TED LASSO

"Fourth of July"

(between seasons 1 and 2)

COLD OPEN

EXT. AFC RICHMOND - PITCH - DAY

A summery day during an offseason practice. ROY KENT, doing high knees, clutches his back in pain. He recovers, then jogs over to SOME FOOTBALLERS who are sitting, lazily stretching.

ROY KENT
Ay! Just because it's the offseason doesn't mean we take it easy. What are you waiting for? A bomb to go off?

Just then: FIREWORKS. The footballers duck down as TED LASSO and COACH BEARD light off ROMAN CANDLES. NATHAN flops to the ground.

TED LASSO
Fire in the hole! Oo coach, Roman candles are my favorite types of candles; right behind those novelty birthday ones that you have to keep blowing out.

COACH BEARD
The gift that keeps on giving.

Ted nods in agreement. Roy seethes with anger. Ted extinguishes his candle and walks over to help Nathan up.

ROY KENT
Are you mad?!

TED LASSO
"Mad"'s my least favorite emotion, Roy.
(to Nathan)
Sorry about that, buddy. But hey: great reflexes. You're like every cat that I try to hug: you freak out and drop to the ground.

Coach Beard lights off ANOTHER ROMAN CANDLE. Nathan flops.

COACH BEARD
... Sorry. We each had two, but I held the lighter the first time around.

TED LASSO
Team, gather round. This weekend is Coach Beard and my's favorite holiday——Fourth of July——and we're bringing our famous Cornhole Tournament right here to Richmond.

SAM OBISANYA
What's a "cornhole"? Is this another one of those American Eating Contests?

TED LASSO
No, but great guess, Sam! "Cornhole" is the finest American invention of all time. Well, second only to the "weighted blanket."

ROY KENT
We don't celebrate Fourth of July here. For obvious reasons.

TED LASSO
Y'all aren't over it, huh? Come on, America won, like, 240 years ago. Not like we're countin'.

COACH BEARD
245, Coach.

TED LASSO
... Okay, some of us are countin'.

ROY KENT
So we're gonna skip training to light fireworks and play cornhole then?

TED LASSO
Well when you put it that way, Roy, it sounds pretty great, don't it?! Tell you what: we'll still practice tomorrow. And this weekend, we'll also play cornhole, light fireworks, and feast on God's food: Kansas City Barbecue.

The team ad libs about loving barbecue. Roy shakes his head.

SUDDENLY, a MASSIVE, LOUD FIREWORK shoots from the AFC RICHMOND STADIUM. The whole team flops to the ground this time. Ted looks up to LIO [40s, they/them, the groundskeeper] who stands on SCAFFOLDING. LIO waves apologetically.

LIO
Sorry, wrong button! But it's working, Mr. Lasso!

TED LASSO
Lio, that was great!

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. AFC RICHMOND - REBECCA'S OFFICE - DAY

KEELEY, REBECCA, and HIGGINS jump at the sound of a firework. Rebecca and Keeley investigate outside the window.

REBECCA
What the bloody hell was that? Higgins, did you authorize this?

Higgins, sweating, looks back at her.

HIGGINS
What? Me? No, no, I'm not always the problem.
(confessing)
Okay, yes! Ted asked me privately. It was supposed to be a surprise!

REBECCA
Higgins, I don't like surprises. Especially not ones that explode in the sky.

KEELEY
Lighten up, Rebecca. It's fun!

REBECCA
"Fun" won't promote us back to the Premier League, Keeley. Our slush money shouldn't be going toward fireworks, it should be going toward——

KEELEY
——My department: Branding, I completely agree.

Keeley smirks. She nods at Higgins, who exhales in relief.

KEELEY (CONT'D)
Look. We still need to act like a premier league team if we want to get back there next season, right? And that starts with our image. We've got to upgrade from Old Navy to Banana Republic, understand? We're skipping Gap altogether.

HIGGINS
Is something wrong with the Gap?

Higgins looks down at his clothes self-consciously. Keeley looks over to see Rebecca lost in a message on her PHONE.

KEELEY
What do you think, Rebecca?

Rebecca looks up from her phone, clearly reeling from whatever she just read. She forces a tight, toothy smile.

REBECCA
I like it, Keeley.

KEELEY
It's him, isn't it?

REBECCA
What? Oh... no, it was just...
(off Keeley's look)
Yes. It's Rupert.

KEELEY
What'd the twat say?

REBECCA
He asked if the fireworks were for celebrating our relegation.

HIGGINS
Does he have nothing better to do?

They turn to Higgins, surprised. Keeley snaps approvingly.

KEELEY
Yes, Higgins! Dig in!

Rebecca laughs. Higgins smiles, regaining some confidence.

HIGGINS
Does that wanker just sit around all day, waiting for any news of Richmond so he can be critical about it?

REBECCA
He does, doesn't he...
(inspired)
Keeley, you have my permission to focus on branding. And I want to be included.

KEELEY
I'll include you in the photos. But just so we're clear: this isn't to get back at Rupert. It's cause you're a fox and your bod will drive up clicks.

Keeley winks at her. Rebecca can't help but smile.

Ted Lasso knocks, then enters carrying BISCUITS.

TED LASSO
Sorry I wasn't bis-quick this morning! How y'all doing? Higgins, I'm lovin' that suit!

HIGGINS
Really? But it's from The Gap...

TED LASSO
What's wrong with The Gap?! Childish Gambino was in a Gap ad. Though, come to think of it, he dances around without a shirt on most of the time now, doesn't he?

Higgins ponders this, but he looks more hopeful now. Ted hands the biscuits to Rebecca and joins them at the table.

KEELEY
It's always so good to see you, Ted.

TED LASSO
Right back at ya, Keeley. You know, you just made my day.

Ted and Keeley smile at each other. Rebecca cuts in.

REBECCA
Ted. Care to explain the fireworks that just shot out of my stadium?

TED LASSO
You caught me with my hand in the cookie jar before dinner! Beard and I got some folks from Kansas City coming to experience London... by celebrating the Fourth of July with us.

Rebecca, Keeley, and Higgins look at him, confusedly.

REBECCA
That doesn't make any sense. We don't celebrate the Fourth of July here.

Keeley perks up with an idea.

KEELEY
No, but this could be our first year! This would be amazing for social. Ted, what else do Americans do besides fireworks and wear the American flag on all their clothes?

TED LASSO
I'm glad you asked! Beard and I are hosting our 6th annual Cornhole Tournament. And then we have my pal, Argyle, coming. He makes the best barbecue in the world.

HIGGINS
Barbecue? I'm in!
(looking to Rebecca)
Er, it's not my call, really. It's Re—

REBECCA
I'm in, too.

They all look to Rebecca. Rebecca shrugs.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
It sounds fun. And Keeley's right: it's a great marketing opportunity.

TED LASSO
I don't know apples from lasagnas when it comes to marketing, but I can promise you: it'll be amazing!

Ted tosses a POPPABLE NOISEMAKER at the ground. Everyone jumps in alarm. Ted holds out a BOX OF NOISEMAKERS.

TED LASSO (CONT'D)
Noisemakers! They're little portable fireworks!

INT. LOCKER ROOM - COACH'S OFFICE - DAY

ROY KENT enters, shirtless and holding his back. COACH BEARD shows Nathan how to play cornhole on a MINI, INDOOR SET.

NATHAN
So it's 1 point on the board, 3 points in the hole? There's no 2-pointer?

COACH BEARD
It's "Cornhole," not "Basketball," Nathan.

ROY KENT
Ay, where's Ted?

NATHAN
He's in Rebecca's office. You okay?

Roy closes the door behind him for privacy. He seems angry and embarrassed at himself.

ROY KENT
I tweaked my back today——during warm-ups. It's pathetic.

NATHAN
No, no, it's not pathetic. I broke my butt bones when I was younger from sitting too quickly on a University chair.

COACH BEARD
I stubbed my toe so hard once that my pinkie toe came off.

Roy and Nathan look at Beard, shocked.

ROY KENT
For real?

COACH BEARD
It's preserved in that jar on my desk.

Coach Beard nods toward a JAR on his desk. Roy and Nathan both immediately ad lib, "Gross" and "why do you have it?"

ROY KENT
Thanks, guys. But this—
(gestures to his body)
—Is my livelihood. I think... I need to sit out for a day or two.

NATHAN
I've got some roll-on Cold Spice. Want some?

ROY KENT
"Cold Spice"?

NATHAN
Yeah. It's a knock-off of "Icy Hot."

COACH BEARD
But it also sounds like a knock-off of "Old Spice."

NATHAN
I don't name the things. It was the cheapest one. Want me to apply it?

ROY KENT
Thanks, mate. But I can do it.

Roy snatches the COLD SPICE from Nathan. He tries to roll it on himself. It's awkward. Coach Beard and Nathan watch him try to get all of his back.

NATHAN
I can help out if you——

ROY KENT
I got it!

INT. HEATHROW AIRPORT - LOBBY - MORNING

Ted, Beard, and Nathan stand with SIGNS that read "KANSAS CITY," "FRIENDS OF LASSO AND BEARD," and "CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT."

COACH BEARD
Did you really invite her new guy?

TED LASSO
Yes I did. I'm trying to be as supportive as possible, and if there's another man in Michelle and Henry's life, then I don't want to cut him out of mine.

COACH BEARD
Just saying. The guy can be in <u>their</u> life without being in <u>yours</u>——

HENRY LASSO (O.C.)
Daddy!

HENRY LASSO rushes down the descending escalator. Ted rushes over and swoops up Henry into a giant hug as the remaining guests arrive.

COACH ARGYLE [50s, he/him, wearing a WICHITA STATE JACKET, speaking in a thick drawl] approaches them, along with DRE, LEWIS, and EVAN [20s, he/him, American football players].

TED LASSO
Coach Argyle! How's my old gig at Wichita State treating you?

COACH ARGYLE
Hell, I'm lovin' it, Ted. You leaving was the best thing to ever happen to me! I got an instant promotion, and all the guys already love each other!

Coach Beard nods to Argyle, then the PLAYERS. The three players smile excitedly.

DRE
Coach Beard, we spent the whole flight on this brainteaser:
(reciting)
“Batman and Annie Hall sharing a foreign meal on their day off.”

They look at Beard expectantly. Coach Beard takes a moment.

COACH BEARD
“Michael Keaton eatin’ seasoned Costa Rican on the weekend with Diane Keaton.”

They’re ecstatic, ad libbing “Legend!” and “Still got it!” Beard looks mildly satisfied, as always.

TED LASSO
Argyle: tell me that suitcase is full of barbecue sauce. Please.

Coach Argyle smiles. He unzips part of it to show SPICES, BARBECUE SAUCE PACKETS, and MORE.

TED LASSO (CONT’D)
You’re about to change a lot of lives here. I mean that.

MICHELLE LASSO and FRED [40s, he/him, dressed upper-middle class, Michelle’s new boyfriend] approach Ted.

TED LASSO (CONT’D)
Michelle, it’s so good to see you. Thanks for hoppin’ over the “pond.”

He gives her a hug. Fred extends his hand for a handshake.

FRED
Hi Ted! I’m Fred.

TED LASSO
Hey now, there’s a name! Rhymes with Ted. “Fred.” “Ted.” “Fred.” Who’s who! Nah, I’m Ted. And I’m a hugger, not a shaker. Incoming.

Ted hugs him. Surprised, Fred looks to Michelle, who seems slightly annoyed.

Coach Beard looks at Ted with concern.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. AFC RICHMOND - PITCH - DAY

Roy leads the AFC Richmond team in warm-ups.

Rebecca poses at a SMALL TABLE drinking tea while Keeley snaps her photo. Higgins lights Rebecca with a BOUNCE BOARD. Rebecca smirks as Henry Lasso runs onto the pitch with SPARKLERS. Ted, Beard, and the Americans enter behind him.

HENRY LASSO
The Americans are coming! The Americans are coming!

ROY KENT
(muttered)
Oh for fuck's sake.

TED LASSO
That's our "reverse" Paul Revere!

SAM OBISANYA
Who's "Paul Revere"?

TED LASSO
Ah, it doesn't matter. Richmond, meet America! Well, at least the ones we like anyway.

The team exchanges greetings with the Americans. Sam and Isaac meet Michelle and Fred while Keeley runs up to Henry with Rebecca and Higgins in tow.

KEELEY
(to Higgins, severely)
Get the bounce board right before those Sparklers run out.
(to Henry, brightly)
Hi Henry! Say "cheese"!

Henry smiles with Rebecca. Keeley takes their photograph.

EXT. AFC RICHMOND - PITCH - SIDELINES - LATER

Ted and Beard share their plans with everyone.

TED LASSO
As you all know, Beard and I used to coach American football. So for today's training, we're going to merge the two footballs together and play a game of "Speedball."

Coach Beard lights off a SCREAMING WILD CAT firework. The noise shocks the British crowd, pissing Roy off and once again causing Nathan to flop to the ground.

ROY KENT
Will you cut it out? Today's the 3rd — not the 4th.

TED LASSO
In America, people light fireworks from June 20th through July 8th. No one knows why.

ROY KENT
That's insane.

COACH BEARD
Most American things are, Roy.

TED LASSO
And that's coming from a sane man! Same rules as soccer, except anyone can catch the ball and it becomes a passing game, alright? Beard, Nathan, and I will coach this half from Fred over, and Coach Argyle and Roy will coach this half.
(blows his WHISTLE)
Let's go!

EXT. AFC RICHMOND - PITCH - STANDS - CONTINUOUS

Keeley shows Rebecca and Higgins her phone. It's the photo of Rebecca drinking tea on the pitch.

KEELEY
Check out the comments, Rebecca. You're a <u>thirst trap</u>.

The comments read "Hot momma!" And "So glad she's our owner, she can own me anytime" and more. Rebecca blushes.

Higgins looks on his phone at THE GAP'S INSTAGRAM. He sees lots of new looks, including the shirt he's wearing. He then sees the CHILDISH GAMBINO AD —— a throwback.

HIGGINS
(under his breath, proud)
Ten thousand likes. More than Keeley's photos.

EXT. AFC RICHMOND - PITCH - LATER

Beard and Ted notice that Sam and Isaac are heavily guarding Fred. Fred can't get open. The ball comes his way but he drops it easily. Ted waves them over.

TED LASSO
Sam, Isaac, let's dial it back just a touch, 'kay? Not everyone here is a professional footballer.

Sam and Isaac jog over to Ted.

ISAAC
It's ridiculous that your ex-wife's new boyfriend is here, coach.

SAM OBISANYA
We're just looking out for you.

TED LASSO
Guys, I appreciate it. But when have I ever preached the gospel of revenge? That's a book in satan's library that you know I'm never checking out.

SAM OBISANYA
It's just a little mental of Michelle.

TED LASSO
It wasn't Michelle. I invited Fred.

ISAAC
Then you're the mental one, coach.

TED LASSO
But he seems like a good guy, right? Sure, he tries a little too hard, but don't we all? I know I do.

They look out to see Fred diving to stop a ball from going out of bounds and slamming head-first into a chair.

FRED
Fiddlesticks! Just missed it!

Ted shrugs. Sam and Isaac give him a knowing look, then return to the field.

COACH BEARD
Not even the right use of "fiddlesticks." It means rubbish.

TED LASSO
Oh you're just being critical now.

As Keeley's group walks to the other side of the field, she stops to take an "us"-sie with Ted and Beard.

KEELEY
"Us"-sie!

EXT. AFC RICHMOND - PITCH - ENDZONE - CONTINUOUS

Nathan wheels out GATORADE COOLERS. He accidentally bumps into Lio, the groundskeeper, running a wire near the endzone. Lio falls, clicking a button. A FIREWORK shoots into the sky.

Nathan flops to the ground, as does Lio. The whole team is a little surprised. Roy curses in the distance.

NATHAN
Sorry, sorry, oh God, I'm sorry——

Nathan realizes he's face-to-face with Lio, his hand touching theirs. Nathan realizes Lio is stunning.

Nathan pulls his hand back. He's flushed with embarrassment. His mouth is agape.

LIO
What? What is it? Do I have electrical tape on my face again?

NATHAN
Oh, no. I just... You look, uh, nice.

LIO
Thanks. This is "my angle."

Lio chuckles as they both get up off the ground.

NATHAN
Sorry again. Keep up the great work. I have to, uh, run over there now.

Nathan starts running the cart toward the players.

EXT. AFC RICHMOND - PITCH - OTHER SIDELINES - CONTINUOUS

In a timeout, Roy addresses his team of FOOTBALLERS, which includes Henry Lasso. Coach Argyle stands beside Roy.

ROY KENT
Look, we can win this, but you guys have to spread the field. I don't care if this game means shit——
(noticing Henry)
——Er, that it's a "training." Spread the field, alternate between the ground and the air, and get to the goal. Henry: you're going to make the game-winning shot, all right?

Henry nods, then smiles as the other players cheer him on.

ROY KENT (CONT'D)
Let's go!

The players return to the field. Coach Argyle slaps his knee and faces Roy.

COACH ARGYLE
Ooo I see you got bit by the coachin' bug! You've got the "vision," Roy!

Roy rolls his eyes.

ROY KENT
You should be leading this, not me.

COACH ARGYLE
Hey, I'm mainly a BBQ chef! I just inherited this job when Ted and Beard left! Hah, we have fun.

ROY KENT
Seriously? Are <u>any</u> American coaches professional?

EXT. AFC RICHMOND - PITCH - SIDELINES - CONTINUOUS

Fred takes a water break at the cooler near Ted and Beard. Fred's got a huge bruise on his forehead from the chair dive.

TED LASSO
You're fearless out there, Fred.

FRED
I give everything my everything. That way, if I don't win, at least I know I tried.

TED LASSO
Hey now, that's a good approach to life. It's not all about winning!

FRED
Yeah, but winning rules. Wait! You remember *The Mighty Ducks* movies? What if I lead the team in a “Flying V”?

Beard looks over Fred’s shoulder to Ted, shaking his head.

TED LASSO
The hockey movie? Of course I know it. If it’s good enough for those Ducks, it’s good enough for us. Go for it!

FRED
Really? Oh, man. Thanks, Ted!

Fred excitedly runs back onto the field, getting his group in a huddle. Beard sidles up to Ted.

COACH BEARD
You don’t have to be so nice to him.

TED LASSO
I don’t have to be mean, either. I told Michelle I wanted to support her. And I can do that by being friendly with the new guy. Besides, it’s just a game, coach. Let him do his “V.”

Beard gives him the benefit of the doubt, but says nothing.

EXT. AFC RICHMOND - PITCH - ENDZONE - CONTINUOUS

Keeley frames a picture of Rebecca posing as the goalie. **SNAPSHOT MONTAGE:** Rebecca in various goalie postures. Rebecca stands near Keeley as she posts the photos online.

KEELEY
What do you think of the caption, “try to get your balls past me”?

REBECCA
Don’t you dare.

KEELEY
I’m playing to our base! Lots of horny men. Do you want more followers?

REBECCA
Do you want to keep your job?

KEELEY
Ugh. You’re no fun. I’ll go with, “Best owner in AFC Richmond history.”

REBECCA
In my first season, we were relegated.

KEELEY
Too late. I posted it.

REBECCA
Keeley!

KEELEY
Oops, play is coming this way!

Keeley and Rebecca see the play coming toward their endzone. They head back off the pitch as we see:

EXT. AFC RICHMOND - PITCH - MID-GAME - CONTINUOUS

Fred leading the “Flying V.” The team passes the ball back and forth from feet to hands, when Dre STEALS THE BALL. Fred falls to the ground, upset his play didn’t work.

TED LASSO
Hey, it’s okay! Get back on D!

Coach Beard gives Ted an “I Told You So” look. On the other sidelines, Argyle and Roy scream excitedly.

ROY KENT
That’s it. Sam, spread the field!

COACH ARGYLE
Damn it, Roy, this might work!

Roy runs up toward Henry, who’s waiting by the goal. Roy nods at him. Henry nods back, looking determined.

Dre fakes out the goalie and rolls the ball to Henry, who’s in front of the open goal. He kicks it in, winning the game.

ROY KENT
FUCK YES!

The team cheers their victory. Ted shrugs at Beard. Both teams meet in the center of the pitch.

Dre, Lewis, and Evan dump GATORADE on Roy. Keeley captures it on video. He quickly goes from jovial to livid.

TED LASSO
You got the Gatorade Shower, coach!

ROY KENT
I'm not the coach! And this was a training; not the bloody Super Bowl!
(sees Keeley recording him)
Hey! No. Don't you record me!

TED LASSO
Henry! You beat your old dad!

Ted scoops up Henry. Rebecca watches Keeley post the video on Instagram with the caption: "Classic Roy Kent."

INT. CROWN AND ANCHOR PUB - RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Ted's group has reserved Crown and Anchor Pub for a barbecue. Signs read "HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!" Mae samples some of the Argyle's BBQ. Ted and Beard pass by them.

MAE
Ted, you didn't warn me Argyle's barbecue was an aphrodisiac.

TED LASSO
Well, Mae, up until now, I didn't know it was.

COACH BEARD
I did.

She hides a big smile. Ted looks at Beard, who nods. BAZ, JEREMY, and PAUL——locals of the pub——enter, then realizing it's closed for a private event.

BAZ
Aw, shit. Looks like the wanker's officially taken over our spot, mates.

TED LASSO
Baz! Jeremy! Paul! How you fellas doin'?

PAUL
(muttered, to his pals)
He memorized our names!

Ted walks over to them.

TED LASSO
Nonsense about taking the spot over. We're having some Kansas City barbecue. Why don't you stick around?

The boys light up.

BAZ
Barbecue? Most definitely!

Beard hands Ted something covertly. Ted agrees it's time. They turn and light off PARTY POPPERS.

Nathan drops under the table. Roy angrily stands up.

ROY KENT
You're kidding. You also have Indoor Fireworks?

TED LASSO
Y'never know if it's gonna rain, Roy.
(to all guests)
Welcome to one of the best parts about the Fourth of July: barbecue. And no place does it better than Kansas City!... in London. Let's eat!

INT. CROWN AND ANCHOR PUB - DARTS - LATER

The party's in full swing. Folks eat, drink, and converse in the background as Ted shows Henry how to play DARTS. Henry throws and hits the "1" slice.

HENRY LASSO
Dang! Well, one's better than none.

TED LASSO
That's the spirit! First few times I played, my darts were going into the wall. Around the board.

Henry laughs.

HENRY LASSO
Did you hang a painting over the holes, like you did at home?

TED LASSO
No, I did not! And you didn't tell your mom about that, did ya?

Henry smiles, shakes his head "no." Ted smiles back.

TED LASSO (CONT'D)
Phew. Thanks for that.

Henry's smile fades to a slight frown. He looks sad. Then:

HENRY LASSO
I miss you, dad.

Ted drops to his level.

TED LASSO
Hey. I miss you, too. But we're together now, right?

HENRY LASSO
I don't understand why you and mom can't stay you and mom.

Ted glances over and catches Michelle's eye. Fred is whispering something to her. She smiles politely at Ted.

TED LASSO
Your mom will always be your mom. And I will always be your dad. Over time, we learned that marriage made your mom sad. I knew I could help make her happy by giving her some space.

HENRY LASSO
It's weird with Fred around. He's nice, but he's just... different.

TED LASSO
Different isn't always bad. It's okay to have more people in your life. But I'm not going anywhere, you hear?

Henry nods yes. Ted wipes away a tear from Henry's face. He then uses it to slick the tip of his dart.

TED LASSO (CONT'D)
We gotta give everyone a fair shot. Now... watch this.

Ted throws a bullseye. Henry looks at him with a big smile.

MICHELLE LASSO (O.S.)
Hey Ted. Can I talk to you for a second?

Ted turns to see a concerned Michelle. Ted hands the other two darts to Henry.

TED LASSO
Keep that elbow still, now, Henry!

Michelle and Ted step aside for some privacy.

MICHELLE LASSO
Thanks for being so nice to Fred earlier. He told me you ran his play.

TED LASSO
It's no biggie. You know, back when I first got this gig, I tried plays from *Air Bud: World Pup*. That Disney movie didn't work, but Fred's idea from *Mighty Ducks* was great!

Michelle gives him a polite smile.

MICHELLE LASSO
It's nice of you to go out of your way to make Fred feel welcomed, but I hope you know that even if you didn't invite him, we would've still come.

TED LASSO
I know. But if he's in your and Henry's life, I figured I should be friendly——

A THUNK. They turn to see that Henry threw a BULLSEYE. Henry grins in bewilderment.

HENRY LASSO
I kept my elbow straight!

INT. CROWN AND ANCHOR PUB - ROY'S TABLE - NIGHT

Roy sits next to Keeley and Rebecca. Across from them sits Coach Argyle, Dre, Lewis, and Evan.

COACH ARGYLE
Roy, would you ever consider joining Wichita State University as an assistant coach?

ROY KENT
You're mental. That's ridiculous.

COACH ARGYLE
So was Ted moving to England to coach soccer. What's the difference?

Roy mutters "Football" to himself as Dre, Lewis, and Evan ad lib that Roy "rules" and has a "competitor's spirit."

ROY KENT
Thanks, fellas. Besides the fact that it's an absolutely terrible idea, I'm not done playing yet.

COACH ARGYLE
I'm just saying. We can't play forever. Think about it.

Down the table, Coach Beard sits with Nathan. Beard and Higgins are still eating PULLED PORK sandwiches.

NATHAN
So... what do you think about Lio?

COACH BEARD
The groundskeeper?

NATHAN
Yeah.

Coach Beard squints at Nathan. Then, somewhat hushed:

COACH BEARD
Do you need the "Diamond Dogs"?

NATHAN
What?! No, haha, what?... Is it that obvious?

Coach Beard and Higgins look to each other, nodding. Down the table, Keeley and Rebecca look at Insta.

KEELEY
How is the top post the "us"-sie I took with the coaches? We spent hours on the other ones! Insta——

Rebecca's PHONE goes off. It's RUPERT MANNION. Keeley sees the Caller ID and looks at Rebecca.

REBECCA
Excuse me.

Keeley looks at her, disappointed. Rebecca steps outside.

EXT. CROWN AND ANCHOR PUB - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca gets out of eyesight from the other patrons, phone glued to her ear.

REBECCA
What is it, Rupert?

INT. RUPERT'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Rupert looks at AFC Richmond's Instagram while talking.

RUPERT
What a hostile way of answering the phone, Rebecca.

INTERCUT REBECCA/RUPERT

REBECCA
You should be lucky I answered in the first place. Is this an emergency?

RUPERT
No. I wanted to let you know that this social media stunt is pathetic. You're acting like a middle school club. Tell me: Is this just to spite me?

REBECCA
We've gotten more engagement and followers today alone than we did in your final season.

RUPERT
Admit it, Rebecca. You're only doing this because of me. It's always beca——

Rebecca hangs up. We stay on her side of the scene. She exhales sharply, wiping away tears that pooled in her eyes.

Keeley exits the pub and joins Rebecca, wrapping an arm around her.

KEELEY
What did that skeezy rat want?

REBECCA
Oh, you know, just calling to say he's loving our social media posts.

KEELEY
He hates it.

Rebecca nods. Then, she smiles.

REBECCA
Keep up the great work.

INT. CROWN AND ANCHOR PUB - RESTAURANT - DAY

Ted sits with Michelle, Henry, and Fred, eating APPLE PIE.

TED LASSO
How would you all like to go to the London Zoo tomorrow before the Cornhole tournament? It's like American Zoos, except the animals growl with an English accent.
(in an English accent)
Rawr! Moo!

Henry laughs. Fred smiles wide as Michelle shuts it down.

MICHELLE LASSO
That sounds lovely, Ted. But we've already got tickets to Harry Potter World.

TED LASSO
I've been meaning to see if I could make it through Platform 9 and three quarters.

Michelle stares at him. Ted changes course.

TED LASSO (CONT'D)
But, you'll have to tell me how it is! Have a ton of fun. Henry, let me know if the Sorting Hat puts you in Hufflepuff like your dad, all right?

Ted smiles at the crew. He looks over to Beard, who gives him a tight-lipped smile.

EXT. ROY'S CAR - NEXT DAY - LATE AFTERNOON

Roy parks near BEARD'S PLACE. His back tweaks. He slaps the steering wheel in anger.

KEELEY
What's wrong?

ROY KENT
My back is killing me. I'm a joke. In my prime, I'd be at the gym right now.

KEELEY
You're not in your prime anymore.

ROY KENT
(pissed)
Thanks for that.

KEELEY
I just repeated back what you said. For what it's worth, I think you're in your attractive prime now. I saw pictures of you when you were younger. You hadn't grown into your nose yet.

ROY KENT
The hell, Keeley?

KEELEY
It's true. You're hotter now. You're welcome.

ROY KENT
Now some barbecue coach from nowhere Kansas comes by and asks if I want to coach American football. Ridiculous.

KEELEY
It does sound a little crazy. But look at Ted! He's not so bad.

ROY KENT
We were relegated his first year.

KEELEY
That wasn't all his fault, and you know it.

Roy doesn't respond. He knows she's right. He side eyes her.

KEELEY (CONT'D)
You can't be the star player forever. But you could become a star coach one day. With a sexy, proportional nose.

ROY KENT
Oh fuck off.

He playfully hits her on the arm as they laugh. He reaches into his pocket and grabs a Cold Spice. He hands it to her.

ROY KENT (CONT'D)
Would you rub some on my back?

Keeley looks confusedly at the roll-on.

KEELEY
What the heck is "Cold Spice"?

EXT. COACH BEARD'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Ted and Nathan set up CORNHOLE BOARDS in the crowded backyard. STRING LIGHTS form the Olympic Logo on the fence.

TED LASSO
Nathan, be honest: do you think I take care of myself?

NATHAN
If you didn't, it'd be hard for you to make people feel so optimistic. But... sometimes you sacrifice your own happiness for others.

Ted takes this in as Nathan sees Beard exit his house carrying a BAZOOKA-LOOKING FIREWORK GUN. Nathan lays on the ground and covers his ears preemptively. Ted walks over and plays the OLYMPIC THEME SONG from some speakers as Beard fires a couple fireworks in the air.

COACH BEARD
LET THE SIXTH ANNUAL CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT BEGIN.

The Americans cheer. The Richmond crew looks confused.

EXT. COACH BEARD'S BACKYARD - NIGHT - LATER

Beard writes team names into a GIANT BRACKET. Meanwhile, Ted gives Fred and Henry a Cornhole lesson. Michelle watches from the other side. Fred and Henry both miss their shots.

TED LASSO
You gotta spin the bag. It softens the landing.

Ted demonstrates. He softly lands it on the board. Fred tries after him, and he sinks it in the hole. Coach Beard looks at Ted wide-eyed, like "What did you do?"

TED LASSO (CONT'D)
Great toss! That's as good as it gets!

FRED
Thanks so much, Ted. You should be a coach or something!

Ted chuckles as Michelle brings the bags back to the group.

MICHELLE LASSO
Ted, would you show me where the drinks are?

Ted nods, and the two walk toward:

INT. COACH BEARD'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ted closes the screen door behind Michelle. They enter Coach Beard's humble apartment. Ted heads to the fridge.

TED LASSO
Cold ones are in the fridge. He's also got some nicer ones in the——

Ted looks over to see Michelle upset. Her face is stern, red. She looks like she might cry.

TED LASSO (CONT'D)
——Oh. Hey. What's wrong?

MICHELLE LASSO
I'm... mad, okay?! At you. For being so supportive of me and nice to Fred. And that makes me feel pathetic and mad at myself for being mad at you.

TED LASSO
That's a whole lotta "mads" you're feeling. I'm really sorry, Michelle. It wasn't my intention——

MICHELLE LASSO
You don't need to apologize! It's just... You insisted I bring him here. And I did, because I thought it'd help you move on. But you're too nice, Ted. It's making this whole thing harder.

TED LASSO
Michelle. I can't just "move on." Henry's my son. I want to be in his life. I figured it'd be easier if we were all friends.

MICHELLE LASSO
I just don't know if I'm ready for that right now. And saying that makes me feel like a real asshole... Sorry I can't be as good as you.

Michelle starts toward the screen door to return outside.

TED LASSO
You don't have to be as nice, Michelle——

Michelle returns to the backyard. Ted hangs his head.

EXT. COACH BEARD'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Argyle talks to Roy and Keeley.

COACH ARGYLE
Roy, whaddya say to being cornhole partners? No offense to the lady, but two Brits stand no chance in this thing.

ROY KENT
I'm not gonna play... it's my back. You two could pair up though.

COACH ARGYLE
Fair enough. Let's take down the reigning champs, yea?

KEELEY
If I play, Roy, I'm gonna need you to take some photos for social media.

Roy takes her phone begrudgingly.

COACH ARGYLE
And we need a coach.

ROY KENT
Look, mate: I know less about Cornhole than I do about American grabass.

COACH ARGYLE
Well, I guess we're doomed then. Come on, Keeley. Let's practice.

Argyle offers his arm. Keeley takes it and smiles at Roy.

KEELEY
(softly, to Argyle)
We call it "training" here.

ROY KENT
(muttered, to self)
We call it "training" here.

Ted returns outside, and Rebecca immediately notices that he's a little off. She meets him near the door.

REBECCA
Your son told me you were giving out Cornhole lessons. I was hoping to sign up for the next one.

Ted looks at Coach Beard. His eye is still twitching.

TED LASSO
I don't know if I should be giving away our secrets. My partner wouldn't—

REBECCA
I pay both your salaries. And I won't be good regardless: I'm paired up with Higgins.

They look to see Higgins in the stylish CHILDISH GAMBINO OUTFIT from the GAP AD. In SLOW-MOTION, Higgins struts the length of the cornhole boards. He tosses cornhole bags that say "THE GAP" on them, missing the board entirely.

TED LASSO
He went all in on Childish Gambino! I think he looks great! Alright, what the heck, <u>one</u> lesson: You gotta spin the bag. It softens the landing.

He tosses the bag. It lands on the board next to the hole.

TED LASSO (CONT'D)
Now you try.

Rebecca grabs the bag and spins it. She knocks Ted's bag into the hole, leaving hers on the board.

TED LASSO (CONT'D)
Hey now! Thanks for that.

REBECCA
I got it on the board! I assume knocking yours in is still bad, but that's the best I've done.

TED LASSO
Just keep it up and maybe I'll see you and Higgins in the championship.

Rebecca smiles warmly at him.

REBECCA
You're the best, Ted Lasso.

TED LASSO
Hey. Back at ya.

Meanwhile, Nathan stands alone without a partner.

LIO (O.S.)
You have a partner yet?

Nathan turns to see Lio. They look great, dressed to impress someone for sure. (Is that someone Nathan?)

Nathan, caught off-guard, answers quickly.

NATHAN
Lio, hi! I didn't know you were invited. Sorry, that sounded mean.

LIO
I think Ted invited anyone he's ever shared a word with. That guy's too nice. But hey, you didn't answer my question: you have a partner?

NATHAN
"Partner"? Oh! Hah, no. I don't have a partner or significant other, like, significant cornhole player other. Uhhh, I wasn't gonna play, actually. Cause I don't have one——

LIO
——Great. Me neither! I'll sign us up.

Lio walks over to Beard to sign them up. Coach Beard spots Lio walking over to him and looks at Nathan with the smallest smile. Nathan blushes.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. COACH BEARD'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Coach Beard fills the bracket with the two teams in the championship: BEARD & LASSO vs. FRED & MICHELLE.

Ted and Fred stand on one side of the Cornhole boards.

FRED
Who'd-a thought that we'd be seeing each other in the finale, huh?! That lesson helped me a lot. If you've got any other advice for me, I'm all ears!

A bag suddenly hits Ted in the gut. Ted looks up to see Beard holding bags at the other board with Michelle.

COACH BEARD
Sorry!... Warming up.

Coach Beard stares at Ted, semi-threateningly.

TED LASSO
Know what? I don't know if we'll have time between warmin' up and playin'! But I wish you the best of luck.

FRED
Same to you!

They shake hands.

MONTAGE

- Beard and Michelle swap throws in the hole. Michelle leaves one in front of the hole, Beard cocks his head, and then tosses one that hooks around and into the hole.

- Roy and Keeley watch the game intently.

ROY KENT
Ted's rhythm is off.

KEELEY
(playfully)
My little coach over here.

ROY KENT
Piss off.

- Rebecca receives a text from Rupert. She almost opens it, but she instead deletes it. She looks to Ted.

- Lio brings Nathan a beer. They clink their beers together and return to watching the game. Nathan has a big smile.

- Henry stands next to Higgins, who is sitting in a lawn chair, sipping a big margarita, wearing sunglasses.

HENRY LASSO
Wow. You look so awesome.

HIGGINS
I know.

BACK TO SCENE

The crowd looks intently at Fred and Ted carrying their bags.

COACH BEARD
19-19. First to 21 wins.

The crowd quiets. Fred tosses his first bag. It goes in the hole. Then, Ted tosses, right in the hole. Everyone cheers.

FRED
Woo nelly! I shoulda guessed it'd be tough against you, Sensei!

Fred throws, again in the hole. The crowd can't believe it.

Ted throws, matching Fred. Ted sees that Henry is watching in awe. Fred throws his third bag.

FRED (CONT'D)
Oops, dang it!

Despite the worry, Fred's bag slides up and into the hole.

FRED (CONT'D)
Phew. Thankfully I've got that spin!

TED LASSO
If I had a time machine, Fred, I'd go back in time to stop myself from making you so good!

Fred laughs earnestly.

FRED
Ted, you're too funny.

Coach Beard looks like a wreck. Ted takes an exhale, tosses, and sinks it in the hole.

COACH BEARD
YES!

The crowd cheers. Ted and Fred look at each other.

TED LASSO
We're on our way to a perfect round!

Rebecca is stressed watching the game. She sees Coach Beard's BACKPACK is full of fireworks. She reaches down and grabs a ROMAN CANDLE and a LIGHTER. She hesitates, looks around, and then lights the firework as Fred readies his throw.

The FIREWORK shoots into the air on Fred's throw. It catches everyone by surprise. Both Nathan AND Roy hit the ground this time. Fred's throw goes astray, missing the board completely.

They all look at Rebecca in shock. Fred gets worked up.

FRED
Oh come on!

ROY KENT
Not you, too, Rebecca.

REBECCA
Sorry, everyone. I just wanted to get Coach Beard and Ted back for all their Fourth of July shenanigans.

TED LASSO
Hah, you got me! But let's get that bag back and give Fred a re-do.

Coach Beard grabs the bag and walks it back over to Ted.

COACH BEARD
(whispered; serious)
Whoa now. Fireworks would be going off <u>all the time</u> in America. It's the environment, Ted. This is our home-court advantage!

TED LASSO
It's only fair, Beard.

Michelle looks at Ted, with her arms crossed. Ted shrugs. He knows it's the right thing to do.

The crowd goes silent as Fred prepares. He tosses it with perfect spin. It slides up —— but gets stuck on the rim just in front of the hole.

FRED
Ah! So close!

Coach Beard downs his beer.

COACH BEARD
Throw it away, Ted. I can try to come back from 20-19 against Michelle on this side.

Ted weighs his options. Roy walks over and pulls Ted aside.

ROY KENT
Ay, you can't let this bloke beat you.

TED LASSO
It's dangling in the hole, Roy. If I touch that board, it's falling in.

ROY KENT
So you're just going to throw it away, let him win then?

TED LASSO
Beard can pull it off.

ROY KENT
He's had three beers during this last round alone. He's a nervous wreck. It's got to be you.

Ted sees Beard drenched in sweat. Roy leans in and whispers something in Ted's ear. Ted raises his eyebrows and nods.

TED LASSO
Now, I hadn't thought of that.

Roy nods to him and walks back to hang out with Keeley. Ted walks over to Beard's side and looks at the dangling bag.

TED LASSO (CONT'D)
Oof. He's just itchin' to go home, ain't he?

Ted winks at Henry. Then, Ted walks back, measuring the length between the boards. The crowd is silent.

TED LASSO (CONT'D)
(to self)
Barbecue sauce.

Ted tosses the bag HIGH, much higher than his usual throw. It's a moonshot. The crowd watches it soar overhead like a firework. Then, the bag comes down —— straight through the hole without touching Fred's bag.

Ted wins the game.

The crowd goes wild. Even Beard drops to his knees, relieved. Henry rushes up and gives Ted a giant hug.

FRED
Wow! Was “moonshot” the next lesson?

TED LASSO
It’s a little later in the curriculum. Next time, Fred. Good game.

They shake hands as Michelle walks over. She looks relieved.

MICHELLE LASSO
Great game. We’ll get you next time.

TED LASSO
I don’t know about that. That’s a six-peat for Beard and me. We’re like the MJ and Pippen of Cornhole.

EXT. AFC RICHMOND - PITCH - NIGHT

Ted, Beard, and the entire Cornhole Crew lay out on the pitch. Lio and Nathan stand near the wiring that Lio set up earlier. Nathan looks over to Coach Beard, Higgins, Ted Lasso, and Roy Kent — THE DIAMOND DOGS. They raise a beer to him. Nathan blushes, puts on EARMUFFS, and then Lio starts the FIREWORKS SHOW.

EXT. AFC RICHMOND - PITCH - STANDS - CONTINUOUS

Roy and Keeley sit, enjoying the fireworks.

KEELEY
So... what’d you say to Ted?

ROY KENT
I asked him, “Who do you think Henry would rather see win this game?”

KEELEY
That’s sweet, Roy. And you still think Argyle saying you’d be a good coach is ridiculous?

ROY KENT
I do. It’s mental to think I could coach American football.

KEELEY
You just successfully coached Cornhole, the world’s dumbest game.

Roy chuckles.

ROY KENT
I'll admit: Coaching's more fun than I thought. But I'm not done playing yet.

KEELEY
You know, I learned a big lesson this weekend about branding: the posts that did the best were the ones where we were most honest with ourselves.

ROY KENT
Well, in all honesty, I'd never move to America, especially if they light off fireworks for two weeks each year.

Keeley laughs and shakes her head.

ROY KENT (CONT'D)
I'll talk to Ted, Beard, and Nathan about running some drills while my back recovers. If I do become a coach, it's gonna be in the Premier Leagues.

Keeley leans over and hugs him. Roy pulls a PARTY POPPER behind Keeley's back, making her jump.

ROY KENT (CONT'D)
Okay. Sometimes they're fun.

EXT. AFC RICHMOND - ENDZONE - NIGHT

Nathan walks over to Lio with a beer.

NATHAN
I thought I'd return the favor.

LIO
Thanks, Nate the Great. That's what everyone calls you, isn't it?

Nathan is embarrassed.

NATHAN
Well, just Ted. But I just think it's cause he's nice to everyone. I don't——

LIO
I think you're pretty great. I see why he chose that name.

Nathan smiles at them.

NATHAN
Thanks so much. Lio the... burrito.

Lio doubles over in laughter.

LIO
Burrito?! Nathan!... A burrito?!

NATHAN (CONT'D)
Sorry! It's not a weight thing or what you're wearing! I'll think of something better!

LIO (CONT'D)
That's okay. I like it.

They smile at Nathan.

EXT. AFC RICHMOND - PITCH - SIDELINES - CONTINUOUS

Ted and Beard watch fireworks, drinking beers.

COACH BEARD
I'm proud you took that shot. You deserved the win.

TED LASSO
Thanks for saying that, Coach. It ain't always about winning... but it's nice, ain't it?

COACH BEARD
Like whip cream on top of apple pie: you don't need it... But it's better.

TED LASSO
Hey now. That's the truth.

Ted and Beard suddenly recognize that JAMIE TARTT has shown up. Jamie walks over to Ted and Beard to shake their hands.

TED LASSO (CONT'D)
Jamie Tartt! Hey now, I'm glad you could make it, buddy!

JAMIE TARTT
Only reason I came was to rib Roy for that embarrassing photo of him on Insta... Coach Beard.

Beard nods at Jamie, shakes his hand.

JAMIE TARTT (CONT'D)
What kind of beer did you bring from America? Is it all shit?

COACH BEARD
The shittiest. I'll show you.

Coach Beard starts to walk toward the main crowd. Before joining Beard, Jamie leans into Ted.

JAMIE TARTT
Thanks for sending me an invite, Ted.

TED LASSO
Hey, you're always welcome here.

Jamie walks over to join Beard. Roy and Keeley wave to them. Ted exhales and looks up to the night sky.

Then, Rebecca sits next to Ted. She looks apologetic.

TED LASSO (CONT'D)
Great prank earlier, boss. You got me!

REBECCA
It wasn't a prank. I did it to ruin Fred's shot.

TED LASSO
Oh... why?

REBECCA
I couldn't stand to see you lose to him, Ted. You're too good.

TED LASSO
Oh, thank you. That's mighty kind. But it wouldn't have felt right. We win some, and we lose some. And over here, I guess, sometimes we "tie" some.

They share a smile.

TED LASSO (CONT'D)
I'm glad I won this time.

A massive firework goes off. They're both shocked.

REBECCA
I can't believe you put up with this for two weeks each year.

TED LASSO
It's awful. But it's also so great.
(sincerely)
Thanks for everything, Rebecca.
(MORE)

TED LASSO (CONT'D)
I know I need to focus more on being a dad, which I still am, and not on being a husband, which I'm not.

Rebecca is taken aback by his candor. She resonates with it. Then, she leans over and KISSES Ted on the cheek.

REBECCA
I'm sorry, I shouldn't have done that. I'm just... so tired of seeking revenge on Rupert. I think you're a special man, Ted Lasso.

Ted Lasso grabs her hand.

TED LASSO
Thank you. I think you're great, too.

They hold hands for a moment.

HENRY LASSO (O.C.)
Dad!

Henry rushes over, surprising Ted with a hug. Ted smiles and lifts Henry up. The three of them look up to the fireworks.

END OF SHOW