

MISCHA (8 pages)

SITM #117
Table Draft

"Stuck in The Diaz Of Our Lives"
3/29/15

4.

ACT ONE

6 INT. KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT DAY (D2) 6

Harley stands, speaking to camera.

HARLEY

(to camera)

As an inventor, I make a lot of things to solve problems for my family. Like vacuuming, we all hate it, so I invented something to make it fun.

WIDEN TO REVEAL: next to Harley is a vacuum with gadgets attached, including a camera and music system.

HARLEY (CONT'D)

Say hello to the Pick-Me-Up. Picks up dust...

She hits a button. Music plays. Harley starts to hip-hop dance.

HARLEY (CONT'D)

...And your mood.

(stops abruptly, looks off)

This is awkward, I'm not used to dancing with an audience.

WIDEN FURTHER TO REVEAL: a camera filming Harley. What we thought was a typical Harley "to cam" is actually an interview for "Girl Power." Behind the camera is producer MISCHA, a smooth-talking millennial. KEN is her cameraman lackey. Suzy looks on.

start →

→ MISCHA

You're crushing it. Way smoother than most newbies. Remember little Raina Bloom who sailed solo around the world? She got so nervous on camera, she swallowed her retainer.

HARLEY

I saw that! And she still made it around the Cape of Good Hope.

(launching back in)

Okay, so this thing--

end

The entire family enters the front door.

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SUZY

We really tried to have everyone
out of the house, but you know how
it is...

TOM

Diaz happens.

HARLEY

It always does. And now Mischa and
Ken are outside...

(finger quotes)

"Discussing next steps." That's TV-
speak for...

(finger quotes)

"Nice try, whack jobs, we're out."

SUZY

We don't know that. They got great
footage before Mount Pantry
erupted.

HARLEY

I wanted girls to be inspired by my
invention. There aren't as many
female engineers as there should
be, and this was my chance to show
girls why it's cool!

TOM

So we ruined your segment and set
back the women's movement. Bad
morning, even for us.

Mischa and Ken return.

starts

> MISCHA

Your "Girl Power" segment is a
bust. Finito. Nada.

HARLEY

I'm a loser in many languages. Got
it.

> MISCHA

But we have a different
opportunity. Our biggest show "The
Quincy Quintuplets" was just
cancelled. Big scandal. The
Quints were actually triplets and 2
cousins.

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HARLEY

No wonder two of them kept calling their mom "Aunt Jess."

> MISCHA

Well the timing of this couldn't be better, because we think we just found our new big family. You.

Harley, Suzy and Tom are stunned.

> MISCHA (CONT'D)

We'll call it "The Diaz of Our Lives."

HARLEY

This family? On TV? Where you can rewind and re-watch? Thanks, but no.

> MISCHA

But your family's so real -- that's what people love. Everyone's going to want to be a Diaz.

HARLEY

Really? Because most days I'm not sure I do.

> MISCHA

Harley, "Girl Power" was one shot to show your inventions. Here they'd be featured every episode.

HARLEY

Every episode.

> MISCHA

You could be a girl inventor hero.

HARLEY

I'm definitely a girl. And an inventor. Hero? We'll let the fans decide. We're in.

> SUZY

Sorry, but that's a no.

> MISCHA

Sure, sure, I get it. I just thought the extra cash would come in handy. 7 weddings, 7 college funds, a retirement home in Hawaii.

end
3/8

Stuck In The Middle

14 INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM - LATER (D3)

14

Harley is showing Mischa features of her Pick-Me-Up. She dumps a box of paperclips on the floor.

starts

HARLEY

Hold on to your hat for this part,
because I think we have lightning
in a bottle.

(to vacuum)

Pick-Me-Up, pick 'em up!

The Pick-Me-Up rolls over the paperclips, sucking them up.

HARLEY (CONT'D)

That was all thanks to the positive
displacement of this vacuum pump.

> MISCHA

All this science stuff is fab. But
our audience, they're girls who
want something totes fab.

HARLEY

(big gestures towards machine)
Oh, should I do game show hands?
I'll do game show hands.

> MISCHA

You need to jooj it up. Think,
what do girls like? Hair, nails,
pink. Pink is everything.

HARLEY

You lost me at "jooj."

> MISCHA

It means you've got to glam this
thing up. If you want girls to get
excited about inventing, then you
have to speak their language.

HARLEY

I need to speak jooj.

> MISCHA

You are smart. And do you mind
looping Daphne into your story?

(whispering)

She's not going to be the adorable
breakout we thought.

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DAPHNE
"Jooj"? Did you just swear at me?

HARLEY
No. See, now the Pick-Me-Up is a vacuum cleaner and a makeup caddy. So you can vacuum and have lip gloss handy.

DAPHNE
Why?

HARLEY
Because that's what girls like.

DAPHNE
I'm a girl and I don't like it.

Mischa enters and looks at the vacuum.

start →

> MISCHA
Harley! That is amazing! Girls are going to love the Pretty-Go-Round!

HARLEY
Thanks, I worked really hard and-- wait, what did you just call it?

> MISCHA
Pretty-Go-Round.

HARLEY
But that doesn't say anything about what it's supposed to do.

> MISCHA
According to research, this name tested really highly with girls.

DAPHNE
Who's research?

> MISCHA
6 middle-aged guys in Arizona. But they know what girls like.

HARLEY
I am a scientist. I guess I can't argue with research.

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~~MISCHA~~

Here's the thing though, you've done such a good job with the Pretty-Go-Round it's stealing focus.

DAPHNE

(to Harley)

Nice work, you're being upstaged by something that sucks dirt.

HARLEY

It's also a makeup caddy.

(then, snapping)

You sleep on a dog bed!

DAPHNE

'Least I own it.

~~MISCHA~~

What I'm saying is...

(re: vacuum)

This, doesn't go with...

(re: Harley)

This.

end

21

INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM - LATER (D3)

21

Harley is now ridiculously girly-girl glammed-up (think even girlier Reese Witherspoon in "Legally Blonde"). Daphne pushes a button on the Pretty-Go-Round. Music plays.

DAPHNE

Every dancing monkey needs a song.

END OF ACT TWO

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> MISCHA

You can't quit. "The Diaz of Our Lives" show is going to be gold.

HARLEY

Yeah, but unfortunately our family is signing on to a new show. It's called "We Quit." Wait, let me jooj this up for you, "Love it, love it, love it. Leave."

> MISCHA

Not sure what channel that's on, but you have a 3 year binding contract with us. Sorry.

Harley takes out her laptop.

HARLEY

Okay. Then sit back and enjoy some behind the scenes stuff my Pick-Me-Up recorded.

> MISCHA

Pretty-Go-Round. And what do you mean recorded? It's a vacuum.

HARLEY

That uses a camera guidance system.

Mischa looks nervous. Harley puts her computer on the counter and presses "Play."

33

PICK-ME-UP VIDEO:

33

We see found footage of Mischa talking to Ken, edited from the vacuum's travels through the house.

HARLEY (V.O.)

They thought they had video on us, but it turns out we had a some on them.

POP:

> MISCHA

Yeah it's a reality show but no one has to know this family is fake. We make stuff up to get the ratings.

POP:

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> MISCHA (CONT'D)

Of course those boys aren't a band.
The audience is dumb. They won't
know.

POP:

> MISCHA (CONT'D)

Harley's invention? Bor-ing. Girl
Power? Yawn. I'm joojing it all.
This isn't a reality show, it's a
way to sell hair products.

POP:

> MISCHA (CONT'D)

Of course I knew the "Quincy
Quints" weren't real. Who do you
think made them up?

34 INT. KITCHEN - BACK TO PRESENT (D3)

34

Mischa is dumbstruck.

HARLEY

Good show, right? When I post it,
it's going to be gold.

> MISCHA

You know, I don't think "Diaz of
Our Lives" is going to work out.

HARLEY

Oh, one last thing -- I still want
my segment on "Girl Power." With
my original invention.

> MISCHA

Fine.

(to Ken, as she exits)

Why did I ever decide to do a show
with smart girls?

(calling off)

Ken, turn off that camera.

HARLEY

Please don't talk to Ken.

As Harley watches them walk out.

end

8/8

Stuck in the Middle