

DADDY & PAPA

Director/Producer: Johnny Symons

Copyright Johnny Symons 2002, Persistent Films LLC 2005. All Rights Reserved.

FINAL TRANSCRIPT

**SCENE: Family movies of Johnny Symons' family, photo with his parents and sister,
photo with his partner and his child**

Symons' Narration: WHEN I WAS GROWING UP, [1:00:00]

I FIGURED I WOULD NEVER BECOME A PARENT.

I KNEW PEOPLE LIKE ME

COULDN'T HAVE KIDS OF THEIR OWN,

AND I WAS SURE THAT IF I DID SOMEHOW MANAGE IT,

THE PHOTOS OF MY FAMILY WOULD BE TUCKED AWAY IN A DRAWER,

NOT PROUDLY DISPLAYED ON THE MANTLE.

BUT NONE OF THAT TURNED OUT TO BE TRUE. [1:00:22]

SCENE: Johnny Symons & his partner William Rogers w/ Zachary in living room

HEY, ZACHARY, WHAT'S MY NAME?

WHO'S THAT?

IS MY NAME DADDY?

NO.

NO?

WHAT'S HIS NAME?

THAT'S DADDY.

OH, THAT'S DADDY.

WHAT'S MY NAME

DADDY PAPA. [1:00:34]

DADDY PAPA.

DADDY.

SO WHO'S DADDY?

DADDY.

WHERE'S DADDY?

DADDY.

AND WHO'S THAT?

Zachary: PAPA. (Referring to Johnny Symons)

[1:00:45]

PAPA DADDY.

TITLE: 9 YEARS EARLIER

SCENE: Gay rights rally

[APPLAUSE]

WHO IS IT?

Johnny Symons to camera: HEY.

YOU WANT TO TALK TO US?

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

[1:00:55]

Symons' Narration: WHEN I MOVED TO SAN FRANCISCO,
I JOINED THE FRONT LINES OF THE ONGOING GAY REVOLUTION.

[CHANTING "RIGHTS NOW!"]

AT THE TIME, I NEVER WOULD HAVE IMAGINED
THAT MY MOST REVOLUTIONARY ACT WOULD BE
THE MOST TRADITIONAL THING IN THE WORLD.
^ HOMOPHOBIA'S GOT TO GO, HEY HEY, HO HO ^

[1:01:08]

SCENE: backyard party/gay couples

AS I GREW OLDER, I MET A FEW STRAIGHT PARENTS

[1:01:20]

AS WELL AS SOME LESBIAN MOMS.

BUT FOR MY GAY FRIENDS AND ME,

KIDS WERE STILL AN ALIEN CONCEPT.

SCENE: Kelly Wallace in his office

UNTIL MY FRIEND KELLY ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS [1:01:30]
ABOUT TO BECOME A FATHER.
KELLY WAS SINGLE, GAY, AND ADOPTING TWO BOYS AT ONCE.
I THOUGHT HE WAS CRAZY.

Kelly: I THINK MOST GAY MEN'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS ME AS A PARENT
REMINDS ME A LOT OF WHEN
I WENT INTO PEACE CORPS, YOU KNOW?
"IT'S A GREAT THING, I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF DOING THAT,
BUT I NEVER WOULD."

I JUST, I LOVE KIDS. [1:01:52]
YOU KNOW, I MEAN, IF IT CAME DOWN TO TWO PLATTERS WHERE,
YOU KNOW, YOU CAN HAVE THE PERFECT BOYFRIEND
AND THE BMW CONVERTIBLE
AND GREAT TRIPS TO EUROPE EVERY SUMMER,
OR YOU CAN HAVE TWO KIDS AND END UP SINGLE,
I'D PICK THE KIDS IN A MINUTE.

SO I DID. [1:02:08]

Symons' Narration: KELLY WAS MATCHED
WITH TWO BROTHERS
WHO WERE FEATURED ON A WEEKLY NEWS SPECIAL.

SCENE: Footage from local news show segment feature adoptable kids

HI.

Man: HI THERE.

Man: SAY, "MY NAME'S JESSE."

MY NAME'S JESSE. [1:02:20]

AND MY BROTHER'S NAME IS RAY.

SAY HI, RAY.

Reporter: SOCIAL WORKERS SAY

THE GOAL IS TO KEEP THESE BROTHERS TOGETHER,

THEY NEED TO BE ADOPTED RIGHT NOW.

PERHAPS IT'S YOU.

[1:02:32]

SCENE: Kelly driving to pick up his children at foster home

Kelly: LIKE THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THIS IS RIGHT

AND THESE KIDS ARE RIGHT

AND THIS IS WHAT I SHOULD BE DOING.

I DON'T...

THAT'S NOT EVEN A QUESTION.

Symons' Narration: TWO WEEKS AFTER MEETING HIS FUTURE

[1:02:46]

KIDS, KELLY WENT TO PICK THEM UP FROM THEIR FOSTER

PARENTS AND BRING THEM HOME.

SCENE: Kelly Wallace picking up kids

Kelly: I FEEL LIKE THE --

UH...

THAT MILLION DOLLAR SWEEPSTAKES PRIZE.

HI, HOW ARE YOU DOING?

Woman: FINE.

YOU LOOK LIKE A SIXTIES MOTOWN SINGER.

[1:03:05]

OKAY.

DID YOU SEE HIS LITTLE BROTHER?

Kelly: HOW YA DOIN'?

HOW YA DOIN', HUH?

OH, DO YOU HAVE MEDICAL RECORDS AND STUFF?

Woman: OH, GOD, YOU KNOW WHAT I DIDN'T DO?

YEAH.

WE'RE GETTING THERE, WE'RE GETTING THERE.
YOU CALL ME TOMORROW.

I WILL.
SEE YOU LATER.
TAKE CARE.
Woman: BYE, JESSE.

SCENE: Kelly Wallace and kids in car going home

MAMA! [1:03:38]

Kelly: IS THAT YOUR MAMA?
IT'S CLOSE, IT'S A BLUE TRUCK, AND YOU HAVE A BLUE VAN.
I WANT MOMMY!

WHAT?
GO BACK TO MY MOMMY'S HOUSE.
WHY?
GO BACK TO MY MOMMY'S --
WHY? DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?

NO.
WANT MOMMY!
WHAT'S WRONG? [1:03:55]

MOMMY.
I WANT MOMMY.
YOU WANT TO GO BACK HOME,
YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO THAT HOUSE?
NO.
YOU DON'T WANT TO COME TO MY HOUSE?
YEAH!
AND I LOVE MOMMY!

AAAH! [1:04:20]

SCENE: Kelly Wallace and kids enter house with friend

Kelly: THIS FRIEND OF MINE SAID, "YOU KNOW, YOU ARE AMERICA'S NIGHTMARE."

YOU KNOW, THIS GAY GUY WITH TWO KIDS,

[1:04:29]

UM, LIVING IN THE CASTRO.

THAT IS SO MUCH WHAT SO MUCH OF THIS COUNTRY

REALLY DOESN'T WANT TO SEE HAPPEN.

SCENE: Johnny Symons at his home playing with Jesse and Ray

Symons' Narration: SPENDING TIME WITH JESSE AND RAY,

I WONDERED HOW I WOULD LOOK BACK ON MY LIFE WITHOUT CHILDREN.

AND I STARTED TO FEEL THE FAINT TICKING

OF MY NONBIOLOGICAL CLOCK.

FOR MY PARTNER WILLIAM, IT WAS DIFFERENT.

HIS ALARM HAD GONE OFF.

SCENE: William Rogers with Jesse and Ray, at home, with cat

William Rogers: I THINK IT'S ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT

[1:05:09]

THINGS THAT SOMEONE CAN DO IN THEIR LIFE

IS TO RAISE A CHILD.

THE FACT THAT I CAN NOW BE A PARENT, MAKES ME SO HAPPY.

SCENE: Stills of Johnny Symons & William Rogers

Symons' Narration: WHEN WILLIAM AND I MET,

WE WOULD SOMETIMES FANTASIZE ABOUT HAVING A FAMILY.

BUT FACE TO FACE WITH THE REALITY OF ADOPTING A CHILD,

I STARTED HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS.

I DECIDED I NEEDED A TRIAL RUN.

SCENE: Jesse and Ray at Johnny Symons house for the weekend

JOHNNY. [1:05:39]

HEY.

Symons' Narration: WHEN KELLY WENT AWAY ONE WEEKEND,
JESSE AND RAY CAME TO STAY WITH US.

I THOUGHT THAT ONCE WILLIAM EXPERIENCED THE REALITY OF KIDS,
HE MIGHT CHANGE HIS MIND.

OH.

Symons' Narration: BUT HAVING JESSE AND RAY HERE
HAD JUST THE OPPOSITE EFFECT.

William Rogers: I WAS UP EARLY EVERY MORNING,
I'M COOKING BREAKFAST.

YOU KNOW, I LOVE HAVING THESE LITTLE LIVES HERE
AND LIKE ALL THE THINGS THAT THEY KNOW AND THEY DON'T KNOW.
I MEAN, FOR ME THAT IS JUST PURE JOY.

SCENE: Johnny Symons & William Rogers w/ Jesse and Ray at grocery store

Johnny Symons: HANDS IN THE CART, PLEASE. [1:06:16]

Johnny Symons: I MEAN, I'M SCARED OF HAVING A KID.

THERE'S A WAY IN WHICH
I'M REALLY HAPPY WITH MY LIFE RIGHT NOW,
I'M VERY SATISFIED WITH IT
AND I'M RELUCTANT TO LET IT GO. [1:06:30]

SCENE: William Rogers & Ray in bed singing

^

TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR ^ [1:06:33]

^ HOW I WONDER WHAT YOU ARE ^

William Rogers: WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

ARE WE GOING TO BE, LIKE, 60, 70 YEAR OLD GAY MEN
GOING TO THAT ART OPENING AGAIN
OR THAT COCKTAIL PARTY?
I MEAN, YOU KNOW, WHAT IS LIFE ABOUT?
^ HOW I WONDER WHAT YOU ARE ^^

Symons' Narration: AS WE PONDERED OUR NEXT MOVE,
I BEGAN TO WONDER HOW OTHER GAY MEN HANDLED ALL THIS.
I HEARD ABOUT ANOTHER GAY COUPLE
THAT HAD FOLLOWED A VERY DIFFERENT PATH TO PARENTHOOD.

SCENE: Philip Himberg holding infant daughter Fanny and puppet, singing

^ FANNY, DEAR ^ [1:07:14]
^ DON'T GET UP ALL NIGHT TONIGHT ^
^ 'CAUSE PAPA LIKE TO SLEEP ^
^ AND DADDY LIKES TO SLEEP ^

SCENE: Stills of Philip Himberg and partner Jim Ballantine

Philip Himberg: VERY MUCH FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, [1:07:27]
WE ALWAYS TALKED ABOUT HAVING A FAMILY.
WE THOUGHT THAT WE'D MAKE GOOD PARENTS.
WE THOUGHT WE'D ENJOY RAISING A CHILD.
AND SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE,
THE CONVERSATION CAME UP WITH MY OLD FRIEND, CATHY SMITH.

Cathy: WE WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL TOGETHER. [1:07:45]
WE WERE HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEARTS.
IF YOU COULD THINK TO YOURSELF, WHO WOULD BE THE BEST PARENTS?
THEY WERE JUST TWO OF THE MOST GENEROUS PEOPLE,
THE MOST FUNNY.
THEY WERE VERY HAPPY WITH THEMSELVES,
WITH EACH OTHER.

Jim Ballantine: SHE LEFT A MESSAGE ON THE MACHINE
AND SAID, YOU KNOW,
"I THINK IT WOULD BE THE HARDEST THING I EVER DID IN MY LIFE,
BUT I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU GUYS BECOME PARENTS."

Cathy: I DIDN'T SORT OF THINK, [1:08:13]
"WELL, I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING THIS YEAR,
WHY DON'T I JUST HAVE A BABY FOR A GAY COUPLE."
I JUST -- IT WASN'T LIKE THAT.
I THINK, REALLY, A LOT MORE OF IT HAD TO DO WITH LOVE.

SCENE: Newborn Fanny and stills of family and baby with her fathers

Jim Ballantine: ALL OF SUDDEN THERE'S FANNY, [1:08:29]
AND SHE CAME BURSTING OUT, SCREAMING.
AND THEN WE FLEW HOME FIVE WEEKS LATER.
EVERYBODY I TALKED TO WHO HAD BEEN A PARENT
SAID THERE'S NO WAY THAT I COULD EVEN BEGIN
TO HELP YOU IMAGINE WHAT IT'S LIKE
BEING A PARENT.
AND I THINK THAT PROVED TO BE TRUE.
I MEAN, ALL OF MY FANTASIES ABOUT IT
WERE NOWHERE NEAR AS HARD AS IT ACTUALLY WAS.

SCENE: Gay & Lesbian Family Night at the YMCA, parents & kids in pool

Symons' Narration: THE CLOSER I GOT TO FATHERHOOD, [1:08:58]
THE MORE I RAN ACROSS GAY DADS.
I MET DIVORCED GAY FATHERS,
MEN WHO CO-PARENTED WITH LESBIANS,
AND OTHERS WHO HAD FLOWN OVERSEAS TO ADOPT.
ALMOST ALWAYS, BECOMING A GAY DAD
REQUIRED MONTHS, SOMETIMES YEARS, OF PERSEVERANCE.
THEN I HEARD ABOUT A MAN IN FLORIDA

WHO BECAME A FATHER IN AN AFTERNOON.

SCENE: Doug Houghton playing piano at his home

Doug Houghton: I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A VERY DECISIVE PERSON. [1:09:28]
I THINK INTUITION IS NOTHING MORE
THAN THE CUMULATIVE EXPERIENCE OF KNOWING YOURSELF.
MY INTUITION TOLD ME
WHEN I WAS PRESENTED WITH THE SITUATION OF OSCAR
THAT THIS IS GOING TO WORK,
THIS IS GOING TO BE A GOOD THING FOR BOTH OF YOU
SO GO FOR IT.

SCENE: Doug Houghton at work at hospital clinic, stills of young Oscar and Oscar's father

I HAD KNOWN OSCAR IN THIS CLINIC [1:09:49]
WHERE I WAS A NURSE PRACTITIONER.
WHEN OSCAR WAS ABOUT 3 1/2,
HIS DAD SAID TO ME, "WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE CARE OF OSCAR?"
AND I SAID, "ARE YOU SERIOUS?"
AND HE SAID, "YEAH, I'M SERIOUS."
"WHY DON'T YOU JUST TAKE HIM, TAKE HIM HOME WITH YOU.
YOU COULD GIVE HIM A MUCH BETTER LIFE THAN I COULD."
HE SAYS, "LISTEN, I LOST MY PLACE TO LIVE
AND I DON'T WANT THE KIDS TO SPEND CHRISTMAS LIKE THAT."

SCENE: Interview w/ Jim & Fannie Williams, Oscar's grandparents

Fannie: WELL, I TELL YOU, TO BE HONEST, [1:10:17]
MY SON HAS BEEN ON DRUGS OFF AND ON FOR YEARS.
AND HE SAYS HE'S CLEAN, BUT HE'S NOT.
Doug Houghton: I SAID, WELL, THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO TELL YOU.
THAT I WANT YOU TO BE COMFORTABLE WITH.
AND THEN I TOLD HIM I WAS GAY --

HE WAS OKAY WITH THAT.
I DON'T THINK HE WAS CRAZY ABOUT THE IDEA,
BUT HE KNEW THAT I WOULD TAKE GOOD CARE OF OSCAR.
AND TWO WEEKS LATER
WE WERE CELEBRATING OUR FIRST CHRISTMAS TOGETHER.

SCENE: Doug Houghton and Oscar in kitchen

Johnny Symons: HEY, OSCAR, HOW DID IT END UP [1:11:44]
THAT DOUG IS YOUR DADDY?
GOOD.
HOW DID IT HAPPEN?
DO YOU REMEMBER HOW THAT HAPPENED?
NO.
HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?
I WAS UNDER YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE.
YEAH, YOU WERE UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE?
Johnny Symons: YOU WERE JUST HIDING UNDER THERE.
MM-HMM.
AND THEN WHAT HAPPENED?
THEN HE HEARD A NOISE OR SOMETHING.
AND THEN HE WOKE UP AND THEN HE SAW ME.

Doug Houghton: OSCAR HAS SOME RELATIVELY SERIOUS CHRONIC [1:11:09]
HEALTH PROBLEMS
THAT HE'S HAD SINCE BIRTH.
WHEN I GOT HIM, HIS GROWTH WAS ONLY AT THE TENTH PERCENTILE.
HE WAS JUST A TINY LITTLE THING.
A LOT OF SYSTEMS IN HIS BODY
WERE NOT DOING WELL.

SCENE: Oscar and Doug Houghton in kitchen making cookies

A LITTLE BALL LIKE THIS.
LIKE THIS?

[1:11:25]

Doug Houghton: WITH REGULAR MEDICATION,
HIS HEALTH HAS JUST IMPROVED SO DRAMATICALLY.

Fannie: I DOUBT OUR GRANDSON OSCAR WOULD BE LIVING TODAY
IF DOUG DIDN'T HAVE HIM.

I HATE TO SAY THAT.

AND I'LL TELL THAT TO MY SON AND ANYONE ELSE.

SCENE: Johnny Symons & William Rogers enter building

Symons' Narration: THE MORE I SAW OF OTHER FAMILIES,
THE MORE I REALIZED THERE WAS NO PERFECT TIME TO HAVE A KID.
I WAS STILL SCARED, BUT I FELT READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP.
WE PAID A VISIT TO KELLY'S SOCIAL WORKER,
WHO CALLED HERSELF "THE GAY ADOPTION QUEEN."

[1:11:46]

SCENE: Interview w/ social worker Sharon Anderson

Anderson: I DIDN'T START OFF BEING AN ADVOCATE FOR GAY ADOPTIONS,
I WAS AN ADOPTION ADVOCATE.
THERE ARE LOTS OF KIDS OUT THERE WHO NEED HOMES.
AND THEY WAIT AND THEY WAIT AND THEY WAIT.

SCENE: African-American kids at foster home

Symons' Narration: WE KNEW WE WANTED TO ADOPT A KID
WHO WAS AFRICAN-AMERICAN,
OR BI-RACIAL LIKE WILLIAM.
IT TURNED OUT
WE WANTED EXACTLY THE KIND OF KID MOST PEOPLE DIDN'T.
PEOPLE PAY THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS TO ADOPT WHITE
OR ASIAN CHILDREN,

[1:12:15]

BUT THERE ARE 50,000 AFRICAN-AMERICAN KIDS
WAITING TO BE ADOPTED RIGHT NOW.

MEANWHILE, SOME STATE LAWS ARE RELAXING,
MAKING IT EASIER FOR GAY MEN TO ADOPT.

OFTEN THE RESULT [1:12:39]

IS A CONTROVERSIAL MATCH --

WHITE GAY MEN

RAISING AFRICAN-AMERICAN KIDS.

Anderson: I SEE GAY FAMILIES ADOPTING [1:12:47]

AS AN UNTAPPED RESOURCE.

AND I THINK A LOT OF GAY PEOPLE DON'T REALLY REALIZE

THAT MORE AND MORE COUNTIES, MORE AND MORE PRIVATE AGENCIES
ARE OPENING THEIR DOORS WIDE OPEN

TO PEOPLE WHO WANT TO EXPLORE THIS AS A FAMILY OPTION.

**SCENE: Johnny Symons & William Rogers doing paperwork, being fingerprinted, attending
CPR class**

Symons' Narration: WE DECIDED TO MOVE AHEAD TOWARD [1:13:09]

ADOPTION, THROUGH THE SURREAL

AND SOMETIMES FRUSTRATING PROCESS

OF GETTING CERTIFIED AS FOSTER PARENTS,

COMPLETE WITH CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS,

PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS,

AND A CLASS IN CPR.

SCENE: Sharon Anderson at Johnny Symons & William Rogers home

EVENTUALLY, OUR SOCIAL WORKER [1:13:28]

CAME OVER FOR THE FINAL INTERVIEW

AND TO MAKE SURE OUR HOME WAS A SAFE PLACE FOR KIDS.

Anderson: THIS IS GORGEOUS.

ALL MEDICINES AND POISONS
HAVE TO BE UNDER LOCK AND KEY.
NO, IT'S ACTUALLY VERY STURDY.
MY DAD BUILT THIS, THIS DECK,
AND HE WAS REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT
MAKING SURE THAT THE SLATS
WERE THE RIGHT DISTANCE.

Anderson: SO HOW MUCH DO YOU DRINK?

NADA.

ANYBODY USE NON-PRESCRIPTION DRUGS?

NO.

MARIJUANA, COCAINE?

SCENE: William Rogers driving in car

William Rogers: IT WAS TEDIOUS.

[1:14:02]

I MEAN, THEY HAVE TO ASK YOU EVERY QUESTION
ABOUT EVERY ASPECT OF YOUR LIFE.
YOU KNOW, I MEAN, ALL STRAIGHT PEOPLE HAVE TO DO IS FUCK
AND THEY GET A KID.
AND, YOU KNOW, WE HAVE TO, LIKE, BE GRILLED.
IT'S RIDICULOUS.

**SCENE: Johnny Symons & William Rogers review foster kid listing at kitchen table,
various closeups of listings**

Symons' Narration: AT LAST OUR SOCIAL WORKER HANDED US A BINDER
FULL OF HUNDREDS OF LISTINGS OF FOSTER CHILDREN
WHO NEEDED PERMANENT HOMES,
EACH WITH A SMILING PHOTO ON TOP AND A LIFE STORY UNDERNEATH.

BY KID NUMBER 100, WE RESIGNED OURSELVES
TO THE BIZARRE AND DEPRESSING PROCESS

[1:14:36]

OF CATALOGUE SHOPPING FOR OUR CHILD.

Rogers:WHAT ABOUT ANIKA AND HELEMA?

Johnny Symons: WE LOOKED AT THEM LAST WEEK.

OKAY -- ANTONIO -- DID YOU SEE HIM?

YEAH.

BUT I FEEL LIKE RIGHT NOW

WE NEED TO REALLY GO FOR EXACTLY WHAT WE WANT.

[1:14:51]

I AGREE.

AND THIS KID COULD BE IT.

I THINK HE IS JUST ADORABLE

AND HE'S GOT ALL THE RIGHT STATS, BASICALLY.

HE'S VERY YOUNG,

HE'S IN GOOD PHYSICAL HEALTH.

HE COULD BE YOUR CHILD.

YEAH, I THINK HE COULD BE MY CHILD.

Symons' Narration: WE DECIDED ON ZACHARY,

[1:15:14]

WHOSE BIRTH MOTHER HAD BEEN UNABLE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.

SOCIAL WORKERS APPROVED THE PLACEMENT,

BUT THERE WAS ONE OBSTACLE WE HADN'T CONSIDERED --

THE FOSTER MOTHER.

**SCENE: "Jesus" bumpersticker on car, long shot of car parked in driveway, interview w/
Dora Dean Bradley, Zachary's foster mother**

Bradley: I GREW UP IN THE HOLINESS CHURCH,

[1:15:28]

WHICH IS PENTECOSTAL.

YOU WOULD CALL IT FUNDAMENTALIST.

MY CHURCH DOCTRINE DO NOT BELIEVE IN THAT, AT ALL.

THAT A MAN COULD BE A, AH... GAY.

SCENE: Footage, photos of Dora Dean w/ baby Zachary

HE WAS JUST MY LITTLE BOY.

YOU KNOW, I HAD RAISED HIM UP.

WHEN YOU TWO DADDIES CAME, AND I THOUGHT,

"MY GOD, NOT TWO DADDIES, NOT TWO DADDIES."

I WENT THROUGH ALL KINDS OF THINGS IN MY MIND.

AND I DIDN'T WANT THAT FOR HIM.

BECAUSE YOU KNOW I HEARD A LOT OF STUFF.

Johnny Symons: WHAT DID PEOPLE SAY?

Bradley: BECAUSE HE HAS TWO DADDIES

THAT HE WOULD END UP LIKE THAT, TOO.

THEY THINK THAT, UM,

YOU WOULD DO THINGS TO HIM.

I DIDN'T THINK THAT.

SCENE; Dora drops Zachary off at Johnny Symons & William Rogers home, they play with him

Symons' Narration: DORA AGREED TO BRING ZACHARY OVER

[1:16:24]

FOR A SERIES OF VISITS.

IT'S OKAY, SWEETHEART.

YOU KNOW THE ROUTINE.

HE IS SO CUTE.

William Rogers: I DIDN'T EXPECT JOHNNY TO BE

QUITE SO DEMONSTRATIVE, ACTUALLY.

AND IT'S WEIRD BECAUSE,

THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS,

I'VE PUSHED AND JOHNNY HAS RESISTED.

Symons' Narration: I WAS PLAYING WITH HIM AND I THOUGHT,

[1:17:00]

THIS WASN'T JUST ANY BABY,

THIS WAS THE BABY WHO WAS GOING TO MOVE INTO OUR HOUSE.
MORE THAN ANYTHING, I THINK IT WAS A RELIEF,
IT WAS A SENSE OF, YEAH, I CAN DO THIS.
YOU KNOW WE'RE OKAY GUYS,
DON'T YOU?
DO YOU KNOW WE'RE GOING TO BE YOUR DADDIES?
DO YOU KNOW THAT?

Bradley: WE SAW EACH OTHER AGAIN RIGHT AWAY, AND THE BABY, [1:17:52]
HE WAS OKAY WITH YOU, TOO.
AND I HAD TO GO BACK AND TELL EVERYBODY, WELL,
THEY'RE VERY NICE.

SCENE: Dora and friends visiting w/ Johnny Symons & William Rogers at their home
I'M SERIOUS.

Symons' Narration: DORA TOLD US
SHE WANTED TO STICK AROUND AS ZACH'S GRANNY.
WE HAD BEEN COUNTING ON A BABY JOINING OUR FAMILY
BUT NOT A FUNDAMENTALIST CHRISTIAN AS WELL.
NOW IT WAS OUR TURN TO ADJUST.

SCENE: Guests arriving for party at Johnny Symons & William Rogers home, guests mingling

Johnny Symons: GOOD, YOU'RE RIGHT ON TIME.
TWO DAYS BEFORE ZACH WAS TO MOVE IN FOR GOOD,
WE INVITED EVERYONE OVER TO CELEBRATE.

Bradley: YES, I WANTED HIM TO TAKE A FEW STEPS
HE TOOK A FEW STEPS TODAY.

OH, HE DID?

YEAH.

OH, WONDERFUL.

YEAH.

A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK THAT, THOUGH.

I AM SO HAPPY, JOHNNY.

[1:18:16]

OH, THANK YOU SO MUCH.

SCENE: People gathered in kitchen, giving toasts

William Rogers: THIS FEELS TO ME LIKE THE JOINING OF

[1:18:20]

AND THE BEGINNING OF A WONDERFUL RELATIONSHIP.

THANK YOU SO MUCH [to Dora Dean] FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE.

YOU HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLE.

OH, THANK YOU.

SCENE: Dora Dean's Friend Helen

Helen: IT WAS REALLY HARD FOR ME AND DORA KEPT TELLING ME,

[1:18:35]

"HELEN, IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT."

I SAID, "NO, DORA, I DON'T THINK IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT."

BUT WHEN I CAME OVER HERE AND I MET WILLIAM

AND THIS HOUSE WAS FILLED WITH SO MUCH LOVE,

AND AFTER I FOUND OUT DORA WAS SATISFIED ABOUT IT,

I BECAME SATISFIED ABOUT IT, YOU KNOW.

AND I'M GOING TO STOP BECAUSE I'LL BE CRYING, YOU KNOW.

NOW I'M GOING TO PRAY.

FATHER GOD, IN THE NAME OF JESUS,

[1:19:00]

LORD, WE THANK YOU, WE THANK YOU FOR THIS FAMILY REUNION, LORD.

LORD, WE KNOW YOU KNOW BEST.

IN JESUS NAME AND BLESS DORA, LORD, HELP HER TO BE STRONG.

IN JESUS NAME, AMEN.

AMEN.

AMEN.

AMEN.

I'M GOING TO MISS HIM.

SCENE: Johnny's mom, Susie Symons w/ Zachary at party

Susie: SWEET BOY. [1:19:23]

WHEN YOU CAME OUT TO ME,
IT WAS A COMPLETE SURPRISE TO ME.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE GAY.

SO ONE OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED WAS,
THAT A LOT OF UNCONSCIOUS LONGINGS
THAT I WAS NOT EVEN AWARE OF
WERE JUST DASHED.

AND ONE OF THEM WAS THAT I WOULD EVER SEE YOU AS A DAD. [1:19:51]

IT'S A PROFOUND JOY TO KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE A DAD AFTER ALL
AND THAT YOU'LL BE A DAD WITH WILLIAM,
WHO I ADORE.

SCENE: Johnny Symons & William Rogers at home waiting for Zachary to be dropped off

I FEEL ACUTELY AWARE OF SOUND RIGHT NOW, [1:20:13]

BECAUSE IN A MATTER OF MINUTES
DORA DEAN IS GOING TO WALK UP THE STAIRS
AND I WILL HAVE A SON FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

I GUESS IT'S THE EQUIVALENT OF
STANDING IN THE HOSPITAL ROOM,
PACING BACK AND FORTH WITH A CIGAR.
IT'S THAT MOMENT WHERE YOU KNOW IT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW
AND YOUR LIFE IS GOING TO CHANGE FOREVER.
I'M GOING INTO COMPLETELY NEW WATERS.

SCENE: William Rogers and Dora Dean w/ Zachary by car in driveway

OKAY. [1:20:49]

SAY "I DON'T HAVE ANY SHOES ON BECAUSE IT'S TOO HOT."

I KNOW, IT IS HOT, ISN'T IT?

HEY, KIDDO.

Bradley: I KNEW THAT THAT DAY WAS THE DAY
THAT I HAD TO LEAVE HIM.

SO, AH -- BUT THAT WAS ROUGH.

OKAY, FELLA, BYE-BYE, OKAY?

SAY "BYE-BYE."

SAY "I'LL SEE YOU ON SATURDAY.

I'LL SEE YOU ON SATURDAY."

SCENE: William Rogers & Johnny Symons at home w/ Zachary playing in living room

Johnny Symons: OKAY, THIS IS OUR NEW REALITY. [1:21:23]

William Rogers: THAT'S RIGHT.

HEY, CUTIE PIE.

I KNOW, HE'S HERE TO STAY.

YEP.

SCENE: William Rogers, Johnny Symons, and Zachary arranging the playroom in fast motion, "Daddy's Home" song playing

^ DADDY'S HOME ^ [1:21:41]

^ DADDY'S HOME TO STAY ^

Symons' Narration: THE FIRST FEW WEEKS OF PARENTING WERE A BLUR.

THE HOUSE TURNED UPSIDE DOWN.

OUR WORKOUT ROOM BECAME A PLAYPEN.

WE WERE SO CAUGHT UP IN THE CHAOTIC JUMBLE

OF LAUNDRY, INFANT FORMULA, AND BABY TYLENOL,

WE ALMOST DIDN'T NOTICE HOW ZACH HAD SETTLED IN TO HIS NEW HOME.

^ YOUR BEST FRIEND WROTE AND TOLD ME ^ [1:22:41]

^ YOU HAD TEARDROPS IN YOUR EYES ^

^ DADDY'S HOME ^

SCENE: Home movies of Philip Himberg, Jim Ballantine, and Fanny

Jim Ballantine: INITIALLY, [1:22:32]

PHILIP AND I WOULD BRING FANNY ALONG TO DIFFERENT EVENTS.

THE BULK OF PEOPLE WERE JUST LIKE,

"OH, MY GOD, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?"

Himberg: I MEAN, WE USED TO KID ABOUT IT, JIM AND I,

THAT, YOU KNOW, SHE HAD THESE TWO DOTING DADS.

SHE'LL GROW UP AND SHE'LL FIND A BOYFRIEND.

AND, YOU KNOW, THEY'LL BE TOGETHER, AND SHE'LL SAY,

"I REALLY LOVE YOU, BUT SOMEHOW I WANT MORE THAN ONE."

SCENE: Fanny and dads at her backyard birthday party

FANNY, SAY "HI, IT'S MY BIRTHDAY."

SMILE.

Fanny: I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO NOT HAVE TWO DADS.

I FEEL LIKE

I HAVE A LOT OF PARENTS

AND THAT I CAN BRAG ABOUT HAVING MORE PARENTS THAN OTHER PEOPLE.

SCENE: Fanny and Dads in kitchen

DO YOU WANT TO INVITE ANYONE OVER? [1:23:17]

DO YOU WANT TO CALL, LIKE, ELIZABETH OR --

ALANA.

ALANA -- CALL ALANA.

NO.

YOU WANT ME TO CALL?

YEAH.

WE NEED SOMEBODY TO COME OVER.

OH, YOU POOR THING.

OTHERWISE I'LL BE SURROUNDED BY BOYS THE WHOLE DAY. [1:23:35]

Jim Ballantine: WE NEVER FELT, UH-OH,
SHE NEEDS A MOM RIGHT NOW.
YOU KNOW, WE GOT UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT,
WE HAD THE BOTTLES READY.
I NEVER FELT THAT SHE WAS BEING DEPRIVED
OF A CERTAIN KIND OF ENERGY.

SCENE: Home movies of Cathy arriving at airport to visit baby Fanny

Smith: I TRY TO SEE HER EVERY FEW MONTHS. [1:23:50]

EITHER GO THERE OR HAVE HER COME HERE.
WE'VE SPENT EVERY CHRISTMAS TOGETHER SINCE SHE WAS BORN.

Johnny Symons: IS IT HARD FOR YOU TO BE AWAY FROM YOUR MOM
OR ARE YOU KIND OF USED TO IT?

Fanny: I'M USED TO IT, BUT I THINK IF I WAS WITH HER MORE
AND THEN I DIDN'T GET TO SEE HER FOR A WHILE,
THEN I WOULD FEEL PRETTY AWFUL.

SCENE: Smith, Philip Himberg, and Fanny playing at park

Smith: THERE IS NOT A DAY THAT GOES BY [1:24:17]

THAT I DON'T WISH THAT I WERE MORE IN HER LIFE.

YOU KNOW, A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE SAID TO ME,
WHY DON'T YOU JUST MOVE TO CALIFORNIA.

THAT'S NOT WHAT THE INTENT WAS.

THE INTENT WAS FOR JIM AND PHILIP TO BE THE PARENTS.

SCENE: Philip Himberg swinging Fanny at park

Himberg: CAN I TOUCH YOUR FEET?

CAN I KISS YOUR FEET?

Himberg: WHEN WE WENT OUT IN PUBLIC WITH HER WHEN [1:24:35]

SHE WAS LITTLE, IT WOULD BE VERY COMMON, LIKE,

IN THE GROCERY STORE
IF SHE WAS CRYING OR SOMETHING FOR A WOMAN TO SAY,
"OH, WHERE'S HER MOM?"
LIKE I COULDN'T HANDLE THE FACT THAT SHE WAS CRYING.

THAT'S IT, SHAVING, DADDY'S SHAVING.
SHAVE PAPA'S BEARD, SHAVE PAPA'S BEARD.
I MEAN, THE WORLD REALLY DOES BELIEVE
THAT WOMEN ARE BETTER AT RAISING KIDS THAN MEN.

Himberg: THANK YOU FOR MY SHAVE -- BYE.

SCENE: Doug Houghton and son Oscar at piano

Doug Houghton: ONCE IN A WHILE [1:25:02]
I THINK THAT OSCAR REALLY DOES MISS HAVING A MOM.

THERE WAS JUST A MOVIE,
IT WAS THE "RUGRATS" OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT
WHERE CHUCKY GETS A MOM.
AND I TOOK HIM TO SEE THAT,
NOT KNOWING THAT THIS MOM THEME
WAS GOING TO BE A MAJOR PART OF THE MOVIE.

Oscar: I WAS PRETTY SAD WHEN THE DANCE CAME ON [1:25:22]
BECAUSE CHUCKY DIDN'T HAVE A MOM
AND HE FINDS A MOM AND...
EVERYTHING LIKE THAT.

Johnny Symons: DID IT MAKE YOU WISH YOU HAD A MOM?

SCENE: Excerpt from “Rugrats in Paris” movie. Moms dancing with their children, Mom on airplane tucks in baby while Chuckie watches, Chuckie sees himself and “mom” in a cloud out plane window

^ I WANT A MOM TO READ ME STORIES ^ [1:25:43]

^ AND SING A LULLABY ^

^ AND IF I HAVE A BAD DREAM ^

^ TO HOLD ME WHEN I CRY ^

^ OH, I WANT A MOM THAT WILL LAST FOREVER ^

Doug Houghton: HE WAS OKAY, BUT AFTERWARDS HE SAID,
YOU KNOW, "CHUCKY GOT TO HAVE A MOM,
BUT I DON'T GET TO HAVE A MOM, HUH?"

^ I WANT A MOM ^

Doug Houghton: AND I SAID, "WELL, NO, OSCAR, [1:26:09]

"BUT THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT DON'T HAVE MOMS,

AND THERE'S PEOPLE THAT HAVE A MOM BUT DON'T HAVE A DAD."

I MEAN, I THINK EVERY KID WOULD IDEALLY PROBABLY LIKE TO HAVE,

YOU KNOW, A MOM AND A DAD AND TWO SETS OF GRANDPARENTS

AND, YOU KNOW, TWO BROTHERS AND SISTERS

AND A DOG AND A HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY, I DON'T KNOW.

THAT'S STILL THE NORM THAT OUR SOCIETY IMPOSES UPON US

AT EVERY TURN.

SCENE: Doug Houghton and Oscar at piano

[PIANO PLAYING]

YOU WANT TO TURN THE PAGE FOR ME? [1:26:40]

OKAY, GET READY.

Houghton: FOR OSCAR IT WAS A VERY ROUGH TRANSITION AT FIRST.
HE STAYED WITH THE GRANDPARENTS FOR A WHILE.
HE WAS WITH HIS FATHER FOR A WHILE.
SO HE HAD REALLY BEEN ALREADY BOUNCED AROUND A LOT.

OKAY, NOW.

THANK YOU.

Oscar: WHEN I FIRST CAME WITH MY DAD, [1:27:10]
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT LOVE WAS.
AND HE ALWAYS KEEPS ME SAFE.

Doug Houghton: I MEAN, HE WAS TOTALLY CLINGY,
I MEAN, HE JUST STUCK TO ME LIKE GLUE.
AND THEN EVENTUALLY,
HE BECAME A LOT MORE SELF-CONFIDENT AND INDEPENDENT.

Johnny Symons: WHO DO YOU FEEL LIKE IS OSCAR'S DADDY? [1:27:20]

Jim & Fannie Williams (Oscar's grandparents): DOUG!
THE ONE THAT'S TAKING CARE OF HIM AND FEEDING HIM.

Jim: YEAH, THE ONE THAT'S TAKING CARE OF HIM,
THE ONE THAT'S MAKING SURE
HE HAS A BED TO SLEEP IN EVERY NIGHT,
THE ONE THAT MAKES SURE HE'S GOT FOOD TO EAT.
TAKING HIM TO SCHOOL.

AND SHELTER OVER HIS HEAD.
THAT'S NOT HARD TO FIGURE OUT
WHICH ONE IS DADDY.

Fannie: ANYBODY CAN GET A BABY. [1:27:40]
THE REAL DADDY DON'T HAVE ANY OF THAT TO GIVE HIM.

SCENE: Kelly and kids on couch at home after work/school

Kelly: DID YOU HAVE A GOOD DAY? [1:27:59]

Ray: YEAH.

YEAH?

WERE YOU GOOD?

YEAH.

YEAH, YEAH.

YEAH, YOU SURE?

YOU SURE ABOUT THAT PART?

YEAH.

ARE YOU ALWAYS GOOD?

YEAH.

I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THAT.

Kelly: THEY'RE MUCH MORE BROTHERLY. [1:28:17]

YOU KNOW, LIKE, IF I ASK JESSE, "ARE WE GOING TO

GO TO GRAMMIE'S HOUSE FOR DINNER?"

HE ALWAYS SAYS, "AND RAY COME TOO?"

SCENE: Jesse, Ray, and Kelly swimming in pool at home of Kelly's mother, Nancy Wallace

Jesse: WATCH ME.

Nancy: WHEN HE FIRST MENTIONED IT, WE THOUGHT, [1:28:28]

OH, HE JUST DOESN'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT HE'S GETTING INTO.

Nancy: AS FAR AS

MY FEELINGS ABOUT GAY MEN RAISING CHILDREN,

I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'M CONFIDENT TO MAKE A DECISION ON THAT.

I GUESS HISTORY'S GOING TO HAVE TO TELL US

HOW THAT WORKS OUT.

KELLY HAS A LOT OF GOOD COMMON SENSE. [1:28:54]

AND IF HE CAN MAKE THAT HIS TOP PRIORITY,

I THINK THEY'LL BE FINE.

SCENE: Kelly & kids eating dinner, bathtime, reading bedtime story

Kelly: BEING A PARENT AND BEING SINGLE, [1:29:08]
I FEEL A LOT MORE ALONE.

YOU KNOW,
YOU DO ALL THIS AND THEN YOU GO TO BED BY YOURSELF EVERY NIGHT
AND YOU GET UP BY YOURSELF EVERY MORNING.
JESSE, JESSE, WIPE YOUR HANDS OFF.

AND IT'S NOT SEX, IT'S JUST SORT OF SOMEONE HOLDING YOU [1:29:28]
AND SAYING, "YOU'RE DOING OKAY," OR, UM --
IT'S LONELY.

**SCENE: Still lifes of Johnny Symons & William Rogers home: toy train, training potty,
Zachary at computer**

Symons' Narration: LIKE MOST NEW FAMILIES, WE BEGAN DOING [1:29:43]
WHAT THE PARENTING BOOKS CALL "NESTING."
RELATIVES CALLED ALL THE TIME JUST TO CHECK IN.
AND PEOPLE WE HADN'T SEEN IN MONTHS
APPEARED ON OUR DOORSTEP WHEN THEY HEARD THE NEWS.
EVERYONE WAS CURIOUS TO SEE
IF TWO GAY MEN COULD TAKE CARE OF A BABY.

SCENE: Johnny Symons & William Rogers in Zachary's room

Johnny Symons: I'M PROBABLY NOT EVEN SUPPOSED TO TALK ABOUT [1:30:04]
THIS, BUT AS YOU CAN SEE,
THIS IS THE CAT CLIMBING INTO ZACHARY'S CRIB,
WHICH DOESN'T LOOK VERY MUCH LIKE MOST CRIBS DO.
AND THAT IS BECAUSE ZACHARY SLEEPS IN OUR BED.
WE REALIZED VERY QUICKLY THAT IF YOU HELD HIM

AND BROUGHT HIM IN TO BED WITH US
THAT HE WOULD FALL RIGHT TO SLEEP.
AND THAT'S WHAT WE LATER FOUND OUT [1:30:21]

THAT THE FOSTER MOTHER ALWAYS LET HIM SLEEP WITH HER.
BUT I ALSO THINK IT'S INTERESTING
FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF BEING GAY MALE PARENTS
AND SLEEPING WITH THIS LITTLE BABY
THE IDEA OF, YOU KNOW, GAY MEN ARE OBSESSED WITH SEX
OR, LIKE, YOU KNOW, YOUR SEX LIFE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.
AND SUDDENLY WE HAVE THIS BABY SLEEPING IN OUR BED WITH US.

William Rogers: AND GUESS WHAT, WE DON'T HAVE SEX [1:30:39]
WHEN THE BABY IS IN OUR BED.

SCENE: Johnny Symons & William Rogers at park w/ Zachary, other families

Symons' Narration: WE FELT NERVOUS [1:30:48]
ABOUT HOW PEOPLE WOULD REACT WHEN THEY SAW
TWO GAY MEN BEING AFFECTIONATE WITH A LITTLE BOY.
BUT OUT IN THE WORLD,
WE WERE SUDDENLY PASSING AS STRAIGHT.
MOST PEOPLE DID THE MATH
AND FIGURED WILLIAM WAS THE FATHER AND I WAS THE BUDDY.
WE FOUND OURSELVES
CONSTANTLY COMING OUT ABOUT OUR FAMILY TO INQUISITIVE STRANGERS.
I WANTED TO GO BACK TO WHERE PEOPLE UNDERSTOOD ME.

SCENE: Kelly and the kids walking through Castro. Kids playing with stuffed animals at Castro store among gay erotic art posters.

Kelly: I LIVE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CASTRO. [1:31:20]

THE HARD PART IS, THERE'S NO OTHER KIDS AROUND, REALLY.
SO, YOU KNOW, WE GO TO PARK

THREE OR FOUR NIGHTS A WEEK.
AND I WOULD SAY THERE'S BEEN
TWICE IN A YEAR AND A HALF THAT THERE'S BEEN OTHER KIDS THERE.
AND THE WHOLE GAY COMMUNITY IS ABOUT CREATING YOUR OWN FAMILY
AND YET THAT'S JUST NOT IN THE CONSCIOUSNESS.

SCENE: Gay Day crowds at Great America amusement park.

Symons' Narration: WHERE DID WE FIT IN? [1:31:47]

WE HEADED TO THE ONE PLACE THAT SEEMED PERFECT
FOR BOTH GAY MEN AND KIDS --
GAY DAY AT GREAT AMERICA.

William Rogers: KIDZVILLE IS CLOSED.

Johnny Symons to Ray: SEE, THE KIDS' RIDES ARE CLOSED TODAY.

Ray: I WANT TO GET ON THAT ONE.

Johnny Symons: IT'S THE SAME THING --

SEE, THEY'RE ALL CLOSED.

YOU SEE THAT YELLOW TAPE THERE?

THAT SAYS THAT WE CAN'T GO ON THEM.

William Rogers: I WANT TO SPEAK TO A MANAGER BECAUSE I THINK [1:32:23]

THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS.

THEY CHARGED \$20 FOR KIDS UNDER 6,

AND THEY DO NOT HAVE ONE KIDS' RIDE OPEN.

ACTUALLY, IT SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT GAY CULTURE, FRANKLY.

THAT GAY CULTURE IS NOT YET

AWARE OF THE FACT

THAT CHILDREN ARE BECOMING A PART OF THE COMMUNITY.

Symons' Narration: AFTER THE AMUSEMENT PARK DISASTER, WE [1:32:50]

DECIDED TO TRY OUR LUCK AT A FATHER'S DAY PICNIC

THAT WAS JUST FOR GAY DADS.

SCENE: Johnny Symons & William Rogers riding through upscale suburban neighborhood.

Arrive at Gay Dads Fathers' Day picnic

William Rogers: IT'S RANCH STYLE.

RANCH STYLE.

I KNEW IT, IT IS SUBURBAN RANCH.

ONE, TWO, THREE VOLVO STATION WAGONS.

SCENE: Backyard party w/ gay dads and kids

Child: I WANT TO PLAY WITH THE BALL.

[1:33:16]

OKAY, WELL, SIDNEY WILL FINISH, THEN SHE'LL PLAY WITH YOU.

YEAH, AND IT'S A GREAT THING, GREAT THING.

ACTUALLY, WHEN HE FIRST CAME TO US, HE WAS PRETTY STOIC

AND NOW HE WHINES MORE, HE CRIES MORE,

AND HE'S MORE JOYFUL.

Symons' Narration: AS WE SWAPPED DAYCARE AND CAR SEAT STORIES
WITH THE OTHER DADS, I LOOKED AROUND.

WERE WE MIMICKING STRAIGHT PEOPLE,

TRYING TO PROVE THAT WE COULD BE GOOD PARENTS, TOO?

OR WAS THIS JUST THE LIFE OF A PARENT,

GAY OR STRAIGHT, DOING OUR BEST FOR OUR KIDS?

SCENE: Johnny Symons & William Rogers putting Zachary into car

Symons' Narration: TWO MONTHS LATER,

[1:33:50]

WE BROKE DOWN AND GOT A VOLVO STATION WAGON OF OUR OWN.

SCENE: Fanny playing ping pong w/ her dad, Philip Himberg

I'M GOING TO WIN THIS POINT.

Fanny: MY PAPA AND MY DAD --

THEY CHANGED HOUSES

SO THEY GOT DIVORCED SORT OF, AFTER -- YEAH,

THEY SORT OF GOT DIVORCED.

SCENE: Fanny playing instrument, her dads and other guests in room

Himberg: THE SPLIT-UP BETWEEN JIM AND MYSELF [1:34:21]

HAPPENED ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO.

IN PART, I THINK OUR RELATIONSHIP HAD SUFFERED

MAYBE BECAUSE, LIKE MANY MARRIED COUPLES WITH CHILDREN,

OUR ENERGY HAD GONE VERY MUCH INTO RAISING THIS CHILD.

AND I THINK WE WERE NOT REALLY GOOD

AT ACKNOWLEDGING WHAT WAS CHANGING IN OUR RELATIONSHIP.

Jim Ballantine: IT WAS, YOU KNOW, GUT-WRENCHING. [1:34:48]

IT WAS REALLY DIFFICULT.

AND, YOU KNOW, WE'D BEEN TOGETHER FOR OVER 13 YEARS.

Fanny: WELL, WHEN I REMIND MYSELF THAT THEY WERE ONCE TOGETHER,
I WANT THEM TO BE BACK.

ONE OF MY DADS HAS A NEW BOYFRIEND NOW. [1:35:06]

VINCE -- AND HE'S REALLY FUN TO PLAY WITH.

SCENE: Fanny and Vince playing basketball

Fanny: LOOK AT VINCE.

SCENE: Fanny, Vince, and her dad Jim Ballantine with friend at farmers market

Jim Ballantine: ONE OF THE KEY THINGS WHICH I THINK HAPPENED LAST YEAR

WAS VINCE COMING TO LIVE WITH US AND SORT OF

ME HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMEONE ELSE BESIDES PAPA.

AND THOSE WERE BIG ISSUES FOR FANNY.

SCENE: Vince and Jim Ballantine kiss at car, Fanny leaps for her father.

Fanny: NOBODY GIVES ME A KISS. [1:35:39]

Friend: OH, THAT IS NOT TRUE, FANNY.

Jim Ballantine: WE'RE PROBABLY MORE AT ISSUE
WITH BEING DIVORCED PARENTS
THAN WE ARE WITH BEING GAY PARENTS.
YOU KNOW, I THINK THE GAY PART OF IT IS REALLY NOT A BIG DEAL.
BUT BEING DIVORCED IS A HUGE DEAL.
AND THAT'S SOMETHING, YOU KNOW, THAT SHE HAS TO DEAL WITH.

SCENE: Kitchen at Doug Houghton's home w/ live-in partner Gil Avila and Oscar

Houghton: HI, SWEETHEART.

Gil Avila: HOW ARE YOU?

Doug Houghton: GIL'S BEEN MY PARTNER NOW FOR ALMOST [1:35:06]
TWO YEARS.

WE'VE BASICALLY CREATED OUR OWN FAMILY.
IN A WAY IT'S A VERY STRONG BOND
BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT WE'RE ALL TOGETHER BY CHOICE.

SCENE: Doug Houghton, Gil Avila, Oscar at dinner table

Houghton: DEAR LORD, WE THANK YOU FOR THIS DAY,
WE THANK YOU FOR THE MANY BLESSING
THAT WE HAVE EVERY DAY IN OUR LIVES.

WE THANK YOU FOR [1:36:26]
OUR LIFE HERE TOGETHER, FOR OUR HEALTH,
AND THE LOVE THAT WE SHARE AS A FAMILY.
DIG IN.

Doug Houghton: WHEN PEOPLE ASK, [1:36:39]
"WELL, WHO ARE YOU, ARE YOU OSCAR'S DAD?"
I SAY YES,

BECAUSE I FEEL LIKE I AM, AND HE THINKS THAT I AM,
AND EVERYBODY ELSE SEES
THAT WE HAVE THAT KIND OF A RELATIONSHIP.
BUT LEGALLY ON PAPER WE DON'T.

SCENE: Interview w/ Steven Kozlowski, attorney.

Kozlowski: WELL, THE CURRENT LEGAL STATUS FOR GAY [1:36:52]
PEOPLE WANTING TO ADOPT
IN FLORIDA, IS REALLY SIMPLE --
THEY CAN'T.

SCENE: Anita Bryant campaigning in Florida in the 1970s

Kozlowski: THE ADOPTION BAN STARTED BACK IN THE '70s
WHEN ANITA BRYANT AND JERRY FALWELL
STARTED THE "SAVE OUR CHILDREN" CAMPAIGN.

**SCENE: Anita Bryant in 70s at podium giving speech, "Save Our Children from
Homosexuality" sign in background**

Bryant: I HAVE BEEN BLACKLISTED [1:37:05]
FOR EXERCISING THE RIGHT OF A MOTHER TO DEFEND HER CHILDREN
AND ALL CHILDREN AGAINST THEIR BEING RECRUITED BY HOMOSEXUALS.
Kozlowski: THERE WAS A LOT OF REACTIVE LEGISLATION
PUT INTO PLACE, INCLUDING BANNING ADOPTION
ON BEHALF OF GAYS AND LESBIANS.

Doug Houghton: ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF AGO [1:37:21]
I WAS CONTACTED BY SOMEONE IN THE ACLU
WHO SAID "WE'RE GETTING A LAWSUIT TOGETHER
"OF PEOPLE IN SIMILAR SITUATIONS AS YOURS
"WHO ARE INTERESTED IN ADOPTING CHILDREN.
WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN JOINING SUCH A LAWSUIT?"

I SAID, "BY ALL MEANS, COUNT ME IN."

SCENE: Doug Houghton and Oscar picking out pumpkin at pumpkin patch lot

WHAT WE'RE REALLY HOPING TO WIN WITH THIS CASE [1:37:40]

IS SIMPLY THE RIGHT TO BE JUDGED ON OUR MERITS AS PARENTS.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT TREMENDOUSLY.

I REALLY WANT THAT OPPORTUNITY

TO PRESENT MYSELF AND MY RELATIONSHIP

TO THE LEGAL PROCESS AND SAY,

"LOOK, THIS IS A FATHER AND SON RELATIONSHIP.

TELL ME IT'S NOT."

SCENE: Kelly and kids together w/ his extended family in courtroom

Kelly: FINALIZATION WAS IN NOVEMBER. [1:38:18]

YOU KNOW, YOU GO IN TO COURT

AND THE JUDGE ASKS YOU THESE QUESTIONS.

AND I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE ANY BIG DEAL, YOU KNOW.

BUT THEN WHEN YOU'RE SITTING THERE, AND SHE'S LIKE, YOU KNOW,

"YOU CAN'T CHANGE YOUR MIND NOW, THESE ARE YOU KIDS FOREVER."

AND I TOLD MY MOM LATER, YOU KNOW,

IT'S ONE THING SAYING I WON'T GIVE THEM UP,

BUT IT'S SOMETHING ELSE SAYING I CAN'T ANYMORE, YOU KNOW.

Judge: THESE CHILDREN ARE NOW THE ADOPTED CHILDREN [1:38:41]

OF PETITIONER AND SHALL BE TREATED IN ALL RESPECTS

AS HIS OWN LAWFUL CHILDREN.

THAT'S FOREVER.

Judge: WE ARE GIVING AWAY TEDDY BEARS TO REMEMBER THIS DAY BY, OKAY?

Jesse & Ray: YEAH, THANK YOU.

THANK YOU.

YOU'RE WELCOME.

SCENE: Johnny Symons & William Rogers w/ Zachary and their extended families in courtroom

Judge: HI, HOW ARE YOU AND WHERE'S THE OTHER DAD? [1:39:03]

GOOD TO MEET YOU.

AND OVER HERE IS?

William Rogers: AND OVER HERE IS THE LITTLE MAN, ZACH.

Judge: HI, ZACHARY.

YOU EVER SEEN A GUY IN A BLACK DRESS BEFORE?

Susie: I'M JOHNNY'S MOM, I'M SUSIE SYMONS.

Judge: HI, NICE TO KNOW YOU.

IS THIS A SPECIAL DAY FOR YOU? [1:39:24]

IT'S A VERY SPECIAL DAY.

Symons' Narration: AS ZACHARY CHANGED FROM BABY TO TODDLER,
WE WONDERED WHAT KIND OF PERSON HE WOULD GROW INTO.
IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG BEFORE WE GOT A SIGN.

SCENE: Zachary making basketball shots, riding skateboard, playing soccer

Symons' Narration: ZACHARY'S CHILDHOOD ATHLETIC ABILITIES [1:39:43]

WERE IN DIRECT CONTRAST TO MY OWN.

I STILL SHUDDER AT THE MEMORY OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM CLASS

WHEN I WAS THE LAST KID PICKED FOR EVERY TEAM.

SCENE: William Rogers playing basketball with Zachary

William Rogers: WHOA, ZACHY.

Symons' Narration: WILLIAM WAS SIMILAR. [1:39:57]

HE SPENT HIS CHILDHOOD LIP-SYNCING

TO JUDY GARLAND RECORDS.

SO IT CAME AS A BIT OF A SHOCK
TO FIND OURSELVES RAISING A JOCK.

SCENE: William Rogers driving to Oakland Coliseum sports arena

William Rogers: I HAVE A FEELING
THAT OUR LIVES ARE GOING TO BE ALL ABOUT SPORTS.
IT'S JUST SO NOT HOW I WANT TO SPEND MY TIME.
WHOA, OH, WHOA, OH, YEAH!

SCENE: William Rogers, Johnny Symons, and Zachary with Dora Dean at baseball game

^ ONE, TWO, THREE STRIKES YOU'RE OUT ^ [1:40:21]

^ AT THE OLD BALL GAME ^^

^ Y-M-C-A ^

^ IT'S FUN TO STAY AT THE Y-M-C-A ^

^ THEY HAVE EVERYTHING FOR YOUNG MEN TO ENJOY ^

^ YOU CAN HANG OUT WITH ALL THE BOYS ^

^ Y-M-C-A ^^

[William Rogers looks slyly at camera during song]

Symons' Narration: PEOPLE WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY [1:41:04]

TO POINT OUT THAT ZACH WAS 100% BOY.

BUT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, HE THREW US A CURVE BALL.

SCENE: Zachary playing with pair of girls' pink dress-up high heel shoes

WE KNEW HOW TO RESPOND
WHEN HE PICKED UP A BASKETBALL OR A SKATEBOARD,
BUT WHEN HE DEVELOPED
AN ATTACHMENT TO THE NEIGHBOR GIRL'S HIGH HEELS,
IT WAS A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME.

William Rogers: I'VE BEEN SORT OF RELIEVED

[1:41:27]

THAT ZACH IS SUCH A JOCK

BECAUSE IF HE DID MORE SORT OF TRADITIONALLY FEMININE THINGS
THAT PEOPLE WOULD TIE THAT TO THE FACT THAT HE HAS TWO DADS.

AND IT'S PROBABLY JUST INTERNALIZED HOMOPHOBIA.

[1:41:43]

WHEN STUFF LIKE THAT HAPPENS IN PUBLIC,
I FEEL A LITTLE BIT OF SHAME.

SCENE: Oscar playing soccer

Doug Houghton: STAY BACK, ATTACK THE BALL,
ATTACK THE BALL!

ATTACK THE BALL, ATTACK THE BALL!

COME ON, GET BY THE GOAL, OSCAR, GET BY THE GOAL!
GOOD, GOOD, GOOD, ALL RIGHT!

SCENE: Oscar talking to camera in kitchen

Johnny Symons: HEY, OSCAR, DO YOUR FRIENDS EVER ASK YOU
HOW COME YOUR DAD AND GILL LIVE TOGETHER?

[1:42:12]

Oscar: YEAH.

Johnny Symons: AND WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Oscar: I SAY BECAUSE THEY LIKE EACH OTHER
AND ALL THAT KIND OF STUFF.

Johnny Symons: THEN WHAT DO YOUR FRIENDS SAY?

Oscar: THEY SAY JUST ALL KINDS OF STUFF.

LIKE -- I FORGOT WHAT THEY SAY,
BUT THEY SAY ALL KINDS OF STUFF.

WHY DOES TWO DADS LIVE TOGETHER?

SCENE: Fanny playing with doll in her bedroom

Fanny: SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE I'M ALONE [1:42:55]
AND I'M THE ONLY PERSON THAT HAS SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
OKAY, NEED YOUR NIGHTIE SLIPPERS.

I JOINED THIS THING ON THE INTERNET.
IT'S CALLED COLAGE, CHILDREN OF LESBIANS AND GAYS.
AND I JUST GET E-MAILS FROM EVERYBODY.

Johnny Symons: SO, DID YOU WRITE AN E-MAIL?
YEAH.

AND WHAT DID YOU SAY?

I SAID I'M 9 YEARS OLD AND MY DADS ARE GAY. [1:43:25]
IS THERE ANYONE ELSE LIKE ME?

SCENE: Fanny playing at park with dad, Philip Himberg

Himberg: I THINK THE NEXT FEW YEARS [1:43:35]
ARE GOING TO BE PROBABLY THE MORE CHALLENGING YEARS.
AS SHE'S GETTING INTO A PLACE WHERE, YOU KNOW,
THE WORD "FAG" IS YELLED ON THE PLAYGROUND
WITH MORE FREQUENCY.

BUT, YOU KNOW, EVERY KID'S GOT SOMETHING.

SCENE: Oscar in driveway at home playing basketball, interview w/ Oscar

Johnny Symons: WHAT'S YOUR DADDY LIKE? [1:43:56]
HOW IS HE DIFFERENT FROM OTHER DADDIES?

Oscar: HE'S WHITE AND I'M BLACK.

SCENE: Oscar and black friend riding bikes w/ his father Doug Houghton

Doug Houghton: TRYING TO RAISE A BLACK CHILD IN A WHITE HOME --
I HAVE TO RAISE HIM
IN THE CULTURE THAT I'M FAMILIAR WITH

AND THAT I'M COMFORTABLE WITH.
I CAN'T, LIKE, CELEBRATE KWANZAA.
NUMBER ONE, I DON'T KNOW ANYBODY THAT DOES.
I HAVE TO LIVE MY LIFE IN A MANNER
THAT'S COMFORTABLE TO ME, TOO.

SCENE: Kelly and kids at street fair with friends

Kelly [to Ray]: NOW GO SEE BYRON. [1:44:32]

Kelly: IN AN IDEAL WORLD, I WOULD PROBABLY AGREE
THAT SAME-RACE ADOPTIONS WORK OUT BEST FOR KIDS.
YOU KNOW, BECAUSE ESPECIALLY ADOPTED KIDS.
YOU HAVE A LOT TO DEAL WITH ANYHOW.
BUT IT'S NOT AN IDEAL WORLD, YOU KNOW?
AND THE OPTION FOR THESE KIDS WAS NOT TO BE ADOPTED BY
A MEXICAN MOTHER AND AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN FATHER.
OR, YOU KNOW, EVEN AN ALL-BLACK FAMILY
OR AN ALL-HISPANIC FAMILY.
I MEAN, THEY'VE BEEN IN THE SYSTEM FOR YEARS.

SCENE: Kelly reading book to Jesse & Ray

Kelly: DAISY THE FARM DOG AND MR. GOOSE. [1:45:07]

Kelly: IF MY ADOPTION WITH THEM DIDN'T GO THROUGH,
THEN THEY WERE GOING TO PUT THEM AVAILABLE AS SINGLE KIDS.
AND THEY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN PLACED TOGETHER AT ALL.
YOU LOOK EXACTLY LIKE ME.

SCENE: Jesse & Ray on hike w/ cousins

I COME FROM A BIG FAMILY, AND WE GET TOGETHER A LOT. [1:45:20]

I THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THEM
TO ALWAYS BE ABLE TO LOOK ACROSS THE TABLE

AND SEE SOMEONE WHO LOOKED LIKE THEM.

SCENE: Johnny Symons & Zachary at family wedding, closeup of white grandparents

Symons' Narration: AT MY FAMILY EVENTS, [1:45:36]
I WAS SUDDENLY CONSCIOUS OF HOW MUCH ZACH STOOD OUT.

SCENE: Interview w/ Johnny's grandmother Ginnie Potsubay.

Ginnie: THIS WAS ALL SUCH A VERY NEW EXPERIENCE
FOR US, TOO.
NOT THAT I WAS AFRAID OF IT,
BUT I HAD TO LEARN HOW TO COPE WITH IT AS WELL.
IT WASN'T A HARD PROCESS,
BUT IT WAS SOMETHING I HAD NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT BEFORE,
THAT I WAS GOING TO BE THE GRANDMOTHER -- [1:46:02]
THE GREAT-GRANDMOTHER, RIGHT? --
OF A BLACK CHILD.
IT WAS ONLY WHEN I SAW HIM THAT I BEGAN TO
LOVE HIM, TOO.

SCENE: Zachary dancing at wedding w/ Johnny Symons family.

Symons' Narration: WHEN I TOLD MY FAMILY THAT WE WANTED [1:46:19]
TO ADOPT A BLACK CHILD,
ONE RELATIVE SUGGESTED THAT WE GET AN ASIAN KID INSTEAD,
BECAUSE THEY DO BETTER ON TESTS.

THE REST WERE SUPPORTIVE, BUT THEY HAD NO IDEA
WHAT IT MEANT TO GROW UP AFRICAN-AMERICAN.
DID THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT WE WERE GETTING IN TO?
DID I?

SCENE: William Rogers and Zachary in bed, Zachary sleeping

Johnny Symons: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT [1:46:41]
WHITE GAY MEN ADOPTING AFRICAN-AMERICAN KIDS?

William Rogers: WELL, I MEAN, I HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT IT.
I THINK THAT A LOT OF THESE MEN BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN JUST
RAISE AFRICAN-AMERICAN KIDS IN A COLORBLIND WAY.
SO THAT THEY DON'T REALLY HAVE TO DEAL WITH RACE
AND AS LONG AS THERE IS LOVE, IT SHOULDN'T MATTER.
WELL, THAT'S BULLSHIT.

I MEAN, THE REALITY IS,
IS THAT THEIR CHILD IS GOING TO BE TREATED DIFFERENTIALLY
IN SCHOOL SETTINGS,

THEY'RE GOING TO BE FEARED BY PEOPLE [1:47:10]
WHO ARE WALKING DOWN THE STREET.

I THINK THERE ARE A LOT OF WHITE GAY MEN
WHO ARE NOT READY FOR THAT CHALLENGE.

SCENE: Johnny Symons and Zachary sitting on park bench together

Symons' Narration: I WONDER WHAT WILL ULTIMATELY PROVE
TO BE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FOR ZACH.

WILL IT BE HAVING TWO DADS, OR BEING ADOPTED,
OR BEING A BLACK MAN IN A RACIST SOCIETY?

WHEN I'M OUT IN PUBLIC WITH ZACH, [1:47:41]
I'VE GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO THE STARES,
BUT IT'S THE QUESTIONS THAT I HATE.

"IS HE YOUR REAL SON?" PEOPLE ASK.

I CAN TEACH ZACHARY THE WORDS
HE NEEDS TO CONFRONT PEOPLE'S IGNORANCE,
BUT I CAN'T STOP HIM FROM GETTING HURT.

SCENE: Guests arrive for Passover dinner w/ Fanny and her fathers, their new partners, and her mother

Himberg: I REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW THE FLUIDITY, [1:48:05]
THE CHANGES IN HER LIFE, WILL AFFECT FANNY.

IF ANYTHING, I SOMETIMES WORRY THAT
SHE MAY THINK THAT DIVORCE IS EASY,
THAT THERE ISN'T AN EMOTIONAL TOLL.
SO I WAS VERY RETICENT INITIALLY
TO INTRODUCE FANNY TO SOMEBODY NEW.
WHO WOULD LIKE MANISHEWITZ VERY SWEET CONCORD GRAPE WINE?
IT'S TRADITION.

Jim Ballantine: I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T CHOOSE TO HAVE PHILIP [1:48:33]
AROUND AT THIS POINT IN MY LIFE, BUT, YOU KNOW,
HE'S THERE, AND HE'S A GREAT FATHER FOR FANNY.

SCENE: Passover guests at dinnertable

[FANNY SINGS IN HEBREW]

I MEAN, ULTIMATELY IT COMES DOWN TO FANNY AND [1:48:50]
HOW SHE'S DOING.AND SHE'S COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY LOVE.

[FANNY SINGING IN HEBREW]

Philip Himberg: WHOA, THAT'S GREAT.
THAT WAS REALLY BEAUTIFUL.

SCENE: Doug Houghton and Oscar walking their dogs in their neighborhood

Doug Houghton: I FOUND OUT ABOUT THE JUDGE'S RULING [1:49:14]
BY HEARING AN ANSWERING MACHINE MESSAGE
FROM MY CHIEF LAWYER IN NEW YORK.
VERY SHORTLY THEREAFTER, WE WERE JUST BOMBARDED WITH CALLS
FROM EVERYONE IN THE --
YOU KNOW, EVERY MEDIA AGENCY IN THE COUNTRY.

SCENE: News report

FIRST TONIGHT AT 5:30, [1:49:29]
FLORIDA'S LAW BANNING GAYS FROM ADOPTING CHILDREN
IS CONSIDERED THE TOUGHEST IN THE COUNTRY.
AND TODAY A FEDERAL JUDGE IN MIAMI RULED THAT LAW IS VALID.
Man: JUDGE KING RULED THE STATE HAS
A LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN ALLOWING
ONLY HETEROSEXUAL MARRIED COUPLES TO ADOPT CHILDREN.
IT'S A SHARP BLOW TO THE HOPES OF DOUG HOUGHTON OF MIAMI.
HE'S A NURSE WHO HAS BEEN OSCAR'S LEGAL GUARDIAN
FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS....

SCENE: Interview w/ Doug Houghton and Oscar's grandparents, Jim & Fannie Williams

Doug Houghton: I WAS REALLY ANGRY WHEN I FOUND OUT ABOUT IT [1:49:55]
BECAUSE I FELT LIKE
WE REALLY WERE KIND OF ROBBED OF THE OPPORTUNITY
TO EVEN GET INTO COURT AND SAY OUR PEACE.
Jim: I DON'T CARE WHAT THE LAW SAYS OR ANYTHING ELSE,
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DO ANYTHING,
AND THAT'S THE RIGHT WAY.
AND WHAT COULD BE MORE RIGHT
THAN GIVING A CHILD A CHANCE
WITH A PERSON THAT'S GOING TO LOVE HIM
AND TAKE CARE OF HIM?

SCENE: Kelly w/ Ray giving presentation at Jesse's private school, showing diagram of their family

Kelly: OKAY, SO HERE'S OUR FAMILY, OKAY? [1:50:30]
JESSE AND RAY ARE BROTHERS
AND THEY HAVE THE SAME MOMMY AND THE SAME DADDY.

AND THAT'S CALLED THEIR BIRTH MOMMY AND THEIR BIRTH DADDY.
SO UNFORTUNATELY, JESSE AND RAY GOT SPLIT UP FOR A LITTLE BIT.
SO JESSE WENT TO LIVE WITH WHAT'S CALLED YOUR FOSTER MOM.
MAKES SENSE?

Kid in class: I DON'T GET IT.

[1:50:49]

Another kid in class: I DON'T GET IT, EITHER.

Kelly: OKAY, SO JESSE AND RAY-RAY HAD A MOMMY AND DADDY WHO MADE
THEM.

AN THEY COULDN'T TAKE GOOD CARE OF THEM, SO --

Jesse: BECAUSE THEY TOOK DRUGS.

Kelly [awkwardly]: RIGHT, BECAUSE THEY TOOK DRUGS.

SO JESSE AND RAY-RAY CAME TO LIVE WITH ME.

AND I BECAME WHAT'S CALLED THEIR FOREVER DADDY.

SO THAT MEANS THAT FROM NOW ON, FOREVER AND EVER,

I'M GOING TO BE THEIR DADDY, AND THIS IS OUR FAMILY.

SCENE: Interview w/ Kelly, scenes of Jesse walking down street

Kelly: JESSE CAME AND WOKE ME UP ONE MORNING

[1:51:17]

ABOUT 3:00 IN THE MORNING.

HE GOES, "YOU KNOW WHAT, DADDY?"

I SAID, "WHAT?"

HE GOES, "WHEN I WAS LITTLE I DIDN'T HAVE A FAMILY."

UM...GOD. [Kelly gets emotional]

AND HE GOES, "SO I WAS WALKING" --

THIS MAKES ME SAD.

[1:51:40]

HE SAID, "SO I JUST WALKED AROUND THE STREET BY MYSELF.

"AND I WENT UP TO ONE HOUSE AND I SAID,

"NO, THAT'S NOT MY HOUSE.'

"AND I WENT TO ANOTHER DOOR,

I SAID, 'NO, THAT'S NOT MY DOOR.'"

AND THEN HE GOES, "AND THEN, DADDY, I CAME UP TO YOUR HOUSE
"AND IT SAID 'KELLY WALLACE' ON THE DOOR.

AND I SAID, 'THAT'S MY HOUSE.'"

AND HE GOES, "SO I KNOCKED ON THE DOOR AND YOU ANSWERED IT,
AND I SAID, 'WOULD YOU BE MY DADDY?'"

AND I SAID, "YOU KNOW, HONEY, I'D LOVE TO BE YOUR DAD."

AND HE GOES, "SO THEN I MOVED IN WITH MY BROTHER
AND NOW I HAVE A FAMILY."

SCENE: Johnny Symons & William Rogers w/ Zachary in bathroom looking at mirror

William Rogers: REMEMBER HOW DADDY SHAVES? [1:52:17]

PUT IT RIGHT HERE.

Zachary: I WANT TO DO IT.

William Rogers: THERE YOU GO.

Symons' Narration: BEFORE WE ADOPTED ZACHARY,
HIS FOSTER MOTHER'S ONE REQUEST TO THE SOCIAL WORKERS
WAS THAT HE BE ADOPTED BY A FAMILY WITH A FATHER.
NOW SHE'S COME TO LOVE THE IDEA THAT HE HAS TWO.

William Rogers: HOW MANY DADDIES DO YOU HAVE? [1:52:36]

Zachary: I HAVE TWO DADDIES.

YOU HAVE TWO DADDIES. [they kiss Zachary]

Zachary: MAMA. MAMA.

SCENE: William Rogers cuddling w/ Zachary on couch.

William Rogers: YEAH, MY LITTLE BABY. [1:52:51]

I LOVE MY LITTLE BABY.

Symons' Narration: IT MIGHT GET TOUGHER LATER ON, BUT FOR NOW,
WE'VE LEARNED TO BE ZACH'S DADDIES
AND HIS MOMMIES, TOO.

Zachary to William Rogers: HAPPY.

William Rogers: YEAH,

I'M HAPPY, TOO.

I'M HAPPY, TOO.

SCENE: Gay dads contingent marching in Gay Pride Parade

Symons' Narration: THOUSANDS OF GAY MEN ACROSS THE COUNTRY [1:53:13]
ARE BECOMING FATHERS.

BUT IN ZACH'S SHORT LIFETIME,
TWO MORE STATES HAVE BANNED GAY ADOPTION,
AND MORE LEGISLATION IS PENDING.

AS FOR ME, BEING A DAD [1:53:32]

IS NOW SO MUCH A PART OF MY LIFE,

I CAN HARDLY REMEMBER

WHY I WAS SO FEARFUL OF IT.

SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, WE FELL IN LOVE WITH ZACH.

AND I COULDN'T IMAGINE IT BEING ANYTHING BUT THE THREE OF US.

[TELEPHONE RINGING]

HI, THIS IS CHRISTINE FROM SOCIAL SERVICES.

Johnny Symons: HI, CHRISTINE, THIS IS JOHNNY SYMONS [1:53:48]

RETURNING YOUR CALL.

Christine: I JUST THOUGHT I'D INFORM YOU

THAT YOUR SON HAS A HALF-SIBLING NOW.

REALLY.

ANYWAY, I THOUGHT I'D LET YOU KNOW

IN CASE YOU WERE AT ALL INTERESTED.

SCENE: Zachary, William Rogers, and Johnny Symons go to answer the doorbell

Zachary: BABY.

[1:54:07]

Johnny Symons: LET'S GO SEE BABY.

Symons' Narration: TWO WEEKS AFTER WE FOUND OUT ZACH HAD A BROTHER,
OUR SECOND CHILD MOVED IN.

Social Worker: HI.

William Rogers: HELLO.

THERE YOU GO.

HI, HONEY.

OOH, YOU'RE SO LIGHT.

I'M SO USED TO ZACHY.

I'M SO USED TO ZACHY.

NOW YOU CAN TOUCH THE BABY.

[1:54:28]

YOU HAVE TO BE VERY GENTLE.

THERE YOU GO.

YEAH, THAT'S GOOD.

OH, OH.

YOU KNOW WHAT, YOU'RE A BIG BROTHER NOW.

THIS IS YOUR BABY BROTHER.

SCENE: William Rogers holding Zachary, Johnny Symons holding baby, posing for picture

OKAY, LOOK AT THE CAMERA, JOHNNY.

Social Worker: ONE, TWO, THREE.

CHEESE.

[1:54:56]

CHEESE.

CHEESE.

^ DADDY'S HOME ^

^ DADDY'S HOME TO STAY ^

SCENE: Various scenes of dads and kids as credits roll, “Daddy’s Home” song plays

Jim Ballantine to Fanny: I KNOW, I CAN'T WAIT TO SHOW THIS TO YOUR FIRST BOYFRIEND.

Johnny Symons to Zachary: DID YOU SAY "TACKLE"?

OR DID YOU SAY "TICKLE"?

"TICKLE," I THINK HE SAID "TICKLE."

^ DADDY'S HOME ^

SCENE: Johnny Symons & William Rogers sing to baby in bassinet

^ DADDY'S HOME TO STAY ^

Johnny Symons: YEAH.

[1:56:11]

(END)