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Gomer Pyle Has Kids
an original screenplay by
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FADE IN:

INT. CAMP HENDERSON - BARRACKS - DAY

GOMER PYLE, 20, wearing his Marine uniform, is holding his phone to his ear.

GOMER

-- I have. I promise. -- Mrs. Garney. --
The School for Unwed Mothers won't
answer the phone. -- I'm not. -- I
love Ellen, Mrs. Garney -- I will. --
Like my own. -- I know its been 3
years. -- No, no don't. Don't put
your phone down. Damn.

Gomer waits, sighs, and leans against the wall. He looks at a picture of Ellen.

INT. CHOCOLATE FACTORY - TESTING ROOM - DAY

Gomer hesitates before opening the door and takes his prepared break-up speech out of his pocket.

BUNNY VAN PELT, 19, is taste-testing chocolates. She's gorgeous and looks like a doctor in her white lab coat.

She smiles from ear-to-ear when she sees Gomer.

BUNNY

Gomer. Gomer, Gomer, Gomer. Your
name sounds funny. Does your name
sound funny to you? Come in, come
in.

Bunny giggles and sways.

GOMER

Are you okay?

She throws her arms around Gomer.

BUNNY

I feel fantastic. I love you so
much.

She holds onto Gomer as she tries to remain standing.

GOMER

Honey, I think you're drunk.

BUNNY

I am not. Daddy's makin' new chocolates. Want one? They're really good.

Bunny reaches for another piece of candy.

Gomer puts the speech back in his pocket. He takes the chocolate from her hand and smells it.

GOMER

These are filled with booze. How many have you had?

Bunny takes the confectionary delight back from Gomer and quickly puts it in her mouth.

BUNNY

I don't know, 10, 15. It's just so hard. I can't decide which one is the best.

Gomer takes out his speech.

GOMER

Bunny, I have somethin' important to tell you.

Bunny loses her balance and Gomer catches her.

BUNNY

Let's get out of here.
(sing-song voice)
I know a place we can go.

Gomer puts the speech back in his pocket and buttons it. Together they leave the taste testing office.

GOMER

Bunny, I think you need some coffee.

INT. CAMP HENDERSON - BARRACKS - DAY

Sergeant Carter, 29, stands in front of Gomer.

SERGEANT CARTER

Congratulations, son. Private First Class.

Carter hands Gomer a Marine First Class Shield.

GOMER

Thank you, sir.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL VAN PELT, 43, storms through the door.

Gomer and Sergeant Carter stand at attention.

Van Pelt gets in Gomer's face and winks then notices Sergeant Carter is still saluting.

VAN PELT

At ease, Sergeant.

(to Gomer)

Private Pyle, who said my wife was not allowed to bring you lunch?

Sergeant Carter steps forward.

SERGEANT CARTER

Your wife? It was me, Colonel. Regulations.

Van Pelt turns back to Gomer.

VAN PELT

At ease, Private.

Van Pelt takes Sergeant Carter by his arm and leads him to the far side of the barracks.

VAN PELT

My wife wasn't happy last night. You know what that means, Sergeant? It means I wasn't happy. Now, I know it's not by the book but I'm sure...

Bunny enters the barracks. She looks more upset than her father.

She throws a piece of paper that hits Gomer in the face.

BUNNY

I got your note. If you think...

VAN PELT

Bunny?

Bunny runs to her father and hugs Van Pelt around his stomach.

BUNNY

Daddy, Gomer's breaking up with me.

Van Pelt unwraps Bunny's arms.

He walks over to Gomer.

Sergeant Carter takes the opportunity to sneak away.

VAN PELT

What is this about, son?

Gomer glares at Bunny for a moment then turns back to Van Pelt.

Sergeant Carter gets out the door with ot being seen and celebrates with a victory dance.

GOMER

Colonel, Bunny has known the situation from the...

Bunny runs over to her father and interrupts.

BUNNY

I did. I just thought you'd be leaving. Not that she'd come here.

Van Pelt gently turns his daughter by her arm and leads her across the barracks.

VAN PELT

I kept this man out of Iraq for you. Are you sayin' it's a fling?

Bunny walks back to Gomer.

Van Pelt looks around for Sergeant Carter.

BUNNY

I'm still gonna see you. You'll just have to explain that to her.

GOMER

I don't know, Bunny.

BUNNY

We'll stay friends. I'm not gonna disappear.

GOMER

Friends is fine.

Gomer walks over to Van Pelt.

Bunny sits on the bunk.

GOMER

Her name is Ellen. She's my fiancée. She's movin' here. I found out two days ago. I need to get to my duty, Colonel.

VAN PELT

You're free to go.

Gomer leaves.

Van Pelt sits on the bunk next to Bunny shaking his head as she rubs his back and smiles.

BUNNY

It's okay, Daddy. You'll be all right.

INT. CAMP HENDERSON - HOSPITAL - NIGHT

ELLEN GARNEY, 18, holds her baby in her arms and her eyes shine with love as she stares at her newborn child.

Ellen's mother, HARRIET GARNEY, 47, has her feet up on one chair and sits in another.

Gomer crashes through the door. His uniform is muddy and torn. His face is dirty and his hair is a mess.

HARRIET

There you are. Any problems gettin' here?

Gomer puts his back to Harriet and faces Ellen. His eyes say, "is she serious"?

ELLEN

Did you look at him, Mom?.
(to Gomer)
Honey, what happened?

GOMER

Doesn't matter, can I hold him?

Ellen transfers the baby into Gomer's arms. A few tears flow down his cheek.

HARRIET

All I know is Edgar never missed a birth. God rest his soul.

ELLEN

Dad's not dead, Mother.

HARRIET

I know. It just sounded right.

GOMER

What's goin' on between you two.

HARRIET

I'm on a break.

GOMER

(whispers to Ellen)

Edgar's the one gettin' a break.

HARRIET

What was that? So anyway, I can stay as long as you want me or longer.

GOMER

I'm bettin' on longer.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Ellen slams the phone on the table and throws her head back three times onto her pillow. She releases a cry so loud and so long that the walls tremble.

SCOTT PYLE, 16 months, starts to cry, then BABY MIKE PYLE, 4 months, begins to wail and he adds to the chorus.

The door flies open. Harriet hesitates as she's buffeted by the wall of sound.

Her hair is a mess and the cleaning apron appears as exhausted as she is. With the speed and precision of a paramedic she knows the routine.

She quiets Ellen. Then Scott. Then Baby Mike. She sits down next to her daughter and enjoys her victory. Ellen sniffles.

HARRIET

There, that's better.

Harriet straightens her hair.

HARRIET

What was it this time, honey? Another fly in the ice cream?

ELLEN

I just talked to Gomer.

Ellen sits up and grabs the last tissue from the box. It becomes just another Kleenex exoskeleton piled on her table.

ELLEN

I miss home, Mom. Is my room still the same?

HARRIET
Just like you left it.

ELLEN
I wanna go home. I really do.

HARRIET
You are home. This is your home
now.

Ellen throws her head back onto her pillow.

ELLEN
I think I made a mistake.

HARRIET
Two children is a little more than a
mistake. Honey, things'll get better.
What brought this on?

ELLEN
Gomer said they're makin' him stay
on base four more months.

Harriet's eyes well up and she begins to weep. The weeps
become sobs. The sobs become blubbering. This causes Ellen
to cry. Then Baby Scott. Then Baby Mike.

The symphony of tears can be heard half-way down the street.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Harriet is washing the dishes. The glasses and cups become
musical instruments as she strikes them with a spoon.

She dances to her improvised tune.

ELLEN (O.S.)
Woo hoo.

HARRIET
Ellen?

Ellen runs into the kitchen.

ELLEN
Mom, Mom. Gomer will be able to
live off-base next month.

HARRIET

Slow down, honey. I'm old. That's great because it's time for me to go. Your father called me last night. He was really sweet, then he started talkin' in his "when we have sex" voice.

ELLEN

Okay, that's enough, Mom. I know where this is going. Don't need to hear it.

HARRIET

Ellen you have two kids. Loosen up. He started tellin' me what he was gonna do and what he wanted...

Ellen's fingers become earplugs.

ELLEN

La, la la la la ...

HARRIET

Okay. Okay, I'll stop.

Ellen holds her fingers out ready to engage.

HARRIET

Anyway. I'm goin' back to Isaac. I kinda miss my Teddy Bear.

ELLEN

That's great, Mom. I'm sure he misses you too.

HARRIET

He was missin' me last night. He started breathing heavy and then he...

Ellen puts her fingers back in her ears and walks away.

ELLEN

La, la la la la ...

EXT. CAMP HENDERSON - POND - NIGHT

Gomer's sitting on a bench. The swans show-off as they compete for the pieces of bread Gomer tosses to them.

Gomer smokes one cigarette after another. JACK, 70, a tiny man with bright red cheeks and wearing a funny hat approaches Gomer. He's selling apples.

JACK

Apple, sir?

GOMER

You can't be serious. You supposed to be an elf or somethin'?

JACK

I've been called worse.

Jack starts to shiver unprotected from the winter cold. Gomer takes off his jacket and holds it out.

Jack puts on the coat.

GOMER

Tell you what little guy. I'll take all twelve of those apples. You want a smoke?

JACK

No. You know you shouldn't be smokin'. The body's a temple.

GOMER

It's been awhile since my wife's worshipped at my temple, if you know what I mean. I've gone back to some old habits. Spendin' so much time alone it's hard to quit. My wife won't put up with it. You know what, that coat looks good on you. Keep it.

The clouds clear and the stars reflect off the apples making them appear magical.

JACK

Your wife. You'll finally be able to live with her.

GOMER

Okay, who sent you? You tell Duke this is good but it doesn't top the super-glue on the toilet seat. No, check that. He's still a little sensitive about that.

Gomer looks at his cigarette.

GOMER

I've really tried to quit smokin'.

JACK

Instead of smokin', have an apple.

Gomer laughs then looks at the apples. He grabs one.

GOMER
That may not be...

Jack is gone. Gomer shrugs and takes a bite. He puts the apple down and walks toward the pond. He looks at the swans, the water, and the stars.

GOMER
Wish he had better tastin' apples.

Gomer lights a cigarette. He makes a face and turns it around convinced he lit the filter. Now he lights the filter. Gomer throws it down and carefully lights another one.

GOMER
What the hell?

He throws that one down. The last cigarette Gomer will ever smoke slowly dies.

INT. CAMP HENDERSON - HOSPITAL - DAY

Gomer sits beside the hospital bed reading a magazine. Both Ellen and the new baby are asleep.

DOCTOR KEATS, 42, walks in.

DOCTOR KEATS
Private, the baby's healthy. It's your wife I'm concerned about. She's been in and out of this hospital all year.

GOMER
I know, Doctor, no one can tell me why.

DOCTOR KEATS
She's physically and mentally exhausted. She can't handle you bein' in the military. Especially in these volatile times. The stress is gonna kill her. My advice to you is quit and move back to your hometown. Try to eliminate any kind of stress in Ellen's life. She needs to rest.

GOMER
If you say so, Doc.

The Doctor leaves.

Gomer kneels beside the bed.

He takes Ellen's hand without waking her.

GOMER

I love you so much, Ellen. We're
goin' home.

INT. MAYBERRY - GOMER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The house is a mess. Clothes are strewn everywhere.

Ellen holds TAMMY PYLE, 1, in her arms as she cries.

Scott, 3, runs through the room holding a stuffed animal
with Mike, 2, crying loudly and chasing him.

MIKE

Mine, mine, mine...

Gomer slowly enters the house.

Too tired to even notice the commotion, Gomer walks toward
the bedroom.

GOMER

I've gotta get some sleep.

Ellen gets Tammy to stop crying and puts her in the crib.

She catches Scott as he runs by and takes the toy away from
him.

She gives it to Mike and he stops crying.

ELLEN

Scott, please. I need you to behave
for five minutes. I have to talk to
Daddy. Can you play nice?

Scott nods his head.

Ellen takes a beeline to Gomer.

BEDROOM

The door flies open. Gomer already appears to be asleep.

ELLEN

I can't do this anymore.

Gomer opens his eyes and sits up.

GOMER

Okay, Ellen. What's this about?

ELLEN

For the past year if you get four hours of sleep you're lucky. Same for me.

GOMER

I know, honey. I've got some big car repairs to do. That's gonna bring in more money. It'll help.

ELLEN

It's not about the money. You've always made sure we have what we need. We just can't keep livin' like this.

GOMER

The kid's are gettin' older. Right now I'm still barely keepin' the bills paid. I'm doin' everything I can.

Ellen sits next to Gomer and grabs his hand.

ELLEN

I know you are. I think, maybe, the best thing to do is for me to take the kids and move in with my mother.

GOMER

No way, Ellen. That's not gonna happen. I promised you. I promised Harriet.

ELLEN

I love you, Gomer, but Mom can help me with the kids. You can focus on building the business. I just don't see any other way.

GOMER

I think all we need is a vacation. Give me a few weeks. I'll arrange things. We'll go anywhere you want.

ELLEN

Really? I'd love to go to Yellowstone. You mean it?

GOMER

Yellowstone, Rocky Mountain, Glacier, let's go to all of 'em.

Ellen hugs Gomer with all her might.

GOMER

Those cars I picked up will bring in enough for us to do it. I'll take off for two weeks. It'll be perfect.

ELLEN

I love you so much. You're right, that's all we need.

GOMER

And we'll do it every year. Maybe two or three times. Can I get some sleep now? I'm so tired.

Tammy starts to cry.

ELLEN

Of course, honey. I'll keep 'em quiet. I love you. Get some sleep.

GOMER

Love you too, Ellen.

LIVING ROOM

Ellen quietly closes the door to the bedroom.

She looks around the room and the look on her face says she's fine with everything.

She goes to Tammy's crib to check on her. Tammy's awake but quiet.

Tammy sees her mother and looks right in her eyes. The rush of emotion overpowers Ellen.

TAMMY

Ma... ma.

Ellen picks her up and holds her. Scott comes out of the bedroom with his favorite book about clowns. Mike follows close behind.

They join Ellen on the couch.

Scott hands the book to Ellen.

SCOTT

Mommy, can you read to us?

ELLEN
Of course, honey. Want me to read
the book, Mike?

Mike nods his head.

Ellen shows the first page.

ELLEN
(clown voice)
So many clowns, so little room.

Tammy laughs.

SCOTT
Tammy likes it.

ELLEN
I think she does.

She shows the next page.

ELLEN
The baby thinks it's funny. What
about you?

Ellen tickles Mike. Tammy laughs louder.

Mike starts laughing so Tammy laughs again.

ELLEN
And what does big brother think?

Ellen tickles Scott and all of them laugh hysterically.

ELLEN
(laughing)
Quiet. Quiet. Daddy's sleeping.

FADE OUT: