

# Raising Hope

"The Sniffles"

1ARY05

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# RAISING HOPE

Episode #105

“The Sniffles”

## CAST LIST

JIMMY ..... LUCAS NEFF  
 VIRGINIA ..... MARTHA PLIMPTON  
 BURT ..... GARRET DILLAHUNT  
 SABRINA ..... SHANNON WOODWARD  
 BARNEY ..... GREGG BINKLEY  
 TEENAGE BURT ..... CAMERON MOULENE  
 TEENAGE VIRGINIA ..... KELLY HEYER  
 GREEN THUMB ..... RAYMOND MA\*  
 GARY ..... TBA  
 NURSE ..... TBA  
 JOSH ..... JOSH WOLF\*  
 COUNCILMAN BLAKE ..... TBA  
 DIRTY ANGEL ..... TBA  
 FRANK ..... TBA\*  
 THREE-YEAR-OLD JIMMY ..... TRACE!  
 DOCTOR TIM (V.O.) ..... TBA

## **RAISING HOPE**

Episode #105

“The Sniffles”

### SET LIST

#### **Interiors**

Chance House

Dining Room

Living Room

Kitchen

Hallway

Bathroom

Jimmy & Hope’s Bedroom

Grocery Store

Free Clinic

Small VIP Room

#### **Exteriors**

Front Yard

Umstead Park

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 INT. DINING ROOM -- AFTERNOON (D1)

1

We find Jimmy is sitting at the keyboard of a fairly new computer. It's a PC tower, with flat screen monitor and a printer all set up on a small computer desk. Virginia looks over his shoulder. Burt enters.

BURT

Whoa. What's that?

JIMMY

Our new computer.

VIRGINIA

A woman I clean for caught her son shaving his privates on something called Chat-roulette. Anyway, he's off to military school and we got a new computer.

BURT

Hey, hey, hey, slow down there, Jimmy. Do you even know what the hell you're doing?

VIRGINIA

Of course he does, Burt. It's a computer, not a condom.

JIMMY

Hilarious, Mom.

(to Burt)

Relax, Dad. Nothing's gonna happen.

BURT

You call identity theft nothin'? 'Cause that's what happens when you go on the internet, Jimmy. Identity theft.

VIRGINIA

Burt, look around. Who's going to steal our identity?

BURT

It's not just identity theft. There's a lot of dangerous stuff out there. Worms, viruses, walls of fire...

VIRGINIA

You think everything you don't understand is dangerous. For cripes sake, you're terrified of Sweet'n Low.

BURT

Yeah, because it makes drinks sweet, but tastes disgusting when you pour it in your mouth. And nobody knows why.

JIMMY

This is gonna be great for us. It answers questions.

(to Virginia)

We can finally stop arguing about stuff.

(typing)

"Can babies have sodas with caffeine?"

VIRGINIA

Of course she can have soda with caffeine. And she's lucky enough to be at the age where she doesn't have to drink diet.

JIMMY

(re: computer)

This one says, "no." This one says, "never." And this one says, "Can babies have soda with caffeine for sale on Amazon."

BURT

I'm telling you, that machine brings the bad stuff right into your house. If you're a repulsive shopper, you wind up buying stuff on there. If you're a sex addict, there's plenty of that on there.

JIMMY

We get it. There's eBay and porn and gambling...

BURT

(quickly)

There's gambling on there?

(catching himself)

See what I mean? I can't be in the same room as that thing.

Burt walks out of the room.

VIRGINIA

Hey, ask it if they ever found that  
city David Copperfield made disappear.

Burt comes back in.

BURT

What kind of gambling? Because a  
little bit probably won't be a problem  
for me.

CUT TO MAIN TITLES:

2 EXT. FRONT YARD -- DAY (D2)

2

We are down low to the ground on Burt as he watches a potato  
chip pass through frame. Jimmy watches from nearby, cutting  
a black and white cookie in half.

BURT

Can you imagine what it's like to be  
an ant? It's like you and ten of  
your buddies pick up a potato chip  
to bring it back to your ant family  
so everyone can eat. And it takes  
you like three hours to get it from  
(pointing a few feet  
away)  
over there to over there. And then  
some jerk comes along and...

Burt flicks the potato chip which sails a few feet away.

BURT (CONT'D)

(laughing)

Ants.

Jimmy hands Burt the chocolate half of the cookie.

JIMMY

Here's your half of the cookie.

BURT

Cool.

(sprinkling crumbs to  
the ants)

Thanks for the show, boys.

A clean, new van pulls up nearby. The side of the van reads  
"Green Thumb Landscaping" and has a logo of a giant green  
thumb. Behind it arrives a Hummer with the same logo on it.

BURT (CONT'D)

Oh God, look who it is.

GREEN THUMB, an arrogant looking man, older than Burt, dressed in Ed Hardy clothes and wearing a bluetooth headset, gets out of the Hummer. He blows a whistle at several workers who hop out of the van in matching jump suits, and begin taking out gear, strapping on blowers, etc. Green Thumb approaches.

\*

GREEN THUMB

Burt. Jimmy.

BURT/JIMMY

Thumb.

GREEN THUMB

You mow the lawn here? I thought this house was abandoned.

Burt rolls his eyes.

GREEN THUMB (CONT'D)

Check this out. I got a new tattoo.

Green Thumb holds up his right thumb which is tattooed green.

BURT

Is that really a tattoo, or has it been up your nose too long?

Burt looks at Jimmy and laughs. Jimmy forces a laugh to support Burt.

GREEN THUMB

I thought you were going to put me out of business. How long ago was that, Burt?

BURT

(mumbles)

Twenty years.

GREEN THUMB

(to Jimmy)

Your daddy ever tell you what he said to me the day he quit? "Take this job and shave it."

BURT

"Shove it." I said, "take this job and shove it."

GREEN THUMB

He said "shave it."

BURT

I meant "shove it."

GREEN THUMB

You know, the parks contract is up for grabs again. I noticed you don't even put in a bid anymore. I used to love beating you out for those.

BURT

I don't need any city contracts. I don't need the hassle.

(putting his arm around  
Jimmy)

My son and I got a nice thing going with our two-man crew.

Green Thumb blows his whistle. One of his employees runs over and shades him with an umbrella.

GREEN THUMB

Yeah, having a big crew sucks. Gotta go.

Green Thumb and his umbrella holder head off toward his crew.

BURT

(lamely)

Yeah, gotta go stick your thumb back up your nose.

Jimmy forces a laugh to support his dad when his cell phone rings. He looks at the caller ID.

JIMMY

It's Hope's day care.

(answers phone)

Hello?

(reacts, eyes go wide)

She's sick?! I'll be right there.

CUT TO:

3 INT. LIVING ROOM -- LATER (D2)

3 \*

Burt and Virginia are looking down at Hope in her bouncy seat. She has green snot coming out her nose. Jimmy is nearby on the phone.

JIMMY

(into phone)

There's some sort of green fluid coming from her nose. It could be mucus but we don't know. Okay, I'll hold.

Virginia grabs a tissue and wipes Hope's nose.

VIRGINIA

(matter of factly)

It's just a cold.

JIMMY

(into phone)

Yes, she'd be a new patient. I don't know. Hold on a sec.

(to the room)

What kind of insurance do we have?

Burt and Virginia look at each other and laugh.

VIRGINIA

We don't have that.

JIMMY

(into phone)

Yes, hello, uh... I don't have insurance. Is that gonna be a problem?

(beat)

Hello. Hello?

BURT

(still laughing with Virginia)

Insurance? Sure, I'll just have the butler go get it out of our hot air balloon.

FADE OUT:

4 OMITTED

4

5 OMITTED

5

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

6 INT. HALLWAY -- DAY (D2)

6

Burt finishes screwing a slide bolt lock to the outside of Maw Maw's door as Virginia duct tapes around the door jam. Jimmy enters.

JIMMY

I can't believe this. I called every doctor in town and no one will see me without insurance.

(to Burt)

Which they tell me most people get from their boss.

(noticing)

What are you guys doing?

VIRGINIA

Quarantining Maw Maw. She's eighty-four years old. If she catches Hope's cold it could kill her.

BURT

Which would mean dealing with that creepy funeral director.

(shivers)

No thank you.

Burt drills a one-inch diameter hole in the door.

VIRGINIA

(to Burt)

How are we supposed to pass the food through that?

Burt holds up a funnel attached to a hose.

BURT

I figure we can pour through this.

VIRGINIA

(impressed)

Nice.

JIMMY

(to Burt)

Well, when you're done with that, maybe you can tell me why you don't have insurance for your only employee.

BURT

I can't afford it. Besides, it's unnecessary. We're not cars, Jimmy. The human body heals itself.

VIRGINIA

Look, Jimmy, it's natural to get nervous when your baby is sick. But it's normal. You get sick, you get better. You get sick, you get better. You get sick, you die. That's life.

JIMMY

We can't do nothing. What did you do when I got sick?  
(off their looks)  
You did nothing?

VIRGINIA

No, obviously when you were really bad, we called the doctor.

CUT TO:

7 INT. LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT -- FLASHBACK (FB D1 1989)

7

Three-year-old Jimmy is lying on the couch with a cold compress on his head. On the coffee table there are crackers and ginger ale. Teenage Burt is holding a boombox. Teenage Virginia is on the phone.

DOCTOR TIM (V.O.)

(dryly)  
...Now the shampoo will kill them but it may take a couple of tries.

THREE-YEAR-OLD JIMMY

I think I'm gonna have the fast poops again.

TEENAGE VIRGINIA

(to Jimmy)  
Shh, I'm on next.

DOCTOR TIM (V.O.)

Next up we have a call from a young mother named Virginia. Virginia, welcome to the Doctor Tim Show. I'm Doctor Tim.

TEENAGE VIRGINIA

Hi, Doctor Tim, my baby has a fever of--

Teenage Burt grabs the phone out of her hand.

TEENAGE BURT  
Baba-booeey! Baba-booeey!

As Teenage Virginia shakes her head, Teenage Burt raises his arms in victory.

CUT TO:

8 INT. KITCHEN/HALLWAY -- BACK TO SCENE (D2)

8 \*

Jimmy, Burt and Virginia are where we left them.

JIMMY  
Unbelievable. I could've died.

VIRGINIA  
Stop being so dramatic. You're lucky we didn't pump you full of antibiotics.

(then)  
Hell, you're like that expensive meat they sell at those fancy stores where everyone has B.O. and they make you bring your own bags.

JIMMY  
No. You did the least amount of work possible, and got lucky. But I'm not just gonna wait around and see what happens. I'm taking Hope to a free clinic I found on the computer.

VIRGINIA  
Fine, but I'm going with you so I can laugh in your face when the doctor tells you I was right.

JIMMY  
Good. That way when the doctor tells me Hope has a horrible disease I can laugh in your face.

(beat)  
But I won't because I'll be very sad.

Jimmy exits. As he passes, we see a wire hanger come out of the slot in the door and try to fish the lock open.

\*

\*  
\*

CUT TO:

9                    INT. FREE CLINIC -- LATER (D2)

9

The waiting room is low budget, but clean. Several posters line the walls including one that reads: "How To Treat a Stab Wound". A few sick people sit listlessly in the chairs. A family of four, wearing clear shower caps full of white foam, sit under a sign that reads: "Lice Waiting Area".

We find Jimmy and Virginia sitting with Hope. Jimmy is filling out a stack of forms on a clipboard. Virginia hates being here. She's next to GARY, a huge guy who's got his foot up on a coffee table, his calf all purple and scaly.

VIRGINIA

(to Jimmy, sotto)

You really think this is better for her, Jimmy? This place is like a germ disco. Germs come in here. They dance, they sweat, they do each other and make more germs.

GARY offers her a snack.

GARY

You want some corn nuts?

VIRGINIA

(chuckling)

Oh, man. You are out of your mind.

JIMMY

How much do I weigh?

VIRGINIA

You're not filling those questions out about you are you?

JIMMY

(lying)

No.

Jimmy walks over to the window.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

(sotto to Nurse)

I'm gonna need another one of these pink ones.

DISSOLVE TO:

10            INT. FREE CLINIC -- LATER (D2)                    10

Jimmy fills out a form. Virginia stares at Gary's purple leg.

JIMMY  
What should I put for emergency contact?

VIRGINIA  
Nine-one-one.

JIMMY  
I think they want a person.

VIRGINIA  
(thinks, then)  
Put down John Stamos.  
(off his look)  
They'll have to call him and then I might get to meet him.

DISSOLVE TO:

11            INT. FREE CLINIC -- LATER (D2)                    11

Jimmy chews on the pen while he writes.

VIRGINIA  
Is that your pen or theirs?

JIMMY  
Theirs. Why?

He looks around and sees other people in the waiting room with similar pens. We see Gary scratching his purple leg with one. Someone picks their ear with one. A toddler has two pens up his nose. Someone scratches inside his cast with one. Jimmy quickly tosses his pen and starts to spit.

DISSOLVE TO:

12            INT. FREE CLINIC -- LATER (D2)                    12

JIMMY  
Do we have a history of--

VIRGINIA  
(cutting him off)  
Just check "no" for everything.  
It's their job to figure out what's wrong with her.

Virginia turns to Gary.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

(curious)

If you don't mind me asking, what's going on with that leg?

GARY

This leg? Nothing. But this one's killing me.

Gary puts his other leg on the table. It's wrapped in a black trash bag. He opens it and lets Virginia look in.

VIRGINIA

Ewwwwwwwwwwwwww. That is bad ass.

JIMMY

Done!

We angle on Jimmy talking to the Nurse behind the window.

NURSE

Okay. A doctor can see Hope next Tuesday at eleven A.M.

JIMMY

But that's practically a week from now.

NURSE

We're a free clinic. We're doing the best we can. We have one thermometer.

JIMMY

But she could be better by next Tuesday.

NURSE

Probably. From these symptoms I'm guessing it's just a cold.

We angle on Virginia, still in her seat.

VIRGINIA

Thank you!

Virginia turns back to Gary and we now see that she's eating corn nuts with him.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)  
(re: leg in plastic  
bag)

So anyway, go on with your story.  
You bred your huskies with wolves,  
and then what happened?

CUT TO:

13 INT. GROCERY STORE -- LATER (D2)

13

Sabrina is working her register. Jimmy approaches.

JIMMY

Hey, I went to buy some cough medicine  
but all that's there is these cards.  
Do I give it to you?

SABRINA

Sure do.

Sabrina takes the card from Jimmy and scans the bar code,  
and her register lets out a long beep. "Manager alerted"  
appears on the register's display.

JIMMY

(freaked out)  
What's happening? Did I win  
something?

SABRINA

Yep, a starring role in my favorite  
show. Apparently cough syrup is the  
main ingredient used by meth labs so  
we can't just let anybody buy it.

A moment later, Barney emerges from his office carrying a  
bottle of cough syrup, and a flashlight.

BARNEY

Frederick! Frederick, guard the  
door.

FREDDY, a bag boy, stops mopping and lethargically crosses  
to the door. Barney approaches Jimmy, and shines the  
flashlight into his eyes.

BARNEY (CONT'D)

Dilated pupils. What's your name,  
tweaker? You got some I.D.?

Jimmy hands Barney his I.D.

JIMMY

(to Sabrina)

Tell him I'm not a meth head. This  
is for my daughter Hope.

SABRINA

(to Barney)

I've never met this guy.

JIMMY

Aw, come on.

Barney gives him the once over.

BARNEY

Shifty eyes. Check. Pasty skin.  
Check. Poor hygiene. Check. Bad  
teeth. Check.

JIMMY

I know I should brush better, but  
I'm not a tweaker.

BARNEY

We'll see what the database says.

Barney walks away with the box of medicine and Jimmy's ID.  
He goes to a big book and starts looking up Jimmy's name.

JIMMY

(to Sabrina)

Great, now I've got no medicine for  
my kid.

SABRINA

You shouldn't give that to Hope  
anyway. Look it says right here:

(reading card)

"Not for children under two years of  
age. Consult a doctor."

JIMMY

(at wits' end)

I tried to consult a doctor, but I  
couldn't because I don't have  
insurance.

SABRINA

You should work here. Everybody  
gets insurance, even the part timers.

JIMMY

Wow, nice owners.

SABRINA

They're a couple of hippies. Think Ben and Jerry. If Jerry was a woman but still had the beard.

Barney comes over.

BARNEY

Well, you're not on our list. So, I can't legally prevent you from buying this, but I want you to look into your heart and--

JIMMY

I don't want it anymore.

BARNEY

I knew it!

Barney raises his hands in victory and calls out to the store.

BARNEY (CONT'D)

That's five this week, people. I've turned five this week.

(then)

Barney Hughes. Selling groceries, saving lives.

\*

CUT TO:

14 INT. HALLWAY/BATHROOM -- LATER (D2)

14

Jimmy enters, holding a job application and sees Virginia at Maw Maw's door, pouring a pitcher of smoothie through a funnel/tube apparatus that sticks through a hole in the plastic/door.

VIRGINIA

No, I cannot pour it faster, Maw Maw. You'll get a brain freeze.

(to Jimmy)

She loves her smoothies but she just can't pace herself.

JIMMY

I think I figured out how to get insurance for Hope.

VIRGINIA

Why? Her cold is practically gone.

JIMMY

Yeah, but it's not like she's never gonna get another one. Or something worse. She needs insurance.

There's a bang from inside Maw Maw's door.

VIRGINIA

No, I'm counting to ten before I pour more. Deal with it.

(back to Jimmy)

So what's your plan?

As Jimmy holds out a cup for her to give him some smoothie:

JIMMY

They need a bagger at the grocery store.

Burt cracks open the door, revealing the shower is on, the room is full of steam and he's holding Hope over his head in a car seat, letting her steam.

BURT

You can't do that, you work for me.

JIMMY

I'm still gonna work for you in the daytime, this is just at night and what are you doing with my daughter?

BURT

I'm getting her up where the good steam is.

VIRGINIA

Some of us know how to treat a cold. Which is all that is.

There's more banging from inside Maw Maw's room.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

(pouring smoothie)

It's coming.

BURT

You can't work in that store, Jimmy. You'll be low-man on the totem pole just like I was when I worked for Green Thumb. Hell, I started my own business so you wouldn't ever have to be that.

(MORE)

BURT (CONT'D)

Have you ever seen a totem pole?  
You got like six people and an eagle  
standing on your head.

(re: Hope)

Oh, man. I'm cramping. I'm cramping.  
Take her.

Burt gets Jimmy to come in and hold Hope up high.

BURT (CONT'D)

Listen, if you really think you need  
insurance I'll take care of it.

JIMMY

How? I thought you said you can't  
afford it.

BURT

Don't worry. Your dad knows how to  
take care of things when he needs  
to. I'm going to steal that parks  
contract away from Green Thumb.

JIMMY

They're not gonna give you this job.  
Green Thumb's crew shows up in clean,  
matching jump suits. Half the people  
in this town have seen you mow lawns  
in your pajama bottoms.

Burt crosses into the living room.

BURT

Have a little faith in your father,  
Jimmy. You'll see. All I have to  
do is write up a bid. In fact, I  
could probably just update the last  
one I worked on. Virginia, have you  
seen my proposal? It was in a green  
notebook.

(re: a messy shelf)

I left it right here fifteen years  
ago.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

15 INT. DINING ROOM -- DAY (D3)

15

Burt is typing at the computer. Jimmy is nearby.

BURT

Times New Roman, nah. Courier, nah.  
Lucida Grande, maybe? Oooh, Franklin  
Gothic Medium. That's the ticket.

JIMMY

It's a business proposal. I don't  
think you're supposed to do a  
different font for every word.

BURT

I'm just making it fun for them to  
read. Besides, the proposal's just  
a formality. The way Thumb gets  
these jobs is wining and dining the  
councilmen. That's the three d's:  
dinner, drinks, and triple d-cups at  
a booby bar. I guess that's six d's  
if you're really keeping score.

JIMMY

Actually, that's five d's.

BURT

(counts, then)  
I'll give you that.

CUT TO:

16 INT. KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER (D3)

16

Jimmy enters as Virginia scurries to fix Maw Maw's dinner.  
They speak softly so Burt doesn't hear them from the next  
room.

JIMMY

I gotta take that bag boy job. He's  
typing up a proposal with seven  
different fonts on it. It looks  
like a ransom note.

Off stage we hear Maw Maw ringing a bell.

VIRGINIA

(yelling)

Dinner's almost ready, Maw Maw.  
It's your favorite: chicken colada.

Virginia cracks open a can of Pina Colada mix and pours it over a casserole of noodles and chicken.

JIMMY

Mom, you're not listening. If I wait any longer, someone else is gonna get that bagging job.

VIRGINIA

We can help him with the proposal.

JIMMY

It doesn't matter. We're a one truck operation with two guys. We're never going to beat Green Thumb.

VIRGINIA

You wanna break your dad's heart? 'Cause that's what'll happen if you take that job. You're basically saying you have no faith in him.

JIMMY

But, I'm somebody's dad now too, and it's my job to do whatever I have to do to take care of her.

VIRGINIA

Fine. Do what you gotta do, but don't let your dad find out. Hopefully he'll get this contract and you can quit before he ever has to know.

Burt enters carrying a green notebook.

BURT

Good news I found my old proposal. Check it out, it had a "Jerry Maguire" theme.

He displays the cover to them. It's a collage of different images from magazines cut out to show a football player with Burt's head mowing a football field. There is a slogan that reads...

BURT (CONT'D)

(reading)

"Mow Me the Money".

(then)

Good, huh? In a perfect world I  
always pictured that they would stop  
me in the middle of the presentation  
and say, "You had me at I'll mow."

Burt exits. Virginia turns to Jimmy.

VIRGINIA

Jimmy, if I had seen "Jerry Maguire"  
would "Mow me the money" be funny?

JIMMY

Nope.

VIRGINIA

(beat)

You should go.

CUT TO:

17 INT. GROCERY STORE -- DAY (D4)

17

Sabrina restocks a tomato when Barney walks up with Jimmy  
who is tying a smock.

BARNEY

Well, your pal passed the urine test.  
Meth, weed, X, crank, hillbilly  
heroin... all negative.

JIMMY

He watched me pee.

BARNEY

Sabrina will show you the ropes.  
We've got one rule around here.  
Excellence. Anything less is  
unacceptable. Anything more is  
unrealistic. Just excellence.

Barney walks off.

JIMMY

He watched me pee.

SABRINA

Yeah, he made Sally from produce  
watch me pee. Neither of us wanted  
to be there. It was kind of a bummer.

They start to walk.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

Here's what you need to know: Behind the banana bin is the only spot in the store the security cameras can't see that gets cell phone reception.

They pass the banana bin and see an employee, FRANK, squatting and talking on his cell. \*

FRANK \*

(into phone) \*

Yes, I'm calling about the used cheerleading uniform you have for sale. \*

SABRINA \*

And the deli guy can get you a doctor's note that says you're diabetic which is good because Barney will let you have unlimited candy and juice.

They pass an OLDER EMPLOYEE, BARTON, drinking O.J. from a carton. They stop and Sabrina points to a clock without looking at it.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

That's the clock. It's your enemy. "Working in a grocery store time" moves at about one-third the speed of "not working in a grocery store time."

An employee, JOSH, walks up behind them with a box of peaches and notices the clock.

JOSH

Are you kidding me? It was quarter to six forty-five minutes ago. How can it still not be six? How can it not be six?!

They move off towards the register as Josh throws a peach at the clock.

JIMMY

Is there anything I need to know about the actual doing of the job?

SABRINA

Take groceries. Put 'em in a bag.

Raising Hope  
2nd Rev. Prod Draft

1ARY05  
(PINK)

"The Sniffles"  
09-16-10

21A.

Got it.

JIMMY

CUT TO:



JIMMY

If Grandpa succeeds I can quit the store, but either way you'll get insurance soon and be able to see a real doctor. We both will. All I have to do is keep my job secret from Grandpa, but that's cool, he never buys food anywhere but the gas station.

CUT TO:

21 INT. GROCERY STORE -- EVENING (N6)

21

Burt walks down the aisle in his "Ed Hardy" outfit and big cowboy boots, whistling confidently.

ANGLE ON Jimmy and Sabrina by the register.

JIMMY

What the hell? He never buys food anywhere but the gas station.

Jimmy ducks down behind Sabrina's register.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Crap, crap, crap.

Burt walks up to Sabrina's register, suavely winks at her.

BURT

Top of the evening to you.

SABRINA

Hey, Burt, that outfit is off the hook.

BURT

Thanks. Big night. Entertaining business clients.

(pointing to his throat)

Got a little tickle, though. Think I caught my granddaughter's cold.

Burt hands her the medicine card. She sighs, scans it. The register lets out a loud beep and "Manager Alerted" appears on the display. Almost immediately, Barney emerges from his office carrying a flashlight.

BARNEY

James, guard the door! James?

(looking around)

Where the hell is James Chance?!

After a beat, Jimmy sheepishly emerges from under Sabrina's register. Burt, shocked and hurt, looks at Jimmy.

JIMMY

(beat)  
Hey, Dad.

BURT

Wow... So you just went ahead and...  
Man--

JIMMY

Let me explain--

BURT

No, no, no need to explain. You  
didn't think I could take care of  
business.

BARNEY

Is this a meth business?

BURT

(to Jimmy)  
You don't believe in me.

JIMMY

I do, but--

BURT

Fine. If you believe in me, then  
you don't need this job. So go ahead  
and quit it. Right now.

Jimmy looks at Barney, then back at Burt. There's a silence.

BURT (CONT'D)

I'm getting that contract whether  
you believe in me or not.

Burt walks off as Jimmy turns and watches him go. Behind  
Jimmy, Josh throws a tomato at the clock.

CUT TO:

22 INT. KITCHEN -- LATER (N6)

22 \*

Jimmy and Virginia eat ice cream solemnly at the kitchen  
table.

JIMMY

I've never seen him so hurt.  
(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I mean, that look on his face... he was devastated. What are we gonna do?

VIRGINIA

We?

JIMMY

You lied to him too.

VIRGINIA

I'm gonna tell him I didn't know.

JIMMY

I'll tell him that's not true.

VIRGINIA

Who's he gonna believe, his wife or his son that we've already established is a liar?

Burt enters the front door and crosses into the kitchen. Without acknowledging Jimmy or Virginia, he leans into the fridge to get a beer. Virginia and Jimmy exchange a confused look. Burt closes the fridge, opens the beer and stands there silently for a beat.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Well? How did it go?

BURT

(nonchalant)

Oh, I got it.

VIRGINIA

You're kidding? Burt that's great.

BURT

Yeah, I took Councilman Blake out and showed him a good time. It's called wining and dining. Although, technically, it was beering and fried cheese sticking.

JIMMY

Dad, I am so sorry that I lied to you. And I'm sorry I doubted you.

BURT

Apology not accepted.

JIMMY

(awkwardly)

Uh... okay. So, when do we take over the parks?

BURT

I start doing the parks tomorrow. Not you. I don't need to be spending my days with someone who doesn't believe in me. Now that we got all this extra work, we'll split up. You do residential. I'm doing the parks.

(starts to go, then)

Oh, and you can quit your stupid bagger job tomorrow night because my son isn't gonna be low-man on anyone's totem pole but mine.

Burt exits.

VIRGINIA

(calling after)

This is so great, honey. I always knew you could do it.

As Virginia exits, she gives Jimmy the "shhh" sign.

CUT TO:

23 EXT. FRONT YARD -- DAY (D7)

23

Jimmy sits in the same lawn where he and Burt were eating lunch at the beginning of the show. He finishes his lunch and pulls out a black and white cookie from a pink bakery box. Jimmy grabs his knife and cuts it. He starts eating his half, then looks down at the other half. After a beat, Jimmy starts to pack up his stuff.

CUT TO:

24 EXT. UMSTEAD PARK -- DAY (D7)

24

We're in a parking lot near a sign that reads "Umstead Park". Jimmy gets out of his van with his bakery box and looks around for his dad. He hears a mower on the other side of a building. He rounds the building and discovers Burt, in a Green Thumb uniform, pushing a mower. Several other Green Thumb workers work nearby. One of them holds an umbrella over Green Thumb, as he approaches Burt.

GREEN THUMB

This area isn't done yet? You're too slow, Chance. Get on the umbrella. Let Brian show you how it's done.

Burt switches places with Brian, the worker holding the umbrella.

GREEN THUMB (CONT'D)

No no no no. You're not supposed to hold the umbrella over both of us. You haven't earned your shade.

Burt moves out from under the umbrella. At this point, Burt sees Jimmy watching in frozen horror. They stare at each other. After a beat, Burt takes off running, still carrying the umbrella. He goes and goes, occasionally looks back at Jimmy, then keeps going. We stay on him in a wide shot as he gets smaller and smaller and smaller.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

25 INT. KITCHEN -- LATER THAT NIGHT (N7)

25

Virginia is making soup on the stove. Hope is playing on the floor. We hear a bell ringing.

VIRGINIA

(calling)

You want cold soup? Ring that damn bell one more time and I'm bringing you cold soup.

She waits for a beat. Nothing.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

That's what I thought.

Burt appears outside the window.

BURT

Is he here?

VIRGINIA

No, he waited around but he had to get to work at the grocery store.

Burt enters.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

So, I guess you didn't really win the parks contract last night.

BURT

I thought I had it all figured out.

CUT TO:

A25 INT. SMALL VIP ROOM -- NIGHT -- FLASHBACK (N6)

A25

Burt and COUNCILMAN BLAKE sit on a small couch.

COUNCILMAN BLAKE

I'm glad I let you talk me into this, Burt. When you mentioned bikini bars I thought, "I can't let my voters see me in one of those."

BURT

That's why I found one three towns over. I'm a thinker and a mower.

COUNCILMAN BLAKE

I think you're going to be mowing  
the parks real soon.

BURT

Wait 'til you see this girl I picked  
out for you. I asked around and  
everybody says she is the craziest,  
wildest one here. They call her  
"The Dirty Angel."

A young woman in a bikini, DIRTY ANGEL, comes in through the  
curtains.

DIRTY ANGEL

Who's ready for a--  
(seeing Councilman  
Blake)  
Daddy?

COUNCILMAN BLAKE

Pumpkin?

CUT TO:

B25 INT. KITCHEN -- BACK TO SCENE (N7)

B25

Burt and Virginia are where we left them.

BURT

It was a long, quiet ride home.  
Pretty much the only thing he said  
was "Chance, you don't get the parks  
contract."

(then)

So I went to Green Thumb. I figured  
if I secretly worked for him I could  
make enough to buy Jimmy insurance.

She watches him for a beat.

VIRGINIA

Burt, working two jobs, being the  
low man on the totem pole, taking  
crap from a jerk boss... you're past  
all that.

BURT

But the kid needs insurance. I'm  
his dad. It's my job to do whatever  
I have to do to take care of him.

VIRGINIA

And you did. By showing him his whole life how to be a good dad. Now it's his turn to take care of things. You gotta let him do it.

Burt thinks for a beat.

BURT

I don't like it.

VIRGINIA

You don't have to like it. But that's the way it is. We took care of him and now he's gonna take care of her. And eventually, if we live as long as that kook back there ringing that bell, hopefully he'll take care of us too. That's how this whole thing works.

Virginia goes over and picks up Hope.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Besides, it's not like you don't have a new job to do. Someone needs to start showing Jimmy how to be a good grandpa.

Virginia holds out Hope to Burt who takes her. Virginia smiles and kisses Burt as we hear Maw Maw ringing her bell.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

(calling)  
Cold soup it is!

CUT TO:

26 INT. LIVING ROOM -- LATER (N7)

26

Burt is sitting on the couch with Hope. He feeds her something that looks like chocolate pudding.

BURT

I don't care if it's three towns over or three states over, don't dance in one of those clubs.

(beat)

But if you do, don't be the one they call "Dirty Angel."

Jimmy enters.

JIMMY

Hey.

BURT

Hey.

JIMMY

Listen, Dad, I'm really sorry about--

BURT

(cutting him off)

Nope. I was wrong. You did the right thing. And I'm proud of you.

JIMMY

Thanks.

BURT

Oh, and I got you something.

From a nearby table, Burt grabs the vanilla half of a black and white cookie, and hands it to Jimmy.

JIMMY

Did you eat your half without me?

BURT

No. I mushed up my half and gave it to Hope. That's what grandpas do.

JIMMY

She can't have all that sugar, she's gonna be--

BURT

Up all night. I know. However, that is not a grandpa problem.

Burt hands Hope to Jimmy and heads toward his bedroom.

BURT (CONT'D)

Good night.

As he passes Maw Maw's room a foot kicks a hole through the bottom panel of the door, then retracts. Burt leans in close to the hole.

BURT (CONT'D)

Hang in there, Maw Maw.

(winking to Jimmy)

Hope's cold should be better in a few more days.

Raising Hope                    1ARY05  
1st Rev. Prod Draft            (BLUE)

"The Sniffles"  
09-13-10

32.

He chuckles a second, and then, as in a horror movie. Maw  
Maw's arm shoots out through the hole and grabs Burt around  
the neck. As she squeezes Burt against the door...

BURT (CONT'D)  
Get your mother. Get your mother.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW