

## PITCH DOC

The working title of the show is “Chicks and Dicks.” But obviously this isn’t France, so we’ll have to change it.

This is a modern Battle of the Sexes, an Anti- Sex and the City, a reverse Three’s Company. It’s the story of a clueless single girl moving into an apartment with three single guys.

But what’s does the “Battle of the Sexes” look like right now? We live in a time when guys act like girls and girls act like guys- tight jeans, crying in public, dieting aka. becoming a vegan, these all used to be our thing. Now a lot of girls I know are dirty, hairy beasts who never want to have kids. A lot has changed.

But also nothing has changed. Women are still emotional wrecks who can’t park and men are still horny bastards who are really good at opening jars.

I want to take the idea behind “When Harry Met Sally...” without the ending. Can men and women just be friends?” Yeah. Sure. Slate magazine reported last week that 1 out of 10 people ages 25 to 34 said that they have a best friend- not just a friend, a best friend- of the opposite sex. Cool. But what does that look like?

I’m writing this show for my guy friends Matteo, Jeff, and Jay who read all the text messages, Facebook messages, and phone messages from the men in my life. What does it mean if a guy does blank? The answer lies somewhere between “He’s Trying to Have Sex with You” and “Stop Calling Him. It’s Getting Weird.” I’m incapable of saying the right thing. A guy once told me that he thought I was hot until I opened my mouth and spoke. Talking to men is like going to another country where you don’t speak the language and using a basic phrase book to try and find eternal happiness. Without my guy friends translating, I’d just keep saying “How are you?” until someone robbed me.

And I’m there when my guy friends need me- I’m the date to parties and weddings and events. I introduce them to my friends and run interference when they try and fail to date girls I know.

And when Jeff told me his new girlfriend still sleeps with a stuffed animal named Brownie, I told him that wasn’t a normal “girl thing” and he needed to break up with that crazy bitch immediately. They’re now living together. Which reminded me why I have the cardinal rule of male/female friendship- always, no matter what, make nice with the girlfriend.

There’s a give and take with all my guy friends- we need each other’s help. The New York Times recently wrote that Twenty-Somethings have been so slow to complete basic life milestones- like becoming financially independent, getting married, and having children- that scientists are now creating a new stage of life somewhere

between adolescence and adulthood, called “Emerging Adulthood.” Now you can’t accuse us of not accomplishing anything- we’re setting record lows for emotional maturity.

We aren’t Harry and Sally, we’re idiot twenty-somethings making our way in a world that refuses to give us loans. We are the generation of Craigslist sublets and partial employment. We don’t fake our orgasms, we tape them and put them on the internet. We’re weird, and we deserve to be made fun of.

The tone of the show is edgy humor surrounded with love- Ledy. It’s me guest starring on Entourage. It’s Bridget Jones forced to live inside a Judd Apatow movie. It’s Jonah Hill wearing spunks.

Possible Taglines:

“Three guys. One girl. No grown ups.”

**“Three guys. One girl. Trying to have Sex in the City.”**

“Three guys. One girl. Totally not a porn.”

Our way into the show is from our lead Jess’ point of view- we can hear her narration in certain moments- a lot of the comedy comes from what she thinks will happen vs. what actually does. The style is open to include fantasies, absurd tangents, subtitled interactions with the opposite sex, and pop culture references. Every episode starts with Jess thinking that today’s going to be the best day of her life. Her optimism in the face of weird, shitty reality is the engine for the show.

- JESS, aka “The Heart”- 28 years old.
  - She’s Lucille Ball trying to be Carrie Bradshaw.
  - She just moved to New York from Michigan to be a middle school History teacher. Living with three guys is a lot like teaching 14 year olds. **One of her tricks is the Feeling Stick- where anyone holding the stick has the right to say whatever he’s feeling. Unfortunately, he can use it to physically attack the person sitting next to him.**
  - In the town in Michigan where she’s from, she’s considered skinny and fashionable- just because she doesn’t wear tevas all day long and occasionally shaves her legs. New York is a different story. She thinks she’s supposed to be a character in Sex and The City, but she’s actually secretly totally fine with the missionary position. Complicated underwear really stresses her out. Her main source of new clothes is the Lost and Found box at school.
  - But she’s so excited to be in this new place- In her head, she’s the star of the TV show about her life. When she walks down a busy New York

street, she might suddenly start singing her theme song, "Jess is making it! Makin' it in the big city! You can't stop her!"

- Surprise, surprise, she is totally clueless around guys- Her problem is usually coming on too strong- she believes in being honest and not playing games. But being honesty has never gotten anyone laid. Ever. Jess needs to learn to lie. Luckily, she lives with three delusional liars.
- Her Achilles Heel is Pink Wine. She's like the Incredible Hulk or, more accurately, the Incredible Slut- a couple sips of pink wine and suddenly she thinks she's Fergie in the Black Eyed Peas.
- Even though he drives her nuts, her main crush is Nick- she fights against his cynical advice, and her optimism drives him nuts. The great thing about their relationship is total honesty- that they have nothing to lose around each other, so they don't hide anything. The problem is- they compare everyone they meet to each other.
- Her arc on the show is learn to stand up for herself, to become confident in life and love. Strangely the boys actually teach her to be more of a woman.

**The guys Jess lives with all com with baggage when it comes to women. Nick's engagement brutally and disastrously fell apart, Schmidt's overbearing, terrifying mother runs his life, and Coach has watched as each of his friends leaves him to get married and have kids. Jess is the first girl they've met who isn't trying to change them or hurt them or stop them from watching Sports Center while cradling their balls.**

The first roommate is NICK aka "The Brain"

- He's a bartender who has shut off from the world so he can make fun of it.
- He's a smart guy who lost his way after his fiancée **dumped him for Michael Phelps**. He didn't graduate from law school and now he works as a bartender and doesn't really care about anyone or anything. Sure, he still wears his ex-girlfriend's pink cardigan because it kind of still smells like her shampoo, but he's totally over it.
- He's cool without trying to be cool- the kind of guy other guys gravitate towards to be a leader, but he doesn't have enough energy.
- He's the one who operates on logic- he doesn't understand people who operate based on emotions. Aka. all women. And Jess most of all.

- Women don't surprise him very much- as soon as a woman comes onto him, he can tell you exactly how it's all going to end with her. He's like the Sherlock Holmes of relationship failure.
- He loves all kinds of failure. He's a failure junkie. Especially with bad movies- He knows every word to The Cutting Edge. **He likes to make girls sit through the movie "Leprechaun". If they still feel like hooking up, he knows they must really like him.**
- Working at a bar for 10 years has made him an amateur therapist. He's incredibly perceptive about other people, but his one blindspot is his own life- he doesn't see that he needs to get out of this rut. Which is really about fear- underneath it all, he's just freaked out of losing everything again. Jess will slowly lead him to "get his angries out," and give him back his heart.

### **The second roommate is SCHMIDT, aka the Asshole.**

- His first name is Matthew, but everyone calls him Schmidt.
- **He's like Larry David stuck in the body of The Situation.** He has all of the smarts as Nick, but none of the charm. He's completely offensive- women, races, senior citizens, etc. He'll hit on any girl - it's a numbers game- if they reject him, then he just keeps going. He read "The Game," but he misunderstood the concept of negging, so that he just goes around insulting girls. **"Do you want me to buy you a drink or put some money towards your gym membership?"**
- He grew up rich in New York City and went to private school- His mother is an overbearing WASP, who told him he had to go to med school. He went, but he doesn't care about it at all. He has the worst grades in his class for bedside manner. He once hit on a woman while giving her a pelvic exam- "Hmm, I like what I'm seeing." He plays in a Med Student rock band called "Freaks of Nurture."
- He's always hitting on Jess and her friend Cece and trying to get them into situations where they have to take their clothes off- **such classics as, "Oh my god, your pants are on fire." And "I'm cold, can I have your bra?"** Every fight with Jess ends with an invitation to have make-up sex.
- **When it comes to his appearance, he's the gayest straight man in New York.** He loves clothes and collects moisturizers. When Jess borrows his products, it makes him so mad that he cries a little bit.
- He's vain, and he loves to take his shirt off for no reason. **He'll show Jess his abs and then just ask her, "What do you think? Can you handle this?"**

- **Underneath it all, he's just like a little Croatian orphan- he just wasn't held enough as a child, and now he hates being alone. Like all great womanizers, he might just sleep around because he's afraid of the dark. They never talk about it, but one night when they were both drunk, Schmidt climbed into bed with Coach and made him pat his head until he was asleep. Schmidt's arc over the show is to stop trying to be the guy he thinks he's supposed to be, so he can turn into the pretty good guy that he actually is.**

### **The last roommate is LUCAS GOODMAN, aka COACH aka The Aggressive Child**

- He's definitely overweight, but refers to himself as "thick."
- He was born in the Bronx. He's Jewish. He like to say, "There's luck of the Irish, but there's no luck of the Jewish."
- Everyone calls him Coach because he runs an afterschool basketball program in the city. He's also a freelance personal trainer- aka "A workout Warrior" who is actually in terrible physical shape. He mostly trains girls who are trying to get in shape for their weddings. He uses patience and encouragement, like: "Keep it up- I've seen you in that wedding dress, you look like the White House."
- Every morning he takes a 45 minute shower, coughing up phlegm, afterwards he blasts Pearl Jam, puts his sweatpants on and sits back down on the couch. The couch is like the charging dock- he has to sit in it for at least 30 minutes every day to "power up."
- He signs his emails "The Coachness." He calls his room, "Coach's Quarters."
- He has a bottle of Calamine lotion near his bed and none of them know why.
- Sports are his life. But he's stuck in the past. He peaked in 6<sup>th</sup> grade- physically, emotionally, and spiritually. He thinks farting on people is funny. He cries while watching a VHS of 1991's Greatest Superbowl Moments. He's unapologetic about it. "So? I got a lot of feelings."
- He sees any girls and girlfriends as a potential threat to the core group of guys- Nick and Schmidt are the last single guys left, and he wants to keep it that way. He's also terrible with women. Jess is the first girl he's given his real email address to.
- His arc over the course of the show is to move on with his life- 6<sup>th</sup> grade was pretty incredible, but the rest of his life, believe it or not, might be better.

The final important character is Jess' friend:

## **CECE aka The Hot One**

- Jess is one of Cece's oldest friends. They **grew up together**, and Cece left for New York to be a model. She's gorgeous and lives in an apartment with two other models- it's not clear if they're Eastern European or they're just really dumb.
- Cece always gives Jess "hot girl advice"- which is advice that only works if you're really hot. Like the infamous: "Just Call Him!" No. You never just call him.
- Cece will always get away with stuff. Jess will try to get into a restaurant or a club, and Cece will just walk right in. Jess will spend a hundred dollars on a blow dry, Cece somehow looks hotter every day that she doesn't shower.
- Cece is not dumb, but she thinks she is. She always refers to herself as a "dumb model," but then she'll be reading some really complicated book or reference some obscure article. She just reads whenever she gets her hair done- which happens to be all day long.
- Jess is Cece's oldest friend- they were both freaks when they were 14- Cece was freakishly tall and Jess was freakishly weird, and now they've gotten used to sticking out wherever they go. Cece has a knack for picking the worst possible men, and Jess will always come to her rescue- no matter what time of night or what part of Queens. Instead of a pint of ice cream, she brings Cece a single dinner roll.

All the boys in the house are nuts about Cece of course, which Jess uses her as a weapon- Cece is distraction or bait to get what she wants out of the guys.

Other recurring characters include:

**CAROLINE, aka Nick's ex-girlfriend**, effortlessly cool who is always showing up at the worst possible times.

**SERGEI aka the landlord**, who might be in the Russian mafia and claims he would marry Jess out of pity because she's so old.

**GUY, aka the Voice of Gay Reason**, who works with Jess at the middle school. In the Battle of the Sexes, he describes himself as "Switzerland."

**REBECCA, aka Jess' mother**, she used to be a feminist in the 60s and she always told Jess she should find a man who loves her for exactly who she is, but now she's starting to change her tune. When Jess tells her she broke up with a guy because she didn't love him, Jess' mother tells her, "You can work around that."

PILOT SUMMARY

In the pilot, we follow Jess during her first days in New York- **she's been crashing with Cece and the models, and after waking up every morning in her stained flannel nightgown to see models running around in their underwear, she decides she can't take it anymore and starts looking for an apartment. Her search leads her to inadvertently hit on a homeless man and get splashed by a bus a la the opening credits of Sex and the City. Only unlike Sex and the City, getting splashed by a bus on the street in real life actually sucks, and she smells like pee and gets hit in the eye with a cigarette butt. Finally she ends up at the guys' Brooklyn loft, which is like hitting the Craigslist shared housing jackpot- they just need a little convincing before they are going to let in a girl.**

As Jess tries to prove she'd make a good roommate, she only manages to create fights between the guys, ruin Nick's chances of getting back with his ex, and almost throw up all over their couch. After the guys throw an enormous house party, **she wakes up on the couch under a pile of coats, with the word "Penis" written on her face. One by one, the guys pretend they don't see her sleeping there and sit on her. As she's trying to get them off, they tell her the room is hers.** They're too lazy to keep looking. And, let's be honest, she's going to have to shower naked.

## **OTHER EPISODES**

The episodes will center on Jess pushing the guys to confront their unspoken feelings and to face problems head on instead of either running away or declaring total war. Except sometimes it's better not to face things...

**SCHMIDT'S MOM:** Like an episode where Schmidt's mother comes to stay with them, and is incredibly charming to everyone except Schmidt- so no one believes him when he says she's mean to him. And he keeps trying to get her to be mean to him in front of other people- "You don't understand, she's like Gollum, she's trying to destroy me."

**THE FIGHT:** Jess helps Coach get new clients for his personal training business- a middle aged female teacher at Jess' school. She turns out to be in far better shape than he is. Coach challenges her to UFC Style match. All the roommates rally behind Coach trying to get him in shape enough to take on the 50 year old math teacher, Mrs. Weaver. It's exactly like The Wrestler.

And the guys help Jess to stop living in her own head and start to read people and situations better.

**LIGHT CHOKING:** Jess becomes worried that she's bad in bed, and asks the guys how to be a better lover. Nick tells that all a girl has to do is have a good time and **communicate**. Coach says the best sex he had was when he was passed out, and he woke up with a girl on top of him in a Celtic jersey- Nick reminds him that was actually a dream he had. Schmidt tells her that all good sex involves some light

choking. **Cut to the night with the guy- Jess is dressed up in a sports jersey, talking incessantly, and trying to choke him. Needless to say, he runs out of the house screaming.**

CYRANO: A Cyrano episode, where the roommates are helping Jess write emails to a guy she likes. Except in writing the emails, the guys develop a friend crush on him and secretly try to become his friend without telling Jess. Which ultimately ruins it for everyone.

THE TROUBLEMAKER: When a male colleague at school keeps stealing her overhead projector, the guys tell her she needs to stand up for herself or she's just going to keep getting stepped on. The conflict escalates until she realizes that the school only has one overhead projector, and all the teachers share. On the plus side, the male teacher is so scared of her now, he tells her when the new shipment of school supplies arrives before anyone else. He doesn't want her to hurt him.

So, yes, this is mostly a show about awkward kids who give each other mostly terrible advice on their slow path to adulthood.

That's the basic idea.

When I told my friend Matteo about this pitch, and he said two things- number 1: "Am I the fat one?" and Number 2: "I hope it doesn't suck." So, yes, I want to make a show about friendship between men and women that doesn't suck. Thank you Matteo. Thank you for coming and finding me sobbing on 6<sup>th</sup> avenue after a bad break up and literally picking me up off the pavement, sitting me down in the nearest diner, and ordering me a plate of French Fries. That's why I'm writing this show. When your heart's breaking on the side of the road, sometimes you don't need a girl to come tell you that men suck, sometimes you just need a man to shrug and say, "I'd still do you."

Thank you for listening and go with god.