

The New Normal

"Pilot"

by
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INT. STAN'S HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

STAN DOBBS (37, with greying well groomed hair, a hint of a gut and business clothes) takes a sip of coffee from a travel mug, then steps out JEN DOBBS's (35, attractive, with a pony-tail and sweat pants) way as she carries a steaming skillet of scrambled eggs to the breakfast table.

JEN
Want some eggs?

STAN
I should head out.

Jen scoops out eggs onto plates for CHELSEY (4, cute, with a pony-tail and wearing pajamas) and PEYTON (14, pierced ears and just a little too much make-up).

CHELSEY
Stay Daddy.

JEN
Daddy has to go to work, Chelsey.

CHELSEY
Why?

PEYTON
Because it's more important than you are.

JEN
Peyton!

PEYTON
I'm going to eat in my room.

Peyton gets up and carries her plate out of the room.

JEN
Daddy goes to work so that we can have money.

CHELSEY
So we can buy eggs?

STAN
Something like that.

Stan leans down and kisses Chelsey on top of her head.

STAN (CONT'D)
I'll be home tonight, okay?

CHELSEY

Okay.

STAN

Bye Peyton!

No answer. Stan picks up his laptop bag.

JEN

Don't work too hard.

They maneuver around the skillet and coffee mug for a quick, awkward kiss.

INT. STAN'S CAR - DAY

Stan sits in his car with the windows cracked open and a cellphone cradled between ear and shoulder. A laptop rests on the passenger seat, documents line the dashboard and envelopes rest in his lap. He holds a spiral notebook against the steering wheel and has a pen poised to write.

STAN

Mr. Streebig? This is Stan Dobbs. I am calling to follow up on the interview I had with you. It has been three weeks and so I was just calling to see if there had been any movement. Anyway. Thanks you again.

Stan ends the call and winces.

STAN (CONT'D)

Thanks you again? Thanks you?

He crosses out the name "Streebig" from a list of names in his notebook.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Stan sits alone on a park bench eating a hotdog while children play in the background.

INT. STAN'S CAR - DAY

More papers scattered about. Stan holds a letter in his hand. While he talks on the phone.

STAN

Yes. I know the payment is late,
but I haven't missed a payment in
six years and I am asking you to
waive the fee and move my bill
date.

CREDIT CARD REP (PHONE)

Could you make a payment now?

STAN

I. Yes. A small one.

Stan's phone beeps, he checks it.

CREDIT CARD REP (PHONE)

Sir, if you can make a...

STAN

I've got to take this other call.

CREDIT CARD REP

Sir.

Stan presses a button on his phone.

STAN

Hey.

JEN (PHONE)

You busy?

STAN

Nothing too important.

JEN (PHONE)

Could you stop on the way home and
pick up dinner?

Stan doesn't respond.

JEN (PHONE) (CONT'D)

Hello?

STAN

Can't you make something? We have
lasagna in the freezer.

JEN (PHONE)

I've been going all day, Stan. I'm
dropping Chelsey off at gymnastics
now.