

Everwood

"Unhappy Holidays"

Written by

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Directed by

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Prod. #176110

Full Blue

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Full White - October 16/03

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EVERWOOD

"Unhappy Holidays"

CAST

Dr. Andrew Brown	Treat Williams
Ephram Brown	Gregory Smith
Delia Brown	Vivien Cardone
Edna Harper	Debra Mooney
Irv Harper (also Narrator)	John Beasley
Nina Feeney	Stephanie Niznik
Amy Abbott	Emily Van Camp
Bright Abbott	Chris Pratt
Rose Abbott	Merrilyn Gann
Dr. Harold Abbott	Tom Amandes
Linda Abbott	Marcia Cross
Madison Kellner	Sarah Lancaster
Tommy Callahan	Paul Wasilewski
Carol Roberts	Betty White
Herbert Roberts	Richard Herd
Charlie Grey Cloud	
Randy Grey Cloud	
Dealer	
Bluehair	
Sheriff	
Dispatch (voice-over only)	
Charlie's Overaffectionate Aunt	
Charlie's Family & Friends	
Gamblers	
Pharmacy Customers	
*(Pharmacy Cashier - OMIT)	
Casino Waitress	
Gamblers	
Bar Patrons	

EVERWOOD

"Unhappy Holidays"

SETS

INTERIORS

Brown House - Day & Night
 Closet - Night
 Living Room - Night
 Kitchen - Day & Night
 Dining Room - Day
 Delia's Bedroom - Night
Abbott House - Day & Night
 Living Room - Day
 Kitchen - Day
 Amy's Bedroom - Day
 Dining Room - Day
 Hallway - Day
*(Everwood Pharmacy - Day - OMIT)
Doctor Brown's Office - Day
 Examination Room - Day
Mama Joy's Diner - Day
Indian Reservation Casino - Day & Night
 Blackjack Table - Day & Night
 Party Room - Night
Grocery Store - Day
Bar - Night
Andy's Car - Night

EXTERIORS

*Sidewalk By Pharmacy - Day (formerly Alley)
Madison's Apartment - Night
Christmas Tree Sales Lot - Day

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. THE BROWN HOUSE. NIGHT.

1

Quiet. Empty. The front door opens and ANDY pokes his head in, a mischievous look on his face.

DOCTOR BROWN
Hello? Anyone home?
(nothing)
Delia...? Ephram...?

Confident he's alone, Andy enters, carrying shopping bags. Big ones. The kind with handles... And presents inside!

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Holidays are the times we enact age-old rituals, solemn rites passed down from one generation to the next. A time for family and friends and good cheer. They're also a time for giving and receiving -- a time for surprises.

Andy, tickled pink with himself, moves to the closet. Pulls out the gifts, the awful blue and gold wrapping paper with the dreidels on it, mixed in with some Christmas ones.

DOCTOR BROWN
Who finds Hannukkah paper in Everwood?
That's right. I do.

He tries to hide the gifts... Behind clothes... Top shelf... Shifts some junk around... Manages to squirrel away a couple.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Some surprises are hidden in boxes, wrapped up in colorful paper and ribbons. Still others we carry inside, concealed in our own hearts, while we wait for just the right moment to reveal them.

Just then, KEYS in the door. VOICES.

EPHRAM (O.S.)
Hello?

Andy desperately tries to hide everything. No luck. As the door opens, he panics and *shuts himself inside the closet*. EPHRAM and MADISON enter.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 1

EPHRAM (CONT'D)

See? Nobody's home. Come here...

He smiles, tries to kiss her. She playfully stops him.

MADISON

I have to get Delia from next door, and your dad could come home any second.

2 INT. THE BROWN HOUSE. CLOSET. SAME. 2

Confused, but curious, Andy reminds himself to breathe. Quietly. As he presses his ear to the door...

3 BACK TO EPHRAM AND MADISON 3

Ephram takes her head, pulls her close to him. They stand like this for a moment -- close, hands linked. A couple.

EPHRAM

Your nose is all red.

MADISON

Ephram... We can't. We made a pact.

EPHRAM

I can't be tied to some pact when you're standing here with a cute, red nose.

She smiles. He kisses her. She tries to refuse. Kinda.

MADISON

We said we wouldn't do anything in the house. What if he comes in--?

EPHRAM

I'll lock the door.

MADISON

Like he wouldn't figure that out. The man's a brain surgeon, for godssakes.

EPHRAM

Don't let the fancy title fool you. My dad's totally clueless. We could be making out on top of him and he still wouldn't get it.

4 BACK TO ANDY 4

Totally clueless about them. Heretofore. He tries to open the closet. But it's stuck from the inside. Tries again. STUCK.

A5 BACK TO EPHRAM'S HORMONES

A5

He kisses her again. Their hands stay tangled.

MADISON

You know if we don't tell him, he's just going to find out on his own.

EPHRAM

He won't find out. He's in his own world half the time. I spilled soda on the couch the other night, right? He told me to clean it up, but as soon as he left the room, I just flipped the pillow over. I'm telling you, the man is dense.

*

MADISON

No, he's not. And you should be thankful you have such a cool dad.

EPHRAM

He's cool when you're here. From the hours of six to nine. Come by in the morning, you'll be astounded by his lameness. I promise.

He kisses the other side of her neck.

MADISON

It's wrong, Ephram. We have to tell him.

EPHRAM

Okay, how about this? I'll tell my dad about us, when you show me how to do that tongue curl thing.

B5 BACK TO ANDY

B5

Wide-eyed. Frozen by shock.

*

5 BACK TO MADISON AND EPHRAM

5

MADISON

(laughing)

I already told you, it's genetic. It's not something you can learn.

EPHRAM

But it would be fun to practice, right?

Ephram kisses her again. She can't resist -- boy's too darn cute. As she relents:

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

MADISON

Five minutes, but then we get Delia.

And it's on! They fall back onto the couch together. And it's all lovely until, from the foyer -- RATTLE...THWACK...

CRASH! Andy finally bursts out of the closet.

The young lovers bounce off the couch like it's a trampoline.

EPHRAM/MADISON

Dad!?!/Doctor Brown!/Dad!?!

DOCTOR BROWN

What the hell is going on?

Hard to tell who's more traumatized. As they stand there, a triumvirate of speechless crimson, the hastily hidden gifts come tumbling out behind Andy.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Unfortunately, not all surprises are good ones...

And with the room now filled with spilled secrets, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6 INT. THE BROWN HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT.

6

A shell-shocked Ephram and Madison sit on opposite ends of the couch, forced apart by Andy's force-field of rage. He paces like a circus tiger.

DOCTOR BROWN

This is beyond unacceptable! This is in some other universe of unacceptability!

EPHRAM

I think you're overreacting a little...

DOCTOR BROWN

Overreacting? Oh, no no! Maybe you think this is just another example of my uncool lameness, but I don't think it would be possible to overreact to this, Ephram. How long has this been going on?

MADISON

Not long. I wanted to tell you--

DOCTOR BROWN

So I heard -- right after the tongue curling lessons. Thank god I was in the closet just now.

EPHRAM

Yeah, what's that about, anyway? You're spying on me now? Whatever happened to the right to privacy?

DOCTOR BROWN

When you're sixteen, there is no privacy. The Constitution says nothing about children having a right to privacy from their parents. And this...

(pointing at them, flustered)

This is why there is no privacy when you're sixteen. This.

MADISON

Look, this whole thing was sort of an accident from the beginning. It started out as more of a kissing thing, and then it just kinda--

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

EPHRAM

(to Andy, anger building)
This is none of your business.

DOCTOR BROWN

None of my business? I hired her. I brought her into this house. She's twenty, you're sixteen. I think aiding and abetting a felony makes it my business.

EPHRAM

So I'm sixteen, so what? Would it be better if I was having sex with someone my own age?

*

MADISON

Ephram! We didn't have sex, Doctor Brown. I swear. No sex at all.

DOCTOR BROWN

The fact is, Madison isn't your age and whether you like it or not, that makes all the difference. This is a serious, serious matter and we need to resolve it.

(to Madison)

My first thought is to fire you.

(then at Ephram)

And to kill you.

(back to Madison)

And maybe kill you a little, too. Something this irresponsible and this stupid makes me wonder if you can be trusted to take care of Delia at all.

MADISON

You can trust me, Doctor Brown.

Andy considers if that's even possible.

DOCTOR BROWN

Here's what we're going to do: Firing you would be unfair to Delia, who is the only one I don't want to suffer for this. At least until I can find someone else -- if that becomes necessary.

(he lets that hang a bit)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

DOCTOR BROWN (CONT'D)

Whatever has been going on between you two is over. Now.

EPHRAM

No way!

DOCTOR BROWN

Completely and permanently. We're going to travel back in time, before any of this ever happened, and we're going to start over. Understood?

EPHRAM

That's such bullsh--

MADISON

(overlapped)

Totally. This... This was a mistake. It shouldn't have happened, Doctor Brown. I'm sorry.

Ephram stares at her: Et tu, Madison? She doesn't look over.

DOCTOR BROWN

Madison, you should leave now. Ephram, go to your room.

EPHRAM

Madison--

But she's already at the door, moving fast. Ephram goes to stop her... But she's gone. Ephram reaches for the door--

DOCTOR BROWN

Don't even think about it. You do, she's fired. And you're grounded for life.

Ephram stops. His humiliation and longing fuel his anger for Andy, for ruining this great, glorious relationship. He shoots him a death look, then bolts upstairs.

Order restored, Andy drops into a chair, spent. But we know, as Andy does, that it's the kind of order that can't last.

7 INT. THE ABBOTT HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. DAY.

7

Decorated for Thanksgiving: Indian corn, ceramic turkey candy dish, porcelain pilgrims. ABBOTT anxiously straightens the spotless room. BRIGHT enters, eating cake.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Crumbs! Watch the crumbs.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

BRIGHT

Relax. It's just Grama and Pop Pop.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

I'll relax when they've gone home. Or died.

BRIGHT

I like Grama Roberts.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

As it should be. To you, she's a sweet, doting grandmother. To others, she's a seventy-year-old thorn. An impacted, infected, painful thorn... The kind that gets in your bloodstream and makes its way to your heart, where it tries to kill you. A thorn like this, it would be easier to chew your own limb off than --

The front door opens suddenly, revealing ROSE and her parents, CAROL and HERBERT ROBERTS (both 70ish).

ROSE

(warning/greeting)

We're home!

BRIGHT

Hey, Grama! Pop Pop!

CAROL

Hello, sweetheart.

(while hugging Bright)

So, Harold, you send Rose to pick us up by herself... Are you not feeling well?

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Sorry to disappoint you, but I'm perfectly healthy, Mother Roberts.

CAROL

(to Bright)

Could you get our bags, darling? I know your father isn't much for the exerting.

BRIGHT

Sure thing, Grama.

Bright sets down his plate and exits.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

How are you, Herb?

Herbert doesn't respond. Abbott steps up to his hearing aid.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

DOCTOR ABBOTT (CONT'D)

I said, how are you, Herb?

HERBERT

Oh, fine, fine. How about a scotch?

DOCTOR ABBOTT

(under his breath)

I don't blame you.

HERBERT

What's that?

DOCTOR ABBOTT

I said, coming right up.

CAROL

Awfully brisk in here, Harold. Is it really worth the pennies to keep the thermostat this low? I mean, there's frugal and then there's just cheap.

(then)

And where's our beautiful granddaughter?

Abbott and Rose share a look -- they have no clue.

ROSE

Um... She should be home any minute.

*

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Yes... I'm sure she will. From... where she is...

*

*

*

CAROL

So you don't even know where your sixteen-year-old daughter is. Interesting.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

She's not exactly --

CAROL

No need to explain. I'm sure you know what you're doing...

(as Bright enters with luggage)

Take those up to your parents' room, sweetie. That's a good boy.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Our room? Actually I was thinking you'd sleep--

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (3)

7

CAROL
 (walks off, dismissing him)
 I need to pee.

8 OMITTED.

8

9 EXT. PHARMACY. SIDEWALK. DAY. (FORMERLY EXT. PHARMACY. ALLEY. 9 DAY.)

TOMMY and AMY emerge from the store. She carries a bag.
 Happy, playful, but still feeling the newness of all this:

TOMMY
 You know, you don't always have to buy
 something. You could just come in and,
 you know, say hi.

AMY
 No, I really needed these...

She has to peek in the bag to remember.

AMY (CONT'D)
 Thumb tacks.

TOMMY
 (a wry smile)
 Really? For what?

They round a corner and come to a stop. Stand close, partly
 to keep warm, partly 'cause it's more fun that way.

AMY
 Well... I have a corkboard... and things
 that need tacked... and very delicate
 thumbs.

So cute. Tommy smiles and kisses her thumb... Then,
 delicately, her lips.

TOMMY
 My shift's over in twenty minutes. If
 you want, we can hang out the rest of the
 day.

AMY
 I wish. My grandparents flew in from
 Arizona today. I was supposed to be home
 half an hour ago.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

TOMMY

That's cool. What are they here for?

AMY

Tomorrow's Thanksgiving, freak. You really need to invest in a calendar.

TOMMY

Man, I totally forgot. Well, that should be fun, right? Big family turkey thing.

AMY

Oh, it's a party. Three generations of people who hate each other fighting over who gets the white meat. I guess it's probably the same at your house, right?

TOMMY

We don't really do holidays at my house. Not so big on traditions.

AMY

You're kidding. So what are you gonna do tomorrow night?

TOMMY

I don't know. Probably nothing.

Amy considers his plight, her ingenue mind gets to work.

AMY

You have to come to my house.

(before he can protest)

There's gonna be like a thousand people there anyway. It's not like one more is gonna kill anyone. And my mom makes this awesome cranberry thing. You'd love it.

Tommy tenderly pushes a strand of hair out of her eyes.

TOMMY

You're really sweet, aren't you?

AMY

(embarrassed)

No. I just...

They're about to kiss again, but then:

EDNA (O.S.)

I don't believe we've met.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

Amy yanks her hand free. Turns to find EDNA on the sidewalk nearby. Amy goes red as a Christmas ornament.

TOMMY

Grandma...

EDNA

(extending her hand)

Edna Harper, Amy's favorite grandmother.

TOMMY

(shaking her hand)

Tommy Callahan.

Amy dies a little.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Well, I've gotta get back to work. It was a pleasure to meet you, Mrs. Harper. I guess I'll see you tomorrow at dinner.

Amy smiles at his acceptance of the invite. Edna glances at Amy, and clues in quickly.

EDNA

I guess you will.

Tommy heads back inside. As Amy studies the ground,

EDNA (CONT'D)

So who's the new co-pilot?

AMY

Nobody. Just a guy.

EDNA

Just a guy, my boots. No granddaughter of mine goes around holding hands with a guy who's "just a guy."

(Amy dies some more)

See you and your friend at the big turkey day gorge-athon.

Edna gives her a reassuring wink and a smile, then leaves her to bask. Off Amy, wishing everyone was like Grama Edna.

10 INT. DOCTOR BROWN'S OFFICE. EXAMINATION ROOM. DAY.

10

A Native American boy, CHARLIE GREY CLOUD (13), is typing away on his cell phone (text messaging) as Andy applies a bandage to the blistered sole of his foot.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

DOCTOR BROWN

You're lucky the burn only involved the
outer layer of skin. This could have been
a lot worse, Charlie.

*
*
*

CHARLIE

Yeah... Hey, Doc. Say cheese.

When Andy looks up, still holding the foot, Charlie snaps a
picture with his cell phone.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I'm gonna E this to Billy. He's such a
wuss-out.

DOCTOR BROWN

Who's Billy? And more importantly, why
would he want a picture of your foot?

As he takes a gander at Charlie's fancy camera phone.

CHARLIE

My friend. He bet me he could hold out
longer, but he totally bailed. He barely
put his foot on the coal before he quit.
So are we done?

DOCTOR BROWN

We're done... But I'd like to know why
you'd burn yourself like this, Charlie.
It's a pretty dangerous game to be
playing just for kicks, don't you think?

CHARLIE

We weren't playing. We were practicing.

DOCTOR BROWN

Practicing? For what?

CHARLIE

Me and Billy are doing the firewalk
tomorrow. We wanted to try it ahead of
time, just to see. Dad always says if
you practice really hard, things get
easier.

Suddenly, Charlie's BLACKBERRY goes off. He pulls it out.

DOCTOR BROWN

I don't understand. Your father made you
do this? Is this some kind of
Thanksgiving tradition for your family?

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

CHARLIE

(laughing)

No way, dude. Thanksgiving's not real big out on the Reservation, you know?

Edna enters with a pair of crutches.

DOCTOR BROWN

Did your father bring you today? Maybe I could speak with him.

CHARLIE

No way. I took the bus. The doctor at the Res would've told him. That's why I came here. You're free, right?

DOCTOR BROWN

(smiles and nods)

Yeah, I'm free. But I'd like to talk to your father. With your foot in this sort of condition -- you shouldn't be placing it on any hot coals for awhile. Maybe when you're a little older...

Charlie gingerly stands and starts out.

CHARLIE

Gotta do it now. Hey, can I have a cane? A cane would be cool.

EDNA

Sorry, all out. How about some crutches?

CHARLIE

Nah, those are lame. S'all good.

He limps out. Andy watches him go, worried.

DOCTOR BROWN

Am I missing something here, Edna? I know that conditions on some reservations can be pretty tough, but this seems so outdated.

EDNA

What about that kid struck you as outdated? He's carrying more high-tech gear than we've got in this office.

DOCTOR BROWN

And with limited resources, that seems a little misplaced, don't you think?

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (3)

10

EDNA

Oh boy. Here we go. Look, if you think his tribe needs to be dragged into the modern era, the reservation's out on highway 70. Go give 'em hell, Big Chief Nosey Pants.

*
*
*

Edna smiles to herself. Off Andy, thinking he just might...

11 INT. MAMA JOY'S DINER. DAY.

11

Andy's at the counter, talking to NINA about the whole Madison/Ephram debacle. She leans in close.

NINA

I gotta hand it to you Andy, first Carl comes out of the closet -- now you.

DOCTOR BROWN

...It was horrifying. There they were, in flagrante delicto.

NINA

I guess you can't really blame Ephram. He is a sixteen-year-old boy, and she's--

DOCTOR BROWN

Twenty! She's twenty. Ephram was like four a couple years ago. Lock Sam up now.

With that, LINDA walks in, whom Andy has been more than a little weird with since the revelation of her HIV status.

LINDA

Hey, Andy. Hey, Nina.

NINA

Hi, Linda. I'll get your pie.

Nina disappears into the back.

DOCTOR BROWN

Pie, huh? How very un-tofu of you.

LINDA

It's for dinner tomorrow, at Harry's. Being a holiday and all, I thought it best to avoid the reaction Delia had to my cooking.

Andy smiles, but looks for Nina to return quickly. Which she does. Thank goodness. Deflecting:

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

DOCTOR BROWN

That smells great. Maybe I'll take one
one of those, too.

NINA

Too late, this is the last one. Mama Joy
tradition -- gotta call ahead, Andy.

DOCTOR BROWN

Next year, then... Pie. Definitely.

LINDA

You know, you're welcome to join the
Abbott clan for dessert tomorrow. I'll
make sure you get a piece.

His heart and head still in a Peckinpah standoff over Linda,
Andy's caught off-guard. He tries to dance around it.

DOCTOR BROWN

I'd love to, but I can't. The kids and I
have a whole thing planned. They look
forward to it all year, especially Delia.
(again, towards Nina)

We had quite a time of it last year,
didn't we Nina? You and Sam are coming
again, right?

NINA

Actually, we're going to my folks this
year. Sorry we'll miss it, though. It
was... something.

Linda senses Andy's discomfort at her invite. So does Nina.

LINDA

Don't worry about it. If you change your
mind...

She exits, Andy watching her go. Off Nina, discreetly
watching, too.

12 INT. THE BROWN HOUSE. KITCHEN. NIGHT.

12

Madison and DELIA are working on Thanksgiving decorations.
We HEAR Ephram pounding out something very unfestive on the
piano. Wagner, perhaps.

DELIA

It sounds like the music from when they
killed Bambi.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

MADISON

It's normal for people to get depressed around the holidays... That's a good-looking pilgrim.

DELIA

It's the eyelashes. Makes them prettier.

Ephram walks in, eyes the project. Gets an idea. To Delia:

EPHRAM

You're running low on construction paper.

DELIA

It's okay. I have more in my room.

EPHRAM

If you get it, I'll help you guys.

Delia's face lights up. But Madison looks uncomfortable. She knows what he's up to. As Delia runs upstairs:

EPHRAM (CONT'D)

Madison--

MADISON

Please don't.

EPHRAM

Don't what? I'm just trying to figure out what's going on here.

MADISON

Nothing is going on. It can't. You heard your dad--

EPHRAM

Screw my dad. I don't care what he says.

MADISON

Well, I care what he says. And he's not totally wrong.

EPHRAM

How could he not be wrong when he doesn't even know what we're about?

MADISON

We're not about anything. We are not anything. Not anymore.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

EPHRAM

Just because he said so? You can turn your feelings off like that?

MADISON

(not looking at him)
Yeah. I can.

EPHRAM

(beat, then)
I don't believe you.

Madison moves away, uncomfortable with his proximity.

MADISON

Look, I knew what we were doing was wrong, I knew it wouldn't work, and I knew it would be worse if we didn't tell your dad. I'm three for three and I'm gonna quit now.

EPHRAM

You said you liked me. You said I made you undone. I'm not exactly sure what that meant, but I know it's good and I know it doesn't just go away. Not when you really care for somebody. There's no way you don't still have those feelings.

*
*

MADISON

Ephram, I can't--

EPHRAM

That's not the same. Can't is because of my dad. Don't is all you.

Madison doesn't respond. Delia runs in carrying loads of construction paper.

DELIA

I brought green down, too. Just in case.

EPHRAM

(to Madison)
Can't or Don't. Just tell me.

Madison takes a beat. She looks Ephram in the eyes, knows this is the moment of truth. Finally:

MADISON

Don't.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (3)

12

Ouch. With that, Ephram walks out. Delia watches him go.
Then, to Madison:

DELIA
More Bambi music?

But she doesn't respond. Off Madison, facade crumbling...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

13 INT. THE ABBOTT HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. DAY.

13

Abbott is sitting, reading the paper. His brief peace is shattered soon enough when Carol enters.

CAROL

Well, that was just about the worst night of sleep I've ever had.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

And good morning to you, too.

CAROL

I thought you'd be doing us a favor by letting us sleep in your bed, but I can't imagine the sleeper sofa's any worse. It's a wonder Rose isn't in traction. And where are you hiding the good toilet paper? That stuff you've got is like sackcloth... It's Thanksgiving Day, for heaven's sake. At least turn on the parade.

*
*
*

As he rises to escape, the front door opens. Edna enters, toting a bag from Tommy's store.

EDNA

Brought the stuff for the fruit salad, Junior.

CAROL

You should be more careful with it, Edna. It's no good if it's bruised.

EDNA

Bruised? Doubt you can do much through a can of Del Monte.

(perfunctory pleasantries)

How are you, Carol? How was your trip?

CAROL

Well, Rose had to pick us up by herself, but it was uneventful. Are you still married to the black man?

Edna's eyes widen, along with her nostrils. Abbott quickly steers her toward...

14 INT. THE ABBOTT HOUSE. KITCHEN. CONTINUOUS.

14

A deep disdain for Carol is the one thing these two agree on.
As Abbott makes coffee...

EDNA

How your wife was spawned from that
woman's loins, I'll never know. Good
thing she got all the recessive genes.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

She's insufferable, absolutely
insufferable. It's a wonder Herb hasn't
just killed her in her sleep.

EDNA

I'd testify on his behalf.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

I'd visit him in prison every day just to
thank him.

EDNA

Well, don't sweat it too much, Junior.
In-laws are a necessary evil -- your
dad's mother was a bitch on wheels
herself. Couple more days and it'll be
over. And you'll have bought yourself
some mighty good graces with the missus,
if you know what I mean.

Abbott winces. Not appropriate mom talk in his mind.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Mother, please.

EDNA

I met Amy's new boyfriend. Seems like a
nice kid.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Boyfriend? What boyfriend? What are you
talking about? Since when does--?

EDNA

Rein it in there, cowboy. She wasn't
heading to Vegas in a wedding gown. He's
just some boy; works at the drug store.
I think his name was Tommy Calla-
something. Anyway, you'll meet him at
dinner tonight.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

DOCTOR ABBOTT
He's coming to Thanksgiving dinner? How?
Why...?

Before he tailspins again, Edna indicates the canned fruit.

EDNA
Might wanna mix those. I'll be back with
Irv in a few hours...

Off Abbott, processing...

15 INT. INDIAN RESERVATION CASINO. DAY.

15

Bustling with BELLS and lights and money. A scantily-clad
squaw-esque WAITRESS points Andy toward a blackjack table.

16 INT. CASINO. BLACKJACK TABLE. MOMENTS LATER.

16

Andy addresses the DEALER.

DOCTOR BROWN
Hi, I'm looking for Mr. Grey Cloud...

DEALER
(waving over his Pit Boss)
Boss.

DOCTOR BROWN
Boss?

RANDY GREY CLOUD (late 30s), well dressed, pure charm, steps
over. A warrior of only his stock portfolio.

GREY CLOUD
You looking for a Player's Card?

DOCTOR BROWN
A what? Oh, no. I'm Andrew Brown. We
spoke on the phone.

GREY CLOUD
Yes, of course. Welcome.
(re: Andy's awe)
I'm guessing this is your first time.

DOCTOR BROWN
To a casino, no. To a reservation...
this is a reservation, right?

GREY CLOUD
C'mon, I'll give you the tour.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

Grey Cloud and Andy stroll through the buzzing throng...

DOCTOR BROWN
Is it always this busy?

GREY CLOUD
Most days. We had an accounting
convention last week. Packed.

Andy nods, impressed, then cuts to the chase.

DOCTOR BROWN
Listen, the reason why I came here...

GREY CLOUD
Charlie. I know. He told me what
happened. Practicing for the firewalk,
what a nut.

DOCTOR BROWN
I realize I'm involving myself in a
culture I can't claim to understand, but
I'd feel remiss if I didn't say something
about how dangerous, you know... walking
on fire actually is.

GREY CLOUD
You're worried about Charlie, I get it, I
appreciate it. But we've been doing this
for centuries -- haven't lost a foot yet.

DOCTOR BROWN
Between the roulette wheel over there
and your son's prolific use of his cell
phone, you don't strike me as a family
holding on to outdated traditions.

GREY CLOUD
(points)
See that waitress? She's wearing an
Onadoga headdress and Hopi shoes. Her
necklace is from a tribe my tribe used to
kill -- it's a hodge-podge that would've
made my grandfather cry. So much
changes, so much gets lost. You have to
hold on to tradition where you can.
Embrace the new, revere the old.

*

DOCTOR BROWN
If you revere walking, you'll let Charlie
wait a few weeks. Give him some time to
heal.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

GREY CLOUD

No can do. It's supposed to blizzard this weekend.

(off Andy's look)

My boy has to walk before the first knee-high snowfall. That's the time of the Sojourn, when the gods would guide the tribe to the winter encampment... Plus it's too late to cancel the caterers.

DOCTOR BROWN

Indian Bar Mitzvah, hunh?

GREY CLOUD

I hate to tell you what I spent on the band.

(then, sincere)

Don't worry, Doc. My son will do the firewalk, just like I did before him and every forefather before me. Now how about we set you up with a few chips on the house, see if you can help us buy back Manhattan.

He claps Andy on the shoulder. Off Andy...

17 INT. THE ABBOTT HOUSE. KITCHEN. DAY.

17

Dinner prep: Rose peels stuff, Linda combines Edna's fruit. Amy enters, doing her charming daughter routine.

AMY

Hey, guys. Can I help?

ROSE

(shocked to her core)

Of course. Grab a peeler.

Amy peels alongside her mother, gauging how long she has to peel before she can finally ask:

AMY

So would it be okay if I invite somebody for dinner tonight? I know it's kinda short notice, but...

ROSE

Is it a friend from school?

AMY

Sorta from school. But he transferred.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

LINDA

Ohhh. So it's a he, is it?

AMY

(blushing)

It's not like that. It's just that his family's kind of messed up and he was going to spend Thanksgiving all alone. And I was telling him how your cranberry sauce is the best ever...

ROSE

That's true. It is.

AMY

Anyway, I just thought it would be nice if he could spend the holiday with a family. I mean you always say, holidays are times for people to be charitable towards one another, and--

ROSE

He can come, sweetheart.

AMY

Really? Thanks, Mom.

Amy gives Rose a kiss on the cheek, then skips out.

LINDA

Wow. Was that Amy being happy?

ROSE

Don't say the word out loud. You might jinx it. Oh heavens, I didn't even ask...

(calling)

Amy! What's his name?

BRIGHT (O.S.)

Tommy Callahan?

18 INT. GROCERY STORE. DAY.

18

Abbott and Bright move down an aisle, mid-conversation. Herbert wanders behind him, in his own world.

BRIGHT

Why are you asking me about him?

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Evidently your sister is dating him. Why? Do you know him?

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

Bright takes a can of corn off the shelf, turns:

BRIGHT

Hey, Pop Pop, you like cream corn?

HERBERT

You kiddin'? I love Lena Horne.

*

Bright smiles, gotta love old people.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Focus, Bright. This boy is apparently going to be joining us this evening, and if I need to be prepped--

BRIGHT

Tommy Callahan is coming to dinner? Oh man...

DOCTOR ABBOTT

What? What does that mean, "oh man?"

BRIGHT

I thought he still in rehab.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Rehab? Amy is dating an alcoholic?

BRIGHT

Oh, no. He was more into drugs. He got busted with a crapload of crystal meth on him, and about five baggies worth of weed. But he might have just been selling the pot.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

So he's a dealer and a junkie. That's just wonderful. Are you sure about this? Because if these are simply rumors...

BRIGHT

Look, all's I know for sure is he got kicked out of County two years ago.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

For drugs.

BRIGHT

No. He tried to burn down the school. So I guess he's sort of an arsonist, too. You might wanna hide the matches.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

Abbott goes ashen, wondering when the Fates decided to turn on him. Off his mounting concern, we SMASH CUT TO:

19 INT. THE BROWN HOUSE. KITCHEN. DAY.

19

Ephram, Andy and Madison prepping dinner. DELIA is VIDEO TAPING their efforts. Andy's pretending everything is fine.

DOCTOR BROWN

(to Ephram)

How are those potatoes coming? No fingertips in there yet, I hope.

DELIA

Ephram, you have to stand closer to Madison, so I can get you both in the little box.

EPHRAM

Enough with the camera, Delia.

DELIA

It's the new tradition, remember? You started it last year.

Ephram keeps hacking away at the sink. Madison keeps her head down, avoiding eye contact with everybody.

DELIA (CONT'D)

(still filming)

Okay, Madison. You have to look in the camera and tell me what you're thankful for.

MADISON

I don't know, sweetie. Maybe you should go first.

DELIA

That's easy. I'm grateful for you.

Madison looks at Delia, then at Ephram. Ephram can't look at her. Andy can't look at her. This is a nightmare. Finally:

MADISON

(re: her three-bean salad)

Okay... Um, this just needs to marinate for a couple hours. And as far as the turkey goes...

DELIA

You're not leaving are you?

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

MADISON

I have to, sweetie.

DELIA

But you said your family went to Florida for Thanksgiving and you'd eat here with us.

With that, Madison burns herself on the pan.

MADISON

Ouch. Dammit.

Ephram springs to her aid. Puts her hand under cold water, then fetches some ice and a towel.

DOCTOR BROWN

Let me look at that.

EPHRAM

I've got it.

MADISON

I'm fine, really.

As Ephram wraps her hand, their eyes meet. And we SEE it. More importantly, Ephram sees it: that look that tells him she still has all those feelings. Her eyes tear up.

MADISON (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I-- I have to go.

DELIA

But you're coming back, right?

MADISON

I don't think so.

DELIA

Tomorrow, though? You'll be back tomorrow.

MADISON

I can't come back anymore, honey.
(a last glance at Ephram)
I just can't.

And she flees the house. Ephram watches in shock and horror. Then turns on Andy, venom in every word.

EPHRAM

You did this.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

DOCTOR BROWN

I didn't--

EPHRAM

Everything would've been fine if it wasn't for you. But you had to screw it all up like you always do.

DELIA

Screw what up?

DOCTOR BROWN

Delia, could you go to your room for a minute, please?

DELIA

No.

EPHRAM

You couldn't stand that I was finally happy. You hated that I had somebody and you didn't.

DOCTOR BROWN

You know that isn't true. It was wrong, Ephram, and I couldn't just look the other way. Madison knew that and she agreed with me.

EPHRAM

She agreed because you threatened her.

DELIA

Why did you threaten Madison? Don't you like her?

DOCTOR BROWN

Of course I like her. But not for dating your brother.

DELIA

You're dating Madison? Like, with kissing?

EPHRAM

You tell me you want me to grow up, but you don't. You just want me to stay a kid so you can do all your stupid father stuff that you missed out on and feel guilty about. Well, it's too late. I'm a man and I can make my own decisions.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (3)

19

DOCTOR BROWN

You're not a man. If you were, you'd realize how childish you're being right now. Upsetting your sister, blaming me for your mistakes... You don't have to believe this, but I am sorry you're hurting and I'm sure this is very difficult for Madison as well. But the two of you put me in an impossible situation.

EPHRAM

How can something be impossible if it's happening? And it was. It was great and you couldn't deal, so you made it impossible. You make my entire life impossible.

DOCTOR BROWN

This isn't a question of what I can deal with, Ephram.

*
*

EPHRAM

Yes it is. You're alone, that's your thing. But you know what? I'm not you. I don't want to be like you. If Madison and I want this, that's all that matters.

*
*
*
*
*

DOCTOR BROWN

Ephram...

*
*

EPHRAM

I shouldn't have to be alone just because you are.

*

And he's gone. Delia stares at her father a beat, then she runs off, too. Off Andy, alone in a cornucopia of misery.

20 INT. THE ABBOTT HOUSE. AMY'S BEDROOM. DAY.

20

Where Abbott confronts Amy, Rose riding shotgun.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

How long have you been seeing him? I want dates, I want times...

AMY

Here we go...

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

DOCTOR ABBOTT

You're damn right, "here we go!" It's bad enough we didn't know where you were last night with your grandparents here, but I have to learn about this boy you're running around with my *mother*.

AMY

I'm not "running around."

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Is this who you've been out all night with when you say you're with Laynie? Is that what's been going on?

ROSE

Amy, is that true? Have you been lying to us?

Amy looks away.

AMY

No. Maybe sometimes.

ROSE

(crushed)

Amy...

DOCTOR ABBOTT

It doesn't matter, because you are never to see him again. Period.

AMY

Yeah, I am, because he's gonna be here for dinner in like, two hours.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Over my dead body. You are going to uninvite that boy right now. Where's your phone...?

AMY

I'm not uninviting him. That's insane! Besides, Mom said--

ROSE

I said that before I knew you were lying to me.

AMY

I didn't lie! His family is messed up and he has nowhere to go. All of that is totally true.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Yes, and it's also true that he was kicked out of school--

ROSE

Kicked out? You said he transferred.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

As well as being a meth addict with a propensity towards arson. You really picked a winner, Amy.

AMY

Where'd you hear that? Bright?

(off Abbott's look)

Figures. Tommy never did meth. And so he was in rehab for awhile, so what? You made me talk to some stupid counselor. At least his stuff helped. You know, people can change. Even if you never do.

ROSE

Don't talk to your father that way.

AMY

Why not? I'm supposed to uninvite someone because he's so closed-minded and believes every stupid rumor Bright tells him?

(then)

If you don't want him here, that's fine. We'll go somewhere else for Thanksgiving. It's up to you.

Face-off. Off Abbott, undecided and completely worn out...

CAROL

Is everything okay in here? I thought I heard yelling.

ROSE

Everything is fine, Mother.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Yes... everything is perfect.

Abbott shakes his head in disgust at his daughter, exiting.
Amy and Rose share a look.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

21 INT. THE ABBOTT HOUSE. DINING ROOM. DAY.

21

Apart from Amy, the whole clan is seated around the bountiful table, including IRV. Abbott, visibly troubled, prepares to slice the mammoth turkey.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

I think we've waited long enough.

Just then, Amy walks in with Tommy, who's carrying a lovely bouquet. Abbott goes stiff as Lot's wife.

AMY

Everybody, this is Tommy. Tommy, this is my mom and... everybody.

A chorus of "Hellos." Tommy offers the flowers to Rose.

TOMMY

Thank you for having me, Mrs. Abbott.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

You're late.

TOMMY

That's my fault, sir. The only flowers left at the first place were kinda dead, so I drove around looking for another place that was open. I'm really sorry.

Most of the room is charmed, except Rose, Harold and Bright.

ROSE

(stepping out)

I'll just put these in some water...

CAROL

Well isn't he sweet as apple pie? You kids sit next to me.

(then, to Abbott)

You going to carve that thing Harold, or should we just tear into it with our hands?

Carol smiles a playful smile at Tommy. Abbott pretends the bird is her and hacks away, trying to cut out the heart.

22 INT. THE BROWN HOUSE. DINING ROOM. SAME.

22

A study in bleak. Andy has forced Ephram and Delia to the table. As they angrily push food around their plates.

DOCTOR BROWN

How about that SpongeBob float, Delia?
That was a big SpongeBob, huh?

DELIA

Whatever.

EPHRAM

She doesn't care about the stupid float.

DELIA

You don't know what I care about.

DOCTOR BROWN

Have some turkey, sweetie.

DELIA

I'm not hungry. And you can't call me
"sweetie" when I don't like you.

DOCTOR BROWN

What about the salad? The salad's great.

DELIA

Madison made it. And I don't want any if
she's not here.

EPHRAM

Well, you have Dad to thank for that.

DELIA

Only 'cause you started it.

EPHRAM

I didn't kick her out. He's the one who
who made her go--

DOCTOR BROWN

Knock it off. It's Thanksgiving, guys.
We're a family. The three of us.
Madison may have been a nice addition for
a little while, but she chose to leave
tonight. I didn't make her go. Delia,
did you hear me tell her to leave?

DELIA

All I know is she was my friend. And now
she's gone.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

DELIA (CONT'D)
(then, sadly)
Can I please go to my room?

Andy sighs, knows he's lost this battle.

DOCTOR BROWN
If you want to.

Delia walks out of the room. And then there were two.

EPHRAM
You know what's really sad?

DOCTOR BROWN
Don't start, Ephram...

EPHRAM
We've been here for a year and a half now, and look at this table. There's no one here. Don't you think there's something wrong with that? When Mom made Thanksgiving, it was this big deal. We had like, twenty people at the table. That's why it was Delia's favorite holiday. It was fun.

DOCTOR BROWN
We can go to your grandparents next year, if you want...

EPHRAM
What I want is to be able to have a life. And I wouldn't even mind having to share it with you. But you won't let it happen. You're so busy controlling everything, I don't even think you know what it is you're controlling anymore. What is so wrong about me and Madison?

DOCTOR BROWN
A million things--

EPHRAM
No, there's not. I know you're freaked about the age thing, but there's more to it than that. I can tell. What I can't figure out is what it could be. She's great. She's smart. She loves Delia. She even likes you. So what is it that you're trying to stop?

Andy considers this. And for some reason, he can't come up with the answer. So he pulls the parent card:

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

DOCTOR BROWN
It's just wrong.

Ephram sighs. There is no conversation to be had here.

EPHRAM
May I be excused?

Andy nods. And he's gone. On Andy, alone in their wake, remembering why he used to work on holidays.

23 INT. THE ABBOTT HOUSE. DINING ROOM. DAY.

23

Tension, thy name is Abbotts.

CAROL
Hmmm. Who made the plum gravy?

BRIGHT
Dad makes it every year. Good, huh?

CAROL
There's more hairs than plums in it.

ROSE
Mother...

But Abbott is too busy staring at Tom to care.

DOCTOR ABBOTT
So how long have you known my daughter?

TOMMY
Uh, I don't know. I guess about two weeks now.

DOCTOR ABBOTT
And how old are you?

TOMMY
Seventeen.

AMY
Dad, can we just eat?

DOCTOR ABBOTT
I'm just trying to get to know the boy.
(then, back to sly pitbull)
So you're seventeen. But I understand you're still a Junior... That's unusual, isn't it? I mean, normally you'd be a year ahead of Amy by now, right?

*
*
*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

ROSE
Harold...

*
*

Tommy politely takes it all in stride. Which Abbott hates.

*

TOMMY
It's okay.
(to Abbott)
You're right, Dr. Abbott. I took a
little time off...

*
*
*
*

He smiles a charming smile, winning everyone over. Well, not quite everyone:

*
*

DOCTOR ABBOTT
I notice you're not with your family
tonight. Did they kick you out for some
reason?

*
*

A collective GRUMBLE of disturbance at that one.

TOMMY
(pointedly taking Amy's hand)
Um, no. We don't really do holidays at
my house.

*
*

The sight of their hands entwined is too much for Abbott:

*

DOCTOR ABBOTT
That's a pity. Although I suppose a
family doesn't have much cause to rejoice
when their son is a known felon...

AMY
Dad!

IRV
Harold, come on now...

TOMMY
(rising)
I think I should go...

CAROL
Oh, piddle paddle. Just ignore the man.
That's what the rest of us do.

TOMMY
That's okay. Thank you for dinner, Mrs.
Abbott. Nice meeting you all.

HERBERT
Bye, Bobby.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (2)

23

Amy stands to follow him. Tommy waves her off.

TOMMY

That's okay. I'll see you later.

Mortified, Amy watches him go.

LINDA

Harry, I think you crossed the line...

CAROL

You think he crossed the line? I'd say he plowed over the line with a tractor.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Oh, spare me, all of you.

Amy starts out, then wheels around to face her father, enraged... Decides against it. As she turns to go, Abbott crosses to her.

DOCTOR ABBOTT (CONT'D)

Where do you think you're going?

AMY

To my room.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

(before she goes)

That boy is not allowed back in this house ever again. Is that clear?

AMY

Fine! Then I'll just go to his place from now on.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

No, you will not.

AMY

How are you gonna stop me?

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Who do you think you're talking to, young lady? I drove *Wyoming* to pick you up during one of your cries for help.

*
*

CAROL

Wyoming?

EDNA

It's a state.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (3)

23

DOCTOR ABBOTT

I put on the anti-depressants that
you begged me for. But I will not have
my daughter dating some crystal meth
junkie--

CAROL

What's that? What did he say?

HERBERT

(he heard that one)
She's on anti-depressants and dating a
crystal meth junkie.

AMY

God, he is not--

*
*

DOCTOR ABBOTT

And the fact that you kept this boy a
secret proves how manipulative you've
become.

*
*
*
*

EDNA

Harold, maybe this isn't the best way to--

*

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Please, Mother. I'm hardly going to take
advice from you on how I should raise my
children. As if you would have any idea.

CAROL

(at Edna)
Indeed.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Clearly your behavior is no longer a
byproduct of some mysterious depression.
It's malicious and intentional and it is
over. From now on you will have no car,
no TV, no phone, no Internet. I will
take you to school and I will pick you
up, and you will not leave this house
otherwise. This self-indulgent act of
yours is going to stop right now.

*
*

Amy wipes away her tears and gathers the last of her pride.

AMY

You think by turning me into some kind of
prisoner in my own house that you're
going to save me? From what? Tommy?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (4)

23

AMY (CONT'D)

You don't even know him. As far as I can see the only person I need to be saved from anymore is you.

ROSE

Amy--

AMY

I hate this house. I hate my school. I hate my friends. And I hate this family. I hate everything about my entire, stupid life. So you can ground me, Dad. You can yell at me, do whatever you want, because honestly? I don't feel anything anymore. And you know the best part? I don't want to feel anything anymore. I don't even want to be BE anymore.

*
*

She walks out. As a shocked pall falls over the room, we HOLD ON Abbott, trapped in the worst moment of his life.

24 INT. BAR. NIGHT.

24

The Thanksgiving crowd at a bar isn't a pretty one. Everyone there is someone who isn't missed somewhere else. Andy Brown fits in well. All alone in the world, until Abbott enters

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Oh, just who I wanted to be annoyed by.

DOCTOR BROWN

I could move.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

I used to think the people in bars on a holiday must be the saddest people in the world.

DOCTOR BROWN

They are.

Andy knocks back whatever's left in the glass -- *cheers to that.*

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Please. You can dispense with the fashionable self-pity. My daughter is dating a paroled addict, if it's a contest you wouldn't even rank.

DOCTOR BROWN

My sixteen-year-old son is dating his twenty-year-old baby-sitter.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

DOCTOR ABBOTT
(a look; then)
Barkeep, two more. On my tab.

The drinks come and are appreciated.

DOCTOR BROWN
My son thinks I don't want to see him
happy because I'm not happy. Of course I
want him happy -- just within the
confines of the law. That's not selfish,
is it?

DOCTOR ABBOTT
Protecting them? It's common sense.

DOCTOR BROWN
Where were you an hour ago?

DOCTOR ABBOTT
Storming out of my own house.
(then)
I used to look forward to going home.
There were days I'd have Louise cancel my
4:30 so I could get back at the same time
as the kids. My whole day was trying to
get done with what I had to do so I could
get back to the house... Now I'm looking
for places to hide. Now I'm here. When
did this become preferable?

DOCTOR BROWN
Around the time they decided everything
was our fault.

DOCTOR ABBOTT
I had it right once. Not even that long
ago. When you first got to this town I
had the family I'd always wanted... Amy
and I spent every Friday night together
watching old movies -- I didn't even have
to remind her... Then we got off track
and even that was fine, it was just off
track.

(beat)
And then one day it was different, the
family I'd known wasn't off track
anymore, it was gone.

A beat. Andy can tell Abbott's hurting.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

DOCTOR BROWN

I'm hardly one to trust with advice but
I'm pretty sure about one thing.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

What?

DOCTOR BROWN

Whatever we're doing right now isn't
helping. This place doesn't exactly
foment joy.

Off Andy... Maybe...

25 INT. THE BROWN HOUSE. DELIA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

25

Delia lies in her bed, miserable. Ephram knocks and enters.

DELIA

Leave me alone.

EPHRAM

I'm gonna go see her. You need to come.

DELIA

Why?

EPHRAM

Because I can't leave you here by
yourself.

(beat)

And because I need your help.

That piques Delia's interest.

DELIA

Go on.

Ephram moves in and sits on the bed.

EPHRAM

I'm sorry, Delia. I know I messed things
up for you. But I never thought any of
this would actually happen, and then it
did and... The thing is, I like Madison
just as much as you do, only different.
You know?

Delia gives up nothing, makes him do all the heavy lifting.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

EPHRAM (CONT'D)

I need you to help me get her back.

DELIA

Back for you or back for me?

EPHRAM

Back for both of us.

As Delia raises a little eyebrow, accepting the mission...

SMASH CUT TO: A ROULETTE BALL, spinning a wide circle around the wheel...

26 INT. INDIAN RESERVATION CASINO. NIGHT.

26

Roulette... Just one of a thousand gaudy delights offered by the casino. FIND Andy and Abbott in front of the spinning Wheel of Fortune, taking it all in.

*
*
*

DOCTOR BROWN

So what's your game? Roulette? Pai Gow? Casino War?

DOCTOR ABBOTT

You don't actually expect me to fork over my hard-earned cash to some card shark in a clip-on tie. Nickle slots for entertainment is one thing, but Baccarat? Hundred-dollar-limit tables? If you want to hand your money away hand it to me. Only an imbecile would --

But his rant is interrupted as a BLUE-HAIRED WOMAN at the Wheel SQUEALS:

BLUEHAIR

I won! Three hundred dollars!

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Then again... a hand or two of blackjack wouldn't kill anyone.

DOCTOR BROWN

Are you sure you wouldn't rather stick to the nickle slots?

Har-har. Finding a table, Abbott lays down a ten spot. The DEALER hands him his cards. Abbott has just drawn a...

DOCTOR BROWN (CONT'D)

Hey, you got blackjack!

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

\$15.00 comes Abbott's way

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Well that was pleasant enough.

Abbott pulls up a chair, makes himself more comfortable.

CHEERING from a nearby room attracts Andy. He looks to SEE:

Charlie Grey Cloud in a suit, surrounded by FAMILY and FRIENDS, hands pumped and hugged heartily.

27 INT. CASINO. PARTY ROOM. NIGHT.

27

A gala with everything but a haftora: GUESTS dancing, BAND playing, centerpieces sparkling, gifts piled high, a "CONGRATULATIONS CHARLIE" sign in flashing flame letters. Even a cake shaped like a hockey rink. An amused Andy takes in meshugas from the doorway, where Randy spots him.

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GREY CLOUD

You're becoming a regular.

DOCTOR BROWN

So he did it. Congratulations.

GREY CLOUD

Without so much as a blister.

DOCTOR BROWN

And now he's a man?

GREY CLOUD

Don't know about that. The kid still doesn't brush his teeth until I tell him three times. But in the eyes of tradition...

They share a smile. Grey Cloud looks at his son getting pinched on the cheek by an OVER-AFFECTIONATE AUNT.

DOCTOR BROWN

If it's all just for show why not just throw the party? I know the firewalk is supposed to be about preparing the young for the trials of adulthood. Ordeal as rite of passage, all that Joseph Campbell jazz... But given his medical condition, I never would have let my son walk.

GREY CLOUD

Then you would have failed him.

(off Andy)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

GREY CLOUD

The truth is, Doctor, today was more a rite of passage for me than it was for Charlie. You saw him, he was more worried about losing his cell phone reception than his feet. Me, I don't think I've ever been that scared. When he stepped up to the fire, all I wanted to do was run and get him out of there, pull him off. Standing still and letting it happen, watching my son come close to danger... it was one of the hardest things I've ever done.

(and then)

Today may have made him a man in the eyes of tradition, but today also made me ready to be the father of a man.

As they look on together at the celebration of his son...

28 BACK AT THE BLACK JACK TABLE

28

...The dealer turns over a 6. Abbott's face drops.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

How can you possibly hit 21 four times in a row? It's statistically impossible!

He pulls out his wallet, takes out a wad of bills.

DOCTOR ABBOTT (CONT'D)

More chips please. And some good cards.

This could be the start of a terrible relationship...

29 EXT. MADISON'S APARTMENT. NIGHT.

29

Madison opens to find Ephram standing in the cold. She instantly shakes her head, "no." A reflex by now.

MADISON

Ephram, please...

But he's desperate to plead his case.

EPHRAM

You were right. We should've told my dad right away. That was my mistake.

MADISON

I don't think it would have made a difference.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

EPHRAM

Maybe, maybe not. But it would have been the more adult way to handle it. And from now on, I'm going to be more adult when it comes to me and you.

MADISON

Ephram...

EPHRAM

Look, you may have had a million boyfriends already, but I've never had a real girlfriend. I've never liked someone this much who actually liked me back in the same way, at the same time that I like them... I think it's something I have to fight for.

MADISON

Fight how? Your dad is not gonna change his mind about us...

EPHRAM

So what? That's his problem. End of the day, my dad can't stop me. He can't stop this from happening. Only you can.

Madison's defenses begin to melt.

MADISON

So let's say we can convince your dad-- What about everyone else? Your friends and my friends... the government.

EPHRAM

Bush has his hands full. And as far as my friends go, I've got about two. And one of them is you. So as my friend, how would you feel about me dating Madison?

MADISON

I dunno. She is a pretty cool chick.

Ephram smiles. He's winning.... He steps in closer.

MADISON (CONT'D)

I guess I can always claim insanity if anyone presses charges.

She finally opens the door to let him in. They share a small kiss then she spots DELIA in the car. Her hopeful face pressed against the window.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (2)

29

MADISON (CONT'D)

Go get your sister. She must be an
icicle by now.

Off Ephram's hallelujah smile...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

30 INT. ANDY'S CAR. NIGHT.

30

Outside Abbott's house. Andy is dropping off Abbott. Who does not look well at all.

DOCTOR BROWN
You sure you want to go in alone? I can check if the coast is clear.

DOCTOR ABBOTT
You should never have left me at that table.

DOCTOR BROWN
I tried to stop you.

DOCTOR ABBOTT
All those flashing lights, the constant noise, every five minutes another drink in my hand... I was clearly in a hypnotic state. How could you let me continue? What were you thinking?

DOCTOR BROWN
I was thinking you'd quit after the first two grand. Who told you to split fives?

DOCTOR ABBOTT
(numb)
Seven thousand dollars in three hours...

DOCTOR BROWN
Two and a half, actually --

DOCTOR ABBOTT
-- You're not helping.
(as he gets out)
Indians... On Thanksgiving... Should've known...

And off Abbott drags, back into his house, even worse off than when he left. And that's saying something.

31 INT. THE BROWN HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT.

31

A dour Andy enters. He spots Ephram who sits by the fireplace. It's lit up. Hard to say who's more tense.

DOCTOR BROWN
You made a fire?

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

EPHRAM

We haven't used the fireplace yet this fall, I figured it was about time.

DOCTOR BROWN

But I haven't even cleaned the--

EPHRAM

I did it.

DOCTOR BROWN

Or gotten the wood from the--

EPHRAM

I did it.

Andy shrugs. Another sign of his son's independence. He takes a seat beside Ephram.

Ephram steels himself, takes a breath, then:

EPHRAM (CONT'D)

I saw Madison tonight. And I'm gonna keep seeing her. And you can't stop me.

DOCTOR BROWN

I know. I'm not gonna try.

Ephram sits up a little straighter.

DOCTOR BROWN (CONT'D)

I'm gonna let you do this, Ephram. I think it's wrong. I think you're making a mistake. But I think I have to let you make it.

EPHRAM

Gotta admit. Not where I thought this conversation was going.

DOCTOR BROWN

I also want you to know that my concerns about this... this...

*

EPHRAM

(finishing for him)
Relationship.

DOCTOR BROWN

My concerns have nothing to do with you. Not in the way you think. I know you're not an average sixteen-year-old kid.

*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (2)

31

DOCTOR BROWN (CONT'D)

I've known that for a long time now. But that doesn't mean you're ready for something like this. More importantly, it doesn't mean I'm ready to watch you go through something like this. But I value what we've been building here too much to risk destroying it by trying to stop you. And I also know that if I forbid you, it will only make it that much more appealing.

EPHRAM

This isn't some act of rebellion on my part. It's real, Dad.

DOCTOR BROWN

I know it is. Which is what makes it even scarier.

They sit. The fire CRACKLES.

DOCTOR BROWN (CONT'D)

You should have been honest with me from the beginning.

EPHRAM

I know. And I'm sorry. Really, I am. It just sort of happened before I thought about it.

DOCTOR BROWN

Yeah. Life's like that a lot.

HOLD ON them, just sitting there, father and son, man to man.

32 INT. THE ABBOTT HOUSE. NIGHT.

32

Abbott withers in a chair while a weary Rose scolds. Carol hovers nearby, her two cents burning a hole in her pocket.

ROSE

I can't begin to imagine what you were thinking. After the day we've had, I have to get a call from not one, but two, credit card companies to ask if our card's been stolen. Someone's running up a tab, they say. A casino, Harold.

CAROL

Well, I hope you're proud of yourself. Pardon me for saying this, but from where I stand, you're failing this family.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

ROSE
Mother, please.

CAROL
What? It's true.
(back to Harold)
You've lost Amy. And Bright's never
going to amount to much because you
didn't push him enough from the
beginning. I could tell when he was
still little that you weren't raising him
right. Now you're a profligate gambler
to boot. If only Rose had married
Richard McKenna.

*

DOCTOR ABBOTT
Oh, here we go. The Richard McKenna
speech.

CAROL
I knew in high school that you would
stifle my daughter into middle-class
limbo. Instead of just mayor of
Everwood, Rose could have been governor
of the whole state. But she settled for
you instead, a man content to follow in
his father's footsteps. And sure enough,
you walked down the same dead end that he
did and dragged my legacy right along
with you.

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ROSE
Mother, shut up.

CAROL
Excuse me?

ROSE
I said, shut up. How dare you come into
our home and pass judgment like that.
Harold may have screwed up big time
tonight, but he's as fine a husband as
any man. Don't ever say that I settled.
I'm a lucky woman, Mother. And as good a
husband as he is, he's an even better
father. His only fault may have been to
love his kids too much sometimes, but
everything he's ever done was to help
them, not tear them down like you
constantly did to your children.

CAROL
Rose, how can you say that to me?

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32

HERBERT
(entering)
Easy. She's right.

He carries two glasses of scotch. Hands Abbott one.

HERBERT (CONT'D)
Why do you think the kids never come to
visit us?
(a rhetorical beat)
Now go up and pack so we can leave these
people in peace first thing tomorrow.
(off Carol's glare)
I said go.

Stunned, and finally speechless, Carol exits.

HERBERT (CONT'D)
I know you two aren't having an easy time
of it right now. Me, I wouldn't wish
parenthood on my worst enemy.
(then, warmly)
Good luck to you... You're always in my
prayers.

ROSE
Good night, Daddy.

HERBERT
'Night, Rosebud... Harold.

He goes. Rose and Harold share a look. Off Abbott, in
grateful, loving awe -- of Herbert... And especially Rose.

33 INT. THE BROWN HOUSE. KITCHEN. DAY.

33

Madison sits at the table with Delia.

DELIA
So are you back for real?

MADISON
That's the plan.

DELIA
So we can go back to how it was before?
You're my baby-sitter?

MADISON
Well, yes and no. I am your baby-sitter,
but it won't be exactly like it was
before.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

MADISON

'Cause sometimes when we're together, I won't be your baby-sitter. You know?

DELIA

When Ephram's around.

MADISON

Exactly. And I don't want you to be upset with your dad or Ephram. We're all gonna start over from scratch.

DELIA

We do that a lot around here.
(then, incredulous)
You really like Ephram?

Madison smiles and Andy enters from upstairs.

MADISON

I gotta talk to your dad for a second, okay, sweetie? Then we're on leftover patrol. Sound good?

DELIA

All right! Turkey sandwiches...

As Delia races upstairs, Madison turns to Andy...

MADISON

Hey, Doctor Brown. I wanted to apologize again and thank you for everything. The job, I mean.

DOCTOR BROWN

You're good at it. The job, I mean.

Madison smiles.

DOCTOR BROWN (CONT'D)

I have to ask something.

MADISON

Sure. What is it?

DOCTOR BROWN

Do you remember your first love?

MADISON

Yeah. Of course I do.

DOCTOR BROWN

Then you remember how it felt when it ended. You must remember.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

DOCTOR BROWN (CONT'D)

That kind of pain, it really only does happen once. But it stays with you, forever.

Madison isn't sure she gets this yet, so she just nods.

DOCTOR BROWN (CONT'D)

Ephram hasn't felt that yet. He's had crushes. Some real good ones, too. But he's never had a girlfriend. You'll be his first.

Oh. Now she gets it.

MADISON

Yeah. He told me that.

(then)

I didn't mean for this to happen. In my head I know it's... Well, it doesn't make a lot of sense. But I just felt it, you know? I guess maybe I should think more and feel less, but... Maybe I'm still naïve enough to think it can work, too.

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DOCTOR BROWN

I know Ephram thinks he's a man. I know you see him that way. But he's not. He's still a boy. And his heart is wide open. Be careful with it.

Andy exits. Off Madison, his words of caution settling in...

34 INT. THE ABBOTT HOUSE. HALLWAY OUTSIDE AMY'S DOOR. DAY.

34

Rose KNOCKS, entreating Amy.

ROSE

Amy, please come say goodbye to your grandparents. Don't take this out on them.

(silence; firm)

Amy Nicole, would you open the door please.

Still nothing. Abbott arrives at the door. THUMP-THUMPS it.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

That is enough, come on out here this instant. Amy! Fine, then I'm coming in.

He JAGGLES the knob. Locked. He forces the handle, which gives with a THUNK. Only when he enters he finds --

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

AMY'S ROOM IS EMPTY. With the window open. The cold fall air blustering in. Off the Abbots, suddenly scared...

35 EXT. CHRISTMAS TREE SALES LOT. DAY.

35

Andy and a giddy Delia make their way through a mini-forest of displaced trees. Delia beelines for the giants.

DELIA

This one!

(the next tree)

No, this one's bigger.

DOCTOR BROWN

What was our deal?

DELIA

"Nothing taller than the house."

Fine. They walk, rounding another evergreen corner to find: LINDA. She smiles at Delia, who still doesn't like her much.

LINDA

Hey there. Find anything you like?

DELIA

Not yet. Dad, come on, we have to keep looking.

DOCTOR BROWN

You look for awhile, okay? Let me know when you pick one.

DELIA

But then we have to take it home fast. Otherwise it'll die.

Delia clomps off.

LINDA

The Browns celebrate Christmas?

DOCTOR BROWN

Delia proudly identifies as Jewish until it's time to pick the biggest tree on the lot.

A beat. There's a lot of awkward still left between these two. Andy blinks first.

DOCTOR BROWN (CONT'D)

Listen --

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

LINDA

-- You don't have to. Whatever you're about to do, you can skip it. Really.

DOCTOR BROWN

No, I can't. I need to apologize. I've been avoiding you lately.

*
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LINDA

I noticed.

DOCTOR BROWN

It's a signature move. But I couldn't help it. I have this laundry list of reasons to steer clear of you spiraling in my head. Not being sure, being scared for your health, being scared of how the kids will react. And then there's always the fact that you've shown no interest in me whatsoever...

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LINDA

(laughing)

That's not true. Is it?

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DOCTOR BROWN

As you may remember, asking you out was a pretty spectacular failure. Your rejection was so sweeping that--

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LINDA

I loved the roses.

*
*

News to him. Stop. Switch gears.

*

DOCTOR BROWN

You did?

*
*

LINDA

And the balloons. Even though Mylar and latex are just terrible for the environment...

(then, sincere)

Look, Andy, you have every right to be scared, for all the reasons you just said. Except for one. I am interested in you. Very interested. Sorry I forgot to mention it earlier.

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DOCTOR BROWN

(still reeling)

No problem.

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35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

A heady beat. Just then, it begins to SNOW.

*

LINDA

Look at that, it's starting to snow.

DOCTOR BROWN

First one of the year.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (3)

35

It starts to come down, making a pretty scene even prettier.

*

LINDA

I used to have this obsession with the first snowfall of the year when I was young. I don't know what it was... I just thought this is something so perfect and pure, the start of something...

*

And he KISSES her. Just like that, without prelude or hesitation. Long and deep and real under the freshly falling snow and picture-perfect trees. Couldn't help himself...

*

*

It's everything we want for both of them...

Until we REVEAL: DELIA. Hidden in the trees. She saw the whole thing. And is not happy. He promised.

36 INT. THE ABBOTT HOUSE. DAY.

36

Abbott and Rose speak to the SHERIFF. Carol, Herbert, and Bright worry nearby.

DOCTOR ABBOTT

We don't know how long she's been gone.

ROSE

We thought she was just in her room pouting all night.

SHERIFF

Most cases like this, kids come home the same day. Just out for a drive, trying to piss off Mom and Dad.

ROSE

That's not it, Roger. She was pretty upset last night. She said some... troubling things.

Linda enters.

LINDA

What's going on?

DOCTOR ABBOTT

Amy's gone. She left sometime last night.

Linda's almost afraid to ask:

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

LINDA
Her friend, Tommy?

DOCTOR ABBOTT
The Sheriff spoke to him. He says he
doesn't know where she is... Nobody does.

SHERIFF
(into his radio)
Let's put out an All Points on Amy
Abbott. Light brown hair, brown eyes.
Height, five-seven and a half; weight,
approximately one-fifteen.

*
*

His police RADIO crackles back:

DISPATCH (V.O.)
How do you want us to handle it?

SHERIFF
10-36, Amber.

DOCTOR ABBOTT
What's that mean?

A heavy beat, then:

SHERIFF
Missing child.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW