

EP. 416 - "winners and losers" - concept mtg draft - 1.7.13 5.

4 INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM -- NIGHT (N2)

"Connie" 4

Frankie sits in the classroom with twenty other moms listening to MR. WALKER describe the field trip.

2 scenes
9 pages

FRANKIE (V.O.)

I made a habit of missing school functions, but I figured if I was gonna chaperone Brick's trip, I should probably put in an appearance. Plus, I knew I'd feel better once I got a sense of what the trip was gonna be like. I was wrong -- very, very wrong.

MR. WALKER

...Now as far as the hotel goes, we won't have an adult in each room, but the kids will be trusted to monitor themselves.

FRANKIE

Oh God.

POP TO --

MR. WALKER

...They'll have exactly twenty-six minutes to wander around the observation deck on the hundred and third floor --

FRANKIE

(shaking her head in disbelief)

No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no.

POP TO --

MR. WALKER

...And then we're off to visit Chicago's famous Shedd Aquarium with its brand new shark tank.

FRANKIE

You gotta be kidding me.

POP TO --

MR. WALKER

And that brings us to 8:25 and the end of my presentation. Right on time.

(checks his watch)

As... always. Thank you.

* CONNIE, the head room mom, steps forward. →

Actors:

We will probably only do scene #1

I've included everything so you know what's happening.

- G

"The Middle"
G. Charles Wright Casting

Scene
#1

Start →

CONNIE

Okay, very informative, Mr. Walker.
Now everyone who is interested in
being a chaperone please put their
name in this bowl. Thanks!

The moms head for the front and start writing their names
down and putting them in the bowl.

MR. WALKER

Remember to fold your paper squares
twice, once, and once again.

Frankie beelines for Connie.

FRANKIE

Hi, Connie. Listen, you're in luck!
I've cleared my schedule and I will
be available to chaperone the trip
so -- Chaperone Frankie reporting
for duty.

Frankie gives her a friendly military style salute.

CONNIE

Oh, that's wonderful, Frankie, but
actually everybody here wants to
chaperone this trip. It's the crown
jewel of field trips.

FRANKIE

Oh. Well, I really should be one of
the chaperones because I haven't
volunteered for anything all year.

CONNIE

Well, now do you really think that's
fair? For you to go on the most
coveted trip of the year after not
volunteering for anything all year?

FRANKIE

Actually I did the fish booth.

CONNIE

So which is it? You didn't volunteer
for anything or you did the fish
booth?

FRANKIE

Whichever one gets me on the bus.
(then)

Look, Brick is kind of special. And
not the kind you slap a bumper sticker
on your car to brag about.

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CONNIE

Sorry, we have a fair way of doing it. We put all the names in a big bowl and we pick four and those are the ones that will be the chaperones. Good luck!

Frankie sighs, walks over and joins the other mothers. She starts writing her own name down. She turns to the woman next to her as she writes.

~~FRANKIE~~

~~Ya know, if I were you, I wouldn't even want to go on this trip. Kids throw up on buses. And when one goes, they all go.~~

Frankie mimes throwing up all over. The woman isn't buying it. She drops her name into the bowl and crosses away. Frankie finishes writing and returns to her seat. Connie holds up the bowl of names.

CONNIE

Okay, here we go. Fingers crossed everybody...

(pulls out the first name)

"Jenna Bieler."

A woman leaps up and screams like she just won the lottery. Connie picks another name out of the bowl

CONNIE (CONT'D)

"Connie McDonald." Oh, that's me!
Yay!

Frankie reacts, frustrated.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

"Julia Laumann."

Julia Laumann jumps out of her seat and screams, even more excited than Jenna Bieler. They both run up and join Connie and the three of them excitedly hold hands as everyone else looks on, disappointed.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

And finally -- "Jonathan Phillips."

Frankie looks around. There are no men in the room.

FRANKIE

Wait a minute. Hold on a second. A man's name? How is there a man's name in there? I don't see any men here.

CONNIE

Oh, he had me put his name in.

FRANKIE

Hang on. Shouldn't you have to be present to win? I'm sorry, but this just doesn't smell right. I mean, come on, you just happen to pick your own name? We're supposed to believe that's just a coincidence? This thing is obviously rigged. I mean, I didn't get picked and I put my name in four times!

The other moms all look at Frankie, appalled.

5 INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY -- DAY (D3)

END Scene #1

Darrin's at his locker. Sue walks slowly by, hoping he'll notice her. He doesn't. We hold on Darrin as Sue walks by the other way. Again, Darrin doesn't notice. Sue walks by a third time. Nothing. And a fourth time, this time accompanied by a small coughing fit. Finally, Darrin notices.

DARRIN

Hey, Sue.

SUE

Oh hey, Darrin! I didn't see you there! So, what are you --

Axl approaches.

AXL

Oh my God. What are you doing in the senior hall? No Suckmores in the senior hall, unless you are hot, which you are not. I'm Axl Heck and I approved this message.

Axl pushes Sue away by her face.

SUE

Axl!

AXL

Sorry about that, Darrin.

Sue walks off, frustrated, and glances back at Darrin. Darrin talks to Axl, but sneaks a glance back at Sue.

6 INT. KITCHEN -- LATER (D3)

6

Brick sits at the counter doing his homework. Frankie approaches.

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ACT TWO

9 EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL -- A FEW DAYS LATER (D4)

Kids are getting on the bus for the Chicago trip.

FRANKIE (V.O.)

*So Brick was on his way to Chicago,
and I had made my peace with it.*

Frankie nervously pats him down.

FRANKIE

So, you don't have any books with
you? None at all?

BRICK

Nope.

FRANKIE

Eyes on your surroundings. At all
times. No reading. Not even street
signs. And I really shouldn't have
to say this, but please don't put
anything in your mouth that isn't
food. No exceptions!

BRICK

Mom, I'll be fine.

(then)

Wait!

Frankie thinks he's going to give her a hug, but instead, he
takes a long string of chewed up yarn out of his mouth, puts
it in her hand, and gets on the bus with a wave. She crosses
to Mr. Walker and Connie, who are helping load the bus,
dealing with other parents, etc. They're both busy and
distracted.

Start

→ FRANKIE

Hi, Frankie Heck. We met the other
night --

CONNIE

I remember. Fish booth. We have
all our chaperones.

(to Mr. Walker)

Yeah, those go in the bottom rack.
Smaller ones up top.

FRANKIE

Oh no, I know that. Just checkin'
in. Makin' sure you're all set.
Brick is on the bus safe and sound.

(MORE)

Scene
#2

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FRANKIE (CONT'D)

(looks to bus)

Onetwothreefourfivesix -- seventh row -- sitting next to a boy who -- and I don't want to be a narc here -- appears to be waving around an uncapped pen.

MR. WALKER

Mrs. Heck. My parent contract clearly stated once you have said goodbye to your child you have twenty-three seconds to depart the premises. You initialed it.

(to Connie)

What about these waters?

FRANKIE

Water. Good thinking. You never know when you might have to put out a fire. Not that Brick would set one or anything, not on purpose -- but he did turn the oven on with my grandmother's quilt in it. Does he have a buddy yet, by the way? If you could pair him with someone responsible -- Maybe a girl?

CONNIE

Okay, we're all good. Let's close it up!

The last of the kids and luggage are now on the bus. Mr. Walker and Connie walk away. Frankie runs after them.

~~FRANKIE~~

Also, I packed all orange clothes so he'll be easy to spot -- he wanders. And if someone can check when he comes out of the bathroom, I can't a hundred percent guarantee he'll zip up. Oh, and if there's priceless art, like in a museum or something, get ready to meet some guards now 'cause he will touch it.

MR. WALKER

(to Connie)

Walk faster.

(then, calling out)

Here we go, people! We're thirty seconds late!

Connie and Mr. Walker join the kids on the bus, leaving Frankie standing there. Frankie sighs and gets in her car.

END
Scene # 2

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By the end of the song, Sue is literally moved to tears.
She and Darrin lock eyes.

AXL/SEAN

That sucked! / Oh my God! I wish I
was deaf!

AXL

Even Sue thinks it sucks. Look,
she's crying.

11 EXT. HIGHWAY -- LATER (D4)

11

Frankie, in her car, is still tailing the bus on the highway.

FRANKIE (V.O.)

*At first I just wanted to make sure
they got out of the school okay, and
then I figured I'd make sure they
got on the highway, and then I thought
I'd just stay with 'em 'til they
crossed state lines. But after
following the bus for four hours, I
had two questions -- "Was I doing
the right thing?" And "Don't these
kids ever stop to pee?"*

The bus pulls into a gas station. Frankie pulls in too,
trying to remain out of sight.

12 EXT. GAS STATION -- CONTINUOUS (D4)

12

FRANKIE (V.O.)

*Okay, I'll just make sure Brick gets
back on the bus okay, and then I'll
head on home. Well, I'll pee first.
Maybe get some Skittles.*

Frankie watches as the kids get off the bus. The chaperones
get off the bus as well. The dad chaperone is on his phone.
The kids start walking toward the bathroom. Brick exits the
bus, reading a map. Frankie starts talking in her car to
nobody in particular.

FRANKIE

Whoa, whoa, whoa -- He's got reading
material. Contraband! Contraband!
Oh no, where's his buddy? Where's
his buddy?!

A girl comes up and links arms with Brick. Frankie is
momentarily relieved.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Oh, good. A girl.

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But then a cute boy calls her toward the front of the line and she abandons Brick.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

(gasps)
You little --

At this point, Brick, still reading the map, starts wandering off toward the woods. Nobody notices.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Oh God. Where's he going? Hello?
Anybody? Chaperones, chaperone!
Dammit!

Frankie rolls down her window and throws a Diet Coke can out the window to try to alert one of the chaperones. Clunk! Mr. Walker and a chaperone turn and look at the can, then go back to talking. Brick wanders right past the dad, who is too engrossed in his phone call to see him.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Somebody notice him! Hang up your phone, Dad! He's headin' for the woods! He's headin' for the woods!

Brick continues to wander towards the woods. Frankie can't take it anymore. She bursts out of the car and heads for Mr. Walker and the chaperones.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Hey! Hey!

CONNIE

Oh no. It's Fish Booth.

MR. WALKER

Mrs. Heck? What are you doing here?

FRANKIE

I might ask you the same question. You said you were gonna watch him and no one's watching him! And Dad over there's been on his phone the whole time. I don't even know what he's doing here -- everyone knows dads are useless! And who gave Brick a map? You know how he is with printed material. Not that anyone noticed 'cause that slutty little buddy you gave him dropped him like a hot potato when skinny jeans waved her over. And now they're all thick as thieves while Brick has just been wandering off toward God knows where!

(MORE)

FYI

FYI

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FRANKIE (CONT'D)
(looks around and
doesn't see him)
Wait, oh my God! Where is he?
Where's Brick?! Where's Brick?!

BRICK
I'm right here.

Frankie turns around. Brick is right behind her, shaking his head in disbelief.

13 INT. KITCHEN -- LATE THAT NIGHT (N4)

13

Mike's in the kitchen going through the bills. Frankie enters in no mood to talk. Mike checks the clock.

MIKE
Hey. You've been gone for hours.
Where ya been?

FRANKIE
Errands.

Without breaking stride, Frankie heads off down the hall to bed.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO