

7th HEAVEN

"High and Dry"

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Episode #20
Season 8

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WRITER'S DRAFT

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SEVENTH HEAVEN

"High and Dry"

PROLOGUE

FADE IN:

DAY ONE

1	EXT. JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - ESTABLISHING - DAY	1
2	INT. JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY	2

PETER is at his locker, gathering his things and talking to two guys, LUKE and ALEX.

LUKE
So, what time do you think you can
get out of the house tonight?

PETER
Probably about six.

ALEX
You know where to meet us, right?

PETER
Yeah.

Peter sees RUTHIE approaching.

PETER
I have to go.

ALEX
Okay. Bye.

LUKE
See you, Pete.

Ruthie arrives as Alex and Luke exit. She looks at Peter.

RUTHIE
Pete?

PETER
That's what those guys call me.

RUTHIE
Who are those guys?

PETER
Luke and Alex. They're in my English
class. Don't you know them?

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

RUTHIE

No.

She looks at Peter.

PETER

What? I do have friends other than
you, you know.

RUTHIE

Okay. What time are you coming over
tonight?

PETER

I'm not sure I'm coming.

RUTHIE

I thought you were going to help me
babysit.

PETER

Sorry, but... my dad's in town, and
I promised I'd spend time with him.

RUTHIE

Tonight's the first time I'm
officially babysitting the twins by
myself. It's two on one. I need you
there to even the odds a little.

PETER

I'll see what I can do, but my dad
really wants me to come over. It's
just going to be take-out and movie
rentals, but you know how my dad is
once he gets an idea in his head.

She reacts.

PETER

I'm sorry.

She looks at him.

PETER

Maybe I'll ask him if we can get
together tomorrow night instead.

RUTHIE

Thanks.

They continue on their way.

3 INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - DAY

3

LUCY is reading a book. KEVIN, in uniform, enters. Lucy hides the book and looks at Kevin.

LUCY

Well?

Kevin shakes his head.

KEVIN

Sorry. I tried, but I couldn't find anyone to work for me tonight.

LUCY

That stinks.

KEVIN

I know, but it's Friday night, people have plans.

LUCY

It's our anniversary. We have plans. Isn't our anniversary -- our first anniversary -- more important than what other people have planned?

KEVIN

You would think so, but I guess not.

She reaches for the phone.

LUCY

Who's not working tonight? What are their numbers? I can talk them into it.

Kevin can't hold it anymore, he starts smiling. Lucy looks at him.

LUCY

Kevin Kinkirk?

He nods.

KEVIN

Smitty came in early and took the rest of my shift. I'm off until Monday.

LUCY

Then what was all that about other people and their plans?

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

KEVIN
Just having a little fun with you.

She chases him around the apartment.

LUCY
You are in so much trouble.

He lets her catch up. She grabs him.

LUCY
Gotcha.

He turns around in her arms.

KEVIN
I surrender.

They kiss.

LUCY
Happy Anniversary, Mr. Kinkirk.

KEVIN
Happy Anniversary, Mrs. Kinkirk.

They kiss again.

KEVIN
What time is our dinner reservation?

LUCY
Not for another two hours.

They smile and kiss again.

4 INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY

4

CHANDLER frantically enters the office, hurries up to the front desk. The SECRETARY looks at him.

SECRETARY
Can I help you?

CHANDLER
I'm Chandler Hampton, someone called me about Jeffrey Turner.

SECRETARY
What is your relationship with Jeffrey?

CHANDLER
I'm in the process of adopting him.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHANDLER (CONT'D)

This should be in Jeffrey's file. I know his grandmother cleared me to pick him up, and I've met with the principal and other people from the school, but what I don't know is why you called me.

SECRETARY

You should calm down.

CHANDLER

I know I should, but this is the first time I've been called into the school for him. I just want to know what's wrong with Jeffrey.

The secretary points behind Chandler.

SECRETARY

Why don't you ask him yourself?

Chandler turns, sees JEFFREY standing in the doorway and moves to him.

CHANDLER

What's wrong?

JEFFREY

Nothing.

CHANDLER

Are you sure?

JEFFREY

As far as I know.

CHANDLER

Then why did they call me?

JEFFREY

Because I told them to.

CHANDLER

Why?

JEFFREY

Because you were supposed to pick me up.

CHANDLER

I didn't know that.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

JEFFREY

I figured you knew, because my
Grandma's in the hospital for tests
and I'm staying with you tonight.

CHANDLER

I didn't know that either.

JEFFREY

Oh. Then I guess I forgot to tell
you.

Chandler nods.

CHANDLER

Yeah.

JEFFREY

That's not a problem, is it?

CHANDLER

I was just worried when I got the
call that there was some kind of
emergency.

JEFFREY

I hope you have food in the fridge,
because if I don't eat soon, there
will be an emergency.

Chandler reacts. Jeffrey heads out of the office. The
secretary looks at Chandler.

SECRETARY

Have a good night.

Chandler reacts and follows Jeffrey.

FADE OUT.

END OF PROLOGUE

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

5 EXT. CAMDEN HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - DAY 5

6 INT. KITCHEN - DAY 6

UNDER CREDITS: ANNIE is at the desk. She checks the address book against the phone book, writes down a new number, and checks it again. ERIC checks the refrigerator, plenty of food in there. He checks the cupboard, plenty of food in there. He checks the freezer, plenty of food in there. In fact, there's a pint of ice cream in there. He looks over his shoulder, Annie isn't looking. He takes a spoon and stealthily digs out a spoonful of ice cream. As he's about to get it to his mouth, Annie grabs his hand. END CREDITS.

ANNIE

Nice try.

ERIC

I was just having a little snack
before we left.

ANNIE

We're going to eat dinner at the
Johnsons' house.

ERIC

I know, but we've never been to the
Johnsons' before. I don't know if
the food will be as good as yours.

ANNIE

Again, nice try.

She puts the ice cream back and closes the freezer. Eric
looks at Annie.

ERIC

Are you sure we should do this?

ANNIE

Absolutely. You know you're not
supposed to eat ice cream.

ERIC

I mean, are you sure we should leave
Ruthie alone with the boys?

Annie reacts.

ERIC

Not that I don't trust her, I do.
But we can reschedule. We can have
dinner with the Johnsons another
night when more people are around
to watch the boys.

(CONTINUED)

ANNIE

The Johnsons are new at our church.
They invited us to dinner tonight.
We're going. End of discussion. And
besides, I think it's time we give
Ruthie a little more responsibility.

Ruthie enters on this.

RUTHIE

Thanks, Mom. I'm glad someone has a
little faith in me.

ERIC

I have faith in you. It's just that
we've never left you alone with the
boys before. At night. For hours.
Alone. With Lucy and Kevin out.

Ruthie reacts.

ANNIE

What your father is trying to say
is that this is new for us. We know
you're responsible enough and mature
enough to be left in charge of the
boys. We just have to come to terms
with the fact that you and your
brothers are growing up. That's why
this is so hard.

Ruthie looks at Eric.

ERIC

Right. That's what I meant.

ANNIE

I wrote down the Johnsons' number.
If anything should happen, don't
hesitate to call. I also wrote down
Kevin's cell number, just in case.
And Cecilia's parents, in case you
want to track her and Martin down
after his game. And Matt's cell
phone number, if it's an emergency.
And Mary and Carlos'. And Simon's.
And the police station. And--

ERIC

(cuts her off)

There's plenty of food in the fridge,
so you can make dinner later.

RUTHIE

You want me to make dinner?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

Eric thinks, then takes out his wallet and hands Ruthie a twenty.

ERIC
Or you can order pizza.

Ruthie shoves them toward the door.

RUTHIE
Don't worry. We'll be fine. Peter
may even come over and help.

Eric and Annie look at her.

ERIC
That doesn't exactly ease our
worries.

RUTHIE
You trust me, right?

They nod.

RUTHIE
And you trust Peter, right?

They nod.

RUTHIE
So you can trust both of us, right?

They don't nod.

RUTHIE
If Peter comes over, we'll...

ANNIE
Keep everything downstairs and in
the presence of your brothers.

RUTHIE
Exactly. Now go, have fun.

ERIC
(as they exit)
We're going. But I'm not sure we'll
have any fun.

Ruthie closes the door and reacts.

7 INT. CHANDLER'S HOUSE - DAY

7

Chandler and Jeffrey enter. Chandler carries a bag of groceries.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

JEFFREY

When are we going to eat?

CHANDLER

I'll make dinner as soon as I put
the groceries away.

Chandler starts to empty the bag. Jeffrey gets impatient.

JEFFREY

You're not going fast enough. Do
you want me to help?

CHANDLER

Sure.

He hands Jeffrey a box of cereal. Jeffrey looks around.

JEFFREY

Where does this go?

CHANDLER

(points)

In that cupboard.

Jeffrey puts the cereal away. Chandler hands him a can.
Jeffrey looks around.

JEFFREY

Where does this go?

CHANDLER

(points)

On that shelf.

Jeffrey looks up.

JEFFREY

I can't reach that shelf.

Chandler sighs and takes the can. He hands Jeffrey a pudding
cup.

CHANDLER

Here, why don't you have some pudding
until I finish putting the groceries
away, then I'll make you dinner and
we can watch one of the movies we
rented.

JEFFREY

Okay.

He moves toward the couch, then turns back to Chandler.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

JEFFREY

Where are the spoons?

Chandler reacts.

8 INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - DAY

8

Lucy is dressed for dinner. Kevin finishes tying his tie.

LUCY

Can you believe it's been a year
already?

KEVIN

It seems like only yesterday. And
yesterday was the best day of my
life.

LUCY

What about tomorrow?

KEVIN

What?

LUCY

Tomorrow. The future. Where do you
see us in the future?

KEVIN

How far in the future?

LUCY

(shrugs)
Five years.

She reaches for her book.

LUCY

I was reading this book...

KEVIN

What have I told you about that?

LUCY

I'm serious.

KEVIN

So am I. You're always reading those
self-help books that are filled
with nothing but mixed metaphors
and so-called advice that contradicts
other so-called advice from the
last book you read.

(CONTINUED)

LUCY
Not all of them.

KEVIN
Most of them.

LUCY
(nods)
True, but this one...

KEVIN
(a beat)
Go ahead.

LUCY
This one is about making a plan, a five year plan, for our relationship and ourselves. We need to figure out where we want to be in five years and figure out the best way to get there.

KEVIN
In five years, I want to be right next to you.

LUCY
That's sweet, but where do you want to be next to me? In the garage apartment? Our own house? Still in Glenoak?... And what about kids? Will we be ready for kids by then?

KEVIN
We've talked about this. You know I'll be ready to have children whenever you are, as long as that's after you graduate from college.

LUCY
I know we've talked about it, and I know you've said you'll be ready... but when will we be ready?

He takes her hand.

KEVIN
Lucy, I love you, and I want to spend the rest of my life with you, but tonight I just want to celebrate tonight. We can talk about tomorrow tomorrow.

She nods.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

LUCY
You're right. Let's go celebrate.

They exit.

9 EXT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

9

CECILIA is waiting as a group of baseball players enter the locker room. MARTIN comes up to her. She smiles.

CECILIA
Great game.

MARTIN
Thanks, it's always good when the
home team wins.
(off her look)
And it doesn't hurt when I go four-
for-five either.

She smiles.

MARTIN
What do you want to do tonight? The
usual, pizza and a movie?

CECILIA
That sounds great.

MARTIN
I'll be out in a few minutes.

He's about to enter the locker room when he sees the look on her face.

MARTIN
What's wrong?

CECILIA
Why does something have to be wrong?

MARTIN
We can do something other than pizza
and a movie if you want.

CECILIA
It's not that.

MARTIN
What is it then?

CECILIA
It's just that... I'm going to miss
this next year.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

MARTIN

Miss what?

CECILIA

This. Watching you play, then going out for dinner and a movie with you afterward.

MARTIN

Why would you miss this?

CECILIA

I'm graduating. I'll be in college. And even if I do go to college around here, chances are I'll be too busy to go to your games and too busy for dinner and a movie.

MARTIN

I know you're graduating, but I guess I always figured you'd be staying close to home.

CECILIA

That's still an option, but I did get into a few schools. I haven't made up my mind yet. And what if I do stay around here? That doesn't mean you'll still be around.

He reacts.

CECILIA

Your dad might be home by then. He'll be stationed somewhere else. You won't be here. You want me to stick around for something that's not even a sure thing?

MARTIN

I guess I haven't thought about that.

CECILIA

I have.

He reacts.

MARTIN

I need to take a shower.

CECILIA

I'm sorry I brought this up.

He nods and exits inside. She reacts.

10 INT. CHANDLER'S HOUSE - DAY

10

Chandler is cooking dinner, or trying to, because Jeffrey keeps looking back from the couch.

JEFFREY
I don't like tomatoes.

CHANDLER
I know, you told me. That's why I'm not putting any tomatoes in the sauce other than the ones that were already in the jar.

JEFFREY
I'm just making sure.

He turns back to the movie for a moment, then back to Chandler.

JEFFREY
I don't like onions either.

CHANDLER
I know. That's why I'm not putting onions in it either.

Jeffrey doesn't bother to turn back this time.

JEFFREY
What about mushrooms?

CHANDLER
Nope, no mushrooms.

JEFFREY
Too bad. I like mushrooms.

CHANDLER
I'll remember that.

JEFFREY
I'm thirsty.

Chandler has his hands full.

CHANDLER
There are juice boxes in the fridge.

Jeffrey gets up, enters the kitchen, and opens the fridge. He's about to reach for a juice box when he stops.

JEFFREY
What's this?

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

CHANDLER

What's what?

Jeffrey pulls out a half-empty bottle of wine.

JEFFREY

This.

CHANDLER

That's a bottle of wine, but that's not for you.

JEFFREY

I know what wine is, and I know it's not for me, but what are you doing with it? I thought you didn't drink, except for an occasional beer at the pool hall... which you were giving up.

CHANDLER

Sometimes I have a glass of wine with dinner.

JEFFREY

Oh. And how is that not drinking?

CHANDLER

I don't drink it every night, just once in a while...

(off Jeffrey's look)

...with dinner.

(off Jeffrey's look)

You're right. I promised. No more drinking. Give me that.

Jeffrey hands Chandler the bottle. Chandler uncorks it and pours it down the sink.

CHANDLER

Are you happy now?

JEFFREY

No, still hungry.

Chandler reacts.

11 EXT. JOHNSON HOUSE - DAY

11

Eric and Annie get out of the minivan and head toward the house. Eric looks at Annie.

ERIC

We can still cancel this, you know. All we have to do is say we have an emergency.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

ANNIE

We're here. I told you during the drive over that Ruthie will be fine, and I meant it.

ERIC

It's not just Ruthie. I'm also worried about dinner.

Annie reacts, puzzled.

ERIC

You know how these things are. The Johnsons are new in town, they're new at church. They just invited us over because they have some sort of problem they need our help with. I've seen it a hundred times.

Annie looks at him.

ERIC

Okay, I'm worried about Ruthie and the boys.

ANNIE

Don't be. Just relax and enjoy yourself.

As they reach the porch, KEITH JOHNSON opens the front door.

KEITH

Reverend, Mrs. Camden, I'm so glad you're here. We need your help.

Eric looks at Annie. She shrugs.

ANNIE

At least Ruthie's fine.

Eric reacts.

12 INT. SAM AND DAVID'S ROOM - DAY

12

Ruthie is sitting with SAM and DAVID. HAPPY is there.

RUTHIE

Do you want to play a game or do you want to order dinner first?

SAM

Play a game.

DAVID

Order dinner.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

SAM

Game.

DAVID

Dinner.

Ruthie sighs. The phone RINGS.

RUTHIE

You should decide which one you
want to do first while I answer the
phone.

They look at each other.

SAM

Game.

DAVID

Dinner.

She turns around and answers the phone.

RUTHIE

Hello?

INTERCUT:

13 INT. PETER'S BEDROOM - DAY

13

It's Peter.

PETER

Hey, Ruthie. How's it going?

RUTHIE

So far, so good.

PETER

That's great. I knew you could handle
it.

There is a loud CRASH. Ruthie turns to see pieces of Sam's
game scattered on the floor.

PETER

What was that?

RUTHIE

(into phone)
Hold on.

She looks at Sam.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

RUTHIE
What happened?

SAM
David broke my game.

DAVID
No I didn't.

SAM
Yes you did.

DAVID
It broke by itself.

SAM
You threw it on the floor.

DAVID
It fell off the table. Now we can
eat dinner first.

Ruthie reacts.

RUTHIE
(into phone)
Peter?

PETER
It sounds like you've got your hands
full.

RUTHIE
Please tell me you're coming over.

PETER
I'm sorry, but my dad really wants
me to spend time with him tonight.

RUTHIE
Fine. I wish you could come, but I
understand.

PETER
I have to go, my dad's on his way
over to pick me up. Bye.

RUTHIE
Bye.

They hang up. She reacts, it's gonna be a long night.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

14 EXT. RESTAURANT - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT 14

15 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT 15

A HOST escorts Kevin and Lucy to their table. He seats Lucy, who reacts, surprised to see a bottle of champagne already waiting for them.

LUCY
What's this?

HOST
A bottle of our finest champagne.

LUCY
From whom?

KEVIN
I called ahead.

LUCY
That is so sweet.

As the host is about to pour Lucy's champagne, she puts her hand over her flute.

LUCY
I'm not drinking anything tonight.

Kevin looks at her.

KEVIN
Are you sure? We're celebrating,
remember?

LUCY
I remember. I'm not in the mood.

The host looks at Kevin, who nods. The host pours Kevin's champagne.

HOST
Your waitress will be with you in a
moment.

He exits. Kevin looks at Lucy.

KEVIN
Are you sure you don't want any?

She nods.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

KEVIN
Maybe I shouldn't have any either.

LUCY
No, enjoy yourself. Just because I
don't feel like having any doesn't
mean you can't. We're celebrating,
right?

He smiles and holds up his glass.

KEVIN
Here's to us.

LUCY
(beams)
Aw.

He takes a sip. She smiles.

16 INT. SAM AND DAVID'S ROOM/INT. SIMON'S ROOM - NIGHT

16

Ruthie, carrying two plates with pizza on them, steps into
the boys' room.

RUTHIE
Here you go, guys. I brought dinner
up for you.

She stops, only David is there. He smiles and takes a plate.

DAVID
Thank you.

RUTHIE
Where's Sam?

DAVID
Next door.

Ruthie reacts.

RUTHIE
Next door?

DAVID
In Simon's room.

Ruthie reacts, opens the slider and enters. Sam is there.

RUTHIE
I brought dinner up for you and
David.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

SAM
I don't want to eat with him.

RUTHIE
That's not very nice.

SAM
David's not very nice. I'm moving
into this room.

Ruthie reacts.

17 INT. CHANDLER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

17

Chandler and Jeffrey are eating pasta.

JEFFREY
This is actually pretty good.

CHANDLER
Thanks.

JEFFREY
But it would be better if it had
mushrooms in it.

CHANDLER
I promise. Next time I'll remember
the mushrooms.

JEFFREY
It could also use more salt.

CHANDLER
I'll get it.

JEFFREY
I can do it.

Jeffrey heads to the kitchen, opens the cabinet and reaches
for the salt, then something catches his eye.

JEFFREY
What is... Lewis Ex-Eye-Eye-Eye?

Jeffrey turns, holding a bottle of very expensive Cognac.
Chandler jumps out of his seat.

CHANDLER
Don't drop that.

JEFFREY
Is this more booze?

Chandler gingerly takes the bottle from him.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

CHANDLER
It's not booze, it's Cognac, and it
was my father's, and... Well, yes,
it's alcohol, but...

JEFFREY
(points to the sink)
You know what to do.

CHANDLER
You want me to dump this out? Do
you have any idea how much this
costs?

JEFFREY
How would I know how much that costs?

CHANDLER
Good point, but I'll let you know
that it's quite expensive. And even
if it weren't, I can't dump it out.

JEFFREY
Why not?

CHANDLER
My father gave it to me.

JEFFREY
I thought you hated your father.

CHANDLER
I did. But now that he's gone, I
can't anymore.

Jeffrey reacts.

CHANDLER
This meant a lot to him. Now it
means a lot to me.

JEFFREY
It means a lot to me that there is
no alcohol in the house.

Chandler reacts.

18 INT. JOHNSON HOUSE - NIGHT

18

Eric is sitting across from Keith and SYLVIA JOHNSON, a look
of concern on his face.

ERIC
You're in a difficult spot here.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ERIC (CONT'D)

Any choice you make now will have a great impact on decisions you'll have to make in the future. You should consider that before acting too hastily.

Keith and Sylvia react.

SYLVIA

Please, tell us what you think.

ERIC

Really, this is something the two of you should decide for yourselves. I don't even know what I would do if I were in your position.

KEITH

You can level with us, which do you prefer... the cream or the brown?

We now see that Eric is looking at paint samples. Annie is on the other side of the couch, grinning at Eric.

ERIC

I don't know. Annie is better than I am at this.

ANNIE

I already told them what I thought. What are your ideas?

Eric reacts.

SYLVIA

Keith wants to keep it a basic cream to lighten up the room. I think we should do the walls in brown to highlight our artwork.

KEITH

(to Sylvia)

If we go brown, we'll need to recover the furniture.

SYLVIA

Good. I never liked this pattern anyway.

They look at Eric.

KEITH

We really need another unbiased opinion. What do you think?

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

ERIC
(shrugs)
Brown?

SYLVIA
(smiles at Keith)
See, I told you.

KEITH
I'll think about it.
(to Eric and Annie)
Now we have to show you the bedroom.
We have no idea what to do in there.

SYLVIA
Here we go.

She picks up a different set of paint samples. Annie and Eric react.

19 INT. PETE'S PIZZA - NIGHT

19

Martin and Cecilia are at a table, both unhappy. She looks at him.

CECILIA
What's wrong?

MARTIN
Why does something have to be wrong?

CECILIA
Very funny. You've barely said a word since we got here.

MARTIN
I've been thinking about what you said earlier.

CECILIA
Oh, that. Forget about that, okay?
Let's not worry about that now.

MARTIN
You know what, you're right.

She reacts.

MARTIN
You are going to be going to college, maybe around here, maybe not. But even if you do go to school around here, chances are I won't be here anymore. Maybe we should cool things off a little.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

CECILIA

That's not what I meant. I care about you, and it's not going to matter if I go to school in Seattle or Denver or Glenoak, I still want you to be a part of my life. And if your dad gets stationed in... wherever they have marine bases, I hope that you would still want me to be a part of your life, too.

MARTIN

We should think about this. There's no point getting too serious about each other when we don't even know if we have a future together.

Cecilia reacts, this is not going at all how she planned.

20 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

20

Lucy and Kevin are in the midst of dinner. He looks at her.

LUCY

What?

KEVIN

I love you.

She blushes.

KEVIN

I mean it. I do love you.

LUCY

I know you love me. You're just not great at showing this side of you in public.

KEVIN

When we're together, it's like we're the only two people in the world.

She smiles, but that was a bit too cheesy, even for her.

LUCY

Maybe you don't need any more champagne.

KEVIN

I've only had the one glass.

LUCY

Are you sure you didn't sneak any when I was away in the restroom?

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

KEVIN

Of course I'm sure. Are you sure
you don't want some?

LUCY

I'm fine with water. I'm sorry you
feel you need to ply me with alcohol
to celebrate our anniversary.

KEVIN

It's not that.

LUCY

What is it then?

KEVIN

This is a two hundred dollar bottle
of champagne.

LUCY

Really? You spent two hundred dollars
on a bottle of champagne?

KEVIN

Actually, since you're not having
any, and I'm just having the one
glass, I spent two hundred dollars
on a glass of champagne.

LUCY

I hope you enjoy it.

He reacts.

21 INT. SAM AND DAVID'S ROOM/INT. SIMON'S ROOM - NIGHT

21

David eats his pizza at the little table. Sam enters from
Simon's room, takes a few stuffed animals off his bed, and
heads back to Simon's room. Ruthie is there when Sam enters
and puts the animals on Simon's bed.

RUTHIE

Maybe you should wait to move
everything until you decide for
sure this is what you really want
to do.

SAM

I know for sure.

RUTHIE

You can't move into here, this is
Simon's room.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

SAM
Simon doesn't live here anymore.

RUTHIE
This is still his room.

SAM
It's mine now.

Ruthie reacts as the phone RINGS. She answers.

RUTHIE
Hello?

INTERCUT:

22 INT. PETROWSKI KITCHEN - NIGHT

22

It's PARIS.

PARIS
Hi, Ruthie, it's Paris. How's the
babysitting going?

Ruthie looks at Sam as he moves more of his belongings into
Simon's room.

RUTHIE
Uh, fine... so far.

PARIS
Great, I knew you guys were up for
it.

Ruthie reacts, guys?

PARIS
Can you put Peter on the phone?

RUTHIE
Peter's not here.

PARIS
He's not there? What do you mean?

RUTHIE
Just that he's not here.

PARIS
Peter told me he was going to help
you babysit.

RUTHIE
He told me he was doing something
with Vic tonight.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

PARIS

No he's not.

RUTHIE

That's what he told me.

PARIS

I just got off the phone with Vic.
He's on his way down here. He's not
planning to see Peter until tomorrow.

RUTHIE

Then where is Peter?

PARIS

I don't know.

Ruthie reacts.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

23 INT. JOHNSON HOUSE - NIGHT

23

Eric and Annie are still looking at paint samples with the Johnsons.

SYLVIA

We want this room to explode with color and be the focal point of the entire house.

KEITH

The color scheme should contain as many common elements as other rooms to tie everything together, but also be unique enough to stand on it's own.

SYLVIA

What do you think?

Eric and Annie give noncommittal responses, but it's clear they've had enough. The phone RINGS.

KEITH

Excuse me.

He exits to answer the phone.

SYLVIA

We just can't decide between the blue and the gold. What do you think?

ERIC

Blue.

ANNIE

Gold.

Keith returns.

KEITH

Reverend, the phone is for you.

Eric reacts and exits. Sylvia looks at Keith.

SYLVIA

They can't decide either, but Annie says gold.

KEITH

I knew it.

Annie shrugs.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

ANOTHER ANGLE:

Eric is on the phone.

ERIC
What's going on?

INTERCUT:

24 INT. CAMDEN KITCHEN - NIGHT

24

It's Ruthie.

RUTHIE
Peter told me he couldn't come over
tonight because he was spending
time with Vic, but Vic's not even
in town yet.

ERIC
So where is Peter?

RUTHIE
No one knows. Paris called looking
for him, because he told her he was
helping me babysit tonight.

ERIC
(thinks, then)
We'll be home in a few minutes. You
should call Lucy and Kevin and have
them meet us there, too.

RUTHIE
But it's their anniversary.

ERIC
They'll understand. Check on the
boys and make sure they're okay.
We'll see you soon.

RUTHIE
Thanks, Dad.

They hang up. Eric returns to the others.

ERIC
I'm sorry, but there's a problem at
home. Annie and I have to leave.

SYLVIA
Is everything okay?

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

ERIC
It will be. Thank you for a wonderful evening.

ANNIE
Really, you have a beautiful home.
We can show ourselves out.

They exit toward the front door.

ANNIE
(whispers to Eric)
Good thinking, coming up with that phony emergency like that.

ERIC
I didn't.

Annie reacts.

ANNIE
Is something wrong with the boys?

ERIC
Peter's missing.

Annie reacts as they exit.

25 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

25

Kevin and Lucy are eating. He looks at her.

KEVIN
Just try one glass.

LUCY
No.

KEVIN
It's two hundred dollars.

LUCY
Stop pressuring me to drink.

KEVIN
I'm not pressuring you.

Lucy reacts.

LUCY
(thinks, then)
What about tomorrow?

KEVIN
It'll probably go bad by tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

LUCY
I mean tomorrow. The future.

He reacts, he gets it.

LUCY
I'll have a glass of champagne if
you agree to talk about the future.

KEVIN
I'm not going to bribe you to drink.

LUCY
It's not a bribe, it's a trade.

He reacts. His cell phone RINGS. He looks at it quickly.

KEVIN
It's your house.

He hands it to Lucy. She answers.

LUCY
Hello?... Hi, Ruthie. We're kind of
in the middle of something right
now... What?

Kevin reacts as Lucy listens.

LUCY
We're on our way... Actually, I
won't tell Kevin to drive fast, but
I'll get us there as soon as
possible.

She hangs up. Kevin looks at her.

LUCY
We need to get the check.

He reacts.

26 INT. CHANDLER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

26

Chandler and Jeffrey are at the table, the bottle of Cognac
in front of them.

CHANDLER
I want you to know why this bottle
means so much to me.

JEFFREY
Go ahead.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

CHANDLER

My father was a man of expensive tastes. He wanted the best, and nothing less than the best would ever be good enough for himself and for his family. When I turned my back on my father's lifestyle to enter the ministry, to my father it seemed I was turning my back on him. That's how it was for years between us. We were always at odds because I rejected him.

Jeffrey nods.

CHANDLER

When my father was dying, at the end, he pulled me aside and gave me this bottle, it hadn't even been opened yet. He said he wanted me to have this bottle to remember him by, but more than that, he wanted me to remember that in so many ways, I made the right choice by choosing to not be like him. He saw that... in the end, he saw that. The only drink I've taken from this is the one I took after his funeral, but this bottle is how I remember him, and how I remember to not be like him.

JEFFREY

I understand. But what I don't understand is now that you've told me why it is so important to you to keep that bottle, you've never once asked me why it is so important to me that you don't keep that bottle.

Chandler reacts.

JEFFREY

Goodnight. I'm going to bed.

He exits. Chandler reacts.

27 INT. SAM AND DAVID'S ROOM - NIGHT

27

Ruthie enters to see David in his pajamas.

RUTHIE

It makes me sad to see my brothers fighting. I want you and Sam to make up.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

Sam enters from Simon's room.

DAVID
We made up.

SAM
Yeah, we're friends again.

RUTHIE
That's great. Now you don't have to
move into Simon's room.

SAM
I'm still moving.

Ruthie reacts.

RUTHIE
Don't you want to live with David
now that you've made up?

DAVID
I'm moving into Simon's room, too.

Ruthie reacts.

RUTHIE
There's only one bed.

SAM
It's a big bed.

DAVID
Big enough for both of us.

They carry more stuff into Simon's room.

RUTHIE
I don't have time to worry about
this right now. Have fun moving.

DAVID
We will.

She exits.

28 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

28

Eric and Annie enter from the back door. Ruthie comes down
the stairs. Eric looks at Ruthie.

ERIC
Any word on Peter?

Ruthie shakes her head.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

ERIC
I'm going to call Paris.

He crosses to the phone. Annie looks at Ruthie.

ANNIE
How are the boys? Are they getting
ready for bed?

RUTHIE
Basically.

Annie reacts.

ERIC
(into phone)
Paris, it's Eric Camden. Have you
heard from Peter?

INTERCUT:

29 INT. PETROWSKI KITCHEN - NIGHT

29

Paris is on the phone.

PARIS
No. All I know is he's not at your
house where he told me he would be,
and he's not with Vic where he told
Ruthie he would be.

ERIC
Have you talked to Vic, told him
about the situation?

PARIS
He just called from his motel to
tell me he made it here, but I didn't
tell him about Peter.

ERIC
Why not?

PARIS
I'm not sure Vic's ready to deal
with this much parental
responsibility.

ERIC
Peter is Vic's son, too. I think
Vic has earned the right to a little
responsibility.

Paris reacts. Kevin and Lucy enter. Lucy looks at Annie and
Ruthie.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

LUCY
Still no Peter?

Ruthie shakes her head.

ERIC
(into phone)
I'm going to go out and look for
him.

PARIS
What do you want me to do?

ERIC
You should stay close to home in
case Peter comes back. And why don't
you give Vic a call and tell him to
be ready in ten minutes. Kevin and
I will swing by his motel and pick
him up.

Paris reacts.

ERIC
Trust me.

PARIS
Okay. I'll call him.

ERIC
Don't worry, we'll find Peter.

They hang up. Eric looks at the others.

ERIC
The rest of you should stay here in
case he shows up.

They nod.

KEVIN
Let's go.

RUTHIE
Good luck.

Eric and Kevin head for the door. Eric looks at Kevin.

ERIC
Have you had anything to drink?

KEVIN
Two hundred dollars worth.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (2)

29

ERIC
I'll drive.

Kevin nods as they exit.

30 EXT. PROMENADE - MOVIE THEATRE - NIGHT

30

Martin and Cecilia exit the theatre.

CECILIA
What did you think?

MARTIN
About the movie? I don't know. I
wasn't paying attention.

CECILIA
Me neither. I couldn't concentrate
on the movie. All I could think
about was what you said and what I
wanted to say to you.

MARTIN
I thought you didn't want to talk
about it.

CECILIA
I thought wrong. Let's just lay our
cards on the table and be honest
with each other.

A beat.

MARTIN
Your going to college scares me.

She reacts.

CECILIA
Not that honest.

He points her toward a bench and they sit.

MARTIN
When you go to college, even if
it's in Glenoak, you're going to be
in a new environment. New people.
New friends. More parties. More
alcohol.

She reacts.

CECILIA
What, you think I'm going to go to
college and become an alcoholic?

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

No, not that. But I've been to a few parties with you. Parties where your friends were drinking.

CECILIA

Is that why you didn't want to go out with my friends tonight?

(he nods)

They drink, so what? I don't drink.

MARTIN

I know.

CECILIA

And they only drink beer. They're very responsible with alcohol.

MARTIN

Are they? It's illegal to drink beer if you're underage. If someone is doing something illegal, they're doing something irresponsible. I'm a responsible person. I don't want to be around illegal activity.

CECILIA

Why didn't you just say that that's why you didn't want to go out with them instead of getting into this huge argument about my going away to school?

MARTIN

You're the one who brought that up.

CECILIA

Did I?

MARTIN

Yeah.

CECILIA

But why didn't you say anything about my friends drinking when we were around them?

MARTIN

Because they're eighteen and I'm sixteen, and I didn't want you to think I'm too young to understand it. I understand it. I don't like it.

(he smiles)

But I love you.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

CECILIA

I love you too. I don't know what I would've done this year if it hadn't been for you. I'm not ready to give that up. Can you trust me enough not to give up either?

She puts out her hand. He thinks, then smiles.

MARTIN

Of course.

He takes her hand.

31 EXT. PARK - NIGHT

31

Eric, Kevin and VIC exit the minivan and head into the park with flashlights.

VIC

Not that this isn't fun and everything, but don't you think we're wasting our time?

ERIC

What do you mean?

VIC

I doubt we're going to find him.

KEVIN

It's Glenoak. We'll find him.

VIC

If it were up to me, I'd just wait until he gets home from wherever he is and then let Paris chew him out for lying to her.

Vic looks at Eric.

VIC

By the way, thanks for sticking me in a car with this guy. There's nothing I like more than spending time with people who have been drinking.

KEVIN

I told you, I only had one glass of champagne.

VIC

I can smell it on you.

Kevin reacts.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

ERIC

Can we just deal with the task at hand and find Peter?

VIC

Peter's fine. He's probably been hanging out with some friends doing things he shouldn't be doing. All kids his age do it. I did it.

Eric and Kevin look at him.

VIC

Okay, bad example. I'm sure it's nothing, but Paris is worried about him, so now I'm worried about him.

Kevin sees something across the park.

KEVIN

Does that look like a group of kids to you?

ERIC

It could be.

VIC

(calls out)

Peter?

And sure enough, Peter turns around. They head his direction.

ANOTHER ANGLE:

Across the park, Peter turns to Luke and Alex.

PETER

Oh no.

ALEX

Who is that?

PETER

My dad, Reverend Camden, and Ruthie's brother-in-law, who's a cop.

Luke and Alex react as Eric, Vic and Kevin approach.

VIC

Peter, what are you doing here?

PETER

Uh... just hanging out with some friends.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (2)

31

Luke and Alex nod.

VIC

Your mom's worried sick about you.
She had no idea where you were.

PETER

Sorry.

ERIC

(to Luke and Alex)

Do your parents know where you are?

LUKE

I'm sure they do.

ALEX

There's nothing wrong with being in
a park, is there?

VIC

Come on, Peter, let's go.

Peter hesitates.

VIC

What's the hold up?

As Peter starts to stand, he tries to hand something to Alex without the adults seeing it, and when he does, a beer can falls to the ground. Eric and Kevin react as Vic picks up the can.

VIC

Peter?

Peter reacts. Vic looks at him.

VIC

You've been drinking?

Vic looks like he's going to spontaneously combust. Peter doesn't seem to care.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

32 EXT. PARK - NIGHT

32

Kevin watches the boys. Eric and Vic are off to the side.
Vic is angry.

VIC

I can't believe he was drinking. Of
all the stupid things he could be
doing, why was he drinking?

ERIC

This must be hard on you.

VIC

You have no idea. When Paris gets
here, that kid's going to get it.

ERIC

Why don't you say something to him?

VIC

Me?

ERIC

You're his father, aren't you?

VIC

You think my being around these
last few months has given me the
right to lecture him about anything?

ERIC

Don't take this the wrong way, but
I think you're more than qualified
to talk to him about this.

VIC

I can't. I'll probably just end up
yelling at him.

ERIC

I think in this case that might be
just what he needs. And just so you
know, it's okay for Peter to see
his father angry, justifiably angry.
You're human and you're sober. Go
for it.

Vic reacts. Kevin crosses over.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

KEVIN
I called Roxanne. She's on her way
here to pick up the other guys.

ERIC
We can take them home and talk to
their parents.

KEVIN
I'm not sure if I should, like this.

ERIC
What do you mean?
(then)
Oh.

VIC
Why don't you take Mr. Top Shelf
home. I'll wait here for Roxanne
and Paris. Maybe I'll even think of
something to say to Peter without
yelling at him.

ERIC
Another fine choice.

VIC
Once you gave me permission, the
urge to yell just kind of left me.

Eric looks at Vic and smiles. Vic shrugs.

ERIC
You're a good man.

VIC
Yeah, yeah.

Eric reacts.

33 INT. CHANDLER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

33

Jeffrey's in bed. Chandler enters.

CHANDLER
Do you want to talk?

JEFFREY
Not really.

Chandler takes a seat anyway.

JEFFREY
Okay, I guess we'll talk.

(CONTINUED)

CHANDLER

I'm sorry I didn't ask about your feelings. I should have, but I didn't. I have to learn I'm not the only one who is affected by my decisions and my actions anymore.

Jeffrey reacts.

CHANDLER

Would you like to tell me about it?

A beat.

JEFFREY

It's my mom.

Chandler reacts.

JEFFREY

Drinking wasn't her problem, but I bet she did her share of that. She was into other stuff. She was never in control. She made bad choices. She ruined her life. She could have ruined mine.

Chandler reacts.

JEFFREY

I don't remember much about her. Grandma told me some things, but I'm sure reality is worse than her version. My mom's not around, and she'll never be around. I'll never know her.

CHANDLER

I'm sorry. I guess I should have thought of that.

JEFFREY

Yeah, you should have. You've told me about your brother. I thought you'd feel the same way about things that make it easy for a person to lose control.

Chandler reacts.

JEFFREY

I like you, Chandler. I think you're a good person. I'm just surprised you need alcohol to remember you're a good person.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

Chandler reacts.

JEFFREY

Now if you'll excuse me, I really
am tired.

Jeffrey rolls over.

CHANDLER

If you need me, I'll be on the couch.

He turns off the lights and exits.

34 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

34

Annie is there. Ruthie enters.

RUTHIE

Have they called?

ANNIE

They should be almost home.

RUTHIE

Did they find Peter? Is he okay?

ANNIE

Ruthie, Peter was out with a couple
other boys tonight. They were
drinking.

RUTHIE

What? That's why he lied to me? To
drink?

ANNIE

I'm sorry.

RUTHIE

That's crazy, Peter would never do
that.

Annie looks at her. Ruthie can tell she's serious.

RUTHIE

I don't believe it.

Annie looks at her, he was. Ruthie exits up the stairs.

35 EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

35

Eric enters from the driveway and crosses through the yard.
He reacts to the sight of Martin and Cecilia kissing on the
porch. He clears his throat. They break, busted.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

CECILIA

I was just... leaving. Goodnight.

She exits. Martin smiles.

ERIC

How was the game?

MARTIN

We won.

ERIC

That's great. How was the movie?

MARTIN

I'm not sure.

Eric reacts.

MARTIN

We're going to see it again tomorrow.
This time we'll pay attention.

Eric reacts, what does that mean? He and Martin exit into the house.

36 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

36

Annie is there when Eric and Martin enter. Martin senses the serious mood.

MARTIN

Goodnight.

He makes a hasty exit. Annie looks at Eric.

ANNIE

Peter was really drinking?

ERIC

If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I wouldn't have believed it.
Does Ruthie know?

ANNIE

I told her. She didn't take it well.

ERIC

I didn't either.

ANNIE

Me neither.

They look at each other and shake their heads.

37 INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - NIGHT

37

Lucy is in shock.

LUCY
Peter? Drinking?

Kevin nods.

LUCY
You'd think having a dad like Vic
would have taught Peter something.

KEVIN
You should have seen Vic. I really
feel for him.

LUCY
Peter?

KEVIN
Vic.

Lucy reacts. The phone RINGS. Lucy answers.

LUCY
Hello?

INTERCUT:

38 INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

38

It's ROXANNE.

ROXANNE
Lucy, It's Roxanne. I just wanted
to let Kevin know the other boys
made it home.

LUCY
How did their parents take it?

ROXANNE
I'm not sure they'll ever be allowed
to leave again.

LUCY
I imagine we've seen the end of
Peter for a while, too.

ROXANNE
So, how was the anniversary?

(CONTINUED)

LUCY
(lying)
Really romantic.

ROXANNE
(not getting it)
Great. I have to go, you can tell
me about it on pizza night.

They hang up. Lucy looks at Kevin. He's looking at her.

LUCY
What?

KEVIN
I was thinking about tomorrow.

LUCY
What's happening tomorrow?

KEVIN
Tomorrow. The future.

LUCY
Why, Mr. Kinkirk, what in the world's
gotten into you?

KEVIN
You mean other than a two hundred
dollar glass of champagne? Which
wasn't worth it, by the way.

She smiles.

KEVIN
We really can talk about the future
if that's what you want to do.

LUCY
Sometime, but not tonight.

KEVIN
No?

LUCY
No. Let's just make tonight about
tonight. Happy Anniversary, Mr.
Kinkirk.

KEVIN
Happy Anniversary, Mrs. Kinkirk.

They embrace and begin their celebration of tonight.

39 INT. SAM AND DAVID'S ROOM/INT. SIMON'S ROOM - NIGHT 39

Annie sticks her head in the twins' room.

ANNIE
Goodnight, boys.

She reacts, both beds are empty. From Simon's room, she hears:

SAM/DAVID (O.S.)
Goodnight, Mommy.

She reacts and opens the slider to Simon's room. Sam and David are both in the bed. Happy is there too.

ANNIE
What are you doing in here?

DAVID
This is our room.

SAM
We live here now.

She reacts.

SAM
Goodnight, Mommy.

DAVID
We love you.

ANNIE
I love you, too.

She smiles at her sons.

40 INT. CHANDLER'S HOUSE - NIGHT 40

Chandler sits alone at the table, deep in thought. Finally, he takes the Cognac to the sink, uncorks it, takes a nice sniff and, as painful as it is, he pours it down the drain.

41 INT. PETROWSKI KITCHEN - NIGHT 41

Paris, Vic and Peter are seated at the kitchen table. Paris glares at Peter.

PETER
I'm sorry.

PARIS
Oh? Are you sorry you lied to me,
sorry you drank, or are you sorry
you got caught?

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

Peter reacts.

PARIS

I'll deal with the fact that you lied to me later, but why in the world were you drinking?

PETER

I don't know. I just had a little. It's no big deal.

PARIS

Excuse me, young man, but it's a very big deal.

PETER

The other guys--

PARIS

Don't even think of saying, "All the other guys are doing it." You are not "all the other guys." You are my son. My fourteen-year-old son.

Peter reacts. Vic takes a deep breath.

VIC

I wish I could have held onto the anger I felt when I saw you with your little buddies because that might keep me from crying.

They look at him.

VIC

I didn't take my first drink until I was fifteen.

PETER

Tonight was the first time I even tried a beer. I didn't even like the taste.

VIC

Yeah, I didn't either. At first. I was fifteen. You just turned fourteen, you've got a year and a half on me.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (2)

41

VIC (CONT'D)

(beat)

At this pace, you'll be sleeping through your midterms by fifteen, waking up in strange places not knowing how you got there by sixteen, dropping out of college by seventeen, throwing up before breakfast by eighteen, spending a night or two in jail by nineteen, embarrassing your wife on a daily basis by twenty, crashing your father-in-law's car into a ditch by twenty-one, spending more time with your drinking buddies than with your son by twenty-two... And when you're twenty-three and you get the divorce papers from your wife's lawyer... You'll have almost nine years more than I did to start hating yourself.

Peter reacts. Paris takes Vic's hand.

VIC

And somewhere down the line, you'll realize how much you've lost, how many people you've let down, and just how much your son, who you haven't seen in years, means to you. And then maybe, just maybe, you'll even be able to turn your life around before I did, too.

(beat)

Don't be like me.

Peter reacts.

VIC

Not a day goes by that I don't wish I'd never had that first drink. Most people can handle it. Some people can't. I couldn't. Chances are you won't be able to handle it either. It's going to be harder for you because of me. I've saddled you with a lousy situation, but you'll never have to quit drinking if you don't start.

Peter reacts. They sit in silence for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (3)

41

PARIS

We aren't anywhere close to finished with this yet, but right now you should go to bed and think about what we've said. We'll sit down and talk about this again tomorrow. And the day after that. And the day after that. Understand?

Peter reacts. Vic clutches Paris's hand. She puts her hand on top of his.

42 INT. ATTIC ROOM - NIGHT

42

Ruthie is there. Eric enters.

ERIC

Hey, kiddo.

She doesn't say anything.

ERIC

I know you're upset, and I imagine you're confused, but if you need me, I'm here for you.

She turns to him.

RUTHIE

Why did Peter do something so stupid?

ERIC

I don't know. I wish I could give you an easy answer why Peter did what he did tonight, but sometimes there are no easy answers. Sometimes people we love do things that we can't understand, things so out of character that they don't seem to be the same person anymore. I hope Peter sees that what he did tonight was wrong and potentially very dangerous. But we can't write him off. Now he needs our love and support more than ever. Without that, he may never realize just how much he has to lose by doing this again. And Peter has a lot to lose if he continues drinking.

Ruthie reacts.

(CONTINUED)

ERIC

Children of alcoholics are four times more likely to become alcoholics than children of non-alcoholics. Some of that is because of genetics, some because of the environment in which they're raised. So while the temptation to try a drink might not have been greater for Peter, especially because he's seen in Vic how dangerous alcohol can be, the aftereffects can last a lifetime. He needs all the help he can get to make sure that doesn't happen. From his family. From his friends. From you.

She reacts. Annie enters.

ANNIE

How is everything going?

RUTHIE

We were just trying to figure out how we can help Peter.

ANNIE

Are you still angry with him?

RUTHIE

A little. But I'm also scared. And worried. And sad.

Annie reacts.

ERIC

How are the boys?

ANNIE

They're in bed, not their own beds, but they are in bed.

Ruthie reacts.

ANNIE

It's nothing we can't fix in the morning.

Eric reacts, confused. The phone RINGS. He answers it.

ERIC

Hello?

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED: (2)

42

INTERCUT:

43 INT. PETROWSKI KITCHEN - NIGHT

43

It's Peter.

PETER
Reverend Camden, it's Peter. Can I
talk to Ruthie?

ERIC
(covers the phone)
It's Peter. Do you want to take it?

She nods. He hands her the phone and steps to the other side
of the room with Annie.

RUTHIE
(into phone)
Hello?

PETER
My parents gave me one minute before
they put me on restriction to
apologize to you, but I don't know
how I can begin to do it.

RUTHIE
You can start with "I'm sorry."

PETER
I'm sorry. I'm sorry I was drinking.
I'm sorry I lied to you.

RUTHIE
Why did you do it?

PETER
I don't know. I... There is no
explanation.

RUTHIE
You scared me. We didn't know where
you were, I thought something
happened to you, that you were hurt
or in trouble. And then I found out
you were drinking, and now I'm always
going to be scared for you. And
that changes things between you and
me. I wish it didn't, but it does.
I still want you to be my boyfriend,
I still love you, Peter, but now
I'll be looking at you differently,
wondering if this was the only time
you'll ever drink.

(CONTINUED)

PETER

I'll never do it again. I promise.
My dad told me there's a place I
can go that's like AA only it's for
teenagers who have parents who had
or have drinking problems. It's
called Alateen. I'm going to give
it a shot. I mean, I have no
intention of ever drinking again,
but... I think I might have scared
myself tonight.

RUTHIE

That's good, Peter, that's really
good. And, if you need a hand to
hold... I'm here for you.

PETER

Thanks, Ruthie.

They hang up. Ruthie looks at her parents, doing everything
in her power to keep a brave face. And we:

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW