

THE CARMICHAEL SHOW

"Sanctuary Carmichael's"

written by

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. JERROD AND MAXINE'S LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

JERROD ENTERS FROM THE FRONT DOOR, HANGS UP HIS KEYS BUT DOESN'T TURN ON THE LIGHT. HE OPENS THE FRIDGE, POPS OPEN A DRINK AND TAKES A SIP. RUSTLING NOISES AND JERROD REACTS.

ELENA (39) RUSHES UP TO THE FRIDGE.

ELENA

(IN SPANISH) Tina, come help. The man
is home, we can make him a sandwich.

JERROD IS SURPRISED.

TINA (10) APPROACHES AS ELENA PULLS FOOD OUT.

TINA

Do you like mustard or mayo, mister?

JERROD CAN'T GET ANY WORDS OUT. HE STUMBLES BACK, RUSHES TO:

INT. JERROD AND MAXINE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

JERROD SLAMS THE DOOR BEHIND HIM AND FLICKS ON THE LIGHT.
MAXINE STIRS AS JERROD HUSTLES OVER TO SHAKE HER AWAKE.

JERROD

Maxine! Maxine!

MAXINE

Okay, okay. What?!

JERROD

There're burglars out there!

MAXINE

Oh my god, what?!

MAXINE BOLTS UP, BUT REALIZES...

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Wait, no... I'm sorry Jerrod, that's
Elena and Tina.

JERROD

Like, friends of yours? A sleep over?

MAXINE

I was going to text and tell you, but
I know how you hate getting news
before you do a set.

JERROD

Yeah, like when Kaepernick sat out the
National Anthem. I just had to do five
minutes on it that very day when the
material wasn't ready and my point-of-
view wasn't fully formed. I bombed,
Maxine!

MAXINE

I met Elena and Tina at work. They
have nowhere to go. They're scared.

JERROD

Wait. Are those clients from your job
at the assistance office?

MAXINE

Elena's husband was deported. They
don't know what to do.

JERROD

Hold on, hold on. You just started this job and you're already bringing your work home with you?

MAXINE

I just didn't feel like I had a choice. I couldn't see them suffering.

JERROD

I see suffering and depressed, lost souls at my work every night. But you don't see me bringing road comics over here to crash out.

MAXINE

It'll just be for a couple of days, until I can get them help.

JERROD

A couple of days where we're hiding undocumented citizens. This is technically criminal and we have to face the fact we live in Trump's America right now.

MAXINE

I can't believe you, Jerrod! You know who else criminalized human rights and accused people of collaborating?

JERROD WAITS FOR THE ANSWER.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

The Nazis.

JERROD

Stop right there. You know what they say, a couple shouldn't start equating each other to the Third Reich right before bed. Let's talk about it in the morning. (CROSSES TO DRESSER FOR PAJAMAS)

MAXINE

Okay.

JERROD

But Anne Frank at least had an attic to hide in.

SHOCKED - MAXINE GIVES HIM A LOOK.

JERROD (CONT'D)

Just saying. I'd like this idea better if we had an attic.

THE DOOR POPS OPEN.

JERROD HOPS BACK IN SURPRISE, DIVING UNDER THE COVERS.

ELENA AND TINA WALK IN WITH A SANDWICH.

JERROD (CONT'D)

Please knock before surprising a man with a delicious looking sandwich.

ELENA AND TINA LOOK AT ONE ANOTHER - *WHOOPS!*

FADE OUT:

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT I

FADE IN:

INT. JERROD AND MAXINE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

TINA SWEEPS THE FLOOR WITH A BROOM, ELENA WASHES DISHES IN THE KITCHEN, A BREAKFAST SPREAD IS OUT ON THE TABLE. MAXINE SIPS COFFEE AND RELAXES WITH HER TABLET.

JERROD ENTERS FROM THE BEDROOM, BLURRY EYED AND WAKING UP.

JERROD

(CROSSES TO TINA) Hey there. You don't have to do that.

JERROD TAKES THE BROOM FROM TINA.

ELENA RUSHES OVER AND SHAKES JERROD'S HAND.

ELENA

(IN SPANISH) Good morning. Thank you so much for letting us stay here. We won't be any trouble at all and we can be very helpful around the house.

ELENA GRABS THE BROOM AND HANDS IT BACK TO TINA.

JERROD

No habla español.

TINA

She said the living room's too cold at night and she wants to know if we can play your x-box.

MAXINE

No, Tina. I think she said "thank you", Jerrod.

TINA SHRUGS AND RESUMES SWEEPING.

JERROD

(TO ELENA) De nada. (TO MAXINE) But Maxine and I still need to discuss this.

MAXINE NODS HER HEAD TOWARDS TINA TO SAY '*NOT IN FRONT OF THE KID, JERROD*'.

ELENA HANDS JERROD A PLATE OF HOT, TASTY BREAKFAST.

JERROD (CONT'D)

C'mon, you guys can't be cooking and cleaning for us. You're not our servants.

TINA

(TRANSLATING IN SPANISH TO ELENA) The man said he wants Captain Crunch for breakfast tomorrow, Mom.

JERROD TAKES A BITE.

MAXINE

They insisted, Jerrod. They wanted to.

JERROD

It doesn't seem right to me.

MAXINE

Part of human dignity is being able to
pitch in and contribute.

JERROD

(RE: THE TASTY FOOD) Mmmm. Yeah,
you're right. Keep cooking, Elena.

JERROD TAKES A BIG BITE.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CARMICHAEL FAMILY KITCHEN - DAY

JOE SITS AT THE KITCHEN TABLE, WORKING ON A LAPTOP. CYNTHIA
WRITES ON A NOTEPAD.

JERROD

(ENTERS FROM BACK-DOOR) Hey. (GRABS AN
APPLE AND SITS AT TABLE)

JOE

Good. Now that you're here you can
help me. I'm trying to build a website
for the moving company.

JERROD

You think you need a website? Most
people will just find you on yelp.

JOE

Damn it, yelp is a lost cause.

CYNTHIA

He made yelp real angry, Jerrod.
Someone gave him one star for cussing
in front of their children.

JOE

That child was fourteen years old and taller than me! I wouldn't have had to swear if that racecar bed he was too old to be sleeping in anyway wasn't so awkwardly shaped and difficult to get through the door.

JERROD

Still, I'm not sure you need a website.

JOE

I have to brand myself. To differentiate Joe Carmichael's moving business from all the others. My taste and style is what this company is all about.

JOE PUSHES THE LAPTOP TO JERROD.

JOE (CONT'D)

So do it for me.

JERROD

Maybe later. I got my own problems right now.

JOE

Aw, damn it. I just can't compete with Starving Students movers taking up all the good jobs.

CYNTHIA

Have you seen them? They don't look like any students to me.

JOE

And they damn sure don't look starvin' neither unless it's for a bottle of Black Velvet and a round of spousal abuse.

JERROD

Dad. That sounds bigoted of you.

JOE

All I'm saying is that their movers are all white and look like they're straight out of Sons of Anarchy.

JERROD SHAKES HIS HEAD.

CYNTHIA

(TO JERROD) You said something's bothering you?

JERROD

(JERROD STANDS AND PACES) It's Maxine. She brought home some people from work.

JOE

Brought home people?!

JERROD

Immigrants. Undocumented people.

JOE

That girl brought home human beings from her job? Do what I did when your Mom brought home that feral cat.

JERROD

I don't remember Mom bringing home a cat.

JOE

(LEANS IN ASSERTIVELY) Do what I did when your Mom brought home a feral cat.

CYNTHIA

Joe, you had to remind me! I had just managed to suppress that memory.

JOE

You can't lead a cat into traffic, but you can sure put a can of tuna on the other side of the road.

JERROD

I don't know what to do. I don't want Elena and Tina to get caught and deported, but I'm also not comfortable with Maxine risking her career and our security.

JOE

Are you two crazy, Son? Donald Trump is President now.

(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)

That mans number one agenda is building a wall and shipping every Mexican out. Even if they're Mexicans from Honduras or Guatemala.

CYNTHIA

Things are scary right now, Jerrod. You don't want to get involved with all this racial stuff goin' on. Who knows what that man will do?!

JOE

He's a racist, egomaniacal, unpredictable tyrant.

JERROD

Dad. You voted for Trump.

JOE

Yeah I voted for him but what makes you think that I support him now?

JERROD

He was just inaugurated three weeks ago. You can't possibly have changed your opinion that fast.

JOE

Now you know I'm a contrarian at heart. Son, this country doesn't work because we all support our President.

(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)

It works because we have a fundamental distrust and animosity towards the White House. That disrespect allows the wheels of progress to turn slower and ensure the guy can't mess things up too bad. Checks and balances.

CYNTHIA

What are you going to do?

JERROD

I was going to put my foot down, but it got awkward. They were right there with us in the apartment, cooking and cleaning. I couldn't put them out then.

JOE

Let me get this straight. Those illegal people were cooking and cleaning for you but it was still as though you were the one being gracious in that dynamic?

JERROD

I guess-

JOE

-You know what that sounds like to me?

CYNTHIA

Don't say it, Joe.

JERROD

Slavery?

JOE

Indentured servitude if that sounds prettier and more PC for you. (SLAPS HAND TO TABLE) You know the black man has made it in America when he can have his own morally questionable domestic help.

JERROD

(CROSSES TOWARDS BACK-DOOR) Well I made up my mind, they can't stay. I'm going to talk to Maxine as soon as she gets home.

CYNTHIA

Are you telling me you left criminals alone in your home?

JERROD

They're undocumented, not criminals.

JOE

They might be nice people, but their first act upon coming into this country was breaking the law.

JERROD

On that note, I depart! (SHAKES HEAD AND EXITS)

JOE

But who are we to judge, Cynthia? I've broken a few laws myself and I was born here.

CYNTHIA

You break laws Joe?

JOE

Everyday! Mostly OSHA regulations, other workplace safety laws and boy do I get a thrill out of jaywalking!

CYNTHIA

I'm worried. I don't like this harboring illegal's idea.

JOE

(PAUSES FOR THOUGHT) I dunno. I think they might just be on to something here. Compassionate immigration policy and cheap domestic help. (NODS HEAD IN CONSIDERATION, THEN:) Darn it!

CYNTHIA

What is it?

JOE

He left without helping me with my website.

JOE POUTS.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JERROD AND MAXINE'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

JERROD PACES, LOST IN THOUGHT.

MAXINE

(APPROACHES FROM HALL) Hey Jerrod,
what are you doing out here?

JERROD

Tina and Elena are making dinner. It
was bumming me out.

MAXINE

Why's that?

JERROD

Well, I knew I should probably be
helping them but I really just wanted
to watch ESPN.

MAXINE

Well before we go in I wanted to talk
to you-

JERROD

-I'm sorry, Maxine. I don't want to
come off as uncaring. Or unsupportive
of your work.

MAXINE

I know. And I get it. That's why I
found somewhere else for them to stay.

JERROD

Really? That's great! I mean I hope it
wasn't too much trouble for you.

MAXINE

(THINKS FOR A BEAT) Actually, no. It's funny how people surprise you. Compassion appears in the most unexpected places.

JERROD

Yeah. Although I hope I don't come to regret this.

MAXINE

Why would you?

JERROD

Because whatever Elena is cooking smells amazing!

MAXINE

Poor woman has to cook for her own going away party.

MAXINE AND JERROD SMILE AT ONE ANOTHER.

JERROD

(OPENS DOOR TO LEAD THE WAY IN) I don't even know how she does it. It's not like I went grocery shopping or anything.

AS THEY ENTER, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT I

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. CARMICHAEL FAMILY LIVING ROOM - DAY

JOE WORKS ON HIS LAPTOP ON COFFEE TABLE, BOBBY ASSISTS, CYNTHIA (IN CHAIR) AND NAKEISHA (BESIDE CHAIR) OBSERVE.

JOE

(TO BOBBY) How come that last picture was dancing all around but this one is all still? I told you this site has got to pop!

BOBBY

I'm doin' the best I can here.

CYNTHIA

(TO JOE AND BOBBY) You all are out of your element! I never thought I would say this, but you are just too cool for that nerd stuff!

BOBBY

Mom, we got this! The Carmichael men can do anything if they put their minds to it.

NAKEISHA

Problem is that you have a Jpeg I think, when what you need is a Gif.

BOBBY

Like the file type? Don't you mean Gif (Jif)?

NAKEISHA

Did I say Jif, Bobby? The damn word starts with a G.

BOBBY

Yeah, but I'm pretty sure you pronounce it Jif.

NAKEISHA

(ANNOYED) It stands for Graphic Interchange Format. A hard G. Like me.

CYNTHIA

Well you coulda' asked for help from a Carmichael woman. It looks like Nakeisha knows more about technology than both of you. (HIGH FIVES NAKEISHA)

NAKEISHA

Mmm-hmm. Shoot, I know html. I used to have a glamour modeling site that I updated myself. (TO CYNTHIA) But I'm no Carmichael anymore, remember?

CYNTHIA

Maybe you would be if Bobby had some respect for your knowledge and talents.

BOBBY

(STUNG) Mom. I respect the hell out of Nakeisha, and she knows that. (TO NAKEISHA) Tell her how much I appreciated your website.

NAKEISHA LOOKS TO CYNTHIA, OPENS HER MOUTH TO SPEAK.

CYNTHIA

-Stop! Please don't tell me how much my baby boy appreciated your sexy modeling website.

JOE

It doesn't matter. This site is almost there anyway. The youngster helped me with it and she is some kind of protege with computers.

JERROD ENTERS FROM THE FRONT DOOR.

CYNTHIA

Hey, Jerrod.

JERROD

(CROSSES TO COUCH) Still working on the website?

JOE

Almost done, putting on the finishing touches. No thanks to you.

JERROD

Sorry about that, I was just so preoccupied with my own drama.

BOBBY

Drama?

JERROD

It sounds crazy but Maxine brought home some undocumented immigrants from work.

NAKEISHA

(RHETORICAL) Do tell, Jerrod.

BOBBY

Yeah, I want to hear this.

JOE AND CYNTHIA SHARE A LOOK.

JERROD

Maxine, understandably, felt sorry for a mom and her daughter. The father in the situation was just deported and they had nowhere to go and nothing to do.

NAKEISHA

(SARCASTICALLY) Oh my God.

BOBBY

(RHETORICALLY) Why Jerrod, whatever did you do?

JERROD

(PUZZLED, BUT CONTINUES) After talking it over with Mom and Dad, I came to the right conclusion. It just wasn't responsible or safe to let them stay in our house.

BOBBY

Not to hate on you Brother, but isn't that a little insensitive?

JERROD

It felt like it, but anyone else would have done the same. Right, Dad?

JOE

(QUIZZICAL LOOK AT JERROD) I dunno, Son. That was pretty cold.

JERROD LOOKS PUZZLED.

ELENA ENTERS FROM THE KITCHEN, ARMS FULL WITH A TACO BAR PLATTER.

JERROD IS SHOCKED TO SEE HER THERE.

BOBBY

Oh snaps, she made us a taco bar!

ELENA

(IN SPANISH) Taco bar everybody, now eat. (YELLING UPSTAIRS) Tina, come eat.

JERROD

(STUNG) Elena?

MAXINE AND TINA ENTER FROM UPSTAIRS.

MAXINE

(WORRIED) Jerrod, hi.

JERROD

Hey, I thought you found someplace for them to go?

MAXINE

Well... I did. (FLASHES A SMILE AT JERROD)

JOE

(TO JERROD) Don't go pointing fingers at Maxine, she's just trying to do something good for someone.

JERROD

You took them in? I've heard you rail against immigrants taking jobs.

JOE

How dare you, son. Abusing cheap labor is the American way. So is people trying to worm their way in through the cracks and steal what isn't theirs. It all works out for everyone.

MAXINE

That's no way to look at it. People and families live in the shadows.

(MORE)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

They do work none of us would want to do for less than any of us could live on and they're constantly in fear of deportation or worse!

CYNTHIA

Oh I don't like the idea of people living in fear!

JOE PICKS UP A HEAD OF ICEBURG LETTUCE.

JOE

(TO CYNTHIA) How much did you pay for this head of lettuce right here?

CYNTHIA

Two dollars. It was on sale at Albertson's.

JOE

Do you think we'd be eating a fine two dollar head of lettuce at this table right now if it was made by hard working Americans for a prevailing minimum wage?

CYNTHIA

I got a club card, Joe. If iceberg isn't on sale for two dollars then I would buy romaine or spinach!

JERROD

Dad's right. Without exploited labor that lettuce would cost, like twenty bucks.

CYNTHIA

Twenty dollar lettuce!

BOBBY FORKS CARNE ASADA ONTO A TORTILLA.

BOBBY

Fine by me. Personally, I don't even like vegetables. I take a small portion and then leave most on my plate.

NAKEISHA

If it's so good in America anyway how come I can't get a regular gig with forty hours plus benefits?

BOBBY

Well you told me all those low-wage jobs on craigslist are for suckers, and they don't pay as much as your unemployment.

NAKEISHA

Oh yeah, that's right. (TO ELENA)
Girl, I don't mind, I'm an entrepreneur anyhow so you can take my jobs.

ELENA

(CONFUSED, ADDRESSES TINA IN SPANISH)

This isn't good, Mija. They sound angry, and maybe they will kick us out.

TINA

(REPLIES IN SPANISH) No, they are just talking about how they think I should have the cot upstairs and you should sleep on the floor.

JOE

(ANNOYED, TO ELENA AND TINA) Ladies, while you can consider the Carmichael home a place of sanctuary, this is an English language house and I'll ask you please make efforts to assimilate.

NAKEISHA

Mm-hmm. This reminds me of the Vietnamese nail salon. They think I can't tell they're talking about me, but yeah, they're talking about me.

CYNTHIA

Is that the one you referred me to?

NAKEISHA

That's the one!

CYNTHIA

It's true. Even when I went in I got the funny idea they were talking about you.

TINA AND ELENA LOOK CONCERNED.

TINA

Sorry Mr Joe. Mi madre was just saying that she is so scared of this Mr. Trump, but good men like you make her have faith in America.

JOE

(SURPRISED) She said good men like me?

TINA

Yes, good men like you and Jesus keep her strong.

JOE

(EXCITED, SHOOTS BACK IN HIS SEAT) Did you hear that, Cynthia? She said I'm like Jesus. Shoot, I think I can skip church this week now. You all heard that right?

CYNTHIA

Lord, I hope something was lost in translation. The last thing my husband needs is a God complex.

MAXINE

(TO JERROD) Can't you see the fear in this poor family? Your parents are doing the brave and noble thing.

JERROD

Noble? Really? It still looks to me like they're trying to get free work out of desperate people.

JOE

Hey, quid-pro-quo goes both ways.

JERROD

What about Tina? She needs to go back to school and not be hiding out here. Where are they even sleeping?

JOE

We set them up real nice in the storage space upstairs.

JERROD

Storage? You mean the attic?

TINA LOOKS WORRIED.

JERROD (CONT'D)

See Maxine! I told you. You need an attic for a proper humanitarian hideout.

MAXINE SMIRKS.

JERROD (CONT'D)

That old spider-nest horror-show?! It can't be safe and comfortable for them up there.

TINA

(RUSHES TO JERROD) No, no. We love it upstairs. We like it. We'll be good I promise.

JERROD

It's okay, Tina. You don't have to be scared of me. I want what's best for you, I really do.

TINA

Come look at the room, I'll show you.
(TUGS JERROD'S ARM)

MAXINE

(TO JERROD) Go with her, see for yourself.

JERROD RELENTS AND TINA LEADS HIM UP THE STAIRS.

JERROD

Okay, I'll check out your room. But if I see so much as even one spider-web I am running straight down these stairs screaming and flailing my arms. (EXITS WITH TINA)

CUT TO:

INT. CARMICHAEL FAMILY ATTIC - DAY

JERROD AND TINA ENTER THE A-FRAME ROOM BY LADDER. THERE'S A COT, A BLOW UP MATTRESS ON THE FLOOR, FOLDED CLOTHES ON A SMALL SHELF. CLEAN BUT SPARSE LIVING CONDITIONS.

JERROD

(LOOKS AROUND, ON GUARD) Okay, okay.
Looks like the space was cleaned up pretty well.

TINA

See Mr. Jerrod, we'll be good.

JERROD RUSHES UP TO THE COT AND TOUCHES THE BLANKET.

JERROD

Whoa, my old Power Rangers blanket!

JERROD (CONT'D)

(PICKS UP SMALL BOOK) And what's this?
(THUMBS THROUGH IT) A diary? Really, Tina? Are you trying to punch up my jokes?

TINA LOOKS WORRIED.

JERROD (CONT'D)

(SITS ON COT, LOOKS TINA IN THE EYE)
Tina. You and your Mom are a great family, I know that.

TINA

Then why don't you want us to stay?

JERROD

People like me and Maxine and even my parents, we want you here.

(MORE)

JERROD (CONT'D)

We are the America that is welcoming
and think you are a really, really
cool kid.

TINA SMILES.

JERROD (CONT'D)

But not everyone is cool like us.
Right now some bad people are in
charge and nobody knows what's going
to happen.

TINA

You mean bad Mr. Trump.

JERROD

You are smart aren't you? You're
already reading between the lines.

TINA

Don't make us leave. Please don't make
us leave!

JERROD

How'm I supposed to know what the
right thing to do is?

TINA

(HUGS JERROD) Please! We'll be good, I
swear.

JERROD HUGS BACK, SADDENED.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JERROD AND MAXINE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

JERROD AND MAXINE ENTER THROUGH FRONT DOOR.

MAXINE

It's touching isn't it? The fabric of America is made up of so many strands. Tina and Elena are just two threads in the story.

JERROD LOOKS SOLEMN, PLOPS INTO THE COUCH.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

(EXASPERATED) Okay, so I didn't tell you your parents were taking them in. I knew you'd find out and wanted to see if it would work out first!

JERROD

(TURNS AND OPENS UP TO MAXINE) You were right. We have to try and help Elena and Tina as much as we can.

MAXINE

Really?

JERROD

There are much bigger things at stake than our safety and job security.

MAXINE

That's easy for you to say, you won't get fired from being a comedian.

JERROD

You know what they say, 'First they came for the illegal's, and I did nothing because I am a citizen. Then they came for the Muslim's and I did nothing because I'm not a Muslim. And then they came for the small region open mic host and there was no one left to fight for me'.

MAXINE

(SMILES AND TAKES JERROD'S HAND) But we're fighting back.

JERROD

(THINKS, THEN) Should we ask Elena and Tina to move back in here?

MAXINE

It's cool you're on board with the plan now, but don't you think they have a better setup at your parents?

JERROD

Maybe. But I'm getting hungry again and don't want to cook.

MAXINE PLAYFULLY SWATS JERROD.

MAXINE

You can cook the Jerrod specialty tonight then you can go over for breakfast tomorrow.

JERROD

I have a specialty?

MAXINE

Everything you cook is... (GRIMLY)
Special.

JERROD SHAKES HIS HEAD.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

FADE IN:

INT. CARMICHAEL FAMILY KITCHEN - DAY

JERROD ENTERS THROUGH THE BACK-DOOR, HOLDS UP A BOTTLE.

JERROD

I brought syrup for the pancakes and
hot sauce for everything else.

HE LOOKS AROUND, NO ONE IS PRESENT, NO FOOD IS OUT.

JERROD (CONT'D)

It's only eight A.M. Did I miss
breakfast? (CROSSES AND PASSES INTO:)

INT. CARMICHAEL FAMILY LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

JOE AND CYNTHIA QUIETLY WATCHING TV.

JOE

Hey son.

JERROD

(SITS DOWN) Well?

JOE

Well what?

CYNTHIA

No things aren't well!

JERROD

Where's Elena? Where's Tina?

JOE SCRATCHES HIS HEAD, CYNTHIA CHOKES UP.

JERROD (CONT'D)

Where's breakfast?!

CYNTHIA

They're gone, Jerrod!

JERROD

What do you mean, gone?

JOE

I still can't believe it. I was up half the night looking forward to eggs with chorizo and I woke up to face the prospect of cold cereal!

CYNTHIA

They must have just up and left in the cold of night.

JERROD

No. Why would they just leave?

JOE

Check for yourself. When I didn't smell bacon cooking this morning I found their room empty. Beds made.

JERROD

(GETS UP AND PACES) Aw, this is all my fault. I argued with you guys and Maxine and I chased them off.

CYNTHIA

Don't blame yourself, son.

JOE

(RISES AND POINTS A FINGER AT JERROD)

Don't blame yourself 'cause that's my job. (EMPHATIC) You raised a fuss and chased them right off!

JERROD POUTS.

CYNTHIA

Joe! Can't you see he feels bad enough?

JERROD

What's going to happen to them out there? Where can they go?

CYNTHIA

They can go back to Mexico, find Elena's husband.

JOE

They should go to a sanctuary city, like Los Angeles or Austin.

JERROD

Is it even safe for them to travel? Do they have the money to get to one of those places? (BURIES HIS HEAD IN HIS HANDS) They should have at least asked for our help.

JOE

Maybe they did. I no habla espanol and I don't think the kid was a reliable translator.

JERROD

I was worried about my safety and security and didn't think about what this was like for them. Now it's too late.

THE FAMILY SULKS.

MAXINE RUSHES THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR.

MAXINE

Jerrod! We have to get them out of here, hurry.

JERROD

(RUSHES OVER TO CONSOLE MAXINE) Whoa, slow down! What's wrong? What happened?

MAXINE

ICE is at my work right now. I guess Elena missed a immigration check-in. They want to detain her.

JOE

Hold up. You mean to say she was illegal but was checking in with la migra all this time?!

MAXINE

Citizenship isn't as simple as
checking a box or taking a test.

JERROD

That's right. There was a path to
citizenship and leniency under Obama.
Now ICE under Trump is rounding
everyone up that was trying to play by
the rules.

CYNTHIA

You mean the government is on the
trail of Elena and Tina and we were
hiding them?! Are they gonna come for
us?

JERROD

Of course not, Mom.

MAXINE

Actually... (WINCES)

JOE

Please tell me the federales don't
know we were harboring criminals.

MAXINE

They found out at work. I rushed out
of there, but I don't know if my boss
will tell them.

CYNTHIA

Maxine! How could you?!

JERROD STANDS PROTECTIVELY BESIDE MAXINE.

MAXINE

I'm sorry, Jerrod was right.

JERROD

No, I was wrong. Drawing a line in the sand and protecting humanity is always a defensible position.

JOE

Says you. My name's is on this house and I'll be the one in prison!

MAXINE LOOKS AT JERROD, TOUCHED BY HIS DEFENSE OF HER.

MAXINE

Don't worry we're getting them out of here. (TO JERROD) Get Elena and Tina.

JERROD

(BRISTLES) Uh, Maxine. Actually, they sort of self deported themselves.

MAXINE

What?! They left?

CYNTHIA

In the middle of the night. We had no way of knowing.

MAXINE

What?! Where can they go? Their lives are in danger!

JOE

But we are -in -the -clear!

JERROD

It's a little insensitive to think of ourselves right now.

JOE

At least I feel emboldened. If any ICE officer shows up at our doorstep now...(TAKES A STEP FORWARD TO GRAND-STAND)...I'll say, 'look right here at me. I am a God loving citizen of this country, a property owner, a tax payer, and I paid for my own damn family's healthcare even before Obama tried to make me do it!'

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

JOE FLINCHES WITH SURPRISE, HOPS INTO HIS EASY CHAIR AND RAISES A PAPER OVER HIS FACE.

JOE (CONT'D)

Answer the door, Son.

JERROD

After all that bluster? It's not like it will be ICE - (CROSSES TO OPEN DOOR)

SEVEN ARMED AND UNIFORMED ICE OFFICERS STAND AT THE DOORSTEP.

JERROD (CONT'D)

(STUNNED) -ICE... to see you.

ICE LEADER

Can we talk to the home owner?

JERROD

Dad?! (BACKS AWAY FROM DOOR)

JOE

(SHEEPISHLY FROM BEHIND PAPER) I
already donated to the policeman's
ball!

ICE LEADER

Please come here, Sir.

CYNTHIA

(RUSHES UP TO CONFRONT OFFICER) Look
here, I'm the man of the house too.
What do you mean by rushing onto my
porch with guns?!

ICE LEADER

We are looking to question Miss Elena
Gutierrez and have information that
this is her current residence.

CYNTHIA

What gives you the right?!

ICE LEADER PULLS OUT A WARRANT.

ICE LEADER

This warrant.

JOE

(GETS UP AND RUSHES OVER) Well warrant
you come in then. (NERVOUS CHUCKLE)
Take a look around, there is no Elena
here.

ICE LEADER GIVES THE SIGNAL AND THE TEAM OF SEVEN RUSH IN,
SPREADING OUT IN EACH DIRECTION.

ICE LEADER SIGNALS TO A YOUNG OFFICER TO WATCH THE
CARMICHAEL'S. ICE LEADER RUNS UPSTAIRS.

JOE, MAXINE, JERROD AND CYNTHIA STARE TOWARDS YOUNG OFFICER,
WHOM IS BLOCKING THE DOOR.

YOUNG OFFICER

Sorry. I hate this job.

JOE GRIMACES, THE FAMILY HUDDLES AROUND THE COUCH.

CYNTHIA

(WHISPERING) Joe, we left the ladder
to the attic down.

JOE

(WHISPERING) Shhh. Not now.

MAXINE

(SEETHING) This doesn't feel like
America.

JERROD

At least not the one we want. Worse
has happened in the past, but things
were supposed to be getting better.

ICE LEADER AND TEAM MEMBERS RUSH BACK INTO THE LIVING ROOM
FROM ALL DIRECTIONS.

ICE LEADER

Okay folks. (APPROACHES JOE) We need
to talk.

THE CARMICHAEL'S LOOK TO ONE ANOTHER WITH WORRY.

ICE LEADER (CONT'D)

We found a shelter upstairs in an attic unfit for human occupancy.

JERROD

(STEPPING FORWARD) Hey, that's my room!

ICE LEADER

Your room? It didn't look like the room of an adult male.

JERROD

Why? Because of my Power Ranger bedsheets?

ICE LEADER

Power Rangers?

A LARGE ICE OFFICER LEANS IN.

LARGE ICE OFFICER

There was a Power Rangers blanket. It was pretty dope, Sir.

JOE

Boomerang kids. This economy, eh?

ICE LEADER GRIMACES AND GRINDS HIS JAW.

ICE LEADER

Fine. Well, we didn't find anyone suspicious here. (HANDS A CARD TO CYNTHIA)

ICE LEADER (CONT'D)

Just call us if you have any contact
at all with Miss Gutierrez.

ICE LEADER GIVES THE SIGNAL TO HIS TEAM.

ICE LEADER (CONT'D)

Have a nice day, folks.

THE ICE TEAM SWIFTLY DEPARTS.

THE FAMILY BREATHS A COLLECTIVE SIGH.

MAXINE

That was a nightmare.

CYNTHIA

Tell me about it. Look at these boot
marks all over my floors!

TINA (O.S.)

I'll clean it!

THE CARMICHAEL'S REACT WITH SHOCK.

JOE

Someone please tell me I didn't just
hear the non-corporeal voice of a
child.

TINA CRAWLS OUT FROM UNDER THE COUCH.

TINA

Don't worry. The coast is clear!

CYNTHIA

The coast is clear?! I was sitting on
top of a child and didn't know it.

MAXINE

(TO TINA) What are you doing here?

TINA

Here, my Mom said to give you this when it was safe. (HANDS A PIECE OF PAPER TO JERROD)

JERROD

(LOOKING IT OVER) It's a birth record. She was born here.

CYNTHIA

That makes her American.

JOE

A precocious and cute little child just falls into the Carmichael family like in an old sitcom, starved for ratings.

JERROD

This isn't a joke, Dad.

JERROD LOOKS UP FROM THE PAPER. THE FAMILY PASSES PREGNANT GLANCES BETWEEN ONE ANOTHER.

HOPEFUL, TINA LOOKS UP AT THEM.

JERROD (CONT'D)

What are we gonna do?

BUT THERE ISN'T A CLEAR ANSWER.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW