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GRANDPA JIM'S REJUVENATION

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CAVALIER ENTERPRISES
(FATHER KNOWS BEST)

FINAL DRAFT
MAR. 26, 1954

GRANDPA JIM'S REJUVENATION

Screenplay by
Phil Davis
FINAL DRAFT
March 25, 1954

MARGARET

Athletic trophies! You won a loving cup in a poetry contest. That's all.

JIM

(lamely)

Well, it was an athletic poem, Margaret -- I think it was called 'Benny At The Bat' or something.

(then)

Anyway, the Phillips said eight o'clock. Boy, I'm just rarin' to go!

(makes a real tough shot)

Whammm!

MARGARET

Dear, you're not serious about this, are you?

JIM

About what?

MARGARET

Playing badminton -- after all these years.

CAMERA MOVES IN for TIGHT TWO SHOT as Jim goes over to Margaret.

JIM

Now, Margaret. You talk as though we're a couple of old fuddy-duddies. Remember, you're as old as you feel.

(takes her into his arms viciously; then with feigned passion)

Why, you look just as young as the day I married you.

He kisses her hard, then releases her and waits triumphantly for a reaction.

MARGARET

(matter-of-factly)

Nothing.

CAMERA PULLS BACK as Margaret goes to the door leaving Jim gaping. She pauses at the door and looks back at him.

2 CONTINUED: (2)

2

MARGARET

What a shame to waste such
talent at badminton!

She wiggles her eyebrows at him and leaves. Jim watches her go, astonished for a moment, then, singing his "Boola Boola," he proceeds to don an old turtle-neck sweater. There is a large letter "M" across the front. BUD pokes his head in the door.

BUD

Dad, can I --
("takes" when
he sees sweater)
Criminey! What's that?

JIM

What's what, Bud?

BUD

(walking in slowly)
That thing you're wearing.

3 TWO SHOT JIM BUD

3

JIM

This thing happens to be my alma
mater sweater, and I'll thank
you to treat it with more respect.
(caresses the
letter tenderly)
You know, Bud, you had to be a
great athlete to get this letter.

BUD

I thought you won it in a poetry
contest.

Jim looks disconcerted for a moment, then:

JIM

If you and Betty expect to get
to Evelyn Brickert's wedding on
time, you'd better get a move on.

BUD

Yeah -- Can I borrow your razor,
dad?

JIM

Certainly. It's in --
(take)
My what?

BUD

Your razor -- and brush --
shaving cream -- after-shave
lotion --

JIM

(overwhelmed)
Oh, no!

BUD

-- band-aid.

JIM

(looking at
him closely)
You're not serious!

BUD

Still think I'm a kid, eh, dad?

JIM

(examining his
face from all
angles)
I do think you're rushing the
season a little.

BUD

Look, dad, I'm gonna be an usher
tonight, and there's nothing more
icky than a fuzzy-faced usher.

JIM

Except maybe a scarfaced one?

BUD

I've got a steady hand, dad.

JIM

Look, Bud, I want to give you a
tip.

(corny)

Cling to youth! Time has a habit
of moving forward - never back-
ward - never motionless.

(sadly)

Stay with it as long as you can.
Okay?

BUD

Okay. Now can I?

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

JIM

Can you what?

BUD

Use your razor?

JIM

(martyrishly)

You'll find it in the medicine
cabinet --

BUD

Thanks, governor!

CAMERA PULLS BACK to MEDIUM CLOSE SHOT as he starts to leave,
but pauses at the door.

BUD

(continuing)

Is it true you're playing bad-
minton tonight, dad?

JIM

Yep. The old athlete relives
the triumphs of his youth...

BUD

(worriedly)

Take it easy, dad. Remember,
you're my only father.

He leaves. Jim looks irritated for a moment, then shrugs and
goes into "Boola boola" but with a little less enthusiasm.
He kicks off his shoes and proceeds to put on his tennis
shoes. BETTY comes heeling in with fire in her eye. Her
hair is up in curlers - she wears a robe.

BETTY

Father, if you don't tell that
lamebrain son of yours to --(stops at the
sight of the
sweater)

What's that?

JIM

(looking around
him)

What's what?

BETTY

(pointing to sweater)

That!

3 CONTINUED: (3) 3
She walks over to Jim to take a good look at the sweater.

4 TWO SHOT JIM BETTY 4

JIM
My alma mater sweater?

BETTY
Mother told me about it, but I
didn't know it looked like that.

JIM
(defensively)
Like what?

BETTY
Like what they wore in the olden-
times.

JIM
It was only twenty years ago,
Betty.

BETTY
(consolingly)
Well, they use the same letters
today, anyway.

JIM
(looking at it
proudly)
Did I tell you how I got this
letter, Princess?

BETTY
Uh-uh.

JIM
Squash.

BETTY
(looks at him
disbelievingly;
then)
I thought squash was a vegetable.

JIM
They don't play squash like they
used to anymore.
(a sigh)
They don't do a lot of things
like they used to.

BETTY

They don't give letters for poetry,
either.

JIM

Betty, for poetry I got a loving
cup -- this I got for squash...
Get going, Princess, you and Bud
will be late for the wedding.

BETTY

Of course I'll be late. I can't
get under the shower because
your son is in the bathroom
shaving. Of all the ridiculous
things!

JIM

Your brother is growing up. He
is no longer a beardless youth.

BETTY

Oh, father! I've seen even more
fuzz on peaches!

JIM

(sadly)
It's no joking matter, Betty.
Time has a habit of...
(catches himself
repeating)
... Run along, Princess. He'll
be out of there in a jiffy.

BETTY

(leaving)
This house stifles me! When I
get married I'm going to have
three bathrooms.

JIM

Three? Just for the two of you?

BETTY

(looking back)
There won't always be just two
of us, father.

She leaves. CAMERA MOVES IN for CLOSE SHOT of Jim as he is
left with worrisome thoughts of TIME on the march.

4 CONTINUED: (2) 4

BETTY'S VOICE (O.S.)
 Mother told me you're going to
 play badminton.

Jim's look goes to the door.

5 CLOSE SHOT BETTY 5

BETTY
 You've got to be kidding!

6 CLOSE SHOT JIM 6

JIM
 Kidding? I was never more
 serious in my life. What's
 wrong with playing badminton?

7 CLOSE SHOT BETTY 7

BETTY
 (shaking her
 head sadly)
 Nothing, father... But I've grown
 so fond of you I wouldn't want
 anything to happen.

She leaves. CAMERA PANS to Jim and MOVES IN to CLOSE HEAD SHOT. His stream of consciousness takes over, and we hear his thoughts:

JIM'S VOICE (O.S.)
 Why do they keep saying that?
 -- I'm as young as I have a mind
 to be -- If badminton comes, can
 squash be far behind? I'm the
 same man I was twenty years ago --
 only keener - quicker - wiser --
 Wiser? Then why am I playing
 badminton at my age???

8 CLOSE SHOT BEDROOM DOOR 8
 Kathy stands there staring up at Jim lost in thought.

KATHY
 Where did you get the crazy
 sweater?

MEDIUM CLOSE SHOT ROOM

Jim comes down to earth with a thud.

JIM

Kathy! I didn't hear you come in, Kitten.

KATHY

Does a space helmet go with that?

JIM

You, too, Kathy?

KATHY

What are you supposed to be, daddy?

JIM

A dottering, antiquated shadow of my former self.

KATHY

Huh?

JIM

Never mind, Kitten. I understand you're sleeping over at Patty's house tonight. My little girl is sure growing up!

KATHY

I know it.

JIM

But you're still daddy's little girl, aren't you?

KATHY

Right now I am. But you know how kids are, they grow like weeds.

JIM

I know, Kitten. Just remember, no matter how big you are, you'll always be daddy's little girl.

KATHY

Okay, if that's the way you want it.

JIM

(sighing)
Yeah... that's the way I want it.

jn

10

9 CONTINUED:

9

MARGARET'S VOICE (O.S.)

Oh, Jim!

JIM

(answering)

Yes, Margaret.

INT. FOYER

10 MEDIUM CLOSE SHOT ON MARGARET AT FOOT OF STAIRCASE

10

MARGARET

(calling)

Here's a special delivery letter
for you.

JIM'S VOICE (O.S.)

Be right down.

Margaret turns away, takes several steps toward the living room. CAMERA MOVES WITH her. She stops in her tracks when an awful clatter is heard coming from the staircase area. She whirls.

11 ANOTHER ANGLE TO INCLUDE STAIRCASE

11

Jim comes flying down the stairs taking the steps three at a time. When he reaches the bottom, his knees buckle but he manages to remain on his feet. He grabs his back.

MARGARET

Jim! What are you trying --

JIM

Funny thing. The old legs aren't
what they used to be.

MARGARET

I could have told you that.

JIM

What do you know about old legs?

MARGARET

I have a pair of them myself.
They caved in on me at the end
of a day.

(hands him letter)

It's from Eddie Gilbert.

65

jn

11

11 CONTINUED:

11

JIM

(pleasantly
surprised)

Old Eddie Gilbert! I haven't
seen Eddie since high school.

(opening letter)

I wonder what he's up to these
days.

They start to move toward the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM

12 MEDIUM CLOSE SHOT
as they enter.

12

JIM

What a guy! I remember he had
more energy than sense.

Jim drops into a chair and reads letter. Margaret sits and
watches him closely for some reaction. CAMERA MOVES IN for
TWO SHOT. Periodically, he looks up to tell Margaret what
is in the letter.

JIM

He expects to be in Springfield
tomorrow -- says he'll stop in.

(then)

He's having a little trouble with
rheumatism lately. -- I can't
imagine anything like that catching
up with an active guy like Eddie.

MARGARET

Well, of course, he's not as young
as he used to be.

JIM

(a little panicky)

What do you mean? -- He's no
older than I am. In fact, he's
a year younger.

MARGARET

(amazed)

Younger? And rheumatism?

JIM

Well, that's what happens when
those years start to come up on
you.

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12 CONTINUED:

12

MARGARET

(shaking head
sadly)

What a shame.

JIM

(nodding in
agreement)

Poor Eddie. And here we are
talking about badminton.

MARGARET

Which reminds me - I'd better
get ready.

Margaret gets up. CAMERA PULLS BACK to MEDIUM CLOSE SHOT.

JIM

(restraining her)

Uh -- you're sure you feel up to
this?

MARGARET

(doubtfully)

Well - yes -- I think so --
Don't you?

JIM

(doubtfully)

Sure -- I think so. -- But...
I'm thinking of you, Margaret.

MARGARET

Don't worry about me, Jim. I'll
manage.

JIM

(disappointedlly)

Oh.

MARGARET

A sweater and skirt should be
all right, shouldn't it?

JIM

(pulls her down
again; floundering)

Don't you want to hear the rest
of the letter?

MARGARET

Well, all right.

13 TWO SHOT JIM MARGARET

13

JIM
 (smiling self-
 consciously)
 Been a long time since I've seen
 old Eddie.

(then back to
 reading letter;
 then looks up
 in amazement)
 He's a grandfather!

MARGARET
 Eddie is??

JIM
 (reads; then)
 He's got three grandchildren!
 (looking up)
 Why that just can't be!

MARGARET
 Why not? You once told me that
 he had a daughter a year or two
 older than Betty.

JIM
 (dazedly looking
 at the letter)
 He says the kids call him
 'Gramps'...
 (looking up)
 This I just can't believe!

14 MEDIUM CLOSE SHOT ROOM
 Betty enters.

14

BETTY
 Mother, will you snap me up in
 the back, please.

JIM
 Gramps! Margaret, he's a year
 younger than I am.

MARGARET
 (working on
 the dress)
 Yes, that's what you said.

BETTY
 Who is, mother?

jn

14

CONTINUED:

14

14

MARGARET

Oh, a high school chum of your
father's.

JIM

(dazedly)
Gramps.

15

ANOTHER ANGLE

as Bud enters wearing his tuxedo. He looks stiff and un-
comfortable. His tie is tied vertically.

15

BUD

How do I look, mom?

MARGARET

Well, you look fine, Bud...
Real nice.

BUD

(sees Jim staring
into space)
What's the matter with dad?

MARGARET

Nothing much... a slight attack
of time!...
(finishes buttoning
Betty's dress)
Here, let me fix your tie.

BETTY

Thanks, mother.

Kathy enters carrying a small overnight bag.

KATHY

I'm ready.
(then)
What's the matter with daddy?

MARGARET

Daddy's thinking, darling.

BETTY

(anxiously)
Father, are you all right?

The family inches forward, peering anxiously at Jim, who con-
tinues to stare into space. They watch him for a moment,
then slowly Jim's lips form a word and it is barely audible.

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15 CONTINUED:

15

JIM

Gramps.

(then brought
back)

Hm? -- What are you staring at?

MARGARET

We were going to ask you that
question.

BETTY

Creepers - look what time it's
getting to be!

MARGARET

Hurry - you'll be late.

KATHY

You gotta drop me off at Patty's
house first.

MARGARET

Good-bye -- Have a wonderful time!

They ad lib their good-byes and turn to leave, then Jim's
voice halts them.

JIM

Wait! --

CAMERA MOVES IN for CLOSE SHOT of Jim. He surveys his family
with a moist, sentimental look in his eyes. His voice
quivers a little as he says:

JIM

My little brood -- My family. --
It's so nice to see you all
leaving together this way.16 MEDIUM CLOSE SHOT MARGARET BETTY BUD KATHY
as they listen to Jim.

16

JIM'S VOICE (O.S.)

Some day soon you'll go your
separate ways -- and we'll only
get together on important holi-
days.(a little
sniffle)Margaret -- our children are
growing up.

16 CONTINUED:

16

BUD

Criminey! I should hope so.

BETTY

Father, we're excruciatingly late!

KATHY

Patty is waiting.

MARGARET

Run along, children.

17 CLOSE SHOT JIM

17

JIM

(grandly)

Good-bye -- good-bye!

Again they ad lib their "good-byes" and now they are gone.

18 TWO SHOT MARGARET JIM

18

Margaret, smiling, looks at Jim, who avoids her gaze.

MARGARET

Now what brought that on?

JIM

(floundering)

Nothing -- I -- It isn't easy to watch your children growing up.

MARGARET

It isn't easy -- but it's nice.

JIM

It's sad.

MARGARET

It is not.

JIM

Yes, it is. Any day now Betty'll be getting married -- flying away. Bud'll be married before we know it -- he'll fly away. Next it'll be Kathy -- she'll be flying away. And who's left?

18 CONTINUED:

18

MARGARET

Just us old buzzards.
(looking at watch)
Heavens! It's nearly eight
o'clock. I'm not dressed and
you haven't shaved.

CAMERA PULLS BACK SLIGHTLY as Margaret gets to her feet.

MARGARET

(continuing)
What should I wear?

JIM

For what?

MARGARET

Jim! Badminton, remember?

JIM

Oh. Do you think we should --
at our age?

MARGARET

I certainly do. Now you go up-
stairs and get shaved.

JIM

Wait - Margaret --

MARGARET

Jim - it's late.

JIM

Look at me. Do I look like a
man upon whom Time has taken
its toll?

MARGARET

(kisses him
lightly)
You look just as young as the
man I knew who won a poetry con-
test twenty years ago.

JIM

Margaret - I have a confession
to make.

MARGARET

(mock horror)
You cheated in the poetry contest!

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

JIM

No... It's just that I wasn't
really good at squash --

MARGARET

(smiling)

I knew it... You never fooled me.

JIM

Maybe you'd better call the
Phillips and -- tell them --
something came up -- and we
can't make it.

MARGARET

Can't make it?

JIM

My fire is burning low, Margaret.

MARGARET

Not Jumpin' Jim the Badminton Boy!

JIM

(puts arm around
her shoulders and
walks toward foyer)
I'm a little tired, Margaret.
I think I'll go to bed.

MARGARET

At eight o'clock? Oh, Jim, for
heaven's sake, what --

INT. FOYER

19 MEDIUM CLOSE SHOT 19
as they come through and go toward the stairs.

JIM

Margaret, will you please get
me a hot water bottle?

Margaret shakes her head sadly as she leads him gently up
the stairs.

FADE OUT.

(INSERT COMMERCIAL)

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FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

20 CLOSE SHOT JIM'S FEET AND HOT WATER BOTTLE ON BED 20
CAMERA PULLS BACK REVEALING Margaret asleep in one of the
twin beds. Jim is asleep in the other. CAMERA MOVES IN on
Jim as he sleeps restlessly. Jim moans and groans, and from
the frown on his face we gather he is in pain or a victim of
bad dreams or both. CAMERA HOLDS a CLOSE HEAD SHOT, then:

SHIMMERING DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WROUGHT IRON GATE - DAY

21 CLOSE SHOT ON PLAQUE 21
which reads: "HOME FOR THE EXTREMELY AGED."

LAP DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CORNER IN LOBBY -

21A TWO SHOT JIM AND OLD MAN 21A
They sit in rockers. There is no change in Jim's appearance.
The old man is a caricature. His beard is way down to here.
They rock in silence for a moment, then:

OLD MAN

When did you get in?

JIM

Yesterday. I'm a grandfather,
you know.

OLD MAN

You look it.
(silence; then)
Guess how old I am.

JIM

You're a year younger than I.

OLD MAN

Correct. But you look old enough
to be my father.

21A CONTINUED:

21A

JIM

Correct.

They rock in silence for a moment. Then:

JIM

Pretty warm in here.

He removes badminton racket from his inside pocket and starts fanning himself with it. Then:

JIM

Ever play squash?

OLD MAN

Played it and ate it. You?

JIM

Never played it, always ate it.

OLD MAN

Did you like it?

JIM

Hate it.

(silence; then)

How's your rheumatism, Eddie?

OLD MAN

(leaping to
his feet)

How dare you! Nobody ever
accused me of rheumatism and
got away with it. I demand
satisfaction!

LAP DISSOLVE TO:

INT. A STARK GRAY ROOM

22 MEDIUM CLOSE SHOT 22
 The room is completely bare and is divided in half by a badminton net. Jim and the old man stand facing each other holding badminton rackets, then strike a fencing pose using the rackets as foils. They circle each other, then proceed to fence. The old man is getting the better of it when Margaret appears. She is dressed in gym bloomers and middy.

MARGARET

Stop!

The action ceases. Margaret reprimands the old man.

MARGARET

What do you mean by taking advantage of an old man!

OLD MAN

He's a year younger than I am.

MARGARET

Don't change the subject!
 (to Jim)
 How many times have I told you not to play with him!

23 CLOSEUP JIM 23

JIM

At my age I can't be choosey.

24 CLOSEUP OLD MAN 24

OLD MAN

I can beat him at squash, too, I betcha.

25 CLOSEUP MARGARET 25

MARGARET

I bet you can't beat him at poetry.

26 CLOSEUP JIM 26

JIM

Yeah - I challenge you to poetry!

65

27 MEDIUM CLOSE SHOT
as Betty appears.

27

BETTY
Now, grandfather, I don't want
you to over-exert yourself.

Bud appears.

BUD
Poetry at your age, gramps?

Kathy appears.

KATHY
Granddaddy, if you're going to
recite poetry you'd better
have a nap.

MARGARET
They're right, Grandpa Jim.

JIM
Grandpa Jim!

OLD MAN
(chuckling)
He's a year younger than I am.

JIM
Yeah - but you've got rheumatism.

OLD MAN
Don't worry. It won't be long
and you'll have it, too.

28 CLOSEUP JIM

28

JIM
I will not!

29 CLOSEUP OLD MAN

29

OLD MAN
You will so!

30 CLOSEUP JIM

30

JIM
I will not!

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35 CONTINUED:

35

JIM

Never! I'll never grow old!
Never.

MARGARET

(laughing)
Please, Jim! -- Please -- wake up!

Jim wakes with a start.

JIM

Huh?

MARGARET

(laughing)
Jim, you should have seen your-
self!

JIM

(accusingly)
You called me an old man.

MARGARET

You were dreaming.
(trying to
pull him up)
Now get dressed and we'll have
some breakfast.

JIM

No, Margaret - please.

MARGARET

(anxiously)
What's the matter?

JIM

I've got to take care of myself,
Margaret. Could I have break-
fast in bed this morning?

MARGARET

(sternly)
I think this has gone far enough,
Jim. You're beginning to sound
a little ridiculous.

JIM

Please, Margaret. I need all
the sympathy you can muster.

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35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

MARGARET

To think it was only yesterday
that you were going like a
blast furnace! Badminton -
squash.

JIM

That was yesterday, honey. I'm
considerably older this morning.

MARGARET

It must've been a long night.
(then a sigh)
All right. I'll bring you your
breakfast.

Margaret starts to leave.

JIM

What am I going to have?

MARGARET

(coolly)
Mush, milk and zwiebach.

She smiles at him sweetly as we,

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

36 CLOSE SHOT MARGARET

36

CAMERA PULLS BACK to MEDIUM CLOSE SHOT, as she talks, TO
INCLUDE:
The children, seated, looking up at Margaret solemnly.

MARGARET

(explaining the
situation)

You see, children, your father
is at that certain age. They
either want to burn up the world
or find a nice, warm rock to
crawl under. It doesn't take
much to force them either way.
Your father is obsessed with the
ridiculous idea that you're grow-
ing up too quickly. This gives

/01

36 CONTINUED:

36

MARGARET (cont'd)
 him a feeling of growing old
 quickly. We've got to get him
 out from under the rock. Now
 here's my plan...

She sits and leans toward them confidentially as we

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BEDROOM

37 CLOSE SHOT JIM 37
 He is examining himself in the mirror from all angles. He
 pulls down his eyelids, sticks out his tongue, examines his
 hair, etc. He wears a dark business suit, dark tie and looks
 overly conservative. He reaches into his pocket for his
 glasses. He puts them on, examines himself in the mirror
 again, and shakes his head sadly at what he sees. He starts
 toward the door.

LAP DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DINING ROOM

38 MEDIUM CLOSE SHOT 38
 as Jim enters. At the same time Margaret walks in from the
 kitchen with some food and places it on the table.

JIM
 (as he takes
 his seat)
 Where are the children?

MARGARET
 They'll be here.
 (then eye-
 ing him)
 My! And at what mortuary are
 you applying today?

JIM
 When a man reaches my age he
 can't dress like a schoolboy.

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38 CONTINUED:

38

MARGARET

(sitting down)

I can't recall that you ever
dressed like a schoolboy.

39 TWO SHOT JIM AND MARGARET

39

JIM

(longingly)

I did though -- when I went to
school. Those were the days!
Those wonderful, carefree,
youthful days!

MARGARET

Come on, dear -- smile!

JIM

(sickly smile;
then sadly)

No sir, Margaret. I've come
to the realization at last!
It's the kids growing up that
makes us feel old.

MARGARET

Nonsense.

JIM

Don't be blind to the truth,
Margaret. Your son shaved last
night.

MARGARET

That doesn't make me Whistler's
Mother.

JIM

Betty went to a wedding...
Soon -- too soon -- she'll be
going to her own wedding.

MARGARET

Perhaps that's a wishful thought
on your part, Jim.

JIM

Hah! I'd want to keep Betty
with me forever! -- And Kathy --
over night at a friend's house.
That's the first time she's slept

39 CONTINUED:

39

JIM (cont'd)
in a bed other than her own.
(swallowing hard)
That's growing up, Margaret.

MARGARET
(smugly)
Oh, I don't know.

JIM
(shaking his
head sadly)
Poor, poor, innocent Margaret --
My child-wife!

MARGARET
(throwing up
her hands)
That's all.

40 MEDIUM CLOSE SHOT
as Bud and Betty enter wearing space helmets -- the kind you
might get from sending in box tops. 40

BUD
Calling Kx2J3 -- Calling Kx2J3 --
over.

BETTY
Hello -- KxJ3 reporting to
Captain Sonar! -- Over.

BUD
This is Captain Sonar - proceed
Kx2J3 to the --

41 CLOSE SHOT JIM
as he watches them incredulously. 41

42 MEDIUM CLOSE SHOT GROUP 42

BUD
(continuing)
Wait, Betty, let me see your
helmet.

BETTY
(struggling to keep
Bud's hands off it)
Don't take it off. I'll lose
my oxygen pressure.

59

42

CONTINUED:

42

MARGARET

Let her try it, Bud.

BUD

She'll get it stuck on her big
old head.

BETTY

I will not. Don't be such a
stingy-face.

BUD

It's my space helmet.

BETTY

I'm not gonna hurt it.

They struggle with each other and disappear out of scene.

43

TWO SHOT MARGARET AND JIM

43

Jim looks at Margaret amazed while Margaret smiles at him
wisely.

BUD'S VOICE (O.S.)

(continuing)

You will too -- quit pulling!...

BETTY'S VOICE (O.S.)

I just want to look at it.

BUD'S VOICE (O.S.)

Dad! She's breaking my arm!

BETTY'S VOICE (O.S.)

I'm not even touching him.

JIM

(calling)

All right, you two -- break it
up and come to the table.

44

MEDIUM CLOSE SHOT

44

as Kathy comes racing into the room being chased by Betty and
Bud. They scamper around the table.

KATHY

Help! Help! They're after me!

BUD

If I get my hands on you, you
little squirt!

81

44

CONTINUED:

44

BETTY

I'll teach you to break my space
helmet.

Margaret has an amused look mingled with one of alarm, hoping
the kids aren't over-doing it.

JIM

(catching Kathy)

Now just a minute! What's going
on here? Betty, I'm surprised
at you! You're all behaving
like a bunch of kids.

They wink at Margaret. Margaret answers with a smile at the
corners of her mouth.

JIM

(bewildered)

Margaret, what is it?

MARGARET

What is what?

JIM

Look at them -- they act like
two-year-olds.

MARGARET

(mock sigh)

That's children for you -- they
never grow up.

The phone rings.

BUD

That's for me - probably Joe.

He scampers out, followed by Betty who shouts:

BETTY

I'll get it. It's probably
Ralph.

KATHY

(running out)

I'll get it.

45

TWO SHOT MARGARET AND JIM

45

We hear the voices of the children coming from the next room
and all the while Margaret looks wisely at Jim, while Jim
looks back at Margaret with a smile of relief crossing his face.

66

45

CONTINUED:

45

BUD'S VOICE (O.S.)

I've got it!

KATHY'S VOICE (O.S.)

I've got it!

BUD'S VOICE (O.S.)

Quit pulling!

KATHY'S VOICE (O.S.)

I've got it!

BETTY'S VOICE (O.S.)

That's for me. Let me have it.

BUD'S VOICE (O.S.)

It's for me.

JIM

(takes off coat,
opens shirt)

BETTY'S VOICE (O.S.)

It's not either -- now
get away -- Hello -- Oh
-- yes, he's here. Just
a minute.I think I'll have some
lunch. Any steak in
the freezer?

MARGARET

Uh-huh - how many would
you like?

JIM

Two -- maybe three?

MARGARET

Even four, if you wish.

46

MEDIUM CLOSE SHOT
as Betty enters.

46

BETTY

It's for you, Father.

JIM

(rising)
Thanks, Princess.He picks her up and swings her around, just as Bud and Kathy
enter.

JIM

(over shoulder)
Margaret -- Put up a mess of French
fries, too.He walks out of the room. CAMERA MOVES IN TO HOLD ON
Margaret and the kids.

76

bt

32

46 CONTINUED:

46

MARGARET
(smiling)
Nice work.

INT. FOYER

47 CLOSE SHOT ON JIM AT PHONE

47

JIM
Hello? -- Eddie! Eddie Gilbert!
Sure, got your letter yesterday.
(sympathetically)
How are you feeling? -- Good --
Good. Sure we're going to be
home. We'll be glad to see you.
Where are you now? -- Well,
you're just two minutes away.
Tell you what. I'll pick you
up, old fellow -- Are you sure
you can make it?... Fine -- See
you in a little while. Don't
rush now -- sure -- Goodbye.
(hangs up)
Poor old codger!

CAMERA PULLS BACK to INCLUDE Margaret.

MARGARET
Who was it dear?

JIM
That was old Eddie Gilbert.
He'll be here any minute.

MARGARET
I hope you asked him for lunch.

BETTY
(entering)
Who's Eddie Gilbert?

JIM
He's an old school chum of mine,
Princess. Haven't seen him in
years. He's a grandfather now.
(reminiscingly)
He used to be such a life-of-the-
party, poor fellow.

He surveys his family.

121

47 CONTINUED:

47

JIM (cont'd)

I guess he just wasn't lucky to have such young children as I have.

MARGARET

What do you mean, dear?

JIM

Well - his children have grown and -- flown away. He and his wife left alone. That's probably why he's turned into an old man before his time -- nothing left to live for.

MARGARET

(pointedly)

Well, maybe he's like you, dear -- old one day and young the next.

JIM

(sadly)

No -- when the children are grown, that's the end of the line -- I could tell by the tone of Eddie's letter -- rheumatism -- you know -- Hardening of the arteries --

The door bell is heard.

MARGARET

There he is, dear.

JIM

Come on, honey, we'll meet him together -- poor devil.

(on the move

toward the door)

He was such a youthful, bubbling sort of fellow.

Jim opens the front door. He stands there speechless for a moment staring at Eddie Gilbert.

48

CLOSE SHOT EDDIE

48

EDDIE looks about the same age as Jim. He's a youthful, bubbling sort of fellow with a broad grin and broad shoulders.

EDDIE

Anderson? -- I'm Gilbert.

JIM

(dazedly)
Not Eddie Gilbert?

EDDIE

Sure, don't you remember me,
Jim? You used to call me
crazy Eddie!

JIM

Yes but -- I mean -- where's the
-- You haven't changed!

EDDIE

Neither have you! You look just
like you did when you won the
poetry contest.

JIM

I can't believe it! -- Eddie!

EDDIE

Jim!

MARGARET

Excuse me -- I'm Margaret
Anderson, Mister Gilbert.

EDDIE

How do you do. I'm delighted to
meet you.

JIM

Margaret, this is Eddie.

MARGARET

Yes, dear, we've met.
(to Eddie)
Please come on in.

EDDIE

(entering)
Thank you.

CAMERA PULLS BACK to MEDIUM CLOSE SHOT.

JIM

Give me your coat, Eddie.

84

49 CONTINUED:

49

EDDIE

(removing coat)

Thanks, Jim. Man you look great!

JIM

So do you. I can't get over it.
Can you, Margaret?

MARGARET

Can't get over what, Jim?

JIM

Well from the letter -- you know.
I thought you'd be older looking,
Eddie.

EDDIE

Why, because I'm a grandfather?

MARGARET

Let's go inside, shall we?

They move into the living room.

JIM

(as they move)

Well I thought --

INT. LIVING ROOM50 MEDIUM CLOSE SHOT
as they enter.

50

EDDIE

I don't feel like a grand-
father, Jim. I did have a
touch of rheumatism but I got
that when Gladys and I were ice
skating. I fell through the ice
and got wet... What do you do to
keep yourself looking so fit, Jim?

JIM

Well, we play badminton -- and --
Don't we Margaret?

MARGARET

Oh yes -- Jim's an excellent
badminton player.

106

EDDIE

He didn't play squash too well,
I remember.

Eddie laughs it up big.

JIM

No - I was never good at it. --
Tell me one thing, Eddie. What
do you do now that the kids are
grown up -- and married --

EDDIE

What do we do??? Man, we're living!
Gladys and I are doing all the
things we couldn't do before --
We told the kids -- 'Look, we
love you both and we'll always be
around when you need us. But we're
not going to be baby sitters ...'
We're free, man! We're having the
time of our lives!

JIM

(face breaks into
a broad smile)

See that, Margaret? That's what
I've been telling you.

(to Eddie)

Margaret always worried what she'd
do when Betty went off and got
married.

(to Margaret)

You see, honey? You'll be free.
It doesn't mean you're old if
you're a grandma.

EDDIE

You're as old as you feel, I
always say.

JIM

Of course.

He puts his arm around Margaret, looking at her smilingly,
and kisses the end of her nose.

JIM

(continuing)

You never grow old while the
heart is young, I always say.

50 CONTINUED:

50

MARGARET
I always say -- 'What a difference a day makes.'

As all three smile richly at each other, we

FADE OUT.

(INSERT COMMERCIAL)

FADE IN:

INT. FOYER - NIGHT

51 MEDIUM CLOSE SHOT
Margaret, dressed in sweater, skirt and beanie cap, stands at the foot of the stairs calling: 51

MARGARET
Jim, are you ready?

JIM'S VOICE (O.S.)
Be right there, honey!

Betty walks into scene.

BETTY
Where you going, Mother?

MARGARET
Your father and I are going over to the Phillips' for a while.

JIM'S VOICE (O.S.)
Look out below!

Jim, carrying a suitcase and wearing turtle neck sweater, comes bouncing down the stairs like a two-year-old, followed by Bud and Kathy.

MARGARET
Jim--- please -- you'll hurt yourself.

JIM
Me? Jim Anderson the ox????

BETTY
What's in the suitcase, father?

52

51 CONTINUED:

51

JIM

Oh nothing. Ready, Margaret?

BUD

What's in the suitcase, Dad?

MARGARET

I'm ready, dear.

KATHY

What's in the suitcase, Daddy?

MARGARET

Better tell them.

JIM

That's our equipment. We're going over to the Phillips' for badminton -- then we're going horseback riding -- and after that some skiing, and if your mother's still up to it --

MARGARET

Oh, stop!
(winks at the
children)
Goodnight, children.

They stand there smiling smugly and returning the wink.

JIM

Come on, girlie!

MARGARET

Let's go, kiddo!

They leave, CAMERA MOVES IN TO HOLD ON the children as they watch them go. The smile remains on their faces as we,

FADE OUT.

THE END