

JUST THE TEN OF US

"The Lubbockmobile"

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

JOE.....BILL ERWIN

COLD OPEN

EXT. LUBBOCKS' FRONT YARD - DAY

GRAHAM IS UNDER THE SUBURBAN, TRYING TO FIX IT

GRAHAM

...this stinkin' thing. What kind of
lugnut tried to screw in
this...lugnut?

ELIZABETH WALKS UP

ELIZABETH

Graham? Is everything okay down there?

GRAHAM ROLLS OUT FROM UNDER THE CAR

GRAHAM

No, it isn't, Elizabeth. I can't
figure out what's wrong with this
thing.

GRAHAM ROLLS BACK UNDER THE CAR

ELIZABETH

That's exactly what the mechanic said.

GRAHAM

Yeah, but I know there's got to be
something.

ELIZABETH

Graham. You've checked every last part
of this old thing, the transmission,
the starter, the alternator.

GRAHAM

I still haven't checked the anti-lock
brakes.

ELIZABETH

Graham, I'm not sure this thing even
still has brakes.

GRAHAM ROLLS OUT

GRAHAM

Elizabeth. What exactly are you trying
to say here?

ELIZABETH

Well, this is a pretty old car. It's
been around the block and then some.

GRAHAM

Forget it, Elizabeth.

GRAHAM ROLLS BACK UNDER THE CAR

ELIZABETH

Forget what, Graham?

GRAHAM

We're not buying a new car.

ELIZABETH

Then how do you expect us to get
around?

GRAHAM

Just give me a little more time.

ELIZABETH

Graham!

ELIZABETH PULLS GRAHAM OUT FROM UNDER THE CAR

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Listen to me. The only way you're going to fix this car is by dipping it in the Automotive Fountain of Youth, and that's in Michigan and I'm pretty sure the towing bill would cost a lot more than another car would.

GRAHAM

I thought that was in Florida...

ELIZABETH

Graham, it's not real. I'm trying to make a point.

GRAHAM

Florida's not real?

ELIZABETH

Graham! We have to buy another car!

GRAHAM GETS UP FROM HIS CREEPER

GRAHAM

Aw, geez. I don't want to buy another car. Everyone who sells cars tries to screw around with you.

ELIZABETH

Well, if we don't buy another car, I'll have to walk 5 miles each way to the store, and I can only carry so much in my arms.

(MORE)

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

I'd only be able to bring home milk,
butter, eggs, bread, and maybe some
maple syrup.

GRAHAM

Great! French toast for dinner!

ELIZABETH

We can't just eat French toast; what
about meat? Produce?

GRAHAM

Aw, we don't need any stinkin' fruit.

ELIZABETH

(fed up)

Well, Graham; either you buy a new
car, or you can forget about me
sharing any of my fruit with you. If
you catch my drift...

ELIZABETH WALKS AWAY; GRAHAM STANDS ALONE, FRUSTRATED

ROLL OPEN

ACT I

INT. LIVING ROOM - DUSK

GRAHAM IS ON THE COUCH LOOKING IN THE NEWSPAPER CLASSIFIEDS

GRAHAM

Geez. Look at all of these people trying to dump their cars off on other people. If they were any good, they wouldn't be trying to get rid of them!

CINDY AND WENDY WALK DOWN FROM UPSTAIRS

CINDY

What are you doing, Daddy?

GRAHAM

Oh, I'm just looking through the classifieds for a new car. Your mother wants me to find something practical and reliable. Good luck finding that for under three grand.

WENDY

Ooh, how about this red Toyota Supra coupe?!

GRAHAM

Forget it, Wendy. We're not getting some little sports car for you to gallivant around with your latest boy du jour!

ELIZABETH WALKS IN FROM THE KITCHEN

ELIZABETH

Hey, Graham; how's the car search going?

GRAHAM

Not great. I can't find anything that meets our needs, plus Wendy's standing here trying to get me to buy a sporty coupe.

ELIZABETH

Figures Wendy would want a car that's fast like her.

WENDY

(embarrassed)

Et tu, Mom?!

ELIZABETH

I was just talking about your track times.

GRAHAM

Hey, I'm trying to find our family a car, here.

CINDY AND WENDY WALK INTO THE KITCHEN

ELIZABETH

Why don't you try that used car lot downtown?

GRAHAM

A used car lot?! Are you out of your mind, Elizabeth? Those places are like a lush rainforest of shady hucksters.

ELIZABETH

Well, you sure don't seem to be having any luck looking through that newspaper.

GRAHAM

What? Of course I am! Look at this right here...young, fit male; twenty-five; down for cruising. We'll just have him drive us.

ELIZABETH

Call me crazy, but I think the used car lot would be a better bet.

GRAHAM LOOKS DEFEATED AS ELIZABETH WALKS AWAY

FADE TO:

EXT. JOE'S JALOPY JACKPOT - DAY

A SIGN IS SEEN STATING THE WORDS "JOE'S JALOPY JACKPOT - SO THIS IS WHAT YOUR LIFE HAS DEVOLVED TO..."

GRAHAM IS WALKING AROUND THE CAR LOT LOOKING APPREHENSIVE. JUST THEN JOE, AN ELDERLY GENTLEMAN, WALKS UP TO GRAHAM.

JOE

Can I help you, sir?

GRAHAM IS TAKEN ABACK

GRAHAM

Mr. Pruitt?!

JOE

At your service.

GRAHAM

Don't you run the Burger Barn?!

JOE

Ah, no. That's my brother Jim.

GRAHAM

You two look exactly alike.

JOE

Oh, come on. Haven't you heard of the
Pruitt Quintuplets?

GRAHAM

The what?!

JOE

Yeah! Me, Jim, Jack, John, and of
course, Ralph; God rest his soul. Our
birth was the biggest thing to happen
to this town!

GRAHAM

Then, how come I'm just hearing about
this?

JOE

Well, nobody ever sees us together
anymore. We don't really get along.
But you came here to buy a car, not
hear me ramble on.

GRAHAM

You got any low mileage vehicles that
can seat ten?

JOE

Ten seats?! What are you, a pimp?!

GRAHAM

No!!! I need something that our eight kids can fit in.

JOE

Eight kids? Your wife must hate your guts.

GRAHAM

Well, she sent me here, so you might be right. Can you show me some stinkin' cars now?

JOE

Oh, right. I got a good one. Only 50,000 miles, great gas mileage.

GRAHAM

All right, let's see it!

JOE

You're looking at it.

JOE POINTS TO A TINY BMW ISETTA, TWO SEATS, WITH A DOOR THAT OPENS IN THE FRONT

GRAHAM

How am I supposed to fit my kids in that?

JOE

Oh, just stack 'em like cordwood and chuck 'em in the trunk. Your kids are still babies, right?

GRAHAM
(annoyed)

No.

JOE

Okay, calm down, Tubby! Don't get your
blood pressure up. I got something
right here.

JOE SHOWS GRAHAM A LARGE VEHICLE NOT UNLIKE HIS SUBURBAN

JOE (CONT'D)

It's a bit long in the tooth. But it
runs. And it has a new transmission,
so that shouldn't give you any
trouble.

GRAHAM

Yeah. This could work.

JOE

Great.

JOE OPENS THE VEHICLE. JUST THEN A SURGE OF WATER COMES
GUSHING OUT, INUNDATING THE GROUND NEXT TO GRAHAM AND JOE.
THE DELUGE LASTS FOR ABOUT SEVEN SECONDS. GRAHAM THEN LOOKS
ANNOYEDLY AT JOE.

JOE (CONT'D)

Of course, the floor mats are a little
damp.

FLIP TO:

I/E. LARGE VEHICLE

GRAHAM IS NOW IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT OF A DIFFERENT, LARGE
VEHICLE; WITH JOE IN THE FRONT SEAT.

JOE

Now that we've found you a dry
vehicle, let's give this thing a test
drive.

GRAHAM

Gee, I'm not so sure about this thing.

JOE

It's got four wheels, don't it?

GRAHAM

For now, at least.

JOE

Picky, picky, picky. Turn on the
ignition.

GRAHAM TURNS ON THE IGNITION AND DRIVES OFF. SOME TIME PASSES
AND THE SKY SUDDENLY TURNS GLOOMY. THE VEHICLE IS SEEN
PASSING BY AS THE OMINOUS CLOUDS GATHER.

JOE (CONT'D)

Looks like we got a gullywhomper on
the way.

GRAHAM

Yeah, we better turn back.

JOE

Hold on, I know a shortcut. Turn here.

GRAHAM TURNS THE VEHICLE RIGHT. ONCE HE STRAIGHTENS THE
WHEEL, IT STARTS TO RAIN.

GRAHAM

Ah, geez; it's raining. Where are the
wipers?

JOE

What wipers?

GRAHAM TURNS TO JOE INCREDULOUSLY

GRAHAM

This thing doesn't have windshield
wipers?!

JOE

Hey, watch where you're going. This
road gets gnarly.

GRAHAM HITS A BUMP IN THE ROAD. HE LOOKS INCREASINGLY NERVOUS
AS HE LOOKS DOWN AT THE PEDALS.

GRAHAM

Hey, what's with the brakes?! I can't
slow this thing down!

THE VEHICLE IS SEEN SLIDING RAPIDLY DOWN A SLIPPERY,
SERPENTINE PATH. GRAHAM KEEPS PUMPING THE BRAKES, TO NO
AVAIL, AS HE RAPIDLY TURNS THE STEERING WHEEL TO KEEP UP WITH
THE ROAD'S CURVES. GRAHAM GETS MORE AND MORE SCARED AS IT
GETS EVEN DARKER. LIGHTNING FLASHES ARE SEEN AND THUNDER IS
HEARD. GRAHAM TURNS TO JOE. HE SMILES SINISTERLY AND STARTS
CHUCKLING.

JOE

(ominously)

Ha ha ha ha ha ha.

GRAHAM TURNS BACK TO THE ROAD, ONLY TO FIND HIS VEHICLE IS
NOW FLYING DOWN A HILL WITH NO WAY TO STOP. HE IS TERRIFIED.
HE TURNS BACK TO JOE, WHO CONTINUES TO LAUGH. ANOTHER FLASH
OF LIGHTNING IS SEEN, NOW REVEALING JOE TO BE WEARING THE
GARB OF THE DEVIL, HORNS AND ALL (JUST LIKE IN PLANES,
TRAINS, AND AUTOMOBILES). JOE'S CACKLING REACHES AN APEX AS
HE LOOK STRAIGHT INTO GRAHAM'S EYES.

JOE (CONT'D)

(evil)

Ah ha ha ha ha ha ha.

GRAHAM

Aaaaaaaaaaahhhhhh!!!!

THEY FINALLY REACH AN UPSLOPE, WHICH SLOWS THE CAR DOWN. THE EMERGENCY BRAKE FINALLY BRINGS THE CAR TO A HALT. GRAHAM LOOKS ANGRILY AT JOE AS THE RAIN CONTINUES TO FALL.

JOE

Now, before you buy, I should warn you: this thing is missing a hubcap.

FLIP TO:

EXT. JOE'S JALOPY JACKPOT - NIGHT

GRAHAM AND JOE WALK BACK INTO THE CAR LOT.

JOE

That was nice of Jack to give us a lift back into town.

GRAHAM

I wish he could have just dropped me off at home.

JOE

Hey, before you go, I do have one more offer for you.

GRAHAM

Oh, please, no more offers. I think I'm just going to buy a Conestoga wagon.

JOE

A Conestoga wagon? At today's prices?! Come on, you are looking for a big vehicle, right?

GRAHAM

Yes.

JOE

Well, I got one I'm willing to part
with for a song.

GRAHAM

Does it have brakes?

JOE

It handles like a dream.

GRAHAM

Sold!

JOE

Hold on, now. I should tell you it
might be a tad larger than you might
be expecting.

GRAHAM

(calmly)

I said...

JOE

(interrupting)

...and it needs some interior work.

GRAHAM LOOKS STRAIGHT INTO JOE'S EYES.

GRAHAM

(sternly)

I said...sold!

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

THE FAMILY IS GATHERED WAITING FOR GRAHAM'S ARRIVAL. HE
ARRIVES PROMPTLY.

GRAHAM

Hey, gang!

SHERRY

Daddy!

GRAHAM

You guys want to see the new ride?

CINDY/MARIE/J.R./WENDY

Yeah!

ELIZABETH

Is it that Ford I pointed out to you?

GRAHAM

No.

CONNIE

Is it enough for just the ten of us?

GRAHAM

It's enough for just the ten of us,
The Hogan Family, and The Simpsons put
together.

MARIE

Well, come on, let's see it!

THE FAMILY RUSHES TO THE FRONT DOOR

FLIP TO:

EXT. DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

THE FAMILY IS GATHERED TO SEE WHAT GRAHAM BOUGHT. THE FAMILY
STANDS IN SHOCK.

GRAHAM

Well, here it is.

GRAHAM'S PURCHASE IS REVEALED TO BE A LARGE INTERCITY BUS. IT'S A LITTLE RUSTY, THE BROWN AND YELLOW PAINT IS HEAVILY WORN, AND THE WINDOWS ARE COVERED IN SOOT.

SHERRY

Dad, you did it. You finally found a vehicle big enough for your...

GRAHAM
(interrupting)

Careful, Sherry.

SHERRY

I was just going to say your ego.

GRAHAM
(sternly)

Not careful enough.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

THE FAMILY STARES IN AWE AT THE NEW BUS GRAHAM BROUGHT HOME

WENDY

You bought a bus?!

GRAHAM

What's so weird about that? Buses are a perfectly normal form of family transportation.

J.R.

Like the bus from The Partridge Family?

CINDY

Or the bus from Designing Women?

CONNIE

That's not a bus, Cindy; that's Delta Burke!

ELIZABETH

(concerned)

Graham?! How much did this thing cost?

GRAHAM

That's the best part, Elizabeth. Joe sold it to me for, get this, one dollar!

ELIZABETH

Graham! I don't want you driving our kids around in a one-dollar bus!

GRAHAM

Oh, come on! The old car wasn't worth more than two, three bucks, tops.

ELIZABETH

You only got three bucks for the trade-in?!

GRAHAM

Two bucks in pure profit! And your dad said I'd never make it in business!

THE FAMILY STILL STANDS CONFUSED AT GRAHAM'S LARGE PURCHASE

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

Well, what are we waiting for?! Let me you show the inside!

GRAHAM OPENS THE BUS DOOR

CUT TO:

INT. LUBBOCKMOBILE

THE FAMILY ENTERS THE BUS, WITH GRAHAM AND ELIZABETH LEADING THE WAY. GRAHAM TAKES THE DRIVERS SEAT, AND THE KIDS TOUR THE REAR. ELIZABETH STARTS LOOKING SICK.

GRAHAM

Here it is! The Lubbockmobile!

ELIZABETH

What is that smell?!

GRAHAM

What smell?

ELIZABETH

You don't smell that?

GRAHAM

What is it? Does it smell like diesel exhaust?

ELIZABETH

No, it smells like the ladies' room at Del Taco!

THE KIDS ARE GATHERED NEAR THE REAR LAVATORY

MARIE

I think you're smelling the bathroom here.

WENDY

Ugh! When's the last time they cleaned this?!

SHERRY

That "Ted Kennedy for President" sticker might be a hint.

J.R.

I think this is why horror movies only deal with blood.

CINDY STARTS SPELLING HER NAME ON THE DIRTY WINDOW, COMPLETE WITH A HEART DOTTING THE "I"

CINDY

These windows are fun! They're like a giant Magna Doodle!

CONNIE

Cindy, how many times has Mom told you not to stick your finger in strange places?!

ELIZABETH BECKONS TO HER CHILDREN

ELIZABETH

Okay, everybody out. I've got a few things to say to your father, and I'm afraid this thing might give you an infection.

ELIZABETH OPENS THE BUS DOOR AND USHERS HER KIDS OUT

GRAHAM

Well, Elizabeth? What do you think?

ELIZABETH

Graham, I have to say, this is...

GRAHAM

Wait, before you say anything, this thing has four-hundred-and-fifty horsepower.

ELIZABETH

Graham...

GRAHAM

And it has capacity for fifty people, perfect for those church outings.

ELIZABETH

Graham...

GRAHAM

And it's got something we've always wanted: air conditioning!

GRAHAM TURNS THE A/C ON, IT BEGINS SPEWING DUST ALL OVER ELIZABETH, AND PARTLY ON GRAHAM AS WELL. ONCE THE DUST CLEARS, AND ELIZABETH STOPS COUGHING, SHE SPEAKS HER PIECE.

ELIZABETH

This seems like a bad idea, Graham.

GRAHAM

But E-liz-a-beth, this is the perfect vehicle for us. Do you have any idea how cramped it was in the old car?

ELIZABETH

Well, at least it could fit in a parking lot!

GRAHAM

And what if our daughter's singing career takes off? They could use this as a tour bus.

ELIZABETH

Our daughters' career isn't going to last very long if they have to ride this thing.

GRAHAM

Plus, behind the wheel of this thing, I could really put the fear of God in our girls' boyfriends.

ELIZABETH

(exasperated)

Enough, Graham! This may be the most reckless thing you've ever done. You were supposed to get a reliable family car, and ended up buying...the Titanic on wheels!

GRAHAM

Oh puhleeze! Can the Titanic do this?

GRAHAM PRESSES THE STEERING WHEEL. A HORN STARTS PLAYING AN UPBEAT, STACCATO VERSION "LA CUCARACHA".

ELIZABETH

Nice, Graham. Next time someone cuts us off in traffic, we can play them a cute little ditty!

GRAHAM

You're not happy about this, are you?

ELIZABETH

Oh no, what housewife doesn't want to take time away from raising her kids to train for a bus driving license!

GRAHAM

Well, legally, this is a recreational vehicle, so you don't need a commercial...

ELIZABETH

Shut up! I want you to return this to the dealer right now, and get a real family car. Now if you'll excuse me, I have to hose myself off.

ELIZABETH LEAVES GRAHAM ALONE IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

THE SIX OLDEST LUBBOCK CHILDREN COME DOWN THE STAIRS, WITH J.R. LEADING THE WAY, RUNNING TOWARDS THE KITCHEN

J.R.

Outta my way! I'm getting the last of
the Choco Missiles!

SHERRY

Oh no, you're not! I called dibs!

CINDY

I don't care, as long as I get to
watch Garfield!

CONNIE

Grow up, Cindy.

WENDY

Oh, let her enjoy her cartoons,
Connie. That just leaves more for me
at the big leather blowout sale.

MARIE

Don't forget to sneak in something for
me, Wendy!

AS THE KIDS APPROACH THE KITCHEN, GRAHAM EXITS AND BLOCKS
THEIR PATH

GRAHAM

Hold it right there!

THE KIDS STOP IN THEIR TRACKS

SHERRY

Dad, please, you're impeding my access
to breakfast slash dessert.

GRAHAM

I'll take care of breakfast, because
none of you are going anywhere.

(MORE)

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

No sugar cereal, no lazy cat cartoons,
and no leather blowouts. We're going
to fix up this bus!

WENDY

Dad, please don't ruin our Saturday
with one of your harebrained schemes!

GRAHAM

Well how about this harebrained
scheme? Being grounded for a month! If
your mother thinks I'm going to give
up this bus without a fight, she's
sorely mistaken.

CONNIE

Do you really think it's fair to
punish us for one of your marital
spats?

GRAHAM

I'll show you a real punishment if you
want, Connie. Now your mother walked
to town to do some errands, and I want
this bus to be sparkling by the time
she gets back. Now get a move on!

EXT. PORCH - MORNING

GRAHAM PUSHES HIS KIDS OUT THE DOOR. THEY'RE ALL SEEN ON THE
PORCH.

WENDY

That's it! I'm filing for
emancipation!

SHERRY

There are six of us, there's only one
of him. I say we show Dad who's really
in charge.

MARIE

(gradually gets more excited)

Now come on, let's not lose our cool.
We've been put in a bad situation, but
if we work together and put in a
little elbow grease, we can make this
bus look truly first class. So, what
do you say?!

THEY PAUSE BRIEFLY

CONNIE

All in favor of forbidding Marie from
speaking for the rest of the day?

CINDY/J.R./SHERRY/WENDY

Aye!

GRAHAM OPENS THE FRONT DOOR

GRAHAM

Hey, I thought I told you to get to
work on that bus...

THE LUBBOCK KIDS SCURRY OFF TO THE BUS IN A PANIC

I/E. LUBBOCKMOBILE - DAY

THE LUBBOCK KIDS START CLEANING THE BUS, BACKED UP BY "CAR WASH" BY ROSE ROYCE

BEGIN MONTAGE:

- THE SIX OF THEM ENTER THE BUS WITH ASSORTED CLEANING SUPPLIES. THEY ALL START SCRUBBING INDISCRIMINATELY.

- CINDY STARTS SCRUBBING THE WINDOW SHE WROTE HER NAME ON EARLIER. SHE STARTS CRYING, WITH CONNIE PATTING HER SHOULDER IN SUPPORT.

- J.R. IS HOSING DOWN THE BUS' EXTERIOR. MARIE WALKS OUT OF THE HOUSE WITH A BUCKET, BUT AS SOON AS SHE APPROACHES THE BUS DOOR, J.R. TURNS THE HOSE ON MARIE. SHE APPROACHES HER YOUNGER BROTHER IN A HUFF, SOAKING WET WITH HER HANDS ANGRILY RESTING ON HER HIPS, AS J.R. JUST LAUGHS TO HIMSELF.

- SHERRY IS REUPHOLSTERING A BUS SEAT, HOLDING NAILS IN HER TEETH, AS CONNIE AND WENDY HAVE AN ANGRY FIGHT WITH SPRAY BOTTLES. SHERRY SHAKES HER HEAD AT THE IMMATURITY OF HER OLDER SISTERS.

END MONTAGE

THEY NOW STAND OUTSIDE THE BUS, LOOKING MUCH BETTER THAN IT DID BEFORE.

WENDY

Well, only one more thing left to do.

CINDY

What's that?

SHERRY

You couldn't smell the bathroom,
Cindy?

CINDY

Oh. Well, I'm not cleaning that thing!

THE GIRLS LOOK AT J.R., HE BACKS AWAY.

J.R.

Oh no! Why do you think I'm going to go in there?

MARIE

Maybe it was because of that impromptu hose down you decided to give me.

J.R. TRIES TO RUN AWAY, BUT CONNIE GRABS HIM BY HIS COLLAR.

J.R.

Come on, let me go.

CONNIE

You're going nowhere, Ratboy. You're the one who's into gross stuff.

J.R.

Yeah, gross stuff. What you're asking me to do is...nasty.

WENDY

Oh, we'll show you nasty, J.R.

J.R.

Fine! Just let me suit up first.

J.R. HEADS AWAY

MARIE

Suit up?

FLIP TO:

INT. LUBBOCKMOBILE

J.R. ENTERS THE BUS IN FULL HAZMAT ATTIRE. HE WALKS SLOWLY, BRAVELY, TOWARDS THE REAR LAVATORY. THE GIRLS ENTER AND WATCH ON FROM THE FRONT OF THE BUS.

CINDY

Where did he get that suit?

WENDY

It's J.R. Who knows how an idiot like
him does any of the things he does?

SHERRY

I never realized he was so...brave.

MARIE

You can do it, J.R.!

J.R. FINALLY MAKES IT TO THE REAR LAVATORY. AFTER A BRIEF
PAUSE, J.R. SCREAMS.

J.R. (O.S.)

Ugh! I think it got inside my suit!

CINDY/MARIE/SHERRY/WENDY

Ewwwww!

CONNIE

It's too late for him! Let's get out
and save ourselves!

THE GIRLS SCURRY OUT.

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DUSK

THE LUBBOCK GIRLS ARE SITTING IN THE LIVING ROOM. J.R. COMES
DOWN THE STAIRS, DRYING OFF HIS WET HAIR.

J.R.

That's the last time I order a hazmat
suit from Craven's Costume Carnival.

THE GIRLS SCURRY QUICKLY TO THE SIDE OF THE SOFA FURTHEST
FROM J.R.

J.R. (CONT'D)

What?! I just showered!

WENDY

You're going to need to shower at least four more times before we go anywhere near you.

GRAHAM ENTERS THROUGH THE KITCHEN

GRAHAM

Hey, great job on the bus! See, it wasn't so bad, was it?

SHERRY

Aside from J.R. now being a biohazard, sure.

ELIZABETH EXCITEDLY BURSTS THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR

ELIZABETH

Graham! Come quick! You're not going to believe it!

GRAHAM

(confused)

Elizabeth, calm down. What's going on? You're not pregnant again, are you?

ELIZABETH

Even better! Our automobile problems are solved!

ELIZABETH GOES BACK OUTSIDE

GRAHAM

Hmm, I see your mother appreciates the hard work you put in today. I can't wait to take credit for it, ha ha!

GRAHAM HEADS FOR THE FRONT DOOR

WENDY

Emancipation is sounding pretty good right now, huh, Marie?

FLIP TO:

EXT. STREET - DUSK

GRAHAM AND ELIZABETH ARE ON THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE LOOKING AT ELIZABETH'S LATEST PURCHASE

ELIZABETH

Look, Graham! A brown Suburban, just like the one we had before!

GRAHAM

Elizabeth! You just bought another car without consulting me, first?!

ELIZABETH

Well, you bought that bus without consulting me. I'd say turnabout is fair play.

GRAHAM

Elizabeth, you of all people should know that fair play is way out of our price range!

ELIZABETH

Graham, you didn't actually think I was just going to sit idly by while you planned on driving our kids in that filthy bus.

GRAHAM

But it's not filthy anymore! I spent all day cleaning that thing up.

ELIZABETH LOOKS CLOSELY AT GRAHAM'S FACE

ELIZABETH

Graham, you've always been a terrible liar.

GRAHAM

What are you talking about?

ELIZABETH

For one, you don't have a speck of sweat on you. And two, there's one little hair left on your scalp that always perks up when you're lying.

GRAHAM

Great, I can't even go bald without screwing it up.

ELIZABETH

Why does that bus mean so much to you?

GRAHAM

Because it's the first time I've ever
been able to give my family
something...grand.

ELIZABETH

You call that grand?!

GRAHAM

Well, it's a start.

ELIZABETH

Come on, we've never held your modest
income against you.

GRAHAM

You haven't anyway, I'll give you
that.

ELIZABETH

Graham, we all know you're doing the
best you can. But you know we can't
keep that bus; that thing is a public
health risk.

GRAHAM

Not anymore. I wasn't lying about it
being clean.

ELIZABETH

Then why aren't you covered in flop
sweat like you usually are when you do
chores?

GRAHAM

Because...I had the kids do it.

ELIZABETH
(surprised and disappointed)

Graham T. Lubbock...

GRAHAM

I couldn't do it by myself. And that hazmat suit J.R. bought wouldn't fit me anyway.

ELIZABETH

I think you owe the kids an apology.

GRAHAM

Yeah. Maybe I do.

ELIZABETH

But you know, if it really is clean and safe to ride, we do have enough room in the yard for both the bus and the new car.

GRAHAM

You mean...I can keep the bus?!

ELIZABETH

No, Graham. We can keep the bus. I think after today, it's the kids' bus as much as it is yours.

GRAHAM

But Marie's the only one with a license...

ELIZABETH

You know what I mean.

GRAHAM PAUSES FOR A SECOND

GRAHAM

No, I don't.

ELIZABETH

Just forget it.

GRAHAM

I'm so glad I married you, Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

And in spite of my better judgement,

I'm glad I married you, Graham.

GRAHAM AND ELIZABETH WALK BACK TOWARDS THE HOUSE

GRAHAM

So where do you want to take the bus,
first?

ELIZABETH

I don't know, how far do you think it
can go?

GRAHAM

As far as our imagination can take us.

ELIZABETH

So, to the store and back?

GRAHAM

Probably, but just think of how many
groceries we can fit in there!

ELIZABETH

Enough for you, Graham...maybe.

END OF ACT II

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