

JUST THE TEN OF US

"Changing Channels"

written by

James Larry Sanders Jr.

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CAST

GRAHAM LUBBOCK.....BILL KIRCHENBAUER
ELIZABETH LUBBOCK.....DEBORAH HARMON
MARIE LUBBOCK.....HEATHER LANGENKAMP
CINDY LUBBOCK.....JAMIE LUNER
WENDY LUBBOCK.....BROOKE THEISS
CONNIE LUBBOCK.....JO ANN WILLETTE
J.R. LUBBOCK.....MATT SHAKMAN
SHERRY LUBBOCK.....HEIDI ZEIGLER

GUEST CAST

BILLY GRIM.....THOM SHARP

COLD OPEN

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

GRAHAM AND ELIZABETH ARE SITTING ON THE COUCH, ELIZABETH IS READING A BOOK, GRAHAM A NEWSPAPER

GRAHAM

sigh

ELIZABETH

What is it, Graham? Some bad news?

GRAHAM

No. Unless you call Lucy pulling the football away from Charlie Brown bad news.

ELIZABETH

That happens all the time, what's really wrong?

GRAHAM

Well, I just can't shake this feeling that something's...not quite the same.

ELIZABETH

What do you mean?

GRAHAM

It just feels like...you know, we're in the same house and everything. But it feels like we're in a different place. Somewhere unfamiliar.

ELIZABETH

Has anything changed in our lives recently?

GRAHAM

Nothing I can put my finger on.

ELIZABETH

Well, I'm sure you're just going through Deja vu from us moving to Eureka a few years ago.

GRAHAM

Probably. But why? It just feels like something is...different.

MARIE (O.S.)

Aaaaaaaaah!

SUDDENLY, ELIZABETH AND GRAHAM NOTICE MARIE SCREAMING, AND A LIVE PEACOCK SUDDENLY STARTS RUNNING THROUGH THE LIVING ROOM. IT STARTS MAKING SQUAWKING NOISES AS MARIE CHASES IT WITH A BROOM. MARIE CHASES THE BIRD TO THE INEXPLICABLY OPEN DOOR, CONTINUING TO BROOM THE BIRD AWAY. THE PEACOCK EXITS THE HOUSE, GIVING MARIE A PARTING SQUAWK.

MARIE (CONT'D)

(yelling)

I don't care if you're the boss! I'm saving that for my husband!

MARIE SLAMS THE DOOR. GRAHAM LOOKS AT ELIZABETH.

GRAHAM

Well, maybe not that different.

ROLL OPEN

ACT I

INT. GROCERY STORE

ELIZABETH IS MILLING THROUGH THE CEREAL AISLE

ELIZABETH

Goodness. All of these cereals are just loaded with sugar. "Fruity Bullets"? "Choco Missiles"? "Sugar Cluster Bombs with caramel napalm"?...I think J.R. can make do with corn flakes. I don't want him having weapons of war for breakfast.

ELIZABETH PUTS THE CORN FLAKES IN THE CART AND CONTINUES DOWN THE AISLE WHEN SHE NOTICES A MAN BEING INDECISIVE ABOUT HIS OWN CEREAL CHOICES

BILLY

Kellogg's Raisin Bran. Post Raisin Bran. Kellogg's Raisin Bran. Post Raisin Bran.

ELIZABETH

Are you having trouble picking something out?

BILLY

Yes. I can't figure out which of these have the most raisins. You know, I ought to do some research on the subject. I think my viewers might find that interesting.

ELIZABETH

Viewers?

ELIZABETH GETS A BETTER VIEW OF THE MAN

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Oh my goodness. You're Billy Grim!

From T-V!

BILLY

Thirty-seven News, reporting. Ha ha.

ELIZABETH

You do it all! News, sports, your
nightly perspective, even the weather.

BILLY

Well, not the weather. Not after this
week.

ELIZABETH

What? Was it that botched blizzard
forecast?

BILLY

Well, partly.

ELIZABETH

That was just one mistake.

BILLY

I made that forecast in June.

ELIZABETH

Oh.

BILLY

Well, it's mostly because the station manager wants to cut back on my airtime during the late news. He only wants me to be on the air for twenty-eight minutes out of the broadcast.

ELIZABETH

Twenty-eight minutes out of a whole hour?

BILLY

Twenty-eight minutes out of a half-hour. The tyrant. So I need to find someone else to do the weather.

ELIZABETH

Well, I hope you find someone.

ELIZABETH PUSHES FORWARD, BUT BILLY BECKONS HER

BILLY

Hold on. What's your name?

ELIZABETH

Uh, Elizabeth Lubbock.

BILLY

Elizabeth Lubbock. Yeah, I think we can make that work.

ELIZABETH

Make what work?

BILLY

Well, you've got what we in the
business call "broadcaster mouth".

ELIZABETH
(panicked)

I do?!

ELIZABETH COVERS HER MOUTH IN EMBARRASSMENT

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Oh no, is it noticeable?!

BILLY

No, Elizabeth. It just means you have
a nice voice...We should probably come
up with a different name for that.

ELIZABETH
(relieved)

Yeah. I thought I had bad breath or
something.

BILLY

Yeah. You wouldn't believe how many
people react to that term just like
you did. I once said that once to Jane
Pauley, she popped me right in the
chin. But anyway, I was wondering if
you'd like to start doing the weather
for us?

ELIZABETH
(flattered)

Oh, wow. This is all happening so
fast. I don't know if I have the time.

BILLY

Well, you'd only be coming in for the eleven o'clock, and you'd only be in for an hour out of the day.

ELIZABETH

The kids will all be in bed by then. You know what, let's go for it!

BILLY

Think you could start tonight?

ELIZABETH

Yes!

BILLY

Great. See you at the studio.

ELIZABETH LOOKS EXCITED ABOUT HER NEW OPPORTUNITY

FADE TO:

INT. KITCHEN

ELIZABETH IS PREPARING DINNER, WITH A BEAMING EXPRESSION. THE KIDS COME BARGING THROUGH THE DOOR.

CONNIE

I'm starving!

J.R.

When's dinner?

ELIZABETH

As soon as your father walks in.

GRAHAM WALKS IN THROUGH THE BACK DOOR

GRAHAM

I'm starving! When's dinner?

ELIZABETH

In just a minute. But, before we all sit down, I've got some amazing news!

SHERRY

We're getting a cat?!

WENDY

We're getting cable?!

MARIE

We're going to confession?!

ELIZABETH

No. I just met Billy Grim from the news when I was at the supermarket.

CINDY

Wow! That's amazing! Great story, mom!

ELIZABETH

That's not the good news, Cindy. He offered me a job to do the eleven o'clock weather.

GRAHAM

What? On T-V?

ELIZABETH

Yes!

GRAHAM

Wow, my wife is going to be on T-V!

GRAHAM PAUSES

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

Hey, wait a minute. You're already swamped here at home. How are you going to have time to do that and raise a family?

ELIZABETH

It's just an hour out of my day. I just go to the studio at ten-thirty, get the forecast from the weather service, read it on the air, and I'm out at eleven-thirty.

CONNIE

Don't you have to have a degree in meteorology to be a weathercaster?

ELIZABETH

(excited)

No! You don't! Isn't this country great?!

GRAHAM

Ehh, I don't know about this, Elizabeth. Are you sure you can take this on and still take care of us?

ELIZABETH

Of course, Graham. Melissa will still get fed, Harvey will still get fed, and you'll still get fed.

ELIZABETH LOVINGLY TAPS GRAHAM ON THE NOSE

FADE TO:

INT. NEWS STUDIO

BILLY IS AT HIS DESK, PREPARING HIS BROADCAST, WHEN ELIZABETH WALKS IN

BILLY

Oh, hey, it's the new kid. Don't let the newsroom bully find you...Ha! A little journalism humor, there.

ELIZABETH

So, when do we start?

BILLY

Oh, just a few minutes. Hey, I just got your promotional picture back from the Fotomat.

BILLY PULLS OUT A LARGE PHOTO OF ELIZABETH WITH THE CAPTION "LIZ LUBBOCK. 37 NEWS."

ELIZABETH

Wow! Hey, wait a minute. Liz Lubbock? That's not my name.

BILLY

It is when you're on the air. I mean, Elizabeth Lubbock? That's six syllables, nobody wants to watch someone with a six-syllable name. But Liz Lubbock? It's got alliteration. It's got panache.

ELIZABETH

But it's not my name!

BILLY

Come on. Get with the program. People on TV shorten their names all the time. I hear Connie Chung's real name is Connie Chungowitz.

ELIZABETH

Well, if you insist...

BILLY

Good, you're on board. Now, let's show you how the blue screen works before the broadcast starts.

BILLY GETS UP FROM HIS DESK AND WALKS WITH ELIZABETH A FEW FEET TO THE CHROMA-KEY WALL

ELIZABETH

The blue screen?

BILLY

Yeah, you know when you see someone doing the weather in front of that big map? Well, a little trade secret: they're actually in front of something like this.

ELIZABETH

(bewildered)

This?

BILLY

You betcha. You stand in front of here, and a little device in the control room will take the blue in the wall, and replace it with whatever picture they want. You can't see it, but the people watching can.

ELIZABETH

So how do I know what I'm pointing at?

BILLY

Just look at the monitor over there. You'll see what the viewers at home see. It's just like looking in the mirror.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Thirty seconds, Billy.

BILLY

Okay. Just sit tight, Elizabeth. I'll be on the air soon, and you'll be on the air in...

BILLY CHECKS HIS WATCH

BILLY (CONT'D)

Twenty-nine minutes. Stand by.

BILLY MARCHES TO HIS DESK WHILE ELIZABETH STANDS WITH TREPIDATION IN FRONT OF THE BLUEPRINT BLUE CHROMA-WALL

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

And five, four, three...

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

MARIE IS STANDING AT THE FOOT OF THE STAIRCASE, BECKONING HER FAMILY TO THE LIVING ROOM

MARIE

Everybody, get down here! Mom's first weathercast is about to start!

GRAHAM IS THE FIRST ONE DOWN

GRAHAM

Marie! Would you be quiet?! I just got Harvey and Melissa to sleep.

MARIE

They can sleep any night they want, how often do you get to see a member of your family make their debut on a TV station?!

GRAHAM

In my experience, every couple of years.

CINDY, CONNIE, J.R., SHERRY, AND WENDY MAKE THEIR WAY DOWN

WENDY

(drowsy)

What's going on?!

SHERRY

Yeah! Some of us are trying to get our beauty sleep!

MARIE

Mom's about to go on the air! Don't you want to watch?!

CINDY

Can't we just wait for the rerun?

J.R.

The news doesn't have reruns, you
idiot.

CONNIE

Quiet, Ratboy!...The news doesn't have
reruns, you idiot.

MARIE

Shhhh! It's coming back on!

BILLY (O.S.)

Welcome back.

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS STUDIO

BILLY SITS AT HIS DESK AS HE CONTINUES THE BROADCAST

BILLY

Now, because of time constraints and
our coverage of the Eureka Hog Races,
my explosive exposé on America's food
supply will air tomorrow night during
our late news. Now, we have a new face
to introduce to you tonight. She will
be presenting the weather forecast,
tonight, and every night here on
channel thirty-seven. Please welcome
into your home, Liz Lubbock.

ELIZABETH

Thank you, Billy. It was a nice day
here in Eureka...

CUT TO:

INT. CONTROL ROOM

THE DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER ARE FRANTICALLY SHUFFLING THEIR
PAPERS

PRODUCER

Hey, I can't pull up the maps!

DIRECTOR

Well, put something up! She's about to
go to the wall!

PRODUCER

I don't have anything to put up! And
her monitor is turned off!

DIRECTOR

Oh geez...

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS STUDIO

ELIZABETH NOW MAKES HER WAY TO THE CHROMA-WALL

ELIZABETH

...so let's take a look at the current
conditions around California at this
hour.

THE MASSIVE IMAGE OF BILLY, OBLIVIOUS TO HIS CONTINUED
PRESENCE ON-SCREEN, APPEARS BEHIND ELIZABETH ON THE WALL

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

As you can see, some clear and dry conditions around the San Joaquin valley...

ELIZABETH POINTS AT THE WIDE BALD SPOT ON BILLY'S HEAD AS SHE MENTIONS THE "SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY"

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

...so that meant a pretty easy day for all of the fruit pickers down there.

AS SHE MENTIONS "FRUIT PICKERS", BILLY QUICKLY PICKS HIS NOSE

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Meanwhile, there are some nasty, windy conditions around Mount Shasta...

ELIZABETH POINTS TO BILLY'S NOSE, THINKING IT'S MT. SHASTA, AS HE LETS OUT A BIG SNIFF

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

...and that can make things pretty messy for anyone trekking up to the northern part of the state. And there are some unseasonably snowy conditions reported throughout the Sierra Nevada.

BILLY SCRATCHES HIS HAIR AS SHE MENTIONS THE CONDITIONS IN THE SIERRA

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Now as we turn to the national map, you can see the southeastern U-S is currently experiencing a big area of hot air...

BILLY YAWNS AS SHE MENTIONS THE "HOT AIR"

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

...which is creating sweltering conditions, even by the standards of South Florida!

BILLY WIPES THE SWEAT OFF HIS BROW

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Hey, we got the monitor fixed!

ELIZABETH

Now for our local forecast...

ELIZABETH TAKES A LOOK AT HERSELF ON THE MONITOR, WITH BILLY'S GIANT HEAD LOOMING BEHIND HER. SHE IS MORTIFIED, REALIZING SHE'S BEEN POINTING AT HIM THE WHOLE TIME.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

(fast and frantic)

...uh, it'll be nice and warm, with some rain possible Sunday. Back to you, Billy!

BILLY

Thank you, Liz. A fine forecast.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

THE LUBBOCK FAMILY LOOKS AT THE TV, MOUTHS AGAPE, IN HORROR AT WHAT JUST HAPPENED

BILLY (O.S.)

That is our news for tonight. And remember, Eureka: I've got my eye on you. Good night.

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS STUDIO

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
(uneasy)

And we're clear!

ELIZABETH DASHES TO BILLY'S NEWS DESK

ELIZABETH
(nervous and still a bit
frantic)

Billy. Something really bad happened.

BILLY

What? We didn't lose to channel eighty-
three, again, did we?

ELIZABETH

No. The forecast. The blue wall, the
one was supposed to have all the maps.
It had you up there instead, and I was
pointing at you when I thought I was
pointing to Mount Shasta, and, oh god,
it looked terrible!

ELIZABETH BURIES HER HEAD IN HER HANDS. BILLY PAUSES.

BILLY

Good, I got my airtime back.

BILLY GETS UP FROM HIS DESK

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

ELIZABETH ENTERS THE HOUSE AS QUIETLY AS SHE CAN. AS SHE MAKES HER WAY UPSTAIRS, SHERRY WALKS FROM THE KITCHEN

ELIZABETH

Sherry! What are you doing up at this hour?

SHERRY

I couldn't sleep. All I can see is Billy Grim's massive head leering behind you.

ELIZABETH

Oh, you saw my weathercast, didn't you? Listen, Sherry, it was just a technical glitch. He's not actually that big. You have nothing to worry about.

SHERRY

I know. I just can't get the image of a giant anchorman trying to eat my mother on live television.

ELIZABETH

Don't worry, nobody's tried to eat your mother for a very long time. So how about you go back up to bed, and I'll tuck you in, okay?

SHERRY

Okay, mom.

ELIZABETH AND SHERRY MAKE THEIR WAY UPSTAIRS

FADE TO:

INT. NEWS STUDIO

BILLY GRIM IS AT HIS NEWS DESK, TALKING TO ELIZABETH OVER AT THE CHROMA-WALL. A BASEBALL GAME IS HEARD IN THE BACKGROUND.

BILLY

Come on. Get a run, for god sakes!

ELIZABETH

Billy? When can we start the newscast?

BILLY

Not until this game is over. Don't worry, it's only the sixteenth inning.

ELIZABETH

It's already twelve-twenty-eight, and I have to get my kids ready for school in the morning.

BILLY

Well, maybe if the A's can finally break this tie, because the Tigers sure aren't going to...Come on, Trammell! What are you doing swinging at that?!

ELIZABETH LOOKS GLUM AS THE MINUTES TICK BY

FADE TO:

EXT. TV STATION - NIGHT

CAPTION: "1:38 A.M."

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS STUDIO

BILLY

Welcome back. Now, as promised, my explosive exposé on America's fragile food supply. We take for granted that the food we eat is what we expect it to be. When we buy something at the supermarket, we want what's in the box to be exactly what's promised on the box. Unfortunately, not all food manufacturers abide by the sacred trust that we've instilled in them. They deceive us into thinking we're getting something when, in fact, we're getting something unexpected and unwelcome. The promises on the box? Broken. Our faith as consumers? Shattered. The very fabric of our food supply? Compromised. What am I talking about?

BILLY LAYS A BOX OF RAISIN BRAN ON THE DESK

BILLY (CONT'D)

Raisin bran! That's right! This box of cereal promises a quote-unquote "truckload of raisins".

(MORE)

BILLY (CONT'D)

Well, this reporter can tell you: from personal experience, mind you, that this box of raisin bran only has an amount of raisins comparable to, to stick with the vehicular analogy, a small compact car. A four-door compact, I'll give them that, but hardly the truckload they promised. Who do these shysters at Amalgamated Bran Flakes think they're fooling?...And now, here's Liz Lubbock and the weather.

ELIZABETH IS LEANING AGAINST THE CHROMA-WALL, ALMOST COMPLETELY PASSED OUT. BILLY GETS OUT A SMALL GONG AND HITS IT, MAKING A LOUD, SHRILL GONG SOUND, AND WAKING ELIZABETH.

ELIZABETH
(startled)

J.R.! I told you not to play that thing at night!

BILLY

Again, here's Liz Lubbock, and the weather.

ELIZABETH TAKES A GULP OF COURAGE, COLLECTS HERSELF, AND PROCEEDS WITH HER WEATHERCAST

ELIZABETH

Thank you, Billy. Another fine day here in Eureka...

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

CINDY, CONNIE, MARIE, AND WENDY ARE SITTING ON THE COUCH SPACING OUT, HARVEY IS ON THE FLOOR PLAYING A TOY XYLOPHONE, AND GRAHAM PACES WITH ANXIETY

WENDY

Dad? What's wrong?

GRAHAM

Oh, I just can't shake this feeling that something is different around here.

MARIE

Well, Mom hasn't been herself since she took that new job.

GRAHAM

No, it's not that, believe it or not.

CINDY

Well, I'm trying a new shampoo. Is it really that noticeable?

CONNIE

I don't think he's pacing around because of your shampoo, Cindy.

MARIE

What's really wrong, Dad?

GRAHAM

Well, you know how when you go to a new city, you get a different feeling?

(MORE)

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

Like when you drive into New York,
it's a completely different feeling
than driving into Chicago.

CONNIE

I've never been to Chicago, so I
wouldn't know.

GRAHAM

Well, put it this way. You know how
when you walk into your house, it
feels different than walking into
someone else's house?

WENDY

I wouldn't know. You never let us go
to boy's houses.

GRAHAM

Okay, you know how an Albertsons feels
different than a Safeway?

CINDY

But we always shop at the Piggly
Wiggly.

GRAHAM

Oh, forget the analogies! It just
feels like we're some place different.
Don't you feel like something has
changed?

THE FOUR DAUGHTERS SHRUG AND SHAKE THEIR HEADS IN
DISAGREEMENT

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

Well, trust me. I know we're in the same house, in the same town. But I feel like we've been uprooted and we've moved somewhere else; and I just can't figure out where.

HARVEY PLAYS THE NOTES G, E, & C ON HIS XYLOPHONE

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

Harvey, do you have to play that xylophone now?

ELIZABETH WALKS INTO THE HOUSE, BARELY AWAKE

ELIZABETH

(sleepy)

Hi, everybody.

MARIE

Mom?

GRAHAM

Elizabeth, you look terrible.

ELIZABETH

Thanks, Graham. You're so sweet.

ELIZABETH LEANS OVER AND CRASHES ON THE COUCH, AND THE COLLECTIVE LAPS OF HER DAUGHTERS. CINDY PATS HER MOTHER ON THE HEAD.

CINDY

There there, Mom. Just get some sleep.

CINDY STARTS SINGING

CINDY (CONT'D)

Hush little mommy

Don't say a thing

(MORE)

CINDY (CONT'D)

Cindy's gonna buy you, uh...

...a chicken wing.

WENDY

Cindy, stop singing to Mom!

CONNIE

Hey, give her a break. I'm just impressed she found a rhyme for "thing".

GRAHAM COMES OVER TO LIFT ELIZABETH OFF OF HER DAUGHTERS

GRAHAM

Come on, Elizabeth. Get up and take a nap or something. You're barely even conscious.

ELIZABETH LEANS ON GRAHAM

ELIZABETH

Yes, Graham. I would love some crackers.

GRAHAM

Oh, great; she's going off on the crackers, again. You go up, Elizabeth, and take a nap and I'll get Melissa up from her's.

ELIZABETH

Oh, I love Melissa Manchester.

GRAHAM LEADS ELIZABETH TO THE STAIRCASE, ELIZABETH STUMBLES, CINDY LAUGHS

CINDY
(laughing)

Ha ha, she looks just like me after I
take NyQuil.

MARIE

Is Mom going to be okay?!

CONNIE

I guess, as long as she doesn't plan
on operating heavy machinery.

FADE TO:

INT. NEWS STUDIO

BILLY IS TALKING ON THE PHONE

BILLY

Yes...Yes...I told you, Murphy, the
next time I'm in Washington I'll take
you to dinner and we'll see something
at the Kennedy Center. Just like I
promised...Okay, say hi to Jim for me.

BILLY HANGS UP THE PHONE. ELIZABETH WALKS IN.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Hey, there, sleepyhead.

ELIZABETH

Oh, Billy. I'm so sorry about last
night's newscast.

BILLY

Don't worry, Liz, I've been waiting
for an excuse to bring out the Gonzo
Gong again.

(MORE)

BILLY (CONT'D)

I haven't used it in my sports reports ever since the station manager told me to cut it out.

ELIZABETH

Well, it's not the most professional broadcasting gimmick I've ever seen.

BILLY

No. I was told to stop because it was startling the people watching at the old folks home.

ELIZABETH

Oh goodness! Were they having heart attacks or something?!

BILLY

Not that I can recall, but they were getting really tired of the cleanup after my sportscasts.

ELIZABETH

I bet they were. Billy, I have to admit something to you...

BILLY
(interrupting)

Oh no, you're the one who swiped my cup of conch soup?!

ELIZABETH

No. I need to tell you that this will be my last broadcast.

BILLY

What?! Who gives up a job in television?!

ELIZABETH

Well, Billy, and don't take this the wrong way because I've enjoyed the past forty...hours I've worked with you. But I have eight kids at home...

BILLY
(interrupting)

Eight kids?! Hold on a second.

BILLY GRABS HIS REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK AND A PEN

BILLY (CONT'D)

Tell me, Liz, what is it like having eight kids? Is that why you're always standing up?

ELIZABETH

Billy, I don't think you're hearing me. I've got eight kids at home, that's already way more than a full time job. I thought I could take on an extra hour a day, but with everything at home, I just can't.

BILLY

Oh. I understand. And hey, if you want to forget about tonight's weathercast, you're free to go home. Go ahead and tuck your kids in.

ELIZABETH

Oh, thank you, Billy.

BILLY

Sure, Liz.

BILLY GETS ON THE PHONE AS ELIZABETH EXITS

BILLY (CONT'D)

Hey, Bob! Guess who's back at the weather wall, tonight?...That's right, you can't keep Billy Grim away from his airtime! This broadcast is all mine! Hey, I think I feel a September blizzard coming on. Ha ha ha ha ha!

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

GRAHAM IS WATCHING TV IN THE DARK

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Ever feel like you've woken up in a strange new world where everything is weird and nothing makes sense?

GRAHAM

Boy, do I!

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Well, come on down to beautiful downtown Burbank. A strange new world, three-hundred-and-sixty-five days out of the year!

GRAHAM NODS IN INTRIGUE

GRAHAM

Now that sounds like a place to call
home.

ELIZABETH WALKS IN

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

Elizabeth, what are you doing here?
You've got a forecast to give in
fifteen minutes.

ELIZABETH

Graham...

ELIZABETH SHOWS DISAPPOINTMENT IN HERSELF

GRAHAM

What is it, Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH

I quit my job.

GRAHAM

(concerned)

You quit your job?! Why?!

ELIZABETH

(gradually getting more
depressed)

I just couldn't do it! Raising the
kids was already an eighteen-hour job.
Then you add the drive to the studio
on the other side of town, then
preparing my report, and the late
starts...

ELIZABETH SITS NEXT TO GRAHAM AND STARTS CRYING

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
(crying)

...and waiting for Billy to finish his commentaries. He spent seven minutes last night ranting about paper towels.

GRAHAM

It sounds to me like you should be glad to get out of there.

ELIZABETH
(crying)

Well, I'm not, okay. I never thought I'd have an chance to have a career while still raising my family.

GRAHAM

Elizabeth, you never told me you wanted a career.

ELIZABETH COLLECTS HERSELF A BIT

ELIZABETH

I didn't think I did, either. But then, I got the job offer from Billy and...it just seemed like God had given me this perfect opportunity. I thought for a moment I could really have it all.

GRAHAM

Does anybody ever get to have it all? I mean...God, this is embarrassing...

ELIZABETH

What, Graham?

GRAHAM

Well, when we first got married, I was planning on moving us both to L-A.

ELIZABETH

What?! You never told me that.

GRAHAM

Yeah. I wanted to move out there and fulfill my dream to be...a game show host.

ELIZABETH

(laughing)

A game show host?!

GRAHAM

Yes. I saw Bill Cullen and Jack Narz giving away all those prizes and that looked like so much fun. I really thought I could do it, too. But then you got pregnant with Marie...

ELIZABETH

(interrupting)

So your game show dream not coming true is my fault, somehow?!

GRAHAM

No, no, no. I'm saying that my priorities changed.

(MORE)

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

My dream from that point on was
raising the best the family I could.

ELIZABETH

Oh, Graham.

ELIZABETH LOVINGLY LEANS ON GRAHAM

GRAHAM

So you see what I'm saying. Not
"having it all" doesn't mean you don't
have enough.

ELIZABETH
(teasingly curious)

Well, now I want to know about this
game show thing of yours.

GRAHAM

Oh, stop it.

ELIZABETH

No, really. What kind of game did you
want to host?

GRAHAM

Uh, The Newlywed Game.

ELIZABETH

The Newlywed Game?!

GRAHAM

Yeah, it was the only show on TV where
could talk about making whoopee and
get away with it.

ELIZABETH

Times have certainly changed. People talk about that on TV all the time, now.

GRAHAM

Oh yeah? Give me an example.

ELIZABETH

I don't know. Want to go upstairs and make whoopee right now?

GRAHAM

How is that an example...

ELIZABETH GIVES A "COME ON" LOOK TO GRAHAM

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

...I'm asking way too many questions, aren't I?

GRAHAM AND ELIZABETH RUSH UPSTAIRS

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT II