

MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE

"You Musta Been a... Baby"

Written by
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Registered WGAw

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE - DAY

ON HALLWAY

HAL peeks around the corner and spots REESE coming down the hall. Jumping out, Hal startles Reese then grabs Reese's nipple between his finger and thumb and twists.

Hal laughs childishly and disappears as Reese grabs his chest writhing in pain.

ON KITCHEN

MALCOLM fixes a PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY SANDWICH. Reese sneaks up from behind.

REESE

Hey, Malcolm.

Malcolm turns to see a devilishly smiling Reese. Reese titty twists Malcolm sending Malcolm to the floor and the sandwich into Reese's hand.

Reese happily dashes off. Malcolm, picking himself up off the floor, angrily scans the room. He spots DEWEY on the couch.

ON FAMILY ROOM

Dewey watches TV. Malcolm's head appears over the back of the couch. He shiftily looks around the room.

Reaching over the couch and Dewey's shoulder, Malcolm gives Dewey a titty twister and gleefully runs out of the room.

Dewey jumps off the couch clutching his bruised nipple, tears in his eyes. He looks around the room to find a victim.

LOIS, carrying a bucket of cleaning supplies, crosses through the room, turns the corner, and exits into the hallway.

Dewey smiles and runs after Lois. He disappears around the corner into the hallway.

LOIS (O.S.)

(screaming)

Owww! Dewey!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Lois reappears from the hallway angrily dragging Dewey by the neck of his shirt. She stands him in the corner of the kitchen facing the wall and exits.

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. STEVIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

MALCOLM lies on the bed BOUNCING A BALL AGAINST THE WALL.
STEVIE sits at his computer.

STEVIE

Would you... stop that?

MALCOLM

Why? I'm not hurting anything.

Malcolm throws the ball, but it takes an awkward bounce,
knocking Stevie's collection of BEAKERS OFF THE SHELF AND
CRASHING TO THE FLOOR.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

I'll stop.

STEVIE

What's your... problem?

MALCOLM

Nothing.

Stevie looks at his broken beakers on the floor then at
Malcolm. Stevie's irritated.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

It's just that stupid assignment for Mr.
Herkabe.

STEVIE

The personal... website? You said it
was... the easiest... assignment this...
year.

MALCOLM

Well now it's the stupidest.

STEVIE

You said this... would allow you... to
show off all... your good looking...
pictures.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MALCOLM

Yeah, well that was before I found out I didn't have any baby pictures.

STEVIE

Did you ask... your parents?

MALCOLM

More than once. And each time I do they act like they just got back from an alien abduction. What am I going to do? Mr. Herkabe said we had to include a baby picture to get an A. I can't let Cynthia get a better grade than me again.

Stevie clicks his mouse.

STEVIE

Here's... her webpage.

MALCOLM

She was the Gerber Baby? How am I going to top that?

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

HAL and LOIS are seated at the table EATING BREAKFAST, DRINKING COFFEE AND READING THE PAPER. MALCOLM enters.

MALCOLM

Hey Mom, I'm trying to finish my website for school, and I still need to get a couple of my baby pictures.

Hal's eyes widen, but Lois is cool.

LOIS

Sure, honey, just check the photo albums on the shelf.

MALCOLM

That's what you told me last time. I've looked through each one three times. There's nothing before kindergarten.

Hal coughs to get Lois' attention. Holding the newspaper up, he hides behind it. Lois joins him. The paper rustles and a low rumble of voices comes from behind the paper.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MALCOLM (cont'd)

(to camera)

In this house, the newspaper often doubles as a conference room. Never a good sign.

Hal and Lois are still behind the paper.

LOIS

It's your turn. I tried.

HAL

But you're so much better at this than I am.

LOIS

Be a man. Get out there.

Hal whimpers. Lip quivering.

Hal peaks over the top of the paper. Lois reappears from the side. They both smile, weakly.

HAL

You know, son, maybe you could do something different... Something creative like drawing all your pictures.

MALCOLM

Draw? I can't draw.

LOIS

What about Dewey? He shows a lot of promise.

They all look over at the picture on the refrigerator.

A CRUDE CRAYON DRAWING OF DINOSAURS EATING STICK FIGURED PEOPLE.

Malcolm looks back at his parents in disbelief.

CUT TO:

INT. LODGE, KITCHEN - DAY

FRANCIS scrubs DISHES at the sink as ARTIE fixes the oven.
ERIC enters.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIC

You'll never believe this. Lavernia gave me a raise.

FRANCIS

You're right I don't believe it. You gotta quit going outside with wet hair.

ERIC

I'm serious.

FRANCIS

Now why would she do that?

ERIC

Maybe it's because I asked nicely.

FRANCIS

No. How much did she give you?

ERIC

\$4.50 an hour.

FRANCIS

You're an idiot. You were already making \$4.75.

Eric scratches his head.

FRANCIS (cont'd)

You know what? I've had enough of this crap. I'm going to see Lavernia and get us both a real raise.

ERIC

I don't even think asking nicely would help you.

Artie climbs out of the oven and staggers as he stands.

ARTIE

You want my opinion?

FRANCIS

I don't know. You've been working in the oven with the gas on.

Francis TURNS THE KNOB TO OFF.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ARTIE

No wonder I was enjoying it.
 (shaking it off)
 In my opinion, you've gotta use force.
 It's the only thing Lavernia understands.

FRANCIS

Has it worked for you?

ARTIE

No, I'm a pacifist, but Pete told me that she has this wood carving of an eagle, and if you threaten to break it, she'll give you anything.

ERIC

What's so important about a statue?

ARTIE

Apparently her daddy gave it to her right before he was frozen in a glacier.

FRANCIS

And she likes it?

ARTIE

Yeah, a lot more than her daddy.

CUT TO:

INT. FAMILY ROOM - DAY

MALCOLM sits on the floor surrounded by PHOTO ALBUMS. DEWEY watches wrestling on TV.

LOIS enters carrying SEVERAL BOXES. She's followed by HAL who also has his arms full. They set the boxes down.

MALCOLM

The pictures aren't here.

LOIS

Why don't you look one more time?

MALCOLM

And after five times they'll just suddenly appear?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LOIS

Well, maybe one of you boys destroyed that album like everything else in this house.

MALCOLM

Oh, that's good, Mom, blame us.

HAL

I think your mother's right. I remember Dewey burned that book in the fireplace.

DEWEY

On the stove, but that was your yearbook.

HAL

The one where I was voted most likely to be on The Gong Show. I had this routine with a pogo stick, two wine glasses and a peanut that...

LOIS

Okay, Hal. Dewey, why don't you go outside? It's too nice a day to sit in front of the TV.

DEWEY

But I don't want to...

LOIS

Go!

Dewey jumps off the couch and Lois pushes him out the back door. Gathering herself.

LOIS (cont'd)

Why don't you go do something boys like to do... like... dig to China?

Lois closes the door and blows the hair out of her face. As she rejoins Malcolm and Hal, Hal pulls out a photo. He's beaming.

HAL

I found it!

Malcolm scrambles to see the picture Hal is holding. Lois appears surprised.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MALCOLM

Let me see.

Looking at the photo, Malcolm is incredulous. Hal holds the picture proudly for Malcolm and Lois to see.

HAL

Roller Disco King of '77.

MALCOLM

How could you not have any pictures of me as a baby? Isn't there a law or something saying parents have to have baby pictures?

LOIS

I'm sure they're in one of these boxes, Malcolm. Just calm down.

REESE enters.

REESE

If anyone finds a wad of gum, it's probably mine.

LOIS

What?

REESE

I think I lost my gum, and I'm just letting you know now, so that when you find it maybe I won't be in as much trouble.

HAL

Maybe we can help you find it. Where do you think you lost it?

REESE

In the milk carton.

HAL

That one's up to you.

Lois opens another box. An 8X10 BABY PICTURE is on top.

LOIS

Ah, here it is.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Lois pulls out the picture and hands it to an eager Malcolm. He looks it over, smiling.

MALCOLM

I was cute. We should put this up in the hall with the other pictures.

Reese looks over Malcolm's shoulder.

REESE

It is in the hall. That's Francis.

Malcolm's eyes widen with devastation. He looks at Hal and Lois. They can't make eye contact.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

A VARIETY OF GARDEN TOOLS are lined up at DEWEY'S feet. Dewey surveys the yard. Kneeling beside his equipment, he picks up an ENGLISH TO CHINESE DICTIONARY and turns to a marked page.

DEWEY

(reading)

Ni hao. We de min zi jiao Dewey.

SUBTITLE: "Hello, my name is Dewey."

Dewey sets the book aside and picks up a TROWEL.

DEWEY (cont'd)

(rehearsing)

Ni hao, we de min zi jiao Dewey. Ni hao,
we de min zi jiao Dewey.

SUBTITLE: "Hello, my name is Dewey. Hello, my name is Dewey."

He plunges the trowel into the earth and digs.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - DAY

MALCOLM, looking depressed, continues searching the pictures. HAL, LOIS and REESE also flip through pictures.

All the box lids are off. Pictures are scattered.

MALCOLM

Not one picture? What kind of parents
are you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LOIS

Malcolm, listen, by the time you get to your third child, you just stop taking pictures.

HAL

It's not because we like you less.

LOIS

That's just the way things are.

REESE

Hey, look at all these pictures of Dewey.

MALCOLM

You have pictures of Dewey?

Malcolm looks between DEWEY'S BABY PICTURES and Lois.

LOIS

Oh, isn't he cute?

MALCOLM

Mom! What about me?

HAL

Uh, the camera was broken?

CUT TO:

INT. LODGE, LAVERNIA'S OFFICE - DAY

FRANCIS opens the door to Lavernia's office revealing LAVERNIA and PETE locked in a kiss. They separate quickly.

LAVERNIA

Yep, I think it's strep throat.

FRANCIS

It's not recommended to check with your tongue.

LAVERNIA

You should gargle some castor oil.

Pete walks toward the door.

FRANCIS

Or gasoline.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PETE

A man's got needs.

FRANCIS

Yeah, that may be her excuse.

Pete exits.

LAVERNIA

So what do you want? Now that you've ruined my day?

FRANCIS

Mine's been ruined too.

Francis spots the statue on the shelf next to him. He fingers the carving.

FRANCIS (cont'd)

I've been thinking, Lavernia. Eric and I have been here over six months. I think it's time that we got a raise.

LAVERNIA

I already gave Eric a raise. You want that too?

FRANCIS

No, that wasn't a raise. I want \$5.50 an hour for both of us.

LAVERNIA

(laughing)

You're almost as stupid as he is. What makes you think that I'd give you a raise?

Francis looks at the eagle statue then at Lavernia and back at the statue. He grabs it.

FRANCIS

This.

Francis runs out of the office. Panic fills Lavernia's eyes as she runs after Francis.

INT. LODGE - CONTINUOUS

FRANCIS runs to the middle of the room. He's surrounded by eating and card playing LOGGERS. LAVERNIA stops outside her door.

LAVERNIA

(trembling)

You got it, kid. Whatever you want.
Just give me back the bird.

FRANCIS

Really? It's that simple?

LAVERNIA

Please. Just stay calm.

FRANCIS

Okay, it's a deal.

Francis extends the statue to Lavernia, but before she can take it, Francis loses his grip. It falls to the floor SHATTERING INTO PIECES.

Francis goes flush. Lavernia's face disfigures and reddens. She's about to explode when she falls to the floor in tears.

LAVERNIA

(sobbing)

My eagle. Oh, no.

A couple LOGGERS get up to see Lavernia crying.

LOGGER #1

Hey, look. She's a softy.

The other loggers gather around. They laugh.

LOGGER #2

The old buzz saw's just another girl.

Francis is upset by the turn.

FRANCIS

No, wait. You guys don't understand.

LOGGER #1

Ol' Francis broke her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The guys pat Francis on the back. Francis is reluctant to receive the praise. He looks down at Lavernia who cries as she gathers the wooden pieces.

CUT TO:

INT. FAMILY ROOM - DAY

MALCOLM leans against the couch. His eyes show his torment. LOIS and HAL are putting pictures back in their boxes. REESE continues through another box and pulls out a BLUE RIBBON.

REESE

Hey, what was this for?

HAL

I won that at a Cutest Baby Photo contest with a picture of Francis.

Malcolm GROANS, sickening at the thought. Reese pulls out ANOTHER RIBBON.

HAL (cont'd)

That one was for you, Reese.

Pulling out a THIRD RIBBON.

HAL (cont'd)

For Dewey.

Malcolm digs through the box.

MALCOLM

Where's mine? Where's the ribbon for my picture?

Hal looks to Lois with concern.

LOIS

All right. That's enough. Hal, it's time we told the boy.

HAL

I'm not sure he's ready.

LOIS

He's got to know sometime. We can't keep it from him forever.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MALCOLM

What? What can't you keep from me?

Hal hesitantly nods to Lois. Lois leaves the room.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

Tell me!

WHIP PAN:

INT. FAMILY ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Malcolm has a BOX ON HIS LAP and holds an 8X10 PHOTO. He is frozen in shock. His face ashen.

LOIS

Malcolm? Malcolm?

HAL

I told you he wasn't ready.

LOIS

Malcolm.

MALCOLM

I can't believe it. I'm ugly.

Reese laughs uncontrollably.

HAL

If it's any consolation, we won a prize for that picture too.

MALCOLM

For what? Ugliest baby?

HAL

No, they thought you were a hairless monkey.

LOIS

Hal.

HAL

I got good money for that picture.

MALCOLM

How can I put this on my website? I'd never be able to show my face in school again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Reese pulls out a NEWSPAPER CLIPPING, which brings a huge smile to his face.

REESE

Hey, you could use this.
(showing the paper)
Malcolm, the alien baby.

It's the National Examiner with the headline "Alien Baby Found". Malcolm's picture is below but not revealed.

Malcolm is completely devastated. Lois shoot's Hal another angry look.

HAL

I got good money for that picture too.

Malcolm falls back against the couch.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. FAMILY ROOM - DAY

MALCOLM is distressed, his eyes glazed. He forces himself to look at the picture. It's still ugly.

HAL is flipping through an ALBUM. He's all smiles. REESE is flipping through MALCOLM'S BABY PICTURES. He's all smiles.

LOIS enters the room with a GLASS OF WATER and hands it to Malcolm. Sitting up, Malcolm takes a sip. He looks at the picture again.

MALCOLM

I guess I wasn't that ugly.

REESE

You're just getting used to it. Check this one out. Malcolm looks like ET. Oouuch.

LOIS

Reese, you're not helping.

REESE

I know.

HAL

Look, honey, the pictures from our first anniversary.

Lois looks at the album Hal is holding.

LOIS

You always looked good in a Speedo.

Reese looks.

REESE

Yow. That's almost as bad as Malcolm's picture.

MALCOLM

Oh, great.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LOIS

Malcolm, it's not as bad as you think.
Remember the story about the ugly
duckling? He grew into a beautiful swan.

MALCOLM

Yeah, but he was already a swan not a
duck.

REESE

There's a difference?

HAL

I always wondered how the swan got mixed
up with the ducks.

REESE

You mean there are baby swans? I thought
ugly ducklings became swans.

LOIS

It doesn't matter. The important fact is
that he became a beautiful swan.

MALCOLM

Hey, wait a minute. Maybe I was adopted.

LOIS

You weren't adopted.

MALCOLM

You sure it didn't just slip your mind?

LOIS

Yes.

MALCOLM

(hopeful)
Switched at birth?

LOIS

No.

Malcolm is more dejected.

HAL

But your mother did have the hospital
double check.

Lois shoots Hal an aggravated look.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Malcolm, anguished, looks at his mom. Throwing his pictures back in the box, he takes them with him and leaves the room.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

A mound of dirt rises up next to a three-foot wide hole in the ground. DIRT FLIES FROM THE OPENING onto the pile.

The dirt stops and A METAL ON ROCK TAPPING SOUND IS HEARD FROM BELOW.

A moment later DEWEY'S dirt covered head appears from the hole. Setting the small shovel beside his other tools, he grabs a hammer and pick.

Dewey ducks back down. A QUICK TAPPING SOUND resumes and moments later a large ROCK SAILS UP OUT OF THE HOLE. The rock lands on the pile of dirt with a THUD.

INT. LODGE, KITCHEN - DAY

ERIC sits on the counter. He looks at the floor where FOUR HOOFED LEGS EMERGE.

ERIC

Why would you want the old Lavernia back?
I thought you hated her.

FRANCIS (O.S.)

(panting)
I don't know. It's just not right.

ERIC

It does feel a little strange around
here.

ARTIE runs in laughing.

ARTIE

You gotta see this. Lavernia's wearing a
dress.

Artie exits as FRANCIS stands up with surprise. HE IS COVERED WITH SPLATTERS OF BLOOD AND HOLDING A HACKSAW.

FRANCIS

You see? None of the guys respect her
anymore. I've gotta do something.

(beat)

It's your turn.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Francis hands Eric the saw. Eric hops off the counter.

ERIC

I wish these guys would quit leaving
their caribou carcass in the middle of
the floor.

Eric kneels down behind the counter.

FRANCIS

So what can I do? I need a plan to get
her to really yell at me in front of all
the guys.

Eric stands, COVERED WITH BLOOD.

ERIC

Well, that shouldn't be hard. Why don't
you just break something else? Like that
lumberjack trophy.

FRANCIS

That's it. That should really piss her
off.

WHIP PAN:

INT. LODGE - MOMENTS LATER

FRANCIS holds TWO BROKEN PIECES OF A GOLD PLATED TROPHY. His
forehead wrinkled with dismay.

LAVERNIA'S face is flooded with tears.

LOGGERS are gathered around and laughing. They pat Francis
on the back.

Lavernia, sobbing, runs into her office as Francis
reluctantly receives the praise.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

MALCOLM and STEVIE sit in front of the computer.

MALCOLM

Do you think it'll take long?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVIE

I'm a Photoshop... expert. I once made... my dad look like... the Jackson Five.

MALCOLM

That is good.

Malcolm sets his box on the desk and opens it revealing the PICTURES to Stevie. Stevie's eyes widen with shock. He has to take a blast from his inhaler.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

Are you all right?

STEVIE

I'll be okay... I'm just a little... nauseous.

MALCOLM

Help me find the best one to work on.

Malcolm dumps the photo's on the desk. Sifting through them, Malcolm pulls one out.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

How about this one?

STEVIE

I'm an artist... not... David Blaine.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. STEVIE'S BEDROOM - LATER

MALCOLM and STEVIE are exhausted. Stevie clicks the mouse to make a few changes and the boys faces change from looks of horror to disgust.

Another few clicks and Stevie laughs at the photo as Malcolm puts his face in his hands.

CLICK. CLICK. CLICK.

Stevie wipes the sweat from his brow as Malcolm falls back in his chair defeated.

CUT TO:

INT. BOY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

REESE sits on his bed. He is TACKING PHOTOS OF A BIKINI CLAD GIRL TO THE WALL.

HAL passes the room. He backs up and peeks in.

HAL

What are you doing?

REESE

Uh, I grabbed a couple photos from one of the boxes of this hot babe.

Hal enters the room to take a closer look.

HAL

She's a looker. Reminds me of your mother when... hey, that is your mother.

Reese is petrified. He looks at the pictures repulsively and hastily pulls them off the wall.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

In the moonlight, the pile of dirt towers over the hole. A faint light comes from below. It grows brighter until DEWEY emerges WEARING A HELMET WITH A LIGHT ATTACHED.

Dewey rests on his elbows as he holds a thick root like rope into the light. It's A SHREDDED WIRE.

Shrugging, Dewey tosses it on the dirt mound and ducks back into the hole.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

MALCOLM and STEVIE are still at the computer. STEVIE'S SWEATER IS OFF AND HIS COLLAR LOOSENEED. MALCOLM'S HAIR IS A MESS.

MALCOLM

That looks pretty good.

STEVIE

You look almost... human.

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CONTINUED:

MALCOLM

Now try putting my ears back on.

Stevie moves and clicks the mouse. They wince at the result.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

Oh, it's hopeless. There's no way to keep me from looking like a Chihuahua.

STEVIE

A lot of people... like Chihuahuas.

MALCOLM

Just forget it.

Malcolm leaves Stevie at the computer and throws himself on the bed face down.

STEVIE

I'm not quitting... This is my... Everest.

MALCOLM

Everest? Try standing up.

Stevie is put off by Malcolm.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

Aw, Stevie, I'm sorry. I didn't mean it. I'm just frustrated.

STEVIE

It's all... right.

MALCOLM

Look, why don't we just deal with it tomorrow?

STEVIE

I'll stop... in a minute.

Stevie takes off his glasses and rubs his eyes. He looks at the monitor without his glasses and nods with approval. It's not too bad.

Putting his glasses back on, Stevie sees the picture more clearly and recoils.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

STEVIE (cont'd)

I just can't... get used to... looking at
it.

CUT TO:

INT. FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

HAL and LOIS sit on the couch with a PHOTO ALBUM set across
their laps. They turn the page. Seeing the pictures, they
smile at each other.

HAL

That was a great trip.

LOIS

Fools in love.

HAL

Almost nothing has changed... except for
the boys... and the responsibility... the
bills... and the...

Lois stops Hal from speaking.

LOIS

Look. You remember this?

HAL

How could I forget.

His eyes burn with love. Lois' eyes sparkle back. They
throw the photo album on the floor and Hal pounces on Lois.

From behind the couch, CLOTHES FLY until REESE enters. He
freezes. It looks as though he might throw up or say
something.

REESE

(screaming)

Aarrggghhh!

Lois and Hal pop up on the couch scrambling to put their
clothes back on.

Reese holds his stomach and runs to the bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT. CABIN - DAY

FRANCIS paces the floor as ERIC, ARTIE, and PETE lounge.

ERIC

Maybe it's just meant to be.

FRANCIS

Are you kidding? This is Lavernia.

PETE

Lately she's been a lot more gentle. Now she likes to cuddle.

FRANCIS

Ugh, that's just not right.

ARTIE

Seems to me you finally got the upper hand.

FRANCIS

That's just it. I'm not supposed to.

ERIC

I don't get it.

FRANCIS

Lavernia was meant to be a nasty, unsympathetic wench. Now she's just a little mouse no one's afraid of.

ARTIE

I'm afraid of mice.

ERIC

So what are you gonna do?

FRANCIS

I don't know. How can I make the guys think she's mean again?

(beat)

I've got it.

ARTIE

What?

FRANCIS

You'll see.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PETE

You think you could wait a day. I don't know that I'm ready for third base yet.

Francis dashes out of the cabin.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

MALCOLM wakes up, still in his clothes. He wipes the sleep from his eyes and spots STEVIE still at the computer.

MALCOLM

Stevie?

Malcolm climbs out of the bed and goes to Stevie who is asleep. Malcolm puts his hand on Stevie's shoulder and gently shakes him.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

Stevie, wake-up.

STEVIE

(startled)

Don't eat me... monster baby!

Malcolm jumps back. Stevie realizes he's awake and safe as he catches his breath.

MALCOLM

Monster baby?

STEVIE

It was just... a bad dream.

MALCOLM

Obviously.

Malcolm looks at the monitor.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

You did it. I'm cute.

STEVIE

That's not you... I forgot what a... cute baby looked like,... so I used... that as an example... This is you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Stevie clicks the mouse. Malcolm's look of hope fades. He gradually begins to boil.

MALCOLM

That's me? That's worse than before. I can't believe it. How could you make it worse? You were bragging about how great you are with this program and you can't even make me look human. You suck. This computer sucks. This whole assignment sucks.

Malcolm grabs his box of pictures and throws the lid on. He storms out of Stevie's room.

After a beat, Malcolm reappears in the doorway.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

Hey, thanks again for your help. I really appreciate it.

CUT TO:

INT. LODGE, LAVERNIA'S OFFICE - DAY

FRANCIS is alone in the office.

FRANCIS

(yelling)

I'm sorry! You're right. Please don't beat me you evil woman.

Francis grabs an IRON SKILLET and throws it on the floor.
CLANG!

FRANCIS (cont'd)

(pretending to be Lavernia)

You worthless lump of seal dung. I oughta knock your head against the wall.

(as himself)

A punishment too good for me.

(as Lavernia)

How would you like for me to break you in half?

CUT TO:

INT. LODGE - CONTINUOUS

ERIC, PETE, ARTIE, and LOGGERS are gathered around Lavernia's office door. They are shocked, amazed, and amused by the tongue lashing Francis is getting.

The CRASH OF THE IRON SKILLET is heard. The guys flinch.

FRANCIS (O.S.)

(as Lavernia)

I oughta beat you till your head is putty!

(as himself)

Please, Lavernia, put the spatula down.
Ouch!

ERIC

Would you listen to that? Whatever he did worked.

ARTIE

Yeah, he's a miracle worker.

Pete wipes a tear from his cheek.

LAVERNIA pushes her way to the front of the gathering.

LAVERNIA

What the hell's going on here?

ERIC

Lavernia's ripping Francis a new one.

Eric double takes at Lavernia. All the guys step back realizing she's not in the office.

FRANCIS (O.S.)

(as Lavernia)

And as punishment for your insolent behavior, I'm docking your pay. You'll be my slave forever!

Another CRASH resonates from the office. The door opens and FRANCIS backs out, pretending to tug of war with a BRONZED SPATULA. He yanks the spatula through the crack in the door and turns, running smack into Lavernia.

He steps back realizing it's her, then sheepishly smiles at the guys.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Lavernia is turning shades of red. Her head looks like it could explode.

Francis waits to see if she'll cry, but when she doesn't, he goes flush. In desperation, Francis holds up the spatula with both hands.

The guys and Lavernia all hold their breath waiting to see what Francis will do.

Francis attempts to break the spatula. It doesn't even bend. He tries again. Nothing. Terror covers his face. Throwing the spatula in the air, he darts out of the lodge.

Lavernia catches the spatula and glares at the other men. Everyone scatters except for Pete whom she gives a tilt of her head signaling him to go into her office.

PETE

Looks like I'm in for a spankin'.

Pete goes into her office and she follows.

CUT TO:

EXT. ED'S BACKYARD - DAY

ED enters his backyard with a CABLE MAN of Chinese ethnicity.

ED

I don't know what happened. One minute I'm watching Celebrity Boxing, the next it's all static. Probably the moles.

Ed goes inside his house. As the cable man walks along the fence, the ground under his feet moves. He stops to inspect.

A TROWEL PUSHES THROUGH FROM BELOW THE GRASS. A pair of SMALL HANDS SEPARATE THE GRASS and push the dirt away.

DEWEY pops his head into the light. Looking up, he sees the cable man.

DEWEY

I did it! I did it! Ni hao, wo de min zi jiao Dewey.

SUBTITLE: "Hello, my name is Dewey."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dewey smiles at the confused cable man then disappears back underground.

The cable man looks over the fence to see Dewey reemerge from the ground and skip jubilantly to his house.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

LOIS is at the stove cooking while REESE sits at the table with a BOWL OF CEREAL AND A CARTON OF MILK in front of him. He pours the milk on his cereal and a WAD OF GUM lands on top of the flakes.

Smiling, Reese pops the gum in his mouth and eats his cereal.

The back-door opens and a dirt covered DEWEY dashes in. Lois is shocked when she sees him.

DEWEY

I did it. I dug all the way to China.

Dewey bounces through the kitchen and exits almost running into HAL who enters.

HAL

Was that Dewey with the...?

LOIS

Yes, he just got back from China.

Hal nods, accepting the explanation and sits at the table. He sets a PHOTO ALBUM on the table.

HAL

You know, honey, we should look through our photos more often.

LOIS

Are you coming on to me?

Reese can't take another bite.

HAL

I've got Summer of '84 right here.

REESE

Hey, I'm trying to eat. I've already been scarred enough by you two.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MALCOLM enters and sets his box on the table.

LOIS

Hi, sweetheart, how'd it go with Stevie?

MALCOLM

Awful. I went from looking like an ugly hairless monkey to looking like... an uglier hairless monkey.

LOIS

Malcolm, your pictures really aren't that bad.

MALCOLM

Yeah? Then how come you've been hiding them all my life?

Lois looks to Hal for help.

HAL

The boy's got a point.

MALCOLM

You know, this really sucks.

HAL

Cheer up, son. You're only a baby once. And when you start out looking like that things can only get better.

MALCOLM

Thanks, dad. But what am I going to do about my assignment? If I don't have a picture today, I'll be the only one in the class to get a B. And then how will I explain to everyone why I didn't use a baby picture?

LOIS

Just say that you chose to do your's differently.

HAL

Sure. Tell them you weren't going to let grades affect your creativity.

REESE

Hey, that's my excuse.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LOIS

No one has to know.

REESE

Except Stevie. You want me to send him a message?

Reese pounds his fist into his palm. Malcolm ignores him.

HAL

No one will blame you, son, if you don't want to show your pictures.

LOIS

We can just hide them back in the closet and it'll be our secret.

MALCOLM

I can't believe it. You really think I was ugly. What'd you do when I was a baby? Did you keep me hidden in the closet?

Hal looks away.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

Forget I asked.

(beat)

You know what? Who cares if everyone else won a prize for being the cutest baby. I was in a national newspaper. I'm gonna use my picture because this is who I am.

LOIS

Are you sure?

MALCOLM

Why should I be embarrassed? I might have started out looking weird, but now I'm probably the best looking kid in my class.

Malcolm spots FRANCIS' BABY PICTURE on the counter.

LOIS

I'm really proud of you, Malcolm.

MALCOLM

You are?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HAL

Of course we are. This is a brave thing you're doing. So what if you're mercilessly ridiculed and humiliated. You'll be a better person for it.

MALCOLM

(unsure)

Thanks.

Hal returns to his paper as Lois sits at the table. Malcolm thinks a moment, then checks to see if anyone is watching. He picks up Francis' picture and slips it in his box.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

(to camera)

Okay, so it's not me, but I really don't care about becoming a better person. I mean, who am I kidding? I've got a reputation to protect.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO