

Cougar Town



"When a Kid Goes Bad"
[115]

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Doozer Productions
Network Draft

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ACT ONE

1 INT. JULES' HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY (DAY ONE) 1

TRAVIS enters carrying a big food bag. JULES is there.

JULES

Okay, it's not Valentine's Day yet but please let that bag be my present because it is soaked with grease. I'll tell you right now, I don't care what's in there, I'm going to eat it.

TRAVIS

It's a human head.

JULES

If it's deep fried, I'm still in.
(she looks in)
You got my favorite fried chicken. Travis, why? Are you on drugs? Is someone pregnant?
(takes a bite, moans)
Ohhh, you know what, it doesn't matter. We'll get through it.

TRAVIS

When they open a new Chicken Shack, the first fifty people in line get free food for a month. So, after twenty hours standing behind a large gentleman who used a paint bucket as both a chair and a commode, you're looking at customer number three.

JULES

(stops eating)
How could you wait in line that long without missing school?

TRAVIS

Waffle fry?

CUT TO:

2 INT. BOBBY'S BOAT - DAY (DAY ONE) 2

BOBBY's surrounded by Chick Shack bags. Jules enters.

JULES

Did you really call Travis in sick from school so you two could wait in line for free chicken?

BOBBY

Shoot, I forgot to call his school,
didn't I?

JULES

Wow, you are still not great at
zoning in on why I'm angry.

BOBBY

So he misses one day -- it's his
senior year. My senior year I
missed, like, fifty days, and...

JULES

You don't have a nice ending to that
story, do you?

BOBBY

I don't. But in my defense, I just
ate a gallon-jug of free coleslaw and
my brain's a little mayonnaise-y.

JULES

I only had one piece of chicken, but
I ate the fried skin off ten other
pieces. I felt my heart skipping
beats, but it's no biggie. I took a
baby aspirin and Travis knows CPR.
Look... you always talk to me about
anything with Travis. It's how I
stop most of these ideas. Why didn't
you call?

BOBBY

J-Bird, last week we had sex, I asked
you about getting back together, and
you said you weren't interested.
Give me twenty four more hours before
I start calling you to chat.

JULES

I get that you're uncomfortable, but
we still have to do all our parenting
together. When it comes to Travis,
we have to stay a team, okay?

BOBBY

Okay, but I get to pick the mascot.
Coleslaw. Hang on, let me try again.

JULES

(beat, then)
You're stuck on coleslaw, aren't you?

BOBBY
It won't get out of my head.

CUT TO:

3 INT. JULES' OFFICE - DAY (DAY ONE)

3

LAURIE is cleaning off her desk. ELLIE is here with ANDY.

ELLIE
Where's Jules? Andy and I are going on a romantic lunch and I want her to come with us.

LAURIE
I don't know, but she'll be back soon. She left her band-aids here and she's wearing new shoes with, like, eight thousand straps.

ANDY
I have seen those and they are worth the sacrifice. For sure.
(off Laurie's look)
What, I like feet. Ellie already knows, you might as well know, too.

ELLIE
Andy, I'm going to the lingerie store to pick out what you're getting me for Valentine's Day. You can't come because you'll just flirt with the mannequins like they're alive.

ANDY
(as if flirting with mannequin)
Bald is a bold look for a lady. And I love your smooth breasts.

ELLIE
Just wait here for Jules. I don't trust dummy to give her the message.

ANDY
(as Ellie exits, to Laurie)
Usually when Ellie takes a shot at you, you take a shot right back. It makes me smile so big on the inside.

LAURIE
I'm just distracted. You know that guy Smith I was seeing?

(MORE)

LAURIE (CONT'D)

He's driving all the way back from grad school for Valentine's Day. But instead of doing something romantic, like banging me on a yacht, he wants to introduce me to his Dad. This is a real relationship step. What if I make an idiot out of myself?

ANDY

Just do what I did when I met Ellie's folks. Be yourself only less Latino.

LAURIE

I don't know...

ANDY

Look, you'll be fine. At worst it'll be a few hours of eating chicken, and awkward conversation. And if for some reason Smith's parents don't like you, and he actually cares what they think, then he's a giant wuss and not worth your time anyway.

LAURIE

Thanks, Andy. You're a good guy. So, how'd it go with Ellie's parents?

ANDY

Well, we're married and they hate me so much they only visit for one weekend a year and insist on staying in a hotel. So, giant win.

CUT TO:

4 INT. JULES' HOUSE - DAY (DAY ONE)

4

Jules and Ellie drink coffee.

JULES

I was watching a show about rain forests getting cut down and it made me think: Did you ever have that talk with Andy about man-grooming?

ELLIE

Didn't have to. I signed him up for an "eyebrow wax" which is really a bikini wax. With all the women yelling in Korean, Andy won't know what hit him until he's sliding around our bed like a canned ham.

REVEAL GRAYSON sitting with them, drinking coffee.

GRAYSON
I'm not a big pruner.

JULES
Yeah, but you're not crazy hairy like Andy. From what I hear, Andy never lost his hair. It just migrated south and got really curly.

ELLIE
Jules!

JULES
So Grayson, you don't husk the corn?

GRAYSON
Nah, but when it's humid I throw some leave-in conditioner down there.
(then, exiting)
Anyway, thanks for the coffee.

ELLIE
Why would he come over here and drink coffee like he's one of us?

JULES
Because I told him he should.

ELLIE
You've let too many people into our coffee circle! Laurie, Bobby, Andy-- why don't you just ask those creepy home-schooled kids next door to join? They can wow us with math skills while they stab us to death.

JULES
Fine, who do you think should be in our coffee circle?

ELLIE
Just you and me.

JULES
This is our shopping circle argument all over again.

TRAVIS
(entering)
So Mom, in the spirit of me being very open with you, here's the scoop.
(MORE)

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

Tonight Tommy Chen's having a party. His parents won't be there. Now, there will be beer present, but I will not be drinking.

JULES

No way. You're eighteen. Drinking's illegal. It's not happening.

TRAVIS

What?! But I promise I won't drink!

JULES

You think that now, but you'll get there and some 18-year-old hardbody will want you to use her perfectly toned back as a booze luge.

TRAVIS

This is so unfair. It's Tommy Chen's house. He went to Robotics Camp.

JULES

Sorry, Trav. Guess I'm the bad guy.

ELLIE

(as Travis storms off)

Wow, you keep him on a tight leash. This morning Stan was sucking on a D-battery and I just let it go. Little guy seemed to be having fun.

CUT TO:

5 INT. JULES' OFFICE - DAY (DAY ONE)

5

Jules sits at her desk as Laurie pokes her head in the door.

LAURIE

Jules, Smith's parking the car. He'll be here in a sec.

JULES

You're so lucky Smith's coming to town for Valentine's Day. I wish I had someone to spend it with.

(then)

You know, this might be the first one of your boyfriends I've ever met that doesn't ask for money or try to honk my boobs.

SMITH enters. Laurie goes over and kisses him.

SMITH

Jules, it's nice to meet you. You're even prettier than Laurie said.

LAURIE

Smith is such a charmer. And even though he's dressed like an accountant, check out his socks.

(lifting his pants leg)

Bam! These say he's still ready to get wild.

JULES

So far so good. But Laurie's one of my best friends, so before I give you my blessing, I have a few questions.

(quickly)

Have you ever cheated on a woman? Have you ever robbed a bank? What do you think of lady firefighters?

SMITH

No, no, and what they lack in physical strength they make up for in empathy and complex problem solving.

JULES

Almost flawless. But people have flaws, and when they seem too perfect it means they're hiding something that will rear its ugly head later, like that birth control pill that lets you have four periods a year but also gives you gall stones.

SMITH

This last Christmas my Dad gave our house keeper, the woman who raised me, an English Spanish dictionary... again. For that and many other reasons I hate him. Also I don't like sharing food.

LAURIE

Well?

JULES

(hugging him, so happy)
Laurie, he's wonderful.

CUT TO:

6 INT. ANDY'S OFFICE - DAY (DAY ONE)

6

Andy, in a suit, sits at his desk on the phone.

ANDY

I think a zero-down commercial
re-fi in the middle of a cratering
economy is a slam dunk idea, Diego.

He hangs up. REVEAL Bobby sitting and listening.

BOBBY

Whoa. I didn't understand any of
that. Say it again.

ANDY

I think a zero-down commercial
re-fi in the middle of a cratering
economy is a slam dunk idea, Diego.

BOBBY

That's like a different language. I
love Work Andy. He's so confident.

ANDY

Check this out.
(calling out)
Paul! Get in here!
(a nervous assistant enters)
Get me a new coffee. This one sucks.
Bobby, you want anything?

BOBBY

A roast beef sandwich?

ANDY

And a roast beef sandwich!
(Paul exits, to Bobby)
So, what can I do you for?

BOBBY

Well I was hoping you could take me
out for a roast beef sandwich, but
problem solved. Can we make Paul get
one for you, too?

ANDY

Sorry, no time for a lunch hang. I'm
prepping for a meeting with a big
potential client. If I manage his
money, it would be a career changer.
(his phone rings)
See, it's Ellie.

(MORE)

ANDY (CONT'D)
She's really been trying to help me
keep focused on what's important with
this one.

CUT TO:

7 INT. ELLIE'S HOUSE - SAME TIME 7

WE INTERCUT with Ellie, on the phone.

ELLIE
I want a new car!

She hangs up.

ANDY
It's nice to have someone in my
corner.

CUT TO:

8 INT. JULES' HOUSE - LATER 8

Jules enters. Travis holds a photo album. Ellie sips wine.

TRAVIS
Hey, Mom, look what I found -- an
album full of your old pictures.

JULES
This doesn't end well for me.

TRAVIS
It does not.
(shows photo in album)
In this one you appear to be a
passenger in a moving car with beer
in both hands. How old are you here?

JULES
Thirty-five.

TRAVIS
Mrs. Torres?

ELLIE
Feathered hair? Eighteen.

TRAVIS
And in this one, you're smoking a
cigarette out of your nose.

JULES

We didn't know smoking was bad for you back then.

TRAVIS

It wasn't a hundred years ago. You can even see the Surgeon General's warning on the package.

JULES

Okay, yes, I made mistakes when I was young. But I know they were bad now.

TRAVIS

Right. I bet you can't go one night without a glass of wine. How about you try that tonight?

JULES

Don't be silly, I can't do it tonight. It's Wednesday.

TRAVIS

(flipping through album)
You know, maybe I am blowing this out of proportion. These pictures aren't that incriminating-- Boom! Naked and passed out in a tree!

ANGLE on a photo (only one we'll see) of a naked Jules asleep in the crook of a tree wearing a "New Years '86" hat.

JULES

Give me that!

As Jules goes to grab the book from Travis, and Ellie laughs:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

9 INT. JULES' HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY (DAY TWO)

9

Ellie, Grayson, Jules and Laurie drink coffee. Ellie is giving Grayson the stink eye. Travis comes down the stairs.

JULES

Hey, Trav, what are you up to today?

TRAVIS

Being the irresponsible teenager I am, I thought I'd spray paint "Who farted?" on a freeway overpass.

JULES

(to him as he stomps off)
If you really want me to know you're mad, wear shoes! Stomping around in socks is not effective.

LAURIE

I've got to hit it. Smith is taking me for a fancy pre-Valentine's lunch.

ELLIE

That's why you're wearing a shirt that only shows half a nerp.

LAURIE

It's a pattern, duh.
(exiting)
Oh, that is a nerp. I gotta change.

JULES

What are you and Andy doing for Valetine's?

ELLIE

The usual. We go to the drugstore, buy up all the Valentine's cards then watch the forgetful husbands panic. Nothing better than a man buying a Bar Mitzvah card, trying to change the Star of David into a heart.

GRAYSON

You two kids really know how to keep the romance alive.

ELLIE

I'm the sassy one. Get your own thing.

(MORE)

ELLIE (CONT'D)

(exiting)

Enjoy tall, dark and soulless, Jules.

JULES

Good exit sass. You're still queen.

(then to Grayson)

So, any plans for Valentine's Day?

GRAYSON

Nope.

JULES

Well, since everyone else is busy,
and being alone would totally suck...
maybe we could do nothing together.
You know, just as friends.

GRAYSON

Jules, actually, I don't celebrate
Valentine's Day on principle. It's a
fake holiday designed to sell cut-
rate candy and cuddly teddy bears.
Which, frankly, is irresponsible:
Bears are incredibly dangerous
predators. We're raising generations
of kids who think they can just
wander into the forest and hug one.
They'll tear your face off, Jules!

JULES

Calm down, big guy. I'm just talking
about hanging out together. No
flowers, no bear talk. I promise.

GRAYSON

I guess hanging out would be okay.

JULES

Great! But full disclosure, I will
be wearing my red sweater with the
hearts on it. That's non-negotiable.

CUT TO:

10 INT. ANDY'S OFFICE - A LITTLE LATER (DAY TWO)

10

Andy and Bobby are there. Andy is clearly nervous.

ANDY

This deal could be huge, so you need
to tell me how I look. Be honest.

BOBBY

Not loving the tie. I thought it was one of those magic eye things where you squint and see a cow or a lady, but I'm just seeing tie.

Just then, Paul enters. Bobby points to his tie.

BOBBY

Hot damn, now that's a tie.

Andy shoots Paul a look. Paul hands over his tie and exits.

INTERCOM (O.S.)

Mr. Frank is here.

ANDY

Thank you. Send him up.
(putting on tie, to Bobby)
Sorry Champ, but I need you to get scarce for my meeting.

BOBBY

You don't think I can hang with a big baller? Give me some credit, man.

ROGER FRANK (60s, snobby) enters. Andy shakes his hand.

ANDY

So good to meet you! Andy Torres.

ROGER

Roger Frank.

BOBBY

(shakes Roger's hand)
Robert "Bobby" Cobb. Another client of Andrew's. I was just telling him that a zero-down commercial re-fi in the middle of a cratering economy is a slam dunk idea.

ROGER

But assuming a higher level of debt makes it difficult for a property to generate a positive cash flow on an on-going basis, wouldn't you say?

BOBBY

(exiting)
Excuse me, I've got to pee.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. GRAYSON'S HOUSE - SAME TIME (DAY TWO) 11

Ellie approaches Grayson outside his house.

ELLIE

Hey there, I was noticing you still have your Christmas lights up, you know, three months past Christmas. Here's the thing. When I'm on my treadmill, they're right out my window and it's kind of an eyesore.

GRAYSON

Whatever, I'll take them down. It's not a big deal.

CUT TO:

12 INT. JULES' KITCHEN - A LITTLE LATER (DAY TWO) 12

Jules and Grayson are here.

JULES

Yeah, that's a huge deal. You're in our coffee circle now and Ellie considers herself alpha dog. This is a power struggle. You give in this time, she'll dominate you forever. One day you're taking down lights, the next you're power washing the oil stains out of your driveway because she doesn't want it to look like...

(making finger quote)

"Italians live here."

GRAYSON

Ugh, I can't believe I paid more to live on a cul-de-sac.

Just then, Bobby and Travis enter. Bobby is agitated.

BOBBY

What's the deal, Jules? I gotta run every parenting decision by you, but you don't have to reciprocate?!

TRAVIS

Have fun with that. Now we're even.

JULES

We'll never be even, Travis. Do I need to show you the scar from my C-section again?

(MORE)

JULES (CONT'D)

It's only gotten worse with time.
Look, there's hair growing in it now.

Jules lifts her shirt and the guys AD-LIB disgust as we:

CUT TO:

13 INT. ROGER'S COUNTRY CLUB - LATER (DAY TWO)

13

Andy and Roger have drinks in the bar area of a tony club.

ANDY

I like your club. It's like my club,
except yours has a heli-pad and mine
has a tummy time mat. My club's
actually a Gymboree.

ROGER

Oh, here comes my son. He's back
from college for the weekend.

Smith and Laurie approach. She looks nice, but cleavage-y.

ANDY

Laurie?

LAURIE

Andy! How crazy!

ROGER

I see you know each other.
(extending hand to Laurie)
I'm Roger Frank.

LAURIE

Laurie Keller. Pleased to meet you.
This place is great. I was here once
when I was a kid for the day-before-
Christmas party.

ROGER

Ah, yes. The one for needy families.

LAURIE

Oh. I didn't know that's what it
was. But that explains why my gift
from Santa said "For Girl Age Six to
Ten", not "For Laurie."

ROGER

(standing, to Smith)
Well, let's make sure you kids get a
good table.

Roger and Smith cross away. Laurie turns to Andy.

LAURIE

Ugh, I feel so out of my element.
I'm happy you're here, Andy.

ANDY

No problem. One bit of advice:
maybe go with a tad less cleavage. I
can kind of see a tattoo down there.

LAURIE

It says "Fun Zone".

ANDY

Or no cleavage. Maybe go with no
cleavage.

As Laurie pulls up her dress, we:

CUT TO:

14 INT. JULES' HOUSE - SAME TIME - DAY (DAY TWO)

14

Bobby and Jules are both heated as they argue.

JULES

Yes, I decided that our underage son
can't drink. But to be fair, I
didn't make that rule. America did.

BOBBY

America also says he's old enough to
act in a porno or fight in Iraq.

JULES

Fine, if Travis is starring in a
porno while fighting in Iraq, he can
have a beer.

BOBBY

Actually, he can't. Iraq's a Muslim
country. My buddy said that even in
the nudie mags the ladies have to
wear those long wrappy things. You
got to focus on, like, one ankle and
use a lot of imagination.

JULES

Not sure how we got there, but the
bottom line is, underage drinking is
dangerous and I won't allow Travis to
go to parties where there's alcohol.

BOBBY

So he can only go to nerd parties? Jules, all you're doing is creating a situation where Travis will be so afraid to get caught he won't call for a ride home if he's been drinking.

JULES

Travis won't be calling for a ride because he won't be at the party in the first place. We need to stand strong. That's our united front.

BOBBY

Our "united front" was only decided by you. You never asked me how to deal with this. I had a great idea.

JULES

Maybe because your last "great idea" was the "go-anywhere computer".

BOBBY

Don't say it was just like a laptop, because mine was bigger. Anyway, this idea is way better than that.

JULES

Well, let me pull up a stool. I can't wait for this!

CUT TO:

15 I./E. GRAYSON'S LIVING ROOM - LATER (DAY TWO)

15

An exhausted Jules is talking to Grayson.

JULE

I just spent an hour talking to Bobby about Travis. You're lucky you got divorced before you had any kids.

GRAYSON

Yep, my divorce was super lucky.

JULES

Hey, I figured out what we should do for our un-Valentines Day! We can spread newspaper on the floor, dump a bunch of ribs on it, chow down, and watch "To Catch A Predator".

GRAYSON

Yeah... I know I told you I was game for hanging out, but I really just want to chill by myself tonight, maybe watch a movie. Why don't you spend Valentine's with Travis?

JULES

Spend Valentine's with my kid? Come on, that's sick.

GRAYSON

He's still angry with you, huh?

JULES

Yeah...

GRAYSON

Anyhow-- sorry. I just don't like Valentine's and I'd rather be alone.

JULES

(covers disappointment)
It's okay. Another time then.

Grayson pulls up a shade to find a GARDENER right outside.

GRAYSON

Ahh! What are you doing?!

GARDENER

Mrs. Ellie tell me take them down the lights.

As Grayson reacts.

CUT TO:

16 INT. ROGER'S COUNTRY CLUB - DAY (DAY TWO)

16

Smith and Laurie walk to their table. As they go, sotto:

LAURIE

We better eat quick if we're going to be home in time to knock it out Valentine's style.

SMITH

I like that I never wonder what you're thinking.

ROGER

My son finds that girl "refreshing".
Is Laurie a friend of yours?

ANDY

She works for my wife's friend,
Jules. Friend of a friend situation.

ROGER

I guess a quarter million dollars in
education doesn't teach you not to
sport-hump trailer trash, right?

ANDY

Boy, that's, well... a quarter
million dollars? Think of how many
of those watches you could've bought.

ROGER

One.

ANDY

It's striking, really.

ROGER

You have to admit, that girl is far
beneath my son's station. She looks
like she belongs on a mud flap.

ANDY

I don't know, in my mind mud flap gal
was always a brunette.

ROGER

What, you don't agree Smith is way
out of her league?

ANDY

(tense beat, off Roger's gaze)
No, no... I agree.

Andy looks over at Laurie, who waves. He weakly waves back.

ANDY (CONT'D)

That girl isn't what I'd call classy.

Roger smiles. As Andy dies a little, we:

CUT TO:

17 INT. JULES' KITCHEN - A LITTLE LATER (DAY TWO)

17

Bobby and Travis talk quietly.

BOBBY

Look, your Mom doesn't want you drinking. I get it. It's illegal. But I know that you're a teenager, and you're going to drink no matter what because alcohol is delicious and makes everything better.

TRAVIS

I can't tell if this speech is responsible or insane.

BOBBY

Here's the deal: If you're ever somewhere drinking and you need a ride home, you call me. No matter what time it is I'll pick you up, no questions asked. And if I've been drinking, which is likely, we'll call my buddy Two-Tone. He's a Mormon.
(then)

There's just one rule: Your Mom can never know about our deal. Cool?

TRAVIS

Totally cool.

JULES

(entering)
What's totally cool?

TRAVIS

Jazz.

BOBBY

Sharks.

JULES

You're talking about jazz sharks? Are those sharks that play music? How does that even work?

TRAVIS

I don't know. That's why it's an interesting discussion.

JULES

I guess that's cool.

BOBBY

(as she exits, to Travis)
Dodged that bullet.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

18 INT. JULES' KITCHEN - THE NEXT MORNING (DAY THREE)

18

Jules, Laurie and Ellie are there. Travis comes downstairs.

JULES

Happy Valentine's Day, Trav! FYI,
you didn't have to buy me a gift.
The best gift you ever gave me was a
kiss on the lips when you were five.

TRAVIS

That is so not happening.

JULES

(as Travis exits, calling out)
Don't be sure! I still have a kiss
coupon from when you were little!

She goes to the drawer and starts digging around.

LAURIE

I gave my Mom a "kiss" coupon when I
was little. She re-gifted it to her
boyfriend. From what I could hear,
she gave him an upgrade.

ELLIE

Your stories are never surprising.
(then, to Jules)
Looks like Travis is still mad at you
for saying no to the party.

JULES

Yeah. I just worry about him being
safe... but I guess you always worry
about your kids. When they're babies
you're afraid they'll hit their soft
spot and go brain dead or stick their
tongue in an outlet and get
electrified. Then they get a little
older and you worry they'll go blind
looking at an eclipse or fall out of
a tree and impale their head on a
gate. Then they hit the teen years
and it's sex, drugs, guns, booze, car
racing, boat racing, weird choking
fetishes, shingles... Basically from
the time they cut that bloody cord,
your whole life is about keeping your
kid alive.

ELLIE

No wonder you don't like horror movies. They can't top the one playing in your head all the time.

LAURIE

Is choking really a fetish if you're just kinda into it?

ELLIE

You're right, dear -- that would just make it a proclivity.

JULES

More like an inclination. You have an inclination for choking, Laurie.
(pulls paper out of drawer)
Got it! "One coupon for free kiss. Expires June third, nineteen-ninety four." What five year old puts an expiration date on a kiss coupon?!

CUT TO:

19 INT. ELLIE'S HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER (DAY THREE)

19

Ellie enters to find Andy sadly sitting on the couch.

ELLIE

Why are you all sad?

ANDY

I was sucking up to Roger Frank, and I said mean stuff about a nice person who didn't deserve it.

ELLIE

That doesn't sound like you. You've always been the kindest person I know. It's what makes you you and not me. We can't have you changing just for money. Who did you trash?

ANDY

Laurie.

ELLIE

You tricked me! Next time you tell a cry baby story about trashing someone, start by saying it's Laurie. I'm going to run on my treadmill. You sit there and think about what you did.

ANDY
Being mean to Laurie?

ELLIE
(as she exits)
No, tricking me into standing up for
her!

CUT TO:

20 EXT. GRAYSON'S HOUSE - EVENING (DAY THREE)

20

Grayson and Jules are at work doing something not revealed.

GRAYSON
What's Valentine's Day about anyway?
Eating bad chocolate and getting shot
in the heart by some deranged flying
baby? I don't get it.

JULES
I know most people think it's stupid,
but Valentine's is actually my
favorite holiday. When I was a kid,
my Dad worked every Thanksgiving and
Christmas because he got paid double-
time. But on Valentine's he got
regular pay, so he'd call in sick.
Dad would dress up like Santa and
pass out turkey legs. We basically
jammed every big holiday into that
day. It was like a giant celebration
of being together as a family.

GRAYSON
That actually sounds sort of nice.

JULES
It is. I've never spent a
Valentine's Day alone. That's why
this one will suck. At least I've
got, like, seventy more ahead.

GRAYSON
I dig the positive spirit. And not
just because you think you'll live to
be a hundred eleven. So... you think
this will annoy Ellie?

REVEAL Jules and Grayson have been working on bush lights.

JULES
Only one way to find out.

Grayson plugs in the cord. The bush LIGHTS UP BRIGHTLY.

SMASH CUT TO:

21 INT. ELLIE'S GYM - CONTINUOUS 21

Ellie runs on the treadmill. She looks out the window.

ELLIE
You son of a bitch!

CUT TO:

22 BOBBY'S BOAT - EVENING (NIGHT THREE) 22

Bobby is with an attractive woman, CAROL.

BOBBY
You know, in French "Valentine" means
"Sexy Man Dance". Would you like to
see me Valentine, Carol?

Just then, his phone rings. He checks it. Then, annoyed:

BOBBY
Trav, you dummy.
(to Carol)
Sorry, I got to go.

CUT TO:

23 EXT. CUL-DE-SAC - EVENING (NIGHT THREE) 23

Travis and Bobby pull up in golf cart.

BOBBY
You were right to throw up the Bat-
signal, Trav. But you don't seem
buzzed. How much did you drink?

TRAVIS
I had one beer, and I pretended to
do shots by turning to the side and
pouring them over my shoulder. The
back of my shirt is super-wasted.

BOBBY
I'm proud of you, buddy. You were
man enough to make the mature
decision. Now sneak in the back
while I cause a distraction out front
by doing trash raccoons.

TRAVIS
Trash raccoons?

BOBBY
(rattles trash cans)
Go! Go! Go!

CUT TO:

24 INT. JULES' KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

24

The lights are all off. Travis quietly sneaks in the back. Suddenly the lights flip on. Jules sits on a counter stool.

JULES
I was married to your Dad for twenty years. You think I don't know trash raccoons?

TRAVIS
Why are you sitting alone in the dark on Valentine's Day?

JULES
Because no one in my life cares enough to spend time with me.

TRAVIS
Got it. See you in the morning.

Travis goes in to kiss Jules on the cheek, she sniffs.

JULES
Why does your back smell like almond extract and O.J. and--
(sniffing deeply)
Peach schnapps. Alabama Slammers!

TRAVIS
You're like a blood hound!

CUT TO:

25 INT. GRAY'S PUB - NIGHT (NIGHT THREE)

25

Andy drinks sadly at the bar. Grayson is there.

ANDY
Have you ever gone against everything you stand for just for money?

GRAYSON
Many, many times.

Just then Laurie storms in with Smith, headed for Andy.

LAURIE

You jerk! Smith's Dad told Smith what you said. "Not classy", huh? I thought we were friends, Andy. But I guess I'm just a townie loser.

ANDY

No, I don't think that! I'm so sorry, Laurie. I've been feeling awful about this. You know what? Beat me up. I deserve it. Just don't hit me in the testicles -- I want to have another kid. Ellie doesn't know that yet so don't say anything. Now, take your shot.

He stands, bracing himself. Laurie and Smith laugh.

LAURIE

We're totally kidding, dude.

GRAYSON

That was not a strong moment for you.

ANDY

Quiet, Grayson.
(to Laurie)
What are you talking about?

LAURIE

Andy, I know you were just being all business-chummy with Roger. I'm so not insulted. Besides, I've been called way worse: Drunken Master, Slut Bot 6000X, White Devil.

SMITH

Andy, let it go. Laurie doesn't care what my Dad thinks and neither do I.

ANDY

Then why'd you introduce them?

SMITH

My Dad's a jerk-- it's fun driving him nuts. Plus, Slut Bot and I got a nice lunch out of it.

ANDY

I'm about to meet your Dad to close the deal. I'll come clean. I don't care if it costs me his business.

LAURIE

Andy, you really want to be nice to me? Keep quiet, make the deal and manage the crap out of his money.

(sotto, away from Smith)

If things goes well, one day that will all be mine.

Ellie bursts in, dragging Grayson's bush.

ELLIE

Here. You. Go.

(drops bush, happily to Andy)

Hi, honey.

CUT TO:

26 INT. TRAVIS' ROOM - SAME TIME (NIGHT THREE)

26

Jules is there with Travis.

JULES

No more video games, curfew is ten--
(pulling down bikini poster)
And goodbye busty lady poster.

TRAVIS

Why?

JULES

Because it's gross. By the way, how did you get home?

TRAVIS

... what?

JULES

Saying "what" is the worst stall tactic ever. It pisses me off and only buys you two seconds before I ask again. Now how did you get home?

From outside we hear Bobby doing trash raccoons.

JULES

Bobby!

CUT TO:

27 INT. ROGER'S CLUB - A LITTLE LATER (NIGHT THREE) 27

Roger reviews the papers with a still-troubled Andy.

ROGER
Closing this will be a nice
Valentine's Day gift for your wife.

ANDY
Yep... she loves me and money. Not
in that order.

A beat as Andy thinks about what he's about to do. Then:

ANDY
Hey, I need to clear something up. I
said some really mean things about
the girl your son is dating, and they
weren't true. I just did it to
impress you. Laurie's actually a
great girl with a big heart.

ROGER
I'm waiting for the punch line.

ANDY
No punch line. I like Laurie. And
you should be happy your son is with
her. And if standing up for a friend
is contrary to your business strategy
then I don't need your business.
(beat, then off Roger)
You're not giving me your business
are you? That's fine. But if you'll
excuse me, I have to go tell my wife
her dream convertible will remain at
a police auction lot in Toledo.

CUT TO:

28 INT. JULES' KITCHEN - SAME TIME 28

Travis and Bobby are there, speaking quietly.

TRAVIS
Sorry, Dad. Mom's going to hose you.

BOBBY
Don't worry about it. Our deal still
stands: Always call if you need me.

TRAVIS
Thank you.

JULES

(entering, angry)
Travis, I need to talk to your Dad.
(as Travis exits, angrier)
Bobby, I cannot believe--
(Travis is gone, happy)
We pulled this off. Your plan was genius! We stick with my rule of no drinking, but if he does, your new rule of picking him up and secretly telling me what he did keeps him alive! Trav feels like he's got a confidant in you, plus he'll never get behind the wheel.

BOBBY

I feel like a spy. But like an evil spy, because Trav's my kid.

JULES

My God, we might actually die before our son. That makes me so happy.

BOBBY

We make a pretty good team, huh?

JULES

We do, Bobby. Nice job.
(As Travis enters to grab phone, Jules, angry, to Bobby)
You stupid, irresponsible ass!
(Travis is gone, fishing)
Sorry. Hey, what are you doing tonight for Valentine's?

BOBBY

Heading back to the boat. I got a lady-in-waiting waiting.

He kisses her on the head and leaves her, melancholy.

CUT TO:

29 EXT. GRAYSON'S HOUSE - NIGHT (NIGHT THREE)

29

Ellie hands Grayson a bush in a pot.

ELLIE

I got you this. It will be exactly like your old bush. In twenty years. Until then it will serve as a friendly reminder that it's easier to just do what you're supposed to do.

GRAYSON

Thanks. I got you something, too.

Grayson hits a button on a remote: ELLIE'S HOUSE LIGHTS UP with lights, a wavy Santa, Thanksgiving decorations, etc..

ELLIE

Well played. But savor this moment, because I will not rest until you are weeping in the shower.

Andy pulls up in his car and jumps out.

ANDY

It's beautiful!

CUT TO:

30 INT. JULES' HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

30

Jules is in her red Valentine's sweater, drinking wine. Alone. A knock at the door. It's Grayson.

GRAYSON

Come outside. I've got something to show you.

SMASH CUT TO:

31 EXT. JULES' HOUSE - SECONDS LATER

31

Jules and Grayson exit to see the spectacle. Ellie, Andy, Travis, Laurie and Smith relax nearby on lawn chairs.

JULES

You did all the holiday decorations!

GRAYSON

I figured maybe you're right and it wouldn't be so bad to hang out with a few friends on Valentine's. Oh, there's one last decoration.

He hits a button. A GIANT HEART lights up on Ellie's lawn. As Jules smiles big, we ANGLE ON Ellie and Andy.

ELLIE

Andy, even if we don't have a new convertible, I'm proud of who you are and what you did for that person.

ANDY

You mean Laurie?

ELLIE

Don't say her name. In my head you defended a sick child.

LAURIE

(to Smith)

Hell yes, Smith, I'd love to spend a week on your yacht in the Caribbean.

ELLIE

I'm going to need more wine.

Bobby and Carol arrive with food bags.

BOBBY

Hey, where all the chicken at?
(throwing down bags)
Whoomp, there it is!

As the group digs in we ANGLE back on Grayson and Jules.

JULES

Thank you for this, Grayson.

They hug, arm in arm for a moment. Then, pulling away:

GRAYSON

Too Valentines-y.

JULES

Totally.

Travis approaches Jules.

JULES (CONT'D)

So, can I get my Valentine's kiss?

TRAVIS

Don't push it, Mom.

He puts an arm around her. As we pull back we hear:

JULES

Merry Valentine's Day, everyone!

The group AD-LIBS "Here, here" and we FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

Cougar Town
Network Draft

"When a Kid Goes Bad" [115]
12/22/09

32.
III

TAG

32 TO COME

32