

JUST THE TEN OF US

"Eyewitness Cruise"

written by

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<http://www.thelostepisodes.com>

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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

GERALD.....STEPHEN DORFF
BILLY GRIM.....THOM SHARP
GUY GRIMSBY.....GUY BOYD

COLD OPEN

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

WENDY IS ON THE PHONE WITH CONNIE READING A BOOK ON THE COUCH.

WENDY

Yeah, Murphy. I bet Berkeley is fun.
Maybe I could sneak down there some
time and we can see what action you
and I can find.

CONNIE ROLLS HER EYES.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Hold on, I got another call.

WENDY PRESSES A BUTTON ON THE PHONE.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Hello?...Hey, Jordan. Oh, I'm not
doing anything...You have tickets to
see U2?!...Of course I'd like to go.
Pick me up around eight, tomorrow?
Okay! Wait, hold on, I've got another
call.

WENDY PRESSES THE SAME BUTTON.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Hello?...Robbie! I'd recognize that
voice anywhere...Sure, I can meet you
at Old Johnson Road tonight. Just let
me get ready. Bye-ee!

WENDY PRESSES THE SAME BUTTON.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Bye-ee!

WENDY PRESSES THE SAME BUTTON.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Bye-ee!

WENDY HANGS UP.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Dad made a big mistake when he signed
up for call waiting.

CONNIE

Wendy, how do you do it?

WENDY

You just press that little tic-tac-toe
thingy next to the zero.

CONNIE

Not that! How do you get so many boys
interested in you?

WENDY

I told you before, you just have to be
confident.

CONNIE

Oh, quit it with the afterschool
special morals! What's your real
secret?

WENDY

You really want to know my secret?

CONNIE

Yeah.

WENDY LEANS IN TOWARDS CONNIE.

WENDY

I always wait until a new moon to
flirt with guys.

CONNIE

Really?! That's it?!

WENDY

Yeah, for some reason men are more
receptive to me around that time. Go
figure.

CONNIE

So, should I try flirting around the
new moon, too?

WENDY

You can try, but I'll probably have
already taken the good ones by then.
But, I'll let the A/V club know you're
interested. The best part about them
is they don't even care if you shower
beforehand, because they sure as heck
won't. Bye-ee!

WENDY LEAVES, CONNIE GIVES A LOOK OF DISDAIN.

CONNIE

I think I'll save them for Marie.

ACT I

INT. ST. AUGIE'S HALLWAY

CINDY AND MARIE ARE AT THEIR ADJACENT LOCKERS.

CINDY

Oooh, I can't wait for Friday!

MARIE

What are you doing Friday?

CINDY

Well, first me and Gary Evans are going to go to The Famished Fox. Then me and Lyle O'Connor are going to see Leonard Part Seven. Then me and Luke Curtis are going to go to...well, we'll figure it out!

MARIE

All in one night?!

CINDY

Sure, why not?

MARIE

Don't you want to get to know these boys at all?

CINDY THINKS ABOUT IT.

CINDY

Nah!

CINDY CLOSSES HER LOCKER AND LEAVES.

MARIE

Well, call me old-fashioned, but I believe you can see true romance the moment you lay eyes on someone.

MARIE OPENS HER LOCKER. THE INSIDE OF THE DOOR IS PLASTERED WITH A PORTRAIT OF BOB COSTAS IN HIS STANDARD-ISSUE NBC SPORTS BLAZER. MARIE LOOKS LONGINGLY AT IT.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Someday, Bob. Someday.

CONNIE WALKS UP TO MARIE, WHO FRANTICALLY CLOSES HER LOCKER.

CONNIE

Marie, have you seen Wendy?

MARIE
(defensive)

No. I haven't seen anybody.

CONNIE

Well, she said to meet me here. She had something important to tell me. I think it might be about the favor I asked her about.

WENDY WALKS UP TO CONNIE AND MARIE

WENDY

Hiyee!

CONNIE

Wendy, where were you?

WENDY

I was setting something up for you.

CONNIE GASPS.

CONNIE

You actually got me an interview with the cardinal? I've been trying to reach him for months!

WENDY

What?! No! Why would I call some old man?

CONNIE

You told me this was something really important. What else could it be?

WENDY

I don't know, maybe something like your very own blind date.

CONNIE SLAPS WENDY'S ARM IN FRUSTRATION.

CONNIE

Wendy! Why would I want that?!

WENDY

Hey, you were the one complaining about how you couldn't attract any men. So I found you a man!

MARIE

Ooooh, is he in the A/V club?!

WENDY

(incredulous)

No!

MARIE LOOKS DISAPPOINTED AND WALKS OFF.

CONNIE

So what's his name?

WENDY

You know, I'm not sure.

CONNIE

What?! You set me up on a date and you don't even know who he is?! He could be a maniac. He could be a psychopath. He could be Doosler!

WENDY

Relax, Connie. I was walking past this cute new kid complaining about how he couldn't find anybody who would go on a second date with him. I thought "hey, he's hopeless. Connie's hopeless. They're a perfect pair."

CONNIE

Is he really cute?

WENDY

...as a button.

CONNIE

Well, I guess I could give him a shot.

WENDY

Great, he'll come get you Friday!

CONNIE

Okay.

CONNIE LETS OUT A NERVOUS SIGH.

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

CINDY COMES RUNNING DOWN THE STAIRS.

CINDY

Bye daddy, don't wait up.

GRAHAM

Hold it right, there!

CINDY

(under her breath)

I really thought that would work.

GRAHAM

Where do you think you're going?

CINDY

I told you, I have a date with Gary
Evans.

GRAHAM

I thought you had a date with Lyle
O'Connor.

CINDY

I do! I mean...

GRAHAM GIVES A LOOK OF SUSPICION.

CINDY (CONT'D)

...that was last Friday. Or did Wendy
tell me to say next Friday?

GRAHAM

Are you trying to tell me you have
dates with multiple boys, tonight?

CINDY
(nervous)

Uh...no! Bye-ee!

CINDY EXITS THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR, AND ELIZABETH IMMEDIATELY
ENTERS THROUGH THE KITCHEN.

ELIZABETH

Graham! Did Cindy just say she was
going on dates with multiple boys?

GRAHAM

In a manner of speaking.

ELIZABETH

And you, of all people, just let her
go?!

GRAHAM

Relax, Elizabeth. I figure Cindy will
get confused after the first boy, and
just come home early.

CONNIE COMES DOWNSTAIRS, LOOKING PARTICULARLY DOLLED-UP.

ELIZABETH

Connie, what's the occasion?

CONNIE
(nervous)

I have a date.

GRAHAM
(incredulous)

Really?!

ELIZABETH SLAPS GRAHAM ON THE HEAD.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

...I mean, who is this kid?

CONNIE

Uh, I don't know.

ELIZABETH

You don't know?!

CONNIE

Wendy set me up with him.

GRAHAM GETS UP AND WALKS TO THE DOOR.

GRAHAM

Wendy?! Well, if this boy is anything like Wendy's other boyfriends, it's not anyone I want around you!

A KNOCK IS HEARD AT THE DOOR.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

Oh, just in time. Time to put the fear of God in him.

GRAHAM OPENS THE DOOR.

GERALD

Hey, Coach. Is Connie home?

GRAHAM

Don't give me that "hey, Coach" crapola! I want to know exactly what you were planning to do with my daughter tonight; and then I want you to forget about it, because you're going right back home, mister!

CONNIE RUNS UP TO HER FATHER.

CONNIE

Dad! He's not one of Wendy's himbos!
That's Gerald from gym class!

GERALD
(nervous)

Hey, Coach.

GRAHAM

Oh, Gerald! The new kid. Now I
recognize you.

GERALD COMES IN AND SEES CONNIE.

GERALD
(impressed)

Hey, which Lubbock Babe are you?

CONNIE

Oh, I'm Connie.

GERALD

You're Connie?! I thought you had red
hair.

CONNIE

No, that's my sister, Cindy.

GERALD

So that's who Wendy was pointing out
to me...well, I like my women a bit
shorter anyway.

ELIZABETH

So what are your plans?

GERALD

My dad is going to drive us into town,
we might see a movie or something.

GRAHAM

Sounds like fun.

GERALD
(apprehensive)

Yeah. Fun.

CONNIE

I think we'd better be going.

CONNIE AND GERALD LEAVE.

GRAHAM

Oh, yeah, of course. Don't stay out
too late, now.

GRAHAM LAUGHS AS THE DOOR CLOSES.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

He's a good kid. I sure hope I don't
have to strangle him later.

FADE TO:

EXT. GERALD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

CONNIE AND GERALD WALK UP TO THE DOOR.

CONNIE

Wow, this is great! I didn't think
Wendy would set me up with such a
catch.

GERALD

Why wouldn't she?

CONNIE

She usually keeps the good ones for herself.

GERALD

Yeah.

CONNIE

You seem a bit nervous, Gerald.

GERALD

Oh, well, I haven't had the best luck with girls. For me it's usually one date and that's it.

CONNIE

Why? You're every bit as cute as Wendy said you'd be. Why do you think you can't get a second date?

JUST THEN, GERALD'S DAD WALKS IN. IT'S ANCHORMAN BILLY GRIM, ON THE PHONE WITH THE CORD STRETCHED AS FAR AS IT WILL GO.

BILLY
(on the phone)

Yeah, yeah, yeah. I know all about the earthquake that happened in Australia.

BILLY TURNS TO CONNIE AND GERALD.

BILLY (CONT'D)

I'll be with you in a second!

BILLY LISTENS FURTHER.

BILLY (CONT'D)
(on the phone)

Okay, so I actually said Austria! I'll just correct myself on the eleven.

BILLY TRIES TO MOVE THE HANDSET TO HIS OTHER EAR, BUT IT THEN GOES OUT OF HIS HAND, LUNGING BEHIND HIM UNDER THE CORD'S TENSION. THE HANDSET DROPS ON THE FLOOR OUT OF SIGHT.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Oh, that's just the corporate
ombudsman, nobody important...

BILLY REACHES OUT AND SHAKES CONNIE'S HAND.

BILLY (CONT'D)

...Hi, there. Billy Grim. Thirty-seven
News. You must be Gerald's date.

CONNIE

Yeah.

CONNIE TURNS TO GERALD.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Your dad is Billy Grim?!

GERALD

Unfortunately.

BILLY

Ha ha, that's my son. Always with the
sarcasm. Well, come on, let's go.

We'll take the News Rover!

BILLY WALKS FORWARD AND OUT.

CONNIE

We're going on a date in a news van?!

GERALD

I sure hope it's a slow news day, or we'll be having a romantic dinner at a city council meeting.

FADE TO:

I/E. THE NEWS ROVER - NIGHT

THE NEWS ROVER, A LARGE, WHITE NEWS VAN WITH A RED NUMBER "37" EMBLAZONED ON IT, ROLLS DOWN THE ROAD. BILLY IS DRIVING, WITH CONNIE AND GERALD IN THE BACK. THEY REMAIN SILENT FOR A COUPLE OF SECONDS BEFORE BILLY BREAKS SAID SILENCE.

BILLY

So, how did you get together with my son?

CONNIE

Uh, actually Wendy set me up with Gerald.

BILLY

Oh, you've got yourself an agent. Very smart.

GERALD

No, Dad, Wendy is her sister.

BILLY

Oh, well nobody gets far in this business without a little nepotism.

GERALD

Do you even know what we're talking about, Dad?

BILLY

I think I do. You're looking for an internship. Right, Connie?

CONNIE

No! It's just a date!

BILLY

Really?! Hmm.

BILLY'S CAR PHONE RINGS. HE PICKS UP THE HANDSET.

BILLY (CONT'D)

This is Billy.

BILLY LISTENS.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Got it, on my way now.

BILLY HANGS UP.

BILLY (CONT'D)

We're gonna have to postpone your dinner. There's an apartment fire on Humboldt Hill, I've got to get some pictures for the eleven.

GERALD

But Dad, the movie starts at eight!

BILLY

Don't worry, we'll make it in time for the good part.

BILLY SPEEDS UP AND VAN LUNGES FORWARD, SENDING CONNIE AND GERALD BACK IN THEIR SEATS.

FADE TO:

EXT. APARTMENT RUBBLE - NIGHT

FIREFIGHTERS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF PACKING UP THEIR HOSES AS WHAT'S LEFT OF THE BUILDING SMOKES. BILLY WALKS TOWARDS THE RUBBLE WITH A TRIPOD ON HIS SHOULDER AND A CAMERA IN HIS HAND, WITH HIS SON AND CONNIE FOLLOWING BEHIND.

BILLY

I think I spoke too soon, we did miss the good part. The fire's all gone! Hold on, let me see if there are any tenants left. I hope they've been crying.

BILLY WALKS OFF.

CONNIE

So, is this how your dates typically go?

GERALD

Not quite. This is the first time in a long time I've had a girl show any kind of actual interest in me.

CONNIE

You're kidding.

GERALD

Yeah. My dad wasn't kidding about the internship thing. Most girls pretend to like me just to get close to my dad, hoping he'll give them a job.

CONNIE

I take it once he doesn't give them a job, they lose interest in you.

GERALD

No, my dad almost always gives them jobs. The general manager loves the cheap labor. That's when they lose interest in me.

BILLY (O.S.)

Hey, you two, get over here.

CONNIE AND GERALD WALK OVER TO BILLY AND HIS NEWS CAMERA, SITTING ON A TRIPOD.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Okay, we're going to have to improvise. Just press record, son, and I'll figure something out.

THE PERSPECTIVE NOW TURNS TO THE CAMERA, LOOKING AT BILLY, TURNING FROM BLURRY TO CLEAR.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Okay, and three, two...we are here at the Humboldt Apartments, or what used to be the Humboldt Apartments. And boy howdy, did you all miss a show. The fire started when somebody's candle fell into a glass of scotch. Then they threw the scotch into the fireplace, and it just went...

BILLY MIMES AN EXPLOSION. CONNIE LOOKS ON IN HORROR, GERALD JUST LOOKS EMBARRASSED.

BILLY (CONT'D)

...boooooom! Then the whole building went up in flames.

(MORE)

BILLY (CONT'D)

There were people running out of there with their hair on fire. And, and, there were fireworks coming out of the upper floors. Bang! Bing! Boom! Before long the floors started caving in and crashing, and then the firefighters came and turned the hose on it. Whoooooosh! And before long the fire was out and everybody lived happily ever after...except for the tenants, of course. This Billy Grim reporting live.

CONNIE AND GERALD REMAIN BEHIND THE CAMERA.

CONNIE

That was the worst thing I've ever seen, and I've watched Wally George.

GERALD

Still not as bad as Dad's live broadcast when he opened up the Burger Barn's freezer. Nothing but beef and some frozen teenager.

CONNIE

So that's why Doosler had that bad head cold.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. TACO TOWN - NIGHT

CONNIE AND GERALD ARE SITTING AT A BOOTH AT A MEXICAN FAST-FOOD PLACE.

CONNIE

This night has been a disaster so far.

GERALD

I know. Taco Town isn't what I had in mind for a first date, either.

CONNIE

That's not the part that bothers me.

BILLY WALKS, CARRYING A TRAY OF SIZZLING FAJITAS.

BILLY

All right, kids. Who wants fajitas?

BILLY PUTS THE TRAY DOWN, TRIES TO GRAB THE SKILLET, BUT RECOILS IN PAIN.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Yeeeow! That's hot! Geez and lord mercy!

BILLY SHAKES HIS HAND IN A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO RELIEVE THE PAIN, AND SITS DOWN NEXT TO HIS SON.

CONNIE

Mr. Grim, do you typically join your son on his dates?

BILLY

Hey, I figure having a big TV star around will only add to the ambience.

GERALD

Dad, what I think she's trying to say
is that, maybe, we'd like to be alone.

BILLY

Alone at Taco Town on a Friday night?

scoff Good luck!

SUDDENLY, BILLY GETS A LOOK OF FEAR IN HIS EYES.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Oh, mother of pearl!

BILLY SWIFTLY DUCKS UNDER THE TABLE. CONNIE LOOKS CONFUSED.

CONNIE

What was that about?!

GERALD

Well, he only goes into hiding for
three things: if there's an
earthquake, if he sees my mom, or if
he sees...yeah, Guy Grimsby is here.

CONNIE

Guy Grimsby?

GERALD

Yeah, he's on Channel Eight. He's my
dad's biggest rival. His ratings are
more than double what my dad gets.

CONNIE

Then how come I'm just hearing of him
now?

GERALD

Because Channel Eight is a San Francisco station.

CONNIE

Your dad is getting beat by a San Francisco station?!

GERALD

Yeah, my dad says Eureka has ninety percent cable penetration.

GERALD PAUSES BRIEFLY.

GERALD (CONT'D)
(inquisitively)

Do you have any idea what cable penetration means?

CONNIE

I bet Wendy does.

GUY GRIMSBY, A DEEP-VOICED, DEBONAIR MAN, WALKS UP TO CONNIE AND GERALD.

GUY

Hi, young man. Are you Billy Grim's son?

GERALD

Uh, yeah, I am.

GUY

I saw him here a second ago. Do you know where he went?

GERALD

I think he's in the can.

GUY

Oh, well if you see him, please tell him hello for me. I haven't seen him since we went to school at Michigan. I'd love to catch up with your father while I'm in Eureka.

GERALD

I'll be sure to let him know.

GUY

All right. Take care now, and may the good news be yours.

GUY LAUGHS AND WALKS AWAY. BILLY PEEKS OUT, AND FINALLY COMES OUT.

BILLY

What a hack.

FADE TO:

I/E. THE NEWS ROVER - NIGHT

THE NEWS ROVER ROLLS DOWN THE ROAD.

GERALD

Dad, the movie starts in fifteen minutes.

BILLY

Don't worry, we'll make it.

GERALD

Then why are we driving away from the drive-in?

BILLY

I got a tip about something going on
at the old warehouse.

BILLY TURNS AND THE VAN ROLLS INTO WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN
EMPTY LOT. HE GRABS HIS CAMERA.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Okay, quiet now. I have a feeling
something's about to go down.

GERALD
(whispering)

Uh-oh.

CONNIE
(whispering)

What do you mean uh-oh?

GERALD

Dad's doing another one of his
stakeouts. We could be here for hours.

CONNIE

Hours?! Doesn't he have a newscast
later?

GERALD

Relax, he'll just put on a rerun.

CONNIE

A rerun?!

BILLY
(emphatic)

Hey, quiet! Somebody's walking out.

GERALD

Look at that, we might be out of here
in time for the first scene of the
movie.

BILLY'S SMILE QUICKLY TURNS FRIGHTENED.

BILLY

Oh, no. They see us. Duck!

CONNIE

Duck?!

GERALD

Duck!!!

GERALD PUSHES CONNIE DOWN AS HE DUCKS HIMSELF. BILLY TRIES TO
DUCK AS HE KEEPS THE CAMERA UP. GUNSHOTS IMMEDIATELY START
RIDDLING THE NEWS ROVER, HITTING THE SIDE VIEW MIRRORS AND
SHATTERING THE WINDSHIELD. THE BARRAGE OF BULLETS END ALMOST
AS FAST AS THEY STARTED. EVERYONE RISES BACK UP, CONNIE
LOOKING PARTICULARLY SHAKEN UP. BILLY LOOKS AT HIS CAMERA.

BILLY

Oh, shoot. I forgot to press record.

FADE TO:

EXT. DRIVE-IN THEATER

A COUPLE OF CARS ARE SEEN, WITH PEOPLE IN THEM WATCHING THE
FILM IN PROGRESS. THEN A STRUGGLING VEHICLE CAN BE HEARD
ROLLING IN. IT'S THE NEWS ROVER SPUTTERING AND LIMPING,
COMING IN BETWEEN THE TWO CARS, AND FINALLY CONKING OUT AS
THE VEHICLE COMES TO A HALT.

BILLY

Okay kids, I'll be back. I'm gonna get
us some jujubes.

CONNIE
(incredulous)

Mr. Grim! We were just in a gunfight!

(MORE)

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Why are you acting like everything's okay?!

BILLY

Because it is. The van'll be as good as new once I take it to Goodyear!

BILLY GETS OUT OF THE ROVER AND HEADS OFF.

GERALD

Listen, Connie. I'm really sorry about tonight.

CONNIE DOESN'T RESPOND.

GERALD (CONT'D)

I mean, I like you. You're the first girl who actually had an interest in me and wasn't trying to work under my dad.

CONNIE

Then why is your dad still following us around?!

GERALD

Well, he may not seem so at first, but he's actually a pretty overbearing father. That's why he took me out of public school, and that's why he always accompanies me everywhere.

CONNIE

So, what you're saying is: he's going to be following us around on every date we have.

GERALD

At least until I'm old enough to rent a car.

CONNIE PAUSES.

CONNIE

I'm sorry, Gerald. But this just isn't going to work.

CONNIE SCOOCHES TOWARDS THE DOOR.

GERALD

Connie, wait. I can't believe you're just leaving before we even get a chance to know each other.

CONNIE

(apprehensive, then firm)

I can't believe it, either...but there's no way this can work with your dad in the way. I'm lucky to survive just one night with him.

CONNIE TRIES TO LEAVE, BUT HESITATES AT GERALD'S PLEA.

GERALD

Can't you forget about my dad for a second, and think about me and how I feel?

CONNIE

I have thought about it. I thought about it all night, and I'm sorry this is your lot in life.

CONNIE FINALLY LEAVES GERALD IN THE NEWS ROVER. SHE WALKS AWAY BRISKLY, BUT THEN COMES ACROSS BILLY CARRYING AN ASSORTMENT OF CONCESSIONS.

BILLY

Oh, sorry I took so long.

BILLY OFFERS CONNIE A JUJUBE.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Jujube?

CONNIE

I don't want your candy! The only thing I want is for you to know what you're doing to your son! Following him around like some kind of parole officer?! I thought my dad was overbearing! Have you thought about what this is doing to him?! He's going to grow up to be nothing more than a sniveling daddy's boy!

BILLY

Hey, that's exactly what his mother said to the divorce judge.

CONNIE

And on another note, you're not only a terrible father, but you are the worst newsman I've ever seen! Making up stories? Losing the trust of an entire town to the point they watch news from an entirely different city? Putting on reruns?!

BILLY

Oh, you mean the Best of Billy? That reminds me, I need to call the station and tell them to put on the Challenger explosion broadcast...

CONNIE
(interrupting)

You make Geraldo look like Edward R. Murrow!!!

BILLY THINKS FOR A SECOND.

BILLY

You know what, you sound exactly like my journalism professor.

CONNIE

Ugggggggh!!!!

CONNIE WALKS OFF IN A HUFF.

BILLY
(confused)

What was she talking about?

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

ELIZABETH IS ALONE ON THE COUCH INTENTLY WATCHING A SCHLOCKY MONSTER MOVIE ON TV.

TV ACTOR (O.S.)

Wait, that's not Mr. Marshall.

It's...it's...The Thing from Azusa!

Aaaaaaah...

CONNIE WALKS IN AND ELIZABETH, OUT OF EMBARRASSMENT, IMMEDIATELY TURNS OFF THE TV.

ELIZABETH

Oh, hi honey.

CONNIE

Hi, mom. Where's Dad?

ELIZABETH

He went go find Cindy, someone called and said she was wandering alone downtown. But what I want to know is how your date with Gerald went.

CONNIE

Terrible!

CONNIE PLONKS HERSELF DOWN ON THE COUCH.

ELIZABETH

Terrible?! Why?! Gerald didn't try to pull anything on you, did he?

CONNIE

No! He was great. He was so sweet and cute and well-mannered.

ELIZABETH

Then what was the problem?

CONNIE

His dad!

ELIZABETH

His dad? What was wrong with his dad?

CONNIE

He wouldn't leave us alone! He was there at dinner, and then he took us to a warehouse and the guy there shot at us...

ELIZABETH GASPS.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

...and he forgot to press record on his camera. And before that, he took us to a house fire and made up an entire fake report...

ELIZABETH

Wait, Connie. Is Gerald's dad...Billy Grim?!

CONNIE

How did you know?

ELIZABETH

Call it a hunch.

CONNIE

Anyway, I couldn't stand to be near that joke of a journalist anymore, so I ran off once we got to the drive-in; and I feel terrible about it.

ELIZABETH

Well, that's just going to happen sometimes.

CONNIE

Gerald didn't do anything wrong, though. I left because of his dad!

ELIZABETH

Sweetheart, that's just part of having a relationship. You're not just dating a boy, in a way you're dating his whole family.

CONNIE

But it's not fair! I punished him for something completely out of his control!

ELIZABETH PAUSES FOR A MOMENT.

ELIZABETH

Connie...I'm so proud of you.

CONNIE

What?! How?! What I did was terrible.

ELIZABETH

No, honey, it wasn't. You saw that a relationship with Gerald wasn't going to work, and you did what you had to do.

CONNIE

But what about Gerald? How do you think he feels?

ELIZABETH

Well, probably not too good. But if you strung him along that would've only made things worse. Plus, the fact that you're so concerned about his feelings shows a lot of maturity and empathy, and that's a remarkable thing for a girl your age to have.

CONNIE

You really mean that?

ELIZABETH

With every fiber of my being. Besides, you wouldn't want to get too close to Billy Grim anyway.

CONNIE

Didn't you use to work for him?

ELIZABETH

I did! For two whole days! Hey, that reminds me of the time before one of Billy's newscasts. He couldn't find his script, and it was almost six so...

ELIZABETH STARTS GIGGLING.

CONNIE

What's so funny?

ELIZABETH

He got out an old Mad magazine and read it on the air!

CONNIE

What?!

ELIZABETH

Yeah, he sat there for half an hour reading it out loud. He spent the weather segment just describing Spy versus Spy. He even did the Fold-In!

CONNIE

You're kidding!

ELIZABETH

No! It took him four tries to get the fold right, turned out to be Jimmy Swaggart.

CONNIE

And that happened during one of your
two days working there?!

ELIZABETH

No, it happened last night.

CONNIE

That's incredible.

ELIZABETH

Speaking of another program with more
journalistic credibility.

ELIZABETH AND CONNIE HAVE A GOOD LAUGH.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT II