

JUST THE TEN OF US

"Grin And Bear It"

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

BEAR.....BART
TRAPPER.....BILL ENGVALL
GAVIN DOOSLER.....EVAN ARNOLD
MITZI DOOSLER.....JOANNA CASSIDY
CHAZ DOOSLER.....DABNEY COLEMAN

COLD OPEN

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

THE KITCHEN IS EMPTY, BUT ABOUT HALF OF IT HAS BEEN TORN INTO DISARRAY. A BEAR IS RUMMAGING THROUGH THE LUBBOCKS' GARBAGE.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

MARIE IS COMING DOWN THE STAIRS.

MARIE

Early to bed and early to rise makes a
young lady pious and wise.

MARIE HEADS TOWARDS THE KITCHEN.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN

MARIE WALKS IN.

MARIE

Mom, are you in here?

MARIE NOTICES THE MESS.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Looks like J.R. is up already.

THE BEAR APPEARS FROM BEHIND THE KITCHEN ISLAND, STANDING ON HIS HIND LEGS. MARIE REACTS TO THE LOOMING CREATURE.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhh!!!!

MARIE RUNS OUT OF THE KITCHEN.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

MARIE SPRINTS OUT OF THE KITCHEN AS GRAHAM COMES DOWN THE STAIRS, RUBBING THE SLEEP OUT OF HIS EYES. MARIE DARTS OUT THE FRONT DOOR. GRAHAM CALLS OUT TO HER.

GRAHAM

You're not planning on going out like
that, are you?

GRAHAM CLOSES THE DOOR.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

You know, I'm worried about her.

GRAHAM HEADS TOWARDS THE KITCHEN.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN

GRAHAM NOTICES THE MESS. THE BEAR APPROACHES GRAHAM.

GRAHAM

J.R.! I know you did this, now get
your stinkin' butt down here before...

GRAHAM LOOKS TO HIS LEFT AND SEES THE BEAR. HE REACTS
ACCORDINGLY.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

GRAHAM SPRINTS OUT OF THE KITCHEN AND TOWARDS THE FRONT DOOR.
J.R. COMES DOWN THE STAIRS.

J.R.

I'm up. I'm up. What do you want, Dad?

GRAHAM

Don't go in the kitchen! There's a
bear in there!

J.R.

Puhleeze, did Sherry put you up to
this?

GRAHAM

No! Why would I make up something like
this?

THE BEAR ENTERS THE LIVING ROOM AND STANDS ON HIS HIND LEGS.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

Son, what do the nature scouts say to
do about a bear in the house?

J.R.

Run like hell.

GRAHAM AND J.R. RUN OUT THE FRONT DOOR.

ROLL OPEN

ACT I

EXT. FRONT YARD - MORNING

GRAHAM, J.R., AND SHERRY ARE STANDING IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE.

CINDY/CONNIE/WENDY

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhh!!!!

CINDY, CONNIE, AND WENDY RUN OUT INTO THE FRONT YARD.

WENDY

Daddy, there's a...there's a...

GRAHAM

A bear? Yeah, we know.

CONNIE

Who forgot to close the back door?

CINDY

Hey, this is no time to be assigning
blame.

ELIZABETH RUNS UP TO GRAHAM WITH HARVEY AND MELISSA IN TOW.

ELIZABETH

I just talked to Father Hargis, Marie
is in the chapel praying.

CONNIE

At least we know where she is.

GRAHAM

Boy, we could really use some big
prayers right now.

ELIZABETH

She was praying for the bear.

SHERRY

When can we go back in the house, Dad?

GRAHAM

Not until we do something about that
beast inside.

J.R.

What do you mean beast inside?

Connie's standing right here.

CONNIE

J.R., unlike you, I'm mature enough to
know when somebody's getting a rise
out of me. I know good and well I'm
not the beast you claim I am.

J.R.

Your unibrow says otherwise.

CONNIE

I don't have a unibrow, Ratboy!!!

J.R. AND THE GIRLS START RABBLING.

GRAHAM

Hey!!!

THEY STOP RABBLING.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

We've got bigger issues to deal with.
Right now, we have to figure out how
to extricate this bear from our house.

WENDY

Well, I'm not gonna do it.

GRAHAM

Nobody asked you to. We're going to call animal control. Sherry, go to the church and ask to use their phone.

SHERRY

Gladly, I'm probably the only one who knows to press nine to dial out.

SHERRY LEAVES.

WENDY

So, that's why I couldn't get through to the psychic hotline.

GRAHAM

Cindy, go with Sherry to make sure she doesn't get lost.

CINDY LEAVES.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

And Connie, go with Cindy to make sure she doesn't get lost.

CONNIE

As usual, I draw the short straw.

CONNIE LEAVES.

GRAHAM

Now who's going to get rid of this bear?

FLIP TO:

A SHADY LOOKING MAN WITH A GOATEE STANDS NEXT TO GRAHAM, TAKING INTERMITTENT PUFFS ON A CIGARETTE.

TRAPPER

Yeah, I've gotten quite a few calls lately about animals getting into garbage cans. Have you taken out the trash recently?

GRAHAM

No, tomorrow was supposed to be our pickup day.

TRAPPER

What kind of things have you thrown away?

GRAHAM

Normal stuff; honey, various berries, an old picnic basket.

TRAPPER

Yeah, that'll do it.

GRAHAM

So, can you get this thing out of here?

TRAPPER

Yeah, I've taken care of all kinds of creatures. Polecats. Wombats. Muskrats. Just put a little cheese in a box and...

THE TRAPPER CLAPS HIS HANDS LOUDLY, STARTLING GRAHAM.

TRAPPER (CONT'D)

Snap! Close that door right on 'em.

GRAHAM

Sounds like you know what you're doing.

TRAPPER

Oh yeah. One time I was in Chicago, I had a real angry beast inside a TV studio. She was thrashing about, eating everything in sight. So, I put one of those Italian beef sandwiches they got there out in the street. She ran out like there was a fire. And just as she started devouring that sandwich...

THE TRAPPER PAUSES, AND PAUSES, AND POKES GRAHAM IN THE NECK.

TRAPPER (CONT'D)

Poke! Hit her with a sleepy time dart.

GRAHAM

Great! So, do you think you can get this thing out of my house?

TRAPPER

Sure can.

THE TRAPPER GRABS HIS TRANQUILIZER GUN AND HEADS INTO THE HOUSE. A FEW SECONDS PASS UNTIL THE TRAPPER SEES THE BEAR.

TRAPPER (CONT'D)

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhh!!!!

THE TRAPPER RUNS OUT IN A COLD SWEAT PANIC. GRAHAM STOPS HIM.

GRAHAM

Hey! Hey! Hey! What's the big idea?!

TRAPPER

You didn't tell me there was a bear in there!

GRAHAM

I just heard you talk about how you dealt with that angry beast in Chicago.

TRAPPER

I wasn't talking about a bear! I was talking about Oprah!

THE TRAPPER RUNS OFF.

FADE TO:

INT. ST. AUGIE'S HALLWAY

CONNIE, MARIE, AND WENDY WALK IN.

MARIE

Have you had any luck finding Cindy?

CONNIE

No. One minute she was following Sherry, the next she was following...God knows what.

GAVIN WALKS IN.

GAVIN

Hi, girls.

WENDY IGNORES HIM.

WENDY

Don't worry, I'm sure she just heard
the ice cream truck.

CONNIE

At eight in the morning?!

GAVIN

You know, I heard you guys don't have
a place to stay.

THEY CONTINUE TO IGNORE GAVIN.

WENDY

Well, you never know when Dad might
get a craving for a Drumstick. I'm
sure he's already paid off the ice
cream man's mortgage.

GAVIN

My parents' house has ten bedrooms,
I'm sure there's room for you, and
Coach, and little Harvey...

GAVIN REMAINS UNACKNOWLEDGED.

CONNIE

Wendy! He can't even get a mortgage!

MARIE

Guys! Gavin's trying to talk to us.

AFTER A PAUSE, CONNIE AND WENDY IGNORE MARIE.

WENDY

Maybe Dad could get a mortgage if he
just applied himself.

MARIE

Wendy! Gavin's saying he might have room at his house for us.

WENDY

I heard him. I was hoping he'd just leave on his own.

MARIE

Do you think your parents will let us all stay at your house?

GAVIN

Well, my mom considers herself to be a good Catholic. I'm sure she'd consider it good tithing.

CONNIE

Could you excuse us for a second?

CONNIE AND WENDY PULLS MARIE ASIDE AS DOOSLER LISTENS FROM BEHIND.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

What do you think you're doing?!

MARIE

I'm listening to Gavin's offer of shelter.

WENDY

Marie! Do you have any idea how bad of an idea this is?!

MARIE

Hey, I never heard you complaining about staying at his villa on St. Thomas.

WENDY

That was different! That was a tropical paradise. This is just down the street. We can experience Eureka just fine from our house.

MARIE

Wendy! Have you forgotten?! There's a bear in our house!

CONNIE

And staying in a house with the Dooslers is somehow better?

MARIE

Hey, unlike that bear, Gavin isn't going to eat any of us.

CONNIE

Are you sure about that?!

GAVIN

Of course...

CONNIE AND WENDY GETS STARTLED.

GAVIN (CONT'D)

I'm trying to avoid meat, anyways. Working at the Burger Barn really changes you after a while.

MARIE

Then it's settled. We'd love to stay with you and your family, Gavin.

GAVIN

Great! I'll tell my dad. He'll be thrilled to finally meet all of the Lubbocks.

FLIP TO:

INT. DOOSLER'S FOYER

CHAZ IS CHIDING GAVIN, WITH MITZI STANDING BESIDE HER HUSBAND.

CHAZ
(incredulous)

All of the Lubbocks?!?!

MITZI

Gavin! What made you think you had the right to invite an entire family to sleep over?!

GAVIN

Well, because there's a bear squatting in their house.

CHAZ

Yeah, so? Just clean up its droppings, and they can get on with their lives.

GAVIN

Dad, they don't have anywhere to go.

CHAZ

Well, that's their problem. Hey,
Mitzi, have you seen the good cognac?

GAVIN

So, what am I supposed to tell them
when they come here tonight?

CHAZ

Don't tell them anything. I'll just
sic the attack dogs on 'em, they'll
get the message.

MITZI

Chaz, we got rid of the attack dogs
years ago. Remember, Gavin's allergic.

CHAZ POINTS ACCUSATORILY AT GAVIN

CHAZ

You just have this thing all figured
out; don't you?

GAVIN

Dad, what's the point of having ten
bedrooms if we aren't going to use
them?

CHAZ

Since when do we have ten bedrooms?

GAVIN

What about the bedroom overlooking the
rose garden?

CHAZ

You mean the trophy room.

GAVIN

Well, what about the bedroom
overlooking the pool?

MITZI

You mean the library?

GAVIN

And the bedroom next to the study?

CHAZ

You mean the other trophy room?

GAVIN

And what about...

MITZI

Forget it, Gavin! The Lubbocks aren't
staying here.

GAVIN

Oh, that's a shame. Because I hear
them coming down the driveway right
now.

CHAZ

What?!

CHAZ FRANTICALLY RUNS TO THE FRONT DOOR, GRAHAM ENTERS
UNINVITED, WITH ELIZABETH FOLLOWING WITH HARVEY AND MELISSA
IN TOW.

GRAHAM

Mister Doosler! How the hell are ya?!

GRAHAM AGGRESSIVELY HUGS CHAZ.

CHAZ

Mitzi! Help!

ELIZABETH

Graham, let go of him!

GRAHAM LETS GO. MITZI JOGS IN.

MITZI

Chaz, are you okay?

CHAZ

I lost my contacts!

MITZI

What?

CHAZ

They popped out when this hippo put me
in a chokehold.

GAVIN

Popped out?

MITZI

Chokehold?!

ELIZABETH

Hippo?!

GRAHAM

Gee, I'm sorry about your contacts.

I'm sure you'll find them.

ELIZABETH

Speaking of finding things, where are
the rest of our kids?

MARIE STRAINS TO PULL HER SISTERS, AND HER BROTHER, THROUGH
THE OPEN DOOR.

MARIE

Come on, people! It's just a swanky mansion.

WENDY

This isn't my idea of a swanky mansion. Hugh Hefner isn't anywhere to be found!

MARIE

Puh-leeze! You can't all be afraid to come in here!

SHERRY

Yes, we can!

MARIE

Even you, Sherry?!

SHERRY

If you heard the atrocities that Mister Doosler's company has been committing in Nigeria; you'd be afraid, too.

MARIE LOOKS AT THE DOOSLERS AND LAUGHS NERVOUSLY.

MARIE

Oh, kids say the darndest things.

ELIZABETH

Well, let me introduce the rest of the family. This is Marie, Cindy, Wendy, Connie, J.R., and Sherry. And don't forget little Harvey and Melissa.

CHAZ

Oh, we've already met Marie. Isn't
that right?

CHAZ POINTS AT SHERRY.

SHERRY

Huh?

CHAZ

I guess I should probably apologize to
you about that time I called your
sister here a harlot.

CHAZ POINTS AT J.R.

J.R.

(deeply concerned)

Marie??? What's going on???

MITZI

For God's sake, Chaz! Gavin, go get
your father's glasses!

GAVIN RUNS UP THE STAIRS.

MITZI (CONT'D)

You'll have to excuse my husband, he
can be a bit stubborn...so, how about
you all head to the trophy room. It's
full of Chaz's greatest
accomplishments.

GAVIN

What about me?

MITZI

I'm sure you'll have accomplishments
of your own one day, honey.

MITZI HEADS OFF, AND THE LUBBOCKS FOLLOW. CHAZ STANDS ALONE.

CHAZ

God? Are you there? It's me, Chaz. I
know I haven't been perfect. What with
all of the pilfering of native lands
for oil drilling, not to mention that
night with Ted Kennedy that I'll never
tell anyone about. But if you'll help
me get through the night with these
weirdos in my house, I promise I'll
try to think about considering maybe
doing a little bit better in the
future.

THE SOUND OF GLASS BREAKING IS HEARD.

CINDY (O.S.)

Oops. Sorry.

CHAZ

Not a good start, Lord.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. TROPHY ROOM - NIGHT

MITZI AND GAVIN LEAD THE LUBBOCKS INTO THE TROPHY ROOM, THE WALLS OF WHICH ARE STREWN WITH THE HEADS OF VARIOUS WOODLAND CREATURES.

MITZI

And here's the trophy room.

CINDY

Where are the trophies?

MITZI

All around you. Chaz got that 15-point buck in Bowling Green, one year. He is quite the sportsman.

CINDY

He's sure in a weird bowling league.

CHAZ WALKS IN.

CHAZ

Gavin, what are you still doing up?

GAVIN

Dad, it's only eight. Don't you want me to show the Lubbocks around?

CHAZ

No, now march up to your room.

GAVIN
(disappointed)

Yes, sir.

GAVIN LEAVES.

MITZI

So, girls; tell me more about this music career you've got going.

CONNIE

What about it?

MITZI

Well, Gavin tells me you four have a record deal. How did you manage to pull that off?

SHERRY

I'll field this one. To me it seems to be another attempt at cross-promotion across different mediums.

CHAZ

Cross-promotion?

SHERRY

Yeah, kind of like the Archies cross-promoting music and comic books. Or the California Raisins cross-promoting fruit that sticks to your teeth.

CHAZ

Then what is this album cross-promoting?

SHERRY

Music and pizza, I guess. Really bad pizza.

MITZI

Pizza?

CINDY

Yeah, we perform at Danny's every weekend.

MITZI

Danny's?! That nasty place?!

CHAZ

Hey, it can't be any worse than that other pizza place. We ordered pepperoni and they delivered us a pig and some red pepper.

CONNIE

That was Danny's. He calls it "do-it-yourself" pepperoni.

GRAHAM STRETCHES HIS ARMS OUT.

GRAHAM

Well, I better hit the hay.

ELIZABETH

Graham? This early?

GRAHAM LEANS IN TOWARDS ELIZABETH SO ONLY SHE CAN HEAR.

GRAHAM

(discreetly)

Between you and me, these deer heads are starting to creep me out.

GRAHAM ASKS CHAZ A QUESTION.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

So, Dooz; where's the can?

CHAZ

Two miles that way!

GRAHAM

Oh, I knew you were a kidder. I'm sure
I can find it myself.

GRAHAM PATS CHAZ ON THE BACK AND LEAVES. CHAZ LEANS IN TOWARD
MITZI.

CHAZ
(discreetly)

Remember to call the hazmat crew
tomorrow morning.

CINDY

So, where are we going to be sleeping?

CHAZ

Here.

MARIE

Here?!

CHAZ

Of course. There's a couch, a futon,
another couch, a daybed...

MITZI

Chaz, those are stuffed cougars.

CHAZ

Well, find them some sleeping bags,
then.

SHERRY

What about me and J.R.?

CHAZ

Uh, I think there are some pool rafts
in the garage. Now if you'll excuse
me, I have to make sure the master
bath is properly padlocked.

MITZI

And while you're in there, put on your
glasses!

CHAZ

Mitzi, I can see just fine!

MITZI

If you don't put on your glasses,
Chaz; you'll be sleeping alone
tonight.

CHAZ

Oh, Mitzi; you drive a harder bargain
than Carl Icahn.

CHAZ LEAVES.

ELIZABETH

Where are me and Graham going to
sleep?

MITZI

In the guest room upstairs.

ELIZABETH

Where is it?

MITZI

I already told your husband, go up the steps, third door on the right.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY

GRAHAM

Third door on the left...hey, there it is.

GRAHAM LOOKS AROUND FOR THE BEDROOM DOOR, FINDS IT, AND OPENS IT.

INT. DOOSLERS' MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

GRAHAM ENTERS A VERY SWANKY BEDROOM, FULL OF A RICH WOOD GRAINS AND TRIMMED WITH BURGUNDY DRAPES.

GRAHAM

Wow! These Dooslers know hospitality!

GRAHAM MAKES A BEELINE FOR THE OVERSIZED KING BED, AND JUMPS IN.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

I feel like I'm floating on a cloud.

GRAHAM COVERS UP, GETS COMFORTABLE, AND TURNS AWAY FROM THE DOOR.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

If this is how the other side lives, I need to start playing the lotto more often.

CHAZ WALKS INTO THE ROOM.

CHAZ

I sure hope he didn't find the bidet.

GRAHAM WHISPERS TO HIMSELF.

GRAHAM

What is he doing in here?

CHAZ LOOKS AROUND AND NOTICES SOMETHING IN HIS BED.

CHAZ

(amorous)

Mitzi...

GRAHAM

(whispering)

Mitzi?!

CHAZ

I guess you forgive me, after all.

CHAZ GETS INTO BED.

CHAZ (CONT'D)

You always get a bit randy when you start your PMSing. I'm glad you decided to forget about the glasses. You know how much I hate wearing those. They make me look like that dork from The Wonder Years. Hey, I may be blind as a bat, but you're still as beautiful as when we went to prom.

A PREGNANT PAUSE RINGS OUT AS GRAHAM NERVOUSLY STAYS SILENT.

CHAZ (CONT'D)

Why aren't you talking to me? I know what'll get you in the mood.

CHAZ GETS OUT A FEATHER.

CHAZ (CONT'D)

You've always enjoyed a good tickle.

CHAZ STARTS TEASING GRAHAM WITH THE FEATHER.

CHAZ (CONT'D)

Cootchie cootchie coo.

GRAHAM STRUGGLES NOT TO LAUGH.

CHAZ (CONT'D)

Not even a giggle. Are you sure you're
okay?

THE SOUND OF SOMETHING BREAKING STOPS CHAZ'S PLAYFULNESS.

CHAZ (CONT'D)

Oh, for cripes sake.

CHAZ GETS UP AND WALKS TO THE DOOR.

CHAZ (CONT'D)

That must be Coach Lubbock throwing
his weight around. I'd better see
what's going on.

CHAZ OPENS THE DOOR.

CHAZ (CONT'D)

By the way, Mitz, you ought to get
back on your Weight Watchers. You're
starting to get a little puffy.

CHAZ LEAVES. GRAHAM IMMEDIATELY GETS UP AND RUNS OUT THE DOOR
AS WELL.

FADE TO:

INT. TROPHY ROOM - NIGHT

CINDY, CONNIE, AND WENDY ARE TRYING TO GO TO SLEEP, EACH ON
THE FLOOR IN A SLEEPING BAG. MARIE, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS
RIDDLED WITH ANXIETY AS SHE LOOKS AROUND AT THE HEADS OF THE
VARIOUS WOODLAND CREATURES CHAZ HAS HUNTED OVER THE YEARS.
HER EYES DART BACK AND FORTH BEFORE BREAKING HER SILENCE.

MARIE

Connie?

CONNIE
(half-asleep)

Marie, go to sleep.

MARIE

I can't.

CONNIE
(annoyed)

Why not?

MARIE

Because all of these animals are
staring at me.

WENDY
(also half-asleep)

How can they stare at you? They're
dead.

MARIE

That's the problem. Up on that wall,
their faces permanently frozen at
their moment of eternal doom.

CINDY
(half-asleep, as well)

Come on, Marie. They're stuffed.

MARIE

Right! Stuffed because Chaz Doosler
went into their forest home and
assassinated them!

CINDY'S EYES OPEN SUDDENLY.

CINDY
(concerned)

He did what?

MARIE

You heard me! He took out his gun,
shot them through the heart, and
chopped off their collective heads!

CINDY

He did?!

MARIE

Yeah, and then he mounted them on his
wall for all his blood brothers to
gawk at.

CINDY

Oh God! Is he going to do that to us?

WENDY
(still drowsy)

Would you stop trying to scare Cindy,
Marie. It's bad enough we have to
listen to you ramble on.

CINDY

But what if Mister Doosler comes in
here?

CONNIE

He's not coming in here, he's never
done anything that wouldn't jack up
his company's stock price. Now shut up
and go to sleep!

CINDY RELUCTANTLY GOES BACK TO SLEEP, BUT MARIE KEEPS HER EYES OPEN. HER EYES DART BACK AND FORTH, LOOKING AT EACH OF THE HEADS MOUNTED SQUARELY ON CHAZ'S WOOD-GRAINED WALL. HER EYES SUDDENLY BECOME LOCKED ONTO THE HEAD OF A TWELVE-POINT BUCK, FROZEN IN TIME AT THE MOMENT OF ITS DEMISE. MARIE LOOKS MORE AND MORE AFRAID. SUDDENLY OUT OF NOWHERE THE BUCK, SEEMINGLY POSSESSED BY ITS DISEMBODIED SPIRIT, TURNS TO MARIE, LOOKS HER SQUARELY IN THE EYE, AND SPEAKS.

BUCK

Gee, your hair smells terrific.

MARIE

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhh!

MARIE GOES RUNNING OUT OF THE ROOM.

CUT TO:

INT. DOOSLER'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

GAVIN SNEAKS INTO THE DIMLY LIT KITCHEN. HE CHECKS TO SEE IF THE COAST IS CLEAR.

GAVIN

Ooh, not a soul in sight. Time to partake in the most forbidden of temptations.

GAVIN OPENS A CABINET, AND EXCITEDLY RETRIEVES HIS PRIZE.

GAVIN (CONT'D)

International coffees!

GAVIN OPENS UP WITH RECTANGULAR TIN AND TAKES A WHIFF.

GAVIN (CONT'D)

Mocha. My favorite.

JUST THEN, MARIE COMES FRANTICALLY RUNNING INTO THE KITCHEN.

MARIE

Gavin!

MARIE, IN HER NERVOUS HASTE, GOES CAREENING INTO GAVIN, KNOCKING THE TIN OF COFFEE OUT OF HIS HANDS AND INTO THE AIR.

GAVIN
(startled)

Marie!

MARIE
Oh, Gavin, are you okay?

GAVIN
Yeah, can't say the same for my
coffee.

MARIE
Oh, I'm so sorry.

GAVIN
It's okay, I can clean it up.

GAVIN PROCEEDS TO GET A SMALL BROOM AND DUSTPAN.

MARIE
No, it's my fault, I'll do it.

MARIE GRABS SOME PAPER TOWELS AND STARTS CLEANING ALONG WITH
GAVIN.

MARIE (CONT'D)
Gavin, you're covered in coffee!

GAVIN
Wow, you're right.

MARIE GETS A WET RAG AND TRIES TO CLEAN THE COFFEE OFF OF
GAVIN'S PAJAMAS.

GAVIN (CONT'D)
Marie?
MARIE
Well, I can't let you go back to bed
smelling like mocha.

GAVIN

It's just I've never had a girl wipe
me down before.

MARIE SUDDENLY STOPS AND PUTS THE RAG DOWN.

MARIE

On second thought, that's more of a
one-man job.

GAVIN

What else is new?

GAVIN TAKES THE RAG AND PICKS UP WHERE MARIE LEFT OFF.

GAVIN (CONT'D)

Marie, can I ask you a question that,
you know, only a woman can answer?

MARIE

Gavin! You shouldn't ask me about
things like that! You should ask
someone who knows what they're talking
about, like your mother; or if you
have to, Wendy.

GAVIN

Oh, it's nothing like that.

MARIE

What is it, then?

GAVIN

I just wanted to know: what's wrong
with me?

MARIE

Uh...what exactly do you mean by
"wrong"?

GAVIN

Well, for example, I don't think your
sisters have ever been in my presence
without making some kind of snide
remark.

MARIE

I wouldn't take too much stock into
what they say, they aren't exactly the
best arbiters of moral character.
Wendy probably thinks the paragon of
humanity is Donald Trump.

GAVIN

That's what my dad says.

MARIE

My point exactly.

GAVIN

Well, what do you think of me?

MARIE

What do I think of you?! Oh, I
think...a lot of things, things that
are...what I think about. I think
about what...

MARIE PAUSES FOR A SECOND

MARIE (CONT'D)

Hey, do you think Delta Burke and
Major Dad are going to make it?

GAVIN

I guess you don't have anything nice
to say about me, either.

MARIE

What?! Of course I do!

GAVIN

Name one thing you like about me.

MARIE

One thing? Okay. I think...I think you
smell nice.

GAVIN

You do?! Oh wait, it's because I still
have coffee on me, isn't it?

MARIE

Well, maybe. But, you know, you
also...have a nice smile.

GAVIN

I do?!

GAVIN GIVES MARIE HIS PATENTED SHIT-EATING GRIN, ALONG WITH
HIS ABSENT STARE; ALL THE WHILE HIS HAIR REMAINS IN ITS
TYPICAL, CONSTANT STATE OF STATIC ERECTNESS.

MARIE

I've seen worse.

GAVIN

Well, is there anything you like about me that isn't about my appearance? I hope you think I'm more than just a sexy bod.

MARIE

Oh boy...I'm not sure how to articulate those kind of thoughts. So, I won't. Good night.

MARIE TRIES TO LEAVE.

GAVIN

Wait!

MARIE TURNS BACK AROUND.

GAVIN (CONT'D)

Please, Marie. Just tell me the truth. It can't be any worse than what I've heard from every other woman.

MARIE

Oh. Well, in that case...I think you're weird. I think you're overbearing. I think you're incompetent. I used to think you were the biggest creep in town!

GAVIN

A creep, huh? I guess sisters really do think alike.

GAVIN TRIES TO LEAVE.

MARIE

But I don't think that anymore.

GAVIN TURNS BACK AROUND.

GAVIN

You don't?

MARIE

Gavin, remember when we were in the
Virgin Islands a couple of years ago?

GAVIN

How could I not?

MARIE

Remember when I wanted to get back at
my sisters for tricking me into going
so we pretended to be...intimate?

GAVIN

How could I not?

MARIE

Well, we might have just been putting
on a show; but at the same time, I got
to see a different side of you. A
Gavin Doosler who's kind, gentle,
innocent, like a little puppy dog who
lost his way.

GAVIN

So, what you're saying is...you like
me?

MARIE TAKES A DEEP BREATH.

MARIE

Yes. Yes, I do.

GAVIN SMILES.

MARIE (CONT'D)

As a friend! As a friend!

GAVIN

That's still better than what I
thought you'd say.

MARIE

Well, I guess I'd better find a place
to sleep that doesn't have a bunch of
heads in it.

GAVIN

There's always my room!

MARIE GIVES GAVIN A FUNNY LOOK.

GAVIN (CONT'D)

But there's also a couch in the
sunroom, if you don't mind being woken
up by the sunrise.

MARIE

That'll work. Thank you, Gavin.

GAVIN

No problem, Marie.

MARIE AND GAVIN LOOK AT EACH OTHER ADMIRABLY. MARIE THEN
OPENS HER ARMS UP, GAVIN DOES LIKEWISE; AT WHICH POINT MARIE
THINKS BETTER OF HUGGING HIM, AND OFFERS A HANDSHAKE INSTEAD.
GAVIN GLADLY OBLIGES. THEY THEN LEAVE THE KITCHEN IN SEPARATE
DIRECTIONS.

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

THE FAMILY COMES BACK TO THE HOUSE, ONLY TO FIND IT STREWN WITH GARBAGE. MUCH OF THE FURNITURE HAS BEEN LEFT IN DISARRAY, SOME WITH SIGNIFICANT CLAW MARKS.

GRAHAM

Home sweet home!

J.R.

It sure doesn't look sweet.

SHERRY

It doesn't smell too sweet either.

GRAHAM

Hey, I'm just happy the bear's gone;
and we can be back in our own house,
again.

ELIZABETH

I wouldn't have minded staying with
the Dooslers another night.

WENDY

Oh, Mom; don't say that!

GRAHAM

Wendy's got a point, we've probably
outstayed our welcome.

ELIZABETH

Really? They're kind of nice once you
get to know them, even Mister Doosler.

GRAHAM

Eh, you don't know him the way I do,
Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

How do you know him, Graham?

GRAHAM

Let's just say he rubbed me the wrong way.

CONNIE

Hey, Mom. I'm hungry.

MARIE

Me, too.

ELIZABETH

Why don't we go to the kitchen, and see if the bear left us anything to eat for breakfast.

CINDY

All right, I'm starving!

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN

A MOOSE IS EATING WHAT REMAINS INSIDE OF THE GARBAGE CAN. THE FAMILY ENTERS TO SEE THE INTRUDER.

MARIE

What in God's green earth is this?

CONNIE

I feel like I'm in an episode of Northern Exposure.

GRAHAM

Uh, Wendy; do you think Owen and his folks would have us over?

WENDY

Only one way to find out.

THE FAMILY FRANTICALLY SHUFFLES OUT OF THE KITCHEN. THE MOOSE
CONTINUES EATING THE FAMILY'S REFUSE UNPERTURBED.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT II