

Raising Hope

"Dream Hoarders"

1ARY02

Written by
Ralph Greene

Directed by
Michael Fresco

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RAISING HOPE

Episode #102

“Dream Hoarders”

CAST LIST

JIMMY LUCAS NEFF
VIRGINIA MARTHA PLIMPTON
BURT GARRET DILLAHUNT
SABRINA SHANNON WOODWARD
MAW MAW CLORIS LEACHMAN
TEENAGE BURT CAMERON MOULENE*
TEENAGE VIRGINIA KELLY HEYER*
NEWSCASTER BEN BEGLEY*
THREE-YEAR-OLD JIMMY TRACE
EIGHT-YEAR-OLD JIMMY TBA

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SET LIST

Interiors

Chance House

Living Room

Kitchen

Dining Room

Jimmy and Hope's Bedroom

Hallway

Bathroom

Grocery Store

Greenhouse

Client's Bathroom

Exteriors

Backyard

Client's House

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

201 INT. LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN -- NIGHT (N1)

201

"Istanbul" by The Four Lads is playing on a record player. Burt is drinking a beer and watching Maw Maw play Jenga. The tower is ridiculously high. She has a very serious look on her face and her tongue is sticking out of the side of her mouth like Michael Jordan and she bops along with the music. She moves a piece and the tower stays intact. Burt can't believe it. Virginia enters through the front door in her maid's uniform carrying a lamp.

*

BURT

How was work?

VIRGINIA

Great. The Gittlemans are remodeling so they put all their old stuff out on the curb for the help to fight over.

Virginia kisses him.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

I almost got my hands on a combination TV/VCR but their exterminator blasted me with some ant spray.

*

BURT

(licking his lips)

I thought you tasted a little poisonous.

(re: Maw Maw)

Hey, have you seen this? As long as I have this song on she can't lose.

Maw Maw pulls out a brick. The tower doesn't move.

VIRGINIA

I know. It's weird how music kicks in certain things with her brain. I found out the other day that "America the Beautiful" makes her poop faster.

Jimmy enters with Hope from the hallway. He also has a box of sugar cubes.

JIMMY

Check it out. I taught Hope a trick.

Jimmy puts Hope on the ground and then puts a sugar cube on the ground a few feet in front of her. She starts to crawl towards the bowl.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

She's crawling! I taught her to
crawl.

VIRGINIA

Are you kidding me? We're all
exhausted from taking care of that
baby as it is. You taught it how to
move? Good Lord. I hope she doesn't
get into things the way you used to.

Virginia exits into the kitchen. We see Jimmy's P.O.V. as
he looks around the room and sees various hazards. He sees
a cluster of extension cords against the wall.

DISSOLVE TO:

202 INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D1 1987) 202

The shot transitions to flashback where we see a one-year-
old Jimmy entangled in the extension cords while holding a
glass of water. One of the cords sparks a little.

DISSOLVE TO:

203 INT. LIVING ROOM/DINING ROOM -- NIGHT -- BACK TO SCENE (N1) 203

Jimmy looks over and sees a box of matches on the floor in
the dining room.

DISSOLVE TO:

204 INT. DINING ROOM -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D2 1987) 204

The shot transitions to flashback where we see a one-year-
old Jimmy drop a lit match on a pile of matches. *

DISSOLVE TO:

205 INT. DINING ROOM/KITCHEN -- NIGHT -- BACK TO SCENE (N1) 205*

Jimmy's P.O.V. carries us to the kitchen where there are a
bunch of paint cans under the sink in a cupboard.

DISSOLVE TO:

206 INT. DINING ROOM/KITCHEN -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D3 1987) 206*

The shot transitions to flashback where we see a one-year-
old Jimmy sitting next to an open can of paint. He's covered
in white paint.

DISSOLVE TO:

207 INT. DINING ROOM/KITCHEN -- NIGHT -- BACK TO SCENE (N1) 207*

The shot transitions back to present day where Jimmy shuts the cupboard.

JIMMY

We're gonna have to do some serious baby proofing around here.

Virginia is cleaning her new lamp.

VIRGINIA

Oh, God, tell me you're not turning our house into one of those baby proofing nightmares. I was cleaning a place the other day and I couldn't get in to the cleaning supplies, the fridge, or the medicine cabinet. They even had a lock on the damn toilet.

CUT TO:

208 INT. CLIENT'S BATHROOM -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D4) 208

From above, we see Virginia trying to get the toilet open. We time cut a few times to see her trying different methods to open it. Each time she's a little more frantic. Finally, we jump to a cut where she's sitting on the sink in the corner. The door starts to open and she quickly stretches out and keeps it shut with her foot.

VIRGINIA

I'm in here!

CUT TO:

209 INT. LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT (N1) 209

Tight on the record which is over and is skipping at the end. Virginia pulls the needle off the record. Jimmy is standing behind her. Burt is looking at the very tall Jenga tower. Maw Maw is asleep.

VIRGINIA

Jimmy, you can't protect your child from every little danger. They have to learn from their own mistakes.

JIMMY

Yeah, like how I jumped off the roof with an umbrella.

VIRGINIA

Once. And then you never did it again. Plus you learned about gravity.

Virginia exits into her bedroom.

JIMMY

(calling off)

What I've learned is I need to protect my child better than you protected me.

Jimmy picks up the box of matches off the floor.

BURT

For the record I thought the umbrella thing was going to work. The wind was really hummin' that day.

JIMMY

Hey, you're gonna have to move all these pool chemicals out of here. She can get to this now.

Burt looks at the stuff.

BURT

I don't have anywhere else to put them. The back of the truck is full of weed killer. I guess I could put the weed killer in here if you think that's better.

(realizing)

Pick your poison. I just got that.

Burt laughs and punches him in the arm. Jimmy punches him back. Jimmy stares at the chemicals for a beat.

JIMMY

Maybe I'll see if Mom will make some room out in the greenhouse.

Burt looks at him nervously.

CUT TO:

210 INT. JIMMY AND HOPE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT (N1)

210

Jimmy is changing Hope's diaper. Through Hope's P.O.V. we see Jimmy talking to her.

JIMMY

There are some things that I don't
like to talk to your grandma about.
One is her hobby. You see, some
grandmas bake... Some play bridge...
Some crochet...

CUT TO:

211 EXT. BACKYARD -- NIGHT (N1)

211

Jimmy and Burt stand in front of a greenhouse with two barn
doors on the front. The doors are open and the greenhouse
is completely full of shit. You can't even take a step in.
There are lawn chairs, second hand furniture, boxes, all
kinds of various crap.

JIMMY (V.O.)

Your grandma is a hoarder.

CUT TO:

212 EXT. CLIENT'S HOUSE -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D5)

212

We jump cut through the following action. Virginia and
another maid are putting cleaning supplies into the "Knock,
Knock, Knock" Pacer. A nicely dressed woman approaches them
from the house carrying a fax machine. She offers it up to
the two of them and they thank her.

JIMMY (V.O.)

One of the only perks of cleaning
houses is getting all the crap the
rich people no longer want.

As the woman goes back to the house, Virginia and the other
maid start to wrestle over the fax machine. At one point
Virginia has the cord wrapped around the other maid's neck.

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

It never bothered your grandmother
that she didn't have a use for any
of this stuff. All she knew was it
was free and she wanted it.

CUT TO:

213 EXT. BACKYARD -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D5)

213

Virginia puts a fax machine in the back corner of a fairly
empty greenhouse. We time dissolve to see the greenhouse
get more and more full until it becomes the wall of shit we
saw before.

JIMMY (V.O.)

The more stuff she brought home, the crazier it seemed. And the crazier it seemed, the less we talked about it.

DISSOLVE TO:

214 EXT. BACKYARD -- NIGHT -- BACK TO SCENE (N1)

214

We pull back to see that Jimmy and Burt are standing in front of the greenhouse. Virginia crosses in holding the lamp from the previous scene. Hope is sitting in the grass.

VIRGINIA

What are you guys doing in my stuff?
You didn't touch my stuff did you?
Don't touch my stuff. That's my stuff.

Burt backs away from the stuff.

BURT

I didn't touch anything. He opened it.

Virginia drags a table over to the wall of shit and then stands on it to put the lamp on top.

JIMMY

Mom, I need to make a little room in here for Dad's pool chemicals. Can we maybe pick a few items that you might not need?

VIRGINIA

I need everything in here.

JIMMY

You need everything in here? Really?
(picks up a box)
You need this box of towel racks? Because not only have I never seen anyone in this house hang up a towel, but we only have one bathroom.

VIRGINIA

Now we do. But we don't know how many bathrooms we're going to have when you father and I get our own place.

JIMMY

Do you think you're going to have twenty?

BURT

We might. I've been getting pretty close with the lottery lately. Two weeks ago I got one number and last week I almost got two. I think she's getting ready to bust wide open.

*

VIRGINIA

What's tonight's jackpot up to?

BURT

Forty-six million.

VIRGINIA

Nice. I'm glad we didn't win last week. Now we can get a house and a boat.

BURT

Oh, I've been thinking about boat names. How about "Ship Happens"...
(no reaction)
"The Love Burt"... "Aqua Holic"...
"Yeah Buooooooy"...
(off her look)
I'll keep thinking.

JIMMY

How about you keep thinking about where to put the pool chemicals. I'm going out to get some baby-proofing stuff.

BURT

See if the hardware store has sheds on sale.

JIMMY

I'm not going to the hardware store. I'm going to the grocery store. I think Sabrina's working tonight.

BURT

There you go. Just because she has a boyfriend don't give up. Girls are just like the lottery. You can't win if you don't play.

Jimmy starts to go. She stops him.

VIRGINIA

(calling)
Make sure you smile a lot. You've got a great smile.
(MORE)

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)
(off his smile)
Okay, maybe I was thinking of someone
else. Just go.

CUT TO:

215 INT. GROCERY STORE -- NIGHT (N1)

215

Jimmy is unloading a bunch of baby-proofing items on the conveyor belt. Sabrina is standing at the register. She's writing something on a pad of paper. She looks up to see Jimmy. Jimmy starts to smile, stops himself.

SABRINA
(unenthused)
Howdy hi, partner.

JIMMY
Howdy hi.

SABRINA
You don't have to do it. Just us.

Sabrina starts to ring the stuff up.

JIMMY
What were you writing in that
notebook?

SABRINA
Oh, I'm just working on a short story.
I'm taking a creative writing class.

JIMMY
Cool. What's it about?

SABRINA
It's called "The Elephant in the
Room." It's about a waspy family
that's slowly turning into emotionless
zombies.

JIMMY
Oooh, spooky.

SABRINA
Yeah, I'm having fun writing it.
I'm kinda stuck on a sentence here
though. What's another word for
ostentatious?

Jimmy thinks for a long beat.

JIMMY

Delicious?
(beat, tries again)
Tired? Obnoxious? Lamp shade?
(then)
I really don't know that word.

SABRINA

Yeah, keep going though. This is fun.

JIMMY

Chocoholic?

CUT TO:

216 INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT (N1)

216

We're tight on the TV as the lottery drawing is about to happen. The ping pong balls are bouncing in the machine. Burt is watching intently with his ticket in his hand. As each number is pulled Burt looks at his ticket and reacts upset. Hope is sitting on the floor playing with a toy.

VIRGINIA (O.S.)

(singing)
Oh beautiful for spacious skies.
(quickly)
Come on, Maw Maw.
(singing)
For amber waves of grain.
(quickly)
There you go, sweetheart.
(singing)
*For purple mountain majesties, above
the fruited plain!*

A toilet flushes. Burt reacts to the last number not being his. Virginia comes around the corner calling down the hall.

VIRGINIA

(calling down the
hall)
You get in the bath and I'll come
check on you in a little bit.
(to Burt)
I gotta start video taping what goes
on in that bathroom in case my cousin
tries to fight us in court for the
house after Maw Maw dies.

Virginia looks around.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Where's Hope?

Burt looks around.

BURT

She was right here a second ago.

They look and see that the back door is open. Oh shit.

CUT TO:

217 EXT. BACKYARD/INT. GREENHOUSE -- NIGHT (N1)

217

Virginia and Burt are looking around the backyard.

VIRGINIA

He just had to teach her to crawl,
didn't he?

BURT

Here baby, baby, baby, baby, baby...

Virginia sees Burt looking up.

VIRGINIA

What the hell are you looking up
for?

BURT

Well, you were looking down. You
had that covered.

VIRGINIA

What do you think, she climbed a
tree?

BURT

A hawk could have got her.

VIRGINIA

Oh, God, I never thought of that.
(calling upward)
Hope!

They hear the sound of a baby cooing. They stop and listen. They hear it again and follow it to the greenhouse. They both drop down to the ground and look through a hole in the shit. We see Hope happily crawling deeper into the clutter.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

You just know he's going to figure
out a way to blame us for this.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

218 EXT. BACKYARD/INT. GREENHOUSE -- NIGHT (N1)

218

Virginia and Burt are looking through the hole in the wall of shit. They can see Hope crawling towards the back of the greenhouse. Virginia hops up.

VIRGINIA

Quick, help me get this stuff out of here.

Virginia goes to move an item and everything shifts a little.

BURT

Whoa, whoa, whoa. Not a good idea.

Burt looks and sees that Hope is okay.

VIRGINIA

(panicked)

This is bad. This is really bad. I'm freaking out a little here, Burt. I'm not doing good with this. Think of something. How are we gonna fix this? Think. Think.

BURT

You know I can't think on demand like that.

VIRGINIA

Think.

BURT

Stop saying think. Every time you say think all I can think is the word think. The word just fills up my whole brain. Think. Think. Think. It keeps changing colors and sizes. I can't get past it.

Virginia lays down on the ground on her back.

VIRGINIA

Alright. Alright. I'm getting too antsy. I need to clear my head. Relax me. Do my thing.

Burt sits down by her head and starts to very gently rub her forehead. She closes her eyes and starts to calm down a little.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Okay, here we go. If we can't get to the baby we need to get it to come out on its own.

(opens her eyes)

How can we get it to come out?

Burt looks at her sheepishly.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

You're still just thinking of the word think aren't you?

BURT

Yeah. A little guy with a hand pump just came out and pumped up the word until it exploded into a million little thinks.

VIRGINIA

Just keep rubbing.

She closes her eyes and he rubs for a beat. Her eyes pop open.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Sugar cubes.

CUT TO:

219 INT. HALLWAY/BATHROOM -- LATER (N1)

219

Virginia quickly pops her head in the bathroom door.

VIRGINIA

You good?

We see Maw Maw in a bubble bath with a bathing cap on. She has a TV tray in front of her with a plate of spaghetti. She gives Virginia the thumbs up. Virginia hurries off.

CUT TO:

220 INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT (N1)

220

From inside the cupboard we see Virginia open the cupboard and look for something. She looks in a few more cabinets. As she opens one...

JIMMY (O.S.)

What are you looking for?

Virginia looks to see that Jimmy is home.

VIRGINIA

Sugar cubes. I was gonna teach Hope
how to somersault.

JIMMY

Are we out? If we're out I could go
back to the store. It's no problem.
I can head right back there while
she's still working.

From inside the cupboard, over a box of sugar cubes, we see
Virginia look at the sugar cubes box.

VIRGINIA

Yes, we're out.

She shuts the cupboard.

CUT TO:

221 EXT. BACKYARD -- NIGHT (N1)

221

Virginia comes out of the back door with a box of sugar cubes.

VIRGINIA

Jimmy came home but I sent him back
to the store. We gotta get that
baby out of there before he comes
back or we'll never hear the end of
this. How is she?

Burt is sitting near the back corner of the greenhouse where
we can see Hope is inside playing with a toy.

BURT

She's cool. I'm keeping her
entertained.

Burt puts his mouth against the glass and blows up his face
like a blow fish. Virginia holds the box of sugar cubes up
to the glass.

VIRGINIA

Hey, sweetie. Look what I got. If
you want your sugar cubes you need
to come to the front of the
greenhouse. But you can't just crawl
along the side here because it's
blocked.

(surveying the inside)

You need to go back about two feet,
take a left at the fax machine, crawl
under the big aquarium, over the
small aquarium and keep going until

(MORE)

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)
you're old enough to understand what
the hell I'm talking about we're
screwed.

CUT TO:

222 INT. GROCERY STORE -- NIGHT (N1)

222

Jimmy comes to Sabrina's register. He's holding a box of
sugar cubes.

JIMMY
Forgot sugar cubes.

SABRINA
You might want to start making a
list.

JIMMY
That's a great idea. I don't have
time now but maybe I'll swing by
later for some paper. How's that
short story coming along?

SABRINA
I haven't really gotten much done
since I saw you eight minutes ago.

JIMMY
Well, I don't know if you can use it
or not, but I made you this.

He hands her part of a fast food bag that he's drawn on.
She looks at it. It's a good cartoon drawing of an elephant.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
It a little greasy. I didn't have
any paper in my van so I used an old
fast food bag.

SABRINA
You drew this? It's really good.

JIMMY
Thanks. I didn't know if your story
was going to have pictures but most
good ones do, so...

SABRINA
I wasn't planning on it, but maybe.
In my story it's really more of a
"metaphorical elephant."

JIMMY

Oh, well, I don't think anyone will know what species it is. I drew it pretty generic.

CUT TO:

223 EXT. BACKYARD/INT. GREENHOUSE -- NIGHT (N1)

223

Burt has hooked up a long pool vacuum hose to his shop vac and is fishing it through the clutter as Virginia watches from the side.

VIRGINIA

Keep it coming. A little to the left.

Unseen by them, Jimmy comes in the backyard with his box of sugar cubes.

JIMMY

What's going on? What are you guys doing?

BURT

Um...

Burt and Virginia share a look.

BURT (CONT'D)

Your baby's trapped in your mother's clutter.

JIMMY

What!?

Jimmy starts frantically looking into the sides of the greenhouse.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Is she okay? Can she breathe in there?

VIRGINIA

She's fine. She doesn't even know she's trapped. Don't worry. Your father's gonna suck her out.

BURT

She's in good hands. Remember how delicately I vacuumed out that dead squirrel from the bottom of the Wasserman's pool last week? Not a bruise on it. Little guy coulda had an open casket.

Jimmy looks into the greenhouse and then back to Virginia.

JIMMY

What did you... How the hell did
this happen?

VIRGINIA

Well, you went out for ice cream and
then had unprotected sex with a serial
killer.

JIMMY

No, no, no you can't keep going to
that. I left you guys in charge of
Hope and now she's trapped under a
giant pile of crap because you're a
hoarder.

VIRGINIA

I am not a hoarder.
(punches Jimmy)
You're only a hoarder if you keep
things inside the house.

Burt turns the vacuum on.

BURT

Jimmy, leave her alone. I was
supposed to be watching her. I got
distracted by the lottery numbers.

JIMMY

Oh, well I can see why you couldn't
miss that. I assume you won.

BURT

No. Why would you assume that? Did
you hear something? Did they do a
re-draw or something?

We hear the sound of the vacuum latching onto something.

BURT (CONT'D)

Got her.

From inside we see that the hose has latched itself onto the
back of Hope's diaper. She's lying on her stomach. Burt
starts to slowly pull her towards him and she starts to slide
backwards. Jimmy and Virginia rush over to the front where
Burt continues to pull on the hose.

JIMMY

Make sure the suction's not too high.
I don't want to have to explain a
hickey on her ass to day care.

Burt continues to pull. He goes a little faster.

BURT

Here she comes. We're in the home
stretch.

Burt pulls the hose out. There's only a diaper on the end
of it.

VIRGINIA

Great. Now she's gonna pee on my
stuff.

END OF ACT TWO

FADE OUT.

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

A223 EXT. BACKYARD -- NIGHT (N1)

A223

Jimmy is on the ground looking in the greenhouse. Burt and Virginia stand nearby.

BURT

Is she okay?

JIMMY

Yeah, I see her. She's over by an old fur coat someone gave you.

VIRGINIA

Nobody ever gave me a fur coat.

They all share a look. Jimmy bangs on the side of the greenhouse and a possum runs out of the clutter and down the driveway.

JIMMY

This is crazy. I'm going in.

Jimmy goes to move something and Burt stops him.

VIRGINIA

Don't touch that. If you move the wrong thing it could all come crashing down.

They all share a look.

CUT TO:

224 EXT. BACKYARD -- NIGHT (N1)

224

We hear the song "Istanbul" only this time by They Might Be Giants. Tight on Maw Maw in a shower cap with a very serious look on her face. Her tongue is sticking out like Michael Jordan and she bops to the music. We widen to reveal that she's standing in front of the wall of clutter as the others anxiously look on. She's wearing pants and a bra. She dances over to the wall and points to a lawn chair in the middle. Burt removes it. Nothing moves. They smile. We do quick time jumps to see Maw Maw dancing to various parts of the wall and pointing to various items and eventually they get to Hope. She's free. Jimmy walks to the house with her. He's not happy.

BURT

You're not even going to thank your great Maw Maw?

JIMMY

Thanks, Maw Maw.

Maw Maw gives Jimmy a thumbs up as he exits into the house.

MAW MAW

(to Burt)

I like your pants. Let's trade pants.

Burt looks at Virginia.

VIRGINIA

Humor her. She just saved your
granddaughter.

Burt start to take his pants off.

BURT

I hate doing this. She always leaves
tissues and chicken bones in my
pockets.

CUT TO:

225 INT. KITCHEN -- MORNING (D2)

225

Jimmy is sitting at the table eating cereal and drinking a
soda. Virginia and Burt enter. Virginia is in her pajamas.
Burt is wearing Maw Maw's pants.

VIRGINIA

Is Hope still asleep?

JIMMY

Yep.

VIRGINIA

What got you up so early?

JIMMY

Me? I had to do a little baby
proofing in the back yard.

Virginia looks at Burt and then crosses to the back door and
looks out the window. We see the greenhouse is empty and
all her stuff is gone.

VIRGINIA

Where's my stuff? Jimmy, what did
you do with my stuff? My stuff is
gone. Where's my stuff?

JIMMY

Your stuff is where it belongs. The
dump.

Virginia is speechless. Her world is crashing down around her.

VIRGINIA

Wh... I don't even... I can't...
Burt, I need you.

She drops to the floor and Burt starts to lightly rub her forehead. Jimmy talks fast and tries to calm Virginia down.

JIMMY

I know this is hard for you but what happened yesterday can't happen again. You guys put Hope in danger because you're living in a fantasy land. You collect crap for a house we'll never have while Dad is busy checking for winning numbers that he's never going to get. Now that we have a baby in the house you need to start concentrating on her instead of what you're gonna name your imaginary boat.

BURT

We don't have to talk about that anymore. We agreed on it last night. Cirrhosis of the River.

VIRGINIA

And what about you!?

Virginia gets up and moves towards Jimmy. He moves around the kitchen to stay away from her.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

You're so busying blaming everyone else, where were you when your daughter got stuck?

JIMMY

I was at the store buying things to keep her safe.

VIRGINIA

Yeah, the grocery store. Which is five blocks further away than the hardware store. Face it Jimmy, we're not the only illusional ones around here. Your daughter got stuck because you were out chasing after some girl that has a boyfriend.

Jimmy takes a beat. She's right.

JIMMY

Fine. You're right. I'm doing the same thing you guys are and I need to stop. I need to focus on Hope.

VIRGINIA

You're gonna give up on this girl? I don't believe it.

JIMMY

Well, I am. We all need to get our heads out of the clouds. We need to start setting goals we can achieve. Things that will help Hope. Like, instead of wasting a dollar a day on the lottery, save it until we can buy a dishwasher that can actually clean her bottles instead of the broken one we use as a place to store Maw Maw's medicine.

Jimmy opens the dishwasher to reveal it's completely full of prescription bottles. Jimmy keeps talking under the V.O.

JIMMY (V.O.)

It took a little convincing but eventually your grandma and grandpa understood what I was talking about.

CUT TO:

226 INT. JIMMY AND HOPE'S BEDROOM -- DAY (D3)

226

Through Hope's P.O.V. see Jimmy talking to her.

JIMMY

And from now on we're gonna pay more attention to you.

CUT TO:

227 INT. GROCERY STORE -- DAY (D4)

227

Sabrina is checking out a customer. Jimmy stands behind her at another register. He turns and looks at her then goes back to facing his register.

JIMMY (V.O.)

For me that means buying all of the groceries at once. And avoiding certain lines.

CUT TO:

228 INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT (D5)

228

Burt stands in front of the TV holding a dollar while he watches the lotto drawing. He tosses the dollar in a jar on the counter that says, "Dish Washure Fund." There are a few crumpled dollars in the jar.

JIMMY (V.O.)

And for your grandpa it means finding something else to do with his dollar.

CUT TO:

229 EXT. CLIENT'S HOUSE -- DAY (D6)

229

Virginia and two other maids are putting cleaning supplies in the "Knock, Knock, Knock" Pacer. The woman of the house crosses to them holding a popcorn maker. The other maids look at Virginia. She motions for them to take it. Laquisha hands Virginia her clip-on hair extensions to hold and she and Guadalupe start to wrestle each other. Virginia watches enviously.

JIMMY (V.O.)

And for Grandma it means stepping aside and letting Guadalupe and Laquisha duke it out for a twenty-year-old Hamilton Beach popcorn maker.

CUT TO:

230 INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT (N7)

230

Jimmy, Virginia, Burt, and Hope are all eating TV dinners with the foil hanging off the tins. They eat in silence. Maw Maw is sleeping on a lawn chair in the dining room.

JIMMY (V.O.)

I'm not gonna lie to you, now that we're living in reality, things have been a little less cheery around the house, but we'll get through it.

We hear Maw Maw snore.

JIMMY

(big sigh, then)

How was your day?

Virginia looks around.

VIRGINIA

Me? I scrubbed toilets.

We hear Maw Maw snore.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

You?

JIMMY

(shrugs)

Cleaned pools. Cut grass.

We hear Maw Maw snore. Virginia gets up and starts looking through the cupboards. On the TV we see the news is on.

NEWSCASTER

Still no winner in what is now a one hundred and twenty-eight million dollar jackpot. In case you missed it, here were last night's numbers.

They put the numbers up on the screen. Burt bangs his fist on the table.

JIMMY

Don't tell me those were your numbers.

BURT

Could've been. I do quick picks. I guess we'll never know.

Virginia pulls an empty carton of cookies out of the cupboard and slams it shut.

VIRGINIA

Dammit! Somebody ate all the chewy chocolate chip cookies. Was it you, Jimmy? You gotta problem with me cleaning houses and dreaming of the a little something sweet chewy and chocolately to look forward to at the end of the day?

JIMMY

Relax. I'll go get some more.

Jimmy gets up to leave and Virginia steps in his way.

VIRGINIA

Oh, no. You're going to the grocery store to see that girl.

BURT

If you're going to talk to that girl I get to buy a lottery ticket.

JIMMY

I'm not gonna talk to the girl. I promised I wouldn't.

VIRGINIA

You better not be. I drove past a house on Sycamore Street this morning that was throwing away a chair that looked like a high heeled shoe. Would have looked great in a walk in closet. I didn't even slow down.

JIMMY

She's not even working tonight. She has class.

Virginia grabs a Sharpie out of a mug full of pens on the counter.

VIRGINIA

Yeah well, let's just make sure of that. Burt grab his head.

Burt moves towards Jimmy as Virginia crosses to him.

JIMMY

What are you doing?

VIRGINIA

Just a little insurance that you won't break your promise.

CUT TO:

A230 INT. GROCERY STORE -- NIGHT (N7)

A230

Jimmy grabs a package of chewy chocolate chip cookies off the shelf and throws it in his basket. He turns to reveal that he has the word Dork written on his head in Sharpie.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

231 INT. GROCERY STORE -- NIGHT (N7)

231

Jimmy is standing at the register as a male checker rings him up. He spots Sabrina approaching. He reacts and turns his back to the register. Sabrina crosses to the other checker.

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*

SABRINA
(to other cashier)
Your wife's on the phone. Your kid
has lice again.

*
*
*
*

Sabrina continues to ring up Jimmy's groceries. She leans over and sees that's it's him.

*
*

SABRINA (CONT'D)
Hey.

*
*

Jimmy waves without turning around.

*

JIMMY
Hello.

*
*

Having no other choice, he turns to face her.

*

SABRINA
You know you have dork written on
your forehead, right?

*
*

JIMMY
Uh, huh. My mom did it. It should
only last a couple weeks.

*
*

SABRINA
You might want to think about wearing
a hat.

*
*
*

JIMMY
I tried that, but hats make me look
like a dork so... it was kind of a
catch thirty-two. I thought you had
class on Tuesday nights?

*
*
*
*

SABRINA
Creative writing. I dropped it. I
showed my story to my dad and he
said it was blah. Not that he's a
wizard with words.

*
*
*
*
*

JIMMY

Are you kidding me? You had elephants
and zombies and wasps. Those are
like three of my favorite things.

Sabrina smiles.

SABRINA

Thanks but I was wasting my time
anyway. Statistically, most writers
die poor and bitter. And I'm not
not bitter to begin with, so...

(shrugs)

I'm gonna pick up an accounting class.

(re: register)

I can already punch numbers without
looking.

JIMMY

Look, it's none of my business but
if you really want to be a writer
you can't just give up. If you give
up you'll never know what could've
been. What if you wrote the best
story anybody has ever heard? They
could turn it into a book or even a
movie. You could win an Oscar.

*

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*

SABRINA

I'm not gonna win an Oscar.

JIMMY

You don't know that. Anything is
possible. Unless you quit. You
can't win if you don't play. Think
about it. How cool would it be to
win an Oscar?

*
*
*

SABRINA

(thinks for a beat)

Pretty cool. I could stand on stage
in my Badgley Mischka dress and thank
Gabourey Sidibe for bringing my words
to life. *

JIMMY

Sure. I don't know what language
some of those words are in, but I
think that's what I'm talking about.

SABRINA

Thank you. I needed that. You're
like... you're good. Where the hell
did you learn to be so positive?
It's infectious.

Jimmy thinks for a beat.

JIMMY

I guess my parents infected me.

SABRINA

You're lucky. All my parents infected
me with was fear, self-doubt and
every now and then an actual
infection. My mother wasn't a very
diligent hand washer.

(re: register)

You owe me fourteen thirty-seven. *

Is that gonna be all?

JIMMY

(thinks)

No. I need one other thing.

CUT TO:

232 INT. LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT (N7)

232

We're tight on the table as a lottery ticket is slapped down.
We see that Jimmy has put it down in front of Burt. Burt
looks at the ticket and smiles. Jimmy is also standing next
to a chair shaped like a high heeled shoe. Virginia checks
out the chair. She likes it.

JIMMY (V.O.)

That's when I realized I want you to
grow up in a house where people dream.

Jimmy looks at Hope in her high chair and we...

DISSOLVE TO:

233 INT. KITCHEN -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D6 1989)

233

Three-year-old Jimmy is sitting in a high chair eating ice cream. He has a band-aid on his forehead. Teenage Virginia and Teenage Burt are washing dishes.

JIMMY (V.O.)

Growing up with your grandparents in this house left me with a lot of scars but it also left me with the confidence that no dream is too big.

Three-year-old Jimmy watches as Teenage Virginia and Teenage Burt talk.

TEENAGE VIRGINIA

We're definitely gonna have a dishwasher that works when we get our own place.

TEENAGE BURT

Yeah, a good one too. One of those where you don't have to rinse anything -- stick a lasagna pan in there and boom.

Teenage Virginia turns to three-year-old Jimmy.

TEENAGE VIRGINIA

And we're gonna get you a pet monkey.

Three-year-old Jimmy gives them a thumbs up.

THREE-YEAR-OLD JIMMY

Monkey!

Teenage Virginia smiles and dunks a bowl into the soapy water and when she pulls it out we...

DISSOLVE TO:

234 INT. KITCHEN -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D7 1994)

234

...five years later where Adult Virginia and Adult Burt are in the same spot washing dishes. Virginia is wearing her maid's uniform. An eight-year-old Jimmy eats ice cream. His arm is in a sling.

JIMMY (V.O.)

We didn't have the best life, but that didn't stop us from hoping that one day we would.

VIRGINIA

I'm telling you it's a great job.
People feel so guilty that we're
cleaning their mess that they clean
half of it up ahead of time and then
they give us free stuff.

(to Jimmy)

I got you a towel rack today for
when we buy own house and you and
your pet monkey have your own
bathroom.

Eight-year-old Jimmy smiles.

BURT

I'm not so sure the monkey shouldn't
have his own bathroom. We should
look at the drawings again.

Virginia dunks a plate into the soapy water. As she pulls
it out we...

DISSOLVE TO:

235 INT. KITCHEN -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D8 2010)

235

Adult Virginia and Burt wash the dishes as adult Jimmy eats
ice cream.

JIMMY (V.O.)

And when you're growing up around a
couple of dreamers you can't help
but turn into one yourself.

JIMMY

What's the jackpot up to tonight?

BURT

Three million.

VIRGINIA

I bet we can get a big ol' house for
that.

JIMMY

In one of those fancy gated
communities.

BURT

Aw, man. I love fancy gates. With
a guard you can wave at when you
drive through. "Hey, Don."

VIRGINIA

(to Jimmy)

And when you marry that grocery store
girl, you can come for thanksgiving.
We'll start with cog-nac in the
liberry.

JIMMY

I don't know if that's gonna happen.
She's got a boyfriend.

VIRGINIA

She has a boyfriend now, but that
doesn't mean she's always going to
have a boyfriend.

BURT

Yeah, he could die. People die every
second.

(snaps his fingers)

There's one.

(snaps his fingers)

There's another one.

(snaps his fingers)

That could have been him.

Jimmy smiles and we transition to...

CUT TO:

236 INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT -- BACK TO SCENE (N7)

236

Tight on Jimmy smiling. Widen to reveal that he's smiling
at Virginia enjoying her high heeled shoe chair while Burt
excitedly watches the lotto drawing with his ticket in hand.
He reacts to not winning and then happily shows Jimmy how
close he was.

JIMMY (V.O.)

I may not be able to give you the
perfect life but I want you to live
in a house that makes you believe
that one day you can get it.

CUT TO:

237 INT. GROCERY STORE -- DAY (D8)

237

Through Hope's P.O.V. we see that Jimmy is holding her and
talking to her while they wait in line at the grocery store.
Dork is still written on his forehead but it's very faint
due to him trying to scrub it off.

JIMMY

That's why I'm going to make sure
you never see your daddy stop
dreaming. Because if you stop
dreaming you're just sleeping.

The person in front of Jimmy exits and he steps up to
Sabrina's register.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Highfalutin.

SABRINA

Excuse me?

JIMMY

Another way to say ostentatious.
Highfalutin.

(re: thesaurus)

I looked it up in something called a
thesaurus. It's a cool book. It's
like the dictionary's cousin.

SABRINA

Thank you.

JIMMY

No prob-- Wait.

Jimmy quickly looks through the thesaurus.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

(proudly)

No "conundrum."

Jimmy hands her the thesaurus and confidently exits.

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW