

AMERICAN HOUSEWIFE: “THE GOAT”

Written by Naomi Vondell

TEASER

EXT. TARA SUMMERS’ HOUSE, DAY

Katie picks up Anna-Kat from a playdate at Tara Summers’ house. A tensely smiling Tara needs them to leave quickly because she’s getting ready for a garden party that afternoon. Katie isn’t invited, and her event-planning company was hired to plan it. Tara catches Katie mimicking her behind her back and calls her on it. Katie says something snide about Tara being a privileged Westport housewife with nothing better to do than throw garden parties. Tara counters that throwing a garden party is hard work – Katie certainly wouldn’t be up to it. Katie points out that hello, she’s an event coordinator now and this is her job. Tara predicts Katie will be fired within a few months because she’s no good at this. Katie’s hackles are raised: Oh yeah? It’s on, bitch! Katie swoops around, knocking over a clearly expensive decoration as she leaves.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. OTTOS' KITCHEN, DAY

Katie vents to Greg about Tara Summers. Greg suggests she plan a garden party through her workplace and show Tara what she's made of – plus this will win her brownie points with her boss. Taylor slumps in – she has to write a Life Studies assignment on being a parent. Where could she possibly find material? Greg and Katie look at each other and try to give the clueless Taylor some subtle hints that she can find material in her own parents. Greg reminds Katie of the time she made jelly art and smeared it all over the walls, and Taylor says yeah, and she feels her artistic talent should have been encouraged more. Greg leadingly asks Taylor who had to clean it up. Taylor, still clueless and confused, says, “But you *liked* doing things like cleaning – right? You're parents. Parents like that stuff.” She's off to go look at baby Instagram pics. Greg facepalms.

INT. GOAT YOGA STUDIO, DAY

It's Westport's brand-new upscale goat yoga studio, and the housewives are all in with this new trend. The ladies chill out to sitars and panpipes as the goats drift around them and climb on their backs. An absurdly thin and fit group leader guides them through their poses.

In walks Katie, just as they're finishing up a session. The group leader shushes her with a slow finger to the lips. Katie sighs and sits on a bench to the side. Serene meditation music continues – and then a goat poops on Chloe Brown Mueller. Slow realization as the smell permeates the studio and the housewives notice it one by one, until it's a panicked scene with all the housewives jumping back in disgust.

INT. GOAT YOGA STUDIO, MOMENTS LATER

A vet examines the goat and puts him on medication for at least a week, maybe two. The goat can't stay at the studio while recovering, so someone has to take him. Crickets – no one volunteers. The vet says the only other option is to send him to a local shelter where they do animal research. Everyone gasps – cruelty to animals! – and yet still no one volunteers. Suzanne nominates Katie, who protests vociferously – the garden party is in two weeks. Katie's only here to hand out invitations. She had them printed and embossed and everything. Tara laughs at this idea – everyone knows Katie can't garden. Nancy points out that Katie's the only one who has livestock gear from taking care of Hans Gruber. Chloe Brown Mueller asks Katie whether she really expects people to come to her garden party if she can't even do this one little thing for them. The goat would otherwise go to the research shelter, and everyone is counting on Katie to step up. Is she part of this community or not? Reluctantly, Katie takes the goat – who looks up at her and bleats adorably.

INT. OTTOS' KITCHEN, DAY

The Ottos at home with the goat. Oliver is stunned. Anna-Kat hugs the goat and plays with him. Greg is silent, but his face speaks volumes. Katie explains that she had to do it or no one would come to her garden party. Greg starts to say something, but thinks better of it as Katie's busy taking a lasagna out of the oven and putting it on the counter to cool. Greg warns her about leaving it out for the goat to eat, but Katie says she's used goat milk ricotta and a goat would never eat its own milk. So we're safe.

Taylor comes in and reads her assignment to Greg and Katie. It's all cute, cuddly baby moments and well-behaved children with clean, perfect clothes from Gap Kids. This is clearly how Taylor sees parenthood. She asks Greg for his "honest opinion". He hums, haws and hesitates, but finally blurts out that parenting isn't what you see on Instagram. It involves a lot more mess. Taylor doesn't understand.

Oliver's face brightens as he comes up with an idea to sell goat selfies.

Anna-Kat, still hugging and playing with the goat, names him Jack Dawson, after the character in *Titanic*. Greg and Katie look at each other: "Here we go again."

Katie and Greg talk about how they can handle it – after all, it's only for a week. Crash, boom, bang – and they all turn to where the noise was. The goat munches on Katie's goat-milk-ricotta lasagna. Ba-a-a-a!

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. DINER – MORNING

At Second Breakfast with Angela and Doris, Katie vents about Jack Dawson's antics in her house. Flashbacks of the goat's antics: a messed-up kitchen with Jack eating the entire dinner off the floor, Oliver searching for an assignment only to find the goat eating it, Greg's office messed up with papers he has to grade all over the floor and the goat munching on them. Katie says she never had this much trouble cleaning up after her own kids, never mind a goat that she didn't want to take care of in the first place. Doris says they should lock the goat up in the basement until he learns some manners. Did Doris do that to her own kids? Only until they learned respect. Angela breaks the stunned silence by suggesting that Katie "goat-proof" the house – hide all papers, cover all foods, don't leave anything out. Like baby-proofing, but with a goat.

EXT. PARK – MORNING

Taylor goes for a walk and looks at toddlers with nannies to get some ideas for her assignment. She meets a nanny she's met before at someone's house. The nanny yells at a preschooler who's refusing to have sunscreen put on. The preschooler finally completely loses it and shoves the nanny, spilling her coffee on her white blouse. The nanny says she's had it with the kid. Taylor rolls her eyes and confronts the nanny – Hey, how can you yell at an innocent child? All it takes is calmness and logic. Just tell the kid not to spill coffee on you. The nanny challenges Taylor: Okay, you think you can do better? I need to change. You take this kid for a while. Taylor is only too happy to. The nanny leaves and the little girl looks up at Taylor with an adorable, but slightly demonic smile.

INT. OTTOS' HOUSE – MORNING

Katie and Greg sit at the kitchen table, researching on Greg's laptop what plants to get that the goat won't eat. He finds a site that says goats won't eat nightshade, so they search for Westport garden supply stores that sell nightshade. Only one does. Katie's writing down the address when they hear a crash in the living room and go to check. The goat has knocked over a vase and is eating the plant. Luther is sitting and watching the goat, panting as if amused. Katie narrows her eyes at the goat – who bleats happily and trots away. Katie sighs, and Greg grabs a nearby brush and dustpan and starts cleaning it up – when Katie hears another bump! She goes into the kitchen to see Luther and the goat sitting on the floor with the laptop, munching on the edge of the monitor. No! – she grabs the laptop out of the goat's mouth. She yells, "Seriously?!" and the goat runs out. Another crash and Katie runs out.

INT. WHITNEY'S OFFICE – DAY

Katie's been telling Whitney about her idea for a garden party. On speaker, Whitney (VO) has been questioning her about it. Why is it being thrown? Will this bring in any money? Can Katie even afford the fee? Whitney doesn't think so, not on Katie's salary (evil laugh over speaker). Katie cagily agrees, but slips in that all the housewives in Westport will be there and this will certainly spread the word about the company. Hmm. Whitney grudgingly agrees.

INT. GARDEN SUPPLY STORE – DAY

Katie is here with the goat in tow to buy plants for the garden party. She has to keep tugging at the goat to keep him from going after the plants. She talks to a young, kind of airheaded salesperson and asks for “goat-repellent” plants. The salesperson goes to the manager and asks for “goat-friendly” plants. The bill: \$457.63.

INT. OTTOS’ KITCHEN – DAY

Katie tries to make canapes to practice for the garden party, but the goat keeps sabotaging her efforts – grabbing food, almost knocking over plates (which Katie saves mid-fall) and generally causing kitchen mayhem. In walks Oliver. He’s home to collect the goat for the goat selfie booth. He needs the goat now. An exhausted Katie is only too happy to let him have the goat.

EXT. WESTPORT UNIFIED – DAY

Oliver sets up a goat selfie booth with Anna-Kat. \$2 per selfie, \$5 for three. They get a few customers. Series of still shots of goat selfies.

EXT. PARK – DAY

The preschooler plays on the monkey bars and scrapes her knee. Massive crying and screaming. Taylor tries soothing her with a Florence-Henderson-like hug and reassurance, but she pushes Taylor away. Taylor searches in her bag for a Band-Aid and can’t find anything. Finally, Taylor takes a tissue out of her bag and tries applying it to the knee. Even more screaming, becoming a full-fledged preschooler tantrum. “You’re stupid!! I want my mommy!”

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT – DAY

Oliver comes back from inside the school with bottled water from a vending machine, which he tosses in the trash after walking by a series of recycle bins. As he approaches, he sees Anna-Kat giving Franklin a goat selfie for free. He asks her what she’s doing giving away their product. She says Franklin doesn’t have the \$2. Oliver gives Anna-Kat a lecture on the evils of communism.

EXT. OTTOS’ HOUSE – EVENING

Katie and Greg plant the plants in the back yard for a garden. Crossover to B-Story as Greg tells Katie that Taylor came to him and asked about being a parent. Flashbacks to all the times they had to clean up after their kids – and Greg gets sentimental about the fact that those times are going away. Katie says no they’re not – they’ve got a big horned kid to clean up after. Not only that, the goat is having a bad influence on the dog. Flashbacks of goat and dog cleanups – and they more or less parallel the kids’ cleanups – as Greg points out to Katie how much the goat is getting to her. But she needs to prove something to Tara Summers and to herself, so she has to suck it up and soldier on.

INT. GOAT YOGA STUDIO – MORNING

The prescribed one week of medication is now over, and Katie takes Jack Dawson back to the studio. She happily drops him off and leaves as the goat munches on a plant.

END ACT TWO

ACT 3

INT. OTTOS' HOUSE – THE NEXT MORNING

Katie gloats to Greg about how her week of watering and weeding and fertilizing has paid off. Tara Summers will have to eat her words! The doorbell rings. It's a smiling, perky Suzanne, with the goat in tow. Turns out the goat needs one more week of recovery – will Katie be a sweetie? *Thanks* so much – and then Suzanne flounces off, leaving Katie stunned and aggravated.

INT. OTTOS' KITCHEN – MORNING

As Greg listens sympathetically, Taylor puzzles over how to piece her assignment together. She's taking notes on paper because she saw on Twitter that it's the best way to make yourself think. She's resorting to this because the assignment is due on Monday. She asks Greg: What's my angle? Do cookies always work on preschoolers? Maybe I should write about that. She starts to write, but Greg suggests maybe she shouldn't write that bribing children always works. Remember the time they tried it on Anna-Kat and she kept screaming? Taylor gives him an aggravated look, tears up her paper and lets out a frustrated "Arrgh!" She plops her head in her hands. After a beat, she gets up and says she's going to her room to work on this.

INT./EXT. OTTOS' HOUSE – MORNING, ONE WEEK LATER

The day of the garden party has arrived. Katie has a rope around the goat's neck and she drags him toward the door to the basement. He pulls back on the rope, bleating furiously. Anna-Kat: What are you doing? Katie's going to lock the goat in the basement until the garden party's over. Anna-Kat: No! That's cruel. Anna-Kat thinks he should be among people. Katie relents and locks the goat up in the toolshed. All good.

INT./EXT. OTTOS' HOME – LATER THAT DAY

The first guests arrive at Katie's door. Katie welcomes them in and tells them to go out to the back yard and make themselves at home. She'll be right out with some refreshments. As Oliver and Anna-Kat, camera in tow, usher the housewives out – and as Oliver pitches them goat selfies – Katie happily goes to the kitchen and prepares mimosas. Suzanne comes in from the back and says the guests have nowhere to sit – and that Katie should probably come out there. Katie does – and the back yard is a mess. Jack Dawson has eaten his way out of the toolshed and he's lying in the middle of a yard full of broken and eaten plants, munching on the nightshade.

EXT. OTTOS' KITCHEN, MOMENTS LATER

Katie is sitting at the kitchen table with a mimosa and with a sympathetic Angela and Doris. All her plants are ruined, even the goat-proof nightshade. She's defeated and out of ideas. All that planning for nothing, she's a failure, and she's about to fail disastrously in the eyes of the community. Tara Summers will never stop gloating. Angela reassures her that she's not a failure and that Tara Summers is an idiot. Katie says Tara *is* an idiot, but she's an idiot who's right – I'm a failure. Doris tops up Katie's mimosa straight out of the bottle. Then Suzanne comes in and says everybody out there is having a great time – how come Katie isn't joining in the fun?

EXT. OTTOS' BACK YARD – MOMENTS LATER

Katie, Angela and Doris follow Suzanne out to the back yard and everybody is having a great time! Oliver and Anna-Kat are taking goat selfies with all the guests and their kids.

INT. TAYLOR'S ROOM, AFTERNOON

Taylor sits on her bed with crumpled papers around her. She can't figure out what to write her paper on. Sounds of Katie's party. In frustration, Taylor throws the papers on the floor and stomps out.

INT. BACK YARD, MOMENTS LATER

Taylor stomps into the back yard – and steps in goat poop. Ew! Greg and Katie see her and tell her she'd better go clean up her shoe, they've been doing a lot of cleaning these past two weeks. A lightbulb flickers on in Taylor's head – that's the perfect angle for her paper! Parenting is cleaning. Greg reminds her he told her that two weeks ago. Taylor doesn't remember, but Greg assures her he did. Katie adds that no, they didn't clean up after her because they enjoyed it – they did it because they loved her. And because no one else would. Greg to Katie: I have to go print out another copy of tomorrow's class lecture. Jack Dawson ate it.

EXT. OTTOS' BACK YARD, EVENING

The party. Montage of guests having a great time taking goat selfies, including the demonic kid from the park. Oliver chats them all up and offers print enlargements for a fee. Suzanne, ever positive and perky, tells Katie what a great party it is and the other housewives agree – even Tara, when everyone pressures her with a group stare. Katie gloats at Tara Summers: "Stupid, stupid Tara." Taylor comes up to Katie and hugs her. "What's this for?" "For being a great mom." The goat bleats.

END ACT THREE

TAG

INT. WHITNEY'S OFFICE – MORNING

Katie sits in front of the speaker as Whitney (VO) congratulates her on a job well done. Whitney enthusiastically starts planning a whole series of goat-selfie parties. Katie says no – an extreme no – because unfortunately she has to return the goat today.

INT. GOAT YOGA STUDIO – MORNING

Class in session. Katie comes in leading the goat on a rope. She's done playing goat nanny for two weeks. Jack Dawson is fine and healthy and she needs a break. Another goat poops on Chloe Brown Mueller. Nope! Katie's out of there, fast!

END OF SHOW