

THE
FATHER KNOWS BEST
REUNION

#162139

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4 CONTINUED:

4

JIM
(calls)
Was there any mail?

MARGARET'S VOICE
Nothing important. It's on
the table.

Jim glances through a half dozen pieces of mail, finds nothing of interest.

JIM
We haven't heard from Betty
in over a month.

MARGARET'S VOICE
What did you say?

JIM
I said we haven't...

MARGARET'S VOICE
Jim, if you're going to talk to
me, come up here. I can't hear you.

Jim goes up the stairs.

5 INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM - DAY

5

Margaret is standing back to judge the effect of the paint as Jim enters and reacts.

MARGARET
How do you like it?

Jim gives her a kiss.

JIM
Not bad.

MARGARET
Is that the kiss or the color?

JIM
What's the idea of the paint job?

MARGARET
I don't know. I was looking at
these walls and got a sudden urge
to do something with them. Do you
know how long it's been since this
room was painted?

(CONTINUED)

JIM

It's been a while.

MARGARET

Long before Kathy left home, and that was five years ago.

Jim takes a clean paint rag from the bed (covered with a drop cloth) and wipes splashes of paint from Margaret's face.

JIM

Lonely time?

MARGARET

I miss the children. Scattered all over the country. Seems all we have now is two empty bedrooms.

JIM

They've been home every Christmas.

Margaret kneels to pour the unused paint from the pan back into the can. Jim holds the paint can.

MARGARET

I mean all at the same time. Do you realize it's been years since we had the entire family here together?

JIM

I guess it has.

MARGARET

Wouldn't it be fun to have them all back, all the children -- all the grandchildren?

JIM

You're talking about a lot of work.

MARGARET

I'd like that kind of work. It would be something different. Doesn't it seem to you, Jim, that we do the same thing every day. Over and over, the same thing.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

Margaret's glasses, propped up on her bandana, have fallen off onto the floor. Jim reaches to gather them up and in so doing lowers his necktie into the half-gallon paint can. He lifts the tie out of the paint. As it drips:

JIM

I've never done that before.

DISSOLVE TO:

6 INT. ANDERSON DINING ROOM - NIGHT

6

Margaret is lighting candles on the table which is set for two, one at either end. The arrangement is romantic but at the same time makes quite obvious the empty spaces at the sides.

MARGARET

(calls)

Jim. Dinner's on.

Jim enters, pauses in the archway to observe.

JIM

Well, we're dining fancy tonight.

MARGARET

We haven't eaten in the dining room for a long time. I thought it would be sort of romantic.

JIM

If I'd known you were doing this I'd have hired a gypsy and his violin.

MARGARET

Don't you ever get tired of eating in the kitchen?

She takes off her apron and Jim holds her chair for her as she sits down.

JIM

If I were alone, I suppose I would.

He goes to his place and seats himself.

JIM

(continuing)

With you there, I never really notice where we're eating.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

MARGARET

Baloney?

They begin the meal.

JIM

You know, honey, if you went to all this trouble -- the candlelight and wine to remind me of our anniversary next week, I'm way ahead of you.

MARGARET

I didn't have that in mind at all. I set the table in here for a different sentimental reason. We always ate in here when the children were at home.

JIM

(smiling, remembering)

Mm. HMMMMMM.

DISSOLVE TO:

7 FAMILY DINNER SCENE FROM THE ORIGINAL SERIES

7

8 BACK TO PRESENT

8

MARGARET

They've been gone such a long time.

JIM

I miss them, too.

MARGARET

It's just that sometimes the house seems so empty.

9 INT. DR. EVANS' OFFICE - DAY

9

DR. EVANS sits at his desk in his white smock. Jim stands at the window.

DR. EVANS

It's the empy nest syndrome, Jim. I see it all the time. Mothers who can't give up that role.

(CONTINUED)

JIM

Margaret's a sensible woman, Ed.
You know that. But this 'empty
nest' thing is bothering her.
It's close to being an obsession.

DR. EVANS

It's not something to be taken
lightly. It can become serious.

JIM

I thought of selling the house,
that perhaps living there with all
the memories is difficult for her.
But she didn't go for the idea.
She treasures all those memories.

Dr. Evans nods.

JIM

(continuing)

I thought we might dip into our
savings and take one of those
cruises, to the Caribbean or
somewhere.

DR. EVANS

How'd she react to that?

Jim shrugs.

DR. EVANS

(continuing)

No enthusiasm.

JIM

Zero.

10 INT. ANDERSON KITCHEN - NIGHT

10

Margaret is preparing vegetables. Jim enters, comes
up behind her and puts his arms around her.

MARGARET

Well! What's on your mind?

JIM

It occurred to me... with women
being liberated and husbands sharing
the work around the house, why don't
I start taking my turn with the
cooking and cleaning up?

(CONTINUED)

MARGARET

I've eaten your cooking, it's no deal.

JIM

I'm not a bad pot washer.

MARGARET

Jim, let's leave things just as they are. If you start doing half the work around here then I'll have to get a job to earn half the living, and I don't intend to do that. I know a good thing when I have it.

He hugs her.

JIM

I saw Doctor Evans today.

Margaret reacts quickly.

MARGARET

Are you all right?

JIM

He thinks it would be good for both of us if we got away for a while. Says we need a change.

MARGARET

Why did you go to Doctor Evans?

JIM

Oh, I hadn't seen him in some time. Just wanted him to check things out. How does a trip sound to you?

MARGARET

You are all right.

JIM

I'm fine. Solid as a rock. You know, I thought for our anniversary, we'd drive up to the Green Lantern Inn. Remember, we saw it on our way back from Canada. You said you'd like to spend a week there.

MARGARET

Maybe we can do it sometime.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

Jim ponders this less than wildly enthusiastic reception of his proposal and tries again.

JIM

All right, now I'm going to make you and offer you can't refuse. I've made a deal with a painter to finish up the bedrooms.

MARGARET

Well, that's a practical thought. Who's going to do it?

JIM

Usher the Brusher.

MARGARET

Usher the Brusher?

JIM

Be here in the morning.

MARGARET

(dismayed)
Tomorrow's my volunteers day at the hospital...

JIM

No problem. Just leave the key under the mat.

11 INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM - DAY

11

A large figure in painter's overalls and cap, stands with back to CAMERA energetically brushing on the wall. On an unpainted face of the wall are what appears to be hieroglyphics... "K - 10 - M... B & G to M 7... All R - 1020 SP F 318" slapped on with a brush. Margaret appears in the doorway, dressed in her volunteer uniform.

MARGARET

You must be Usher.

The figure turns around. It is a very husky lady.

USHER

Maxine Usher. And you gotta be Margaret.

Maxine goes back to brushing.

(CONTINUED)

USHER

(continuing)

Men think it's a big joke... woman painter. I was office manager for the telephone company 'til I found I could make a lot more money doing this. Your kids grown up and gone?

MARGARET

Yes. The last one left five years ago. This was the girls' room.

USHER

It takes some getting used to when they shove off. How many you have?

MARGARET

Two girls and a boy.

USHER

I have three girls. What those weddings cost me! Yours all married?

MARGARET

Our oldest, Betty, lost her husband in an auto accident two years ago. She lives in Chicago with her two daughters. Our son, Bud, is married and has one boy, lives in Minneapolis. Our youngest, Kathy is not married yet. She's a high school physical education teacher in Kansas City.

USHER

They are scattered all over, aren't they?

MARGARET

(noticing the writing)

What's this, algebra?

USHER

Your husband's message service called. Had nothing to write with. Going to paint this wall anyway so I just put it up here.

MARGARET

I hope you can translate it.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

USHER

(pointing with brush
as she talks)

Just watch me. Kathy called...
she's catching the ten o'clock
flight into Minneapolis tonight.
Betty and the girls, they're
getting into Minneapolis at seven
in the morning. Then they all are
coming into Springfield on flight
318 at ten-twenty in the morning.

MARGARET

(stunned)

They're all coming???

We HEAR the FRONT DOOR CLOSE downstairs.

JIM'S VOICE

Margaret, I'm home!

MARGARET

(to Usher)

Excuse me.

She dashes out of the room.

12 INT. ANDERSON LIVING ROOM - DAY

12

Jim has just changed into his house-jacket as Margaret
comes racing down the stairs. She grabs and kisses
him. When she lets him speak:

JIM

You found out. How?

MARGARET

Usher the Brusher.

DISSOLVE TO:

13 INT. BUD'S BEDROOM - DAY

13

Margaret is cleaning the mirror over Bud's dresser.
Jim comes in with an armload of sleeping bags.

JIM

Anderson sleeping bag delivery
service.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

MARGARET

Just put them in the corner for now, 'til we find out where the little ones are going to sleep.

Jim stacks the sleeping bags. He shifts a chair around.

MARGARET

(continuing)

I brought that chair in from the girls' room.

JIM

What did we do with Bud's chair?

MARGARET

He took it with him to Minneapolis. Remember when they were here for Christmas, Jeanne said 'My husband has this ratty old chair and I can't get it away from him.'

JIM

It's still hard for me to think of Bud as some woman's husband.

MARGARET

Jeanne's a little more than some woman.

JIM

Depends on how you say it. Jeanne is some woman!

Jim finds a framed photo of Bud in helmet and racing gear with a racing motorbike.

JIM

(continuing)

Oh, you had this framed.

14 INSERT - PHOTO

14

MARGARET'S VOICE

Yes, they did a nice job.

15 BACK TO SCENE

15

JIM

(looking at picture)

If we'd known then that he was going to be a professional motorcycle racer --

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

MARGARET

What would we have done?

JIM

Nothing different, I guess. That was his life and nothing could have changed him.

Margaret finishes her arranging, and starts out.

MARGARET

Come on, we have a giant project before the children get here in the morning.

JIM

What's that?

MARGARET

Going to the market and stocking this house with food.

JIM

It might be easier if we just buy the market and move it over here.

DISSOLVE TO:

16 EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

16

Jim and Margaret hurry through the crowd toward the unloading area.

JIM

Honey, the plane isn't due until ten-twenty.

MARGARET

I might be early.

JIM

No airplane is ever early. Late maybe. But never early.

MARGARET

I just want to be sure they don't get off and we're not there.

JIM

Honey, they're not ten years old.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE
Your attention, please. Flight
three-eighteen from Minneapolis
is now landing.

MARGARET
You see?

Jim and Margaret turn their attention to the field.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

17 EXT. AIRPORT - DAY 17

The plane pulls up to the gate and begins to unload.

18 INT. AIRPORT - DAY 18

Jim and Margaret watch the disembarking passengers.
Jim spots BUD.

JIM

There's Bud!
(calls)
Bud! We're over here!

Bud looks over and waves. As Jim and Margaret hurry over, BETTY, with her two little girls, ELLEN, seven, and JENNIFER, nine appear with KATHY. Bud's ten-year-old ROBBIE is there. They all emerge in a laughing, hugging group. AD LIB greeting all around, identifying each one.

MARGARET

Where's Jeanne?

BUD

She had some things to do.
She'll try to come down later.

A barely noticeable reaction from Jim and Margaret.

JIM

You're all looking great.

KATHY

You and Mom, too. When are you going to get old?

MARGARET

We don't have time.

Betty waves to a tall, good-looking pilot, FRANK CARLSON, walking out a little distance away with his co-pilot.

FRANK

So long, Betty.

BETTY

Bye, Frank.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BETTY (cont'd)
 (to Jim and Margaret)
 Remember him?

JIM
 He looks familiar.

BETTY
 Frank Carlson. Remember the Air
 Force pilot I wanted to marry my
 first year in college?

MARGARET
 Is that Frank???

BETTY
 He was our captain on the flight
 down.

KATHY
 There's a lot more than that.

BETTY
 I've seen him in Chicago. We've
 been out a few times.

MARGARET
 (pleased)
 Well!

JIM
 Get the bags. I'll bring the
 car around.
 (to the kids)
 Ellen, Jenny, Robbie, come with
 me. Let's go.

The kids troop along with Jim, heading for the parking
 lot.

Jim and three children in the station wagon pull up in
 front of the terminal. Margaret, Betty, Bud and Kathy
 with hand luggage follow a skycap wheeling the balance
 of their luggage on a dolly. Group AD LIBS as the
 luggage goes into the rear of the station wagon, Bud
 tips the skycap and they all pile in, the adults in the
 front two seats. (Jim and Margaret in front) the young
 ones in the rear with the luggage.

JIM
 Everybody aboard?

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

BUD
 (calls back)
 You kids all in back there?

ROBBIE
 We're in.

ELLEN
 Not very comfortable.

Jim wheels the station wagon away from the curb and they're on their way.

20 INT. STATION WAGON EN ROUTE HOME - DAY

20

While Jim drives, Margaret and the big children catch up on who's been doing what.

BUD
 Dad, your engine sounds like a cement mixer.

BETTY
 Here we go again.

JIM
 I thought it sounded pretty good.

MARGARET
 Betty, in your last letter you said you might change jobs.

BETTY
 It's still up in the air. The head buyer was going to the New York store and asked if I'd make the move. I don't know... I like Chicago.

BUD
 It's great if you don't have to go outdoors.

KATHY
 Look who's talking about going outdoors. I wouldn't spend a winter in Minneapolis if they gave me the city.

BUD
 I suppose Kansas City's a paradise?

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

KATHY

Some nice people live there.

BETTY

Tell them about your new romance.

JIM

What's this?

MARGARET

Who is it?

KATHY

He's a doctor. Doctor Jason Harper.

BUD

He's about your age, Dad.

KATHY

Oh, Bud -- come on! He's only ten years older than I am.

JIM

Is this something serious?

KATHY

It's a possibility...

21 ANGLE - THE SMALL CHILDREN

21

Wedge in among the suitcases in the back of the station wagon. Since their arrival, Robbie has been carefully carrying a small cardboard box with holes in the top. Now he tilts the top of the box and peers in.

ELLEN

What's his name?

ROBBIE

Homer. Homer the Mouse.

JENNY

Let's see him.

ROBBIE

Be careful you don't scare him.

Robbie opens the box and lifts out a small black and white mouse, the standard pet store variety.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

JENNY

Let's see...

She reaches for the mouse and it jumps out of Robbie's hand and disappears.

ROBBIE

Now you did it! Grandpa, stop the car! Stop the car!

22 ANGLE - INCLUDING THE ADULTS

22

as they all react to Robbie's cry.

BUD

What's going on??

JIM

What is it, Robbie??

ROBBIE

We've gotta find Homer! He's loose back here!

MARGARET

Who is Homer?

ROBBIE

My mouse! Stop the car, Grandpa!

23 EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

23

The station wagon slows and pulls to a stop at the curb.

24 INT. STATION WAGON - DAY

24

As everyone reacts to the loose mouse. The girls tuck up their feet.

ROBBIE

Don't anybody open a door, he'll get out!

BUD

Where'd he go?

ROBBIE

There's a hole in the floor here.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

BUD

That goes into the toolbox.

BETTY

Why did you let him bring along
that stupid mouse!?

ROBBIE

He's not a stupid mouse!

JIM

Well, somebody back there find
him.

BUD

Move over, kids.

Bud climbs over the back of the second seat into the rear of the wagon which now becomes a tangle of bodies as Bud pushes luggage around to open the toolbox.

KATHY

Find him, Bud!!

BUD

I'm trying. This isn't easy,
you know.

A suitcase falls on Bud as he pries open the toolbox.

BETTY

It serves you right. You did the same thing when you were Robbie's age. Always had some kind of mouse or crawling thing.

BUD

I got him! Take it easy, Homer.

Bud emerges from the confusion of the rear.

25 ANGLE - JIM AND MARGARET

25

in the front seat. They exchange looks and smiles.

DISSOLVE TO:

26 INT. GIRLS' ROOM - DAY

26

Betty and Kathy have suitcases open on their beds, unpacking, hanging things in wardrobe.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

Margaret is helping.

KATHY

The room looks terrific, Mom.

BETTY

(to Margaret)

You and Dad did some work in here.

MARGARET

Just paint and fresh curtains.

Jenny appears in the doorway. She holds up a pair of old roller skates.

JENNY

We found a bunch of old skates in the garage. Can we use them?

BETTY

Just stay on the block.

Jenny disappears.

27 INT. ANDERSON LIVING ROOM - DAY

27

The PHONE RINGS as Jenny comes down the stairs with the skates.

JENNY

(calls)

Telephone!!

28 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

28

The PHONE RINGS AGAIN as Jim comes in from outside and picks it up. Jenny is walking through with the skates.

JIM

(to phone)

Hello... ? Oh, Frank, how are you? Yes, it was good to see you... Sure, just a moment I'll call her.

(to Jenny)

Jenny, will you please tell your mother she's wanted on the phone.

JENNY

(yells)

Mama!!! Telephone!!! It's that pilot!!!

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

21.

28

BETTY'S VOICE

Thank you.

JIM

(to Jenny)

I could have done that.

29 INT. GIRLS' ROOM - DAY

29

Betty, Margaret and Kathy as Betty looks around the room.

BETTY

Where's the phone?

MARGARET

It's in our room now.

Betty hurries out.

30 INT. MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

30

as Betty hurries in, picks up the bedside phone and seats herself on one of the twin beds.

BETTY

Hello, Frank. Well, it's good to be here... Seems like I never left home.

31 EXT. ANDERSON DRIVEWAY - DAY

31

Bud has the hood of the station wagon open and is at work removing the carburetor while Jim observes.

JIM

You sure it's the carburetor?

BUD

Dad, I make my living with motors.

JIM

(after a beat)

How's it going, son?

BUD

Oh, the business is all right. I'm promoting races... riding some. Haven't been able to cover the circuit as well as I should have.

(CONTINUED)

JIM

I mean between you and Jeanne.

BUD

I'm afraid, not great. I'm away from home a lot. She thinks I should spend more time with Robbie. Jeanne would like me to be like you've always been... She'd like me to go to work every morning and come home every night at the same time. Build up the motorcycle shop and the sales. You know, be a nice, steady establishment kind of a guy.

JIM

That's what most wives want.

BUD

I don't know if I can be that kind of person.

JIM

It's kind of a good idea if you can think of how you'd like things to be ten years from now. It can help in planning.

BUD

Ten years. A long time.

JIM

Not as long as you think.

32 INT. MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

32

Betty is still on the phone with Frank. Margaret listening.

BETTY

Frank, I can't tonight. We just got here.

MARGARET

Go ahead!

BETTY

(to Margaret)

Are you sure... the girls...

(CONTINUED)

MARGARET

I'll babysit.

BETTY

All right, Frank. Fine. About six-thirty. See you then.

She hangs up and remains motionless for a moment in contemplation of the conversation just finished. Margaret comes to her. They sit side by side on the bed.

MARGARET

We always liked Frank.

BETTY

I'm not really sure how I feel about him. Allen and I had so much together... twelve years. For some reason, it seems wrong that I should think of anyone else.

MARGARET

Would Allen want that for you?

BETTY

No... never.

MARGARET

We learn, as we grow older, how important it is to put the past behind us.

BETTY

I know, Mom.

MARGARET

Don't waste your 'todays.'

DISSOLVE TO:

Kathy is on the phone, but she is speaking softly, an intimate conversation and we will hear nothing she says. Bud comes in from the driveway carrying the station wagon's carburetor and a gallon jug of solvent. Robbie is right along with him.

ROBBIE

You think it's dirt in the carburetor?

(CONTINUED)

BUD
Dirt and sediment... all kinds of
gunk.

Bud turns to Jim who now enters from the driveway.

BUD
(continuing)
Dad, you ever had this boiled out?

JIM
Nobody ever suggested it.

We see Kathy covering her ear, trying to screen out the conversation in the kitchen. Bud stoppers one side of the sink, puts the greasy black carburetor in and pours the gallon bottle of solvent over it.

BUD
This solvent will clean out most
of the bad stuff.

Robbie goes to the back screen door, sees Ellen and Jenny on the skates peering into engine compartment of the station wagon.

ROBBIE
(yells)
Don't you kids fool around in
there!

Kathy covers her ear and turns away, trying to carry on her phone conversation. Betty enters from the dining room, goes to the sink for a glass of water, reacts.

BETTY
What's this in the sink???

BUD
I'm cleaning out the carburetor.

BETTY
Well, do it outside!

Margaret appears in the doorway to the dining room.

BUD
It's not hurting anything!

Robbie sees one of the girls reach into the engine compartment. He shoves the door open and roars out like a guard dog.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

ROBBIE

I said, don't mess with that
engine!

The decibel level in the kitchen is rising.

BETTY

Messing up the kitchen with your
greasy old machinery!

BUD

It's not your kitchen.

Kathy has had it.

KATHY

Will you hold it down! I'm trying
to talk on the phone!

BUD

Use the phone upstairs!

Jim has moved over to Margaret and the two observe
the scene.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

34 INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM - DAY

34

Betty is dressing for her date with Frank. Margaret is seated with her sewing basket stitching up a loose belt buckle.

BETTY

I hate to run out on everybody,
our first night here.

MARGARET

We're glad you can go. We'll
have plenty of time together.

BETTY

I'd forgotten the buckle was
coming off that belt.
(surveys herself in
the mirror)
Does this look all right?

MARGARET

You need the belt.

She hands it to Betty. She puts it on and fastens it.
Studies the effect.

MARGARET

(continuing)
You look lovely.

BETTY

Getting dressed in this room, I
feel like I was going on my first
date.

Kathy enters in robe with her just-shampooed hair
wrapped in a towel.

MARGARET

I've missed you children.

KATHY

Don't give us that, Mom. I'll
bet you and Dad are so glad to
have us out of the house. You
have the place to yourselves.
Do what you want to do.

(CONTINUED)

BETTY

Mom, you know what your problem is? You're hooked on children.

KATHY

That I can't understand.

BETTY

It's true. You always have been. I think you'd be perfectly happy with all of us living here and the place crawling with kids.

MARGARET

I probably would.

Ellen and Jennifer wander in, a little dirty and disheveled from skating.

JENNY

(to Betty)

Where you going?

BETTY

Mr. Carlson's coming over and I'm going out. Go in and get cleaned up.

Margaret moves in and heads the girls for the bathroom.

MARGARET

I think you need some help.

KATHY

Mom, they're old enough to wash their own faces.

BETTY

Let her do it. She loves it.

Kathy pokes through the wardrobe looking for something to put on.

BETTY

(continuing)

Tell me more about your doctor?

KATHY

But he's a widower and he has two children, about the same age as Ellen and Jenny.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KATHY (cont'd)

He's ten years older than I am
and he wants to get married.

BETTY

If you love him, I wouldn't worry
about the ten years.

KATHY

Jason thinks I'd make a great
mother, but I'm not all that
sure. I just can't see myself
as the mother of an eight-year-
old girl and a ten-year-old
boy.

ROBBIE'S VOICE

(calls)

Dad!!... Hey, Dad!!!

KATHY

(calls)

He's not up here!

Robbie saunters in. He's a mess.

BETTY

What happened to you?

ROBBIE

Nothing.

KATHY

You could get dirty climbing out
of bed in the morning.

BETTY

Go get cleaned up. Captain
Carlson is coming over.

ROBBIE

Why do I have to get cleaned up?
I'm not going out with him.

BETTY

(to Kathy)

There's a chance to practice your
mothering.

Kathy takes Robbie by the collar and steers him out.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (3)

34

KATHY
 (maternally)
 Come with me, my little man.
 You smell like a dog.

DISSOLVE TO:

35 EXT. FRONT PORCH OF ANDERSON HOUSE - DAY 35

A car pulls up in front of the house and Frank gets out, starts up the walk.

36 INT. ENTRY HALL - DAY 36

Ellen is peering through the curtains. She reacts and runs for the stairway.

ELLEN
 (calls)
 Mama! He's here! He's here!

Robbie comes out of the dining room looking somewhat cleaner.

ROBBIE
 You don't have to holler.

As Jim comes from the living room, the front DOORBELL CHIMES.

37 INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM - DAY 37

Betty is hurriedly putting on final touches in front of the mirror. Kathy, now dressed and presentable, is putting on her shoes.

KATHY
 Your pilot's right on schedule.

BETTY
 Do me a favor. Go down and see that the girls don't climb all over him.

KATHY
 (as she goes)
 I don't know. I might climb all over him myself.

Betty gives her a look and she's out.

38 INT. ANDERSON LIVING ROOM - DAY

38

as Kathy comes down the stairs, Jim is shaking hands with Frank. Margaret comes in from the dining room with Jenny.

JIM

I guess you saw Kathy and Bud on the plane.

FRANK

It's been a lot of years.

KATHY

Hi, Frank. Are they ganging up on you?

FRANK

Like a class reunion.

JENNY

(indicating Margaret)
Captain Carlson, this is my grandma.

FRANK

We've met, Jenny. A long time ago.

Frank and Margaret exchange AD LIB greetings.

KATHY

Betty will be right down.

JIM

That means 'Sometime in the reasonably near future.' Sit down, Frank.

They all move into the living room and are settling down when Bud enters.

BUD

Sounded like a political convention in here.

FRANK

Hello, Bud.

Frank and Bud shake hands.

BUD

I was telling Robbie how you and Betty got together.

(CONTINUED)

ROBBIE

Dad says he found your helmet in
a vacant lot.

FRANK

That's the truth. I was flying
a jet trainer out of Tryford Air
Base. The canopy blew off and
my helmet went with it.

ROBBIE

(to Bud)

How'd you know who it belonged
to?

BUD

His name was on it. We didn't
waste a whole lot of time getting
out to the base.

JENNY

Why did Mama go along?

BUD

A chance to meet an Air Force
pilot? We hit the base, she was
the first one out of the car.

MARGARET

Oh, Bud!

BUD

True!

There is general LAUGHTER which fades as Betty comes
down the stairs. She is beautiful. Frank rises and
goes to meet her at the foot of the stairs.

FRANK

Betty.

BETTY

Hello, Frank.

He takes her hand in his. Their eyes meet and hold.
There is no question, the attraction is still there.

DISSOLVE TO:

Bud and Robbie are hauling in logs and stacking them
in the fireplace.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

Kathy and Margaret are seated on the couch going through a photo album. Jim's seated in the easy chair, his feet up.

JIM

You fellas are doing a fine job there. I'll recommend both of you for merit badges in fire building.

BUD

Pretty soft being a grandfather. Sit around and let your kids do the work.

JIM

I supply the benefit of my vast experience.

ROBBIE

I sure wish our house was like this.

Margaret catches a note in Robbie's voice, looks up.

MARGARET

Like what, Robbie?

ROBBIE

Oh -- fun. People and doing things. Dad has to be away a lot.

Bud reacts. Jim watches and changes the subject.

JIM

Isn't it odd the way Frank turned up. He looks well.

KATHY

Wouldn't it be wild if he and Betty got together again.

Ellen and Jenny wander in from the dining room.

ELLEN

There's nothing to do.

JENNY

What can we do, Grandpa?

JIM

Well, I have an idea.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JIM (cont'd)

Suppose we have a family evening at home the way we used to do when your mama was your age. We'll pop some popcorn in the fireplace... Maybe you can talk your grandma into making some of her butterscotch candy.

ROBBIE

(to Margaret)

Hey -- yeah! Will you???

ELLEN

Please, Grandma!!

MARGARET

If I still remember how.

The front DOORBELL CHIMES. Jenny heads for the door.

JENNY

I'll get it!!

Jim rises from his chair and follows her. At the door, Ellen opens it to reveal CLAUDE, Bud's boyhood friend, now twenty years older.

CLAUDE

Hello, Jim.

JIM

Claude! How are you? Come in.

CLAUDE

I heard old Bud's in town.

JIM

You heard right...

He indicates Bud. Claude reacts as Bud scrambles up from the floor in front of the fireplace and hurries toward him. They embrace with much backslapping.

CLAUDE

Hey, Bud!!

BUD

Claude!!

CLAUDE

What's the idea of sneaking into town and not telling anybody?

(CONTINUED)

BUD

Man, we just got here this morning! How did...

CLAUDE

My sister saw you at the airport.

Jim closes the door and the group moves into the living room. Bud introduces Robbie and the kids. Claude and Margaret exchange AD LIB greetings.

CLAUDE

(continuing; to
Kathy)

Kathy, it's good to see you!

KATHY

I never thought I'd hear you say that. When we were kids I was 'The Pest.'

BUD

And you were!

KATHY

I wasn't so bad.

BUD

You were a pest. If we wanted to go anyplace, first we had to ditch Kathy.

CLAUDE

(admiringly)

Well, I wouldn't want to ditch her now. You've sure grown up.

KATHY

I hope so.

The two little girls have wandered out of the room. Robbie stands beside Bud listening and waiting.

CLAUDE

How old are you, Robbie?

ROBBIE

Ten.

CLAUDE

Your dad ever tell you about the time your granddad gave him six dollars to pick up a pair of pants at the tailor shop?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CLAUDE (cont'd)

We took a shortcut through a
carnival.

Bud shakes his head, laughing.

ROBBIE

(to Bud)

You never told me.

BUD

We ran into a fast-talking con
man in a roll-the-ball game.

CLAUDE

He rolled your dad out of the
whole six bucks.

JIM

I had to pick up the pants myself...
Did you ever pay me back?

BUD

I sure did. Took me two months
to work it out.

CLAUDE

Robbie, we both got jobs in the
carnival, getting dunked in a
tub of water. The carnival
moved out one night... we never
got paid.

BUD

Never forget it.

CLAUDE

Hey, Bud, how about you and
Robbie coming over to our house.
You haven't seen Caroline in
years. Robbie and my kids can
tear up the place.

BUD

We'd kind of planned an evening
here.

JIM

Go ahead.

MARGARET

We have all day tomorrow and the
next day.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: (5)

39

BUD
 (to Robbie)
 What do you say?

Robbie would rather stay right where he is, but:

ROBBIE
 (delighted)
 Okay!

DISSOLVE TO:

40 INT. ANDERSON LIVING ROOM - AN HOUR LATER

40

Jim is stirring up the fire. Margaret, Kathy and the little girls are seated on the floor with a bowl of popcorn. On the coffee table is a plate of butter-scotch candy which the girls are sampling.

JENNY
 Grandma, this is good!

ELLEN
 Yeah!

MARGARET
 Dr. Jason Harper. He has a good strong name.

KATHY
 He's a good strong person, Mom.

JENNY
 You aren't going to marry him, are you, Aunt Kathy?

KATHY
 I don't know.

ELLEN
 If you get married to a doctor, he'll be sticking those things in your mouth and looking down your throat all the time.

KATHY
 He's not that kind of a doctor. He's a surgeon.

JENNY
 (to Ellen)
 They cut people up.

(CONTINUED)

ELLEN

That's even worse!

KATHY

Don't worry about it.

JIM

Sounds like your Doctor Harper
has serious intentions.

KATHY

Oh, he's very serious. I'm the
one who's dragging my feet.

All react to the CHIME of the DOORBELL. Jim goes to
the door. He opens it to reveal MARYBETH, Kathy's
childhood friend.

MARYBETH

Mr. Anderson, remember me?

JIM

Of course. Marybeth! Come in.

As she enters, Kathy jumps up and runs in from the
living room.

KATHY

Marybeth!!!

MARYBETH

Kathy!!!

And it's hugging time.

KATHY

It's been how long?

MARYBETH

Since you left for college...
and I left for college!

They move into the living room.

MARGARET

Marybeth! We've thought of you
so often. Wondered where you
were.

MARYBETH

I'm working for a life insurance
company up in Connecticut. Loving
it. Home for a vacation.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (2)

40

KATHY

How'd you know we were here?

MARYBETH

The man at the market. Your folks bought a truckload of food.

Margaret brings Ellen and Jenny into the f.g. for AD LIB introductions.

JIM

Here, give me your coat. Come in, sit down.

MARYBETH

Oh, I can't... listen, Clark's waiting in the car. We're driving out to the lake to watch the Spring Parade of Lights. Why don't you and the girls come with us? We can talk our heads off.

(to Jim and Margaret)

May I steal them from you?

KATHY

I shouldn't go.

MARGARET

Why not? Go and enjoy the evening.

The girls yell with delight and run for their coats.

41 INT. ANDERSON LIVING ROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

41

Jim and Margaret are seated in front of the dying fire. The bowl of popcorn is scarcely touched, as is the butterscotch.

JIM

I guess we went a little overboard on the popcorn and the butterscotch.

There is a touch of sadness on Margaret's face.

MARGARET

I'm worried about Bud and Jeanne. Something's wrong. Has he talked to you?

(CONTINUED)

JIM

He mentioned it.

MARGARET

What did he say?

JIM

Oh, just that Jeanne would like him to be at home more. Things are a little strained right now.

MARGARET

He said nothing to me.

JIM

It's not easy for him to talk about.

MARGARET

Kathy and her doctor. I thought she might ask what we thought.

JIM

Honey, we've got to reconcile ourselves to the fact that none of the children may ever again ask us what we think of anything.

MARGARET

We can't ignore them.

JIM

No. Far from it. But we're not their troop leaders anymore.

There is a moment of thoughtful quiet. Then Jim rises.

JIM

(continuing)

This may come as a shock, but I have a good idea.

Margaret looks up at him.

MARGARET

How good?

JIM

Let's you and I drive out to the lake and watch the parade of lights.

(CONTINUED)

MARGARET

All right.

Jim gathers up the bowl of popcorn and the plate of butterscotch and heads for the kitchen.

JIM

(as he goes)

We're not chained to this house.

MARGARET

Not by any means.

He disappears in the direction of the kitchen.

JIM'S VOICE

It takes time to realize that we're free to go anytime, anywhere.

MARGARET

(going for their coats)

Right.

JIM

(coming back)

We can't go to the lake.

MARGARET

Why not? The station wagon's in the driveway.

JIM

I know. But the carburetor's in the sink.

On Margaret's reaction:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

42 INT. ENTRY HALL - EARLY SATURDAY MORNING

42

Bud, in pajamas, is on the phone.

BUD

Grab a cup of coffee and I'll be there in twenty minutes. Wait for me out front.

He hangs up and goes up stairs to meet Jim coming down.

BUD

(continuing)

I just talked to Jeanne.

JIM

How are things at home?

BUD

She's not at home, she's here. She called from the airport. I'm going to pick her up.

JIM

(innocently)

Well, that's great. I wonder what made her decide to come down.

Bud gives him a suspicious look.

BUD

I wonder.

He goes on upstairs as Jim smiles.

43 EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

43

JEANNE is standing at the curb with a small suitcase beside her. She moves about, studying oncoming cars and glancing at her watch. Finally Bud drives up in the station wagon and jumps out. She picks up her bag and moves to the door. As he approaches, there is no greeting kiss.

JEANNE

Thought maybe I was in the wrong place.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

BUD

Sorry I took so long, but I had to put the carburetor back in the car.

He opens the door, tosses the bag in the back.

BUD

(continuing)

I'm glad you changed your mind. Everybody's glad you're here.

She gives him a look.

JEANNE

Everybody?

BUD

(why not?)

Yeah.

She gets in. He closes the door, goes around and gets in on his side and they drive off.

44 EXT. DRIVEWAY - MORNING

44

Jim is coming in scanning the front page of the morning paper as Robbie comes out of the garage with the electric opener box.

ROBBIE

Grandpa, is this your electric garage door opener?

JIM

Yes, but it's broken.

ROBBIE

I wondered. It ought to be in the car.

JIM

I'll get it fixed one of these days.

Robbie has a small screwdriver.

ROBBIE

I watched the man fix ours at home. Can I try?

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

JIM

Pretty complicated.

ROBBIE

It's got this little adjustment
screw here. You just turn it.

He turns the screw.

ROBBIE

(continuing)

Nothing to it.

He pushes the button on the box. The door doesn't move, Jim reacts as the garage door across the street goes up and the garage door next door goes down. Jim carefully takes the box.

JIM

Give me that. We may be opening
the First National Bank.

The station wagon pulls into the driveway and Bud and Jeanne get out. Robbie rushes to Jeanne, grabs her.

ROBBIE

Mom! It's Mom. Hey, Mom!!! Am
I glad you're here!!

Bud takes the suitcase out as Jeanne makes motherly sounds. Jeanne and Jim AD LIB greetings as Robbie carries the suitcase and goes in the house with Bud. Margaret comes out, hugs Jeanne.

MARGARET

We were so disappointed when we
thought you weren't coming.

JEANNE

Well, Mother came over from Duluth,
but she's staying with my sister.

Betty appears in the doorway.

BETTY

You're just in time to help with
the anniversary dinner!

45 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

45

Margaret, Betty, Kathy and Jeanne are preparing the feast.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

KATHY
(finishing a project)
What now?

MARGARET
Somebody'd better get started on
the table.

KATHY
Okay. How many will we have?

BETTY
Mom and Dad are two... You and
Bud and me are five... Jenny,
Ellen and Robbie are eight...

JEANNE
And I'm nine and I'll help.

As they move to the plates and glasses, the front DOOR-
BELL CHIMES.

46 INT. ENTRY HALL - DAY

46

As Jim opens the front door. Standing there is a
solid-looking man in his mid-thirties.

JASON
Mr. Anderson?

JIM
That's right.

JASON
I'm Jason Harper.

JIM
Doctor Harper?

Jason nods.

JIM
(continuing)
Come in. Come in.

JASON
Kathy phoned, asked me to come
and join in the celebration of
your anniversary.

(CONTINUED)

JIM

Well, I'm glad she did. It's a
pleasure to meet you, Doctor.

They shake hands warmly.

JASON

Only one thing I ask... let's
drop the 'Doctor.'

JIM

Okay, Jason.

Kathy enters the dining room with a stack of plates.
She sees Harper, reacts. Jeanne appears behind her,
observes the scene.

KATHY

Jason!

She puts plates down and runs to him, hugs him.

KATHY

(continuing)

Daddy, this is Doctor Harper!

JIM

He just gave up his degree.

KATHY

Jeanne, this is Doctor Harper.

JASON

Jason!

JEANNE

Hello, Jason.

JASON

Hello, Jeanne. Kathy says you're a
super person.

JEANNE

Well, naturally.

They laugh.

JIM

(indicating the
living room)

Come in. Sit down.

As Jim, Jason and Kathy go into the living room, Jeanne
returns to the kitchen.

47 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

47

Betty and Margaret are preparing dinner as Jeanne comes in. Robbie is there, sampling.

JEANNE

Doctor Harper's here.

BETTY

Well, there's another one for dinner.

MARGARET

This turkey's getting smaller by the minute. Ten people?

BETTY

Did I count Frank?

MARGARET

Frank???

BETTY

I asked him. I didn't think you'd mind.

MARGARET

Eleven people. Where are we going to put them all?

ROBBIE

Maybe some of us can eat in the car.

On Jeanne's and Margaret's reactions:

CUT TO:

48 EXT. ANDERSON HOUSE - DAY

48

A car pulls up in front of the house and Frank gets out.

49 INT. ANDERSON DINING ROOM - DAY

49

The dining table is stretched with extra leaves, crowding the mixed collection of chairs to the walls. The table is set with the Anderson's best linen and silver. The special china. Betty has just placed the relishes on the table and Jenny is snitching an olive as she glances out the window and reacts.

JENNY

Hey, Mom! It's the pilot!!

She dashes to the front door and opens it.

50 INT. ENTRY HALL - DAY

50

Frank stands on the porch, out of uniform, casually well-dressed.

JENNY

Hi!

FRANK

Hi, Jenny.

BETTY

(coming to the
door)

Come on in if you dare to.

He does.

FRANK

I must have hit the rush hour.

MARGARET

Hello, Frank. Welcome.

BUD

Hey Jeanne, come here. Frank,
this is my wife, Jeanne. Frank
Carlson.

FRANK

Jeanne.

JEANNE

Whose friend are you?

BETTY

He's mine.

KATHY

(indicating Jason)

Frank, that's Jason Harper.
He's mine.

Jason and Frank reach across and shake hands, AD
LIB greetings.

JIM

As somebody in a play once said,
'For a place with no neon sign,
we're doing a whale of a business!'

MARGARET

Dinner's on. Everyone please
come in and sit down.

The bulk of the group moves into the dining room.

51 INT. ANDERSON DINING ROOM - DAY

51

The room is bulging with everyone seated at the table. The turkey, the candles are there. The whole scene.

BETTY

Well, we all fit!

BUD

It's a record. The most people we ever had at this table.

FRANK

We'll never get it off the ground.

MARGARET

Who said 'There's always room for one more?'

JIM

(to Margaret)

Honey, you wanted a full house. You've got it.

KATHY

If it's true that 'more is merrier,' this is going to be a hilarious meal.

JIM

First we'll have a few kind words for the Man Upstairs.

Heads are bowed as Jim begins the Grace. All except Ellen, who looks around and quickly becomes bored with the whole thing.

JIM

(continuing)

Heavenly Father, we are grateful to have our family together on our anniversary...

CAMERA SLOWLY PANS the faces of the group.

JIM'S VOICE

(continuing)

... for the gifts of health and happiness You have bestowed upon all of us, and for Your watchful care in our daily lives. May Your blessings extend to those who are joining our family group for the first time...

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

CAMERA FINDS Ellen, who, for lack of anything more interesting to do, is allowing herself to slide off her chair. She is disappearing slowly under the table unnoticed by the others.

JIM'S VOICE

(continuing)

... gather them into Your divine presence, and shelter and guide us all in the way of wisdom, compassion and righteousness...
Amen.

Heads rise and everyone brightens for the business of dinner until it is noticed that Ellen has vanished. With the chairs crowded closely together as they are, there is only one place she could have gone.

JIM

(continuing)

Looks like we lost one of the team.

BETTY

Ellen!

MARGARET

She must be under the table.

Everyone tries to look, but the chairs are so tightly together no one can see under the table.

KATHY

Ellen, come out right now!

ROBBIE

She's under there.

ELLEN'S VOICE

Oww! Ouch!

JEANNE

Robbie, don't kick her!!

BETTY

Ellen, you come out of there!

ELLEN'S VOICE

Owww! Owww!

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED: (2)

51

BUD
Cut it out, Robbie!

ROBBIE
She's biting my leg!!

JIM
Let her stay there. She can eat
under the table.
(peers under)
What'll you have, Ellie, light
or dark meat?

BETTY
Dad!!

Bud tries to push his chair back and force his reach
under the table...

BUD
Ellen, you come out or I'm --

Pushing under trying to grab her, he tips the table
slightly. Everyone is grabbing dishes and glasses.
CAMERA FINDS Margaret at the end of the table trying
desperately to calm and steady the situation.

DISSOLVE TO:

52 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

52

The confusion of the previous scene is multiplied here
as Margaret tries to manage the after-dinner clean-up
with the sincere, if uncoordinated, helping efforts of
all the other adults except Jim. People are bringing
in plates and food dishes from the dining room and
there is no space to put them down. This has to be an
AD-LIB scene with Margaret hard-pressed, trying to be
cheery, trying to bring some order out of the chaos,
and slowly losing ground.

53 EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

53

The garage door is open and in front of the garage,
Jim and Robbie are spreading out a dusty old pup tent.

JIM
It's your dad's old pup tent.

(CONTINUED)

ROBBIE

Can I have it?

JIM

I don't think your father plans to use it right away.

ROBBIE

I'm going to sleep in it!

Robbie quickly bunches up the tent into a bundle, gathers it in his arms and heads for the back door.

JIM

Right now?

ROBBIE

Gotta find Dad.

He struggles the back door open.

ROBBIE

(continuing; calls into the kitchen)

Dad! I found your tent! Can I sleep in the back yard??

He disappears into the kitchen. Jim chuckles, shakes his head and is gathering up stakes and odds and ends that fell out of the tent when Margaret emerges from the kitchen looking harried. (NOTE: through this scene, we have HEARD the CLATTER of VOICES from the kitchen.)

JIM

What's the matter, honey? Did they run you out?

MARGARET

I fled. That kitchen wasn't made for doing dishes with seven adults, three children and a pup tent.

Jim puts his arms around her.

JIM

Happy Anniversary.

Jim draws her to him and kisses her affectionately right there in the middle of the driveway. A teen-age couple walk by on the sidewalk, observe the kiss. They giggle.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED: (2)

53

JIM
It's our driveway.

MARGARET
And it's our anniversary.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

54 INT. BUD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

54

Bud and Jeanne in their pajamas and robes are helping Robbie gather up his sleeping bag and pillow.

ROBBIE

Where's the flashlight? Got to have a flashlight so we can see in the tent.

Bud finds a flashlight in a drawer. Robbie has his hands full with the sleeping bag and the pillow.

BUD

Here, I'll put it in with your pillow.

He slips it into the pillow case.

JEANNE

Are you going to be warm enough?

ROBBIE

Sure. Guys go to the North Pole with sleeping bags.

BUD

(to Robbie)

You go ahead. I'll be down in a minute.

ROBBIE

Maybe we ought to have a radio. Listen for storm warnings.

JEANNE

Daniel Boone didn't have a radio.

ROBBIE

Forgot about that.

He starts out. As he goes:

ROBBIE

(continuing)

Come on, Dad!

BUD

You go ahead and get settled. I'll be there.

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

Robbie goes out.

JEANNE

(smiling)

You had to come clear to Springfield
to camp out with your son.

BUD

You get back where you grew up,
you see things differently.

He gathers up a sleeping bag and pillow. He moves
thoughtfully. Jeanne watches him.

BUD

(continuing)

You know I did this... I slept
in my tent in the back yard when
I was a kid.

JEANNE

I know.

Bud starts for the door.

BUD

See you in the morning.

JEANNE

Watch out for wild animals.

Bud pauses in the doorway and looks back at her. He
comes back and kisses her lightly. It could be the
first in a long time.

BUD

Goodnight.

JEANNE

Goodnight.

They look searchingly into each others eyes for a
moment, then Bud turns and goes out. Jeanne smiles
to herself.

55 EXT. BACK YARD - NIGHT

55

Bud is arranging the sleeping bags in the tent while
Robbie holds the flashlight.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

55

ROBBIE

Dark out here.

BUD

That's good. Our enemies won't
find us.

ROBBIE

What kind of enemies?

BUD

Bad guys.

ROBBIE

Any of 'em around here?

BYD

Never can tell.

ROBBIE

This is neat.

56 INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

56

Jim in his robe and slippers stands at the window looking down into the back yard. Margaret, in her robe, is seated at the dressing table brushing her hair.

JIM

Honey, come here. You should see this.

Margaret crosses to the window. They watch Bud and Robbie in the back yard.

57 THEIR POV - BACK YARD - NIGHT

57

58 INT. TENT - NIGHT

58

Bud and Robbie are settled in their sleeping bags in the tent.

ROBBIE

Maybe one of us oughta stay awake and watch for things.

BUD

Might be a good idea.

59 BACK TO JIM AND MARGARET 59

JIM
Remember when Bud slept out there?

MARGARET
It doesn't seem that long ago.

60 INT. BUD'S ROOM - NIGHT 60

Jeanne stands at the window watching the scene down in the back yard.

61 HER POV - THE BACK YARD - NIGHT 61

62 INT. TENT - NIGHT 62

Bud and Robbie.

ROBBIE
Sometimes there are things walking around at night. Nobody even knows what they are.

BUD
Big furry creatures with yellow eyes... twice as big as a man... hairy, pointed ears.

ROBBIE
Around here?

BUD
You never know.

Bud looks up at Jeanne in the window, gives her a small hand signal. The pup tent is open at the ends.

63 BACK TO SCENE 63

Jeanne smiles, gives him a little wave. This is the sort of thing she has wanted for Bud and Robbie.

64 JEANNE'S POV - THE BACK YARD - NIGHT 64

65 INT. TENT - NIGHT 65

Bud crawls between the blankets next to Robbie. Both settle down.

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

ROBBIE

You go to sleep... I'll take
the first watch.

66 EXT. FRONT OF ANDERSON HOUSE - NIGHT

66

Betty and Frank are saying goodnight at the front door.

FRANK

You should still be in college.
Nothing has changed about you.

BETTY

I wish that were true.

FRANK

Tell me one thing, Betty... Do
I have a chance?

BETTY

I don't know, Frank. I'll work
on it.

FRANK

Please do.

He kisses her gently.

67 EXT. ELM STREET - NIGHT

67

The lights of a car pull up to the curb in front of
the house next to the Andersons. Frank's car is in
front of the house.

68 INT. JASON'S CAR - NIGHT

68

Kathy and Jason, as they see Frank's car ahead.

JASON

Frank and Betty got here ahead
of us.

KATHY

I'll say goodnight here and go
in the back way.

They kiss lightly.

(CONTINUED)

68 CONTINUED:

68

JASON

I came five hundred miles to be with you. That's a long trip for an old man.

KATHY

You're breaking my heart.

She gives him a quick kiss.

KATHY

(continuing)

I'll see you tomorrow.

She opens the door and climbs out.

JASON

I'll walk you back.

KATHY

No need. I'll sneak around behind the garage. The door into the living room is unlocked.
'Night.

She closes the door and hurries in the driveway.

69 EXT. BACK YARD - NIGHT

69

Bud is settled down asleep. Robbie lies awake, watching and listening. He reacts to something moving, a shadow creeping along in the darkness.

70 KATHY

70

is trying doors to living room which are locked. She then proceeds toward kitchen.

71 BACK TO ROBBIE

71

His eyes widen. He pokes Bud.

ROBBIE

(sotto)

Dad!... Dad! Wake up!

BUD

Hmm? What? Whassamatter?

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED:

71

ROBBIE

There's something in the yard.

Bud lifts his head, sees the moving shadow.

ROBBIE

(continuing)

What is it?

BUD

Be quiet.

Carefully Bud extricates himself from the blankets and keeping low to the ground, moves silently toward the figure.

72 INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

72

Margaret is in her bed. Jim is getting into bed as the night is shattered by a terrified SCREAM from Kathy in the back yard.

JIM

Good Lord!

MARGARET

What's that???

They tumble out of bed, scramble for their robes. Another SCREAM!

73 INT. BUD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

73

Jeanne grabs her robe and dashes out of the room.

74 EXT. ANDERSON FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

74

Betty and Frank reacting.

BETTY

Come on!

They dash around the side of the house.

75 EXT. ANDERSON BACK YARD - NIGHT

75

In the darkness, Bud has tackled Kathy and she is beating him with her purse as Robbie runs in with the flashlight. At the same time, all the others arrive on the scene.

76 CLOSE - KATHY AND BUD

76

struggling.

KATHY
(at the top
of her lungs)
Mugger!!! Mugger!!!

DISSOLVE TO:

77 INT. ANDERSON KITCHEN - DAY

77

Betty, Kathy and Margaret are eating breakfast.

BETTY
(to Kathy)
You nearly scared the wits out
of the neighborhood. Frank couldn't
stop laughing.

KATHY
You think it's funny, having
somebody tackle you in the dark?

BETTY
The only one in danger was Bud.

Margaret smiles to herself.

KATHY
I get no support. Not even from
my own mother.

MARGARET
I was thinking -- this is the
way it used to be. The three
of us having Sunday morning
breakfast.

BETTY
All the men fed and off somewhere.

MARGARET
Now it's men and children.

KATHY
Tell us about Frank.

BETTY
He's just the same. The same
wonderful person.

(CONTINUED)

KATHY

Does he have a wife.

BETTY

No. Divorced.

KATHY

Well, if you don't do something about that...

BETTY

(with an edge)

I'm not racing around looking for a husband.

MARGARET

Kathy didn't mean it that way.

KATHY

Yes, I did mean it that way. If you let him get away, you're out of your mind!

MARGARET

Kathy!

KATHY

Somebody should wake her up!

(to Betty)

You going to spend the rest of your life in mourning?

BETTY

Just mind your own business!!

MARGARET

Now that's about enough! You didn't come here to quarrel!

KATHY

Okay, forget it.

MARGARET

Let's try to have a pleasant conversation. I'm selfish. I want to enjoy you here.

BETTY

Then let our private lives be private.

(CONTINUED)

77 CONTINUED: (2)

77

KATHY

Fine. If that's the way you
want it.

BETTY

That's the way I want it.

Jenny saunters in.

JENNY

Hi, Mama.

BETTY

Hi, Jen.

JENNY

Are you going to marry that pilot?

Betty reacts. Kathy giggles.

JENNY

(continuing)

What'd I say?

MARGARET

Nevermind. Go tell everyone it's
time to dress for church.

Jenny goes out.

78 INT. ANDERSON MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

78

Jim and Margaret are dressed for church and making
last mirror checks. Margaret finding her purse and
gloves. From another upstairs room we hear!

ELLEN'S VOICE

Ouch! You're pulling my hair out!

BETTY'S VOICE

It has to be brushed.

JENNY'S VOICE

Mama, where's my other shoe?

BETTY'S VOICE

Look under the bed!

BUD'S VOICE

Robbie, are you ready?

(CONTINUED)

78 CONTINUED:

78

ROBBIE'S VOICE

Do I have to go?

KATHY'S VOICE

Yes, you have to go! Now move it!

BETTY'S VOICE

Try to stay clean 'til we get
to church!

Jim and Margaret have been listening to the chorus.

JIM

This is that quiet house we used
to live in.

Margaret smiles.

79 EXT. ANDERSON HOUSE - DAY

79

The station wagon is in the driveway. Bud is warming
up the engine while Jim and Robbie observe.

BUD

Sounds pretty good now.

JIM

Nothing like knowing a mechanic
who makes housecalls.

ROBBIE

Dad can fix anything.

80 EXT. ANDERSON FRONT PORCH - DAY

80

Jeanne and Margaret, dressed for church, hurry out.
Margaret stops in the doorway and calls back:

MARGARET

Last call for the church bus!

The girls, Betty and Kathy tumble out and they all
load into the station wagon with a maximum of hubub.

81 EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

81

The Anderson wagon with Bud driving and the whole crew
aboard wheeling along.

82 EXT. CHURCH - DAY

82

Bud pulls the wagon into the parking lot where Frank and Jason are waiting. As the Andersons pile out of the wagon:

MARGARET

Apparently you start a little faster than our family does on Sunday morning.

JASON

I figured a pilot was used to being on schedule.

FRANK

Last thing he said last night was 'Get me to the church on time!'

Kathy and Bud join them.

JASON

Ah, The Backyard Battlers!

KATHY

Imagine getting mugged in your own back yard.

BUD

There's still a question, though. Who was the mugger, and who the muggee?

Jim moves the group along.

JIM

We'd better get going before they close the doors on us.

83 ANGLE - FRONT OF CHURCH

83

as they approach. Betty moves between Margaret and Jim.

BETTY

Mom, do you and Dad remember your 20th anniversary? When I decided you should be married again?

JIM

Bud was my Best Man.

(CONTINUED)

83 CONTINUED:

83

BETTY
 (to Margaret)
 I was your Maid of Honor.

MARGARET
 Could I ever forget?
 (a beat)
 You all go ahead. I'll take the
 children around to Mrs. Hosmer
 at the Sunday School.

Margaret herds the children around the side of the
 church and the others go in.

84 INT. CHURCH - DAY

84

The congregation is standing, singing a hymn. CAMERA
 finds the Anderson family, Jason beside Kathy and Frank
 beside Betty. The hymn ends and everyone is seated.

85 ANGLE - REVEREND LOCKWOOD

85

as he looks out over the congregation.

LOCKWOOD
 We are happily blessed this morning
 with an exceptionally large turnout
 of our faithful congregation, due
 possibly to the unusually pleasant
 weather...

He smiles at his little joke and is rewarded with a
 ripple of amusement from the congregation.

LOCKWOOD
 (continuing)
 We are grateful, too, for the
 presence this morning of a number
 of young former members of this
 church... here with their friends
 and family...

86 ANGLE - JIM AND MARGARET

86

WIDENING TO INCLUDE the whole group as Margaret looks
 proudly at the family.

(CONTINUED)

86 CONTINUED:

86

LOCKWOOD'S VOICE

In these days of dissent and confusion of values, it is rewarding to see that the unity of family and church still is cherished. That we still hold dear the principles upon which our churches and our nation were founded... and that, friends, is the tenor of my remarks this morning.

87 FAVORING JIM

87

as he listens and his mind begins to form a memory-picture.

LOCKWOOD'S VOICE

The family is the foundation of our society. The sharing of responsibilities and pleasures strengthens all, and the joining together brings a reassurance of Love and continuation vital to our survival...

CAMERA MOVES IN CLOSE on Jim as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

88 FLASHBACK - "SECOND WEDDING" SHOW OF ORIGINAL FATHER 88
KNOWS BEST SERIES

89 CLOSE SHOT - JIM 89

still in his reverie.

LOCKWOOD'S VOICE

-- and with God's help, that kind of resolve should see us through.

CAMERA PULLS BACK as the congregation rises for the benediction. Margaret, noticing Jim still sitting, nudges him. He comes to the present and gets up in some confusion.

DISSOLVE TO:

90 EXT. CHURCH - DAY

90

As the members of the congregation file out, greeting Rev. Lockwood. The Anderson group is filing by as we move into hear the conversations.

MARGARET
(shaking hands)
It was lovely, Reverend.

JIM
Yes, I don't think I ever enjoyed
a service quite that much.

The Reverend is pleased, but as they walk away, Margaret looks at Jim, in puzzled wonderment.

DISSOLVE TO:

91 EXT. ANDERSON DRIVEWAY - DAY

91

Jim and Bud are loading the station wagon with all the accessories for a picnic, tying on the luggage rack beach chairs, beach umbrellas. Margaret and Kathy bring the ice chest and the picnic hamper from the house. Jenny staggers under the weight of a watermelon. Frank's and Jason's car are parked in front. Everyone is milling around, shoving things in the wagon, talking about who's riding where, etc...

JIM
I think we have a perfect day for
a picnic. We'll find that spot
up at Clear Lake where we used to
go.

MARGARET
It's a good idea to get everyone
out of the house.

BETTY
What this family needs is to
spread out.

Robbie comes out of the garage carrying an old tackle box and a fishing rod.

ROBBIE
Dad, I found your fishing stuff!

BUD
Good, take it along.

(CONTINUED)

ROBBIE

(to Jim)

Are there any fish in Clear Lake?

JIM

Oh, sure. Big ones. Fact is, it's dangerous to fish there...

ROBBIE

No kidding.

JIM

Absolutely. You have to be careful. They'll come right out of the water after you.

ROBBIE

Really?

KATHY

Robbie, your grandfather is an unreliable source of information.

JENNY

Who's going to ride where?

ROBBIE

I'm gonna ride with Mom and Dad.

MARGARET

There should be no problem with three cars.

BETTY

Jenny, Ellen, we'll ride with Frank.

KATHY

Why do we need three cars? Come on, you guys, ride with us.

JIM

All right. Just everyone ride somewhere. Let's lock up the house and get this caravan on the road.

They drive off. Then Jason's car comes back and Frank hurriedly retrieves the watermelon which was left in his car.

92 EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY 92

The Anderson station wagon followed by Jason's rented car, wheeling along.

93 EXT. SCENIC SPOT BY CLEAR LAKE - DAY 93

The group, laying out the picnic lunch.

BETTY

I remember this spot so well.
We came up here and had a picnic
on Kathy's first birthday.

MARGARET

She learned to walk. Took her
first steps down this slope.

BUD

She's been going downhill ever
since.

Kathy jumps on him and they tussle.

BETTY

(to Frank)
Fascinating family!

Robbie comes up with fishing rod.

ROBBIE

I'm going fishing.

The girls approach.

JENNY

Can we go, too?

ROBBIE

You gotta be quiet.

BETTY

You keep an eye on the girls.

ROBBIE

I will.

Robbie and the girls take off like rabbit. Margaret comes up to join Jim a little distance from the others.

MARGARET

It's still beautiful as ever.

(CONTINUED)

93 CONTINUED:

93

JIM

The first time we came here,
there was just the two of us.
Remember?

MARGARET

We had been married what? A
month?

JIM

We were wondering if we would
have a family. What they would
be like.

MARGARET

Like it was yesterday... just
yesterday.

94 ANGLE - BETTY AND FRANK

94

Bud and Jeanne have gone to the station wagon for
beach umbrellas and chairs. Jason and Kathy are ar-
ranging paper plates on the cloth spread on the ground.
Betty and Frank have walked a little distance away
where Frank breaks branches from a tree.

FRANK

I ought to break some of these
off and make a throne for you...
the Forest-Queen.

BETTY

You trying to convince me you're
a woodsman?

FRANK

I'll do anything to impress you.

BETTY

You're not the Daniel Boone type.

FRANK

You tell me the type you want.

Betty kisses him lightly.

95 ANGLE - KATHY AND JASON

95

putting out food, opening a jar of pickles.

(CONTINUED)

KATHY

You are so hung up on this thing of being ten years older than I am. It's not the reason I don't want to marry you, Jason.

JASON

Is it because I'm dull? Uninteresting?

KATHY

You're the dullest, most uninteresting person I ever met and I love you madly.

JASON

Then marry me. I may get even duller and more uninteresting.

at the open back of the station wagon.

BUD

You know, it's just possible you've been right about some things -- and I've been wrong.

She is silent. He looks to her.

JEANNE

I'm not going to stop you.

BUD

I've lived with this family of mine -- or, did live with them, for a lot of years. But I didn't really see them until this last couple of days. Mom and Dad have something pretty good. Betty and Kathy and I are not God's gift to the world by any means. But we all came a long way for this reunion. Came because we wanted to -- for Mom and Dad. That's important. When we're their age, I hope we'll have children who will want to come and see us.

(CONTINUED)

96 CONTINUED:

96

Jeanne gives him a long, loving look.

JEANNE

That's the nicest thing you've ever said.

He gives her a genuinely affectionate kiss.

97 EXT. DOCK - DAY

97

Robbie is fishing. Jenny sits beside him, swinging her feet, thinking of nothing in particular. Ellen has found a rickety old rowboat with no oars tied to the dock by a six or eight foot length of frayed old rope. She is amusing herself in the boat by kneeling in the bow, pushing the boat away from the dock and then hauling it back in with the rope. Jenny calls over:

JENNY

Ellen, get out of the boat.

ELLEN

It's fun.

Robbie gets to his feet and reels in his line.

JENNY

You got something?

ROBBIE

I'm gonna find a better place.

JENNY

Where?

Robbie starts off with Jenny behind him.

ROBBIE

(pointing)

Looks good over there.

Ellen is absorbed in her game, pays no attention. Robbie and Ellen move a short distance up the shore.

98 ANGLE - ROBBIE AND JENNY

98

as they approach the new fishing spot and Robbie casts out his line. Ellen and the boat are in view in b.g.

JENNY

How do you know this place is better?

ROBBIE

I've got a hunch.

99 EXT. THE PICNIC SETTING - DAY 99

The family is gathering around the picnic spread.

BETTY

Bud, call the children.

BUD

(calls)

Robbie! We're ready to eat!
Bring the girls!

100 EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY 100

Robbie fishing and Jenny watching.

BUD'S VOICE

Robbie!

ROBBIE

(calls)

We're coming!

He reels in his line and they start up the bank toward the picnic site. Jenny calls over her shoulder.

JENNY

Ellen! Come on, it's time for lunch!

101 ANGLE - ELLEN 101

in the boat.

ELLEN

(calls)

I'm coming!

She starts to haul the boat back in and the rope breaks. In b.g. we see Robbie and Jenny walking on, assuming Jenny is following. Jenny looks at the frayed end of the rope, sees the boat is drifting out and leans over the bow and tries to paddle with her hands.

102 ANGLE - ROBBIE AND JENNY 102

Walking up the hill and now out of sight of the dock, still assuming Ellen is following.

103 EXT. DOCK AREA - DAY 103

In spite of Ellen's paddling efforts, the boat is drifting out. She realizes she is in trouble.

(CONTINUED)

103 CONTINUED: 103

ELLEN
(calls)
JENNY!!! ROBBIE!!! HELP ME!!!

104 ANGLE - ROBBIE AND JENNY 104

as they approach the picnic site, now out of earshot of Ellen.

BETTY
Where's Ellen?

Robbie and Jenny look around expecting to see her behind them.

ROBBIE
I thought she was following us.

BETTY
(calls)
ELLEN!!

ROBBIE
She was right there by the dock.

JENNY
Playing in the boat.

ROBBIE
I called her.

Frank approaches.

FRANK
What's the problem?

BETTY
Ellen. She gets daydreaming,
just turns off. Robbie, go and
get her.

105 EXT. DOCK AREA - DAY 105

Robbie comes running down, reacts as he looks toward the dock.

106 HIS POV - THE DOCK AND LAKE 106

Ellen and the boat are gone.

(CONTINUED)

106 CONTINUED:

106

The broken end of the rope dangles from the cleat.
Robbie runs in, calling:

ROBBIE
ELLEN!! ELLEN!!

Robbie turns and runs up the hill towards the picnic site.

107 EXT. PICNIC SITE - DAY

107

Our people are sitting down, preparing to eat, as Robbie comes running up. He is terrified.

ROBBIE
Ellen's gone! The boat's gone!

This triggers a scramble.

BETTY
I thought you were watching her!

ROBBIE
We were.

JENNY
We told her to come.

The men run toward the dock with the women following.

108 EXT. DOCK AREA - DAY

108

As the group hurries down the hill.

ROBBIE
She was right there. The boat was tied to the dock. She was playing in it.

Bud picks up the broken line.

BUD
That's where it broke. She's out on the lake somewhere.

BETTY
We've got to find her!!

FRANK
Where is there another boat?

(CONTINUED)

108 CONTINUED:

108

BUD

Let's start around the lake!

JIM

We'll go this way... Margaret, you
and the others go that way.They split up into two groups, they head off in oppo-
site directions.

109 EXT. LAKESIDE AREA #1 - DAY

109

Margaret, Betty, Jeanne, Bud, Kathy and Robbie hurry-
ing along a lakeside path.

110 EXT. LAKESIDE AREA #2 - DAY

110

Jim, Frank, Jason and Jenny moving along the shoreline.

111 EXT. LAKESIDE AREA #3 - DAY

111

Margaret and her group are now following. Betty is
hurrying on up ahead. Betty pauses and hurries down
to the beach.

KATHY

Betty! What is it!

BETTY

Here's the boat!

They run forward to join her.

112 ANOTHER ANGLE

112

Betty standing near the old rowboat floating upside
down near the beach. The others hurry in, react as
they see the overturned boat.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

FADE IN:

113 EXT. PICNIC AREA - DAY 113

Margaret and Betty with the others of the group following come running in.

BETTY

Take the station wagon. There has to be State Police or a Forest Ranger somewhere up here.

MARGARET

Find your Father!

They are about to get into the wagon when Jim and his group approach.

JIM

Any sign of her?

BETTY

(on the verge
of breaking)

No!

MARGARET

We found the boat upside down.

FRANK

I'm going to get a Sheriff's helicopter up here...

He is starting off when Bud reacts.

BUD

Ellen!

All turn in the direction he's looking.

114 THEIR POV - ELLEN 114

walking toward them from the lake.

ELLEN

Hi.

115 THE GROUP 115

as they converge on Ellen.

(CONTINUED)

115 CONTINUED:

115

BETTY

Ellen! Ellen!

Betty gathers her up in her arms. The others gather around.

KATHY

Ellen, are you all right?

BETTY

Where were you?

ELLEN

I was in the boat 'til it got to the land. Then I got out and it tipped over.

JEANNE

Honey, we looked for you all along the shore. How did you get back here?

ELLEN

I walked along the road.

Betty holds her close, as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

116 INT. ANDERSON ENTRY - DAY

116

Bud is coming down the stairs with his and Jeanne's suitcases. Behind him, Kathy with her things, followed by Robbie with his mouse-box and an overnight bag.

BUD

(calls)

Mom, we're on our way!

Margaret comes out of the dining room with a wrapped and tied candy box. Hands it to Kathy.

MARGARET

Take this with you. You can eat it on the plane.

KATHY

Something fattening, I'll bet.

MARGARET

(nods)

That left-over butterscotch.

(CONTINUED)

116 CONTINUED:

116

Jeanne and Betty come down the stairs with the girls. The front door stands open. Bud kisses Margaret.

BETTY

'Bye, Mom, take care of yourself.

MARGARET

We enjoyed it so much, having the whole family together. Goodbye, girls.

Jenny and Ellen kiss Margaret and AD LIB goodbyes.

JIM

(sticks his head
in the front
door)

I don't want to rush anybody, but the plane leaves at six-twenty, and we've got the pilot.

They all move out.

117 EXT. FRONT OF THE ANDERSON HOUSE

117

Frank's and Jason's cars at the curb. Frank, in uniform is waiting. The Andersons pour out of the house and down the walk. Frank moves to Betty and the girls, takes their luggage. Jason helps Kathy, Bud, and Jeanne. They deposit in their respective cars and return for the group goodbyes. Betty kisses Jim and Margaret.

BETTY

(to Jim)

It was wonderful. I hope we didn't shatter your nerves completely.

JIM

They're shatter-proof.

Kathy comes in for the hugs and kisses.

KATHY

I wish Kansas City weren't so far away. I miss you two so much.

JIM

Maybe we'll all get together for Thanksgiving.

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED:

117

Robbie and the little girls wedge in for their share.

ROBBIE

Hey, Grandma and Grandpa, we had a good time.

Hugs and AD LIB goodbyes with the girls.

KATHY

(playing "mother")

Robbie, kiss Jenny and Ellen goodbye.

ROBBIE

(disgust)

Are you kidding!?

Kathy shrugs. Jason and Frank come in for their turn. Shake hands with Jim and Margaret.

FRANK

It was a great weekend. I hope you'll have many anniversaries, all with the same people.

MARGARET

Thank you, Frank. Glad you joined us.

JIM

Fly carefully. You'll have a planeload of Andersons.

FRANK

The trip will be flawless.

JASON

Thanks for including me in your family celebration. It was a memorable time.

KATHY

Maybe the next time we see you, we'll have a doctor in the family.

MARGARET

If that's going to happen, you better let us know.

JASON

Don't worry, I'll see to it.

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED: (2)

117

They move toward the cars. Bud and Jeanne have Jim and Margaret aside for a moment.

BUD

We won't forget this weekend.

JEANNE

(pointedly)

Thanks for everything.

She kisses Margaret and Jim.

MARGARET

Let's write some nice long letters.

JIM

The telephone still works, you know.

BUD

We'll keep in close touch.

MARGARET

Bud... you be careful.

They gather up Robbie and move to Jason's car.

ROBBIE

I want to sit next to Dad.

All are finally in the cars. Final AD LIB goodbyes and the two cars drive off. Margaret and Jim watch them go. Margaret gives a deep sigh.

JIM

I know, darling.

MARGARET

We're going to have a very quiet house.

JIM

I'll whistle a little.

They walk toward the house.

MARGARET

You know, Jim, while the children were here, I thought about this. What was it going to be like when they were gone?

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED: (3)

117

JIM

Well, honey, we have to face it,
they...

MARGARET

Jim, I'm not upset that they're
gone.

JIM

You're not?

MARGARET

No. As you said, we have to face
it. They are out of our lives.
Sure there will be visits like
this and we'll enjoy having them
come back, but they're out doing
their own thing and the best we
can do for them is just be here.

JIM

(looks at her
for a long
moment, then)

I love you as much and more than
I ever did.

They pause on the front steps for a long, tender kiss.
Jim reacts to:

118 HIS POV - THE TWO TEENAGERS

118

walking by and giving them a "Good Lord, not again"
look.

119 BACK TO SCENE

119

JIM

We do it all the time.

120 THE TEENAGERS

120

as they react.

121 JIM AND MARGARET

121

as they go back to their kiss, and we:

FADE OUT.

THE END

B A R B A R A ' S P L A C E
(we satisfy)

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