

Executive Producer: Scot Armstrong
Executive Producer: Peter Traugott
Executive Producer: Rachel Kaplan
Executive Producer: Brian Grazer

PROBLEM CHILD

“Pilot”

Written by
Scot Armstrong

Directed by

Revised Network Draft 1/28/15



© 2014 Universal Television LLC

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. NOT TO BE DUPLICATED WITHOUT PERMISSION.

This material is the property of Universal Television LLC and is intended solely for use by its personnel. The sale, copying, reproduction or exploitation of this material, in any form is prohibited. Distribution or disclosure of this material to unauthorized persons is also prohibited.

OPEN

EXT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

Establishing. Nice John Hughes-style suburban school in Los Angeles. Families file in. Big Fund-raiser tonight!

CASEY (30's) smart/funny and her husband ED (30's) funny Vince Vaughn type, he holds a platter covered in foil. They walk toward the school with their son. You may have heard about this kid. His name is BISHOP (10).

He turns and does a walk and talk to the camera ala Frank Underwood from House of Cards.

BISHOP

(to the audience)

People are always asking me: Why do you insist on causing so much trouble all of the time? But, that's like asking a scorpion why it stings. The answer? Because a Scorpion stings. It's what it was born to do.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - NIGHT

The family enters the school together. As Bishop walks the hall, he gives a few non-verbal 'hellos' and 'what's up's' to some of the other kids from school.

BISHOP

(to the audience)

Besides, I don't really have any other choice. As a ten year old kid, the whole system is set up to work against me. Think about it: I have no money. I'm not allowed to drive. The government even passed a law that tells us kids we have to go to school. In a system like this, you have to fight back. I mean, a man's gotta make a living.

A skinny kid, MORTON (10) approaches. Bishop smoothly hangs back as his parents walk on ahead.

MORTON

Put me down for five bucks on the Acorns to win. And what do you think, should I take the under?

BISHOP
It's middle school basketball, you
always take the under.

Bishop pockets the cash and jots the bet down as he continues
down the hall.

BISHOP (CONT'D)
(to the audience)
*Sometimes, people worry about me.
I've been to therapy. Alone. And
with my parents. I've gone through
positive parenting. Corporal
punishment. And everything in
between...*

An older chubby kid MANETTI (14) approaches.

BISHOP (CONT'D)
Hey Manetti. How's the diet coming?

MANETTI
Shut up. You got it or not?

Bishop nods and pulls a long box of Hostess Glo Balls out of
his pants. These are going for \$10. They make the switch.

BISHOP
(then to the audience)
*...They changed my vitamins. They
took away my gluten. They got me a
drum set and a punching bag and
mouth guard to sleep with. They
sent me to wilderness camp, boot
camp, band camp, church camp and
Amish camp.*
(then, looking off)
Hey Lemme. Did you bring it?

LEMME (10) nods. Bishop checks to see if his Mom is watching,
and then pulls off his sweater and makes a trade. It's
Bishop's sweater vest for the God of War 3.

BISHOP (CONT'D)
(then to the audience)
*They've done DNA tests, allergy
tests, blood tests and brain scans.
But I've got news for you: I'm
clean. I'm just as God made me. My
name is Bishop Martin and you will
never break me.*

TITLE CARD: PROBLEM CHILD

ACT ONE

INT. SCHOOL GYM - NIGHT

The fundraiser is well underway. A carnival atmosphere. Booths are set up with games, popcorn, bake sale etc. Casey, Bishop and Ed enter. Ed searches for a place for the platter.

ED
Where should I put this?

CASEY
I don't know.

BISHOP
I need to go to the bathroom.

ED
You just went to the bathroom.

BISHOP
I have diarrhea.

ED
He's lying.

CASEY
(agreeing)
He is.
(then)
You are.

BISHOP
I agree, there's a good chance I might be lying. But I encourage you to weigh the risks vs the rewards in this situation.

ED
What risks?

CASEY
He means: What if he has diarrhea?

BISHOP
Exactly. Is it worth the risk?

ED

What kind of game is this? Some kind of weird Russian butt roulette?

CASEY

We refuse to negotiate with butt-terrorists.

ED

Your Mom and I are saying no.

BISHOP

Okay. I understand.

All three of them stand there for a second. Then:

ED

Fine. Go.

CASEY

Hold on. Why do you need your back pack to go to the bathroom?

ED

Good point. The back pack stays here.

CASEY

Why don't you deliver these cookies to the bake sale while you're at it?

Casey takes the cookie tray out of Ed's hands and gives it to Bishop. Bishop exits.

BISHOP

Fine.

ED

He's definitely screwing with us right now. I just can't figure out how.

Bishop turns back and smiles. Sincerely sweet.

BISHOP

I love you.

Ed and Casey don't respond. Instead, they study him.

CASEY

What's that supposed to mean?

As Bishop carries the cookies, he walks and talks.

BISHOP

(to the audience)

*As kids, I think we need to start
re-thinking the whole parent/child
dynamic...*

With that, Bishop carries the platter right past the cookie table. He gives a quick glance back to his parents and exits through a side door with the cookies.

The camera lands on the stage and stays. PRINCIPAL FRANCE, Steve Carrell type, speaks to students, parents and teachers.

PRINCIPAL FRANCE

In my hand are two, count them, two tickets to this Saturday's advance screening of the new Star Wars Movie! How do I win these, you ask? Simple: If any student scores more than 1,000 points, the tickets are yours!

Everyone cheers. Woo! Principal France holds up a vest for the audience.

PRINCIPAL FRANCE (CONT'D)

To begin, each participant will receive one of these: A laser tag vest.

Lemme raises his hand.

LEMME

What if no one scores 1,000?

PRINCIPAL FRANCE

Try not to be such a bummer, okay Lemme? Someone will do it, I'm sure. And if not, well...

(secretly to his asst)

I guess I'll be seeing Star Wars myself. The things I have to do for this job, I tell you.

Lemme makes a face, not happy.

INT. SCHOOL - UTILITY HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

In a utility hallway area, Bishop carries the platter, along with a laser tag vest. He peels back the tin foil of the cookie plater to reveal: A variety of tools and magnets.

With the grace of a tiny 007, Bishop opens up the God of War 3 game. Taped up inside is a mini-polydrive screwdriver. He finishes quickly and then snaps it back shut.

BISHOP

(to the audience)

...Adults are not the enemy. They are the opponent. We are competing in a game. A game I am going to win.

Now he peeks into another hallway, looks around, and his eyes zero in on something. RACK FOCUS to a sign that says: PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE.

INT. GYM - ON ED AND CASEY - MEANWHILE

Ed and Casey are checking his backpack. Nothing unusual.

CASEY

Anything?

ED

Just his school books. And the Art of War. And the Wall Street Journal.

CASEY

I hope he doesn't grow up to be a financial analyst.

ED

I hope he doesn't grow up to be Heisenberg.

CASEY

Are we that bad?

ED

It's not you, it's me. I passed down the bad DNA. I used to eat paint chips when I was little. And they thought I had scoliosis, so they X-rayed me a lot. Like once a week.

MADISON

Casey! Ed! Hey guys!

This is MADISON (30's) a cool Mom.

CASEY

Oh hey!

MADISON

Hey, I heard Bishop got National Honor's society again this semester. Congrats.

ED

Thanks.

MADISON

May I ask: Where does he get his intelligence? Are you a scientist, or a mathematician or someone with special skills like that?

ED

I was pretty good at basketball in high school.

MADISON

Gotcha. Listen, I've got 2 box seats for Balalaika for this Saturday. We can't use them. Would you like the tickets?

CASEY

Free tickets to the...?

MADISON

It's a symphony.

CASEY

Oh! That would be great!... But, we have to pass.

ED

We don't really go out at night.

CASEY

No one will baby sit.

ED

Going out is impossible.

MADISON

Oh come on, that can't be true. Bishop is such a sweetheart. These are for Saturday. You gotta make it happen!

CASEY

Thanks Maddy!

Madison leaves.

CASEY (CONT'D)
She's right. We need to go out.

ED
We do.

CASEY
And, you know, we haven't slept together in... Too long.

ED
I'm not counting.

CASEY
Yeah right. We're gonna fix that this Saturday night! Do you think we can get a sitter?

ED
It is now my mission in life.

INT. GYM - CONTINUOUS

Principal France is setting up the game to a room full of eager kids as parents watch on.

PRINCIPAL FRANCE
Remember: This is a fund-raiser, but it's also a deadly competition! There are two tickets at stake! Now, I'd like to introduce you to a little place I like to call 'The Inflatable Urban Jungle.'

REVEAL: An inflatable Laser Tag arena is set up in the gym.

PRINCIPAL FRANCE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(like Eminem)
Eight Mile got nothin' on us! Huh!

INT. SCHOOL - UTILITY HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

In a utility hallway area, Bishop is putting his vest on.

INT. SCHOOL - GIANT INFLATABLE ALIEN - LATER

We're inside the giant inflatable Urban Jungle.

PRINCIPAL FRANCE (V.O.)
FIVE... FOUR... THREE...

Kids are taking positions, hiding behind inflatable walls and beams and other inflatable urban terrain.

PRINCIPAL FRANCE (V.O.)
...TWO... ONE...

SFX: The first shot is fired.

SLO MO. Bishop drops from the ceiling. He lands on his back and bounces back up to a standing position, with style. Now he pulls his laser gun off of his back like the Terminator.

Bishop is destroying the competition, nailing the target and his opponents over and over... Until a red head kid surprises him with a direct hit.

ECU: BISHOP'S VEST: STILL ALIVE. Bishop looks down at his vest and back at the red head kid. The vest's invincible.

THE SCOREBOARD: BISHOP SCORING POINTS. The Principle looks on, concerned.

LEMME
Wooo!

Bishop's vest repels all attackers. The scoreboard is going up as he makes more hits. Bishop is shooting with style! The score board lights up -- BISHOP HAS 1,000!

LEMME (CONT'D)
He did it!

STUDENTS CHEER! ON PRINCIPLE FRANCE: HE'S BUMMED. ON CASEY AND ED: They're looking on.

ED
Something tells me he didn't have
to go to the bathroom.

INT. ED AND CASEY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NEXT DAY

It's morning! Ed and Casey are zooming around the kitchen like crazy - making breakfast, packing backpacks, packing work bags, finding car keys, checking texts, talking schedules and trying to find jackets, reading glasses, phone chargers, shoes...

Bishop and WILLOW (16) are eating breakfast calmly at the table. It's like they're sitting in the eye of the storm.

BISHOP
 (to the audience)
*Breakfast is so nice for family
 time. Mostly because parents are
 easily distracted.*

CASEY
 How's your quest for a baby sitter
 coming?

ED
 I'm working on it.

CASEY
 Should I make them eggs?

ED
 I already made them eggs.

CASEY
 Are you guys eating your eggs?

REVEAL: Bishop and Willow are each eating big bowls of ice
 cream. Bishop is applying extra chocolate syrup.

BISHOP & WILLOW
 Yes.

BISHOP
 (to the audience)
*If you ever need to ask for
 something, make sure your parents
 are late for work when you do.*

WILLOW
 Mom? Can I ask you something?

CASEY
 Not right now, honey, okay?

BISHOP
 (to the audience)
*That's Willow. She's one of the
 best at employing this technique.*

WILLOW
 Can I stay over at Sophia's on
 Friday?

CASEY
 Can we talk about this later?

WILLOW
 Her Aunt will be there.

CASEY

Fine.

BISHOP

Mom... Mom... MOM.

CASEY

WHAT.

BISHOP

Can I have five dollars for caramel corn?

CASEY

What? Why in the world would I--
Tell you what: I'll give you 5
bucks if you can find my damn key
card from work.

Casey hunts around frantically. Bishop stands still.

BISHOP

(to the audience)

*I know what you're thinking. These
seem like nice people. Why make
things so hard on them? Look, I
love my Mom and Dad as much as
anyone. But, there are just things
I want to do with my life and
sometimes they're in the way.*

Bishop checks the time then pulls the key card out.

BISHOP (CONT'D)

MOM! I FOUND YOUR KEY CARD!

CASEY (O.S.)

Oh my God, thank you!

BISHOP

(to the audience)

*Besides, it's every kid's sacred
duty to push their parents as far
as they can. Is it my fault if I'm
good at it?*

Casey crosses, grabs the key card, and is almost out the door-

BISHOP (CONT'D)

What about my corn money?

CASEY

You stole my key card, didn't you?
 (off his look)
 Get in the car.

INT. ED'S WRITING NOOK - LATER

Ed is in the house, working from home. He strums a guitar while staring at a jar of Nutella. He's writing a jingle.

ED

Nuuuuuuuuuu...Tellaaaaaaaaa. The
 Original Hazelnut spreeaad!

He hits a button on his cell and plays that back to himself.

ED (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Nuuuuuuuuuu...Tellaaaaaaaaa. The
 Original Hazelnut spr--

Suddenly the phone switches to a ringer sound.

ECU: Ed's phone is showing a phone call from BISHOP'S SCHOOL.'

ED (CONT'D)

(reading the caller ID)
 Ugh. Okay. I'm not answering this.
 (sing song as it rings)
 I'm... Not... Answering... Youuuuuu-
 (accidentally hits answer)
 Crap.
 (forced to answer)
 Hello?

SCHOOL SECRETARY

Mr. Martin? This is Betty from
 Sacred Heart.

ED

Betty!
 (Elton John)
BETTY AND THE JETS. How's it going?
 I haven't heard from you in a few
 days. I miss our talks.

SCHOOL SECRETARY

Is there any chance one of you
 could come down to the school?

ED

Well, I'm at work right now...
 (other line rings)
 (MORE)

ED (CONT'D)

-Hold on, I'm getting another call.
Can I call you back please Betty?

BETTY

Actually, I-

ED

-Okay! Bye.

ECU: Ed clicks over to Casey.

ED (CONT'D)

Hey.

CASEY

The school just tried me. If they
call you, don't answer.

ED

Too late. I just talked to Betty.
She wants us to come down.

CASEY

Ugh. What do you think he did?

ED

I hope it's his grades.

CASEY

Can you go? I'm sorry, I'm just
really slammed at work.

ED

And I'm not?

CASEY

I know you're busy too, it's just-

ED

My job is just as important as
yours.

INT. HEART SURGERY - CONTINUOUS

REVEAL: Casey is listening to this on a speaker phone while
in the middle of doing heart surgery. A nurse adds volume to
the phone as Casey keeps her hands busy inside of the
patient's chest as she talks to Ed.

CASEY

I know it is.

ED

I'm just as busy as you are.

Ed adjusts the jar of Nutella on the desk as he talks.

CASEY

I know. If you do this, I
promise...

(flirty)

To make it up to you on Saturday
Night.

NURSE

Ew.

INT. UTILITY HALLWAY - SECURITY FOOTAGE

GRAINY BLACK AND WHITE FOOTAGE: Bishop is in the utility hallway, peeling back the tin foil and hacking into his vest etc. It pauses.

PRINCIPAL FRANCE (O.S.)

...And this is how he hacked in and
scammed the game...

ED (O.S.)

The cookie tray. Of course. I mean
now that I'm looking at it, it's so
obvious.

PRINCIPAL FRANCE (O.S.)

Now, I installed an alarm and a
motion detector in my office.

INT. PRINCIPAL FRANCE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

REVEAL: Security tape has been played by Principal France.

PRINCIPAL FRANCE

But he managed to do *this*.

ON THE TAPE: It shows an empty office. Until Bishop lowers down from the ceiling like Mission Impossible. He's able to reach a wrapped gift off the principal's desk. He leaves an apple.

ED

You gotta admit, he's good.

PRINCIPAL FRANCE

That gift was for my girlfriend.

ED

I mean bad. Admit he's bad.

(re the video)

And I wouldn't eat that apple.

PRINCIPAL FRANCE

Don't worry.

(then)

Wait, what apple?

ED

The one he put on your desk? You didn't notice that?

ANGLE ON: The apple in the video. Then an apple core in the waste basket. The principal takes stock of his body.

PRINCIPAL FRANCE (O.S.)

Oh man.

(frustrated)

Mr. Martin, I'd like the tickets and the present returned.

ED

Of course. What was in the gift?

PRINCIPAL FRANCE

It was a lambs wool pashmina, hand painted in Mexico City.

ED

You got it.

Ed is about to get up, but before he does-

PRINCIPAL FRANCE

-And the Star Wars tickets?

ED

I'll confiscate those.

PRINCIPAL FRANCE

...And return them to the school?

ED

To you?

PRINCIPAL FRANCE

Sure.

ED

Oh, well, no need to waste your time with all of that.

PRINCIPAL FRANCE

Oh, don't be silly, it's not a waste of time to receive tickets.

ED

Well, you seem really really busy,
so there's no need to-

PRINCIPAL FRANCE

-No, no, it's fine, I insist.

ED

Let's be honest, there was no way
any of those kids were gonna score
a thousand, was there?

PRINCIPAL FRANCE

Well, that's a-

ED

-You're not getting the tickets.

PRINCIPAL FRANCE

Understood.

INT. MINI VAN - DAY

Ed drives. Bishop is in the back.

ED

And you are absolutely not
attending the Star Wars sneak
preview. We're returning the scarf
thing to Principal France.

BISHOP

That's too bad. Because I was going
to invite you to go with me.

(off Ed's look)

It was going to be a thank you for
turning me onto the wonder of Star
Wars in the first place.

ED

I'm calling B.S. On that.

BISHOP

I was trying to be nice.

ED

Well, you lost the right to be nice
a long time ago. You're not going
to the movie, period.

BISHOP

(to the audience)

A lot of kids, when they want something, will cry. Or pout. Or sulk. I'm not above any of that. But, I've found it to be ineffective. So, I prefer to deal in the darker arts. Watch this-
(then to his Dad)
Tell you what, how about if-

ED

NO.

BISHOP

NO?

(to the audience)

If there's one word I can't stand it's that one. Other kids might hear it and accept it, but I don't. It's just not a word that I believe in.

INT. ED AND CASEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Ed and Bishop enter they spot Casey.

ED

Oh, hey! Did you get my texts?

CASEY

You guys are the best!

Casey opens the gift box that Bishop stole and pulls out a pashmina.

ED

We are?

CASEY

Thank you for the pashmina!

BISHOP

We know you got your promotion a while ago, but Dad still wanted to get you something special.

ED

I didn't-

CASEY

IT'S SO AWESOME! What is it, lamb's wool?

ED
 (angry with Bishop)
 It was hand painted in Mexico City.

Casey collapses happily into the love seat and snuggles with her pashmina.

ED (CONT'D)
 Okay. You just relax with your scarf. I'm gonna talk to Bishop.

INT. BISHOP'S ROOM - DAY

Bishop sits on his bed this time. In Ed's hands he's collecting items from Bishop's room, his TV etc.

ED
 To review: No screens. No snacks. No soda. No head phones. Consider this a lesson about dishonesty. And we're telling your mother the truth about the scarf... Right after date night.
 (then)
 Don't give me that look.

BISHOP
 What look?

ED
 Like I killed your hamster.

BISHOP
 You did kill my hamster.

ED
 No, I set him free. He just wasn't free for very long. Now please hand me the iPad that's duct taped up under your dresser.

Bishop peels it off and hands it to him.

ED (CONT'D)
 And I turned the alarm on, so please don't think you're going to climb out the window, slide down the gutter and go to 7-Eleven.
 (stopping at the door)
 One last thing: What did you do to that vest, anyway?

BISHOP

Those vests are designed to register hits through the magnetization of memory cells. I installed heavier magnets to create a slow, energy hogging magnetic field to polarize the laser light.

ED

Okay, well, you're not allowed to do that anymore, okay?

BISHOP

Okay.

With that, Ed leaves. Now Bishop crawls under his desk and enters a secret door.

INT. BISHOP 'INSIDE JOB' KID CAVE - CONTINUOUS

REVEAL: Bishop has a little 'inside job' style secret kid cave, built behind a fake wall. There is just enough room for a lazy boy and a flat screen. Behind him are posters of TONY SOPRANO, MICHAEL CORLEONE, BILL BELICHIK and DICK CHENEY.

BISHOP

(to the audience)

What. You don't have a secret kid cave with Red Bull, bagel bites and Bad Lieutenant on DVD? Well, I do... Don't worry, I'm going to see Star Wars, I'm just not sure how I'm going to pull it off yet.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT./EXT. ED AND CASEY'S HOUSE - OFFICE NOOK - LATER

Ed's on the phone.

ED

-And I'm just calling because we really need a baby sitter and-

ELKE

I asked you not to call me again.

ED

I know. But-

ELKE

-Your boy is bad. He is a bad boy.

ED

True. But he did fix your car engine. Remember? Your Honda Civic?

ELKE

Yes.

ED

And when your hard drive crashed, he recovered all of your pictures?

ELKE

Yes.

ED

So, considering all of that... What do you think?

ELKE

I think...
(Ed crosses fingers)
...He's still bad.

ED

What if I gave you two hundred bucks?

ELKE

Two hundred dollars? To baby sit?

ED

Yeah.

ELKE
No. Don't call me again.

ED
Gotcha.

Click. Ed has the look of a man who will never see another date night. Casey pops in.

CASEY
Any luck?

ED
You know how they say that if parents aren't getting along, it's never their kids' fault?

CASEY
Yeah?

ED
Well, in this case, it's definitely Bishop's fault.

CASEY
What about Pargo? Did you ask him?

ED
Pargo?

CASEY
He's your best friend. He won't do you a favor?

ED
He'll do me a favor. But not *this*.

CASEY
I wish you guys were brothers. If you were related, he'd *have* to watch your son.

Ed stares at Casey.

ED
You know what? I have an idea.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Ed has a beer with his best buddy PARGO (40). This guy has the look of an unemployed musician who probably watched Big Lebowski twice this morning.

PARGO
Godfather?

ED
Godfather.

PARGO
To Bishop?

ED
To Bishop.

It's hard to read Pargo's feelings. Then:

PARGO
It would be an honor to become a
part of your family.

ED
Well, I don't know if it means
you'd be a *part of the family*.

PARGO
Oh, it absolutely does. Being a
Godfather means you're in the
family. It is a huge
responsibility.

ED
Is it? Because were hoping for more
of a baby-sitter type of situation.

PARGO
Tell me, does the boy own a sword?

ED
You're not giving him a sword.

PARGO
It's a Godfather's sacred duty.

ED
He's in fourth grade. He's not a
Samurai.

PARGO
Not yet. It's a Godfather's job to
impart a lifetime of wisdom.

ED
Well, are you available to impart
wisdom this Saturday night?

Pargo doesn't answer. Instead, he salutes.

MUSIC CUE: PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN by Lee Greenwood starts to play over this image. But then the music suddenly stops.
REVEAL: That song is Pargo's ring tone.

PARGO
(re his ring tone)
Sorry, that was me.

INT. ED AND CASEY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SATURDAY NIGHT

Casey is doing her final prep for date night. Ed enters, secretly carrying the pashmina, when he notices Casey, he quickly tries to hide it.

CASEY
Look at you, all dressed for the symphony! You look great!
(then to Willow)
Doesn't he look great?

WILLOW
How should I know?

CASEY
Have you seen my new pashmina anywhere?

ED
No, you must have lost it. Too bad.

CASEY
Here it is. Why was it stuffed behind the couch?

PARGO (O.S.)
Knock Knock!

Pargo has entered the house. He's carrying a box.

PARGO (CONT'D)
Let's do this!

WILLOW
What's in the box?

PARGO
Wisdom.

WILLOW
I'm going upstairs. Don't follow me.

ED
 (to Pargo)
 Remember what we discussed?

PARGO
 Do not let him out of my sight.

ED
 And if you do?

PARGO
 Text you.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ed, Casey and Bishop are watching Pargo unload the box.

PARGO
 Tonight, you will create a powerful bond with your Godfather through a series of lessons and challenges. First, we will test and improve our reflexes with a series of survival techniques learned while I served as an army paramedic in Kosovo.

BISHOP
 (to the audience)
I have to admit: I didn't expect all this Godfather stuff. But don't worry. It's nothing I can't handle.

PARGO
 Following that, you will memorize my Great Grandmother's recipe for Sicilian tomato sauce. After that, we will bond during a binge watch of the TV show that started it all. Behold the original Spiderman from 1967--

CASEY ED
 --Well, you two have a great time! Have fun! Bye!

Casey and Ed take that as their cue to ditch out. Pargo sends them off and then turns back to Bishop.

PARGO (CONT'D)
 What do you say we get this started?

BISHOP
I think I have diarrhea.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Bishop is about to enter the bathroom.

BISHOP
I'm gonna need some privacy.

PARGO
Of course. I'll be right here.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Bishop opens the cabinet, grabs a box of fiddle fiddle, tucks it under his arm and then opens the bathroom window and crawls outside.

INT. WILLOW'S ROOM - NIGHT

Bishop opens the window and crawls in. Willow is nonplused.

WILLOW
Since when are you allowed in my room?

BISHOP
I thought you might want some Fiddle Faddle.

WILLOW
Whatever it is, the answer is no.

BISHOP
(addressing the audience)
I care about Willow and she cares about me, but we have an unspoken deal to never admit these feelings to each other.
(then to Willow)
I just need one favor.

WILLOW
You know I just took a self defense class, right? I got a lot of compliments on my snap-kicks to the testicles.

BISHOP
(to the audience)
*Willow is smart. So, it's best to
stick to the barter system.*
(then to Willow)
You should help me, because, I'm
offering something valuable in
return.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Ed and Casey are driving, on date night. Casey wears her
pashmina.

ED
We're actually out! Can you believe
it?

CASEY
I say we drive to Mexico... And
come back when the boy is eighteen.

ED
You're not excited for the
symphony?

CASEY
I know I'm *supposed* to be, but...

ED
Well, I brought these, just in
case.

Ed flashes the Star Wars tickets.

CASEY
Star Wars? You didn't return them?

ED
Not really.

CASEY
You're horrible! And I like it.

ED
(Darth Vader)
You don't know the power of the
dark side.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Pargo is introducing the next phase of his Godfather experience. Pargo is flipping through a wrestling calender.

PARGO

And that's when I discovered the beauty of Macho Man Randy Savage.

(reading the calender)

'I'm too hot to handle and too cold to hold!'

BISHOP

Got it. Can we skip ahead and watch the original Spiderman now? I'm so excited that I can't wait.

PARGO

I suppose we could do that.

BISHOP

Do you mind if I wear this Spiderman mask while I watch? I just really want to get the full experience.

PARGO

Sure.

Bishop puts on a cheap-plastic store-bought mask with a rubber band around the back. Pargo pops it in.

BISHOP

Give me a sec before we start, okay?

PARGO

Diarrhea?

BISHOP

Yep.

PARGO

Cool.

INT. FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Bishop walks through the foyer and enters the bathroom door. Pargo waits outside the door.

BISHOP

I'll just be a minute.

PARGO

Okay.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bishop enters and then slides the shower curtain to the side to REVEAL: Willow is standing in the bathroom. He hands over the Spiderman mask.

BISHOP

Here you go. Thanks.

WILLOW

Don't thank me. Just give me the gift cards.

Willow takes the stack of cards and counts them. ECU: The cards are from Nordstrom, Saks, iTunes and Forever 21.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Where'd you get these anyway?

BISHOP

I said I'd give you the gift cards.
I never said I'd reveal my source.

With that, she straps the mask on her face, slides the shower curtain closed on her brother.

INT. FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Willow, now wearing the Spiderman mask, exits the bathroom. She walks in the living room.

PARGO

That was fast!

EXT. ED AND CASEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Bishop sneaks out the window. He slides down the gutter and then cuts diagonally through the neighbor's back yard.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Pargo is pressing play on the VCR.

PARGO

You ready?

Spiderman/Willow gives a thumbs up.

EXT. CONVENIENT STORE - CONTINUOUS

From a distance, we see a wide shot of Bishop approaching a convenient store. We watch in a wide shot as he talks to a homeless lady with a dog. We can't tell what they're talking about. She appears to be showing him her driver's licence.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Music cue. We pan Ed and Casey's house to the driveway, where the garage door starts to lift up. In slo-Mo, a 1971 Chevy Malibu convertible rolls out. The homeless woman is driving Bishop, like a chauffeur. The dog rides shotgun. Bishop turns to the camera.

BISHOP

(to the audience)

This is my Dad's 1971 Chevy Malibu Super Sport convertible with a 350 Turbo engine, with red metallic and the original vintage trim. It usually stays in the garage, but tonight's a special occasion. Star Wars here we come.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

A big sneak preview. A good crowd. Lights and glitz. Princess Leah, Darth Vader and Obi Wan Kanobi are out front, in costume, posing for pictures.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

Inside, Casey and Ed are sitting in a crowded theater. The movie has not yet started.

CASEY

Well, I'm really glad to finally be on a date night with you!

ED

Me too!

ED'S POV: Over Casey's shoulder, he spots Principal France making his way into the theater, he's glad-handed his way in! The principal almost spots them, and the scarf, but Ed puts his arm around his wife and kisses her. It's a great kiss.

Ed's cell phone dings. He pulls up a text, while still awkwardly blocking them from the principal.

ECU: Pargo has sent Ed a picture of himself with who he thinks is Bishop in the Spiderman mask, saying 'having a great time w my Godson!'

ED (CONT'D)

Look at this picture, from this angle it almost looks like Bishop has boobs.

INT. CASEY AND ED'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

ON: Willow with the mask on, watching the video.

Pargo enters the room carrying a spoonful of top-secret pasta sauce. He pauses the TV and sit next to Willow.

PARGO

We need to pause this a second so you can experience this sauce.

(Spidey shakes head no)

Come on! You gotta try it!

Finally Willow is forced to agree. She takes the spoon and uses it to stuff the sauce through the Spiderman mouth hole.

PARGO (CONT'D)

You want to take that mask off?

Spidey-Willow shakes her head 'no.' Eats more sauce through the slot.

PARGO (CONT'D)

That's cool.

(dabbing mask w napkin)

Here let me help you.

Some of the sauce drips down near Willow's beginner-boobs. Pargo is not suspicious.

PARGO (CONT'D)

Now, I was debating about how to handle one other subject. But, as your Godfather I believe it's my duty to share with you my thoughts on the most mysterious subject in the universe.

Pargo looks at Spidey-Willow deeply, through the eye holes.

PARGO (CONT'D)

What I'm saying is: It's time for us to discuss the wonder that is the female reproductive system. Now, when a woman--

WILLOW

--OKAY. Forget this.

Willow rips her mask off.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

No more. I'm tapping out!

PARGO

(in shock)

Hold on. What is happening?

WILLOW

I don't care what I promised. I can't take this crap anymore.

Pargo stares at her in shock. And then says:

PARGO

That sauce is secret. You can't tell anyone.

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

Bishop surveys the scene. He's eyeing the doorman at the entrance. Now he opens his back pack, which is full of a variety of stamps and magic markers and other things a doorman might use to mark your hand for re-entry.

BISHOP'S POV: A patron re-enters the theater and we zero in on the doorman's hand stamp.

BISHOP
 (to himself)
 An infra-red Ashoko Tano hand
 stamp? Well played.
 (then to the audience)
 Don't worry, there's always a way.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - CONTINUOUS

Ed and Casey are settled in. Ed pulls out some custom made 3D glasses and puts them on. For Casey, this is a turn off.

CASEY
 What are those?

ED
 They're prescription 3D glasses. My
 eye doctor made them.

CASEY
 Do you really need them *now*?

ED
 It takes a minute for your eyes to
 adjust.

CASEY
 My eyes or yours?

ED
 It's not cool to make fun of me,
 because you know I have weak eye
 muscles.

(then)
 I'm going to go call Pargo, to
 check in.

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - ENTRANCE #2 - MOMENTS LATER

Darth Vader, Princess Leah and Obi Wan Kanobi are posing for pictures. Yoda walks past them... Now Yoda lifts up the mask to address the audience.

BISHOP
(to the audience)
Always have a back up plan.

With that, he drops the helmet on and walks to the doorman.

BISHOP (CONT'D)
(through Yoda mask)
 Bathroom to use, I must.

SECURTIY #1
 Go ahead.

The doorman waves him on. Yoda passes through. We rack focus to the other entrance...

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - ENTRANCE #1 - MEANWHILE

...Reveal Pargo at the other entrance, with Willow in tow. A different security guard is listening.

PARGO
 ...And I just need to get the kid
 back home before his Mom and Dad
 find out.

DOORMAN
 If it's an emergency, we'll have to
 call the police.

PARGO
 Oh no, it's not like that. It's my
 first day as his Godfather. So, I'd
 rather keep this *on the down low*.
(looking off)
 Wups.

REVEAL: Ed is standing fifteen feet away, making a phone call. He does not see Pargo.

SFX: Pargo's phone suddenly rings loudly and 'PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN' by Lee Greenwood plays.

Pargo scrambles to muffle 'Proud to be an American' but it does not shut off. Ed turns and faces the music as Pargo ducks behind a cardboard cut-out of a storm trooper...

Ed does not see him... Until the cardboard cut-out slowly tips and falls forward, revealing Pargo posed like the storm trooper as 'PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN' plays.

PAN TO WILLOW: She did not hide... She looks on, non-plussed.

ED
Where's Bishop?

WHIP PAN TO REVEAL: Bishop is watching this, through the window, from the lobby of the theater.

BISHOP
*Well, well, well. Look who's here
to teach me a lesson about
dishonesty.*

Bishop puts his mask back on. ON ED: He's looking right at Yoda. WE PAN DOWN YODA, TO HIS TENNIS SHOES.

ED
(re: the shoes)
Hold on a second.

BISHOP
Wups.

Yoda turns and scurries around a corner. Ed follows.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Ed rounds the corner. He stops in his tracks.

ED'S POV: The hallway is clear.

ZOOM IN: The tiny edge of a Yoda costume is visible, sticking out from under the hall closet door.

ED
(to himself)
Gotcha.

WIDE: Ed slowly approaches the closet door and now suddenly pulls it open!

REVEAL: The costume is inside. But Bishop is not.

WHIP PAN TO REVEAL: Through the slats of a vent, we can see Bishop hiding inside.

Bishop opens the vent and addresses the audience.

BISHOP
(to the audience)
*In the words of Macho Man Randy
Savage: 'I'm too hot to handle and
too cold to hold.'*

With that, Bishop closes the vent, turns and crawls away.

EXT. BACK OF THE THEATER - ALLEY WAY - MOMENTS LATER

A vent door squeaks open. Bishop pokes his head out into the alley way. He looks up...

REVEAL: Lemme. And a bunch of other students too.

BISHOP
 (then to the audience)
*Lemme's really happy he's seeing
 Star Wars. I mean look at his face.*

ON LEMME: He's way too happy. He starts to climb in.

BISHOP (CONT'D)
 Aren't you forgetting something?

Lemme pulls out five bucks. So do the rest of the kids.

RED HEAD KID	NECK BRACE GIRL
(pays \$5)	(pays \$5)
Here you go.	Thanks Bishop. You rule!

INT. THEATER - MOMENTS LATER

Ed returns to his seat, plops down next to his wife and nonchalantly says...

ED
 Bishop is here.

CASEY
 What?

ED
 He's in the vent.

CASEY
 Of course he is. Where's Pargo?

ED
 Standing in the back, with Willow.

She turns and looks at Pargo, who sheepishly waves.

ED (CONT'D)
 Oh, and that's not your scarf.
 Bishop stole it from the Principal.

That last piece of information sends Casey over the edge.

CASEY

This is not acceptable! We are finding our son and we are taking him home...

(then re-thinking)

...Right after we watch this movie.

ED

Wait. You want me to pretend like I don't know our son has snuck in here, so we can watch Star Wars?

CASEY

We need this! Do you understand? Look at our lives. We're the parents of Bishop Martin. We're always going to be chasing him. Sometimes we'll win, sometimes we'll lose, and sometimes he'll be up in the vent. And we'll always go after him, because we love him. But tonight, we're finally on date night. We need this! So here's what's going to happen: I'm going to sit here and eat popcorn and hold your hand and watch this movie! And I'm going to ignore the fact that our son is--

-EeeeeerrrrrrrrRRRRRRRRRRRRRUNK! What was that noise? People look up to the vent along the ceiling. We can see the weight of several kids bringing it lower. And suddenly:

SFX: CRASH!!! The crowd gasps. Bishop's body has FALLEN THROUGH the ceiling panels, but he has managed to hold on to Lemme's hand.

ON BISHOP: Hanging out of the ceiling, from Lemme's hand! About to fall!

ON CASEY: She is looking up in panic! It's a long way down.

CASEY (CONT'D)

Bishop!

ED

Should we hide from him, or-

BISHOP

AHH!

CASEY

Hold on!

ED
Right! Hold on!

BISHOP
HELP!

ON BISHOP. While hanging, Bishop addresses the audience.

BISHOP (CONT'D)
(to the audience)
Lemme has some positive attributes,
but wrist strength has never been
one of them.
(then sincerely scared)
AHH!

ED
Hold steady!

BISHOP
I can't!

ED
Let go and I'll catch you!

Bishop looks down, confused.

REVEAL: Ed's 3-D glasses have mixed him up and he's not standing under Bishop. He's standing twelve feet diagonally to the side. Casey steps under to catch her son.

CASEY
Go ahead honey! I've got you!

PARGO
Step aside Casey. Let me do this.

BISHOP
AHH!

ON BISHOP'S HANDS as he slips from the vent!

PARGO
After all, I'm his Godfath--

BOOM-- Bishop lands hard on Pargo's head. UGH!!!

Ed, Casey, Pargo and Bishop are all laying flat on their backs on the floor of the theater. They've gone down hard.

CASEY
Are you okay?

Bishop has tears in his eyes. He nods to say he's okay. Ed kneels down next to Bishop and checks his body.

ED

Are you sure you're not hurt?
(he's not)
Okay then, you're dead. You know
that right?

Bishop sniffs back his tears and nods 'yes.' Meanwhile, the doorman is taking stock of the situation and decides to address the crowd.

DOORMAN

(up to the vent)
Don't move, we're gonna help!
(addressing the crowd)
The screening's been cancelled.
Please exit the theater in an
orderly fashion.

The crowd turns and stares at Casey and Ed, angry. The principal is not pleased. Ed picks up Bishop and puts him into a fireman's carry.

ED

Sorry!
(then follows up with)
Okay then, bye!

BISHOP

(to audience, carried)
*I don't hate my parents. In fact, I
love them. I think they're pretty
worthy opponents.*

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. BISHOP'S BEDROOM/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Bishop is asleep in his bed. Ed and Casey check on him.

CASEY

I really do love him...

ED

...When he's sleeping.

REVEAL: Bishop is not in bed, instead it's the nativity scene Jesus statue. The parents look for a moment, then:

CASEY

We're looking down at Nativity
Jesus, aren't we?

ED

Should we go look for him?

CASEY

Nah, let him sleep in the kid cave.

ED

What kid cave?

CASEY

Don't worry about it. You know, I
had fun tonight.

ED

Me too.

CASEY

Maybe it doesn't have to be over?

With that, Casey takes Ed's hand and pulls him back toward their bedroom. Now she lets her robe drop... She's looking HOT! Ed follows her inside. THE CAMERA PULLS BACK... OUT THE WINDOW TO REVEAL...

EXT. ED AND CASEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

...The vintage Malibu is parked on the lawn. The homeless woman is standing in front, holding a sign that says 'BISHOP.' Bishop walks out to the car, wearing sunglasses and eating a tub of ice cream. He hops in the back seat next to the homeless dog. She hits the gas and the car peels out!

END OF SHOW