

TFW Episode 3
The Beaver

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COLD OPEN

1 INT. CAFE - EVENING

1

SAMANTHA, DONNY & TARYN are behind the counter. Taryn and Donny are preparing to leave. Their shifts are over, Samantha's shift is just beginning.

SAMANTHA
Have a good night guys.

TARYN
'Night, Sam.

Taryn leaves through the door into the kitchen.

DONNY
See you tomorrow, Samantha.

*

SAMANTHA walks off towards the FRONT DOOR.

SAMANTHA
Have a good one, Donny.

ENID, a customer, approaches the counter.

SAMANTHA (cont'd)
Welcome to Wheeler's. What can I get you?

ENID
Decaf?

SAMANTHA grabs a coffee cup and reaches for a CARAFE.

SAMANTHA
Okay

ENID
Americano!

SAMANTHA stops in mid-step.

SAMANTHA
Decaf or Americano?

ENID
A decaf Americano.

Puts the CARAFE down and turns to the ESPRESSO MACHINE.

SAMANTHA

Okay-

ENID

with oat milk.

Samantha picks up a pitcher of OAT MILK.

WOMAN

Low-fat oat milk.

Samantha stops again and looks at her - "Seriously?" She puts the pitcher down and picks up a different one.

ENID

(if it's not too much
to ask)
and extra foam?

Samantha throws her hands up in the air.

SAMANTHA

Decaf Americano with low-fat oat milk
and extra foam.

ENID

Yes!

SAMANTHA

No.

2 INT. DONNY & DENNIS APARTMENT - EVENING

2

DONNY enters to find his brother, DENNIS, on the couch playing video games.

DENNIS

Hey Bro!

DONNY

Hey.
(sniffing the air)
What's that smell?

DENNIS

Dinner. Macaroni casserole.

DONNY

(what is this smell?)
Really? Smells like-

DENNIS
 (to his video game)
 Ha! Die you zombie scum!

Donny shrugs and enters the bathroom.

3 INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

3

DONNY stands in front of the toilet, back to the camera. We hear him relieving himself. Then a 'swishing sound'. A confused look on Donny's face. Flushing. Donny pulls the shower curtain back to look into the tub. A BEAVER returns his gaze.

DONNY
 Dennis?!

4 INT. DONNY & DENNIS APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

4

DENNIS has served up the MACARONI CASSEROLE. He offers DONNY a bowl, which he accepts. The conversation continues as they eat dinner.

DONNY
 (another day, another
 weird, friggin day)
 There's a beaver in the bathtub,
 Dennis.

DENNIS
 You didn't wake him, did you?

DONNY
 Wake him? No. I don't know. I think
 he. He?

DENNIS
 He.

DONNY
 Was already awake.

DENNIS
 Hmm.

DONNY
 Dennis?

DENNIS
 Yeah?

DONNY
Why is there a beaver in the bathtub?

DENNIS
This is going to be the ticket,
Donny!

DONNY
The ticket?

DENNIS
Beaver oil.

DONNY
Beaver oil?
(the penny drops)
You're not going to-

DENNIS
(shocked)
Oh my God, Donny! No, never.
(beat)
Beaver oil. He swims in the tub.
Then I take him out, bail out the
bathwater, boil it down.

DONNY
That's the smell?

DENNIS
The smell of money, Donny!

DONNY
Dennis-

DENNIS
(all business)
I found it online. There's a market
for Beaver Oil. Some guys think it
makes them-

DONNY
What? Makes them what?

DENNIS
You know.
(raises his eyebrows)

DONNY
(gets it, but won't
let on.)
Know what?

DENNIS
 (more enthusiastic
 eyebrow-raising)
 You know!

DONNY
 Dennis, you can't keep a beaver
 locked up all alone in our bathroom.

Dennis ponders this for a moment.

DENNIS
 You're right.

DONNY
 Thank you.

DENNIS
 He shouldn't be alone. That's just
 not right.

DONNY
 That's not what I mean.

DENNIS
 He needs a girlfriend.
 (beat)
 Oh my God, we could *breed* beavers.
 Donny! You're a genius! More beaver
 oil!

DONNY
 (gives up)
 That's the ticket.

5 INT. TARYN'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

5 *

Single working mom, TARYN sits on the couch with her two foster kids, JULIA, a high-school student & JORDAN, a middle-school student. They're watching TV. A PIZZA BOX is on the coffee table. They're eating pizza as they talk. SHEILA - 'a woman of a certain age' enters the room - dressed to kill.

JORDAN
 Wow, Sheila. You look nice!

JULIA
 Yeah. Killer dress, Sheila!

SHEILA
 Thank you, children.

TARYN
Big date, Mom?

SHEILA
Well, I hope so. But a lady never
tells.

TARYN
(what did she just
say?)
Mom!

SHEILA
What?

TARYN
The kids!

SHEILA
Oh please. If they're old enough to
get it, then they get it. If not, it
doesn't matter.

TARYN
It matters.

SHEILA
Would you mind if I borrowed those
heels of yours?

TARYN
Would it matter?

SHEILA
That's the spirit, darling. Zip me
up?

Taryn stands and zips up the dress.

TARYN
So who's the lucky guy?

SHEILA
You remember John Rossi?

TARYN
Dad's friend from soccer? Oh that's
great. He was always such a nice
guy-

SHEILA
Yes, well his son, Domenic.

TARYN
Domenic? Domenic Rossi? Little
Domenic?

SHEILA
Well, I hope not lit-

TARYN
Mom!

SHEILA
Yes! I'm going to dinner with Domenic
Rossi!

TARYN
(my mother is dating
someone younger than
me!)

Why don't you ever want to date men
your own age?

SHEILA
(stung)

My own age?
(beat)

Men my age have baggage, Taryn. Bad
hips. Ex-wives.
(beat)

Dead wives.

TARYN
Mom!

SHEILA
(enough of this
moralizing)

The heels, Taryn?

TARYN
(I give up)

Closet. Top shelf.

SHEILA
Thank you.

JULIA
(winking)

Have a great time, Sheila!

Sheila winks at Julia and exits.

6 INT. DONNY & DENNIS' APARTMENT - LATER

6

DONNY is on the couch, watching TV. He's cradling a mug with "WORLD'S GREATEST TEACHER" printed on it. Dennis comes into the room with an OVERNIGHT BAG.

DONNY
You going somewhere?

DENNIS
Just the park.

DONNY
What's with the bag?

DENNIS
It's for the beaver.

DONNY
Wait! Is that my overnight bag?

DENNIS
It's the only one we have!

DONNY
You can't put the beaver in my
overnight bag, Dennis!

DENNIS
Why?

DONNY
What if he...?

DENNIS
What if he what?

DONNY
You know...has an accident?

DENNIS
Well, the sooner I get him to the
park, the less likely that will be.

DONNY
Dennis, please don't put the beaver
into the only piece of luggage I own.
If, somehow, I ever get to take a
trip somewhere, all my clothes will
smell like a wild rodent.

DENNIS

You know that people are paying me
for that 'wild rodent' smell, right?

DONNY

Yeah, maybe...but I'm not.

DENNIS

Come on, Donny, How else I can carry
him?

7 INT. ELEVATOR

7

DENNIS stands in the elevator of their apartment building.
He's holding the BEAVER in his arms, close to his body to
shield the animal's head (and identity). The beaver is
dressed in a 'onesie.'

The ELEVATOR stops at another floor and the door opens.

An ATTRACTIVE WOMAN steps into the elevator.

Dennis smiles. The attractive woman smiles back.

CLOSE on Dennis. "She's cute."

CLOSE on the attractive woman. "What's that smell?"

8 INT. ELEVATOR LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

8

The ELEVATOR DOORS open. The ATTRACTIVE WOMAN exits quickly
and looks back over her shoulder with distaste.

DENNIS follows.

DENNIS

That wasn't me!

9 EXT. PARK - EVENING

9

DENNIS is crouched down on the grass. He's taking the BEAVER
out of its onesie. The sun has set and it's getting darker.

DENNIS

There you go, little guy. Go and do
your business.

The beaver doesn't move.

DENNIS (cont'd)
Go on. I won't watch.

Dennis pokes the beaver with his finger. It moves towards a grove of trees.

DENNIS (cont'd)
(laughing)
Yeah, of course. Trees.

The beaver disappears into the grove of trees. Dennis stands for a minute and watches the trees.

DENNIS (cont'd)
Hey! Are you done in there?

An OLDER COUPLE are out for an evening walk in the park. They look at Dennis with curiosity. *

OLDER WOMAN
Hello!

DENNIS
Hi! Just out walking my beaver.

OLDER MAN
(to his wife)
Just keep walking, honey.

DENNIS
Have a nice evening!

The OLDER COUPLE picks up their pace.

DENNIS (cont'd)
OK. Here, boy! Come on!

DENNIS stands for a minute and watches the trees.

DENNIS (cont'd)
Come on, boy!

DENNIS runs into the grove of trees.

DENNIS (O.C)
Where'd you go?

SFX: A LOUD SPLASHING SOUND.

10 INT. TARYN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

10 *

TARYN, JORDAN and JULIA are sitting on the couch watching TV. All three of them are also scrolling through their phones. The PIZZA BOX is still on the coffee table. This is a happy family.

JULIA
Ha!

TARYN
What.

JULIA
Oh. Nothing.

TARYN
OK.

JULIA
Just this thing on Snap.

TARYN
What is it.

JULIA
Just a picture one of my friends posted.

TARYN
OK.

JULIA
She's weird.

TARYN
We're all a little weird.

JORDAN
I'm not weird.

JULIA
You are so weird.

Taryn gives her a look.

JULIA (cont'd)
But a good kind of weird.

JORDAN
Right. Nice recovery.

JULIA
Careful, or I'll tell.

TARYN
Tell what?

JORDAN
No!

TARYN
What? What's going on.

JORDAN
It's nothing.

JULIA
I don't know. I think she's pretty.

TARYN
Oh. Got a girlfriend, Jordan?

JORDAN
No!

TARYN
Okay, okay! Sorry.

JORDAN
(pregnant pause)
Not yet anyway.
(beat)
Depends if she likes jokes.

TARYN
Oh.
(then)
But you like someone.

JORDAN
I guess.

TARYN
Well, that's great.

JORDAN
It is.

TARYN
Of course. One of the best things in
life is 'liking people'.

JULIA
Right.

TARYN
What?

JULIA
Well, you don't 'like' anyone, do you?

TARYN
No. But that's different. I'm. I'm.

JULIA
What?

TARYN
I'm not interested in liking anyone right now. I'm busy.

JULIA
Well don't wait too long. You're not getting any younger.

Taryn looks at her.

JULIA (cont'd)
Kidding! I'm kidding!

TARYN
Right.

Taryn picks up one of the THROW PILLOWS from the couch and playfully throws it her. Julia catches it.

JULIA
(laughing)
Is that the best you got?

TARYN
No! Wait!

JORDAN
SuperJordan to the rescue!

Jordan jumps up with his backside to Julia.

JULIA
(horrified)
No! Don't you dare!

TARYN
What?

JORDAN
I ate a lot of pizza.

JULIA
No! Taryn make him stop!

TARYN
Jordan? What are you doing?

JULIA
Oh God, it's so gross when he does this.

TARYN
What?
(then)
Oh no. Jordan, stop!

JORDAN
(slightly out of
breath)
Too late. It's on it's way.

Julia covers her face. Taryn scrunches up her nose.

JULIA
Oh that's so gross.

JORDAN
Ha!

TARYN
Jordan! We just ate. That was really,
really-

Jordan looks at her with puppy-dog eyes.

TARYN (cont'd)
(starting to laugh)
Gross.
(beat)
We don't do things like that in this house.

JORDAN
Everyone does that.
(then)
In every house.

TARYN
Not in people's faces, they don't.

TARYN (cont'd)

And you won't get a girlfriend if you
smell like farts, you know.

(then)

Didn't think I'd ever need to say
that sentence out loud.

JORDAN

But I made you laugh.

TARYN

Yes. In a gross-out way, you made me
laugh.

(then)

And also throw up in my mouth a
little.

JORDAN

Donny said that making girls laugh
was one way to get them to like you.

TARYN

He did, huh?

JULIA

Well, I guess he would know, right
Taryn?

TARYN

I don't want to talk about work.

JULIA

He's not "work". He's your ex.

TARYN

It's just work now.

JULIA

Right.

TARYN

It is!

JULIA

Okay.

Julia shoots Jordan a knowing look. He smiles back at his
sister.

11 INT. DONNY & DENNIS' APARTMENT - LATER

11 *

DONNY is still on the couch watching TV, holding his "Worlds' Greatest Teacher" mug. DENNIS comes through the door, soaking wet and out of breath.

DENNIS

Donny!

DONNY

What happened to you?

(then)

Where's the beaver?

DENNIS

He ran off into the trees. I followed him and slipped into this pond.

Donny takes a sip of his coffee.

DONNY

So that's why you're wet?

DENNIS

(very funny Mr. Wise
Guy)

Yes. That. Is. Why. I'm. Wet.

DONNY

Well, don't just stand there dripping. Go put some dry clothes on!

DENNIS

Donny, you gotta help me find him!

DONNY

What?

DENNIS

You gotta help me. He's out there. All alone. In the dark.

DONNY

He's a beaver in a pond in the woods!

DENNIS

Exactly. We need to find him and bring him home.

DONNY

He is home!

DENNIS

No, really. I can't lose him.

DONNY

Dennis, did you ever think that maybe beavers belong in the wild.

(beat)

In ponds.

(beat)

In the woods.

(then)

And not in bathtubs?

DENNIS

Well, sure, in a perfect world, maybe.

DONNY

Dennis, even in this weird, crazy, messed-up world that we live in, beavers don't belong in bathtubs.

DENNIS

Donny, please?

12 INT. UPSCALE RESTAURANT - EVENING

12 *

DOMENIC ROSSI, sits at a table with a LONG WHITE TABLECLOTH. The place has the kind of lighting that makes everyone look good. A server, JOSH, approaches.

*
*
*

JOSH

Can I get you anything while you-

*
*

DOMENIC

Yo, Josh!

*
*

JOSH

Hey, Domenic! How's it hangin' dude?

*
*

DINERS AT AN ADJACENT TABLE notice the banter and give the pair a disapproving look.

*
*

DOMENIC

All good.

*
*

JOSH

So, another big date?

*
*

DOMENIC

You know it.

*
*

JOSH
Man, you are a machine.

Domenic smiles.

JOSH (cont'd)
So what are talking here? MILF?
College girl?

Domenic smiles again.

JOSH (cont'd)
High school girl?

DOMENIC
Cougar. Total fox. Known her since I
was a kid.

JOSH
You dog!

DOMENIC
You know how it goes, man.

SHEILA enters the restaurant. She looks fantastic.

DOMENIC (cont'd)
There she is. Act cool, dude.
(beat)
Oh. And when I say "bring me a bottle
of your best wine. Bring like the
second-cheapest one you've got OK?

JOSH
You got it, boss.

Josh approaches Sheila.

JOSH (cont'd)
I believe the gentleman is waiting
for you over here.

SHEILA
Thank you.

Sheila joins Domenic at his table.

SHEILA (cont'd)
Sorry for being late. I thought you
were picking me up.

DOMENIC
Well, hopefully we won't have any
more misunderstandings.
(beat)
Wine?

SHEILA
Good idea.

Domenic waves to Josh, who comes over.

DOMENIC
Bring us a bottle of your best-

Domenic gazes into Sheila's eyes. She melts a little.

DOMENIC (cont'd)
-rosé.

JOSH
Rosé?

DOMENIC
That's what I said. Rosé.

Josh looks confused. Who orders rosé?

JOSH
Absolutely, sir.

13 EXT. PARK - NIGHT

13

DENNIS and DONNY are in the park. They're wearing HIP WADERS and carrying FLASHLIGHTS. Donny holds his flashlight at waist level. Dennis holds his 'tactical style' at the shoulder.

DENNIS
What are you doing?

DONNY
I wish I knew.

DENNIS
You're doing it wrong.

DONNY
Kind of the story of my life.

DENNIS
Oh don't start that. I mean your
flashlight. You're holding it wrong.

DONNY

What do you mean 'wrong'? I'm pointing the light-ey part of it into the dark.

DENNIS

No. You're supposed to hold it like this.

Dennis demonstrates the 'tactical' position.

DONNY

Why?

DENNIS

Because that's how you do it!

DONNY

Says who?

DENNIS

TV! All the cop shows. They always hold their flashlights up high.

DONNY

Why?

DENNIS

I don't know. They just do.
(then)
So we should too.

DONNY adopts the 'tactical pose'

DONNY

Happy now?

DENNIS

Yes. Thank you.

They walk towards the woods.

14 INT. UPSCALE RESTAURANT - LATER

14 *

DOMENIC and SHEILA continue their date.

*

DOMENIC

You look hot, Sheila.

*

Sheila fans herself.

SHEILA

Oh it's just a little flash.

(beat)

Oh yes. Hot. Yes. Hot. like,
right. Thank you.

Domenic smiles. He's flustered her. Game on. He raises his
glass.

DOMENIC

To us.

SHEILA

To us.

DOMENIC

That dress.

Sheila is glowing.

SHEILA

Thank you.

DOMENIC

I don't think it suits you.

Sheila deflates a little.

SHEILA

Oh, I-

DOMENIC

You know, you're a very beautiful
woman.

Sheila perks up.

SHEILA

Um. You don't need to flatter me,
Domenic.

DOMENIC

And your hair.

Sheila touches her hair.

SHEILA

Is there something-?

DOMENIC

Have you ever thought of wearing it
differently?

*

SHEILA
 (what?)
 Differently?

DOMENIC
 Yeah. You're very beautiful.
 (beat)
 But I think you'd be more beautiful
 if you wore it more, I don't know...
 differently.

Sheila catches on. This is 'negging' and she is the prey in his 'game.' She takes a sip of her wine and considers her next move.

SHEILA
 (sexy)
 Like longer?

She sensuously caresses her hair.

DOMENIC
 Yeah. Longer would be good.

SHEILA
 What else?

DOMENIC
 Um?

SHEILA
 I can tell you're a man who knows
 what he wants. I like that. *
 *

Sheila kicks off her heels

SHEILA (cont'd)
 What else would you like me to do?

Sheila thrusts her foot towards him under the table.

SHEILA (cont'd)
 How can I make myself more attractive
 for you?

DOMENIC
 (the Game is not
 going as per plan)
 Um, Mrs. Wheeler?

SHEILA
 "Mrs. Wheeler". Oh my...role play on
 our first date. Have you been a bad-

Her foot has 'connected.'

SHEILA (cont'd)
-boy?

DOMENIC
(abort mission!)
Waiter!

Sheila pulls her foot back. She's in charge now.

SHEILA
You tease.

Josh re-appears at the table.

SHEILA (cont'd)
Go away. We're not ready yet.

JOSH
Sir?

SHEILA
I said 'Go away.' Do I have to repeat myself?

Josh leaves.

SHEILA (cont'd)
You really bring out something primitive and-

Sheila thrusts her leg under the table.

SHEILA (cont'd)
animalistic in me, Domenic.

DOMENIC
I do?

Sheila purrs. Sultry as hell. In an instant, she changes her demeanor. Chipper and cheerful. Like nothing has happened. Domenic is totally confused.

SHEILA
I'm ready to order. Are you?

DOMENIC
I'm ready, too!

Domenic waves frantically at Josh who runs over.

SHEILA

Oh really?

We see Sheila's leg move under the table. She's tormenting him and loving it. Josh is not sure what to make of this.

*
*

SHEILA (cont'd)

Are you really ready?

*

DOMENIC

Mrs.-

*
*

SHEILA

Are you?

*
*

DOMENIC

Auugh!

Sheila pulls her leg back and smiles. His face is a mix of shock and humiliation. How could he lose 'the game?'

*
*

SHEILA

My hair is perfect.

She puts her shoes on and gets up.

SHEILA (cont'd)

You have no idea what you missed out on.

Sheila walks away leaving a stunned and spent Domenic sitting alone at the table.

JOSH

Dude! That was epic!

*
*

15 EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

15 *

DENNIS and DONNY are in the woods, looking for the beaver.

DENNIS

He's got to be here somewhere.

DONNY

Are you sure this is where he went?

DENNIS

Well, I was in the park, and he ran off towards these trees. So, yeah. I'm sure this is where he went.

DONNY
How long ago was this?

DENNIS
I dunno. After dinner. Maybe 7:30?

DONNY
And it's what, 10:30 now?

DENNIS
Something like that.

A look of concern passes over Donny's face. He has a curfew of 10PM as a parole condition. *

DENNIS (cont'd)
Everything OK?

DONNY
Yeah. Everything is fine.
(then)
Dennis?

DENNIS
What.

DONNY
Look. There's a chewed log.

DONNY shines his flashlight at a log on the ground, freshly chewed.

DENNIS
I knew it! He was here.

They walk towards the log. DONNY shines his flashlight ahead of them.

DONNY
There's another one.

DENNIS
And another one! He's left us a trail to follow!

DONNY
Yeah. Or you know, maybe just doing his beaver, tree-chewing thing.

A BRIGHT LIGHT shines into the faces of the two men.

VOICE
Hold it right there!

DENNIS
 (shielding his eyes)
 Hey! Turn that light off!

VOICE
 I said FREEZE.

SFX: Gun-cocking.

DONNY
 Shit.

SFX: A tree falling. Then a car alarm. Then another car alarm.

VOICE
 What the...?

16 EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - NIGHT 16 *

DOMENIC leaves the restaurant and enters the parking lot. A CAR ALARM is blaring. *

Domenic looks over and sees that a tree has fallen across the hood of HIS CAR. *

DOMENIC
 What the-? *

17 EXT. PARK - CONTINUOUS 17

DENNIS, DONNY and a COP are standing next to a POLICE SUV. DONNY is nervous.

COP
 There's no fishing in the park after dark, boys.

DENNIS
 We weren't fishing.

COP
 Or hunting.

DENNIS
 We weren't hunting either.

COP
 Well, you want to tell me exactly what you two were doing in these woods?

(MORE)

COP (cont'd)

(beat)

In hip waders?

DONNY

My brother lost his beaver. We were looking for it.

COP

You lost a beaver?

DENNIS

(whispering loudly)

Ix-nay on the eaver-bay.

COP

Don't bullshit me. The park is closed after dusk. That's for everyone's safety.

The cop eyes the two men up and down and stands a little taller. He has all the power here.

COP (cont'd)

I could cite you for trespassing. That's a \$300 fine.

DONNY

We're sorry, officer. We weren't trying to cause any trouble.

(beat)

Could you let us off with warning? Please?

COP

Maybe.

DONNY looks relieved.

COP (cont'd)

Let's see some ID.

DONNY

Oh shit.

COP

There a problem, son?

DENNIS sits in the backseat of the POLICE SUV. As the COP gets into the vehicle...

DENNIS

Hey! You can't take him! He didn't do anything!

COP

Son, people who 'didn't do anything' don't usually find themselves in the back of police cars.

The cop slams his door shut and drives off.

Dennis is left standing alone in the park in his hip waders. His brother has been arrested. Again. And this time it was Dennis' fault.

DENNIS

(to himself)

He was just trying to help.

19 INT. TARYN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

19 *

TARYN is on her couch. JORDAN and JULIA have gone to bed. SHEILA enters.

TARYN

Hey Mom!

SHEILA

Hi Sweetie.

TARYN

How was the date?

SHEILA sits on the couch next to TARYN.

SHEILA

You won't believe the night I've had.

TARYN

Mom, please!

SHEILA

(laughing)

No. Not like that. Not like that at all.

The camera pulls back through the living room window. We don't hear the dialogue as Sheila retells the story of the date from hell.

The camera keeps pulling back, revealing the BEAVER, in the foreground, walking slowly towards a pond and slipping into the water with a SPLASH.

FADE OUT

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