

THE LOVING SHOW

by

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EXT. VIEW HIGH ABOVE SUBURBIA - FLYING - DAY

CAMERA floats high over the streets on a brisk Autumn day.

ANGLE looking down like God, observing BIG-BOX MALLS, franchised RESTAURANTS, the SCHOOLS and the HOMES of an semi-affluent suburban neighborhood. CREDITS.

SHOTS DISSOLVE into one another, MOVING CLOSER and CLOSER until we start to follow a COMMERCIAL VAN driving through the streets. The van STOPS AT A RANCH-STYLE HOUSE and a MAN with a TOOL BOX gets out and walks to the front door.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - THE LOVING HOME - DAY

ALICE LOVING is finishing off her lipstick. She seems like the kind of woman who has never had an unsure thought in her life. We HEAR a DOORBELL.

INT. THE MASTER BATHROOM

LEWIS LOVING is in the SHOWER. By all appearances he is the happiest guy on earth. He scrubs his face with a slightly manic gusto.

OUTSIDE THE SHOWER - A lovely 11 year old girl, ZUZU LOVING enters, holding books and papers. She is adorable, but carries the humorless expression of a tax auditor.

ZUZU

Daddy?

LEWIS

Yes, Honey, what?

ZUZU

Do you know what "erosion" is?

LEWIS

Does it have something to do with marriage?

ZUZU

Daddy...

LEWIS

Okay, I know what it is.

ZUZU

If the earth is so old, and erosion moves the earth into the oceans, how is there any earth left? Wouldn't it all be washed in the oceans by now?

LEWIS

YES. It should be washed away by now. Everything gone.

ZUZU

(leaving)
...I'll ask Mom.

LEWIS

No, No... She wouldn't have a clue. The answer is Plate Tectonics.

ZUZU

What's that?

LEWIS

The Earth is always fighting with itself, continents smashing into each other, shoving, seeing who's boss -- pushing up mountains and stuff.

ZUZU

Are you sure?

LEWIS

Yes -- it is another example why conflict is GOOD. Or we'd all have gills by now.

EXT. THE LOVING DOOR

A MAN is at the door. The door opens revealing ALICE.

ALICE

CARLOS... Good to see you again!

INT. HALLWAY

PETER LOVING (15) is peering around the corner, watching his Mother lead the Man into the kitchen.

PETER'S POV - The man's jacket reads "24 HOUR PLUMBING".

PETER'S PHONE - he has a 3-way meeting going with his brother and sister.

PETER
Clam's in the chowder.

INT. THE BOYS' ROOM

TOMMY LOVING (14) to his phone,

TOMMY
Coffee's ready...

INT. DOOR TO ZUZU'S ROOM

On her phone,

ZUZU
Creme and sugar please.

INT. HALLWAY

Peter watches Alice walk back to her bedroom. She closes the door behind her.

PETER
(clicking the phone)
All clear.

INT. THE KITCHEN

The LOVING KIDS converge. Peter gets the milk, Tommy the cereal, Zuzu the bowls & spoons. Peter looks into the basement.

INT. THE BASEMENT - PETER'S POV

The Plumber is starting to work on the drain pipe by the washing machine with a "snake" pipe cleaning machine.

INT. THE KITCHEN

PETER
Seems like he is having some trouble.

ZUZU
What did you stuff down there this time, underwear?

TOMMY
Plastic bags... about 50 of them.

Lewis ENTERS, wearing a tweedy sports coat, vintage tie. Out of the shower, he's pretty tightly wound. The kids perk up.

LEWIS
Hey guys...

He scans the kid's faces. SOMETHING'S UP.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
What?

TOMMY
Well.... the Plumber's back.

LEWIS
Not AGAIN...

Lewis heads for the basement. He MUTTERS to himself.

LEWIS RETURNS, scowling. The kids watch him as he angrily pours himself some coffee.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
Might as well give him his own room!

ZUZU
That's sarcasm, right Daddy?

LEWIS
Yes... sarcasm... the crutch of a weak and clouded soul.

Zuzu opens a notepad on her phone - a note reads:

"YELLING: Peter", "SARCASM: Zuzu", "THROWING THINGS: Tommy"

Zuzu throws up her arms in victory.

ZUZU
I believe I have just advanced to Bonus Round.

She opens her phone and starts texting. Lewis is barely paying attention.

LEWIS
What's the "bonus round"?

KIDS
(unison)
Nothing.

ALICE ENTERS, ready to leave. She smiles at the kids.

ALICE
Your father's driving you today
with Ferdinand...

ZUZU
... and KYLE?

There's a KNOCK at the door.

ALICE
IT'S OPEN TAMMY!

THE FRONT DOOR - friends & next-door neighbors TAMMY and her
husband, FERDINAND HERNANDEZ enter, dressed for work.

LEWIS
Can you just let me know when you
let strange men in the house?

ALICE
Retroactively, or just from this
point onward?

Tammy & Fernando ENTER the kitchen.

TAMMY
What STRANGE MEN?

ALICE
The laundry drain was clogged. (to
Lewis) If you ever washed as much
as a SOCK you would know that.

Ferdinand gives Tammy a LOOK. "They are at it again..."

LEWIS
Ferdinand! Back me up here...

FERDINAND
You're on your own, chief. I'm a
lover, not a fighter.

The PLUMBER ENTERS the kitchen. This is what the kids have
been waiting for. Fresh meat in the crossfire.

PLUMBER
All done.

ALICE
(sweetly)
Oh you POOR MAN, you look
absolutely EXERTED.

LEWIS
 (under his breath)
 Oh my god...

ALICE
 It's so RARE to see a man actually
 SWEAT anymore when he works.

Tammy elbows Ferdinand, this one is going to be good.

LEWIS
 CARLOS... did you succeed? Do we
 flow freely?

PLUMBER
 Bunch of plastic clogging it up.

ALICE
 Carlos! What a help you are.

LEWIS
 Carlos, how many times have you been
 here, say, in the last two weeks?

PLUMBER
 Three, I think. No, four.

ANGLE - PETER is secretly SHOOTING THE SCENE with his PHONE.

LEWIS
 Yes, three times. Three times in two
 weeks. My wife is so pleased with your
 work, Carlos, she may shove a whole
 box of god-knows-what down there to
 arrange your next return.

ALICE
 Leave the man alone for god's sake,
 Lewis. At least he WORKS for his money.

LEWIS
 Are you suggesting I don't work?

ALICE
 I didn't say THAT.

LEWIS
 I published three papers last year.

ALICE
 In Philosophy Journals that fifteen
 people read. Peter's Robot channel
 has more viewers.

PETER

Thirteen thousand subscribers and counting!

ALICE

It's not like you are feeding the world or curing cancer.... or unclogging sewers.

Alice smirks at Tammy. Score one for her.

LEWIS

Alice, you're RIGHT -- anyone who chooses to TEACH instead of becoming a lawyer, lobbyist or slumlord is a pathetic dreamer.

ALICE

I'm just saying there is something refreshing about a man that actually DOES something with his hands.

LEWIS

We can't all be LAWYERS like you, selling justice to the corporation with the most money.

ALICE

It PAYS the bills...

LEWIS

As it DESTROYS humanity...

TAMMY

(cutting in)

I heard traffic's is slow this morning. Probably should be...

ALICE

(to Lewis)

...It's given us a nice roof over our head, a new car in the garage and a decent retirement portfolio.

LEWIS

I'd rather live in a cardboard box with an intact SOUL.

ALICE

Okay... I guess those of us WITHOUT a soul need to get to work. Right Tammy?

FERDINAND

Maybe you can pick a one up at the drive-through.

ALICE

CARLOS... what would you choose? A nice car & house? Or a cardboard box and a soul?

PLUMBER

... your new car. NICE, I saw it.

PETER

(jumping in)
It's their 20th anniversary.
They're a little weird about it.

ALICE

Not TODAY thank god, on SUNDAY...

LEWIS

Just after THANKSGIVING DAY, when we celebrate DEAD TURKEYS and the Pilgrims who ate them.

PLUMBER

...Congratulations?

LEWIS

(changing tack)
Look, let's not fight, our sewer is unclogged, thanks to Carlos, here!

She ignores him & gathers her purse, she knows what he's doing.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

(grabbing Ferdinand & Tammy)
Group hug! Com'on, GROUP HUG! The clog has passed! Come'on, we can all feel good about that.

It's a BIG GROUP HUG - The Lovings, Hernandez' and the Plumber.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

Oh happy, Happy Day!

Lewis is patting everyone on the back.

ALICE

Are you finished? Tammy and I have to get to work.

Alice kisses each child, then starts to leave.. We SEE on HER BACK is taped a PAPER. Letters read: "SHOOT ME I'M A LAWYER".

Lewis watches her go, proudly, as does Ferdinand and the kids. Tommy catches her exit on VIDEO. The DOOR CLOSES. Tommy quickly slides the PHONE in his pocket.

FERDINAND

Slick.

EXT. LOVING HOME - CONTINUOUS

Tammy gets in Alices' German SUV.

ALICE

The blue collar thing drives him CRAZY.

INT. LOVING KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

LEWIS

(to the kids)

So? How do you score?

TOMMY

Uhhh... Five to Five.

PETER

Six-Five Mom...

LEWIS

Whaaa?

He turns to Zuzu.

ZUZU

(considering)

Four-Three, you -- she was reactive, you were proactive.

LEWIS

Ferdinand - Come on. I killed, right? Ferdinand, we need a tiebreaker.

FERDINAND

Lewis, aren't you worried about scarring your kids for life?

ZUZU

The day they STOP fighting... that's when start worrying.

TOMMY

My friend's parents, the ones that
aren't divorced, they don't even
TALK to each other.

LEWIS

(noticing the Plumber)
Carlos. Who do you think won?

PLUMBER

Won what?

LEWIS

Carlos - Hello. Pay attention.
The wife and I. Who WON?

PLUMBER

Ohhh?

LEWIS

I mean, I won, right?

PLUMBER

Well, she's gone, and you're still
here talking about it.

A SOUND at the front door, Ferdinand's creepy son KYLE
appears, ready for school.

KYLE

So, DUH, are we like going to
school or what?

FERDINAND

Coming Kyle.

KYLE

And I get to sit in front today.

The Loving kids share a look - they HATE this kid.

INT. ALICE'S CAR - THE FREEWAY - DAY

ALICE

You see how the veins in his
forehead kind of pop out? He gets
so bent out of shape...

TAMMY

Which is probably why you keep
calling them.

ALICE
The drain WAS clogged! I swear. I
didn't do it.

Alice's PHONE BEEPS. She reads a TEXT.

ALICE (CONT'D)
From Zuzu. (Reads) Tammy, is there
something on my back?

She leans forward. Tammy pulls the NOTE off her back and
hands it to her.

TAMMY
"Shoot me I'm a lawyer". Cute.

ALICE
Moron. Never marry a Ph.D.

TAMMY
Too late...

ALICE
Yeah. Weren't we clever.

EXT. THE MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

The school is decorated Thanksgiving-style. Lewis' vintage
VOLVO pulls up. Ferdinand is in the back seat with Peter and
Zuzu, Kyle is in front and Tommy is crammed in the back of
the station wagon. Kyle and Zuzu get out. Kyle runs off as
Zuzu lingers. Ferdinand moves to the front seat.

FERDINAND
(calling after him)
Kyle, no more trouble!

LEWIS
(to Zuzu)
Have fun today...

But Zuzu is HESITATING, her eyes glued on a pack of OLDER
GIRLS on the steps.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
Everything okay?

ZUZU
Yeah.

EXT. YARD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

As ZUZU walks, head down, BRANDI (12) swoops in behind her, following close. Her wing-girls, CANDICE and CLOÉ in formation behind her. Brandi looms over Zuzu as they walk.

BRANDI

Yeah, you were right, Candice... this
IS where that SMELL is coming from...

Zuzu starts to trot, then RUNS into a thick crowd of kids. Brandi and her girls watch and LAUGH.

EXT. THE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Tommy and Peter get out of the car and head for class. Lewis waves goodbye. Tommy pulls out his phone.

PHONE SCREEN - The "Group Hug" is being replayed.

INT. LEWIS'S CAR - FREEWAY - A SHORT WHILE LATER

LEWIS

It's sad really. Because a great
intellect intimidates her.

FERDINAND

My wife thinks Spanish Literature
is the menu at Taco Bell.

LEWIS

I mean, Alice spends her days with
people whose deepest thought is how
to double-bill their clients.

INT. DOWNTOWN HIGH-RISE - OFFICE - DAY

A LEGAL SECRETARY is carrying a stack of FILES towards a closed DOOR. Next to the door, at a small desk, is perched DUSTIN (late 20's) Alice's uptight assistant. He barks,

DUSTIN

I WOULDN'T, if I was you.

The SECRETARY FREEZES. She puts the files on Dustin's desk and scurries away. The door BURSTS OPEN. ALICE STEPS OUT, TURNS DRAMATICALLY, pauses and BELLOWS back into the room.

ALICE

The two of you don't have the
sense of a head-trauma victim!

As if on cue -- Dustin hands her TWO BASEBALL BATS. Alice FLINGS THEM into the room and slams the door.

ALICE (CONT'D)
 Here... Beat yourself SENSELESS...
 I'll bill the one that makes it out
 of intensive care first.

And with that, SHE SLAMS THE DOOR. Alice straightens herself out, breathes deeply, takes out her PHONE. Dustin looks at his watch.

ALICE (CONT'D)
 What do you say?

DUSTIN
 I'm going with ninety seconds... I
 don't think these guys can zip up
 their fly in less than a minute.

ALICE
 I say Fifteen... wanna bet?

DUSTIN
 NO...

ALICE
 Fifty bucks?

DUSTIN
 No.

They WAIT. After a moment, Alice can't take the idleness. She starts scanning through her mail on her Phone.

ALICE
 (reading)
 Ha! No way...
 (reading)
 Idiot!
 (reading)
 Waste of time.... YES...

Her thumbs are in a flurry, pounding out messages. Then, a slight SOUND. The DOOR OPENS.

VOICE (OC)
 Ms. Loving, I think we have a solution.

She shoots Dustin A LOOK.

DUSTIN
 22 SECONDS...

ALICE
You owe me fifty.

DUSTIN
I don't.

Alice steps into the office and SHUTS THE DOOR. Dustin's phone BUZZES. A FEMALE VOICE on the speaker says,

FEMALE VOICE
Dustin, Mr. Penny wants to see Ms. Loving in his office.

DUSTIN
She's just finishing up.

INT. HUGO PENNY'S OFFICE

Alice ENTERS her boss's office. It's large and creepy in a rich lawyer way. HUGO PENNY (60's) is tanned and glossy. Another partner in the firm, JOE EITHIER (70's) is seated and smiling.

HUGO
There she is... Light of my life.

ALICE
Hi Hugo, Joe.

HUGO
How's the NGG arbitration going?

ALICE
(sitting)
Just had a breakthrough.

HUGO
(to Joe)
Alice's arbitration department's revenue has grown twenty three percent since she took over. She's got quite the sausage factory going there.

JOE
Keep grinding young lady.

Alice shifts in her chair, her look says, "Get on with it".

HUGO
Alice, I won't waste time, Joe & I have discussed it. You'll have been here six years next Spring. We are looking to make you an Equity Partner.

JOE
Happy Thanksgiving!

ALICE
So I should stop talking to HODSON,
SMITH, KOELLING and POST?

HUGO
That's the idea.

Alice smiles.

HUGO (CONT'D)
But the board has to review...

JOE
Mrs. Loving, when I started this
firm, I knew success would come by
recruiting lawyers with intelligence,
a thorough knowledge of the law,
solid client relationships, a good
business sense and most of all
STABILITY - in both their personal
and professional lives. I believe you
meet those requirements to a "T".

ALICE
I thank you gentlemen, even if it
did take you an extra year to get
around to it. Epstein was offered
Equity Partner after only five
years, I was out-earning him by a
million three, by my third year.

JOE
Well...

ALICE
Not that I'm keeping track.

INT. THE LAW OFFICE - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Alice has a spring in her step as she leaves Hugo's office.
She sees Tammy who makes a "what happened" gesture. She
mouths "I GOT IT" and gives Tammy a "thumbs up."

INT. UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM - DAY

DR. LEWIS LOVING is at the whiteboard in front of a
scattering of students. He is writing "IMMANUEL KANT" and
"Critic of Pure Reason - PART I: Transcendental Aesthetic".

LEWIS
Any questions from the quiz?

A STUDENT raises his hand.

STUDENT
(reading)
"Matter is that in the appearance
which corresponds to sensation"...
I still don't get it.

Lewis sits on his desk.

LEWIS
Kant says we get knowledge two
ways: through SENSATION and REASON.
He calls your ability to gather
data "sensation" and the data
itself "phenomenon".

STUDENT
Okay.

LEWIS
Let's say you see an attractive
member of the opposite sex. And you
say, Whooa -- that's a PHENOMENON"!

The class LAUGHS. At least those that are awake.

LEWIS'
But let's say REASON has taught you
that physical attraction can lead to
interaction and to a relationship and
following that, a contractual binding
of the parties in marriage, followed
by a life awash in recriminations,
anguish and petty bickering...

A KID in the back raises his hand.

KID
Is this gonna be on the final?

Lewis gathers himself, he SIGHS silently

LEWIS
Mr. Loney, I promise, you won't
even remember your grade in this
class twenty years from now. And
if all you focus on is your grades,
you won't remember the class
either, or maybe in your case, the
entire school year.

KID

...I gotta sorta get a "B" to keep my student aid...

LEWIS

But... Mr. Loney, Imagine if you will; your brain, by some freak event, creating a actual, genuine THOUGHT. If an authentic IDEA could somehow creep into your skull, slithering through the cognitive remnants of video game cheat codes, dialog from movies based on comic books and all the rest... imagine how all of this glorious academic ritual would have been WORTH it.

A GIRL

My dad is cutting my phone off if I don't bring my average up.

Lewis takes a breath. Tries again.

LEWIS

What if there were NO GRADES? What is we sat here three times a week and really dug into Kant for 50 minutes?

A GIRL

Pass/Fail doesn't count. I need a "B".

LEWIS

You want a "B" too? Fine - You have a "B". Anyone else want a "B"?

Everyone's hands fly up.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

Okay, The whole class get's "B"s. Even Sparky here in the corner that has been asleep since September, he gets an "B" too.

KID

Are you serious?

LEWIS

But this is the deal... you come to every class... THINK, TALK & PARTICIPATE. No note-taking, no tests, no quizzes. BUT if you miss ONE CLASS, your grade will hinge on a single, handwritten, 30 page essay in a THREE HOUR FINAL. Got it?

The class NODS. Lewis NODS BACK and smiles.

INT. LUNCHROOM, THE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

ANGLE - A STACK OF CANDY, CUPCAKES and other SWEETS. WE SEE that the stack belongs to TOMMY. A BOY WITH BRACES approaches him. He hands Tommy a candy bar. Tommy hands him his PHONE, with headphones. The boy starts watching a VIDEO CLIP. He giggles. PETER walks up, assessing the scene.

PETER

What are you doing?

TOMMY

Look at all of THIS! Want some Atomic Super-Sour Worms?

The Boy finishes watching the clip.

BOY WITH BRACES

Can I see it again?

TOMMY

Sure. The second showing is free.

PETER

What is he watching?

TOMMY

The "Plumber" video from this morning. These guys love it.

PETER

That's ill.

TOMMY

I have a list here, they get to vote for the winner. So far, Dad leads by three.

A SKATER BOY approaches.

SKATER BOY

Can I watch it? Jason said it was sick.

TOMMY

Got candy?

SKATER BOY

No.

TOMMY

Sorry.

SKATER BOY

I got a DOLLAR...

TOMMY

Oh, Okay.

The boy coughs up a DOLLAR BILL. Tommy takes the money. He looks at Peter... a LIGHT GOES ON.

INT. BOY'S ROOM - AFTER SCHOOL - DAY

Tommy is working on his LAPTOP. Zuzu pokes her head in.

ZUZU

Selling more eBay stuff?

TOMMY

No, better, VIDEO.

THE SCREEN - Tommy has posted the clip from this morning on a video sharing site, "InterTube" (or YouTube, Google Video, etc. depending). They watch it play. CRUDE SOUND EFFECTS have been added. Even stoic Zuzu giggles a bit.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Look.

THE SCREEN - we see the number of views is already 10. As we watch it ticks to 11, then 15. Tommy reacts.

INT. LOVING KITCHEN - TWO HOURS LATER

Peter COMES IN the door, puts a bag down and opens the door of the refrigerator. He closes the door to REVEAL ZUZU standing there, staring at him soberly. Peter JUMPS.

PETER

JEEZ. Do you HAVE to do that?

ZUZU

You should see something.

INT. THE BOYS' ROOM

Peter is sitting at Tommy's laptop with Zuzu and Tommy crowded around. The InterTube page is up.

PETER

Eighteen thousand and fifty three views... in two HOURS?

TOMMY

In the time you took to say that...

ZUZU

It went up by another 22.

PETER

Mom and Dad are going to be SO PISSED when they see it. I mean so, so, SO PISSED. Like nuclear reaction, burn-a-hole-in-the-earth mad.

ZUZU

Peter, Dad uses his laptop for just Powerpoint, Word & e-mail.

TOMMY

..and Mom is text & talk exclusive. She doesn't even get email on her phone. She has like, three applications, stock market, news and something else.

PETER

What happens when someone e-mails them a link?

TOMMY

Hasn't happened yet.

PETER

Don't you think this makes them look.. Well... BAD?

TOMMY

No one watches this stuff but kids like us.

ZUZU

But WHAT'S the point?

TOMMY

It can make money.

PETER

How?

TOMMY

Remember how I drove up the price on those old toys I sold on eBay?

(MORE)

TOMMY (CONT'D)
 I got \$8.99 for Zuzu's old stuffed Barney? I can get us a FORTUNE off this stuff. All it takes is a little creativity.

Peter considers this for a moment.

PETER
 Where's that video camera?

INT. LIVING ROOM - A WHILE LATER

Peter is hiding a VIDEO CAMCORDER in the bookshelf inside a box with a hole cut into it. He checks the remote.

THE DOORWAY - Zuzu's the look-out. She's watching something.

POV - watching her father in the den, pecking at his laptop. He is getting frustrated.

LEWIS
 (calling out)
 Zuzu....

INT. LIVING ROOM

Tommy is crawling on the floor, setting up a MICROPHONE.

ZUZU
 (whispering to the boys)
 HURRY UP, or he's going to wander in here.
 (to Lewis)
 I'M COMING DADDY.

LEWIS (OC)
 I can't get this darn attachment to open. Why won't it open?

The boys are scurrying around, putting things back. Tommy nods at Zuzu.

ZUZU
 Coming Dad. What format is it?

Zuzu EXITS to help her father. Tommy dials his PHONE.

TOMMY
 Mom? When are you gonna be home?
 (listens)
 Good. Oh, Nothing. It's just Zuzu.
 Some kind of GIRL THING.

(MORE)

TOMMY (CONT'D)
 I think YOU need to talk to her.
 Yeah. I dunno. I dunno. I guess. I
 dunno. Okay.

EXT. THE DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Alice has ARRIVED, heading in with a box of files.

INT. THE KITCHEN

Alice ENTERS, struggling to open the door with her load.
 Peter is sitting at the kitchen table, eating a bowl of pasta
 and watching a video on his iPod.

ALICE
 THANKS for the HELP.

PETER
 (taking his ear-pods out)
 Hey, Mom. Did you go to the store?
 We are out of milk.

ALICE
 No, I DIDN'T go to the store. I've
 been busy making money to PAY FOR
 the milk. How's Zuzu?

PETER
 I dunno.

INT. THE FAMILY ROOM

Zuzu is crouched over Lewis' laptop, fixing his E-mail.

ALICE (O.S.)
 ZUZU...

LEWIS SWEEPS Zuzu out of the way and takes the seat.

LEWIS
 THANKS, got it.

Alice ENTERS. She sees Lewis pecking away at his laptop,
 with Zuzu sitting on the couch. Alice assesses the scene.

ALICE
 (to Zuzu)
 What are you doing?

ZUZU
 Watching TV.

On the TV, ESPN is playing.

ALICE
OKAY... Helping Dad with his
computer, huh?

Lewis glares at her.

ZUZU
Mom, can we talk privately?

Alice smiles at Lewis and turns away from him. On her back she has taped a PIECE OF PAPER. It reads: "I'M STILL SMARTER THAN YOU". Lewis sees it, and snorts.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Alice leads Zuzu into the Living Room. Zuzu removes the paper from her back.

ZUZU
Don't you think this is a little
immature?

ALICE
As men get older, men get more
immature. You have to communicate
on their level.

Tommy "wanders" by and ENTERS. He glances at the CAMERA in the bookshelf, from his angle he can see the RECORD LIGHT.

TOMMY
Hey, what's up?

ALICE
I'm talking to Zuzu about her
problem.

ZUZU
Well, it's not really a problem,
more like an argument... with
Tommy the Terrible.

TOMMY
Hey, I didn't mean to make you CRY!

ALICE
WAIT! What is all of this about?

ZUZU
Well, I said you were the coolest
parent...

(MORE)

ZUZU (CONT'D)

I mean you are a LAWYER, head of your department, you solve people's problems, you have killer SHOES, and a lot of other stuff that, well, just makes you GREAT.

Alice melts...

TOMMY

Mom, I never said you weren't cool, I just think Dad is ULTRA, LIKE SUPER cool. I mean, Philosophy is HARD. It like, makes your brain explode. And he's written BOOKS.

ALICE

What's wrong with ME?

TOMMY

Have you written books?

ALICE

I've written 500 page BRIEFS.

ZUZU

Don't you think YOU are way cooler than Dad?

Lewis pokes his head in the room.

LEWIS

I am MUCH COOLER.

Lewis enters and stands next to Tommy.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

Mom's idea of "cool" is filing a class action lawsuit.

TOMMY

See! I told you!

THE HALLWAY

Peter is crouched in the hallway watching a LITTLE TV MONITOR, a cable snaking to it from under the rug. He has HEADPHONES on, listening.

THE SCREEN - It shows that Lewis is barely in the frame.

THE LIVING ROOM - The argument is heating up.

ZUZU

Cool people DANCE cool. That's how you can tell.

LEWIS

You don't think I can dance?

ZUZU

I mean freaky-cool dancing.

Zuzu does a wild, jerky HIP-HOP THING, uncharacteristic for her serious personality. Tommy joins in with a spastic, burst-of-energy DANCE. He notices PETER GESTURING at the door. He is making a "move over" motion.

TOMMY

Dad, show 'er what you got! Defend the coolness of the male sex. Rip it!

LEWIS

You mother could sustain internal injury if she tries this...

TOMMY

Wait Dad, do it over HERE... I don't want you to break something.

ALICE

THAT'S for sure.

TOMMY

I meant a lamp, it's about to get radically dangerous in here.

Tommy pushes his father into a spot that is in the middle of the video frame. He punches a button on a nearby iPod speaker-box. BOOMING MUSIC gushes out. Lewis CUTS LOOSE with a uncontrolled DANCE more hilarious than cool. His face is frozen in serious concentration as he FLAILS AROUND.

THE HALLWAY

Peter is watching, trying hard not to laugh out loud.

THE LIVING ROOM

Lewis is finishing with a flourish of sorts. His READING GLASSES fly off his face. He's flushed and out of breath. Tommy STOPS the MUSIC.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

(straight faced)

That was totally AMAZING. Mom, you might as well QUIT NOW.

ALICE
That was SAD. Get out of my way
Professor Wheezer-ton...

She moves into his space. Tommy STARTS THE MUSIC AGAIN and Alice launches into a hip-jolting, hair-flinging DANCE.

THE HALLWAY SCREEN - Alice tears up the room, but her CLUNKY NECKLACE keeps SLAPPING HER IN THE FACE, finally on one especially violent HEAD-WHIP, a BAUBLE SLAMS into her MOUTH.

THE LIVING ROOM - Alice stops dancing.

ALICE (CONT'D)
I think I chipped a tooth.

ZUZU
Let me see...

She peers into her mother's mouth.

ZUZU (CONT'D)
It's okay.

Lewis is smirking. He mimes a note pad. He writes:

LEWIS
Alice Kent-Loving, "Did Not
Finish"...

ALICE
I can dance you INTO THE GROUND.

LEWIS
Well, you're not TWENTY ONE any
more, are YOU?

ALICE
Well, You're a SPAZZ. You were a young
spazz and now you're an OLD spazz.

LEWIS
Oh really? ...Lawyer!

ALICE
Academic!

LEWIS
Bottom feeder!

ALICE
IRRELEVANT!

And now the worst insult he can manage...

LEWIS
CORPORATE.

ALICE
GOOD NIGHT, MR. Loving.

LEWIS
GOOD NIGHT, Mrs. Loving.

And they both STOMP OUT OF THE ROOM via different exits.
Tommy and Zuzu stand placidly and watch. We HEAR A SLAM.

TOMMY
Dad's back in the laundry room
tonight.

And ANOTHER SLAM. Followed by the faint TINKLE of something
that BREAKS.

ZUZU
Mom's door... and sounds like one
of her figurines by the night
stand. Probably that bunny under a
hair-dryer.

Peter sticks his head in the room with a GRIN on his face.

PETER
Got it!

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

It's decorated in a surprisingly girly way, with CERAMIC
BUNNY FIGURINES everywhere. Alice is just putting on a T-
SHIRT and removes a mountain of throw-pillows from the top of
a extra large king-sized bed. She crawls under the covers and
turns off the light. She glares at the ceiling.

INT. THE LAUNDRY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lewis is setting up a well-worn COT. He takes a pillow and
blanket from a cabinet. This is a not-uncommon end to his
day. He starts CLEARING HIS THROAT, LOUDLY. Then AGAIN.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alice can HEAR HIM, she puts a pillow over her ear and rolls
over.

INT. BOYS' ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

The kids are EDITING their newest creation on a LAPTOP
ON THE SCREEN - We see Lewis DANCING, accompanied by a
variety of FARM SOUND EFFECTS.

PETER

Can we put a farting sound there,
when he stops? Farting sounds
always go over big.

Tommy slaps his mouth on his fore-arm and makes a big, juicy
FART SOUND. Peter nods in approval.

PETER (CONT'D)

Where's the microphone?

EXT. THE LOVING HOME - MORNING

Another lovely day.

INT. HALLWAY & BOYS' BEDROOM - DAY

Tommy is WAKING PETER UP with a shake. By his bed is all
matter of thing robot - toy robots, robot heads, robot books.

TOMMY

We gotta sell your old PlayStation.

PETER

What?

TOMMY

The "Plumber Clip" made the top ten
this morning.

PETER

What?

TOMMY

2.3 MILLION views.

THAT WAKES HIM UP. Peter KNOCKS ON THE WALL to Zuzu's room. -
Three short RAPS.

INT. ZUZU'S ROOM

HEARING the RAPS, she stops feeding her pet Bearded Dragon.

INT. BOYS ROOM

Tommy is showing Peter & Zuzu something on his laptop.

TOMMY

It's a complete video spy rig,
miniature cameras, wireless feed,
recording decks... wireless mics.

ZUZU

What will this cost?.

TOMMY

I almost have enough money in
PayPal.

PETER

Sell my PlayStation. Sell
everything. All the games too.

ZUZU

Check on the VIDEOS, what about the
NEW ONE?

THE SCREEN - the InterTube home page for "LOVING STUDIOS".
Pictures of Peter, Tommy and Zuzu are prominent. The "Dance"
clip starts PLAYING, full of crude SOUND EFFECTS. The screen
says: "1,237,845 views".

ZUZU (CONT'D)

1.2 Million... SINCE LAST NIGHT.

PETER

We have six thousand comments.

The kids fall into a reverent silence, except for the FARTING
SOUNDS accompanying LEWIS' DANCE. A VOICE at the door
STARTLES THEM. It's their FATHER. They STOP THE VIDEO.

LEWIS

We're late. What are you guys doing,
checking out your horoscopes?

Lewis CHUCKLES at his own cleverness.

PETER

We're ready...

But he's wearing boxer shorts and a T-shirt.

LEWIS

Wearing pants might be a good idea.

TOMMY
Is Mom at work?

LEWIS
Either that or she was stolen by
the witches again.

INT. LAW OFFICE - DAY

Alice and Tammy are walking together.

TAMMY
How could you not tell Lewis about
your partnership?

ALICE
I never got the chance. He would
have twisted it up anyway, made it
feel like an insult to his pride.

They approach a CONFERENCE ROOM. She can see Hugo sitting
there with two clients.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Hugo's in on this?

TAMMY
He says it's too high profile.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

Alice and Tammy enter and sits. The room is quiet. Seated is
Hugo and a rail-thin, birdlike ASIAN WOMAN IN GREY SUIT and a
hulking and pompous MAN IN STRIPED SUIT.

ALICE
Okay. New plan...

HUGO
This is our fourteenth proposal. I
urge you, in the strongest possible
way, not to underestimate the power
of closing this conflict and moving
ahead with your careers and lives.

ALICE
Here it is: Both sides drop the
lawsuits. Rogers retains full control
of CCMI. Kim receives controlling
interest in BBD Manufacturing.

At this, STRIPED SUIT GRUNTS. Alice plows ahead.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Kim gets the Bentley and Rogers the boat. Kim returns the golf clubs, laptop and all copies of the photos taken on March 21st. Rogers buys Kim a AKC registered French Bulldog puppy of champion lineage... chosen by Kim.

Silence. GREY SUIT is thinking. A slight NOD. STRIPED SUIT rubs his hands over his bald head & wipes his nose. NOTHING.

EXT. THE HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Peter is getting something out of his locker. Down the hall, a POPULAR-TYPE BRUNETTE and a BLONDE TEEN GODDESS walk towards him. The Brunette whispers something in the Blonde's ear. Then a miracle happens, the BLONDE GODDESS SMILES at Peter. Peter is stunned. As they pass, The Brunette glances back and WINKS. On THE BLONDE'S BACK is stuck a NOTE It reads: "KICK ME - I'M A CHEERLEADER".

INT. UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM - DAY

Lewis has concluded a lecture. The white board reads, "Hobbes, Locke, Berkeley and the Empiricist School, pp 235-320". The students are preparing to leave.

LEWIS

Your papers on Descartes and Continental Rationalism are due after Thanksgiving.

In a moment, the ROOM is EMPTY. An UNKNOWN STUDENT appears in the door, TAKES A PICTURE of Lewis with his phone. Lewis is startled, and the kid is gone in a flash. We HEAR his footsteps running in the hall and a distant GIGGLE.

LEWIS REACTS. His phone RINGS. He looks at the ID.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

Yes...

(listens)

It will take me 40 minutes to get to the school in traffic.

(listens)

Okay. I'm leaving.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - LAW OFFICE - DAY

OUTSIDE THE DOOR - Alice puts her phone away and enters the room.

INSIDE - Hugo, Tammy and the Grey Suit are still sitting, waiting for Striped Suit to say something. Alice sits.

STRIPED SUIT
Well... I'm NOT giving her BBD Manufacturing.

ALICE
You agreed to that last week!

STRIPED SUIT
No I DIDN'T!

ALICE
Want to read the transcripts?

He wipes his nose.

STRIPED SUIT
I changed my mind then.

Nothing. Silence AGAIN.

STRIPED SUIT (CONT'D)
Why does the dog have to be from a champion? The old mutt wasn't.

Silence. The last remark causes Grey Suit to crumple. Striped Suit is smug, he rubs his head slowly.

STRIPED SUIT (CONT'D)
What, she can't live without doggie?

As he starts to wipe his nose for the 20th time - ALICE SNAPS - SHE SPRINGS ACROSS THE TABLE & GRABS HIM BY THE THROAT.

ALICE
YOU SCUM-BAG!

STRIPED SUIT
AHHHGGGG! DON'T HURT ME!

HUGO jumps up and grabs ALICE'S LEGS and tries to pull her off him. It's like a TUG OF WAR and ALICE IS THE ROPE. TAMMY is trying to pry her hands off STRIPED SUIT's neck.

TAMMY
NO! LET HIM GO! ALICE!

ALICE'S LEG SLIPS OUT OF HUGO'S HANDS - Sending Alice, Striped Suit & Tammy all TUMBLING BACKWARDS over his chair. Striped Suit SLAMS the BACK OF HIS HEAD against the window with a dark THUMP. Hugo ends up with Alice's high heel shoe in his hand. GREY SUIT is, for the first time, SMILING.

HUGO

Alice!

Striped Suit is OUT COLD.

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - LATE AFTERNOON

Zuzu is standing alone on the sidewalk as Lewis pulls up. Peter and Tommy are inside. Lewis rolls down the window.

LEWIS

Sorry, Zu.

Stoic, she gets in.

INT. LEWIS' CAR, DRIVING - LATE AFTERNOON

The kids are quiet.

LEWIS

Your Mother called and said she had to stay at the office late. She text'd you, right?

ZUZU

Yeah.

EXT. LOVING HOME - LATE AFTERNOON

Lewis' car pulls up. The kids pile out and rush inside.

LEWIS - Wondering.

INT. BOYS' ROOM - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

They are crouched around the computer. On the screen is the SPY VIDEO SET.

TOMMY

Excellent! The spy cam rig shipped today. We gotta pack up your PlayStation for shipping.

PETER

When did you have time to do this?

TOMMY

What do you think Study Hall is for?

ZUZU

I want to see what happened today.

Tommy loads the InterTube video page to the "Dance" clip.

PETER

Whew...

ZUZU

We got NUMBER ONE Clip of the Day!

TOMMY

I guess Mom and Dad are not such bad dancers after all.

The CLIP ENDS.

PETER

PLAY IT AGAIN.

THE SCREEN - Alice starts her dance AGAIN, jewelry flying.

INT. HUGO'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Alice is sitting alone on a couch by the window, looking down at the cars and little people below. Hugo enters. He sits opposite her.

ALICE

How is he?

HUGO

The hospital just released him. Nothing hurt but his pride. He's threatening to file a suit, but I think he's bluffing.

This is the cue to grovel for her job.

ALICE

Hugo, I LOST IT. The guy is getting a sweet deal, he embezzled, and is getting away with it. And that little dog...

HUGO

I thought you went to Law School? Don't you know "JUSTICE" is short for "JUST FOR US"?

Alice's PHONE RINGS. She sees the ID. She answers.

ALICE

I'm in a meeting.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lewis is sitting on the conjugal bed.

LEWIS

I'm sitting on our bed.

ALICE'S VOICE

Watch the figurines.

LEWIS

In the interest of marital harmony,
I'm suggesting getting rid of this
squishy foam bed that is destroying
my back. Why should I toss and turn
why you sleep blissfully?

ALICE'S VOICE

Because you are a philosopher.
Doesn't earthly suffering open the
door to some kind of enlightenment?

LEWIS

Yes. I have been enlightened to the
fact that I need a firm mattress.

INT. HUGO'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

ALICE

Can we talk about this later?

LEWIS

The kids think it is a great idea.
You should see their sudden
enthusiasm for buying a new
mattress. And there is a sale a
Mattress Mega-Market, last day.

ALICE

Lewis, this is STUPID! I have a
major crisis here at work.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM

LEWIS

Fine. We're going to Mattress Mega-Market.

He hangs up.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

(calling out)

KIDS, LET'S GO.

INT. HUGO'S OFFICE

Alice is left with the phone in her hand. She is STEAMING.

HUGO

Alice, remember what the Old Man said... STABILITY. You have to hold it together.

ALICE

Oh, right. Your bonus depends on my department's earnings.

INT. MATTRESS MEGA-MARKET - NIGHT

A giant, fluorescent mattresses megalopolis. LEWIS is LAYING FLAT ON HIS BACK, on a mattress, eyes closed. He opens them. There above him is RON, an aggressive mattress salesman. His shirt says, "Let Me Bed You".

RON

Dual firmness foundation - Advanced trilateral support technology.

LEWIS

Nice.

RON

I'm Ron, you are?

LEWIS

Lewis.

NEARBY - Peter, Tommy & Zuzu are sitting on a bed, waiting. Peter is wearing a MESSENGER BAG. We see a HOLE IN THE SIDE, and inside, the LENS of the VIDEO CAMERA.

TOMMY

Are you sure this will work?

PETER

I tested it. It's cool.

ZUZU

...Incoming...

THE DOOR - ALICE has ENTERED and is heading towards them.

TOMMY

Roll camera.

Alice heads towards the bed.

LEWIS
Feels pretty GOOD.

LEWIS'S POV - Looking up, he sees Ron's hovering smile.

RON
One thousand percent guarantee. This
is the mattress I bought my mother.

ALICE'S FACE APPEARS, peering down at Lewis.

ALICE
(unsmiling)
Comfy?

RON
Mrs. Lewis! - Are you ready to change
what happens in the bedroom forever?

Her eyes narrow.

RON (CONT'D)
Oh, com'on. Why don't you hop on
the bed with hubby here?

The look on Alice's face is noted by the kids & the camera.
Alice clenches her teeth & lays down next to Lewis.

ALICE
(to herself)
The end of a PERFECT day...

TOMMY
Is this one of these beds where you
can walk on it and not tip over a
glass of grape juice?

RON
You got it.

PETER
So, How does it work?

TOMMY
Can you show us?

RON
Gladly, who first?

ALICE
"Mr. Lewis", please.

She climbs off the bed. Ron produces a SLEEPING MASK from his
pocket and hands it to Lewis.

RON
 Okay, pretend you are sleeping.
 Wear this.

Lewis opens the mask. Printed on the front is, "Good in Bed".
 He puts on the mask and lays flat on his back. Ron takes off
 his shoes and steps on the mattress.

RON (CONT'D)
 I'm stepping on the bed.

LEWIS
 Really?

Ron starts stepping harder.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
 'Nuthin...

Ron starts STOMPING... then JUMPING.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
 Amazing. Barely feel anything.

ZUZU
 Mommy, you gotta try it.

ALICE
 I don't think so.

PETER
 Com'mon...

TOMMY
 Dad, you walk on the bed.
 Let Mom try.

LEWIS
 "Mrs. Lewis", you should try it.

It's four against one - Alice relents.

ALICE
 For one minute.

Alice gets on the bed, lays on her back, rigid as a board.
 Lewis hands her the sleeping mask. She notices,

ON THE BED NEXT TO THEM - A LARGE MAN WITH TATTOOS is laying
 down, testing a bed. He glances at Alice and SMILES.

PETER
 Okay, Dad, walk on the bed.

Lewis takes off his shoes and stands on the bed.

LEWIS
 Feel that?

ALICE
 (eyes closed)
 Not really.

Tommy takes a BOX OF GRAPE JUICE out of Peter's bag, along with a WINE GLASS.

TOMMY
 (quietly to Ron)
 I brought this, just to see if it works like the commercial.

RON
 ...Okay.

Ron opens the juice box. He pours it into the glass.

LEWIS is now starting to JUMP on the bed.

LEWIS
 Feel that... hardly, right?

ALICE
 Okay -- I GET it.

RON
 Now, you notice that this glass will hardly move...

ALICE
 What glass?

The KIDS trade glances -- this is going to be GOOD.

Lewis is jumping HARDER. Alice starts to GET UP. This makes Lewis OFF BALANCE. HE STUMBLES TOWARDS ALICE. She puts her feet up and PUSHES HIM AWAY. This makes him CAREEN SIDEWAYS, CRASHING INTO RON, who falls backwards and DUMPS the GRAPE JUICE on the TATTOOED MAN next to them. The man BELLOWS.

LEWIS
 SORRY!

THE FLOOR - Lewis is flat on his back. ABOVE the grape-juice soaked TATTOOED MAN APPEARS, ENRAGED.

TATTOOED MAN
 You dead!

Lewis scrambles to his feet and LEAPS ACROSS THE BED, CRAWLING OVER ALICE.

The MAN LEAPS AFTER HIM, missing Lewis but, KNOCKING ALICE on the FLOOR. ALICE SHRIEKS. The Man LEAPS on top of Lewis.

ALICE'S HEAD BETWEEN THE TATTOOED MAN'S LEGS. She SCREAMS.

Peter is HOVERING OVER THE SCENE - shooting everything.

INT/EXT NARRATIVE EFFECTS SEQUENCE - MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

An energetic EFFECTS MONTAGE FOLLOWS:

THE IMAGES FROM THE MELEE appear to be SUCKED IN THROUGH the lens in the bag, and stored on the tape. TIME IS SPED UP and the CAMERA BEING REMOVED AND PLUGGED INTO A COMPUTER and the data stored on a hard disc and displayed on the screen as part of an editing program.

The IMAGE OF LEWIS JUMPING ON THE BED AND FALLING INTO RON is "SCRUBBED" FORWARDS, then BACKWARDS, the FORWARDS again. Now a series of RUDE SOUND EFFECTS are added and MUSIC and then, the VIDEO IS RENDERED onto the hard disc and POSTED to the VIDEO SHARING SITE -- it is flung through the web onto a SERVER, and then, SPREAD LIKE A VIRUS to other MIRROR SITES in New York, Dallas, London, Dubai, Rio, Mumbai, Hong Kong and from there, like a cosmic digital spider with 500 million legs, to computers all over the world.

The SCENE swirls to A HOME IN THE MIDWEST where a boy is watching the clip on PC while his father sleeps on the couch in front of CNN on TV. THEN WE ARE FLUNG BACK, THROUGH THE WEB, BACK into the BOYS' BEDROOM as the Loving kids are watching the clip, now with the title: "THE LOVING SHOW".

FADE TO BLACK

DARKNESS, then the door of a REFRIGERATOR OPENS and we see TAMMY'S FACE. We are in:

INT. HERNANDEZ KITCHEN - DAY

Tammy takes the MILK out of the refrigerator.

TAMMY
Kyle, Breakfast.

INT. HERNANDEZ' FAMILY ROOM - DAY

KYLE is at a computer.

KYLE
MOM, DAD, come here quick!

THE SCREEN - is playing the "Mattress" clip. Alice is tangled up with the Tattooed Man -- she SCREAMS.

Tammy and Ferdinand join their son and STARE AT THE SCREEN.
 Kyle is laughing, Tammy & Ferdinand are horrified.

KYLE (CONT'D)
 Your friend is weird, Mom.

TAMMY
 OH MY GOD.

FERDINAND
 How many videos are there on this thing?

KYLE
 I think there are three, not
 counting the parodies and mash-ups.
 One guy made a version with Pokemon
 sounds coming out of them as they
 fight. Re-TARD-ed!

THE SCREEN - as the SCENE IS REPEATED with ANIMATED POKEMON
 SOUNDS coming out of Alice and Lewis.

TAMMY
 Do Alice and Lewis KNOW about this?

FERDINAND
 How can THEY NOT? Do you think
 they DON'T?

TAMMY
 They CAN'T. HOW CAN THEY?

EXT. HERNANDEZ HOUSE - DAY

Alice is waiting outside in her CAR. She HONKS.

INT. HERNANDEZ' FAMILY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

TAMMY
 Oh my god, she's HERE.

She rushes out.

EXT THE FREEWAY - ALICE'S SUV- DAY

Alice is quiet. Tammy can't keep her eyes off her.

TAMMY
 Uh, DO anything last night?

ALICE

Not much.

TAMMY

Stayed in, huh?

ALICE

Well, I had to go to Mattress Frigg'n Mega-Mart after work. Lewis decided we HAD TO HAVE a new bed.

TAMMY

Oh... that's nice.

ALICE

Don't NEED a bed, just WANTED ONE for some reason. He doesn't care what he sleeps on, never has... I have the bad back.

A LONG BEAT. Tammy thinks. She can't help but ask,

TAMMY

Something bothering you?

ALICE

... Yes. I've got LOTS of things bothering me -- who DOESN'T?

TAMMY

Well, WHAT? You should TALK about it.

ALICE

OKAY -- I'm about to lose this partnership because I strangled a client. That's one little thing.

TAMMY

...That.

ALICE

AND I just spent twenty three hundred dollars on a bed that I don't need.

TAMMY

Sounds like you had a bad night.

ALICE

You can't imagine.

TAMMY

Oh, I have a vague idea.

EXT. THE MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Zuzu is WALKING INTO THE SCHOOL. She rounds a corner, and runs into the pack of older girls who harassed her the day before: BRANDI, CANDICE and CLOÉ. Brandi sees Zuzu and her EYES WIDEN. Something's WRONG. It's a look of SUBMISSION, not the usual sadistic Middle School glare. The girls WEAKLY SMILE at Zuzu. Dazed, Zuzu nods and rushes past.

INT. HALLWAY - HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Peter and Tommy walk down the hallway, and something curious happens, the hallway full of students seems to PART as they pass. Several kids are nodding and smiling at them.

INT. UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM - DAY

Lewis is lecturing in his Kant class.

LEWIS

In the "Metaphysical Deduction", Kant is working to outline twelve pure concepts of understanding from logical forms of judgment.

The classroom has more students than last time, and they are all awake. In fact, they look convincingly INTERESTED.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

Kant believed that the ability of human understanding to THINK ABOUT and KNOW an object is the same as the making of a JUDGMENT about an object. Now this is a little different from our way of thinking about the word "judgement".

A STUDENT - he is HOLDING AN IPHONE where Lewis can't see it. On it, the VIDEO from the Mattress store is PLAYING.

INT. UNIVERSITY HALLWAY - DAY

The class is over and Lewis is walking down the hall. Lewis passes the office of the LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT.

INSIDE - Ferdinand and several other INSTRUCTORS are hunched around a COMPUTER MONITOR. Some are LAUGHING, others are just STARING, slack-jawed.

LEWIS -- sees them, what can be so FUNNY?

FERDINAND looks up to see Lewis heading his way. He's aghast.

LEWIS
What's so funny?

The others look up, THEY PANIC as they see it is Lewis. Ferdinand bluffs,

FERDINAND
Where have you been, Lewis? Jeez,
I really wanted to talk to you.

LEWIS
Teaching my 10 o'clock class... Like
I do every week.

FERDINAND
Oh, yeah, say, got a minute?

LEWIS
Sure, what's so hilarious anyway?

The INSTRUCTORS SCATTER.

FERDINAND
Just, Tony's vacation pictures...
thinks he should wear a speedo in
public. Right Tony?

TONY is just LEAVING.

TONY
My mistake.

Ferdinand shoos Lewis out of the office and OUT A SIDE DOOR.

EXT. UNIVERSITY COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

They stop to talk..

FERDINAND
So, how are things doing at home?

LEWIS
Did you know Socrates encouraged
all the young men of Athens to
marry. He told them if they get a
good wife they will be HAPPY, if
they don't, they will become a
PHILOSOPHER.
(smiles)
So, either way you win.

FERDINAND

Oh, okay.

LEWIS

What's the urgent chat you wanted to have?

FERDINAND

Well, it's kinda hard to talk about.

LEWIS

(concerned)

What's wrong?

FERDINAND

You know, modern life can, uh, produce stress overload. We don't realize, then we just LOSE IT...

LEWIS

Yeah...

FERDINAND

And marriage... Marriage is not a walk in the park... it's more like running through the park in a zigzag fashion with a sniper overhead.

LEWIS

I know, I know.

FERDINAND

But there are professionals, you know, counselors and therapists -- they know the signals, they can help.

LEWIS

You are right, do you know someone?

FERDINAND

No.

LEWIS

I'll ask around, I'll find someone for you. Hang in there Ferdinand, you'll get through this.

FERDINAND

But...

LEWIS

Hey, you know what, Alice and I have our rough patches too.

(MORE)

LEWIS (CONT'D)
It's normal. I'm going to make
some calls.

FERDINAND
But...

LEWIS
You'd do the same for me. Right?

INT. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, DEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

A DOOR OPENS and a techie-looking staff person, AMIR (late
20's) enters. Behind a big desk is DEAN WILLIAMS (60's).

DEAN WILLIAMS
Sit down. What is this thing?

Amir sits, pulls out a wad of PRINT-OUTS.

AMIR
Dean Williams, as you may know, we
track the top web pages visited by the
students and staff, and over the last
30 hours there has been a huge spike to
some specific VIDEO pages.

DEAN WILLIAMS
What sick crap are those perverted
little peckers looking at now?

AMIR
Well, not the usual thing. This is
a video sharing site, and the
videos in question feature a tenure-
track professor.

DEAN WILLIAMS
Not the god-damned Theater
Department again?

AMIR
No sir, Philosophy Department.

DEAN WILLIAMS
Are you sure we even still have a
Philosophy Department?

AMIR
I checked, and it appears we do.

Amir OPENS HIS LAPTOP to show the Dean.

AMIR (CONT'D)

This is the latest video, with over
twenty five thousand University
views so far...

INT. LAW OFFICE - DAY

Hugo is walking through the office. It is UNUSUALLY QUIET.
The lack of activity catches his notice.

HUGO'S POV - The entire staff is staring at their COMPUTER
SCREENS, most with HEADPHONES on.

HUGO

What is GOING ON? (nothing) ...PEOPLE?

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL LUNCHROOM - DAY

Zuzu has her tray of food and is heading towards her usual
table. Kyle BLOCKS HER WAY.

KYLE

Ha-Ha... You are SO dead.

ZUZU

Yeah?

KYLE

Those videos - I'm telling your
parents.

ZUZU

You are NOT. By brothers will
kill you. I mean SLOWLY kill you.

KYLE

Ha-Ha. No they won't.

Kyle LEAVES, giggling. Something catches Zuzu's eye. It's
BRANDI, CANDICE and CLOÉ waving at her from the cool girl's
table. Brandi motions for her to join them, like Queen
Victoria would summon a commoner. Zuzu grits her teeth.

THE COOL TABLE - Zuzu joins them, uncomfortably.

BRANDI

Your parents are REALLY still
married?

CANDICE

My Dad's on his second replacement.

ZUZU

Yeah, mine are the original models.

CLOÉ

How do you get them to do that stuff on video?

ZUZU

It's easy, really.

CANDICE

I thought MY parents hated each other... they could never top yours. No way.

ZUZU

But they don't really...

BRANDI

When my Dad decided to move out, she went into his closet and cut his favorite suits into little squares...

CLOÉ

It's SO cool how you make your parents look so retarded.

BRANDI

...Then she mixed the shirt pieces up with the dog food and gravy and the dog ate it and then... you know... and when Dad asked about his suits, she gave him a paper bag full of dog poop.

CLOÉ

(to Zuzu)

You should have shot that - perfect!

Zuzu is troubled, this is NOT the way it's supposed to be.

ZUZU

I gotta go sit with my friends...

Zuzu gets up and LEAVES. The girls look after her - who does she think she is anyway?

INT. DEAN WILLIAMS OFFICE - UNIVERSITY - DAY

Lewis is sitting alone in the Dean's office. Dean Williams walks in, sits at his desk like a judge entering a courtroom. He silently reviews a stack of papers before saying,

DEAN WILLIAMS

Doctor Loving, we have not had the pleasure of meeting, as you know, I just accepted this position last October.

LEWIS

Yes, is there something wrong?

DEAN WILLIAMS

(avoiding the question)

I understand you have a Tenure Assessment coming up in a few months. I'd like to participate in that.

LEWIS

Did you want to discuss my published papers?

DEAN WILLIAMS

No, looks good... Journal of Social Philosophy, Philosophical Review, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly. Three books in four years, one an award winner. Quite productive.

Lewis just STARES at him...

DEAN WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

Doctor Loving, I'll just be blunt. Your private life is becoming a distraction to the University.

LEWIS

How can that be?

DEAN WILLIAMS

Please, Professor. You know perfectly well what I am referring to...

LEWIS

Dean, has a student filed a complaint?

DEAN WILLIAMS

No. Should I expect one?

LEWIS

NO.

DEAN WILLIAMS

So why did you ask?

LEWIS

I guess because I am trying to figure out what the hell you are talking about.

DEAN WILLIAMS

Okay. You've been here for a while.

LEWIS

Yes. Nine years.

DEAN WILLIAMS

And you are SOMEWHAT aware of the backstabbing, jealousy and generally petty nastiness of Academia.

LEWIS

So I've heard.

DEAN WILLIAMS

Schools don't like tenure. It ties our hands. Any excuse to deny tenure is relished... And this is a pretty good excuse.

LEWIS

WHAT is a good excuse?

DEAN WILLIAMS

Your public shenanigans with your wife! Are you dim? Everyone knows.

Lewis is shocked into silence.

DEAN WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

Don't be naive, how did you expect to keep it a SECRET?

LEWIS

I don't know.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

ALICE'S CAR arrives at the pickup point. Kids are everywhere. Zuzu is in the car with her. When the kids see who it is - MRS. LOVING, DESTROYER OF MEN - the entire schoolyard becomes EERILY QUIET... The kids just watch as the boys climb in the car, with TOMMY giving a LITTLE SALUTE to all. ALICE is oblivious, thumbing on her Phone.

ALICE

Hey, guys, how was school?

TOMMY & PETER

...GREAT.

EXT. THE LOVING HOUSE - DAY

Alice pulls in the driveway and the boys jump out before she can even turn off the car.

ALICE

What is the hurry?

ZUZU

When ya gotta go, ya gotta go.

THE DOOR -- Tommy gets there first. He grabs a UPS BOX. They take the box in before their mother can see it.

EXT. BOYS' BEDROOM - DAY

Peter joins Tommy & Zuzu, who are checking out the new SPY VIDEO EQUIPMENT.

PETER

Look, the Hello Kitty-Cam is ready.

He lifts up her HELLO-KITTY BAG with a VIDEO CAMERA embedded in the side.

TOMMY

"Hello... speak right into the...
KITTY please."

Zuzu shrugs.

PETER

Zu, this is a BIG DEAL. We have forty
three thousand friends on the LOVING
SHOW Facebook page. In two days.

Zuzu is quiet.

PETER (CONT'D)

What's wrong Zu?

ZUZU

This is getting out of hand.

TOMMY

How?

ZUZU

Duh... hello? Mom and Dad?

TOMMY

No way.

PETER

They fight in front of other people
all the time, strangers, friends.
They don't care.

TOMMY

We're just expanding their audience.

ZUZU

I'm just worried people who see
this will think Mom and Dad HATE
each other or something.

TOMMY

That's ridiculous!

PETER

They're crazy about each other!

Zuzu takes a breath, blurts it out,

ZUZU

Kyle the Toad gonna TELL them.

PETER

WHAT?

ZUZU

He said that at school today. He's going
to tell Mom and Dad about the videos.

PETER

Are you kidding?

TOMMY

I'll KILL him!

ZUZU

He said you won't.. "Ha-ha".

EXT. THE SIDE OF THE HOUSE - DAY

Peter & Tommy are helping Zuzu climb out of the window. The
look around, to make sure no one is there, then move quickly
to the house next door. Zuzu climbs up on top of the
neighbor's air conditioning unit and peers into the window.

ZUZU'S POV - Kyle is sitting on the floor playing Xbox.

ZUZU
He's there alright. No parents.

Zuzu knocks on the window. She motions to the back of the house.

INSIDE - KYLE

He squints in contempt and keeps playing.

Zuzu methodically taps-taps-taps on the glass. Taps-taps-taps until Kyle can't stand it anymore. He glares at her. She motions again to the back of the house. He puts down the controller and stands.

EXT. THE BACK DOOR AT THE NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - DAY

The Loving Kids are hunched over, gathered at a small doggie door. The Door is slid open, like a peephole in the gates of Oz. Kyle's face is visible.

KYLE
What do YOU want?

PETER
Hey Kyle, what's up?

KYLE
Oh god -- all THREE of you?

TOMMY
What's this about you snitching on us Toad?

KYLE
Ha-Ha. Bite me.

TOMMY
I'll BITE YOU!

He REACHES into the doggie door to grab KYLE, misses.

KYLE
Ha-Ha -- too slow! You blow!

Peter grabs Tommy and pulls him away.

PETER
TOMMY! Relax.

KYLE
FIGHT! FIGHT!

Zuzu is pushing Tommy away from the doggie door, as she gets close to the door KYLE'S HAND REACHES OUT AND GRABS a hand-full of ZUZU'S HAIR. He PULLS HER to the doorway.

ZUZU
OWWWWW! LET GO!

PETER
Toad! Let go of her!

Zuzu's head is almost pulled through the doggie door, Peter and Tommy grab her feet and start pulling. It's a tug-of-war with Zuzu as the rope. Zuzu TELLS LOUDER. Tommy grabs a nearby RAKE and starts jabbing the handle in the doggie door, just missing Zuzu's face. It hits the mark.

KYLE
Oww! STOP IT.

Peter keeps JABBING, Tommy PULLING, Zuzu SCREAMING and Kyle YELPING. Finally Kyle lets go and Tommy pulls Zuzu out of harms way.

TOMMY
"Ha-Ha" I hope I got you in the balls... wait, you don't have any!

Zuzu is on her feet now, rubbing her head and her face scrunched up, about to cry.

ZUZU
JUST WAIT till your parents hear about this Toad!

PETER
Okay, OKAY -- THIS IS OUT OF HAND.
Zuzu, Tommy.. Get back inside, I'll work this out.

The two stare at him, motioning "no way".

PETER (CONT'D)
Go ON! You are making things worse. Go on!

Zuzu and Peter LEAVE, Zuzu still rubbing her head. Peter gets close to the doggie door.

PETER (CONT'D)
Toad, I mean KYLE. That was not cool man. Not cool.

KID
Ha, she started it.

PETER

Your Dad is NOT going to look kindly on this incident Kyle, remember the paint fight, remember how he grounded you from Xbox for TWO MONTHS? And Christmas is coming, man, you're in a bad spot. You screwed up BIG TIME.
(silence from Kyle)
Look - Maybe we can help each other.

KYLE

...maybe.

PETER

Hey Kyle, you know SORORITY SLAUGHTER III is dropping next week.

KYLE

Duh, I got it pre-ordered.

PETER

How about GRIND OF WAR IV... isn't that coming out?

KYLE

I'm listening...

INT. THE BOYS ROOM - A SHORT WHILE LATER

Peter is briefing Tommy & Zuzu.

PETER

Let's just say we are going to be buying a LOT of video games with our eBay money.

TOMMY

No bad deed goes un-rewarded.

ZUZU

He won't talk?

PETER

No, thanks to the hair-abuse incident. You okay?

ZUZU

(rubbing her head)
Yeah, I'll survive.

PETER

So, let's get serious.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - LATER THAT EVENING

Alice is at her vanity, taking off her makeup. Zuzu is standing nearby, with a NOTEBOOK & PENCIL. She has her HELLO KITTY purse-cam on her shoulder.

ALICE
Is this a project?

ZUZU
You could say that.

She adjusts the Hello Kitty-Cam.

ZUZU (CONT'D)
Your 20th anniversary - can you tell me what the best thing is about being married twenty years?

INT. CLOSE SHOT - A COMPUTER SCREEN - CONTINUOUS

It's ALICE, in the SHOT FROM THE PURSE-CAM.

ALICE
Well... Gee, there are so many things... I don't know what to put at the top of the list. You probably mean besides the tax benefits.

This is INTERCUT with a SIMILAR INTERVIEW with Lewis.

LEWIS
Excellent question Tommy. Well, after twenty years, you KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT... Once a pattern is established, it repeats over and over and OVER.

These interviews continue, INTERCUT...

ALICE
You don't have to shave your legs as often.

LEWIS
I stopped worrying about losing my hair.

ALICE
Keeps my argumentation skills sharp.

LEWIS
 (talking like a fighter)
 I can bob, and weave, she can never
 touch be, I'm too fast for her.
 I'm a blur, I'm a blur.

ALICE
 Bang! One zinger, and he's down...

LEWIS
 She's can't touch me, can't never
 touch me...

SCREEN CUTS TO a clip from a VINTAGE B&W SCIENCE FICTION
 FILM... A ROBOT SHOOTS AN X-RAY BEAM out of his eyes.
 Explosions follow.

A TITLE READS: "LOVING SHOW ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL -- COMING
 THIS SUNDAY!"

Tommy, Peter and Zuzu all APPEAR ON-SCREEN.

KIDS (UNISON)
 You are watching THE LOVING SHOW!

INT. LEWIS'S CAR, THE FREEWAY - THE NEXT MORNING

All three kids are in the backseat whispering together as
 Lewis DRIVES.

LEWIS
 That's what I like to see...
togetherness.

In the BACK SEAT, Each is going through stacks of e-mail
 printouts, reading to the others.

PETER
 Firecrackers while sleeping.

ZUZU
 Live frogs in the shower....

TOMMY
 Ben Gay in the jockey shorts... two
 of those....

PETER
 Here's one involving stinky cheese.

TOMMY
 These pranks are lame.

THE FRONT SEAT - Lewis' mobile phone BEEPS. It's a text.

LEWIS

Guys, Peter... read this for me.

He hands the PHONE to Peter. Peter reads the screen.

PETER

It's a text message... "Dean
Anderson's office... please call".

Lewis SIGHS. Peter hands the phone back to Lewis.

ZUZU

(whispering)

Let the MARKET decide. An AUCTION.
Highest bidder wins and gets their
prank featured on the Loving Show.

PETER

Winner gets a "director's cut".

The boys nod and HIGH-FIVE their little sister.

TOMMY

Brilliant.

Lewis smiles, watching them in the mirror, three Happy Kids.

INT. THE LAW OFFICE - DAY

Dustin is making calls and pulling files at the same time.
Alice comes out of her office, talking on her phone.

ALICE

(on phone)

No, I can't do three-thirty, I can
only do two. I'm over-booked.

Hugo has been WATCHING HER from across the office. He
approaches her. She is off the phone.

HUGO

So, how ARE things?

ALICE

Two NEW cases just this morning.

HUGO

And at HOME?

ALICE

Fine, good. Why?

HUGO

So, you have an anniversary coming... Sunday. Twenty years huh? Neat. What a accomplishment!

ALICE

How did you KNOW? I'm impressed.

HUGO

Little Birdie told me. It's Thanksgiving weekend, I hope you are getting away alone with the hubby Don't leave the hotel room for three days... living on room service. You know.

Alice suppresses an "EEEEwwwww".

ALICE

Well, we usually spend Thanksgiving at home with the kids, you know...

HUGO

WELL, a GOOD MARRIAGE takes work... WORK AT IT. Worth it... Really.

Hugo LEAVES.

ALICE

(to herself)

Thanks for the tip, Mr. Divorced three times.

INT. ALGEBRA CLASSROOM - HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

PETER - struggling to pay attention. He's distracted.

THE CHEERLEADER is smiling, her eyes pouring into his.

INT. DEAN WILLIAMS' OFFICE - DAY

A SECRETARY on the phone.

SECRETARY

Yes, Dr. Loving. Dean wants to see you right away. Something about giving all your students a "B"?

INT. LEWIS' OFFICE

LEWIS
 (sighs)
 Yes, I'll be there.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY

The HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL walks into the school office.

PRINCIPAL
 Are you gentlemen looking for me?

He means TWO YOUNG MEN sitting on a bench. They STAND.

KURT
 I'm Kurt Martin from Google. This
 is Jason Stults, my partner from
 the New Media Division.

INT. ALGEBRA CLASSROOM - HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

A BOY approaches the teacher, hands him a note. He reads,

ALGEBRA TEACHER
 Peter Loving, you are requested at
 Principal Pierre's office.

The CLASS "OOOOOHS". Peter shoots a bad-boy look at the
 Cheerleader.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE

Peter approaches the office and can see in through the glass
 that Tommy is already there with the two men. Tommy is doing
 all the talking. Peter ENTERS and the men STAND UP and smile.

KURT
 Peter Loving! What a pleasure to
 meet you! We recognize you from
 THE LOVING SHOW. Big fans!

JASON
 Glad we caught you before the
 Thanksgiving holidays.

TOMMY
 Peter, they are from Google. They
 wanna cut a deal!

EXT. THE HIGH SCHOOL

Tommy & Peter are waiting to be picked up. A small pack of COOL BOYS walk by, they acknowledge Tommy. He waves back.

HEAD JOCK

Hey, TL... when's the next episode?

TOMMY

Tomorrow, bro.

HEAD JOCK

That's tight.

The boys make NOISES OF APPROVAL as they continue on.

PETER

"Tomorrow, bro"? "TL"?

TOMMY

I got picked to be on the jock's team at PE today. First time ever.

Tommy's PHONE BEEPS. He looks at the text.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

YES! The guy from Chicago. He'll pay the eight fifty I asked for.

PETER

The custom video... Eight hundred and fifty dollars?

TOMMY

Yup. He's a commodity trader... whatever that is.

PETER

The one that wants the food fight?

TOMMY

Yeah, Happy Thanksgiving!

We see LEWIS' CAR pulling up. Some of the kids are TAKING PICTURES OF HIM with their PHONES. He doesn't notice.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Dad's a Rock Star and doesn't even know it.

INT. KITCHEN, THE LOVING HOME - NIGHT

The kids are cooking. Things are kind of a mess. Alice enters, coming home late from work.

ALICE
What's this?

PETER
We are cooking Thanksgiving.

ZUZU
Pumpkin Pies!

TOMMY
We went to the store, I downloaded recipes.

ALICE
You are cooking Thanksgiving dinner? Can you do that?

PETER
Mom - it can't be harder than building a robot.

She kisses him on the head.

ALICE
You're the best. Where's your dad?

ZUZU
It's Wednesday. He's got his Plato class.

ALICE
Oh, yes. Then I am going to soak in the tub, it's been a ugly week.

Seeing the extent of the mess.

ALICE (CONT'D)
How many pies are you MAKING?

TOMMY
Well, there are FIVE of us.

ZUZU
One for each.

They all smile sweetly.

ALICE

Well, why not. I'm going straight to bed after my bath, so... don't burn the house down.

KIDS

Okay.

They watch her leave. When they hear the DOOR CLOSE they drop everything and scurry into the dining room.

INT. THE DINING ROOM

They kids uncover a pile of CAMERA EQUIPMENT and WIRES and get back to work.

EXT. THE LOVING HOME - MORNING

A beautiful Thanksgiving Day.

INT. LOVING FAMILY ROOM

Lewis is laying on the couch in PJs and a robe, watching the Macy's Parade on TV. Peter enters wearing an apron.

PETER

Dad, how long do you cook a turkey.

LEWIS

It says on the label - based on weight.

PETER

How do you know what it weighs?

LEWIS

It says on the label.

PETER

Okay? Dad, why do you watch that parade every year?

LEWIS

It's the last example of an purely analog social system delivered via a technological template. The cameras just SIT THERE in front of Macy's and the parade passes by in real time. Bands march People wave. It's a total anachronism.

(MORE)

LEWIS (CONT'D)

The floating commercial iconography -
the balloons - people standing in the
cold to look up above them, to view
these corporate symbols as if they were
objects of reverence. It's like
Plato's Cave. Look, here comes Barney!

PETER

Okay Dad.

He leaves. Lewis watches. Alice wanders by in a robe.

ALICE

Is that BARNEY?

She leaves. Lewis watches. Then Alice comes back and sits
on the couch.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Oh my god, you DO NOT want to go in
that kitchen.

She watches with him.

INT. LOVING DINING ROOM - LATER THAT EVENING

Lewis, Alice, Zuzu and Tommy are seated at the table. Peter
brings in a BIG TURKEY on a carving plate. Everyone CLAPS.

ALICE

Oh, that looks WONDERFUL!

LEWIS

Well done, kids. This is great.

CAMERA REVEALS a variety of HIDDEN CAMERAS around the room,
in the flowers, hidden on top of the drapes, Zuzu's Hello
Kitty Purse, etc. There is even a TOY ROBOT in the corner, we
can see it is mounted with a TINY VIDEO LENS.

INT. BOYS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

CLOSE, A COMPUTER SCREEN -- As FIVE DIFFERENT ANGLES of the
Dining Room are being recorded, close-ups, wide shots, robot-
cam, etc.

THE SCREEN - Shows the family sharing a Thanksgiving prayer.

INT. LOVING DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The dining has begun.

LEWIS

So Zuzu, tell your Mother about the mean girls at school.

ZUZU

Well the BCnC, these skanky girls, who are popular...

ALICE

Zu, don't say "skanky".

ZUZU

Okay, the BCnC, who are the repugnant, yet popular girls who everyone is afraid of, they asked me to sit with them at lunch.

ALICE

What's a BCnC?

ZUZU

Brandi, Candice and Cloé. That's what everyone calls them. BCnC.

ALICE

Why did they ask you to sit with them?

ZUZU

(glancing at her brothers)
Well, I don't know exactly. Anyway I was conflicted, I didn't really want to sit with the BCnC, but I didn't want to pass up the social perks related to their attention.

ALICE

So you did what?

ZUZU

I sat with them for a few minutes and then I went back to my friends.

ALICE

Very sensible...

LEWIS

Maybe too sensible and too safe. You should KEEP YOUR INTEGRITY next time and skip the skanks and stay with your real friends.

TOMMY

Ha. "Skip the Skanks". That's good.

ALICE

Can we NOT say "skanks" at the table? Zuzu -- don't listen to your Father. You are RIGHT in stretching your horizons and developing skills to deal rationally with antagonists. Compromise is the bedrock of civilized behavior.

LEWIS

No, COMPROMISE is the "bedrock" of the vast mediocre corporate sell-out society that engulfs us. Be TRUE to YOURSELF. No compromise.

Things are about to rip loose. Until,

ZUZU

EXCELLENT advice from both of you. I'll be "true to myself" and consider both views carefully.

She gives her best sweet girl smile. The war balloon deflates, the boys give their sister A LOOK -- "What did you do THAT for?". Zuzu shrugs. The adults are quiet. Alice can't help but check her PHONE.

This is the moment Tommy has been waiting for. He loads up a fork with MASHED POTATOES and FLICKS IT deftly onto Lewis' sports coat as he is draining a glass of wine.

PETER

Hey Mom -- look at Dad's coat.

Alice looks up.

ALICE

It always has been challenging for your father... the plate-to-mouth thing.

Lewis thinks HE did it. He wipes off the potatoes and goes back to eating. Tommy tries again, he sends another POTATO MISSILE, right ONTO ALICE'S V-CUT SWEATER. A clump falls off -- RIGHT ONTO ALICE'S PHONE in her hand.

Alice looks at Lewis. He is getting more mashed potatoes and carefully excavating a pit in it to pour his gravy.

LEWIS

Pass the gravy please.

Alice gets up & takes the GRAVY BOAT over to him.

ALICE
Here Honey...

LEWIS
(looking up)
Alice, you have some potatoes on
your sweater.

But what we all THINK is going to happen, doesn't. She daintily sets the gravy boat by him. She heads back towards her chair but stops.

ALICE
Oh, Potatoes on my NEW sweater?
Gee, that's funny since I have not
even been served the potatoes yet.

She turns back, deftly wipes the potatoes off with a finger and slops it INTO LEWIS'S EAR. She silently returns to her seat and receives the bowl of potatoes from Zuzu. As she is serving herself, a piece of BROCCOLI flied through the air and lands NEATLY IN HER CLEAVAGE.

GAME ON. Alice takes a SLICE OF TURKEY and FLINGS IT LIKE A FRISBEE. It flies through the air and SLAMS INTO LEWIS' FOREHEAD. The FOOD FIGHT ESCALATES. The kids take cover, CHEERING AND GOADING THEM to escalate the fight. Broccoli fills the air, The drumsticks become clubs and more potatoes are jammed into ears, nostrils and eyes.

Finally, Alice is SCREAMING like a little girl as LEWIS chases her around the table with the bowl of CRANBERRY SAUCE.

UNDER THE TABLE - is Zuzu, smiling. This is her parents act like when they're HAPPY.

INT. THE LOVING DINING ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Lewis ENTERS barely awake. The DINING ROOM IS WRECKED. He picks up some PLATES and carries them towards the kitchen.

INT. THE KITCHEN - DAY

Lewis enters. Alice is already up and washing dishes. Before Lewis can put the plates down, his PHONE RINGS.

LEWIS
Hello? Hey FERDINAND...

Alice's PHONE RINGS.

ALICE

Hello? TAMMY? (listens) Yes, we will be here all morning. We have some cleaning up to do. ...Bringing someone by?

They share confused looks.

INT. - ZUZU'S BEDROOM - AN HOUR LATER

Zuzu WAKES UP. She hears STRANGE VOICES. H

INT. BOYS' ROOM - DAY

Zuzu BARGES IN. Peter wakes.

ZUZU

Something weird is happening.

INT. LIVING ROOM - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

The Kids enter the Living Room cautiously. Zuzu has her HELLO KITTY-CAM. The room is FULL OF GROWNUPS.

TOMMY

What's going on?

ALICE

(in an awkward voice)

Oh, here are the kids. This is Peter, our oldest, Tommy and Zuzu.

The kids nod to the adults, the HELLO KITTY-CAM is running. Lewis and Alice have a odd look on their face.

LEWIS

This is Dean Williams from the University, he's my boss, and this is Mr. Penny, Mom's boss.

ALICE

And these people are... I'm sorry... I didn't get your names.

A MAN and a WOMAN rise. They seem to be from a planet the Lovings have never visited. The man in a suit, JERRY, has the manner of a infomercial host, with a hint of a trailer-park mixed in. VICTORIA is a why-wear-underwear, Earth-Mother type, with flowing salt 'n pepper hair, and tinted glasses.

JERRY

Hello children. I am Jerry Vanetti and this is Victoria, my wife. We are here to HELP your parents.

VICTORIA

You can RELAX NOW, the worst is over. I know this has been hard on you.

The kids look at her like they both just crawled out of a baboon's ass.

HUGO

Jerry & Victoria are famous. They wrote a book. It was in all the stores.

JERRY

"MASSIVE MARRIAGE MAKEOVER - Extreme Remedies for Extreme Marriages".

TAMMY

They were on ELLEN.

JERRY

...and THE VIEW... You probably saw us.

The Kids notice that, strangely, Alice and Lewis are holding their tongue, though it is KILLING them.

VICTORIA

The POINT IS, not how gifted, successful and innovative we are. The point is FIXING THIS MARRIAGE.

JERRY

Children, we know all about your parents "issues"...

TOMMY

What "issues"?

LEWIS

(jumping up)
See! This is ridiculous! They think we are fine!

DEAN WILLIAMS

Damn it Loving! I thought we made it clear -- you, and your wife - have a VERY SERIOUS STAKE in the positive outcome of this treatment.

(MORE)

DEAN WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
So sit down and listen. This
intervention is serious.

The kids have never heard anyone talk to their father like
that. They don't like it. Lewis sits down.

ALICE
Dean, please... my children!

JERRY
The kids are going to be staying
next door, with the Hernandez'.
Just for the weekend.

TAMMY
We have the basement all set up.

TOMMY
NO WAY!

ZUZU
We CAN'T go.. Not now!

TAMMY
What do you mean?

PETER
.. He means... Thanksgiving is our
very special time... as a FAMILY.

TOMMY
A big, happy, deeply, deeply loving
family.

Jerry eyes the kids, he stands.

JERRY
Kids, CONFERENCE... Parents, excuse us.

The kids look at each other.. Ughhh.

INT. THE LAUNDRY ROOM

Jerry, Hugo & Dean Williams are crammed in the laundry room
with the kids. Jerry drops the façade.

JERRY
If you were my kids, and did this
to ME... I'd ground you until you
were 21.

DEAN WILLIAMS

This stupid video thing -- is causing BIG trouble. And your parents DON'T EVEN KNOW?

HUGO

What were you kids THINKING?

The kids SHRUG. Zuzu's Hello Kitty-Cam is getting it all.

HUGO (CONT'D)

If we don't fix this, your mother will be looking for a new job. And since the world has seen these videos, that would be impossible.

DEAN WILLIAMS

And the University is NOT going to be embarrassed like this on my watch. Giving is already DOWN 30% this year. I'll close his worthless department and he can kiss tenure goodbye.

HUGO

It's only because these GOOD DOCTORS say it will be better for your parent's therapy to learn about your little project AFTER, that we haven't told them.

DEAN WILLIAMS

YET.

JERRY

Bottom line - DON'T SCREW WITH ME. I'm running this show now. Pack your bags, the so-called LOVING SHOW just got CANCELLED.

REACTION, KIDS - they are angry... And scared.

INT. THE LIVING ROOM- FIVE MINUTES LATER - DAY

The KIDS are gathered with their backpacks.. Jerry & Victoria, Hugo and Dean Williams.

JERRY

Okay. Everyone, as we said before This is an INTERVENTION.

VICTORIA

We are manifesting a LIFE CHANGE for Alice and Lewis Loving.

Jerry and Victoria APPLAUD. Others join in awkwardly.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
It's FRIDAY morning. SUNDAY is
Anniversary day. 48 HOURS from now.

JERRY
48 hours to OVERHAUL this dysfunctional
marriage.

VICTORIA
And, this is so exciting - A BIG
ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION is planned at the
Country Club, courtesy of Mr. Penny.

ALICE
RECEPTION?

HUGO
Well, Just a way for us to say HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY from the firm. Your
friends from work and also from the
university will be there. You'll be
there, right Dean Williams?

DEAN WILLIAMS
Correct. To witness the "transformation"...
along with the TENURE COMMITTEE.

HUGO
...and the firm's PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE.

LEWIS
(to Alice)
You got the PARTNERSHIP?
(seeing her look)
Why didn't you tell me?

Alice shrugs in despair.

JERRY
FORTY EIGHT HOURS. Lewis and Alice
will be DISCOVERING AGAIN, their love
for each other, so they can enter their
twentieth year full of LOVE and JOY.

The Lewis and Alice REACT as if a BAD ODOR had entered the
room. But on ZUZU'S FACE - there is a HOPEFUL SPARK. She'd
LOVE her parents to be like that.

INT. LOVING KITCHEN - THIRTY MINUTES LATER - DAY

Lewis & Alice is looking out of the window. Jerry and Victoria are standing with them.

LEWIS' POV - As Tammy and Ferdinand lead the kids with their backpacks next door to their house. Zuzu looks back.

VICTORIA

You are a FORTUNATE couple.

JERRY

Bosses and friends like that...
They really CARE.

Alice TURNS ON THEM.

ALICE

First off -- let's cut the crap.
Hugo has you here to cover his butt
with the board. I make them too much
money for him to fire me.

LEWIS

(to Jerry & Victoria)

Can you help? She's plagued by poor
self-esteem.

ALICE

Mr. Ivory Tower over here, I don't know
what HE did...

LEWIS

At least I didn't STRANGLE a client!

JERRY

Okay, RELAX. Both of you!

VICTORIA

Listen - our program has NEVER failed,
and at the end of this journey you will
love each other, in a way you never
thought possible.

LEWIS

We tried that once after a couple
bottles of wine... But I got a
CRAMP.

INT. TAMMY & FERDINAND'S BASEMENT - DAY

The LOVING KIDS are surveying their new home with Tammy. A
PULLOUT COUCH & a ROLL-AWAY BED. Zuzu sits on the roll-away.

PETER
I gotta sleep in the same bed
with TOMMY?

TOMMY
No WAY.

TAMMY
You'll figure it out.
(she eyes them)
I'm disappointed in you guys.

Tammy LEAVES. A guilty cloud descends on the Loving Kids.
Peter throws his backpack on the bed.

PETER
I get the right side.

We HEAR FOOTSTEPS on the stairs. KYLE pokes his head in.

KYLE
Busted! So royally BUSTED.

TOMMY
SHUT IT TOAD.

KYLE
When do I get my video games?

INT. THE LOVING LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alice and Lewis are sitting on the floor, facing each other,
cross-legged. They are stiffly holding hands. Jerry and
Victoria are sitting nearby, both with note-pads.

ANGLE on the ROBOT, hiding in the corner of the room,
shooting it all.

VICTORIA
Okay -- try it again. Alice, your
feel-good word is...

ALICE
Family...

JERRY
Lewis, that makes you think of...

LEWIS
...Plot.

ALICE
Conspiracy.

LEWIS
 (faster)
 Paranoid.

ALICE
 (faster still)
 Unstable.

LEWIS
 Unprincipled...

ALICE
 UNBEARABLE!

JERRY
 God, stop, STOP... are you TRYING
 to antagonize each other?

Lewis & Alice look at him as if to say... "uh, YES! That's what we do."

ALICE
 Is this ALL you have? Word games?
 Your treatment plan is WORD GAMES?

LEWIS
 Do you have any clinical data to
 support this sort of inane...

ALICE
 Clinical data? They got this while
 reading US MAGAZINE in the checkout
 line!

EXT. BETWEEN THE HOUSES - CONTINUOUS

Peter is squeezing out of the small basement window. He heads towards the back of the Loving House.

INT. LOVING BOYS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Peter PUSHES OPEN the WINDOW.(it was left ajar) and climbs in. He LIFTS UP the MATTRESS of the bottom bunk bed to reveal all of the VIDEO and COMPUTER EQUIPMENT hidden there. He arranges the mattress in a way to hide the setup. He climbs into a small cockpit space, puts on a pair of HEADPHONES and checks the equipment. He turns on a TRANSMITTER. We see the SCENE in the LIVING ROOM unfolding on several MONITORS. He clicks his PHONE.

PETER
(quietly)
You got it?

INT. THE HERNANDEZ BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Zuzu and Tommy are sitting on a bed, between them is a PSP (gaming hand-held) streaming an unstable VIDEO FEED from Peter's command post. They both listen via headphones. We HEAR a lot of ARGUING going on.

TOMMY
Yeah, can see and hear it.

The VIDEO shuffles between the several cameras covering the Living Room. One screen is showing mostly nothing, just a tiny bit of JERRY'S HEAD.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
"D" Camera needs re-framing.

INT. LOVING BOYS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Peter is peering at the monitor.

PETER
Yeah, let me see what I can do.

INT. THE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The adults are ARGUING OFF-SCREEN. Peter tiptoes out into the hallway. He inches towards the Living Room.

INT. THE LOVING LIVING ROOM

ANGLE ON AN END TABLE at the edge of the wall where the Hallway meets the Living Room. We see Peter's HAND slowly inch out from around the corner, reaching towards a PILE OF BOOKS. ONE OF THE BOOKS has a HOLE for a SMALL LENS cut in its side. He ADJUSTS THE PILE OF BOOKS slightly.

BEHIND THE CORNER - he pulls out his phone and TEXTS.

INT. THE HERNANDEZ BASEMENT

Zuzu's phone BEEPS. She reads the text.

ZUZU
How about now?

Tommy peers at the screen.

TOMMY

No, too far, have him go back
halfway from where he came.

INT. THE LOVING LIVING ROOM

AROUND THE CORNER, Peter reads the TEXT.

ANGLE, THE ADULTS: Victoria is now RAGING at Lewis and Alice.

VICTORIA

You don't CRITICIZE us, WE are here
to CRITICIZE YOU!

JERRY

(trying to calm)
Okay... OKAY...

VICTORIA

(sneering)
Your future is up to us. PROFESSOR
LOVING, COUNCILOR LOVING. Not YOU.

JERRY

Okay. Let's have some "US" time.

He STANDS & motions to Victoria. She hesitates, then STANDS.

VICTORIA

(to the Lovings)
I'll be BACK.

Does her pose remind us of a certain Austrian-American
politician? They both head for the hallway.

THE CORNER - Peter's hand is just adjusting the CAMERA. He
hears them coming his way.

INT. THE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Peter PANICS, looking for an escape route. He rushes into the
nearest door (the guest bathroom). Jerry & Victoria ENTER.

VICTORIA

I HATE these two, who do they
think...

JERRY

Shhhh. Not here.

He pulls her into the SAME DOOR Peter went in.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lewis and Alice HEAR them CLOSE THE DOOR.

LEWIS
SEE what you GOT US INTO?

ALICE
ME! This is all YOUR FAULT!

They stop, think. They don't see another way out.

LEWIS
Look, this is serious. This
reception is a TEST.

ALICE
All we have to do, is get through two
days of this nonsense, and ONE party.

LEWIS
Two days... one party.

ALICE
No sweat.

LEWIS
AND appear to be DEEPLY TRANSFORMED.

ALICE
Yeah, yeah. We can do that.

INT. THE GUEST BATHROOM

Jerry is whispering to Victoria.

JERRY
Just dial down the she-wolf routine
a few notches.

VICTORIA
Now I can see where their stupid
kids got their.... Stupidity.

THE BATHTUB - Peter is laying down in the tub, the shower
curtain closed.

JERRY
This is our chance to go to the NEXT
LEVEL.

(MORE)

JERRY (CONT'D)
 The "Oprah Book Club", "Today Show"
 level. No more FLUFF. This is
 national, maybe GLOBAL exposure.
 Don't screw this up for me.

VICTORIA
 For YOU?

JERRY
 You know what I mean... the TV thing
 is all set up. And we allowed plenty
 of time for them to cut it and get it
 all on the evening news.

TOMMY - he is TEXTING.

INT. THE HERNANDEZ' BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Tommy typing on his laptop. Zuzu's PHONE BEEPS. She reads
 the text.

ZUZU
 "These guys are douche-bags"...

TOMMY
 Mom and Dad?

ZUZU
 I think he means the man and woman.

TOMMY
 (on the laptop)
 Okay -- finished the posting - they
 can bid for the right to premiere
 episodes of THE LOVING SHOW EXTREME
 ANNIVERSARY PARTY on their site.

ZUZU
 (still reading texts)
 Peter's hiding in the guest
 bathroom, in the tub.

TOMMY
 Oh, there's our first bid, four
 hundred dollars, NICE.

ZUZU
 (reading a new one)
 UUUhhhhgg! Now the woman LEFT and the
 MAN is on the toilet, going number TWO!
 YUUUUK!

INT. THE GUEST BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

THE TUB - Peter is grimacing. We HEAR a long, nasty POOP-KER-PLUNK SOUND.

INT. THE HERNANDEZ' BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

ZUZU
 (still on the phone)
 Ohhh... Peter sent me an AUDIO
 FILE. I'm scared.

She still pushes "PLAY". From her phone, the NASTY POOP SOUND blasts forth, followed by a satisfied GROAN from Jerry.

TOMMY & ZUZU
 AAAAwwwwwwwooooouuuu!

INT. THE LOVING LIVING ROOM

Lewis and Alice are settled on the couch, sitting right next to each other, with Victoria opposite.. We HEAR A FLUSH off-screen and JERRY ENTERS.

JERRY
 Sorry... Nature calleth.

He sits next to Victoria.

VICTORIA
 Excellent. Sit close... CLOSE. Turn
 off your mind, and turn on your bodies.
 And yes, hands can wander.

Alice and Lewis share a disturbed LOOK.

INT THE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Peter stumbles out of the GUEST BATHROOM, holding his breath. He shuts the door and GASPS.

INT. LOVING LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jerry is at the window, drawing the curtains. The ROOM DARKENS.

VICTORIA
 Think of Jerry and I as your
 doctors, your priest, your closest
 friend, your brother, your sister.
 (MORE)

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
 Nothing we say, tell, confess, or
 do over the next two days will ever
 be known outside of this house.

INT. THE HERNANDEZ' BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

THAT'S WHAT SHE THINKS. We see Victoria on the small screen.
 Tommy and Zuzu are listening with headphones. They SMILE.

THE WINDOW - as Peter crawls back through the window into the
 basement.

TOMMY
 JUST IN TIME - Hippie Woman about
 to whip out the WEIRDNESS STICK...

INT. LOVING LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

VICTORIA
 You must strip your relationship
 down the bare metal. Down to the
 cells and chromosomes.

We hear Jerry's voice from behind them.

JERRY
 Shed the outer layers. Shed the
 hard shell covering your heart.

Jerry walks solemnly in front of them. He is wearing only his
 JOCKEY SHORTS, T-SHIRT & SHOES & SOCKS.

ROBOT-CAM - It adjusts to focus on Jerry. The LENS ZOOMS.

INT. THE HERNANDEZ' BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

All three kids are gathered around the screen watching.

THE SCREEN - THE ROBOT CAM has a CLOSE VIEW of JERRY'S ASS in
 his UNDERWEAR.

PETER
 Ohhh!!!... that's WRONG!

ZUZU
 Gross!

TOMMY
 WE ARE SO RICH.

INT. LOVING LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

LEWIS

What the hell? Put your pants on!

VICTORIA

Now be OPEN. Shedding your outer garments is a emotional representation of shedding the anger.

ALICE

You MUST be joking.

JERRY

I wouldn't ask you to do anything I wouldn't.

INT. THE HERNANDEZ' BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Peter and Tommy are SNICKERING. Zuzu has COVERED HER EYES.

THE SCREEN - the PICTURE starts to roll - then the SCREEN GOES BLANK.

PETER

This is not good.

TOMMY

What's wrong?

PETER

I don't know, this wireless connection is not stable, there could be interference, or maybe a power supply problem.

Peter starts jiggling cables, unplugging and re-plugging.

PETER (CONT'D)

Tommy, hold the receiver up. Move it around.

Tommy takes the RECEIVER at the end of a cable and starts moving around the room. Zuzu and Peter stare at the screen.

ZUZU

There... no THERE.

PETER

Higher, near the window. HIGHER. Hold it...

PETER

This won't work. I gotta get back over there.

TOMMY

We're missing great stuff!

NOISE on the stairs - kids hide the equipment. Tammy APPEARS.

TAMMY

Everything okay?

The kids are now sitting with their BOOKS and PAPERS.

PETER

Yes, Ms. Hernandez... school work.

ZUZU

They are helping me with science.

TAMMY

Oh, that's sweet. I'll be back to check on you in a bit.

ZUZU

Oh, good.

Tammy LEAVES. The kids deflate.

TOMMY

This SUCKS!

PETER

We can't give up...

ZUZU

We are NOT... We GOT Mom and Dad in this mess, we have to get them OUT.

PETER

Who are these people.. Jerry, that guy is CREEPY.

ZUZU

No.. SHE's Creepy, he's SLIMY.

TOMMY

They're TURD-BLOSSOMS!

PETER

They want to make Mom and Dad look stupid on TV. And have it seemed like they FIXED them. So they will get famous.

TOMMY

Put Mom and Dad on TV without them knowing? That's not RIGHT!

PETER

It will HUMILIATE THEM!

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

A giant ball of DOUGH is SLAMMED DOWN on the counter-top. Alice looks it like she has never seen such a thing before.

VICTORIA

You need to rediscover the Nurturing Goddess inside you. Do you remember her?

ALICE

Distantly.

Victoria takes the dough in her hands.

VICTORIA

Take BOTH HANDS, PUSH with the HEEL of your hand. The pull it back, fold it and PUSH again. HERE.

Alice tries it.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

PUSH, and back... good. Feel the sticky, moist texture. Feel it in between your fingers.

Outside the KITCHEN WINDOW, we SEE PETER sneaking between the houses.

EXT. THE BACK YARD - A SHORT WHILE LATER

Jerry and Lewis are standing at a table. There are KNIVES, NEWSPAPER and an ICE CHEST.

THE EDGE OF THE BACKYARD - Peter is setting up a HIDDEN CAMERA in the bushes with a LONG DISTANCE MICROPHONE.

THE MEN - Jerry opens the chest and pulls out a massive WHOLE FISH. It must weigh twenty pounds. He throws it down on the newspaper.

JERRY

Let's GUT this sucker. Dip our hands in it, pull his heart out and EAT IT.

Jerry grabs a KNIFE, PLUNGES it into the FISH BELLY. Jerry gives Lewis a silent stare. He nods to the ice chest.

JERRY (CONT'D)
Your fish is in there.

THE BUSHES - THE ROBOT-CAM is inching into place on the other side of the yard.

INT. THE HERNANDEZ' BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

The door to the basement OPENS and Tammy comes down quickly.

THE ROOM - Zuzu and Tommy are studying, no PETER.

TAMMY
Where's PETER?

We notice the SHOWER ON in the bathroom.

TOMMY
Shower...

ZUZU
He takes long showers when he gets stressed out.

INT. LOVING KITCHEN - A SHORT WHILE LATER

Alice is COVERED with FLOUR.

VICTORIA
LOOK! Your Grandmother's GRANDMOTHER did this... as did HER Grandmother. Women have done this since the dawn of time.

ALICE
But did any of them have to deal with 150 e-mails a day, billing quotas and client lawsuits?

VICTORIA
KNEAD.

EXT. THE LOVING BACK YARD - DAY

Jerry is COVERED with FISH BLOOD. He's REALLY into it. He's digging around in the fish, he PULLS on something, it's a gooey FISH HEART. He EATS IT.

JERRY
D'you know what I just did?

LEWIS
Swallowed a gooey, raw hunk of fish gut?

JERRY
I ate his heart.

LEWIS
Okay. Jerry, well done. How do you know if it's a "HE" anyway?

JERRY
Yours is WAITING FOR YOU.
(slapping the fish)
TAKE IT. Seize the day.

Jerry starts reaching inside the open fish, feeling around. It's GROSS. Finally, he pulls something out - a slimy piece of SOMETHING INTERNAL. He PROUDLY DISPLAYS IT.

JERRY (CONT'D)
That's the GALL BLADDER... don't eat that, you'll puke your guts out.

Lewis dives back in, reaching around, he pulls out another DISGUSTING THING.

JERRY (CONT'D)
That's a testis. I told you it was a boy.

LEWIS
IN HIS BODY?

JERRY
Have you ever seen a fish with testicles? It would screw up the aerodynamics.

Lewis is DETERMINED. He digs again.

LEWIS
AHA!

He produces a SMALL FISH ORGAN. He THROWS IT IN HIS MOUTH, CRUNCHES DOWN ON IT. It is AWFUL.

JERRY
Spleen... try again. You are almost out of organs.

INT. THE HERNANDEZ' KITCHEN - A SHORT WHILE LATER
Zuzu is in the kitchen, with TAMMY who is cooking.

ZUZU
Ms. Hernandez' where's Mr.
Hernandez?

TAMMY
Oh, he's at the electronics store.
He'll be there forever. Why?

ZUZU
Just wondering.

TAMMY
So, do you like Pecan Pie?

ZUZU
Uh, Well, I guess so.

TAMMY
Do your brothers?

ZUZU
I don't know.

Suspicious, she quickly walks to the basement door and heads towards the basement.

INT. THE HERNANDEZ' BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Tammy walks down the stairs, expecting to find SOMETHING.
Tommy and Peter are quietly sitting on the bed, studying.

TAMMY
Oh. Do you boys like Pecan Pie?

BOYS
Sure...

She stands there, looking around. Nothing's out of place.
The window is locked.

INT. THE HERNANDEZ' KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Tammy comes back up the stairs and enters the kitchen.

ZUZU
Do they?

TAMMY
 Uhh, yes, they do.
 (seeing her cute smile)
 Want to help?

ZUZU
 Sure!

INT. THE HERNANDEZ' BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Tommy and Peter are both crawling out of the window.

INT. THE HERNANDEZ' KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Zuzu is seated on a kitchen stool, with a giant BOWL of PECANS.

TAMMY
 KYLE -- GET IN HERE AND HELP ZUZU
 AND I.

KYLE
 (O.S.)
 I'M BUSY!

TAMMY
 You have been playing games all day.
 (nothing)
NOW, or I'm LOCKING THAT THING UP!

ZUZU - -looking out of the kitchen window, she sees her BROTHERS scurrying over to their house.

INT. LOVING BOYS BEDROOM - TWENTY MINUTES LATER - DUSK

A SCREEN -- as Alice & Lewis FEED EACH OTHER - a new "exercise". Alice dribbles soup down Lewis' chin.

WIDER TO REVEAL THE ROOM Computers, wires, & monitors everywhere. Tommy's on a laptop.

TOMMY
 Google sent a bid in for the party show. They can do better.

PETER
 Tell them the show is going to feature the unmasking of FRAUD by talk show darlings, Victoria and Jerry Fartlicker.

TOMMY
How do you spell "FARTLICKER?"

INT. THE HERNANDEZ' KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Kyle is sitting with Zuzu at the counter, SMASHING Pecans with a nutcracker, sending shell flying everywhere. Then he tosses the smashed bits to Zuzu, who has to separate the pecan from the shell bits. The STARE HATRED into each other.

THE DOOR TO THE BASEMENT - Zuzu NOTICES Tammy standing there, trying to listen to noise from the boys.

ZUZU
Oh, Ms. Hernandez, can you show me again the best way to get these shells out?

TAMMY
(diverted)
Sure Zuzu.

EXT. BETWEEN THE HOUSES - LATER THAT NIGHT

CAMERA REVEALS a wad of DISGUISED CABLES exiting the BOY'S ROOM WINDOW, down the back of a SHOVEL leaning against the wall, then along the ground, with the cable covered crudely by leaves and sticks - then up through a bush and into the Hernandez' BASEMENT WINDOW.

INT. THE HERNANDEZ' BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

FOLLOWING THE CABLES into the basement.. There is now an elaborate CONTROL ROOM set up with monitors, laptops and other gear. It's all ZIP-TIED to the underside of the ROLL-AWAY BED, which is set on its side to make a master control. SEVERAL VIDEO SCREENS are up and running.

A SCREEN - showing the LOVING HOUSE and LEWIS & ALICE doing the old actor's exercise, MIRRORING. They face one another. Alice is "mirroring" Lewis' movements.

The KIDS are barely paying attention, Peter is editing the FISH SCENE on his laptop, Tommy is answering e-Mails. Zuzu is on the web on her computer.

PETER
(glancing at a screen)
How long are they gonna do that?

TOMMY
 (from an e-mail)
 Hello! I have Hulu bidding against
 Google now for the Anniversary Show...

ZUZU
 (re. her screen)
 I found a chat board of people that
 have been through "extreme marriage
 counseling" with the Fartlickers.
 There is something about a
 lawsuit...

TOMMY
 Get them posting to our video page!

PETER
 (re. the screen)
 They're fighting again...

INT. THE LOVING LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

...in mid-skirmish.

ALICE
 You are PURPOSELY not following me.

LEWIS
 It was SO BORING I was dozing off..
 Hand up... hand down... hand up...

THE COUCH - Jerry and Victoria are lounging, both with
 LAPTOPS. Jerry takes a swig of a BEER.

JERRY
 Don't STOP. You have twenty years of
 degradation and hatred to liberate.

Alice looks grimly at Lewis.

INT. BOYS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Still watching the monitors.

PETER
 How do we use THIS? Bo-ring.

TOMMY
 What if we put farting sounds in?
 You know, dad moves his hand up...
 "PPPttttt"... then down...
 "Ptttttt"

ZUZU
I'm declaring a MORATORIUM on fart
sounds.

PETER'S PHONE RINGS - Zuzu picks it up and looks at it.

ZUZU (CONT'D)
415 area code.

PETER
(taking the call)
Hello? Oh, Uh, Hi. How did you
get this number?

He mouths "Google Guys" to the others.

PETER (CONT'D)
No, not avoiding you. Yes, we are
considering the bid, but we want to
hear from ALL the parties.

He looks at Tommy & Zuzu.

PETER (CONT'D)
Uh yeah, I guess you COULD come to
the Anniversary Party...

Zuzu and Tommy nod "YES".

PETER (CONT'D)
Okay, see ya there.

INT. THE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Alice sits in a chair, SIGHS. She's had it.

ALICE
We're DONE.

And she MEANS it.

INT. BOYS BEDROOM

Zuzu is watching the monitor.

ZUZU
Looks like they are wrapping up.

On the stairs, a VOICE,

TAMMY (O.S.)
Get to bed everyone, It's late.

Tammy starts to WALK DOWN. The kids FLY INTO COVER-UP MODE, flipping the ROLL-AWAY BED UPRIGHT and sitting on it. Peter LEANS against the wall to hide the cables snaking down from the window. TAMMY APPEARS, looks around. The kids SMILE.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

Tomorrow is Saturday. We are going to
Kyle's game at 8.30, You wanna come?

TOMMY

I'm finishing this robot
project for Science.

PETER

Oh, gee... I have a term
paper.

TAMMY

When I went to school, the didn't load
us up on homework over Thanksgiving.

ZUZU

We kinda got behind last week with
all the - you KNOW.

TOMMY

But that's just a memory now.

TAMMY

Good. 'Night everyone. Zuzu, is
that roll-away okay for you? Want
me to pull down the covers? They
get stuck in the frame sometimes.

ZUZU

No NO.. It's fine!

TAMMY

Okay.. 'Night kids.

ALL THREE KIDS

Good night!

INT. LOVING GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Jerry & Victoria are getting ready for bed in the guest room.

JERRY

(testy)

Are you TRYING to blow this?

VICTORIA

Sometimes I just wonder if you know
how incredibly STUPID you are.

JERRY

We have a lawyer and Ph.D. here! You can't stomp all over them like your Soccer Moms and New-Age nut-jobs.

INT. THE HERNANDEZ' BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

The room is dark - the only light coming from the monitors in the control center. All three kids are watching.

VICTORIA'S VOICE

If we don't have these two in sweetheart-mode by Monday noon, we are going to look like FOOLS on national television.

JERRY'S VOICE

Can you just SHUT UP so I can get some sleep?

PETER

I told you they were douche-bags...

TOMMY

More like DOUCHE MONKEYS.

ZUZU

They're not going to know what hit them.

PETER

Tomorrow, OPERATION MONKEY FLUSH launches.

INT. FERDINAND AND TAMMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tammy sits in bed, putting lotion on her hands, watching TV.

THE TV - A LATE NIGHT TV HOST is doing a monologue.

LATE NIGHT TV HOST

(from TV)

So, have you heard about this couple, their kids put video of all their fights on the internet?

TAMMY

Ferdinand! COME SEE THIS.

Ferdinand comes in, his toothbrush in his hand

LATE NIGHT TV HOST

You know, they are really doing married couples a favor. That's right. No matter how bad your marriage is, you can always watch one that is WORSE. (APPLAUSE)

TAMMY

Oh, my sweet lord.

FERDINAND

Don't worry... we put a stop to that... it's all over now.

EXT. THE NEIGHBORHOOD (SATURDAY) - EARLY MORNING

Yet another lovely day.

INT. HERNANDEZ' BASEMENT - EARLY MORNING

TOMMY is STILL EDITING, topping off an all-nighter. PETER is on the floor, surrounded by electronic scraps, finishing off a funny-looking ROBOT-THING with several appendages, a video lens on top of a "neck", antennas, and other accessories.

PETER

The "Douche-Buster 2000" is ready for business.

ZUZU - is ASLEEP on the sofa bed.

PETER (CONT'D)

ZU, get up... today's the day.

Peter has a REMOTE CONTROL, he is running the Douche-Buster 2000 through its paces. It goes over to Zuzu and a APPENDAGE reaches out to TICKLE HER.

INT. THE GUEST BEDROOM - LOVING HOME - MORNING

Victoria is sprawled out on the bed, fast ASLEEP. Jerry is ASLEEP ON THE FLOOR. His PHONE ALARM RINGS.

INT. LOVING KITCHEN - MORNING

Jerry ENTERS. He sees Alice PREPARING EGGS at the stove and Lewis taking a tray of BISCUITS out of the OVEN. Both seem happy as clams. Lewis PATS ALICE'S BUTT and he dumps the biscuits in a BASKET. Then they "SEE" Jerry.

ALICE

Oh Jerry! There he is! Ready for breakfast?

LEWIS

(genuine)

Jerry! Sit here my friend. You really cleaned out the ol' cranium yesterday. Can't wait for today.

He pulls out a chair for him. Jerry sits, a bit dazed by the turn of attitude. Alice puts a FULL PLATE in front of him.

ALICE

Here, you'll need lots of protein - to be on top of your game. Only 36 hours left to fix my husband.

She CHUCKLES, pats Jerry on the shoulder fondly.

LEWIS

(holding a TRASH BIN)

Ha-ha! Honey, I'm taking out the trash.

ALICE

Thanks sweetie...

Lewis LEAVES. Alice leans a little closer to Jerry.

ALICE (CONT'D)

You like eggs, Jerry?

INT. HERNANDEZ' BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

ON A SCREEN is Alice and Jerry. Peter is watching.

PETER

Hello - CHUM IS IN THE WATER.
Repeat... chum is in the water.

TOMMY

Here comes MOMMY SHARK.

Zuzu comes bouncing down the stairs.

ZUZU

Everyone's gone, off to Toad's soccer game. Should give us about two hours of free time.

INT. THE KITCHEN - DAY

Alice is pouring Jerry more COFFEE.

ALICE

You give a lot of yourself. I can see the difference in Lewis. You've given him something I thought was gone forever.

JERRY

He's coming along...

She gazes a bit more at him in an almost motherly way.

ALICE

It's funny, you know we are quite, alike, Jerry.

JERRY

How's that?

ALICE

Well. Let's face it. You're good at what you do, I'm good at what I do.

JERRY

Yes.

ALICE

(hushed)

So, why do people like US, marry people like, well, who we MARRIED?

JERRY

Uhh.

ALICE

Hey, I'm off-base. We are, thanks to YOU Jerry, progressing in an amazing way.

JERRY

Well... That's my gift.

ALICE

But why did we settle for "just okay", when we could of have - you know.

Jerry sighs.

ALICE (CONT'D)

She drags you down.

JERRY
Tell me about it.

EXT. THE YARD - DAY

LOW ANGLE - The Douche-Buster 2000 robot is speeding through the grass towards the Loving Home.

INT. THE GUEST BEDROOM - DAY

Victoria STILL IN BED. There is a LOUD BANGING SOUND. She WAKES. MORE BANGING. She gets up and looks out the window.

HER POV - OUT THE WINDOW - Lewis is BANGING A TRASH CAN, trying to empty it. He sees Victoria.

LEWIS
Good morning!

She gives a slight WAVE. Lewis MOTIONS for her to SLIDE THE GLASS OPEN. She does, reluctantly.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
I gotta sing your praises.

VICTORIA
Oh?

LEWIS
You were taking no prisoners yesterday. I like your style. I had A LOT to think about. Boy.

VICTORIA
Wait till TODAY.

LEWIS
CAN'T WAIT. But, question: Jerry, Uh, has he had the same TRAINING as you? I mean, I'm getting a muddled vibe.

VICTORIA
You NOTICED.

LEWIS
Well, it's easy to see.

VICTORIA
It's actually MY program, I developed it in graduate school.

LEWIS
Which part is his?

VICTORIA
The fish guts are all him.

EXT. THE COUNTRY CLUB - DAY

We see Peter on a bicycle riding up to the club.

INT. THE BACK DOOR - THE LOVINGS - DAY

The Douche-Buster 2000 has just OPENED THE DOOR with its appendage. It "looks" around. Then scuttles down the hall.

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - DAY

Peter is talking to a man, the Club EVENT MANAGER who nods. He takes notes on a pad.

INT. KITCHEN - LOVING HOME - DAY

Lewis and Alice sit cross-legged on the floor of the kitchen. Jerry and Victoria sit on either sides of them. LEWIS & ALICE ARE HOOKED UP to a ELECTRONIC GADGET via sensors on their head, neck and arms.

JERRY
Okay - Forgiveness 101. This is where you really break through. This biofeedback equipment will help you manage and control your stress and emotional response. You are set up for SKIN CONDUCTANCE RESPONSE ANALYSIS, which I will monitor here.

He pats a large electronic MACHINE.

JERRY (CONT'D)
Lewis -- you have something to ask Alice's forgiveness for.

LEWIS
I DO?

VICTORIA
YES.

LEWIS
 (hesitates)
 Alice... I'm sorry.

VICTORIA
 For...

LEWIS
 For... Not being the husband I
 could be.

VICTORIA
 GOOD, and...

LEWIS
 And... for always being RIGHT. I
 know that's a burden for you.

Jerry turns a KNOB on his machine. It gives Jerry a SHOCK.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
 OWWW! What the... You're SHOCKING
 ME? This is RIDICULOUS! Who do you
 think you are? Donald Rumsfeld?

ANOTHER SHOCK. Lewis JUMPS. Alice GIGGLES.

INT. THE HALLWAY - DAY

The Douche-Buster 2000 EXITS from Zuzu's room. Her BEARDED
 DRAGON LIZARD is riding on the top of the robot as it heads
 towards the GUEST BEDROOM. He seems to be enjoying the ride.

INT. THE KITCHEN - DAY

Back at the interrogation.

JERRY
 Okay, Alice.

ALICE
 (sweetly)
 I don't think I have anything I can
 think of to ask forgiveness for.
 Can you think of anything Lewis?

JERRY
 Oh yeah, I can come up with a
 few...

VICTORIA
 No. She has to produce it.

JERRY
Okay Alice... think.

Alice seems to think HARD. Suddenly, out of the blue, she strikes out and SLAPS LEWIS ACROSS THE FACE.

LEWIS
DAMN! What was THAT for?

ALICE
I have something now... Lewis I'm sorry I slapped you.

JERRY
Good -- that was sincere.

Lewis and Victoria BOTH glare at Jerry.

LEWIS
So let me get this straight. I make a joke and get ELECTROCUTED... and she resorts to petty violence and gets PRAISED?.

VICTORIA
(to Jerry)
Darling, maybe I should run the response machine.

JERRY
I've GOT IT. Lewis, your turn.

LEWIS
(to Victoria)
You're right.

JERRY
Right about what?

VICTORIA
Nothing.... Lewis, what else do you are you sorry for? Open up, be free.

LEWIS
Uh, Okay -- Alice, I'm sorry I didn't slap you back.

BUZZZZ. Another SHOCK. Lewis JUMPS.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
Damn! I MEANT THAT ONE!

ALICE

You knew you were gonna get it, but
you had to take the easy joke.

There's admiration in her eyes.

LEWIS

You know me.

Alice CHUCKLES. Jerry is showing his frustration. At the
DOORWAY, ROBOT-CAM sticks his head in.

JERRY

Comeon, you're off-topic.

ALICE

(sweetly)

Jerry, why don't you show us.
How is it supposed to work?

Victoria looks at Jerry - expectantly.

VICTORIA

Go ahead, SHOW them.

LEWIS

Can I run the machine?

Jerry grinds his teeth. He hesitates.

VICTORIA

You are sorry for...

JERRY

I'm sorry for thinking you... You
were holding me back.

VICTORIA

WHAT?

JERRY

I might have been, a little bit,
resenting you. Professionally.

VICTORIA

(eyes widening)

I can't BELIEVE you said that -- if
anyone is holding anyone back --
it's YOU.

ALICE

Now, say Victoria... Jerry's asking
forgiveness.

VICTORIA
He's showing what a MORON he is.

JERRY
Oh really? I am a PROFESSIONAL, and
you are a WITCH DOCTOR.

INT. BOYS ROOM

Tommy & Zuzu are watching it all unfold on-screen.

TOMMY
I better tell Google to up their
offer.

PETER
(looking at another
screen)
Ed the Lizard is settling into his
new home, in the Douche Monkey's bed.

We HEAR a commotion ON-SCREEN.

ZUZU
Oh NO. Look.

THE SCREEN - Victoria has SUCKER-PUNCHED JERRY, who is
knocked backwards in his chair.

ALICE'S VOICE
JERRY. ARE YOU OKAY?

INT. THE GUEST BEDROOM, LOVING HOME - DAY

Jerry is laying on the bed, a washcloth covering his eyes.
His PHONE RINGS. He answers, leaving his eyes covered.

JERRY
Hello? Dean Williams?

EXT. GOLF COURSE - CONTINUOUS

Dean Williams is sitting in a golf cart, phone in hand.

DEAN WILLIAMS
What's going on with Loving?

INT. THE GUEST BEDROOM, LOVING HOME - DAY

JERRY

Well Dean. Let me tell you. Not well. It's not going well. He's resisting, refusing to cooperate.

We SEE A LUMP under the covers, MOVING. Gotta be Ed, the LIZARD. Jerry doesn't see it.

DEAN WILLIAMS' VOICE

That's what I expected from that egghead. Listen here. You document it all, it will make it easier for me to get rid of him.

JERRY

Oh, He'll be "presentable" tomorrow. And my report will give you everything you need.

We NOTICE at the end of the bed, where Jerry's feet are hanging off the end, the DOUCHE BUSTER 2000 is perched just below the soles of his shoes. A SMALL APPENDAGE is spraying the bottom of his shoes with PAINT, as if WRITING GRAFFITI.

INT SHOPPING MALL - LATER THAT DAY

Lewis & Alice and Jerry & Victoria are in a TYPICAL MALL with packs of TEENAGERS and MOMS with strollers.

JERRY

This next step is a PHYSICAL expression of your INTERNAL growth.

Lewis looks at Alice -- that sounds BAD.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Alice, reach out and hold Lewis' hand, please.

She does, awkwardly.

VICTORIA

How does that feel?

LEWIS

Very loving.

VICTORIA

Good. Now Alice, put your arm around him and lean your head on his shoulder.

Alice does so. Her head leaning stiffly on Lewis' shoulder. She seems in deep pain.

JERRY

Good, good. How does that feel?

ALICE

Really good.

LEWIS

Nice.

JERRY

Wonderful. Now WALK. Walk around the mall. Just like that.

VICTORIA

...for one hour.

LEWIS

An HOUR?

VICTORIA

Like two teenagers in love. You can't keep your hands off each other.

JERRY

(mystically)

If you don't FEEL IT, the DOING will make it so.

Lewis and Alice start walking. It seems like they are wired to one another against their will.

LEWIS

Yoda has spoken.

They clumsily shuffle down the mall. A group of teenagers watch. One RECOGNIZES THEM.

TEENAGER

Whoa. You know who that IS?

He whips out his phone and starts to SHOOT VIDEO.

LEWIS AND ALICE - out of earshot, they can chat freely.

ALICE

What if someone we know sees us?

LEWIS

We kill them before they can call anyone.

INT. HERNANDEZ' BASEMENT - DAY

A LAPTOP SCREEN - edited VIDEO of Lewis getting SHOCKED by Jerry. It's cut into a musical kind of dance. He JUMPS, Jerry YELLS, Victoria GESTURES.. It's repeated over and over.

Tommy and Zuzu are watching the laptop.

TOMMY
Whadya think?

Zuzu is skeptical. Peter is looking at his phone.

A TINY SCREEN - VIDEO showing LEWIS & ALICE in the mall.

PETER
Someone just posted video of Mom
and Dad at the mall... Oh, MAN...

Zuzu and Tommy watch the video. A SILENCE settles in.

ZUZU
People just don't UNDERSTAND.

PETER
If they stopped fighting, then they
might get divorced or something.

TOMMY
That would be the WORST.

A moment of contemplation, then,

ZUZU
They are SO going to ground us for
a YEAR when they find out.

PETER
Mom and Dad are in trouble, and
it's all our fault.

ZUZU
You are just NOW figuring that out?

TOMMY
(rallying the troops)
Okay, we can fix this. OBJECTIVES:
ONE - Destroy the Douche Monkeys.

ZUZU
TWO: Make Mom and Dad look GREAT,
not MEAN or like, uh, IDIOTS.

PETER

THREE: Make sure Mom and Dad learn about the show on OUR TERMS, not the Douche Monkeys' terms.

TOMMY

FOUR: Cash in on the Google deal!

Peter and Zuzu shoot him LOOKS.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

I can DREAM, can't I?.

EXT. THE LOVING HOME - LATER THAT NIGHT

Everything is peaceful.

INT. THE GUEST BEDROOM, LOVING HOME

The Douche Buster 2000 is digging through Jerry's suitcase with a claw-like hand. In an separate appendage, it holds a tube of BEN-GAY, which it applies liberally to the crotch of Jerry's UNDERWEAR.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lewis and Alice are sitting on the floor, back-to-back, with a pad and pen.

VICTORIA

Write what you would MISS MOST about the other if you LOST THEM?

Lewis and Alice just sit there.

JERRY

You can START.

ALICE

I'm thinking, I'm THINKING.

INT. HERNANDEZ' BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Peter & Zuzu are fiddling with the controls for the Douche Buster 2000. Tommy is on a laptop.

TOMMY

The webcam works.

A SCREEN - Video of a large empty room at the Country Club. Some workmen are setting up some RISERS.

PETER

That's the stage they are setting up. The stream works perfectly.

TOMMY

So this will go out live?

PETER

Courtesy of MANGANONGA INDIAN CASINO. Proud Sponsors of "THE LOVING SHOW".

INT. THE LIVING ROOM

Lewis and Alice are putting their letters in an envelope and sealing them. They hand them to each other.

VICTORIA

Just hold on to those -- and read them when the time is right. You'll know when it is right.

JERRY

So, stand up and face each other... this is the final exercise... and you will have completed the Massive Marriage Makeover.

ALICE

Thank god!

LEWIS

Do we get a certificate?

VICTORIA

That can be arranged. Now hold hands -- both hands.

They do. Jerry & Victoria slap TWO HANDCUFFS on Alice and Lewis, handcuffing each wrist to the other's.

ALICE

Is this a joke?

VICTORIA

Symbols are powerful. This reminds you that you are INSEPARABLE. Tomorrow, they come off.

ALICE
Tomorrow?

LEWIS
We can't SLEEP like this.

ALICE
How do I take off my makeup?

JERRY
That is part of the therapy.

VICTORIA
You want that partnership... right?

JERRY
Don't worry Dr. Lewis, there are loads of new job opportunities these days for Ph.D.'s in Philosophy. How are you at cleaning out Slurpie machines?

Before they can respond, Jerry & Victoria LEAVE THE ROOM. We HEAR the guest bedroom door CLOSE. Alice and Lewis look at each other.

INT. BOY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

THE SCREEN - Lewis and Alice try to move handcuffed together. They try to sit on the couch, but it's awkward.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MONTAGE

A SERIES OF SHOTS as Alice and Lewis negotiate their movements in the handcuffs:

- They try to ARRANGE TWO CHAIRS facing each other so they can sit.
- Lewis has to SCRATCH HIS NOSE.
- Alice TAKES OFF HER MAKEUP.
- They READ, each holds the other's magazine
- Alice checks her PHONE.
- They ARGUE. Then finally,

LEWIS
I have to go to the bathroom.
Can't hold it any more.

Alice, HORRIFIED. They waddle down the hall to the bathroom.

ANGLE - The Douche Buster 2000 watches them enter the bathroom. It then turns to head towards the guest bedroom.

INT. HERNANDEZ' BASEMENT - NIGHT

All three kids are at the Douche Buster control monitor.

PETER
It's all yours Zu.

Zuzu takes the remote controls.

THE MONITOR - we see JERRY'S FACE, sleeping. The robot claw is reaching towards Jerry's mouth

INT. GUEST BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The robot "eye" is extended above Jerry. In the claw is a tube of LIPSTICK. The lipstick is smeared clumsily around Jerry's mouth.

INT. HERNANDEZ' BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

ZUZU
I'm not too good at the controls yet.

PETER
Try the other one.

INT. GUEST BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Now the claw has BLUE EYE-SHADOW. It spastically brushes it on Jerry's eyes. He smiles as if in a delightful dream.

INT. HERNANDEZ' BASEMENT

PETER
"Pretty!"

TOMMY
My turn.

He takes the controls.

INT. GUEST BEDROOM

The robot has moved over to Alice's side of the bed. Another appendage squeezes COSMETIC BLEACHING CREAM on Alice's fingers. Then the claw raises a FEATHER and TICKLES Alice's nose with it. She instinctively SCRATCHES HER FACE, rubbing the creme all over it. The feather KEEPS TICKLING.

INT. HERNANDEZ' BASEMENT

The kids are CRACKING UP.

EXT. THE LOVING HOUSE - EARLY NEXT MORNING

One last lovely morning.

INT. LOVING LIVING ROOM - DAY

LIVING ROOM - Lewis and Alice are ASLEEP ON THE FLOOR in a bizarre position, on top of cushions from the couch. They hold each other sweetly.

JERRY'S VOICE
Good morning, love birds.

Lewis opens his eyes, and JUMPS.

JERRY'S FACE - Lipstick smeared, blue eye-shadow everywhere. He looks like the Joker in drag. He scratches his balls, absently.

JERRY
What's wrong, I scare ya?

Alice wakes up, looks... SHRIEKS.

EXT. LOVING HOME - DAY

A Cadillac has pulled into the driveway. DEAN WILLIAMS gets out.

INT. LOVING LIVING ROOM

The DOORBELL RINGS.

JERRY
I'll get it.

Jerry opens the door, revealing Dean Williams.

DEAN WILLIAMS

What's the EMERGENCY VANETTI? I
have... (seeing him) ...HOLY MOTHER
OF... What the HELL?

Victoria APPEARS behind Jerry. Her face is BLOTCHY &
BLEACHED, in a horrible, Michael Jackson way.

VICTORIA

Oh Dean, what's wrong?

DEAN WILLIAMS

(disgusted)
What is WRONG with you two?

Jerry is confused, absently scratches his Ben-Gay balls
again. Lewis tries to WAVE in the background, but the
handcuffs make it difficult.

LEWIS

(taking advantage of the
situation)
Dean... Thank god you are HERE!

INT. HERNANDEZ' BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

The kids are watching on monitors, nodding in satisfaction.

TOMMY

(impersonating Jerry)
Uh, Dean... I think you better get
over to Loving's house, Emergency...
heh-heh.

EXT. LOVING BACK YARD - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Dean Williams is glaring as Victoria wipes Jerry's makeup off
with a paper towel.

DEAN WILLIAMS

What do you MEAN, you don't know
how this happened?

JERRY

Had to be those damn KIDS!

DEAN WILLIAMS

If you don't pull this off today,
I'll sue back to the stone age.

Victoria catches a glimpse of herself in the plate glass
window - she looks closer... AND SCREAMS.

INT. THE KITCHEN

As the SCREAM reverberates. Alice & Lewis having coffee.

ALICE
Those little sweethearts...

INT. HERNANDEZ' BASEMENT - A FEW HOURS LATER

Ferdinand barges down the stairs. Kyle follows.

THE ROOM - everything is neat and clean, bags backed, no sign of technology anywhere. The Loving kids sweetly smile

FERDINAND
Ready to go?

PETER
Sure.

FERDINAND
You guys okay cooped up down here for two days?

TOMMY
We kept busy.

INT. COUNTRY CLUB LOBBY - DAY

The Loving kids and Kyle are sitting. Kyle plays his Gameboy.

FERDINAND
We're going to check on the reception. You kids stay here.

PETER
Where's Mom and Dad?

FERDINAND
I don't know, no one can reach them. I guess they are getting ready.

Tammy & Ferdinand LEAVE. Peter takes his backpack.

PETER
Hey, Toad. I gotta present for you.

INT. A SMALL SIDE ROOM - COUNTRY CLUB - DAY

Jerry & Victoria and huddled with Lewis and Alice.

JERRY

Okay, we have had our differences,
right? But we BOTH stand to gain
if this goes well.

VICTORIA

Just DON'T FIGHT.

Lewis and Alice scan their faces.

LEWIS

Deal.

JERRY

(relieved)
Great!

ALICE

No hugging.

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB HALL - DAY

There are a lot of people milling about. On the SCREEN, a
SLIDE SHOW plays, showing photos of Lewis & Alice over the
years. MUSIC plays. The kids are huddled in a corner.

PETER

Operation MONKEY FLUSH is in it's
final phase.

Lewis and Alice ENTER. Ferdinand and Tammy hug them. OTHER
PEOPLE start to notice them and APPLAUD. They WAVE meekly.
The kids have VANISHED.

ALICE

I don't know half of these people.

LEWIS

Me neither. But there's the Tenure
Committee.

ALICE

(sees the slide show)
Oh, no... please.

A STRANGE WOMAN approaches them.

STRANGE WOMAN

It's you. HERE! Finally Oh, let
me hug both of you.

She SQUEEZES THEM BOTH. Lewis notices, across the courtyard,

JERRY AND VICTORIA. Jerry in a suit, Victoria in a Bohemian get-up. She has heavy make-up to hide the blotches and is wearing giant sunglasses. A TV NEWS CREW is interviewing.

VICTORIA

A challenging case, a couple that had hardened their animosity for one another for 20 years.

JERRY

And the kids, the children. We had to help THEM. The videos they made were a cry for HELP, bless them.

PRODUCER

And the husband and wife have no idea they are Internet stars?

JERRY

We thought it best for their treatment for them NOT to know.

VICTORIA

Until tonight.

LEWIS AND ALICE - They are watching them.

LEWIS

What are they DOING? Is that TV?

Hugo, Joe & Dustin approach them. A BLONDE is with Hugo.

HUGO

Alice, Lewis, congratulations.

DUSTIN

Alice, you look GREAT.

ALICE

Thanks. Joe, Hugo, everything is so NICE. Thank you for this.

JOE

I'm hoping it's worth it.

HUGO

SURE it will be. Oh, this is Greta.

GRETA

Hi. I love meeting celebrities.

ALICE
 (looking around)
 Oh, who's here?

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM

Now Jerry and Victoria are talking to a REPORTER.

JERRY
 One of the most dysfunctional
 couples in history. A challenge.

REPORTER
 Have you SEEN the latest episodes?

VICTORIA
 LATEST?.

INT. A HALLWAY IN THE COUNTRY CLUB

The kids are huddled together like a football team.

TOMMY
 All set.

PETER
 The Video Stream is running.

ZUZU
 This is OUR show now.

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB HALL

THE STAGE - Peter, Tommy and Zuzu take the stage. They gather around a microphone. The MUSIC STOPS.

PETER
 First, we want to thank everyone
 for coming out for our parent's
 TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY PARTY. And
 for Mr. Penny, Mom's boss, who
 sponsored the bash. (APPLAUSE)

TOMMY
 And we really appreciate everyone
 helping to keep our SECRET...
 Right? Who here has seen THE LOVING
 SHOW?

Most of the crowd CHEERS. Alice and Lewis are CONFUSED.

ZUZU

Mommy and Daddy, we wanted to celebrate your anniversary, by showing the world what a cool couple you are.

TOMMY

But some people took it the... uh, wrong way.

PETER

What most people don't realize is that our Mom and Dad really love us and EACH OTHER, even though they have an interesting way of showing it.

ZUZU

So we want to show you HOW WE SEE IT. Roll it!

A PROJECTOR throws a VIDEO on the screen. TITLE: THE LOVING SHOW PRESENTS: "OUR PARENTS" It is an EDITED COLLECTION OF SCENES of Alice & Lewis. It is a SWEET COLLECTION of all the FUNNY MOMENTS from the last week. Set to MUSIC, it comes across as genuine and truly TOUCHING.

VIDEO ENDS, THE LIGHTS COME UP and there is not a dry eye in the house. LOUD APPLAUSE.

TOMMY

Mom, Dad, COME UP HERE.

Alice and Lewis come up, shell-shocked. Now things are starting to make sense. They are NOT AMUSED but play along.

ZUZU

You guys are the best parents any kids could have, you are never BORING... EVER.

TOMMY

Totally UN-boring.

PETER

How many kids LOVE being with their parents? Because you NEVER know what is going to happen next

TOMMY

How many kids can say their parents think of each other ALL THE TIME? Even if it IS planning revenge.

ZUZU
In a LOVING WAY.

The crowd is buying into it. THEY APPLAUD.

LEWIS & ALICE - they reach out unconsciously and HOLD HANDS.
They smile and WAVE, slightly.

ZUZU (CONT'D)
After we started making the show, I got worried that people would get the wrong idea about my Mom and Dad. Like they really hated each other or something. (LAUGHTER) But it is not like that. Mom, remember when you went on that business trip in February? All Dad did was sit around and be depressed. And Dad, remember when you didn't speak to Mom for a week? She got very cranky and yelled at us more than usual... and after you two had that water fight with the garden hose, she was super-happy.

ANGLE - Lewis and Alice, they know it's true.

ZUZU (CONT'D)
Now, we have one more video to show, and Mom and Dad, you'll LOVE this one.

PETER
Every good love story needs an GOOD VILLAIN.

Victoria and Jerry glare at the kids on-stage.

TOMMY
And I guess Mr. Penny and Dean Williams REALIZED THAT because they gave us THIS. VIDEO PLEASE...

VIDEO PROJECTED - A MONTAGE of mean, petty and self-serving moments starring Jerry and Victoria:

- Jerry SHOCKING Lewis with electricity.
- Victoria PUNCHING Jerry in the mouth.
- Jerry GUTTING and eating the fish.
- Victoria raiding the liquor cabinet. She pours a big glass of vodka, and KICKS the robot-cam on the way out.

- Their pranked FACES, Jerry in makeup & Victoria in blotches.

JERRY AND VICTORIA - they are HORRIFIED. People are LAUGHING. The TV crew is TAPING THE SCREEN.

THE SCREEN - The SEGMENT ENDS with JERRY'S ASS IN HIS UNDERWEAR IN FREEZE FRAME. A TITLE READS: "THE END".

LIGHTS COME UP. LAUGHTER & APPLAUSE. Victoria starts BEATING ON Jerry. The TV crew CAPTURES IT ALL. Jerry is chased by Victoria out of the hall. THE TV CREW runs after them.

PRODUCER

Mr. VANETTI, Ms. WILSON a comment?

The REPORTER is also running after them.

REPORTER

Mr. VANETTI, is electric shock sanctioned as a treatment form by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy?

Rounding a CORNER, Jerry and Victoria run into DEAN WILLIAMS.

DEAN WILLIAMS

YOU CRETINS! How can I fire Loving NOW? Don't you know those delinquents will put that video on the Internets?

The Reporter joins in.

REPORTER

It was live this morning.

A ROBOT come up behind Jerry and POKES HIM IN THE LEG. Jerry JUMPS and falls forward, trying to avoid the robot. Flat on his face, we can see what was written on the bottom of his shoes: "DOUCHE BAG"". The TV crew is taping it all.

Kyle approaches, he has the CONTROLLER in his hand..

KYLE

HA-ha!

INT. THE HALL - NIGHT

Lewis and Alice are behind the stage, away from the mayhem. Alice produces the LETTERS they wrote from her purse.

ALICE

They were right about one thing, we'll know when to read these.

She hands him her envelope, and opens his. They read silently. Then aloud:

ALICE (CONT'D)

"Most off all, I would miss sparring with someone who I can't always beat." Lewis - That's the sweetest thing you have ever said.

LEWIS

"I'd miss getting up everyday without an equal opponent to look forward to". Gee, you MEAN that?

ALICE

(in tears)

YES!

THEY KISS.

DOWN THE HALL - the Google Guys have found them.

KURT

Mr. & Mrs. Loving, can we have a word with you about your talented kids?

Lewis and Alice REACT, look at each other.

INT. SERIES OF SHOTS (VIDEO) - CREDIT ROLL - DAY

The following Google-sponsored VIDEO DOCUMENTARY plays as the CREDITS ROLL.

NARRATOR

So the most famous family in Internet history, NOW has a BAN on technology. Life has CHANGED for the young creative masterminds who gave the world, THE LOVING SHOW.

INTERVIEW - TOMMY

TOMMY

Yeah, my parents took away our laptops, all computer access, our phones, gameboys, console gaming systems, all bluetooth devices... oh yeah, TV too.

INTERVIEW - ZUZU

ZUZU

All that money we made... into a
COLLEGE FUND. That sucks.

INTERVIEW - PETER

PETER

Now I do ALL MY HOMEWORK with my HANDS
and a PEN OR PENCIL. Do you know how
LONG that takes? Make a mistake... I
HAVE TO ERASE IT! No SPELL CHECK.

INTERVIEW - TOMMY

TOMMY

When I wanna chat with my friends,
I have to CALL THEM ON THE PHONE.
I mean the phone with a WIRE. I
didn't even know we had one.

INTERVIEW - ZUZU

ZUZU

I'm getting REAL good at SCRABBLE. I
beat both of my brothers consistently.

SHOT - Loving Kids wave meekly to the CAMERA.

NARRATOR

So the Loving Family embarks on a
brave new experiment... THE LOVINGS
UNPLUGGED

MUSIC UP, AND OUT.

THE END