

# GRACE UNDER FIRE

pilot episode

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GRACE UNDER FIRE

"Pilot"

#101

CAST

Grace Kelly.....Brett Butler  
Russell Norton.....Dave Thomas  
Nadine Swoboda.....Julie White  
Quentin Kelly.....Noah Segan  
Libby Kelly.....Kaitlin Cullum  
Patrick Kelly.....Dylan and Cole Sprouse  
Wanda Honeycutt.....Becky Thyre  
Bill Davis.....Charles Hallahan  
Dougie.....Walter Olkewicz  
Vic.....Dave Florek  
Carl.....Thom Vernon  
Charlie.....Bryan Clark  
Officer.....John Goodman  
Jodi.....Skye Bassett  
Smitty.....Phil Buckman

7/22/94

"GRACE UNDER FIRE"

OPENING TITLES

CLOSE UP - AN EIGHT BY TEN WEDDING PORTRAIT - CLOSE ON GRACE  
AS A BRIDE

(WE PULL BACK TO REVEAL A WOMAN'S HAND REMOVING  
THE GROOM'S HEAD FROM THE PHOTO)

GRACE (V.O.)

On our wedding day, my ex-  
husband got in a fistfight with  
the accordion player cause the  
poor man didn't know any Led  
Zeppelin.

(THROUGHOUT THE FOLLOWING, SHE REPLACES THE HEAD  
OF HER EX WITH PHOTOS OF A MONKEY, BABY, HITLER,  
AND A DEVIL)

That was my first hint that  
maybe I'd chosen unwisely.  
Anyway, after eight years and  
three children I decided to go  
it alone. And believe me, it  
was the hardest decision I've  
ever made. But I figured I had  
two choices: I could spend the  
rest of my life waking up next  
to a knuckle-draggin-cousin-  
loving-beer-sucking-redneck...

(MORE)

GRACE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Or, I could work like a dog for  
lousy money while I raise three  
kids all by myself.

(SHE TURNS THE PAGE TO A SNAPSHOT OF HER AND HER  
KIDS.)

Boy, is it nice to have choices.

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE 1

FADE IN:

INT. GRACE'S CAR - DAY (DAY 1)

(Grace, Libby, Quentin, Patrick, Officer)

(GRACE (35) IS AT THE WHEEL OF A BEAT-UP SEDAN (19). HER DAUGHTER LIBBY (5) IS IN THE PASSENGER SEAT. HER SONS, QUENTIN (7) AND PATRICK (8 MONTHS) ARE IN THE BACK SEAT. PATRICK IS IN A BABY SEAT. SEVERAL BAGS OF GROCERIES ARE BETWEEN THEM. AS THE SCENE OPENS, QUENTIN AND LIBBY ARE HITTING EACH OTHER WITH BALLOONS.)

QUENTIN

Hey, quit hitting me with the  
balloon!

GRACE

Hey! Hey! Hey! What's the  
rule about throwing things in  
the car while Mama's driving?

LIBBY/QUENTIN

Don't.

GRACE

And what's the punishment?

QUENTIN/LIBBY

Death.

QUENTIN

Mom?

GRACE

What?

QUENTIN

Can I get a BB gun?

GRACE

No. It'll put your eye out.

LIBBY

Wouldn't it put your eye in?

QUENTIN

Boy, are you stupid.

LIBBY

I am not!

GRACE

Hey! Hey! Hey! Instead of  
fighting, let's everybody sing.

Um...

(SINGING)

LIBBY LIBBY BO-BIBBY --

QUENTIN

Mom?

GRACE

What?

QUENTIN

Do you think you and Daddy'll  
ever live together again?

GRACE

No, honey. I don't think so.

LIBBY

Why doesn't he live with us?

GRACE

'Cause he won the coin toss.

QUENTIN

Do you mind us asking questions  
about this?

GRACE

No, honey. Course not. It's  
good for you guys to ask  
questions. Go ahead, ask me  
anything you want.

(BEAT, AS THEY CONSIDER, THEN:)

LIBBY

Where do farts come from?

GRACE

Um. I just tell people they  
come from the dog.

QUENTIN

Mom?

GRACE

What?

QUENTIN

Patrick's choking on his gum.

GRACE

Gum?! What gum?!

(CAR PULLS OFF SIDE OF ROAD TO A HALT)

(MORE)

GRACE (CONT'D - V.O.)

Gum?! I can't believe he's got  
gum.

(SHE REACHES BACK WITH ONE HAND AND STRUGGLES TO  
EXTRACT THE GUM FROM PATRICK'S MOUTH)

GRACE

Hey! Give Mommie the gum,  
Patrick. Thata' boy...

QUENTIN

Mom?

GRACE

(AGGRAVATED)

What, Quentin?!

QUENTIN

There's a police car behind us.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

(A LARGE STATE TROOPER WALKS UP TO GRACE'S  
WINDOW)

GRACE

Oh, God!

OFFICER

Can I see your license and  
registration, please?

(AS GRACE CLIMBS OUT OF THE CAR, PULLING THE  
BALLOON OFF HER HAND.)

GRACE

Is there a problem, officer?

(LIBBY STICKS HER HEAD OUT THE DOOR.)



LIBBY

Don't be mad at Mommie. She was  
just kidding about killing us.

GRACE

Libby, get back in the car.

(LAUGHING NERVOUSLY, TO THE OFFICER)

Just a game that we were  
playing.

OFFICER

I'm sure it is. Ma'am, you were  
weaving back there. This is a  
no stopping zone. I'm gonna  
have to write you a citation.

GRACE

A ticket? I can't afford a  
ticket! I can barely afford  
this damn balloon! Do you have  
any idea what my life is like?

OFFICER

No, Ma'am, but you were weave--

GRACE

I'm gonna tell ya'. You see  
those kids in there? I'm  
raising'em by myself. No child  
support. No alimony. And you  
know what? It's hard!

(MORE)

GRACE (CONT'D)

(STARTING TO CRY)

It's damn hard! Nobody gives  
you a medal at the end of the  
day.

OFFICER

(INTO HIS WALKIE-TALKIE)

Twenty-one bravo. I may need  
back-up here.

GRACE

Nobody, nobody comes up and pats  
you on the back and says, "way  
to go, Mom." All you have is  
the love of those children, and  
that better be enough cause you  
don't have a social life... And  
you can forget about having a  
sex life!

(GRACE HANDS BALLOON TO OFFICER)

I don't even have time to put  
the shower head on pulse!

(OFFICER ACCIDENTALLY POPS BALLOON WITH HIS PEN)

GRACE (CONT'D)

Oh, sorry. I didn't mean to do  
that. I'm sorry.

OFFICER

Lady.

GRACE

I'm sorry.

OFFICER

Lady. Calm down. Calm. Ssh.

GRACE

(SOBBING HYSTERICALLY)

NO! I DON'T WANNA LIVE THIS  
LIFE ANYMORE! JUST, JUST SHOOT  
ME! JUST GO AHEAD. WASTE ME!  
TAKE ME OUT, SMOKEY! LET'S GET  
IT OVER WITH! THIS MADNESS HAS  
TO STOP!

(HE NERVOUSLY BACKS AWAY TO HIS CAR.)

OFFICER

(GINGERLY)

Look, why don't we just call  
this a warning. Get back in  
your car. Drive your kids home.  
Have a nice day. Um, don't  
forget to buckle up.

(GRACE WATCHES HIM FOR A BEAT, THEN SMILES,  
PLEASED WITH HERSELF. SHE GETS IN THE CAR AND:)

GRACE

(UNDER HER BREATH, CALMLY)

Works every time.

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES: "GRACE UNDER FIRE"

ACT ONE

SCENE 2

FADE IN:

INT. LIBBY AND QUENTIN'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT (DAY 1)  
(Grace, Libby, Quentin)

(THE KIDS ARE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE BEDS, AS GRACE  
ENTERS)

GRACE

Bedtime.

LIBBY

How come I have to go to sleep  
when I'm not tired?

GRACE

Oh, cause whether you're tired  
or not has nothing to do with  
it, honey. You go to bed when  
Mama's tired.

LIBBY

G'night.

GRACE

G'night.

(GRACE CROSSES TO QUENTIN'S BED. THERE'S A SHOE  
BOX ON HIS NIGHTSTAND.)

GRACE (CONT'D)

Hey, what's in the box?

QUENTIN

A frog I found.

GRACE

Yeah? Cool.

(SHE LOOKS IN THE BOX.)

Quentin, he's real dead.

QUENTIN

Well, yeah. I hit him with a  
real baseball bat.

GRACE

Why'd you do that? It's wrong  
to mistreat animals!

QUENTIN

Dad used to hunt squirrels with  
a hammer.

GRACE

Listen, I'm gonna tell you  
something. I want you to  
remember it: every time you  
hurt a small animal, a clown  
dies.

QUENTIN

Really?

GRACE

Bozo's probably coughing up  
blood right this minute.

QUENTIN

Okay. I promise.

GRACE

Thank you.

(GRACE KISSES HIM AND CROSSES TO BATHROOM.)

QUENTIN

Hey, Mom? Can I get a BB gun?

LIGHT CUE: BATHROOM LIGHT ON

GRACE

You know, Quentin, I don't know what I was thinking when I said "no." I'm gonna go put on my fuzzy pink slippers and run out to the all night BB gun toy store and buy you the biggest one they got!

LIGHT CUE: BEDROOM LIGHT OUT

(SHE EXITS. LIBBY TURNS TO QUENTIN.)

LIBBY

I think she's lying.

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE 3

INT. KITCHEN - A LITTLE LATER (DAY 1)  
(Grace, Nadine, Russell)

(GRACE IS WASHING DISHES AS NADINE POKES HER  
HEAD IN THROUGH THE WINDOW.)

NADINE

(PERKY MOCK SOUTHERN ACCENT)

Hi. My name is Nadine Swoboda.  
I'm here to tell you about Jenny  
Lee Cosmetics and the Lord.

GRACE

(UNFAZED)

Hey, Nadine. C'mon in.

(NADINE CROSSES INTO THE KITCHEN.)

NADINE

(SANS ACCENT)

Hey, baby. You'll never guess  
who came into the bar tonight.  
Husband number two.

GRACE

Oh, you're kidding? Cletus?

NADINE

Yes. The man who could never  
finish anything. Cletus  
Interruptus.

(MORE)

NADINE (CONT'D)

(BEAT)

Well, he's married again. And  
you're not going to believe  
this. He's got kids!

GRACE

Oh, honey. You must feel  
terrible.

NADINE

Why would I feel terrible?

GRACE

Well, think about it.  
Evidently, after he left you he  
became Cletus Completus.

(THEY LAUGH)

GRACE

Oh, I almost forgot to tell you!  
I got a temp job at the oil  
refinery. And it might go  
permanent.

NADINE

That's wonderful! Now all you  
need is a permanent guy.

GRACE

Uh-uh. I just need one for  
about a half hour.



NADINE

You know, I met someone who I think would be perfect for you.

GRACE

Nadine, the last guy you set me up with wore a little metal hat to prevent Ted Koppel from controlling his thoughts.

NADINE

I'm telling you. This guy is a catch. This guy, if I was not married, I'd drop a hook in the water myself.

GRACE

Where'd you meet him?

NADINE

He comes in the bar a lot. He's a pharmacist.

GRACE

Wonderful. An alcoholic with access to drugs.

NADINE

No, he always orders a pina colada. Everybody knows alcoholics don't drink tropical drinks. Those little umbrellas are too hard to pass.

GRACE

I don't know. Maybe you can set something up in a couple of weeks.

NADINE

It's gonna have to be a little sooner than that.

GRACE

Why?

NADINE

'Cause he's sitting in your backyard.

GRACE

You brought 'em here!? This whole time we've been talking about Cletus and--

(SHE LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW)

Oh, God! There's a man in my backyard!

NADINE

He's dying to meet you. I told him most of you is blonde.

GRACE

Nadine!

NADINE

You look like hell. Put some  
lipstick on. Here you go.

(SHE HANDS GRACE A LIPSTICK, THEN YELLS OUT THE  
KITCHEN WINDOW)

Russell, honey?! C'mon in!

GRACE

You're dead.

(GRACE HURRIEDLY PUTS ON THE LIPSTICK. RUSSELL  
ENTERS THROUGH THE BACK DOOR)

NADINE

Grace, I'd like for you to meet  
Russell Norton. Russell, this  
is my best friend, Grace Kelly.

RUSSELL

Grace Kelly?

GRACE

Yeah, except I never won an  
Oscar and I, I'm a better  
driver.

NADINE

It's her married name. Pay no  
attention.

GRACE

Hey. It's nice to meet you.

RUSSELL

Nice to meet you.

(GRACE AND RUSSELL TENTATIVELY SHAKE HANDS.  
THERE'S A LONG, LONG BEAT OF UNCOMFORTABLE  
SILENCE)

NADINE

Well, maybe I'll just leave you  
two alone.

RUSSELL/GRACE

No.

RUSSELL (CONT'D)

Uh... Look, sorry for barging in  
on you like this. But I did say  
I'd like to meet you sometime,  
and Nadine's kinda pushy and she  
dragged me over --

NADINE

Oh, shut up. Hojo's, Friday  
night, fried clams, all you can  
eat --

(TO GRACE)

Say, "yes".

RUSSELL

Uh, just one second.

(MORE)

RUSSELL (CONT'D)

(TURNING TO GRACE)

If you don't mind, I just came out of a really bad marriage, and I'd like to ask you a couple of questions first.

GRACE

Sure. Have a seat. I've got some questions of my own.

RUSSELL

Okay. Have you ever bought an eight hundred dollar pair of shoes just because you thought they looked --

(AIR QUOTES)

yummy?

GRACE

No. Do you chew tobacco, or own a belt buckle bigger than my head?

RUSSELL

No. Have you ever had the fat sucked out of your thighs and injected into your lips?

GRACE

No. But thanks for the tip.  
Have you ever moved your entire  
family to another state, just so  
you could buy beer on Sunday?

RUSSELL

No. Have you ever had sex with  
your psychiatrist?

GRACE

Russell, look around here. Does  
it look like I can afford a  
psychiatrist?

RUSSELL

Okay. I think we can do this.

GRACE

Yeah, this'll work.

NADINE

This is so romantic.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE 4

EXT. CBD OIL REFINERY - THE NEXT MORNING (DAY 2)  
(Grace, Carl, Wanda, Bill, Dougie, Vic, Charlie, Extras)

(WE OPEN ON GRACE, IN A HARD HAT AND OVERALLS,  
STANDING IN FRONT OF A HUT. SIX SIMILARLY-  
DRESSED MEN AND ONE OTHER WOMAN ARE ALSO MULLING  
AROUND. ONE OF THE MEN, CARL, CROSSES TO  
GRACE.)

CARL

Hey, sweetpea. You know the  
only reason you got this job is  
cause you're a chick and the  
company caved in to chick  
pressure.

GRACE

Oh, contraire, Archimedes. The  
only reason I got this job is  
because I promised to have sex  
with the smart guys.

(PUNCHING HIM LIGHTLY ON THE SHOULDER)

Too bad for you.

(GRACE CROSSES TO THE OTHER WOMAN, TWENTY-FIVE  
YEAR OLD WANDA HONEYCUTT.)

GRACE (CONT'D)

I guess you and I are the quota  
babes.

WANDA

Well, I think it's long overdue.  
Why should we have to settle for  
low paying clerical jobs just  
because we have undescended  
sexual organs? I'm here to  
prove that women are just as  
good as men!

GRACE

I'm here for the dental coverage.

(BILL DAVIS, THE CREW FOREMAN, CROSSES INTO SHOT  
HOLDING A CLIPBOARD.)

BILL

Alright, let's listen up.  
Before we start work this  
morning, management's asked me  
to initiate a program to create  
better working conditions  
between our male and female  
employees. It's called...

(READING FROM CLIPBOARD)

"Gender Sensitivity Training."

CARL

Hey, I got ya' gender right  
here!

(TO WANDA)

How'd you like to train it?

(THE GUYS LAUGH, WANDA IS FURIOUS.)



BILL

Now Carl. Carl, that's what you  
call your --

(READING FROM CLIPBOARD)

"unwanted sexual harassment."

DOUGIE

What kind of harassment can we  
do?

VIC

Hey. Hey. My brother's been on  
a waiting list for three years  
to work here. So how come these  
two skirts get jobs right off  
the bat?

BILL

(READING HESITANTLY FROM THE CLIPBOARD)

Because... "it's the view of  
this company that the work force  
should reflect the diversely  
demographic composition of  
society as a whole."

(DOUGIE REACTS. BILL ADDS QUICKLY:)

Don't even think about it,  
Dougie.

(MORE)

BILL (CONT'D)

(READING)

"Female employees are not to be addressed by any derogatory or demeaning words. That includes skirts, chicks, broads, babes," etc., etc.

CARL

Hey! I been working here six years and nobody ever got sensitive about what they called me!

BILL

That's cause you're a big, flaming pie hole, Carl.

(TO WANDA)

How would you like to be addressed?

WANDA

Well, my name's Wanda Honeycutt, so Ms. Honeycutt would be fine. And, once we're all on a first name basis, Wanda would be okay as well.

MEN

(AD-LIB MUMBLED GRUMBLING)

Ms. Honeycutt./ What a load./  
Wanda would be okay as well!

BILL

Alright. Alright.

(TURNING TO GRACE)

And how about you?

GRACE

Oh, I don't know... how about  
Throbbing Mattress Kitten?

MEN

(LAUGHING, AD-LIB)

Yeah!/ Alright!/ She works my  
shift!/ I like this one!/ Hot  
lunch!

WANDA

(TO GRACE)

You know, if you allow yourself  
to be addressed in that manner,  
you're demeaning all women.

GRACE

Honey, shut up.

BILL

(TO GRACE)

You're not helping me here.

GRACE

(SPEAKING TO EVERYONE)

Um, look. My name's Grace. I  
don't care what you call me. I  
don't want special treatment.  
You guys treat me with respect,  
I'll treat you with respect.  
And, if at the end of the day,  
we all wind up in the shower  
together, then God love us.

MEN

(AD-LIB)

Way to go, Grace!/ We love you,  
Grace!/ Soap on a rope!

(AN OLDER WORKER, CHARLIE, CROSSES INTO SHOT)

CHARLIE

Which one of you girls is Grace  
Kelly?

WANDA

It's women! Not girls! Women!  
Women! Women!

GRACE

(TO WANDA)

Hey! I'm thirty-five years old,  
I got three kids. I can hide a  
can of cat food under each  
breast. If Pops thinks I look  
like a girl, it makes me happy.

(TO CHARLIE)

What's up, Wilford?

CHARLIE

Well, you got a call. Your son  
got in a fight at school. They  
want you to come down there  
right away.

GRACE

Oh, man.

(TURNING TO BILL)

Look, would it be alright if I  
took a short break?

BILL

You haven't started yet.

GRACE

I know. I'll make it up. It's  
just, my son's in trouble.

BILL

I'm sorry. If you go, I'll have  
to get someone else.

GRACE

Oh, please don't. I need the  
job.

DOUGIE

C'mon, Bill. Cut her some  
slack. She's a mother!

VIC

Yeah! Where's your sensitivity?

CARL

You let Phil off when his wife  
died.

CHARLIE

That's cause Phil shot her.

BILL

Alright, alright.

(TO GRACE)

Okay. But you owe me big  
time...

(GUYS REACT. BILL NERVOUSLY ADDS:)

I don't mean in a physical  
woman, guy way... I mean, bring  
us a box of donuts, we'll call  
it even.

GRACE

Thanks. You're a sweetheart.

(SHE EXITS)

MEN (SANS BILL)

Aw...

(BILL STANDS NEXT TO DOUGIE, A DAZED EXPRESSION  
ON HIS FACE. THE TWO OF THEM WATCH GRACE EXIT.)

BILL

Dougie?

DOUGIE

Yeah, Bill?

BILL

I liked this world a lot better  
when we could just pinch'em on  
the butt.

DOUGIE

Yeah, I hear ya, Bill.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE 1

FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL INFIRMARY - A SHORT TIME LATER (DAY 2)  
(Grace, Quentin)

(QUENTIN IS SITTING ON A COT, INSPECTING A  
BANDAGE ON HIS ELBOW. GRACE STANDS OVER HIM.)

GRACE

Dammit, Quentin! You know I  
almost got fired cause I had to  
come bail your butt out. This  
is the third fight you've gotten  
into since school started!

QUENTIN

Does this mean I can't get a BB  
gun?

GRACE

Forget the BB gun! You hit a  
kid over the head with a garbage  
can!

QUENTIN

He called me a wuss. It made me  
mad.

GRACE

Well, you know you're not a  
wuss. You didn't have to get in  
a fight over that!



QUENTIN

You're not a boy. You won't understand.

GRACE

I understand you can't be getting in fights because somebody hurts your feelings.

QUENTIN

He didn't hurt my feelings. He made me mad!

GRACE

So what happens when I make you mad? You gonna hit me too?

QUENTIN

No. Course not. I'm not like dad.

GRACE

(STUNNED)

What do you mean, you're not like dad?

QUENTIN

(EMBARRASSED)

I'd never hit you. Ever.

(GRACE COLLAPSES INTO A CHAIR, TAKES A BEAT TO COLLECT HERSELF, THEN:)

GRACE

I kept that a pretty good  
secret.

(QUENTIN SHRUGS)

GRACE (CONT'D)

Okay, Quentin... no more secrets  
between us. Yeah, you're right.  
Sometimes your dad would hit me.  
He'd always apologize, but  
then... when he got really mad  
or if he had too much to  
drink... he'd do it again.

QUENTIN

That's the real reason you got  
divorced, isn't it?

GRACE

I got tired of being scared all  
the time. I guess if you knew  
what was going on, you were  
pretty scared too.

QUENTIN

No.

GRACE

Is that so?

QUENTIN

Maybe a little.

(GRACE SITS NEXT TO QUENTIN ON THE COT. SHE  
TURNS HIS FACE SO HE'S LOOKING AT HER)

GRACE

Well, you and me sure are a  
bunch alike. We both act like  
we're tough when we're scared.  
Know what I mean?

QUENTIN

I guess.

GRACE

Does Libby know what went on?

QUENTIN

No. Libby's stupid.

GRACE

Okay. We'll talk about this  
more, later. But for now,  
here's the rule: if somebody  
tries to hurt you, you've got a  
right to defend yourself. But  
that's the only time it's okay  
to hit somebody. You got it?

(HE NODS)

GRACE (CONT'D)

Just cause somebody makes you  
mad, you can't go around  
hittin'em with garbage cans.

QUENTIN

How about a chair?

GRACE

No chairs!

QUENTIN

Okay. Okay.

(SHE GIVES HIM A KISS)

GRACE

Thank you. I gotta go back to  
work. And you gotta go to  
class.

(THEY CROSS OUT OF THE ROOM)

QUENTIN

You know, Jimmy?

GRACE

Yeah.

QUENTIN

The kid I had the fight with?  
He said he was gonna kick me in  
my testicleez.

GRACE

He did, huh?

QUENTIN

Yeah. Where would that be, Mom?

GRACE

The testicleez? You know, I  
used to know that.

(AS THE DOOR CLOSSES BEHIND THEM, WE:)

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE 2

INT. GRACE'S BEDROOM - THE NIGHT OF THE DATE (A FEW DAYS  
LATER) (DAY 3)

(Nadine, Grace, Patrick)

(NADINE IS SITTING ON THE BED, HOLDING PATRICK  
AS GRACE GETS DRESSED FOR THE DATE. NADINE IS  
IN HER WORK CLOTHES.)

NADINE

You know, I got a feeling this  
Russell guy could turn out to be  
Mr. Right.

GRACE

Last guy you said that about I  
married. He turned out to be  
Mr. Right Hook.

(BEAT)

Does Quentin ever remind you of  
his father?

NADINE

Well, let's see. Quentin has  
never thrown a lawnmower at my  
car, so I'll have to say, no.  
Why?

GRACE

I don't know. I just worry that  
maybe the apple doesn't fall far  
from the tree.

NADINE

It's not the same thing.  
Quentin's a good apple. The  
tree drank alotta Jack Daniels.

GRACE

Oh, Nadine. How'd I ever stay  
in that marriage so long?

NADINE

Oh, honey. You believed there's  
good in everybody. And you  
believed that people could  
change. Now you know, that's  
just... wrong.

(THEY LAUGH. GRACE FINISHES DRESSING AND MODELS  
THE OUTFIT)

GRACE

Well?

NADINE

Very nice. Conservative yet...  
horny.

GRACE

Aren't you late for work?

NADINE

(GETTING TO HER FEET)

Alright. I'm on my way.

(HANDS GRACE THE BABY)

Take that big boy. Oh. Good  
luck tonight.

GRACE

You sure this outfit looks  
alright?

NADINE

Oh, God, you're acting like  
you're sweet sixteen and never  
been kissed.

GRACE

Nadine, I'm from Alabama.  
Believe me, by the time you're  
sixteen, you... you've been  
kissed.

NADINE

Relatives don't count.

(AS NADINE EXITS, WE:)

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE 3

INT. LIVING ROOM - A SHORT WHILE LATER (DAY 3)  
(Grace, Russell, Quentin, Libby, Jodi, Smitty)

(RUSSELL IS SITTING ON THE COUCH, WATCHING  
CARTOONS BETWEEN LIBBY AND QUENTIN. GRACE IS  
LOOKING OUT THE FRONT WINDOW.)

SFX: CARTOONS ON TV .

LIGHT CUE: LIGHT FROM TV

GRACE

Russell, I'm sorry.

(WALKING AWAY FROM THE WINDOW)

Babysitter said she'd be here at  
seven o'clock. I don't know  
where she is.

RUSSELL

That's okay. I'm having a good  
time.

(TO LIBBY)

Hey, how come Yogi Bear wears a  
hat and a tie, and he's got no  
pants?

LIBBY

He's not real.

RUSSELL

I knew that.

SFX: DOORBELL



GRACE

Good. Bet she's here.

(GRACE OPENS THE DOOR, REVEALING JODI, A SIXTEEN YEAR OLD SPACE CADET, WHO IS CLEARLY DRUNK. STANDING NEXT TO HER IS SMITTY, A HEAVY METAL, HEAD-BANGER. SMITTY'S HOLDING A BROWN PAPER BAG.)

JODI

Hiya!

GRACE

Are you Jodi?

JODI

Yeah. I hope you don't mind. I brought my boyfriend.

SMITTY

(HOLDING UP THE BAG)

Hi. Hey, you know they make beer in flavors now?

(GRACE SLAMS THE DOOR CLOSED AND TURNS TO RUSSELL.)

GRACE

There's no way I'm leaving my babies with Sid and Nancy.

RUSSELL

That's okay. Maybe some other time...

(HE STARTS TO CROSS OUT)

GRACE

Well, wait. I mean, you smell good. I smell good. You got me flowers. I shaved my legs. We shouldn't waste all this.

RUSSELL

Well, we can always take the kids with us, please say no, I'm bluffing.

GRACE

We got two choices. One, you stay here with the kids and I go out.

RUSSELL

Or?

GRACE

I'll just make dinner here.

RUSSELL

Okay, that sounds really nice.

GRACE

Okay. C'mon. I'll set a table on the back porch.

RUSSELL

Right.

(LIBBY CROSSES TO GRACE.)

LIBBY

Mommie?

GRACE

Yeah, what honey?

LIBBY

Can I tell you a secret?

GRACE

Libby, it's not polite to tell secrets in front of people. If you wanna say something, you can say it in front of everybody.

LIBBY

That man has a fat butt!

GRACE

(LAUGHING, NERVOUSLY COVERING)

She's going through that "everybody's got a fat butt" stage.

(GRACE USHERS HIM TOWARD THE KITCHEN.)

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE 4

EXT. BACK PORCH - A SHORT TIME LATER (DAY 3)  
(Grace, Russell)

(GRACE AND RUSSELL ARE DINING ON MACARONI & CHEESE. A CANDLE BURNS ON THE TABLE. A SMALL RADIO PLAYS MUSIC FROM THE KITCHEN WINDOW SHELF.)

GRACE

So, you got any kids?

RUSSELL

No. I wanted some, but it would've interfered with my wife's career as a consumer.

(BEAT)

This is really delicious. What is this?

GRACE

It's macaroni and cheese, with little hot dog chunks. Your wife didn't cook much for you either, did she?

RUSSELL

Once when I was sick, she made me some toast.

GRACE

Russell, honey. You don't know what a bad marriage is.

RUSSELL

Oh, yeah? Well, I got a buck  
right here that says my marriage  
was worse than yours.

GRACE

Oh, you're on.

RUSSELL

Okay. On the honeymoon, my ex-  
wife brought along her dog  
because she wanted something to  
play with.

GRACE

On my honeymoon, my ex brought  
along his three brothers so I  
wouldn't have to cut bait all by  
myself.

RUSSELL

Okay, how about this? After I  
bought her a house, she gained  
like a hundred and twelve pounds  
and grew a moustache.

GRACE

Gotcha. When I was in labor  
with Quentin, Mr. Wonderful  
staggered into the waiting room  
and hit on my momma.

(RUSSELL WHISTLES WITH ADMIRATION)

RUSSELL

A real family man, huh?

GRACE

I'm not finished. His idea of  
foreplay was waking me up. He  
moved his lips while reading  
stop signs,

(EMPHATICALLY, GOING IN FOR THE KILL)

He wouldn't let the kids watch  
Star Trek cause there was a  
"colored girl" in it.

(RUSSELL HANDS HER THE DOLLAR.)

RUSSELL

Here.

GRACE

Thank you. Thank you.

(REFLECTING)

You know what?

RUSSELL

What?

GRACE

This sitting out here with  
another grownup... eating  
dinner... talking... no kids  
bothering us... this is the most  
fun I've had in months.

RUSSELL

Yeah. Me, too. It's too bad we  
have to trash our ex's to have  
something to talk about though.

GRACE

Yeah. We should learn to  
forgive. Get on with our lives.

RUSSELL

Yeah.

(BEAT)

Double or nothing?

(HE HOLDS OUT A FEW MORE DOLLARS.)

GRACE

Easy money.

RUSSELL

Okay. She once bought a car  
because it matched her purse.

GRACE

My ex was arrested for relieving  
himself on a police dog.

(SHE SNATCHES THE MONEY FROM HIM.)

RUSSELL

Darn...

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE 5

INT. GRACE'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT (DAY 3)  
(Grace, Patrick, Quentin)

(GRACE IS PUTTING PATRICK IN HIS CRIB)

GRACE

(SOFTLY COOING)

You're the cutest little rug rat  
in the whole world. I love you  
and your brother and sister so  
much. You all make Momma so  
happy.

(QUENTIN APPEARS AT HER SIDE IN HIS PAJAMAS.)

QUENTIN

(LOUD)

Mom?

GRACE

What, Quentin?!

(SHE USHERS HIM AWAY FROM THE CRIB.)

QUENTIN

How come Libby gets to stay up  
as late as I do? I'm older.  
How come she always gets her  
way?



GRACE

Cause that's how God planned it.  
He made little girls cute and  
precious, so they'd always get  
their own way.

QUENTIN

That's not fair!

GRACE

Oh, but it is fair. Cause you  
see they don't stay little for  
very long. Before you know it,  
little girls become women. And  
then God punishes them for the  
rest of their lives.

(SHE USHERS HIM OUT THE DOOR. AND WE:)

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE 6

INT. LIBBY AND QUENTIN'S BEDROOM - SECONDS LATER (DAY 3)  
(Grace, Libby, Quentin)

(LIBBY'S ALREADY IN BED AS GRACE AND QUENTIN  
ENTER. QUENTIN GETS IN HIS BED)

LIGHT CUE: BATHROOM LIGHT ON

LIBBY

Mom, Quentin said if you marry  
that man, my name'll be Libby  
Fat Butt.

GRACE

That's not true. It'd be  
Elizabeth Louise Fat Butt.  
Don't worry. I'm not gonna  
marry anybody.

LIBBY

G'night.

GRACE

G'night.

(SHE KISSES LIBBY AND STARTS TO CROSS OUT.)

QUENTIN

Hey, Mom?

GRACE

Yup?

QUENTIN

Can I get a BB gun?

GRACE

No, Quentin, you can't. But  
don't lose hope. Maybe the nice  
folks at the orphanage'll get  
you one.

(SHE TURNS OFF THE LIGHT AND EXITS)

LIGHT CUE: BEDROOM LIGHT OFF

LIBBY

Hey, Quentin. Wanna hear  
something real weird?

QUENTIN

What?

LIBBY

My friend Jane's mom is married  
to another lady.

QUENTIN

Nuh-uh.

LIBBY

Yuh-huh. She's got two moms and  
had to read a book about it.

QUENTIN

Boy, I guess we're real lucky to  
live in a regular house, huh?

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AS BROADCAST

50.  
II/6

LIBBY

Yeah. We got one parent like  
everybody else.

(THE KIDS ROLL OVER AND GO TO SLEEP, AS WE:)

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW