Jules & Pete 2

PANDA notices a bug scurrying across the porch. She stalks it and pounces on it. Misses. Damn.

A bird flutters by. PANDA gets excited.

Did you see that?
That bird was pretty slow. Didn't you think it was...pretty slow?
I'll just be right back.

PANDA goes off the porch.

SCENE 10

-Start

JULES sits on the porch steps with her head in her hands, an empty cat carrier beside her.

PETE enters carrying an old laptop.

JULES

You came...

PETE

You said it was urgent.

JULES

I can't find Panda.

PETE

Did you post that video? To my account?

JULES

Pete, I can't talk to you about this now.

PETE

Hawk Havoc in Hershey?

JULES

You seem to like alliterative titles. Did you look at the views before you deleted it?

PETE

Did you look at the comments?

JULES

Cats can't leave comments.

PETE

Their owners can!

PETE opens his laptop and reads from it.

"What the f *Pete* this is f-ed."
"I thought you were a cool dude *Pete*."
"My daughter saw this and started sobbing. Thanks a lot *Pete*. I hope you get Covid."
Oh, and my personal favorite,
"I'm reporting this as inappropriate."

JULES

Oh.

PETE

So yeah, they've suspended my account. Thanks for that.

JULES

I didn't think—

PETE

—I'm a screw up, Jules! I had one thing. People liked my videos. They liked to play them for their cats. And that was enough until you showed up!

JULES

Pete, if you're going to be an artist you need to be able to handle a little criticism.

PETE

I'm not an artist! I never set out to be! And you know what Jules, I don't think you are either. I mean, one career setback and you started making bird videos.—

JULES

–Hey!

PETE

—And I'm sorry that your cat's lost, I know that can be very worrying, but I can't help you with that problem right now.

JULES

Why not?

PETE

Why not?

JULES

What, you've got to go meditate in the woods or something? Welcome to human interaction Pete. People are going to do things that piss you off and need your help at the same time and you're going to have to feel mad sometimes and just let things suck but still be there.

PETE

You don't know a thing about me.

JULES

No one does! Does your son know you?

PETE

Leave him out of this.

JULES

No Pete, it's weird! It's weird that one time your ex-wife said "leave us alone" and so you spent ten years avoiding confrontation with a kid that probably really needs you. Like do you think that's going to get easier the longer you wait?

PETE begins walking away.

JULES

Okay, I guess I'll see you later. Or maybe never, who the hell knows.

PETE

You stole my identity, you ruined my business, you killed a Lesser Gold Finch, and you did not apologize! So you can find your own cat, I'm done. Pod over.

JULES

Can we please talk about this like adults?

JULES' cell rings.

-End

PETE

Like adults? Like adults?

JULES looks at her phone.

Why are you—? Don't check that—

JULES

It's Willa. She hasn't called me in weeks, don't go, I'll just—