

# Raising Hope

"Say Cheese"

1ARY03

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## RAISING HOPE

Episode #103

“Say Cheese”

### CAST LIST

JIMMY ..... LUCAS NEFF  
VIRGINIA ..... MARTHA PLIMPTON  
BURT ..... GARRET DILLAHUNT  
SABRINA ..... SHANNON WOODWARD  
MAW MAW ..... CLORIS LEACHMAN  
TEENAGE BURT ..... CAMERON MOULENE  
TEENAGE VIRGINIA ..... KELLY HEYER  
PHOTOGRAPHER ..... EARL BILLINGS\*  
THREE-YEAR-OLD JIMMY ..... TRACE!  
EIGHT-YEAR-OLD JIMMY ..... MASON COOK

## RAISING HOPE

Episode #103

"Say Cheese"

### SET LIST

#### **Interiors**

Chance House

Living Room

Kitchen

Dining Room

Jimmy and Hope's Bedroom

Grocery Store

Burt's Truck

Van\*

Portrait Studio

#### **Exteriors**

Backyard

Street (3 set-ups)

Parking Lot

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 INT. GROCERY STORE -- DAY (D1)

1

Jimmy takes a squeaky ball off the shelf and hands it to Hope. She likes it. Sabrina comes around the corner and watches as Jimmy takes a box of Shrinky Dinks off the shelf.

SABRINA

I see you found the toy section.  
Oh, my gosh. Some of those army  
guys are really violating the Don't  
Ask Don't Tell policy.

JIMMY

You set them up like that didn't  
you?

SABRINA

Don't ask don't tell.

JIMMY

I can't believe you have Shrinky  
Dinks. I used to love making these.  
You draw on the plastic and then you  
put it in the oven and it shrinks  
into a little... I don't know what  
you'd call it. A dink, I guess.

SABRINA

Yeah, I used to love those when I  
was a kid. I'd make pentagrams,  
skulls, princesses shooting  
themselves. I went through a really  
dark period after I got braces.

Jimmy looks at the back of the Shrinky Dink box.

JIMMY

Oh, man. It says ages three and up.  
I don't think I can wait two-and-a-  
half years to play with these.

SABRINA

So do them yourself. It'll be fun.  
I'll do 'em with you.

Sabrina takes the box and tosses it into Jimmy's cart. He smiles.

CUT TO:

2 INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY (D1)

2

The door opens and Jimmy enters with Hope.

\*

JIMMY

She's coming over! She's coming  
over! We're Shrinky Dinkin'. We're  
Shrinky Dinkin'.

Jimmy starts to clean up around the house. Burt is standing  
and concentrating as he's hitting a balloon back and forth  
from hand to hand. Virginia is walking with Maw Maw as she  
walks through the room with one hand holding her lower back.  
Maw Maw is also taking deep breaths.

\*

\*

\*

VIRGINIA

What the heck are you talking about?

JIMMY

Sabrina. We had this amazing  
conversation about Shrinky Dinks and  
the whole time I'm thinking I've met  
my soul mate.

\*

\*

\*

BURT

Did you get any chicken?

\*

\*

VIRGINIA

(to Jimmy)

Wait, she's coming over here? What  
about her boyfriend?

\*

JIMMY

Wyatt? I don't know. He's away at  
college still. I don't really know  
what this means. I just know she's  
coming over.

(notices Maw Maw)

What's going on here?

\*

VIRGINIA

Maw Maw thinks she's in labor.

MAW MAW

Oh, my God. This baby is going to  
rip a hole right through me!

BURT

Guys, I'm trying to beat the high  
score here. If you're going to talk  
loud, please turn your heads the  
other way. The wind is really messing  
me up.

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

Jimmy looks at Burt for a beat and then looks at Virginia and Maw Maw.

JIMMY

Okay, you guys have to get out of here. I don't want you to scare her away.

\*  
\*  
\*

VIRGINIA

I'm not going anywhere. I like her. She's sarcastic and funny, she says what's on her mind. Who does that remind you of?

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

JIMMY

Rosie O'Donnell?

\*  
\*

VIRGINIA

No, me. Doesn't she remind you of me?

\*  
\*  
\*

JIMMY

No! Don't ever say that again. You'll ruin it for me. And if you don't want this to be the last time she ever comes over, you have to get them out of here.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Burt moves Jimmy away with one arm while he bounces the balloon with the other.

\*  
\*

BURT

(to Jimmy)

I need you to step way back. This thing takes some weird bounces.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

MAW MAW

Oh my God, I feel like I'm about to pass a ham.

\*  
\*  
\*

VIRGINIA

Fine.

\*  
\*

Virginia picks up a knitting needle and quickly pops Burt's balloon. Burt is speechless.

\*  
\*

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Come on, did you really think I was gonna just sit here and watch you break my record?

\*  
\*  
\*

JIMMY

Thank you.

VIRGINIA

I'll take Hope too, but you need to take advantage of this and make a move on this girl.

BURT

Try and get her to sit next to you in the center of the couch where it dips. Ever since your fat aunt broke the springs, two people can't sit there without ending up on each other's laps.

VIRGINIA

Good idea. Give her some wine, get her in the couch dip and kiss her.

JIMMY

She has a boyfriend. I don't know if I'll be able to--

VIRGINIA

Jimmy, if you don't make a move soon you'll be stuck in the friend's zone. That's a real thing. I saw it on Friends. Ross and Rachel were stuck in it. It made for a lot of great episodes but poor Ross was in hell.

CUT TO MAIN TITLES:

3 INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM -- DAY (D1)

3

Jimmy is putting their Shrinky Dinks in the oven. Sabrina makes her way into the dining room.

JIMMY

It says these are supposed to cook for three minutes but this oven only goes to two twenty-five so we may be in for a bit of a wait.

\*

SABRINA

That's okay. Your house has a lot of cool stuff in it. Who plays the piano?

JIMMY

Pretty much anybody who's trying to get on someone else's nerves.

Jimmy enters with a two red plastic cups of wine. He sees that Sabrina has picked up a photo album.

\*

\*

SABRINA

Is this you?

Jimmy crosses over in a hurry.

JIMMY

Oh, you don't want to look through that. It's just a bunch of boring family portraits.

He tries to take it, but she wrestles it away.

SABRINA

Come on. I love family photos.

JIMMY

Wow. You're, like, shockingly strong.

SABRINA

I wrestled in junior high. I could have won state but they made me quit when I got boobs.

She flips through the photos and we see a family portrait of Teenage Burt and Teenage Virginia and baby Jimmy all wearing white. In another one they are all in straw hats. Then in another picture a Teenage Virginia, Teenage Burt and three-year-old Jimmy are all in wetsuits and are standing on a surfboard. In every picture, Virginia is the only one smiling.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

How come your mother's the only one that looks happy in all these?

JIMMY

Yeah, well, that's a little misleading. Nobody's happy.

CUT TO:

4 INT. PORTRAIT STUDIO -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D1 1989)

4

Under the V.O., Teenage Virginia and Teenage Burt are arguing. A three-year-old Jimmy sits on the floor with his head in his hands. Teenage Virginia and three-year-old Jimmy are dressed in french outfits, complete with berets. Teenage Burt is holding his beret in his hand.

\*  
\*  
\*

JIMMY (V.O.)

My parents would fight so much on picture day that it always turned into the worst day of the year.



TEENAGE VIRGINIA

Just shut up and put on your beret.

\*

TEENAGE BURT

I don't want to look like a dork!

TEENAGE VIRGINIA

If you don't want to look like a  
dork, you need to take off your face!

THREE-YEAR-OLD JIMMY

Ahhhhhhhhhhhh!

PHOTOGRAPHER (O.S.)

Say cheese.

Teenage Virginia turns to the camera and gives a big smile.  
Teenage Burt looks annoyed. Three-year-old Jimmy keeps his  
head in his hands. A flash goes off and the picture freezes.

CUT TO:

5	OMITTED	5
6	INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D2 1994)	6

We see the portrait from the last scene in the photo album.  
The album closes.

JIMMY (V.O.)

And the more portraits that turned  
out bad the more stressed my mother  
seemed to get.

Virginia puts it down on the table. A very nervous eight-  
year-old Jimmy sits on the couch with Maw Maw. They are  
both wearing full ski suits with a pair of skis resting on  
the couch between them. Virginia, also in a ski suit, paces  
and looks at her watch.

VIRGINIA

If we get there late they won't have  
time to switch the backdrop from the  
family before us.

(looks at her watch)

You're killing me!

Burt comes out of his bedroom and awkwardly makes his way  
down the hall in a ski suit and ski boots.

MAW MAW

Your mother is crazy. If I'm ever  
that crazy I want you to take me out  
in the backyard and blow my head off  
with a shotgun. You got that?

Eight-year-old Jimmy nods his head yes.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. STREET -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D2 1994) 7

Virginia's car drives down the road. There are skis tied to the roof with rope.

CUT TO:

8 INT. VAN -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D2 1994) 8 \*

Eight-year-old Jimmy and Maw Maw are in the back seat. Burt is driving and Virginia is sitting next to him.

BURT

I just don't understand why we're dressed in ski clothes. We've never been skiing.

VIRGINIA

I saw a picture in a house I clean where the whole family was skiing. They were on a mountain, everyone was smiling, it looked like a lot of fun.

BURT

Of course it looked like a lot of fun. They were skiing. They weren't sitting in a car with no air conditioning on a ninety degree day in ski suits.

VIRGINIA

Shut up.

"Do-Wacka-Do" by Roger Miller comes on the radio. Burt turns it up and Virginia turns it off.

BURT

Hey. I like that song.

Burt turns it back on.

VIRGINIA

I'm not in the mood for Do-Wacka-Do.

Virginia turns it back off.

BURT

I am.

Burt turns it back on. She turns it back off. The car starts to pick up speed. Burt turns the radio back on.

VIRGINIA

Burt, I swear to God if you don't  
turn that off...

(notices their speed)

Burt, slow down.

Burt tries but can't.

BURT

I can't. My boot is stuck.

Virginia tries to help him.

VIRGINIA

What do you mean your boot is stuck?

BURT

I mean, this stupid giant boot that  
you made me wear is stuck! I can't  
get it out! We're all going to die!

A terrified eight-year-old Jimmy looks at Maw Maw.

MAW MAW

We've had a good life kid.

Virginia struggles for a few more beats as the music plays until finally Burt's foot comes free and he slams on the brakes.

CUT TO:

9 EXT. STREET -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D2 1994)

9

We see a wide shot of the whole family awkwardly making their way down the road in their ski suits and boots and carrying skis.

\*

CUT TO:

10 INT. PORTRAIT STUDIO -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D2 1994)

10

The family is posing in front of a beach backdrop in their ski clothes. Maw Maw is asleep. Eight-year-old Jimmy is crying.

BURT

I'm just saying it's the same thing  
every year!

VIRGINIA

Well, maybe you should have knocked  
up a different girl in the wave pool  
at the water park!

BURT

If I wasn't afraid to go in the deep  
end, I would have!

PHOTOGRAPHER (O.S.)

Say cheese!

Virginia turns to the camera and smiles. Burt sticks his  
tongue out at Virginia. A flash goes off.

CUT TO:

11 INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY -- PRESENT DAY (D1)

11

We're tight on the picture that was taken in the last scene.  
We widen to reveal that Jimmy and Sabrina are looking at it.  
Sabrina is laughing. Jimmy shuts the book and crosses to  
the couch.

\*  
\*

JIMMY

Alright. That's enough of that.  
(re: couch)

You gotta be tired from being on  
your feet all day. Dogs are probably  
barkin'. We should sit down.

\*  
\*  
\*

Jimmy sits down on the center of the couch and it dips.  
Sabrina starts towards the couch as Virginia enters through  
the front door and crosses to the table.

\*  
\*  
\*

VIRGINIA

Sorry, sorry, sorry. Hope threw her  
pacifier in that coin fountain at  
the mall. Burt made a wish on it so  
he wouldn't let us take it back out.

(to Sabrina, sweetly)

Hi. How are you?

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

SABRINA

Good.

\*  
\*

VIRGINIA

Did you do your shrinky things?

\*  
\*

Jimmy gets up from the couch.

\*

JIMMY

(leave)

Yep. And we were just about to sit  
down.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

SABRINA

Jimmy was telling me about some of  
your family portraits.

VIRGINIA

(surprised)

Really? Well, portrait day is always  
interesting around here.

(joking)

I hope he didn't tell you anything  
that made me look too crazy.

Sabrina makes an "ehh" gesture with her hand.

SABRINA

Ehhh.

Virginia glares at Jimmy.

JIMMY

I just told her the truth. Doesn't  
Hope need her pacifier?

VIRGINIA

She can suck on Burt's knuckle for a  
while.

Virginia takes the photo album and crosses to the couch.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Come here, sweetheart. Let me tell  
you about a couple of these.

She sits in the middle of the couch. It creaks and dips a  
little.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

I want to make sure you see the kind  
of idiots I'm dealing with before  
you think I'm the crazy one.

Sabrina sits down next to Virginia. It dips a lot. They  
slide together.

SABRINA

Whoa. This is some couch.

JIMMY

It sure is.

Defeated, Jimmy sits on the arm of the couch.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

A11 INT. KITCHEN -- DAY (D1) A11 \*

Jimmy pulls Virginia into the kitchen. \*

JIMMY \*

What are you doing coming in there  
and using the dip before I got a  
chance? You're totally couch-blocking  
me. \*

VIRGINIA \*

Jimmy you could end up marrying this  
girl. I'm not gonna let you paint  
me out to be the crazy mother in-  
law. You already made me a stinkin'  
grandmother at thirty-nine. \*

JIMMY \*

Don't you think I should kiss her  
before you worry about what she thinks  
about you as her mother in-law? \*

VIRGINIA \*

You don't get a second chance to  
make a first impression. Think about  
Joey on Friends. As soon as you  
heard him say one stupid thing, that  
was it. Done. He's the dumb guy.  
I'm not going to let you make me the  
crazy lady. \*

JIMMY \*

(beat) \*

You've been watching a lot of Friends  
episodes lately, haven't you? \*

VIRGINIA \*

You know what? I have. It's always  
on when we're cleaning houses. And  
let me tell you, it's even funnier  
in Spanish. They call it Amigos. \*

CUT TO: \*

12 INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY (D1) 12 \*

Sabrina sits on the couch and flips through the photo album. \*

SABRINA \*

Jimmy, are you missing a clump of  
hair in this picture? \*

Virginia enters followed by Jimmy. \*

VIRGINIA  
Yeah, he is. He ate it. \*

SABRINA  
Excuse me? \*

JIMMY  
Someone stressed me out so much that  
I started pulling out my hair and  
eating it as a nervous twitch. \*

SABRINA  
(re: picture)  
You look awful. Why didn't you just  
shave your head? \*

VIRGINIA  
Oh, God, no. He's got a birth mark  
on his head that looks like a big  
ol'-- \*

JIMMY  
(cutting her off)  
Florida. It's shaped like Florida.  
(beat)  
Florida with balls. \*

Sabrina turns the page and looks at a portrait we don't see.

SABRINA  
Why isn't your husband in this one? \*

VIRGINIA  
Oh, that's the year Burt went crazy. \*

CUT TO:

13 INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D3 2008)

13

CHYRON: Two Years Ago. Virginia, Burt and Maw Maw are all wearing cardigans, turtle necks and khakis. Every item of clothing still has the tags on it. Maw Maw is wearing a trash bag over her sweater and Virginia is feeding her soup.

VIRGINIA  
(calling)  
Jimmy! You better be getting dressed.

Virginia notices Burt tugging at his turtleneck. \*

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)  
Burt, don't you stretch that  
turtleneck.

BURT

It's too tight. It's hard to swallow.  
My mouth keeps filling up with spit.

\*  
\*

MAW MAW

I want soup!

VIRGINIA

You're eating soup.  
(calling)  
Jimmy!

Jimmy enters wearing his cardigan, turtleneck and khakis.  
He's nervously pulling at his hair.

JIMMY

I'm here. I'm ready. I'm sorry.

Jimmy eats some hair.

VIRGINIA

Oh, no. Not the hair pulling. We  
are not having another family portrait  
where you look like you just had  
brain surgery.

BURT

It's your fault for stressing him  
out.

Jimmy eats some hair.

VIRGINIA

(to Jimmy)  
Well, calm down! Just calm the hell  
down!

JIMMY

I'm trying.

CUT TO:

14 INT. VAN -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D3 2008)

14

Burt drives. Virginia rides shotgun. Jimmy and Maw Maw are  
sitting in the back seat. Jimmy is wearing a flap hat.

VIRGINIA

This is going to be a good picture.  
I can feel it. Everybody check each  
other's teeth. I don't want to see  
any of that turkey meatloaf we had  
last night.



Virginia shows her teeth to Burt. He unenthusiastically shows her his as he drives. Maw Maw hands Jimmy something. He looks down to see that it's her teeth. He reacts, picks something out of them, flicks it and then hands the teeth back to her.

CUT TO:

15 INT. PORTRAIT STUDIO -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D3 2008) 15

This is a low-rent portrait place. Bare bones. One photographer. As Virginia is putting lipstick on Maw Maw she keeps trying to bite the lipstick.

VIRGINIA

Stop it, Maw Maw. This is not food.

Burt tugs at a tag on his sweater. \*

BURT \*

This tag is digging into the back of my neck. \*

VIRGINIA \*

Do not pull that tag off. These sweaters cost a fortune and when we're done they're going right back to Fashion Barn Outlet Outlet. \*

Maw Maw leans over and takes a bite of the lipstick. Jimmy crosses to Virginia. He's missing an eyebrow. \*

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Damn it. Where's your eyebrow?

JIMMY

I ate it. I'm sorry.

VIRGINIA

What the hell is wrong with you? \*

JIMMY

I'm sorry.

Jimmy goes to pull at his other eyebrow and Virginia slaps his hand.

BURT

I can't do this anymore.

VIRGINIA

Excuse me?

BURT

I can't stand here and watch you  
torture everyone like this.

Burt starts to leave.

\*

VIRGINIA

Get back here.

Virginia grabs his arm. Burt moves away from her and grabs  
his tag as if he's going to pull it.

BURT

Don't touch me or I'll pull it.

VIRGINIA

You wouldn't dare.

BURT

Try me.

They circle each other with locked eyes.

\*

VIRGINIA

Pull that tag and we can't make our  
next credit card payment. That means  
a finance charge. You know how I  
feel about finance charges. Only  
suckers pay finance charges.

\*

\*

\*

BURT

Just stay calm. You let me walk out  
of here and no one has to pay a  
finance charge.

\*

Burt makes his way to the exit. Virginia lets him go.

\*

VIRGINIA

Fine. Go. We'll take the picture  
without you. It'll probably be the  
first good one we've ever had.

Virginia turns to see that Jimmy has completely pulled off  
his other eyebrow. He's chewing something.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Son of a bitch.

CUT TO:

16 INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY -- PRESENT DAY (D1)

16

Virginia, Sabrina and Jimmy are looking at the portrait of  
Virginia, Maw Maw, and an eyebrow-less Jimmy.

\*

VIRGINIA

See? It's not me. It's them.  
They're the crazy ones.

JIMMY

Yeah, well, whoever's fault it is,  
it's only once a year on portrait  
day. Every other day we're just a  
normal family.

Burt comes in the front door holding Hope. He puts her in a  
play pen.

BURT

Sorry. Maw Maw needs new pants.  
Her water broke.

Maw Maw enters through the front door.

MAW MAW

Oh, Lord. I can feel the head!

Jimmy hangs his head. Burt crosses with Maw Maw to the  
hallway.

BURT

Virginia, you're gonna have to come  
back here. I don't...  
(gags)  
I don't...  
(gags, then quickly)  
I don't think I can do this alone.

Burt and Maw Maw exit. Virginia follows.

VIRGINIA

Lay her down in the tub and pull the  
pants off from the ankles.

Sabrina watches all of them head down the hallway.

JIMMY

I'm very sorry you have to see all  
this.

SABRINA

Are you kidding me? Your family is  
amazing.

JIMMY

Excuse me?

SABRINA

The pictures, the stories, an old lady who thinks she's giving birth. If Ripley was here, he would probably go with "not."

JIMMY

You actually like this?

SABRINA

I love it. And your mother? Oh my God. She doesn't even realize that she's the craziest one of all. This is great. I may never leave.

Jimmy smiles.

JIMMY

Why would you? More wine?

CUT TO:

17 INT. KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER (D1)

17 \*

Jimmy is pouring wine from a box. Virginia enters behind him and picks up a Shrinky Dink off a cookie tray on the table. She blows on it.

\*  
\*  
\*

VIRGINIA

What kind of cookies are these?

\*  
\*

JIMMY

Don't eat that! Those are Shrinky Dinks. See, I made ones that look like all of us and that's Sabrina.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Jimmy goes back to pouring wine.

\*

VIRGINIA

I don't understand your generation. If your dad and I had a box of wine and the house to ourselves we would have done it twice by now.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

JIMMY

I'm working on it.

\*  
\*

VIRGINIA

Well, don't worry. I'll try and keep the looney bin back there.

\*  
\*  
\*

JIMMY

Don't worry about it. In fact, bring Maw Maw out.

\*  
\*

(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

We can let Sabrina cut the imaginary  
cord. Turns out she's a big fan.

VIRGINIA

She a big fan of what?

JIMMY

Us. How crazy we are. Especially  
you. So thanks.

VIRGINIA

But I'm not crazy. I already told  
her that.

JIMMY

That's what she loves. That you are  
but you don't realize you are.

VIRGINIA

But I'm not.

JIMMY

You kinda are.

VIRGINIA

I'm kinda not.

JIMMY

Okay, look, this is all great stuff.  
Save it for in there.

VIRGINIA

(crazy eyed)

Oh, I'll save it for in there. She  
thinks I'm crazy? Let's just see  
how much crazy she can handle.

Virginia crosses to the living room.

BURT (O.S.)

Virginia! Help! She's pushing!

\*

VIRGINIA

(calling)

Deal with it!

Virginia exits.

JIMMY

(to himself)

Oh, no.

Jimmy reaches up, pulls out some eyebrow hair, and starts to  
eat it.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

18 INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY (D1) 18

Sabrina is still looking through the photo album. Virginia comes in the living room, followed by Jimmy.

VIRGINIA

So, I hear you think I'm crazy. \*

SABRINA

And there's no secrets in this house. \*

I like it. \*

(to Virginia) \*

Yes, I said you were a little crazy. \*

But in a good way. \*

(to Jimmy) \*

You told her it was in a good way right? \*

VIRGINIA

He told me what you said. \*

SABRINA

Maybe I should go before we all end up on Dateline. \*

VIRGINIA

No, you can't go. You haven't seen all the family pictures yet. \*

Virginia crosses to her purse.

JIMMY

She's seen plenty. Let's do something else. Checkers? We've got Chinese or regular. \*

VIRGINIA

(re: envelope) \*

Here it is. \*

Virginia brings an envelope over to Sabrina.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

The latest picture. Came in the mail yesterday. Trust me, if you like crazy, you're gonna love this one.

Virginia goes to put the envelope down on the table.

CUT TO:

19 INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D4 2010)

19

We're tight on the coffee table as a hand slaps down an ad to a portrait place. CHYRON: Three Weeks Ago. We widen to see that Jimmy and Hope are sitting on the couch and it was Virginia who slapped the ad down on the table. Burt is playing a video game.

\*

VIRGINIA

The portrait place is having a special on Sunday. If we make an appointment before eight a.m. we get a dishwasher safe dinner plate with our picture on it.

JIMMY

I thought we weren't doing portraits anymore.

VIRGINIA

Why? Because your father lost his mind? We have a new baby in the house and we're getting our family portrait with or without him.

\*

\*

Burt doesn't stop looking at the TV.

BURT

Without.

Virginia exits down the hallway and Jimmy starts to pull at his hair. Burt notices, even though he continues to play his game.

\*

BURT (CONT'D)

You don't have to do this, you know.

JIMMY

No, it's cool. It's important to Mom.

\*

\*

BURT

Look, Jimmy. I waited too long to stand up to her about this portrait thing. Look at you. Even the thought of it turns you into a wreck. Don't wait until Hope's eating her hair. It's disgusting. Be a better dad than me.

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

Virginia enters from the hallway. She's already starting to stress.



VIRGINIA

I'm gonna do a fifties theme this year. You can slick your hair back, maybe that will keep you from eating it like a mental patient.

\*

Burt looks at Jimmy.

JIMMY

Hey, Mom. Maybe... maybe we shouldn't do the picture.

VIRGINIA

What?

JIMMY

It's just... you know, it kinda stresses you out and that stresses me out and, well, there's a reason we don't have a picture with everyone smiling in it.

VIRGINIA

(to Burt)

You told him to do this.

BURT

Yep.

VIRGINIA

The only reason I get stressed is because I have to organize everything. It's like wrangling feral cats. I'd love to just sit back and let somebody else guide the ship, but it's been twenty-four years and no one else wants to take the damn reins.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

JIMMY

Fine. I'll do it.

\*

VIRGINIA

What?

\*

JIMMY

I'll take the reins of the... cat ship. I mean, I want to have a family portrait with Hope in it. The only other picture we have of her is on her prison ID.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

BURT

If he's in charge I'm back in.

VIRGINIA

Fine. 'Bout time somebody else cares  
just as much about the picture as I  
do. I'm glad some of my positive  
energy is finally rubbing off on  
this family.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

CUT TO:

20 INT. JIMMY AND HOPE'S BEDROOM -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D5  
2010)

20 \*

Jimmy is playing a video game while Hope plays nearby.  
Virginia pleasantly sticks her head in from the hallway.

\*

VIRGINIA

Hey, when you took over the portrait  
stuff you forgot to tell me what our  
theme is going to be. We've only  
got three days so you should probably  
nail that down.

\*

JIMMY

(not looking up)

No theme this year. We're all just  
gonna wear whatever we're comfortable  
in.

Virginia stares for a long beat.

VIRGINIA

Okey, doke.

CUT TO:

21 INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT -- FLASHBACK (FB N6 2010)

21 \*

Jimmy is making a snack for Hope. Virginia pleasantly enters.

VIRGINIA

I know you probably know this, but  
we've only got two days before the  
portrait and I noticed you haven't  
plucked Maw Maw's neck mole yet.  
You have to do it early enough so  
the redness goes away but late enough  
so it doesn't start to grow back.  
It's a pretty small window of  
opportunity.

JIMMY

(not looking up)

Yeah, that always stresses everyone  
out with all the yelling and the  
(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

holding her down and all. You're  
the only one who ever really notices  
that hair so I think I'm just going  
to let her go au natural this year.

Virginia stares for a long beat.

VIRGINIA

Okey, doke.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. BACKYARD -- NIGHT -- FLASHBACK (FB N7 2010)

22 \*

Jimmy is playing with Hope. Virginia comes out on the deck.  
She has curlers in her hair.

VIRGINIA

Tomorrow's picture day. You got a  
shower schedule? We've only got  
twelve minutes of warm water.

\*  
\*  
\*

JIMMY

Yeah, we're not gonna rush in the  
morning. I didn't want everybody  
freaking out about being late so I  
figured we'd just get over there  
when we got over there.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

VIRGINIA

(beat)

You know we get a dishwasher safe  
portrait plate if we get there before  
eight.

JIMMY

Yeah, I know. But since it's kind  
of creepy seeing the whole family  
staring at you through a plate of  
spaghetti, I figured it didn't matter.

Virginia stares for a long beat.

VIRGINIA

Okey, doke.

CUT TO:

23 INT. PORTRAIT STUDIO -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D8 2010)

23 \*

Our family is all wearing normal clothes except for Virginia  
who is dressed in fifties clothing complete with a poodle  
skirt with the tags still on. Another family is posing and  
dressed in all white.

\*  
\*  
\*

JIMMY

(to Virginia)

You know I said there wasn't going  
to be a theme, right?

VIRGINIA

I know. You said to dress in  
something we were comfortable in.  
This is comfortable. Plus, I wasn't  
ruling out the chance you were all  
planning on surprising me with a  
theme. Which clearly you're not,  
which is fine because the important  
thing is we're finally going to get  
a portrait of all of us smiling.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Smile!

The other family smiles and the flash goes off.

VIRGINIA

Just like that. But without a theme.

JIMMY

Thanks, Mom. I know this is hard  
for you.

Jimmy puts his arm around her. She smiles.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Next.

The other family exits and our family walks over to the photo  
area.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)

Okay, how would you guys like to  
pose?

Jimmy looks at where everyone happens to have ended up  
standing.

JIMMY

I think this looks good.

PHOTOGRAPHER

That's easy. Let's do this.

Virginia sits on a carpeted cube and poses. Everyone looks  
at the camera and smiles.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)

Great. Fantastic smiles.  
(MORE)

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)

What a happy family. Here we go.  
One, two...

Virginia jumps off the carpeted cube. \*

VIRGINIA

Ahhhhhhhhhhh!

A flash goes off and we FREEZE ON THE PICTURE. Everyone is  
smiling except for Virginia. We UNFREEZE back to live action. \*

VIRGINIA

This is crazy. This picture is gonna  
be terrible. \*

BURT

Virginia... \*

VIRGINIA

Look at you people. There's no theme.  
How's anyone gonna know we're a  
family? We look like a bunch of  
idiots who just met at a thrift store. \*  
And we're not even posing. I mean, \*  
come on, pick something. \*

(demonstrates) \*

Arm in arm. Shoulder train. Congo  
line. Rappers. Damn it, at the  
very least we should face away from  
the camera and look over our  
shoulders. \*

JIMMY

Mom, settle down. It's okay.

Jimmy starts to pull at his hair and eat it.

VIRGINIA

It's not okay, Jimmy. It's not.  
Because the picture isn't going to  
be perfect and if the picture isn't  
perfect there isn't any reason to  
take it.

(notices Maw Maw)

For God sakes, how can I be the only  
person that sees that tree branch of  
a hair growing out of the side of  
Maw Maw's neck?

Virginia storms out.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

24 EXT. PARKING LOT -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D8 2010)

24

Virginia is sitting on the open tailgate of the truck. Her head is in her hands. Burt approaches cautiously.

BURT

Hey. You okay?

VIRGINIA

No.

Burt sits next to her on the tailgate.

BURT

Jimmy's paying and then we can get out of here. I think the one picture the guy took could be alright. It's not the worst one we ever had.

Virginia doesn't smile. They sit for a beat.

BURT (CONT'D)

Why does the picture have to be perfect?

VIRGINIA

Because everyone else's is.

BURT

Who?

VIRGINIA

Everyone. You don't understand. You clean people's pools, cut their grass... you're outside. I'm cleaning the inside. And every house I clean has these perfect family portraits. Everyone's happy, smiling... I just wanted one perfect portrait to fool people into thinking we had whatever those other families had. But we don't. We're a rag tag bunch of idiots who can't even fake it long enough to pose for one lousy picture.

\*  
\*

They sit for a beat.

BURT

Well, you've made me feel terrible.

CUT TO:

25 INT. BURT'S TRUCK -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D8 2010)

25

Burt drives, Virginia sits in the middle and Jimmy is next to her. Visible in the back seat are Maw Maw and Hope. After a beat of driving, Burt turns on the radio. We hear the end of a commercial, a radio station jingle and then the song, "Do-Wacka-Do" by Roger Miller starts to play.

ON RADIO

*I hear tell you're doin' well, Good  
things have come to you. I wish I  
had your happiness. And you had a  
do-wacka-do, wacka-do, wacka-do,  
wacka--*

Virginia turns the radio off. Burt waits a beat and then turns it back on. Virginia turns it off. Burt waits a beat and then turns it back on. Virginia looks at him for a beat. Is she going to soften? No. She pulls her leg back and starts to kick at the radio. Eventually it breaks and the music stops. They drive for a beat. Then, only because she just heard it, Maw Maw starts to sing "Do-Wacka-Do." Virginia hangs her head.

MAW MAW

*(singing)  
I wish I had your good luck charm,  
And you had a do-wacka-do, wacka-do,  
wacka-do, wacka-do, wacka-do.*

BURT

*(singing)  
Yeah, I see you're going down the  
street in your big Cadillac, you got  
girls in the front, you got girls in  
the back.*

JIMMY

*(singing)  
Yeah, way in the back, you've got  
money in the sack, Both hands on the  
wheel and you shoulders rared back.*

JIMMY/BURT

*(singing)  
Root-doot-doot-doot-doot, do-wah.*

Virginia looks at them for a beat.

VIRGINIA

(singing)

*I hear tell you're doing well, Good  
things have come to you. I wish I  
had your happiness.*

JIMMY/BURT/VIRGINIA

(singing)

*And you had a do-wacka-do, wacka-do,  
wacka-do, wacka-do, wacka-do.*

MAW MAW

(singing nonsense  
syllable interlude  
like...)

*Ba doobie doop doobie do ba, da doobie  
doobie dah.*

Everyone starts to laugh and smile.

CUT TO:

26 EXT. STREET -- DAY -- FLASHBACK (FB D8 2010)

26

The truck goes through a red light and a traffic camera  
flashes.

CUT TO:

27 INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY -- BACK TO PRESENT (D1)

27

Sabrina is looking at the picture that was mailed to them  
with the traffic ticket. In the picture the entire family  
is in the truck smiling.

SABRINA

I like it.

VIRGINIA

Sure you do. It's another crazy  
thing to make fun of our family about.  
Want to come in the other room and  
see my grandmother's inverted nipples?  
How about our bank statement? It's  
a hoot.

SABRINA

No, I think it's a great picture. I  
mean, my family has all those  
portraits you were talking about.

(MORE)



SABRINA (CONT'D)

We're all posed perfectly, smiling...  
I'm not saying we weren't happy, but  
in every picture someone told us  
when to smile. The smiles are fake.

(re: traffic photo)

All these smiles are real. You  
captured a moment of actual family  
joy. That's kind of rare. I think  
you finally got your picture.

Virginia looks at the picture for a beat and then looks at  
Sabrina.

VIRGINIA

I like her, Jimmy. Smart.  
Insightful. I told you we had a lot  
in common.

(to Sabrina)

You're staying for dinner.

\*  
\*  
\*

Virginia gets up and crosses to the kitchen. During the  
following Virginia speech, Sabrina's phone rings and she  
looks at it. From over her shoulder Jimmy can see that it's  
Wyatt calling. A picture of him and Sabrina hugging comes  
up on the caller ID. Jimmy reacts. This is going to mess  
things up.

VIRGINIA (O.S.)

We're having TV dinners. If you're  
a vegetarian I'm pretty sure you can  
talk Burt into trading you his  
vegetable section for your salisbury  
steak section.

She hits ignore on her phone. Jimmy smiles. This is big.

SABRINA

Sounds great. And I'm not a  
vegetarian. I want my salisbury  
steak section. So tell Burt to stand  
down.

JIMMY

I'll get us some more wine.

Jimmy grabs the plastic cups and crosses into the kitchen.

CUT TO:

28 INT. KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS (D1)

28

Jimmy rushes into the kitchen where Virginia is starting to  
get dinner ready. They keep their voices down during the  
following.

JIMMY

She hit ignore.

VIRGINIA

What?

JIMMY

She hit ignore. Her boyfriend just called and she hit ignore.

VIRGINIA

What does that mean? My phone doesn't have an ignore. When I ignore someone I just ignore them.

\*

JIMMY

I don't know, I don't have an ignore either. But this is good, right?

VIRGINIA

Go kiss her.

JIMMY

What?

VIRGINIA

Go kiss her, now. It's time. I'm telling you. You need to do it before it's too late. Go.

Virginia pushes him towards the living room. He exits.  
Burt enters from the hallway, wiping his hands with a towel.

BURT

Two pounds, three ounces. Mother is resting comfortably.

CUT TO:

29 INT. LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS (D1)

29

Jimmy sits on the couch next to Sabrina who is looking through the photo album again. Unseen by Sabrina, Virginia watches from the kitchen.

SABRINA

Thanks for letting me come over.  
This was a lot of fun.

Virginia motions for Jimmy to kiss her. Jimmy motions back for her to go away.

JIMMY

I gotta admit I was a little nervous about you learning so much about my family. I thought that might scare you off.

SABRINA

No way. Just the opposite.

Once again, Virginia motions for Jimmy to kiss her. Jimmy motions back for her to go away.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

However, if you meet a girl that you wanna date, you know, not just a friend... you might want to hold off on showing her the photo album for the first couple months.

JIMMY

Yeah. Yeah, that might be a good idea.

Jimmy looks over at Virginia who reacts.

VIRGINIA

Waited too long. Just like Ross.

Virginia exits into the kitchen. Sabrina looks back and then looks at Jimmy, confused. He shrugs and makes a "she's crazy" gesture with his hand.

JIMMY (V.O.)

I guess maybe I waited too long...

CUT TO:

30 INT. JIMMY AND HOPE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT (N1)

30

Jimmy is talking to Hope as she's going to sleep. He's spinning a mobile that hangs over her crib that is made out of the Shrinky Dink faces he made of himself, Sabrina, Burt, Virginia, Maw Maw and Hope.

JIMMY

... But I did learn one thing today. Sabrina likes me. Right now it might just be as a friend, but who knows? She was enjoying hanging out with me enough to ignore a call from her boyfriend. Maybe one day she'll be willing to ignore him all together.

(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I guess you just need to keep yourself  
close to the people in your life  
that you want to be with and hope  
that fate will put you together.

Jimmy leans down and kisses Hope good night. As he exits  
the mobile stops spinning and the Shrinky Dink of Jimmy comes  
to rest next to the Shrinky Dink of Sabrina. We hold for a  
beat. Then Hope starts to scream. Jimmy comes back in the  
room.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Yeah, I thought that was a little  
too easy.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW