

OPENING

EXT. CHURCH GROUNDS - DAY

Smartphone video out a second floor window. With his arm hanging out the window of his work truck and hand tapping on the frame, a man KYLE (34), trundles by. His unshaven face is further obscured by dark sunglasses and the shadow of the bill of his ranger cap pulled down to his eyebrows.

Smartphone video across a yard. Wearing work jeans and a black wife-beater, Kyle rakes leaves into a pile. He pauses and attempts an awkward dance move using the pole of the rake as his dance partner.

Smartphone video through the trees. With earphones over his ballcap, Kyle rides a mower while bobbling his head and singing "Dynamite" by BTS off-key. There is an indistinct white building behind him.

Smartphone video gets blurry and unsteady as it slowly closes. After spraying down the mower with a hose, Kyle removes his cap and wets his hair and face. Then he takes off his shirt and uses it to dry off.

INT. CARRIAGE HOUSE NEXT DOOR - EVENING

CRUISE LADY 56 (70s) sits at a desk in front of a computer. Following a detailed list of steps on a clipboard, she splices video scenes and then combines them into a reel. She checks the list again before uploading the finished product to social media. Camera focuses in as she types *#hotmowerguy* as the description then posts.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

A pair of COFFEE FRIENDS (30s) sit across from one another at a small round table nibbling on muffins and sipping from steaming mugs.

COFFEE FRIEND 1

Cruise Lady 56 posted a new one
this morning.

COFFEE FRIEND 2

You're kidding.

Coffee Friend 1 pulls her phone out of her purse as Coffee Friend 2 slides her chair around. With both staring at the phone, a reel of Kyle plays.

INT. HAIR SALON - DAY

Three PATRONS are getting their hair done by three STYLISTS in front of a long mirror. When one of the stylist's phone PINGS, she pauses from cutting and briefly scans the new notification. After watching her screen for a brief moment, she smiles broadly.

STYLIST 1
Did you get a match?

STYLIST 2
Better. A new reel from Cruise Lady
56.

When she brings her phone in front of the chairs, everyone pauses and intently watches a reel of Kyle.

INT. DANCE STUDIO VIEWING ROOM - EVENING

A dance instructor in a leotard and baggy sweatshirt NATALYA (34) approaches a huddled crowd of dance moms. Through an observation window behind them, a class of young girls are dancing to the song "DYNAMITE."

NATALYA
(mild Slavic accent)
What's so riveting?

She grabs hold of her long blonde ponytail then leans over their backs enough to see a reel of Kyle wiping off his face with his shirt on one of their smartphones. She quickly withdraws.

All smiles, the other ladies sit up straight.

DANCE MOM 1
Wait, there's more Nat.

NATALYA
(blushing)
I saw quite enough.

DANCE MOM 2
No really, it's adorable.

DANCE MOM 3
And hot.

DANCE MOM 4
This lady secretly films a yard guy
next door and then posts them as
reels.

DANCE MOM 2

And he's always singing off-key or
clumsily trying these dance moves
while working.

DANCE MOM 3

Or wetting down his sweaty,
muscular body with a garden hose.

NATALYA

Perhaps another time. I just came
to tell you that we're going to do
a dress rehearsal for the upcoming
recital next week.

DANCE MOM 2

You should check him out, Nat. He's
about your age. No ring.

NATALYA

I don't have time to watch sweaty
yardmen sing off key.

DANCE MOM 4

And dance. He's adorable.

DANCE MOM 3

And so hot.

NATALYA

(while walking away and
waving over her shoulder)
Make a note to bring costumes next
week please ladies.

DANCE MOM 1

When you get home then. Just type
in...

Women of various ages and in different languages flash by
saying, "# hot mower guy."

END INTRO

ACT 1

INT. DANCE STUDIO, LOBBY - EVENING

Kyle opens the front door as his oldest daughter LEAH (11) passes through without looking up from her smartphone. Then he moves quickly around her and opens the door to the dance room so that she passes through it without pausing.

KYLE
Have fun, Leah Bear.

The girl looks back and scowls.

He holds the door open as younger girls from the class that just ended file by. A redhead with freckles CAROLINE (7) sees him from near the back of the line and darts around the others.

Natalya enters the lobby.

CAROLINE
Daddy.

She jumps up and he catches her with his foot holding the door. He kisses her on the cheek.

Natalya smiles as he lifts his youngest daughter onto his shoulders. Caroline takes off his ballcap and puts it on her head.

KYLE
How'd your class go, Freckles?

CAROLINE
It went great daddy. We learned this new dance called the *say so*.

NATALYA
(approaching)
Say so, sweetie.

Kyle grabs his ballcap and hastily puts it back on his head.

CAROLINE
That's right. The *say so*. Only I kept messing up this one part.

NATALYA
You did terrific. But a little practice can always make it better.

CAROLINE
 Daddy can help me.
 (holding his ears she
 leans over next to his
 scraggly cheek)
 Won't you daddy?

KYLE
 Of course. But you know I have two
 left feet.

CAROLINE
 No you don't. I checked your shoes.
 Right and a left just like
 everybody else.

KYLE
 (to Natalya)
 I should have switched her to
 gymnastics.

NATALYA
 I'm not sure your two left feet
 would do well on a balance beam
 either.

KYLE
 (grins)
 Well, we best get going. I've got
 to pick up her sister from soccer
 and then get her changed and back
 here for the late class.

She tucks a sheet in his shirt pocket.

KYLE (CONT'D)
 What's this?

NATALYA
 We're having a dress rehearsal next
 week. It's a list of things the
 girls will need and where you can
 get them.

KYLE
 Thanks, Natalya.

NATALYA
 You know, everyone calls me Nat.

KYLE
 Oh. Is that what you'd like me to
 call you?

NATALYA

Actually, it makes me sound like a bug.

KYLE

Well you're no bug.

(frowns)

Thanks for the info, Natalya.

He pulls his daughter around and gives her a hug. As they're leaving...

CAROLINE

What's for dinner, daddy? I'm starving.

KYLE

I made your favorite - Mac and Cheese.

INT. KYLE'S HOUSE, CAROLINE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kyle tucks Caroline in beneath her princess bedsheets.

CAROLINE

How come I have so many freckles, daddy?

KYLE

Your mom used to say that freckles are like sprinkles on a cupcake. They somehow make something that's practically perfect even better.

CAROLINE

(frowns)

I wish I could have had more time with her.

KYLE

(sad eyes)

She wanted that more than anything.

INT. KYLE'S HOUSE, EMMA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kyle enters a second bedroom and finds his middle daughter EMMA (9) kneeling on her mattress moving around her soccer trophies on a display shelf.

KYLE

You can finish rearranging things in the morning.

EMMA
(turns and sits)
Today, coach told me he wants to
move me to striker.

He pulls back her bedspread covered in soccer balls and she
slides beneath it.

KYLE
M&M, that's great.
(noting her apprehension)
That's what you wanted, right?

EMMA
(pulls the blanket up to
her chin)
It's a lot of responsibility.

KYLE
Sure. But you're the fastest runner
with the strongest leg on the team.
(brushes the hair back
from her face)
You're ready for this.

EMMA
You have to say that. You're my
dad.

KYLE
I'd be proud of you no matter what.
But you make it so that I don't
need to exaggerate.
(lifts her chin)
You got this.

EMMA
Thanks, dad.
(lies down onto her
pillow)

Kyle leans forward and straightens the center trophy.

INT. KYLE'S HOUSE, LEAH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kyle KNOCKS on the door and then listens. He KNOCKS a second
time then opens the door slowly. His oldest daughter looks up
from her phone and then removes her ear buds.

KYLE
Can I sit?

She slides over and he sits on the edge of the bed.

They stare at one another a moment.

LEAH
You don't have to keep tucking me
in each night.

KYLE
I want to.
(smiles)
I can't believe how fast you're
growing up.

LEAH
Every one grows up.

KYLE
Look, Leah Bear.
(she glares)
I know you're ready to start
exercising your independence. Just
know that I'll always be here for
you.

He pats her leg and then stands and starts for the door.

LEAH
Daddy.

He pauses.

LEAH (CONT'D)
I like being your Leah Bear. Just
not around others, please.

He smiles.

INT. KYLE'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kyle is sitting on the couch with an open computer on his lap. He opens a video of a young woman in black tights on a dance floor giving a step-by-step tutorial of the *say so* dance move. He watches it several times before closing the computer and leaning his head against the back cushion.

END ACT 1

ACT 2

INT. KYLE'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Wearing a welding hood, gloves and leather cape, Kyle is fastening the final rail onto an ornate metal gate. When he finishes, he sets down his electrode holder and then turns off the machine. He lifts his hood and sees his sister KAYLEE (31) in scrubs leaning against a saw horse. As he removes his gloves...

KAYLEE

I used to watch dad. With the hood on, I couldn't tell you apart.

KYLE

Maybe you should have looked closer at the work.

KAYLEE

That's nonsense. He thought you're a great welder.

KYLE

That he always found time to criticize.

KAYLEE

He was just trying to encourage the best out of you.

KYLE

(removes the cape)
What can I do for you, sis?

KAYLEE

Do I have to have a reason to stop by and see my older brother?

KYLE

I may be somewhat like dad. But you're exactly like mom. There's a reason for everything you do.

KAYLEE

(crosses her arms)
James said you dropped by the bank.

KYLE

You're husband promised he wouldn't disclose my personal business.

KAYLEE

We have shared responsibilities.

KYLE

(grabs a nearby rag and
wipes his forehead)
Business has been a little slow,
lately. It'll pick up soon.

KAYLEE

James said they're hiring at the
shipyard. Thirty dollars an hour.
Nothing like Virginia Beach. But
not bad for around here.

KYLE

I can make this work. I'm gonna
make this work.

KAYLEE

(she walks over and grabs
Kyle's hand)
Before his...Dad was having a hard
time too. He'd understand.

KYLE

(pulls his hand away)
It'll work. So if you don't mind,
I've got to sand this gate and get
it painted before picking up the
girls.

He grabs his grinder and plugs it in. Then he puts on a set
of goggles. As she leaves, he pauses from GRINDING and stares
at a sign above the door that says Fischer and Son Welding.

INT. DANCE STUDIO, OFFICE - DAY

Natalya sits at a desk transferring information from a stack
of checks into her computer. She briefly pauses, staring at a
picture of her mom and her as a girl in matching leotards.
She smiles. Then she tightens her ponytail and resumes
typing.

Her assistant HANNAH (28) walks in and sets a mug of coffee
on the desk in front of her. Natalya appreciatively takes a
sip.

HANNAH

I think the boss will cut you some
slack if you don't get it all
entered today.

NATALYA

The boss' procrastination is what got us in this position in the first place.

HANNAH

(sits on a small couch nearby)

Given any more thought to sending out those second notices?

NATALYA

Some families are struggling right now. I don't want to add to their worries.

HANNAH

You have bills to pay too, you know.

NATALYA

We're going to give them a little more time.

Hannah stands, passes the desk, and picks up the picture.

HANNAH

Your mom is so beautiful.

NATALYA

(smiles)

She always wanted her own studio. Instead, she used every penny she'd saved to send me to school here.

HANNAH

Is she still planning to join you one day?

NATALYA

(nods)

As soon as I have the money.

HANNAH

She knows how hard you're working. I'm sure she's proud.

(sets the picture down)

Your next class starts in five minutes.

INT. DANCE STUDIO, VIEWING ROOM - EVENING

Hannah is sitting in a circle of moms when Natalya joins them. She fills her water jug from the dispenser against the wall and then takes a drink.

HANNAH
(sits up straight)
Have you seen this video yet, Nat?

NATALYA
What video is that?

HANNAH
Hot mower guy.

NATALYA
(rolls her eyes)
Not you too.

HANNAH
Seriously. You got to see this.
He's trying to figure out the say
so. But he's got two left feet.

Natalya looks surprised. A dance mom holds out her phone.

NATALYA
No thanks. I've got a class to run.
Enjoy the distraction ladies.

END ACT 2

ACT 3

EXT. CHURCH GROUNDS - DAY

Smartphone video. Kyle is building a manger structure in the open yard beside the sanctuary. After tacking palm fronds to the roof, he moves the ladder and hangs a star from the eave.

When finished, he takes several steps back and admires the final product. The video zooms in on his arm tattoo as he stands with his hands on his hips.

EXT. ROAD LEADING TO CHURCH - LATER

Kyle is exiting the secluded drive from the church when he sees an elderly lady wheeling a large suitcase out the front door of an old carriage house restored into a home. After opening the trunk to her Prius, she notices her flat back tire. He stops at the end of her driveway as she disbelievingly stares at the tire.

KYLE

(through his open window)

I'm sorry to bother you ma'am. But if you'd like, I could change your tire?

The lady looks at her watch, then up at Kyle with concern in her eyes.

CRUISE LADY 56

I have to catch a flight to Miami in a little over an hour.

KYLE

I have an errand near the airport. I could drop you off on the way.

CRUISE LADY 56

I couldn't ask you to do that.

KYLE

Like I said. It's on the way.

She hesitates.

KYLE (CONT'D)

I do some work at the church. Pastor Ryan will vouch for me if you want to give him a call?

CRUISE LADY 56
It's not that.

Kyle puts the truck in park and steps out of the cab. Then he takes her luggage and sets it in the bed.

KYLE
Is this your only bag?

CRUISE LADY 56
Yes.

He opens the passenger door and she climbs in.

INT. DRIVE TO THE AIRPORT - LATER

The lady takes a compact out of her purse and reapplies lipstick as Kyle drives passed the grounds of an expansive park for disabled kids and a large mansion that been turned into a museum. When done, she exchanges it for her phone. She opens an app and silently reads: "Cruise Lady 56 New Reel Posted." She looks over at Kyle and taps her finger on her lips.

CRUISE LADY 56
My name is Eleanor, by the way. I'm sorry for being so frazzled.

KYLE
(smiles)
Quite alright. I'm Kyle.

CRUISE LADY 56
Glad to finally put a name to the character. What I mean, is that I've seen you working there before.

KYLE
What's in Miami?

CRUISE LADY 56
I'm taking a cruise - another cruise. It's kind of a hobby of mine. This will be my seventeenth.

KYLE
(pushes up the bill of his ballcap)
Oh, wow.

CRUISE LADY 56
It's a 100-day Sail Around the World.

KYLE

You wouldn't want to miss that.

CRUISE LADY 56

No. I wouldn't. I actually write a blog about cruises. I'm known by my sparse fan club as Cruise Lady 56.

KYLE

I don't really do blogs, or any social media, I'm afraid.

CRUISE LADY 56

That's fortunate - because - it can be addictive.

KYLE

Listen, if you like, I can have that tire fixed for you by the time you get back?

CRUISE LADY 56

You've done enough already.

KYLE

It'll only take a few minutes.

CRUISE LADY 56

(mumbles)

Kind-hearted too.

KYLE

(as he's making a turn
into the airport)

Excuse me.

CRUISE LADY 56

Never mind. That would be greatly appreciated.

He pulls up to a curb, hops out and sets her luggage on the sidewalk.

CRUISE LADY 56 (CONT'D)

I can't thank you enough.

KYLE

I hope you enjoy your cruise,
Eleanor.

INT. DANCE CLOTHING STORE - LATER

Kyle is waiting patiently as two young SALESLADIES (19) finish a conversation. Finally, one of them looks over.

SALESLADY 1
Can I help you, sir?

Kyle pulls the list out that Natalya had given him.

KYLE
I need help finding these things.
(hands over the list)

After opening the folded note and while skimming it...

SALESLADY 1
We're having a sale on leggings?

KYLE
Just what's on the list, please.

She starts toward a display of lacy skirts.

SALESLADY 1
What size for the pink tutu?

KYLE
(frowns)
My youngest. She about yea tall.
(holds out his palm)
Skinny.

She looks up perplexed. But then her attention is drawn toward the front door when it opens.

SALESLADY 1
Miss Nat.

Kyle turns. The dance teacher glides inside wearing a baggy tee-shirt and yoga pants.

NATALYA
Hi Claire. How's college life?

SALESLADY 1
I'm loving it. By the way, your recommendation worked. I joined the intermural dance team.

NATALYA
That's terrific.

As she's approaching...

NATALYA (CONT'D)
(surprised)
Mr. Fischer.

KYLE
Kyle.

They stare at one another for a moment.

KYLE (CONT'D)
You wouldn't happen to know what
size Caroline wears?

NATALYA
Of course. Girl's small. Didn't I
write that down?

Claire holds up the list. Natalya grabs it as she passes and then starts pulling things from the racks.

NATALYA (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry.

KYLE
(following her)
It's fine. It was so considerate of
you to make the list in the first
place. Besides, I should know my
daughter's sizes.

She continues to another rack where she grabs other items.

NATALYA
Even if you did, it would change
next week. And unfortunately, dance
clothing sizes can vary between
brands.

When done, she carries a stack of items to the checkout counter where the salesgirls are huddled over a phone watching a video.

NATALYA (CONT'D)
(disapprovingly)
That must be really important.

They both look up.

SALESGIRL 1
It's this video that's gone viral.

NATALYA
Don't tell me.

SALESGIRL 1&2
 (giggling)
 Hot mower guy.

NATALYA
 Now ladies. What did I teach you
 about wasting your time on social
 media?

SALESLADY 1&2
 (together)
 You'll never make it to a big stage
 staring at a small screen.

NATALYA
 That's right.

Claire takes the items and starts ringing them up. The other saleslady starts placing them in bags. When done, Kyle pays and then collects his purchases.

While she follows him to the door...

KYLE
 I sure am glad you showed up when
 you did.

NATALYA
 Happy to help.

KYLE
 The girls - my girls - all girls in
 this town it seems, really look up
 to you.

NATALYA
 I'm blessed with doing something I
 love.

EXT. DANCE CLOTHING STORE - DAY

They stop in front of Kyle's truck.

KYLE
 Didn't you need something inside?

NATALYA
 Sorry?

KYLE
 Certainly you didn't come all the
 way here just to help me?

NATALYA
(blushes)
Of course not.
(turns back for the store)

KYLE
Natalya.

NATALYA
(twirls back around)
Yes?

Suddenly, a short slick man in a suit and tie, DONOVAN (36), walks up and positions himself between Natalya and Kyle.

DONOVAN
(assertive voice)
What a pleasant surprise seeing you here.
(kisses her on the cheek)

NATALYA
(takes a step back)
Small world.

DONOVAN
I'll say. So have you given more thought to my offer?

NATALYA
I've just been so busy.

Kyle looks up and sees the same wide smile and over-sized white teeth on a billboard nearby for Windsor Insurance.

KYLE
(mouths)
Thanks again.

He awkwardly waves over the man's shoulder and then gets in his truck and drives away.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

Flanked by Leah on his right and Caroline on his left, Kyle sits upon metal bleachers surrounded by other spectators.

CAROLINE
(shouts)
Go Emma. Score another goal.

Kyle is nervously wringing his hands.

KYLE
 (mutters)
 C'mon M&M. You can do it.

Emma is dribbling the ball up the field. Caroline stands CLAPPING. Kyle slides to the edge of the bench and stretches his neck. Leah glances up from her phone. Approaching the opposing goal, Emma plants her forward foot and kicks the ball. It sails over the goalies outstretched hands toward the top left corner where it careens off the crossbar. The crowd GROANS. The WHISTLE blows for halftime.

KYLE (CONT'D)
 (reaches for a bag between
 his feet)
 I brought some snacks.

He opens a package of Twizzlers.

LEAH
 Can we get our dance outfits on the way home?

KYLE
 I already got them.

LEAH
 How'd you know what to get?

KYLE
 Your teacher gave me a list.

LEAH
 Miss Nat?

KYLE
 Don't you think Nat sounds like a bug?

LEAH
 It sounds cool.

KYLE
 Maybe to a teenager. But she's a grown woman, person.

LEAH
 You're a grown person. Miss Nat is young and elegant.

CAROLINE
 (while chewing)
 I think you're young and elegant too, daddy.

KYLE
Thanks, Freckles.

LEAH
Suck up.
(tugs on his beard)
You're more like a scruffy
lumberjack.

KYLE
Well, we can all agree that Miss
Natalya is a great dance teacher
and a lovely young lady.

His oldest slaps his cheek.

KYLE (CONT'D)
What?

LEAH
I don't like the way you said that.

KYLE
I just really appreciate her
thoughtfulness.

CAROLINE
Daddy likes Miss Nat.

Kyle pulls his youngest onto his lap while muzzling her mouth with his hand. He and Leah look around embarrassed.

KYLE
(whispers in her ear)
Enough.
(removes his hand and
stands)
Now, who needs to go to the
bathroom?

Caroline buries her face into his shoulder. Her father kisses her head.

END ACT 3

ACT 4

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

Kyle is carrying Caroline while holding Emma's hand as they exit the church. Leah is behind them typing on her phone.

PASTOR RYAN
(calls out)
Kyle. Wait up.

PASTOR RYAN (42) weaves around pockets of conversations and catches up with them on the portico.

CAROLINE
I liked your story about the donkey.

PASTOR RYAN
Why thank you, Caroline. Some people think a talking donkey is silly.

CAROLINE
Why would that be silly?

PASTOR RYAN
It's a grown up thing, I guess.
(to all three girls)
Well you young ladies sure do look lovely.

CAROLINE AND EMMA
Thank you.

Kyle nudges his oldest.

LEAH
My hair is a frizzy mess.

Kyle glares at her.

LEAH (CONT'D)
Thank you.

PASTOR RYAN
You're very welcome. Listen Kyle. I wanted to thank you for the manger you built. It looks great and it'll be perfect for selling Halloween pumpkins in the meantime.

(MORE)

PASTOR RYAN (CONT'D)
Oh, and for keeping the grounds
looking so nice. Professional
landscapers are so expensive these
days

KYLE
You're welcome.

PASTOR RYAN
Given how much you do around here,
I feel bad asking for more.

KYLE
What is it, pastor?

PASTOR RYAN
The back door is rusted shut. And
there's a leak in the Children's
Nursery.

KYLE
I'll take a look at both next time
I'm here.

PASTOR RYAN
Thanks. So how's Kaylee and...

KYLE
James.

PASTOR RYAN
That's right. How are Kaylee and
James?

KYLE
Just fine.

PASTOR RYAN
We miss having her here.

KYLE
It's been a difficult few years.

PASTOR RYAN
That is has. Well, when she's
ready. In the meantime, please give
her my regards.

KYLE
I will. We'd better get going.

PASTOR RYAN
Sure. Bye girls.

CAROLINE AND EMMA
Bye Pastor Ryan.

Kyle nudges Leah.

LEAH
Your sermon was very insightful.

PASTOR RYAN
(laughs)
Thank you, Leah.

INT. MEMORY CARE FACILITY - DAY

Still dressed in their Sunday clothes, Kyle sets Caroline down onto the shiny polished floor. As she dashes ahead, Emma mashes herself into her father's side. As they get closer, Leah grabs his hand.

KYLE
(to Caroline)
Knock first.

Caroline TAPS lightly on the door and then barges in.

CAROLINE
Grandpa.

Kyle pushes open the shutting door.

INT. GRANDPA'S ROOM - DAY

Grandpa is sitting in a chair next to a window with the curtain drawn allowing warm sunlight to flood inside.

Caroline is sitting in his lap straightening the ballcap on his head. Leah beats her sister to the other chair. Kyle sits on the bed with Emma at his side.

KYLE
Hi dad.

The man's glossy eyes roll in his son's direction.

KYLE (CONT'D)
Come over here please, Freckles.

She hops on the bed beside him. After a moment of silence.

KYLE (CONT'D)
Girls, why don't you tell grandpa about what you've been up to.

CAROLINE
 (blurts)
 Dad's helping me build a diarrhea.

KYLE
 (laughs)
 Diorama, sweetheart.

CAROLINE
 Diorama of the solar system for
 science. And I'm reading *Beezus and
 Ramona*.

Kyle stands. His two older daughters look at him suspiciously while his youngest rambles on about a boy in her class who had lice.

KYLE
 I'm going to grab us some sodas.

INT. MEMORY CARE FACILITY - LATER

As Kyle passes the reception desk, a BUSINESS LADY (40s) in a pants suit comes out of her office.

BUSINESS LADY
 Mr. Fischer. I'm glad I caught you.

Kyle pauses.

BUSINESS LADY (CONT'D)
 (stops behind the counter)
 I wanted to give you a heads up
 that we're having to raise our fees
 again.

Kyle expectantly SIGHS.

BUSINESS LADY (CONT'D)
 It's just that the cost of
 everything continues rising.

KYLE
 How much?

BUSINESS LADY
 A hundred and fifty dollars a
 month. I assure you that we
 wouldn't be doing this unless we
 absolutely...

KYLE
 Thanks for the heads up.

He continues toward a room filled with vending machines.

INT. MEMORY CARE FACILITY - LATER

Kyle stands outside his father's door holding a hand full of sodas. Inside, Caroline is still TALKING. He closes his eyes and breathes in deeply.

INT. GRANDPA'S ROOM - DAY

He hands out sodas while Emma tells Grandpa about her soccer game. When she's done...

KYLE

Girls, would you mind giving me a moment with grandpa.

The girls line up and kiss their grandpa on the forehead.

LEAH, EMMA AND CAROLINE

Bye, grandpa.

Leah gathers her sisters hands and leads them out the room.

Once they're gone, Kyle walks over to the window.

KYLE

You mind if I shut these curtains?
The glare is so intense.

He does. Then he paces for a moment.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Business has been a little slow lately.

(beat)

And everything is so expensive:
dance, soccer, food, clothes,
insurance.

(stops at the window and
parts the curtain)

Kaylee says they're hiring at the
shipyard.

He allows the curtain to straighten. Then he pulls the second chair around and sits. He buttons a button on his father's shirt that has come loose.

KYLE (CONT'D)

I'm trying my best to make it work.
The girls. The business.

(beat)

(MORE)

KYLE (CONT'D)

Remember that time you and I did
that gate with those horse
silhouettes?

(beat)

It was a work of art. I wouldn't
mind doing more of that.

(beat)

You always told me exactly what you
thought even when I didn't want to
hear it. Now I do.

(looks his father in his
distant eyes)

What should I do?

After a lengthy silence, he leans forward and grabs a tissue
from the bedside table. Then he wipes away the sleepers in
the corners of his father's eyes before he stands.

KYLE (CONT'D)

First Sienna is taken away from us.
Then this happens to you.

(swallows)

See you next Sunday, dad.

END ACT 4

ACT 5

INT. DANCE STUDIO, OFFICE - DAY

Natalya is on the phone at her desk when Hannah walks in.

NATALYA
Okay. Well, thanks for calling.
(beat)
I will. Good bye, now.

She hangs up. And then rolls her eyes.

HANNAH
Mr. Insurance?

She nods.

HANNAH (CONT'D)
Still trying to get you to go away
with him for the weekend?

She nods again.

HANNAH (CONT'D)
I'll give him props for
persistence. But then take them
away for audacity. You two went out
once.

NATALYA
It was a charity function. I didn't
even know it was a date.

HANNAH
Well of course it was a date, boss.
And while I agree that he's a bit
of a weasel, at least he's rich.
Let's face it, most of the princes
are taken, and the remaining frogs
have worse warts.

NATALYA
I'm just not looking for someone
right now. Not to mention, he's so
not my type.

HANNAH
Well first of all, I didn't know
you had a type. And second, what is
that type?

(MORE)

HANNAH (CONT'D)
(she sits on the couch
with her hands under her
chin)

NATALYA
I don't know.

HANNAH
Oh yes you do. You have a list for
everything.

NATALYA
Less - mmm - loud, superficial,
arrogant. More down to earth.

HANNAH
Okay. That's a start. What about
physically? You know, short or
tall? Buff or dad bod?

NATALYA
Strong hands.
(smiles)
I like strong hands. Maybe someone
who doesn't mind getting dirty but
also cleans up nice.

HANNAH
Sounds like you need to move to
Texas and find yourself a bull
rider.

There is a KNOCK at the door. Natalya reflexively looks at
her watch.

NATALYA
(panicked)
My class.
(stands)
See what happens when I let myself
get distracted.

She rushes out the door.

INT. KYLE'S HOUSE, HALLWAY - DAY

Through a crack in the bathroom door, there are glimpses of
Leah's reflection in the mirror as she works on her hair. She
loudly GROANS then slams her brush on the counter. Then she
bolts out the bathroom and into her bedroom after SLAMMING
the door behind her.

Investigating the noise, Kyle runs into Emma approaching the hallway.

KYLE
What's going on?

EMMA
Round twelve of Leah versus her hair.

KYLE
(sighs)
Not again.

EMMA
Fraid so.

KYLE
Is that it?

EMMA
She got invited to a party. With boys.

KYLE
Boys?

Emma slaps him on the chest as she walks by him.

EMMA
Welcome to the bewildering world of parenting a teen girl.

KYLE
But she's only eleven.

EMMA
Girls mature faster than boys.
Besides, eleven is the new thirteen.

Kyle continues to Leah's door from where he can hear her muffled CRYING. He KNOCKS.

LEAH
Go away.

He turns to leave and then returns.

KYLE
It's dad. I'm coming in.

INT. KYLE'S HOUSE, LEAH'S ROOM - DAY

Leah is sprawled across the bed with her head under a pillow. Kyle looks at the pictures on the wall from when she was a baby until now.

KYLE

Emma said you got invited to a party.

LEAH

It doesn't matter because I'm not going.

Kyle neatly stacks the school textbooks scattered around her desk.

KYLE

That's good. Because you're too young for parties with boys.

She removes the pillow and sits up straight.

LEAH

(sternly)

I'm not too young. I just can't do anything with this.

(pulls out her frizzled hair)

KYLE

Your mom's hair did the same thing.

(grins)

And she'd fight with it just like you're doing.

LEAH

It's impossible.

KYLE

It's unique.

LEAH

I look like Frankenstein's bride.

Kyle laughs.

LEAH (CONT'D)

It's not funny.

Kyle sits on the edge of the bed and tucks her hair behind her ear.

KYLE

You weren't made to be like
everybody else. You were made to be
the one and only, you.

They hug.

INT. DANCE STUDIO, LOBBY - DAY

Kyle is standing off in the corner holding Caroline with the other mom's in front of him. Natalya is holding the door to the studio open as girl's from her class file out.

NATALYA

Great job today girls. Your leaps
are coming along beautifully,
Grace. And your turns were
exquisite, Mae.

Leah hurries by with her head lowered wearing a bandana partially smothering her hair. Kyle sets Caroline down and the two sisters high five as they pass one another.

NATALYA (CONT'D)

Don't worry about that brisé Leah.
It'll come. Remember girls to keep
working on those stretches.

Kyle and Leah get in line behind the others leaving out the front door.

NATALYA (CONT'D)

Mr. Fischer. Could I have a word,
please.

Leah sits in a nearby chair as her dad approaches the teacher. Natalya quickly looks around his shoulder at his daughter.

KYLE

Is something wrong?

NATALYA

No. She's doing great.
(lowered voice)
But she can be so hard on herself
sometimes. Especially today. Is
everything alright at home?

KYLE

Fine. Just fine.

NATALYA

Well. Girls her age can be
difficult to figure out sometimes.

KYLE

They sure can.
(exhales)
There's a party. With boys.

NATALYA

I see. That explains the bandana.

KYLE

Why would that explain a bandana?

NATALYA

She's self-conscious about her
hair. Girls with straight hair want
curls, and girls with curls want to
straighten them. Her waves are
fabulous. She just needs to figure
out how best to accentuate them.

KYLE

I'm afraid I'm not much help in
that department.

NATALYA

I could help - if she'd like help?

He looks at an announcement board behind the receptionist
desk that's crooked because the screw it's on is pulling out
of the wall.

KYLE

I tell you what. I'll fix that
board...
(points)
...and your rusty sign out front as
a trade.

NATALYA

Deal.

After they shake, she rubs her hand.

KYLE

I'm sorry about the rough hands.
Occupational hazard.

NATALYA

(smiles)
That's quite alright.

Kyle collects Leah and they leave as girls for the next class file inside. Hannah approaches Natalya.

HANNAH

What was that about?

NATALYA

His daughter Leah is growing up.

HANNAH

Raising three daughters on his own can't be easy.

NATALYA

Do you know what happened to their mom?

HANNAH

Actually, I went to school with their aunt. She told me it was metastatic breast cancer. She died nearly five years ago.

NATALYA

Oh how tragic.

HANNAH

They moved back here when their grandpa started to develop Alzheimer's.

Natalya shakes her head as a student runs up to her and hugs her waist.

STUDENT

I've been working on my extensions, Miss Nat.

NATALYA

(pats her head)

That's great sweetie. Now head on in and you can show me.

She glances back at the front door before following the girl into the studio.

END ACT 5

ACT 6

EXT. CHURCH GROUNDS - DAY

Kyle and Pastor Ryan are transferring pumpkins from a trailer to beneath and around the manger structure.

PASTOR RYAN

A church our size up the street
made nearly five-thousand dollars
selling these last year.

KYLE

That's a pretty good return on
investment.

PASTOR RYAN

I'll be honest with you. We could
use it. Attendance is down. Giving
is down.

KYLE

Why do you think that is?

PASTOR RYAN

There's just so much competition
for people's time these days.

KYLE

I can relate to that.

PASTOR RYAN

Except you find time to do the
yard, maintain the buildings. I
wish there were more like you.

KYLE

Church was important to Sienna. She
made me promise to continue taking
the girls.

PASTOR RYAN

She had such strong faith.
Especially given the circumstances.

Kyle swallows.

PASTOR RYAN (CONT'D)

It's Breast Cancer Awareness month,
you know?

Kyle nods.

PASTOR RYAN (CONT'D)
I was thinking we could do something.

KYLE
Like what?

PASTOR RYAN
There's all kinds of fundraiser ideas out there. Munchies for Mammograms. Haircuts for hope. Nothing personal, but you could use a little grooming.

Kyle is distracted.

PASTOR RYAN (CONT'D)
What about a Guys-in-pink car wash? Men dress up in pink tutus and wash cars. We could do it right here in the parking lot.

KYLE
(mutters)
Tutus?

PASTOR RYAN
We'd need to get the word out. And it would help if we could get some sponsors.

KYLE
What kind of sponsors?

PASTOR RYAN
Local businesses. Especially women-owned businesses.

KYLE
Hmff.

After moving the last pumpkin...

PASTOR RYAN
Would you like to come inside for a pumpkin latte?

Kyle looks at him funny.

PASTOR RYAN (CONT'D)
Sheila's been practicing them for our annual Halloween party.

KYLE

No thanks. I need to drop this trailer off and fix a flat tire before the taxi service starts.

Pastor Ryan follows Kyle to his truck.

PASTOR RYAN

Well, thanks again for the help.
And Kyle.

Kyle's slides in behind the steering wheel and places his arm out the window.

PASTOR RYAN (CONT'D)

The Apostle Paul wrote something in his letter to the Galatians. "Let us not become weary in doing good work, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

KYLE

Sienna never gave up and look where that got her.

(beat)

I'm sorry.

(starts his truck)

The girls would enjoy the car wash thing.

PASTOR RYAN

I'll start working on it.

INT. KAYLEE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Kyle and his three girls along with Kaylee and her husband are finishing up dinner. Kaylee stands.

KAYLEE

Could you help me with the dishes please, Kyle?

KYLE

Sure.

He stacks dishes and brings them into the kitchen where his sister has begun washing.

KAYLEE

How was dad?

KYLE

Good.

Kaylee hopefully glances his way.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Actually, no change. Sorry.

She resumes washing.

KYLE (CONT'D)

The business lady there...

KAYLEE

Bianca.

KYLE

Yes. Her. She said the price is going up next month. A hundred and fifty bucks.

His sister pauses and exasperatedly closes her eyes. After a moment, she reopens them.

KAYLEE

Split it?

KYLE

Is there another choice?

He picks up a dish cloth and starts drying the dishes she's finished.

KYLE (CONT'D)

I was helping Pastor Ryan with the pumpkin patch.

She irritably turns and places her hands on her hips.

KAYLEE

Our mom abandons us. Our father doesn't recognize us. I can't have children. And your wife...

(beat)

What kind of God...

(takes a deep breath)

KYLE

Look, sis. I've got plenty of questions too. But I promised Sierra.

Kaylee resumes washing and Kyle drying.

KYLE (CONT'D)

The reason I brought the pastor up is because he wants to do a fundraiser. For breast cancer. He's looking for sponsors and I thought the hospital might consider...

KAYLEE

(mood brightens)

That's actually a terrific idea. I'll figure out how tomorrow. Is there anything else I can do?

KYLE

You went to school with one of the ladies that works at the dance studio, right?

KAYLEE

Yes. Hannah.

KYLE

Do you think you could ask her if maybe they'd be interested?

KAYLEE

Sure. But why don't you just ask the owner? I hear she's very generous, approachable, attractive, and single.

KYLE

She offered to help Leah get ready for a party, with boys.

KAYLEE

Interesting.

KYLE

I'm doing some work for her in trade. It's strictly business.

KAYLEE

If you say so.

She turns off the water, hands him the last plate to dry and then examines her brother.

KAYLEE (CONT'D)

It's hard to believe it's been five years. Sierra would be so proud of the girls. You.

KYLE
I'm just trying to keep up.

KAYLEE
She knew more than any one that
life is more than just keeping up.
She'd want you to be happy.

KYLE
I'm plenty happy.

She walks over and hugs her brother.

KAYLEE
Things have sure turned out
different than how we thought they
would when we were kids.

KYLE
I think that's true for most
people.

KAYLEE
(withdraws)
I'm sorry I snapped at you earlier
about church.
(beat)
Desert is in the fridge.

EXT. DANCE STUDIO - MORNING

Kyle is sitting in his truck nervously tapping his steering wheel beneath the dull and weathered Encore Dance Studio sign when Natalya drives up. He glances back at the new sign in the bed. As his eyes return forward, he catches a glimpse of his reflection in the rearview mirror. He takes his ballcap off, runs his fingers through his messy hair, shakes his head and puts it back on.

KYLE
You look like a hobo.

He steps out, nervously shoves his hands in his jeans and walks toward her.

Standing inside her open car door, Natalya reaches back inside and retrieves a large bag. When she comes back up, Kyle's presence surprises her.

KYLE (CONT'D)
I didn't mean to startle you.

NATALYA

(blushes)

You're so quiet for such a big man.

After a pause...

KYLE

I didn't know what time you usually got here.

NATALYA

Since most of my dancers are students in school, I usually don't open until much later. But it's the end of the quarter and I'm reconciling my budget.

KYLE

Well, it's lucky I caught you.

(beat)

So that work we talked about me doing. I thought I might start it. In fact, if you have a moment, I have a surprise.

NATALYA

(mashes her eyes closed and smiles)

I love surprises.

KYLE

Actually, it's in my truck.

NATALYA

(reopens them)

Oh?

She sets down her bag and follows him...

KYLE

I'm actually a welder by trade. And I've been thinking about, wanting actually, to take things in a different direction.

They stop behind the truck and he lowers the tailgate. The sign is covered by a thick blanket.

KYLE (CONT'D)

I'm a little nervous about showing you. It's my first. Anyway, I hope you like it.

He untucks the ends and then peels back the blanket to reveal polished steel lettering that says Encore Dance Studio atop a stained wood backdrop.

Natalya bites her lips as excited tears fill her eyes.

KYLE (CONT'D)

It's the same size as your present sign so it'll just hang on the same post. I probably should have had you approve the design. But I guess I got so excited...

She steps up to the tailgate and runs her fingers over the polished lettering.

NATALYA

I love it.
(tears stream from her eyes)
I absolutely love it.

She wraps her arms around his waist and mashes her face into his chest.

KYLE

(exhales)
What a relief.

As she backs away, she wipes her face with her hands.

NATALYA

Can we put it up now? I'll help.

KYLE

Sure. Just let me grab some tools.

EXT. DANCE STUDIO - LATER

They are both sitting on the tailgate admiring the new sign.

NATALYA

When you mentioned fixing the sign, I never imagined anything like this. It's so amazing. You're so talented. How much do I owe you?

KYLE

We made a trade, remember?

NATALYA

(turns to face him)
Yes but this is too much.

KYLE

It was good practice. I needed to prove to myself I could do it.

NATALYA

It's exquisite.

KYLE

Actually, I might have a favor to ask.

Her eyes brighten and her hand slides over the top of his. He stares at it momentarily. When he looks up, her eyebrow raises.

NATALYA

The favor?

KYLE

Right. We're having a fundraiser, at the church we go to. It's kind of a silly idea. But it's for a good cause.

NATALYA

I like silly ideas.

KYLE

Okay. Well, it's called a Guys in Pink Carwash. Some of the men dress up in pink tutus and wash cars for charity.

NATALYA

(laughs)

That's such a cute idea. For breast cancer, right? I'd absolutely love to help.

KYLE

Great. Well that's just, great.

NATALYA

I'll need the men's sizes.

KYLE

For what?

NATALYA

Well, I'm pretty sure you and the others are going to need custom tutus.

KYLE

Actually, I thought I might do better collecting money or something.

NATALYA

No way. You're washing cars. In fact, I'll donate one hundred dollars for you to wash my car.

KYLE

That's very generous. But...

Natalya steps back and sizes him up. Then she GIGGLES.

NATALYA

This is going to be so fun.

END ACT 6

INTERMISSION

INT. COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

The same pair of friends are sitting side-by-side watching a smartphone video that ends.

COFFEE FRIEND 1
So, no new reel?

COFFEE FRIEND 2
Not yet.

INT. HAIR SALON - DAY

Two patrons along with the same three stylists are watching a smartphone video. When it ends...

STYLIST 1
Isn't that the same one?

STYLIST 2
Yes.

STYLIST 1
It's been several weeks.

STYLIST 3
Maybe Cruise Lady 56 went on another cruise.

INT. DANCE STUDIO VIEWING ROOM - EVENING

A group of dance mom's plus Hannah are gathered around talking.

DANCE MOM 1
Still no new posts by Cruise Lady 56. But there is a new development. Turns out there's a *#hotmowerguy* fan club and it has started a contest to figure out who he is.

DANCE MOM 2
Yah, but do we really want to know?

DANCE MOM 3
Of course we do. What if he's from around here?

DANCE MOM 2

What if he isn't? And what if he's actually a bad person who tosses out cigarette butts and yells at umpires?

HANNAH

True. As it is, we can all make up our own little fantasies.

DANCE MOM 3

Let me tell you about my fantasy...

DANCE MOM 1

Please don't.

HANNAH

What if he *is* from around here? What if he's actually somebody we know?

DANCE MOM 3

I'm pretty sure I'd know those biceps anywhere.

DANCE MOM 1

There's prize money. Fifty thousand dollars.

Natalya walks in the room and heads over to the water dispenser.

DANCE MOM 3

What about you, Nat? Would you be interested for fifty thousand dollars?

NATALYA

I'd be interested in just about anything for fifty thousand dollars.

DANCE MOM 1

There's a contest for figuring out the identity of hot mower guy.

NATALYA

Aren't his fifteen minutes over yet?

DANCE MOM 2

Not even close. He's averaging over a million views a week.

NATALYA

But he could be from anywhere,
right?

DANCE MOM 2

Including here.

NATALYA

Well, good luck ladies finding hot
mover guy.

As she's leaving the room...

DANCE MOM 2

Hot mower guy.

ACT 7

INT. NATALYA'S TOWNHOME - EVENING

Natalya is stretched out on her couch in long pajamas, fuzzy slippers and wet hair wrapped in a towel. She takes a sip from her wine glass nearby and then dials her MAMA (55s) and places her phone on speaker.

NATALYA
Good morning, mama.

MAMA
(strong Slavic accent)
Natalya, dear. It's so late for you.

NATALYA
I was working.

MAMA
You work too hard, dear.

NATALYA
I work as hard as you taught me to work.

MAMA
I worry that you're lonely.

NATALYA
I don't have time to be lonely.
(beat)
So I'm sending you a picture of my new sign.

PING.

NATALYA (CONT'D)
Did you get it?

MAMA
Yes. It's lovely. I didn't know you were changing it.

NATALYA
It just sort of happened. A father of three girls in my classes needs my help fixing his oldest daughter's hair for a party.

MAMA

Why doesn't her mother do it?

NATALYA

Their mother passed away several years ago from breast cancer.

MAMA

Oh, how tragic. Is he handsome?

NATALYA

You know I don't date parents.

MAMA

When's the last time you dated *anyone*?

NATALYA

I'm happy mama. So can we change the subject, please?

MAMA

How's business?

NATALYA

Good. I'm about to open up another Jazz class, and there's been some interest in starting music theater.

MAMA

My word.

(mutters)

No wonder you don't have time to date.

NATALYA

Mama, please. Things are steady. But the studio rent keeps going up. I want to be able to save more.

MAMA

I'm perfectly fine here, dear.

NATALYA

We had a deal. Besides, I want you here, with me. You could teach some of the younger girls.

MAMA

I want nothing more than that. But I don't want you exhausting yourself to make it happen.

NATALYA

I can handle it. You raised me to be determined.

MAMA

Don't let your determination outshine your elegance.

NATALYA

I won't. Well, I just wanted to hear your voice.

MAMA

Good night, *Moya Dusha*.

Natalya turns off her phone and sets it in her lap. Following a second sip of wine, she picks her phone back up and types in *#hotmowerguy*. After laying back on a pillow, she scans the results. But then she flips her phone over, wraps herself in a quilt from the back of the couch and falls asleep.

INT. KYLE'S HOUSE - DAY

As Kyle wipes off the kitchen countertops, Emma finishes vacuuming the living room and Caroline dusts around the pictures on the shelves beside the tv. Kyle glances at the clock on the microwave.

KYLE

Okay girls, wrap it up. She's going to be here any moment now.

Emma rolls the vacuum into a closet and then joins her sister and father in the kitchen. Kyle lifts his middle daughter and sits her on the bar beside Caroline.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Thanks for all your help.

EMMA

Do you think she'll do my hair too?

CAROLINE

Ooh, and mine too?

KYLE

She's here to help Leah. But I'm sure she wouldn't mind if you two listened in.

Emma and Caroline CHEER.

KYLE (CONT'D)
But don't overdo it. We don't want
to scare her off.
(calls up)
Leah bear. You about ready.

Leah appears at the end of the hallway.

LEAH
(groans as she tugs on her
hair)
Of all days to rain.
(disappears back into the
bathroom)

EMMA
You should meet Miss Nat outside
with an umbrella.

KYLE
That's a good idea.

His youngest hops down, finds an umbrella in the pantry and
then hands it to her father.

KYLE (CONT'D)
This is alright with you two,
right?

EMMA
Leah definitely needs professional
help.

KYLE
I meant Miss Natalya coming over.

EMMA
We love Miss Nat.

He kisses her on the forehead and then sets her down on the
floor.

CAROLINE
She's so pretty. Don't you think
she's pretty, daddy?

He kisses her on the top of her head.

KYLE
She's an accomplished business lady
and a very considerate person.

Emma grabs her sister's hand and leads her into the living
room.

EMMA

That means he thinks she's pretty.

When she looks back over her shoulder, he's looking at his reflection in the microwave window.

EMMA (CONT'D)

You should have at least shaved.

He runs his hand over his rugged face.

CAROLINE

She driving up.

Kyle hustles to the front door with the umbrella.

EXT. KYLE'S HOUSE - DAY

Kyle sprints out in the rain and then abruptly stops as Natalya's car door flies open. After sloshing around it, he opens the umbrella just as she pokes hers out and opens it too. When she looks up, she's surprised to see him there. She smiles.

On her first step, her umbrella flies off in the wind when the heel of her shoe buckles. Kyle catches her. He then scoops her up and hustles beneath the portico. After he sets her and the umbrella down, he trots back out and grabs her umbrella. When he returns, she's holding her shoes.

NATALYA

I'm sorry you got wet.

He collapses her umbrella.

KYLE

It's no big deal.

(beat)

Why don't we go inside.

INT. KYLE'S HOUSE - DAY

Caroline hugs Natalya's leg from one side Emma from the other.

NATALYA

Hi girls.

CAROLINE

Daddy said you might fix my hair too if I don't overdo you.

NATALYA

We can do everyone's hair.

Emma nods.

CAROLINE

Yea. I want mine to look just like yours.

Kyle steps around them and heads toward the kitchen. There he grabs a towel and wipes his face.

KYLE

(calls back)

Natalya. Could I interest you in some water, tea or I could make a chocolate milkshake?

NATALYA

I haven't had a milk shake since I was a girl.

CAROLINE

It's my favorite. Two chocolate milk shakes please, daddy.

EMMA

I would like one too.

KYLE

Milk shakes for everyone then.

Natalya heads toward the kitchen holding each girl by the hand.

CAROLINE

Daddy makes the best milkshakes. Better than McDonald's even.

They join him in the kitchen as he fills the blender with ice from the refrigerator. Then he scoops in some ice cream, milk and Ovaltine. While it BLENDS, he grabs five glasses and straws. After spraying some whip cream on top, he passes the glasses around.

NATALYA

Wow. It looks so appetizing.

CAROLINE

It looks delicious and tastes scrummy.

Natalya looks at Caroline then Kyle.

KYLE
Scrumptious and yummy. Scrummy.

NATALYA
That's so clever.

As she takes a drink, Leah quietly slips up beside her father wearing a bandana again. He hands her a shake.

NATALYA (CONT'D)
You didn't even exaggerate. That is the best milkshake I've ever had.

CAROLINE
Told you so.

NATALYA
Hi Leah.

LEAH
Hi Miss Nat.

NATALYA
What's with the bandana?

LEAH
It's the rain. It frizzes my hair all up.

Natalya walks over, unties the bandana and removes it.

NATALYA
You have beautiful hair.

LEAH
It's a complete mess.

NATALYA
Now, now. What do we say about self-criticism?

LEAH
Put your effort into improving not criticizing.

NATALYA
That's right. I can only help you be more beautiful than you already are. Now where's the bathroom?

Holding hands, they head back down the hallway.

INT. KYLE'S HOUSE - LATER

Kyle sits up in his recliner and turns the TV off when he hears the bathroom door OPEN. Then he waits.

With her chin down, Leah is first with Natalya right behind her holding her shoulders.

Kyle stands.

NATALYA

Well. What do you think?

KYLE

Leah bear. You look great. I mean you always look great. So better than great.

NATALYA

Lovely? Exquisite?

KYLE

Both.

Leah smiles.

Emma and Caroline step around Natalya.

KYLE (CONT'D)

And you two. All three of you. Lovely. Exquisite.

His youngest runs over to him and he picks her up.

CAROLINE

Mine is just like Miss Nat's.

KYLE

It's very pretty.

He sets her back down.

KYLE (CONT'D)

That took a while. So I was thinking of ordering some pizza.

CAROLINE

Please stay and have dinner with us.

NATALYA

I don't know. I've imposed enough I think.

KYLE

We'd love for you to stay. If you
want to, that is?

NATALYA

I'd love to, then.

END ACT 7

ACT 8

INT. FABRIC STORE - DAY

Natalya is perusing material when a FABRIC SALESLADY approaches.

FABRIC SALESLADY
Can I help you find something?

NATALYA
(turns)
I hope so. I need to make nine pink tutus.

FABRIC SALESLADY
How old are the girls?

NATALYA
Thirty to forty, I think.
(grins)

FABRIC SALESLADY
Oh?

NATALYA
And they're not girls.

FABRIC SALESLADY
Oh?

NATALYA
It's for a charity car wash.

FABRIC SALESLADY
Oh thank goodness. What's the cause?

NATALYA
Breast cancer.

FABRIC SALESLADY
How wonderful.

NATALYA
Maybe your store would be interested in co-sponsoring the event?

FABRIC SALESLADY
The owner is a breast cancer survivor. I'll ask.

NATALYA

Great.

EXT. FABRIC STOP - DAY

Holding several bags of materials, Natalya exits the store. While walking to her car...

DONOVAN

(calls out)

Natalya.

The insurance salesman trots across the street as she places the bags in her back seat.

DONOVAN (CONT'D)

I saw your car. But I didn't know what shop you were in.

He takes out a handkerchief and wipes his forehead.

DONOVAN (CONT'D)

How about some lunch?

NATALYA

I'm sorry but I don't have time for lunch.

DONOVAN

I quick coffee then?

She nods.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

A distracted Natalya and rambling Donovan are sitting at a table in front of the storefront window.

DONOVAN

...The remodel has cost a small fortune. And you wouldn't believe what a cast iron fence goes for these days.

NATALYA

Iron fence?

DONOVAN

Around the entire yard. And I was thinking about a great big family crest on an imposing metal gate.

NATALYA

I know someone who does those.

DONOVAN

You do?

NATALYA

(leans on the table)

Actually, I'd like for you to do two things for me. First, talk to this guy about the fence. He just made me a new sign and it's really incredible.

DONOVAN

And the second thing?

NATALYA

Co-sponsor an upcoming charity event for breast cancer.

DONOVAN

I'll be happy to do both.

(leans across the table
and grabs her hands)

If you do one thing for me.

EXT. CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES - DAY

Several women including Natalya, Kaylee and the girls are standing in a hallway outside a closed door.

CAROLINE

What's taking them so long? Daddy usually gets dressed in less than a minute.

EMMA

Not when he's putting on a tutu.

LEAH

This is so embarrassing.

Kaylee KNOCKS on the door.

KAYLEE

Everything alright in there?

The door opens. Kaylee's husband JAMES (33) is the first out. Kaylee clutches her mouth.

JAMES

This feels very uncomfortable.

KAYLEE

Don't be silly. It's a perfect fit.
 (she twirls her husband
 around)
 You look...

JAMES

Ridiculous.

KAYLEE

Sexy, babe.

She clutches his arm and leads him back down the hallway.

As Pastor Ryan and several other self-conscious men file by...

PASTOR RYAN

(jokingly)
 Perhaps this is what Jesus meant
 when he said, "whomever humbles
 himself will be exalted."

As the final group shuffles by without Kyle, Caroline looks inside the door.

CAROLINE

Daddy?

He peaks around a floor-to-ceiling bookshelf.

KYLE

Is Miss Natalya out there,
 Freckles?

NATALYA

(steps forward)
 I'm right here.

KYLE

There's a bit of a problem with my,
 outfit.

NATALYA

Oh?

CAROLINE

What is it, daddy?

KYLE

Could you and your sisters wait
 outside, please.

Leah grabs her youngest sister's hand and Emma follows them down the hallway behind the others. After they are all gone.

NATALYA

Can I come in?

She steps into the room and closes the door behind her.

KYLE

I think maybe the measurements I gave you are a little off.

NATALYA

How could they be off?

KYLE

I got them from my suit.

NATALYA

That should have been fine.

KYLE

The suit that I last wore at my sister's wedding - eight years ago. I guess I've filled out a little since then.

NATALYA

Okay. Let's see what we're dealing with here.

He bashfully steps out with his chest and shoulders stretching the fabric to its limit. When Natalya starts GIGGLING, he steps back behind the bookcase.

NATALYA (CONT'D)

That was very unprofessional of me. I'm so sorry.

KYLE

Maybe I could just take up the money.

NATALYA

You promised to wash my car.
(stamps her foot)
Now get back out here.

He steps back out again. She approaches staring at the tattoo around his bicep.

NATALYA (CONT'D)

I put an adjustment on the leotard straps. Turn around.

After he does, she loosens them as far as they'll go. Then she steps back.

NATALYA (CONT'D)
Okay. That's better. Was that it?

KYLE
Not exactly.

He lifts the tutu.

NATALYA
Oh my.
(wipes her forehead)
Well there's no adjustment for that, I'm afraid. Do you have some shorts.

KYLE
Yes.

NATALYA
Put them on.

He momentarily disappears back behind the bookcase. When he reappears, she pulls the tutu down as far as it will go.

NATALYA (CONT'D)
That will have to do. Now get that tushy out there and wash some cars.

EXT. CHURCH PARKING LOT - DAY

Natalya and Kyle are walking toward where the other men are gathered, when Donovan approaches. He looks Kyle over.

NATALYA
(to Kyle)
I'll catch up in a moment.

Kyle departs.

DONOVAN
(condescendingly)
You couldn't pay me enough to wear something that ridiculous.

NATALYA
It's for a good cause.
(watches Kyle walk away)
Besides, I like a man who doesn't take himself too seriously.

DONOVAN
 (rolls his eyes)
 So I put up my banner.

He points at an advertisement with his face on it that says,
 Windsor Insurance Supports Women.

NATALYA
 That's nice. Are you going to stay
 and get your car washed?

He looks at his spotless black BMW parked nearby.

DONOVAN
 I have a professional that details
 my car. Besides, I have a thing.
 But I did make a sizable donation
 to the pastor.

NATALYA
 Thank you, so much.

They hug.

DONOVAN
 So, we're still on for tonight?

NATALYA
 (looks around)
 Yes.

DONOVAN
 Great. I'll pick you up at 7:00.

EXT. CHURCH PARKING LOT - DAY

Natalya examines her car after Kyle and the girls finish
 washing it. Kyle is standing with his hands on his hips
 holding the hose when she approaches.

NATALYA
 It looks great.
 (pops one of the leotard
 straps)
 I wasn't sure the stitching was
 going to hold.

KYLE
 Fortunately, it did.

NATALYA
 I guess.
 (twirls around)

KYLE

Oops.

NATALYA

(twirls back)

What is it?

KYLE

It seems we missed a spot.

NATALYA

Where?

KYLE

Right...

(points the hose at her)

...there.

He sprays Natalya with the hose and she SQUEALS. When Caroline throws her soapy sponge at him, he turns it on her. Next, he sprays Emma and Leah who try to run away.

Caroline approaches him pretending to pout.

CAROLINE

That wasn't nice, daddy.

She takes the hose from him, smiles, and then shoots him straight in the face.

EXT. CHURCH PARKING LOT - LATER

All the cars are gone. Kyle is sitting with a drowsy Caroline in his lap and Emma and Leah on either side. Natalya is next to the Leah.

NATALYA

This was fun.

KYLE

Pastor Ryan said we made nearly eight grand counting donations.

NATALYA

That's terrific.

(side hugs Leah)

Your mom would be so proud.

KYLE

So I promised I'd get the girls ice cream this evening for helping. Maybe you'd like to come with us?

NATALYA
 (smiles then frowns)
 I'd love to. But I have plans.

KYLE
 That's alright. Another time.

NATALYA
 (stands)
 I'll hold you to that. In fact, I
 need to get going.

She kisses each girl on the head.

NATALYA (CONT'D)
 I'll see you girls on Monday.

They watch her walk away.

CAROLINE
 (drowsy)
 I like her.

EMMA
 Me too.

He looks at Leah.

LEAH
 I do too.

EXT. DOWNTOWN AREA - EVENING

With Caroline perched on his shoulders, and Leah and Emma
 walking beside them all licking on their ice cream cones...

CAROLINE
 Look.
 (points over Kyle's head)
 It's Miss Nat.

The others turn and see her getting out of a dark car wearing
 a slip dress.

EMMA
 Wow. She looks so beautiful.

As Kyle is about to say something, Leah tugs on his arm. Then
 she nods toward the driver's side where Donovan is getting
 out.

CAROLINE
 Let's go talk to her.

Kyle pulls his youngest down off his shoulders and then turns her around as Donovan puts his arm around Natalya and leads her to the restaurant entrance.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Why aren't we saying hello?

EMMA
We don't want to disturb her.

CAROLINE
Why not?

LEAH
(disapprovingly)
Because she's on a date.

CAROLINE
What?

KYLE
She told us she had plans. And it's not nice to interrupt someone when they have plans.

He guides them away in the opposite direction.

END ACT 8

ACT 9

INT. DANCE STUDIO - EVENING

Kyle is standing in the corner holding Caroline as a class exits the studio. Leah is last and when Natalya puts her hand on her shoulder, she pulls it away. She follows her, greeting parents along the way. Leah is tucked in behind her father when she approaches Kyle.

NATALYA

Could I have a word with you?

He sets Caroline down next to her sister and then follows the dance teacher into her office.

NATALYA (CONT'D)

Close the door, please.

He does.

NATALYA (CONT'D)

(immediately)

Is something wrong?

KYLE

(defensively)

Not that I know of.

NATALYA

The girls. They are distant. It's like they're avoiding me.

KYLE

(unconvincingly shrugs)

I don't know. I can talk to them.

NATALYA

You don't need to talk to them.

(sighs)

I had such a good time at the car wash. We all seems to be getting along so well.

He's looking down at his feet.

NATALYA (CONT'D)

Look at me.

(stomps her foot)

I'm sorry. Look at me, please.

Grudgingly, he does.

NATALYA (CONT'D)
I really had a good time. And I
thought you did too.

KYLE
It was a great event. We raised a
lot of money.

NATALYA
Yes. Yes we did. But that wasn't
all. Was it?

KYLE
(shoulders slump)
The girls. We, went for ice cream.
(beat)
Downtown. Near Giovanni's.

NATALYA
(frowns)
Oh no. No, no, no.

KYLE
It's okay. I mean, you're young,
successful, beautiful. You deserve
a life outside of work.

NATALYA
You don't understand.

KYLE
That you were on a date?

NATALYA
Okay. But that guy. He's just a...

KYLE
Listen, Natalya. I really
appreciate all you do for the
girls, all you did for the
fundraiser. But I'm a single dad
who drives a beat up truck. You're
more of a BMW type.

NATALYA
You haven't bothered getting to
know me well enough to know my
type. If you had, you'd know I
don't like BMWs.

KYLE
Regardless.
(turns for the door then
holds the knob)

(MORE)

KYLE (CONT'D)
I'll talk to the girls. I think
they just got the wrong impression.

He opens the door and leaves.

Hannah comes to the door behind him and peaks in. Natalya is sitting at her desk with tears in her eyes.

HANNAH
You okay, boss?

NATALYA
(wipes her eyes and
stands)
I'm fine. What time is it?

HANNAH
Five till.

NATALYA
(takes a deep breath)
Could you maybe start my next
class? I'll be in shortly.

HANNAH
Sure. You sure you're alright?

She nods. After her assistant leaves, she sits back down at her desk and puts her head in her hands.

INT. NATALYA'S TOWNHOME - NIGHT

Natalya is on the couch holding a pillow to her chest. She dials her mom's number and puts the phone on speaker.

NATALYA
(unsteady voice)
Hi, mama.

MAMA
Natalya, dear. What is it?

NATALYA
Nothing. I just...

MAMA
I can hear it in your voice.

Tears start to stream down her face.

NATALYA
I'm just tired.

MAMA

Nonsense. You don't get tired.

NATALYA

I just...I thought...There's this guy. He has three daughter's in my classes.

MAMA

That you helped get ready for a party.

NATALYA

Yes. We went to this fundraiser and everybody had such a good time.

(exhales)

And then they saw me out with this other man that I don't care anything about.

MAMA

But you care about their father?

NATALYA

I don't know. It was so easy.

(collects herself)

He's just protecting them.

MAMA

And himself. How long has it been since his wife died?

NATALYA

Five years.

MAMA

Being a single father of three girls has to be a challenge.

NATALYA

It is. I know that it is.

(beat)

It was silly of me to ever think...

MAMA

Give it a little time.

NATALYA

A little time. Of course.

MAMA

It's been ten years since you've talked about any man this way.

(MORE)

MAMA (CONT'D)

And one thing I know is that you don't give up.

NATALYA

It's not just up to me.

MAMA

You are an incredible daughter and an extraordinary young lady that's worth making an effort for. Regardless of his circumstances, if he can't see that then he's not worthy of you.

NATALYA

Thanks mama.

INT. NATALYA'S OFFICE - DAY

Natalya is typing at her computer when Hannah comes in.

HANNAH

Hi, boss.

NATALYA

I'm updating our website and Facebook page. How's this picture look for the front?
(turns the screen)

HANNAH

(examines the picture)
It's terrific.
(sits on the couch)
While you were holed up in here channeling your inner social media maven, that father of three showed up.

Natalya looks up expectantly and then turns the computer back around.

NATALYA

Oh. What for?

HANNAH

He said he promised you he'd fix the announcement board behind the counter.

NATALYA

I see. Well did he?

HANNAH

Yes. And also the place where the counter had come loose.

NATALYA

That was nice of him.

HANNAH

He seems like a nice guy. Handy and nice.

(beat)

So, while he was fixing the board, I was holding the other end up straight. And he came over and steadied my hand while he used this drilling tool to sink a screw. And you wouldn't believe how strong his hand was.

NATALYA

(smiles)

Tell me about it.

HANNAH

(stands and points)

I knew it. You like him.

NATALYA

(blushing)

Like you said, he's a nice man, handy and nice.

HANNAH

Is that why you've been moping around? Did something happen between you two?

NATALYA

(shakes her head)

We're just very different people.

HANNAH

I'll say. You're beautiful, graceful, elegant. And he looks like he could rip the head off of a grizzly bear for fun. Not to mention the fact that he couldn't possibly keep up with you on the dance floor.

NATALYA

I don't need a man to be an accomplished dancer. He just needs to be willing to try.

HANNAH

Okay, boss. What really happened?

NATALYA

I thought there was a spark.
(raises her eyebrow)
And then it fizzled.

HANNAH

Well, he didn't come by to fix that board for no reason.

NATALYA

Did he say something?

HANNAH

He was pretty quiet. He did keep looking toward your door.

Natalya closes the top on her laptop.

NATALYA

Sometimes the timing just isn't right.

HANNAH

Your timing is impeccable. I'm sure he'll be at the recital.

NATALYA

I'll have other things to tend to.

HANNAH

Sure. But when he sees you dancing.

NATALYA

(stands)

I need to pick up our admin supplies. You need anything while I'm out?

HANNAH

I've got the best job working with the best boss there is who deserves to find love. Just promise me, promise yourself you won't give up.

NATALYA

I'll be back in about an hour.

INT. KYLE'S HOUSE, CAROLINE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kyle tucks Caroline in beneath her princess bedsheets.

KYLE
Listen, Freckles. Miss Natalya said
that you girls have been acting a
little standoffish.

CAROLINE
(sits up)
What does that mean?

KYLE
Avoiding her.

Caroline looks away.

KYLE (CONT'D)
Have you - been avoiding her?

CAROLINE
Leah and Emma told me I had to give
her the stink eye on account of her
breaking your heart
(starts to cry)
But I didn't want to. I love Miss
Nat. And I didn't want to. But I
did.

She buries her face in his chest. He hugs her tight and then
eases her back.

KYLE
Okay. First of all, she didn't
break my heart. Maybe just bruised
it a bit. And second, we don't give
people the stink eye. Particularly
those who are so kind to us.

CAROLINE
I won't ever do it again, I
promise. And I'll apologize the
next time I see her.

KYLE
That would be nice.

He tucks her back in and then kisses her on the forehead.
When he stands...

CAROLINE
Daddy.

KYLE
Yes, baby.

CAROLINE
I'm sorry your heart got bruised.

KYLE
Thanks, Freckles.

INT. KYLE'S HOUSE, EMMA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Kyle enters a second bedroom and finds his middle daughter sitting up in her bed.

KYLE
You heard?

EMMA
(nods)
I'm sorry we told Caroline to give Miss Nat the stink eye.

KYLE
And?

EMMA
I'm also sorry that I've been giving her the cold shoulder too.

KYLE
That's good. But you need to tell her.
(sits on her bed)

EMMA
I will. I really like her too. The truth is, my heart got bruised a little too when I saw her with that other man.

KYLE
Miss Natalya is a grown woman who's free to go out with anyone she wishes.

EMMA
I know. But if she knew what a great guy you are then she'd want to go out with you.

KYLE
Sometimes it takes more than that. The truth is that a beautiful woman like her would never be interested in a regular Joe like me.

EMMA

That's not true. You can fix anything. You help people. And you're the best dad in the whole world.

KYLE

Thanks, M&M.
(kisses her on the forehead)

EMMA

I really am sorry.

KYLE

I know you are.

INT. KYLE'S HOUSE, LEAH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Kyle KNOCKS on the door and then listens.

LEAH

(quietly)
Come in.

She's looking up at him through her bangs.

LEAH (CONT'D)

It was all my idea. I made them do it.

Kyle sits on the end of her bed. Then he closes his eyes.

KYLE

It's not just you guys. I think I blew it too, Leah bear.

She slides up behind him and wraps her arms around his waist.

LEAH

Miss Nat always says it's the thing you do after you mess up that says what kind of person you are.

KYLE

(opens his eyes and then shakes his head)
After your mom died. I felt angry, confused, lost. But I had you girls to take care of.

LEAH

You like her. You really like her.

KYLE

I don't know. I think so. No one could ever replace your mom.

LEAH

(she lays her head against his back)

Mom knew you would make sure everything was perfect for us. So before she died, she told me to look after you.

KYLE

I'm fine.

After a moment of silence.

LEAH

I promise to apologize to Miss Nat. But only if you promise to try again with her.

KYLE

I don't know how.

LEAH

Start with getting a haircut and shaving your beard. And then buy her some flowers and tell her how you feel.

He turns around and lays her back against her pillow.

KYLE

When did you get so smart?

LEAH

I'm an eleven-year old girl. I know everything.

He kisses her on the forehead.

END ACT 9

ACT 10

INT. DANCE STUDIO OFFICE - DAY

Hannah barges in holding her phone out in front of her. She walks around behind the desk where Natalya pauses from typing.

HANNAH

Okay, I know you're nervous about the recital tonight. But you're going to do great. In the meantime, watch this.

Natalya looks at the screen.

NATALYA

Not again.

HANNAH

Not at his mysterious, rugged face, chiseled pecks or bulging biceps. Although I wouldn't fault you for looking at those too.

NATALYA

What then?

HANNAH

First his lips.

NATALYA

I can barely see them from this far.

HANNAH

Watch.

She examines the screen more closely.

NATALYA

He's singing.

HANNAH

What's he singing?

NATALYA

(watches for a moment)
Uptown Funk.

HANNAH

That's right.

NATALYA
(looks up)
So?

HANNAH
Wait for it.

He does a robotic pop and lock. Natalya smiles.

NATALYA
I'd give him an "A" for trying.

HANNAH
Need I remind you that your four-
o'clock class dances to *that* song
with *that* same move.

NATALYA
So do most of the dance teams
across the country.

HANNAH
What about this.
(fast-forwards)

Natalya laughs as hot mower guy attempts another dance move.

NATALYA
It's the kick and scissors. But he
keeps crossing up his feet.

HANNAH
The kick and scissors that you're
doing for the Parent Dance.

NATALYA
Certainly, you're not suggesting
that this guy is somehow associated
with our studio?

HANNAH
Why not?

NATALYA
Because those songs and dances are
used by hundreds of other dance
teams.

HANNAH
With a hat tip at the end?

She glances at the screen again.

NATALYA
It's just a coincidence.

HANNAH
(takes back her phone)
There's a contest. Whoever figures out this guy's identity gets fifty thousand dollars.

NATALYA
Fifty thousand dollars?

HANNAH
Maybe you should watch the other reels.

NATALYA
Okay.
(stands)
But it will have to wait. I've still got to cut the remaining music for tonight.

INT. PERFORMING ARTS THEATER - EVENING

Kyle is stiffly sitting next to Kaylee and James in the audience of the nearly packed theater. The students minus the advanced team have joined them in the front rows to watch. Before the curtain opens, there is a BUZZ of anticipation.

The THUMPING of the rhythm section along with the high energy SYNTHESIZER of *Party Rock Anthem* by LMFAO overcomes the CLAPPING as the curtains open to three lines of the older high school age girls dancing lock step. During the Lauren Bennett cameo, the lines part and the other dancers clap as Natalya in the center does a solo. When done, the others on stage join back in while the kids, and even some parents in the audience, dance and sing. The song ends and an intermission begins.

EXT. PERFORMING ARTS THEATER - EVENING

During intermission, Natalya steps outside to cool off. When she sees a silhouette in the shadows, she pauses. But when the silhouette stumbles over his own feet while attempting a kick and scissors, she slowly approaches.

The tall, broad man in a dark suit slowly comes into focus.

NATALYA
Kyle?

He turns. They stare at one another.

NATALYA (CONT'D)
You got a haircut. And shaved.

KYLE
The girls said I looked like
Sasquatch.

NATALYA
(smiles)
What are you doing out here?

KYLE
Practicing. I don't want to
embarrass the girls during our
dance. But I can't seem to get this
move down.

She steps up right in front of him.

KYLE (CONT'D)
I don't think this is going...

NATALYA
Shush. Now put your hands on my
hips.

After he does, she looks at them and then back up at him.

KYLE
Too firm?

NATALYA
(shakes her head)
Just right.
(sways her hips)
Now just concentrate on the rhythm.
(after a moment)
You got a new suit?

KYLE
Got the old one tailored.

NATALYA
Step with me.
(after a moment)
Good. Now watch my feet and do what
I do.

The camera slowly withdraws as their silhouettes fade into
the darkness.

INT. PERFORMING ARTS THEATER - EVENING

Natalya gracefully steps out onto the stage in heels with a microphone in her hand. The crowd settles.

NATALYA

Thank you so much for being here
this evening. I can't tell you how
much I enjoy teaching all my
wonderful students.

Someone in the audience shouts, "We love you Miss Nat."

NATALYA (CONT'D)

I love you all, too. We're going to
close tonight as we do each of
these recitals with our Parent
Dance. Now these moms and dads have
been working very hard so please
show them your appreciation.

The curtains open to a packed stage. Natalya looks through the crowd until she finds Kyle and his girls. When he looks at her, she winks.

INT. PERFORMING ARTS THEATER, LOBBY - EVENING

The ENERGY continues in the lobby where people are taking pictures, and passing out roses, balloons and stuffed animals. The largest crowd is surrounding Natalya. Kyle and the girls patiently shuffle closer until she finally sees them. The girls hug her and then take pictures. It's so chaotic that Kyle and Natalya's words to one another are swallowed up.

As they are leaving, Kyle looks back over the heads of the others but the dance teacher remains engaged.

END ACT 10

ACT 11

INT. DANCE STUDIO, VIEWING ROOM - DAY

Through the viewing window, lights are flashing as some girls dance to the LOUD MUSIC while others TALK and eat pizza.

When Natalya enters the viewing room, the ladies CLAP. She bows and then CLAPS for them.

DANCE MOM 2
The recital was wonderful.

DANCE MOM 1
The best yet.

NATALYA
Your kids did all the work. And it paid off wonderfully.

The clapping settles.

NATALYA (CONT'D)
After they finish the pizza, we'll be bringing out some cake. You are all invited to join us then.

She walks over to the dispenser to fill her water bottle as the ladies resume their previous conversation.

DANCE MOM 1
42% of responders think he owns a landscaping company.

DANCE MOM 3
17% think he's a handy man.

DANCE MOM 2
In one of the reels, there is a church in the background. Maybe he's a pastor.

DANCE MOM 1
3% say he's a pastor. I don't buy that though. A pastor wouldn't be so scruffy.

Natalya walks over to the window and watches her students having fun while casually sipping from her water bottle.

DANCE MOM 2
What are some of the other clues?

DANCE MOM 4

The numbers 89 on his license plate.

DANCE MOM 2

Maybe that was the year he was born?

DANCE MOM 3

No one would have a vanity plate on a truck that old.

DANCE MOM 5

What about that tattoo?

She selects a picture and then holds up her phone. The others study the tattoo.

DANCE MOM 3

The kids call that an arm band.

DANCE MOM 5

Maybe he's a Native American.

Natalya curiously glances back at the ladies. Then she wanders closer.

DANCE MOM 2

It looks like a snake.

One of the ladies notices Natalya's intent stare. She nudges the lady holding the phone who then turns it toward the dance teacher.

DANCE MOM 3

Any ideas, Miss Nat?

NATALYA

Zoom in.

(self-consciously smiles)

I mean, would you mind zooming in, please?

After the lady does, Natalya bends down to get closer.

NATALYA (CONT'D)

Is that as far as it will go?

DANCE MOM 5

I'm afraid so. Do you recognize something?

Her face turns ashen. Then she hurries out of the room.

INT. DANCE STUDIO OFFICE - EVENING

Natalya sits behind her desk and opens her computer. Then she rapidly types *#hotmowerguy*. She selects a reel and then watches hot mower guy singing while mowing, dancing with a rake, and his flexed arm vibrating as he operates a chainsaw. She selects a link to *hotmowerguy contest* and then looks at various stills of the mysterious man's scruffy face hidden beneath a hat and behind dark glasses, the back of his white work truck along with the last two numbers of his license plate 89, and finally, a blurry enhancement of his bicep tattoo. When she navigates back to the homepage, she scans the occupation odds list:

NATALYA

(reads)

Landscaper, handyman, lumberjack,
off-shoreman, pastor.

(besides the list is a
picture of a check)

Fifty thousand dollars.

Natalya disbelievingly leans back in her chair as Hannah walks in.

HANNAH

When do you want me to bring in the
cake?

(notices Natalya's shocked
expression)

What's wrong?

She continues toward the desk until she can see the screen.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

(smiles)

You finally went to the post.

Natalya quickly closes the computer and stands.

NATALYA

Go get the cake now.

(softens)

Please.

Hannah frowns as her boss leads her to the door.

NATALYA (CONT'D)

I'll be there in five minutes.

After she leaves, Natalya closes the door behind her. Then she opens her computer back up, minimizes the contest screen and the reel, and then opens a listing of contact numbers. She dials and then starts pacing.

NATALYA (CONT'D)
 (mutters)
 Come on. Come on.

VOICE MAIL RECORDING
 Leave a message and I'll call you
 back.
 (BEEP)

NATALYA
 Kyle, it's Natalya. I need to speak
 with you as soon as possible.
 Please call.

She hangs up then peaks out her door into the lobby. He's not there. She looks at the time on her phone. Then she closes the door and leans her forehead against it.

INT. DANCE STUDIO LOBBY - EVENING

Kyle is holding a tray of cookies as he enters the lobby. MERRIMENT pours out of the open dance studio door. He nervously scans the room. When someone from behind steps around him, he shuffles into the corner. Caroline comes running.

CAROLINE
 Daddy, you're early.

He grabs her hand.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
 Your hands are sweaty.

He pulls his hand free and stares at the open door.

KYLE
 It's hot in here.

CAROLINE
 You're nervous.

KYLE
 How was the party?

CAROLINE
 Great. We had pizza and cake and
 danced.

KYLE
 Are your sisters having a good time
 too?

CAROLINE
Yes. Everybody is.

Hannah appears in the doorway.

HANNAH
(to all)
Everyone is welcome to join us.
There's cake and refreshments.

The others in the lobby file passed her.

CAROLINE
Come on daddy. Let's get some cake.

KYLE
I don't want to mess up these
cookies that we spent all afternoon
making. You go ahead back in there
and enjoy yourself.

As Caroline dashes by, she high fives Hannah. Natalya's
assistant then approaches Kyle.

HANNAH
The countertop is working great
now.
(beat)
Don't you want some cake?

KYLE
No thank you. I have these cookies.

HANNAH
Oh. Well there's a table in the
dance room.

KYLE
They're not for every...I mean, we
didn't make enough.

HANNAH
I see.
(smiles)
Perhaps you would like to put them
in Natalya's office?

KYLE
Could I?

HANNAH
Of course.

She leads him there and then opens the door.

HANNAH (CONT'D)
I'll tell her you're here.

KYLE
I don't want to bother her.

HANNAH
She could use a break.

INT. DANCE STUDIO OFFICE - EVENING

Kyle is nervously standing near her desk when Natalya enters the room. Simultaneously...

NATALYA
I'm so glad you're here.

KYLE
I'm sorry to bother you.

She walks toward him.

KYLE (CONT'D)
I brought you these.
(holds out the tray)
The girls and I made them. We
figured you had plenty of flowers.

She receives the tray, smells the cookies and smiles.

NATALYA
Horishky?

KYLE
Leah found a recipe on-line. We had
to make several batches before we
got them right.

She peels back the plastic wrap.

NATALYA
They smell just like I remember.

She sets the tray on her desk, selects a walnut-shaped cookie, takes a bite and covers her mouth while she chews.

NATALYA (CONT'D)
It's terrific. You definitely got
it right.
(removes her hand)
Listen, Kyle.

KYLE

Wait. Me first, please. If I don't get it out soon it may never come.

She nods.

KYLE (CONT'D)

I'm not very good...since my wife died...Actually, even before then.
(sighs)
You're a beautiful dancer. I tried to tell you that last night.

NATALYA

Thank you. I...

KYLE

Actually - sorry for interrupting again - but that's not it. I know you're dating that other guy.

Natalya starts to say something but catches herself.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Not that you need my permission. But...
(looks at her)
This isn't going like I planned.

She steps up in front of him and cradles his hands.

NATALYA

I only went out with that guy to talk to him about sponsoring the fundraiser and about hiring you to build him a custom metal gate.

KYLE

I see.
(pulls his hands free)
I'm sorry about my hands being sweaty.

NATALYA

It's a little warm in here. I should have adjusted the thermostat sooner to account for all these people.

KYLE

It is warm in here. But I doubt it's got much to do with the thermostat.

(MORE)

KYLE (CONT'D)
 (wipes his hands down his
 jeans)
 I know you're really busy. But if
 you could find the time, and
 assuming you're willing...I'd like
 to take you out, on a date.

NATALYA
 When?

KYLE
 Is this Saturday too soon?

NATALYA
 Not soon enough. How about
 tomorrow?

KYLE
 Tomorrow. Tomorrow would be great.
 I just need to check with my sister
 because she's watching the girls.

NATALYA
 Before you do.

She walks over to her desk and turns the computer towards
 them.

NATALYA (CONT'D)
 Can I assume you didn't check your
 phone for messages?

KYLE
 Not recently. Why?

NATALYA
 What about social media?

KYLE
 (shakes his head)
 Is that a problem for you?

NATALYA
 I need to show you something.

She brings *#hotmowerguy* up first and plays a reel. He watches
 halfheartedly at first. Then he steps toward the screen.

KYLE
 That looks like the church.
 (beat)
 And that looks like my truck. And
 mower.

(MORE)

KYLE (CONT'D)

(beat)

And...

NATALYA

...you.

KYLE

I don't understand. Why would there be videos of me?

NATALYA

Hot mower guy.

KYLE

What?

NATALYA

These are reels of someone anonymously known as hot mower guy.

KYLE

So it's *not* me?

Natalya lifts his shirt sleeve above his tattoo. Then she returns to her screen where she brings up the still of his tattoo.

KYLE (CONT'D)

It's just like mine.

NATALYA

Hot mower guy.

KYLE

He's a welder too?

NATALYA

Welder?

KYLE

That's a weld bead.

NATALYA

He has the same truck, the same mower, the same tattoo, because he is - you.

KYLE

What?

NATALYA

Hot mower guy, is you.

KYLE

Why would anyone take videos of me
and then put them on your computer?

NATALYA

It's on social media which means
it's on everyone's computer who
opens it. And a lot have. In fact,
it's gone viral.

He looks stupefied.

NATALYA (CONT'D)

That means millions of people have
viewed it.

He reaches for the computer mouse and then scrolls through
the pictures back up to the top.

KYLE

(reads from the list)
Lawncare. Handyman. Lumberjack?

NATALYA

It's a contest. And that's what
people are guessing you do.

KYLE

Lumberjack?

NATALYA

Before you cut your hair and shaved
you looked pretty rugged. Also,
there's a reel of you cutting up
limbs.

KYLE

The wind had knocked over a tree at
the church.

(adjusts the screen)
Fifty thousand dollars? For what?

NATALYA

Identifying you as hot mower guy.

KYLE

They can't. The girls would be
mortified.

NATALYA

I know. That's why I wanted to show
you.

KYLE

(turns away)

I've got to stop this. I've got to take all this down.

(turns back)

How do I do that?

NATALYA

The person who posted the reels goes by Cruise Lady 56.

KYLE

(repeats)

Cruise Lady 56?

NATALYA

Does that sound familiar to you?

KYLE

There's an older lady who lives by the church. She had a flat tire so I brought her to the airport. She told me she goes on a lot of cruises and then writes about them under the name of Cruise Lady 56.

NATALYA

That's got to be her.

KYLE

She said the cruise she was going on was for 100-days.

NATALYA

That might explain why there hasn't been anything new. How long ago was that?

KYLE

A couple of months.

They lock eyes.

NATALYA

I know this is a lot.

KYLE

Try seismic.

NATALYA

Would it help if I went over there with you tomorrow? If she's home, we could maybe talk to her about getting the reels taken down.

She shuts the computer.

KYLE

Why would someone do this?

NATALYA

I'm sure she didn't mean anything
by it.

(pulls down his shirt
sleeve and pats his
chest)

And let's face it, you do look
pretty hot.

END ACT 11

ACT 12

EXT. CRUISE LADY'S HOME - DAY

Kyle returns from the front door back to his truck parked by Cruise Lady's Prius. Through the rolled down window to Natalya in the front seat...

KYLE
No one's home.

Behind them, an Uber pulls up. The driver pops the trunk and then hops out and comes around to open the passenger door. Natalya steps down from the truck cab at the same time that Eleanor exits the Uber.

CRUISE LADY 56
Do I know you?

Over Natalya's shoulder, Kyle approaches.

CRUISE LADY 56 (CONT'D)
Hot...I mean, Kyle. So good to see you again.
(glances at her car)
Thanks for fixing the tire.

Kyle steps up beside Natalya.

KYLE
It only took a few minutes.

CRUISE LADY 56
Did you just...

KYLE
No. No. Weeks ago.

The driver brings around her bags.

CRUISE LADY 56
Thank you.
(tries to hand him cash)

UBER DRIVER
You can tip on the app.

He walks away leaving Eleanor looking confused.

NATALYA
Is your phone handy?

Eleanor digs around in her purse.

NATALYA (CONT'D)
 Open the Uber app.
 (after she does)
 Select your trip.
 (points)
 Then the tip amount. The average is
 15% which would be five dollars.
 (after she does)
 Now hit 'confirm' and you're done.

Eleanor returns her phone to her purse. Then she tries to hand the bills to Kyle.

KYLE
 That's not why we're here.

She looks confused again.

NATALYA
 You said "hot" earlier as in hot
 mower guy?

She blushes.

NATALYA (CONT'D)
 Have you been checking you're
 social media?

CRUISE LADY 56
 I try to enjoy the sights when on
 vacation so no computer. I only
 bring my phone to take pictures. I
 keep a journal instead and post
 when I get back.

NATALYA
 Well, while you were gone, that
 particular hashtag has gone viral.

CRUISE LADY 56
 My word.

NATALYA
 Someone started a competition even.
 To figure out who the mystery guy
 is.

Eleanor looks at Kyle.

CRUISE LADY 56
 I'm sorry. I didn't expect...

KYLE

It's alright. But I would like to stay anonymous. My kids, three young girls.

CRUISE LADY 56

Oh my. Perhaps we should go inside.

Kyle gathers her luggage and follows them inside.

INT. CRUISE LADY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kyle and Natalya are sitting on a stiff couch in a living area filled with dark antique furniture surrounded by travel photos and souvenirs (mugs, spoons, plates, etc.). Eleanor is in the kitchen making tea.

CRUISE LADY 56 (V.O.)

I've just been so lonely and frankly bored since my Franklin passed. My granddaughter was visiting one day and we saw you working. She thought you'd be a good companion for her mother so we took some videos.

She joins them carrying a tray with a carafe, 3 mugs, sugar cubes and little short bread cookies. Natalya takes the tray and sets it on the coffee table between the couch and a chair upon which Eleanor sits. As she's filling their cups...

CRUISE LADY 56

Later, we were playing around on the computer. She's a web developer and somehow, that led to *hotmowerguy#*.

Natalya looks over at a computer atop a secretary.

CRUISE LADY 56 (CONT'D)

Yes. That's the computer I use.

Natalya walks over and sits in front of it. Eleanor and Kyle follow. She lifts the bottom of a How to Post a Reel list on a clipboard and grins.

CRUISE LADY 56 (CONT'D)

Rose made that for me.

When she moves the mouse, a picture of a cruise ship comes up.

CRUISE LADY 56 (CONT'D)
The password is Cruise Lady 56.

Natalya types it in then navigates to the contest page.

CRUISE LADY 56 (CONT'D)
I didn't do that.

NATALYA
We could try to contact the
sponsors. But it's gone viral too
so I doubt they'd take it down.

KYLE
(to Natalya)
What if you identified me?

NATALYA
(turns)
I would never do that.

KYLE
You could win the money. Maybe
expand your studio.

NATALYA
What about you and the girls?

KYLE
I'll talk to them. I think they'd
understand.

NATALYA
(appreciatively smiles)
No. There must be another way.

CRUISE LADY 56
What if we made someone up?

NATALYA
He would have to be virtually
untraceable.

CRUISE LADY 56
From some remote port that Cruise
Lady 56 could have visited.

NATALYA
Stanislav Kovalenko from Odessa,
Ukraine.

KYLE
That's surprisingly specific.

NATALYA

My mom's baker in her home town
which happens to be a port city in
a war-torn country.

Natalya takes out her phone and dials.

NATALYA (CONT'D)

Mama.

MAMA (V.O.)

Hi, dear. How'd the recital go?

NATALYA

It was wonderful. The kids did such
a great job. But actually, that's
not why I called.

MAMA (V.O.)

Oh?

NATALYA

I'm going to put you on speaker.
Eleanor and Kyle are with me.
Eleanor is a lady that has a cruise
blog and Kyle is a friend.
(to Kyle and Eleanor)
My mama's name is Olena.

KYLE

Pleasure to talk to you Olena.

NATALYA

(to Kyle)

Please run outside and take a
picture of the back corner of your
truck with only the last two
numbers of your license plate
showing. Then take a picture of
your arm tattoo and send both to
me.

Kyle leaves. After a pause...

MAMA (V.O.)

Is he...

NATALYA

Gone. Yes.

MAMA (V.O.)

Is that...

NATALYA

Yes. I'll fill you in on the details later. I promise. Right now I need you to go to your computer and type in *hotmowerguy* contest.

MAMA

Curious name.
(slides over a laptop along a breakfast bar where she's sitting)
Done.

NATALYA

Now open that site and look for something that says 'Enter Contest.'

MAMA

I see it.

NATALYA

Hit that and then select the first prompt that says 'Name.' In that field, type Stanislav Kovalenko.

MAMA

My baker?

NATALYA

I'll explain later. Now go to the next one which should say 'Location' and type in Odessa, Ukraine.

MAMA

Done.

NATALYA

The last prompt should say 'Explain why do you think this person is hot mower guy?'

MAMA

I'm ready.

NATALYA

(slowly)
I live next to a wood-clad white church where this man tends the grounds and does maintenance chores.

(MORE)

NATALYA (CONT'D)

When I ran across the contest, I took the attached pictures of his truck and tattoo.

Despite her long nails, she finishes typing.

NATALYA (CONT'D)

Did you get all that?

MAMA

Yes.

Kyle returns just as Natalya's phone PINGS. She quickly scans then forwards the pictures.

NATALYA

I sent you two photos. Upload them to the same file you keep the other photos I send you.

KYLE

Will those work?

NATALYA

Yes. Perfect.

(beat)

How's it going, mama?

MAMA

They're on my computer.

NATALYA

Good. Now hit the 'Attachment' button in the left side below what you just typed. Then select the two photos and 'Upload.'

MAMA

That's it?

NATALYA

That's it. Now hit 'Submit.'

MAMA

All done.

NATALYA

The next step is for Cruise Lady 56 to confirm that she took her videos during a cruise stop in Odessa. With a little luck, that'll be enough.

MAMA
Fingers crossed.

NATALYA
Well, I need to do some things
here. Can I call you later?

MAMA
I'll be expecting it. No matter how
late.

NATALYA
Good night, mama. *Ya tebe lyublyu.*

MAMA
I love you too.

After Natalya hangs up, she stands.

NATALYA
(to Eleanor)
I would recommend you wait a few
hours before confirming the
identity.

CRUISE LADY 56
I will. Then I'll get Rose to help
me delete all the reels and the
hashtag.
(faces Kyle)
I'm so sorry for all this.

KYLE
No worries. It sounds like things
are fixed.

CRUISE LADY 56
(to Natalya)
And it's been a pleasure meeting
you. Did I hear your mother say you
have a dance studio?

NATALYA
Encore.

CRUISE LADY 56
I thought I recognized you. You
taught my granddaughter Rose.

NATALYA
I've taught three Roses.

CRUISE LADY 56
Rose Savoy. You...

NATALYA

(smiles)
 ...helped her achieve her
 potential.

CRUISE LADY 56

Gave her confidence and helped her
 discover who she was.

NATALYA

That's so wonderful to hear.

Eleanor starts to walk them to the door.

CRUISE LADY 56

If the contest accepts the entry,
 what will you do with the money?

NATALYA

Kyle was the star. Any money should
 go to him.

KYLE

You figured it out. You should keep
 it.

NATALYA

We'll split it then. With my half -
 I'd move my mom here.

CRUISE LADY 56

What about you?

KYLE

My dad is in a memory care facility
 which keeps getting more expensive.

CRUISE LADY 56

(opens the front door)
 Two very worthy causes for two very
 deserving people. I wish you well.

She hugs Natalya first and then she grabs Kyle by the hand.

CRUISE LADY 56 (CONT'D)

My daughter is still single, you
 know.

KYLE

I'm sure she's lovely.
 (glances at Natalya)
 But...

CRUISE LADY 56
That's what I thought.

After they hug, she pats his smooth cheek.

CRUISE LADY 56 (CONT'D)
You look better without the beard.

INT. KYLE'S TRUCK - EVENING

NATALYA
We could go for coffee.

Kyle looks at his watch.

KYLE
This took longer than I thought.
(starts the ignition)
Not much of a first date.

NATALYA
Are you still available Saturday?

KYLE
Let me confirm with Kaylee.

END ACT 12

ENCORE

INT. NATALYA'S TOWNHOME - MORNING

Natalya is sitting on a stool at her bar eating a yogurt parfait when her phone RINGS.

NATALYA

Mama.

MAMA

Good morning dear. How'd your date with Kyle go last night?

NATALYA

He had to cancel this time. His youngest daughter is sick. And the time before my water pipes burst. It just seems like fate is keeping us apart.

MAMA

Fate sometimes hides until determination comes knocking.

Natalya slides her bowl across the countertop toward the sink.

MAMA (CONT'D)

I got a response from the contest. They said there wasn't enough proof to award the money.

NATALYA

Oh no.

(frowns)

Nothing seems to be working out lately.

MAMA

Don't be discouraged.

NATALYA

(collects herself)

I'm sorry but I need to get ready for work. I'll talk to you later. *Ya tebe lyublyu.*

MAMA

I love you too, dear.

INT. SAVOY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER - DAY

Dancers are being directed by a bald man wearing a fedora on stage, as Kyle walks down a dark aisle. He glances at the row letters and seat numbers on the outside of the envelop he's holding then continues. Once he gets to row CC he turns, giving the seats a gentle shake as he goes. He stops when he gets to seats five and six. He gives each of them a firmer shake. Then he gets down on his knees and checks where they attach to the floor.

Natalya opens the door to the arena and then gently allows it to close when she sees dancers practicing on stage. She then checks the row and seats on her envelop before heading down the aisle. When she turns down row CC, Kyle is just standing back up.

NATALYA

What are you doing here?

KYLE

I got a call about welding two loose chairs before a charity event. You?

NATALYA

I got a call about helping start a dance class for children with disabilities.

She looks at the envelope in Kyle's hand and then raises hers.

NATALYA (CONT'D)

I was supposed to meet someone on row CC seats 5 & 6.

KYLE

(raises his envelop)
Me too.

There is a third similar envelop taped to the armrest between the two seats. Natalya sits and then Kyle does beside her. Then she pulls up the third envelop, opens it, and begins reading:

NATALYA

Sadly, there aren't many people in this world who would come on the premise of helping others. Yet, here you are. A kind heart goes a long way in complimenting life's highs and subduing its lows.

(new paragraph)

(MORE)

NATALYA (CONT'D)

When I saw that the contest didn't award the money, I had my lawyers make a call.

(looks at Kyle)

KYLE

Eleanor?

NATALYA

(resumes reading)

Turns out there are copyright laws that protect on-line content and images. While they tend to be vague, the threat of a lawsuit was enough to get the sponsors to take it down. That should ensure Kyle's privacy. Unfortunately, it doesn't help your loved ones.

Kyle clutches her free hand.

NATALYA (CONT'D)

(new paragraph)

I had a courier deliver you the other envelopes. Before you open them though, I want to tell you something about my husband, Franklin. He was also kind-hearted. Always putting others first. We'd talked about going on a cruise for years. But while he was an incredibly successful businessman, compassionate philanthropist, and a loving husband and father who found time to amass a small fortune, build a hospital and park for kids with disabilities, and a library and performing arts theater for the local community; we sadly never found the time to go on that cruise. My one piece of advice to you both - make the time.

Tears have started to stream down Natalya's face.

NATALYA (CONT'D)

(resumes reading)

Back to the envelopes which you can now open.

(MORE)

NATALYA (CONT'D)

As I watched you two try to selflessly give one another all the contest prize money the other day, I figured I'd give you that chance now.

They both hold up a check for \$50,000 made out to the other one. Then they swap.

NATALYA (CONT'D)

(resumes reading)

That should be enough to get mama settled here and relieve some of the burden of caring for Kyle's father. It's truly been my pleasure getting to know you both. Eleanor.

Natalya is about to close the letter when Kyle reaches over grabs it.

KYLE

There's more.

(reads)

P.S. It so happens that I chair the Board for the Performing Arts. I went to several of your recitals, Natalya. You are an amazing dancer. And though it may be presumptuous of me, I arranged for you to meet with our local producer. He'll be the bald man wearing the fedora on stage. Tell him Cruise Lady 56 sent you.

INT. SAVOY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER - EVENING

All the cast is gathered on stage for a closing dance sequence to *Uptown Funk* by Bruno Mars.

THE END