

THE GOODWIN GAMES

Pilot

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. GOODWIN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

A tight shot of college professor BENJAMIN GOODWIN, 72, wild hair, colorful coat -- sort of a cross between Willy Wonka and Doc Brown from "Back to the Future" -- sitting behind a desk, staring into the camera.

BENJAMIN
Congratulations. You are the
winner.

LAWRENCE (O.S.)
And cut! That's it. We're done.

Benjamin's lawyer LAWRENCE BUTLER, mid-40s, has been recording him with a video camera on a tripod. Benjamin smiles and swivels in his chair to look out the window. His back is to us; we see only his hand on the armrest.

CHYRON: BENJAMIN GOODWIN, AGE 72

LAWRENCE (cont'd)
And you were worried you might die
before you finished.
(chuckles)
Ridiculous, right? Mr. Goodwin?

Benjamin's hand goes limp. The chyron changes to:

CHYRON: BENJAMIN GOODWIN, RECENTLY DECEASED

We PAN OVER to a FAMILY PORTRAIT on the wall of Benjamin and his three children in 1989. The oldest son, HENRY, stands at attention in a boy scout uniform. The middle child, a girl named CONEY, is a classic nerd. The youngest, JIMMY, mischievous, holds a very scared-looking family cat.

We push in on Henry...

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

And match cut to DR. HENRY GOODWIN -- tall, handsome, exceedingly competent in all things -- as he examines an X-ray and addresses a hospital administrator.

CHYRON: HENRY GOODWIN, AGE 36.

HENRY

Yep, it's gonna rupture. Prep him for surgery, STAT. Annie, what else?

He starts washing his hands as ANNIE, his assistant, reads emails from his phone. Henry responds with blazing speed.

ANNIE

A few reminders. Your acceptance speech for the Kaiser Foundation Man Of The Year award--

HENRY

I'll write it tonight during my shift at the animal shelter. What else?

ANNIE

Frances from the food bank--

HENRY

Sign me up to volunteer on Sunday in between hosting the Lions Club brunch and my workout. God I need that workout. What else?

ANNIE

Your fiancée's birthday--

HENRY

Cancel my workout. I'll be making a brooch in my metal shop that's an exact replica of the one her great grandmother wore. What else?

Suddenly Annie gasps. She is startled by what she's read.

HENRY (cont'd)

Annie? What else?

ANNIE

Your father died.

A parade of emotions storms across Henry's face: shock, sadness, a little anger...

ANNIE (cont'd)

Doctor, I'm so sorry. We should get someone else to do the surgery--

HENRY

(steely resolve)
No. It has to be me.

He strides out purposefully. Annie swoons.

INSERT: Family portrait. PUSH IN on young, nerdy Coney...

INT. CLUB - NIGHT

...Who has grown up to become the beautiful CONEY GOODWIN, in a black dress, serving TEST TUBE SHOTS at a club on the LAS VEGAS STRIP to a COLLEGE GUY and his buddies.

CONEY

Okay boys, who wants shots?!

COLLEGE GUY

Aren't you a little old for a shot girl?

CONEY

Old? I'm 28!
(flirting)
But if anyone asks, I'm 26.

CHYRON: CONEY GOODWIN, AGE 32

DONNA, a much younger and bustier waitress, appears, with a tray full of drinks and a look of worry.

DONNA

Coney... I still can't figure out the computer.

Coney sighs, and quickly eyeballs Donna's tray.

CONEY

Three cosmos, two vodka crans, three beers, two champagnes, one martini up, one martini rocks, and a Sprite.
(doing the math
ridiculously fast)
\$218.50. Twenty percent of which is 43.70, which by the way...
(re: her boobs)
...you three are earning right now, girlfriend, so don't let 'em stiff you.

DONNA

Thank you! It's so amazing how you do that. I'm so nervous. Word is they're gonna fire somebody tonight.

CONEY

Relax, you'll be fine, just--

As Coney says it, Donna drops her entire tray down some poor guy's white suit with a CRASH. Oh boy.

INT. MANAGER'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Coney sits with GARY, the douche-y 23-year-old club manager.

CONEY

Gary, please, you can't fire her. Sure, she has trouble with the whole "you can't wave to Criss Angel if you're holding a tray full of drinks" thing, but she's sweet and she's trying so hard.

GARY

Coney. Come on. Why, given the choice, would I fire the 22-year-old with the ginormous cans?

Coney sighs in relief.

CONEY

You, sir, have a ginormous heart.
(then)
Wait, what choice?

GARY

We're letting you go. Sorry, but you're smart. You understand.

Gary gets up and exits. Coney's phone buzzes. She starts listening to a voicemail, and looks shocked.

INSERT: The same family portrait. We push in on Jimmy...

EXT. MINIMUM SECURITY PRISON - DAY

A prison guard unlocks the main gate, and a scruffy-looking JIMMY GOODWIN -- all heart, zero impulse control -- steps out into freedom, holding a backpack and an acoustic guitar. He turns back to the guard and gives him a big hug.

CHYRON: JIMMY GOODWIN, AGE 29

PRISON GUARD

We're all gonna miss you, Jimmy. But I bet it feels great to be a free man again.

JIMMY

Yeah. Can I stay in jail longer?
(MORE)

JIMMY (cont'd)

It's just, I owe this guy Frank,
like, a ton of money. I hate to say
bad things about anyone, Frank's a
nice guy, but he says he can't wait
to kill me with a sledgehammer.

(beat, guilty)

See, now I feel bad, Frank's a nice
guy.

PRISON GUARD

Wish I could help, buddy.

Jimmy nods, then suddenly punches the guard in the face.

JIMMY

(hopeful)

Assaulting a guard?

PRISON GUARD

(sympathetic smile)

Sorry, Jimmy.

Just then, Jimmy's phone rings.

JIMMY

Oh no. That's probably Frank...

(re: phone, relieved)

It's my sister.

PRISON GUARD

See? Maybe this day's not so bad
after all.

JIMMY

(answering)

Hey Coney.

Jimmy's face falls. He drops his guitar.

EXT. SMALL TOWN - DAY

Shots of the small, struggling college town of Granby Ridge,
New Hampshire and nearby Piscataqua College. This is where
the three kids grew up.

INT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Mourners are milling about this very odd funeral. Among
other odd, eccentric touches: On top of the coffin sit three
large pictures: the dog Benji, a mango, and Kirby Puckett.

In front, Coney -- in a way-too-short dress -- is getting a huge hug from a rattily-dressed Jimmy. Henry walks up behind Jimmy and flicks his ear with the practice of an older brother who's done it for decades.

JIMMY
Ow, quit it, Henry--
(realizing, happy)
Henry!

Jimmy gives Henry a huge hug.

HENRY
Good to see you, Jimmy.
(then)
No jacket? Really?

JIMMY
Pfft, course I got a jacket.

Jimmy desperately looks around, swipes a jacket on a nearby pew, and puts it on. It's enormous. It looks ridiculous. Meanwhile an old lady, MRS. BUTTERFIELD, approaches Coney.

MRS. BUTTERFIELD
Coney Goodwin! Mrs. Butterfield.
Your fifth grade teacher.

CONEY
Oh. Yeah. Hi.

MRS. BUTTERFIELD
You were the smartest student I ever taught. I'll bet you must be some kinda scientist by now, huh? Huh?

CONEY
(awkward)
Got my test tubes and everything.

Henry cuts in and gives Coney a hug. As she hugs him back:

CONEY (cont'd)
Get me the hell out of here.

HENRY
We can't leave, Coney. In fact, the three of us have a pretty important tradition here. And as the oldest, I'm gonna insist we stick with it.

A beat, then Henry holds up a liquor bottle in a paper bag.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. CHURCH BELL TOWER - MOMENTS LATER

The three siblings sit in a cozy open space at the top of the tower. Henry pours whiskey into plastic cups for them.

JIMMY
Drinking in church.
(wistful)
Now it feels like home.

They laugh. Henry hands Coney a whiskey.

HENRY
You're not gonna tattletale on me like
you always used to, right?

CONEY
I'll admit it: I was a total narc.
But not anymore.
(re: whiskey)
You're my hero.

Henry smiles, then sees a faded graffiti heart in one corner: "HG + LH." He balks a little at the sight.

JIMMY
It's been way too long, guys. To
being home! And to Dad.

The siblings clink cups.

CONEY
Man, I can't believe Dad's really
gone. No more of his crazy puzzles
or made-up games...

HENRY
Remember all those games?

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. GOODWIN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Young Coney and young Henry do homework as Jimmy eats soup. Benjamin jumps into frame with a playful twinkle in his eye.

BENJAMIN
Pop quiz! Let's see who's been
studying their Morse Code! This is
the hidden location of one, and only
one, ticket to Six Flags!

Benjamin turns the lamp on and off in a Morse Code pattern.

SUBTITLE: "THE ATTIC."

Henry focuses really hard, trying to crack it, but he can't. Coney's eyes light up immediately and she runs off.

BENJAMIN (cont'd)
That's my girl!

Young Henry stares after Coney, jealous.

BENJAMIN (cont'd)
You'll get her next time, boys!

YOUNG JIMMY
Okay, Coney may be smarter than us--

YOUNG HENRY
She's not smarter than me! I'm just tired--

YOUNG JIMMY
--but can she balance soup?

Jimmy puts his bowl of soup on his head, stumbles, douses himself in soup and screams in pain.

BACK TO:

INT. CHURCH BELL TOWER - DAY - THE PRESENT

Back on the siblings, looking wistful.

HENRY
Man, why was Dad always making us compete for stuff?

JIMMY
I don't know. He thought it would make us better people, I guess.

Coney snorts.

CONEY
Shows how wrong he was. Now we hardly ever see each other, and look how great we're all doing.

An awkward beat as the siblings nod unconvincingly. We hear footsteps -- then LUCINDA HOBBS, the attractive minister of the church, appears. Busted.

LUCINDA
(knowing smile)
Some things never change. Come on,
Goodwins, let's send your old man
off in style.

Lucinda glances at the graffiti heart, then at Henry. It's
clear they have some history. As he passes her:

HENRY
Reverend Hobbes.

LUCINDA
Doctor Goodwin.

INT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

As they head to the front of the church, Henry motions to
the pictures on the coffin.

HENRY
Look, Dad's last puzzle. Hey Coney,
I bet you I can solve it before--

CONEY
It's his name.
(re: pictures)
Benji, mango, Twin. Benjamin
Goodwin. Easy.

HENRY
(stunned, then)
I knew it right away, too. I'm just
tired.

CONEY
Hey, did you prepare anything to say
about Dad?

Henry gives Coney a sly, big-brother smile.

HENRY
Nah, I thought I'd just wing it.

INT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Henry is at the podium, mid-clearly-memorized-eulogy to the
rapt audience, as Coney rolls her eyes.

HENRY
And when I told that brave little
girl, "The surgery was a success,"
(MORE)

HENRY (cont'd)
that smile... It was the same smile
the world saw a few months later,
when she won the gold medal for
gymnastics. She owes her life to
me. And I owe my life... to my dad.
(heavenward)
Thanks, Pop.

Huge applause.

INT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Moments later. Coney is at the podium.

CONEY
Hi. This may sound odd, but I'm
gonna use my time up here to talk
about Dad, instead of boasting about
my own accomplishments. After all,
this is a eulogy... not a me-logy.

Coney smiles pointedly at Henry.

INT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Moments later. Jimmy is at the podium, crying.

JIMMY
Why did God have to take our Dad?!
Such a jerk move! See, now I feel
bad. God's a nice guy...

INT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Henry is at the podium again.

HENRY
My poor sister got too broken up to
finish her speech, so she asked me.
(pretending to read)
"Dad may be gone, but I know he's
still up there, watching me... waste
my life doing nothing in Las Vegas.
Also, I stuffed my bra until I was
nineteen." Thanks for sharing that,
Coney.

INT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Coney is back at the podium. Lucinda looks concerned.

CONEY

...And if Dad were here today, I'm sure he'd say, "Henry, we all know your constant over-achieving is just a way to mask your deep, deep insecurity. We also know you kept a stack of Playboys in the attic, along with one creepy sock."

INT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Henry is at the podium. Lucinda tries to pull him away.

HENRY

...To which I'm sure Dad would reply, "Well, what good have you ever done in your life, Coney?"

Coney stands up in the front pew.

CONEY

What good have I done? How about not killing our family cat back in 1992? That was pretty good of me!

HENRY

I did not kill Finley! Jimmy killed Finley! He confessed to it! He left the window open, Finley got out--

CONEY

Oh sure, blame the criminal!

JIMMY

(jumping up)
Now wait, I'm not a criminal! I gave up stealing stuff! I am now an upstanding member of the--

MOURNER IN THE PEWS

Hey, that's my jacket!

JIMMY

(overlapping)
Here you go.

Jimmy removes the jacket. Lucinda takes the mic.

LUCINDA

Thank you, Goodwin family, for that lovely--

Coney grabs the mic, points accusingly at Henry.

CONEY

Henry snuck whiskey into church!

HENRY

Tattle tale!

Henry picks up some flowers and throws them at Coney. She throws the mic at him. Feedback. As the chaos continues:

INT. LAWRENCE'S OFFICE - DAY

The three children sit in silence. Lawrence enters.

LAWRENCE

These last few years, your father often spoke sweetly of how much he missed you all.

(then, dryly)

I wish he could've seen today's service. My name is Lawrence Butler. I worked for him.

JIMMY

Dad had a butler?! Sweet!

LAWRENCE

Butler is my last name. I'm a lawyer. Now, how much do you all know about your father's financial situation?

HENRY

I know he was an underpaid math professor who lived in a leaky house and drove a '72 Dodge Dart. Did I leave anything out?

LAWRENCE

Quite a bit, actually. You see, thanks to some projects he was involved with at the college, your father had stake in a few very lucrative patents. His entire estate is currently valued at... 23 million dollars.

A gasp from the room.

CONEY

Whoa.

JIMMY

No wonder Dad could afford a butler.

LAWRENCE

Still not a butler. So, let's dive
in, shall we? The last will and
testament of Benjamin Mason Goodwin.

Lawrence presses play on a VCR. On the TV is a shot of
Benjamin's empty desk. After a beat, he jumps into frame.

BENJAMIN

Boo!
(chuckles, then)
Hello, children. If you're watching
this, it means I'm dead as a...

Benjamin holds up a drawing of a door plus a nail.

CONEY

Door-nail.

HENRY

(overlapping)
I was gonna say doornail.

JIMMY

That's just creepy.

ON SCREEN:

BENJAMIN

Too soon? Ah, well.
(tosses the drawing)
Anyway, it's now time for the tricky
business of bequeathing my --
surprise! -- massive fortune.
Here's the deal: I've decided to
leave all my money to a single heir.

Henry, Coney and Jimmy shoot each other looks.

BENJAMIN (cont'd)

An individual who has grown into
full maturity and truly knows what
it means to be a good person.

Coney rolls her eyes as Henry flashes her a grin: It's me.

BENJAMIN (cont'd)

I'm speaking, of course... about
none of you.

Henry and Coney instantly stand up, talking over each other.

HENRY

On what planet am I not a good
person? I save lives for a living!
I volunteer, I sit on boards--

CONEY

Just because I don't buy into
corporate America's definition of
"success," doesn't mean--

JIMMY

But I need money now or this mostly-
nice guy Frank is gonna kill me!!

As the siblings continue arguing, the lawyer quietly ejects
the first tape, then puts another tape in the VCR. Their
father appears on-screen again.

BENJAMIN

ZIP IT! Henry, quit bragging.
Coney, stop making excuses. And
Jimmy? Put. It. Back.

Beat. Everyone looks at Jimmy, who removes a gold pen from
his jacket and puts it back onto the desk. All three
siblings look shocked -- how does he know them so well?

BENJAMIN (cont'd)

(playful smile)
Eerie, isn't it?

Benjamin resumes speaking. As he does, Coney notices the
way he TAPS HIS PENCIL in the video, but she shrugs it off.

BENJAMIN (cont'd)

You children have so much potential.
But you've let yourselves get lost.
Even worse, you've let each other
get lost. You're each living in
your own metaphorical prison. Or,
in Jimmy's case, prison.

JIMMY

I got paroled, Pop!

BENJAMIN

You never learned to clean up your
messes. And it's my fault. Your
mother died, and I... dropped the
ball. I'm sorry.

(a somber beat, then)

This is my last chance to be the
parent I should've been, to help you

(MORE)

BENJAMIN (cont'd)
become the people you could be.
Life is a riddle, kids. If you want
this money, it's time to start
looking for the answer. And in
order to do that, I'm going to have
you play one final contest. The
winner... gets my inheritance.
Who's in?

The siblings give each other little smiles, then -- one by
one -- raise their hands.

HENRY
I'm in.

CONEY
I'm in.

JIMMY
I'm in.

On the screen, Benjamin smiles playfully.

BENJAMIN
I knew you would be. Let the
Goodwin Games begin.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. LAWRENCE'S OFFICE - DAY

The confused siblings stare at this enigmatic lawyer.

HENRY

So what's this last "game"?

LAWRENCE

I'm not at liberty to say.

JIMMY

Will there be physical challenges?
Not to brag, but I did a lot of push-
ups in jail.

HENRY

Anything that ends with "in jail"
isn't bragging, buddy.

LAWRENCE

I'm not at liberty to say.

CONEY

Wait a second. Why don't we all
say, "Screw the game" and split the
23 million into 7.66-repeating
million dollars each?

LAWRENCE

That one I can answer: No
splitting. Your father stipulates
the money can only go to one winner.

HENRY

Um, you can't prevent us from
sharing the money once one of us
wins it. That's not legal.

Lawrence smiles cockily and plunks a 200-page legal document
down on his desk with a THUD.

LAWRENCE

Try me. The game will commence here
tomorrow at 9am. Until then, go
home and rest up.

Off the siblings, perplexed...

INT. GOODWIN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A musty old Victorian house, cluttered with knick-knacks and trinkets. The children enter and take in the memories.

JIMMY

Wow, this place is exactly the same.

A stuffed housecat sits on the shelf. Coney picks him up.

CONEY

Hey look... Finley.

(in cat voice)

"Why'd you kill me, Henry? I know I wasn't purrrrrrrfect, but--"

HENRY

I did not kill Finley!

Coney smiles, then sees the desk in the corner of the room.

CONEY

Oh god, that desk! All those days I wasted there with Dad...

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. GOODWIN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - FLASHBACK

Twelve-year-old Coney -- as geeky and nerded out as a girl that age could possibly be -- is being tutored by Benjamin.

BENJAMIN

You're going to be a great mathematician, Coney. Someday, you might even help me prove The Goodwin Conjecture...

Benjamin takes an overstuffed folder off a shelf: it reads "THE GOODWIN CONJECTURE."

BENJAMIN (cont'd)

I've been stuck on this for fifteen years. Solving it could literally change the world... But no pressure.

(picks up a test)

Now, your test results. This was the same calculus exam I give to college seniors, and you got 73 out of 74 questions correct.

YOUNG CONEY

(crushed)

I got one wrong? I can do better.

BENJAMIN

(chuckles)

Don't worry. I love you anyway.

Young Jimmy again appears with a soup-bowl on his head.

YOUNG JIMMY

Look Dad, I'm balancing--

The soup again falls on his head.

YOUNG JIMMY (cont'd)

(determined)

I'll get there.

BACK TO:

INT. GOODWIN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - BACK TO SCENE

The siblings as they were.

CONEY

Every time I screwed up, "I love you anyway," "I love you anyway." I'm so glad I left all that math crap behind.

Henry checks his cellphone.

HENRY

No signal. I'm gonna walk over to the bar to see if the reception's better there.

JIMMY

You could use the house phone.

HENRY

Oh, in that case, I'm gonna walk over to the bar to get drunk.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

A charming small-town bar, unspoiled by the nearby college. Henry enters and sees Lucinda, reading at a corner table.

HENRY

Oh. Hi.

LUCINDA

Hello.

A fraught moment. He's about to say something when his phone buzzes. He holds up a finger and answers it.

HENRY

(on phone)

Hey Honey, can I-- Hydrangeas, sure. I'll call you right back.

(hangs up, then)

My fiancée. I have a fiancée. That sounds like I'm rubbing it in. I'm not. I just do have... a fiancée. I keep saying "fiancée."

LUCINDA

(with a smile)

Yeah, stop. Wanna sit down?

He sits down across from her.

HENRY

I just want you to know I'm sorry how things went. With us.

LUCINDA

So it was things that went? 'Cause it kind of seemed like you went.

HENRY

You're right. I went. And I am so--

LUCINDA

Hen, it's fine. You don't graduate first in your class from Harvard Med just to open a practice in Granby Ridge, New Hampshire. You were on a rocketship out of town. Everyone knew it. I think I knew it too.

HENRY

I'm just saying, for the record, what we had was special. It was more than special. It was...

LUCINDA

The best damned sex of our lives.

HENRY

(laughs)

My goodness, Reverend.

LUCINDA

Sorry. What I meant to say was...
the best damned sex of your life.
'Cuz since you left, I've been on
fire. Non. Stop. Booty. Amen.

Henry laughs, then looks pained.

HENRY

Lu, seriously, I--

LUCINDA

It's okay, Henry. I forgive you.

HENRY

You do?

LUCINDA

I have to. It's my job.

Henry smiles. Behind each of their eyes, we maybe see a
twinge of pain, but the moment is more sweet than bitter.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE - NIGHT

Jimmy is walking outside. His phone rings. He looks at it.
We see that "FRANK" is calling.

Jimmy puts the phone away nervously. He looks at a nearby
house. A second-story window is ajar. He ineptly scampers
up a rain gutter, pulls himself through the window, and...

INT. DARK BEDROOM - NIGHT

...collapses loudly onto the floor. The light flicks on.

PIPER (O.S.)

Hi, Daddy.

Jimmy turns to see his eight-year-old daughter, PIPER,
sitting up in bed. He smiles, and hugs her tightly.

JIMMY

Hey, baby bird. I'm sorry I missed
your birthday. Super-long business
trip. But it looks like the
merger's going through, which'll
really help our fifth quarter--

PIPER

You were in jail.

JIMMY
(overlapping)
I was in jail, yeah. But I got you
a present.

Jimmy hands Piper a small gift. She unwraps it excitedly.

PIPER
A gold pen!
(realizing)
Daddy... did you steal this?

JIMMY
No! Bought it. At the... Pen Barn.

PIPER
Really? Do you have a receipt?

Jimmy has no reply. Piper sees through him, and hands the pen back. Her disappointment is heartbreaking to him.

PIPER (cont'd)
I think I hear Mom.

JIMMY
Okay. Can I come visit again?

PIPER
Any time. I love you, Daddy.

JIMMY
I love you too, baby bird.

Jimmy hurries back out the window.

INT. LAWRENCE'S OFFICE - THE NEXT MORNING

Lawrence addresses the siblings.

LAWRENCE
Before we begin the game, are there
any questions?

CONEY
Yes. Little thing. Who's this guy?

Reveal ELIJAH, a twenty-two year old African-American man, sitting in the fourth chair.

LAWRENCE
This is Elijah. Elijah's the fourth
contestant in the game.

A beat, then the siblings go ballistic.

HENRY / JIMMY / CONEY
WHAT?! / NO WAY!! / ARE YOU
KIDDING ME?!

HENRY
You're gonna give our dad's
inheritance to some stranger?!

LAWRENCE
If he wins.

HENRY
But who is he?!
(to Elijah)
Who are you?!

JIMMY
Were you one of Dad's students?

CONEY
Are you our long lost brother? And
by brother I mean *brother* brother,
not... *brother* brother. You got
that, right? I have black friends.

Elijah remains silent. Henry tries a new tack.

HENRY
Guys, let me handle this. Elijah.
Obviously you were important to our
father. That makes you important to
us. So let's get to know each
other. My name is--

ELIJAH
Look, dude, I don't want to know
your name, or anything else about
you. I'm not here to make friends.
I'm here to win.

HENRY
(beat, then exploding)
WHO ARE YOU?!

LAWRENCE
(chuckling)
Oh, if you only knew his story...
(then, pointedly)
But I'm not at liberty to say.
(chuckling again)
But it's really good. Anyhoo, it's
9AM. The game you will play is...

With some fanfare, Lawrence reaches under his desk, produces a Trivial Pursuit box, and places it in front of them.

HENRY
Trivial Pursuit?

Henry, Coney and Jimmy share a look: uh oh.

ELIJAH
You guys don't like Trivial Pursuit?
(to Coney)
You don't play it with all your
black friends?

JIMMY
See, our dad got us into it...

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. GOODWIN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - FLASHBACK

An excited Benjamin holds up TRIVIAL PURSUIT.

BENJAMIN
The pursuit of knowledge, kids, is
the secret to life! Plus, a little
friendly competition pushes us to be
our best! Who's in?

The kids all raise their hands and start playing, happy.

JIMMY (V.O.)
Problem was, every game we played
always ended the same way...

INT. GOODWIN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER - FLASHBACK

The end of the same game. Young Coney leaps up and launches into her trademark victory dance. Benjamin watches on.

YOUNG CONEY
(singing a melody)
I win!! I win I win I win I win!

YOUNG HENRY
It's not fair, I was tired!

Young Henry flips the board over in anger, spilling young Jimmy's milkshake in the process.

YOUNG JIMMY
My milkshake!

Jimmy attacks Henry. Henry deftly picks him up and hangs him on the door coathook by his belt loop.

YOUNG JIMMY (cont'd)
Lemme down! Lemme down!

Young Henry storms out. Benjamin chimes in gently.

BENJAMIN
Clean up your mess, kids.

YOUNG CONEY
Yeah, losers clean up!

Coney exits the room, laughing, leaving a helpless Jimmy dangling on the door hook.

JIMMY
Hey, don't leave me hangin'! Get it?!

BACK TO:

INT. GOODWIN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

The four players are now gathered around the board.

HENRY
Well, that was a long time ago. For \$23 million, we can be civil, right?

They all nod. Henry rolls the die and moves his piece.

HENRY (cont'd)
"Arts & Literature."

Jimmy picks out a card and reads it.

JIMMY
"In 1992, Henry required four stitches after Coney threw what book at his head?"... That's weird. You guys are named Henry and Coney.

Henry and Coney look at each other, then quickly grab some cards out of the box and flip through them. INSERT shot of the cards -- each question is about Henry, Coney and Jimmy.

CONEY
All these questions are about us.

ELIJAH
Well, there goes any chance I had.

HENRY
(to Elijah)
WHO ARE YOU?!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. GOODWIN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The four players as they were.

HENRY

Why would Dad make all the questions
about us? What's going on here?

JIMMY

Still need an answer. What book did
Coney hit you with?

Henry looks up at the bookshelf, thinking...

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. GOODWIN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - FLASHBACK

Young Henry looks up from his reading as a furious Coney
storms up and slams a heavy textbook onto Benjamin's desk.

YOUNG CONEY

I'm done! I don't want to learn
calculus anymore!

BENJAMIN

But you'll need it to help prove the
Goodwin Conjecture! You have a mind
that's destined for greatness,
Coney!

YOUNG CONEY

Greatness?! I got two questions
wrong! Out of seventy-three! How
am I gonna be a great mathematician
with just 97.26027% accuracy?

BENJAMIN

I love you anyw--

YOUNG CONEY

Stop it! I'm sick of being smart!
I'm never doing math or Morse Code
again! As soon as I grow boobs and
get hot, I'm moving as far away from
this town as I can get!

YOUNG HENRY

Sounds like someone's on her period!

Coney whips the textbook right at Henry's head.

YOUNG HENRY (cont'd)

Ow!

Coney storms out, leaving Benjamin looking heartbroken.
Young Henry looks over at the textbook...

BACK TO:

INT. GOODWIN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - BACK TO SCENE

Everyone as they were. Henry rubs his head at the memory.

HENRY

"Advanced Concepts in Calculus."

JIMMY

Correct.

As Henry rolls again, we pop a little forward in time...

INT. GOODWIN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Elijah reads a question to Jimmy.

ELIJAH

"Geography. On Thanksgiving 1991,
what did both sons simultaneously
reply when their mother asked,
"Where's all the stuffing?'"

HENRY / JIMMY

"In Coney's bra!"

Everyone laughs. Coney smiles in spite of herself.

INT. GOODWIN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Coney reads a question to Henry.

CONEY

"Entertainment. What single word
did Jimmy shout out a total of
sixteen times during his brother's
high school valedictory speech?"

HENRY

(this kills him)

Poopy.

Coney and Jimmy high-five as Henry smiles reluctantly.

INT. GOODWIN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Henry reads from a card with increasing shock.

HENRY

"Sports & Leisure. Who currently has a drinking problem that first surfaced in 10th grade when he stole a lovely Pinot Noir from the liquor cabinet and mixed it with Gatorade?"

ELIJAH

I don't know... You?

Henry looks upset as he looks down at the card. We see that the answer does indeed read "Henry." But then something occurs to him, and he looks up with a grin.

HENRY

I'm gonna need the name on the card.

Elijah never learned it: busted. He takes a stab:

ELIJAH

Dick?

Coney and Jimmy laugh.

INT. GOODWIN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

We're at the endgame -- both Henry and Coney have all six wedges. They smile at each other.

HENRY

Well, guys, whatever happens next... This has actually been pretty nice.

Elijah reads the next question to Jimmy.

ELIJAH

History. "In which one of my children was I most disappointed?"

The room suddenly gets tense and quiet.

HENRY

I may have spoken too soon.

JIMMY

That's a tough one.

CONEY

Is it?

HENRY

Coney--

CONEY

Come on, it's obviously Jimmy.

HENRY

Hold on now, this isn't the time--

CONEY

Why not? Maybe this is exactly the time. Maybe instead of us not talking about it like always, he needs to hear this right now.

JIMMY

Hear what?

CONEY

Jimmy, you have a daughter. If you want to have a relationship with her, you have to stop stealing things. It's that simple.

(to Henry)

Sorry, I'm his sister. If I don't say it, who will?

This lands on Jimmy.

HENRY

Okay, Coney, we're saying things people need to hear? How about this: Stop throwing your life away! 1600 on the SATs and you're waiting tables in Vegas? Is there any question who disappointed Dad the most? You had a golden opportunity and you blew it.

JIMMY

Oh, like you didn't? You're such a hypocrite.

HENRY

Jimmy, I just defended you.

JIMMY

How could you run away from Lucinda? You loved her. You obviously still love her. What are you doing marrying some other girl?

This is the most honesty any of the siblings has been confronted with in years. An intense beat.

ELIJAH
(re: board game box)
Huh, they're right -- this game is
fun for the whole family.

Jimmy sits up, as if realizing something.

JIMMY
No. Guys, we're missing the point.

Inspiring music kicks in.

JIMMY (cont'd)
Dad loved us all for who we are,
faults and all. This whole game is
his way of letting us know that.
This is a trick question.
(to Elijah)
My answer is: he wasn't disappointed
in any of us.

A beat. Elijah turns the card over and looks at it.

ELIJAH
(reading)
"Coney."

The inspiring music cuts out.

HENRY
Ha! I called it!

CONEY
Gimme that.

Coney grabs the card and looks at it. Yep. It says Coney.

CONEY (cont'd)
(to herself, hurt)
So much for "I love you anyway..."
(shaking it off)
No, I don't need any of this. The
only thing I need... is a three.

She rolls the die... and gets a three. Silence. Coney
moves her piece to the center of the board.

CONEY (cont'd)
Science and Nature, please.

HENRY
For 23 million dollars...
(MORE)

HENRY (cont'd)
(reading)
"Who left open the window that
resulted in the death of our beloved
cat Finley?"
(scoffs)
Figures you get the gimme.

Everyone glances over at Finley. Coney gets a sly look.

CONEY
The answer is... Henry.

HENRY
Wrong! The answer is, of course...
(flips card over)
"Henry." What?!

CONEY
Oh my God. Did I just...

JIMMY
Win 23 million bucks? Yep.

Coney launches into her trademark victory dance.

CONEY
(singing)
I win! I win I win I win I win!

HENRY
It's not fair, I was tired!

Henry flips the board over in anger, spilling Jimmy's beer.

JIMMY
Hey! My beer!

Jimmy attacks Henry. In a single deft move, Henry deflects his attack, scoops him up and once again hangs him on the door coathook by his belt loop.

JIMMY (cont'd)
Lemme down! Lemme down!

Henry storms out. Coney stands up, laughing.

CONEY
Losers clean up.

Coney exits. A beat as Jimmy hangs on the hook.

JIMMY

Hey, don't leave me hangin'! Get
it?!

ELIJAH

You guys are one weird-ass family.

Elijah exits. Jimmy sighs.

INT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Lucinda is working in a pew near the front of the sanctuary.
Henry bursts in, still furious.

HENRY

You forgive me?!

LUCINDA

Hi Henry.

HENRY

We were practically engaged! And
then I take a job in Boston without
telling you, and within three months
I'm dating someone else? What kind
of guy does that? It's
unforgivable!

LUCINDA

You sound like you regret it.

HENRY

I do!

(clarifying)

... regret how I handled it! That's
all! There's nothing unresolved
here, if that's what you're
thinking. I don't ever think about
you. I am always never thinking
about you. It's like you don't even--

Henry kisses her, passionately. He pulls back, horrified.

HENRY (cont'd)

Oh my god. What did we just do?!

LUCINDA

I mostly just stood here.

Henry is now deep into a full-on, Gene Wilderesque freakout.

HENRY

I have a fiancée!

(MORE)

HENRY (cont'd)
And I'm in a church! I'm engaged!
And I kissed you! In a church! And
I'm engaged! I'm the good one!

Henry runs off in a panic. Lucinda sits down, clearly more affected than she had been letting on in front of him.

INT. LAWRENCE'S OFFICE - THE NEXT MORNING

The players are gathered as Lawrence enters, smiling. They all sit there, silent and miserable, except Coney.

LAWRENCE
So... Trivial Pursuit. Let's check the results. Jimmy came in fourth place. Elijah came in third, somehow beating Jimmy in a quiz about his own family. Henry was second. And first place? Coney.

Coney smiles, preparing to receive the big check.

LAWRENCE (cont'd)
But of course none of that matters. Now, the real question: after you finished playing, who cleaned up?

Coney stops smiling. The four of them look at each other. A beat. Slowly, Jimmy raises his hand. Lawrence grins, and presses play on the VCR. Benjamin reappears on the screen.

BENJAMIN
"Clean up your mess." That's a lesson I never taught you kids well enough. And now look at the messes in all of your lives...

On Henry:

BENJAMIN (O.S.) (cont'd)
You've hurt people who loved you.

On Jimmy:

BENJAMIN (O.S.) (cont'd)
You've let down people who need you.

On Coney:

BENJAMIN (O.S.) (cont'd)
You've run away from what makes you special.

But then, Coney notices something. As Benjamin continues on the TV, we push in on the PENCIL that he's tapping absentmindedly on his desk -- or is he? Subtly, Coney transcribes dots and dashes onto a notepad.

BENJAMIN (cont'd)

And worst of all, you've lost the one thing that can set you right again: each other.

(beat, then fondly)

You kids are the best puzzle I ever made. But what's a puzzle if the pieces don't fit together?

A beat as this lands on the siblings.

BENJAMIN (cont'd)

And yes, I know what you're thinking: "Dad's crazy, this whole thing's insane, blah blah blah." But I bet each one of you heard some things you needed to hear today. And be honest: for a minute there, wasn't it kinda fun playing Trivial Pursuit together again? I wish I could've been there to see it...

(beat, then)

That being said, only one of you can win the game. And so...

Benjamin pauses just long enough for Lawrence to say...

LAWRENCE

Jimmy.

BENJAMIN

You, my dear, dear--

LAWRENCE

Son.

BENJAMIN

-- showed strong character by cleaning up. Congratulations. You are the winner...

Jimmy can't believe it! On-screen, Benjamin takes a beat.

BENJAMIN (cont'd)

... of five points.

Huh? Confused silence. Benjamin continues:

BENJAMIN (cont'd)
As you'll soon find out, this game
is about much more than simply
winning my inheritance.
(playful smile)
But I don't want to spoil the
surprise just yet.

Benjamin winks and the video ends. Lawrence walks over to a chalkboard divided into quadrants (one for each contestant), and writes a "5" in the box labeled "James."

CONEY
Five points? I thought we're
playing for 23 million bucks.

LAWRENCE
You are. Trivial Pursuit was the
first game in that competition.

ELIJAH
The first game?

LAWRENCE
The second game starts tomorrow at
9AM precisely. But for today's
victory, Jimmy, you get three
hundred dollars.

Lawrence starts counting out the money to Jimmy as the three other contestants act completely stunned.

JIMMY
Nice!

HENRY
I need a drink.

CONEY
Um, me too. Winner pays.

HENRY
(to Elijah)
Join us?

ELIJAH
Nah. I'm gonna rest up for
tomorrow. But yeah, you all go out,
get drunk, stay up late.

HENRY
Seriously...who are you?

Elijah takes a deep breath.

ELIJAH

Okay, I'll tell you. I'm your
father's illegitimate son.

(off their shock)

Or maybe I'm a noble stranger who
saved his life once... Or maybe I'm
a ruthless extortionist who knows
his deep, dark secret...

(chuckles, then)

No, seriously, here's who I am: I'm
the guy who's gonna win all that
money. I dare you to find out more
about me. See ya tomorrow, Henry.

Elijah exits. A confused beat.

HENRY

(oddly touched)

He remembered my name.

Coney finishes deciphering her Dad's Morse Code message on
the pad. It reads simply, "THE ATTIC."

JIMMY

So...bar?

CONEY

I'll meet you guys.

INT. GOODWIN HOUSE - ATTIC - NIGHT

Coney enters the attic to discover an overstuffed folder on
the floor: THE GOODWIN CONJECTURE. She finds a POST-IT on
the front, which reads: "YOUR NEXT PUZZLE..." There's a
little arrow indicating she should flip it over. She does.

It reads, "I LOVE YOU ANYWAY."

Coney can't help but smile, then she starts crying. For the
first time, she realizes her father is really gone.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Henry and Jimmy drink beers together.

HENRY

I still don't get it. Why did Dad
think I killed Finley?

JIMMY

Because you did. You left that
window open when you snuck out to
see Lucinda.

HENRY
(stunned)
Are you serious? But...why did you
take the blame?

Jimmy just shrugs.

JIMMY
We're brothers.

Henry looks at Jimmy in amazement, a bit moved.

HENRY
Yeah. We are.

Henry then notices Lucinda, at her table across the bar. They share a curious, confused look, then she turns away and leaves. Henry tries to shake it off.

HENRY (cont'd)
Hey Jimmy, how about another round?

JIMMY
Can't. I'm broke.

HENRY
You blew through three hundred bucks
in one night?

JIMMY
Yeah... I had to pay off a debt.

INT. BEDROOM - SIMULTANEOUS

Piper walks into her bedroom, and discovers an adorable giant stuffed bird on her bed -- with a receipt taped right in the middle of its belly. She smiles.

INT. BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Coney arrives, smiling at her brothers. A certain overstuffed folder peeks out of her bag. She nods over to the bar's shelf of games, books, etc.

CONEY
Guess what I found over there?

Coney holds up a tattered bar copy of Trivial Pursuit, and asks an unspoken question. Jimmy and Henry smile.

HENRY
Sure, why not?

She starts setting up the board.

JIMMY

Hey, how long do you think this
"competition" will last, anyway?

CONEY

Not too long, I hope. I gotta get
back. I mean, I could probably stay
for a few days...

HENRY

Yeah, I don't need to be back in
Boston immediately. I can cancel
some stuff. I mean, if necessary.

Jimmy looks at both of them, incredulous.

JIMMY

Oh, shut up. Being back here is
kinda nice and you both know it.

A beat as Henry and Coney share a look. Although they'd
never admit it -- Jimmy's right.

HENRY

So we'll stick around. Can't take
more than a few days. A week, tops.

As the siblings ad-lib agreement and start playing...

INT. LAWRENCE'S OFFICE - SIMULTANEOUS

Lawrence ejects the tape and opens the door labeled "TAPE
CLOSET." Behind this door we find...

INT. TAPE CLOSET - NIGHT

...a massive warehouse, stretching back an almost impossible
distance -- filled, floor-to-ceiling, with videotapes. The
Goodwin Games have only just begun...

INT. BAR

BACK ON the Goodwin siblings playing Trivial Pursuit --
laughing, connecting like they haven't in years -- three
pieces of a puzzle, finally back together...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW