

THE FACTS OF LIFE

"OVERACHIEVING"

Written by

Jerry Mayer

A
T.A.T. COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY
PRODUCTION

SHOW: #0105
TAPE:
AIR: TBA

"FACTS OF LIFE"

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 26 THRU DECEMBER 4, 1979

MONDAY NOVEMBER 26, 1979

REHEARSAL HALL "E" (x1820)

READ

10:00AM - 1:00PM

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 27, 1979

OFF

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 28, 1979

REHEARSAL HALL "E" (x1820)

REHEARSAL

10:00AM - 1:00PM

LUNCH

1:00PM - 2:00PM

REHEARSAL

2:00PM -

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 29, 1979

REHEARSAL HALL "E" (x1820)

REHEARSAL

10:00AM - 1:00PM

LUNCH

1:00PM - 2:00PM

REHEARSAL

2:00PM -

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30, 1979

REHEARSAL HALL "E" (x1820)

REHEARSAL WITH PROPS

10:00AM - 1:00PM

LUNCH

1:00PM - 2:00PM

REHEARSAL

2:00PM - 3:30PM

RUN THRU

3:30PM - 4:00PM

NOTES WITH CAST

4:00PM -

MONDAY DECEMBER 3, 1979

STAGE #7 (x1554, booth 1556)

E.S.U.

9:00AM - 10:00AM

FAX (ACTORS ON CAMERA)

10:00AM - 1:00PM

LUNCH

1:00PM - 2:00PM

FAX

2:00PM - 4:30PM

RUN THRU WITH WARDROBE

4:30PM - 5:00PM

NOTES WITH CAST

5:00PM -

TUESDAY - DECEMBER 4, 1979

STAGE #7 (x1554, booth 1556)

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

11:30AM - 12:30PM

E.S.U.

11:30AM - 12:30PM

FAX

12:30PM - 1:45PM

RUN THRU

1:45PM - 2:30PM

CAST NOTES, MAKEUP, WARDROBE

2:30PM - 3:30PM

VTR/FAX (DRESS W/AUDIENCE)

3:30PM - 4:30PM

MEAL BREAK

4:30PM - 6:00PM

VT CHECK IN

5:30PM - 6:00PM

VTR/FAX (AIR W/AUDIENCE)

6:00PM - 7:00PM

PICKUPS

7:00PM

"THE FACTS OF LIFE"

"OVERACHIEVING"

CAST

MRS. EDNA GARRETT. CHARLOTTE RAE
STEPHEN BRADLEY JOHN LAWLOR
BLAIR. LISA WELCHEL
NANCY. FELICE SCHACTER
MOLLY. MOLLY RINGWALD
SUE ANN. JULIE PIEKARSKI
TOOTIE KIM FIELDS
NATALIE. MINDY COHN
CINDY. JULIE ANN HADDOCK
RAMSEY *Robert Hook*

SETS

COMMON ROOM

GARRETT'S ROOM

GIRLS' ROOM

ACT ONESCENE ONEFADE IN:INT. COMMON ROOM - DAY

(SUE ANN, DRESSED IN TENNIS
OUTFIT, FROZEN IN A BACKHAND
POSE. A TENNIS BALL HANGS FROM
A STRING)

BLAIR (O.S.)

Don't move, Sue Ann.

SUE ANN

But, I'm tired. Even Whistler's Mother
got a chance to sit down.

(SHE RUNS UPSTAIRS)

BLAIR

Sue Ann, if you don't *hold that pose* come back, I'm gonna
paint you flat-chested!

(MRS. GARRETT ENTERS FROM HER
ROOM WITH NATALIE, TOOTIE, BOTH
IN CURLERS. GARRETT PICKS UP
A PAINTING OF AN EIGHTEEN YEAR
OLD FOOTBALL PLAYER, CATCHING
A PASS)

GARRETT

(LOOKING AT BLAIR'S SKETCH)

This turned out super, Blair. You really
caught the action.

(TOOTIE ADMIRES PAINTING)

NATALIE

I'd like to catch some of that action.

BLAIR

Thanks, Mrs. Garrett. I call it... "The End."

TOOTIE

Good title. He's sure got a cute one

NATALIE

(PUTTING ON AIRS)

Tootie, my dear, isn't that the...

(BATTING HER EYELASHES)

... Gregg Hockney from Bates' Prep?

BLAIR

That's right. How'd you figure that out?

NATALIE

Just a guess. We heard ol' Gregg had great hands.

BLAIR

(GATHERING HER THINGS)

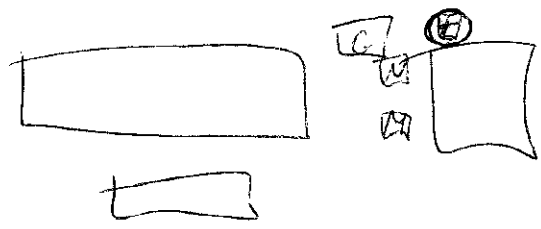
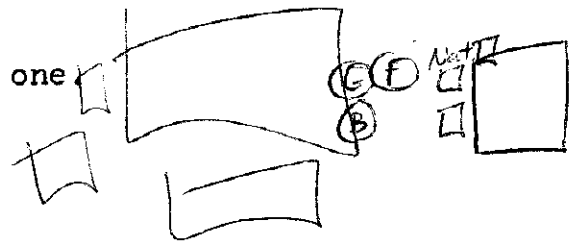
Not great, just busy.

(BLAIR EXITS WITH PAINTING.

MOLLY ENTERS WITH GUITAR AND SHEET OF PAPER)

MOLLY

Mr. Bradley's all excited about "Career Day" tomorrow and here's the list of the speakers with the subjects they'll be talking about and can you tune my guitar again?



(GARRETT GETS A GUITAR PICK FROM
HER ALL PURPOSE APRON)

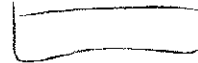
GARRETT

Sure, Molly.

(GARRETT SETS THE PAPER DOWN
AND READS WHILE SHE TUNES THE
GUITAR)



This is quite an impressive lineup.



(PICKS GUITAR, SINGS)

My dog has fleas.

(HANDS GUITAR TO MOLLY)

Here you are.

MOLLY

Thanks. You can do everything.

GARRETT

Naturally, but these folks aren't bad,
either. A doctor... an architect. And
Natalie, I see your sister is gonna talk
about her exciting career as a stewardess.

NATALIE

^{Yeah}
It ~~sure~~ is. She's got two first class
boyfriends and another one in coach.

GARRETT

to call table

(READING FROM SHEET)

I can't wait to hear your father talk,
Tootie. "A Career For Women In Law."
Your mother's a lawyer, too, isn't she?

TOOTIE

(PUTTING WHITE GOOP ON HER FACE)

Yeah. She had to stay in Washington to defend some crooks.

GARRETT

In or out of the government?

TOOTIE

Natalie, will ya hurry?

NATALIE

(STARTS DOING TOOTIE'S NAILS)

What's the rush? "Career Day" isn't till tomorrow.

TOOTIE

Daddy's coming up early cause he's never seen Eastland. He's also never seen me since I became a sex symbol.

GARRETT

I can sympathize with you, as a fellow sex symbol.

(MRS. GARRETT IS TAKING OUT THE CURLERS, AS NATALIE WORKS ON TOOTIE'S NAILS. TOOTIE SMILES, LUXURIATING IN ALL THE ATTENTION)

BRADLEY

(BRADLEY POKES HIS HEAD IN THE DOOR)

Hello? Good, everybody's decent.

(TALKING O.S.)

Come on in, Mr. Ramsey.

TOOTIE

Daddy!

X

(MR. RAMSEY, TOOTIE'S FATHER, ENTERS, HE'S THIRTY-EIGHT, WELL DRESSED, RUGGEDLY HANDSOME AND HAS A SUCCESSFUL, NO NONSENSE AIR ABOUT HIM)

RAMSEY

(TO TOOTIE)

Tootie.

(THE TWO OF THEM HUG AND KISS. HE TAKES OUT HANDKERCHIEF AND HANDS IT TO HER)

RAMSEY (CONT'D)

Can we try that again "Goopless"?

TOOTIE

But you'll see my wrinkles.

RAMSEY

It's okay. You're aging beautifully.

TOOTIE

X to G

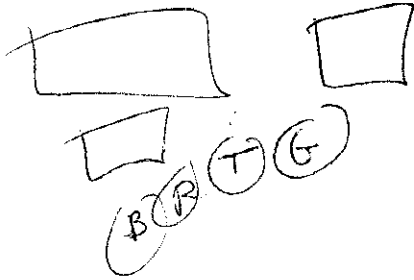


Daddy, meet my friends. Natalie... Molly... Cindy... and this is Mrs. Garrett, our housemother.

(EVERYONE AD-LIBS HELLO)

Garrett pleasure do meet you

Mrs. Garrett is teaching me all the inside tips for when I go to beauty school.



RAMSEY

Beauty school? Hmm. You're full of surprises.

BRADLEY

We're really anxious to hear your Career Day talk. It must be exciting being legal advisor to two presidents.

RAMSEY

It sure is.

GARRETT

It must be... getting to meet new people every four years.

BRADLEY

Maybe later we can talk a little football. Girls, old "Rifle Ramsey", here, was All American quarterback at Syracuse. As well as Phi Beta Kappa.

RAMSEY

Thanks, but, what I'd really like to talk about is how ~~Tootie~~^{Diane} is doing in school.

(POINTING TO TOOTIE)

And maybe I can find out why you passed up that opportunity to take speed reading.

TOOTIE

It went by too fast -- Anyhow, Mrs. Garrett was teaching me something really important.

RAMSEY

Oh? What?

TOOTIE

How to Juliette my nails.

GARRETT

That keeps them from breaking. Every good manicurist knows that.

(TOOTIE DISPLAYS HER LONG NAILS PROUDLY)

MOLLY

Tootie has the longest claws in school, Mr. Ramsey.

RAMSEY

That makes me very proud.

GARRETT

Yes. She's called in whenever there's only one olive left in the bottle.

BRADLEY

All right, everybody, let's get to work on your "Career Day" essays.

(THE GIRLS EXIT)

RAMSEY

I'd like to talk about Tootie's progress and her goals.

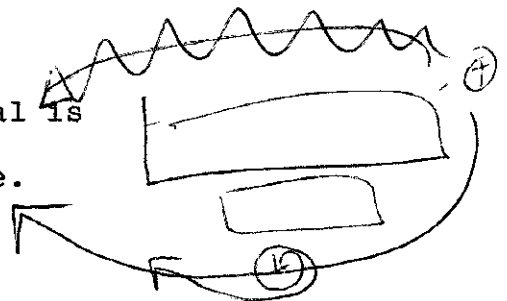
TOOTIE

In a minute, Daddy. Right now my goal is to look like Diana Ross. Gotta skate.

(TOOTIE EXITS INTO KITCHEN.

BRADLEY CHUCKLES, WATCHING HER SKATE OFF. RAMSEY DOESN'T SMILE)

(R) (T) (G)



BRADLEY

(1ST. REV. 11/27)

She is really something...
 (STILL CHUCKLING, BRADLEY TURNS
 TO RAMSEY, SEES A STERN ATTITUDE
 AND STOPS IN MID-CHUCKLE)

... isn't she?

RAMSEY

Not yet. But I'd like her to become
 * something. May we discuss her academic program.

GARRETT

Well, that's ~~not my department~~. Gotta
 skate. *that's my girl*

(SHE EXITS)

RAMSEY

Tootie seems to be very attached to Mrs.
 Garrett.

BRADLEY

Oh, they're inseperable. Like a little
 pilot fish and a shark. You know, "Claws"
 and "Jaws."

(BRADLEY CHUCKLES, RAMSEY DOESN'T)

RAMSEY

Well, to be perfectly frank, a housekeeper
 certainly isn't the kind of role model I
 had in mind for Tootie.

BRADLEY

Well, Mrs. Garrett isn't a housekeeper.
 She's a housemother.

RAMSEY

What's the difference? She's a domestic and I know all about domestics. My mother worked as a chamber maid in a hotel. That was the best job she could get in those days.

BRADLEY

Well, fortunately today, Tootie's opportunities are unlimited.

RAMSEY

Exactly. That's why I want Tootie to prepare for college, not beauty school.

BRADLEY

I'll keep an eye on things.

RAMSEY

I want my daughter to have her head in a book, not in a hair dryer.

BRADLEY

I hear what you're saying.

RAMSEY

No, you don't. What I'm saying is I want you to tell Mrs. Garrett to stay away from Tootie.

(ON BRADLEY'S REACTION, WE:)

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONESCENE TWOINT. MRS. GARRETT'S ROOM -- AN HOUR LATER

(THE GIRLS ARE THERE. NATALIE WITH COMB AND BRUSH IS STYLING SUE ANN'S HAIR. TOOTIE IS WORKING ON HER NAILS AT GARRETT'S DRESSING TABLE)

TOOTIE

(TO A CUSTOMER)

There you are, Dearie. All finished.

SUE ANN

You think it's me?

BLAIR

(KIDDING)

Settle for it, Sue Ann. She's a beautician.

Not the "Miracle Worker."

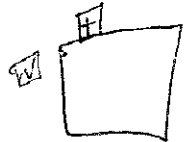
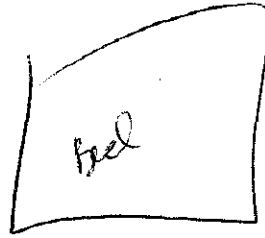
(SUE ANN SMILES. GARRETT ENTERS, CARRYING CUPCAKES)

GARRETT

Okay, girls, one cupcake to a customer and help yourself to cocoa. Have you all finished your essays?

NANCY

I have. I'm gonna be a psychiatrist in Hollywood. Dr. Nancy Olson, "Shrink to the Stars."



SUE ANN

(DRINKING COCOA, WHILE OPENING
HER CAN OF SODA)

A shrink. Smart. That's a good way to
get a man on a couch.

CINDY

I can't decide between being a prima
ballerina or a major league umpire.

NANCY

I'll put you down for an appointment,
Cindy, for your split personality.

CINDY

Does that mean I have to pay double?

SUE ANN

I'm gonna be a marine biologist. The
ocean's just loaded with plants and fish.

(SMILING BROADLY)

And surfers.

BLAIR

(LIGHTLY)

I've got a problem. How do I juggle
three careers? A world renowned artist...
glamorous movie star... and international
trendsetter...

SUE ANN

Gee, Blair. It must be sheer torture having
it all.

(THERE IS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR)

GARRETT

Come in.

(BRADLEY ENTERS)

BRADLEY

Mrs. Garrett...

(TAKES CUPCAKE)

Oh, you're with the troops. Ready for
Career Day, girls?

MOLLY

Yes, I've decided I'm gonna be the Joan
Baez of the 80's. Listen.

(MOLLY HITS A CHORD ON HER GUITAR
AND SINGS)

MOLLY (CONT'D)

OUR SKIES ARE JUNKY...

OUR LAKES ARE CHUNKY...

OUR OCEANS ARE GUNKY

I FEEL LIKE A LAB MONKEY.

STOP GROSSING UP AMERICA,

YOU TURKEYS.

BRADLEY

Wonderful, Molly. Tootie, have you
thought what you want to be after you
graduate from Eastland, when you go to college?

TOOTIE

Oh, I'm not going to college.

BRADLEY

You're not?

NATALIE

No. We're both going to study with Vidal Sassoon, to learn "Advanced Sassooning."

TOOTIE

Yeah. It's all in my essay. We're gonna open a beauty salon and call it "Toot 'n Nats."

NATALIE

Or we might call it "Nat 'n Toots".

BRADLEY

(USHERING GIRLS OUT)

Listen, girls. I have to discuss next week's menu with Mrs. Garrett.

(THE GIRLS START TO EXIT)

SUE ANN

Mr. Bradley, if you plan to put some kind of chemical in our food to make us lose interest in boys... it won't work.

(THE GIRLS LAUGH AND EXIT)

BRADLEY

Mrs. Garrett, this is very distasteful for me. I haven't had to deal with this kind of thing since I was in the army.

GARRETT

You do want me to put a chemical in the girls' food?

BRADLEY

(SHAKES HEAD)

Of course not. It doesn't work on girls,
does it?

GARRETT

Isn't there something you wanted to talk about?

BRADLEY

Right. And it isn't easy. In fact, this
is almost as hard as having to make that
phone call to Corporal Harvey Wunderlich's
parents.

(BRADLEY POURS HIMSELF A CUP
OF COCOA)

GARRETT

(SYMPATHETICALLY)

Must've been sad.

BRADLEY

It sure was. We caught him painting his
toenails.

GARRETT

Mr. Bradley, can you get to the point?

BRADLEY

(NOT LOOKING HER IN THE EYE)

Mr. Ramsey is very unhappy with the way
Tootie's interests are developing... and
he feels it's a result of the people she spends
time with.

(HE SMELLS COCOA)

GARRETT

Really? Not Natalie.

(HE SHAKES HIS HEAD 'NO')

GARRETT

Then who?

BRADLEY

Edna, nobody has your delicate touch
with cocoa.

GARRETT

Is it Molly. Cindy?

BRADLEY

And there isn't any of that yucky stuff on
top.

GARRETT

Blair, Sue Ann, Nancy?

(DURING THIS, HE DOWNS HIS COCOA)

BRADLEY

(WITH A BROWN MUSTACHE)

Ordinarily, I never go for a second cup.

GARRETT

Who else is there?

BRADLEY

I just can't get enough of this stuff.

GARRETT

There's no one left.

BRADLEY

(FINISHING LAST DROP,
ECHOING INTO CUP)

Yes, there is.

GARRETT

Me?!

(ON GARRETT'S SHOCKED EXPRESSION, WE:)

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONESCENE THREEINT. COMMON ROOM - DAY

(A SIGN IS UP THAT SAYS: "CAREER DAY." BLAIR'S PAINTING IS HUNG IN A PROMINENT SPOT. GARRETT IS SETTING OUT FOLDING CHAIRS, BANGING THEM LOUDLY AND SLAMMING THEM DOWN AS SHE MUTTERS TO HERSELF)

GARRETT

So, Mr. Ramsey is unhappy.

(SLAMS THE CHAIR)

Isn't that too bad. *Tough business*

(SLAMS THE CHAIR)

He wants me to have nothing to do with Tootie.

(SLAMS THE CHAIR)

Well, Mr. Ramsey, it's about time somebody straightened you out.

(OPENS A CHAIR)

And put you in your place.

(SLAMS A CHAIR. CINDY ENTERS)

CINDY

Mrs. Garrett.

GARRETT

(BREAKING INTO A SMILE)

Yes.

CINDY

Is anything wrong?

GARRETT

No. Why do you ask?

CINDY

I've never seen you talk to chairs
before.

(CINDY EXITS INTO THE KITCHEN.

GARRETT OPENS ONE MORE CHAIR AND
PUTS IT IN PLACE, BITING HER
LIP TO CONTROL HERSELF. TOOTIE
COMES DOWN STAIRS IN SKATES)

TOOTIE

Good morning, Mrs. Garrett. Daddy's
picking me up for breakfast. Is he
here yet?

GARRETT

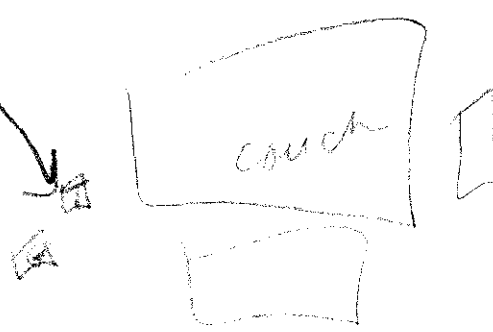
I haven't seen him.

TOOTIE

Good. That means there'll be time for
you to teach me how to pluck my eyebrows.

GARRETT

I'm sorry, Tootie. I really can't.



↓
TOOTIE

(LOOKING IN MIRROR)

If I do it myself, I'm gonna look like
Mr. Spock. I always thought you got a
kick out of showing me how to do things.

GARRETT

I did, Tootie. But I just ^{can't} ~~don't~~ have the
~~time for it now.~~ I hope you understand.

TOOTIE

Sure!

(TURNS, EXITING)

* Sheesh. Then, how do I learn to do my eyebrows?
By plucking a chicken?

(TOOTIE EXITS UP STAIRS, FRUSTRATED.)

BLAIR, CARRYING CANVAS AND EASEL,

AND SUE ANN COME DOWN STAIRS.

THEY NOTICE TOOTIE)

BLAIR

What's bothering Tootie? Someone put
glue in her wheels?

GARRETT

I'm afraid so.

(SUE ANN OPENS A CAN OF POP,
DRINKS)

SUE ANN

Blair, aren't you gonna tell Mrs. Garrett
about your new painting?

BLAIR

I'm gonna paint a male model without his
clothes on.

GARRETT

In the nude?

BLAIR

Sure. How else would you paint a horse?

(BLAIR AND SUE ANN LAUGH HYSTERICALLY)

SUE ANN

That really cracks me up. How come you're not laughing.

GARRETT

~~I'm just kinda preoccupied.~~

~~BLAIR~~

~~It has something to do with Tootie, doesn't it?~~

(GARRETT NODS)

GARRETT

Mr. Ramsey doesn't want me to spend time with her anymore.

SUE ANN

No.

GARRETT

Yes. He thinks I'm a bad influence on Tootie. Well, I've got a few words for old Rifle Ramsey. I'm gonna give him a shot or two of my own.

(RAMSEY HAS ENTERED WITHOUT GARRETT NOTICING. SHE NOW FACES HIM FOR A BEAT OF EMBARRASSMENT)

Mr. Ramsey! -- You didn't happen to overhear what I just said, did you?

RAMSEY

I'm afraid I did.

GARRETT

Good. Girls, would you excuse us?

SUE ANN

Yay!

BLAIR

She means, certainly.

(THE GIRLS EXIT)

GARRETT

(LOOKS WAY UP TO RAMSEY)

Mr. Ramsey, I think it's time for us to have an "eyeball to eyeball."

RAMSEY

I agree, Mrs. Garrett.

GARRETT

I understand you'd rather I'd stay away from Tootie.

RAMSEY

Not permanently. Just till she's safely into college.

GARRETT

~~That's for sure~~
I think it's a mistake, Mr. Ramsey. I really think we should talk about this.

RAMSEY

I'd be glad to. But that's all it would be... talk. You see, after reading her "Career" essay and evaluating her plans for the future, I've decided to make some changes in Tootie's education.

GARRETT

But, Mr. Ramsey...

RAMSEY

Please, Mrs. Garrett. I've made up my mind. After my "Career Day" talk, I'm taking Tootie out of Eastland.

(ON GARRETT'S STUNNED EXPRESSION,

WE:)

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOSCENE ONEFADE IN:INT. GIRLS' ROOM - DAY

(TOOTIE HAS DRESSER DRAWERS OPEN,
AND IS DISGUSTEDLY PUTTING
ARTICLES OF CLOTHING INTO HER
OPEN SUITCASE ACROSS THE ROOM.
NANCY AND BLAIR ARE SITTING ON
THE BED AND NATALIE IS ON A
CHAIR. ALL FOUR ARE GLUM.
EVERYTIME TOOTIE MESSILY PACKS
SOMETHING, NANCY FOLDS IT
NEATLY. TOOTIE FINALLY SPEAKS)

TOOTIE

Nancy, stop helping me, will you? You
trying to rush me outta here?

NANCY

Sorry, Tootie. I'm just a compulsive
neatness freak. When I'm sad, I
straighten things.

BLAIR

If it'll help you, you can make my bed.

(MOLLY ENTERS (WITH GUITAR),
SUE ANN (WITH CAN OF SODA), AND
CINDY (WITH BASKETBALL)).

SUE ANN

Tootie, is it true? Your dad's pulling
you out of school?

(TOOTIE NODS SADLY)

TOOTIE

Yeah, in a couple of hours, it'll be
toot, toot, Tootie goodbye.

NATALIE

Tootie, what should we do with that
poster we bought together?

TOOTIE

Here.

(RIPS IT IN HALF)

You take Kermit and I'll take Miss Piggy.

NATALIE

I'll put it right here. It'll always
remind me of you.

(SHE TAPES IT TO WALL)

MOLLY

How can your dad take you out of Eastland?
This dump is a great school.

TOOTIE

Daddy says he's concerned that I'm not
reaching my potential here.

NATALIE

Concerned parents are a drag.

BLAIR

It's so much simpler when your parents are divorced. They just send money and smile a lot.

TOOTIE

Daddy says I'm not pushing hard enough. I'm not motivated. He said...

(ALA HER FATHER)

"Dorothy, you've got the potential to be a young Margaret Thatcher."

CINDY

(BOUNCING BASKETBALL)

Who's Margaret Thatcher?

TOOTIE

That's what I said. Big mistake.

BLAIR

Everyone knows who Margaret Thatcher is. She's one of the ten worst dressed women in the world.

SUE ANN

She's the Prime Minister of England.

BLAIR

That too.

CINDY

What school's your Dad gonna put you in?

TOOTIE

Some school in Washington, where the kids
of foreign diplomats go.

SUE ANN

I'll bet when you ask a question. You get the
answer back in subtitles.

NATALIE

Well, I guess this means the end of "Nat
'n Toot's Beauty Shop?"

TOOTIE

No way. We're still gonna have "Toot 'n
Nat's." It's just that Daddy wants me to
become President of the United States, first.

(THE GIRLS LAUGH, THEN GLOOM SETS

IN. TOOTIE PACKS IN SILENCE.

GARRETT ENTERS)

GARRETT

It's almost time for Career Day talks.
You better get ready, girls.

NANCY

Mrs. Garret, you're a good talker. Can't
you please convince Tootie's father to
let her stay?

GARRETT

I'm the last person he'd listen to.

MOLLY

(MOLLYESQUE)

Nancy, where have you been? Don't you know that Tootie's father thinks Mrs. Garrett's the reason that Tootie's such a dummy?

TOOTIE

Whoever thought my own daddy would be so mean!

GARRETT

Tootie, don't say that. Try to understand your father. What his life must've been like at your age. He's worked awfully hard to get you where you are.

TOOTIE

Then, why is he taking me out of Eastland, when I love it here? I hate him!

GARRETT

(HUGGING HER)

Oh, Tootie, there's no hate in you.

TOOTIE

Oh, Mrs. Garrett. I'm really gonna miss you.

(THEY BREAK THE HUG)

GARRETT

Wait a minute! Are we going to give Tootie up without a fight?

(GIRLS AD-LIB "NOS")

MOLLY

I got an idea! We'll chain Tootie to the front gate, just like John Voight did in "Coming Home."

GARRETT

No, Molly. Look, we're going down to hear his Career talk right now. We've got to convince Tootie's father to let her stay, by using something he respects. Our brains.

TOOTIE

(TOOTIESQUE)

Brains? We are in trouble.

(QUICKLY)

Not that you girls aren't smart. But Daddy's an awfully good talker.

BLAIR

Mrs. Garrett's right, Tootie. We can do it. We'll think of some way to convince him.

TOOTIE

It's not gonna be easy. Daddy's argued cases in all the highest courts in the land. Even in front of "The Supremes".

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWOSCENE TWOINT. COMMON ROOM - DAY

(THE GIRLS, GARRETT, BRADLEY
AND SOME EXTRA GIRLS LISTEN,
AS RAMSEY SPEAKS)

RAMSEY

* ... And to use an analogy. The law is
one big hunt. With justice being the
elusive fox and the lawyer, the trusty
bloodhound. In other words, if you want
to make it as a lawyer, keep your nose in
your books and work your tail off.

(EVERYONE APPLAUDS)

BRADLEY

(STANDING)

Wonderful, Mr. Ramsey. All right,
let's open the floor to questions.

(QUICKLY)

And nothing personal, like some of you
older girls asked Natalie's sister.

(WE SEE AN ATTRACTIVE STEWARDESS

SITTING NEXT TO NATALIE. NEARBY,
BLAIR RAISES HER HAND)

RAMSEY

Shoot, Blair.

BLAIR

Mr. Ramsey, are there any laws on the books protecting a child from being yanked out of school against her will?

RAMSEY

(HIP TO BLAIR'S DRIFT)

Not that I know of.

SUE

And if she loves that school, isn't it alienation of affections?

BRADLEY

Now girls, really. I know what you're driving at, but this isn't the time nor the place to discuss Tootie's situation.

NANCY

But, Mr. Bradley, if we don't discuss it now, we'll be out of time and place.

TOOTIE

Yeah, in ten minutes, I'm gone. How about it, Daddy? Can we get on my case?

RAMSEY

Well... sure, I believe in an open forum. Who has the first question?

NATALIE

(RAISING HAND)

Can I talk? I've got plenty to say.

BLAIR

(STANDING)

No, Natalie, I know you're going to tell Mr. Ramsey what a wonderful friend Tootie is. But we've got to stick to facts.

CINDY

Right. We can't stoop to emotions, like how much we love her.

SUE ANN

And how she'll be impossible to replace.

NANCY

(ALMOST CRYING)

And how she makes us laugh.

NATALIE

I won't say those things.

(NATALIE SITS)

BLAIR

Molly?

(MOLLY RISES, HOLDING A PIECE OF PAPER)

MOLLY

I'd like to present "Exhibit A" which is Tootie's grades that I got from Mrs. Packer at the front office who is always truthful even if her dentures do wobble when she talks.

(MORE)

MOLLY (CONT'D)

(READING FROM SHEET)

A, A, B, A. Cooperative, enthusiastic.

Oh, oh, "Talks too much." But that's in gym, so it doesn't count.

(MOLLY SITS DOWN, RAMSEY SMILES)

RAMSEY

Thank you, Molly. I know Tootie's grades are very good. And that she talks quite a bit.

SUE ANN

Mr. Ramsey, Eastland's a terrific place to learn. You won't find a tougher school anywhere.

NATALIE

Yeah, if one existed, my mom would've found it.

RAMSEY

Girls, I must say you've made a very convincing case. But, I'm sorry, I still don't think Eastland offers the kind of challenge Tootie needs.

(BRADLEY RISES)

BRADLEY

Mr. Ramsey, I'm going to have to call you on that.

TOOTIE

(SENSING TROUBLE)

Oh, oh.

BRADLEY

Up till now, I'll have to admit, I've been rather intimidated by what you've accomplished. Well, we've accomplished a lot at Eastland, too. This isn't a school for spoiled rich girls.

(THE GIRLS LOOK AT BLAIR)

BLAIR

Why are you looking at me?

BRADLEY

I think Eastland offers exactly the kind of challenge Tootie needs. Our teachers are the highest ranked in the state. We have over 90% college placement. And our graduates are represented in professions all over the country.

RAMSEY

I appreciate everything you've said, Mr. Bradley. But, my decision still stands. Tootie, are you all packed?

(TOOTIE NODS UNHAPPILY)

BLAIR

(TO GARRETT)

I guess we weren't very convincing.

GARRETT

You did just fine, Blair.

(TO RAMSEY)

Mr. Ramsey, before you leave? May I see you a moment in my chambers?

RAMSEY:

Certainly, Mrs. Garrett.

TOOTIE

If I'm not out in five minutes. You can
raffle off my skates.

CUT TO:

ACT TWOSCENE THREEINT. MRS. GARRETT'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS ACTION

(RAMSEY, TOOTIE AND GARRETT

ENTER. RAMSEY LOOKS ABOUT,
ADMIRING THE DECOR)

RAMSEY

Hmm. Interesting room.

GARRETT

Thank you.

RAMSEY

I have that Vasserey poster in my office.

TOOTIE

Neat, Daddy, you have good taste, too.

RAMSEY

Thanks, Tootie. Well, Mrs. Garrett. You
wanted to talk?

GARRETT

Actually, Mr. Ramsey, I wanted Tootie to
talk.

TOOTIE

Me? Sure, I'll be glad to. About what?

GARRETT

About how you feel about leaving Eastland.
We haven't heard a peep out of you.

TOOTIE

That's 'cause I'm chicken

RAMSEY

Chicken?

TOOTIE

Yeah, Y'know...

(FLEXES ARMS LIKE WINGS)

Buck, buck, buck...

RAMSEY

Tootie, you're not afraid of me?

TOOTIE

No. I'm afraid of hurting your feelings.
See, I know why you want me to leave
Eastland. 'Cause you're worried I'll turn
out like Grandma. I guess you're kind of
ashamed of her.

RAMSEY

What? That's what you think? That I'm
ashamed of Grandma?

TOOTIE

Well, aren't you? Isn't that why you didn't
want me to hang in with Mrs. Garrett, or be
good with my hands like Grandma is?

RAMSEY

Honey, I'm very proud of Grandma. And I'm
proud of you, too.

(HE HUGS TOOTIE)

And the best way we can thank Grandma for
working so hard is for you to get the best
education you can. There's no time for triviality.

GARRETT

Mr. Ramsey, I'm sure you know a lot about education. But I don't think you know how little girls think. When I was Tootie's age, I wanted to be oh so many things... a ballerina... a scientist... a jockey...

(LIGHTLY)

Fortunately for the horse I changed my mind. But changing your mind is what you're supposed to do when you're twelve years old.

RAMSEY

True, Mrs. Garret, but...

GARRETT

Please, I'm on a roll. You see, what you call 'triviality', we call fun. And fun is an important part of education. You had so much to accomplish that I bet you never had any time for fun.

RAMSEY

Right. I had a goal Mrs. Garrett.

GARRETT

And you'd be happy, wouldn't you, if Tootie had the same goal and became a top attorney... like your mother wanted you to be. Am I correct?

RAMSEY

No. My mother wanted me to be a minister.
Being a lawyer was strictly what I wanted.

GARRETT

Your dream?

RAMSEY

Well, yes -- my dream.

GARRETT

What about Tootie's dream, Mr. Ramsey?
You had yours, and made it come true.
Doesn't Tootie have the same right to her
own dream, whatever it might be?

RAMSEY

Yes, but the only way to accomplish anything
worthwhile is to be a trained and disciplined
person. Education is a serious business.

GARRETT

Oh, no. Learning can be the most fun of all.
The fun of learning everything from
making yourself beautiful to speed reading.

TOOTIE

Daddy, let me learn speed reading here.
I'll spend all my time in the fast lane.
What do you say, Daddy?

RAMSEY

Mrs. Garrett, have you ever considered
going to law school?

ACT TWOSCENE FOURINT. COMMON ROOM - CONTINUOUS ACTION

(BLAIR, SUE ANN, NATALIE, CINDY,
MOLLY AND NANCY WAIT IMPATIENTLY
WITH MR. BRADLEY. NANCY PUTS
HER EAR TO THE DOOR)

BLAIR

Nancy, they are having a private conversation.
You can't eavesdrop like that.

BRADLEY

She's right.

BLAIR

This is the way to eavesdrop.

(BLAIR PUTS GLASS TO DOOR AND
EAR TO GLASS. THE DOOR OPENS,
BLAIR STRAIGHTENS UP)

TOOTIE

Guess what!!! I'm staying.
(EVERYONE BREAKS INTO CHEERS.
RAMSEY REACTS TO GLASS IN BLAIR'S
HAND, BLAIR THINKS QUICKLY)

BLAIR

I'll drink to that.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

END OF SHOW