Raising Hope

"The Sniffles"

1ARY05

Written by
Michael Mariano

Directed by
Eyal Gordin

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RAISING HOPE

Episode #105

“The Sniffles”

CAST LIST

JIMMY ................................................................................. LUCAS NEFF
VIRGINIA ........................................................................... MARTHA PLIMPTON
BURT ................................................................................... GARRET DILLAHUNT
SABRINA ........................................................................... SHANNON WOODWARD
BARNEY .............................................................................. GREGG BINKLEY
TEENAGE BURT ................................................................. CAMERON MOULENE
TEENAGE VIRGINIA ........................................................... KELLY HEYER
GREEN THUMB ................................................................... RAYMOND MA*
GARY ................................................................................. TBA
NURSE ................................................................................. TBA
JOSH ................................................................................... JOSH WOLF*
COUNCILMAN BLAKE ....................................................... TBA
DIRTY ANGEL ...................................................................... TBA
FRANK ................................................................................ TBA*
THREE-YEAR-OLD JIMMY .................................................. TRACE!
DOCTOR TIM (V.O.) ............................................................ TBA
RAISING HOPE

Episode #105

“The Sniffles”

SET LIST

Interiors
Chance House
  Dining Room
  Living Room
  Kitchen
  Hallway
  Bathroom
  Jimmy & Hope’s Bedroom
Grocery Store
Free Clinic
Small VIP Room

Exteriors
Front Yard
Umstead Park
ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. DINING ROOM -- AFTERNOON (D1)

We find Jimmy is sitting at the keyboard of a fairly new computer. It's a PC tower, with flat screen monitor and a printer all set up on a small computer desk. Virginia looks over his shoulder. Burt enters.

BURT
Whoa. What's that?

JIMMY
Our new computer.

VIRGINIA
A woman I clean for caught her son shaving his privates on something called Chat-roulette. Anyway, he's off to military school and we got a new computer.

BURT
Hey, hey, hey, slow down there, Jimmy. Do you even know what the hell you're doing?

VIRGINIA
Of course he does, Burt. It's a computer, not a condom.

JIMMY
Hilarious, Mom. (to Burt) Relax, Dad. Nothing's gonna happen.

BURT
You call identity theft nothin'? 'Cause that's what happens when you go on the internet, Jimmy. Identity theft.

VIRGINIA
Burt, look around. Who's going to steal our identity?

BURT
It's not just identity theft. There's a lot of dangerous stuff out there. Worms, viruses, walls of fire...
VIRGINIA
You think everything you don't understand is dangerous. For cripes sake, you're terrified of Sweet'n Low.

BURT
Yeah, because it makes drinks sweet, but tastes disgusting when you pour it in your mouth. And nobody knows why.

JIMMY
This is gonna be great for us. It answers questions.
(to Virginia)
We can finally stop arguing about stuff.
(typing)
"Can babies have sodas with caffeine?"

VIRGINIA
Of course she can have soda with caffeine. And she's lucky enough to be at the age where she doesn't have to drink diet.

JIMMY
(re: computer)
This one says, "no." This one says, "never." And this one says, "Can babies have soda with caffeine for sale on Amazon."

BURT
I'm telling you, that machine brings the bad stuff right into your house. If you're a repulsive shopper, you wind up buying stuff on there. If you're a sex addict, there's plenty of that on there.

JIMMY
We get it. There's eBay and porn and gambling...

BURT
(quickly)
There's gambling on there?
(catching himself)
See what I mean? I can't be in the same room as that thing.
Burt walks out of the room.

VIRGINIA
Hey, ask it if they ever found that city David Copperfield made disappear.

Burt comes back in.

BURT
What kind of gambling? Because a little bit probably won't be a problem for me.

CUT TO MAIN TITLES:

EXT. FRONT YARD -- DAY (D2)

We are down low to the ground on Burt as he watches a potato chip pass through frame. Jimmy watches from nearby, cutting a black and white cookie in half.

BURT
Can you imagine what it's like to be an ant? It's like you and ten of your buddies pick up a potato chip to bring it back to your ant family so everyone can eat. And it takes you like three hours to get it from (pointing a few feet away) over there to over there. And then some jerk comes along and...

Burt flicks the potato chip which sails a few feet away.

BURT (CONT'D)
(laughing)
Ants.

Jimmy hands Burt the chocolate half of the cookie.

JIMMY
Here's your half of the cookie.

BURT
Cool.
(sprinkling crumbs to the ants)
Thanks for the show, boys.

A clean, new van pulls up nearby. The side of the van reads "Green Thumb Landscaping" and has a logo of a giant green thumb. Behind it arrives a Hummer with the same logo on it.
BURT (CONT'D)
Oh God, look who it is.

GREEN THUMB, an arrogant looking man, older than Burt, dressed in Ed Hardy clothes and wearing a bluetooth headset, gets out of the Hummer. He blows a whistle at several workers who hop out of the van in matching jump suits, and begin taking out gear, strapping on blowers, etc. Green Thumb approaches.

GREEN THUMB

BURT/JIMMY
Thumb.

GREEN THUMB
You mow the lawn here? I thought this house was abandoned.

Burt rolls his eyes.

GREEN THUMB (CONT'D)
Check this out. I got a new tattoo.

Green Thumb holds up his right thumb which is tattooed green.

BURT
Is that really a tattoo, or has it been up your nose too long?

Burt looks at Jimmy and laughs. Jimmy forces a laugh to support Burt.

GREEN THUMB
I thought you were going to put me out of business. How long ago was that, Burt?

BURT
(mumbles)
Twenty years.

GREEN THUMB
(to Jimmy)
Your daddy ever tell you what he said to me the day he quit? "Take this job and shave it."

BURT
"Shove it." I said, "take this job and shove it."
GREEN THUMB
He said "shave it."

BURT
I meant "shove it."

GREEN THUMB
You know, the parks contract is up for grabs again. I noticed you don't even put in a bid anymore. I used to love beating you out for those.

BURT
I don't need any city contracts. I don't need the hassle.
(putting his arm around Jimmy)
My son and I got a nice thing going with our two-man crew.

Green Thumb blows his whistle. One of his employees runs over and shades him with an umbrella.

GREEN THUMB
Yeah, having a big crew sucks. Gotta go.

Green Thumb and his umbrella holder head off toward his crew.

BURT
(lamely)
Yeah, gotta go stick your thumb back up your nose.

Jimmy forces a laugh to support his dad when his cell phone rings. He looks at the caller ID.

JIMMY
It's Hope's day care.
(answers phone)
Hello?
(reacts, eyes go wide)
She's sick?! I'll be right there.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM -- LATER (D2)

Burt and Virginia are looking down at Hope in her bouncy seat. She has green snot coming out her nose. Jimmy is nearby on the phone.
JIMMY

(into phone)
There's some sort of green fluid
coming from her nose. It could be
mucus but we don't know. Okay, I'll
hold.

Virginia grabs a tissue and wipes Hope's nose.

VIRGINIA
(matter of factly)
It's just a cold.

JIMMY
(into phone)
Yes, she'd be a new patient. I don't
know. Hold on a sec.
(to the room)
What kind of insurance do we have?

Burt and Virginia look at each other and laugh.

VIRGINIA
We don't have that.

JIMMY
(into phone)
Yes, hello, uh... I don't have
insurance. Is that gonna be a
problem?
(beat)
Hello. Hello?

BURT
(still laughing with
Virginia)
Insurance? Sure, I'll just have the
butler go get it out of our hot air
balloon.

FADE OUT:

4 OMITTED

5 OMITTED

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. HALLWAY -- DAY (D2)

Burt finishes screwing a slide bolt lock to the outside of Maw Maw's door as Virginia duct tapes around the door jam. Jimmy enters.

JIMMY
I can't believe this. I called every doctor in town and no one will see me without insurance.
(to Burt)
Which they tell me most people get from their boss.
(noticing)
What are you guys doing?

VIRGINIA
Quarantining Maw Maw. She's eighty-four years old. If she catches Hope's cold it could kill her.

BURT
Which would mean dealing with that creepy funeral director.
(shivers)
No thank you.

Burt drills a one-inch diameter hole in the door.

VIRGINIA
(to Burt)
How are we supposed to pass the food through that?

Burt holds up a funnel attached to a hose.

BURT
I figure we can pour through this.

VIRGINIA
(impressed)
Nice.

JIMMY
(to Burt)
Well, when you're done with that, maybe you can tell me why you don't have insurance for your only employee.
BURT
I can't afford it. Besides, it's unnecessary. We're not cars, Jimmy. The human body heals itself.

VIRGINIA
Look, Jimmy, it's natural to get nervous when your baby is sick. But it's normal. You get sick, you get better. You get sick, you get better. You get sick, you die. That's life.

JIMMY
We can't do nothing. What did you do when I got sick?
(off their looks)
You did nothing?

VIRGINIA
No, obviously when you were really bad, we called the doctor.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT -- FLASHBACK (FB D1 1989)

Three-year-old Jimmy is lying on the couch with a cold compress on his head. On the coffee table there are crackers and ginger ale. Teenage Burt is holding a boombox. Teenage Virginia is on the phone.

DOCTOR TIM (V.O.)
(dryly)
...Now the shampoo will kill them but it may take a couple of tries.

THREE-YEAR-OLD JIMMY
I think I'm gonna have the fast poops again.

TEENAGE VIRGINIA
(to Jimmy)
Shh, I'm on next.

DOCTOR TIM (V.O.)
Next up we have a call from a young mother named Virginia. Virginia, welcome to the Doctor Tim Show. I'm Doctor Tim.

TEENAGE VIRGINIA
Hi, Doctor Tim, my baby has a fever of--
Teenage Burt grabs the phone out of her hand.

TEENAGE BURT
Baba-booey! Baba-booey!

As Teenage Virginia shakes her head, Teenage Burt raises his arms in victory.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN/HALLWAY -- BACK TO SCENE (D2)

Jimmy, Burt and Virginia are where we left them.

JIMMY
Unbelievable. I could've died.

VIRGINIA
Stop being so dramatic. You're lucky we didn't pump you full of antibiotics.
(them)
Hell, you're like that expensive meat they sell at those fancy stores where everyone has B.O. and they make you bring your own bags.

JIMMY
No. You did the least amount of work possible, and got lucky. But I'm not just gonna wait around and see what happens. I'm taking Hope to a free clinic I found on the computer.

VIRGINIA
Fine, but I'm going with you so I can laugh in your face when the doctor tells you I was right.

JIMMY
*Good. That way when the doctor tells me Hope has a horrible disease I can laugh in your face.
(beat)
But I won't because I'll be very sad.

Jimmy exits. As he passes, we see a wire hanger come out of the slot in the door and try to fish the lock open.

CUT TO:
INT. FREE CLINIC -- LATER (D2)

The waiting room is low budget, but clean. Several posters line the walls including one that reads: "How To Treat a Stab Wound". A few sick people sit listlessly in the chairs. A family of four, wearing clear shower caps full of white foam, sit under a sign that reads: "Lice Waiting Area".

We find Jimmy and Virginia sitting with Hope. Jimmy is filling out a stack of forms on a clipboard. Virginia hates being here. She's next to GARY, a huge guy who's got his foot up on a coffee table, his calf all purple and scaly.

VIRGINIA
(to Jimmy, sotto)
You really think this is better for her, Jimmy? This place is like a germ disco. Germs come in here. They dance, they sweat, they do each other and make more germs.

GARY offers her a snack.

GARY
You want some corn nuts?

VIRGINIA
(chuckling)
Oh, man. You are out of your mind.

JIMMY
How much do I weigh?

VIRGINIA
You're not filling those questions out about you are you?

JIMMY
(lying)
No.

Jimmy walks over to the window.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
(sotto to Nurse)
I'm gonna need another one of these pink ones.

DISSOLVE TO:
INT. FREE CLINIC -- LATER (D2)

Jimmy fills out a form. Virginia stares at Gary's purple leg.

JIMMY
What should I put for emergency contact?

VIRGINIA
Nine-one-one.

JIMMY
I think they want a person.

VIRGINIA
(thinks, then)
Put down John Stamos.
(off his look)
They'll have to call him and then I might get to meet him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FREE CLINIC -- LATER (D2)

Jimmy chews on the pen while he writes.

VIRGINIA
Is that your pen or theirs?

JIMMY
Their. Why?

He looks around and sees other people in the waiting room with similar pens. We see Gary scratching his purple leg with one. Someone picks their ear with one. A toddler has two pens up his nose. Someone scratches inside his cast with one. Jimmy quickly tosses his pen and starts to spit.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FREE CLINIC -- LATER (D2)

JIMMY
Do we have a history of--

VIRGINIA
(cutting him off)
Just check "no" for everything.
It's their job to figure out what's wrong with her.
Virginia turns to Gary.

    VIRGINIA (CONT'D)
    (curious)
    If you don't mind me asking, what's going on with that leg?

    GARY
    This leg? Nothing. But this one's killing me.

Gary puts his other leg on the table. It's wrapped in a black trash bag. He opens it and lets Virginia look in.

    VIRGINIA
    Ewwwwwwwwwww. That is bad ass.

    JIMMY
    Done!

We angle on Jimmy talking to the Nurse behind the window.

    NURSE
    Okay. A doctor can see Hope next Tuesday at eleven A.M.

    JIMMY
    But that's practically a week from now.

    NURSE
    We're a free clinic. We're doing the best we can. We have one thermometer.

    JIMMY
    But she could be better by next Tuesday.

    NURSE
    Probably. From these symptoms I'm guessing it's just a cold.

We angle on Virginia, still in her seat.

    VIRGINIA
    Thank you!

Virginia turns back to Gary and we now see that she's eating corn nuts with him.
VIRGINIA (CONT'D)
(re: leg in plastic bag)
So anyway, go on with your story.
You bred your huskies with wolves,
and then what happened?

CUT TO:

13 INT. GROCERY STORE -- LATER (D2)

Sabrina is working her register. Jimmy approaches.

JIMMY
Hey, I went to buy some cough medicine but all that's there is these cards. Do I give it to you?

SABRINA
Sure do.

Sabrina takes the card from Jimmy and scans the bar code, and her register lets out a long beep. "Manager alerted" appears on the register's display.

JIMMY
(freaked out)
What's happening? Did I win something?

SABRINA
Yep, a starring role in my favorite show. Apparently cough syrup is the main ingredient used by meth labs so we can't just let anybody buy it.

A moment later, Barney emerges from his office carrying a bottle of cough syrup, and a flashlight.

BARNEY
Frederick! Frederick, guard the door.

FREDDY, a bag boy, stops mopping and lethargically crosses to the door. Barney approaches Jimmy, and shines the flashlight into his eyes.

BARNEY (CONT'D)
Dilated pupils. What's your name, tweaker? You got some I.D.?

Jimmy hands Barney his I.D.
JIMMY
(to Sabrina)
Tell him I'm not a meth head. This is for my daughter Hope.

SABRINA
(to Barney)
I've never met this guy.

JIMMY
Aw, come on.

Barney gives him the once over.

BARNEY

JIMMY
I know I should brush better, but I'm not a tweaker.

BARNEY
We'll see what the database says.

Barney walks away with the box of medicine and Jimmy's ID. He goes to a big book and starts looking up Jimmy's name.

JIMMY
(to Sabrina)
Great, now I've got no medicine for my kid.

SABRINA
You shouldn't give that to Hope anyway. Look it says right here:
(reading card)
"Not for children under two years of age. Consult a doctor."

JIMMY
(at wits' end)
I tried to consult a doctor, but I couldn't because I don't have insurance.

SABRINA
You should work here. Everybody gets insurance, even the part timers.

JIMMY
Wow, nice owners.
SABRINA
They're a couple of hippies. Think Ben and Jerry. If Jerry was a woman but still had the beard.

Barney comes over.

BARNEY
Well, you're not on our list. So, I can't legally prevent you from buying this, but I want you to look into your heart and--

JIMMY
I don't want it anymore.

BARNEY
I knew it!

Barney raises his hands in victory and calls out to the store.

BARNEY (CONT'D)
That's five this week, people. I've turned five this week. (then) Barney Hughes. Selling groceries, saving lives.

CUT TO:

14 INT. HALLWAY/BATHROOM -- LATER (D2)

Jimmy enters, holding a job application and sees Virginia at Maw Maw's door, pouring a pitcher of smoothie through a funnel/tube apparatus that sticks through a hole in the plastic/door.

VIRGINIA
No, I cannot pour it faster, Maw Maw. You'll get a brain freeze. (to Jimmy) She loves her smoothies but she just can't pace herself.

JIMMY
I think I figured out how to get insurance for Hope.

VIRGINIA
Why? Her cold is practically gone.
JIMMY
Yeah, but it's not like she's never gonna get another one. Or something worse. She needs insurance.

There's a bang from inside Maw Maw's door.

VIRGINIA
No, I'm counting to ten before I pour more. Deal with it.
(back to Jimmy)
So what's your plan?

As Jimmy holds out a cup for her to give him some smoothie:

JIMMY
They need a bagger at the grocery store.

Burt cracks open the door, revealing the shower is on, the room is full of steam and he's holding Hope over his head in a car seat, letting her steam.

BURT
You can't do that, you work for me.

JIMMY
I'm still gonna work for you in the daytime, this is just at night and what are you doing with my daughter?

BURT
I'm getting her up where the good steam is.

VIRGINIA
Some of us know how to treat a cold. Which is all that is.

There's more banging from inside Maw Maw's room.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)
(pouring smoothie)
It's coming.

BURT
You can't work in that store, Jimmy. You'll be low-man on the totem pole just like I was when I worked for Green Thumb. Hell, I started my own business so you wouldn't ever have to be that.

(MORE)
BURT (CONT'D)
Have you ever seen a totem pole?
You got like six people and an eagle
standing on your head.
(re: Hope)
Oh, man. I'm cramping. I'm cramping.
Take her.

Burt gets Jimmy to come in and hold Hope up high.

BURT (CONT'D)
Listen, if you really think you need
insurance I'll take care of it.

JIMMY
How? I thought you said you can't
afford it.

BURT
Don't worry. Your dad knows how to
take care of things when he needs
to. I'm going to steal that parks
contract away from Green Thumb.

JIMMY
They're not gonna give you this job.
Green Thumb's crew shows up in clean,
matching jump suits. Half the people
in this town have seen you mow lawns
in your pajama bottoms.

Burt crosses into the living room.

BURT
Have a little faith in your father,
Jimmy. You'll see. All I have to
do is write up a bid. In fact, I
could probably just update the last
one I worked on. Virginia, have you
seen my proposal? It was in a green
notebook.
(re: a messy shelf)
I left it right here fifteen years
ago.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN:

15 INT. DINING ROOM -- DAY (D3)

Burt is typing at the computer. Jimmy is nearby.

BURT

JIMMY
It's a business proposal. I don't think you're supposed to do a different font for every word.

BURT
I'm just making it fun for them to read. Besides, the proposal's just a formality. The way Thumb gets these jobs is winning and dining the councilmen. That's the three d's: dinner, drinks, and triple d-cups at a booby bar. I guess that's six d's if you're really keeping score.

JIMMY
Actually, that's five d's.

BURT
(counts, then)
I'll give you that.

CUT TO:

16 INT. KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER (D3)

Jimmy enters as Virginia scurries to fix Maw Maw's dinner. They speak softly so Burt doesn't hear them from the next room.

JIMMY
I gotta take that bag boy job. He's typing up a proposal with seven different fonts on it. It looks like a ransom note.

Off stage we hear Maw Maw ringing a bell.
VIRGINIA
(yelling)
Dinner's almost ready, Maw Maw.
It's your favorite: chicken colada.

Virginia cracks open a can of Pina Colada mix and pours it over a casserole of noodles and chicken.

JIMMY
Mom, you're not listening. If I wait any longer, someone else is gonna get that bagging job.

VIRGINIA
We can help him with the proposal.

JIMMY
It doesn't matter. We're a one truck operation with two guys. We're never going to beat Green Thumb.

VIRGINIA
You wanna break your dad's heart? 'Cause that's what'll happen if you take that job. You're basically saying you have no faith in him.

JIMMY
But, I'm somebody's dad now too, and it's my job to do whatever I have to do to take care of her.

VIRGINIA
Fine. Do what you gotta do, but don't let your dad find out. Hopefully he'll get this contract and you can quit before he ever has to know.

Burt enters carrying a green notebook.

BURT
Good news I found my old proposal. Check it out, it had a "Jerry Maguire" theme.

He displays the cover to them. It's a collage of different images from magazines cut out to show a football player with Burt's head mowing a football field. There is a slogan that reads...
BURT (CONT'D)

(reading)
"Mow Me the Money".

(then)
Good, huh? In a perfect world I always pictured that they would stop me in the middle of the presentation and say, "You had me at I'll mow."

Burt exits. Virginia turns to Jimmy.

VIRGINIA
Jimmy, if I had seen "Jerry Maguire" would "Mow me the money" be funny?

JIMMY
Nope.

VIRGINIA
(beat)
You should go.

CUT TO:

17 INT. GROCERY STORE -- DAY (D4)

Sabrina restocks a tomato when Barney walks up with Jimmy who is tying a smock.

BARNEY
Well, your pal passed the urine test. Meth, weed, X, crank, hillbilly heroin... all negative.

JIMMY
He watched me pee.

BARNEY
Sabrina will show you the ropes. We've got one rule around here. Excellence. Anything less is unacceptable. Anything more is unrealistic. Just excellence.

Barney walks off.

JIMMY
He watched me pee.

SABRINA
Yeah, he made Sally from produce watch me pee. Neither of us wanted to be there. It was kind of a bummer.
They start to walk.

**SABRINA (CONT'D)**
Here's what you need to know: Behind the banana bin is the only spot in the store the security cameras can't see that gets cell phone reception.

They pass the banana bin and see an employee, FRANK, squatting and talking on his cell.

**FRANK**
(into phone)
Yes, I'm calling about the used cheerleading uniform you have for sale.

**SABRINA**
And the deli guy can get you a doctor's note that says you're diabetic which is good because Barney will let you have unlimited candy and juice.

They pass an OLDER EMPLOYEE, BARTON, drinking O.J. from a carton. They stop and Sabrina points to a clock without looking at it.

**SABRINA (CONT'D)**
That's the clock. It's your enemy. "Working in a grocery store time" moves at about one-third the speed of "not working in a grocery store time."

An employee, JOSH, walks up behind them with a box of peaches and notices the clock.

**JOSH**
Are you kidding me? It was quarter to six forty-five minutes ago. How can it still not be six? How can it not be six?!

They move off towards the register as Josh throws a peach at the clock.

**JIMMY**
Is there anything I need to know about the actual doing of the job?

**SABRINA**
Take groceries. Put 'em in a bag.
JIMMY

Got it.

CUT TO:
INT. JIMMY AND HOPE'S BEDROOM -- MORNING (D5)

We are looking at Hope in her crib.

JIMMY (O.S.)
Hey, peanut chew, did I wake you?
Just working out 'cause Dad thinks
I'm going to the gym at night.

Reveal that Jimmy is doing push-ups against the rail of the crib.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Plus it wouldn't hurt to fill out my
apron a little better at the grocery
store. May as well look good for
Sabrina while I'm getting us
insurance. Two more weeks and you
and me can get as sick as we want.
Even sooner if your granddad scores
that big city job...

CUT TO:

INT. BURT AND VIRGINIA'S ROOM -- NIGHT -- FLASHBACK (N4)

Burt very carefully uses an electric clipper on his sideburns.

JIMMY (V.O.)
He's been fixing himself up for his
big night out with the councilmen.

As Burt begins to trim his nose hairs in the mirror...

JIMMY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And your grandmom's been making him
a cool outfit.

Virginia appears behind him, holding up a t-shirt. It's a
tight Ed Hardy style like Green Thumb but says "Burt Chance"
and has a tiger on a lawn mower. She holds it over him and
he looks at himself in the mirror, happily.

CUT TO:

INT. JIMMY AND HOPE'S BEDROOM -- BACK TO SCENE (D5)

Jimmy is now exercising using a really old spring and handle
contraption. He continues to talk to Hope.
JIMMY
If Grandpa succeeds I can quit the store, but either way you'll get insurance soon and be able to see a real doctor. We both will. All I have to do is keep my job secret from Grandpa, but that's cool, he never buys food anywhere but the gas station.

CUT TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE -- EVENING (N6)

Burt walks down the aisle in his "Ed Hardy" outfit and big cowboy boots, whistling confidently.

ANGLE ON Jimmy and Sabrina by the register.

JIMMY
What the hell? He never buys food anywhere but the gas station.

Jimmy ducks down behind Sabrina's register.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Crap, crap, crap.

Burt walks up to Sabrina's register, suavely winks at her.

BURT
Top of the evening to you.

SABRINA
Hey, Burt, that outfit is off the hook.

BURT
Thanks. Big night. Entertaining business clients.
(pointing to his throat)
Got a little tickle, though. Think I caught my granddaughter's cold.

Burt hands her the medicine card. She sighs, scans it. The register lets out a loud beep and "Manager Alerted" appears on the display. Almost immediately, Barney emerges from his office carrying a flashlight.

BARNEY
James, guard the door! James?
(looking around)
Where the hell is James Chance?!
After a beat, Jimmy sheepishly emerges from under Sabrina's register. Burt, shocked and hurt, looks at Jimmy.

JIMMY
(beat)
Hey, Dad.

BURT
Wow... So you just went ahead and...
Man--

JIMMY
Let me explain--

BURT
No, no, no need to explain. You didn't think I could take care of business.

BARNEY
Is this a meth business?

BURT
(to Jimmy)
You don't believe in me.

JIMMY
I do, but--

BURT
Fine. If you believe in me, then you don't need this job. So go ahead and quit it. Right now.

Jimmy looks at Barney, then back at Burt. There's a silence.

BURT (CONT'D)
I'm getting that contract whether you believe in me or not.

Burt walks off as Jimmy turns and watches him go. Behind Jimmy, Josh throws a tomato at the clock.

CUT TO:

22 INT. KITCHEN -- LATER (N6)

Jimmy and Virginia eat ice cream solemnly at the kitchen table.

JIMMY
I've never seen him so hurt.

(MORE)
JIMMY (CONT'D)
I mean, that look on his face... he was devastated. What are we gonna do?

VIRGINIA
We?

JIMMY
You lied to him too.

VIRGINIA
I'm gonna tell him I didn't know.

JIMMY
I'll tell him that's not true.

VIRGINIA
Who's he gonna believe, his wife or his son that we've already established is a liar?

Burt enters the front door and crosses into the kitchen. Without acknowledging Jimmy or Virginia, he leans into the fridge to get a beer. Virginia and Jimmy exchange a confused look. Burt closes the fridge, opens the beer and stands there silently for a beat.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)
Well? How did it go?

BURT
(nonchalant)
Oh, I got it.

VIRGINIA
You're kidding? Burt that's great.

BURT
Yeah, I took Councilman Blake out and showed him a good time. It's called wining and dining. Although, technically, it was beering and fried cheese sticking.

JIMMY
Dad, I am so sorry that I lied to you. And I'm sorry I doubted you.

BURT
Apology not accepted.
JIMMY
(awkwardly)
Uh... okay. So, when do we take over the parks?

BURT
I start doing the parks tomorrow.
Not you. I don't need to be spending my days with someone who doesn't believe in me. Now that we got all this extra work, we'll split up.
You do residential. I'm doing the parks.

(starts to go, then)
Oh, and you can quit your stupid bagger job tomorrow night because my son isn't gonna be low-man on anyone's totem pole but mine.

Burt exits.

VIRGINIA
(calling after)
This is so great, honey. I always knew you could do it.

As Virginia exits, she gives Jimmy the "shhh" sign.

CUT TO:

23 EXT. FRONT YARD -- DAY (D7)

Jimmy sits in the same lawn where he and Burt were eating lunch at the beginning of the show. He finishes his lunch and pulls out a black and white cookie from a pink bakery box. Jimmy grabs his knife and cuts it. He starts eating his half, then looks down at the other half. After a beat, Jimmy starts to pack up his stuff.

CUT TO:

24 EXT. UMSTEAD PARK -- DAY (D7)

We're in a parking lot near a sign that reads "Umstead Park". Jimmy gets out of his van with his bakery box and looks around for his dad. He hears a mower on the other side of a building. He rounds the building and discovers Burt, in a Green Thumb uniform, pushing a mower. Several other Green Thumb workers work nearby. One of them holds an umbrella over Green Thumb, as he approaches Burt.
GREEN THUMB
This area isn't done yet? You're too slow, Chance. Get on the umbrella. Let Brian show you how it's done.

Burt switches places with Brian, the worker holding the umbrella.

GREEN THUMB (CONT'D)
No no no no. You're not supposed to hold the umbrella over both of us. You haven't earned your shade.

Burt moves out from under the umbrella. At this point, Burt sees Jimmy watching in frozen horror. They stare at each other. After a beat, Burt takes off running, still carrying the umbrella. He goes and goes, occasionally looks back at Jimmy, then keeps going. We stay on him in a wide shot as he gets smaller and smaller and smaller.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE
ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

25 INT. KITCHEN -- LATER THAT NIGHT (N7)

Virginia is making soup on the stove. Hope is playing on the floor. We hear a bell ringing.

VIRGINIA
(calling)
You want cold soup? Ring that damn bell one more time and I'm bringing you cold soup.

She waits for a beat. Nothing.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)
That's what I thought.

Burt appears outside the window.

BURT
Is he here?

VIRGINIA
No, he waited around but he had to get to work at the grocery store.

Burt enters.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)
So, I guess you didn't really win the parks contract last night.

BURT
I thought I had it all figured out.

CUT TO:

A25 INT. SMALL VIP ROOM -- NIGHT -- FLASHBACK (N6)

Burt and COUNCILMAN BLAKE sit on a small couch.

COUNCILMAN BLAKE
I'm glad I let you talk me into this, Burt. When you mentioned bikini bars I thought, "I can't let my voters see me in one of those."

BURT
That's why I found one three towns over. I'm a thinker and a mower.
COUNCILMAN BLAKE
I think you're going to be mowing the parks real soon.

BURT
Wait 'til you see this girl I picked out for you. I asked around and everybody says she is the craziest, wildest one here. They call her "The Dirty Angel."

A young woman in a bikini, DIRTY ANGEL, comes in through the curtains.

DIRTY ANGEL
Who's ready for a--
(seeing Councilman Blake)
Daddy?

COUNCILMAN BLAKE
Pumpkin?

CUT TO:

B25 INT. KITCHEN -- BACK TO SCENE (N7)

Burt and Virginia are where we left them.

BURT
It was a long, quiet ride home. Pretty much the only thing he said was "Chance, you don't get the parks contract."
(then)
So I went to Green Thumb. I figured if I secretly worked for him I could make enough to buy Jimmy insurance.

She watches him for a beat.

VIRGINIA
Burt, working two jobs, being the low man on the totem pole, taking crap from a jerk boss... you're past all that.

BURT
But the kid needs insurance. I'm his dad. It's my job to do whatever I have to do to take care of him.
VIRGINIA
And you did. By showing him his whole life how to be a good dad. Now it's his turn to take care of things. You gotta let him do it.

Burt thinks for a beat.

BURT
I don't like it.

VIRGINIA
You don't have to like it. But that's the way it is. We took care of him and now he's gonna take care of her. And eventually, if we live as long as that kook back there ringing that bell, hopefully he'll take care of us too. That's how this whole thing works.

Virginia goes over and picks up Hope.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)
Besides, it's not like you don't have a new job to do. Someone needs to start showing Jimmy how to be a good grandpa.

Virginia holds out Hope to Burt who takes her. Virginia smiles and kisses Burt as we hear Maw Maw ringing her bell.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)
(calling)
Cold soup it is!

CUT TO:

26 INT. LIVING ROOM -- LATER (N7)

Burt is sitting on the couch with Hope. He feeds her something that looks like chocolate pudding.

BURT
I don't care if it's three towns over or three states over, don't dance in one of those clubs.
(beat)
But if you do, don't be the one they call "Dirty Angel."

Jimmy enters.
JIMMY
Hey.

BURT
Hey.

JIMMY
Listen, Dad, I'm really sorry about--

BURT
(cutting him off)
Nope. I was wrong. You did the right thing. And I'm proud of you.

JIMMY
Thanks.

BURT
Oh, and I got you something.

From a nearby table, Burt grabs the vanilla half of a black and white cookie, and hands it to Jimmy.

JIMMY
Did you eat your half without me?

BURT
No. I mushed up my half and gave it to Hope. That's what grandpas do.

JIMMY
She can't have all that sugar, she's gonna be--

BURT
Up all night. I know. However, that is not a grandpa problem.

Burt hands Hope to Jimmy and heads toward his bedroom.

BURT (CONT'D)
Good night.

As he passes Maw Maw's room a foot kicks a hole through the bottom panel of the door, then retracts. Burt leans in close to the hole.

BURT (CONT'D)
Hang in there, Maw Maw.
(winking to Jimmy)
Hope's cold should be better in a few more days.
He chuckles a second, and then, as in a horror movie. Maw Maw's arm shoots out through the hole and grabs Burt around the neck. As she squeezes Burt against the door...

BURT (CONT'D)
Get your mother. Get your mother.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW