

LAST MAN STANDING

"MGTOW"

Written by

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INT. BAXTER HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - MORNING

MIKE BAXTER sits at the kitchen table. His eyes are wide open to the truth. A giant coffee mug with "#1 Dad" sits in front of him, yet its contents have been untouched. Mike has seen what can't be unseen.

VANESSA BAXTER descends the stairs into the kitchen, still in her nightgown.

VANESSA

Mike, what are you doing up so early?

MIKE

I discovered the truth.

VANESSA

Oh, what? That no matter how early you get up, you'll never be able to my famous cheddar omelette? The secret is lots of cheese.

Laugh track. Mike stares straight ahead.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Come on Mike, let's go back to bed. Kristin and Boyd won't be here for another three hours.

Mike cringes at the patriarchal web he's woven.

MIKE

No. I must leave.

VANESSA

Mike, it's 5:30 in the morning. Doesn't a nice warm bed sound nice? We can cuddle up and-

Vanessa wraps her arms around Mike from behind. Mike quickly shrugs off her advances.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Well, looks like someone woke up too early on the wrong side of the bed.

Laugh track. This joke irks Mike. Mike stares Vanessa dead in the face, almost crying.

MIKE

Vanessa, I am MGTOW.

A beat. Vanessa chuckles.

VANESSA

Oh, I didn't realize you were welding.

Laugh track.

MIKE

No, that is Mig-Tig. It is not the same.

VANESSA

Well whatever it is, I'm sure it can wait until later.

MIKE

NO!

Mike slams his #1 Dad mug on the kitchen table, shattering it and this fallacy of equal partnership between genders. He stands upright, finally awake.

VANESSA

Cripes, Mike! Get some paper towels!

MIKE

No, because it is not the man's way.

VANESSA

What? Fine, I'll get them.

A wry smile creeps across Mike's face.

MIKE

(to himself)

Good, it is working.

(to Vanessa)

Now I must leave to find my own way.

VANESSA

Not without telling me what the heck's gotten into you, you're not!

Mike pauses for a second, his weak compassion for his wife gets the better of him.

MIKE

I must disband the family. I cannot be a half-asleep, dirty purple-pillar.

(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

Right now I am at Level 0 where I am self-aware, but I intend to go all the way to Level 4 where I live off the grid and away from this weak society you women have constructed.

VANESSA

Mike, who is the President?

MIKE

Donald Trump, of course.

VANESSA

Do you think women could have constructed that man into office?

Laugh track.

MIKE

You have a point. But I cannot listen to you, you are clouding my vision with emotions and empathy. I must go.

Mike bolts for the living room.

CUT TO:

INT. BAXTER HOUSEHOLD - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mike walks past the staircase as **MANDY BAXTER** descends.

MANDY

Hey dad, what's with all the noise? Sounds like Swarovski when you tell the salespeople that all this is just fucking glass.

Laugh track.

MIKE

Mandy, your ass is going to be glass for using the F-word on an ABC-now-FOX show.

Laugh track.

MIKE (CONT'D)

But I am giving up a traditional patriarchal household because I am surrounded by shrill women who weaken my masculinity.

MANDY

Wow Dad, seems kind of harsh. You can't mean that about your favorite daughter-dearest who might need some money to go out tonight?

Mandy bats her eyes. Mike stares in silence. Laugh track.

MIKE

(a beat)

Your character isn't important and is weakened by re-casting the role. You will amount to nothing on this show.

Mandy (as the actress playing Mandy) sobs uncontrollably at Tim Allen's words.

Mike exits out the front door. Vanessa rushes in to the actress who plays Mandy's sobs.

VANESSA

Oh honey, are you ok? Dad's just having one of his moods.

The actress who plays Mandy tries to pull it together and adhere to the loose plot of the show.

MANDY

But...is dad going to be okay?

VANESSA

We'll see. How about one of my famous cheddar omelettes? The secret is-

MANDY

-A lot of cheese, I know.

Laugh track.

CUT TO:

INT. OUTDOOR MAN - LATER

Mike unlocks the door to the upper office. He goes to his desk to write his great manifesto. He thinks aloud.

MIKE

I am the Last Man Standing Going His Own Way. I have finally reached Level 3 and I am excited to arm myself with all the hunting rifles and ammunition that my Range Rover can carry. I am truly free achieve my lifelong dream of taking all of those rifles, taping them together, and shooting them all at once so I am launched into space and I may see my Father, Saturn, face to face before he devours me alive. I am the strongest of men and I-

ED ALZATE hears this rustling, especially on a Saturday, and opens his door to investigate.

ED

Mike? What are you doing here? I thought your family was going to Splishy-Splashy Wet Hands Water Park today. You've been talking about it all week.

MIKE

I was, Ed. But that was my old life. I am MGTOW now.

ED

What, you've taken up welding now?

Laugh track even bigger from this dumb callback.

MIKE

No, that is Mig-Tig. It is not the same. It is Men Going Their Own Way.

ED

Well, I've been going my own way for a while. I don't need a special label for it.

MIKE

Have you, Ed? You've been married four times.

ED

Yeah, and every time she said "I'm going this way" and I said "I'm going this way".

Ed holds out opposing thumbs to illustrate his point. Laugh track.

MIKE

But what has it gotten you? How many times will a woman say "no, I will not procreate with this inferior-gene'd man."

ED

Hey, I think my Wranglers look pretty sharp.

Ed models his jeans for Mike. Laugh track.

MIKE

How many times have you heard "No thanks, baldy?"

ED

Then I tell 'em that's how I'm so slick, I've got no drag.

Laugh track.

MIKE

How much time, effort, and money have you poured into relationships, only to be left exhausted, drained, and unhappy? Why sacrifice your happiness and compromise your time for someone who is trying to step on your throat and is encouraged to do so by today's society that is against your gender?

Ed stares at Mike for three beats.

ED

HOLY FUCKING SHIT YOU'RE RIGHT. I am awake now, I see it all so clearly. OH GOD, what have I done with my life? Mike Baxter, you have shown me the light.

MIKE

We must spread the word to all the blue piller asleep baa-baa sheep men out there through a series of confusing and astringent online videos.

ED

Please, let's use the OutdoorMan.com Website, I want this to be a beacon for all men to come together and then immediately separate and live as hermit-vampires.

MIKE

It's TOOL TIME!

CUT TO:

INT. BAXTER HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN

Mandy and Vanessa sit at the kitchen table, heads resting on their hands. Both have the same exhausted expression.

KRISTIN BAXTER, BOYD BAXTER, and RYAN VOGELSON enter through the rear door into the kitchen. Everyone's excited for what the day holds, unbeknownst to the A-storyline that's currently going on.

KRISTIN

Hello, who's ready for Splishy-Splashy Wet Hands Water Park?!

VANESSA & MANDY

(flaccid)

Yay.

Laugh track.

RYAN

Come on guys, it's family bonding time!

MANDY

(sardonic)

Family is a false construct set up to entrap men.

Laugh track.

RYAN

Whoa Mandy, cheer up would ya?

KRISTIN
Mom, is everything okay?

Vanessa scoffs.

VANESSA
Tch, it's your father. I found him
sitting right there this morning,
and before I know it he's talking
about "disbanding the family"...and
something about welding.

Laugh track.

MANDY
I saw him right before he went out
the door. He said that he was tired
of too many chicks in the house.
And then he...
(the actress tries to hold
it in about Tim Allen's
comments)
...Said I couldn't have any money.

Laugh track.

KRISTIN
Well, did anybody see where he
went?

BOYD
I have one line and it is this:
Mom, look!

Boyd holds up his iPad that he's been glued to since he
walked in.

KRISTIN
Oh my God Mom, look!

CUT TO:

OUTDOORMAN.COM VIDEO STREAM

Mike is in his prime "tell it like it is" stance for his
daily video confessional.

MIKE
They say women are from Venus and
Men are from Mars, so why don't we
all go back to our own planets and
leave each other the heck alone?

Laugh track.

MIKE (CONT'D)

But my Father is Saturn, and I must go to him. I couldn't before because I was blind to the way. Even now, I know that my livestream will not be as successful as a beautiful woman streaming video games, and this is why I am shooting myself into space with the two-hundred rifles at Outdoor Man. These babies fire up to a .243 Winchester round, which will be enough to sail into the stars, away from all society and finally...go my own way to Saturn my Father who will eat me alive.

BACK TO:

INT. BAXTER HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Everyone is surrounding the iPad with mouths agape.

VANESSA

Oh my God.

RYAN

Well, at least we know where he is.

CUT TO:

INT. OUTDOOR MAN - LATER

Mike sits looking at the computer screen. Ed stands back, leaning on a desk watching Mike's handiwork.

MIKE

Now to stuff all the haters with this nine-minute video!

ED

You tell 'em, Mike!

Mike starts another livestream.

MIKE

Listen up, all you feminists: I am the beautiful son of Saturn and I cannot be married because I am too beautiful for this world.

(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

You sense my power and you want my essence and my bodily fluids. But you shall not have them, for I must be very wet for my Father to slide my body and bones through his gullet, where I will live for all time. Wet...Splishy-Splashy...NO, I must not be attached emotionally to anything, for it is weakness. We must all come together and then live by ourselves with no contact with each other or another person. This is-

Kristin, Boyd, Vanessa, and the actress who plays Mandy burst in.

VANESSA

Mike, stop!

Mike turns around in surprise at this group of people who apparently care for him and want the best for him.

MIKE

Hello Vanessa, Kristin, Boyd.

The actress who plays Mandy waits for her name, but it is not called.

KRISTIN

Dad, please! Think about your grandson!

Kristin presents Boyd as a sacrificial lamb.

MIKE

No, I cannot be imprisoned by the gynocentric lifestyle that will perpetuate.

Ryan enters.

RYAN

But did you think about me?

Mike stands up, visibly angry at Ryan's presence.

MIKE

MY WEAK, LIBERAL CUCK SON-IN-LAW.

RYAN

Just know that if you leave, Boyd will be left to only my philosophy of empathy, reason, and ethics.

MIKE
YOU WOULDN'T DARE.

RYAN
I would. If you're giving up on us,
then I will try to turn this whole
family onto vegetarianism.

MIKE
Fuck...You!

KRISTIN
It's your choice, Dad. It's always
been your choice.

Mike takes a moment. He turns back to the computer.

MIKE
Men Go Their Own Way is about
choosing your own path in life with
confidence and security in your
masculinity that you can survive in
the world. It may be hostile, and
it may not be fair, but it is your
choice. And this is my choice: my
family. My Father Saturn will have
to wait.

Mike closes the video. He turns back to his family. Vanessa,
Kristin and Boyd hug Mike. Ryan stands far away, knowing he
has done the right thing, even though it is a net loss.

The actress playing Mandy flounders trying to hug Mike, but
is ultimately disgusted at Tim Allen's words. She will quit
after this season and the role will be recast again.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Now, who's up for Splishy-Splashy
Wet Hands Water Park?!

ALL
YAY!

CUT TO BLACK.

POST-BUMP:
INT. BAXTER HOUSEHOLD - GARAGE

Mike has a welding shield on and lights an acetylene torch.
Vanessa walks into the garage.

VANESSA
Mike, what are you doing now?

MIKE

Oh honey! Didn't hear you come in.
Well, you guys joked about it, so I
finally got my Mig-Tig
certification. I'm welding!

VANESSA

Oh ho ho ho! Well, aren't we quite
the handiman!

MIKE

It's TOOL TIME!

Vanessa wraps her arms around him from behind. Mike does not
shrug off her embrace.

VANESSA

Well, we're all glad to have you
back. All of us shrill, selfish
women.

Laugh track.

MIKE

It's good to be back.

VANESSA

Now don't stay out here too long,
we're going out to Applebee's for
dinner!

MIKE

Yum! I'll be in shortly.

Vanessa exits. Mike's happy exterior melts into a stern gaze.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Don't worry Father. I'll be there
soon.

Mike flips down the welding shield and presses the acetylene
torch to the metal. Sparks fly. The camera slowly pans out to
reveal Mike's contraption that resembles a half-finished one-
person rocketship.

CUT TO BLACK.