

TWO & A HALF MEN

"UP IN SMOKE"

Written by

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM — NIGHT

CHARLIE SIPS A DRINK ON HIS COUCH, ALAN ENTERS. TAKES A PARTY HAT OFF HIS HEAD AND TOSSES IT.

CHARLIE

Fun night?

ALAN

I just threw my best client the worst bachelor party of all time.

CHARLIE

What happened? Not enough hats?

ALAN

There were plenty of hats. The thing is, we got a...

ALAN LOOKS AROUND, UNCERTAIN.

CHARLIE

Judith hasn't dropped Jake off yet.

ALAN

...a stripper.

CHARLIE

Just one? No wonder it was a bust.

ALAN

That wasn't the problem.

CHALIE

She was a man?

ALAN

No!

CHARLIE

Because that happens.

(a beat)

So I've heard.

ALAN

The stripper never showed.

CHARLIE

Ouch.

ALAN

Yeah, so we all sat around for three
hours playing UNO.

CHARLIE

Don't take this the wrong way—but this
might be the worst bachelor party story
ever.

ALAN

I know I ordered that stripper too. I
paid for her and everything.

CHARLIE

That is weird.

ANGLE ON: A GEORGEIOUS SCANTILY CLAD WOMAN. SHE CROSSES IN
FROM CHARLIE'S ROOM DOWN THE HALL, ZIPPING UP HER LEATHER
SKIRT. SHE GIVES CHARLIE A BIG KISS.

GEORGEIOUS WOMAN

Call me anytime.

SHE SLIPS CHARLIE A CARD, THEN CROSSES OFF.

CHARLIE

You got it.

ANGLE ON: ALAN, STARING IN DISBELIEF.

ALAN

Let me see that card.

CHARLIE HESITATES, BUT ALAN GRABS THE CARD AND READS IT.

ALAN

You slept with my stripper!

CHARLIE

Was that your stripper?

ALAN

Well, did you hire a stripper today?

CHARLIE

If by hire you mean take advantage of,
then yes.

ALAN

I can't believe you, Charlie.

CHARLIE

Hey, it wasn't my fault. I was just
sitting here, minding my own business
and she showed up. What was I supposed
to do?

ALAN

You could have not slept with her for
starters.

CHARLIE

I can honestly say, that idea never
crossed my mind.

ALAN

I must have given her this address by
accident.

CHARLIE

A wonderful, wonderful accident.

ALAN

Well, now I'm out two hundred bucks.

This night couldn't get any worse..

ALAN SITS ON THE COUCH NEXT TO CHARLIE. REACHES UNDER THE CUSHION TO REMOVE SOMETHING WEDGED THERE. HE PULLS OUT A PACK OF CIGARETTES.

ALAN

What, did you start smoking again?

CHARLIE INVESTIGATES THE PACK.

CHARLIE

Those aren't mine.

ALAN

Yeah right.

CHARLIE

These are vanilla flavored cigarettes.

No one over age 14 smokes these. And even I don't date that young.

ALAN

Then whose are they?

ANGLE ON: JAKE, ENTERING THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR. CHARLIE AND ALAN STARE AT HIM, THEN EACH OTHER.

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM — THAT SAME NIGHT

CHARLIE AND ALAN CONTINUE TO STARE. JAKE ISN'T SURE WHAT TO MAKE OF IT.

JAKE

Hey, what's wrong?

ALAN GOES TO SHOW JAKE THE CIGARETTES

ALAN

Jake, I have a question for you. Are these—

BUT BEFORE ALAN CAN REVEAL THE CIGARETTES, CHARLIE BLOCKS THEM, THROWING HIS ARM AROUND ALAN.

CHARLIE

-not the two most handsome devils
you've ever seen?

JAKE

What?

ALAN

Charlie, what are you doing?

CHARLIE

(aside)

Trust me on this.

(back to Jake)

Well, what do you say?

JAKE

Should I be worried about you guys?

ALAN

No, but what you should be worried
about is-

CHARLIE MUZZLES ALAN SO HE CAN'T SPEAK.

CHARLIE

Global warming. It's going to affect
your future. Think green!

JAKE

Uh—okay.

JAKE REGARDS THEM, THEN CROSSES OFF.

CHARLIE

That was close.

ALAN

Close? What are you doing? If these are
Jake's cigarettes, I need to know.

CHARLIE

Of course you need to know. But you
won't find out by just asking him.

ALAN

I won't?

CHARLIE

No. If you ask him without any proof, he'll deny it. Then you've completely blown your chances of busting him.

ALAN

He's my son. I don't want to bust him, I want to help him.

CHARLIE

Look Alan, is getting into some bad things, you gotta nail him point blank. If you let him know you suspect something, he'll just hide it from you better.

ALAN

I don't know...all those anti-smoking ads say you should talk to your kid directly about these things.

CHARLIE

Alan, those ads are paid for by the tobacco industry. Of course they're going to give bad advice. They want you to fail.

ALAN

(re: cigarettes)

They might not even be his.

AT THIS JAKE COMES DOWN THE STAIRS. ALAN AND CHARLIE SHUSH UP.

JAKE

Hey, do we have any vanilla ice cream?

ANGLE ON: ALAN AND CHARLIE, EXCHANGING A LOOK.

ALAN

Yeah, I think so.

JAKE

I've been craving vanilla ice cream all day.

CHARLIE

See that? The kids got the vanilla bug.

Bad.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE B

INT. BAR — THE NEXT NIGHT

ALAN AND CHARLIE SIT AT THE BAR.

ALAN

I can't believe Jake's smoking.

CHARLIE

You know how kids are—they think they'll live forever. No concern about what they put in their bodies.

THE BARTENDER APPROACHES.

CHARLIE

Double whiskey-sour. Make it a stiff one.

ALAN

Well, what do I do?

CHARLIE

What are tell-tale signs of smoking?

ALAN

Emphysema?

CHARLIE

Let's try to think a little more subtle. Like wearing lots of cologne.

ALAN

Jake doesn't even own cologne.

CHARLIE

So you think.

ALAN

You've smelled Jake before. He has a certain scent they don't put in bottles and sell.

CHARLIE

Good point. But once they start smoking, everything changes. Oh, and clothes—see if he starts wearing outfits with lots of pockets.

ALAN

Like a fisherman's vest?

CHARLIE

Yeah, that's what all the cool kids are wearing.

ALAN

I wonder if he has any new friends?

CHARLIE

Good thinking. Clearly there's someone

who's exerting a bad influence on Jake.
We just have to figure out who it is.

ANGLE ON: THE BARTENDER, APPROACHING CHARLIE AND JAKE.

BARTENDER

How you guys doing?

CHARLIE

I'd be doing better if this glass was
full of something that will impair my
ability to operate heavy machinery.

THE BARTENDER FILLS UP CHARLIE'S DRINK. ALAN NOTES THIS.

ALAN

You know, they say a kid's strongest
influence is his guardian.

CHARLIE

Ah, don't beat yourself up. You did the
best you could with him.

CHARLIE SLAMS BACK HIS DRINK.

ALAN

Yeah, well, I think it might be hurting
our efforts to tell Jake to stop
smoking while you're off getting drunk.

CHARLIE

What the hell are you talking about?
What does one thing have to do with the
other?

ALAN

We need to set a better example for
Jake, Charlie. He's at an age where
he's very impressionable. I just don't
want him getting mixed messages.

CHARLIE

If I stopped drinking, that would be a
mixed message.

ALAN

I'm serious Charlie. At least until I
figure out if he's smoking, I want you
to watch what you do when he's around.

THE BARTENDER APPROACHES. CHARLIE SIGNALS FOR ANOTHER.

CHARLIE

(OFF ALAN'S REACTION)

He's not around now, is he?

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE C

INT. LIVING ROOM — NIGHT

CHARLIE AND ANITA SIT IN THE LIVING ROOM, FLIPPING CARDS.
NEITHER LOOKS EXCITED.

CHARLIE

Wild card. I choose red.

ANITA

Damn-it.

THEY FLIP A FEW MORE CARDS.

CHARLIE

UNO.

ANITA

Damn-it. Are you cheating?

CHARLIE

It's UNO...how could I be cheating?

ANGLE ON: ALAN, WHO CROSSES OVER.

ALAN

Hey guys. Charlie. What happened to
your date with Cinnamon?

CHARLIE

Ginger.

ALAN

Of course. I thought you were going out for dinner?

CHARLIE

We were. But it turns out that when you haven't had three or four drinks, Ginger is as boring as one of your bachelor parties.

ALAN

You told me she was always so much fun.

CHARLIE

That's because I was always drunk.

ALAN

Well I appreciate this. You're setting a good example for Jake.

ANITA

Yeah, how to spend a Friday night playing UNO like a complete loser.

CHARLIE

You're playing too.

ANITA

I'm getting paid.

CHARLIE

Good point. Alan, this is killing me-
you gotta get to the bottom of the Jake
situation.

ALAN

Well, I have no idea how to go about
this. He doesn't have any cologne. None
of his clothes have lots of pockets,
and he seems to be hanging with the
same crowd.

ANITA

Maybe they weren't his.

ALAN

Well, yesterday when I got home, I
caught him looking through the couch
cushions for something.

CHARLIE

I've seen him do that before. I bet he
was looking for an afternoon snack.

ALAN

I should probably tell Judith about
this.

ANITA

That's smart. Give her another reason to believe you're a terrible father.

ALAN

Good point.

ANITA

Here's what you do: Find out who the smokers at his school are. If Jake's a smoker, they'll lead you right to him.

ALAN

How do I do that?

ANITA

Go undercover.

CHARLIE

You know, right after you shave, you do look a little like a 14-year-old kid.

ALAN

Thanks Charlie.

ANITA

Go have a cigarette by the school and see who asks to bum a smoke. My Dad used to do that all the time.

ALAN

To see if you were smoking?

ANITA

No. To pick-up on high school girls.

CHARLIE

Wow. That's brilliant.

(off Alan's reaction)

Sick. But brilliant.

ALAN

I don't know. Charlie, what do you
think?

CHARLIE

It does seem kind-of sleezy.

ANITA

You in for another game? It's only
9:30?

CHARLIE

Let's do it.

CUT TO:

SCENE D

EXT. LIQUOR STORE — DAY

ALAN STANDS OUTSIDE A LIQUOR STORE. PACK OF CIGARTTES IN HAND. CHARLIE NEXT TO HIM. THEY SCOPE THE SCENE.

CHARLIE

Okay, don't light up until we spot a mark.

ALAN

How doe we know who the smokers are?

CHARLIE

Easy. They have a certain look. Baggy jeans. Skateboards. Defiant hair.

ALAN

Defiant hair?

CHARLIE

You know what I mean. Like these guys coming over—they have smoker written all over them. Set the trap.

CHARLIE STARTS TO BACK AWAY.

ALAN

Where are you going?

CHARLIE

I'm gonna hide behind that bush. If the

kid takes the bait, I'll pounce.

ALAN

Charlie...

BUT HE ALREADY HAS LEFT. ALAN STARTS TRYING TO LIGHT HIS CIGARETTE, BUT THE LIGHTER IS TOO HOT AND HE DROPS IT. HE QUICKLY PICKS IT UP AND LIGHTS UP, TAKING A LONG DRAG RIGHT AS A PACK OF THREE PUNKS WALK UP.

ALAN

What's up—

BUT BEFORE HE CAN FINISH, HE'S HACKING AWAY, CHOKING ON HIS ONE PUFF. HE HAS TO TAKE A KNEE.

ANGLE ON: PUNK 1, SETTING HIS HAND ON ALAN'S SHOULDER.

PUNK

Are you okay?

ALAN

I'm fine. I do this all the time.

PUNK

Those things will kill you, you know.

ALAN

Thanks for the tip.

THE PUNKS CROSS OVER AS CHARLIE RETURNS.

CHARLIE

Nice form there. I think you really fooled them.

ALAN

How do people do this?

CHARLIE

Maybe we should take some practice

inhales. Just take it nice and easy.

ALAN TAKES A SMALLER PUFF. THIS TIME HE AVOIDS COUGHING.

ALAN

Okay, that wasn't so bad. It doesn't

taste terrible I suppose.

HE TAKES ANOTHER PUFF.

ALAN

I guess it's kind-of fun.

JAKE

Dad? What are you doing?

ANGLE ON: JAKE, STANDING RIGHT BEHIND ALAN. ALAN DROPS HIS CIGARETTE TO THE GROUND...BUSTED.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE E

INT. LIVING ROOM — DAY

JAKE SITS ON THE COUCH. CHARLIE AND ALAN STAND OVER HIM,
ALAN LEADING THE INTERROGATION.

ALAN

Look Jake, I want to explain to you why
I was smoking.

JAKE

To be cool?

CHARLIE

It'd take more than that.

ALAN

Charlie, please.

CHARLIE

Sorry.

ALAN

No Jake. Not to be cool. Smoking does
not make you cool.

JAKE

I know that.

ALAN

And it causes cancer.

JAKE

Yeah, no kidding. Why are you telling me this?

ALAN

I found these in the couch.

ALAN HOLDS UP THE CIGARETTES. JAKE DOESN'T REACT.

JAKE

So?

ALAN

So?

CHARLIE

So.

THEY BOTH LOOK AT CHARLIE.

CHARLIE

What?

ALAN

Look Jake, I know you're under a lot of pressure at school to try new things, but smoking is not a smart decision.

JAKE

Those aren't mine.

ALAN

Well, then whose are they?

JAKE LOOKS AT CHARLIE.

CHARLIE

Oh no you don't. You're not dragging me
down with you Joe Cool.

JAKE

Who is Joe Cool?

CHARLIE

You're so young. Imagine a cross
between a camel, James Bond and a
penis.

JAKE

Cool.

CHARLIE

He was pretty cool.

ALAN

No, Charlie, he wasn't cool. And
neither is smoking.

CHARLIE

(slightly hurt)

He was kind-of cool.

ALAN

Not the point. Look Jake, if you tell me these aren't your cigarettes, I'll believe you.

JAKE

They aren't my cigarettes. I don't smoke. I swear.

ANGLE ON: ALAN. LOOKS JAKE IN THE EYE. THEN NODS.

ALAN

Okay. I trust you.

CHARLIE GOES OVER TO THE BAR TO MIX HIMSELF A DRINK AS JAKE
CROSSES OUT.

CHARLIE

Well, there you have it. Looks like the only bad influence in this house is baseless suspicion.

ALAN

That little liar.

CHARLIE STOPS POURING HIS DRINK.

CHARLIE

Oh come on Alan, the kid's clean.

ALAN

Are you kidding me? Did you see how he

kept blinking? That's a sign someone is lying.

CHARLIE

Speaking of smoking, what are you on?

THE DOORBELL RINGS. ALAN AND CHARLIE CROSS OVER TO THE FRONT DOOR, OPENING IT TO REVEAL JUDITH.

JUDITH

Hello Alan.

ALAN

Oh, Judith. I'm glad you're here. I need to talk to you about—

CHARLIE

Global warming. It affects all of us. Excuse us a second.

HE SLAMS THE DOORS SHUT WITH JUDITH OUTSIDE.

ALAN

What was that about?

CHARLIE

If she finds out Jake's smoking, she's going to go ballistic on this whole household.

ALAN

I need to let her know that her only

son might be a smoker.

CHARLIE

No you don't. She's just going to crack down even more. And I can't take another night staying up until 4 am playing UNO online.

ALAN

You're playing UNO online now?

CHARLIE

I think I'm developing some sort of problem. And it's not nearly as fun as my old problems. I miss my old problems Alan.

ALAN

Fine.

CHARLIE OPENS THE DOOR. JUDITH UNHAPPY.

ALAN

Sorry. The door has been acting up.

JUDITH HOLDS OUT A BUTTON UP SHIRT. TRENDY WITH LOTS OF POCKETS.

JUDITH

I just wanted to drop off Jake's new shirt for his party tonight. He left it

inside the refrigerator. Somehow.

ALAN

Party?

JUDITH

Becky Merchant's party. He's been talking about it all week.

ALAN

Huh. Lots of pockets on this shirt.

JUDITH

You think you can handle taking him there and picking him up?

ALAN

Sure. Of course. I'm a perfectly capable, responsible parent.

JUDITH

Right. So the courts keep saying.

THE DOOR SHUTS. ALAN AND CHARLIE CROSS OVER TO THE LIVING ROOM.

ALAN

Okay, this party is my big chance.

CHARLIE

I think the crowd might be a little

young for you, but I like that you're thinking of getting back in the game.

ALAN

No—to find out if Jake's smoking. All I have to do is observe him in his natural environment.

CHARLIE

He's your son, not a wildebeest.

(off Alan's reaction)

Maybe he's part wildebeest, but are you sure you want to spy on him?

ALAN

Or we could just hang around here playing UNO until I think of something better.

CHARLIE

Let's do it.

CUT TO:

SCENE F

INT. ALAN'S CAR — NIGHT

ALAN DRIVING, CHARLIE RIDING SHOT GUN. JAKE SITS IN BACK,
LOOKING PREPPY IN HIS RED SHIRT.

ALAN

Here we are.

JAKE

Thanks Dad.

ALAN

Now, I'll pick you up at 10:30, okay?

JAKE

That's too early.

ALAN

That should be plenty of time for you
to do whatever it is you do in your
natural environment.

JAKE

What?

CHARLIE

We'll see you at 10:30.

JAKE

Fine.

JAKE LEAVES. ALAN STARTS TO PULL THE CAR AWAY.

ALAN

Okay, how do we do this?

CHARLIE

Why are you asking me? This was your big idea.

ALAN

How about this—instead of coming back at 10:30, we come back at 9:30. That way we catch him off guard.

CHARLIE

Clever.

THEY CONTINUE DRIVING.

ALAN

What should we do until then?

CUT TO:

SCENE E

INT. DINER — NIGHT

ALAN AND CHARLIE IN A DINER, FLIPPING CARDS ON THE TABLE.

CHARLIE

UNO!

ALAN

You really are good at this.

CHARLIE

Scary, I know.

ALAN

Okay, it's almost 9:30.

CHARLIE

So, what are you going to do if you
catch Jake smoking?

ALAN

I don't know. I haven't thought that
far out.

CHARLIE

It's that type of planning that brought
Jake into the world to begin with.

ALAN

I just don't want Jake to ruin his
life. It's like one bad decision and

his whole future goes up in smoke.

CHARLIE

Literally.

ALAN

I'm serious. There's just this sea of bad decisions out there waiting for him.

ANGLE ON: CHARLIE, SHUFFLING THE UNO DECK.

CHARLIE

Look Alan, you're looking at someone who made just about every bad choice in the book. Most of them more than once. When I was Jake's age, I smoked, drank, fooled around with girls—

ALAN

Is this supposed to be making me feel better?

CHARLIE

The point is, I learned from those mistakes. I needed to learn from those mistakes. Jake's a good kid. You raised him fine. But you can't protect him forever—he's gotta make his own

mistakes eventually.

ALAN

How can I let him just veer off onto
the wrong path?

CHARLIE

I don't know. I guess you just have to
trust him at some point and hope for
the best. It's not like you can spy on
him forever.

ALAN

I could try.

CHARLIE

He's your kid. If that's how you want
to raise him.

ALAN

I don't know. This parenting thing
isn't always easy.

CHARLIE

That's what keeps the birth control
industry going.

ALAN LOOKS AT HIS WATCH. THEN THE UNO CARDS. THEN HIS WATCH
AGAIN.

ALAN

It's 9:30.

CHARLIE

Yeah?

ALAN

How about another game?

HE DEALS.

CUT TO:

SCENE F

INT. LIVING ROOM — NIGHT

ALAN, CHARLIE AND JAKE ENTER. JAKE TAKES OFF HIS RED SHIRT AND TOSSES IT ON THE COUCH.

ALAN

So you had fun, huh?

JAKE

I always do when I'm in my natural environment.

ALAN

Very funny.

ALAN GIVES JAKE A HUG, THEN JAKE CORSESSES OVER TO THE KITCHEN. ALAN GIVES CHARLIE A SUSPICIOUS LOOK.

CHARLIE

What?

ALAN

I might have smelled something.

CHARLIE

Alan?

ALAN

Okay, fine, fine. He's too good a kid to have any bad habits.

CHARLIE

And speaking of bad habits, it's time I
got reacquainted with an old friend.

CHARLIE GOES TO MIX A DRINK.

ALAN

Make it two.

THEY SIT ON THE COUCH, ENJOYING A BEVERAGE.

ALAN

We're not bad role models.

CHARLIE

Not at all.

THE DOORBELL RINGS. ALAN GOES TO GET THE DOOR. ANGLE ON:
THE STRIPPER FROM EARLIER, ENTERING IN LINGERIE.

STRIPPER

Someone looking for a good time?

ANGLE ON: CHARLIE, REACTING.

CHARLIE

Oh, that's for me.

CHARLIE PUTS HIS ARM AROUND HER AND THEY CROSS OVER TO THE
BEDROOM. ALAN IS LEFT ALONE, DRINK IN HAND.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT II

TAG

INT. LIVING ROOM – NIGHT

IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. NO ONE IS UP. THE STRIPPER WALKS OUT FROM CHARLIE'S BEDROOM, DRESSED IN A ROBE AND HER SHOES. CHARLIE WALKS OUT WITH HER.

CHARLIE

And you can put that on the same credit card as the first time.

STRIPPER

Oh, that one was on the house.

CHARLIE

Even better.

STRIPPER

Let me ask you something-do you always yell out UNO when you finish?

CHARLIE

That's actually a new habit.

THE STRIPPER SPOTS THE CIGARETTES, STILL PLACED ON THE COFFEE TABLE.

STRIPPER

Hey, I was wondering where I left those.

SHE PICKS THEM UP AND LIGHTS UP.

CHARLIE

Those are yours?

STRIPPER

I know, I know—it's a disgusting habit.

CHARLIE REACTS.

END OF SHOW

FADE OUT: