

GRINDRS KEEPERS

by

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. DUTCH COLONIAL - THANKSGIVING MORNING

A hearty EAST COAST FAMILY is gathered for the holiday in a traditional home filled with religious paraphernalia.

Everyone is having a good time, except...

RALPH (30, neurotic, charming...either of John Ritter's sons) anxiously sips wine from a mug. He realizes it says "MAGA 2016." He grimaces, chugs the wine, and heads into the fray:

QUICK CUT: Ralph sits next to his GRANDMA on the couch.

GRANDMA

Ralphy, when are you going to make me a great grandmother?

RALPH

As soon as penises make eggs, grandma.

QUICK CUT: Ralph leans against the counter with his SISTER.

SISTER

Whatever happened to Drew? I always thought you two'd get gay married.

RALPH

It's just called married. And what happened was, he cheated, destroyed my soul, and ruined me forever.
(chugs wine) Why aren't mugs bigger?

QUICK CUT: Ralph rocks on the porch with his UNCLE.

UNCLE

You know, if you're single in your thirties, people start to wonder.

RALPH

I'm gonna go baste something!

INT. KITCHEN - SHORT TIME LATER

Ralph and the family are seated at the dining table.

MOM

Sweetie, you're telling me there isn't one girl in the city you like? What about Tara? You'd make such a cute couple.

RALPH

What? No. She's my best friend. Are you really gonna make me come out every Thanksgiving?

DAD

Let's not talk about this today.

RALPH

She brought it up.

MOM

You are not gay. You just haven't met the right girl. That's all.

RALPH

Mom, it's been ten years. Ten. Why can't you guys just accept it?

SISTER

Why can't you just be normal? Ashley Chermack's brother is totally gay. And he has a wife and three kids. Suck it up.

RALPH

Wow.

MOM

Both of you stop. Ralph, is this why you came today? To ruin everyone's holiday?

RALPH

I came because I wanted this time to be different. I love you guys no matter what. Can't you do the same for me?

No one acknowledges him. He puts down his napkin and stands.

RALPH

Never mind. See you at Christmas.

Ralph kisses his Grandma on the head and exits. He re-enters, grabs a bottle of wine, and exits. He re-re-enters.

RALPH

The stuffing is really good this year, and I'm not gonna let you guys ruin that for me.

He grabs the bowl of stuffing and exits for the final time.

INT. RALPH'S BUSHWICK APARTMENT - EARLY EVENING

Ralph is on his couch eating stuffing from the bowl. He chases it with a swig from the stolen wine bottle. He then pulls out some turkey slices from a noisy, little deli bag and shoves them into his mouth.

His phone buzzes with a Facetime. It's his best friend TARA (30s, America Ferrera in any role). He answers it.

TARA (FACETIME)

Hi, hi. I got your texts. I'm sorry I couldn't be there to save you from your horrible holiday.

RALPH

It's okay. Doctors Without Borders is more important.

TARA (FACETIME)

I just don't get why your family can't accept you. It's been years.

RALPH

I know. Even Dick Cheney accepted his lesbian daughter, and she's, like, a Don Draper level of butch.

TARA (FACETIME)

Your parents are usually so level headed.

RALPH

When I first came out, my dad ran to church to pray for my soul, and my mom just kept screaming "AIDS!"

TARA

I said "usually." It's officially Christmas Season, why don't you put on The Family Stone? That always makes you feel better.

RALPH

Way ahead of you.

We see that Ralph is watching The Family Stone.

ONSCREEN: The horrific dinner fight scene where Diane Keaton and Craig T. Nelson yell at Sarah Jessica Parker for calling their gay son "abnormal."

RALPH (CONT'D)

They just yelled at Sarah Jessica Parker. This is my favorite part.

ONSCREEN: Diane Keaton speaks/signs to her deaf, gay son.

Ralph mouths the words:

DIANE KEATON (ONSCREEN)

You. I love you. And you are more normal than any other asshole sitting at this table. Okay?

RALPH

Watching Diane Keaton be a mom is like watching mom porn.

TARA (FACETIME)

I think Mom Porn is something different.

Ralph's phone dings with a "boing" sound effect.

TARA (FACETIME) (CONT'D)

Are you on Grindr right now? Stop. You know how I feel about that.

RALPH

It's totally safe. The Grindr murder rate is practically nonexistent. There hasn't even been a Dateline about it yet.

TARA (FACETIME)

Ever since Drew cheated on you, you've been glued to that app.

RALPH

It makes me feel sexy and desired. Like a hot deal on Black Friday. Also, this guy is cute. I call him Moby Dick because he kind of looks like Moby and he's got a huge--

TARA (FACETIME)

Ew.

RALPH

Well he does. He wants to meet tonight. Should I?

TARA (FACETIME)
Absolutely not. You had an emotional day, and you've been eating turkey out of a bag.

RALPH
You're right. I'll just stay home. Who can have sex with all that tryptophan anyway?

A beat.

TARA (FACETIME)
You're gonna go aren't you?

RALPH
Yeah, I'm gonna go.

INT. PLAZA HOTEL HALLWAY - LATER THAT NIGHT

Ralph holds a wine bottle in each hand. The door swings open to reveal MOBY DICK (Let's get Moby! What else is he doing?)

RALPH
Gobble, gobble!

INT. PLAZA HOTEL SUITE BEDROOM - LATER

Sexed out, Ralph and Moby hit the bed with a thud.

RALPH
Whew. Thanks for having me over. I really needed to be with someone tonight. Holidays alone. Blech.

MOBY DICK
I didn't want to be alone tonight either.

Moby walks over to the table and pours a glass of wine.

RALPH
Pour yourself one too. I spared no expense at the five cent sale.

MOBY DICK
Oh thank you, I don't drink.

RALPH
You know, I think I've always had a thing for older guys. Like Meggie in *The Thorn Birds*. God, my mom made me watch that movie a million times growing up.

Unnoticed by Ralph, Moby stops on his way back and winces.

RALPH (CONT'D)
I'm actually named after that
movie. Richard Chamberlain's
character, Ralph De Bricassart. And
my Mom wonders why I'm gay.

Moby reaches for his left arm.

RALPH (CONT'D)
And now here I am going from Thorn
Birds to Fifty Shades.

Ralph finally looks up at Moby, clutching at his arm.

RALPH (CONT'D)
Oh my god! Are you okay? (then,
sexily) Wait, are we roleplaying?

Moby falls to the ground with a THUD. The wine glass breaks.

RALPH (CONT'D)
Help!

TITLE CARD: GRINDRS KEEPERS

FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. AMBULANCE - A SHORT TIME LATER

Wrapped in a bedsheet, Ralph sits close to Moby who is laid out on a stretcher. An EMT tends to him.

RALPH

Is he okay? (to Moby) Oh my god.
Moby, can you hear me?

EMT

His ID says Marcus Banks.

RALPH

(caught) I call him Moby. But you should call him Marcus. Especially if you think he's approaching a white light or something and calling him by his real name will bring him back?

The EMT stares at him.

RALPH (CONT'D)

I don't know. I have a lot of Catholic guilt.

INT. MOUNT SINAI PATIENT ROOM - A SHORT TIME LATER

Ralph stands over an unconscious Marcus.

RALPH

Hi. It's me. (then) This is crazy, I hardly know you. I should go. But I can't leave you here alone. You know, I watch my soaps and I'm like "Why are you talking to that person in a coma?! They can't hear you, you big dumb idiot!" But it's oddly comforting.

Ralph touches Marcus's hand.

RALPH (CONT'D)

Even though I had my private parts in your mouth two hours ago, touching your hand feels very intimate. (beat) It's been a really tough year for me. Between being rejected by my parents and the love of my life, Drew--

YOUNG DOCTOR (O.S.)

Ralph?

Ralph turns to see a YOUNG DOCTOR at the door. Ralph cringes then steels himself.

RALPH

Drew! Hi!

DREW

Ralph! Holy crap.

RALPH

You work here!

DREW

Yeah, didn't you see? On Facebook?

RALPH

No, I unfollowed you. No offense. Painful memories and all.

DREW

Oh, so I guess you didn't see that Xander and I got engaged.

Ralph is shook once again. It's a bad day for Ralph.

RALPH

Wow! No. I did not know that. Xander. Wow. I remember when he went by Alex and was my spin instructor. And also, I dunno, my friend! But wow! Engaged.

DREW

I'm sorry. You know how badly I felt about--

RALPH

Cheating on me? Totally over it. Totally cool. Cool as a cuke. I'm happy for you. Congrats. I'm, um, actually engaged too. So.

DREW

What! So I guess everything worked out.

RALPH

Yes. Agreed.

DREW

This must be your fiancé then.

RALPH

Well, no.

DREW

His chart says he was having sexual intercourse during the event.

RALPH

Yes. (clears throat) Yes. It's him. We're engaged. We're... fiancé. I was just thrown 'cuz we don't use labels. We're very evolved. Very fluid. Very now. How is he? My fiancé.

DREW

We're doing everything we can for him. We should know more soon.

RALPH

Good. That's good.

DREW

I better finish my rounds. But I'm really glad I got to see you.

Drew smiles and exits. Ralph jumps realizing he is still holding Marcus's hand. Sketched out, he lets it go.

INT. MOUNT SINAI PATIENT ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Ralph looks through the window of the hospital room door into the hall. He Facetimes Tara who answers, half-asleep.

TARA (FACETIME)

Ralph, do you know how hard it is to fall asleep in the jungle?

RALPH

We share a rewards account. I know you're at a Marriott.

TARA (FACETIME)

Yeah, okay, but it's in a jungle.

RALPH

I have a major emergency. I met up with Moby Dick--

TARA (FACETIME)

Oh, I meant to text you! Did you know that Moby's great-great-great-grand uncle was Herman Melville?! It's on wikipedia. Isn't that wild?

RALPH

Yeah. Well, my Moby is actually Marcus. Anyway, we made love, and--

TARA (FACETIME)

Made love?

RALPH

Oh my god. The interrupting. The questions. Am I on the third hour of Today?

TARA

Sorry, go.

RALPH

So, we *made love*-- then he had a stroke or a heart attack. After fifteen seasons of Greys and ten years of being friends with you, I'm still not really clear on the difference.

TARA (FACETIME)

Is he okay?

RALPH

I don't know. We're at Mount Sinai now. And guess who I ran into?

TARA (FACETIME)

Drew.

RALPH

How'd you know?

TARA (FACETIME)

We have a med school Facebook group and he posts, like, every day. I swear, no one respects HIPA anymore. So, what happened?

RALPH

Oh ya know, he told me *he* was engaged. I told him *I* was engaged. Just normal conversation stuff.

TARA (FACETIME)

What?! Engaged to whom?

RALPH

To Marcus.

TARA (FACETIME)

You didn't!

RALPH

What was I supposed to do? I couldn't let Drew win the breakup. I mean, Alex goes by Xander now. My name literally means throw up.

TARA (FACETIME)

Why are you still there?

RALPH

At first, I couldn't leave this poor guy alone in a hospital. And now I'm trapped. I'll duck out as soon as I can, but Drew can't see me leave my fiancé's side.

TARA (FACETIME)

You realize he isn't really your fiancé right?

RALPH

Yes, I know that!

INT. MOUNT SINAI PATIENT ROOM - LATER

Ralph peeks out the door, waiting for the coast to clear when he sees something alarming and panics.

RALPH

Oh god, oh god...

He hides in the bathroom just as the door opens and a well-coiffed FAMILY pushes their way through: MARGO and CHARLES (70s), GRACE (22), TOPHER (17). They enter with Drew.

MARGO

My baby.

GRACE

Dad!

The kids approach Marcus's bed as Drew briefs them:

DREW

He's stable now. And we're running tests to see how severe this was.

Charles puts his hand on Margo's shoulder.

CHARLES

When will he wake up?

DREW

We'll know more after the tests.
It's rare that a heart attack
leaves a patient in a comatose
state, but it does happen. He's in
good hands, I assure you.

TOPHER

Can he hear us?

DREW

Hearing your voices can be good.

MARGO

(to Topher) Help me cover your
father. He looks so cold.

Topher helps Margo pull the covers over Marcus. The family
surrounds her.

IN THE BACKGROUND, we see Ralph sneak out of the bathroom and
quickly head for the door throughout:

MARGO (CONT'D)

We should have flown in last night.
He wouldn't have been alone.

DREW

He wasn't alone. Ralph has been
with him the whole time.

MARGO

Who?

DREW

Ralph. Marcus's fiancé.

Ralph is inches from the open door, and freedom, when:

DREW (CONT'D)

(gesturing) He's right there.

Ralph stops. So, so close. He turns slowly. All eyes on Ralph.

RALPH

Hiiii...I'm Ralph. (then, brightly)
You must be the Bankses.

TOPHER

Fiancé? But you're a dude.

RALPH

Yes.

GRACE

Wait, Dad's gay?

RALPH

Oh, you didn't know that?

CHARLES

That doesn't make any sense. Marcus would never lie to us.

Ralph looks to Drew for something. Anything.

DREW

I should really go check on my other patients.

Drew mouths "sorry," and backs out of the room. Leaving Ralph on his own. Ralph takes a deep breath, then:

RALPH

I'm so sorry you had to find out this way. I didn't know you didn't know. This can be hard on a family. My family still has a hard time with it. Again, I'm so sorry. About the gay thing. And the heart attack thing. Or was it a stroke? I'm sorry I don't know the difference. I'm just...sorry.

Margo approaches him. Ralph winces, waiting for an attack.

RALPH (CONT'D)

Oh god, oh god, oh god.

Margo pulls him into a loving embrace. Ralph brings his arms up and hugs her back, as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. MOUNT SINAI PATIENT ROOM - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

Ralph stands at Marcus's bedside near Margo and Grace as Charles sits on the couch next to Topher.

RALPH

You guys don't have to accept this gay stuff, like, right away on my behalf. Take a minute.

MARGO

For what?

RALPH

I dunno, to be upset? To mourn the straight dreams you had for him? To scream "AIDS" and run to a church?!

CHARLES

Who would ever do that?

MARGO

That's awful. He's our son.

RALPH

Yes. It is awful. (pulling up phone) Can I record you saying that to make someone feel like a horrible mother?

MARGO

We're shocked, sure. But we love him no matter what.

GRACE

The only thing I'm upset about is that Dad felt like he had to keep this from us.

TOPHER

Yeah, like, it's 2018. Let your freak flag fly, Dad.

RALPH

Wow. I've only seen coming out like this on Youtube videos that I watch alone in the dark in the middle of the night. Usually sobbing. I didn't think they really happened.

MARGO

What's the matter, dear? Your family doesn't feel the same way?

Ralph bursts into hysterical laughter.

RALPH

Oh, that was a real question? No, not even close. They're conservative. Also Catholic. Also crazy.

Margo puts her arm around Ralph.

MARGO

Well, we're so glad you're here.

CHARLES

And that you were there with Marcus when this happened.

RALPH

I just called 911 is all. Anyone could have done it.

CHARLES

You saved his life, son.

Ralph smiles, truly touched. Margo hugs Ralph tighter. Grace looks around the room, disgusted.

GRACE

Dad would hate this place. The lighting. The curtains. Those paintings. He would re-deco this place so hard.

TOPHER

Yeah. Wow, all the clues were there, we just weren't looking. When can we take him home? This place smells like death and urine.

Charles puts a hand on Topher's shoulder.

CHARLES

I'm sure it'll be soon, Toph--

RALPH

I dunno, I've seen a lot of coma storylines on DOOL-- (blank stares) Days Of Our Lives. And these can last seasons. Best ones usually do.

Ralph realizes what he said.

RALPH (CONT'D)

But I've always been more of a Young and the Restless fan myself. Speaking of restless, I'm gonna take all this adrenaline and hit the gift shop. For my fiancé. Whom I am engaged to. Who wants Nutter Butters?

INT. MOUNT SINAI GIFT SHOP - LATER

Ralph Facetimes with Tara as he combs through the gift shop.

TARA (FACETIME)

Are you insane? You got out and now are willingly going back in?! This is like when Rihanna got back with Chris Brown.

RALPH

Don't judge her. We all saw that dick pic. (holding up candle) What do you think of this one?

TARA (FACETIME)

That's a three wick. I'd go with a one wick. Hospitals are very flammable. Ugh, Ralph, you're lying to these poor people.

RALPH

I know, but they like having me there. They feel closer to Marcus when I'm around. And the mom gives the best hugs. I can still smell her on me. Mmmm.

TARA

You're a freak. You know this won't end well. This is real life - not Gay While You Were Sleeping.

RALPH

What am I supposed to do? Just never go back and have Drew find out I abandoned my fiancé?

TARA (FACETIME)

Okay, you've lost it. You're believing your own lie. Oh my god, you're Casey Anthony-ing yourself.

RALPH

I totally am. His prognosis isn't good. He isn't long for this world. Just let me live out my Diane Keaton fantasy for a few days. I can be their surrogate son. They can be my surrogate family. Everybody wins--

Ralph notices a WOMAN in sunglasses staring at him.

RALPH

(thru pursed lips)
Zum waa-men is luken at me.

TARA (FACETIME)

Are you having a stroke? Put your arms in the air and try to smile.

Ralph flips the camera so Tara can see the woman. The woman takes her magazine and exits the gift shop.

RALPH

This hospital is full of weirdos.

Ralph holds up two candles.

RALPH (CONT'D)

What's more coma-y, Frozen or Coco? Frozen, right? Or is that too on the nose?

INT. MOUNT SINAI PATIENT ROOM - LATER

Ralph enters carrying Disney candles and bottles of lotion. Margo, Charles, Grace and Topher are where we left them.

RALPH

Okay, they had a lot of Frozen-themed candles, which, in theory, feels wrong, but also felt so, so right. And I got these scented lotions to help with the death and urine smell.

Margo rushes over to Ralph.

MARGO

Oh, Ralph, I'm glad you're back. There's something you should know.

RALPH

Marcus hates Frozen? Of course! Brain fart. I'll exchange them.

MARGO
It's about Dory.

RALPH
I didn't see a candle for Finding
Dory, but I can double check.

Just then, there's a FLUSH from the bathroom and out walks
the woman from the gift shop. DORY (Catherine O'Hara at 45).

DORY
She's talking about me.

RALPH
...Hi?

DORY
You must be my husband's fiancé.

RALPH
(caught) Oh. Yes. Dory. I've heard
so much about you.

Ralph steps toward her for a cordial hug. Dory moves away.

RALPH
Not a hugger. I've heard that.

DORY
Nice to meet you...Ralph, is it?
Forgive me if it's slipped my mind.
I only just heard about you for the
first time thirty seconds ago.

Ralph is fighting a very strong urge to run.

CHARLES
Don't mind Dory.

RALPH
If this is a bad time, I can go.
Really. Not a problem.

DORY
No, no, I must get to know the man
who is marrying my husband.

MARGO
Ex-husband.

DORY
You never forget that detail do
you, Margo?

MARGO

I'm going to pop out and find Charles and the kids. Ralph, I'll be close if you need me.

They hug. Dory clocks this. She's annoyed. Margo exits.

DORY

Why don't you tell me what's really going on here.

RALPH

I know you're upset. It's a lot to take in. You didn't know he was gay-

DORY

Oh I knew.

RALPH

What? You knew?

DORY

Of course. Marcus and I are best friends. We speak everyday. And none of this texting and meme-ing that you young people do. We speak on the phone. For hours. I know everything about him. But nothing about you.

RALPH

Maybe he didn't want to tell you to avoid awkwardness. Like this.
(beat) I really should be going though, I have stuff...to do.

DORY

That's what I thought.

Ralph quickly exits.

INT. MOUNT SINAI HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

As Ralph heads out, he runs into Drew.

DREW

Hey! I'm really sorry I outed you back there. I just assumed they knew.

RALPH

It's really not your fault. And coming out to his family was surprisingly easier than coming out to mine.

DREW

Yeah, you seem happy. Despite everything. Don't take this the wrong way, but you're like a completely different person.

RALPH

Thank you.

DREW

The Ralph I knew never left the couch, and would eat deli meat straight from one of those sad deli bags.

RALPH

When someone says "thank you," you really don't need to continue talking.

DREW

I'm serious. When we were together, you never wanted to meet my parents, you never wanted me to meet yours, and here you are, being the rock for your family-in-law. It's very attractive-- I mean, not attractive. It's nice. Just nice.

RALPH

I know. I never really thought much about family since mine's so terrible to me, but it feels great.

DREW

Are you and Marcus thinking about having one? Do you want to have a family now?

RALPH

I think I might.

Drew touches Ralph's face.

DREW

Where was this guy when we were dating?

Ralph smiles. He then sees Dory staring at them from Marc's hospital room. Ralph withdraws.

RALPH

I really have to go. Your hands have zero calluses by the way. That year subscription to Birch Box I got you is working!

INT. RALPH'S BUSHWICK APARTMENT - EARLY MORNING

Ralph FaceTimes with Tara on his computer.

TARA (FACETIME)

Weird.

RALPH

Very weird.

TARA (FACETIME)

Was he pulling your face toward his face? Like he wanted to kiss?

RALPH

I have no idea what his end goal was.

TARA (FACETIME)

And how does Alex fit into all this?

RALPH

Xander.

TARA (FACETIME)

Right. Ew.

RALPH

They're still engaged as far as I know. But Drew was really staring into my soul with those beautiful blue eyes.

TARA (FACETIME)

Stop.

RALPH

I know. You're right. That Dory woman scared the shit out of me. She was not won over by natural charm.

Ralph gets an incoming call. Ralph checks it.

RALPH

I have to go. My Mom's calling again. Love you.

TARA (FACETIME)

Smooches.

Ralph answers and we INTERCUT WITH:

MOM

Ralphy, there you are. I thought you were dead.

RALPH

It's 7 AM.

MOM

Kids die at all hours.

RALPH

Is this about Thanksgiving? Are you calling to apologize?

MOM

Oh, sweetie, come on. Let's not talk about that.

RALPH

Okay...what's up?

MOM

Well, Noreen's girl, Kym, just moved to the city. She doesn't know anyone. I told her you'd meet up with her.

RALPH

Ugh, what? Mom, I have a lot going on right now.

MOM

It won't take long. Give her some tips. Where the kids are going, where they're not going. And tell her not to eat that street meat or walk around barefoot in case there's tapeworm. Stuff like that.

RALPH

I have a lot to do today. I might see Drew.

MOM

Oh, Ralph. I don't want to talk about that right now. Will you do this for me and your father? It would really mean a lot. Maybe I can invite them to Christmas. We can all have a nice holiday together.

Ralph is touched by the notion.

RALPH

Sure. I think we're Facebook friends. I'll set something up.

MOM

Thank you, sweetie.

RALPH

Love you.

EXT. THE ROOKERY BAR - DAY

KYM (20s, first time in the city, cute dress) sits across from Ralph, wearing comfortable sweats. They drink coffees.

KYM

So do you like living in New York?

RALPH

Technically, I live in Bushwick, which no one considers part of New York. Or part of anything, really.

KYM

Oh, okay.

Kym looks away, struggling.

RALPH

I'm sorry, I'm just going through a lot right now. I know you're new to the city and my mom promised I would help you get adjusted, but I--

KYM

Your mom told me you were having trouble meeting women and that maybe we would hit it off.

RALPH

Wait, what?

KYM

She didn't tell you? I'm looking for a mans.

RALPH

I can't believe she said that. Actually, I can. Kym, you're great. But I am gay. Very gay.

She looks down at his sweats. She judges.

RALPH

Excuse me, these are joggers. They're very "in" right now. And it didn't tip you off that I wanted to move tables so we'd have the hot waiter?

The HOT WAITER passes. Ralph waves.

KYM

I can't believe that you're gay.

RALPH

Kym, we used to play Madonna and Sean Penn. And I was always Madonna. Look, I'm gonna go.

The HOT WAITER passes through again just as Ralph gets up. He looks at Ralph's sweats. He judges.

RALPH

They're joggers!

INT. UBER (EN ROUTE) - LATER

Ralph is in the uber while talking to Tara.

TARA (V.O.)

I can't believe your mom did that.

RALPH

She's never going to be okay with who I am. Fuck it. I'm going to the hospital. To be with Marcus's family. I pretended to be a straight for twenty years, I can pretend to be someone's fiancé. At least they accept me, and I'll be happy.

TARA (V.O.)

What about that Dory woman?

RALPH

She's basically a Real Housewife.
I've been preparing for a face-off
with one of those my entire life.

Ralph's phone dings with a text. He reads it.

RALPH

Oh my god, it's Drew. He says he
needs to see me. Now.

TARA (V.O.)

You think he broke up with Xander?

RALPH

I dunno. At first I just wanted to
win the breakup...but now I think I
might be reversing it!

TARA (V.O.)

You sound weird. Is this you happy?

RALPH

Yes, I think so. Wish me luck.

SMASH TO:

INT. MOUNT SINAI PATIENT ROOM - LATER

The family is huddled around the bed when Ralph enters. Margo runs to him and throws her arms around him.

MARGO

Marcus just passed.

Off Ralph's face, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. MOUNT SINAI - MOMENTS LATER

Ralph stands with Drew at the nurse's station while the family sits down the hall outside Marcus's room. Ralph is filling out paperwork while Drew advises.

RALPH
I can't believe this.

DREW
I'm so sorry.

Ralph sees Charles holding Margo while Dory and the kids console each other.

DREW
Well, I'll let you guys be together.

RALPH
Wait, where are you going? What do I say to them? What do I do? You do this all the time. I've never been around grieving people before. No one I know has ever died.

DREW
Granny Mae is still alive?

RALPH
She auditions for The Price is Right every day.

DREW
Wow. Good genes.

RALPH
I didn't get them. My pores are a mess.

DREW
It's so like you to make jokes at a time like this. Look, just ask them if they need anything. And Ralph--

Drew takes Ralph by the shoulders. Their eyes meet.

DREW
Make sure you ask yourself if you need anything, too.

RALPH

Right. He was my fiancé. I don't know what I'll do now.

Drew heads off as Ralph turns to join the family.

RALPH

Is there anything I can do? Do you guys need anything?

CHARLES

I don't know how we'll get through this.

MARGO

We'll get through it together. We all just need to stick together.

Margo and Ralph hug. Dory clocks this again.

DORY

Actually, there is something you can do.

RALPH

Anything.

DORY

Well, obviously you had a lot more insight into Marcus's life than we did. Why don't you take care of the arrangements?

RALPH

Arrangements?

DORY

The funeral arrangements. Since you knew him so well. You'd certainly know what he would have wanted.

MARGO

Oh yes, that would help us so much. Ralph, would that be okay with you?

Ralph hesitates, looks to the doe-eyed family, then...

SMASH TO:

EXT. STREET - LATER

Ralph walks down the street, FaceTiming Tara.

TARA (FACETIME)

You didn't!

RALPH

I couldn't say no to them. They looked at me so adoringly. It was like Yoda, Groot, and that cat from Shrek all staring back at me with their doe eyes.

TARA (FACETIME)

I get it. Groot is so cute.

RALPH

That Dory woman is trying to trick me into messing this up. She's an evil genius.

TARA (FACETIME)

How are you going to plan a funeral for a stranger?

RALPH

Ugh. No idea.

TARA (FACETIME)

I can't believe Marcus is dead. Peter Gallagher did NOT die in *While You Were Sleeping*.

RALPH

Life is not a movie. Or maybe it is, and mine just sucks and needs to end. Oh my god, is mine a James Cameron movie?

TARA (FACETIME)

He's had a wonderful career. And he's married to Linda Hamilton.

RALPH

They're divorced. He cheated on her with that home-wrecking whore granddaughter from the Titanic.

Tara gasps.

RALPH

You cannot gasp over 20 year old celebrity news. How am I going to look like I am mourning at the funeral? I can't fake cry. I can't even real cry.

TARA (FACETIME)
True. I haven't seen you cry since
New Year's Eve 1999.

RALPH
(defensive) Y2K was scary.

INT. CHURCH - DAYS LATER

Ralph paces around the church. His facetime buzzes. He answers. It's Tara.

RALPH
Check it out.

Ralph reverses the camera POV and shows her the church - filled with gorgeous flowers and an elaborate altar setup.

TARA (FACETIME)
Looks so pretty. And sad. Desired
effect. How'd you do it?

RALPH
I hacked Marcus's phone and stalked
his camera roll, contact list,
texts, and tumblr. I haven't slept
in days, but it'll be over soon. At
the very least, I definitely have a
career in funeral planning.

TARA (FACETIME)
I think you mean stalking?

RALPH
Potato, tomato.

TARA (FACETIME)
I see Drew.

RALPH
Where? Oh. I see him. I've been so
busy, I've been ignoring his texts.

TARA (FACETIME)
Well, this entire lie has been for
him. So he doesn't find out you're
a big, fat liar.

RALPH
Hey, holiday weight. 'Kay. Talk
later.

Ralph hangs up the call and heads to Drew.

RALPH

Hey. You came.

DREW

Of course. I'm here for you. I'm so sorry.

They hug. Drew squeezes extra tight. It's a little too long.

RALPH

Okay, that's it. Come with me.

Ralph grabs Drew and pulls him to the back of the church. They enter a confessional.

INT. CONFSSIONAL - CONTINUOUS

Ralph and Drew are in very close quarters.

DREW

What are we doing in here?

RALPH

Just listen. I was horrible to you when you cheated on me, and I cut you out of my life, and I've held onto that anger for a long, long time. I just want you to know that I forgive you. I do. My anger is gone. I realize now that you're a really nice guy who made a mistake.

DREW

I've been re-evaluating things too. I've been thinking a lot--

RALPH

I know what you're going to say. I can feel it. But before you say it, I have to know. Is it really only because you've seen me with Marcus's family? Is that all that this is?

Just then, a priest opens the confessional.

RALPH

Not now, padre.

Ralph slams it shut.

RALPH

If this didn't happen, and I didn't come into the hospital with Marcus that day and we just bumped into each other on the street, would we have reconnected? Have you thought of me at all in this past year? Or have you and Xander just been like blissfully going to brunch and tagging each other in insta memes?

DREW

None of that matters. The point is, we did re-connect, and it was for a reason. I see how you are with his family. You're different now. I can see it. We can finally move on.

Ralph has his answer. He exits.

INT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

The organ blares. Ralph hugs the family and shows them to the front pew. He gets a phone call. He ends it. He welcomes more people to the church, feeling Dory's eyes on him. His phone rings again. He ends it. It rings again. He exits the church.

EXT. CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

Ralph answers.

RALPH

When I send you to voicemail ten times, that means it's a bad time.

MOM

Ralph, I've been calling you for days. And you know what this is about. I spoke to Kym's mother. She told me what you told Kym.

RALPH

What? That I'm gay? You can't even say it out loud? Gay. G-A-Y. Like your Uncle Marty was.

MOM

How dare you. He loved the seminary. Listen to me, Ralph, and listen to me good. I have talked to your father, and we have had just about enough of this.

(MORE)

MOM (CONT'D)

Thanks to you, everyone is going to know our business. What do you want, Ralph? Our attention? Well, you have it.

RALPH

It's not normal for a family not to accept someone for being gay. It's me. It's who I am. I am not going to fight about this anymore.

MOM

You know what? You're right. Like I said, your father and I have been talking. We think it's best if you find somewhere else to celebrate Christmas this year.

This lands.

RALPH

What?

MOM

I'm sorry, honey. We just don't want to fight with you anymore.

In shock, Ralph hangs up and walks inside.

INT. CHURCH - LATER

Ralph takes his place in the front pew with Margo, Charles, Grace, Topher, and Dory. Dory and Ralph share a chilly look. Dory leans in.

DORY

I don't know how you pulled this off, but I will figure it out so help me-- (noticing a Jesus statue) ...You know who.

Ralph ignores her. The funeral begins. Margo leans in.

MARGO

I lost a son, but I gained one, too.

This lands. Ralph looks around at the family. As the funeral begins and as everything from the last few days hits him, he starts to sob. It's a level five breakdown. Margo and Charles comfort him. They comfort each other. He's found his family.

FADE OUT.

TAG

INT. CHURCH - SHORT TIME LATER

Ralph sits in the now empty church, Dory approaches.

RALPH

Oh god. Look, I ugly cried for a straight hour. I have a headache. I'm super dehydrated. My eyes are puffy. My cheeks are red...

DORY

This won't take long. You see, up until now, I had my doubts. Is it possible that Marcus met a man, got engaged, and was waiting until the holidays to tell me in person?

RALPH

Uh, yeah, definitely.

DORY

Possible. But do you know what the biggest difference between me and Marcus's family is, Ralph?

RALPH

You are basically different in every way. I mean, they're so sweet and kind, and you're a huge--

Dory holds up Marcus's phone.

DORY

I know Marcus's passcode.

Off Ralph's eyes widening, we...

QUICK ZOOM IN ON THE PHONE IN DORY'S HAND.

OPEN TO GRINDR. We see Marcus and Ralph's private messages.

Timestamp: "Thanksgiving Day."

Marcus: "I'll see you at the Plaza, Room 1203."

Ralph: "I can't wait to meet you."

We pull back hard to Ralph's face--

RALPH

Oh shit.

END OF PILOT