

Executive Producer: Linwood Boomer
Co-Executive Producer: David Richardson
Co-Executive Producer: Al Higgins
Co-Executive Producer: Todd Holland
Producer: Jimmy Simons
Director: Arlene Sanford

REVISED:

8/18/99 White
8/26/99 Blue
8/26/99 Pink
8/30/99 Yellow
9/02/99 Green
9/03/99 Goldenrod
9/09/99 White White
10/5/99 Blue Blue
11/5/99 Pink Pink

MALCOLM MIDDLE

"Red Dress"

06-99-103/S103

Written by

Al Higgins

November 5, 1999
REVISED - PINK PINK

MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE

"Red Dress"
8/18/99

SETS

INTERIORS:

SCHOOL BATHROOM
LUCKY AIDE PHARMACY
RESTAURANT
HAL/LOIS' BEDROOM
KITCHEN
HAL/LOIS' BATHROOM
BOY'S BEDROOM
LIVING ROOM
CLOSET
MARLIN ACADEMY COMMON ROOM
HALLWAY
RESTAURANT RESTROOM

EXTERIORS:

HOUSE

MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE

"Red Dress"

8/16/99

DAY/NIGHT BREAKDOWN

Scene 1-2	Day 1
Scene 3	Fantasy/Evening
Scene 4	Day 1
Scene 5-46	Night 1

MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE

**"Red Dress"
8/18/99**

**CAST LIST
(in order of appearance)**

Malcolm.....Frankie Muniz
Eraserhead.....
Stevie.....Craig Lamar Traylor
Craig.....TBA
Lois.....Jane Kaczmarek
Dewey.....Erik Per Sullivan
Reese.....Justin Berfield
Hal.....Bryan Cranston
Maitre'd.....TBA
Francis.....Christopher Kennedy Masterson
Stanley.....TBA
Cadet #2.....TBA
Cadet #1.....TBA
Franklin.....TBA
Neighbor.....TBA
Attendant.....TBA

1. CONTINUED:

1

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1A INT. FAMILY ROOM -- DAY

1A *

Malcolm is on the phone.

MALCOLM

(to camera)

The good thing about being smart is I never have to look up a phone number. The bad thing is, no one else in the family ever bothers to remember anything.

(into phone)

Hey, Francis. You told me to remind you about mom and dad's anniversary.

FRANCIS

Great. When is it?

MALCOLM

Today.

FRANCIS

Dude, you're supposed to remind me before it happens, so I can get 'em something.

MALCOLM

That's okay. We'll put your name on our gift.

FRANCIS

Thanks, bro'. I owe you one.

MALCOLM

No. You owe me twenty. That's what your share comes to.

FRANCIS

You bought them an eighty dollar gift?

MALCOLM

Uhh, yeah.

CUT TO:

2 INT. LUCKY AIDE PHARMACY -- DAY

2

Just your average Pharmacy/purveyor of everything in the world. LOIS is behind the counter in her work uniform talking to her coworker CRAIG, a portly man in his late thirties.

(CONTINUED)

Among other things, Craig says foreign words in a very forceful accent. Craig reaches under the counter and HANDS LOIS A LITTLE GIFT.

CRAIG

Happy anniversary. Sixteen wonderful years to the same man. That Hal is one lucky *hombre*.

LOIS

Oh, Craig, you shouldn't have.

CRAIG

Oh, please. A special gift for a special lady on a special day.

LOIS

No, really. Aren't only husbands supposed to give you gifts?

CRAIG

(suddenly angry)
Fine. Throw it in the trash then.

LOIS

Hold on, hold on. Let's just see what it is first.

Lois opens the present and it is a TUBE OF LIPSTICK.

LOIS

Oh, now this is nice. I've been wanting to try this color.

CRAIG

(pleased)
I know. I saw you eyeing it a couple of weeks ago.

LOIS

I didn't know we sold this brand.

CRAIG

We don't.

2. CONTINUED:

LOIS

Then where did you see me--

CRAIG

(hurried)

So, big plans for tonight? What are you wearing?

LOIS

It's going to be great. I bought the most perfect red dress. I had to save up for two months to get it, but I don't care. I've been fantasizing about this evening forever.

DISSOLVE TO:

3 INT. RESTAURANT -- FANTASY -- EVENING

3

Very nice restaurant. Lois is in her RED DRESS. The place is SILENT except for Lois and Hal's eating.

SFX: SCRAPING OF KNIVES. CHEWING.

NOT A WORD is said. We stay on them eating for a LONG BEAT.

BACK TO:

4 INT. LUCKY AIDE PHARMACY -- CONTINUOUS

4

Lois has a BIG GRIN ON HER FACE. She sighs, and GOES BACK TO WORKING.

ON CRAIG

He looks off dreamily, as we;

DISSOLVE TO:

4A INT. RESTAURANT - CRAIG'S FANTASY

4A

Lois is eating dinner as before. This time, LOIS LOADS UP A FORK with steak and PUTS IT IN TO CRAIG'S MOUTH. As he chews contentedly, she gently dabs his mouth. In the background, we see HAL, WEEPING as he MOPS THE FLOOR in a busboy's uniform.

DISSOLVE TO:

4B INT. LUCKY AIDE PHARMACY -- CONTINUOUS

4B

(CONTINUED)

Craig TURNS TO GO, but STOPS. Craig thinks for a moment then TURNS BACK TO LOIS, DETERMINED.

CRAIG

Say, Lois, do you want to catch a movie or something at lunch? They're showing "My Best Friend's Wedding" over in electronics.

LOIS

No thank--

CRAIG

Fine. Forget it.

Craig HURRIEDLY RUNS OFF. He ACCIDENTALLY WALKS INTO A RACK OF HARLEQUIN ROMANCES. Craig and the rack FALL VIOLENTLY TO THE FLOOR.

4.

-4

CRAIG
(off screen)
I'm okay.

CUT TO:

5 INT. BATHROOM -- EVENING

5

LOIS, WEARING A SLIP, is getting ready for the evening.

LOIS
(calling)
Are you boys finished? I have to meet
your father at the restaurant in ten
minutes.

CUT TO:

6 INT. KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

6

MALCOLM, REESE and DEWEY wrap a PRESENT for their parents
anniversary. They use a lot of TAPE.

MALCOLM
More tape.

Dewey pulls off more tape and hands it to Malcolm.

DEWEY
I get to do the bow.

REESE
Why did she give you the money to buy the
gift?

MALCOLM
Because she didn't want another Karate
video.

REESE
It's pronounced Ka-ra-tay.

DEWEY
I get to do the bow.

REESE
What did we get them then?

MALCOLM
Picture frame.

REESE
You're such a brown-noser.

(CONTINUED)

DEWEY

I get to do the bow.

MALCOLM

We're not finished yet.

DEWEY

Yeah, but I get to do the bow.

CUT TO:

7 INT. BATHROOM -- CONTINUOUS

7

LOIS looks at herself in the mirror then goes to exit. SHE STOPS.

LOIS SLOWLY GOES BACK TO THE TOILET. A HORRIFIED LOOK crosses her face.

Lois leans down and SLOWLY PULLS HER SOAKED DRESS out of the toilet bowl. The WHOLE BOTTOM HALF IS BURNED AWAY.

CUT TO:

8 INT. KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

8

Reese and Malcolm finish wrapping the present.

REESE

Finally.

Reese TAKES THE BOW FROM DEWEY and plops it on the gift.

DEWEY

No! I was supposed to do the bow!

REESE

You should have said something.

DEWEY

I'm telling! Mooooommm--

WE FOLLOW DEWEY as he runs out of the room, into the hallway, and straight into his seething mother, holding the dress.

Dewey comes RUNNING BACK straight at the camera.

DEWEY

Noooo!

MALCOLM

What's -- ?

(CONTINUED)

A VERY ANGRY LOIS RUSHES INTO the kitchen.

LOIS
Fire? Fire?!

MALCOLM
Mom, what --

LOIS
Fire?!

Lois holds out the SOAKING SCORCHED DRESS.

LOIS (cont'd)
This is the most stupid, dangerous,
irresponsible thing you have ever done!

Lois SPLATS DOWN THE DRESS IN FRONT OF THE BOYS.

LOIS (cont'd)
Is this what you want? Where they have
to identify your charred little bodies by
your dental records? Now I want a
straight answer. Who did this?

REESE/MALCOLM
Malcolm did it!/Reese did it!

Reese and Malcolm look at each other.

REESE/MALCOLM
I didn't do it!/I didn't do it!

DEWEY
(scared)
We're going to the dentist?

CUT TO:

9 INT. BOY'S BEDROOM -- LATER

9

Lois has a TRASHCAN and is TOSSING THEIR TOYS into it. She
picks up AN OLD STUFFED TOY.

LOIS
Who?!

Reese and Malcolm point at each other. Lois throws away the
toy.

(CONTINUED)

9. CONTINUED:

-9

REESE

I didn't like that one anyway.

Lois picks up a model airplane.

REESE (cont'd)

No, not that one!

CUT TO:

10 INT. KITCHEN -- LATER

10

Lois is forcing the children to do "DIZZY IZZIES" (Spinning around with your forehead on a baseball bat)

LOIS

Who?

ALL

I don't know/Not me.

LOIS

Walk to the kitchen.

The kids leave the bats and dizzily walk in to various walls.

MALCOLM

I think I'm gonna puke.

LOIS

Oh, that is going to be the highlight of your evening, because no one is going anywhere until one of you tells me who.

CUT TO:

11 INT. RESTAURANT -- EVENING

11

It's a very TONY PLACE. Hal is talking to the MAITRE'D.

HAL

Is everything set up?

MAITRE'D

I believe so, sir.

HAL

Table seven? Chateau Brut, '87? The hors d'oeuvres medley?

MAITRE'D

Yes, sir.

(CONTINUED)

HAL

Oo, and one more thing.

Hal takes a WOMEN'S WATCH out of his pocket.

HAL

My wife always orders lobster, so could you have the chef slip this on the lobster's claw right before you serve it? She gets a real kick out of stuff like that. Hell, so do I for that matter.

MAITRE'D

Not a problem, sir.

HAL

And the violinist has our song?

MAITRE'D

He received the sheet music this morning.

HAL

You'd be surprised how many times I've heard "Tears of a Clown" just butchered.

MAITRE'D

I understand sir. Would you like a drink while you wait?

HAL

That would be nice.

MAITRE'D

How does a vodka martini sound?

HAL

Well in my hands it sounds like; "glug, glug, glug."

Laughing, Hal tries to ELBOW THE MAITRE'D. The Maitre'd easily SIDESTEPS it.

MAITRE'D

Right this way, sir.

CUT TO:

12 INT. FAMILY ROOM -- EVENING

12

We see Malcolm and Reese, with their backs to us, pressed in to a corner. Malcolm elbows Reese.

(CONTINUED)

MALCOLM

Tell her.

(CONTINUED)

REESE
Ow! You tell her.

Reese elbows Malcolm.

MALCOLM
Ow!

Lois walks up.

LOIS
Who?

ALL
Reese won't just tell the truth --
/Malcolm thinks he can lie --

LOIS
Closer to the wall.

Lois presses them closer to the wall then starts walking away.

MALCOLM
Wait, Mom, seriously, it reeks over here.

DEWEY (O.S.)
(squished between the boys and
the wall)
I can't help it.

LOIS
Alright, TV room, now.

CUT TO:

13 INT. FAMILY ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

13

ABOVE SHOT of couch. We see their little bodies stick out from under it.

ANGLE UNDER COUCH - It is FILTHY AND TRASH LADEN. DUST BUNNIES, OLD FRUITLOOPS, NUMEROUS BALLED UP SOCKS.

REESE
(to Malcolm)
I will give you five dollars if you just tell her you did it.

(CONTINUED)

MALCOLM

You tell her you did it, cause I didn't do it.

(to camera)

I really didn't.

We hear DEWEY CRUNCHING ON SOMETHING.

REESE

What are you eating?

DEWEY

(Crying)

Nothing.

MALCOLM

Why don't you guys shut up so maybe I could think of something.

REESE

What is there to think of, there's nothing we can do. I've never seen Mom this angry.

MALCOLM

Me either.

(to camera)

Reese is right. We're out of our league. There's only one person who's ever had mom this angry at them and survived.

CUT TO:

14 INT. MARLIN ACADEMY COMMON ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

14

FRANCIS enters frame and picks up a DANGLING PHONE.

FRANCIS

Hello?

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

15 INT. MARLIN ACADEMY COMMON ROOM -- CONTINUOUS 15

Francis on phone to Malcolm.

FRANCIS
... and she has your heads where?

INTERCUT WITH:

16 INT. FAMILY ROOM -- CONTINUOUS 16 *

The boys are still under the couch.

MALCOLM
Under the couch. All because Reese won't admit he did it.

REESE
You admit it.

MALCOLM
I didn't do it.

REESE
Neither did I!

MALCOLM
Liar--

FRANCIS
Whoa, whoa, chill. You're not going to get anywhere fighting with each other. First off, you all burned the dress.

MALCOLM
I didn't--

ON FRANCIS

As STANLEY ENTERS the common room. *

FRANCIS
Hey! You all did it. You have to stay together. You have to stay united.

STANLEY
United against who?

(CONTINUED)

FRANCIS
(covers phone)
My Mom.

STANLEY
Nice.

FRANCIS
Now, no one broke so far, you should be proud of yourselves. Did she do the toy thing? Spinning? Uh-hmm, good. Okay, I think I know where she's going. Separate interviews. Now, listen. Once she's got you alone she's going to pretend she's on your side. She's not.

CUT TO:

17 INT. KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER

17

MALCOLM is at the table. LOIS HANDS him a SODA.

LOIS
(smiling)
Go ahead. It's a name brand.

MALCOLM TAKES THE SODA.

LOIS
I'm not mad... I know that you didn't do this. You're a good boy. But you have to help me find out who did. This is serious, one of your brothers could have burned the house down. And for that they will be severely punished. But the one who helps me will be a very happy boy. And I want that to be you...

(closer)
... because you've always been the best one.

QUICK CUT TO:

18 LOIS TALKING TO REESE.

18

LOIS (cont'd)
You've always been the best one.

QUICK CUT TO:

19 LOIS TALKING TO DEWEY. 19

LOIS (cont'd)
You've always been the best one.

QUICK CUT TO:

20 CLOSE ON MALCOLM 20

MALCOLM
Mom, honestly, I don't know who did it.

QUICK CUT TO:

21 CLOSE ON REESE 21

REESE
I don't know.

QUICK CUT TO:

22 CLOSE ON DEWEY 22

DEWEY
Don't know.

22A ON LOIS TALKING TO ALL THREE BOYS. 22A *

LOIS
(cool)
Hmm, guess you boys think you've got your old Mom over a barrel. We'll just see about that. If you boys want to play, we can play all night long.

CUT TO:

23 INT. RESTAURANT -- EVENING 23

Hal sits bored at the table. He picks up TWO BREADSTICKS. He uses them as chopsticks, picking up air and eating the ends of the breadsticks. *

The Maitre'd walks up with a telephone.

HAL
Ah, thank you. Oh, and could you get me another vodka martini please.

(CONTINUED)

The Maitre'd exits and Hal dials the phone and looks at his watch.

SFX: BUSY SIGNAL.

HAL reacts, HANGS UP.

CUT TO:

24 INT. MARLIN ACADEMY COMMON ROOM -- LATER

24

FRANCIS ON PHONE, other CADETS HAVE GATHERED.

FRANCIS

What's that? I can't hear you!

INTERCUT WITH:

25 INT. BOY'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

25

MALCOLM is talking on the PORTABLE PHONE to Francis while PLUGGING HIS OTHER EAR. In the background we hear VERY LOUD BARNEY-LIKE MUSIC.

BARNEY-LIKE

(singing)

...Nice is good, mean is bad, don't be mean 'cause mean is bad. Nice is better than mean...

MALCOLM

She's killing us!

CUT TO:

26 INT. HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

26

LOIS casually TURNS UP THE STEREO a notch.

BACK TO:

27 INT. BOY'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

27

REESE is on the BED WITH A PILLOW OVER HIS HEAD.

DEWEY

Why does she have to ruin everything I love?

(CONTINUED)

MALCOLM

Francis, I'm just going to tell her I did
it! I know I didn't, but anything is
better than this!

Malcolm HOLDS THE PHONE OUT towards the music.

28 ON FRANCIS

28

Francis holds the phone away from his ear. MORE CADETS gather around.

STANLEY

Okay, that's bad.

CADET #2

They tried that Psych-ops stuff on Noriega. They said by the end he wanted to cut his own ears off.

CADET #1

Righteous.

FRANCIS

Malcolm, you can't crack now. She'll own you for the rest of your life.

(thinking)

Okay, listen to me Malcolm. You have to do exactly what I say...

CUT TO:

29

INT. THE HALLWAY/BOYS' BEDROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

29

Lois approaches the boys door through the LOUD MUSIC. She opens the door.

THROUGH DOOR

We see Malcolm, Dewey and Reese HOLDING HANDS, DANCING AND SINGING ALONG TO THE MUSIC.

ALL

(singing)

Nice is good, mean is bad. Don't be mean
cause mean is bad. Nice is better than
mean...

The door closes and the boys sing LOUDER AND DANCE FASTER to the music. VICTORIOUS!

REESE

(loud over music)

Did you see that?!

(CONTINUED)

DEWEY

Hooray!!

MALCOLM

Come on, sing louder!
(To Camera)
Francis is a genius--

Lois enters carrying a CAMCORDER.

LOIS

Oh, this is sooo cute. Your Grandma and
all your friends are going to love this
at your next birthday party.

THE BOYS REACT - Horrified!

CUT TO:

30 INT. MARLIN ACADEMY COMMON ROOM -- LATER

30

Francis on the phone.

FRANCIS

I understand. Just hang in there. Gimme
a minute to think.
(covers phone)
Damn she's good.

STANLEY

Did they crack?

FRANCIS

Dewey faked a stomach cramp and bought
them some time.

STANLEY

Good man.

CADET #2

Man, if we had had her in Nam there'd be
a McDonald's in Hanoi Square right now.

CADET #1

Dude, there is a McDonald's in Hanoi
Square.

CADET #2 THINKS ABOUT THIS then smiles.

CADET #2

Alright!

(CONTINUED)

THEY HIGH-FIVE.

CUT TO:

31 INT. RESTAURANT -- EVENING

31

Where HAL sits with the phone to his ear.

SFX: BUSY SIGNAL.

HAL quietly SIPs HIS VODKA and hangs up the phone. THE WAITER comes over.

HAL

Well, Franklin, let's hear those specials.

FRANKLIN

Are you sure, sir?

HAL

In this family we have a saying: "After an hour, eat without her. If it's any longer, something's wronger."

FRANKLIN

Very catchy, sir.

HAL

Well, when life gives you lemons make lemonade. Do you have lemonade, Franklin?

FRANKLIN

No, sir.

HAL

Do you have lemons?

FRANKLIN

Yes sir.

HAL

Well, toss one in another vodka then. And let's hear those specials.

CUT TO:

32

INT. BOY'S BEDROOM -- EVENING

32

Reese and Dewey lie on their beds.

MALCOLM PEEKS OUT into the hallway.

REESE
What's she doing?

MALCOLM
Can't tell.

REESE
Maybe she left.

MALCOLM
Yeah, I'm sure she's gone out to buy us
all presents.

DEWEY
Hooray!

REESE
Man. It's just too quiet out there.
It's driving me crazy.

MALCOLM walks over to his bed, lies down.

The boys stare up at the ceiling.

DEWEY
Maybe we should sing some more.

REESE
Shut up Dewey.

They JUST REST without saying anything.

REESE
I wonder how many holes there are up in
those tiles?

MALCOLM
124,000. Roughly.

REESE
You counted all those?

MALCOLM
No, you just count one tile's holes
across and down. Multiply it, then
multiply it again by the number of tiles.

(CONTINUED)

Reese looks up at the tiles and tries to contemplate this.
It doesn't take.

REESE

You're doing that more and more.

MALCOLM

Doing what?

REESE

That brain thing. Are you just gonna
keep getting weirder and smarter?

MALCOLM

(thinking)

I dunno.

REESE

Well, can you try and tone it down a
little. Cause I can't keep up with all
these butt-kickings.

MALCOLM

What are you talking about?

REESE

At least twice a day I got to whoop-ass
on somebody calling you weirdo. I'm
exhausted.

MALCOLM

You beat up people cause they called me a
weirdo?

REESE

This last kid was a freak anyway. He was
in no position to throw names.

BEAT.

MALCOLM

Thanks.

REESE

For what?

MALCOLM

...Nothing.

BEAT.

REESE

Hey, what am I thinking right now?

MALCOLM

I'm smart. I'm not psychic.

DEWEY

Can you understand what dogs are saying?

MALCOLM

No.

DEWEY

I can.

LOIS

(Off screen)

Oh, boys...

Their EYES GO WIDE in fear.

CUT TO:

33 INT. FAMILY ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

33 *

As the boys walk in, Lois is LAYING NEWSPAPERS out. *

LOIS (cont'd)

Alright, I don't know who's behind all this sticking together garbage but I don't like it.

Lois picks up some DISHWASHING GLOVES and PUTS THEM ON.

LOIS (cont'd)

So now you've forced me to do something terrible...

Lois puts on GOGGLES and picks up A HAMMER.

LOIS (cont'd)

Say goodbye to a cherished family member.

Lois brings THE HAMMER up quickly to SMASH DOWN ON THE TV.

LOIS (cont'd)

Who?!!!

BOYS

Noooo!!!

CUT TO:

END OF ACT TWO

(CONTINUED)

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

34 INT. FAMILY ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

34

FAMILY is in SAME POSITION as before.

BOYS

No!!!/Mom, you're crazy!!

The boys start to MOVE TO PROTECT THE TV.

Lois RAISES THE HAMMER again.

LOIS

Ah-ah-ah. Don't you dare.

The boys FREEZE MID-STREAM.

SFX: KNOCKING

LOIS

And don't move a muscle.

WE FOLLOW Lois over to the BACK DOOR. She opens it. We see a portly middle-aged neighbor, ED.

ED

Hi, Lois.

LOIS

Look, Ed, it's nine o'clock and I'm a little busy right now.

ED

Well, you see there's the problem. It's nine o'clock at night and I keep hearing screaming, and this didn't sound like your normal screaming, this was more like killing screaming. I'm not one to complain but--

LOIS

That's why we like you.

Lois SLAMS THE DOOR on him. She turns back to;

ANGLE ON TV

It's gone.

(CONTINUED)

Lois turns to the boys. THE BOYS are in the EXACT SAME POSITION AS BEFORE but now they are BREATHING HARD.

LOIS
(satanic low voice)
In your room now.

CUT TO:

35 INT. RESTAURANT RESTROOM -- EVENING

35

HAL comes OUT OF THE STALL and heads over to THE BATHROOM ATTENDANT. He lets out A LOW WHISTLE when he sees all the accoutrements.

HAL
Nice place you've got here.

ATTENDANT
Thank you. I like to create an atmosphere. Did you enjoy your meal, sir?

HAL
If you can call four olives and a whole lot of alcohol a meal, then yes.

ATTENDANT
Very good, sir.

HAL
What do you have in the cologne department?

ATTENDANT
Are you looking for anything in particular?

HAL
I've been thinking about a signature scent. I want to leave a room and have people say, 'boy, it smells like Hal in here.'...But in a nice way.

ATTENDANT
You strike me as a sandalwood.

HAL
Sandalwood...sandalwood...Let's give it a smell-see, shall we.

The attendant finds a BOTTLE and OPENS IT for Hal. Hal gives it a QUICK SNIFF and LAYS SOME ON HIS CHEEKS.

HAL

Ahhh. Nice choice. Very nice. You do a service to your craft.

Another DINER enters.

HAL

(indicates attendant)

This man's a genius.

The diner IGNORES THEM and HEADS IN TO A STALL.

HAL

Snooty bastard. You'd think this place would be the great equalizer. Hell, even a king looks like a fool when he's answering nature's call, am I right? Oh, the stories you must have -- Well, it's been a pleasure.

Hal HOLDS OUT HIS HAND. The attendant LOOKS AT IT. Hal PULLS IT BACK.

HAL

Oop. Sorry about that. Well, have a nice evening.

Hal SALUTES the attendant and goes to exit.

ATTENDANT

Sir?

HAL

Yes?

ATTENDANT

Thank you for making eye contact with me.

CUT TO:

A36 INT. BATHROOM -- EVENING

A36

CLOSE ON LOIS

LOIS

(tearing up)

Boys, I just don't know what to do anymore. I'm not going to punish anyone. All I want is the truth. I don't how things got this far, but I just want it to stop.

(CONTINUED)

WIDEN TO REVEAL

Lois is talking to the mirror.

LOIS (cont'd)
No, they'll never buy it.

Lois walks out of the bathroom into the...

CUT TO:

36 INT. HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

36

Lois enters the kitchen and notices THE PRESENT the kids got for her and Hal. The awkward too-much-tape kid wrapping style brings a smile to her face.

LOIS
(realizing)
Oh, my God, Hal!

(CONTINUED)

Lois TOSSES THE GIFT away and HEADS FOR PHONE.

CUT TO:

37 INT. MARLIN ACADEMY COMMON ROOM -- EVENING

37

Francis CUPS THE PHONE.

FRANCIS
They saved the TV!

CADETS
Hooray!

FRANCIS
(on phone)
Beautiful work boys. Beautiful. You've
got her just where you want her; totally
crazy. It's now time to take the
offensive.

INTERCUT WITH:

38 INT. BOYS' BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

38

Malcolm is on the phone.

MALCOLM
The offensive?

FRANCIS
Exactly. She won't be...wait a minute,
do you hear breathing?

MALCOLM
What?

BEAT.

FRANCIS
(pained)
Mom?

QUICK SHOTS:

Malcolm on phone, EYES WIDE!

Francis SHUTS HIS EYES.

The other CADETS SCATTER.

39 ON LOIS 39

E.C.U. Lois' mouth.

LOIS

(even)
Malcolm, would you hang up the phone
please.

40 ON FRANCIS 40

FRANCIS

Hey, Mom...happy anniversary.

CUT TO:

41 INT. MALCOLM'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS 41

MALCOLM DROPS THE PHONE like it's on fire. He GRABS HIS HEAD
and starts RUNNING AROUND THE ROOM.

MALCOLM

(crazed)
Oh no...not good...

REESE

What is it?

Reese GRABS HIM.

REESE

What?!

MALCOLM

M-mom...phone.

REESE

Oh, man.

Reese starts RUNNING AROUND THE ROOM.

DEWEY

We're gonna die!

Dewey starts to run CRAZILY AROUND THE ROOM.

MALCOLM

Must pack...must run away...

Reese GRABS MALCOLM BY THE SHIRT AND LIFTS HIM UP.

(CONTINUED)

REESE

Wait! We can get out of this! You just
have to use that brain of yours. Think!

*
*

(CONTINUED)

Malcolm SNAPS OUT OF IT.

MALCOLM
(to camera)
All I can think about now is how hard
he's twisting my nipple.

Malcolm turns back to Reese.

MALCOLM
Ow-ow-ow-ow! Let go!

Reese LETS MALCOLM GO. Malcolm RUBS HIS CHEST.

MALCOLM
Okay, think...think...
(then)
I got it.

CUT TO:

42 INT. RESTAURANT -- CONTINUOUS

42

Hal is HAPPILY DRUNK EATING HIS LOBSTER DINNER. Across from him sits THE BATHROOM ATTENDANT eating the lobster with the WATCH AROUND ITS CLAW. They are having a great time and the VIOLINIST walks up to the table PLAYING "TEARS OF A CLOWN."

CUT TO:

43 INT. KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

43

Lois is giving Francis what for.

LOIS
I cannot believe you, Francis. Your own
brothers. You think you're so clever
turning them against me, don't you?

INTERCUT WITH:

44 INT. MARLIN ACADEMY COMMON ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

44

Francis is on the phone.

FRANCIS
No, Mom.

(CONTINUED)

LOIS

We did not send you to Marlin Academy so you could undermine my authority long distance.

FRANCIS

(annoyed)

Why did you send me?

LOIS

(thinks)

...Well it certainly wasn't to undermine my authority. And if I'm not mistaken you are undermining my authority.

FRANCIS

Well, what are you doing? You're spending your anniversary at home fixating on a stupid dress. Is this what you wanted to do tonight?

LOIS

Oh, and I'm just supposed to let it go?

FRANCIS

Yes! That is exactly what you should do. Let it go. But you can't, because you can never let anything go.

LOIS

I can too let things go.

FRANCIS

Okay, fine.

LOIS

I can.

FRANCIS

Fine.

LOIS

I can!

FRANCIS

Okay, just forget I said anything.

LOIS

I can't talk to you any more. Ooo, you make me so mad sometimes I could just break your neck.

(then)

Did you get those cookies I sent you?

FRANCIS
Yeah, they were great.

LOIS
Good.

Lois hangs up the phone.

SFX: CRASH!

The CAMERA FOLLOWS Lois as she heads for the KIDS' BEDROOM.

45 INT. BOY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

45

Lois OPENS THE DOOR and we see a PAIR OF STILTS sticking through the BOYS WINDOW.

REESE sits on the floor, COVERED IN PLASTER. He is under the CEILING FAN which is pulled out of the ceiling, cock-eyed and still spinning. DEWEY, WITH A BUCKET ON HIS HEAD, RUNS INTO THE WALL AND FALLS DOWN.

All of the boys have PILLOWS DUCT-TAPED to their CHESTS. Malcolm has a FLASHLIGHT TAPED TO THE TOP OF HIS HEAD

CLOSE ON MALCOLM

MALCOLM
(to camera)
I swear to God, on paper, this was a great idea.

Lois takes all this in. She shuts her eyes.

A REALLY LONG BEAT.

LOIS
Alright, get dressed. We're going out to dinner.

MALCOLM
(to camera)
Oh my God. It did work.

REESE
(to Lois)
What?

LOIS
Dinner. I will not have you boys starving to death.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LOIS (cont'd)

The last thing I need right now is a bunch of reporters and social workers tearing up my front lawn. Now hurry up before I change my mind.

REESE

But what about the dress?

(CONTINUED)

LOIS
I really liked that dress.

She exits. The boys look at each other as we;

DISSOLVE TO:

46 INT. THE HOUSE -- LATER

46

HAL ENTERS.

HAL
Hello? Anybody home? Honey? Boys?!

Hal STUMBLES over to his SOFA. He takes out HIS PIPE and LIGHTS IT UP. He shakes THE MATCH out ONCE, TWICE, and now THE MATCH IS GONE. Hal doesn't notice as he takes a long pull off his pipe.

HAL
This evening just keeps getting better
and better.

WE SLOWLY PULL OUT - Beside Hal we see a cushion start to smoke. After A BEAT a SMALL FIRE IGNITES on it.

DISSOLVE TO:

47 EXT. THE HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

47

 HAL (O.S.)
Oop! Oh, jeezle.

SFX: RUNNING FEET then A FLUSHING TOILET.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE