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:

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

"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 poisony.
(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)
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)
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)
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)
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)
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.


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)

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:

EXT. BACKYARD -- NIGHT (N1)

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:

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

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:

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

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)

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 Buoooooooy"...
(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)

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)

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:

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

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)

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)
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)
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)

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

CUT TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE -- NIGHT (N1)

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:

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

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:

EXT. BACKYARD -- NIGHT (N1)

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:

EXT. BACKYARD -- NIGHT (N1)

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:

INT. KITCHEN -- MORNING (D2)

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)

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)

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.
INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT (D5)

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:

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

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:

INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT (N7)

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.
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)

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)

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.

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.

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

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:

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

...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)

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)

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)

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