

The Bomb

A comedic play in three scenes by Jim Davis (March 2017)

CHARACTERS:

Kyle Pinksen	Father (very strict and old fashioned)
Desiree King	Mother (really delicate person)
Rikki Burden	Daughter (wild)
Kameron Randell	Daughter's Middle Eastern boyfriend (thick accent)
Kyle Murphy	Gay son (angry & confused)
Brianna White	Nerdy daughter (full of facts & statistics)
Darien Laite	Repairman (smart and cautious)
Jacob Oake	Repairman (dumb and lazy)
Cody Pittman	Canadian Active Terrorist Searcher (CATS)
Colby Scott	Secretary to CATS
Gabe Caines	Nextdoor father (concerned citizen)
Sarah Cross	Nextdoor mother (concerned citizen)
Brianna Seaward	Undercover detective

SYNOPSIS:

Scene 1 - Kyle Pinksen (father) and Desiree King (mother) have a large family. We establish characters and how frenetic and unorganized they are. Father hates daughter's Middle Eastern boyfriend. The house has old wiring and someone agrees to call for repairs. [FADE OUT]

Scene 2 - CATS enter. Cody seems very professional while Colby seems sly. They check out the empty living room, just as they leave, Colby places a bomb on the central coffee table. Cody does not notice. CATS leave. Door bell. Gay son allows repairs in. Gay son exits. Repairs notice bomb straight away. They are surprisingly calm. Repairs leave. [FADE OUT]

Scene 3 - The family discovers the bomb. There is chaos. Even the neighbours are brought over to see if they can help identify the object (bomb). They provide no new information. The CATS are called. They show up and give the order that no one can leave the room. Brianna White calls in another detective (Brianna Seaward). She tries to use logic. The neighbours

report that they saw CATS enter. Seaward, using her high powers of reasoning, concludes that one of the CATS put the bomb there. Cody is defensive, but then Colby admits that he was the one who planted it. The family demands to know why! Colby explains that he wanted to see how strong the family was, how they could overcome fear. Brianna Seaward places the handcuffs on him and says that he is the true terrorist! The family goes back to normal. [END]

SCENE 1

The set is a simple, small living room with a couch center stage and a tiny coffee table. There is a wall stage right and left. Up center is an opening that leads to an offstage right exit and an offstage left hall to the rest of the house. KING is vacuuming the carpet. MURPHY and WHITE are on the couch. WHITE is playing a video game and MURPHY is watching his sister.

KING Oh my! This place looks like a bomb hit it! What a mess! *[Moving in between her daughter and the HDTV]*

WHITE Mom! TV! TV!

KING I got to vacuum!

WHITE Not when I'm playing a game!

KING You kids got me stressed out!

MURPHY Don't bring me into this!

KING I'm not saying anything about you!

MURPHY You said "kids". Plural. That means me, as well as her! The two of us. Kids.

KING I'm just vacuuming!

MURPHY Well, vacuum and leave me out of it!

KING shuts off vacuum.

KING I'll leave it dirty then.

WHITE Yeah. Leave it dirty. *[Getting more animated in her gameplay as if the video game action has intensified. She starts talking at the game.]* Move you little runt! Move!

MURPHY Ooooo. He's gonna get ya!

WHITE Move!

MURPHY Ooooo. *[Pause]* You're dead.

WHITE *[Flicking the game controller on the floor]* This game sucks. Why make a game if you can't get past the boss?

MURPHY Like real life.

WHITE What?

MURPHY Like real life.

WHITE What are you talking about?

MURPHY Your little game there: It's like real life. Trying to get past the boss? Just like our lives! Like having to deal with our Dad!

WHITE I know. Dad sucks.

PINKSEN *[Off stage and very loud]* What?

MURPHY *[To his sister]* Shhhhhhhut up!

PINKSEN enters the living room.

PINKSEN Did someone just say "Dad sucks?"

WHITE I think I was talking about the game.

PINKSEN There's a dad character in your game?

WHITE Why do you have such great hearing?

PINKSEN So, you did say "Dad sucks!" About me! *[Pause]* What an ungrateful bunch! I work 12 hour shifts at a crappy job to provide for this family and this is the thanks I get!

KING Oh dear! Just drop it honey!

PINKSEN I'd love to drop it, but I can't figure this place out! I do the best I can and try to teach some morals and I end up with one daughter that's too smart for her own good...

WHITE Me? You talking about me?

PINKSEN ... and a flitty son...

MURPHY "Flitty"! You call me "flitty"? *[Pause]* Go ahead and call me flitty then! I'm flitty and proud of it!

PINKSEN For the love of Pete! In my day there were no gay people!

MURPHY Dad! There have always been gay people! Why can't you get that through your thick skull?

PINKSEN And I have another daughter who got no control!

BURDEN bursts into the door with her boyfriend RANDELL. She is pulling him by the hand and races in circles around the room, finally collapsing on the couch, pulling RANDELL on her. BURDEN grabs him by the ears as RANDELL tries to bite each side of her neck. BURDEN giggles the whole time. The family looks at them in disgust. BURDEN and RANDELL begin to notice that they are not alone.

RANDELL *[Pulling away from BURDEN, standing tall, and speaking in a thick Middle Eastern accent]* Oh! Sorry! I didn't notice the room was so filled with people!

PINKSEN Yes, there's more in the world than you Middle Eastern crowd!

BURDEN Dad! Be nice to my boyfriend!

PINKSEN Why did you have to get involved with a Muslim?

BURDEN Dad! He's right here in front of you! Keep your bigotry to yourself! Hide your shame!

PINKSEN I'm not a bigot! I just don't like Muslims!

BURDEN *[Pause]* That's bigotry! Can't you hear yourself?

MURPHY He doesn't like gays either!

PINKSEN Why are there so many labels? I'm gay! I'm Muslim! I'm a feminist! Well, I'm a hard-working white male and proud of it! That's my label!

WHITE You do know other people exist, right? Other people can develop their own thoughts and ideas and belief systems?

PINKSEN Don't start your psycho babble on me again!

WHITE It's just a bit of logic Dad!

PINKSEN Logic! Got us all ruined!

The lights flicker.

KING Another fuse?

PINKSEN This stupid house!

KING We're going to have to get a new fuse box.

PINKSEN Breaker panel honey. They're called breaker panels!

WHITE Don't be mean to Mom too! She doesn't know about electricity.

PINKSEN Yeah, what does she know about?

KING starts to cry.

MURPHY Now you've got Mom upset! [*MURPHY goes to his mother to console her*] There, there Mom. It's alright!

KING I was just trying to vacuum.

MURPHY I know Mom!

KING And I couldn't because of the video game...

MURPHY I'm with you!

KING Then, your father is always yelling...

MURPHY Tell me about it!

KING And then the lights flicker...

MURPHY Lights going on and off!

KING It's too much!

MURPHY It is too much! [*Turning to his father*] Too much, Dad! Too much!

RANDELL We never even had electricity in my village.

BURDEN You poor, poor soul!

RANDELL No electricity. But, I found my spark... [*RANDELL cuddles with BURDEN*]

PINKSEN Ugh! Give me strength! [Pause] Okay! Call a repairman! We need an electrician in here to fix this place!

SCENE 2

Doorbell chimes. MURPHY races across the upstage opening to answer the front door, offstage right. He lets two repairmen in the house, OAKE and LAITE. Everyone moves into the livingroom.

OAKE You called for electricians?

MURPHY Yes. Dad called for you.

LAITE What's the problem?

MURPHY Well, the lights flicker every now and again.

OAKE Where's your breaker panel?

MURPHY We have a fuse box

LAITE [*Laughing*] Well, there's your problem.

OAKE We don't mean to sound flippant, but fuse boxes are an old technology and they should all be replaced.

LAITE Yeah, your lights are flickering because those old fuses build up a bit of carbon residue over time. It's actually a fire hazard. How old is this place?

MURPHY Well, my grandparents built it.

OAKE Multigenerational huh?

MURPHY Yeah.

OAKE [Pause] You gay?

MURPHY Yeah.

OAKE Me too.

Awkward silence

LAITE Well, we'd better get at it!

OAKE The panel box?

LAITE Yes. What else could we get at?

OAKE I don't know.

LAITE We're electricians.

OAKE Yeah.

LAITE So. Get to work.

OAKE Right!

All actors exit up center and head offstage left. There is a pause. We hear a 'click' offstage right. Two other actors enter, PITTMAN and SCOTT. They speak in a 1950s radio announcer voice.

PITTMAN You sure this is the residence?

SCOTT Yes sir! [*Checking the notes on his cellphone*] 124 Beach Shore Drive. This is the place. [*Putting his cellphone away*]

PITTMAN These old homes. They always look so innocent.

SCOTT They sure do.

PITTMAN But, they're not so innocent are they? They are dwellings for illegals.

SCOTT Illegal immigrants.

PITTMAN Illegal immigrants! The scourge of our fine country.

SCOTT Scourge.

PITTMAN That's why our job is so important. The Canadian Active Terrorist Searchers.

SCOTT Cats.

PITTMAN Sorry?

SCOTT Cats. Our acronym: Canadian Active Terrorist Searchers. Cats.

PITTMAN Yes, yes! I get you. I thought you were describing the smell of this old place.

SCOTT Yes, sir. It could be that too. A bit rank.

PITTMAN What's that?

SCOTT The smell, sir. The smell. A bit rank isn't it?

PITTMAN Yes, indeed. Must be a litter box nearby.

OAKE [Offstage] I left the tools out in the truck!

SCOTT Cover!

PITTMAN and SCOTT circle around to the front of the couch on opposite sides and dive to the floor. They are between the couch and coffee table.

OAKE [Appearing at the opening, up center] You keep inspecting! I'll go out to the truck!
[OAKE exits offstage right]

PITTMAN [Stage whisper] I thought you said this place was empty.

SCOTT [Stage whisper] Our intel was poor sir, very poor!

PITTMAN We have to up our game mister! We aren't going to secure our borders will poor intel.

SCOTT You're right there, sir. Very right!

LAITE [*Appearing up center, shouting toward the door*] Get my extra tool kit too! [*He disappears offstage left*]

PITTMAN There's two of them!

SCOTT I concur sir. That's two distinct voices!

OAKE [*Re-entering offstage right*] I got it! Heavy!

LAITE [*Offstage*] What?

OAKE [*Shouting*] Heavy toolkit! [*OAKE exits offstage left*]

LAITE [*Offstage*] Yes by'!

PITTMAN and SCOTT slowly get up, with their backs to the audience, shoulder to shoulder, and peer over the couch. Pause. They turn around to face the audience, sitting.

PITTMAN That was close!

SCOTT Very close sir!

PITTMAN Do a little surveillance and get out of here.

SCOTT Yes, sir!

PITTMAN Be sure to collect any evidence and put it in baggies.

SCOTT Yes!

PITTMAN and SCOTT slowly stand and walk around either side of the couch. They both go up center. PITTMAN heads offstage left. SCOTT heads offstage right. Pause. Scott returns with a bomb and places it gently on the coffee table. SCOTT goes to the up center opening. PITTMAN appears in the opening. SCOTT blocks PITTMAN'S view of the bomb on the coffee table.

PITTMAN Everything okay? [*Trying to look into the livingroom*]

SCOTT Yes sir! [*Blocking movements*]

PITTMAN Why are you moving like that?

SCOTT Like what?

PITTMAN Like you're blocking me.

SCOTT I'm not sir. *[Pause]* I'd like to go. *[Pause]* I have to pee.

PITTMAN Got to water the leaves huh? Shake the dew from the lilly? Deflate the bladder?

SCOTT Yeah.

PITTMAN Okay. Let's go then.

PITTMAN and SCOTT exit offstage right. Pause. OAKE and LAITE appear in the opening.

LAITE Well, looks like we'll have to replace that panel.

OAKE Yeah! Old piece of equipment!

LAITE Yeah. What's that?

OAKE What?

LAITE That a bomb on the coffee table?

LAITE and OAKE walk around the couch on either side and stare at the bomb.

OAKE It sure looks like a bomb.

LAITE *[Pause]* Was that here when we got here?

OAKE I don't think so.

LAITE Who would plant a bomb here?

OAKE I don't know.

LAITE Weird.

OAKE Yeah.

LAITE and OAKE slowly exit backwards offstage right without much worry.

SCENE 3

MURPHY appears at the opening up center.

MURPHY What's that ticking noise? [*Disappears offstage right*]

WHITE [*Offstage*] What ticking noise?

MURPHY [*Reappears up center*] I can hear a ticking noise!

WHITE [*Appears up center*] Oh. Yeah. I can hear it now too.

MURPHY [*Walking toward the coffee table with WHITE*] What the heck is that?

WHITE Is that what I think it is?

MURPHY [*Screeching*] That's a bomb! That's a bomb! There's a bomb in our house!

The family rushes in from offstage left.

PINKSEN What's all the racket?

KING Why are people screaming?

RANDELL That's an IED!

KING An IED?

WHITE An "Improvised Explosive Device"!

PINKSEN What the hell is that doing in our house?

MURPHY [*Almost in tears*] I don't know!

BURDEN [*To her boyfriend*] Did you do this?

RANDELL What?

BURDEN I'm just wondering is all.

RANDELL I can't believe you would ask me that!

PINKSEN I was wondering the same thing!

WHITE You're all insane!

PINKSEN Well, someone put a bomb there!

WHITE Without any evidence at all, you blame the Middle Eastern guy?

RANDELL I have a name you know.

Pause

WHITE [*To her sister*] That proves that you dated this Middle Eastern guy just to torment Dad. But, you obviously don't love him.

BURDEN I do love him... very much.

WHITE No you don't! You just asked him if he put a bomb on our coffee room table.

BURDEN [*Turning to RANDELL*] You didn't answer that!

RANDELL Do I have to? [*Pause*] I did not place a bomb on your stupid coffee table!

PINKSEN Hey! I built that!

RANDELL A fine job sir. Nice carpentry.

PINKSEN That was when my table saw and planer were brand new. I learned a lot!

RANDELL Carpentry is a fine hobby sir.

MURPHY Would someone think of the bomb? There's a bomb ticking away on our coffee room table!

KING Someone do something!

WHITE Call the neighbours!

PINKSEN What good will that do?

WHITE Maybe they saw someone strange enter the house.

BURDEN You're all strange.

MURPHY Shut up! I'll do it! [*MURPHY whips out his cellphone and calls his neighbours*]
Hello? It's us at 124 Beach Shore Drive. Yeah. Really? Yes. Come over.
[*Murphy ends call*] They're coming over. They did see some strange men enter the house. Four of them.

PINKSEN Wait! Did the electricians show up?

MURPHY Oh no! The electricians! I let them in! I forgot!

PINKSEN You forgot? What's the matter with you?

MURPHY The bomb Dad? The bomb? That's what's the matter with me! That thing could go off.

WHITE Actually, he's right. That thing could go off. But, it might also be wired.

KING What?

WHITE Like... wired. Like... boobytrapped. Like... we'd better not leave or be too loud or jiggle the floor.

BURDEN Jiggle the floor?

WHITE Yeah, like even vibrations could set it off!

MURPHY I need air! I totally need some air! The walls are closing in! I'm suffocating!

MURPHY goes to the door and CAINES and CROSS enter, pushing MURPHY back into the livingroom.

CAINES So, like I was saying on the phone, I saw four men enter your house.

PINKSEN Four electricians?

MURPHY There were only two.

CAINES What? I definitely saw four men.

MURPHY No. There were only two.

PINSKEN Did they arrive together?

CAINES No. They came in pairs.

PINKSEN Like two showed up, then awhile later, another two?

CAINES Exactly like that!

WHITE What did they look like?

CAINES Well, the first pair actually looked like electricians.

WHITE How could you tell?

CROSS Uniforms.

CAINES The second pair looked like, I don't know, 1950s radio announcers.

WHITE Weird.

CAINES You're tellin' me!

WHITE This doesn't make any sense. I'm calling my friend. [*WHITE takes out her cellphone*]

PINKSEN Friend? What friend?

WHITE I got friends! [*Speaking into her phone*] Hey! Yeah it's me! There's weird stuff goin' on at my house. Can you come over? Yeah, at my house. [*Hangs up*] My friend's coming over.

PINKSEN What good is your friend going to do?

WHITE For your information, my friend is a quality detective. She'll get to the bottom of this.

PINKSEN She? You're bringing a woman into this?

BURDEN Don't start on feminism Dad!

PINKSEN Give it a rest, would you?

BURDEN No, Dad! Why can't a woman be a good detective? Be a great detective, in fact?

PINKSEN Because women are so emotional. You need to have a cool head for detective work!

MURPHY [*Very emotional, almost to tears*] I still feel that's a dig at me! Is that a dig at me? That's a dig at me! If that's a dig at me, I'm gonna lose it! Lose it all over this house! Because, I'm being very emotional right now!

BURDEN That's some emotion for ya'!

There is a bang on the door.

MURPHY [*Screeching*] Ah!

KING I'll get it!

OAKE and LAITE walk in.

MURPHY Those are the electricians that I let in earlier!

PINKSEN Is that right?

LAITE Yeah. That's right.

OAKE What's going on? I'm picking up some... emotion going on here.

MURPHY Is that a dig at me?

PINKSEN Would you cool it? [*To the electricians*] Look! Is that a bomb? Did you two put that there on my coffee table?

LAITE That does look like a bomb, doesn't it?

OAKE We said that earlier.

PINKSEN You saw this thing earlier?

LAITE Yeah.

PINKSEN And you did nothing about it?

OAKE Hey! Listen here buddy! That bomb has nothing to do with our job. You wanted a panel replaced, that's the job we were working at!

BURDEN [*To her boyfriend*] Did you put it here?

RANDELL How can you still think that? [*Pause*] I'm breaking up with you!

BURDEN Because you put it there?

RANDELL I did not plant a bomb on your stupid coffee table and just stand around waiting for it to go off!

BURDEN Yeah, I guess that would be weird. [*Pause*] Don't break up with me then.

PINKSEN [*To RANDELL*] Please do!

Loud bang on the door.

MURPHY [*Screaming*] Aaaaaah! Every knock on that stupid door feels like the bomb going off!

WHITE That'll be my detective friend! I'll get it!

WHITE races to the door. WHITE re-enters with SEAWARD. The whole cast stands back.

SEAWARD Hello everyone.

CAINES [*Flirty*] Hello

CROSS [*Loud*] Oh, give it up! [*CROSS slaps CAINES across the head and his hair flops forward*]

WHITE This is my detective friend.

SEAWARD And that's the explosive device I see!

SEAWARD walks slowly toward the device on the coffee table.

SEAWARD You were wise to call me and you were wise not to leave the premises. This is an M23-synchro-blend-detonator.

WHITE An M23-synchro-blend-detonator? Cool!

MURPHY *[Uncontrollable shouting]* The very name of it gives me shivers! Shivers right up my spine!

SEAWARD *[Controlled, even speech]* This little baby can even sense heat change. If someone leaves this room, or too many people enter the room, and the temperature changes, it could go off. If anyone moves too quickly, it could go off. If you breathe on it, moisture from your breath could make it go off. *[Pause]* Our lives are in danger.

PINKSEN You seem really controlled... for a woman.

WHITE Dad! Would you give it up? Please? You're speaking to a professional woman here! We're quite capable, you know!

CAINES She's professional alright!

CROSS Shut up! *[CROSS slaps CAINES across the head and his hair flops forward]*

SEAWARD This isn't going to take me very long to solve at all.

BURDEN *[Shouting]* My boyfriend did it! He's Muslim and he's from the Middle East!

PINKSEN *[Rushing to BURDEN'S side]* There, there honey! You made a little mistake and now you're regretting it! Good! Lesson learned.

RANDELL For the last time, I did not plant that bomb there!

SEAWARD Your Middle Eastern friend is right. He did not get his hands on such a sophisticated detonator.

RANDELL Thank you!

SEAWARD Someone high up put this here.

PINKSEN Like an electrician?

LAITE Hey!

OAKE Don't try to pin this on us! We came here to do a simple panel pull out and breaker board install.

LAITE Yeah!

SEAWARD All I need to do is...

SEAWARD uses her cellphone to take a picture and then she begins texting on it.

SEAWARD ... send this to my online database and I'll have an answer very shortly.

WHITE I love this woman!

CAINES I do too!

CROSS Shut up! [*CROSS slaps CAINES across the head and his hair flops forward*]

KING Does anyone want anything? Tea? Biscuits? Baloney sandwiches and mustard?

SEAWARD Actually, could you get me a bowl of water?

KING A bowl of water? Sure.

KING exits, rather confused, up center and offstage left.

WHITE What are you up to?

SEAWARD I think I know what we're dealing with.

SEAWARD takes out a tiny pair of wire cutters and snips a wire on the bomb. MURPHY faints. OAKE goes to MURPHY'S side.

OAKE Don't die on me!

PINKSEN What's this all about?

KING returns with a big bowl of water and places it next to the bomb. SEAWARD rolls up her sleeves.

WHITE What are you doing?

SEAWARD gently takes the bomb and submerges it in the bowl of water.

WHITE That is so cool! You're amazing!

SEAWARD And that just about does it. That thing is not going to bother us again. But, we have to find the culprit.

PINKSEN The culprit? Is he in this room? I bet you he's in this room!

SEAWARD No. I told you it goes higher than that!

PINKSEN *[Looking up]* This is a bungalow.

SEAWARD checks her phone and makes a call.

SEAWARD *[Using a very different voice and speaking slowly]* Hello. I am at the site. Something has occurred. We need you for an M23-synchro-blend-detonator cleanup.

SEAWARD ends the call and puts her phone away.

SEAWARD Oh, they'll be here any minute.

WHITE What in the world did you just do?

CAINES *[Going to SEAWARD and holding her tightly]* Yeah, what did you just do baby?

CROSS I... have had... enough... of you... today!

CROSS grabs her husband who is still trying to hold onto SEAWARD and there is an awkward tug-of-war. At one moment, CROSS' grip slips and CAINES whips back to SEAWARD like a magnet and he hugs into her even tighter. CROSS grabs at CAINES' hands, then his arms. CAINES falls to the floor where CROSS beats him and eventually pulls him awkwardly out the door.

SEAWARD *[Continuing as if nothing happened]* This device is unique to high-level government officials! According to my database this is a CATS thing.

WHITE Cats?

SEAWARD The Canadian Active Terrorist Searchers.

WHITE What the heck is that?

SEAWARD A top secret, covert, Federal organization bent on smearing innocent immigrants.

The whole cast stares at RANDELL.

RANDELL Why is everyone staring at me?

SEAWARD I know that you are innocent my friend, but you have enemies in this country!

RANDELL What? Is someone else out to get me?

SEAWARD Yes, someone is out to get you. To get you in serious trouble!

MURPHY is just starting to come around and wake up after his fainting spell.

OAKE [Still kneeling by MURPHY'S side] There, there little buddy. Take it easy!

MURPHY What'd I miss?

There is another loud bang on the door.

MURPHY [Screaming] Aaaaah! [MURPHY faints again]

SEAWARD Everyone hide!

There is very little space for everyone to hide. OAKE drags an unconscious MURPHY to the front of the coffee table. LAITE lays down with them. PINKSEN goes flat against the stage left wall along with WHITE. KING goes flat against the stage right wall along with BURDEN. RANDELL and SEAWARD hit the floor between the couch and the coffee table.

PITTMAN and SCOTT appear up center.

PITTMAN Why'd we come back here again?

SCOTT I think I may have left something here.

PITTMAN You left something here? That's unprofessional!

MURPHY wakes up again and gets to his feet.

MURPHY What's happening? I'm so confused! Who are you guys?

PITTMAN Sorry to bother you sir, but we're CATS.

MURPHY No you're not.

SEAWARD [Pulling out a gun and holding it on SCOTT] Freeze!

PITTMAN and SCOTT realize that the room is filled with people and look around nervously.

SEAWARD You have the right to remain silent. Anything you do say may be held against you in a court of law.

SEAWARD turns SCOTT away from her to put handcuffs on him.

WHITE How'd you know it was him?

SEAWARD My database.

WHITE You are the coolest person I know!

SEAWARD I know.

PINKSEN [To SCOTT] Why'd you do it man? Why'd you terrorise my family? My neighbourhood?

SCOTT [Zany] We have to protect against the outside world! They'll get us I tell ya'!

SEAWARD Alright, just calm down there buddy!

SEAWARD leads SCOTT out of the house. WHITE and PITTMAN follow. MURPHY wakes up.

MURPHY I don't feel so good.

OAKE I got you my friend! Let's get you to a hospital and get you checked out. You'll get the care you need!

OAKE helps MURPHY out of the house. LAITE follows.

PINKSEN [To RANDELL] Well, I guess you deserve an apology.

RANDELL Yeah. [To BURDEN] But, from you more than anyone!

BURDEN What? Why?

RANDELL Did you go out with me just to spite your father?

BURDEN Maybe.

RANDELL That's disgusting! Shame on you! I'm outta here!

RANDELL exits. BURDEN and PINKSEN stand, facing the audience, shoulder to shoulder. KING stands off at the side, filled with pity for her husband and daughter with a look of worry.

BURDEN Why do I take after my father?

PINKSEN What's that supposed to mean?

BURDEN walks around to sit on the couch. PINKSEN follows around to the other side. They sit.

PINKSEN Can you answer my question?

BURDEN We're in a world of fear you and I. A world of fear. And the rest of civilization is progressing forward.

*They are mirror images as they slouch and look defeated on opposite ends of the couch.
PINKSEN blows a raspberry.*

END