

FANCY

Episode 2 - "Winners and Good Sports"

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FANCY

"Winners and Good Sports"

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. URBAN HOME - LIVING ROOM

An unathletic, FOUR-YEAR-OLD GIRL practices CARTWHEELS (bad cartwheels) in front of the television (T.V.). As she VEERS AND CRUMPLES we push past her to focus:

ON THE T.V.: Where QUEEN MAUREEN, 30's, perky and pretty, packs her ROYAL BACKPACK as she talks to camera.

QUEEN MAUREEN

Today, we're going on a journey, to the Land Of Good Sport. Do you want to come? Great! Along the way, we'll learn how to be a winner EVERY TIME we run a race or play a game.

ON THE T.V.: Pat the Dragon (puppet) joins Queen Maureen.

PAT THE DRAGON

A winner every time?! (excited) So we're gonna learn to cheat?

QUEEN MAUREEN

No Pat. We're going to learn to be REAL winners. We're going to learn to be Good Sports. Should we start?

ON THE T.V.: Queen Maureen steps onto the START space of a HUGE GAME BOARD/PATH (it goes to Good Sport) that meanders into the "distance". Suddenly "FUN" MUSIC plays!

PAT THE DRAGON

What is that?

QUEEN MAUREEN

It's the FUN SONG. It's our first lesson - a reminder that the point of any contest is to JUST HAVE FUN! So let's do it! (sings along) Just have fun! Just have fun!

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. STANLEY PARK - DAY

MAUREEN FANCY, 35, is NOT having fun! She's angry and cursing (but in her "Tina Fey-like" way we find her charmingly indignant) as she STOMPS through the park wearing a GOD-AWFUL CHRISTMAS

SWEATER (in the middle of summer) as CURIOUS PEOPLE look on. We BEEP her curses:

MAUREEN

Holy BEEP. This is BEEPIN' ridiculous. Christmas BEEPIN' photo in July! And this sweater, BEEP!, Could it be more humiliating? I am not sitting between the BEEPIN' dogs this year. Mark my BEEPIN' words.

Maureen MARCHES towards her FAMILY: MOTHER, FATHER, SISTER, BROTHER-IN-LAW, PRE-TEEN NIECE and NEPHEW, TWO DOGS (all wear identical Christmas sweaters) who stand with PHOTOGRAPHER.

CUT TO:

EXT. STANLEY PARK - MOMENTS LATER

The PHOTOGRAPHER positions Maureen between Maureen's sister, JANE and Maureen's MOTHER who nags.

MOTHER

Well thank you very much for being late, Maureen, now we have to rush.

MAUREEN

Yeah I can see how you wouldn't want to rush through something this great.

MOTHER

You're not funny.

JANE

I'm just glad we're all here together.

MOTHER

Jane, you're a blessing.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Everyone say, "FANCY FAMILY".

EVERYONE

Fancy family.

CLICK - a photo is taken.

EXT. STANLEY PARK - LATER

Maureen and family stand FROZEN in position: throwing SNOWBALLS (Styrofoam balls) at camera as the photographer fusses:

MOTHER

Before I forget, Maureen, I've got your questionnaire for the Christmas card letter in my purse. Don't leave without it. Did you hear me?

MAUREEN

Yes. But everyone has to fill one out, why are you singling me out?

MOTHER

Oh please, if anyone's going to be a "Last minute Larry", it's you. Besides, Jane has already finished her questionnaires. You have two weeks Maureen. I want this whole Christmas card thing wrapped up by the time your father and I go on our cruise.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Everyone say LOVE BOAT!

EVERYONE

LOVE BOAT.

CLICK - a photo is taken.

CUT TO:

EXT. STANLEY PARK - LATER

The family poses with hands on each other's shoulders. Jane stands in front of Maureen.

JANE

(to Maureen) You look so pretty today.

MAUREEN

No I don't - no one could look pretty in this sweater. (noticing Jane - who looks pretty) Except you. How can you always look good in these sweaters?

Maureen's Mother is behind her.

MOTHER

Because Jane likes her body.

MAUREEN

I don't...I said I didn't like my body ONCE, Mother, in grade 8.

MOTHER

Fine, I'm wrong again. You love your body. (louder) She loves her body.

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. TELEVISION STUDIO - LOADING DOCK/SMOKING AREA - DAY
Maureen, dressed as Queen Maureen, SMOKES a cigarette with best friend, LESLIE, 35, a tough, husky parking enforcement officer - her helmet and SEGWAY stand close by. ANOTHER SMOKER, 50's reads a novel and sits in a BROKEN office chair.

Maureen waves the questionnaire at Leslie who nods - she's heard it before.

MAUREEN

I don't know why I even fill this stupid questionnaire out. The Christmas letter always says the same thing: Jane is the greatest human being ever and Maureen is the eldest.

LESLIE

I know. I would hate to have a sister like Jane. She's like Ghandi - except in the body of Kate Winslet - she's perfect - she's pretty and kind...

MAUREEN

I know. And she doesn't know it. It's hateful.

LESLIE

Yeah, and she's funny...

MAUREEN

She's not that funny. I mean, she's not "hilarious funny"...

LESLIE

No, she's not "hilarious funny" but she does have that one (starts laughing) CHEESE story...(she laughs harder remembering it)

MAUREEN

It is a good story. (switching gears) But I mean, just once I'd like to be Ghandi - and Kate Winslet. Instead I'm...Urkel.

LESLIE

Urkel? (remembering) Oh yeah, Urkel.

MAUREEN

Just once I'd like to get the most lines in the Christmas letter. Even last year when I got Kid's Kingdom - I got a TV SHOW and Jane still got more lines than me.

LESLIE

Because she almost had melanoma.

MAUREEN

"Almost", that's my point. Jane did not have melanoma - she had a wart. So from my point of view, Jane's wart got seventeen lines and my life got three.

LESLIE

From your point of view it does look bad.

The OTHER SMOKER puts his cigarette out on the ground and goes to leave. Leslie stops him.

LESLIE

Hey! I'm authorized to give out tickets for polluting you know. But I could let you off with a warning and my phone number.

Leslie produces a slip of paper - the Other Smoker reluctantly takes it. He's gone.

MAUREEN

He's not your type.

LESLIE

Are you kidding? I'm too horny to have a type anymore. It's bad. I had to switch to the Segway because I don't dare sit down. (quickly) Stop talking about it!

MAUREEN

Okay. (Re: questionnaire) This is stupid, I mean, who cares about a stupid Christmas letter?

LESLIE

You do.

MAUREEN

I know! But it's impossible. How am I going to get more lines than Jane?

LESLIE

It does sound crazy - I mean, how the hell could Urkel beat Ghandi?

Maureen and Leslie think as:

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - KID'S KINGDOM SET

Maureen stands WAIST DEEP in a pool of oatmeal (a sign beside the pool reads, "Quitters Quicksand") as she talks with DOUG, the art department stoner, who FREES Maureen from the hardened oatmeal by loosening it with a long pole.

MAUREEN

And then it hit me, Urkel did beat Ghandi. Once. Twenty years ago when I was (never mind) younger. I got three more lines than Jane the year I volunteered at Camp Starshine.

DOUG

Oh yeah.

MAUREEN

Have you heard of it?

DOUG

No, but I love Urkel.

MAUREEN

Right. It's a camp for kids with disabilities. My Mother is a sucker for volunteerism so I guess she just couldn't help herself. There was even a photo right on the Christmas Card letter that year - of me and this kid whose life I saved. I mean, all I did was pull a smore from a breathing tube but... (getting lost in the thought) yeah, a photo would be great.

DOUG

But that's not the point, is it?

MAUREEN

What?

DOUG

The photo.

MAUREEN

No, right, the point is to get more lines than Jane and to do it, all I have to do is Volunteer - as much as humanly possible in the next two weeks.

The oatmeal starts to give (Hooray!) Maureen moves to help free herself.

DOUG

(excited) Skookum! The evil oatmeal has been defeated. Sorry about this, next time more water, right?

MAUREEN

Right.

Doug helps Maureen out of the oatmeal as ED, 50's, Maureen's co-worker, BURSTS onto set and hurries to Maureen!

ED

Oh my God! Oh my God! It's finally happened, Maureen.

MAUREEN

Johnny Depp's in the hallway - he needs to marry me right away?

ED

No. I just got out of a network meeting.

MAUREEN

(in disbelief) Please, that's even more unbelievable than Johnny...

Maureen is out of the pool and now walking - in diving suit bottoms and QUEEN MAUREEN top, with Ed towards the exit.

ED

No I mean, I just finished eavesdropping on a network meeting. They're adding an ON CAMERA role. HE has heard my prayers, Maureen - I'm gonna fall on my knees.

Ed stops and starts to "fall" SLOWLY but his BAD back, knees, etc. make it difficult.

MAUREEN

Ed, I'm actually trying to get to this Volunteer place that closes at 5, so you go ahead and fall on your knees but I can't stay. Okay?

ED

Well you could have told me before - help me up!

Maureen does.

ED

They're going to re-do the end of the GOOD SPORT episode, introduce a new character. They need an ACTOR to play the part of (deep voice) SIR GOOD SPORT. (deeper voice) Sir Good Sport.

Maureen and Ed exit the studio and into the hallway.

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS
Maureen and Ed walk past CREW-MEMBERS.

MAUREEN

Oh, I see. Well I'm sure you'd be great Ed but what about Pat?

ED

Screw Pat. This is my chance to come out from behind the puppet. Any idiot can manipulate Pat - we'll get one of the crew.

A few CREW sneer at Ed - did he just call us idiots? Maureen keeps walking.

ED

One look at my talent and the network will be begging me for a spin-off. "Sir Ed...of ..Everything". I don't want to disclose my entire pitch but suffice it to say, my star is about to shine.

They enter Maureen's office/dressing room.

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - MAUREEN'S OFFICE/DRESSING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Maureen goes into the bathroom and starts the shower.

MAUREEN (O.S.)

That's great Ed but I have to change.

ED

Fine just let me borrow your Blockbuster card? If I'm going to nail this role I have to rent some movies for research.

Maureen comes out of the bathroom to get her clothes.

MAUREEN

You can get a Blockbuster card, Ed - they give them to anyone.

ED

Not if they've already taken yours away, twice. Long story. Pleeese?

MAUREEN

Fine, but help me decide, pants or skirt? Which says "Hi, I can handle as much volunteer work as you can throw at me".

ED

(immediately) Pants! Too easy. Next time give Sir Good Sport a real challenge.

Ed searches through Maureen's wallet as Maureen holds pants and then skirt up to herself in the mirror - it is easy.

INT. CHARITIES4U OFFICES - LATER

Maureen sits in a cubicle, opposite an overly-earnest CHARITIES4U EMPLOYEE, 40's.

CHARITIES4U EMPLOYEE

We like to say we're a dating service for volunteers and organizations. Isn't that cute?

She doesn't wait for an answer.

CHARITIES4U EMPLOYEE

Let's talk about your dream. What is your VOLUNTEER dream? Shoot for the moon, you'll end up in the stars. I love that. Your volunteer dream? Go.

MAUREEN

Well, I guess I want to do this for my Mother.

CHARITIES4U EMPLOYEE

(tearing up) Oh, she's passed.

MAUREEN

No she's still with us but (joking)
when she sees all the work I've done
hopefully it'll kill her.

Maureen chuckles at her joke, the Employee doesn't.

MAUREEN

I'm sorry. (changing gears) My
volunteer dream, uh, I just want to do
EVERYTHING, you know, to help
EVERYONE, by doing ANYTHING - build a
house, deliver meals, read to the
blind. Wherever there is a need, I
want to fill it, for the next two
weeks.

CHARITIES4U EMPLOYEE

Okay. (Sotto) But just to let you
know, we're not suggesting "Reading to
the blind" right now because we only
have one "readee", Dennis, and we've
had some trouble with him.

MAUREEN

No, that's not a problem for me. I'll
read to Dennis. I have to do it all.
I want to. Everything.

The employee starts to input into her computer as:

INT. URBAN HOME

The unathletic, four-year-old girl does cartwheels as:

ON THE T.V.: Queen Maureen and Pat sing:

QUEEN MAUREEN

Even if you're in last place and
things don't look too good.
Even if you lose a turn or just wish
you would
There is something you can do to pass
this little test
You can do your best, you can do your
best
If you're gonna DO, then do it, do
your best.

The song ACCOMPANIES the following:

MONTAGE:

Maureen CLEANS A RIVER. Pulls at a wet shopping cart.

Maureen DELIVERS MEALS ON WHEELS. Carries a TOWER of trays.

Ed PRACTICES IN FRONT OF THE RENTED MOVIE - a POT LID for a shield, an UMBRELLA for a sword, he copies fight choreography from an ERROL FLYNN MOVIE.

Maureen BUILDS A HOUSE for the homeless. POWER SAWS lumber.

Leslie TRIES TO SOLVE HER HORNY PROBLEM: she holds up TWO "TICKETS" for a GOOD LOOKING MAN. In one hand, a parking ticket, in the other, her PHONE NUMBER - it's his choice.

Maureen VISITS A HOSPITAL as QUEEN MAUREEN. Makes BALLOON ANIMALS for SICK KIDS.

Maureen READS TO DENNIS who reaches to touch her face - his way of "seeing her". Maureen doesn't want to be rude and continues to read as Dennis' hands continue DOWN to Maureen's neck and then BOOBS! She UNDERSTANDS the problem with Dennis.

The "Do your best" SONG ENDS and we hear LAUGHTER as:

INT. JANE'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM

Maureen, Leslie, and the entire FANCY FAMILY LAUGH at Jane's ONE GREAT STORY! It's the end of dinner.

JANE

...I still can't buy that cheese.

Another BURST of laughter that falls away as:

LESLIE

Oh my god. That is the greatest story.

MAUREEN

It really is.

A moment of quiet - Maureen sees her opportunity.

MAUREEN

(trying to be casual) Uh Mum, I just remembered, I brought my, what do you call it? Christmas Card questionnaire. What should I do with it?

Maureen pulls a THICK ENVELOPE from her purse. Leslie hurries to chew a piece of CAKE so she can help with their (what we soon realize is) REHEARSED CONVERSATION:

MOTHER

Not going to make me beg for it this year, huh?

Just put it in my purse - I'll sort through the chicken scratch later.

LESLIE

Well I hope you brought a big purse Mrs. F., because that is one thick envelope.

Leslie WINKS at Maureen - proud of her "purse" weave.

MAUREEN

I had to use a few extra sheets of paper.

LESLIE

And I also insisted she put in this certificate of merit she got for visiting the (closing eyes to recall) pediatric extended care ward.

JANE

Have you been doing some volunteer work Maureen?

Leslie grabs the envelope from Maureen (who fakes modestly not letting go) Leslie gives it to Jane.

LESLIE

Oh yeah, take a look. If she's not visiting kids in the hospital she's delivering meals to old people (to parents) no offense. That's just the tip of the iceberg.

JANE

(reading) Maureen this is inspirational! I used to read to the blind - it's great isn't it? Mum, take a look at this.

MOTHER

Fine, if you're gonna hound me.

Jane passes the envelope down to their Mother.

MAUREEN

(trying to sound casual) So Jane - what have you been up to? This year? Lots I bet.

JANE

No, it's been a slow year - I barely had anything on my questionnaire.

Actually Mum, you should think about devoting a good portion of this year's letter to Maureen's volunteer work - put a few website addresses if people want to learn more.

MAUREEN

Oh no that would be a paragraph...

LESLIE

Or more...

MOTHER

(re: Maureen's questionnaire) This does look like a much better effort than your antics at the photo shoot, Maureen.

Maureen and Leslie share a "it's in the bag" look.

JANE

Oh gosh - can you all excuse me - I have to pee again. (to husband) I blame you for being so good looking, if I'm pregnant again.

Maureen's Mother SQUEALS as Jane gets up and exits. Maureen and Leslie share an "UH OH" look as:

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. URBAN HOME

CLOSE ON THE T.V.: Queen Maureen talks to camera:

QUEEN MAUREEN

Oh no! Pat has jumped into Quitter's Quicksand. Don't worry Pat! I'm coming!

CUT TO:

INT. JANE'S GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Maureen and Leslie smoke cigarettes and pace.

LESLIE

Okay, don't worry.

MAUREEN

Right, let's not panic. If Jane is pregnant - what does that mean?

LESLIE

A paragraph?

MAUREEN

Maybe (an idea) or maybe not - I mean, this is her THIRD kid and that's not as special as #1 or #2 or even #4.

LESLIE

You're right - why is that?

MAUREEN

I don't know. Anyway "pregnant with a third kid" might equal "a butt-load of volunteer work" but it'll be close.

LESLIE

If you want to win, you're going to have to do something else.

MAUREEN

Yeah, something big. Something photo worthy.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. URBAN HOME

The unathletic, four-year-old girl EATS a sandwich as:

ON THE T.V.: Queen Maureen and Pat sit beside "A LAKE" (a sign says "LOST LAKE") as THE ROYAL MAIL BIRD flies off.

QUEEN MAUREEN

The Royal Mail bird has just delivered a letter that will help us get back on the Path to Good Sport.

She opens the letter and reads:

QUEEN MAUREEN

It's a letter from Jurstrat Patel of Lethbridge, Alberta who writes: Dear Queen Maureen, I wanted to make you a picture. I tried six times and finally got it right. Here it is. Love Jurstrat.

Queen Maureen shows "us" the drawing (an insulting likeness).

QUEEN MAUREEN

It's beautiful, Jurstrat, thank you. Well, I think I know what we can learn about being a real winner from Jurstrat - do you Pat?

PAT THE DRAGON

Tracing paper was invented for a reason.

QUEEN MAUREEN

No, Pat. Keep Trying. A real winner never gives up. (to us)

They start to SING:

QUEEN MAUREEN

Never give up, never give up.
Get up, stand up, never, ever give up...

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON MAUREEN:

MAUREEN

I need a pet...

INT. CHARITIES4U OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Maureen sits across from the Charities4U employee.

MAUREEN

...but not just ANY pet. I need a dying pet, you know, terminal. I need a terminal pet.

The Charities4U employee looks "sideways" at Maureen who realizes she seems too anxious and covers:

MAUREEN

It came to me, last night, in a dream...

LESLIE (O.S.)

A VOLUNTEER dream.

Reveal: Leslie STANDING in the corner.

CHARITIES4U EMPLOYEE

You can have a seat if you like?

LESLIE

No, I'm standing today, thanks. (too horny) Let's not talk about it.

The Charities4U employee looks confused, Maureen continues:

MAUREEN

Right, a volunteer dream. I need to help a terminally ill animal through it's final days. I want to care for it, comfort it, have a small gathering of friends and family who will help me celebrate the animal's life.

LESLIE

Maybe even snap a few photos...

The Charities4U employee is moved, turns to her computer as:

LESLIE

(sotto to Maureen) This is genius - it's exactly like the breathing tube camper only completely different.

MAUREEN

I'm just hoping it's enough to tip the scale on the Christmas letter.

INT. MAUREEN'S HOUSE - LATER

Maureen carefully carries a BASKET containing a CAT, JEFFERY, through the front door. Behind Maureen, Leslie follows carrying

an I.V. (connected to the basket) and a machine. They maneuver around furniture, etc., as:

MAUREEN

Carefully, carefully, don't wake him up again - my arm is still bleeding.

LESLIE

You're getting too far ahead.
(tripping over stuff) You could have cleaned up.

The I.V. tube becomes taut - Jeffery MEOWS/HOWLS.

MAUREEN

Oh Jesus! Hurry, let's put him...

TOO LATE - Jeffery SINKS his claw into Maureen's arm. She howls in pain!

MAUREEN

Aghhhh! He's got me again! If he wasn't dying, I'd kill him.

Leslie puts down the equipment and pulls Jeffery's SUNKEN CLAW from Maureen's arm.

MAUREEN

Ah Jesus! What did I do to him?

Maureen hurries to run her arm under water. Leslie carefully RELEASES Jeffery's PAW without getting ripped.

LESLIE

I don't know, but he hates you for it.
(looking at Jeffery) There is nothing cute about this cat, is there?

MAUREEN

Shhh. I don't want those to be the last words he hears. (whispering) He is sort of creepy - the sores, the smell...

LESLIE

Even his name, Jeffery - makes him sound like a lunatic hiding in a tiny cat suit.

MAUREEN

Great, thanks - I'll sleep tonight.

LESLIE

Well, he's only got a week, right?

MAUREEN

Yeah, TOPS, the vet said, so I'd better get this party planned. I mean, Living Memorial.

LESLIE

Yeah and fast - he doesn't look good and no one is going to put a photo of a dead cat on a Christmas letter.

MAUREEN

He's sleeping again. Actually this part of him right here - it's sort of cute isn't it?

Maureen reaches in to pet the sleeping Jeffery but when she does he ATTACKS!!! A claw SINKS into Maureen's arm.

MAUREEN

Ahhhhhh! Not sleeping, lying in wait!

Leslie grabs the claw.

LESLIE

He's really got you.

MAUREEN

HURRY! Oh my GOD!

Leslie reaches for anything to pry Jeffery loose - a pencil, a BONG but nothing works.

LESLIE

I hope I'm this strong when I'm dying.

Maureen howls as:

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - KID'S KINGDOM SET

The WARDROBE LADY helps Maureen (dressed as Queen Maureen) put on a pair of gloves to cover the cat scratches as Doug (the art department stoner) practices manipulating Pat the Dragon.

ED (O.S.)

What ho, good ho!

Everyone turns to see Ed, dressed as SIR GOOD SPORT in the most amazing KNIGHT'S COSTUME (sword, shield, elaborate chain mail tunic and gloves). He is delighted with himself.

ED

Get it? Good ho?

MAUREEN

Yeah Ed I get it. You look amazing.

ED

Oh this old thing. (giggles, thrilled)
 (re: wardrobe lady) She wanted me to
 wear some stinky old robes. But I
 told her, a character doesn't leap off
 the page and into infamy in a set of
 stinky robes. (to Maureen only) This
 cost me \$500 that I don't have but no
 matter, I'll be making it hand over
 fist when the Toy line comes out.
 (holding up a poorly drawn sketch) I'd
 love to get your feedback on my
 prototypes.

BILL A.D.

Okay let's get ready.

Ed forgets the sketch - holds Maureen back for a second.

ED

Maureen? A second please.

Maureen and Bill share an "oh brother" look and then:

ED

(taking her hands) Maureen, in this
 moment, before I shoot to stardom, I
 want you to know that you will always,
 always be able to get a message to me
 through my assistant. (and then, for
 effect) Always.

MAUREEN

Thanks Ed. That means a lot.

The STUDIO BELLS "RIIIIIIIIIING". Everyone to places.

BILL A.D.

Okay, we're rolling. In 5, 4, 3, 2...

Bill signals to Maureen.

MAUREEN (AS QUEEN MAUREEN)

(steps into place) We made it to the
 land of Good Sport.

ED (AS SIR GOOD SPORT)

Welcome.

MAUREEN (AS QUEEN MAUREEN)

(sees him) Ohh! (to camera) I know
 who that is, do you? It's Sir Good
 Sport. Champion of sport and
 sportsmanship.

ED (AS SIR GOOD SPORT)
 Good day Queen Maureen. A hand shake,
 a good luck and a fair play to you!

Ed does pretty well EXCEPT there's a problem - he can't talk
 without MOVING HIS HAND LIKE A PUPPET!

BILL A.D.
 Let's hold tape.

Bill approaches Ed.

ED
 I thought that was quite good -
 technical problem?

BILL A.D.
 No, it's your hand.

ED
 What?

BILL A.D.
 It was moving, when you were talking.

ED
 No it wasn't.

MAUREEN
 Yeah it was actually Ed, like a
 puppet.

ED
 Oh well, phantom puppet problem I
 suppose - like when someone gets their
 arm amputated and they can feel...

BILL A.D.
 (cutting Ed off) Still rolling. From
 "It's Sir Good Sport..."

Bill points to Maureen.

MAUREEN (AS QUEEN MAUREEN)
 ...It's Sir Good Sport - Champion of
 sport and sportsmanship.

ED (AS SIR GOOD SPORT)
 (his hand moves like a puppet as) Good
 day Queen Maureen. A hand shake, a
 good luck and a fair play to you!

BILL A.D.
 Cut.

ED
What? How am I supposed to keep...

BILL A.D.
Your hand!

ED
It was not moving that time.

BILL A.D.
It was.

MAUREEN
It was, Ed.

ED
Well - 25 years with my hand up a plush toy's ass - there is bound to be separation anxiety.

BILL A.D.
Okay, let's try it again.

Maureen and Ed prepare as:

CUT TO:

A MONTAGE of Ed's DREAM DYING as he can't control his "talking puppet hands":

- A) Bill SHOVES Ed's hand INSIDE ED'S TUNIC.
- B) A GRIP TAPES Ed's hand BEHIND ED'S BACK.
- C) A moment later, Ed's hand "talks" as tape DANGLES FROM IT.
- D) A CREW MEMBER WELDS Ed's CHAIN MAIL GLOVE TO ED'S LEG.
- E) A FLASH of Ed's HAND, escaped from the glove, "talking".
- F) The shot has been tightened to a TIGHT TWO but Ed's hand sneaks into the bottom frame - he sees it and screams!

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - CONTINUOUS FROM LAST SHOT

BILL A.D.
Cut. That's it!

ED
No! Please!

BILL A.D.
The producers want to see you in the booth, Ed.

ED
No. Maureen do something!

Bill DRAGS Ed away.

MAUREEN
Ed, I'm sorry.

DOUG
Oh man I'm lost - which scene is this?

ED (O.C.)
Noooooooooo!

On Maureen we:

CUT TO:

INT. URBAN HOME
The unathletic, four-year-old girl eats a cookie as:

ON THE T.V.: PAT's scream mixes with Ed's.

PAT THE DRAGON
Noooooooooo!

QUEEN MAUREEN
Poor Pat, he just learned a hard
lesson: sometimes even winners lose.

CUT TO:

INT. MAUREEN'S HOUSE
The look on Maureen's face says "I lost" as she stares at:

JEFFERY, the cat, is SUDDENLY perky as a kitten around JANE!
It's the LIVING MEMORIAL and although Maureen's house has a
funereal feel, Jeffery is purring, rubbing himself on Jane's
leg - anything but dead.

Maureen, Leslie and Maureen's Mother look on.

MOTHER
He looks fine to me.

LESLIE
Maybe it's the "moment before" thing
you hear about. Someone who has been
"out to lunch" for years is suddenly
totally lucid right before they die.

MAUREEN
It better be.

MOTHER

Maureen!

MAUREEN

No, I mean...(but that's exactly what she meant - changing gears) Maybe it's a miracle.

MOTHER

Don't be silly, it's not a miracle, it's Jane! She's always had a way with animals and people and machinery, clocks, very good with clocks. Jane, pick up the cat and I'll get a photo.

Maureen, alarmed, can't let it happen.

MAUREEN

What? No. No photos.

MOTHER

Why?

Maureen picks up Jeffery (who CLAWS her) and goes to the door.

MAUREEN

Agh! I'm taking him back to the vet.

MOTHER

He's fine.

MAUREEN

No. He's dying. Aggggh! This cat is definitely dying.

Maureen exits.

CUT TO:

INT. VETERINARIAN'S OFFICE

A VETERINARIAN examines Jeffery, Maureen (arms bloody) looks on.

VETERINARIAN

It looks to me like - remission. Full remission. Everything seems fine, except the odor.

MAUREEN

(disappointed) So he's not dying?

The Veterinarian is shocked by her tone.

MAUREEN

I mean, I'm just in shock. He was terminal days ago.

VETERINARIAN

Well he's okey doke now. In fact he's a Pominarian - bred as ratters on ships - not much to look at but a really hearty breed. They've been known to live 20, 25 years. Jeffery will be around a long time.

MAUREEN

Well, isn't that something.

INT. URBAN HOME

The unathletic, four-year-old does somersaults as:

ON THE T.V.: Queen Maureen and a NEW Sir Good Sport (DOUG has become the last-minute, mediocre but acceptable, replacement) look on as Pat approaches.

QUEEN MAUREEN

Pat! You finally made it!

DOUG (AS SIR GOOD SPORT)

Yeah, welcome. A good sport, a fair play and a hand shake to you.

ON THE T.V.: Pat/Ed SHAKES with anger at Sir Good Sport/Doug. After a beat:

PAT THE DRAGON

Oh I'll shake your hand.

ON THE T.V.: Pat LUNGES at Sir Good Sport. Doug lurches back, WHOA! A TUSSELE for a second and then:

ON THE T.V.: A VERY AWKWARD CUT TO QUEEN MAUREEN - ALONE.

QUEEN MAUREEN

(covering) Pat certainly is grateful to Sir Good Sport. I know I am too because...

As Queen Maureen's V.O. continues we:

CUT TO:

INT. PET SUPPLIES STORE

Maureen stands at the TAG MAKING MACHINE watching a TAG that says JEFFERY and her PHONE NUMBER being engraved. She glances down at a CARDBOARD CARRIER we know contains JEFFERY because a savage claw sticks out one of the holes. Maureen shakes her head.

QUEEN MAUREEN (V.O.)
...today I've learned that a Good
Sport is a winner even if they come in
last.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

FADE IN:

EXT. MAUREEN'S HOUSE

Leslie stands at the front door as Maureen, wearing a face protector (from the Veterinarian) and Ed's discarded Knight's costume (chain mail tunic, gloves, shield) answers the door.

LESLIE
(casually) Whatcha doing?

MAUREEN
Just petting the cat. Come on in.

They head inside as:

MAUREEN
I'll change so we can get to the bar.

LESLIE
No need - solved my horny problem today.

MAUREEN
What?

LESLIE
Yeah, I read for Dennis. I read Tom Sawyer, he felt me up. Pretty good times actually. We're going to start the Ladies Detective series next week.

MAUREEN
Have a seat then.

Maureen holds up an envelope.

MAUREEN
Guess what I got in the mail today?

LESLIE
A death threat from Jeffery?

MAUREEN
Maybe - I haven't opened everything. But no, I got sneak peek at the Christmas photo (she gives it to Leslie) and letter.

LESLIE
(re: photo) Oh come on, you're sitting between the dogs, again.

MAUREEN
(sarcastically) It gets better.

LESLIE
Oh no, give it to me straight.

MAUREEN
Jane got a paragraph. I got three lines.

LESLIE
What? All that work for three lines!

Maureen gives Leslie the letter - she reads:

LESLIE
We are very proud of our eldest, Maureen who is still starring as Queen Maureen on Kid's Kingdom - check your local listings. A record ONE YEAR holding down the same job - fingers crossed for a second! This year she has busied herself with volunteer work and in the absence of a relationship has adopted a cat who was miraculously saved by Jane - see story and photo on accompanying fold-out insert.

MAUREEN
Ahhh, a Mother's love.

LESLIE
One of your lines even mentions Jane.

MAUREEN
Yeah, I didn't know whether to count it but for ego sake I had to.

LESLIE
(re: letter) Now I see why you hate this thing.

MAUREEN
Well neither of us will care in a moment because I have two nice bottles of wine AND a gift from Doug - in the ashtray.

LESLIE
(seeing the gift) Hello Mr. Right. This is going to be a great evening!

But suddenly Jeffery starts to MOAN/HOWL (or is he HAUNTING?) from the next room.

JEFFERY

Maroooooow, Maroooooow, Maroooooow

LESLIE

Except for that. What the hell?

MAUREEN

It's Jeffery. He just does it until he falls asleep.

LESLIE

For the next twenty years?

MAUREEN

Could be 25 - the good news is, you can't hear it from the front porch.

Leslie nods. Picks up the wine and the glasses.

INT. URBAN HOME

The unathletic, four-year-old girl does a poor cartwheel right out of frame and CRASHES: "KAFLUMP!, SHATTER". As:

ON THE T.V.: Queen Maureen begins the GOODBYE SONG:

QUEEN MAUREEN

"It's time", says the wrist watch
"It's time", says the clock...

The song continues under:

EXT. MAUREEN'S HOUSE - PORCH - EVENING

Maureen and Leslie, both wrapped in blankets/winter coats, talk, drink wine and laugh as the GOODBYE SONG accompanies.

QUEEN MAUREEN

"But we've only just begun" I say.
"It's time", says the sock.

Jeffery's MEOW/MOANS "Maroooooow, Maroooooow" join in.

QUEEN MAUREEN

But the gentle moon up in the sky
says we're not quite through
So I'll take this moonlit moment
To tell you that you're special
Because "it's time" you knew.

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW