

1/10/17

NETWORK POLISH

"Martin"

CONTINUED:

Start
S.1

LENA

The divorce will give this thing some structure. We're going to switch off, every other week. The on-duty parent will live upstairs, taking care of the kids--

TIME CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT -- ANOTHER DAY

Martin shows off the arrangement to Arthur, who sits on the couch looking worried. Divorce is his worst nightmare.

MARTIN

-- while the off-duty parent lives down here in the basement, doing whatever he or she pleases.

(offering examples)

You wanna leave your butter on the counter? Cook some chicken a little past its expiration date?

ARTHUR

I see, so the upside to divorce is just a lot of latitude with perishables?

(then)

Can you turn that thing off? It's kind of hard to talk over it.

Arthur points at the DEHUMIDIFIER running loudly in the corner. Martin cringes.

MARTIN

Lena insists I run it 24-7. When it's turned off, it gets damp. And when it gets damp, the centipedes come.

ARTHUR

"The centipedes come?"

MARTIN

But hey, you know what? I don't have to follow her orders anymore.

(shuts off machine)

(MORE)

"Splitting up Together"

(CONTINUED)

1/12

CONTINUED:

MARTIN (CONT'D)

That's the whole point of getting divorced-- isn't it?

ARTHUR

I have no idea, I've never been divorced and if Camille ever left me I'd probably kill myself.

MARTIN

Well, not I! I am looking forward to reacquainting myself with my own "inner voice."

Martin nods at the PARENTING CONTRACT tacked to the wall.

MARTIN

I've had Lena's voice in my head for so long, I'm not sure I even remember what my inner voice sounds like.

ARTHUR

(confused)

Doesn't it just sound like your regular voice? But more echo-y since it's coming from the inside?

Martin pauses thoughtfully, listening to his.

MARTIN

Weird. Mine actually sounds like he's from Trinidad.

A beat. Then, quietly:

ARTHUR

(Trinidadian accent)

Aaaay mon. Me think you chrew in de towel too early, mon--

Martin shakes his head no. Arthur shrugs. Worth a try.

INT. KITCHEN -- NEXT MORNING

Lena, with a fresh haircut and color, hustles around the kitchen plating breakfast, packing lunch and serving coffee to her sister Maya who's at the counter watching.

MAYA

New hair?

Lena smiles.

(CONTINUED)

2/12

EXT. BASEMENT APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS

1/10/17 LENA'S HAND KNOCKS BRISKLY on the door of the basement apartment. A damp-looking Martin opens. 13.

Start
S.2 →

LENA
Oh my god, Martin! Did you turn off the dehumidifier?

MARTIN
(calmly)
That's correct.

LENA
It feels like Jacksonville in here--

MARTIN
To me it's more like Orlando and I don't mind it.

LENA
You could literally be growing mushrooms in the carpet--

MARTIN
Neat idea for a side-business, thanks.

LENA
Oh, I doubt you'll prosper. The centipedes will eat your crops.

MARTIN
Really. I have to say, I think you exaggerated the whole centipede issue. Dehumidifier's been off since last night and I haven't seen any.

A GIANT CENTIPEDE scurries up the wall behind Martin. Lena clocks it.

LENA
I see. Well, I didn't come down here to talk to you about... agriculture. I wanted to express my concern about the food issues with the kids.

MARTIN
What food issues?

LENA
Mae is out there *caucusing* and starving herself to buy feminist earthenware and Milo is eating takeout every day?

3/12

CONTINUED: (2)

MARTIN

Okay, look. I know you take great pride in hand-squashing every squash but I'm not a good cook. I'd rather enjoy my time with the kids and not spend it... ruining food.

LENA

Do I get a say?

MARTIN

Well, no. See, according to the agreement that you made me sign and notarize, the on-duty parent deals with all childcare decisions and responsibilities. So I may not be dealing with it to your liking but I am dealing with it, so just deal. With it.

(then)

I'm not asking for your help and don't you come asking for mine.

Lena smirks.

LENA

That's... funny. That's borderline hilarious, actually. I wasn't asking for your *help*. In case you forgot, I'm pretty self-sufficient up there.

MARTIN

As am I.
(then)
Twinsies.

Lena narrows her eyes at Martin.

LENA

You wish.

Off their locked eyes it's the END OF ACT ONE.

End

4/12

EXT. HOUSE -- DAY

Martin and Arthur, stand amidst a pile of wood, tools and construction materials.

MARTIN

The sooner we make the repairs,
the sooner we can list the house.

Arthur nods. Using the back of his hammer, Martin pries a piece off the window frame. He shows it to Arthur.

MARTIN

See this? This is a perfect metaphor for my marriage. From the outside, looks great. Pristine even. But right under the surface? Rotten.

Arthur looks.

ARTHUR

In my experience, a lot of things can cause that kind of corrosion. Termites, water damage, not dancing with your wife at your wedding...

MARTIN

What was that?

Arthur takes off his work gloves and tosses them.

ARTHUR

Okay, look. I married a woman way out of my league and I know that. But if Camille ever tried to leave me, I'd go kicking and screaming whereas you-- I know you're trying to make peace with it Martin, but it seems like you just wanna blame everything on Lena when--

MARTIN

(laughs)

I didn't dance with her at our wedding?! That's what you think our problem was?

ARTHUR

Kind of! Camille says she felt rejected by you. And hurt. On her wedding day.

Start
S. 33

5/12

CONTINUED:

MARTIN

That's ridiculous! Lena knows I don't dance. In fact, as I recall, we discussed it and she said she didn't care.

ARTHUR

Well, she did care. She told Camille she thought you were going to surprise her. But you didn't. So you might wanna try looking at things from all sides, because this place right here?

End

Arthur grabs his SANDER and roughly sands off the rotten part of the wood before tossing it back to Martin.

ARTHUR

This can actually be salvaged.

INT. BASEMENT APARTMENT -- MOMENTS LATER

Martin sits solemnly, with a DVD remote in hand. He points the remote at a SMALL TV and REWINDS, watching the moment in question again and again. ON TV-- Martin and Lena's WEDDING VIDEO plays. The happy couple enters their reception to CHEERS. Lena tries to pull Martin onto the dance floor for a first dance, as husband and wife. Martin shakes Lena off, refusing. Lena looks crestfallen until Henry steps in, sweeping his daughter onto the dance floor. Martin hates himself as he watches Henry dance with Lena. It should have been him. With his eyes still glued to the screen, Martin takes out his phone and dials.

MARTIN

(into the phone)

Sorry I didn't dance with your daughter at our wedding.

(then)

I'm serious, I don't know what was wrong with me. You shouldn't have had to step in.

Martin clocks several CENTIPEDES scurrying up the wall.

MARTIN

And she was right about the dehumidifier, too. And she's probably right about the takeout. Milo's gonna be the only first-grader with high cholesterol.

(MORE)

6/12
(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

~~LENA
(calls after)
I mean, you did linger a moment
longer...~~

EXT. BASEMENT APARTMENT -- AT THAT MOMENT

Charlotte approaches and knocks on Martin's door. He answers instantly, startling her.

Start
S.4 →

MARTIN

Hi.

CHARLOTTE

Hi.

MARTIN

I wasn't sure if you were going to come back.

CHARLOTTE

(smiles)

You paid me to.

INT. BASEMENT APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS

Martin ushers Charlotte into the cramped basement apartment.

MARTIN

Can I take your coat?

CHARLOTTE

Thanks.

MARTIN

I'll put on some music.

Martin does. Charlotte smiles and assumes the position, stretching her arms out. Only in this moment does it become clear: Charlotte is Martin's dance teacher. Martin takes her in his arms and they begin to dance.

CHARLOTTE

That's fine. And we're just swaying. Just like last time. We're not doing much, just letting our bodies move in time to the music.

7/12
(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARTIN

(tattling)

My feet aren't moving. Only my torso is.

CHARLOTTE

Okay, well, you can change that. Even if you just shift your weight from one foot to the other--

MARTIN

Sorry, I'm really bad--

Charlotte smiles at Martin, a little smitten.

CHARLOTTE

I happen to think you're pretty great. And in a month or two? You'll be ready to sweep some lucky lady off her feet.

Emboldened, Martin DIPS Charlotte-- then loses his footing. They spin then fall to the ground, tangled together, with Charlotte on top.

MARTIN

(wincing)

I broke your fall.

CHARLOTTE

(breathless)

Thanks.

End

INT. DINING ROOM -- NIGHT

Lena, Mae, Milo and Mason eat TAKE-OUT at the dining table.

LENA

Okay, that was actually awesome. And I felt like I got to really sit-down for once and enjoy dinner with you guys. Thank you, Milo.

MILO

Hey. I'm just glad I put a nourishing meal on the table.

MASON

Mom? Can I get a bikini poster of Kate Upton for my room?

8/12

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MAE

How about telling him he shouldn't wank off in the room he shares with his little brother!

Off Lena's overwhelmed expression we CUT TO--

EXT. HOUSE -- LATER THAT NIGHT

Martin, hauls his luggage and groceries for the week, up the stairs to the main house.

INT. KITCHEN -- A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Martin enters the kitchen through the back door.

MARTIN

(calling)

Hellllo? Kids? Lena?

LENA (O.S.)

In the pantry.

INT. PANTRY -- CONTINUOUS

Martin steps into the pantry to discover that Lena has decorated it. There's dim lighting, carefully curated images, and a bottle of hypo-allergenic hand cream.

MARTIN

What's all this?

LENA

I don't know. "Masturbation nook?"

MARTIN

What?

LENA

(sighs)

Okay, well, Mason, was having some ball pain, so I took him to a specialist and, apparently, he needs to wank off.

MARTIN

Why didn't you involve me?

Start
S.5 →

9/12
(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LENA

You mean like you involved me,
when you gave our seven year-old a
cell phone? Besides, you just
told me not to ask for your help--

MARTIN

You said you didn't need my help--

LENA

Well, maybe I was wrong!

A beat. Martin looks around.

MARTIN

This is really creepy.

LENA

(miserably)

I know. But some family members
thought it would be weird for him
to do it in the room he shares
with Milo.

MARTIN

Nothing's weirder than doing it in
a pantry that your mom decorated.

LENA

The doctor said I should
facilitate--

MARTIN

No. That's-- that's just bad
advice. Mason will figure out
where to do it on his own. We all
do.

(then, squinting)

Is that Ruth Bader Ginsberg?

LENA

(ashamed)

Yeah.

Martin picks up the hand cream.

MARTIN

I really don't think she'd
appreciate this.

LENA

I was just trying to think of a
strong, capable--

10/12

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MARTIN

(thinks)
Wonder Woman.

(then, pitching)
She's from a matriarchal society,
she doesn't just lounge around in
a bikini all day, she kicks ass in
it, defending her country--

LENA

Bitch owns her own plane--

MARTIN

And she can't be objectified,
because she isn't real.

LENA

Totally! Good idea, Martin. And
thank you for the insight. I was
in over my head on this one.

MARTIN

See? I knew I had a contribution
to make to this family.

Lena looks at the ground.

LENA

Yeah. Sorry if I make you feel
like that.

MARTIN

Yeah, well. I'm sorry for a lot
of things too. I guess we both
made mistakes.

LENA

At least you're in great shape.

Martin looks at Lena seriously.

MARTIN

I am in great shape.

Lena laughs. Martin starts to EXIT.

LENA

Hey so, I know I'm the one who
wrote up the whole parenting
contract and I know you have your
own life, down there, but I just
want to clarify: is it okay if I
need you? Occasionally?11/12
(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Martin looks at the ground.

MARTIN
(then, quietly)
I literally waited our whole
marriage to hear you say that.

They share a moment. Lena's phone buzzes with a text
that reads: "How's my patient?" ON LENA-- as she
realizes it's Dr. Kasper. *Texting her on a Friday night.*

LENA
(modest smile)
Guess it's my turn to run.

Martin arches an eyebrow at Lena's phone.

MARTIN
Ahh. Well. Good night then.

LENA
Good night.

End

A beat and then... they HIGH-FIVE. Somehow, it's a bit
more poignant this time. Closer to a real connection but
a million miles away from a good night kiss.

END OF ACT THREE

12/12
(CONTINUED)