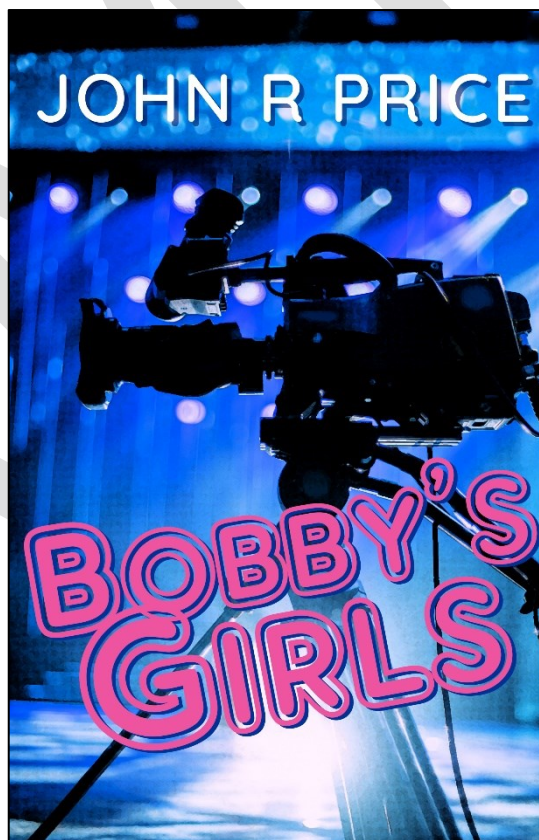


Bobby's Girls  
A Novel  
by John R. Price

Chapter 4 Excerpt

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## CHAPTER 4

### THE AWAITED RETURN AND THE UNEXPECTED DECEPTION

In 2014 Celeste, Staci, and I received a call from Hollywood to see if we were interested in an updated revival and sequel to “Bobby’s Girls.” I was unsure if a revival would work. By this time, television was no longer over-the-air and a few cable channels— if someone was fortunate to have cable back in the mid-1980s. Back then, home satellite TV was still in its infancy with the large “backyard” receiving dishes pointing to the southern horizon. Digital television had finally come into play by the late 1990s, but the digital TV revolution in the late 2000s finally changed the number of over-the-air channels from a few to several dozen in many cities.

Albert Jacobs was shopping around a new and updated version of the show. I was told the show would be called “Robin’s Girls,” a slight play-on-words of the original title. Staci, Celeste, and I were all called to see if we would be willing to come back and reprise our roles as adults. Terrence Forrester and Marian Deavers were also called to make their return. Plans were scheduled for taping to begin in spring or early summer 2015 with the eventual debut in fall 2015. No network had been named in the initial press releases, but we were later told the streaming service, FibreTainment, was finalizing the deal with SYZ Studios to help finance the show.

As the new year of 2015 began, my motivational speaker role had seen an increase in work and clientele. As the upcoming year started to approach, I foresaw that my demand in the speaking field was a better option than appearing on a weekly TV show. I told Celeste and Staci that my schedule would not allow me to appear during the first season. I was grateful that Albert wanted me to appear: I just could not see being a regular. Staci and Celeste were very uncertain if they could do the show without me. I told them that they would be fine. By late 2014 and early 2015, Staci and Celeste were making a few interviews to say that the new show “Robin’s Girls” would be returning. By March 2015, a deal was struck with the FibreTainment streaming service to carry the new show with an upfront two-season commitment. Instead of a weekly broadcast, the entire first season would be available on the first day of the “season” in Fall 2015. Binge-watching had become a new concept in television entertainment.

In May 2015, the pilot script for “Robin’s Girls” arrived in our mail for Celeste to begin reading. The first run through would be in June, and the pilot episode would be taped. Celeste and Staci arranged for a condo in Hollywood not too far from the studio. Kyle stayed in Florida with his job. However, he and their kids would go and visit Staci in Hollywood over the summer. His job allowed him to telecommute and work through his company’s southern California offices. For Celeste, our kids and I would travel to Hollywood to see her. Fortunately, the condo had a little more room than a typical one.

As the first season taping was drawing to a close, Staci and Kyle made their plans to move back to California, as more acting jobs were becoming available. Celeste would come home on breaks. During the taping season, she would stay in Staci and Kyle's guesthouse after Staci and Kyle bought their new home. There were a few weekends and holidays that the kids and I would fly out to see them when we could.

I am getting a little ahead of myself again here. Let me backtrack to Celeste receiving the pilot script. As I explained before, a pilot is often a test run through of a sample story to give the network executives and preview audiences the premise of the show. Sometimes the pilot will be aired as a first episode. Sometimes the pilot could be a TV movie that introduces the characters and a story. Since FibreTainment was bankrolling the show, the commitment was to do a half-hour situation comedy. I remember that day when I found the script package in our mail.

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ME: Celeste, I think the script arrived.

CELESTE: How do you know?

ME: It feels like it.

CELESTE: Are you going to open it? (She sat on our living room sofa at our Plano home. I walked from the kitchen to sit with her.)

ME: I wasn't sure that you wanted me looking.

CELESTE: I wouldn't mind. It's only the pilot.

ME: True. However, I usually like to be surprised what the episodes contain. If I read the script, that will ruin the experience.

CELESTE: That is why I asked if you wanted me to open it or not.

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I thought for a moment. Celeste was preoccupied organizing and paying some bills. I decided to read the pilot script. The pilot episode presented Robin Weston now married. What was strange was the name of her onscreen husband had changed from the TV movies. Debbie (Celeste's) character would make some appearance in the show. Debbie lived with David "Davey" Weston in their own home. Robert and Caroline Weston— who were the parents— also lived in the same town. Their parts were more guest starring roles when their characters were needed. My character of David (Davey) would be on a business trip or away from the house. Phone calls, written letters, e-mails, text messages, and previous messages left by Davey before the start of the episode would explain his absence. Davey was still alive and around. Think of the situation as visiting someone's home. You visit with your friend. Other people live in the home, but they

are at work or elsewhere. You leave before those folks come home. Therefore, your paths somehow cross; yet, you may never meet those other people.

The pilot script introduced the four children. Debbie and Davey have one son. Robin and her husband have one son and two daughters. For the pilot, Robin and the one boy and two girls are introduced. Debbie, Bobby, and Caroline arrive at Robin's house, bringing Debbie and Davey's son. Basically, all of the original characters have aged nearly 12 years since the second TV movie in 2004. I simply thumbed through the script and saw that it was a fairly good first effort although I found that inconsistency with Robin's husband. Two of the kids were at least 6 to 8 years of age. Robin's oldest child—the son--was described at least 10 years old. I am not sure how because the second TV movie did not have Robin expecting a child. How could she find a different husband and conceive a child with little time from the TV movie to the pilot left me puzzled.

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CELESTE: How is the script?

ME: It is a little long. I guess they will see what will work when you get to the script run through in a few weeks.

CELESTE: Is the story good?

ME: It is a fair "catching up with everyone" story line and establishing who is who again. It isn't the most interesting story. They need to explain or correct Robin's husband. That character does not appear to be the same person that Kyle played.

CELESTE: I suspect there will be some last minute corrections. Staci and I have signed onto the series if we get the "green light" to go. If all goes well, I hope we can recapture the magic of the original show.

ME: I am sure that you will. It will be nice to see Terrence and Marian in their roles as grandparents. I know Terrence is not young. He would play a wonderful grandfather figure. Marian has two grandchildren from what I have been told. They're her pride and joy.

CELESTE: Does Terrence have any grandchildren?

ME: Oh yes! He has several. He even has two or three great-grandchildren. He may be on the set only a few days depending on the story line, since he is not the focus of this show.

CELESTE: If I get a chance to see him or Marian, I'll make sure to tell them that you were sharing with me some good memories and a quick "Hello."

ME: Sure. Terrence and Marian are good folks. They really felt like a second "Mom and Dad" to us on the old show. Now, you will get a chance to play their daughter-in-law from the first episode on this show. I am hoping some good memories will happen.

CELESTE: How is your work schedule?

ME: I have a talk on Monday in Richardson. A couple of voiceover sessions on Tuesday. In a couple of weeks, it is going to be back-to-back voiceover sessions. However, I plan to see you off to the airport when you fly to LA to start the rehearsals and tapings.

CELESTE: As you said before, you don't want to know the plot lines. Are you sure you want that?

ME: I have always been that way with movies and TV shows that I watch. It's hard for me to watch the shows I have starred on before I know the ending—usually unless my role is not essential to the ending. There were a few shows that my part was not in the final scenes.

CELESTE: What did you do?

ME: I sometimes could watch from the side and see how the outcome would be. There was one show that I guest-starred that I had hated the story and the ending. I was never happy with it. That was the exception to my rule to not know the ending.

CELESTE: If that is how you want it, I won't share any plot lines until the show debuts.

ME: No, just let me watch the shows. I would rather be surprised than know.

CELESTE: Ok.

ME: Keep in mind: this is the sequel to the hit "Bobby's Girls."

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A few weeks later, I took Celeste to the charter service in Plano. Staci had arranged a charter plane from Florida to Plano. Celeste would catch the plane with Staci and then fly to LA. It was much easier for them to fly together and more direct than attempting first-class airline seating. Staci and Celeste arranged for our families to Skype and e-mail each other. Over the next few weeks, Celeste and Staci would let me know that the show's taping schedule was taking off. Celeste hinted that they had a small problem with the first pilot. There was a special reshoot with a revised script. The production team had stated to all involved to not reveal any plot lines prior to the Fall debut. They wanted the audience anticipation to build over the upcoming months. Fans had been waiting nearly 10 years since the last TV movie to see what happened to their favorite characters.

Throughout the next several weeks with anticipation of the Fall debut, I saw various ads for "Robin's Girls." Celeste and Staci made a few promotional visits to different talk shows. Staci and Celeste were and still are true professionals. They did not let on much about the storylines or any big changes. However, I noticed one day on one show, Celeste looked a little scattered. I do not know if she had a difficult day that week on the set, or if something was bothering her. I

texted her if everything was OK. She said it had been a rough week, but she did not say much more.

I missed Celeste very much during that summer. There were a few times that I flew out to LA by myself to see her. She stayed true to her word to not reveal any storylines or spoilers. I also did a few motivational talks while in California and the West Coast. As the anticipation was building for the September 2015 debut, a few entertainment news stories had floated there had been some unspecified tensions on the set. Three weeks away from the September 2015 debut, a news story broke. Season 1 would be delayed to January 2016. Celeste texted that there had been some additional issues on the set, but she was not allowed to text the information or really talk about it. She mentioned that they had already begun on the second season. They would be taping those on a very busy schedule so she could come home in February. However, all of our immediate families flew out to California for the Christmas holidays. Celeste, our kids, and I were able to stay in the condo while Staci's family moved into their new California home. Staci commented that she did not like having to move again.

Maintaining privacy is a difficult issue in show business. Everyone wants to know what type of house you live in. Some of the lifestyle magazines competed to do "tell-alls" where Staci and Kyle were buying in California and all of the juicy details of where they were selling in Florida. Staci would have preferred the deals had been all quiet. Unfortunately, people behind the scenes who know can sometimes share some of that info while others spend their time digging for any "gossip" they can find. We suspected someone paid to get that information.

During the Christmas holidays, Celeste and I were able to spend some quality time. Staci and her family were also looking forward to the New Year. They were enjoying their new California home all ready for the holidays. FibreTainment announced that the first season of "Robin's Girls" would debut on Monday, January 18, 2016 at 12:01 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. The second season would not be available until sometime later in 2016 or early 2017. The timing was very unfortunate that we would not see any of the new episodes until after the holidays.

During one of our family gatherings, Kyle thought it would be fun to retrieve their "Bobby's Girls" DVD boxset. Kyle was like me. He enjoyed watching all of the bloopers— especially those with Staci. With so many outtakes and other stuff on the disks, I had lost track what year some of the funny moments happened.

The next scene appeared showing the slate from Season 8, Episode 5 on the Weston's living room set. Behind the slate, I recognized the attractive young woman around 18 or 20 years of age who starred a couple of times that year as an older friend from Robin's scout troop. She was wearing jeans, with a typical 1990s shirt. When the slate clapped and was removed from the frame, the actress walked in front of the couch where I was sitting---or I should say Davey was sitting. As the young woman approached the couch, Kyle exclaimed a countdown:

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KYLE: Wait for it...four...three...two...one...

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After Kyle said "one," the young woman was nearly upon me when she tripped on something that could not be seen in the frame. Where the countdown would have reached "zero," the young woman stumbled down on me and elbowed me where...let's just say you can guess why this was an outtake. The audience roared with laughter. Watching my teenage self as Davey screaming and yelping in pain. I was motioning and yelping for the young lady to get up. The frame switched to the other camera that was focused on the front door stage right as it opened. Mom, Robin, and Debbie (Marian Deavers, Staci, and Celeste) entered to see the crazy display on the couch. Robin became wide-eyed. Debbie's reaction was more of giggles than anything. Marian's expression was like any concerned mother finding her teenage son doing something that looked very inappropriate with a young woman on the living room couch.

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MARIAN DEAVERS (as Mom): David Weston! What do you think you're doing?

ME (as Davey in pain): It's not what it looks like! I'm in pain. Oooooowww!

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The audience continued to roar with laughter as the dialogue continued. The young woman finally got up. Davey continued to show signs of pain and agony on the couch.

My son Joe and my nephew Alex decided to joke about the scene. Obviously, they could understand more what was going on.

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JOE: (laughing): Look at that. Dad was after a girl!

ALEX: Yeah, you really were after her! (laughs)

ME: You silly boys! It was an accident...she tripped and fell...

JOE: What was she supposed to do since this was a mistake?

ME: She was supposed to fall into Davey's lap on the couch much higher than accidentally falling and elbowing him in the ...

ALEX: Then, he was supposed to plant a big one...on the lips! (Joe and Alex continue to joke and whoop it up.)

ELIZABETH: Oooo...Daddy! That girl was going to take you away! (All five of the kids got into the laughter).

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During this commotion, I caught a glimpse of Celeste and Staci looking oddly at each other. At the time, I did not realize why. It was like both of them had experienced a trigger moment. Kyle had to pause the video. He and I had to step in and get the kids to quiet down so we could continue to watch more clips. When I glanced back toward Celeste and Staci, they were busy helping Kyle and me.

Before we knew it, the Christmas and New Year's holidays would pass quickly on our visit to California. Coming back home to Texas in January was an adjustment.

As the new debut date approached, my work schedule became very busy. I was flying in and out of Dallas to do motivation talks and some voice work in a few different places. Somehow, I was at a location where I did not have time to stream the show. It would be a month after the debut before I would have time to watch it. Mom had previewed the first couple of shows. Dad said that he could not watch them. He said that he would explain later, after I had a chance to watch them. They said they were waiting until I could be at home to let the kids watch the show. At the time, I did not quite understand what they meant by that. My parents were grown adults, and they raised us. They had made decisions what we could or could not watch back in the day. I thought they were saying that they wanted me to do the honors to supervise my own kids and have that experience as a parent. Celeste made it home in February after spending several weeks in LA taping the last part of the show's second season. She did not let on about the story lines or the plots. She was honoring my request to let me be surprised.

Finally, my work schedule let up. I was planning to go home and watch the show with my family— until Jamie Cabarello requested to meet with me for a late lunch in Grapevine, Texas (just miles from the DFW Airport). This was the same Jamie Cabarello whom Staci and I befriended years ago in the special Alcohol Awareness Week episode of "Bobby's Girls." That episode originally upset Staci and me that it had to be rewritten at Jerry Knobele's request. Unfortunately, Jerry Knobele was dead now. I did not know FibreTainment's leadership or their moral beliefs. Celeste had obtained a special VIP free access to the FibreTainment Web site as an employment benefit during the run of the show. I recall that they had all sorts of titles and genres in their online library. It is unfortunate that I did not have time at work or home during that first month of the first season's availability to watch any episode or get a synopsis. From what I could tell from FibreTainment's selection of shows, there were some titles that Jerry Knobele would have objected to air on our old network. Again, this was a streaming service— not over-the-air broadcast TV and not cable TV.

Jamie Cabarello had been in New York the last few days visiting some of his east coast clients who made regular trips to the west coast. He had entered the agent business. However, he occasionally starred in a few TV cable movies. However, he would only star in the family-friendly variety, like Staci did and eventually Celeste would. He even starred in one of Staci's movies. He was stopping over in Grapevine to visit with one of his clients who chose to live in Texas rather than LA or New York. He said that he had some information that we needed to discuss. He did not want to surprise me over the phone.



Being a native Texan, I suggested that he and I visit a local Whataburger® in Grapevine. He had thought I would like to do something more formal and less public. I told him that it was very unlikely we would be recognized. My appearance had changed a lot over the last 30 years. Some people often did not recognize me unless I told them my name. However, most locals were respectable when I would visit Texas during my “Bobby’s Girls” days. However, I was always on my guard.

To save Jamie the time attempting to find the restaurant, I drove to Grapevine and picked him up from his hotel. We drove to the nearest Whataburger®. We dined in and chose a corner table where others would not bother us. I prefer to stay away from tables along windows. Jamie had heard of the legendary Whataburger® from other Texan friends. He did not know what to order. I made my own recommendations.

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ME: Jamie, if I ever get a chance to visit your native Indiana, I will make sure to ask you what you like at White Castle®.

JAMIE: That’s a deal!

After receiving our food, we got into eating and to the discussion.

ME: What is this all about? What could you not tell me over the phone?

JAMIE: Now that I have thought about it, I am not sure if it was best we have this discussion over lunch.

ME: We have already ordered. I am not going to throw away a good lunch just for you to tell me something.

JAMIE: I hope that you still have an appetite when I tell you.

ME: (I looked puzzled) I am so hungry right now. Very little is going to stop me. I have only had one Nabs and a Coke® at the voiceover studio this morning.

JAMIE: It concerns the TV show “Robin’s Girls.”

ME: Ok.

JAMIE: Celeste and Staci reprised their roles? Right?

ME: Yes. I did not want to know plot lines. I told Celeste to not tell me anything until I watched the show. Then, my job schedule became busy. I have not had time to watch any of it. Mom and Dad said that I wait on letting the kids watch it until I could be home to supervise.

JAMIE: I am not going to try to reveal any particular plot lines. I know that you don't want that. The buzz in Tinseltown that there has been some trouble.

ME: Oh...that happens all of the time.

JAMIE: The show is in trouble.

ME: (puzzled) What?

JAMIE: The show...this show..."Robin's Girls"... is in trouble.

ME: That isn't what I have seen in some of the blurbs on the Web. I just didn't have time to read the details.

JAMIE: Terrence Forrester quit the show when he saw what they were going to put in the second pilot.

ME: Second pilot? Terrence quit?

JAMIE: They did a rush job to get a second pilot done.

ME: That's odd. What happened?

JAMIE: The studio audience hated the first pilot's story line, it has been said. It did not resonate according to Albert Jacobs.

ME: Oh...

JAMIE: Jacobs got involved in some of the rewrites. They did a bunch of last minute changes. Terrence said no. He was not going to stay if they were going to expect him to do and say some of the things his character would say.

ME: What did they do?

JAMIE: They got one of the extras to stand-in for his character (Robert "Bobby") on the pilot. They were able to get a recast done before the actual first season episode. They were able to turn the whole process around very quickly.

ME: Who did they hire to play Robert in place of Terrence?

JAMIE: A veteran comedian named Harry Pynchon

ME: Harry Pynchon? (I had to think for a minute)

JAMIE: He had a special last month on the Comedy Tonight cable channel.

ME: I think I know who he is. I am having trouble remembering his face and what his comedy is like. I usually don't watch that channel.

JAMIE: If you heard his routines, let me warn you. He would make some sailors look like saints.

ME: (stunned) What?

JAMIE: Yeah, this guy will say anything and everything to get a laugh. He doesn't know any limits or boundaries—from tasteful to tasteless. He loves to get people riled up with his profanity. His favorite is using crude stuff to get a laugh.

ME: Oh Precious Lord. Who made that casting call?

JAMIE: Albert Jacobs.

ME: Albert Jacobs?

JAMIE: It's not the first time something like this has happened.

ME: I can't recall.

JAMIE: Not on our show. On other Jacobs's shows there have been some very subtle jokes and stuff.

ME: I can't remember a show offhand where that happened. Then again, I have not watched all of Albert's work.

JAMIE: Remember a show in the 1990s called "It's Our Time" that aired on Wednesday nights on our network at 10:00 p.m. back in the 1993-94 season?

ME: No I don't. I didn't watch that show.

JAMIE: Jerry Knobele absolutely hated that show. Albert tried to pepper that show with innuendo and other envelope-pushing jokes.

ME: Back then, I was going to our church's youth group. It met on Wednesday nights. Then, I was doing homework and then going to bed. I didn't see that show.

JAMIE: Albert went over Jerry Knobele's head to get that show on. Several of the network affiliates complained about the story content, character behavior, and other stuff. Many church groups protested about it. It made a lot of news. Some affiliates refused to air the show especially in the rural Deep South. The affiliate in Tupelo, Mississippi refused to air it. When the Memphis, Tennessee affiliate refused to continue airing it after many viewer protests, an independent station there contracted to air the remaining episodes on its schedule.

ME: Huh?

JAMIE: Story goes that on the fourth episode, the storyline was too adult even for that late time period. The network was fined 10 million dollars and every affiliate that aired that episode in its entirety—curse words and all—were fined \$15,000 per affiliate, even those stations who were not affiliates of our network that agreed to air the show. The FCC was not pleased. Jerry Knobele was able to dump “It’s Our Time” midseason after that debacle. The studio was about to fire Albert Jacobs from “Bobby’s Girls,” but some of the upper network brass felt enough damage had been done. Albert bit the bullet and kept “Bobby’s Girls” mostly *clean*. We had that one run-in with Albert with our alcohol episode. Jerry Knobele was strong arming Albert behind the scenes to keep our show *clean*.

ME: I do not remember “It’s Our Time” or the scandal. We were only kids then.

JAMIE: That is why we don’t remember it. We were kids.

ME: Of course, 1993 was around the time that Staci, Mom, Dad, and I became Christians. They wouldn’t have encouraged anyone to watch “It’s Our Time.”

JAMIE: Now, they have a dirty-mouth unbeliever recast in the grandfather character of Bobby Weston that Terrence Forrester once played. It’s just horrible.

ME: What else has happened?

JAMIE: Marian Deavers only lasted to the fourth episode as Caroline. They wrote her out of the series. Marian couldn’t stand Harry Pynchon’s mouth and insults.

ME: What happened to her character?

JAMIE: Caroline’s departure was only briefly mentioned in the next episode. Caroline Weston committed an off-screen suicide....

(I was in the middle of sucking soft drink through the straw and almost had a full mouth of drink. Upon Jamie’s revelation of Caroline’s suicide, I did a big spit take away from Jamie and into the aisle floor. )

JAMIE: Are you okay?

ME: (recomposed, puzzled) No....this is insane!

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Fortunately, only a couple of patrons were in the restaurant. It was late in the afternoon.

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JAMIE: It gets worse...

ME: (surprised) Oh.

JAMIE: Your character, Davey...

ME: Yeah?

JAMIE: ...he divorced Debbie prior to the first episode. She had caught him in their bed with another woman. She kicked them out.

ME: (pounds the table with his fist once) Darn! They didn't ever give me the decency to let me know what changes they were going to put on my character. (very peeved)

JAMIE: ...and the woman was Debbie's former scout troop den mother from the old show.

(I looked even more disgusted)

ME: The woman who played that scout den mother was at least 25 years older than my character!

JAMIE: I am just saying what I know. However, they didn't have the original actress who played the "den mother." I don't even recognize the actress's name.

ME: What is this? "Circus of the Wackos?"

JAMIE: Apparently, Albert Jacobs got some extra writers to add a bunch of gritty and edgy stuff.

ME: Are the kids from the pilot the same ages?

JAMIE: Yep. Robin and Debbie had to move back to their parents' home because their respective marriages are in a mess. Robin and Debbie are out of control. They are drinking, cussing, lying, having on-again, off-again relationships.

ME: Staci and Celeste! How are they handling this?

JAMIE: That's why Staci has had the family move back to California. Celeste was a little worried that without Kyle and the kids, Staci might....

ME: The moral support. Poor Staci. Poor Celeste. What are we going to do?

JAMIE: There's talk that a third season might be in the works. (I rolled my eyes in worry and disgust) FibreTainment has said nothing yet.

ME: Have Staci or Celeste been asked to do anything else compromising?

JAMIE: No nudity or sex stuff. There have been plenty of sex jokes, innuendo, implied off-screen fornication, drug use, lots of alcohol. There's not an episode that goes by without alcohol present.

ME: Oh no!

JAMIE: The first season, fourth episode involves them attending a frat party.

ME: Why?

JAMIE: They get this crazy idea to meet younger men. They participate in a drinking contest that gets really bizarre. Staci and Celeste run around really silly like they are very intoxicated. The frat guys encourage it. The scene eventually fades to black. In the next scene, we return to the old family home place. There are a few other implied references to....

ME: I get the idea.

JAMIE: I snuck onto the set with one of the studio audiences that went for a taping. I think it was a second season episode. Celeste had to say (\*\*abbreviated Lord's name in vain\*\*) at least three times. Staci was able to slip in a (\*\*expletive\*\*). I do not know if that was planned, or if it was bleeped. Staci also said (\*\*abbreviated Lord's name in vain\*\*) in that same episode. I could not stand watching much more of it.

ME: Did Staci or Celeste see you or see you leave?

JAMIE: I don't think so. I have heard some reports that Staci and Celeste are not happy.

ME: I can imagine.

JAMIE: Kyle, Staci's husband, will not go to the set.

ME: Uh oh.

JAMIE: He does not like to see her around other men—kissing and such.

ME: Is Celeste kissing other guys?

JAMIE: No. She is said to have put her foot down that she wouldn't give any of the guys...or the ladies.

ME: (very wide eyed) There has been...Ok. I am glad that Celeste said no to that.

JAMIE: Staci is kissing only the guys.

ME: Ok.

JAMIE: Unfortunately, some of the guest stars and minor characters....

ME: I get the idea.

JAMIE: They are locked in a contract. If FibreTainment renews for a third season, they are in a rolling contract.

ME: And their contract requires them to promote the show. They cannot say anything negative. Any hint of negative comments....

JAMIE: Like asking fans to forgive them or saying they are sorry might be enough to cause legal ramifications.

ME: We may need to get some lawyers to look at those contracts.

JAMIE: There have been some reports that Staci has been heard crying in her dressing room on some days during lunch breaks. Staci and Celeste have been seen crying in Staci's car after a taping day.

ME: They really put up a good front the last time I was out there during the holidays. Although I could tell that Celeste wanted to tell me something, but she felt she could not. Me and my big mouth to tell her that I didn't want to know the plot lines before seeing the finished product. I'm a terrible husband.

JAMIE: You didn't know this was going to happen.

ME: Two well-known artists who are Christians.....

JAMIE: You mean two well-known Christians who are actresses....

ME: Yep. I never imagined seeing this.

JAMIE: We don't have a Jerry Knoebele to stop this or a Standards and Practices department to review the content.

ME: Wow. I have not heard anything in the news about the show.

JAMIE: You have to search for it. Mainstream critics have panned the show. The Christian Web sites and blogs have been raising questions what is going on. Staci and Celeste are getting a bunch of complaints.

ME: Oh?

JAMIE: Staci posted a promotional photo of them a few days before the debut on her social media account. Some of the fans started to question what was going on. Some fans hinted that something was amiss. Comments went from critical of the skimpiness of the clothing, to she and

Celeste were going to Hell, claiming their salvation was false—calling them false converts, etc. Staci got mad. She posted telling both sides to stop. They would not until she removed the picture.

ME: Staci has been very committed to family-oriented, family values programming. From what you are describing, it appears she may have been forced into compromising.

JAMIE: I have had some friends on the inside tell me that she has tried to kindly request removing various jokes and other content. If she had not, it would have been much worse. The writers, the director, Albert Jacobs, and some of the FibreTainment suits are not allowing Staci or Celeste to get rid of all of it. The suits think the trashy stuff sells. There are other shows out there doing a bunch of stuff like this.

ME: This is awful.

JAMIE: Another source is claiming that the writers are pulling from “real life” and “the culture.”

ME: Where did they get these writers? A bunch of juvenile delinquents? A bunch of SAG-AFTRA rejects?

JAMIE: If they can write, they hire. Albert Jacobs has been the kingpin on this one. He isn't quite the same man that he was 30 years ago.

ME: I think he may be the same man but only 30 years more of filth and baggage that has encouraged him to pull my wife and my sister into this “sleaze-fest show” and tarnish their reputations. We're going to have to get some lawyers involved.

JAMIE: Another issue is many fan blogs have raised questions about the show's content. The show was rated “TV-G!”

ME: “TV-G?!”

JAMIE: Yep.

ME: With all of that junk?

JAMIE: Yep.

ME: This isn't a sequel to “Bobby's Girls.” This is “Sodom and Gomorra Live!” taped before a studio audience.

JAMIE: Rumors are circulating that kids are really having a field day with it.

ME: A “TV-G” shouldn't have sex jokes, anything sexual, profanity, and such content. “TV-PG” or a “TV-14” rated show is most likely to have it, but not “TV-G.”



JAMIE: There are news clips on the web where people are going back to see what Staci said. I have watched the footage. She said in 2014 that this show would be a “family-friendly” show.

ME: Something changed.

JAMIE: Celeste was seen on another channel claiming that “Robin’s Girls” would be appropriate for the whole family to watch.

ME: Not *our* family! Not with the content you describe. She must have been fed a set of lines to say. This is just wrong.

JAMIE: Some of my friends out in Hollywood think this is acceptable for a streaming TV show.

ME: The suits at FibreTainment should be ashamed of themselves.

JAMIE: Unfortunately, no one is organizing anything to deal with it.

ME: We may have to do something. We need to see what their contracts say and attempt to take legal action to restore and redeem Staci and Celeste’s reputations.

JAMIE: I will get some lawyers involved. They might be able to find a way to stop this.

ME: There is one thing for sure. We’re going to have to be much more careful next time to prevent something like this from happening again.

JAMIE: I am also afraid what influenced all of this junk could have on a believer. You know that [NASB] 1 Corinthians 15:31-34 says (looking at his phone) *“I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die. **Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company corrupts good morals.’** Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.”*

ME: Staci and Celeste know better. Even for a strong believer, they are right in the Lion’s Den. They are being used as pawns in someone’s devilish game.

JAMIE: Devilish is the right word for this.

ME: Not to mention what havoc this has caused for families around the country...or around the world.

JAMIE: FibreTainment is planning to distribute this show and other shows on a worldwide basis.

ME: Poor Staci and Celeste. That means that just leaving the country would not help...

JAMIE: Unless it is in a remote part of the world with no Internet.

ME: All those families--many of them trusted Staci and Celeste before they made any promotions. Celeste and Staci are and have been the most family-friendly, caring people I know. I married Celeste. I know Staci and Celeste's Christian walk. Celeste became a Christian not long after I did. I helped her.

JAMIE: Celeste and Staci are trying to stop the enemy's work. They're outnumbered.

ME: They don't have the power to remove all of it unfortunately.

JAMIE: Don't be completely dismayed. God knows Staci and Celeste's hearts. They are His. They have been His children for many years.

ME: I hope that neither of them crack under the strain. Obviously, this is going to require some careful and caring prayers.

JAMIE: I wouldn't be surprised if God is using them behind the scenes to show that His Will won't allow this show to succeed if it is going to contain all of this simulated debauchery.

ME: For the young believers, I hope and pray that no one stumbles as a result of this. Matthew 18:6 comes to mind.

JAMIE: (looks up the Bible passage on his phone) I agree. As you know, Mark and Luke have a similar verse [*Mark 9:42, Luke 17:2*].

ME: (looking at his watch) My food is getting cold. I have caused this mess on the floor. We need to get done. When is your flight to LA?

JAMIE: I am staying tonight here in Grapevine. I have one client I am visiting later today. Then, I will get some sleep at the hotel. I'll fly out tomorrow morning.

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We finished our food. I helped clean up the soft drink mess I had made in the floor. Jamie enjoyed his late lunch. The day was getting past us. Since it was still winter, the daylight time would be short, but less short as we were heading for spring. I drove Jamie back to the hotel.

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ME: Keep in touch with me. If you hear anything else, please let me know.

JAMIE: I will.

ME: You have been a very good agent. I am glad we have had this friendship all of these years.

JAMIE: Thank you. I appreciate having this friendship as well.

ME: Have a safe flight. Tell your wife, Lesley, I said "Hello."

JAMIE: I sure will.

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Jamie exited the car and walked back into the hotel. I drove back to Plano. How was I going to tell Celeste that I knew what had been going on? At least, I knew before being completely surprised by all of the terrible stuff. Celeste really kept a good "poker face" during our Christmas visit and some of the other visits I made to LA while Staci and Celeste were acting in this show. I also found it too hard to believe how little press this show was getting other than a few talk shows. No one was really trying to address the content issues. Whenever questions were raised about bad critical reviews and upset fans, Staci and her other co-stars would discount the naysayers. Celeste chose to not participate in these post-premiere TV show appearances. Then, again, this is not the same as 30 years ago when we had only a few broadcast channels, no Internet, no streaming services, and limited access to trade publications. Back in the day, Variety® and People® magazines were some of the many go-tos for entertainment information. Now, the Internet has made this information available to the masses. Anyone could become a critic with a blog site and a TubeVideo channel. I mulled in my mind what I was going to say to Celeste, who had returned home a few days ago. I was very uncertain what was going to happen next. I knew my faith was being tested more than ever. I knew very well that Staci and Celeste were in grave danger. I was scared. I knew that God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit were trying to keep my heart still and not to worry. I must admit: my sinful nature was trying to tear at me. I was not sure what was going to happen next.