

BEYOND HELP
with Handy Andy

by
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PILOT
"The Man Who Came to Help"

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COLD OPEN

EXT. THE CARTER HOUSE - DAY

ANDY (37) poses before a shabby suburban home. An African-American family, the Carters: VANNA (40s), SIMON (50s), KEVIN, (10) SANDRA (17), stand on the porch behind him. Everyone faces the camera, all smiles. Andy is exuberant.

ANDY

Hey everybody, it's me, Handy Andy
Cornwall!

(beat)

...This week I'm in Springfield,
Illinois, with *the Carter family!*

The family cheers, 'Yay!' Andy turns to address them.

ANDY (CONT'D)

No, you don't cheer *your* name. Just
cheer when you hear my name. You
missed your cue back there. Just wait
until I say my name and then do the
'Yay.' Okay?

The family nods. Andy turns back to the camera.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Okay, let's try it again.

(exuberant)

Hey, everybody, this is *Handy Andy*
Cornwall!

The family cheers 'Yay!'

ANDY (CONT'D)

And this week, I'll be helping *the*
Carter family!

(distracted)

...of Springfield...

He turns back to the family.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Okay, it *does* seem weird that you
would cheer my name and you don't
cheer your own names, so-- okay,
forget what I said before. That was a
bad note. Just, cheer both.

Okay? Let's take it from there.

(back to camera)

...And this week, I'm helping the
Carter family!

The family cheers 'Yay!'

ANDY (CONT'D)
Of Springfield, Illinois!

Awkward silence. Andy sighs and turns back to the family.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Okay, my bad. We didn't discuss that one. You can kinda tell by my inflection when I'm expecting a-- How 'bout this? Just cheer at the end of every sentence. Might be easier to remember. Let's try one like that.

The family nods. Andy turns to the kids.

ANDY (CONT'D)
How you guys doing? You feeling good?

The kids are about to cheer but Andy puts his hand up.

ANDY (CONT'D)
That's okay. Save it for the intro. You ready?
(to camera, exuberant)
Hey everybody, this is Handy Andy!

The family cheers, 'Yay!'

ANDY (CONT'D)
And today I'm helping the Carter Family!

'Yay!'

ANDY (CONT'D)
(somber)
A family on the verge of losing their home.

Beat.

'Yay!'

Andy signs and turns to the family, annoyed.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Okay--

MAIN TITLES
to "I Can Help" by Billy Swan

ACT ONE

INT. ANDY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sparse studio apartment. Bare walls. Moving boxes. There are a few framed PHOTOS on the window sill...

ANDY (V.O.)

For as long as I can remember, I've always enjoyed helping people.

*...A Young Andy saluting in his boy scout uniform...
...Young Andy and his father posing with a soapbox racer...
...Young Andy on Halloween dressed as Superman....*

ANDY (V.O.)

So when I was laid off from my corporate job of twelve years, I knew that now was the time to pursue that dream full time.

ANDY TALKING HEAD - MOMENTS LATER

ANDY

My dream is for people all over America to write to me with their problems, and I'll do whatever I can to help them.

(points at the camera)

And that's where you come in.

(beat)

No, I mean you. Miguel. You're gonna follow me with the camera when I visit the problem people. Got it?

(beat)

You understand?

(nodding)

Yes?

The camera NODS. 'Yes.'

ANDY (CONT'D)

Good.

(concerned)

Do you speak *any* English, by the way?

INT. CAR - DAY

Andy drives his beat-up Nissan, the camera in shotgun.

ANDY

But who should I help first? Friends? Nah, too easy. Neighbors? Screw that guy. No, I want to help strangers.

(MORE)

ANDY (CONT'D)

The meek. The poor. The unfortunate or the just plain ignorant. In other words, people just like you.

MIGUEL (O.S.)

Que?

ANDY

No, not you, Miguel.

(then)

Well, yeah, you too, come to think of it, but I've already helped you by giving you this camera job, so... Try not to talk, by the way, when I'm--

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

ANDY

I wanted to help weak, ignorant people like you. So I took out an ad in some local papers...

INSERT SHOT: A CLASSIFIED AD in the newspaper:

"SEEKING FAMILIES IN CRISIS FOR NEW REALITY TELEVISION SHOW"

Contact Handy Andy Productions at: 555-560-HELP"

ANDY (V.O.)

And the response has been overwhelming.

EXT. CARTER HOUSE - PORCH - LATER THAT DAY

Andy walks up to door in a shirt that reads "I CAN HELP!"

ANDY (V.O.)

My goal is to one day be able to help people all over the world. How do you do that? Simple. Through television. But how do you get a TV show? Simple. By making one. And then, hopefully, you can show it to a guy you know who works in the TV industry. But first you gotta make a show to show the guy. And that's why we're here...

Vanna opens the door. Andy enthusiastically announces she won! Thrilled, she throws her arms around him.

ANDY (V.O.)

Each week I'll help one lucky family. This week I chose the Carter family. Not only are they desperate for help, they live closest to my apartment.

Vanna jumps excitedly until she's struck in the head by a bag of confetti, thrown from behind the camera.

ANDY (V.O.)

People have called me a 'Jack of all trades, and a master of fun.'

Annoyed, Andy picks up the bag and demonstrates to Miguel how to open it, take out a handful and toss it above the winner.

ANDY (V.O.)

I'm going to help people the old fashioned way; by simply showing up. As part of a reality show.

EXT. CARTER HOME - PORCH - MOMENTS LATER

Vanna signs a contract. Andy proudly shows it to the camera.

INT. CARTER HOME - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Vanna leads Andy inside the lower middle class home.

ANDY

Yeah, I can see why you called me. God, this place is depressing.

VANNA

We're actually fine with this room...

ANDY

Really?

VANNA

It's mostly the exterior that needs attention. The township says they consider the home a "blighted area" and, under eminent domain, they can seize and destroy it.

ANDY

So if you don't get help fast, you could lose your home?

VANNA

Yes.

ANDY

Say it to the camera.

VANNA

(to the camera)

If we don't get help, we could lose our home.

ANDY

Terrific. That's great. And listen, if you need to cry--

VANNA

(laughs)
No, I'm fine.

ANDY

Are you sure?

VANNA

Yes.

ANDY

Well, don't hold back. If you feel it coming on, might be good for the...
(nods toward the camera)
A lot of times people cry on these things.

VANNA

Okay.

ANDY

Because this is where your kids grew up. It would be pretty sad to... you know... lose it all.

Vanna nods. Andy motions to a window facing the backyard.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Your boy probably played ball right over in that yard.

VANNA

Actually, he's playing ball out there now.

She points. The camera finds Kevin. He tosses a baseball in the air and swings at it with a bat. Andy nods.

ANDY

Yeah, but for how long?

VANNA

(sadly)
That's true.

ANDY

Right?
(to camera, whispering)
Zoom in.

The camera goes TIGHT on Vanna's face. It becomes uncomfortable.

VANNA
Would you like to meet him?

The camera PULLS OUT. Andy shrugs, clearly less interested.

ANDY
Yeah, sure. I guess.

VANNA
Kevin! Come in here now, please!

ANDY
Don't be upset if he doesn't make it into the final show. We can't use everything.

VANNA
I understand.

ANDY
It's all in the contract.

Kevin enters.

KEVIN
Yeah, Ma?

VANNA
I have someone I want you to meet. This is Andy.

ANDY
How you doing, sport?

KEVIN
Are you the man that's going to save our house?

Andy beams.

ANDY
(to the camera, quietly)
Did you get that?
(to Vanna)
Isn't he precious?
(to Kevin)
That's right, child. I am the man that's going to save your house.

Andy smiles proudly at the camera.

INT. CARTER HOME - BASEMENT - LATER

On the wall is a shrine to baseball great, Willie Mays. His jersey is behind glass along with various memorabilia.

ANDY

What have we here?

VANNA

This is my husband's contribution to the decorating. A little showcase of his hero, Willie Mays.

ANDY

Huh. So this is your 'Wow Factor?'

VANNA

Um, I guess. But this is his pride and joy so, maybe don't touch this area.

ANDY

No, it's the only thing I like so far. Is this stuff valuable?

VANNA

Not really. He used to have an autographed ball but it was stolen.

A door SLAM from upstairs.

VANNA (CONT'D)

That's probably him now. Don't mention any of that.

INT. CARTER HOME - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Simon, strong and dignified even in his delivery uniform, shakes hands with Andy.

SIMON

Good to meet you, Andy. We appreciate the help. I just took a second job, and Vanna's been working double shifts at the hospital so we haven't had a lot of time for home repair lately.

ANDY

That's what I'm here for.

SIMON

Good to hear. Shouldn't take you too long. It's mostly cosmetic stuff.

ANDY

(chuckles)

Well, I'll be the judge of that.

Simon bristles. Vanna quickly intercedes.

VANNA

You're probably eager to get started.

ANDY

Oh, yeah.

Vanna is relieved.

ANDY (CONT'D)

...First thing in the morning. Which reminds me; what are the sleeping arrangements?

Simon and Vanna exchange a look. 'He's sleeping here?'

INT. CARTER HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Vanna prepares the couch with a pillow and blankets.

VANNA

I think we have an air mattress for your friend.

ANDY

No, don't go to any trouble. He's fine on the floor. Right, Miguel?

MIGUEL (O.S.)

Que?

ANDY

When I met him he was sleeping in the parking lot of Home Depot. Not in a car, either.

VANNA

How long do you think you'll be?

ANDY

I know what you're thinking. Don't worry. I won't leave until the job is done. I don't care how long it takes.

Vanna smiles politely to hide her deepening concern.

INT. CARTER HOME - BATHROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

SPY SHOT: Through the crack in the bathroom door, we see Andy on his cell phone. He paces, agitated.

ANDY

Well, I'm sorry, Jan, I just thought you might be interested to know what I've been up to lately. My mistake!

ANDY TALKING HEAD

Andy holds a Polaroid up to the camera, a candid photo of woman in casual dress, her face digitally BLURRED.

ANDY

This is my beautiful wife, Jan. You can't actually tell she's beautiful because we had to blur out her face for legal reasons. You know how that is.

(shrugs)

Anyway, her loss. I'm sure once the show takes off she'll come crawling back.

(sad smile)

Because I'll tell you one thing, they can't blur her out of my heart...

(emotional)

There's not enough blur in the world for that.

(then)

You can still see her body though. Crazy body.

RESET TO SCENE

ANDY (CONT'D)

(into phone)

I'm doing it! I'm following my dream. I'm in a desperate family's home right now. You should see this place.

(beat)

What are you talking about? I used to fix stuff all the time! What about when I re-did the basement?

(beat)

I didn't need Frank! You called him, that wasn't my idea. Plus, I did a lot of the work for him. I basically let him hold the flashlight and do some of the power tool stuff.

(beat, quietly)

(MORE)

ANDY (CONT'D)

Well, because they're dangerous,
honey. Somebody could get hurt.

Outside, a car door SLAMS. Andy turns. The camera RETREATS,
moving toward the window in the living room.

ANDY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Look, I gotta go.

From the window, Sandra walks from an idling car toward the
house. She waves the driver off then quietly enters the front
door. She's startled by the camera. Andy approaches.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Hey, hi, sorry, didn't mean to scare
you. That's Miguel, my cameraman. He's
a little freaky, I know. Folks call me
Handy Andy. You must be Sandra.

SANDRA

Oh yeah, my Mom told me about this.
You're with the makeover show?

ANDY

Yeah, you've heard of us?

SANDRA

I'm not sure. What's it called?

ANDY

No, I just meant, you've heard of
makeover shows? They're pretty funky
fresh, huh?

She puzzles at Andy.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Tell me something, Sandra. If you
could change anything about this
house, what would it be?

SANDRA

Ugh. First thing I would do is put a
lock on my door.

ANDY

Your door doesn't lock?

SANDRA

No! My doorknob broke so I had to take
the whole thing out. So now I have
like, no privacy in this house.

ANDY

Well, that's no good. Teenage girls need their privacy, right?

SANDRA

Finally! An adult who understands.

Andy gives a modest smile to the camera.

SIMON (O.S.)

Sandra! Get up here this minute!

Sandra rolls her eyes and trudges out of the room.

SANDRA

Whaaat?

VANNA (O.S.)

Do you know what time it is?

Andy mugs to the camera. Wouldn't wanna be Sandra right now.

INT. CARTER HOME - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Andy (in pajamas) lays on the couch, uncomfortable.

ANDY (V.O.)

They say "God helps those who help themselves."

He gets up and futilely tries to fluff the couch cushions.

ANDY TALKING HEAD

ANDY

Me? I'm not so picky. I help those who don't help themselves. Because, let's face it, it's those people who need the *most* help. But then, through my helping them, they *learn* to help themselves. And then that's when God, finally, decides to start helping. After everything's pretty much done. And then it's like, 'Okay, thanks anyway. I think we got it now... Maybe jump in a little sooner next time. Like when no one was helping.'

(shakes his head)

Never understood that.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. CARTER HOME - FRONT PORCH - EARLY MORNING

Vanna (in her nurse uniform) sweeps up the confetti.

INT. CARTER HOME - KITCHEN - LATER

Andy (in pajamas) sits at the kitchen table, expectant.

ANDY

Kinda thought breakfast would be ready
by now...

Kevin enters, dressed for school. He prepares some cereal.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Hey, sport.

KEVIN

(shy)
Hello.

ANDY

Where's your Mom? Doesn't she cook
breakfast for you?

KEVIN

No, she goes to work early.

Andy gives a look to the camera, 'You believe this?'

ANDY

Is that generic cereal?

KEVIN

What's "generic?"

ANDY

It means when you can't afford normal
cereal.

KEVIN

I don't know...

ANDY

So this must be pretty exciting for
you, huh? Having a strange man living
in your house.

Kevin shrugs. Simon enters, buttoning his work shirt. He
kisses his son on the head.

SIMON
Morning, buddy.

KEVIN
Dad, are we going to lose our home?

SIMON
Of course not, son.

ANDY
(to Kevin, for the camera)
But... it's a possibility.

SIMON
(to Kevin)
That's not gonna happen.

ANDY
(to Kevin)
Can't rule it out.

SIMON
We're not going anywhere.

ANDY
Might be forced to.

SIMON
We'll be fine!

ANDY
Or out on the street.
(whispers to camera, off
Kevin)
Zoom in!

SIMON
Don't you have something to fix?

ANDY
(stands, annoyed)
Yes, okay, fine! I'll get started.
I always do my best work on an empty
stomach anyway. Right, Miguel?

MIGUEL
Que?

ANDY
Don't you know any other letters?

INT. CARTER HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Andy leads the blindfolded Vanna into the living room.

ANDY
You ready?

VANNA
Yes!

He removes the blindfold. Her face falls as she looks around.

VANNA (CONT'D)
What's different?

ANDY
It's a new couch!

VANNA
That was a new couch.

ANDY
This one's better. Much more comfortable.

VANNA
Andy, did you do any work *outside* the house?

ANDY
Yeah, I was going to, but then it looked like it might rain, so...

VANNA
I have to go start dinner.

ANDY
You don't wanna try out the new couch?

She's gone.

ANDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I could tell it was going to take Vanna some time to get used to the changes.

INSERT SHOTS:

- A "BEFORE" photo of the living room.
- An "AFTER" photo of the living room.

The only difference being the couch is now a darker blue.

ANDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But she'd better get used to it, because I'm just getting started.

INT. CARTER HOME - LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Andy leads in Vanna, Simon and Kevin, all blindfolded. Then, at Andy's prompt, everyone removes their blindfolds. Beat.

SIMON
(giving up)
What?

ANDY
I vacuumed!

SIMON
Seriously?

VANNA
Andy, I think you're abusing the
blindfold thing at this point.

ANDY
Okay, that's fair. Good note. But
that's not all!

Andy rushes over and yanks a sheet off the TV. Beat.

KEVIN
That's the same TV.

ANDY
Except now it has HBO!

Beat.

KEVIN
Yay!

SIMON
What's wrong with you? We can't afford
that!

ANDY
Don't worry! It's an introductory
offer. First three months free!

SANDRA
What was the point of the sheet?

SIMON
Is this all you did today? Hell, I
could have vacuumed!

ANDY
(to the camera, sly)
"Could have."

SIMON

You said this was a home makeover show!

ANDY

It is! But this is just the pilot episode, so--

SIMON

Seems to me you spend more time talking to that damn camera than you do fixing my house!

ANDY

First of all, he's not just a camera. Okay? He has a name; it's Manuel.

VANNA

You told me it was "Miguel."

Beat.

ANDY

(shrugs)

It's one of those. He seems to answer to both, so...

Sandra enters through the front door.

SIMON

And where have you been?

SANDRA

I was out.

She starts upstairs.

SIMON

I can see you were out! Where? Out with that thief again?

Simon follows her.

SANDRA (O.S.)

He's not a thief! Stop saying that!

SIMON (O.S.)

Don't walk away from me when I'm talking to you!

A door SLAM from upstairs. Vanna sighs.

VANNA

Andy, did you get anything else done today?

ANDY

Yes! As a matter of fact!

VANNA

What?

SIMON (O.S.)

What the--? Who put this lock on the door?

POUNING on the door.

SIMON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

We do not have locked doors in this house, Missy! Where did you get this doorknob? Answer me!

Andy cringes. Vanna hangs her head in defeat.

EXT. CARTER HOME - THE NEXT DAY

Andy is on the porch. A pink sports car pulls along the curb.

ANDY (V.O.)

With Vanna and Simon at work, Kevin at school and Sandra either at school or missing, I decided it was time to call in the big guns. Joining me today is internationally-renowned home design expert, Magenta Ray. Together, we're gonna turn this house of horrors... into the home of tomorra'.

INT. CARTER HOME - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

MAGENTA RAY (40s), a skinny fashionista in pink and purple couturier, scans the room passively. Andy's clearly dazzled.

MAGENTA

(thick french accent)

Wow. How pitiful. Your message said they were poor but I did not think they would be this poor.

ANDY

You should see their cereal.

MAGENTA

The first thing we must do is take down this wall. That will help with the flow.

ANDY

Flow. Yeah.

MAGENTA

A window must be put in on the north wall with trees in front to block the view of this disgusting neighborhood. New carpets must be a lighter color to match the walls.

ANDY

Well... the walls are already white.

MAGENTA

They need to be off-white.

ANDY

How much will all this cost?

MAGENTA

To do it right? I do not know. Maybe... twenty thousand dollars.

ANDY

And how much to do it... off right?

ANDY TALKING HEAD (FRONT PORCH) - MOMENTS LATER

In the b.g., Magenta storms toward her car.

ANDY (CONT'D)

I decided not to use a "traditional" interior design expert for this job. I felt the Carters deserved something better. Something from the heart.

Magenta's car peels out.

INT. CARTER HOME - BASEMENT - LATER

Simon glares at an unseen wall, fuming with restrained rage.

ANDY

(proud)
Well, what do you think?

SIMON

Who is that?

ANDY

It's your hero! Billy Mays!

ANGLE ON a shrine to infomercial legend, Billy Mays. In the center, a photo of the man himself, smiling with two thumbs up. It's surrounded by his products: spray cleaner, an aerosol can, a jar of adhesive putty, etc...

ANDY (CONT'D)

Your wife said not to touch this area but I didn't think she'd mind if I went ahead and made massive improvements to it! Am I right?

SIMON

No. You're not right.

ANDY

(leaning in)
What's that?

SIMON

Willie Mays. Willie Mays is my hero. Willie Mays was one of the greatest baseball players to ever live and a hero to the black community.

ANDY

I see. So; two different people.

SIMON

Billy Mays sold products on TV such as "OxyClean."

ANDY

Right. Gotcha. That would explain why I couldn't find a baseball with his autograph. See, I'm not a sports guy.

SIMON

I'm going to go get some air. I need you to put this back how it was.

ANDY

Roger that. Can do. You know what though? Keep the cleaning products. My gift to you. Billy would have wanted it that way.

Simon walks out of the room.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Okay, then. Enjoy!
(to camera, embarrassed)
(MORE)

ANDY (CONT'D)

Probably should edit this last part out.

ANDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

This house has a lot of problem areas--

VARIOUS SHOTS:

- *Leaky pipe in the kitchen sink*
- *A picture of an African-America Jesus*
- *The box of Generic cereal*

ANDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

--so I better get to work...

INT. CARTER HOME - GARAGE - NIGHT

Andy straps on a tool belt and marches toward the camera.

INT. CARTER HOME - DINING ROOM - LATER

The family sits around the table eating dinner.

SIMON

I just don't understand what he's been doing all day!

VANNA

Let's just be patient. It's not gonna happen overnight.

SANDRA

Actually, I've seen these shows, Mom. It usually happens overnight.

KEVIN

(morose)

Or they send the family to Disneyland while they're waiting.

VANNA

(to camera, frustrated)

Shouldn't you be filming him?

ANDY (O.S.)

Ow!

A RUMBLING from the roof. Andy falls past the window.

SIMON

What the hell was that?

Andy limps in from the back door, wincing in pain. The family, alarmed, rises from the table.

VANNA

Oh my god, what happened?

SANDRA

Are you okay?

Andy hobbles toward the living room.

ANDY

I shot myself in the foot with the nail gun.

SANDRA

Oh my god!

VANNA

Lay down, let me look at it.

Andy lays down on the couch. Vanna removes his shoe.

SIMON

How'd you do that?

ANDY

I don't know. I was just on the roof, fixing the chimney.

SIMON

Why would you use a nail gun for that?

ANDY

I wasn't! I was just--
(wince)
-- twirling it on my finger like a cowboy.

VANNA

Sandra, get my nursing kit from the closet.

ANDY

So cold...

SIMON

Don't stain the new couch.

ANDY

It's got... stain resistant... micro-fibers!

VANNA

(examining his foot)
You're fine, Andy.

(MORE)

VANNA (CONT'D)

The nail went between your toes.
You're lucky. It's just a scrape.

ANDY

A scrape with death!

SIMON

Maybe just to be safe, we should dump
him off at the hospital.

Sandra offers the nursing kit. Vanna grabs a bottle and
tosses it to Andy.

VANNA

Just put some antiseptic on it.

ANDY

I should probably stay off it for a
few days.

Simon throws up his hands.

VANNA

That's really not necessary.

Andy settles into the couch.

ANDY

Do you have like a bell or something I
can ring if I need anything?

KEVIN

Dad, may I be excused?

SIMON

Let's all be excused.

VANNA

Simon...

SIMON

Kids, get in the car. We're going out.

SANDRA

Where are we going?

SIMON

We'll figure it out later.

ANDY

Okay, well, keep your cell phones on.

VANNA

(quietly, to Miguel)

There's some leftovers in the stove if
you're hungry.

MIGUEL

Que?

She rolls her eyes and joins her family as they walk out the
door. Beat. The camera turns to Andy. He shrugs.

ANDY (V.O.)

I call the show "Beyond Help" because
I want to go beyond just help...

ANDY TALKING HEAD

ANDY

...to become a family friend, a
trusted confidant, maybe even...
a lover.

(beat)

We may have gotten off to a rough
start but I think, in time--

Miguel sneezes. The camera SHAKES.

ANDY (CONT'D)

(to Miguel, annoyed)

You gotta hold it perfectly still,
Miguel. Otherwise it's gonna look--

(thinks)

In fact, why don't I just use a tripod
for this?

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

VARIOUS SHOTS:

- *Gutters clogged with leaves and a baseball*
- *Crumbling chimney with nails in it*
- *Cracked, stained driveway*

ANDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

This has been one of the toughest renovation challenges I've faced since I began this show last week. Fortunately, with the family suddenly deciding to spend the day with relatives, I have a chance to tackle one of the biggest jobs...

EXT. CARTER HOME - DRIVEWAY - DAY

TIGHT on Andy, wearing eye goggles and industrial ear muffs.

ANDY

They say "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." So you know what that means...

REVEAL Andy on the front lawn with a jackhammer, wearing hockey gloves and pads. Behind him is Simon's Jeep.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Today we're going to re-pave the driveway, as a surprise for Simon. This wasn't even on the list. Above and beyond! Help, that is.

EXT. CARTER HOME - DRIVEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Andy kneels on the driveway as if examining it.

ANDY

Now the first thing you wanna do when putting in a new driveway is; move the car. I can't stress this enough. Be it to a neighbors house, a friends' house... as long as it's not in the driveway you're going to repair. A lot of these so-called "How To" books don't even tell you that.

(holds up car keys)

I found Simon's keys, so let's do that now.

EXT. CARTER HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Andy steps out of the Jeep, now parked along the curb in front of the house. In the b.g., well-dressed PARTY GUESTS file into the next door neighbors' house.

ANDY

(to camera)

Now that the car is safely outside our construction area, we're ready to begin our smashing up of the driveway with our giant hammer thingy.

EXT. CARTER HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Andy jack-hammers the driveway. Some of the neighbors' guests' cover their ears. Andy stops to wipe his forehead.

ANDY

Now if you don't have one of these bad boys, simply ask at your local hardware store for the big, loud thing you smash driveways with. They'll know what you mean.

EXT. CARTER HOME - LATER

Andy jack-hammers. An attractive female NEIGHBOR approaches behind Andy.

NEIGHBOR

Excuse me... excuse me... Excuse me!

Andy stops hammering and turns.

NEIGHBOR (CONT'D)

Hi, I'm sorry, we're having a little get-together here and well... we were kinda hoping you could... you know...

ANDY

(flattered)

Oh, wow. That's great. Thanks! Tell you what; when I'm done this, I'll try to stop over for a few minutes. Maybe we can have a drink together. Yeah... might be nice. Thank you! Very neighborly.

Andy gives an impressed look to the camera, 'Interesting,' then resumes hammering. The Neighbor walks off, exasperated.

EXT. CARTER HOME - LATER

Andy stands in front of the now finished driveway. It actually looks pretty good.

ANDY

Now that we've got our new cement down, there's nothing to do but watch it dry. It's a tedious job, so Miguel, while you're doing that, I'm going to go have a drink with the hot neighbor lady. You wait here, que? Stay here.

(like to a dog)

"Stay." Okay, I'll see you later.

Andy goes to the neighbor's house and lets himself in.

EXT. CARTER HOME - LATER THAT NIGHT

The camera is lying in the grass. Andy feet walk into frame. He kneels down.

ANDY

Miguel, wake up! Come on, siesta complete-a! We're late.

The camera slowly RISES, bringing Andy into frame. He's disheveled and tipsy.

ANDY (CONT'D)

I lost track of time. We gotta put the car back before the Carters get home. Could be any minute.

The camera FOLLOWS Andy into the Jeep. He starts it up.

ANDY (CONT'D)

I want it back the way it was so we can see if Simon notices...

Andy pulls the car into the driveway and parks.

ANDY (CONT'D)

This is gonna be great.

(noticing)

Oooh, look at this! Dude's got Satellite Radio! I always wanted one of these. I thought this guy was poor...

Andy turns it on. Salsa music plays. The camera DANCES.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Hey! Look at you! This is your music, huh? You really light up. That's the first time I've seen you smile.

Andy bobs around a bit.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Let's see what else they got.

Andy flips the station. Soft, tranquil music.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Oh, this is nice.

(reclines his seat, yawns)

Oh, man. I drank too much.

(closing his eyes)

I can't wait 'till Simon sees this. I think we're finally gonna get that big emotional reaction I've been after...

Andy passes out, snoring.

EXT. CARTER HOME - MORNING

The sun rises on the Jeep Tracker in the driveway, tires deeply embedded in the now hardened concrete. Kevin's baseball gear (balls, bat) lays scattered in the front lawn, along with the giant Jack Hammer.

INT. CARTER HOME - LIVING ROOM - LATER

The family is gathered. Andy sits on the couch, humbled.

SIMON

I want you two idiots out of my house.
Today.

ANDY

Is this about your car being fused with the driveway?

SIMON

I don't care what my wife signed. Sue us! Just pack your stuff and get out.

ANDY

But we didn't save your house yet!

SIMON

We'll take our chances with the wrecking ball!

ANDY

I can't just leave a job unfinished!
It goes against every belief I
recently came up with! Let me make a
call. I think I can get everything
straightened out.

EXT. CARTER HOME - FRONT PORCH - DAY

Andy stands beside FRANK (50s, muscular, competent) who looks uncomfortable. Andy seems to resent his presence.

ANDY

This is my brother-in-law, Frank. He
has a little contractor business and I
like to throw him work when I can.
He's going to give me a hand with some
of the more minor jobs here at the
Carter home. Right, Frank?

FRANK

Andy, I just wanna say again, I really
don't think you should be doing this--

ANDY

Okay, you just ruined that take, so...

INT. CARTER HOME - KITCHEN - LATER

Frank examines beneath the sink. Andy holds the flashlight.

FRANK

My god, what have you done here?

ANDY

(ashamed)
I know...

EXT. CARTER HOME - ROOF - DAY

Frank grouts the chimney. Andy looks on, bored.

ANDY

Sure there's nothing I can do?

FRANK

Can you see if this guy has any beer?

ANDY

(for the camera, noble)
I don't believe in drinking on the
job.

FRANK (O.S.)

(sotto)

Why are there nails in this?

Andy looks into the backyard. The camera FOLLOWS his gaze. Sandra sits on the swing set. She appears to be crying.

ANDY

I'll be right back.

FRANK

Take your time.

INT. CARTER HOME - BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Andy approaches Sandra.

ANDY

Hey. What's wrong?

SANDRA

(turning away)

Nothing, Andy.

ANDY

Come on, you can tell me.

SANDRA

My dad hates me.

ANDY

Your dad doesn't hate you.

SANDRA

Yes, he does.

ANDY

Of course he doesn't! He hates me.

SANDRA

Well, yeah, he hates you too.

ANDY

Your dad loves you. He's just strict because he worries about you.

SANDRA

It's like we have nothing in common! He loves Kevin because they both love baseball. Then he blames my boyfriend for stealing his stupid Willie Mays ball. But I know he wouldn't do that!

ANDY
(realizing)
Wait a minute. Stay right here.
(to camera)
Miguel, you stay here too. Um, comfort
Sandra.

Andy rushes off. The camera stays on Sandra, as she sits there, looking uncomfortable.

INT. CARTER HOME - BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Andy returns to Sandra, breathless.

ANDY
I was saving this to try to win your
dad over but... maybe you take it
instead.

Andy hands her the Willie Mays baseball, good as new.

ANDY (CONT'D)
I think he'll be happy to see it.

SANDRA
Oh my god! You found it?!

ANDY
Stuck in the gutter on the roof. I
guess Kevin grabbed the wrong ball
when he was practicing.

She jumps up and hugs Andy.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Maybe you guys should talk to your
dad.

She nods, quietly. Moved.

SANDRA
Thank you, Andy.

Andy smiles.

ANDY
...Glad I could help.

EXT. CARTER HOME - FRONT YARD - THAT NIGHT

Through the window, Simon sits in his recliner, reading the paper. Andy cautiously peeks in the window.

ANDY

(to camera, whispering)

So you're probably wondering 'Why did I give the ball to Sandra when I could have given it to Simon myself and been a hero and possibly been allowed back in the house?' Or 'Hey, Andy, why didn't you just keep the ball and sell it on Ebay? They already thought it was stolen, so what's the difference?' Well, the answer to the second question is, because I just thought of that, just now... that didn't...

Sandra and Kevin enter the living room.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Oh, yeah! This is the reason! For the emotional fireworks we're about to see. That's what's really at the heart of these renovation shows: Real emotions. Let's watch!

Andy moves out of the way so Miguel can get the shot.

ANDY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Okay, this is it! Get in close!

The kids get Dad's attention. Simon puts down the paper. Sandra is saying something.

ANDY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Here it comes. Are you zoomed in?

(beat)

Do you understand what "zoom" is? Do you understand ...anything I'm saying? For that matter? Seriously.

Sandra hands her father the ball. He's shocked. Sandra motions to Kevin, who hangs his head. Kevin confesses. Simon smiles. After a beat, Simon hugs them both.

ANDY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(excited)

There it is! Is he crying?! Holy [BLEEP]! Zoom in! Get that! Get the tears! C'mon, man! Get in close!

Suddenly, we SHOVE forward, shattering the window. Simon and his kids stare at the camera, aghast. Beat.

EXT. CARTER HOME - THE NEXT DAY

The Carter Family is posed on the porch, as they were in the opening scene. (Except now, no one looks happy.) The living room picture window is boarded up. Andy is in front of them.

ANDY

Well, it's been quite a week here at the Carter residence--

SIMON

It's been almost a month!

ANDY

(turning to Simon, quiet)
Well, with the editing we're gonna make it look like less, so...

(back to camera, smiling)
It wasn't easy, but with a lot of hard work...

The camera edges over to REVEAL Frank, repaving the driveway.

ANDY (CONT'D)

I was eventually able to make this family's dreams come true. Right, Carter family?

Beat.

SIMON

Are we done?

Andy forces a smiles for the camera.

INT. CAR - WEEKS LATER - DAY

Andy drives. Camera in shotgun.

ANDY

It's been six weeks since I helped the Carter family so I thought it was time we paid them a visit. I'm told that after we left, the community rallied together to help Simon and his family stop the eminent domain project that threatened his home.

Andy stops at an intersection. Just past him, the camera ZOOMS in on an old FLYER, nailed to a telephone pole:

"ATTENTION SPRINGFIELD RESIDENTS: RALLY TO SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORS - LOCAL FAMILY VICTIMIZED BY SCAM REALITY SHOW. MEETING AT COMMUNITY CENTER AUGUST 3rd."

ANDY (CONT'D)
(oblivious)
That's the power of people helping
people.

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Andy parks in front of the Carter house.

ANDY
Here we are! Let's go see how our old
friends are doing.

Andy walks to the door. It's flung open by Simon. He's angry.

SIMON
The hell are you doing here?!

The camera fearfully REVERSES as Simon advances on them.

ANDY
I'm just doing a little follow-up--!

SIMON
Get off my property!

ANDY
We just wanted to see how things were--

SIMON
I'm calling the police!

ANDY
Did Sandra get my friend request?

Simon picks up Kevin's baseball bat from the lawn.

SIMON
Stay away from Sandra!

ANDY
(to Miguel, scarred, pushing)
Okay, go, just go!

The camera JOSTLES, goes to STATIC and goes to BLACK.

OVER BLACK:

ANDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
(dramatic, announcer voice)
Next time, on "Beyond Help."

FADE IN:

EXT. MABLE'S BAR AND GRILL - DAY

Andy stands in front of a sign for "MABLE'S BAR AND GRILL."

ANDY

Today I'm in West Virginia to help
local restaurateurs-slash-failures Ken
and Mable save their awful restaurant.

INT. MABLE'S BAR AND GRILL - DAY

Andy is at a table with a menu. A WAITRESS takes his order.

ANDY

I'm going need to try one of
everything on the menu. It's free,
right? 'Cause it's part of my helping.

ANDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

*Will Handy Andy be able save their
business before it's too late?*

ANGLE ON the chipped and splintered bar.

ANDY (CONT'D)

We took the old, dilapidated and
dangerous bar they used to have...

ANGLE ON the chipped and splinted bar, wrapped in Christmas
lights.

ANDY (V.O.)

...and put Christmas lights on it!

ANDY (V.O.)

Yes! He probably will!

EXT. MABLE'S BAR AND GRILL - DAY

Andy stands before the blindfolded STAFF.

ANDY

Are you guys ready to see your new
restaurant?

Andy goes to open the front doors. They're locked.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Bleep

ANDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

That's next time, on Beyond Help!

THE END