

GEORGE LOPEZ

"Grandma Dearest"

Written by
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ACT ONE

Scene A

INT. GEORGE LOPEZ' KITCHEN. - DAY

FADE IN:

(GEORGE, ANGIE AND BENNY)

(GEORGE AND ANGIE ARE SITTING AT THE TABLE, GOING OVER THEIR MONTHLY BILLS.)

GEORGE

(BORED AND INATTENTIVE.)

Yes, Angie, that is a good idea.

ANGIE

George! You aren't listening to a word I'm saying! I know you don't like having to go through this every month, but you don't want us out on the street, do you?

GEORGE

There's only one right answer to that question, isn't there?

ANGIE

I don't know why you don't like doing this. It can actually be quite fun if you make a game out of it.

GEORGE

Maybe I should just leave this all to you, Miss Mary Sunshine. I wouldn't want to ruin your fun.

(GEORGE GETS UP AND PREPARES TO WALK AWAY.)

ANGIE

Not so fast!

GEORGE

You'll finish the bills anyway, so
what's to stop me from leaving?

(ANGIE GIVES A KNOWING LOOK AT GEORGE.)

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I'm not sure what that look means,
but something tells me that whatever
it is, I certainly don't want to
find out.

(GEORGE HURRIEDLY DIGS INTO THE PILE OF BILLS ON THE TABLE.)

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Wait a minute! 500 dollars for a
check up at the clinic? I thought
we had insurance! Who's this for,
Max?

(ANGIE LOOKS AT THE BILL.)

ANGIE

No, that's the Animal Clinic. It's
for Mr. Needles' shots.

GEORGE

Really? You know, the kids probably
haven't become too attached to that
dog. What if he had a little
accident?

ANGIE

George! That's mean! Here, I'll give you these bills to do.

GEORGE

These are even worse! This one is out of control!

ANGIE

That's the mortgage! I don't think we have a choice with that one.

GEORGE

Probably not. But you think we could find an even cheaper roof to put over our heads?

(BENNY WALKS IN, COMPLETELY UNAWARE THAT SHE MIGHT BE INTRUDING.)

BENNY

Well, no matter what, I always put a roof over your head. And that wasn't easy with a kid that had a huge head like yours.

GEORGE

That's right, mom. Even when we fell on hard times, there was always family there for us. I shouldn't be complaining. It could be worse. Remember when we used to have to stay at my uncle's places?

BENNY

Uncle's places? You mean... oh yeah,
that was what I called them wasn't
it?

GEORGE

You mean those weren't my uncles?
If they weren't my uncles, then
they must have been. Oh god!

BENNY

Yeah, that phrase sounds about right.

ANGIE

I hate to break you two from this
very twisted stroll down memory
lane, but George, we have the bills
to do.

GEORGE

Great! Anything to take my mind off
this conversation! So what brought
you here to ruin my day in the first
place?

(BENNY WALKS OVER THE REFRIGERATOR AND BEGINS LOOKING
THROUGH IT.)

BENNY

I just wanted your permission to
take my dear grandson on an outing,
is all.

GEORGE

An 'outing'? Who do you think you
are now, Maria Poppins?

ANGIE

I think that would be sweet! You and Max haven't spent much time together lately.

GEORGE

You aren't planning to take him to see any of his so-called uncles, are you?

BENNY

No, I figured that we could take a walk to church or something.

GEORGE

(VISIBLY SHOCKED.)

Angie, you've tied everything down, haven't you? I think we should prepare ourselves for the biggest earthquake ever!

BENNY

Don't be mean! I've gone to church plenty of times!

GEORGE

Cheating the nuns at Bingo doesn't count, ma!

BENNY

Well, will you let me take him or not?

GEORGE

As long as you aren't trying to
pick up men, be my guest!

BENNY

I'd never do that! Besides, I go to
the park when I want to pick up
men!

(BENNY GOES UPSTAIRS TO PRESUMABLY GET MAX.)

ANGIE

Don't worry, George! I think it is
great that she wants to spend time
with Max.

GEORGE

That's not what's bothering me...
I'm just trying to get the thought
of all those uncles out of my head.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOScene BINT. THE LOPEZ BACKYARD. - DAY

(MAX, BENNY, GEORGE, CARMEN, ANGIE, REPORTER, ANCHOR #1
ANCHOR #2)

(MAX IS EATING A BIG ICE CREAM CONE WHILE BENNY LOOKS AT
HIM, CONCERNED.)

BENNY

So what do we tell your father about
today?

MAX

Uh, nothing?

BENNY

That's right. We want to keep our
little secret to ourselves.

(GEORGE EXITS THE HOUSE INTO THE BACKYARD.)

GEORGE

So, how are my favorite mom and son
doing?

MAX

(SHOUTING QUICKLY.)

I'm going to be on TV!

BENNY

Max!

MAX

Sorry, grandma. I forgot. I'm too
excited!

(MAX RUNS INTO THE HOUSE.)

GEORGE

TV? That sounds like fun! Why is my son going to be on TV? You guys weren't involved in some kind of bust, were you?

BENNY

At a church? Even I'm not that low!

GEORGE

Well, why the big secret, then?

BENNY

I wanted it to be a surprise?

GEORGE

What channel is he going to be on?

BENNY

My memory is hazy. All of the numbers just seem to fade into one.

GEORGE

I can get little Clyde in here, Bonnie so spill it!

BENNY

Okay, Channel 7. But we were only on TV for a little while. Just a crowd scene, that's all!

(CARMEN RUNS OUT TO THE BACKYARD)

CARMEN

The news is on! I wonder if they're going to show Max?

GEORGE

Yeah, I wonder.

(THEY ALL GO INSIDE THE HOUSE TO JOIN MAX AND ANGIE AND CROWD AROUND A TELEVISION IN THE DINING ROOM.)

BENNY

I think I've had enough excitement today. Maybe I should go home and lie down?

GEORGE

Stay right there, old lady!

ANGIE

Look, they're going to talk about a church. Didn't you say that you were going to a church?

CARMEN

Turn it up!

EXT. ST. CLARE'S CHURCH ON TV- DAY

(A TELEVISION REPORTER IS STANDING IN FRONT OF A CHURCH WHERE IT APPEARS THAT A LINE HAS FORMED.)

REPORTER

I am standing here at Saint Clare's Church where something truly amazing is going on. Volunteers have joined the nuns who live here in giving back to the community.

(BACK TO THE LOPEZ HOUSE)

ANGIE

Why are you so nervous, Benny? I think that it is wonderful that you volunteered to help those nuns.

BENNY

Yeah, I'm a regular Mother Teresa. Now can I go home to take a nap or something?

GEORGE

Nobody goes anywhere until we see you and Max.

(BACK TO THE CHURCH.)

REPORTER

Look at all of the needy people who have shown up! Why here's a little boy and his grandma.

(BACK TO THE LOPEZ HOUSE.)

BENNY

I really need to leave now!

GEORGE

If this is going where I think it is, you'll be leaving on a stretcher!

(BACK TO THE CHURCH.)

REPORTER

What's your name little boy?

(THE CAMERA PANS ON MAX AND BENNY. BENNY IS FRANTICALLY TRYING TO HIDE HERSELF.)

MAX

My name is Max Lopez.

REPORTER

Max, can you tell us about yourself?

BENNY

No, my grandson no speak Ingles.

REPORTER

There's no need to be embarrassed.

Is there, Max?

MAX

No, sir. I have to live with my grandmother because my father left my family to run away with another woman.

REPORTER

That's terrible!

MAX

Yes. I am very fortunate that my saintly grandmother was there to help me.

(BACK TO THE LOPEZ HOUSE)

GEORGE

You're not going to have a 'saintly' grandmother for too long!

(BACK TO THE CHURCH)

REPORTER

So there you have it. Here are some good people doing good things for poor people. Back to you in the studio.

ANCHOR #1

That poor little boy.

ANCHOR #2

Yes, that's very sad. Now when we
come back we'll tell you which
Hollywood star had a nose job!

(BACK TO THE LOPEZ HOUSE. GEORGE SNAPS OFF THE TV,
DISGUSTED.)

BENNY

Well, that's water under the bridge,
right? At least the chances of anyone
we know seeing that are slim, right?

(THE PHONE RINGS. ANGIE PICKS IT UP.)

ANGIE

Hello? Yes, Ernie. No, George didn't
leave me. I don't care what you
saw, it's not true. Why wouldn't
you want me to tell George that you
called? Hello? Hello? I can't believe
this!

GEORGE

I know! My mother has crossed the
line this time!

ANGIE

I can't believe that anyone could
believe that you would walk out on
me! I mean look at me! Look at you!

GEORGE

What do you mean by that?

ANGIE

Nothing, nothing. It's just that-

GEORGE

Alright, alright....if I wasn't so mad at my mother, I'd probably be hurt. Max, up to your room! Everyone else; could I have some time alone with my beloved mother?

CARMEN

Wait, can't I stay and watch this?

ANGIE

No, Carmen, we have to leave them alone. Get her, George!

(EVERYONE BUT BENNY AND GEORGE LEAVE THE ROOM.)

GEORGE

Mom, how could you ask Max to lie for you?

BENNY

In my defense, I didn't ask him to lie to the television guy! I wanted him to lie to the nuns.

GEORGE

Are you listening to yourself? Lying to nuns is worse!

BENNY

Yeah, but if he'd just lied to the nuns like I had asked him and not to the television guy, I wouldn't have gotten caught!

GEORGE

Yeah, you wouldn't have gotten caught.....

(LOOKS HEAVENWARD)

...today!

BENNY

Look, it was just a little scam is all. Those nuns always give more food to the old people who have to take care of their grandchildren. That's it. In fact, I didn't tell him to pile it on so thick! I bet he gets that from his mother. Those Cubans love drama, you know.

GEORGE

Mom, please leave me alone for now.

BENNY

Come on, this isn't the worst thing that I've done. Remember when I used to put the government pork on those little crackers and told you it was caviar?

GEORGE

That was mean, but not worse than
this.

BENNY

Yeah, the thing is, that wasn't
government pork. It was dog food.

GEORGE

That's disgusting! Wait a minute.
You're lying! We were never that
poor!

BENNY

I know, but I just wanted to see if
I could get you to eat dog food.

GEORGE

Out!

(BENNY LEAVES)

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEScene C

FADE IN:

INT. POWERS BROTHERS FACTORY - DAY

(GEORGE, ERNIE, MARISOL AND BENNY)

(GEORGE IS SITTING IN HIS OFFICE. IN THE BACKGROUND, DIFFERENT WORKERS ARE BUSYING THEMSELVES AROUND THE FACTORY FLOOR. ERNIE WALKS IN.)

ERNIE

Hey George. Why are you hiding in here? The guys out there are starting to talk.

GEORGE

You mean they weren't already talking about how I left Angie for another woman?

ERNIE

No! I bet there weren't too many people who even saw that on TV!

(MARISOL WALKS IN.)

MARISOL

I'm not the woman you're leaving your wife for, am I?

GEORGE

No! Why would you even think that?

MARISOL

Well, don't old guys like you leave your wives for their hot young secretaries? I'm flattered, and I can understand why you'd want to grab a piece of this, but I don't date old guys.

GEORGE

I don't care what you might have seen, but I am definitely not leaving Angie for anyone!

MARISOL

I figured there must have been a mistake. Look at her! I mean, she'd probably leave you in a second, but you leaving her?

GEORGE

Don't you have some extra makeup to overapply?

MARISOL

Really? Do I need a touch up?

(MARISOL LEAVES.)

ERNIE

Okay, maybe she saw it, but no one else. By the way; did Angie tell you about a call or something?

GEORGE

Yeah, she was pretty upset that anyone would believe that 'someone like me would leave someone like her'!

(ERNIE LOOKS AROUND NERVOUSLY)

ERNIE

Good, because I wouldn't want anyone to think that I would try to move in on your territory or nothing.

GEORGE

What are you talking about?

(BENNY BARGES IN.)

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Oh look, it's Mommy Dearest now. Do you have a new way to embarrass me and my family?

ERNIE

As much as I'd like to see this, I'd better get out of here while I'm ahead.

(ERNIE LEAVES)

BENNY

Listen, I'd like to talk about that little problem we had yesterday.

GEORGE

Little problem? Half of L.A. thinks that I'm a deadbeat dad!

BENNY

It isn't that bad!

GEORGE

You would say something like that.
After all, you're Max's 'saintly'
grandmother!

BENNY

Come on! You've forgiven me for
worse!

GEORGE

It isn't about you and me. It's
about Max and Carmen!

BENNY

Okay, I understand why Max is
involved, but I didn't do anything
to Carmen! And if she says that I
lost her for a couple of hours when
she was 5 she's lying!

GEORGE

That's what I'm talking about! I
can't trust you with my kids! I
should definitely be able to trust
them with their grandmother and I
can't! That's what I have a problem
with!

BENNY

Aren't you over reacting? It's not like I took your kids out and they ended up dead or anything.

GEORGE

Is that what you're planning for next weekend?

BENNY

Look, if it helps, I'm sorry about everything. I even gave the food away that the nuns gave me- to some real poor people.

GEORGE

Really? Even the government pork?

BENNY

You do remember that I told you that was really dog food, right?

GEORGE

Uh, yeah- wait a minute! You shouldn't be apologizing to me. The person you really should be talking to is Max.

BENNY

Can't you tell him for me?

GEORGE

No. And no e-mails, candygrams or stripper grams!

BENNY

I still say Carmen was old enough
for that!

GEORGE

Maybe my first idea that you
shouldn't be allowed near the kids
anymore was a good one....

BENNY

Alright! I'll do it.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOURScene D

FADE IN:

(BENNY, MAX AND GEORGE)

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM AT THE LOPEZ HOME - DAY

(MAX IS SITTING UP IN HIS BED, DRAWING ON A DRAWING PAD.
BENNY WALKS IN AND SITS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BED.)

BENNY

Hey there, sport! How's it going?

MAX

(WITHOUT LOOKING UP FROM HIS BOOK.)

My parents didn't like our little
surprise.

BENNY

You're telling me! So, is my apology
accepted? Good.

(BENNY GETS UP FROM THE BED.)

BENNY (CONT'D)

I'll just leave you alone with your
drawing.

(GEORGE PEEKS IN FROM THE HALLWAY.)

GEORGE

(CLEARING HIS THROAT)

I'm not letting you off that easy!

BENNY

Gee, who'd have thought that I would
raise a sneak?

(BENNY SLAMS THE DOOR CLOSED.)

GEORGE

(FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR.)

Ouch!

BENNY

Now where were we?

MAX

My dad told me that what you asked me to do was wrong. Why would you ask me to do something that was wrong?

BENNY

Well, Max, sometimes Grandma can get carried away. For example, your dad.

MAX

My dad? What does he have to do with this?

BENNY

Well, if Grandma didn't get carried away, she wouldn't have allowed your Grandpa to do a certain thing with her and-

(MAX STARES AT HER BLANKLY.)

BENNY (CONT'D)

Hmm. Maybe you're too young to hear about that. Let's see. Remember when we went shopping and I hit that lady over the head with a shoe box because she was trying to get the last pair of sale shoes?

MAX

Yes, that was scary.

BENNY

Yeah, well even though that lady deserved it, Grandma got carried away and shouldn't have done that.

MAX

So, you got carried away and we shouldn't have lied to those nuns?

BENNY

Exactly. You see, your no good Grandpa-

(BENNY SPITS ON THE FLOOR.)

BENNY (CONT'D)

Well, he left your dad and I. But your dad is a much better man and he would never do something like that to you and Carmen. So not only was it wrong to lie to the nuns, it was wrong for me to ask you to say that your father had left you.

MAX

I see. But what about when we lie to the lady at the theme park and say that I'm only six years old so that you get a discount?

BENNY

Well, if she's stupid enough to fall for that time and time again then I say she deserves it. So are we fine?

MAX

Yeah. I understand now.

(BENNY GIVES MAX A HUG.)

BENNY

Good. Because even if Grandma acts like she just tolerates you and your sister, she really loves you.

(BENNY WALKS OUT INTO THE HALLWAY AND APPROACHES GEORGE, WHO WAS LISTENING TO THE CONVERSATION FROM OUTSIDE.)

BENNY (CONT'D)

So, George, was that okay?

GEORGE

Well, coming from you I think that's the best we're going to get. So you really think that I'm a better man than my dad was? That's wonderful!

BENNY

Well, I had to say something to the boy.

GEORGE

Perhaps we should talk about this
theme park lady.....

(BENNY QUICKLY GIVES GEORGE A BIG HUG.)

BENNY

Of course, you're better than your
scumbag dad, sweetie!

GEORGE

Okay, you didn't have to go that
far.

(BENNY ENDS THE HUG AS QUICKLY AS SHE STARTED IT.)

BENNY

Good. Now, if you'll excuse me, I
think I should get downstairs and
make myself a plate before I leave.

GEORGE

So, ma are there any other secrets
that you've been hiding from me?

BENNY

Remember your pet hamster?

GEORGE

I don't remember having a pet
hamster.

BENNY

Good. Good.

(BENNY AND GEORGE WALK DOWNSTAIRS.)

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

EPILOGUE - OVER END CREDITSINT. THE LOPEZ LIVING ROOM - DAY

FADE IN:

(GEORGE AND ANGIE)

(GEORGE IS SITTING, RELAXING ON THE COUCH. ANGIE WALKS IN)

ANGIE

So, George, how did things work out
between Max and Benny?

GEORGE

Fine, fine.

(GEORGE DRAWS ANGIE CLOSE.)

ANGIE

Great. Now about some things that I
might have said....

(GEORGE KISSES ANGIE ON THE FOREHEAD.)

GEORGE

Forgiven! Forgotten!

ANGIE

Are you sure? My comments might
have been interpreted as being, um
mean or something.

GEORGE

Angie, I'm not blind! I can look in
the mirror! I have a big head!

ANGIE

I know! And I love every part of
it!

(ANGIE KISSES GEORGE ON THE FOREHEAD.)

GEORGE

Besides, if this is some sort of
charade, you're the one who's getting
shafted, so why would I ever want
it to end?

(ANGIE PLAYFULLY HITS HIM WITH A PILLOW.)

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW.