

MVTV Is On the Air!

Opening Scene

Two guys sitting on easy chairs with a case of beer between them in front of a tv (think SCTV McKenzie brothers) beer bottles in their hands. Backdrop is plain wall of Living Room, one door.

Dale: You know what we need, don't you?

Tony: Chips and salsa?

Dale: No, not just you and me – the whole Methow Valley.

Tony: Sure – a water management plan that provides for fish recovery, agricultural needs and affordable housing.

Dale: No, *(Looking at Tony with wonder at his response)* We need Entertainment!

Tony: We got plenty of entertainment in the valley.

Dale: Of sure - we got a lot of high brow stuff. A couple of theatre groups, an orchestra, an art gallery. But how about something for the guy who doesn't want to go out of the house?

Tony: What da ya mean?

Dale: You know- when you just want to sit on your couch in your underwear and drink a beer?

Both stop – they're thinking.

Tony: Yeah – where you can scratch yourself and only your old lady is going to give you dirty looks!

Dale: That's what I'm talking about!

Dale & Tony: MVTV!

Continue to brainstorm, thinking of different shows that they can produce. "What about?????" "Name different types, westerns, etc."

Tony: Methow Valley Family Feud! Pitting a long time Valley family against one of the families that recently moved to the valley.

Dale: Great idea. We open up with a game show – just like KHQ in Spokane.

Tony: Then we go to a comedy show – something based in the Methow Valley.

Dale: And we finish the night with something spooky or a drama. High brow stuff to keep them thinking.

Tony: Right! Let's call our friends and get going.

Dale: What friends?

Staring at each other

Tony: Well, we got beer, if you have beer, you have friends.

Unseen Announcer (UA): And so Methow Valley Television – MVTV – was on the air!

Fade Out

Tony: (speaking from the darkened stage) I still say we need chips and salsa!

First Episode: Methow Valley Family Feud.

Pitting a family of valley newcomers against long time family. Need someone funny to host the show.

UA: Taped in front of a live audience!

Vanna comes to the front of the stage with the cue card, "APPLAUSE" Applause sound track plays.

The Cunningham family is led by Tom 'Red' Cunningham (who has long, flaming red hair) and consists of his son and daughter.

The Evans-Trueheart family is led by Katheryn Evans (who is obviously very pregnant) and consists of her husband Jefferey Evans-Trueheart (Jefferey has taken to using the hyphenated name unlike his wife) and her niece Hillery. The nameplate behind them reads: Evans/Evans-Trueheart

MC (Kevin): Let's meet our contestants! Tell us a little bit about yourself, Katheryn.

Katheryn: (*gushing*) Well, I'm an attorney with offices in Seattle and Los Angeles. (*Realizes she should have introduced her family*) I'm here with my husband Jefferey and my niece Hillery. Jefferey and I just built our vacation home here in the Valley – and Red (*pointing to Red Cunningham*) was our contractor. We plan to spend as much time as we can here and become real Methow Valley people! Jefferey and I are all about the ecology and fighting global climate change, so our home here in Winthrop is only forty-one hundred square feet. We want to make a statement to our friends back in Redmond that living well doesn't require a big house! Oh (*holding her belly with both hands*)– and I'm nine months pregnant with our first child!

Sound of audience clapping.

MC: Well, that's wonderful, Katheryn. Jefferey – how about you?

Jefferey: I'm happy to be here, too.

MC Pauses to see if Jefferey has more to say, but realizes he doesn't and moves to Hillery.

Hillery: Well, Kevin, I live in San Fransisco, where I'm a performance artist and exotic dancer. But I'm visiting to help Aunt Katheryn with the baby when she's born.

MC: She?

Katheryn: Yes, Kevin. We're having a girl!

MC: Wonderful. Now, let's meet the Cunninghams.

MC: Do I call You Tom or Red?

Red: (*smiling happily at MC*) Well, my friends call me Red, but you can call me Tom.

MC: (*looking puzzled*) OK (*pause*) Tom. Tell us who we have here with you.

Red: I'm here with my son Gus and my daughter Lou.

MC: Your wife's not with us today?

Red: No, she's home nursing our four-month-old and watching our two-year-old son, Lance.

MC: Being a contractor in the Valley has to be stressful. What do you do for rest and recreation?

Red: I'm the coach of our nine-year old twins' soccer team and I teach Bible studies in our seven-year old's class at church.

MC: (*counting on his fingers while pointing to the Gus and Lou*) Well, I guess we don't have to wonder what you do for recreation, but someone should describe the concept of 'rest' to you.

MC: Gus, are you going to follow in your father's footsteps and be a building contractor?

Gus: Of no! That's Lou here. She's the carpenter in the family. I'm going to school at Evergreen State College in Olympia studying the Intersectionality of Food Justice and Gender.

MC: (*obviously not knowing how to respond*) So, you're studying to be a bartender? (*pauses*) All right. And you Lou?

Lou: I graduate from Liberty Bell this spring and I'll be joining Daddy in the business. But I want to take a moment here and shout out to my boyfriend in the audience. (*jumping up and down*) Hi Bear!

MC: Bear?

Lou: Yeah, as you can see, he's as big as a bear, but when he holds me in his arms, he's a great big teddy-bear.

MC: Well, all right! Let's get started.

The Board behind the podium with answers is manual – worked by a Vanna White clone.

Red and Katheryn walk up to the podium with the buzzers. Red looks at Katheryn's pregnant belly with unease while Katheryn gives Red a sly wink and almost inconspicuous nod.

MC: Question number one. According to a survey of 100 valley residents, name an activity that we all can't wait to do again when the snow melts.

Katheryn: (*hits the buzzer first*) Hiking!

DING

MC: All right Katheryn, are you going to pass or play?

Jefferey and Hillery: (*loudly encouraging Katheryn to play*) Play! Play!

Katheryn: We're going to pass.

MC: (*walking to the Cunningham side*) Okay Tom, remember, in MV Family Feud you only get two wrong answers before losing the board. Name an activity that Methow residents can't wait to do again when the snow melts.

Red: I'm not big on ice fishing, so I can't wait until the ice melts. Fishing.

MC: (*pointing to the board*) Show me fishing!

DING

MC: Correct! And now you Gus.

Gus: Gardening!

DING

MC: Lou, can you name an activity that you can't wait to do when the snow melts?

Lou: (*smiling*) My friends and I head up to Pearrygin Lake and celebrate Spring by skinny-dipping.

MC: Isn't that a little cold?

Lou: Well, we build a great big bonfire and besides Bear...

MC: (*interrupting Lou*) Show me 'swimming'

Ding (*swimming*)

The Cunninghams have answered all the questions correctly.

MC: Round one to the Cunninghams. Come on up, Jefferey and Gus. Next question: According to a survey of 100 valley residents, name a wine varietal that pairs best with venison.

Jefferey: (*hitting buzzer first*) Pinot Noir

MC: Show me Pinot Noir.

DING

MC: Well, Jefferey, pass or play?

Jefferey: (*giving Katheryn a disobedient look*) Play!

MC: (*walking to Hillery*) Hillery? What wine pairs with venison?

Hillery: What about the Lost River Community Red?

DING (*Red Blend*)

MC: That's correct. (*goes to Katheryn*)

(*As MC approaches Katheryn, he sees that she is on her cell phone*)

MC: Katheryn?

(*Katheryn holds up one finger to indicate the MC should wait and mouths – 'just a second'*)

Katheryn (*hanging up phone*) Yes, where were we?

MC: Name a wine which pairs well with venison.

Katheryn: I would think a nice Nebbiolo would pair with wild game.

MC: (*pausing to look at Katheryn*) Show me Nebbiolo!

BUZZ

Jefferey: Cabernet Sauvignon

DING

Hillery: Syrah

DING

MC: Katheryn, there's one more correct answer. Remember, get it wrong and you lose the board with two strikes! Name a wine varietal that pairs best with venison.

Katheryn: Then it must be a Gruner Veltliner from Austria.

MC: *(looking at Katheryn like she's crazy)* Show me an Austrian Gruner Veltliner!

BUZZ

MC: *(going over to the Cunninghams)* Well Tom, if you can guess the last answer on the board, you'll win!

Red: Unfortunately, I don't drink and Gus only smokes pot. *(looking at Lou)* Lou, do you have any thoughts?

Lou: Daddy, you know I'm too young to drink, so I'll just say what my boyfriend Bear likes to drink - Tequila!"

MC: But Tequila's not a wine!

Lou: I don't care, that's my answer.

MC: Tom?

Red: What she said!

MC: Show me tequila!

DING *(Jose Cuervo has 5 next to it)*

The Cunninghams win with this answer. Just after the Cunninghams win the game, Katheryn's water breaks and she's rushed to the hospital to deliver the baby. The show ends. Lights dim. Everyone but MC is off the stage.

MC: *(as the lights come back to full)* We taped the previous show last week in our studio and it was a pretty exciting conclusion as Katheryn went into labor and was rushed to the hospital. Our studio audience wanted to know how mom and the baby are doing, and we figured tonight's TV audience would want to know as well. So, without further ado *(MC points to the side)* Katheryn Evans and baby girl Tomasita!

Katheryn comes out with her new baby girl 'Tomasita' – who has flaming red hair.

Fade Out

Break: Pledge Night

One table set up in front of a plain background with a tally on the back. The current tally reads in bold numbers \$0.00. Two people are sitting at the table waiting for their phones to ring.

UA: MVTV needs your support. Call in now to 509-555-5555

MC: Every pledge of over ten dollars automatically places you into the drawing for a five-hour session of ice fishing on Patteson Lake with Rich Milstead. We have operators standing by to take your call.

One of the phones rings. Volunteer 1 answers – excited. Volunteer 2 is seen doing her nails.

Vol 1 (*Bob Newhart type imitation*): MVTV – how much do you want to pledge tonight?

Vol 1: No, I'm sorry, you have the wrong number.

Vol 1: No, I don't have their number. Look it up in the phone book.

Vol 1: How would I know where your wife keeps the phone book.

Vol 1: Look, I gotta go. Good luck finding the phone book.

Vol 1: (Very angry) Same to you fella! (*Hangs up*)

Vol 2: Boy, that guy sure sounded rude. Did he give you his name?

Vol 1: Yeah, it was your husband.

We might do more here depending on if Robin and Renda have ideas.

Fade Out

Second Episode: The Oddest Couple

Finley and Ophelia are brother and sister, two 60-something divorcees who have had to move in together to save on expenses due to the increasing rarity of affordable housing in the Methow Valley. Finley is an OCD-neat nick, Ophelia is a slob.

The stage uses the same backdrop and chairs from the opening scene, but a table sits between the chairs (instead of the case of beer) and there's an end table with a Rodin statue of a naked man. Pictures now hang on the wall behind the actors. TV is still in the corner front of stage.

Finley is dusting when Ophelia walks in the room from the outside. Ophelia shakes the snow off her boots, drops her coat and scarf to the floor and drops a beer bottle on the table. As she walks past the paintings on the wall, she tilts them slightly.

Finley moves the shoes, hangs up the coat and hat, straightens the paintings, then lifts and shakes the bottle, it's not quite empty.

O: You know I hate it when you do that.

F: What?

O: When you shake the bottle, I always save a last sip of beer and when you shake it all the fizz is gone. *(She finishes it and puts it back on the table.)*

F: Of, for goodness sakes. *(Throws the bottle in the recycle bin.)* It wouldn't hurt you to put your empties in the recycle bin once and a while.

O: You may be my big brother, but I don't have to do what you tell me, especially since I let you move in here with me. And it wouldn't hurt you to loosen up a little. You're the only one I know that separates your fruit and vegetable scraps by color before they go in the compost.

F: I hate it when all the colors get mixed up! It looks so messy! *(Runs into the bathroom)* And speaking of messy, *(holds up giant bra and granny panties)* could you please take these down off the shower rod before you leave the house?

O: *(Takes the garments out of F's hands and places them on the chair back)* You're hopeless - It's why April left you, you know.

F: Are you going to bring up my ex-wife again? She had her issues as well. How many women on social security take their top off at the Rhythm and Blues festival and dance in front of the stage?

O: Is she still with that drummer?

F: Yeah, I got another post card, *(picks up the post card and reads it)* this one's from Austin, Texas, "Glad you're not here." *(Puts it away with a dozen other post cards)* I asked Louise and Linda down at the post office if they could just throw these out, but they just laugh and say it's against Post Office regulations.

O: Well, April was always a child of the sixties.

Pause

F: And another thing – must you keep this statue of a naked man in the living room?

O: It's a Rodin – a work of art.

F: I don't care if it's a Michelangelo. It creeps me out every time I dust it.

O: I like it - it reminds me of Alex.

F: Boy, you are really starting to lose it, Ophelia. Probably from too many of those nasty things you smoke. Your husband's name was Arthur.

O: *(Looking off into the ether with a sly smile)* I know.

F: *(Looking puzzled)* Then who is Al.... *(trails off)* Never mind.

O: Speaking of the nasty smokes, look what I brought home. I was down at the cannabis store and thought since you're not drinking, maybe we could put 'In-a-gadda-a-vida' on the stereo and get high.

F: No thanks, last time I tried that stuff was in college. My friends talked me into smoking before we went to see 'Woodstock'. I fell asleep at the opening credits and woke up to Jimi Hendrix playing 'The Star-Spangled Banner'. I heard it was a good movie.

O: (*Sitting down in a chair, picking up remote and pointing at the TV*) Well, I don't want to sit here all night arguing over what to watch on Netflix. If I watch one more episode of your 'Emily in Paris', I'm going to scream.

F: (*Sitting in the other chair, grabbing remote*) At least it has some humor. How many times do we have to watch that guy on 'Reacher' get beat up or pound on someone?

O: Alan Ritchson is so hot! Can you imagine those arms around you? Well, not you, I mean....(*trails off*)

Long Pause looking at the TV, Ophelia grabs back the remote; the light from the TV flickers. It would be nice if we could get the lights to flicker in front when the remote is pressed.

O: (*Gets up and tilts the paintings on the wall*) I need to borrow some money, can you lend me three thousand?

F: (*Straightening the paintings*) Three thousand! Who do you think I am, Daddy Warbucks?

O: No, you're not that good looking.

F: What do you need the money for?

O: I have to pay off my credit card, I'm still paying off the money I spent when we were evacuated last summer.

F: And I'm still upset with you about that you know. Why did you leave me sleeping in my room when we were told to evacuate?

O: Well, when I got the text, I thought about it for a second and decided there was enough time to save one of us and even without a coin toss, thought it should be me.

F: Yeah, but you saved our cat Felix.

O: I did.

F: But then you gave the cat away.

O: The Vegas hotel where I was staying didn't allow pets, and that truck driver who gave me a ride seemed so nice, he said he'd take care of him.

F: I miss Felix. He was a neat cat, always cleaning himself. (*hold up photo of cat*)

O: (*Aside to audience*) I always hated that cat. (*to F*) I miss him too.

O: (*Sitting back down and pointing the remote*) What's for dinner?

F: I'm making a kale and tofu salad. It's excellent for your cholesterol and digestive system.

O: (*Making a face*) Well, can we wait awhile before we eat? I stopped off at the gas station on the way home and microwaved a burrito.

F: Not again! (*Runs to get a hand fan and can of Febreze*).

O: (*Rips off a fart and gets a big kick out of watching F run around the room spraying Febreze*) It's freezing in here, I'm going to light a fire.

F: You know what that does to my sinuses (*Begins to do the patented Felix Unger HONK and Nose Noise*)

O: (*Ophelia stands, tilts the paintings and goes out before coming back with two logs*) What happened to the woodpile?

F: Do you like it? I thought it would be nice if all the pieces were sorted by diameter. (*Straightens paintings*)

O: Yeah, very convenient.

A knock on the door. Ophelias puts down the wood.

O: (*Shouting*) Come in!

Vince: Hey, Ophelia, want to go out for a beer?

O: Can't. I already had the four beers I'm allowed by my doctor. You want to stay for dinner?

V: Whatdaya having?

O: Kale and tofu salad.

V: (*Makes an awful face*) NO! I gotta go.

Vince leaves. F and O sit watching TV with TV trays in front of them eating salad.

F: (*despondent*) I know April was tired of my compulsive cleaning, or when I remade the dinner she prepared, but what did the drummer have that I didn't?

O: Some questions are best left unanswered.

F: (*Shaking his head*) I'm beat, I think I'll turn in and read. (*Walks away*)

O: (*Speaking over the shoulder, watching TV*) Good night, Finley

F: (*Walking out the side door*) Good night, April.

Lights Out

Lights up. It's the next morning and Finley wakes Ophelia by vacuuming the room. Ophelia comes out in robe.

O: What are you doing? You woke me up. Do you realize it's eight in the morning?

F: It's that late already? I have to get started on dinner for the crock pot soon.

O: Just do it quietly; I'm going back to bed.

O: (*At the bedroom door*) And our house doesn't have to be cleaner than the operating room at Three Rivers Hospital.

F: Well, not cleaner, but just as clean.

F: (*Holding up Dyson vacuum*) Look at this thing, this has to be the greatest invention since the swifter cloth. Just look how it picks up the dirt. (*Turns it on again*)

O: (*Comes back out and grabs the vacuum*) I have to run to Walmart later to buy some things. I have a date tonight to go to the Methow Fly Fisherman's Auction Dinner. Make up a list if you need anything. I should be back in time for him to pick me up.

F: Who's the lucky fellow?

O: Greg Binder, he lives here part time.

F: I think I know him; grey hair, about five-eight, kind of a wicked sense of humor?

O: Sounds like him. And if I let him think he's going to get lucky, maybe he'll bid on something for me.

F: What are you? Eighteen? You haven't changed since high school.

O: Well, there may be snow on the roof, but there's still a fire in the furnace baby.

F: You're incorrigible. And if you bid and win that fishing trip like last year, you better not leave the fish in the sink again, last time I went through an entire can of Febreze getting the smell out of the house. That reminds me, do me a favor and pick up some more Febreze air freshener at Walmart for us.

O: Right.

Ophelia leaves. Nine hours later, Finley enters the room to answer the phone, one sided conversation.

F: Hello?

F: Of course you're going to be late. When have you ever been on time for anything?

F: I'll amuse your date, don't worry.

F: No, I won't make him wear a mask inside the house. I wish you'd stop giving me a hard time about that, that was months ago.

Hangs up, doorbell rings. Greg and Finley greet and introduce themselves.

F: Have a seat/ Ophelia will be here in fifteen minutes or so.

G: Ophelia tells me you got divorced recently.

F: Yes, she left last summer, but the divorce wasn't finalized until last month. The kids took it pretty hard. How about you, ever been married?

G: For twenty-six years until I got stupid. At least I still have a great relationship with our children.

F: (*Sits down next to Greg showing post cards from April and photos of the grandkids.*) That's the hardest part of divorce, it tears you away from your grandchildren. Do you have any?

G: Yeah, I have four that live on the Wetside. Two in Redmond and two in Mt. Vernon.

F: When's the last time you saw them?

G: It's been months. They don't get over here as often as I like what with school and sports.

F: You must miss them terribly.

G: (*Beginning to sniffle, takes out handkerchief, blows nose*) I do miss them.

F: *(Handing him two boxes of Kleenex and a waste basket)* Here, these are much more sanitary than a handkerchief, we have lotion or anti-bacterial – your choice. *(holds up the two boxes)*

G: I'm going to go right now. I need to see my children. Tell Ophelia I'm sorry. Here are the tickets for the dinner.

Finley sits looking at the photos, half a minute goes by.

O: *(Walks in same routine with shoes, coat and scarf as yesterday. As Finley picks up, Ophelia looks around)* Where's Greg?

F: He had to leave; he missed his grandchildren.

O: What did you do?

F: Nothing. Why do you assume it was me?

O: Because it's always you. You're driving me crazy. I'm afraid to walk on the floor. I'm thinking of getting a hovercraft just to avoid you following me with that mop.

F: All I'm trying to do is make our home livable.

O: *(Messing up the pictures on the wall and moving things)* You want livable? This is livable.

Finley goes around straightening them.

O: Leave them alone! I want them crooked.

F: *(Continues to straighten)* I'm just straightening them.

O: *(Messing the pictures)* I want them messy.

F: Hints From Heloise says a good housekeeper is a treasure.

O: If you keep this up, you're going to be a buried treasurer.

F: I wondered how long it would take.

O: How long what would take?

F: Until I got on your nerves.

O: You got on my nerves the first day you moved in. It just took me this long to tell you. You never let yourself loose. Here sit down. *(Ophelia moves an object and tilts a painting)*

F: *(Sits and fidgets showing anxiety as he stares at the painting, he finally stands)* I can't stand it! *(Fixes the painting)*

O: You're hopeless. *(Puts her hand on his shoulder)* But at least you're true to yourself.

F: And so are you *(Tilts the painting)*

Music and F & O sing first one or two verses from 'Toy Story – You Got A Friend'.

O: I think I'll meet Vince and have a beer. *(Puts on her coat and hat, then goes out the door. Finley looks sad)*

Door opens a moment later.

O: *(sticking her head in the door)* Want to come?

Finley runs to get his coat and then out the door.

Lights out.

Break: Pledge Night – Part Two

Tally on back board now reads \$30. Same two operators sitting looking bored.

MC/OA: Operators are still standing by to accept your calls. We'll be here another half hour, so call in at 509-555-5555. Remember only with your support will MVTV stay on the air. As an added bonus, the next caller will receive a guided tour of the Goat Mountain Lookout interior by Lightening Bill!

The phone rings. Operator 1 picks up and answers.

Oper 1: *Looking at Operator 2.* It's for you.

MC: *(Excited)* Another pledge! Let's listen in!

Oper2: Jake, you can't call me here!

Oper 2: No, I'm not going out with you again - you didn't tell me you were married!

MC frantically looking at the imaginary camera motioning to cut it – hand across neck motion.

Oper 2: That was a mistake – we had too much to drink.

Fade Out

Third Episode: The Monsters Are Due on Glover Street

Characters:

Jack & Janice Mossberg – husband and wife

Henry Stern – neighbor

Marty, Tina Jackson & Sean – husband, wife and teen son

Don & Kelly Gleason – husband & wife

Fred – a young person in the crowd

At least two others, men, women and/or teens with non-speaking or single line parts, part of the crowd of neighbors

Unseen Announcer (UA)

Two aliens to be seen on the balcony at the end of the play

Open to twilight on street with three home facades in the background. Five of the leading characters are in front when the scene opens.

UA: It's 8PM on any street USA, where neighbors have gathered for years, sometimes to laugh or commiserate together, sometimes to gossip. But this street lies in the middle ground between science and superstition, in a place where knowledge and fear struggle for the soul of its inhabitants. An area we call, the Twilight Zone.

Eerie Music

A light streaks across the stage above the actors' heads (a light hanging by a rope?) There is an accompanying sound of a jet. Jack and Marty are standing near each other, looking up at the light.

Marty: Was that a Navy jet?

Jack: Not any military jet I've ever seen before.

Marty: It was flying awfully low and fast – do you think it crashed?

Jack: I didn't hear a crash.

Tina: *(coming over to join them)* Those damn jets – they're going to crash one of these days.

Marty: Jack doesn't think it was a Navy jet.

Tina: Well, then, what was it Jack?

Janice: *(coming out of the house)* Jack, all the power's out in the house. And what was that noise?

Jack: We don't know.

Marty: Do you think it crashed into the substation and knocked out the power?

Henry: *(joining the group)* All my power is out.

Don: *(joining group with wife Kelly)* My lawnmower just quit on its own and Kelly can't get the backup generator to start. It's supposed to start as soon as the power's out.

Kelly: I tried calling the OCEC, but I don't have any signal on my cellphone. *(holds up phone)*

Tina: Do you have AT&T or Verizon?

Kelly: AT&T.

Tina: I have Verizon, let me try. *(tries phone)* I don't have a signal, either.

Marty: Must have been the substation.

Jack: None of this makes sense. Why would Don's lawnmower and generator not work? – they're not on the power grid.

Marty: I'm walking over to the next block to see if they have power. *(walks away)*

Everyone standing still, the lights dim a little.

UA: This is Glover Street in the last reflective moments before the calm, in the last moments before the monsters came.

Lights back up.

More folks gather, including Marty and Tina's son Sean, who comes out of the other house.

Sean: Mom, Dad. Something's wrong with the power. I was in the middle of Alien Destiny Three on the Playstation and it all went black. The internet's out, too.

Kelly: My phone just went dead! Not just the signal, the thing won't even turn on!

Everyone takes their phones out of their pockets, checking.

General crowd murmuring over loss of phone functions.

Jack: This all makes no sense. How can everything be shut down, including the battery and gas operated stuff?

Marty: I'm going to walk down to the Safety Building in town and find out what they know.

Jack: I'll go with you.

Sean: (*alarmed*) Dad! Mr. Mossberg! Don't go!

Jack: (*turning to Sean*) Why not?

Sean: They don't want you to leave. That's why they shut everything down.

Jack: Who's 'they' Sean? Who doesn't want us to leave?

Sean: Them, the Aliens. This is just like one of the scenarios on 'Alien Destiny'. The Aliens start their invasion by cutting all the power.

Jack: That's crazy. And how do 'they' (finger quotations) know your dad and I are going to leave and walk down to town?

Sean: The Aliens have spies. The spies look like ordinary people, like any of us, but they've been put here to keep an eye on us.

Don: That's insane! Why are we even listening to this. This was probably caused by sunspots.

Fred: No, it's not crazy! And it's not sunspots. It's just like the John Carpenter movie, "They Live" where the guy can see all the aliens with a special pair of glasses – and they're all over! (poises in gun fighter stance, pointing with two imaginary six-guns in his hands) I'm here to chew gum and kick butt – and I'm all out of bubble gum!

Janice: Cut it out, Fred! This is serious! It's serious, isn't Jack?

Jack: Well, having all the power and communications out is serious, but I don't believe any this alien invasion malarky.

Sean: You'll see. Just as soon as it gets dark out – you'll all see. This is the start.

Everyone looks suspiciously at each other.

Jack: Don's right! This is insane.

Another voice from the crowd: I can't believe we're all standing here listening to this kid and his talk about space invaders. I never heard anything so nutty in my life.

Marty: Has Henry come back yet?

Sean: I'm telling you Dad, he won't be able to come back.

Kelly's phone rings. Everyone stares at her as she answers.

Kelly: Hello? She listens, without speaking.

Crowd: Who was it Kelly?

Kelly: There was no one there!

Everyone checks their phone, still no power. Murmuring about no power. Tina grabs Kelly's phone and looks at it; it's gone dark.

Tina: Why did you get a call Kelly? Why is yours the only phone that worked?

Kelly: I don't know. Like I said, there was no one there.

Tina: How do we know you didn't just get a call from your alien friends, giving you instructions?

Kelly: Tina, how could you say that? How can you accuse me of being a spy for aliens? I've lived next to you for five years!

Tina: And for five years I've wondered about you and Don. How come you don't have any children? I can't trust a couple who don't have children.

Janice: Tina! Jack and I don't have children. Does that mean you don't trust us?

Tina: *(defiant)* Maybe it does!

Tina and Janice stare at each other.

Suddenly, the standoff is interrupted by Don's lawnmower starting.

Marty: What gives, Don? How come your lawnmower and Kelly's phone are the only things that work?

Don: I don't know. *(Grabs Kelly's arm and starts to back up toward his house as the crowd walks toward him)*. Leave us alone, I don't know what's happening.

One of the voices from the crowd: I've seen Don out on his lawn late at night looking up at the sky. Looking up as if waiting for something.

Another voice: Or someone.

Don: That's crazy. One of the reasons for living here in the Valley is for the night sky.

The crowd is not appeased, still seems threatening.

Don: *(scared)* You're starting something here that you should be scared of. You're starting something that's a nightmare.

Marty: Are you threatening us?

Don: What? No! I'm just saying we should be careful before we start accusing each other!

Jack: Hey everybody – let's not turn into a mob.

Marty: You seem awfully quick to defend him, Jack. Maybe there's more than one spy family on the block.

Jack: And maybe you (*interrupted*)

A light goes on in the Gleason home. Someone from the crowd picks up a rock and throws it into the window with the light. Don goes into the house and comes out with a rifle.

Don: Everyone - get off my property. The next person who throws a rock at my house will get a belly full of lead.

Marty: If Don's going to be holding a gun, I'm going home to get my gun.

Voice from the crowd: Me, too.

Marty returns with a gun. Standing in front of his own house, facing toward Don's.

Jack: Everybody! Put your guns away. Somebody is going to get hurt.

Marty: We're just protecting our homes, and maybe our lives.

A voice from the crowd: Look – something's coming down from down the street!

Another voice: It's too dark, what is it?

First voice: It's a monster!

Crowd screams: A monster!

Marty aims and shoots.

First voice: You got it!

The crowd moves toward the fallen man.

Jack: (*kneeling next to the fallen man*) It's Henry!

Janice: Is he....? (*pause*)

Jack: He's dead! Marty killed Henry. (*turns toward Marty – the crowd stares at Marty*)

Marty: I didn't mean to kill Henry. He came out of the darkness. Jack, you know what happened, you know it was an accident. I thought he was a monster.

Don: But you were awfully quick to accuse me of being the spy and then quick to shoot and kill Henry.

Voice in crowd: Marty, the lights just came on in your home!

Don: Maybe that's why you killed Henry. Maybe Henry learned something and was coming back to tell us who the spy was. Maybe it's you. You Marty, you're the damn spy.

Marty: No, it's not true. Stay away from me! I know who the monster is – it's Jack!

Jack: (approaching Marty) Don't you dare try to blame me for this. You killed Henry.

Marty shoots Jack. Crowd gets closer. Lights go down. There's the sound of gunfire and general mayhem.

Then quiet. Light shines on the balcony. Two aliens; one has a gadget in his hand.

Alien 1: Understand the procedure? Stop their machines, their phones, put them in darkness for a few hours and they turn on each other. They'll destroy each other now.

Alien 2: And it always works this way?

Alien 1: Every time. They find the most dangerous enemy they can find – themselves.

Alien 2: This Glover Street – it's not unique?

Alien 1: No, their world is full of Glover Streets. We'll go from one to the other and watch the pattern repeat itself.

Alien 2: But I understand we tried this in their year 1939. Why didn't it work then?

Alien 1: It was a different time, there were still politicians back then who could see past their own self-interests and could work together. Even some countries worked together to fight that scourge. This time it will work.

Lights dim.

UA: The tools of conquest do not necessarily come from bombs, explosions and fallout. There are weapons more dangerous – thoughts, attitudes and prejudices – to be found only in the minds of men. For the record – prejudices can kill and suspicion can destroy, and a thoughtless, frightened search for a scapegoat can produce a fallout all its own. For them, their children and the children yet unborn. And the pity of it is, these things cannot be confined – to the Twilight Zone.