

# Human Error

## Audition Pieces

***JIM and HEATHER's living room. JIM leads KEENAN in, giving the tour.***

**JIM:** Y'see my truck?

**KEENAN:** Out in the —. Yeah, yeah, I saw it.

**JIM:** Nice fucking truck.

**KEENAN:** It's, yeah, shiny.

**JIM:** Yeah I wash it.

**KEENAN:** I can tell.

**JIM:** You saw it, then? It's kinda like a chariot.

**KEENAN**

It is impressive. It's got a big, like a big—front.

**JIM:** Like a chariot.

**KEENAN:** It is a lot like a chariot.

**JIM:** So what do you do, man?

**KEENAN:** I uh, work for a research institute.

**JIM:** Brainy! Cool. Like a think tank?

**KEENAN:** Mmm, not really.

**JIM:** Bummer. I'd like to work at a think tank. Like that would just be your job, just sitting around—.

*JIM looks like he's thinking.*

**KEENAN:** Yeah, that would be—. So. Wow, wow. I love your place.

**JIM:** Well, it's home.

**KEENAN:** It's really great.

**JIM:** Thanks, bro. And this of course is the heart of the place, the most cherished love of my life. Check it out.

**KEENAN:** Oh, wow.

**JIM:** A hundred and fifty-two inches, baby.

**KEENAN:** Jesus.

**JIM:** When you're watching a game the guys on the field are life-sized. The guys in the studio look like Godzilla. It's intense, man. Can't even watch it for more than a few hours or you'll get, like, a tumor.

**KEENAN:** Very impressive. Intimidating. I see why it's the love of your life.

**JIM:** I was just playin', obviously. I've got three other flat-screens, wouldn't want to pick favorites. I'm just playin' again. Obviously. My family's the most important thing to me. Then the flat-screens. No, the truck. It goes family, truck, flat-screens.

**KEENAN:** Makes sense.

**JIM:** I haven't worked out the rest.

**KEENAN:** You don't have to.

**JIM:** Barbecue chicken pizza is gonna be in there somewhere. Anyway, yep: the humble abode. Such as it is.

**KEENAN:** It uh, you guys really like — red.

**JIM:** Ohio State, baby.

**KEENAN:** Ah!

**JIM:** Go Bucks!

**KEENAN:** I see! All right! So did both of you, you and—? Heather? Both go to—?

**JIM:** Naw. We didn't go there.

**KEENAN:** Okay! So but then why—? I don't get — the affinity...?

**JIM:** Ohio State, bro!

**KEENAN:** Okay.

**JIM:** We live in Ohio!

**KEENAN:** You do yeah but...?

**JIM:** Go Bucks!

**HEATHER and MADELYN enter from another part of the house.**

**MADELYN:** So, you like living around here? Such a nice neighborhood.

**HEATHER:** It's such a nice neighborhood.

**MADELYN:** I noticed, all the mailboxes, that's really — neat.

**HEATHER:** Oh, yeah?

**MADELYN:** Gives everything a real — real nice unity, real y'know... lockstep... hegemony and...

**HEATHER:** I just like having the sidewalks, y'know. Everyone's out after school, you know everyone's kids, Halloween is such a hoot, it's just a great little community, y'know.

**MADELYN:** It is, it is, I can tell it is. Kids—. I was actually a little surprised to see you have, had, already—?

**HEATHER:** Oh, yes yes, three boys. Guess we figured: we've got too many, why not more?

**MADELYN:** Yeah, I mean but... this seems awkward, I don't mean to pry...

**HEATHER:** Pry away, sweetie, we are all in this together.

**MADELYN:** I was just wondering, did you do IVF for the boys too, or—?

**HEATHER:** Nope. Old-fashioned way, every time. Sometimes on purpose, sometimes not so much.

**MADELYN:** Then what happened?

**HEATHER:** That's what I said! (laughing) "Uh. Guys. What's the story, 'cause I know this works just fine," y'know? "Hello?"

**MADELYN:** Ha, yeah, but...

**HEATHER:** "Secondary infertility," I guess is what they call it. Always nice to know what you've got has a name, right? Makes you feel less alone, sort of? Anyway, bottom line, we had kids just fine until we couldn't any more.

**MADELYN:** And so then instead of just settling, y'know... being happy with your copious blessings...

**HEATHER:** We said "Give us some more!" Yep! Gimme gimme, gimme, gimme, you got it. I mean, it's pricey — I don't have to tell you that — but trust me that's nothing compared with how much they cost after they come out.

**MADELYN:** So you, I mean, what do you—? Or have you ever—? What am I trying to... career-wise, are you, uh...?

**HEATHER:** Domestic engineer. Yep. CEO of laundry, vacuuming, breakfast, and hockey practice. I mean, it's hard, but I just love it. It's so rewarding.

**MADELYN:** Yeah! Yeah! It sounds like it—. Sure.

**HEATHER:** Have you ever considered, when you're a mom I mean, being a full-time—

**MADELYN:** Oh God no. I'm sorry — I mean: oh God no.

**HEATHER:** Well. It's not for everyone. That's for sure.

***Dr. Hoskins office with Madelyn and Keenan***

**MADELYN:** You implanted my what in who?

**DR. HOSKINS:** Let me back up—

**MADELYN:** No, what? Say it again.

**DR. HOSKINS:** Let me just review—. Make sure... huh.

**KEENAN:** "Huh" — what?

**DR. HOSKINS:** Just making—. Now, you have not already had an implantation, correct?

**MADELYN:** Well, that depends. Is that something you guys would have done to me without my noticing? In my sleep? Or while I was distracted? As like a surprise? Or a prank?

**DR. HOSKINS:** Of course not.

**MADELYN:** THEN NO.

**DR. HOSKINS:** So... huh.

**MADELYN:** Go back to the first thing you said.

**DR. HOSKINS:** I want to make sure I'm not mistaken. See, in preparation for your appointment today, one of the nurses went—. Into the—. And your uh—. Wasn't—.

**KEENAN:** Wasn't what? Wasn't—good? Wasn't viable? What? Wasn't there? (beat)  
Wasn't there?

**DR. HOSKINS:** Look, I...

**KEENAN:** You just, she just what, she opened the drawer and it was, what—missing?

**DR. HOSKINS:** Okay, let me clear up this misunderstanding right now: there is no drawer.

**MADELYN:** There is noooo—?

**DR. HOSKINS:** It's more of a, mmm, a unit.

**KEENAN:** And inside that unit, our embryos, they aren't missing?

**DR. HOSKINS:** Oh, they're missing. But just for clarity's—, there is no drawer.

**MADELYN:** Missing. How could they be missing. You have no idea where they are?

**DR. HOSKINS:** Oh, no. No, no. It looks like we have a pretty good idea where they are. But that brings me back to my original uh—. Technically—and I don't want to get all jargony on you, just stop me if I start getting all jargony and using lots of — jargon—but technically speaking they are in, ah, in—what?—in, what's the word, in—

**MADELYN AND KEENAN:** IN WHAT?

**DR. HOSKINS:** In someone else. Sorry. Somebody else. They are in somebody else.

**MADELYN:** ...what...?

**DR. HOSKINS:** They were implanted, as we'd planned all along, but they were implanted, mistakenly, in somebody who isn't you.

**KEENAN:** When?

**DR. HOSKINS:** Yesterday.

**MADELYN:** Why?

**DR. HOSKINS:** Well, and this might be the funny part, this mistake was made because their last name is somewhat similar to yours.

**MADELYN:** That might be the funny part?

**DR. HOSKINS:** Might. Potentially. By "funny," naturally, I mean uh, uh, uh, "not funny."

**MADELYN:** So just—. Our names...

**DR. HOSKINS:** It occurs to me in fact that if you had taken your husband's last name instead of keeping your maiden name, in fact, this in fact might well not have happened. Just an idle observation...