

House of Dreams

Redux

Part 5

Areg5

Preview





IT'S PRETTY  
QUIET OUT THERE.

A scene from a video game showing two women sitting on a light-colored sofa in a dimly lit room. The woman on the left has short brown hair and is wearing a black sleeveless top and grey jeans. She is holding a glass of red wine. The woman on the right has dark hair and is wearing a floral patterned top and green pants. She is also holding a glass of red wine. They are engaged in a conversation, with speech bubbles indicating their dialogue. In the background, a staircase and a potted plant are visible.

THAT CAN'T  
BE GOOD.

THEY MAY JUST BE  
A BUNCH OF VERY  
WELL BEHAVED  
KIDS.

YEAH,  
RIGHT.

I WAS  
GIVING THEM  
BENEFIT OF THE  
DOUBT! WE STOPPED  
THOSE TWO CLOWNS  
WITH THE KEG AT  
THE DOOR.

AND  
NOBODY  
LEFT.

GOOD POINT. WE  
SHOULD CHECK ON  
THEM.

WE DON'T  
NEED CHECKING  
ON!



HOW IS  
YOUR PARTY  
GOING?

UH... PRETTY  
GOOD...

DON'T BE  
SILLY, DEAR...  
...OF COURSE  
YOU DO.

THAT  
SOUNDS  
OMINOUS.

A 3D rendered scene depicting a social interaction. In the foreground, a woman with dark, curly hair is shown from the back, wearing a colorful, patterned halter crop top and a red wrap skirt. She has her hands on her hips. In the background, another woman with reddish hair, wearing an orange bikini, is partially visible behind a dark counter. The scene is set in a room with grey walls, a potted plant, and a light switch. Three comic-style speech bubbles are overlaid on the image, containing text that suggests a conversation about a party.

SHOW THEM HOW  
THE PARTY'S GOING,  
LAURIE.

COME  
ON... DON'T BE  
SHY.

I DON'T  
WANNA!


\*GULP\*...  
'K.



LAURIE HAD A BIT OF A  
WARDROBE MALFUNCTION. I WAS  
GOING TO HELP HER FIND A BETTER  
FITTING SWIMSUIT.

RIGHT,  
SIS?

UH  
HUH...



NOBODY WAS  
LAUGHING, LAURIE. THAT  
WAS A GASP.

THIS ONE GOT TOO BIG  
ON ME ALL OF A SUDDEN AND  
EVERYONE WAS LAUGHING AT  
ME.

OK THEY WERE  
GASPING AT ME AND I  
NEED ANOTHER  
SWIMSUIT.



OH, YOU POOR  
BABY, I'M SURE IT  
DID.

OH MY.

IT WAS  
REALLY  
EMBARRESSING.

ALL OF THE YOUNGER  
KIDS SAW IT HAPPEN. IT  
SHOOK HER UP.



DR. NANCY DID SAY SHE  
THOUGHT YOU WOULD GET A  
FEW YEARS YOUNGER.

IT WAS JUST  
BAD TIMING,  
HUH?

I'LL SAY. IT WAS  
THE WORST TIMING  
EVER!



LET'S FIND YOU SOMETHING TO  
WEAR, AND YOU CAN GO BACK TO  
THE PARTY IF YOU WANT TO.

IT WOULD BE UNDERSTANDABLE  
IF YOU JUST WANTED TO STAY  
INSIDE. I'M SURE THE OTHER KIDS  
WOULD UNDERSTAND.



UM... I GUESS I WANNA GO  
TO THE PARTY. I TOLD  
EVERYONE I WOULD AFTER I  
GOT CHANGED.

WELL, YOU CAN'T  
EXACTLY GO BACK ON  
YOUR WORD, CAN YOU?

LET'S SEE  
IF WE CAN FIND YOU  
A PROPER SWIMSUIT.  
OKAY?

NUH UH.

'K.



WE'LL BE  
BACK IN A FEW  
MINUTES.

WHILE YOU TWO DO  
THAT, I'LL SEE HOW IT'S  
GOING OUTSIDE.

YOU REALLY DON'T  
HAVE TO DO THAT, MRS.  
GIBSON.

I'LL TAKE THAT  
UNDER ADVISEMENT,  
DANA.



I'M GONNA  
HEAD OUTSIDE. I  
AM THE HOSTESS,  
AFTER ALL.

I'LL COME OUT TOO,  
NOT THAT I DON'T TRUST  
YOU KIDS...

...BUT I  
DON'T.

HELLO, DEAR. I WAS  
JUST GOING OUT TO CHECK  
ON THE PARTY.

IT'S GOING GREAT,  
MOM! IT'S A REALLY  
COOL PARTY!





I'M GLAD YOU'RE  
HAVING A GOOD TIME. IS  
EVERYONE BEHAVING  
THEMSELVES?

UH HUH. NOBODY  
BROKE ANYTHING, IF THAT'S  
WHAT YOU MEAN.

STALL HER, DAD-O! I HAVE TO GET  
OUT THERE AND MAKE SURE  
EVERYONE STASHES THEIR DRINKS!

STALL HER? HOW  
AM I SUPPOSED TO DO  
THAT?

HOW SHOULD I KNOW!  
THINK OF SOMETHING! I  
JUST NEED A FEW  
MINUTES.

I'LL TRY.




I WASN'T EXACTLY  
TALKING ABOUT THAT.  
WHY DID YOU COME  
BACK IN?

I NEED TO  
USE THE  
BATHROOM.

I WAS GONNA SHOW  
HER *WHERE IT IS*, MA'AM.  
IT'S RIGHT NEXT TO MY  
ROOM.

WANNA SEE  
IT? IT'S A REALLY  
COOL ROOM!



PERHAPS LATER,  
JON. FIRST, I NEED TO GO  
OUTSIDE BEFORE YOUR SISTER  
TELLS EVERYONE TO HIDE  
EVIDENCE.

EVIDENCE?  
WHAT EVIDENCE?

I DIDN'T  
SEE ANY EVIDENCE,  
MRS. GIBSON.

UH  
HUH.

MOM! YOU'LL NEVER  
GUESS WHAT HAPPENED TO  
THAT GIRL LAURIE!



LAURIE CAME IN  
TO FIND A NEW  
SWIMSUIT WITH HER  
AUNT.

I KNOW! SHE GOT TOO  
LITTLE FOR THE ONE SHE WAS  
WEARING!

SHE'S EVEN  
SHORTER THAN YOU ARE  
NOW!

ER... THANK  
YOU, RUTHIE.

I DIDN'T SEE  
ANYTHING, AND YOU'RE  
A LOT TALLER THAN WE  
ARE!



I KNOW, BUT HOW DID IT HAPPEN? SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S AS OLD AS I AM NOW AND SHE WAS OLDER BEFORE!

WELL, IF SHE GOT SHORTER, THEN I'M SURE IT ISN'T ANY OF OUR BUSINESS.

SHE MUST HAVE BEEN STANDING ON HER TOES AND YOU DIDN'T NOTICE.

THAT'S WHAT I THINK!



IT'S NOT WHAT I THINK, AND  
ALL OF THE KIDS SAW IT  
HAPPEN.

FORGET IT. WHERE'S  
THE BATHROOM?

UM...

I'LL SHOW YOU  
WHERE IT IS.



HE WAS BETTER AT  
STALLING WHEN HE WAS  
GROWN.

THEN I  
WANNA SEE *YOUR*  
ROOM.

YOU TOLD  
MY MOM IT WAS A  
REALLY COOL  
ROOM.

WHAT DO YOU  
WANT TO SEE *THAT*,  
FOR? IT'S JUST A  
ROOM.

I WAS  
JUST TALKING! BUT  
OK, I'LL SHOW IT  
TO YOU.



HOLD  
ON...


IT'S PROBABLY LIKE *YOUR*  
ROOM, ONLY NOT PINK. I'VE  
BEEN IN A *GIRL'S* ROOM  
BEFORE.

MY SISTER'S.

I WAS NEVER IN  
A *BOY'S* ROOM  
BEFORE!

OH YEAH?  
*WHOSE?*

*\*GIGGLE... THAT  
DOESN'T COUNT!*



I SPENT PLENTY OF TIME IN  
JON'S ROOM WHEN WE WERE IN  
SCHOOL, NOT THAT RUTHIE'S EVER  
GOING TO KNOW THAT.

THEY'RE CERTAINLY TOO  
YOUNG TO BE CONCERNED  
ABOUT IT...



UH OH...  
HOLDING HANDS,  
ARE THEY?

I'M BEING  
RIDICULOUS... BUT AN  
OUNCE OF  
PREVENTION...

I'D  
BETTER STICK  
AROUND FOR A  
MINUTE.

WHEN  
YOU'RE IN JON'S ROOM,  
THE DOOR STAYS OPEN,  
KIDS.

HUH?  
OK, MRS.  
GIBSON.

WHY DID SHE SAY  
THAT?

I DUNNO. MY  
MOM'S WEIRD.



IT'S RIGHT IN THERE.  
I'LL BE IN *MY* ROOM, NEXT  
DOOR.

OK. I WON'T  
BE LONG.



I THINK THAT  
ONE'S VERY PRETTY,  
HUH?

I THINK IT *SUCKS*  
LIKE ALL THE OTHER  
ONES.

LAURIE SOUNDS  
PISSED. I WOULD  
BE, TOO.

A woman with short brown hair, wearing a black sleeveless top, is adjusting a colorful, patterned dress on a smaller woman with long red hair. They are in a room with a mirror and a red patterned wall. The woman in the black top is speaking to the woman in the dress.

AT LEAST IT ISN'T  
FALLING OFF OF YOU.

UNTIL I SHRINK  
AGAIN, YOU  
MEAN!



I NEVER SAID THAT,  
AND I DON'T THINK YOU  
WILL.

I BETTER NOT! THIS IS SO  
UNFAIR! WHY DID THIS HAVE TO  
HAPPEN TO ME?!



WE'LL ASK DR. NANCY  
TOMORROW. I'M SURE  
SHE KNOWS.

*\*SNIFF\**... I'M SURE SHE  
DOESN'T! IT DOESN'T MATTER.  
SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO  
ANYTHING ABOUT IT.



OK. I HOPE THEY  
DON'T MAKE FUN OF  
ME... BUT WHAT ABOUT  
JIM?

IF HE SEES ME  
LIKE THIS...

THERE'S NOTHING  
WE CAN DO ABOUT IT  
TONIGHT. WHY NOT GO  
OUTSIDE WITH THE  
OTHERS?

WHAT ABOUT  
HIM?

I DON'T THINK YOU  
HAVE ANYTHING TO  
WORRY ABOUT AS FAR  
AS THAT GOES.



HOW  
COME?

WELL, HE'S HANGING OUT  
WITH THE OLDER KIDS. YOU  
STAY WITH THE YOUNGER  
ONES.

HE WON'T EVEN  
NOTICE YOU.

A FEW MINUTES AGO I  
WANTED HIM TO NOTICE ME.  
I SURE DON'T NOW.

STUPID JON!  
THIS IS ALL HIS  
FAULT!



YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE  
UPSET, BABY-DOLL... BUT JON  
DIDN'T KNOW *THIS* WOULD  
HAPPEN TO YOU...

NOBODY DID,  
NOT EVEN DR.  
NANCY.

IF YOU WANT TO  
BLAME SOMEONE, YOU  
MIGHT AS WELL BLAME  
ME.

I SHOULD  
NEVER HAVE TOLD HIM  
ABOUT THE STUDY, ESPECIALLY  
WHEN I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT  
WAS INVOLVED, OR THE  
RISKS.

BUT... BUT LOOK AT ME!  
I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO BE  
A CHILD! I BET I'M NO OLDER  
THAN HE IS!!



*GREAT! LUCKY ME! I'M  
SUPPOSED TO BE A GROWN-UP!  
HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE 10!  
PREPUBESCENT! HIM, NOT ME!*

*WHAT?! WHAT'S  
THAT SUPPOSED TO  
MEAN?!*

*MY GUESS IS THAT YOU  
MIGHT BE OLDER THAN JON  
BY A YEAR.*

JON!  
I...

I SIGNED UP FOR THE  
SIXTEEN YEAR OLD GROUP! I  
WAS SUPPOSED TO BE  
SIXTEEN, NOT TEN!

YOU  
TOLD ME YOU DIDN'T  
KNOW WHAT HAPPENED!  
BUT YOU DID, DIDN'T  
YOU?

IT'S... IT'S NOT  
LIKE THAT...






**YES IT IS! IT'S EXACTLY  
LIKE THAT! IT WASN'T A  
COMPLICATION, OR A  
MALFUNCTION, OR ANYTHING!**

**IT WAS YOU! IT HAD  
TO BE! YOU TOLD DR. NANCY  
TO PUT ME IN THE OTHER  
GROUP, DIDN'T YOU?**

**I'M TEN YEARS OLD  
BECAUSE OF YOU!! IT WAS  
YOUR PLAN ALL ALONG! ADMIT  
IT!**


**I...**

**YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND...**



WHAT'S *NOT* TO  
UNDERSTAND?! THAT YOU  
WENT *BEHIND MY BACK* AND  
TOLD DR. NANCY TO MAKE  
ME *TEN YEARS OLD?*

IF YOU DID  
THAT TO ME, THEN *YOU*  
GOT *EXACTLY* WHAT  
YOU DESERVE!



**YOU SIGNED UP FOR THIS,  
EVEN WHEN I TOLD YOU NOT TO!  
YOU SIGNED THAT PAPER SO THAT I  
MADE THE DECISIONS FOR YOU!**

**SO I MADE THE  
DECISION! YOU SHOULD HAVE  
JUST FOUND A JOB LIKE A  
NORMAL PERSON WOULD, BUT  
NO...**

**...YOU WANTED  
TO TAKE THE EASY WAY  
OUT!**



**EASY?! YOU  
CALL THIS EASY?!**

**WHAT'S THE  
DIFFERENCE?! IF I WAS  
SIXTEEN I WOULD GET TO  
HAVE BEER FROM THE  
KEG!**

**YOU SHUT  
UP!**

**YOU WANTED  
TO BE A CHILD! EVEN IF  
YOU WERE SIXTEEN LIKE  
YOU WANTED, YOU'D  
STILL BE A CHILD!**

**SO YOU'RE  
A LITTLE YOUNGER!  
WHAT'S THE  
DIFFERENCE?!**

**SHUT UP! THAT'S  
A SECRET AND YOU  
TATTLED!**

**ENOUGH!!**



IF THE TWO OF YOU ARE  
GOING TO ACT LIKE  
CHILDREN, THEN I'LL TREAT  
YOU LIKE CHILDREN!

\*GULP\*



SORRY.

I WANTED TO GIVE YOU BOTH THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT.

I WAS HOPING THAT INSIDE YOU STILL HAD SOME MEASURE OF MATURITY.

I CAN SEE THAT YOU DON'T. I AM VERY DISAPPOINTED IN YOU BOTH.



GO TO YOUR ROOM. YOU ARE BOTH ON TIME OUT. IF YOU CAN BEHAVE YOURSELVES AND STOP ACTING LIKE BABIES, THEN I'LL ALLOW YOU TO GO TO THE PARTY.

IF YOU CANNOT, THEN IT'S AN EARLY BEDTIME FOR TWO NAUGHTY CHILDREN.

HAVE I MADE MYSELF CLEAR?

YES, AUNT NADIA.




I KNOW IT'S HARD, BUT YOU ARE BOTH IN THE SAME BOAT AND HAVE TO GROW UP AGAIN.

THERE'S NOTHING ANYONE CAN DO ABOUT THAT.

TRY TO REMEMBER THAT YOU WERE NOT ONLY ADULTS, YOU WERE MARRIED.

YOU SHOULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF EACH OTHER, AND STOP TRYING TO BLAME EACH OTHER FOR WHAT HAPPENED.

YES, AUNT NADIA.



GO TO YOUR  
ROOM.. I BETTER NOT  
HEAR ANYMORE  
FIGHTING.

YES, AUNT NADIA.



DAMMIT. THOSE  
CLOWNS GOT THE KEG IN  
SOMEHOW.

I'M SORRY, JON. I  
SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE  
THAT.

YOU SHOULDN'T  
HAVE MENTIONED THE  
KEG.

MAYBE.

I'M SORRY IT  
HAPPENED TO  
YOU.

MAYBE  
SHE DIDN'T  
HEAR.

OLD PEOPLE HAVE  
BAD HEARING  
SOMETIMES.



WHERE ARE  
YA GOING?

I THINK  
RUTHIE'S STILL IN  
THERE.

I HAVE TO  
USE THE  
BATHROOM.

'K. I'LL SEE.



ARE YOU IN  
THERE, RUTHIE?  
IT'S LAURIE.

ARE YOU  
OK?

NO. DO YOU  
WANT ME TO GET  
HER?

Y... YES. UM...  
I'M STILL IN HERE.

I... UH...  
IS MY MOM  
AROUND?

UH HUH.



HI LAURIE. I  
WAS JUST ABOUT TO  
CHECK ON JON AND  
RUTHIE.



RUTHIE'S IN THE  
BATHROOM, AND SHE  
NEEDS YOU MRS.  
GIBSON.

IT'S MOM, RUTHIE.  
IS EVERYTHING  
ALRIGHT?

I... UM...  
I DON'T  
KNOW...

DO YOU FEEL  
SICK?

I HAVE...  
UM... CRAMPS. CAN  
YOU COME IN  
HERE?

OF  
COURSE.





WHAT'S  
WRONG WITH  
RUTHIE?

DID SHE SAY SHE  
HAD A *CRAMP*? LIKE IN  
HER *LEG*?

WHAT OTHER  
KIND IS THERE?

NOT REALLY...

I DON'T  
KNOW...

I DON'T THINK  
SHE'S TALKING ABOUT  
THOSE KIND OF  
CRAMPS.

Y'KNOW...  
CRAMPS. LIKE  
OLDER GIRLS GET.  
Y'KNOW?

# Purchase