

You've Reached the Elliotts

Story
By
Rob Deshotel
&
Chris Elliott

Teleplay
By
Rob Deshotel

COLD OPEN A

FADE IN:

EXT. ELLIOTT HOUSE - DAY (DAY 1)
(Chris)

CHRIS ELLIOTT -- HUSBAND, FATHER, ACTOR -- ARRIVES AT HIS FRONT PORCH WITH A SUITCASE. HE BREATHES A CONTENTED SIGH AND GOES INSIDE.

RESET TO:

INT. ELLIOTT LIVING ROOM - DAY (DAY 1)
(Chris, Tracy, Amanda, Brendan)

THE HOUSE IS A COZY CONVERTED BARN, DESIGNED FOR COMFORT AND HANGING OUT. OVERSTUFFED SOFAS, A BIG STONE FIREPLACE, A HUGE FLAT-SCREEN TV. ECLECTIC BUT HOMEY.

CHRIS ENTERS, BLOWN AWAY TO FIND A CELEBRATION AWAITS HIS ARRIVAL. A BANNER READING "WELCOME HOME, DAD!" HANGS LOW, FORCING CHRIS TO DUCK UNDER IT. ADORING WIFE TRACY (40), DAUGHTER AMANDA (18, PROPER, HAIR IN A BUN) AND SON BRENDAN (15 AND OUTGOING) GREET HIM.

FAMILY

Welcome home!

CHRIS

What the-- (CHOKED UP) You guys!

CHRIS PULLS EVERYONE IN FOR A HUG.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Nothing's better after being away than to come home to my loving wife and adoring kids, because it makes me realize something: I'm the perfect husband, father, and yes, lover.

CHRIS PULLS TRACY TO HIM AND PLANTS A KISS ON HER LIPS.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

(A LA BOND) Mmm, rash-berry.

BRENDAN

Dad, great news. I was just voted
coolest guy in school.

CHRIS

Alright, Brendan!

CHRIS AND BRENDAN SHARE A HANDSHAKE THAT'S WAY TOO COOL AND
INTRICATE FOR TWO WHITE GUYS TO PERFORM.

AMANDA

And guess what, Dad? (CHEERY) I
don't make out with random guys
anymore.

CHRIS

Good for you, Amanda.

TRACY

And best of all, my sister and her
husband have moved two thousand miles
away.

CHRIS

I don't believe it. Heather and Phil
are gone, Brendan's cool, and Amanda's
not a tramp. I must do my dance of
joy. Make room for Daddy!

CHRIS BREAKS INTO HIS DANCE OF JOY AS WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

COLD OPEN B

EXT. ELLIOTT HOUSE - OUT OF FANTASY - DAY (DAY 1)

(Chris)

CHRIS STILL STANDS ON THE DOORSTEP, LOST IN HIS FANTASY.
AFTER A BEAT HE COMES OUT OF IT. HE SMILES AND GOES INSIDE.

RESET TO:

INT. ELLIOTT LIVING ROOM - DAY (DAY 1)

(Chris, Tracy, Amanda, Brendan)

CHRIS ENTERS, UPBEAT. ANTICIPATING A BANNER, HE DUCKS. BUT
THERE IS NO BANNER, BECAUSE NO ONE IS WAITING FOR HIM.

AMANDA BREEZES DOWN THE STAIRS. CONTRARY TO THE FANTASY
VERSION, SHE'S A KNOCKOUT. FLIGHTY, BOY-CRAZY, A HANDFUL.

AMANDA

Hi, Dad, welcome home!

CHRIS

Hiya, sunshine.

SHE KISSES HIM ON THE CHEEK.

AMANDA

'Kay, I'm going to the mall.

CHRIS

What? Wait, I just got back.

AMANDA

I know, but I made plans with Katie to
go to the mall 'cause this cute guy
works at the record store there. Bye!

CHRIS

What about our air hockey tournament?
I had my strategy all worked out: you
were going to kick my butt and I was
going to cry like a little girl.

AMANDA

We'll play when I get back. And Dad,

I promise: you will cry.

SHE EXITS. CHRIS SEES BRENDAN, WHO'S ON THE COUCH, WATCHING TV. UNLIKE THE OUTGOING KID FROM THE FANTASY, BRENDAN IS WHAT EVERY PARENT WORRIES HIS KID WILL BE -- A DORK. 15, AWKWARD AND SULLEN, HIS HAIR HANGS IN HIS EYES. HE DOESN'T ACKNOWLEDGE CHRIS, AS HE IS ENGROSSED IN A DARK DOCUMENTARY ON SERIAL KILLERS, WHICH WE HEAR IN THE B.G. AFTER A BEAT:

CHRIS

Hi, Brendan! Daddy's home!

BRENDAN DOESN'T MOVE. CHRIS EXTENDS A HAND.

BRENDAN

(WARY) What's that?

CHRIS

That's Daddy's hand. (BEAT) Which
he's now putting back in his pocket.

TRACY ENTERS FROM OUTSIDE. SHE'S A MIDWESTERN PARTY-GIRL-TURNED-MOM. JUST IN FROM GARDENING, SHE WEARS DIRT-COVERED SWEATS AND A SMOCK, AND HER HAIR IS MUSSED.

TRACY

There's my gorgeous chiseled guy.

CHRIS

Hi, honey.

HE PULLS HER IN FOR A KISS. SHE PUSHES HIM AWAY.

TRACY

Ew, don't touch me. I'm all funky.

But I won't be for long. I'm gonna go
upstairs and do my roots.

(MORE)

TRACY (CONT'D)

Heather and Phil are coming over
tonight. Won't that be fun?

SHE GIVES HIM A PECK ON THE CHEEK AND EXITS.

TRACY (CONT'D)

Welcome home, sweetie!

CHRIS

(FROZEN SMILE) Yeah, it's great to be
back. Weee...

CHRIS DOES A HALF-ASSED DANCE OF JOY.

SMASH CUT TO:

OPENING CREDITS

FADE OUT.

ACT ONESCENE AFADE IN:INT. KITCHEN / INT. LIVING ROOM - A BIT LATER (DAY 1)
(Chris, Tracy, Amanda)CHRIS TIES UP A GARBAGE BAG AS TRACY COMES IN, CLEANED UP.

TRACY

So, how did the re-shoots go?

CHRIS

They went alright, although I'm not sure anything can save "Dodgeball Three."

TRACY

Well, just remember, it's a pay check, sweetie. And I'm sure Ben Stiller was funny. He always is.

CHRIS

What are you talking about? You've never been a fan of his.

TRACY

I know, I can't stand him. I was just being supportive.

CHRIS

You know, Tracy, I gotta say, that wasn't the best welcome home I've ever received.

TRACY

I'm sorry, honey, what did you want me to do?

CHRIS

I don't know. A banner would have been nice.

TRACY

(PLAYFUL) You want a banner every time you come back from L.A.? Then we might as well make it a permanent part of our decor.

CHRIS

Fine, a banner may be a bit extreme. But it sure beats Phil and Heather coming over. That's like saying 'Welcome home, now put on this big hat filled with manure.'

TRACY

Chris, we made these plans before you left. And then I reminded you a few days ago.

CHRIS

Well, there's the problem right there. You know I don't listen.

TRACY

And it is my sister and her husband. I like to see them occasionally.

CHRIS

But... why?? You know how Phil is. He's gonna show up early 'cause it's some kind of power trip for him, then he'll say how great it is being an investment banker and how acting isn't a real job and how he could do it but he doesn't have time to be a goof-off.

TRACY

He says that because he's jealous. He isn't half the goof-off you are and he knows it. (THEN) Come on, it'll be nice. We'll make it a little party. You go pick up some pizzas and I'll make margaritas.

CHRIS

Oh, fine, but (BIG YAWN) I gotta tell ya, I am really tired. I think I might be coming down with a touch of the bird flu. I may have to hit the sack early tonight. Like after one slice... and seven margaritas.

AMANDA ENTERS, HOLDING THE MAIL AND LOOKING ANXIOUS.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

(CHALLENGING) Alright, Amanda, I hope you're ready to get my ass kicked at air hockey.

AMANDA NERVOUSLY HOLDS UP A LETTER.

AMANDA

The admissions letter from NYU came.

TRACY

(EXCITED) Open it, honey.

AMANDA OPENS THE LETTER. READS IT. THEN EXPLODES.

AMANDA

Oh my god, I've been accepted! I'm
going to NYU! I must do my dance of
joy!

AMANDA DOES HER OWN DANCE OF JOY, AND THEN TRACY AND AMANDA
HUG AND JUMP UP AND DOWN. CHRIS, HOWEVER, CAN'T HIDE THE
STARTLED LOOK ON HIS FACE.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Dad? Are you okay?

CHRIS

What? Of course. My daughter's going
to college. This is what every parent
dreams about. (WEAKLY) Yay!

AMANDA

(VENGEFUL) I'm calling every guy
who's ever broken up with me. Just
kidding, no guy has ever broken up
with me. I'm calling all my friends.

AMANDA RUNS UPSTAIRS. CHRIS WATCHES HER GO.

TRACY

See, now we have a reason for a party.
(OFF HIS LOOK) You sure you're okay?
Your face looks pasty. Well, pastier.

CHRIS

No, yeah, it's just... wow. Amanda's
going to be moving out soon. I mean,
it's not like I thought she was going
to stay here forever. (POUTING) But
why can't she?

TRACY

Aw, sweetie. This is a happy day.
And we knew it was coming.

CHRIS

Yeah, absolutely, I know. But I guess
it just kind of snuck up on me. I
mean, our little girl's growing up and
I've been off playing the bearded bald
fat guy in "Dodgeball Three."

TRACY

Honey, we made the decision to live
back east a long time ago. I know you
don't like being away so much, but
that's the way things have to be.

CHRIS

Yeah. You're right. (CONVINCING HIMSELF) I mean, I'm home as much as I can be, right? It's just the price I have to pay for being a huge movie star, right? (OFF HER LOOK) A big movie star. (OFF HER LOOK) A guy who's in the movies... occasionally.

TRACY

Exactly.

CHRIS

And now I'm home for a good, long two weeks before I have to go off and shoot "Scary Movie Six."

TRACY

That's right. So cheer up. Because you know something? You are the perfect husband, father, and yes, lover. (KISSES HIM)

CHRIS

You don't have to tell me that. Every Tom, Dick and Harry knows that.

TRACY

But you know something else? Those pizzas aren't going to deliver themselves.

CUT TO:

ACT ONESCENE B

INT. BRENDAN'S ROOM - AFTERNOON (DAY 1)
 (Chris, Brendan, Violet (ON MONITOR))

WE SEE BRENDAN THROUGH THE P.O.V. OF A COMPUTER WEBCAM. HIS HAIR IS COMBED, HE WEARS A NICE SHIRT WITH A COLLAR, AND BEHIND HIM HIS ROOM LOOKS SPOTLESS. HE TALKS INTO CAMERA.

BRENDAN

Yeah, Connecticut's like, whatever.
 There's nothing to do here. I hate
 it. So what's San Diego like?

REVEAL: BRENDAN IS TALKING TO A GIRL ON HIS COMPUTER MONITOR. THIS IS VIOLET, A FAIRLY MENACING-LOOKING 16-YEAR-OLD GOTH TYPE WITH BLACK CLOTHES AND A PIERCED TONGUE.

VIOLET

(ON MONITOR) Seventy-eight degrees
 and sunny every day. I hate it.

BRENDAN

(TRYING TO BE COOL) Tell me about it.

VIOLET

You know, I've never seen a room as
 neat as yours. It's kinda freaking me
 out.

WIDEN TO REVEAL BRENDAN'S ROOM OUTSIDE OF THE WEBCAM'S VIEW. IT'S A PIGSTY, WITH CLOTHES AND JUNK SHOVED INTO PILES.

CHRIS KNOCKS AND ENTERS.

CHRIS

Hey Brendan, you're coming with me--
 (THEN) What are you doing?

BRENDAN

Violet, I'll be right back.

BRENDAN COVERS THE CAMERA LENS SO VIOLET CAN'T SEE CHRIS.
CHRIS APPROACHES THE MONITOR, NOT SURE WHAT HE'S SEEING.

CHRIS

Are you talking to... is that a girl?

BRENDAN

Violet, I'll call you later!

BRENDAN DISCONNECTS THE CALL. VIOLET DISAPPEARS.

CHRIS

(EXCITED) It was a girl! "Violet."
That's the proof! You were talking to
a girl. Who cares if she's on a
computer screen and has a spike
through her tongue, it was a girl.
How come you didn't tell me? Wait,
was that one of those web sites where
you pay money to talk to a girl? 'Cuz
if it was, how much do you need?

BRENDAN

No, Dad, god!

CHRIS

(IMPRESSED) Look at you. You even
put on a nice shirt and--

CHRIS SEES THAT BRENDAN ISN'T WEARING PANTS, ONLY BOXERS.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Couldn't work up the energy to put on pants, huh? Well, we're going to the pizza place, so put on these--

HE PICKS A NERDY PAIR OF PANTS UP OFF THE FLOOR.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

--slacks.

BRENDAN PUSHES CHRIS OUT THE DOOR.

BRENDAN

Dad, would you just go? I want to call her back.

CHRIS

Fine, I'm going. But first let me ask you something. Do you think we spend enough time together?

BRENDAN

Yes!

HE SLAMS THE DOOR IN CHRIS'S FACE. CHRIS OPENS THE DOOR AND POKES HIS HEAD BACK IN.

CHRIS

Because that right there was only about fifteen seconds.

BRENDAN

Dad!

CHRIS

Yeah, that's enough.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONESCENE C

INT. LIVING ROOM - EARLY EVENING (DAY 1)

(Chris, Tracy, Phil, Heather, Chloe, Luke, Larry David
(V.O.))

CHRIS IS SPRAWLED ON THE SOFA, LOOKING AT A PHOTO ALBUM.

SFX: PHONE RINGS

CHRIS IGNORES IT.

AFTER THE THIRD RING, WE HEAR A CLICK, AND:

CHRIS (V.O.)

Hi, you've reached the Elliotts.

Please leave a message.

SFX: BEEP

LARRY DAVID (V.O.)

Hi, Chris, it's Larry. David. Pick
up. (BEAT) Okay, listen, we're doing
another special on global warming. I
thought maybe you'd like to be a part
of this one. Unless you've got
another one of those cock-and-bull
stories about being snowed in out
there. (YELLING) Pick up! (THEN)
Eh, screw it.

THE CALL ENDS.

TRACY (O.S.)

Are we not taking calls today?

CHRIS LOOKS UP TO SEE TRACY STANDING THERE.

CHRIS

Honey, he's a nice guy, but this is my
Chris time. (THEN, OFF PHOTO ALBUM)
Remember how when the kids were little
Sunday used to be Family Fun Day?
Look, here we are at the petting zoo;
the street fair; the tour of the
brewery. Sometimes I don't think the
kids remember all the things I was
actually around for.

TRACY

Oh, I'm sure all the fun memories are
just buried deep down in the dark
recesses of their subconscious. So...
the pizzas?

CHRIS

Yes, Mistress Tracy, I already got
them. I wanted to give myself a good
hour to psych myself up for Heather
and Phil--

AT THAT MOMENT, THE IN-LAWS ENTER THROUGH THE KITCHEN DOOR.
THERE'S PHIL (AN IMPOSING BLOWHARD), HEATHER (A SHOPAHOLIC
HOUSEWIFE), CHLOE (18, BEAUTIFUL AND BRATTY) AND LUKE (16,
SWEET, ATHLETIC).

CHRIS

--who are here now! (STRAINED) A
good hour early.

PHIL

("INNOCENT") Nice to see you, too.
Come on kids, let's go and come back
in an hour.

CHRIS

No, no, it's fine. In fact it's fine
and dandy. And I know dandy, for I am
a dandy boy.

TRACY

You can stop now, Chris.

HUGS ALL AROUND.

CHRIS

Whoa, Heather, those are some nice
diamond earrings.

HEATHER

Oh, they're not real, but if you have
the money, people will just assume
they are.

PHIL ELBOWS CHRIS.

PHIL

So, what about that boy of yours and
that computer chick, huh?

CHRIS

(THROWN) Uh... yeah. You heard it
about that, huh? Well, I hope
everyone's up for some pizza.

PHIL

I'm not sure you need it. You gain a
little weight out there in Tinseltown?

CHRIS SELF-CONSCIOUSLY COVERS HIS MID-SECTION.

CHRIS

Actually, Phil, I'm quite bloated from
the plane flight. In fact, I really
shouldn't be standing, I should be off
my feet in my bed with the door
shut... and bolted.

CHRIS STARTS AWAY. TRACY USHERS HIM TOWARD THE KITCHEN.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONESCENE DINT. LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT EVENING (DAY 1)

(Chris, Tracy, Amanda, Brendan, Phil, Heather, Chloe, Luke)

THE GANG EATS PIZZA ON THE COUCH, AT THE COFFEE TABLE, ETC.
CHRIS HAS HAD A FEW TOO MANY MARGARITAS.

HEATHER

So, everybody, Chloe would like to
tell you about some big news she has.

CHLOE

I got a new Beemer convertible.

TRACY

Wow. That's great. What's the
occasion?

CHLOE

Um...

PHIL

Being my daughter.

CHLOE

Yeah, that.

TRACY

Well, Amanda has some good news, too.

AMANDA

Okay, well... I got accepted to NYU!

EVERYONE AD-LIBS CONGRATULATIONS.

CHLOE

Oh my God, that is so awesome!

PHIL

(TO AMANDA) So, did you decide on a major yet?

AMANDA

Yep. Theater.

PHIL

(WINCES) Ohhhh. Bad choice. Total waste of time.

CHRIS

Phil, I'm an actor.

PHIL

That's what I'm saying, anyone can do it. You don't need college for that. You know...

CHRIS, PERTURBED, MOUTHS THE WORDS AS PHIL SAYS THEM:

PHIL (CONT'D)

I could be an actor.

TRACY REPRIMANDS CHRIS WITH HER EYES AS PHIL GOES ON, OBLIVIOUS.

PHIL (CONT'D)

But I like being an investment banker.

Lotta money in it. Lotta money.

LUKE

Yeah, but Uncle Chris is funny. I love that scene in "Something About Mary"--

PHIL

Luke, we can't all goof off for a living. Some of us have to have real jobs, or the country grinds to a halt.

(THEN) Amanda, I thought we talked about this.

CHRIS'S EARS PERK UP, HIS AGGRAVATION GROWING.

CHRIS

Excuse me? Who talked about which to what?

AMANDA LOOKS SLIGHTLY GUILTY.

AMANDA

Well yeah, I asked Uncle Phil for some advice about college, because...

(HATES TO SAY IT) you weren't here.

CHRIS HAS HAD ENOUGH.

CHRIS

Has anyone heard of a phone?! I'm a part of this family. Brendan, you could have told me you were seeing a girl - well, at least looking at a girl. And Amanda, you could have asked me if you had questions about college instead of consulting (RE: PHIL) a complete stranger. I mean, I'm gone weeks at a time, I'm not dead weeks at a time.

AMANDA

I didn't want to call you on the set
and bother you, I know how busy you
are. And Uncle Phil was here.

CHRIS

Bother me? I'm your father!

TRACY

Chris, nobody meant to hurt you. But
our lives do keep going when you're
not here, you know.

CHRIS

Apparently!! I don't even know who
you people are anymore!

THEY ALL STARE AT CHRIS. A LONG, UNCOMFORTABLE BEAT.

CHRIS DOWNS HIS MARGARITA, BURPS, THEN GETS UP.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Now if you'll excuse me, Daddy's off
to make another batch.

CUT TO:

ACT ONESCENE E

INT. CHRIS AND TRACY'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT (DAY 1)
(Chris, Tracy)

CHRIS AND TRACY GET READY FOR BED.

TRACY

So, I guess you're not planning on
talking about it, huh?

CHRIS

(PLAYING DUMB) Talking about what?

TRACY

What happened to you tonight?

CHRIS

Oh, that? That's just what happens
when your sister comes over. It might
be her perfume, I think I'm allergic
to it and it makes me act all crazy,
maybe she shouldn't come over anymore,
oh well.

TRACY

Chris, what has gotten into you?

CHRIS

(SIGHS) Man, I don't know. This
college thing really threw me for a
loop.

(MORE)

CHRIS (CONT'D)

It seems like only yesterday Amanda was coming out of you all tiny and helpless and looking like a gooey, slime-covered lump of cheese, and now she's all grown up. And Brendan's growing up, too. Jeez, in a few years we're going to be empty-nesters.

TRACY

That's right, but you gotta look at things the way I do. When they're gone we won't have to close the door when we do it -- which will be every day.

CHRIS

All right, keep it in your pants, sweetie. This isn't the time.

HE GRABS A FAMILY PHOTO OFF THE NIGHT STAND.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Where did the years go? What about all the plans we had for the kids, all the experiences we wanted to give them? Everything's just flying by. And there's only so many Christmases left, only so many Thanksgivings, only so many Fourth of July.

(MORE)

CHRIS (CONT'D)

(CAN'T SAY IT) No, Fourthses of Jul--
Forts of-- what the hell did you put
in those margaritas?

TRACY

Yeah, they're going to be gone some
day. All the more reason to make
every moment count now.

CHRIS LOOKS AT HER, HIS WHEELS TURNING.

CHRIS

Yeah. Yeah!

HE GETS OUT OF BED, RESOLUTE, AND STARTS OUT.

TRACY

Uh-oh. What are you doing?

CHRIS

Something I should have done a long
time ago.

TRACY

It's midnight and you've had a lot to
drink. Please don't do something
you'll regret.

CHRIS

Well, if you're talking about being a
father to my kids, then I'm about to
do something we're all going to
regret. (THINKS, THEN) Yeah, that
sounded right.

SMASH CUT TO:

ACT ONESCENE HINT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 1)

(Chris, Tracy, Amanda, Brendan)

AMANDA AND BRENDAN SIT BLEARY-EYED AT THE KITCHEN TABLE AS CHRIS GIVES A STIRRING SPEECH. TRACY LOOKS ON, WARY.

CHRIS

Kids, from now on I'm going to be the mother of all fathers. When you're grown up I want you to say, "My dad was there for me. When I needed him, when I didn't. When I wished he would go away. When I was asleep and thought I was alone. When I had my first kiss and he jumped out of the bushes and scared my date away with that hockey mask and chain saw, he was there for me." I am going to be a part of your lives even if it kills you. What do you think?

ANGLE: THE KIDS, MORTIFIED. THEN:

BRENDAN

Can we go back to bed now?

CHRIS

Oh, sure. Sorry. I'm still on L.A. time.

FADE OUT.END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOSCENE J

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - THE NEXT MORNING (DAY 2)
(Chris, Tracy, Amanda, Brendan)

CHRIS BOUNCES AROUND THE KITCHEN, MAKING BREAKFAST, SINGING LOVERBOY'S "WORKING FOR THE WEEKEND."

CHRIS

*"EVERYBODY'S WORKING FOR THE WEEKEND /
EVERYBODY WANTS A LITTLE ROMANCE /
EVERYBODY'S GOING OFF THE DEEP END /
EVERYBODY NEEDS A SECOND CHANCE!"*

BRENDAN ENTERS, STILL SLEEPY.

BRENDAN

I had this nightmare that you woke us up to tell us you're going to be more involved in our lives.

CHRIS

That wasn't a nightmare, Brendan. It was a beautiful dream that really happened. So, it wasn't a dream at all. I don't know what you'd call it, but it's true.

TRACY AND AMANDA ENTER.

TRACY

So you're still serious about this?

CHRIS

That's right. In fact, I've already cleared my calendar for us.

CHRIS HOLDS UP A CALENDAR FILLED WITH ACTIVITIES.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Here we've got "Re-do the kids' rooms." We'll get color wheels and fabric swatches and do a whole kind of HGTV thing. Mom can be Paige Davis because she's so perky, in all the right places if you know what I mean, wink wink. (FLIPS PAGE) And here in December is "Chop down our own Christmas tree." I'm gonna let you guys handle that one because I swore I would never touch another ax after 'the mishap.'

A BEAT.

BRENDAN

I loved that rabbit.

CHRIS

(SENSITIVE ISSUE) We all did, Brendan.

AMANDA

Dad, (RE: CALENDAR) don't you think you're taking this a little too far?

CHRIS

Too far? Did Columbus go too far when he discovered America? Did Armstrong go too far when he walked on the moon? Did Kutcher go too far when he punk'd Nelson Mandela? I personally don't think so. That Mandela guy really needs to lighten up.

HE KNEELS IN FRONT OF THE KIDS. THEY TOWER OVER HIM, SO HE STANDS BACK UP, AWKWARDLY BENT TO MEET THEM EYE-TO-EYE.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Look, after Amanda leaves, the four of us will never be in the same house together again. We've got to be a family, and it's now or never.

BRENDAN

Oh, well then I choose never.

CHRIS

Sorry, Mr. Smarty... Slacks. Today is Family Fun Day again, just like when you were little kids.

AMANDA

We're not little anymore.

CHRIS

Sheesh, I know. So go suit up for touch football!

AMANDA AND BRENDAN LOOK PLEADINGLY AT TRACY.

TRACY

It'll make your father happy.

THE KIDS RELUCTANTLY HEAD OFF.

TRACY (CONT'D)

Chris, is this really what you want?

I mean, touch football?

CHRIS

Of course, it'll be fun. It'll be like we're the Kennedys, or the Oswalds, I'm not sure which, but I'm willing to take a few bruises for my kids. Just be gentle, you know how easily I bruise. Now get ready, shoo.

TRACY CROSSES OUT.

SFX: PHONE RINGS

CHRIS FREEZES.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Oh, man. (YELLS AT PHONE) I'm trying to have a Family Fun Day here!

SFX: PHONE RINGS

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Please don't be Heather, please don't be Aunt Lucy, please don't be Uncle Don, or anybody from my past.

HE TENTATIVELY PICKS UP.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Hello?... (RELIEVED) Oh hi, Katie...
Yeah, got it, tell Amanda that Holly
is having a party tonight. No
problem, bye.

CHRIS HANGS UP, A LITTLE BUMMED OUT. TRACY RETURNS.

TRACY

Forgot my coffee. Who called?

CHRIS LOOKS INCREDIBLY GUILTY. A BEAT.

CHRIS

That was... a solicitor. Calling to
see... if we wanted to sign up for
cable... telephone... bill. I told
him we'd have to call our accountant
and see what our rates were for the
last... fiscal quarter. Okay! Let's
go play some football!

THEY CROSS OUT.

CUT TO:

ACT TWOSCENE K

INT./EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY (DAY 2)

(Chris, Tracy, Amanda, Brendan)

MUSIC CUE: "WE ARE FAMILY" BY SISTER SLEDGE

A MONTAGE OF THE FAMILY'S DAY TOGETHER:

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY (DAY 2)

(Chris, Tracy, Amanda, Brendan)

BRENDAN HIKES THE BALL TO CHRIS. IT SAILS OVER CHRIS'S HEAD AND CHRIS HAS TO RUN BACK TO GET IT. BRENDAN STANDS THERE AS CHRIS STARTS RUNNING THE BALL BACK.

BRENDAN TURNS TO RUN, TOO. HE BUMPS RIGHT INTO AMANDA, WHO CLOTHESLINES HIM, JUST AS TRACY CLOTHESLINES CHRIS. TRACY AND AMANDA GRAB THE BALL, SCORE A TOUCHDOWN AND HIGH-FIVE AS THE TWO MEN LIE FLAT ON THEIR BACKS, HOLDING THEIR THROATS.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (DAY 2)

(Chris, Tracy, Amanda, Brendan)

THE FAMILY PLAYS YAHTZEE AROUND THE COFFEE TABLE. CHRIS POURS THE DICE OUT OF THE CUP AND ROLLS A YAHTZEE. IN SLOW MOTION HE MOUTHS "YAHTZEE!!" AND SLAMS THE CUP DOWN ON THE COFFEE TABLE IN VICTORY. THE CUP BOUNCES BACK UP AND HITS HIM IN THE FACE. HE RECOILS.

EXT. BACKYARD - EARLY EVENING (DAY 2)

(Chris, Tracy, Amanda, Brendan)

THE FAMILY SITS AROUND A CAMPFIRE IN THE BACKYARD. CHRIS FANS THE FIRE, WHICH QUICKLY GETS OUT OF CONTROL, FORCING EVERYONE TO SCATTER.

MUSIC CUE: MUSIC ENDS

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWOSCENE 1INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING (DAY 2)

(Chris, Tracy, Amanda, Brendan, Delivery Kid, Katie, Atmo.)

EVERYONE COMES IN, LOOKING WORN OUT IN THAT GOOD WAY. THEY ALL PLOP DOWN ON THE COUCH.

CHRIS

Well, I for one had a great time. And now as you all know, every Family Fun Day ends with a classic movie. And tonight's film is a brutally honest saga about class disparity. I'm talking about, of course, (HOLDS UP DVD) "Caddyshack."

SFX: DOORBELL

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I'll get that.

CHRIS OPENS THE DOOR. A TEENAGE DELIVERY KID STANDS THERE HOLDING SOME BAGS.

DELIVERY KID

Delivery from Yang Chow-- (THEN) Hey, you're that guy.

CHRIS

(COY) I am, indeed, that guy.

DELIVERY KID

Man, you crack me up! Hey, I'll give you the food for free if I can have an autograph.

CHRIS

Sure, what's your name?

DELIVERY KID

Chan.

CHRIS

Okay. (SIGNS) "Chan, all the best."

You hold on to that, someday it's
going to be worth millions.

THE KID LOOKS AT THE AUTOGRAPH AND FROWNS.

DELIVERY KID

(DISAPPOINTED) Oh, I thought you were
someone else. Um, that'll be forty-
two dollars.

CHRIS

Fine, take it and get lost, Chan.

CHRIS PAYS THE KID, SHUTS THE DOOR AND BRINGS THE FOOD OVER.
HE STARTS PUTTING THE FOOD OUT ON THE COFFEE TABLE.

SFX: DOORBELL

AMANDA GOES TO THE DOOR--

CHRIS (CONT'D)

(COCKY) Oh, so now he remembers me.

--AND OPENS IT. THREE GIRLS AROUND AMANDA'S AGE STAND THERE.

KATIE

Amanda, aren't you ready to go?

AMANDA

Ready to go where?

KATIE

Holly's party? I told your dad about
it.

AMANDA

Um, Dad?

ANGLE: CHRIS, FORKING NOODLES INTO HIS MOUTH.

CHRIS

Oh. Sweetie, I'm sorry, I just plain
forgot. I've had a lot on my mind,
with work, with you going away.

AMANDA

You forgot? Or you decided not to
tell me?

CHRIS

That would mean I lied. I am not a
monster.

AMANDA LOOKS AT HIM FOR A BEAT.

AMANDA

Are you doing Chris Elliott or Dad
right now?

CHRIS

Amanda, I'm not "doing" anything,
okay? I told you I forgot.

AMANDA

I know you're lying.

CHRIS

I'm not lying. (BEAT) I'm acting.

AMANDA

Dad! Why didn't you tell me?

CHRIS

Well, honey, because today was supposed to be Family Fun Day.

AMANDA

But it was my decision to make, not yours.

CHRIS

You're always going out partying. What are you going to major in at college, partying?

A BEAT.

AMANDA

Mom?

TRACY

No, it's not an actual major.

AMANDA

So, the best way to spend time with me is to lie to me and keep me from going out? That's like, really out of line, Dad.

CHRIS

All I asked for was one day with the family. It's a Sunday for Pete's sake. Do you need to go to every party you're invited to?

AMANDA

(POINTED) Do you need to go do every
movie you're offered?

CHRIS REACTS, STUNG. A LONG SILENCE.

BRENDAN

She's right, you could be a little
choosier.

AMANDA

I'm going to that party!

SHE STARTS OUT THE DOOR, REALIZES SHE LOOKS LIKE HELL.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

As soon as I get dressed!

AMANDA EXITS UP THE STAIRS. AN AWKWARD MOMENT AS CHRIS
STANDS THERE WITH EVERYONE STARING AT HIM.

CHRIS

(TO TRACY) See, this is why I should
never answer the phone.

CUT TO:

ACT TWOSCENE MINT. KITCHEN - LATER THAT NIGHT (DAY 2)

(Chris, Tracy)

CHRIS IS ON THE PHONE. TRACY FLIPS THROUGH A MAGAZINE.

CHRIS

(INTO PHONE) ...Really? Really? In
New York City?... Yeah, that's great,
tell them I'm in.

CHRIS HANGS UP. THEN, TO TRACY:

CHRIS (CONT'D)

That was Tom. I've got an offer to be
in an Off-Broadway revival of "The
Glass Menagerie," starring Bea Arthur
as the mother. Me in a dramatic play.
Can you imagine that?

TRACY

Not really, no.

CHRIS

And it runs for four months. I'll be
on the east coast and I'll be home
every night to see the kids.

TRACY

What about "Scary Movie"?

CHRIS

I told Tom I can't do it. (PLAYFUL)
You know, this play could be my chance
to show people I'm more than just a
pretty face. This could be big.

TRACY

It could also be a train wreck.
Either way, I'd watch.

SHE PUTS DOWN THE MAGAZINE AND GOES TO SIT BY HIM.

TRACY (CONT'D)

But, honey, really? You're sure you
want to turn down the movie?

CHRIS

Didn't you hear Amanda yelling at me?
That was a plea. She was saying
"Stay, father, stay."

TRACY

I thought she was saying, "I want to
go to a party."

CHRIS

Whatever, she was right. I don't get
to complain when I'm the one who's
been away so much.

TRACY

I don't know how to break this to you,
but most teenagers don't want to hang
out with their parents.

CHRIS

Hello, I'm not just any parent. I'm Chris Elliott. Star of stage, screen and television parent. Which I guess is actually more embarrassing than a regular parent.

TRACY

Chris, don't get me wrong, I love how much you care. But don't start smothering them just to make up for lost time. The less you try to control them, the more they'll come to you when they need something. Like, my mom was always on my case. But my dad never stuck his nose into my business. So obviously he's the one I went to when I had my pregnancy scare.

CHRIS STARES AT HER.

CHRIS

I really found you just in time,
didn't I?

CUT TO:

ACT TWOSCENE P

INT. BRENDAN'S ROOM - NIGHT (DAY 2)
(Chris, Brendan, Violet (ON MONITOR))

CHRIS ENTERS TO SEE BRENDAN TALKING TO VIOLET ON THE COMPUTER AGAIN.

CHRIS

Hey, Buddy--

BRENDAN

I'm talking to Violet again.

CHRIS

I'll come back later.

CHRIS TURNS TO GO.

BRENDAN

No, don't go. (INTO WEBCAM) Violet,
hang on.

BRENDAN GETS UP AND CROSSES TO CHRIS.

BRENDAN (CONT'D)

She's really freaking me out. She's
going on about all this stuff I don't
know anything about. Like some band
called Black Flag?

CHRIS

Oh yeah, Black Flag helped launch the
whole Southern California punk scene
in the late seventies.

BRENDAN

Are you messing with me?

CHRIS

Hey, I don't want to blow it between
you and 'Corpse Bride' over there.

Trust me.

BRENDAN GOES BACK TO THE COMPUTER. CHRIS FOLLOWS.

BRENDAN

(NONCHALANT) Yeah, so anyway, Black
Flag. They really launched the whole
Southern California punk scene, as you
know.

ON THE MONITOR, VIOLET SMILES.

VIOLET

(ON MONITOR) Good to know you're not
a total wank.

BRENDAN LOOKS AT CHRIS, IMPRESSED.

CHRIS

(PROUD) I heard, son. Not a total
wank.

VIOLET SEES CHRIS.

VIOLET

(ON MONITOR) Oh my god! Is that your
dad? Your dad is Chris Elliott? I'm
a huge fan!

CHRIS

No way, really? Stop. Really?

VIOLET

"Cabin Boy" is like my favorite movie.

CHRIS

Really? I mean, no, I believe you,
hell, I agree. But, thank you.

CHRIS LEANS IN AND WHISPERS TO BRENDAN:

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I really like this girl.

CUT TO:

ACT TWOSCENE T

INT. BASEMENT - LATE THAT NIGHT (DAY 2)
(Chris, Amanda)

EVERYONE'S DREAM BASEMENT. BIG COUCH, BIG TV, A PINBALL MACHINE, A STAND-UP "ASTEROIDS" GAME CONSOLE, AND AN AIR HOCKEY TABLE, WHERE CHRIS CURRENTLY PLAYS ALONE, SLAPPING PUCKS INTO THE OPPOSITE GOAL.

AMANDA COMES IN, A BIT WOBBLY.

AMANDA

Dad, I saw the light on. What are you doing up?

CHRIS

Waiting for you.

AMANDA

You don't have to worry about me.
(BAD LIE) I didn't drink, I was the designated driver... (GIVING UP) and you can probably smell the alcohol on my breath all the way over there.
Katie was the designated driver.

CHRIS

It's not because I was worried. I wanted to apologize for not telling you about the party. You're practically grown up, and I understand that we can't spend every waking moment together. Although we've never really tried.

AMANDA LAUGHS.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

It's just, you're going to be leaving soon and I want to use the time we have left to make as many memories as we can.

AMANDA

(SOFTENS) So, you really weren't worried about me?

CHRIS

Of course I was worried. Jeez, this conversation could have waited till morning. But, we also have a little unfinished business.

CHRIS DROPS A PUCK ON THE AIR HOCKEY TABLE.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

That is, unless you're too scared.

AMANDA

Too scared? Too scared? I'm not too scared. I'm too...

SUDDENLY AMANDA HURLS ALL OVER THE AIR HOCKEY TABLE (WHICH WE DON'T SEE). CHRIS LOOKS AT THE MESS.

CHRIS

Well, that's really going to slow the puck down. Let's get you upstairs, I'll deal with you in the morning.

AMANDA

Could we make that the afternoon?

CHRIS WALKS AMANDA UP THE STAIRS AS WE...

CUT TO:

ACT TWOSCENE U

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (DAY 3)

(Chris)

CHRIS SITS ON THE COUCH WITH THE PHOTO ALBUM. HE OPENS IT.

CLOSE ON: HIS HAND -- AS HE PUTS THREE PHOTOGRAPHS INTO THE ALBUM. EACH TIME HIS HAND MOVES AWAY, WE REVEAL THE PICTURE.

- 1) TRACY IN HER "FROCK" PUSHING CHRIS AWAY.
- 2) TRACY AND AMANDA CLOTHESLINING CHRIS AND BRENDAN.
- 3) AMANDA HURLING ALL OVER THE AIR HOCKEY TABLE.

THE PHOTOS FADE INTO OLD-FASHIONED SEPIA TONE, AND CHRIS'S HAND CLOSES THE ALBUM.

ON THE FRONT COVER OF THE ALBUM IS A SINGLE WORD: "MEMORIES."

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

CREDIT WINDOW

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (DAY 3)
(Chris, David Letterman (V.O.))

CHRIS STANDS, STARING AT THE PHONE.

SFX: PHONE RINGS

CHRIS (V.O.)

Hi, you've reached the Elliotts.

Please leave a message.

SFX: BEEP

DAVID LETTERMAN (V.O.)

Chris, it's Dave. Pick up. Pick up.

(A BEAT AND SIGH) Okay, look, I'm at church. Choir practice started over twenty minutes ago, where the hell are you? (SIGH) Jeez, get in as soon as you can, will ya? Oh, and do me a favor, pick up a bag of chips and some Diet Pepsi on your way. Apparently it was my turn this week and I forgot. Thanks, buddy.

SFX: CLICK -- THE CALL ENDS.

CHRIS

The guy's eighty years old and he's still making prank phone calls.

CHRIS SHAKES HIS HEAD AND WALKS AWAY.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW