# **19 PERCENT**

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FADE IN:

INT. REFRIDGERATOR - DAY

The door opens. PENNY (40s) peers inside, scans around the shelves. Frowns.

JEWEL (17) sneaks beside her.

#### JEWEL

Stinks.

PENNY You need something in here?

Jewel grabs a box of donuts.

INT. PENNY'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jewel goes over to the counter, pops open the box.

JEWEL

Yuck.

Picks up a nutty.

### JEWEL

Meh.

Penny takes off the lid of the milk. Cringes.

She puts it back, panics.

Jewel lifts up another donut. A white sugar. Powder fluff gets over her fingers.

### PENNY

Oh. My. God.

Jewel enjoys the donut.

PENNY The turkey. The turkey. Please not the turkey.

Penny closes the door, opens the freezer side.

PENNY

Oh. My. God.

Penny rushes to the back of the fridge. Jewel turns, shuts the freezer door.

PENNY Unplugged! Who unplugged the refrigerator!

#### JEWEL

If you turn off your appliances for at least fifteen minutes a day you can save three dollars on the power bill.

#### PENNY

What?

JEWEL Up to three dollars.

PENNY You unplugged the -Thanksgiving morning. You unplugged-why in God's name?

#### JEWEL

Didn't unplug it this morning. Unplugged it yesterday. Besides, light came on.

PENNY Emergency battery. But that's beside the - oh my God what am I going to do?

MINUTES LATER

A mushy pumpkin pie falls into a trashcan.

Penny pitches a spoiled turkey.

JEWEL

Read the other day how nineteen percent of all food not eaten at the dinner table winds up in landfills and becomes methane gas.

# PENNY

Now's not the time.

JEWEL Contributes to global warming.

### PENNY

Jewel?

# JEWEL

Yeah, mom?

Penny gives her the evil eye.

### HALLWAY

JAKE (12) decked out in his Miami Dolphins bathrobe, yawns as he strolls on. He passes by a bedroom door with varied environmental causes, groups and slogans taped on it.

Jewel storms toward him. Jake spurts to life.

JAKE Good morning

JEWEL

Close it.

JAKE Something wrong?

JEWEL Shut up, twerp.

#### JAKE

Nice going.

### KITCHEN- MINUTES LATER

Jake observes the donut box, frowns. Selects the nutty.

Penny, across the table from him, head down in her arms, like a school kid having a quiet time out.

Jake takes a huge bite.

Want to talk about it? You're gonna anyway. PENNY Don't talk with your mouth full. Jake rolls the food in his mouth. Swallows it down. Penny slaps one hand up and down on the table. PENNY What am I going to do, what am I going to do! JAKE We can always get more donuts. Penny's head pops up. PENNY Stuffing! Please tell me I have stuffing or instant potatoes! She darts away from the table. Searches for items O.S. Jake downs a cup of juice. Gargles it. Swishes. Swallows. PENNY (O.S.) Thank you God! JAKE Thank God for stuffing and potatoes. PENNY (O.S.) Sliced beets! Four cans of sliced beets! Thank you, sweet Lord! Jake gulfs down the rest of the donut. Penny moves things around in a cupboard O.S. PENNY (O.S.) We're in business!

JAKE (mouth full) What you find?

She shows him her joy.

A generic can of green beans.

Jake gulps.

INT. TAYLOR'S OFFICE - DAY

SUPER: 24 HOURS AGO

TAYLOR (late 20s) headset, dress shirt and loud tie, does boxing moves in the comfort of his own office.

## CLIENT

(on intercom) I don't know, Taylor. I don't want to make any snap-

### TAYLOR

Would I mess with you? No! Jam you up? No! Who's the numero uno guy who's going to help you out?

CLIENT You have. But-

TAYLOR Who's the ace in the deck, got that right. Who's gotten you out of tight spots?

CLIENT Well. Your company has-

### TAYLOR

Right! You call us. You call me. Why? Because we get results! I get results! I wanna hear it, Stewart!

CLIENT You're the man, Taylor! TAYLOR

It's your birthday!

CLIENT

You are the man!

TAYLOR Top notch hopscotch bread and butter! You know what tomorrow is?

### CLIENT

Yes!

TAYLOR Gobble! Gobble! You got something extra to be thankful for!

MAIN FLOOR

Taylor stands silent in front of his office, surrounded by fellow employees. He studies each face. His face jollies up.

> TAYLOR It's gone through!

Celebration! Everyone claps, cheers.

TAYLOR Party at my place to-night!

A CO-WORKER (30s) gives a thumbs up.

CO-WORKER You are the man!

INT. TAYLOR'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM - MORNING

All over the floor, crowded on every table: Bottles of gin and beer. Some empty. Some spilled over.

Stains on a carpet.

Soda crackers and potato chips.

The drunk CO-WORKER passed out, upside down on the couch. Shirt out, pants on. No shoes. One right sock.

The other sock- in the fish tank.

The catfish ignores it.

A cell phone rings. Sounds of a marching band.

TAYLOR'S RIGHT HAND rises from somewhere below O.S.

Scrambles around the edge of a table. Knocks over beer bottles.

Finally- fingers find the cell phone. Yanks phone away.

TAYLOR (O.S.) Yeah. I'm sitting down.

Sits up in a jiffy. His hair messy. Wrinkled clothes with a mustard stain, loose tie.

TAYLOR Calm down, calm down. Not the end of the world.

YOLANDA (20s) stretches, broods up beside Taylor. Her makeup smeared, hair partially covers her face. A few buttons on her blouse undone, just enough for cleavage.

> YOLANDA Who's calling you this early?

Taylor cups his phone.

TAYLOR

My sister.

YOLANDA (hung over) Hi, sister!

TAYLOR Hey, hey, you mind? (back on phone) Just a friend, co-worker. Yolanda. You met her once.

Taylor notices the cleavage out of the corner of his eye.

TAYLOR What? No, no, no. Not here. I can't-

Sighs. Looks at his watch. Upside down. Takes it off and puts it on right.

TAYLOR Yes, I'm sorry I didn't go on the Bahamas cruise with mom and dad. I had work, and they wanted you to go anyway.

Yolanda finds a bottle, checks it. Finishes it off.

# TAYLOR No, that's alright. I'll call him. We'll work something out. You know me. It's under control.

Frowns.

TAYLOR Four hours. I understand. Bye. (to Yolanda) Hey, I really could use some help with-

Yolanda passes out.

TAYLOR Okay. Scratch that.

Dials a number.

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT.TV ROOM - MORNING

Macy's parade on TV.

A bowl of popcorn on a dinner tray in front of

NICK (late 30s) who picks up his cell phone on the first buzz.

TAYLOR You are the man!

NICK

Taylor?

# TAYLOR

That's right, Nick! Listen up! I'm in the zone, man. I'm in the zone. The Battle Zone, the Twilight Zone.

NICK Okay. You're in the zone.

#### TAYLOR

The end zone! And I need my pass to score the winning play! You with me!?

### NICK

I think so.

#### TAYLOR

Penny called. Turkey spoiled, milk turned to cottage cheese and you don't want to know what happened to the squash!

#### NICK

So why is that a problem? People just bring something.

#### TAYLOR

No, my man! The food's all bad and it stinks up the place. Her kids are wearing clothespins on their noses and she's breaking out the gas masks! We got to have it somewhere else!

### NICK

Your folks are on the cruise in the Bahamas. How about your place?

#### TAYLOR

No, just as bad, maybe worse. That leaves y-o-u and an i-o-u. So it has to be you!

NICK My apartment?

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TAYLOR That's right!

NICK Couldn't we just call up a good restaurant, be done with it?

TAYLOR Everything's booked!

NICK

Did you check? Doesn't have to be anything fancy.

TAYLOR No! That is not an acceptable answer!

NICK

I'm just saying you know. Doesn't hurt to look.

#### TAYLOR

Well, yeah, if you go to Pizza Shack or Taco Macho or something! But it's Turkey Day, people want bird! They don't want pizza, they don't want enchiladas! They want greens! They want potatoes! They want to pass the pepper, pass the salt, they want to eat bird!!

NICK

Mo Po Tofu.

TAYLOR What did you just say?

NICK I can make Mo Po Tofu. TAYLOR Mo Po Tofu? What the -

NICK I can make that.

# TAYLOR

You are cooking a dumb bird! It's not open for discussion. It isn't a debate. We can do this, Nick! Because we can! You can!

NICK Because I'm the cook. Anything else?

TAYLOR Well, yeah. Now that you mention it...

EXT. TAYLOR'S HOUSE - MORNING

Taylor, hair slicked back. Changed dress shirt. Loud tie.

Opens the door.

Comes out with Nick. They support a passed out Yolanda to the car.

### NICK

Girlfriend?

TAYLOR Only if she remembers.

They plop her in the backseat next to two paper bags and the bombed CO-WORKER.

NICK That's all, right? Nobody in the closet, nobody in the attic?

TAYLOR That's all.

Nick looks the two over.

NICK Maybe we should have called a cab or Dial-A- Ride or someone.

# TAYLOR

Gene lives a few miles from here, drop him off first, then Yolanda.

# NICK

I'm just saying, you know. Don't want them to hurl breakfast in my backseat.

TAYLOR These are good people. Don't worry about it.

Pats him on the back.

TAYLOR

It's cool.

INT. NICK'S CAR - DAY

Taylor fiddles with the radio, finds a song he likes and nods his head.

TAYLOR Bob with me, Nick.

NICK

Right.

TAYLOR Because we are in the zone.

EXT. GENE'S HOUSE - DAY

Peaceful suburban neighborhood.

Taylor lifts Co-Worker Gene. Once on the front yard, Gene falls down on the grass. Taylor swears under his breath, helps him up. GENE'S WIFE (40s) bolts out of the house with a raised fist, shouts of rage, and a hockey stick.

GENE'S WIFE

Stupid!

She takes a swing at Taylor, misses.

GENE'S WIFE

Some nerve!

Taylor drops Gene and retreats.

Bolts into Nick's car.

GENE'S WIFE Thanksgiving morning!

Once in, Nick reverses the car. Gene's wife taps the hood of the car with the hockey stick.

INT. NICK'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Nick floors it.

Taylor bursts in chuckles.

#### TAYLOR

In the zone!

NICK What was that?

## TAYLOR

Gene's a good guy, but his wife- a firecracker with a lit fuse twenty-four seven!

NICK Aren't you Gene's boss?

TAYLOR No. What gave you that idea? I just said I work with him. Thank God it's Thanksgiving!

NICK

Yeah.

### Nick slows down.

TAYLOR No, I mean thank God, because if it wasn't the holiday, we wouldn't get out alive.

NICK Before we get there, does Yolanda have any psycho exboyfriends?

TAYLOR No. But she did date a lawyer once.

#### NICK

Right.

TAYLOR Not a nice guy. Buries his enemies in paperwork.

NICK How do you know that?

Finally, Taylor sits up straight.

### TAYLOR

I'm one of them.

Gets back in the song, sings along. Nick switches stations.

TAYLOR What? You don't like that song?

### NICK

Love the song. Just don't want to hear you butcher it.

TAYLOR

Man, that's cold.

NICK All I'm interested in is doing our business, getting things done. TAYLOR Right. But that doesn't mean-

YOLANDA What are you all doing?

Taylor cranes his neck back.

TAYLOR Hey, how you feeling?

YOLANDA How do I look?

TAYLOR

Well, I-

# YOLANDA

I'm crap-faced on Thanksgiving morning. How the hell do you think I'm feeling?

### TAYLOR

We'll get you home. This here is my sister's boyfriend, Nick. Nick, Yolanda.

NICK Nice to meet you. Happy Thanksgiving.

YOLANDA

Whatever. So, Taylor, what's the haps?

#### TAYLOR

My place is a bar, my sister's place is a sty. Folks in the Bahamas drinking rum.

# YOLANDA

And?

TAYLOR Having dinner at Nick's.

NICK

My place.

YOLANDA

I know who you are already, okay? So, this is short notice. Why not just call a reservation, eat out?

Nick glances over to Taylor.

NICK Game's on at 12: 30.

Taylor smiles.

YOLANDA Your place. Don't you need to fix the place up, dust, vacuum, clean?

NICK Before I picked up Taylor, I gave Penny the key.

TAYLOR You did what?

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - DAY

Penny surveys the apartment.

PENNY

Oh dear Lord.

Jewel frowns at the sight of a table lamp with a regular light bulb.

JEWEL What kind of man doesn't use energy saver light bulbs?

Jake, in his Miami Dolphins jersey, hops on over to the TV room.

PENNY Wait a minute, Jacob. Nick doesn't have any video games.

JAKE He's got TV. Good enough.

#### PENNY

Hey, you guys have never been over here, don't mess with stuff.

# JAKE

I'm only turning on a TV. I'm not blowing it up.

#### PENNY

Don't get smart. We got work to do.

JAKE Didn't you just say we won't mess with stuff?

#### PENNY

Cleaning up a little bit is not the same thing. Nick's doing this for us on short notice. We can give him a hand.

#### JEWEL

Good thing he's not a slob. But some of these magazines can be recycled. Oh-My-God! Did you know about this, mom!?

She holds up the magazine. It's NASCAR related.

JEWEL He supports Global Warming!

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

A modern day maze of doom for any man.

Nick and Taylor review the battlefield. The place is packed. Lines of people as far as the eye can see.

Yolanda creeps up with a shopping cart.

YOLANDA

I can help.

NICK Don't have the time. You can wait in the car.

YOLANDA I can shop for myself, can't I?

TAYLOR It's a guy thing.

YOLANDA Guy thing?

TAYLOR Yeah. See, we know what we want, what we're looking for. We find those things. We get out of here, everyone else eats our plume of dust.

NICK Well said.

TAYLOR Only way to say it.

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jewel disgusted.

An assortment of cleaning products in front of her.

Jake puzzled.

Jake shrugs, grabs one of the polishes and a roll of paper towels.

JEWEL Paper towels. Did you know that paper towels kills a hundred trees a month? And the waste of them contributes to fifty percent of landfills?

JAKE That's an exaggeration. It's not even close I think.

#### JEWEL

Paper towels should be outlawed. Over half of people's garbage on a week to week basis is mostly paper towels and old food.

## JAKE

Like I care.

JEWEL

You better care! These cleaning agents also contribute to the destruction of the Ozone layer!

JAKE Put a cork back in the bottle.

INT. GROCERY STORE. FROZEN MEAT AISLE - DAY

Two WOMEN (both 40s) play tug of war with a frozen turkey.

Nick finds one frozen turkey in the freezer. Only one left. He picks it up, puts it in the cart.

A CRAZY WOMAN (40s) springs up and spits a can of pepper spray at him. As he blocks the blast, the Crazy Woman snatches the turkey.

She tucks it under her arm, and like a running back, goes deep in the crowded outfield. She's halfway to produce when someone unseen in the crowd grabs it from her.

Hands raise, hold the turkey up high. People jump up for it.

Taylor springs up like an NBA player, and steals it.

WOMEN grab his shirt, tie.

YOLANDA Over here! Over here!

Taylor can't make her out, she's somewhere in the mosh pit.

# CRAZY WOMAN Nowhere to go! Nowhere to run!

DESPERATE HOUSEWIFE (30s) waves an accusing finger.

DESPERATE HOUSEWIFE Give it up, pretty boy!

ELDERY WOMAN raises her lethal umbrella.

ELDERY WOMAN I'll teach you some manners!

TAYLOR Well, me and my friends are going to make it out of here with this the potatoes, AND his Mo Po Tofu AND one other thing!

DESPERATE HOUSEWIFE What's that?

TAYLOR

I'm the man!

Eldery Woman swings. Misses. Taylor backs up.

TAYLOR

Strike one!

ELDERY WOMAN Have respect for your elders!

TAYLOR I got this! Nick! Get your Tofu! Yolanda! Potatoes and greens!

Somewhere in the rock concert, Nick and Yolanda nod and hustle to various points of the store.

CRAZY WOMAN You ain't got a prayer!

TAYLOR Back up, baby! I am in the zone!

DESPERATE HOUSEWIFE Give it up!

TAYLOR

We are going to cook the fowl.

The crowd closes in. It looks hopeless.

DESPERATE HOUSEWIFE You are going to get whipped!

TAYLOR Well then give me your pumpkin pie, honey bunny!

As he laughs, he hiccups. Coughs.

A look of fear covers his face.

Too late.

The women scream, get far away from Taylor...as he drops the turkey on the floor.

Yesterday's booze and today's breakfast all over the floor.

Pea soup surrounds the frozen turkey.

SHORT TIME LATER

Shopping carts full but no shoppers. Baskets of goods abandoned.

Musak plays.

CHECKOUT LANE

The CASHIER (18) cringes as she rings up the frozen turkey. It's cleaned off, but Nick, Yolanda and Taylor look like they been through World War III.

It seems they have the place to themselves.

NICK Paper, please.

The apartment: spotless.

Penny and Jewel smile as Nick, Yolanda and Taylor enter with groceries. Smiles turn to frowns. Frowns to disgust.

TAYLOR Not one word.

Walks off towards Nick's bathroom.

PENNY What happened?

NICK We got a turkey! And I got my tofu!

JEWEL You mean the Tofu flavored like turkey.

NICK No, there's turkey, there's my tofu.

JEWEL What's the point? Either you're going vegan or you're not.

NICK Whatever. Long story. But we are good to go. This is Yolanda, Taylor's friend. And I am ready to get cooking, so I thank everyone for helping me tidy up, but now, make way.

PENNY Can I help with anything?

TAYLOR (off) Hey, Nick-

NICK

Yes.

JEWEL You didn't even ask what he wants.

YOLANDA He already knows.

BEDROOM

Taylor stands before Nick's open closet of clothes.

LAUNDRY ROOM

Taylor's hands dump the dirty shirt and tie in the washing machine. Turns a knob to warm water.

TV ROOM

Taylor, now in near identical white dress shirt and a solid red tie, plops himself on the couch next to Jake.

Confused.

Jake catches on.

JAKE

What?

TAYLOR Nothing. Forget it.

JAKE You didn't toss up in Nick's car did you?

TAYLOR

No.

JAKE Where did you hurl? Not on the turkey.

TAYLOR Yeah. But we got another turkey. It's good.

JAKE You smell like beer. TAYLOR

It's cologne.

JAKE Sure. If you say so.

TAYLOR Detroit Lions and Chicago Bears. Who plays at four?

JAKE

Dallas and Baltimore.

### TAYLOR

That's right. Dallas and Baltimore. Miami does not play against Dallas or Detroit. But there you are, Miami Dolphins jersey. I know you like that team, for whatever reason. It's alright. But...you know...

JAKE No. I don't know what you mean.

TAYLOR They aren't playing.

Jake: clueless.

TAYLOR It's just...you know. Right?

JAKE

Right?

# TAYLOR

Forget it.

JAKE You didn't really blast on the turkey, did you?

TAYLOR You watch the parade?

JAKE

Macy's?

TAYLOR

No other.

JAKE Nope. Stop trying to change the subject.

NICK'S KITCHEN

Nick puts the turkey in the oven. Sets a timer.

Dumps the contents of a can of spinach into a bowl.

Penny watches him as he makes Mo Po Tofu.

DINNER TABLE

Plates and silverware set out.

Everyone but Nick seated at the table.

Nick comes over, places a plate full of hot turkey next to a cup of gravy.

Right next to Mo Po Tofu.

NICK Hot and ready!

TAYLOR In the Zone!

NICK

And bad to the bone. Okay, what's everybody thankful for, then, we'll give thanks to God, bless the food. Clockwise.

YOLANDA Thanks for inviting me, letting me help you guys.

NICK I was wrong. Couldn't have done it without you.

YOLANDA I don't know... NICK

You were a help.

#### TAYLOR

Thankful for family and friends. And the deal we closed yesterday. Thankful that after a wild night, everyone got home safe. Thanks to Nick for letting me borrow a shirt and using his washer and dryer. Next in line.

#### JAKE

Dolphins! Video games! Next!

### JEWEL

I want to thank Greenpeace, PETA, the ACLU and all those who are with all my causes, and to those who don't go green may they burn in a special place in eternal hell for what they do to our mother Earth.

Silence for a few moments.

PENNY

Okay, I would like to thank Nick for making such a great dinner on short notice, having us over. He's the best. I would like to thank God for a good day.

### NICK

Thank everyone for coming. It was a crazy morning, but we made it. That said, Thank the Lord for of you.

A stare from Jewel.

NICK And The Green Earth.

Jewel smiles.

PENNY

Now everyone hold hands, and let's bless the food.

Once everyone does so-

PENNY

Thank you God for today, may you bless this food for we are about to eat, bless the hands that helped prepare it. May it nourish us to our good in Jesus' name, Amen.

NICK

Dig in!

JAKE Pass the Tofu and potatoes please.

PENNY One at a time.

JAKE I just don't want the green beans.

PENNY Yeah, I know.

JAKE Besides, Taylor already blessed the turkey at the store.

Penny stops shy of taking a bit of the turkey.

JEWEL

Yeah, and before that? The bird had to suffer a horrible fate. Someone took the poor think, snaps its neck and takes an axe and whops its head off! How would you like something like that happening to your dog or cat?

PENNY

Hey.

#### JEWEL

Well, how would you like to eat your own dog? Raise it up just to kill it for doggie bacon?

NICK No one is forcing you to eat the turkey.

#### JEWEL

It's an ultimate waste. You'll just wind up throwing half of the dead bird out.

PENNY Jewel- shut up and eat.

JEWEL I will not be silent! Animals have rights too!

TAYLOR Does a turkey vote?

JEWEL

Does a dog?

#### TAYLOR

We are not eating a dog. We are not eating a cat. We aren't having chilled monkey brains. It is a turkey.

JEWEL A turkey you tossed on.

TAYLOR That was a different turkey.

### JEWEL

It was still a turkey. A turkey that died horribly, a turkey that will never be served. In the dumpster. Where it rots.

#### PENNY

I apologize, Nick.

It's alright. I know what this is. I should have seen - Jewel, I'm not replacing your father. I can't fill his shoes. I just started seeing your mother. You're in my place, you feel uncomfortable. I understand.

JEWEL

NICK

You do?

### NICK

Yes. The bird is cooked. If you don't want to eat the bird, you don't eat the bird. I'm not going to eat it. But it's not going to waste. Have the tofu.

JEWEL

It's the idea.

NICK Be glad I didn't choose duck.

Jewel shrugs, takes some tofu.

PENNY Any other interesting discussions?

Nick opens a bottle of wine and pours.

NICK Sure. I'd rather have a toast before we all lose our minds.

Raises his glass.

NICK Just the same. To everyone's mental health!

FADE OUT