

Prayers For Bobby

Based on the book by
LEROY AARONS

Screenplay adaptation by
KATIE FORD

AS PRODUCED SCRIPT

Script prepared by: POST SUPERVISION
Email: john@postsupervision.com
Mobile: 416-822-1827
Web: www.postsupervision.com

PRESENTATION CREDITS

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - WALNUT CREEK, CA - NIGHT - 1982

MARY GRIFFITH, mid 40's, smokes and sews. The room is full of family photos and religious pictures.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. PORTLAND STREET - NIGHT/SAME TIME

19-year-old Bobby, Mary's youngest son, walks on an overpass, slowly and deliberately, as if in a dream.

LYRICS

*I need you to listen,
I need you to answer.
I need you to listen,
I need you to answer.
Oh God I need you to,
I want to see your face.
It is this love I have;
It makes me search for you.
I need you to listen, I need you
to answer.
I need you to listen, I need you
to answer.
Do not avoid my eyes or let me
anger you.
Do not toss me aside; Oh, God,
do not drop me.
I need you to listen, I need you
to answer.
I need you to listen, I need you
to answer.
You are the only hope I have,
God the father...*

EXT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - FLASHBACK (1979)

Bob sets up a camera to film during a birthday party gathering for Mary's mother, Ophelia.

POV the camera: the family poses and waves, looking happy. It includes Mary, father Bob, fresh-faced Bobby, Bobby's girlfriend, Michelle and Bobby's siblings, Joy, Ed and Nancy. Blond joy is cherub-like, tall Ed is a football star and dark-haired Nancy is the youngest. They start a game of touch football. Ophelia, Mary's mother, looks on. She holds a gin and tonic and has a scowl on her face. Bobby tackles Michelle and they roll on the ground.

NORMAL POV

Bob laughs at the sight. Mary jogs up, chuckling. Bobby and Michelle continue lying on the ground.

MARY

All right, you two, that's enough.

Michelle runs ahead and Mary and Bobby chat.

MARY (cont'd)

You like her! And I think she likes you.

BOBBY

Why don't you tell her that, Mom?

MARY

Maybe I will!

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

The family is gathered around the cake and presents.

MARY

Here you go, Mom.

Mary holds the cake toward Ophelia. She blows out the candles as everyone cheers.

MARY (cont'd)

Oh!

EVERYONE

Yeah!

MARY

This is such a nice day. Who knows this? "May those who love you be like the sun when it rises in its strength."

JOY

Corinthians.

BOBBY

Judges 5:31.

JOY

Show off.

BOBBY

So Grandma, how old are you again?

OPHELIA

Never mind. You know you shouldn't ask a lady how old she is.

BOB roots through kitchen drawers, looking for a cake server.

BOB

That -- that's very nice. Save some for me will you.

OPHELIA

No imagination.

BOB

That's very nice. Who's that from?

OPHELIA

From you and Mary.

BOB

You are correct. I was just testing.

MARY

Remember, Mom, I -- we were at the mall and you said you liked that. So I went back and I got it for you.

OPHELIA

Nancy, honey, get me my purse.

NANCY

Why am I always the one who has to get the purse?

NANCY exits.

JOY

It's a rite of passage.

BOBBY

The youngest Griffith's girl's the purse mule.

BOB

Yeah.

MARY

It's true.

JOY

Oh Grandma, open mine.

NANCY re-enters with the purse, followed by ED.

NANCY

Why don't boys have to be the
purse mule?

ED

Okay, fine.

Ed puts the purse over his shoulder and sashays around the room.

ED (in a lispy voice)

Mhm, yes I think it suits me.
What do you guys think? Grandma
that is a lovely shade of
lipstick. Beautiful.

MARY

Oh Ed, stop it.

ED

Why? What's wrong, Mom?

MARY

It's disgusting.

OPHELIA

If you ask me, queers should all
be lined up and shot.

BOB

Didn't you say that last year
about the Giants?

OPHELIA

What did you say?

Everyone chuckles.

BOB

Never mind.

OPHELIA

What is this?

Ophelia opens her gift from Joy.

JOY

It's a journal, like a diary.

GRANDMA

I don't need any more stuff!

Upset, Joy exits.

MARY

Mom!

OPHELIA

What?

BOBBY

I'll go.

BOBBY exits after Joy.

BOB

It's a good thing we didn't get
you the pen.

INT. JOY'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Joy sits on her bed, upset. Her room is lined with posters of the teen idol stars of the day, like Shaun Cassidy. Bobby sits beside her to comfort her.

BOBBY

You can't take it personally.
It's Grandma. You know the rule:
she's mean sometimes and then we
get a free pass to make fun of
her.

JOY

Bobby, she picks on me. Nobody
ever picks on you -- you're the
favorite. So what's it like to
be perfect.

BOBBY

I'm perfect? You think I'm
perfect. Have you looked in a
mirror lately? You're Charlie's
next angel, okay?

Bobby holds up the diary.

BOBBY (cont'd)

Can I have it?

JOY

You don't want it.

BOBBY

Well, I'm taking it. I can fill this up in a week. Now, come on -- let's go celebrate Grandma's 39th birthday.

Joy and Bobby exit, smiling.

EXT. NEIGHBOURHOOD STREET - NIGHT

Bobby and Michelle are making out in the front seat of Bobby's car.

MICHELLE

Bobby, I'm ready.

BOBBY

What?

MICHELLE

I want to go further.

Bobby looks uncomfortable.

MICHELLE

Is -- is something wrong? I thought you'd want to.

BOBBY

You... I mean, this isn't really what I had in mind.

MICHELLE

Okay, it doesn't have to be here.

BOBBY

I should go -- I have to get up early tomorrow.

MICHELLE

Is something wrong?

BOBBY

I don't think this is going to work. I think we should break up.

MICHELLE

I - I thought you liked me. I came to meet your family.

BOBBY

I just don't want to get that serious.

MICHELLE

Well, it doesn't have to be serious, okay?

BOBBY

It's not you, it's me. Hey, I'm sorry.

MARY

Hey, you want to watch with me?

Michelle exits.

EXT. MAIN STREET - WALNUT CREEK - NIGHT

Bobby drives by the local gay bar. He stops and watches four men. Three exit and one turns in Bobby's direction. He gestures to Bobby. Bobby speeds off in the car, exiting.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - NIGHT

Bobby enters to find Mary watching an old movie on TV.

MARY

Hey! You want to watch with me?

BOBBY

I'm tired.

MARY

Oh, come on! Who else can I get to watch an old black and white movie? You know if it's not John Wayne, your Dad's not interested. It's really scary.

Bobby sits down and takes some popcorn.

BOBBY

You know this scene's famous?

MARY

Really?

BOBBY

You know how they got that glass of milk to glow?

MARY

How?

BOBBY

Well, Hitchcock put a light bulb inside the glass so the audience would know the milk's poisonous.

MARY

No kidding? That's clever. How'd you know that?

BOBBY

'cause I'm brilliant.

MARY

You are brilliant.

BOBBY

Give me this.

He takes the bowl of popcorn.

MARY

Take it away, I've eaten too much.

BOBBY (OC)

I think there's something wrong...

EXT. WALNUT CREEK RAILWAY TRACKS - DAY

Bobby and Ed walk and talk.

BOBBY (cont'd)

... with me.

ED

That's for sure.

BOBBY

What do you think Mom would do if she found out one of us was a psychopath?

ED

What do you mean "if"?

Ed chuckles.

BOBBY

You know how she's always saying the whole family's going to be together in the afterlife? Well, what if one of us is a sinner?

ED

If you sinned with Michelle, I promise not to tell.

BOBBY

It's not that. I'm just thinking about stuff, you know.

ED

You think too much. It's dangerous. Which is why I avoid it at all costs.

BOBBY

Yeah. I'm glad we talked.

ED

Seriously, something... something wrong?

BOBBY

No.

ED

All right, 'cause like, you know, I'm your big bro'. Just -- just looking out for you.

Ed playfully pushes Bobby.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Bobby is at his locker. He sees a gorgeous guy coming toward him, smiling. Bob starts to respond, but he guy walks past him and hugs a girl. Rattled, Bobby closes his locker. His friend Audrey playfully crashes into him, giggling. Their friend Mike joins them. They met in theatre arts and get along well, but don't know each other enough to be considered close.

MIKE

What's up Bobby?

AUDREY

Ready to go?

They walk down the hall and pass Cheryl, who obviously likes Bobby. She flirts with him and gives him a big grin.

CHERYL

Hey Bobby.

BOBBY

Cheryl.

Audrey and Mike check her out as she walks away.

AUDREY

She's not your type. Too much eye shadow.

MIKE

What's going on with Michelle, huh?

BOBBY

We broke up. Talk to you guys later.

Bobby exits. Audrey and Mike exchange a look and a shrug.

Film-speed slows for a dreamscape montage as Bobby walks down the hall, then through a forest, still holding his book bag. He sits in the school hall and is suddenly beside the railway tracks, writing in his journal. He watches water fall from an eaves trough and pictures electrical wires with him hanging from them.

BOBBY (VO)

Not telling the truth? Sometimes I feel like I'm at the edge of a cliff looking down at the crashing surf with nowhere to go but down. I used to have these flying dreams and I was so free. But now as I fly? I'm afraid. There are telephone lines and electrical wires. How painful it would be to run into one. I wonder if I'll ever be free again.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - DAY

Bobby sits alone, watching the bath house seen from Spartacus as Antonius bathes Marcus Licinius Crassus.

MARCUS (on TV)

Do you eat oysters?

ANTONINUS (on TV)

When I have them, master.

MARCUS (on TV)

Do you eat snails?

ANTONINUS (on TV)

No, master.

MARCUS (on TV)

Do you consider the eating of oysters to be moral and the eating of snails to be immoral?

ANTONINUS (on TV)

No, master.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Bobby stands by the vanity, breathing heavily. He opens the medicine cabinet and takes out some pills.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Ed enters.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Ed enters and grabs a quart of milk from the fridge and drinks it.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ed walks through the living room, milk in hand, past the TV.

MARCUS (on TV)

I want you to come back to your own kind. I beg you to.

ANTONINUS (on TV)

Is it me you want? Or is it the garrison?

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Ed enters.

ED

Hello?

Ed peers into the bathroom and sees the open medicine cabinet.

INT. HALLWAY - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Ed enters, drinking the milk. He looks in Bobby's room and sees the pills and bottle scattered on the floor.

ED (cont'd)

Bobby!

Bobby lies on the bed, unmoving.

INT. BOBBY/ED'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ed enters and frantically shakes Bobby.

ED (cont'd)

Bobby! Bobby! Hey, Bobby! What did you do, huh? Did you take these? Answer me.

BOBBY

No!

ED

Is that the truth?

BOBBY

I couldn't do it, okay? Get off of me. I wanted to, but I couldn't.

ED

What's wrong with you?

BOBBY

Know why I couldn't do it? Because it's a sin.

ED

Bobby what are you talking about?

BOBBY

I didn't want to go to Hell, but I am. Cuz this is worse.

ED

Bobby, you're scaring me. Wh - what's -- what's going on?

BOBBY

You'd all hate me. I know it. I know that if you guys knew the truth, you'd hate me.

ED

Whatever it is, we'll tell Mom...

BOBBY

No! No, Mom wouldn't understand, okay? She can't know.

ED

Then you have to tell me right now.

BOBBY

I'm not like you Ed.

ED

So what?

BOBBY

I keep trying. I keep telling myself that one day I'm going to wake up and it's going to be different, but it's not. I don't dream about girls like you. I dream about guys.

ED

You're gay?

BOBBY

See? You even say it like you hate me!

ED

Bobby, give me a break.

BOBBY

I don't know what to do!

ED

Well, we'll tell Mom and Dad.

BOBBY

No! No.

ED

They can help Bobby. They always want us to come to them. They can help.

BOBBY

I can't, okay? And you're not going to say anything, either. Promise me, promise me you're not going to say anything. Ed, promise.

ED

Okay, I promise.

INT. MARY'S CAR/TRAVELLING - DAY

Ed is driving Mary home.

ED (cont'd)

Mom, if there was something wrong with one of your kids, you -- you always said that we should come to you, right?

MARY

What'd you do?

ED

It's not me, it's Bobby.

MARY

What is it?

ED

I didn't want to tell you but he was in such bad shape, I'm really worried about him. He thinks ...he might be homosexual.

MARY

He's not.

ED

He didn't want me to tell you. He was going to take a bunch of aspirin, okay? And he trusted me. You can't go too hard on him.

MARY

Okay, okay, good. It's good. I'm glad you told me. There's no doubt in my mind that God can handle this. He'll help us. He'll heal Bobby.

MARY (OC; cont'd)

In order for all of us to be together...

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - NIGHT

Bob, Mary and Ed are talking.

MARY (cont'd)

... in the Kingdom of Heaven, we cannot stray. We can't sin like that.

BOB

Come on, Mary.

MARY

And that is a terrible sin. The Bible calls it an abomination. In Leviticus, if a man lies with another man they shall both be put to death. I will not risk my family not being together in the next life.

BOB

Mary, can we please worry about this life before we worry about the next life?

Bobby enters.

BOBBY

Hey, what's going on?

MARY

Isn't there a problem you need to tell us about?

BOBBY

No.

MARY

Bobby, if there is something wrong you need to share it with your family.

Bobby notices Ed looking guilty.

BOBBY

How could you?

ED

Bobby...

BOBBY

I'm going to kill you!

Bobby lunges at Ed.

MARY

No!

BOBBY

I'm going to kill you!

BOB

That's -- That's enough. Okay!
That's enough.

ED

I was worried about you!

BOBBY

I trusted you!

BOB

Settle down!

ED

What was I supposed to...

BOB

Ed, Ed! Go find some homework,
okay?

Ed exits.

MARY

Bobby we're your family. We can
get through this. I know if we
trust in God we can get through
this. It's curable with His
help.

BOBBY

I'm sorry, I can't help it. I
don't even want it, Mom. What do
I do?

BOB

Bobby you're not gay, you're -
you're probably just... you
haven't met a girl that you're
really attracted to.

BOBBY

Please, Mom, please don't tell
anyone, please.

MARY

Okay, okay.

BOBBY

Mom, please don't tell!

Bobby is crying. Mary hugs him.

MARY

It's going to be all right.
Okay, it's going to be fine.
Shhh.

INT. ED/BOBBY'S ROOM - LATER

Ed is reading as Bobby enters to take his blanket and pillow.

ED

I was worried about you. What
was I supposed to do?

BOBBY

I'm out of here.

Bobby exits.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

Mary has the radio turned up loud.

RAYMOND ZIP (on the
radio)
Thank you again for joining us.
I'm Pastor Raymond Zip...

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bobby is asleep on the couch. The radio wakens him.

RAYMOND ZIP (cont'd;
on the radio)
We'll take another call... This is
from Melissa...

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Mary sits at the table copying passages from the Bible onto cards.

RAYMOND ZIP (cont'd;
on the radio)
...in Concord.

MELISSA (on the radio)
Thank you, Reverend, I'm a
little nervous. My sister made a
terrible mistake. She sinned and
then died...

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bobby listens.

MELISSA (cont'd; on
the radio)
...in a tragic car accident.

MARY enters, carrying a card.

MARY
I advise you to live according
to your new life in the Holy
Spirit then you won't be doing
what your sinful nature claims.
When the Holy Spirit controls
your life, He will produce love,
joy, kindness, goodness and self
control.

BOBBY
Does everyone have to know?

MARY
We're your family. We love you.

JOY (OC)
Mom, have you seen my curling
iron?

Bobby exits.

INT. BATHROOM - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Bobby enters to find a card taped to the mirror. It reads: "I am pure
of heart. I am of God's goodness." He notices it as he brushes his
teeth. Joy opens the door.

JOY (cont'd)
We still love you, Bobby.

BOBBY
Yeah, thanks. Can I get some
privacy?

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

Mary is at her work station copying from *Everything You Wanted To
Know About Sex*. A female co-worker enters, passing by.

WOMAN
Hi, Mary.

MARY

Hi.

The woman exits and MARY continues reading.

MARY (VO; READING)

If a homosexual who wants to renounce homosexuality finds a psychiatrist who knows how to cure homosexuality, he has every chance of becoming a happy, well-adjusted heterosexual.

INT. DR. NORTHRUP'S OFFICE - DAY

Bobby visits with Dr. Northrup. A female psychiatrist, Northrup is "all business" and launches right into the session.

DR. NORTHRUP

Do you ever hear any voices?

BOBBY

No.

DR. NORTHRUP

Do you ever hear any ringing sounds?

BOBBY

No. Is that the phone? That was a joke.

Northrup doesn't laugh or react.

DR. NORTHRUP

So you think you're homosexual? Bobby, how many girls have you been with?

BOBBY

I don't know. Two.

DR. NORTHRUP

Had sexual relations with?

Bobby shakes his head.

DR. NORTHRUP

Then how do you know for sure?

BOBBY

I just have these feelings, you know. I don't mean you know, I mean -- I have these feelings.

DR. NORTHRUP

Do you want to be homosexual?

BOBBY

I just want to be close with my family again. I feel like I slipped up and now I can't get back.

DR. NORTHRUP

I'm not going to be able to help you if you don't answer my questions.

BOBBY

No, I don't want to be this way.

DR. NORTHRUP

I'm going to talk with your mother alone for a minute, okay?

Bobby opens the door. Mary is in the waiting room.

BOBBY

She wants to talk to you.

Bobby exits and Mary enters.

MARY

He can be cured, right?

PSYCHIATRIST

He has to be willing to really put the work in.

MARY

Oh, he is, I know he is.

PSYCHIATRIST

And I think it would be good -- it would be important to have your husband come join us in therapy.

MARY

Right.

INT. GRIFFITH GARAGE - DAY

Mary and Bobby get out of the car and join Bob in the garage.

BOB

How'd it go?

BOBBY

She said we should spend some more time together.

MARY

Maybe the two of you could spend some quality time together?

BOB

Yeah, sure.

Bobby exits.

BOB (cont'd)

That's all she said for sixty bucks an hour?

MARY

She also wants the three of us to go to a few sessions together.

BOB

Oh, so it's our fault? I don't - I don't know about all that. It's fine if he goes.

MARY

Bob, I want you to be a part of this. I can't do it alone, okay? I read that homosexuals have sex in public bathrooms and that they recruit children.

BOB

What are you saying?

MARY

Do you think Bobby was recruited?

BOB

Come on, Mary, you're going overboard.

MARY

We've got to do something about this. I won't lose him!

Mary exits.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - HALLWAY/ATTIC - NIGHT

MARY (OC)

Dear Lord we ask that you keep Bobby safe from temptation. Please help him return to a pure heart.

Mary is praying over Bobby, whose lying in bed.

BOBBY

You think this'll heal me?

MARY

You have to trust that God will heal you and that Satan will try to discourage you. Do you trust in God?

BOBBY

Yeah, if He'll let me go to sleep.

INT. CHURCH YOUTH GROUP - DAY

Reverend Owens addresses teens in The Christian Living Experiment. He is a young, enthusiastic, sincere-sounding minister. The teens are fresh-faced and eager.

REV. OWENS

When temptation is all around you, faith is not enough. It requires discipline, not just mental, but physical. Who would like to share their story?

TERRY

I used to be so unhappy. I stayed out all night, I talked back to my mother. Since coming here and accepting Jesus as my Savior, I've changed. My Mom and I are like best friends now.

REV. OWENS

That's great, Terry.

Everyone applauds.

REV. OWENS (cont'd)
Yeah! The power of prayer and
hard work. Bobby, what about
you? How are you coming along?

BOBBY
Good.

REV. OWENS
Well, you feel better don't you?
I can see it in your eyes? Your
hard work has paid off, hasn't
it?

BOBBY
Yeah.

REV. OWENS
Let's sing, shall we? Umm...

EVERYONE (singing)
Amazing Grace, how sweet the
sound,

EXT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - DAY

Bobby sets off on a jog.

EVERYONE (singing; VO)
That saved a wretch like me...

EVERYONE (singing; VO)
I once was lost but now am
found...

EVERYONE (singing; VO)
was blind but now I see.

EXT. FOREST/STREET - MONTAGE/DREAMSCAPE

Bobby runs and stops in the forest, looking around.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/ATTIC - NIGHT

Bobby writes in his journal.

BOBBY (VO)

Nothing I do seems to make a difference. I try and act like them but it feels impossible. It's an awful feeling to believe you could be headed straight for the fires of Hell. Even worse is everyone telling you how simple the solution is. They don't know what it is to be in my shoes.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

Mary and Bobby carry groceries in.

BOBBY (cont'd)

I'm running, I'm not eating junk food.

MARY

Good, good.

BOBBY

Yeah, it's good but, I don't know the point of it. I mean my face has cleared up but everything else feels the same.

MARY

Well, you have to stick with it. Do you like the people in your group?

BOBBY

They're okay. This one girl, she...

MARY

You know I hope you're taking this seriously? I mean it. I hope you are trying with all your might. I cannot lose you to this.

BOBBY

You won't.

MARY

Have faith.

EXT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - DAY

Bob, Ed and Bobby get into the truck. Mary enters and hands them their bagged lunches.

MARY (cont'd)

Well, this is going to be fun.
When was the last time all the
Griffith men went hiking
together?

BOB

Ah, can you come here for a
second?

MARY leans down and BOB kisses her cheek.

MARY

Oh!

MARY mouths "I love you."

The boys exit, Mary waving and smiling after them.

BOB (OC)

So how's school?

EXT. LAKESIDE - MORNING

Bobby, Ed and Bob walk and talk.

BOBBY

Good.

BOB

Have you thought about your
plans?

BOBBY

Well, college.

BOB

No, I mean, you know, life
plans.

BOBBY

Well, I'm still thinking of
becoming a writer.

BOB

Bobby, you've always had a strong imagination and we've always been all right with that, but you're getting to the age where you're going to have to get practical. Pipe dreams, they're great when you're young, but they don't really have a ... They don't really have a place in the real world.

BOBBY

Yeah.

BOB

Do you hear what I'm saying to you?

ED

All right, all right, leg's go, let's move!

BOB

All right.

Bob and Ed exit.

EXT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - DAY

The truck pulls up in front of the house. Mary enters.

MARY

How'd it go?

BOBBY

I'm healed.

Bobby exits.

BOB

It was fine.

MARY

Did you two talk?

BOB

Yeah, we talked.

MARY

Well, what did you talk about?

Ed exits.

BOB

Mary, it was fine.

MARY

No, but this is important. This could make him or break him.

BOB

I did the best I could. Is that all right with you?

DR. NORTHRUP (VO)

A lot of times confusion...

INT. DR. NORTHRUP'S OFFICE - DAY

Mary, Bob and Bobby are in session with the doctor.

DR. NORTHRUP (CONT'D)

... like Bobby's can be caused by a distant father or an overbearing mother.

BOB

I - I had both and I'm fine.

MARY

Bob...

BOB

Yeah?

MARY

You need to participate in this.

BOB

I'm right here, Mary, I'm in the room. You know, I think I've been a very good father. Well, maybe you don't know this but Bobby, I mean he was never into the stuff that his brother or other boys were into. You know, he's just not interested. So I'm not going to force him, you know?

DR. NORTHRUP

Mm-hm.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - NIGHT

Sheila, a pretty young girl, sits on the couch watching TV. Bobby enters. Sheila is eager to meet him and has been waiting for him.

SHEILA

Hi, Bobby, I'm Sheila.

JOY enters. Bobby holds up a finger to Sheila, exits.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

BOBBY

Mom, who's that.

MARY

Sheila is a student in my Sunday School class.

BOBBY

You got me a date?

MARY

You need to go out with lots of girls. Your Dad thinks so, too.

BOBBY

Can I at least pick my own?

Bobby is standing with his hand on his hip. Mary moves it.

MARY

Don't do that thing with your arm. Have fun. You look nifty. Do you want a brownie?

BOBBY

No.

MARY

For energy? Take them out... No!

INT. CHURCH SOCIAL HALL - NIGHT

A dance is in full swing. Bobby enters with Sheila on his arm. Ed approaches.

ED

Hello! Who's this?

BOBBY

This is my brother, Ed.

ED

Hi.

SHEILA

Hi, I'm Sheila.

ED

Nice to meet you.

SHEILA

Nice to meet you, too.

JOY runs up to Sheila and they hug.

JOY

Hi! Do you want to meet some of my friends?

SHEILA

Yeah.

Sheila and Joy walk away.

ED

You ever going to talk to me again?

BOBBY

Look where it got me.

Sheila waves at Bobby. He waves back.

BOBBY (cont'd)

What if she wants me to kiss her goodnight?

ED

Tell her you're gay.

Ed and Bobby laugh. Ed walks away. Bobby notices Michelle at a table with her friends. They stare at him and whisper. Bobby exits the dance and bumps into a young guy entering.

YOUNG GUY

Watch it, fag.

Bobby, angry, re-enters the dance and confronts Ed.

BOBBY

You told your friends?

ED

Bobby, those aren't my friends.

BOBBY

Did you tell everyone I'm gay?

ED

I haven't told anyone. Stop being so paranoid.

BOBBY

You all hate me for it. I know you don't think I see it, but I do. I gotta go.

ED

Bobby.

Bobby exits.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - LATE NIGHT

Mary sits on the couch. Bobby enters.

MARY

It's three in the morning.

BOBBY

Sorry, I lost track of time.

MARY

Well, where were you? Bobby? You weren't with homosexuals, were you? This is not you. This is temptation working its ways. You have to pray harder if you're going to get well.

BOBBY

'Night mom.

Bobby exits.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bobby enters to find another note attached to the mirror: "If you believe you will receive whatever your ask for in prayer."

MARY (OC)

Pray for forgiveness right away.

Bobby rips the card off the mirror.

EXT. RESTAURANT PATIO/PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Mary is out with co-workers, enjoying a drink. Her co-workers are very blue collar and they enjoy an easy rapport. Bobby pulls up.

MARY (cont'd)

It's been fun girls, but I gotta go.

Mary hurries over to Bobby.

CO-WORKER #1

Okay.

CO-WORKER #2

There's Bobby. Hey.

MARY

Where's Joy?

BOBBY

She had work so she asked me to pick you up.

Mary starts walking away.

BOBBY (cont'd)

You're welcome. What's with you?

MARY

What?

BOBBY

You think I didn't notice that? You didn't want your friends to see me.

MARY

Some people wouldn't understand.

BOBBY

And now it's so obvious. Or did you tell them?

MARY

Well, look at what you're wearing. And I told you time after time not to do that thing with your arm. It makes you look like a girl and you continue to do it.

BOBBY

I've always dressed this way.

MARY

No, you haven't. It's gotten worse. Why are you doing this? I'm trying to help you.

BOBBY

No, you're not. You're trying to help you! It's not about me. It's about what people think about you. Imagine if they thought your son was some big queer?

MARY

What's wrong with you? Stop that!

BOBBY

Nice, Mom. Great.

He puts the car keys in her hands.

MARY

Let's go home.

BOBBY

I'm walking.

MARY

No! Where are you going?

EXT. WALNUT CREEK GAY BAR - NIGHT

Men mill around the entrance. Bobby enters the bar.

INT. WALNUT CREEK GAY BAR - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Bobby enters and walks past the bar.

MALE BAR PATRON

Ooh, I like that jacket.

MALE BAR PATRON #2

Hey can I buy you a drink?

Bobby starts to relax, closes his eyes and moves his head to the music.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mary sews and reads the Bible, waiting for Bobby.

INT. WALNUT CREEK GAY BAR - CONTINUOUS

Bobby makes out with a stranger. They stop kissing but the STRANGER strokes Bobby's face and chest.

STRANGER

I haven't seen you around here
before. You are really
beautiful.

Bobby remembers them kissing.

BOBBY

I gotta go.

STRANGER

Can I call you?

BOBBY

No.

Bobby exits.

EXT. WALNUT CREEK GAY BAR - NIGHT

Bobby enters, passing by some men at the doorway.

GUY OUTSIDE BAR

Sweet dreams. Good night.

Bobby stares across the street at Metropolitan Community Church. A sign in front of the church reads: MCC Church celebrates Gay Pride. All Are Welcome.

INT. GRIFFITH HOME - NIGHT

Mary keeps up her vigil at the dining room table. Bobby enters.

MARY

Bobby.

BOBBY

Don't worry I was at church.

Bobby exits.

EXT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - DAY

A car pulls into the driveway. Bobby enters and greets his cousin, Jeanette, who exits the car. She is 25, bubbly and very happy to see him.

JEANETTE

Hi, cousin!

BOBBY

I have a name, it's gorgeous
cousin!

They hug and laugh.

BOBBY

So, ah, how long you here for?

JEANETTE

Just today. I'm driving home
tonight. Came in to see my Dad,
but I couldn't resist stopping
by.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/DINING ROOM - LATER

The family and Jeanette eat lunch. The usual talk about homosexuality
creates tension and horrifies Jeanette.

BOBBY

Maybe it's not a choice. Maybe I
just can't help it.

JOY

It's like saying stealing is not
a choice.

BOBBY

What?

JEANETTE

Aunt Mary, lunch is delicious.

MARY

Joy's right, Bobby. The Bible
says men committed shameless
acts with men and received in
their own persons the due
penalty for their error.

BOBBY

You just won't change, will you?

MARY

Well, I can't erase what's in
the Bible.

JEANETTE

Personally I think people should be able to love whoever they want.

The family members exchange looks.

JEANETTE (cont'd)

Did I mention how good lunch is?

MARY

Even animals know who to do it with.

JOY

Actually, our dog does it with a pillow.

BOB

Can we please find something different to discuss.

ED

Yeah.

ED

Ed, you're up. What about... why don't you tell us about college?

BOBBY

Dropped out of school last week.

BOB

You what? Well what about college?

BOBBY

I'm not going.

MARY

Great! What's next? Gonna ruin your life?

BOBBY

Yeah well, it's my life to ruin.

MARY exits.

JOY (OC)

Is it like this at every meal?

EXT. GRIFFITHS HOUSE - LATER

Bobby walks Jeanette to her car.

BOBBY

Pretty much.

JOY

You should come up and visit me in Portland -- it's so great. I used to envy you. When I'd come here with Mom and Dad I always wished your parents were my parents. You all seemed so close.

BOBBY

Well, that's over with. Hey, I think they love the sinner, just not the sin.

JOY

They should love the son no matter what the sin. Hey, that's good. I'm going to start my own Bible.

They hug.

JOY (cont'd)

Think about coming to Portland?

An OC doorbell rings.

EXT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - NIGHT

MARY opens the door to Dana, dressed as Magenta from Rocky Horror Picture Show, and Ardie, dressed as Frank N. Furter. Ardie is flagrantly gay and Dana is a chubby, friendly-looking girl.

DANA

Hi, Mrs. Griffith.

ARDIE

Is Bobby here?

Mary stands in stunned silence.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/BOBBY'S ROOM - LATER

Mary and Bobby argue.

MARY

Bobby, you know it's enough you go God knows where at night, but know you're bringing these Deviants...

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dana and Ardie sit uncomfortably listening to the argument. Bob watches them. They seem scared.

MARY (cont'd; OC)
...into my house.

BOBBY (OC)
It's my house too and they're my friends.

MARY (OC)
Is that what that boy is?

BOBBY (OC)
Is it a...

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/BOBBY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

BOBBY (cont'd)
...sin to have friends now, too, Mom? We have a good time, okay? We go to the Rocky Horror together. Does...

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dana and Ardie grow increasingly uncomfortable.

BOBBY (cont'd; OC)
...that mean we're all going to get struck down?

MARY (OC)
They're gay, aren't they? I thought you...

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/BOBBY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

MARY (cont'd)
...were getting better.

BOBBY

When? When I was miserable? That looked like I was getting better? You're right, Mom, I'm doomed just to roast in hell.

MARY

Don't say that!

BOBBY

Well, that's what your Bible says.

MARY

The Bible also says a person can change.

BOBBY

I tried, Mom. I can't.

MARY

Why do you keep choosing this?

BOBBY

Why would I choose this? Why would I choose to have my entire family hate me?

MARY

No, we love you. Can't you see that's why we're doing this?

BOBBY

Really, Mom? This is what love feels like?

Bobby exits.

EXT. BUS STATION - DAY

The family is gathered to say good bye to Bobby.

ED

Have fun in Portland.

JOY

Here's a new shirt for your vacation. I hope you like it. Promise me you'll write and call all the time.

BOBBY

It's two months.

MARY calls to the bus driver.

MARY
Drive carefully.

BUS DRIVER (OC)
Don't worry, ma'am.

MARY
You call me when you get to
Portland. I had this engraved
with your initials.

Mary hands Bobby a bible. Mary and Bobby hug and he gets on the bus.

BUS DRIVER
Hey, watch it, buddy! I'm
driving here.

Bobby stands on the bus stairs.

BOBBY
I love you guys.

JOY (OC)
Bye, have fun.

EVERYONE
Bye!

ED
Bye Bobby!

MONTAGE: EXT. STREET - DAY & INT. BUS - DAY & INT. GRIFFITH HOME

The bus motors down the road, Bobby looks out the window, Mary sews at her machine.

BOBBY (VO)
Already I'm glad to be away from
Walnut Creek. This feels like a
new life, a new day and I'm
going to be a success in every
way I can. It is my goal to
achieve a sense of pride and
worth as a human being.

EXT. PORTLAND, OREGON - DAY

Overview of the city.

INT. JEANETTE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jeanette answers the door for Bobby and they hug.

JEANETTE

Gorgeous cousin! Come here.

INT. STAIRWELL IN JEANETTE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Jeanette leads Bobby up the stairs.

EXT. APARTMENT ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

Jeanette and Bobby enter. There's an incredible view over the city.

JEANETTE (cont'd)

Welcome to Portland.

Jeanette turns on a music player and they dance. MONTAGE of the pair dancing.

INT. GRIFFITH HOME/WALNUT CREEK - DAY

Mary sits, alone, on her couch.

EXT. PORTLAND GAY NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Jeanette and Bobby hurry down the street.

JEANETTE (cont'd)

Trust me, you don't find clubs
like this back home.

They exit into the club.

INT. PORTLAND GAY NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

A scantily clad man does a pole dance. Montage of people dancing.

JEANETTE (cont'd)

Welcome to Wonderland, cousin!

BOBBY

This is amazing.

JEANETTE

Let's go boogie.

Jeanette and Bobby dance on the crowded dance floor. Jeanette taps David on the shoulder. He is a handsome gay man in his mid-20s.

DAVID

Jeanette!

They hug.

JEANETTE

This is my cousin, Bobby.

DAVID

Nice to finally meet you, Bobby.

David and Bobby dance. MONTAGE of the crowd dancing.

INT. PORTLAND GAY NIGHTCLUB - LATER

Bobby and David sit at the bar. They are attracted to one another.

DAVID (CONT'D)

So Jeanette tells me your Mom
wants to cure you of your
gayness.

BOBBY

Yeah, well, my parents don't
really understand it. Do yours?

DAVID

They didn't at first, but they
eventually came around.

BOBBY

How did you get them to change?

MALE FRIEND

Well, one day I told them
"accept me as I am, or forget
it."

BOBBY

I know my Mom means well, but I
don't know if she'll ever accept
me.

DAVID

Just don't stop trying.

INT. JEANETTE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Bobby packs a book, *Now That You Know: What Every Parent Should Know
About Homosexuality*, and a note marked "Mom" into an envelope and
seals it.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - EVENING

Mary opens the package.

EXT. PORTLAND PARK - DAY

David and Bobby enjoy lunch together, laughing and happy. David hugs
and kisses Bobby, who looks very uncomfortable.

EXT. JEANETTE'S ROOFTOP - DAY

David and Bobby talk in the doorway.

DAVID

Have a great trip. Don't let her get to you and don't be afraid to stand up to her.

They kiss, then hug.

BOBBY

Two months flew by fast. I'll call you when I get home.

DAVID

You better.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - NIGHT

Bob opens the door.

BOB

Well, look who's home.

BOBBY

Hi, Dad.

BOB

Hey, come here, come here.

They hug.

BOB (cont'd)

Just in time for dinner, come on in.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - LATER

The family eats pizza from plates on their laps while they talk and joke.

ED (OC)

That's funny. Nice.

JOY

So how was Portland?

ED

Yeah.

BOBBY

Portland is great.

BOB (OC)

Good, good.

BOBBY

I'm thinking of maybe moving there for a little bit.

BOB (OC)

Wow!

MARY

Moving there?

BOBBY

I met someone.

NANCY

Ooh-ooh.

BOBBY

A guy.

MARY

Girls, do you want to give me a hand with this...

MARY exits.

NANCY

Are we supposed to pretend we didn't hear that?

JOY

Yes.

BOB

Bobby, this might not have been the right time.

BOBBY

I know, sorry.

INT. KITCHEN - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Bobby joins Mary.

MARY

You should start thinking about college for next fall. You need to get your GED first. I mean, it's okay to take some time off, but then they start to...

BOBBY

Did you hear me?

MARY

I don't want to know.

BOBBY

I want you to know. His name is David.

MARY

We always start at the beginning every time. If we're not going to get anywhere different, let's just not go there.

BOBBY

When I'm with him, it feels so good. He treats me well, he's funny and he's smart...

MARY

Stop -- I mean it, I don't want to hear it, you know I don't.

BOBBY

I've spent the last year listening to you and you're going to listen to me for once. It feels good when I'm with David, but if he touches me in public or, God forbid, kisses me -- I pull away. I feel ashamed.

MARY

Because you know it's wrong.

BOBBY

Because you told me it's wrong.

MARY

It's not me. It's the Bible.

BOBBY

It's not the Bible, it's you. Why can't you admit that? Why can't you admit that you can't stand what I am.

MARY

What you've become.

BOBBY

What I am! I'm sorry I'm not the perfect little Bobby you always wanted but I can't keep apologizing for it, Mom. Accept me as I am, or forget it.

MARY

I won't have a gay son.

BOBBY

Then, Mom, you don't have a son.

MARY

Fine.

Bobby exits, crying.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bobby enter, walking past his family, and then exits out the front door.

ED

Bobby!

Joy follows him.

EXT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Joy joins Bobby.

JOY

Did you really think she'd change, Bobby?

BOBBY

She meant it. She meant that.

JOY

I really want you to be happy. And I'm sure that guy's really nice. No matter what, she'll never accept it. It's going to be a lonely life because he will never be welcome here. Not for Christmas, Thanksgiving, anything.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - DAY

Mary looks through the front window, at Bobby leaving, and cries.

ED

Don't worry about Mom too much -
- she'll come around.

BOBBY

I'm not going to hold my breath.

Bobby hands Ed something.

BOBBY (cont'd)

Here you go.

ED

Your parachute pants?

MARY peers through the window.

EXT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The family, minus Mary, says good bye to Bobby.

ED (cont'd)

Thanks.

They shake hands.

BOBBY

I'll send you my first novel
when I write it.

Joy and Bobby hug.

NANCY

Bye, Bucksy.

Nancy and Bobby hug.

BOBBY

Take care, okay?

ED

Drive safe.

Bobby looks toward the house and sighs.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mary continues looking out the window, crying.

EXT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Bobby gives up on seeing his Mother and gets into his car.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mary watches Bobby pull away. She cries even more.

INT. PORTLAND/SENIOR CITIZEN'S HOME - DAY & INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/HALLWAY OUTSIDE BOBBY'S ATTIC ROOM

MONTAGE of a wheelchair wheeling down the Senior Citizen's home hallway and the stairs leading to Bobby's room.

INT. PORTLAND/SENIOR CITIZEN'S HOME - DAY

In slo-mo, Bobby, dressed as an orderly, wheels an elderly patient around the corner.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/BOBBY'S ATTIC ROOM - DAY

Mary feels Bobby's comforter. She looks around his room.

INT. PORTLAND/SENIOR CITIZEN'S HOME - DAY

Bobby sits in a chair in the hallway.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/KTICHEN - EVENING

Mary does dishes while listening to the TV that is on in the living room.

TV ANNOUNCER (VO)

...most of the new cases that we find today seem to be centered in the homosexual community and AIDS is becoming known as the 'gay' disease.

INT. PORTLAND/JEANETTE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jeanette joins Bobby at the table as he opens a gift box.

JEANETTE

Wow, your Mom went all out for your birthday.

BOBBY

No card, a sweater and AIDS: The Wrath Of God. Wow! Happy Birthday.

JEANETTE

You can't expect anything different from her, Bobby. She's not going to change.

BOBBY

Birthdays were always a big deal for all of us. There's just not an all of us anymore. Can't get that through my head.

A car horn honks outside.

BOBBY (cont'd)
There's David.

He kisses Jeanette on the cheek.

BOBBY (cont'd)
Talk to you later.

Bobby exits.

EXT. SUBURBAN PORTLAND HOME - DAY

Bobby and David pull in to the driveway of a large home.

BOBBY
You sure this is okay?

DAVID
They're going to love you. Let's
go.

INT. DAVID'S PARENTS' HOUSE - DAY

Margaret and Doug, David's parents, have lunch with Bobby and David. The parents are wealthy and WASPy, but very friendly and casual.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Dad, did you have to tell that
story?

DOUG
Hey, I felt I had to -- yes. And
I've got about a dozen more
where that came from, if you're
interested, Bobby.

BOBBY
Oh, no thanks.

DOUG
You sure?

MARGARET
So, Bobby, tell us more about
you. You grew up in Walnut
Creek, right? David says you're
very close to your family.

BOBBY
Yeah.

MARGARET

So how are your parents with you being gay?

BOBBY

Not good.

MARGARET

Well, maybe it's just hard for them at first. They'll come around. You seem like such a wonderful young man, I'm sure they love you.

DOUG

Hey, cheers to that.

DAVID

Cheers to that.

MARGARET

Cheers.

DAVID'S DAD

It's great to meet you, Bobby.

SLO-MO: Bobby watches David and his easy rapport with his family.

MARY (VO)

It's a sin, it's not natural.

DAVID'S MOM (VO)

They'll come around.

MARY (VO)

It'll ruin your life...it's a sin...

JOY (VO)

You'll never be welcome here.

MARY (VO)

Why do you keep choosing this?

EXT. ABANDONED BUILDING/FOREST/SENIOR CITIZEN'S HOME - DAY

MONTAGE: Bobby approaches the building, which morphs into a forest, then back again. Bobby is wrapped in barbed wire and sits in a wheelchair, pushing himself backwards. He writes in his journal.

BOBBY (VO)

Sometimes I hurt so bad. I'm scared and alone.

DAVID'S MOM (VO)

I'm sure they love you.

BOBBY (VO)

I'm damned.

BOBBY (cont'd; VO)

I'm slowly sinking in a vast...

BOBBY (cont'd; VO)

...lake of quicksand, a bottomless pool...

BOBBY (cont'd; VO)

I wish I could crawl under a rock and sleep forever...

INT. PORTLAND/SENIOR CITIZEN'S HOME - NIGHT

Bobby calls David from the wall-mounted payphone. He has a flash of himself wrapped in barbed wire.

DAVID (VO; on his

answering machine)

You've reached David. I'm not here right now, but if you leave a message after the beep I'll get right back to you. Have a good one.

BOBBY

Hi, David, it's Bobby. Thought you'd be there. Look, I - I - I really need someone to talk to and I was hoping you'd be there.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/MARY AND BOB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary prays for Bobby.

MARY

And please, dear Lord, continue to convict Bobby's heart of sin.

EXT. PORTLAND STREET - NIGHT

Bobby drives through the streets. He sees David exiting a bar with another man. Bobby starts crying.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/MARY AND BOB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

MARY (cont'd)

That he may find his way, the
way of purity, the way of the
righteous.

INT. PORTLAND/SENIOR CITIZEN'S HOME - NIGHT

Bobby locks up an office, then leaves the key on a table.

EXT. PORTLAND/OVERPASS - NIGHT

Bobby drives up and parks. MONTAGE: Bobby in his high school and in the forest. On the overpass, Bobby looks down at the traffic. Montage: Bobby kissing David and Bobby, Bob and Mary in the psychiatrist's office. On the overpass, Bobby keeps walking. Montage: Mary talking to Bobby.

MARY (cont'd; VO)

It's a sin. It's not natural.

MONTAGE: the hallway/ladder leading to Bobby's attic room in Walnut Creek. Mary praying over Bobby. David feeling Bobby's chest.

On the overpass, Bobby walks.

Montage: Bobby's Teen Christian class, a note left by his mother that he pulls off the bathroom mirror.

On the overpass, Bobby climbs up on the railing.

MONTAGE: the family during Bobby's birthday party and Bobby and Mary enjoying popcorn and a movie on the couch. Bobby giving Ed his pants out front their home.

On the overpass, Bobby stands on the railing.

MONTAGE: Bobby hugging David and entering the dance with Sheila. Bobby making out with Michelle. Bobby at the dance, thinking. Michelle gossiping with her friends at the dance. The psychiatrist, making notes.

On the overpass, Bobby cries. He puts his arms out and looks up.

MONTAGE: David kissing Bobby; Bobby walking in the forest; pills dropping on the floor; Bobby attacking Ed and Bob pulling him off; the family waving good bye to him as he leaves on the bus; a pole dancer and dancers in the Portland gay bar; Bobby kissing a stranger; Mary hugging Bobby during his birthday party..

The VOICES in the Montage CONVERGE.

MONTAGE continues: the priest from teen bible class; Ed; Bobby and Mary, smiling; Bobby and a man kissing; Bobby and Bob hugging; Ed and Bobby walking and talking; a pole dancer and Jeanette dancing in the Portland gay bar; Mary lecturing him; Bob opening the family home door; a pole dancer; his family saying good bye at the bus station; the Walnut Creek gay bar; Bobby picking up his Mom from her night out; hugging Bob.

On the overpass, Bobby cries.

MONTAGE continues: David and Bobby; Bob; Mary; Bobby in a bar; Bobby hugging Nancy; Mary and Bobby; Ophelia; Mary; dancing in the Portland gay bar; Teen bible class; his friends waiting for him on the couch; pills dropping on the floor; Mary and her reminder notes; a pole dancer in a gay bar; Mary; Mary and Bobby at the psychiatrist's; the ladder to Bobby's attic room at home; Mary praying over Bobby; Bobby in a gay bar; Teen bible class; Bobby and David hugging; David kissing Bobby; Bobby in the forest; pills on the floor; Bobby and Ed fighting and Bob breaking it up; the family waving good bye at the bus station; a pole dancer in a gay bar; Bobby kissing a man; Bobby and Mary at Bobby's birthday party; David touching Bobby; Mary touching Bobby; Ed smiling; Mary and Bobby, smiling; Bobby kissing a man; a male dancer; Mary praying; a pole dancer; Mary with notes; a pole dancer; Mary; David touching Bobby's face; dancing in the gay club.

INT. GRIFFITH HOME/KITCHEN

Mary talks to Bobby.

MARY (cont'd)
I won't have a gay son!

EXT. PORTLAND/OVERPASS - NIGHT

Bobby falls backward off the overpass.

EXT. GRIFFITH HOME - DAY

The phone rings OC.

JEN (OC)
You're going...

INT. GRIFFITH HOME - CONTINUOUS

JEN (cont'd)
... to be late for school.

NANCY
You're the one who slept in.

JEN

Okay, well then we're both going to be late for school. Meet you in the car.

NANCY

Okay.

JEN (into phone)

Hello? Jeanette, what's wrong?
No.

NANCY

What's wrong?

JEN (into phone)

No.

NANCY

What's wrong?

JEN

Nancy get out of here!

EXT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Through the window, Jen's hand holds the phone receiver out.

JEN (cont'd)

Dad! Daddy!

BOB

What?

Bob takes the phone.

BOB (cont'd; into

phone)

Hello? Hi, Hi Jeanette.

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

Mary is doing paperwork when MARGE, her co-worker, enters.

MARGE

Mary, you're being called out front and they said to bring your purse.

MARY

Probably one of the kids needs money again.

MARGE

Can't get a day off.

FEMALE WORKER

Kids will be kids.

MARY

I need a break anyway.

MARGE

Bye.

Mary walks down the aisle, pulling out her wallet. She spies Bob at the doorway and approaches him.

MARY

What is it?

BOB

Ah, Bobby killed himself.

MARY

What?

BOB

He jumped off a bridge. He's...
he's gone.

MARY shakes the gate between her and Bob, trying to get out.

MARY

Help me!

MARY buzzes a buzzer for help.

MARY (cont'd)

Help me! My goodness, let me
out! Let me out! My son is dead,
let me out!

BOB and MARY hold hands through the gate and cry together.

INT. ATHLETIC DEPT. HALLWAY - DAY

Ed, in full football gear, is on the phone.

ED (INTO PHONE)

Look, Joy slow down, what --
what's wrong?

Ed drops the phone and walks slowly down the hall, exiting.

EXT. COLLEGE FOOTBALL PRACTICE FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Ed bursts on to the field, screaming.

ED (cont'd)

Ahhh!

He slams his helmet on to the ground.

ED (cont'd)

Ahhhh! Ahhhh!

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/ MARY AND BOB'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mary and Bob get dressed for the funeral service. Mary helps Bob tie his tie.

BOB

Thanks, honey.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

To establish. Mary and Bob walk toward the church in the pouring rain.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Bobby's funeral is crowded. Jeanette and David are there.

REV. OWENS

Death of a loved one is always tragic, but the death of a young person can be particularly painful because that person had his whole life ahead of him. Bobby was only 20 years old. We'll never know who he could have been, or what he could have accomplished. And Bobby was a good young man, but he was lost. By giving into temptation, he strayed. Then, disillusioned, he chose to end his life. Now, we know to condemn the sin, not the sinner. It was this sin that Bobby succumbed to. It led to his unhappiness and it led him to take his own life. As goodness begets goodness, so does sin beget sin.

DAVID

They're okay with this?

Jeanette hangs her head. MARY puts a rose on Bobby's casket, followed by Bob.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

Ophelia enters with a tray to join Mary, who is preparing food.

OPHELIA

You're running low on sandwiches.

MARY

Mom, do you think Bobby got salvation?

OPHELIA

I don't know.

MARY

Suicide is a sin. But maybe God knew that Bobby wasn't in his right mind. I mean if -- why would God allow Bobby to go to Hell if it was in his power to cure him?

OPHELIA

I don't know Mary. Pull yourself together. People are uncomfortable enough.

Ophelia exits with a tray of sandwiches.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - LATER

The family is saying good bye to mourners.

BOB

Thanks for coming over.

MALE MOURNER

I'm so sorry for your loss.

David approaches Mary.

DAVID

Mrs. Griffith, Mr. Griffith, I'm David. I was a friend of Bobby's. I wanted to offer my condolences.

David holds out his hand. Mary ignores it, then shakes it reluctantly.

DAVID (CONT'D)

He was an amazing young man.

MARY nods. David exits. Jeanette hugs him.

JEANETTE

I'm so sorry.

Mary exits.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Mary enters and angrily throws David's plate into the garbage, then washes her hands. Jeanette enters. She notices Mary scrubbing her hands.

JEANETTE

Aunt Mary, David is a good person. All of Bobby's friends were.

MARY

When Bobby was here it was under control. Then he moves to Portland and someone puts all these ideas into his head.

JEANETTE

It wasn't like that. David cared for Bobby.

MARY

We're his family. We knew how to help him. He wanted to change, to be closer to God.

JEANETTE

To be closer to you.

MARY

Then he just got further and further into that lifestyle and then he couldn't get out.

JEANETTE

Do you believe everything they tell you in church? I know you and uncle Bob meant well, but that sermon...

MARY

Bobby knew the repercussions of a homosexual lifestyle.

JEANETTE

Bobby was good and decent and kind. Someone who didn't even know Bobby stood up there and condemned him and you let him. Bobby did everything he could to make himself acceptable to you. He was so good and bright and, and funny. He should be praised. I'm sorry you can't see it that way.

MARY

Maybe you should go.

JEANETTE

Fine. I left Bobby's things in his room.

Jeannette exits. Mary cries, then stifles it. She stops scrubbing her hands, which are shaking and red.

EXT. FRONT YARD - LATER

BOB sits in the swing. A brief moment of fast forward.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/KITCHEN - DREAM SEQUENCE

Mary is in the kitchen making a sandwich. She turns and sees Bobby there.

MARY

Bobby!

BOBBY'S GHOST

Hey, Mom.

MARY

Don't you ever do that again!

Mary hugs Bobby.

MARY (cont'd)

I-I knew it wasn't true. I knew God would bring you back to me.

BOBBY

Mom, you worry too much.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/BOB and MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary wakes up with a start.

MARY

Oh.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/BOBBY'S ATTIC ROOM - NIGHT

Mary enters in her night gown and robe. She goes through Bobby's things and finds his journal.

MONTAGE: scenes of Mary at work, standing still as people hurry past her, and in Bobby's room, reading his journal.

BOBBY (VO)

I'm slowing sinking in a vast lake of quicksand, a bottomless pool. I wish I could crawl under a rock and sleep forever. No one understands me. No one in this house can accept my side of the story. I can feel God's eyes looking down on me with pity. I can't ever let anyone find out I'm not straight. It would be so humiliating. My friends would hate me and my family?

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/BOBBY'S ATTIC ROOM - NIGHT

Joy appears with a sandwich for Mary, who is wrapped up in reading Bobby's journal.

JOY

Mom

BOBBY (VO)

I've overheard them.

MARY

Oh, thank you.

BOBBY (VO)

They've said that they hate gays and even God hates gays.

Joy exits. Mary puts the sandwich aside.

BOBBY (cont'd; VO)

It really scares me when they talk that way...

MONTAGE: Mary at her kitchen table; Mary at work, crying uncontrollably in the bathroom stall; Mary at the backyard table, staring ahead.

BOBBY (cont'd; VO)
Because now they are talking about me. I don't want to choose sin, I don't. I'm so mad and frustrated, God, I seem to be at the end of the rope. Why do you remain silent. May 30th: Memorial Day BBQ. Had fun. Mom was her sweet and funny self -- like the old Mom. For a second it felt like the old days. She smiled at something I said and I saw in her eyes that for a second she forgot what she really thinks of me. The anger never erupts. That timid nature would never allow a full-fledged thunderstorm to occur, but it's there on the horizon. I can feel God's eyes looking down on me with such pity. He can't help me, though, 'cause I have chosen sin over righteousness.

MONTAGE: rain falling on a red wagon in the backyard; Mary staring off into space.

LYRICS

*Things will get better,
Just give it time,
Give it time.
it ain't easy.*

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Reverend Owen and another young minister sit with Bob, Mary, Joy, Ed and Nancy. There is an awkward silence. Joy cries. Ed stands up.

ED

Excuse me.

Ed starts to leave.

REV. OWENS

You all right, Ed?

ED

Yeah, I'm fantastic. I think we all are; isn't that obvious.

MARY

Ed, we have to deal with this as a family.

ED

That was your answer for Bobby, too, but it didn't work. Damn it!

Ed exits. Mary gets up, but Bob stops her.

BOB

I'll go, I'll go. Excuse me.

Bob exits.

JOY

Come on, Nancy.

Joy leads Nancy out by her hand and they exit.

EXT. GRIFFITHS HOUSE/BACKYARD - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Ed enters and knocks over a chair in frustration. Bob enters. Ed is crying.

BOB

Hey, want to get out of here, maybe go for a beer?

ED

No. Did he even think about what it would do to us? I mean, he could have called, something, but... Not just screw us, right?

BOB

Ed...

ED

Nothing, no goodbye, no note, nothing. Just... I'm sorry, Bobby. I'm sorry. Are you happy now? I'm sorry, Bobby! Are you happy now?

BOB

Ed, it's not your fault.

Ed and Bob put their arms around each other.

MARY (VO)

There must be...

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mary talks to the reverends.

MARY (cont'd)

...other Bobbys out there, other young gay people who may be thinking of taking their lives. Does the church reach out to them?

REV. OWENS

There are other churches that do that.

REV. #2

Rev. Joseph asked us to tell you how sorry he is for your loss. We could come back in a couple of weeks and check in on your family.

MARY

You don't understand. I... I don't know what to do. I need to make peace with this and I can't. The Lord says the impure will be thrown into the lake of fire. Bobby sinned but he was pure of heart. He'd never knowingly hurt anyone. Is that enough? Is it?

The Reverends don't answer.

INT. GRIFFITHS HOUSE/GARAGE - NIGHT

Mary writes in a journal.

MARY (VO)

Dear God, my relationship to you leaves something to be desired. I have never asked of you, only given as I was told. Your Holy Spirit has taught me so much...

INT. GRIFFITHS HOUSE/MARY AND BOB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary reads *Now That You Know*.

MARY (VO; cont'd)

... but now there's more I need to know.

Bob kisses her. Mary glares at him.

BOB

Hey.

Bob grabs the book from her and kisses her again.

MARY

I can't.

Mary picks up her book again.

BOB

I think I'll sleep in the living
room.

Bob exits. Mary turns a page in the book and a bookmark falls out.
It's for the Metropolitan Community Church.

INT. METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (MCC) - DAY

Mary enters as services are ending. She approaches Reverend Whitsell.
He is in his 40s, affable-looking and easy to talk to but clearly has
a backbone and a firm conviction in his beliefs.

MARY

Reverend? Mary Griffith.

REV. WHITSELL

Nice to have you with us, Mary.

MARY

The Bible, it says that
homosexuality is a sin
punishable by death. Do you
believe that?

REV. WHITSELL

There are other interpretations
of the bible, Mrs. Griffith.

MARY

My son was gay and he killed
himself. Is there another
interpretation of that?

REV. WHITSELL

I'm sorry. What was his name?

MARY

Bobby. Bobby Griffith.

Mary hands him a picture of Bobby.

REV. WHITSELL

I saw him here a couple of times.

MARY

My Bobby?

REV. WHITSELL

He always sat way in the back, then he stopped coming. I am so sorry. You must be...

MARY

I need answers. I need to know where he is. Is homosexuality an unforgiveable sin? Leviticus 18:22 says if a man lies with another man it is an abomination.

REV. WHITSELL

An abomination in that time didn't mean sin. It meant unclean. Leviticus also goes on to say eating shellfish is an abomination, or mixing fabrics.

MARY

Leviticus 20:13: if a man lies with another man, they both shall be put to death.

REV. WHITSELL

And then he says the same thing about an adulterer, or a child that disobeys their parents. And we certainly don't interpret that scripture literally. Oh, In Deuteronomy 22, if a woman is not a virgin on her wedding day, she shall be taken to her father's house and stoned to death.

MARY

So what do you tell people who come here? Gay people. That homosexuality is okay? That it is permissible in God's eyes.

REV. WHITSELL

I tell them what I believe to be the truth: that God loves them as they are.

MARY

God's vengeance is great.

REV. WHITSELL

So is His compassion.

MARY

You shouldn't teach them that homosexuality is okay. That's not what the Bible says. It just confuses them more.

REV. WHITSELL

Mrs. Griffith if you would like to come back during the week and talk, my door is open. But not to be blamed, okay?

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/DINING ROOM - DAY

Mary is putting Christmas placemats on the table. She stops and removes one of them.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - LATER

Nancy puts on a Christmas Carol as the family decorates the Christmas tree.

BOB

Well, I think we got a pretty good one, nice and full... a couple of bald spots, kinda like your dear old Dad.

NANCY

Or grandma.

JOY

Yeah.

NANCY

Mom can we hang this one on the tree?

Nancy shows Mary a decoration that Bobby made.

MARY

We should. I remember when he made this; second grade... Mrs. Thom's class, I think. He was so proud of himself. Where do you want to put it?

NANCY

Um, up high so he can look out.

LYRICS

Round yon virgin...

Ed looks sad. Bob plugs in the tree lights.

BOB

Hey, they work.

LYRICS

Mother and child,

JOY

I'm going to go check on the cookies.

LYRICS

*Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in Heavenly peace.*

MARY continues decorating the tree and stares at Bobby's ornament.

INT. GRIFFITHS HOUSE/GARAGE - NIGHT

Mary is up late, reading the bible.

LYRICS

Sleep in Heavenly peace.

MARY (OC)

I found the passage you talked...

INT. MCC CHURCH BASEMENT - DAY

Mary talks with Reverend Whitsell while he gets ready for a rummage sale.

MARY (cont'd)

... about, about stoning to death: Deuteronomy 22. But what about Sodom and Gomorrah? God punished the sin of homosexuality. How do you explain that?

REV. WHITSELL

It's nice to see you, too, Mary.

MARY

What's this for?

REV. WHITSELL

It's a rummage sale. Oh, gay people have rummage, too.

MARY

So, what about Sodom and Gomorrah?

REV. WHITSELL

Many scholars think the sin was greed and not homosexuality. And it wasn't labeled homosexuality until years after it was written.

MARY

Do you have answers for all these things just to justify being that way?

REV. WHITSELL

You have answers to justify that it's wrong. I guess we're at an impasse here.

MARY

So you think it's okay to interpret the bible any way you want?

REV. WHITSELL

No, of course not. But the bible was written and interpreted by mortal men and many of those interpretations were reflections of the time in which they lived.

MARY

So you feel completely free to question it? Because I think it's blasphemous.

REV. WHITSELL

I don't think God minds questions. He might not be thrilled with all of our answers. I think blind faith is just as dangerous as none at all.

MARY

Well, I've never questioned my faith. I -- I've never had reason to.

REV. WHITSELL

Sometimes to question it helps you find a deeper faith.

MARY

Bobby stopped coming here. I think the reason was he could never allow himself to feel worthy of God's love. And we didn't help.

REV. WHITSELL

Mary, have you ever heard about PFLAG? It's a national organization. It's Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

MARY

Oh, Reverend, that's not for me.

REV. WHITSELL

It could help. You'd be able to see you're not so alone in this.

MARY

'Bye, Reverend.

REV. WHITSELL

No, now there is a woman in Concord, Betty Lambert, you'd... You'll love her. She has a gay son in his thirties.

MARY

I just had a few questions. I don't need anything else.

REV. WHITSELL

Just in case.

He gives her a sheet with a phone number on it.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Bob attempts to watch TV as Mary chats with him while polishing the furniture.

TV ANNOUNCER (VO)

Bill's famous pocket fisherman,
over two million...

MARY

It's true, there's a passage
that says if children are
disobedient they should be put
to death. And I mean no one
interprets that literally.

BOB

Mm hm.

MARY

What I'm saying is if the church
no longer interprets that
literally, maybe homosexuality
is also on that list?

BOB

Well, maybe.

MARY

Well, don't you think that's
important?

BOB

Mary, I wasn't all that keen on
the first interpretation of the
bible.

MARY

Well, it could mean that Bobby's
in Heaven.

BOB

Yeah, well he -- he's not here,
right. Why isn't that enough for
you?

MARY

Is it enough for you?

BOB

Does it make it any better,
everything you're doing?

MARY

Well, what do you want me to do?
Just forget about him? I can't
do that. Maybe you can.

BOB

I don't want to forget about
him, Mary. I want to remember
him and then I want to move on
but I can't. Nobody can.

MARY

Just walk away, you know, like
you always do. You never deal
with anything.

BOB

Oh, I see, maybe -- maybe if I
did Bobby would still be alive
to day? Is that what you're
saying Mary? Is that what you
think? Are you going to answer
me?

Bob slams the wall, then walks away, re-entering quickly.

BOB (cont'd)

Listen Mary, we both made
mistakes, we all made mistakes,
but it's done. He's gone. We're
not going to bring him back!

Bob exits, Mary following.

MARY

I know that! Don't you know I
know that?

The door slams OC. Mary cries.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/MARY AND BOB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary sits on the bed, staring into space.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/FOYER - DAY

The doorbell rings. Mary answers the door to find Betty Lambert. She is a short, chubby woman in her 50s, very likeable and easy going; the kind of person who makes people feel comfortable immediately.

BETTY

Mary? I'm Betty.

MARY

Hello.

BETTY

Betty Lambert, I'm so glad you called.

MARY

Please come in.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/DINING ROOM - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Mary serves tea.

BETTY

Reverend Whitsell told me what happened to Bobby. I can't imagine what it must feel like to lose a child like that. How long has it been?

MARY

Um, six months. Six months and a few days.

BETTY

Our son was 14 when he came out to us.

MARY

Isn't that a little young?

BETTY

Oh, ah... I knew before then. We mothers, we always know, don't we?

MARY

And you were okay with it?

BETTY

Oh God, no. I don't think any parent hears the news and thinks, "oh, goody!"

MARY

Goody wasn't the first word that came to my mind.

BETTY

Mary, why don't you come to a PFLAG meeting with me?

MARY

No, I'm -- I'm not good at talking in groups.

BETTY

So don't talk. You know, just - just come and listen. I think you'll be shocked at how many people think they were the all-American family.

MARY

I'll think about it.

INT. CHURCH ROOM -DAY

Mary enters a full PFLAG meeting.

JACKIE

Eric was taunted at school all the time. Then he got beat up.

Betty spies Mary and goes to her.

BETTY

Mary, you came.

MARY

I can't stay long.

BETTY

That's all right. Come on in.

JACKIE is speaking. She is in her mid-50s and has a formidable presence.

JACKIE

I was so furious. I went to the principal, but he didn't do a thing to the boys who did it. I was shocked by that.

TRUCKER

I called 'em fruits and fairies. I didn't know. It took me a long time to accept my Sam. I think I always knew. I mean, he asked for a pink Lacoste shirt for his birthday. He was always different. So he tells me he's gay and what do I do? I take him hunting. There he is in his pink LaCoste shirt -- he saw a deer and he yelled "Run, Bambi run!" I always knew I could love my son. Never thought I could accept him for who he is.

CELESTE

Well, when Jill told me she was gay I insisted she see a psychiatrist. But when that man suggested shock therapy, I looked at my baby and -- and the hurt in her eyes. I thought "this is crazy."

Reverend Whitsell enters.

JACKIE

Oh, hello, Reverend. Please, come sit down.

REV. WHITSELL

Hi, guys.

EVERYONE

Hi, Reverend.

REV. WHITSELL

Nice to see all of you here tonight.

JACKIE

As you may know, Reverend Whitsell is pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church and he's proposing a Gay Freedom Day to the Walnut Creek City Council.

REV. WHITSELL

The city council vote happens in about a month and I would love all your support.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - LATER

Mary enters to find Bob asleep on the couch. She wakens him and they hug and kiss.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/BOB AND MARGARET'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Thunder awakens Mary.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/BOBBY'S FORMER ATTIC ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Mary enters. She tears off all the notes that she left for him around the room and rips them up while crying.

EXT. MCC CHURCH - RECTORY -- NIGHT

Mary is standing in the rain as Rev. Whitsell heads toward the door and notices her.

REV. WHITSELL

Mary? Mary, what are you doing out here? You're soaked. Come inside.

MARY

I didn't know where else to go.

INT. MCC CHURCH - A LITTLE LATER

Mary and Rev. Whitsell talk.

MARY (cont'd)

I was sitting there listening to all their stories about how they always just knew their kid was different. And then I had this dream tonight. Bobby was a baby. My son was always different. His difference began at conception. I knew then. I felt it. I know now why God didn't heal Bobby. He didn't heal him because there was nothing wrong with him. I did this. I killed my son!

Mary breaks down in tears.

REV. WHITSELL

You did not kill your son. Bobby killed himself.

MARY

How can God forgive me? How can Bobby forgive me?

REV. WHITSELL

God has already done the forgiving. You have to forgive yourself.

MARY

Oh, I'm so sorry! I'm so sorry!

Reverend Whitsell hugs her while she cries.

EXT. CEMETERY - MORNING

Mary visits Bobby's grave.

MARY (VO)

Dear God, give us something we can live with and pass on to others whose lives will never be the same because of a loved one's death.

EXT. TOWN HALL - DAY

The sidewalk is packed with protestors carrying anti-Gay placards and shouting. Mary is there with Betty.

MARY (VO; cont'd)

I did not decide on brown eyes for myself and I now realize that Bobby did not decide to be gay.

MARY (cont'd)

What does a heart attack feel like?

MARY (VO; cont'd)

If you say in your word that it is evil and wicked to be born with no arms, and a child is born with no arms, what is that child to think?

Mary, Betty and Jackie hold hands and walk past the protestors to enter town hall.

REPORTER
The PFLAG organization...

Mary passes two women staring at her and talking about her.

WOMAN
I hope she's happy...

INT. TOWN HALL - DAY

Town council is in session. The place is packed.

COUNCIL MEMBER
Our first order of business is a
proposal...

INT. GRIFFITH LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The Griffith family watches the town council meeting on television.

COUNCIL MEMBER (ON TV;
CONT'D)
... for a Gay Freedom Day in
Walnut Creek.

NANCY
Where's Mom?

Ed enters.

COUNCIL MEMBER (ON TV)
Attention please. We have a
select group to debate the
issue.

GRANDMA
I don't see her.

COUNCIL MEMBER (ON TV)
First up is Rev. Whitsell.

REV. WHITSELL (ON TV)
For one day, for one day people
can celebrate their difference
rather than feel shame.

MALE CROWD MEMBER (VO)
They should be ashamed.

People cheer the comment.

FEMALE CROWD MEMBER

(ON TV)

There are so many other people who need our time and our attention. Why are we wasting it on this?

COUNCIL MEMBER (ON TV)

All right, all right, let's have some order here please.

REV. HASSLER (ON TV)

They spit in the face of decency and morality. We cannot allow the fabric of our society to be torn apart. Right?

INT. TOWN HALL - CONTINUOUS

The Reverend sits down. Mary overhears a minister behind her.

CROWD MEMBERS (VO)

Yeah! Yes!

MINISTER

I tried to run for the Human Relations Commission. They picked that limp-wristed Whitsell instead. I sent him a letter. I said we sing hymns at our church; what do you do with the hymns at your church?

MALE CROWD MEMBER

Hm.

COUNCIL MEMBER

So unless anyone else has anything else to add we'll adjourn to make our decision.

Mary rises and walks toward the microphone. Reverend Whitsell stands up.

REV. WHITSELL

Mary?

INT. GRIFFITH LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ED

Hey, Dad! Dad, get in here.

NANCY

Dad hurry up. Mom's on TV.

MARY (OC; on TV)

Homosexuality is a sin.

Ed enters the living room, looking amazed.

MALE CROWD MEMBER (OC;

ON TV)

Right on!

INT. TOWN HALL - CONTINUOUS

Mary continues speaking.

MARY

Homosexuals are doomed to spend eternity in Hell.

CROWD MEMBERS

Yeah. Right.

MARY

If they wanted to change, they could be healed of their evil ways.

INT. GRIFFITH LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

MARY (OC; cont'd)

If they would turn away from...

INT. TOWN HALL - CONTINUOUS

MARY (cont'd)

... temptation, they could be normal again. If only they would try, and try harder if it doesn't work.

INT. GRIFFITH LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nancy and the rest of the family watches, mesmerized.

MARY (cont'd; VO)

These are all the things I said to my son Bobby when I found out he was gay. When he told me he was homosexual...

INT. TOWN HALL - CONTINUOUS

MARY (cont'd)

... my world fell apart. I did everything I could to cure him of his sickness. Eight months ago my son jumped off a bridge and killed himself.

INT. GRIFFITH HOME - CONTINUOUS

Ophelia closes her eyes.

INT. TOWN HALL - CONTINUOUS

MARY (cont'd; VO)

I deeply regret my lack of knowledge about gay and lesbian people. I see that everything I was taught...

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

MARY (VO; cont'd)

...and told was bigotry and dehumanizing slander. If I had investigated beyond what I was told...

INT. TOWN HALL - CONTINUOUS

MARY (cont'd)

...if I had just listened to my son when he poured his heart out to me, I would not be standing here today with you, filled with regret. I believe that God was pleased with Bobby's kind and loving spirit. In God's eyes, kindness and love are what it's all about.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Bob moves toward the TV and sits down.

MARY (VO; cont'd)

I didn't know that each time I echoed eternal damnation for...

INT. TOWN HALL - CONTINUOUS

MARY (cont'd)
...gay people, each time I
referred to Bobby and sick and
perverted and danger to our
children, his self-esteem, his
sense of worth...

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Ed hangs his head.

MARY (VO; cont'd)
...were being destroyed.

INT. TOWN HALL - CONTINUOUS

MARY (cont'd)
And finally his spirit broke
beyond repair. It was not God's
will that Bobby climbed over the
side...

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

MARY (VO; cont'd)
...of a freeway overpass and
jumped directly into the path of
an 18-wheel truck, which killed
him instantly.

INT. TOWN HALL - CONTINUOUS

MARY (cont'd)
Bobby's death was the direct
result of his parents'
ignorance...

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Bob watches, contemplating.

MARY (VO; cont'd)
...and fear of the word gay.

INT. TOWN HALL - CONTINUOUS

MARY (cont'd)

He wanted to be a writer. His hopes and dreams should not have been taken from him, but they were. There are children like Bobby sitting in your congregations. Unknown to you, they will be listening as you echo "Amen" and that will soon silence their prayers. Their prayers to God for understanding and acceptance and for your love. But your hatred and fear and ignorance of the word gay will silence those prayers. So before you echo "Amen" in your home and place of worship, think. Think and remember: a child is listening.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

ED

Go, Mom!

INT. TOWN HALL - CONTINUOUS

Applause erupts. Jackie and Betty stand and applaud, tears in their eyes. Rev. Whitsell mouths "beautiful" to Mary.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Bob puts his hand on Ed's shoulder.

BOB

She did good.

EXT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - DAY

Mary pulls up and gets out.

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

The kids greet Mary with hugs and enthusiasm.

MARY (VO)

He lost. They voted the ordinance down.

BOB (VO)

We'll try again next year,
right? So we're really going to
San Francisco, huh?

INT. GRIFFITH HOUSE/BOB AND MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bob and Mary sit on the bed, chatting.

MARY

I think we have to. I don't
think it's a choice. Well,
that's ironic.

Bob smiles.

BOB

Okay.

Mary packs for her trip, including a picture of Bobby.

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - DAY

To establish.

EXT. CASTRO STREET - DAY

Mary and her family run toward Jackie and Betty and other PFLAG
members wearing PFLAG t-shirts and pins with Bobby's picture on them.

MARY (cont'd)

Are we late?

JACKIE

Just in time.

MARY

Oh, Jackie, is this everyone?

JACKIE

Oh honey, no. Come with me. We
have a special place for you.

MARY

Okay.

JACKIE leads MARY and her family around a corner and into the midst
of a massive parade and a street filled with bystanders.

MONTAGE of a packed 1984 PFLAG parade. Floats go by; police line the
route; Mary, her family, Jackie and Betty hold a banner that reads
"PFLAG: Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays" as they
march the parade route.

MARY (VO)

To all the Bobbys and Janes out there, I say these words to you as I would my own precious children; please don't give up hope on life, or yourselves. You're very special to me and I'm working very hard to make this life a better and safer place for you to live in. Promise me you'll keep trying. Bobby gave up on love. I hope you won't. You are always in my thoughts.

Mary spies a young man in the crowd who resembles Bobby, then becomes Bobby for her.

BOBBY (VO)

My name is Bobby Griffith. I write this in hopes that one day, many years from now, I will be able to go back and remember what my life was like when I was a young and confused adolescent desperately trying to understand myself and the world I live in. Another reason I write this is so long after I die others may have a chance to read about me and see what my life as a young person was like.

Mary approaches him and hugs him, then continues marching.

Montage of parade scenes continues.

LYRICS

*This is a crazy world,
these can be lonely days.
It's hard to know who's on your
side most of the time.
Who can you really trust?
Who do you really know?*

ONSCREEN TEXT:

On December sixth, 1995, Mary Griffith testified before members of the Congress of the United States. Her tireless work protecting the rights of gay and lesbian youth has established her as a major force in the fight for human rights.

LYRICS

*Is there anybody out there who
can make you feel less alone.*

ONSCREEN TEXT:

"Before you echo Amen in your home or place of worship, think and remember: A child is listening." Mary Griffith

LYRICS

*Sometimes you just can't make it
on your own. If you need a place
where you can run...*

ONSCREEN TEXT:

In loving memory of Bobby Griffith and Leroy Aarons.

LYRICS

*If you need a shoulder to cry
on,
Well, I'll always be your
friend.*

TAIL CREDITS