

# BIG HARBOR

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Series Proposal

## **Overview**

BIG HARBOR is a family-style ensemble comedy of one family's chaotic relationships in a place much like Gig Harbor (on Washington State's Puget Sound, near Seattle), although smaller and more archetypically idyllic. The seasons focus on the misadventures of the Wilson family, the idiosyncratic guests who come to stay at their home, "the finest Bed-and-Breakfast in all the Pacific Northwest," and the small community of Harborites, Kramer-like hyperboles whose foibles we forgive and accept, for each is a tad insane. In Big Harbor, as it is everywhere, love and fulfillment are hard to find. The elder Wilsons, Bob and Nancy, transformed his grandparent's home in the woods 10 years before, and nurtured their niche in the market. To those who know them, they are the area's heart of wisdom and wholesome benevolence. Their adult children, Doug and Linda, run the coastline-town 's water taxi service. Nancy's older brother, Uncle Jake, who enjoyed a little too much LSD in his youth, runs a charter fishing/tour business that features a fully modernized but visually authentic pirate's Brigantine. The episodes that tell the tale of Big Harbor begin with the unexpected return of the Wilson's youngest daughter, Debbi, the family's smartest and brightest, who has just dropped out of college.

### **NUTSHELL**

*It's How I Met Your Mother meets Newhart.*

### **SERIES Logline**

In a picturesque Pacific Northwest harbor town, Debbi, a vaguely disturbed rebel, returns to her family's home, "the finest Bed-and-Breakfast in all the Pacific Northwest," run by her parents, a semi-retired couple venerated by the community. Debbi, along with her older brother and sister (and everybody else), searches desperately for love and fulfillment in this place (this this once-village, now town, soon city), Big Harbor, that just might be more than it seems.

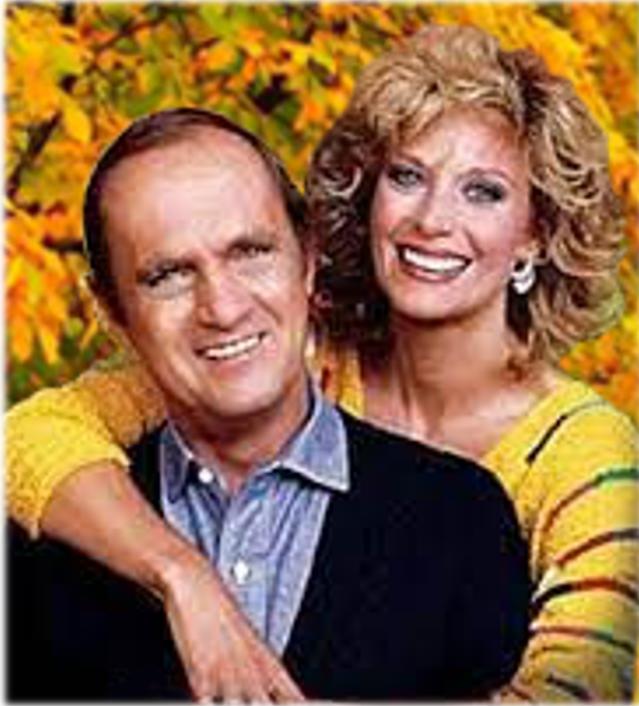
### **PILOT Logline**

The day of the Wilson Family's Bed-and-Breakfast's 10-year anniversary, owners' Bob and Nancy's youngest daughter, Debbi, unexpectedly returns from college. That evening, while Bob and Nancy go out for a much-anticipated romantic celebration dinner, the B&B's website is inundated with lurid postings from a wild party. Can the bickering personalities pull together and salvage the situation before their parents return to a ruined business?

## The Characters

**BOB and NANCY WILSON** (60's, married, like Bob Newhart and Mary Frann) own and manage "the finest Bed-and-Breakfast in all the Pacific Northwest." Bob is a mature, dedicated husband, a tad overweight, with a dry sense of humor. At the University of Washington, he studied philosophy, which has matured into a firm belief in a benevolent universe.

Nancy is Bob's practical, affectionate college sweetheart who has a flair for decorating,



hospitality, and practical hedonism. In college, while dual-majoring in fine arts and business, her senior year she captained the Huskies' soccer team to league champions. They have three adult children (Doug, Linda, and Debbi), still "living at home."

Their goals are to provide safety and security for their kids while modelling a Good Life. Principled and pragmatic, their go-with-the-flow approach conflicts with ambition, so finances are a recurring challenge.

Wardrobe: Bob wears casual dress pants, oxford shirts, and cardigan sweaters. Nancy wears casual country dresses, slacks, women's Keds sneakers, and classy jewelry.



**DOUG WILSON** (26, like a young Chris Pratt) the family's adventurer, with a B.A. in International Studies from his parents' alma-mater, U-Dub. He spent two years in the peace corps, returning to run the harbor's water taxi service with his younger sister, Linda.

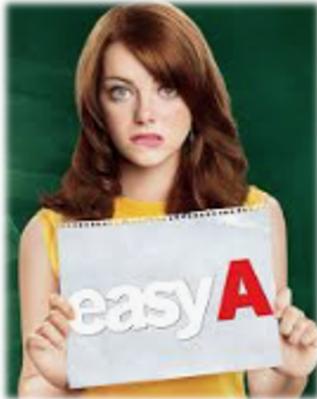
A sensitive but stereotypical 30-year-old, Doug is ever on the lookout for one-night stands with women travelling solo. Although unacknowledged, what he's searching for is a woman who makes him laugh.

Wardrobe: Quite fit, Doug's attire is athletics/sports-themed.

**LINDA WILSON** (24, hot but insecure, like Jennifer Aniston putting on a brave face) wants a man like Dear Ol' Dad, but only seems to meet travelers looking for one-night stands. She studied engineering in college while following her mother's lead to star on her sorority's intramural soccer team. Along with Doug, she runs the harbor's water taxi service. Possessing her mother's esthetics and business savvy, the Mayor has offered to make her his office's Liaison and deal with the increasing number of proposals from developers interested in upgrading and expanding the harbor.



Wardrobe: Non-pretentious, Linda wears preppy blouses and fair isle sweaters (think L.L. Bean).



**DEBBI WILSON** (20, like a quirky Emma Stone) is the family's "wild child," who returns unexpectedly after dropping out of college. The occasional narrator is an older woman, telling us Debbi's story.

The pretty, flighty, and "alternative" Debbi who went off to college was active on social media and backed social/protest causes. Upon return, she quietly settles back into her former role as the B&B's all-round gopher, but she's also the tale's main character, the unwitting Catalyst *and* Everyman -- we're all a bit like her, indeed, we're all a bit like every character.

Wardrobe: Washed out jeans, graphic t-shirts, hoodies, and combat boots, never jewelry.

All three Wilson children live in the Inn's 3-bedroom guest cottage.

**BILL JONES** (30s, like Michael B. Jordan) is handsome, smart, mature, and personable. Armed with a good pedigree, a mechanical engineering degree from MIT, and a resume that includes time with the Army Corps of Engineers, he is the LAST "Jones," after his sister's recent passing. To mourn alone, he came to Big Harbor because, one summer when he was a kid, his family vacationed here. Sooner than he'd expected, he decided to be useful and took on the maintenance of the taxis for the start-up water taxi service run by a local brother and sister. He now also services Jake's pirate fishing boat and Sally's seaplane. He's not shared with anyone the fact that he owns a patent on "a gizmo that every internet service provider needs to connect with end-users," resulting in a nest-egg of millions. His "unattainable desire" is to be a valued member of a family again.



Wardrobe: Preppy clothing and cotton sweaters, true to his time in Andover and Cambridge.



**UNCLE JAKE** (60's, like an always spaced-out Christopher Lloyd) is a former French Foreign Legionnaire, who went through a period of experimenting with "too much LSD." Forever fascinated by pirates, he landed in Hawaii where the idea of captaining a pirate fishing boat first blossomed. He now channels movie pirates' lines and demeanor, from Long John Silver to Captain Blood to Jack Sparrow. Life, as Jake experiences it,

is a Don Quixote-like adventure, so snippets of late-'60's love songs or Dimitri Tiomkin-esque movie scores accompany him wherever he goes. Whenever Jake's around, we're in the thick of a swashbuckling adventure, where life is glorious and grand, both melodramatic and supra-real, every moment decisive! The tale's Fool, Jake focuses on his charters, his sister's family, and his wenches.

Wardrobe: When not wearing his black-and-white "Jake's Pirate Fishing – ARRGH!" T-shirt (with the Jolly Roger on the back), he wears a pseudo-pirate's outfit of puffy shirt, vest, boots, and hat (sans sword, parrot, and eye-patch).

**LAURA LEE** (30's, Asian, like Grace Park) studied cooking in Japan and now runs her own Japanese Steak House, right on the water. Friendly but serious, single and looking, she is our tale's monk archetype, who nevertheless longs for companionship. She practices Goat Yoga on the beach and prowls international dating sites for her perfect match. Her goal is to build the restaurant into a branded business (including online recipes "Ala Andre"), then sell it to Gordon Ramsey. On the proceeds, she plans to move to a Caribbean island and there raise a child.



Wardrobe: A glamorous clothes horse, she's always a knockout.



**MARIA GARCIA** (20's, Latina, like Bryana Salaz) is a recent immigrant from Mexico who works at the B&B. Our tale's Innocent archetype, she wants what no one in her family has **EVER** had: an education and an established career, then a family. Still learning English, she takes classes at the local city college. Well-intentioned but easily confused, she is hardworking, conscientious, ever-cheerful, and *very* pretty.

Wardrobe: A typical Latina, Maria wears colorful outfits, classy makeup, and small earrings.

**SALLY KOWALSKI** (50's, like a hyperactive, fun-loving older Rebel Wilson) lives for intense experiences as the quintessential Cougar. A Calamity Jane-like Australian seaplane pilot, she transports visitors to and from Canada while partying like an invincible 20-year-old.

Wardrobe: Usually in her WWI pilot's long-coat, although her J. Crew blouses and pastel slacks are not cheap. Her hair and makeup are merely an afterthought, so she gives the impression that she just rushed in after shagging all night long.



**DON DIEGO DeLa VEGA** (30's, an always scheming Michael Pena-like con-man) is from South-Central Los Angeles who yearns for money and respect. Sent by his father, the present top-o-the-heap gangland boss, to “make it” in Big Harbor, he’s the story's deep Antagonist. Everything about him is fake, even his name, but he's determined to make the Harbor his personal Land of Opportunity. A key to his schemes, which creates most all the troubles that become something of a plague for the Harbor, is to get rid of the Inn and transform Big Harbor's image from “wholesome” to “progressive.”



Cunning, conniving, but somehow inept, Don Diego's plans are to force the Wilsons out, and replace their Inn with a multi-story casino, which will require building new roads, re-zoning, and updating the entire harbor. A process, he assures his father, that his company, "Diego Developers," will spearhead.

Wardrobe: Ultra-stylized natty. Everything is tailored.

**MEEMO** (early 20's, fidgety and unpredictable) is Don Diego's henchman. A dangerous survivor of inner-city conflicts, he's still grifting in South-Central LA, scrambling his way up the gangland's hierarchy, but drops-in occasionally.

Wardrobe: Varies from tank-tops and jeans to pimp-like glamor.





**ANDRE** (40's, supremely talented and outrageously insecure) studied at *Le Cordon Bleu* Madrid, *Escuela Universitaria de Hosteleria y Turismo de Sant Pol* in Barcelona, and Stephanie Prather's *Sabor Vegan Culinary Academy* on the island of Mallorca. Flamboyant and dead-on, he's been bumped from six restaurants on the west coast because he's a "recovering near-insufferable *prima dona*." Came to Big Harbor to live with his aunt. Preparing incomparable dishes for both the Inn and Laura's Steak House is his path back to functionality. As he struggles with his inner demons, praise is his life's blood.



**MR. PICKLES** (age unknown, the ugliest dog on four legs). An unfortunate fight with a pack of chihuahuas in Mexico made him hideous; even his smile is disturbing. After his owner, Mrs. O'Toole, lands in the hospital, he is adopted by Uncle Jake and eventually becomes a harbor figurehead.

Wardrobe: If anything, it's pirate garb, including a three-corner hat and an eye patch. Like Pig-Pen, he's always dirty and bedraggled.

**THE HARBOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS**, appear, at first, to be impossible Addams-family-like exaggerations, but, over time, they round-out, and become lovable extensions of our own families. So, just as in, say, *Anne of Green Gables*, the audience is drawn in and lead to look behind their neighbors' outrageous extremes, underneath their apparent foibles even idiocies, where they find, to their surprise, the tale has given them a practical path to a sweeter experience.

## The Settings

*Big Harbor* is envisioned as a sound-stage based, multi-camera show. The main sets are (1) the B&B's entry hall & parlor, (2) its upper hall and a guest room, (3) the "Counters"-- the harbor's center of transportation services (the Water Taxi Service, Jake's Tours, and Sally's Seaplanes), (3) the docks, and (4) the deck of Jake's pirate ship. Swing sets and green-screen create the needed locales, while inserts establish The Harbor itself (including the Boardwalk, storefronts, neighborhoods, and shore), the season, the time of day.