

MARRIED... WITH CHILDREN
"FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS"

FIRST DRAFT
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&

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SHOW: #0205
TAPE: 9/11/87
AIR: TBA

**FOR EDUCATIONAL
PURPOSES ONLY**

"MARRIED...WITH CHILDREN"

"FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS"

#0205

CAST

AL BUNDY. ED O'NEILL
PEGGY BUNDY. KATEY SAGAL
STEVE RHOADES. DAVID GARRISON
MARCY RHOADES. AMANDA BEARSE
KELLY BUNDY. CHRISTINA APPLGATE
BUD BUNDY. DAVID FAUSTINO
E.J. JIM LASHLY
NORRIS. FRANK LLYOD
GWEN. JODIE MANN
WOMAN NEIGHBOR.
BUCK, THE DOG. MIKE, THE DOG

SETS

BUNDY LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN

BUNDY BEDROOM

ACT TWO, Scene Five (35) <u>INT. BUNDY LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN</u> - <u>NEXT DAY</u> (Peggy, Kelly, Bud, Marcy, Al, Steve)				
ACT TWO, Scene Six (44) <u>INT. BUNDY BEDROOM - THAT</u> <u>NIGHT</u> (Peggy, Mom Extra)				
ACT TWO, Scene Seven (45) <u>INT. BUNDY LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN</u> - <u>CONTINUOUS</u> (Al)				
ACT ONE TOTAL:				
ACT TWO TOTAL:				
TOTAL TAPE:				
DESIRED TIME:				
OVER/ UNDER:				

#0205
(Peggy, Al, Kelly, Bud, Buck)

1.

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

FADE IN:

INT. BUNDY LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY

(PEGGY IS ON THE PHONE)

PEGGY

Now, Mom, just because the kids don't
write doesn't mean they don't love you.

(BEAT)

Oh, they told you they didn't love
you. They didn't mean it. You know
our kids. I'm sure if you sent them
money, they'd love you.

(BEAT)

No, I couldn't watch "You Be The
Judge" today. They're putting up a
street light in front of the house and
I was watching the men work with
their shirts off.

(BEAT)

Of course I took pictures. Yeah,
those new crime lights are real nice.
Everyone in the neighborhood is real
happy about it.

(AL ENTERS. AL CLOSSES THE DOOR AS PEGGY

CONTINUES TALKING ON THE PHONE)

AL

I hate those damn lights. They make everything yellow. This block is ugly enough in the day without having to look at it at night.

PEGGY

(INTO PHONE, CONSPIRATORALLY)

I can't comment on that right now.

Al just...

(SPEAKING PIG LATIN)

alked-way in the oor-day.

AL

Pig Latin, Peg? Must be your mother.

Tell her I said, "Oink."

(PEGGY REACTS)

PEGGY

(INTO PHONE)

Al says "hi."

AL

All these envelopes on the table.

Is that supper, Peg?

(HE OPENS AN ENVELOPE)

(SHOCKED)

It's a bill for that light. A fifty
dollar assessment.

(TO PEGGY)

Peg, they're charging me fifty bucks.

(PEGGY SHRUGS)

Gee, I wish I had someone to pay
my bills so I could go.

(HE SHRUGS ALA PEGGY. HE OPENS THE NEXT
BILL)

(FAKING JOY)

Oh, look, dear. The new phone bill's
here, too.

(THEN)

Let's see. Lots of big fat calls
to Milwaukee. You know anyone big
and fat who lives in Milwaukee, Peg?

(MOCK SURPRISE)

That's right, your mother. She can
call collect again?

PEGGY

(SMUGLY)

No, Al. I called her.

AL

Smart shoppin'. Can I talk to her?

(HE TAKES THE PHONE AND HANGS UP)

You're making too many calls here,
Peg. Look at this bill. Milwaukee,
Milwaukee, Milwaukee. The whole
thing must come to...

(SHOCKED)

Two hundred and fifty-three dollars!

(CALLS OUT)

Family meeting.

(BUCK WALKS OVER. AL REACTS)

The whole family.

KELLY (O.S.)

I'm on the phone, Dad.

(HE PICKS UP THE PHONE)

AL

(INTO PHONE)

Family meeting.

(HE SLAMS IT DOWN. BUD AND KELLY JOIN
PEGGY. THEY ALL LOOK INNOCENTLY AT AL)

Family...

(WE SEE A SHOT OF THEM LOOKING AT HIM)

Coven...I thought we agreed to limit
our calls?

BUD

I only made necessary calls this month.

KELLY

Me, too.

PEGGY

Me, too.

AL

Then who made all these toll calls at two bucks a pop? Ten times for this one. Who called 976-HUNK?

(KELLY AND PEGGY START TO RAISE THEIR HANDS.

KELLY SEES PEGGY'S HAND AND QUICKLY PUTS HER HAND DOWN)

KELLY

(ADMONISHING)

Oh, Mom.

AL

Who called the White House?

BUD

I did, Dad. I have it on good authority my science teacher is in this country illegally.

AL

Then that's okay. But next time call the local office. I have their sticker on the phone.

(LOOKS BACK AT THE BILL)

Okay, what else have we got here...

Sports hot line, sports hot line, sports hot line. Those are okay.

Wait a minute, wait a minute.

Vancouver, eighty bucks? Hands?

Kelly?

KELLY

Oh sure, all eyes turn to me. If I was going to call a foreign country, I'd call a warm one.

AL

Bud?

BUD

America first, Dad.

AL

Peg, what about it? Your mother gotten so fat she's spread across the border?

PEGGY

Al, I didn't call Vancouver. And Mom's down to two hundred.

AL

So nobody called Vancouver.

(THEY ALL SHAKE THEIR HEADS "NO")

(CALMING)

Okay. Then it must be a mistake.

I'm not paying for a mistake.

(MUMBLES)

I've been doing that since the day

I got married. Call the phone

company. What's their number?

PEGGY

Dial information.

AL

See? This is a perfect example of

ways to cut back. We need a phone

number, we use the phone book.

PEGGY

I was going to burn that for heat,

Al.

AL

Get the book.

(SHE HANDS HIM THE PHONE BOOK. HE THUMBS THROUGH THE FRONT SECTION)

(READS)

What to do in case of poisoning...zip codes...seating chart for the Chicago Opera House.

(HE RIPS OUT THE PAGE CRUMBLES IT AND TOSSES IT ON THE FLOOR)

Let's look under "phone"...

(HE THUMBS THROUGH THE BOOK AND CAN'T FIND IT)

Let's look under "utilities."

(HE THUMBS THROUGH THE BOOK, STILL CAN'T FIND THE NUMBER. HE TOSSES IT IN THE TRASH. HE GRABS THE PHONE. THEY LOOK AT HIM SMUGLY. HE SNEERS. HE DIALS 411)

AL (CONT'D)

(INTO PHONE)

Information? Give me the number of the phone company.

(BEAT)

It's in the book?

(WITH FALSE PATIENCE)

Good, then pick one up and tell me what the number is.

DISSOLVE TO:

#0205
(Al, Peggy, Woman Neighbor (O.S.))

9.

ACT ONE

SCENE TWO

INT. BUNDY BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

(AL AND PEGGY ARE GETTING READY FOR BED.
AL IS BROODING)

AL

(MOCKING)

"We find no error." I'm on hold
for forty-five minutes, listening
to the musak version of "Muskrat
Love," and they can find no error.
Now that the kids aren't here, I
ask you again -- Did you make that
call to Vancouver?

PEGGY

You know I didn't. That call was
made at nine o'clock in the morning.
You know that's when I go back to
sleep after you go to work.

AL

I'm sorry. I can't believe they're
going to make me pay for this, Peg.

(PEGGY SHRUGS)

Why don't you become a game show host?
A contestant comes on, says, "I need
ten thousand dollars." You shrug, I
come out and pay them and the game is
over. We'll call the show "That Idiot
Al."

PEGGY

(OFF HAND)

I'm sure it'll work out one way or another. Go to sleep.

AL

Sure, it'll work out. I'll pay for a street light I didn't want. Pay for a phone call I didn't make. Pay for a wife, kids, dog, house...

PEGGY

Well, there's still things we could do for free. You want to fool around?

AL

Great. The one thing I would pay for.

PEGGY

Me, too. Good night, Al.

(SHE TURNS OUT THE LIGHTS. THE ROOM GOES DARK EXCEPT FOR A LITTLE STRIP OF LIGHT ACROSS AL'S EYES FROM THE NEW STREET LAMP. AL TURNS OVER IN DISGUST. THE LIGHT IS NOW ON THE BACK OF HIS HEAD. HE PUTS HIS HAND ON HIS HEAD, THE LIGHT IS NOW ON HIS HAND)

(MORE)

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Al, would you be still? I'm trying desperately to pretend you're someone else.

(AL TURNS OVER AND MOVES HIS HEAD UP. THE LIGHT IS ON HIS MOUTH. HE TURNS AROUND IN BED WITH HIS FEET ON THE PILLOW)

C'mon, honey. Settle down and go to sleep.

(PEGGY REACHES OVER AND KISSES HIS FEET)

PEGGY (CONT'D)

(REELING)

Yeewf!

AL

Where the hell is that light coming from?

PEGGY

(SHE LOOKS TO THE SOURCE)

It's our new crime light. Shining on an appropriate place...your feet.

(AL GETS UP AND GOES TO THE WINDOW)

AL

This just gets better and better.

(YELLS OUT THE WINDOW)

Fifty bucks to have a light shine in my face.

WOMAN NEIGHBOR (O.S.)

Shut up, Bundy.

AL

Get a husband. This is great. I'm a victim, that's what I am. The city charges me fifty dollars to put a light in my face. I can't do anything about it. The phone company charges me eighty dollars for a call I didn't make. I can't do anything about it. Well, Al Bundy is going to do something about it. The official Bundy response is no longer...

(HE SHRUGS)

Tomorrow I'm going to go down and have the city move that stupid light. Then, I'm going to get that call to Vancouver taken off my bill. From now on, Al Bundy is going to live with a little dignity.

(HE LIES DOWN, THE LIGHT IS STILL IN HIS EYES.
HE REACHES OVER AND GRABS A BRA LAYING ON
THE NIGHT STAND AND PUTS IT OVER HIS EYES
AND WE)

DISSOLVE TO:

#0205
(Peggy, Kelly, Bud, Al)

13.

ACT ONE

SCENE THREE

INT. BUNDY LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - THE NEXT DAY

(KELLY IS ON THE PHONE. PEGGY IS ON THE
COUCH)

KELLY

(INTO THE PHONE)

Okay, Marilyn. Get ready.

(SHE TAKES OUT A POLICE WHISTLE AND BLOWS
IT INTO THE PHONE)

There. That should take care of Bud
if he was listening. Now, what
happened when Bobby found out I
traded his Letterman's jacket for
those boots?

(BUD ENTERS FROM THE STAIRS)

BUD

Hi, Mom.

PEGGY

(SEES BUD)

Hi, honey.

BUD

What?

PEGGY

Whatcha been doing?

BUD

What?

PEGGY

(LOUDER)

Bud, you've been listening in on
Kelly's phone calls, haven't you?
Remember what I told you about that?

BUD

(LOUD)

Yeah. You said, "Be careful, she's
got a whistle now."

(HIS EARS POP. HE REACTS)

That's better. Where's Dad?

PEGGY

He went down to the phone company
this morning.

BUD

Uh-oh.

PEGGY

Don't worry. Your father does a lot
of dumb things, but even he knows you
can't fight the phone company.

KELLY

(INTO THE PHONE)

Hello? Hello?

(THEN TO PEGGY)

Mom, the phone just went dead.

(AL ENTERS)

AL

(SMUGLY)

Well, you're looking at a hero.

I went down to that phone company
and told them where to stick their
phone bill. So they told me they'd
take care of it. Have we heard
anything yet?

(AS EVERYONE GLARES AT AL, WE)

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

#0205
(Al, Peggy, Bud, Buck, Kelly)

16.

ACT TWO

SCENE ONE

FADE IN:

INT. BUNDY KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - LATER

(PEGGY AND AL ARE AT THE KITCHEN TABLE.
AL IS WRITING. BUD IS HOLDING A BONE UP
IN THE AIR WHILE BUCK SITS ON THE FLOOR
NEXT TO HIM)

BUD

Jump.

(BUCK DOESN'T MOVE. BUD LOWERS THE BONE)

Jump.

(BUCK DOESN'T MOVE. BUD LOWERS THE BONE SO
IT'S ON THE TOP OF BUCK'S NOSE)

Eat.

(BUCK OPENS HIS MOUTH AND EATS THE BONE)

Good boy.

AL

Bud, please, there's work going on
here. I'm composing an official
letter to the phone company. Where
was I?

(READS)

"Dear Filth Beneath My Shoe. Public
utility, hah! To say you stink would
be too kind...you stink."

(MORE)

AL (CONT'D)

(CONTINUES TO WRITE)

"You can shut off my phone but you
can't stop me from writing..."

(HE SHAKES HIS PEN. IT'S OUT OF INK)

Peg, get me another pen.

PEGGY

Al, we can't live without a phone.

AL

My father lived without a phone.

PEGGY

Your father lived without an upper
plate. That doesn't make him a
pioneer. It makes him

(AS IF WITHOUT TEETH)

a Bundy.

(THEN NORMAL VOICE)

A stupid one, or is that redundant?

AL

You're not gonna get me to give in
on this, Peg. That's the trouble
with this country. Everybody is so
willing to roll over and pay.

(MORE)

AL (CONT'D)

(MOCKING)

"Hi, I'm an American. Take all my money." Well, no mas. The Bundys are holding out. No one ever died from not having a phone.

(KELLY ENTERS CRADLING HER PHONE. SHE SITS AND ROCKS)

There are groups she can call for help.

PEGGY

How? She doesn't have a phone.

AL

Hey, it's not like I don't have a plan. I admit one guy doesn't matter. But if I rally the neighborhood, and we all stand together, we can make a difference. I'm gonna get everyone over here for a meeting tonight.

(AL PICKS UP THE PHONE)

Hello?

(HE HANGS UP THE PHONE)

Now, I'm mad. Peg, call the neighbors.

(HE EXITS UPSTAIRS. PEGGY REACTS)

DISSOLVE TO:

(Al, Peggy, E.J., Steve, Norris, Gwen,
Marcy, Kelly, Bud, Extras)

ACT TWO

SCENE TWO

INT. BUNDY LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - LATER THAT NIGHT

(THERE ARE A WHOLE BUNCH OF FOLDING CHAIRS
OUT. ONLY A FEW PEOPLE SHOWED UP. PEGGY
SITS IN A CHAIR, FILING HER NAILS)

AL

I'd just like to sum up by saying
that if we all stand together -- you,
me, and the unwashed masses who didn't
show up -- we can bring these
bureaucratic morons to their knees.
What do you say?

(THEY ALL SHRUG)

Great. Okay. I guess it's time to
open the floor to discussion.

(HE LOOKS AT THEM)

E.J.

We thought there'd be food here.

AL

That's what I thought when I moved
in but that's a fight I can't win.
Now let's talk about the phone company
and what it's doing to all of us.

STEVE

Al, let me see if I've got this straight. Because you don't want to pay your phone bill, you want us to put all our phones in a pile, set them on fire, and send the melted carcass back to the phone company C.O.D.?

AL

Well, yeah. With a nasty note, of course.

NORRIS

We like our phones.

(TO OTHERS)

I just got one with call waiting.

(THE GUESTS START A CONVERSATION AMONGST THEMSELVES)

GWEN

Me, too. Isn't it great?

E.J.

I got speed dialing. Anybody got that?

STEVE

The phone company is really growing with us.

(THEY WALLA AGREEMENT)

AL

So are you with me?

GWEN

(IGNORING HIM)

What do you think of those new crime
lights?

E.J.

I love 'em. I saw a crime under
one last night.

GWEN

Why didn't you call me?

E.J.

I should've. I've got speed dialing.
Wanna come see it?

(THEY WALLA "SURE" AND START OUT)

NORRIS

You got food?

(THE NEIGHBORS EXIT)

AL

(YELLS AFTER THEM)

And you can kiss those crime lights
goodbye, too. I'm taking this fight
for all of us.

(TO PEG)

I'm taking this fight for all of us,
Peg. Why isn't anybody listening to
me?

PEGGY

I don't know, Al. I wasn't listening.

AL

Well, now, while I have your attention, go make dinner.

PEGGY

I can't, Al. We don't have a phone.

AL

Then go to the stove and dial "hot".

PEGGY

If only it were that easy.

STEVE

Al, why don't you just pay for that phone call?

AL

Excuse me, did I just hear the trace of a Vancouverian accent, Steve?

STEVE

I didn't make the call.

AL

Why? Were you out...or should I say "oot" at the time?

PEGGY

Gee, Steve, this is like living with Columbo. Y'know, a dirty, wrinkled man who won't give up?

AL

Well, I'm not giving up. By the way,
Steve. What's Marcy's maiden name?

It wouldn't be

(DRAMATIC EFFECT)

Canuck, would it?

STEVE

(LONG BEAT)

Aren't you punishing your family
enough by living with them? Why
punish them more over one lousy,
eighty dollar phone bill?

AL

A lousy eighty dollars? Forgive me,
oh Shiek Achmed Rhoades. Hey, Peg.
Where's that spare eighty I use to
light my cigars?

(MARCY ENTERS)

STEVE

Oh hi, Marcy. Gee, thanks for saying,
"Oh, Steve, we'd only be insulting
the buffoon if we missed his stupid
meeting," and then you don't show up.

MARCY

I'm sorry, Steve, but I was on the
phone.

AL

This is just what I'm talking about.
America's obsession with the telephone.

MARCY

I was on the phone taking messages
for your family.

(AS SHE FLIPS THROUGH A MESSAGE PAD)

Peggy, your mother called. Peggy,
your mother called. Peggy, your
mother called. Oh, and Dial a Hunk
called. They wanted to know if you
were okay and to tell you Juan is
back.

PEGGY

(EXCITED)

Ooh.

(KELLY STAGGERS TO THE LANDING)

KELLY

Anything for me?

MARCY

No.

KELLY

Oh.

(KELLY STARTS TO STAGGER BACK TO HER ROOM.

BUD ENTERS THROUGH THE KITCHEN HOLDING A
BICYCLE BELL. HE RINGS THE BELL)

BUD

Kelly, it's for you.

(KELLY RUNS DOWNSTAIRS, PICKS UP THE PHONE,
THEN REACTS)

Gee, I love doing that.

AL

(PROUDLY)

See, Bud's making the best of this.

Good boy, Bud. And I think we can all
make this a positive experience.

If you have someone you need to talk
to, don't call, just pay them a visit.

PEGGY

My mother lives in Milwaukee, Al.

AL

So long, Peg. Take the kids.

(PEGGY REACTS)

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE THREE

INT. BUNDY LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - ONE WEEK LATER

(PEGGY ENTERS, SHIVERING)

PEGGY

I hate you, Al.

AL

That's nice. Where have you been?

PEGGY

In a phone booth, Al. The cold one on the corner, I've been using all week. I share it with a big, surly man. Of course he lives there, but still he feels sorry for me. Gimme some change.

AL

What for?

PEGGY

I'm calling all of my friends to give them Steve and Marcy's number. Hurry up. Amos is giving me a ride back in his shopping cart.

(AL STANDS UP AND WE SEE HE'S WEARING A COIN CHANGER. HE PUSHES A LEVER BUT NO MONEY COMES OUT)

AL

Aw, sorry, Peg. You used up all
your dimes.

PEGGY

Then give me Kelly's.

AL

She's in a bad way, Peg. She
needs her dimes.

PEGGY

(COLD BLOODED)

Give me Kelly's.

AL

Well, her hands are shaking too much
to hold a dime anyway. Here.

(HE GIVES HER SOME CHANGE)

As long as you're going out, mail
this letter for me.

(PEGGY TAKES THE LETTER FROM AL. SHE
STARTS OUT)

Y'know what that is, Peg? A letter
to the utilities company.

(MORE)

AL (CONT'D)

I've got the phone company on the run
and now we're getting that light taken
down. You proud of your man now, Peg?

(SHE EXITS, SLAMMING THE DOOR)

Get me a snickers.

(BUD COMES DOWN THE STAIRS)

BUD

Hi, Dad.

AL

Hi, son.

BUD

Dad, can we have a father-son talk?

AL

(SHRUGGING)

We could try.

BUD

Great. Dad, being your only male
heir, I feel it's my duty to go along
with you on most things. But this
phone thing is becoming, how can I say
this without hurting you -- well,
stupid.

AL

Sorry, Bud, but I think it's about
father-TV time now.

BUD

No, no, Dad. I'm not finished.
They're laughing at us in school.

AL

Who cares what a kid thinks.

BUD

It's the teachers, too, Dad.

AL

Who cares what a teacher thinks.
Sit down, son. I want to explain
something.

BUD

Is this going to be long and boring
like the, "Why we had Kelly" speech?

AL

No. Because I know the answer to
this one. See, the problem with
America now is this...

(SHRUGS)

nobody stands up for anything anymore.

BUD

So can we have a phone?

AL

No. I mean it's pretty pathetic. This country used to have slogans like, "Don't tread on me," "54 - 40 or fight," "Tippycanoe and somebody too." Then all of a sudden, people quit standing up for their rights and putting it into stupid slogans.

BUD

What's that got to do with us being the only people in the free world without a phone, Dad?

AL

It's got everything to do with it. The point is if they'd tried to charge Thomas Jefferson for a call he didn't make, Boston Harbor would've been full of phones. And all the local women would've been swimming around down there and we wouldn't have had to hang them as witches.

BUD

(UNCERTAIN)

I think I see. So you're kind of like Thomas Jefferson?

AL

That I am, Bud.

BUD

Then why do they call him a great man and they call you butt head?

AL

Hey, if that's the new word for "patriot", so be it. So you tell those kids and teachers, "Hey, my Dad's a fighter. My Dad's a winner. And when the fightin's done, my Dad'll be the one who can sleep at night."

CUT TO:

(Al, Peggy, Steve (O.S.), Woman Neighbor (O.S.))

ACT TWO

SCENE FOUR

INT. BUNDY BEDROOM - NIGHT

(PEGGY AND AL ARE IN BED. THE LIGHT FROM
THE STREET LAMP STILL SHINES ON AL'S FACE)

AL

Peg, I can't sleep.

(NO RESPONSE)

Peg, you mailed that letter,
didn't you?

PEGGY

Yes, Al.

AL

Good. Good. Then it'll be taken
care of.

(BEAT)

Hey, Peg. Remember you always
wanted this side of the bed?
Y'know, closer to the window.
What was my reason for not giving
it to you?

PEGGY.

Well, let me see. I think you
said something like, "Hey, I work,
I make the money, I deserve the air."

AL

Y'know, it's funny, Peg. It took me sixteen years to realize just how wrong I was. I can't sleep knowing you want this side of the bed. Slide over.

PEGGY

No, Al. We need your feet by the window. It keeps the mosquitoes away.

STEVE (O.S.)

Hey, Bundy, telephone.

AL

(YELLS BACK)

Rhoades, it's two o'clock in the morning, what do they want?

STEVE (O.S.)

It's Peggy's mother.

AL

Ch. Peg, it's for you.

(PEGGY GOES TO THE WINDOW)

PEGGY

(YELLS OUT)

Hi, Mom. What do you want?

STEVE (O.S.)

Your

(BEAT)

recipe for raisin bread.

PEGGY

Tell her a loaf of fresh bread,
a box of raisins and a ~~hammer~~.

STEVE (O.S.)

(BEAT)

She went to get a paper and pencil.

WOMAN NEIGHBOR (O.S.)

Get a phone, Bundy.

AL

Get a face-lift, Ruttenberg.

DISSOLVE TO:

(Peggy, Kelly, Bud, Marcy, Al, Steve)

ACT TWO

SCENE FIVE

INT. BUNDY LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - NEXT DAY

(PEGGY IS SEARCHING THE ROOM, LOOKING FOR
SOMETHING. KELLY COMES DOWN THE STAIRS
WITH SUITCASE IN HAND)

KELLY

Bye, Mom. If you need me,
I'll be in the streets.

PEGGY

Okay, but I don't think I'll
need you.

KELLY

Tell Daddy I'm not moving back
in until we get a phone or I
get married.

PEGGY

Now, Kelly. There's no need
for any of us to leave home.
We are not going to be without
a phone much longer. I'm taking
matters in my own hands. Now
where would your father hide that
thing?

(PEGGY FINDS THE COIN CHANGER UNDER THE
VACUUM CLEANER)

(MORE)

PEGGY (CONT' D)

Here it is. No wonder it took me so long to find it.

(SHE CHECKS FOR CHANGE)

Empty of course. Well, here's the first blow against your father's reign of terror.

(PEGGY TAKES THE COIN CHANGER TO THE KITCHEN TABLE AND STARTS POUNDING IT WITH A HAMMER. BUD ENTERS)

BUD

M-m-m. Making raisin bread, Mom?

PEGGY

Not this time, honey.

SFX: DOORBELL

PEGGY (CONT' D)

Get that, Bud. I have to figure out how to fix this dent in our counter before your father gets home.

(BUD OPENS THE DOOR AND MARCY ENTERS CARRYING A COOKIE JAR OF MONEY)

MARCY

You were right, Peggy. The neighbors were annoyed enough to begin to chip in for your phone bill. Except for Madame Olga. She just spit and put a curse on your whole family.

PEGGY

Uh oh.

(SHE LOOKS AROUND AT THE HOUSE AND THE
KIDS)

The last one worked.

(KELLY GRABS THE JAR AND DUMPS OUT THE MONEY)

KELLY

Yes! Did you get the whole eighty
dollars?

MARCY

No, it's only forty. If you count
my thirty-five.

PEGGY

Try Mrs. Horning. Until we get a
phone, she can't complain about Al
using her jacuzzi when she's not home.

MARCY

Oh my God. I've been in that jacuzzi.

(SHE EXITS, IN SHOCK)

PEGGY

All right. We need forty dollars.
There must be something around here
we could sell.

BUD

Kelly, quick, your liver.

KELLY

For a phone? I'll do it.

PEGGY

Not yet, Kelly. Since this is all your father's fault, let's start with his things.

KELLY

I'll get his bowling ball.

BUD

I'll get his fishing rods.

PEGGY

I'll get his dart board with Martina Navritalova's picture on it.

(BEFORE THEY CAN GO, AL ENTERS)

AL

What's going on here?

BUD

The women were gonna sell your stuff, Dad.

(TO PEGGY)

He makes the money, Mom.

PEGGY

We want a phone, Al.

AL

Yeah. I want a blonde. But I'll take a beer.

KELLY

We're serious, Daddy. You can't beat the phone company.

AL

I see. So much for Bundy unity. Well, I'll tell you something. This is the first time I've ever been ashamed of my family.

PEGGY

You'll get used to it, Al. We did.

AL

Well, get used to this. We'll get a phone when the phone company calls me to apologize.

PEGGY

Al...

AL

I know. I know. Shut up.

BUD

Dad, is there anything we could say to make you change your mind?

AL

No, Bud. And this is why. Do you know what the worst thing is for a man to grow up and hear people call him?

(BUD NODS)

BUD

A shoe salesman.

AL

Even worse son...a quitter. See,
if I were to quit now it'd be like,
I don't know...quitting.

KELLY

So, Daddy, if we stopped trying
to get you to put the phone back
in, wouldn't that make us quitters?

AL

Go to your room.

SFX: DOORBELL

(AL CROSSES TO THE DOOR)

AL (CONT'D)

Be quiet, leave me alone.

(HE OPENS THE DOOR TO STEVE)

We're having a family thing here,
Steve. What do you want?

STEVE

I'm delivering another phone
message for you.

AL

Then come on in.

STEVE

I also have a message of my own,
Al. This is the last message
the Rhoades are going to be taking
for the Bundys.

AL

Fine. See if we do anything for
you anymore.

STEVE

You don't do anything for us now,
Al.

AL

Then you've already had a taste of
our medicine.

(THEN)

Now, what's the message?

KELLY

Please, God. Let it be for me.

STEVE

It's for Peggy.

KELLY

I knew it. I've ceased to exist.

PEGGY

Who called, Steve?

STEVE

Your mother. She said to tell you she's worried about you. She doesn't like not being able to talk to you every day, so she's coming to stay until you get your phone put back in.

AL

(PANICKED)

How long have we got?

STEVE

She was packing her bags.

AL

Great. We still have a chance to stop her. There's no way she can get through her front door on the first try. Unless she's still living in the garage. Then we're in trouble.

(TO PEGGY)

Quick. Call her. Use Steve's phone.

STEVE

Sure, use Steve's phone. Wake Steve up. Let Steve take the message. Well, the Steve stops here, and my phone is off-limits.

(STEVE STARTS OUT)

Give Mom a hug for me.

(HE LAUGHS EVILLY AND EXITS)

AL

(CALLS AFTER HIM)

Okay, Steve. I'm used to her.
But the day you accidentally
glance in her direction, it's
you that's gonna turn to stone.

PEGGY

Get out the sitz bath, kids.
Grandma's coming.

(THE KIDS EXIT TO THE GARAGE)

AL

Peg. Go to your phone booth.
Catch the woman before she gets
down the driveway, 'cause once
she's in motion, nothing can stop
her.

PEGGY

Okay, Al. I'll do it on one
condition. You'll pay that
phone bill.

AL

Done. You win. Just hurry.

(AL GIVES HER ALL HIS MONEY)

Was that a tremor? Oh, God.
She must be changing bras.
Hurry. Hurry.

(PEGGY STARTS OUT)

DISSOLVE TO:

#0205
(Peggy, Mom Extra)

44.

ACT TWO

SCENE SIX

INT. BUNDY BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

(THE LIGHTS ARE DIM. PEGGY IS ON THE
PHONE NEXT TO A SNORING LUMP IN THE BED)

PEGGY

Yes, Dad. Mom got here safe and
sound.

(TURNS TO LUMP)

Mom, you want to talk to Dad?

(THE LUMP SNORTS AND SNORES SOME MORE)

She said she loves you, Dad.

I've talked her into staying an
extra week...Al? He was a little
upset that Mom had already left
before we could stop her. But I
got to hand it to him. He got them
to move the street light. So I guess
he's happy about that.

CUT TO:

#0205
(A1)

45.

ACT TWO

SCENE SEVEN

INT. BUNDY LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

(AL IS LYING ON THE COUCH IN THE DARK EXCEPT
FOR A LITTLE STRIP OF LIGHT ACROSS HIS WIDE
OPEN EYES. A BEAT THEN WE HEAR A LOW MOAN)

AL

Nooooo.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO