

14 MAPLEWOOD LANE

Thanksgiving, family, chaos, and physics.

And Rocky.

A feel-good holiday ensemble dramedy

Feature screenplay by Gary B. Haley

The hook

A beloved home faces pressure from outside and within

Over Thanksgiving weekend, a sprawling family reunites at its beloved ancestral home, where a secret highway threat and tense inheritance announcement expose old grief, jealousy, and fear, forcing the Fitzgeralds to rediscover, in one chaotic and feel-good holiday, what makes a house worth saving and a family worth fighting for.

WHY IT PLAYS

Holiday warmth

Comic family friction

A genuine emotional payoff

A visually distinct Thanksgiving world

Thanksgiving weekend at 14 Maplewood Lane

1

THANKSGIVING EVE

The family arrives beneath falling maples. Orange survey flags quietly announce a threat Bryce has not shared.

2

THANKSGIVING DAY

A black-and-yellow eVTOL, the restored ’56 Nomad, football, dinner, and a pool-table physics debate make the reunion unforgettable.

3

FRIDAY

Three simultaneous contests turn the house and woods into organized chaos while Tammy’s fear of losing her home sharpens into anger.

4

THE MEETING

The estate plan brings inheritance, grief, and belonging into one room. The family finds a way forward.

5

THE FINALE

As the credits roll, an encore offers satisfying payoffs and resolutions as the stories come to a full close.

The hidden clock

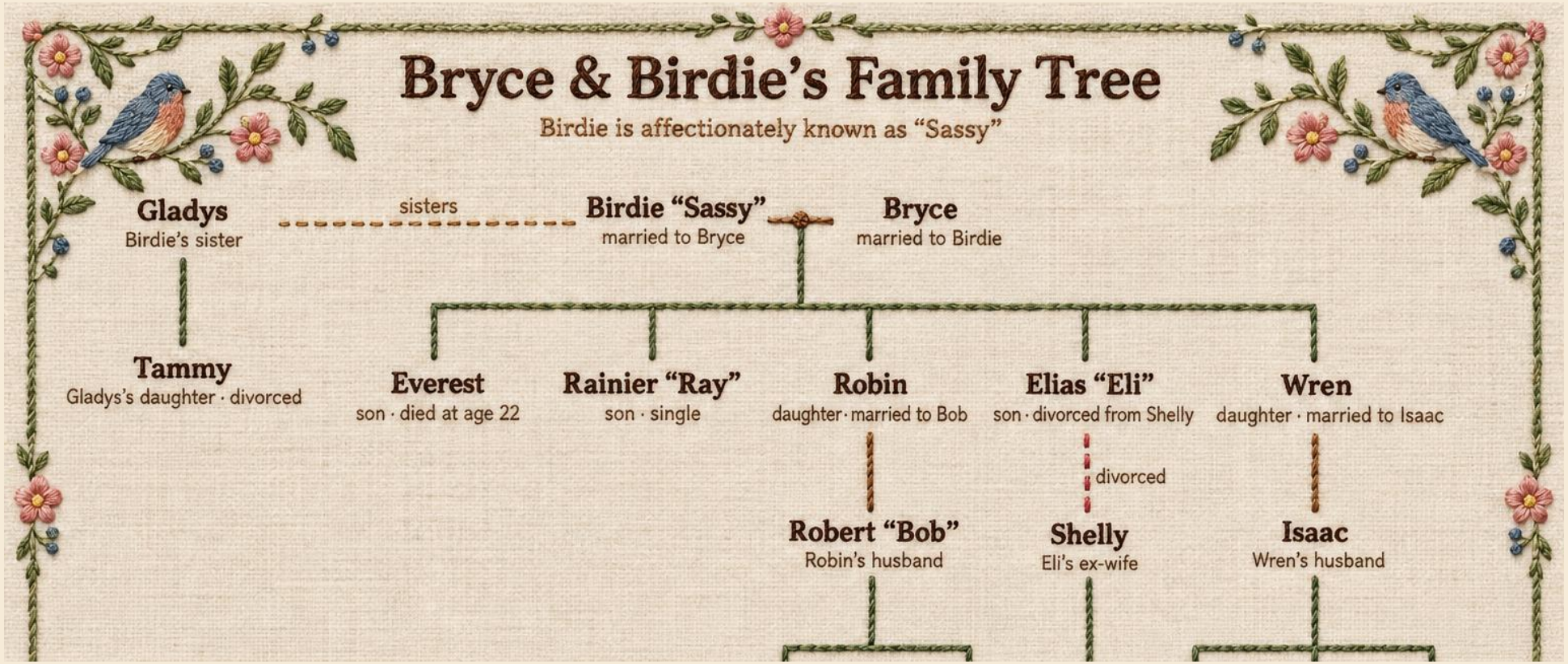
A county highway committee may route a new road through the maple woods and ancestral property.

Bryce quietly organizes neighboring homeowners and places the residence in a Qualified Personal Residence Trust. The estate plan protects the family's future while making eminent-domain acquisition harder and more expensive.

The external threat gives urgency to an intimate story. The house may survive the highway, but only the family can decide what it becomes next.

The final image confirms that Bryce's plan worked: the committee chooses the eastern route and spares the maples.

The Fitzgerald family



Fifteen relatives gather around Bryce and Birdie. Every relationship carries affection, history, private worry, and a place in the house.

The people who hold the house together

BRYCE & BIRDIE

The loving anchors. Bryce protects the property in secret while Birdie protects the people in plain sight.

RAY

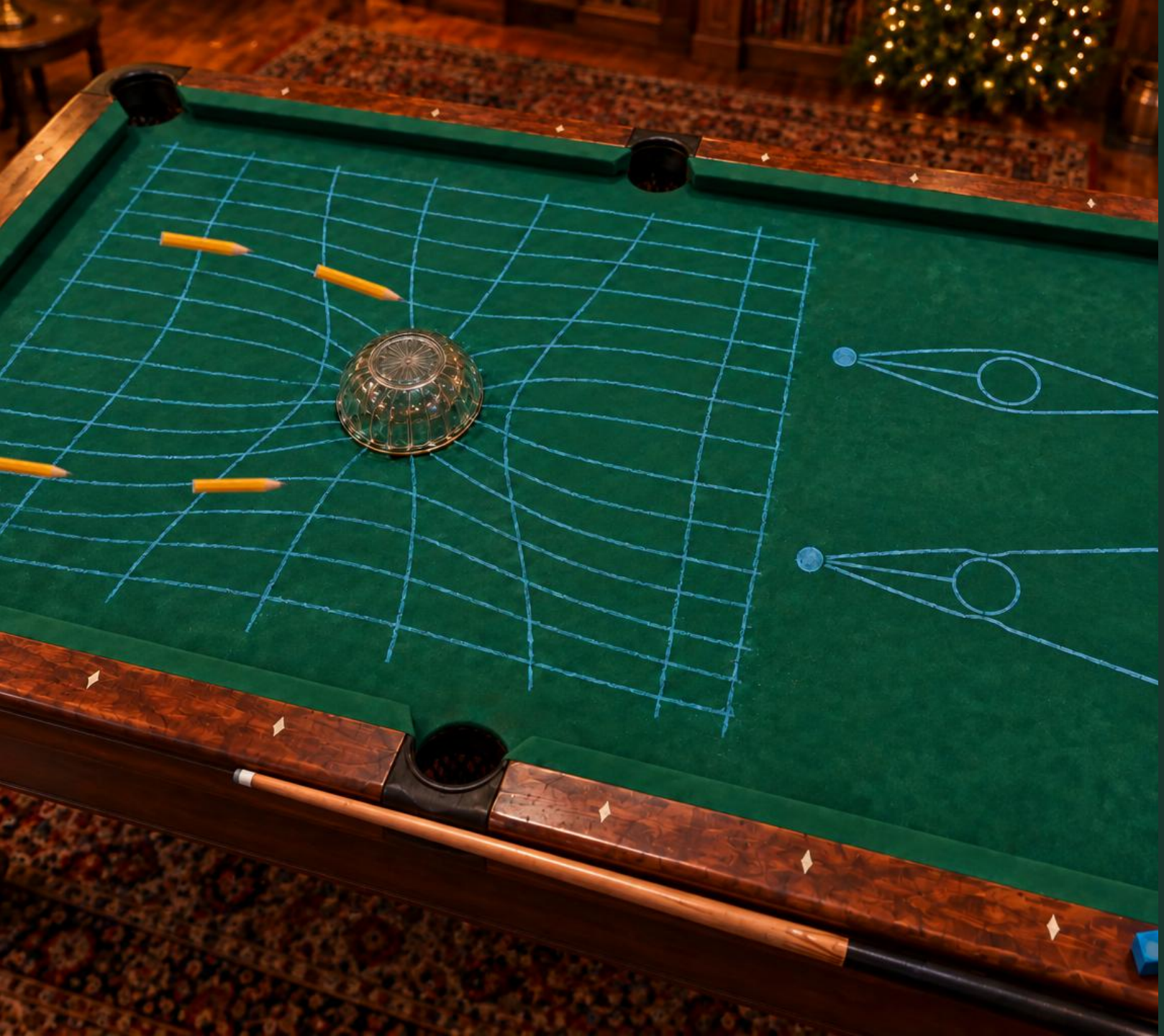
Brilliant and theatrical, he carries private grief for Everest and hopes he can become someone’s hero.

TAMMY

Her grief and fear masquerade as hostility. The inheritance meeting forces her to say what she truly needs.

ELI & MATT

A divorced father and his guarded teenage son move from distance and envy toward honesty, humor, and connection.



Physics in the game room

Ray turns a pool table, cue chalk, a candy bowl, and gaming pencils into an argument about gravitational lensing and warped space.

The scene makes the screenplay's intellectual hook playful, visual, and accessible while revealing why Matt sees Ray as a superhero.

Three contests. One hour. Every room in play

01

TURKEY CALLING

Bryce judges six competitors in the maple woods. Every call gets ten seconds to earn a wild reply.

02

FLOOR IS LAVA

Wren and three girls cross the entire house on pillows, turning stairs, bedrooms, and the game room into a course.

03

KITCHEN CHALLENGE

Four cooks bargain for ingredients and race to create desserts or appetizers for a blind family vote.

Fast intercutting lets comedy, competition, tenderness, and family friction collide in the same sustained set piece.

Heart beneath the humor

“Someday, Everest, I hope I’m someone’s hero, too.”

Ray’s private grief becomes meaningful when Matt names him the family’s superhero.

“Being a hero doesn’t mean you get every ending you want.”

Eli admits how he failed his marriage and gives Matt honesty instead of an easy promise.

Tammy’s apology

She confesses that fear of being displaced drove her cruelty, accepts responsibility for the broken laptop, and begins earning trust back.

Robin’s second chance

Bob helps her separate the quality of her novel from its early sales and encourages her to find a new marketing strategy.



The house remembers

Every object carries a relationship

The Birdie Bath honors mother and daughters. The folded flag and medal keep Everest present. The hidden vault room binds Bryce and Ray. The restored Nomad connects Bryce, Eli, and Matt. The maple woods hold the family's past and future.

The property gives the film a memorable visual identity and makes the inheritance conflict tangible.

Tone and cinematic neighborhood

THE FAMILY STONE

Holiday intimacy where affection and old wounds share the same crowded rooms.

PARENTHOOD

Generational ensemble comedy built from recognizable family behavior and earned emotion.

KNIVES OUT

A distinctive family estate and inheritance tension, recast as a warm Thanksgiving dramedy.

The audience promise

A funny, heartfelt holiday movie for adults and families who recognize the love, irritation, rituals, and repair inside a large gathering.

Production appeal

A contained footprint	Most scenes unfold inside one home, its porches, yard, garage, game room, and nearby maple woods.
Performance-rich roles	The ensemble balances broad comedy with grief, marriage, parent-child repair, sibling history, and late-life stewardship.
Signature screen images	The ’56 Nomad, black-and-yellow eVTOL, first snow, orange survey flags, pool-table physics, and Rocky’s football attack create trailer moments.
Seasonal return value	Thanksgiving traditions and a hopeful ending give the film the potential to reward repeat holiday viewing.



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At 14 Maplewood Lane, saving the house means learning how to live together.

Thanksgiving, family, chaos, and physics.

Gary B. Haley

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