

LEGALLY "BLIND"

TV PILOT

Written by

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BLACK SCREEN.

Chyron reads: Glendale, California. July 2018.

FAMILY MEMBERS (O.S.)
Happy Birthday to you!

Several people are singing "Happy Birthday" song in English and Armenian languages.

INT. MAROYAN'S HOUSE. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Complete darkness of the room is interrupted by a huge cake with tons of lit candles. They are lighting up a face of a woman that is holding the cake - VALERIE "VAL" THOMPSON. She is pretty, in her late 30s, with light features, her belly bump suggests she's about 6 months pregnant. She moves slowly so the candles won't go out sooner than they should.

The dining room is tiny and makes you wonder how all the guests are able to fit in.

Val reaches the table and WE SEE those FAMILY MEMBERS that are still singing "Happy Birthday" song. Everyone stands near their chairs and smiles.

FAMILY MEMBERS
Happy Birthday Dear...

VAL KYLIE
Eddie! Daddy!

Val holds the cake in front of her husband - EDWARD "EDDIE" MAROYAN (Armenian-American, 40, medium height, skinny physique, pretty average look).

FAMILY MEMBERS
Happy Birthday to you!

Eddie looks at everyone and lets out a half-smile. He glances at the cake and notices number 40 in the middle of all candles.

EDDIE
(to Val)
Did you HAVE TO put the number?

Eddie's brother ARMAN (Armenian American, 45, tall, bulky) tries to cheer him up.

ARMAN

Come on little brother, gotta man
up! Hell, I've done it 5 years ago.
It's a piece of cake!

Hearing "cake" Eddie's mother LIDIA (Ukrainian, 70 but looks much younger, beautiful) can't help herself from throwing a comment toward Val.

LIDIA

(with heavy accent)
She didn't bake that cake!

Lidia and Val exchange an intense eye contact. Lidia gulps red wine from her glass.

Eddie's Dad SAM (Armenian, 75, overweight) interferes by taking away Lidia's glass and winking at Val. You can barely hear the words as his mouth is busy chewing all the food.

SAM

(to Lidia)
Of course she didn't, darling. You
did. You bake everything in this
house.
(to himself)
Including my brains...

Val interrupts, gesturing at the candles that aren't gonna last forever.

VAL

Ugh.. Do you mind?

Eddie thoroughly circles his eyes around the room and everyone in it. His smile is getting wider.

FREEZE FRAME on all of them from Eddie's POV. Looks like a happy family portrait.

EDDIE (V.O.)

You know I'm very blessed with my
family! Everyone is getting along
and understands one another.
Nobody's fighting or bickering or
acting crazy...
(bursts out laughing)
Did you believe me? Oh please. My
family is a big fat flying mess.
Just like yours and everyone
else's.

Frame unfreezes and WE SEE each guest separately from Eddie's POV. They all are anxiously looking at him, waiting for him to finally blow those candles.

EDDIE (V.O.)

And just like in every family, our image of one another is based on very convenient delusions. Like my wife for instance.

CU of Val who looks clearly annoyed and tired of holding that birthday cake.

EDDIE (V.O.)

She pretends she doesn't hate me for losing all of our money and assets to gambling and moving into my parents' house. And I pretend that I'm not bothered by the fact that she's 6 months pregnant, BUT the last time we had sex was at least 8 months ago. You do the math...

KYLIE

Dad, you ok?

Eddie glances at his daughter KYLIE (12, light features, very short hair, dressed as a boy).

EDDIE

Yes, I am, Kyle.

Val absolutely hates what she hears!

VAL

Oh for the love of God. Her name is Kylie, NOT Kyle. She's a girl, NOT a boy!

KYLIE

(to Val)

And you're a bitch!

Everybody gasps upon hearing this. Kylie storms out of the room. Uncomfortable silence.

Arman's son ANDRE (15, badass looking teenager) follows Kylie. On his way out, he taps Eddie on the shoulder.

ANDRE

I'll take care of her.
Happy Birthday, Unc!

Andre's little brother LEO (8, thin, wears glasses) throws in his 2 cents.

LEO
They got out of here so they can
smoke again!

Arman's wife SABRINA (early 40s, brunette, kind of plump) shushes at Leo. Val rolls her eyes.

VAL
(to Eddie)
Will you make a goddamn wish?

Eddie's face is lit from all the candles.

EDDIE (V.O.)
A wish.. Hm...

FREEZE FRAME on Arman.

EDDIE (V.O.)
Do I wish my brother's confidence?
Or...

FREEZE FRAME on Eddie's friend IRAD GOLDMAN (Late 30s, Jewish, almost too good looking).

EDDIE (V.O.)
Or my best friend's looks? Or
maybe..

FREEZE FRAME on Val's brother JERRY THOMPSON (early 30s, skinny, wears feminine clothes).

EDDIE (V.O.)
Blissful unawareness of my half-
closeted brother-in-law? Hm.. I
wish... Ugh who am I kidding... I
just wish I could disappear from
all that...

Eddie blows the candles. Everybody starts clapping. The room is now pitch black.

The doorbell rings. Everyone stands completely still. It rings again. Clearly nobody's going to open it so Eddie takes the initiative.

EDDIE
I guess I'll get the door then.

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN READS: LEGALLY BLIND.

EDDIE (O.S.)
Wow, I guess it's true what they
say huh. Be careful for what you
wish for!

INT. JIMMY'S GARAGE - NIGHT

Eddie breathes heavily in the plastic bag that tightly
wrapped around his head. He hears unintelligible mumble.

EDDIE
Hello?

Nobody replies. Chatter between 2 MEN continues. Eddie
decides to take a shot at guessing.

EDDIE (CONT'D)
So I assume this is the surprise
that Val was talking about? Ok I'm
very excited! Can you please take
off this thing from my head? It's
awfully hot in here.

In a couple of seconds, the bag gets whipped off and Eddie
sees two stranger men standing in front of him: BORIS (40s,
heavy, lots of tattoos) and JIMMY (early 30s, slim, bald).

Eddie squints as the light is too damn bright in the room.

He takes a quick scan of the room - it's not a room so much
as it is a small dusty garage. Eddie wants to move his hands
but he can't - they are tied behind him.

Eddie examines the situation and slightly nods his head.

EDDIE (CONT'D)
So this is it huh?

JIMMY
You bet.

EDDIE
Ok. Hm. Alright I'll try my best.

Boris and Jimmy look at each other - confused.

BORIS
(with heavy accent)
Fuck you mean?

EDDIE

Listen, you have to guide me though, I've never done it. But... Whatever it takes to make my marriage work.

JIMMY

Seriously, dude, you got a fever or some?

Only then Eddie becomes aware of..the gun popping up from Jimmy's back pocket. And also judging by their looks - Jimmy and Boris don't necessarily make an impression of your peaceful civilians.

EDDIE

Uhh.. Isn't it that weird BDSM foursome fantasy my wife wanting to arrange for so long?

Boris is furious upon hearing this! He raises his fist as to hit Eddie, but Jimmy prevents.

Eddie tries to get up from the chair but Jimmy puts him back.

JIMMY

Alright, sweet pea. Play is over. Where is the money?

Eddie is utterly confused.

EDDIE

The money? I'm really sorry, it must've been some kind of mixup.

BORIS

(to Jimmy)

Is he fucking with us? Cuz I'm gonna.. You know..

Boris is acting all fiery, Jimmy is calming him down.

JIMMY

(to Eddie)

You know mister Maroyan, we all respect you and all, but you gotta meet me half way, brotha.

(pointing at Boris)

You make him unhappy and TRUST me, no one wants to do it.

It finally occurs to Eddie that this all probably isn't some kind of joke or surprise, but rather... Real abduction.

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