

JUST THE TEN OF US

"Pomp And Circumstance"

written by

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"Pomp And Circumstance"

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

FATHER HARGIS.....FRANK BONNER
SISTER ETHEL.....MAXINE ELLIOTT
FATHER BUD.....LOU RICHARDS
DEAN MARTIN.....MAX WRIGHT

COLD OPEN

EXT. HIPPODROME - DAY

FATHER HARGIS IS STANDING AT HIS PODIUM ON THE FIELD BEHIND THE TRACK, ADDRESSING A GROUP OF SOON-TO-BE GRADUATES SITTING ON THE BLEACHERS DONNING THEIR GOWNS AND MORTAR BOARDS. CINDY, CONNIE, MARIE, AND WENDY ARE THERE, SITTING AMONG THE OTHERWISE ENTIRELY MALE CROWD.

FATHER HARGIS

...and as you go out into the world,
know that you're not just representing
your school. Know that you're not just
representing your town.

MARIE YAWNS AS FATHER HARGIS CONTINUES HIS SPEECH.

FATHER HARGIS (CONT'D)

Know that you are representing nearly
two millennia of Catholic tradition.

CONNIE LOOKS AT HER WATCH, BEFORE TURNING TO AN EVEN MORE DOUR EXPRESSION.

FATHER HARGIS (CONT'D)

Everything you do will reflect,
positively or negatively, on both
yourself and the church as a whole.

CINDY IS STRUGGLING TO STAY AWAKE. SHE JERKS HERSELF BACKWARDS IN ATTEMPT TO STAY UPRIGHT, BUT JUST AS QUICKLY NODS OFF AGAIN.

FATHER HARGIS (CONT'D)

And remember that God is watching you,
making sure his flock is following the
proverbial shepherd to salvation.

WENDY IS NOSE-DEEP IN A PAPERBACK BOOK ENTITLED, "THE EASIEST COLLEGE MAJOR: A GRADUATE'S GUIDE TO SUGAR DADDIES".

ELIZABETH TAKES A PICTURE OF THE PROCEEDING FROM THE PERIPHERY OF THE CEREMONY'S BOUNDARY. SHE BEAMS WITH PRIDE, WITH MELISSA AND HARVEY LOOKING DISINTERESTED AS THEY EACH HOLD ONTO ONE OF THEIR MOTHER'S HANDS.

FATHER HARGIS (CONT'D)

So, reflect on what you've achieved,
and above all, reflect on what you
have yet to achieve. Congratulations
to you, the Class of Ninety-Two.

GRAHAM HAS SOMEHOW FALLEN FAST ASLEEP, DESPITE BEING IN A STANDING POSITION. HIS HEAD IS TILTED TOWARDS THE SKY ABOVE, HIS THANKFULLY CLOSED EYES POINTED DIRECTLY TOWARDS THE SUN.

FATHER HARGIS (CONT'D)

Now, without further ado, allow me to
bestow onto you your hard-earned
diplomas. Sister Ethel?

SISTER ETHEL WALKS UP TO FATHER HARGIS, CARRYING A LARGE DELI PLATTER.

FATHER HARGIS (CONT'D)

Uh, uh, no, Sister Ethel. That's the
hors d'oeuvres, the other silver
platter, please.

SISTER ETHEL

Oh, what difference does it make?!

SISTER ETHEL WALKS AWAY IN A HUFF.

FATHER HARGIS

Father Bud? Mind bringing the
diplomas?

FATHER BUD BRINGS IN THE PLATTER CARRYING THE DIPLOMA SCROLLS, ETCHED IN PAPYRUS AND EACH TIED WITH A BLUE RIBBON.

FATHER BUD

Hey, hey, Hippos! Can I get one more
hoooooooooonk! Hoooooooooonk!

THE CROWD REMAINS SILENT. FATHER HARGIS SCOLDS THE GRADUATES.

FATHER HARGIS

You know, I don't have to give you
these things.

CONNIE (O.S.)

Not if you want to keep your
accreditation!

FATHER HARGIS

Ugh! Let's just get this over with. I
will grant these diplomas in the order
of...the students I want out of here
the most. Gwendolyn Deborah Lubbock.

WENDY WALKS UP ON STAGE, PICKS UP HER DIPLOMA, AND SHAKES
FATHER HARGIS' HAND.

WENDY

I knew I'd graduate at the top of the
class.

FATHER HARGIS

Look forward to seeing you at the top
of the most wanted list.

WENDY

I knew you'd have faith in me breaking
the glass ceiling.

WENDY WALKS AWAY.

FATHER HARGIS

Constance Sarah Lubbock.

CONNIE WALKS ON STAGE AND REPEATS THE DIPLOMA GRANTING PROCESS.

CONNIE

Doesn't the valedictorian usually come up last?

FATHER HARGIS

Valedictorians don't usually try to tear the parish down with reckless muckraking.

CONNIE

(nervous)

I think I'll just take this.

CONNIE TAKES HER DIPLOMA AND LEAVES.

FATHER HARGIS

Cynthia Ann Lubbock.

CINDY WALKS ON STAGE WITH A NOTABLE SPRING IN HER STEP. FATHER HARGIS HOLDS OUT HER DIPLOMA.

FATHER HARGIS (CONT'D)

Congratulations, I never thought...

CINDY BUMPS FATHER HARGIS OUT OF THE WAY AND WALKS UP TO HIS PODIUM.

CINDY

Wowee! I never thought I'd make it this far.

(MORE)

CINDY (CONT'D)

I'd like to thank my parents for believing in me, the monsignor for forgiving me about that whole cotton candy incident. I mean, it had the Pink Panther on it...

FATHER HARGIS PULLS CINDY AWAY FROM THE MICROPHONE AND HANDS HER THE DIPLOMA, BEFORE PUSHING HER AWAY.

FATHER HARGIS

Okay, thank you Miss Lubbock. Let us continue. Marie Elizabeth Lubbock.

MARIE WALKS UP TO THE PODIUM, BUT BEFORE FATHER HARGIS CAN HAND HER THE DIPLOMA, SHE CONFRONTS HIM FACE TO FACE.

MARIE

Father, I know what you're trying to do, and I don't appreciate it. I have tried so very, very hard to be a model Catholic. Why must you lump me in with my heathen sisters?

FATHER HARGIS

Because of you, we had to disband our boxing team.

MARIE

Hey, it's not my fault I had a better cross punch.

MARIE TAKES HER DIPLOMA AND BRISKLY WALKS AWAY.

ROLL OPEN

ACT I

INT. LIVING ROOM - TWILIGHT

SHERRY AND J.R. ARE ON THE COUCH WATCHING TV.

J.R.

So let me get this straight. Head Of
The Class is supposed to be about
gifted students, right?

SHERRY

Technically.

J.R.

So how did it run for five seasons?!
Were they held back a year?!

SHERRY

T-V doesn't have to run on a set
timeline, rodentman. Remember how the
baby from Family Ties grew up several
years between episodes?

J.R.

Producers who do that should be
ashamed of themselves.

THE REST OF THE FAMILY WALK IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR, THE
OLDER DAUGHTERS STILL IN THEIR GOWNS.

ELIZABETH

Oh, Sherry, J.R., you both missed a
beautiful ceremony.

GRAHAM

Yeah. It's a shame Father Hargis
banned you from attending because of
your past pranks.

J.R.

Hey, it wasn't a prank! Christ's blood
was not made of Merlot!

GRAHAM

Christ wasn't a sheep, either!

MARIE

Why didn't you go, Sherry?

SHERRY

I refuse to recognize an institution
that dumbs down its Classics courses
for certain students.

CINDY

Hey! "The Baby-Sitters Club" is
perfectly legitimate literature.

ELIZABETH

And they all graduated at the same
time! Isn't that amazing!

GRAHAM

Yeah! Good thing Connie got to skip
the first grade, our little whiz kid!

WENDY

I still don't get that! It's not like
she's that smart!

ELIZABETH

Well, Sister O'Hara got tired of
Connie correcting her all the time.

CONNIE

If weren't for Dad's interventions,
Wendy, you would have been held back a
year!

WENDY

Hey, the rules clearly state you can't
hold a student back for going on a
boxer raid.

ELIZABETH

Connie, don't bring that up, that was
just a juvenile indiscretion from a
long time ago.

CONNIE

It was literally yesterday!

J.R.

Hey, Marie's almost nineteen. How come
the goody-two shoes didn't graduate
last year?

SHERRY

Don't you remember? Eighty-Seven? She
went on a Catholic youth mission to
that war zone.

MARIE

Hey! Los Angeles is lovely this time of year.

CONNIE

Well, I guess we better start thinking about colleges.

CINDY

Yeah!

WENDY

Now, let's not be hasty with our decision. There are lots of things to consider, like the student body, the campus, the athletic conference they're in. The PAC-10's been dominating the Rose Bowl lately, and there's no way I'm dating a mid-major quarterback.

GRAHAM

(nervous)

Yeah, colleges. It's a big decision. Got to consider everything, by golly.

MARIE

I can only speak for myself, but I'd love to go to a college with a good divinity program. Somewhere like Harvard.

GRAHAM
(more nervous)

Harvard?!

CINDY

Yeah, me too! I've always wanted to go to Boston since I read that book about the ducks.

CONNIE

You did write your Classics thesis on it.

GRAHAM

Uh, Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH

Yes, Graham?

GRAHAM

The kitchen. Now.

GRAHAM RUNS TO THE KITCHEN.

ELIZABETH
(concerned)

What is it?

GRAHAM

Now, Elizabeth!

GRAHAM ENTERS THE KITCHEN.

INT. KITCHEN

GRAHAM IS PACING THROUGH THE KITCHEN, HIS HANDS NERVOUSLY SWIPING ACROSS HIS FACE. ELIZABETH ENTERS.

ELIZABETH

Graham, what's wrong? Are you getting those violent pork rind cravings, again?

GRAHAM

You know good and well what, Elizabeth! Divinity college? Harvard? The PAC-10?

ELIZABETH

Graham, I know you have this weird affinity for the Big Eight, but do you really think our girls are going to want to go to Nebraska?

GRAHAM

Elizabeth, we can't afford Harvard or Nebraska! We can't even afford DeVry! Maybe we can send one of them to that Sally Struthers school, but what if they all want to learn T-V/V-C-R repair?! What then, Elizabeth?!

ELIZABETH

Graham, this day's been coming for eighteen years. Haven't you saved anything for the girls' college?

GRAHAM

What savings?! All those loose pennies in the can of Folgers?

ELIZABETH

Can of Yuban...

GRAHAM QUICKLY TURNS AND FLASHES A GNARLY FROWN AT HIS WIFE.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Not that it's important.

GRAHAM SITS AT THE KITCHEN TABLE.

GRAHAM

Elizabeth, what have I always said about our kids?

ELIZABETH

That you'd love them? Provide for them? To always be there for them?

GRAHAM

You bet your patootski! Now here we are, our little girls are all grown up, and they have nowhere to go. No way for them to make something of their lives; and it's all my fault.

ELIZABETH SITS AT THE TABLE WITH GRAHAM.

ELIZABETH

Oh, honey! Don't you think you're being a little dramatic?

GRAHAM

No more than usual.

ELIZABETH

Graham, our girls can still go to college. I'm sure they can get some scholarships.

GRAHAM

I don't know, you think we can get Connie to change her name to DeShonda?

ELIZABETH

Well, one of them could get an athletic scholarship.

GRAHAM

Nah, I don't think Wendy is who the Iowa State track team is thinking of when they're looking for someone fast.

ELIZABETH

Graham, you know I got a scholarship, right?

GRAHAM

What?! Since when?!

ELIZABETH

Since I graduated high school. My three point nine G-P-A got me a full ride scholarship to Saint Apollonia College.

GRAHAM

It did?! Then why didn't you go?!

ELIZABETH

I had Marie.

GRAHAM

Well, she was a pretty easy kid to take care of, if you don't count all the times she donated my paycheck to the Catholic Charities. Why didn't you go once she got a bit older!

ELIZABETH

Because I had Cindy and Wendy.

GRAHAM

Oh, right; you can't leave them alone for a second.

ELIZABETH

And never for a second did I regret my decision not to go, as much as Dean Martin begged me to go.

GRAHAM

You knew Dino?! The King of Cool?! How come you're just telling me all this now?! *When the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie...*

ELIZABETH

(interrupting)

The dean of the college, Graham.

GRAHAM

Well, what does this have to do with us, now?

ELIZABETH

Well, maybe if I gave him a call,
maybe he could give us some help. He
may not give us a full ride like he
gave me, but with enough help, we
might be able to make it work.

GRAHAM

Yeah, but Saint Apollonia is all the
way back in New York. I don't know if
I feel comfortable having our girls so
far away.

ELIZABETH

You didn't seem to object too much to
the idea of Harvard.

GRAHAM

Because I never thought we'd have a
chance of sending them there. They
probably wouldn't even let Cindy park
her car there.

ELIZABETH

I can give the dean a call, and we'll
see what he can do. You never know
unless you ask.

GRAHAM PAUSES.

GRAHAM

I hate it when you do your optimism
routine.

ELIZABETH GIVES GRAHAM A FRUSTRATED LOOK.

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

GRAHAM AND J.R. ARE WATCHING A SHOW THAT SOUNDS SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE "MARRIED WITH CHILDREN"

AL BUNDY-TYPE

You think he sounds impressive, Peg?

Listen to this...

A TOILET IS HEARD FLUSHING ON THE TV. J.R. STARTS LAUGHING.

J.R.

Now, that's comedy!

GRAHAM

Oh, please. Anybody can do that.

SHERRY YELLS FROM UPSTAIRS. GRAHAM AND J.R. LOOK UP.

SHERRY (O.S.)

Dad! Cindy forgot to flush again!

GRAHAM STARTS TO LOOK GLUM.

GRAHAM

I stand corrected.

ELIZABETH RUNS OUT OF THE KITCHEN.

ELIZABETH

Graham! The dean will be here any minute! Are the girls ready?

J.R.

Cindy's almost ready.

GRAHAM GETS UP AND HEADS TO THE FRONT DOOR.

GRAHAM

J.R. Go to the kitchen.

J.R.

Hey, how come whenever company comes
you tell me to hide in the kitchen?
Are you trying to hide me from the
government or something?

GRAHAM

I don't know what they have on you,
I'm taking no chances.

ELIZABETH

Graham! J.R. Why don't you go to the
park and do whatever it is you do
there.

J.R. GETS UP HURRIEDLY.

J.R.

All right! Time to chuck some pine
cones at squirrels!

J.R. RUNS INTO THE KITCHEN AND THROUGH THE BACK DOOR.

GRAHAM

You got any leads on some military
academies?

A KNOCK IS HEARD AT THE DOOR.

ELIZABETH
(excitedly nervous)

Oh, it's probably him!

ELIZABETH OPENS THE DOOR TO REVEAL DEAN WILLIAM MARTIN, A
LANKY, MIDDLE-AGED MAN WEARING A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF BROWN
TWEED.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Dean William Martin?!

DEAN MARTIN
(warmly)

Elizabeth Seebeck...the one that got
away.

ELIZABETH AND THE DEAN EMBRACE.

DEAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

How are you?

ELIZABETH

I'm wonderful. Graham, this is William
Martin, the dean of Saint Apollonia
College.

THE DEAN SHAKES GRAHAM'S HAND.

DEAN MARTIN

Nice to meet you.

THE DEAN TO TURNS TO ELIZABETH.

DEAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

I can't wait to meet your husband.

ELIZABETH

Dean, he is my husband.

DEAN MARTIN PAUSES TO GATHER HIS THOUGHTS.

DEAN MARTIN

Oh. Oh! Yes, yes, of course he is.

How...how embarrassing.

ELIZABETH

I'm sure you'll see that, as much as
you wanted me as a student, my life
still turned out very well.

DEAN MARTIN

At least he's quiet.

ELIZABETH

Well, how about we meet the girls,
shall we?

GRAHAM

Hey! Get your stinkin' butts down
here! We got a scholarship riding on
this!

WENDY RUNS DOWN, FOLLOWED BY CINDY, MARIE, AND CONNIE; ALL IN
THEIR SUNDAY BEST. THEY STAND ON THE STAIRCASE AND GREET THE
DEAN. MARIE TRIES HER BEST TO CURTSY.

MARIE

Greetings.

CONNIE

Hello.

CINDY/WENDY

Hiyee!!!

DEAN MARTIN TURNS TO ELIZABETH.

DEAN MARTIN

Hi...yee?

ELIZABETH STAYS SILENT, REFUSING TO PRESS THE ISSUE.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

DEAN MARTIN IS SITTING AT THE KITCHEN TABLE ACROSS FROM CONNIE.

CONNIE

So what are we doing here?

DEAN MARTIN

This is an interview to see if you're the type of student that Saint Apollonia is looking for.

CONNIE

You came all the way out here to interview us?

DEAN MARTIN

Connie, if you and your sisters are anything like your mother, I'm sure this will be nothing more than a formality.

CONNIE

(sarcastic)

I guess I have nothing to worry about then.

CONNIE CRINGES JUST A BIT.

DEAN MARTIN

So your mother tells me you're quite the budding writer.

CONNIE

I dabble.

DEAN MARTIN

What kind of things do you write?

CONNIE

I write for the school paper.

DEAN MARTIN

Oh, really? Have you written anything
you're particularly proud of?

CONNIE

Well, I exposed a mayoral corruption
scheme just a couple of months ago.

DEAN MARTIN

No kidding?!

CONNIE SMILES AS SHE STARTS TO FEEL MORE CONFIDENT.

CONNIE

Yeah! I caught him right in the act.

DEAN MARTIN

Have you broken any other big stories?

CONNIE

Well, there was this one time I
exposed a tuition increase at our
school.

DEAN MARTIN'S SMILE FADES AWAY.

DEAN MARTIN

Your school?

CONNIE'S STRIDENT TONE TURNS MORE DEFERENTIAL.

CONNIE

Uh, yeah.

DEAN MARTIN

I see.

CONNIE

(nervous)

But everything turned out okay once the students and faculty had an orgy of understanding.

DEAN MARTIN

(softly sarcastic)

You have such a way with words.

CONNIE

Oh. Thank you?

DEAN MARTIN

Do your parents consider you to be the smart one in the family?

CONNIE

I don't know who else it would be.

DEAN MARTIN'S EYES WIDEN.

FLIP TO:

THE DEAN IS AT THE KITCHEN TABLE WITH CINDY.

CINDY

Wow, Dean Martin! My dad says you're the coolest guy in the world. Hey, what is Joey Bishop like?!

DEAN MARTIN

Cindy, please don't call me that. My name is William Martin, and I'm the dean of the college.

(MORE)

DEAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

You can call me Mister Martin, you can call me William, you can call me Bill for all I care.

CINDY

Oh. Okay, Willie!

DEAN MARTIN

Definitely don't call me that.

THE DEAN GETS OUT A SHEET OF PAPER.

DEAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

We're going to do a brief I-Q test.

CINDY

Aww.

DEAN MARTIN

(reassuring)

Cindy, it's nothing to worry about.

DEAN MARTIN TAKES OUT A RUBIK'S CUBE.

DEAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

All I want you to do is arrange this in as few turns as possible.

CINDY

Okay.

CINDY STARTS TURNING THE CUBE.

DEAN MARTIN

One.

CINDY TURNS THE CUBE AGAIN.

DEAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Two.

CINDY TURNS THE CUBE AGAIN.

DEAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Three.

CINDY

I have a question.

DEAN MARTIN

Yes?

CINDY

I'm supposed to get the colors on the
same side, right?

DEAN MARTIN EYES WIDEN.

FLIP TO:

THE DEAN IS AT THE KITCHEN TABLE WITH WENDY.

DEAN MARTIN

So, Wendy. What are your ambitions in
life?

WENDY

Gee, I haven't really thought about it
all that much.

DEAN MARTIN

Well, let me rephrase that. What
career path do you want to take?

WENDY

Oh, geez. I wasn't really planning on
doing a lot of, you know, work.

DEAN MARTIN

Then, how do you plan on making money?

WENDY

I figured if I invested my divorce settlement wisely enough...

DEAN MARTIN

Well, if you absolutely had to pick a career path for yourself, what path would you take?

WENDY

I guess if I had to do something, I was thinking maybe...high finance.

DEAN MARTIN

So, we do have a small business school on campus. We even have an M-B-A program, if you're interested.

WENDY

Hmm, a small business school? I don't know. You know what they say about colleges with small business schools, they also tend to have...small endowments.

DEAN MARTIN STARTS GETTING A BIT TESTY.

DEAN MARTIN

For your information, Miss Lubbock, Saint Apollonia's endowment is worth more than two billion dollars.

WENDY

(impressed)

How did you manage that?

DEAN MARTIN

That's on a need to know basis.

WENDY

And you're mysterious, too. You know,
if you had just a little more hair...

DEAN MARTIN EYES WIDEN, MORE STUNNED THAN EVER.

FLIP TO:

CINDY TURNS THE RUBIK'S CUBE, AS JUMBLED AS IT WAS BEFORE.

DEAN MARTIN

Three hundred, seventy-six...three
hundred seventy-seven...

CINDY KEEPS TURNING THE CUBE, TRYING HARDER THAN EVER.

DEAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Cindy, how about we try something
else?

CINDY

But I can do it, Willie Dean! I know I
can!

DEAN MARTIN GRABS THE CUBE OUT OF CINDY'S HAND AND SLAMS IT
ON THE TABLE.

DEAN MARTIN

You can finish it later. We're going
to try some analogies, now. Greatness
is to failure, as passion is...

CINDY

Reserved for marriage!

DEAN MARTIN

Excuse me?

CINDY

That's what Daddy always says.

DEAN MARTIN

Listen, Cindy. I spent a thousand dollars to fly out here. I gave up five hours of my busy life writing a report to Father Rizzuto justifying the expense.

CINDY STARTS TO LOOK A BIT FRIGHTENED.

DEAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

I promised him four stellar students, and I am not going to let you and your sisters make a fool out of me! Rizzuto knows people, Cindy. Powerful, New York people. So please! Can you take this seriously?!

CINDY

I am taking it seriously.

DEAN MARTIN

Thank you, let us continue.

GRAHAM WALKS INTO THE KITCHEN.

GRAHAM

Hey, honey. How's the interview going?

CINDY

Fine, Daddy.

DEAN MARTIN

Okay. Skinny is to twig as fat is
to...

CINDY CONFIDENTLY POINTS TO DEAN MARTIN.

CINDY

Coach!

DEAN MARTIN'S EYES WIDEN AS HIS PUTS HIS HAND ON HIS TEMPLE,
HIS JAW SLIGHTLY AJAR. GRAHAM SEEMS A BIT STUNNED AS WELL.

FLIP TO:

MARIE WALKS INTO THE KITCHEN AND GREETES DEAN MARTIN.

MARIE

Mister Martin?

DEAN MARTIN

Yes, Marie, sit down.

MARIE SITS AT THE KITCHEN TABLE ACROSS FROM DEAN MARTIN.

DEAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Your mother has said a lot of great
things about you.

MARIE
(flattered)

She has?

DEAN MARTIN

Don't get too excited, she also said
great things about your sisters, and I
can't say I'm impressed.

MARIE

Figures they wouldn't stack up to the standards of a fine, Catholic institution.

DEAN MARTIN

Well, tell me what you're interested in studying.

MARIE
(self-assured)

I'd like to enroll in your divinity school.

THE DEAN PERKS UP JUST A BIT.

DEAN MARTIN

Oh, okay. Are you wanting to teach, or go into missionary work?

MARIE

I want to be a nun!

THE DEAN SMILES FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE.

DEAN MARTIN

You don't say. What makes you want to become a nun?

MARIE

To serve the lord.

DEAN MARTIN

Well, there are lots of ways to serve God besides that.

MARIE

I know, but the world is so full of wickedness and temptation. Drink, debauchery, P-G Thirteen rated movies. I feel I must be cloistered in order to serve my life's purpose. That's why I changed my mind about joining the convent.

DEAN MARTIN

Changed your mind?

MARIE

Yes.

DEAN MARTIN

Do you care to elaborate?

MARIE

Well, I wanted to be nun since I was a little girl. I prayed and prayed and tried to be the best Catholic I could be. But then, a few years ago, Mom drove me to the convent at St. Bartholomew's. We broke down on the way there, and we found our way to a gas station where someone was nice enough to fix our car.

MARIE PULLS THE CRUCIFIX FROM UNDER HER SHIRT.

MARIE (CONT'D)

But I lost my cross when I was there. We didn't have time to look for it, so I had to leave it behind. We finally made it to the convent, it was pouring down rain, and I told my mother how glad I was I could please her by becoming a nun. But then she told me that I wanted to be a nun for all the wrong reasons, and ordered me back in the car. I was never more scared or confused in all my life. I was even more so when we passed by the gas station we stopped at earlier. Everything was gone! The diner, the garage, the gas pumps, everything! Everything except...my crucifix. That's when I knew...God was putting me on the right path, after all.

DEAN MARTIN
(silently incredulous)

Well, that's...quite a story. I think we're done here.

DEAN MARTIN GETS UP.

MARIE

That's it? Don't you want to discuss this further?

DEAN MARTIN

I think I know everything I need to know.

MARIE

But there's so much more to discuss!
The burning bush; the talking snake;
the five gospels?!

DEAN MARTIN

You mean the Four Gospels?

MARIE

I guess He hasn't told you about the fifth one yet.

DEAN MARTIN COLLAPSES BACK IN HIS SEAT, HE PUTS HIS HEAD INTO HIS HANDS OUT OF SHEER EXASPERATION.

FLIP TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DUSK

DEAN MARTIN IS ON THE COUCH WITH GRAHAM AND ELIZABETH. THE DEAN IS HOLDING HALF A REAM OF PAPER IN HIS LAP. ELIZABETH IS SMILING WIDELY.

ELIZABETH

So...what do you think?

DEAN MARTIN

What do I think of what?

ELIZABETH

My daughters.

GRAHAM

You know, the ones you've been talking to for the past six hours.

DEAN MARTIN

Oh, right. Mister and Missus Lubbock,
I don't know how to put this any other
way; but I don't think your daughters
are the kind of students Saint
Apollonia is looking for at this
particular time.

ELIZABETH

Oh, Mister Martin, there must be some
mistake.

DEAN MARTIN

I'm afraid not, and if I may be
completely blunt with you, I think
your daughters might benefit from an
alternate career path.

GRAHAM

Oh, don't beat around the bush. It's
Cindy, isn't it?

DEAN MARTIN

Well, about a fourth of it.

GRAHAM

Hey, we can work with her. We can get
her I-Q up!

DEAN MARTIN

Mister Lubbock, I tested her I-Q.
That's not the issue.

GRAHAM

It isn't? What is her I-Q?

DEAN MARTIN

One hundred.

GRAHAM STARTS HUGGING AND SHAKING HIS WIFE.

GRAHAM

(excited)

One hundred?! One hundred?! Elizabeth,
do you know what that means?!

GRAHAM TURNS BACK TO THE DEAN, STILL HOLDING ON TO ELIZABETH.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

What does that mean?

DEAN MARTIN

It means she's dead center average.

ELIZABETH

Cindy's...average?

DEAN MARTIN

I know that's probably disappointing
to hear.

ELIZABETH

No, I'm shocked. Are you really saying
the average American has the I-Q
of...Cindy?

DEAN MARTIN

In a manner of speaking.

GRAHAM

That explains the popularity of Home
Improvement.

ELIZABETH

So, what about Wendy? If she applied herself, she could easily make the dean's list!

DEAN MARTIN

The only list she's going to be on is the most wanted list.

ELIZABETH

Well, how about Connie?

DEAN MARTIN

I think our institution can do without that rabble-rouser.

ELIZABETH

Rabble-rouser?!

GRAHAM

Elizabeth, remember when Connie nearly published that story accusing Father Hargis of soliciting a lady-of-the-night?

ELIZABETH

Well, she stopped herself, didn't she?! Doesn't that count for anything?!

DEAN MARTIN

Not as far as Saint Apollonia is concerned.

ELIZABETH

Mister Martin, there certainly has to be room at your college for Marie, at the very least.

DEAN MARTIN

With her wild stories? Maybe in our screenwriting program, but certainly not in our divinity school.

ELIZABETH

What do you mean wild stories?!

DEAN MARTIN GETS UP FROM THE COUCH, IN A RUSH.

DEAN MARTIN

Missus Lubbock, I'm afraid I can't discuss this any further. My flight to Portland leaves in an hour, and I have four more connections from there.

ELIZABETH GETS UP TO PLEAD HER CASE TO THE DEAN.

ELIZABETH

Mister Martin, we don't have anywhere else we can send them. It's your school, or no school at all. I ask you, look in your heart, please reconsider.

DEAN MARTIN

I'm sorry, there's nothing I can do.

THE DEAN TURNS TO LEAVE, BEFORE LEAVING ONE PARTING REQUEST.

DEAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Before I go, tell Cindy to send back
that Rubik's Cube. That's the only one
I have.

DEAN MARTIN CLOSSES THE DOOR. ELIZABETH, WITH ALL EXPRESSION
GONE FROM HER FACE, LEANS ON GRAHAM.

FADE TO:

INT. LUBBOCK GIRLS' ROOM - NIGHT

THE GIRLS ARE GETTING READY FOR BED, A BIT NERVOUS.

MARIE

We've been up here for a while. When
will Mom and Dad tell us what
happened?

WENDY

I'm sure they're just working out the
details of our scholarship. They
probably got us a free ride all the
way up to the Master's level.

CONNIE

Well, when it comes to free rides,
Wendy, you are a master.

GRAHAM AND ELIZABETH WALK UP THE STAIRS, LOOKING NERVOUSLY
GLUM.

CINDY

Hi, Daddy. You and Mom don't look so
good.

ELIZABETH

Girls, I know you all had your heart
set on going to Saint Apollonia.

GRAHAM

But you see...oh, I don't know how to
put this any other way, the Dean hates
your guts.

CINDY, CONNIE, AND MARIE RUN UP TO THEIR PARENTS.

MARIE

What?!

CONNIE

How can that be?!

CINDY

Yeah! I got the blue side of the cube
done and everything!

WENDY

Oh, would you three calm down! You're
acting like this is the only school
out there. Now we can go to a real
college, one with a pool.

GRAHAM AND ELIZABETH STAY SILENT FOR A SECOND OR TWO.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Mom? Dad? Why are you so quiet?

GRAHAM

I think we all need to sit down.

GRAHAM PULLS THE BENCH FROM THE GIRLS' VANITY AND SITS DOWN
THERE ALONG WITH HIS WIFE, THE BENCH MAKING A SMALL CREAK.
THEIR DAUGHTERS SIT ON THE FLOOR.

ELIZABETH

Girls, the reason Dean Martin came here was that I had a scholarship offer there many years ago, and he was nice enough to come and see if he could offer the same to your four. Unfortunately, he could not. And without a full ride scholarship, we can't afford to send any of you to college.

CONNIE

So that's it?! We're not even twenty yet and our lives are already over?!

GRAHAM

No, not necessarily, you could always... you know... try to... I think Connie's right, Elizabeth. Say something before I make it worse.

ELIZABETH

Well, you could find a part-time job, save up for a year or two, and then maybe you can afford a couple of years at community college. Provided their tuition doesn't go up in the meantime. Unfortunately, that's all I can really help you with on this front.

GRAHAM

But look on the bright side, now that
you're out of school, you'll have a
lot more time on your hands.

GRAHAM CRINGES AS ELIZABETH LOOKS DOWN IN DEFEAT.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

Come on, Elizabeth, let's go to bed.

GRAHAM PULLS ELIZABETH UP AND LEADS HER DOWN THE STEPS. WENDY
PUTS THE BENCH BACK BENEATH THE VANITY AS SHE TRIES TO CHEER
UP HER FORLORN SISTERS.

WENDY

Hey, so what if we can't go to
college?! Who wants more school,
anyway? Am I right?!

WENDY'S SISTERS LOOK DOWN, FROWNING, AS THEY IGNORE HER PLEAS
FOR LEVITY.

CINDY

Connie's right, our lives are over.

WENDY

Oh, please! What did Danny tell us
just a few months ago? The Lubbock
Babes are on the verge of
superstardom. We'll be performing in
Atlanta, Augusta, Savannah; and when
we're done with Georgia, we'll have
forty-nine other states to go to.

MARIE

But what about my divine calling?

WENDY

What about it? Listen, Danny might have stiffed us on that album, but we're bound to make some more money from our performances going forward. And if you want to spend your share on nun college, Marie, you're more than welcome to!

CONNIE

Yeah. Yeah! Wendy's right! We can't afford college now, but if we get a few high-profile gigs under our belt, we could go wherever we wanted!

WENDY

See, even the sad beatnik gets it! Come on, we're hot! We're hip! We're...

THE OTHER THREE LEAP UP AND EXCLAIM WITH WENDY.

CINDY/CONNIE/MARIE/WENDY

The Lubbock Babes!

THE FOUR GIGGLE OPTIMISTICALLY AS THEY PUT THEIR HANDS IN.

MARIE

All for one!

CINDY/CONNIE/MARIE/WENDY

And one for all!

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT II