

Fay

"MOM'S REALIZATION"

by

Gail Parent

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DANNY THOMAS PRODUCTIONS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
UNIVERSAL TELEVISION PRODUCTIONS

FINAL DRAFT

August 22, 1975

CAST

FAY LEE GRANT
JACK JOE SILVER
LETTY LILLIAN LEHMAN
DANNY BILL GERBER
ELLIOT STEWART MOSS
AL NORMAN ALDEN
LINDA MARGARET WILLOCK
MOM LILIA SKALA

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SETS

FAY'S OFFICE
FAY'S APARTMENT
FAY'S BEDROOM

SCENES

A - 1
B - 6
C - 13
D - 18
E - 23
G - 28
H - 32

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. FAY'S OFFICE - DAY

LETTY AND FAY ARE WORKING AT THEIR
DESK, AL AND DANNY COME OUT OF DANNY'S
OFFICE.

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AL

Are you crazy? You owe it to your
client.

DANNY

No. No, Al. I can't. I cannot use
these pictures.

AL

You are crazy. With evidence like
this, Dawson won't have to pay her a
penny in alimony.

DANNY

No. No. Out of the question.

AL

We hire a detective, you get the best shots of an unfaithful wife I've ever seen... You'll win in a second. I mean look at her.

DANNY

(LOOKING AT PHOTOS) Yeah... (HE'S APPRECIATING THEM FOR SOMETHING OTHER THAN THEIR LEGAL USE)

AL

Professionally.

DANNY

Yeah... not bad. Nice composition. Backlighting...

AL

Hey, the guy's an artist. Remember these pictures were taken by a hurried man standing in a bush.

FAY

They've had those pictures two weeks and enjoyed them every day.

LETTY

I just hope the court doesn't notice how much they've been handled.

DANNY

No. I can't use them. It'll embarrass her. How can I do that. Destory these pictures, Fay.

LETTY

A1... (SHE SIGNALS HIM TO HER DESK)

DANNY PULLS THE PICTURES BACK
IMMEDIATELY.

DANNY

Well, it's silly to destroy them. We
paid for them. I'll keep this one for
the files. (HE PUTS IT IN HIS JACKET)

THE PHONE RINGS.

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(INTO PHONE) Mr. Messina's office...
Mom?... Why are you calling long
distance? It's before five... uh huh
... uh huh... Great. When?... No, no
... okay, terrific. Ma, how are you?
... Ma, don't hang up, three minutes
aren't... (SHE HANGS UP) My mother
hates long distance. She talks loud,
fast and hangs up.

DANNY

And she's coming to visit.

FAY

How'd you know?

DANNY

The way you said great.

FAY

But it is great. I'm really excited.
Really excited.

THEY LOOK AT HER.

FAY (CONT'D)

Really.

THEY LOOK AT HER.

FAY (CONT'D)

I am excited. Really. I am very excited. What am I gonna do? I've got to clean. The place is a mess.

LETTY

What are you talking about? I was there last night. It's spotless.

FAY

You don't understand. This woman can tell an apartment is dirty over the phone. She's going to walk in, say "I hate your apartment" and go straight to the one spot I forgot to clean.

AL

How long is she staying?

FAY

I don't know. I didn't ask.

AL

Big mistake. I confirm my mother's return reservation when I pick her up at the airport.

FAY

Al, she can stay as long as she likes. I'm really anxious to see her. The divorce!

LETTY

What?

FAY

The divorce. She never really heard
I was divorced.

LETTY

You didn't tell her?

FAY

I told her. She never heard. Whenever
I'd tell her, there'd be this long
silence on the other end of the phone
and then she'd say, "You should see
what the painters did to my dining room."
It'll be fine. I'm not a little girl
any more. I'm older. She'll accept me.
She'll come. She knows I work all day
and can't keep a place spotless!
Divorce is a fact of life. It'll be
fine.

LETTY

You're sure about that.

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No. That was a little prayer.

CUT TO:

INT. FAY'S APARTMENT - THE FOLLOWING DAY - EVENING

FAY IS UNDER THE DINING TABLE CLEANING.
BELL RINGS. IT'S LINDA, ELLIOT AND MOM.

FAY

(EMBRACING HER MOTHER) Mom, oh, Mom,
it's good to see you.

MOM

Fay, Fay, Fay, let me look at you...
(SHE PUSHES FAY BACK FOR A LOOK) You
look... sad, like you were sorry you
did something.

FAY

I'm not sorry about anything, Mom.

LINDA

She's relatively happy, Grandma.

MOM

Why shouldn't she be? She has three lovely flights of stairs to climb. You were right about this place, Elliot.

ELLIOT

Thank you, Grandma.

MOM

(REMOVING ELLIOT'S ARM AND TURNING TO FAY) Well, now I traveled for thousands of miles just to see my little girl, Fay.

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FAY

(IN A LITTLE GIRL VOICE) Aw.

MOM

Where's her little husband, Jack?

LINDA

(SENSING A DIFFICULT SITUATION IS ARISING) Uh, Elliot, we better go. The babysitter has to be home early.

ELLIOT

Let me just put Grandma's bags inside. She does have the bedroom, doesn't she, Fay?

FAY

(WALKING WITH HIM) No, Elliot. I thought perhaps a sleeping bag in the kitchen.

LINDA

I'll see you later, Grandma.

MOM

(TO LINDA) Tomorrow I want to see
that beautiful baby.

LINDA

For sure.

MOM

And show him my picture tonight, so
he'll know me.

ELLIOT

(BACK FROM BEDROOM) Okay, Grandma.
You're all set.

MOM

Thank you, Elliot. (SHE KISSES THEM)
I want to look around. And wash up.
SHE GOES OFF TO THE BEDROOM.

ELLIOT

(TO FAY) Grandma isn't young any
more. I think she should have a quiet
time if you know what I mean.

FAY

I wasn't planning any all night drinking
bouts until after she left.

THEY AD LIB GOODBYES. FAY KISSES
LINDA. THEY LEAVE. GRANDMA COMES
OUT FROM THE BEDROOM.

MOM

(SHOCKED) Fay. There's only one
bedroom in there.

FAY

I know, Ma.

MOM

Where are you going to sleep?

FAY

On the couch.

MOM

So this is what you left home for?

One bedroom.

FAY

This is home, Mom.

MOM

Don't be silly. You have that beautiful four bedroom ranch home in the suburbs. Why it's called a ranch with no horses, I don't know.

FAY

I gave it up when I left Jack.

MOM

That's ridiculous. You had a little fight. So what. You'll apologize. He'll forgive you. You'll kiss and make up. On your next anniversary he'll give you a sable coat.

FAY

How about some coffee, Mom?

MOM

Maybe Jack would like some coffee, too.

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FAY

(A BIT EXASPERATED) Jack isn't here.

MOM

Exactly my point. He could be out there, wanting coffee and who's going to give it to him?

FAY

Ma, it's over. Jack and I are divorced.

MOM

I didn't come thousands of miles to hear silly talk like that. Please, Fay. Stop this nonsense. Leave this dirty, crowded little apartment and go home.

FAY

It is not dirty. There isn't one speck of dirt in this place. How can you say that. I dare you to find dirt.

MOM TAKES A QUICK LOOK AROUND AND GOES STRAIGHT TO A PICTURE AND RUNS HER FINGER OVER THE TOP OF THE FRAME. SHE GOES AND SHOWS HER NOW SOILED FINGER TO FAY.

FAY

(HANDING HER MOTHER COFFEE) Look, Mom, I want to be completely open with you. I'm going to tell you straight. Jack... uh... strayed.

MOM

They all do. Your father strayed.

FAY

DADDY!?! You never told me.

MOM

It's not something you tell a child.

FAY

Daddy!? It's hard to... imagine...

MOM

Well, it was...

FAY

I don't think I want to know.

MOM

Okay. If you don't want to know.

(SHE GOES INTO KITCHEN AND OPENS
CUPBOARDS)

FAY

All right, tell me.

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MOM

Of course you want to know. Your
father strayed, once on Thanksgiving.
You know what I did?

FAY

Refused to make cranberry sauce from
scratch.

MOM

No. I looked the other way. We had
the turkey on Friday that year.

FAY

I remember that vaguely. You told us
it took longer to cook. Ma, it's
different. Every day was Thanksgiving
to Jack.

MOM

You know, Fay. Your grandmother had an old saying... (IN GERMAN) "When the cupboards full, you don't go out to eat."

FAY

That's nice. What does it mean?

MOM

It wouldn't translate good, but I'll try. When the cupboard's full, you don't go out to eat.

FAY

(TRYING FOR CASUAL) Mom, by the way, how long are you staying?

MOM

As long as it takes.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

FAY IS WORKING AT HER DESK. LETTY
COMES IN. AD LIB GOOD MORNINGS.

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LETTY

So how's it going with your Mom?

FAY

(LIGHTLY) Fine. Fine. Really fine.
Terrific. No problem. Letty, she's
driving me crazy. Mark called for a
date and she told him he shouldn't be
fooling around with a married woman.
She put plastic all over the furniture
and last night she washed the couch.
Letty she has been here three days and
I've gained and lost seven pounds.

MOM STICKS HER HEAD IN THE DOOR.

MOM

(SING SONG) Hello.

FAY

Mom, what're you doing here? It's
not lunchtime. It's ten-fifteen.

MOM

I thought I'd come over and see
where you work. Meet your chums.
(SEEING LETTY) Oh, you must be Letty.

LETTY

Yeah. How'd you know?

MOM

You're the black one. Fay wrote
about you.

FAY

(PULLS HER ASIDE) Mom, I appreciate
your interest but what are you going to
do here for two hours? We're working.

MOM

Well, I finished cleaning the apartment
-- three days. It's a small place. You
should see what I found behind the
refrigerator. But don't worry. Plenty
to keep me busy. I'll watch.

FAY STARTS TO WORK. MOM STANDS
BEHIND HER, WATCHING. FAY SELF-
CONSCIOUSLY CONTINUES TRYING TO
WORK DESPITE HER MOTHER HOVERING.
WHEN FAY FLIPS A PAPER INTO THE
OUT BOX AND MISSES, MOM'S HAND
REACHES OUT TO STRAIGHTEN IT.

FAY

Ma...

AL COMES OUT OF THE OFFICE.

AL

(SHOUTING) Where the devil is the...

(SEES MOM AND IS EMBARRASSED) Oh,
hello. Are you somebody's mother?

MOM

I'm Fay's mother and she doesn't
want me to talk.

AL

Why that's ridiculous. I'm Al and
it's very nice to meet you.

MOM

Are you married?

AL REALIZES NOW WHY MOM WAS ASKED
NOT TO TALK.

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AL

Yes. I am. For sixteen years.

MOM

(FOR FAY'S BENEFIT) I just love to
hear about marriages that last. Might
I ask a tiny favor of you?

AL

(HESITANTLY) Sure.

MOM

I think I have whiplash because the
pilot stopped short on the runway.
Do you think I have a case?

AL

(CLOSING HIS DOOR TO ESCAPE) I'll
look into it.

DANNY ENTERS CARRYING HIS BRIEF-
CASE AND RUNNING THROUGH.

DANNY

The worst. The absolute worst.
Dawson's wife appeared this morning.
You ever see her?... Of course
you've seen her -- the pictures.
Well, she shows up in court wearing
a gingham dress, pigtails and no
makeup. Did you ever hear a jury go
"Aw..." I'm calling her an adulteress
and she's looking like Rebecca of
Sunnybrook Farm.

LETTY

You always have those dirty pictures.

DANNY

I couldn't. I couldn't do it. Fay,
I've got to learn to destroy people.
Be ruthless. A killer. (HE GOES AND
TURNS) Isn't that nice? A man going
into his office to practice being a
killer... And with my face. Oh, hello.
I'm Danny Messina. Are you Fay's Mom?

MOM

Yes. When the pilot landed the plane,
my head snapped back. Do you think...

FAY

(INTERRUPTING) Come on, Ma. Let's
take an early lunch.

MOM

Sure. (AS THEY GO) You certainly
don't work very hard.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FAY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

MOM AND JACK ARE THERE. MOM IS
SERVING JACK SOME APPETIZERS.

MOM

Fay made them before she left for work
this morning.

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JACK

They're delicious.

MOM

Such a girl... but then I don't have
to tell you.

JACK

She's terrific.

MOM

And I happen to know she thinks you're
pretty terrific, too.

JACK GIVES HER A LOOK.

MOM (CONT'D)

You know, Jack. I don't know what happened between you -- I don't pry. The important thing is the two of you go together like (IN GERMAN) an ox and a pail.

JACK

What's an (IN GERMAN) ox and a pail?

MOM

An ox and a pail. It's an old farm thing. It doesn't translate. The important thing is you two belong together.

JACK

It's over, Mom.

MOM

(SING SONG) You're wrong.

JACK

What makes you say that?

MOM GESTURES "COULD BE" WITH HER HANDS.

JACK (CONT'D)

Did Fay say something?

MOM GESTURES AGAIN.

JACK (CONT'D)

I knew it. She wants me back. Why hasn't she said anything to me?

MOM

Pride. She's too proud. But I know.
She confides in me.

JACK

Tell me more, Mom.

FAY COMES IN, DOESN'T SEE JACK.

FAY

Hi, Mom.

THEY HUG. SHE SEES JACK.

FAY (CONT'D)

Jack! What are you doing here?

MOM

My favorite person in the world is
having dinner with us.

JACK

Darling, do you think I could talk to
you a minute. (HE GESTURES HER TOWARDS
THE BEDROOM)

MOM

Go. Talk. Don't worry about me. I
have plenty to do in the kitchen.

THEY GO INTO THE BEDROOM.

RESET:

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INT. FAY'S BEDROOM

FAY

What is it?

JACK

Fay, Fay, Fay, Fay, Fay.

FAY

(SARCASTIC) Jack, Jack, Jack, Jack,
Jack, what?

JACK

Darling, I know.

FAY

You know what and stop calling me
darling. What did she tell you, Jack?

JACK

Everything, Fay. And she's right. We
do go together like (IN GERMAN) an ox
and a pail.

FAY

What's that?

JACK

It doesn't translate good.

FAY

Try me.

JACK

An ox and a pail.

FAY

An ox and a pail?

JACK

It's a farm thing. The important
thing is she told me the things you're
too proud to tell me.

FAY

And you believed her?

JACK

Hey. It made perfect sense to me.

FAY

Jack, it's not true. Whatever she told you believe me I never said.

JACK

(AFTER LONG PAUSE) We're not an ox and a pail.

FAY

No, Jack. I'm sorry.

JACK

That's a relief. Anyway I kinda had a hunch it wasn't the truth. But I didn't want to let on to your mother. I didn't want to break her heart.

FAY

What do we do now?

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JACK

Let's eat. Your mother's a wonderful cook. After dinner, we'll break her heart.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FAY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT
THE THREE OF THEM ARE FINISHING
UP DINNER.

JACK

I'm stuffed, Mom. It was delicious.

MOM

Of course it was. Fay's a terrific cook.
(TO FAY)

FAY

When I cook.

MOM

This man never gets a home cooked meal.
(TO JACK) If you two get back together
again, I'll make you a schnitzel a la
Holstein with truffles on top. And now
why don't we retire into the living room,
so to speak.

THEY GET UP FROM THE TABLE.

MOM (CONT'D)

Come. I'm the hostess tonight. You'll sit and relax. (SHE SHOVES THEM TOGETHER ON THE COUCH) What's going on?

JACK

With what, Ma?

MOM

You know.

JACK

Well, we're... uh divorced.

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MOM

(HOW COULD HE MENTION SUCH TRIVIALITIES)

I know that.

JACK

Fay left me.

MOM

Fay was not herself.

JACK

Oh, I know.

MOM

Do you think if she was herself she would have left you?

JACK

Never.

MOM

And moved into this tenement?

FAY

Listen, I think you better go. You have to get up early.

MOM

Where are you going?

JACK

Home. To get up early.

MOM

(MOURNFULLY) To a big, empty house...

FAY

It might not be empty.

JACK

(KISSING MOM) 'Bye, Ma. Thanks for everything. I hope I see you before you leave.

MOM

Tomorrow. You'll come for another dinner. Fay would love to have you.

FAY WALKS JACK TO THE DOOR.

FAY

Listen, Jack. I'm sorry about what went on here tonight.

JACK

Come on. My father would be the same way.

FAY

Well, thanks for putting up with everything.

(MORE)

FAY (CONT'D)

I think seeing me staying here and you leaving, she's finally convinced it's over.

JACK

Fay, does that mean I won't get Schnitzel a la Holstein?

FAY

Sorry, Jack.

HE LEAVES. FAY CLOSSES THE DOOR.

MOM

(WITHOUT LOSING A BEAT) Where's Jack going?

FAY

Okay, Mom. We have to have a talk. Jack told me what you said to him. (INTERRUPTING) Mother, you lied.

MOM

That does a mother's heart good. To hear her daughter call her a liar.

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FAY

You told him I wanted him back. I don't want him back.

MOM

I don't remember saying that. At my age, you're lucky you remember your name. Do you know at the airport I almost got on a plane to Canada.

FAY

Mother, I want you to listen once and
for all. Jack and I are divorced.
It's over. I've never been happier.

MOM

(SHE GETS UP) In the morning, you'll
tell me what bus I take to the airport.

FAY

Mom, you're not going home...

MOM

Please, Fay. I want to go to bed.
I'm tired.

FAY

Ma, you don't understand...

MOM

You're right. I don't understand.
My grandparents were married seventy
years. My parents were married fifty-
six. Your father and I were married
till the day he died. You're right.
I don't understand.

SHE EXITS INTO BEDROOM LEAVING FAY.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FAY'S APARTMENT - ABOUT 3 A.M. - THAT NIGHT

FAY IS SLEEPING ON THE COUCH. MOM COMES OUT OF THE BEDROOM AND GOES TO THE KITCHEN, TAKES A BOTTLE OF MILK OUT OF THE REFRIGERATOR AND SLAMS THE REFRIGERATOR DOOR. SHE LOOKS OVER TO SEE IF SHE'S AWAKENED FAY AND SEEMS DISAPPOINTED THAT SHE HASN'T. SHE GETS A POT AND POURS THE MILK IN. SHE THEN NOISILY PUTS THE POT ON THE STOVE. FAY STIRS AND MOM CLANKS THE POT ON THE STOVE AGAIN. OBVIOUSLY, IT'S HER INTENTION TO WAKE HER DAUGHTER, WHICH SHE DOES WITH THE LAST SLAM.

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Mom?

MOM

Who else could it be?

FAY

What's wrong, Mom?

MOM

Nothing. I just can't sleep. (A BEAT)
You're divorced.

FAY NODS.

MOM (CONT'D)

You told me, I was in St. Louis. It
didn't seem real.

FAY

I know.

MOM

You know, I wanted to get you two back
together. I tried.

FAY

We noticed.

MOM

Maybe now that I think about it, not
so much for you, but for me. I feel
better with you married to Jack. It
sounds crazy to you, but it makes
sense to a mother.

FAY

I know. I'm a mother.

MOM

I keep forgetting.

FAY

I'm a grandmother.

MOM

Shush. You know how old that makes me? (SHE LOOKS AT FAY A BEAT) It's positively crazy. I look at you now, a grown-up woman, and I remember when you were an infant. That was yesterday. I swear. Yesterday, I fed you strained beets for the first time and you spit them out at me. When you were a baby, I could watch you. Now I don't know what you're doing. Forty-three years old in San Francisco and I sit in St. Louis praying that when it's cold you button up, you shouldn't catch pneumonia.

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FAY

Do you know if my temperature is over ninety-eight point six, I want to call you and ask if it's okay to wash my hair. I still need a mother.

MOM

It's not so much I want you and Jack together. I just want you happy.

FAY

I am happy.

MOM

But you're alone.

FAY

And I'm still happy.

MOM

I guess I wish you were happy not alone.
With someone.

FAY

Maybe I will be. Maybe someday I'll
marry again.

MOM

I'm not paying for another wedding.

FAY

Mom, I don't want you to leave in the
morning. I want you to stay.

MOM

Why? What can you do with an old fogey?

FAY

Get to be her friend. I love you, Ma.

THEY HUG.

MOM

I love you, too. (A BEAT) Never wash
your hair when you're sick.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. FAY'S OFFICE - DAY

DANNY AND FAY ARE THERE.

DANNY

... And the thing was, I never even used the pictures. All I said was, 'We have evidence.' Then she jumped up all hysterical and said to the Judge, 'Just because they have pictures of me wearing nothing in a motel room with some man, why is everyone so quick to assume I was being unfaithful.'

FAY AND LETTY AD LIB CONGRATULATIONS.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Well, it really wasn't any particular brilliance on my part that did it...

(MORE)

DANNY (CONT'D)

It was more... her stupidity.

Although I must say, after she finished

I did give out a particularly

wonderful 'Ah Ha.'

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FAY

Oh, Danny is it okay if I leave an

hour early today so I can take my

mother to the airport?

DANNY

Sure. Anytime anybody gets to take a

mother to an airport it's a holiday.

FAY

It's not a day to celebrate for me.

Things were rough at first but it

ended up being a great couple of weeks.

We... we actually communicated. Sure,

I still had to wear a sweater when she

was cold, but we talked... and understood

each other!

A NOISE IS HEARD. FAY, DANNY AND
LETTY TURN AROUND TOWARD THE DOOR
JUST IN TIME TO SEE MOM WHEELING
HER THREE PIECES OF MATCHING
LUGGAGE IN.

FAY (CONT'D)

Mom, the plane doesn't leave until

seven.

MOM

(SITTING DOWN) I'll wait.