

ROSEANNE

"Slice of Life"

SHOW # 217

written by

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ROSEANNE

"Slice of Life"

SHOW #217

CAST

Roseanne Conner.....Roseanne Barr  
Dan Conner.....John Goodman  
Becky Conner.....Lecy Goranson  
Darlene Conner.....Sara Gilbert  
D.J. Conner.....Michael Fishman  
Jackie Harris.....Laurie Metcalf

GUEST CAST

Klosky.....Elya Baskin  
Dr. Bryce.....Lynne Thigpen  
Nurse Chambers.....Donna La Brie  
Coach Graham.....John Walter Davis  
Donna.....Mary Fogarty

SET

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ACT ONE

Scene 1

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - 10:00 AM (DAY 1)  
(Roseanne, Dan, Becky, Darlene)

(ROSEANNE IS MIXING BROWNIE BATTER. BECKY  
CROSSES TO THE PANTRY AND GRABS A BAG OF  
CHOCOLATE CHIPS)

BECKY

Here, Mom, add these.

ROSEANNE

Yeah, well, that's just what these  
triple fudge brownies need, more  
chocolate. What are the other  
girls bringing to the slumber  
party, insulin?

BECKY

Mother, please.

(DURING THE FOLLOWING, ROSEANNE FINISHES  
MIXING THE BROWNIE BATTER AND PUTS IT IN THE  
OVEN. DAN ENTERS THROUGH THE BACK DOOR,  
CARRYING AN EIGHT-TRACK TAPE PLAYER AND A  
COUPLE OF TAPES)

DAN

Hey, Becky, check it out.

(DAN PUTS THE PLAYER AND TAPES ON THE TABLE.  
BECKY GOES TO THE TABLE)

BECKY

What is it?

DAN

It's an eight-track.

(HIPPIE-LIKE)

It's like, a blast from the past, man.

BECKY

Mother, tell your husband these  
are the eighties.

ROSEANNE

Becky, I guess you're old enough  
to know the grim truth. Your  
father is frozen in time. We're  
just gonna skip the eighties and  
try to thaw him out in the  
nineties.

DAN

(TO BECKY, INDICATING THE TAPE PLAYER)

Go ahead and take it, it'll  
trippy.

(DAN SITS AT THE TABLE AND PICKS UP THE NEWSPAPER)

BECKY

I'm gonna go pack.

(BECKY EXITS. DAN LOOKS VERY CLOSELY AT THE  
BROWNIES ON THE TABLE)

DAN

Far out.

(DARLENE ENTERS FROM THE LIVING ROOM AND HEADS  
TO THE UTILITY ROOM. ROSEANNE CROSSES TO  
COUNTER)

ROSEANNE

(TO DARLENE)

Hey, what time's your game?

DARLENE

I don't know. Around three.

DAN

How's the arm, sport?

DARLENE

Okay, I guess.

(ROSEANNE PICKS UP A PLASTIC BULLHORN)

ROSEANNE

Hey, I'm all set for the game.

(INTO BULLHORN, BASEBALL CHATTER)

ROSEANNE (CONT'D)

He no batter. He no hitter.

H'on, babe. Fire hard.

DAN

Hey, batter-batter-batter.

(DARLENE STARTS TO GO)

ROSEANNE

(INTO BULLHORN)

Hold it.

DARLENE

What now?

ROSEANNE

The "Lanford Lightning Bolt" ain't  
goin' no place without breakfast.

DARLENE

I'M JUST GOING OUT TO THE GARAGE  
TO GET MY GLOVE, OKAY?

(DARLENE EXITS TO THE GARAGE)

ROSEANNE

You know, it comes to me, Dan,  
that our middle child is kinda,  
how do you say, out of sorts.

DAN

Pre-game jitters. I used to get  
'em myself. All the great ones do.

(ROSEANNE CROSSES TO DAN)

ROSEANNE

Yeah, well, how soon before the game  
do these here "jitters" set in?  
'Cause she's been flying off the  
handle for two weeks.

DAN

Seems like business as usual to me.

ROSEANNE

Well, guess again. Darlene, The  
Chocolate Queen, just walked past  
a plate of triple fudge brownies  
without even breaking stride.

DAN

She's in training, babe.

ROSEANNE

(INTO BULLHORN)

Well, thank you, Amazing Conner for  
unravelling yet another sports-  
related mystery.

(DARLENE ENTERS FROM THE GARAGE, CARRYING HER  
BASEBALL GLOVE)

DARLENE

I'm going over to Ernie's to  
field grounders.



ROSEANNE

Yeah, first, you're gonna field  
breakfast.

DARLENE

Fine.

(DURING THE FOLLOWING, DARLENE SITS AND GRABS  
A CEREAL BOWL, POURS SOME CEREAL AND MILK, AND  
EATS. ROSEANNE CROSSES TO BROWNIES)

DAN

(TO DARLENE)

Hey, kiddo, I'm really gonna  
try to make it over there today,  
but it doesn't look good. I gotta  
pour a driveway over on the west side.

DARLENE

Don't worry about it. It's okay.

ROSEANNE

But I'm gonna be there.

DARLENE

Will you guys just leave me alone.  
I don't need you there to watch me  
pitch.

(DARLENE EXITS QUICKLY TO THE LIVING ROOM AND  
OUT THE FRONT DOOR)

ROSEANNE

Pitch. Pitch. Pitch. All she  
ever does is pitch.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

Scene 2

INT. KITCHEN - 12:00 PM (DAY 1)  
(Roseanne, Becky, Darlene, D.J.)

(THE TAPE PLAYER AND TAPES ARE STILL ON THE TABLE. BECKY IS WRAPPING BROWNIES AND PACKING THEM IN A BAG. THROUGH THE ARCHWAY, WE SEE DARLENE ENTER THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR AND THROW HER BASEBALL GLOVE AND BASEBALL CLEATS ON THE COUCH. SHE CROSSES THROUGH THE LIVING ROOM AND ENTERS THE KITCHEN AND GETS A SODA FROM THE REFRIGERATOR)

DARLENE

Where's Mom?

BECKY

She and D.J went to wash the car.

DARLENE

She say when she'd be back?

BECKY

Nope.

DARLENE

She say anything about coming to my game?

BECKY

Not to me. Why?

(DARLENE SITS)

DARLENE

Nothing.

BECKY

You gonna be mad if she misses the game?



DARLENE

My life would be perfect if she missed the game. It's already halfway perfect. Dad's not gonna be there.

BECKY

They getting on your nerves?

DARLENE

Becky, every time they come to one of my games, Dad sits there yelling, "Hey, batter batter, batter. Swing batter." And Mom, she throws snowcones at the umpire.

BECKY

She does not.

DARLENE

She did once. I'm telling you, they are complete nerds.

BECKY

Hey, wait'll you start dating and Dad asks the guy you're going out with if he has "popcorn" money.

DARLENE

I'm not dating, ever.

BECKY

It doesn't matter. They'll always find a way to embarrass you.

Believe me.

DARLENE

Well, it's not fair. I mean, parents are supposed to stay in the house, except when they're driving you somewhere, and then they're just supposed to drop you off and go away.

BECKY

In a perfect world, Darlene, in a perfect world.

(INDICATING TAPE)

I mean, look what Dad wanted me to take to Diane's.

DARLENE

What's that?

BECKY

(IMITATING DAN)

"Like a blast from the past, man."

DARLENE

They can't be our real parents.

(THROUGH THE ARCHWAY, WE SEE ROSEANNE AND D.J. ENTER THE LIVING ROOM)

BECKY

Nerd alert. Nerd alert.

(DARLENE RISES)

DARLENE

Becky, you gotta help me. I don't want Mom coming to the game.

D.J. (OS)

I'm gonna watch TV.

(THROUGH THE ARCHWAY, WE SEE ROSEANNE PICK UP DARLENE'S BASEBALL CLEATS OFF THE COUCH AND HEAD FOR THE KITCHEN. ROSEANNE ENTERS)

ROSEANNE

(HOLDING UP THE CLEATS)

Darlene, what did I tell ya I was gonna do if I found these on the couch again?

DARLENE

Look, just give me the shoes and hold the lecture.

BECKY

Darlene!

ROSEANNE

Listen, Miss Smartmouth, you're not even gonna be needin' these shoes, 'cause you're not gonna be playing baseball again 'til you're fifty-eight.

DARLENE

Fine with me. I don't want to play anyway if you're gonna be there.

(DARLENE EXITS, ANGRY, OUT THE BACK DOOR)

BECKY

Did you ever throw a snow cone at an umpire?

ROSEANNE

You weren't there. You didn't see  
the call.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

Scene 3

INT. LIVING ROOM - 3:15 PM (DAY 1)  
(Roseanne, Becky, D.J., Jackie)

(ROSEANNE LIES ON THE COUCH, HER EYES CLOSED.  
D.J. IS COLORING. A BEAT. BECKY ENTERS FROM  
THE KITCHEN)

BECKY

Mother, will you do something  
about your son?

ROSEANNE

I gave birth to him. What more do  
you want?

BECKY

He stole my brownies.

D.J.

I only took one.

BECKY

Yeah, but they're for my slumber  
party and you mooshed four of them.

ROSEANNE

D.J., didn't we have a little talk  
about mooshing?

(THERE IS A KNOCK AT THE FRONT DOOR AND JACKIE  
ENTERS, CARRYING AN OLD SLEEPING BAG)

JACKIE

I'm here.

ROSEANNE

Me, too.

BECKY

Aunt Jackie, you brought it.

JACKIE

(TO ROSEANNE)

Yes, do you remember "the sleeping  
bag?"

(ROSEANNE SITS UP)

ROSEANNE

Omigod, you still have that thing?

JACKIE

Yes. Mom gave this to me when I  
moved out, in case I needed a  
place to stay for the rest of my  
life.

BECKY

There are cowgirls all over it.

JACKIE

Becky, those aren't just cowgirls.  
That is "The Cowgirl." That's  
Annie Oakley.

BECKY

There's no way I'm gonna take that  
to the slumber party.

JACKIE

I guarantee you, nobody'll have  
one like it.

BECKY

Yeah, including me. I'd rather  
sleep in a trash bag.



ROSEANNE

Well, they're under the sink. You  
better take two.

BECKY

Oh, Mother.

(BECKY EXITS UPSTAIRS)

JACKIE

Geez, oh, if this bag could talk.

ROSEANNE

I'd cut it's tongue out, I would

JACKIE

You remember how much we hated  
this thing when Mom brought it  
home from that yard sale?

ROSEANNE

They could've at least  
turned off the sprinklers.

(ROSEANNE AND JACKIE PUT THE SLEEPING BAG ON  
TOP OF D.J.)

D.J.

Gimme a break.

(ROSEANNE AND JACKIE HEAD TOWARD THE KITCHEN)

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

Scene 4

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS ACTION (DAY 1)  
(Roseanne, Becky, D.J., Jackie)

(ROSEANNE AND JACKIE ENTER. ROSEANNE CROSSES AND POURS TWO CUPS OF COFFEE. JACKIE CROSSES TO THE TABLE AND SITS.)

JACKIE

I thought you were going to  
Darlene's ballgame.

ROSEANNE

Darlene and I aren't exactly  
talking these days. We're  
yelling.

JACKIE

But you both do it so well.

ROSEANNE

Yeah, and I usually enjoy it. But,  
boy, lately she's driving me crazy.

JACKIE

Roseanne, she's eleven. You  
remember the trouble we used to  
give Mom?

ROSEANNE

Mom deserved it, whereas Darlene  
has me and I'm the perfect mother.

JACKIE

Oh, yeah, right, I forgot.

(ROSEANNE CROSSES TO THE TABLE, THEN TO THE  
REFRIGERATOR)

ROSEANNE

I'm serious, Jackie. I am the antithesis of everything Mom stood for.

JACKIE

Oh, Darlene'd be against you no matter what you stood for. You're her mother.

(ROSEANNE GETS TWO SPOONS)

ROSEANNE

Well, doesn't this stuff skip a generation or something? I don't remember having this problem with Becky.

JACKIE

Sure, you did. Becky was just too polite to say anything about it.

(ROSEANNE CROSSES TO THE TABLE)

ROSEANNE

Really?

JACKIE

But, hey, it's not just you. It's Dan, too.

(ROSEANNE SITS)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

It's all parents. You're going through what is commonly known as the "I Have No Parents. I Was Hatched From An Egg" syndrome.

ROSEANNE

I can't wait 'til you have kids.

SFX: TELEPHONE RINGS

(ROSEANNE CROSSES TO THE PHONE)

ROSEANNE (CONT'D)

(INTO RECEIVER)

Hello?...What happened?...Which  
hospital?...I'll be right there...

No, she's not allergic to penicillin.

(ROSEANNE HANGS UP THE PHONE. DURING THE  
FOLLOWING, SHE GRABS A PAD AND PENCIL, CROSSES  
TO THE TABLE, AND STARTS WRITING. ROSEANNE IS  
OPERATING ON AUTOMATIC PILOT)

JACKIE

What.

ROSEANNE

Darlene's in the hospital.

(CALLING OFF)

Becky, get down here. Now.

JACKIE

What's wrong?

ROSEANNE

Appendicitis.

JACKIE

How do we reach Dan?

ROSEANNE

We can't. There's no phone on the  
job site.

JACKIE

You want me to stay with the kids?

ROSEANNE

No, Becky can watch D.J.. You go  
with me.

(BECKY ENTERS, FOLLOWED BY D.J.)

BECKY

Mom, what's wrong?

ROSEANNE

Your sister's in the hospital with  
appendicitis.

BECKY

Oh, no. What do you want me to do?

D.J.

Darlene's in the hospital?

ROSEANNE

(TO D.J.)

She'll be okay, honey.

(TO BECKY)

You stay here with D.J.

JACKIE

I'm gonna go start the car.

(JACKIE EXITS TO THE LIVING ROOM AND OUT THE  
FRONT DOOR)

ROSEANNE

(TO BECKY)

And when your dad gets home, tell him  
me and Aunt Jackie are in County  
Hospital emergency room.

BECKY

Okay.

D.J.

I want to go with you.

ROSEANNE

You can't, honey.

BECKY

Yeah, D.J., you and me gotta stay  
here and give this note to Daddy,  
okay?

D.J.

I want to go with Mom.

ROSEANNE

(HEADING FOR THE LIVING ROOM)

Becky, I'm counting on you.

(ROSEANNE EXITS TO THE LIVING ROOM AND OUT THE  
FRONT DOOR)

D.J.

Mom!

BECKY

D.J., come on. I'll let you moosh  
some more brownies, okay?

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE



ACT TWO

Scene 1

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - 3:30 PM (DAY 1)  
(Roseanne, Dan, Jackie, Mrs. Chambers, Klosky,  
Dr. Bryce, Donna, Ted Graham, Extras)

(THE ROOM IS CROWDED. KIDS ARE RUNNING  
AROUND. THERE ARE SICK AND INJURED PEOPLE  
WAITING TO BE ADMITTED. KLOSKY, AN ESTONIAN,  
STANDS AT THE ADMISSIONS DESK, SPEAKING  
ESTONIAN TO THE ADMITTING NURSE, MRS.  
CHAMBERS, A WOMAN IN HER THIRTIES. DONNA, A  
CLERK, IS HUNCHED OVER A TYPEWRITER.  
ROSEANNE AND JACKIE ENTER FROM OUTSIDE. TED  
GRAHAM, A MAN IN HIS THIRTIES, APPROACHES)

GRAHAM

Mrs. Conner? Ted Graham,  
Darlene's baseball coach?

ROSEANNE

Oh, Ted, hi. How is she?

GRAHAM

I don't know. They won't tell me  
anything.

ROSEANNE

Well, they're gonna sure as hell  
tell me.

(ROSEANNE, JACKIE, AND GRAHAM CROSS TO THE  
ADMISSIONS DESK. KLOSKY CROSSES TO THE DESK)

KLOSKY

IN ESTONIAN: "Wife. Wife. How  
is my wife?"

CHAMBERS

(TO KLOSKY)

Look, we're trying to find  
somebody that speaks whatever it  
is you're speaking.

(HE CROSSES AWAY)

DONNA

(TO CHAMBERS)

I can't find the blank insurance forms.

ROSEANNE

(TO CHAMBERS)

I'm Roseanne Conner. I'd like to  
see my daughter.

CHAMBERS

(TO DONNA)

For the third time, file cabinet,  
top drawer.

(THEN, SCANNING A LIST)

Conner...Conner.

ROSEANNE

Right. Darlene Conner.

(TO GRAHAM)

What happened?

GRAHAM

I don't know. She was out there  
on the mound, she was having a  
good day, she was three inings  
into a no-hitter, and boom, she  
went down like a ton a bricks.

DONNA

(HANDING CHAMBERS SOME PAPERS)

Here you go, Mrs. Chambers. All  
done.

CHAMBERS

Great.

ROSEANNE

I'd like to see my daughter.

CHAMBERS

Darlene's being prepped for  
surgery. Dr. Bryce will take you  
to see her.

ROSEANNE

How's Darlene doing?

CHAMBERS

We haven't been advised of her  
condition.

SFX: P.A. ANNOUNCEMENT

DONNA

(ON P.A.)

Dr. Bryce to emergency, please.

Dr. Bryce to emergency.

(ROSEANNE AND JACKIE HEAD FOR THE WAITING  
AREA. GRAHAM FOLLOWS)

GRAHAM

Mrs. Conner, is there anything I  
can do?

ROSEANNE

No, we'll be okay, but I really appreciate you coming down here with her.

GRAHAM

Tell her she got the win.

ROSEANNE

Thanks, I'll tell her.

(GRAHAM EXITS. DAN ENTERS FROM THE OUTSIDE AND CROSSES TO ROSEANNE AND JACKIE AS THEY SIT)

DAN

How is she?

ROSEANNE

(ROSEANNE RISES)

They're getting her ready for surgery.

DAN

Have you seen her?

ROSEANNE

No.

DAN

Are they gonna let us see her?

ROSEANNE

As soon as the doctor gets here, and she's on her way.

DAN

How you doing?

ROSEANNE

I been better.

(DAN HUGS ROSEANNE AND HOLDS HER FOR SEVERAL BEATS)

ROSEANNE (CONT'D)

Oh God.

DAN

Hey, hey, Lake Ronoma.

ROSEANNE

What?

DAN

What was it, five years ago?

We were up in that cabin, Becky had  
the lung infection and we

thought--well, we both know what

we thought. We got through that.

Right?

(ROSEANNE NODS)

DAN (CONT'D)

Okay, it's just Lake Ronoma.

ROSEANNE

Okay.

(DR. BRYCE, A WOMAN IN HER FORTIES, ENTERS.  
SHE LOOKS WEARY)

DR. BRYCE

Mr. and Mrs. Conner?

ROSEANNE

Yes?

(DR. BRYCE CROSSES TO THEM)

DR. BRYCE

Hi, I'm Dr. Bryce. I'll be operating on Darlene.

ROSEANNE

Can we see her?

DR. BRYCE

I'm afraid that's not possible. She's being taken into surgery.

ROSEANNE

But they said we could see her.

DR. BRYCE

Mr. and Mrs. Conner, this is the situation. Darlene's appendix has ruptured, causing her to run a fever. Now, under normal circumstances we'd try to bring the fever down before we operate.

DAN

But?

DR. BRYCE

But there appears to be an obstruction of the intestines, which means we can't wait for the fever to come down. We have to operate now.

DAN

Uh, is that dangerous? I mean, is it dangerous?



DR. BRYCE

I can't tell you not to worry.  
You'll do that anyway. I'm a  
parent, too. There are dangers  
associated with any surgery. But,  
I can assure you this is not an  
uncommon procedure.

ROSEANNE

How long does it take?

DR. BRYCE

It usually takes about two hours.  
And when it's over, I'll come out,  
I'll talk to you and then you can  
see Darlene in the recovery room.

(DR. BRYCE EXITS. A BEAT. DAN PUTS HIS ARM  
AROUND ROSEANNE)

DAN

She's gonna be all right.

ROSEANNE

Yeah.

DAN

Yeah. They probably do this  
twenty times a day.

ROSEANNE

Not on our daughter.

(THEY SIT)

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

Scene 2

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - 5:00 PM (DAY 1)  
(Roseanne, Dan, Jackie, Mrs. Chambers, Klosky,  
Donna, Extras)

(ROSEANNE, DAN, AND JACKIE SIT IN THE WAITING  
AREA. DAN IS FILLING OUT A MEDICAL HISTORY FORM)

DAN

Darlene have chicken pox?

ROSEANNE

Yeah. November, eighty-three.

JACKIE

You want some coffee, Sis?

DAN

(TO ROSEANNE)

Measles?

ROSEANNE

(TO JACKIE)

No, thanks.

DAN

What?

ROSEANNE

Yeah, she had mea--here, just let  
me do that.

(ROSEANNE TAKES THE FORM FROM DAN AND STARTS  
TO FILL IT OUT. DAN WATCHES HER)

DAN

I don't know how you remember all  
this stuff

ROSEANNE

What stuff?

DAN

Like when Darlene had mumps?

ROSEANNE

Well, because Darlene had the mumps  
the same time Becky and D.J. had  
mumps. You just don't forget when  
three kids have simultaneous  
mumps, y'know?

(DONNA APPROACHES DAN)

DONNA

Mr. Conner?

DAN

(RISING)

What? Is something wrong?

DONNA

Oh, no. Well, yes. Your  
insurance card's expired.

ROSEANNE

(RISING)

That can't be. I paid that bill  
last month.

DAN

Are you sure?

ROSEANNE

What do you mean, am I sure? I  
have the cancelled check at home.

JACKIE

Why don't you just get those  
clowns on the phone?

DONNA

(INDICATING THE CARD)

There's an eight-hundred number  
on the back.

ROSEANNE

I'll call them.

DAN

(TAKING THE CARD)

No, you sit down. I'll call them.

(DAN CROSSES TO THE PHONE. DONNA HANDS  
ROSEANNE SOME MORE FORMS)

DONNA

When you finish these forms, if  
you could just return them to the  
admissions desk.

ROSEANNE

Yeah, I'll do that. I know the  
future of medical science depends  
on knowing my mother's maiden name.

(ROSEANNE STARTS FILLING OUT THE FORMS, THEN  
STOPS. DONNA HEADS TOWARD ADMISSIONS DESK)

ROSEANNE (CONT'D)

I can't believe this. My kid's in  
surgery and I'm sitting here  
taking my S.A.T.'s.

(JACKIE TAKES FORMS)

JACKIE

Roseanne, just forget about the  
forms. That's just their way of  
having people to sit down and shut up.

ROSEANNE

Well, whatever happened to ether?

(JACKIE PUTS HER ARM AROUND ROSEANNE)

CUT TO:

DAN

(INTO PHONE)

What are you talking about? My wife mailed you that check last month ...I don't know what day she mailed it, but I know you got it...Listen, I'm in a hospital where my kid's gettin' surgery, I don't have the cancelled checks on me. Yeah, I'll hold.

(DAN TAKES A DEEP BREATH)

CUT TO:

(ROSEANNE AND JACKIE ARE SITTING SILENTLY. A BEAT)

ROSEANNE

Damn. Why this morning, of all mornings, did I have to yell at Darlene?

JACKIE

'Cause she was being a pain in the butt.

ROSEANNE

Oh, Jackie, she was just being eleven.

JACKIE

Roseanne, yelling at Darlene,  
that's like breathing. It's just  
an involuntary response.

ROSEANNE

I still feel like "The-Mom-from-  
Hell."

JACKIE

Well, there's only one solution to  
that. You take a vow, right this  
minute, that you will never yell  
at Darlene again, in life, ever.

(ROSEANNE SMILES)

ROSEANNE

Yeah, think of all the free time  
I'll have.

CUT TO:

(DAN IS ON THE PHONE)

DAN

(INTO PHONE)

...Yes, I did, no, no, because you  
cashed it... That's right, you  
cashed it.

ROSEANNE

(COMING OVER TO DAN)

And I have that cancelled check at  
home, because I balanced the check  
book last month and I have it.



DAN

(INTO PHONE)

Well, somebody there did, because I  
have a cancelled check at home  
with your company's name on it...

ROSEANNE

Right, and just ask for the supervisor.

DAN

Look, let me talk to somebody  
else there...Yeah, I'll hold.

ROSEANNE

(HOLDING OUT HER HAND)

Here, honey.

DAN

(HANDING ROSEANNE THE RECEIVER)

Good luck.

(DAN SITS BACK DOWN)

ROSEANNE

(INTO PHONE)

Hello?...This is Mrs. Conner. C-  
O-N-N-E-R. Yeah, C as in cat. O as in  
oaf. N as in numbskull. N as in  
nitwit. E as in emptyheaded. R  
as in target.

CUT TO:

(JACKIE AND DAN SIT, WAITING)

DAN

I feel like I oughta be doing something.

JACKIE

I feel like that all the time. Especially at work.

DAN

I feel totally useless. I'm just sitting here and Darlene's getting operated on.

JACKIE

What do you wanna do Dan, assist?

DAN

I just hate waiting.

JACKIE

I hear you. Nobody hates waiting more than me. I'd bite other people's nails if they'd let me.

(JACKIE STARES AT DAN'S FINGERNAILS)

DAN

Get away from me.

(KLOSKY APPROACHES, WITH A SCRAP OF PAPER AND SITS BETWEEN JACKIE AND DAN)

KLOSKY

(READING OFF PAPER, PRACTICING HIS ENGLISH)

How are you, my wife? Is okay?

DAN

You better take him up on it, Jackie, it's liable to be your last proposal.

JACKIE

No, what you mean to say here is...

(JACKIE TAKES THE PAPER AND PENCIL FROM KLOSKY  
AND FIXES THE SENTENCE. SHE READS AS SHE'S FIXING IT)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

How is my wife? Is she okay?

KLOSKY

Is she okay.

(INDICATING ADMISSIONS DESK TO KLOSKY)

JACKIE

Yeah, then take it to that desk  
over there. And good luck to you.

KLOSKY

She okay. IN ESTONIAN: "Thank  
you. You've been more than kind  
to me."

(KLOSKY CROSSES TO ADMISSIONS DESK. ROSEANNE  
CROSSES TO DAN AND JACKIE. DAN RISES)

DAN

What'd they say?

(ROSEANNE SITS)

ROSEANNE

Everything's okay. They just  
spelled the name wrong.

DAN

Oh. I'm gonna call Becky.

ROSEANNE

Yeah, that's a good idea.

(DAN CROSSES TO THE PHONE)

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

Scene 3

INT. KITCHEN - 5:15 PM (DAY 1)  
(Dan, Becky, D.J.)

(BECKY IS SITTING IN A CHAIR THUMBING THROUGH A MAGAZINE. D.J. IS PUTTING TOGETHER A CHILDREN'S JIGSAW PUZZLE ON THE KITCHEN TABLE)

D.J.

Becky, help me find the piece for here.

(D.J. POINTS TO A SPOT ON THE PUZZLE. BECKY STARTS SEARCHING THROUGH THE LOOSE PIECES)

BECKY

D.J., you're supposed to put the outside of the puzzle together first.

D.J.

Darlene says always start with the with the dog's tail.

BECKY

Oh. Okay.

(HANDING D.J. THE PUZZLE PIECE)

Here.

D.J.

Thanks.

SFX: PHONE RINGS

(BECKY CROSSES TO THE PHONE AND ANSWERS.  
INTERCUT WITH DAN AT HOSPITAL)

BECKY

(INTO PHONE)

Hello.

DAN

(INTO PHONE)

Hi, honey. It's Daddy.

BECKY

Is Darlene okay?

DAN

Yeah, she's gonna be fine. How  
you guys doing?

D.J.

Let me talk.

(BECKY HANDS THE PHONE TO D.J.. HE TAKES IT)

D.J.

(INTO PHONE)

Hi.

DAN

Who is this?

D.J.

Dad, when're you coming home?

DAN

It won't be long now, sport.

D.J.

Okay. Bye.

(BECKY TAKES PHONE BACK AS D.J. CROSSES TO  
TABLE AND CONTINUES TO WORK ON THE PUZZLE)

BECKY

(INTO PHONE)

Hi.

DAN

Hi, sweetheart, how you holding  
up?

BECKY

Okay, I guess.

DAN

Just okay?

(A BEAT)

BECKY

Dad?

DAN

Yeah, honey?

BECKY

I'm a rotten sister.

DAN

What are you talking about, baby?

You're a great sister.

BECKY

No, I'm not.

DAN

Sure you are, kid. Hey, who's been taking such great care of D.J. all afternoon?

BECKY

No, that's not what I mean. I mean, I try to keep thinking about Darlene, hoping she's okay and everything, but...

DAN

But you start thinking about other stuff?



BECKY

Yeah. Dumb stuff, like that  
stupid slumber party. And Chip.

DAN

Honey, that doesn't mean you're a  
rotten sister. It's just when  
your brain figures it's thought about  
something for too long, it switches  
to something else so it doesn't  
overheat.

BECKY

It's not gonna work, Dad. I'm not  
gonna laugh.

DAN

No, no, no, I'm just saying that  
if you think about something too  
long, smoke'll come out of your  
ears...

(BECKY TRIES TO STIFLE A SMILE)

BECKY

Dad, quit it.

DAN

...And steam coming out of your nose.

(BECKY TRIES TO STIFLE A LAUGH)

BECKY

Daddy.

DAN

And fire'll shoot out of your  
mouth. Chippy-whippy'll love  
that.

(BECKY LAUGHS)

DAN (CONT'D)

Hell, I'll love it, too. I won't  
have to buy no more charcoal  
starter.

(BECKY LAUGHS)

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

Scene 4

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - 5:30 PM (DAY 1)  
(Roseanne, Dan, Jackie, Chambers, Dr. Bryce  
Donna, Extras)

(ROSEANNE AND JACKIE ARE SITTING. DAN IS  
PACING, JINGLING HIS KEYS)

ROSEANNE

(TO DAN)

Hey, would you knock it off?

DAN

(JINGLING THE KEYS)

What?

JACKIE

(INDICATING DAN'S POCKET)

That. You're driving us crazy.

DAN

Oh, come on, you guys.

ROSEANNE

Dan, the operation's supposed to  
be over by now.

(RISING)

I'm gonna to find out what's going  
on.

(ROSEANNE CROSSES TO THE ADMISSIONS DESK)

ROSEANNE (CONT'D)

(TO CHAMBERS)

Excuse me.

CHAMBERS

Yes?

ROSEANNE

I'd like to know what's going on  
with my daughter.

CHAMBERS

Your daughter's name?

ROSEANNE

For the millionth time. Darlene  
Conner.

CHAMBERS

Oh, right. The appendectomy.

ROSEANNE

No, wrong. She's not an  
appendectomy. She's a little  
girl. She's having an operation  
that was supposed to be over by  
five-thirty.

CHAMBERS

If I had some answers, I would  
give them to you --

ROSEANNE

I ask one little question, what's  
happening with my kid, and nobody  
can tell me anything. That's not  
a stupid question. That's a  
question that deserves an answer.  
That's a question that any human  
being has a right to know. Now  
what's going on with my kid?

DAN

(QUIETLY HOLDING ROSEANNE)

You tell 'em, kiddo.

(DAN HOLDS ROSEANNE A BEAT. THEN, HE LEADS ROSEANNE BACK TO THE WAITING AREA. DR. BRYCE ENTERS AND CROSSES TO ROSEANNE, DAN, AND JACKIE. ROSEANNE LOOKS UP)

DR. BRYCE

Mr. and Mrs. Conner.

ROSEANNE

Is Darlene all right?

DR. BRYCE

She's fine.

(ROSEANNE EMITS A SIGH)

ROSEANNE

So what am I yelling about?

DR. BRYCE

She's in recovery.

DAN

Can we see her?

DR. BRYCE

She's just coming out of anesthesia, I'll take you in to see her.

(DR. BRYCE CROSSES TO THE SWINGING DOORS)

DAN

Jackie, will you --

JACKIE

I'll call Becky.

DAN

Thanks.

JACKIE

What are sisters for?

DAN

Damned if I know.

(JACKIE HEADS TOWARD PHONE. ROSEANNE, DAN,  
AND DR. BRYCE EXIT THROUGH THE SWINGING DOORS)

DISSOLVE TO:



ACT TWO

Scene 5

INT. POST-OP - A FEW MOMENTS LATER (DAY 1)  
(Roseanne, Dan, Darlene, Dr. Bryce)

(ROSEANNE AND DAN ENTER AND CROSS TO DARLENE.  
DARLENE IS WOZZY, BUT AWAKE. ROSEANNE TOUCHES  
HER ARM)

DARLENE

Mom?

ROSEANNE

Yeah, honey.

DAN

How ya doin', sport?

DARLENE

Hi, Dad.

DAN

Does it hurt?

DARLENE

I can't really feel anything.

ROSEANNE

Can you feel this?

(ROSEANNE KISSES DARLENE. DARLENE SMILES)

DARLENE

I'm really sorry.

ROSEANNE

Sorry for what?

DARLENE

About the way I've been acting.

I've been kind of a smartmouth.

ROSEANNE

Well, you take after me.

DAN

Yeah, Darlene, it's kinda out of your hands.

DARLENE

It's just that sometimes...I don't know.

ROSEANNE

Well, Darlene, don't you think I was eleven, and that I had a mother? And I used to wish there was some kind of machine where you could just do this...

(ROSEANNE MIMES USING SOME SORT OF ELECTRICAL GADGET)

ROSEANNE (CONT'D)

...and she'd disappear.

DARLENE

Well, that's not exactly how I feel.

ROSEANNE

Yeah, but you gotta admit that a gadget like that'd come in handy sometime.

DARLENE

You mean, like at baseball games?

DAN

Look, when you don't want us around, you just tell us and we'll cry our hearts out and leave.

(DARLENE LAUGHS. SHE SOBERS UP QUICKLY)

DARLENE

You're not going anywhere now,  
right? I mean you're gonna stay,  
right here?

ROSEANNE

Oh, yeah. I'm here for the  
night. I brought my sleeping bag.

DARLENE

Thanks, Mom.

(ROSEANNE SMOOTHES DARLENE'S FOREHEAD, AS WE:)

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - A FEW DAYS LATER (DAY 2)  
(Roseanne, Dan, Darlene,)

SFX: TV MUSIC

(DARLENE ENTERS WITH A BIG BOWL OF ICE CREAM AND SITS ON THE SOFA. SHE PULLS A SQUEEZE BOTTLE OF CHOCOLATE SYRUP OUT OF THE POCKET OF HER BATHROBE. ROSEANNE ENTERS FROM UPSTAIRS CARRYING AN ARMFUL OF LOOSE DIRTY CLOTHING)

ROSEANNE

I found it, Darlene.

DARLENE

What?

ROSEANNE

The floor of your room.

DARLENE

Mother, please don't make me  
laugh, I still have stitches.

(DARLENE STARTS SQUEEZING CHOCOLATE SYRUP OVER  
HER ICE CREAM)

ROSEANNE

Now, don't you think all that ice  
cream might spoil your mid-  
afternoon snack?

DARLENE

Hey, I need all the strength I can  
get.

ROSEANNE

You been home now for a week,  
Darlene, and you're going to  
school tomorrow no matter what.  
So quit milking this thing.

DARLENE

Nice bedside manner.

ROSEANNE

Thank you. Now get your damn feet off my couch.

DARLENE

Don't worry. I won't tarnish your beautiful fabric.

ROSEANNE

Darlene, when you gonna stop being a smartmouth?

DARLENE

Three weeks from next Tuesday.

(DAN APPEARS IN THE ARCHWAY WITH THE BULLHORN)

DAN

(A LA LEE ERMY FROM FULL METAL JACKET)

What is your major malfunction, numbskull? Didn't your mommy and daddy give you enough love when you were growing up? Please don't fall off that sofa and stain my beloved carpet, that would break my beating heart. Now, why don't you get on board, why don't you get with a winner, climb on board, ride with us, we're going to victory. Please take your sneakers off that couch or you are wallpaper!

(MORE)

DAN (CONT'D)

Am I being read clear? Do you  
understand me, Private Conner?

DARLENE

Okay, I'm wallpaper. Now, could  
you guys get out of here.

(ROSEANNE SITS BESIDE DARLENE, PUTS HER ARM  
AROUND HER)

ROSEANNE

Oh, Darlene, we are just so happy  
you're back to your old self.

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW