

JUST THE TEN OF US

"Dinner with the Dooslers"

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

GAVIN DOOSLER.....EVAN ARNOLD  
FATHER BUD.....LOU RICHARDS  
SISTER ETHEL.....MAXINE ELLIOTT  
MR. PRUITT.....BILL ERWIN  
CHAZ DOOSLER.....DABNEY COLEMAN  
MITZI DOOSLER.....JOANNA CASSIDY

COLD OPEN

INT. UPSTAIRS CLASSROOM - DAY

GRAHAM IS TEACHING A CLASS, WITH HIS FOUR OLDEST DAUGHTERS IN ATTENDANCE. THE BLINDS ARE CLOSED TO REDUCE ANY DISTRACTIONS.

GRAHAM

So, the supposedly unsinkable Titanic undocked from Liverpool on its maiden voyage, and as it began to approach North America...well, I'll just show you what happened...

GRAHAM DUCKS DOWN, MAKES A BELLOWING SOUND RESEMBLING THAT OF A SHIP'S HORN, MOVING FORWARD BEFORE PELTING HIMSELF IN THE HEAD WITH A HANDFUL OF ICE. HE THEN SINKS BENEATH THE DESK, BEFORE RISING AGAIN TO CONTINUE THE CLASS.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

...and fifteen-hundred people died, one of the worst ever peacetime disasters, and so on and so forth.

THE BOYS ASSEMBLED IN THE CLASS LOOK AT GRAHAM'S DAUGHTERS IN A COLLECTIVELY BEMUSED EXPRESSION. THE GIRLS LOOK ALMOST DEATHLY ILL FROM EMBARRASSMENT.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

Now, let's move on to another tragic disaster; no, not that show with Heather Locklear and the girl from My Two Dads, I'm talking about the Great Boston Molasses Flood. So...

SUDDENLY, RUSTLING IS HEARD FROM JUST OUTSIDE THE BLINDED WINDOWS.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

What's that noise?

GRAHAM WALKS OVER TO THE WINDOW TO INVESTIGATE. HE OPENS THE BLINDS TO REVEAL THE SOURCE OF THE SOUND.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

Doosler?!

DOOSLER IS STANDING NEAR THE WINDOW, ON A LADDER, WITH A HANDFUL OF WET LEAVES.

GAVIN

Oh, hi Coach!

GRAHAM

What the heck are you doing up here?!

GAVIN

Oh, Father Hargis said I could get extra credit if I cleaned the gutters out.

GRAHAM

Well, would you hurry up, we're talking about old disasters.

GAVIN

Oh, sure. Let me just get this last handful over here.

GAVIN REACHES FAR TO HIS LEFT, BUT BEFORE HE CAN GET TO WHATEVER HE WAS REACHING FOR, HE LOSES HIS FOOTING AND FALLS TO THE GROUND BELOW, LANDING WITH A THUD.

GAVIN (CONT'D)

\*screams\*

THE CLASS RUNS TO THE WINDOW

MARIE

(concerned)

Gavin!

GRAHAM

Well, would you look at that, you all  
got to witness a disaster occur in  
real time!

GAVIN (O.S.)  
(shaken up)

Uh, I'm fine!

GRAHAM  
(annoyed)

Dang it!

ROLL OPEN

ACT I

INT. ST. AUGIE'S HALLWAY

DOOSLER IS AT HIS LOCKER, GATHERING HIS THINGS. MARIE RUNS UP TO HIM TO CHECK ON A GAVIN'S CONDITION.

MARIE  
(concerned)

Gavin! Are you okay?

GAVIN

Oh. Hi, Marie.

MARIE  
That was a really nasty fall. Are you  
feeling any pain?

GAVIN  
Well, I'm a little shaken up, but  
luckily there was something down below  
to break my fall.

FATHER BUD AND SISTER ETHEL IMMEDIATELY WALK BY. SISTER ETHEL IS HOLDING ON TO FATHER BUD AS HE STRUGGLES TO WALK, HIS RIGHT ARM IS IN A SLING AND HE IS COVERED IN BRUISES, WELTS, AND GRASS.

FATHER BUD  
(angry)

Of all the days to walk under a  
ladder, it had to be the day Gavin  
Doosler was standing on one!

SISTER ETHEL  
At least you got your bout of bad luck  
over with, now let's get some iodine  
on those boo-boos.

FATHER BUD  
(whining)

Aww, not the iodine...

THE FATHER AND THE SISTER WALK AWAY

MARIE

Well, at least you're okay.

GAVIN

Wow. You must really care about me.

MARIE

Well...when I see any plaintive,  
doleful being suffering needlessly, I  
can't help but show concern.

GAVIN

I don't know what plaintive and  
doleful mean, but I can't wait to look  
them up!...Hey, can I ask you  
something?

MARIE

Of course.

GAVIN

Well, my parents were planning a big  
dinner tonight for one of my dad's  
business associates, but our guest  
wasn't able to make it.

MARIE

Oh no. Did he get hit with the flu?

GAVIN

No, seven counts of wire fraud. My mom already had everything set up, and I was wondering if you'd like to come over instead.

MARIE  
(taken aback)

Oh. Wow. I didn't think you were going to ask me to dinner.

GAVIN  
(concerned)

Oh no. Was I too forward?!

MARIE  
(nervous)

Uh, no. I just didn't expect you to ask me something like that.

GAVIN

So what do you say? It would mean a lot to Mom and Dad.

MARIE

Uh, okay. I think I can make it.

GAVIN

Great! We'll see you at eight.

GAVIN WALKS AWAY

MARIE

See you there.

MARIE BEGINS TO LOOK PENSIVE

FADE TO:



INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

J.R. AND SHERRY ARE ON THE COUCH WATCHING FAMILY FEUD

HOST (O.S.)  
(on TV)

...and the survey says!

A BUZZER IS HEARD

J.R.  
(at the TV)

Oh, come on! They can't find a right  
answer to save their lives.

SHERRY  
(at the TV)

Our family is dysfunctional enough  
with one dummy. How does this family  
survive with five Cindys?

THE FOUR OLDER DAUGHTERS WALK IN

CINDY

Hiyee!

SHERRY

Speak of the devil...

ELIZABETH WALKS IN THROUGH THE KITCHEN

ELIZABETH

Hey, girls. How was school?

CINDY

Oh, Gavin slipped up again.

ELIZABETH

Gavin Doosler?

MARIE

Yes; and he didn't "slip up", he  
slipped and fell off a ladder.

ELIZABETH  
(concerned)

Oh dear.

SHERRY

"Oh dear" is right. Cindy can't even  
tell up from up from down, anymore.

ELIZABETH

Sherry, please. Is he okay?!

MARIE

He is! Thank god he landed on  
something, and everyone walked away  
unharmmed.

CONNIE

Marie, he landed right on Father Bud.

ELIZABETH

What?! How did that happen?!

WENDY

Mom. I've stopped trying to comprehend  
what goes on around here a long time  
ago. I've learned to just sit back,  
watch life go by, and laugh.

A BRIEF PAUSE FALLS OVER THE GIRLS

CINDY

So why aren't you laughing?

WENDY

I will as soon as something funny happens.

ELIZABETH

Well, it's Friday. Do you have any plans?

CINDY

We're probably just going to go to the mall like we usually do.

MARIE

Well, I've actually got other plans.

CONNIE

Yeah, like what?

MARIE

I'm going to have dinner with somebody.

WENDY

(incredulous)

What?! How do you have a date tonight and I don't?!

MARIE

Well, it's not quite a date, I'm having dinner with Gavin Doosler.

WENDY

Doosler?!

CONNIE

I know you feel sorry for him, but  
there's no need to string him along  
like this.

MARIE

It's not just Gavin, I'm also having  
dinner with his parents.

CINDY/CONNIE/WENDY

What?!

SHERRY IMMEDIATELY GETS UP FROM THE COUCH

SHERRY

That's it! Emergency meeting! Everyone  
upstairs!

SHERRY BEGINS PUSHING HER SISTERS UPSTAIRS

WENDY

That's a good idea, Sherry; but you  
just stay down here, we can handle it.

SHERRY IS STOPPED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRCASE

SHERRY

What can you possibly do in this  
situation, Wendy? Just hook Marie up  
with a hotter boy's parents?!

THE OTHER FOUR CONTINUE UP THE STAIRS, IGNORING SHERRY WHO  
JUST CROSSES HER ARMS IN PRE-PUBESCENT DEFEAT.

FADE TO:

INT. LUBBOCK GIRLS' ROOM - DAY

THE FOUR GIRLS MAKE THEIR WAY UP THE STEPS INTO THEIR ROOM.  
MARIE IS BEING PUSHED UP BY HER THREE OTHER SISTERS.

MARIE

Hey, what's going on?! I'm just having dinner with his mom and dad.

WENDY  
(unsettled)

...and why do think Doosler would invite you to such a thing?

MARIE

He said his dad's dinner guest couldn't show up, so he asked me to come instead.

CONNIE TURNS MARIE TOWARDS HER AND CONFRONTS HER

CONNIE

Marie! Do you have any idea what that means?!

MARIE

Gavin told me it was because their last guest got indicted for wire fraud.

CONNIE

No, Marie! Boys only ask a girl to have dinner with their parents if they're planning on...getting serious.

WENDY VOMITS A LITTLE IN HER MOUTH

WENDY

Oh, no, this is terrible! It's the Virgin Islands thing all over again, but for real! Marie, listen to me!

(MORE)

WENDY (CONT'D)

It's not too late! You can always call  
off the dinner!

MARIE

Wendy, that would destroy him! I  
couldn't live with myself.

WENDY

Well, suicide is also an option.

MARIE

Girls! It's just dinner. Nothing  
serious is going to happen. You're  
just going to have to go to the mall  
by yourselves. Now if you'll excuse  
me, I've got to get ready for tonight.

MARIE WALKS DOWN THE STEPS

CINDY

(disgusted)

Oh, god. We're going to have to start  
calling Doosler...our brother.

CONNIE

It's bad enough we have to call J.R.  
that.

WENDY

Well, let's just hope for the best.  
Maybe Doosler doesn't have any  
ulterior motives, and this dinner  
means absolutely nothing to him.

CUT TO:

INT. BURGER BARN - DUSK

GAVIN IS WORKING THE MILKSHAKE MACHINE. HE IS COMPLETELY OUT OF IT, STARING BLANKLY INTO SPACE AS THE CUP HE'S FILLING OVERFLOWS WITH VANILLA SHAKE. THE MACHINE BEGINS SPUTTERING AND SPLATTERING THE WHITE, VISCOUS SUBSTANCE ONTO THE FLOOR. MR. PRUITT WALKS IN ON THE MESS GAVIN'S MADE.

MR. PRUITT

Doosler!

GAVIN SNAPS OUT OF IT AND DISENGAGES THE MACHINE

GAVIN  
(startled)

Oh! Mr. Pruitt!

MR. PRUITT

What is the meaning of this?!

GAVIN

Oh, I was just thinking about dinner tonight.

MR. PRUITT

Doosler, are you on the skunk weed?

GAVIN

No, sir. Me and my parents are just having Marie Lubbock over for dinner tonight.

MR. PRUITT

Hmm, I never took you for a gentleman caller. You know what gentleman callers were known for back in my day?

GAVIN

No, what?

MR. PRUITT HANDS GAVIN A MOP

MR. PRUITT

Mopping! Clean up your ooze before it  
congeals.

GAVIN

Yes sir.

GAVIN BEGINS MOPPING. MR. PRUITT WALKS AWAY.

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

GRAHAM AND ELIZABETH ARE ON THE COUCH, WATCHING FAMILY FEUD

HOST (O.S.)

...survey says!

A BUZZER IS HEARD

GRAHAM

Geez. This family's only gotten one  
right answer the entire show.

ELIZABETH

We could do so much better than  
them...hey, what if we went on Family  
Feud? Do you think they'd have us on?

GRAHAM

Only if they were really, really  
desperate.

MARIE DESCENDS FROM UPSTAIRS

MARIE

Mom? Dad?

ELIZABETH

Yes, honey?



MARIE

I've got a bit of a problem I need  
your help with.

MARIE SITS ON THE COUCH WITH HER PARENTS

ELIZABETH

Sure, what's going on?

MARIE

Well, I've having second thoughts  
about this dinner I'm supposed to have  
tonight with Gavin.

GRAHAM

Gavin...Doosler?

ELIZABETH

Marie, we've told you girls a million  
times that it's not nice to get a  
boy's hopes up.

MARIE

I'm not getting his hopes up. He just  
invited me to dinner with his parents.

ELIZABETH/GRAHAM

(stunned)

His parents?!

GRAHAM

Marie! What's the matter with you?!

MARIE

What?! Are you going to say that means  
he wants something serious, too?!

ELIZABETH

Of course! Boys don't ask girls to...

MARIE  
(interrupting)

...meet their parents unless they're getting serious? The others just told me the same thing.

GRAHAM

Geez, Marie. How many dates have you gone on with this kid?

MARIE

I haven't gone on any.

ELIZABETH

So Gavin Doosler asked you to meet his parents on a first date?!

GRAHAM

I've seen boys try to go fast with one of my daughters before, but this is a world record; and it's Doosler of all people!

MARIE MAKES HER WAY TO THE DOOR, RANTING AS SHE DEPARTS

MARIE  
(defensive)

He's not going fast! He just invited me because their last dinner guest got sent up the river for wire fraud, and he didn't want all of his mom's cooking going to waste.

(MORE)

MARIE (CONT'D)

How come whenever I try to do something nice for someone, you all act like I'm crazy?! Well, I'm going to Gavin's house, it's just going to be a routine dinner with no funny business, and absolutely nothing is going to happen!

MARIE LEAVES AND SLAMS THE DOOR AS SHE GOES

ELIZABETH

What was she even talking about?

GRAHAM

Routine. No funny business. Nothing happens. Sounds like an episode of Full House.

ELIZABETH GIVES A SLIGHTLY BEMUSED LOOK AT GRAHAM

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

EXT. THRESHOLD TO THE DOOSLER RESIDENCE - NIGHT

MARIE WALKS UP TO THE FRONT DOOR, NERVOUS BUT RESOLUTE IN HER PLANS FOR TONIGHT

MARIE

(to herself)

Okay, there's nothing to worry about. Gavin isn't trying anything...but what if my family's right? What if he is planning some funny business? His parents may not even be here. For all I know, they were the ones nailed for wire fraud. What if he asks me to kiss him? Or worse? I'll say no, and I'll be labeled a bigger tease than Wendy! And what will God think?! Oh no. I will have angered the lord, and I wouldn't even have had any fun doing it!

MARIE ATTEMPTS TO COMPOSE HERSELF

MARIE (CONT'D)

Get a hold of yourself, Marie! He's going to open the door, and nothing weird is going to happen. He's harmless. He's Doosler.

MARIE TAKES A DEEP BREATH AND KNOCKS THE DOOR. GAVIN'S FATHER, CHAZ, SOON ANSWERS.

CHAZ

Can I help you?

MARIE  
(very relieved)

Oh, thank god! It's just you!

CHAZ  
(confused)

Have we met before, young lady?

MARIE  
Thankfully no.

CHAZ  
I take it you're Gavin's friend,  
Marie.

MARIE  
Oh, yeah, I am.

CHAZ  
Well, how about you come in. Gavin and  
Mitzi are just getting dinner ready.

CUT TO:

INT. DOOSLER DINING ROOM - NIGHT

MARIE ENTERS THE DOOSLER'S LARGE, ORNATE HOME; COMPLETE WITH A LARGE CHANDELIER ABOVE THE DINING ROOM TABLE, WHICH ONLY SEATS ABOUT EIGHT, MAKING IT LOOK SMALL COMPARED TO THE REST OF THE ROOM.

MARIE  
Oh my goodness. This place is  
beautiful!

CHAZ  
Hey, if you've got it, flaunt it...Oh,  
where are my manners? I'm Charles  
Doosler, but you can call me Chaz.

CHAZ REACHES OUT TO SHAKE MARIE'S HAND. SHE OBLIGES.

MARIE

The pleasure's all mine...Chaz.

CHAZ'S WIFE, MITZI, ENTERS THE ROOM CARRYING A DISH

MITZI

Oh, hello! You must be Marie!

MARIE

And you must be...

MITZI

Mitzi, I'm Gavin's mother. Why don't you have a seat over there, he'll be in here in a minute. He's told us so much about you!

MARIE MAKES HER WAY TO THE END OF THE TABLE AND TAKES A SEAT.  
MITZI SETS HER DISH DOWN AND SITS DOWN WITH HER HUSBAND.

CHAZ

He has. He says you're an upstanding young lady.

MARIE

Oh, how nice of him.

GAVIN WALKS IN WITH A CART CARRYING A LARGE LONDON BROIL.

GAVIN  
(excitedly nervous)

Marie! You're here!

GAVIN BEGINS HITTING THE LONDON BROIL REPEATEDLY WITH A TENDERIZING MALLETT

MITZI

Gavin, stop that! Your juice is getting everywhere.

CHAZ

Yeah, how many times have we told you:  
you tenderize the meat before you cook  
it.

GAVIN

Well, I also tenderized it beforehand.

CHAZ

Good, that's enough, son.

GAVIN SITS NEXT TO MARIE, JUST LOOKING HAPPY TO BE THERE

CHAZ (CONT'D)

That's our Gavin. He's always a bit  
overeager.

MITZI

He's been helping out in the kitchen  
for years. We've always believed in  
working for one's meal.

CHAZ

Yes, and one day he'll be a regular  
Burt Wolf; though right now his way  
with food is more akin to...Gallagher.

CHAZ BRUSHES THE BEEF JUICES OFF OF HIS SLEEVE.

MARIE

So, if you don't mind me asking, Chaz;  
what do you do for a living? I heard  
you work for an oil company.

CHAZ

Yes, I do. Pacific Petroleum.  
Chairman. It's been about twenty  
years, twenty very rewarding years.  
It's a lot of travel, but it pays  
dividends, that's for sure. You see  
that chandelier up there?

MARIE AND GAVIN LOOKS UP

CHAZ (CONT'D)

That was a gift from the King of Abu  
Dhabi.

MARIE

You met the King of Abu Dhabi?!

CHAZ

Well, no. The former president of our  
company did; it was a gift to him,  
originally.

MITZI

But then he got a bigger chandelier  
from the Sultan of Brunei, so he gave  
us this one.

CHAZ

Always with the hand-me-downs.



MITZI

Oh, we're so glad you're here, Marie.  
I thought all this planning was going  
to go to waste when our last guest  
cancelled.

CHAZ

Well, Mitzi, he didn't really cancel.  
He got indicted.

MARIE

For wire fraud, right?

CHAZ

Voluntary manslaughter...

MARIE GIVES A LOOK OF SHOCK.

CHAZ (CONT'D)

He did use a wire, though.

MARIE COLLECTS HERSELF AND CONTINUES THE CONVERSATION.

MARIE

I hope this isn't too personal, but  
how come I've never seen you at mass?

CHAZ

Well, I was actually raised Southern  
Baptist. I'm from Texas, in fact Gavin  
was born in the same hospital J-F-K  
died in.

GAVIN GIVES A LOOK OF OBLIVIOUS GLEE.

CHAZ (CONT'D)

But then I met my beautiful little bluebonnet, Mitzi McAlpin. And when you marry an Irish girl, you also marry the Catholic way.

MITZI

But we usually go to mass at a place on Catalina near our weekend house.

CHAZ

So, Marie, why don't you tell us about your family.

MARIE

Oh, what do you want to know?

CHAZ

Uh, let's start with that sister of yours. You know, the whore.

MARIE SUDDENLY HAS DIFFICULTY SWALLOWING, GAVIN DROPS HIS FORK ONTO HIS PLATE

MITZI

Chaz, please...

CHAZ

Oh, sorry. I guess I should be more specific. The blonde one.

MARIE

(embarrassed)

Oh, you mean Wendy?

CHAZ

Yeah, Wendy. What is she like?

MARIE

Oh, she's...interesting. My parents  
say she's a genius.

MITZI

A genius? I heard she was a  
bit...mentally deficient.

GAVIN

Oh no, Mom, you're thinking of Cindy.

MARIE HITS GAVIN UNDER THE TABLE

GAVIN (CONT'D)

Ow!

HAZ

Well, no point in splitting hairs. You  
know? But just so I know for sure,  
what about Cindy? Is she anything like  
Wendy?

MARIE

Uh, well, they're both twins.

MITZI

Twins?! They don't look anything  
alike.

HAZ

Does one of them dye their hair?

MARIE

Not that I'm aware of.

CHAZ

Well, how about that other sister of yours that Gavin goes to school with, uh...Connie, I believe her name is.

MITZI

Yeah, she's a feisty, little fireball, isn't she?

MARIE

Well, she has strong convictions about things.

MITZI

I hear she has a strong right hook, as well.

CHAZ

Didn't she send a kid to hospital by breaking both his arms?

GAVIN

No, that was Cindy, too.

MARIE HITS GAVIN UNDER THE TABLE

GAVIN (CONT'D)

Ow!

MITZI

Are you okay, Gavin?

GAVIN

Yeah, never better.

GAVIN LOOKS AT MARIE, SMILING THROUGH THE PAIN

MITZI

Don't you have other siblings, too?

MARIE

Yeah, J.R., Sherry. Harvey just turned four. And Melissa is two.

CHAZ

J.R.? That name sounds familiar.

MITZI

Didn't you know someone named J.R. back in Texas?

CHAZ

I think so, it's been a while...Oh, now I remember! He's the one that sprayed graffiti all over the school gymnasium. I remember it like it was yesterday, big red letters.

MARIE

(embarrassed)

Yeah, that was him.

MITZI

I remember too. "Ratboy Lives".

CHAZ

I know he was a bit abrasive, but that's no reason to call him "Ratboy"...oh, wait. You mean the other J.R.. That's what he spray painted on the wall.

MITZI

Yeah. Marie, I have to say your family is...a piece of work.

CHAZ

Well, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. It all starts with the parents.

MARIE

What are you trying to say?

CHAZ

I'm saying that your parents are bit off their rocker, if you catch my drift. I mean, your mom has eight kids, for Pete's sake. A normal person usually stops at two or three.

MITZI

And your dad. His wife gives him all these children and the best job he can come up with is a gym coach?

CHAZ

How is he supposed to send you all through college on that salary?

MITZI

Well, to be fair, he's not exactly raising kids with much potential.

CHAZ

Good point, Mitzi. It's not like the Lubbock kids are going to amount to much.

MITZI

Well; they did have Marie, here.

CHAZ

But one hit and seven strikeouts? Not exactly a good batting average, if you know what I mean.

MARIE STANDS UP IN INDIGNATION

MARIE

Now hold it right there, Chaz! I know my family has its issues, but that gives you no right to say the things you're saying. J.R. is just a kid, Connie and Wendy are some of the smartest people I know; and while Cindy might not fit that description herself, she's as pure-hearted as anybody. My mom is a literal saint on Earth! And my dad: do you have any idea how hard he works for us?! He's taken odd jobs, second jobs, jobs I probably don't even want to know about. We're far from perfect, but we're doing it the best we can!

(MORE)

MARIE (CONT'D)

And I don't need to hear them get  
lambasted by some oily snob with a  
mustache!

MARIE RUNS OFF

GAVIN

Marie, wait!

GAVIN FOLLOWS HER

CHAZ

I haven't seen someone storm out like  
that since Kissinger. Was it something  
I said?

MITZI

Chaz, it's always something you said.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOOSLER'S FRONT YARD

MARIE RUNS OUT, BUT GAVIN TRIES TO STOP HER

GAVIN

Marie! Please!

MARIE

What?! Did you want to mention some  
other failing of my family that your  
Dad missed?!

GAVIN

Uh, no. I wanted to apologize for him.  
Our dinners with company tend to have  
a way of ending in controversy.



MARIE

Oh. Well, I recognize your apology.

GAVIN

Hey, at least now you know how he talks to me.

MARIE

He didn't insult you the way he insulted my family.

GAVIN

Well, he usually only talks to me like that when we're alone. He's always saying how I'm supposed to carry his legacy, and that I'm always messing it up. I'd say your family got off easy.

MARIE

Got off easy?! He called Wendy a whore!

GAVIN

That's nothing. You know what he calls me?!

MARIE

No, I don't.

GAVIN WHISPERS SOMETHING INTO MARIE'S EAR

MARIE (CONT'D)

Eeeek!

MARIE SLAPS GAVIN

GAVIN

Hey!

MARIE

Oh, I'm sorry, Gavin. That's just how I react when I hear...that word. Does he really call you that?

GAVIN

Just on report card day.

MARIE

You poor thing. Well, if it makes you feel any better, your meat melted in my mouth.

GAVIN

Oh, thank you, Marie.

MARIE

I have one question, though.

GAVIN

Shoot.

MARIE

Was this a date?

GAVIN

Uh, I...don't know. Did you want it to be a date?

MARIE

Well, if it was a date, would you have taken me to meet your parents?

GAVIN

Of course not, that would mean we'd be getting...serious. Unless, you want to be serious...

MARIE

Uh, I...

MARIE CONTEMPLATES FOR A MOMENT

MARIE (CONT'D)

I think I'd just like to be friends, right now.

GAVIN  
(disappointed)

Oh.

GAVIN THINKS FOR A SECOND AND HIS MOOD IMPROVES

GAVIN (CONT'D)  
(happy)

Oh! A friend!

MARIE

Well, it's getting late, I'd better be going. I'll see you at school.

MARIE LEAVES AND GAVIN SMILES

GAVIN

Okay...friend.

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

GRAHAM EXITS THE KITCHEN WITH A LARGE HOAGIE

GRAHAM

Ha ha, nothing like a little midnight  
snack.

MARIE ENTERS THE HOUSE

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

Oh, hi Marie. How did your dinner with  
Doosler go? He didn't try anything,  
did he?

MARIE

No, everything went fine.

GRAHAM

Just fine? Nothing out of the  
ordinary?

MARIE

(coy)

Uh, no.

GRAHAM

Oh, whatever you say.

GRAHAM WALKS OVER TO THE COUCH, BUT NOT BEFORE MARIE HUGS HIM

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

Marie?

MARIE

I love you, Dad.

GRAHAM

Oh, I've grown fond of you too, Marie.

MARIE CONTINUES TO HOLD ON TO HER FATHER

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

Hey, could you let go of me? Love  
Connection's coming on.

MARIE

Oh, sorry, Dad. I'm just feeling the  
love.

MARIE LETS GO

GRAHAM

Well, good night Marie.

MARIE

Good night. You're the best dad in the  
world.

MARIE GOES UPSTAIRS, GRAHAM SITS DOWN ON THE COUCH

GRAHAM

Yeah, I guess I am.

GRAHAM LEANS BACK IN SATISFACTION AND TURNS ON THE TV

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT II