

The Partridge Family

"OLD SCRAPMOUTH"

(#3324)

WRITTEN BY

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SCREEN GEMS
HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

"OLD SCRAPMOUTH"
(#3324)

CAST AND SET LIST

CAST:

SHIRLEY
KEITH
LAURIE
DANNY
CHRIS
TRACY
REUBEN
SIMONE (DOG)

MAN
WILLIAM KESSLER (DENTIST)
JERRY (BOYFRIEND)
WINK BURGESS
PHILLIPS

EXTRAS:

T.V. CREW (X)
PARTRIDGE NEIGHBORS (X)

PIGEONS

INTERIORS:

DENTIST'S WAITING ROOM & OFFICE (D)
PARTRIDGE GARAGE (D)
PARTRIDGE LIVING ROOM (D/N)
PARTRIDGE KITCHEN (D)
PARTRIDGE DINING ROOM (D)
LAURIE'S BEDROOM (D)
PARTRIDGE BUS-STOPPED (D)

EXTERIORS:

PARK (D)
PARTRIDGE DRIVEWAY (D)
PARTRIDGE STREET (D)

MUSIC:

SHORT CUE #13 -- (GROUP BEGINS PLAYING, MUSIC GOES SOUR, STOPS) --
SCENE 27.
SHORT CUE #14 -- (GROUP BEGINS PLAYING, MUSIC IS WORSE, STOPS) --
SCENE 29.
SONG #1 -- THE LOVE SONG (ENTIRE GROUP), CUT #36, P.B. #123X,
(2:15) SCENE 30.

STOCK FOOTAGE:

--(NONE)--

"OLD SCRAPMOUTH"
(#3324)

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE (WAITING ROOM) - DAY

1. CLOSE SHOT ON MAN 1.
The MAN'S jaw is swollen. He holds his jaw and occasionally lets out a comedic moan. He's sitting in a chair, and on the wall behind him is a framed diploma, which reads: "WILLIAM KESSLER, D.D.S."....and next to that is a dental health poster. After the Man lets out another moan, the CAMERA PANS SLOWLY over the grim and apprehensive faces of KEITH, DANNY, CHRIS, and finally SHIRLEY, who looks as uneasy as the Kids, but she tries to hide it. Each one reacts every time the Man moans. While this is happening, we HEAR:

SHIRLEY'S VOICE (NARRATION) - (O.S.)
During the past months, the kids and I have faced huge audiences, flint-hearted critics, and screaming mobs of autograph hunters with courage, bravery and un-failing high spirits. But it only took a routine trip to the dentist to completely unstring us.

2. WIDER ANGLE 2.
The Man groans, and the Kids all react with fear.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)
There's no need to be afraid....
We're only getting X-rays.

CHRIS
If you're not scared, why are your hands turning white?

Shirley realizes she's wringing her hankchief.

SHIRLEY
Very simple, dear. I was twisting my handkerchief, and I accidentally stopped the flow of blood to my hands.
(the Kids look at her)
Well...I'm not afraid of the X-rays... just what the X-rays might show.

DANNY
Feet of clay! Feet of clay!

3.

ANOTHER ANGLE (FEATURING LAURIE)

3.

LAURIE is in a corner, primping in front of a mirror. Her mood is in sharp contrast to the others. She's clearly up and excited. Laurie finishes with the mirror and walks over to Shirley.

LAURIE

Mom...is it all right if I go?
I'm supposed to meet Jerry.

CHRIS

Laurie's got a boyfriend. Laurie's
got a boyfriend...!

SHIRLEY

That's enough, Chris.

(to Laurie)

If you'll wait a few minutes, I'll
drive you there.

LAURIE

But I don't want to be late.

(excited)

I think Jerry's going to ask me to
go steady today.

DANNY

Boy, Jerry must be a masochist.

CHRIS

What's a masochist?

DANNY

It's a guy who likes girls.

SHIRLEY

Go on...and good luck.

LAURIE

Thanks, Mom.

KEITH

Don't forget...we have a rehearsal
at four.

LAURIE

(as she LEAVES)

I won't.

KEITH

I wonder if she's happy because she
doesn't have any cavities, or is she
happy because she's in love?

DANNY

No one can be happy about being in
love! That's sick!

3. CONTINUED:

3.

TRACY runs IN from the doctor's office, followed by DR. KESSLER. Tracy is very happy as she runs up to Shirley.

TRACY
Mom, it didn't hurt.

KESSLER
No cavities, and those two front teeth will be coming in soon.....
Now, who's next?

Shirley, Keith, Danny and Chris exchange nervous looks. No one wants to volunteer. **

SHIRLEY
(points to Man)
He seems to be in a lot of pain.

MAN
(jumps up)
Who, me? I feel fine! You're the world's greatest dentist, Doc. One look at you and I feel fine. I....
I gotta go now.

The Man is edging toward the door, but the Dentist grabs him, and then he leads the Man toward the office.

KESSLER
Now, you know I'm going to have to look at that tooth sooner or later. What good does it do to put it off?

MAN
But I don't mind the pain, Doc. It reminds me I'm not perfect. What's a little pain, if it gives you insight?

KESSLER
First door to the left. Have a seat in the chair and I'll be right with you.

The Doctor escorts the Man INTO his office, then CLOSES the door. Kessler stays in the waiting room.

KESSLER (CONT'D)
You know, I'm amazed to find that some people are still afraid of the dentist.

DANNY
(weakly)
How about that.

KESSLER
Shirley, I'm not only your dentist, but I'm a friend of the family....right?

3. CONTINUED (2):

3.

SHIRLEY

Yes.....

KESSLER

For years I've invited you up to my office to fix your teeth, and now you're a singing group...and you haven't invited me over to hear you sing. I ask you...is that fair?

SHIRLEY

Tell you what, Bill...we're working out a new song now. As soon as it's ready, we'll invite you over and you'll be the first to hear it.

KESSLER

Now, that's a promise I'm going to hold you to....

(looks around)

Where's Laurie?

DANNY

She had a big date with a masochist.

KESSLER

(concerned)

Oh. I....I wanted to have a little talk with her before she left....

(then)

Shirley, we'd better have a little talk.

The Doctor takes Shirley by the arm and leads her INTO his office. The Kids exchange puzzled looks.

INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE (A FLAT) - DAY

3-A. Shirley senses the tone of the Doctor's voice:

3-A.

SHIRLEY

Is something wrong? You said she didn't have any cavities.

KESSLER

She doesn't. I just wanted to have a little talk with her, so I could break it to her gently.

SHIRLEY

Break what gently?

3-A. CONTINUED:

3-A.

KESSLER

I'm afraid it's going to be very traumatic...especially for a girl Laurie's age. I hoped it would correct itself, but it's only getting worse....

SHIRLEY

Bill....what are you talking about?

KESSLER

Laurie's overbite. It has to be corrected. Laurie's going to have to wear braces....the whole mouthful.

Shirley reacts, as we....

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. PARK - THE SAME DAY

4. Laurie and JERRY are walking in the park. Jerry is a pleasant, not extremely goodlooking boy, who can't do anything quite right around girls. He has a transistor RADIO, which is PLAYING softly in the B.G. Jerry is struggling to say something, and Laurie is anxiously waiting. 4.

JERRY

(working up his
nerve)

Laurie....I asked you out today,
because....

(a beat)

Is my radio up too loud?

LAURIE

No, not at all.

JERRY

I'll turn it down.

Jerry turns the VOLUME on the RADIO DOWN.

JERRY (CONT'D)

You know, we have a lot in
common. We're both politically
committed....and you know how
freaky I am about ecology....

LAURIE

Yes, I do.

4. CONTINUED:

4.

They stand there. Jerry is desperately trying to think of what to say, and Laurie desperately waits for him to say it..... Finally, Jerry works up his nerve.

JERRY (CONT'D)
Laurie, I wonder if you...and me,
uh....

LAURIE
(eagerly)
Yes....?

JERRY
(lost his nerve)
I wonder if we want to sit on the
bench?

LAURIE
Sure. Why not?

They sit on a park bench, and both tediously search for conversation. After an awkward pause:

LAURIE (CONT'D)
Nice day.

JERRY
Yeah. Boy, I'm tired.

Jerry forces an exaggerated yawn, stretching his arms in the air (it's the old yawn-and-sneak-your-arm-around-her ploy), and he goes to put his arm 'casually' around her. Unfortunately, instead of 'casually' putting his arm around her, instead, he accidentally hits her in the face with his hand.

JERRY (CONT'D)
(shattered)
I'm sorry. Honest, I'm really
sorry.

LAURIE
It's okay.

JERRY
I mean, I don't hit girls. I don't
believe in that.

LAURIE
I'm glad. It's all right.

4. CONTINUED (2):

4.

JERRY
I'm glad you believe me.
(a beat)
Boy, I'm tired.

He fakes another yawn and stretch, and 'casually' drops his arm on the bench behind Laurie. Laurie leans forward so he won't hit her in the face again. Once Jerry has his arm on the bench behind her, Laurie smiles. She obviously wants him to put his arm around her. She lays her head back on his arm, hoping to encourage him. After a beat:

JERRY (CONT'D)
Is my watch bothering you?

LAURIE
What?

JERRY
My watch. You're laying on it. I just wondered if the ticking bothered you.

Laurie, as embarrassed and awkward as Jerry, sits upright.

LAURIE
No, not at all.

JERRY
It's a cheap watch. You can tell by how loud it ticks.

LAURIE
I didn't notice. Jerry...you said you had something important you wanted to talk to me about....

JERRY
(down to it)
Yes, I did....and it's very important. Laurie....
(he can't do it)
Nice day, isn't it?

4. CONTINUED (3):

4.

LAURIE

Yes, it is. Jerry, I have a problem.
I want to hear what you have to say...
but it's after four, and...

JERRY

The ticking of my watch did bother
you!

LAURIE

No, no...not at all. It's just
that I'm supposed to have a re-
hearsal at four, but if you have
something to say....

Jerry leaps up as if a weight was gone. He's relieved that he
doesn't have to pop the question.

JERRY

(interrupting)

Oh, no! Business before...business.
I mean, you have to rehearse...and
so do I. I don't want to come between
you and your music.

LAURIE

(disappointed)

Oh...okay. Do you think you'll have
enough...rehearsal by tomorrow?

JERRY

Sure. Same time tomorrow. You'd
better hurry, or you'll be late.

He practically pushes Laurie away. Laurie reluctantly starts off,
and Jerry practically runs the other way.

LAURIE

(calling after Jerry)

I'm glad we had this talk....!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GARAGE - THE SAME DAY

4-A. Keith, Danny and Chris are there. Shirley ENTERS with Tracy: 4-A.

SHIRLEY
Still no Laurie?

KEITH
No. She's more than a half
hour late. It isn't fair to
keep us all waiting.

SHIRLEY
No, it isn't. But this time
let's let it slide.

DANNY
I have a better idea. Let's beat
her up. It's good for her morale. *

SHIRLEY
No jokes. Laurie's in for some bad
news, and we have to help soften
the blow. *

The Kids are instantly concerned by Shirley's serious tone.
They gather around, AD LIBBING, "WHAT IS IT?"... "WHAT'S WRONG?"...
etc.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)
Doctor Kessler told me this morning,
Laurie's going to have to wear braces.

KEITH
You mean...the whole bit? Rail-
road tracks?

SHIRLEY
Transcontinental.

DANNY
Oh, wow! Poor Laurie.

SHIRLEY
That's why it's up to us to
help her.

DANNY
Well, we'll make her see the bright
side. All the kids with braces
have never had a singer to identify
with before. It could be the high
point of her career.

4-A. CONTINUED:

4-A.

SHIRLEY

Nice try, but it won't work.

Tracy is sitting in the door, and she looks OUTSIDE.

TRACY

Here she comes.

SHIRLEY

Look, I want to tell her alone....
so you kids find a reason to leave,
okay?

They AD LIB agreement, as Laurie ENTERS.

LAURIE

I'm sorry I'm late.

SHIRLEY

That's all right, honey. Did
he ask you to go steady?

LAURIE

He lost his nerve. He's going
to try again tomorrow.

KEITH

We're sorry you're not going
steady, honest. Well...I've got
to go in the house and get some
sheet music.

4-A. CONTINUED (2):

4-A.

He LEAVES quickly, closely FOLLOWED by the others.

CHRIS

I've got to go throw knuckle balls.

TRACY

I have to go make mud pies.

DANNY

I'd better make sure my pet lizard has plenty of flies.

Suddenly, everyone is gone. Laurie has no idea what to think.

LAURIE

What...what happened? I thought we were going to rehearse.

Since there are no chairs in the garage, Shirley indicates an amplifier.

SHIRLEY

Laurie, we have to have a little talk. Pull up an amplifier and sit down....

Puzzled, Laurie sits on the amp, as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

---(OMIT SCENES 5 and 6)---

INT. LIVING ROOM - THE SAME DAY

7. Keith, Danny, Chris and Tracy are there. They're all sprawled about. Danny takes an apple out of a fruit dish on the coffee table, and he begins eating it ferociously. 7.

KEITH

If you ruin your appetite for dinner, Mom'll kill you.

DANNY

I'm practicing. See...my cavity is on the left side, so I'm practicing chewing on the right side. I hope you don't think I'm eating this apple for mere enjoyment.

7. CONTINUED:

7.

KEITH
I'm sorry. I honestly thought it
crossed your mind.

DANNY
(serious)
How do you think she'll take it?

KEITH
The braces?
(shrugs)
Laurie's cool. She can handle it.

CHRIS
Sure. Herbie Snyder wears braces.
Herbie says they're great in fights.
Guys won't hit him in the mouth, be-
cause the braces cut their hands.

DANNY
Yeah, but Laurie's a girl....She's
going to take it hard. I just hope
she doesn't get hysterical.

CHRIS
She won't. She'll be brave.

CUT TO:

INT. GARAGE - DAY

8. TWO-SHOT OF SHIRLEY & LAURIE 8.
Shirley has just told her. Laurie is aghast, almost scared.

LAURIE
(almost a whisper)
How long?

SHIRLEY
(kindly; but matter-of-
fact)
About six months. Doctor Kessler says
the overbite is very mild; but since
you're still growing, it could get
worse unless it's corrected.

Laurie stands, turns away.

8. CONTINUED:

8.

LAURIE

Six months.

Shirley stands, puts her hands on Laurie's shoulders.

SHIRLEY

Now I know it's a shock, and I'm not going to try to kid you by saying it won't make any difference in how you look. But isn't it better to wear braces for six months and have beautiful teeth for the rest of your life....?

LAURIE

When?

SHIRLEY

Tomorrow....one o'clock.

LAURIE

That's when I'm supposed to meet Jerry....

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - THE SAME DAY

9. The Kids are draped in various positions.

9.

CHRIS

Laurie's very mature. Mature people don't get hysterical. She'll be brave....

DANNY

I wish you'd hurry up and go through puberty so you'd learn something about women.

Keith lets out a guffaw. Danny gives him a black look.

DANNY (CONT'D)

It doesn't matter how mature women are, they're still goofy about how they look....

CHRIS

(closes the subject)

I say she'll be brave.

9. CONTINUED:

9.

DANNY
Hysterical!

CHRIS
Brave!

All reacts to the SOUND of FOOTSTEPS O.S. We HEAR the kitchen DOOR OPEN and CLOSE.

10. ANOTHER ANGLE

10.

as Laurie ENTERS, FOLLOWED by Shirley. All eyes are on Laurie, and she knows it. She forces herself to smile at everyone, as she casually heads for the stairs. She apparently seems to be all right, when about half way up the steps, she hesitates...then lets out a HOWL and runs UP the stairs. We HEAR her run INTO her bedroom and slam the DOOR SHUT.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
(to Danny)
She was both.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARTRIDGE DRIVEWAY - THE NEXT DAY

11. FULL SHOT

11.

It is the following afternoon. The Kids, Keith, Danny, Chris and Tracy are washing the bus. Danny is working on the rear with a sponge and bucket of soapy water. Keith is on one side, and Chris is on the other. Tracy sits on the hood, washing the windshield.

---(OMIT SCENE 12)---

13. ANOTHER ANGLE 13.
to SHOW Jerry walking down the street toward the house. He has his radio and the ear plug is in his ear.

14. BACK TO SCENE 14.
Keith looks O.S. and sees Jerry coming:

KEITH
(to Danny)
Here comes Jerry again.

DANNY
Again? He's walked by at least thirty-five times today already. What's he doing?

KEITH
He's hoping he'll see Laurie. It's the old "Hi, Laurie...what a coincidence. I just happened to be passing by" trick.

DANNY
Some coincidence! Guys in love are crazy.

Jerry walks UP. Jerry talks to the Kids, but he's looking everywhere else, hoping to see Laurie. They AD LIB "Hellos".

JERRY
Hi. I just happened to be passing by. Is Laurie here?

DANNY
No. She's at the dentist.

JERRY
She said that's where she was going when she broke our date. Is something wrong?

DANNY
Not exactly. The dentist is going to--

KEITH
(interrupting)
Give her a checkup. I'll have her call you when she gets home.

JERRY
Thanks. Well.....see ya.

Jerry walks OFF.

14. CONTINUED:

14.

DANNY

What was that all about?

KEITH

Laurie said she wanted to tell
Jerry about the braces herself.

DANNY

Why? It's not like she has a
terminal disease.

KEITH

It doesn't matter. She wants to tell
him.

15. ANOTHER ANGLE

15.

REUBEN pulls UP and parks behind the bus. He gets OUT and
practically runs up to the Kids. He's very excited and pleased
with himself about something. They AD LIB greetings.

DANNY

What are you doing in town?

REUBEN

Kids, I have great news.

KEITH

That's good, because we have bad news.

REUBEN

(instantly worried)

What's your bad news?

DANNY

What's your great news?

REUBEN

I asked you first....

(sighs)

Why is it that when I get with you kids, I
always descend to your level?

DANNY

What's your great news?

REUBEN

The good news is that the Wink Burgess
Show is taping in San Francisco this
week, and I've convinced them to come
down and tape a segment right here....
The Partridge Family at home.

The Kids are impressed and AD LIB "WINK BURGESS, WOW!"... "THAT'S
GREAT"...etc.

DANNY

That's a master stroke, Mister Kincaid.
Congratulations!

15. CONTINUED:

15.

REUBEN

Thanks, Danny. I'm learning. Now what's your bad news?

CHRIS

Laurie's at the ornithologist's.

REUBEN

Why? She got a sick bird?

KEITH

He means the orthodontist's.

CHRIS

She's going to have to wear braces.

REUBEN

Oh, the poor kid....At her age, that's going to be rough....

(tries to be cheerful)

We'll just have to help her see the bright side. All the kids with braces have never had a singer to identify with before. This could be the high point of her career.

DANNY

That's exactly what I said. We think a lot alike, Mister Kincaid.

REUBEN

I know. Sometimes it scares me.

FAST DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PARTRIDGE LIVING ROOM - THE SAME DAY

16. Danny, Chris and Tracy are playing cards. Keith is PLAYING 16. his GUITAR. Reuben is worrying. After a beat, we HEAR a CAR pull up. Reuben goes to the window and looks OUT:

REUBEN (CONT'D)

They're back. Look, we shouldn't mention Laurie's braces, but don't be overly nice, either. Just treat her as rotten as you normally do....

16. CONTINUED:

16.

Shirley and Laurie ENTER. The Kids strike various nonchalant positions. In fact, they try so hard not to look at Laurie's mouth, they practically ignore her. Laurie seems quite calm and natural, except she doesn't open her mouth.

SHIRLEY

Reuben, what are you doing in town?

REUBEN

I have great news. We're going to be on the Wink Burgess Show.

CHRIS

Right here. In our house.

SHIRLEY

Reuben, that's wonderful. When is it?

REUBEN

Well, that's the one drawback. The person Wink was originally going to interview cancelled out at the last minute....That's how I got us on.

SHIRLEY

The last minute? Reuben, when is it?

REUBEN

(reluctant)

Tomorrow afternoon?

SHIRLEY

Oh, no! We'll never get ready in time. The house is a mess.

DANNY

We'll all help clean up.

REUBEN

And there's nothing to prepare. You only sing one song, and the rest will be an informal interview.

We can tell by the look on Laurie's face that she's upset.

16. CONTINUED (2):

16.

KEITH

Isn't it great, Laur? We're going to be seen on nationwide TV!

Laurie lets out a HOWL and runs FROM the room. Everyone reacts.

SHIRLEY

I don't think she wants her mouth seen nationwide.

KEITH

I didn't mean to make her cry. I'll go and apologize.

SHIRLEY

I think the best thing we can do right now is leave her alone.

REUBEN

(panicked)

She's pretty upset. Do you think she can do the show?

DANNY

Don't worry about Laurie, Mister Kincaid. She won't let us down.

REUBEN

(sick)

Strange....that's what Caesar said about Brutus.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

--- (OMIT SCENE 17 & 18) ---

INT. DINING ROOM - THAT AFTERNOON

19. All kids but Laurie are seated at the table. Shirley is serving all of them soup, including a bowl at Laurie's empty place. 19.

KEITH

Has anyone heard Laurie talk today?

SHIRLEY

She hasn't said a word since she got out of the dentists office. She hasn't even opened her mouth.

REUBEN

It's too bad grown women don't wear braces. It'd sure make the divorce rate drop.

DANNY

Well, she'll have to open her mouth now. She has to eat.

19. CONTINUED:

19.

Laurie **ENTERS** carrying her purse. She sits down, opens her purse and takes out a drinking straw. She puts the straw in her soup and begins sipping. Everyone reacts.

FLIP TO:

INT. LAURIE'S BEDROOM - THAT AFTERNOON

20. Laurie is laying across her bed, and she's really down in the dumps. After a beat, there's a **KNOCK** on the door, and Shirley sticks her head **IN**. 20.

SHIRLEY

Can I talk to you a minute?

Laurie nods. Shirley **ENTERS** and sits on the bed beside Laurie.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)

Honey, there's no reason to be so down in the mouth.

(Laurie reacts; Shirley groans)

That was the wrong choice of words. The kids want you to know they're willing to cancel the show if you don't feel up to it.

Laurie is in a quandry. She gets up and gets a pencil and pad and writes a note. Shirley reads it.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)

I don't know if Mr. Burgess can get someone to replace us or not. It is pretty late.

Laurie doesn't know what to do.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)

Honey, I know how you feel, but you're going to have to wear the braces for six months. We can't cancel all of our engagements. And you can't just quit talking for six months. Women aren't built that way. And you can't just eat soup all that time. Sooner or later you're going to get a noodle stuck in your straw, or something.

Laurie, almost crying, turns her back to Shirley.

LAURIE

Mom, what am I going to do?

Shirley goes over to her and gives her a hug.

SHIRLEY

It'll be all right. You just took
the first step in the right direction.

Shirley gives her a warm smile, and Laurie forces a feeble,
unsure smile in return, but she doesn't show her teeth.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PARTRIDGE LIVINGROOM - NEXT DAY

21. The DOOR BELL RINGS.

21.

SHIRLEY (O.S.)

(calling)

Laurie, would you get that?
I'm not dressed yet.

LAURIE (O.S.)

(calling)

Okay, Mom.

Laurie comes DOWN the stairs and goes to the door. She opens
it to reveal WINK BURGESS and TOMMY PHILLIPS. Wink holds
a handful of 8x10's. Laurie is surprised. There's also a
publicity man with a camera.

WINK

Hi. I'm Wink Burgess, superstar.
Here's an autographed picture of me.

(give a picture to Laurie)

This is Tommy Phillips, our producer-director.

Don't pay any attention to him,
I'm the one with a profile.

Laurie just nods her greetings.

WINK (CONT'D)

And you must be Laurie Partridge.
What a beautiful young girl, and
you're so lucky to be this close
to me. I realize I'm a little
early. Where is everybody?

Laurie, realizing she has to talk, puts her hand over her mouth.

21. CONTINUED:

21.

LAURIE

Mom and the kids are changing clothes. Keith and Reuben are in the garage bringing in our equipment.

WINK

That's great. How long have you been talking into your hand, anyway? Here's an autographed picture for each of them. They'd look nice on that wall...one long row of me.

PHILLIPS

Why don't we take a few publicity shots while we're waiting?

Wink puts his pictures on a table, then puts his arm around Laurie. Laurie is looking at the camera, frightened.

WINK

Good idea. Okay, Laurie, smile. Oh, come on...a bigger smile than that. Let's see a few teeth.

Laurie whirls around so her back is to the men. She fights not to cry.

LAURIE

I can't!

She runs **OUT** the front door. Wink and Phillips are stunned, and Wink suddenly gets very worried.

PHILLIPS

What happened?

WINK

It just hit me Phillips.

PHILLIPS

What?

WINK

This feeling of impending doom. I can feel it. Jonah must've had this feeling when he built the ark. I can smell it, Phillips. I can smell heartache in the air. She even dropped my picture.

(picks it up, hands it to Phillips)

Burn it! It's been defiled.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARTRIDGE STREET - SAME DAY

22. Laurie is by the bus drying her eyes. Two MEN walk BY, 22.
 pushing a TV camera toward the house. Laurie doesn't want
 to see them so she gets in the bus and sits in a seat. She
 leaves the bus door open.

INT. BUS (NOT MOVING) - DAY

23. Laurie sits there regaining her composure, when Jerry sticks 23.
 his head IN. He has his radio on, then turns it off.

JERRY

Hi. What a coincidence. I just
 happened to be passing by.

Jerry comes IN and sits down in the seat in front of Laurie.
 Laurie manages to look straight.

JERRY

Laurie, I've got to do it while
 I've got my nerve up. Would you
 go steady with me?

Laurie doesn't even blink. She slowly stands up and walks to
 the door and stops. Her back is to Jerry. Laurie suddenly
 breaks and howls out:

LAURIE

I can't do that, either!

She runs OUT howling. Jerry is stunned.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUS - DAY

24. Danny is walking up to the bus, as Laurie runs OUT of 24.
 the bus howling and PASSES him. Jerry steps OUT of the bus.

JERRY

(calling after her)

Laurie...

DANNY

Did she tell you yet?

JERRY

Tell me what?

DANNY

I can't tell you.

Danny runs OFF after Laurie, leaving a very confused Jerry.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PARTRIDGE LIVING ROOM - SAME DAY

25. The instruments are set up, and the family is ready to play. Cameramen, Sound Men, the whole Crew is there. Phillips is directing. Reuben and Wink are there. 25.

PHILLIPS
Quiet everybody! We're going to have a dress rehearsal on the song.

26. ANGLE ON SHIRLEY AND LAURIE 26.

SHIRLEY
Well, you can't put it off any longer. You can do it, can't you?

Laurie puts her hand over her mouth. She's unsure.

LAURIE
Sure...nothing to it.

Wink walks BY and overhears them:

WINK
Nothing to what?
(to Shirley)
Why does she talk into her hand?
It's not natural, you know.

SHIRLEY
It's nothing, really. But we do have a minor problem.

WINK
(moans; clutches stomach)
It's trouble, I know it. I can feel it in the pit of my nationally-famous stomach. What is it?

SHIRLEY
It's nothing to get upset over, really. Laurie just got braces, and she's.... reluctant to open her mouth, that's all.

WINK
(struck with pain)
A singer that won't sing! I could've booked a militant priest who demands Sundays off! I could've booked a leather craftsman who hand tooled his wife.... But no! I book a singer who won't sing!

*

26. CONTINUED:

26.

REUBEN

She'll sing. And with no hands.

WINK

Good. I keep expecting her to throw me a kiss. Well, let's get on with it before she changes her mind.

The Family pick up their instruments, as Phillips walks UP to them:

PHILLIPS

Let's go through it once without singing the lyrics. The sound man wants a level on the instruments.

WINK

Anything. Let's just get on with it. We're running late.

KEITH

Okay, one...two...three...

He's interrupted by the RINGING of the DOORBELL. Shirley starts for the door.

WINK

(incredulous)

A doorbell? We're doing a TV show and we're interrupted by a doorbell? My mother told me not to become a super-star....but I wouldn't listen!

26. CONTINUED (A):

26.

Shirley OPENS the door and Kessler ENTERS.

KESSLER

Hi, am I late?

SHIRLEY

No, we were just starting rehearsal.

(to others)

This is Dr. Kessler, our dentist.

I invited him over to watch us
film the show.

WINK

Mrs. Partridge, this is a tele-
vision show, not a block party.

26. CONTINUED: (2)

26.

SHIRLEY

Dr. Kessler, this is...

Wink stuffs an 8 by 10 glossy in Kessler's hands.

WINK

Charmed, but we're behind schedule.
Take this and put it over your
heart. It prevents warts. Now
lets get on with it.

Shirley gestures for Kessler to sit down, and she whispers
small talk.

27. ANOTHER ANGLE
Featuring the family, except Shirley.

27.

PHILLIPS

Okay, this is a rehearsal.
Instruments only.

KEITH

One...two...three...four....

MUSIC: (S.C. #13)

They begin playing. It sounds fine for a few bars, then
Laurie hits a real clinker on the piano. Laurie looks
puzzled, and she shakes her head as if she's trying to
clear it. But she not only hits more clinkers, she begins
playing all wrong...even a different tempo. It throws
off the whole group, besides sounding terrible.

KEITH

Wait a minute.
(they stop playing)
Laurie, what's wrong?

LAURIE

(confused)
I...I don't know. There's a funny
buzzing in my ears.

28. ANGLE ON WINK AND REUBEN 28.
Wink is ready to sob. Reuben takes out a pill vial and takes a pill.

REUBEN
I'm sorry about this, Mr. Burgess.
I really am.

WINK
Me too, right now I could be interviewing a man who takes aerial photographs of Kate Smith, but no...

He takes the vial of pills from Reuben, pours all of the pills out in his hand, then gives the empty vial back to Reuben. He then takes one pill and puts it back in the vial.

WINK (CONT'D)
I'm on a diet.

29. BACK TO SCENE 29.

LAURIE
Let's try it again.

MUSIC: (S.C. #14)
Keith counts off, and they start playing again. Laurie's playing is even worse than before.

KEITH
Hold it.
(they all stop playing)
Laurie, this is two/four time.

LAURIE
I know, but my mouth is playing three/four.

DANNY
That doesn't make any sense.

LAURIE
I know you're not going to believe this...but I hear music in my mouth.

WINK
Wonderful! I've found a girl who has a mouth for music.

Wink takes the last pill from Reuben and swallows it, as Shirley walks up to Laurie.

29. CONTINUED:

29.

SHIRLEY

Laurie, what kind of a story is that?

LAURIE

Honest. It's the truth. I hear music in my mouth. I think it's the Rolling Stones.

DANNY

I'm on your side, but the Rolling Stones don't make personal appearances in a person's mouth.

SHIRLEY

Honey, you did agree to do this...

LAURIE

(frustrated)

I did agree and I want to do it.

The family looks at Laurie with disappointment and disbelief.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

I'm not making it up. You... you don't believe me, do you!

The family exchanges guilty looks, as they don't believe her. After a beat, Kessler gets up.

KESSLER

Excuse me, but it could be the Piebald Syndrome.

LAURIE

No, I'm sure it's the Rolling Stones.

KESSLER

The Piebald Syndrome is when the metal in your mouth picks up radio signals. It could be from a TV set, a hi-fi...anything, and you hear it inside your head.

DANNY

Your kidding.

KESSLER

Not at all. It happens quite often, but usually with fillings.

29. CONTINUED (2):

29.

Embarrassed, the Family AD LIBS apologies.

LAURIE

That's all right. For a while, I didn't believe it, either.

CHRIS

Laurie, can I listen to your mouth?

REUBEN

Is there anything we can do about it?

KESSLER

I can take off the braces, but that'll take about three hours.

WINK

In three hours, I'll be in Los Angeles interviewing an ex-trappist monk, who inscribes graffiti on the head of a pin.

*

DANNY

What if we go around and ask everyone to maintain radio silence until we're through with the show?

*

KESSLER

That's not a bad idea. Braces aren't the best receivers, so the signals have to be coming from close by....a hundred or two hundred yards.

29. CONTINUED: (3)

29.

WINK

(taking command)

Then what are we waiting for?
Phillips, take some men and go
east. Mrs. Partridge, you and
you family fan out across the
street. You gaffers and grips take
the houses behind. I'll go stand
in the street and sign autographs.
Okay men...action!

Everyone storms out of the house, except Laurie. After a
beat, Jerry sticks his head in the open front door. He has
his radio, and it's on.

JERRY

Hi. What a coincidence. I just
happened to be passing by...and
I nearly got tromped.

Laurie immediately puts her hand up to her mouth.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Hey, you're all right, aren't you?
I mean, you're not going to be sick.

Laurie suddenly hears Jerry's radio.

LAURIE

Your radio...it's playing the
same thing my mouth is.

JERRY

I beg your pardon.

Laurie takes the radio and turns it off. Laurie, for the
first time, forgets to cover her mouth when she speaks.

LAURIE

It was you.

JERRY

(shocked)

Laurie! Did you know you have
braces?

Laurie realizes she slipped, and immediately slaps her hands
over her mouth.

LAURIE

I'm sorry. I wanted to break it
to you...eventually.

29. CONTINUED: (4)

29.

JERRY

Hey, Laurie...it doesn't make any difference.

LAURIE

It...it doesn't?

JERRY

No...you're still you. I mean, you're a beautiful person...even if you do have an ugly mouth. No, I didn't mean that. I mean, well, there's a lot of good things about having braces. You can strike a match on your teeth. I mean, I mean...boy, I'm really blowing it. I need braces on my head.

Jerry looks so hang-dog and funny, that Laurie can't help but laugh. She surprised Jerry by giving him a big hug.

LAURIE

Thanks, Jerry.

JERRY

You're welcome. What did I do?

She gives Jerry a big, uninhibited smile, showing her braces for all the world to see.

LAURIE

You made me smile.

After a beat, Laurie goes to the door and yells:

LAURIE (CONT'D)

Mom -- Reuben -- everybody come back! I've solved the problem!!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PARTRIDGE LIVING ROOM - SAME AFTERNOON

30. Everyone is set up to film the song. Kessler and Jerry are in a corner watching. Phillips gestures for them to sing, Keith counts off and they BEGIN SINGING:

30.

INSTRUMENTATION:

SHIRLEY (VOCALS ONLY)
 KEITH (6-STRING GUITAR)
 LAURIE (PIANO)
 DANNY (BASS GUITAR)
 CHRIS (DRUMS)
 TRACY (VOCALS ONLY)

CUT #36 (RECORD VERSION)
 (2:15), P.B. #123X

"THE LOVE SONG"

Music & Lyrics by:
 Steve Dossick

:00 (INTRO)

:03 BOYS I TRY IN SO MANY DIFFERENT WAYS
 :09 ONLY TO SAY JUST THE WORDS THAT I MEAN TO SAY
 :14 I SING FROM MY HEART BUT WE'RE SO FAR APART
 :19 AND ALL MY LOVE IS HERE IN MY SONG

:22 BOYS & BUT THEN YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN
 :24 GIRLS LOVE SONGS, LOVE SONGS
 :26 YOU SAY MY LOVE CANNOT BE TRUE
 :31 AND IF YOU WON'T BELIEVE IN
 :33 LOVE SONGS, LOVE SONGS
 :35 THEN TELL ME WHAT TO SING FOR YOU

:41 BOYS MY SONG HAS A SOFT AND SIMPLE BEAT
 :46 ONLY ALL THE LINES DON'T RHYME BUT THE WORDS ARE SWEET
 :51 I THINK THAT WE'LL FIND
 :53 IF WE TAKE JUST THE TIME
 :55 THE LOVE WE'LL HAVE WON'T EVER BE WRONG

:58 BOYS & BUT THEN YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN
 1:00 GIRLS LOVE SONGS, LOVE SONGS
 1:03 YOU SAY MY LOVE CANNOT BE TRUE
 1:07 AND IF YOU WON'T BELIEVE IN
 1:09 LOVE SONGS, LOVE SONGS
 1:12 THEN TELL ME WHAT TO SING FOR YOU

....(MORE)....

30. CONTINUED (1):

30.

1:17 LAURIE (INSTRUMENTAL SOLO) PIANO DOMINANT

1:35 BOYS & BUT THEN YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN
1:37 GIRLS LOVE SONGS, LOVE SONGS
1:39 YOU SAY MY LOVE CANNOT BE TRUE
1:44 AND IF YOU WON'T BELIEVE IN
1:46 LOVE SONGS, LOVE SONGS
1:48 THEN TELL ME WHAT TO SING FOR YOU.

1:53 BOYS & BUT THEN YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN
1:55 GIRLS LOVE SONGS, LOVE SONGS
1:57 YOU SAY MY LOVE CANNOT BE TRUE
2:02 AND IF YOU WON'T BELIEVE IN
2:04 LOVE SONGS, LOVE SONGS
2:06 THEN TELL ME WHAT TO SING FOR YOU

2:15 (FADE)

They begin SINGING. During the SONG, CUT TO reaction shots of Reuben, Kessler, Jerry and Wink. Also SHOTS of the Family...and especially Laurie, who smiles broadly and metallicly at everyone, as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. PARTRIDGE LIVING ROOM - THE SAME EVENING

31. It's a few hours later, and the show is over. The Family, 31.
Reuben and Kessler are the only ones there now.

KESSLER

I want to thank you for inviting me over. It was quite an experience.

SHIRLEY

I'm certainly glad you came. Otherwise, there wouldn't have been a show.

LAURIE

Doctor Kessler, my family almost missed this show because of me. Is there any chance it could happen again?

KESSLER

Doubtful, but it might.

LAURIE

Can't anything be done?

KESSLER

Yes. But it'll mean a sacrifice for you.

LAURIE

What kind of sacrifice?

KESSLER

Well...I could remove the braces, but you'd have to wear a night-brace.

REUBEN

(gesturing)

A night brace? That thing that wraps around your face?

KESSLER

That's right. You'd only have to wear the braces six months...but you'll have to wear the retainer every night for two years.

LAURIE

(thrilled)

Just at night? Oh, Doctor Kessler!

She positively lights up, throws her arms around him.

31. CONTINUED:

31.

DANNY

You may like it, but I don't think
Jerry's going to be too thrilled.

LAURIE

Why?

DANNY

When you and Jerry go to a drive-in,
now you'll have to watch the movie.

Everyone laughs, except Laurie, who throws a pillow at Danny,
and we...

FADE OUT.

---(OMIT SCENES 32 & 33)---

THE END