from Randall.

RANDALL

Thanks for the advice but it's going to take a miracle for me.

Jack rubs Randall's head.

JACK

What's this all about son?

RANDALL

What do you mean?

JACK

Basketball is great... but it's not you.

RANDALL

I'm going out for the team.

He shrugs, trying to make out what's gotten into Randall.

JACK

Really...

INT. RANDALL'S SCHOOL - CAFETERIA TABLE - DAY

Randall sits with KEVIN(10), as they eat their lunches. Kevin devours a hot dog and Randall stares off in lala land at -

INT. RANDALL'S SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - ANOTHER TABLE - CONT

JAMIE(10), Randall's crush wears pink overalls eats her lunch and laughs with her friends. She glances at Randall, gives a soft smile, then tucks her hair behind her ear.

INT. RANDALL'S SCHOOL - CAFETERIA TABLE

Randall still stares.

KEVIN

Why don't you just go over there
and say something to her.

Still staring...

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Hello?? Hellooo??

Kevin bangs the table.

RANDALL

Earthquake?

KEVIN

No dufus. Relax, we're in
Pittsburg.

(beat)

Why won't you just go talk to her?

RANDALL

Who?

KEVIN

Come on let's not play dumb.

RANDALL

I don't know what you're talking
about.

KEVIN

Jamie! The girl you're dreaming
about.

Randall pretends to look confused.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Fine, I'll just go talk to her myse-

RANDALL

Fine fine! Okay, yes I'm staring at
her. Jamie. Yes, I'm staring.

KEVIN

Oooo you're in loovee.

RANDALL

No, I'm not in love. I just like her that's all.

KEVIN

So, how are we going to get her to know?

RANDALL

We're not.

KEVIN

Ohh, yes we are.

Beat.

RANDALL

Well.

(beat)

What do I say?

KEVIN

Just, tell her you like her...

(beat)

Wait... never mind.

Boys in basketball JERSEY'S swarm Jamie's table. She giggles and plays with her hair.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

It looks like she has a different type.

(laughing)

And it's not you.

RANDALL

So now what?

KEVIN

I don't know. Learn to play basketball I guess.