

"DON'T CALL IT A RELAPSE"

Written by

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"DON'T CALL IT A RELAPSE" A SCREENPLAY BY VASLAV J. RICE

FADE IN

EXT. HOLDEN'S CAR OUTSIDE OF THE KNOX'S HOUSE- DAY

LOCATION 1 SHOT 1

HOLDEN SCHUMACHER (42) sits in the driver's seat of his parked and running car. Holden looks very uncomfortable as he stares at his sister's home. He breathes in and out before turning the car off. Holden then takes the keys out of the ignition and then begins to exit the car. He then quickly stops himself and sits back down. Holden closes his car door shut. He places his head on the steering wheel in anguish. This continues for a few moments.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM INSIDE THE KNOX HOME- CONTINUOUS

MACLAINE KNOX (45)'s living room is decorated for a celebration. Balloons with 'WELCOME HOME' and 'CONGRATULATIONS' are scattered about. LOCATION 4- A card table is in the corner of the room with bowls of snacks, sandwiches, cans of soda and a cake. LOCATION 2- Another part of the room sits (from left to right) MacLaine's mother CLAIRE SCHUMACHER (70) in a folding chair, MacLaine's son Gable's girlfriend RACHEL WILKERSON (32) in a folding chair and Claire's brother ANDY BENDER (58) in a wheelchair. LOCATION 3- In another part of the room sits (from left to right) Andy's son EDDIE BENDER (38) in a big chair and MacLaine's daughter PENELOPE KNOX (24) in another big chair. MacLaine's sister Fontaine's husband TODD LECK (47) stands by the card table of food eating a sandwich from his plate.

LOCATION 2 SHOT 2

Uncle Andy is drinking from a bottle of beer. MacLaine comes over from behind him and snatches it from him.

UNCLE ANDY

What the hell did you do that for?

MACLAINE

Really Uncle Andy? Drinking a beer at a coming back from rehab party?

MacLaine replaces Uncle Andy's beer with a can of soda she was holding.

UNCLE ANDY

I'm not an addict like your brother Gable.

MACLAINE

But my brother will be here soon.
And he can't see you drink that.

LOCATION 3 SHOT 3

Eddie (who looks high) turning to Penelope (texting on her phone).

EDDIE

I thought Gable was hooked on the heroin, not the sauce.

LOCATION 2 SHOT 4

Uncle Andy looks at the soda can. MacLaine still stands behind him with a scowl.

UNCLE ANDY

This isn't even diet. You know I'm a diabetic.

MACLAINE

Then you shouldn't even be drinking a beer.

The door bell RINGS in the background. Claire interjects.

CLAIRE

Oh, Gable must be here.

MacLaine exits the scene from behind Uncle Andy towards the unseen front door.

MACLAINE (V.O.)

It's not Gable mom. Fontaine is going to call when they are on their way.

Claire turns to her brother Andy in front of Rachel (who leans back with a surprised look).

CLAIRE

I'm sorry my daughter took your beer Andy.

MacLaine's voice comes from the front door area.

MACLAINE (V.O.)

It's your other son Holden mother.

Andy replies back to Claire who has backed off Rachel.

UNCLE ANDY
She had no right Claire.

Claire (dejected) as she turns to an on looking Rachel.

CLAIRE
It's not Gable.
(she rolls her eyes)
It's my other son Holden.

LOCATION 4 SHOT 5

MacLaine and Holden are now in front of the card table. MacLaine places Uncle Andy's beer bottle on the table. Todd looks on while eating a sandwich.

MACLAINE
Long time no see Holden.

HOLDEN
You know where I live and you have
a phone too. Don't give me the I
don't come around or call crap
MacLaine.

MacLaine looks in the direction of the unseen Rachel and then points to her.

MACLAINE
I don't know if you met Gable's
girlfriend Rachel or not.

Holden also looks in the direction of the unseen Rachel. His eyes light up.

HOLDEN
No, I have not had the pleasure
yet.

Rachel enters the scene as she smiles and stands in front of the on looking Holden.

MACLAINE
Rachel, this is my brother Holden.

RACHEL
Very nice to meet you Holden. I
have heard great things about you
from your brother.

Holden and Rachel smile at each other while not being able to take their eyes off each other. MacLaine notices while Todd stands in the background also watching while still eating.

MACLAINE

Like I said, Rachel is Gable's girlfriend.

Holden puts his hand out for Rachel to shake it.

MACLAINE (CONT'D)

Holden is making one of his rare appearances.

Rachel shakes Holden's hand.

MACLAINE (CONT'D)

So we should feel so lucky.

Holden and Rachel stop shaking hands. Holden and Rachel continue their stares in each other's eyes.

HOLDEN

Very, very nice to meet you.

RACHEL

We actually talked on the phone once. When you called Gable.

HOLDEN

Oh yeah, that's right.

MacLaine gives them both a look. Then gently grabs Rachel's shoulders and puts her in the direction of where she was sitting. Rachel exits the scene. Holden watches her leave. MacLaine steps in front of Holden. His attention is forced to be switched at her.

MACLAINE

(to Holden still)

Where's Nancy?

HOLDEN

We broke up.

MACLAINE

When?

HOLDEN

Six months ago.

MACLAINE

And you didn't tell us?

Holden shakes his head no.

HOLDEN

Nope.

MacLaine shakes her head in disbelief.

MACLAINE

I'm going to head into the kitchen
and call Fontaine again. They
should be here by now.

MacLaine exits the card table area. Holden and Todd look at each other.

LOCATION 2 SHOT 6

Claire turns to Rachel.

CLAIRE

I never liked Holden's girlfriend
Nancy. She was stuck up.

Rachel turns to Claire and gives the look as if she does not know what to say. Uncle Andy gets up from his wheelchair and exits the scene while holding his can of soda. Rachel changes the awkward subject.

RACHEL

All of your kids seem to be named
after Hollywood movie stars.

Uncle Andy returns to the wheelchair with his beer again instead of the soda.

CLAIRE

That's because I have culture.

Rachel does not know how to react to Claire and looks away from her. Uncle Andy turns to Rachel.

UNCLE ANDY

(creepy)
I got culture too.

Uncle Andy takes a swig of his beer. Rachel turns away from Uncle Andy with a scared look.

LOCATION 3 SHOT 7

Eddie turning to Penelope (texting on her phone) on the loveseat.

EDDIE

Do you have culture cuz?

Penelope gives Eddie a strange look. She then shakes her head no. Penelope goes back to texting as he still stares at her.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

I smoke weed too.

Penelope side eyes Eddie as she continues to text on her phone.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

In case you were wondering.

LOCATION 4 SHOT 8

Todd continuing to eat sandwiches from his plate as he stands next to the card table. Holden holds a bowl of chips. Todd speaks to Holden.

TODD

(with a mouth of food)

Did you know Prosciutto is from the pig's hind leg and thigh.

Holden gives Todd a peculiar look.

HOLDEN

No, I didn't know that Todd.

Holden pauses for a moment before talking again to Todd.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)

Are you still a drug counselor at the methadone clinic?

Todd shakes his head yes while chewing.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)

I guess you could be some great help for Gable when he get's home.

Todd ignores what Holden said. He changes the subject.

TODD

I actually prefer Prosciutto wrapped around grissini.

Holden ignores what Todd said. He keeps up with his subject.

HOLDEN

Gable can surely use a family member with your kind of knowledge when it comes to beating his addiction.

Todd again ignores what Holden said. He keeps up with his subject.

TODD

Grissini, if you didn't know, is a delicious kind of breadstick.

Holden gives Todd a stern look.

HOLDEN

Todd, are you ignoring me about the nature of why we are here? My brother Gable?

TODD

Oh, I don't like to talk shop away from work Holden. I'm sorry.

HOLDEN

You don't like to talk shop?

TODD

What do you do for a living Holden?

HOLDEN

You know what I do Todd. I'm a salesman.

TODD

(sarcastic)

Oh that's right. You sell toilets.

HOLDEN

Plumbing supplies.

TODD

Basically toilets. Imagine you had a really long day at work. Toilets, toilets, toilets all day long. You come home and you want to rest, right? Then I call you. I say Holden I need your help. My toilet doesn't work anymore. Would you want to help me?

HOLDEN

I would love to help you.

Holden pats Todd on the shoulder.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)
Because you are my sister
Fontaine's husband.

Todd gives a smirk and then pats Holden on the shoulder.

TODD
Then I guess you are a better man
than me.

Todd walks away from a stunned Holden. He starts eating from the table again. Holden is left speechless.

A somewhat frantic MacLaine comes back into the scene.

MACLAINE
I am getting a little concerned
here. I'm still not getting an
answer from Fontaine.

To Todd.

MACLAINE (CONT'D)
Todd, can you give your wife a call
perhaps?

Todd ignores her. He instead talks back to Holden again.

TODD
Did you know that prosciutto can
also be made of lamb instead of
pig?

Both Holden and MacLaine just stare at Todd in disbelief.

The door bell rings.

LOCATION 2 SHOT 9

CLAIRE
Oh, Gable must be here.

MacLaine's voice is heard in the background.

MACLAINE (V.O.)
God, I hope so.

Uncle Andy turns to Rachel.

UNCLE ANDY
Do you like what you do for a
living sweetheart?

Rachel turns to Uncle Andy.

RACHEL
Oh I would if I didn't have to work
nights.

Robert gives her a strange look. Claire turns to Rachel.

CLAIRE
I favor Gable over Holden because
he doesn't act all high and mighty.

MacLaine's voice is heard in the background again.

MACLAINE (V.O.)
It's not them!

CLAIRE
By the way, did you get Gable
hooked on the smack?

Rachel looks in horror at Claire.

RACHEL
No, I didn't.

LOCATION 4 SHOT 10

Gable's friend DAMON (48) is in the scene. He is holding
several pizza boxes.

MACLAINE
Hey Damon, could you go ahead and
place the pizza's on the table with
the other food.

DAMON
Yes ma'am.

Damon puts the boxes of pizza on the card table.

LOCATION 3 SHOT 11

Eddie turns to Penelope (who is still texting on her phone).

EDDIE
Have you ever smoked weed before?

Penelope turns to Eddie and shakes her head no.

EDDIE (CONT'D)
Would you like too?

Penelope shakes her head no while texting.

LOCATION 4 SHOT 12

MacLaine, Holden, Todd and Damon at the card table of food.

MACLAINE

If you all didn't know, Damon was Gable's sponsor when they were in N A together.

Damon waves to everybody.

DAMON

Hey everybody.

Holden approaches MacLaine.

MACLAINE

He also helped Gable get a job before his last relapse.

A frustrated MacLaine stops herself.

MACLAINE (CONT'D)

Not a relapse. Just another opportunity I meant.

Holden interjects to MacLaine.

HOLDEN

MacLaine, where is your husband by the way?

MACLAINE

Wyatt is out of town on business.

Damon looks at MacLaine with a peculiar look.

DAMON

I just saw mister Knox...

MacLaine slaps Damon in the chest to get him to shut up. Damon shuts up. Holden shakes his head in disbelief.

LOCATION 2 SHOT 13

Claire turns to Rachel.

CLAIRE

Aren't you afraid you'll get hepatitis when you use dirty needles?

Again, Rachel turns to Claire with a look of horror.

RACHEL
Ms Schumacher, I don't use drugs.

LOCATION 4 SHOT 14

Damon notices Uncle Andy drinking a beer.

DAMON
Are you drinking a beer at a
welcome home from rehab party?

LOCATION 2 SHOT 15

Uncle Andy gives Damon a dirty look. A now angry MacLaine approaches Uncle Andy and snatches the beer bottle from him. Then she leaves the scene towards the card table.

UNCLE ANDY
Hey now.
(turns to the unseen
Damon)
Snitch.

MacLaine re-enters the scene with a can of soda. She hands it to Uncle Andy. Then she again exits the scene towards the card table.

UNCLE ANDY (CONT'D)
Again, with the regular soda? I
said I'm diabetic.

LOCATION 4 SHOT 16

Damon looks in shock towards Uncle Andy. MacLaine grabs the beer bottle and slams it into a garbage can next to the card table. She then addresses everybody in the house.

MACLAINE
Everybody listen up! This is a
welcome home from rehab party. That
means no drinking Uncle Andy.
(towards Eddie)
That means your son Eddie shouldn't
be sitting next to my young
daughter high as a kite.

LOCATION 3 SHOT 17

Eddie turns to Penelope (who is texting on her phone and ignoring all that is going on).

EDDIE
Your mom seems kind of angry.

Penelope ignores him and keeps texting.

LOCATION 4 SHOT 18

MacLaine keeps going off.

MACLAINE

When Gable walks through that door
with our sister Fontaine, we will
be kind, sympathetic and most of
all one with the lord in Jesus
Christ, our savior.

Uncle Andy chimes in from the background.

UNCLE ANDY (V.O.)

Amen sister!

MACLAINE

Shut up Uncle Andy!

Todd turns to Holden.

TODD

And you wonder why I don't want to
involve myself into your family's
woes.

Holden looks back at Todd.

LOCATION 2 SHOT 19

Claire turns to Rachel.

CLAIRE

When you are getting high with my
son Gable, does it ever occur to
you that what you are doing is
wrong?

Rachel again looks in horror at Claire.

RACHEL

Once again, Ms Schumacher, I do not
do drugs.

Uncle Andy nudges Rachel with his elbow and then speaks to her.

UNCLE ANDY

C'mon girl, do you expect us to
believe that?

(MORE)

UNCLE ANDY (CONT'D)

We know you sell your body to the night to support your drug habits. By the way, I'll give you five bucks if you run to my car and get two beers from my trunk.

LOCATION 3 SHOT 20

Eddie turning to Penelope (who is still texting on her phone).

EDDIE

I'll give you ten bucks if you run to my car and get my dubbage out of my glove box. Then we can get high together in the bathroom cuz.

Penelope keeps texting as she slightly side eyes him.

LOCATION 4 SHOT 21

Holden and Damon watch the 'trainwreck' of this family together in awe. MacLaine's phone rings in her pocket. She pulls it out and looks at it. To everybody.

MACLAINE

It's Fontaine thank God.

Claire interjects from the background.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

(now smiling)

My son is coming home at last.

Holden looks at his mother with a 'whatever' look. MacLaine answers the phone.

MACLAINE

(to the phone)

Where are you?

(beat)

Fontaine, stop screaming.

MacLaine puts the phone away from her ear. She hits the speaker button on her phone so everybody can hear the phone call. MacLaine holds the phone at chest level. FONTAINE (39) is heard screaming.

FONTAINE (V.O.)

(from the phone)

...They are taking Gable away!

MACLAINE
 (to the phone)
 Who is taking Gable away?!

FONTAINE (V.O.)
 (from the phone)
 The police!

MACLAINE
 (to the phone)
 Fontaine, why are the police taking
 Gable away?!

FONTAINE (V.O.)
 (from the other phone)
 His girlfriend picked him up before
 I got there!

LOCATION 2 SHOT 22

Claire turns to Rachel.

CLAIRE
 Then who are you?

FONTAINE (V.O.)
 (from the phone)
 Then they got high together!

RACHEL
 (stoic)
 I guess I'm the other girlfriend.

LOCATION 4 SHOT 23

MacLaine looks in horror while holding the phone and
 listening.

FONTAINE (V.O.)
 (from the phone)
 They were in her car in the parking
 lot of the rehab center! She
 overdosed! The police came and
 revived her! Now they are arresting
 him!

MACLAINE
 (to the phone)
 Fontaine calm down!

FONTAINE (V.O.)
 (from the phone; to the
 police)
 (MORE)

FONTAINE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Leave him alone! Don't be so
 aggressive! I said let him go!.....

A police officer's voice is heard from the phone.

POLICE OFFICER (V.O.)
 (from the phone)
 Stand down ma'am! I said Stand
 down!

A clicking buzzing sound comes from the phone. Holden now
 stands by MacLaine's side.

MACLAINE
 (to the phone)
 Fontaine! What happened?!

Holden reaches over and grabs MacLaine's phone from her. He
 hits the end call button. Then Holden turns to MacLaine as he
 hands her the phone.

HOLDEN
 I think the police just tased her.

LOCATION 2 SHOT 24

Claire addressing Holden and MacLaine.

CLAIRE
 (frantic)
 They tased my baby boy Gable?!

HOLDEN (V.O.)
 No, they tased Fontaine.

CLAIRE
 (matter-of-fact like)
 Oh.

Claire turns to Rachel.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
 This is all your fault! Gable never
 did drugs until he met you.

Rachel turns to Claire.

RACHEL
 Are you kidding me? I don't do
 drugs. I don't drink alcohol. I
 don't even smoke cigarettes. I'm
 even a vegan for God's sake.

MacLaine interjects.

MACLAINE (V.O.)
Please don't use god's name in vain
in my house.

Rachel turns to Uncle Andy.

RACHEL
And for your information, I work as
a nurse at Children's Hospital
overnight.

Uncle Andy gives her a look.

UNCLE ANDY
(sarcastic)
Okay Sugar Britches.

Claire turns to Rachel.

CLAIRE
Then you drove him to this.

RACHEL
He was in rehab two times before he
met me. Maybe you should be blaming
his other girlfriend that I didn't
know he had.

LOCATION 4 SHOT 25

A stunned Holden, Damon and MacLaine watch in horror at the
three sitting together. Holden shakes himself out of his
trance and addresses the emotionless Todd.

HOLDEN
(to Todd)
Todd, I think you better go check
on Fontaine.

Todd still with his plate in his hand.

TODD
Why me?

HOLDEN
Because she's your wife.

Todd thinks for a moment to himself before responding.

TODD
Yeah, I guess I better then.

Todd starts to slowly make his way away from the table.

LOCATION 3 SHOT 26

Eddie turns to Penelope (who is still texting on her phone).

EDDIE

I guess it's another official
relapse, huh?

Penelope ignores him while she continues to text.

LOCATION 4 SHOT 27

MacLaine at the card table. She watches Todd stop at the card table before leaving to get more sandwiches to take with him.

MACLAINE

Don't call it a relapse. It's
another opportunity to get help and
find the lord and savior Jesus
Christ!

Holden looks at Todd after he finishes loading up on more food to his plate. Todd looks at Holden and MacLaine and then slowly makes his way out of the scene to the front door.

LOCATION 2 SHOT 28

Uncle Andy addresses everyone.

UNCLE ANDY

Can I get my beer now? Since
apparently the party is cancelled.

LOCATION 4 SHOT 29

An aggravated Damon on the other side of the card table can't take anymore.

DAMON

What in the hell is wrong with you
all?! What kind of people are you?
Gable was arrested again! His
sister, your sister, your
daughter...that un-effected man's
wife was tased by the police!

Holden blows out in frustration.

DAMON (CONT'D)

It's because of you people Gable is
the way he is.

(points to Claire)

You blamed his girlfriend and not
yourself.

MacLaine gives her mother a stern look.

DAMON (CONT'D)
Gable probably did it on purpose so
he wouldn't have to come home to
you all!
(turns to MacLaine)
All you did was try to convert him
all the time.

MacLaine's stern look turns to shock at Damon.

DAMON (CONT'D)
(turns to Uncle Andy)
You drink beer at a welcome home
from rehab party for your nephew?

MacLaine's shock look turns quickly to a stern one at Uncle
Andy.

DAMON (CONT'D)
(turns to Eddie)
You get high and show up at the
same welcome home from rehab party
for your first cousin.

LOCATION 3 SHOT 30

Eddie turns to Penelope (who is still texting on her phone).

EDDIE
Weed is not a gateway drug like
they say it is.

LOCATION 4 SHOT 31

Back to Damon, who turns to Holden.

DAMON
Holden, Gable always spoke highly
of you. He admired that you were
always able to keep away from these
crazies.

Damon starts making his way almost out of the scene.

DAMON (CONT'D)
The rest of you should be ashamed
of yourselves.

Damon steps out of the scene. Holden and MacLaine are
speechless for a few moments. Then Damon comes back in the
scene to the card table and grabs the boxes of pizza.

DAMON (CONT'D)
You all don't deserve these.

Damon shakes his head.

DAMON (CONT'D)
I love white people. But you all
are the craziest and most selfish
white people I ever met. For shame.

Damon exits the scene for good. Holden all of the sudden
looks relieved.

HOLDEN
(to everybody)
Well, that made my day. I've waited
along time to tell you all that.

Holden laughs to himself and then goes on.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)
And the best part is, I didn't even
have to be the one to have to do
it. Damon did it for me. He was
only with you for a few minutes and
could tell what you all were about.

Holden exits the scene. MacLaine is left speechless for a few
moments.

LOCATION 2 SHOT 32

Uncle Andy, Rachel and Claire are left speechless. Holden
enters the scene and walks over and approaches Rachel. Holden
puts his hand out for her. Rachel takes his hand. He pulls
Rachel off her chair (as she grabs her purse). They are out
of the scene. Uncle Andy and Claire look at each other. The
noise of the front door is slammed in the background.

UNCLE ANDY
They didn't even say goodbye.

CLAIRE
(snarky)
I'm not surprised.

MacLaine enters the scene and sits down where Rachel was.

MACLAINE
I think we might be bad people.

Uncle Andy to MacLaine.

UNCLE ANDY
Speak for yourself.

LOCATION 3 SHOT 33

Eddie turns to Penelope who is still texting on her phone.

EDDIE
Do you think were bad people cuz?

Penelope shakes her head no while texting.

CUT TO:

EXT. ON THE FRONT PORCH OF THE KNOX'S HOME- MOMENTS LATER

LOCATION 5 SHOT 34

Rachel stands outside the front door on the porch. Holden stares at her as he stands too.

HOLDEN
You want to grab some coffee or something?

RACHEL
Sure.

Holden and Rachel smile at each other and start walking down the front porch steps.

FADE OUT

THE CREDITS ROLL