

HAPPY DAYS

"GUESS WHO'S COMING TO VISIT"

60531-006

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HAPPY DAYS

"GUESS WHO'S COMING TO VISIT"

CAST

RICHIE CUNNINGHAM
HOWARD CUNNINGHAM
MARION CUNNINGHAM
JOANIE CUNNINGHAM
CHUCK CUNNINGHAM
POTSIE
FONZIE
RALPH
SKIZZY
JEAN
CHEERLEADER
SERGEANT
MOOSE
GIRL
WAITRESS (MARSHA)

SETS

EXT. ARNOLD'S
INT. ARNOLD'S
EXT. CUNNINGHAM GARAGE
INT. CUNNINGHAM HALLWAY
INT. RICHIE'S ROOM
INT. LIVING ROOM
INT. DINING ROOM
EXT. DRAG STRIP
INT. POLICE STATION

"HAPPY DAYS"

"Guess Who's Coming to Visit"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. ARNOLD'S -ADAY 1

It's after school and the usual crowd is there.

2 ANGLE ON COUPLE IN CONVERTIBLE 2

They're eating French fries. The boy and girl are simultaneously eating a particularly long French fry. They had put the opposite ends in their mouths and are eating towards the middle. When they hit the middle, their lips touch and they laugh. They go to do the same thing with another French fry. The boy puts his end in his mouth but when the girl goes to put her end in her mouth, the boy sucks the whole French fry into his mouth. She does a playful pout and he laughs.

3 ANOTHER ANGLE 3

A couple is in a parked car about to eat hamburgers. The guy is trying to put ketchup on his hamburger with a squeeze bottle, but it won't come out. He shakes the bottle and turns it upright giving it a squeeze. Ketchup squirts out hitting his date right in the face. The guy reacts, embarrassed, as the girl gives him a stare.

3A ANOTHER ANGLE 3A

A sharp looking hot rod adorned with a large assortment of chrome goodies has just pulled into a space. SKIZZY SCHARLACH sits behind the wheel and races the motor. Skizzy has DA and wears t-shirt with rolled up sleeves, a pack of cigarettes is under one of his sleeves. His clothes are slightly smudged with grease. JEAN, his girl, sits next to him. She's a dark girl. She wears a girl's club cardigan. It is red and white and the club's name "Assorted Nuts" is lettered on back. Above this is Jean's club nickname, "Pecan." RICHIE and a group of admiring teens stand around car. A Jefferson High CHEERLEADER is in the group. Richie looks at Jean and she looks at him.

(CONTINUED)

3A CONTINUED:

3A

He gives her a "cool" smile. She smiles back. Richie is standing on Jean's side of car. He rests his hand on car door.

RICHIE

Hi, aren't you my biology -

SKIZZY

Hey, Cunningham, watch my chrome.
I just polished it.

Richie lifts his hands off car. He's embarrassed to be reprimanded in front of Jean.

RICHIE

Oh, sorry, Skizzy.

Skizzy takes a rag off the floor and hands it to Jean.

SKIZZY

Here, give it a shine.

Jean shrugs. She wipes off the spot Richie leaned on.

RICHIE

Your engine sounds real... uh...
nice.

SKIZZY

It don't sound "nice." Nat King
Cole sounds "nice." This engine
sounds fast.

He guns the engine and gives Jean a cocky smile. He shuts off the engine.

RALPH MALPH and FONZIE pull up in Ralph's hot rod. Ralph's driving and he parks in space beside Skizzy's car. There has been a drastic change in Ralph's car and we see it as we've never seen it. (It has more chrome goodies affixed to it and the motor has several obvious chromed additions.) Ralph is dressed in black sleeveless cardigan, pink shirt and thin western-style ribbon-bow tie. Ralph guns the motor and it roars so loudly, it sounds like several motors. Skizzy looks over. A walla of admiration goes over the crowd. Ralph shuts off his engine.

RICHIE

Hey, Ralph, what did you do to
your car? It sounds really cool.

(CONTINUED)

RALPH

Fonzie fixed it up. It can lay rubber in three gears. Not counting reverse.

SKIZZY

Ah. My mother could outrun that heap with her good leg tied behind her.

RALPH

Oh, yeah?

Ralph turns to Fonzie proudly.

FONZIE

(to Ralph;
sarcastic)

That's tellin' him, Ralph.

SKIZZY

Hey, Malph. Why don't you put your motor where your mouth is?

CHEERLEADER

(yelling to others)

Hey, Skizzy's challenging Ralph to a drag race.

More kids begin to come over.

RALPH

(worried)

He is?

SKIZZY

Yeah... seven o'clock tonight. The airport road.

RALPH

(unsure)

I'd run you, but... uh... draggin' is against the law and...

SKIZZY

(imitating a
chicken)

Buck-buck-buck-buck-buck...

RALPH

(embarrassed)

Well... since you put it that way.
(determined)

You're on.

(CONTINUED)

3A CONTINUED: (3)

3A

Everyone cheers. Fonzie raises one hand and gestures for silence.

FONZIE

Cool it.

Everyone gets quiet.

FONZIE

(to Skizzy)

Look... Ralph ain't never raced before.

SKIZZY

(cocky)

Yeah? Then he'll learn the hard way.

FONZIE

Yeah. Well, maybe you'll learn the hard way.

SKIZZY

What's that mean?

FONZIE

It means Ralph ain't drivin'... I am.

RICHIE

You're driving Ralph's car?

Fonzie gives a thumbs up.

Cheerleader leads cheer. Crowd is silent and just stares at her.

CHEERLEADER

Two bits! Four bits! Six bits,
a dollar! All for Fonzie stand
up and holler!

She realizes the others are staring at her; her enthusiasm dissolves.

CHEERLEADER

(embarrassed)

Yeahhhh.

She backs into the crowd... embarrassed.

FONZIE

(to Richie)

Why does she do that?

(CONTINUED)

3A CONTINUED: (4)

3A

RICHIE

She's a cheerleader. They do that
all the time.

FONZIE

(shakes his head)

Must be murder on a date.

RALPH

Boy, you driving. This has got
to be the greatest drag race of
the century.

FONZIE

Half greatest. That banana Skizzy's
in it.

Richie laughs and they join the crowd as it breaks
up and heads into Arnold's.

DISSOLVE TO:

4 INT. ARNOLD'S

4

Richie, Fonzie and Ralph sit in a booth. Fonzie is
reading "HOT ROD." Skizzy and another guy sit at
nearby table. Jean stands with three other "Assorted
Nuts" members. Their nicknames, also lettered on
backs of sweaters, are "Chestnut," "Walnut" and
"Salted." Chestnut has her back to CAMERA.

WAITRESS

What will it be, fellas.

RALPH

Nothing, we're just talking.

WAITRESS

Ordering three "nothings" isn't
going to thrill the boss.

RICHIE

I'll have a lime rickey.

Nobody else orders.

WAITRESS

That'll thrill him.

Ralph looks over at the "Assorted Nuts" group.

(CONTINUED)

RALPH

I really dig Skizzy's girl. In fact, I dig all the "Assorted Nuts." They're really a tough club.

RICHIE

(nodding agreement)

Yeah...

FONZIE

I used to date Chestnut.

RICHIE

No kidding?

FONZIE

(nods)

She's the best nut.

"Chestnut" turns around and walks away from group and we learn why she has this particular nickname: she is obviously well-endowed. The group breaks up and Jean sits with Skizzy.

RALPH

Yep, Skizzy's got a good looking chick alright.

(trying to
remember)

You know, she reminds me of some movie star.

FONZIE

What's her name?

Ralph shrugs.

RICHIE

(sort of bragging)

I know her. Her name's Jean.

Ralph and Fonzie react.

RICHIE

(feeling safe he
doesn't have to)

I'd go over and make a little time,
but she's with Skizzy.

Skizzy and his friend leave Jean's booth and join a group of guys at other booth.

FONZIE

Not any more.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Richie reacts.

FONZIE

(teasing)

Now's your chance.

RICHIE

(trapped and
reluctant)

Oh... well... I don't know...

RALPH

While you're over there, ask her
what movie star she reminds me of.

A beat, as Richie realizes he's totally trapped into
going over to Jean. Richie rises slowly and goes
toward Jean's booth. On the way over, he looks
nervously back to Ralph and Fonzie. He gets to her
table and gathers his courage.

RICHIE

Hi, Jean.

JEAN

Oh, hi, Robby.

RICHIE

(embarrassed)

Richie. We have biology together,
don't we?

JEAN

Yes. You're the one who taught
me to use the microscope.

RICHIE

Yeah.

(with bravado)

You going to the drag race?

JEAN

Sure. I'm going to ride in the
car with Skizzy.

RICHIE

(disappointed)

Oh.

There's an uncomfortable beat.

(CONTINUED)

JEAN
(changing the
subject)
I think we have the same lunch
period, too.

RICHIE
(quickly)
Yeah.

There is another uncomfortable beat. Richie searches
for something to say.

RICHIE
I notice in the cafeteria that you
eat a lot of tuna.

Jean reacts.

JEAN
Well, yeah. I heard it makes your
hair soft.

RICHIE
It does?

JEAN
Sure, it's the oil in the tuna.
Feel.

Jean turns her head for Richie to feel her hair.
Richie reaches out and touches hair as Skizzy comes
up behind Richie.

SKIZZY
Hey, Cunningham, what's with your
hands today? First you put them
on my car, now I find them on my
girl.

Startled, Richie pulls his hand away.

RICHIE
Uh, we were just talking about
tuna fish.

SKIZZY
Oh, and you thought her hair was
a net.

Ralph springs to life.

(CONTINUED)

RALPH
(shouts)
That's it. Annette! Annette
Funicello!

Everybody stares at Ralph. He sits, embarrassed.

RALPH
(explaining to
Fonzie)
Put mouse ears on her and you
couldn't tell them apart.

DISSOLVE TO:

Richie and CHUCK are playing one-on-one basketball. Compared to Richie, Chuck looks like a pro. When Chuck is on defense, he either steals the ball from Richie while he's dribbling or blocks Richie's shot and makes the shot himself. When Richie dribbles the ball, his main concern is to keep it out of Chuck's clutches, so he dribbles bent over with his back to Chuck. But Chuck still gets the ball. Chuck toys with him a few beats, then dribbles around Richie and makes a graceful layup. They continue the game during the scene.

Off to one side, but in view is JOANIE, dressed in leotards practicing twirling a baton. She has all the moves down -- the high step, the strut, the between the legs twirl -- but she can't seem to hold onto the baton. Consequently, she keeps dropping it. Sometimes it bounces into Chuck and Richie's game. When it does she quickly runs in, picks it up, and runs back.

CHUCK
(after basket)
Okay, that makes it fourteen all.

(NOTE: the score is upped two points every time Chuck scores. It should be paced to reach Chuck scoring twenty points when indicated in script.)

POTSIE walks up. Potsie is somewhat dressed up.

POTSIE
Hey, what's shakin'?

(CONTINUED)

CHUCK

Hey, Potsie, what're you lookin'
so snazzy for?

POTSIE

I had to go to the airport with my
folks. My father was this month's
winner of Tri State Oil's clean
restroom award, so they got a free
weekend in Atlantic City.

RICHIE

Yeah, Potsie's staying over here
while they're gone.

Joanie drops her baton in Chuck's way as he dribbles.
He stops.

CHUCK

Joanie. You're interrupting my
layup.

She picks her baton up.

JOANIE

Sorry.

As soon as she's out of the way, Chuck shoots a basket.

CHUCK

(tossing the ball
to Richie)

That's eighteen fourteen.

Richie takes the ball and gets into position to "bring
it in."

POTSIE

So, did I miss anything good
today at Arnold's?

RICHIE

Yeah, Skizzy Scharlach challenged
Ralph to a drag race tonight.

Richie takes two dribbles before Chuck steals the ball.
Joanie reacts, hearing what Richie said.

POTSIE

That's cool.

RICHIE

Fonzie's driving Ralph's car.

(CONTINUED)

POTSIE

It'll be drag racing history!
Hey, let's go.

Chuck has taken the ball "in." He now dribbles around Richie and "dunks" the basket.

CHUCK

Twenty fourteen. That's game.
Well, I've got to get back to the dorm.

Chuck takes the ball into the house. Potsie and Richie sit on steps.

RICHIE

Man, he clobbered me again.

POTSIE

Twenty fourteen isn't so bad.

RICHIE

He spotted me fourteen points before we started.

POTSIE

Oh.

They sit silently for a few beats.

POTSIE

Hey, you're sure it's cool for me to stay here.

RICHIE

Of course, why wouldn't it be?

POTSIE

I don't know. Every time I come over I feel like your father's avoiding me. He's always going to the bathroom to wash his hands.

RICHIE

I never noticed that.

POTSIE

All I know is when I leave your house, your father always has wrinkled fingers.

Joanie drops her baton again.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (3)

5

JOANIE
(discouraged)
I give up.
(going in the
house)
Maybe I'll go out for drill team.
All they do is kick.

FLIP TO:

6 INT. CUNNINGHAM HALLWAY - DAY

6

MARION is looking for something in the hall closet.
HOWARD enters from the stairs carrying Joanie piggy-
back. He's huffing and puffing. He sets Joanie
down as he gets to Marion.

JOANIE
I guess I'm getting a little big
to play horsie, huh, Daddy?

HOWARD
(catching his
breath)
Yes, Joanie. I think you'll have
to find a bigger horse.
(then)
You might try your Aunt Bessie.

Joanie shrugs and exits to her room.

MARION
I know I've got another pillowcase
here somewhere... oh, there it
is. Howard, would you mind
helping me turn over the mattress?

HOWARD
You'd think General MacArthur was
coming. It's only Potsie.

They both go into Richie's room.

7 INT. RICHIE'S ROOM - DAY

7

MARION
A guest is a guest.

HOWARD
I don't consider Potsie a guest.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

7

CONTINUED:

7

HOWARD (cont'd)
He's here so much, sometimes I
think we bought the house with him
in it.

They begin turning over the mattress.

MARION
Oh, Howard. I think it's nice
Richie brings his friends over.

HOWARD
I'll bet he'll be wearing that
shirt with the blue and white
stripes. He always wears that
shirt when he comes over.

Joanie enters.

JOANIE
What are you doing?

HOWARD
(still struggling
upright with
the mattress)
Your mother wouldn't dance with me.

Downstairs DOORBELL RING.

CUT TO:

8

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS ACTION

8

as Richie is opening front door. It's Potsie. He's
carrying a suitcase. He's wearing a blue and white
striped shirt.

RICHIE
Hi ya, Potsie.

POTSIE
Everything cool?

RICHIE
Yeah.

POTSIE
Listen, the drag race starts at
seven. But we should get there
at six.

(CONTINUED)

8

CONTINUED:

8

RICHIE

Cool it.

Mrs. Cunningham comes down stairs.

POTSIE

Hello, Mrs. Cunningham.
(looks around)
Where's Mr. Cunningham?

MARION

He stopped off in the bathroom
to wash his hands.

Potsie gives Richie a look.

POTSIE

What did I tell you.

RICHIE

His hands were probably dirty.

Howard comes down stairs.

POTSIE

Hello, Mr. Cunningham.

HOWARD

Hello, Potsie. Nice shirt.

Howard looks at Marion.

CUT TO:

9

INT. CUNNINGHAM DINING ROOM - NIGHT

9

The Cunninghams, Howard, Marion, Richie and Joanie
and Potsie are finishing dinner. Joanie is wearing
a Howdie Doodie tee shirt.

POTSIE

Mrs. Cunningham, this is the
finest dinner I've ever had.

MARION

Thank you.

JOANIE

(sweetly)

Gee, Potsie, you should act this
nice all the time. Then people
wouldn't think you're such a nerd.

(CONTINUED)

9

CONTINUED:

9

MARION

Joanie...

JOANIE

Well, maybe they wouldn't.

Howard clears throat and changes subject.

HOWARD

What are you boys going to do tonight?

Richie and Potsie share a look.

RICHIE

Oh, nothing much. Just homework.

POTSIE

They never give us enough time to do that stuff.

HOWARD

I always had enough time for my homework.

MARION

(joking)

Well, wasn't there a lot less to learn back then?

HOWARD

Not that much less. And remember I had to take time for the football team, too.

POTSIE

(incredulous)

You played football?

Howard starts to answer.

MARION

Howard once got into a game.

HOWARD

I recovered a fumble.

MARION

(remembering)

Wasn't it your own fumble, dear?

HOWARD

Marion...

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

POTSIE

I'll bet you were some athlete,
Mr. Cunningham. Did you ever
play against Jim Thorpe?

HOWARD

Jim Thorpe was in high school in
1906.

POTSIE

Oh.. you didn't play against him
then?

HOWARD

(getting up)

I've gotta wash my hands.

Potsie and Richie react.

DISSOLVE TO:

10 INT. RICHIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

10

Richie is at the desk typing on an old manual portable typewriter. He uses the "hunt and peck" system, hitting one key every couple seconds or so. He has a stack of 8x5 note cards and some books next to the typewriter. Potsie lies on the bed reading Mad Magazine.

POTSIE

Do you think you could speed it
up a little, Rich? We're supposed
to meet Ralph in half an hour.

RICHIE

But, Potsie, if you have the same
footnote twice do you use an "Ibid"
or an "Op cit"?

POTSIE

I never use footnotes.

RICHIE

(drily)

Thanks.

Richie goes back to typing.

There's a TAPPING at the window. Richie and Potsie
don't notice it at first.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

RICHIE

What's that?

POTSIE

It's Ralph.

Richie gets up and opens the window. Potsie also comes over. Ralph is half hanging from the window ledge.

RICHIE

Ralph, what are you doing here?

RALPH

Listen, the cops got wise to the race, so the time's been changed to midnight.

RICHIE

Midnight? I'm not allowed out that late.

RALPH

Hey, I'm sorry if it interferes with your beddie-bye time.

POTSIE

Don't worry, we'll be there.

RALPH

You can catch a ride with Burt. Okay, I gotta get over and tell Frankie.

(as he climbs
down)

These two story houses are killin' me.

Richie closes the window.

RICHIE

Why'd you tell him we'd be there? Mom and Dad won't let us out of the house.

POTSIE

Don't sweat it. We'll sneak out.

RICHIE

What if we get caught?

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

POTSIE

It's worth any punishment they
can dish out.

RICHIE

Sure, that's easy for you to say.
Your father's in Atlantic City.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

11 INT. CUNNINGHAM LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT 11

Howard, Marion, Richie, Potsie, and Joanie are sitting watching TV. We see the last of an episode of "THE UNTOUCHABLES." Joanie gets up and turns off the set.

JOANIE

I love "The Untouchables."

MARION

It is always exciting.

HOWARD

Tonight especially. I could have sworn one time I saw Elliott Ness move his mouth.

Richie and Potsie get up looking innocent.

RICHIE

Well... I guess we better get going, Potsie.

POTSIE

Right.

HOWARD

Get going where? It's almost eleven o'clock.

POTSIE

Oh... well, there's this special midnight show at the planetarium.

HOWARD

Oh?

POTSIE

It's something that happens to the planets once every hundred years.

MARION

That sounds exciting.

RICHIE

We thought it would help us with science class.

(CONTINUED)

11

CONTINUED:

11

MARION

I think it would be good for you
boys to see.

HOWARD

Once a century -- I think it
would be a good idea if we all
went.

RICHIE

All of us?

Richie looks helplessly at Potsie.

POTSIE

Well, er... this only happens
every hundred years on February
seventeenth.

Howard, Marion and Joanie look at Potsie.

HOWARD

Today's the eighteenth.

POTSIE

(knew it all
the time)

It is. Darn, we missed. Well,
maybe next time. Come on, Rich,
let's go crack the books.

Richie and Potsie exit.

JOANIE

I wonder what we missed.

HOWARD

One night out of a hundred years
and Potsie blows it.

MARION

(kidding)

Well, he only missed it by one
day.

JOANIE
I DON'T THINK
THERE WAS ANYTHING
AT THE PLANETARIUM.

HOWARD
I KNOW THERE
WASN'T.

JOANIE
YOU DO GEE, DAD
YOU SURE TAKE
THE FUN OUT OF
CRACKING.

MARION
DISSELT TO: YOU SHOULDN'T
SWITCH, DEAR.

JOANIE SITS WITH DOWNCAST
EYES.

HOWARD
(TO JOANIE)

WHY DO THEY
WANT TO SNEAK
OUT?

JOANIE
MY LIPS ARE
SEALED. NO ONE
SAYS IT'S NOT
GOOD TO SNEAK.

(CONTINUED)

HOWARD REACHES TO MARION

DISSELT TO

12

INT. RICHIE'S ROOM - SOME TIME LATER

CLOSEUP of clock reading 11:30. CAMERA PULLS BACK to
reveal Potsie lying on bed. Richie is reading "From
Here to Eternity."

12 CONTINUED:

12

POTSIE

(a beat)

Come on, Rich. Let's sneak out.
We'll be the only ones within
fifty miles who won't be at the
race.

RICHIE

(indecisive)

I don't know...

POTSIE

Rich, Fonzie is driving against
Skizzy. It's worth anything to
see that.

RICHIE

Potsie, we can't go. It's too
risky.

Potsie thinks a beat... gets an idea.

POTSIE

Jean will be there.

RICHIE

So?

POTSIE

So, you've got a crush on her.

RICHIE

I do not.

(a beat)

You know, you don't get many
chances to see Fonzie drive a
car.

POTSIE

(enthusiastic)

Now we're cookin' with gas.

I GUESS WE OUGHT
TO GO,

POTSIE

NOW YOU'RE TALKING.

RICHIE

...BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW

IT'S BECAUSE RALPH EXPECTS US
TO BE THERE.

POTSIE

YEAH, SURE, LET'S
BLAST OFF.

Potsie bolts for the window. Richie goes to his
dresser and starts to put on after shave lotion.
Potsie stops half-way out the window.

POTSIE

What are you doing now?

RICHIE

Putting on after shave lotion.

POTSIE

(KNOWING WAY)

~~For a drag race?~~ FOR RALPH?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

POTSIE (cont'd)
(joking)
I hope it's Essence of Burning
Rubber.

Potsie laughs at his joke. They exit.

FLIP TO:

12A INT. HALLWAY - LATER

12A

Marion comes down the hall carrying a tray with milk and cookies. She enters Richie's room. There is a beat and she comes out still carrying the tray. She looks worried.

MARION
(calling)
Howard!

HOWARD (v.o.)
(from the
bathroom)
What is it, Marion?

Marion goes to the bathroom door and speaks through it. Joanie comes out of her bedroom in pajamas.

MARION
Howard, the boys aren't in their
room.

HOWARD (v.o.)
I can't come out right now and
help you look for them.

MARION
But they aren't anywhere in the
house. Did you see them leave?

HOWARD (v.o.)
Not from here, Marion.

JOANIE
I know where they went. They
snuck out to the drag race.

HOWARD (v.o.)
Did I hear someone mention a drag
race?

(CONTINUED)

12A CONTINUED:

12A

MARION

The boys snuck out to go to it.
Howard, you've got to run out and
find them before they get into
trouble.

A beat, then...

HOWARD (v.o.)

It'll be a couple of minutes
before I can run anywhere, Marion.

Marion and Joanie react.

FLIP TO:

13 EXT. DRAG STRIP - NIGHT

13

A crowd has already gathered. There are a lot of the
same kids we saw outside Arnold's. Richie and Potsie
walk up to Ralph.

RICHIE

Hi, Ralph. Where's Fonzie?

RALPH

He's doing some last minute work
on my rod.

Skizzy drives up. Jean is sitting next to him. Kids
gather around the car. Skizzy sits there coolly.

SKIZZY

I don't see Fonzie. Maybe he
chickened.

RALPH

Don't count on it.

Richie goes around to Jean.

RICHIE

Hi.

JEAN

Oh, hi, Richie.

RICHIE

Good luck.

JEAN

Thanks...

(CONTINUED)

13

CONTINUED:

13

Jean sniffs air.

JEAN
(continuing)
Is that you smelling like that?

RICHIE
Yeah. I'm wearing a little after
shave.

JEAN
It's nice. Skizzy always smells
like gasoline.

RICHIE
Yeah, well, I think a guy should
smell his best at all times.

JEAN
Gasoline is Skizzy's best.
Fonzie drives up.

RALPH
Hey, Fonz.
(to Skizzy)
Startin' to sweat, Skizzy?

JEAN
Don't worry, Skizzy. Your car's
nice.

SKIZZY
Whadda you know? You're blinded
by love.

Ralph steps out in front of the cars.

RALPH
You guys ready?

SKIZZY
Hey, wait a minute. He can't
start the race.

FONZIE
Why not?

SKIZZY
Cause he's prejudice. He'll cheat.

FONZIE
How's he gonna cheat. Throw
himself in front of your rod?

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

SKIZZY

I want another starter or I don't
drag. Somebody who's honest.

FONZIE

Who's here that's honest?

Everyone in the group turns immediately to Richie.
He realizes he's being stared at by everyone.

RICHIE

Uh... I've never started a race
before.

FONZIE

That's okay. All you gotta do
is say ready, set, go.

Richie takes Ralph's place in front of the cars.

RICHIE

(uncertain)

Okay...

14 ANOTHER ANGLE

14

We see Howard drive up in his DeSoto.

15 BACK TO SHOT

15

RICHIE

(raises his hand
to start race)

Ready...

Two police cars pull up from behind.

RICHIE

Set...

He sees the police cars.

RICHIE

Cops!

Fonzie and Skizzy, each in a panic, look behind them.
Fonzie takes off and one of the police cars gives chase.
Skizzy, also trying to take off, accidentally throws
his car into reverse. He slams into the other police
car.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

SKIZZY
(practically
in tears)
Oh, man, what a drag.

Skizzy jumps from the car and starts to run, leaving Jean alone. The other policeman chases him on foot. The crowd has begun to run away. Potsie starts to run, but see Richie standing there.

POTSIE
Well, come on!

RICHIE
Okay.

Potsie takes off. Richie makes a move in Potsie's direction, stops, then runs to Skizzy's car. Jean is sitting there, dazed.

RICHIE
(continuing)
Are you okay?

JEAN
I'm okay.

RICHIE
Come on. We'd better get out
of here.

Howard approaches from behind them.

HOWARD
Richie... what's going on?

RICHIE
Dad. What are you doing here?

HOWARD
I was just about to ask you the
same question.

A Policeman approaches from behind them. Howard notices him.

HOWARD
(continuing)
Oh, Officer. Listen, I'm sure
there's no need to arrest these
kids. You see I'm this boy's
father and I came down here to
take him home. So you can go
take care of the others while I
take care of these two.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

He smiles at the Policeman who doesn't smile back.

FLIP TO:

16 INT. POLICE STATION LINEUP ROOM - NIGHT

16

The kids are all lined up against a wall. We OPEN on a MEDIUM SHOT of a kid and continue to PAN along the lineup. As we see the uneasy expressions of the kids, we hear the SERGEANT droning on in the background.

SERGEANT (o.s.)

Ah, it's the children's hour.
Now, this isn't a nice way to spend
an evening, is it? You could all
be home now tucked in your little
beds, but you had to go out and
have a nasty old drag race. In
case you haven't heard lately, drag
racing is a no-no in this state.
This doesn't make me happy, kids.

We've PANNED PAST Fonzie, Potsie, Jean and Richie.
The CAMERA NOW COMES to Howard and STOPS.

17 ANOTHER ANGLE

17

The Sergeant is standing directly in front of Howard,
who gives a meek smile.

SERGEANT

You're a little old for this sort
of thing, aren't you, Sonny?

HOWARD

Sergeant, I tried to explain to
the other office.

(indicates Richie)

I'm his father.

SERGEANT

Oh, I get it. The family that
plays together...

HOWARD

Look, I can explain what happened.

SERGEANT

You'll get your chance to explain
later, so just hold your horses.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

The Sergeant moves on. Howard has mixed feelings of embarrassment and anger. We HEAR the Sergeant speaking, but the words are in the background.

RICHIE
(sotto)

Dad...

Howard gives Richie a cold glance.

HOWARD
(sotto)
We'll talk at home... boy will
we talk.

Richie reacts.

POTSIE
(sotto to Richie)
I don't think your Dad's too happy.

RICHIE
(sotto; sarcastic)
No kidding?

18 ANOTHER ANGLE

18

The Sergeant gets to Fonzie.

SERGEANT
Fonzie... I'm ashamed of you.

Fonzie shrugs.

SERGEANT
(continuing)
I never thought I'd see you in
here for draggin'. Especially
against Skizzy. Don't tell me
you lost your cool?

FONZIE
Skizzy insulted a friend. I
felt it was sort of my duty.

SERGEANT
(shakes his head)
I guess chivalry ain't what it
used to be.

Fonzie shrugs. The Sergeant begins to walk down the line again toward Howard and Richie.

(CONTINUED)

SERGEANT

(continuing)

I'm gonna call all your parents
so they can come and get you.

(toward Howard)

Of course that won't be necessary
for those of you who get arrested
on the family plan.

Howard reacts. He gives Richie a look. Potsie raises
his hand timidly.

POTSIE

Uh... sir.

SERGEANT

What is it, Webber?

POTSIE

(pointing to
Howard and
Richie)

I'm with them.

SERGEANT

(to Howard)

Don't tell me. You're starting
your own teenage gang.

HOWARD

His parents are out of town.

POTSIE

(proudly)

My father won a trip to Atlantic
City for having the cleanest
restrooms.

SERGEANT

How nice.

(in a loud voice
to everyone)

Okay, that's it. Dragnet's over.
Everyone to the waiting room until
someone comes to claim you.

Everyone begins to leave the room. Richie and Potsie
walk beside Howard.

POTSIE

Sorry you got mixed up in this,
Mr. C.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

Howard nods.

POTSIE
(continuing)
It wasn't Richie's fault. I
talked him into sneaking out.

Howard nods again. They pass by the Sergeant.

HOWARD
(to the Sergeant)
Pardon me. Where can I go to
wash my hands?

Potsie and Richie react.

DISSOLVE TO:

19 INT. HALLWAY - LATER

19

Joanie and Marion are waiting outside Richie's door.
From inside Richie's room we HEAR muffled shouting.
Joanie is reading a teen magazine.

JOANIE
He sure is taking a long time
isn't he?

MARION
Your father can be very long
winded when he's angry.

There is a beat.

JOANIE
Mom, there's an ad in here for
Bust Developing Cream. Can I
order some?

MARION
My goodness. They have an ad
for that in a teen magazine?

JOANIE
Sure. Adults don't need it.

MARION
Dear, maybe you should go to
bed.

JOANIE
(eagerly)
I want to wait and see how bad
Richie got punished.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

Howard comes out of the room.

MARION
How did it go, dear?

HOWARD
(solemnly)
It went fine, Marion... we'll
discuss it in a minute.

MARION
Well, all right.

She goes into the bedroom. Joanie still stands there.

HOWARD
(noticing her)
Isn't it past your bed time?

JOANIE
It's past everybody's bed time.
Did you punish Richie?

HOWARD
Yes, I punished him. Now go to
bed.

JOANIE
What did you do to him?

HOWARD
I gave him what he deserved. Go
to bed.

JOANIE
Couldn't you give me a few details.
I've been waiting a long time.

HOWARD
No details and you've got until
the count of three to get to
bed.

JOANIE
Just give me a hint.

HOWARD
One... two...

JOANIE
(quickly)
Goodnight.

She hurries to her room. Howard turns to go into his
bedroom. Marion meets him at the door.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

MARION

Howard, how did you punish him?

HOWARD

Marion... I'm the father. I used cool fatherly logic and gave him a just punishment.

CUT TO:

20 INT. RICHIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

20

Richie and Potsie are in bed. They both have confused looks on their faces.

RICHIE

(incredulously)

Grounded for life.

A beat.

RICHIE

(continuing; more
incredulously)

Grounded for life. What do you suppose that means, Potsie?

POTSIE

It means your Dad was pretty mad.

RICHIE

(can't believe it)

Grounded for life. I don't think Dad's ever been that upset.

POTSIE

Ah, don't take it too hard. This'll probably all blow over before you're thirty.

There's a KNOCK on the door and Marion enters. She looks out in the hall and waits a beat.

MARION

Howard?

After a beat, Howard appears in the doorway.

MARION

(continuing)

Your father has something to tell you.

(CONTINUED)

20

CONTINUED:

20

All attention turns to Howard. There's a beat of silence.

MARION
(continuing;
urging)

Howard.

HOWARD
I've decided you're only grounded
for two weeks.

Howard exits.

MARION
Two weeks. It'll go fast.

RICHIE
Thanks, Mom.

Marion exits.

POTSIE
There... you see. You've been
paroled already.

RICHIE
Yeah.

POTSIE
You know, Rich. You're Dad's
pretty neat. I mean he could
have really been hard on you but
he kept his cool.
(a long beat,
then)
Rich, do you think he could adopt
me before my father gets home?

There's a KNOCK on door and Joanie enters.

JOANIE
Richie?

RICHIE
What are you doing out of bed?

JOANIE
I had something to tell you. I
want you to know that if you go
to jail, I'll write to you every
single day.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

RICHIE

Thanks. That's nice, but I won't
be going to jail.

JOANIE

Oh... but, if you do, can I have
your records?

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

FADE IN:

21 INT. ARNOLD'S - DAY

21

It is after school and the place is crowded with kids. The juke box is PLAYING. At one booth, we see MOOSE, a rotund guy who is enjoying a table full of food. We see a WAITRESS, MARSHA, serve him a banana split. Moose gestures "thanks" and Marsha reacts to the amount of food already there. She walks away and we PAN with her to find a crowd which includes, among others, Richie, Potsie, Ralph and Jean, watching Fonzie and Skizzy arm wrestle over a table. Half the crowd cheers Fonzie on and the other half cheer Skizzy.

RALPH

C'mon, Fonz! You can do it.

FONZIE

It ain't time, yet.

SKIZZY

(straining)

Ah, I could beat you with both hands tied behind my back.

FONZIE

Now it's time.

Fonzie flattens Skizzy's arm on the table and wins. The crowd cheers.

POTSIE

Way to go, Fonzie.

FONZIE

(to Skizzy)

That settles it. I would have won the drag race.

SKIZZY

It settles nothing.

FONZIE

You wanta go again, birdbrain?

Skizzy rubs his sore arm.

RALPH

Fonzie's the winner.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

Everyone cheers and applauds. The group begins to break up. The others move away to their booths. Some begin to dance. Jean goes to Richie.

JEAN

Richie.

RICHIE

Hi.

JEAN

Sorry about last night.

RICHIE

That's all right. It wasn't too bad. I only got grounded for two weeks. Hey, maybe we could go to the movies after my time's up.

JEAN

Better add another two weeks on to that. I got grounded for a month.

RICHIE

(smiles)

Okay, in exactly one month we've got a movie date.

JEAN

(joking)

Good. That ought to give me enough time to figure out what to wear.

Ralph walks out to the center of the room.

RALPH

(in a loud voice)

It's five-thirty. Everyone who's grounded better beat it.

Everyone in the place gets up to leave. Everyone except Moose and a GIRL wearing glasses who is sitting at a booth by herself.

RICHIE

(to Jean)

Well... see you tomorrow in biology.

JEAN

Maybe we'll share a microscope.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

They exit together. The place empties quickly. Marsha walks to a table to pick up some dishes. She looks around at the empty joint. The juke box has begun to play "Some Enchanted Evening."

MARSHA

Those drag races just kill business.

Marsha exits with some dishes. A beat, then Moose looks up from his hamburger and sees that everyone is gone. At the same time, the Girl looks up, too.

22 ANGLE ON MOOSE

22

He sees the girl.

23 ANGLE ON GIRL

23

She sees Moose.

24 BACK TO MOOSE

24

A beat, then he puts down his hamburger.

25 BACK TO GIRL

25

She closes her textbook.

26 ANOTHER ANGLE

26

Moose and the Girl get up simultaneously and begin to walk slowly toward each other. They meet in the middle of the dance floor and begin to dance. As we watch them dance, we begin to PULL BACK, and we...

FADE OUT.

THE END