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1321 CLOVER

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THE FOLLOWING IS SHOT AS A DOCUMENTARY.

FADE IN:

EXT. THE HOUSE - DAY (DAY 1)

A modest house on a suburban street surrounded by other, similarly modest homes. The sprinklers start up as we...

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM (INTERVIEW)

ROB TUTTLE, thirty-five and not in fantastic shape, sits in an easy chair. Rob is an insecure man who hides behind what he believes to be an electric personality.

ROB

After eight years of marriage, how do I keep my sex life exciting and fresh?

We hear the voice of the unseen male interviewer.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

That wasn't the question.

ROB

Kegel exercises.

(to camera)

Your woman will thank you.

(then)

Seriously, though, there is a secret, and you're not going to read it in any book or hear Norah Jones sing about it. You have to be the boss. Pan down. Go on.

The camera reluctantly pans down.

ROB (CONT'D)

Those are pants, and in this family I wear them.

The camera pans back up.

ROB (CONT'D)

Ladies like a take-charge guy. It comforts them to have that kind of structure. Strength is a real aphrodisiac. Trust me.

(to interviewer, nervous)

Hey, could you use a coaster? Sharon just refinished that.

(then)

Great. A mark.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING (DAY 1)

SHARON TUTTLE, Rob's wife, is with their two kids: TYLER, five years old, and ELLA, three months. Sharon, thirty-ish, is pretty if not glamorous. Rob enters from outside. Tyler is excited to see him.

TYLER

Dad!

ROB

The hunter-gatherer has returned!

(to Sharon)

Beer me.

Rob holds out his hand expectantly.

SHARON

Huh?

ROB

Nothing. I just thought-- I'll get it myself.

Rob grabs a bottle of beer from the fridge. He's about to open it, but...

SHARON

You don't have time for that. Toys "R" Us closes in an hour, and we have to get some stuff for the party tomorrow.

ROB

You need me for that?

SHARON

Yes.

Sharon pulls Rob aside, away from the camera.

ROB

What?

SHARON

I need to talk to you. Alone.

ROB

Okay.

(then, to camera)

Give us a minute, guys.

Rob and Sharon exit to another room and close the door behind them. The camera operator runs out the kitchen door and shoots Rob and Sharon's private conversation through a window. The audio is slightly muffled.

SHARON

They've been here all day.

ROB

Yeah, that was the deal.

SHARON

I'm not sure I'm comfortable with this.

ROB

I know it's a little weird, but it'll all be worth it. You know, when we win.

SHARON

Rob, I don't think this a reality show. They keep saying it's a documentary about "modern American suburbia."

ROB

Honey, they have to say that, so we're surprised. That's how they always do it.

SHARON

Maybe we should just tell them we changed our minds.

ROB

Okay, maybe you're right. Maybe this is just a documentary. That's still great. We'll be on TV.

SHARON

So?

ROB

So we'll be famous. Maybe just for a minute, but still...

SHARON

I'm not sure I want to be famous.

ROB

It could change our life. Think of all the things we want for Tyler and Ella -- private schools, a bigger house... How else are we gonna give that to them?

SHARON

I don't know.

ROB

It's not "rich or famous." It's "rich and famous." If you're one, you're the other.

Sharon thinks for a beat. Rob looks hopeful.

SHARON

Can we spend some of the money we make on a real vacation? You know, not camping?

ROB

Absolutely.

SHARON

I just don't want us to embarrass ourselves.

ROB  
Not gonna happen. This is gonna be great.

Rob gives Sharon a kiss.

ROB (CONT'D)  
And you know what? If it is a contest and we win, I bet they do a complete makeover of the house.  
(more excited)  
Or of you!

They reenter the kitchen as we...

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM (INTERVIEW)

Rob sits in his chair.

ROB  
Tyler's fifth birthday party is tomorrow. Tyler chose the theme. It's Hello Kitty, which is... totally cool. No judgements. A lot of boys like her. Besides, cats can be aggressive.

(then)  
A few years ago, our neighbor's cat brought a half-dead bird into their house. The cat just swatted at it for hours like it was a toy. Finally, Larry had to kill the bird with a nine iron. So, you know, Hello Kitty's fine.

CUT TO:

INT. TUTTLE MINIVAN - EVENING (DAY 1)

Rob drives. Tyler sings "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" incessantly in the back seat.

ROB

You should've seen me with Mr. Prescott. I was genius. That promotion is mine.

SHARON

Did you go into his office first thing in the morning like we talked about?

ROB

He seemed a little busy in the morning, so I kind of winged it. Had to call an audible. I buttonholed him in the can.

SHARON

You talked to him in the bathroom?

ROB

It's better. We're not boss/employee in there, Honey. We're equals. Two guys with their flies down.

(then)

Well, his pants were down. He was going number two. And I think he was a little sick, but--

SHARON

What did you say?

ROB

I said either I get the promotion or I'm out of there.

SHARON

Oh, my god.

ROB

Okay, not really, but I told him I deserve it. And I'm a lot more qualified than the broad.

Sharon smacks Rob.

ROB (CONT'D)

What?

(then)

(MORE)

ROB (CONT'D)  
Anyway, he's gonna make a decision  
over the weekend.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM (INTERVIEW)

ROB  
No one is more of a feminist than  
me. But there are differences  
between the sexes and there are  
some jobs women are not as good at.  
Firefighters, for example. Or  
infantryman. Or...  
(gesturing to himself)  
...managing a payroll department.  
(then)  
And it cuts both ways. There are  
things men aren't as good at.  
Like...  
(stumped)  
Seamstress.

CUT TO:

INT. TOY STORE - EVENING (DAY 1)

Rob is in the video game department. Baby Ella is strapped  
to his chest in a baby bjorn as he plays PlayStation against  
an eleven-year-old boy. It's some incredibly violent first-  
person shooter game. Ella stares at the screen. The boy's  
friend patiently waits his turn behind Rob.

ROB  
Yes! Did you see that? I shot  
your head right off. What were you  
doing over there? God, you suck at  
this game.

KID  
Why are there cameras following you  
around?

ROB  
I'm in a TV show. Don't worry  
about it.



KID  
Are you famous?

ROB  
Not yet, but I probably will be.

KID'S FRIEND  
Can I play now?

ROB  
Did you call winner?

KID'S FRIEND  
No, but --

ROB  
Whatever. I don't care whose ass I kick.

(to first kid)  
Hey, I think there's a Leapster down the aisle. That might be more your speed.

The first kid walks off as Rob restarts the game.

ROB (CONT'D)  
(re: game, taunting kid)  
Where'd I go? Where'd I go? You can't find me. You are so out of your lea--

(then)  
Okay, that was a lucky shot.

Sharon approaches with a shopping cart which contains Tyler and all of the party supplies.

SHARON  
Okay, that's everything.

ROB  
(eyes glued to screen)  
Could not be a worse time, Sharon.

SHARON  
I got all the stuff. We need to get home and get the kids to bed.  
(then, insistent)  
Rob.

Rob quickly stops playing. Tyler points to a PlayStation Portable from the counter.

TYLER

Cool. Can I get one of those for my birthday, Dad?

ROB

(considering)

It would be a nice father/son sort of thing...

SHARON

They cost two hundred dollars.

ROB

They rot your brain, Tyler. Look at this mouth-breather. You don't want to wind up like him.

(then, sotto to kid)

Rematch right here in one week, gay-rod.

SHARON

Rob.

ROB

It's slang. It doesn't mean what you think it does.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM (INTERVIEW)

Sharon sits in a comfortable chair, nursing Ella. That's right, nursing. Get used to it, America.

SHARON

Rob's under a lot of pressure. It's not easy to support a family. Things will be easier if he gets that promotion.

(then)

He's actually a really sweet guy when you get to know him. He is. I was in labor with Ella for thirty-two hours, and he stood by me the whole time. And he's so funny.

(MORE)

SHARON (CONT'D)

He kept making the nurses laugh at things that were happening... to me.

An uncomfortable beat.

SHARON (CONT'D)

He gets nervous. That's the thing. Like at our interview for Tyler's private school. You remember. You were there.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY (A FEW DAYS AGO)

Rob and Sharon sit across from MS. TEMPLETON, the forty-something school principal. In the background, Tyler has his hand in the aquarium, trying to catch a fish.

Sharon stares at Rob as he eats some paste off a stick.

ROB

It's not a big deal. They make this paste so you can eat it.

MS. TEMPLETON

Yes. We were discussing the incident at the pre-school.

SHARON

We've talked to Tyler about that. It was a one time thing. I feel confident saying he understands the seriousness of what he did.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM (INTERVIEW)

Sharon is still nursing.

SHARON

He pooped in the playground.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

You mean, like an accident?

SHARON

I don't think so. He stood in the middle of the playground, dropped his pants and said, "Hey guys, look at me." Then he pooped. In his defense, he saw a monkey do something very similar at the zoo. The monkey also threw the poop, which I'm proud to say Tyler did not do.

(then)

He kicked it around a little bit, but...

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY (A WEEK EARLIER)

The meeting continues.

MS. TEMPLETON

We at the Lincoln School for Young Children use the Multiple Intelligences theory.

ROB

(pretending to understand)  
Ah, very good.

SHARON

What does that entail?

MS. TEMPLETON

We try to determine in which area your child excels and we allow him to express himself in that direction. For example, if a child shows some musical talent or a propensity towards the visual arts, we help foster that ability.

ROB

Damn! Where were you twenty years ago?

MS. TEMPLETON

I'm sorry.

ROB

I had talent that was never allowed  
to blossom.

SHARON

Honey, I'm not sure--

ROB

(indicates mouth)

This is my instrument. I can make  
any sound effect. I'm like the  
white version of that guy in Police  
Academy. Name a sound I'll make  
it.

MS. TEMPLETON

I don't really --

ROB

Helicopter.

Rob makes a helicopter sound with his mouth. It sounds a  
little like a helicopter.

ROB (CONT'D)

A Dodge flat-head six with double  
intake valves.

Rob makes a revving engine noise. It goes on for a while,  
then:

ROB (CONT'D)

So, what would you do with that?

Ms. Templeton thinks this over.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM (INTERVIEW)

Sharon is still nursing.

SHARON

We did not get in.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE HOUSE - DAY (DAY 2)

CHYRON: THE DAY OF THE PARTY

A bouquet of balloons is tied to the mailbox. There are a bunch of cars parked out front.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 2)

There are more balloons, a "Happy Birthday" banner and a giant inflatable Hello Kitty bounce-house. A half-dozen six-year-olds run amuck as their parents stand around drinking beer.

LISA, a thirty-ish mom, bends over to tie her kid's shoes. We see the top of her thong. Rob notices. His eyes linger a moment until GARY, one of the dads, approaches.

GARY

Hey, Rob.

ROB

Gary, glad you could make it.

They shake hands.

ROB (CONT'D)

Hey, you still got that pool at your place?

GARY

Yeah.

ROB

Right. We should have more pool parties this year, don't you think? You know, for the kids.

Sharon approaches.

SHARON

The Harpers are here.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE DRIVEWAY - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 2)

ED HARPER and his wife, JULIA, climb out of a brand new Hummer along with their daughter, TALLULAH. They carry a birthday gift and look perfect as always. Julia is rather attractive.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN (INTERVIEW)

Sharon sits at the kitchen table with a beer. Some dirty bowls and an open cake mix package are on the table in front of her. We hear baby Ella crying in the background.

SHARON

I really like the Harpers.  
Especially Julia. She's such a  
great mom. She's always so  
organized. Never seems the least  
bit overwhelmed.

She takes a sip of beer.

SHARON (CONT'D)

(re: beer, guilty)  
The doula said it's okay to have  
one a day when you're nursing.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE DRIVEWAY - DAY (DAY 2)

Back at the party. A crowd of kids and parents listen as Tallulah plays Bach's "Concerto for Violin" on her violin. There is applause.

Julia and Sharon stand off to the side.

JULIA

(almost embarrassed)  
She's been practicing all week.  
It's her gift to Tyler.

SHARON

She's really good.

JULIA

It's one of the reasons we're so excited she got into the Lincoln School.

SHARON

You guys got in, huh?

JULIA

We got the acceptance letter today. Where is Tyler going?

SHARON

(lying)

We haven't decided yet. There are so many options, you know. He's really an intelligent boy.

Julia nods as Tyler approaches.

TYLER

Ma.

Tyler points to his mouth.

SHARON

Hungry?

Tyler nods. Sharon escorts him off.

SHARON (CONT'D)

(sotto, to Tyler)

Remember to use your words.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - A LITTLE LATER (DAY 2)

Julia, Ed, Gary, Gary's wife, and a couple kids pose for a photo. Rob has the camera.

ROB

Everybody, real close now.

Rob takes the photo as Sharon approaches.

SHARON

Rob, I think maybe you should get in the bounce-house with Tyler.



We see Tyler jumping around in the Hello Kitty bounce-house.

ROB

I don't want to get in there. I'll look like a jerk.

SHARON

He's all alone in there.

ROB

Don't worry. I'll get this party started.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM (INTERVIEW)

Rob sits in his chair.

ROB

It's a little embarrassing to admit, but the thing is I'm the "cool dad." The other guys are so stiff. The key is to tap into your inner-child. Deep down, I'm actually very childish.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY (DAY 2)

Tyler and a few other kids gather around as Rob inflates a long, skinny balloon.

ROB

Who wants a poodle?

No one raises their hand.

ROB (CONT'D)

Here we go.

Rob starts bending the balloon. After a few bends, it pops. A kid cries.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 2)

Rob finishes inflating another balloon. There are a couple less kids.

ROB

Here we go again. A poodle.

The balloon pops on the first bend. A bored child walks away.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 2)

Rob's down to two kids now.

ROB

Okay, a snake.

He goes to inflate a balloon. It pops the moment he blows into it.

ROB (CONT'D)

Oh, c'mon!

One of the kids shakes his head in disappointment.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - A LITTLE LATER (DAY 2)

Rob is passing by the bounce-house when he notices Tyler is in there alone again.

ROB

How's it going, Tyler?

TYLER

Okay.

Rob thinks for a beat, then kicks off his shoes and climbs in.

TYLER (CONT'D)

(excited)

You're getting in?

ROB  
Of course. I've been waiting to  
get in here all day.

TYLER  
Hey, Dad, can you do this?

Tyler does a funny jump.

ROB  
That's nothing. Watch this.

Rob does a funny jump. The two continue to bounce and laugh  
until Lisa, the mom with the thong, pokes her head in the  
bounce-house door.

LISA  
That looks like fun. Can we come  
in?

ROB  
Sure.

Lisa and her kid climb into the bounce-house. They jump.  
Rob likes what he sees.

ROB (CONT'D)  
Man, this is fun!  
(to Lisa)  
Isn't this fun? It's fun!

Lisa nods and bounces.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM (INTERVIEW)

Rob sits in his chair, grinning.

ROB  
It was just fun!

CUT TO:

INT. BOUNCE HOUSE - DAY (DAY 2)

Rob, Lisa and their kids continue to jump.

ROB  
(to Lisa)  
So, did you hear about Gary's pool party? Everyone's going.

Julia looks in.

JULIA  
What are you guys doing?

ROB  
Come on in here. It's like you're on the Moon. C'mon!

JULIA  
I don't know...  
(scans backyard)  
I'm not even sure where Tallulah is.

ROB  
She's fine. I saw her inside...  
(searching)  
giving herself a time-out. Get in here!

JULIA  
Okay.

Julia kicks off her shoes, climbs in and starts jumping.

ROB  
What'd I tell you? The Moon.

After some more jumping, DEBBIE, a not-so-attractive woman pokes her head in.

DEBBIE  
Room for one more?

Rob stops jumping and practically blocks the entrance.

ROB  
Actually, I heard Sharon saying she could use some help in the kitchen.

Debbie walks off. Rob turns back to the other moms.

ROB (CONT'D)  
Let's do flips!

JULIA  
I don't think that's a great idea,  
Rob.

ROB  
Sure it is.

JULIA  
This isn't a trampoline.

ROB  
Look how high I'm getting. I can  
do this. I was a mascot in  
college.

A couple preparatory jumps, then:

ROB (CONT'D)  
Stand back, ladies.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS (DAY 2)

Heads turn as Rob cries out in pain from within the bounce-  
house.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - A LITTLE LATER (DAY 2)

Rob lays in a lawn chair, convalescing.

SHARON  
Is your neck okay?

ROB  
(not moving neck)  
Much better, thanks.

Sharon gives him a kiss and exits. Ed crosses with two  
beers.

ED  
Thought you could use a beer.

ROB  
Thanks.

Rob takes the beer with a straw.

ED

Saw you in the bounce-house.

ROB

Yeah.

ED

I'm not sure adults are supposed to --

ROB

Yeah, I saw that warning as the girls dragged me out.

He takes a sip of his beer from the straw.

ROB (CONT'D)

Is that a new truck you got?

ED

Well, our lease was up on the other car.

ROB

It's big.

ED

It's the small one.

ROB

I was thinking about getting one of those. But I couldn't part with my baby.

ED

What are you driving?

ROB

Corolla.

ED

Good car.

ROB

It's highly rated. J.D. Power and Associates was blown away.

ED

Wow. Anyway, I had to get some sort of truck. To tow the boat.

ROB

Boat?

ED

I know, I know... It's extravagant, but work is going pretty good. Plus we've all done pretty well thanks to the real estate market.

(looks around)

Man, this place must've doubled since you bought it.

ROB

We rent.

This hangs in the air a moment until...

Sharon enters from the house carrying a birthday cake with lit candles.

SHARON

(singing)

Happy Birthday to you. Happy...

Everyone joins in the song. After the song ends, Tyler blows out the candles after several attempts.

SHARON (CONT'D)

What did you wish for, Honey?

TYLER

Um...

SHARON

You can tell us.

Rob pulls himself up from his lawn chair and limps over to the table full of kids.

ROB

Did you wish your dad would get a big promotion?

SHARON

What?

ROB

Because that's what happened. I got a big promotion.

SHARON

(sotto)

What are you doing?

ROB

I have an announcement, everyone. You're looking at the new Director of Payroll at Eastman, Brown & Merriweather

SHARON

(sotto)

What? When did you find out?

ROB

(clearly lying)

Before. Don't worry about it.

(then, to guests)

It's okay, you can applaud.

Rob starts an uncomfortable round of applause. A couple of the guys pat Rob on the back, hurting his neck.

GARY

Congrats, big guy.

ROB

It's a lot more responsibility. And, of course, more money. I don't want to use actual numbers. That would be inappropriate, but I think it's safe to say it's more than what Gary makes.

Gary looks uncomfortable.

TYLER

Can I have cake now?

ROB

Cake, of course. We've got some news to celebrate.



Sharon pulls Rob aside.

SHARON

(sotto)

Can I talk to you for a minute?

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 2)

Rob eats a really big piece of cake. Sharon is with him.  
The party goes on outside.

SHARON

What's going on? Did Mr. Prescott  
really call?

ROB

Yes.

(then)

No. But he's gonna call. I was  
brilliant in that lavatory.  
Besides, I've been there longer  
than anyone else he's considering.  
It's a no-brainer.

SHARON

I just don't think you should have  
said anything until it's official.

ROB

But everybody's here. We're not  
all going to be together again  
until Gary's pool party.

SHARON

I think it was a mistake.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM (INTERVIEW)

Rob sits in his chair.

ROB

I'm going to get that job. You  
know why? Because I was proactive.  
(MORE)

ROB (CONT'D)

That's how it works in the corporate world. You want something, you gotta let people know. It's like the parking space near the door. I was sick of parking far away and told my boss I deserved the spot more than Henderson. So, now Henderson parks where I used to park.

(then)

I think the longer walk will actually help his limp.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY (DAY 2)

Tyler opens his birthday presents. He is surrounded by other guests. He opens the gift from his parents. It's a DVD. Tyler is happy, but not ecstatic.

TYLER

"The Incredibles."

ROB

It's your favorite movie. We remembered.

TYLER

Thanks.

Tyler grabs another gift.

ED

That one's from us. Read the card. Tallulah wrote a poem.

Rob rolls his eyes to the camera. Sharon grabs the card.

SHARON

(reading)

"And another year/The little boy  
grew older/Reaching toward the  
sun."

JULIA

It's a haiku.

SHARON  
It's beautiful.

ROB  
(counting on fingers)  
"Reaching to-ward the sun." I  
think that last line has six  
syllables. "A" for effort, though.

Tyler rips open the gift to reveal a PlayStation Portable.

TYLER  
A PSP! This is the coolest thing  
ever. Dad, look.

ROB  
Wow.

ED  
I couldn't resist.

ROB  
Yeah, those are really coming down  
in price lately.

TYLER  
(to Rob)  
That's why you didn't get it for  
me. 'Cause you knew they were  
going to.

ROB  
Guilty.

TYLER  
Can I play it now?

ROB  
Sure. Unless you want to watch  
your DVD.  
(reading DVD box)  
It's packed with bonus features.  
Twelve minutes of Incredi-Blunders.

Tyler continues to unwrap the PSP.

ROB (CONT'D)  
And an interview with Craig T.  
Nelson. He was The Coach.

Tyler isn't even listening at this point.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE HOUSE - NIGHT (DAY 2)

All the cars are gone. The party's over.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (DAY 2)

Tyler and Rob sit on the couch. Tyler plays his PSP as Rob waits his turn.

ROB  
(re: game)  
You should jump on that thing.

TYLER  
I'll get killed up there.

ROB  
Just let me have a turn.

TYLER  
I'm not done yet.

ROB  
You've been playing forever. God.

Sharon enters the room. She looks angry.

SHARON  
Rob, get in here.

ROB  
But he's hogging it.

SHARON  
Get in here.

Sharon exits.

ROB  
(aside to camera)  
Trouble.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS (DAY 2)

A laptop computer is on the kitchen table. A digital camera is plugged into the computer via a USB cable.

SHARON  
(re: computer screen)  
What is this?

ROB  
Wait, did you read my novella?  
It's not dirty, it's erotica.

SHARON  
I downloaded the photos you took at  
the party.

ROB  
I was gonna do that.

SHARON  
Yeah, I wonder why.

ROB  
(getting nervous)  
Uh, there were actually a lot of  
shots in there I wanted to delete.

SHARON  
Really? Even this one?

Sharon clicks the mouse. On the computer, we see a shot of the Harper family, focused mainly on Julia's cleavage.

ROB  
That was a mistake. That camera's  
weird.

SHARON  
What about this one?

We see a shot of Lisa bending over. Her thong is visible. Some kids play in the background.

ROB  
What? Tyler's in that shot.  
(pointing)  
In the back there.

SHARON  
And this one?

We see a photo of a couple moms jumping in the bounce-house.

ROB  
Okay, that one was just for me.

SHARON  
Do you understand how this makes me  
feel?

ROB  
(hopeful)  
Like maybe you should wear more  
thongs?

SHARON  
I'm really insecure about my body.  
I've had two kids.

ROB  
Honey, I know. I was there. I saw  
all the awful stuff that happened  
to you. If I can get past it, so  
can you.

SHARON  
What?

ROB  
I just mean you don't look that  
bad.

SHARON  
Sometimes when you talk, I can't  
believe I'm not punching you.

The PHONE RINGS. Sharon answers it. The fight hangs in the  
air. Very tense, folks.

SHARON (CONT'D)  
(into phone)  
Hello.  
(MORE)

SHARON (CONT'D)

(then)  
I'll get him.  
(to Rob)  
It's Mr. Prescott.

Sharon hands the phone to Rob.

ROB

(into phone, all smiles)  
Hey, Larry.  
(then)  
I just figured because it's the  
weekend we could go by first names.  
(then)  
Gotcha, Mr. Prescott.  
(then)  
No, now's a great time. I was just  
doing some paperwork.

Rob gives the camera a wink.

ROB (CONT'D)

Oh, right, the promotion. I'd  
forgotten all about that. Were you  
making that decision this weekend,  
because --

(then, upset)  
What?

(then)  
No, but... But she just started  
working there. She doesn't know  
the department as well as I do.  
Maybe if you --

(defeated)  
I understand. Thanks for the call.

Rob hangs up the phone. He walks away from Sharon and the  
camera, toward his bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY/BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 2)

In a very voyeuristic shot, through a hallway and an open  
door, we see Rob sitting on the edge of his bed, near tears.

Sharon passes by the camera and joins Rob. She puts her arm around him as he cries.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM (INTERVIEW)

ROB

I'm actually relieved. I am. I couldn't see it at the time, but not getting this promotion is a good thing. I'd be at work all the time. I wouldn't want to do that to Sharon and the kids. Some people live to work. Not me. I work to live.

(thinks, then)

No, I live to work-- No, I was right the first time. The point is now I can spend more time with my family. And my hobbies.

Rob puts on a Bob Dylan-style harmonica headgear.

ROB (CONT'D)

I played a little in college. For a while I had standing gig at a local watering hole.

Rob plays a few awful notes.

ROB (CONT'D)

(re: headgear)

Man, did this thing get me laid.

CUT TO:

INT. TYLER'S ROOM - NIGHT (DAY 2)

Rob tucks in Tyler. Tyler is playing the PSP. The camera hangs back a little.

ROB

That's enough of that. It's time for bed.

Rob takes the PSP from Tyler. He puts it on Tyler's dresser.



ROB (CONT'D)

In fact, I should hold on to it.

Rob grabs the PSP.

ROB (CONT'D)

I hope you had a good birthday,  
Ace.

TYLER

Yeah.

(then)

You know what Tallulah told me?  
She only gets to watch a half hour  
of TV a day.

ROB

Really?

TYLER

"American Chopper" is an hour long.  
What's she supposed to do?

ROB

Well, different parents have  
different ideas.

TYLER

I'm glad you're my dad. You don't  
care how much TV I watch.

ROB

I really don't. Did you brush your  
teeth?

TYLER

Sort of.

ROB

Atta boy.

Rob gives Tyler a kiss on the forehead. He turns out the  
light and exits.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BACKYARD/INT. BOUNCE-HOUSE - NIGHT (DAY 2)

Sharon enters the yard from the house when she notices some noise from the bounce-house. She goes to the door of the bounce-house. The camera follows, but hangs way back. Rob is sitting in the bounce-house, playing the PSP.

SHARON

How's it going?

ROB

Great. I'm gonna kick that kid's ass at Toys "R" Us next week.

SHARON

I didn't mean the game.

ROB

I'm good. I'm good. Great.

(a beat)

I really thought I was going to get that promotion.

SHARON

I know.

Sharon climbs into the bounce-house and joins Rob.

ROB

Maybe talking to Prescott in the bathroom was a mistake.

SHARON

You can't worry about that now.

ROB

The extra money would've helped.

SHARON

I guess. We really only needed it when we thought Tyler was going to private school.

ROB

I'm sorry about that too. I really messed up that interview. I don't know what I was doing. Sometimes I just go nuts.

SHARON

It sounded like a helicopter to me.

ROB

The acoustics in there were weird.

SHARON

It's not entirely your fault. The pooping incident may have had something to do with it. Besides, I'm not even sure I want him in that school. It's full of snobs.

ROB

It is.

SHARON

Very off-putting.

ROB

We could reapply next semester.

SHARON

I already got the forms.

They share a smile over this. Sharon cuddles up to Rob.

ROB

How am I going to face our friends again? I made that stupid announcement at the party.

SHARON

It's not a big deal.

ROB

And I sent out that mass e-mail.

SHARON

There was an e-mail?

ROB

Plus, it's all over my MySpace page.

SHARON

It'll all blow over.

ROB

I don't know.

SHARON

It will. Remember when all the couples were at that restaurant, and somebody had too many mojitos and started yelling because he thought the valet guy dented their car, but it wasn't even their car.

ROB

That was me. Mojitos make me crazy.

SHARON

And no one remembers it anymore.

She gives Rob a kiss. After a beat.

ROB

Hey, about those pictures... It was stupid.

SHARON

You're right, it was.

ROB

I guess I was trying to show off or something. I'm sorry, I really am.

After a beat.

SHARON

How come there aren't any of me?

ROB

What?

SHARON

Why didn't you take any objectifying, exploitative shots of my ass and chest?

ROB

I don't know.

SHARON

Remember when we first got that camera? We took those pictures.

ROB

(remembering fondly)

I think you were the first girl  
that stock boy at Vons saw topless.

SHARON

He still carries my groceries for  
free.

ROB

You know, we could take some shots  
in here. This thing must have a  
camera.

(re: PSP)

Where's the damn camera on this  
thing? C'mon!

Rob frantically pushes buttons. Sharon stops him.

SHARON

You're not going to photograph me  
tonight.

(then)

But I'm happy you want to.

ROB

Of course I want to. You're...  
beautiful.

SHARON

I'm different. You know, since  
Ella.

ROB

No, you're not. You're still the  
most amazing woman I know.

More kissing. Then...

SHARON

We could do something else in here.

ROB

(nods toward camera)

What about...?

SHARON

I don't think they can see us.

The bounce-house bounces as we...

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM (INTERVIEW)

ROB

We just talked. We hadn't done  
that in a while. I feel closer to  
her than I have in a long time.  
She keeps this family going. I  
don't know what I'd do without her.  
(then)

And when she loses the last of that  
baby weight she is going to be  
really hot.

Rob crosses his fingers.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW